



Aston Children's Home, Aston, Oxfordshire Archaeological Excavation Report

August 2023

Client: Beard

Issue No: 1

OA Report No: 26038

NGR: SP 33938 03281

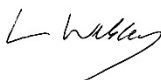


Client Name: Beard
Document Title: Aston Children's Home, Aston, Oxfordshire
Document Type: Excavation Report
Grid Reference: SP 33938 03281
Planning Reference: Pre-application
Site Code: ASWFC22
Invoice Code: ASWFCEX
Accession/HER No.: OXCMS:2021.83

OA Document File Location:

OA Graphics File Location:

Issue No: 1
Date: August 2023
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Aston Children's Home, Aston, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Excavation Report

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Summary

The site lies on the south side of Back Lane, Aston, at NGR SP33938 03281. Following a two-trench evaluation in 2021, excavation of an area of 0.15ha took place in advance of construction of Aston Children's Home from 26 August to 11 November 2022. Apart from an access strip, the excavation area lay 18-53m back from the lane.

Below subsoil, stripping revealed ditches and pits cut into the natural, except in the NE part of the main area, where fragmentary stone structures survived, associated with surviving vertical stratigraphy including floor surfaces and occupation layers.

Other than a little residual prehistoric flintwork and a scattering of Roman pottery and metal finds, almost all of the evidence related to medieval occupation between the 11th century and the end of the 14th century. Three main phases of medieval activity were tentatively identified from the pottery, Phase 1 dating from c 1050-1100, Phase 2 from c 1100-1250, and Phase 3 from 1250-1400. Only a single small feature dating later than this was found, and finds from the late medieval and post-medieval periods were few.

The site was divided by a succession of ditches, most aligned north-west to south-east and south-west to north-east parallel to Back Lane. In Phases 1 and 3, however, some boundaries ran approximately north-south, but as the full extent of the properties was not exposed, the reasons for this are unclear.

The middle part of the site contained a zone of dense intercutting pits, which lay adjacent to and partly overlay ditches of Phase 1 and Phase 2, and were bounded on the north-west by ditches of Phase 3, suggesting separation of the frontage of the medieval properties from the backyard containing the pits. No structures belonging to Phase 1 or Phase 2 were found.

In the NE part of the main excavation area an east-west stone foundation marked the south side of a Phase 3 building, with two floors, one of cobbles, the other of gravel, separated by an occupation layer, and with a hearth north-west of this. Stone-lined drains were found running south-east and east, and probably delineated the limits of the building on the west, although insufficient of the building survived to recover its overall dimensions or character. Pottery from the building was of late 13th and 14th century date, and a group of intercutting pits south-west of the drains that contained domestic waste was probably associated.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Beard for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Richard Oram, who monitored the work on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Stuart Foreman. The fieldwork was directed by Charlotte Bishop who was supported by H Bullmore, R Davison, D Pond, A Rapiejko, C Richardson, E Stanley, C Taplin, D Taylor and E Winter. Survey was carried out by Adam Rapiejko, and digitising and GIS by Aidan Farnan and Marjaana Kohtomaki.

Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Leigh Allen and Rebecca Allen, processed the environmental remains under the supervision of Rebecca Nicolson, and prepared the archive under the supervision of Nicola Scott.

Post-excavation was managed by Tim Allen, who also wrote the discussion. The archaeological narrative was written by Kirsty Smith, who also carried out the documentary research and chose and briefed the plans, section drawings and plates. The plans were prepared by Marjaana Kohtomaki, and the sections and finds drawings by Sophie Lamb.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Beard to undertake an excavation at the site of the proposed construction of a children's home at Back Lane, Aston, Oxfordshire (NGR SP 33938 03281). This work followed on from a two-trench evaluation of the site in 2021 which recorded medieval features (Oxford Archaeology 2021).

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of planning permission granted by Oxfordshire County Council (planning ref: R3.0149/21). The text of archaeological conditions 5 and 6, attached to the permission, are quoted in full below:

1.1.3 **Condition 5:** *Prior to any demolition and the commencement of the development, a professional archaeological organisation acceptable to the County Planning Authority shall prepare an Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation, relating to the application site area, which shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the County Planning Authority. Reason: To safeguard the recording of archaeological matters within the site (WOLP EH15).*

1.1.4 **Condition 6:** *Following the approval of the Written Scheme of Investigation referred to in condition 5, and prior to any demolition on the site and the commencement of the development (other than in accordance with the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation), a staged programme of archaeological mitigation shall be carried out by the commissioned archaeological organisation in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation. This work will need to include formal excavation areas for the new building itself and any associated ground disturbance, as well as excavation along the line of any services trenches. The programme of work shall include all processing, research and analyses necessary to produce an accessible and useable site archive and a full report for publication which shall be submitted to the County Planning Authority within two years of the completion of the archaeological fieldwork. Reason: To safeguard the identification, recording, analysis and archiving of heritage assets before they are lost and to advance understanding of heritage assets before in their wider context through publication (WOLP EH15).*

1.1.5 A design brief for archaeological recording action was set by Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services (OCAS) detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to discharge the planning condition; this document outlines how OA implemented those requirements.

1.1.6 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Code of Conduct (2014a) and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (2014b revised 2020), and local and national planning policies.

1.2 Location, geology and topography

1.2.1 The site is located on the northern edge of Aston, a village located 2km east of Bampton and 16km west of Oxford. Until the later 19th century, Aston was part of the parish of Bampton. In 1866, Aston and Cote formed their own parish, and the village is now part of the parish of Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney, within West Oxfordshire District.

1.2.2 The development site comprises c 0.3ha of land currently under pasture. It is bounded to the north-west by Back Lane, to the west by several houses and to the south-east and north-east by fields.

1.2.3 The site is situated on a plateau of higher ground to the west of Aston at c 70m aOD. The northern part of the site slopes gently down towards the north-east, reaching a height of c 68m aOD in the north-east corner.

1.2.4 The underlying bedrock geology is recorded as Oxford Clay Formation and West Walton Formation (mudstone), a sedimentary bedrock formed c 157–166 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. The bedrock of the southern part of the site is overlain by Summertown-Radley sand and gravel (British Geological Survey 2021). The modern village of Aston is mostly built on the gravel.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in the desk-based assessment (Oxford Archaeology 2020), and this information is summarised below. This background has been updated with the results of a two-trench evaluation of the site which was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology in November 2021 (Oxford Archaeology 2021a). Each of the trenches measured 30m by 1.8m and contained medieval features.

Prehistoric

1.3.2 There is limited evidence of prehistoric activity within the DBA study area, the only recorded finds being a small group of Neolithic and Bronze Age worked flints that were recorded 250m south of the site. A number of cropmark sites on the outskirts of the village could represent later prehistoric or Roman settlement activity.

Roman

1.3.3 In 2002, part of a Roman settlement was recorded during a watching brief 150m south-west of the site. Several features were recorded including a NW–SE aligned ditch and several pits and postholes that contained pottery dating from the late 1st/early 2nd century to the early 3rd century (JMHS 2002). Another watching brief, undertaken 75m west of the site in 2007, recorded further signs of Romano-British activity. This included a series of rectilinear ditches that were thought to represent a Romano-British field system. Few of the ditches were excavated and they were thus undated, although two pits dated to the Roman period (JMHS 2007). During the evaluation of the site, four sherds of Roman pottery were recorded, three within medieval ditch 105 and one within medieval pit 204.

Late Saxon and medieval

1.3.4 Aston was founded in the 10th century, and its name is derived from its being the east tun (settlement) associated with Bampton (Baggs *et al.* 1996, 62-69). During the late Saxon period and the succeeding medieval period it remained part of the principal manor of Bampton. Aston was not listed specifically in the Domesday survey, as it was part of the manor at Bampton, which was split into four landholdings. The principal manor was crown land owned by King Edward prior to the Conquest and King William after. This was by far the largest settlement (probably located in and around Bampton) with 76 heads of household, 26

ploughlands, four mills and two fisheries. The three smaller landholdings (or sub-manors) were owned by the Bishop of Exeter, Bishop Odo of Bayeux and Robert d'Oilly. They each had less than 20 householders and fewer resources, and where these sub-manors were located is uncertain (Open Domesday 2023). One of the four mills was probably located next to Mill Bridge and the Shill Brook in Bampton, but the location of the other mills is unknown. They were probably located at intervals along Shill Brook and associated tributaries north of the Thames, and west of the site.

1.3.5 By 1279, there were around 55 tenants living in Aston. Documentary evidence indicates that some holdings were divided around this time, which suggests that the population was increasing in the late 13th century. The population continued to rise, inhabitants over 14 years of age being 63 in 1306, 78 in 1327 and 156 in 1377. This suggests that the mid-14th century population decline from crop failures and plague was less severe in this manor than in some other parts of Oxfordshire. In the late 17th and early 18th century, however, there were periods of population decline in Aston due to diseases including smallpox (Baggs *et al.* 1996, 62-66).

1.3.6 The late Saxon and medieval settlement was probably concentrated around the triangular green formed by the High Street, Back Lane and North Street. The green may have been divided up into areas of pasture, with larger arable fields located outside the core of the village. The walkover and the LiDAR analysis carried out prior to excavation noted a bank running parallel to Back Lane on the south-east side, on which a hedge and trees have now grown. This bank was noted running all along the lane, and has been suggested to represent a boundary to the late Saxon core of Aston (Fig. 2). Behind the bank the LiDAR shows a broad, slightly sunken area before the ground levels out again. Further earthworks have been observed south-west of the site, located east of Back Lane. Some or all of these earthworks may be contemporary with the late Saxon or medieval settlement.

1.3.7 During the evaluation of the site, later medieval features were recorded in both trenches. Trench 1 contained two SW-NE aligned ditches (104 and 105) and Trench 2 contained one SW-NE aligned ditch (203) and two pits (204 and 205). The two ditches in Trench 1 and two pits in Trench 2 contained pottery dating to the mid-11th to mid-13th century. Ditch 105 was recorded just north of the bank shown on the LIDAR, and it was 3.6m wide and 0.83m deep. It contained eight sherds of pottery dating to c 1150-1250. This bank and ditch may represent an earlier boundary of the village, a property boundary, or a relict field boundary from an earlier field system.

1.3.8 All three ditches recorded by the evaluation were parallel to Back Lane. It is possible that they represent a settlement boundary or sub-division relating to the medieval village of Aston. The two pits contained pottery, animal bone and plant remains and may have been rubbish pits associated with a medieval property. The environmental remains from the ditches and pits were well preserved and indicate a mixed medieval rural economy including arable production of wheat and legumes. Evidence for animal husbandry comprised cattle, sheep/goat, goose, pig and horse. It was suggested that the butchered goose bones might suggest a high-status medieval settlement.

Post-medieval

1.3.9 During the post-medieval period, the site was under pasture and the fields were part of Aston manor. The first detailed cartographic source for the area is the 1857 tithe map, which shows that the site was bounded by a hedgerow on the southern side and was bisected by a hedgerow on the eastern side (OA 2020, fig. 9). These hedgerows were removed during the later 19th century and the site became part of a larger pasture field associated with White House Farm (the latter located to the south-east of the site). In the late 20th/early 21st century, a shed was constructed within the northern part of the site and a dump of spoil was situated in this area.

1.4 Aims and objectives

General aims

- i. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present.
- ii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
- iii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any other remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
- iv. To place the revealed archaeological remains within the wider landscape with reference to the Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment.
- v. To generate an accessible and useable archive which will allow future research of the evidence to be undertaken if appropriate.
- vi. To disseminate the results of the work in a format and manner proportionate to the significance of the findings.

Specific aims and objectives

1.4.1 The specific aims and objectives of the excavation were defined on the basis of the evidence gathered during the evaluation and are drawn from the research agenda for the later medieval period (chapter 16) in the Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment Resource Assessments and Research Agendas (Hey and Hind 2014).

1.4.2 **16.6.1 The origins and nature of nucleated village settlement.** Evidence indicates that Aston was founded in the 10th century and based on the evidence from the evaluation, activity on site had begun by the 11th century. This site therefore provides a good opportunity for developing the understanding of how Aston developed during this period.

1.4.3 **16.6.8 Village shrinkage and abandonment;** change from hamlets to farmsteads. Although Aston did not shrink from a hamlet to a farmstead, the evidence from the evaluation may suggest that activity on site ended by the 14th century, whilst the remainder of the village is known to have continued its development. Any further evidence of this shrinkage or shifting in the settlement pattern may be useful in understanding the broader pattern of village shrinkage during this period.

1.4.4 **16.5.2 Variations in diet may also reflect differences in social status and location in town/country.** The environmental remains on site were shown to be well-preserved and could provide a valuable resource in developing this research objective and the understanding of social organisation.

1.5 Fieldwork methodology

1.5.1 The fieldwork methodology is presented in detail in the written scheme of investigation following OA's standard approach to excavation and recording (OA 2022) in line with national guidelines (CIfA 2014, revised 2020). In summary, 0.15ha was stripped for open-area excavation to investigate the medieval activity revealed during the previous evaluation trenching (Fig. 2). Apart from an access strip little more than 5m wide, the site lay 18-53m from the lane, and consisted of a rectangle 37.5m SW-NE by 35m NW-SE, with an extension to the east c 20m long and 10m wide.

1.5.2 The topsoil (300) and subsoil (301) was removed by a mechanical digger fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. Soils were removed until the first archaeological horizon or the natural geology was reached.

1.5.3 Below the subsoil a metalled layer of stones was recorded within the north-eastern part of the site and several trenches were cut into this layer to investigate the deeper stratified layers beneath it. The north-western part of the site (stripped for access to Back Lane) was partly disturbed by the footprint of a recent building, and could not be fully investigated as live telecommunications cables were detected running parallel with the road.

1.5.4 An excavation plan showing all revealed features was produced by digital survey. Data-capture for site plans was taken for reproduction at a scale of 1:100, with complex features or areas of complex archaeological remains recorded at greater resolution (for reproduction at 1:10, 1:20, or 1:50 as necessary). All plans were established relative to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and all levels were taken relative to Ordnance Datum. The sample of the revealed features investigated by hand was mostly sufficient to establish their character and date. The level of hand excavation was agreed with Oxfordshire Planning Archaeologist, Richard Oram, during regular on-site monitoring meetings. In most cases the following excavation percentages were followed:

- i. Structural features – 100%
- ii. Features relating to specialist activity – none were identified
- iii. Burial contexts (in consultation with OA's Heritage Burials Services and under license from the Ministry of Justice) – None were found
- iv. Discrete features not relating to specialist activity – 50%
- v. Linear features – 10%

1.5.5 A sequence of stratified deposits was found in the northern corner of the main excavation area, including cobbled spreads, drains and a length of a wall foundation. The structural elements were cleaned and recorded, but only a small proportion of these was excavated, and so investigation of the underlying stratigraphic deposits and features was limited. As a result, the total number of archaeological features in this area remains uncertain.

1.5.6 An environmental sampling strategy was set by Rebecca Nicholson (OA's Environmental Manager) and Richard Oram. A total of 36 environmental samples were taken from 35 contexts for the recovery of charred plant remains. Each sample consisted of 40l of soil.

1.5.7 All other finds were recovered by hand and bagged by context.

2 STRATIGRAPHY

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The unphased plan showing the majority of the cut numbers issued to interventions on site and the group numbers for ditches is illustrated on Figure 3, and the phased plan in Figure 4. The archaeological description below should be read in conjunction with both figures.

2.1.2 The natural geology (306) was a mottled bright orange/yellow reddish gravelly clay and was encountered in all parts of the site.

2.2 Prehistoric and Roman

2.2.1 No archaeological features of prehistoric or Roman date were found, but a small quantity of prehistoric worked flint and 24 sherds of Roman pottery were found within medieval features in all parts of the site. The pottery was generally abraded, reflecting its residual occurrence in later features. Three metal objects of probable Roman date were also recovered as residual finds: a coin of Constantine I, an earring and a brooch pin. While the brooch pin and one sherd suggest an early Roman date, the rest of these finds are of middle-late Roman date.

2.3 Medieval: Introduction

2.3.1 The site lay adjacent to, and south of, Back Lane, whose name attests to its medieval origin. Back Lane was orientated roughly south-west to north-east. The evaluation had revealed features of medieval date, so it was anticipated that excavation would reveal further medieval activity within crofts adjacent to the lane, and the orientation of the ditches of the medieval period was unsurprisingly generally either NW-SE at right angles to or SW-NE parallel to the lane. Only an access corridor was available for excavation close to the lane, the main site lying at least 10m further back from the road, away from the frontage.

2.3.2 The phasing of the medieval features is based upon the stratigraphic relationships between them (where present), and upon the pottery that was recovered from the majority of them. Other stratified artefacts were few, and thus the dating of the stratigraphic sequence is reliant upon the pottery typology and sequencing. The date range for many of the pottery fabric types that were recovered is, however, broad, with significant overlap between them, and as many features intercut, the possibility of residual material in the later features is high, and this was borne out by the earlier pottery found in features cutting others with pottery of later date. Features without pottery that have stratigraphic relationships with others that do have also been phased, the dated features regarded as providing either a *terminus ante quem* or *terminus post quem*.

2.3.3 Three phases have been distinguished: an early phase consisting largely of features containing only 12th century pottery, a second phase dating from the 12th century to the mid-13th century, and a late medieval phase covering the rest of the medieval period, although predominantly dating from the later 13th century to the end of the 14th century. The bulk of the occupation activity has been ascribed to the second phase.

2.4 Medieval Phase 1: 1050-1100

Buried soils 474/473

2.4.1 In the north-eastern part of the site the earliest layer recorded over natural (306) was a light brown silty clay (474) which was 0.12m thick and did not produce any finds. This may represent weathered Pleistocene natural forming a Holocene topsoil.

2.4.2 It was overlain by a brown, grey silty clay layer (473) some 0.2m thick that contained occasional gravel (Fig. 9: Section 328). This layer contained 16 sherds of pottery dating from c 1050-1150 and a bone thread-picker. Environmental sample 310 from this context contained charcoal and wheat and oat cereal grains. This soil was only exposed in the north-easternmost part of the site, where preserved beneath the spreads associated with later Building I. It may have been the upper part of the Holocene topsoil mixed by human activity, or alternatively a deliberate build-up layer, perhaps originally part of a bank or levelling layer.

Ditch group 588 and pit 348

2.4.3 One of the earliest features in the eastern part of the site was a north-south aligned ditch (Group 588) that was recut several times (Fig. 4). The ditch group was sectioned towards the south end and partly further north, where the latest phase ditch terminated. In the south section (Fig. 7: Section 345; Plate 1) the initial ditch (544) was at least 1.5m wide and was 0.82m deep with a V-shaped profile. It had three fills, the latest of which (547) contained pottery dating to c 1050-1100. This was truncated on its eastern side by ditch 548, which was 1.3m wide and 0.56 deep with a rounded profile, but had no finds. Ditch 548 was in turn truncated by shallower Phase 2 ditch 550 (Fig. 7: Section 345; Plate 1). To the north of this these ditches were not further investigated, but their combined soilmark broadened to nearly 4m wide, so presumably these ditches hardly intercut further north, the later ditch 548 lying almost entirely east of 544.

2.4.4 A group of pits was evident on the west side of 588. The earliest pit (348) was 1.8m wide and 0.62m deep with one fill (349) but no finds (Fig. 7: Section 313; Plate 2). The relationship of this pit to ditches 544 and 548 seen further south, both of which may have lain just beyond the limits of the excavated slot, was not clearly established, but pit 348 was cut by pit 350, whose fill (351) contained pottery dated c 1175-1300, and it is therefore possible that pit 348 was dug in Phase 1.

Ditch group 585 and ditch 460

2.4.5 Two undated ditches in the western part of the site were stratigraphically earlier than the other ditches and may date from Phase 1 (Fig. 4). The earlier of the two was north-south aligned ditch 460 which was 0.7m wide and 0.2m deep. This was truncated at its southern end by ditch 344, part of group 585, which was aligned ENE-WSW and was 0.9m wide.

2.4.6 Ditch group 585 consisted of three lengths: 344, 450 and 529, separated by later features pit 448 and ditch group 587, which removed the earlier ditch. Ditch length 529 contained two small sherds of pottery dating to 1225-1400, but these are considered to be intrusive from gravelly layer 315 which overlay this part of the ditch (Fig. 3).

Pit 384

2.4.7 Pit 384 was located in the western part of the site and was found below cut 378 of ditch group 587 (Figs 3 and 4; Fig. 8: Section 318). The pit was 0.4m wide and at least 0.74m deep with steep but irregular sides, but was not bottomed. Three fills were excavated, the lowest of which was an orange-grey silt (385) which contained a brooch pin that probably dates to the Roman period but might alternatively be of early medieval date. The uppermost fill (387) contained pottery dating to c 1050-1250.

Pit 445

2.4.8 Pit 445 was undated but was truncated by Phase 2 pit 448, and so is tentatively ascribed to Phase 1. This pit was 0.76m wide and 0.32m deep with a flat base.

Pit 403

2.4.9 Pit 403 in the southern part of the site was truncated by Phase 2 pit 365, so although without finds it may have belonged to Phase 1. This pit was 0.45m wide and 0.26m deep.

2.5 Medieval Phase 2: 1100-1250

Ditch group 587

2.5.1 This NW-SE aligned ditch (587) comprised interventions 531, 415, 322, 378, 443, 527, 316 and 484 from north to south. This ditch was from 1m to 1.8m wide and was around 0.35m deep. No finds were recovered from the fill, but stratigraphically it was relatively early in the sequence. It truncated Phase 1 pit 384 (Fig. 8: Section 318) and pit 445. It also truncated earlier ditch group 585 and was truncated by Phase 2 ditch group 584 and Phase 3 ditch Group 586. The central part of this ditch was also overlain by Phase 3 spread 459. At the south end of the site this ditch replaced an earlier ditch (486) on the same alignment, which was narrower but of similar depth. In the centre of the site cut 443 was 0.44m deep, and truncated an earlier pit or ditch cut 440, which was originally 0.77m deep and contained two fills (441 and 442). Sample 324 was taken from 442 and this contained wheat, barley and oat cereal grains.

Ditch group 584

2.5.2 The earliest of the ditches on a SW-NE alignment, parallel to Back Lane, appear to belong to Phase 2. In this phase the boundaries generally consisted of two lengths, one on the west up to 12m long, the other close to the north-east edge of the site, where ditches 554, 405 and 409 probably all represent different phases of this boundary. Between these Phase 2 ditches was a gap that varied from 12.5m to 17m over time, but in Phase 3 the boundary consisted of much longer lengths of ditch with much smaller gaps between them (Fig. 4, group 586).

2.5.3 The western length was of two phases, the earlier (ditch 330 = 342) lying to the south. Ditch 342 was at least 1m wide and 0.34m deep and contained pottery dating to c 1050-1350. Its length is uncertain as it was overlain by Phase 3 spread 459 on the north-east, which was not removed. This ditch was cut on its north side by ditch 492 which was up to 2m wide and 0.4m deep. Some 6m further south-west evaluation Trench 1 revealed ditch 105 on the same alignment; ditch 105 was 3.63m wide and 0.83m deep with sloping sides and a flat base. It contained five sherds of pottery dating to the 12th to 13th century. The area between ditch

105 and ditches 492 and 330 was largely obscured by a Phase 3 spread that was not excavated, but gaps in this spread revealed natural between them.

2.5.4 Ditch 584 probably continued north-eastwards as ditch 554, which was in line with it, and was 2.65m wide and 0.58m deep, but ditches 409 and 405 to the south may also have been further phases of this boundary. The earlier of these was ditch 409, which was aligned ENE-WSW. This ditch was 0.7m wide and 0.13m deep and it contained pottery dating to c 1100-1250 within its fill. The eastern end of this ditch was truncated by pit 411 which was at least 0.45m wide and 0.74m deep and contained pottery dating to c 1050-1350 within its lowest fill.

2.5.5 Pit 411 was truncated in turn by substantial ditch 405, which, like ditch 554, was on a SW-NE alignment. This ditch was 1.7m wide and 0.85m deep with steep sides. Its lowest fill (407) contained 23 sherds of pottery dating to c 1100-1250 and these were mainly cooking pots. Its upper fill (406) contained 98 fragments of pottery of the same date and also the articulated lower part of the skeleton of a pony. It is probable that this ditch was used to dispose of domestic waste during the Phase 2 period.

2.5.6 Ditch 584 was truncated by Phase 3 boundary ditch 586 to the north (Fig. 8: Section 333). The relationship to boundary 587, which was cut across by ditch 586, was not established.

Ditch 352/550 and pits 350, 352, 355, 358 and 360

2.5.7 In the eastern part of the site, pit 348 was truncated by pit 350 which contained pottery dating to 1175-1300. This pit was in turn truncated by ditch 352 and pit 355 (Fig. 4; Fig. 7: Section 313; Plate 2).

2.5.8 Ditch 352 was the northern rounded terminal of ditch 550, which curved north-westwards at its end. It truncated the south side of pit 350 and also truncated ditch group 588 to the south (Fig. 7: Section 345). This ditch was 0.75m wide and contained pottery dating to c 1050-1250. Environmental sample 317 from the fill of this ditch contained wheat, oat and barley grains along with hazelnut shell. This ditch may have been contemporary with large sub-rectangular pit 355 just beyond its end, which was aligned roughly east-west and also truncated pit 350. Pit 355 contained pottery dating to 1150-1300 within its upper fill (Fig. 7: Section 313; Plate 2).

2.5.9 Ditch 352 and pit 355 were cut by further pits 360 and 358 respectively; both were shallow. Further south, pit 552 also clipped the east edge of ditch cut 550, the continuation of ditch 352. None of these pits contained any finds, but as they only clipped the very edges of boundary 588, and their locations perhaps suggest that the boundary was still extant, they have been tentatively ascribed to late in Phase 2. No Phase 3 pottery was found in boundary 588.

Ditch 334

2.5.10 This NE-SW aligned ditch was located at the southern end of the site and ran on the same orientation as ditch group 584 (Fig. 3). The ditch was 1.42m wide and 0.42m deep. No finds were recovered from the excavation, but this ditch was a continuation of ditch 104 investigated in evaluation Trench 1, and this contained pottery dating to the 11th-14th centuries. Although the pottery would allow for a Phase 2 or Phase 3 date, the orientation

supports a Phase 2 date (Fig. 4). Sample 320 from ditch cut 334 contained wheat and oat cereal grains and fragments of legume.

Ditch 380/454

2.5.11 This ditch was found just west of ditch group 587 on ran NW-SE on much the same orientation (Fig. 3). It was investigated by cuts 380, 454 and 324, and was 0.86m wide and 0.25m deep. At the south end the terminus (454) shallowed and ended just short of pit 448 and ditch 344. It also shallowed to only 0.11m deep at its northern end, but here it cut 323, the fill of cut 322 of ditch group 587. No artefacts were recovered from fills 324 or 381, but Sample 323 taken from 381 contained cereal grains including wheat and oat and free-threshing wheat chaff.

Phase 2 pits in the centre of the site

2.5.12 A variety of Phase 2 pits were recorded across the central part of the site. These included a line of pits (338, 340, 373 and 413) at the west end of ditch group 584; 325 cutting 327 below ditch 330; others (516, 518, 534 and 538) to the east masked by spread 459 (Fig. 8: Section 344); and a cluster 430, 432, 434, 438, 489 and 500 east of boundary 587, also including pits 204 and 205 found in evaluation Trench 2. The pits were mostly steep- or vertical-sided, though some such as 327 and 373 had undercut sides. Many were only partly exposed, but those that were fully visible were mostly circular and from 1.5-2m across, though there were also narrow, elongated pits such as 338 and larger, tadpole-shaped examples such as 340, which was 3.4m by 2.25m across. A few were only shallow but most were deeper, and the range was from 0.13-1.2m deep. Pits 338, 373, 413 and 489 contained pottery dating to c 1050-1250 and pits 327, 340, 516 and 518 contained pottery dating to 1150-1350.

Phase 2 pits in the southern part of the site

2.5.13 Large pit 365 lay south of the central cluster and was oval in plan. This pit was 3m long by 1.7m wide and 0.86m deep with three fills (366, 369 and 368). Its upper fill 368 contained pottery dating to c 1250-1500. Pit 365 truncated undated pit 403, and was itself truncated by Phase 3 ditch 365.

2.5.14 Pit 309 lay west of ditch 486 and north of ditch 334. It was 0.91m in diameter but only 0.14m deep with a single fill that contained pottery dating to c 1050-1250.

2.5.15 Pit 448 truncated the eastern end of Phase 1 ditch group 585. It was 1.24m wide and 0.48m deep with one fill which contained wheat, barley and oat cereal grains (sample 306) but no artefacts.

Pit 508 on the west edge of the site

2.5.16 Pit 508 was located in the north-western corner of the main part of the site and was at least 0.58m wide and 0.22m deep. It was undated but was truncated on its north side by Phase 3 ditch 510 (Group 586) (Fig. 9: Section 341).

Phase 2 pits and layer 580 in the NE part of the site

2.5.17 Three pits (542, 560 and 570) and layer 580 predated the Phase 3 Building 1 layers, and all three were exposed in sondages (Fig. 4). It is therefore likely that further Phase 2 pits existed below the Phase 3 layers in this part of the site.

2.5.18 Pit 560 was the westernmost of the three pits and the north-eastern part of the pit was exposed. This was at least 0.62m long and 0.57m wide, and the pit was 0.74m deep with steep sides (Plate 6). Its three successive fills (561-63) contained no datable material. Samples 326 and 327 were taken from lower fills 561 and 562 respectively and they contained remains of wheat, barley, oats and cess-like material. The pit was truncated by Phase 3 wall or stone foundation layer 566.

2.5.19 Pit 570 was located 2m east of pit 560 and only the north-western part was exposed. This was at least 1m long and 0.35m wide, but was only 0.12m deep (Fig. 8: Section 348). Its single fill contained no datable material but it was truncated by stone structure 569. It was also overlain by Phase 3 occupation layer 476 which contained pottery dating to c 1275-1400. This may have been equivalent to layer 498 located 1m to the east which contained pottery dating to 1225-1350 (Fig. 9: Section 329).

2.5.20 Pit 542 was located further to the north-east, and only the south-eastern part was exposed within the sondage. It was at least 0.35m by 0.27m across and was 0.15m deep with a single fill but no finds. It was overlain by Phase 3 occupation layer 507 (Fig. 9: Section 329).

2.5.21 Layer 567/580 was recorded as predating the Phase 3 occupation layers in the north-eastern part of the site. This friable dark grey/brown layer was estimated to be 5m long and was around 0.2m deep. At its western end it was cut by wall 578 and drain 575 (Fig. 9: Section 349) and further east it was cut by wall or stone foundation layer 566.

2.6 Medieval Phase 3: 1250-1550

Ditch group 586

2.6.1 This ditch consisted of two lengths, both of which terminated in the centre of the site with a gap of c 6m between them. The western length was aligned ENE-WSW, and was investigated by interventions 510, 375, 417 and 494 (west to east). It truncated earlier ditches 584 and 587 close to its east terminus (Fig. 8: Section 333). The ditch was of fairly even width throughout, at about 0.7m wide, and was generally only 0.2m deep, though 0.35m deep at the western end (Fig. 9: Section 341). This ditch produced pottery dating to c 1050-1250 from intervention 510.

2.6.2 The eastern length was on a slightly different orientation, more SW-NE parallel to Phase 2 ditches 554, which it cut, and 405. It was investigated by interventions 581 and 557. It was of similar width to the western length at the terminus, but widened considerably towards the north-east edge of the site, becoming 2.57m wide and 0.46m deep at the eastern end. The ditch contained pottery dating to c 1225-1350 (intervention 557).

2.6.3 Between the two ditch terminals was an elongated pit (421) whose long axis was broadly in line. This feature was at least 2.5m long, was 1.6m wide and 0.66m deep with two fills, which produced pottery dating to c 1100-1250. Rather than a pit this may have been a short length of ditch spanning part of the gap, and creating two smaller gaps or entrances 1.5m wide and 2m wide to the west and east respectively. Ditch 421 was truncated on its

eastern side by pit 419, which was 1.3m wide and 0.3m deep and contained pottery dating to c 1150-1250. This pottery may have originated from the earlier ditch 421.

Ditches 363 and 502

2.6.4 Phase 3 ditches 363 and 502 lay south of boundary 586 in the centre of the site. Ditch 363 was aligned NNW-SSE and ran south beyond the limits of the site, dividing the site into two. Its northern limit was obscured by an occupation spread that was not removed. Ditch 502 was a short length roughly at right angles, and a slight spur on the west side of ditch 363 adjacent to ditch 502 further emphasises their likely contemporaneity. Ditch 502 was on a very similar alignment to the western length of boundary 586, and ditches 363 and 502 are therefore likely to have been associated with 586, with which they may have formed the corner of an enclosure on the west.

2.6.5 Ditch 363 was only investigated in one location, where it cut Phase 2 pit 365. The ditch here was 0.8m wide and 0.24m deep and its fill (364) was sterile.

2.6.6 Ditch 502 was aligned ENE-WSW and it truncated Phase 2 pit 500 on its northern side. The ditch was a little over 7m long and from 1.25m wide at the west to 1.65m wide at its east end. It was 0.66m deep and its fill contained pottery dating to 1225-1400.

Spread 459

2.6.7 An amorphous spread of dark brown silty clay (459, also numbered in places 324, 333 and 383) extended for around 28m in a band up to 20m wide across the western and central part of the site. This layer overlay the phase 2 pits and parts of the ditches in this part of the site, but the excavated sample did not contain any artefacts. Samples 318 and 319 taken from this layer contained free-threshing wheat chaff, wheat, barley and oat cereal grains and hazelnut shell.

2.6.8 During the excavation it was observed that the ground surface dropped just to the south of ditch Group 586, and a generally lower area is evident on the LiDAR plan (Fig. 2). The irregular and bulbous shape of this deposit in plan probably in part reflects the pits in whose tops it lay. Although only a small proportion of this layer was excavated, a significant number of pits were found beneath it, and when the Phase 2 ditches are also taken into account this suggests that this was a concentrated zone of pits and ditches, the settling of whose fills had led to a slight hollow. Spread 459 may then have been a combination of soil upcast from the excavation of ditch group 586, inwashing of topsoil from the surrounding area and plant material from the processing of cereals and other foodstuffs accumulating in the hollow.

Metalled surface 315

2.6.9 South of spread 459 a thin grey-brown gravelly layer (316) covered ditch 527 and 529 (ditch groups 587 and 585) in the southern-central part of the site (Fig. 9: Section 342). This layer was 0.06m thick and extended 7m north to south and 5m east to west. The layer contained pottery dating to c 1250-1500. The purpose of the gravelly layer is unknown, but it may have served as an area of hardstanding for livestock.

Building 1 and pits to the south

2.6.10 Fragmentary remains of a probable stone building on east-west alignment were recorded in the north-eastern part of the site. The extent and character of the stone spreads is shown in Figure 5, and a plan outlining the main elements in Figure 6; Plate 3 also shows a general view of this part of the site. The extent and form of the building are hard to discern as only the foundations of one identifiable east-west wall (478) were present, disturbed and mixed in part with an upper metalled stone occupation layer (559). North of the surviving wall there were a sequence of floor and occupation layers and (to the north-west) a probable hearth. The successive floors recorded in Sections 329 (Fig. 9) and 348 (Fig. 8) suggest more than one phase of use. Other elements related to the probable building included lengths of drain (469, 470, 479 and 575).

2.6.11 A trench was dug on a north-south orientation at right angles to wall 478 to record the stratigraphy associated with the building (Fig. 9: Section 329). The earliest deposit was a layer of firm greyish brown clayey silt only 0.05m thick found below the wall and to the south that contained pottery dating to c 1225-1350. It was overlain by 476, a soil of almost identical description but up to 0.12m thick, which also underlay the wall and extended southwards beyond 477 and was equivalent to layer 498 south of 588, the cut for drain 479. Layer 496 contained pottery dated c 1275-1400. This layer was cut into by the construction trench for stone foundation 478, which was only 0.08m deep. This foundation was 3.7m long and 0.83m wide in plan. The stones filling the trench included some larger edging stones up to 0.2m by 0.2m, but most were unmodified small limestones, roughly 0.1 by 0.05m across, some set at an angle. Pottery dating to c 1225-1400 was recovered from the foundation. There was no mortar, and this appears more likely to represent the foundation for a timber superstructure laid on sill-beams than a stone wall.

