

Chapter 2: Archaeological Description

INTRODUCTION

The site prior to excavation

Immediately prior to the excavation, the site was under rough pasture and undergrowth. The north and east arms of the moat were still extant and serving as drainage ditches/boundaries between Harding's Field and Frogmore Lane to the east and the new housing estate to the north, although some construction debris from the estate had encroached upon the northern edge of the large island. The curving western arm, and the small rectangular moat to the west, were visible only as very shallow depressions.

The phasing and chronology of the archaeology (Figs 2.1–2.5)

The phasing and its chronology have largely been determined on the basis of stratigraphy, supported by ceramic and other artefactual evidence. However, for various reasons the following phasing summary should be considered with caution. A number of buildings and a large part of the main island were not fully excavated, nor were all stratigraphic relationships investigated. Recourse in the construction of the phasing framework has been made to architectural or stylistic parallels, and to the historical context suggested by the documentary evidence. The following summary should be seen as an interpretative framework.

Phase 1 – Late 12th to early 13th century

Phase 2 – Mid to late 13th century

Phase 3/1 – Early 14th century

Phase 3/2 – Early to mid 14th century

Phase 4 – Late 14th to early 15th century

Phase 5 – Mid to late 15th century

The recording methodology

The focus of most of the excavation over the three seasons was the domestic range, eventually comprising several attached rooms or structures. The whole domestic range was labelled 'A', with each room, structure or attached building given a supplementary number. Discrete buildings, structures or functional areas, whether directly associated with the domestic range or not, were given identifying letters.

THE EXCAVATIONS

Phase 1 (Late 12th to early 13th century) (Fig. 2.1)

Summary

The earliest activity was represented by surfaces, features and wall footings partially revealed in the

north-east corner of the site. Evidence of one definite and two possible structures was revealed, all apparently constructed upon the contemporary ground surface. No evidence of a buried topsoil was identified, although any such layer would most likely have degraded to silty clay indistinguishable from the alluvial clay natural. Such dating evidence as could be reliably associated with the Phase 1 structures suggested that they were standing in the late 12th or early 13th centuries.

The function of the structures revealed can only be tentatively suggested on the basis of the limited excavation evidence. The remains possibly represent a kitchen and/or hall, along with associated buildings and structures – all of which can be seen as part of a precursor to the moated manor.

Building P (Figs 2.1, 2.6, 2.15)

Building P was defined by the remains of cob walls and internal surfaces sealed below the Phase 2 levelling material that was derived from the moat construction (see below). Cob is a generic term for a mixture of clay, gravel and/or stone, and organic matter.

The structure was aligned NW-SE and measured c 11.3 m by 7.5 m externally, the dimensions extrapolated from the surviving parts of the walls seen in plan and section. The best preserved wall (402/1127/1128) survived as a linear block of mixed clay and small stone, up to 0.40 m high × 0.60 m wide. It represented the west wall of the structure, and was traceable across the width of Trench 1. A further small isolated fragment of the north wall was revealed in plan (967). The walls appeared to be built directly on the underlying natural surface, although immediately west of wall 1128 in section a deposit of limestone rubble (1201) was revealed which could represent a stone plinth (Fig. 2.15). Remains of an interior floor of the building were identified (1106, a mix of chalk and flint in a clay matrix), in part overlain by an occupation layer (1137) of silty clay with charcoal and ash inclusions (Fig. 2.15 section 51). A large hearth (372) was identified towards the western end of the building, and a section revealed up to eleven superimposed burnt clay and ash deposits, representing a significant amount of use. No other internal features were identified, nor was evidence found of the location or character of an entrance to the structure, although this is not surprising, given both the partial nature of the excavation and the degree of truncation by later activity. A total of 69 sherds of pottery were recovered from the floor deposits and the fabric of the walls, the date of which suggests construction and use of the building between the late 12th and early 13th centuries.

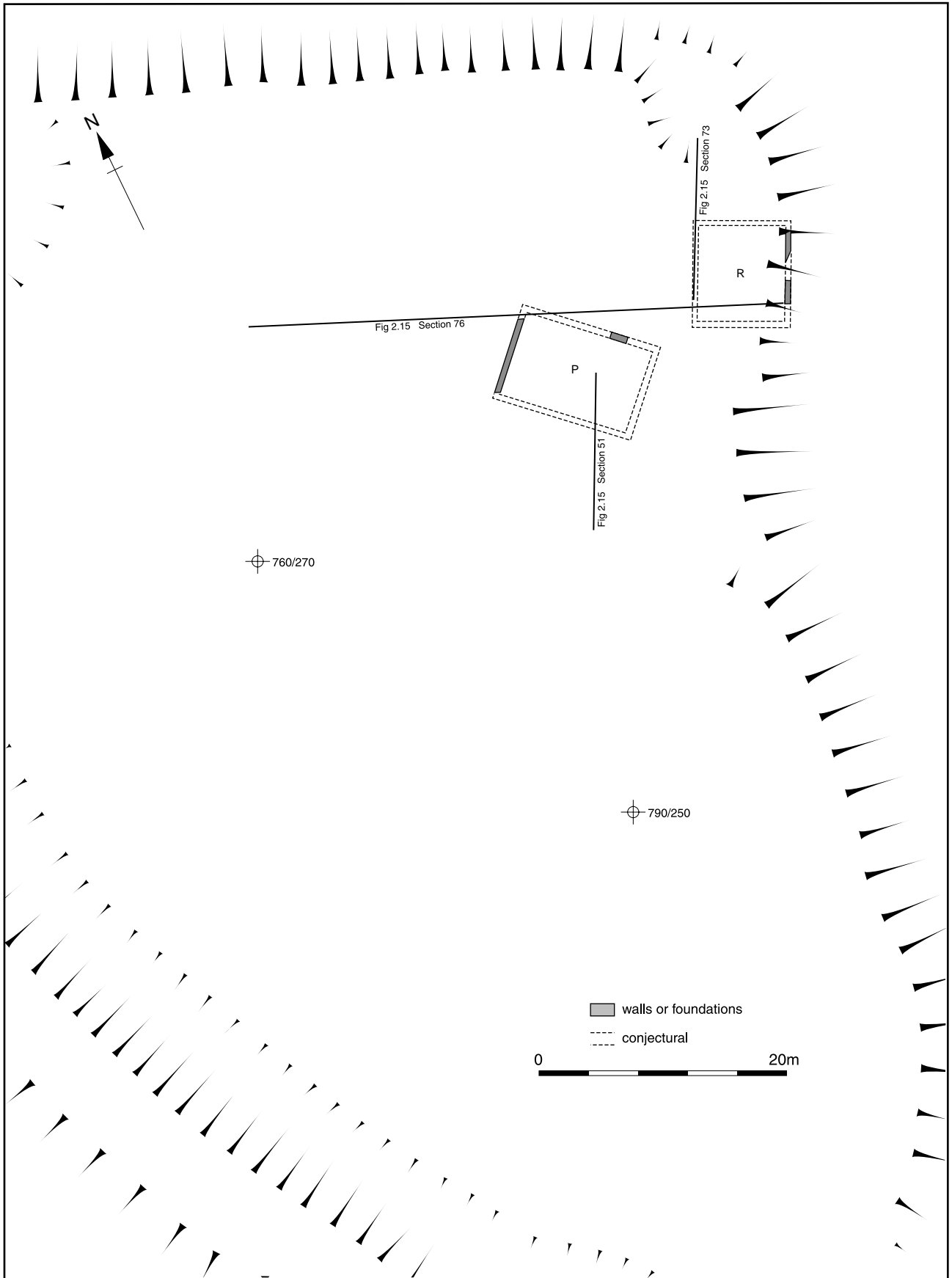


Figure 2.1 Plan of Phase 1.

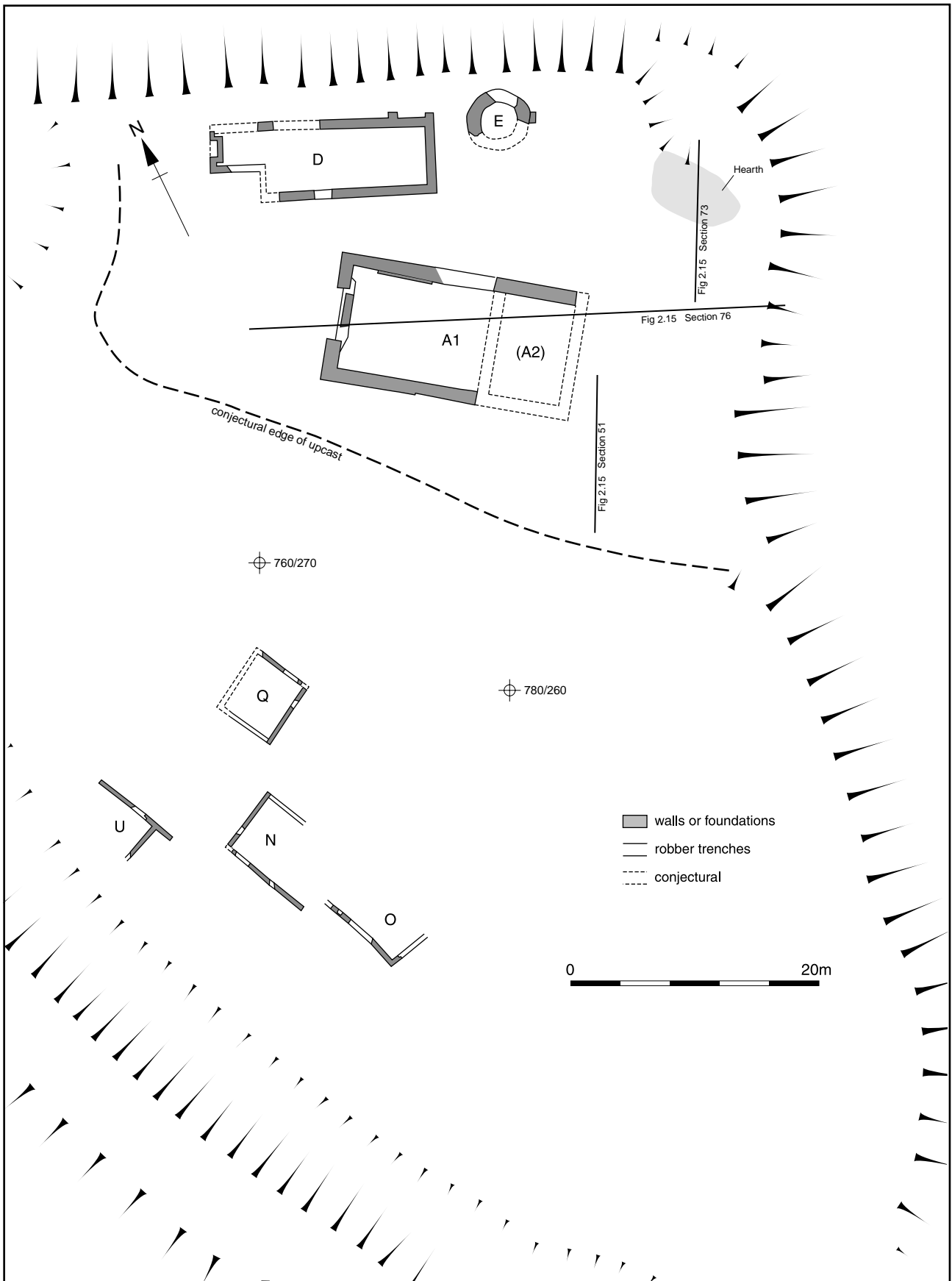


Figure 2.2 Plan of Phase 2.

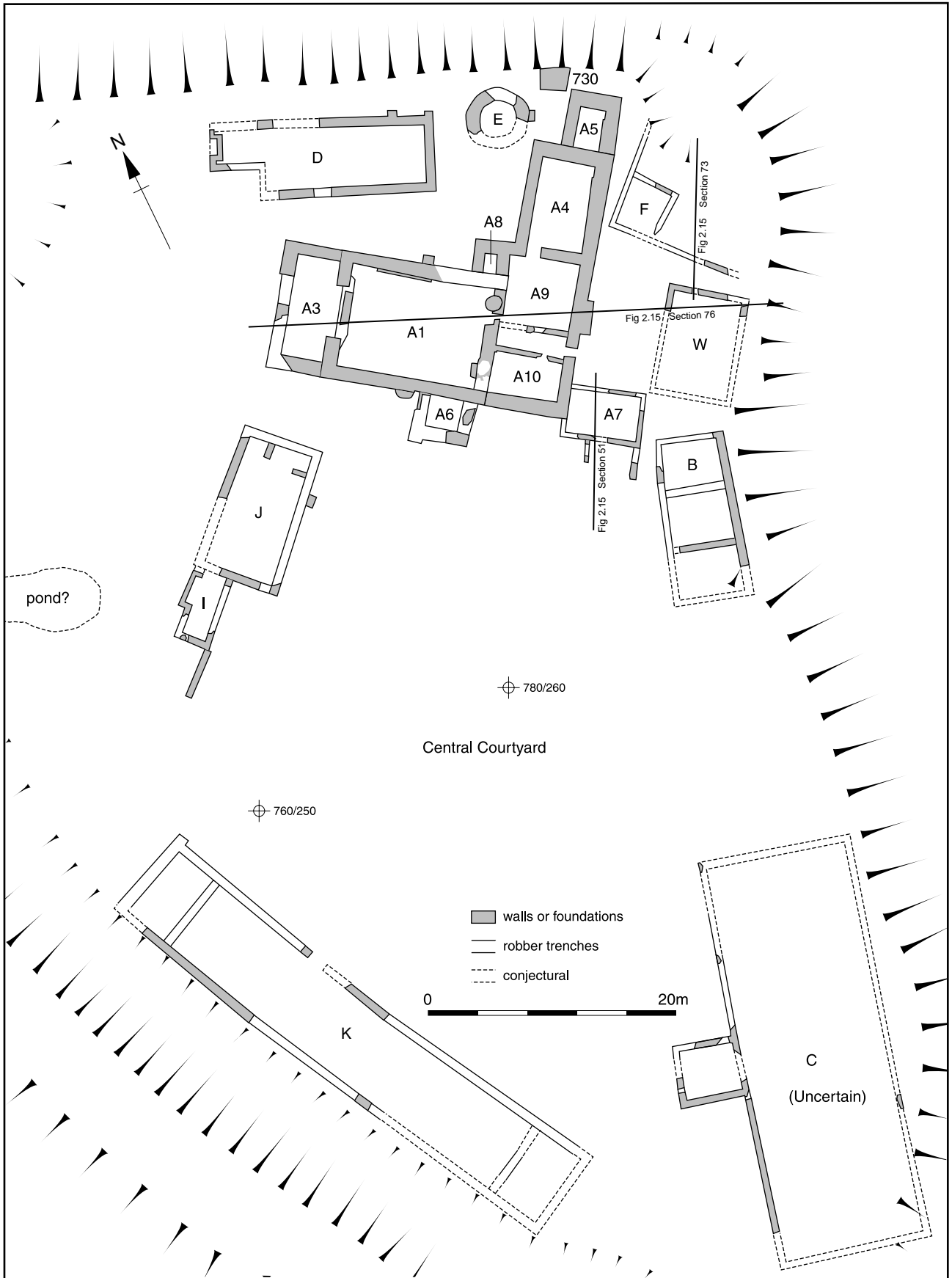


Figure 2.3 Plan of Phase 3.

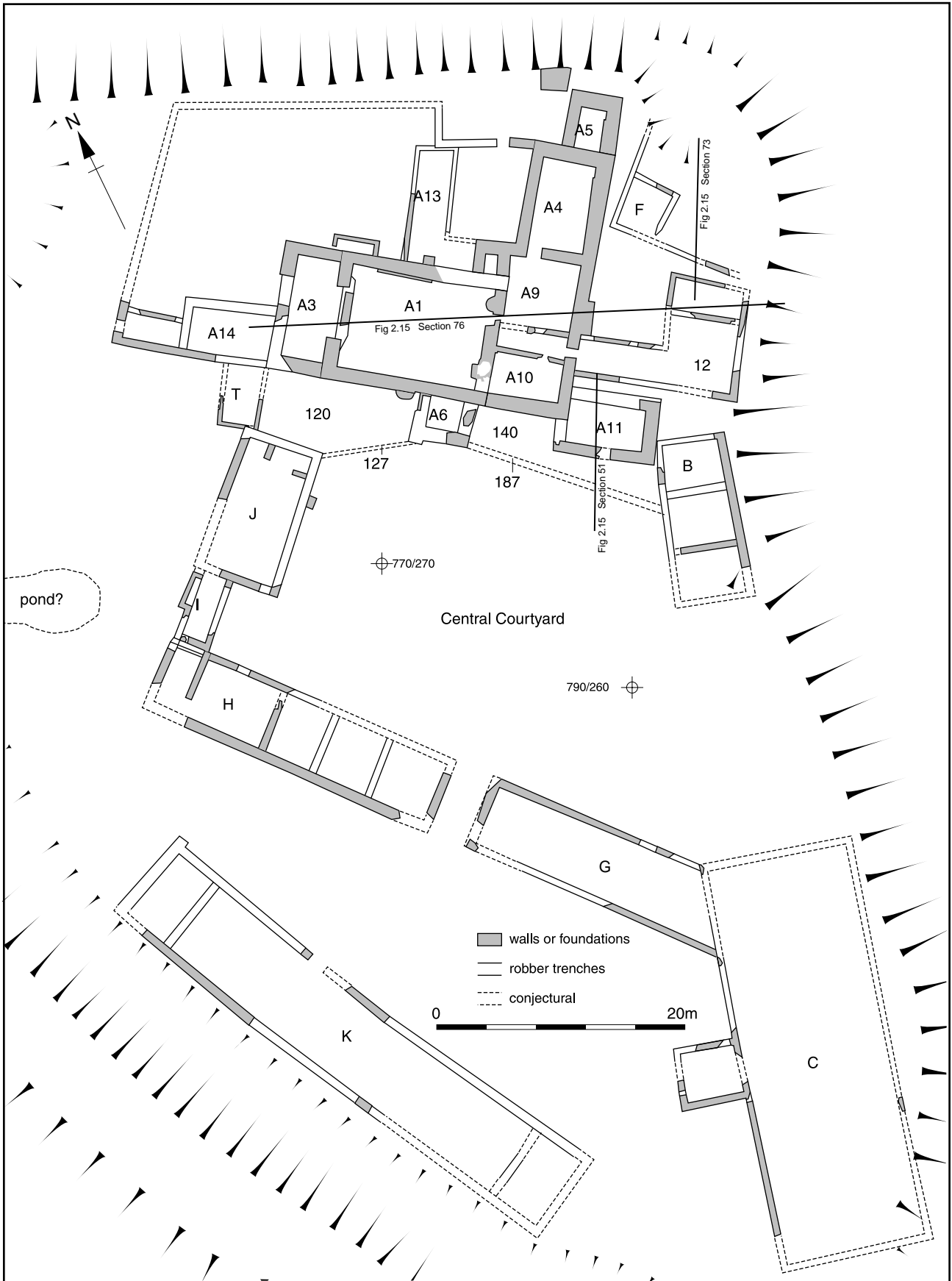


Figure 2.4 Plan of Phase 4.

