

Chamberlains Factory Higham Ferrers



Archaeological Excavation Interim Report



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Position: Research Officer
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Checked by: Alan Hardy
Position: Project Manager
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Approved by: Alistair Barclay
Position: Publications Manager
Date: 10 September 2002

Signed.....

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Oxford Archaeology

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Janus House

Osney Mead

Oxford OX2 0ES

t: (0044) 01865 263800

f: (0044) 01865 793496

e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk

w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk

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Chamberlains Factory, Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION – INTERIM REPORT

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SUMMARY

Excavations by Oxford Archaeology on the site of the former Chamberlains Factory at North End, Higham Ferrers revealed Saxon, medieval and post-medieval occupation and activity. Among the most significant features were a possible mid-Saxon hall and a late medieval pottery kiln with associated buildings.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 In May and June 2002 OA carried out an excavation on land bordered by Kings Meadow Lane and North End, Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire on behalf of The Duchy of Lancaster in respect of a proposed residential development. The work was carried out to a brief agreed with Myk Flitcroft (Northamptonshire Archaeology Planning Officer).

1.1.2 This interim report is intended to provide a brief summary of the archaeological results and an assessment of their significance in the light of the post-excavation research priorities established for the overall Kings Meadow Lane project (*Kings Meadow Lane, Higham Ferrers Northamptonshire. Post-excavation Assessment and Research Design OA 2002*). It is intended that the results of this excavation will be fully published together with the evidence that has been collected from the other investigations, thus bringing the Saxon and medieval evidence together in one volume. Detailed analysis of the records and materials collected from this excavation will take place at a later date and any interpretations and phasing reported here should be regarded as provisional only.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and scope of work

2.1.1 The development area lies to the north-east of Kings Meadow Lane and north of Higham Ferrers modern town limits, centred on NGR SP 9593 6918 (Fig.1). Two areas within the development area were selected for excavation (Sites 1 and 2) (Fig.2). Site 1 was situated on land formerly occupied by yards belonging to Chamberlains Factory. Site 2 was situated on land formerly occupied by the Walnut Tree petrol station and waste ground to its west.

2.2 Geology and topography

2.2.1 The underlying geology consists of Northamptonshire Sands and Ironstone. The site is situated at a height of 59 m OD sloping away to the south-west towards Kings Meadow Lane.

2.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 2.3.1 The development area lies on the northern outskirts of Higham Ferrers, immediately east of a major focus of middle and late Saxon and early medieval activity excavated in the summer of 2001. The northern part of the development area comprises the site of the demolished buildings of Chamberlains factory and associated yards to the west. In 1965 the remains of a 15th century pottery kiln were discovered in the grounds of the factory, during building work. Unfortunately a precise record of the kiln's location was not made, although it is believed to be sited close to the western extremity of the factory grounds. The footings of the kiln were found, along with associated walls and pits. Approximately 500 kg of pottery was recovered from the kiln flue. Analysis showed that the kiln produced bowls and jugs in a hard coarse grey fabric. Court Rolls suggest this kiln may be one belonging to William Potter in 1436. It was not known if the excavated kiln was the only one in the development area.
- 2.3.2 The southern part of the development area was subject to a series of 12 geotechnical test pits in 1997, covering the area previously occupied by Walnut Tree Petrol Station and waste ground to the west (OAU 1997). The test pits revealed that the northern and eastern part of the area had been heavily truncated by landscaping or disturbed by the footings and tanks associated with the petrol station. In the southern part of the site archaeological deposits survived along the north side of Kings Meadow Lane, consisting of stone footings, pits and layers provisionally of late medieval or post-medieval date.

3 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.1.1 The overburden was removed to the level of the highest significant archaeological horizon. This was done under close archaeological supervision using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. The area was cleaned by hand and the revealed features were excavated to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds. All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections were drawn at scales of 1:20. Features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (Wilkinson 1992).

3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 3.3.1 Environmental samples were taken from a range of features in order to inform discussion on the ancient environment, farming and subsistence as well as providing a fine screen for small finds in particular features.

4 RESULTS: SITE 1 (*Fig.3*)

4.1 Distribution and summary of archaeological deposits

4.1.1 The archaeological deposits were distributed evenly across the site. Running along the north-west boundary of the site were several stone walls and stone spreads. To the west of these was a post and trench built structure. The eastern part of the site was dominated by post-built structures associated with an amorphous stone surface. Two parallel linear ditches ran along the southern boundary of the site and these were both cut by a pottery kiln situated in the south-western corner.

4.2 Preservation of archaeological deposits

4.2.1 The general lack of floor surfaces and other deposits suggests that the site was somewhat truncated. However, the preservation of the cut features was generally good and it is likely that the distribution of archaeological deposits is a good indication of the level of past activity. Some of the finer resolution may have been lost through post occupation ploughing; in particular the floor surfaces and other deposits related to the post and trench built structure.

5 DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 General

5.1.1 The natural sand and ironstone (9003) was overlain by 0.15-0.25 m of mid orangey brown silty sand (9001-2) which was in turn overlain by 0.21 m of mid dark brown sandy silt topsoil (9000). These deposits were seen across the whole site.

5.2 Note on the phasing

5.2.1 The provisional phasing of the site is derived from the stratigraphy and the pottery spot dating. It is anticipated that full post-excavation analysis will refine the chronology of the phasing, although the stratigraphic sequence itself is generally clear.

Phase 1 Middle Saxon? (7th - 9th Centuries AD)

5.2.2 Three beam slots and four postholes made up three sides of a rectangular building orientated north-east/south-west (building group 9114). It is assumed that a fourth beam slot lay beyond the limit of the excavation to the north. Inside the building was an oval pit also aligned north-east/south-west, which suggests that it may have been contemporary with the use of the building. There were two postholes inside the building that may also have been contemporary. A single sherd of late Saxon pottery was recovered from the south-eastern beam slot and the south-western beam slot was cut by a medieval pit. The structure shares an alignment with similar middle Saxon structures to its north-east.

Phase 2 Late Saxon to early medieval (9th - 13th Centuries AD)

- 5.2.3 Running along the south-eastern boundary of the site were two parallel ditches (9180 and 9182). These were orientated north-east/south-west and were both cut by the later medieval kiln (9092) to the north-east. The northern ditch (9180) measured approximately 1m in width and between 0.20 m and 0.40 m in depth, it had a flat base and steeply sloping sides. The southern ditch (9182) was 0.50 m wide by 0.20 m in depth and had a similar profile to the northern ditch. A single sherd of late medieval pottery came from the northernmost ditch. However, given the proximity of the kiln this may be seen as intrusive. The possible alignment of the ditches with similar features found to the west in the 2001 excavation suggests that they could be early medieval or late Saxon in date.

