

**JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION**

**AT**

**BRIZE'S LODGE, LEAFIELD,**

**OXFORDSHIRE**

**SP 3395 1529**

*On behalf of*

*The Hon. Charles Cayzer*

**February 2005**

**REPORT FOR**

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Evaluation and excavation  
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## **Summary**

*Initial investigations on this site were conducted by John Moore Heritage Services between 9<sup>th</sup> October and 7<sup>th</sup> November 2002. This work comprised an evaluation in advance of proposed development at the northern end of site (Area A), a watching brief during the stripping of topsoil in advance of landscaping along the western side of the site (Area B) and a small excavation on the site of a proposed extension to the current building (Area C). Natural clay was encountered at a maximum height of c. 151.38m OD, falling away to 149.00m OD to the southwest. Three trenches were excavated in Area A, revealing a sequence of east-west ditches in Trench 2, a potential pit to the southwest in Trench 1 and a small gully in Trench 3, directly to the east.*

*Work in Area B was largely limited to cursory recording supplemented by surface collection of finds, though limited excavation has provided definitive evidence for the survival of Roman masonry in the southwest of the site, presumably representing the remains of a farmstead.*

*The excavation of Area C uncovered remains of Iron Age, Roman and post-Medieval date. Iron Age activity was restricted to a substantial ditch and Roman activity seems very much a continuation of this, albeit related to the newly founded buildings to the west, comprising ditches, pits and plough furrows or planting trenches. A possible clay chest may allude to a potential pottery in the vicinity, though no other evidence for production was found. Post-Medieval remains on the site are dominated by those of a large rectangular building, cut into the subsoil of the site and initially constructed of timber but later replaced with masonry. A handful of postholes attest to the presence of timber structures on the site, though little sense could be made of these features and they are likely to represent structures extending beyond the limits of excavation. The building had been demolished and heavily robbed by the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century and was subsequently sealed by the topsoil of the site.*

*Further watching brief work was carried out between March and June 2003 and August and November 2004 in areas A, D – H. The watching brief mainly identified areas where occupation was absent.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Location (Fig. 1)**

The development site at Brize's Lodge is located 1.4km west of Finstock at the south end of a drive running south from the B4022 Finstock to Leaffield road (NGR SP 3395 1529). The site is just within the parish of Ramsden. The underlying geology is Oxford Clay. The site lies at approximately 151 metres above Ordnance Datum

### **1.2 Planning Background**

West Oxfordshire District Council granted planning permission to extend the existing farmhouse at Brize's Lodge. In addition, landscaping of the garden and construction of a swimming pool and tennis court were proposed (W2001/20289, 20290). Due to the presence of potential archaeological remains in the area, an archaeological watching brief was required during the period of groundworks that may have had an impact on any remains present. An initial *Brief* for such a watching brief was issued by the County Archaeological Services (2002) and a *Written Scheme of Investigation*, which would satisfy the requirements of the brief, was subsequently prepared by John Moore Heritage Services (2002a). In the light of proposed additional work on the site this document was revised to include the investigation of the area of the garden to the west of the farmhouse and the evaluation of the area proposed for the new swimming pool and tennis court.

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

Brize's Lodge is a Grade II listed building thought to date to the later part of the seventeenth century. It is currently a farmhouse although the evidence suggests that it was a hunting lodge and that its name derives from the foresters responsible for its upkeep. The lodge lies within Easewell Copse and supposedly in 1300 was referred to as New Frith. In 1607 it was called Bowman's Lodge, in 1662 Brice's Lodge and in 1852 Poole's Lodge. The Brize (*sic*) family were still foresters in *c.* 1745 (Allport 1965) and presumably were still living in Brice's Lodge.

Large quantities of Romano-British pottery and roof tile previously had been found around the farmhouse, mostly within a spread of dark earth (Sites and Monuments Record PRN 12388). This led to suggestions that there was either a villa or a farmstead here during the Romano-British period. A bronze figurine of a bird, probably a dove, has also been found. This is considered to be a votive object, possibly from a family shrine. The monitoring of a new water main from the buildings to the Finstock - Leaffield road in 1985 revealed the presence of a ditch north-east of the farmstead, which contained pottery of probable 1<sup>st</sup> century AD date. Further shallow features containing Romano British pottery were also found between the farmstead and the road (Chambers 1986).

A 'prolific' scatter of Romano British pottery has been recorded approximately 200m to the south-west of the farmstead (PRN 5719).

In the vicinity of the Romano British pottery *c.* 200m to the south-west of the farmstead Bronze Age flints and wasters were found during fieldwalking (PRN 8010). A Bronze Age barrow (PRN 1539) stands close to the Finstock - Leaffield road

alongside the track to the farm. A ditch of a possible second barrow was found during the examination of the 1985 water main.

## **2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION**

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the different areas proposed for development.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any such archaeological remains encountered.
- Either to make a record of any significant remains revealed during the course of any operations that may disturb or destroy archaeological remains, or if considered to be of major significance then to consider an alternative mitigation strategy perhaps through resign.
- In particular to record any further evidence of Romano-British settlement with a view to establishing the type and duration of occupation.
- An aim will be to establish whether a building pre-dated the existing one and, if so, from what date.
- The results of the investigations will be made public.

## **3 STRATEGY**

### **3.1 Research Design**

In response to a *Brief* issued by Oxford County Council a scheme of investigation was designed by JMHS and agreed with the Council and the applicant. This scheme was to comprise four main phases of work, each incorporating several elements of the mitigation strategy.

Phase 1 (Fig. 2) involved the evaluation of the proposed sites of the swimming pool and tennis court (Area A), the recording of any remains in the area of the proposed garden landscaping to the west of the house (Area B) and the excavation of the cellar area of the proposed extension (Area C). An interim report (JMHS 2002b) was issued after the completion of this phase of work.

Phase 2 consisted of a watching brief during excavation for footings to join the southern extension to the main house (Area D) and for a new porch on the north side of the house (Area E).

Phase 3 comprised the monitoring of new services within the courtyard to the east of the house (Area F) and within a track leading to the ponds from the exit of the

courtyard to the south of the building complex (Area G). In addition the groundworks for a base for the new oil tank (Area H) was also monitored.

Phase 4. The tennis courts are to be constructed to the east of the building complex directly on top of the present ground surface and will not be subject to a watching brief. The swimming pool is to be constructed within Area A at a later date under a separate planning application.

Site procedures for the investigation and recording of potential archaeological deposits and features were defined in the *Written Scheme of Investigation*. The work was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994).

### **3.2 Methodology**

The evaluation of the sites of the proposed swimming pool and tennis court (Area A) was achieved through the excavation of three trenches; a 25.00m long trench in the area of the swimming pool (Trench 1) and two 15.00m trenches in the area of the tennis court (Trenches 2 and 3). All trenches were 1.65 m wide and were excavated by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The resultant surfaces were cleaned by hand prior to limited hand excavation of any identified archaeological deposits.

The area of garden that will be raised (Area B) was mechanically stripped of topsoil using a 5 foot ditching bucket. Indistinct spreads of materials were visible at this level and no distinct identifiable features could be observed. These spreads were planned and pottery was collected on a 5m grid across the area. Limited excavation was undertaken to establish the presence of masonry structures on the site.

The area of the cellar part of the extension to the existing building (Area C) was mechanically stripped of topsoil by JCB using a toothless bucket. All archaeological deposits and features in the footprint of the cellar were either wholly excavated by hand or sample excavated.

The excavations for the footings for the connection of Area C to the existing house (Area D, Fig. 1)) and for the new porch on the north side of the house (Area E) were monitored. Various service trenches in the yard (Area F) to the east of the house were either monitored during excavation or inspected at a later date. A drainage run along the track to the south of the building complex and garden was monitored (Area G) from the track leaving the courtyard (Area F) down to the ponds to the south-west of the complex. An archaeologist was present during the ground reduction for a base for the new oil tank close to the plantation (Area H). In addition a service trench was monitored along the west side of the house and areas to the north of the house were inspected after ground reduction.

All artefacts were collected and retained except for concentrations of building material where only a representative sample was retained.



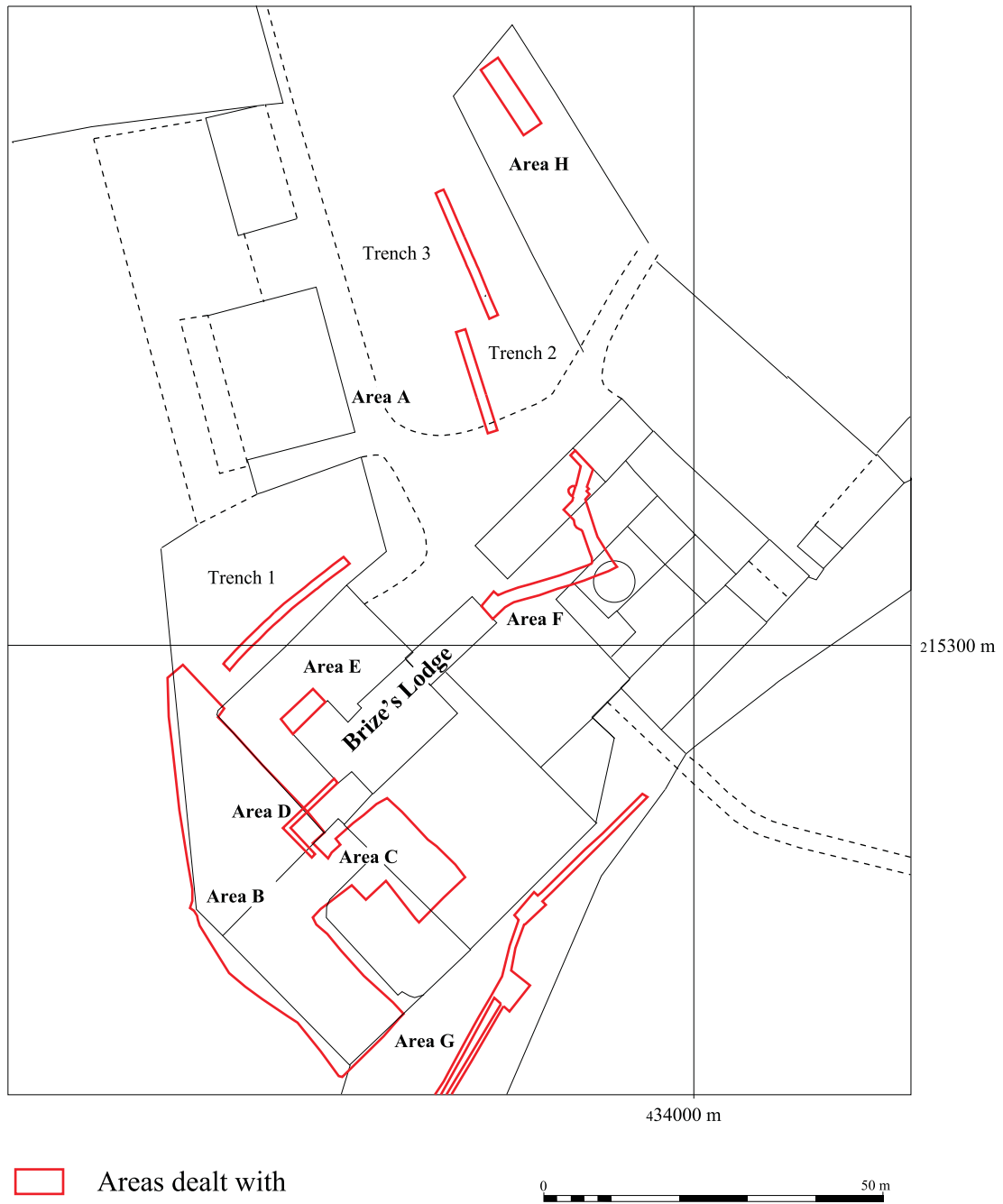


Figure 1: Site Plan showing Areas of Investigation

Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and sections drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was produced. A continuous running sequence of context numbers was employed with nos. 01-38, 50-51, and 63-64 assigned to Area A, 39-45 to Area B, 55-58 to Area F, 52-54, and 59-61 to Area G, 62 to Area H, and 100-229 to Area C. The work was monitored by Mr. Hugh Coddington of Oxfordshire County Council Archaeological Services.