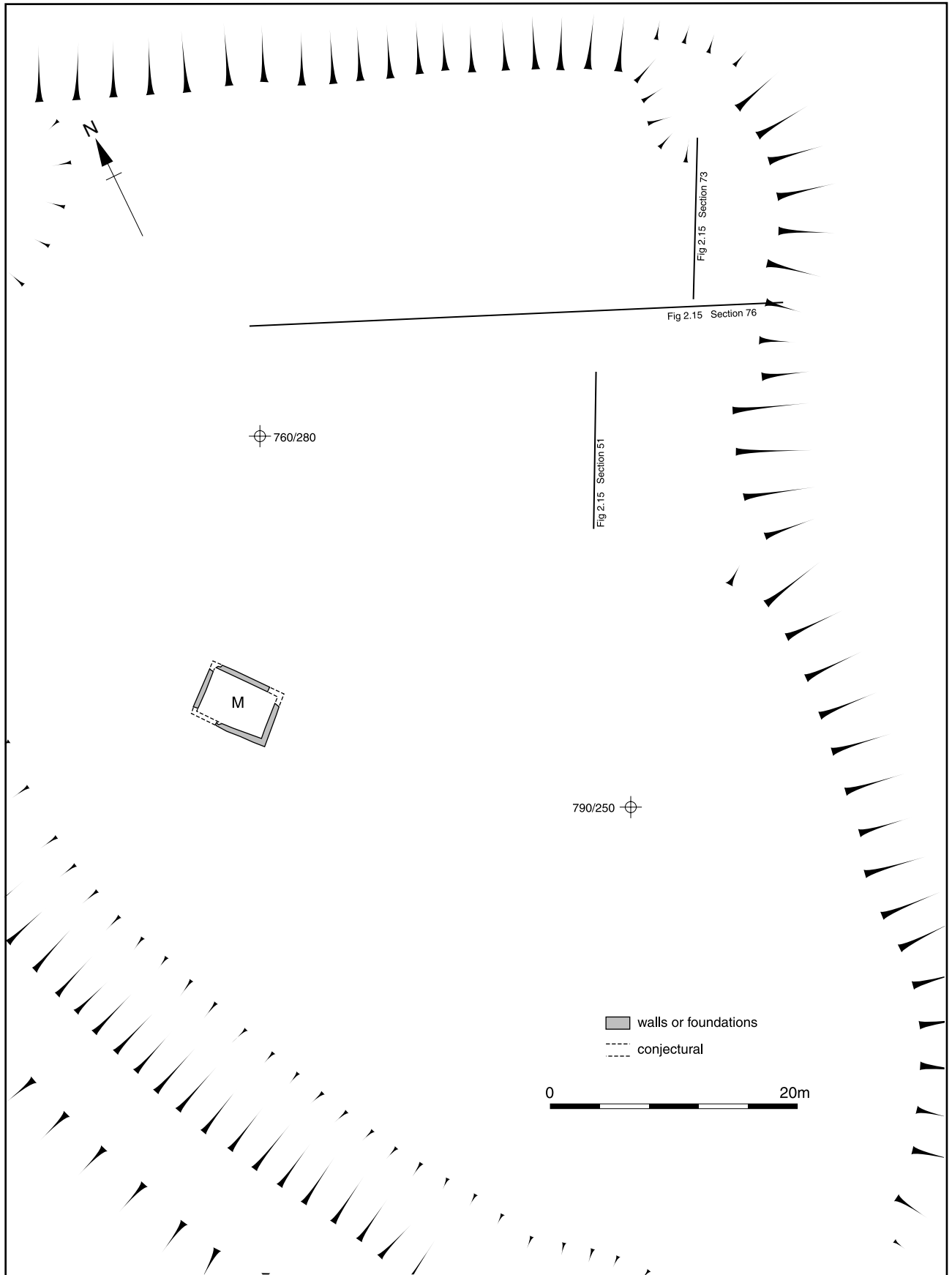


Figure 2.5 Plan of Phase 5.

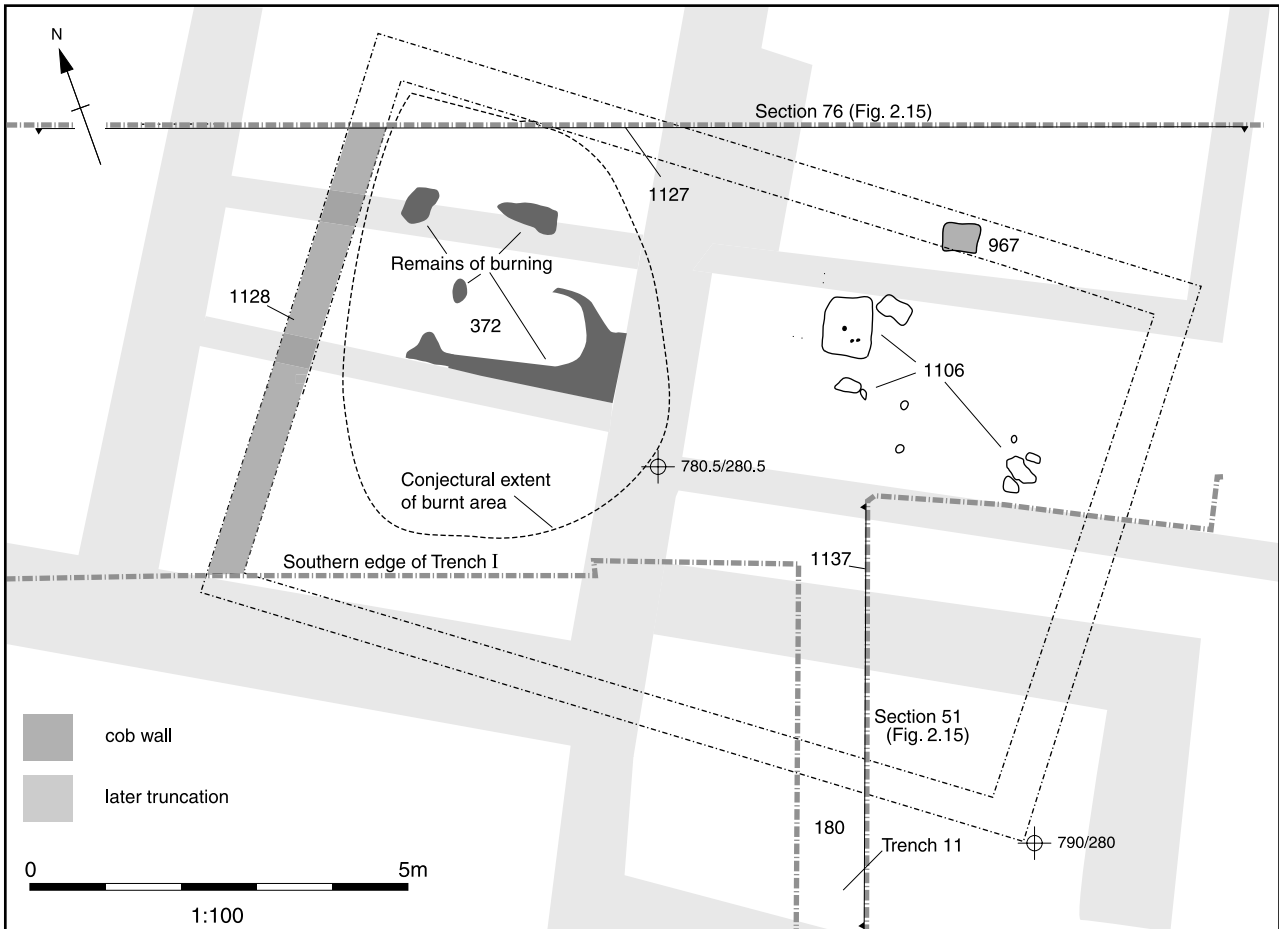


Figure 2.6 Detailed plan of Building P – Phase 1.

Building R (Figs. 2.1, 2.15)

The structure was defined by a spread of chalk and clay floor (847 – see Fig. 2.15 section 73) edged on the eastern side by the disturbed remnants of a coursed rubble footing (1112 – Fig. 2.15 section 76), which measured approximately 0.70 m wide and survived to a depth of 0.10 m. The footing appeared to have slumped into the moat dug immediately to the east. The positions of the other three walls were inferred from the limits of the floor deposits, and what may represent a partition wall beamslot (848) (Fig. 2.15 section 73). No other internal features were identified. An iron hinge pivot (SF460: Fig. 3.18.42) was recovered from the floor surface, along with two sherds of pottery (Chapter 3 and Figs 3.1.4 and 3.1.7).

Building S (not illustrated)

A possible structure or building, situated to the north-west of Building P, was indicated by a surviving length of rubble limestone footing (1215) noted in section in the robber trench of part of the north wall of Building A1. Possible floor or occupation layers (1216) were also identified abutting the

footing. No dating material was recovered, so its association with Buildings P and R is suggested (but cannot be demonstrated) by the common overlying material (924) derived from the Phase 2 moat digging.

Other features

The remains of an isolated oven or kiln (692) found towards the west of the island may possibly belong to this phase (Fig. 2.19). The feature was revealed during the topsoil stripping of the site and was considerably disturbed, but was seen to consist of an irregular spread of burning with a circular concentration of daub, together with a quantity of pottery and bone, not apparently contained within any structure. Its stratigraphic relationship to the Phase 2 moat upcast material was uncertain, and its inclusion in Phase 1 is based upon the early to mid 13th-century pottery found in its vicinity.

A compacted flint and clay hardstanding (180, see Fig. 2.15 section 51) was identified to the south of Building P, apparently respecting the line of the conjectural south wall. The surface was revealed (in Trench XII) to extend at least 9.0 m to the south of the building. A single piece of worked limestone

was recovered from the surface of the hardstanding (WS44).

A possible hearth (1211 – not illustrated) overlain by a mixed flint and gravel layer (1210) was revealed in Trench XX approximately 20.0 m west of Building P. Early 13th-century pottery and possible daub fragments were recovered from layer 1210.

Finds summary

A total of 69 pottery sherds were recovered from contexts assigned to Phase 1. Only a scatter of animal bone was recovered from securely dated Phase 1 contexts, and no significant bone assemblages were recovered.

Phase 2: (mid to late 13th century)

Summary (Figs 1.5 and 2.2)

The beginning of Phase 2 is represented by the demolition of the Phase 1 Building P and other possible structures in its vicinity, and the construction of the large moat. The description of the small moat is also included in this phase, although the dating of its construction cannot be confirmed by the archaeological record.

Two buildings in the northern part of the main island were defined and dated to this phase. Evidence of a group of buildings to the south-west was also recovered, although the buildings' definition is incomplete due to later building and to the selective excavation strategy.

This phase sees the establishment of the moated manor, with the main hall (Building A1) laid out in the northern part of the large island, on a platform created from the moat upcast. The hall will form the structural heart of the manor for the next 200 years. Truncation has made the two buildings D and E difficult to interpret, but it is suggested that the former is a bakehouse or brewhouse. Building E is somewhat enigmatic – it may have been associated with Building D, as a store for malted grain, although the possibility that it was a dovecote is also considered. The moats themselves were developed from existing watercourses and appear, from their modest depth, to have had no seriously defensive function. In the southern part of the main island a scatter of presumably agricultural buildings (N, O, Q, and U) were identified.

The moats (Figs 1.5, 2.2 and 2.7)

The line of the moats around both islands survived as slight earthworks and – in aerial photography (see Pl.1.2) – as distinct darker marks in the landscape. From earthwork measurements and sample sections it was seen that the width of the moats was generally between 9 m and 10 m although in some places a width of up to 13 m was apparent.

Two trenches (XXI and XXII) were cut across the infilled curving western arm of the large moat and

one (XXIII) across the southern arm of the small moat. All revealed a similar shallow U-shaped profile with a flat bottom and a depth of between 1.0 m and 1.5 m. Section 36 (Fig. 2.7, depicts the fairly typical depositional sequence of the moat section in trench XXI. Silty clay layers 275/6 and 275/5 produced no dating evidence, and could have accumulated during the lifetime of the manor, although, with evidence elsewhere that the moat was regularly cleaned, these layers could have accumulated at the very end of the manor's occupation. Layer 275/4, against the 'island' side of the moat, contained broken roof tile and could represent the Phase 5 demolition, followed by the dark silty clay layer 275/3, representing an accumulating topsoil/turf line. The upper layers 275/2 and 275/1 represent modern disturbance/levelling. In none of the sections was there any evidence of stone or timber revetting of the channel. The fact that few finds were recovered from either moat has implications for their interpretation and function.

It was not possible to dig full sections of the north or east arms of the large moat, as these were serving as modern drainage. However, a section (Fig. 2.7 section 39) was hand-dug into the western edge of the eastern moat arm, close to the eastern end of Trench I. The lowest deposit revealed (279/2) was sampled for ecofactual evidence (see Robinson, Chapter 5). A small group of roof tile fragments was noted in the interface between layers 279/2 and 279/11.

The large island

The moat upcast (924) was identified at various points across the north and north-eastern part of the large island, being at its deepest (0.50 m) in the north-eastern corner, and petering out to the south-west (Fig. 2.2). No evidence was found to suggest that an internal bank was formed from the upcast material. The upcast material generally consisted of brown silty clay with inclusions of gravel and chalk, and contained a quantity of datable finds. A large assemblage of mainly domestic late 12th- and early 13th-century pottery was recovered, along with a few residual Romano-British sherds. Various iron and copper alloy objects were also recovered, mostly identifiable as 12th- to 13th-century artefacts, although the collection included a 9th-century Saxon strap end (SF 313: Fig. 3.8.15).

On the northern edge of the large island a length of substantial rubble limestone footing (736) with a width of c 0.80 m was partially exposed. Its stratigraphic relationship with the moat and the Phase 1 features to the south was unclear; it could represent a pre-moat structure truncated by the moat construction or equally possibly, an early bridge abutment, later rebuilt as 730 (Fig. 2.9 and Pl. 2.1).

