

Archaeological Excavation
on land at
ABINGDON COURT FARM,
CRICKLADE, WILTSHIRE.

for
Living Heritage Developments Ltd.

2003-123
Su19SW 050
151
302
402
02 461
207
533



Report No. 789/2003



Bristol and Region Archaeological Services

Archaeological Excavation
at
**ABINGDON COURT FARM,
CRICKLADE, WILTSHIRE.**

Centred on
N.G.R. SU 1035 9369

Client: Living Heritage Developments Ltd.

CONTENTS

List of Illustrations

List of Tables

PART I: INTRODUCTION.....	1
The Site	
Historical Background	
PART II: THE EXCAVATION.....	5
Methodology	
Site Chronology	
Areas 1 – 6	
Interpretation	
PART III: SPECIALIST REPORTS.....	13
Animal bones, by Lorrain Higbee	
Ceramics, by Lisa Brown & Rod Burchill	
Ceramic tile, by Rod Burchill	
Charcoal, by Rowena Gale	
Clay tobacco pipes, by Reg Jackson	
Coins, by Rosie Clarke	
Lithics, by David Mullin	
Plant macrofossil remains, by Julie Jones	
Small finds, by Rod Burchill	
PART IV: DISCUSSION.....	31
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	32
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	32
TABLES	
ILLUSTRATIONS and PLATES	

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figures

- Fig. 1 Site location plan
Fig. 2 Extract from Andrew's & Dury's map of Wiltshire, 1773
Fig. 3 Extract from E. Saunders *'Plan of the town and borough of Cricklade'*, 1830
Fig. 4 Extract from the Cricklade Tithe map, 1840
Fig. 5 Ordnance Survey map of 1900, original scale: 1:2500
Fig. 6 Plan showing the location of the six excavated areas
Fig. 7 Plan of Area 1, showing Romano-British features
Fig. 8 North facing section, showing post-hole 188 and pit 193
Fig. 9 West facing section of pit 1132
Fig. 10 Plan of Area 1, showing Late Saxon features
Fig. 11 East facing section, showing ditches 1022, 1024 and 1026
Fig. 12 Plan of Area 1, showing medieval features
Fig. 13 East facing section, showing ditches 1159, 1141, 1146, 1150 and 1151
Fig. 14 North facing section, showing ditch 194 and pit 128
Fig. 15 North facing section, showing ditch 112, pit 177 and post-hole 184
Fig. 16 North facing section, showing ditch 1030
Fig. 17 East facing section, showing pit 126 and ditch 124
Fig. 18 West facing section, showing ditches 1062 and 1065
Fig. 19 Plan of Area 2
Fig. 20 North facing section, showing ditch 207
Fig. 21 North facing section, showing ditches 213 and 223
Fig. 22 North facing section, showing ditch 216
Fig. 23 South west facing section, showing ditches 210, 207 and 211
Fig. 24 Plan showing medieval wall 406 within the farmhouse
Fig. 25 Plan showing medieval wall 412 and post-medieval wall 413, both within the farmhouse
Fig. 26 Area 5: south facing section, showing Late Saxon and medieval town bank deposits
Fig. 27 Illustrated Cricklade pottery
Fig. 28 Illustrated Cricklade small finds

Plates

Cover Abingdon Court Farm – view from Thames Lane – prior to commencement of restoration work.

AREA 1:

- Plate 1 West facing section, showing fills of Romano-British pit 1132.
Plate 2 East facing section, showing fills of medieval ditches 1141, 1146, 1150, 1151 and 1159.
Plate 3 North facing section, showing fills of medieval ditches 112 and 177 and post-hole 184.
Plate 4 North facing section, showing fills of ditch 1030.
Plate 5 East facing section, showing fills of ditch 124 and pit 126.

AREA 2:

- Plate 6 South west facing section, showing fills of early medieval ditches 210, 207 and 211.
Plate 7 View south west across Area 2, showing sondages excavated through ditches 216, 213 and 207 (left to right).
Plate 8 West facing section, showing fills of ditch 213.
Plate 9 North facing section, showing fills of ditch 216.

AREA 4:

Plate 10 Looking west at medieval wall 406.
Plate 11 View south along remnant of wall 406.
Plate 12 Looking west at remains of medieval wall 412.

AREA 5:

Plate 13 South facing section in trench cut through the Late Saxon/ medieval town defences (Cricklade Town Bank; Wiltshire SAM 323).
Plate 14 View north west of south facing section cut through Cricklade Town Bank.

AREA 6

Plate 15 View west across Area 6 showing topsoil stripping in progress.

LIST OF TABLES

- Table 1: Frequency of taphonomic evidence expressed as a percentage of the total number of fragments by phase.
- Table 2: Number of identified specimens per species (or NISP) by period.
- Table 3: Anatomical element representation (or MNE) and minimum number of individuals (or MNI) for common domestic species by period.
- Table 4: Common domestic species: fused and fusing diaphyses
- Table 5: Common domestic species: mandibular tooth wear
- Table 6: Horse: withers heights
- Table 7: Horse: measurements of anatomical elements
- Table 8: Distribution of box flue tile and roof tile
- Table 9: Plant macrofossil remains

Excavations at Abingdon Court Farm, Cricklade, Wiltshire

By TIMOTHY LONGMAN

With contributions by Lisa Brown, Rod Burchill, Rosie Clarke,
Rowena Gale, Lorraine Higbee, Reg Jackson, Julie Jones,
Dave Mullin and Jayne Pilkington

PART I: INTRODUCTION

The Site

The study area (Fig. 1) was located in the village of Cricklade, in north Wiltshire, at Abingdon Court Farm, which is situated on the northeast edge of the village. The site was some 200 metres southwest of the River Thames, at a height of approximately 79 metres OD, and was bounded by residential housing to the south and southwest, by Abingdon Court Farm and associated farm buildings to the north and northwest, by Thames Lane and the River Thames to the north and northeast and by farmland to the east.

The excavation was centred at NGR SU 1035 9369 and took place partly on farmland and partly on areas formerly occupied by agricultural buildings, a farmyard and a slurry pit. The underlying geology comprises Oxford clays of the Upper Jurassic.

There is no previously recorded archaeological evidence of prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site. However, there is known Romano-British settlement in and around Cricklade. A Roman road, Ermine Street (the modern A419), is located approximately 0.5 km northeast of the village. Ermine Street followed a generally straight route between *Calleva Atrebatum* (Silchester) and *Glevum* (Gloucester), but when marshy and flooded ground was encountered next to the River Thames near Calcutt, some 0.8 km east of Cricklade, a minor diversion was required resulting in the construction of a raised causeway at the narrowest crossing place over the river. A settlement grew up, between the first and fourth centuries AD, to the south of this crossing. The Romano-British settlement is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Wiltshire 872A).

A number of Romano-British sites have been recorded within a 200 metre radius of the study area. An evaluation was carried out in 1993, within the study area itself, by Fresden Archaeological Services. Three trenches were excavated and Romano-British pottery and tile fragments (SMR 302) were found at NGR SU 1030 9366. Near the corner of Calcutt Street and Thames Lane (SMR 311), two ditches were recorded at NGR SU 1025 9354 in 1978. Finds included 2nd-4th century pottery, tile fragments and bronze artefacts. On Thames Lane two sites have been recorded, firstly, in 1987 at NGR SU 1021 9366 several '*Romano-British pottery fragments*' (SMR 318) were recovered, and secondly in 1998 at NGR SU 1022 9362, a sherd of Samian pottery (SMR 323) was found during an evaluation. At Hatchett's Ford (NGR SU 1041 9382), next to the river Thames, '*Romano-British coins, pottery and tile fragments*' were recovered and listed as SMR 314. Romano-British pottery and a '*ditch-like feature*' (SMR 319) were recorded in 1994 at NGR SU 1031 9355.

Cricklade was founded as a West Saxon 'burh' by King Alfred in the late ninth century; the only Alfredian 'new town' in Wiltshire. Excavations carried out within the Saxon town by Jeremy Haslam in 1975 and by Wessex Archaeology in 1990 found that the defences consisted of a large clay bank, faced in places with a stone wall. Four areas containing surviving sections of the town defences constitute the Scheduled Ancient Monument: Cricklade Town Banks (Wiltshire 323), and part of the excavation area lay within the scheduled monument. A number of Saxon ceramic finds were recovered during Wainwright's excavations in 1954 and 1960, at NGR SU 1030 9366, near Abingdon Court Farm. In addition, four sherds of Saxon pottery were found in the vicinity during evaluation trenching in 1993 (SMR 402).

The study area is in close proximity to several areas of recorded medieval occupation. Linear ditches and late medieval pottery (SMR 461) were recorded on land at Abingdon Court Farm (NGR SU 1030 9366) during an evaluation in 1993. On the west side of Thames Lane is a site listed as SMR 454. The entry mentions 'a 14th century cross and a hospital of St John the Baptist founded before AD 1231.' A medieval buckle plate (SMR 480) was found at NGR SU 104 937. 'Floors, hearths, ditches and pits (were) seen during fieldwork' at NGR SU1037 9359 and are listed as SMR 453. Pits and pottery (SMR 473) dating from the 12th/13th century were recorded during excavations at Prior Park School (NGR SU 103 935) in 1994. During excavations in 1978 and 1987, at NGR SU 1021 9366, large quantities of 13th-15th century pottery (SMR 469) were recovered from the topsoil. A shallow ditch, containing several sherds of Minety ware pottery dating from the 13th century (SMR 482), was excavated near Thames Lane at NGR SU 1022 9362 in 1998.

The archive of records and finds deriving from the latest excavations at Abingdon Court Farm will be deposited with Devizes Museum.

Historical Background

The West Saxon 'haga'

The main source of the historical background to the site is Thompson's "Materials for a History of Cricklade", the following being a summary of that work. It is possible that the study area may have included the 'haga' mentioned in King Æthelred II's grant in AD 1008 to Abingdon Abbey in Berkshire. This 'haga' might yet be traced as the land holding within which stands the present Abingdon Court Farm.

It was probably a royal burgage associated with the manor of Morden in Wiltshire. The earliest charter of Morden, dating from AD 943, is a grant by King Edmund (939-46) to the thegn Ælfsige. His successors, Wynsige, Edwin, Ælfwine, and Ælfgar, the King's reeve, seem to have belonged to one family. Ælfgar's widow, Ælfgifu, later married the thegn Wulfgeat. In 1006 this couple had their estate forfeited to the crown, and in 1008 King Æthelred II (979-1016) included the estate in his gifts of restitution to St Mary's Abbey, Abingdon. The relevant clause states '*...sed et unum praediolum in Crocelade ciuitate situm, quod dudum meo praefato dederam praeposito, trado et concedo eidem sanctae Mariae...(metae)...and ænne hagan on Crocgelade ðe se cyng ðærto forgifen hæfo*'. The records of Abingdon Abbey do not indicate when, or to whom, this property was later transferred.

The medieval manor

There is no surviving cartographic evidence to indicate how the land in and around the study area was used during the medieval period. What is known, however, is that the manor was formed between the late twelfth and the mid-fourteenth century by the aggregation of many separate holdings, nearly all of which were originally in Chelworth. The earliest reference to such a component is contained in a fine of 1198 when lands in Cricklade, 'Berton' (Burton Grove Farm) and 'Merston' (South Marston) were transferred from David de la Wik to John de Wik. In 1202 another fine describes John de la Wike holding property in Cricklade, Blunsdon and Merston, as well as the advowson of St Sampson's Church, Cricklade. It appears that the de Wikes held these properties until at least 1249.

By 1276 the estate was held by Adam de Stratton, but by 1278 he had transferred lands in Cricklade, Berton, Merston, and Sevenhampton, with the advowson of St Sampson's, to Robert de Abendon. Richard de Abingdon succeeded and is considered to have founded the manor c.1309. Richard de Abingdon died about 1327 and was succeeded by John de Abingdon. John married a de Wike and had a daughter Margaret, and on his death the estate passed to her and her husband Thomas de St Omer (died c.1363), of Britford, (Wiltshire) and Mulbarton, (Norfolk). The manorial holdings established by the mid-fourteenth century remained largely unaltered until the mid-twentieth century.

Thomas and Margaret de St Omer had a daughter, Elizabeth (born 1351), and by c.1366 she had inherited the estate. Elizabeth de St Omer married three times and had a daughter Joan (born c.1382), by her second husband Richard Horn. Joan inherited the estate on her mother's death c.1404. She also married three times, and it was her second husband, Robert Moore, who appears as lord of the manor in 1413. It is about this time that the manor house of 'Abingdon Court' is first mentioned.

The entry on the court roll for February 10, 1411/12 reads '*Curia dominis de Berton et Abyndones Court*'. The double name persisted until the seventeenth century.

The Moore family later sold the reversion of the manor to Walter, Lord Hungerford who obtained a licence, in 1426, to give the reversion of Abingdon Court to the Dean and Canons of Salisbury for the maintenance of the cathedral spire.

Sixteenth Century

The tenant in the late 1540's was Sir Thomas Seymour, Baron of Sudeley. He was the younger brother of Jane Seymour (d. 1537), third wife and Queen of King Henry VIII (1509-47), and Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset and Lord Protector. Thomas, an ambitious man, married, early in 1547, Queen Katherine (Parr) only a few weeks after the death of King Henry VIII, her third husband. In the same year he was appointed Lord High Admiral by King Edward VI. Later that year the Dean and Chapter of Salisbury Cathedral granted Seymour a 99-year lease of Abingdon Court and other property in Cricklade.

Thomas and Katherine lived at Sudeley Castle in Gloucestershire, where in August 1548 Katherine gave birth to their only child, Mary, before dying of puerperal fever. Thomas was subsequently a suitor of Princess Elizabeth (later Queen Elizabeth I), but early in 1549 he was charged with treason and was executed at the Tower of London on March 20, 1549. Following his execution his estates, including Abingdon Court, were forfeit.

The next recorded tenant was Thomas Ernle, of Bremeridge (Wiltshire), who rented the property in 1595.

Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries

A Thomas Ernle was still the tenant in 1633 and died in 1639. When the 99-year lease expired in 1649 a new lease was granted to Thomas Hodges of Shipton Moyne, a former M.P. for Cricklade. The lease for the estate was inherited by his son Thomas (born 1660), who died in 1696 leaving two sons, Thomas and Estcourt, and an unmarried daughter Elizabeth.

A survey of the manorial estate was carried out for Elizabeth Hodges in 1721. It states at the beginning: '*The Manor of Abingdon Court in the parish of Cricklade St Mary's and St Sampson's and County of Wilts belonging to Miss Elizabeth Hodges, Spinster, surveyed by Cor: Palmer 1721*'.

On the death of Miss Hodges the manor passed to her first cousin, the Revd Walter Hodges D.D., Provost of Oriel College, Oxford, who sold it in 1753 to John Martin of Overbury, a London banker who was M.P. for Tewkesbury in Gloucestershire. The date when the property became freehold has not been established.

Andrew's and Dury's map of 1773 (**Fig. 2**) is one of the first to show the layout of the town in any recognisable detail. The study area is marked as '*Abbenton Court*' and the manor house is shown. There appears to be another building located immediately east of the house, which does not appear on any other maps.

John Martin's son James sold the manor to his brother-in-law Dr William Heberden in 1775. Abingdon Court remained in the possession of the Heberden family until the mid-twentieth century.

Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

In a document dated 1811 and entitled '*Surveys Valuation of the Parsonage of Cricklade St Sampson with the Manor of Abingdon Court in the County of Wilts, held in the Dean and Chapter of Salisbury*' (Chapter 98/1, Trowbridge Record Office), a description is given of Abingdon Court Farm. The tenant was a Mr John Slatter and the land belonging to the farm was itemised as follows:

'Farmhouse Stalls yard and garden'

'2 Home Closes'

'The Great Ground'

'Stockham Lake Ground'

'Pauls Croft'

The next available map of Cricklade is the '*Plan of the town and Borough of Cricklade 1830*', by E. Saunders (**Fig. 3**). Shown on this map are the farmhouse, the cheese house, cowsheds and the

two barns. The field located immediately south of the farm is marked as 'Snells Close' and what is now Thames Lane is called 'Abingdon Court Lane'.

The 1840 Tithe Map (Fig. 4) is the earliest map to show the site with any real degree of accuracy. It is clear from this map that the boundaries of the site have remained largely unaltered. The farmhouse is shown as being 'L' shaped in plan, although it is difficult to ascertain whether the lean-to structure at the rear had been built by this date. The house is coloured red to indicate it is a residential building. The cheese house, cowsheds and barns are shaded grey indicating non-residential structures.

The Tithe Map and accompanying apportionment lists the ownership and occupancy of the various plots of land. Abingdon Court was listed as being in the ownership of Thomas Heberden. Each parcel of land belonging to the estate was then individually described. The plot of land on which the farmhouse, cheese house, cowsheds and barns stand was numbered '73', described as '*Abingdon Court House, Garden, Barns and buildings*', and the tenant/occupier was a John Slatter. Also forming part of the estate were plots '74' – '*Home Close*', '75' – '*Home Close*', '76' – '*Court Croft and Long Croft*' and '77' – '*Stocken Lake*': all owned by Thomas Heberden and let to John Slatter, while plots '72' – '*Calves Close with Cattle Sheds*', '78' – '*Hatchett Close*', and '79' – '*Hatchett Close*' were owned by Thomas Heberden and rented by a Harry Smith.

In 1889 and 1903 a Mr John George Cuss, the tenant of Abingdon Court Farm, was listed in Kelly's Directory of Wiltshire and Dorset as a '*Horse and Cattle Dealer*'.

The Revd. Edward Buller Heberden died in 1954 and the Abingdon Court estate passed to his nephew, Col. P. H. Rogers of the Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire Regiment). The estate was later sold.

Mr S. Kidner, of Tracy Cottage Farm, Wick, near Bristol, sold Abingdon Court Farm, in 1999, to Living Heritage Developments Ltd with planning permission for twenty new houses on land between the farmhouse and the Scheduled Ancient Monument (Wiltshire 323).

PART II: THE EXCAVATION (Fig. 6)

Objectives

The aim and object of the archaeological works was to observe, investigate, record and determine the nature and date, where possible, of any archaeological deposits or structures revealed during the course of the works. Of particular interest was evidence of Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon occupation.

Methodology

The excavation of areas 1 and 2 was carried out between November 2000 and March 2001. A series of watching briefs were subsequently carried out during the ground works stage, between early March and mid-November, 2001, in Areas 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6. Monitoring/recording was also conducted during landscaping/restoration work in Area 5. The development was to be a mixture of renovated period properties and new build housing by Living Heritage Developments Ltd. The farmhouse was to be renovated, the two barns, the Cheese house and a number of other former farm buildings were to be converted to residential use and twenty new houses were to be built. Prior to the work on the farmhouse and associated farm buildings being carried out a R.C.H.M.E. level 2 building survey was conducted.

In Area 1 (centred on NGR SU 1030 9366) the topsoil was stripped under archaeological supervision using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a wide toothless bucket. Beneath were revealed a large number of features. The area was then hand cleaned to ensure that the features were defined. The total excavated area measured approximately 3000 m².

In Area 2 (centred on NGR SU 1031 9371), at the base of the drained slurry pit, a number of linear features were revealed cutting the natural clay. This was unexpected, as it had been considered highly likely that the farmer had removed any archaeology when the pit had been mechanically excavated in the early 1970's. The total excavated area measured some 430 m².

In Area 3 (centred on NGR SU 1027 9372), the topsoil in the farmhouse garden was stripped under archaeological supervision using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a wide toothless bucket. No significant archaeology was recorded. The total excavated area measured approximately 500 m².

In Area 4 (centred on NGR SU 1027 9375), the building contractors manually reduced the ground-floor levels within the farmhouse by 0.50 metres, prior to the laying of new solid floors. The work was carried out under archaeological supervision. Medieval walls were recorded beneath the dining-room floor and beneath the foot of the staircase. The total excavated area measured some 200 m².

In Area 5 (centred on NGR SU 1035 9371), a service trench, some 22 metres long by 2 metres wide by 1.2 metres deep, was mechanically excavated across the line of the eastern town defences. It was then hand cleaned and the exposed sections were recorded, both photographically and by scale drawings, prior to its backfilling.

In Area 6 (centred on NGR SU 1037 9370), a watching brief was carried out during topsoil stripping on an area of ground, which stretched from the eastern end of Area 5 as far as the eastern limit of the scheduled monument. No significant archaeology was recorded. The total excavated area measured approximately 140m².

