

This report is produced by

Marches Archaeology

Winton House
Lyonsall
Herefordshire
HR5 3JP
Tel: 01544 340497
Fax: 01544 340777

For:-

The Governors of Whitford Hall and Dodderhill Schools
Dodderhill School
Dodderhill
Droitwich
Worcestershire

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**Construction of a Junior School and Multi-Purpose Hall
Dodderhill School
Droitwich
Worcestershire
Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief**

Report by
Giles Dawkes *BA PIFA*

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was conducted on all ground breaking activity associated with the construction of a Junior School and Multi-Purpose Hall at Dodderhill School, Droitwich. The site is situated on the northern half of Dodderhill Roman fort, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (ref. Here and Worc 339). Five main phases of occupation were identified - Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, medieval and post medieval. The site had suffered from a great deal of post-medieval landscaping so the lack of deposits cannot be used as negative evidence.

The prehistoric phase was represented by 3 residual flint artefacts found in Roman features.

The Roman occupation is divided into two phases, the negative features sealed by a metalled surface and the surface itself. The negative features included 2 small ditches possibly forming 2 enclosed areas. The metalled surface probably dates to the permanent occupation of the site in the late 1st/ early 2nd century but due to its limited extent no specific function could be ascribed. No features were found which could be definitely associated with the Iron Age or Romano-British salt extraction industry.

The Saxon phase was represented by a single residual 11th century pottery sherd.

Two medieval features were recorded, interpreted as pits filled with domestic waste.

The post-medieval features were largely associated with the construction of the gardens and polite landscape related to the existing main house, built in the early 19th century. Also dating from this period was a burial of a donkey shod with iron horse shoes.

**Construction of a Junior School and Multi-Purpose Hall
Dodderhill School
Droitwich
Worcestershire**

1 Introduction

The enlargement of Dodderhill School involved the construction of buildings to serve as a Junior School and a Multi-purpose Hall, as well as the provision of additional car parking. The site is situated at NGR: SO 901 637. It lies within the area of Dodderhill Roman fort (Fig. 1), which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (ref. Here and Worc 339). The site is also registered on the County Sites and Monuments Record (ref. HWCM 603) as a site of archaeological interest.

Marches Archaeology was commissioned by the Governors of Whitford Hall and Dodderhill Schools to undertake the archaeological recording required for this project. This consisted of a watching brief on the ground works for the construction of a new Junior School, Multi-purpose hall and associated services. A Project Proposal was prepared, based on a 'Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Dodderhill School - Junior School and Multi-purpose Hall' produced by Mr C Guy, Archaeological Consultant to the Governors. The Proposal was submitted to and approved by English Heritage as advisors for Scheduled Monument Consent to the Department for Culture Media and Sport. A Project Proposal was also sent to Hereford and Worcester County Archaeological Service. Scheduled Monument Consent was granted on 25th August 1998 and the site work was undertaken during September, October and November 1998.

2 Condition of the Monument

The development areas lay near the centre and ran towards the northern edge of Dodderhill Roman fort. The Junior School area was relatively level and was part of the school sports pitch. The Multi-purpose Hall area was mostly a former enclosed kitchen garden and gently sloped from west to east. In front of the house was a level lawn area.

Two drains running eastwards from the coach house and the kitchens respectively, were known to cross the site.

3 Archaeological and Historical Background

The earliest evidence for human activity in the Dodderhill area is of prehistoric date. In the near vicinity a concentration of possible Mesolithic flints were recovered from Bays Meadow to the west (HWCM 3956; Hurst 1987). To the north-east, a small flint core and scraper were recovered from the potential Roman fort site on the east side of Crutch Lane (HWCM 4154; Hurst *et al*, 1988, 79).. However, such finds are relatively rare until the Iron Age.

Droitwich has been a centre for the production of salt since the Iron Age. In the Roman period this was a very important industry and may have been run as a state monopoly (Salway, 1981, 531). The significance of Droitwich at this period is reflected in the name of the settlement *Salinae* (salt-pans). A fort (HWCM 603) was built in the area of the proposed

development during the early Roman period. It appeared to be disused c.70 AD., with a second use in the second quarter of the second century (Burnham and Wachter, 1990, 214).

The industrial importance of Droitwich continued during the Saxon period. Salt production had begun again by the eighth century (Hooke, 1981) and the Domesday Book indicates its significance by several mentions of manors in Worcestershire and all adjacent counties having salt rights in Droitwich (Gelling, 1992, 170). The production of salt continued in the town throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods into the twentieth century.

Dodderhill itself is not mentioned by name in the Domesday Book, although there was a church here at some time in the late eleventh century when its advowson was granted to the Priory of Worcester by Osbert fitz Richard.

The present church of Dodderhill (HWCM 606) dates from the late twelfth-early thirteenth century but little is known of the accompanying settlement beyond the existence of a rectory by the mid-sixteenth century. By 1573 there was a property known as Hill Court on the site. This remained in the Brace family until around 1765 when it was sold to a Mr Holmden (Nash, 1781, 333f).

Hill Court was rebuilt in the early nineteenth century (Pevsner, 1968, 132). It is shown on the Tithe Map and the OS maps from the First Edition in 1885 to at least 1938 as substantially the same as the present school buildings (Fig.2,3, 4 & 5).

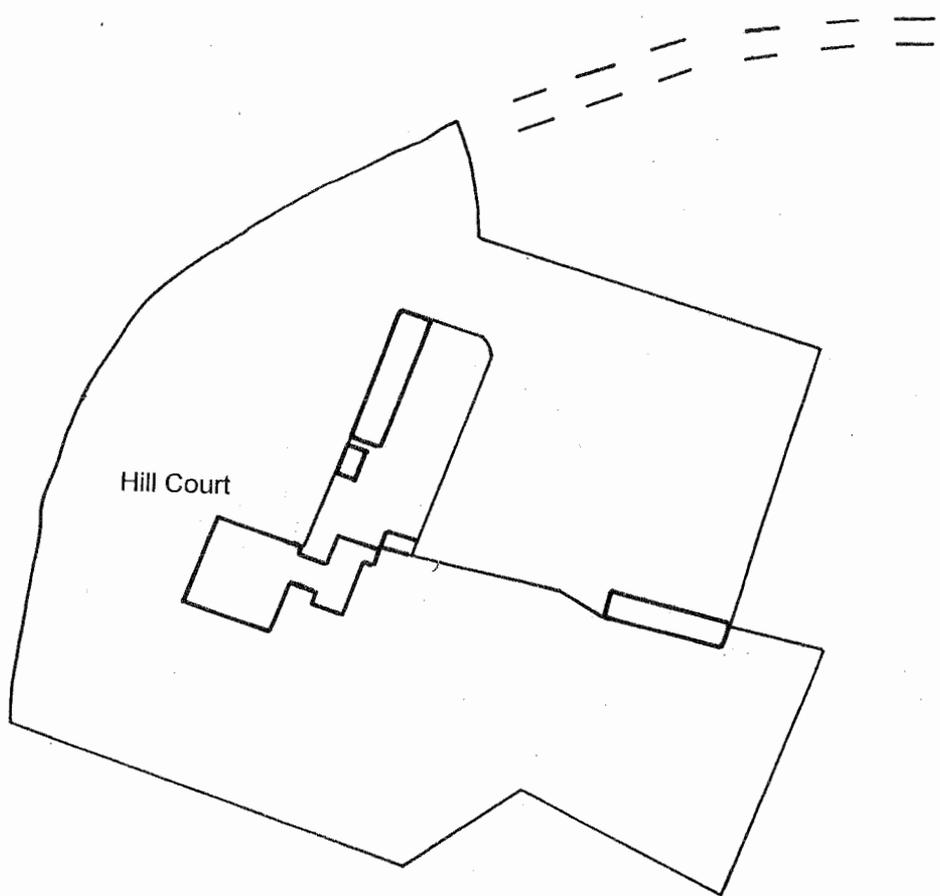
There have been several archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the proposed development. The earliest of these was a report on the Roman fort in 1938 (HWCM 21404, St Joseph, 1943). This was followed by a programme of excavation in 1961-2 (HWCM 21405, Whitehouse, 1962). A further series of excavations took place between 1977 and 1985 (HWCM 21406-7, McAvoy, forthcoming) along with a magnetometer survey (HWCM 22045, English Heritage, 1981). More recently the County Archaeology Service of Hereford and Worcester County Council carried out an evaluation excavation 40m to the west of the proposed buildings (HWCM 21408, Edwards, 1991) and incorporated the area in a survey of Droitwich (Buteux and Hurst, 1996).