2.6.12 At the north edge of the foundation layers 476 and 477 were cut away and replaced by a sequence of floor and occupation layers (Fig. 9: Section 329). The earliest of these was layer 507, a floor of gravel and limestone fragments between 0.02 and 0.05m thick. This layer incorporated residual Roman pottery and a lump of slag. The floor was overlain by occupation layer 506 which was a dark grey-brown silt up to 0.06m thick that contained pottery dating to c 1275-1400 and a further lump of slag. Sample 313 from this deposit contained wheat and oat cereal grains and fragments of legume and hazelnut shell. The floor and occupation layer demonstrate that the interior of the building was north of wall 478.

2.6.13 Occupation layer 506 was overlain by a stone surface 497 (Fig. 6; Fig. 9: Section 329), cleaning of which (numbered 488) produced pottery dating to c 1225-1400. The surface of this floor was level with the base of stone foundation 478, and ended just short of it. Floor layer 497 was overlain in turn by a redeposited yellow gravel 496 which was 0.15m thick and ran right up to the stones of the wall foundation, and which also contained pottery dating to 1225-1400. This was presumably either a make-up layer for a further floor or a resurfacing of the floor. Layer 496 was truncated by pit 522, which was 0.45m wide and 0.45m deep and was located at the northern end of the section.

2.6.14 A further trench was excavated north-west of this to investigate the stratigraphy in detail (Fig. 9: Section 328; Plate 4). Here the Phase 1 buried soil 473 was overlain and slightly truncated at the south-east end (closest to the floor sequence described above) by a layer of yellow gravel 471, which was at the same level as layer 496, and was probably a continuation of the same floor. Layer 471 was overlain by a thin spread of limestones numbered 470, which may represent either the remains of a further stone floor or debris from the demolition of

the building. Further north-west, layer 473 was truncated by pit 467, which was 0.60m wide and 0.28m deep and contained a yellow silty clay, but no finds. This was overlain by a dark red (heat-affected) silty clay layer (466) which contained fragments of burnt stone, and is suggestive of a hearth. In Plate 3 a further area of reddened soil is visible against the edge of the excavation south-west of 466, indicating that the hearth area was more extensive. The hearth is at the same level as floor 471, and is likely to belong to a similar phase of occupation of the building. The hearth was subsequently overlain by a layer of brown silty clay 465, which was sterile, and probably represents a slow soil accumulation after the building had been abandoned.

2.6.15 Outside the building just south of wall 478 the base of a possible posthole (520) was found cut into layer 476 in the north-south trench (Fig. 6). This feature was 0.45m wide and 0.12m deep and contained no finds. This may have been related to the building, perhaps representing a localised repair.

2.6.16 Some 1.3m south of the building layer 476 was truncated by a stone drain 479. This ran east-west roughly parallel to the building, and was well preserved for a length of 5m within and east of the north-south trench. Here it was constructed of limestone slabs 0.15m wide and 0.30-0.60m long arranged lengthways at the base of the drain, and with walls of unmortared limestones 0.2m wide either side. The width of the drain between the walls was 0.16-0.20m. No capping stones survived, so it is likely that these had either been robbed or the drain otherwise truncated.

2.6.17 West of this the drain was very poorly preserved, though traces were planned continuing for another 5m westwards, and then turning WSW to meet drain 575 running NW-SE. This westward continuation was numbered variously cut 583 filled with stones 569 (Fig. 8: Section 348), cut 564 filled with stones 566 in the slot west of that (Plate 6) and 576 filled by stones 578 at the junction with drain 575 (Fig. 9: Section 349). It appears that this drain may have been added to drain 575, or have diverted it eastwards, though both drains were poorly preserved at this point, and the relationship is not entirely certain. Drain 575 was only well-preserved in short stretches, but was traced over a length of 4.3m, continuing beyond the north-west edge of the site. Unlike drain 479 it did not have a stone base, but the walls were similar, made from roughly squared limestone blocks which were around 0.2m by 0.2m in size, and the channel between them was 0.15-0.18m wide (Fig. 9: Section 349).

2.6.18 A series of intercutting pits were located adjacent and south of the western end of Building 1 including pits 302, 390, 394, 396, 400 and 406 (Fig. 9: Section 314). The earliest of these was pit 396 which was at least 1m wide and 0.46m deep and contained three fills (387, 398 and 399). The upper fill (399) contained pottery dating to 1100-1250 and a lead alloy buckle dated c 1400-1600. This was truncated by large pit 390 which was 0.8m wide and 0.96m deep with three fills (391, 392 and 393) (Plate 5). Its lowest fill (391) contained pottery dating to 1050-1250 and the latest fill contained pottery dating to 1150-1300. The middle fill (392) contained charcoal, clinkered material, wheat and oat grains, legume fragments, hazelnut shells and fish scales within Sample 303. This assemblage, and particularly the fish scales, suggests a dump of domestic food waste. Pit 400 truncated the upper fill of pit 396 and was 0.66m wide and 0.2m deep. This contained pottery dating to 1100-1250 in its upper fill. Pits 390 and 400 were truncated by later pit 394 which was 0.7m wide and 0.48m deep with a single sterile fill of yellow clay. The buckle from pit 396 shows that much of the pottery

in these pits is residual. The proximity of these pits to Building 1, and the environmental evidence from pit 390, strongly suggests domestic waste disposal from this building.

Structure 1

2.6.19 Another stone-lined drain (512) was recorded in the north-western part of the site (Fig. 4; Plate 7). This drain was built within construction cut 524, which was nearly 0.5m deep. The drain had stone slabs up to 0.65m wide along the base and small roughly-shaped limestones at the sides surviving 3-4 courses high (Fig. 9: Section 341); the channel between the sides was 0.17-0.20m wide. The fill of the construction cut (525) contained pottery dating to c 1175-1400, and the drain cut through Phase 3 ditch 586 (Fig. 9: Section 341). This drain may have been associated with another stone building to the north.

Pits in the central part of the site

2.6.20 Within the main area, a small pit 426 was cut into the east end of Phase 2 ditch 409. This pit was 0.6m in diameter and 0.2m deep with a single fill that was without finds.

2.6.21 Pits 480 and 482 were located in the central part of the site south of the western gap in boundary 586, and appeared to truncate layer 459 in plan. Pit 480 was the earlier of the two and was 1.7m wide and 0.12m deep with one fill (481). It was truncated on its northern side by pit 482 which was 1.4m wide and 0.74m deep with one fill (483) which contained pottery dating to c 1050-1250. Sample 331 from pit 482 contained wheat and oat grains and legume fragments.

2.7 Post-medieval Phase 4: 1550-1900

2.7.1 Pit 302 was last in the sequence of intercutting pits to the south of Building 1, and it truncated the upper fill of pit 390 (Fig. 9: Section 314). This pit was 0.94m in diameter and 0.12m deep and its fill 303 contained a bodkin dated to 1600-1800.

2.7.2 Pit 428 truncated the upper fill of Phase 2 pit 438 in the centre of the site. This pit was 0.92m wide and 2m long and was 0.2m deep. It contained pottery dating to c 1820-1900.

2.7.3 The subsoil layer (301) contained pottery dating to c 1760-1800 and metal finds dating to 1600-1900.

2.8 Undated

2.8.1 A handful of isolated pits which contained no artefactual material were located around the site.

2.8.2 Pits 388 and 307 were located in the southern part of the site. Pit 388 was sub-rectangular, and was 2.5m long, 1.7m long and 0.27m deep with shelving sides coming to a pointed base. This may have been a natural feature. Pit 307 was only 0.32m in diameter and was 0.04m deep.

2.8.3 Pits 320 and 456 were located in the eastern part of the site. Pit 320 was 0.74m in diameter and 0.18m deep. Pit 456 was more substantial and was 1.67m in diameter and 0.72m deep.

2.8.4 Pit 504 was located in the northern part of the site and just east of ditch Group 587. It was broadly sub-rectangular in plan, though somewhat irregular, and was 2.5m long, 1.8-

2.2m wide and 0.2m deep with a shallow profile. Wheat and oat cereal grains were recovered from environmental sample 312.

2.8.5 A band of soil approximately 5m wide aligned SE-NE was found straddling the narrowest part of the irregular area stripped for access at the north-west corner of the site. This was noted to contain gravel and stones, but was not further investigated, as it was believed to be of recent date. It appears to correspond broadly to the footprint of the shed marked on recent maps of the late 20th/early 21st century (Fig. 2), and was probably the area dug out for the foundations of this building.

3 ARTEFACTS

3.1 Roman pottery

By Edward Biddulph

3.1.1 Twenty-four sherds of Roman pottery were collected from the site, including five recovered from sieved samples. Many of the sherds were found in association with medieval or post-medieval pottery and therefore were residual. The few Roman-period sherds not associated with later pottery were, like the residual material, small and abraded and are likely also to be residual.

3.1.2 Quantification of the pottery – by number of sherds, weight, minimum number of vessels based on rims (MV), and estimated vessel equivalents based on rims and expressed as a percentage – is presented in Tables 1 and 2. A description of the pottery by context is provided in Table 3. Fabric codes are taken from Oxford Archaeology's recording system for later Iron Age and Roman pottery (Booth, nd).

| Fabric | Description | No. sherds | Weight (g) | MV | EVE (%) |
|--------|--|------------|------------|----|---------|
| B11 | Dorset black-burnished ware (DOR BB 1) | 1 | 6 | 1 | 3 |
| F50 | Unsources colour-coated ware | 1 | 3 | | |
| F51 | Oxford red colour-coated ware (OXF RS) | 2 | 87 | | |
| O10 | Unsources fine oxidised ware | 1 | 3 | | |
| R30 | Unsources medium sandy reduced wares | 14 | 149 | 2 | 13 |
| Total | | 19 | 248 | 3 | 16 |

Table 1. Quantification of the Roman pottery (National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes (Tomber and Dore 1998) in brackets)

| Fabric | Description | No. sherds | Weight (g) | MV | EVE (%) |
|--------|--|------------|------------|----|---------|
| E80 | Grog-tempered ware (SOB GT) | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| F51 | Oxford red colour-coated ware (OXF RS) | 2 | 2 | | |
| R30 | Unsources medium sandy reduced wares | 2 | 9 | | |
| Total | | 5 | 13 | 1 | 2 |

Table 2. Quantification of the Roman pottery from sieved samples (National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes (Tomber and Dore 1998) in brackets)

3.1.3 Apart from a single rim sherd from a jar in fabric E80, which was manufactured in the late Iron Age or early Roman period (c AD 1–100), the small assemblage has a middle or late Roman emphasis.

3.1.4 Middle to late Roman pottery (c AD 120–410) included a body sherd in fabric R30 from a jar with lattice decoration – probably copying a black-burnished ware cooking-pot – and a base sherd from a dish or bowl, also in fabric R30. Another dish or bowl was represented by a small base sherd in an unsourced brown colour-coated fine ware (F50). This may be a product of the Oxford industry – potentially a fabric of 2nd century or later date

manufactured at Nuneham Courtenay (F59; Booth 1993, 140), and indeed a sherd of fabric F59 was recovered from the earlier evaluation of the site (Cotter 2021) – but the identification is uncertain.

3.1.5 Late Roman pottery (c AD 240/50–410) included base sherds in fabric F51 from dishes copying samian form Dragendorff 31 (Young 1977, type C45) – two vessels are represented – and a rim sherd from a dropped flange bowl in fabric B11. Fine oxidised fabric O10 may be more properly identified as a worn example of fabric F51, but the sherd is too small for the identification to be confirmed.

3.1.6 The condition of the pottery is poor. The overall mean sherd weight (weight divided by number of sherds) is 11g, although this increases to 13g when the sieved pottery is removed. The values nevertheless point to an assemblage that comprises sherds that have been subject to disturbance and redeposition, for example through agricultural activity. This is supported by the fact that many sherds are clearly residual, having been found in post-Roman deposits.

3.1.7 Roman activity is known to exist close to the site, with pits, ditches and postholes having been recorded between 75m and 150m to the west. The pottery within the current assemblage may well have derived from the settlement indicated by such features.

| Context | Fabric | Type | Sherds | Weight (g) | EVE (%) | MV | Comments | Vessel date | Spot date |
|---------|--------|------|--------|------------|---------|----|---|-------------|-------------|
| 301 | R30 | Jar | 1 | 31 | 6 | 1 | Rim from necked jar with thickened everted rim. Fresh. | AD 43-410 | c1765-1800 |
| 301 | F51 | | 1 | 57 | | | Footring base sherd from dish (Young 1977, type C45). Abraded. | AD 240-410 | c1765-1800 |
| 335 | R30 | Jar | 1 | 11 | 7 | 1 | Necked jar with hooked everted rim. Slightly abraded | AD 43-410 | Roman |
| 374 | R30 | | 1 | 8 | | | Body sherd from jar with lattice decoration | AD 120-410 | c1150-1250? |
| 374 | R30 | | 1 | 4 | | | Body sherd from vessel of uncertain form | AD 43-410 | c1150-1250? |
| 376 | R30 | | 1 | 3 | | | Narrow two-ribbed handle from flagon (?) | AD 43-410 | Roman |
| 402 | R30 | | 1 | 3 | | | Body sherd | AD 43-410 | c1100-1250? |
| 406 | R30 | | 6 | 43 | | | Body sherds from two vessels, including lower wall/base sherds. Abraded | AD 43-410 | c1100-1250? |
| 412 | B11 | Bowl | 1 | 6 | 3 | 1 | Rim from dropped flange bowl | AD 250-410 | Roman |
| 449 | F51 | | 2 | 2 | | | Body sherds from sieved sample | AD 240-410 | c1050-1250 |
| 449 | E80 | Jar | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | Rim sherd from jar. Sieved sample | AD 1-100 | c1050-1250 |
| 501 | R30 | | 1 | 8 | | | Body sherd in brown sandy fabric with much mica. Sieved sample | AD 43-410 | c1175-1400? |
| 507 | R30 | | 1 | 31 | | | Abraded. Flat base from strainer with multiple perforations made after firing | AD 43-410 | Roman |

| Context | Fabric | Type | Sherds | Weight (g) | EVE (%) | MV | Comments | Vessel date | Spot date |
|---------|--------|------|--------|------------|---------|----|--|-------------|-------------|
| 507 | F51 | | 1 | 30 | | | Abraded. Footring base from dish (Young 1977, type C45) | AD 240-410 | Roman |
| 517 | R30 | | 1 | 1 | | | Sieved Sample. Abraded body sherd | AD 43-410 | c1175-1300? |
| 533 | F50 | | 1 | 3 | | | Base sherd from dish or bowl with brown colour-coat. ?Oxford product (F59; Booth 1993). Abraded | AD 100-400 | c1175-1400? |
| 545 | O10 | | 1 | 3 | | | Abraded body sherd. Possibly Oxford red colour-coated ware with no trace of slip | AD 50-410 | Roman |
| 547 | R30 | | 1 | 15 | | | Flat base sherd from dish or bowl; fine sandy, glauconitic, grey-brown fabric; dark grey, burnished surfaces | AD 120-410 | c1050-1100? |

Table 3. Description of Roman pottery by context

3.2 Post-Roman pottery

By John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

3.2.1 The excavations produced a total of 521 sherds of pottery weighing 6709g. These produced a total EVEs (a measurement or summation of rim circumference) of 4.54. The total number of rim sherds present was 73. An additional 69 sherds (244g) of pottery (mostly very small sherds/scrap) came from sieved samples. These were briefly scanned and spot-dated, but otherwise excluded from the main catalogue of hand-retrieved sherds. The hand-excavated total includes 19 sherds of residual Roman pottery while the sieved total includes another 5 sherds. Aside from a single sherd of early/mid-Saxon pottery, the post-Roman assemblage mainly dates from the 10th or 11th century through to the 14th century. The later medieval and post-medieval periods – from the 15th or 16th century to the 19th century – are represented by just 12 sherds. The pottery mainly came from the fills of medieval pits and ditches and from post-medieval subsoil.

3.2.2 A detailed catalogue of the pottery was constructed in Excel (See Table 5: Appendix B). This contains the following fields of information, per context and per fabric: quantification by sherd count, weight, EVEs and rim sherd counts. Vessel form codes (abbreviations) are those of the London system (MOLA 2014). Rim diameter was recorded, while rim forms were coded using an adapted system first used to record pottery from Winchester (Cotter 2011) and more recently for Oxford sites (Cotter forthcoming). Handle form and decoration codes were also adapted from this. A miscellaneous or 'other' field was used to record base and spout forms and rarer features such as deliberate perforations. All other descriptive details (e.g. glaze colour, condition, traces of use, etc) were recorded in a comments field where appropriate. Pottery spot-dates (provided for each context) have been utilised by the excavator to construct the site phasing. Full catalogue details may be consulted in the project archive.

3.2.3 Medieval pottery fabric codes used here are those of the Oxfordshire type series (Mellor 1994), whereas post-medieval fabric codes are those of the Museum of London (MOLA 2014). Condition was variable, but over-all quite fragmentary. Given the small size and typical nature of the assemblage, illustration has been limited to just a few pieces of interest (Fig. 10). These are described in more detail in the illustration catalogue below.

3.2.4 A breakdown of pottery fabric types is shown in Table 4.

Summary of the assemblage

| Fabric | Common Name | Date | Sherds | Weight | EVEs | No. Rims |
|---------------|---|-------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|
| ROM | Roman pottery (residual) | AD 43-410 | 19 | 248 | 0.16 | 3 |
| CHAF | Saxon organic-tempered ware | 400-800 | 1 | 3 | | |
| OXR | St Neots-type ware (SE Midlands) | 900-1100 | 15 | 221 | 0.23 | 3 |
| OXAC | Cotswold-type ware (from c875+) | 1050-1250 | 194 | 2336 | 1.29 | 22 |
| OXBF | Kennet Valley A ware (SW Oxon ware) | 1050-1250 | 87 | 715 | 0.33 | 7 |
| OXY | Medieval Oxford ware | 1075-1300 | 1 | 6 | | |
| OXBK | Northamptonshire-type shelly ware | 1100-1350 | 3 | 34 | 0.05 | 2 |
| OXAQ | Kennet Valley B ware (East Wilts ware) | 1150-1350 | 59 | 1251 | 0.35 | 8 |
| OXAG | Ashampstead-type ware (Berks) (from c1050+) | 1175-1400 | 6 | 51 | | |
| OXAW | Early Brill ware (Bucks) | 1175-1400 | 1 | 8 | | |
| OXCX | Wychwood-type ware (NW Oxon ware) | 1175-1500? | 89 | 1112 | 1.25 | 17 |
| OXBB | Minety ware (Wilts) (from c1100+) | 1225-1525 | 3 | 108 | 0.24 | 2 |
| OXAM | Brill/Boarstall ware (Bucks) | 1225-1625 | 31 | 355 | 0.15 | 2 |
| OXBX | Late medieval Brill ware (Bucks) | 1400-1625 | 3 | 122 | 0.11 | 2 |
| BORDG | Border ware, green glazed (Surrey/Hants) | 1550-1700 | 1 | 3 | | |
| PMR | Post-medieval red earthenwares | 1550-1900 | 3 | 44 | 0 | 1 |
| PMBL | Post-medieval black-glazed redwares | 1580-1750 | 1 | 9 | | |
| BRSL | Brill post-medieval slipware | 1650-1800 | 2 | 70 | 0.14 | 2 |
| REST ENG | Red stoneware with engine-turned dec | 1765-1780 | 1 | 7 | 0.17 | 1 |
| YELL | Yellow ware (Staffs/Midlands) | 1820-1900 | 1 | 6 | 0.07 | 1 |
| TOTAL | | | 521 | 6709 | 4.54 | 73 |

Table 4. Summary of pottery fabrics and quantities in approximate chronological order

3.2.5 Ordinary domestic pottery types are represented in all phases, all fairly typical of sites in west and north-west Oxfordshire, with most of the major local and regional pottery traditions and wares represented. The broad phasing established for the site is of very limited use for refining the dating of any pottery types present, so the pottery is to a large extent self-dating.

Roman

3.2.6 Nineteen sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the excavations plus a further 5 sherds from the sieved samples. The sherds were first identified during the spot-dating, and so are briefly described in the medieval pottery catalogue (in archive) under the collective code 'ROM', but are fully reported upon above.

Anglo-Saxon?

3.2.7 A small abraded body sherd (weight 3g) with a soft black fabric tempered with coarse organic inclusions (CHAF) is possibly of early/mid-Saxon date. It was residual in a context of c 1100-1250 (ctx 406).

Late Saxon-Norman to post-medieval

3.2.8 St Neots-type ware (OXR) is a wheel-thrown ware tempered with finely crushed fossil (Jurassic) shell, probably from various sources in the south-east Midlands and produced over the period c 900-1100. It is common from sites in Oxford, where it mainly occurs c 950-1075, and also across the northern half of Oxfordshire (Mellor 1994, 54-60). The small assemblage here (15 sherds) comprises mainly jars and at least one bowl with a typical bifid/hammerhead rim (Fig. 10 No. 1). Most of the St Neots-type ware (10 sherds) came from the fills of ditches 544 and 550 (both Group 588, Phase 1), with a pottery spot-date of c 1050-1100(?).

3.2.9 The three oolitic limestone-tempered fabrics present (OXAC, OXCX and OXBB) comprise the bulk of the medieval pottery from the site and can, in some respects, be grouped together on the basis of petrological inclusions and general visual similarity. Taken together, they comprise 55% of all pottery sherds from the site (or 53% by weight). The flint-tempered Kennet Valley wares (OXBF and OXAQ) comprise the bulk of the remainder. Cotswold-type ware (OXAC) and Wychwood-type ware (OXCX) are closely related – the latter almost certainly developed out of the former with no sharp division between – except that Wychwood ware began to be wheel-turned perhaps from c 1250 onwards, and occasionally glazed, while at around the same time the handmade and predominantly reduced (dark grey) products of the Cotswold-type tradition fade from the archaeological record in Oxford. Wychwood-type ware, however, is rare from Oxford sites and seems to have had a distribution largely confined to rural north-west Oxfordshire (see below). In areas close to its production site at Ascott-under-Wychwood (a few miles north of Aston), there may have been a longer period of overlap, or transition, from OXAC to OXCX. The very similar limestone-tempered fabric of both wares makes it difficult at times to distinguish between them – particularly when dealing with featureless body and base sherds. The few physical distinctions between them are detailed below but these are rarely clear-cut in an assemblage like the one here, which appears to be mainly 12th-13th century in date. The distinctions made here should therefore be regarded with some caution.

3.2.10 Cotswold-type ware (OXAC) was produced across a wide area of central and north-west Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire. It has a calcareous gravel-tempered fabric – the gravel predominantly consisting of rounded inclusions of oolitic limestone. Some rounded red-brown ironstone inclusions also occur. It is present in Oxford from as early as c 900, but only really common c 1050-1250. Vessels, mainly jars/cooking pots, plus a few bowls and rarer forms, are handmade. The fabric is commonly reduced (grey or grey-brown), though weakly oxidised fabrics become commoner towards the end of its circulation (Mellor 1994, 44-52). No definite production sites for OXAC have yet been identified and it was probably a widely

dispersed fabric tradition made at several locations. As Wychwood-type ware has a very similar fabric, at least in its early stages, it may well be that OXAC was also produced in the same area for a couple of centuries before the appearance of Wychwood-type ware in the late 12th century.

3.2.11 The OXAC assemblage here mainly comprises globular jars/cooking pots similar to forms known from Oxford but sometimes with rather more developed-looking rims, similar to the OXCX vessels illustrated here (e.g. Fig. 10 Nos 4 and 6). The only OXAC cooking pot illustrated here (Fig. 10 No. 2) is unusual both for its simple and unusually thick everted rim and its fabric which (very unusually) contains some flint. Its simple form might suggest an early dating for this piece (perhaps late 9th to 11th century). Only one jar rim has thumbled decoration. The other OXAC form illustrated is the most complete example of several tall cylindrical 'jars' that lack a defined shoulder or neck (Fig. 10 No. 3), with the wall sloping slightly inwards towards the rim, which is often sub-squared. Some of these 'jars' are slightly more conical in profile. These vessels could alternatively be described as deep, straight-sided, bowls, but none of the examples here is complete enough to determine the original height. Similar 'straight-sided jars' are known in Wychwood-type ware (Mellor 1994, fig. 45.11 and 14). Three vessels in the OXAC assemblage here were recorded as straight-sided/neckless 'bowls' (with rim diameters in the range of 240-320mm), but the distinction between bowl and jar in these instances is not a clearly defined one. These might also be related to (or the same as) a distinctive vessel form known as 'West Country dishes' (see below).

3.2.12 Wychwood-type ware (Fabric OXCX, c 1175-1500?) may well have developed out of the earlier and more ubiquitous Cotswold-type ware tradition (OXAC). It is known from the kiln-site at Ascott-under-Wychwood in the north-west corner of Oxfordshire. Although, like OXAC, it is a limestone-tempered ware, it is often found that most of the rounded (oolitic) limestone inclusions have dissolved-out leaving a corky texture which, along with the weakly oxidised firing colour and grey core, is one of the characteristics of this ware (Mellor 1994, 106-111). This corky texture is sometimes attributed to acid soil conditions. However, only a few of the sherds from the excavations here exhibit this feature. Wychwood-type ware vessels can be handmade, wheel-finished (turned) or wheel-thrown – unlike local OXAC which is always handmade. They can also have a thin greenish glaze on the rim or the upper part of the vessel (unlike OXAC). In many respects Wychwood-type ware seems to span the gap between local Cotswold-type ware and Minety-type ware (OXBB) which was made in and around the village of that name in north-west Wiltshire.

3.2.13 Influence from Minety is strongly suspected – particularly in the use of a similar fabric, wheel-turned technology and the introduction of glaze. The assemblage from the Ascott kiln site clearly shows late medieval forms (including lids and bunghole cisterns) and decorated jug and jar handles almost certainly influenced by Minety ware (*ibid.*). It may be, then, that the kiln-site discovered was of 15th or even early 16th-century date. Elsewhere in Oxfordshire, for example at Witney, the introduction of Wychwood-type ware is considered to be from the late 12th century onwards. The Wychwood-type ware assemblage from Aston also appears typologically to be earlier than the Ascott kiln material, and probably dates from the later 12th century through to the 13th and early 14th centuries. This is also suggested by the presence, in some of the same contexts, of a few sherds of decorated Brill/Boarstall ware jugs (OXAM) typical of the period c 1225-1400.

3.2.14 Less than half the Wychwood ware sherds here show convincing evidence of wheel-turning, and only a handful show glazing (see below). These last two technologies are likely to have been introduced around c 1250, which is when Minety ware (OXBB) vessels were first wheel-turned (Cotter 2017, 147). For the remaining half of the Wychwood ware assemblage here that shows no wheel-turning or glazing, one has to rely on fabric quality and the occasional typological pointer (rim forms) to distinguish Wychwood ware from the earlier Cotswold-type ware tradition, though this is bound to be subjective in some instances.

3.2.15 Thin-section analyses (by the late Alan Vince) of the three major oolitic limestone-tempered traditions found in the Oxford region (OXAC, OXCX and OXBB) found only fairly subtle microscopic distinctions between them – which can occasionally be distinguished with the naked eye. These are worth repeating here:

3.2.16 “Minety types from Wiltshire (OXBB) contain no quartz silt, have finer limestone, and less variety than Wychwood ware (OXCX). But the limestone type is the same and also has much staining of limestone. Wychwood ware (OXCX) is less well sorted than OXAC with more quartz and less rounded quartz”. Other observations noted that Wychwood ware has more poorly sorted limestone inclusions than OXAC, sometimes up to 5mm across, and a higher fossil shell content (Vince 1994, 206-7; see Pl.15 for photomicrographs of Wychwood wares and OXAC compared, with detailed descriptions in captions). The more convincing samples of Wychwood ware from Aston, as well as other sites in the area, tend to be harder and sandier than OXAC and more often have a weakly oxidised orange-brown surface colour than the latter. Wychwood ware also appears to contain more ironstone inclusions than the OXAC found in Oxford. Later medieval (wheel-turned) Wychwood samples are easier to distinguish from OXAC but may be confused with Minety ware.

3.2.17 The Wychwood ware assemblage here (89 sherds) is mainly present as cooking pots, a few bowls, and a few jugs (Fig. 10 Nos 4-8). Only 9 sherds show evidence of glaze (coverage or splashes) and around 39 sherds (44%) are wheel-turned, or possibly so. The jars/cooking pots include a few examples with internally hollowed or lid-seated rims, as well as simply thickened or beaded rims. Thumbled decoration occurs on four separate jars rims and is the only type of decoration present (Fig. 10 Nos 4 and 6). Sagging base sherds are most probably from jars, bowls and jugs. An acutely angled base sherd (Fig. 10 No. 5) is very probably from a regional type of vessel form known as ‘West Country’ dishes - squat conical bowl-like vessels with a series of perforations through the wall – although no perforated sherds were noted in the assemblage here. The neckless ‘jar’ shown in Fig. 10 No. 4 may be another example, and possibly other neckless ‘jar’ rims here – though some might be from straight-sided jars similar to those described above in Cotswold-type ware (Fig. 10 No. 3). The precise function of West Country dishes (or ‘incurved dishes’) remains unknown but the sooting on some examples suggests some kind of specialised cooking function. They are found over a wide area of Wessex and south Wales in 12th- and 13th-century contexts and were produced by several different ceramic industries within this area (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 125). A small group of probable West Country dishes (in OXAC) was identified from a site at Rushey Weir, near Bampton, just west of Aston (Cotter 2016, fig. 8.1-4), and the squared rims and neckless forms of the latter bear quite a strong similarity to some OXAC and OXCX vessels here (including Fig. 10 No. 4).

3.2.18 Including the base here (Fig. 10 No. 5), only three vessels were identified as bowls. Of the two bowl rims present (both wheel-turned) Figure 10 No. 7 has the most developed-

looking rim form, and is glazed internally. Another bowl has a flanged/lid-seated rim showing specks of glaze (similar to Mellor 1994, fig. 46.15). Parts of only three jugs were identified including a single unglazed rim (Fig. 10 No. 8). The other two jugs are represented by base sherds with jug-style thumbled feet. One of these showed internal specks of glaze and was heavily sooted externally from use, suggesting that it had been used for heating beverages. No jug handle fragments were recovered.

3.2.19 Minety-type ware (OXBB), from north-west Wiltshire, has only been recognised in three probable instances. Two of these are fully wheel-turned cooking pots with everted rims with a greenish glaze on top of the rim (Fig. 10 No. 9). The latter also shows traces of combed decoration on the body – typical of this industry. Both cooking pots are from a post-medieval subsoil context (301) which also produced much redeposited medieval pottery. Minety-type ware has a similar oolitic limestone-tempered fabric to OXAC and Wychwood-type ware in north-west Oxfordshire, and a similar pattern of development. Minety-type ware appeared c 1100 and was handmade until c 1250, when wheel-turned vessels began to appear (Cotter 2017, 147). It was common in places such as Bristol from the earliest days of the industry and remained in production as late as the first half of the 16th century. It first appears in Oxford assemblages c 1225. Confusion with Wychwood-type ware is possible, but the latter industry is considered to be inferior in quality to Minety ware. Very little Wychwood-type ware has been identified from the city of Oxford itself, and it seems likely that most examples of Minety-type ware identified from the city are genuine imports from the Minety potteries. The ware is also common at Bampton (Cotter 2014).

3.2.20 Kennet Valley A ware (OXBF, c 1050-1250). Formerly known as south-west Oxfordshire ware (Mellor 1994, 52-4). This is now recognised as an earlier phase of the widespread Kennet Valley ware tradition (including OXAQ, see below). The fabric is coarsely gritted with frequent flint and quartz inclusions and very little or no limestone. Vessels were handmade. A source in the Savernake Forest in Wiltshire is likely for most of the fabric found in the Oxford area, though some may be from Berkshire sources, including Newbury (see Cotter 2022 for a recent summary of this ware). This is one of the commonest medieval fabrics here (87 sherds), but the assemblage is very fragmentary. Jars/cooking pots with simple rims are the only definite form present. One jar rim is decorated with widely spaced thumbing (Fig. 10 No.10). One small body sherd (ctx 406) has a band of horizontal combed decoration and traces below this of either a circular stamp or the top of a combed chevron.

3.2.21 A sieved sample from context 551 produced two small joining body sherds (weight 6g) in a sandy light brown OXBF fabric. This was decorated in an unusual style with traces of three very small rosette stamps arranged in a row – each stamp comprising four small pits or dots in a cluster. This style of decoration was very probably copied from spouted pitchers in Michelmersh ware – a wheel-turned late Saxon sandy ware produced in the village of that name in Hampshire around c 950-1050 (Brown and Mephram 2007). A few Michelmersh ware vessels are known from Oxford (Oxford Fabric OXK) including a near-complete spouted pitcher profile from recent excavation at the Westgate site, with a spot-date of c 1050-1100 (Cotter forthcoming).

3.2.22 The later fabric, Kennet valley B ware (OXAQ), with moderate limestone as well as flint, is now known to have an approximate date range of c 1150-1350 at Oxford. This was formerly known as 'Early to Late Medieval East Wiltshire ware' (Mellor 1994, 100-106). The distinction between OXBF and OXAQ is always clear on this site. The 59 sherds here comprise

jars/cooking pots and two wide bowls with typical hammerhead rims. Three sherds of Northamptonshire-type shelly ware (OXBK, c 1100-1350) include two joining rims from a single wide bowl.

3.2.23 Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM) is the commonest medieval glazed ware here (31 sherds), as it is on most Oxfordshire sites. The fragmentary assemblage here mainly comprises jug sherds with green or yellow glaze including a few with applied strip decoration in red or white clay. There are also sherds from two Brill bottles and a small body sherd from a small jar or pipkin with external sooting from use. Over-all the Brill sherds are typical of the period c 1225-1400.

3.2.24 The post-medieval wares are all commonplace types, mostly represented by no more than three sherds each, and only really useful for their dating. Most came from subsoil context (301) which produced, among other things, the rim of a tea or coffee pot in red stoneware with engine-turned decoration (REST ENG, c 1765-1780). The latest pottery item from the site was a jug rim in yellow ware (YELL) dating to c 1820-1900 (ctx 462).

Conclusions

3.2.25 The pottery attests to occupation or activity on the site from perhaps as early as the 10th or first half of the 11th century, although no contexts were spot-dated any earlier than c 1050-1100. It is quite possible that some of these features date from the very end of the late Saxon period but the pottery types do not have the dating precision to confirm a pre- or post-Conquest date. Continued occupation through to the late 13th and 14th centuries is strongly suggested by the presence of Brill/Boarstall ware jugs and bottles. Thereafter activity is represented by only a handful of late medieval and post-medieval sherds suggesting either that significant occupation ended after the 14th century, or that rubbish was disposed of elsewhere. The assemblage is of some interest as a further example of the types of pottery in use in this part of rural north-west Oxfordshire that can be compared to the material found nearby at Bampton (Blinkhorn 2000; Cotter 2014).

Pottery illustration catalogue

Fig. 10.1. (OXR) St Neots-type ware. Bowl. Rim diam. 300mm. Light brown surfaces with dark grey core. Some sooting/scorching both sides. Wheel-turned. Ctx 551. Ctx spot-date c 1050-1100?

Fig. 10.2. (OXAC) Cotswold-type ware. Jar/cooking pot. Rim diam. 180mm. Reduced OXAC-like fabric but with moderate angular flint. Abundant rounded limestone inclusions (including oolitic) to 4mm across. Simple/primitive rim form – possibly late Saxon (L9-11C?). Handmade. Ctx 473. Ctx spot-date c 1050-1150?

Fig. 10.3. (OXAC) Cotswold-type ware. Tall near-cylindrical jar/cooking pot. Rim diam. 280mm. Brownish weakly oxidised external surface, reduced dark grey internal surface. Traces of sooting lower down ext. OXAC or Wychwood-type ware (OXCX)? Handmade. Ctx 399. Ctx spot-date c 1100-1250?

Fig. 10.4. (OXCX) Wychwood-type ware. Jar or possibly 'West Country dish'? Rim diam. 260mm. Thumbed decoration on rim. Reduced fabric. OXCX or OXAC? Handmade. Ctx 301. Ctx spot-date c 1765-1800.

