Chorlton Fold, Monton, Eccles,

Greater Manchester

Final Excavation Report

Oxford Archaeology North

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Stewart Milne Homes Ltd

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The evaluation and excavation was directed by Sean McPhillips, who was assisted in the field by Fiona Green, Anthony Haskins, Elizabeth Murray, Kieran Power, Ged Callaghan and Anthony Platt. This report was compiled by Dr Richard Gregory and Sean McPhillips, whilst the artefactual and environmental analyses were undertaken by Andrew Bates, Jeremy Bradley, Christine Howard-Davis, Elizabeth Huckerby, Sean McPhillips, Ian Miller, Rebekah Pressler, and Dr Tim Young. Marie Rowland produced the illustrations. The report was edited by Ian Miller, who was also responsible for project management.

SUMMARY

In 2006, a planning application was submitted to Salford City Council for the demolition and redevelopment of Chorlton Fold Farm, situated in Monton, near Eccles, Greater Manchester (centred on NGR: SD 7694 0001). The farm had formed part of a hamlet known as Chorlton Fold since at least the eighteenth century, and it was anticipated that this site might also contain buried remains of archaeological significance.

In view of the archaeological potential of the site, the Greater Manchester County Archaeologist, in consultation with the Salford Conservation Officer, recommended that an archaeological condition was attached to the planning consent for the development. In the first instance, it was recommended that an archaeological survey of the extant buildings should be undertaken, together with appropriate historical research. This phase of work was completed by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) in 2006, and the full results form the subject of a separate report (OA North 2007a). Once the buildings had been demolished, it was then recommended that a programme of field evaluation should be undertaken, in order to assess the nature, extent, and significance of any buried archaeological remains in advance of the proposed redevelopment of this site. This evaluation was undertaken by OA North in August 2007, and it revealed a series of buried remains which were considered to be archaeologically significant.

Following on-site discussions with the County Archaeologist, it was recommended that further targeted excavation should be undertaken in order to expose and record these significant remains. This phase of excavation was completed by OA North in September 2008 which, together with the earlier evaluation, indicated that the site of Chorlton Fold Farm had been the focus of continuous, or near continuous, activity from the late medieval period onwards. The buried remains and recovered artefacts relating to this activity included: a late medieval ditch; sherds of late medieval pottery; several postholes, pits, metalled surfaces, stone walls, and artefacts, which collectively dated to the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries; and below-ground remains forming part of the late eighteenth- and nineteenth-century occupation of the farmstead.

Following the completion of the fieldwork, post-excavation assessment was undertaken by OA North, which examined the results of the excavation, and assessed the potential for further analysis of each category of data with regard to the project's research aims. The results obtained from the assessment concluded that the dataset had some potential for further analysis (OA North 2008) and this, in turn, led to recommendations for a further phase of post-excavation work. This report represents the outcome of these recommendations and presents the final results of the archaeological investigation undertaken at Chorlton Fold, along with a concluding discussion situating this site within the wider historical landscape. This report will also form the basis for an academic article, which will be incorporated in a forthcoming monograph on the rural development of the historical county of Lancashire.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 THE LOCATION AND SETTING OF CHORLTON FOLD FARM

1.1.1 Chorlton Fold Farm is a former eighteenth-century farmstead situated some 8km to the west-north-west of Manchester, in the municipal borough of Eccles, which forms part of the metropolitan district of Salford (Fig 1). This site now resides unobtrusively within the residential area of Monton, which is characterised by swathes of modern housing that skirt the southern, eastern and western sides of the former farmstead (Plate 1).

Plate 1: Aerial view of the study area before the demolition of Chorlton Fold Farm

1.1.2 Topographically, the Eccles area is an extension of the Midland Plain between the Pennines and the Welsh mountains. In broad terms, the land slopes gently from the northern boundary of the municipal borough to the river Irwell, which forms the south-west boundary (Countryside Commission 1998). The topography of the study area, however, reflects the shallow valley of the Folly Brook, which flows east/west some 500m to the north; Chorlton Fold is situated on the southern crest of the valley, at a height of approximately 35m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.1.3 The underlying solid geology, as mapped by the Ordnance Survey geological survey, comprises Bunter Sandstone and Manchester Marls of the Triassic to Permian periods (Countryside Commission 1998), although the coal measures of the Lancashire field reach as far south as Monton and Winton. The solid geology is overlain by superficial deposits of variable depths, consisting of clay, loose sands and vegetable moulds (Bogg 1893, 12). When properly drained, the soils are remarkably fertile and have been considered to be amongst some of the best farmland in the country (Stamp 1945, 63).

1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION AT CHORLTON FOLD FARM

1.2.1 In 2006, a proposal was submitted to Salford City Council to redevelop Chorlton Fold. It was proposed that this redevelopment would entail the demolition of the extant eighteenth- and nineteenth-century farm buildings that occupied the site. This would then be followed by a scheme of construction, which might pose a threat to any buried archaeological remains that survived *in-situ* within the boundary of the site.

1.2.2 In view of the proposed scheme of redevelopment at this historic farmstead, the Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit (GMAU), in consultation with the Salford Conservation Officer, recommended that an archaeological condition should be attached to the planning consent for the proposed development. The scheme and remit of the archaeological works, forming part of this condition, were outlined in an initial brief prepared by GMAU. This brief recommended that, prior to demolition, an archaeological building survey of the extant buildings should be undertaken along with a programme of historical research. This latter element aimed to inform the building survey, and was also intended to assess the potential and significance of any buried archaeological remains which might be disturbed by the proposed development. Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was then commissioned by Nuttall Construction Ltd to undertake this work, which was completed in 2006 (OA North 2007a).

1.2.3 Once the buildings at Chorlton Fold had been demolished, a further programme of archaeological investigation was then recommended by GMAU. OA North was commissioned by Nuttall Construction Ltd to undertake this work, which comprised an intrusive archaeological evaluation that aimed to assess the nature, extent, and significance of any buried archaeological remains found within the boundary of the proposed development. This scheme of investigation was undertaken in August 2007, and involved the excavation of seven evaluation trenches (Fig 2: Trenches 1-7).

1.2.4 During the course of the evaluation, it became clear that significant archaeological remains survived *in-situ* across the site. Following on-site discussions with the Greater Manchester County Archaeologist, it was recommended that these features merited further investigation, and detailed recording, in advance of their destruction. This additional phase of investigation comprised the excavation of three open-area trenches, in order to expose those areas of the site that appeared to contain significant archaeological remains (Fig 2). In addition, a further evaluation trench (Trench 8) was excavated in the north-eastern corner of the site (Fig 2). This phase of work was carried out by OA North in September 2007.

1.2.5 Following the completion of the fieldwork, an assessment was undertaken of the resultant site archive, following the guidelines and recommendations outlined in English Heritage's (1991) *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP 2)*. This resulted in the production of a post-excavation assessment report (OA North 2008). This report presented the rudimentary results of the evaluation and open-area excavations (*op cit*, 23-57) and included a series of

specialist assessment reports, detailing the significance and potential of the artefacts and ecofacts recovered during the course of the excavations (*op cit*, 59-75). It also contained a statement of the archaeological potential of the site archive, in terms of national, regional and local research priorities (*op cit*, 79-81). This was then followed by recommendations for a further phase of post-excavation work, which were based on a series of revised research aims and objectives (*op cit*, 82-3). An associated method statement was then presented outlining the scope of work which would be required to fulfil these objectives (*op cit*, 84-7). Finally, the post-excavation assessment report recommended that the results of the excavation, and the additional phase of post-excavation work, should be disseminated in the form of an academic publication, and that, once completed, the archive should be deposited with Salford Museum.

1.2.6 This report represents the outcome of these recommendations and details the final results of the archaeological investigation undertaken at Chorlton Fold. The aim of this report is to present the historical and archaeological background pertinent to Chorlton Fold; outline the results of the building survey and excavation in terms of the known historical development of the site; produce summaries of the artefact and environmental evidence recovered during the course of the excavations; and present a concluding discussion, which situates Chorlton Fold within the wider, historical, landscape. It is also anticipated that the this report will be used as the basis for an academic article, which will be incorporated into a proposed OA North monograph on the rural development of the historical county of Lancashire.

2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 ROMAN PERIOD

2.1.1 During the Roman period, a road was established somewhere in the vicinity of Chorlton Fold, which is listed in the *Antonine Itinerary* (*Iter X*), and is designated as Road 702 by Margary (1967, 369). This road connected the Roman fort at Manchester (*Mamucium*) with the suspected fort or settlement at Wigan (*Coccium*), and its course was first described in the late eighteenth century by the Reverend J Whitaker (1771, 107-10). Following a somewhat speculative account on the course of the road from the fort at Manchester, across the River Irwell, to Hope Hall, Pendleton, Whitaker describes a series of buried remains and earthworks, which appear to relate to the course of the Roman road. The most prominent of these remains was an earthwork, found to the east of Chorlton Fold, which was later described by Sibson (1836, 583), and which was also surveyed by the Ordnance Survey in 1845 as part of their 6": 1 mile mapping of this area (published in 1848). To the west of this earthwork, Whitaker (1771, 109) noted that the road then 'points through Chorleton (*sic*) Fold'. It was also reported subsequently that in 1844 Sibson discovered gravel, forming part of this road, at Calf Hey, near Chorlton Fold (Watkin 1883, 40).

2.1.2 Numerous attempts have been made in recent years to determine the precise course, and form, of this road in the vicinity of Chorlton Fold. These have included an archaeological evaluation and an open-area excavation immediately to the north of Chorlton Fold, undertaken in 1992 and 2006, though in both instances no conclusive evidence for a Roman road was found (GMAU 1992; WAS 2006; Bell 2007). However, more conclusive evidence for the road was found to the east of Chorlton Fold, where a section of the road was excavated at Ellesmere Park by the Ellesmere Park Residents' Association (Rabbitt 2005). There, the line of the road was located during a geophysical survey within the Three Sisters Field. Following its location, archaeological trenches were excavated across the line of the road, which revealed that it was *c* 7m wide and was composed of a compacted metalled surface. On either side of the road, roadside ditches were also discovered, and one of these was found to have been recut following its initial filling. In addition, the course of the road has also been located by a geophysical survey undertaken by the Ellesmere Park Residents' Association close to Wentworth Community High School (*cf* Gregory 2009).

2.1.3 In addition to the main Manchester to Wigan Roman road, the nineteenth-century antiquarian William Watkin (1883, 49) also speculated that a minor Roman road was present in the vicinity of Chorlton Fold. This, he argued, ran in a north/south direction from Barton, crossed the main Manchester to Wigan road in the vicinity of Chorlton Fold, and joined with another minor Roman road, which branched off from the main Manchester to Wigan road at Hope Hall. Firm evidence for the presence of this road is, however, wanting.

2.2 MEDIEVAL PERIOD

2.2.1 During the medieval period, the site of Chorlton Fold lay within Monton, which was a hamlet, or sub-manor, contained within the township of Barton-upon-Irwell. Although there may have been a pre-Conquest church at Eccles (Kenyon 1991, 63), situated to the south of Monton, the early medieval history of this area is largely unknown. It is possible, however, that some form of settlement was found in the area, as the place-name Monton derives from the Old English '*mawina-tun*', which can be translated as 'the Mawa family settlement' (Ekwall 1922, 40). The place-name Chorlton Fold may also derive from the Old English *ceorl*, meaning 'farmstead' of peasants, or freemen (Kenyon 1991, 106).

2.2.2 Monton is mentioned in several thirteenth-century charters, and from 1235 it was held by the Cistercian community based at Stanlaw (Stanlow) in Cheshire, following Geoffrey de Byron's granting of this land, along with land in Swinton, to the monks at Stanlaw Abbey (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 370). Documentary sources describe Monton as a monastic grange by 1291, within which 'the monks were found to hold two plough-lands worth 30s a year, assized rents of 33s, and profit of store cattle, 26s 8d' (*op cit*, 370 note 71). In 1296, the Cistercian community at Stanlaw moved to Whalley in Lancashire and the grange at Monton was then, in turn, held by the monks of Whalley Abbey (*op cit*, 369). During the fourteenth century, when Monton was held by Whalley Abbey, many of the Cistercian granges were abandoned and were leased to tenants (Higham 2004, 214), although it appears that Monton may have continued to function as a grange throughout this period. Indeed, evidence for the leasing out of the Monton grange is not apparent until the fifteenth century, when documentary sources indicate that in 1465 the 'lands called Monton' held by the Abbot and Convent of Whalley, were leased by Ottiwell Worsley, who then granted them to Robert Lawe, vicar of Eccles, and John Reddish of Monks Hall (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 370 note 72). This pattern of leasing appears to form part of a much wider trend, which led to only selective monastic granges surviving in the fifteenth century, which were normally those found immediately adjacent to the abbey (Platt 1969, 94).

2.2.3 In addition to the available documentary evidence, archaeological remains relating to medieval activity were also uncovered during a recent archaeological excavation undertaken to the north of Chorlton Fold Farm (Bell 2007). This excavation discovered a section of a medieval ditch, together with remains which might be indicative of medieval metal-working. Significantly, these discoveries have important interpretative implications for understanding those remains uncovered at Chorlton Fold Farm, and are thus outlined in more detail in the concluding section of this report (*Section 4*).

2.3 POST-MEDIEVAL PERIOD

2.3.1 Following the dissolution of Whalley Abbey in 1537, Monton was sold to Sir Alexander Radcliffe of Ordsall, and, subsequently, to Roger Downes of Wardley in 1612 (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 370). Although there is little documentary evidence for any specific activity in the area during the late medieval and early post-medieval periods, it is probable that the local economy was dominated by agriculture, which continued to be of prime importance to this area through to the nineteenth century (Johnson 1967, 95). However, sheep rearing replaced the growing of wheat across the district in the early nineteenth century, following the collapse of grain prices after the Napoleonic Wars (Lumb 1958, 107). During the second half of the nineteenth century, the emphasis on arable farming returned, particularly the growing of wheat, oats, barley and potatoes (*op cit*, 87) and, in 1853, Monton was described as 'a small hamlet whose population is principally engaged in manufactures' (Whellan 1853, 720). After 1860, much of the land on the eastern side of Eccles was given over to housing, in response to a growth in population, and though many of the farms in the area remained, they were enveloped progressively by residential developments (Johnson 1967).

2.3.2 Fortunately, the form and development of Chorlton Fold during the post-medieval period can be discerned through reference to the early cartographic sources. These indicate that by the end of the eighteenth century a farm and several associated buildings had been established on the site. The earliest map depicting Chorlton Fold is William Yates's *Map of the County Palatine of Lancaster*, published in 1786, which plots a cluster of buildings around and to the east of Rocky Lane, north of Monton (Plate 2).

Plate 2: Extract from Yates's 1786 Map of the County Palatine of Lancaster

2.3.3 Significantly more detail of the farm is provided by the Ordnance Survey 6": 1 mile map, published in 1848, which shows the farm to have comprised a developed farmstead with four buildings (Plate 3). This map indicates that the farmhouse at the southern extent of the farmstead had a main east/west-aligned axis, and an extended rear wing on its northern elevation. In addition, a further 'wing' appears to lie on the front of the building at its eastern end. To the north-west of the farmhouse, a building is depicted which appears to be the barn that was demolished in 2007, although the Ordnance Survey mapping also plots the position of an elongated outshut, or extension, on its western elevation. To the east of this barn is a rectangular structure, again occupying a similar alignment and position to an outbuilding which was recorded prior to its demolition in 2007. The Ordnance Survey map also plots the position of a small, square pen, or animal shelter, situated immediately to the east of this outbuilding.

Plate 3: Extract from the 1848 Ordnance Survey map, with Chorlton Fold outlined in red

2.3.4 By the time of the publication of the 1894 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map, the farm appears to have undergone some marked changes and alterations (Plate 4). Whilst the farmhouse is again present, the front 'wing' is less pronounced than that depicted on earlier Ordnance Survey mapping. Similarly, the barn to the north-west of the farmhouse appears to have been altered. The elongated outshut on the western elevation had clearly been removed, whilst a further outshut may have been appended to the southern elevation. The added outbuilding to the east of the barn was still standing, although it appears as a narrower building on this map, compared with that depicted on the earlier survey. To the immediate east, the small pen or animal shelter had been removed and replaced by another rectangular outbuilding, which was aligned north/south. A fifth building is also illustrated to the east of the farmhouse, which may represent the open hay barn, or Dutch barn, which was demolished in 2007.

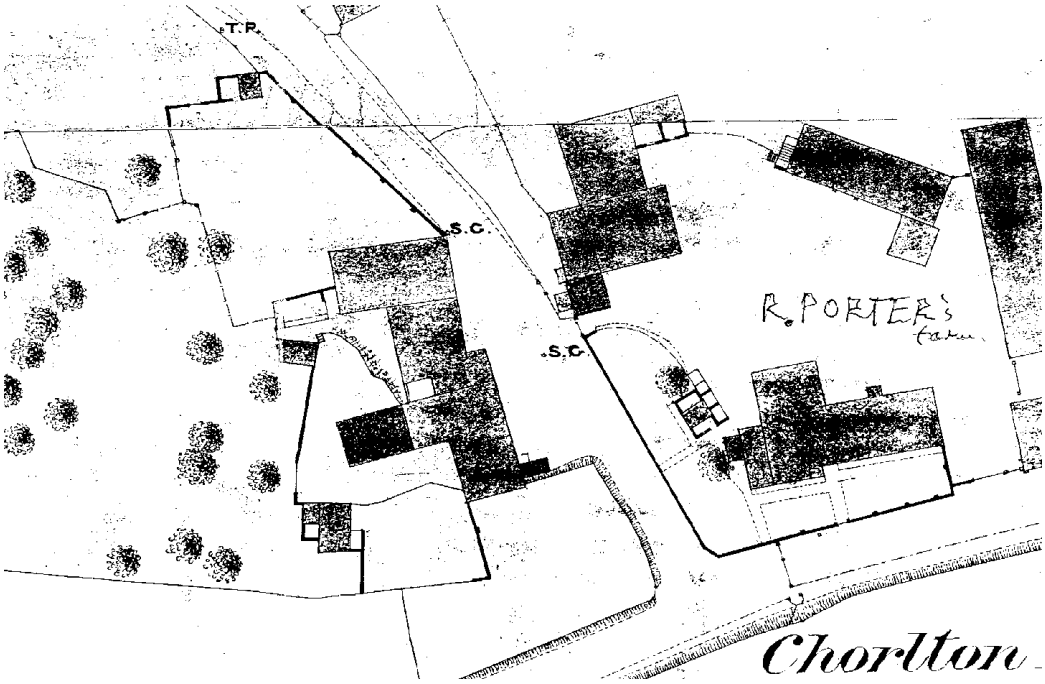

Plate 4: Extract from the 1894 Ordnance Survey map, showing the position of the Chorlton Fold farm buildings

2.3.5 The Ordnance Survey map of 1936 indicates that the farmstead had assumed a form that it largely retained until its demolition in 2007. By 1936, the 'wing' on the front of the farmhouse had been removed and a small, square, free-standing outbuilding had been added to the north-west corner of the building. This survey also depicts the rectangular barn with two outshuts on the southern elevation, and a further square extension appended to its north-east corner; these buildings can be seen on a photograph of the farmyard that was taken in 1961 (Plate 5). The outbuildings to the east of the barn are depicted as two L-shaped structures, whilst the position of the open hay barn, or Dutch barn, was plotted to the east of the farmhouse.