The present proposed development has so far generated a ground probing radar survey (Stratascan 1997), a Desk-top Assessment (Guy, 1997) and a evaluation excavation by Marches Archaeology of three trenches covering an area of 34.5m² along the line of the proposed building foundations (Stone, 1998).

4 Scope and Aims of the Project

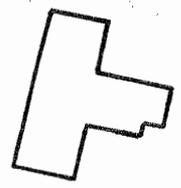
The scope of the fieldwork consisted of the observation of all ground breaking activity associated with the development. Provision was made for the recording of any significant archaeological remains.

The aim of the project was to observe and record all archaeological deposits seen during the ground breaking activity.



Hill Court

St. Augustine's Church



Sketch not to scale

Fig. 2 Tithe Map of 1841

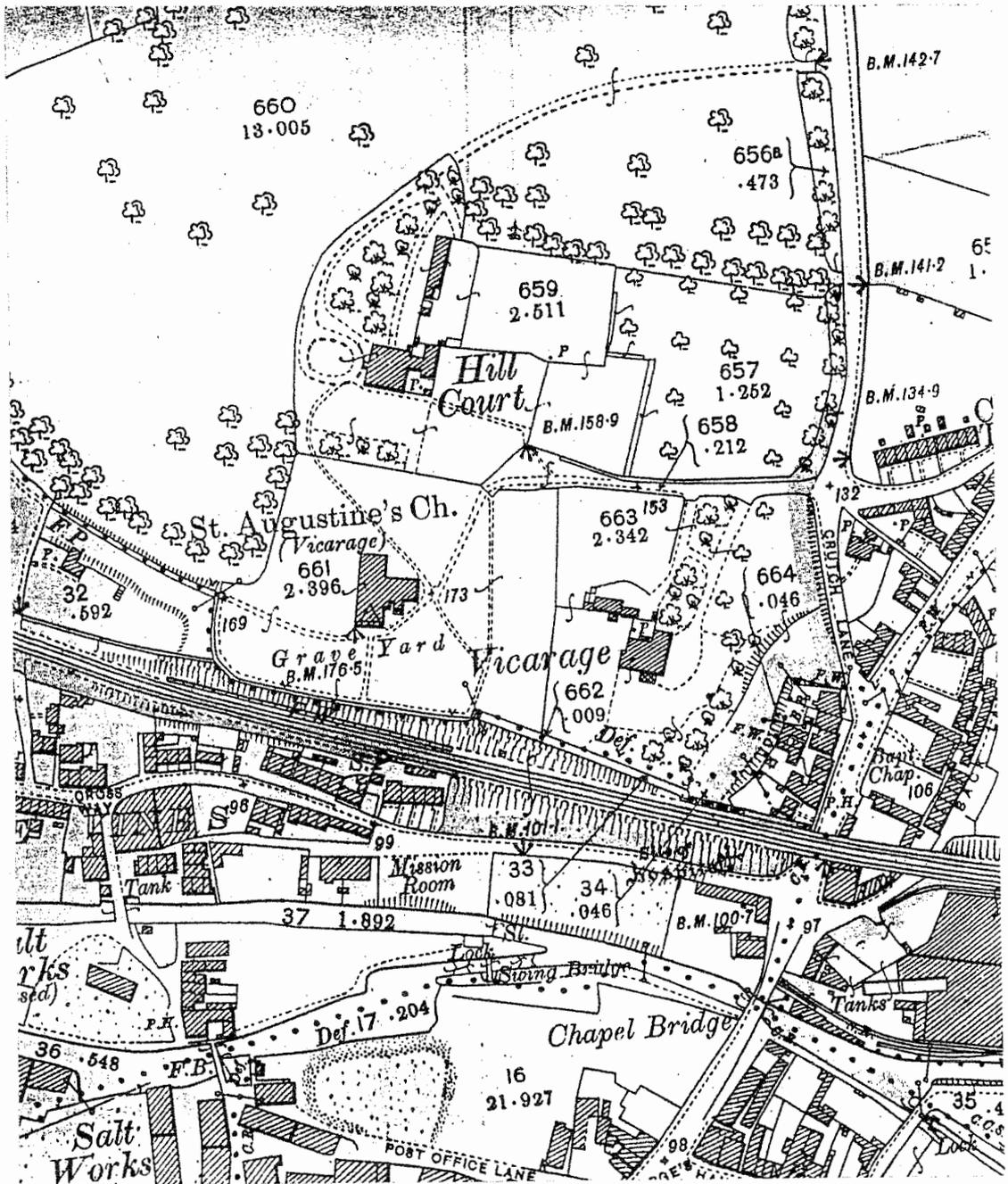


Fig. 4 Ordnance Survey of 1903

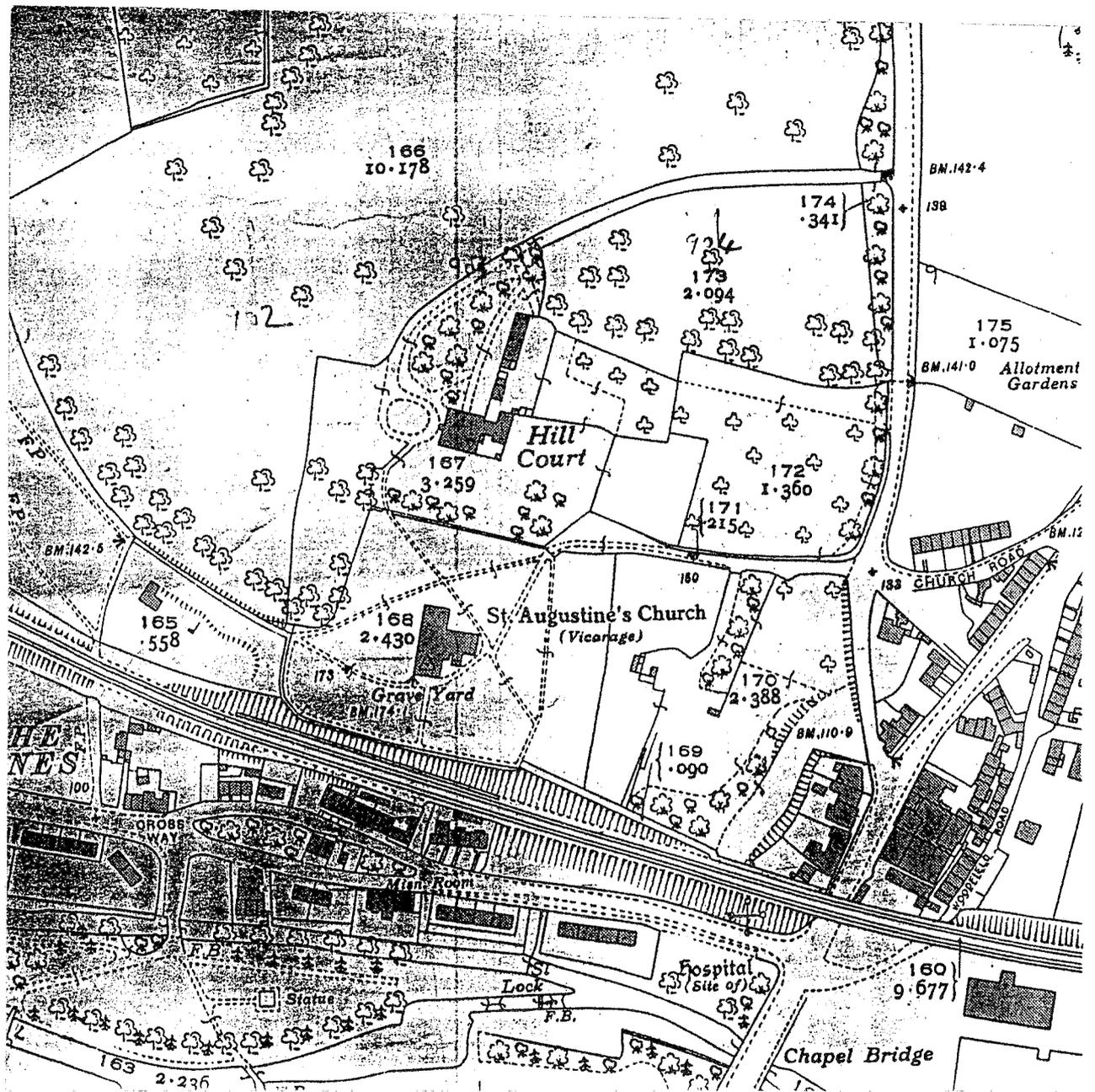


Fig. 5 Ordnance Survey of 1938

5 The Watching Brief

5.1 Methodology (Fig. 6)

All work areas were stripped down by machine to a suitable foundation level. The hard red friable mudstone [4] found at various depths below the present ground level. The minimum depth was 0.12m in the yard and the greatest was 1.8m in the north-east corner of the hall area.