Phase 3 Later medieval (13th - 15th Centuries AD)

- 5.2.4 The remains of two stone buildings (9007 and 9008) lay close to the north-eastern edge of the site. These were constructed of limestone with rubble cores and sub-rectangular facing blocks. They were aligned roughly east/west. A stone wall (9005) of similar construction lay close by. This was orientated north-east/south-west. A number of rough stone spreads lay to the east of the buildings and these were also aligned north-east/south-west. A sondage cut into building 9007 yielded an assemblage of late medieval pottery.
- 5.2.5 A number of postholes in the eastern part of the site enclosed rectangular areas that may have been internal divisions of a single structure (building group 9230). One of these areas contained an amorphous rubble surface (9006 and 9065), which was probably associated with the structure. A number of possibly contemporary pits lay to the west of this structure. This structure was set at an approximate right angle to the kiln, suggesting that the two were contemporary.
- 5.2.6 In the south-eastern corner of the site was a kiln (9092) consisting of an oval pit cut into the ironstone bedrock, which contained the body of the kiln and was adjoined by two stoke pits (Pl.1). It was orientated north-east/south-west and measured 8.20 m in length by up to 3.60 m in width and 0.85 m in depth. A pedestal for the stacking of pots lay in the central cut, which was serviced by two flues orientated north-east/south-west and situated at opposing ends of the kiln. The entirety of the inside of the structure was lined with clay. Both the form of this structure and a large quantity of later medieval pottery recovered from its fill indicate that it was later medieval in date.

Phase 4 Modern (15th - 20th Centuries AD)

- 5.2.7 Several modern intrusions were noted within the site area. These produced quantities of modern rubbish.

6 RESULTS: SITE 2 (Fig. 4)**6.1 Soils and ground conditions**

6.1.1 The southern part of the site had been contaminated with diesel from an abandoned petrol station and the excavation of contaminated deposits was limited. However, the excavator considered that this did not significantly affect the understanding of the stratigraphic sequence.

6.2 **Distribution and summary of archaeological deposits**

6.2.1 The archaeological deposits were distributed evenly over the site. A number of linear ditches running north-east/south-west and north-west/south-east formed several enclosures situated in the north and east of the site. One of these enclosures contained several beam-slots and a number of post-holes which may have formed a building. A number of pits of varying sizes were scattered around and within this enclosure system. Four parallel ditches situated in the western half of the site and orientated east/west formed the remains of a second system of enclosures. These were also associated with a number of pits forming north/south orientated scatters. A set of east/west and north/south orientated ditches cut the first two sets of enclosures forming a third enclosure system. This was associated with several large amorphous pits. A stone built structure was found in the southern corner of the site and there were a number of rectangular modern intrusions scattered over the excavation area.

6.3 **Preservation of archaeological deposits**

6.3.1 The preservation of deposits on site two was similar to that on site one. The lack of surfaces may indicate some truncation, as does the minimal topsoil cover in the northwest part of the site. although the preservation of cut features was generally good. Some of the finer resolution including floor surfaces associated with the putative timber structures may have been lost.

7 **DESCRIPTION**

7.1 **General**

7.1.1 The natural sand and ironstone was overlain by 0.15-0.60 m of mid orangey brown sandy silt (9301, 9302) which was in turn overlain by 0.30 m of mid dark brown sandy silt topsoil. These deposits were seen across the whole site area.

7.2 **Note on the phasing**

7.2.1 See above.

Phase 1 Early Medieval (12th - 13th Centuries AD)

7.2.2 The first phase of activity comprised a number of linear and curvilinear ditches along with a number of pits and one right-angled ditch. The ditches were principally orientated north-east/south-west and north-west/south-east and were relatively shallow. They appear to form the remains of two sub-rectangular enclosures themselves orientated north-east/south-west. Pottery assemblages from the ditch fills

were dominated by early medieval sherds. These along with stratigraphic and spatial relationships suggest an early medieval date.

- 7.2.3 Within the westernmost enclosure two lines of post-holes orientated north-west/south-east and two shallow gullies orientated north-east/south-west may have formed a structure (building group 9528).
- 7.2.4 A group of large amorphous pits were found in the north-west corner of the site and on the basis of the pottery found in their fills they appear to belong to this phase of activity. Numerous smaller pits were scattered around and within the enclosures. Some of these produced assemblages of early medieval pottery and others were phased on the basis of spatial and stratigraphic relationships.

Phase 2- Later Medieval (13th - 15th Centuries)

- 7.2.5 The second phase of activity comprised four linear ditches and a number of pits.
- 7.2.6 All the ditches extended beyond the eastern limit of the excavation and all were orientated east/west. With the exception of ditch 9460 which was 0.80 m in depth they were shallow and had flat bases with steep sides. Three of the ditches were parallel and were regularly spaced at a distance of approximately 10 m, suggesting that they formed tenement boundaries. The fourth (ditch 9525) lay immediately to the north of ditch 9487. It seems likely that one of these was a replacement for the other, although the lack of a stratigraphic relationship makes it impossible to tell which one came first.
- 7.2.7 A group of pits lay in a north/south scatter within the area of the putative enclosures described above. These varied considerably in size and shape, although there were none on the scale of those assigned to the early medieval phase.
- 7.2.8 A stone structure (9367) lay midway between the two most northerly ditches. The construction cut was probably bowl-shaped and this was lined with limestone blocks forming a right angle on the western and southern sides and following the line of the cut on the north-eastern side. To the north-east was a rectangular extension. Many of the limestone blocks showed heat discoloration on one side. However this was not always the inward facing side suggesting that they had been reused from a previous structure. A single sherd of early medieval pottery came from the backfill. However the stratigraphic and spatial relationships of the structure indicate that this was possibly residual.
- 7.2.9 A large oval pit (9339) was found extending beyond the western edge of the site where it cut an earlier medieval gully.

Phase 3 Modern (15th - 20th Centuries AD)

- 7.2.10 Three ditches, two (unnumbered) running east/west and one (9480) running north/south formed two sides of an enclosure situated in the southern half of the site. The two parallel ditches to the north indicate that it went through several phases of use. The enclosure contained a large amorphous pit in its south-western corner

(9433), which had clearly been re-dug on a number of occasions. The pit was overlain by a short stretch of unnumbered wall. There was also a short stretch of shallow gully running east/west several metres inside the northern boundary of the enclosure.

- 7.2.11 A stone built structure measuring 4 m x 8 m was found in the south-eastern corner of the site. This was rectangular in shape, orientated east/west and constructed of limestone. The walls had a rubble core and were faced with rough blocks.
- 7.2.12 A number of modern intrusions were noted within the site area and these produced quantities of modern rubbish.

8 FINDS

8.1 Pottery

- 8.1.1 The pottery assemblage (excluding that recovered from the kiln) comprised 2555 sherds weighing 31,410 g. The majority of the material (2181 sherds weighing 27,143 g) was late medieval in date and represented kiln waste. There was also some material from the Saxon and early medieval periods and four sherds of Romano-British material. The pottery recovered from the fill of the kiln on site 1 comprised late medieval sherds weighing approximately 521 kg.