Site Chronology

Period I, Phase I:	Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (c2500-1800 BC)
Period II, Phases I & II:	Late Iron Age (1st century BC – 1st century AD)
Period III, Phase I:	Romano-British (mid 1st – 2nd century AD) <i>SU19SW 302</i>
Period IV, Phases I-III:	Late Saxon (10th/11th-century) <i>SU19SW 402</i>
Period V, Phases I & II:	Medieval (late 11th-14th century) <i>SU19SW 461</i>
Period VI, Phases I & II:	Post-medieval (18th-20th century)

AREA 1 (Figs. 7, 10 & 12)

SW 19 SW 302

Period III: Romano-British:

The earliest features recorded were three probable rubbish pits and a post-hole. Pit 193 contained four fills, contexts 189-192. It measured some 0.9m deep. The primary fill 192 was a very dark brown silty clay with charcoal flecks. The only find recovered from the deposit was a small fragment of brown glass (SF45), possibly part of a vessel. Contexts 190 and 191 were, respectively, brown and yellowish-brown silty clays. Neither contained any finds. The upper fill 189 was a dark greyish-brown silty clay. It contained a single sherd of Romano-British Savernake ware dating from the mid-1st/mid-2nd-century.

The upper fill of pit 193, context 189, was truncated by post-hole 188 (Fig. 8), which was about 0.3m deep. It contained two fills, 186 and 187. Primary fill 187, consisted of several pieces of sandstone in a matrix of yellowish-brown silty clay. The stones were possibly post-packing. There were no finds. It was sealed by 186, a dark greyish-brown silty clay. It contained a single sherd of Romano-British pottery.

Pit 1012 was heavily truncated and was only some 0.1m deep. It contained a single fill 1011 that was a greyish-brown silty clay. This fill contained two sherds of Romano-British pottery and one sherd of imported East Gaulish – Trier type ware.

Pit 1132 (Fig. 9, Plate 1) contained two fills 1114 and 1181. The primary fill 1181 was a deposit of yellowish-brown silty clay containing several pieces of sandstone rubble of varying sizes and a single sherd of Romano-British pottery. The latter deposit was sealed by 1114, a dark brownish-grey silty clay that contained no datable finds.

Period IV: Late Saxon:

SW 19 SW 402

Although the eastern limit of Area 1 lay only a few metres from the eastern circuit of the West Saxon town defences very little archaeology from this period was recorded. This may be because later activity, such as the digging of ditches and pits, etc. truncated features that were formerly present from this period. Alternatively the lack of features could suggest that this area, just inside the town defences, was largely unoccupied at this time, perhaps comprising merely a number of small fields or paddocks.

A large east/west aligned ditch some 1.1m wide 168 was recorded containing two fills, 166 and 167. The primary fill 167 was a yellow silty clay, probably resulting from slumping of the ditch sides. The latter deposit was sealed by a grey silty clay 166. There were no datable finds. The upper fill 166 was truncated by pit 170. It contained a single fill 169, a dark brownish-grey silty clay that contained several sherds of late Saxon pottery. It was sealed by 102.

Ditch 1024 (Fig. 11), a heavily truncated feature, was recorded in a sondage. It measured at least 0.83m wide and appeared to be aligned east/west. There were no datable finds. The only surviving fill was 1025, a yellowish-grey clay, that possibly resulted from slumping of the ditch sides. It was truncated by ditch 1026.

Ditch 1026 (Fig. 11), was recorded some 3.9m wide, also following an east/west alignment. It contained a single fill 1027 a greyish-brown clayey silt. Two sherds of late Saxon pottery were recovered from the fill. This feature may represent a re-cutting of ditch 1024 as it follows almost the same alignment.

In turn, the fill of the latter ditch was truncated by ditch 1022 (Fig. 11). This steeply cut feature measured 1.2m wide by 0.2m deep and was also aligned east/west. It contained a single fill 1023, a greyish-brown clayey silt. A few sherds of 11th-century pottery were recovered from the deposit.

Period V: Medieval:

SW 19 SW 461

A large number of cut features were recorded from this period scattered across much of the area. They principally comprised pits and ditches with a few post-holes. The ditches appeared to be associated with early medieval occupation along what is now called Thames Lane – probably tenement boundary ditches. They were enclosing the east-west aligned burghage plots that lay between the lane and the

town defences. The ceramic finds from these features mostly dated from the 11th and 12th centuries. The pits and post holes were half-sectioned whereas the ditches were sampled by excavating one or more sondages across them.

A major east/west ditch line was recorded towards the northern edge of the area. It appeared that several phases of ditch (**Plate 2**) had been excavated over a period probably spanning the late Saxon/early medieval occupation, although there was very little dating evidence. The earliest phase of ditch was feature 1159 (**Fig. 13**), of which only a remnant survived. It cut the clay 110, and two surviving fills were recorded, 1145 and 1144. The primary fill 1145 was a brownish-grey silty clay. This latter deposit was sealed by 1144, a brownish-yellow clay, which appeared to have been deposited by the slumping of the north side of the ditch. There were no datable finds.

Ditch fill 1144 was truncated by ditch cut 1141 (**Fig. 13**). This large re-cut ditch measured 1.9m wide by about 0.6m deep. It contained two fills 1143 and 1142. The primary fill 1143 was composed of a brownish-yellow silty clay, which again had derived from slumping of the ditch sides. This latter deposit was sealed by 1142, a brownish-grey silty clay. Neither deposit contained any datable finds.

The next phase of re-cut ditch was cut 1146 (**Fig. 13**), a 1.3m wide by 0.5m deep feature. It truncated the upper fill of ditch 1141 and contained three fills 1149, 1148 and 1147. The primary fill, 1149, was a brownish-grey silty clay. Sealing the latter deposit was 1148, a pale grey silty clay. The upper fill 1147, was a brownish-grey silty clay with numerous charcoal fleck inclusions.

The latter deposit 1147, the upper fill of ditch 1146 was in turn truncated by ditch cut 1150 (**Fig. 13**). This narrower feature measured only about 0.8m wide by 0.3m deep. The three deposits that filled it comprised primary fill 1162, a dark grey silty clay, fill 1161, a brownish-yellow clay and an upper fill 1160 that consisted of a dark grey silty clay. None of these contained any datable finds.

The latest ditch was set slightly further south, but represents probably the culmination of the ditch re-cuts in that area. Ditch 1151 (**Fig. 13**), a 0.65m wide by 0.2m deep feature appeared to have been quite heavily truncated by later ploughing. However, four surviving deposits were recorded filling it. The primary fill 1155 consisted of a brownish-yellow clay and is probably derived from slumping of the ditch sides. It was sealed by 1154, a grey silty clay with frequent charcoal fleck inclusions. Several sherds of 11th/12th-century pottery were recovered from this deposit. The latter deposit was in turn sealed by 1153, a greyish-brown silty clay. The upper fill 1152 was composed of a redeposited brownish-yellow clay.

A 1.2m wide by 0.4m deep cut feature, ditch 194, was recorded aligned north/south. It contained two fills, contexts 195 and 173. The primary fill, context 195, was a dark brown silty clay. It contained sherds of 11th/12th century pottery. It was sealed by context 173, a brownish-yellow silty clay.

The upper fill of the latter feature was, in turn, truncated by pit 128, a large but shallow sub-circular feature measuring some 1.5m across by about 0.1m deep. It contained a single fill, context 127, a light greyish-brown silty clay. It contained several sherds of 12th century pottery.

A large north/south aligned ditch, feature 112 (**Plate 3**), measured some 3m wide by about 0.5m deep. It contained four distinct fills 182, 141, 113 and 111. The primary fill 182 was an orange-brown silty clay with charcoal flecks. The deposit probably derived from slumping of the ditch sides. This deposit was sealed by 141, a mid brownish-grey silty clay. The latter deposit was in turn overlain by 113, a mid yellowish-grey silty clay. The upper fill 111 was composed of a brownish-yellow silty clay with some limestone and charcoal fleck inclusions. This latter fill contained several sherds of 12th-century pottery.

A heavily truncated rubbish pit, feature 177 (**Fig. 15, Plate 3**) cut into the upper fill of the latter ditch. It contained a single fill 176 a deposit of brownish-grey silty clay. The pit was some 1.3m wide and about 0.4m deep. The original length could not be ascertained. A number of sherds of 11th/12th-century pottery were recovered from the pit fill.

A post-hole, feature 184 (**Fig. 15, Plate 3**), some 0.38m deep, was also cutting ditch fill 111. It contained a single fill 183, a mid brownish-grey silty clay.

Virtually all the ditches recorded in this area were aligned either east/west or north/south. However, ditch 1030 (**Fig. 16, Plate 4**) was aligned northwest/southeast; the reason for this remains unclear. It measured 1.75m wide by some 0.26m deep and had apparently been very heavily truncated by later ploughing. It contained two surviving fills 1032 and 1031. The primary fill 1032 was a yellowish-brown silty clay, whereas the upper fill was a brownish-grey silty clay. This latter deposit

contained sherds of 11th/12th -century pottery.

A possible continuation of the latter feature was recorded several metres to the southeast. Ditch 162 measured 1.6m wide by 0.35m deep and was found to contain two fills. The primary fill 199, a deposit of mid orange brown silty clay was sealed by 198, a mid greyish-brown silty clay. The upper fill contained a few sherds of 11th/12th-century pottery.

Also dating from the early medieval period was a circular pit, feature 126 (**Fig. 17, Plate 5**), some 0.8m across by about 0.46m deep. It contained two fills 1020, a yellowish-brown silty clay probably derived from slumping of the pit sides, and 125, a grey silty clay. Some 12th-century ceramic sherds were found in the upper fill.

Truncating the fill of the latter pit was a steeply cut east/west aligned ditch, feature 124 (**Fig. 17, Plate 5**). It measured 1.76m wide by about 0.89m deep. It contained three fills 197, a brownish-yellow clay, 196, a yellowish-brown silty clay and 123, a grey silty clay. The primary and secondary ditch fills contained several sherds of 11th/12th -century pottery.

One of the few later medieval features recorded was ditch 1065 (**Fig. 18**). This east/west aligned cut truncated the fill of ditch 1062 and measured 1.2m wide by 0.35m deep. The primary fill, 1064, was composed of a yellowish-brown clay, but contained no datable finds. However, the upper fill 1063, which was a mid greyish-brown silty clay with occasional very large pieces of limestone, did contain several sherds of 12th/early 13th-century pottery.

Another later feature was ditch 1173, also aligned east/west. It contained a single fill 1174, a mid greyish brown silty clay. This deposit produced several sherds of 13th/14th-century pottery. All the later medieval features were sealed beneath 102, essentially the same deposit as 101. Both are probably plough soils and as well as medieval ceramic finds, they contained residual sherds of Late Iron Age, Romano-British and Late Saxon pottery. Sealing yellowish-brown clayey silt subsoil 101 was a layer of very dark greyish-brown topsoil 100.

AREA 2 (Fig. 19)

After the slurry pit had been drained and mechanically cleaned out it was clear that a number of archaeological features had survived, albeit heavily truncated. Two large north/south aligned ditches and two narrower east/west aligned ditches were recorded cutting the natural clay at the base of the pit. The area was then hand cleaned prior to their sampling and recording.

Period V: Medieval:

The earliest feature in this area is probably ditch 210 (**Fig. 23, Plate 6**), aligned roughly north/south. Although it had been very heavily truncated in antiquity it contained two surviving fills. The lower was a greyish-brown clayey silt 209, with an upper fill of grey silty clay 208. Neither deposit produced any datable finds. The first recut of the ditch is context 207 (**Plate 6**). It cut fill 208 and measured about 0.9m wide by about 0.5m deep. It contained a single fill 206 that was composed of dark grey silty clay with a high organic content. This context was sampled for palaeoenvironmental evidence. Several pottery sherds were recovered that dated the fill to the late 11th/early 12th-century. A second recut ditch 211 (**Fig. 23, Plate 6**), truncated fill 206 and measured some 2m wide by 0.6m deep. It also was filled by a single deposit 212, which was a mid-grey silty clay. Ten sherds of late 11th/12th-century pottery were recovered from the deposit.

Ditch 202 could be contemporary with ditch 211. It was aligned east/west and measured some 0.6m wide by 0.35m deep. It contained three fills - the primary deposit being a yellowish-orange clay 205, which probably resulted from slumping of the ditch sides. This was sealed by 204, a yellowish-orange clayey silt. The upper fill 203 was a mid-grey clayey silt with some charcoal fleck inclusions. It produced four sherds of late 11th/12th-century pottery.

The east/west aligned ditch 213 (**Fig. 21, Plates 7 & 8**) apparently truncated the fill of ditch 207, but the relationship with recut 211 and ditch 202 is unclear. It measured some 0.7m wide by about 0.42m deep. The three fills it contained 214, 218 and 221 comprised a primary fill of yellowish-orange clay 221, a yellowish-orange clayey silt 218 and an upper fill 214, of dark brownish-grey clayey silt with a high organic content. This context was sampled for palaeoenvironmental evidence. Only 218 produced any finds, specifically two sherds of 13th-century pottery.

Ditch 216 (**Fig. 22, Plates 7 & 9**), aligned roughly north/south, was 1.34m wide by about 0.45m deep. It contained three fills 219, 217 and 220. The primary fill 220 was a deposit of greyish-orange silty clay. It was sealed by 217, a yellowish-grey silty clay. The upper fill was an orange-yellow clay 219. No datable finds were recovered from this feature.

Any subsequent features or deposits must have been removed by the excavation of the slurry pit in the 1970's, which was carried out without any archaeological monitoring.

AREA 3

The topsoil 300, in the farmhouse garden, was mechanically stripped under archaeological supervision using a 360° slew excavator prior to a temporary gravel surface being laid for site cabins. The ground was later reinstated. No significant archaeological features or deposits were recorded. Only a few sherds of 18th-century pottery were recovered.

AREA 4

The building contractors manually reduced the floor levels within the farmhouse by some 0.5m, prior to the laying of new concrete floors. The groundwork was carried out under archaeological supervision.

Period V: Medieval:

The earliest deposit recorded in this area of the site, beneath the floor of the dining room, was 408, a layer of stiff yellowish-brown clay. It produced no datable finds. On this deposit sat wall 406 (**Fig. 24, Plates 10 & 11**), which measured 0.8m wide by 2.6m long by 0.36m high and was constructed of randomly coursed limestone masonry. A further length (about 1m) of this same wall, recorded as context 412 (**Fig. 25, Plate 12**), was also observed at the foot of the staircase. Wall 406 was sealed by a layer of dark greyish-brown clayey silt soil 405. The deposit contained several sherds of 13th-century pottery.

Period VI: Post-medieval:

Deposit 405 was in turn sealed by deposit 404, a layer of dark greyish-brown clayey silt soil. This deposit contained numerous sherds of 18th-century ceramics plus an illegible penny, probably an intrusive small find dating from the reign of Queen Victoria, or later. The medieval wall 412 recorded at the foot of the staircase had been truncated by the construction cut associated with wall 413 that probably dates from the 18th or 19th-century.

The soil horizons recorded immediately beneath the floor surfaces in each of the ground floor rooms (400, 401 and 409) contained a variety of 18th/19th-century finds, including coins, buttons, a musket ball and belt buckles.

AREA 5

A trench (**Plates 13 & 14**) was mechanically excavated, west to east, across the town bank for the laying of an electricity cable between a nearby electricity sub-station and the new housing development. The trench measured some 22m long by 2m wide by a maximum 1.2m deep. After the sections were manually cleaned the exposed deposits were recorded and sampled.

Period IV: Late Saxon:

The earliest deposit recorded was 524, a thin layer of brownish-yellow silty clay. It was sealed by 508, a 0.15m thick layer of mid-orange-brown clayey silt. It contained a lens of reddish-orange heat affected clay, small inclusions of sandstone and flecks of charcoal. The deposit was sampled with the hope of obtaining a radiocarbon date from the charcoal as no other datable finds were recovered that could indicate when this possible West Saxon rampart 1 was constructed. Unfortunately the charcoal was considered unsuitable for radiocarbon dating. A deposit, 523, was recorded in the section closely

resembling 508. The deposits may be contemporary and represent the same phase (phase I) of deposition/construction. Only 4mm was visible at the base of the section, but the layer could be seen to consist of orange-brown clayey silt.

Context 508 was sealed by 522, a thin lens of material only about 4 mm thick. It was composed of yellow-brown silty clay with charcoal fleck inclusions. This latter deposit was sealed beneath 521, a 0.12m thick layer of yellowish-brown clayey silt.

None of these possible rampart 1 deposits contained any datable finds, but stratigraphic relationships may indicate that they date from the 10th century and could therefore be part of the original Alfredian West Saxon defences.

Period V: Medieval:

Contexts 521 and 523 were sealed by 507, a deposit of yellowish-brown silty clay at least 1m thick. It contained several sherds of 11th/12th-century pottery. This rampart 2 deposit would appear to be the remains of an early phase of the medieval town defences.

On the west side of the line of the town bank rampart deposit 507 was sealed by 508, a yellowish-brown clayey silt layer, some 0.35m thick. This in turn was sealed by 517, another horizon (phase II) of yellowish-brown clayey silt and possible former turf line. The latter deposit contained several slabs of limestone masonry, as well as charcoal fleck inclusions. Sealing the previous deposit was 506, a lens of yellowish-brown loam that could represent a former turf line covering rampart 2. It contained no datable finds. Sealing 506 was a 0.18m thick layer of yellowish-brown clayey silt, context 516. This lay beneath a mid-reddish-brown loamy deposit, 505, a 0.15m deep soil that contained several lenses of heat-affected clay, but no datable finds.

A north/south aligned ditch, 520, was recorded immediately east of rampart 2. The bank and ditch may well be contemporary. The ditch contained two fills that could be seen in the south-facing section. Firstly context 519, a yellowish-brown silty clay that had apparently slumped down the east side of rampart 2 into the partially open ditch. Possibly contemporary with this is 512 that could have been deposited as upcast from ditch 520, having been dumped when the ditch was cleaned out. It was a yellowish-brown silty clay at least 0.12m thick. It sealed 511, a buried soil horizon, possibly a former ground surface. Sealing both 512 and 519 and forming the upper fill of ditch 520 was context 515. Overlying this were several layers of made ground and topsoil.

AREA 6

Archaeological monitoring was conducted during the mechanical stripping (**Plate 15**) of topsoil over a small area of ground within the Scheduled Ancient Monument: Cricklade Town Banks (Wiltshire 323). The area (about 140 m²) lay between the eastern slopes of the Saxon town bank and the eastern boundary of the scheduled monument. No significant features or deposits were recorded.

Interpretation

Mesolithic/Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age Su19SW050 7 151

The earliest activity on the site was represented by two unstratified Mesolithic flint tools. A small assemblage of unstratified and residual Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flints was also recovered.

Iron Age Period

Su19SW207

Similarly, while no features or deposits were recorded that could be dated to the Iron Age period several unstratified and residual sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered from later contexts. This is probably indicative of settlement activity in the vicinity, perhaps in the area of the river crossing that lies only a few hundred metres to the northwest.

Romano-British Period

Su19SW302

There was very little evidence of activity on the site from the Romano-British period other than a few

rubbish pits and a post-hole. These produced some ceramic finds (see Brown), but most of the material was residual. This very limited occupation probably indicates that the site lay on the edge of the known Roman settlement at Cricklade (Wiltshire SAM 872A), which existed between the 1st and 4th centuries AD.

In addition to this sparse primary evidence was however quite a large quantity of redeposited building debris, principally comprising fragments of brick, roof tile and flue tile. This material had probably been re-used in later post-Roman buildings that were located closer to the site.

Saxon Period Su19 SW6C?

As has been said previously, relatively little archaeology from this period was recorded. Any surviving features and deposits were located in Areas 1 and 5 and comprised several boundary/drainage ditches, rubbish pits and possible rampart deposits.

Two main lines of boundary/drainage ditch were recorded in Area 1, both on an east/west alignment. Ditch 168 represents one phase of activity (Phase I), datable to the late 10th/11th century. However, ditches 1024, 1026 and 1022 comprise three distinct phases, the original ditch cut 1024 (Phase I) and two subsequent re-cuts 1026 and 1022 (Phases II and III). Ditches 1026 and 1022 were dated to the 10th/11th centuries.

In Area 5 five successive layers of redeposited clay and buried soils, contexts 524, 508, 523, 522 and 521, were recorded sealed beneath the early medieval defensive bank (rampart 2). The second earliest of these deposits, a buried soil horizon, context 508, contained a lens of reddish-orange heat affected clay with charcoal flecks – possible evidence of in-situ burning. The interpretation of these possible rampart 1 deposits was made more difficult by the lack of any datable finds, therefore it has not proved possible to definitively date them. Although it is probable that they are late Saxon all that can be unequivocally stated is that they pre-date the early medieval (late 11th/12th century) rampart.