The soil stripping was continuous from the north end of the junior school to the south end of the hall area. The low brick wall partially enclosing the existing car park [53] was removed along with the high brick wall [54] running east-west from the main school building extension down to the tennis courts.

All machine work was archaeologically monitored and depending upon the nature and significance of the archaeology the machine excavation was stopped for as little as a few minutes or as long as three days to investigate deposits, features and structures. The nature of the deposits and the method of the machining meant that it was difficult to identify features unless they were cut into the natural. It is therefore possible that some stratigraphical relationships between features were lost. The phasing is largely based on material evidence.

The service trenches in front of the main school building to the teaching block and to the south-east of the hall area were excavated generally by machine but where access was limited, by hand. Hand dug trenches were monitored in the same way as the machine excavation.

When the site had been sufficiently stripped the foundation trenches for the junior school and the hall were excavated by machine. In most cases natural had already been reached and further archaeological supervision was unnecessary.

5.2 Description

5.2.1 Junior School Area (Figs. 6 & 7)

The junior school area was a 30m x 15m rectangle aligned, like the carpark, in a north-east to south-west direction.

The natural mudstone [4] was located at a greater depth than in the car park area being found at a depth of 1.44m in the west and up to 1.1m in the east. The natural deposits sloped gradually from the north down to wall [54] at the south end of the junior area. The east-west axis was relatively level.

The earliest features in the junior school were post hole [40], pit [42] and grave [90] cut into the natural [4] (Fig. 7). The circular posthole was 0.11m in diameter and 70mm deep, with vertical sides and was filled with a loose grey ash [39] It was 0.26m to the north-east of pit [42]. Pit [42] sub-circular in plan and resembled two overlapping circles which suggested there was more than one feature. It was near vertically sided and 0.12m deep. However, more features were not apparent in fill [41], which was of loose redeposited red mudstone with lenses of dark brown silty clay. There were no finds from either features.