8.2 Animal bone

- 8.2.1 The animal bone assemblage comprised approximately 17.5 kg of material, a significant proportion of which were horn cores and most of which was relatively fragmented. There were no large groups of material from individual contexts.

8.3 Small finds

- 8.3.1 There were six small finds, including an iron pin and copper clasp. There was also a flint blade, a flint core, a lead object and an iron object.

8.4 Environmental remains

- 8.4.1 Samples were taken from the middle Saxon building and from later medieval features including the kiln. These are waiting to be processed for carbonised and waterlogged plant remains. The potential of these samples is unknown at present but they are not thought to be especially rich in charred plant material, although the wood ash from the kiln should provide useful information on the fuel used in the kiln.

9 PROVISIONAL INTERPRETATION: SITE 1

Phase 1 Middle Saxon (7th - 9th Centuries AD)

- 9.1.1 This phase consisted of a single building of possible domestic function. Only one sherd of pottery was recovered from this structure and this was of Late Saxon (LS2) date. However, the eastern beam slot was cut by a pit associated with later medieval

activity to the east. Additionally the structure shared a form and an alignment with middle Saxon buildings from the 2001 site to the west.

Phase 2 Late Saxon to Early Medieval (9th - 13th Centuries AD)

- 9.1.2 A single sherd of late medieval pottery was recovered from the northernmost of the two ditches making up this phase. However, given that both ditches were cut by the late medieval kiln it may be argued that this was intrusive. The ditches share an alignment with early medieval ditches found on site 2 to the south. They may be seen as land boundaries defining plots of land aligned on North End to the east. The ditches were not necessarily contemporary and one may be seen as the replacement of the other. However, the absence of a stratigraphic relationship makes it impossible to determine which came first.

Phase 3 Later Medieval (13th - 15th Centuries AD)

- 9.1.3 It is possible that all phase 3 activity was associated with pottery production. The form of the kiln situated in the south-western corner of the site is most similar to Musty's type 2 b kiln (Musty 1974), although with its combination of central pedestal and stoke pits it does not fit any of his types perfectly. Archaeomagnetic dates indicate that the kiln was in operation between 1385 and 1435 and this is supported by approximately 521 kg of later medieval pottery recovered from the fill. The presence of a kiln in the vicinity in 1436 and 1467 was recorded by contemporary historical documents (Serjeantson 1915, 37). These most likely refer to a kiln excavated in 1965 (Hall 1974), which is almost certainly located immediately to the north-west of the Site 1 kiln and was different in form.
- 9.1.4 The post-built structure and associated rubble spread lying to the north-east of the kiln may be interpreted as drying sheds for pots awaiting firing. Although no late medieval pottery was recovered from the fills of the postholes, the alignment of the posthole rows is at an approximate right angle to the alignment of the kiln and at variance with the middle Saxon building to their north-east. The presence of middle and later Saxon pottery in the posthole fills may be explained by residuality, as there was clearly Saxon activity in the area.
- 9.1.5 A sondage cut into building 9008 revealed that the floor of the building was lined with pottery similar to that recovered from the kiln fill. This combined with the fact that building 9008 lies at an approximate right-angle to the kiln cut suggests that the stone buildings were contemporary with the kiln.

10 PROVISIONAL INTERPRETATION: SITE 2

Phase 1 Early Medieval (12th - 13th Centuries)

- 10.1.1 The first phase of activity on Site 2 consisted of several enclosures abutting a north-west/south-east orientated land boundary to the north. These were made up of stretches of intercutting ditches and gullies. The presence of a possible structure in the westernmost enclosure may suggest a domestic function. The general scatter of pits across both enclosures, some of which were very large, may also indicate

domestic activity. However, an industrial function is not ruled out. The dating of the enclosure ditches is based on spatial and stratigraphic relationships and a large assemblage of early medieval pottery. However, there was also a significant amount of residual Saxon pottery suggesting a Saxon presence, although no features of that date have yet been positively identified. The dating of the pits is less secure as many contained no pottery and were therefore dated on the basis of spatial relationships.

Phase 2 Later Medieval (13th - 15th Centuries)

- 10.1.2 A phase of later medieval ditches with an associated pit scatter. These follow a distinctly different alignment from that of the phase 1 enclosures, running roughly east/west. The parallel alignments and roughly even spacing of these ditches suggest that they formed the boundaries of a series of yards backing on to North End to their east. The pits may mark domestic activity within these yards, particularly the disposal of rubbish. The dating of this phase is more problematic as only one of the ditches contained pottery and the argument is therefore dependent on spatial relationships. Not all the pits contained pottery; some are therefore assigned to this phase on the basis of spatial relationships.
- 10.1.3 The distinctive form of structure 9367 with its stone lining and flue suggests that it may have been an oven.
- 10.1.4 Pit 9339 was a large oval pit situated to the west of the main area of later medieval activity. It contained later medieval pottery and was probably dug for rubbish disposal.

Phase 3 Modern (15th - 20th Centuries)

- 10.1.5 The third phase enclosure was aligned roughly north/south and may have abutted North End to the east. In this respect it may be seen as a development of the later medieval yard system. The large amorphous pits contained within it and the building in the south-east corner indicate domestic activity. The fragment of wall overlying the pits may originally have been part of a building; or may represent part of a later land boundary.
- 10.1.6 The various rectangular intrusions scattered over the site may relate to 19th or 20th century industrial activity. One rectangular pit in the south-east corner of the site was related to the twentieth century petrol station.
- 10.1.7 Dating for this phase was based largely on spatial and stratigraphic relationships, although some modern finds were recovered. The north/south ditch contained some residual medieval pottery.

11 POST-EXCAVATION ANALYSIS

11.1 Introduction

11.1.1 It is accepted that the best way to satisfy the analysis and publication obligation requirement of the archaeological evidence from Sites 1 & 2 should be to incorporate the two sites into the analysis programme for the adjacent Saxon and medieval sites (see *Kings Meadow Lane, Higham Ferrers. Post-excavation Assessment and Research design*. OA 2002). The details of that programme will not be reiterated here, but it is worth summarising the research potential of Sites 1 & 2, and how their evidence will contribute to the proposed programme.

11.2 **Research potential**

11.2.1 Chronologically, both sites contain evidence spanning the parameters of the proposed publication. Although some earlier (Roman) artefactual evidence was found on Site 2, no features of that date have provisionally been assigned to that period.

11.2.2 Each phase of activity identified on both sites will add to the overall understanding of the Kings Meadow Lane area in the following ways:

Site 1

The site was situated within 15 m of the southern boundary of the 2001 excavation, and therefore the comparability of the archaeological evidence is most clear.

Middle Saxon

A partially revealed building on Site 1 appears, from its dimensions and orientation, to be a further element of the middle Saxon complex revealed in the 1995 and 2001 excavations. This has evident implications to the understanding of the extent and overall layout of the complex, and adds support to the hypothesis that the trackway bordering the north side of Site 1 did not exist in the middle Saxon period.