Medieval Period Su19 SW H61

The archaeological evidence dating from the medieval period fell principally into three categories: (1) archaeology associated with the town defences, (2) archaeology associated with the development of the urban settlement of Cricklade, and (3) archaeology associated with the medieval 'Abyndones Court'.

The site of Area 1 was found to cover the eastern ends of a number of tenement plots located along the east side of what is now called Thames Lane. The predominant features located in that area were linear ditches, aligned east/west and north/south, forming the boundaries of these early medieval tenements. There were several examples of successive recutting of ditches, indicating that they were regularly maintained, through the late 11th and 12th centuries at least, the period from which most pottery found in the fills of these features dated. The east/west ditches (including 121, 124, 1159, and 1141) were found to continue for nearly 7 metres before they met the major north/south ditch line (ditch 112), which appeared to extend across the entire width of the excavated area.

To the east of the three possible tenement plots were further 'fields' (paddocks), enclosed by ditches for the keeping of livestock, or used for cultivation. The east/west boundary/drainage ditches (including 138, 1003, 1005 and 1028) continued as far east as the western slope of the towns' earthwork defences.

Similar ditches were also recorded in Area 2 where parts of three plots were identified, delineated by both east/west and north/south ditch systems.

During excavation work inside the farmhouse a 4m long limestone wall (406/412) was recorded. Associated with it was a soil horizon containing 13th-century pottery, probably indicating that the wall was part of the medieval manor house that stood on the site, probably until extensive rebuilding work was carried out in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The earliest documentary reference to Abingdon Court dates from c1412, but the archaeology suggests that the building could be much older.

Sealing the remnants of the possible Saxon earthwork, in Area 5, were several layers of redeposited clay and buried turf lines, indicating repeated repair and maintenance of the defences through the late 11th and 12th centuries. Ceramic finds dating from those periods were found in

context 507, which directly sealed the possible late Saxon bank. Subsequent deposits, as well as the fills of an associated outer ditch, failed to provide any dating evidence. Although they would appear to indicate continued re-strengthening of the defences, it is not clear precisely when or for how long this went on.

Post-medieval Period:

Su198W 533

There were no significant features or deposits recorded post-dating the late medieval archaeology recorded on the site, other than within the farmhouse itself. Building alteration work at the foot of the staircase had resulted in medieval wall 412 being partially dismantled, prior to the construction of the probable 18th/19th-century wall 413.

PART III: SPECIALIST REPORTS

ANIMAL BONES, by Lorraine Higbee

Introduction

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from the site during the normal course of hand-excavation; the total fragment count is 538 and a further 439 grams of bone were retrieved from the wet sieving of bulk soil samples. Occupation/activity at the site dates from the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age period through to the post-medieval period. An initial assessment of the assemblage (Sykes, 2002) recommended further analysis of the Saxon and medieval material, which accounts for approximately 53% and 17% of the total assemblage respectively. These stratified collections also include the greatest quantity of zoo-archaeologically significant (i.e. ageable and measureable) bones.

Methods

The following methods were used throughout the analysis: *Dobney and Reilly 1988; Silver 1969; Grant 1982; Payne 1973, 1985 and 1987; O'Connor 1989; Armitage and Chutton-Brock 1976; Boessneck 1969; Davis 1992; Payne and Bull 1988; Von den Driesch 1976; and Von den Driesch and Boessneck, 1974.*

Results

Condition and recovery (Table 1)

The vast majority of the assemblage was recovered by hand from excavated deposits and a relatively small quantity of material was retrieved from sample residues. Hand recovery is usually biased against the recovery of small bones (i.e. loose teeth, carpals, tarsals and phalanges from domestic species) and the bones of small species (i.e. birds, small mammals, amphibians and fish). This imbalance is usually redressed by the material retrieved from sample residues, however given the small quantity of material retrieved from sample residues it would be erroneous to comment upon recovery biases affecting the hand-recovered fraction of the assemblage. The material from sample residues did however yield a few additional species and some attempt has been made to interpret this material both in terms of site formation processes and local environmental conditions.

The assemblage is reasonably well preserved and very few fragments were recorded with edge abrasion or surface exfoliation caused by rolling and trampling on the ground surface or sub-aerial weathering. In most instances these types of weathering did not affect identification but did however affect butchery marks and other surface detail.

Canid gnaw marks were recorded on approximately 9.2% of the total number of fragments most typically at the ends of long bones. The proportion of gnaw marks by period is given in Table 1, however it should be remembered that the frequency may not necessarily reflect the true extent of destruction since canid gnawing can completely destroy and obliterate bones from the assemblage particularly those from immature animals. Some indication of the potentially destructive nature of canid gnawing is given by the identification of a pig metapodial fragment the appearance of which suggests that it had passed through the gut of a carnivore.

Identification and species found (Table 2)

Approximately 74% of the total number of fragments could be identified to species; a further 26% could be assigned to general size-categories (i.e. "cattle-sized"). Identification was made using the authors' own reference collection and like most hand-recovered archaeological animal bone assemblages from England, approximately 69% of identified specimens belong to cattle, sheep/goat and pig. Other mammalian species identified include horse, dog and roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*). A small number of bird, amphibian, rodent and fish bones were also recovered but were too fragmented to be identified any further.

Most, but not all, caprine (sheep and goat) bones are difficult to identify to species and are

referred to as sheep/goat. Using the criterion of Boessneck (1969) and Payne (1985) an attempt was made to distinguish between the bones of sheep and those of goat, no definite goat bones were identified. It is therefore assumed that all caprine bones belong to sheep.

Butchery/cut marks

Butchery evidence was recorded on 14% of bone fragments and the proportion of butchery marks by period is given in Table 1. The type, location and direction of butchery marks were recorded as standard throughout the assemblage and general observations are presented here.

Chop marks were recorded on 39% of Saxon cattle bones, the location and direction of these marks is consistent with primary dismemberment and reduction of the carcass into manageable joints. In addition one radius had been split axially in order to gain access to the nutritious marrow-fat contained within. A small number of sheep and pig bones were also recorded with chop and/or cut marks, however, the numbers are too small to assess butchery techniques. However, a common site of chop marks on sheep bones is the distal tibia, this would have disassociated the limb extremities from the main meaty portion of the leg. Such a butchery technique would have left the metatarsals intact which were frequently selected for further working because they provide a long, straight cylinder of bone. One such worked bone (SF61) was recovered from possible Late Saxon ditch fill (123). The object, which had been fashioned from a sheep metatarsal, has a circular perforation through the centre of the proximal articular surface. Similar objects have been recovered from a number of Saxon sites including the Middle Saxon site of Hamwic (Hants), and they are generally considered to have been used in textile manufacture.

Approximately 11.7% of medieval cattle and sheep bones were recorded with butchery marks. In contrast to the Saxon assemblage cut marks are more common than chop marks. In modern butchery practise the chopper is used with great restraint and the butchery of even cattle is done as much with a knife as possible. The sample size is small but the results stand in contrast to the general regional trend. At Portchester (Hants) in the later phases of medieval occupation Grant (1976) recorded an increased use of the meat cleaver from earlier phases. Similar evidence was noted from the medieval assemblage from the Citizen's House, Bath (Grant, 1979) and Malmesbury, Wiltshire (Sykes, forthcoming). One point of similarity with the general regional trend is the butchery recorded on cattle and sheep vertebrae, these were split axially (dorso-ventral) through the centra, which would have divided the main trunk of the carcass into left and right sides thus facilitating further division into chops. Such evidence may indicate that animals were hoisted by their hind limbs as in modern butchery practise and becomes more common with the advent of professional butchers (Sykes, 2001). However, this type of butchery has been recorded on earlier material such as the Bronze Age assemblages from Potterne, Wiltshire (Locker, 2000) and Runnymede, Surrey (Done, 1980) and Iron Age material from Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire (Higbee, 1999).

A further interesting aspect of the medieval assemblage is the butchery recorded on horse bones. Butchery marks were recorded on approximately 29% of horse bones and once again cut marks were more common than chop marks. Butchered horse bones include a phalanx prima, radius, tibia and three metapodials. There are two possible explanations for the butchering of horses; the first is for meat and the second is for hides. At West Cotton, Northamptonshire (Albarella and Davis, 1994) a significant number of horse bones from the medieval period were recorded with chop and cut marks. This was taken as clear evidence for the exploitation of horse flesh and in this instance it is suggested that dogs were the main recipients. A similar interpretation was given for the post-medieval assemblage from Witney Palace, Oxfordshire (Wilson and Edwards, 1993). However, it should be noted that the consumption of horse flesh by the inhabitants of Cricklade is a possibility. This interpretation has been suggested for the butchered horse bones from early medieval York (O'Connor, 1989). An alternative explanation for the presence of butchered horse bones is the use of hides; this interpretation is particularly relevant given the higher incidence of cut marks. The use of horse hides is known in the medieval period (Barclay, 1980; Langdon, 1989) although the utilisation of horse carcasses for a variety of different industries is thought to have been more intensive during the post-medieval period (Edwards, 1987).

Species frequency, parts of the skeleton represented, age at death and morphometry (Tables 2-4)

Before outlining the likely importance of individual species to the pastoral economy of Cricklade it is worth emphasising that the assemblage is extremely small and the results potentially misleading. However, sheep bones are slightly more common than cattle bones in the Saxon assemblage accounting for 30% and 28% of the total number of identified specimens (or NISP) respectively (Table 2). This pattern is reversed in the medieval assemblage where cattle bones are almost twice as common as sheep bones accounting for approximately 39% of NISP. If one considers the minimum number of individuals (or MNI) represented then the pattern of species frequency is the same (Table 3). At least 4 sheep are represented in the Saxon assemblage as opposed to 3 cattle and in the medieval period 3 cattle and 2 sheep are represented. Sheep tibiae are the most common anatomical element present in the Saxon assemblage, whilst in the medieval assemblage mandible fragments are common. Bones from the fore-limbs of cattle are common in both periods.

The limited amount of information available on the kill-off rate of these two species is given in Tables 3 and 4. This suggests that cattle were culled at approximately 3½-4 years of age in both periods, whilst the majority of sheep were culled as adult animals in both periods although there is some suggestion that lambs were also selected for slaughter. Thus cattle were culled for meat probably after a short working life and sheep were kept for wool, milk and to a lesser extent meat. Lambs surplus to requirements also appear to have been selected for slaughter.

The increase in the frequency of cattle from the Saxon to the medieval period out-lined above does not fit with general regional and national trends. During the 14th and 15th centuries wool was an extremely important commodity and generated large export revenues and this is usually reflected in the zooarchaeological record by increasing numbers of sheep kept to maturity. However, local variations in the pastoral economy are to be expected and it is probable that environmental conditions (i.e. the availability of pasture and water) in the vicinity of the site are more suited to cattle rearing. Alternatively sheep surplus to wool production or breeding requirements may have been sent to market at a nearby town (e.g. Cirencester) to meet the urban meat demand for mutton thus removing them from the recovered assemblage.

Cattle withers heights were calculated using Matolcsi's conversion factors (see Von den Driesch and Boessneck, 1974) for 1 metatarsal from the Saxon assemblage and 1 metacarpal from the medieval assemblage. This gave estimated withers heights of 105.6cm for Saxon cattle and 111.9cm for medieval cattle. Both of these figures fall within the size range calculated for a number of Saxon and medieval sites in the region, including the middle Saxon sites at Ramsbury, Wiltshire (Coy, 1980); Hamwic, Hampshire (Bourdillon and Coy, 1980); Saxon and medieval Trowbridge, Wiltshire (Bourdillon, 1993) and the medieval site at Kingsham, Ilchester, Somerset (Leviton, 1982). No sheep bones were complete enough for withers heights to be calculated so comparisons with other contemporary data-sets is made on the bases of distal breadth (Bd) of the tibia. These measurements ranged between 23.46-25.4mm for the Saxon period with a mean of 24.32mm and 21.44-26.47mm for the medieval period with a mean of 23.95mm. These figures also fall within the range recorded for the Trowbridge and Hamwic sheep.

The proportion of pig bones in both periods is relatively low accounting for approximately 13% of the Saxon and 8% of the medieval NISP. Only one individual is represented by the bones from each period and bones from the fore-limb and loose teeth are more common than other anatomical elements. The limited age data presented in Tables 3 and 4 suggests that pigs were culled under the age of 2 years. Pigs have a very high birth rate and mature rapidly thus they tend to be culled at a relatively young age since the only commodities they provide are meat and lard. One pathological pig bone was recorded from post-hole fill (176). The specimen, a phalanx prima, appears to have been fractured at some point and has healed on a slightly skewed alignment to the axis of the bone.

Horse bones are relatively common in the assemblage and the vast majority were recovered from ditch fills usually in small groups but not necessarily in articulation. In the Saxon period they are as common as pig bones accounting for 13% NISP although the number of individuals represented is greater (Table 4). In the medieval period they are the second most common species by NISP after cattle accounting for 28% NISP although only one individual is represented. Similar high frequencies were noted at the Middle Saxon smelting site of Ramsbury, Wiltshire (Coy, 1980). Here the overall frequency of horse from all phases is 10.5% of the total NISP. The frequency is higher if one

considers each phase separately, phase 3b dates to the 9th century and has the highest frequency at 14.2%. Coy emphasises the unusually high frequency of horse in the Ramsbury assemblage by comparing it to the larger Hamwic assemblage (Bourdillon and Coy, 1980). She states that the Ramsbury assemblage contains five times the number of horse bones found at Hamwic, which has eleven times the total quantity of bone. If one considers that the frequency of horse bones in the medieval assemblage from Abingdon Court Farm, Cricklade is higher than that from Ramsbury and the assemblage is smaller then the frequency of horse bones in the Cricklade assemblage is even more significant. However, one should be extremely cautious in placing too much emphasis on the significance of the equid remains from such a small assemblage. Minimum sample sizes of 200 bones have been suggested by some workers to be statistically valid for detailed analysis, neither of the Cricklade assemblages reach this threshold.

In terms of carcass part representation horse limb extremities, especially metapodials, are common in both periods. The epiphysal fusion data from both periods indicates that the Cricklade horses were over 3.5 years, however, the available tooth eruption and wear data suggests that younger individuals are also present. The upper dentition was recorded for a fragmented skull from Saxon ditch fill (206) the m1 and m2 were in wear but only showed a slight degree of attrition. The p2, p3 and m3 were completely unworn and a loose deciduous p3 from the same context suggests that this animal was aged less than 2.5-3.5 years at death (Levine, 1982). Deciduous teeth were also recorded from a partial tooth row in the medieval assemblage, these indicate the presence of an even younger individual aged less than 1-2.5 years. Horses of various ages are represented in the Ramsbury assemblage, however all are estimated to be over 5 years with no younger animals represented.

Biometric data for the Cricklade horses is presented in Table 7. Withers height calculations were made using the conversion factors of Keisewalter (see Von den Driesch and Boessneck, 1974) on 2 metacarpals and a tibia from the medieval assemblage. No Saxon horse bones were suitable for this type of analysis. The data is summarised in Table 6 and indicates that the Cricklade horses ranged in withers height from 129.4cm-145.6cm if this is converted into 'hands' then the range is 12.3-14.2 hh with a mean value of 13.3 hh. In other words the Cricklade horses are in fact ponies and brief comparison of other mensural data (e.g. tibia shaft diameter plotted against greatest length and distal depth against distal breadth) with modern comparative material indicates that they are a similar conformation (or build) to Exmoor ponies. Ponies with a similar range of withers height have been recorded from Trowbridge, Ramsbury and Hamwic. Further, the mean value of 13.3 hh for the Cricklade ponies is very close to the mean figure of 13.2 hh established by Johnstone (1996) in her survey of the medieval horse bones from 17 different sites.

The only other mammalian species identified include 5 dog bones and a single roe deer pelvis which were recovered from the Saxon assemblage. The majority of the dog bones are from ditch fill (176) they include a humerus; metapodial; phalanx secunda and 2 vertebrae; and are probably from the same individual, a medium sized dog aged less than 15 months. The other dog specimen is a fragment of first molar, which was retrieved from sample 3 ditch fill (217). The roe deer pelvis is from ditch fill (206), its presence at the site indicates the limited exploitation of wild resource during the Saxon period.

Micro-fauna

The small vertebrate assemblage recovered from sample residues includes the remains of fish, rodents and amphibians, however it was not possible to identify these to species. Amphibian bones are more common than fish or rodent and are represented by different anatomical elements, which suggests that after death frogs/toads entered directly into the burial environment. Accumulations of this type are often considered to represent individuals that have succumbed to pit fall trapping (Armitage and West, 1984; Piper and O' Connor, 2001).

The small size of micro-faunal assemblage recovered from Cricklade makes any interpretation of the local environmental conditions during either the Saxon or medieval periods of occupation rather ambiguous. However, given the number of amphibian bones it is possible to suggest that local environmental conditions around the settlement during both these periods appears to have consisted of open, damp pasture/grassland or agricultural land containing drainage ditches, pools and/or ponds which could have supported communities of amphibians.

General Summary

The Saxon and medieval components of the faunal assemblage were selected for full analysis. This analysis has suggested that cattle were more important to the local pastoral economy than sheep, however, this trend stands in contrast to regional and national trends but may be a product of small sample size. Further points of difference with regional trends were noted in the use of butchery tools although some points of similarity were also noted such as the butchery noted on vertebrae. The high frequency of horse bones may be significant and it has been suggested that horse carcasses were being processed for either meat or hides. The Cricklade horses are comparable to Exmoor ponies and of a similar size to horses from a number of other regional sites.

CERAMICS

A. THE LATER PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN POTTERY, by Lisa Brown

Introduction

Two hundred and four sherds weighing 2,308gm were identified as certain or likely prehistoric and Roman types. The assemblage was in generally fragmentary and poor condition. Eighty percent of sherds were heavily abraded (Abr factor 3) as recorded on a scale of 1 to 3 and the mean sherd weight of the assemblage was only 11gm. The majority of the assemblage represented residual material in later Saxon or medieval deposits. It was not possible to do very much more than identify the range of fabrics and forms present and highlight the implications that the typological range permits for the site and local region.

Fabrics

Nineteen subtypes within six general fabric groups were identified. Nine types were represented by only a single sherd, including all of the flint-tempered wares. It is possible that fabrics F2, F4, C1 and Q6 are post-Roman types.

G *Predominantly grog temper*

G1 Savernake Ware. [25 sherds]

G2 Soft, slightly sandy fabric containing fine grey grog, sparse white calcareous pieces (probably limestone) up to 2mm in size, and rare red ferrous particles. Generally fires to dark grey interior, red/pink exterior. [47 sherds]

F *Predominantly flint temper*

F1 Micaceous sandy fabric with common to abundant angular white and grey flint pieces, some calcined, up to up to 2mm, rarely larger. Prehistoric ? [5 sherds]

F2 Medium grade subangular translucent grey and white quartz sand with sparse inclusions of grey and white calcined flint up to 2mm. Buff firing ware. Possibly post-Roman. [1 sherd]

F3 Medium grade sandy fabric containing subangular clear quartz and common angular white flint, mostly 1mm and below, not obviously calcined. Prehistoric ? [1 sherd]

F4 Fine micaceous, soft sandy fabric with rare red ferrous specks and rare to sparse subangular white and grey flint pieces, mostly 1mm and below. Fires to dark orange. Uncertain date. [1 sherd]

C *Predominantly calcareous inclusions*

C1 Fine sandy micaceous fabric containing common to abundant white oolites and additional subangular limestone frags 2-3mm and below. Slightly soapy texture, fires to dark grey. Handmade. Possibly medieval. [1 sherd]

- C2 Medium grade sandy fabric containing rounded white quartz with light brown argillaceous pieces, rare red ferrous particles and sparse white calcareous inclusions, (probably limestone) 2mm and under. Prehistoric. [13 sherds]
- Q** *Predominantly quartz sand temper*
- Q1 Undifferentiated coarse reduced wares (CRW) of obvious Roman date. Some resemble New Forest reduced wares. [39 sherds]
- Q2 Medium to coarse size rounded translucent pink and white quartz sand with additional rare red ferrous particles. [5 sherds]
- Q3 Black Burnished Ware I - south-east Dorset type. [10 sherds]
- Q4 Very fine silt grade quartz producing a smooth uniform orange firing ware with sparse small red ferrous particles. Possibly Severn Valley or related ware. May correspond to CM 10 or CM42. [33 sherds]
- Q5 Fine sandy uniform texture orange firing ware. Possibly Severn Valley or related ware. May correspond to CM 10 or CM98. [11 sherds]
- Q6 Coarse sandy buff to light orange firing ware containing sparse red ferrous pellets. Possibly medieval. [1 sherd]
- Q7 Very fine sandy white firing ware, uniform texture. No obvious additional inclusions. [1 sherd]

Terra sigillata (Samian Ware)

- SAM1 East Gaulish - Chemery-Faulquemont type. [1 sherd]
- SAM2 East Gaulish – Trier type. [5 sherds]

E *Established wares*

- E1 Oxfordshire red/brown slipped ware.[3 sherds]
- E2 Slipped ware – probably New Forest type. [1 sherd]

Forms

A small number of sherds displayed features diagnostic of vessel form. These are listed below accompanied with their fabric and context:

FORM	FABRIC	CONTEXT
Mortarium	E1	102
Dish x2 BBI south-east Dorset	Q3	102
Bead-rim jar	C2	102 (LPRIA)
Long-neck cordoned jar	G2	114 (LPRIA or early Roman)
Necked jar BBI south-east Dorset	Q3	120
Bead-rim jar	C2	120 perf below rim (LPRIA)
Mortarium	SAM2	120
Open bead-rim bowl	Q5	123 multiple scroll motif
Necked jar/bowl	C2	141 (LPRIA)
Beaker	Q4	152
Open bead-rim bowl	Q5	156
Flagon/jug handle	Q5	198
Necked jar	Q1	199
Bead rim bowl/jar	G1	102
Necked jar	G2	1104
Jar BBI south-east Dorset	Q3	1158

Stratified groups

Contexts 186 (fill of post-hole 188), 189 (fill of pit 193), 1011 (fill of pit 1012) and 1181 (fill of pit

1132) are classified, on stratigraphic evidence, as of Roman date. Details of the pottery recovered from them are set out below and are unhelpful for dating purposes.