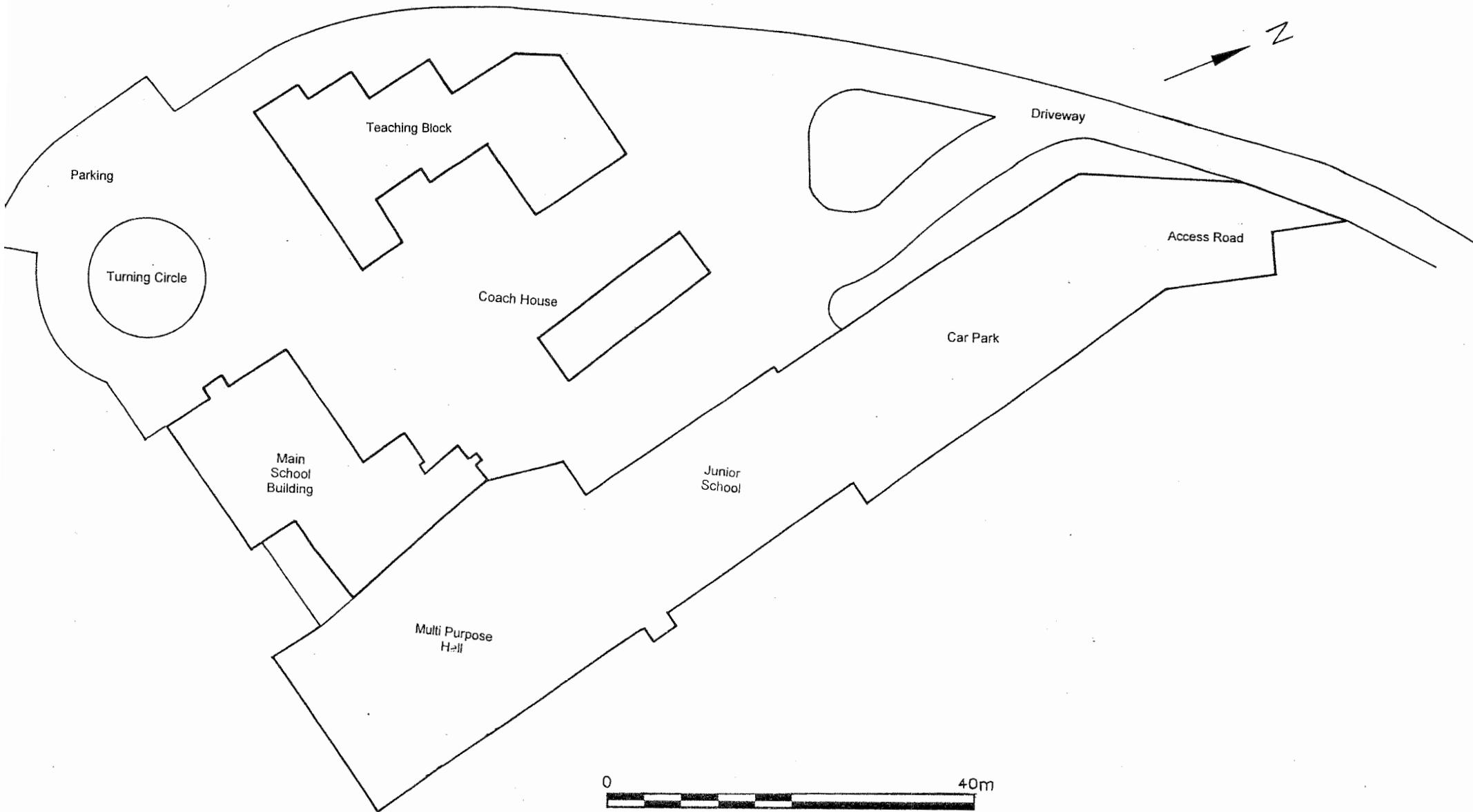


Fig. 6 Site Plan

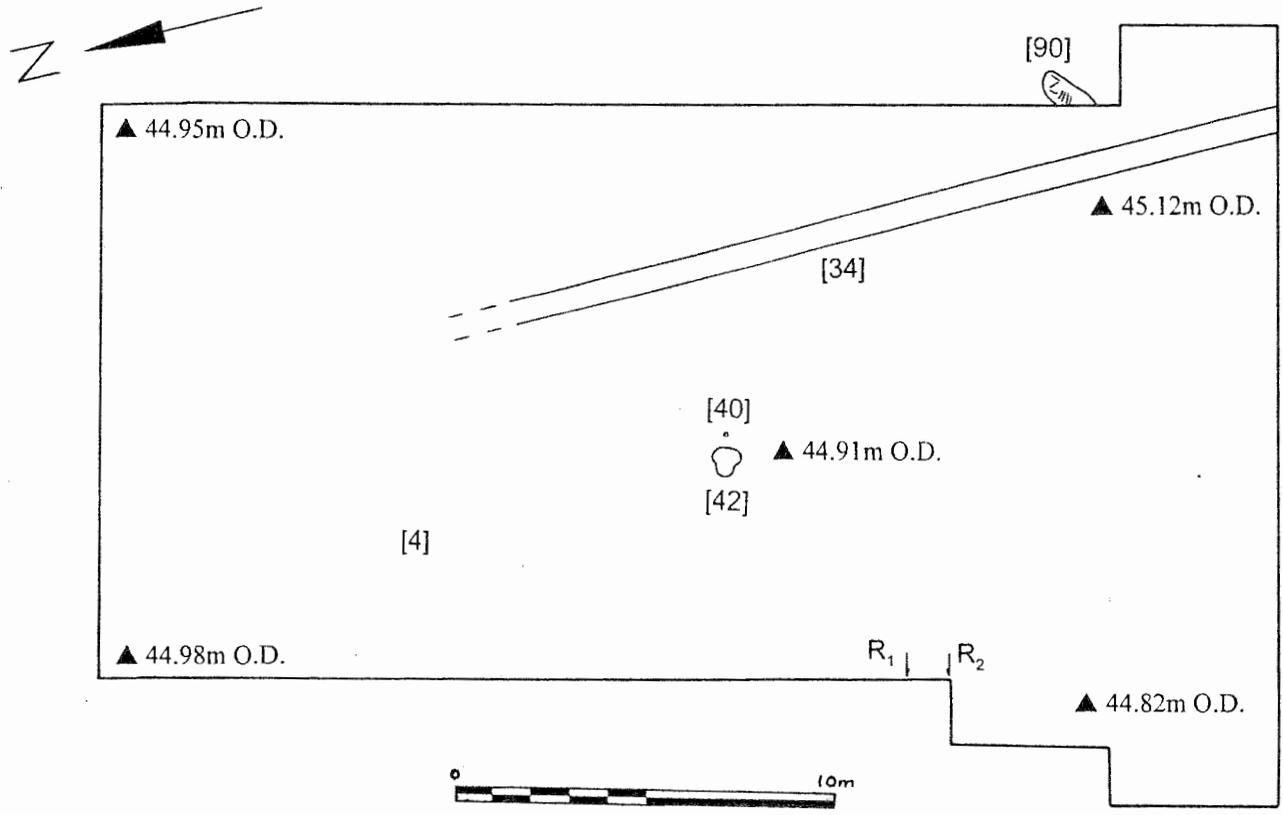


Fig. 7 Plan of Junior School

Grave [90] was a flattened oval shape aligned north-south measuring at least 1.6m long and 0.7m wide (Fig. 8). The south end of the grave with the skull was lost during the machine excavation. The grave had near vertical concave sides with a flat base and was 0.4m deep. The skeleton [91] was of a donkey which was laid facing south and was shod with iron shoes. The grave was backfilled with a mixed deposit of 50% brown clayey loam and 50% brick fragments and rubble [123].

Features [40] and [42] were sealed by a large dump of fine grey ash [38] which extended across the whole east-west axis of the site. In the west it was 22m wide and 0.26m thick. The layer thinned to 4.1m wide in the east and 0.15m thick. The finds consisted solely of post medieval brick and roof tile.

Above layer [38] covering the entire junior area was layer [37], a mixed layer of 50% red clay, 30% redeposited reddish brown mudstone and 20% dark brown loam. The layer was firmly compacted with frequent mortar flecking and brick fragments. This layer petered out as the height of the natural deposits rose towards the car park to the north.

Cutting layer [37] was linear feature [34] which ran north-west to south-east from the south section for 17.2m. The north end was not apparent and may have been lost during soil stripping. It was filled with a central dump of loose redeposited red mudstone [36] and two outer lines of grey ash [33] and [35]. A similar feature was recorded in Trench 1 of the evaluation excavation of January 1998 (Stone, 1998). This ran parallel to [34] 10m to the north-east, but its continuation was not seen during this work.

Feature [34] was cut by two brick culverts [28] and [31]. Culvert [28] ran east-west across the width of the site and was joined 2.5m from the east section by later culvert [31] which ran north-west to south-east. The culverts were draining eastwards down the hill away from the main school house. They were constructed with a flat brick base 0.4m wide and a brick arch 0.45m high and were silted up by a dark brown humic soil [27] and [30] respectively. Cuts for the culverts [29] and [32] were difficult to define but they were presumed to be flat based and vertical sided.

Directly overlying layer [37] was layer [10], a firm light brown silty clay with inclusions of frequent mortar and brick fragments and patches of charcoal (Fig. 9). The finds from this layer included residual Roman and medieval pottery as well as post medieval pottery and ceramic roof tile. It appeared to cover the entire junior school area but the manner of the soil stripping made it difficult to observe the extents of the deposit and the relationships with linear feature [34] and culverts [28] and [31].

Overlying layer [10] was layer [9], a loose dark brown silty loam with 10% charcoal and inclusions of brick fragments and halves. This layer was found continuously across the junior school area up to 0.2m thick apart from approximately 5m² in the south-east corner. It continued north into the car park area for 12m where it petered out. Cutting layer [9] in the west was a foundation cut [55] for brick wall [53]. It had near vertical sides, a flat base and was 0.49m deep.

At the south end of the junior school, also cutting [9] were footings for a brick wall [11] two courses wide running east-west for 8.4m. Cutting brick footings [11], after the wall had been

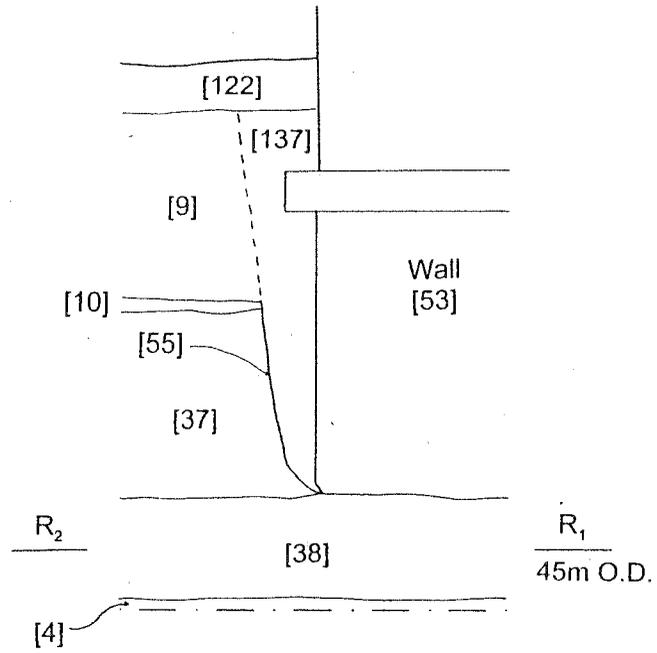


Fig. 9 Detail of West Section of Junior School

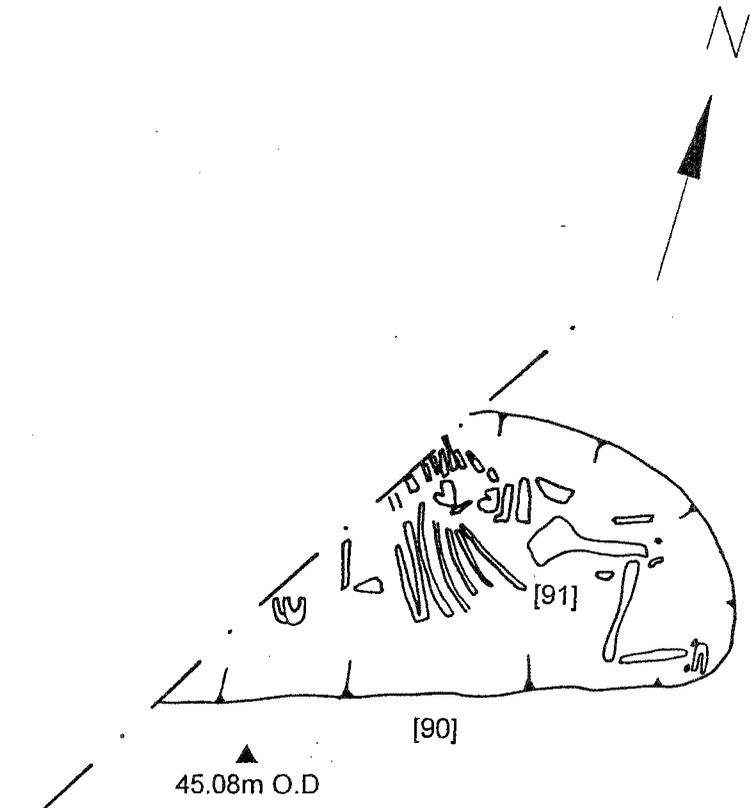


Fig. 8 Plan of Donkey Grave [90]

demolished, was a modern ceramic drain pipe [25] running from the coach house to the manhole south-east of the junior school area.

Overlying pipe [25] and the whole of this area was topsoil [122] a dark brown humic soil on average 0.14m deep.

5.2.2 *The Multi-Purpose Hall Area. (Figs. 10 - 18)*

The area of the multi-purpose hall was a rectangle measuring 33m x 16m orientated along the same line as the junior school and directly to the south.

The earliest features were two pits and two ditches, all except ditch [63] were found entirely in the southern half of this area (Fig. 10).

Ditch [61] ran straight east-west for approximately 10m before curving south for approximately 2.5m where it disappeared into the south baulk. The rest of the ditch to the west had been lost by the digging of the yard [124] and main house foundations. Virtually the entire upper part of the ditch had been reduced by post medieval pit [109], medieval feature [56] and post medieval landscaping [111]. The original dimensions of the ditch are unknown. The ditch was cut into the hard natural mudstone [4]. A portion of the ditch was excavated by hand for 1.7m and the rest of the length found in plan. The excavation of a foundation trench by machine which cut through the southern end and the ground level reduction to the west allowed the sections to be recorded.