Fig. 10.5. (OXCX) Wychwood-type ware. Base possibly from a 'West Country dish'? Base diam. c 360mm. Base flattish or slightly sagging? Reduced fabric. Sooted underneath. OXCX or OXAC? Handmade. Ctx 341. Ctx spot-date c 1150-1300.

Fig. 10.6. (OXCX) Wychwood-type ware. Jar/cooking pot. Rim diam. 200mm. Thumbed decoration on rim. Light brown fabric with grey core. Handmade. Ctx 301. Ctx spot-date c 1765-1800.

Fig. 10.7. (OXCX) Wychwood-type ware. Bowl with bifid/hammerhead rim. Rim diam. 280mm. Oxidised brown sandy fabric with light grey core. Rough greenish-brown glaze internally. Wheel-turned. Ctx 503. Ctx spot-date c 1225-1400?

Fig. 10.8. (OXCX) Wychwood-type ware. Jug. Rim diam. 120mm. Oxidised light brown fabric with grey core. Probably handmade. Ctx 301. Ctx spot-date c 1765-1800.

Fig. 10.9. (OXBB) Minety-type ware. Jar/cooking pot. Rim diam. 280mm. Traces of combed decoration on body. Hard grey-brown fabric with grey core. Thin decayed greenish glaze on inside of rim. Minety-type ware or possibly Wychwood-type? Fully wheel-turned. Ctx 301. Ctx spot-date c 1765-1800.

Fig. 10.10. (OXBF) Kennet Valley A ware. Jar/cooking pot. Rim diam. 180mm. Widely-spaced thumbed decoration on rim. Grey-brown fabric with grey core. Handmade. Ctx 483. Ctx spot-date c 1050-1250.

3.3 Fired clay

By Kirsty Smith

Introduction

3.3.1 A small quantity of fired clay amounting to 19 fragments weighing 199g was recovered from the site. The fragments are moderately to highly abraded and have a moderately low mean fragment weigh of 11g. The majority of these fragments originated from medieval ditches 544, 548 and 550. Four fragments came from undated posthole 314, the rest from medieval features: six fragments from ditch 548, four from pit 482, three from ditch 544 and two from ditch 550.

Methodology

3.3.2 The assemblage has been recorded in Table 6 below. The record includes quantification, and details of fabric type, form, surface finish, markings and evidence of use/reuse (mortar, burning etc). Fabrics were characterised on the basis of macroscopic features supplemented by the use of x20 hand lens for finer constituents.

| Context | Context info | Form | Numbers | Weight (g) | Description |
|---------|-----------------------|---------------|---------|------------|---|
| 314 | Fill of posthole 313 | Indeterminate | 4 | 7 | Orange silty sandy clay. Amorphous. 8-9mm thick |
| 483 | Fill of Med pit 482 | Indeterminate | 4 | 34 | Orange, brown silty clay with limestone grits less than 2mm. One fragment has one flat surface |
| 545 | Fill of Med ditch 544 | Indeterminate | 1 | 22 | Orange silty clay with small pebbles up to 3mm long and brown grits 0.1mm long. Amorphous. 25mm thick |

| | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|---------------|----|-----|--|
| 547 | Fill of Med ditch 544 | Structural? | 1 | 12 | Orange silty clay with cream clay inclusions. 19mm thick. Has one impression 1mm wide an 8mm long |
| 547 | Fill of Med ditch 544 | Indeterminate | 1 | 1 | Orange silty sandy clay. Amorphous. 6mm thick |
| 549 | Fill of Med ditch 548 | Indeterminate | 4 | 47 | Orange silty clay with cream clay inclusions and occasional pebbles up to 4mm long. |
| 549 | Fill of ditch Med 548 | Structural? | 2 | 27 | Orange silty clay with ferruginous grits to 1mm long. One fragment has multiple impressions 0.5mm wide on one side. The other has two square sided impression at least 8mm wide. |
| 551 | Fill of Med ditch 550 | Indeterminate | 1 | 19 | Orange silty clay with cream clay inclusions. Amorphous form and 24mm thick |
| 551 | Fill of Med ditch 550 | Structural? | 1 | 30 | Red orange silty clay with ferruginous grits to 1mm long. Has multiple impressions 0.5mm wide on one side. 18mm thick. |
| | | Totals | 19 | 199 | |

Table 6. Summary of fired clay assemblage

Structural fired clay

3.3.3 The four fragments (69g) of structural fired clay in contexts 547, 549 and 551 included three with impressions that were 0.5-1mm wide and may have been created by grass or straw. Another fragment had an impression which appeared to be two sides of a square impression which was at least 8mm wide. This may have been formed by a wooden rod support with square sides. These fragments may have formed part of a clay structure made from wattle and daub and all came from fills of a series of north-south aligned ditches along the eastern edge of the site.

Indeterminate fired clay

3.3.4 There were twelve of these fragments, all amorphous and indeterminate in form. Most came from the fills of medieval ditches, except for those from contexts 314 and 483, fills of a posthole and a pit respectively. The function of these fragments is uncertain.

3.4 Metals and small finds

By Anni Byard

Introduction

3.4.1 A total of 58 metal objects or fragments thereof weighing 837.1g were recovered during the excavation and submitted for analysis. These comprised 27 in copper alloy, 22 in iron, eight in lead alloy and one in silver. The objects were identified and details of form, and where possible, date, were recorded in an Excel spreadsheet that is available with the archive.

3.4.2 Most of the metal objects are later medieval or post-medieval in date, but three were residual Roman finds. A total of 18 objects were stratified in pits or ditches, the remainder coming from the subsoil. Results are presented below by ceramic phase and context.

Results

Phase 1

3.4.3 Pit 384 yielded a fragment of a copper alloy brooch pin (SF 38) from its primary fill. Due to the size of the pin it is probably (early) Roman in date. With known Roman archaeology nearby this is not a surprising discovery. If it is Roman in date, then it is residual in this context. However, the possibility remains that the brooch pin is of early-medieval date and therefore a wide date range of AD 43–1100 is assigned. This is the only metal object from a Phase 1 feature.

Phase 2

3.4.4 Copper alloy and iron objects were recovered from five features assigned to this phase. Small fragments of copper alloy wire, one twisted, may have belonged to a dress pin or similar. The reddish tint of the metal suggests a later medieval or post-medieval date. These fragments were recovered from the primary fill of pit 350, as was a nail with T-shaped head, also probably of medieval or post-medieval date.

3.4.5 The secondary fill of N-S ditch 355 produced an incomplete, small, sub-rectangular bar with remains of two prongs at one end. While the function of this object has not been conclusively identified, its opposing end appears to flatten out and it may be a fitting or brace.

3.4.6 The secondary fill of ditch terminus 405 produced two refitting sections of a probable Roman penannular earring in copper alloy (SF 39). The refitting fragments thin towards each terminal (Fig. 11 No. 1) and are like several recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (for example, NARC-FF904C and BERK-C462F1). While these objects are usually dated to the Roman period they have also been found in early medieval contexts, where they are often interpreted as finger rings. In this case, however, a Roman period date is more likely, the object being residual in this context.

3.4.7 An iron 'fiddle-key' horseshoe nail (Fig. 11 No. 2) was recovered from context 501, the fill of pit 500. Such nails belong with horseshoes dated from c 1050-1250, and are only rarely found.

Phase 3

3.4.8 Three contexts assigned to this phase yielded five objects: four in iron and one in lead alloy. The iron objects included a short, flat bar of uncertain function and a long tapering nail with remains of an L-shaped head. The latter object was recovered from the secondary fill of pit 396 along with an incomplete rectangular buckle frame in lead alloy that dates to c 1400-1600. There is no obvious decoration on the buckle frame. A flat bar with looped terminal (SF 41) recovered from context 503, the secondary fill of E-W ditch 502, is probably related to a fragment of curved iron bar with rectangular cross section (SF 42) from the same fill. Based on its size, the latter is probably part of a horse harness buckle of later medieval or early post-medieval date.

3.4.9 A complete copper alloy, drawn wire dress or hair pin (Fig. 11 No. 3) was recovered from 483, the fill of pit 482. These small, delicate objects have been found in quantity in London and can be dated to c 1400-1600.

3.4.10 The only medieval coin recovered during the excavation was a worn silver long-cross penny (SF 28) of Edward I (1292-1307), struck in London between 1305-6 (Fig. 11 No. 4). The obverse of the coin reads EDWA R ANGL DNS HYB, the reverse CIVI[TAS LON]DON (Class 10cf1; North 1040). It was recovered from 503, the upper fill of short E-W ditch 502. This coin was worn, indicating that it had been in circulation for some time before it was lost. Although

many of these pennies were taken out of circulation in 1351, when a new, lighter coin was introduced, many of the heavier pennies remained in use due to their higher silver content, so this type of coin may have remained in circulation for at least 100 years after minting.

Phase 4

3.4.11 Most of the metalwork (38 items) was recovered from this phase, with all but one coming from the subsoil (301). The subsoil finds are of copper and lead alloys and of iron, and include several dress accessories such as buckles, buttons and a strap fitting, structural fittings such as nails and a joiner's dog, and domestic items such as a swivel loop (possible for a hanging chain or potentially an animal harness) and a vessel handle. Most items from the topsoil are later post-medieval in date (post-1700) although a few are medieval. A full list of Phase 4 finds is provided in the metalwork catalogue available with the archive.

3.4.12 Medieval finds include a small, folded buckle plate with two rivets (SF 10), a plain oval buckle with small integral plate, scalloped terminal and single pin bar hole (SF 25) and a large oval pot mend with a small shard of fabric retained. The pottery fabric has an oolitic limestone temper and is probably Wychwood or Minety ware (OXCX or OXBB) which dates from c 1175-1550 (John Cotter pers. comm.).

3.4.13 Only two coins were recovered from the subsoil – a copper alloy Roman nummus of Constantine I (AD 306-337), struck in London c AD 310-315 (SOLI INVICTO COMITI reverse type), and a small worn 'Harrington' Irish farthing (copper alloy) of James I (1603-25), struck from 1613.

3.4.14 Of interest is a complete copper alloy, rectangular stock buckle with three tongues and three studs and decorative linear mouldings. These buckles would have been attached at the back of the neck to fasten the newly fashionable Georgian gentleman's necktie, and were used between 1720-90. All levels of society would have worn a necktie but buckles in more expensive metals (unlike this example) would have been reserved for the wealthy.

3.4.15 The only Phase 4 object recovered from a feature is an incomplete copper alloy bodkin with rectangular cross-section and a large lozenge-shaped eye. This was recovered from 303, the primary fill of pit 302, and dates to the early post-medieval period

Conclusions

3.4.16 The metal finds assemblage identifies sporadic use and activity on the site and immediate surroundings for nearly 2000 years. The earliest objects, a probable Roman brooch pin, earring and coin, are indicative of low-level background activity; several hundred Roman coins and other objects have been found to the south of the development by metal detectorists. The medieval period finds are personal items (buckles etc) and a solitary silver penny which was about a day's wage for an unskilled labourer in the 14th century. The relatively low number of medieval finds suggest an area that was not intensively used, or potentially one that was subsequently stripped and cleared. However, the increase seen in finds of post-medieval date may suggest a change in land use to a more intensively farmed or occupied landscape, potentially with arable farming replacing grazing. Grazing land does not require manuring nor many fieldhands, which would have resulted in less objects being lost and / or deposited.

Catalogue of illustrated finds

Fig. 11 No. 1. Earring. Two refitting sections of a probable penannular earring. Cu alloy. 0.7g. SF 39. Secondary fill of ditch terminus, Fill 407. Probably Roman.

Fig. 11 No. 2. Nail. Fiddle-key horseshoe nail. Fe. 7.4g. Pit fill 501 recovered from sample 314. Early medieval, c 1050-1250.

Fig. 11 No. 3. Dress pin. Drawn wire hair or dress pin comprising a thin wire shank with point and a flattened, discoidal head. Cu alloy. 0.1g. Pit fill 483, recovered from sample 331. Late medieval or early post-medieval, c 1400-1600.

Fig. 11 No. 4. Coin. Worn silver penny of Edward I (1272-1307), struck in London. Obverse inscription: EDWA R ANGL DNS HYB, reverse inscription: CIVI[TAS LON]DON. Class 10cf1. North 1975, 1040. SF 28. Primary fill of pit 304. 1305-6.

3.5 Slag and other metalworking debris

By Tim Allen

Introduction

3.5.1 Slag was recovered from eight contexts: 399 (pit 396), 402 (pit 400), 406 and 407 (pit 405), and layers 473, 476, 506 and 507. Layer 473 is a Phase 1 buried soil (1050-1150), Pit 405 is Phase 2 (1150-1250), pits 396 and 400 to Phase 3 (1150-1300) and layers 476, 506 and 507 to Phase 3b (1275-1400). The last two are an occupation layer overlying a floor surface relating to a building.

Methods

3.5.2 All of the material was washed, dried and sorted using largely visual criteria (cf Historic England 2015). The material was sorted into different categories based on colour and surface morphology (and occasionally on an assessment of density and/or magnetic response). The categories of material identified include the following (Table 7):

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Slag cake (SC) | These are plano-convex (or concave convex) and approximately circular in plan. Slag cakes are usually identified as smithing slags (McDonnell 1991; Serneels and Perret 2003), although larger examples are identified as smelting slags (furnace bottoms). |
| Non-diagnostic slag (ND) | Most ironworking slag assemblages include a significant proportion of slag which lacks a diagnostic surface morphology that would allow the identification of the process(es) which produced them. In many cases, this is simply because the lumps of slag are small fragments of a larger whole; however, in some cases the lumps of slag are essentially complete but amorphous (Historic England 2015, fig. 18). |

Table 7. Types of slag present on site

Results

3.5.3 The slag includes parts of five slag cakes, together with a few non-diagnostic fragments. All of it is likely to represent smithing slag. Details are given in Table 7.

3.5.4 The two fragments from 399 rejoin, the piece being light and having one smooth and partly glassy flattish surface with occasional bubbles, and being vesicular on the other. This

may be a small fragment of a slag cake. The fragments from 402 do not rejoin; of these the smaller fragments has one highly glassy smooth surface, the larger fragment is vesicular throughout. The small fragments from 406 are amorphous vesicular fragments of indeterminate type, as is the single small fragment from 476.

3.5.5 The large fragment from 407 is part of a slag cake, and is sub-rectangular, with one pocked but fairly smooth convex surface and a more vesicular cratered opposite side. It is thinnest at the surviving corner, thickening towards the centre of the cake at opposite corner, where the two broken sides meet. The four fragments from 473 refit, and are broken from a piece of a smithing slag cake with denser material towards the base and more bubbly vesicular slag above. Only a small part of the convex and fairly smooth surface survives. Three of the four fragments from 506 refit, and belong to part of a slag cake of convex-concave profile, the smoother surface being the concave one. Although vesicular at the edges, this cake is dense and heavy.

3.5.6 The group of fragments from 507 make up five refitting fragments in all. The larger three fragments, which are sub-cuboid in shape, and are dense, have one smoother flattish surface and a more vesicular bubbly opposite side, so probably derive from a large slag cake. The two smaller fragments are lighter and more vesicular, but appear likely to have derived from the same process as the larger, heavier fragments. All may derive from a particularly large and dense slag cake.

Discussion

3.5.7 The slag came from all of the main medieval phases of activity on the site, but was recovered only from features or layers in the north-east part of the site, perhaps suggesting that although smithing was an occasional and intermittent activity, it was focused in one area throughout the occupation. There was, however, no hammerscale recovered from the soil samples from this area, and the larger slag cake fragments may have been derived from elsewhere, and brought into this part of the site as part of the material used for surfacing within and outside Building I.

3.5.8 Small quantities of smithing slag such as these are commonly found on medieval rural sites, and presumably represent repairs to iron tools either by a peripatetic smith on visits, or possibly by the inhabitants themselves in slack periods of the farming year.

3.6 Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

3.6.1 Two fragments of stone were retained and submitted for analysis. These were scanned for signs of use or modification and are reported on here.

3.6.2 One of the two fragments is a piece of slightly burnt shelly Jurassic limestone (374, 37g) with no signs of other use. The second fragment is a flat piece of sandstone measuring 15mm in thickness, lightly worn on one face, and one surviving slightly chamfered edge (fill 511 of Phase 3 ditch 510, 88g). This chamfered edge and worn face suggest use as a floor stone and a likely medieval date.

3.7 Struck flint

By Elizabeth Kennard

The assemblage and its condition

3.7.1 A small assemblage of worked flint, numbering 10 pieces, was recovered from the excavation, alongside a single piece of burnt unworked flint weighing 1g. The flints display moderate edge damage, some likely derived from ploughing, with cortication ranging from light to moderate clearly indicating that the assemblage has seen some local post-depositional movement. The flints are catalogued in Table 8 below.

Methodology

3.7.2 The artefacts were catalogued according to OA Oxford's standard system of broad artefact/debitage type (Anderson-Whymark 2013; Bradley 1999), general condition noted and dating was attempted where possible. The assemblage was catalogued directly onto a Microsoft Windows spreadsheet. During the assessment additional information on condition (rolled, abraded, fresh and degree of cortication), and state of the artefact (burnt, broken, or visibly utilised) was also recorded. Retouched pieces were classified according to standard morphological descriptions (e.g. Bamford 1985, 72-7; Healy 1988, 48-9; Bradley 1999). Technological attribute analysis was initially undertaken and included the recording of butt and termination type (Inizan *et al.* 1999), flake type (Harding 1990), hammer mode (Onhuma and Bergman 1982), and the presence of platform edge abrasion.

Results

3.7.3 Previous work in the area recovered a small assemblage of Neolithic and Bronze Age flints 250m south of the site. None of the flints recovered from this site are tools, the assemblage consisting of flakes and sieved chips. The absence of any blades may indicate that this assemblage also dates to either the later Neolithic or Bronze Age, though the assemblage is too small to be confident of anything but that it attests to a limited prehistoric presence within the landscape.

| Context | Feature | Type | Sub-type | Description |
|---------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|---|
| 317 | Ditch 316 | Flake | Misc trimming | Light damage and cortication |
| 317 | Ditch 316 | Irregular waste | | Likely natural – plough struck?, light damage and cortication |
| 370 | Pit 403 | Flake | Side trimming | Moderate edge damage, likely plough, with light cortication |
| 392 | Pit 390 | Sieved chip | <10mm | |
| 449 | Pit 448 | Flake | Inner | Medial segment, moderate edge damage/plough damage |
| 483 | Pit 482 | Flake | Preparation | Light edge damage and moderate-high cortication |
| 483 | Pit 482 | Burnt unworked | | 1g |
| 483 | Pit 482 | Sieved chip | <10mm | |
| 483 | Pit 482 | Sieved chip | <10mm | |
| 490 | Pit 489 | Flake | Inner | Medial segment, moderate-high cortication with moderate edge damage |
| 490 | Pit 489 | Flake | Preparation | Proximal segment, light damage and light cortication |

Table 8. Catalogue of struck flints by type and context

3.8 Worked bone

By Leigh Allen

3.8.1 A single worked bone object (SF 2) was recovered from context 473, a buried soil layer located in the north-eastern part of the site (Fig. 11, No. 5). The object is a double-ended weaving tool or pin beater, often referred to as 'cigar-shaped' as they are widest at the centre and taper to a point at each end. This example has a flattened ovate section (D:12mm) and a fairly chunky appearance (L:113mm). One of the points is flatter and slightly more tapered than the other and there is a moderate polish, due to wear, over the whole implement.

3.8.2 These multi-purpose tools are associated with the warp-weighted loom and were used on the warp threads to even out spacing, to pick up misplaced threads and to push the weft loosely into position (Hoffman 1964, 135). They are occasionally found in Roman contexts but are most commonly found on early to middle Saxon sites (Walton Rogers 1997, 1755). They were used with the warp-weighted loom, and were gradually replaced by other types of thread-picker when the warp-weighted loom was replaced by the two-beam loom. A group of complete pin-beaters were recovered from buildings and pits at Morrell Place, Wallingford (Allen 2022, 428-430), and there a double-ended pin beater was recovered from the backfill of a building in use during the 10th century. This suggests that, as might be expected, the transition from warp-weighted to two-beam looms was gradual, and that in places it did not occur until the end of the 10th century, or even in the early 11th century, well into the late Saxon period.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL AND OSTEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

4.1 Animal bone

By Adrienne Powell

Introduction and methods

4.1.1 A small assemblage was recovered from medieval and post-medieval features, comprising 391 hand-retrieved fragments and a further 85 identifiable fragments from the environmental samples. The material was recorded using the diagnostic zone protocol of Serjeantson (1996) with conjoining fragments counted as one. Specimens were identified using the author's skeletal reference collection and standard texts (Boessneck 1969; Cohen and Serjeantson 1996). Ribs and vertebrae other than atlas and axis were usually only identified to size category and recorded if the proximal end or more than half the centrum was present, respectively. Toothwear was recorded using the wear codes of Grant (1982) and measurements were taken according to Driesch (1976), Davis (1992) and Levine (1982). Gnawmarks were categorised as carnivore (probably dog) or rodent. Butchery marks and pathologies were noted and described where present.

The assemblage

4.1.2 The material is generally in good to excellent condition and the proportion of identifiable bone is relatively high, at 42% of the hand-retrieved total. Whilst the bone is well-preserved, butchery marks are not frequent at 9% overall although they are more common in the small Phase 1 assemblage (Table 9). The observed incidence of gnawing damage is much greater, at 30%, and is almost entirely carnivore derived except for one example of rodent-gnawed bone from Phase 2. Burnt bone is rare.

4.1.3 Tables 10 and 11 summarise the identified taxa for the bone from Phases 1 through 3; the Phase 2 assemblage is the largest subgroup but is still quite small. Phase 4 contained only one identifiable specimen, an adult sheep/goat mandible, and is not considered further in the report.

| Phase | Butchered | Gnawed | Burnt | NISP |
|---------|-----------|--------|-------|------|
| Phase 1 | 22 | 22 | 4 | 27 |
| Phase 2 | 6 | 31 | | 84 |
| Phase 3 | 8 | 34 | | 53 |
| Total | 9 | 30 | 1 | 164 |

Table 9. Taphonomic modifications in hand-retrieved animal bone fragments (%NISP)

| Taxon | Phase 1 | Phase 2 | Phase 3 | Total |
|------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| Cattle | 11 | 25 | 11 | 47 |
| Sheep | 2 | 5 | 3 | 10 |
| Sheep/goat | 2 | 22 | 8 | 32 |
| Pig | 3 | 9 | 8 | 20 |
| Equid | 3 | 17 | 4 | 24 |
| Roe deer | 1 | | | 1 |

| Taxon | Phase 1 | Phase 2 | Phase 3 | Total |
|------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| Large mammal | 2 | | 18 | 20 |
| Medium mammal | 1 | 2 | | 3 |
| cf Domestic fowl | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| Goose | | 1 | | 1 |
| Duck | | 1 | | 1 |
| Unidentified | 37 | 131 | 58 | 226 |
| Total | 64 | 215 | 111 | 390 |
| Total NISP | 27 | 84 | 53 | 164 |

Table 10. Hand-retrieved animal bone from medieval phases

| Taxon | Phase 1 | Phase 2 | Phase 3 | Total |
|------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| Cattle | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Sheep | | 1 | | 1 |
| Sheep/goat | 2 | 7 | 1 | 10 |
| Pig | | | 4 | 4 |
| Equid | | | 1 | 1 |
| Dog | | | 2 | 2 |
| House mouse | | | 2 | 2 |
| Large rodent | | 1 | | 1 |
| Small rodent | 2 | 2 | 7 | 11 |
| Mole | | 1 | | 1 |
| Common shrew | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Large mammal | | 1 | | 1 |
| Medium mammal | | 1 | | 1 |
| Domestic fowl | 1 | | | 1 |
| cf Domestic fowl | 2 | | 1 | 3 |
| Medium passerine | | | 1 | 1 |
| Bird | | 2 | | 2 |
| Frog | 3 | 3 | 15 | 21 |
| Common toad | | 1 | | 1 |
| Toad | | | 2 | 2 |
| Frog/toad | | 2 | 13 | 15 |
| Total | 10 | 24 | 51 | 85 |

Table 11. Animal bone from samples

| Element | Cattle | Sheep/goat | Pig | Equid |
|-----------|--------|------------|-----|-------|
| Horn core | | | | |
| Skull | 1 | 1 | | |
| Mandible | 2 | 4 | 2 | |
| Atlas | | | | |
| Axis | | | | |
| Scapula | 2 | | | 1 |
| Humerus | | | 1 | |
| Radius | | 6 | 1 | |

| Element | Cattle | Sheep/goat | Pig | Equid |
|-------------|--------|------------|-----|-------|
| Ulna | | | | |
| Pelvis | 2 | | | |
| Sacrum | | | | |
| Femur | 2 | | | |
| Tibia | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Astragalus | | | | 1 |
| Calcaneum | | | | 1 |
| Metacarpal | | 2 | 1 | |
| Metatarsal | 3 | 3 | | 3 |
| Phalanx I | 1 | 1 | | 1 |
| Phalanx II | 2 | 1 | | 1 |
| Phalanx III | | | | |
| Total | 18 | 20 | 6 | 9 |
| MNI | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 |

Table 12. Body part representation in the main domestic mammals from Phase 2

4.1.4 The assemblage is dominated by the remains of the main domestic mammals, and particularly those of cattle (*Bos taurus*) and sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra*); these two taxa occur in similar proportion in the assemblage as a whole, but in Phase 1 cattle bones are more common whereas in Phase 2 sheep/goat bones are predominant. Pig (*Sus domesticus*) and equid (*Equus sp.*) are relatively minor components overall although pig is as common as cattle and sheep/goat in Phase 3 and equid is abundant in Phase 2. The latter is due to the presence of an articulating group in ditch 405 comprising 12 right hind limb bones from the tibia to the 2nd phalanx. None of the bones show butchery marks but three show evidence of carnivore gnawing, including the 2nd phalanx, the distal end of which is completely destroyed, possibly accounting for the absence of the 3rd phalanx. Calculation of withers height based on the complete tibia gives a figure of 1.29m (Driesch and Boessneck 1974), indicating a pony-sized animal. Apart from this group, and the skull, mandible and metatarsal which comprise the pig remains from Phase 1, all areas of the carcass tend to be represented (Table 12).

4.1.5 There is limited demographic evidence present. The cattle remains include only one ageable mandible, an incomplete fragment from Phase 1 with the M₂ at stage j, probably from an adult or old adult (Halstead 1985). However, the presence of young animals is demonstrated by two right maxillae, from Phase 1 and Phase 2, with deciduous molars in wear and the M₁ erupting, indicating animals one to eight months old. The cattle post-cranial material contains thirteen specimens retaining fusion information, of which two were from immature animals: a neonatal femur and an unfused proximal femur, both from Phase 2, the latter indicating an animal younger than 42 months (Getty 1975). Three female pelvis fragments are present, two from Phase 2 and one from Phase 3. Ageable sheep/goat jaws were only present in Phase 2 and include one immature or subadult specimen, one subadult and three adults (O'Connor 1989). Epiphyseal fusion data are scant and consist of five specimens, all fused. One female pelvis fragment was present in Phase 3. The small sample of ageable pig elements consists of an immature (Phase 1) and an immature/subadult mandible (Phase 3), as well as a proximally fused radius and 2nd phalanx, both early-fusing elements, and an unfused metacarpal from an animal younger than two years. There is no evidence for adult pigs. The four sexable canines present include two female from Phase 2

and two male from Phase 3. The ageable equid post-cranial material, apart from the bone group described above, comprises four fused specimens. However, adjacent dp² and dp³ teeth from Phase 2 with only slight enamel wear are evidence for a newborn animal.

4.1.6 Butchery evidence was present on bones from all the main domestic mammal taxa, including equid: a complete tibia from a pony-sized animal (withers height = 1.39m) from Phase 1 has deep transverse cuts near the proximal end which could be due to disarticulation but also shows finer oblique cuts which suggest defleshing. Evidence from the other species includes disarticulation and filleting, as well as splitting of the skull in sheep and pigs.

4.1.7 The cattle, sheep/goat and equid material included a few pathological specimens. The two equid examples include a second metatarsal from Phase 1 in which the more plantar of the two facets for articulation with the third metatarsal is replaced by a larger area of irregular, large-pored bone. The area between this facet and the more dorsal of the two facets, as well as the plantar edge of that facet, show similar but less severe pathology. The lack of visible changes on or around the margins of the proximal facets, articulating with the first and second tarsals, suggests an infection as a likely cause for the pathology. The second case is a first phalanx from Phase 2 which shows five small pits typical of osteochondrosis. The pathological cattle specimens include two metatarsals, one each from Phases 1 and 2, which show shallow osteochondrosis lesions on the dorso-medial facet on the proximal end, and a second phalanx from Phase 2 which shows marked dorso-abaxial extension of the proximal articular surface but no other signs of osteoarthritis. The single sheep/goat specimen, from Phase 2, is a fragment of immature mandible showing an area of periostitis on the buccal surface below the deciduous premolars and extending most of the way to the ventral margin.

4.1.8 Other mammal species are represented by only one or two specimens each. The dog (*Canis familiaris*) specimens are articulating sixth and seventh lumbar vertebrae both showing a small amount of lipping around lateral parts of the cranial and caudal surfaces of centra which could be an early stage of spondylosis. The single roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) specimen is an ulna fragment and is the only evidence for hunting in the assemblage. Of the two house mouse (*Mus domesticus*) specimens, from pit 482, one is a mandible which has been digested, suggesting it may have been deposited in a coprolite. Common shrew (*Sorex araneus*) and mole (*Talpa europaea*) may be found in most habitats where there is sufficient vegetation cover, for the former, or soil depth, for the latter (Churchfield and Searle 2008; Gorman 2008).

4.1.9 A small amount of bird bone was recovered from each phase. The identifiable bones are predominantly domestic fowl or probable domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*) but Phase 2 also produced single specimens each of goose (cf *Anser anser*) and mallard size duck (cf *Anas platyrhynchos*) and Phase 3 produced a coracoid from a thrush-size passerine.

4.1.10 The samples contained abundant amphibian bones, especially from Phase 3 occupation layers and pits. Frog, of which only a single ilium could be clearly identified as *Rana temporaria*, is more frequent than toad (*Bufo bufo*, *Bufo* sp.) which suggests the presence of suitable moist habitats locally.

Discussion

4.1.11 The small size of this assemblage is below that generally recommended for reliable interpretation of species frequency and animal husbandry (e.g. Hambleton 1999), hence any statements must be viewed with caution. The apparent increase in frequency of sheep/goat in Phase 2 may be related to the increase in the importance of sheep in the medieval period associated with the increased role of wool in the economy (Holmes 2017). This increase is also seen in the assemblage from nearby Bampton (Charles 2000) although it is more marked there. In both assemblages, the age profiles hint at a meat and wool production strategy for the sheep. Other similarities include the age profiles of the pigs, a typical concentration on animals at the prime slaughtering age, the presence of roe deer, and the prevalence of domestic fowl in the bird bones with minor contributions of duck and goose. One interesting commonality is the presence of butchery on the equid bones, although at Bampton the evidence is restricted to chopmarks rather than including the fine cuts suggesting meat removal that are present at Aston.

4.2 Fish bone

By Rebecca Nicholson

4.2.1 A total of five fragments of fish bone were recovered from the heavy residues of sieved soil samples. These were identified with the aid of the author's fish reference collection and are reported on here.

4.2.2 A partial left and a partial right opercular from a small pike or picarel (*Esox lucius*) as well as a fragment of a small pike preopercular were recovered from sample 303, Phase 3 pit fill 392. It is likely these bones came from a single young fish.

4.2.3 Two eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) caudal vertebrae were recovered from sample 331, Phase 3 pit fill 483.

4.2.4 Pike is a carnivorous and exclusively freshwater fish that was widely eaten in the medieval and later centuries. The small size of the specimen represented here is likely to indicate that it was caught locally, in a river or pond although young pike (picarel) were sold in urban markets. Eels are catadromous, migrating from the sea into freshwater as juveniles and back again to spawn. They spend most of their life in freshwater and were widespread and regularly consumed in the medieval period and in later centuries.

4.3 Marine shell

By Rebecca Nicholson

4.3.1 In total, seven incomplete shells weighing 74g were recovered by hand during the excavation, from contexts 341, 366, 429 and 431. All are fossil, and include single valves of the fossil oyster *Gryphaea* from ditch fill 366 and context 429 with the remaining fragments also likely to be fossil oyster.

4.4 Charred plant remains

By Sharon Cook

Introduction

4.4.1 Twenty-one bulk samples ranging from 10-40L of whole earth and comprising a representative sample of the range of feature types and phases across the excavated areas, were processed by water flotation, primarily for the retrieval of charred plant remains, small bones and artefacts.

4.4.2 These twenty-one samples were assessed (Appendix C: Table 13). None was particularly rich, but five flots were selected for analysis based on the quantity and quality of the charred remains and to provide both temporal and spatial coverage of the site (Appendix D: Table 14). These were all from features dating from the medieval period and represent three phases of activity.

Method

4.4.3 The bulk samples were processed in their entirety using a modified Siraf-type water flotation machine to 250µm (flot) and 500µm mesh (residue). The residue fractions were sorted by eye and all bone and artefacts removed while the flot material was sorted using a low-power (x10) binocular microscope to extract cereal grains and chaff, smaller seeds and other quantifiable remains.

4.4.4 Identifications were carried out using standard morphological criteria for the cereals (Jacomet 2006) and with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands (Cappers and Bekker 2013; Cappers *et al.* 2012) for identification of wild plant remains, and Mineralised Plant and Invertebrate Remains (Carruthers and Smith 2020) for mineralised remains, as well as comparison with modern reference material. Classification and nomenclature of plant material follows Stace (2010). Confirmation and assistance with problematic identifications was provided by Julia Meen.

4.4.5 In the case of nutshell, all fragments represented <50% of the original shell and although quantified by number of identifiable items these counts cannot be used to calculate the minimum number of nuts. Cereal chaff has been divided into quantifiable remains, i.e. glume bases and spikelet forks, and non-quantifiable remains, i.e. fragments. Awns were calculated on a semiquantitative abundance scale of rare, occasional, common and abundant.

The assemblages

4.4.6 The samples produced small to medium-sized flots with common fine, presumably modern, roots. The samples also included uncharred seeds with a modern appearance together with insects, earthworm eggs and burrowing snails (*Cecilioides acicula*) and these indicate some bioturbation within the features.

4.4.7 Most samples contained relatively little identifiable charcoal with most fragments <4mm in greatest dimension. Occasional vivianite staining in the ditch samples hints at anaerobic conditions but there is little evidence in the form of waterlogged plant material to indicate the presence of sustained waterlogging on the site.

4.4.8 Details of the analysed assemblages are given in Table 13. The assemblages for all phases are dominated by wheat (*Triticum* sp.). Many grains have the rounded appearance of bread wheat/club wheat (*Triticum aestivum*/*T. compactum*) while others have a larger more oval shape. This is a common feature of assemblages of free-threshing wheat which can cause difficulties in speciation (Van der Veen 2022, 312), and so the grains have been recorded separately, although it is highly likely that all are from free-threshing varieties.

4.4.9 Most of the wheat chaff is from the rachis node which is attached directly to the grain. No rachises of rivet wheat (*Triticum turgidum*) or club wheat (*T. durum*) were identified, but the possibility that some of the grains were from these species of wheat cannot be entirely discounted.

4.4.10 Barley (*Hordeum* sp.), oats (*Avena* sp.) and rye (*Secale cereale*) all occur in the samples, but counts may underestimate the importance of these cereals due to the large quantity of grain that is too badly damaged to identify beyond Cerealia. A single fragment of oat floret appears to be from the wild variety (*A. fatua*) rather than the cultivated type (*A. sativa*).

4.4.11 Charred seeds from wild plants fall into two main categories: those which are commonly found as part of arable assemblages such as vetches (*Vicia/Lathyrus*), docks (*Rumex* sp.) and stinking chamomile or mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), and plants which are associated with damp ground such as sedges (*Carex* sp.), spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp.) and rushes (*Juncus* sp.). Many of these plants can, however, be found in a relatively broad range of habitats and are often associated with disturbed ground, marginal and waste places.

4.4.12 Mineralised plant remains are present within a small number of samples indicating that suitable conditions for mineralisation were present within at least some of the features. The presence of decaying faecal matter, animal dung and/or organic waste are usually associated with the mineralisation of preserved plant and insect material (Carruthers and Smith 2020, iii).