Medieval

The two ditches along the south edge of Site 1 could represent continuations of two ditches seen in the 2001 excavation. Although a scatter of early medieval pottery was found, there is no clear evidence of buildings, and this has implications for understanding the character of the postulated late Saxon 'green'.

Late medieval

Although the pottery kiln on Site 1 has not been dealt with in detail in this document, its discovery clarifies the evidence of the 1965 kiln found close by, and arguably that of the possible clay pits found in the 2001 excavation.

Site 2

Late Saxon

The modest scatter of earlier Saxon pottery over Site 2 could indicate the proximity of occupation predating the complex - perhaps contemporary with the SFB clusters found in the 1995 and 2001 fieldwork, although no structural remains appear to be evident.

Medieval

On Site 2 the evidence appears to represent occupation and land division apparently respecting a broad NW-SE orientation, and fronting onto Kings Meadow Lane,

although there is some indication from the distribution of features that a north-south axis (a precursor to North End?) is influencing the land division.

Post-medieval

Although the later post-medieval evidence is of low priority in the research agenda, the shift in orientation - to respect North End and Walnut Tree Green- confirms the cartographic evidence and provides archaeological evidence of last part of the evolution of the local landscape from its mid-Saxon origins.

12 **LOCATION OF ARCHIVE:**

- 12.1.1 The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Northamptonshire County Museums service in due course.

APPENDICES**Appendix 1 Archive quantification****CONTEXTS (No's 9000 - 9527)**

Void- none

527 contexts listed on 10 context register sheets.

Recorded on 527 context sheets and 5 additional sheets.

SECTIONS (No's 1100-1252)

Void - none

152 sections listed on 4 section register sheets.

33 recorded on A4 permatrace sheets.

1 recorded on an A1 permatrace sheet.

PLANS (No's 500 -511)

12 plans listed on 1 plan register sheet.

7 recorded on A4 permatrace sheets.

4 recorded on A1 permatrace sheets.

LEVELS (Sheet no's 60 - 67)

Levels listed on 8 level register sheets.

PHOTOGRAPHS (film No'S 90 - 101)

12 Black and white print films.

12 Colour slide films.

ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES (No's 500- 510)

11 environmental samples listed on 2 environmental sample register sheets.

MASONRY SAMPLES (No 500)

1 Masonry sample listed on 1 masonry sample register sheet.

SMALL FINDS (No's 800 - 805)

6 Small finds listed on 4 small find register sheets

Appendix 2 Finds list**POTTERY**

2555 sherds weighing 31,410 g (non kiln material)

Approximately 5210 g (kiln material)

ANIMAL BONE

Approximately 1750 g of animal bone

SMALL FINDS

1 iron pin

1 copper clasp

1 flint blade

1 flint core

1 miscellaneous lead object

1 miscellaneous iron object

Appendix 3 Bibliography and references

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Appendix 4 Pottery report

By Paul Blinkhorn)

The pottery assemblage comprised 2,555 sherds with a total weight of 31,410 g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference, was 35.60. The bulk of the assemblage comprised waste from the late medieval kiln (2,181 sherds, 27,143 g, EVE = 31.45), but in addition, pottery from the early/middle Saxon period onwards was noted, as were four sherds (73 g) of Romano-British material.

Analytical methodology

The pottery was initially bulk-sorted and recorded on a computer using DBase IV software. The material from each context was recorded by number and weight of sherds per fabric type, with featureless body sherds of the same fabric counted, weighed and recorded as one database entry. Feature sherds such as rims, bases and lugs were individually recorded, with individual codes used for the various types. Decorated sherds were similarly treated. In the case of the rimsherds, the form, diameter in mm and the percentage remaining of the original complete circumference was all recorded. This figure was summed for each fabric type to obtain the estimated vessel equivalent (EVE).

The terminology used is that defined by the Medieval Pottery Research Group's Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms (MPRG 1998) and to the minimum standards laid out in the Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of post-roman Ceramics (MPRG2001). All the statistical analyses were carried out using a Dbase package written by the author, which interrogated the original or subsidiary databases, with some of the final calculations made with an electronic calculator. All statistical analyses were carried out to the minimum standards suggested by Orton (1998-9, 135-7).

Fabrics

The late Saxon and medieval pottery was quantified using the chronology and coding system of the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type-Series (CTS), as follows:

F95: Ipswich Ware Group 1 fabrics, AD725-850. 2 sherds, 59 g, EVE = 0.

F96: Ipswich Ware, group 2 fabrics, AD725-850. 1 sherd, 13 g, EVE = 0.

F97: Raunds-type Maxey Ware, AD650 – 850. 1 sherd, 9 g, EVE = 0.

F100: T1(4) type St Neots ware, AD850-1100. 27 sherds, 115 g, EVE = 0.22.

F102: Thetford ware, AD850-1100. 2 sherds, 23 g, EVE = 0.

F205: Stamford ware, AD850-1250. 16 sherds, 63 g, EVE = 0.10.

F207: Cotswolds-type Oolitic ware, AD975-1150. 4 sherds, 19 g, EVE = 0.

F200: T1 (2) type St. Neots Ware, AD1000-1200. 56 sherds, 361 g, EVE = 0.50.

F330: Shelly Coarseware, AD1100-1400. 171 sherds, 1,858 g, EVE = 2.21.

F360: Miscellaneous Sandy Coarsewares, AD1100-1400. 3 sherds, 56 g, EVE = 0.04.

- F319: Lyveden/Stanion 'A' ware, AD1150-1400. 20 sherds, 374 g, EVE = 0.81.
F320: Lyveden/Stanion 'B' ware, AD1225-1400. 2 sherds, 19 g, EVE = 0.
F328: Grimston ware, 13th – 14th century 1 sherd, 4 g, EVE = 0.
F329: Potterspurty ware, AD1250-1600. 16 sherds, 290 g, EVE = 0.
F366: Raunds-type Reduced Ware, AD1300 – 1400. 2 sherds, 59 g, EVE = 0.06.
F322: Lyveden/Stanion 'D' ware, AD1400-?1500. 3 sherds, 67 g, EVE = 0.
F365: Late Medieval Reduced ware, AD1400-?1500. 6 sherds, 33 g, EVE = 0.
F401: Late Medieval Oxidized ware, ?AD1450-?1500. 2 sherds, 44 g, EVE = 0.
F403: Midland Purple ware, AD1450-1600. 1 sherd, 78 g, EVE = 0.
F404: Cistercian ware, AD1470-1550. 1 sherd, 2 g, EVE = 0.
F406: Midland Yellow wares, AD1550-1700. 3 sherds, 15 g, EVE = 0.
F407: Red Earthenwares, AD1500+. 3 sherds, 179 g, EVE = 0.
F409: Staffordshire Slipwares, AD1680-1750. 2 sherds, 53 g, EVE = 0.
F415: Creamware *c.* AD 1740-1820 . 1 sherd, 12 g, EVE = 0.
F417: Nottingham salt-glazed stoneware AD 1700-1800. 2 sherds, 26 g, EVE = 0.
F413: Manganese Glazed Ware AD1680-1760. 2 sherds, 31 g, EVE = 0.
F426: Iron-glazed earthenwares, 18th – 19th century. 2 sherds, 120 g, EVE = 0.
F1000: Misc. 19th – 21st century wares. 1 sherd, 1 g.

