

# Chapter 4

## The Anglo-Norman and later medieval period (c 1050–1550)

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### INTRODUCTION

Contexts allocated to the medieval period have been subdivided into two broad phases:

Phase 5 c 1050–1225

Phase 6 c 1225–1550

The contexts were phased in accordance with their stratigraphic position and in conjunction with the fabric analysis of the pottery (see Cotter, Chapter 7), and to a much lesser extent with other associated datable objects such as glazed tiles and small finds. Surprisingly, closely datable objects such as medieval coins and tokens were completely absent from the assemblage. Two hearths and an oven were archaeomagnetically dated and charcoal spreads with three associated contexts were also radiocarbon dated. As indicated in Chapter 3 the difficulties in closely dating many of the Saxo-Norman pottery fabrics on the cusp of the Conquest is a common feature on many sites in Winchester and elsewhere in other contemporary urban centres (eg Southampton, Brown 2002), especially since many of the coarse late Saxon wares (that form the bulk of assemblages) are known to have been used well into the post-Conquest period. This is compounded by the high degree of residuality of late Saxon pottery (and other contemporary finds; see Cool, Chapter 7) that has undoubtedly occurred, particularly in the areas of dense pitting, a problem compounded higher up in the stratigraphic sequence. The increasing diversity of fabrics is a feature of the later stratigraphic sequences, which include the introduction of coarse grained sandy ware (eg fabric MAQ), probably during the 11th century. However, those contexts lacking the more diagnostic Anglo-Norman fabrics such as the scratch-marked sandy wares (Fabric MBK and MOE), Newbury-type ware (MTE) and the glazed Tripod pitchers (MAD), have been, with due regard to their stratigraphic position, allocated to the late Saxon Phase 4.2. The introduction of early South Hampshire red ware (MNG) that occurs towards the end of the Anglo-Norman sequence allowed for some contexts to be dated to the late 12th–early 13th century, though its rather patchy

occurrence did not allow the allocation of a separate sub-phase.

The situation is clearer regarding the high medieval period (Phase 6) where there is better understanding of the dating and chronology of the more abundant glazed pottery. However the unglazed sandy ware (MDF), which occurs throughout the late 11th to mid 14th centuries, presented the same problems as in Phase 5 and phasing was achieved in a similar manner to the methodology described for that phase. Though not all the later medieval pottery was analysed in detail it is abundantly clear that there was a sharp decline in activity on the site by the 15th century (and probably by the early or mid 14th century) attesting to the depopulation of the area that is known to have occurred (Keene 1985). Indeed the site produced only a single sherd of pottery that could be attributable to the 15th century (late medieval red ware MGR). Similarly there were only nine sherds (from three contexts) that were attributable to a date after the mid 14th century, and all were from the top fills of deep pits and a well of medieval date.

As for the late Saxon period, the results are described here in relation to the contemporary street layout and property divisions that were established on the basis of archaeological and limited documentary evidence. The evidence for these is described at the beginning of Chapter 3. As before, the description for Phase 5 features begins on the east side of Brudene Street (Properties BE 1–5), followed by the west side of Brudene Street (Properties BW 1–6) and the east side of Snitheling Street (Properties SE 1–3). The same sequence is followed for Phase 6, although by this time properties on the west side of Brudene Street and on the east side of Snitheling Street appear to have been amalgamated and are described together where appropriate.

Calibrated archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon dates are quoted at the 95% confidence level.

### THE ANGLO-NORMAN PERIOD (PHASE 5)

A general plan of all features of in Phase 5 (c 1050–1225) is shown on Figure 4.1.



Fig. 4.1 Plan of all features, Phase 5



## BRUDENE STREET EAST

Property BE 1 (Fig. 4.2; Plate 4.1)

*Structural Group CC7057*

Slumping into Phase 4 cesspit CC1100 was a succession of floor-like deposits and structural features that had survived later truncation. Given that they were *c* 19 m from the street, they presumably formed part of a structure that was set back from the frontage. The earliest comprised thick compacted chalk that represented an attempt to form a secure base for the overlying floor of thin light orangey brown 'mortar'. Small circular posthole CC1253 (0.15 m in diameter and 0.16 m deep) was associated with the floor and conceivably could have formed an early structural element of the building since it was sealed by subsequent floors of similar mortar or compacted clay. Late in the sequence the posthole was replaced by more substantial square installation (CC1220) measuring 0.6 m across and 0.74 m deep possibly to provide more substantial support for the structure over the underlying soft ground. Little was found to indicate the use of the structure though an exceptional assemblage of seafood shell including 372 periwinkles, 27 mussel and 13 oyster shells was recovered from an occupation deposit/

dump in the upper part of the sequence (CC1096; see Campbell, Chapter 8). This deposit also produced 3 fiddle key nails (SF Cat no. 236) that were used for horseshoes from the 11th to the 13th centuries and could indicate a use of the structure as a stable or that such a structure was located nearby.

*Pits*

The density of pitting was significantly lower than in the preceding period and was confined to the east of the excavated area implying that the area to the west was used for other purposes such as structures (see above). Two groups of pits were apparent, located towards the north and south sides of the property, possibly reflecting the proposed subdivision that may have occurred during Phase 4 (see Chapter 3).

Pit Group CC7055 comprised three small circular pits that measured 0.8–1.2 m in diameter, and 0.25–0.63 m in depth. The deepest pit (CC1147) contained a thin deposit of a green-stained silt at its base, before being rapidly infilled, suggesting it had been used as a cesspit, possibly serving the inhabitants of Structure CC7057 that stood immediately to its west.

Chalk-lined well CC1128 (Plate 4.1) was located to the south of the property and possibly adjacent to



Plate 4.1 Well CC1128, Property BE 1, Phase 5, looking north

its boundary. The lining was set off-centre within a large sub-square pit possibly allowing for a working area to the west. Alternatively the pit may have represented a timber-lined predecessor to the well, but this could not be established at the depth excavated. If the well originally had a timber lining all evidence of it would have been removed during the construction of the later well. It had presumably been constructed by laying a number of courses and then backfilling with soil around them before repeating the process until completed. The well shaft was near circular with a diameter of 1.8 m and up to four courses of ashlar chalk were exposed at the depth excavated. The lime mortar bonding of each course was concentrated away from the interior face, possibly to prevent contamination of water by the mortar. Possible lime-scale staining on the north interior face of the well suggests that access to it was from this side, the staining probably deriving from overflow of the bucket. Augering revealed that the base of the well lay at 34.89 m OD or 12.4 m below its highest surviving point, although the water-table was not reached. The base of the well contained 0.2 m thick fine-grained but otherwise sterile light clay, probably deposited at the base of the feature from suspension within an open water body implying that the water-table at the time was higher. Above, the deposits were characteristic of rapid infilling and comprised well-compacted chalk and chalky soils containing 12th- to 13th-century pottery, implying the well had a relatively short period of use.

Immediately to the south of well CC1128 was small circular pit CC5011 whose function could not be established at the depth excavated. However, like CC1128, it had been levelled with chalk rubble to its excavated depth of 0.42 m.

### Property BE 2 (Fig. 4.2)

#### *Structural evidence*

A group of small pits or postholes (Structure CC7008) located towards the south of the property may have represented the truncated remains of a timber structure that was sited towards the rear of the property and possibly an extension eastwards of proposed pre-Conquest Structure CC7009 (see Chapter 3, Property BE 2 above). Four of the pits or postholes (CC1668, CC1386, CC1403 and CC1176) formed an approximate line that ran perpendicular to the street, their close spacing suggesting a load bearing function rather than a fence. The features were oval or circular, measuring 0.6–0.97 m across and varying in depth from 0.12 to 0.54 m, although they had been truncated and would originally have been significantly deeper (perhaps more than 0.5 m). Truncation may also have removed all evidence of further such pits to the west. No post-pipes were evident though a fifth pit (CC1509), located immediately to their north, contained a rectangular post-impression c 0.5 m across at its north end. A sixth pit

(CC1548) located adjacent to the boundary with Property BE 1 may also have been associated. Although contemporary floor levels had been removed by later terracing, the upper levels of late Saxon pits CC1392 and CC1522 (see Chapter 3) contained thick deposits of compacted chalk that may have represented slumped levels associated with the postulated structure. Similarly the upper levels of late Saxon pit CC1397 included a compact chalk fill associated with Anglo-Norman pottery suggesting that the proposed pre-Conquest structure CC7009 continued in use (see Chapter 3). These deposits contained a smithing hearth, indicating that the structure continued to be utilised for smithing.

#### *Pits*

Two groups of pits were apparent, to either side of the possible subdivision of the property recognised in the previous phase (see Chapter 3).

The southern group (Pit Group CC7011) comprised a tight cluster of four intercutting pits that flanked the north side of possible Structure CC7008, none of which were bottomed at mitigation level. The earliest pit (CC1466), which may have been circular, had been backfilled with chalk rubble in which a horseshoe (SF Cat no. 231) datable to the mid 11th to 12th century was found. The latest pits, CC1241 and CC1457, were vertically sided and circular, measuring 1.1 m and 1.4 m in diameter respectively, and therefore may have served a similar purpose. The latter pit was augered which revealed its base to be below 44.17 m OD (or over 3.2 m deep), a depth that may suggest that it functioned as a well. The earliest fill reached comprised cess-like soft green-grey clay from which a coprolite was recovered, indicating that it may later have served as a cesspit. Its upper fills comprised mortar and chalk rubble, presumably derived from a nearby masonry-built structure, before being capped by compacted chalk. The pit contained a madder-stained sherd of Newbury B-style ware offering evidence that dyeing was undertaken here during the Anglo-Norman period.

The northern group (Pit Group CC7017) included a large circular pit (CC1640) measuring 2.85 m in diameter that was bottomed by auger at a depth of 2.1 m, so could not have served as a well. No evidence for its initial use was found and the pit appears to have been rapidly backfilled with soil and domestic refuse that included cat and dog bones. Two small shallow pits, one (CC1506) containing abundant oyster shells, probably represented subsequent use of the area for the disposal of rubbish.

### Property BE 3 (Fig. 4.2)

#### *Structural evidence*

The degree of truncation that had occurred within this area of site had removed any traces of structures that may have occupied the intervening space



between Pit Group CC7050 (see below) and the street frontage, a distance of approximately 11 m. Only within pit CC1190, a small part of which was exposed against the western edge of the excavation, was there evidence for surviving occupation levels. These comprised a succession of layers of compacted chalk or redeposited natural clay/gravel

interleaved with dark occupation deposits that could conceivably have represented floors that formed part of a structure. The presence of mortar rubble (CC1189) suggests the presence of a structure containing masonry elements and therefore fairly substantial. Upper levels of pit CC1168 contained a succession of three compact chalk fills that may

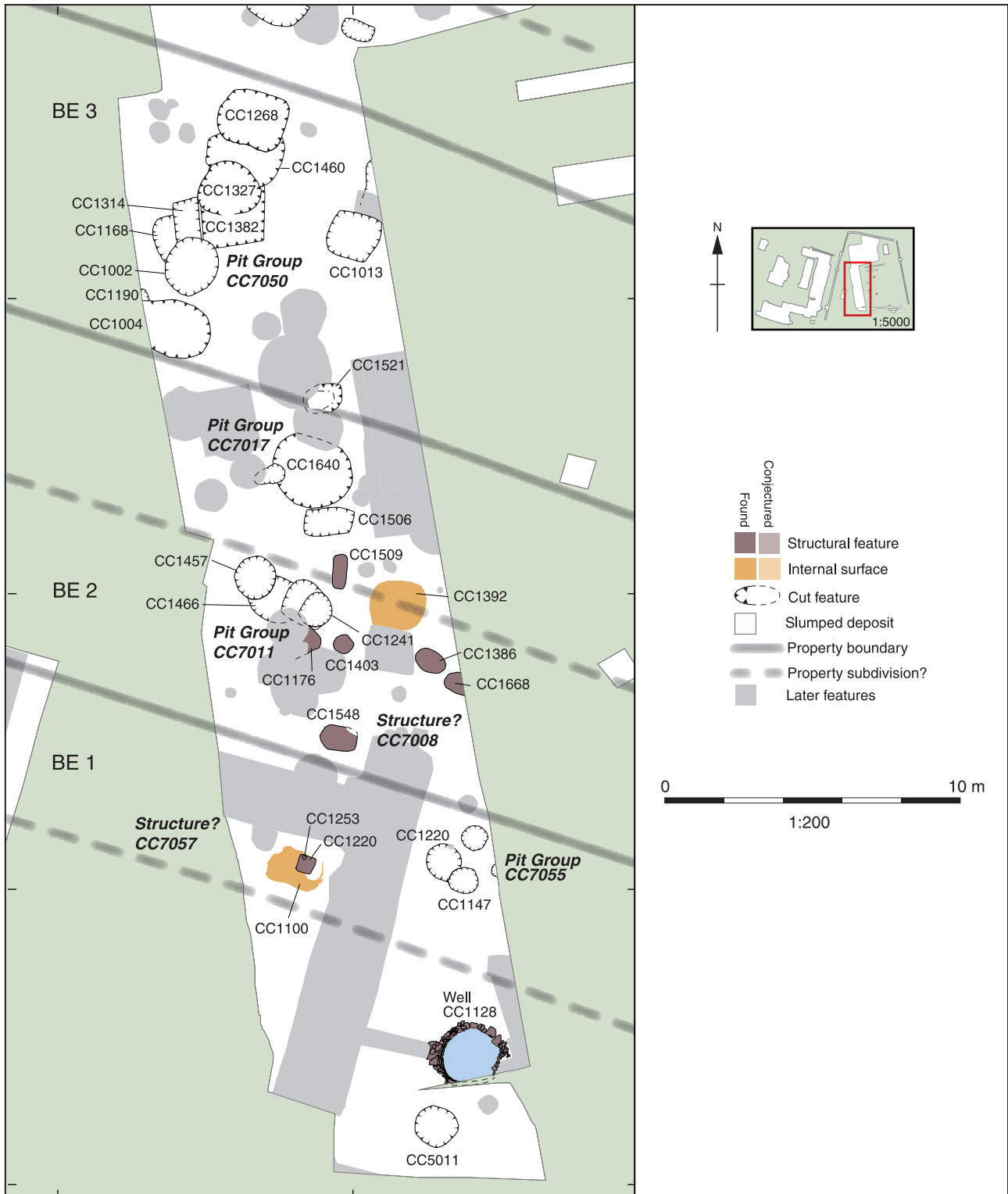


Fig. 4.2 Properties BE 1–3, Phase 5

have post-dated the filling of the pit and possibly represented the foundation of floors. The earliest was cut by a posthole (CC1195; not shown on plan) that been removed subsequent to the laying of the later ‘surfaces’, supporting the interpretation that they pertain to structural remains.

### *Pits*

Unlike the adjacent Properties BE 2 and BE 4, the density of pitting showed a marked increase from that of the preceding period and is dominated by a SW-NE linear arrangement of nine intercutting pits (Pit Group CC7050) suggesting an intense and sustained period of activity. The spatial layout of the pits suggests that the subdivision suggested for the property in the pre-Conquest period did not extend into the Anglo-Norman period. The sharp delimitation on their sides suggests that space was at a premium and perhaps the area to their west was set aside for structures (see above). As previously noted (see Chapter 3), the area to the south-east was relatively free of pits, which suggests it may have been set aside for other use, or for access.

All the pits of Pit Group CC7050 were excavated to mitigation level (at 1.1–1.2 m depth) and were largely rapidly infilled, the rather similar nature of their levelling deposits often making the identification of the correct chronological sequence difficult at the depths excavated. None of the pits corresponded with the pile positions of the new building and as a result they were not subject to augering in an attempt to establish their function and depth. Given the degree of slumping encountered in some of the pits it is possible the earliest pits may have originated in Phase 4 even though their excavated fills contained post-Conquest pottery. These pits (CC1190, CC1168, CC1314 and CC1460), largely removed by later pits, were mostly rectangular, and two of them contained fills that may be interpreted as slumped floor and occupation deposits (see above). The subsequent four pits (CC1004, CC1002, CC1327, CC1268) formed a straight line and unlike the earlier pits, most were circular and of a similar size, measuring 2–2.5 m across. All contained domestic rubbish before being rapidly infilled with well-consolidated redeposited natural chalk or clay/gravel. The northernmost pit CC1268 was effectively the re-excitation of late Saxon pit CC1275 (see Chapter 3) and unlike the other pits showed no evidence for consolidated filling.

The pits were particularly rich in animal remains, mainly cattle and lesser quantities of pig and sheep, the earlier pits being notable also for the presence of goose, duck and other fowl. Fish, grain, seeds and other indicators of diet were not present, however, probably due to the fact that any cess-rich deposits would have been at lower depths and were thus not available for investigation. However, appreciable quantities of herring were recovered from a cessy fill of pit CC1268 as well as a large quantity of oyster

and mussel shells. Evidence for horn working was found in pit CC1268 and adjacent pit CC1327, the former also containing hammerscale suggesting that smithing was undertaken close by. Possible evidence for weaving included an eyed bone pin from pit CC1004 (SF Cat no. 179) datable to the 11th–mid 12th century.

Three further pits were identified to the east of Pit Group CC7050. Only one (CC1013) was exposed or survived to any great extent. Pit CC1013 was square and vertical sided, measuring 1.8 m across and was partly excavated, to a depth of 1.1 m. Unlike the pits to the west it appeared to have been left to fill over a period of time with dumps of domestic refuse though its original purpose remains uncertain. This pit and pit fragment CC1521, located adjacent to the postulated south boundary of the property, appear to have been filled late in the Anglo-Norman period, probably during the late 12th to early 13th century. Pit CC1013 was notable for containing a sherd from an un-sooted (unused?) chimney pot rim that had an elliptical or deformed aperture (see Chapter 7, Fig. 7.9, no. 18). A further sherd of possible chimney pot was found in pit CC1521 (see Chapter 7, Fig. 7.12, no. 53). Such chimney pots are thought to date from as early as the late 12th century and suggest the presence of buildings of middling to higher status (see Cotter, Chapter 7), the deformed sherd possibly representing a reject during the construction of the building it had been intended to adorn. The presence of a floor tile and a possible roof tile from pit CC1013 offers further evidence for the substantial nature of the building that was presumably located towards the street frontage.

### **Property BE 4 (Fig. 4.3; Plates 4.2–4.4)**

#### *Structural evidence*

##### *Structure CC7024*

The north-west area of the property, west of well CC2039 (see below), which had been occupied by pits during the preceding Phase 4 (see Chapter 3), seems to have been used for structures, indicated by surviving levels which had subsided into earlier features. Successive layers of compacted chalk and thin occupation silts had slumped into late Saxon pit CC2041, and probably represented occupation over a protracted period of time, the earliest possibly of pre-Conquest date. The later floors consisted of mortar, one (CC2113) comprising yellowish-buff chalky mortar that had slumped severely, leaving fractured terraces of floor at various levels, but otherwise surviving intact (Plate 4.2). Towards its north side, at a point immediately adjacent to the projected south wall of cellar CC7044 (see Property BE 5 Phase 6, below), chalk rubble blocks and a fragment of wall render were found within the mortar, indicating it was nearing a walled edge. Thin occupation silts and charcoal





Plate 4.2 Mortar floor (Structure CC7024) collapsing into pit CC2041, Property BE 4, Phase 5, looking south-west



Plate 4.3 Well CC2039, Property BE 4, Phase 5, looking north-west



spreads above the floors contained a small quantity of flake hammerscale suggesting intermittent secondary smithing; otherwise occupation appears to have been domestic. A complete barrel padlock of 10th- or 11th-century date was recovered from a dark brown make-up level over the earliest floor, suggesting the need for security. Compacted mortar (CC2181) containing large flint nodules was found slumped into earlier features immediately to the north-west. It may have represented the remnants of a wall, and it corresponded with the westward projection of the south wall of later cellar CC7044 (Phase 6).

#### Structure CC7025

Further possible slumped floors or internal consolidation levels were found filling the upper levels of pre-Conquest pit CC2343, possibly a cellar, located 5 m to the south of Structure CC7024. The possible floors comprised thick hard orange/brown chalky clay or chalk of different character to those found to the north, suggesting they were either not contemporary or pertained to a separate structure. They were cut by a line of circular postholes (CC2011, CC2271 and CC2278) that may have formed a late element of the structure, suggesting timber construction and perhaps delimiting its eastern extent some 6.5 m from the street frontage. The little evidence that was recovered suggests a domestic function.

#### Well CC2039

Abutting the boundary with Property BE 5 and located immediately to the east of Structure CC7024 was an elaborately built well (CC2039) (Plate 4.3). Though no direct dating was obtained for its construction, it pre-dated the construction of cellar CC7044 (Property BE 5; See Phase 6 below) to the north and its chalk ashlar construction is suggestive of a 12th-century date. Its chalk block lining was formed of curved blocks with regular level courses and staggered perp joints; the highly quality of its construction was such that no mortar was required for the joints. The chalk blocks on its north side had been removed by the foundation of the south wall of the cellar but did not overlap the inner edge of the well lining. It is possible that the cellar wall may have replaced the lining at this point and the well continued to function, since the backfill of the well apparently abutted both the wall and lining at the level excavated. The chalk lining of its north-west face was pitted, possibly as the result of damage by the bucket that may have been retrieved from this point of the well, presumably by the occupants of the adjacent building. The shaft of the well was slightly elliptical, measuring 2.1 m at its widest point and, unlike contemporary well CC1128 (Property BE 1), had been built flush within a circular construction pit. The base of the well was determined by a borehole which revealed its depth to have been 9 m below its highest surviving point at 38.66 m OD. The borehole revealed that, like all the wells on site,

it was dry and contained a thin, sterile, well-compacted clay at its base. This probably represented initial backfill, before the remainder of the well was rapidly infilled with dumps of redeposited natural clay and chalk. Alternatively it may have acted to prevent the water from seeping back into the porous underlying natural chalk. Its earliest excavated levels suggest that it may have been infilled during the 13th–14th centuries though a large quantity of 18th- to 19th-century tile was recovered from its uppermost fill, possibly accumulated as a result of subsidence.

#### Pits

The density of pitting attributable to the Anglo-Norman period showed a marked decline from the preceding period. All were fairly scattered and confined within an area located towards the rear of the property, some 12–20 m from the street frontage.