Phase 1: 1050-1100

Ditch group 588 – Sample 317

4.4.13 This sample produced the largest assemblage of charred plant remains from the site. Cereal grains are abundant, and the cereal assemblage is dominated by wheat, particularly the more rounded grains. The barley grains are puffy with an ‘exploded’ appearance which means that there is insufficient detail remaining to further speciate. Long grains are well represented but the external condition is such that identification of most of these is uncertain, but the presence of rye rachis fragments indicates that some rye is certainly present.

4.4.14 Wheat rachis nodes form much of the chaff assemblage; most can be identified as bread wheat, but truncation is common. No rachises of rivet wheat (*Triticum turgidum*) or club wheat (*T. durum*) were identified, but the possibility that some of the grains were from these species, more probably rivet wheat (Carruthers and Hunter Dowse 2019, 5), cannot be entirely discounted.

4.4.15 Fragments of hazelnut shells (*Corylus avellana*) are more abundant in this sample than in any others from the site. A fragment of bean (*Vicia faba*) and a charred fruit with its stone, probably a member of the cherry family (*Prunus* sp.), are likely to represent consumed foodstuffs.

4.4.16 Stinking chamomile, an indicator of the tillage of heavy soils, dominates the wild seed assemblage in this sample, and this is also the case in other samples from across the site in all phases, indicating the cultivation of similar soils throughout the period of occupation. Other wild plant seeds are represented in much smaller quantities, but again are from taxa that are also found in other samples across all phases, except campion (*Silene* sp.) which is only found in this sample.

4.4.17 Small quantities of mineralised seeds, rare calcareous nodules and occasional mineralised earthworm cocoons indicate the presence of damp, anoxic conditions in the ditch.

Phase 2: 1100-1250

4.4.18 Most sampled features belong to the second phase of activity identified on site. These have much in common with sample 317 from Phase 1 described above, although the assemblages are less rich.

Central pits – Sample 311

4.4.19 Wheat dominates the grain assemblage in sample 311 (pit 489) but there is virtually no cereal chaff with only small and highly fragmented items present. Legumes are likewise fragmentary, and it is unclear how many individual seeds are represented.

4.4.20 Stinking chamomile and various members of the pea family (Fabaceae) are well represented, with vetches the most common legume in this group.

Northeastern pits – Sample 326

4.4.21 The charred assemblage from pit 560 (sample 326) is very similar to that from pit 489, possibly indicating a common origin for the domestic refuse in the two pits. The pit predates Building 1 and is partially truncated by its foundations. While generally the two assemblages are similar, sample 326 includes a charred fragment of stinking chamomile flowerhead with nine seeds still adhering, indicating that the daisy-like flowerhead or the entire plant was burnt before the seeds were released. As this plant, which is an annual weed or herb of arable land, waste and rough ground, flowers between June and October (Plant Atlas 2020), it provides a useful indication of when at least some of the activity resulting in the charred assemblage took place. A charred seedhead from a rush (*Juncus* sp.) is also present.

4.4.22 Mineralised remains including a range of wild plant seeds were also present within both sampled fills of this pit. The assemblage is more varied than that within sample 317 and the state of preservation is slightly better although calcareous nodules are not present in this case and mineralised earthworm cocoons are much less common.

Ditch 334 – Sample 320

4.4.23 The sample from ditch 334, which was at the southernmost edge of the site, shares many of the same characteristics as those already described. The major difference is in the quantity of chaff fragments. Bread wheat rachis nodes are abundant but chaff fragments from other cereals are not well represented. A single fragment of oat floret base could be determined to be from the wild variety (*Avena fatua*), indicating that at least some of the oats on site are likely to be uncultivated wild plants rather than a crop, but it should not be assumed that this is the case for all the oats.

Phase 3: 1250-1550

Spread 459 – Sample 318

4.4.24 Sample 318 derives from part of the occupation spread which covers much of the north-east part of the site and overlies some of the phase 2 pits.

4.4.25 The assemblage contains a mix of cereal grains and includes a single example of rye, which is the only identifiable grain of this type on the site, although rye chaff was recovered from sample 317 (ditch group 588) from Phase 1. A small quantity of tiny fragments of hazelnut shell are also present.

4.4.26 Legumes (vetches and medicks) dominate this assemblage and it is the only sample to contain only a small number of stinking chamomile seeds.

Discussion

Cereals and legumes

4.4.27 There were many developments in crop cultivation during the medieval period. Most noticeable within archaeobotanical assemblages is the shift from glumed wheats such as spelt and emmer, to free-threshing varieties including bread wheat and rivet wheat together with an increase in the proportion of barley and oats and the introduction of rye.

4.4.28 The change in crop types was accompanied by alterations in arable cultivation practices such as deep ploughing, crop rotation and the increase of manuring of fields which is more difficult to ascertain from examination of the flot materials. The weed seeds which customarily provide additional information on crop husbandry on earlier sites can be more difficult to find on medieval sites, possibly because the transfer to free-threshing varieties of grain meant that crop processing often took place away from the settlement itself (van der Veen *et al.* 2013, 172-3). However, other factors including the deeper ploughing techniques and restrictions on grain processing resulting from grain laws relating to milling will also have had an effect.

4.4.29 The introduction of the heavy mouldboard plough during the Saxon period made the cultivation of heavy clay soils more efficient with the inversion of the soil aerating and breaking up the tilth (McKerracher 2018, 32). A side effect of this would have been the interruption of weed growth, limiting species diversity. Additionally, the increased mechanisation of milling between the 12th and 14th century will have removed much of the usual grain processing detritus from many domestic areas. Prohibitions existed in many counties against the use of hand-powered querns in the home (Rahtz 1981; Jervis 2022) in the form of laws such as the 'mill soke' or 'suit of mill' which required tenants to use the manorial mill.

4.4.30 Cereal chaff is only common in samples 317 (from ditch 550, Phase 1) and 320 (from ditch 334, Phase 2). Rachis nodes from bread wheat dominate, indicating the cultivation of this cereal type. The remains from sample 317 may represent waste from crop processing/cleaning; the deposit also contains larger quantities of cereal grain than other features. There were no millstones or quern stones within the finds assemblage so it is difficult to tell if this disparity is due to grain processing occurring on site during Phase 1 and then being moved off site in later phases, but the richness of the Phase 1 sample when compared with those from Phases 2 and 3 is potentially of interest since Phase 2 dates from the start of the 12th century, when the increase in the mechanisation of milling may have begun.

4.4.31 Barley, oats, and rye are present at a low level across the site, but it is uncertain if they were deliberately cultivated here. Rye and barley rachis fragments are present in the first

phase (sample 317) but not in the later phases so it is possible that these crops were actively cultivated in the earlier period but were relict crops growing in the wheat fields in the later periods, although all these cereals may have been grown on rotation or as mixed crops (maslins or drage).

4.4.32 Larger pulses are also present, but many are fragmented and cannot be further identified. Undoubtedly some of the larger fragments represent peas (*Pisum sativum*) and beans (*Vicia* sp.) which are known to have been cultivated during this period but when damaged it is not possible to distinguish between these and some of the larger vetches. There is a bias against the preservation of legumes archaeologically as they are less likely to be exposed to fire and therefore preservation by charring is less likely (Treasure and Church 2017).

4.4.33 Vetches are fairly common in the samples, mostly medium-sized varieties (2-4mm). It is unclear if these plants were growing as cornfield weeds accidentally included during harvesting, or if they formed part of a crop. Vetches are known to have been grown as a green fertiliser due to their nitrogen-fixing properties but were also grown as a fodder crop (Campbell 2018, 431).

4.4.34 During the medieval period in England crop rotation was practiced, with crops varied from season to season. There are several different crop rotation practices which are usually related to a combination of soil types and crop preference but the method most usually associated with the medieval period is that cereal crops such as wheat, barley or rye would be alternated with a legume crop and a period in which the land was left fallow. The nitrogen fixing of the legumes and the probable ploughing in of plant material from the fallow period, together with the use of manure would have improved fertility of the soil (Carruthers and Hunter Dowse 2019, 125). It is possible that the presence of legume is a result of this practice although vetches may also have grown during the fallow phase in a two-field rotation of crop and then fallow.

Uncultivated plant seeds

4.4.35 The wild plant seed assemblage is dominated by stinking chamomile, a plant often associated with heavy clay soils. While the village of Aston is largely located on freely draining lime-rich loamy soils, loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage are present slightly more than 100m to the north and loamy soils with naturally high groundwater exist to the south, east and west of the settlement (Cranfield University 2023).

4.4.36 The remainder of the assemblage largely comprises common cornfield weeds and plants with a preference for damp places. The association between stinking chamomile and heavy clay soils has already been discussed, and medicks (*Medicago* sp.) which are also present in many of the analysed samples, are often associated with poorer quality soils.

Other plant remains

4.4.37 The remains of other edible plants are not common. Hazelnut shell is present in small quantities in both Phase 1 (sample 317) and Phase 3 (sample 318) but there are insufficient fragments to understand what part this may have played as a food source.

4.4.38 A single charred cherry (*Prunus* sp.) could not be identified further as the burnt flesh adhering to the stone obscures identification, and it is therefore unclear if this is a wild or domestic variety.

Regional perspective

4.4.39 The charred plant material recovered from the excavation at Aston compares well with an assemblage recovered from the rural site of Graven Hill near Bicester which was also active from the 11th century until the 14th when it was abandoned (Cook 2023, 137-45). Rather closer to Aston, a very similar picture is obtained from the late 12th-15th century assemblages from Dean Court Farm, Cumnor (Moffet 1994, 398-406). As with Aston, both assemblages were dominated by bread wheat, mainly of the compact grain type, although at Dean Court Farm some rivet wheat was also identified. At all three sites only small quantities of other cereals were represented, and cereal chaff was limited with the rachis nodes of bread wheat being most common. A single sample from Graven Hill (sample 1028, ditch 3491) contained a slightly wider range of cereal chaff, which compares well with Aston where the ditches were also found to have more variety, possibly because of a slower infilling of the features.

4.4.40 The wild seed assemblages from Dean Court Farm and Graven Hill were also like that from Aston in that both are dominated by stinking chamomile and small vetches, and small quantities of hazelnut and legume fragments were also present in all three assemblages, although unlike those at Dean Court Farm, the legumes at Aston and Graven Hill were largely unidentifiable.

4.4.41 Medieval charred plant assemblages from Oxford are also typically dominated by bread wheat, although rivet wheat type has also been documented from some sites including Lincoln College (Boardman 2019). That assemblage also includes hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), oats (both wild and cultivated) and occasional rye. Along with bread wheat, again the most abundant cereal, oats, rye and six-row hulled barley have also been identified in medieval samples from Magdalen College (Giorgi forthcoming). Charred plant remains from other medieval sites in Oxford show similar results, suggesting that the full range of cereals cultivated in the Oxford hinterland were brought into the town, often as cleaned crops but sometimes for processing there, as evidenced in the 14th century at Lincoln College (Boardman 2019).

Conclusion

4.4.42 The features from this site contained a low to moderate level of charred plant remains that are likely to represent the residue of small-scale domestic activities rather than the wholesale storage or processing of cereals. It is possible that some limited crop processing was taking place at the site during the initial phase of activity but the evidence from the later phases is less clear.

4.4.43 Bread type wheats are dominant and other cereals are not well represented. Pulses are likely to be underrepresented because of preservation bias, as are other foodplants which would have supplied leafy material or tubers.

4.4.44 The charred plant assemblage is consistent with medieval deposits from rural sites in southern England, being characterised by a grain assemblage dominated by free-threshing cereals, predominantly wheat with smaller quantities of hulled barley, oats and occasionally rye as well as associated arable weeds, a little crop-processing waste, legumes and some seeds from ruderal plants which were probably growing within or around the settlement.

5 DISCUSSION BY TIM ALLEN AND KIRSTY SMITH

5.1 Prehistoric

5.1.1 A very small assemblage of struck flints was found residually in later contexts. None of these was a diagnostic tool type, and they cannot therefore definitely be linked to the assemblage of late Neolithic or early Bronze Age flintwork found 250m further south. These flints appear to represent a background scatter such as might be left by an individual or small group passing through the area at some time during the Neolithic or Bronze Age.

5.2 Roman

5.2.1 A variety of Roman finds were recovered from the site, but there were no features that could be confidently dated to the Roman period, and the finds all appear to be residual. The pottery and metal finds included material spanning all of the Roman period, but with an emphasis on the middle and late Roman phases. They probably represent material peripheral to the settlement found 75-150m to the west (JMHS 2002; 2007), possibly derived from a midden and spread onto the adjacent fields in manuring.

5.3 Medieval

5.3.1 Aston is known to have been a late Saxon manor, its name deriving from 'east-tun' or eastern farm within the principal manor of Bampton. The boundaries of Aston were described in grants dating to the 10th-11th centuries, and the village probably originated within this period. The bank below the hedge adjacent to Back Lane is thought possibly to date from this period. It was not, unfortunately, possible to test the bank and ditch, as the one had already been flattened by a recent building, and the other had been infilled and lay beyond the limits of excavation. Within the site there were no features that contained only late Saxon finds in any quantity; the only definite find of the early medieval period was the bone thread-picker, and the St Neots-type pottery was found together with other fabrics suggesting that it belonged to the later 11th century. The location of the bone thread-picker close to the northern limit of the site, and not far south of the possibly late Saxon bank, may provide indirect support for the early date of this bank and ditch, but this is very speculative. On current evidence, the plots along Back Lane were probably laid out in the Norman period.

5.3.2 The excavation uncovered part of one or more plots along Back Lane occupied from the later 11th to the 14th centuries. There appear to have been two main ditch alignments, one parallel and at right angles to Back Lane, the other more nearly north-south. Oddly, the north-south alignment is evident both in Phase 1 and in Phase 3, but the orientation is parallel to Back Lane in Phase 2. This suggests a realignment during the most active period of occupation, the orientation reverting to that of the N-S boundary in Phase 3, i.e. the late 13th century. Excavation of a number of deserted medieval villages, for instance Tattenhoe and Westbury, Milton Keynes (Ivens *et al.* 1995), has shown that the organisation of regular plots did not occur until the mid-13th century, prior to which boundaries were less clearly defined, ditches occurring on a variety of alignments and with significant gaps between them (*ibid.*, fig. 9 and fig. 49).

5.3.3 The varying orientation of the ditches means that it is unclear whether the full width of either plot was included in the excavation, and if it was, then it varied significantly from north to south, so applying a standard medieval measurement (for example in terms of

perches) is meaningless. A possible boundary at the rear of one plot may be represented by Phase 2 ditch 104=334, giving a length of 70m (228 feet), but this is not certain, and a pronounced ditched boundary on much the same alignment was evident on the LiDAR some 12.5m further to the south-east, a length of 82.5m (268 feet). This boundary turned to run slightly west of due north and just missed the east edge of the site, roughly parallel to the ditches found at the east edge dating to the later 11th to mid-13th centuries, and so it is possible that the plot boundaries had either contracted or were extended later in the medieval period.

5.3.4 Due to the nature of the development only a very small proportion of the area adjacent to Back Lane was excavated, the main part of the excavation lying some 18m from the lane. The only previous investigations along Back Lane, watching briefs undertaken adjacent to Barry House and Clematis Cottage on the other side of the road (John Moore Heritage Services 2002; 2007), both included areas close to the lane, but no medieval masonry remains were found at Barry House, and the only masonry structures at Clematis Cottage were found 15m or more from the lane (*ibid.*, fig. 2). In many rural villages tenement buildings are normally located on the frontage, so that what was examined would be the backyards of the plots, and not the tenement buildings. This was certainly the case throughout the 13th and 14th centuries at Burton Dassett Southend, Warwickshire (Palmer and Parkhouse 2023), and was generally also true at Seacourt, Oxfordshire (Biddle 1961-2, fig. 4), although at the latter there were only limited exposures of the pre-14th century occupation levels. A similar layout at Aston might explain the absence of any evidence for buildings in Phases 1 and 2 (later 11th to mid-13th centuries), and the dense collection of pits in the northern half of the site, with ditches possibly separating the toft buildings from the pit zone behind.

5.3.5 Any buildings of the later 11th to early 13th century are much more likely to have been constructed of timber, as they were at Seacourt, Tattenhoe (Ivens *et al.* 1995, figs 9, 10 and 13) and Westbury (*ibid.*, 136-8). At Aston only a few scattered postholes were found, and had buildings of this type existed within the excavation area, it is alternatively possible either that they had been destroyed by later features, much of the site being occupied by the zone of dense pitting and internal boundary ditches, or were not exposed, as the Phase 3 spreads were not removed over much of the northern half of the site.

5.3.6 The later Building I, which dated to Phase 3, lay between 18 and 24m behind the lane, so may represent an expansion of the area of buildings from the late 13th century, the additional building following the reorientated east-west and north-south alignment of the ditches. The single wall foundation identified is very shallow, and the size and character of the stones make it clear that this was a stone foundation for a timber sill-beam and superstructure, not for a stone wall. In some medieval rural settlements in Oxfordshire such buildings become less common as the later medieval period progresses; the buildings at Seacourt, for example, were predominantly built of stone, making use of the plentiful supply of limestone available from the Cotswolds not far to the north, but timber buildings continued to be constructed up to and beyond the end of the medieval period in other parts of the county. This variability may be due to what rights of access the local manor had to stone quarries as compared to woodland.

5.3.7 Given the shallowness of the surviving length of wall it is not surprising that later ploughing has removed similar evidence elsewhere within the site, but as a result the full dimensions of this building cannot be determined. It is likely that the hearth and adjacent

reddening were internal to the building, and within the main living quarters (Grenville 1997), giving it a minimum length of 8m east-west by 4m north-south. The location of the hearth does not provide any further indication of the size of the building, as within medieval rural peasant houses their location varies considerably, some examples being central as in Areas 5 and 29 at Seacourt (Biddle 1961-2, figs 8 and 14), but others towards one end of the main room (Ivens *et al.* 1995, figs 75 and 91), and yet others against a wall, for example Area 11 at Seacourt (Biddle 1961-2, fig. 13).

5.3.8 The main east-west drain was clearly outside the building, and if the western drain was a similar distance outside, then this would limit the possible length westwards to a maximum of 10m. Further definition is not possible. Drains have been recorded within many rural medieval buildings from the 12th-15th century, so it is also possible that the western drain crossed the interior of the building, but no evidence of a continuation of the wall or of any floors was recorded in the edge of the site west of the trenches already described. Other internal details are scant, though stone surface 497 may have formed an area of hardstanding in an area of high traffic, perhaps adjacent to a doorway or a cross passage.

5.3.9 The finds from the settlement are consistent with a low-status rural property of the medieval period, and clearly reinforce the picture of pottery supply already suggested from earlier excavations at neighbouring Bampton (Blinkhorn 2000). The distribution of slag, which is concentrated in the north-eastern part of the site, initially suggested that there might have been a focus of smithing in this area. While this remains possible, the larger fragments may simply have been brought in as part of the material used to create surfaces within and outside Building 1, and may not have originated in this area. Smithies found at other medieval rural sites such as Area 31 at Seacourt (Biddle 1961-2, 116 and fig. 4) and Area J at Burton Dassett Southend (Palmer and Parkhouse 2023, 185-7) contained a significantly greater quantity of slag than here, and with much greater evidence of burning.

5.3.10 The agricultural economy indicated by the animal bones and the charred plant remains are also unremarkable, and again bear out the picture seen at other rural settlements such as Bampton (Pelling 2000, 286-7), Dean Court Farm, Cumnor (Moffett 1993, 398-406) and Graven Hill, Bicester (Powell 2023, 129-137; Cook 2023, 137-145).

5.3.11 The occupation appears largely to have ended by around 1400. Villages in Oxfordshire and elsewhere suffered from the Black Death 1349-51 and also harvest failures and infectious diseases of farm animals in the early 14th century. For example, at Cuxham, South Oxfordshire, harvest failures were noted in 1315, 1316 and 1321 and a series of sheep and cattle murrains were noted in the period from 1313-1321 (Rowley and Wood 2000, 14). The *Victoria County History* records around 55 households in Aston in 1279 and at the time of this survey a number of holdings in the settlement had been recently divided. The population continued to rise from 63 households in 1306 to 78 households in 1327, and 156 inhabitants aged over 14 were recorded in 1377. This suggests that the 14th century population decline in this manor was less severe than some other parts of Oxfordshire, though some contraction in numbers is still evident. In the 15th century the population in Aston fell further, and a similar fall was seen in the nearby royal estate at Bampton, where abandoned tenements are recorded. The abandonment of the tenement or tenements excavated at Aston is likely to have been part of this wider decline. Reasons for this are not fully known, but it may relate to a delayed economic recovery after the shocks of the 14th century (Baggs 1996, 31-43, 62-6).

5.3.12 Medieval activity at Aston has previously been recorded west of North Street, north of High Street and along the other side of Back Lane (Fig. 1), the latter including pits of the 11th-12th century 150m to the south-west and medieval pits (not further distinguished) 75m from the site (John Moore Heritage Services 2002; 2007). The extent of the medieval village is therefore much as might be expected, along the three roads surrounding a central 'green'. It is however noticeable that, in addition to the clear ridge-and-furrow cultivation strips evident on the LiDAR survey north and west of Back Lane, there are also fainter traces of possible ridge-and-furrow cultivation immediately to the east of the site, as well as east of Back Lane further south-west (Fig. 12). There was no trace of such cultivation within the excavated area, and it might suggest that the spread of tenements along the south side of Back Lane was limited, with a contemporary cultivated field to the east within the 'green' and possibly another to the south-west, the medieval properties confined to the west side of the Lane here. It should however be remembered that the LiDAR shows remains of all periods together, and it remains possible that either of these area of ridge-and-furrow is of considerably later date, as this form of cultivation was still common into the late 18th or even the 19th century in many rural areas.

5.3.13 The current excavation provides further evidence for the distribution of tenements along Back Lane, and has also provided the first sizeable investigation of the medieval village of Aston between the mid-11th and the end of the 14th century. Due to the limitations of the area of proposed development, it was not however possible to examine the entirety of the medieval plots, limiting understanding of the organisation and development of these properties over time. Nevertheless, the excavations have provided useful further evidence for the patterns of pottery supply and for the medieval peasant economy in this part of west Oxfordshire.

6 PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVING

6.1 Publication

6.1.1 The excavations have provided useful information about the medieval settlement of Aston between the mid-11th and the end of the 14th century. Due to the fact that only parts of the medieval tenement(s) were exposed, however, and that the area containing the building was not fully excavated, the results are less informative than might otherwise have been the case. The information recovered about pottery supply and diet reinforces rather than extends our understanding of the medieval economy in West Oxfordshire. As a result, it is recommended that a short note should be placed in the county journal *Oxoniensia* drawing attention to the full report available online and at the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record.

6.2 Archiving, retention and disposal

6.2.1 The digital archive will be uploaded to the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). A copy of the report will also be available on the OA library at: <https://library.oxfordarchaeology.com/>.

6.2.2 The site archive will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service under accession number OXCMS:2021.23 cont.

Recommendations for the retention and disposal of finds

6.2.3 The Roman and Post-Roman pottery reported on here has the potential to inform future research through re-analysis and it is recommended that all the pottery is retained. This follows the advice set out in the 'Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology' (PCRG, SGRP, MPRG 2016).

6.2.4 Recommendations for the remaining finds and environmental samples are:

- The structural fired clay should be retained, the indeterminate fired clay can be discarded as it has limited research value.
- The metal finds should be retained as they include Roman, medieval and post-medieval objects representing over 2000 years of activity.
- Although a relatively small group, the slag has potential for future study, and should be retained.
- The possible floor stone (511) should be retained. The other stone can be discarded.
- The worked flint has limited research value at present but should be retained and integrated into any future work in the area. Natural pieces recovered during excavation should be discarded.
- The worked bone pin beater dates to the Anglo-Saxon period and should be retained.
- The animal bone assemblage is not particularly large but is well-preserved, and has potential to contribute to wider research issues in the future. The assemblage should therefore be retained, together with the fish bones.
- The assessed CPR flots should be retained and a copy of the assessment should form part of the site archive.

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APPENDIX A TABLE OF CONTEXTS

P:pottery, M: metals

Phase 1: AD 1050-1100 (purple); Phase 1-2 (pink); Phase 2: AD 1100-1250 (blue); Phase 3: AD 1250-1550 (green); Phase 4: AD 1150-1900+ (black); Undated (white)

| Context # | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Context type | Fill of | Group | Sample numbers (* cut contains sample in marked fill) | Interpretive Category | Section numbers | Description | Spot date from pottery, and other key finds | Phase |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|---------|-------|---|-----------------------|-----------------|---|---|----------------|
| 300 | | | layer | 300 | | | Topsoil | | A friable dark brown clayey silt. | | Phase 4/Modern |
| 301 | | | layer | 301 | | | Subsoil | | A friable reddish mid-brown silty clayey gravel. | 1765-1800 (P). AD 1600-1900 (M). Res Roman coin and P | Phase 4 |
| 302 | 0.94 | 0.12 | cut | | | | Pit | 314 | An oval pit which truncates [390]. | | Phase 4 |
| 303 | 0.94 | 0.12 | fill | 302 | | | Primary Fill | | A firm dark brownish clayey-silt. | 1600-1800 (bodkin) | Phase 4 |
| 304 | | | cut | | | | Pit | | Unexcavated pit. Silver coin found in its upper layer. Thought to be same as [502]. | | Phase 3 |
| 305 | | | fill | 304 | | | Primary Fill | | Unexcavated feature. | AD 1305-6 (M - coin) | Phase 3 |
| 306 | | | layer | 306 | | | Natural | | Natural, a mottled bright orangish/yellow reddish gravel clay, | | Natural |
| 307 | 0.32 | 0.04 | cut | | | | Pit | 300 | A small circular pit, 0.41m long. | | Unphased |
| 308 | 0.32 | 0.04 | fill | 307 | | | Primary Fill | | A firm to friable dark greyish brown clayey silt. | | Unphased |
| 309 | 0.91 | 0.14 | cut | | | | Pit | 301 | A circular possibly stone-line pit. 0.92m long. | c1050-1250+? (P) | Phase 2 |
| 310 | 0.91 | 0.14 | fill | 309 | | | Primary Fill | | A friable dark brownish clayey-silt. | c1050-1250+? (P) | Phase 2 |
| 311 | 0.24 | 0.06 | cut | | 309 | | Posthole | 302 | A circular post-hole, 0.25m long. | | Unphased |
| 312 | 0.24 | 0.06 | fill | 311 | | | Primary Fill | | A friable dark-brownish grey clayey silt. | | Unphased |
| 313 | 0.37 | 0.1 | cut | | | | Posthole | 303 | A circular post-hole. | | Unphased |
| 314 | 0.37 | 0.1 | fill | 313 | | | Primary Fill | | A friable dark-brownish clayey-silt. | | Unphased |

| Context # | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Context type | Fill of | Group | Sample numbers (* cut contains sample in marked fill) | Interpretive Category | Section numbers | Description | Spot date from pottery, and other key finds | Phase |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|---------|-------|---|-----------------------|-----------------|---|---|-----------|
| 315 | | 0.06 | layer | 315 | | | Metalled Surface | 304, 342 | Gravelly metalled surface. | c1150-1500 (P) | Phase 3 |
| 316 | 0.64 | 0.24 | cut | | 587 | *321 | Ditch | 304 | A N-S aligned ditch. | | Phase 1/2 |
| 317 | 0.64 | 0.24 | fill | 316 | 587 | 321 | Primary Fill | | A firm greyish-brown clayey silt. | | Phase 1/2 |
| 318 | 0.69 | 0.08 | cut | | | | Pit | 305 | An irregularly shaped oblong pit, 1.22m long. | c1150-1350 | Phase 3 |
| 319 | 0.69 | 0.08 | fill | 318 | | | Primary Fill | | A friable dark-brownish clayey-silt. | c1150-1350 (P) | Phase 3 |
| 320 | 0.74 | 0.18 | cut | | | | Pit | 306 | A circular pit. | | Unphased |
| 321 | 0.74 | 0.18 | fill | 320 | | | Primary Fill | | A firm-friable dark brownish clayey silt. | | Unphased |
| 322 | 0.64 | 0.37 | cut | | 587 | | Ditch | 307 | Terminus for a NW-SE aligned ditch. | | Phase 1/2 |
| 323 | 0.64 | 0.37 | fill | 322 | 587 | | Primary Fill | | A firm to friable dark blackish-brown clayey silt. | | Phase 1/2 |
| 324 | | 0.06 | layer | 324 | | 319 | Other Layer | 307 | A spread covering a series of pits and ditches. Possibly filling in a natural dip in the landscape. Same as (382, 383, 459, 333). | same as 459 | Phase 3 |
| 325 | 0.64 | 0.34 | cut | | | *325 | Pit | 308 | A circular pit truncated by [330]. | | Phase 2 |
| 326 | 0.64 | 0.34 | fill | 325 | | 330 | Primary Fill | | A firm to friable blackish brown clayey silt. | | Phase 2 |
| 327 | 1.04 | 0.27 | cut | | | | Pit | 308 | An uneven circular pit truncated by [325]; [330]. | c1150-1350 | Phase 2 |
| 328 | 1.04 | 0.18 | fill | 327 | | | Primary Fill | | A firm to friable mottled mid greyish silty clay. | c1150-1350 (P) | Phase 2 |
| 329 | 0.76 | 0.18 | fill | 327 | | | Primary Fill | | A friable mid brownish clayey silt. | | Phase 2 |
| 330 | 1 | 0.34 | cut | | 584 | *329 | Ditch | 308 | A SW-NE linear, truncates [325]; [327]; [332]. | c1050-1350? | Phase 2 |
| 331 | 1 | 0.34 | fill | 330 | 584 | 329 | Primary Fill | | A firm - friable dark greyish blackish-brown clayey silt. | c1050-1350? (P) | Phase 2 |
| 332 | | | void | | | | | | | | |
| 333 | 1 | 0.08 | layer | 333 | | | Other Layer | | A firm mid brownish clayey silt. Thought to be a part of a spread, same as (382, 383, 459, 324). | same as 459 | Phase 3 |
| 334 | 1.42 | 0.4 | cut | | | *320 | Ditch | 309 | A W-E linear. | 104 had 11-14th pottery in it | Phase 2 |
| 335 | 1.42 | 0.4 | fill | 334 | | 320 | Primary Fill | | A firm dark greyish-brown clayey silt. | Roman P (res) | Phase 2 |

| Context # | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Context type | Fill of | Group | Sample numbers (* cut contains sample in marked fill) | Interpretive Category | Section numbers | Description | Spot date from pottery, and other key finds | Phase |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|---------|-------|---|-----------------------|-----------------|--|---|---------|
| 336 | 0.9 | 0.09 | cut | | 585 | *300 | Ditch | 310 | A shallow E-W ditch, possibly part of an enclosure around a pit area. | | Phase 1 |
| 337 | 0.9 | 0.09 | fill | 336 | 585 | 300 | Secondary Fill | | A coarse grained friable, dark brownish grey silty clay. | | Phase 1 |
| 338 | 0.7 | 0.9 | cut | | | *332 | Pit | 311, 321 | Large pit that truncates a shallow running linear and another pit. Undercuts both. | c1050-1250? | Phase 2 |
| 339 | 0.7 | 0.9 | fill | 338 | | 332 | Secondary Fill | | Dark, black brown compact silty clay silty clay. Pottery and animal bone was found from this fill. | c1050-1250? (P) | Phase 2 |
| 340 | 0.3 | 0.58 | cut | | | | Pit | 311, 321 | A medium sized pit which is truncated by much larger pit [338]. Part of relationship slot. | c1150-1300 | Phase 2 |
| 341 | 0.3 | 0.58 | fill | 340 | | | Secondary Fill | | Greyish, brown compact silty clay. Pottery and animal bone was found from this fill. | c1150-1300 (P) | Phase 2 |
| 342 | 0.54 | 0.2 | cut | | 584 | | Ditch | 311, 321 | Shallow ditch which runs NE-SW. Truncated by a large pit [338]. Part of a relationship slot. | | Phase 2 |
| 343 | 0.54 | 0.2 | fill | 342 | 584 | | Secondary Fill | | Dark, brown compact silty clay. No finds were found from this fill. | | Phase 2 |
| 344 | 0.62 | 0.22 | cut | | 585 | | Ditch | 312 | Shallow boundary linear in a general E-W alignment, same as [336]. | | Phase 1 |
| 345 | 0.35 | 0.22 | fill | 344 | 585 | | Secondary Fill | | A coarse grained friable brown grey silty clay. | | Phase 1 |
| 346 | 0.65 | 0.1 | cut | | | | Ditch | 312 | A N-S aligned linear, cut by [344]. | | Phase 1 |
| 347 | 0.65 | 0.1 | fill | 346 | | | Secondary Fill | | A coarse grained friable orange brown silty clay. | | Phase 1 |
| 348 | 1.8 | 0.62 | cut | | | | Pit | 313 | A circular pit, cut by [350]. | | Phase 1 |
| 349 | 1.8 | 0.62 | fill | 348 | | | Primary Fill | | A firm mid dark brownish silty clay. | | Phase 1 |
| 350 | 1.16 | 0.36 | cut | | | | Pit | 313 | A circular pit, cut by [355] and cuts [350]. | c1175-1300? | Phase 2 |
| 351 | 1.16 | 0.36 | fill | 350 | | | Primary Fill | | A firm to friable dark brownish clayey silt. | c1175-1300? (P) | Phase 2 |

| Context # | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Context type | Fill of | Group | Sample numbers (* cut contains sample in marked fill) | Interpretive Category | Section numbers | Description | Spot date from pottery, and other key finds | Phase |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|---------|-------|---|-----------------------|-----------------|--|---|-----------|
| 352 | 0.82 | 0.33 | cut | | 588 | | Ditch | 313 | A NE-SW liner, cut by [360] and cuts [350]. | c1050-1250? | Phase 2/3 |
| 353 | 0.83 | 0.33 | fill | 352 | 588 | | Primary Fill | | A friable dark greyish-brown clayey silt. | c1050-1250? (P) | Phase 2/3 |
| 354 | | | void | | | | | | | | |
| 355 | 0.98 | 0.68 | cut | | | | Ditch | 313 | A N-S linear, truncated by [358] and truncates [350]. | c1150-1300? | Phase 2 |
| 356 | 0.98 | 0.68 | fill | 355 | | | Primary Fill | | A firm mid brownish clayey silt. | | Phase 2 |
| 357 | 1.1 | 0.52 | fill | 355 | | | Secondary Fill | | A friable blackish grey clayey silt. | c1150-1300? (P) | Phase 2 |
| 358 | 1.04 | 0.34 | cut | | | | Pit | 313 | A circular-oval pit, truncates [350]. | | Phase 3 |
| 359 | 1.04 | 0.34 | fill | 358 | | | Primary Fill | | A firm to friable dark greyish brown clayey silt. | | Phase 3 |
| 360 | 0.62 | 0.16 | cut | | | | Pit | 313 | A circular shallow concave pit. | | Phase 3 |
| 361 | 0.62 | 0.16 | fill | 360 | | | Primary Fill | | A firm mid-dark brownish clayey silt. | | Phase 3 |
| 362 | | | void | | | | | | | | |
| 363 | 0.8 | 0.24 | cut | | | | Ditch | 316 | A N-S linear, truncates [365]. | | Phase 3 |
| 364 | 0.8 | 0.24 | fill | 363 | | | Secondary Fill | | A coarse grained orangey brown clayey silt. | | Phase 3 |
| 365 | 2.4 | 0.86 | cut | | | | Pit | 315 | A lar sub-oval pit with multiple fills, thought to be cut by: [363], | c1250-1500 | Phase 2 |
| 366 | 0.8 | 0.58 | fill | 404 | | | Secondary Fill | | A coarse grained soft brown grey silty clay. | | Phase 3 |
| 367 | | | void | | | | | | | | |
| 368 | 1.1 | 0.8 | fill | 365 | | | Secondary Fill | | A coarse grained soft mid brownish orange silty clay. | c1250-1500 (P) | Phase 2 |
| 369 | 1.1 | 0.11 | fill | 365 | | | Secondary Fill | | A coarse grained friable light orangey brown clayey silt. | | Phase 2 |
| 370 | 0.48 | 0.26 | fill | 403 | | 301 | Secondary Fill | | A coarse grained loose dark greyish brown silty clay. | | Phase 1 |