In addition, reduced wares from the kiln on site, which have yet to be incorporated into the CTS, were also noted. The fabric will be fully analysed and defined at a later stage of this project, but the material is typical of the tradition, which is given a general code of F365 in the CTS, and is likely to date to the mid-late 15th century. This assemblage comprised 2,181 sherds with a total weight of 27,143 g (EVE = 31.45). This does not include the material from the stoke-pits and oven of the kiln itself, which is to be assessed in a separate report.

The material from the kiln has been provisionally dated to the second half of the 15th century (ceramic phase Ph5). This will be revised, if necessary, once the TRM dates for the kiln have been received.

An assemblage of Early/Middle Saxon handmade wares (*c.* AD450-850. 17 sherds, 121 g, EVE = 0.12) was also present. Because of the variable nature of this pottery, each site has its own specific fabric series, although in this case, the same categories were used here as were used for the previous (1994) OAU excavations in the vicinity:

F1: Quartz and Oolitic limestone. Sparse to moderate sub-rounded quartz up to 1mm, sparse sub-rounded limestone up to 2mm, rare ooliths, rare black ironstone up to 2mm. 1 sherd, 14 g, EVE = 0.

F2: Sparse quartz up to 1mm, few other visible inclusions. 10 sherds, 60 g, EVE = 0.05.

F3: Granite. Sparse to moderate sub-angular granite lumps up to 2mm, free quartz grains up to 1mm, rare rounded red ironstone up to 2mm. 1 sherd, 5 g, EVE = 0.

F4: Chaff-tempered. Moderate to dense chaff voids up to 4mm, rare quartz grains up to 1mm. 1 sherd. 3 g, EVE = 0.

F5: Quartz tempered. Moderate to dense sub-rounded quartz up to 1mm, rare red and black ironstone, limestone and organic material up to 2mm. 1 sherd, 5 g, EVE = 0.

F7: Red Ironstone. Sparse to moderate sub-rounded red ironstone up to 2mm, rare quartz and limestone up to 1mm. 3 sherds, 37 g, EVE = 0.07.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Appendix 1, with features which produced only kiln waste excluded. The occurrence of the kiln waste by the same parameters is shown in Appendix 2. In both Tables, each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

Chronology

Each context-specific assemblage was given a seriated phase-date based on the methodology defined in the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type-Series (Tables 1 and 2, below).

Table 1: RSP Phases and Major Defining Wares for the Post-Roman Ceramics of Northamptonshire c. 450-1100

RSP Phase	Defining Wares	Chronology
ES	Decorated Early Saxon	c. AD450-650
E/MS	Undecorated Early/Middle Saxon	c. AD450-850**
MS	Ipswich Ware, Maxey-type Wares	c. AD650-850
LS1	T1(4) St. Neots Ware	c. AD850-900
LS2	T1(3) St. Neots Ware, Stamford Ware, Northampton Ware	c. AD900-975
LS3	Cotswolds-type Oolitic Ware	c. AD975-1000
LS4	T1(2) St. Neots Ware	c. AD1000-1100

Table 2: RSP Phases and Major Defining Wares for the Medieval Ceramics of Northamptonshire

RSP Phase	Defining Wares	Chronology
Ph0	Shelly Coarsewares, Sandy Coarsewares	c. AD1100-1150
Ph1	Lyveden/Stanion 'A' Ware	c. AD1150-1225
Ph2/0	Lyveden/Stanion 'B', Brill/Boarstall ware	c. AD1225-1250
Ph2/2	Potterspury Ware	c. AD1250-1300
Ph3/2	Raunds-type Reduced Ware	c. AD1300-1400
Ph4	Lyveden/Stanion 'D' Ware	c. AD1400-1450
Ph5	Late Medieval Oxidized Ware, Late Medieval Reduced ware	c. AD1450-1500

Table 3: Pottery occurrence per ceramic phase by number and wt (in g) of sherds and EVE

Phase	No	Wt	EVE
E/MS	10	66	0.05
MS	1	9	0
LS1	8	31	0.07
LS2	4	19	0.10
LS3	1	4	0
LS4	40	314	0.32
Ph0	132	1208	1.36
Ph1	54	682	1.16
Ph2/0	7	45	0
Ph2/2	17	88	0.12
Ph3/2	8	150	0.12
Ph4	43	666	0.56
Ph5	2208	27579	31.75
Total	2533	30861	35.60

The majority of the pottery from the Ph5 features is kiln waste. The non-kiln pottery from Ph5 contexts comprised 28 sherds, 359 g, EVE = 0.29. The data in Table 3 shows that, kiln waste aside, the majority of pottery at the site was deposited during Ph0 and Ph1, ie. the 13th century, but that there was also low-level occupation at the site from the early or middle Saxon period onwards. This data table was generated before the site matrix was available, so some features may be shown by stratigraphy to be later than the pottery would suggest, especially when the assemblages are very small. Any chronological adjustment which is indicated by the stratigraphy will be carried out at the report stage.

Kiln Waste

The kiln waste assemblage comprised entirely unglazed sherds from a limited range of vessels. The main forms are jugs/cisterns (EVE = 12.74) and pancheons (EVE = 7.69), although fragments of jars (EVE = 1.76) and two rimsherds from possibly the same dripping dish (EVE not calculated due to the asymmetrical form of the vessel) were also noted. This material will be given fuller consideration when the assemblage from the kiln features becomes available for study.

Assessment

Non-kiln material

The non-kiln material from this site will be analysed and published along with the material from the previous years excavations (site HFKLM01). This will require databases to be integrated and the appropriate tables/analyses as defined in the assessment of that site to be updated.

Kiln waste

This material will be assessed along with the material from the components of the kiln when they become available for study..