Pit Group CC7019 comprised three pits arranged in a line adjacent to the southern boundary of the property but back *c* 1 m to the north compared to the pits of the preceding period. Pits CC2002 (Plate 4.4) and CC2043 were both circular and of similar diameter, 2 m and 1.9 m respectively. The bases of both were found by auger which revealed that pit CC2002 was substantially deeper at 4.4 m (42.96 m OD) than pit CC2043 whose depth was 2.6 m. The base of the deeper pit lay 4.3 m above the base of nearby chalk-lined well CC2039 (38.66 m OD), a depth that suggests this pit was unlikely to have served as a well. Augering revealed that pit C2002 contained a 1.9 m thick deposit of soft, green-stained sand-silt cassy deposit at its base suggesting it was used as a cesspit. Both pits contained a significant quantity of domestic refuse in their upper fills. The relative scarcity of diagnostic post-Conquest pottery in pit CC2002 suggests that it had been used and infilled prior to the use of pit CC2039, probably early in the Anglo-Norman period. This may be borne out by a riveted mount (SF Cat no. 318) found



Plate 4.4 Cess pit CC2002, Property BE 4, Phase 5, looking north



Fig. 4.3 Properties BE 4-5, Phase 5

close to the top of the pit that is datable to the mid 10th -late 11th centuries. Both pits contained parts of locks, indicating a need for security: a barrel padlock bolt from pit CC2043 (SF Cat no. 308) and a curved bar that formed part of a lock fitting from pit CC2002 (SF Cat no. 306). Evidence for trade was found in pit CC2002 where part of an equal-arm balance (SF Cat no. 320) was recovered. This could have been used for weighing items such as coin, luxury spices or even precious metals.

The presence of sawn horn cores (goat and deer) in both pits, and mould fragments (including a fragment with an inverted pattern for a metal decorative fitting) from pit CC2043, suggests that the manufacture of bone and non-ferrous objects was also undertaken on the property. Much of the food waste from both pits was predominantly cattle, with pig and sheep present in lesser quantities. Pit CC2002 was notable for butchered badger bones; perhaps the fur had been used to make brushes. Fish remains were present within cess-rich dumps and included predominantly herring and eel, though small quantities of salmon, trout, mackerel, cod and ray were also found.

Pit Group CC7020, located towards the centre of the property, represented the continuation from the Phase 4 pits in this area and similarly remained unexcavated below a depth of *c* 0.15 m. The upper fills probably represented the consolidation of pits datable to the pre-Conquest period (see Chapter 3). Pit CC2330 contained layers of compacted clay and chalk, interleaved with thin charcoal-rich silts that may have represented floor levels that had sunk into the pit. The charcoal was rich in flake and spherical hammerscale suggesting that it formed part of the floor of a smithy that would have occupied this central part of the property. It also contained a rich assemblage of fish remains, predominantly herring and eel, though more exotic fish such as Dover Sole and Conger Eel were also represented (see discussion in Chapter 5).

Circular pit CC3169, located towards the east of the property, was similar in diameter to the pits of Pit Group CC7020 and remained unbottomed at 1.7 m. The nature of its fills, comprising dumps of gravel and chalk rich soils, suggests the pit was rapidly filled, the green staining on its sides indicating that it had been used as a cesspit. The pit was notable for containing two sherds of contemporary madder-stained Newbury B ware indicating that dyeing was being undertaken on the property.

Pits CC2322 and CC2378 abutted the boundary with Property BE 5 and contained compacted chalk and mortar fills that had slumped to the excavated depth of the pits. This material may have been deposited to strengthen the foundation level for wall CC2315 (see Phase 6 below). However, it likely that these pits are of Phase 5 (or possibly Phase 4) date and may have contained soft organic material such as cess within the unexcavated lower levels.

## Property BE 5

### *BE 5 West 'Property'* (Fig. 4.3, Plate 4.5)

A post-built timber structure (Structure CC7031) was found that flanked the street to the north of the property and may have represented a successor to, or a remodelled version of, the proposed structure of the preceding phase (see Structure CC7035, Chapter 3). As with the preceding phase, floor levels only survived the later terracing where they had slumped into earlier pits. One such group (Structure CC7032) contained a well-preserved sequence of floors and structural features which may represent a southwards extension of the structure.

#### *Structure CC7031*

A rectangular arrangement of large postholes probably formed part of a timber-built structure or structures alongside the frontage of the north arm of Brudene Street. The western postholes (CC3012 and CC3157) were aligned at right-angles to the street, their substantial nature suggesting that they supported uprights for an exterior wall. Posthole CC3157, possibly the north-west corner of the structure, was contained within a rounded rectangular pit measuring 1.28 m in length and 0.44 m deep; a square(?) post, *c* 0.4 m wide, was visible as a slight impression at the base of its east end. Posthole CC3012, which cut into Phase 4.2 pit CC3011, was of similar size and contained clear evidence of a post-pipe at its west end; it could have represented the south-west corner. Posthole CC3003 was a similar size and shape and could conceivably have represented its south-east corner though no corresponding posthole was found to mark the north-east corner; this could have been removed by later truncation. If the postholes form part of the same structure, then a rectangular arrangement can be suggested measuring 6.6 by 5.2 m, the substantial nature of the postholes suggesting the structure had more than



Plate 4.5 Floors and features of structural group CC7032 slumped into pit CC3010, Property BE 5 (W), Phase 5, looking north-east



one storey. Any associated floor deposits were removed by later levelling of the site though compact chalk surfaces 'capping' pits CC3226 and CC3138, situated on the north side of the structure, may have represented surviving floor or associated levels.

Well-preserved occupation levels and structural elements (Structure CC7032) possibly pertaining to a southwards extension to the building were found collapsed into Phase 4.2 pit CC3010 close to its south-east corner. This comprised a succession of compacted chalk floors supporting thin occupation deposits often rich in charcoal suggesting the presence of a nearby hearth. The floors were divided by a shallow beamslot 0.16 m wide (CC3065; Plate 4.5) aligned with two postholes at each end (CC3119 and CC3058) that presumably represented timber uprights that fitted into the ground-sill. The northern post (CC3119) had been replaced on at least one occasion (CC3056) probably as the result of the severe subsidence. It is possible that shallow posthole CC3265 on the same alignment represents a continuation southwards of this timber wall. Evidence from the floors would suggest a largely domestic function though a small quantity of flaked hammerscale was recovered suggesting occasional secondary smithing. The floors were particularly rich in fish remains, including a wide variety of sea fish such as herring, plaice, sea bream, sea bass, cod, haddock, and conger eel, and with freshwater fish represented solely by eels. This suggests the preparation or consumption of such foodstuffs within the structure. Also present was a significant quantity of barley and oat grain, present in equal quantities, suggesting that a maslin or mixed crop called 'dredge' had been grown. Although dredge was often used as animal fodder (see Carruthers, Chapter 8), it was also used in medieval beer production (Unger 2004, 143). A higher proportion than normal of rye, an important component in medieval beer, would add further evidence that brewing was being undertaken within the structure.

#### *Pits*

The contemporary pits within the west property comprised a single pit (CC3150) and well CC3043, the former of which abutted the line of the pre-Conquest boundary NH7030 (see Chapter 3) suggesting it had continued in use. It may also have been contemporary with Structure CC7032 that lay immediately to its west. The vertical-sided pit measured 2.8 m in diameter, its base reached by augering at 42.53 m (4.9 m depth), a level nearly 4 m above the base of adjacent wells CC3043 and CC2039. The pit may have served as a cesspit, as in the similar pits found in the adjacent Property BE 4, though no evidence was found during the augering, which suggested that the pit had been rapidly filled with homogeneous mid grey-brown silty clay.

Well CC3043 had been largely destroyed by an air raid shelter though some evidence for its construction survived. It had been built with dressed ashlar

chalk blocks, similar in style to well CC2039 within Property BE 4. It showed diagonal tooling marks on its lowest two visible courses, which is indicative of an Anglo-Norman rather than a later medieval date. Otherwise no dating evidence was found. Unlike well CC2039, it had been built free-standing within a circular pit with packing backfill of compacted chalk surrounding the block lining. It is likely that the internal diameter of the well shaft measured c 1.5 m, somewhat smaller than its counterpart whose diameter was 2.1 m. A borehole revealed that the level of its base was identical to CC2039 (at 38.69 m OD) suggesting both wells sourced the same aquifer and possibly that they had been dug around the same time.

#### *BE 5 East 'Property' (Fig. 4.3, Plate 4.6)*

##### *Structural evidence*

In the extreme north-east area of the site part of rectangular timber-lined pit (CC6087) was exposed that may have represented a shallow cellar or undercroft for an overlying structure. Unfortunately only its south-west corner was exposed although it was set at right-angles to the street to the north and measured at least 2.2 m across, its rear side set back some 7 m from the frontage. Its base lay at a depth of 0.45 m though given the degree of truncation that had occurred in this area, its original depth was



*Plate 4.6 'Cellar' CC6087, showing slot for timber lining on its west side, Property BE 5 (E), Phase 5, looking north*

probably significantly more. A sharply defined flat-bottomed slot, 0.42 m in width, had been cut in its base alongside its western and southern edges and probably marked the position of timber planking that would have lined its sides (Plate 4.6). The slot was filled with a homogeneous loose grey silt in marked contrast to the backfill of the pit, suggesting that the timbers were left to decay rather than removed. No evidence for upright posts was found, though any post that may have marked its south-west corner would have been removed by a modern pit. Thin trampled grey silty clays (CC6071 and CC6082) containing domestic refuse, including Newbury B-style ware, would imply that the natural gravelly clay acted as a floor. The structure was subsequently re-floored with thick yellowish-buff chalky mortar (CC6069) that was supported on a

base of compacted clay (CC6070), the former heavily worn through use.

A large post-pit (CC6020) that cut through the infilled, possible late Saxon cellar CC6052 (see Chapter 3) may have formed part of the east wall of a later structure to the west, perhaps forming its south-east corner.

*Pits*

The pits within this part of the property were confined to the south-west suggesting the area to the east and north-west was occupied by structures or used for other purposes. Three of the pits were circular; one (CC3322) was cut by Phase 6 well CC3077 and had been rapidly filled with chalk rubble; it could conceivably have represented a precursor to it. Pit CC6038, measuring *c* 1.5 m in



Fig. 4.4 Properties BW 1–3, Phase 5



diameter, contained domestic refuse and was bottomed by machine at a depth of 1.2 m. Partially exposed rectangular pit CC3141 had green-stained edges and presumably served as a cesspit, though its lower levels lay below mitigation. It was backfilled with domestic refuse that contained sea fish including conger eel, cod, halibut, and flat fishes.

## BRUDENE STREET WEST

### Property BW 1 (Fig. 4.4)

As with the preceding period only a small area to the rear of the property was available for investigation, the area to the street frontage being either below mitigation level or outside the excavations. The area continued to be set aside for the digging of pits, largely within a zone that had not previously been used. The pits recorded were mostly either shallow or their extents lay largely beyond the limits of excavation. Only rectangular pit NH4293 was of note and contained ashy fills, probably sweepings from nearby smithing activity since they contained flake hammerscale and iron slag. The presence of several burnt bones, scarce elsewhere on the site, perhaps indicates higher status activity since charring of bones indicates roasting, a relatively fuel demanding and labour intensive cooking method (see Strid, Chapter 8; see also Property SE 1, Pit Group NH8612 below).

### Property BW 2 (Fig. 4.4, Plates 4.7–9)

#### Structure NH8530

The late Saxon L-shaped structure (NH8530) that occupied the full frontage of the property during Phase 4.2 (see Chapter 3, Fig. 3.16) continued to be occupied, though contemporary occupation levels did not survive except where they had slumped into a late Saxon pit located alongside its southern extent. At some point the sill-beams had been replaced by substantial post-pits that appeared to follow the same footprint as the earlier phase. The date of this remodelling is uncertain since many of the post-pit fills derived from the robbing/removal of the posts; however, none contained pottery later than the early 13th century, suggesting that the building had been demolished by this time. In form and construction technique the structure is characteristic of early medieval houses (see discussion, Chapter 5) dating from the late 10th century onwards and is similar to Structure NH8622 that occupied Property SE 2 (see Chapter 3, Fig. 3.22).

The structure was defined by a number of small elongated pits along the western side (NH4272 (Plate 4.7), NH4304, NH4568/NH4570 and NH4022). Their alignment corresponded with the west wall of the sill-built late Saxon structure, the limits of the northernmost and southernmost pits corresponding to the north and south property boundaries. Pits NH4272 and NH4304 were of similar size and depth

measuring 1.6 m and 1.75 m in length and 0.62 m and 0.69 m in depth respectively. Pit NH4304 contained a slight rectangular depression measuring 0.47 m by 0.6 m at its north end that probably marked the position of the post, though no post-pipe was evident. Pit NH4570 was aligned at right-angles to the pits to the north, possibly influenced by the site of well NH4019 which may have been in position at this time. A later pit (NH4568), contained within its east end may have marked the position of a post as this would have formed a straight alignment with post-pits NH4272 and N4303 to its north. Evidence for an intermediate post-pit between NH4570 and NH4304 may have been removed by the robbing pit for the well. The south-west corner of the structure appears to have been marked by pit NH4022; although this had been heavily disturbed by later activity a post impression was identified at its east end, in alignment with the west wall of the structure. A notable quantity of large flints was found within the pit that may have represented disturbed remains of packing around the post.

Substantial posthole NH4093 may have marked the position of the north-east corner of the structure and hence the position of the street frontage at this time. It measured 0.43 m in diameter and was filled with a loose brown silt, possibly the decayed remains of the post, which contained an iron arrow-head of 9th- to 11th-century date (SF Cat no. 371; see



Plate 4.7 Post-pit NH4272 forming north wall of Structure NH8530, Property BW 2, Phase 5, looking north-east



Chapter 7, Fig. 7.32). The posthole was located within the north end of earlier pit NH4129 which may have been associated since its base corresponded to the base of the posthole, at a depth of 0.62 m. A similar pit (NH4088) lay immediately to its south, on the alignment of the projected east wall of the structure, though it remained unexcavated since it lay below mitigation level. Post-pit NH4601, within the interior of the structure, was smaller and contained an impression of a squarish post at its south end measuring *c* 0.28 m in width. Although this post is smaller than the others it is still sufficient in size to have had a substantial load-bearing function and could have formed a roof support rather than part of a partition wall.

The structure appears to have maintained a west wing or annexe at its north end, which was reconstructed in a similar manner to the main part of the building. Its south wall may have been defined

by pit NH4033 which was positioned perpendicular to pit NH4304 within the main west wall. The north wall may have been delimited by pit NH4445, which corresponded to pit NH4033 on the south wall and contained the remains of an apparent post-pipe at its north end that extended throughout its depth of 1 m. The constraints of the excavation edge did not allow the shape of the post to be revealed, but it must have measured at least 0.51 m across, comparable in size to the other posts of the building. The pit had been backfilled with compacted gravel, probably to add more support for the post since it cut into the soft fills of a late Saxon cesspit. This post may have been set in a shallow flat linear trench (NH4312) that seems to have defined the north wall of the structure. A similar trench (NH4127) lay on the same alignment to the east, and may have been associated with post-pit NH4272. Both trenches measured 1 m across and



Plate 4.8 Slumped remains of oven NH4249 at south end of Structure NH8530, Property BW 2, Phase 5, looking south-east



were filled with compact gravel-rich soil suggesting that they may have acted as the baseplate for a massive sill-beam into which the upright posts fitted. The length of the sill as estimated by the distance between the posts was at least 5.4 m. The purpose of post-pit NH4320, located close to the west edge of the west wing, is difficult to ascertain but it could have supported an internal structure such as a staircase since the structure was substantial enough to have had at least two storeys.

The area at the southern end of the structure continued (as in the preceding period) to be used for cooking as evidenced by well-preserved floor deposits and structural features that had survived slumped heavily into the soft fills of underlying late Saxon pits (see Chapter 3). A major phase of re-construction seems to have occurred that was possibly contemporary with the re-build of Structure NH8530. A short length of an east-west wall (NH4259) coincided with the line of the south wall of the structure and may have formed the back part of one or more oven structures. It comprised chalk and flint rubble measuring 0.25 m in width, bonded by loose sandy beige mortar and had a render of brown clay on its south (?exterior) face. A compact surface of fired red chalk and clay may have represented the internal area within an oven immediately to its north. Several episodes of re-flooring of scorched chalk or clay followed, each associated with charcoal rich silts derived from the use of ovens. The oven was later remodelled with the addition of a short length of masonry (NH4249) (Plate 4.8) that abutted the north side of wall NH4259 comprising flints bonded with beige creamy mortar. This may have represented the west wall of an oven whose internal area lay to its north since the clay floor abutting its east side was hard fired red by intense heat whereas to its west the clay floor showed no evidence for heating.

The diverse range of animal bone recovered, including cattle, pig, sheep, fowl, pigeon and other birds, suggests that food was being prepared and cooked, the presence of burnt bones of larger mammals suggesting large joints were also being roasted. The domestic nature of these deposits was confirmed by the soil micromorphology, which showed that charcoal-rich occupation layer NH4192 comprised finely to broadly layered trampled floor deposits originating from kitchen hearth rake out rich in charcoal, with ash and burned food residues (see Macphail and Crowther, Chapter 8). Additionally the presence of dung residues within charcoal rake out NH4186 suggests that, if not trampled in from outside, the dung may have come from fuel used in the ovens. Part of a perforated curfew (a fire cover), showing heavy internal sooting, indicates a concern for fire prevention. A vessel of Newbury B-style ware (see Chapter 7, Fig. 7.15, no. 115) was recovered from close to the upper level of the sequence and is datable to no later than the early 13th century.

Immediately to the north of the kitchen area were the remains of a chalk-lined drain (NH4109) that ran east-west across Structure NH8530 towards the south side of well NH4019 (see below), its western extent apparently corresponding with the line of the west wall of Structure NH8530. Only its base survived, comprising chalk slabs cut into rectangles measuring approximately 0.3 m by 0.25 m, each of equal thickness of 0.1 m, laid flat, tightly packed and without mortar bonding on a thin bedding of puddled chalk. Rubble that overlay it contained similar broken chalk slabs that probably derived from its side lining, and perhaps from any covering slabs. Below the rubble was a thin deposit of gravel and sand that may have derived from the use of the drain. The date of the drain is uncertain though it must have been cut from a level above that of the latest surviving floor level of Structure NH8530 and so could feasibly have post-dated its use, though its apparent terminus at the line of its west wall would seemingly preclude this. If the drain had extended beyond the west wall of Structure NH8530 it must have pre-dated robbing of well NH4019 during the 13th or 14th centuries. An unabraded sherd from a Winchester ware pitcher was found within its foundation bedding, possibly disturbed from underlying floors but in any case dating the construction of the drain to no earlier than the late 10th to late 11th century. If contemporary with Structure NH8530 it may have served the needs of the kitchen, or alternatively if later, may have formed part of the Archdeacon's property, possibly serving as a drain for an access lane leading off Brudene Street (see discussion, Chapter 5).

### *Pits*

The area south-west of Structure NH8530 continued to be used for disposal of rubbish, though a large part of this area was set aside for the construction of well NH4019 (see below). Vertical sided pit NH4339 was sub-circular, measuring 2.1 m across, and remained unbottomed at a depth of 2 m. The pit appears to have been rapidly filled with dumps of gravel, chalk and refuse rather than through the gradual accumulation of rubbish, implying that it may originally have served as a cesspit. Its earliest fill contained a large rim sherd/body sherd of coarse grained sandy ware (Fabric MOE) indicating the pit had been filled between the late 11th and early 13th century, the presence of early South Hampshire red ware (Fabric MNG) recovered from the fills above suggesting a date in the latter part of this range. The pit also contained a complete bolt from a medieval barrel padlock (SF Cat no. 297; see Chapter 7, Fig. 7.29), similar examples of which have been found in 11th-century contexts elsewhere in Winchester (see Cool, Chapter 7). A fragment of bone, sawn and polished on one side, suggests that bone objects were being manufactured. The upper levels of the pit contained compacted orange gravel



supported by rammed chalk. This suggests that the area was later re-utilised as a yard. Alternatively it may be related to consolidation of an entrance into the archdeacon's property that was later constructed in this area (see discussion, Chapter 5). A second slightly smaller, shallow pit (NH4459) containing domestic refuse apparently cut its south edge and had also been levelled with compacted orange gravel.

Chalk-lined well NH4019 (Plate 4.9) occupied a position immediately to the rear of the southern arm of Structure NH8530, though later robbing had destroyed any stratigraphic relationship between the two. Its construction was unusual compared to the other wells on the site as it had been constructed within a square pit measuring 2.2 m across, within which a circular shaft of chalk blocks was constructed. As construction proceeded, clean chalk was packed in behind the chalk blocks in order to help consolidation, the chalk possibly having been tipped in from the south side of the pit. The need for a square construction trench is difficult to understand and it is possible that it represented an existing open pit, perhaps a timber precursor to the well. The shaft measured 1.48 m in diameter and predominantly consisted of large, rectangular roughly hewn blocks although some had been shaped in an ashlar fashion. A borehole

revealed that the base of the well lay at 41.27 m OD (a depth of 9.5 m) and contained a 0.56 m thick light grey clayey silt at its base. The presence of fine-grained sediment may indicate deposition of mineral matter from suspension within an open water body. No dating was obtained for the construction of the well, although analogy with the other chalk-lined wells on the site and its position with regard to Structure NH8530 would imply a date around the 12th century. The well appears to have been rapidly infilled with rubble and robbed of its upper courses prior to final levelling by the 13th or 14th centuries.

**Property BW 3** (Fig. 4.4; Plates 4.10–14)

Compared to the late Saxon period, much of the frontage area was subject to full excavation and only the earliest deposits pertaining to this phase lay below mitigation levels. A deep accumulation of floor levels along most of the frontage pertain to one or more timber structures (Structure NH8532). The area to its north appears to have remained open and may have represented an access route (or lane) leading off the street (see below). An elaborately built well-house (Structure NH8564) also occupied a position immediately to the west of the structure.



*Plate 4.9 Well NH4019, Property BW 2, Phase 5, looking south-east*



**Structure NH8532** (Plates 4.10–11)

The lack of structural features suggests this building in its earliest visible phase had been constructed on earth-fast timber sills, though there was no positive evidence to prove this. However, the floor levels were delimited to the west by a line of pits associated with a later and more substantial timber phase of the structure. The extent of the floors to the north was fairly sharply defined and corresponded approximately with the north side of well-house Structure NH8564. Similarly their southern extent was clearly defined by the boundary with Property BW 2, which remained essentially unchanged from the late Saxon period. As such the structure may have occupied a frontage of *c* 9.1 m and is estimated to have extended *c* 6.1 m from the street frontage. From the outset the structure appears to have been subdivided into two bays, as there was a clear dividing line between the floors in the northern and southern parts of the building. The line of this division corresponded closely to the inside face of the south wall of well-house Structure NH8564, the apparent lack of a dividing ground sill or other structural evidence suggesting an internal screen. The two bays thus formed were of unequal length, with the south bay measuring 5.3 m in width compared to 3.8 m for the north bay.