## 4 RESULTS

### *Natural Geology*

The natural geology of the site comprised limestone bedrock with a capping of light brownish yellow clay (03, 14, 36). This was seen to slope down to the south and west across the entire site from a maximum height of c. 151.38m above Ordnance Datum (henceforth OD) at the northern limits of the site (Area A, Trench 1) and 150.47m OD in the east (Area C) to 149.00m OD in the southwest (Area B).

#### 4.1 Area A (Figs. 2 and 3)

##### *Phase 1: Iron Age*

A large ditch [21] in Trench 2 measured almost 3.00 metres wide on a SW-NE orientation and was 0.64m deep (Fig. 3). Three fills could be discerned; an accumulative primary fill of yellowish brown silty clay with occasional pebbles and charcoal flecking (24) overlain by a fill of mid brown silty clay with frequent pebbles (23) in turn sealed by a deposit of dark brown silty clay (22) with occasional pebbles, charcoal flecks, pot and animal bone. Three sherds of early to mid Iron Age pottery were recovered from fill (22).

##### *Phase 2: Roman*

A gully [27] within Trench 2 comprised a roughly "V" shaped cut with flat base (Fig. 3), aligned east west and filled with an accumulative deposit of mixed light greyish brown-yellow clay (26), and sealed by light greyish brown clay with moderate limestone (25), containing several sherds of Roman grey ware. The pottery dates from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century onwards.

##### *Phase 3: Post-medieval*

The northernmost ditch in Trench 2 was also aligned east west. Two sections were excavated across this ditch (Fig. 3) to reveal a steep by regular sided and flat-bottomed cut [013], [020]. A primary fill of light yellowish grey clay (16) was sealed by a thin layer of burnt yellowish brown clay with frequent charcoal (19) to the west, in turn overlain by a fill of light greyish yellow/brown (12), (18), from which a post-medieval trading token was retrieved.

##### *Phase 4: Modern*

Modern field drains on a north-east/south-west orientation in Trench 2 were seen to partially truncate both gully [27] and ditch [13]. In Trench 3 on a roughly north-east

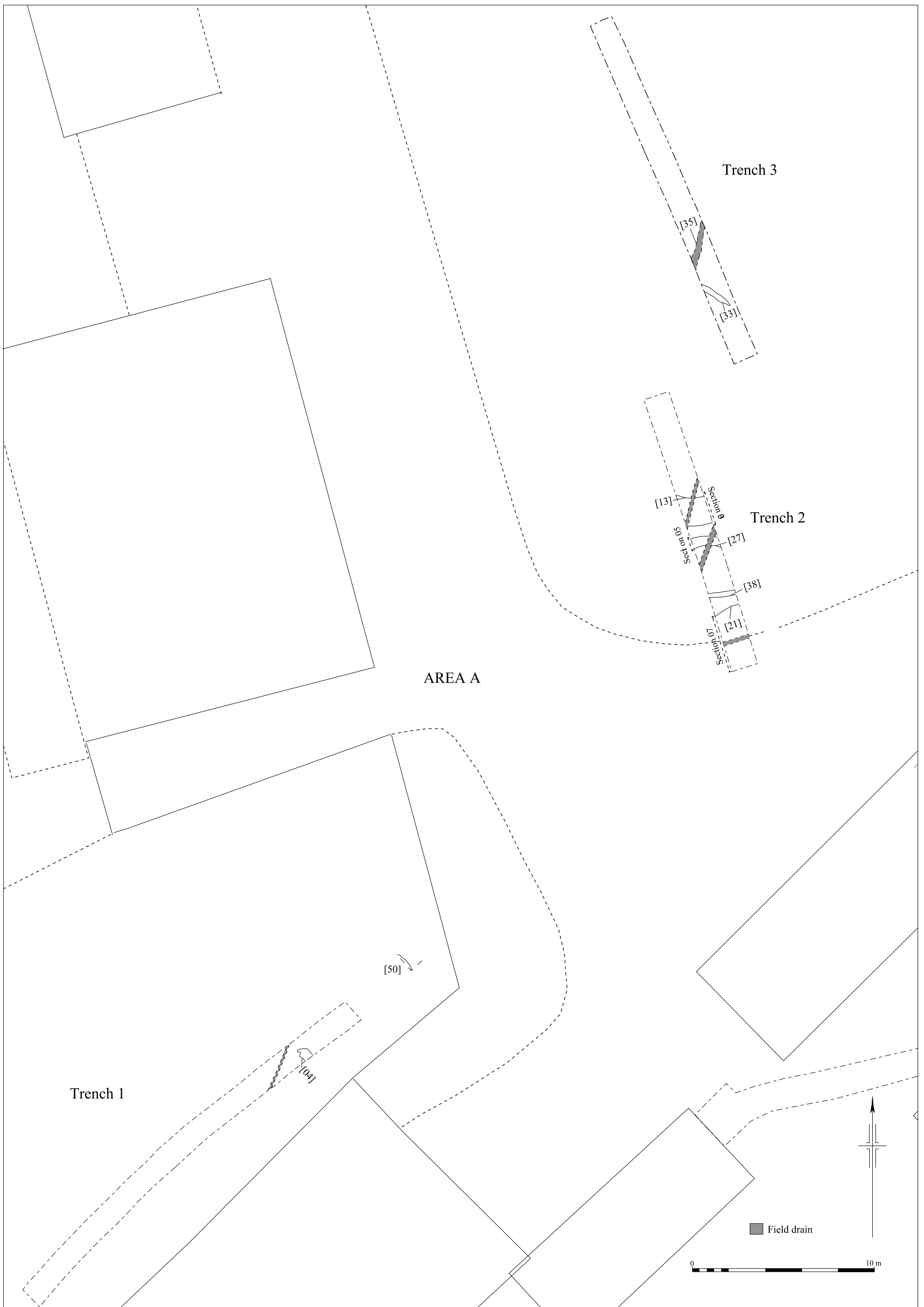


Figure 2. Area A Plan

/south-west orientation was gully [35]. The fill of this feature was composed of light grey silty clay containing frequent medium-large limestone slabs set on edge. Such fills are typical of land drains formed by deep ploughing and it is likely that this feature constitutes such a drain.

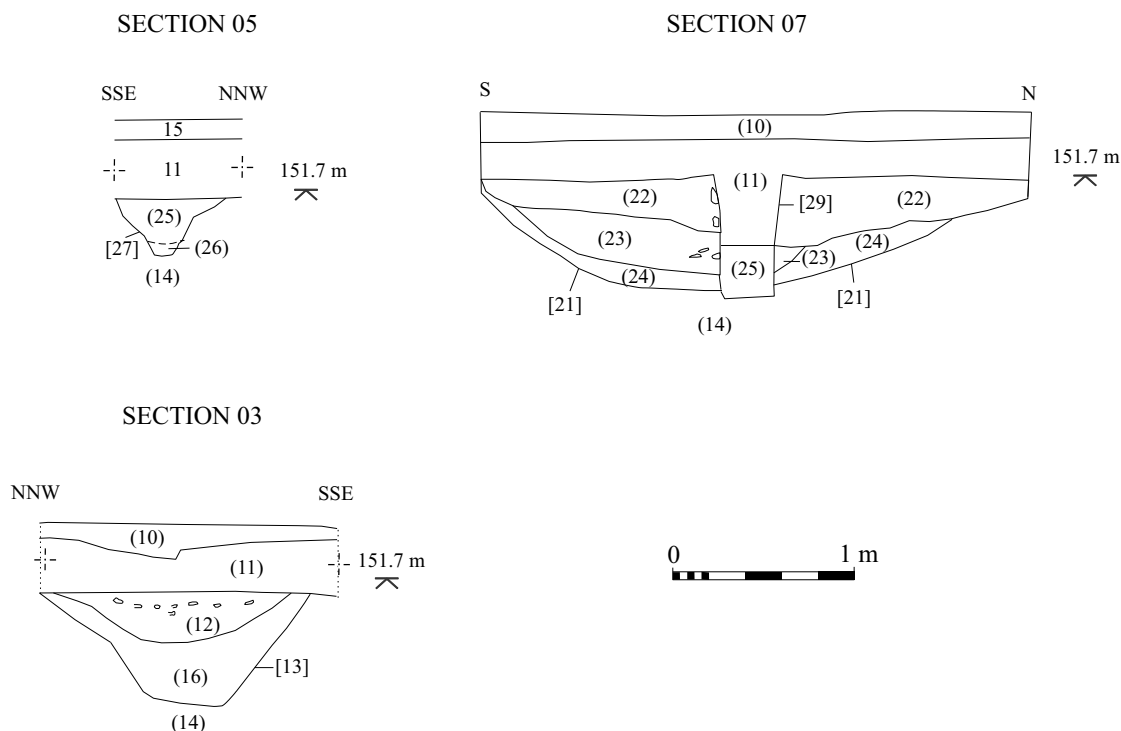


Figure 3. Area A sections

### *Undated features*

A single potential archaeological feature was encountered within Trench 1. This was cut into the underlying natural clay (03) and comprised an irregular sub-rectangular cut [04] filled with mid brown silty clay with moderate pebbles and occasional cobbles (05), (06). This was initially thought to represent a posthole though it is perhaps more likely to constitute the horizontally truncated base of a pit. To the east of Trench 1 the edge of a further pit [50] was found during the watching brief. This was at least 1.10m in diameter and survived 0.55m deep. The lower fill (51) was mid orange-brown and mid grey-brown clay 50:50 with a slight silt content and was 0.31m thick. This was overlaid by a deposit of mid orange-brown and pale grey-brown 70:30 clay. No finds were present in the section.