Bibliography

MPRG, 2001 *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of post-roman Ceramics* Medieval Pottery Res Group Occ Paper 2

MPRG, 1998 *Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms* MPRG Occ Paper 1

Orton, C, 1998-99 Minimum Standards in Statistics and Sampling *Medieval Ceramics*
22-23, 135-8

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Table 4: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type (excluding kiln waste)

Cntx	RB		E/MS		IPS		F97		F100		F102		F205		F207		F200		F330		F360		F319		F320		F328		F329		F366		F322		F365		F401		PMED		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt			
9002			2	39																																				E/MS	
9004			2	19					1	1																														Ph5	
9030			1	3																																				E/MS	
9032								1	6						1	30	1	7																						Ph5	
9043			1	2																																				E/MS?	
9058												1	2																											LS2	
9105													1	4																										LS3?	
9107								2	4																															LS1	
9112								1	2																															LS1??	
9128								1	1																															Ph5?	
9130															1	4																								LS4?	
9141						1	9																																	MS	
9149			3	16																																				E/MS?	
9151			1	3																																				E/MS	
9171			1	2				1	2																															LS1	
9189																																				1	59			Ph5	
9190																	1	33																						Ph0??	
9193																	4	6																							Ph0??
9205																	1	12																							Ph5
9311	2	67																																							RB
9313																	1	10																							Ph0??
9315			1	1																																					E/MS?
9319	1	1																																							RB??
9323																	2	6																							Ph0
9325												1	2																												LS2??
9330							9	40				1	2				3	25							1	5														Ph2/2	
9335																	1	1																							Ph0??
9337																	3	14																							Ph0??
9338													2	11			22	325			7	139	1	15			4	135			1	8	6	33					Ph4		
9340			1	3													11	53			4	55																		Ph1	

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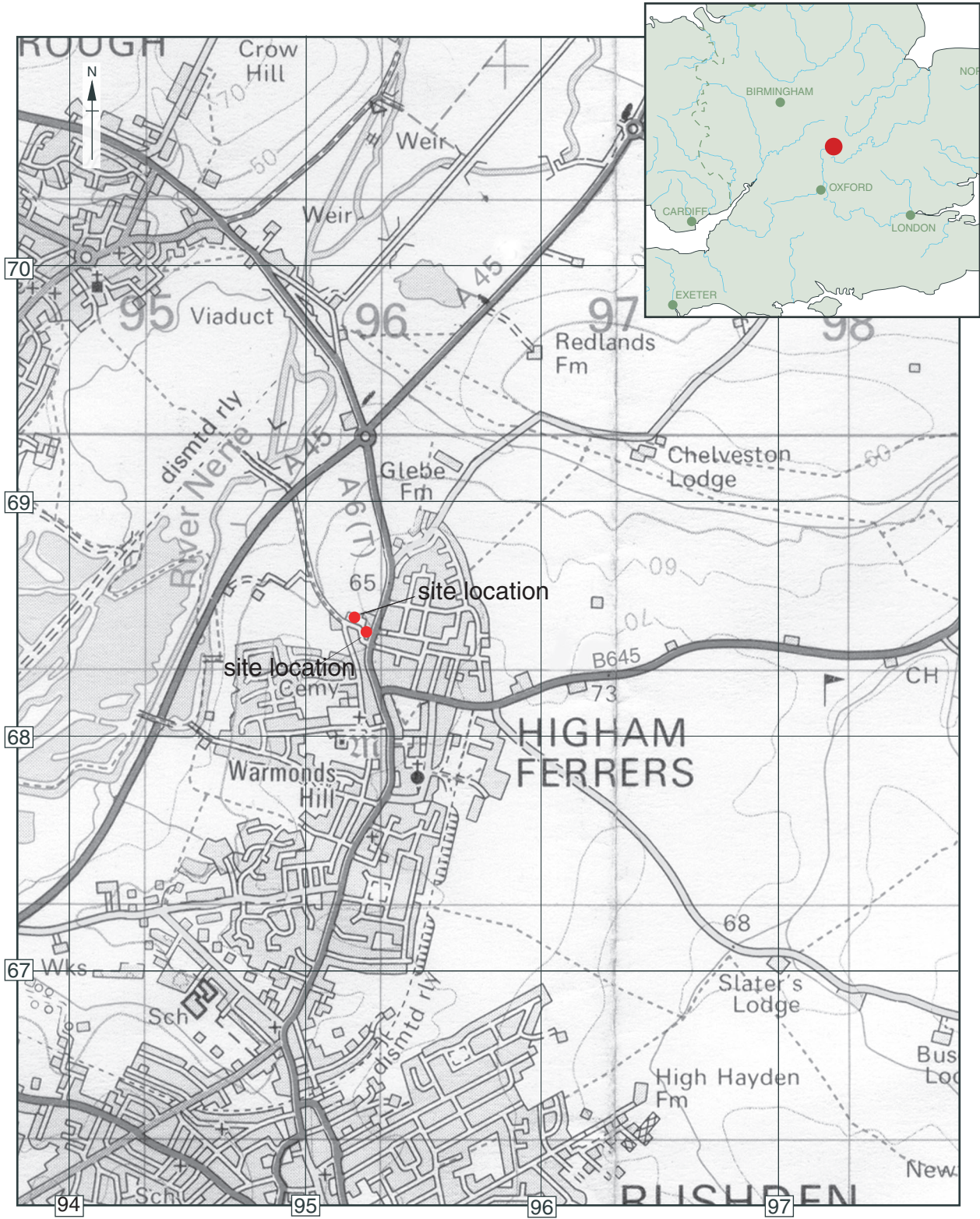
Cntx	RB		E/MS		IPS		F97		F100		F102		F205		F207		F200		F330		F360		F319		F320		F328		F329		F366		F322		F365		F401		PMED		Date	
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt				
9343									4	31	2	23	3	8			22	157																								LS4?
9345																			1	22																						Ph0
9353									1	5																																LS1
9355													1	1			11	58	4	26																						Ph0
9357																			1	7							1	2														Ph5
9361	1	5																	1	9																					Ph0??	
9363																			1	2																						Ph0?
9368																																					1	1				18thC
9372													1	5	1	4			1	1																					Ph0??	
9374									1	5																																LS1??
9386			1	4					2	3			1	7			2	9	2	87																						Ph0
9392																	5	10																								LS4
9394									1	2									2	19																						Ph0
9396																			3	14																						Ph0
9398																	1	11	16	184				1	35																	Ph1
9402			2	27									1	4					4	19								3	54			2	59									Ph5
9405																										1	4															Ph5
9407																			3	29																						Ph0
9410																																										Ph0
9413					2	59										1	9																									LS4
9414					1	13													4	86																						Ph0
9419																				6	41						1	4														Ph2/0?
9421																			2	28																						Ph0
9423																	4	13	3	79																						Ph0
9424																			3	16																						Ph0
9426																			8	149				6	111																Ph1	
9430																												5	85	2	59											Ph3/2
9432																			1	10																	13	329			M18thC	
9436			1	2																																					E/MS??	
9442																			2	26																					Ph0	
9444																			5	53				1	28																Ph1	
9454									1	2			1	2																								2	44			Ph5
9456																			6	73																					Ph0	
9468																			6	61																					Ph0	
9472																			2	2																						Ph0?