The floors of the north bay comprised thick compacted chalk, the earliest levels of which remained unexcavated and below mitigation level. The northern extent of their earliest levels seems to have been delimited by east-west slot NH3652 that may have represented part of a beam-slot, although

it remained undefined towards the west. The slot had a slightly concave bottom and measured 0.6 m in width and 0.3 m in depth and was filled with sandy gravel. Its concave base and gravelly fill suggest that it did not serve as a beam-slot, and it could have been a drain for rain run-off onto the exterior area or possible lane to its north (see below). The floor of the north bay had been replaced with chalk on at least one occasion, with intervening thick make-up levels of orange gravelly clay and thick greenish or charcoal rich occupation silts. Evidence from the floors would suggest predominantly domestic occupation, with a fairly diverse range of food waste that included Brent goose, duck, fowl and red deer, the latter, if being consumed, indicating the occupants enjoyed a more refined diet. However, this diversity was not reflected in the fish remains, which comprised predominantly herring and eel.

Sooty occupation layer NH3617 contained significant quantities of burnt cereal grains and hazelnut shells. The hazelnut shells could have been used as fuel for a nearby hearth, though no such contemporary features were found at the levels excavated. The burnt cereals included a preponderance of oats and barley that could also have been used for the brewing of ale. Soil micromorphological analysis undertaken in the north-west of the room (see Macphail and Crowther, Chapter 8; Thin sections NHM226A-B) revealed evidence of strongly burned mineral material from hearths or furnaces and possible industrial evidence. However, there was no other evidence of industrial activity, so perhaps this



Plate 4.10 Floor levels of Structure NH8532, near to mitigation level, Property BW 3, Phase 5, looking south-west





Plate 4.11 Unexcavated floor deposits slumping into underlying pit NH3017 within the northern part of Structure NH8532, Property BW 3, Phase 5 and earlier, looking west



Plate 4.12 Oven NH8547 Property BW 3, Phase 5, looking south-east



material was brought by trample from elsewhere. The floors within the south bay similarly consisted of thick compacted chalk overlain by charcoal-rich silts that also contained evidence suggesting a predominantly domestic use of the area. However, finds of three spindlewhorls from three contiguous floor deposits at south end of the room suggest that this area could have been associated with spinning. Two of the whorls were made of chalk (see Shaffrey, Chapter 7) and the third (SF Cat no. 164) from the latest floor was made from bone and is datable to the 10th–11th centuries. Also found within these deposits was a short length of copper alloy rod (SF no. 1296; not in catalogue) with a rounded end that may have originated as casting waste and perhaps derived from the possible metalworking activity identified from the northern bay of the structure.

The north bay may have seen a change of use since a number of clay hearths were subsequently added against the west wall of the room. The surface of the chalk floor area towards the east wall had also been scorched red, presumably by intense heat. One hearth (NH3484) was archaeomagnetically dated to 1195–1267 (hearth WOH). The hearths were seemingly associated with a thick and well-preserved sequence of chalk floors, ash and charcoal-rich occupation deposits that subsided into an underlying pit (NH3017) within the central area of the room (Plate 4.11). As a consequence most of these deposits occurred below mitigation levels and thus remained unexcavated—though the evidence obtained from the upper levels suggests domestic occupation.

Possibly at same time masonry built ovens (NH8547) were added to the south end of the southern bay. Two adjacent horseshoe-shaped ovens were formed of a single build comprising roughly faced flints bonded by pale yellow sandy lime mortar with a shared integral floor of hardened chalk. The opening of the east oven measured 1 m in depth and was 0.56 m in width whilst the west oven was wider at 0.92 m. The ovens had been built free-standing upon the underlying floor and with their openings facing northwards. The southern wall of the oven appears to have been an integral part of the building since it contained a step that may have been used to accommodate a sill beam for its southern wall (Plate 4.12). Although the ovens had been demolished to near floor level and partially robbed, the central wall appeared to overhang slightly at its northern end suggesting the start of a springer (the lowest voussoir on each side of an arch, where the vertical support for the arch terminates and the curve of the arch begins). The west wall of the oven showed evidence for repair that effectively narrowed its opening to 0.69 m. The rebuild contained a fragment of re-used and squared Quarr stone, a type of stone also used in the construction of the well-house. The floor of the west oven had been resurfaced on several occasions with chalk, the penultimate floor (NH4430) producing an archaeomagnetic date of 477–1175 (WOF). The area

around the front of the oven contained a series of thick spreads of laminated charcoal that derived from sweepings out from the use of the ovens. Those in front of the east oven were contained within a deep hollow that had formed from subsidence into an underlying late Saxon pit. Charcoal (NH4458) from the earliest spread in front of and within the west oven produced a radiocarbon date of 1020–1210 (SUERC-13916), which was reduced by Bayesian modelling to 1020–1090. Charcoal (NH4373) from the latest use of the west oven produced a radiocarbon date of 1030–1220 (SUERC-13904), reduced by Bayesian modelling to 1050–1230 implying that the ovens had ceased to be used by the end of the early 13th century. As with the north room, evidence from the use of these ovens suggests a domestic function. The charcoal sweepings contained charred bread wheat, suggesting the ovens were used for the baking of bread. The animal and fish remains were similar to those found within the north bay and included goose, snipe and pigeon, along with fish remains composed predominantly of herring with small quantities of grey mullet and cod.

#### *Well-house Structure NH8564 (Plates 4.13–14)*

Situated *c* 2 m to the rear of Structure NH8532 was a large, rectangular and elaborately constructed masonry-lined shaft that may have served as a well-house since it enclosed and was apparently contemporary with a well, located on its base. The internal faces of its north and south walls were in alignment with the corresponding extents of the northern room of Structure NH8532, implying that it formed a contemporary and closely associated feature. Its south side clipped the edge of pit NH3511 whose upper levels contained Anglo-Norman sandy wares including a sherd of late Saxon/early medieval chalk tempered ware (Fabric MAV) and Newbury B ware reminiscent of Norman wares from Canterbury and London. The lack of more diagnostic wares such as Tripod pitchers and developed forms could suggest a date early within the Anglo-Norman period, perhaps prior to the mid 12th century.

The west and south walls were well preserved and survived up to the top of the shaft whilst its north and east walls had seemingly collapsed completely into the shaft. Full excavation of the feature was not possible, though a sondage excavated against its west wall revealed that the base of the shaft (natural chalk) lay at a depth of *c* 4 m, which corresponded with the base of the lining. The lining, measuring 0.61–0.72 m in width, comprised chalk rubble bonded by yellow sandy mortar that been dressed internally with rectangular ashlar chalk blocks, cut to a consistent size of *c* 0.3 m by 0.2 m by 0.18 m. The internal area of the shaft, according to the extent of the lining, measured 2.55 by 3.55 m. A gap behind the south wall, probably formed as a result of collapsing sides of the shaft pit during its excavation, had





Plate 4.13 'Well-house' NH8564, Property BW 3, Phase 5, looking south-west

been filled with packed chalk and mortar. There were two rows of square putlog holes, each *c* 0.12 m across, on its south wall (and presumably corresponding holes on its north wall) that would have held temporary platforms in order to aid the construction of the walls. Located centrally along and bonded into the south wall was a short protruding buttress that had been faced with Quarr limestone (utilised rarely after the 12th century) in a similar manner to the lining. The facing on the buttress was absent from the upper five surviving courses of the wall though a protruding wedge-shaped stone fragment survived on its west face (corresponding to the second course) that was similar to voussoir blocks used for the start of a springer for a vaulted arch. This suggests that the structure supported a substantial roof and certainly the unweathered condition of the walls would suggest that it was protected from the elements.

At the base of the excavated sondage, part of a pit was exposed, the upper levels of which, at least, were filled with rubble derived from the collapse of the walls. The pit (NH3619), though rather irregular within the small area exposed, may have been circular—possibly 1.9 m in diameter—and if so, was contained within the west side of the shaft. A geoarchaeological borehole revealed that its base lay at

depth of 8.89 m (37.70 m OD) below the floor of the shaft, the depth suggesting that it represented the well-head. The basal fill comprised a thin deposit of orangey-brown silty clay that contained mineralised faecal material including strawberry and legume seeds, suggesting that cess had been deposited in the well after it had gone out of use (Vaughan-Williams *et al.*, 2005). As no evidence for a lining was found, perhaps timber was used or the hard surrounding natural chalk may have provided sufficient support for the sides. The position of the well-head, close to the west, north and south walls of the shaft, would imply that access down to it must have been from the east (from Structure NH8532) and presumably by means of steep steps or a ladder. However the east side of the shaft was left largely unexcavated to any depth, and no evidence was definitely recorded for the existence of such steps.

The structure and the well-head appear to have been filled with rubble derived from the north and east walls of the well-house. The complete absence of the north wall apart from its basal course would imply that it had been deliberately pushed in; perhaps the west and south walls were retained to ensure stability of the sides in order to prevent subsidence of extant structures in this area. The rubble contained complete blocks derived from the lining





Plate 4.14 'Well-house' NH8564, detail of south wall showing buttress and infill, Property BW 3, Phase 5, looking east

and possible elements of an arch suggesting little effort had been made in reusing the material. The structure appears to have been rapidly filled with well-consolidated soil and re-deposited natural that contained Anglo-Norman pottery. One fill (NH3286) contained a large part of a Tripod pitcher, a sherd of imported northern French ware and a flanged roof tile fragment, all suggestive of a date during the second half of the 12th century. Furthermore the presence of small quantities of early South Hampshire red ware (fabric MNG) could suggest a late 12th- or early 13th-century date for its infilling.

#### Exterior areas

The lack of distinct floor deposits within the area to the north of Structure NH8532 suggests that this area remained open and would presumably have led to the street to the east. The earliest levels of this area lay below mitigation though thick spreads of flint gravel were exposed within a ground beam at the east end and similar deposits were also partially exposed towards the higher area to the west. These may have represented exterior surfaces, and they supported thick accumulations of trampled dark grey clay and dumps of domestic refuse, offering further evidence for their exterior nature. Two parallel and rather irregular shallow trenches, spaced *c.* 1.6 m apart and filled with compact stony grey-brown silty clay, may have represented ruts from a cart. It is probable that this area represented access leading from the street to the rear of the Structure NH8532, which otherwise occupied the whole of the frontage area. The abundance of general domestic rubbish contained within the deposits suggests such material may have been deposited from the building or by the occupants of the adjacent Property BW 4. One such dump (NH3098) included the remains of a domestic oven found with a large quantity of charred hazelnut shells. The fragments contained well-preserved

interwoven wattle impressions. The oven was probably removed during renovation works and may have feasibly originally occupied a position within the northern bay of Structure NH8532, possibly against its east wall, an area where the floor had been heavily scorched.

A group of pits and small features were clustered in the north-west corner of the property. These were sectioned by machine and little useful dating and other material evidence was recovered to determine their purpose. Pits NH9522 and NH9709 were in excess of 2 m deep and are similar in form to cesspits elsewhere on the site. It is possible that these features belong with the reorganised layout of Phase 6, along with well NH9530/9630 (see below).

The south-west part of Property BW 3, south of well-house Structure NH3547, seems to have been set aside as a yard. The yard comprised a very compact layer of flints and pebbles within a clay matrix (0.08 m thick) that had been coloured red by intense heat. It is probably at this time that a large rectangular pit (NH3511), possibly of late Saxon origin, had been levelled since its excavated fills comprised thick dumps of gravel and chalk. Cutting the yard was a large circular pit NH3438 that may have measured up to 3.1 m in diameter and was excavated to a depth of 1.14 m. Its fills comprised dumps of mortar, gravel and domestic refuse that had been tipped in from its northern side and probably represented its final levelling. The refuse contained the remains of deer, including some identified as roe deer, food often associated with high status individuals in the Norman period (Sykes 2006b, 168). A charcoal-rich dump (NH3415) also produced a selection of sea fish including cod, plaice, thornback and other flatfishes. The presence of a significant quantity of charred bread wheat remains also found within this dump suggests that bread ovens lay nearby, probably within the south end of Structure NH8532 (see above). The area to the west of these pits may also have been utilised for waste disposal as several otherwise undated circular pits were found during the 1960s excavations (Cunliffe 1964, Pits M10-12 and M18). These pre-dated the 13th- to 14th-century eastern extension of the Archdeacon's house and therefore may be attributable to the Anglo-Norman phase, although no further dating evidence was published.

#### Property BW 4 (Fig. 4.5)

The intensity and pattern of occupation within this property was maintained into the Anglo-Norman period. The northern part of the property continued to be used for the digging of pits over a sustained period of time whereas Structure NH8566 within the southern part seems to have continued in use and was possibly enlarged to the west. The complete lack of contemporary pits in the south-west corner of the property suggests this area was set aside for other uses though no other evidence of this survived.

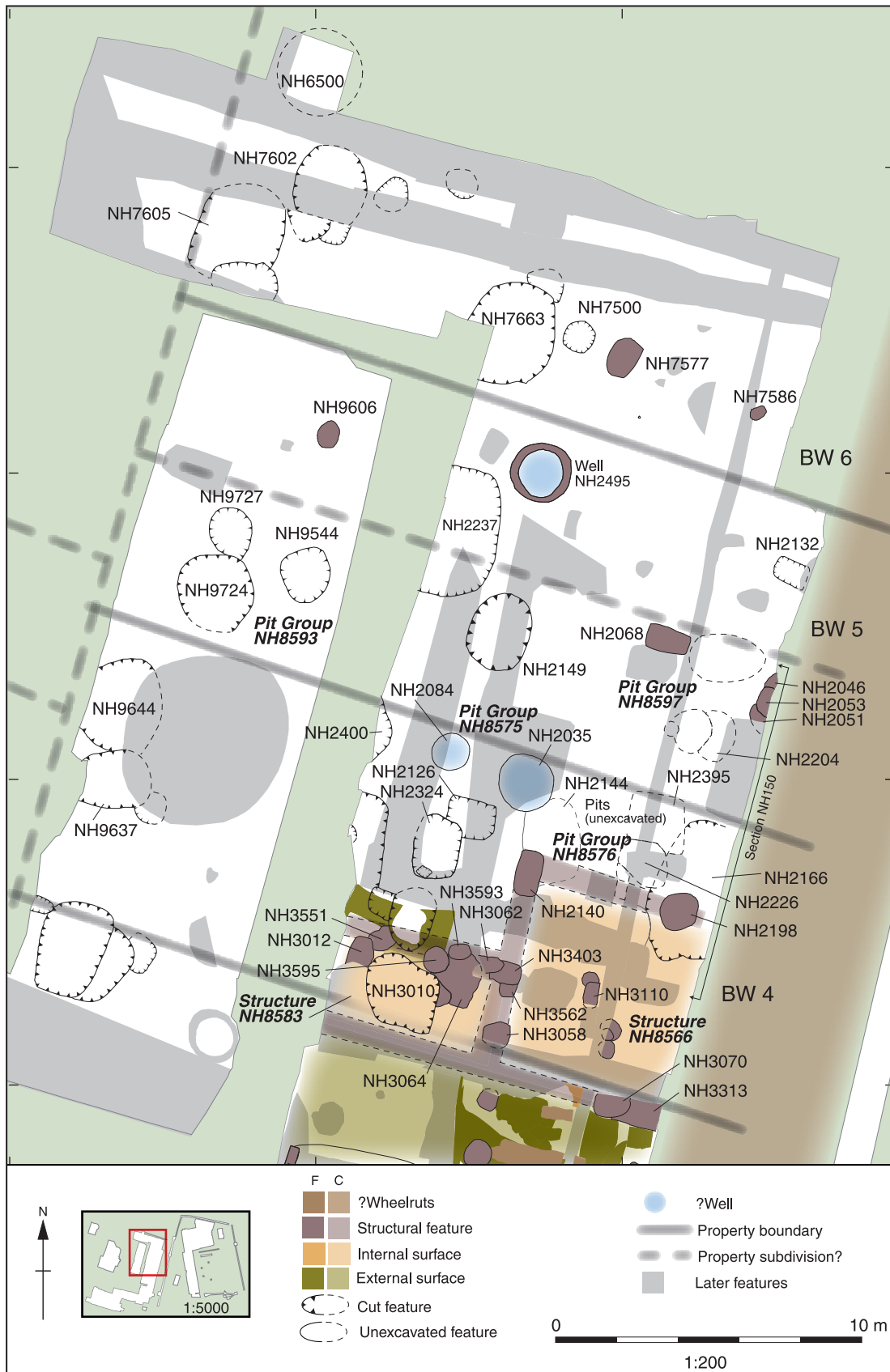


Fig. 4.5 Properties BW 4–6, Phase 5



**Structure NH8566**

Contemporary post-Conquest floor and occupation levels pertaining to Structure NH8566 did not survive though elements associated with the rebuild of its west and south walls and other internal features indicate its continued use. The rebuild seemingly utilised much larger posts which were set in elongated, rectangular post-pits, those on the west wall (NH3058 and NH3562) following the line of the earlier build whereas the southern wall may have been built further south (NH3313 and NH3070), slightly intruding onto the possible access 'lane' that ran along the north side of Property BW 3 (see above). The line of the north wall is uncertain unless represented by shallow pits NH2140 and NH2198, the latter containing large flint nodules that could have represented post-packing. Pits NH3058 and NH3562 within the west wall were of similar depth, measuring 0.78 m and 0.81 m respectively, the north side of pit NH3058 sloping perhaps to aid the insertion of the post that presumably was located at its south end (removed by a modern sewer trench). The pits contained large flint nodules and chalk blocks that may have been used as packing around the post. Pit NH3313, within the south wall of the structure, measured 0.76 m in depth and could have been integral with sub-rectangular pit NH3070 that was contained within its west end, possibly marking the position of the post. This pit was cut deeper at 1.1 m and measured 1.2 m across; this is too large to represent a post-pipe so may represent its removal. A number of mainly shallow postholes located internally within the structure may have marked divisions or working areas. Shallow pit NH3110 contained charcoal-rich silt that contained much flake hammerscale suggesting that, if contemporary with the structure, secondary smithing activity had been undertaken within it. It is possible that the upper levels of 'pit' NH2166, comprising interleaved thick spreads of compacted chalk and clay with grey silts associated with Anglo-Norman pottery, represented trampled levels—perhaps floors associated with the structure. The upper levels (NH2174) contained copper alloy debris and spill and flake hammerscale implying *in situ* evidence for copper working and secondary smithing.

**Structure NH8583**

An arrangement of small pits or postholes to the west of Structure NH8566 suggests that it may have been extended westwards over the area formerly set aside for pits in the late Saxon period. Pits NH3403, NH3062, NH3593, NH3595, NH3551 and NH3012 formed an approximate straight line perpendicular to the west wall of Structure NH8566. Most were shallow and rounded, measuring less than 0.2 m in depth, though pit NH3403, that could have defined its north-east corner, appeared to have represented a substantial post-pit similar to those used for the

rebuild of Structure NH8566. It was rectangular and measured 1.05 m in length and 0.72 m in width and was 1.31 m in depth suggesting it held a large post that supported a substantial load. No post-pipe was recorded but it contained a number of large flint nodules. A similar pit (NH3012), though shallower at 0.5 m, may have defined the north-west corner of the structure, and if so it measured *c* 5 m across. Its south wall had been removed by a modern sewer trench but presumably extended no further than the south wall of structure NH8566. No internal deposits survived though a shallow hollow (NH3604) within its east side may have represented the remains of a contemporary trodden surface; otherwise no evidence for its use was found. The structure appears to have gone out of use after a relatively short period since a large chalk-rubble filled pit (NH3010), containing Anglo-Norman pottery (if not residual), cut into its western side.

**Exterior area**

The area to the north of Structures NH8566 and NH8583 was set aside for the digging of pits that seem to have extended the whole length of the property. The pits were on the whole considerably larger than those that occupied the area during the late Saxon period and their increased density suggests more intense occupation. Two groups of pits were determinable, Pit Group NH8576 that comprised largely rectangular pits, the majority of which were to the north of the buildings, and Pit Group NH8575, which comprised circular pits closer to the proposed west and south boundaries of the property. The circular pits may have been later, since two of them cut rectangular pits pertaining to Pit Group NH8576. A strip measuring *c* 1.5 m located immediately to the north of Structure NH8583 was surfaced with thick angular gravel suggesting this area was maintained for access.

**Pit Group NH8576**

The pits in this group were rectangular and measured between 1.6 and 3.1 m in width. The only exception was a large, irregular pit-like feature (NH2166) in the north-east corner of the property, which measured *c* 4.8 m across. The excavated fills of this feature suggest that it represents slumping or levelling over one or more unexcavated pits below, rather than being a single pit itself. Pit NH2126 was bottomed at 1.34 m and contained a thin layer of decayed cess at its base suggesting that it represented a cleaned out cesspit. This also contained crucible fragments and copper alloy waste, the former with residues of copper alloys suggesting the manufacture of small bronze objects. The pit remained open long enough to allow for the weathering of its sides. It was eventually filled with refuse that contained a bone spindlewhorl (SF Cat no. 167) and a chalk spindlewhorl (see Shaffrey, Chapter 7) together with madder-stained sherds of Anglo-Norman pottery

(including Newbury B-style fabric MTE dated c 1050–1200) suggesting that spinning and dyeing of yarn was being undertaken. Other notable finds included an iron flesh-hook (SF Cat no. 192) used for extracting meat from cauldrons. Adjacent pit NH2324/NH2184, which cut the southern edge of pit NH2126, probably originally served a similar purpose, though it was not bottomed at 1.9 m. It contained cesty fills at its excavated depth, whose decay had resulted in a marked degree of subsidence of its upper levels (NH2184). These fills also contained crucible fragments of a similar nature to pit NH2126 and madder-stained sherds of coarse grained sandy ware (Fabric MAQ dated c 1000–1250) suggesting that the manufacture of copper alloy objects and dyeing continued over a sustained period of time. It is possible that a folded piece of copper alloy sheet and fragments of iron that were also found may have represented items originally intended for the manufacture of metal objects. The pit was levelled and capped with burnt clay and chalk, and contained pottery datable to the late 12th or early 13th centuries. The pits to the west were rapidly excavated but appear by their shape and size to be broadly contemporary with those to the east, implying that the bulk of the northern half of the property was reserved for the digging of these types of pits. One pit (NH9644) was at least 1.74 m deep and contained cesty fills, domestic refuse and a half-finished boned object, possibly the start of a skate.