The upcast from the moat construction and the material from the demolished walls was used to level up the northern half of the large island, in preparation for the construction of the new complex

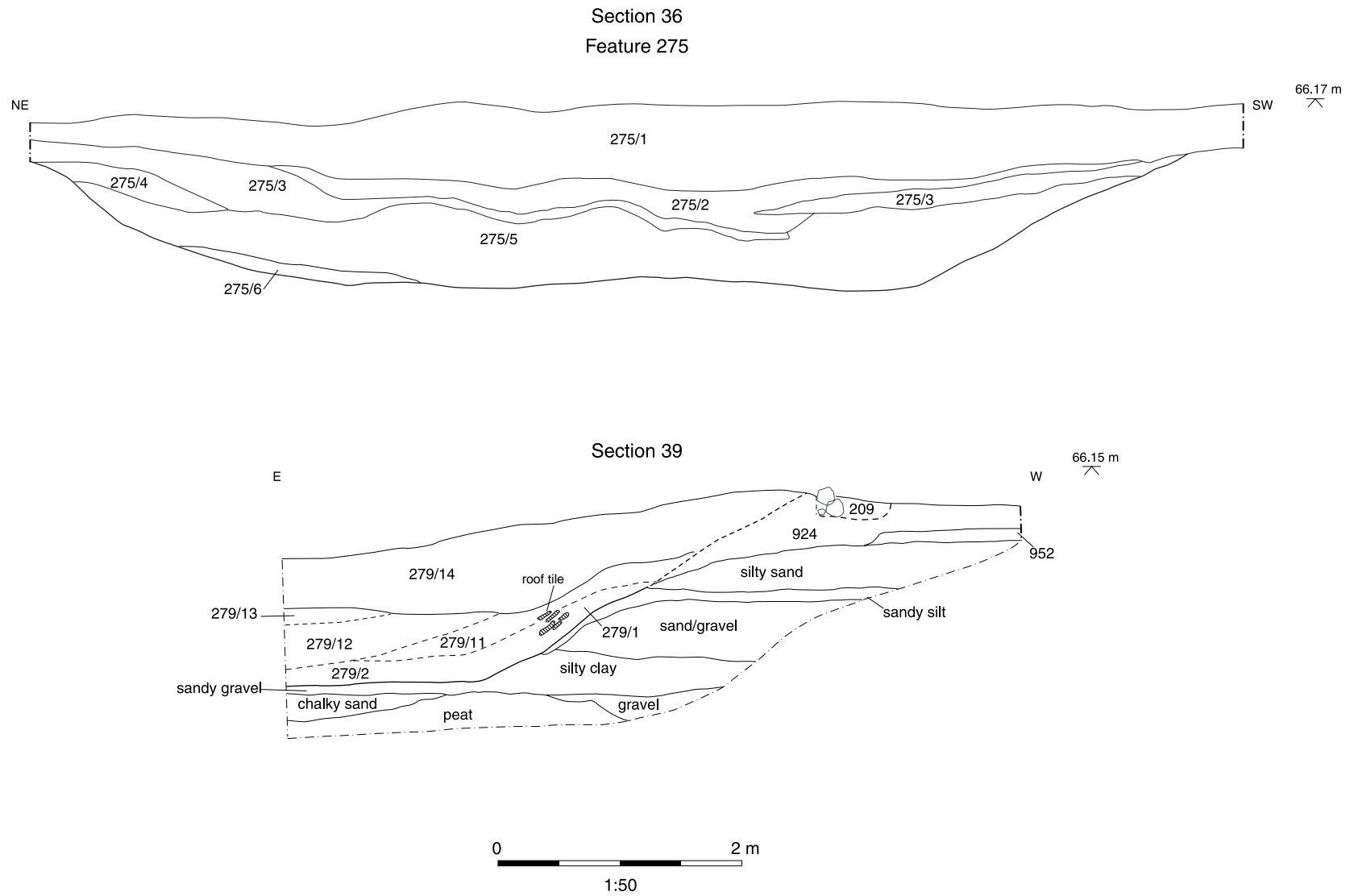


Figure 2.7 Sections across the large moat.



Plate 2.1 The northern moat, showing bridge abutment 730 and the edge of Building E.

of buildings. The extent of the spread of this material was defined in some of the trenches (see Fig. 2.15, section 51, context 353), and is conjecturally indicated on Figure 2.2.

The small island (Fig. 1.5)

Two trenches (III and IV) were initially cut across the platform of the small subrectangular island in 1977. In 1978 a larger trench (XXV) was machine-excavated down to the natural subsoil. No detailed section drawings or record of the stratigraphy have survived, although it was recorded that in none of the trenches was there any structural evidence, occupation layers or finds.

Building A1 (inc. A2) (Figs 2.2, 2.8, 2.15, Plate 2.2)

The building was defined by partially robbed rubble footings of a rectangular structure measuring 19.9 m × 10.12 m externally, orientated NW–SE. The surviving clay-bonded footings (10, 557, 625, 824) averaged 1.20 m wide × 0.50 m deep, set in shallow trenches cut into the platform of moat upcast material. In places the wall superstructure (0.80–0.85 m wide) survived as randomly coursed and roughly faced Portland limestone facing with a rubble core, set in a yellow clay matrix.

Fragments of ceramic roof tile found in a layer of demolition debris (144) belonging to the beginning of

Phase 3 to the east of the building suggest a possible roof covering (see Chapter 6 and Fig. 2.15 section 51). Window glass fragments in the same debris suggest the presence of glazed windows (see Chapter 4).

A layer of silty clay and gravel (942) levelled the surface inside Building A1. This dump layer was almost indistinguishable from the underlying platform (Fig. 2.15 Section 76, cxt 1118) except that fragments of construction debris (decayed plaster and stone fragments) were sandwiched between them (Section 76; cxts 828, 891, 892, 940). Most of the pottery associated with the building came from the dump layer and could therefore have included residual material. However, a marked decline in the proportion of Fabric 20 compared with the Phase 1 pottery assemblage, and an increase in the proportion of Fabric 46 (mid 13th to 15th century) support a mid 13th-century date for the construction of Building A1.

Apart from one posthole (1045) sealed by Phase 3 layer 1017, there was no evidence for interior structural features. No remains of a contemporary floor surface survived; it is feasible that the top of the levelling represented the floor, although the possibility that the floor was flagged should not be ruled out – the flagstones could have been removed for re-use when the building was redeveloped.

The first in a sequence of hearths was identified near the west end of the building. The demolition debris (1075) from the first hearth (1077) suggests

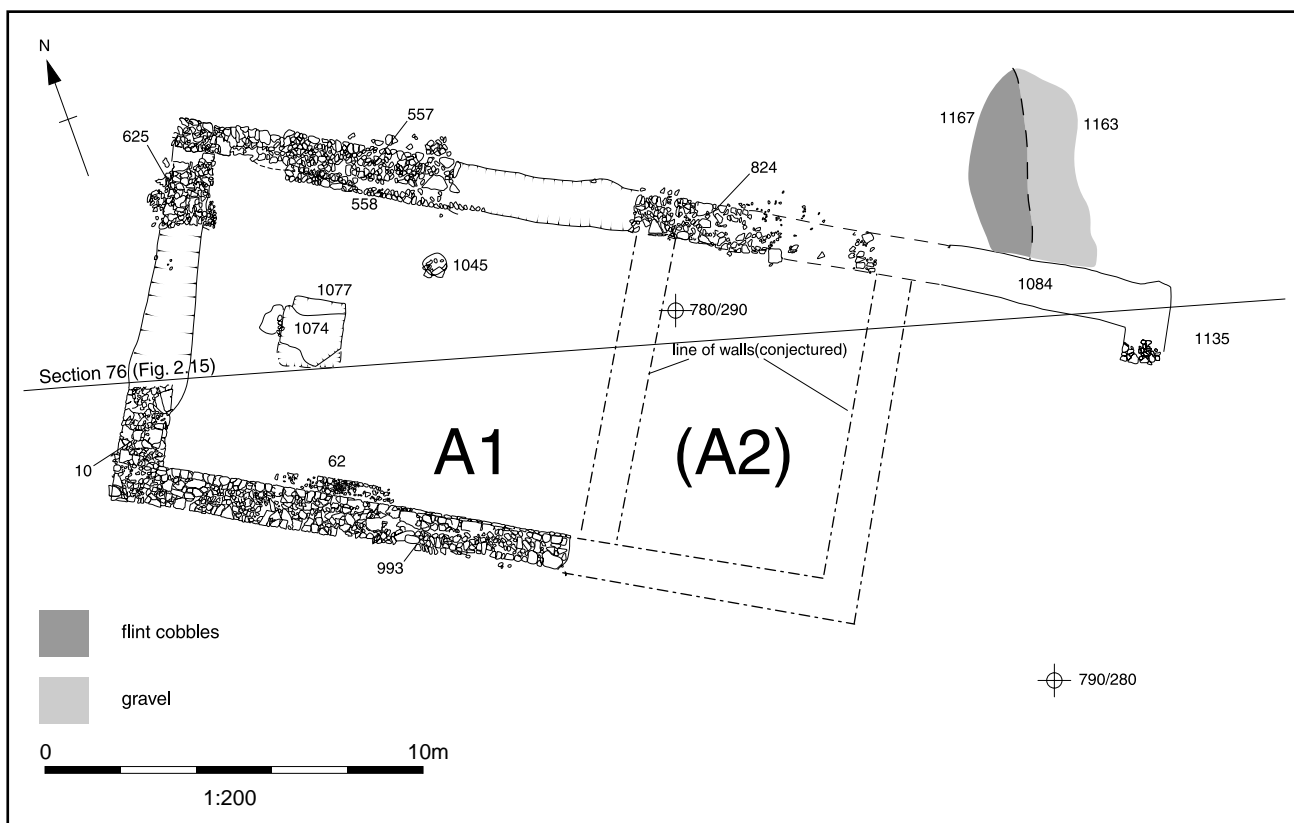


Figure 2.8 Detailed plan of Building A1 – Phase 2.

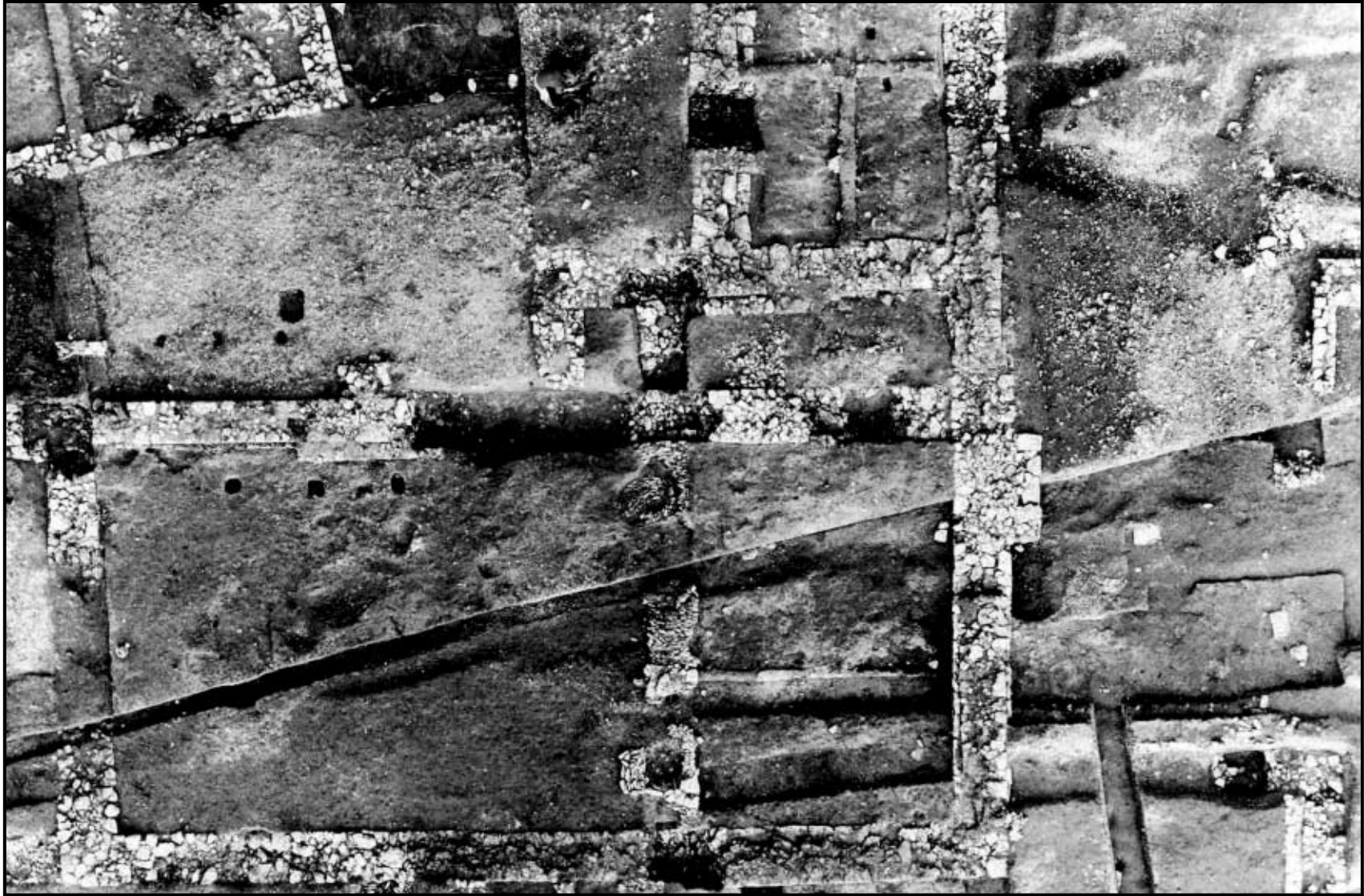


Plate 2.2 The main domestic range (looking north) during excavation, showing Building A1, rooms A10, A9, A8, and part of A4. Note southern edge of original Trench 1.

that it was of tile-on-edge construction, possibly with a limestone kerb, though it had been almost completely destroyed. The hearth was surrounded and, where not truncated, overlain by a spread of burnt silty clay (1074).

Two stone features (62, 558), each *c* 5 m long and projecting approximately 0.10 m above the surviving floor level, were set opposite each other against the walls at this end of the building. Incorporated in the construction of one of them (558) was a penny of Alexander III of Scotland datable to the period 1250–80 – see Archibald, Chapter 3, coin no. 20.

The eastern bay of the building was initially designated A2, although only a very patchy occupation layer (925) overlying layer 942 may possibly be associated with it. The layer may equally well be an early deposit associated with Room A10 (see below).

Only the northern wall (824) of the original east end of the building survived; however, a further 9.0 m length of robbed wall trench (1084) was identified. It was of similar width and depth to the walls described above and was traced to a convincing return to the south (1135). However no clear evidence of an east end wall to the building was found. Immediately to the north-east of robber trench 1084 was a flint cobbled surface (1167) and a gravel surface (1163), both heavily truncated by

later activity. The fragmentary remains of a flint cobbled surface (973) were recorded immediately to the south-west of Building A1, within the area later occupied by the porch (Room A6 – see Fig. 2.10). The layer was not excavated, so its association with the Phase 2 Building A1 remains likely, but unconfirmed.

Building D (Figs 2.2, 2.9)

Building D was only partially revealed, and was also subject to some disturbance during the topsoil stripping. The structure was situated between Building A1 and the northern arm of the moat, and was defined by trench-built rubble foundations (712, 1090, 693, 720), generally 0.65 m wide \times 0.30 m deep, set into the moat upcast (924). These defined a rectangular building measuring *c* 12.0 m long \times 6.5 m wide, with the west end extended to form a 5.0 m \times 4.0 m annex. The western wall of the extension appeared to be more substantial, possibly suggesting either an entrance or a fireplace. An isolated footing (774) coupled with the possible gap in the southern wall adjacent, may indicate a more plausible access, at least to the east end of the building. The remains of two small buttress bases were located against the exterior of the north wall of

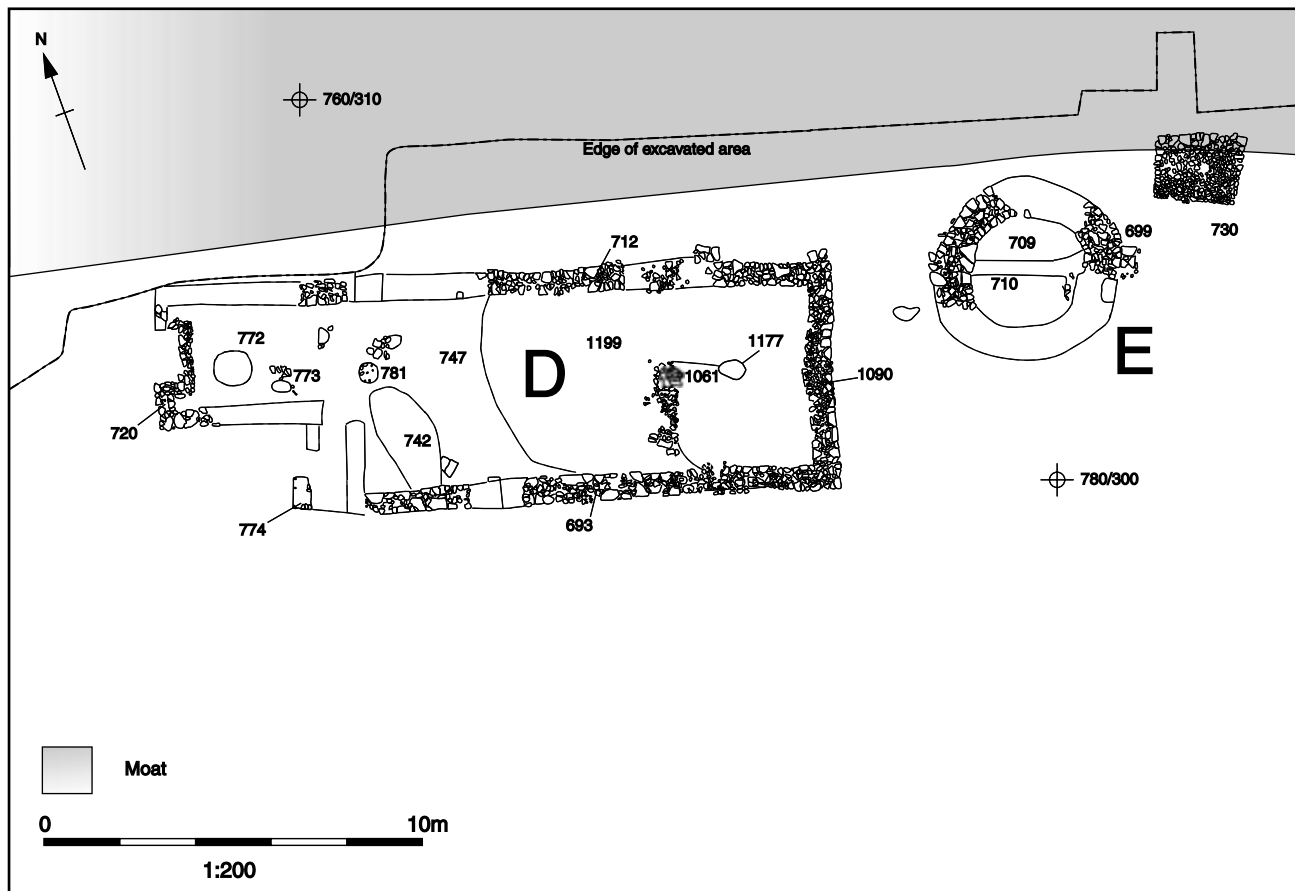


Figure 2.9 Detailed plan of Buildings D, E and the bridge abutment 730.

the building, and apparently incorporated into the wall footing, rather than butted against it. Given the proximity of the north wall to the edge of the moat, their presence is not surprising.