Plate 5: Chorlton Fold Farm in 1961 (Salford Local History Library)

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

3.1.1 The archaeological fieldwork undertaken at Chorlton Fold comprised a building survey of the extant farm buildings and, following their demolition, an intrusive investigation. This latter work included an initial archaeological evaluation, which was then followed by targeted open-area excavation. Throughout all phases of the fieldwork, the scope and methodology of the fieldwork was approved by GMAU, who prepared an initial brief for the archaeological building survey and evaluation, and who also monitored the archaeological investigation over the duration of the project.

3.1.2 ***Building survey:*** the building survey comprised a Level II-type survey (English Heritage 2006) of the main farm buildings. The plans and elevations of the buildings were surveyed by means of a reflectorless electronic distance measurer (REDM). From this digital survey data, plans and sections were produced in order to show the form and location of structural features and/or features of historical interest. Where necessary, these drawings were manually enhanced using hand-survey techniques. The hand-annotated field drawings were digitised using an industry-standard CAD package to produce the final drawings. In addition, written records using OA North *pro-forma* record sheets were made of all principal building elements, both internal and external, as well as any features of historical or architectural significance.

3.1.3 ***Archaeological evaluation:*** the evaluation initially entailed the excavation of seven trenches of varying lengths, each measuring 1.6m wide, with a combined total length of 183m (Fig 2: Trenches 1-7). An additional trench, measuring *c* 12m long by 1.6m wide, was then excavated as part of a further phase of excavation (Fig 2: Trench 8). All of the evaluation trenches were placed at predetermined locations across the site, and each trench was excavated initially using a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Following machine excavation, the trenches were cleaned manually and recorded, with selective excavation to determine depth and character of any features, structures and deposits. All information was recorded stratigraphically with accompanying documentation (*Appendix 1*).

3.1.4 ***Open-area excavation:*** three open areas (Fig 2: Areas 1, 2 and 3) were excavated, which targeted those elements of the site identified during the evaluation that appeared to contain significant archaeological remains:

- Area 1 measured 21 x 12m, was excavated within the north-western part of the site and incorporated the whole of evaluation Trench 6 and portions of Trench 7. This trench was designed to expose a suspected late medieval boundary ditch and the remains of a stone and brick structure identified within the evaluation trenches;
- Area 2 was an L-shaped trench measuring 25 x 15m, which was excavated over the southern part of the former farmhouse, bordering

the access track into the site. It was excavated in order to expose the suspected late medieval boundary ditch and investigate any features that pre-dated the farmhouse;

- Area 3 measured 8 x 6m and was an open-area trench positioned at the western end of evaluation Trench 4. This area targeted a seventeenth-century pit, and was excavated as a means of establishing the relationship of this feature to a possible early stone building found in this part of the site.

3.1.5 ***Artefactual procedures:*** artefact recovery was carried out in accordance with best practice (following current Institute for Archaeologists guidelines), and subject to expert advice in order to minimise deterioration. Artefacts were collected principally by hand from archaeological deposits. Industrial residues and other finds within the topsoil were collected, and all of the slag was retained, as recommended by the English Heritage Science Advisor for the North West. All categories of material type were retrieved without exception. All finds recovered during the investigation were lifted, cleaned, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid For Finds* (1998). Recovery and sampling programmes were in accordance with best practice (IFA 1992) and subject to expert advice. Initial artefact dating has been integrated into the site matrix.

3.1.6 ***Environmental Sampling:*** a programme of targeted palaeoenvironmental sampling was implemented in accordance with the Oxford Archaeology's *Environmental Guidelines and Instruction Manual* (OAU 2000), and in line with the English Heritage guidance paper on Environmental Archaeology (2001). In general, bulk samples of 10-30 litres were taken where appropriate, to be sub-sampled at a later stage. Material in which charcoal was evident was sampled, whilst samples were also taken from the features which appeared to be related to metalworking. One charred cereal grain from a stratigraphically secure context was also submitted from AMS radiocarbon dating.

3.2 SITE TAPHONOMY

3.2.1 Prior to redevelopment, Chorlton Fold comprised an eighteenth-century farmhouse and several outbuildings. Archaeological excavations carried out following demolition uncovered buried remains pre-dating the establishment of this farmhouse and outbuildings. In broad terms, these comprised stone and brick structures, cobbled surfaces, and several 'negative' archaeological features. These appeared to mark the positions of an early ditch, as well as the positions of pits and postholes. In the majority of cases, the structures, features and layers had been cut into, or were found to seal, the natural geology encountered across the site, which comprised deposits of bedrock formed by a pale red-brown sand (***20/146/182/196/200***), sealed beneath yellow clay (***09***/***30/181/208/218***). The clay was less than 0.10m thick in the southern part of the site, thickening gradually to a depth of 0.5m at the northern boundary. Some of the 'natural' clay encountered during the excavation was seemingly redeposited across the areas occupied by outbuildings, presumably in order to create a level foundation for the construction of the farm buildings.

3.2.2 Several factors were identified that appear to have materially affected the survival and preservation of archaeological remains across the site. For example, it appears that, during the construction of the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century buildings forming the core of the farmstead, several earlier features were destroyed or truncated severely. It was, perhaps, also during this phase of construction, and during the life of the post-medieval farmstead, that certain elements of material culture became serendipitously incorporated into the fabric of earlier features and deposits. One other identifiable episode, which also seems to have been of particular detriment to buried archaeological remains, was a phase of clearance undertaken by the Porter family, who were resident at Chorlton Fold Farm during the latter part of the twentieth century (John Rabbitt *pers comm*). This clearance was undertaken using a mechanical excavator as a response to the relaying of the cobble courtyard, and effectively removed topsoil deposits across the central parts of the site. This clearance also had a significant effect on underlying archaeological deposits in certain areas, truncating the archaeological sequence and mixed overlying deposits. This, along with earlier phases of construction and refurbishment, resulted in many of the below-ground remains surviving as stratigraphically isolated features, which has meant that it has been difficult to determine the exact relationship and sequence between certain 'negative' features. Moreover, the relationships between walls, or other structural elements, were often ambiguous, due either to poor preservation following the demolition of the structure, or because they were obscured by later phases of structural renovation.

3.2.3 Following the completion of the archaeological fieldwork, and post-excavation assessment, it has now been possible to place the buried remains, and also the upstanding buildings present prior to demolition, within four distinct chronological phases (Phases 1-4). These phases, in turn, reflect the historical development of Chorlton Fold, and also act as a convenient structure for the following discussion.

3.3 PHASE 1, LATE MEDIEVAL

3.3.1 The earliest phase of activity identified probably dates to the late medieval period, when it appears that a ditch, or ditches, were dug across the site, along with a linear trench (Fig 3). These features were initially identified within four of the evaluation trenches (Trenches 1, 3, 5 and 6; Fig 2), and were targeted subsequently by two of the open-area trenches (Areas 1 and 2).

3.3.2 ***Late medieval ditch:*** a shallow ditch (***25/58***) was exposed within Area 2, following its initial discovery in evaluation Trenches 3 and 5. In total, a *c* 23m-long section of this ditch was discovered, which extended across the complete length of the open-area trench (Plate 6). This ditch was aligned east/west, though at its western end it curved to the north-west for a distance of 1.6m, close to the modern boundary wall (Fig 3). This appeared to indicate that after this point the ditch changed course and ran in a north/south direction. The ditch had been cut into the bedrock (***196***), was 0.55m-1m wide, and had a shallow U-shaped base. It also varied in depth, with a very gradual slope from west to east, and had a maximum depth of 0.68m at its western end, rising to a

depth of only 0.05m at its eastern end. The ditch had been filled with a homogeneous reddish-brown clay (***26***), which contained small lumps of iron slag and several sherds of late medieval pottery, along with Cistercian-type ware, which may date to the sixteenth or, perhaps, very early seventeenth century. Significantly, the earlier artefacts indicate that the area witnessed some form of late medieval activity, whilst those later sherds provide a *terminus ante quem* for the cutting of the ditch, suggesting that it was probably established prior to the late sixteenth, or very early part of the seventeenth, century (see *Section 4*).

*Plate 6: Area 2, general view of ditch **25/58**, looking south-east*

3.3.3 It is likely that the ditch exposed in Area 2 linked with a second section of ditch (***19***) uncovered in Area 1 (Fig 3). There, a comparable ditch was exposed, following its initial identification in evaluation Trenches 1 and 6, though it is clear from the sequence of deposits contained within this feature that it had a slightly different developmental sequence from the section of ditch exposed in Area 2.

3.3.4 Ditch ***19*** was aligned north/south, and had been cut into the bedrock (***136***) and also an accumulation of sand (***20***) and yellow clay (***09/208***), which represented the natural superficial geology in this part of the site. A *c* 7m-long section of this ditch was found to survive and, although it had been truncated in the southern part of Area 1, it is probable that it originally extended across the excavated area. The ditch measured 1.2m wide, had a U-shaped base, and a maximum depth of 0.55m. It had been filled initially with a 0.05m-thick deposit of clay (***137***), which probably represented the primary fill. Although no artefacts were recovered from this deposit, presumably this clay was comparable to the homogeneous clay (***26***) within ditch ***25/58*** (Area 2), which contained late medieval pottery. However, following the deposition of the

primary clay fill, two later deposits (***172/22*** and ***135/21***) accumulated in ditch ***19***, which, based on the artefactual evidence, were probably deposited in the eighteenth or nineteenth century. The presence of these deposits may imply that this section of ditch remained open until the construction of the eighteenth-century farmstead. Alternatively, the ditch may have been modified, or even recut and backfilled, during the eighteenth or nineteenth century, which may perhaps relate to its use as a convenient drainage feature during this later period.

3.3.5 ***Ditch 209 and feature 115:*** two other features ascribed to this early phase of activity were also identified during the excavation, which were not associated with any artefacts or other means of dating, but were sealed by later deposits and structures, suggesting that they might have been contemporary with the late medieval ditch. These features included a ditch (***209***), and a linear feature (***115***; Fig 3). The ditch (***209***) was discovered in Area 1 and was aligned east/west, with its western end returning sharply north, close to the south-eastern side of ditch ***19***. This suggested that at some stage the ditches were perhaps connected. The intended function of linear feature ***115*** is not clear, but it was aligned north/south, cutting into the bedrock (***196***) to a depth of 0.39m. It extended for a total length of 5m, was 1m wide, and was filled with a compacted deposit of red clay (***114***).

3.4 PHASE 2, SEVENTEENTH TO EARLY EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

3.4.1 The remains dating to this phase pre-dated the construction of the eighteenth-century farmstead at Chorlton Fold. They included several postholes, pits, metalled surfaces, stone walls (Fig 4), and artefacts, which collectively dated to the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries based on stratigraphic evidence and the artefacts that they contained. These features and finds were identified in evaluation Trenches 2, 5 and 8, and also Trenches 3, 4 and 6 (Fig 2), although the features uncovered in these latter evaluation trenches were examined subsequently in greater detail during the excavation of the three open-area trenches (Areas 1-3).

3.4.2 ***Metalled surface:*** the natural geology along the western side of Area 1 was sealed by a spread of water-worn cobbles (***131***), representing the remains of a metalled surface. The spread was aligned north/south, and was exposed for a distance of 10m, close to the western edge of the site. The surface measured 1m wide, although it continued beyond the excavated area, and was composed of angular, sub-angular and rounded stones of various sizes.

3.4.3 The composition and location of this surface suggested that it was an early metalled surface forming part of Chorlton Fold Lane. Although no finds were recovered directly from the possible road surface, a layer of charcoal-rich dark grey clay (***132***) was found overlying the cobbles, containing burnt material and occupation debris, which probably represented a buried soil. The occupation debris included fragments of pottery with a date range spanning the second half of the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, along with residual sherds of late medieval pottery. An AMS radiocarbon date of cal AD 1720-1820 (205 ± 35 BP; SUERC-24686) was also obtained from a charred

cereal grain recovered from this deposit (see *Section 3.8*).

3.4.4 ***Bonfire:*** a dump of stone and burnt bricks was exposed at the northern end of Area 1. This dump comprised a spread of burnt brick (***33***/***34***) and stones (***35*** and ***36***), together with a spread of burnt clay (***138***) that contained several sherds of eighteenth-century pottery. The rationale for the dump remains uncertain, although it may have represented the site of a bonfire.

3.4.5 ***Well:*** another Phase 2 feature identified in Area 1 was a linear cut (***31***), which was located immediately to the south of the dump of burnt material (***138***). This feature was aligned north/south, measured 1m long by 0.80m wide, was 0.22m deep, and had a flat base. It was filled with mixed yellow clay (***32***), containing several sherds of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century pottery. Although its function was not immediately clear, it appeared to be related to a well (***174***), which was located at its southern end (Fig 4). The well was semi-circular in shape, measuring 1.40m long by 1.30m wide. Although its complete depth was not established, its upper 1.2m contained sticky red-grey clay (***173***).

3.4.6 ***Pits and postholes:*** scattered across some of the excavated trenches were a series of pits and postholes, which appeared to attest to activity which pre-dated the establishment of the eighteenth-century farmstead.

3.4.7 Within Area 2, close to the southern margin of this trench, two rows of six pits (***151***, ***152***, ***153***, ***161***, ***162*** and ***212***) were identified, cutting into the bedrock (***196***). These were situated at intervals of no more than 1.6m apart, and may have represented the position of a fence line. The pits were either circular or sub-circular in shape, varying between 0.80m and 1m in diameter, and each had an average depth of no more than 0.25m. All of the pits were filled with loose yellow clay.

3.4.8 A row of five, closely spaced circular pits (***95***, ***96***, ***98***, ***100*** and ***150***) were discovered to the north, and these may have formed part of another fence line. These varied in size, with diameters ranging between 0.25m and 0.5m, with a maximum depth of 0.20m. A further group of three closely spaced pits (***125***, ***127*** and ***129***) was also identified to the west. Within this small group, each pit was sub-square in shape, with pits ***125*** and ***127*** measuring 1m square, and pit ***129*** measuring 0.8m square. All were less than 0.10m deep, and were cut into bedrock ***196***. The fills of each of these pits (***124***, ***126***, and ***128*** respectively) contained loose sandy clay, and one of the pits (***125***) contained fragments of slip-decorated pottery and vessel glass dating broadly to between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries. In addition, in the northern part of Area 2, an east/west-aligned row of three postholes (***141***), spaced 1m apart, was also located, with a fourth posthole to the south. These features were of similar size, 0.25-0.3m in diameter, and each had a maximum depth of 0.10m. The row was 4.5m in length, and probably represents the remains of another fence line.

3.4.9 In Area 3, two pits (***45*** and ***159***) were discovered (Plate 7), each containing pottery dating to between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries. Pit ***45*** was sub-rectangular in plan, measuring 2.8m long by 1.8m wide, and had been excavated into the bedrock (***200***). The pit was 0.98m deep and had been filled

with a 0.20m-0.30m-thick dump of degraded sandstone (***201***), spread across the base, which was probably laid to aid drainage within this feature. The stones were sealed by a spread of dense organic matter, some 0.15m thick, and comprising decayed tree roots. This layer was, in turn, sealed by a 0.5m-thick deposit of grey sticky clay (***46***), which contained numerous fragments of pottery, and lesser amounts of coal, clay tobacco pipe and fragments of leather shoes. The composition of the materials filling the pit suggested that it functioned as a rubbish pit, though it is possible that it was originally dug as means of extracting clay from this part of the site. The second pit (***159***) in Area 3 was located 2m south-east of pit ***45***, and was also cut into the bedrock (***200***). This pit was sub-circular in plan, and measured 1m by 0.65m. Excavation demonstrated that it extended to a depth of 0.2m, had a flat base, and was filled with mid-grey brown clay-silt (***160***), which contained sherds of Blackware-type pottery dating to the seventeenth or eighteenth century.

*Plate 7: View of pit **45** (foreground) following half-sectioning*

3.4.10 The remaining pits and postholes dating to Phase 2 were located within Trenches 2 and 8 (Fig 4), excavated as part of the archaeological evaluation. The features excavated in Trench 2 included an oval-shaped pit (***52/86***), which measured 1.8m long by at least 0.50m wide. This pit was 0.25m deep and contained mixed yellow and grey sticky sandy-clay (***53/85***), within which were fragments of pottery dating to no earlier than the late seventeenth century. A shallow feature (***16***), exposed at the western end of the trench, may also have been a pit, although equally it may have represented a tree throw, forming part of a relict field boundary. In addition, 13 postholes (***109***), with diameters ranging between 0.1m and 0.25m, were also identified within Trench 2, presumably representing the position of a fence line. Another posthole (***112***), located 0.60m south of the western end of this probable fence line, might also have formed the western side of another alignment of posts. Three of the fills (***175*** from posthole 11, and ***176*** from posthole 8/9, and ***205*** from posthole 13) produced pottery that dated broadly to the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries, suggesting that the features were perhaps in use for a considerable length of time. Within Trench 8, two postholes (***121*** and ***123***)

were discovered, cut into the natural geology, which were set 0.20m apart. Each posthole was sub-rectangular in shape, measuring 0.40m long by 0.30m wide, although their depths differed, at 0.10m and 0.19m. Both had steep sides with flat bases. They contained fills of mid-brown-grey silty-clay (***120*** and ***122***), with evidence for stone packing at the base of posthole ***121***. No datable artefacts were recovered from these features, but it is possible that these postholes, along with those in Trench 2, formed a fenced enclosure, or pen, which was perhaps used to contain livestock.

3.4.11 ***Building foundations:*** several structural features were exposed in Area 3, which appeared to indicate that a building, with an attached enclosure, had occupied this part of the site during Phase 2 (Plate 8). The remains associated with these potential structures included two dry-stone walls (***144*** and ***147***), and a small area of cobbles (***139***) that represented the remains of a yard.