*Pit Group NH8575*

The north side of pits NH2084, NH2035 and NH2400 form a straight line, probably reflecting the boundary between Properties BW 4 and BW 5 first established during the late Saxon period, which continued to be maintained though perhaps with a slight encroachment to the north. Pits NH2084 and NH2035 formed almost perfect circles, measuring 1.2 m and 1.8 m in diameter respectively, both having straight vertical sides with little evidence for weathering, suggesting they were originally lined. Probing revealed that NH2084 was at least 3 m deep suggesting that it could have served as a well (Plate 4.15). There was a narrow void between the fills and the pit edge suggesting this was once occupied by a timber lining that had subsequently decayed *in situ*. The pit had been rapidly filled with ashy and cesty fills that contained industrial debris including crucible fragments and flake hammerscale. The former had residues containing copper, zinc and lead indicating small bronze/brass objects were being cast and the latter were probably sweepings from secondary smithing undertaken nearby. An iron strap and bar that were also found could also represent waste from such metalworking activity. A sheep bone fragment showed evidence for marrow draining and the bone may have been waste from bone working. The upper levels of pit NH2084 were capped with large flints and



Plate 4.15 Pit NH2084, showing rubble and compacted chalk capping, Property BW 4, Phase 5, looking north

compacted chalk that contained large fragments of a Tripod Pitcher (Fabric MAD dated c 1050–1225) and small quantities of Laverstock ware (Fabric MNX dated c 1230–1350) suggesting a filling date during the early-mid 13th century. The presence of a medieval ridge tile, an Anglo-Norman peg-tile and a rounded block of possible Paludina limestone (assuming it is not residual Roman) suggests that a substantial structure stood nearby, the latter was almost exclusively used for churches. Adjacent pit NH2035 may also have served as a well but voids in its fill forced the abandonment of its excavation at a depth of 0.83 m. Its compacted chalk and clay fills suggest it was deliberately capped. Amongst the finds from this feature were an iron bell clapper (SF Cat no. 374; see Chapter 7, Fig. 7.32) and a copper dress pin with a glass head of 11th- to 12th-century date (SF Cat no. 131; see Chapter 7, Fig. 7.24). Given that the bell was found close to the chapel on Property SE 2 it is tempting to suggest it may have been used in some religious ceremonial function; however, it might simply represent a product of the smithy that seems to have existed within Property BW 4 (see Cool, Chapter 7). Too little of pit NH2400 was investigated to suggest its function though pottery



from its upper fills of chalk rubble suggest that, as with the other pits, it was levelled during the late 12th or early 13th centuries.

### Property BW 5 (Fig. 4.5)

#### *Structural evidence*

Little evidence for buildings within the property was found, though horizontal levels pertaining to floors or other internal deposits may have been removed by later truncation. The presence of pits and the construction of a chalk-lined well (see below) towards the west of the property would imply that structures occupied the frontage. It is possible that late Saxon Structures NH8589 and NH8590 (see Chapter 3) continued in use without major structural alteration that left any coherent archaeological trace (but see Pit Group NH8597 below). However, the presence of shallow pits within the frontage area inside the southern half of the property would suggest that Structure NH8589 had been demolished during this period and conversely the lack of contemporary pits to the north would imply that Structure NH8590 continued in use. The lack of pits within the north-west quadrant of the property and the presence of substantial posthole NH9606 could imply that this space was also occupied by a structure. The posthole was oval and measured 0.9 m across and 0.62 m in depth and contained a post-pipe measuring 0.4 m across implying a substantial timber upright. No other postholes were identified in the area and it probably survived later truncation because it had been dug deeper into the fills of an earlier pit that may subsequently have subsided.

#### *Pits*

The intensity of pit digging showed a significant decline compared to the preceding period and was, with the exception of well NH2495, confined to the southern half of the property. Two main groups were represented, Pit Group NH8593 located towards the west and comprising large circular pits, and Pit Group NH8597 consisting of small shallow pits to the east. In addition the upper levels of late Saxon pit NH2237 contained a long sequence of fills suggesting either that it remained partially open, or more likely, that there had been several episodes of consolidation over underlying subsiding fills, the latest datable to the late 12th or early 13th centuries. These contained dumps of ashy waste that contained predominantly flake hammerscale derived from secondary smithing activity undertaken close-by. A large amount of domestic refuse was also dumped that included notable quantities of horse and roe deer.

#### *Pit Group NH8593*

This was represented by four large circular or sub-circular pits, all confined to the south of the

proposed late Saxon property subdivision, Pit Group NH8591 (see Chapter 3), which may imply that the possible division within the property remained extant into the Anglo-Norman period. Three of the pits were clustered towards the west in an area previously not utilised for the digging of pits. These were largely mechanically excavated and limited evidence for their use and precise date was recovered. Pit NH9544 measured 1.7 m in diameter and was bottomed at 1.57 m, its fills containing domestic refuse including a notable quantity of horse remains, although there was no evidence for the disposal of cess. The largest pit (NH9724) was probably the latest, and measured 1.7 m in diameter and over 1.8 m in depth. It is unlikely to have served as a well since its sides showed evidence of considerable weathering implying that it had not been lined and had been open for an appreciable period of time. Its lower fills comprised rather homogeneous dark fills containing largely domestic refuse, though a significant quantity of undiagnostic iron slag also present suggests waste from iron working. The pit was eventually capped with compacted mortar-rich rubble and crushed ceramic rubble that seemingly represent a deliberate attempt to stabilise the area of the pit. Little useful dating was recovered, though the nature of its upper fills suggests that they were derived from construction debris associated with a nearby (medieval) masonry-built structure. Pit NH2149 was located within a previously dense area of pitting towards the west, apparently a re-cut of late Saxon pit NH2045 (see Chapter 3). The pit was sub-circular, with straight vertical sides and measured 2.3 m across and at least 2.4 m in depth. It was filled largely with a homogeneous and loose mortar-rich clay silt indicating that it had been rapidly filled and had possibly been a well, though there was no evidence for a lining. It contained South Hampshire red ware and other pottery that suggests a late 12th- to early 13th-century date, and this is supported by the presence of a horseshoe fragment (SF Cat no. 228), a type datable to the 12th–13th century. The pit also contained a large part of a smithing hearth bottom and hammerscale probably dumped from nearby smithing activity and it is conceivable that the horseshoe may have been a product of such activity—perhaps discarded as a waster. The presence of worked squared Quarr stone, a stone used predominantly before the 13th century (Tatton-Brown 1980, 213–15 and see discussion in Chapter 5), and fragments of mortar wall plaster further testify to the presence of substantial structures nearby at the time of the filling of the pit. Like pit NH9724, its uppermost levels comprised compacted mortar rubble that formed part of a levelling process—the similarity of the deposits with those capping pit NH9724 suggesting they were deposited at the same time.

#### *Pit Group NH8597*

Located towards the south-east of the property, the function of this group of small, mainly shallow or

unexcavated pits is uncertain. Most contained fairly consistent fills of mid-dark grey-brown sandy silts loams, one (NH2068) containing a horseshoe fragment (SF Cat no. 227) datable to the late 11th–13th centuries. Most were poorly dated though three pre-dated medieval pit NH2007 (see Phase 6 below). Only pit NH2068 was of note, being trapezoid in shape with a concave end and rather deep (0.68 m) for its size; it resembled the narrow elongated pits that formed part of possible late Saxon boundary, Pit Group NH8591 (see Chapter 3). However, it was off-set to the south of this boundary and it may have formed a later element of the north wall of late Saxon Structure NH8591, though no evidence for a post or associated packing was recorded. Similarly, one or more of inter-cutting pit fragments NH2046, NH2053, and NH2051 (see section in Fig. 4.16 below) may also have represented late elements of the east wall of the structure.

#### Well NH2495

Chalk-lined well NH2495 was located adjacent to the boundary with Property BW 6 within an area formerly set aside for the digging of cess and other pits. It was constructed free-standing within a circular pit measuring 3.4 m in diameter, the intervening space between the cut and the chalk lining packed with redeposited natural and disturbed fills of the earlier pits and containing sherds of 11th–12th-century Tripod Pitcher ware. The lining was constructed with rectangular chalk blocks *c* 0.3 m in length and *c* 0.2 m in width, that had been cut to fit the curvature of the well shaft which measured 1.5 m in diameter. No mortar bonding was apparently used and the face showed an ashlar like appearance, though many of the exposed blocks were heavily pitted through weathering, and the south side had collapsed altogether. ‘Limescale’ staining on the northern face may have been derived from the lifting of the bucket and associated spills. A geoaerchaeological borehole revealed that the base of the well lay at 39.38 m OD or *c* 10.5 m below the surviving surface. No waterlogged deposits were revealed at its base

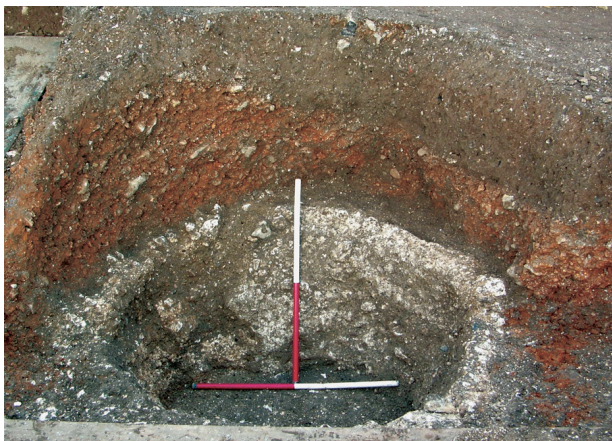


Plate 4.16 Chalk lined pit or well NH7602, Property BW 6, Phase 5, looking north

and the well was seemingly rapidly backfilled with flint-rich clay mixed with blocky chalk rubble. Its uppermost fill, presumably representing its final levelling, contained a sherd from an imported Paffrath-type ladle and other contemporary pottery suggesting an early 13th-century date. Also contained within the fill were many slate fragments, a medieval floor tile and a large block of Quarr stone. The latter came from a pointed corner of an architectural stone block, probably from a buttress, and had slightly splayed tooling of classic Norman type. It could conceivably have originated from the buttress that formed part of the lining of well-house Structure NH3547 (see Property BW 3 above).

#### Property BW 6 (Fig. 4.5; Plate 4.16)

##### Structural evidence

It is probable, given the lack of pits within the eastern half of the property, that this space was set aside for structures. Any floors or associated levels pertaining to such structures had been removed by later terracing and it is assumed that late Saxon Structure NH8605 (see Chapter 3), only tentatively identified, continued in use without any major modifications, or that any subsequent structures were not substantial enough to leave any trace. It is possible that shallow posthole NH7577 represented a modification of its west wall, while a mortar filled posthole, NH7586, gives some hints on the use of floor material. A shallow ovoid pit, NH7500, may have been closely associated with the structure since it contained charcoal-rich sandy clay that was rich in hammerscale. The pit also contained many fish and marine shell remains, particularly herring and periwinkles, but including an appreciable quantity of other marine fish including plaice/right-eyed flat-fishes, turbot, conger, thornback and dace that suggest the preparation and consumption of food in the immediate vicinity. A diverse assemblage of animal remains came from the pit, including fowl such as duck, goose and other birds. Amphibian remains such as toads suggest that the pit had been left open to the elements. The presence of madder-stained sherds of Newbury-B style pottery (Fabric MTE dated *c* 1050–1200) suggests that dyeing was also undertaken within the property during the 11th–12th centuries. The possible late Saxon cellar (NH8503; see Chapter 3) may have continued in use into the post-Conquest period given the lack of pits cutting its infilling, though it is equally possible that the area was left open for use as a yard given the well-consolidated nature of its fills. Eventually possible well NH7633 (see below) cut through its eastern side.

##### Pits

The density of pitting seems to have increased into the post-Conquest period implying that the occupation levels within the property intensified. They



were confined toward the rear half of the property implying that the area adjacent to the frontage was occupied by structures. The pits formed a cluster that may have reflected the western extent of the property, possibly marked by pits NH7605 and NH6500 given the apparent absence of further pits to their west. In contrast to the earlier pits, most were circular, with the largest pits (NH7602, NH7605 and NH7663) all of a similar size and measuring between 2.6 m and 2.9 m in diameter. The fills of the most easterly and largest pit (NH7663) were in marked contrast to those of the other pits, comprising thick dumps of compacted gravel and chalk to its deepest excavated extent of 1 m. The presence of unglazed medieval sandy wares suggests a date between the mid 12th and 13th centuries, slightly later than the other pits. The pit would have been situated immediately to the rear of any structures that presumably lay to its east and may have originally served as a well, though no evidence for a lining was found at the level excavated. Its rapid infilling with well-consolidated material seems to have been a deliberate and well-managed attempt to provide level and stable ground.

Pit NH7605, given its location immediately to the rear of late Saxon pit NH7694 (see Chapter 3), occupied the last available space along the southern boundary of the property and therefore was probably dug sequentially after NH7694. It was excavated to a depth of 1 m and contained domestic rubbish. Its upper levels contained waste from a hearth and much undiagnostic iron slag, presumably from iron-working on the property. Adjacent pit NH7602 (=NH7693) was probably the next pit dug and was excavated to a depth of 1.6 m. The lower levels of the pit sides had been 'lined' with compacted chalk (Plate 4.15), though it is unclear whether this was deliberate or the result of severe subsidence of the unexcavated underlying fills. If the latter is the case then it simply represented capping to seal off pungent odours from organic material such as cess that had subsequently decayed and subsided. The pit was levelled with dumps of cess-stained soils containing much domestic refuse and a notably large quantity of horn-cores, presumably waste after the removal of the sheath during horn working. It is probable that pit NH6500, given the degree of subsidence of its fill, served a similar purpose before being used as a rubbish pit.

## SNITHELING STREET

### Property SE 1: West side (Fig. 4.6)

#### *Pits pre-dating Structure NH8618*

Rectangular pit NH6107 formed an almost perfect 2:1 rectangle measuring 4 m by 2 m with straight, vertical sides and 1.67 m in depth, its regular nature and the lack of weathering of its sides suggesting

that had originally been timber-lined. Its earliest fills comprised thick dumps of redeposited natural clay with lenses of dark brown organic silts suggesting these represented rapid infilling after it ceased to have been used for its original purpose. They contained domestic refuse and Anglo-Norman coarse sandy wares suggesting a date prior to the mid 12th century. Its upper fills contained a significant quantity of horn-cores suggesting waste from nearby horn-working. In the absence of evidence for its use for some industrial purpose, the pit may have served as a small timber-lined cellar—perhaps given its depth, as a cold storage pit. If so, it may have been sited close to, or possibly attached to, a structure, though its fillings apparently pre-dated Structure NH8618 (see below). A shallow pit (NH6112) located adjacent to its south side may have been integral to the possible cellar, possibly representing some form of access, though too little survived to establish this with any certainty. Similarly, rather irregular and shallow pit NH6070, located immediately to the west of NH6112, may also have been associated although it appeared to truncate the south-west corner of pit NH6107. Its base sloped sharply downwards towards the east towards a point alongside the southern edge of the possible cellar and it may have formed part of a ramped access. A further shallow rectangular pit (NH6047) lay to its south, and contained refuse including bone from a roe deer.

Oval pit NH6034 was somewhat larger, measuring 4.15 m across, and appears to have been rapidly filled with a sequence of mainly dark grey silty clays to its excavated depth of 1.2 m before being capped with compacted redeposited natural clay. It contained a moderate quantity of domestic refuse including Tripod Pitcher ware (Fabric MAD, dated 1050–1225) suggestive of a date prior to the mid 13th century. It is feasible given its size that it originally served as a well but this could not be determined at the depth excavated.

#### *Structure NH8618*

An arrangement of small pits and postholes located towards the west of the property formed part of a rectangular structure that may have flanked the street frontage to the west. A straight line of small pits (NH6001, NH6095, NH6117, NH6066) represented the east wall of the structure. The pits were roughly oval, with concave sides and bases, varying in size from 0.74–1.74 m across and 0.1–0.7 m in depth. Pits NH6117 and NH6066 contained evidence for circular post-pipes measuring 0.2 m and 0.34 m in diameter respectively. The post-pipes were spaced *c* 2.1 m apart and if this distance was projected southwards then it would correspond with the position of the other postholes. The northern extent of the structure may have been delimited by pits NH6152 and NH6071, although any evidence for the north-east corner of the building would have been removed by a modern

foundation trench. Similarly, its southern extent was probably delimited by pits NH6135 and NH8055, the base of the former containing compacted chalk rubble possibly acting as a pad for the post. If the interpretation of this arrangement is correct then the width of the structure would have been *c* 8.5 m and if its length is projected westwards to the postulated street frontage, it may be 12–13 m in length. Internal posthole NH6012, located centrally along its longitudinal axis, may have been part of a line of uprights that would have supported the roof.

No evidence of flooring survived, though thin spreads of trampled silt located within its footprint may have been associated. These contained domestic refuse and one also produced a copper alloy buckle plate fragment datable to the 12th–15th centuries (SF Cat no. 140). Similarly, compacted clay filling a shallow hollow formed over earlier pits may have formed part of a floor level. A shallow pit (NH6126), located against the north wall, contained burnt clays set on a bed of yellowish cream mortar and probably represented a hearth. Given the lack of evidence to the contrary, apart from a small

quantity of hammerscale in pit NH8055, it is assumed that this was a domestic dwelling.

**Pits associated with Structure NH8618**

Apparently contained within the structure was a chalk-lined well (NH6146), although only the very eastern edge of its lining lay within the excavated area. It was constructed with rectangular chalk blocks bonded with cream mortar that had been built free-standing within a circular pit. The void between the wall and the pit edge had been filled with compact redeposited natural gravel and clay that contained sherds of mid 11th- to mid 12th-century Newbury B ware. Its subsequent robbing had removed any stratigraphic relationships with Structure NH8618, though if it was associated, this would imply that this part of the structure represented an enclosed well-house. After robbing, the well was levelled with compacted redeposited natural gravel and chalk containing early and medieval sandy wares attributable to the late 12th or early 13th centuries.

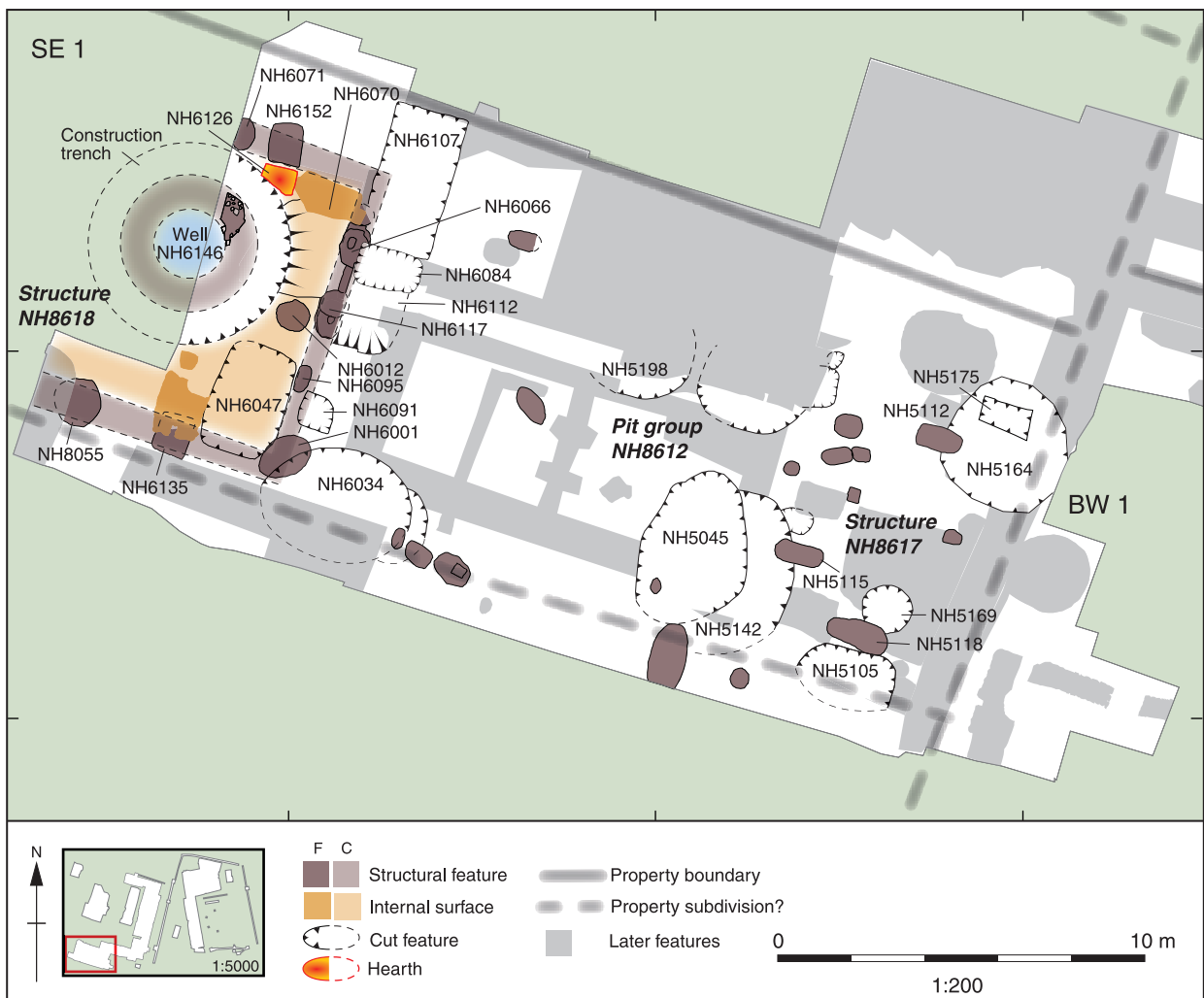


Fig. 4.6 Property SE 1, Phase 5



Abutting the line of the east wall of the structure were two small cesspits that may have been contemporary with its use, perhaps given their position serving upper storey garderobes. Rectangular and vertical sided pit NH6084 measured 1.8 by 1.2 m and was 0.7 m in depth and contained thick deposits of greenish-brown sandy silt indicative of cess; it was capped with loose chalk and charcoal presumably to seal in the odours. A possible sherd of South Hampshire Red ware was recovered from the cess suggesting that the pit was in use from the late 12th or 13th centuries. Square pit NH6091 was of a similar depth and also contained a thick, organic, brown, silty clay and had been capped with compacted clay. The pit was notable for containing bones from a roe deer (see pit NH6047 above) and from a juvenile cat, the latter, given its age, possibly to be associated with the evidence for fur-industry animals identified within contemporary pits at the east end of the property (see Pit Group NH8612 below).

#### Property SE 1: East side (Fig. 4.6; Plate 4.17)

##### Structure HN8617

Evidence for a possible timber structure or structures was found at the east end of the property defined by a scatter of postholes and small shallow pits, several of which cut into the backfilled rubbish pits in the area. No coherent plan could be established though it was noted that several of the larger pits located towards the south contained post impressions and were reminiscent of post-pits that formed part of substantial structures elsewhere on the site (see Property SE 2, Chapter 3). It is possible that the south part of the structure represented a timber phase of medieval masonry-founded structure NH8615 as one post-pit was overlain by wall NH5104 (see Phase 6 below).