Gully [38] in Trench 2 was orientated almost exactly east west and displayed a slightly rounded profile. It was filled with light grey brown silty clay with moderate limestone pebbles (37). A further gully [33] in Trench 3 was aligned north west/south-east and comprised a well-rounded profile with a fill of mid greyish brown silty clay with moderate pebbles (32).

### *Soil profiles*

Overlying the natural within Trench 1 was a layer of dark reddish brown silty clay containing moderate pebbles, ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) and animal

bone (02). Overlying this was topsoil (01) composed of dark brown clayey silt with frequent poorly sorted pebbles, moderate CBM (ceramic building material) and rooting.

All the features in Trench 2 were sealed by a layer of loose light greyish brown silty clay (11). This appeared to constitute a ploughsoil of some kind and it is of note that, in contrast to Trenches 1 and 3, the sequence of well-defined sub- and topsoil is apparently absent from this trench. Concrete footings (15) and a surface of crushed clinker and topsoil (10) denote the remains of a modern farm building on the site.

## 4.2 Area B (Fig. 4)

Investigations in this area of the site were limited to a combination of cursory recording and collection of pottery by 5.0m grid, supplemented by the hand excavation of two small sondages in selected areas.

Due to the restrictions of the research strategy, the majority of archaeological remains in this area were obscured by the subsoil of the site and thus archaeological recording in this area was of limited value. Nevertheless, changes in the colour and texture of this subsoil were found to broadly reflect archaeological remains that lay beneath and consequently it proved possible to position the trenches with an unusual degree of foresight.

### *Phase 1 Iron Age*

No remains of this phase were found within Area B although this does not mean that they are not present masked by Roman and later deposits.

### *Phase 2 Roman*

The largest sondage comprised a trench measuring 4.00m by 1.00m and was located across a band of dark soil similar in consistency to the topsoil of the site. Upon excavation, this soil proved to constitute the latest infilling of the cut for a cellar structure of Roman date [229].

Extending to a depth of 148.49m OD (1.10m below level of topsoil strip), this rectilinear cut appeared to comprise a large principle room extending beyond the limits of excavation to the north-west, with a narrower portion to the south-east, which may or may not have afforded access into the structure proper.

Two walls uncovered in the eastern and southern corners of the trench served to delineate and define these cellared areas. Both were aligned northeast-southwest and built of a combination of roughly hewn limestone and fragments of brick and tile, the latter of which, given its generally fragmentary nature was probably reused. Wall (199) to the northeast, stood upon an un-truncated area of the natural limestone, whereas wall (200), to the south appeared to extend to the floor of the structure. Both of these structural remains and the exposed limestone beneath exhibited evidence of fairly intense burning. Moreover, it proved possible to trace the line of wall 200 as a line of rubble for a further 10.0m to the southwest.

A layer of sooting and charcoal (198) formed the primary fill of this cellar structure and on the basis of this and the burnt walls described above it is tempting to postulate

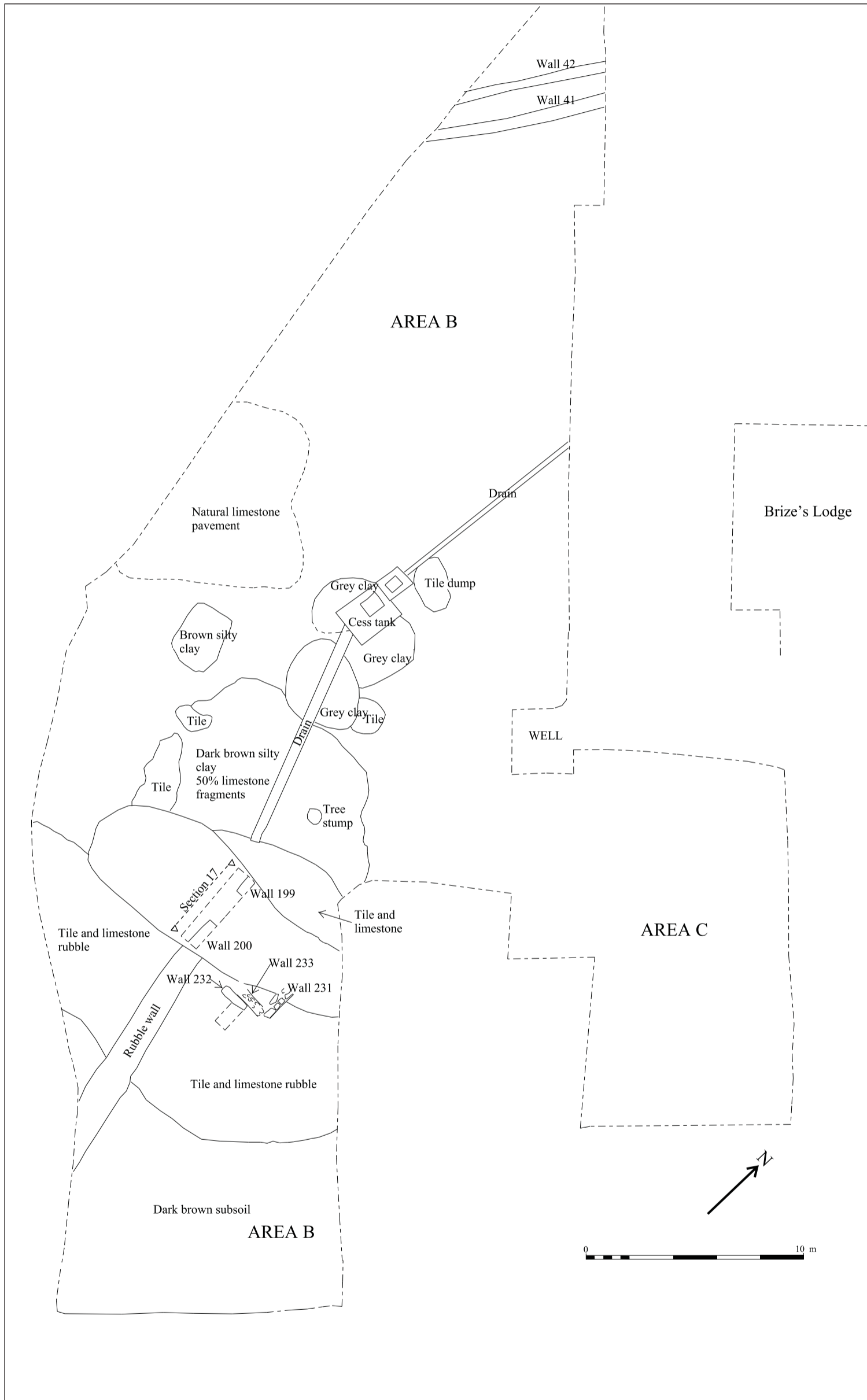


Figure 4. Area B Plan

the existence of a hypocaust structure here, though such burning is perhaps as likely to represent the destruction of a building as much as indicate its use.

Much of the remaining sequence of infilling was composed of layers rich in broken CBM (197), (196), (195), (194), (193), (192), (191), (190) and thus clearly represents the demolition and levelling of a Roman building built on masonry footings. The remainder of the infilling comprised deposits derived from subsoil and is likely to be of post-Roman date especially as intrusive medieval sherds were found in (190).

That the findings in this trench indicate the existence of a cellared area is clear from further investigations immediately to the southeast. Here natural clay was encountered at a height of 149.29m OD, as were the remains of several potential walls or wall foundations. One of these walls (231), composed of roughly hewn blocks of limestone, was seen to run parallel to those described above, whereas a further two walls (232) and (233) were positioned perpendicular to them. The southernmost of these walls (232), like wall (231) to the east, was composed of roughly squared limestone blocks, whereas wall (233) directly to the north was far less substantial, comprising little more than a linear distribution of river cobbles. This last feature may constitute merely a pad of cobbles for more substantial masonry or timber superstructure that no longer survives.

### *Phase 3 Post-medieval*

At the north-western end of Area B two parallel wall foundations [42, 43] were found. Deposit (45) of compact pale grey-brown slightly silty clay with occasional – moderate amounts of small limestone pieces (45) was overlaid by a 0.06m thick deposit of pale grey and pale brown silty clay (44). Set into this last deposit were the two foundations. Both were orientated WSW-ENE and a length of 6m was exposed. They were 1.00-1.10m apart. The southernmost one [41] was 0.55m wide at the base and thinning to *c.* 0.30m with height. It was constructed from small pieces of limestone (60x40x30 – 100x100x40mm) with the very occasional larger piece (230x160x70mm). The other foundation [42] was 0.30m wide and constructed from similar material. To the north of [42] where it was 50mm thick, partly overlying [42] and partly between the two foundations (10mm thick) was a spread of scorched earth and charcoal (43). The lowest deposit (45) seen in this area contained Roman pottery and may have been a ploughsoil. The overlying material (44) contained a sherd of red earthenware which dates from the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

## **4.3 Area C**

### *Phase 1: Iron Age (Figs. 5 and 6)*

The earliest activity on the site appears to be of Iron Age date, though this seems to be restricted to a ditch in the southwestern corner of the site. Two sections were excavated across the north-west/south-east orientated ditch to reveal a substantial cut [155], [169] with several fills and at least one re-cut, though few finds were retrieved (Fig. 6). Cut through the clay and well into the underlying limestone bedrock, it is clear that a great deal of time and effort was put into the cutting of this feature, though defining the purpose of the ditch is perhaps a little less clear. The ditch was 1.25-1.55m wide and 0.75-0.80m deep. The sides were at an angle of 45-50<sup>0</sup> dropping to vertical with a flat base. A later recut represented by fill (166) and (149-151) was 0.95-1.25m wide and 0.31-0.42 deep with sides at 45<sup>0</sup> and a rounded base.