| Context # | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Context type | Fill of | Group | Sample numbers (* cut contains sample in marked fill) | Interpretive Category | Section numbers | Description | Spot date from pottery, and other key finds | Phase |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|---------|-------|---|-----------------------|-----------------|--|---|-----------|
| 371 | 0.95 | 0.78 | cut | | | | Pit | 317 | A large pit located in the N-W area of site. It truncates a shallow linear feature running W-E and another pit that it may have been cut into. | c1150-1300? | Phase 3 |
| 372 | 0.78 | 0.35 | fill | 371 | | | Secondary Fill | | Compact dark, greyish brown silty clay. The top fill of pit [371]. Lots of pottery and animal bone was found from this fill. Some of the pottery was spot dated. | c1150-1300? (P) | Phase 3 |
| 373 | 0.8 | 0.55 | cut | | | | Pit | 317 | A deep pit which is truncated by another large pit [371]. This pit appears to be undercutting the natural, a common theme in a lot of the pits in this area. | c1150-1250? | Phase 2 |
| 374 | 0.8 | 0.55 | fill | 373 | | | Secondary Fill | | Compact dark, blackish brown silty clay. Lots of pottery and animal bone found from this fill. Some of the pottery was spot dated. | c1150-1250? (P). Roman P (res) | Phase 2 |
| 375 | 0.7 | 0.2 | cut | | 586 | | Ditch | 317 | A shallow ditch which appears to runs W-E. It is truncated heavily by the large pit [371]. | | Phase 3 |
| 376 | 0.7 | 0.2 | fill | 375 | 586 | | Secondary Fill | | Compact dark brown silty clay. Small amounts of pottery and animal bone found from this fill. | Res Roman P | Phase 3 |
| 377 | 0.75 | 0.48 | fill | 371 | | | Secondary Fill | | Compact dark, brown silty clay. No finds found from this fill. | | Phase 3 |
| 378 | 1.74 | 0.26 | cut | | 587 | | Ditch | 318 | A N-S aligned ditch, running parallel to [380]. | | Phase 1/2 |
| 379 | 1.74 | 0.26 | fill | 378 | 587 | | Secondary Fill | 318 | A firm dark greyish brown clayey silt. | | Phase 1/2 |
| 380 | 0.86 | 0.25 | cut | | | | Ditch | 318 | A N-S aligned ditch running parallel to [378]. | | Phase 2? |
| 381 | 0.76 | 0.21 | fill | 380 | | 323 | Secondary Fill | 318 | A moderately compact mid brownish grey clayey silt. | | Phase 2? |

| Context # | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Context type | Fill of | Group | Sample numbers (* cut contains sample in marked fill) | Interpretive Category | Section numbers | Description | Spot date from pottery, and other key finds | Phase |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|---------|-------|---|-----------------------|-----------------|--|---|----------|
| 382 | 0.86 | 0.06 | fill | 380 | | *323 | Secondary Fill | 318 | A soft dark greyish brown clayey silt. thought to be a part of a spread - same as (333, 383, 459, 324). | | Phase 2? |
| 383 | 1.4 | 0.09 | layer | 383 | | | Other Layer | 318 | A soft light brownish grey clayey silt. thought to be a part of a spread - same as (382, 333, 459, 324). | | Phase 3 |
| 384 | 0.4 | 0.74 | cut | | | | Pit | 318 | A sub-circular pit cut by [378]. | c1050-1250//AD43-1100 | Phase 1 |
| 385 | 0.38 | 0.26 | fill | 384 | | | Primary (lowest) fill | 318 | A firm, soft in places, mid orangish grey clayey silt. | AD 43-1100 (M - dress brooch) | Phase 1 |
| 386 | 0.4 | 0.25 | fill | 384 | | | Secondary Fill | 318 | A moderately compact mid brownish grey clayey silt. | | Phase 1 |
| 387 | 0.4 | 0.3 | fill | 384 | | | Tertiary Fill | 318 | A firm dark greyish brown clayey silt. | c1050-1250 (P) | Phase 2 |
| 388 | 1.8 | 0.27 | cut | | | | Pit | 319 | A shallow sub circular pit. | | Unphased |
| 389 | 1.8 | 0.27 | fill | 388 | | | Secondary Fill | 319 | A firm mid brownish grey clayey silt. | | Unphased |
| 390 | 0.8 | 0.96 | cut | | | *302/302 | Pit | 314 | A circular pit, truncates [400], and cut by [302]; [394]. | c1050-1250? | Phase 3 |
| 391 | 0.74 | 0.28 | fill | 390 | | 302 | Primary Fill | | A firm dark brownish clayey silt. | c1050-1250? (P) | Phase 3 |
| 392 | 0.8 | 0.34 | fill | 390 | | 303 | Secondary Fill | | A friable mid dark brownish with a mottled greenish hue clayey silt. | | Phase 3 |
| 393 | 0.8 | 0.34 | fill | 390 | | | Tertiary Fill | | A friable mottled greyish brown clayey silt. | c1150-1300? (P) | Phase 3 |
| 394 | 0.7 | 0.48 | cut | | | | Pit | 314 | A circular pit, cut by [390]; [400]. | | Phase 3 |
| 395 | 0.7 | 0.48 | fill | 394 | | | Primary Fill | | A firm yellowish clay. | | Phase 3 |
| 396 | 1.1 | 0.46 | cut | | | | Pit | 314 | A possible circular pit truncated by [400]. | c1100-1250?/1400-1600 | Phase 3 |
| 397 | 1.1 | 0.16 | fill | 396 | | | Primary Fill | | A firm dark brown with mottled yellow brown silty clay. | | Phase 3 |

| Context # | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Context type | Fill of | Group | Sample numbers (* cut contains sample in marked fill) | Interpretive Category | Section numbers | Description | Spot date from pottery, and other key finds | Phase |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|---------|-------|---|-----------------------|-----------------|---|---|---------|
| 398 | 0.52 | 0.16 | fill | 396 | | | Deliberate Backfill | | A firm brownish red with grey clayey gravel, thought to be redeposited natural, | | Phase 3 |
| 399 | 1.1 | 0.36 | fill | 396 | | | Secondary Fill | | A friable greyish clayey silt, | c1100-1250 (P)/1400-1600 (M). Slag cake fragment? | Phase 3 |
| 400 | 0.66 | 0.2 | cut | | | | Ring Gully | 314 | A curvilinear gully truncated by [394] and truncates [396]. | c1100-1250? | Phase 3 |
| 401 | 0.66 | 0.02 | fill | 400 | | | Deliberate Backfill | | A friable mottled brownish clayey silt, thought to be a lens of redeposited natural. | | Phase 3 |
| 402 | 0.66 | 0.18 | fill | 400 | | | Primary Fill | | A friable dark greyish clayey silt. | c1100-1250? (P). Roman P (res) | Phase 3 |
| 403 | 0.45 | 0.26 | cut | | | *301 | Pit | 315 | A sub-circular pit, truncated [365]. | | Phase 1 |
| 404 | 0.5 | 0.31 | cut | | | | Ditch | 315 | Linear. | Part of 363 | Phase 3 |
| 405 | 1.7 | 0.85 | cut | | | | Ditch | 320 | Terminus of a SW-NE aligned ditch. | c1100-1250? | Phase 2 |
| 406 | 1.7 | 0.35 | fill | 405 | | | Secondary Fill | | Very compact mid greyish brown silty clay with gravel inclusions. | c1100-1250? (P). Roman P (res) | Phase 2 |
| 407 | 1.7 | 0.5 | fill | 405 | | | Secondary Fill | | A firm mid greyish brown silty clay. | c1100-1250? (Res Roman P). Slag cake fragment | Phase 2 |
| 408 | | 0.3 | fill | 405 | | | Skeleton | | Lower part of an animal skeleton. | | Phase 2 |
| 409 | 0.7 | 0.13 | cut | | | | Ditch | 320 | E-W curvilinear ditch cut by [405]. | c1100-1250? | Phase 2 |
| 410 | 0.7 | 0.13 | fill | 409 | | | Secondary Fill | | A firm light brownish silty clay. | c1100-1250? (P) | Phase 2 |
| 411 | 0.45 | 0.74 | cut | | | | Pit | 320 | A sub rectangular pit. | c1050-1350 | Phase 2 |
| 412 | 0.45 | 0.43 | fill | 411 | | | Secondary Fill | | A compact mid reddish brown silty clay. | Roman P (res) | Phase 2 |
| 413 | 2.19 | 0.61 | cut | | | *333 | Pit | 321 | Large to medium sized pit. Truncates potential linear feature [342] but has no relation with the other large pit [338] which also truncates this linear. This pit was found after an extension slot was added to an existing relationship slot S.311. | c1100-1250? | Phase 2 |

| Context # | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Context type | Fill of | Group | Sample numbers (* cut contains sample in marked fill) | Interpretive Category | Section numbers | Description | Spot date from pottery, and other key finds | Phase |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|---------|-------|---|-----------------------|-----------------|--|---|-----------|
| 414 | 2.19 | 0.61 | fill | 413 | | 333 | Secondary Fill | | Compact dark, black brown silty clay. There was a moderate amount of pottery and animal bone found from this fill. | c1100-1250? (P) | Phase 2 |
| 415 | 0.95 | 0.16 | cut | | 587 | | Ditch | 322 | A linear that runs N-S. It could potentially be a shallow ditch. It is truncated by another linear [417] which truncates it on a W-E alignment. Part of a relationship slot. | | Phase 1/2 |
| 416 | 0.95 | 0.16 | fill | 415 | 587 | | Secondary Fill | | Compact brown silty clay. No finds were found from this fill. | | Phase 1/2 |
| 417 | 0.92 | 0.2 | cut | | 586 | | Ditch | 322 | A linear ditch which runs W-E. It truncates an existing linear [415]. This ditch appear to potentially also terminate within linear [415]. Part of a relationship slot. | | Phase 3 |
| 418 | 0.92 | 0.2 | fill | 417 | 586 | | Secondary Fill | | Compact, greyish brown silty clay. No finds were found from this fill. | | Phase 3 |
| 419 | 2 | 0.32 | cut | | | *304 | Pit | 323 | A circular pit truncating [421]. | c1100-1250? | Phase 3 |
| 420 | 2 | 0.32 | fill | 419 | | 304 | Primary Fill | | A firm friable dark greyish clayey silt. | c1100-1250? (P) | Phase 3 |
| 421 | 0.6 | 0.66 | cut | | 586 | *305 | Ditch | 323 | An irregular oblong pit. | c1150-1250? | Phase 3 |
| 422 | 0.6 | 0.28 | fill | 421 | 586 | 305 | Primary Fill | | A friable brown grey clayey silt. | c1150-1250? (P) | Phase 3 |
| 423 | 0.6 | 0.26 | fill | 421 | | | Secondary Fill | | A friable greyish brown silty clay. | | Phase 3 |
| 424 | 0.3 | 0.12 | layer | 424 | | | Natural | | A capping layer?. | | Natural |
| 425 | 0.43 | 0.36 | fill | 411 | | | Secondary Fill | | A firm mid greyish brown silty clay. | c1050-1350 (P) | Phase 2 |
| 426 | 0.6 | 0.2 | cut | | | | Pit | 320 | A sub rectangular pit. | | Phase 3 |
| 427 | 0.3 | 0.2 | fill | 426 | | | Secondary Fill | | A firm mid greyish brown silty clay. | | Phase 3 |
| 428 | 2 | 0.2 | cut | | | | Ditch | 324 | Pit? | c1820-1900 | Phase 4 |

| Context # | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Context type | Fill of | Group | Sample numbers (* cut contains sample in marked fill) | Interpretive Category | Section numbers | Description | Spot date from pottery, and other key finds | Phase |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|---------|-------|---|-----------------------|-----------------|---|---|-----------|
| 429 | | | void | | | | | | | | |
| 430 | | 0.66 | cut | | | *309 | Pit | 324 | pit? | | Phase 2 |
| 431 | 1.2 | 0.48 | fill | 430 | | 309 | Secondary Fill | | A coarse grained soft dark brownish grey silty clay. | | Phase 2 |
| 432 | | 0.5 | cut | | | | Pit | 324 | pit? | | Phase 2 |
| 433 | 1.1 | 0.6 | fill | 432 | | | Secondary Fill | | A coarse grained soft dark blackish brown with lenes of orange silty clay. | | Phase 2 |
| 434 | | 0.5 | cut | | | | Pit | 324 | pit? | | Phase 2 |
| 435 | | 0.5 | fill | 434 | | | Secondary Fill | | A coarse grained soft dark blackish grey silty clay. | | Phase 2 |
| 436 | | | void | | | | | | | | |
| 437 | | | void | | | | | | | | |
| 438 | | 0.55 | cut | | | | Pit | | pit? | | Phase 2 |
| 439 | 1.34 | 0.22 | fill | 438 | | | Secondary Fill | | A coarse grained soft dark orangish brown silty clay. | | Phase 2 |
| 440 | 0.8 | 0.38 | cut | | | *324 | Ditch | 325 | A NW-SE aligned ditch truncated by [443]. | | Phase 2 |
| 441 | 0.8 | 0.14 | fill | 440 | | | Primary Fill | | A firm to friable mottled brown orange silty clay. | | Phase 2 |
| 442 | 0.8 | 0.27 | fill | 440 | | 324 | Secondary Fill | | A friable dark greyish-brown clayey silt. | | Phase 2 |
| 443 | 0.8 | 0.4 | cut | | 587 | | Ditch | 325 | A NW-SE aligned ditch truncates [440]; [450]. | | Phase 1/2 |
| 444 | 0.8 | 0.4 | fill | 443 | 587 | | Primary Fill | | A firm to friable dark greyish clayey silt. | | Phase 1/2 |
| 445 | 0.76 | 0.32 | cut | | | *307 | Pit | 325 | A circular pit cut by [448]. | | Phase 1 |
| 446 | 0.54 | 0.16 | fill | 445 | | 307 | Primary Fill | | A friable dark greyish blue silty clay. | | Phase 1 |
| 447 | 0.76 | 0.17 | fill | 445 | | | Placed Deposit | | A firm to friable mottled brownish orange silty clay - redeposited natural. | | Phase 1 |
| 448 | 1.24 | 0.48 | cut | | | *306 | Pit | 325 | A circular pit truncates [450]; [445]. | | Phase 3? |
| 449 | 1.24 | 0.48 | fill | 448 | | 306 | Primary Fill | | A friable dark greyish clayey silt. | Roman P (res) | Phase 3? |

| Context # | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Context type | Fill of | Group | Sample numbers (* cut contains sample in marked fill) | Interpretive Category | Section numbers | Description | Spot date from pottery, and other key finds | Phase |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|---------|-------|---|-----------------------|-----------------|---|---|----------|
| 450 | 0.36 | 0.18 | cut | | 585 | | Gully | 325 | A E-W gully, cut by [443]; [448]. | | Phase 1 |
| 451 | 0.36 | 0.18 | fill | 450 | 585 | | Primary Fill | | A friable mid-light grey silty clay. | | Phase 1 |
| 452 | | | void | | | | | | | | |
| 453 | | | void | | | | | | | | |
| 454 | 0.4 | 0.08 | cut | | | | Ditch | | A NW-SE ditch, | | Phase 2 |
| 455 | 0.4 | 0.08 | fill | 454 | | | Primary Fill | | A friable dark brownish slightly grey clayey silt. | | Phase 2 |
| 456 | 0.74 | 0.72 | cut | | | *308 | Pit | 326 | A sub circular pit. | | Unphased |
| 457 | 1.6 | 0.38 | fill | 456 | | | Secondary Fill | | A coarse grained soft mid greyish brown silty clay. | | Unphased |
| 458 | 0.84 | 0.4 | fill | 456 | | 308 | Secondary Fill | | A coarse grained loose mid orangish brown silty clay. | | Unphased |
| 459 | | 0.21 | layer | 459 | | 318 | Other Layer | 327, 344 | Compact dark, black brown silty clay. A layer which covers a large area of the N-W area of site. Could have been caused by a naturally occurring hollow. Many features such as pits and ditches are overlain by this layer. Same as (382, 383, 333, 324). | | Phase 3 |
| 460 | 0.7 | 0.2 | cut | | | | Ditch | 327 | A ditch that roughly runs N-S. It terminates in the south part of the layer (459). Part of a relationship slot. | | Phase 1 |
| 461 | 0.7 | 0.2 | fill | 460 | | | Secondary Fill | | Compact grey brown silty clay. No finds were found from this fill. | | Phase 1 |
| 462 | 2.46 | 0.2 | fill | 428 | | | Secondary Fill | | A coarse grained loose dark greyish brown silty clay. | c1820-1900 (P) | Phase 4 |
| 463 | 1.2 | 0.3 | fill | 438 | | | Secondary Fill | | A coarse grained soft dark blackish brown silty clay. | | Phase 2 |

| Context # | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Context type | Fill of | Group | Sample numbers (* cut contains sample in marked fill) | Interpretive Category | Section numbers | Description | Spot date from pottery, and other key finds | Phase |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|---------|-------|---|-----------------------|-----------------|--|---|---------|
| 464 | 0.6 | 0.18 | fill | 438 | | | Secondary Fill | | A coarse grained soft dark greyish brown silty clay. | | Phase 2 |
| 465 | 1.1 | 0.12 | layer | 465 | | | Other Layer | | A layer on NW end of S.328 - a firm light brown silty clay. | | Phase 3 |
| 466 | 0.9 | 0.15 | layer | 466 | | | In situ Burning | | A firm dark red silty clay. A fire affected layer dipping down into cut [467], containing occasional burnt/heat affected stones, possibly remnant of a hearth. | | Phase 3 |
| 467 | 0.6 | 0.28 | cut | | | | Pit | 328 | A sub rectangular pit possibly associated with the hearth/ deposit (466). | | Phase 3 |
| 468 | 0.6 | 0.28 | fill | 467 | | | Deliberate Backfill | | A firm yellow clay - possibly a make up layer for hearth - 466. | | Phase 3 |
| 469 | | | void | | | | | | | | |
| 470 | 5 | 0.02 | layer | 470 | | | Other Layer | 328 | Limestone. Possibly demolition from a building, or remnants of the building itself. | | Phase 3 |
| 471 | 1 | 0.12 | layer | 471 | | | Other Layer | 328 | A firm yellow sandy gravel, a build up layer under stones 470. | | Phase 3 |
| 472 | 0.7 | 0.13 | layer | 472 | | | Other Layer | 328 | Firm dark greyish brown silty clay layer under (466). | | Phase 3 |
| 473 | 1.1 | 0.3 | layer | 473 | | 310 | Buried soil | 328 | A firm mid brownish grey silty clay, possibly an old topsoil prior to construction of building 470, or possibly part of previous bank works. | c1050-1150? (P). Slag cake fragment | Phase 1 |
| 474 | 1.1 | 0.12 | layer | 474 | | | Other Layer | 328 | A firm light brown silty clay, possibly an old subsoil layer over natural. | | Phase 1 |
| 475 | | | layer | 475 | | | Other Layer | | Unstratified context. | c1225-1400? (P) | Phase 3 |

| Context # | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Context type | Fill of | Group | Sample numbers (* cut contains sample in marked fill) | Interpretive Category | Section numbers | Description | Spot date from pottery, and other key finds | Phase |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|---------|------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------|---|---|-----------|
| 476 | 1.3 | 0.12 | layer | 476 | | | Other Layer | 329 | A firm mid greyish brown silty clay, a trample layer between STR. 478 and STR. 479. | c1275-1400 (P). | Phase 3 |
| 477 | 1.3 | | layer | 477 | | | Other Layer | 329, 348 | A firm mid greyish brown clayey silt, a layer over STR. 478. | c1225-1350? (P) | Phase 3 |
| 478 | 0.7 | 0.2 | structure | | Building 1 | | Wall | 329 | Base of an E-W wall. | c1225-1400 (P) | Phase 3 |
| 479 | 0.6 | | structure | | Building 1 | | Wall | 329 | Base of an E-W limestone drain. | c1225-1400 (P) | Phase 3 |
| 480 | 1.76 | 0.12 | cut | | | | Pit | 331 | An oval pit cut by [482]. | | Phase 3 |
| 481 | 1.76 | 0.12 | fill | 480 | | | Primary Fill | | A friable mid brownish grey silty clay. | | Phase 3 |
| 482 | 1.4 | 0.74 | cut | | | *331 | Pit | 331 | A circular pit truncating [480]. | c1050-1250 | Phase 3 |
| 483 | 1.4 | 0.74 | fill | 482 | | 331 | Primary Fill | | A friable dark greyish brown clayey silt. | c1050-1250 (P) | Phase 3 |
| 484 | 1.3 | 0.35 | cut | | 587 | | Ditch | 332 | A NW-SE ditch. | | Phase 1/2 |
| 485 | 1.3 | 0.33 | fill | 484 | 587 | | Primary Fill | | A compact mid brownish clayey silt. | | Phase 1/2 |
| 486 | 0.45 | 0.34 | cut | | 586 | | Ditch | 332 | A NW-SE ditch. | | Phase 3 |
| 487 | 0.65 | 0.34 | fill | 486 | 586 | | Primary Fill | | A compact mid brownish clayey silt. | | Phase 3 |
| 488 | | | layer | 488 | | | Other Layer | | Cleaning layers. | c1225-1400 (P) | Phase 3 |
| 489 | 1 | 1.32 | cut | | | *311 | Pit | 333 | A large circular pit. | c1150-1250 | Phase 2 |
| 490 | 1 | 1.12 | fill | 489 | | 311 | Primary Fill | | A firm to friable dark greyish silty clay. | c1150-1250 (P) | Phase 2 |
| 491 | 1 | 0.72 | fill | 489 | | | Secondary Fill | | A friable mid brownish grey clayey silt. | c1050-1250 (P) | Phase 2 |
| 492 | 0.42 | 0.28 | cut | | 584 | | Ditch | 333 | A NW-SE ditch truncates [489]; and truncated by [494]. | | Phase 2 |
| 493 | 0.42 | 0.28 | fill | 492 | 584 | | Primary Fill | | A friable mid brownish clayey silt. | | Phase 2 |
| 494 | 0.96 | 0.16 | cut | | 586 | | Ditch | 333 | A NW-SE ditch, truncates [492]. | | Phase 3 |
| 495 | 0.96 | 0.16 | fill | 494 | 586 | | Primary Fill | | A friable dark brownish clayey silt. | | Phase 3 |
| 496 | 1.1 | 0.15 | layer | 496 | | | Floor Surface | | A firm yellow with mid brown lenses, a redeposited gravel mix overlying STR. 497. | c1225-1400 (P) | Phase 3 |

| Context # | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Context type | Fill of | Group | Sample numbers (* cut contains sample in marked fill) | Interpretive Category | Section numbers | Description | Spot date from pottery, and other key finds | Phase |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|---------|-------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------|--|---|----------|
| 497 | 2.4 | 0.04 | layer | 497 | | | Floor Surface | | Floor surface. | c1225-1400 (P) | Phase 3 |
| 498 | 0.95 | 0.1 | layer | 498 | | | Other Layer | | A firm mid greyish brown clayey silt - same as 476. | c1225-1350? (P) | Phase 2 |
| 499 | 0.9 | 0.1 | cut | | | | Construction Cut | | Construction cut for wall, E-W. | | Phase 3 |
| 500 | 1.7 | | cut | | | *314 | Pit | 335 | A sub-circular pit. | | Phase 2 |
| 501 | | | fill | 500 | | 314 | Secondary Fill | | A coarse grained soft dark greyish brown silty clay. | Roman P (res) | Phase 2 |
| 502 | 1.1 | 0.66 | cut | | | | Ditch | 335 | A short E-W ditch. | c1225-1400? | Phase 3 |
| 503 | 0.64 | 0.66 | fill | 502 | | | Secondary Fill | | A coarse grained soft mid greyish brown silty clay. | c1225-1400? (P) | Phase 3 |
| 504 | 2 | | cut | | | *312 | Pit | 336 | Large oval pit. | | Unphased |
| 505 | 2 | | fill | 504 | | 312 | Primary Fill | 336 | A compact mid brown clayey silt. | | Unphased |
| 506 | 1.1 | 0.06 | layer | 506 | | 313 | Occupation Layer | | A soft dark greyish brown clayey silt. | c1275-1400 (P). Slag cake fragment | Phase 3 |
| 507 | 1.9 | 0.02 | layer | 507 | | | Floor Surface | | A laid gravel and limestone surface. | Roman P (res). Large slag cake fragment | Phase 3 |
| 508 | 0.58 | 0.22 | cut | | | | Pit | 341 | A sub oval pit truncated by [510]. | | Phase 2 |
| 509 | 0.58 | 0.22 | fill | 508 | | | Secondary Fill | | A soft mid yellowish brown silt clay. | | Phase 2 |
| 510 | 0.4 | 0.34 | cut | | 586 | | Ditch | 341 | E-W ditch. | c1050-1250 | Phase 3 |
| 511 | 0.4 | 0.34 | fill | 510 | 586 | | Secondary Fill | | A soft mid greyish brown silty clay. | c1050-1250 (P) | Phase 3 |
| 512 | 0.35 | 0.25 | structure | | Structure 1 | | Other Structure | 341 | Stone-lined drain. | | Phase 3 |
| 513 | 1 | 1 | cut | | | | Pit | 333 | Circular pit truncated by [492]; [489]. | | Phase 1 |
| 514 | 1 | 1 | fill | 513 | | | Primary Fill | | A firm to friable greyish clayey silt. | | Phase 1 |
| 515 | 1 | 0.06 | fill | 513 | | | Placed Deposit | | A firm mottled reddish brown clayey silt. | | Phase 1 |
| 516 | 0.66 | 0.42 | cut | | | *316, 334 | Pit | 338 | A circular pit overlain by (459). | c1175-1300? | Phase 2 |

| Context # | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Context type | Fill of | Group | Sample numbers (* cut contains sample in marked fill) | Interpretive Category | Section numbers | Description | Spot date from pottery, and other key finds | Phase |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|---------|-------|---|-----------------------|-----------------|--|--|-----------|
| 517 | 0.66 | 0.42 | fill | 516 | | 316, 334 | Primary Fill | | A friable dark greyish clayey silt. | c1175-1300? (P). Roman P (res) | Phase 2 |
| 518 | 1 | 0.28 | cut | | | | Pit | 339 | A circular pit. | c1175-1300? | Phase 2 |
| 519 | 1 | 0.28 | fill | 518 | | | Primary Fill | | A friable dark greyish clayey silt. | c1175-1350? (P) | Phase 2 |
| 520 | 0.45 | 0.12 | cut | | | | Posthole | 340 | A possible post hole. | | Phase 3 |
| 521 | 0.45 | 0.12 | fill | 520 | | | Secondary Fill | 340 | A firm mid greyish brown clayey silt. | | Phase 3 |
| 522 | 0.45 | 0.45 | cut | | | | Pit | | A pit cutting STR. 497 and STR. 507. | | Phase 3 |
| 523 | 0.45 | 0.45 | fill | 522 | | | Secondary Fill | | A firm mid brownish clayey silt. | | Phase 3 |
| 524 | | | cut | | | *315 | Construction Cut | 341 | Construction cut for a drain. | c1175-1400? | Phase 3 |
| 525 | | 0.28 | fill | 524 | | | Other Fill | | A loose mottled yellow brown and light blue yellow silty clay. | | Phase 3 |
| 526 | | 0.18 | fill | 524 | | 315 | Secondary Fill | | A loose mid greyish brown silty clay. | | Phase 3 |
| 527 | 0.5 | 0.4 | cut | | 587 | | Ditch | 342 | A NW-SE ditch truncates [529]. | | Phase 1/2 |
| 528 | 0.5 | 0.4 | fill | 527 | 587 | | Secondary Fill | | A compact mid brownish grey silty clay. | | Phase 1/2 |
| 529 | 1 | 0.11 | cut | | 585 | | Gully | 342 | A NE-SW gully. | c1225-1400? | Phase 1 |
| 530 | 1 | 0.11 | fill | 529 | 585 | | Secondary Fill | | A compact dark brownish grey silty clay. | c1225-1400? (P)(intrusive from layer 315 above?) | Phase 1 |
| 531 | 1 | 0.35 | cut | | 587 | *322 | Ditch | 343 | A NW-SE ditch. | | Phase 1/2 |
| 532 | 1 | 0.35 | fill | 531 | 587 | 322 | Primary Fill | 343 | A fine grained loos mid brownish clayey silt. | | Phase 1/2 |
| 533 | | | fill | 524 | | | Secondary Fill | | A loose mid greyish brown silty clay. | c1175-1400? (P). Roman P (res) | Phase 3 |
| 534 | 0.68 | 0.82 | cut | | | | Pit | 344 | A large circular pit truncated by [538]. | | Phase 2 |
| 535 | 0.68 | 0.52 | fill | 534 | | | Primary Fill | | A friable dark greyish clayey silt. | | Phase 2 |
| 536 | 0.46 | 0.22 | fill | 534 | | | Placed Deposit | | A firm clayey sandy mottled yellowish brown. | | Phase 2 |
| 537 | 0.68 | 0.2 | fill | 534 | | | Secondary Fill | | A friable dark greyish clayey silt. | | Phase 2 |
| 538 | 0.56 | 0.82 | cut | | | | Pit | 344 | A circular pit, truncates [534]. | | Phase 2 |

| Context # | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Context type | Fill of | Group | Sample numbers (* cut contains sample in marked fill) | Interpretive Category | Section numbers | Description | Spot date from pottery, and other key finds | Phase |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|---------|------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------|---|---|---------|
| 539 | 0.56 | 0.82 | fill | 538 | | | Primary Fill | | A firm to friable dark brownish grey clayey silt. | | Phase 2 |
| 540 | 0.56 | 0.08 | fill | 538 | | | Placed Deposit | | A firm mottled yellowish brown clayey silt. | | Phase 2 |
| 541 | 0.56 | 0.31 | fill | 538 | | | Secondary Fill | | A friable dark greyish clayey silt. | | Phase 2 |
| 542 | 0.3 | 0.15 | cut | | | | Pit | | A sub rectangular pit. | | Phase 2 |
| 543 | 0.3 | 0.15 | fill | 542 | | | Secondary Fill | | A firm yellowish brown clayey silt. | | Phase 2 |
| 544 | 0.7 | 0.82 | cut | | 588 | | Ditch | 345 | A N-S ditch truncated by [548]. | c1050-1100? | Phase 1 |
| 545 | 0.7 | 0.24 | fill | 544 | 588 | | Secondary Fill | | A firm yellow brown silty clay. | Roman P (res) | Phase 1 |
| 546 | 0.7 | 0.12 | fill | 544 | 588 | | Secondary Fill | | A soft orange brown silty clay. | | Phase 1 |
| 547 | 0.7 | 0.4 | fill | 544 | 588 | | Secondary Fill | | A soft greyish brown silty clay. | c1050-1100? (P). Roman P (res) | Phase 1 |
| 548 | 1.3 | 0.56 | cut | | 588 | | Ditch | 345 | A N-S ditch. | | Phase 1 |
| 549 | 1.3 | 0.56 | fill | 548 | 588 | | Secondary Fill | | A soft greyish brown silty clay. | | Phase 1 |
| 550 | 0.75 | 0.2 | cut | | 588 | *317 | Ditch | 345 | A N-S ditch. | c1050-1100? | Phase 1 |
| 551 | 0.75 | 0.2 | fill | 550 | 588 | 317 | Secondary Fill | | A soft dark greyish brown silty clay. | c1050-1100? (P) | Phase 1 |
| 552 | 1.18 | 0.1 | cut | | | | Pit | 345 | A sub oval pit. | | Phase 2 |
| 553 | 1.18 | 0.1 | fill | 552 | | | Secondary Fill | | A soft mid greyish brown silty clay. | | Phase 2 |
| 554 | 2.65 | 0.58 | cut | | 584 | *325 | Ditch | 346 | A NE-SW ditch. | | Phase 2 |
| 555 | 2.65 | 0.58 | fill | 554 | 584 | 325 | Secondary Fill | | A firm dark greyish brown silty clay. | | Phase 2 |
| 556 | 0.8 | 0.25 | fill | 554 | 584 | | Secondary Fill | | A firm mid greyish brown silty clay. | | Phase 2 |
| 557 | 2.57 | 0.46 | cut | | 586 | | Ditch | 346 | A NE-SW ditch. | c1225-1350? | Phase 3 |
| 558 | 2.57 | 0.46 | fill | 557 | 586 | | Secondary Fill | | A firm light yellowish brown/grey silty clay. | c1225-1350? (P) | Phase 3 |
| 559 | | | structure | | Building 1 | | Other Structure | 348 | Stone surface. | | Phase 3 |
| 560 | 0.57 | 0.74 | cut | | | *326, 327, 328 | Pit | 347 | A circular pit truncated by [564]. | | Phase 2 |
| 561 | 0.57 | 0.2 | fill | 560 | | 326 | Primary Fill | | A firm to friable mid brownish sandy silt gravel. | | Phase 2 |
| 562 | 0.57 | 0.24 | fill | 560 | | 327 | Secondary Fill | | A firm to friable blackish brown clayey silt. | | Phase 2 |

| Context # | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Context type | Fill of | Group | Sample numbers (* cut contains sample in marked fill) | Interpretive Category | Section numbers | Description | Spot date from pottery, and other key finds | Phase |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|---------|------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------|---|---|---------|
| 563 | 0.57 | 0.22 | fill | 560 | | 328 | Tertiary Fill | | A friable dark brownish clayey silt. | | Phase 2 |
| 564 | 0.6 | 0.14 | cut | | | | Construction Cut | 347 | A NW-SE construction cut for wall: STR. 566. | | Phase 3 |
| 565 | 0.6 | 0.14 | fill | 564 | | | Primary Fill | | A friable dark greyish brown clayey silt. | | Phase 3 |
| 566 | 0.6 | 0.14 | structure layer | | Building 1 | | Wall | | Wall rubble remains. | | Phase 3 |
| 567 | | | layer | 567 | | | Other Layer | 347 | A friable dark greyish brown clayey silt layer though to be an early topsoil/occupation deposit associated with the building. | | Phase 3 |
| 568 | | | layer | 568 | | | Other Layer | 347 | A firm to friable dark greyish clayey silt - thought to be an early topsoil remnant overlying the building. | | Phase 3 |
| 569 | | | structure | | Building 1 | | Other Structure | 348 | Possible wall, or surface. | | Phase 3 |
| 570 | 0.35 | 0.12 | cut | | | | Pit | 348 | Circular pit. | | Phase 2 |
| 571 | 0.35 | 0.12 | fill | 570 | | | Secondary Fill | | A soft mid yellowish brown silty clay. | | Phase 2 |
| 572 | 1 | 0.05 | layer | 572 | | | Occupation Layer | 348 | A soft dark brownish grey silty clay. | | Phase 2 |
| 573 | 0.64 | 0.1 | cut | | | *335 | Construction Cut | 349 | Construction cut for drain: STR. 575. | | Phase 3 |
| 574 | 0.64 | 0.1 | fill | 573 | | 335 | Primary Fill | | A friable mid greyish brown clayey silt - possibly drain fill remnants. | | Phase 3 |
| 575 | | | structure | 573 | Building 1 | | Other Structure | | Drain. | | Phase 3 |
| 576 | 0.46 | 0.16 | cut | | | | Construction Cut | 349 | Construction cut for wall: STR.578. | | Phase 3 |
| 577 | 0.46 | 0.16 | fill | 576 | | | Primary Fill | | A friable dark greyish brown clayey silt. | | Phase 3 |
| 578 | 0.46 | 0.16 | structure | 576 | Building 1 | | Wall | | Wall rubble | | Phase 3 |

| Context # | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Context type | Fill of | Group | Sample numbers (* cut contains sample in marked fill) | Interpretive Category | Section numbers | Description | Spot date from pottery, and other key finds | Phase |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|---------|-------|---|-----------------------|-----------------|---|---|-----------|
| 579 | 5.8 | 0.03 | layer | 579 | | | Other Layer | 349 | A firm to friable dark greyish brown clayey silt - potential fragmentary remains of an earlier topsoil overlying the building and surrounding area. | | Phase 3/4 |
| 580 | 5 | 0.18 | layer | 580 | | | Other Layer | 349 | A friable dark greyish brown clayey silt deposit - potential occupation/early topsoil remains associated with nearby structures. | | Phase 2 |
| 581 | 0.86 | 0.12 | cut | | 586 | | Ditch | 350 | Terminus of ditch aligned SW-NE. | | Phase 3 |
| 582 | 0.86 | 0.12 | fill | 581 | 586 | | Secondary Fill | | A soft mid brownish grey silty clay. | | Phase 3 |
| 583 | 0.6 | 0.1 | cut | | | | Construction Cut | 348 | Construction cut for possible wall 569. | | Phase 3 |
| 584 | | | group | | 584 | | Ditch | | Early enclosure ditch. | | Phase 2 |
| 585 | | | group | | 585 | | Ditch | | An enclosure/boundary ditch towards the southern end of site. | | Phase 1 |
| 586 | | | group | | 586 | | Ditch | | | | Phase 3 |
| 587 | | | group | | 587 | | Ditch | | | | Phase 1/2 |
| 588 | | | group | | 588 | | | | | | Phase 1 |