##### Pit Group NH8612

The density of pitting increased during the Anglo-Norman period, the pits becoming substantially larger and occupying the whole area, though they did not extend any further west than the late Saxon pits leaving a gap c 5 m wide between these pits and the pits associated with Structure NH8618 to the west.

Only three of the pits (NH5169, NH5164 and NH5175) were sufficiently excavated to allow some insight into their original use. Pit NH5169 was of particular interest since it contained a rich assemblage of finds giving insights into the status, diet and occupation of the inhabitants of the property. It was almost perfectly circular measuring 1.35 m in diameter and survived to a depth of 1.45 m, with very straight and vertical sides and a flat base that indicated it had been protected from the elements, though its rather small diameter makes it unlikely that it had been lined. The pit contained dumps of kitchen waste and ash assumed to have come from



Plate 4.17 Pit NH5045, Property SE 1, Phase 5, looking north

domestic ovens and hearths. Most notably the pit contained several foot/lower leg bones of squirrel, fox, polecat/ferret and stoat, suggesting furrier activity, rare evidence from an archaeological site. Furs from squirrels and mustelids formed a very extensive trade in early medieval Europe. The foot bones were often left on the pelts, and were later removed by furriers at their final destination (see Strid, Chapter 8). Also present were partially articulated remains of several juvenile cats, some showing evidence for skinning marks on the skulls and mandibles implying that their fur was also utilised.

The pit was rich in a variety of fish remains, predominantly herring, but including other marine fish such as garfish, cod, whiting, ling, flounder, plaice, mackerel and a bone from a sturgeon. The latter is a fish normally associated with individuals of higher status and was designated as a royal fish in the reign of Edward II (1307–27). The unusually high proportion of burnt bones, indicative of roasting, could also be an indicator of higher status as this is a relatively fuel demanding and labour intensive cooking method. The pit contained a large quantity of Anglo-Norman fine sandy ware (Fabric MBK), a form that is thought to date mainly up to the middle of the 12th century (see Cotter, Chapter 7). The upper levels of the pit also contained medieval sandy ware (MDF) and a few sherds of Early South Hampshire red ware (MNG) that could imply that it was levelled during the late 12th or early 13th century.

Large circular pit NH5164, measuring 3.4 m in diameter, was initially assumed originally to have been a well due to the appearance of a large and deep void during the excavation of its upper levels. However, mechanical excavation revealed its depth to have been *c* 1.8 m with cess-stained silts noted against its sides and along its base, the shrinkage of which may have accounted for the void. The pit appears to have been rapidly filled with mid grey silty clay, the upper levels of which contained a large quantity of domestic refuse including Anglo-Norman fine sandy wares (MBK), suggesting a date before 1150. It is possible that much of this material had accumulated over the pit after its infilling since a small amount of pottery recovered from its lower levels during machining included a large part of a chalk-tempered storage jar in fabric MBX that would imply a date no later than the 11th century and a pre-Conquest date cannot therefore be ruled out. A significant period of time must have elapsed before a second cesspit (NH5175) was dug into its upper fills. This pit was small and rectangular, measuring 1.2 by 0.9 m across and 0.64 m deep, its size and shape similar to pit NH6084 located within the western part of the property. A fine deposit of green/brown cess at its base contained a few mineralised fruit seeds and stones that included a grape pip, an imported fruit usually consumed by occupants of higher status. Interestingly, the upper fill of the pit also contained the remains from at least three juvenile cats and a fox metatarsal, suggesting waste from a furrier, similar to pit NH5169, situated 5 m to the south. Like pit NH5169, it also contained a wide variety of sea fish remains including sea bream and scad and was probably levelled during the late 12th or early 13th centuries.

Large oval pit NH5045 (Plate 4.17), in excess of 1.9 m in depth, had been rapidly filled with homogeneous dark soil that contained a horseshoe datable to the late 11th–13th century, the pottery suggesting a date prior to the mid 12th century. It is possible that shallow pit NH5142, flanking its east side, may have allowed access into it, otherwise its function is uncertain. Pit NH5105 contained an equal-armed balance (SF Cat no. 216) and a large part of a smithing hearth bottom, the former suggesting the accurate weighing of valuable items was required. The pits to the north-west were too fragmentary to warrant further comment apart from pit NH5198, which contained a high percentage of burnt bone and charred meadow hay suggesting bedding or fodder for animals. Further evidence for furrier activity was also found, including remains of a ferret and a small mammal showing cut marks around the area of the foot, perhaps an attempt to remove the paw.

**Properties SE 2 and SE 3** (Figs 4.7–8; Plates 4.18–19)

Within the broad time span of Phase 5 (*c* 1050–1225) this area of the site saw a significant change in character. Two substantial stone-built structures

located towards the rear of Property SE 2 and the adjacent (unexcavated) property to the south seem to have formed the original core of what was to become a spacious urban residence, identifiable in the 13th century as that of the Archdeacon of Winchester. Both structures were first partially exposed in a series of small trenches by Cunliffe in 1960 (Fig. 4.7) and interpreted by him as a two-celled chapel and the cellar of a stone house, both of which he considered to be of late 12th-century date. The stone house lay outside the area of the excavations that form the subject of the present report, but the western cell of Cunliffe’s chapel, and the area immediately surrounding it, were re-examined. The west end of the chapel had been

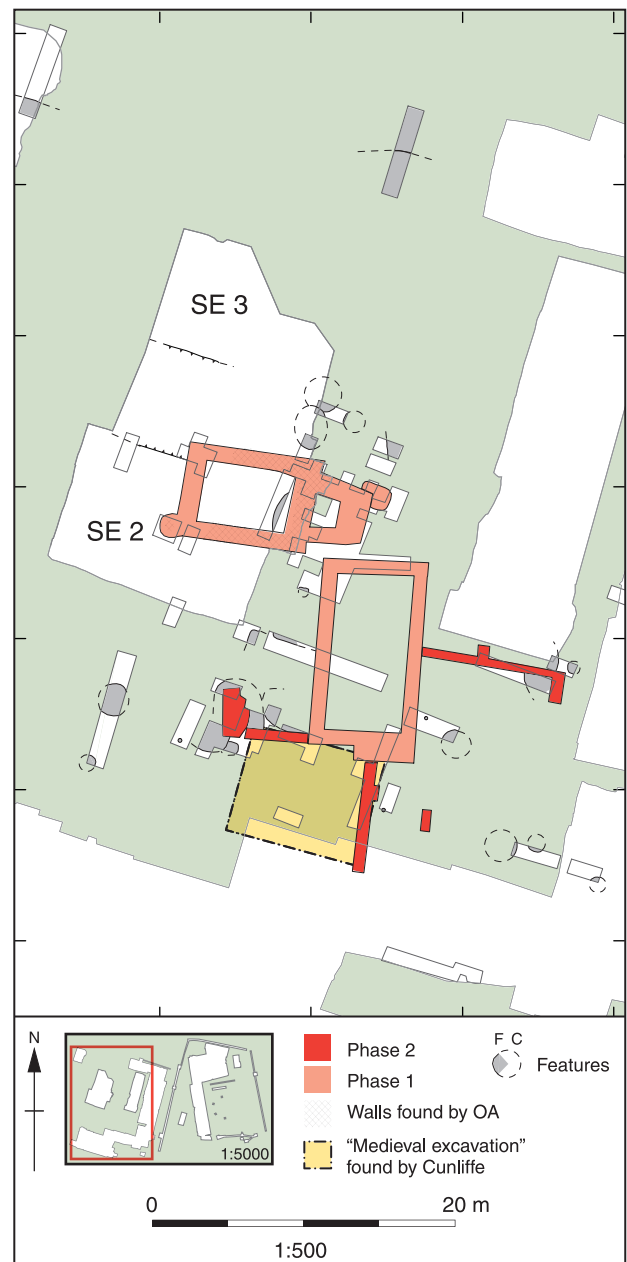


Fig. 4.7 Properties SE 2–3 in relation to structures found in Cunliffe’s excavation



destroyed by the foundations of Northgate House, the SCATS office building built on the site after Cunliffe's 1960 excavation, and this has caused problems in understanding the relationship between the construction of the chapel and other features in the vicinity. Nevertheless, the present excavations have added valuable new information regarding the context within which these developments took place. The interpretation and dating of these buildings are discussed in Chapter 5 in the light of the additional evidence from the present excavations, but for the sake of clarity here we will continue to refer to them as the chapel and the stone house.

**Property SE 2: The chapel (Structure NH8629)**

*Relationship to earlier features*

During Phase 4.2 a substantial earth-fast timber post structure (NH8622) occupied the western part of the excavated area of Property SE 2 (see Chapter 3; Fig. 4.8). This building seems not to have survived long into Phase 5, since the pottery from

the fills of its post-pits was of markedly late Saxon character, including Winchester ware (Fabric MWW dated c 950–1100) and other late Saxon wheel-thrown sandy wares. One pit produced sherds in coarse grained sandy fabric MAQ (dated c 1000–1250). Only a single sherd of exclusively post-Conquest pottery was present and this, together with a fragment of worked Quarr stone, is considered likely to be intrusive. Quarr stone is known to have been used in the construction of the stone house, but it is not known whether it was used in the construction of the chapel.

A number of pits to the east of Structure NH8622 were contemporary with its use. Four of these pits (NH1586, NH1331, NH1159 and NH1244, described in Chapter 3 above) were cut by the footings of the chapel. The pottery recovered from these pits dates them to the pre-Conquest period, but cannot shed any further light on the date of the construction of the chapel.

A single pit in this area, NH1005, located immediately south of Structure NH8622, is datable to Phase 5. This pit clipped the south side of one of the post-pits of the south wall of Structure NH8622. It was



Fig. 4.8 Properties SE 2–3, Phase 5



sub-rectangular, measuring approximately 2 m by 1.9 m in plan, and was excavated to a depth of 1.06 m. At this depth the sides of the pit were somewhat irregular as a result of weathering, and this was reflected in the nature of its earliest fills, exposed against its edges, which comprised redeposited natural and lenses of silting. The pit had been levelled with dumps of domestic refuse that contained metalworking debris including a small quantity of crucible fragments, smithing slag, vitrified furnace fragments and hammerscale. The

crucible fragments (NH1022) contained traces of quaternary copper alloy, the size of the fragments suggesting that small decorative objects were being manufactured (see Mortimer, Chapter 7). The pit contained predominantly Anglo-Norman pottery including Newbury B-style ware (Fabric MTE dated 1050–1200) and Tripod pitchers (Fabric MAD dated c 1050–1225), although the presence of Early South Hampshire red ware (c 1175–1250) suggests that it was finally filled at a relatively late stage within Phase 5 (c 1175–1200?).



*Plate 4.18 Chalk footings of 'Chapel' NH8629, Property SE 2, Phase 5, looking west and north-east*



*Structural and associated evidence*

The exposed footings of the chapel (NH1066) within construction cut NH1067 defined a two-cell building, orientated west-east. The footings were of chalk rubble contained within an outer and inner face of rough chalk blocks compacted into and abutting the continuous vertically sided construction trench (see Plate 4.18). The foundations of the north, south and west wall of the western cell were 1.1 m wide, with its eastern wall 1.6 m wide; to the east was the smaller cell whose north and south walls were 1.1–1.3 m wide, and whose eastern wall was exceptionally wide at 1.9 m. The depth of the footings was observed to be 0.8 m in a single location only, which was provided by the re-excavation of a trench from the 1960 excavation.

The western cell measured 6.1 m by 4 m internally. At its south-western corner a buttress footing was exposed (NH1563), presumably added to counter subsidence over the soft fill of an earlier feature. The eastern cell extended from the east wall of the western cell, and was trapezoidal in shape, enclosing a small area of 1.7 m by 2.4 m. A small earlier pit under its north-eastern corner had been filled with rammed chalk, again presumably to counter subsidence.

A sequence of layers was revealed in the interior of the western cell. Whether any of these layers can be correlated with layers observed outside the footprint of the chapel remains unclear. Within the footprint of the chapel the sequence of layers was recorded as beginning with the infilling or levelling (NH1257) of Phase 4.2 pit NH1331, followed by a laminated layer of silty clay (NH1192). A similar layer (NH1226) was identified against the northern footing trench. Cut into layer NH1192, and cutting pit NH1331, was a large oval feature (NH1149), probably a post-pit, which was itself backfilled and sealed by subsequent layers in the sequence, suggesting that the post within this post-pit had stood for only a relatively short time. (The similarity between this post-pit and the post-pits of Structure NH8622 was noted in Chapter 3, above. There is, however, insufficient evidence to determine whether the post is more likely to have been associated with the late Saxon building or with a phase of construction of the chapel itself.) The internal layer sequence within the western cell of the chapel footprint continued with two clay layers (NH1138 and NH1128), followed by a shallow spread of pinkish mortar (NH1129), the latter possibly a residue from plastering of the interior. A more robust layer of gravel and flint (NH1105) may represent the make up for a floor surface; this was followed by another silty clay layer (NH1085) and a further layer of gravel and silty clay (NH1062). This, the highest surviving deposit, contained a fragment of a copper alloy figurine (SF Cat no. 373; see Chapter 7, Fig. 7.32) and could have formed the base for a solid floor of tiles or flagstones that were presumably salvaged for reuse elsewhere when the building was eventually demolished.

The pottery from these layers is of post-Conquest date, including the common local fine sandy ware fabric MBK (predominantly datable *c* 1050–1150) and the flint-tempered Newbury B-style ware, fabric MTE (*c* 1050–1200).

Pit NH1209 was identified inside the footprint of the chapel, against the footings of the north wall. It was not visible on the outside of the wall. It is unclear whether the pit was earlier than the chapel and cut by the footings, or whether it had been excavated against the north wall. It was at least 1.09 m in depth and appeared to have been rapidly backfilled with dark soil that contained domestic refuse (including oven fragments and fragments of animal bone) and Newbury B-style pottery. Shallow pit NH1258 was located against the north side of the north wall. Its function is unclear and it may have been a post-pit associated with earlier activity in the area. Pit NH1061 was located almost flush against the outer edge of the footings of the south wall, although no stratigraphic relationship between the two survived. It was circular, vertical-sided and measured 1.5 m in diameter, and its base was not reached at its excavated depth of 1.43 m. Its straight and unweathered sides could imply that it had once been lined and served as a well, although there was no further evidence to support this. Its relationship to the chapel remains unclear, although at the excavated depth its fills comprised predominantly chalk, flint rubble and lime mortar, well-consolidated in its upper levels. It also contained a significant amount of Anglo-Norman pottery, including Newbury B-style ware and fine sandy wares. The upper layers of this pit could attest to deliberate backfilling to consolidate an earlier feature (and are similar to deposits observed elsewhere) in preparation for construction, and therefore seem likely to be contemporary with the building of the chapel.

*The stone house*

The stone house, excavated by Cunliffe in 1960, lay outside the area of the present excavations, and the following description is based on his published report (see Fig. 4.7).

In close proximity to the chapel footprint was the footprint and cellar of a rectangular hall, defined by the footings, which comprised roughly coursed chalk blocks and flint nodules in a cream mortar bond, set within a construction pit. At the northern end of the building the cellar wall survived virtually to the level of the estimated contemporary ground surface, measuring 10.4 m by 5.1 m, and the outer surface of the structure was seen to be faced with Greensand blocks tooled with fine parallel lines. The possible location for the springing of the cellar vault was identified in the north-west corner of the cellar at a height of approximately 1.8 m from the cellar floor. The cellar floor itself comprised a layer of puddled chalk over a sporadic layer of mortar (the latter presumably spillage from the cellar's initial rendering).

The average width of the cellar footings at ground level was 1 m, although in the south-eastern corner the footing was 1.9 m wide. This was interpreted by Cunliffe as the likely base of an external staircase, set against the gable end of the hall. Cunliffe noted that such external stairs were typically—but not invariably—set against the long side of the building. Their situation in this instance may relate to the available room within the property.

Some evidence possibly pertaining to the superstructure of the hall was recovered from the cellar infill. The angles of two coping stones, both of Quarr stone, allowed Cunliffe to estimate the roof pitch at 55°, consistent with the use of a heavy roof covering like stone slates, of which several fragments were found. The presence of Quarr stone, and the date-range of its use in this region is significant, and is considered further in Chapter 5.

#### *Associated features*

Cunliffe noted (1964, 170), but did not closely investigate, a ‘six foot deep medieval excavation’—a large deep pit measuring at least 6.7 m by 5.5 m that abutted the south-west corner of the hall, and was sealed by the later structural additions (its approximate location and size are indicated on Fig. 4.7). He did not suggest a function for this feature, but in the light of the existence of the quarry pit directly adjacent to the chapel (see below, Property SE 3), it is reasonable to suggest that this ‘excavation’ might have been a similar quarry dug to extract chalk for the construction of the hall.

Cunliffe noted that occupation layers contemporary with the house had suffered truncation, and no other features or deposits could be confidently associated with its early life. In the scatter of trenches he dug across the site, a total of 25 ‘medieval’ pits were recorded, although only the few directly related to the structures were detailed in the published report. As to the ‘isolated’ pits, away from the buildings, only the pottery groups ‘of interest’ were published. These produced pottery generally dating to the late 12th century or earlier, suggesting that, once the hall was built, the area around it was maintained as a clear yard surface, free from pitting.

Definitive artefactual dating evidence for the hall itself is lacking, although some conclusions can be drawn from its relationship to the chapel, its architectural characteristics, and its historical context (such as exists). These aspects are discussed further in Chapter 5.

#### *Property SE 3 (Fig. 4.8; Plate 4.19)*

##### *Quarry pit NH1034*

Immediately to the north-west of the chapel footprint was a very large steep-sided pit (NH1034) that occupied most of the western excavated area allocated to Property SE 3 in this phase. The north edge of pit NH1034 lay just to the south of a

possible boundary line (Boundary NH8631) marked by three small, evenly spaced pits or postholes (NH1278, NH1365 and NH1281). If it is accepted that a property boundary was marked in the late Saxon period by the south edge of pit NH1140 (see Chapter 3), then the south edge of pit NH1034 clearly encroached significantly onto the north side of Property SE 2. The relationship between pit NH1034 and the chapel footings could not be determined, as this end of the chapel had been destroyed after Cunliffe’s 1960 excavation by the footings for Northgate House. The same modern footings had also removed evidence for the original west and east extents of pit NH1034, although the east edge presumably lay within the area of the modern footings as the pit was not seen in the excavated area to their east. To the west, the modern footings formed the limit of the excavated area and it is not known whether the pit extended further in this direction.

Pit NH1034 was largely excavated by machine (Plate 4.19), the mechanical excavation ceasing at a depth of 2.25 m. Although the base of the pit was not reached, it had clearly been cut into the underlying chalk. The edges of the pit appeared to be vertical and unweathered as if it had not been open long, or had originally been lined, although no further evidence for timber or stone lining was seen. The vertical, rectilinear edges of the pit suggest that it might originally have been a cellar, although its considerable depth suggests that it was ultimately used for quarrying chalk. The earliest fill reached, visible against the northern and southern edges, comprised a thick deposit of compacted chalky mid grey clay loam that extended up to the top of the pit. Subsequent fills included domestic refuse and cassy silts. Finds were not generally retained from the mechanically excavated fills, although a large part of an Anglo-Norman cooking pot in a coarse sandy fabric was recovered. The fills of this feature appear to have continued to slump and subside, creating a large hollow that may have been used for dumping for a considerable time. Eventually, a large quantity of decayed mortar and flint (NH1041), possibly demolition from a nearby building, was tipped into the pit from the south, and sealed the layers of cess and refuse. This was overlain by a layer of clean chalk (NH1040), a layer of silty clay with flint and flecks of charcoal (NH1039/NH1045), a further layer of chalk (NH1036) and a further dump of silty loam (NH1035) which produced sherds of 13th- to 14th-century pottery. The final deposit in the sequence was a sandy mortar, the bedding for a cobbled surface (NH1026), which survived in a slight depression. This suggests that a concerted attempt finally to stabilise and consolidate the hollow was made some time during the occupancy of the Archdeacon of Winchester as part of the laying out of an external surface.

The relationship between this large feature and the adjacent chapel is not easy to understand. It seems more likely than not that pit NH1034 was





Plate 4.19 Possible quarry pit NH1034 (mechanically excavated), Property SE 2, Phase 5, looking south-east

used to quarry chalk for the chapel foundations. A pre-existing deep feature such as a disused cellar on the adjacent tenement to the north offering relatively easy access to the underlying chalk, might help to explain the uneasy juxtaposition of the quarry and the chapel. The builder of the chapel presumably held Property SE 2, and possibly the tenement to the south, but the fact that the chapel appears to respect a boundary with Property SE 3 to the north suggests that its builder did not have the right to encroach significantly onto this land. If the builder of the chapel did not hold Property SE 3, then it is easier to understand why he tolerated (or was unable to prevent) the dumping of cess and refuse in the backfilled quarry. We may assume that he accessed his chapel from the south-west, either through Property SE 2 or through the property to the south. The large quantity of decayed mortar and flint that was eventually tipped into pit NH1034 to seal the layers of refuse was in fact tipped from the south, and it is plausible that this was associated with a repair of the west end of the chapel, perhaps at the same time that a buttress was added to the south-west corner. We may imagine that more substantial repairs would have been required at the north-west corner, built over the edge of the subsiding quarry pit.

#### *Other pits*

The density of pitting within the excavated area of the property appears have been much reduced in contrast to the late Saxon period. Cunliffe's 1960 excavation to the east of the area of the present investigations also revealed only a limited number of pits of medieval date (1964, fig. 58 pits M1–M5). Large rectangular late Saxon pit NH1598 appears to have remained in use, and this relatively long period of use may explain the evidence for collapse of its sides. The presence of Anglo-Norman coarse

sandy wares, together with the absence of pottery such as Newbury B-style ware and Tripod pitchers, could indicate a date within the early part of the period. The pit contained many dumps of domestic refuse and much evidence for industrial activity, most notably smithing. Smithing hearth bottoms, hammerscale, smithing slag, vitrified furnace fragments and fayalitic runs suggest that the property contained a smithy, which seems to have existed on the property since the pre-Conquest period. The pit also contained a notable quantity of bone- and horn-working waste. Several fragments of bone had small holes drilled into them, and the sheaths had been removed from the horns. It is tempting to suggest that this activity could be related and perhaps objects of composite materials such as bone-handled knives were being manufactured on the site.