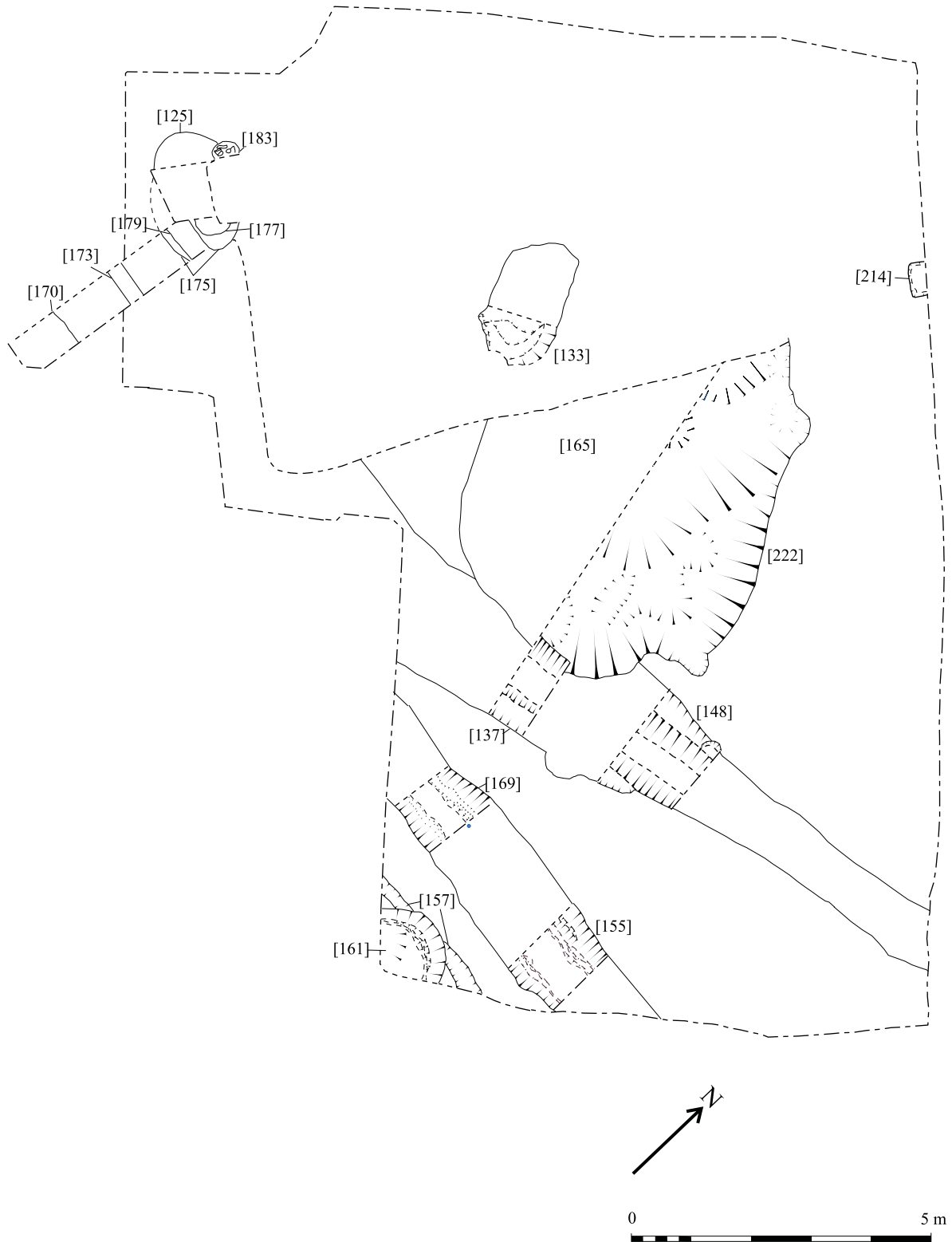


Figure 5. Area C of Iron Age and Roman Features



Given the effort devoted to both the construction and maintenance of this ditch it seems probable that it served to delineate an enclosure of some form, though the lack of associated features makes it difficult to illuminate the nature of such an enclosure. Nevertheless, given the amount of pottery sherds from domestic waste it is tempting to postulate the existence of a small Iron Age settlement here perhaps with small discrete features destroyed by the later Roman and post-medieval remains.

*Phase 2: Roman (Figs. 5 and 6)*

The character of initial Roman activity on the site seems very much a continuation of that which preceded it. A gully [157] appears to have been parallel to the Iron Age ditch while a ditch [137 & 148] was on a slightly different alignment (more east-west) and much less substantial than its predecessor.

The gully [157] survived 0.28m wide and 0.10m deep with irregular concave sides and a rounded base. The pottery within the fill dates from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century or later. This feature was cut by a substantial pit. Partial excavation of it showed it to consist of a large sub-circular cut [161], with several fills (158-160), some of which were seen to contain fragments of animal bone and pottery. The pottery was residual dating from the Iron Age.

Three slots were excavated across the ditch further to the north, exposing a shallow cut [137], [148], [170]. Breaks of slope in the sides of this ditch may hint at possible re-cuts though no differentiation could be found in the fills to support such a notion (Fig. 6). Nevertheless, given that the ditch appears to widen considerably to the northwest it is possible that earlier cuts did exist. The excavated lengths showed that the ditch varied from 1.6m [137] - 1.95m [148] wide and 0.27m [137] - 0.60m [170].

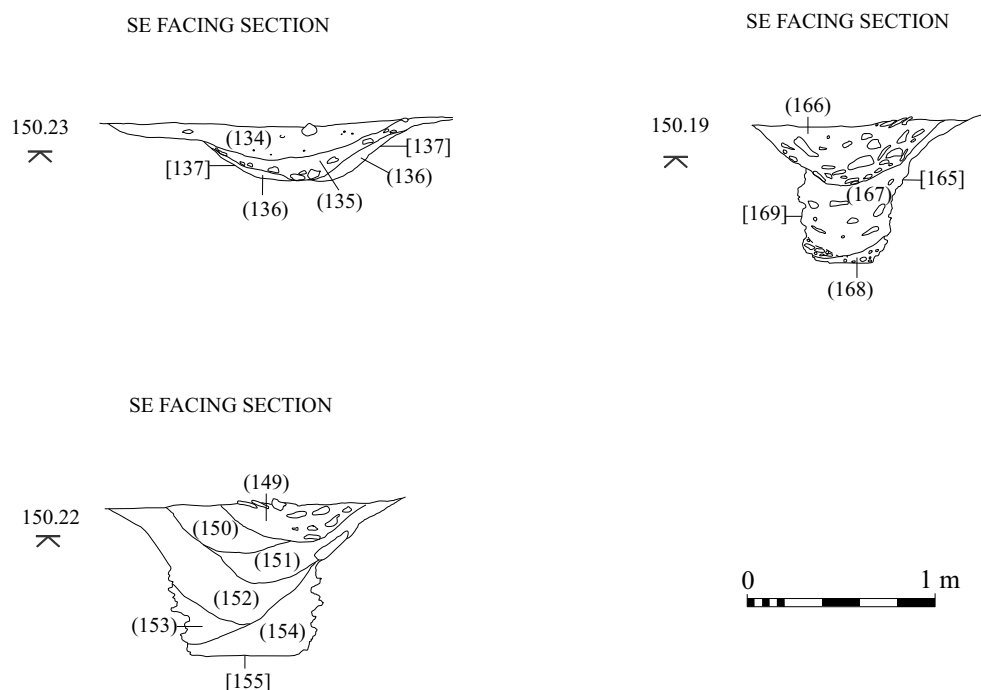


Figure 6. Sections of Iron Age and Roman Features

The gully [157] contained pottery dating from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century onwards (fill 156). The earliest material in ditch [137, 148] dates from the same time (fill 136), with later fills dated to the early 3<sup>rd</sup> century (135) and the latest fills (134, 146) dating to the 4<sup>th</sup> century.

Possible evidence of horticultural or agricultural activity on the site may be found in a handful of small linear features exposed at the extreme western limits of the excavation area. At least one of these features [185], filled with the subsoil of the site (101) constitutes a plough furrow or planting trench on a comparable orientation to ditch [170]. Two further features [179] and [173] are closely comparable in size and shape, though, in contrast to [185], they possess discreet fills and may thus represent shallow gullies rather than plough furrows.

Several pits may also be attributed to this phase of activity. To the north a sub-rectangular pit [133], containing domestic refuse including animal bone and 4<sup>th</sup> century pottery, was encountered. The pit had maximum dimensions of 1.24m and 2.00m and a depth of 0.32m. Localised burning of the surrounding limestone bedrock indicates that some of the material (132) within this pit was deposited whilst hot.

A further pit that may be dated to this phase was of a very different nature. Comprising a large ovoid cut [175] with a fill of stiff greyish blue clay (176), this feature may represent a potters 'clay chest'. The feature appeared to be sub-circular in shape and was at least 1.75m in diameter; later features had truncated it. It was 0.32m deep. No evidence of pottery production was encountered, however, and although it is difficult to envisage another purpose for such a feature this premise should be advanced with some caution. This feature pre-dated the agricultural or horticultural activity.

A posthole [214] lying on the east edge of the excavation area was rectangular in plan (0.50m SW-NE) and 0.18m deep. It was filled with dark brown silty clay with limestone packing material (213).

The only other feature that may be attributed to this phase is a large spread of demolition material (165) within a shallow irregular ovoid cut [222]. Prominent among this material were roof tiles (*tegula* and *imbrex*), box flue tiles and brick, though high quality flooring materials such as *opus signinum*, *tesserae*, etc. were seemingly absent from the assemblage. The pottery within this material dates to the 4<sup>th</sup> century.

### *Phase 3: Post-Medieval (Fig. 7)*

Though difficult to date accurately, it would appear that the subsoil of the site was a result of post-Roman ploughing and thus the majority of later remains are cut through this plough soil.

The most significant remains of this phase of activity were undoubtedly those of a sizeable rectangular structure aligned south-west/north-east and situated towards the northern end of Area C. Two distinct phases of construction were identified.

The first phase comprised a structure built in timber and manifest as six massive postholes arranged in two lines of three to create a building c. 6.90m by 5.00m (Fig. 7). The posthole cuts [109], [111], [128], [204], [208], [210] all measured around