Context 186 - a single sherd of coarse reduced ware Q1.

Context 189 - a single sherd of Savernake Ware G1.

Context 1011 - one sherd each of terra sigillata (SAM2), grog-tempered ware G2 and fine oxidised ware Q4.

Context 1181 - a single sherd of coarse reduced ware Q1.

All other deposits which produced prehistoric or Roman sherds were classified as Saxon, medieval or unspecified (eg tree throw) and the associated prehistoric and Roman pottery must be regarded as residual.

Discussion

The assemblage includes a small number of sherds that are probably of late pre-Roman Iron Age (Period II, Phase II) date. All examples are in fabrics F1, F3 and C2. The calcareous range of fabrics reflect the local geology, as Cricklade lies on oolitic limestone and Oxford clay. The only recognisable forms are bead-rim jars from contexts 102 (plough soil) and 120 (fill of medieval ditch 121). The necked bowl in fabric C2 from 141, a layer equivalent to 120, may be contemporary with the bead-rim bowl. Some of the vessels represented by fabric G2 may also date to the late first century BC (Period II, Phase I), but the evidence is insufficient to demonstrate this. Because none of the prehistoric pottery derives from primary deposits and because of the small size of the assemblage, it is not possible to describe, on ceramic grounds, the nature of the prehistoric occupation.

The Roman and Romano-British (Period III) assemblage appears to span the first to at least the late third centuries AD, but it is impossible to demonstrate continuity or the nature of occupation on the basis of the pottery, particularly as the vast majority of sherds are residual. The coarseware range includes local Savernake Wares dating from mid first to the early-mid second century, Black Burnished Ware I from south-east Dorset and a variety of unsourced reduced wares. Finewares include Central Gaulish samian ware and Oxfordshire and New Forest slipped wares. Two varieties of orange firing fabrics, Q4 and Q5, may have an affinity with Severn Valley Wares or may derive from a more local Wiltshire source. They resemble Cirencester Museum wares CM10, 42 and 98 (Rigby 1982) and fabrics A and D from the Brinkworth kiln southwest of Cricklade, which was operating from a point prior to AD 70 until AD 130 (Currie 1992). There are also kilns at Purton (Wiltshire), which produced, from the mid second century AD, wares that contain red iron particles and white and grey calcareous inclusions (Anderson 1980).

B. THE POST-ROMAN POTTERY, by Rod Burchill

Introduction

The post-Roman pottery exhibited a high degree of residuality. This and the lack of key groups made using the pottery to establish details about the site's use and its inhabitants difficult. Furthermore the pottery was also only of limited value for dating. The assemblage appears to consist mainly of "locally" produced domestic wares, whose production period is little understood; furthermore, independent dating for this material from associated coins etc was completely lacking. Therefore, the dating has been based on stratigraphic position, form typology and associated fabrics for which parallels were found elsewhere. A further problem existed in that many sherds were featureless body sherds.

Methodology

The pottery was sorted into fabrics using petrological characteristics using a x10 hand lens where necessary. Each fabric was allocated a site-specific type number.

The pottery was recorded by context giving the number of sherds of each type present by category eg. rim, base, body sherd.

The Assemblage

The post-Roman pottery assemblage consisted of 847 sherds weighing 10,702 gms, 36 sherds of which were unstratified (4.2%). The pottery dated between the Late Saxon period (probably 10th century) and the 19th century, although, there was a general lack of material from the 15th to 17th centuries.

Late Saxon

Two fabrics, F30 and F31, clearly belonged on typological criteria to the late Saxon period (Period IV), probably the 10th or early 11th century.

Eight sherds of F30, possibly from two vessels, one a bead rim jar, were recovered from context 169 (fill of pit 170) and two sherds of F31 from context 1027 (fill of ditch 1026). Both fabrics are heavily quartz gritted with sparse or moderate amounts of limestone; F30 also contained fragments of carbonised vegetable matter.

Medieval

The 11th and 12th century

A group of ten fabrics probably belong to this period (Period V, Phase I) although they could only be dated on typological grounds or similarity to other wares: Fabrics F1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, 17, 18 and 34. Similar fabrics found at Cirencester (Cirencester Fabrics 202 and 231) are not closely dated (Vince 1982; Ireland 1998) and like the Cirencester material, it might reasonably be suggested that the Cricklade fabrics belong to the period between the late 11th and late 12th century, just possibly extending into the early thirteenth century.

The 13th and 14th century

The small amount of medieval glazed ware recovered is all of this period. Fabric 6 probably originated near Laverstock, south Wiltshire, it is similar to Cirencester fabric 269. Fabrics 24 and 27 are similar to Brill wares but may be from different sources, and fabric 33 is a Bristol/Redcliffe product.

The 15th and 16th Century

This period was represented by a fragment of Tudor Green (F36) and a sherd of Wanstrow (east Somerset) ware (F37) of possible early date, from context 404. Fragments of Minety type fabric (F15) might also belong in the 15th century although a 14th-century date for this material is equally possible.

Post-medieval

The Late 16th and 17th Century

No pottery was found that might date to this period.

The 18th century or Later

Eighteenth century or later pottery was represented solely by Late post-medieval Redware (F10).

Discussion

The pottery was unequally distributed across the site and the assemblage is mostly derived from pottery deposited in a series of unconnected features. This makes it difficult to analyse changes in pottery supply over time and the impact human activity may have had on its deposition, though it was possible to source the material.

Sources

It is impossible to say with certainty where the small amount of Late Saxon pottery was made; though it is unlikely to have travelled very far; and a source in the Gloucestershire/Wiltshire/Berkshire/Oxfordshire border area seems most likely.

From the late 11th to early 13th century “locally” produced wares formed the bulk of the pottery, including several coarse limestone tempered fabrics similar to Cirencester fabric 202 which Vince (1982) considered local to Cirencester, and a limestone and flint tempered fabric (F1, 3 and 5) that may have been produced nearer to Cricklade. These wares are so common that they occurred on site in almost every context that contained pottery.

The first appearance at this site of glazed pitchers and jugs is in the 13th and 14th century with the appearance of vessels from south-east Wiltshire, Brill (Buckinghamshire) and Bristol. Glazed vessels are few in number however, and the coarse wares, many similar to those described above but now including wheel-thrown Minety type vessels (F15), continued to dominate.

Very little pottery was recovered from after the mid 14th century. Tudor wares were notable only by their paucity being restricted to a few residual sherds. Later wares were very few in number and were found only within the farmhouse.

Pottery Usage

The pottery assemblage was dominated by jars. Although, a lack of diagnostic sherds made it difficult to assess the vessels, the jars were mostly globular with everted or upright rims, many of which were flanged or clubbed, and sagging bases. Few of the vessels showed evidence of use although many will have been used as storage vessels, a number are also likely to have been used as cooking vessels.

Prior to the thirteenth century there was no evidence that any of the vessels had been used as tableware and even after this time finer glazed jugs, which might normally be considered fine wares were few in number.

Conclusion

The nature of the pottery assemblage from Cricklade, the absence of accurate dating and the high degree of residuality has meant that little useful information was found on the development and use of pottery on the site or the purpose or function of the various archaeological features.

Prior to the 13th century finer glazed wares were totally absent, which might suggest that the site was of rather low status at this time. Ceramic evidence for the Tudor and succeeding periods is either very poor or totally lacking; possibly the result of a cessation of domestic activity. The small amount of pottery found within the farmhouse provided little information beyond a date.

In conclusion the ceramic evidence suggests that the main period of human activity over the majority of the site took place between the 11th and mid 13th century. The site did produce pottery evidence for the Late Saxon period but this was very limited. Similar limitations occur from the late-medieval period onwards and consequently little can be determined from the post-Roman pottery regarding the earlier and later use of the site.

THE POTTERY FABRIC

The pottery fabrics were examined using a x10 hand lens and described using the criteria of Peacock (1977). Each type was allocated a site specific fabric number.

Fabric 1. Hard gritty yellow brown fabric with abundant white and grey

limestone, common clear and coloured quartz, moderate iron ore and sparse to moderate flint or chert. Recognisable forms are all hand built jars. Probably 12th century or earlier on typolical grounds.

- Fabric 2 Hard sandy yellow brown to orange brown fabric with abundant clear and coloured quartz. Hand built.
- Fabric 3 Hard smooth grey brown fabric with a dark grey core. Common limestone with rare quartz and flint. Hand built. Probably 12th century or earlier.
- Fabric 4 Not used.
- Fabric 5 Hard gritty buff fabric with a grey core. Common limestone, quartz and rare iron ores and flint. Somewhat similar to Cirencester fabric 231. Hand built. Probably 12th century or earlier.
- Fabric 6 Hard slightly sandy cream buff fabric with pink orange core. Abundant clear and coloured quartz and sparse iron ore. Hand built. Possibly 13th century.
- Fabric 7 Hard smooth grey buff fabric with common limestone, sparse ?calcite, quartz and iron ore. Hand built .Probably late 11th to early 13th century.
- Fabric 8 Hard smooth orange brown fabric with a grey core. Common limestone, sparse iron ore and dark coloured quartz. Surfaces possibly wiped or finished on a wheel. Hand built. Probably late 11th to early 13th century.
- Fabric 9 Hard smooth brown to orange brown fabric with a grey core. Abundant limestone, sparse dark coloured quartz and iron ore. Similar to F8 but more limestone – possibly the same fabric. Hand built.
- Fabric 10 Late post-medieval redware. 18th/19th century.
- Fabric 11 Hard sandy buff to light brown fabric with a grey core. Abundant limestone, common iron ore and rare quartz. Wheel-thrown.
- Fabric 12 Hard smooth grey to buff fabric with abundant limestone, sparse dark quartz and rare iron ores. Probably same as Fabrics 8 and 9. The type sherd is a grooved handle decorated with stabs. Probably 12th to early 13th century by form.
- Fabric 13 Hard sandy brown fabric with a grey core. Abundant fine limestone and quartz and rare iron ore. Probably hand built.
- Fabric 14 Hard smooth orange fabric with a grey brown core. Abundant fine quartz, moderate to common iron ore and rare non-calcareous white grains. The sherd has an internal iron wash and thin external olive green glaze. Wheel-thrown. Late 13th or 14th century.
- Fabric 15 Hard smooth brown fabric with grey core and internal green glaze. Abundant oolitic limestone, rare clear quartz, iron ore and shell. Wheel-thrown. Minety type ware mostly 1300-1500.
- Fabric 16 Not used.

- Fabric 17 Hard smooth pale brown fabric with grey core. Moderate to common limestone, rare to sparse quartz and iron ore, rare shell. Hand built. Probably late 11th to early 13th century.
- Fabric 18 Hard smooth pink fabric containing abundant fine quartz and rare to sparse red powdery iron ore. There is a yellow external glaze. Wheel-thrown. Stamford ware. Late 12th to early 13th century.
- Fabric 19 Hard smooth pale brown fabric with a grey buff core. Common to abundant limestone, common clear and coloured quartz, moderate iron ores and grey gravel and rare shell. Hand built.
- Fabric 20 Not used.
- Fabric 21 Hard gritty buff to grey fabric with abundant quartz, moderate iron ore, rare to sparse limestone and rare flint. Probably 12th to 13th century.
- Fabric 22 Hard sandy brown fabric with pale grey core. Rare iron ore and limestone in a matrix containing very fine dark grits possibly quartz. Hand built.
- Fabric 23 Hard sandy brown fabric with abundant quartz, rare limestone, iron ores and flint and very rare quartz. Flint flakes visible on surface. Hand built.
- Fabric 24 Hard sandy orange fabric with a grey core. Abundant quartz and sparse iron ores or grog. Olive green flecked external glaze. Probably wheel-thrown. Late 13th/14th century.
- Fabric 25 Hard sandy fabric with abundant quartz and limestone, rare to sparse shell. Hand built.
- Fabric 26 Hard smooth buff fabric with a grey core. Abundant limestone, moderate to common quartz and rare iron ore. Decorated with comb beneath a green glaze.
- Fabric 27 Hard slightly sandy pink buff fabric with abundant clear and coloured quartz and rare iron ores. Green external glaze decorated with applied strips with square rouletting. Mid 13th to 14th century.
- Fabric 28 Hard gritty grey fabric with moderate to common quartzite and common iron ores. Hand built.
- Fabric 29 Hard gritty brown fabric with a grey core. Abundant quartz, common limestone and moderate iron ores. Hand built.
- Fabric 30 Hard smooth black fabric with abundant quartz, sparse to moderate limestone and rare carbonised vegetable matter. Hand built. 10th/early 11th century on typological grounds.
- Fabric 31 Hard gritty brown fabric with a grey buff core. Abundant quartz, rare to sparse quartzite and moderate limestone. Probably late Saxon.
- Fabric 32 Hard smooth brown fabric with a grey core. Moderate iron ores in a matrix containing fine quartz. Thick fabric. Saxon or possibly earlier.
- Fabric 33 Hard sandy buff fabric sometimes with a grey core. Abundant quartz, rare iron ore and unhomogenised clay pellets. Green external glaze. Bristol/Redcliffe.

- Fabric 34 Hard smooth brown fabric with a grey core. Abundant limestone (visible on surface), common quartz and rare iron ore. Hand built. Probably late 11th to early 13th century.
- Fabric 35 Hard sandy dark grey fabric with abundant quartz and moderate limestone. Hand built
- Fabric 36 Tudor Green. 15th and 16th century.
- Fabric 37 Wanstrow (east Somerset) red ware. 1550-1800 by form.

Catalogue of Illustrated Material (Fig.27)

- 1) Small hand built bead rimmed jar in a hard smooth black fabric. Fabric 30. 10th/11th century.
- 2) Profile of a shallow bowl with clubbed rim. Fabric 7. Produced over a long period : late 11th to early 13th century.
- 3) Narrow grooved strap handle with multiple stab decoration. Fabric 12. Probable 12th century.
- 4) Simple squared rim in an orange surfaced grey fabric. Some external sooting. Hemispherical bowl. Fabric 8. 11th century.
- 5) Jar rim. Everted externally rounded rim with thumb indentations along rim top. Fabric 19.

CERAMIC TILE, by Rod Burchill

Introduction

A small assemblage of 107 fragments of ceramic tile was recovered. This was sorted and visually examined to identify the various categories present. A detailed list of the material by context may be found in archive and only a summary report is included here.

Materials

Of the material examined (**Table 8**) forty-nine fragments (45%) were very small and it was not possible to identify this material further with certainty (they are not included in the distribution table). The remainder consisted of 35 fragments of Romano-British box-flue tile (32%) and 23 sherds of roof-tile also mostly of Romano-British date.

Interpretation

None of the tiles were stamped and their source is uncertain; however, such tiles were heavy and fragile and it is likely that they were made nearby, possibly by itinerant tile makers.

CHARCOAL, by Rowena Gale

Introduction

Charcoal recovered from the fill of early medieval (Period V, Phase I) ditch 207 was examined and identified to assess its potential for radiocarbon dating.

Materials and methods

The charcoal was poorly preserved and friable. The samples were prepared for examination using standard methods (Gale & Cutler 2000). Charcoal fragments were supported in washed sand and

examined using a Nikon Labophot-2 microscope at magnifications of up to x400. The anatomical structures were matched to prepared reference slides. When possible the maturity (ie. hardwood/sapwood) of the wood was assessed.

Results

Context 207: 7 fragments of oak (*Quercus* sp.), heartwood.

Comment

The charcoal consisted of oak heartwood probably from fairly wide roundwood or trunkwood. It was deemed unsuitable for radiocarbon dating.

CLAY TOBACCO PIPES, by Reg Jackson

Introduction

Clay tobacco pipe fragments were recovered from two probable 18th-century (Period VI) contexts, 400 and 401, both below the floor inside Abingdon Court farmhouse.

Description and interpretation

Context 400 produced six stem fragments, two tiny pieces of pipe bowl and two pieces of spurred bowls, the latter indicating that they may probably be dated to the 18th century.

Context 401 contained a spurred bowl and a bowl with a small heel. Neither of the bowls carried a maker's mark. Both pipes date to the late 17th or early 18th century. The form of the bowl with the small heel suggests that it was made in either Wiltshire or Gloucestershire, similar bowl types being illustrated from those counties (Peacey 1979, Fig. 1.6 & Atkinson 1970, Fig. 2.16).

COINS, by Rosie Clarke

Introduction

A small number of coins were recovered from soil horizons within Abingdon Court farmhouse. They were examined using standard methods (Seaby 1988).

The Collection

Area 4

- i) An illegible copper alloy coin, possibly a half-farthing of Victoria, 1837-1901; SF 77, context 400
- ii) A copper alloy halfpenny, George II, young bust 1729-39, reverse: illegible. SF 83, context 401.
- iii) Commemorative medal of William III and Mary II, 1688-94. Obverse: ---DG REX ANG SCO FR ET HIB, reverse: MARIA DG ANG SCO FR ET HIB REGINA. SF 84, context 401.
- iv) An illegible copper alloy coin, probably an 18th-century George II or III halfpenny. SF 85, context 401.
- v) An illegible copper alloy penny, Victoria or later. SF 89, context 404.

vi) A silver coin, illegible but possibly a late medieval (? Edward IV [1460-83]) halfpenny. SF 70, unstratified.

LITHICS, by David Mullin

Introduction

A total of nine lithic finds were recovered. Two pieces are naturally shattered chert, the remainder being dominated by material of probable Late Neolithic date.

Area 1:

- i) Broken tertiary flake, retouched along all lateral margins. Miscellaneous retouched tool. Translucent brown flint. SF 49, context 102.
- ii) Tertiary flake with retouch along one lateral margin. Miscellaneous retouched tool. Light brown cherty flint. SF 64, context 103.
- iii) End scraper. Translucent light brown flint. SF 41, context 114.
- iv) Broken tertiary waste flake. Small blade-like scars on ventral and dorsal surfaces. Light brown flint. SF 42, context 167.
- v) Secondary waste flake, possibly utilised. Triangular section. Light grey flint. SF 43, context 167.
- vi) Secondary waste flake with narrow blade scars on dorsal surface. Possible core maintenance. Light grey flint. SF 54, context 1127.
- vii) Proximal end of broken blade. Grey flint. SF 55, context 1129.

Interpretation

The end scraper (small find 41) and the two miscellaneous retouched tools are probably of Late Neolithic date. The large waste flake (small find 43) is also probably of this date. Small finds 54 and 42 retain narrow blade scars and are probably Mesolithic in date. The small size of the assemblage makes detailed analysis of function and form impossible, although there is a curiously high proportion of retouched tool types.

PLANT MACROFOSSIL REMAINS, by Julie Jones

Introduction

Samples were taken mainly from primary and secondary ditch fills and pit fills in Areas 1 and 2, with a horizon below the Saxon town bank sampled from Area 5.

Methodology

The samples were processed in the School of Geographical Science, Department of Geography, University of Bristol. They were flotation sieved to a 250 micron float and 500 micron residue. The residues were dried and sorted by Heather Hiron for shell, bone and finds. The floats were kept wet and examined under low-powered magnification by the author. Preservation of the plant macrofossil remains was by charring and waterlogging and although abundances were low, preservation was good. Most samples also produced good sized assemblages of snails, both land and water species. The results, including details of sample sizes, are shown in Table 9. Nomenclature and habitat information follows Stace (1991). An estimate of charcoal fragments >2mm overall dimensions is shown.