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORT TABLE (POTTERY)

| Context | Spot_date | Fabric | Form | Sherds | Weight | Rim_Fo | Diam | EVEs | EVEs/100 | No_Rims | Handle | Dec | Other | Comments | Context2 | Sieved No. | Sieved Weight |
|---------|------------|----------|------|--------|--------|--------|------|------|----------|---------|--------|-----|-------|---|----------|------------|---------------|
| 301 | c1765-1800 | REST ENG | TPOT | 1 | 7 | F1X | 75 | 17 | 0.17 | 1 | | | | Rim from tea/coffee pot in engine-turned red stoneware, unglazed (REST, c1765-1780), up to c1800? | 301 | | |
| 301 | c1765-1800 | BRSL | DISH | 1 | 16 | F1B | 300 | 4 | 0.04 | 1 | | | | | 301 | | |
| 301 | c1765-1800 | BRSL | DISH | 1 | 54 | B2 | 180 | 10 | 0.1 | 1 | | | flat | Profile shallow dish. Radial white slip dec - widely spaced | 301 | | |
| 301 | c1765-1800 | PMR | DISH | 1 | 6 | F1B | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | | | | | 301 | | |
| 301 | c1765-1800 | PMR | | 2 | 38 | | | | | | | | | 2 vess (bos) | 301 | | |
| 301 | c1765-1800 | PMBL | JJA | 1 | 9 | | | | | | | | | | 301 | | |
| 301 | c1765-1800 | BORDG | BOWL | 1 | 3 | | | | | | | | | | 301 | | |
| 301 | c1765-1800 | OXBX | BOWL | 1 | 52 | F1B | 300 | 7 | 0.07 | 1 | | | | 16/E17C. Reduc br glz | 301 | | |
| 301 | c1765-1800 | OXBX | BOWL | 2 | 70 | B2 | 320 | 4 | 0.04 | 1 | | | flat | Broken profile. Reduc greenish glz. 16/17C | 301 | | |
| 301 | c1765-1800 | ROM | JAR | 1 | 31 | C1 | 260 | 6 | 0.06 | 1 | | | | Roman greyware jar rim. Fresh. | 301 | | |
| 301 | c1765-1800 | ROM | BOWL | 1 | 57 | | | | | | | | fring | Footring base from a dish in Roman Oxford colour-coated ware? Abraded. | 301 | | |
| 301 | c1765-1800 | OXAM | JUG | 1 | 43 | | | | | | rod | | | Fresh. Gg handle. Pricked down back | 301 | | |
| 301 | c1765-1800 | OXAM | JUG | 1 | 9 | | | | | | | hd | | Bo. Gg jug. Red & white strips - poss lattice dec? L13/14C | 301 | | |
| 301 | c1765-1800 | OXAM | JUG | 1 | 13 | | | | | | nstr | | | Handle with central furrow. Off-cream fabric with bright mottled gg | 301 | | |
| 301 | c1765-1800 | OXAM | BOTT | 3 | 102 | | | | | | | | | 1 vess. Joining bos from shoulder of large Brill bottle - probably as big as the | 301 | | |

| Context | Spot_date | Fabric | Form | Sherds | Weight | Rim_Fo | Diam | EVEs | EVEs/100 | No_Rims | Handle | Dec | Other | Comments | Context2 | Sieved No. | Sieved Weight |
|---------|------------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|------|------|----------|---------|--------|------|-------|--|----------|------------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | biggest from Westgate, Oxford (OXW14)? Thin clear glaze bloom on one side | | | |
| 301 | c1765-1800 | OXBB | JAR | 1 | 69 | A3A | 280 | 10 | 0.1 | 1 | | comb | | Fresh rim/shoulder WT (wheel turned) cookpot. Globular neckless form with everted/flanged rim with int angle with body. Rim gently arched/convex on top. Hard grey-brown fabric with grey core. Thin decayed greenish glz int and part over top of rim. Possible trace of combed wavy band dec ext near girth - but might just be an accidental graze/scratch? Minety, or possibly Wychwood?? WT = after c1225/50. ILLUS?? | 301 | | |
| 301 | c1765-1800 | OXBB | JAR | 1 | 33 | A3B | 180 | 14 | 0.14 | 1 | | | | WT cpot rim. Flanged with deep ext bevel & slight hook beneath - like a Roman rim form, Neckless. Very thin grey-green glz on rim top - mostly decayed. Fresh. | 301 | | |
| 301 | c1765-1800 | OXCX | JUG | 1 | 19 | B2S | 120 | 10 | 0.1 | 1 | | | | Probably Wychwood. WT? Unglazed with oxid light brown surfaces, grey core. Simple upright thickened rim - sub-collared or sub-sickle ext profile with round tip. ILLUS? | 301 | | |
| 301 | c1765-1800 | OXCX | JAR | 1 | 32 | A3B | 190 | 13 | 0.13 | 1 | | | | WT? Light brown/grey core (lb/grc) | 301 | | |
| 301 | c1765-1800 | OXCX | JAR | 1 | 61 | C1 | 260 | 13 | 0.13 | 1 | | | | WT? Light brown/grey core (lb/grc). Small bead rim on short curved neck | 301 | | |
| 301 | c1765-1800 | OXCX | JAR | 1 | 98 | C1 | 200 | 10 | 0.1 | 1 | | tb | | Lb/grc.Thumbed bead rim on flaring neck. ILLUS? | 301 | | |
| 301 | c1765-1800 | OXCX | JAR | 1 | 12 | C1 | 130 | 12 | 0.12 | 1 | | | | Dk grey | 301 | | |

| Context | Spot_date | Fabric | Form | Sherds | Weight | Rim_Fo | Diam | EVEs | EVEs/100 | No_Rims | Handle | Dec | Other | Comments | Context2 | Sieved No. | Sieved Weight |
|---------|-------------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|------|------|----------|---------|--------|-----|-------|---|----------|------------|---------------|
| 301 | c1765-1800 | OXCX | JAR | 1 | 18 | A3B | 160 | 10 | 0.1 | 1 | | tb | | Single thumbed impression on rim (widely spaced thumbing?). Sooted. Lb/grc | 301 | | |
| 301 | c1765-1800 | OXCX | JAR | 1 | 31 | B2A | 300 | 6 | 0.06 | 1 | | | | Wide jar or bowl? Straight vertical neck. B2 rim with int hook/ledge. Grey ext. lb/grc | 301 | | |
| 301 | c1765-1800 | OXCX | JAR | 1 | 36 | B2 | 260 | 8 | 0.08 | 1 | | tb | | Neckless jar. Thumbing on top of flattened thickened rim. Dk grey. HM. ILLUS? Possible West Country bowl form?? | 301 | | |
| 301 | c1765-1800 | OXCX | JAR | 1 | 26 | B2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | | | | Neckless jar similar to above. Light grey ext | 301 | | |
| 301 | c1765-1800 | OXCX | JAR | 1 | 26 | | | | | | | | | Bo. WT jar. Thick . Sooted | 301 | | |
| 301 | c1765-1800 | OXCX | JAR | 2 | 19 | | | | | | | | | Bos. OXAC/OXCX but hard | 301 | | |
| 301 | c1765-1800 | OXAQ | JAR | 1 | 8 | B3 | 220 | 3 | 0.03 | 1 | | | | | 301 | | |
| 301 | c1765-1800 | OXAQ | JAR | 1 | 12 | B2A | 200 | 3 | 0.03 | 1 | | | | coarse | 301 | | |
| 301 | c1765-1800 | OXAQ | JAR | 1 | 66 | | | | | | | | sag | Fresh sag base smallish cpot. Diam c150mm. Poss WT?? Sooted | 301 | | |
| 301 | c1765-1800 | OXAQ | | 1 | 6 | | | | | | | | | | 301 | | |
| 310 | c1050-1250? | OXAC | | 2 | 10 | | | | | | | | | Bos Cotswold-type ware (OXAC) or Wychwood-type ware? Incl trace of sagging base | 310 | | |
| 315 | c1250-1500 | OXCX | JAR | 1 | 7 | | | | | | | | | Fresh bo OXCX. Hard light grey with dark grey/black surfaces (unlike OXAC). Otherwise possibly OXBB? Looks WT. | 315 | | |
| 319 | c1150-1350 | OXAQ | BOWL | 6 | 242 | B2A | 480 | 12 | 0.12 | 2 | | | | Kennet Valley B ware (OXAQ). Large fresh joining sherds from a near-profile of wide bowl with hammerhead rim (sooted ext). Fairly deep with straight steep flaring wall | 319 | | |

| Context | Spot_date | Fabric | Form | Sherds | Weight | Rim_Fo | Diam | EVEs | EVEs/100 | No_Rims | Handle | Dec | Other | Comments | Context2 | Sieved No. | Sieved Weight |
|---------|-------------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|------|------|----------|---------|--------|-----|-------|--|----------|------------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | which curves inwards towards missing base. Coarse angular flint. Grey algal limestone/chalk and curved thin shell inclusions - probably gastropod/watersnails? | | | |
| 319 | c1150-1350 | OXAQ | JAR | 16 | 319 | | | | | | | | sag | 1 vess. Fresh. Sagging base (diam 280mm) and body sherds form a thin-walled cookpot (sooted ext). Dark grey | 319 | | |
| 319 | c1150-1350 | | | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | Sieved Sample. Small bo OXAQ | 319 | 1 | 3 |
| 328 | c1150-1350 | OXAQ | | 1 | 32 | | | | | | | | | Fresh basal bo - sagging? | 328 | | |
| 328 | c1150-1350 | OXCX | | 4 | 32 | | | | | | | | | OXAC/OXCX unglazed | 328 | | |
| 331 | c1050-1350? | OXCX | JAR | 1 | 19 | B2 | 200 | 6 | 0.06 | 1 | | tb | | OXAC/OXCX thumbled cspot rim. Coarse untidy limestone inclusions | 331 | | |
| 331 | c1050-1350? | OXAC | | 2 | 10 | | | | | | | | | oxac/oxcx | 331 | | |
| 335 | c1050-1250 | | | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | Sieved Sample. Small bo OXAC | 335 | 1 | 1 |
| 335 | c1050-1250 | ROM | JAR | 1 | 11 | C1 | 180 | 7 | 0.07 | 1 | | | | Roman. Fine grey sandy ware. Beaded jar rim. Slightly abraded | 335 | | |
| 339 | c1050-1250? | OXAG | JAR | 1 | 6 | | | | | | | | sag | 1x sag base early OXAG (or OXY?) cspot. | 339 | | |
| 339 | c1050-1250? | OXAC | | 1 | 7 | | | | | | | | | Bo oxac/oxcx. v fine abund limestone | 339 | | |
| 341 | c1150-1300 | OXCX | BOWL | 1 | 16 | | | | | | | | sag | Unglazed OXAC/OXCX (probably OXCX Wychwood). Acutely angled/inturned base - flattish or slightly sagging base with inturned/conical lower wall. Sooted on basal angle ext. Almost certainly from a 'West Country' dish (like those at Rushey Weir, | 341 | | |

| Context | Spot_date | Fabric | Form | Sherds | Weight | Rim_Fo | Diam | EVEs | EVEs/100 | No_Rims | Handle | Dec | Other | Comments | Context2 | Sieved No. | Sieved Weight |
|---------|-------------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|------|------|----------|---------|--------|-----|-------|---|----------|------------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Bampton, and in the same fabric, 12/13C). Diam c360mm? ILLUS? | | | |
| 351 | c1175-1300? | OXCX | JAR | 1 | 17 | | | | | | | | sag | Fresh sagging base from smallish cspot (diam 120mm). Smoother oxidised oolitic fabric (unglazed) probably Wychwood (OXCX) | 351 | | |
| 351 | c1175-1300? | OXAC | | 7 | 100 | | | | | | | | | All oolitic limestone-tempered unglazed OXAC/OXCX. incl 1x sag base | 351 | | |
| 353 | c1050-1250? | OXBF | | 1 | 9 | | | | | | | | | Coarse OXBF. | 353 | | |
| 353 | c1050-1250? | OXAC | | 1 | 40 | | | | | | | | sag | OXAC/OXCX. coarse | 353 | | |
| 357 | c1150-1300? | OXAC | JAR | 1 | 37 | B2A | 240 | 9 | 0.09 | 1 | | | | Unglazed OXAC/OXCX (probably OXCX Wychwood?). TFT/hammerhead rim - v flat/broad on top, from cookpot - clearly handmade. | 357 | | |
| 357 | c1150-1300? | OXAC | | 3 | 43 | | | | | | | | | 1 bo with coarse ironstone & some shell | 357 | | |
| 368 | c1250-1500 | OXCX | JAR | 2 | 36 | | | | | | | | | Fresh joining bos wheel-turned OXCX or OXBB jar/bowl. Light brown fabric. Angle or carination at girth or lower wall | 368 | | |
| 372 | c1150-1300? | OXAQ | | 1 | 20 | | | | | | | | | Fresh bo OXAQ. Soot | 372 | | |
| 372 | c1150-1300? | OXAC | JAR | 1 | 33 | A3B | 190 | 11 | 0.11 | 1 | | | | Light brownish OXAC/OXCX. HM (handmade) | 372 | | |
| 372 | c1150-1300? | OXAC | BOWL | 1 | 15 | B3 | 240 | 3 | 0.03 | 1 | | | | Neckless bowl/jar with squarish rim - West Country dish? Black. HM | 372 | | |
| 372 | c1150-1300? | OXAC | BOWL | 1 | 15 | B2 | 200 | 6 | 0.06 | 1 | | | | Neckless bowl/jar with TFT/bead rim - West | 372 | | |

| Context | Spot_date | Fabric | Form | Sherds | Weight | Rim_Fo | Diam | EVEs | EVEs/100 | No_Rims | Handle | Dec | Other | Comments | Context2 | Sieved No. | Sieved Weight |
|---------|-------------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|------|------|----------|---------|--------|-----|-------|--|----------|------------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Country dish? Black. HM. Sooted ext | | | |
| 372 | c1150-1300? | OXAC | JAR | 2 | 18 | | | | | | | | | 1 vess. Black | 372 | | |
| 374 | c1150-1250? | OXAG | JAR | 2 | 15 | | | | | | | | sag | 1 vess? Fresh unglazed early OXAG cspot incl sag base. Sooted. Thin walled | 374 | | |
| 374 | c1150-1250? | OXBF | | 3 | 38 | | | | | | | | | | 374 | | |
| 374 | c1150-1250? | OXCX | JAR | 3 | 17 | | | | | | | | | Oxid oxac/oxcx incl 2 joining from jar neck | 374 | | |
| 374 | c1150-1250? | OXAC | | 3 | 27 | | | | | | | | | Incl sag base | 374 | | |
| 374 | c1150-1250? | ROM | JAR | 1 | 8 | | | | | | | | | Bo Roman greyware with lattice dec | 374 | | |
| 374 | c1150-1250? | ROM | | 1 | 4 | | | | | | | | | Bo Roman greyware | 374 | | |
| 376 | Roman | ROM | | 1 | 3 | | | | | | | | | Narrow strap handle from flagon (?) in coarse Roman greyware | 376 | | |
| 387 | c1050-1250 | OXBF | | 1 | 15 | | | | | | | | | Bo coarse OXBF | 387 | | |
| 391 | c1050-1250? | OXAC | JAR | 2 | 15 | | | | | | | | | Unglazed OXAC/OXCX bos from jar shoulder | 391 | | |
| 391 | c1050-1250? | OXAC | | 1 | 5 | | | | | | | | | | 391 | | |
| 392 | c1050-1250 | | | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | Sieved Sample. Scrappy bos OXAC. Some sooted. | 392 | 8 | 23 |
| 393 | c1150-1300? | OXAQ | | 2 | 303 | | | | | | | | | Fresh bos & bases. 2x OXAQ with grey algal limestone/chalk & sparse flint. | 393 | | |
| 393 | c1150-1300? | OXAQ | | 1 | 17 | | | | | | | | sag | Mainly grey algal limestone | 393 | | |
| 393 | c1150-1300? | OXAC | JAR | 17 | 239 | | | | | | | | sag | 1 vess. Unglazed reduced OXAC/OXCX. Right-angled base (diam c200mm) from jar/bowl with vertical walls & v slightly sagging base - top hat jar?? Sooted ext | 393 | | |

| Context | Spot_date | Fabric | Form | Sherds | Weight | Rim_Fo | Diam | EVEs | EVEs/100 | No_Rims | Handle | Dec | Other | Comments | Context2 | Sieved No. | Sieved Weight |
|---------|-------------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|------|------|----------|---------|--------|-----|-------|---|----------|------------|---------------|
| 393 | c1150-1300? | OXAC | JAR | 2 | 13 | | | | | | | | sag | 1 vess | 393 | | |
| 393 | c1150-1300? | OXAC | | 5 | 23 | | | | | | | | | | 393 | | |
| 399 | c1100-1250? | OXAG | JAR | 1 | 6 | | | | | | | | | bo coarse brown sandyware - early OXAG? Knifed on shoulder like OXY. | 399 | | |
| 399 | c1100-1250? | OXBF | JAR | 1 | 9 | B2A | 240 | 3 | 0.03 | 1 | | | | Flaring neck with TFT rim | 399 | | |
| 399 | c1100-1250? | OXBF | | 4 | 44 | | | | | | | | | Incl sag base | 399 | | |
| 399 | c1100-1250? | OXAC | JAR | 1 | 253 | B2 | 280 | 12 | 0.12 | 1 | | | | Unglazed reduced OXAC/OXCX. Large fresh rim (B2/B3) tall neckless jar with vertical/inward-leaning wall (like a top hat jar) & a sub-squared rim. Vessel clearly handmade. Surviving height 157mm. Brown ext surface, dark grey int surface, lighter grey core. Traces of sooting lower down ext. Form known in Wychwood-type ware (Mellor 1994, Fig. 45.11 & 14). Or a v tall variant of the West Country bowl form? ILLUS | 399 | | |
| 399 | c1100-1250? | OXAC | JAR | 2 | 177 | B2 | 280 | 17 | 0.17 | 2 | | | | 1 vess. Form/fabric as above. Tall neckless jar. Top-hat jar? Rim flattened on top B2/B2A. Harder fabric. Grey with brownish ext surface. Sooted ext | 399 | | |
| 399 | c1100-1250? | OXAC | JAR | 1 | 38 | H1 | 240 | 6 | 0.06 | 1 | | | | Tall neckless jar as above. Rim squarer with horiz flange. Quite a lot of red-brown earthy ironstone inclusions | 399 | | |
| 399 | c1100-1250? | OXAC | JAR | 1 | 16 | H1 | 220 | 4 | 0.04 | 1 | | | | Neckless jar as above. Sooted ext | 399 | | |

| Context | Spot_date | Fabric | Form | Sherds | Weight | Rim_Fo | Diam | EVEs | EVEs/100 | No_Rims | Handle | Dec | Other | Comments | Context2 | Sieved No. | Sieved Weight |
|---------|-------------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|------|------|----------|---------|--------|-----|-------|--|----------|------------|---------------|
| 399 | c1100-1250? | OXAC | JAR | 3 | 76 | | | | | | | | sag | 1 vess. Non-joining sherds. Black. Right-angled base/wall (slightly sagging) with vertical wall. Probably from a neckless jar of the type above, but relatively thin-walled. Diam c200mm. Sooted ext | 399 | | |
| 399 | c1100-1250? | OXAC | | 9 | 81 | | | | | | | | | Oxc/obx. Black-grey. Incl 1 sag base | 399 | | |
| 399 | c1100-1250? | OXAC | | 1 | 7 | | | | | | | | | Oxid | 399 | | |
| 402 | c1100-1250? | OXAC | JAR | 1 | 31 | H1 | 220 | 8 | 0.08 | 1 | | | | Similar to 399. Unglazed reduced OXAC/OXCX . Rims from tall neckless vertical-walled jar with a sub-squared/flanged rim. | 402 | | |
| 402 | c1100-1250? | OXAC | JAR | 1 | 6 | B2 | 240 | 3 | 0.03 | 1 | | | | Neckless jar as above | 402 | | |
| 402 | c1100-1250? | OXAC | JAR | 2 | 99 | | | | | | | | sag | 1 vess. Fairly abraded base sherds from jar with vertical wall. Diam c280mm. Probably sooted | 402 | | |
| 402 | c1100-1250? | OXAC | | 4 | 32 | | | | | | | | sag | Various vess. Some sooted | 402 | | |
| 402 | c1100-1250? | OXAC | | 1 | 37 | | | | | | | | sag | Large basal body sherd with carbonised food residue int. sooted | 402 | | |
| 402 | c1100-1250? | OXAC | | 29 | 265 | | | | | | | | | Mostly scrappy/abraded. Bos. 1-2 oxid. | 402 | | |
| 402 | c1100-1250? | OXBK | | 1 | 6 | | | | | | | | | Coarse | 402 | | |
| 402 | c1100-1250? | ROM | | 1 | 3 | | | | | | | | | Bo Roman greyware. Abraded. | 402 | | |
| 406 | c1100-1250? | OXBK | BOWL | 1 | 13 | A1U | 400 | 1 | 0.01 | 1 | | | | Plain upright/flaring/tapered rim Northants shelly (OXBK). Sooted ext. abraded . JOINS 407 | 406 | | |
| 406 | c1100-1250? | OXR | JAR | 1 | 5 | B1 | 180 | 3 | 0.03 | 1 | | | | St Neots. Abrad | 406 | | |

| Context | Spot_date | Fabric | Form | Sherds | Weight | Rim_Fo | Diam | EVEs | EVEs/100 | No_Rims | Handle | Dec | Other | Comments | Context2 | Sieved No. | Sieved Weight |
|---------|-------------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|------|------|----------|---------|--------|------|-------|--|----------|------------|---------------|
| 406 | c1100-1250? | CHAF | | 1 | 3 | | | | | | | | | Small abraded bo tempered with coarse organic inclusions. Black. Probably Anglo-Saxon | 406 | | |
| 406 | c1100-1250? | OXBF | JJA | 1 | 6 | | | | | | | comb | | Bo with band of horiz combed dec & traces of a circular stamp below (or the top of a combed chevron/loop?) | 406 | | |
| 406 | c1100-1250? | OXBF | | 39 | 250 | | | | | | | | | Scrappy/abraded bos & some sag bases | 406 | | |
| 406 | c1100-1250? | OXBF | JAR | 1 | 11 | B1U | 160 | 8 | 0.08 | 1 | | | | | 406 | | |
| 406 | c1100-1250? | OXBF | JAR | 1 | 13 | B2A | 210 | 5 | 0.05 | 1 | | | | Tip missing. Coarse flint to 10mm. Sooted | 406 | | |
| 406 | c1100-1250? | OXAC | JAR | 1 | 6 | C3 | 140 | 5 | 0.05 | 1 | | | | OXAC/OXCX. beaded rim. Poss WT? Or OXBB? Light brown | 406 | | |
| 406 | c1100-1250? | OXAC | JAR | 1 | 6 | C3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | | tb | | Damaged rim with thumbled dec on ext bead | 406 | | |
| 406 | c1100-1250? | OXAC | | 36 | 147 | | | | | | | | | Crushed/abraded bos & some sag bases. Oxac & poss oxcx?? A few oxid | 406 | | |
| 406 | c1100-1250? | ROM | | 6 | 43 | | | | | | | | | Roman greyware. Bos from 2 vess incl flattish basal sherds.abraded | 406 | | |
| 407 | c1100-1250? | OXBK | BOWL | 1 | 16 | A1U | 400 | 4 | 0.04 | 1 | | | | Plain upright/flaring/tapered rim Northants shelly (OXBK). Sooted ext. JOINS 406 above | 407 | | |
| 407 | c1100-1250? | OXBK | JAR | 1 | 5 | | | | | | | | | Abraded bo. Light brown | 407 | | |
| 407 | c1100-1250? | OXAC | JAR | 2 | 24 | B2A | 150 | 20 | 0.2 | 2 | | | | Rim form B2A/C5 with ext hook. Joining rim sherds. Oxidised orange-brown surfaces. Sooted. Poss OXCX? HM | 407 | | |
| 407 | c1100-1250? | OXAC | JAR | 5 | 23 | | | | | | | | | Oxid bos poss from jar above? Scrappy | 407 | | |

| Context | Spot_date | Fabric | Form | Sherds | Weight | Rim_Fo | Diam | EVEs | EVEs/100 | No_Rims | Handle | Dec | Other | Comments | Context2 | Sieved No. | Sieved Weight |
|---------|-------------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|------|------|----------|---------|--------|-----|-------|--|----------|------------|---------------|
| 407 | c1100-1250? | OXAC | JAR | 1 | 14 | B2U | 190 | 6 | 0.06 | 1 | | | | Steeply flaring neck. B2U/A3B | 407 | | |
| 407 | c1100-1250? | OXAC | | 5 | 20 | | | | | | | | | Scrappy | 407 | | |
| 407 | c1100-1250? | OXAC | | 1 | 9 | | | | | | | | | Unusual texture. Bo with sparse coarse shell and inclusions of oolitic limestone (clumps), sparse quartz. Possibly non-local? Banbury or Northants? | 407 | | |
| 407 | c1100-1250? | OXBF | JAR | 1 | 5 | A1U | 200 | 4 | 0.04 | 1 | | | | Abraded. Soot ext | 407 | | |
| 407 | c1100-1250? | OXBF | JAR | 6 | 79 | | | | | | | | | Bos & sag bases from 1-2 vess. Soot ext. abraded | 407 | | |
| 410 | c1100-1250? | OXAC | BOWL | 1 | 17 | B2A | 320 | 3 | 0.03 | 1 | | | | Rim unglazed OXAC/OXCX from straight-sided bowl/jar. Broad flat-topped rim | 410 | | |
| 412 | Roman | ROM | BOWL | 1 | 6 | C3L | 200 | 3 | 0.03 | 1 | | | | Abraded upright ledged rim from Roman grey sandyware bowl | 412 | | |
| 414 | c1100-1250? | OXAC | JAR | 1 | 20 | C1 | 270 | 7 | 0.07 | 1 | | | | Abrad | 414 | | |
| 414 | c1100-1250? | OXAC | | 3 | 32 | | | | | | | | | Abrad | 414 | | |
| 414 | c1100-1250? | OXBF | | 5 | 40 | | | | | | | | | Incl 1x sag base. Various vess. 1 with light brown surfaces. Chalk algal limestone in most | 414 | | |
| 420 | c1100-1250? | OXAG | JAR | 1 | 20 | | | | | | | | | Early OXAG cspot shoulder with int angle at join with rim/neck. Fresh. Like coarse OXY in texture | 420 | | |
| 420 | c1100-1250? | OXAC | | 1 | 10 | | | | | | | | sag | | 420 | | |
| 420 | c1100-1250? | OXBB | | 1 | 6 | | | | | | | | | Oxid brown bo. Thin-walled. Moderate coarse rounded oolitic limestone inclusions and moderate coarse shell incl gastropod (fossil?). Odd texture - unlike local OXAC. Minety or possibly OXCX? | 420 | | |

| Context | Spot_date | Fabric | Form | Sherds | Weight | Rim_Fo | Diam | EVEs | EVEs/100 | No_Rims | Handle | Dec | Other | Comments | Context2 | Sieved No. | Sieved Weight |
|---------|-------------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|------|------|----------|---------|--------|-----|-------|---|----------|------------|---------------|
| 420 | c1100-1250? | OXBF | | 5 | 54 | | | | | | | | sag | 1 vess. V coarse. Fresh breaks. Sooted jar/bowl? | 420 | | |
| 422 | c1150-1250? | OXAQ | JAR | 1 | 8 | C4 | 200 | 5 | 0.05 | 1 | | | | OXAQ big beaded cspot rim | 422 | | |
| 422 | c1150-1250? | OXBF | | 1 | 10 | | | | | | | | | Sooted | 422 | | |
| 422 | c1150-1250? | OXAC | | 3 | 8 | | | | | | | | | Scrappy bos | 422 | | |
| 425 | c1050-1250 | OXBF | | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | | Bo OXBF/OXAQ | 425 | | |
| 449 | c1050-1250 | | | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | Sieved Sample. 6x scrappy OXAC bos. 3x ROM incl 2x bos Oxford colour coated ware with red slip (2g), & 1x jar rim (plain) in grog-tempered ware (2g) | 449 | 9 | 21 |
| 459 | c1050-1250 | | | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | Sieved Sample. 1x scrappy bo OXBF. 1x bo OXAC | 459 | 2 | 8 |
| 462 | c1820-1900 | YELL | JUG | 1 | 6 | A1U | 110 | 7 | 0.07 | 1 | | | | Yellow ware (YELL) jug rim with brown slip banded dec | 462 | | |
| 473 | c1050-1150? | OXBF | | 1 | 4 | | | | | | | | | 1x bo finer OXBF (or OXAQ?) | 473 | | |
| 473 | c1050-1150? | OXAC | JAR | 1 | 32 | A3B | 180 | 5 | 0.05 | 2 | | | | Odd OXAC-like fabric and v primitive everted flaring rim - possibly late Saxon? L9-11C? Coarse rounded limestone up to 4mm across including oolitic limestone & some fossil shell incl rare bryozoa & rare echinoid spicule. Unusually also contains moderate angular flint/chert (like OXBF). Rounded quartz, some iron-tinted. Thick-walled. ILLUS? | 473 | | |
| 473 | c1050-1150? | OXAC | JAR | 1 | 5 | C1 | 200 | 4 | 0.04 | 1 | | | | Abraded | 473 | | |
| 473 | c1050-1150? | OXAC | JAR | 5 | 54 | | | | | | | | sag | 1 vess. Limestone mostly dissolved | 473 | | |
| 473 | c1050-1150? | OXAC | | 4 | 8 | | | | | | | | | Scrappy bos | 473 | | |

| Context | Spot_date | Fabric | Form | Sherds | Weight | Rim_Fo | Diam | EVEs | EVEs/100 | No_Rims | Handle | Dec | Other | Comments | Context2 | Sieved No. | Sieved Weight |
|---------|-------------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|------|------|----------|---------|--------|------|-------|--|----------|------------|---------------|
| 473 | c1050-1150? | OXR | | 1 | 8 | A1 | 150 | 7 | 0.07 | 1 | | | | Sooted | 473 | | |
| 473 | c1050-1150? | OXR | | 3 | 8 | | | | | | | | | Scraps | 473 | | |
| 473 | c1050-1150? | | | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | Sieved Sample. 3x OXAC incl fresh jar/bowl with neatly-made horizontal flanged rim (diam 210mm) & 2 scrappy bos. 1x scrap (2g) OXR | 473 | 4 | 45 |
| 475 | c1225-1400? | OXCX | JJA | 5 | 26 | | | | | | | | sag | 1 vess. Fresh flattish basal sherd Wychwood OXCX jar/jug. Probably WT? Oxid orange-brown surfaces, grey core. Very sandy. Specks of glaze on floor int. Or a Banbury type? | 475 | | |
| 476 | c1275-1400 | OXAM | BOTT | 1 | 10 | | | | | | | | flat | Flat base from a bottle or drinking jug(?). Glaze specks under. Abraded | 476 | | |
| 476 | c1275-1400 | OXAM | JUG | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | flat | Basal bo. Probably jug? Green glaze under | 476 | | |
| 476 | c1275-1400 | OXAM | JUG | 1 | 16 | B2 | 110 | 15 | 0.15 | 2 | | gr | | Jug with vertical neck with 2 horiz grooves. Int bevelled thickened rim. Patches clear brown glaze int/ext | 476 | | |
| 476 | c1275-1400 | OXAG | JUG | 1 | 4 | | | | | | | wsl | | 1x small bo OXAG jug with trace of white slip line dec. clear glz | 476 | | |
| 476 | c1275-1400 | OXAQ | | 1 | 6 | | | | | | | wcom | | Bo with wavy combed band of dec | 476 | | |
| 476 | c1275-1400 | OXAQ | | 2 | 10 | | | | | | | | | | 476 | | |
| 476 | c1275-1400 | OXBF | JAR | 2 | 6 | B1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | | | | Joining bo & rim from cspot | 476 | | |
| 476 | c1275-1400 | OXBF | | 5 | 14 | | | | | | | | | Scrappy bos inc poss chips from rim above? | 476 | | |
| 476 | c1275-1400 | OXCX | JAR | 2 | 30 | F1 | 230 | 11 | 0.11 | 2 | | | | Joining rims. Wychwood ware WT cspot with flanged/sub-collared rim. Sooted ext | 476 | | |

| Context | Spot_date | Fabric | Form | Sherds | Weight | Rim_Fo | Diam | EVEs | EVEs/100 | No_Rims | Handle | Dec | Other | Comments | Context2 | Sieved No. | Sieved Weight |
|---------|-------------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|------|------|----------|---------|--------|-----|-------|---|----------|------------|---------------|
| 476 | c1275-1400 | OXCX | JUG | 1 | 8 | | | | | | | | tbase | Prob jug base with parts of 2 thumbled feet/impressions. Traces of glaze int. Heavily sooted | 476 | | |
| 476 | c1275-1400 | OXCX | JAR | 1 | 14 | | | | | | | | sag | WT sagging base with int greenish-brown glaze | 476 | | |
| 476 | c1275-1400 | OXCX | | 2 | 12 | | | | | | | | | 1 vess? WT lower wall or flattish base with traces of glaze int. Poss joins base seen above? | 476 | | |
| 476 | c1275-1400 | OXCX | | 1 | 4 | A1U | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | | | | Uncertain form. Plain rim - possible a flanged rim from a jar? | 476 | | |
| 476 | c1275-1400 | OXCX | JAR | 5 | 34 | | | | | | | | | 2-3 vess. Bos WT jars. Sooted ext | 476 | | |
| 476 | c1275-1400 | OXCX | JAR | 1 | 24 | | | | | | | | sag | Sooted | 476 | | |
| 476 | c1275-1400 | OXCX | | 14 | 62 | | | | | | | | | Scrappy bos. Oxcx/oxac? | 476 | | |
| 477 | c1225-1350? | OXAQ | BOWL | 1 | 22 | IN4 | 300 | 5 | 0.05 | 1 | | | | Fresh. OXAQ classic inturned bowl rim (IN4/C5 rim form). Poss sooted ext | 477 | | |
| 477 | c1225-1350? | OXBFB | | 1 | 20 | | | | | | | | | Basal bo | 477 | | |
| 477 | c1225-1350? | OXCX | JAR | 7 | 74 | | | | | | | | | 1 vess. Fresh bos WT OXCX jar/cpot incl 2 bos with splashes of int greenish-brown glaze. Hard sandy fabric with moderate-abund rounded oolitic limestone inclusions - some amorphous due to high firing temperature. Some shell. Sooted ext. Probably JOINS 476 above | 477 | | |
| 477 | c1225-1350? | OXCX | | 3 | 14 | | | | | | | | | | 477 | | |
| 478 | c1225-1400 | OXAM | JUG | 1 | 50 | | | | | | | | flat | 1x fresh OXAM flat/slightly splayed jug base. Specks green glaze ext | 478 | | |
| 478 | c1225-1400 | OXCX | JAR | 1 | 16 | | | | | | | | | Fresh bo WT OXCX with int glz splash (JOINS 477) | 478 | | |