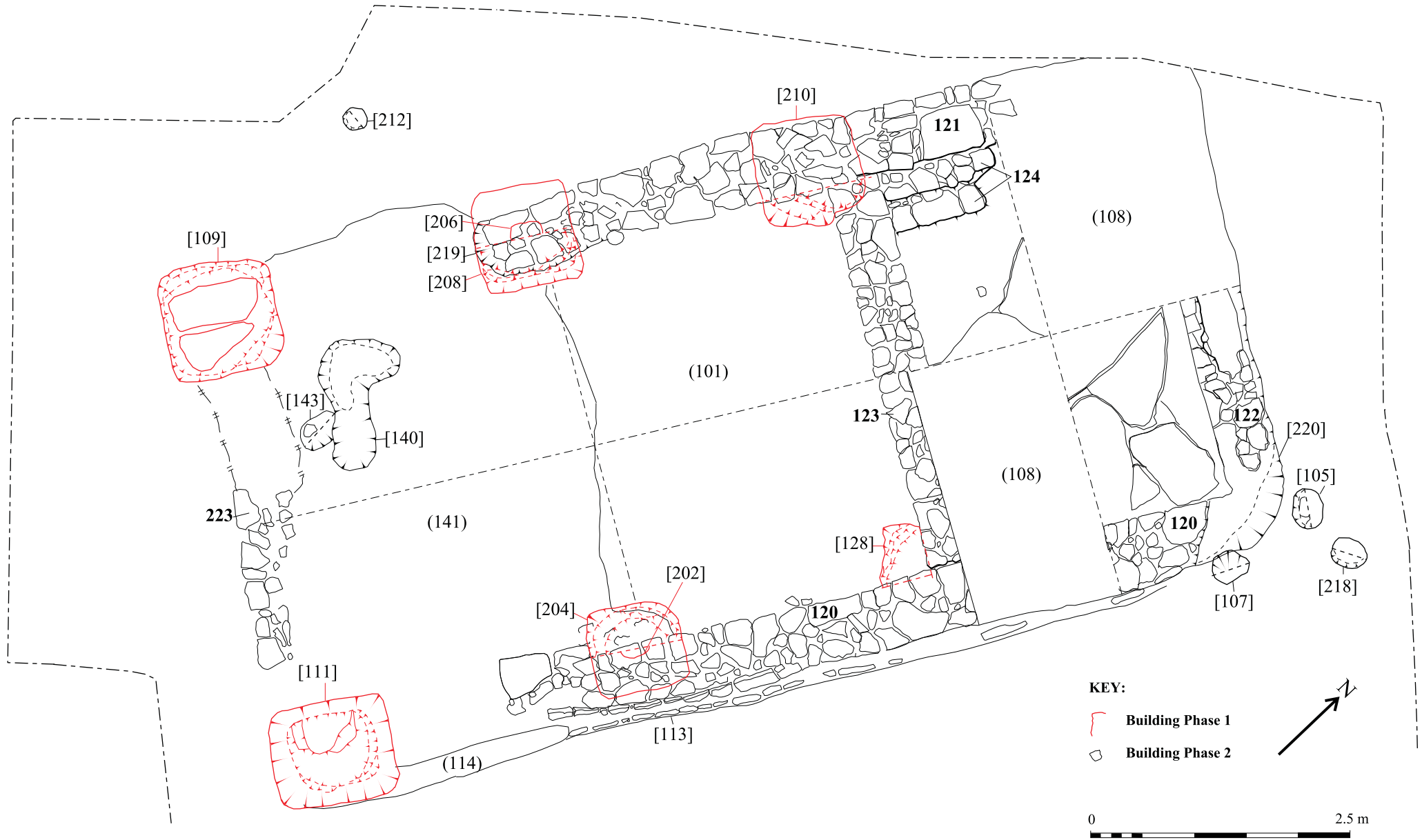


Figure 7. Area C Plan of Post-medieval Features

1.00m sq. and were cut down into the underlying bedrock. Four of the six exhibited post pipes (the infilled voids created by the removal or rotting of the timber posts) representing square posts approximately 0.25m sq (Fig. 8).

Each posthole was backfilled with mixed grey-yellow clay with frequent large pebbles and cobbles, though only the westernmost postholes [109] & [111] displayed post pads of limestone in their bases. In addition, posthole [111] displayed an elaborate packing of limestone slabs set on edge, presumably to support a post situated in the very northwestern corner of the cut and rectify an error in the positioning of the posthole.

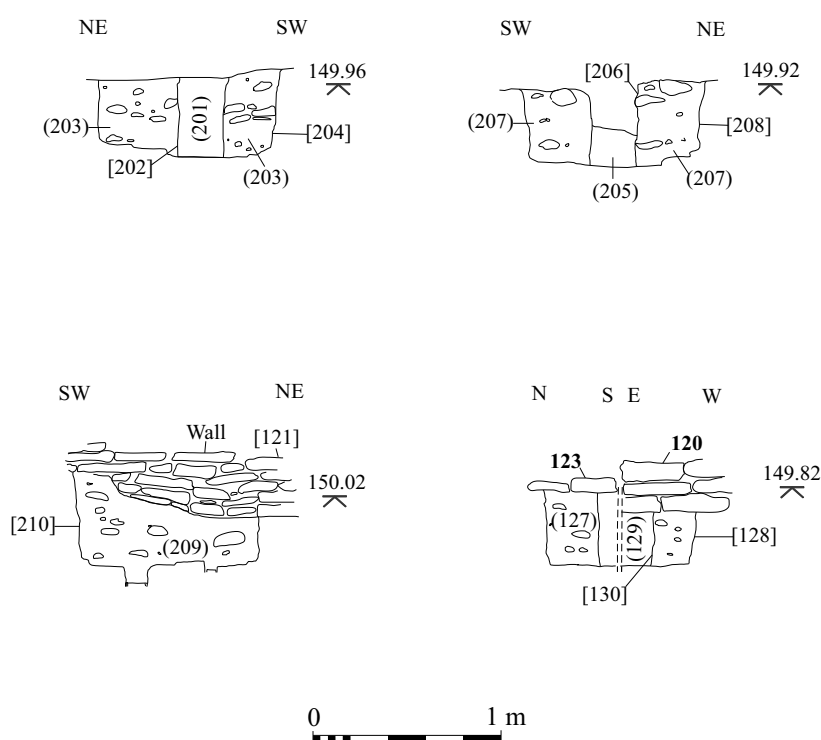


Figure 8. Sections of Post-holes

The earlier building dates from after 1550 from the single sherd of red earthenware in the fill (110) of posthole [109].

The second phase of this building saw not only the replacement of the original timber structure in stone but the addition of a cellared extension to the east to create a building a full 10.00m in length. The external walls were of one build and comprise wall (121) to the north, (120) to the south and (122) to the east, the lattermost of which also served as the eastern wall of the cellar. A further central wall, (123) served to define the western limits of the cellar, which was accessed by means of two steps (124), seemingly from outside, given the worn threshold stone in wall (121). The western limits of the building were defined by the partial remains of wall (223).

All walls and steps were constructed of roughly hewn limestone slabs of 50x70x20 – 470x400x120mm in size bonded with yellow sandy clay. The outer walls mostly survived as a single course (c. 0.10m) although up to four courses (up to 0.54m high) survived in the cellar. The north, west and south walls were 0.60-0.70m wide while

the east wall was fractionally narrower at 0.55m and the internal wall [123] was 0.50m wide. The floor of the cellar comprised nothing more than the bedrock into which the cellar was cut. Only two quadrants of the cellar were excavated. A small square cut into this floor directly in front of steps and 0.75m from them is difficult to interpret but may have been intended to receive the down stands of a timber installation of some design. The two steps [124] down into the cellar were 1.14m long and each 0.30m wide and deep.

It appears that the western room of the building may have been floored with beaten clay (141), essentially little more than a compaction of the subsoil (101) through which the construction cuts were dug. A small hearth composed of an irregular shallow cut [140] lined with red unfrosted bricks (139) was situated towards the western end of the room, cut through this possible floor. A small drip gully of limestone slabs (224) set vertically against the sides of a shallow cut [113] ran along the south wall of the building. No dating evidence for the use of the building was obtained. A period of disuse prior to the robbing of the walls is perhaps represented by the partial backfilling the cellar with dumped garden soil (119). However, it was not long before the event of extensive robbing [118] reduced the surviving fabric of the building to just one or two courses. The remainder of the structure was backfilled with a mix of re-deposited clay and rubble (108), though piecemeal robbing such as [103] continued to reduce the fabric of the building even further. The primary infilling (119) of the cellar is dated from after the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. The pre-18<sup>th</sup> century Border Ware sherd from the robbing of the walls (108) is considered to be residual.

The only other features which may be attributed with any certainty to this phase are two small postholes; [105] with a packing of large pebbles and cobbles (104) to the east of Area C and [183] to the west, also filled with a packing of large pebbles and cobbles (182). Both contained fragments of post-Medieval pottery. A further posthole [107] was cut into the backfill (108) of the robbing [118] of the south wall of the building.

#### *Features of Indeterminate Date*

Two features did not yield any dating evidence and thus cannot be fully incorporated into the site phasing. Both comprise postholes sealed by the subsoil of the site (101) and include one example with packing; [212], and one without; [218].

#### **4.4 Area D**

No features or finds were found during the excavation for the new foundations to connect the new south wing to the old house. A service trench, adjacent to the west side of the new south wing, produced sherds of Roman pottery from close to the southern end but no features were discernible.

#### **4.5 Area E**

No features or finds were found during the excavation for the foundations for the new porch.

#### 4.6 Area F

No features or finds were found during the excavation for new services in the yard. Unfortunately a new service excavated to the east of the new south wing was not monitored.

#### 4.7 Area G

The excavation for new drainage along the track to the south of the building complex failed to find any features or artefacts. An undated track surface 60-100mm thick comprising pebbles and small pieces of brash (53) was found under a thin layer of topsoil (52). The surface had been laid directly on top of the natural Cornbrash. The drainage trenches were observed extending down to the north end of the ponds, which is further west than shown on Figure 1.

#### 4.7 Area H

Excavation for a base for the new oil tank provided negative evidence.

### 5 FINDS

#### 5.1 Iron Age and Roman Pottery by Edward Biddulph (*Oxford Archaeology*).

##### Areas A and C

A total of 361 sherds, weighing 4622 g, from Areas A and C, was examined with reference to Oxford Archaeology's Roman pottery recording system (Booth, nd). The collection of pottery recovered from the site was of mixed date. Pottery from contexts 112, 150 and 152 is almost certainly of early Iron Age date. An incised sherd from 112 and rims from the other contexts are typical of the period. The pottery from early-middle Iron Age contexts (e.g. 16 and 160) may also belong specifically to the early period, but, lacking diagnostic traits, has been assigned a wider date range.