At the west end the ditch was 0.65m deep, 1.35m wide at the top and had a flat base 0.27m wide (Fig. 11). The north or outer side was a straight 60 degree gradient with sharp break of slope at the top and bottom. The south or inner side was slightly convex 45 degree gradient with gradual break of slope at the top and bottom.

Further east the ditch was again cut away by a medieval feature [56]. The profile of the ditch at this point was 1.2m wide at the top and the base was flat and 0.23m wide. The depth of the outer side was 0.38m and the inner was 0.58m. The outer side was a straight 50 degree gradient with a sharp break of slope at top and bottom. The inner side was convex starting at a 50 degree gradient at the bottom and flattening out to a 20 degree gradient at the top. The bottom break of slope was sharp while the top was very gradual.

After the corner where the ditch ran north-south the profile of the ditch was larger (Fig. 12). The top was 1.4m wide and the flat base 0.3m wide. The west or inner side was 0.77m deep while the east or outer side was 0.64m deep. Both the inner and outer sides were straight gradients of 50 degrees with sharp breaks of slope at top and bottom.

The lower and main fill of the ditch [62] consisted of a hard light brown clay with a greyish hue. There were frequent patches of orange clay and the moderate occurrence of well rounded cobbles up to 80mm in size. The finds included Roman pottery, amphorae and a residual flint flake. There was no evidence of any earlier silting of the ditch. The upper fill [70] was treated as a finds context because of the large amount of later disturbance to the upper portion of ditch [61]. It was noted that this fill was much stonier than fill [62] and this is probably due to the sealing of the ditch by metallised surface [75] in the east. Finds from [70] included Roman pottery and a flint flake.

To the east of the ditch corner 0.4m was pit [77] (Figs. 10 & 12). The pit was linear, running north-west to south-east for 0.9m. The north end had square corners, vertical sides 0.14m deep and a flat base. The width at this end was 0.32m but further south the east side tapered in to a point 80mm wide. Also the east side was sloping unlike the slightly undercut west side. The south end was a rounded point sloping to a depth of 70mm. Pit [77] was filled by well compacted mixed light green and brown fine clayey silt [76]. There was occasional charcoal flecking and the upper part of the fill also had frequent small pebbles most probably pressed in from metalled surface [75] which sealed this feature. The finds from [76] were Roman pottery and animal bone.

A further 1.5m east from pit [77] was shallow pit [108] (Figs. 10 & 12). This pit was irregular, measured 1.5 x 1.4m and had a maximum depth of 90mm. The edges were largely indistinct and the sides and base were irregular. It was filled by a mottled lightly compacted brown clayey silt with a grey hue and flecks of yellow sand [107]. The finds from this fill were Roman including samian pottery and a copper alloy object, possibly tongs.

A second ditch [63] of probable Roman date was located further north than the other Roman features (fig. 5). It was aligned north-south and measured 10.9m in length and between 0.75m and 1.2m in width. Three sample sections through the ditch were excavated by hand (Fig. 12). Much of the northern profile of [63] had been reduced and the end lost entirely to post medieval landscaping [111]. The south end stopped abruptly with a straight slope of 55 degrees with sharp breaks at top and bottom. The south end sides were slightly concave and had a maximum depth of 0.52m. The width at the top was 0.87m narrowing to a flattish base of 0.3m. Further north there was an abrupt widening of the ditch by 0.28m. This may have been a recutting and a second upper fill [64] was recorded in the sampled area 1.75m north of the widening. At this point the ditch was 1.15m wide at the top narrowing to a flat base of 0.19m. The sides were irregular with the west side being generally straight at 45 degrees while the east side had a noticeable break of slope from the steeper 60 degree lower half to the 30 degree upper half. The overall depth was 0.51m with the upper fill [64] being 0.24m thick and the lower fill [71] measuring 0.27m. At the north end the ditch had a width of 0.75m at the top narrowing to 0.30m at the flat base. The sides were straight and steeply sloping at 60 degrees. The maximum depth of the north end was 0.24m, due to the post-medieval scarping down of the ground level [111]. The lower fill [71] was a very well compacted dark reddish brown clay with finds of Roman pottery. The upper fill [64] was a mixed red and brown clayey loam.

Pits [77] and [108] were sealed by a metalled surface [75] which also overlay the eastern part of ditch [61] (Figs. 12 & 13). The surface had been partly truncated by medieval pit [56], post medieval pit [109] and pipes [48] and [49] to the west. To the north it had been lost to post medieval landscaping [111]. The service trench excavated to the east through the garden allowed the identification of the eastern extent of the metalled surface which had probably been truncated by the digging of the flower beds as it was located only 0.25m below the ground level. The southern extents are unknown as the surface continued into the south baulk. The only ground intervention south of the hall was a service trench running east-west. This was located 22m away and found only topsoil down to a depth of 0.45m below ground level (Fig. 14). This was still 0.5m above highest point of [75] which sloped west to east from 47.23m to 47.76m O.D. It is therefore possible that the surface may survive at a deeper level.

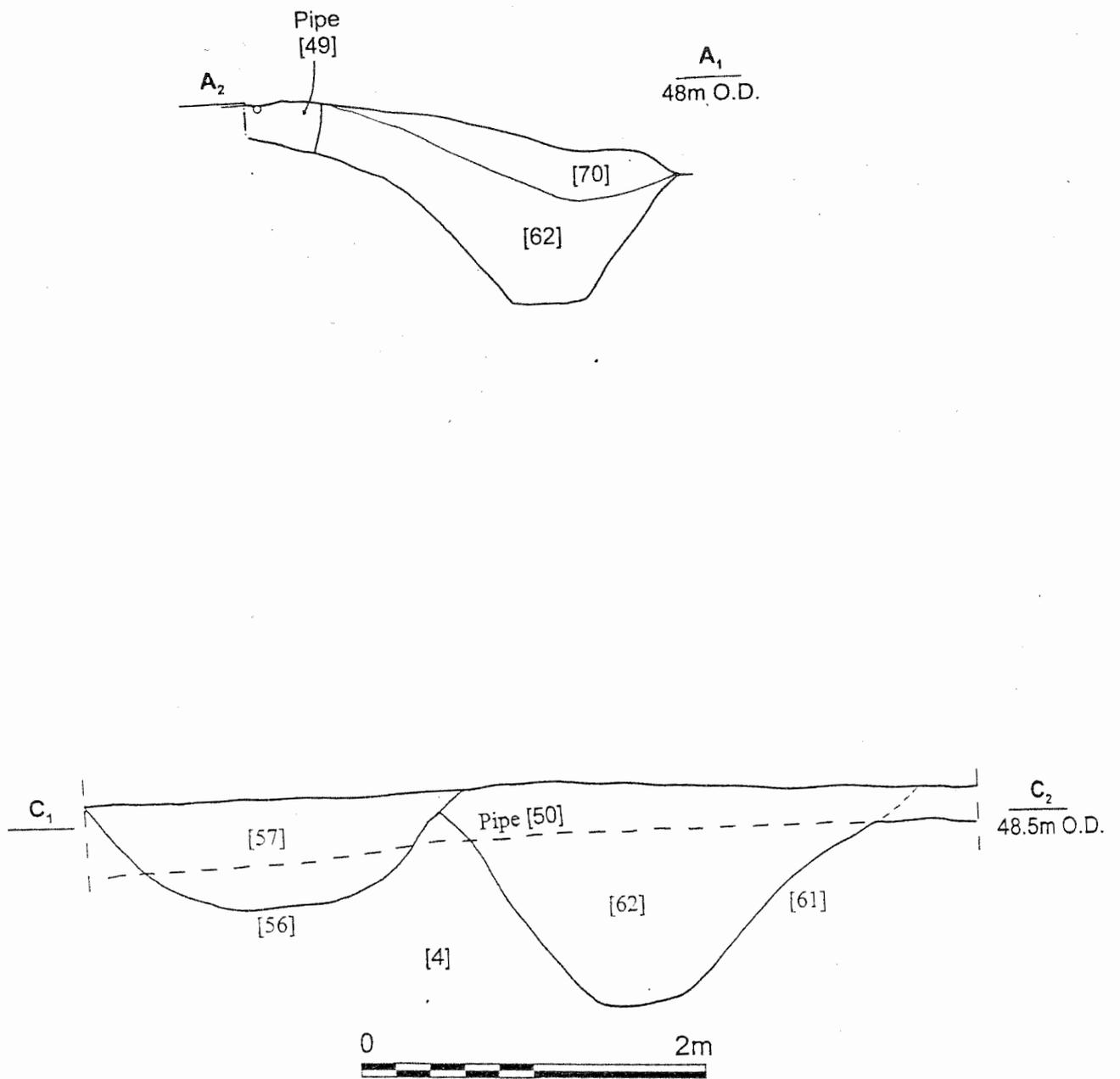


Fig. 11 Sections of Ditch [61]