Within the building deposit 1199, a silty clay with a high proportion of charcoal, may represent remains from an occupation layer. At the west end of the building, this layer was identified as context 747. Two possible internal post-settings (1061 and 1177) were identified on the longitudinal axis of the east end of the building, and posthole 781 was similarly aligned at the west end. The stone packing of 1061 contained a mortar rim with an ornate pouring lug (Fig. 3.28.4). Evidence for two, or possibly three, ovens or hearths (742, 772, 773) was found at the west end of the building, contemporary with the occupation floor surface 747. The few pottery sherds recovered from Building D contexts were mostly mid to late 13th-century in date.

Building E (Figs 2.2, 2.9, Pl. 2.1)

This structure was partly revealed to the east of Building D, and immediately west of the possible abutment 730 (see above). The remains appeared to define a circular structure with an internal diameter of 3.1 m and a maximum external diameter of 5.0 m. The width of the surviving rubble foundation (699) approached 1 m in places. Within the structure, a possible make up layer (709) was identified, cut by a very ephemeral and shallow linear feature (710) running across the centre, and possibly representing a beam slot. No dating material was recovered from the building contexts; as its footings were cut directly into the upcast (924), and overlain or truncated by Phase 4 structures, its construction is tentatively assigned to Phase 2 on stratigraphic grounds, although some support may come from its possible functional association with Building D (see Chapter 6).

Other features (Figs 2.12, 2.15)

The possible base of a hearth or oven (Fig. 2.15 Section 73: cxts 778 and 849) was identified to the north-east of Building A (Trench XIV). The features appear to be burnt areas of the platform material, edged (in the case of 778) with limestone rubble. Two concentrations of charcoal (Fig. 2.12 and Fig. 2.15 Section 73: 778/2, 849/1) overlay the remnants of a possible surface of redeposited chalk head mixed with clay (cxts 778/3, 849/2). The hearth base was partly overlain by a sub-rectangular spread of ash (534) (Fig. 2.12, and Fig. 2.15 Section 73), measuring c 7.0 m by 3.5 m, which could define the interior footprint of a building within which the hearth base was situated. Fragments of tile and mortar were found in the demolition debris and a clay floor tile was recovered from the ash spread. Some ironworking slags were also found in the ash layer, which may indicate the purpose of the hearth. A considerable quantity of 12th- to 13th-century

pottery, including two cooking pots, was also found within the hearth contexts.

Buildings N, O, Q and U (Fig. 2.2)

To the south-west of the domestic buildings were the fragmentary remains of four probably contemporary structures. They were defined by insubstantial robber trenches or rubble footings and associated cobble surfaces. Structure Q was defined by partially robbed footings (360), and robber trenches (460, 467), which represented the west, south and east walls of the building. The building had a floor surface (415) of medium-sized and large flint cobbles, which was overlain by wall 273 of Phase 4 Building H (see Fig. 2.18). Some artefactual material was recovered from a slight depression in this floor, including late 13th- to 14th-century pottery, a whetstone (SF 212) and a Jew's harp (SF 310, Fig. 3.24.135). Evidence in the demolition debris (468, 441, 447) indicated that Building Q may have been roofed with clay peg tiles. The insubstantial remains of another robber trench (463) were observed to the south and parallel to 461. A narrow strip of cobbling surface (459) separated the two trenches. It is likely that these features relate to the Phase 2 buildings but the possibility exists that they are associated with Building H of Phase 4 (see below).

Structure N was located immediately to the south of structure Q and approximately on the same alignment. The remains of three wall footings and foundations (296, 297 and 298) survived. Structure O was located to the south-east of Structure N and also survived only as the fragmentary footings of two walls (299, 300). The remains of a pitched stone hard-standing (301) were set against the southern corner. Neither structure produced any artefactual evidence.

Structure U, situated to the south-west of Structure N, and close to the south-west moat, was defined by the remains of a wall (303) and extension (302), which appeared to represent a boundary wall extending northwestwards to the moat edge. While the footing 303 appeared to be the only surviving element of a precursor to the Phase 3 Building K, it is possible that the robber trenches 307, 308 and the north-west part of 305 (see Fig. 2.18) define walls that were originally parts of Building U, incorporated into the later Building K.

Phase 3 (early 14th century) (Figs 2.3, 2.10–20)

Summary

The phase is represented by a major programme of building, which entailed the development of a cross wing containing a series of rooms to the east end of Building A1 (A4, A5, A8, A9, A10, A7), an extension to the west end of the building (A3), and to the south side (A6). Further buildings and structures were added to the area between the main complex and the eastern arm of the moat (Buildings A7, W and B, Area F), and two further buildings (I and J) were

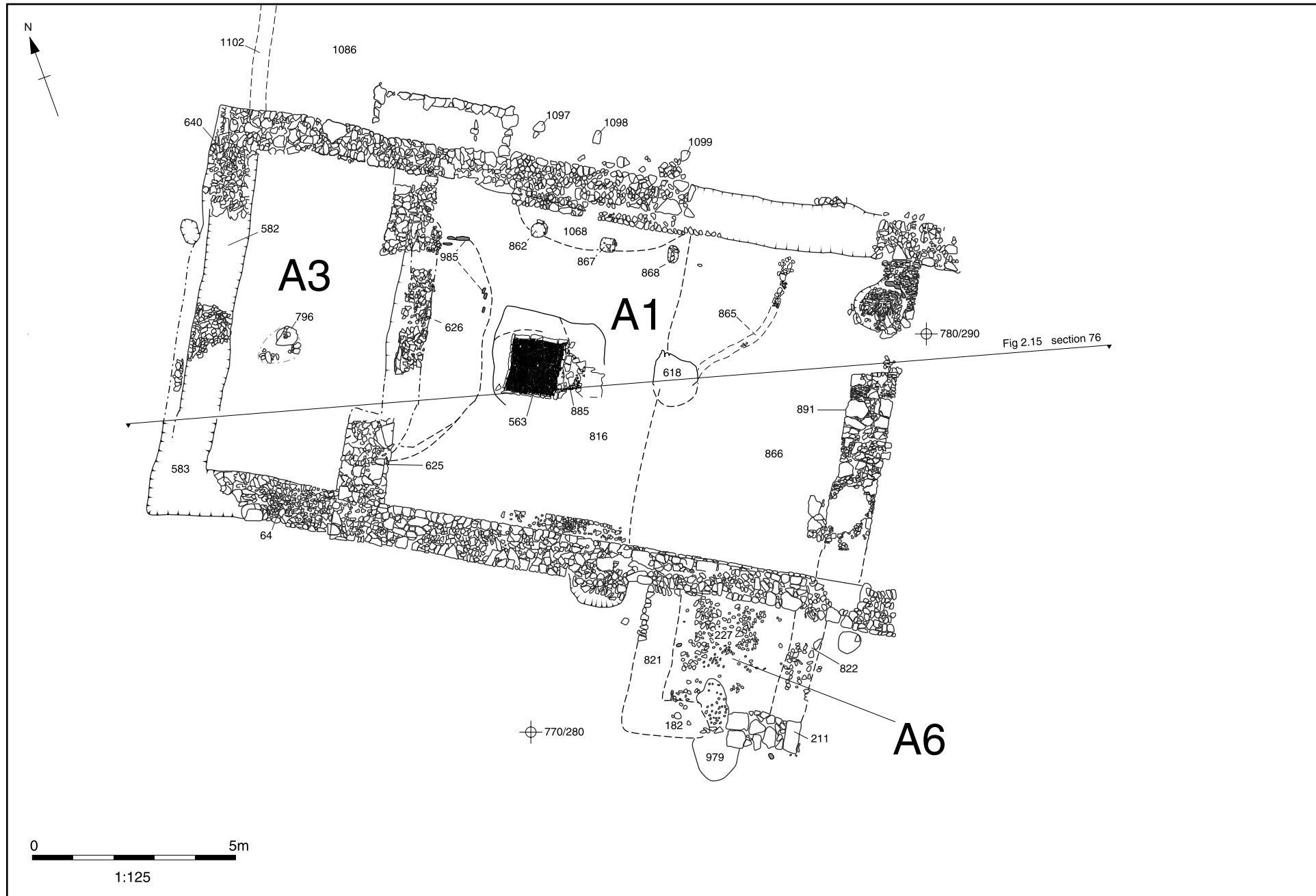


Figure 2.10 Detailed plan of Building A1 and later hearth development.

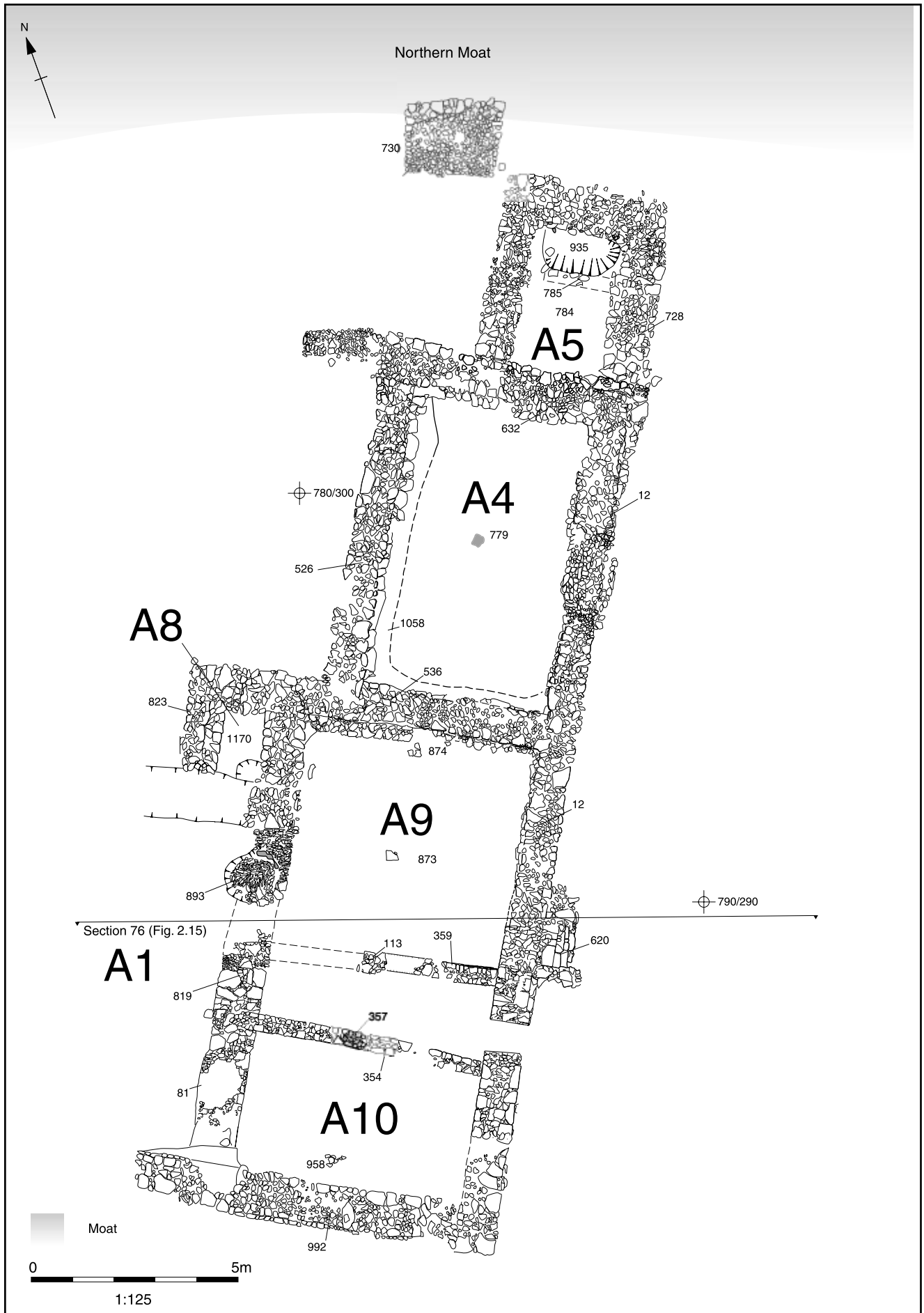


Figure 2.11 Detailed plan of the cross wing – Rooms A10, A9, A8, A4, and A5.

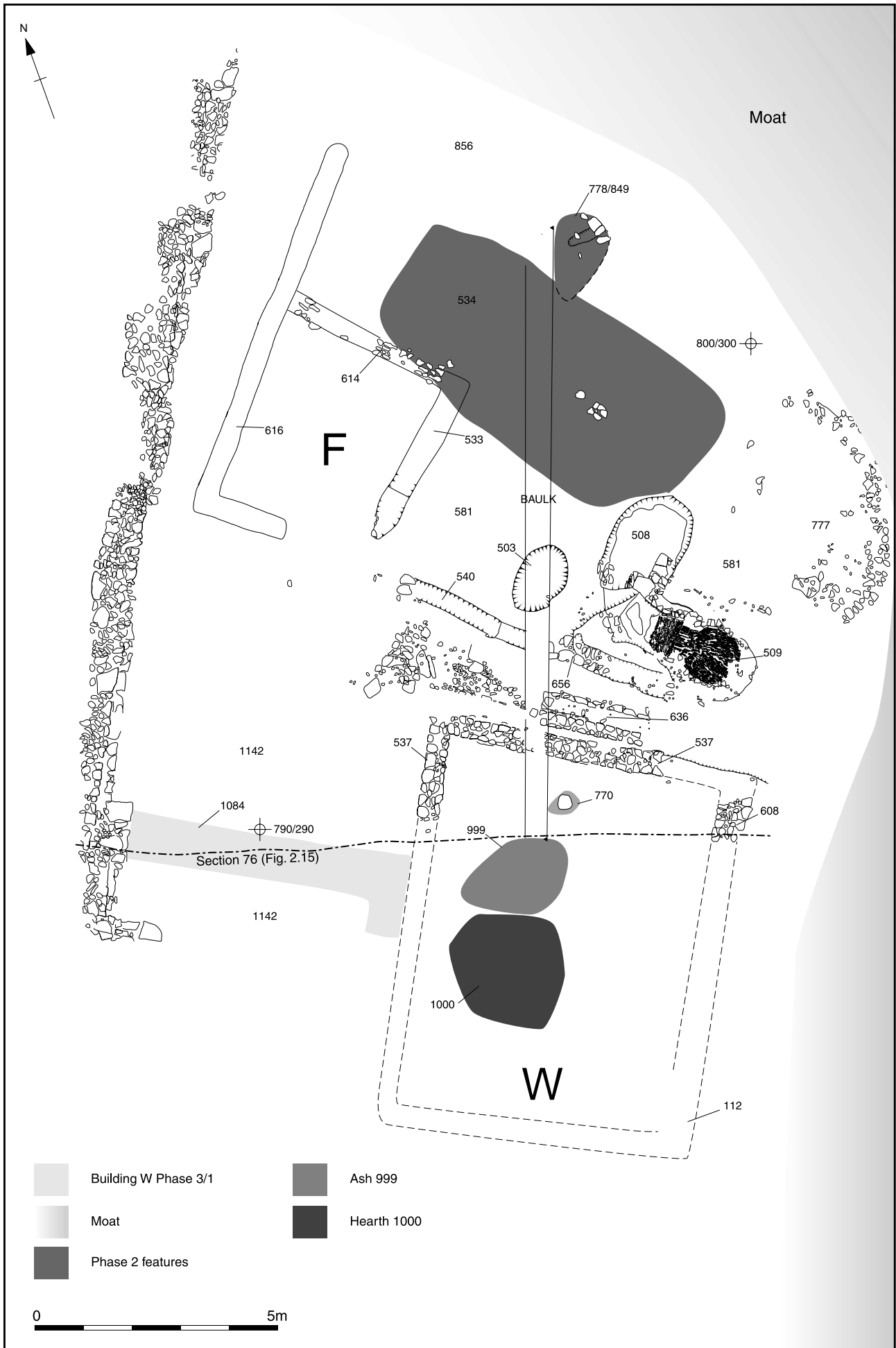


Figure 2.12 Detailed plan of Area F and Building W Phase 3.