Plate 8: The remains of the Phase 2 building, looking north

3.4.12 The construction of this putative building appeared to have been a fairly late development within Phase 2, as its remains were constructed over an earlier pit (***45***; *Section 3.3.9*), which had been backfilled prior to this construction. The components of the building comprised a length of dry-stone wall (***144***), aligned north/south, which probably formed the western, external, wall of the building (Plate 8). Wall ***144*** measured 0.7m wide, survived to two courses in height, and was constructed of roughly hewn rectangular stones, each measuring 0.3-0.5m long by 0.1-0.2m wide. The wall was contained within a linear construction cut (***145***), which also contained mixed sandy-clay and a loose stone packing. Within the interior of the building, the truncated remains of an internal dry-stone partition were also identified, which joined to the external wall. Few datable artefacts were, however, recovered from the construction cut or walling of this building. The life of the building appeared to have been comparatively short, though, as it seemed to have been demolished during the eighteenth century and its remains were used partially as the footings for a later brick-built outbuilding, dating to Phase 3.

3.4.13 A second, curving, dry-stone wall (***147***) was identified to the west, and probably formed part of a small attached enclosure. It survived to a height of two courses, comprising substantial rectangular stone blocks, up to 0.75m long in its lower course, with smaller stones, 0.30-0.40m in size, in its northern section. No clear construction cut for this wall was encountered, and it appeared to have built over the natural geology. A spread of cobbles (***139***) was also identified in the immediate vicinity of the structure. These covered an area of some 0.5 x 0.30m, and probably represented the remains of a yard contained within the enclosure.

3.4.14 ***Stone culvert:*** a stone-lined culvert (***179***) was exposed towards the western side of Trench 2. This feature was capped by three large sandstone slabs, which sealed a slate-bottomed drain. The base of the culvert was laid above sandy-clay (***177***), which contained several sherds of pottery dating to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, suggesting that this feature was constructed during Phase 2.

3.4.15 ***Field boundary:*** a field boundary (***117***), defined by a ditch, was identified in Trench 8. This was aligned north-west/south-east, was 1m wide and had a depth of 0.23m. The ditch contained a mid-brown-grey silty-sand (***116***), together with fragments of hand-made brick and iron slag, which might have been dumped during the eighteenth or nineteenth century.

3.4.16 ***Pit:*** the remains of a large circular pit (***47***), which measured at least 6m in diameter, was observed at the eastern end of the Trench 4 (Plate 9). At its base the pit contained a primary fill of grey silty-clay (***69***), containing large lumps of wood. This deposit was, in turn, overlain by thick layers of dark brown clay (***48***) and cinder waste (***70***), which were sealed by the vestiges of buried topsoil (***214***), measuring less than 0.2m thick.

*Plate 9: Circular pit **47**, looking east*

3.5 PHASE 3, MID-EIGHTEENTH TO NINETEENTH CENTURY

3.5.1 The Phase 3 remains principally comprised the Chorlton Fold farmstead, which was still extant prior to redevelopment and which also formed the subject of an archaeological building survey (OA North 2007a). Following demolition of these buildings, the evaluation and open-area trenches exposed a series of below-ground remains, which could also be assigned to Phase 3 (Fig 5). These remains were identified in all of the evaluation and open-area trenches.

3.5.2 ***The farmstead:*** the building survey concluded that the farmhouse was built during the eighteenth century. This building was expanded subsequently, when a further bay was added to the west elevation, followed by the addition of a rear wing during the late eighteenth, or early nineteenth, century (Plate 10). The barn to the north of the farmhouse and the more westerly of the outbuildings were also constructed during this original phase of construction.

Plate 10: The rear (south) elevation of the farmhouse, with the rear wing to the right

3.5.3 The building survey also confirmed that the second outbuilding had been constructed during the latter part of the nineteenth century, and that this additional outbuilding functioned as a milking parlour or dairy. Similarly, it was concluded that the Dutch barn dated to the latter part of the nineteenth century, and that it was probably intended purely for the storing of hay/livestock fodder.

3.5.4 ***Below-ground remains of the eighteenth-century farmhouse:*** below-ground remains forming part of the eighteenth-century farmhouse were uncovered in Trenches 3 and 5, and Area 2 (Fig 2). In Trench 3 and Area 2, these remains comprised a three-brick-thick wall (***67***), which survived for a length of 2m, representing part of the farmhouse's northern external wall. This wall was constructed of thin hand-made bricks, each measuring on average 0.23 x 0.11 x 0.09m, which were bonded with lime-based mortar. Further structural remains observed in Trench 3 and Area 2 included two degraded sections of

north/south-aligned walling (***63*** and ***64***), each protruding 0.50m from the southern edge of the trench. The bricks in the walls were hand-made, although most were broken, which suggested that the walls had been partially removed prior to the demolition of the main farmhouse. Within Trench 5, a section of brick walling was discovered, which formed part of the eastern external wall of the farmhouse. This wall measured 1.6m long by 0.30m wide, and comprised a three-brick-thick wall of hand-made brick, bonded loosely with lime-based mortar.

3.5.5 ***Below-ground remains of the eighteenth-century barn:*** some of the structural elements of an eighteenth-century barn, located to the north-west of the farmhouse, were uncovered in the evaluation and open-area trenches. In Area 1, these remains included an area of brick and stone walling (***207***), located in the southern part of the trench. This walling formed the external brick wall of the barn, close to its south-western corner. The footings of a stone wall (***219***) were also uncovered in this area, which defined the eastern wall of an interior room within the barn. No floors survived within this part of the barn, although the room was sub-divided with narrow partitions projecting from the western and northern walls, forming two rectangular chambers, each measuring 3.5 x 2.5m. This portion of the barn was accessed through two 1.5m-wide doorways positioned on the northern and southern walls. Few finds were recovered from within the rooms, although several fragments of pottery dating to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries were recovered from demolition deposits above the foundations.

3.5.6 Other elements of this barn were exposed in Trench 1, including eastern (***10***) and western (***7***) walls. Both of these walls measured *c* 0.45m wide, and both of the southern portions of these walls had been truncated. The surviving elements of the walls comprised thin hand-made bricks, each measuring 0.23 x 0.11 x 0.055m, bonded with yellow lime-based mortar. Located between these walls, within the interior of the barn, was an area of cobbles (***8***), which extended for a distance of at least 3.50m (Fig 5).

3.5.7 ***Pigsty:*** the below-ground remains of a pigsty (***15***) were identified abutting the eastern side of the eighteenth-century barn during the excavation of Trench 1. The position of this pigsty was first plotted on the 1894 Ordnance Survey map, which indicates that it dates to the latter part of the nineteenth century.

3.5.8 The southern (***11***) and eastern external (***12***) walls of this structure were uncovered, along with an internal partition, positioned centrally along the line of wall ***11***. These walls were all two bricks in thickness and were constructed from a mixture of hand-made and machine-pressed brick, surviving to a maximum height of two courses. Abutting the southern wall of the pigsty was a well-preserved area of cobbles (***13***), which was composed of medium- to large-sized rounded stones.

3.5.9 ***Below-ground remains of the eighteenth-century outbuilding:*** below-ground remains associated with the eighteenth-century outbuilding were uncovered in Trench 2. These comprised several sections of brick walling, which formed the south-eastern external wall (***193***), and also two walls (***191*** and ***192***) within its interior. The external wall of the outbuilding comprised hand-made bricks and

was two-bricks thick. Similarly, wall ***191*** was two-bricks thick, and was constructed of hand-made bricks, which were bonded with a lime-speckled, red sandy mortar. The other interior wall (***192***), aligned north-west/south-east, survived as a single foundation course and was exposed for a distance of 2m. It was 0.40m wide and comprised a row of nine stone blocks along its western side, with a single brick skin along the eastern elevation. The southern edge of the wall was bonded to the external wall of the outbuilding (***193***).

3.5.10 ***Below-ground remains of the nineteenth-century milking parlour/dairy:*** buried structural remains forming part of a nineteenth-century outbuilding were observed in Trenches 2 and 4, and also in Area 3. This building had been identified by the building survey as a milking parlour, or dairy. In Trench 2, two lengths of walling were uncovered which formed the eastern (***195***) and western (***194***) exterior walls of this building. Both walls were four-bricks thick and each was bonded with red lime-based mortar. The walls survived to a height of 0.17m, and had been laid directly above natural clay ***181*** and sand ***182***. In Trench 4 and Area 3, the eastern (***66***) and western (***68***) external walls of this outbuilding were also located, along with an internal partition (***197***). The western external wall (***68***) utilised the stone footings (***144***) of an earlier (Phase 2; *Section 3.3.12*) building, and was exposed to a depth of six courses. External wall ***66*** and internal wall ***197*** were exposed to the depth of two brick courses and were both two-bricks wide. These were also both constructed of bricks typically measuring 0.23 x 0.11 x 0.09m, which were bonded with grey ashy/sand mortar. Some of the brickwork along the southern elevation of wall ***197*** retained traces of lime washing, which had been applied to the interior of the outbuilding (OA North 2007a).

3.5.11 Within the interior of the building, traces of a floor (***198***) survived between the southern edge of wall ***197*** and east of wall ***68***. This floor was formed of sandstone flags, each measuring 0.40 x 0.30m, laid above a bedding layer of loose brown sandy soil. Another feature located within the interior of this outbuilding was a dilapidated brick fireplace (***202***), exposed in Area 3. This measured 1.2m long and comprised two columns, seven brick courses high (0.6m), protruding westwards for a distance of 0.25m, creating the northern and southern sides of the structure. Between these walls was a wall, five courses high, positioned 0.35m above the grate of the fireplace.

3.5.12 ***Below-ground remains of the nineteenth-century Dutch barn:*** buried remains forming part of the nineteenth-century Dutch barn were uncovered in Trench 7. There, a short section of a brick wall (***204***) was located, which probably formed part of the southern side of this structure. This wall was 1.5m long and survived as a single course, comprising a mixture of machine-pressed and hand-made bricks, bonded loosely with light grey mortar.

3.5.13 ***Boundary walls:*** during the course of the excavation, a dry-stone wall (***2/220***) was exposed within Areas 1 and 2. This structure formed the remains of a boundary wall surrounding Chorlton Fold, the position of which is plotted on nineteenth-century Ordnance Survey mapping.

3.5.14 In Area 1, a 4m length of this wall (***2***) was exposed (Plate 11). This was aligned north/south, and respected the course of Chorlton Fold Lane, being

constructed of water-worn sandstone blocks of various sizes. The blocks were not bonded, although several small cobbles were used as packing within a mixture of sand and loose soil (***4***). For part of its course, the wall was contained within a construction cut (***3***) excavated along the western side of the wall, which was also found to contain several sherds of pottery dating to the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries. In other areas, the wall overlaid a pale brown sand bedding layer.

*Plate 11: Boundary wall **2**, looking west*

3.5.15 Further sections of this wall were exposed in Trench 3 and Area 2. There, a curving section of wall (***220/103***) was discovered at the south-western corner of the farmstead, which also lay above the late medieval ditch (***25/58***; *Section 3.3.2*). The wall survived to a height of only one course (0.17m), had a width of 0.25m, and was contained within a cut filled with loose stone packing. The bottom course of masonry was raised 0.50m above the late medieval infilled ditch (***25/58***), levelled by a thick deposit of loose red clay (***188***), which also butted the southern side of the wall. The deposit also served as an interface between the modern brick boundary wall, and yielded numerous fragments of pottery dating to the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries.

3.5.16 ***Drains:*** the evaluation and open-area trenches revealed a fairly extensive system of drains, which served the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century farmstead. In Trench 1 and Area 1, parts of a north/south-aligned drain, along with a conjoined east/west-aligned branch, were uncovered, which probably served, or ran beneath, the eighteenth-century barn. In Trench 1, a horseshoe-shaped ceramic drain (***18***), aligned north/south and set within a linear cut, was discovered, which converged with a second east/west-aligned drain. Further portions of the north/south-aligned drain were located in Area 1, where a

culvert (***211***) survived for a distance of 1.8m along the upper edge of the backfilled late medieval ditch (***19***; *Section 3.2.3*). This culvert measured 0.42m wide and was constructed of brick walls, two courses high, above a slate base.

3.5.17 In Area 2 and Trench 3, several drains were identified across the eastern side of the trench, which probably served the farmhouse and outbuildings to the east. These included drain ***102***, which survived for a distance of 9m and was joined by drain ***92***. The fill (***91***) of this latter drain comprised firm red clay, which contained fragments of glazed earthenware pottery and slipwares dating to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Another two east/west-aligned drains (***164*** and ***166***) were located directly north of ***102***, and were exposed for a total length of 6m. In addition, a further north/south-aligned drain (***60***) was exposed in Area 2 for a distance of 3.5m, extending across the backfilled late medieval ditch (***25/58***). Its fill produced pottery dating to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The remaining drain in this part of the site was located in Trench 3. This comprised drain ***62***, in the western part of the trench, which was aligned north-west/south-east, and comprised a horseshoe-shaped pipe housed within a 0.20m-deep cut.

3.5.18 In Trench 7, two drains (***72*** and ***76***) were discovered, which originally extended beneath the nineteenth-century Dutch barn. These drains were aligned north/south and were set some 0.30m apart. They were contained within two separate cuts, which were in turn located within a larger linear feature. This larger feature measured 1m wide and had a U-shaped profile.

3.5.19 Drain ***119*** was also observed in Trench 8. This was aligned north-west/south-east across the central part of the trench for a distance of 6.2m. It measured 0.40m wide and was 0.22m deep. Part of this drain had been lined with bricks, which were presumably installed to prevent pooling or erosion. Its fill (***118***) comprised dark grey sandy-silt, which contained few inclusions, other than occasional brick fragments.

3.5.20 A further drain (***157***) was identified in Area 3, beneath the nineteenth-century milk parlour/dairy. This was 0.60m wide, had a depth of 0.43m and was filled with mid-grey-brown silty-clay (***158***). Artefacts recovered from it included eighteenth- and nineteenth-century pottery, glass, clay tobacco pipe, and ceramic building material.

3.5.21 ***Pits and postholes:*** several pits or postholes were discovered, which appeared to date to Phase 3. In Trench 2, a single pit (***107***) was found. This was sub-circular in shape, and was aligned east/west close to the northern trench edge. It was 0.90m long, by at least 0.50m wide, had a depth of 0.27m and was filled with sandy-clay (***108***) and large amounts of iron objects and pottery.

3.5.22 In Trench 7, an arrangement of three small postholes (***80***, ***82*** and ***84***) was exposed in the eastern part of the trench. One of these (***80***) was sub-circular in shape, whilst the other two (***82*** and ***84***) were rectangular. The postholes were regularly spaced at 0.35m intervals, forming a triangle, which possibly represented the corner of a fence.

3.5.23 In Area 3, a rubbish pit (***142***) was found sealed beneath a 1m-thick deposit of mixed rubble (***148***). This pit was also found partially to truncate the southern side of pit ***45*** (Phase 2; *Section 3.3.9*). It was roughly oval in shape, measured 2.1m long by 1.5m wide, and was 0.5m deep, being filled with a mixed deposit of mid-grey clay and weathered bedrock (***143***), which contained fragments of pottery dating to the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries. However, the earlier pottery was probably residual, disturbed from the fill of pit ***45***. The relatively shallow nature of the feature suggests that the pit was possibly only used for rubbish disposal over a short period of time.

3.5.24 ***Farmyard:*** during the excavation of Trench 2, a layer of water-worn cobbles (***184***) of various sizes was exposed in the central part of the trench. The eastern part of the cobbles was bordered by a 1m-wide band of grey clay (***180***) and the lower part of the cobbles was compacted within a similar deposit of clay (***55***). These cobbles appeared to form a deliberately laid metalled surface. A degraded area of cobbles, comprising reddish-orange shattered stones, was also observed along the southern part of the deposit. Material deriving from pit ***52/86*** (*Section 3.3.10*), found beneath the cobbles, suggested that the surface was probably laid no earlier than the late eighteenth century. The entire surface was overlaid with a 0.35m-thick deposit of brown clay-silt (***51***), and a 0.5m-thick dump of cinder waste (***50***). The cinder waste was probably used as levelling material for a later cobbled yard (***190***).

3.5.25 ***Brick foundation:*** within Area 2 and Trench 5, a 0.5-wide brick foundation (***104***) was found, which had been placed across the backfilled late medieval ditch (***25/58***; *Section 3.3.2*). The foundation was constructed of hand-made bricks, measuring 0.20 x 0.06 x 0.1m, which appeared to have been stacked rather than securely bonded. The foundation survived for a total length of 1m, though similar bricks were observed in close proximity, suggesting a foundation running beneath the present boundary.

3.5.26 ***Bonfire:*** in Trench 7, a rectangular-shaped feature (***78***), aligned east/west, was discovered, which measured 0.64m long by 0.35m wide, and 0.30m deep. It was filled with mid-brown silty-sand (***73***), containing frequent lumps of charcoal and broken lumps of sandstone. The presence of the charcoal suggests the feature probably contained a small bonfire.

3.6 PHASE 4, TWENTIETH CENTURY

3.6.1 Several minor additions and alterations were made to the Phase 3 farmstead during the twentieth century (Fig 6). During the course of the building survey some of these alterations were observed within the upstanding fabric of the farm buildings, such as the raising of the east door of the eighteenth-century barn (OA North 2007a). However, the majority of twentieth-century activity was evident as below-ground features and structures uncovered by the evaluation and open-area trenches. These features included a boundary wall; a pit; a cobbled surface; drainage features; and brick partition walling added to the interior of the eighteenth-century farmhouse.

3.6.2 ***Boundary wall:*** the remains of a brick-built boundary wall (***178/163***) were observed in Trench 2 and Area 2. In Trench 2, the boundary wall (***178***) was exposed to a depth of 11 courses and was constructed of machine-pressed bricks laid in an English Garden Wall bond. Similarly, the boundary wall exposed in Area 2 (***163***) also survived to a height of 11 courses (1.1m) and was laid in an English Garden Wall bond. However, in this area, the wall's northern elevation was supported by two buttresses, comprising 1.1m-high brick piers, placed 2m apart, which were capped with dressed masonry. The wall was also constructed of a mixture of thin hand-made and machine-pressed bricks.

3.6.3 ***Pit:*** a sub-circular pit (***23***) was identified in Area 1. This had a diameter of 0.38m and a depth of 0.28m, and contained fragments of ceramic tile and pottery dating to the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The pit was located to the west of ditch ***19*** (*Section 3.3.4*), and was seemingly associated with the construction of the barn in the north-western part of the farm complex.