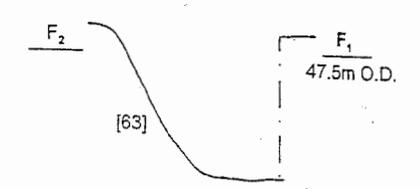
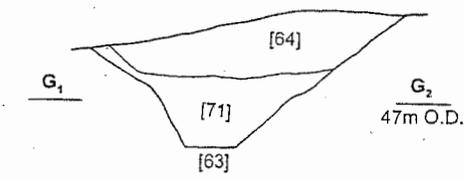
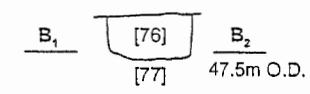
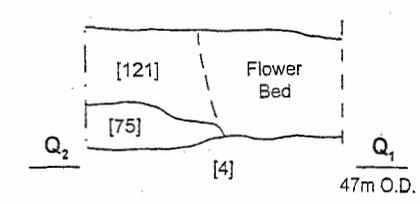
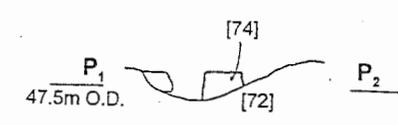
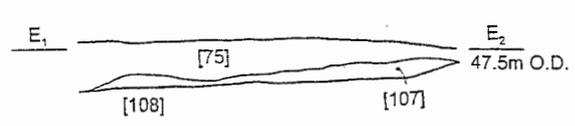
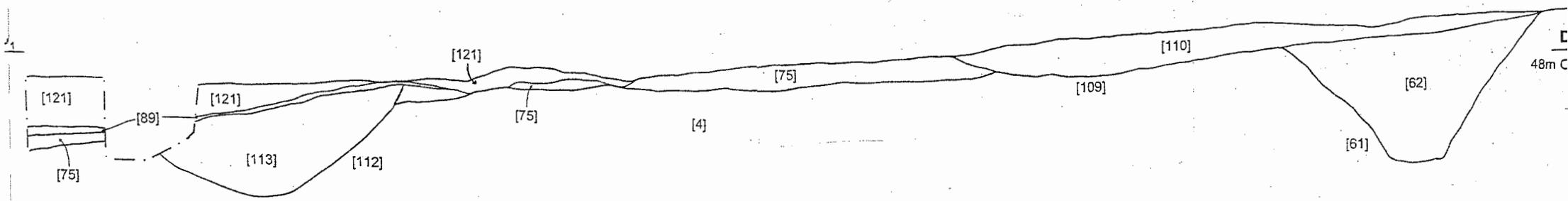


Fig. 12 Roman Phase I & II : Sections

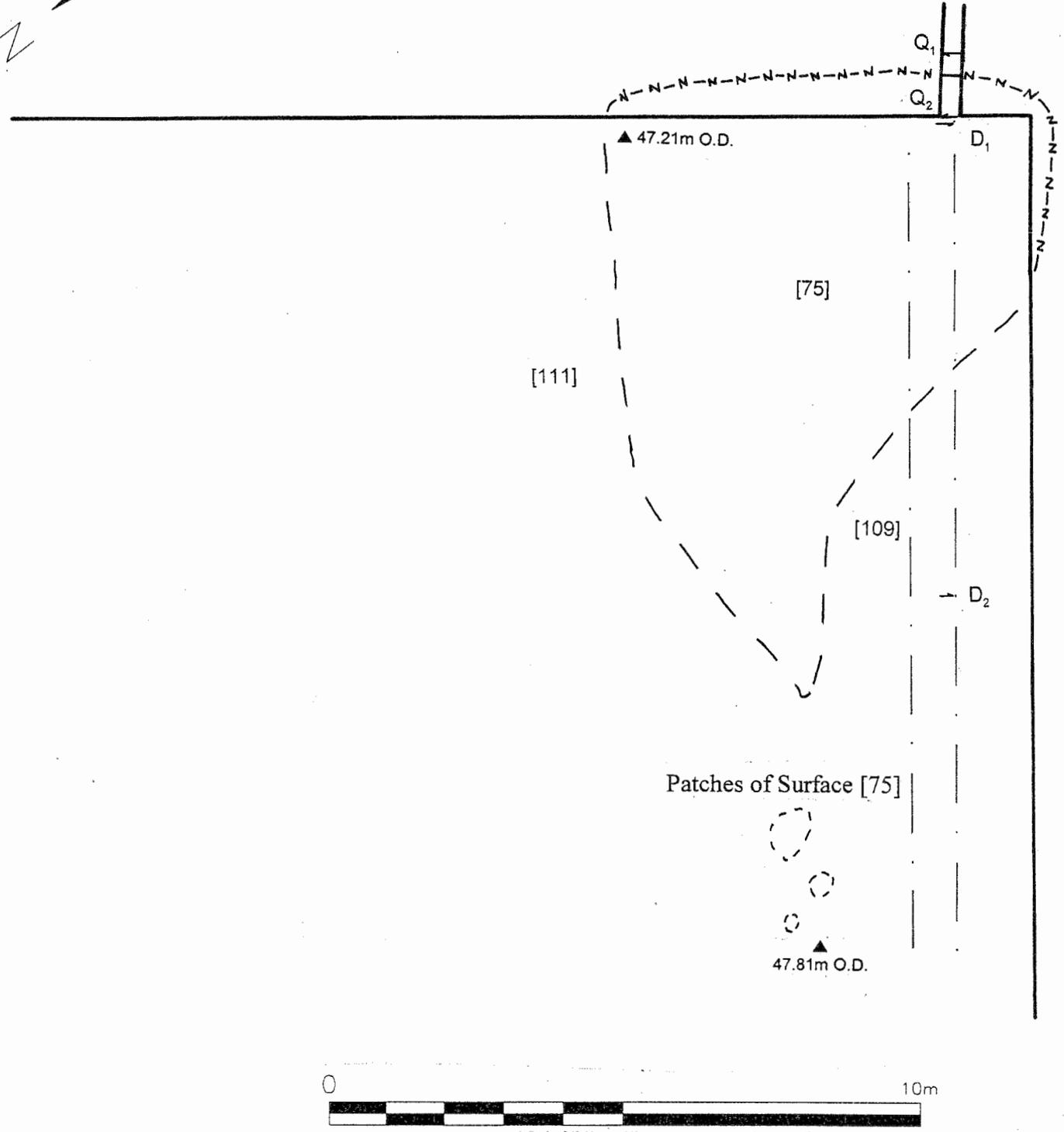
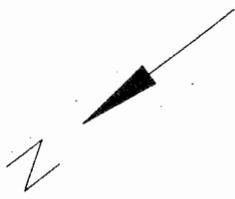