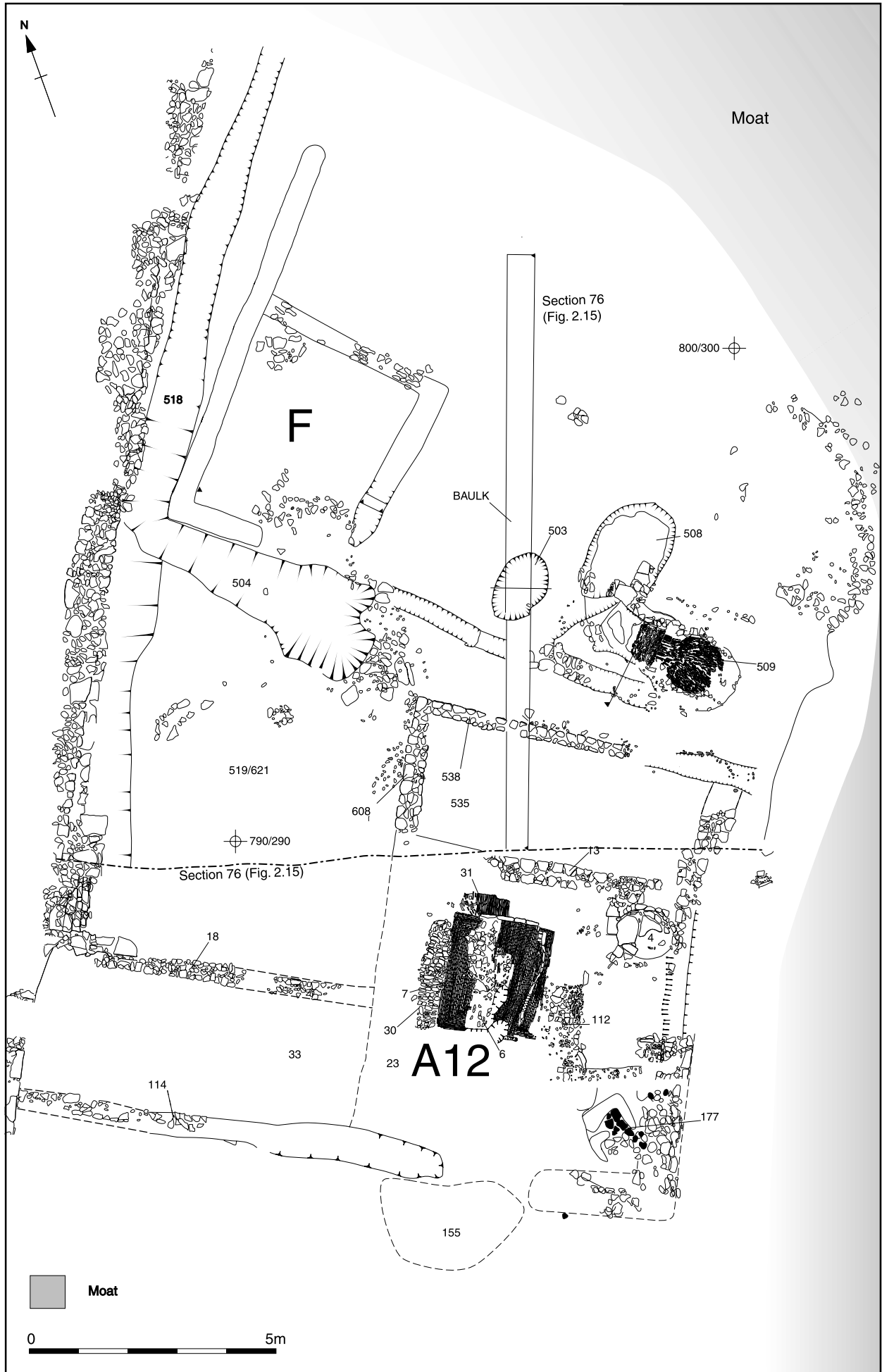


Figure 2.13 Detailed plan of Area F and Building A12 Phase 4.

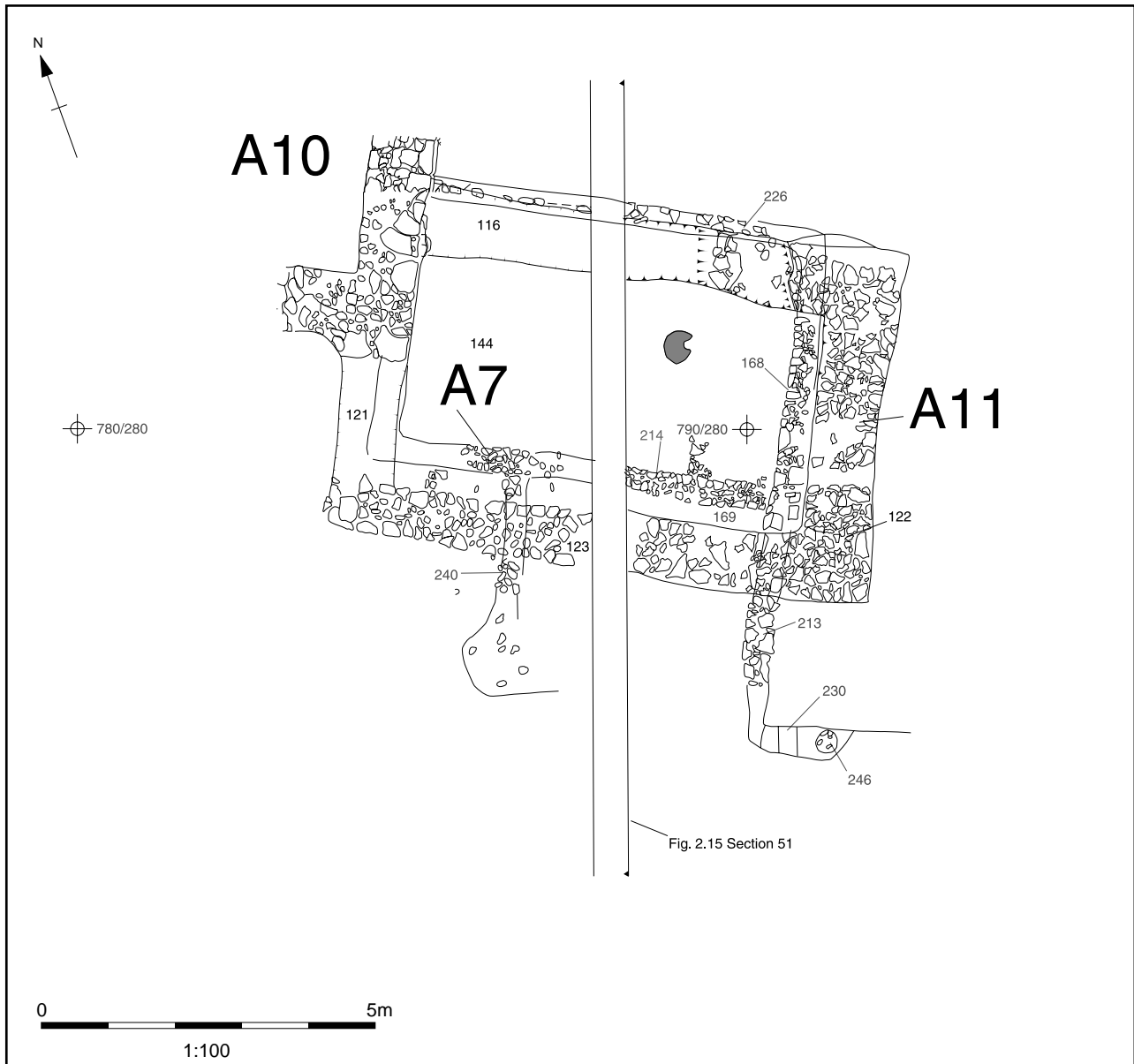


Figure 2.14 Detailed plan of Buildings A7 and A11.

constructed to the south west of the main block. Definitive dating of this redevelopment is hampered by general lack of closely datable artifacts within the relevant deposits.

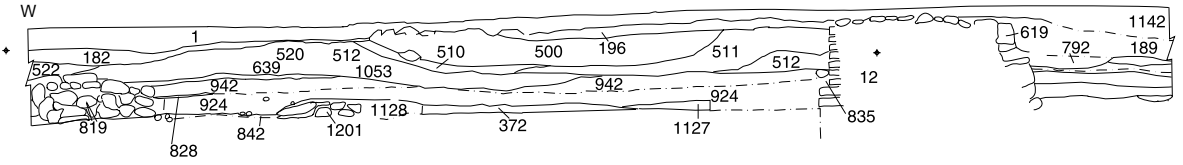
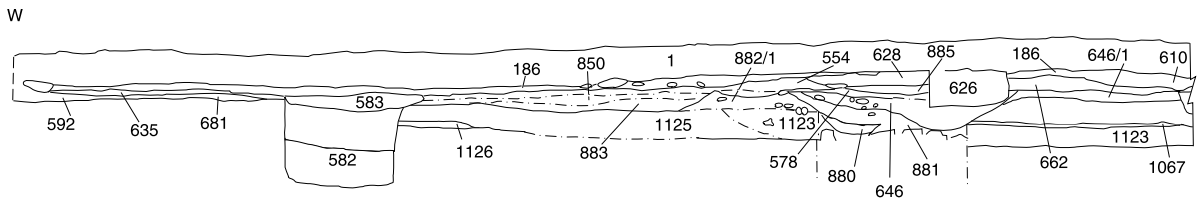
While the hall remained intact, the development of the cross wing implies a much greater sophistication and elaboration of manorial life. The old service end of the hall was replaced by Rooms A9 and A10, bisected by a passage leading to a separate kitchen. Further north, Rooms A4 and A5 are suggested to be a wardrobe and garderobe, both serving the upstairs private chambers, which themselves were accessed by the stairs in Room A8. Room A3 is suggested to be a private annex at the west end of the main hall. To the east of the cross wing, Building A7, W, B, and Area F are interpreted as a storehouse, kitchen, dairy

and oven area respectively. More substantial agricultural buildings (J, I and K) now border the west and south sides of the main island.

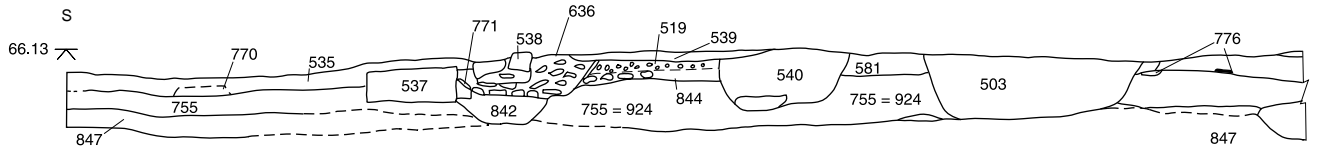
The moat bridge (Figs 2.3, 2.9, Pl. 2.1)

The excavation revealed the possible remains of a bridge (730). This lay just to the east of Building E and consisted of an abutment of rubble limestone measuring 2.3 m by 1.8 m and situated on the edge of the moat. Unfortunately, it was not possible to establish if an opposing abutment survived on the north bank of the moat ditch. As the stratigraphy associated with the abutment had been removed by topsoil stripping, it was not possible to archaeologically confirm the dating of this structure.

Section 76



Section 73



Section 51

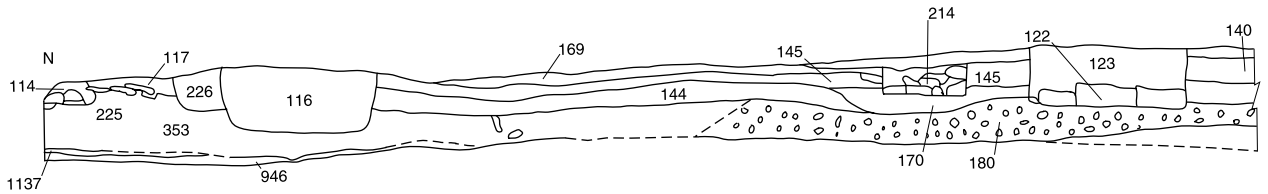
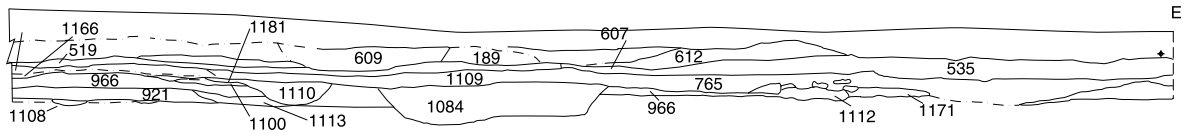
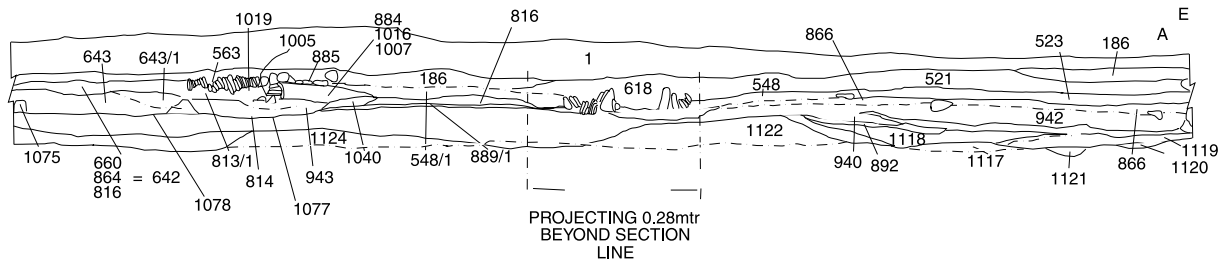
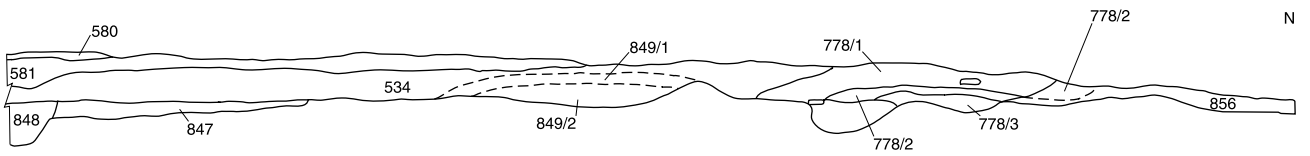


Figure 2.15 Sections 76, 73 and 51 through the domestic building complex.

Section 76 continued



Section 73 continued



Section 51 continued

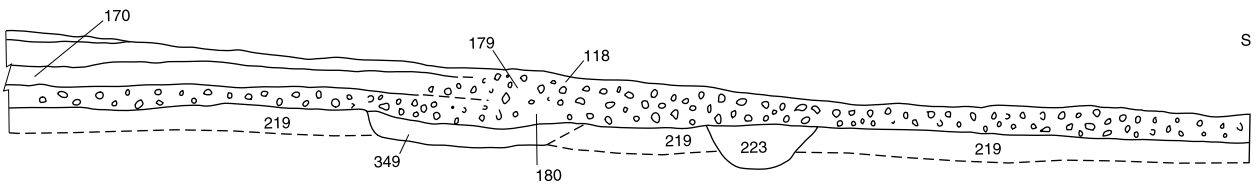


Figure 2.15 Continued.

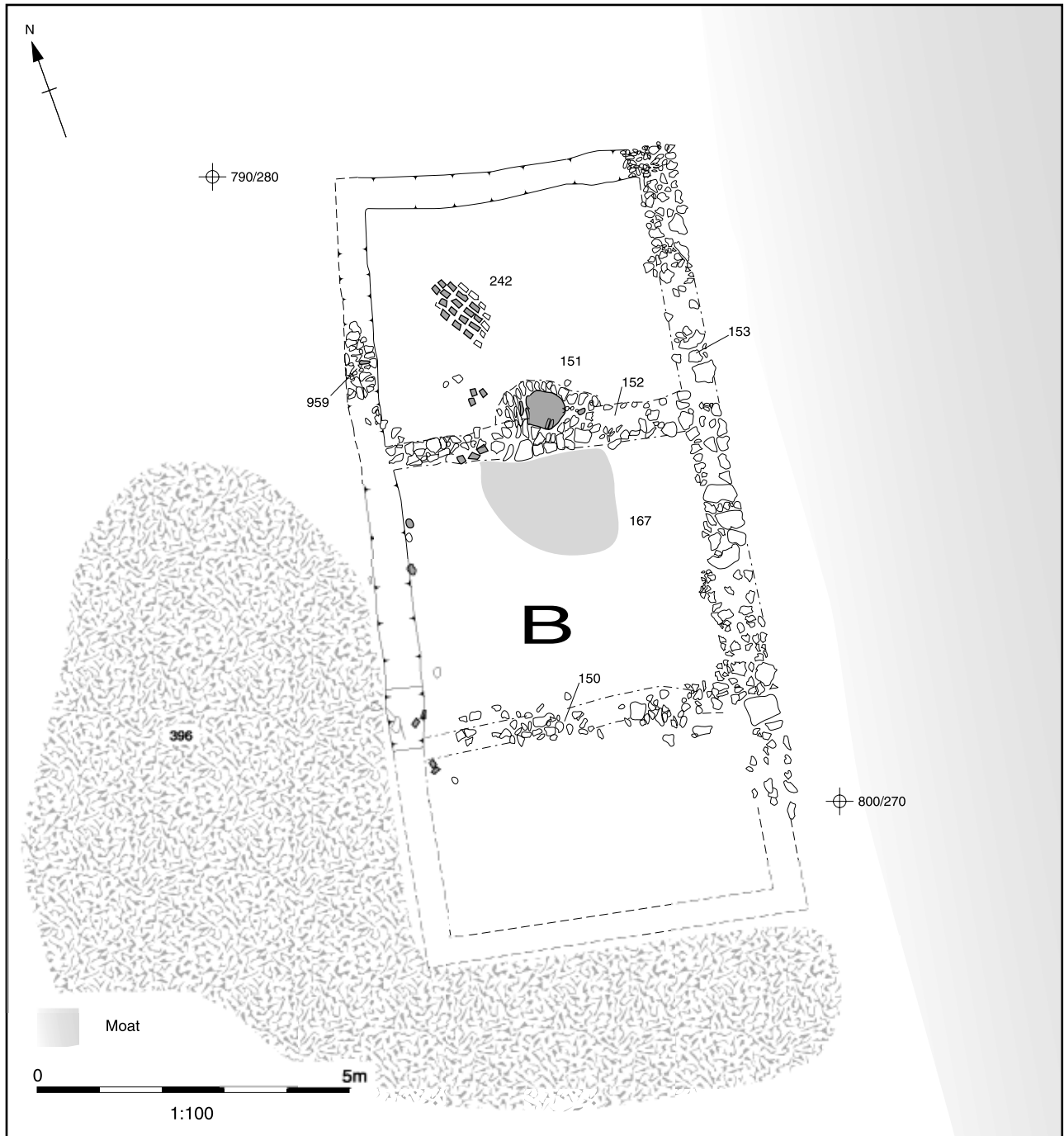


Figure 2.16 Detailed plan of Building B.