3.6.4 ***Farmyard:*** the remains of a twentieth-century farmyard were exposed within Trench 2. This yard surface was composed of granite cobbles (***190***) laid on clay (***49***) and cinder (***50***) bedding layers which, in turn, sealed the earlier yard (***184***; *Section 3.4.24*).

3.6.5 ***Drains:*** four twentieth-century drains were identified within the evaluation and open-area trenches. In Trench 2, these included a ceramic land drain (***88***) and a drainpipe (***213***), bordering the western side of former fence line ***109*** (*Section 3.3.10*), whilst in Area 1, two land drains (***133*** and ***134***) were discovered. Contained within these drains were large amounts of pottery dating to the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries.

3.6.6 ***Internal additions to the eighteenth-century farmhouse:*** two twentieth-century partitions (***65***) were identified within the interior of the farmhouse, which appeared to represent the corner of a small room (***154***) that had been inserted into the eighteenth-century farmhouse. Although no flooring survived within this room, broken fragments of stone floor tile were observed amongst the demolition rubble (***155***) in this part of the site.

3.7 MATERIAL CULTURE

3.7.1 Over the course of the fieldwork, a collection of artefacts was recovered from the excavated features, structures and deposits (*Appendix 2*). These items principally comprised pottery dating from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries, although some earlier sherds were noted amongst the assemblage. The rest of the artefactual assemblage comprised lesser amounts of material associated with the fabric of the farmhouse, such as ceramic and stone building material, wood and roof slate. In addition, waste materials associated with industrial processes were also discovered, and these, in some cases, are likely to belong to the period prior to the construction of Chorlton Fold Farm. These residues include iron slag, coal, and charcoal. The remaining material was commensurate with domestic and agricultural activity associated with the

occupation of Chorlton Fold Farm, such as animal bone, clay tobacco pipe, iron objects, and vessel glass.

3.7.2 ***Late medieval pottery:*** in total, eight sherds of late medieval pottery were recovered from three contexts scattered across the site, including ditch fill ***26*** (Phase 1, Area 2), the fill of a tree bole (***89***) in Trench 5, and layer ***132*** (Phase 2, Area 1). In general terms, the pottery was in a good condition, with most of the sherds measuring over 50mm in size. The sherds were all of a hard-fired, red, gritty fabric, and may have derived from a single vessel. None were glazed, although several had a thumbed decoration under the rim (Plate 12). The precise form of the vessel could not be established from the surviving fragments, although it is likely to have been a jar of rounded proportions, with an everted rim. The source of the pottery is unknown, although it is likely to have been produced locally. Its style and appearance is consistent with a broad fourteenth- or fifteenth-century date, and is reminiscent of early Midlands Purple-type wares.

*Plate 12: Late-medieval pottery recovered from ditch fill **26** (**26**/1023)*

3.7.3 The dearth of medieval pottery from archaeological excavations in the North West has been highlighted in a review of medieval ceramic studies by English Heritage (Mellor 1994). Moreover, where significant groups of pottery have been discovered in the region, such as in Wigan (OA North 2011), research into its supply is severely restricted by a lack of knowledge of production sites. However, recent excavations in Wigan contained similar hard-fired pottery to the Chorlton Fold examples, which were recovered from late medieval contexts. These comprised Midlands Purple-type ware with applied thumb strip decoration. Other examples of later Midlands Purple-type wares were present in a pinkish-orange to orange fabric with a purplish glaze or slip.

3.7.4 ***Post-medieval pottery****:* in total, 414 fragments of pottery dating to between the sixteenth and twentieth centuries were recovered from the site. These came from a variety of features, with good groups of sixteenth-/seventeenth- and eighteenth-century material being recovered from the sealed fills of pits (***46*** and ***53***; Phase 2, Area 3), ditches (***21***, ***22*** and ***26***; Phase 1, Area 2), and a linear feature (***32***; Phase 2, Area 1).

3.7.5 *Sixteenth-seventeenth-century pottery:* the earliest material within the assemblage includes several fragments of Cistercian-type ware. A later Cistercian/early developed Blackware cup of globular style, of sixteenth- or perhaps very early seventeenth-century date, recovered from ditch fill ***26***, is of note (Plate 13). Interestingly, the form type is not usually found in either the Cistercian or Blackware series (Ford 1995). Instead, it reflects influence, perhaps, from both Raeren stoneware-type vessels (Gaimster 1997), which follow a similar form (apart from a thumbed base), and some Tudor Green-ware vessels of similar date and style. The origins of this cup are uncertain, but it may have been made locally.

*Plate 13: Developed Blackware cup recovered from ditch fill **26** (**26**/1023)*

3.7.6 Two further sherds of Cistercian-type ware from ditch fill ***22*** (Phase 1, Area 2), with a pink/buff fabric and slip-trailed decoration, may derive from Ticknall, Derbyshire (Barker and Halfpenny 1990). These sherds belong to the same vessel which probably dates to the sixteenth century (Plate 14). Another possible Cistercian/developed Blackware fragment was also noted in the same context, but, being a body sherd, it is difficult to date with precision. Two sherds of a Midlands Yellow-ware cup base were also retrieved from the excavation. Local post-medieval coarsewares in the North West have been

little studied (Newman and McNeil 2007, 128), although it is possible that these fragments may date from as early as the sixteenth century.

*Plate 14: Fragments of a Cistercian-ware vessel recovered from ditch fill **22** (**22**/1038)*

3.7.7 *Seventeenth/eighteenth-century pottery:* a significant amount of pottery appears to be slipware of the late seventeenth or eighteenth century, the majority probably deriving from Staffordshire. One particular pit deposit (***46***; Phase 2, Area 3) contained a few fine sherds, including a fragment of picture plate with a yellow glaze, which was press moulded, and decorated with black and brown slips. This resembles the work of Samuel Malkin (Coutts 2001). Several cup sherds were also discovered with applied 'dotted' slip, which are in the style of Cistercian-type ware found at Wrenthorpe (Moorhouse and Roberts 1992). Buff/white pottery was also found, which may be Staffordshire reverse slipware dating to the period *c* 1670-1770 (Barker 1999).

3.7.8 *Eighteenth/nineteenth-century pottery:* the majority of the eighteenth- to nineteenth-century pottery is Blackware, most probably produced within the surrounding area, although some Staffordshire/Wigan types were also noted. Several examples of later post-medieval tablewares are also present in the assemblage, including a large feathered and marbled slipware plate fragment from layer ***188*** (Phase 3, Area 2), and a similarly styled fine slipware cup fragment with a semi-vitreous fabric. Both probably derive from Staffordshire. Other finewares include several fragments of engine-turned mocha- and dipped-ware types. Rubble ***148*** (Phase 3, Area 3) and ditch fill ***135*** (Phase 1, Area 2) both contained fragments of Pearlware, dating to *c* 1780-90, with a 'speckled' slip and inlaid with checkered rouletting (Rickard 2006). A 'cauliflower ware'-type teapot sherd, with green colour glazes, from deposit ***135***, is probably a Thomas Whieldon example, dating to the period *c* 1750-60 (Coutts 2001).

3.7.9 It is of note that the assemblage did not contain any fragments of tin-glazed earthenwares, which are often recovered from eighteenth-century occupation sites. The largest supply of tin-glazed earthenware in the North West was the delftware industry in Liverpool, which was established during the early eighteenth century (Archer 1997). Delftware was never cheap, reflecting the laborious process of decoration involved in its manufacture, although it attracted a broad clientele; a piece of delftware in a humbler home was often a treasured possession, handed down through generations as an heirloom. However, delftware reached the height of its popularity in the decades 1720-40, and demand declined rapidly thereafter (Ray 2000, 5).

3.7.10 *Discussion:* most of the material falls within well-known fabric groups, and can be dated by comparison to the large corpus of data available for the Midlands and Staffordshire potters (Barker and Halfpenny 1990). Similarly, Yorkshire-made Cistercian wares are relatively well-known, although similar wares, including early Blackwares, were apparently being produced at considerably less well-known sites in Lancashire (McNeil 1989; Davey 1991). To date, there are few relevant North Western sites published, although pottery from Old Abbey Farm, Risley (Howard-Davis 2004), and Bewsey Old Hall (Lewis *et al* 2011), both in Cheshire, provide good comparators in terms of time and context, and recently excavated groups from Wigan (OA North 2006; OA North 2011) and Salford (OA North 2007b) also represent pottery assemblages which are largely comparable with the Chorlton Fold assemblage.

3.7.11 Although the assemblage from Chorlton Fold is relatively small, significantly it does provide a clear date range for activity at this site. For instance, the domestic nature of the pottery suggests that the site was perhaps occupied in the fifteenth or sixteenth century, although the pottery for the most part suggests an occupation date closer to the seventeenth century. The assemblage also suggests activity at the site during the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. When combined with the structural remains uncovered during the excavation, this material strongly suggests that the eighteenth-century buildings that occupied the site until recently had replaced an earlier post-medieval farmstead.

3.7.12 ***Clay tobacco pipe****:* in total, 33 fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from the investigation, of which only one complete and three fragmentary bowls are present. The bulk of the fragments were pipe stems, which are difficult to date with precision. The complete bowl from charcoal layer ***132*** (Phase 2, Area 1) was decorated with rouletting around the rim, and dates to the second half of the seventeenth century, although there is no maker's stamp.

3.7.13 ***Ceramic building material****:* in total, 37 fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from the excavation. A large proportion of the assemblage comprised broken bricks, with lesser amounts of roof and glazed floor tile. The bricks largely comprised thin eighteenth-century hand-made varieties in a dense orange fabric, with several over-fired fragments. Similar over-fired bricks were identified amongst the demolition material from the eighteenth-century buildings within Orchard Mount (OA North 2007c), on the western side of Chorlton Fold, less than 10m from the excavated site. This suggests that the bricks may have been made on, or close to, both sites. Large pieces of

pantile dating to the eighteenth or nineteenth century were recovered from land drain deposit ***71*** and pit fill ***73*** (Phase 3, Trench 7). Other tile fragments from these deposits were fragmentary, and thus unidentifiable or not closely datable. Two pieces of decorative tile were recovered from pipe trench deposit ***59*** (Phase 3, Area 3). The tile is very fine, brown glazed, with slip inlaid with a lion and stars; it probably dates to the nineteenth century. Given the reasonably fine quality of the tile, it probably came from a fairly comfortable home, but it is difficult to determine the origins of the tile as regards its place of manufacture, although the Minton factory is a possibility (Pearson 2000).

3.7.14 ***Iron****:* in total, 25 fragments of iron were recovered from the evaluation and excavation. Although the objects were obscured by heavy corrosion, it was possible to identify masonry nails, spikes and farm implements, including a ploughshare, and a possible horse bit. Other metal objects, such as those made of copper alloy and lead, were, perhaps surprisingly, absent from the assemblage.

3.7.15 ***Metallurgical residues****:* this small (1.89kg) assemblage includes two pieces of slag from probable late medieval contexts. This slag is slightly problematic (being incomplete and very worn), but they are probably fragments from smithing hearth cakes. Post-medieval contexts yielded several fragments of clinkery slag, indicating that some coal-fuelled metallurgical activity was being undertaken nearby. A single large block of tapped slag, which solidified immediately below the tapping opening, is of uncertain origin. Although similar superficially to a bloomery tap slag, the density of the slag (reflecting a very low vesicularity), the presence of apparent small slag splashes, and the steep angle of accumulation of the proximal flows all hint that this may be an iron-refining slag, from a finery or later technology such as a puddling furnace. A nineteenth-century pit yielded a single piece of clinker. This is a low-density residue and is not necessarily of metallurgical origin. All materials were examined visually, using a low-powered binocular microscope where necessary. All significant materials were weighed, and recorded in a database (*Appendix 3*).

3.7.16 The residues comprise true slags (from Phase 1 ditch fills ***21***, ***26*** and buried topsoil ***186***), as well as dense clinkers (Phase 3 layer ***06*** and drain fill ***71***), low-density clinker (Phase 4 pit fill ***24***) and coked coal (Phase 3 drain fill ***71***). In addition, the fill (***21***) of Phase 1 ditch ***19*** yielded several pieces of iron-rich concretion of uncertain origin. Most of the dense slags are not easily attributable to process, although the rounded base and tubular vesicles of one example from ditch fill ***21*** and the rounded form of another example, with its upper surface rich in partially melted sandstone and ceramic, point towards these examples being smithing hearth cakes. The size of the materials would be entirely compatible with an origin in blacksmithing, rather than in bloom refining.

3.7.17 One large block of slag from buried topsoil ***186*** was produced through the solidification of slag immediately below the point that liquid slag was tapped from a furnace or hearth. Although some of the lower flow lobes are fairly small, the uppermost ones are very large, up to 50mm wide and 35mm deep, with a large central cavity up to 20mm wide and 10mm deep. The lower lobes

appear to be smooth-surfaced, but the uppermost ones have transversely wrinkled surfaces. The lower flows appear to define a (horizontal?) 'puddle', into which the upper flows poured at about a 45^{o} angle. The upper flows suggest a point of origin for the liquid slag at least 80mm above the basal 'puddle'.

3.7.18 Another curious feature of this slag is the occurrence of superficial blebs of slag, which appear to be splashes of fluid slag. This is not a feature normally seen in bloomery slags, but suggests a process in which fluid slags were encouraged to leave the furnace/hearth by raking or rodding. Although this piece resembles bloomery tap slag, there are other possible interpretations. The piece is extremely dense, mainly because the individual flows have an extremely low degree of vesicularity. The high density, coupled with the splashes and with the morphology of the flow, suggests that the origin may not have been a bloomery, in which the usually slightly vesicular slags pour out relatively quietly along a sub-horizontal tapping channel. Marked vertical drops are associated with the slags tapped from puddling furnaces and probably (although these are less well known) earlier finery hearths. Thus, an origin for the current piece in a post-medieval iron-refining process is quite possible.

3.7.19 The clinker-like materials include pieces which are simple clinker, the fused inorganic residue from the burning of impure coal (*eg* Phase 4 pit fill ***24***) which may not necessarily be of metallurgical origin, and pieces which are more dense (*eg* pieces from layer ***06*** and drain fill ***71***). These denser materials are more likely to be higher-temperature metallurgical residues, but the fragments are small and undiagnostic. The pieces could be from an industrial process, or represent residue from a small-scale coal-fuelled smithing hearth. Drain fill ***71*** also yielded a piece of coke. Such materials may be fragments of incidentally incompletely burned coal, rather than deliberately produced coke fuel. Unfortunately, these possibilities cannot be distinguished.

3.7.20 In conclusion, this is a very small sample on which to base any significant interpretation, but the most likely interpretation is that the stratified, probable medieval material is residue from blacksmithing. The material is not well preserved and not abundant, so may not have been preserved close to its source.

3.7.21 The material from the post-medieval contexts suggests the operation of coal-fuelled metallurgical operations nearby, but gives little clue to the actual nature of the process. A single block of 'tap slag' may also indicate a refining process taking place nearby. In the context of the post-medieval period, this is likely to mean a finery forge. There is, however, a small possibility that it is an unusual residual piece of early bloomery iron-smelting waste.

3.7.22 The single piece of clinker from a nineteenth-century deposit is not necessarily indicative of metallurgical activity, but may be from a boiler, perhaps in an agricultural machine (*eg* a steam traction engine), or just possibly from a domestic hearth. There is also a slight possibility that this derived from a coal-fuelled metallurgical process, but was just uninvolved with reaction with any metal.

3.7.23 ***Glass**:* in total, 31 fragments of vessel and bottle glass were recovered from 14 contexts across the site. The vessel glass comprises a homogeneous group of late eighteenth- and nineteenth-century table vessels, and small jars. Nothing pre-dates this period, although a few fragments are more recent. Many of the fragments are small, but there is little evidence of serious abrasion or other post-depositional damage, except that the presence of a single melted lump might suggest some contact with reasonably high temperatures, perhaps in domestic refuse. Many of the bottle fragments derive from embossed machine-blown mineral and beer bottles of the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries, although the fragments were too small to enable precise identification. They suggest a broad date range for most of the vessel glass from the site.

3.7.24 ***Slate**:* in total, fragments from two slate pencils were recovered from buried topsoil layer ***05*** in Trench 1.

3.7.25 ***Leather**:* in total, five pieces of leather were recovered from the excavation. Three pieces were recovered from pit deposit ***46*** (Phase 2), representing part of a seventeenth- or eighteenth-century shoe. Part of the shoe is puzzling, as the vamp/sole appears to be inside out, which may have been a mistake on the part of the maker. This may, in turn, suggest these were made at home rather than by a craftsman, or may otherwise have been an attempt at repair. The shoe appears to have been built on a 'straight last' style rather than measured to the individual foot, which suggests a reasonably early date. There are square hobnail holes on the base of the sole. Further strap and sole fragments were retrieved from ditch ***135*** (Phase 1), which are not closely datable, although other material deposited in the fill suggests a broad date range in the seventeenth to nineteenth century.

3.7.26 ***Wood**:* in total, two small pieces of unworked wood were retrieved from the fills (***175***, ***176***) of the row of 13 postholes (***109***; Phase 2) within Trench 2. On examination, the fragments appeared completely unworked, all surfaces eroded or naturally torn.

3.8 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

3.8.1 ***Animal bone**:* in total, 17 animal bone fragments were recovered from the archaeological investigation, weighing 0.978kg, mostly from stratified contexts, including pit fills (Phase 3, ***10,*** and Phase 4, ***24***) and ditch fills (Phase 1, ***21*** and ***135***) dated to the late medieval period to the nineteenth century. Several fragments were also recovered from topsoil (***05***) and rubble (***148***) deposits across the site. The material was identified using the reference collection held by the author. In the identification of species, reference was made to Halstead and Collins (1995), and all parts of the skeleton were identified where possible.

3.8.2 All of the material is post-medieval in date. In general, the animal bone is well preserved, being robust with little surface erosion. The apparently greater degree of fragmentation is frequently a result of butchery, often with the shaft of the bone sawn through. The fragments, comprising a pair of metacarpals, a

metatarsal and two phalanges that each derive from the same leg/foot of a cow, were recovered from pit fill ***108*** (Phase 3). The pit fill also yielded two phalanges and a metacarpal from another cow leg/foot. Further cow fragments were recovered from rubble layer ***148***, represented by a third molar. Pit fill ***24*** yielded a femur epiphysis that possibly derived from a sub-adult cow or red deer. The other identifiable fragment comprised a femur from a cat, recovered from the topsoil (***05***) in Trench 1.

3.8.3 ***Plant macrofossils****:* in total, 18 environmental bulk samples were taken from several different feature types: 11 samples came from ditches; one from a posthole; four from pits; one from a layer; and one from a cobble spread. The samples were 8-30 litres in volume. Ten litres of each or the entire sample (ten litres or less) was processed in order to identify charred and waterlogged plant remains (*Appendix 4*).