Results

Romano-British Pit Fill

Context 1114/sample 08

The upper fill of pit 1132 was composed of dark brownish grey silty clay with charcoal fragments and fired clay. The charred assemblage was limited to three wheat and a single oat grain, with a small group of weeds of disturbed ground. There were a few oyster shell and animal bone fragments in the residue.

Possible Saxon buried soil horizon

Context 508/sample 11

The mid orange brown clayey silt, which formed this context, is suggested to be part of a late 9th/early 10th century defensive earth bank, sealed by an early 11th century bank. The context spread over approximately 4 metres and was 0.15m deep. The sample float was mostly fine roots, with occasional charcoal flecks the only charred material present. The waterlogged assemblage contained many of the same species as recovered elsewhere on the site with indications of disturbed, grassy areas with some scrub containing elder and bramble (*Rubus sect Glandulosus*) as well as areas of damper ground shown by rush, brooklime (*Veronica beccabunga*), with perhaps areas of temporary water suggested by duckweed.

Late Saxon Pit Fill

Context 169/sample 06

Dark brownish grey silty clay formed the fill of a small sub-circular pit, 170. The sample float was mostly fine root fragments with rare charcoal flecks and a single charred grass (*Poa/Phleum*) and waterlogged rush seed. The pit fill also contained animal bone, fragments of oyster, cockle and clam suggestive of rubbish deposition.

Medieval Ditch Fills

Context 111/sample 05.

The primary fill of ditch 112 was light brownish yellow silty clay, with rare charcoal flecks and contained only 3 wheat grains and a single arable weed. The waterlogged assemblage was also limited with single occurrences of disturbed ground species, thistle (*Cirsium/Carduus*), chickweed and nettle. There was a single seed of the aquatic duckweed (*Lemna*) which may suggest the ditch was at times water-filled.

Context 1142/sample 09

The secondary fill of ditch 1141, about 0.56m thick, was composed of brownish grey silty clay, with occasional charcoal flecks. The sample float was mostly fine roots with occasional charcoal flecks; the charred assemblage composed of 12 wheat and single barley and oat grains. Arable weeds included scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*) and a pod fragment of wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum* ssp *raphanistrum*). The waterlogged plant macro assemblage was limited.

Context 206/sample 02

Context 206, also described as having a high organic content, composed the entire fill of ditch 207 and was firmly compacted dark grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. The charcoal was again predominantly small fragments with <40 pieces greater than 2mm. The cereal assemblage

included 17 wheat and 4 oat grains.

Context 214/sample 01

The secondary fill of ditch 213 is described as firmly compacted dark brownish grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks, which appeared to have a high organic content. The charcoal fragments in the sample float were mostly small and several well-preserved cereal grains included wheat (*Triticum* sp), barley (*Hordeum* sp) and oat (*Avena* sp), with a single charred arable weed, bartsia/eyebright (*Odontites/Euphrasia*). Waterlogged preservation included occasional rush (*Juncus*) seeds with single occurrences of chickweed (*Stellaria media*) and a grass (*Poaceae*) caryopsis.

Context 217/sample 03

This deposit of brownish grey clayey silt formed the secondary fill of ditch 216 and contained occasional small charcoal fragments. Well-preserved wheat grains were more abundant here, with fewer examples of barley and oat plus the single occurrence on the site of a wheat tough rachis internode. Charred arable weeds included stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) and dock (*Rumex*) with a single lesser spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula*) achene suggestive of damp ground conditions. The presence of waterlogged rush seeds also points to damp ground, although the rest of the assemblage preserved under anaerobic conditions are suggestive of disturbed grassy areas supporting species such as nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and greater plantain (*Plantago major*) with scrub, indicated by elder (*Sambucus nigra*).

Context 219/sample 04

Context 219, a yellowish orange silty clay formed the upper fill of ditch 216 and produced a similar charred assemblage to 217, with small charcoal fragments only. The waterlogged assemblage confirms the suggestion of damp ground with rush again present, with sedge (*Carex*) and the bankside species water plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*) with buttercup (*Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus*) and grasses (*Poa/Phleum*) suggestive of grassy conditions.

Medieval Pit Fills

Context 158/sample 10

Brownish grey silty clay, with numerous charcoal flecks formed the primary fill of rubbish pit 161. Although charcoal was frequent in the float with 20+ fragments >2mm, there was little other charred material with only 3 wheat grains and 2 arable weeds.

Context 176/sample 07

This mid brownish grey silty clay formed the fill of cut 177, interpreted as a rubbish pit cut into the top of ditch 112. As well as small charcoal fragments, there were a few wheat, barley and oat grains. The waterlogged assemblage included similar species to the primary fill of ditch 112, with both disturbed ground and damp ground species present. Over 50 ostracod valves were noted in the float, which also suggests a water-filled feature.

Discussion

Although the plant macrofossil evidence recovered from the features examined at Cricklade was limited, analysis has shown a similarity across the site in the groups of plant taxa present.

Most of the features included charred preservation, with charcoal present throughout, although the number of identifiable fragments was variable. Evidence for cereal crops was in the form of grains, with wheat the most common. Much of this was well-preserved and showed the rounded form characteristic of free-threshing bread wheat forms typical of the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods. The only cereal chaff recovered on the site was a single wheat tough rachis internode, also

characteristic of free-threshing forms and a single wheat awn. Barley and oat grains were also present in some of the features, although occurred less frequently than wheat. However, in the case of oat, without its characteristic chaff it is not possible to confirm whether this was a cultivated crop or occurred as a weed, in its wild form. There are other arable weeds preserved with the cereals, in a charred form, which may suggest the latter. Some of the weed species are those that repeatedly occur in association with cultivated crops and would have been gathered with the crops at harvest. Species recovered include stinking chamomile, wild radish, bartsia/eyebright and scentless mayweed. The charred cereal assemblages together with the animal bone, shellfish, plus slag, tile and pottery also recovered from these features is likely to represent secondary deposition as part of rubbish disposal on the site.

The presence of both the cereal grains and weed seeds may suggest that some separation of the crop had occurred as part of the cleaning process. After separation of the cereal grain from its chaff and straw by threshing and winnowing, impurities such as weed seeds and smaller items of chaff, would have been removed by sieving. The presence of low concentrations of both cleaned grains and weed seeds together in these contexts may suggest that these represent chance burning of waste products from processing, which have then been deposited along with other waste into these features. Evidence is not sufficient to suggest whether crops were locally grown, but utilisation of both wheat and barley, with perhaps the addition of oat crops occurred on the site.

A similarity also occurs in the weed assemblages recovered, which have been preserved by the anaerobic conditions in the ditch and pit fills. The numbers recovered are very limited, so suggestions must be tentative. Deposition into these features is more likely to be natural, rather than deliberate, as suggested for the charred remains. There appear to be a number of habitat groups represented, with areas of disturbed ground suggested by weeds of waste places, such as chickweed, fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*) and orache. Taller grassy areas inhabited by thistles, buttercup and grasses with unkempt more scrubby ground containing elder, bramble and nettle, could all have happily co-existed. The site lies only 200 metres from the River Thames so it is likely that flooding of low-lying areas may have occurred. The presence of the aquatic species duckweed in some features suggests areas of still open water, although this may have been of a temporary nature, while rush, sedge and bankside, marshy species such as water-plantain and brooklime also suggest a high water table or wet ground for at least part of the year.

CATALOGUE OF SMALL FINDS, by Rod Burchill

The majority of small finds recovered were construction nails, they are not described here but a descriptive list can be found in the site archive. Of the remaining 44 small finds only the nine considered worthy of illustration are described here. They are ordered by area, material and context number. Descriptions of the remaining finds can be found in the site archive.

AREA 1

Copper Alloy

1) Pierced disc engraved Purton.... Gov..... . Diameter 32mm. Probably mid to late 19th century. Intrusive. (*Fig.28.1*)
Context 102, SF10

2) Bow brooch with exposed spring. Romano-British. Residual. (*Fig.28.2*)
Context 102, SF14

3) Hollow ball with integral arms drilled to take a pivot. Function unclear. Diameter of ball 14mm; surviving length including arms 25mm. Probably post-medieval. Intrusive. (*Fig.28.3*)
Context 102, SF47

Iron Objects

Possibly reflecting the rural economy of the site the most common artefacts found were associated with the use of horses. Ten fiddle-key nails were recovered from Areas 1 and 2 along with fragments of horse shoe. The nails were simple in form with flat, semi-circular heads no thicker than the shank which taper to a point either symmetrically or to form a flat, chisel edge. In use these nails were double-clenched, the point being bent over and hammered back into the wall of the hoof. These nails had a long life continuing throughout the 12th century into the mid 13th century.

4) Left hand branch of a horse shoe with a fiddle-key nail in situ. No calkin. 12th century. (*Fig.28.4*)
Context 111, SF29

5) Fragment of a horseshoe. The heel survives complete with calkin and fiddle-key nail. Surviving length 60mm. Probably 13th century. (*Fig.28.5*)
Context 1176, SF60

Stone Object

6) Spindle whorl in a dark grey-black siltstone. Base diameter 37mm; central hole 10mm; height 19mm. Not dated. (*Fig.28.6*)
Context 159, SF46

AREA 2

Copper Alloy

7) Misshapen buckle frame or strap loop. Incomplete. 27mm x 22m (*Fig.28.7*)
Context 201, SF11

Iron

8) Fragment of fiddle-key nail. Early 13th century (*Fig.28.8*)
Context 206, SF31

AREA 4

Copper Alloy

9) Buckle frame. Sub-rectangular with central bar (now missing). 32mm x 24mm. 18th century (*Fig.28.9*)
Context 401, SF80

Fired Clay

Fired clay bars all in a fabric similar to pottery fabric CPF1 were recovered from a number of contexts. The bars exhibited no evidence of use and their function remains unknown.

PART IV: DISCUSSION

The earliest finds recovered during the programme of excavations was an unstratified assemblage of mainly late Neolithic flints (see Mullin). Their presence would seem to indicate that the site was the focus for some level of activity during that period, but precisely what nature that took is currently unclear.

Similarly, there were several residual sherds of late Iron Age pottery (see Brown), but because none of them derived from primary contexts and because of the small size of the assemblage it was not possible to determine the nature of the occupation.

There were only a small number of Romano-British features, comprising a few rubbish pits and a single posthole. This would seem to suggest that the site lay on the margins of the first to fourth century AD settlement that is known to have existed close to the bridge crossing over the River Thames. In addition to this, quite a large assemblage of residual pottery sherds and broken fragments of building materials (roof tile, brick and flue tile) was found in later contexts, suggesting that this material (presumably recovered from nearby buildings) had been re-used in the late Saxon and early medieval periods.

The origins of the land holding, now occupied by Abingdon Court Farm, seem to lie in the tenth century. Originally probably a royal burghage it was granted in AD 943 by King Edmund to a thegn called Ælfsige. In 1006 the estate was forfeit to the crown and two years later King Æthelred II granted it to St Mary's Abbey in Abingdon, Berkshire.

Several ditches and a rubbish pit (phase II) were recorded in the meadow (Area 1) to the south of the modern farmhouse. Wheat, barley and oat grains (some of which were charred) were present in sampled Saxon (and medieval) pit and ditch deposits. Along with the animal bone, shellfish, tile and pottery the charred cereal grains probably represent rubbish disposal on site.

The earliest recorded phase of construction of the town bank (rampart 1) may date from this late Saxon period, although the lack of contemporary datable finds is problematic. Stratigraphic relationships may indicate though that they do indeed date from the early tenth century and could therefore be part of the Alfredian West Saxon defences.

The medieval occupation on and around the site was principally domestic, but additionally with some evidence of the remains of an early phase (rampart 2) of the town defences as well as part of the thirteenth century 'Abyndones Court'. Several successive phases of boundary/drainage ditches surrounding a number of east/west burghage plots were recorded, south and east of the house, dating from the late eleventh to the thirteenth century. The weed assemblages, found in sampled deposits from these ditches, indicate a number of local habitats, including disturbed ground, grassy areas and low-lying waterlogged ground – the latter is unsurprising (and was very apparent during the course of the excavations) due to the proximity of the site to the River Thames.

Whether the abandonment of these plots is associated with land-use/land-ownership issues originating at Abingdon Court itself is unclear, though it does remain a distinct possibility. Indeed, the thirteenth century seems to have been a period of change and development in and around 'the Court' with changes in land-use, land division and building work at the house itself. Evidence of the latter was a length of wall, nearly 4m long, found beneath the existing farmhouse. In association with this stone wall were several sherds of thirteenth century pottery. One possible late medieval coin was also recovered from inside the farmhouse.

The high frequency of horse bones noted from both the late Saxon and medieval periods was thought (see Higbee) as possibly being significant. It has been suggested that perhaps horse carcasses were being processed for either meat or hides. Indeed, as late as 1903 a Mr J. G. Cuss, who was tenant at the time, was listed as '*a horse and cattle dealer*'.

While documentary evidence for the history of the house and estate in the post-medieval period is relatively accessible there was little post-1500 archaeological evidence. Indeed, the house itself shows signs of having been substantially altered in both the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, but no significant archaeological features or deposits were noted from these periods in the surrounding gardens and farmland.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) wish to thank Roy Canham, the County Archaeological Officer for Wiltshire County Council, Amanda Chadburn of English Heritage, the BaRAS excavation team of Dave Stevens, Rachel Heaton, Chris Reese, Brigid Gallagher, John Turner, Darren Lankstead, Heather Hirons, Jayne Pilkington, Stuart Whatley and Andy King, Mark Brennan (Project Manager), Dan Mangan (Site Manager) and the on-site staff of Living Heritage Developments Ltd, Lorrain Higbee, Lisa Brown, Rod Burchill, Rowena Gale, Reg Jackson, Rosie Clarke, David Mullin and Julie Jones for the specialist reports and Vanessa Straker, SW Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science to English Heritage. Ann Linge produced the illustrations.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Albarella, U & Davis, S J M, 1994 *The Saxon and medieval animal bones excavated 1985-1989 from West Cotton, Northamptonshire*. Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report.
- Anderson, A S, 1980 'Romano-British Pottery Kilns at Purton', *Transactions of the Wiltshire Archaeological & Natural History Society Magazine*, 73, 55.
- Armitage, P L & Clutton-Brock, J, 1976 A system for classification and description of horn cores of cattle from archaeological sites. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 3, 329-48.
- Armitage, P L & West, B, 1987, Faunal Evidence from a Late medieval Garden Well of the Greyfriars, London, *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society*, 36, 107-36.
- Atkinson, D R, 1970 Clay tobacco pipes and pipemakers of Salisbury, Wiltshire. *Transactions of the Wiltshire Archaeological & Natural History Society Magazine*, 65, 177-89.
- Barclay, H B, 1980 *The role of the horse in man's culture*.
- Binks, T R, 1993 *Cricklade: A Short History*.
- Boessneck, J, 1969 'Osteological differences between sheep (*Ovis aries*) and goat (*Capra hircus*)', in Brothwell, D. & Higgs, E. S. (eds) *Science in Archaeology*. 2nd edition. 331-58.
- Bourdillon, J, & Coy, J P, 1980 'The animal bones', in Holdsworth, P. (ed) *Excavations at Melbourne Street, Southampton, 1971-76*. *Council for British Archaeology* 33, 79-121.
- Bourdillon, J, 1993 'The animal bones', in Graham, A. H. & Davies, S. M. *Excavations in Trowbridge, Wiltshire, 1977 and 1986-1988: The prehistoric, Saxon and Saxo-Norman settlements and the Anarchy Period castle*. Wessex Archaeology Report. No. 2, 127-36.
- Coy, J, 1980 'The animal bones' in Haslam, J. A Middle Saxon iron smelting site at Ramsbury, Wiltshire. *Medieval Archaeology* 24, 1-68.
- Currie, C K, 1992 'Excavation and Survey at a Roman Kiln Site, Brinkworth, 1986' *Transactions of the Wiltshire Archaeological & Natural History Society Magazine*, 85, 27-50.
- Davis, S J M 1992 *A rapid method for recording information about mammal bones from archaeological sites*. Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report No 19/92
- Dobney, K & Reilly, K, 1988 A method for recording archaeological animal bones: the use of diagnostic zones. *Circaea* 5 (2) 79-96.

- Done, G, 1980 'The animal bone', in Longley, D. Runnymede Bridge 1976: Excavations on the site of a Late Bronze Age settlement. *Proceedings of the Surrey Archaeology Society* 6, 74-9.
- Edwards, E H, 1987 *Horses: their role in the history of man*.
- Gale, R & Cutler, D, 2000 *Plants in Archaeology*
- Grant, A, 1976 'The animal bones' in Cunliffe, B. W. Excavations at Portchester Castle, Vol. II: Saxon, *Res. Rep. Comm. Soc. Antiq. London* 33, 262-87.
- Grant, A, 1979 'The animal bones (Citizen's House)', in Cunliffe, B. W. (ed) *Excavations in Bath, 1950-1975*. Committee for Rescue Archaeology in Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset (CRAAGS). Excavation Monograph 1, 60-70.
- Grant, A, 1982 'The use of tooth wear as a guide to the age of domestic animals', in Wilson, B., Grigson, C. & Payne, S. (eds) *Ageing and sexing animal bones from archaeological sites*, BAR 109. 91-108
- Haslam, J, 1976 *The Archaeological Potential of Wiltshire Towns*.
- Haslam, J, 1984 *Anglo-Saxon Towns of Southern England*.
- Higbee, L, 1999 'The animal bones', in Knight, M. *Prehistoric Excavations at King's Dyke West, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire – A terminal Bronze Age settlement near Moreton's Leam*. Cambridge Archaeology Unit Report No. 301.
- Holmes, D, 1993 *Towns and Villages of England: Cricklade*.
- Ireland, C A, 1998 'The Pottery', in Wilkinson, D. & McWhirr, A. *Cirencester Anglo-Saxon Church and medieval abbey: Cirencester Excavations IV*, 98-112.
- Johnstone, C, 1996 *How horses have changed in size and shape from the Iron Age to the medieval period in Northern Europe*. Unpublished undergraduate dissertation. University of Bradford.
- Langdon, J, 1989 A quite revolution – the horse in agriculture, 1100-1500. *History Today* 39, 32-37.
- Levine, M, 1982 'The use of crown height measurements and eruption sequences to age horse teeth', in Wilson, B., Grigson, C. & Payne, S. (eds) *Ageing and sexing animal bones from archaeological sites*. BAR 109.
- Levitan, B, 1982 'The faunal remains', in Leach, P. *Ilchester Vol 1: Excavations 1974-5*. Western Archaeological Trust Excavation Monograph 3, 269-283.
- Locker, A, 2000 'The animal bone', in Lawson, A. J. *Potterne 1982-5: Animal husbandry in later prehistoric Wiltshire*. Wessex Archaeology Report No. 17, 101-17.
- Morris, J, 1979 *Domesday Book: A Survey of the Counties of England, vol.6 Wiltshire*.
- O'Connor, T, 1989 Bones from Anglo-Scandinavian Levels at 16-22 Coppergate, York. *The Archaeology of York*, 15 (3), 137-207.
- Payne, S, 1973 Kill-off patterns in sheep and goats: the mandibles from Asvan Kale. *Anatolian Studies* 23, 281-303
- Payne, S, 1985 Morphological distinction between the mandibular teeth of young sheep Ovis and goats Capra. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 12, 139-47.