Rooms A10 and A9 (Fig. 2.3, 2.11, Plate 2.2)

Rooms A10 and A9 were defined by the south wall of Building A1 (992), an east wall (12), a north wall (536) and a west wall (819).

These two rooms were evidently designed as a single construction bisected by an east-west passage defined by the truncated remains of two partition walls (354 and 359) providing access from Building A1 to the yard area to the east. The base of

the door jambs from the passage to the yard survived in situ, indicating a door width of approximately 1.1 m. A probable doorway from the passage into the northern room A9 was indicated by a stone-free gap immediately east of post-setting 113. An opposite doorway into A10 was suggested by flat slabs in the footings. At the west end of the passage, the large flat slabs at this point in the run of wall footing 819 appear to define the access way into the hall A1.

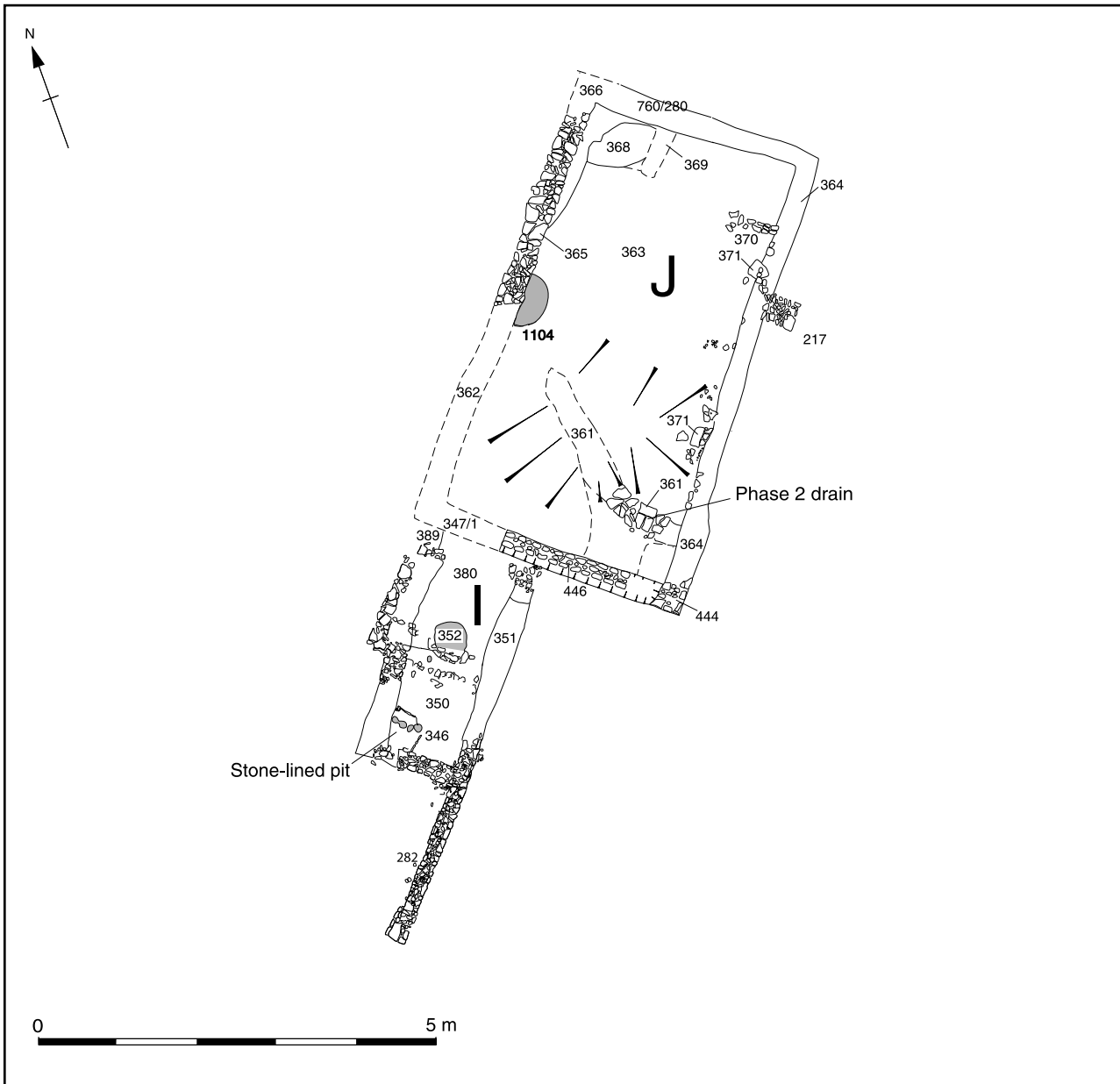


Figure 2.17 Detailed plan of Buildings J and I.

In both rooms the upper levels of the platform material were contaminated with construction debris (Fig. 2.15: Section 76: cxt 942/2). A make up layer (734) was then spread through both rooms, and it was noted that this predated the construction of the passage walls. Five postholes or stone-reinforced settings (874, 873, 113, 357 and 958) were identified along the north-south centre line of the Rooms A10/A9. Two of them (113 and 357) were incorporated into the walls of the passage.

The traces of a plain lime plaster surviving on the footings of Rooms A9 and A10 indicate that both were finished with a plaster rendering, in contrast to the passage walls, which appeared to have been left unrendered.

A stone footing (620), was built against the exterior eastern wall (12) of Room A9; the two features were bonded together in the upper surviving courses, but not at their base. Feature 620 could represent the base of an exterior chimney stack; the absence of any sign of a suitably situated interior fireplace in Room A9 would suggest that the stack would have served a first-floor fireplace.

Some indications of the details of the superstructure of this wing derive from the fragments of stone moulding recovered from the demolition layers overlying this part of the building; at least one appears to have been part of a window. In addition lead came were also recovered (see Chapter 4).

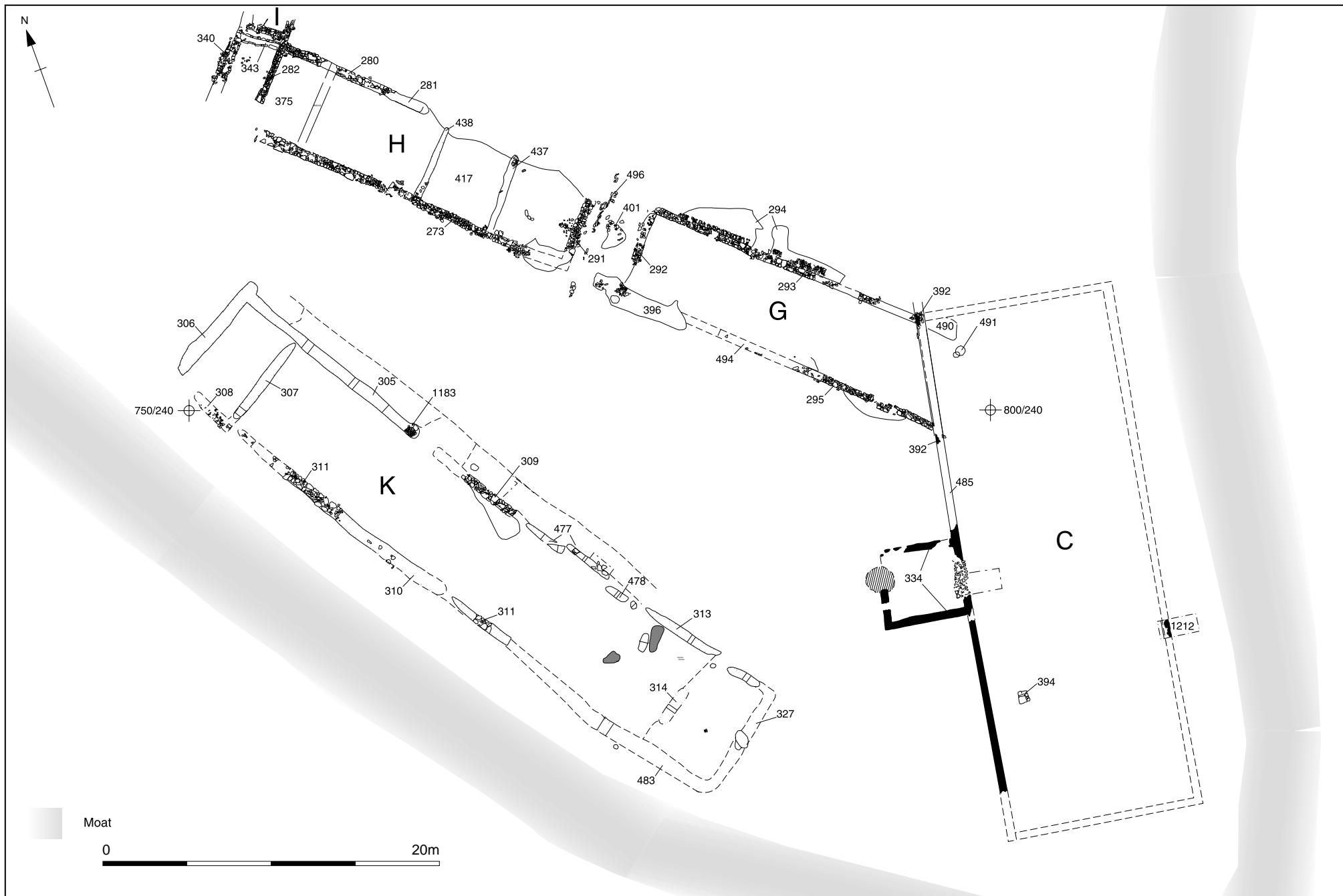


Figure 2.18 Agricultural buildings H, G, C and K, 14th–15th century.

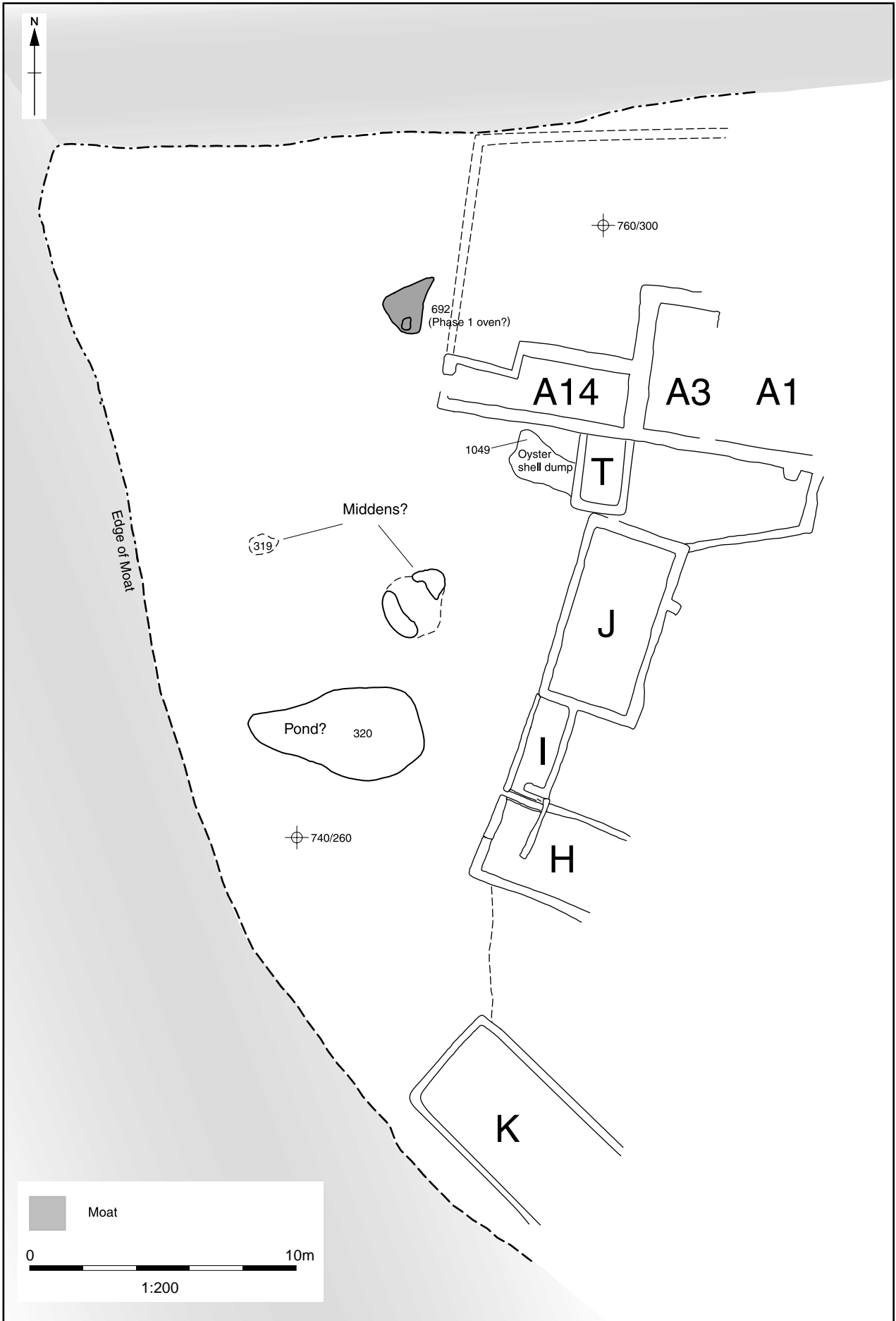


Figure 2.19 Features in the western part of the main island.

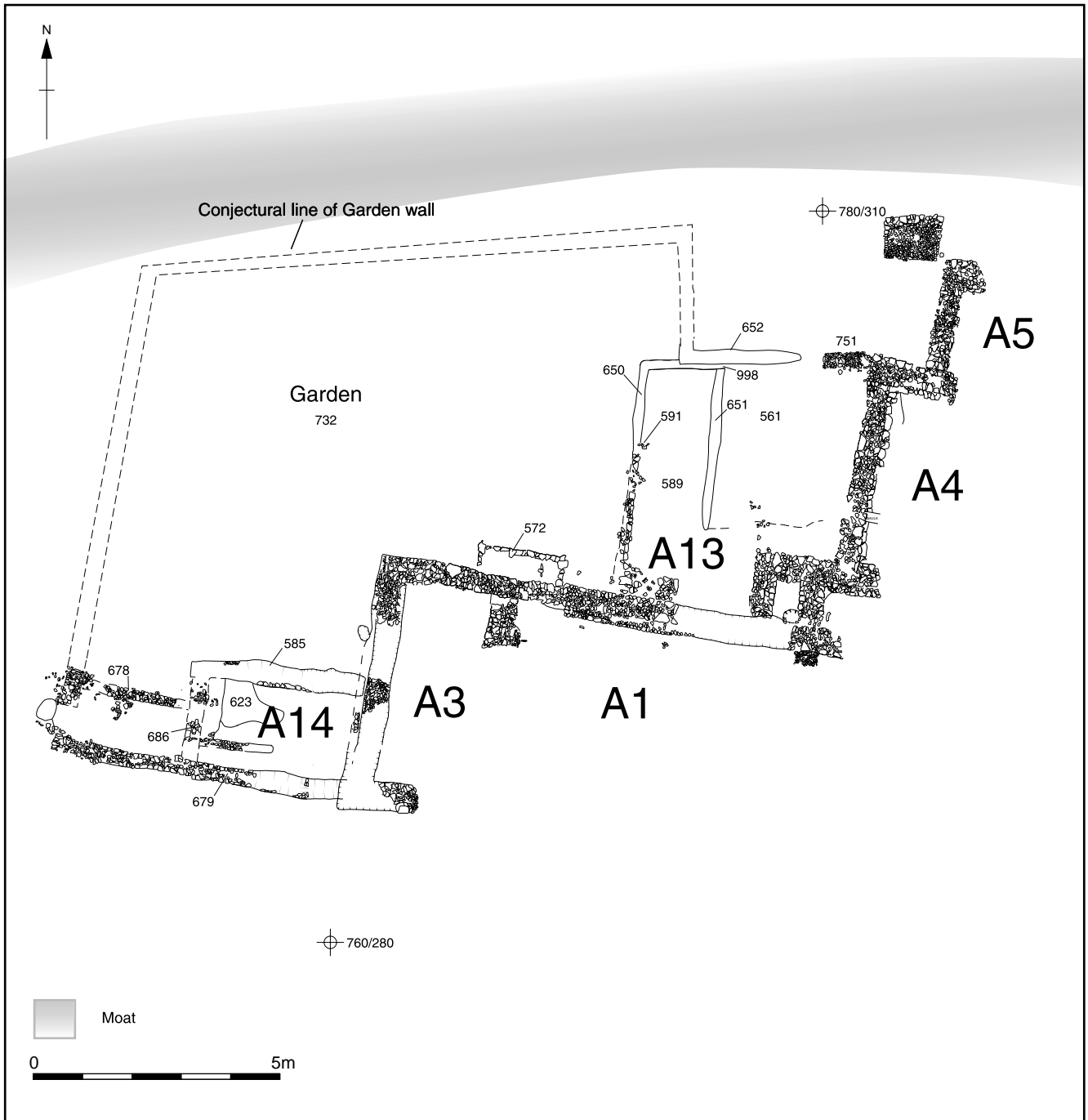


Figure 2.20 Buildings A13 and A14 and the garden – Phase 4.