3.8.4 *Results:* three of the pit fills, dating to different periods of activity on the site, contained abundant waterlogged plant remains. There was no direct evidence that the plant remains were from crops, except that seeds from arable weeds such as stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) and knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*) were identified. The other seeds in these samples were from plants of grassland, ruderal communities, broad ecological groupings (*ie* plants that are found in several different habitat types), waste ground and wet places. Very few plant remains were recorded in the late medieval ditch fills and the other post-medieval features, although single charred cereal grains were recorded in the fill (***57***) of late medieval ditch ***58*** (evaluation Trench 3) and layer ***130*** (Area 1).

3.8.5 The three samples with a rich assemblage of waterlogged plant remains were recovered from Phase 2 pit fills, of which two (pits ***45*** and ***86***) have been dated to the seventeenth or eighteenth century, and the third (pit ***142***; Phase 3) to the nineteenth century. The assemblages suggest that plant material from several different habitat types was being thrown into the pits in the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. There is no direct evidence of cultivation in these samples, but indirect evidence comes from the seeds of arable weeds identified in them.

3.9 RADIOCARBON DATING

3.9.1 A charred cereal grain recovered from a Phase 2 buried soil (***132***) was submitted to the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC) for AMS radiocarbon dating (*Appendix 5*). When calibrated at the 95.4% probablity level, using the University of Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program (OxCal3), it produced a date of AD 1640-1960 (205 ± 35 BP; SUERC-24686), of which the most likely range (49.9%) was AD 1720-1820. This date appears, therefore, to confirm the suspected late seventeenth- to early eighteenth-century date of this deposit, which also contained fragments of pottery dating to a similar period.

4. DISCUSSION

4.1 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

4.1.1 The sequence of buried remains exposed and recorded at Chorlton Fold during the archaeological excavation, and also the structural elements of the farmhouse captured by the building survey, form a significant resource which can be used, in part, to establish the form and development of the historical landscape in this part of Greater Manchester. The results also inform some of the research objectives drawn from the initiatives for archaeological research defined for the post-medieval period as stated in the current *Archaeological Research Framework for North West England* (Brennand 2007). These included:

- *Initiative 5.35:* 'Identification of likely medieval industrial remains contextualised within estate-based surveys of both monastic and secular holdings' (Newman and Newman 2007, 112);
- *Initiative 6.1:* 'The available data set [for the post-medieval period] should be greatly enlarged. Stratified artefact sequences from both small towns and rural settlements need to be collected, in order to establish the character of ceramic use throughout the region and to create the basis for socio-economic interpretation' (Newman and McNeil 2007, 117);
- *Initiative 6.10:* 'Sample appropriate deposits for palaeo-environmental evidence wherever possible to gain information on the exploitation of plants and animals…' (*op cit*, 119);
- *Initiative 6.15:* 'Excavations of abandoned farms and cottages should be a high priority, especially where the ownership or tenancy is documented, in order to study the material culture of individual households' (*op cit*, 121);
- *Initiative 7.12:* 'Study the development of the agrarian landscape in those parts of the region that have previously attracted little attention' (*op cit*, 142);
- *Initiative 7.41:* 'The retention of later period artefacts and their routine analysis as part of all archaeological excavation projects' (*op cit*, 156).

4.2 ROMAN PERIOD

4.2.1 Although one of the objectives of the fieldwork was to determine the presence of the Manchester to Wigan Roman road, which the eighteenth-century antiquarian John Whitaker (1771, 109) suggested might run through Chorlton Fold, no evidence for this important Roman routeway was discovered. Given the known line of the road, which can be established by reference to both early Ordnance Survey mapping and recent archaeological fieldwork (Miller and Aldridge 2011), it now seems likely that its course lies immediately to the south of Chorlton Fold Farm. Apart from the absence of evidence for this

principal Roman route, there was also an absence for the remains of a minor Roman road, which was postulated by the nineteenth-century antiquarian, William Watkin (1883, 49), to run in a north/south direction somewhere in the vicinity of the farmstead. Furthermore, the presence of this latter postulated route was also absent within those areas found immediately to the north of Chorlton Fold, which were excavated in 1992, and more recently in 2006 (GMAU 1992; Bell 2007). Taken together, this may imply that this road, if it did indeed ever exist, lay further to the north-west of the excavated areas, immediately to the north of Chorlton Fold.

4.3 LATE MEDIEVAL PERIOD

4.3.1 Several early remains were, however, uncovered during the excavation which, although not Roman in date, may contribute to an understanding of this area, and the wider landscape, in the late medieval period. These remains included a ditch, which skirts the boundary of the later farmstead, a second possible joining ditch, and a small linear trench of unknown function (Fig 3). The chronology of these features was established primarily from the datable ceramics recovered from the ditch, which skirts the boundary of the later farmstead. These suggested that this ditch, and presumably the other related features, had probably been established prior to, or during, the sixteenth century, and perhaps, on the basis of the sherds of late medieval pottery, prior to, or during, the fourteenth or fifteenth century. The date of this feature can be assessed further by affording consideration to the results of an archaeological excavation undertaken in 2006 immediately to the north of Chorlton Fold (Bell 2007). In this area, a small section of a comparable ditch was discovered, parallel to Chorlton Fold Lane, which would have formed a northerly continuation of the ditch exposed during the excavations at Chorlton Fold. Significantly, the lower fill of this ditch also contained several fragments of pottery to which a late medieval date may be ascribed. These included sherds from two separate Midlands Purple-type vessels, that were dated to the mid- to late fifteenth century, and which appear similar to those late medieval sherds recovered during the excavations at Chorlton Fold (*ibid*; *Appendix 2*). Apart from these fragments, a sherd from a late fourteenth-century storage jar or cooking pot, and a strap handle from a coarseware jug or jar, which was dated to the late thirteenth/early fourteenth century, was also recovered from the ditch (*ibid*). The presence of these sherds imply that there was some form of human activity occurring within the area of Chorlton Fold during the late thirteenth/fourteenth century, and it is possible that part of this activity included the cutting of the ditch.

4.3.2 At a very basic level it can, therefore, be assumed that this ditch was cut during the late medieval period in order to enclose a specific area of land. The known course of the ditch suggests that this enclosure extended around the south-western corner of the later farmstead at Chorlton Fold and continued northwards for some distance, perhaps towards the Folly Brook. Significantly, in these areas the course of the enclosure ditch respected the position of Chorlton Fold Lane, and it is possible that the route of this lane was in fact determined by the presence of the early enclosure. It has not, though, been possible to determine the course of the enclosure ditch eastwards, particularly

as, during its excavation in Area 2, its depth was found to reduce dramatically at its eastern end. This probably indicates that any remnants of this feature have largely disappeared to the east of the eighteenth-century farmhouse.

4.3.3 The function of this enclosure within the medieval landscape of Monton is also not entirely clear, although some tentative suggestions may be made. In the thirteenth century, it is known, for example, that this area formed part of the 'grange of Monton', which might also have encompassed the adjacent hamlet of Eccles (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 370 note 71; Arrowsmith *et al* 2007, 12). This suggests that Monton functioned as a Cistercian monastic grange, within which the land was probably worked initially by lay brothers supervised by a monastic official known as a *cellarer* (Platt 1969, 12), who, until the late thirteenth century, would have been based at Stanlaw Abbey. The available documentary sources further suggest that this grange functioned as such until the mid-fifteenth century, or the end of the fourteenth century, after which it was leased to tenants (Arrowsmith *et al* 2007, 12).

4.3.4 According to Platt (1969, 16), the basic structure of a thirteenth- and fourteenth-century monastic grange comprised 'a central dwelling for the deputies of the monastic house'. This central dwelling would have comprised a small hall and perhaps also outbuildings. In some cases, at a later date, a small chamber and a chapel may also have been added to the original buildings (*ibid*). Following the establishment of the central dwelling, it would then appear that, within the wider area of the grange, 'organisation of a labour force and the progressive rationalisation of lands might then have been expected to proceed' (*ibid*). Indeed, amongst the monastic communities present within Britain during the late medieval period, it was the Cistercians who were both to pioneer and most effectively implement this system of land management (Platt 1969, 12; Higham 2004, 212).

4.3.5 Within the grange of Monton, no firm structural or archaeological evidence exists for the site of the 'central dwelling', but it has been suggested, on the basis of two thirteenth-century charters, that this may have been situated to the south-east of Chorlton Fold at Monks Hall, in the adjacent hamlet of Eccles (Arrowsmith *et al* 2007, 10). These charters refer to the *domos monachorum*, 'the house of the monks', and *usque ad portan monachorum*, 'the gate of the monks', both found close to the boundary of Monton and Eccles which, it is argued, probably refer to a property at Monks Hall, occupied by the monks of Stanlaw Abbey (*op cit*, 10-11). It has been further suggested that the presence of this suspected site might also explain the discovery, in the mid-nineteenth century, of a large hoard of twelfth- and thirteenth-century silver coins, contained within an earthenware vessel (*ibid*). If this was the case, the putative late thirteenth - fifteenth-century enclosure at Chorlton Fold, situated at the northern boundary of Monton, might then have been associated with activity which was connected with the functioning of the grange. Within this context, it may, for example, have functioned as a stock enclosure, particularly as, at a number of other monastic granges, it was not unusual to find 'cattle lodges' (Platt 1969, 75 note 1). However, these lodges were normally confined to those more marginal granges located within upland environments, and at Chorlton Fold the presence of such a feature does not adequately explain the

presence of ceramics dating to the late thirteenth/early fourteenth century, and fourteenth/fifteenth centuries. For instance, the presence of these ceramics appears to imply that domestic, or at least semi-domestic, activity was occurring at this site. Another possible interpretation is that, within this domestic, or semi-domestic, context, the enclosure partly, or wholly, functioned as an area where small-scale industrial processes could be undertaken. Indeed, the integration of medieval industry into the grange economy may well be one feature of these settlements, and it was certainly a feature present at other monastic granges, such as Holway Grange, close to Bordesley Abbey, where evidence for metal-working was discovered (Astill 1994, 547-9), and North Grange, Yorkshire, within which tile production was undertaken (Platt 1969, 74).

4.3.6 The presence of medieval industry at the Chorlton Fold enclosure is confirmed, in some measure, by the archaeological excavation undertaken immediately to the north of Chorlton Fold Farm (Bell 2007). There, immediately to the east of the enclosure ditch, a surface was discovered, composed of sandstone fragments and a large concentration of industrial residues. Significantly, this surface appears to have formed when the enclosure ditch was open and thus the observed industrial residues may have been the product of contemporaneous industrial activity within the enclosure. Moreover, it was suggested by the excavators that these residues provide evidence for bloomery smelting activity within the confines of the enclosure (*op cit*, 13). Although no furnace associated with this suspected medieval smelting was located, further corroborative evidence for medieval metal-working might be provided by those industrial residues recovered from the enclosure ditch excavated at Chorlton Fold Farm. These were, perhaps, derived from smithing hearth cakes, suggesting that blacksmithing may also have been occurring within the interior of the enclosure. Taken together, the presence of these residues might therefore suggest that the enclosure contained the site of a furnace and smithy, which perhaps formed one important economic element of the late thirteenth- and fourteenth-century grange at Monton.

4.4 EARLY POST-MEDIEVAL PERIOD

4.4.1 The ceramic evidence from Chorlton Fold indicates that, by the late sixteenth or early seventeenth century, the east/west line of the enclosure ditch had been backfilled. Although sections of the north/south line of ditch may have remained open for a longer period of time, the backfilling of the east/west line appears to suggest that the enclosure, as originally conceived, and any associated activities occurring within its confines, had become defunct by this period.

4.4.2 Apart from the presence of early post-medieval ceramics, the next clearly identifiable phase of activity dates to the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries (Phase 2; Fig 4). Although the nature of the remains are fragmentary, they include a well, a fence line, a probable livestock enclosure, rubbish pits, a field boundary, a culvert, a marl pit and fragmentary lengths of stone walling. These were all located to the east of a metalled surface forming an early

section of Chorlton Fold Lane, and when taken together these appear to imply that a post-medieval farmstead was present at Chorlton Fold Farm. Moreover, this farmstead was, perhaps, based on the date range of the ceramic assemblage, established during the late sixteenth/early seventeenth century, and was modified continually and added to over the course of the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. If this was the case, many of the excavated pits and structural features probably relate, therefore, to later periods of activity at this early farmstead.

4.4.3 Although it is difficult from the excavated remains to discern the exact form of this suspected early farmstead, presumably, if it existed, it was similar to other early post-medieval farmsteads excavated and recorded within the wider area of Greater Manchester and Lancashire (*inter alia*: Pearson 1985, 6-15; GMAU 1994; Gregory 2006). If this was the case, it may have contained a timber-framed, or stone-built, linear farmhouse, and perhaps an outbuilding, particularly as there are no known examples of early post-medieval integrated farm buildings, such as the longhouse, recorded in Greater Manchester. Within the region, early post-medieval linear farmhouses, or yeoman's houses, of this type were usually a single room deep, one-storey high, and contained a linear arrangement of rooms. It was also normal for one of these rooms to be provisioned with a fireplace and chimney, perhaps of the ingle-nook variety (*cf* Mercer 1975, 23; Pearson 1985, 14, fig 2). Although the presence of this type of building was not firmly identified within the areas examined, one building which appears to pre-date the mid-eighteenth-century farmstead was located in the eastern part of the site. This building was defined by a fragmentary length of dry-stone walling, forming the external wall of a building, and an adjoining stretch of wall, representing the remains of an internal partition. However, it is clear that, although these remains pre-dated the establishment of the mid-eighteenth-century farmstead, they do not represent the footings of the suspected sixteenth- or seventeenth-century farmhouse, as they were found to seal a rubbish pit that contained seventeenth- and eighteenth-century artefacts. It is possible therefore that these remains were associated with an additional outbuilding, which was constructed in the early part of the eighteenth century.

4.5 EIGHTEENTH AND NINETEENTH CENTURIES

4.5.1 During the mid-eighteenth century it appears that the possible early eighteenth-century outbuilding, and perhaps also the suspected early post-medieval farmstead, was replaced by Chorlton Fold Farm, the principal buildings of which survived until relatively recently. This farm was constructed within an agricultural landscape, which contained a scattering of similar farmsteads, surrounding Eccles, the locations of which can be seen on Yates's 1786 map, and also on the first edition Ordnance Survey mapping of this area. It appears that initially this farmstead was engaged in pastoral farming and, indeed, the incorporation of the term 'fold' into its place-name probably relates to a foldyard at the farmstead, within which cattle were kept (*cf* Brunskill 1987, 104). Further details of this eighteenth-century farmstead can be gained through a consideration of its upstanding remains, along with those below-ground remains exposed during the excavations. These indicated

that this farmstead was built initially as a two-unit farmhouse, complemented with a threshing/hay barn and an additional outbuilding (OA North 2007a). Probably as a result of the successful management of the farm, the farmhouse was then expanded during the mid- to late eighteenth century.

4.5.2 The farmhouse was expanded further during the early nineteenth century, and it seems possible that additional workers were employed to improve the efficiency and output of the farm, with this extension reflecting additional accommodation. Moreover, the structural remains indicate that the output of the farmstead continued to increase, and by the late nineteenth century two further outbuildings had been added to the farmstead, which included a milking parlour/dairy and a Dutch barn, along with a pigsty attached to the earlier barn. This may imply that increased emphasis was placed on pastoral farming at Chorlton Fold during this period, with a concomitant decrease in the importance and significance of arable farming to the economy of the late nineteenth-century farmstead. Indeed, this was probably a reflexive, economic, response to the increasing demands for milk, and other dairy products, generated by both the expanding town of Eccles and, perhaps, also Manchester, which during this period drew its milk supply from an encircling agricultural hinterland, contained within a ten mile radius of its centre (Scola 1992, 74).