- Payne, S, 1987 Reference codes for wear states in the mandibular cheek teeth of sheep and goats. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 14, 609-14
- Payne, S & Bull, G, 1988 Components of variation in measurements of pig bones and teeth, and the use of measurements to distinguish wild from domestic pig remains. *Archaeozoologia*, Vol. II/1,2, 27-66.
- Peacey, A, 1979 *Clay tobacco pipes in Gloucestershire*. Committee for Rescue Archaeology in Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset (CRAAGS) Occasional Paper 4.
- Peacock, D P S, 1977 'Ceramics in Roman and medieval archaeology', in Peacock, D. P. S. (ed) *Pottery in early commerce*, 21-34.
- Pilkington, J, 2001 *Archaeological Building Survey of Abingdon Court Farmhouse, Abingdon Court Farm, Cricklade, North Wiltshire* (BaRAS Report No. 893/2001).
- Piper, P J & O'Connor, T P, 2001, Urban Small Vertebrate Taphonomy: A Case Study from Anglo-Scandinavian York, *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology*, 11, 336-44.
- Rigby, V, 'The Coarse Pottery', in Wachter J. and McWhirr A. 1982. *Cirencester Excavations I. Early Roman Occupation at Cirencester*. Cirencester Excavation Committee, 153-200.
- Seaby, P, 1988 *Coins of England and the United Kingdom*, 1.
- Silver, I A, 1969 'The ageing of domestic animals', in Brothwell & Higgs (eds) *Science in Archaeology*. 283-301.
- Stace, C, 1991 *New Flora of the British Isles*.
- Sykes, N, 2002 'Assessment of the animal bones', in Longman, T. J. *Excavations at Abingdon Court Farm, Cricklade, Wiltshire*. Unpublished assessment report for Bristol and Region Archaeological Services.
- Sykes, N, 2002 'The animal bones' in Longman, T. J. *Excavations at the Town Wall, Malmesbury, Wiltshire 1998-2000*. Forthcoming report for English Heritage.
- Thomson, T R, 1961 *Materials for a History of Cricklade*.
- Vince, A, 1982 'Post-Roman pottery', in Leech, R. H. & McWhirr, A. Excavations at St John's Hospital, Cirencester. *Transactions of the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*, 100, 202-7.
- Von den Driesch, A, 1976 *A guide to the measurement of animal bones from archaeological sites*. Peabody Museum Bulletin 1, Cambridge Mass., Harvard University.
- Von den Driesch, A & Boessneck, J, 1974 Kritische Anmerkungen zur Widerristhöhenberechnung aus Längenmaßen vor- und frühgeschichtlicher Tierknochen, *Säugetierkundliche Mitteilungen* 22, 325-48.
- Wilson, R & Edwards, P, 1993 Butchery of horse and dog at Witney Palace, Oxfordshire and the Knackering and feeding of meat to hounds during the post-medieval period. *Post-Medieval Archaeology* 27, 43-56.

Table 1. Frequency of taphonomic evidence expressed as a percentage of the total number of fragments by phase. The poorly preserved category included exfoliated and abraded fragments and fragments with surface concretions of sediment adhering to them. The gnawed category includes bone which has passed through the gut of a carnivore.

<i>Phase</i>	<i>% poorly preserved</i>	<i>% canid gnaw marks</i>	<i>% butchery marks</i>	<i>% charred or calcined</i>
Saxon	-	11.76	12.49	0.73
Medieval	2.65	6.19	15.92	0.88

Table 2. Number of identified specimens per species (or NISP) by period.

	<i>Saxon</i>		<i>Medieval</i>	
	<i>N</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>%</i>
Cattle	28	28.2	33	38.8
Sheep/Goat	30	30.3	17	19.9
Pig	13	13.1	7	8.2
Horse	13	13.1	24	28.2
Dog	5	5	-	-
Roe deer	1	1	-	-
Frog/Toad	5	5	2	2.3
Rodent	2	2	1	1.1
Fish	2	2	1	1.1
Sub-total	99	100	85	100
Cattle-sized	13	-	15	-
Sheep-sized	11	-	6	-
Bird indeterminate	1	-	2	-
Unidentifiable	12	-	5	-
Sub-total	37	-	28	-
Total	136	-	113	-

Table 5. Common domestic species: mandibular tooth wear. Both teeth in mandibles and isolated teeth are included. Cattle and pig teeth recorded following Grant (1982) and sheep/goat teeth recorded following Payne (1973 and 1987). Isolated teeth which could have been in one of the eruption stages (C, V, E, H) are coded as 'a'. * denoted tooth damaged and therefore unassigned.

Context	Phase	Species	Tooth wear					
			dp4	p4	m1	m1/2	m2	m3
1074	Saxon	cattle	-	-	l	-	-	-
158	Saxon	sheep/goat	-	-	-	9A	-	-
195	Saxon	sheep/goat	-	-	-	-	-	10G
176	Saxon	pig	*	-	-	-	-	-
214	Saxon	pig	*	-	-	-	-	-
113	Medieval	cattle	-	-	j	-	f	*
105	Medieval	sheep/goat	16L	-	8A	-	-	-
105	Medieval	sheep/goat	-	-	-	-	-	11G
105	Medieval	sheep/goat	-	-	-	-	-	9G
135	Medieval	sheep/goat	-	-	-	-	-	9G
136	Medieval	sheep/goat	-	-	-	-	7A	-
1142	Medieval	sheep/goat	-	-	-	-	7A	-

Table 6. Horse: withers heights

Element	Measurement	Value mm	Withers height mm	Height in hands
Metacarpal	Li	226	1448.66	14.1
Metacarpal	Li	202	1294.82	12.3
Tibia	Li	334	1456.24	14.2
Mean		254	1399.90	13.3

Table 7: Distribution of box flue tile and roof-tile

CONTEXT	BOX FLUE TILE	ROOF-TILE
101	3	
102	11	8
105	2	
111	1	
120		1
123	1	1
129		1
137	2	
156	1	
157		1
189	1	
192		1
195		1
206		5
212		1
213		1
222	3	
1027	1	
1114	1	1
1118	2	
1172		1
1174	2	
U/S	4	

Table 8: Plant macrofossil remains from Abingdon Court Farm, Cricklade, Wiltshire

		ANGLO-SAXON											MED
		DITCH FILLS					PIT FILLS				LAYER	DITCH FILL	
Context		214	206	217	219	111	169	176	1114	158	508	1142	
Sample		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	10	11	09	
Sample size (kg/litres)		24.6/23	47.8/45	21.5/20	20.5/21	16.2/12	10.6/10	24/24	14.6/8	4.8/6	27.15/25	13.4/13	
Size of residue (kg)		0.72	1.9	0.95	0.72	1.6	0.87	2.82	0.85	0.45	2.17	0.52	
Size of float (ml)		4	30	4	3	1	<1	5	7	2	4	2	
CHARRED PLANT REMAINS													
Grain													
<i>Avena</i> sp	Oat	1	4	2	2			1	1			1	#
<i>Hordeum</i> sp	Barley	1		4	1			1				1	#
c.f. <i>Hordeum</i> sp	Barley				1								#
<i>Triticum</i> sp	Wheat	7	17	37	22	3		6	3	3		12	#
Cereal indet		1		1	3			1	1				#
Chaff													
<i>Triticum</i> sp (tough rachis internode)				1									#
<i>Triticum</i> sp (awn)					1								#
Weeds													
RANUNCULACEAE													
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i> L.	Lesser Spearwort			1									MPRw
POLYGONACEAE													
<i>Rumex</i> spp	Dock			1									DG
BRASSICACEAE													
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> ssp <i>raphanistrum</i> (pod frag)	Wild Radish											1f	CD
FABACEAE													
<i>Lathyrus/Vicia</i> spp				1									DG
SCROPHULARIACEAE													
<i>Odontites/Euphrasia</i> sp	Bartsia/Eyebright	1								1			CD
ASTERACEAE													
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	Stinking Chamomile			3	1	1				4			CDh
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i> (L.)Schultz-Bip	Scentless Mayweed											2	CD
CYPERACEAE													
<i>Carex</i> spp	Sedge								1				GMPRW

SOLANACEAE													
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i> L.	Henbane	1										D	
VERBENACEAE													
<i>Verbena officinalis</i> L.	Vervain										2	G, bare ground, c	
LAMIACEAE													
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i> L.	Selfheal			1								DG	
PLANTAGINACEAE													
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> L.	Ribwort Plantain					1				1			
SCROPHULARIACEAE													
<i>Odontites/Euphrasia</i> spp	Bartsia/Eyebright	1					1			3		CD	
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i> L.	Brooklime									1		BMPR	
RUBIACEAE													
<i>Galium aparine</i> L.	Cleavers					1				1		CHSo	
VALERIANACEAE													
<i>Valerianella dentata</i> (L.)Pollich	Narrow-fruited Cornsalad									1		CD	
ASTERACEAE													
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	Stinking Chamomile					1f	7	15		2	36	3	CDh
<i>Centaurea</i> spp	Knapweed						1		1			1	CDG
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i> (L.)Schultz-Bip	Scentless Mayweed										1	1	CD
JUNCACEAE													
<i>Juncus</i> spp	Rush										1	7	GMRw
CYPERACEAE													
<i>Carex</i> spp	Sedge					2		1			6		
<i>Eleocharis palustris/uniglumis</i>	Spike-rush									1			MPw
POACEAE													
<i>Anisantha sterilis</i> (L.)Nevski	Barren Brome	1						1					CD,G-open
	Context No	1057	1041	1067	1040	1023	1032	1025	1034	1014	1010	1008	
	Sample No	14	10	9	8	7	19	6	20	3	2	1	
<i>Bromus racemosus/hordaceus/secalinus</i>	Smooth/Soft/Rye Brome	2	1	1	10	2	2	8	3	4			DG/DG/CD
c.f. <i>Bromus</i> spp	Brome						1	12		1			

<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> L.	Crested Dog's-tail										3		G
<i>Danthonia decumbens</i> (L.)DC	Heath-grass					1							Ew, sandy/peaty
<i>Poa/Phleum</i> spp	Meadow-grass/ Cat's-tail	1	3	1	6		1	1			62	8	G
Poaceae	Grass					4	3			5	8		G
Poaceae indet (culm frags)											1		
	Total:	16	6	6	21	11	23	44	5	16	135	31	
MINERALISED PLANT REMAINS													
URTICACEAE													
<i>Urtica dioica</i> L.	Common Nettle							1					DGHWP
CHENOPODIACEAE													
<i>Atriplex</i> spp	Orache							1				1	
POLYGONACEAE													
<i>Rumex</i> spp	Dock							2					
ROSACEAE													
<i>Prunus avium</i> (L.)L.	Wild Cherry							1					HW -edge
APIACEAE													
<i>Bupleurum rotundifolium</i> L.	Thorow-wax							1					C
Mineralised fly pupae								2				1	
Mineralised fly emerging from pupae								1					
	Total:	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	2	

Habitats

B: Bankside. C: Cultivated/Arable. D: Disturbed. E: Heath/Moor. G: Grassland. H: Hedgerow. M: Marsh

P: Ponds, ditches - stagnant/slow flowing water. R: Rivers, streams. S: Scrub. W: Woodland.

a: acidic. c: calcareous. d: dry soils. h: heavy soils. n: nitrogen rich soils. o: open habitats. p: phosphate rich soils. w: wet/damp soils

cultivated plant/of economic importance

f = fragments

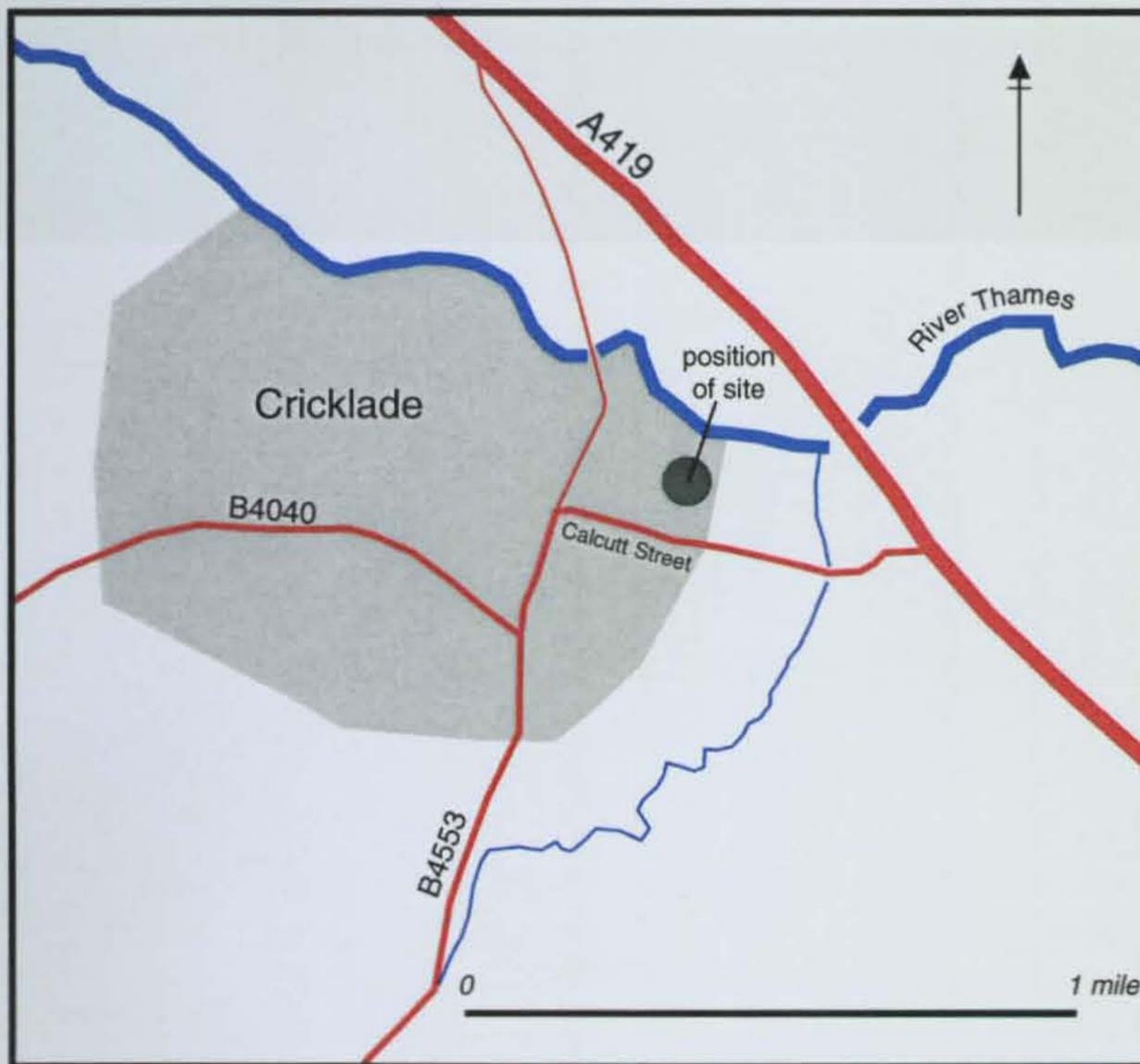
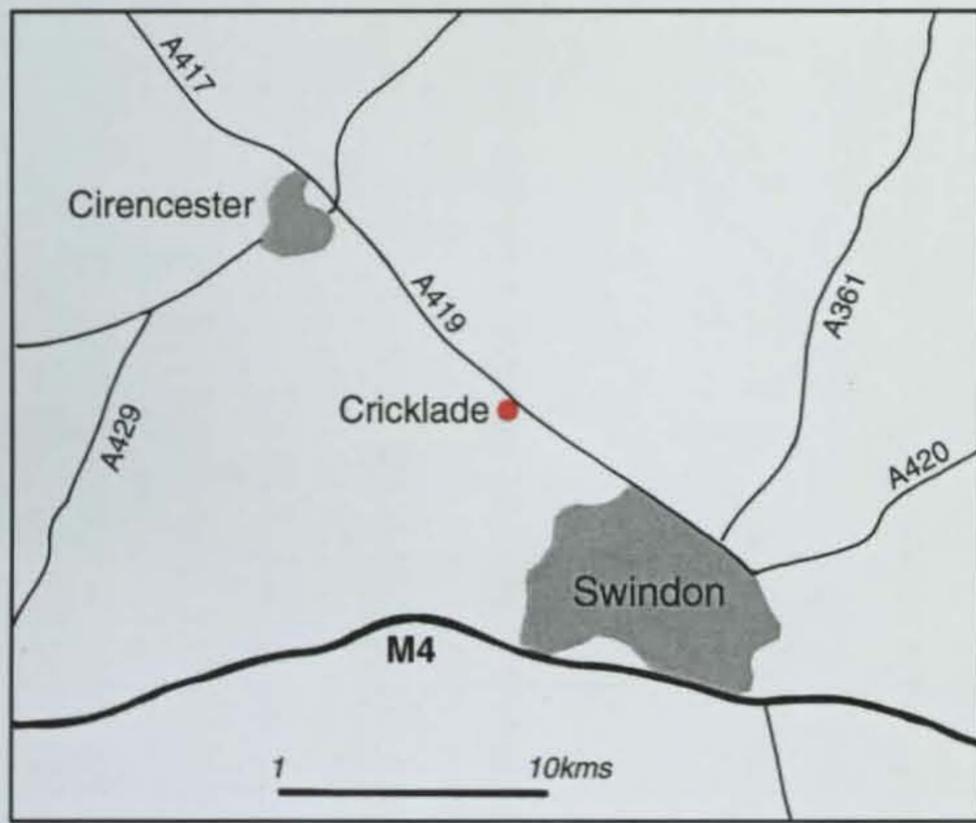