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	RB		E/MS		IPS		F97		F100		F102		F205		F207		F200		F330		F360		F319		F320		F328		F329		F366		F322		F365		F401		PMED		Date							
Cntx	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt								
9475																			1	7																						Ph0						
9477																																												Ph2/2				
9479												1	4						2	15																								Ph0				
9481										1	11																																	LS1?				
9483												1	2						19	189																								Ph0				
9486																			1	7																								Ph2/2				
9488												1	13																															LS2??				
9501																					2	44																					Ph0					
9508																																												1	1	19thC		
9510												2	11																																Ph0			
9510																					8	68																							Ph0			
9512																					2	15																							Ph0			
9516																					1	15																							LS4??			
9518																					1	22																							Ph0			
9521																																														2	127	M18thC
Total	4	73	17	121	3	72	1	9	27	115	2	23	16	63	4	19	56	361	171	1858	3	56	20	374	2	19	1	4	16	290	2	59	3	67	6	33	2	44	18	517								

Table 5: Kiln waste from non-kiln features by number and weight of sherds

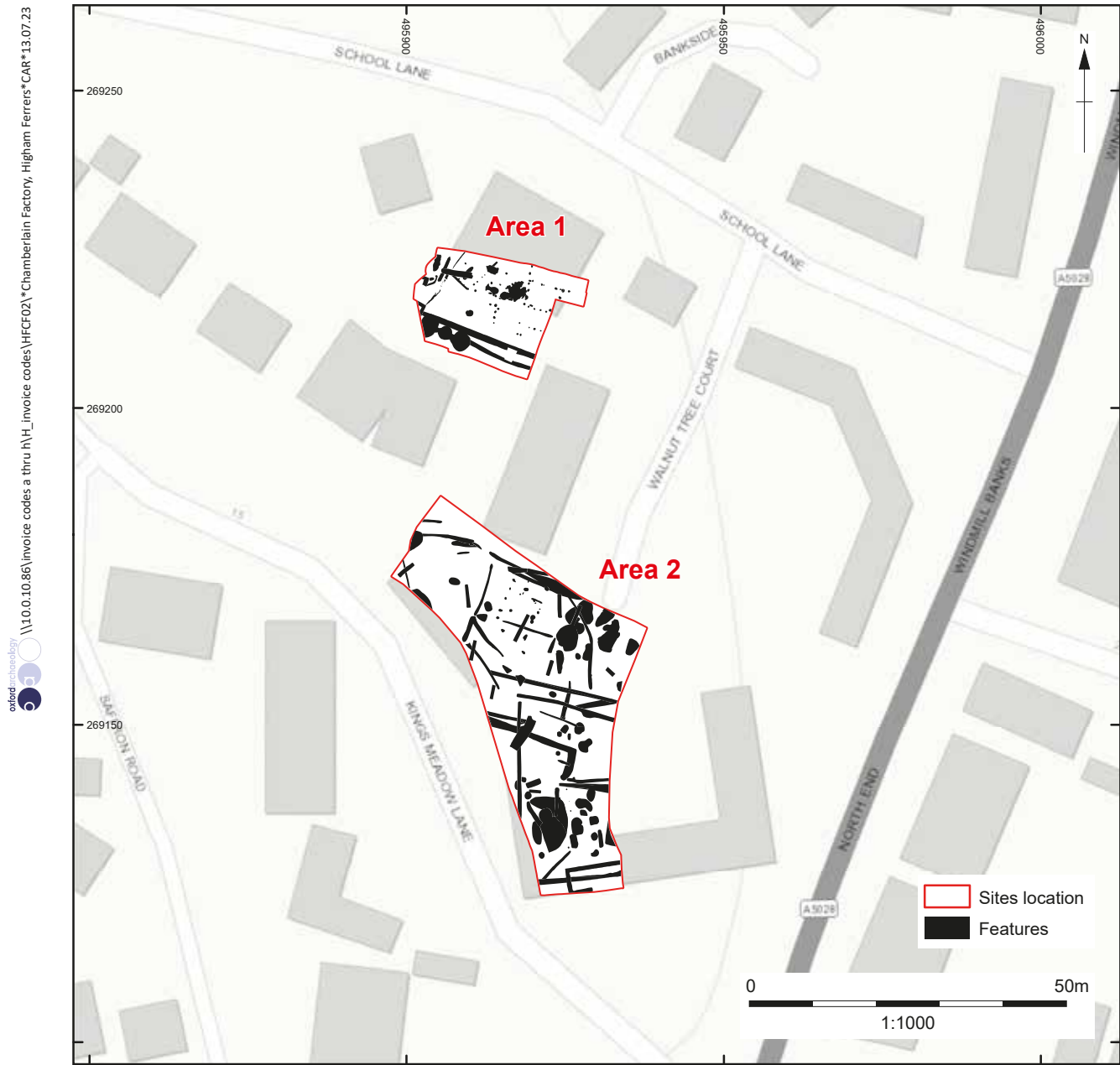
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9012	277	1542	Ph5
9014	14	120	Ph5
9017	6	89	Ph5
9022	16	49	Ph5
9024	3	11	Ph5
9028	2	8	Ph5
9032	39	225	Ph5
9053	1	3	Ph5
9055	2	11	Ph5
9114	6	43	Ph5
9128	1	2	Ph5?
9145	1	1	Ph5
9153	2	6	Ph5
9183	1011	12527	Ph5
9185	35	1566	Ph5
9189	563	8635	Ph5
9205	2	5	Ph5
9224	127	1322	Ph5
9226	3	33	Ph5
9357	4	40	Ph5
9402	4	283	Ph5
9403	3	30	Ph5
9405	2	63	Ph5
9432	1	13	M18thC
Total	2181	27143	



Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location.



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 Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO,