4.5.3 However, although Chorlton Fold Farm continued to function as a valuable agricultural node during the latter part of the nineteenth century, the surrounding agricultural landscape had been largely transformed and encroached upon by the forces of urbanisation and industrialisation. These resulted in the establishment of industrial sites and the construction of swathes of residential housing radiating out from Eccles, along with the dissection of the earlier landscape by new routes of communication, most notably the nineteenth-century railways. These processes were to continue unabated into the twentieth century, leading to the eventual demise of many of the farmsteads across the area, and leaving Chorlton Fold Farm an isolated relict of the post-medieval farming community, which once inhabited this part of Greater Manchester.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT LIST

Context	Trench/ Area (A)	Phase	Description
01	1	4	Topsoil
02	1/A1	3	Dry-stone boundary wall
03	1	3	Construction cut for wall ***02***
04	1	3	Fill of cut ***03***
05	1	3	Buried topsoil butting the eastern side of wall ***02***
06	1	3	Disturbed yellow-red clay
07	1	3	Brick wall within clay ***06***
08	1	3	Cobble surface within clay ***06***
09	1	-	Yellow natural clay beneath clay ***06***
10	1	3	North/south-aligned brick wall of building ***15***
11	1	3	East/west-aligned brick wall of building ***15***
12	1	3	North/south-aligned return of wall ***11***
13	1	3	Cobble surface butting the southern edge of wall ***11***
14	1	2	Row of stone blocks east of wall ***12***
15	1	3	Brick building group number
16	2	2	Pit/tree throw
17	2	2	Fill of pit ***16***
18	1	3	Horseshoe-shaped drain cutting clay ***06***
19	1	1	East/west-aligned ditch cutting sand ***20***
20	1	-	Red-brown natural sand beneath soil ***05***
21	1	2	Upper fill of ditch ***19*** (same as ***135***)
22	1	1	Lower fill of ditch ***19*** (same as ***172***)
23	1	4	Pit
24	1	4	Fill of ***23***
25	5	1	Ditch (same as ditch ***58*** in Trench 3)
26	5	1	Fill of ditch ***25***
27	6	3	Buried topsoil
28	6	2	Tree throw
29	6	2	Fill of ***28***
30	6	-	Yellow natural clay
31	6	2/3	North/south-aligned linear feature
32	6	2/3	Fill of ***31***
33	6	2/3	Burnt brick dump spread across the eastern side of feature ***31***
34	6	2	Burnt clay beneath ***33***
35	6	2	Stone dump at the eastern end of ***33***
36	6	2	Stone dump at the western end of ***33***
37	6	-	Clean yellow natural clay across the base of feature ***31***
38	6	3/4	Topsoil
39	2	4	Pipe trench
40	2	4	Fill of ***39***
41	2	2	Fill of ***42***
42	2	2	Pit
43	3	2	Linear feature at the south-west end of the trench
44	3	2	Fill of ***43***
45	4	2	Large pit at the western end of the trench
46	4	2	Fill of ***45***
47	4	2/3	Pond at the eastern end of the trench
48	4	2/3	Intermediary clay fill of ***47***
49	2	4	Grey-white clay beneath cobbles ***190***
50	2	4	Fuel waste deposit

Context	Trench/ Area (A)	Phase	Description
51	2	3	Brown clay silt deposit
52	2	2	Pit (same as ***86***)
53	2	2	Fill of pit ***52*** (same as ***85)***
54	2	3	Building group number
55	2	3	Grey-white clay lens beneath cobble spread ***184***
56	2	3	Group number of building
57	3	1	Fill of ditch ***58***
58	3	1	Ditch (same as ditch ***25*** in Trench 5)
59	3	3	Fill of pipe trench ***60***
60	3	3	Pipe trench
61	3	3	Fill of field drain ***62***
62	3	3	Field drain
63	3	3	Brick wall, degraded partition wall
64	3	3	Brick wall, degraded partition wall
65	3/A2	3	Corner return of two brick walls probably associated with a room (***154***) within the southern part of the farmhouse
66	4	3	Eastern external brick wall of outbuilding
67	3	3	Northern external brick wall of outbuilding
68	4	3	Western external brick wall of outbuilding
69	4	2	Primary silt-clay fill at the base of pond ***47***
70	4	3	Cinder/fuel waste dump above ***48***
71	7	3	Fill of land drain ***72***
72	7	3	Cut for land drain
73	7	3	Fill of pit ***74***
74	7	3	Pit
75	7	3	Fill of land drain ***76***
76	7	3	Cut for land drain
77	7	3	Fill of pit ***78***
78	7	3	Pit
79	7	3	Fill of posthole ***80***
80	7	3	Posthole
81	7	3	Fill of posthole ***82***
82	7	3	Posthole
83	7	3	Fill of posthole ***84*** (same as ***106***)
84	7	3	Posthole
85	2	2	Fill of pit ***86*** (same as ***53***)
86	2	2	Pit
87	2	4	Fill of pipe trench ***88***
88	2	4	Pipe trench
89	5	2	Upper fill of cut ***90*** within ditch ***24***
90	5	2	Cut for conifer tree within ditch ***24***
91	5	3	Fill of drain ***92***
92	5	3	Drain cutting ditch ***25/58***
93	5	3	Fill of depression ***94***
94	5	3	Cut of shallow feature/depression
95	5	3	Posthole
96	5	3	Cut for farm hedge line
97	5	3	Fill of posthole ***98***
98	5	3	Posthole
99	5	3	Fill of tree throw ***100***
100	5	3	Tree throw
101	5	3	Fill of cut ***102***
102	5	3	Cut for field drain
103	5	3	Wall representing the eastern side of the farmhouse

Context	Trench/ Area (A)	Phase	Description
104	5	3	Wall within cut ***24***
105	5	3	Fill of hedge line ***96***
106	7	3	Fill of posthole ***84*** (same as ***83)***
107	2	3	Pit containing iron debris at the eastern end of the trench
108	2	3	Fill of ***107***
109	2	2	Group number for a row of 13 postholes (Ph 1-13) representing a fence line at the eastern end of the trench
110	2	3/4	Stone dump at the eastern end of the trench
111	2	3/4	Fill of ***110***
112	2	2	Posthole
113	2	2	Fill of ***112***
114	3/A2	1?	Fill of ***115***
115	3/A2	1?	North-east/south-west-aligned linear feature
116	8	2/3	Fill of ***117***
117	8	2?	East/west-aligned linear feature
118	8	3	Fill of drain ***119***
119	8	3	Drain
120	8	2?	Fill of posthole ***121***
121	8	2?	Posthole
122	8	2?	Fill of posthole ***123***
123	8	2?	Posthole
124	A2	2/3	Fill of pit ***125***
125	A2	2/3	Pit
126	A2	2/3	Fill of pit ***127***
127	A2	2/3	Pit
128	A2	2/3	Fill of pit ***129***
129	A2	2/3	Pit
130	A1	3	Pale brown sand beneath ***02***
131	A1	1/2	Metalled cobble surface beneath ***132***
132	A1	2	Dark brown charcoal-rich layer beneath ***130***
133	A1	4	North-east/south-west-aligned drain cutting ***19***
134	A1	4	North-east/south-west-aligned drain cutting ***19***
135	A1	1	Upper fill of ***19*** (same as ***21***)
136	A1	-	Bedrock at the base of ditch ***19***
137	A1	1	Clay layer above ***136***
138	A1	2	Red clay beneath stone dump ***35***
139	A3	2	Cobble spread overlying sand ***146***
140	6	1	Steep-sided ditch along the eastern side of the trench
141	A2	2	Row of four postholes (Ph 1-4) at the eastern area of the trench
142	A3	3	Pit cutting the southern edge of pit ***45***
143	A3	3	Fill of pit ***142***
144	4/A3	2	Dry-stone wall overlying the western edge of pit ***45***
145	A3	2	Construction cut for wall ***144***
146	A3	-	Natural sand
147	A3	2	Dry-stone wall curving around the south-western side of pit ***45***
148	A3	3	Mixed clay rubble along the eastern side of wall ***144***
149	A3	2	Fill of construction cut ***145***
150	A2	2	Posthole
151	A2	2	Pit, part of a row of six garden features
152	A2	2	Pit, part of a row of six garden features
153	A2	2	Pit, part of a row of six garden features
154	A2	3	Room within the south-west corner of the farmhouse
155	A2	4	Rubble infill of room ***154***
156	A2	2	Fill of pit ***152***
157	A3	3	North-east/south-west-aligned drain
158	A3	3	Fill of feature ***157***

Context	Trench/ Area (A)	Phase	Description
159	A3	2	Small pit south of wall ***144***
160	A3	2	Fill of pit ***159***
161	A2	2	Pit, part of a row of six garden features
162	A2	2	Small pit/posthole, part of a row of six garden features
163	A2	3/4	Farm brick boundary wall
164	A2	3	Field drain
165	A2	3	Fill of ***164***
166	A2	3	Field drain
167	A2	3	Fill of ***166***
168	A2	3/4	Construction cut for wall ***163***
169	A2	3/4	Fill of ***168***
170	2	3	Short east/west-aligned brick wall
171	A2	4	Lead water pipe
172	A1	1	Lower fill of ditch ***19*** (same as ***22***)
173	A1	2?	Fill of possible well ***174***
174	A1	2?	Well
175	2	2/3	Fill of posthole ***04*** (part of row ***109***)
176	2	2/3	Fill of posthole ***8/9*** (part of row ***109***)
177	2	2	Sandy-clay beneath ***179***
178	2	3/4	Brick boundary wall along the western edge of the trench (probably the same as wall ***163*** in Area 2)
179	2	2	Stone culvert
180	2	-	Natural grey clay overlying sand ***182***
181	2	-	Natural yellow clay at the eastern end of the trench
182	2	-	Natural sand at the western end of the trench
183	8	-	Unstratified deposit
184	2	3	Cobble spread/soakaway? at the base of the trench
185	A1	4	Fill of confluence of drain cuts ***133*** and ***134***
186	A1	3/4	Buried topsoil
187	A2	3/4	Topsoil
188	A2	3	Soil between dry-stone boundary wall and boundary wall ***163***
189	2	2	Dark red sand butting the western side of culvert ***179***
190	2	4	Cobbled farmyard surface
191	2	3	North-east/south-west-aligned wall associated with building ***54***
192	2	3	North-west/south-east-aligned wall associated with building ***54***
193	2	3	North-east/south-west-aligned wall associated with building ***54***
194	2	3	North/south-aligned wall representing the western external wall of building ***56***
195	2	3	North/south-aligned wall; the eastern wall of building ***56***
196	A2	-	Natural bedrock
197	4/A3	3	Brick partition of outbuilding shown on 1894 OS map
198	4	3	Flagged floor within outbuilding shown on 1894 OS map
199	4	-	Natural sandy clay
200	4	-	Natural sandy bedrock
201	4	2	Stone dump at the base of pit ***45***
202	A3	3	Fireplace on the eastern side of Area 3
203	4	3/4	Buried topsoil
204	7	3	Southern external wall of Dutch Barn
205	2	3	Fill of posthole 13 (part of row ***109***)
206	8	3	Field drain
207	A1	3	Building in the southern part of Area 1
208	A1	-	Natural yellow clay beneath building ***207***
209	A1	1/2	East/west-aligned drainage ditch cutting clay ***208***
210	A2	-	Thin yellow clay representing natural geology
211	A1	3	Brick culvert inserted within the eastern side of ditch ***19***
212	A2	2/3	Posthole/pit cutting ***210***, part of a row of six garden features

Context	Trench/ Area (A)	Phase	Description
213	2	3	North/south-aligned ceramic drain on eastern side of building ***56***
214	4	3	Buried topsoil on the eastern side of Trench 4
215	5	-	Natural sandy bedrock
216	7	-	Natural sandy bedrock
217	5	4	Topsoil
218	8	-	Natural yellow clay
219	A1	2	Stone wall forming the eastern side of building ***207***, representing the remains of an earlier stone building
220	3	3	Dry-stone wall on the southern edge of ditch ***58***
221	5	3	Posthole within feature ***96***
222	A2	2	Fill of posthole ***141***

APPENDIX 2: FINDS CATALOGUE

OR No	Context	Trench	Material	Count	Description	Period
1000	***01***	1	Pottery	16	Dark glazed red earthenwares (fine and coarse), glazed white earthenware plates and bowls	Eighteenth-twentieth centuries
1001	***01***	1	Glass	4	Vessel	Nineteenth/ twentieth century
1002	***05***	1	Pottery	16	Dark brown-glazed buff ware	Eighteenth/ nineteenth century
1003	***05***	1	Ceramic Building Material	4	Roof tile fragments	Eighteenth/ nineteenth century?
1004	***05***	1	Glass	1	Bottle	Nineteenth century
1005	***05***	1	Slate	2	Pencil	Nineteenth century
1006	***05***	1	Clay Pipe	3	Stems	Eighteenth/ nineteenth century
1007	***04***	1	Clay Pipe	1	Stem	Eighteenth/ nineteenth century
1008	***04***	1	Pottery	17	Dark glazed red earthenwares (fine and coarse), glazed white earthenware plates and bowls	Eighteenth/ nineteenth century
1009	***06***	1	Pottery	27	Blackwares, dark glazed red earthenwares, glazed white earthenware plates	Seventeenth-nineteenth centuries
1010	***08***	1	Pottery	5	Blackware	Eighteenth/ nineteenth century
1011	***08***	1	Clay Pipe	4	Stems	Eighteenth/ nineteenth century
1012	***08***	1	Iron	1	Object	Eighteenth/ twentieth century
1013	***05***	1	Animal Bone	1	Cat femur	Not closely datable
1014	***02***	1	Pottery	6	Blackware, Creamware, transfer-printed wares	Eighteenth/ nineteenth century
1015	***21***	1	Pottery	52	Glazed white earthenware; plate	Late seventeenth-nineteenth centuries
1016	***21***	1	Coal	1	-	Not closely datable
1017	***21***	1	Ceramic Building Material	1	Tile	Eighteenth century
1018	***21***	1	Industrial Residue	5	Iron slag	Not closely datable

OR No	Context	Trench	Material	Count	Description	Period
1019	***21***	1	Glass	1	Bottle	Nineteenth century
1020	***21***	1	Clay Pipe	4	Three stems, one bowl	Seventeenth-nineteenth centuries
1021	***21***	1	Animal Bone	1	Cow tooth	Not closely datable
1022	***26***	5	Industrial Residue	3	Slag	Not closely datable
1023	***26***	5	Pottery	17	Midland Purple-ware jar, Cistercian-type beaker, Blackware	Fifteenth-seventeenth centuries
1024	***24***	1	Industrial Residue	1	Slag (ferrous)	Not closely datable
1025	***27***	6	Pottery	16	Blackware bowl, trail slipware plate, Mottled ware, transfer-printed ware	Sixteenth-nineteenth centuries
1026	***27***	6	Clay Pipe	2	Stems	Eighteenth century
1027	***32***	6	Pottery	6	Midlands Purple Ware, Mottled Ware	Sixteenth-eighteenth centuries
1028	***32***	6	Animal Bone	4	Unidentified mammal	Not closely datable
1029	***32***	6	Coal	1	-	Not closely datable
1030	***40***	2	Pottery	21	Mottled ware, dark glazed red earthenwares, glazed white earthenwares	Sixteenth-nineteenth centuries
1031	***24***	1	Animal Bone	1	Cattle/red deer (sub-adult)	Not closely datable
1032	***32***	6	Pottery	6	Blackware, trailed slipware bowl	Seventeenth-nineteenth centuries
1033	***24***	1	Clay Pipe	1	Stems	Eighteenth/ nineteenth century
1034	***46***	4/A3	Pottery	37	Cistercian-type Blackware	Seventeenth-nineteenth centuries
1036	***46***	4/A3	Coal	-	-	Not closely datable
1037	***46***	4/A3	Clay Pipe	1	Five stems, two bowls	Seventeenth-nineteenth centuries
1038	***22***	1	Pottery	10	Cistercian-type ware cup, Blackwares, Mottled ware	Fifteenth-eighteenth centuries
1039	***46***	4/A3	Leather	1	Shoe	Seventeenth/ eighteenth century
1040	***46***	4/A3	Leather	2	Shoe sole/strap	Seventeenth-eighteenth century
1041	***24***	1	Pottery	2	Blackwares	Eighteenth/ nineteenth century

OR No	Context	Trench	Material	Count	Description	Period
1042	***06***	1	Glass	1	Bottle	Eighteenth century
1043	***06***	1	Iron	1	Object	Eighteenth/ nineteenth century?
1044	***06***	1	Clay Pipe	1	Undecorated bowl	Eighteenth century
1045	***48***	4	Pottery	18	Trailed slipware, dark-glazed red earthenware	Sixteenth-nineteenth centuries
1046	***53/85***	2	Pottery	4	Dark glazed red earthenware	Sixteenth-eighteenth centuries
1047	***56***	2	Pottery	11	Nottingham-type stoneware	Nineteenth century
1048	***56***	2	Iron	1	Nail	Eighteenth/ nineteenth century
1049	***59***	3	Ceramic Building Material	2	Decorated floor tile with inlaid slip	Nineteenth century
1050	***44***	3	Pottery	2	Applied decorated orange earthenware	Eighteenth century
1051	***50***	2	Pottery	1	Nottingham-type stoneware	Nineteenth century
1052	***53/85***	2	Glass	1	Bottle	Eighteenth century
1053	***71***	7	Pottery	3	Pearlware, Creamware	Eighteenth/ nineteenth century
1054	***71***	7	Ceramic Building Material	16	Pantile, various small tile fragments	Eighteenth/ nineteenth century
1055	***71***	7	Industrial Residue	3	Slag	Not closely datable
1056	***73***	7	Ceramic Building Material	8	Complete pantile and fragmentary roof tiles	Nineteenth century
1057	***73***	7	Pottery	3	Reverse Cistercian-type slipware	Eighteenth century
1058	***06***	1	Industrial Residue	1	Slag	Not closely datable
1059	***06***	1	Glass	1	Waste	Not closely datable
1060	***85/53***	2	Pottery	1	Yellow Ware	Seventeenth century
1061	***87***	2	Glass	3	Bottle	Nineteenth century
1062	***89***	5	Pottery	2	Midland Purple and Blackware	Fifteenth-eighteenth centuries
1064	***108***	2	Iron	19	Miscellaneous objects; nails, spike, loops, strip	Nineteenth century?
1065	***108***	2	Animal Bone	8	Cow	Not closely datable
1066	***108***	2	Pottery	1	Brown-glazed red earthenware	Nineteenth century

OR No	Context	Trench	Material	Count	Description	Period
1067	***111***	2	Pottery	1	Metropolitan-type slipware	Seventeenth/ eighteenth century
1068	***113***	2	Pottery	1	Slip-coated ware	Eighteenth century
1069	***113***	2	Iron	1	Horse bit	Nineteenth century?
1070	***87***	2	Pottery	2	Mottled Ware, Blackware	Eighteenth century
1071	***89***	5	Ceramic Building Material	2	Tile	Nineteenth century?
1072	***124***	A2	Pottery	2	Metropolitan-type slipware, unglazed red earthenware	Seventeenth/ eighteenth century
1073	***126***	A2	Pottery	1	Blackware	Eighteenth century
1074	***130***	A1	Pottery	2	Staffordshire Slipware, Blackware	Eighteenth/ nineteenth century
1075	***132***	A1	Pottery	36	Mottled ware, Blackware, unglazed coarse red earthenware	Sixteenth-nineteenth centuries
1076	***132***	A1	Industrial Residue	1	Charcoal	Not closely datable
1077	***132***	A1	Clay Pipe	1	Bowl	Seventeenth century
1078	***135***	A1	Pottery	52	Mixed utilitarian and domestic wares	Seventeenth-nineteenth centuries
1079	***135***	A1	Clay Pipe	4	Undecorated bowls and stems	Eighteenth/ nineteenth century
1080	***124***	A2	Glass	1	Vessel	Nineteenth century
1081	***108***	2	Glass	1	Waste	Not closely datable
1082	***85/53***	2	Glass	1	Vessel	Eighteenth century
1083	***130***	A1	Glass	2	Vessel	Nineteenth century
1084	***135***	A1	Glass	2	Vessel	Nineteenth century
1085	***135***	A1	Leather	2	Shoe	Seventeenth/ eighteenth century
1086	***135***	A1	Iron	1	Agricultural tool	Eighteenth/ nineteenth century
1087	***135***	A1	Animal Bone	1	Cow	Not closely datable
1088	***143***	A3	Pottery	9	Mottled ware, Blackware, glazed coarse red earthenware	Seventeenth-nineteenth centuries
1089	***146***	A3	Pottery	1	Slip-trailed Blackware	Eighteenth century