Context	Sherds	Weight	Comments	Spot date
2	20	208	Mortarium Young type M22; fabrics F51, C11, R30, O11	4th century
12	1	5		ROM
16	3	31	Quartzite/flint tempered pottery	E-MIA
22	3	28	Limestone tempered, quartzite/flint tempered pot	E-MIA
25	3	45	Fabric R30	ROM (?2nd c.+)
26	2	4		ROM
30	2	8	Fabric R30; ?tile	ROM (?2nd c.+)
112	1	59	Sand-tempered sherd with incised decoration	EIA
112	3	6		ROM
127	4	28		ROM
131	20	302	Dishes Young R53 (R10), Young R47 (R30), beaker (F51); fabric C11	4th century AD
132	8	30	Fabrics F51, O20, R30, C11 (probably from jar)	4th century AD
134	24	253	Fabrics R30, R94, C11, F65, B10, W12	4th century
135	20	315	Fabrics B11 (plain dish), R20, O20, R30	Early 3rd century
136	4	26	Fabrics R94, O20, flint-tempered (IA)	ROM (?2nd c.+)
141	6	42		ROM
146	69	752	Fabrics F65 (?F51 flagon), C11, O11, Q20, R30	4th century
147	6	69	Fabric R30	ROM
149	16	178	Shell-tempered jars	E-MIA
150	3	83	Flint-tempered and grog-tempered fabrics	EIA
152	7	91	Shell-tempered	EIA
156	6	26	Fabrics O20, R10; tile fragment	ROM (?2nd cent.+)
160	4	54	Shell-tempered	E-MIA

Context	Sherds	Weight	Comments	Spot date
165	56	1175	Bowl Drag 32 or 38 (S40), dish Young C45 (F51), Young R47, Young R53 (R30), jar (R20, R30, C11); fabric B30	4th century AD
172	21	158	Fabrics F51, O20, R30	Mid 3rd - Late 4th
178	8	68	Dish (B11), fabrics ?O24, R10, R30, tile	Mid-late 4th cent
190	37	320	Dish Young C45 (F51), jars Young C16, Young C18 (F51); fabric OXAC, fired clay, tile	Medieval; most pottery was late 3rd-late 4th c
194	2	30	Pinched-mouth flagon - overfired oxidised fabric??	4th century AD
195	11	136	Dish Young C45; fabric R30, fired clay	Mid 3rd-late 4th c.
197	6	166	Fabric C20	Roman.
209	1	11	Fabric C11	4th century
213	8	47		ROM
TOTAL	361	4622		

*In the above table, where no comments are present the pottery was identified by Paul Blinkhorn.*

The majority of the pottery belonged to the late Roman period; contexts yielding the most diagnostic pieces were 4th century in date, and it is possible that all Roman material was deposited during this time. The assemblage was dominated by grey wares (R10 and R30) and Oxfordshire red colour-coated ware (F51). The former comprised both sandy and fine fabrics; most of these derived from Oxfordshire kilns, some possibly reasonably close to the site. A fine grey ware sherd from context 178 was somewhat unusual; its dark grey surfaces and core (with occasional charcoal-like inclusions) and lighter grey margins were reminiscent of material seen at Asthall, and may have origins in North Wiltshire (P. Booth pers. comm.). The same context also yielded a sherd of probable Portchester 'D' ware (O24) from Surrey. Identification is uncertain - the sherd was small and the fabric is in any case a rare occurrence in the region. If correctly identified, it provides a strong indication for activity continuing into the second half of the 4th century AD. The Oxfordshire colour-coated ware comprised standard dish, beaker and jar types that generally fit a later 3rd to late 4th century date range. A number of colour-coated sherds that could not certainly be identified as Oxfordshire colour-coated ware (although this ware is likely to be correct) have been labelled F65. Limestone-tempered sherds from a storage jar were recovered from context 197. Forms were confined to jars - the absence of dishes or bowls might, in spite of the Portchester 'D' ware, indicate that very late Roman groups were absent. A few sherds were oxidised (O20), though it is possible that these were Oxfordshire colour-coated ware sherds with abraded surfaces.

Among the largest sherds in 134 was a black-burnished bead-rimmed 2nd/3rd century dish. Shell-tempered fabric C11, which dates the context comprises two very small sherds. Similarly, context 146 contains 2nd/3rd century pottery among later 4th century material (colour-coated flagon sherds and shell-tempered ware). Nominally 3rd century context 135 included a plain-rimmed, undecorated black-burnished dish. The lack of decoration possibly indicates a late 4th century date, though the form is closer to mid Roman examples. A fragment from a samian bowl or dish was recovered from context 165 (S40). This was probably made in an East Gaulish factory during the second half of the 2nd century or early in the 3rd.

Overall, the pottery is in good condition. With an average sherd weight of 12.8 g, fragments were large. A reasonable number of rims were also represented. Without detailed quantification, ascertaining the status of the late Roman settlement is difficult. Oxfordshire colour-coated ware was fairly ubiquitous, and the presence alone of it as fineware is not indicative of a high-status site. Nevertheless, the good range of forms represented means that the settlement's status could potentially be above that of a basic rural site.

## Area B

Over 7 kg of pottery was collected from Area B on a 5m grid. The material was rapidly scanned in order to identify forms and fabrics, date ranges, unusual material and aspects of site status. Fabrics were identified using Oxford Archaeology's standard recording system (Booth, nd). Where diagnostic, the Roman pottery belonged to the mid and late Roman periods, probably ranging from the mid 2nd to late 4th centuries. There was nothing that was necessarily of earlier date. Grey ware (R30) was commonest, with jars and dishes predominating. Dishes were also available in Oxfordshire red colour-coated ware (F51), another well-represented fabric. Red colour-coated mortaria (M41), typical of the 4th century, were collected, too. Smaller amounts of handmade black-burnished ware (B11), sandy oxidised ware (O20), and shell-tempered ware (C11) were recovered, and were largely consistent with a later Roman date. Fragments of a storage jar in pink grogged ware (O81) were retrieved from square 90/145. The vessel was made in Buckinghamshire and arrived during the late Roman period. Somewhat more exotic were the fragments of samian ware collected in two areas. Square 75/85 yielded a cup possibly manufactured in East Gaul during the late 2nd or early 3rd century.

The Roman pottery is of similar composition and date to the material recovered by excavation. And, as with that assemblage, status is difficult to gauge without detailed quantification. However, Oxfordshire colour-coated ware is well represented, the settlement from which it derives could potentially be of a higher status than basic rural sites. The pottery is reasonably well-preserved despite disturbance, suggesting that the pottery has not travelled far from the original point of deposition. The core of the settlement would appear to be reasonably close by.

### 5.2 Post-medieval Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The post-medieval pottery assemblage comprised 33 sherds with a total weight of 1,722g. It included residual Romano-British material. The post-medieval assemblage is typical of domestic sites in the region, and comprises a range of pottery types mainly associated with the preparation and consumption of food drink.

#### Fabric

The post-medieval pottery was recorded utilizing the coding system and chronology of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1984; 1994), as follows:

OXDR: Red Earthenwares, 1550+. 22 sherds, 1,038g.  
OXFH: Border wares, 1550 - 1700. 1 sherd, 16g.  
OXRESWL: Polychrome Slipwares, 17<sup>th</sup> century. 2 sherds, 74g.  
OXCE: Tin-glazed Earthenware, 1613 – 1800. 1 sherd, 4g.  
OXBEW: Staffordshire manganese wares. c. 1700-1800. 1 sherd, 10g.  
OXFM: Staffordshire White-glazed Stoneware, 1720 – 1800. 3 sherds, 21g  
CRM: Creamware, mid 18th - early 19th C. 3 sherds, 13g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in the table below. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.



## Discussion

The range of pottery types from this phase of excavation is very similar to that noted during the evaluation stage, which produced 17 sherds (233g) of largely post-medieval wares with two sherds (92g) of Romano-British pottery. The post-medieval wares comprised mainly OXDR, with 1 small sherd of CRM and two very small sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> century mass-produced white earthenwares. The only post-medieval ware noted during that phase of work which did not occur during this one was mid 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century Staffordshire Slip-trailed ware (Oxford fabric OXDQ). One sherd (17g) was present.

The post-medieval assemblage from this site comprises pottery types which are all-well known in the region, from a variety of local and non-local sources. It is a typical domestic assemblage, comprising utilitarian wares (OXDR, OXFH and OXBEW) along with finer table wares (OXRESWL, OXCE, OXFM, OXDQ and CRM). This is reflected in the range of vessel types present, where identifiable. The utilitarian wares, in the main, comprises food preparation vessels, particularly large bowls, whereas the fine ware vessels consist of serving dishes, plates and drinking vessels such as mugs. This is a pattern seen at many domestic sites in the region in both the town and country (see Mellor 1984 for *comparata* in the city of Oxford).

### *Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type*

Context	OXDR		OXFH		OXRESW L		OXCE		OXBE W		OXFM		CRM		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
44	1	26													M16thC
104					1	23									17thC
108	1	67	1	16					1	10					L17thC
110	1	8													M16thC
119	17	810			1	51	1	4			3	21	3	13	M18thC
120	2	127													M16thC
Total	22	1038	1	16	2	74	1	4	1	10	3	21	3	13	

In addition a sherd (24g) of glazed earthenware was recovered from context 124 and four sherds (93g) of red earthenware came from context 21. Four intrusive sherds of OXAC were recovered from context 190 (see Table in Roman pottery report).

## **6 DISCUSSION**

The results of the recent work at this site clearly demonstrate the presence of Iron Age, Roman, post-medieval and limited medieval remains on the site. For the purposes of this report Areas A - C site will be considered in turn followed by a discussion by period.

## 6.1 Area A

The results of the limited work within Area A shows a marked density of archaeological remains across the area. Though widely varying in size, the ditches uncovered in Trench 2 were all of such similar alignment as to suggest a similarity of function and it seems likely that they denote boundaries of some form, albeit ones seemingly ranging in date from the Iron Age to the post-medieval period.

The lack of work in this area makes it difficult to interpret what was happening in the area but see period discussions below.

## 6.2 Area B

Work undertaken in this area was both minimal and of limited value. Yet the results of these investigations are of paramount significance in understanding the precise nature of Roman activity in the site, for it is here that the first definitive evidence for a Roman masonry building or timber building founded on masonry foundations has been uncovered. Given the restrictive nature of the work it is difficult to formulate a meaningful interpretation of the findings. Admittedly, it is tempting to view a burnt cellar with intensive sooting on the walls and floors as part of a hypocaust structure. However, diagnostic hypocaust elements such as *pilae* stacks or even the tiles from which they are built have not been positively identified and any such interpretation must remain questionable until further evidence is forthcoming.

Whatever the precise nature of the buildings in Area B, the various spreads of building material noted in the area would seem to suggest that such buildings cover much of the southern half of the area and survive relatively undisturbed.

The real value of these findings, therefore, lies not in illuminating the exact character of the Roman settlement on this site but in reaching a greater understanding of the nature of the ancillary activities upon which the majority of the archaeological work was focussed.

The pottery from the collection on a 5m grid was noticeably more dense in the extreme south-west part of Area B with a secondary less dense area from the 'tile dump' (Fig. 4) northwards to wall 41 in the eastern half of the area.

## 6.3 Area C

Excavations in this area produced good evidence of Iron Age, Roman and post-Medieval activity on the site. Though scant, the Iron Age remains comprising an impressive boundary ditch of some form coupled with the amount of pottery suggests domestic activity in the immediate vicinity.

The Iron Age ditch appears to have remained as an earthwork into the Roman period when it was backfilled and subsequently replaced by a gully on the same alignment and a later ditch upon a slightly different orientation. These may have defined enclosures associated with the buildings to the west. The plough furrows or perhaps planting trenches parallel to the latest ditch show that there was agricultural or horticultural activity close to the buildings. It is tempting to interpret this as a 'kitchen' garden. However the pits in the area including the potential clay chest [175] and the occasional posthole allude to some very different activities at different times.

The post-medieval timber structure and its masonry replacement must be the early post-medieval hunting lodge known from documentary sources. Although the probable clay flooring of the later structure is perhaps more reminiscent of a barn, it is hard to conceive of a purely agricultural building possessing a cellar.