Square pit NH1292 measured 1.6 m across and was rather shallow, at 0.82 m. At its base was loose brown clay that contained domestic refuse and a large part of a Newbury B-style ware cooking pot. The pit was apparently rapidly backfilled with homogeneous grey-brown silty clay. This fill produced a large rim and shoulder sherd from an Anglo-Norman sandy ware jar (see Chapter 7, Fig. 7.15, no. 105) or cooking pot that was presumably contemporary with the filling of the pit, though a worn fragment of a medieval floor tile was also recovered and is possibly intrusive. Circular pit NH1226 abutted the line of Boundary NH8631 and clipped the north side of pit NH1292. It measured 2.6 m in diameter and was bottomed by machine at a depth of 2.6 m. The pit seems to have served as a rubbish pit and had remained open for a significant period of time judging by the weathering of its sides and the episodes of silting and the dumping of domestic refuse that included sherds from Tripod pitchers. The pit appears to have remained partially open until its filling during the 13th or 14th

centuries (see Phase 6, below). Isolated oval pit NH1197 was located immediately to the north of late Saxon pit NH1265 and adjacent to possible lane or yard NH8637 (see Chapter 3). Only the upper 0.79 m of its fills were investigated, revealing that it had been rapidly filled with homogeneous grey-brown silty clay containing domestic refuse including sherds of coarse sandy Anglo-Norman pottery and Winchester ware—the latter suggesting a later 11th-century date.

### THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD (PHASE 6)

Features of Phase 6 (1225–1550) are described beginning with Brudene Street East (BE 1–5). The properties on the west side of Brudene Street and the east side of Snitheling Street, which were combined in this period, are then described, beginning with the amalgamated Properties BW 1/SE 1, followed by Properties BW 2 to BW 4/5, which had been incorporated into a single large property focused on the chapel and stone house in Property SE 2.

### BRUDENE STREET EAST

#### Property BE 1 (Fig. 4.9)

Little evidence for activity was found within the property and what there is cannot be dated with any certainty to after 1300, although it is unclear whether this reflects a genuine lack of occupation or the effects of modern terracing of the site. Chalk-lined well CC1128 (see Phase 5 above) appears to have been filled and levelled during the early part of this period and no other features that could be interpreted as wells were found within the area excavated. It is possible that Posthole Group NH7054 defined the northern extent of the property during part of this period, although this would represent a 2.2 m encroachment northwards into Property BE 2.

Two pits were located towards the north of this property. Small pit CC1014 measured 0.94 m across and 0.86 m in depth and may have served as a cesspit since it contained cessy silt at its base. Its location is of note since it would have been positioned within or close to possible Phase 5 Structure NH7057, and its close association could suggest its continued use, though no further evidence for the continuity of this structure was seen. Rapidly filled pit CC1011 may have served a similar purpose though this could not be determined at the depth excavated.

#### Property BE 2 (Fig. 4.9; Plate 4.20)

In contrast to the adjacent property the density of pitting with Property BE 2 appears to have been maintained. Two distinct pit clusters were evident, Pit Group CC7011 located towards the southern side of the property and Group CC7015 located to the north.

Pit Group CC7011 was located immediately south of the Phase 5 pits (see Phase 5, Pit Group CC7001 above), an area perhaps formerly occupied by Phase 5 Structure CC7008. Four of the pits (CC1008, CC1198, CC1167, CC1159) formed a tight intercutting cluster of mainly small vertical-sided rectangular pits, none of which were bottomed at the excavated depth of *c.* 1.2 m, and thus their original functions are difficult to determine. Most of the pits contained single rubble-rich fills containing relatively small amounts of domestic refuse suggesting rapid infilling rather than any prolonged use for the disposal of rubbish, at least at the depths excavated. Their confinement within such a small area suggests the presence of structures nearby, probably to the west. The repeated digging of pits in the same spot could suggest this area was set aside for latrines (feasibly within Structure CC7008) that were continuously emptied and re-dug, although there was no direct evidence of this. A fifth, squarish, pit (CC1298), located immediately to their east, cut across the wall line of Structure CC7008 and must therefore post-date its demolition. It had been rapidly filled with dumps of chalk rubble and domestic refuse to the depth excavated (1.2 m). Spot-dating of the pottery suggests that it was filled later than the pits to its west, possibly in the 14th century. The presence of medieval roofing tiles suggests a fairly substantial structure stood on the property, and further fragments of tile were also present within the pits to the west. A sherd of potash glass was also recovered from the pit, suggesting the inhabitants had access to glass vessels, items normally associated with those of higher status.

Pit Group CC7015 occupied an area previously devoid of pits close to the boundary with Property BE 3 and to the west of the earlier Anglo-Norman pits. Sub-rectangular pit CC1860, the earliest of three pits in the north-west area, was in marked contrast



Plate 4.20 Flint-lined cess-pit CC1518, Property BE 2, Phase 6



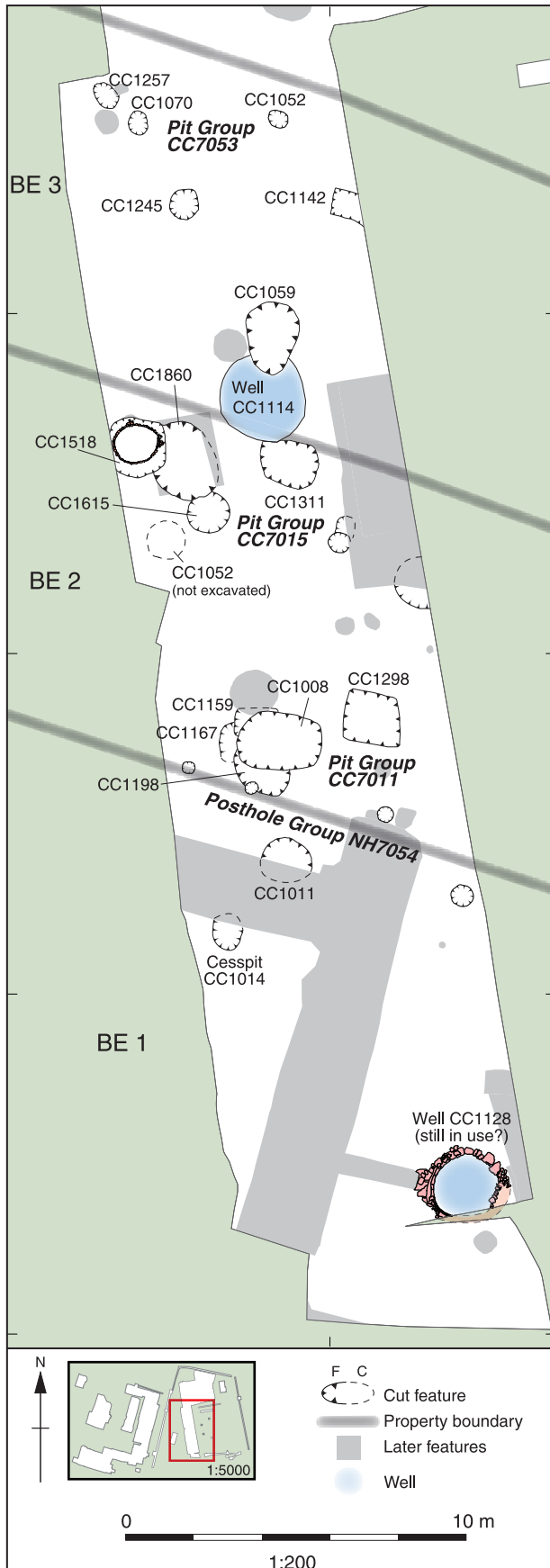


Fig. 4.9 Properties BE 1–3, Phase 6

to the later small circular pits in the area. It appears to have been rapidly filled with dark grey-brown clay-silt that contained domestic refuse and 13th- to 14th-century pottery to its excavated depth of 1.2 m. It was 'clipped' but otherwise respected by circular pits CC1615 and CC1518, both of which also contained pottery datable to 1200–1400. Pit CC1518 was notable for being lined with mortared flint and chalk rubble, its inner faced comprising roughly knapped flint nodules (Plate 4.20), and its internal diameter measuring 1.1 m. Geoarchaeological coring revealed the base of the pit at 43.96 m (*c.* 3.4 depth), a level too shallow for it to served as a well. Its base lay at a depth of 5.3 m above the base of the wells found in Properties BE 4 and BE 5 and nearly 9 m above the base of well in Property BE 1 (see Phase 5 above). Its basal levels comprised loose, dark green-grey, charcoal-rich cess/clay silt from which two coprolites were recovered and although they contained no parasite evidence, they are probably human in origin (see Jones, Chapter 8). Such evidence points to the feature's use as a cesspit, maybe attached to or within a structure, the remains of which did not survive but which may have been located to the west. Its upper (hand-excavated) fill comprised chalk rubble that contained a selection of medieval ceramic tiles, predominantly peg-tiles but also including floor tile fragments, and roofing slate; these were presumably derived from the demolition of a nearby structure. Medieval roofing tiles and a limestone floor tile found within the upper fills of pit CC1311 further attest to the presence of a substantial building nearby. A sherd from a Saintonge polychrome jug, datable to 1280–1350 and rarely found in Winchester (see Cotter, Chapter 7), would offer further evidence that the occupants had access to fine imported goods.

#### Property BE 3 (Fig. 4.9)

The intensity of pitting that had occurred within this property during the preceding phase (see Phase 5 above) had all but ceased, possibly before 1300. Pit CC1114 located immediately adjacent to the boundary with Property BE 2 probably served as a well since geoarchaeological coring revealed its base at 39.88 m OD (*c.* 7.4 m in depth), a level less than 1 m above the base of the chalk-lined wells in Properties BE 4 and BE 5 (see Phase 5 above). The coring also revealed that its base was lined with a deposit of stiff orange clay that may have acted as lining to prevent seepage of water through the chalk, although it was not possible to show whether the sides were lined in a similar manner. No evidence was found for a well-lining in its upper levels, though its straight and unweathered sides may originally have been protected by a timber lining. It is possible that the well was eventually disused but remained open since a 0.66 m thick deposit of very dark grey/black silt had accumulated over the base. Eventually it was deliberately infilled with chalk rubble and soil before finally

being given a capping of hard chalky mortar. Its upper fills produced pottery and an equal-armed balance (SF Cat no. 212; see Chapter 7, Fig. 7.27) that suggests a date no later than the 13th century for its final filling, which could imply that the well had been in use for some time beforehand and possibly during Phase 5. Sufficient time must have elapsed for pit CC1059 to have clipped its north side before its final filling by the end of the 14th century.

Circular pit CC1245 cut into the western 'alignment' of pits (see Phase 5, Pit Group CC7050 above). The pit had a small diameter (0.92 m) in relation to its depth (below its excavated level of 1.1 m). Its earliest fill comprised a rich dump of domestic

refuse that contained a large quantity and variety of fish remains, predominantly herring and eel, but also a diverse selection of marine species including sea breams, plaice, cod, sea bass, conger, whiting, garfish, thorn-back and mackerel. The fill also produced a bone mount with openwork design (SF Cat no. 200; see Chapter 7, Fig. 7.26), a characteristic of more expensive caskets, and its association with the rich fish remains is indicative of more well-to-do occupation (see Cool, Chapter 7). The pottery evidence suggests a 13th-century date and this is supported by the presence of part of a copper alloy sewing pin (SF Cat no. 133), a form that is thought to date to no earlier than the 13th century. Despite

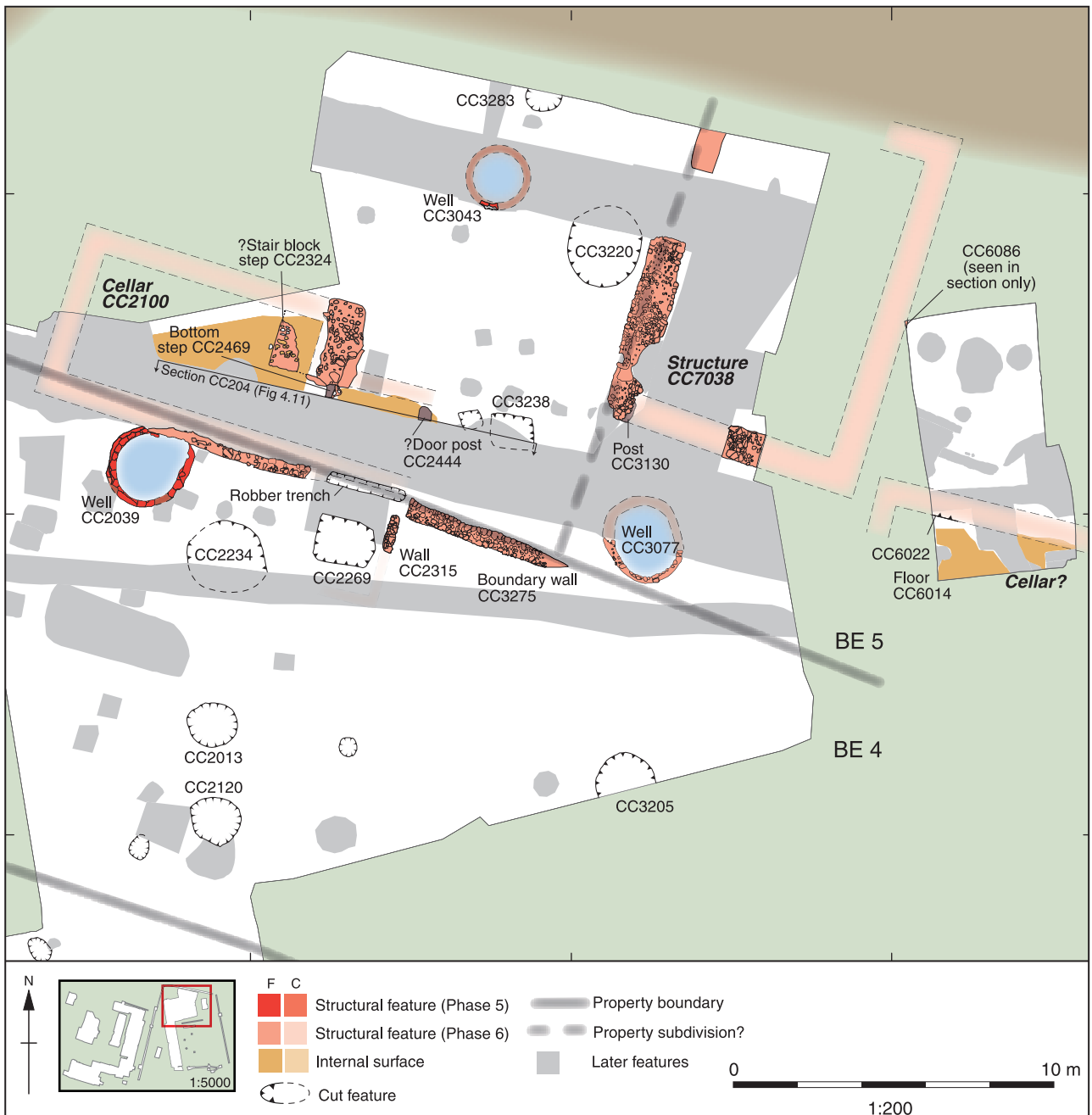


Fig. 4.10 Properties BE 4–5, Phase 6



cutting through the soft fills of earlier pits, its sides were unweathered, implying that it had been enclosed internally since its small size would seemingly preclude lining. If so, it may originally have served as a latrine attached to or within a structure and was later utilised for the disposal of rubbish before being capped with compact chalk and gravel.

In the northern part of the property there were a few small, shallow, circular pits (Pit Group CC7053) some of which could have been postholes; however, they did not form any coherent arrangement.

#### **Property BE 4 (Fig. 4.10)**

The low density of pitting that was apparent during Phase 5 seemingly continued into at least the early part of Phase 6, although these pits were only excavated to depths of 0.32–0.55 m, and it is possible that at least some of them were originally of Phase 5 date, but finally levelled during the 13th or 14th centuries. The pits to the south (CC2120, CC2013 and CC3205), like those in Phase 5, were all circular and of similar size, all measuring 1.5 to 1.8 m in diameter and presumably serving similar purposes. Only pit CC2120 was bottomed, at 0.80 m, revealing fills comprising dumps of both domestic and industrial material, similar in nature to fills of the pits of the preceding phase. The pit clipped but otherwise respected the north side of Phase 5 pit CC2043 (see above) suggesting its filling remained visible or least remained in the memory of the pit diggers. Pottery from the pit suggests a 13th-century date for its use. The pit contained dumps of charcoal-rich silts at its base that contained small quantities of hammerscale, iron slag and vitrified furnace fragments suggesting that smithing was undertaken close-by. The presence of sawn-off goat horn-cores suggests that bone objects continued to be manufactured, possibly (given the evidence for iron-working) composite bone/iron tools. The pit was also used for the dumping of domestic refuse that contained a variety of marine fish remains, plum, sloe/cherry and mineralised bran, the later probably derived from human faecal waste.

Pit CC2013 located immediately to its north contained a similar variety of fills, although given the degree of their slumpage, the pit was presumably considerably deeper than its excavated depth of 0.55 m. This suggests that the earlier unexcavated fills had subsided because they contained organic material such as cess, and the earliest excavated fills comprised compacted chalk and clay that were possibly intended to seal off the odours from the underlying fills. Like adjacent pit CC2120, it contained small quantities of hammerscale and sawn-off goat horn-cores.

Pit CC2269, located close to the boundary with Property BE 5, represented the latest of a group of small intercutting rectangular pits, possibly cesspits given its size, though this could not be established at the depth excavated. It appeared to have been

rapidly filled with mortar-rich chalk and clay rubble, presumably derived from nearby masonry structures.

Immediately to the east of pit CC2269 was a short length of a north-south aligned wall-footing (CC2315) that had survived the modern terracing of the site because it had subsided into an adjacent and earlier pit. The wall, measuring 0.37 m in width, comprised a single course of flint nodules, some of which had been roughly cut to size, bonded by a lime mortar. It had been founded upon a bed of compacted chalk, perhaps in an attempt to firm up its foundation over the underlying soft ground. The wall ran perpendicular to the 'boundary' wall between Properties BE 4 and BE 5 and perhaps formed part of a lean-to structure, feasibly surrounding pit CC2269, if so suggesting a covered latrine pit.

#### **Property BE 5 (Figs 4.10-11; Plates 4.21-3)**

The apparent sub-division of the property, in place by Phase 4.2 (950–1050; see above), seems to have continued into the 13th and 14th centuries. The boundary between the two subdivisions was delineated by the west wall of Structure CC7038. The boundary with Property BE 4 to the south was defined by the southern wall of Cellar CC2100, the construction of which had encroached some 0.5 m southwards into the adjacent property. To the east of the cellar the boundary was marked by wall foundation CC3275, which abutted the south-east corner of the cellar entrance (see below). The foundation, measuring 0.52 m in width and up to 0.11 m in depth, comprised flint nodules and chalk rubble mortar, bounded by a pale yellowish lime mortar. Its eastern extent corresponded with the projected line of the west wall of Structure CC7038 which would suggest that it belonged to the western sub-division of the property rather than the adjacent Property BE 4. Given its fairly substantial nature, it may have represented a high wall or it could have belonged to a structure that adjoined the entrance of Cellar CC2100, the remains of which did not otherwise survive.

#### **Property BE 5 (West)**

##### *Cellar Structure CC2100 (Figs 4.10–11; Plate 4.21)*

The remains of a stone-built cellar (Cellar CC2100) were excavated at the rear of the property. It had cut into and removed the chalk blocks from the north side of Phase 5 well CC2039 (see Phase 5, Property BE 4 above), although it is possible that the well continued in use and that the wall of the cellar acted as lining at this point. The structure had been heavily robbed and a large part of it had been removed by a Second World War air raid shelter; however, enough survived to suggest it had once formed part of a building of some substance. The cellar was rectangular and measured externally 5.7 m

north-south and at least 6.6 m east-west. It had been cut to a depth of 1.5 m below the level of natural cut, allowing for the modern terracing of the site, its original depth may have been around 2 m below the contemporary ground level. It was flanked on its east side by an entrance, possibly within a porch.

The cellar walls were constructed of chalk rubble and flint bonded with yellow sand mortar and were probably originally dressed internally with quality ashlar blocks or other equally valuable masonry since all traces had been robbed away; the area of robbing was still visible on the inside faces of the east and north walls. The walls were probably built directly upon the natural chalk on the base of the cellar cut, though where the east wall intercepted the soft fills of underlying Roman pits around the entrance the foundations were cut deeper and thickened to a width of 1.4 m; elsewhere the walls were probably considerably narrower. To the east, all but the north side of the cellar entrance had been destroyed, although robber trench CC2384 probably marked the south side. However, the trench, at 0.23 m depth, was too shallow to have been the south wall of the entrance way, although it may have served as a boundary wall with Property BE 4, or alternatively it might have been associated with the wall (CC2315) that surrounded cesspit CC2269. Posthole CC2444 may mark the position of the north post of a doorway leading into the cellar. There was probably a masonry wall on the north side of the entrance, though robbing had removed all evidence for it; its position is implied by a c 0.6 m gap between the cellar cut and its floor levels.

The earliest floor level of the cellar comprised a soft mid whitish-yellow mortar that may have acted as a bedding layer for a stone or tiled floor rather than the floor level itself, though no evidence for such a floor remained. The entranceway appears to have been stepped (see Fig 4.11) presumably utilising a hard stone, since a flat limestone slab (CC2469) survived at the position of the threshold (bottom step) with the cellar. A possible stair block (CC2324) was built directly over the mortar though it is unclear whether this was an original feature of the cellar or was added subsequently. It survived as a rectangular stub of masonry, the south side of which was aligned with the north side of the entranceway. It presumably original abutted onto the face of the east and north walls of the cellar, as later robbing of their facing stones cut across its north and east sides.