OR No	Context	Trench	Material	Count	Description	Period
1090	***148***	A3	Pottery	48	Blackware, glazed coarse and fine red earthenwares	Eighteenth-early nineteenth centuries
1091	***148***	A3	Glass	4	Vessel	Eighteenth/ nineteenth century
1092	***148***	A3	Animal Bone	1	Cow	Not closely datable
1093	***148***	A3	Clay Pipe	1	Stem	Eighteenth/ nineteenth century
1094	***135***	A1	Ceramic Building Material	1	Tile fragment	Eighteenth/ nineteenth century
1095	***149***	A3	Pottery	19	Blackware, Yellow Ware, miscellaneous annular wares	Seventeenth-nineteenth centuries
1096	***135***	A1	Ceramic Building Material	1	Brick	Eighteenth/ nineteenth century
1097	***148***	A3	Kaolin	1	Clay pipe waste?	Seventeenth-nineteenth century
1098	***149***	A3	Iron	1	Unidentifiable object	Not closely datable
1099	***158***	A3	Pottery	45	Blackware	Eighteenth/ nineteenth century
1100	***158***	A3	Glass	4	Hand-made vessel	Early eighteenth/ nineteenth century
1101	***158***	A3	Clay Pipe	1	Stem	Eighteenth/ nineteenth century
1102	***158***	A3	Ceramic Building Material	2	Brick	Eighteenth/ nineteenth century
1103	***172***	A1	Pottery	1	Stoneware bottle	Eighteenth/ nineteenth century
1104	***175***	2	Pottery	4	Blackware	Seventeenth-nineteenth centuries
1105	***175***	2	Wood	1	Unworked fragment used as a stake	Not closely datable
1106	***175***	2	Pottery	1	Blackware	Eighteenth/ nineteenth century
1107	***176***	2	Pottery	3	Transfer-printed ware, Pearlware	Eighteenth/ nineteenth century
1108	***205***	2	Pottery	3	Transfer-printed ware Pearlware	Nineteenth century
1109	***176***	2	Wood	1	Unworked fragment used as a stake	Not closely datable

OR No	Context	Trench	Material	Count	Description	Period
1110	***177***	2	Pottery	6	Mottled Ware, Blackware	Eighteenth century
1111	***182***	2	Pottery	1	Blackware	Eighteenth century
1112	***176***	2	Clay Pipe	1	Stem	Eighteenth/ nineteenth century
1113	***183***	8	Pottery	3	Blackware	Eighteenth century
1114	***183***	8	Clay Pipe	1	Stem	Eighteenth/ nineteenth century
1115	***184***	A1	Pottery	6	Blackware	Eighteenth/ nineteenth century
1116	***186***	A1	Industrial Residue	1	Iron slag	Not closely datable
1117	***186***	A1	Pottery	3	Blackware	Seventeenth-nineteenth centuries
1118	***177***	2	Clay Pipe	1	Stem	Nineteenth century
1119	***186***	A1	Glass	1	Vessel	Nineteenth/ twentieth century
1120	***187***	A2	Pottery	13	Blackware, glazed white earthenware	Eighteenth-twentieth centuries
1121	***188***	A2	Pottery	4	Metropolitan-type slipware, Blackware	Seventeenth/ eighteenth century
1122	***91***	5	Pottery	5	Blackware	Seventeenth-nineteenth centuries

APPENDIX 3: METALLURGICAL RESIDUES CATALOGUE

OR No	Context	Trench	Material	Weight (g)	Description
1058	***06***	1	Ferrous x 1	12	Dense, rather clinkery-looking slag; possible deep fuel contact holes on one side, partially melted shale on the other, 30 x 30 x 23mm, mixed glassy and crystalline textures.
1058	***06***	1	Ferrous	56	Slag sheet fragment with base, somewhat convex, and finely dimpled, suggesting sediment contact. Upper part preserved is highly vesicular, with large rounded vesicles, 45 x 40 x 30mm.
1018	***21***	1	Ferrous x 5	368	Dense iron slag lump. Top(?) has inclusions of ceramic and sand(stone). Base is lobate in a manner suggesting it is folded, but with fuel contact dimples probably present. Not an easy slag to identify. 95 x 80 x 55mm. Probably smithing hearth cake deformed on extraction - but not certain.
1018	***21***	1	Ferrous	96	Rusty concretion fragment - all sizes of sediment up to quite large stones, some charcoal and rust. 70 x 70 x 40mm. Form of piece is bowl-shaped, but it is not all slag - though it might be cored on some.
1018	***21***	1	Slag	28	Coal with attached ironstone and corrosion. 45 x 35 x 18mm.
1018	***21***	1	Ferrous	6	Iron concretion fragment - shows organics and sand bound by rust, possibly to vesicular slag/clinker - probably a fragment broken from the larger 96g piece. 30 x 20 x 13mm.
1018	***21***	1	Ferrous	6	Gravelly concretion fragment as above. Both of these might just be coal residue-related. 30 x 25 x 8mm.
1024	***24***	1	Slag	18	Clinker, 43 x 40 x 30mm.
1022	***26***	5	Slag x 3	88	Rounded slag lump broken in two. Lower part of the sheet-like piece shows tubular vesicles. Quite possibly a smithing hearth cake fragment, but not certain. No fuel visible, 60 x 40 x 25mm.
1055	***71***	7	Slag x 3	3	Coke fragment broken in two, 30 x 25 x 20mm.
1055	***71***	7	Slag	4	Dense crust of clinkery slag with small partially melted inclusions, 20 x 17 x 8mm.
1116	***186***	A1	Slag x 1	1205	Dense tap slag flow - appears to be right below raised tapping area - has small splashes of slag on upper wrinkled surface - possibly suggests raking? Dense enough to be a post-medieval refining slag of some sort. Slightly maroon surface tint. Main flows on top are large, 50 x 35mm with up to 20 x 10mm central cavity; main slag texture has very few, if any, vesicles. 95 x 125 x 80mm. The 80mm section represents the drop of the slag onto the floor at roughly 45^{o}.

APPENDIX 4: CHARRED PLANT REMAINS

Context	Feature and date	Flot volume ml	Flot description	Plant remains	Potential
26	Fill of ditch ***25*** Late medieval	380	Amorphous plant remains (4), clinker (3), coal (3), leaf fragment (1)	-	None
46	Fill of pit ***45*** Seventeenth-eighteenth century	1200	Wood (4), amorphous plant remains (4), coal (2), thorns (2)	WPR (4) *Chenopodium album, Urtica dioica, Ranunculus repens, Rumex obtusifolius,* culm nodes, *Polygonum aviculare, Rumex acetosa, Rubus fructicosus, Sonchus asper, Lapsana communis, Corylus avellana, Potentilla erecta*-type, *Polygonum lapathifolia, Anthemis cotula, Rumex acetosella,* Bryophyte fragments	High
57	Fill of ditch ***58*** Late medieval	500	Modern roots (4), coal (4), clinker (4), leaf fragments (1)	-	None
57	Fill of ditch ***58*** Late medieval	200	Clinker (3), coal (4), leaf fragments	WPR (1) *Sambucus nigra*	None
57	Fill of ditch ***58*** Late medieval	150	Modern roots (4), coal (2), clinker (2), Sycamore and birch seeds	-	None
57	Fill of ditch ***58*** Late medieval	225	Modern roots (2)	-	None
57	Fill of ditch ***58*** Late medieval	180	Coal (4), clinker (3), insect remains (1)	WPR (1) *Sambucus nigra, Chenopodium album*	None
57	Fill of ditch ***58*** Late medieval	50	Amorphous plant remains (4), insect remains (1), coal (3)	-	None
57	Fill of ditch ***58*** Late medieval	180	Modern roots (4), coal (3), clinker (2)	-	None
57	Fill of ditch ***58*** Late medieval	110	Modern roots (4), coal (3), clinker (2)	-	None
57	Fill of ditch ***58*** Late medieval	50	Modern roots (4), coal (3), clinker (3)	CPR (1) Cerealia indeterminate WPR (1) *Sambucus nigra*	Low

85	Fill of pit ***86*** Seventeenth/ eighteenth century	250	Amorphous plant remains (4), earthworm egg case, coal (4)	WPR (4) *Rumex obtusifolius, Galeopsis tetrahit, Rumex acetosella, Cirsium, Urtica dioica, Carex lenticular, Stellaria media, Ranunculus repens*-type, *Betula, Sambucus nigra, Rumex acetosella, Polygonum aviculare, Corylus avellana* fragment, *Chenopodium album,* large grass	High
116	Fill of ditch ***117*** Seventeenth-ineteenth centuries	400	Modern roots (3), bud (1), charcoal (2), coal (2), amorphous plant remains (3)	-	None
124	Fill of pit ***125*** Seventeenth-nineteenth centuries	320	Amorphous plant remains (4), clinker (4), coal (4)	WPR (1) *Sambucus nigra*	None
132	Layer ***130*** Seventeenth/ eighteenth century	600	Coal (3), clinker (4), Trilete spore	CPR (1) *Avena* WPR (1) *Sambucus nigra*	Low
139	Seventeenth/ eighteenth-century cobble spread	400	Modern roots (4), coal (2), clinker (3), metallic waste	-	None
222	Fill of posthole ***141*** Seventeenth/ eighteenth century	150	Coal (4), clinker (3), insect remains, modern roots (2), earthworm egg cases (2)	-	None
143	Fill of pit ***142*** Nineteenth century	190	Coal (4), clinker (3), wood (3), earthworm egg cases (1), Trilete spore	CPR (1) Large grass WPR (3) *Rumex acetosella, Carex* lenticular, *Urtica dioica, Cirsium, Rubus fructicosus, Ranunculus* Batachium-type, *Prunus sp, Rumex obtusifolius*	High

Plants scored on a scale of 1-4, where 1 is rare (up to five items) and 4 is abundant (>100 items).
CPR= Charred plant remains, WPR = Waterlogged plant remains

APPENDIX 5: RADIOCARBON CERTIFICATE AND CALIBRATION

Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre
Director: Professor A B MacKenzie Director of Research: Professor R M Ellam
Rankine Avenue, Scottish Enterprise Technology Park,
East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 0QF, Scotland, UK
Tel: +44 (0)1355 223332 Fax: +44 (0)1355 229898 www.glasgow.ac.uk/suerc

RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE

14 August 2009

Laboratory Code	SUERC-24686 (GU-19042)
Submitter	Elizabeth Huckerby Oxford Archaeology North Mill 3, Moor Lane Lancaster LA1 1GF
Site Reference	Chorlton Fold Farm
Sample Reference	Sample 22 Context 132
Material	Chared seed : Cereal Grain
$\delta^{13}C$ relative to VPDB	-24.7 ‰
Radiocarbon Age BP	205 ± 35

N.B.

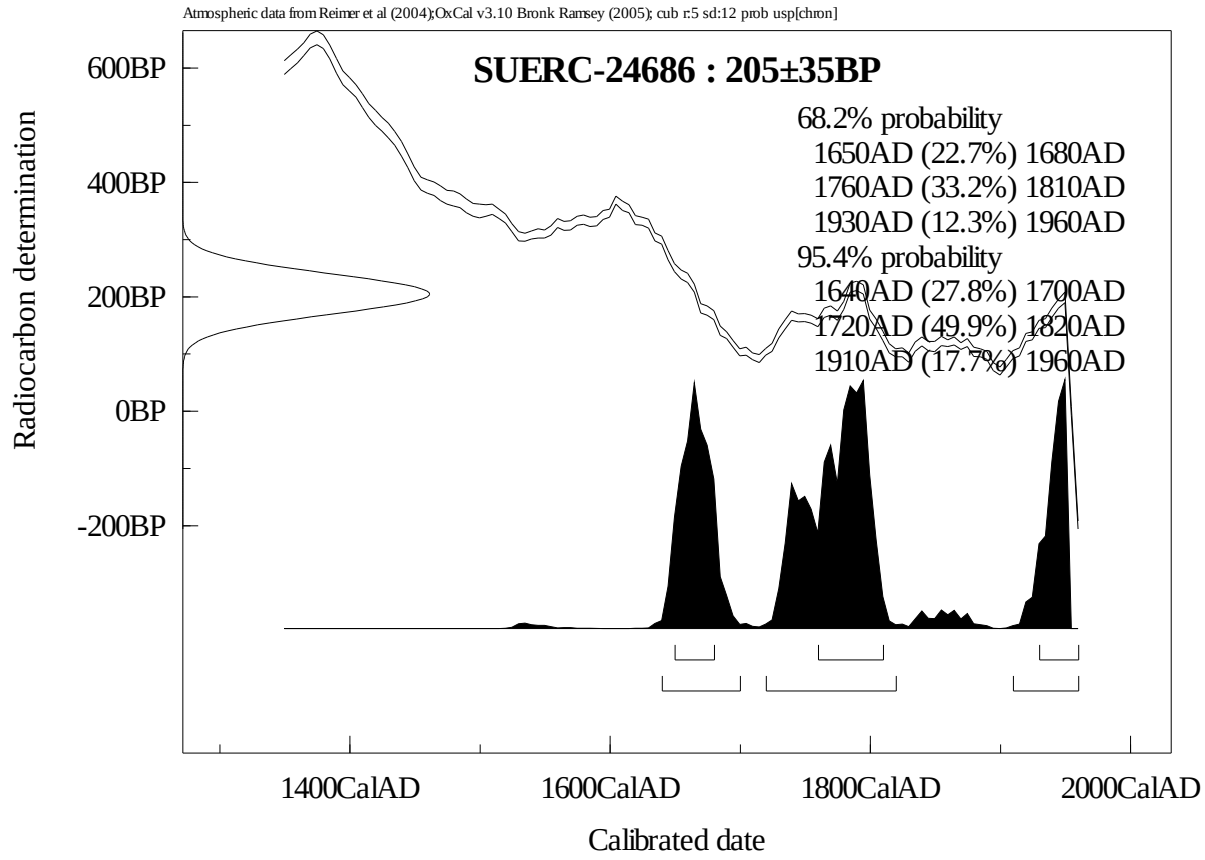
1. The above ^{14}C age is quoted in conventional years BP (before 1950 AD). The error, which is expressed at the one sigma level of confidence, includes components from the counting statistics on the sample, modern reference standard and blank and the random machine error.

2. The calibrated age ranges are determined from the University of Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program (OxCal3).

3. Samples with a SUERC coding are measured at the Scottish Universities

Environmental Research Centre AMS Facility and should be quoted as such in any reports within the scientific literature. Any questions directed to the Radiocarbon Laboratory should also quote the GU coding given in parentheses after the SUERC code. The contact details for the laboratory are email **g.cook@suerc.gla.ac.uk** or Telephone 01355 270136 direct line.