Fig. 13 Roman Phase II

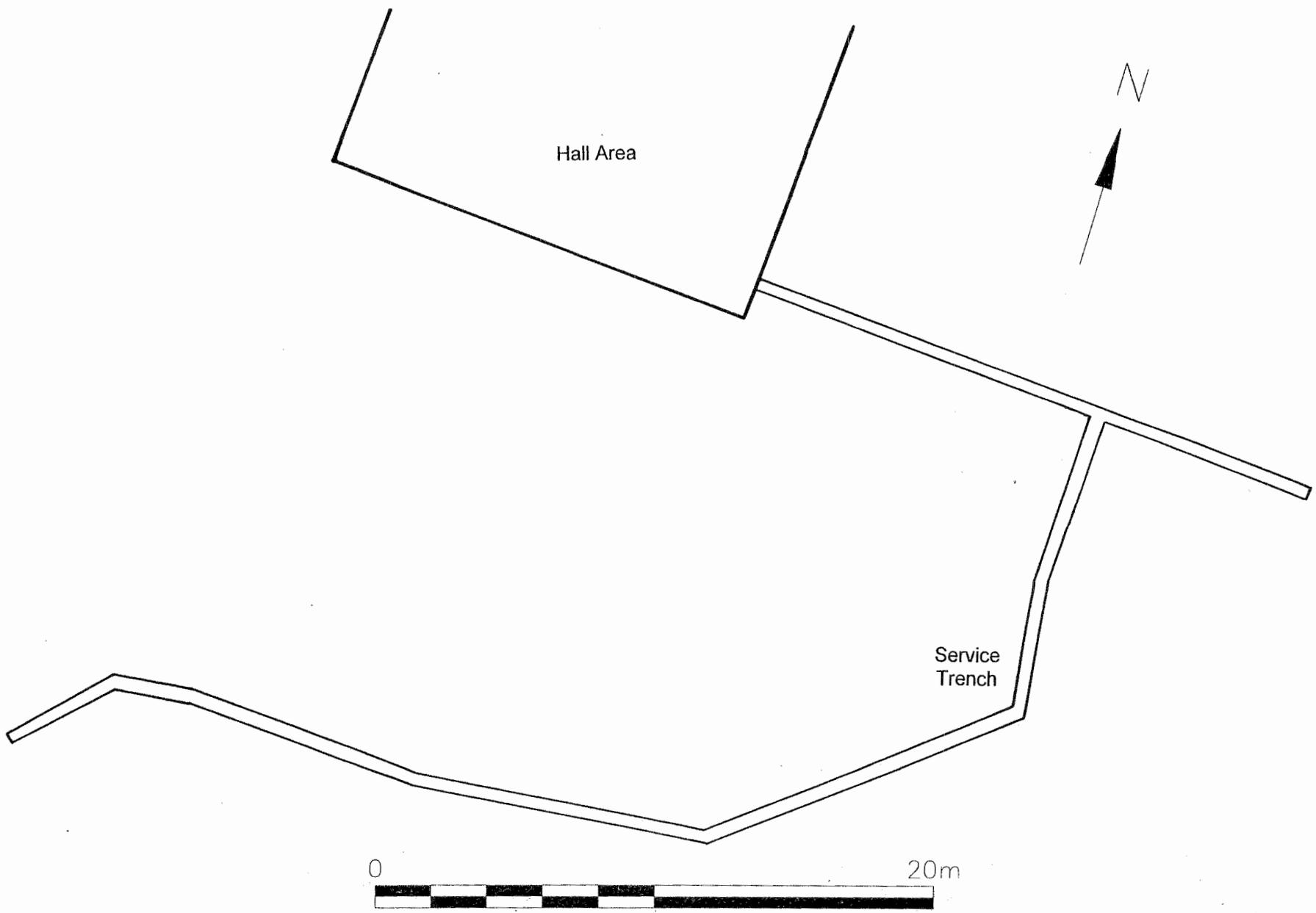


Fig. 14 **Service Trench**

The main area of the surface was in a reasonable condition in the south-east corner of the hall. This measured approximately 8m east-west and 5.5m north-south. The surface could be traced westwards in isolated patches for a further 4m. However, the nature of the work meant that at no time was this area fully exposed. This surface was also defined by Stratascan's geophysical survey as R9 in Area 2 (Barker, 1997, 9).

The very well compacted metalled surface [75] was made up of moderately sorted sub-rounded to well rounded stones varying from 15mm to 120mm in size. The stones were set in a matrix of very well compacted dark brown clay loam. The surface was on average 0.1m deep and was never thicker than 0.15m. The finds from this surface include Roman pottery, tile, a residual flint flake and 0.5 kg of animal bone.

Cutting the north side of ditch [61] and surface [75] was a linear medieval pit [56] (Fig. 15). Pit [56] ran east-west for at least 10.6m and was on average 2.1m wide. In the east the pit ended abruptly with a right-angled terminal. The west end was cut away by the digging of the yard's foundations [124]. The pit had a maximum depth of 0.30m in the west but further east the pit was much shallower and the upper portion may have been lost to post medieval landscaping [111]. The feature consisted of two shallow U shaped depressions at the east. Further west it gradually became narrower and petered out leaving a single U shaped depression (Fig. 16).

Pit [56] was filled with a mixed well compacted deposit of red and mid brown clay [57]. The finds included 1 kg of medieval pottery, including a single sherd of 11th century Oxford-type glazed ware and 2.8 kg of animal bone. The upper fill [58] was the same matrix as [57] but stony. This is probably from where the pit cut through surface [75].

Pit [112] in the south-east corner of the hall was only seen in section (Fig. 12) where it cut through metalled surface [75]. The east-west dimension was 1.23m and the depth was 0.43m. The profile was bowl shaped with a sharp break of slope at the top. The fill [113] was a firm mid brown silty clay with 20% well rounded pebbles redeposited from metalled surface [75]. Finds included animal bone, residual Roman pottery and medieval pottery.

The north-east corner of [56] was later cut by a sub-rectangular near vertical sided pit [59] measuring 0.66 x 0.42m. It was filled with a dark brown clayey loam [60] with post medieval pottery and roof tile.

Overlying surface [75] were two layers of mid brown silty clay 10-30mm thick. Layer [100] was found in the area of the patchy surface [75] to the west while layer [89] is above the more substantial surface in the south-east corner (Fig. 12). Layer [100] was more extensive than the surface below it and contained 4.5kg of post medieval roof tile. There were no finds from [89].

To the north of [56] and running almost parallel was ditch [69/65] (Figs. 17 & 18). A 13m length of this ditch was found and four sections were hand excavated. Excavation was stopped in the east by a live electricity main. The eastern end cut the southern end of Roman ditch [63]. The western 6m [65] were 0.3m wide and had steeply sloping sides to a flat base at a depth of 50mm. The eastern 5m [69] widened to initially 1m and by the east end had reached 1.6m. The ditch gradually deepened to 0.24m in the middle and by the east end had reached 0.5m. The profile also became more V-shaped further east. The lower fill [78/68]