Fig.1 Site location plans



Fig.2 Extract from Andrew's & Dury's map of Wiltshire, 1773



Fig.3 Extract from E Saunders *Plan of the town and borough of Cricklade* , 1830



Fig.4 Extract from the Cricklade Tithe Map, 1840

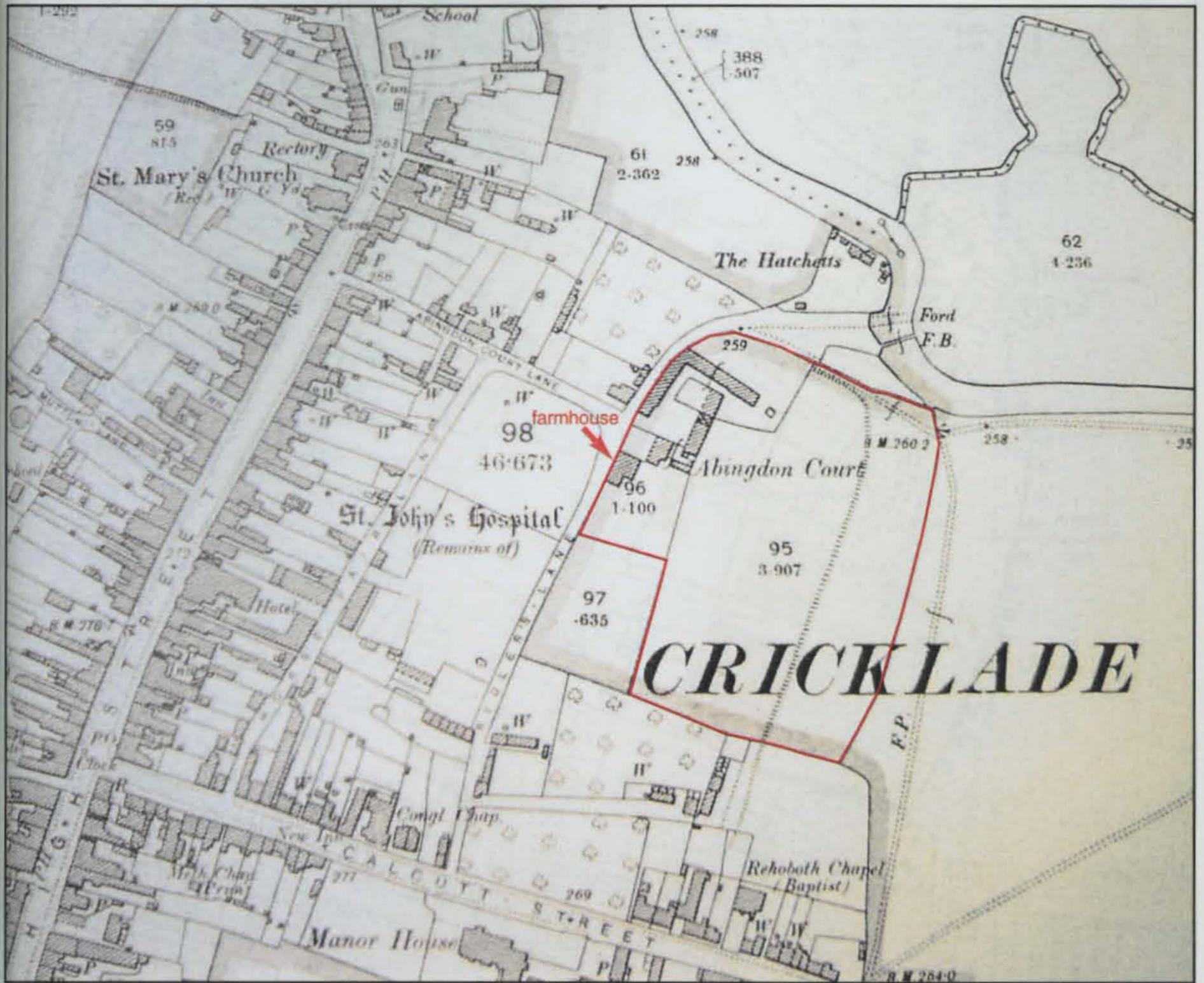


Fig.5 Ordnance Survey map of 1900, original scale 1:2500



Fig.6 Plan showing the location of the six excavated areas

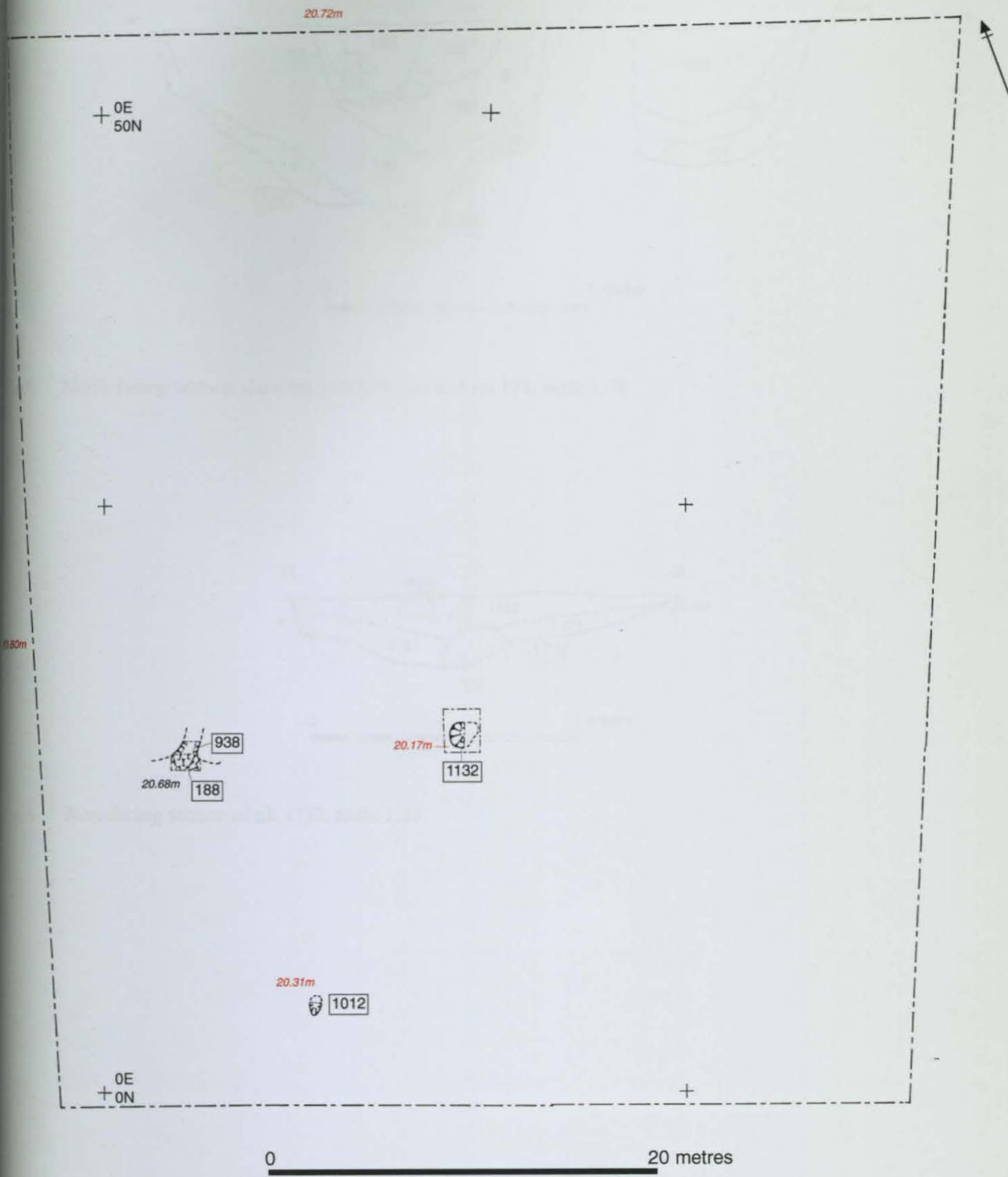


Fig.7 Plan of Area 1 showing Romano-British features

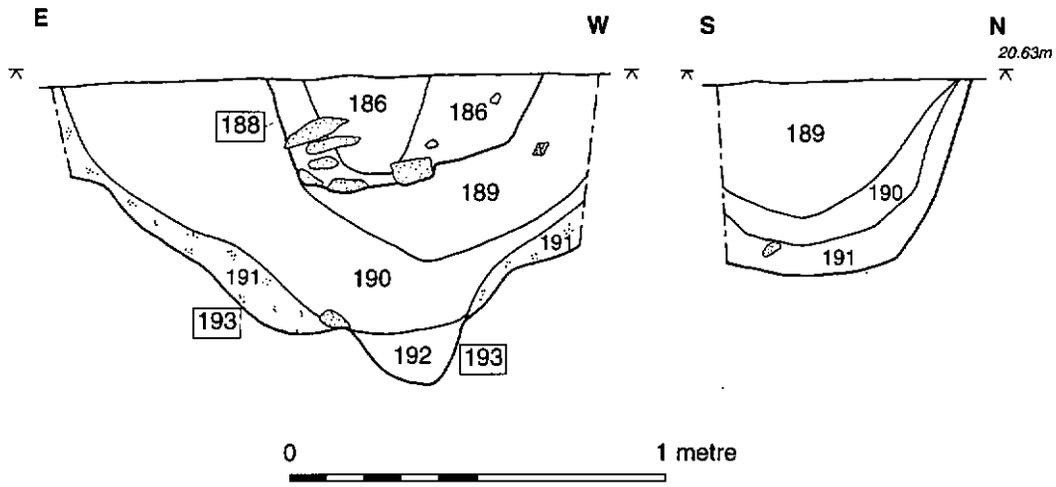


Fig.8 North-facing section showing post hole 188 and pit 193, scale 1:20

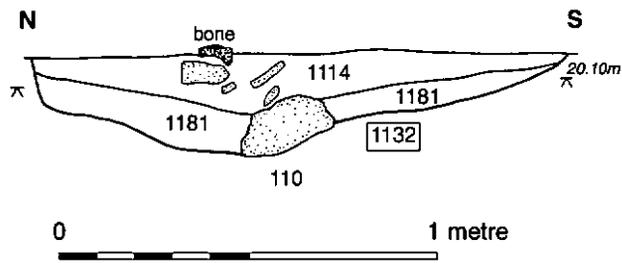


Fig.9 West-facing section of pit 1132, scale 1:20

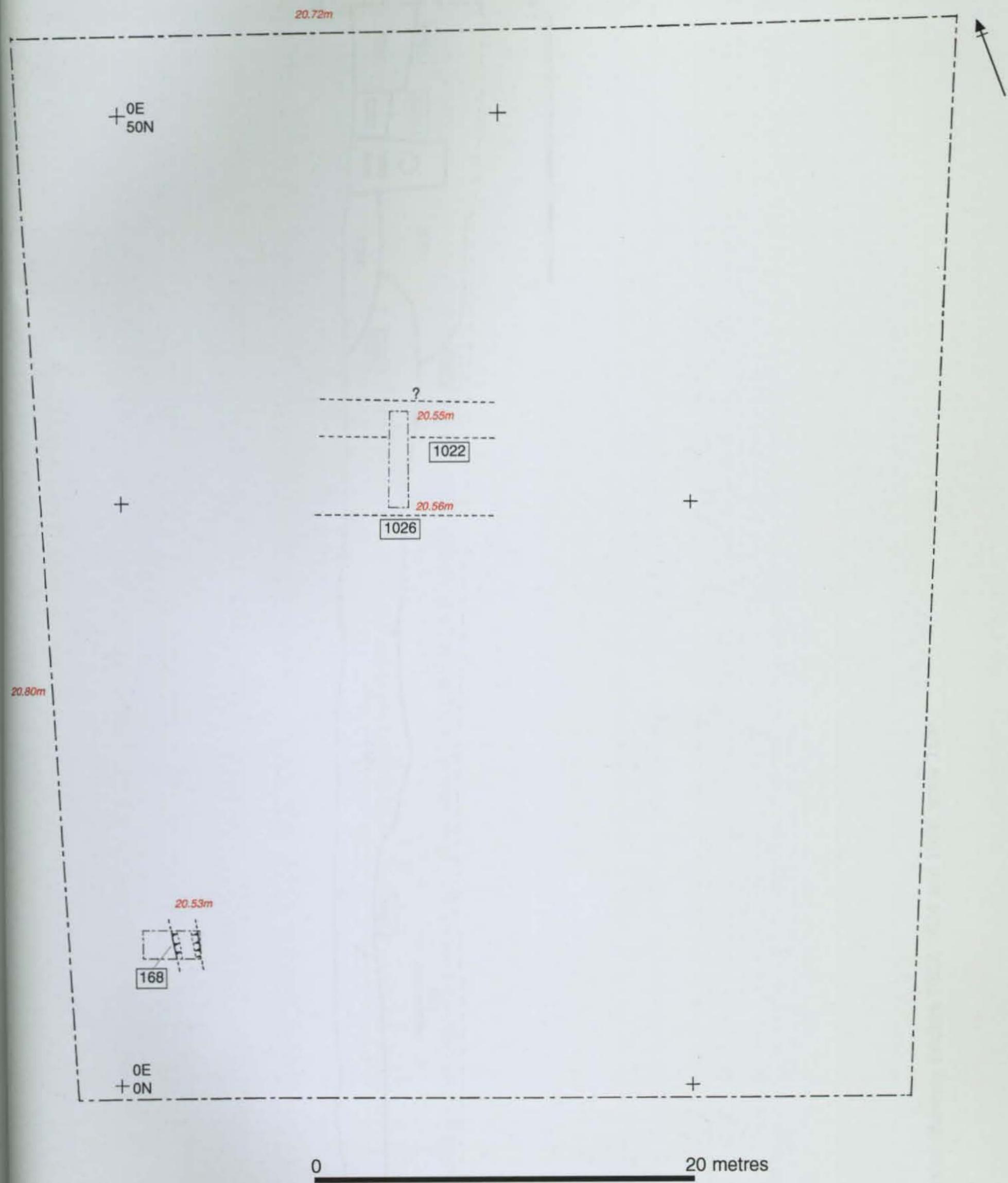


Fig.10 Plan of Area 1 showing late Saxon features

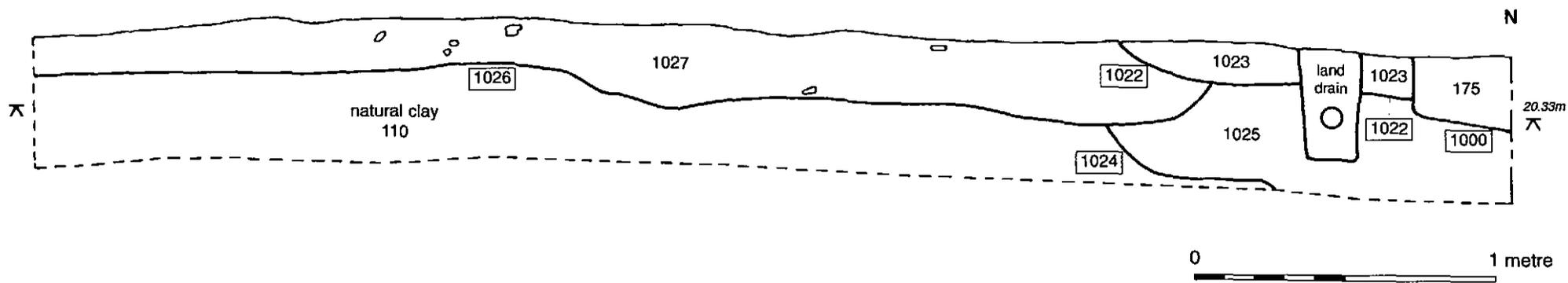


Fig.11 East-facing section showing ditches 1022, 1024 and 1026, scale 1:20

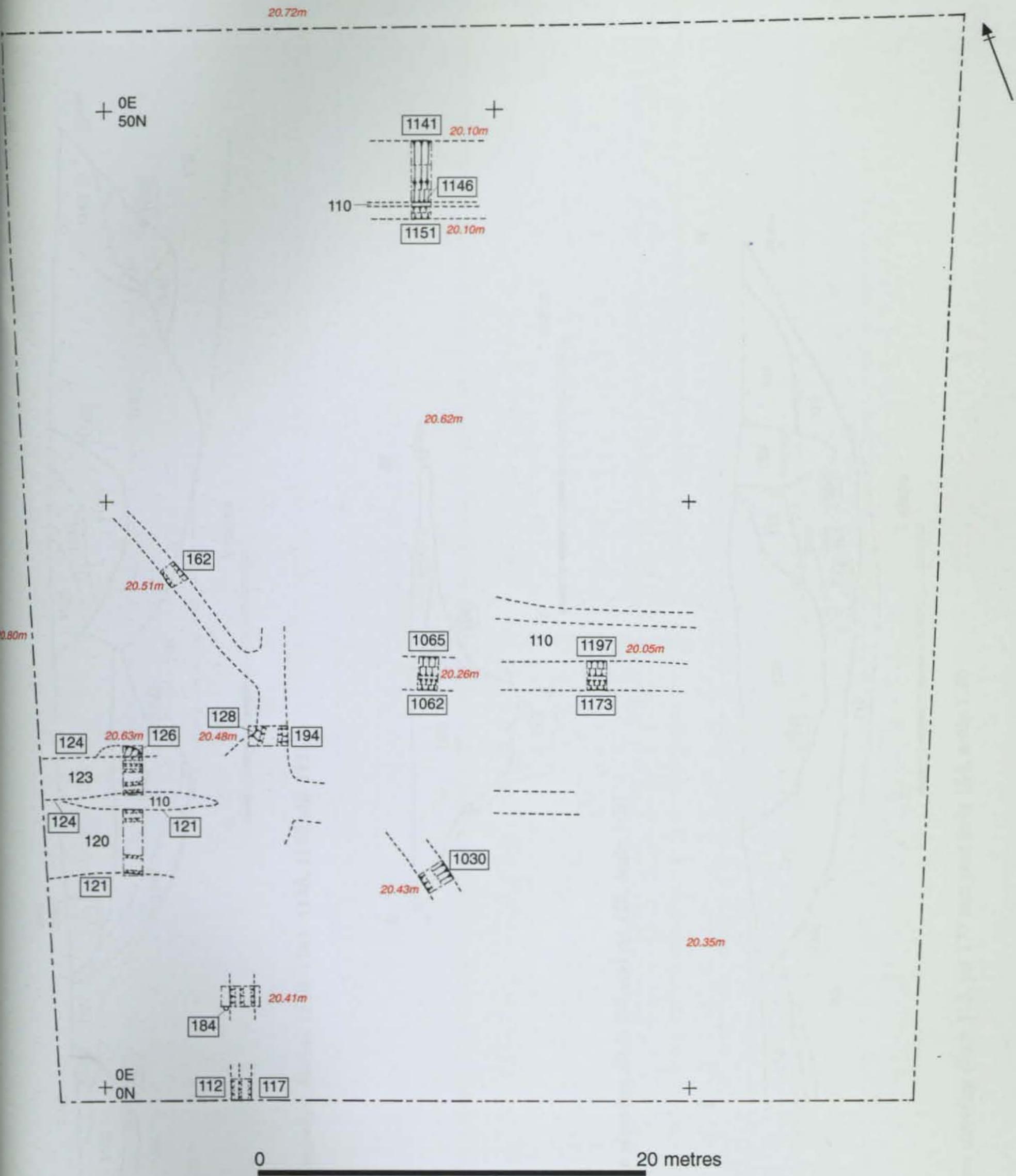


Fig.12 Plan of Area 1 showing medieval features

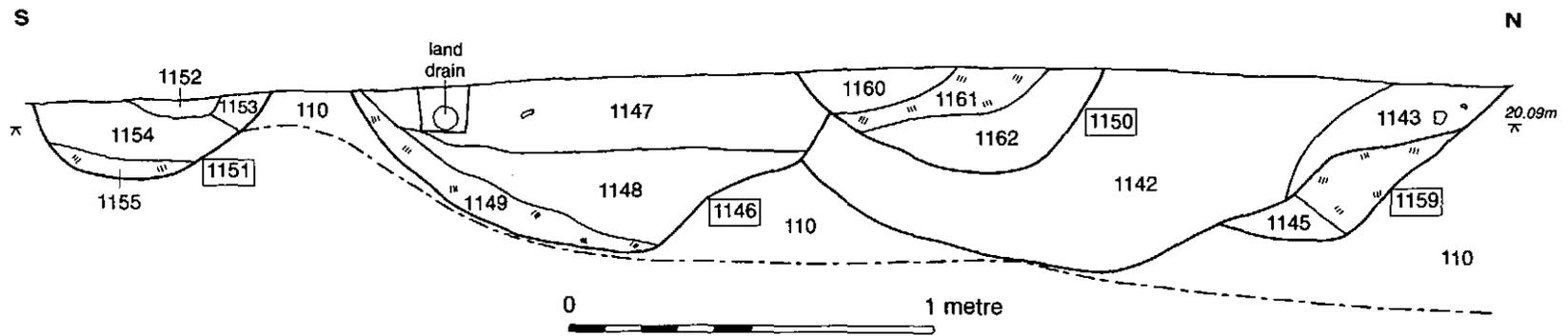


Fig.13 East-facing section showing ditches 1159, 1141, 1146, 1150 and 1151

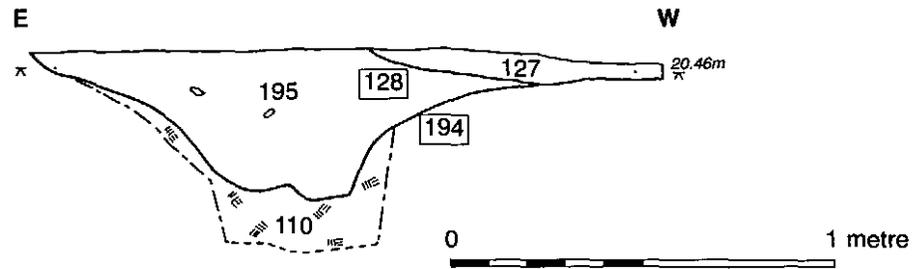


Fig.14 North-facing section showing ditch 194 and pit 128, scale 1:20

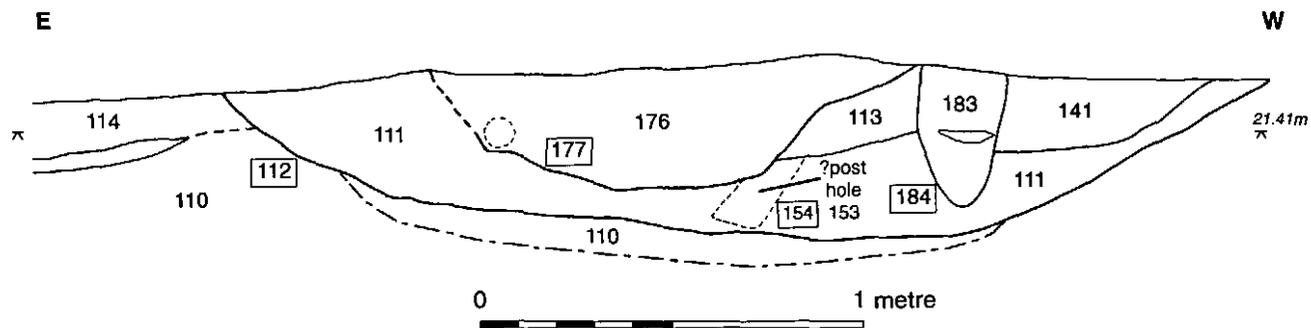


Fig.15 North-facing section showing ditch 112, pit 177 and post hole 184, scale 1:20