Calibration Plot



ILLUSTRATIONS

LIST OF FIGURES

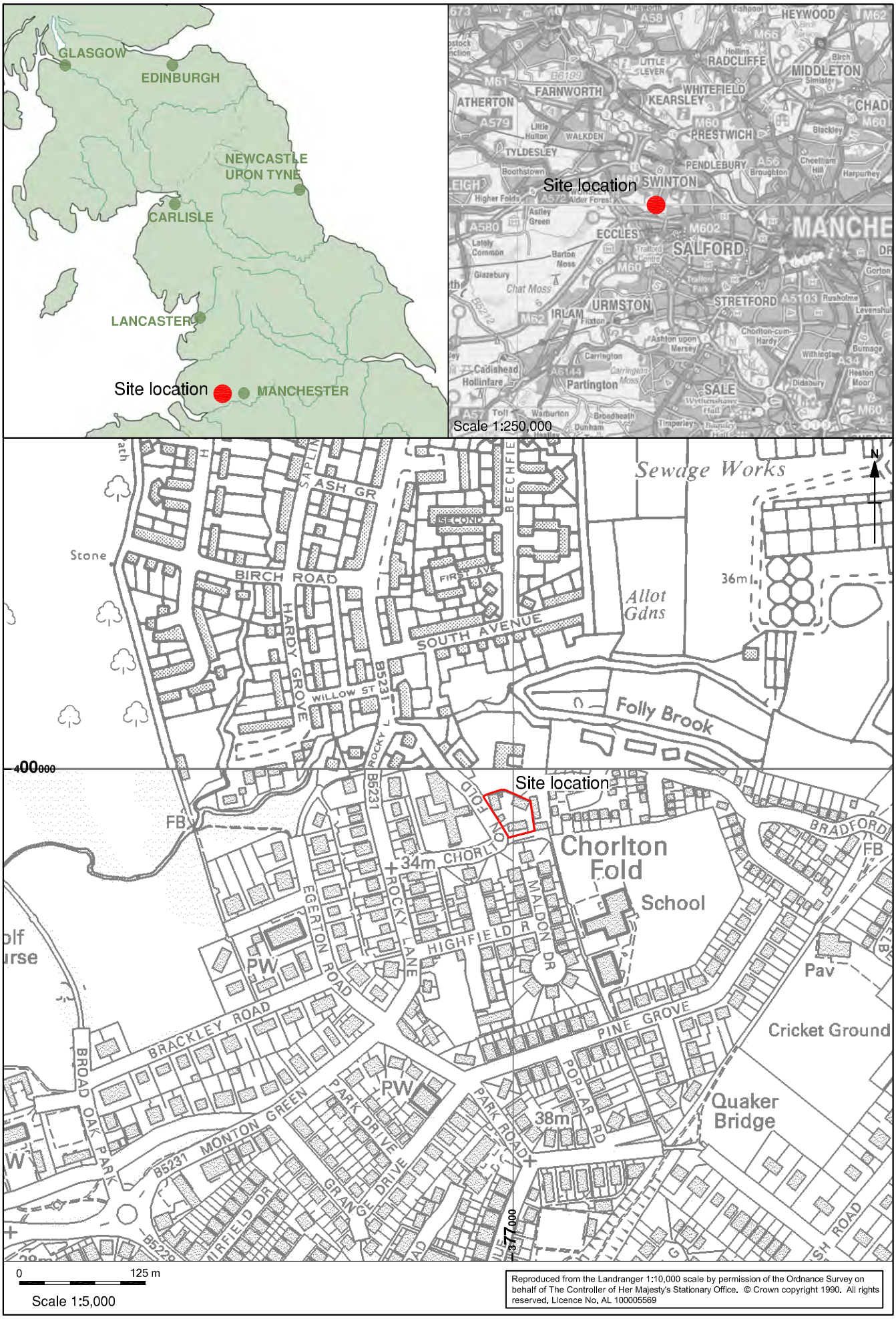


Figure 1: Site Location

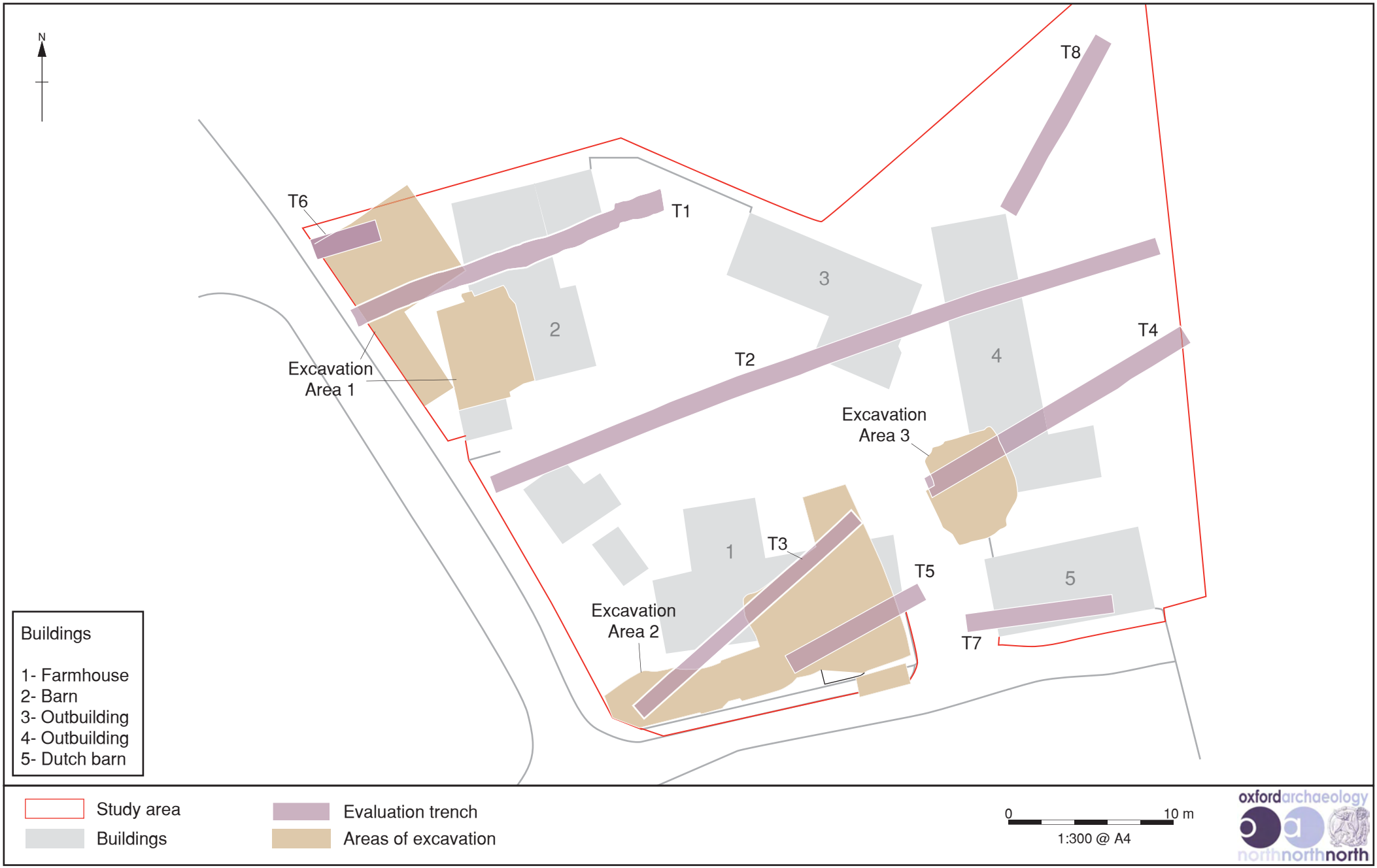


Figure 2: Plan showing the position of the evaluation trenches and excavated areas superimposed on the footprint of the former farm buildings

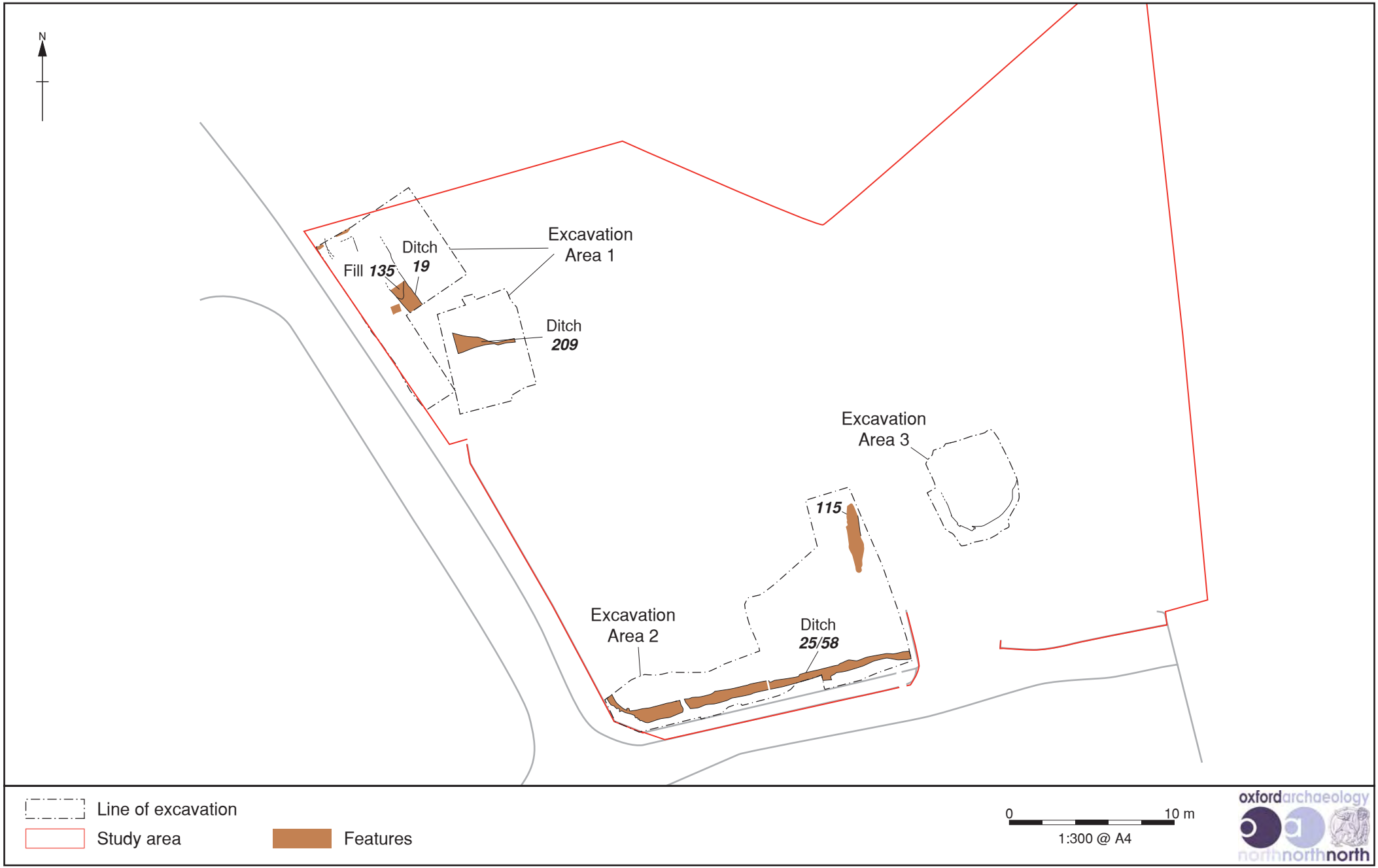


Figure 3: Chorlton Fold in the late medieval period: Phase 1 remains

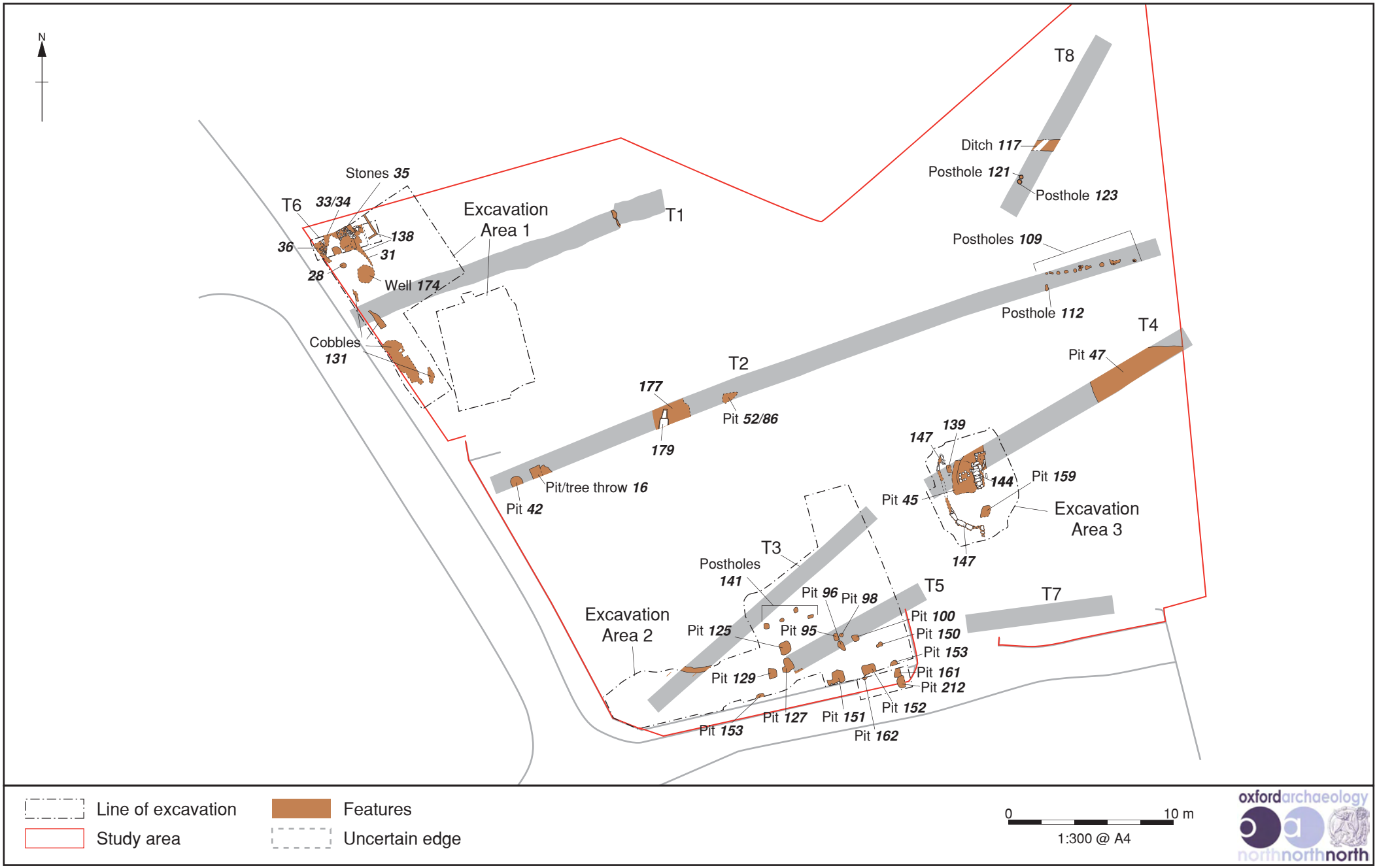


Figure 4: Chorlton Fold in the seventeenth to early eighteenth century: Phase 2 remains

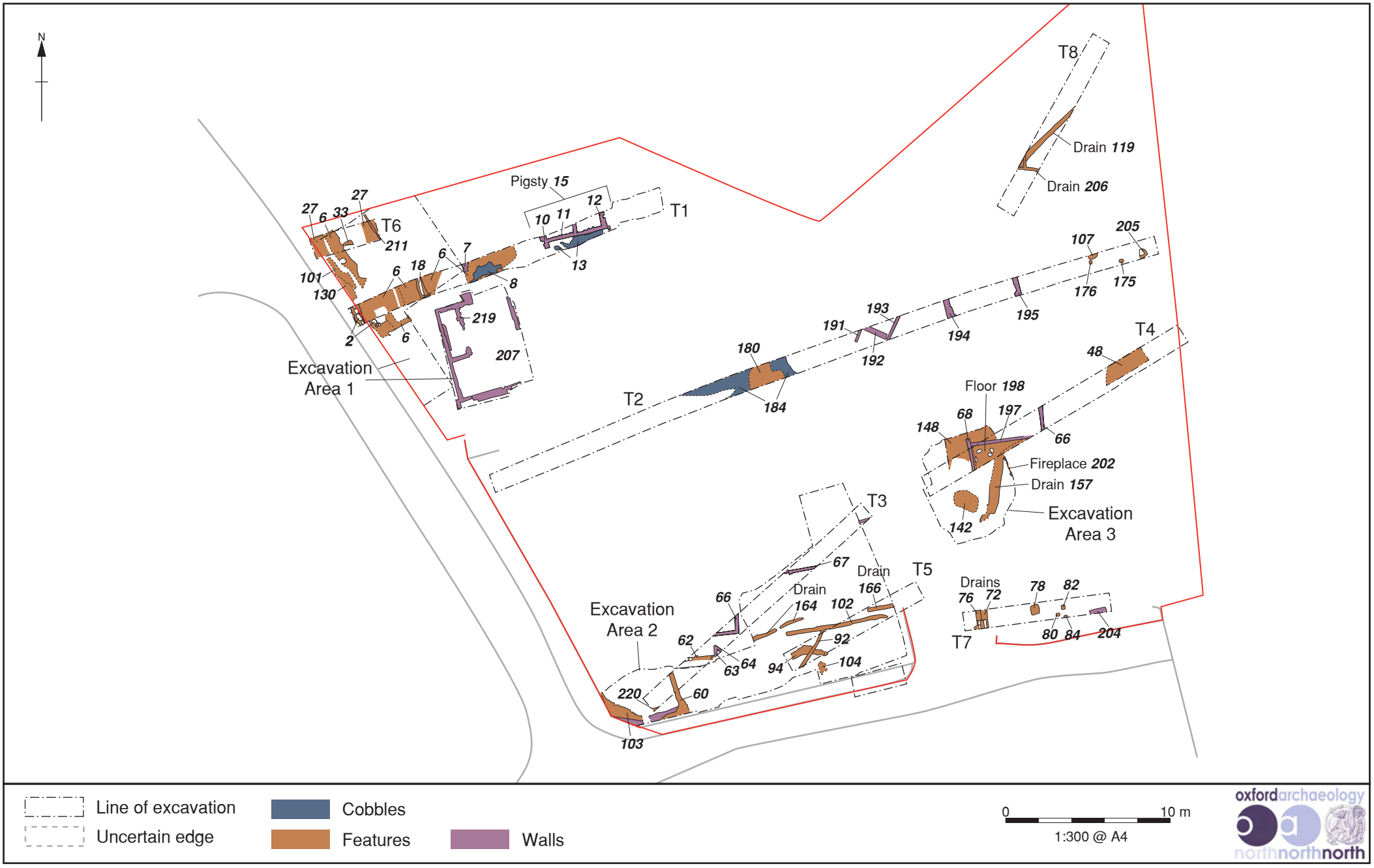


Figure 5: Chorlton Fold in the mid-eighteenth to nineteenth century: Phase 3 remains

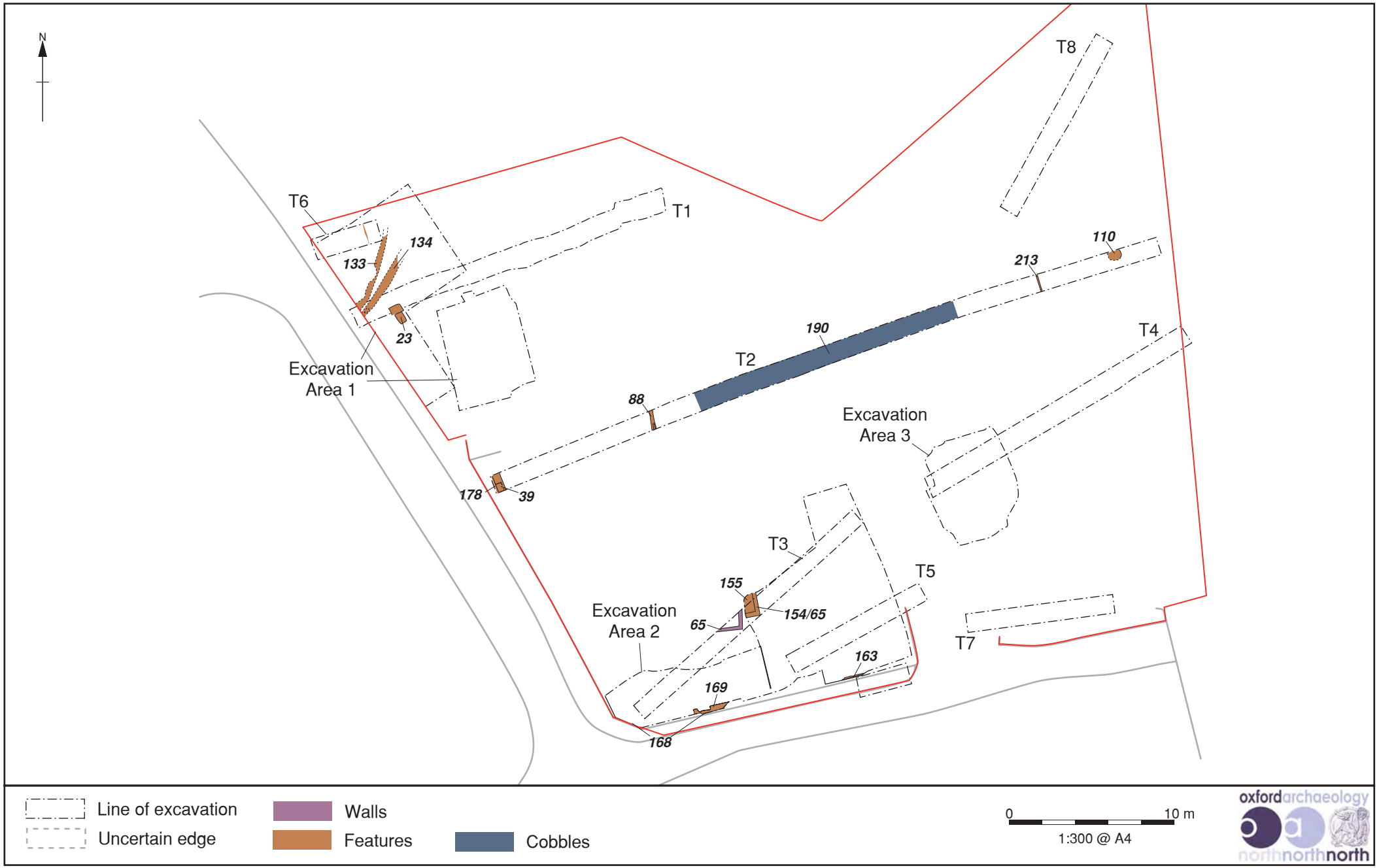


Figure 6: Chorlton Fold in the twentieth century: Phase 4 remains