Room A8 (Fig 2.11)

A small chamber with external dimensions of 3.2 m by 2.75 m was located in the re-entrant angle provided between the north wall of room A1 and the west wall of the new wing (819). The footings (823) butted against those of both A1 and A9 and their size – up to 0.80 m wide – suggests that the structure could have carried up to the first floor. The room contained a relatively thick layer of clay and flint material (1170), which levelled up the interior

surface. Only a very small amount of pottery was recovered from associated contexts.

Room A4 (Fig.2.3, 2.11)

Room A4 (footings 526, 536, 12, 632) adjoined the north end of room A9 and appeared to be a contemporary construction. A door threshold was identified in the common wall; there was no evidence of an external access. In the middle of the room was a single roughly squared stone block (779) measuring 0.40 m

square and with a flat surface which appeared to be an upstanding post pad. It is possible that the column fragments found in Room A9 had been dumped from this room. Evidence of construction debris (1058) comprising mortar fragments and sand abutted the walls, as in the other rooms. This material was sealed by a composite layer (600) up to 0.30 m deep, consisting of lenses of mortar, silty clay and spreads of charcoal-rich sandy loam, interspersed with at least one small patch of flint cobbling. A small quantity of 14th-century pottery was recovered from this material, along with a number of small finds, including a key (SF 127; Fig. 3.22.97) and a gaming die (SF 299).

Room A5 (Fig. 2.3, 2.11)

The footings (728) of a small structure, measuring 4.0 m W-E × 4.2 m N-S were revealed abutting the northern end of Room A4, and extending to within 3 m of the edge of the north arm of the moat. The substantial nature of the footings suggests that the structure could have carried up to a first floor. The footings (785) of a narrow stone wall were identified within this chamber, dividing its ground plan into two parts. The deposits within the southern part comprised a greyish brown silty clay (784), which overlay what appeared to be moat upcast material (786). A small depression or pit in the surface of 784 contained a quantity of pottery, generally of a 13th- to 14th-century date, and a number of small finds, including part of a pair of scissors (SF447, Fig. 3.18.29), a strap (SF 448, Fig. 3.20.59), a key (SF186, Fig. 3.22.94), a cramp (SF 449, Fig. 3.18.31) and a pottery sherd displaying a human face (Fig. 3.3.8). A shallow depression (935) in the northern part of Room A5 contained a green/grey cess-like material.

Room A6 (Fig. 2.3, 2.10)

The structure was situated against the southern side of Building A1, and stratigraphically appears to belong to Phase 3/1 although there was no material dating evidence for its construction. The structure was defined by two parallel footings, mostly robbed but identified from shallow robber trenches (821, 822) 2.4 m apart, extending approximately 4.0 m from the south wall of A1. The eastern footing (822) stopped against a small area of limestone slabs (211). To the west this had been robbed, leaving a shallow trench (182) in front of the wall footing/robber trench (821). The nature of 211 and 182 suggests that the facade of the structure may have been of timber, resting on a stone plinth. The interior of the structure revealed a cobbled surface (227), overlying the probable Phase 2 layer 973 (not illustrated). A spread of flint and gravel (979) extended south from Room A6 and probably represents a path surface.

Building A7 (Figs 2.3, 2.14, 2.15, Plate 2.3)

The partially robbed stone footings were found of a building abutting the south-east corner of the

cross-wing. The footings (168, 214, 226) were lightly founded and up to 0.42 m wide, defining a building footprint of 6.8 m × 4.5 m. (see Fig. 2.15 Section 51). Two further very insubstantial footings (213 and 240) extended from the south wall, possibly representing a small additional structure. The line of footing 213 appeared to be extended south and east by robber trench 230, terminating in a posthole (246) close by the west wall of Building B. No dating material or other artefacts securely associated with the structure were recovered. A layer of mortar (169) containing fragments of tile was noted, in places respecting the north side of wall 214 (see Section 51). However, the excavator considered that this deposit was almost certainly associated with the floor make-up for the Phase 4 successor to this building, A11 (see below).

Building W (Figs 2.3, 2.12, 2.15)

A detached rectangular building measuring up to 9.5 m long × 6.5 m wide was identified to the east of the main cross-wing, close to the edge of the eastern arm of the moat. It was defined by partially surviving rubble footings of the north-east and north-west walls (537), mortar-bonded and measuring 0.43 m wide × up to 0.19 m deep (Fig. 2.15; section 73). Two short lengths of wall surviving along the eastern side of the building (112 and 608) may represent the eastern wall of the building, although their phasing was uncertain, and they could equally well be elements of Phase 4 Building A12 (see below). In any case, while the building's maximum width can be deduced by the proximity of the moat, its length is only cautiously inferred by the proximity of probably contemporary buildings to the south (Room A7 and Building B; see Fig. 2.3). Within Building W was evidence of a large hearth (1000), with an area of ash immediately to the north (999). The only other internal feature was a single posthole (770) located 1.0 m in from the north wall. No evidence was found of a doorway in the surviving footings. A few sherds of 13th- to 16th-century pottery were recovered from within the building fabric, and a fragment of vessel glass (SF 302, not illustrated) was recovered from the ashy layer 999. The fact that the line of the west wall of this building lies directly alongside the eastern end of the north wall (1135) of Phase 2 Building A1 could suggest that Building W was constructed in Phase 2, before the construction of the north-south range.

Area F (Figs 2.3, 2.12)

Area F was situated in the north-eastern corner of the large island, and was defined by two robber trenches (540, 616), bordering an area in the north-east corner of the main island of approximately 130 sq m.; some surviving footings were noted (656). No evidence of an east or north wall was found, suggesting that this was an enclosed area, rather than a roofed building. There was a break in the south-west robber trench approximately 1.2 m wide,



Plate 2.3 The eastern edge of the main island, showing Buildings A7, A11, B, and edge of eastern moat. Note evaluation trenches.

which appears to define an entrance or gateway from the courtyard to the south. A cobbled area (777) was revealed alongside the moat edge, and the disturbed remains of a silty clay surface (581), up to 0.12 m deep, which produced a large quantity of sherds of mainly 13th- to 15th-century pottery. Other objects recovered from this deposit included a pin (SF 172; Fig. 3.13.96), a brooch (SF 142, Fig. 3.7.5), a chain link (SF 130, Fig. 3.22.106), and a buckle (SF 229, Fig. 3.23.130). In the angle formed by the robber trenches 616 and 656 an insubstantial and partly robbed footing (614), and a shallow linear feature (533) possibly defined a small covered building or subsidiary enclosure within Area F. It was noted that the surface 581 did not extend into this area.

Three ovens (508, 509, 503) were located within the structure, placed on, or cut into surface 581. Two of these (508, 509) were placed at right-angles to each other in the southern corner of the Area. They were both covered by a substantial layer of wood ash. Oven 509 had a well-preserved floor and a rake-back of pitched tiles, set into the floor surface. Oven 508, though largely robbed out, had traces of a stone floor set *c* 0.25 m below the ground surface. The third oven (503) survived only as a sub-oval pit, 0.30 m deep with steep sides (Fig. 2.15, Section 73). There was evidence that these sides had been lined with wattle-and-daub, pieces of daub being found within the demolition debris of the oven. All three ovens contained charcoal fragments.

The north-east courtyard (Fig. 2.12)

A yard surface of flint and gravel was identified between the cross-wing and Building W (1142). A drain (636), stone-lined and tile floored, was set into the yard surface alongside the north wall of Building W, draining into the eastern arm of the moat (Fig. 2.15: Section 73).

Building B (Figs 2.3, 2.16, Plate 2.3)

The footprint of a rectangular building was identified to the south-east of Building A7, and aligned alongside the eastern arm of the moat. It was represented by very fragmentary stone footings (153, 959) averaging 0.60 m wide, set into shallow trenches. Most of the southern part of the building was completely truncated, possibly by the topsoil stripping, but an approximation of the original footprint was detectable from the edge of the courtyard surface (396) which had apparently respected the building's walls. The inferred size of the building was *c* 12 m × 6 m, with two interior partitions represented by rubble footings 150 and 152. Incorporated within the partition wall 152 was a small tile-on-edge oven (151) with a heavily burnt surface. There was no evidence of burning in the northern bay, although a spread of burning (167) ran back from the south side of the same partition. Two sherds of 13th- to 16th-century pottery were recovered from the occupation deposits of the building,

and a horseshoe was retrieved from the matrix of wall 150 (SF 363, Fig. 3.24.140).

The central courtyard (Figs 2.3 & 2.16)

A spread of coarse flinty gravel in a silty clay matrix (396) was identified over the central area of the large island. It sealed the remains of Phase 2 Buildings O, N and Q, and respected Phase 3 Buildings J, I and K to the west and Building B to the east. It extended north to a line between the north-east corner of Building J and the western wall of Building A6. To the north of this line was a contemporary layer of silty loam (237). Similarly, the surface ran to an edge between the east wall of A6 and Building B; north of this was a silty clay layer (170). The surface was also traced to within 3 m of the edge of the eastern arm of the moat (279) to the south of Building B, but no definite edge or border survived.

The western area (Fig. 2.19)

The area of the island to the west of the building complex appears to have been devoid of structures or a metalled surface. A substantial cut feature (320), interpreted as a possible pond, *c* 5.0 m across, was identified during the initial investigation of the site and a small trench was machine-excavated through the silty clay fill. No structural evidence was found, nor were any finds recovered. During the topsoil stripping, possible midden dumps were identified to the north of feature 320.

Buildings J and I (Figs 2.3, 2.17. Pl. 2.4)

Building J was situated approximately 5.0 m south of the west end of Building A1. It was defined by partially robbed rubble footings (365, 444) averaging 0.60 m wide, and associated robber trenches (362, 347, 364 and 366). The footing (446) of the south wall (444) was seen to be slightly narrower than the overlying wall. The excavator considered this a possible indication of a rebuild of the south end of the building. Evidence of external structural details was confined to a single buttress footing (217) against the east wall.

Internally, the division of space was suggested by the presence of two short partitions, represented by footing 370 and robber trench 369. A thin spread of mortar (368) was revealed in the north-west corner of the building, confined by robber trench 369. Otherwise a levelling layer (363) of pale brown clay silt was identified over the interior, although the absence of finds on or within this layer support the likelihood that this layer represented a bedding layer for a flagged or tiled floor. The apparent subsidence in the southern part of the building may have been the result of the underlying Phase 2 drain (361).

A small tile-on-edge hearth (1104) was identified, set against the mid-point of the western wall, although there was no evidence for an associated fireplace.

The finds from this building were almost exclusively associated with Phase 5 demolition deposits, and are described below.

Building I abutted the south-west side of Building J, and was defined by stone footings one course deep (283, 341 and 389), averaging 0.60 m wide. In the south-west corner was a stone-lined pit *c* 0.40 m deep (346; Pl. 2.4). Its two internal sides were lined with slabs of limestone, while on the north-west side the inside facing of the wall of the building (341) was carried down to form the side of the pit. Interestingly, the south-west side of the pit was not lined by a corresponding deepening of the south-west wall (283 (robber trench 344). A small tile-on-edge hearth (352) was identified in the centre of the building footprint. Two broadly similar sandy loam surfaces were identified, 380 to the north of the hearth, 350 to the south. It seems likely that these represent bedding layers for a flagged or tiled floor.

Building K (Figs 2.3, 2.18)

The south-west side of the courtyard was bordered by Building K which backed onto the edge of the moat, and measured 42 m × 8.0 m. The building's walls had been heavily robbed, but could be identified from stretches of 0.65 m wide limestone rubble foundations (309, 311, 1183) and shallow robber trenches (305–8, 310, 313–4, 327, 477–8, 483). There was very little debris associated with the demolition of this building, which may be related to its construction, but could be the result of the inevitable damage caused by topsoil stripping, for at its southern end the robber trenches had all but disappeared. An absence of clay roof tile in the demolition debris may indicate that the building was thatched or possibly roofed with wooden shingles. There was one identified entrance, off-centre on the north-east wall, its west side defined by a post-setting incorporated into footing 1183. Two rooms or bays of *c* 4.0 m in length were identified at either end, delimited by partitions 307 and 314. The floor throughout Building K was (where it survived) a mix of gravel and flint cobbles (398) set in a silt loam that contained some small fragments of floor tile (388).

A short length of wall (282, Fig. 2.17) abutted the south-west side of Building I and ran for just over 4 m towards the north-west corner of Building K. This may have represented part of a boundary wall of the courtyard, enclosing the area between the two buildings. The wall ended in a slight pier which may indicate the position of a gatepost. The wall appeared to be incorporated into Building H in Phase 4.

Phase 3/2 (early to mid 14th century)

This sub-phase involved the construction of new hearths within Room A1 and the addition of a small bay (A3) to the north-west end of the room. A new courtyard was laid to the north of Building A1.

Building A1 and Room A3 (Figs 2.3, 2.10, 2.15)

Room A3 had an external length of 4.8 m with walls (64, 640, 861) that had the same construction and dimensions as those of the Phase 2 Building A1. Wall 640 was partly removed by robber trench 582 (Fig. 2.15, Section 76). The rubble foundations were not pitched, as those of the cross-wing extension were, which could suggest that this extension represented a separate building episode. The walls were bonded into those of the main Building A1 and presumably were carried to the same height.

To link Room A3 and Building A1, the internal surface was raised by a succession of dumped layers (Fig. 2.15, Section 76: cxts 578, 850, 851, 881, 883, 1031), probably the material excavated from the construction trenches for the walls. The process of levelling up seems to have taken place during the construction of the bay, for sandwiched between the layers of dump was a layer of construction debris (Section 76: 882). A worked boar's tusk (SF 321) was also recovered from this deposit. A small central hearth (796) with associated burning was found in room A3, possibly used during the construction process. Once the floor level in Room A3 was up to that of Building A1, a 4.0 m gap was knocked through the original west wall (625) of A1 to link the two spaces. A step (626) was inserted slightly to the east of the original wall line, and further material (554) was dumped into Room A3. No evidence of a finished floor surface was found *in situ*. The disturbed remnant of a tiled surface (985) up to 1.0 m wide was revealed immediately east of step 626 and west of the central hearth of Building A1.

Subsequent to the structural alterations the old hearth (1077) in Building A1 was robbed out and a new hearth (context 1078 – Fig. 2.15, Section 76) constructed immediately to the south. What form the hearth took is conjectural owing to the later robbing of the feature. However, since the two later surviving hearths in the hall were of tile-on-edge construction set in a shallow pit, flush with the floor, it is reasonable to suggest that 1078 was of similar construction. A coin of Edward I (SF13) was recovered from the fill (22) at the bottom of the hearth's construction pit.

The remains of a very patchy occupation layer (1070) were identified against the north-west wall of Building A1, overlain by an equally patchy layer of pinkish mortar (1068), possibly the slight remains of a floor layer. Contained within this was an iron trefoil finial (Fig. 3.20.74: SF 311), possibly from an interior fitting.

The Phase 3/2 hearth (1078) was in due course replaced by another hearth just to its north, of tile-on-edge construction, with a kerb of roof tiles (1005) set into a mottled layer (1007). The floor area of the high end of the hall, particularly around the hearth, had shown signs of wear immediately prior to this phase and, apparently to level up the surface, a layer of grey clay loam (816) (Fig. 2.15, Section 76) was deposited, which abutted the comparatively unworn



Plate 2.4 The storage pit in Building I. (Phase 3 – early 14th century.)

surface at the east end of the hall (866). After this a floor of hard lime mortar was laid (1017), which survived in patches. There was no evidence that the floor in Building A1 was ever tiled or flagged, and the wear around the hearth in Phase 4 (see below) would seem to support this contention.

External features (Fig. 2.10)

A substantial gravel and flint layer (1086) was laid to the north of the main building, respecting the added Room A3 and the Phase 2 Building D. The remains of a slight wall (1102) were identified bordering the western limit of the courtyard, between the north-west corner of A3 and Building D.

Three small, evenly spaced postholes (1097–9) were recorded, cut through the yard surface just to the north of Building A1. They were located 1.30 m out from the wall of the hall and may have been part of a scaffold used to repair or effect an alteration to that stretch of wall.