#### **6.4 Iron Age**

Iron Age features were found at the south end of Area C and at the south end of Trench 2 within area A. Although the total amount of pottery was low the amount gained from the limited excavated from these features and the residual sherds from nearby features in Area C suggests domestic occupation. It is likely that the occupation was a small farmstead perhaps of a single extended family group. The two ditches, while dissimilar in profile are both substantial and may be the boundary ditches to the settlement. The difference in profiles can be explained by the fact that the wider ditch in Area A was cut into clay, which would have eroded, while the ditch in Area C was cut into solid Cornbrash.

The main part of the settlement may have been under the present house, the garden to the south-east of the house and extending north-east of the house. The vast majority of these areas were not examined.

While some of the pottery has been assigned a broad early to mid Iron Age date, due to the lack of diagnostic traits, it is considered that the occupation is of all of early Iron Age date based on the form of the other pottery.

#### **6.5 Roman**

The only probable 1<sup>st</sup> century features found on the site were from the watching brief maintained during the construction of the water main in 1985 from the buildings to the Finstock - Leafield road. This suggests that early Roman settlement was to the north of the building complex. The pottery from features in Area C and that collected from Area B suggest that in the mid 2<sup>nd</sup> century the settlement moved southwards to the main area of the investigation. However the relative lack of pottery from the second century indicates that the settlement was modest and it is not until the third and fourth centuries that the occupation is more intense.

The 'kitchen' garden area was enclosed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century and redefined in the early 3<sup>rd</sup> century. The later ditch [137, 148] is on the same alignment as the walls within Area B.

It is probable that the stone buildings or timber buildings on masonry footings date to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries. While little can be said about the building(s), from the limited evidence of the walls found and the spreads of tile and limestone rubble they do not appear to have been that extensive. From this present evidence and that of the pottery, which shows a higher status than a basic rural site, it can only be argued that the site was a higher status farmstead but probably not a villa. No artefacts of any status apart from the bronze dove have been found and no coins were found in Area B although the area was examined with a metal detector. Three coins were found in Area C; two from post-Roman deposits and one 4<sup>th</sup> century coin from pit [133]. The box flue tiles and the cellared area of the building suggest that at least one building was heated. However, the finding of a 'prolific' scatter of Roman pottery 200m to the south-west

of the present farmstead, and just south-west of the ponds suggests the possibility of a further building. This could have been a bath-house fed by a spring. While the field is currently under pasture, should it be ploughed in the future then further fieldwalking should be carried out in order to date the pottery scatter and to determine whether box flue tiles and other materials that can be associated with a bath-house are present. Should this be the case then the complex could then be considered to be a villa.

## **6.6 Medieval**

Documentary sources suggest that the site was occupied in the late thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries. However, only a few sherds dating from this period were found in one context (the late backfilling of the cellared Roman building). A small building of this date and associated deposits may lie in the same general area of the postulated Iron Age centre of occupation where very limited investigation was carried out.

## **6.7 Post-medieval**

Without doubt the post-medieval hunting lodge known as Bowman's Lodge in 1607 and later as Brice's Lodge in 1662 was found. The dating of the buildings is a problem as little closely dated material was forthcoming from the buildings. The original timber building was built some time after 1550 and is likely to be the 'Bowman's Lodge'. It is likely that the new owners/tenants, the Brice or Brize family, rebuilt the lodge in stone.

It appears from the initial infilling of the cellar, which is dated to the mid eighteenth century, that the stone lodge was still standing when the present house was first built. The earlier core of this building is thought to date to the later 17<sup>th</sup> century although it may be slightly later. It would appear therefore that the cellared stone building was not used as a lodge for very long and may have been used a barn/outbuilding after the construction of the present house. Some of the stone from this building may have been used for the alterations and extensions to the present building during the late 18<sup>th</sup> century or early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The ditch [13] found in Trench 2 in Area A presumably defined one side of a paddock or field lying to the east of the access track.

## **7 CONCLUSIONS**

In conclusion, excavations on this site clearly demonstrate the presence of early Iron Age, earlier and later Roman, medieval and post-medieval activity on the site. The focus of much of this activity appears to lie towards the southern end of the site, where buildings of later Roman and post-medieval date have been found. It seems the later Roman settlement favoured the very slightly lower ground to the southwest, whereas the post-medieval buildings were sited on higher ground – a pattern that continues into the present day with the location of the current building. The earlier Roman occupation was further to the north while the Iron Age occupation probably was sited between the earlier and later Roman occupation areas. Slightly different locations for Iron Age, earlier and later Roman settlement are not unusual with moves to fresh, cleaner ground.

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**APPENDIX 1 – ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY**

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Findings	Date
<b>AREA A</b>							
<b>Trench 1</b>			0.50	1.65	25.00		
01	Layer	Topsoil	0.15	Tr.	Tr.	-	-
02	Layer	Subsoil	0.35-0.40	Tr.	Tr.	-	-
03	Deposit	Natural clay	-	Tr.	Tr.	-	-
04	Cut	Pit cut	0.07	0.70	0.07	-	-
05	Fill	Fill of 04	0.06	0.70	0.07	-	-
06	Fill	Fill of 06	0.01	0.70	0.07	-	-
07	Deposit	Natural limestone	-	Tr.	Tr.	-	-
08	<i>Unused</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
09	<i>Unused</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Trench 2</b>			0.50-0.65	3.00 max	18.00		
10	Layer	Mod. surface	0.10	Tr.	Tr.	-	-
11	Layer	Plough soil	0.28 max	Tr.	Tr.	-	-
12	Fill	Fill of 13	0.30	1.20	1.65	Pot, token	P. Med
13	Cut	Ditch	0.60	1.45	1.65+	-	P. Med
14	Deposit	Natural clay	-	Tr.	Tr.	-	-
15	Masonry	Concrete	0.05	0.40	0.40	-	-
16	Fill	Fill of 16	0.36	1.46	1.65	Pot	E/MIA
17	<i>Unused</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	Fill	Fill of 13	0.22	0.78	1.65-	Pot	P. Med
19	Fill	Fill of 13	0.10	0.68	0.50 exc.	Pot	P. Med
20	Cut	Ditch	0.32	0.80	1.65	-	-
21	Cut	Ditch	0.70	3.02	1.65	-	E/MIA
22	Fill	Fill of 21	0.35	3.02	1.65	Pot, bone-	E/MIA
23	Fill	Fill of 21	0.30	1.40	1.65	-	-
24	Fill	Fill of 21	0.16	2.60	1.65	-	-
25	Fill	Fill of 27	0.30	0.62	1.65	Pot, bone	?2 <sup>nd</sup> +
26	Fill	Fill of 27	0.06	0.18	0.50	pot	?2 <sup>nd</sup> +
27	Cut	Gully	0.35	0.62	1.65	-	?2 <sup>nd</sup> +
28	Fill	Fill of 28	-	0.28	1.65	-	-
29	Cut	Pipe trench	-	0.28	1.65	-	-
37	Fill	Fill of 38	0.12	0.30	1.65		-
38	Cut	Gully cut	0.12	0.30	1.65	-	-
<b>Trench 3</b>			0.30	1.65	18.00		
30	Layer	Topsoil	0.20	Tr.	Tr.	-	-
31	Layer	Subsoil	0.10	Tr.	Tr.	-	-
32	Fill	Fill of 33	0.14	0.33	2.10	-	-

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Findings	Date
33	Cut	Gully	0.14	0.33	2.10	-	-
34	Fill	Fill of 35	0.10	0.35	2.80	-	-
35	Cut	Field drain?	0.10	0.35	2.80	-	P. Med
36	Deposit	Natural clay	-	Tr.	Tr.	-	-
<b>Watching Brief</b>							
50	Cut	Pit	0.55	0.15+	1.10+	-	-
51	Fill	Fill of 50	0.55	0.15+	1.10+	-	-
63	Cut	Wall foundation	?	1.30	4.00+	-	Modern
64	Fill	Fill of 63	?	1.30	4.00+	-	Modern
<b>AREA B</b>							
39	Layer	Topsoil	0.30	Site	Site	-	P med
40	Layer	Subsoil	Unexc.	Site	Site	Pot, fl, cbm	Post Roman?
41	Masonry	Wall	Not fully exc.	0.55 max	6.00	-	Mid 16 <sup>th</sup> +
42	Masonry	Wall	Not fully exc.	0.30	5.50	-	Mid 16 <sup>th</sup> +
43	Layer	Burnt layer	0.01	0.80	0.80	-	P med
44	Layer	Dump?	0.06	Unknown	Unknown	Pot	Mid 16 <sup>th</sup> +
45	Layer	?Ploughsoil	?	?	?	Pot	Roman
187	Layer	In possible hypocaust	0.08	5.00	12.00	Pot, bn, CBM	Post-Roman?
188	Layer	In possible hypocaust	0.10	1.00	5.00	Pot, bn, CBM	Post-Roman?
189	Layer	In poss. hypocaust	0.12	1.00	5.00	Pot, CBM	Post Roman?
190	Layer	Demolition	0.25	1.00	5.00	Pot, bn, CBM	Late 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup>
191	Layer	Demolition	0.25	1.00	1.80	Pot, bn, CBM	Late 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup>
192	Layer	Backfill in Hypocaust	0.25	1.00	0.85	CBM	Late 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup>
193	Layer	Backfill in hypocaust	0.10	1.00	1.55	Pot, bn, CBM	Late 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup>
194	Layer	Demolition	0.40	1.00	1.25	Pot, CBM, oBM	Late 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup>
195	Layer	Demolition	0.30	1.00	1.50	Pot, CBM	Mid 3 <sup>rd</sup> - late 4th
196	Layer	Demolition?	0.18	0.50	0.50		Roman
197	Layer	Infilling in hypocaust	0.10	0.50	0.50		Roman
198	Layer	Burning in Hypocaust	0.10	0.45	0.45		Roman
199	Masonry	Hypocaust Wall?	0.80	0.55	1.50	-	Roman
200	Masonry	Hypocaust Wall	0.45	0.45	1.35	-	Roman
215	Layer	??	0.60	1.20	0.15		Roman
216	Layer	??	0.60	1.20	0.10		Roman