Reconstruction

Figure 2: Location of Sites 1 and 2

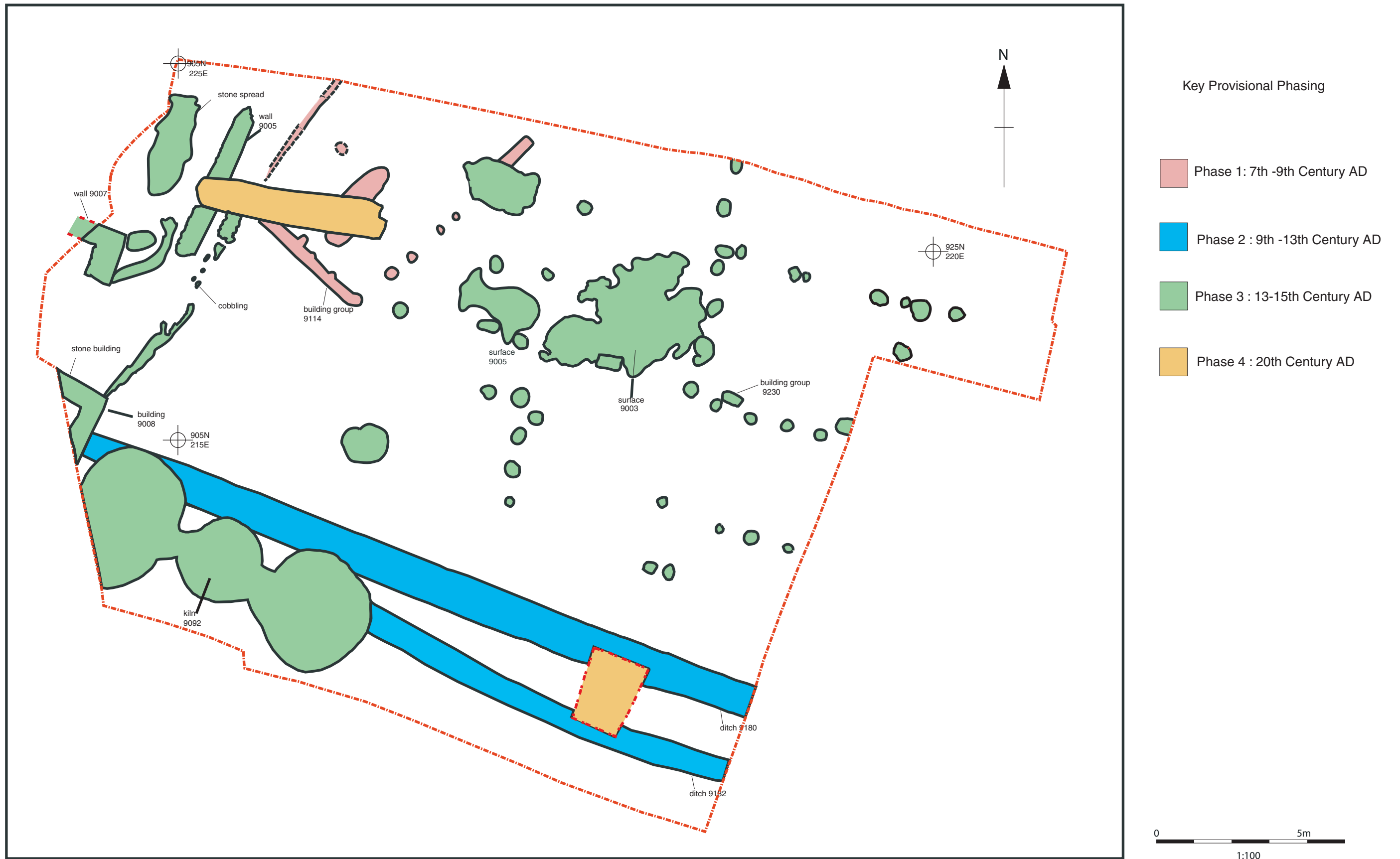
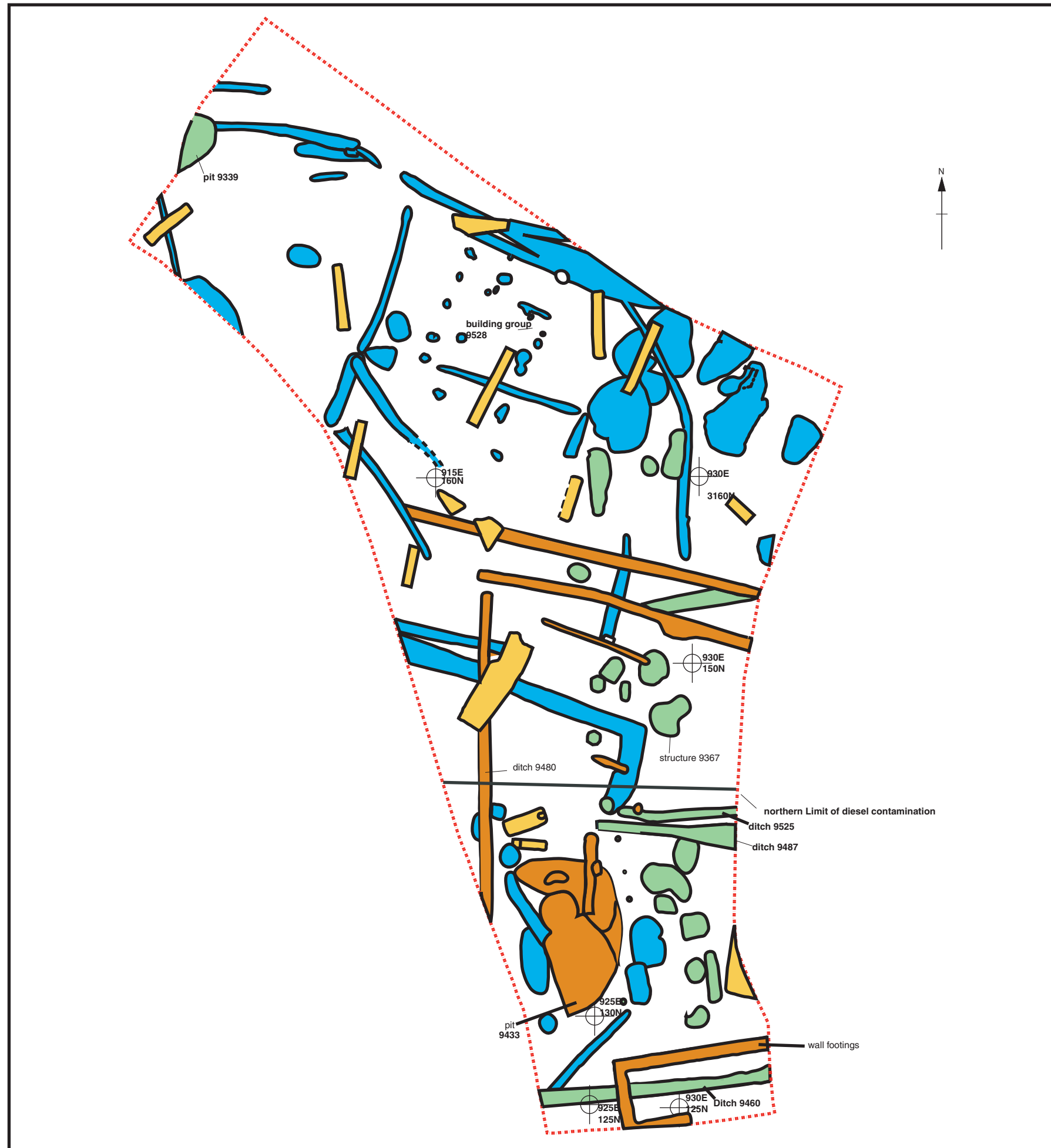


Figure 3 : Site plan of Area 1 showing provisional phasing



Key Provisional Phasing

Phase 2





-  **Phase 1 : 12th -13th Century AD**
-  **Phase 2 : 13th -15th Century AD**
-  **Phase 3 : 15th -19th Century AD**
-  **Phase 4 : 20th Century AD**

Figure 4: Plan of Site 2 showing provisional phasing



Plate 1: Kiln 9092