The cellar appears to have undergone a refurbishment that involved the raising of its floor level, the demolition of the possible stair block and the remodelling of the entranceway. The floor level within the cellar was raised by 0.3 m by the dumping of soil and rubble (CC2212) that contained 13th-century pottery, before a new floor of hard light whitish yellow sandy mortar (CC2206) was laid. A similar sequence occurred within the entranceway, which resulted in the removal of the steps and their replacement with a ramp whose

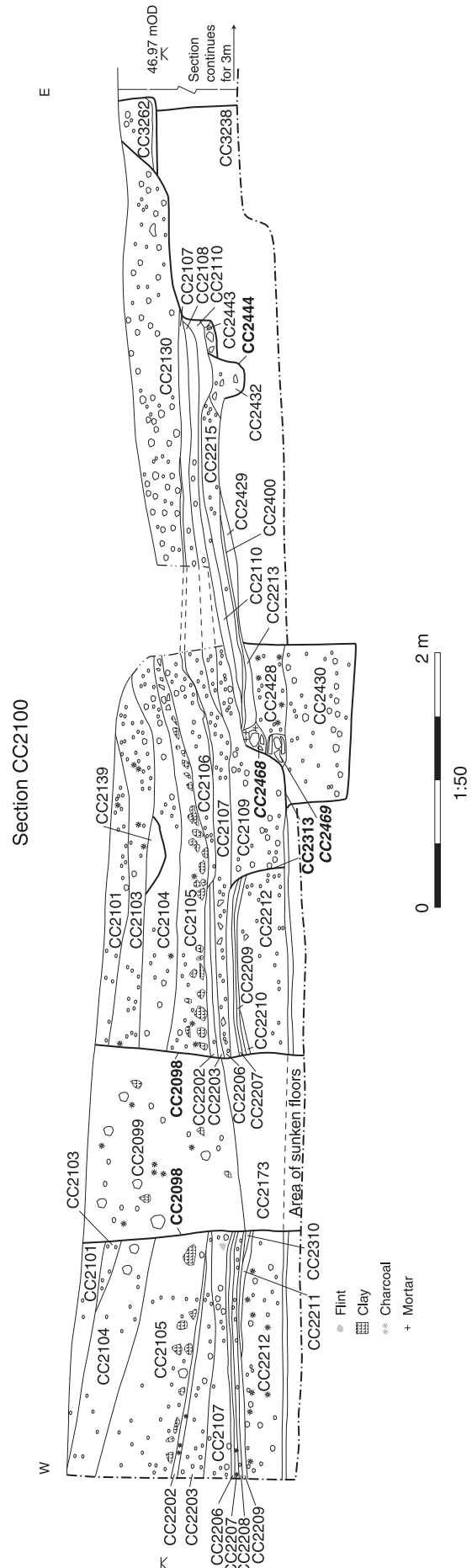


Fig. 4.11 Section through Cellar CC2100, Property BE 5, Phase 6





Plate 4.21 Cellar CC2100, Property BE 5 (W), Phase 6 looking north-east

base was flush with the new floor of the cellar. The lack of occupation silts above the mortar suggests that a stone floor had been laid, perhaps re-used from the earlier floor.

After the thorough robbing of the wall facing, the east wall was reduced to near floor level, whereas the south wall survived to its full height, possibly retained as the boundary with Property BE 4. The cellar appears to have been deliberately filled by the end of the 14th century with dumps of mortar and chalk rubble devoid of any usable building material, suggesting such material had been removed for use elsewhere. A few fragments of fine-grained sandstone, dressed limestone and ceramic floor and roofing tiles are the only surviving evidence for the material that must have adorned a building of this status.

#### *Pits*

Three pits were possibly contemporary with the use of the cellar. All were located close to the east side of possible Phase 5 Structure CC7031, suggesting that it might have continued in use or that the area it occupied was utilised for other purposes. The largest, circular pit CC3220 measured 2.2 m in diameter, and lay immediately adjacent to a similar Phase 5 pit, CC3150 (see above). It was excavated to a depth of 0.61 m, and its earliest excavated fill

comprised domestic rubbish including large sherds of medieval sandy ware (Fabric MDF) and Laverstock-type ware (Fabric MNX) that would suggest a date range of 1225–1350. The pit was levelled with fills of rubble that contained fragments of wall render and an architectural chalk fragment that presumably adorned the nearby structures.

Circular pit CC3283, measuring 1.18 m across, lay close to the street frontage to the north and was fully excavated to a depth of 0.61 m. The basal levels contained thick charcoal-rich silts and domestic rubbish with flake hammerscale and at least 29 broken iron nails of various sizes, perhaps wasters from their manufacture on the site. The fill was exceptionally rich in a diverse range of both freshwater and marine fish, including carp, eel, perch, trout, pike, herring, cod, sea bream, Dover sole and turbot, the latter a fish perhaps suggestive of a more refined diet.

Rectangular pit CC3238 measured 1.35 m across and at least 0.95 m in depth and may have served a different function. Its location in front of the entrance into Cellar CC2100 suggests that it was not contemporary with its use but it appears to have been rapidly filled about the time of the cellar's construction since it contained a medieval crested ridge roof tile and a sherd of high medieval pottery.



**Property BE 5 (East)**

*Structure CC7038* (Fig. 4.10; Plate 4.22)

The substantial chalk footings of a masonry-founded building, probably a house, survived within the eastern part of the property. Only its west and south wall lay within the excavated area; the north wall presumably lay alongside the street frontage immediately to the north of the site. Its east wall probably lay outside the excavated area, though a small fragment of mortared chalk and flint (CC6086) revealed on the north-west corner of the sprinkler tank excavations might have been its outside edge. Assuming the suggested extent of the structure is correct then it measured externally 8.4 m in width and extended at least 10 m from the street frontage. The majority of the structure had been removed by the air-raid shelter and all internal levels had been removed by modern terracing.

The walls (1.1 m thick) comprised mainly roughly hewn chalk blocks/rubble but incorporated the occasional large fragment of re-used Roman brick, all bonded by yellow-brown lime mortar. Both survived within a foundation trench measuring a maximum depth of 0.33 m though given the degree of modern terracing that had occurred, the foundations were presumably substantially deeper. The south-west corner of the structure overlay a shallow square ‘posthole’



Plate 4.22 West wall of Structure CC7038, Property BE 5 (E), Phase 6, looking south

(CC3130) measuring 0.6 m across and 0.25 m deep that had also been filled with mortared chalk rubble, presumably at the time the foundation was built. Given that it occurred at the base of the (truncated) foundation trench it probably originally represented a substantial post that had been removed immediately prior to the construction of the wall. It is possible that this may have formed part of a timber precursor to the masonry building, though no other corresponding postholes were found. The west wall of the structure clipped the eastern lip of Phase 5 pit CC3150. The upper levels of this pit contained mortar and chalk rubble with abundant roofing slate fragments, which could have derived from the building of Structure CC7038. The deposits also contained a large quantity of medieval pottery including South Hampshire red wares and medieval sandy ware (Fabrics MMI and MDF) suggesting the building had been constructed between 1225 and 1350.

To the south-east of the structure was a 0.25 m-thick deposit (CC6014) of firm light yellowish-brown lime mortar of medieval date that directly overlay the remains of the north-south Roman street or the underlying subsoil. As such it may represent the floor of a shallow cellar, measuring at least 4.4 m across, that had cut through the Roman street and its overlying levels and had itself been largely removed by modern terracing. What survived suggests that its northern extent corresponded with an eastwards projection of the southern wall of Structure CC7038. The only evidence for a wall in this position came from slight traces of a shallow trench (CC6022) that may have marked its position. The mortar overlay a thin trampled silt that contained sherds of high medieval whiteware (Fabric MMH) and Northern French green-glazed white ware (Fabric MNV) suggesting a date of 1225–1300. Notwithstanding the degree of modern terracing, it is unlikely that this was ever a full-depth cellar and it perhaps formed part of an under-croft below a building.



Plate 4.23 Well CC3077, Property BE 5 (E), Phase 6, looking south



To the south of the south-west corner of Structure CC7038 and abutting the line of the boundary with Property BE 4 were the remains of chalk-lined well CC3077 (Plate 4.23). Unlike the fine ashlar of the Phase 5 wells within Properties BE 4–5, this was constructed more crudely and utilised random uncoursed and roughly hewn chalk blocks (with occasional coarsely knapped flint modules) bonded by light yellowish-brown silty mortar. A geological borehole revealed its base at 41.70 m OD (a depth of *c.* 5.1 m), a level 3 m above the base of the earlier wells implying that it either sourced a separate aquifer or that its construction was not completed. The well had been backfilled throughout largely by soft mid-dark grey silt clays, the earliest of which contained slate fragments. Its upper fill comprised more compact gravel/silt with chalk and flint rubble suggesting a deliberate capping. The top fill also produced a small fragment of 18th- to 19th-century roofing tile, probably intrusive; otherwise the pottery evidence suggests a mid 13th- to 14th-century date.

## BRUDENE STREET WEST AND SNITHELING STREET

### Later development of the stone house/hall (Fig. 4.12)

Cunliffe recovered no evidence from the cellar under the stone house relating to any major structural modifications to the hall itself during its lifetime. However, he identified other structures that suggest the development of a more elaborate residence in the late 13th/ early 14th century.

The principal addition to the hall was an extension, built of flint in mortar, attached to the west side of the southern half of the hall. The partially exposed footings of this, which were up to 1.2 m deep, extended 5.8 m to the west before turning north for 3.2 m. The end of this structure overlay a large open pit which had been backfilled with building rubbish and consolidated with chalk blocks round the edges. Pottery from the pit suggested a late 13th/early 14th century date for the construction of the extension. Cunliffe (1964) suggested that the likely function of this extension was a garderobe tower, serving an upper floor private chamber. Two further walls were found to the east and south of the hall, which Cunliffe interpreted as later than the western additions, possibly of 14th-century date since they lay over a thin scatter of slates which he suggests were derived from damage to roofs during a storm that, according to documentary sources, badly damaged certain roofs in Winchester in 1314.

### Properties BW 1 and SE 1 (Fig. 4.13; Plate 4.24)

Property BW 1 was subject to only limited investigation because much of it lay outside the area impacted by the new construction scheme. Only a

few pits datable to Phase 5 were seen within the excavated area, but it is clear that a range of substantial masonry structures occupied the property during Phase 6. These extended to the western limit of Property BW 1, where they appear to be closely related to similar structures at the very east end of Property SE 1. Although no definitive evidence for the boundary between these two properties was seen in previous phases, it seems very likely that the structures of Phase 6 extended across its line, and therefore that the two properties had been combined. This would be consistent with the documentary evidence (see Chapter 1 and Chapter 5), which suggests that by the late medieval period Properties BW 1 and SE 1 formed a single tenement. During Phase 5, a post-built structure that was possibly a well-house had stood on Property SE 1, probably located behind a substantial street-frontage house (see above). To the rear were numerous pits, some containing large quantities of remains of fur animals, and postholes from a possible structure or structures of indeterminate form. Pottery dating suggests that the latest use and the levelling/backfilling of the well and pits occurred during the late 12th or early 13th centuries. The buildings assigned to Phase 6 are broadly dated to the 13th and 14th centuries on the basis of the presence of 13th- to 14th-century pottery, and of roofing materials such as slate and crested ridge tile, in their demolition rubble. Structures seen on Property SE 1 in this phase were restricted to the area adjacent to Property BW 1; the remainder of the excavated area was essentially devoid of features or deposits of later medieval date and may have been left open.

### Structure NH8535 (Plate 4.24)

A small trench close to Brudene Street revealed the latest levels of a substantial masonry structure (Structure NH8535) that is likely to have extended to the street frontage. The area was recorded in plan but no further excavation was undertaken, since its levels were not impacted by the new development. The remains of Structure NH8535 comprised a length of a north-south wall (NH9037) parallel to and *c.* 6 m from the existing street frontage. It was constructed with chalk rubble bonded by a yellowish-brown mortar. Its thickness would imply it represented an exterior wall, an interpretation supported by the fact that a dark loamy soil containing slate fragments abutted its western side. The facing stones that would have adorned its sides had probably been robbed but this could not be ascertained at the level excavated. A second less substantial and apparently later wall (NH9038) adjoined its east side, possibly a blocking of a door since an ashlar quoin still marked its junction with the earlier wall. The floor layers were not exposed, and within the north room these lay below a substantial spread of slate fragments that presumably represented the collapsed roof. The only dating



Plate 4.24 Unexcavated Structure NH8535, Property BW 1, Phase 6, looking south

evidence recovered were fragments of crested ridge tiles suggesting that the building was in use during the 13th to 14th centuries.

#### **Structure NH8536**

A second substantial masonry structure was located against the postulated former rear boundary of Property BW 1. Part of the north-west corner of the structure was exposed and rapidly recorded, and had apparently been constructed in two phases. The earlier wall (NH8049) comprised a north-south foundation, 1.15 m wide, constructed with mortared chalk rubble; the lack of evidence for any facing suggests that it lay below the contemporary ground level. This was abutted by east-west wall NH9043, 0.62–0.76 m wide, that was constructed mainly of flint rubble bonded by a light yellowish-brown chalky mortar upon a slightly off-set foundation of coarse mortared chalk rubble. Its north face was lined with knapped flints above the level of its foundation, suggesting an exterior face. An opening

(doorway) on the north wall, 0.96 m wide, had a dressed stone block surviving on one side that may have allowed access to flint-lined well NH9047 (unexcavated) that was located immediately to the north-west. No evidence for the date or function of the structure was found though mortar rubble and slate fragments contained within it suggest it is datable to the late 12th century or later.

#### **Structure NH8615**

Fragmentary remains of a further stone-founded structure were found to the west of Structure NH8536 in Property SE 1, post-dating possible timber Structure NH8617 (see Phase 5 above). It comprised a length of a heavily robbed east-west wall (NH5043) that was aligned with the west wall of Structure NH8536, but appears to have formed a separate structure. This would suggest that it was a westwards extension to the same range, implying encroachment into the eastern part of Property SE 1. No evidence for a return was found but given its



shallow depth, this probably did not survive. Floor levels to its south implied that it represented part of the wall of a structure that largely lay to the south of the excavated area. Later a large, shallow rectangular pit that evidently represented the remains of a shallow cellar or undercroft (Cellar NH5050; see below) was attached to its north side.

Wall NH5043 had been robbed of its stone (presumably re-used stone such as flint) and survived as a discontinuous shallow trench measuring 0.1–0.4 m in depth, containing traces of

mortar at its base. However, a small fragment of shallow wall foundation, 0.64 m thick, did survive, comprising predominantly large flint nodules bonded by a hard pale brown chalky mortar. A thin and compacted spread of light buff chalky mortar respecting the south side of the wall was probably an internal floor. It overlay Phase 5 pit NH5105 that had been levelled with mid brown clay acting as the base of the floor within this area. This contained south-east Wiltshire ware (Fabric MADW) datable to the late 11th to mid 13th

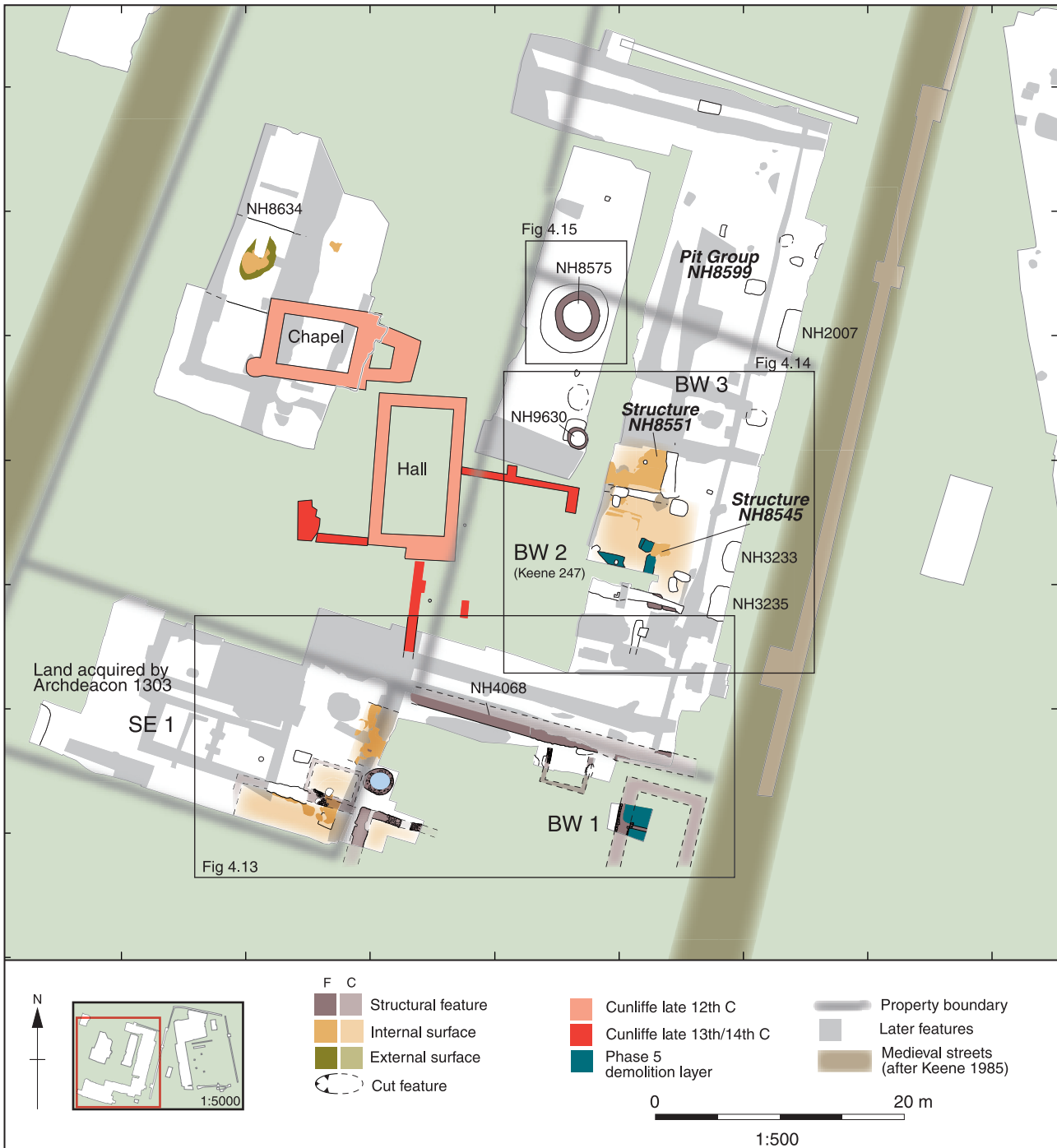


Fig. 4.12 Feature plan (Brudene Street West), Phase 6

centuries. The presence of medieval sandy ware (Fabric MDF) and a small sherd of Hampshire whiteware (Fabric MHH, early 13th to 14th century) could suggest an early to mid 13th-century date for the construction of the structure. The lack of any discernible occupation debris above the floor would suggest either that it was kept clean or that it supported a stone/tile floor.

#### *Cellar NH5050*

The construction of shallow Cellar NH5050 involved the partial levelling of wall NH5043 of Structure NH8615 in order to provide access into it from the adjacent structure. It comprised a rectangular pit measuring 2.8 m by at least 3.2 m, and was dug to a depth of *c* 0.63 m below the floor level of Structure NH8615. A fragment of chalk and flint wall bonded by pale brown sandy mortar survived on its southern side, and was probably the only remnant of an original stone lining. The natural gravel may have formed the floor, since it was overlain by thin trampled grey silt and patchy spreads of re-deposited natural clay. Part of a crushed glazed jug of 13th- or 14th-century date was found within these deposits, perhaps suggesting storage of wine, otherwise no evidence was found for the function of the cellar. At the time of construction of Cellar NH5050, Structure NH8615 was re-floored with pale orange-brown mortar that survived within the area of the proposed entrance into the cellar. The cellar was eventually levelled with mortar and chalk rubble and dumps of stone roofing slate, that were presumably derived from the demolition of the cellar and adjacent Structure NH8615; the associated pottery was of 14th- to 15th-century date.

#### *Structure NH8616*

To the north of Cellar NH5050 and Structure NH8536 were the fragmentary remains of chalk and mortar floors and a hearth that survived over Phase 5 pits NH5164 and NH5175. No evidence for the nature of the walls of the structure survived but it may have been a detached building, possibly a kitchen, since it contained a fragment of a plinth or oven wall (NH5157). The surface of the mortar floor in the area of NH5157 had been baked hard by intense heat. The limited dating evidence suggests that the structure was in use during the 13th–14th centuries.

#### *Structure NH8537*

The north-east part of the property, adjacent to Property BW 2, formerly set aside for pits, was levelled with dumps of gravel and mortar-rich soils, probably in preparation for construction in the area. A substantial boundary wall (NH4068; see below) was built, dividing Properties BW 1 and BW 2. A narrow chalk and flint foundation (NH4100) was probably part of an auxiliary lean-to-

structure built against the south side of this boundary wall. No other corresponding walls were found, unless shallow trench NH4170, located 2.9 m to east, represented the remains of a robbed-out wall.

#### **Property BW 2** (Figs 4.13–14; Plate 4.25)

During Phase 5, a large L-shaped building stood on Property BW 2. This building, which originated in the late Saxon period, had been reconstructed using large timber posts during the Anglo-Norman period. To the rear of the building was a chalk-lined well. Pottery from the fills of the post-pits suggests that the building was dismantled by the early 13th century at the latest, and the well (NH4019) was deliberately infilled, robbed of its upper courses, and levelled with gravelly clay and chalk containing Laverstock-type ware (Fabric MNX dated *c* 1230–1350) and medieval sandy ware (Fabric MDF dated *c* 1150–1350) suggesting a date range of 1230–1350. A cesspit (NH4339) had been rapidly filled with dumps of gravel, chalk and refuse containing sherds of Early South Hampshire red ware, which is datable to the period 1175–1250. Following the demolition of the Anglo-Norman structures, the property appears to have been left largely empty, and the presence of layers of compacted gravel and rammed chalk in the upper levels of the disused Phase 5 pits suggests that a gravelled external surface was laid down.

#### *Wall NH4068* (Plate 4.25)

The southern boundary of Property BW 2 in this phase was clearly defined by wall NH4068 (Fig.