| Context | Spot_date | Fabric | Form | Sherds | Weight | Rim_Fo | Diam | EVEs | EVEs/100 | No_Rims | Handle | Dec | Other | Comments | Context2 | Sieved No. | Sieved Weight |
|---------|------------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|------|------|----------|---------|--------|------|-------|--|----------|------------|---------------|
| 478 | c1225-1400 | OXAQ | | 1 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | 478 | | |
| 479 | c1225-1400 | OXAM | JUG | 1 | 4 | | | | | | | gr | | Bo OXAM gg jug. Grooved /rilled dec | 479 | | |
| 483 | c1225-1400 | | | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | Sieved Sample. 1x small bo (1g) OXAM jug with trace of a red strip under a green glaze. 1x scrap (1g) OXAM or OXAW - possibly a jug pad base(?) with traces of yellow glaze, sooted ext. The rest = scrappy bos OXAC & possibly OXCX. 1 or 2 OXBF. | 483 | 15 | 45 |
| 483 | c1225-1400 | OXBF | JAR | 1 | 34 | A1U | 180 | 13 | 0.13 | 1 | | tb | | Fresh OXBF plain cpot rim with widely-spaced thumbing on rim tip. Sooted. ILLUS? | 483 | | |
| 483 | c1225-1400 | OXBF | | 1 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | 483 | | |
| 483 | c1225-1400 | OXAC | | 1 | 46 | | | | | | | | flat | ?jar wiith flat or v slightly sagging base. Vertical-walled jar? | 483 | | |
| 483 | c1225-1400 | OXAC | | 3 | 14 | | | | | | | | | | 483 | | |
| 488 | c1225-1400 | OXAM | JUG | 8 | 28 | | | | | | | latt | | 1 vess. Small sherds. OXAM yellow-glazed jug with red lattice dec | 488 | | |
| 488 | c1225-1400 | OXAM | JUG | 5 | 12 | | | | | | | | | 2 vess/ Jug neck bo with glossy dark green glz ext. Bos with speckled gg | 488 | | |
| 488 | c1225-1400 | OXAM | JUG | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | flat | Flat basal bo | 488 | | |
| 488 | c1225-1400 | OXAW | JAR | 1 | 8 | | | | | | | | | Bo from lower wall of smallish jar or pipkin/skillet? Traces of green glaze on floor int. sooted ext | 488 | | |
| 488 | c1225-1400 | OXAQ | JAR | 1 | 8 | B1 | 200 | 1 | 0.01 | 1 | | | | Rim possibly thumbbed? | 488 | | |
| 488 | c1225-1400 | OXAQ | | 2 | 6 | | | | | | | | | 2 vess | 488 | | |

| Context | Spot_date | Fabric | Form | Sherds | Weight | Rim_Fo | Diam | EVEs | EVEs/100 | No_Rims | Handle | Dec | Other | Comments | Context2 | Sieved No. | Sieved Weight |
|---------|-------------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|------|------|----------|---------|--------|-----|-------|---|----------|------------|---------------|
| 490 | c1150-1250? | OXAQ | | 1 | 4 | | | | | | | | sag | Sooted. | 490 | | |
| 490 | c1150-1250? | OXAC | | 1 | 22 | | | | | | | | sag | Sagging base wide jar or bowl. | 490 | | |
| 490 | c1150-1250? | | | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | Sieved Sample. 1x bo OXBF. 3x scrappy bos OXAC. | 490 | 4 | 11 |
| 491 | c1050-1250 | OXAC | | 1 | 11 | | | | | | | | sag | Fresh basal bo OXAC (or OXCX?) | 491 | | |
| 496 | c1225-1400 | OXAM | JUG | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | gr | Small bo OXAM gg jug | 496 | | |
| 496 | c1225-1400 | OXCX | JAR | 1 | 12 | F1 | 170 | 9 | 0.09 | 1 | | | | OXCX(?) WT cupped/lid-seated cpot rim. Shiny black rounded/polished ironstone(?) inclusions - moderate, fairly small. Sooted | 496 | | |
| 496 | c1225-1400 | OXCX | JAR | 1 | 12 | | | | | | | | | WT. jar shoulder | 496 | | |
| 496 | c1225-1400 | OXAQ | | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | 496 | | |
| 498 | c1225-1350? | OXCX | JAR | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | | Bo probably WT jar - similar to examples above | 498 | | |
| 498 | c1225-1350? | OXBF | | 1 | 8 | | | | | | | | | V coarse | 498 | | |
| 498 | c1225-1350? | OXAC | JAR | 1 | 4 | A2U | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | | | | | 498 | | |
| 501 | c1175-1400? | | | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | Sieved Sample. 1x flanged cook pot rim OXCX/OXAC in hard, weakly oxidised fabric, abraded. 1x scrap OXAC. 1x OXBF. 1x ROM (8g) = probable wheel-turned bo in brown sandy fabric with much mica. | 501 | 4 | 20 |

| Context | Spot_date | Fabric | Form | Sherds | Weight | Rim_Fo | Diam | EVEs | EVEs/100 | No_Rims | Handle | Dec | Other | Comments | Context2 | Sieved No. | Sieved Weight |
|---------|-------------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|------|------|----------|---------|--------|------|-------|--|----------|------------|---------------|
| 503 | c1225-1400? | OXCX | BOWL | 1 | 24 | IN4 | 280 | 6 | 0.06 | 1 | | | | Fresh bowl (or jar ??) rim in Wychwood OXCX (or OXBB?). Flaring neck with bifid/hammerhead rim - developed-looking form/fabric. Sandy with moderate oolitic limestone - mainly visible in oxidised margins. Oxidised orange-brown surfaces/margins with light grey core. Rough greenish-brown glaze int. WT. Possible knife-trimming of lower wall ext. ILLUS? | 503 | | |
| 506 | c1275-1400 | OXAM | JUG | 2 | 7 | | | | | | | latt | | OXAM jug. Joining bos with red lattice dec. Yellow glz | 506 | | |
| 506 | c1275-1400 | OXAM | JUG | 1 | 28 | | | | | | | | pad | Specks green glz ext | 506 | | |
| 506 | c1275-1400 | OXAM | JUG | 1 | 22 | | | | | | | | flat | Flat splayed baluster-type jug base. Cream fabric. Mottled green glz ext. Abraded | 506 | | |
| 506 | c1275-1400 | OXAM | PIP | 1 | 5 | | | | | | | | | Bo from small globular/curved jar/pipkin with internal light green mottled glaze on lower wall int and specks of glaze ext. Also small patches of sooting ext. Cream fabric | 506 | | |
| 506 | c1275-1400 | OXCX | BOWL | 1 | 39 | F1 | 380 | 6 | 0.06 | 1 | | | | Dense fabric. Probably WT. Specks of glaze on upper surface of flanged rim. Oxid brown int surface. Grey-brown ext surface - sooted. OXCX/OXBB? | 506 | | |
| 506 | c1275-1400 | OXCX | | 1 | 13 | | | | | | | | sag | Jar/Bowl base? Dense. Probably WT. Oxid-brown surfaces. OXCX/OXBB? | 506 | | |
| 506 | c1275-1400 | OXAC | | 1 | 7 | | | | | | | | | Bo. Reduc. Sooted? | 506 | | |
| 506 | c1275-1400 | OXAQ | JAR | 2 | 22 | | | | | | | | | 2 vess. Neck/shoulder bos. Incl large cook pot | 506 | | |

| Context | Spot_date | Fabric | Form | Sherds | Weight | Rim_Fo | Diam | EVEs | EVEs/100 | No_Rims | Handle | Dec | Other | Comments | Context2 | Sieved No. | Sieved Weight |
|---------|-------------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|------|------|----------|---------|--------|-----|-------|--|----------|------------|---------------|
| 506 | c1275-1400 | OXAQ | | 3 | 10 | | | | | | | | | 3 vess. Small bos. OXAQ/OXBF | 506 | | |
| 506 | c1275-1400 | | | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | Sieved Sample. 4x scraps gg OXAM (jug?). 1x scrap OXBF (rim?) | 506 | 5 | 5 |
| 507 | Roman | ROM | COL | 1 | 31 | | | | | | | | flat | Abraded. Flat base from Roman greyware strainer with multiple perforations - ILLUS? | 507 | | |
| 507 | Roman | ROM | BOWL | 1 | 30 | | | | | | | | fring | Abraded. Footring base from Oxford colour coated dish/bowl | 507 | | |
| 511 | c1050-1250 | OXAC | | 1 | 6 | | | | | | | | | OXAC. Basal bo | 511 | | |
| 517 | c1175-1300? | OXCX | JAR | 2 | 8 | | | | | | | | | 2 vess. Dense. Incl sooted shoulder bo - poss WT?? Thinner bo also sooted ext. Red-brown int surface | 517 | | |
| 517 | c1175-1300? | OXY | JAR | 1 | 6 | | | | | | | | | Sooted jar neck/shoulder bo. | 517 | | |
| 517 | c1175-1300? | OXAC | | 4 | 26 | | | | | | | | | OXAC/OXCX | 517 | | |
| 517 | c1175-1300? | | | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | Sieved Sample. Abraded bo fine Roman greyware (ROM) | 517 | 1 | 1 |
| 519 | c1175-1350? | OXCX | JAR | 1 | 24 | | | | | | | | | Fresh. Probably OXCX. Neck/shoulder from large globular jar. Dense. Poss WT? | 519 | | |
| 519 | c1175-1350? | OXCX | JAR | 1 | 16 | | | | | | | | sag | Oxid int. sooted ext. Fresh | 519 | | |
| 519 | c1175-1350? | OXCX | | 1 | 18 | | | | | | | | | Basal bo. Soot ext. oxid int | 519 | | |
| 519 | c1175-1350? | OXAQ | JAR | 1 | 28 | B2 | 280 | 6 | 0.06 | 1 | | tb | | Fresh. Oxid orange-brown. B2/C1 rim on flaring neck. Thumbled dec on ext lip of rim | 519 | | |
| 530 | c1225-1400? | OXCX | JAR | 2 | 17 | | | | | | | | | 1 vess. OXCX jar/cpot. Probably WT, otherwise reduced grey like most OXAC. Hard-fired | 530 | | |

| Context | Spot_date | Fabric | Form | Sherds | Weight | Rim_Fo | Diam | EVEs | EVEs/100 | No_Rims | Handle | Dec | Other | Comments | Context2 | Sieved No. | Sieved Weight |
|---------|-------------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|------|------|----------|---------|--------|-----|-------|--|----------|------------|---------------|
| 532 | c1050-1250? | | | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | Sieved Sample. Scrap OXAC/OXCX | 532 | 1 | 3 |
| 533 | c1175-1400? | OXCX | JUG | 1 | 40 | | | | | | | | tbase | OXCX (Wychwood)? Large bo poss from lower wall of globular jug with trace of thumbed base. Oxid brown ext. WT?? | 533 | | |
| 533 | c1175-1400? | OXCX | | 4 | 16 | | | | | | | | | Joining flattish basal bos. OXCX? Dark grey. Dense | 533 | | |
| 533 | c1175-1400? | ROM | | 1 | 3 | | | | | | | | | 1x basal bo Roman greyware (glauconitic?) | 533 | | |
| 545 | Roman | ROM | | 1 | 3 | | | | | | | | | Small abraded bo oxidised fine sandy - Roman? | 545 | | |
| 547 | c1050-1100? | OXBF | | 1 | 5 | | | | | | | | sag | 1x OXBF. | 547 | | |
| 547 | c1050-1100? | OXR | JAR | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | OXR/St Neots. Neck bo from small thin-wall jar. | 547 | | |
| 547 | c1050-1100? | OXR | | 2 | 8 | | | | | | | | | Bos 2 vess. 1 heavily sooted int & ext | 547 | | |
| 547 | c1050-1100? | ROM | | 1 | 15 | | | | | | | | flat | 1x large fresh Roman greyware flat base - poss BB2 (Dorset) with traces of incised dec int (same vess in 533?) | 547 | | |
| 551 | c1050-1100? | OXBF | JAR | 1 | 20 | | | | | | | | | Bo. Probably cook pot. Sooted ext. Coarse flint to 5mm across. [Nb. OXAG with Michelmersh-style dec in sieved sample] | 551 | | |
| 551 | c1050-1100? | OXBF | | 1 | 5 | | | | | | | | | | 551 | | |
| 551 | c1050-1100? | OXAC | JAR | 1 | 17 | | | | | | | | | Globular. Sooted ext | 551 | | |
| 551 | c1050-1100? | OXR | BOWL | 1 | 71 | IN4 | 300 | 13 | 0.13 | 1 | | | | St Neots (OXR) incl large fresh rim sherd from typical bowl with bifid/hammerhead rim. Traces of sooting int & ext. ILLUS? | 551 | | |

| Context | Spot_date | Fabric | Form | Sherds | Weight | Rim_Fo | Diam | EVEs | EVEs/100 | No_Rims | Handle | Dec | Other | Comments | Context2 | Sieved No. | Sieved Weight |
|---------|-------------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|------|------|----------|---------|--------|-----|-------|--|----------|------------|---------------|
| 551 | c1050-1100? | OXR | BOWL | 1 | 53 | | | | | | | | | Bo. Possibly from same vess as rim above? Fresh. Sooted int/ext | 551 | | |
| 551 | c1050-1100? | OXR | | 2 | 34 | | | | | | | | sag | 1 vess? Possibly from bowl above? Sooted ext | 551 | | |
| 551 | c1050-1100? | OXR | JAR | 1 | 22 | | | | | | | | | Sooted ext | 551 | | |
| 551 | c1050-1100? | OXR | | 2 | 11 | | | | | | | | | 1 vess. Joining. Basal bos | 551 | | |
| 551 | c1050-1100? | | | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | Sieved Sample. 2x small joining sandy light brown OXBF (1 vess, 6g) with traces of small rosette-like stamps resembling those on Michelmersh ware (OXK, c950-1050) - probably a row of small quatrefoil stamps (each comprising 4 small pits in a cluster/stamp), traces of 3 rosettes surviving; gritty fabric with sparse flint (or might be a very coarse variant of Michelmersh?). 4x standard OXBF incl sagging jar base. 2x scraps OXAC. | 551 | 8 | 45 |
| 558 | c1225-1350? | OXAQ | JAR | 1 | 11 | | | | | | | | | Bo. Probably wheel-turned (WT). Unusual for OXAQ. Better sorted fabric with moderate flint. Sooted | 558 | | |
| 558 | c1225-1350? | OXAQ | JAR | 10 | 81 | | | | | | | | sag | 1 vessel. Cook pot with thick int limescale deposit. Some sherds sooted slightly ext | 558 | | |
| 558 | c1225-1350? | OXCX | | 2 | 13 | | | | | | | | | Bos 1 vess with dull greenish glaze all-over int. Oxid ext. Probably WT. Similar to rim in 503 | 558 | | |
| 558 | c1225-1350? | OXCX | JAR | 1 | 18 | B2 | 240 | 5 | 0.05 | 1 | | | | Oxid brown. Plain simple B2 rim on tall flaring neck. Abraded on top/int. WT? | 558 | | |
| 561 | c1050-1250 | | | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | Sieved Sample. Scrap OXAC | 561 | 1 | 2 |

| Context | Spot_date | Fabric | Form | Sherds | Weight | Rim_Fo | Diam | EVEs | EVEs/100 | No_Rims | Handle | Dec | Other | Comments | Context2 | Sieved No. | Sieved Weight |
|--------------|-------------|--------|------|------------|-------------|--------|------|------------|-------------|-----------|--------|-----|-------|---|----------|------------|---------------|
| 562 | c1050-1250 | | | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | Sieved Sample. Scrap OXAC | 562 | 1 | 2 |
| 571 | c1225-1400? | | | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | Sieved Sample. Scrappy bos. 1x fresh bo OXAM jug with gg & trace of red strip. 2x OXCX? 1x OXBF | 571 | 4 | 9 |
| TOTAL | | | | 521 | 6709 | | | 454 | 4.54 | 73 | | | | | | 69 | 244 |

Table 5. Detailed pottery catalogue

APPENDIX C ENVIROMENTAL REPORT TABLE (CPR ASSESSMENT)

| Sample No | Context | Cut | Feature | Group | Phase | Sample volume (L-) | Flot volume (ml) | Charc >4mm | Charc >2mm | Grain | Chaff | Seed | Other | Molluscs | Comments | Potential (CPR) | Potential (Charcoal) |
|-----------|---------|-----|-------------|-------|---------|--------------------|------------------|------------|------------|-------|-------|------|-------|----------|--|-----------------|----------------------|
| 310 | 473 | 473 | Buried Soil | | Phase 1 | 31 | 50 | ** | *** | *** | * | ** | * | ** | Fine modern roots abundant. Charcoal appears predominantly ring porous, many fragments are small. Includes knotty fragments. Clinkered and fragmentary cereal grains appear mainly wheat, rare oat fragments. Single intact <i>Pisum sativum</i> plus fragments. Rare free threshing wheat chaff. Seeds include <i>Anthemis cotula</i> . Also, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (not quantified). Small quantity of modern seeds and insects. | B/C | B/C |
| 317 | 551 | 550 | Ditch | 588 | Phase 1 | 40 | 150 | **** | ***** | ***** | ** | *** | * | *** | Fine modern roots common. Charcoal appears predominantly ring porous. Includes knotty fragments and bark. Large fragments present. Occasional unidentified clinkered material. Clinkered and fragmentary cereal grains appear mainly wheat with occasional barley and oat. Free threshing wheat and barley rachis fragments. Seeds include <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Eleocharis</i> sp., <i>Anthemis cotula</i> , <i>Carex</i> sp., <i>Silene</i> sp., and Poaceae. Hazelnut shell. Also, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (not quantified). Small quantity of modern seeds and insects. Mineralised earthworm cocoons. | B | B |
| 301 | 370 | 403 | Pit | | Phase 2 | 32 | 10 | ** | *** | *** | * | * | * | * | Charcoal appears predominantly ring porous. Includes knotty fragments. Clinkered cereal grains appear mainly wheat, rare oat fragments. Rare fragments of cf legume. <i>Galium aparine</i> and <i>Anthemis cotula</i> . Fuel ash slag. Also, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (not quantified). Small quantity of modern roots, seeds, and insects. | B/C | B/C |
| 311 | 490 | 489 | Pit | | Phase 2 | 27 | 10 | ** | ** | **** | * | *** | * | * | Occasional fine modern roots. Charcoal appears predominantly ring porous, many fragments are small. Includes knotty fragments. Clinkered and fragmentary cereal grains appear mainly wheat with occasional barley and oat. Rare fragments of legume. Rare free threshing wheat chaff. Seeds include <i>Anthemis cotula</i> , <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Rumex</i> sp., <i>Centaurea</i> sp., <i>Euphorbia/Odontites</i> , and <i>Medicago</i> types. Also, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (not quantified). | B | C |

| Sample No | Context | Cut | Feature | Group | Phase | Sample volume (L.) | Flot volume (ml) | Charc >4mm | Charc >2mm | Grain | Chaff | Seed | Other | Molluscs | Comments | Potential (CPR) | Potential (Charcoal) |
|-----------|---------|-----|---------|-------|---------|--------------------|------------------|------------|------------|-------|-------|------|-------|----------|---|-----------------|----------------------|
| 314 | 501 | 500 | Pit | | Phase 2 | 39 | 40 | * | ** | **** | | ** | * | | Volume almost all fine modern roots. Charcoal fragments are small. Appear mainly ring porous. Occasional unidentified clinkered material. Clinkered and fragmentary cereal grains appear mainly wheat, rare oat fragments. Rare fragments of legume. <i>Anthemis cotula</i> , <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Chenopodium</i> sp., Poaceae. Small quantity of modern seeds and insects. <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (not quantified). | B/C | C |
| 316 | 517 | 516 | Pit | | Phase 2 | 33 | 40 | * | *** | **** | * | ** | * | ** | Volume almost all fine modern roots. Charcoal fragments are small. Appears mixed. Occasional unidentified clinkered material. Clinkered and fragmentary cereal grains appear mainly wheat with occasional barley and oat. Rare free threshing wheat chaff. Seeds include <i>Anthemis cotula</i> , <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Euphorbia/Odontites</i> , <i>Carex</i> sp. and Poaceae. Rare fragments of legume. Hazelnut shell. Also, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (not quantified). Small quantity of modern seeds and insects. | B/C | C |
| 320 | 335 | 334 | Ditch | | Phase 2 | 30 | 60 | ** | *** | **** | *** | ** | * | * | Volume almost all fine modern roots. Charcoal appears predominantly ring porous. Includes knotty fragments. Clinkered and fragmentary cereal grains appear mainly wheat with occasional oat. Common free threshing wheat chaff fragments. <i>Anthemis cotula</i> , <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> . Rare fragments of legume. Also, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (not quantified). Small quantity of modern seeds and insects. | B | B/C |
| 324 | 442 | 440 | Ditch | | Phase 2 | 26 | 20 | * | *** | *** | ** | ** | | ** | Fine modern roots abundant. Charcoal fragments are small. Clinkered and fragmentary cereal grains appear mainly wheat with occasional barley and oat. Rare free threshing wheat chaff. <i>Anthemis cotula</i> , <i>Rumex</i> sp., <i>Chenopodium</i> sp., and <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> . Also, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (not quantified). Small quantity of modern seeds and insects. | B/C | C |
| 326 | 561 | 560 | Pit | | Phase 2 | 30 | 40 | ** | **** | **** | * | *** | | *** | Fine modern roots abundant. Charcoal appears predominantly ring porous. Includes knotty fragments and bark. Clinkered and fragmentary cereal grains appear mainly wheat with occasional barley and oat. Rare free threshing wheat chaff. Seeds include <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Rumex</i> sp., Fabaceae, <i>Carex</i> sp., <i>Eleocharis</i> sp., <i>Anthemis cotula</i> , and <i>Euphorbia/Odontites</i> . Also, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (not quantified). Small quantity of modern seeds and insects. Cess-like material present. Rare, mineralised seeds. Mineralised earthworm cocoon. | B | B/C |

| Sample No | Context | Cut | Feature | Group | Phase | Sample volume (L.) | Flot volume (ml) | Charc >4mm | Charc >2mm | Grain | Chaff | Seed | Other | Molluscs | Comments | Potential (CPR) | Potential (Charcoal) |
|-----------|---------|-----|---------|-------|----------|--------------------|------------------|------------|------------|-------|-------|------|-------|----------|---|-----------------|----------------------|
| 327 | 562 | 560 | Pit | | Phase 2 | 10 | 12 | ** | *** | *** | * | *** | * | ** | Fine modern roots common. Charcoal appears predominantly ring porous. Includes knotty fragments and bark. Clinkered and fragmentary cereal grains appear mainly wheat with occasional barley and oat. Single <i>Vicia faba</i> and fragments. Rare free threshing wheat chaff. Seeds include <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Rumex</i> sp., small Fabaceae, <i>Carex</i> sp., <i>Eleocharis</i> sp., <i>Anthemis cotula</i> , and <i>Euphorbia/Odontites</i> . Also, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (not quantified). Small quantity of modern seeds and insects. Cess-like material present. Single mineralised seed. Mineralised earthworm cocoon. | B | B/C |
| 334 | 571 | 570 | Pit | | Phase 2 | 20 | 10 | * | * | | | | * | ** | Volume almost all fine modern roots. Clinkered and fragmentary cereal grains appear all wheat. Small fragments may be from legume but interior only present. Also, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (not quantified). Small quantity of modern seeds and insects. | C | D |
| 321 | 317 | 316 | Ditch | 587 | Phase 2? | 25 | 30 | ** | *** | *** | * | * | | ** | Fine modern roots abundant. Charcoal appears predominantly ring porous. Includes knotty fragments and bark. Clinkered and fragmentary cereal grains appear mainly wheat with occasional barley and oat. Rare free threshing wheat chaff. Oat awns. Barley rachis fragment. <i>Anthemis cotula</i> . Also, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (not quantified). Small quantity of modern seeds and insects. | B/C | B/C |
| 322 | 532 | 531 | Ditch | 587 | Phase 2? | 40 | 110 | ** | *** | *** | * | ** | * | ** | Volume almost all fine modern roots. Charcoal fragments are small. Clinkered and fragmentary cereal grains appear mainly wheat with occasional oat. Rare free threshing wheat chaff. <i>Anthemis cotula</i> , <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> . Hazelnut fragment. Also, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (not quantified). Small quantity of modern seeds and insects. | B/C | B/C |
| 323 | 381 | 380 | Ditch | | Phase 2? | 24 | 40 | ** | *** | *** | * | * | | * | Fine modern roots abundant. Charcoal appears predominantly ring porous. Includes knotty fragments and bark. Clinkered and fragmentary cereal grains appear mainly wheat with occasional oat. Rare free threshing wheat chaff. Oat awns. <i>Anthemis cotula</i> . Also, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (not quantified). Small quantity of modern seeds and insects. | B/C | B/C |

| Sample No | Context | Cut | Feature | Group | Phase | Sample volume (L.) | Flot volume (ml) | Charc >4mm | Charc >2mm | Grain | Chaff | Seed | Other | Molluscs | Comments | Potential (CPR) | Potential (Charcoal) |
|-----------|---------|-----|------------------|-------|---------|--------------------|------------------|------------|------------|-------|-------|------|-------|----------|---|-----------------|----------------------|
| 303 | 392 | 390 | Pit | | Phase 3 | 38 | 20 | ** | **** | *** | | * | ** | ** | Fine modern roots common. Charcoal appears predominantly ring porous. Includes knotty fragments and bark. Rare unidentified clinkered material. Clinkered cereal grains appear mainly wheat, rare oat fragments, one grain has a barley like appearance but is damaged. Rare fragments of cf legume. Fragment of hazelnut shell. <i>Galium aparine</i> . Snails include freshwater species. Also, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (not quantified). Small quantity of modern seeds and insects. Fish scales. | B/C | B/C |
| 313 | 506 | 506 | Occupation Layer | | Phase 3 | 38 | 40 | ** | ** | ** | | ** | * | *** | Volume almost all fine modern roots. Charcoal fragments are small. Appear mainly ring porous. Clinkered and fragmentary cereal grains appear mainly wheat, rare oat fragments. Rare fragments of legume. <i>Anthemis cotula</i> . Occasional unidentified clinkered material. Also, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (not quantified). Small quantity of modern seeds and insects. | C | C |
| 318 | 459 | 459 | Occupation Layer | | Phase 3 | 34 | 100 | | *** | **** | * | ** | * | * | Volume almost all fine modern roots. Clinkered and fragmentary cereal grains appear mainly wheat with occasional oat. Rare free threshing wheat chaff. Seeds include <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Medicago</i> types and Poaceae. Rare fragments of legume. Hazelnut shell. Also, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (not quantified). Small quantity of modern seeds and insects. | B | C |
| 319 | 324 | 324 | Occupation Layer | | Phase 3 | 32 | 60 | * | *** | *** | * | * | | * | Volume almost all fine modern roots. Charcoal fragments are small. Clinkered and fragmentary cereal grains appear mainly wheat with occasional barley and oat. Rare free threshing wheat chaff. <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> . Also, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (not quantified). Small quantity of modern seeds and insects. | B/C | C |
| 331 | 483 | 482 | Pit | | Phase 3 | 38 | 30 | ** | *** | **** | | * | ** | * | Fine modern roots abundant. Charcoal appears predominantly ring porous although some diffuse is present, many fragments are small. Includes knotty fragments. Clinkered and fragmentary cereal grains appear mainly wheat, some oat. Legume fragments present. Rare hazelnut shell. <i>Rumex</i> sp. small quantity of modern seeds and insects. | B/C | B/C |

| Sample No | Context | Cut | Feature | Group | Phase | Sample volume (L.) | Flot volume (ml) | Charc >4mm | Charc >2mm | Grain | Chaff | Seed | Other | Molluscs | Comments | Potential (CPR) | Potential (Charcoal) |
|-----------|---------|-----|---------|-------|----------|--------------------|------------------|------------|------------|-------|-------|------|-------|----------|---|-----------------|----------------------|
| 306 | 449 | 448 | Pit | | Phase 3? | 40 | 10 | ** | *** | *** | * | | | * | Fine modern roots common. Charcoal appears predominantly ring porous. Includes knotty fragments. Occasional unidentified clinkered material. Clinkered cereal grains are a mixture of wheat, barley, and oat, fragmented. Fragment of barley rachis. Also, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (not quantified). Small quantity of modern seeds and insects. | B/C | B/C |
| 312 | 505 | 504 | Pit | | Unphased | 25 | 40 | * | ** | ** | | * | | ** | Fine modern roots abundant. Charcoal fragments are small. Clinkered and fragmentary cereal grains appear mainly wheat, rare oat fragments. <i>Galium aparine</i> , <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> . Also, <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (not quantified). Small quantity of modern seeds and insects. | C | C |

Key: * 1-4, ** 5-24, *** 25-49, **** 50-99, ***** 100+

Table 13. Charred plant remains: assessment categorization by sample

APPENDIX D ENVIROMENTAL REPORT TABLE (CPR ANALYSIS)

| Sample No | | 317 | 311 | 320 | 326 | 318 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|
| Context No | | 551 | 490 | 335 | 561 | 459 |
| Feature | | 550 | 489 | 334 | 560 | 459 |
| Group | | 588 | | | | |
| Description | | Ditch | Pit | Ditch | Pit | Occupation Layer |
| Date | | 1050-1100 | 1100-1250 | 1100-1250 | 1100-1250 | 1250-1550 |
| Phase | | Phase 1 | Phase 2 | Phase 2 | Phase 2 | Phase 3 |
| Sample Volume (L) | | 40 | 27 | 30 | 30 | 34 |
| Flot Volume (ml) | | 150 | 10 | 60 | 40 | 100 |
| Proportion of flot sorted | | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| | | | | | | |
| Charcoal | | | | | | |
| | >4mm | **** | ** | ** | ** | |
| | 4-2mm | ***** | ** | *** | **** | *** |
| | | | | | | |
| Cereal grain | | | | | | |
| <i>Triticum cf aestivum/compactum</i> | wheat (rounded free threshing type) | 351 | 29 | 22 | 24 | 37 |
| <i>Triticum sp.</i> | wheat (oval free threshing type) | 167 | 12 | 15 | 17 | 16 |
| <i>cf Triticum sp.</i> | probable wheat | 77 | 6 | 12 | 5 | 7 |
| <i>Hordeum vulgare L.</i> | hulled barley | 35 | 3 | 2 | | 2 |
| <i>cf Hordeum vulgare L.</i> | probable barley | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|----|----|----|----|
| <i>Secale cereale</i> L. | rye | | | | | 1 |
| <i>Avena</i> sp. | oat | 18 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| <i>Avena/Bromus/Secale</i> | oat/brome/rye | 28 | 3 | | 3 | |
| Cerealia | indeterminate cereal | 252 | 13 | 33 | 16 | 34 |
| | | | | | | |
| Chaff | | | | | | |
| <i>Triticum aestivum</i> L. | rachis internode segments | | | | 1 | |
| <i>Triticum aestivum</i> L. | rachis node | 82 | 3 | 50 | 9 | 15 |
| <i>Triticum</i> sp. | rachis node fragment | 24 | 2 | 33 | 3 | |
| <i>Hordeum</i> sp. | rachis internode segments | 1 | | | | |
| <i>Hordeum</i> sp. | rachis node | 6 | | | | |
| <i>Secale cereale</i> L. | rachis internode fragment | 7 | | | | |
| <i>Avena</i> sp. | oat awns | * | * | ** | | * |
| <i>Avena fatua</i> L. | oat floret base fragment | | | 1 | | |
| <i>Triticum/Hordeum/Secale</i> | chaff fragment | 23 | 4 | 23 | 4 | 6 |
| Cerealia | rachis internode fragment | 11 | | 2 | | 1 |
| Cerealia | coleoptile | 1 | | | 1 | |
| Cerealia | detached embryos | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| | | | | | | |
| Nuts/Fruit etc. | | | | | | |
| <i>Corylus avellana</i> L. | hazelnut shell | 14f | | | | 2f |
| <i>Vicia faba</i> L. | bean | 1f | | | | |
| Fabaceae | vetch/pea/bean >5mm | | 1 | 1 | | 1 |
| Fabaceae | vetch/pea/bean size unclear | 1f | 3f | 3f | 1f | 4f |
| <i>Prunus</i> sp. | cherries - (fruit) | 1 | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Wild Species | | | | | | |
| <i>Fumaria</i> sp. | fumitories | | | | 1 | |
| Fabaceae | pea family (<1mm) | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 |

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|----|----|----|----|---|
| <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp. 2-4mm | vetch/vetchling/tare, etc. | 9 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp. <2 mm | vetch/vetchling/tare, etc. | 3 | 8 | 1 | | 2 |
| <i>Medicago/Melilotus</i> | medick | | 3 | | | 9 |
| <i>Medicago/Lotus</i> | medick/trefoils | 7 | 2 | 2 | | 8 |
| cf <i>Malva</i> sp. | mallow | | | 1 | | |
| <i>Brassica</i> sp. | cabbages | | | | 1 | |
| <i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (L.) A. Love | black bindweed | | 1 | | 1 | |
| <i>Rumex</i> sp. | docks (3 sided) | 8 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| <i>Stellaria media</i> (L.) Vill. | common chickweed | | | 1 | | |
| <i>Silene</i> sp. | campions | 13 | | | | |
| Amaranthaceae | goosefoot family | | | | 1 | |
| <i>Euphrasia/Odontites</i> | eyebright/bartsias | 14 | 12 | 3 | 8 | 5 |
| cf <i>Euphrasia</i> sp. | eyebright/bartsias | | | | 2 | |
| Asteraceae | daisy family anthemis/leucanthemum size | | 8 | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| <i>Centaurea cyanus</i> L. | cornflower | | 1 | | | |
| cf <i>Leontodon</i> | hawkbit | 1 | | | | |
| <i>Anthemis</i> sp. | chamomile | 13 | 4 | 6 | | |
| <i>Anthemis cotula</i> L. | stinking chamomile | 58 | 22 | 28 | 12 | 4 |
| <i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i> (L.) Sch. Bip. | scentless mayweed | | 1 | | | |
| Apiaceae | carrot family | 1 | | | 1 | |
| <i>Juncus</i> sp. | rushes | 1 | 1 | | 2 | |
| Cyperaceae | sedge family | | | | | 1 |
| <i>Eleocharis</i> sp. | spike-rushes | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| <i>Carex</i> sp. | sedges (3 sided) | 2 | 1 | | 1 | |
| Poaceae | grass seeds (<2mm) | 2 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| Poaceae | grass seeds (4-2mm) | 7 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 |

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|----|---|---|---|---|
| Poaceae | grass seeds (>4mm) | | 1 | | | |
| Other Charred | | | | | | |
| Indeterminate | seed/fruit | 6 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 3 |
| <i>Juncus</i> sp. | rush seedhead | | | | 1 | |
| <i>Anthemis cotula</i> L. | stinking chamomile seedhead | | | | 1 | |
| Poaceae | grass/straw fragments | | 1 | 1 | | |
| Poaceae | culm node | 12 | 1 | 1 | 4 | |
| Mineralised | | | | | | |
| Polygonaceae | knotweed family | | | | 1 | |
| <i>Chenopodium</i> sp. | goosefoot family | 4 | | | | |
| <i>Lithospermum arvense</i> L. | field gromwell | | | | 2 | |
| Asteraceae | daisy family Anthemis/Leucanthemum size | | | | 2 | |
| <i>Lamium</i> sp. | dead nettle | | | | 1 | |
| <i>Eleocharis</i> sp. | spike-rushes | | | | 1 | |
| Poaceae | grass seed | | | | 2 | |
| indet | seed/fruit | 4 | | | 2 | |
| calcareous nodule | | 3 | | | | |
| mineralised earthworm cocoon | | 20 | | | 2 | |
| Key: f = fragment only * fragments rare ** fragments occasional *** fragments common | | | | | | |

Table 14. Charred plant remains: catalogue for samples selected for analysis

SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Site name: | Aston Children's Home, Aston Oxfordshire |
| Site code: | ASWFC22 |
| Grid Reference | SP 33938 03281 |
| Type: | Excavation |
| Date and duration: | August to November 2022, 3 months |
| Area of Site | 0.15ha |
| Location of archive: | The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service under accession number OXCMS:2021.23 cont. |

Summary of Results: The site lies on the south side of Back Lane, Aston, at NGR SP33938 03281. Following evaluation in 2021, excavation of 0.15ha took place from 26 August to 11 November 2022 in advance of construction of Aston Children's Home.

Below subsoil, stripping revealed ditches and pits cut into the natural, except in the NE part, where fragmentary stone structures survived, associated with surviving vertical stratigraphy including floor surfaces and occupation layers.