Phase 4 (late 14th to early 15th century) (Fig. 2.4)

Summary of development

The apogee of the development of the manor was reached, reflecting the changing aspirations of the family. The expanded kitchen (A12) was linked to the cross wing, and the storehouse A7 was replaced with what is interpreted as a private chapel (A11), which it is suggested would have been accessed from the cross-wing first floor. The north part of the island was cleared of the old buildings D and E; in their place was built an enclosed garden with a pentice (A13). A possible store room (A14) relating to the new garden was built against the west end of the main hall. To the south, the agricultural complex was expanded with barns and stables (principally G, H and C) that now ringed the island and divided the large central courtyard in two.

Building A1 (Figs 2.4, 2.10, 2.15, Pl. 2.5)

Within the main building the central hearth was again rebuilt. Its construction trench cut through the old hearth slightly to its south-west, such that some of the tiles-on-edge of the previous hearth survived *in situ*. The new hearth (563, Plate 2.5), set in bedding layer 1019 within cut 813, measured *c* 1.35 m by 1.25 m and was of the same construction as the old hearth, that is of roof tiles set on edge. These were set at right-angles to the tiles of the earlier hearth and edged with a limestone kerb. Layer 814 (Fig. 2.15, Section 76), consisting of clay and white silts, may either represent the demolition from an earlier hearth, now completely reused, or bedding for hearth 563. Against the south-east side of the hearth 563 was a base of limestone flags some 0.50 m wide (885) set into a silty clay deposit (884). Adjacent to the north side of the hearth and still *in situ* was the remains of an iron upright *c* 6 mm

square in section and set *c* 0.09 m into the ground. There was no direct evidence of an upright on the other side of the hearth.

At the lower end of the main building, approximately 4.3 m from the east end wall, was a substantial limestone-packed post setting (618), measuring 1.0 m in diameter \times 0.10 m deep, set to accommodate a post approximately 0.35 m thick (Fig. 2.15: Section 76). The post setting was further strengthened by a packing of broken roof tiles pitched in towards the stones. Three further stone- and tile-packed postholes (862, 867, 868), averaging 0.14 m in diameter and 0.25 m deep were located on the north-east side of the room and each cut through the mortar floor at that point (866). There was no evidence of corresponding posts on the south side of the room.

One other feature of significance was identified. This consisted of a vestigial gully containing a line of roof tiles laid flat (865), extending from the east side of the central posthole (618) in an arc to the north wall of the hall. Although badly disturbed, the tiles appeared originally to have been set into a mortar bed. In places this feature had a depth of 0.07 m with a slight V-shaped profile. No evidence of a corresponding feature was recorded on the opposite (south side) of the room.

Evidence of wear around the main hearth was indicated by an accumulation of ashy silt (548) around its north, south and east sides. An assemblage of material was recovered from this layer, including three pins (SF 90, Fig. 3.13.95), pottery and bone, along with an early 15th-century groat (SF 94) and a fragment of post-medieval glass (intrusive). This layer merged with a general spread of dark grey silty clay (593 = 1002) which was seen to respect the three postholes 862, 867, and 868. The layer produced a large number of objects, including two jettons (SFs 295 and 297) and one coin (SF 298) dated to the late 13th or early 14th century.

To the north-west of the hearth a silty clay layer (622), with some evidence of a tile-on-edge revetment (799), overlay the Phase 3/2 tiled surface 985.

Although a comparatively large number of small finds were associated with this phase in the hall, only 23 sherds of pottery were recovered, none of which was diagnostic.

Rooms A9 and A10 (Figs 2.4, 2.15)

A sequence of floor make up layers, floors layers and occupation debris was found inside rooms A9 and A10. The fragmentary nature of these layers indicated extensive wear and frequent patching. Therefore the chronological dating of these layers is uncertain, beyond defining apparent end dates for the sequence as a whole.

Overlying fragmentary patches of floor make-up (not illustrated) was a floor of redeposited chalk head (733, 923, 44, 41 – not illustrated) that could be traced throughout both rooms and the intervening passage. In the larger of the two rooms (A9) there



Plate 2.5 Central hearth 563 in Building A1. (Phase 4 – late 14th century.)

was evidence that this floor had been repaired by patches of flinty gravel (739, 746 – not illustrated) and it was overlain by a patchy accumulation of occupation debris (639 – Fig. 2.15, Section 76), which was rich in small fishbones and eggshell fragments.

Building A11 (Figs 2.4, 2.14, 2.15, Plate 2.3)

The building overlay the footprint of Phase 3 Building A7, attached to the south-east corner of Room A10.

The surviving wall foundations (122) were of large rubble limestone, 0.85 m wide, set in shallow foundation trenches 0.15–0.20 m deep, bonded with a yellowish silty clay. The southern wall had been partly removed by robber trench 123 (Fig. 2.15, Section 73), and the northern wall was also truncated (robber trench 116). The western wall was represented by robber trench 121.

Up to three courses of stone survived *in situ*, but unlike with Room A10, no wall superstructure was evident, possibly implying that the internal floor surface was set higher than the adjacent building (A10). This could explain why no evidence of a doorway was found. The debris (144) from the destruction of the earlier building (A7) was contained within the new building and appears to have been used to seal the earlier structure's footings. An iron buckle (SF 74 Fig. 3.23.116) was found within this material, along with some floor tile fragments (see Chapter 4).

Building A12 (Figs 2.4, 2.13 & 2.15)

Building W was demolished and replaced by a rectangular building (A12). The building was defined by shallow limestone footings (608, 538), which were extended (18, 114) in the south-west to form a passage linking the building to the passage between Rooms A9 and A10. Within the main body of A12, an earth floor was identified, (23); this respected an internal wall (13), which divided the building into two unequal bays. The floor layer contained a large quantity of bone, oyster shell and fragments of floor and roof tile, and evidence showed that the surface of the floor rose by approximately 0.10 m during the building's lifetime. Where the floor extended into the corridor it changed to a sandy grey loam (33) and this difference was sufficiently abrupt to suggest that there was a doorway or screen separating the passage from the southern bay.

The larger southern bay was dominated by a tile-on-edge hearth (7) measuring 2.0 m by 2.3 m, situated off-centre to the west but on the same alignment as the building. The surface of the hearth was approximately 0.05 m above the original level of the floor (23). On the west side of this hearth was a heavily burnt limestone base (30), similar to that associated with the central hearth in A1. Set into the eastern corners of this bay were two ovens (4 and 177). Oven 177 had been badly disturbed but seems to have had a diameter of c 0.80 m with a floor of tiles laid flat. The ground surface associated with it

was burnt orange and red. Oven 4 was fairly well preserved and had an internal diameter of 1.1 m, with a floor of limestone slabs with rubble limestone walls. The partially robbed footings of a 0.75 m wide wall (112) were identified immediately to the east of the hearth base 7, and west of the ovens. How it related to the hearth or ovens is unclear.

Within the northern bay, the floor layer (535, overlain by rubble 612) was a sandy loam with small fragments of limestone embedded in it, which represent the demolition debris from the earlier building (W). It also contained a socketed iron axe head (SF95, Fig. 3.16.1). No other features were identified in the bay.

The remains of the walls of Building A12 were too fragmentary to determine the position of any doorway other than that into the corridor leading to the domestic range. However, immediately outside the southern side of the building there was a spread of occupation material (155), similar to the material inside, which could suggest an entrance at this point.

During the use of this building the original hearth (7) was replaced by another, cut directly into the old one. This new hearth (6) was 2.4 m long and its width, indeterminate owing to later disturbance, was a minimum of 1.5 m. It was constructed of pitched tiles bordered by a kerb of limestone blocks. An apron of tiles-on-edge (31) abutted its north side.

A substantial quantity of pottery was recovered from the building, much of which comprised cooking and domestic wares (see Chapter 3). Six cooking pots, six kitchenware vessels, a bowl, four jugs, two bottles and a cup were found.

The north-east courtyard (Figs 2.13, 2.15)

A new yard (519, 621) in bedding layer 844, 972 was laid out, enclosed by the cross-wing and Building A12 and Area F. The yard sealed the robber trench (1084) and its fill 1109) of the earlier wall 1135 (Fig. 2.15, Section 76). The northern wall of the new Building A12 was constructed partly over the drain associated with the earlier detached Building W. A shallow depression (504) was identified against the south of Area F, which appeared to link to a drainage or eavesdrip gully (518), draining into the moat to the north. This may have been an alternative method to remove excess water from the enclosed yard area.

Structure A14 (Figs 2.4, 2.15, 2.19, 2.20)

A rectangular structure A14, defined by partially robbed limestone rubble footings (585, 686) defining an internal area of 6.5 m × 3.5 m, was added to the west end of the domestic range (A3), built against the perimeter wall 679. The floor (673) consisted of a layer of brown silt loam, heavily mottled with white clay. Two lead cames were recovered from this material (SF 198), although, given their provenance, they are likely to be residual. No other internal features were identified, and no evidence was found of an access from this building to room A3.

A further slight wall foundation (678, Fig. 2.20), c 0.40 m wide, oriented north-west to south-east, was revealed to the west of A14. This may represent an additional outbuilding, enclosing an area 2.10 m by 4.50 m, inserted into the south-west corner of the perimeter.

An extensive area of gravel and flint (732) survived around the northern side of the main domestic range. A small rectangular structure (572, Fig. 2.20), which was rather crudely constructed of a single width of limestone rubble, was identified, situated against the north-east wall of the domestic range. Whether this represented the footings of a small structure against the north wall of the hall, or a garden feature, was not clear.

The garden (Figs 2.19, 2.20)

Although there was considerable disturbance to this area from the topsoil stripping, the surviving evidence suggests that this entire area north and west of the domestic range and the cross wing was redesigned as an enclosed area. Buildings D and E were demolished and the area immediately south of the north edge of the moat was levelled up with a dump of sandy loam (573 – not illustrated). The area was bounded on the north side by a limestone wall, which only survived as footing 751 and a possible robber trench 652, extending from the northern corner of cross-wing Room A4. The footing was interrupted by a gap, possibly representing access to the bridge to the north.

The west end of the garden wall was represented by a footing of similar proportions (679) extending the line from the west end of the Phase 4 hall extension A14 by approximately 4.5 m, before turning to the north (697). It is suggested that this wall continued north to the moat edge and turned east to link with footing 751, although as the north-west corner of the island was not systematically investigated, this contention remains conjectural.

Structure A13 (Figs 2.4, 2.20)

The structure was defined by a pair of insubstantial stone walls (591), 0.20–30 m in width, extending north from the north wall of room A1. The full extent of both walls was traced by the footings or robber trenches (650, 651) to a point just before the line of the perimeter wall (751/652); the intervening gap was filled with a drain (998), consisting of a line of upturned ridge tiles, immediately to the south of robber trench 652.

The partly surviving floor of Structure A13 consisted of a layer of sand (980), overlaid by a spread of lime mortar (589), a bedding for floor tiles. Two complete examples were found *in situ* (SF 181 and 182 – Type CLXXXI – see Chapter 4), set square to the western walls of the structure, and impressions of approximately 12 others were revealed in the surface of the mortar.

The structure enclosed a small cloister-like courtyard of gravel and flint (561), alongside the west wall of Room A4.

The central courtyard (Fig. 2.4)

On the south-west side of the house, on either side of Room A6, the division between the central courtyard surface and the two unsurfaced areas of silty clay loam, possibly gardens (120, 140) first laid out in Phase 3/1, were maintained. In Phase 4, their boundaries were more formally defined by partially robbed stone walls (127 to the west of Room A6, 187 to the east). Both walls were noted as overlying the latest courtyard surface of flinty gravel (118). A posthole (1054) was noted, cutting the edge of 118 along the line of wall 127, 0.75 m from wall 821 of Room A6. This may represent a gate giving access from the courtyard into area 120.

Building T (Figs 2.4, 2.19)

Insubstantial remains of a small building or enclosure were identified between (and respecting both) Building J and the wall of A14 to the north. It was defined by insubstantial and partly robbed rubble footings (271, 1047, 1048), which defined an area of approximately 7 m × 3 m. Two postholes (264, 408 – not illustrated), possibly defining a gateway or doorway c 1.0 m wide, were identified just outside the line of the east wall. No internal floor surface or other features were identified; however immediately beyond the west wall was a dumped layer containing a high concentration of oyster and cockle shells (1049).

Buildings H and G (Figs 2.4, 2.18)

Buildings H and G were constructed, apparently as a pair, effectively dividing the central courtyard into two. Building H abutted the south end of Building I while Building G abutted the north-west side of Building C. Access from the outer to the inner area was evidently through the gap between H and G, approximately 3.4 m wide. This was surfaced with crushed limestone and flint chippings (401), and incorporated a limestone block kerb and gutter on its western side (496).

From the surviving deposits, the two buildings differed in their construction and internal disposition. Building G was defined by partially robbed insubstantial 0.50 m wide limestone footings (292, 293, 295) laid directly onto the Phase 3 courtyard surface (396), which also formed the internal floor surface. The wall lines were completed by robber trenches 292, 396 and 494. No internal partitions or other structural elements were identified, although a pitched stone hardstanding (294) was set along the exterior of the north wall.

Building H, in contrast, was more substantial, as indicated by wall foundations 273, 280, 291, 340, averaging 0.70 m wide, set in shallow foundation trenches, surmounted by walls which stepped in to

0.50 m wide, and robber trench 280. The Phase 3/1 wall 282, which abutted Building I, was possibly retained as an internal partition, creating a small bay or room at the north-west end of the building. A stone-edged, stone-lined drain (343) was revealed, running the width of the bay and extending beyond the end wall (340). Two other slight partitions (437, 438) divided the rest of the building into three unequal bays, of lengths 10.8 m, 4.1 m and 4.8 m. The floor surface within the building consisted of a layer that varied from a light yellowish brown silt loam (375) at the western end to an orange sandy loam, with natural iron staining (417), throughout the rest of the building. The floor surface overlay the Phase 3/1 yard surface (396).

Alterations to Building I (Figs 2.4, 2.17)

The stone-lined pit in Building I (Fig. 2.17) probably went out of use with the construction of Building H and its opening was now blocked. The backfill of the pit appears to have been sealed by a layer of grey silty clay (350, 380) within Building I. The small, central tile-on-edge hearth (352) was possibly constructed at the same time. Only a single piece of 14th- to 15th-century pottery was found within the interior deposits of the building.

Building C (Figs 2.4, 2.18)

A large rectangular structure with a porch on its western side was identified in the south-eastern corner of the large island. It was built on top of the courtyard surface (396) and therefore could represent the latest in the complex of buildings in the southern half of the island in this phase, although no finds were recovered from the building contexts to support this contention. The building was represented by fragmentary rubble footings (334, 392, 1212) and a very shallow robber trench (485) up 0.40 m wide. Since no evidence survived for gable end walls the length of this building is inferred from the scatter of roof tile debris (393) which appeared to respect the west wall and a hypothetical north wall line. If the location of the porch, represented by a stone footing (334), is assumed to mark the centre of the building, then the southern wall can be correspondingly inferred, which places it just to the north of the approximate edge of the southern corner of the moat. This gives an overall, albeit conjectural length for the building of 33.0 m, and a width of 12.0 m. Internally one substantial postpad (394) and another disturbed postpad (491) were found, suggesting that the building was probably aisled.

Phase 5 (mid to late 15th century) (Fig. 2.5)

Summary of development

The phase principally concerns the demolition of the manor complex. The archaeological evidence for the speed of this process is very limited, although there

is some evidence for the short-term alternative use of part of the complex, especially Room A4. Elsewhere, a single new building (M) was identified, which (from documentary inferences) is suggested could have been a culver house or dovecote. Similarly, there is some documentary evidence to show that Building C may have survived as late as the end of the 16th century.

Final activity in the domestic range

Archaeological evidence of the process of abandonment and demolition of the buildings was inevitably compromised, particularly in areas away from the main domestic range and cross-wing, by modern disturbance and the machine stripping of the topsoil. However, within the limited areas excavated, some stratigraphic sequences post-dating the buildings' occupation were identified.

Within rooms A1 and A3, the latest Phase 4 floor layers were sealed by a general layer of rubble (186) containing plaster and tile fragments and numerous artefacts (see Chapters 3 and 4). This layer extended to the north of the range footprint (south of room A1 the same material was recorded as 119). Within Rooms A9 and A10 to the east, layers of silty clay and rubble (511, 520) contained high proportions of plaster, presumably collapsed from the wall faces. In the north of Room A9 a similar layer (590 – not illustrated) produced plaster, nails and evident signs of burning.

Further burnt material was evident in room A4 to the north, overlying the accumulated floor deposits of layer 600 (see above), although this material appeared to be beech and oak charcoal derived from young trees, not structural timbers (see Chapter 5). The charcoal-rich spread was observed to extend over the footprint of Room A5, sealing the robber trenches of the wall.

Subsequently a layer of sand (510) was deposited, overlain by a thick layer of demolition rubble (500). This layer, although somewhat disturbed by later activity, appeared to extend to a point close to the possible north bridge.

The agricultural buildings

While evidence of demolition was evident over the footprint of the domestic range, a spread of roof tile (242) was found in the northern bay of Building B (see Figure 2.15), lying in a way that suggests the roof had collapsed through dereliction rather than demolition. Spreads of roof tiles were also noted around the footprint of Building C.

Building M (Fig. 2.5)

Building M was situated within the footprint of the west end of Building H. The slight stone footings appeared to be set into the demolition material of Building H. No internal features or surfaces were identified in association with this building.