Plate 4.25 *Boundary wall foundation NH4068, Phase 6, Property BW 2, looking east*



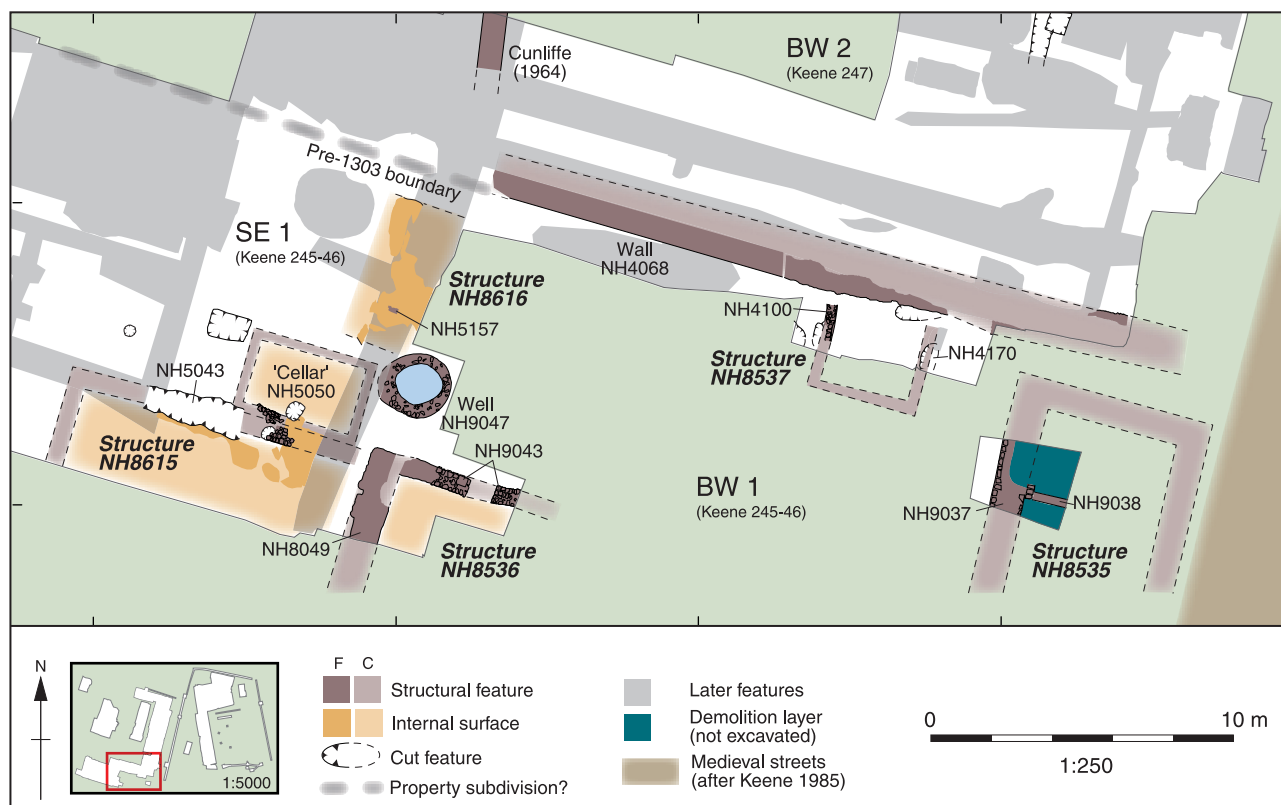


Fig. 4.13 Property BW 1/SE 1, Phase 6

4.13; Plate 4.25). This survived as a 21 m-long mortared chalk and flint rubble footing, measuring (where not truncated) 0.75 m wide by 0.5 m deep. As the north side of the wall was cut away by a modern service trench, its original width is likely to have been greater, perhaps up to a maximum of 1.5 m. As preparation for the wall's construction the ground had been levelled over subsided Phase 4 and 5 features within Property BW 1, with dumps of chalky silty sand (NH4167). The upper fills of Phase 5 pits NH4293 and NH4176 that pre-dated the wall contained similar material from which fragments of South Hampshire red ware pottery (Fabric MNG and MMI, dated *c* 1225–1400) were recovered. The abundance of Newbury-style ware (if not residual) and fragments of medieval sandy ware (Fabric MDF) could suggest a date early during this range, perhaps sometime around the early to mid 13th century. Although the full width of the wall was not seen, it appears to have encroached slightly onto Property BW 1 to the south.

A substantial linear feature (NH4045; Fig. 4.14) along the line of the northern boundary of Property BW 2 was probably related to a building constructed on Property BW 3 to the north and is described below. Two further shallow features were identified to the south (short linear feature NH4036 cutting a square pit NH4032). Either or both could have been stratigraphically of this phase but their function was not clear.

#### Property BW 3 (Fig 4.14; Plate 4.26)

During Phase 5, Property BW 3 had contained a timber house occupying the southern two thirds of its street frontage, with an open area, possibly a lane or passage, to the north, and an elaborate well-house to the rear. Charcoal from the latest use of an oven on the south side of the house gave a radiocarbon date of 1050–1230, and pottery associated with the demolition of the well-house and the infilling of the well included small quantities of Early South Hampshire red ware, datable to the period 1175–1250. This suggests that the Phase 5 structures had been demolished by the early to mid 13th century at the latest.

#### Structures NH8551 and NH8545

The succeeding structures on the property, largely represented by robber trenches, appear to have been the last structural elements in the medieval sequence in this area. Their alignment is slightly different from Phase 5 structures fronting Brudene Street, being slightly more north-south oriented, and they are set well back from the street frontage. As a group they appear to be associated with the stone house identified by Cunliffe to the west (see above and Fig. 4.12). Although they had suffered considerably from modern truncation and disturbance, there are reasonable grounds to interpret them as a kitchen and small annexe, both related to the hall complex to the west.





The south-east corner of part of Structure NH8551 is represented by shallow robber trenches NH3685, NH3753 and NH3136, bordering a sequence of chalk and clay floor surfaces (NH3795/NH3792). Trench NH3685 was 3.15 m long by up to 1.1 m wide. Trench NH3136 survived to a length of 3.3 m, averaging 0.6 m wide. Later activity truncated the junction of the two features. Just south of the western end of robber trench NH3136 were two pits (NH3215 and NH3192), which may have been the settings for posts contemporary with the walls.

Small patches of a similar chalk floor were found to the south of these features, suggesting that the building continued to the south (as Structure NH8545), and robber trench NH3136 may therefore have been a partition wall. Two shallow linear features containing degraded daub (NH3120 and NH3122) may indicate the type of wall fabric used in the construction of the superstructure of this building. A sub-rectangular shallow pit (NH3125) may be an internal feature of the building, for instance a post-setting, although its function is unclear, and no stratigraphic relationship with other Phase 6 features was recorded. It was filled with a mix of silty clay and chalk rubble, and produced 12th- to mid 13th-century pottery.

To the south-east of pit NH3125, an area of fired clay was revealed (NH3177), the latest surviving burnt surface in the area. No oven structure was evident, and the burning on the surface was relatively slight, so it may well have been the site of a brazier, or a platform hearth, rather than the hearth itself.

At the south end of Property BW 3 was a substantial linear feature (NH4045/NH4051), possibly representing a beamslot oriented west-east and measuring 8.9 m long, 0.9 m wide and 0.4 m deep. The trench cut through the fill of the robbed out Phase 5 oven structure (NH4136), filled with mortared chalk and flint rubble (NH4135). A small pit or post setting to the north (NH4451) may have been associated, along with a slighter feature (NH4357).

To the north of the possible beamslot, the surviving part of a large Phase 5 pit (NH3253) was identified, filled with a single fill of clay, possibly representing consolidation of a feature prior to the inseting of a posthole (NH3240) which may be part of a structure within the building.

To the east, partly revealed at the edge of the site, were two substantial pits (NH3233 and NH3235). Neither was completely excavated, but both contained quantities of late medieval pottery, roof tile, worked stone fragments and animal bone, along with an assemblage of small finds. Pit NH3233 produced a very long copper alloy sewing pin (SF Cat no. 132), and pit NH3235 produced a late 13th-century knife blade and handle (SF Cat no. 256; see Chapter 7, Fig. 7.29), along with a bar

mount (SF Cat no. 147) and a stud fastener (SF Cat no. 335) of similar date. Also recovered from the fill was a fragment of a late 3rd- to 5th-century copper alloy bracelet (SF Cat no. 13) and a small quantity of slag, which might suggest some limited craft activity here, although it is most likely to be residual material from Phase 4 or 5.

#### Well NH9630 (Plate 4.26)

To the north and west of the buildings of Phase 6 was well NH9630. The well was defined by a circular shaft lined with chalk blocks, set within a construction cut. The top of the cut was truncated, destroying its immediate stratigraphic context so its construction date can only be inferred from the dating evidence from the excavated fills of the well shaft, and its position in the line of the possible Phase 5 lane leading back from Brudene Street.

The construction cut (NH9530) was restricted to the north side of the whole feature. In the south side the well-lining had been built directly against the natural. The lining itself was exposed (by excavation of the well backfill), to a depth of 2.2 m from ground level. Against the natural the exposed lining was 0.2 m thick, and on the north side it averaged 0.3 m thick. The resultant circular lined shaft was up to 1.26 m in diameter.

The lower exposed courses of the lining were of finely finished chalk blocks, with a slightly curving



Plate 4.26 Well NH9630, Property BW 3, Phase 6, looking north-west

Fig. 4.14 (facing page) Property BW 2/BW 3, Phase 6



face, averaging 310 mm by 200 mm by 200 mm. It was clear that the upper courses of the original lining of the well had collapsed or had been robbed, and were later rebuilt. The two or three rebuilt courses above were mortared rough unfinished chalk blocks, set within a construction cut backed by crushed chalk. Overlying these, the rebuilt lining comprised crudely mortared large flint nodules and chalk rubble.

The shaft fill was investigated by a borehole, and at a depth of 10 m the bottom of the well was not reached. Early fills of the sequence revealed fragments of stone roofing slate, suggesting a medieval infilling. No artefactual dating was recovered from any part of the structure of the well, although the latest pottery contained within its fills was Tudor Green ware, datable to c 1400–1550. A fresh rim sherd from a glazed jug in a pink quartz Hampshire ware (Fabric MMG dated 1225–1400) could imply a date in the ?early 15th century. The date of construction of the well therefore remains somewhat problematic, as wells lined with chalk blocks were constructed on numerous properties during Phase 5. It seems unlikely, however, that it would have been necessary to dig a second well while elaborately constructed well-house Structure NH3547 was still in use, and this may argue for a date of construction contemporary with the Phase 6 structures on the property, for which it would have provided a convenient water supply. The well appears also to have been located on the line of the

proposed lane or passage on the north side of Property BW 3, and the implications of this are discussed in Chapter 5, below. The late date of the pottery in its final fills, and the evidence for a phase of repair, suggests that this well may have continued in use until the 15th or 16th century.

To the north of well NH9630 was a 1.7 m wide steep sided pit (NH9670) cut through Phase 4 charcoal spread NH9633, and measuring 0.6 m deep with a fill predominantly of chalk and flint rubble. The pit may represent the re-filling of an earlier pit, part of the consolidation/landscaping of the area.

**Properties BW 4 and BW 5** (Figs 4.12, 4.15; Plate 4.27)

During Phase 5, the southern part of Property BW 4 had been occupied by an L-shaped building of timber post construction, while the northern half had been used for the digging of pits. Finds from the upper levels of Phase 5 pit NH2084 included large fragments of a tripod pitcher (which would be datable up to c 1225) along with sherds of Laverstock ware (Fabric MNX), datable from c 1230–1350, and fragments of roof tile. A number of Phase 5 pits on Property BW 5 had been backfilled with building debris and pottery of late 12th- to 13th-century date, including Early South Hampshire red ware, datable to the period 1175–1250. During Phase 6 a large circular pit/shaft

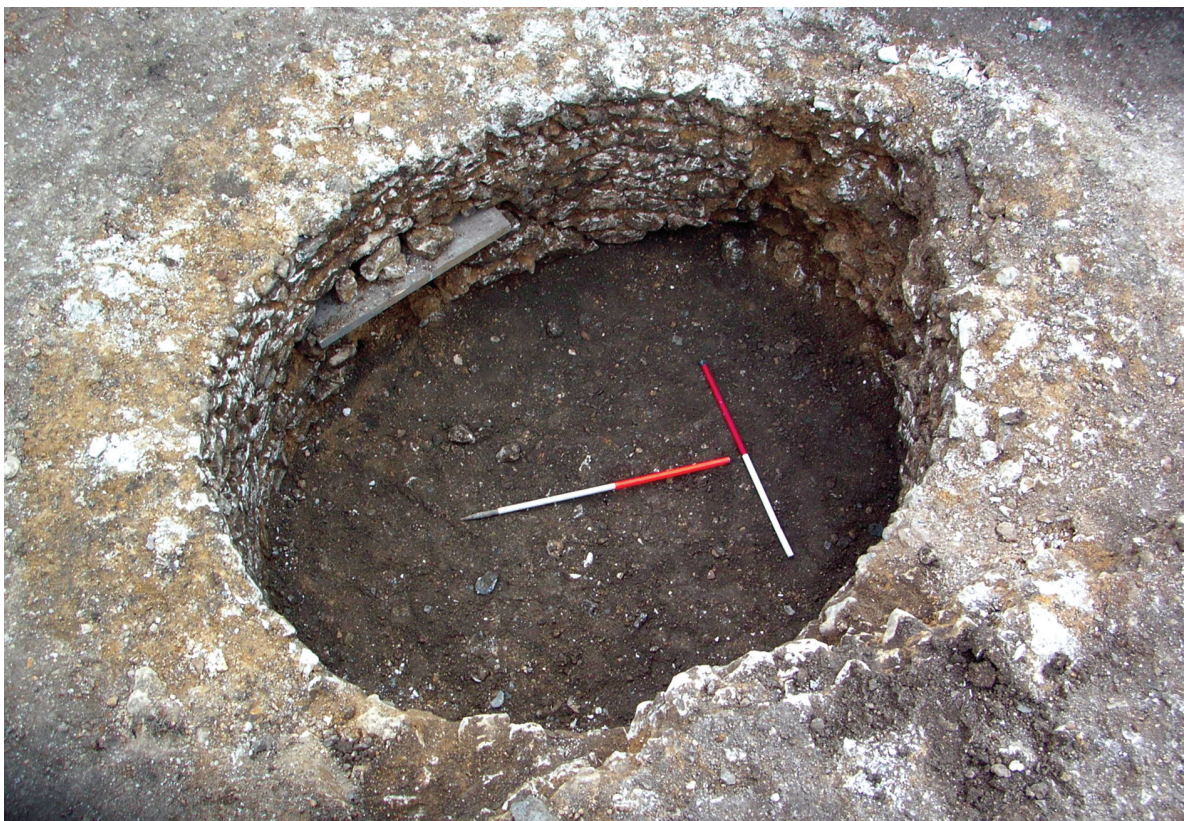


Plate 4.27 (below) Pit/shaft Structure NH8575, Property BW 4, Phase 6, looking south



Structure NH8575 was built towards the west end of Property BW 4; the function of this feature is considered in Chapter 5, below. A scatter of pits was recorded to the north and east.

**Pit/shaft Structure NH8575** (Fig. 4.15; Plate 4.27)

The group comprised a single large sub-circular pit (NH9531) measuring up to 6.2 m in diameter, and

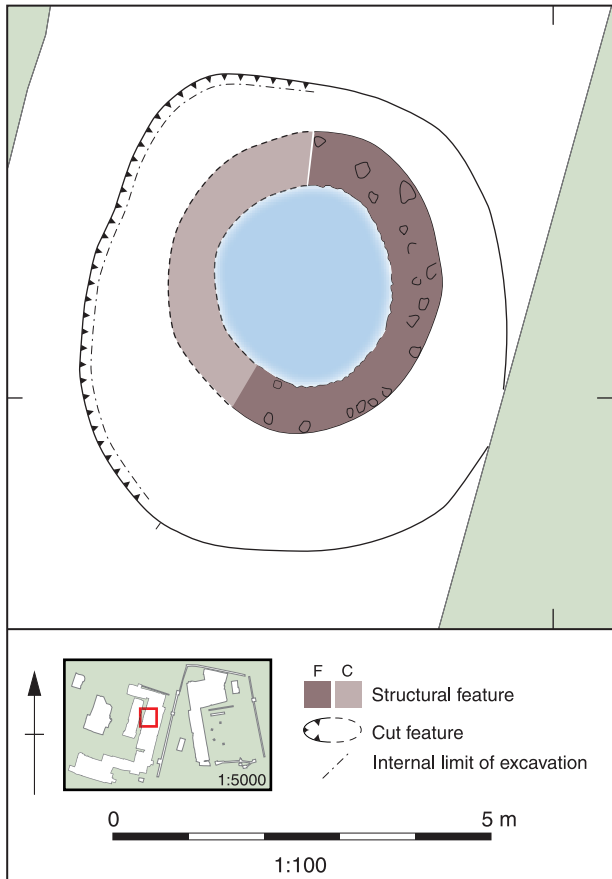


Fig. 4.15 Plan of pit/shaft Structure NH8575, Phase 6

excavated (but not bottomed) to a depth of 1.4 m. Within it was a sub-circular shaft (NH9533) built of chalk rubble with occasional flint nodules (see Plate 4.27). The digging of pit NH9351 had cut into the southern side of Phase 2.3 stone well NH9542, which had probably led to the slight distortion in the northern part of shaft NH9533, as it was modified to accommodate the remains of the earlier feature.

The shaft's greatest diameter was 4.2 m external, and 2.73 m internal (north-south). The space within the pit outside the shaft was infilled with several mixed dumped layers of chalk, gravel and silty clay. Lenses of mortar within this sequence suggest that the gap between the pit edge and the chalk and flint shaft was filled progressively as the shaft was built up. Fragments of 11th- to 12th-century pottery were recovered from the upper backfill of the construction pit.

The stone shaft NH9533 was backfilled with a single deposit (NH9534) of brown clayey silt, containing sherds of 11th- to 15th-century pottery. There appeared to be no other elements to this structure and no obvious evidence to indicate the character of any superstructure that may have existed over or around it. A single posthole (NH9568) was located 1.5 m to the south of pit NH9531, although there is nothing to suggest that it was related. The initial interpretation of this feature was a well. However, for a number of reasons this interpretation is open to question and is considered further in Chapter 5.

**Pit Group NH8599** (Figs 4.12, 4.16)

A loose grouping of pits lay in the north-eastern part of the area, within the bounds of Properties BW 4 and BW 5. A single large subrectangular pit NH2007 was identified against the eastern baulk of the site, measuring 3.1 m north-south and surviving to a depth of 0.9 m (Fig. 4.16). Its primary fill (NH2066) was cassy, and overlain by a sequence of dumped deposits, starting with a thin charcoal layer

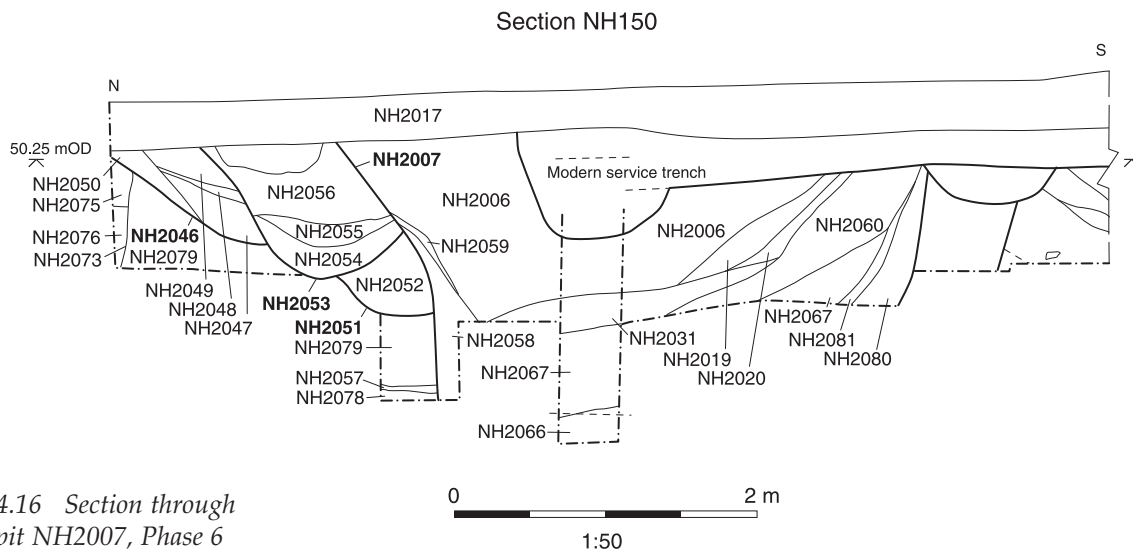


Fig. 4.16 Section through cess pit NH2007, Phase 6

(NH2081), which may represent an attempt to seal the noxious layer beneath. Sherds of 13th- to 15th-century pottery were present in the upper fills, and the dating evidence from the uppermost fill (NH2006) suggests a final infilling well before the end of the 16th century.

The other pits of this group were of a variety of shapes and sizes, and could not readily be ascribed any function. They contained pottery of 12th to 14th century date, along with a copper alloy scale pan (SF Cat no. 215; see Chapter 7, Fig. 7.27), dated to between the 10th and 13th centuries, from pit NH2100.

## **POST-MEDIEVAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE (PHASE 7–8)**

### **Phase 7 (c 1550–1800)**

Where it survived, the latest medieval features and levels of Phase 6 were sealed by a thick and homogenous accumulation of dark brownish-grey ‘garden’ soil that was in turn overlain by features and layers of 19th-century or later date. It was not subject to detailed recording and was removed with modern levels during the initial machine stripping of the site.

On the Northgate House site, the soil survival was intermittent, with landscaping for the construction of No. 19 Staple Gardens and Northgate House in the 19th–20th centuries having removed much of it. Towards the south-west of the excavated area the soil lay directly over late Saxon levels of Property SE 2 (see Chapter 3) and further south directly over the late Roman Dark Earth (see Chapter 2). Where it survived alongside the western frontage of Staple Gardens it was 0.45 m thick and directly overlay the floors of Phase 4.1 Structure NH8586 and the Phase 6 pits that cut into them.

On the Discovery Centre site, terracing for the construction of the modern car park had removed all evidence for the ‘garden’ soil within the main excavated area. However, during the watching brief a thick accumulation of mid-dark grey-brown silty clay loam was observed within new foundation trenches within the Discovery Centre, lying directly below the existing floor of the building. In addition, an evaluation trench (see Chapter 1, Fig 1.8, Trench CC6) and observations during the excavation of a new drainage channel on the south side of the building revealed thick garden soils, since these areas seem to have been less truncated during the

19th–20th centuries. Within the evaluation trench the soil comprised friable, mid grey-brown clay silt, up to 0.48 m thick, and sealed pits of 9th–12th century date. Further to the east and alongside the pavement on Jewry Street, similar thick garden soils were recorded directly below the modern street levels. Though no useful dating was obtained, it appears to have accumulated after the latest discernible medieval activity on the site, which alongside the western frontage of Brudene Street was after the 14th–15th centuries.

### **Phase 8 (c 1800–present)**

Given the complete lack of archaeological evidence to suggest otherwise, the Northgate House site remained largely open and unoccupied until the 19th century. Between 1873 and 1897 a house (formerly 19 Staple Gardens) was constructed on its southern side within the area that was previously occupied by Property SE 1; this house was demolished shortly before the commencement of excavations. The remaining part of the site remained open until 1961, when a large office block that housed the headquarters of SCATS was constructed in the centre of the site (Northgate House). A number of drains, services and footings pertaining to the use of these buildings were revealed.

Similarly no evidence for post-medieval occupation on the Discovery Centre site was found pre-dating the construction of the existing structure (formerly the Corn Exchange) in 1838. The only feature of note from this period was a rectangular brick-lined shaft that was partially revealed against the west wall of the 19th-century building; otherwise the evidence suggests that the area remained open. This structure is depicted on the 1:500 Ordnance Survey map of 1873 (see Chapter 1, Fig. 1.7e) and is marked as a weigh bridge. During refurbishment of the existing building a number of original architectural features were revealed and a full report can be found in the site archive. In 1939 a number of underground air-raid shelters were constructed on the site which until the refurbishment and extension of the building in 2006 remained open below the surface of the car park. Prior to their infilling during the course of the new works a full photographic survey was undertaken, the results of which are in the site archive. Parts of two of the shelters were revealed along the northern and southern ends of the excavated area (see Chapter 1, Fig. 1.8).