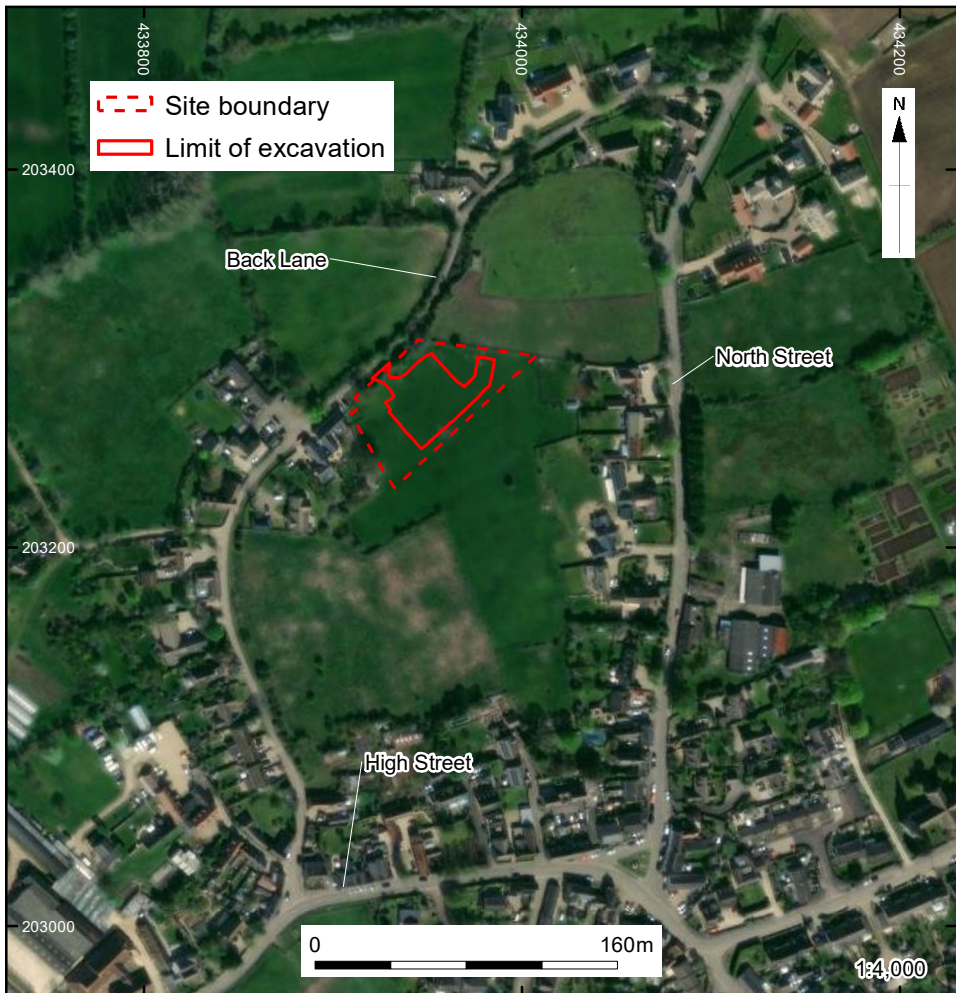
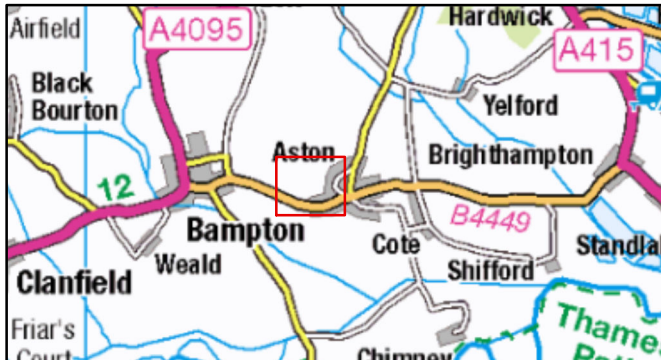
Other than a little prehistoric flintwork and Roman pottery and metal finds, almost all of the evidence related to medieval occupation from the 11th to the 14th centuries. Three main phases of activity were tentatively identified from the pottery: Phase 1 dating from c 1050-1100, Phase 2 from c 1100-1250, and Phase 3 from 1250-1400. Only one small pit later than this was found, and finds from the late medieval and post-medieval periods were few.

The site was divided by a succession of ditches, most aligned parallel to or at right angles to Back Lane. In Phases 1 and 3, however, some boundaries ran approximately north-south, but as the full extent of the properties was not exposed, the reasons for this are unclear.

The middle of the site contained dense intercutting pits, which lay adjacent to and partly overlay Phase 1 and Phase 2 ditches, and were bounded on the north-west by ditches of Phase 3, suggesting separation of the frontage of the medieval properties from the backyard containing the pits. No Phase 1 or Phase 2 structures were found.

In the NE part of the main excavation area an east-west stone foundation marked the south side of a Phase 3 (late 13th and 14th century) building, with two floors, one of

cobbles, the other of gravel, separated by an occupation layer, and with a hearth north-west of this. Stone-lined drains running south-east and east probably delineated the limits of the building on these sides, although the overall dimensions and character of the building could not be recovered. A group of intercutting pits south-west of the drains was probably associated.



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 Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community. © Crown copyright and

Figure 1: Site location

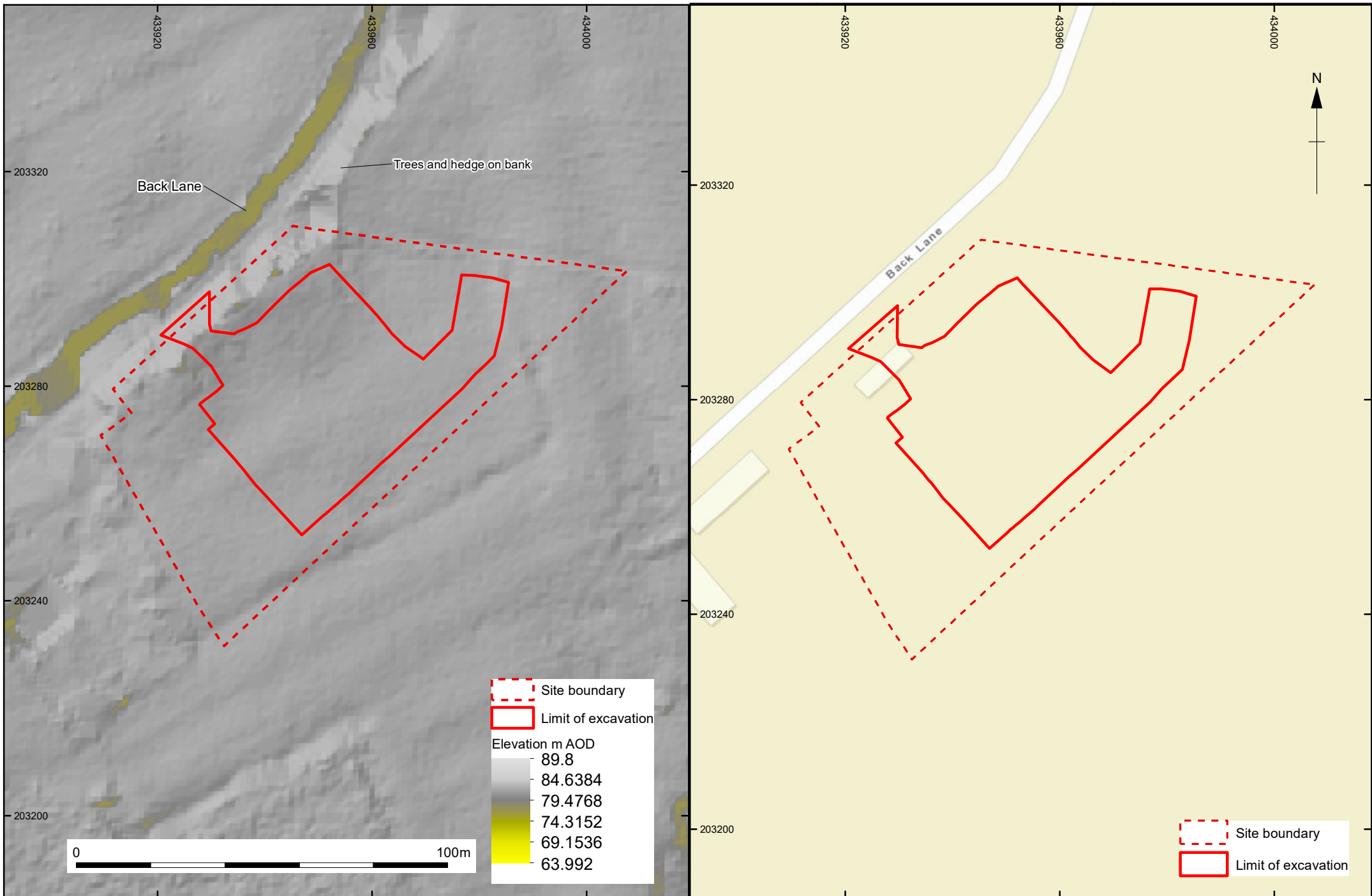


Figure 2: Environment Agency LiDAR 1m DTM of the site (left) and streetmap layout of the site in 2019 (right)

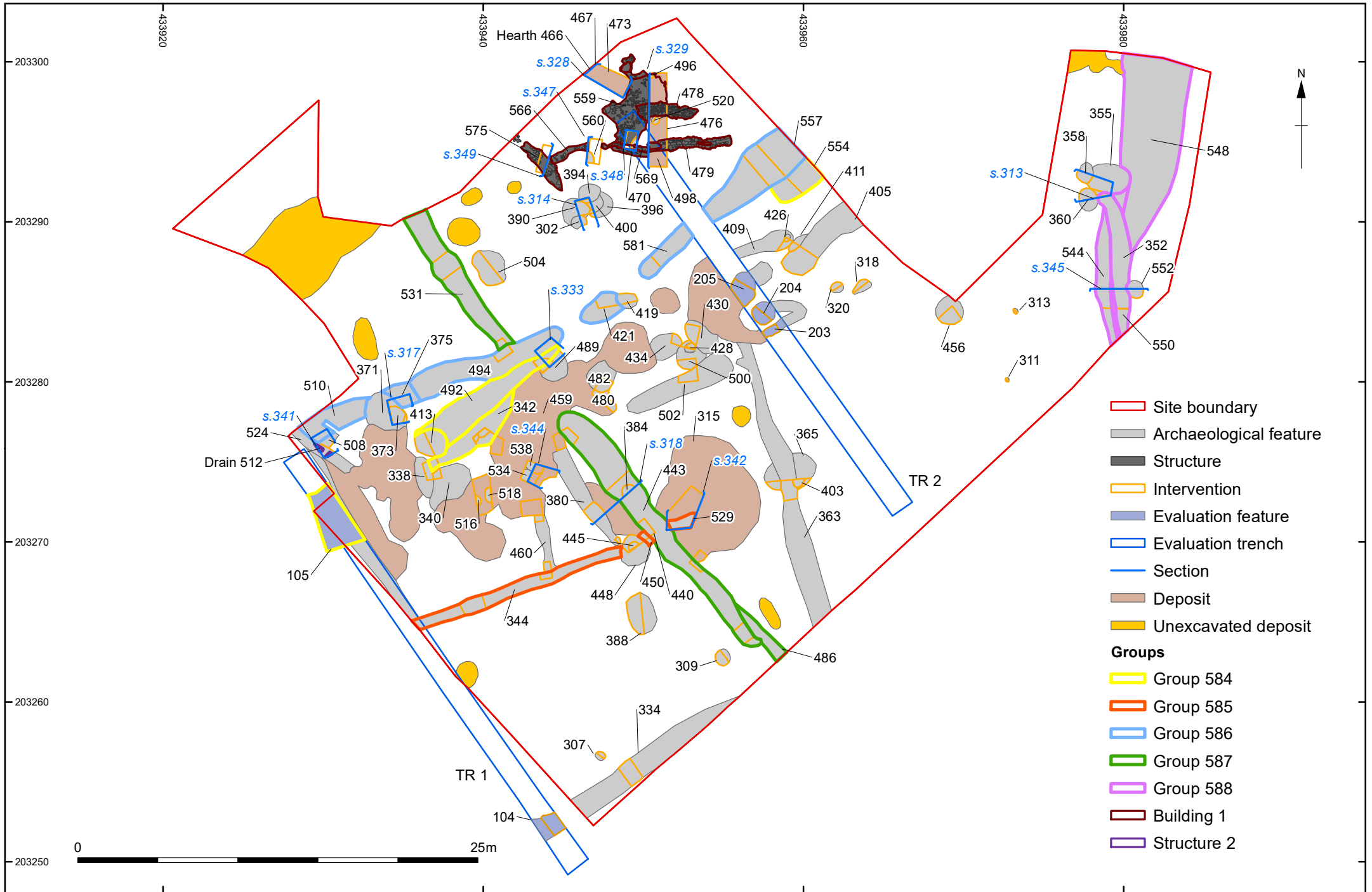


Figure 3: Unphased plan of all features, showing interventions and groups

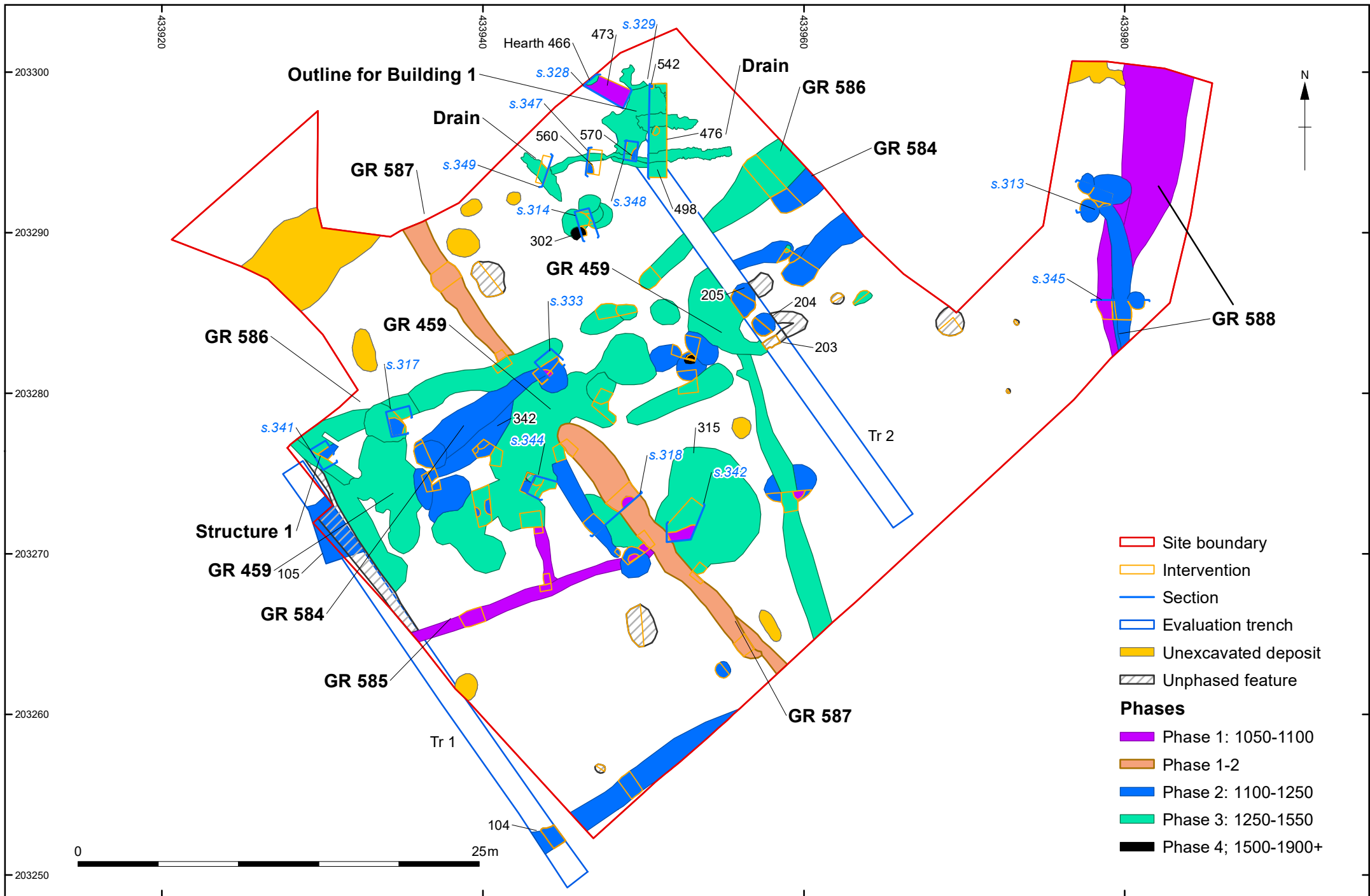


Figure 4: Phased plan of the site



Figure 5: Photogrammetry of Building 1

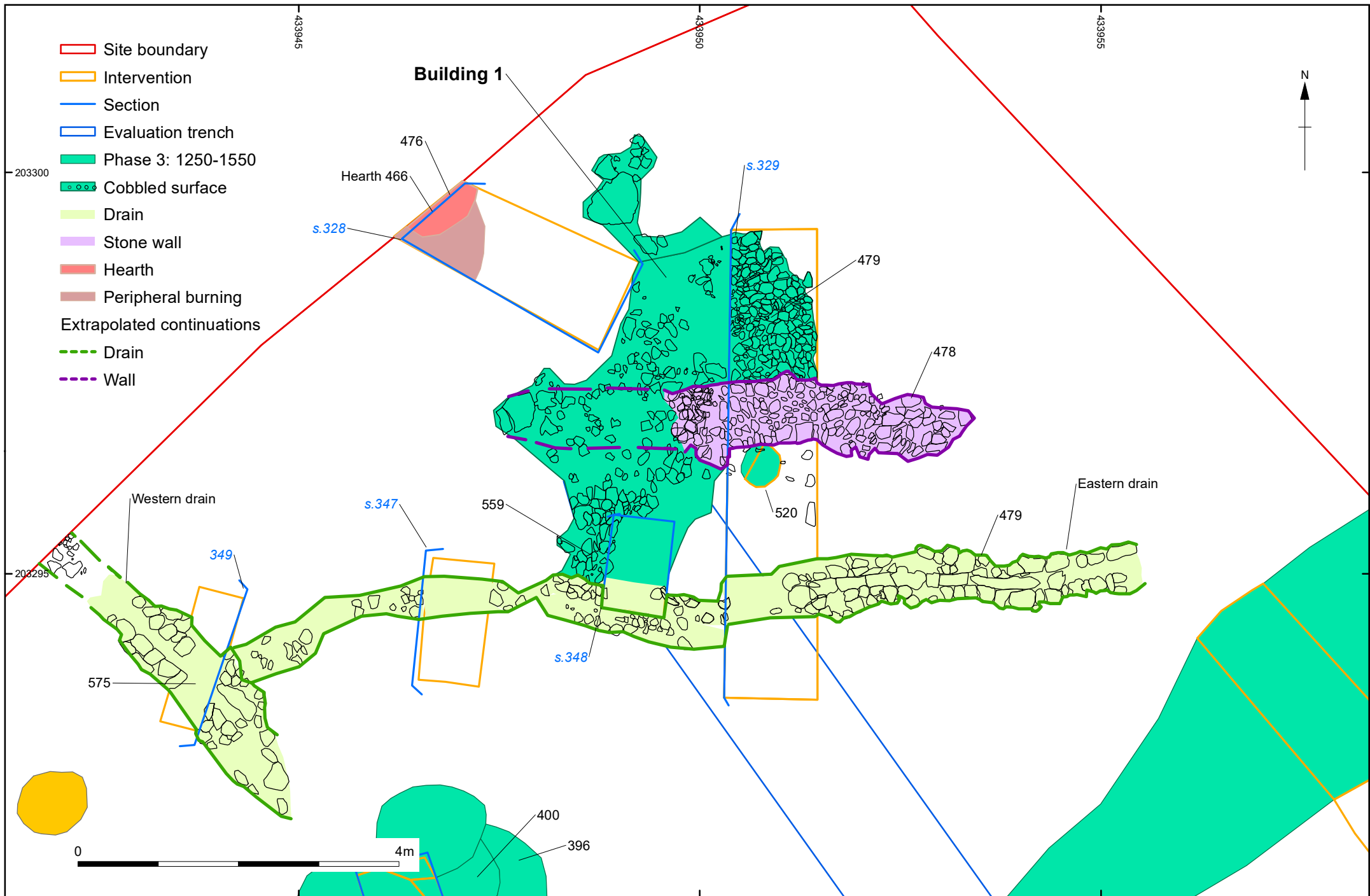


Figure 6: Detailed plan of Building 1

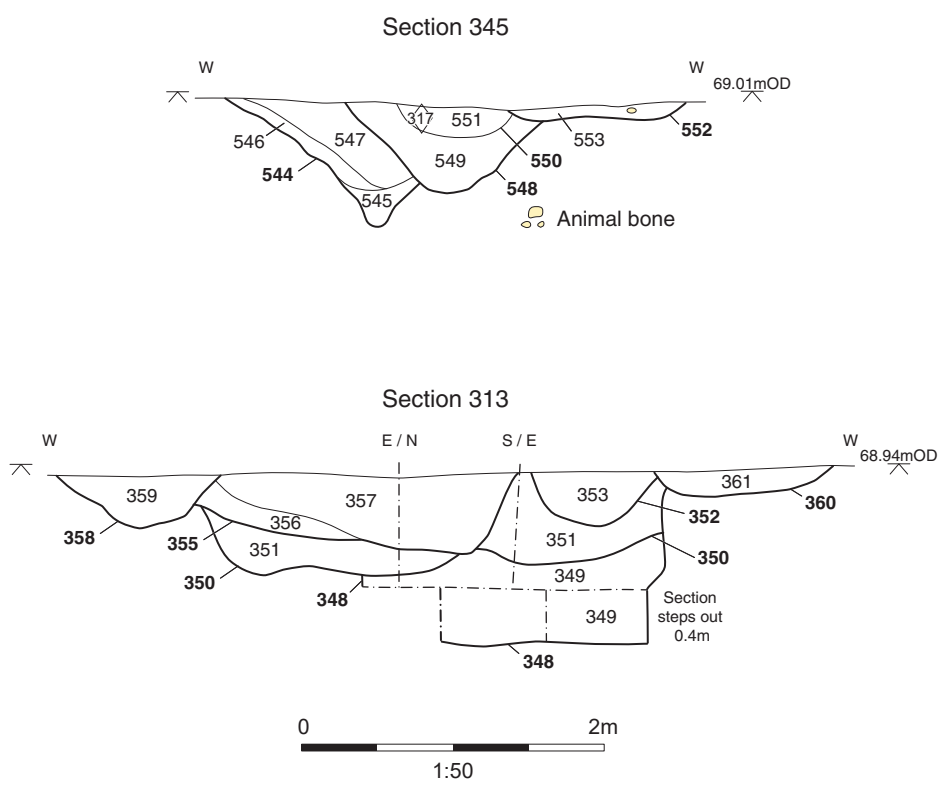


Figure 7: Phase 1 features

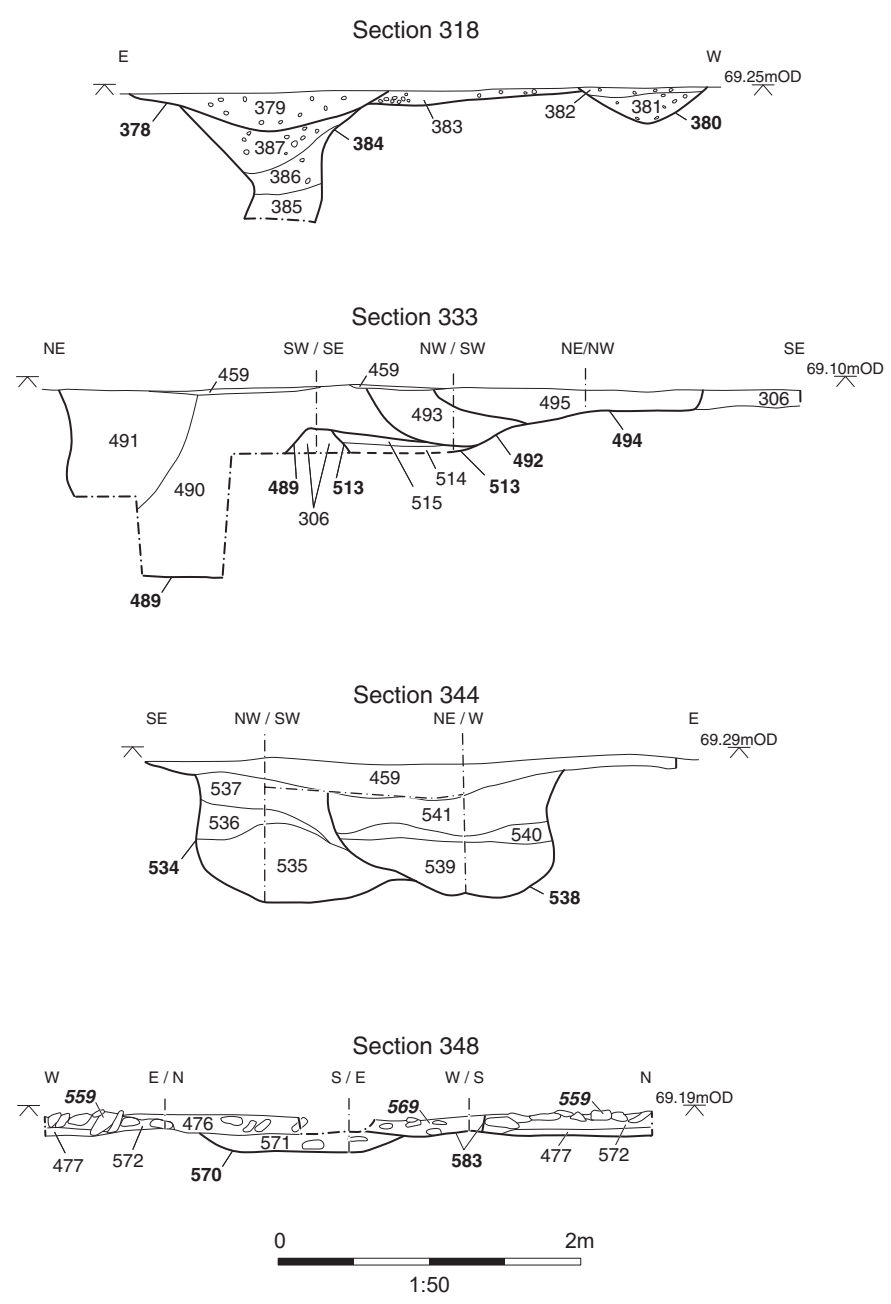


Figure 8: Phase 2 features

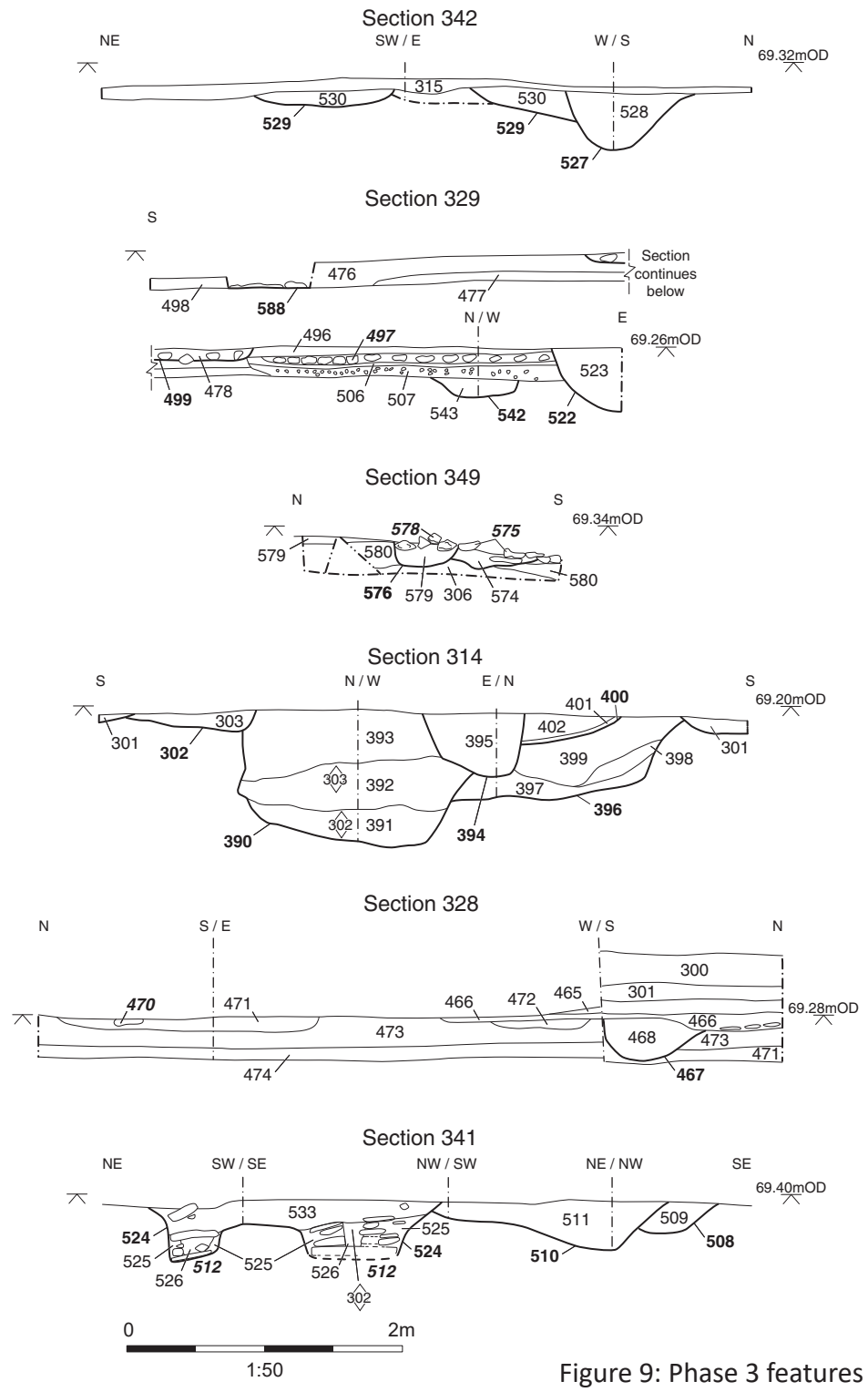


Figure 9: Phase 3 features

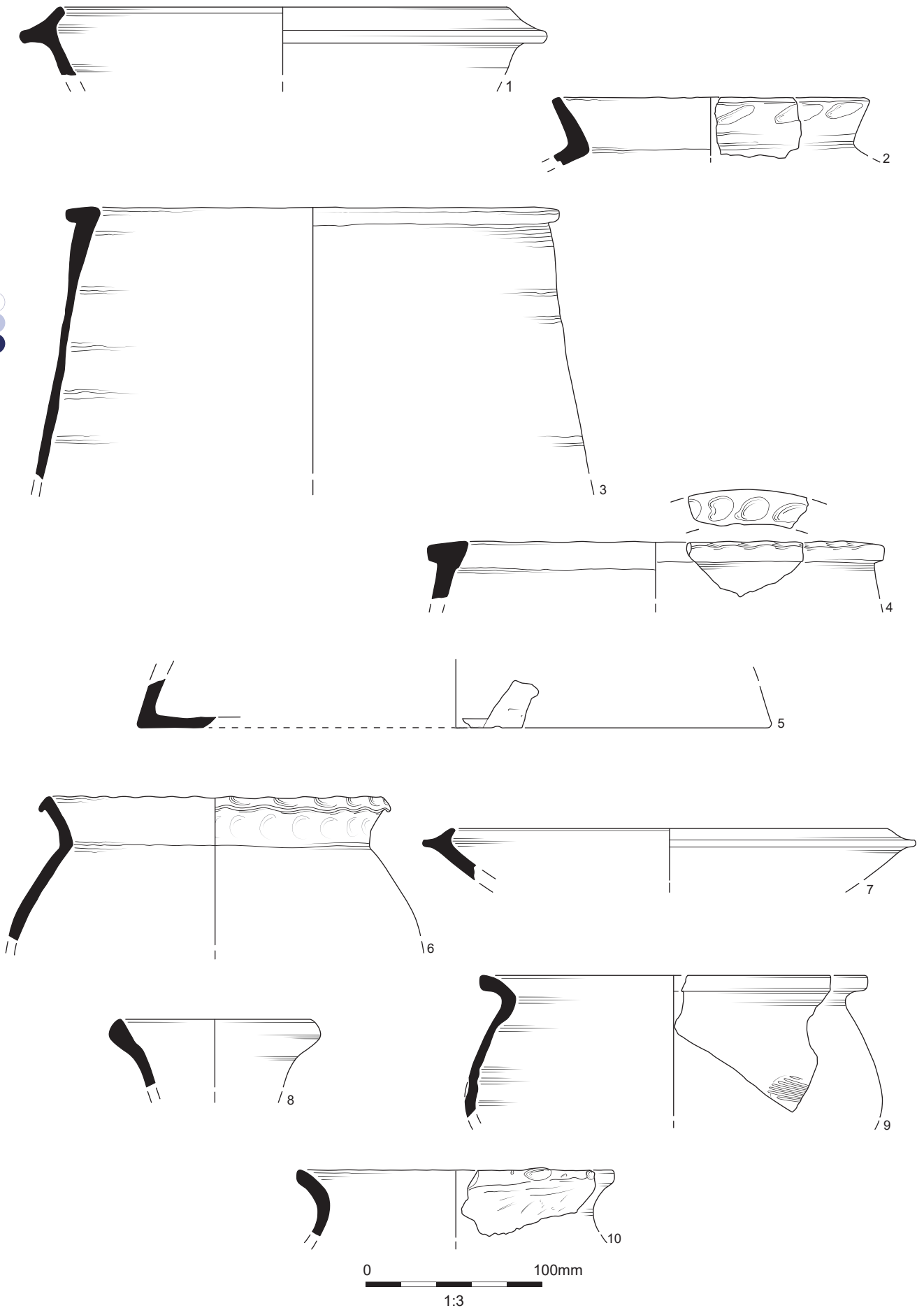


Figure 10: Medieval pottery

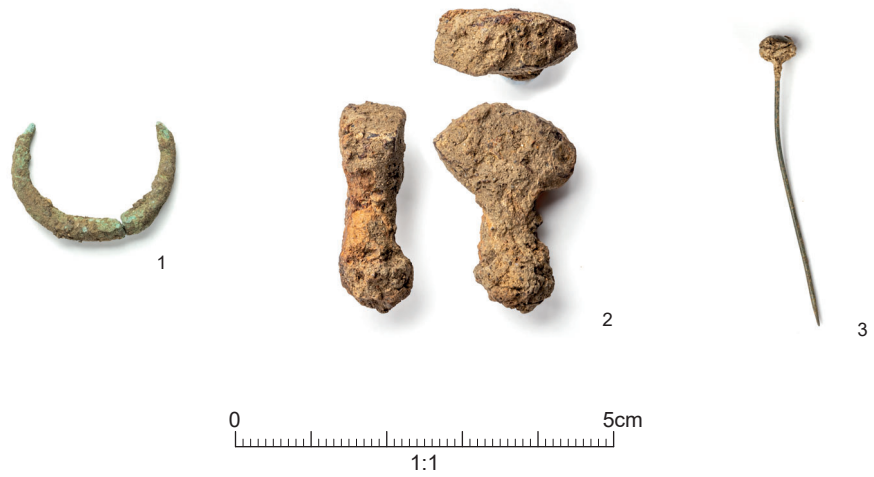


Figure 11: Metal finds: 1-4; Worked bone pin-beater: 5



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Figure 12: Environment Agency LiDAR DTM 1m, Simple Local Relief Model



Plate 1: Section 345. Ditches 544, 548, 550 and pit 552 looking north



Plate 2: Section 313 showing pits 350, 358 and ditch 355 looking east



Plate 3: Building 1 looking east



Plate 4: Section 328. Buried soil 473 and hearth 466 looking west



Plate 5: Section 314 showing pit 390 and 394 looking west



Plate 6: Section 347 showing pit 560 and construction cut 564 for wall 566 looking north-west



Plate 7: Drain 512 looking south-west



Plate 8: Section 311 showing pit 338 looking west



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