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Findings	Date
230	Cut	Cut of hypocaust	0.92	1.00 (exc.)	0.50 (exc.)	-	Roman
231	Masonry	Roman wall?	0.20	0.50	1.60	-	Roman
232	Masonry	Roman wall?	0.20	0.40	1.40	-	Roman
233	Masonry?	Roman wall?	0.15	0.45	1.30	-	Roman
<b>AREA C</b>							
100	Layer	Topsoil	0.30	Site	Site		Post-Medieval
101	Layer	Subsoil	0.30	Site	Site	Pot, bn, CBM	Post-Roman
102	Fill	Fill of 103	0.25	0.72	1.35	Pot	P. Med..
103	Cut	Robber cut	0.25	0.72	1.35	-	P. Med.
104	Fill	Fill of 105	0.14	0.30	0.35	Pot	P. Med.
105	Cut	Posthole	0.14	0.30	0.35	-	P. Med.
106	Fill	Fill of 107	0.10	0.30	0.35	-	P. Med.
107	Cut	Posthole	0.10	0.30	0.35	-	P. Med.
108	Fill	Fill of 118	0.40	3.70	5.00	Pot, gl, CBM	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> +
109	Cut	Posthole cut	0.54	1.10	1.10		Mid 16 <sup>th</sup> +
110	Fill	Fill of 109	0.54	1.10	1.10	Pot, bn, CBM	Mid 16 <sup>th</sup> +
111	Cut	Posthole	0.50	1.08	1.10		Mid 16 <sup>th</sup> +
112	Fill	Backfill in 111	0.34	1.08	1.10	Pot, bn, CBM	Mid 16 <sup>th</sup> +
113	Cut	Drain	0.20 max	0.20		-	P. Med.
114	Fill	Fill of 113	0.20	0.20			P. Med.
115	Fill	Fill of 109	0.45	1.10	1.10		Mid 16 <sup>th</sup> +
116	Masonry	Packing in 111	0.30	1.00	1.00	-	Mid 16 <sup>th</sup> +
117	Masonry	Foundation?	0.15	0.85	1.13	-	P. Med.
118	Cut	Robber cut	0.38	3.70	5.00	-	P. Med.
119	Fill	Infilling of cellar	0.36	2.60	3.86		18th
120	Masonry	Foundation wall	0.25 max	0.70		-	P. Med.
121	Masonry	Foundation wall	0.54 max	0.65		-	P. Med.
122	Masonry	Foundation wall	0.40	0.55	1.70	-	P. Med.
123	Masonry	Foundation wall	0.40	0.50	3.86	-	P. Med.
124	Masonry	Steps	0.36	0.60	1.14	-	P. Med.
125	Fill	Fill of 126	0.56	0.36 (exc.)	0.94		P. Med.
126	Cut	Posthole	0.56	0.36	0.94	-	P. Med.
127	Fill	Fill of 128	0.27	0.36	0.38	-	Mid 16 <sup>th</sup> +
128	Cut	Posthole	0.27	0.36	0.38		Mid 16 <sup>th</sup> +
129	Fill	Fill of 130	0.27	0.10 (exc.)	0.10 (exc.)	-	P. Med.
130	'Cut'	Post pipe	0.27	0.10 (exc.)	0.10 (exc.)	-	P. Med.



Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Findings	Date
131	Fill	Fill of 133	0.15	1.24	2.00	Pot	4 <sup>th</sup>
132	Fill	Fill of 133	0.18	1.00	1.24		4 <sup>th</sup>
133	Cut	Pit	0.32	2.00	1.24	-	4 <sup>th</sup>
134	Fill	Fill of 137	0.15	0.75	1.40	Pot, bn	Roman
135	Fill	Fill of 137	0.08	0.55	0.75	Pot	Roman
136	Fill	Fill of 137	0.08	0.80	0.75	Pot	Roman
137	Cut	Ditch	0.27	1.60	0.75 (exc.)	-	Roman
138	Fill	Fill of 140	0.04	0.80	1.24	-	P. Med.
139	Masonry	Hearth	0.07	0.30	0.46	-	P. Med.
140	Cut	Cut for hearth	0.05	0.80	1.65	-	P. Med.
141	Layer	Floor	0.12	3.00	5.20		P. Med.
142	Fill	Fill of 143	0.10	0.45	0.28	-	?
143	Cut	Posthole	0.10	0.45	0.28	-	?
144	Fill	Fill of 145	0.10	0.43	0.80	-	?
145	Cut	Tree throw	0.10	0.43	0.80	-	?
146	Fill	Fill of 148	0.23	1.25	1.43 (exc.)	Pot	Roman
147	Fill	Fill of 148	0.20	1.25	1.25 (exc.)	Pot	Roman
148	Cut	Ditch	0.43	1.95	1.25 (exc.)	-	Roman
149	Fill	Fill of 155	0.20	0.78	1.00 (exc.)		Iron Age
150	Fill	Fill of 155	0.25	0.65	1.00 (exc.)		Iron Age
151	Fill	Fill of 155	0.20	1.10	1.00 (exc.)		Iron Age
152	Fill	Fill of 155	0.25	1.07	1.00 (exc.)		Iron Age
153	Fill	Fill of 155	0.35	0.40	1.00 (exc.)		Iron Age
154	Fill	Fill of 155	0.50	0.65	1.00 (exc.)		Iron Age
155	Cut	Ditch	0.80	1.55	1.00 (exc.)		Iron Age
156	Fill	Fill of 157	0.10	0.28	2.60	Pot	2 <sup>nd</sup> ?
157	Cut	Gully	0.10	0.28	2.60		2 <sup>nd</sup> ?
158	Fill	Fill of 161	0.34	0.60	0.60?		Roman
159	Fill	Fill of 161	0.38	1.00	1.00		Roman
160	Fill	Fill of 161	0.26	0.45	1.00	IA pot	Roman
161	Cut	Pit	0.46	1.00	1.00		Roman
162	Not used	-	-	-	-	-	-
163	Not used	-	-	-	-	-	-
164	Not used	-	-	-	-	-	-
165	Layer	Demolition (in cut 222)	0.12	5.00	6.00	Pot, CBM	4 <sup>th</sup>
166	Fill	Fill of 169	0.30	1.00	1.00		Iron Age
167	Fill	Fill of 169	0.43	0.90	1.00	Pot	Iron Age
168	Fill	Fill of 169	0.10	0.43	1.00	-	Iron Age
169	Cut	Ditch	0.75	1.25	1.00		Iron Age
170	Cut	Ditch	0.32	1.10	0.65 (exc.)	-	Mid 3 <sup>rd</sup> -late 4 <sup>th</sup>

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
171	Fill	Fill of 170	0.32	1.10	0.65 (exc.)	Pot, bn	Mid 3 <sup>rd</sup> -late 4 <sup>th</sup>
172	Fill?	Fill of 170?	0.34	1.20	0.65 (exc.)	Pot, bn	Mid 3 <sup>rd</sup> -late 4 <sup>th</sup>
173	Cut	Gully?	0.18	0.40	0.65 (exc.)	-	Roman
174	Fill	Fill of 173	0.18	0.40	0.65 (exc.)		Roman
175	Cut	Clay chest?	0.40	1.40	2.10	-	Roman?
176	Fill	Fill of 175	0.40	1.40	2.10	Pot, CBM	Roman
177	Cut	Pit	0.12	0.50	0.50	-	Mid-late 4 <sup>th</sup>
178	Fill	Fill of 177	0.12	0.50	0.50	Pot, bn	Mid-late 4 <sup>th</sup>
179	Cut	Gully?	Unexc.	0.38	0.65	-	Roman
180	Fill	Fill of 179	Unexc.	0.38	0.65		Roman
181	Layer	Subsoil?	0.08	2.20	?	Pot, bn, gl, CBM	Post-Roman?
182	Fill	Fill of 183	0.20	0.24	0.40	Pot	
183	Cut	Posthole	0.20	0.24	0.40	-	
184	Fill	Same as 110	0.54	1.10	1.10	-	P. Med.
185	Cut	Plough furrow?	0.16	0.30	0.65	Pot	Roman
186	Fill	Same as 225		0.25	0.25		P. Med.
201	Fill	Fill of 202	0.41	0.24	0.24	-	P. Med.
202	'Cut'	Post pipe	0.41	0.24	0.24	-	P. Med.
203	Fill	Backfill of 204	0.45	1.00	1.00		P. Med.
204	Cut	Posthole	0.45	1.00	1.00	-	Mid 16 <sup>th</sup> +
205	Fill	Fill of 206	0.20	0.22	0.22		Mid 16 <sup>th</sup> +
206	'Cut'	Post pipe	0.20	0.22	0.22	-	Mid 16 <sup>th</sup> +
207	Fill	Backfill of 208	0.45	0.85	0.94		Mid 16 <sup>th</sup> +
208	Cut	Posthole cut	0.45	0.85	0.94	-	Mid 16 <sup>th</sup> +
209	Fill	Backfill of 210	0.50	0.85	0.94		Mid 16 <sup>th</sup> +
210	Cut	Posthole	0.50	0.85	0.94	-	Mid 16 <sup>th</sup> +
211	Fill	Fill of 212	0.14	0.25	0.25		P. Med?
212	Cut	Posthole	0.14	0.25	0.25	-	P. Med?
213	Fill	Fill of 214	0.18	0.25 (exc.)	0.50		Roman?
214	Cut	Posthole	0.18	0.25 (exc.)	0.50	-	Roman?
217	Fill	Fill of 218	0.12	0.32	0.32	-	?
218	Cut	Posthole	0.12	0.32	0.32	-	?
219	Cut	Cut for wall 121	0.12	0.68		-	P. Med.
220	Cut	Cut of cellar	0.38	3.70	5.10		P. Med.
221	Cut	Cut for wall 120	0.10	0.65	4.30	-	P. Med.
222	Cut	Shallow cut filled by 165	0.20 max.	5.00	6.00	-	4 <sup>th</sup>
223	Masonry	Foundation	0.10	-	-	-	P. Med.

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Findings	Date
224	Masonry	Drain lining	0.20	0.28	6.00		P. Med.
225	Fill	Fill of 226	0.25	0.25	0.25	-	Mid 16 <sup>th</sup> +
226	'Cut'	Post pipe	0.25	0.25	0.25	-	Mid 16 <sup>th</sup> +
227	Fill	Same as 228?	-	-	-	-	-
228	Fill	Fill of 229	0.15	0.30	0.30	Pot	Roman
229	Cut	Pit cut?	0.15	0.30	0.30	-	Roman
<b>AREA F</b>							
55	Feature	Wall foundation	0.60	-	-		Modern
56	Deposit	Topsoil	0.25-0.40	Area	Area	-	P. Med
57	Deposit	Subsoil	0.25	Area	Area	-	-
58	Deposit	Natural					
<b>AREA G</b>							
52	Deposit	Topsoil	0.06-0.16	Area	Area	-	-
53	Deposit	Surface	0.06-0.10	Area	Area	-	-
54	Deposit	Natural	-	Area	Area	-	-
59	Deposit	Same as 52					
60	Deposit	Same as 54					
61	Deposit	Pond silts	0.10-0.20	Pond	Pond	Fe objects	Modern
<b>AREA H</b>							
62	Ex no.		0.40	Area	Area	-	-

bn = bone

CBM = ceramic building material (tile & brick)

oBM = other burnt material

gl = glass

Fe obj = iron objects

fl - flint