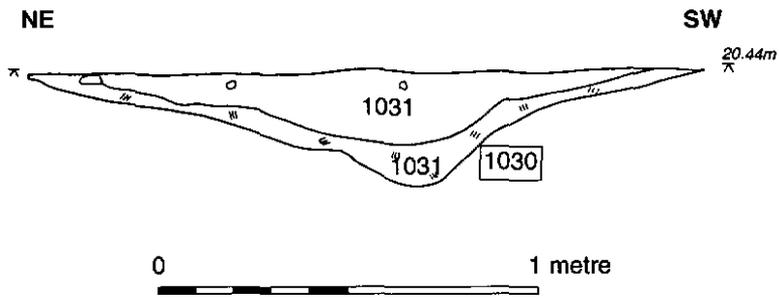


Fig.16 North-facing section showing ditch 1030, scale 1:20

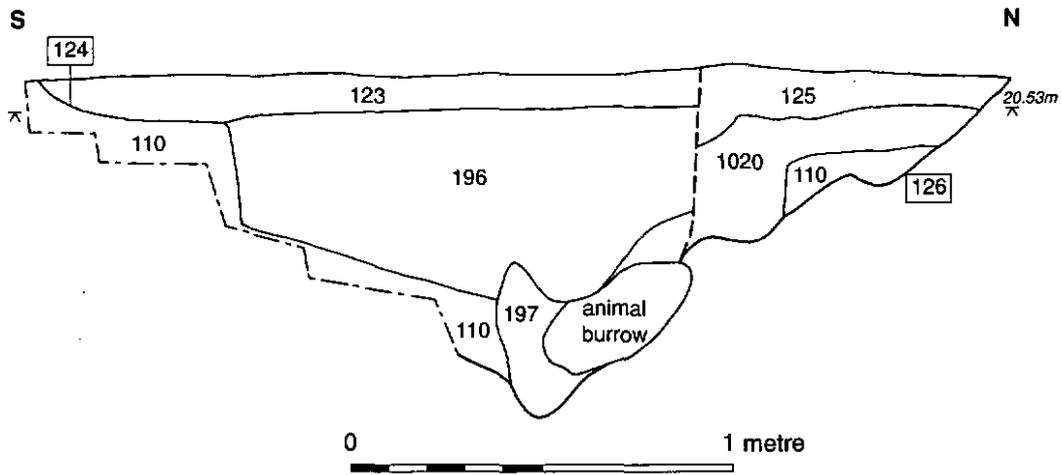


Fig.17 East-facing section showing pit 126 and ditch 124, scale 1:20

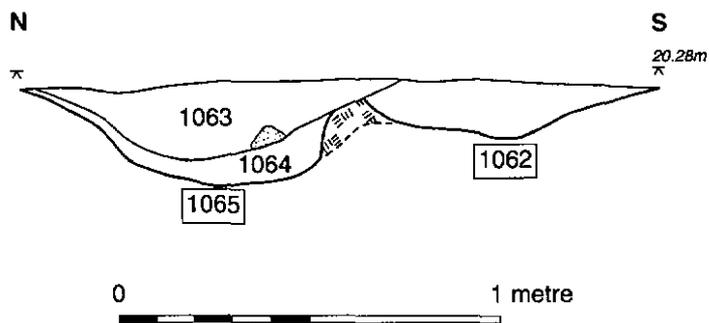


Fig.18 West-facing section showing ditches 1062 and 1065, scale 1:20

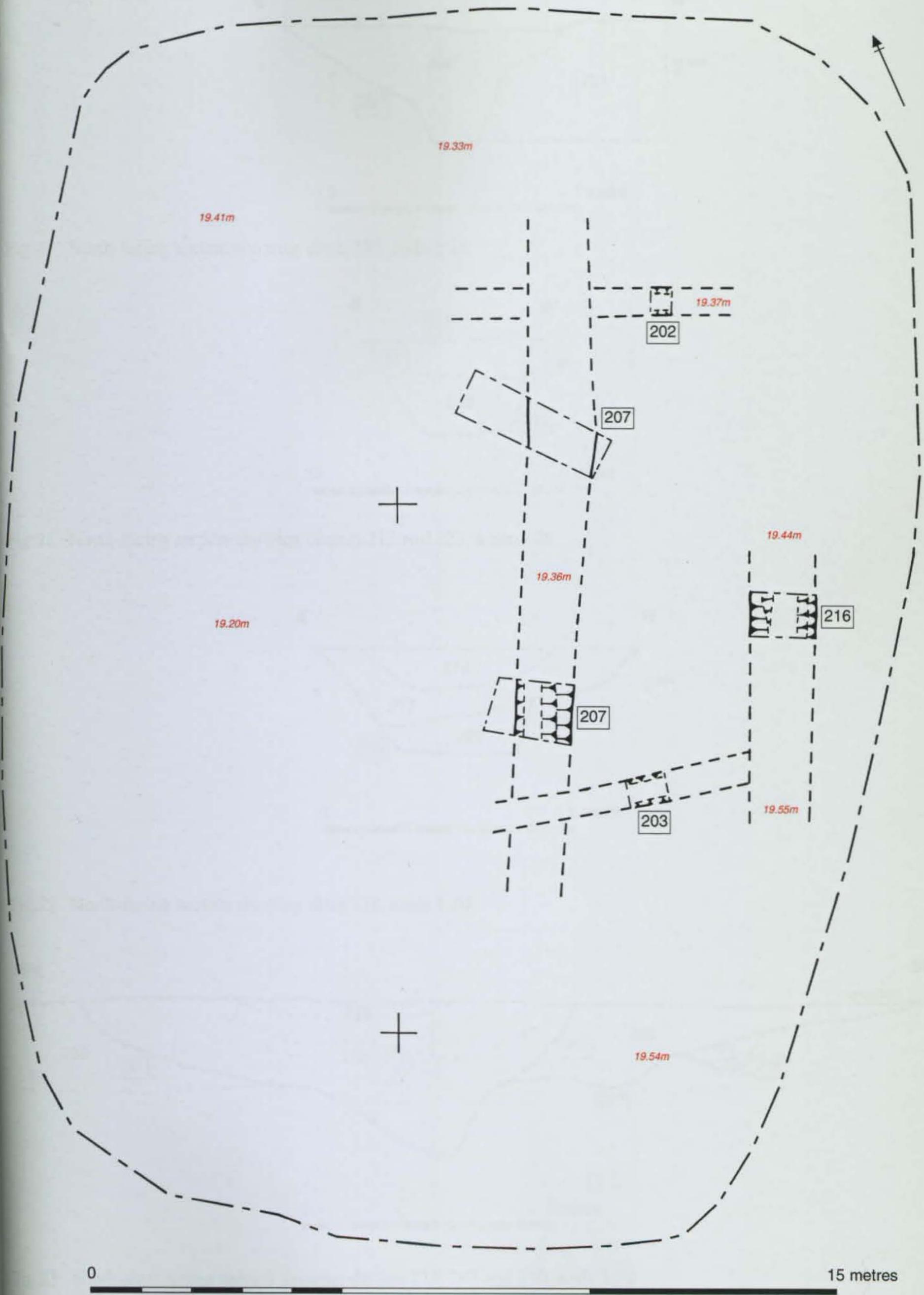


Fig.19 Plan of Area 2, scale 1:100

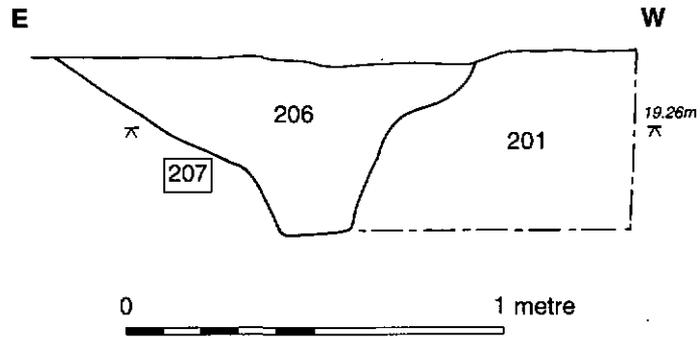


Fig.20 North-facing section showing ditch 207, scale 1:20

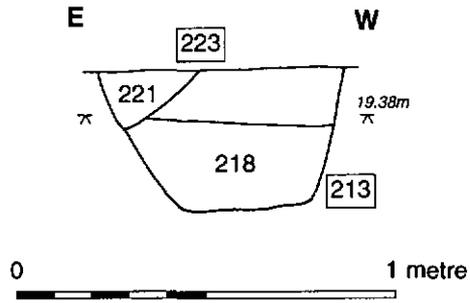


Fig.21 North-facing section showing ditches 213 and 223, scale 1:20

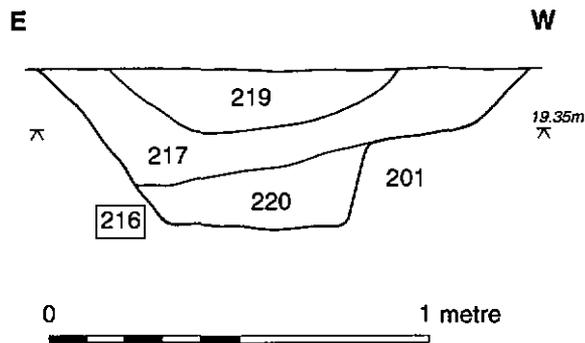


Fig.22 North-facing section showing ditch 216, scale 1:20

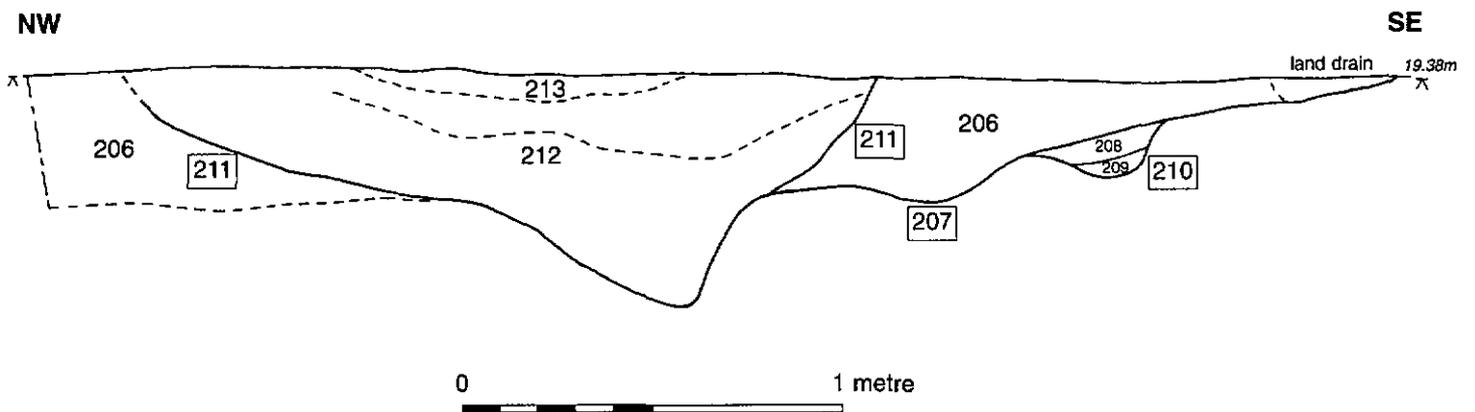


Fig.23 South-west facing section showing ditches 211, 207 and 210, scale 1:20

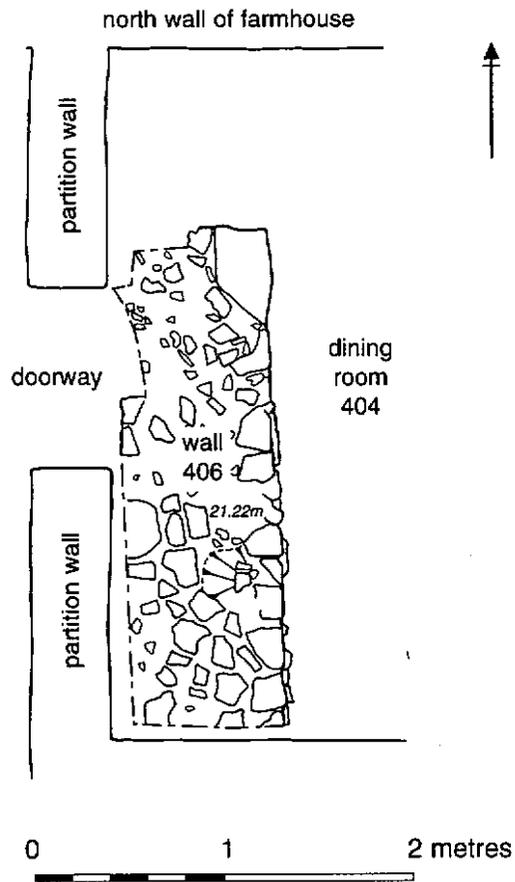


Fig.24 Plan showing medieval wall 406 within the farmhouse (Area 4), scale 1:40

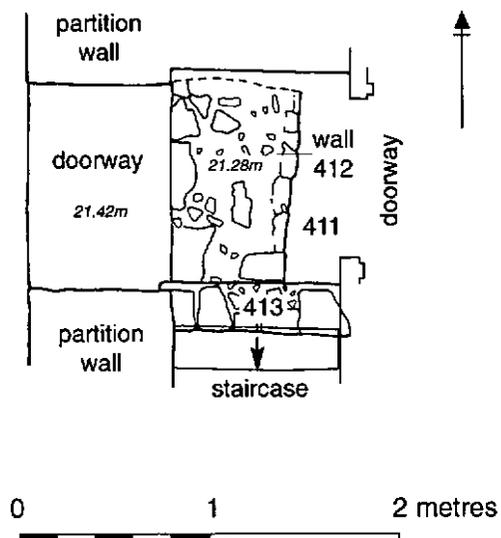


Fig.25 Plan showing medieval wall 412 and post-medieval wall 413, both within the farmhouse, scale 1:40

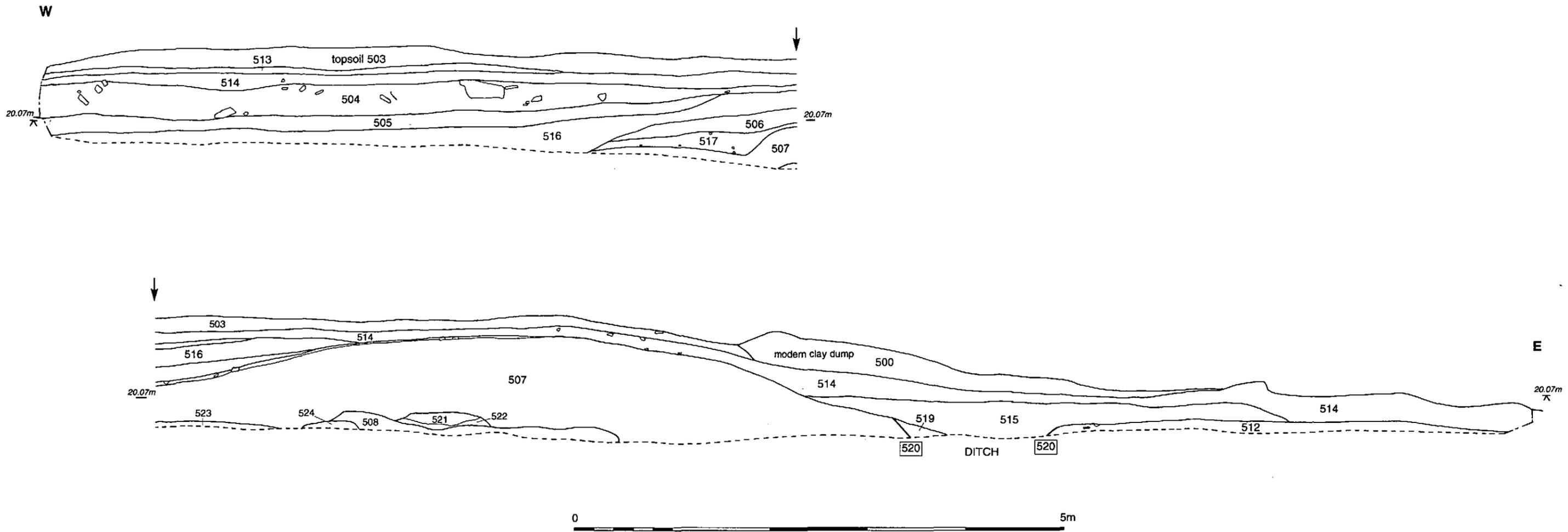


Fig.26 South-facing section showing late Saxon and medieval town bank deposits, scale 1:40



Plate 1 West-facing section, showing fills of Romano-British pit 1132

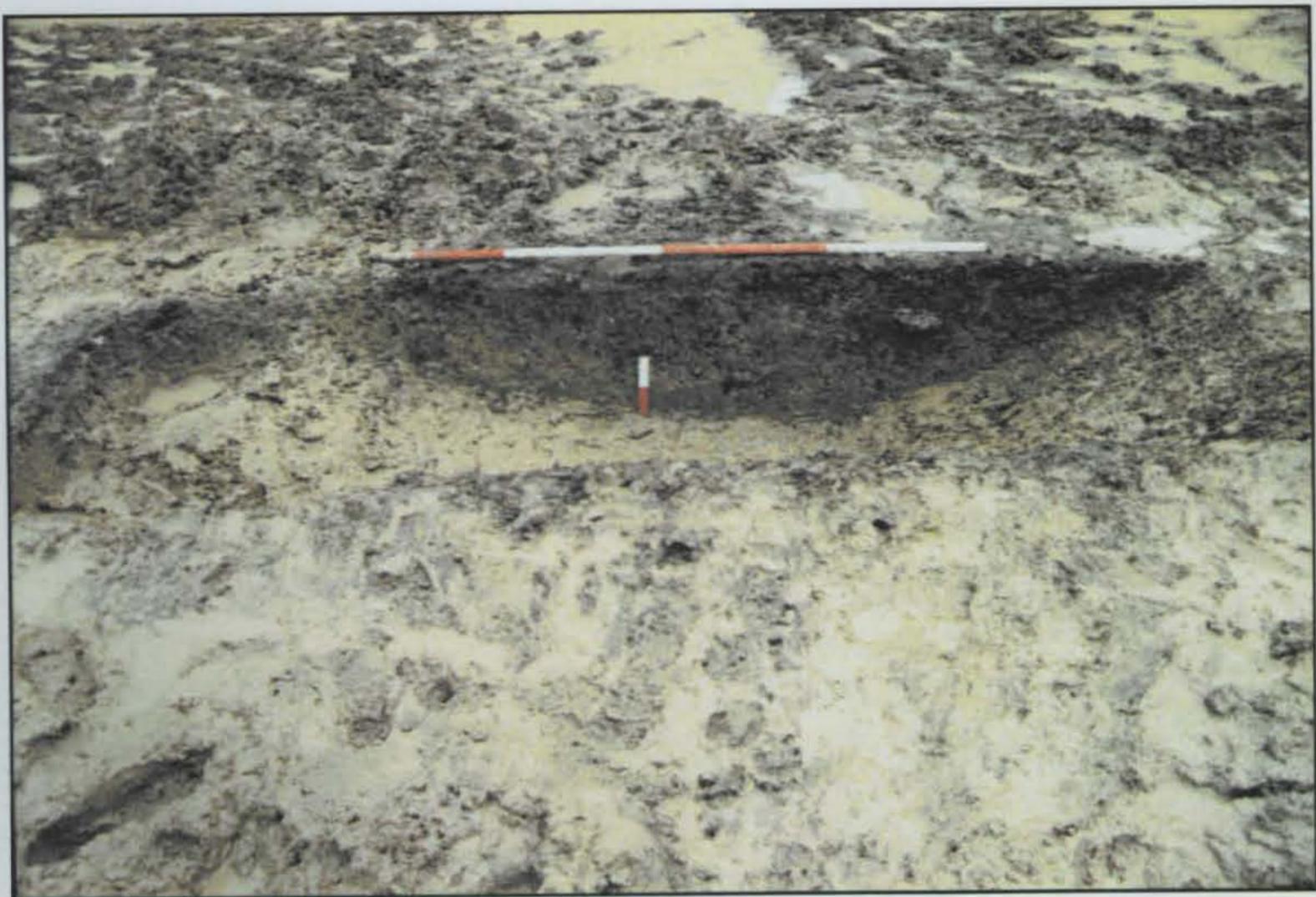


Plate 2 North-facing section, showing fills of medieval ditches 112 and 117 and post hole 184



Plate 3 East-facing section, showing fills of ditch 124 and pit 126



Plate 4 North-facing section, showing fills of ditch 1030



Plate 5 East-facing section, showing fills of medieval ditches 1141, 1146, 1150, 1151 and 1159



Plate 6 South-west-facing section, showing fills of early medieval ditches 210, 207 and 211



Plate 7 View south-west across Area 2, showing sondages excavated through ditches 216, 213 and 207 (left to right)



Plate 8 West-facing section, showing fills of ditch 213



Plate 9 North-facing section, showing fills of ditch 216



Plate 10 Looking west at medieval wall 406



Plate 11 View south along remnant of wall 406



Plate 12 Looking west at remains of medieval wall 412



Plate 13
South-facing section in trench cut
through the Late Anglo-
Saxon/medieval town defences
(Cricklade Town Bank; Wiltshire
SAM 323)



Plate 14
View north-west of south-facing
section cut through Cricklade
Town Bank



Plate 15
View west across Area 6 showing
topsoil stripping in progress