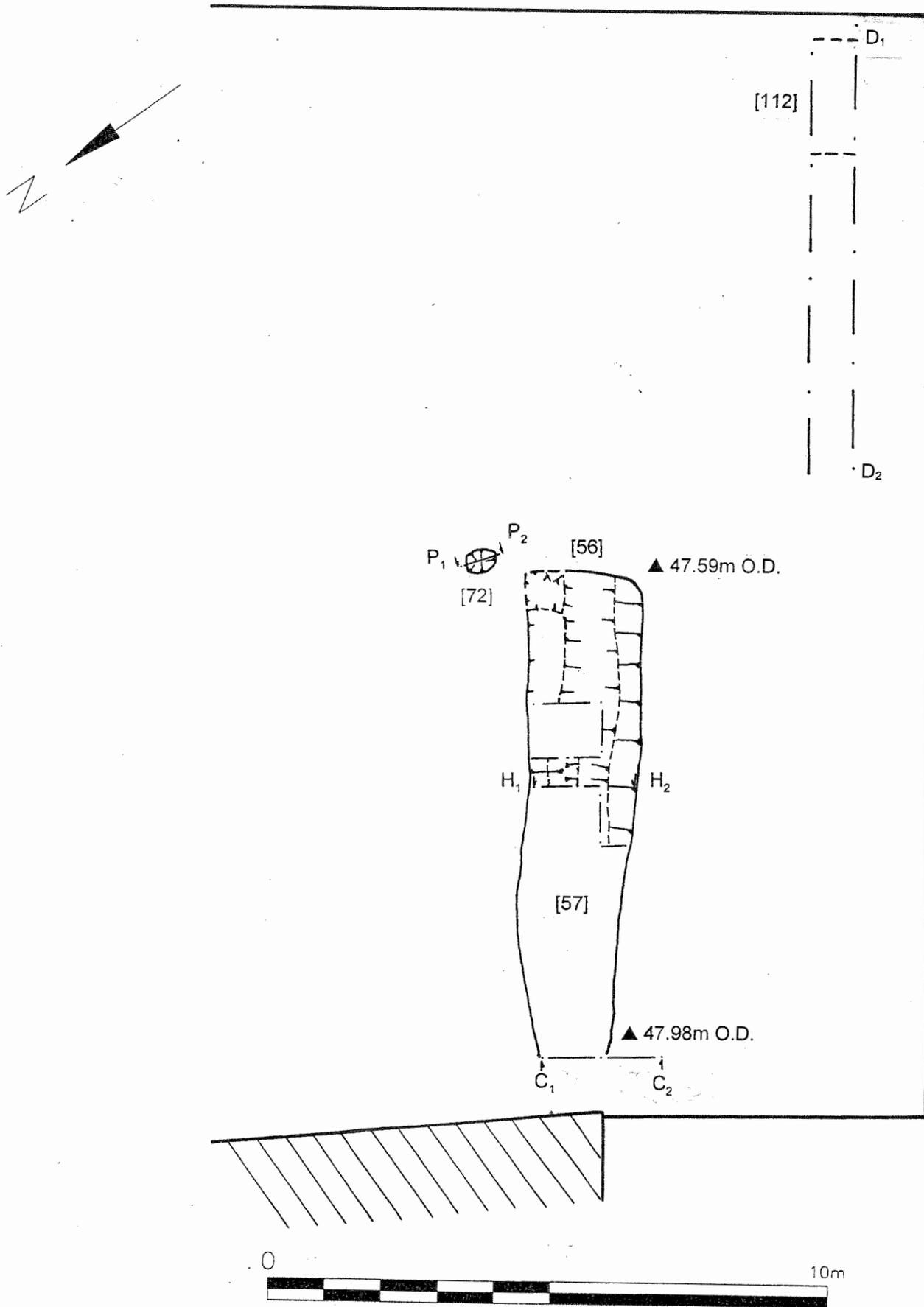


Fig. 15 Medieval Phase

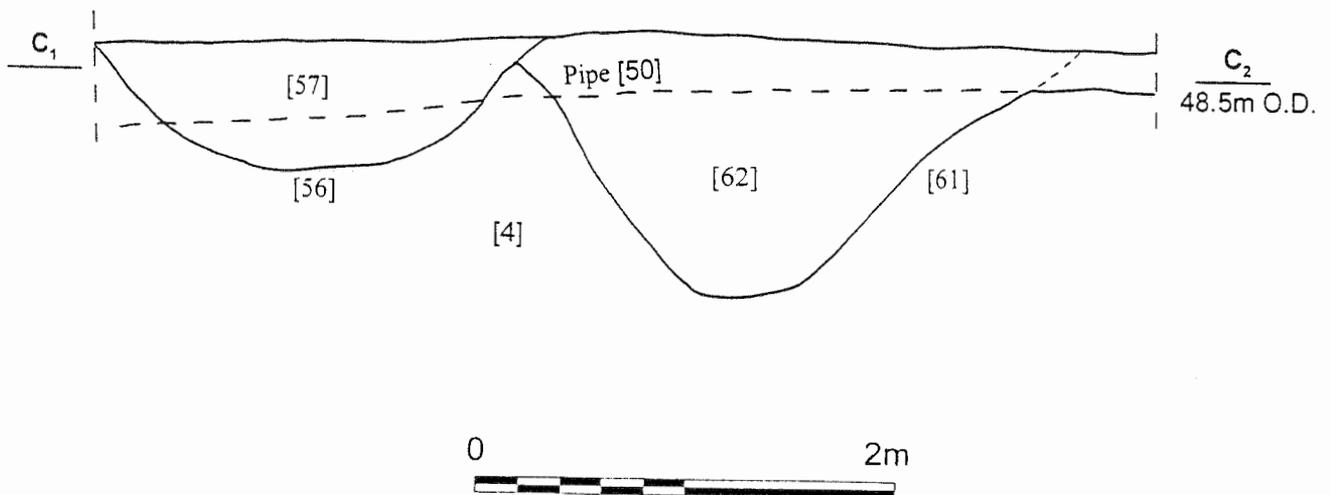
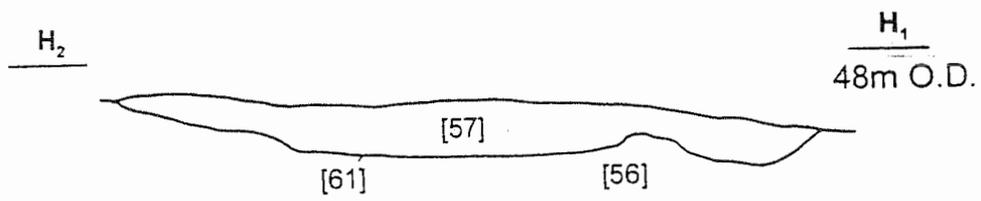


Fig. 16 Sections of [56]

was a dark brown and red clay with 20% charcoal and contained post medieval pottery and roof tile. There was an upper fill of well compacted black ash and clinker [67] for 4.2m in the eastern half. The upper portion of this ditch had clearly been removed by post medieval landscaping [111] especially in the west.

Cutting ditch [69] was a small linear feature [66]. It ran south-west to north-east and curved slightly north for 2.15m and was 0.26m wide. The sides were near vertical and it had a flat base. The fill was dark grey brown friable silty clay with 20% charcoal [79].

At the east end of [56], 0.7m to the north was a posthole [72] cut into natural [4] with stone post packing [74]. The posthole was sub-rectangular measuring 0.52 x 0.6m and 0.12m deep. In its bowl shaped profile were sandstone sub-angular cobbles set on three sides as post packing for a post measuring 0.14 x 0.14m. There were no finds in the mixed red and brown clay postpipe fill [73].

To the south of pit [56] near the south baulk was an irregular pit [92] measuring 0.66 x 0.56m and 0.55m deep. The sides were very steep and often undercutting. The base tapered to a small point. The fill [93] was a dark brown loose silty loam with heavy rooting containing post medieval finds.

The north part of a large pit [109] was found cutting through surface [75] and the eastern part of ditch [61]. Pit [109] was sub-circular and measured 4.3m east-west and at least 2.5m north-south. The sides were steep in the west and became gentler towards the east. The fill [110] was up to 0.2m deep and a mixture of red and brown silty clay and contained 1 kg of post medieval roof tile.

Overlying fill [110] was a localised layer of red and brown silty clay with charcoal and mortar flecking and frequent brick fragments [47].

Cutting through layer [47] were three modern pipes [48], [49] and [50] (Fig. 12). Pipe [49] was a redundant metal water pipe which ran from the south-west to the north-east towards the school building. Overlying [49] was pipe [48], a live metal water main which curved from the south-east to the north-west. Pipe [50] was a live plastic gas pipe which ran from the school building directly south.

In the south-west corner of the site were the insubstantial remains of a brick wall [46], a single course high of stretcher bond. The wall was 0.38m wide and ran in a north-west to south-east alignment for 4.5m and was built off layer [47]. Overlying wall [46] was a localised layer of a brownish orange clay [45].

Cutting through layer [45] was a modern ceramic drain [44] running south-west to north-east. This feature was recorded in the evaluation as [6].

To the north of wall [46] was a linear feature [51] running east-west cut through layer [47]. The feature was 0.6m wide and 0.15m deep and started at the school wall and ran east in a slight curve to the north. The sides were near vertical with a flat base. Feature [51] was filled with a dark brown silty clay and frequent charcoal and mortar inclusions [52].

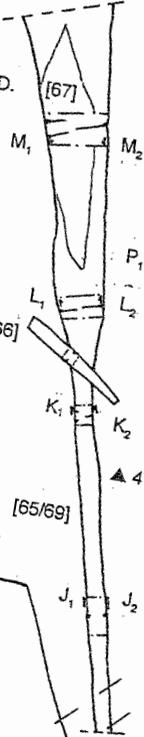


N₂

Wall
[54]

Pipe
[44]

▲ 47.38m O.D.



[109]

▲ 47.65m O.D.

Pipe
[49]

[84]

[85]

Pipe
[48]

[87]

[83]

[82]

Pipe
[50]

[46]

▲ 48.16m O.D.

I₁ ▲ 47.49m O.D.

[80]

[65/69]

▲ 47.59m O.D.

[81]

I₂



Immediately east of the main school building was a large vertical sided irregular ditch [80]. The north end was lost to deep machine stripping but the ditch was at least 12m long. A section excavated through the middle by machine found that the ditch was 4.15m wide and both sides were vertical to a depth of 0.8m with a flat base. The west side was cut against the line of the east wall of the main school building extension and was clearly later than it. The east side was aligned south-west to north-east out of line with the west side and the school building. The ditch was filled with a firm mid brown clayey loam with mortar and charcoal flecks and the finds included post medieval pottery. This feature was recorded in the evaluation as cut [5].

Traversing the northern half of the hall was wall [54] (Fig. 18). The cut for the wall foundations [97] could be seen in the east baulk. Only the south side was found which was a vertically side 0.7m high cut into the natural [4]. The 1.05m wide linear foundation cut was backfilled with a firm light brown clayey loam [98]. Overlying [98] and butting up against wall [54] was layer [94] a mixed brown clayey loam, up to 1.4m thick. Cut into layer [94] was a cut for a gravel path [95] 1.7m wide and 0.25m deep. The sides were near vertical with a flat bottom. The path was made up of thin layer of charcoal and mortar in the bottom with 0.23m of 80% well rounded pebble sized stones and 20% yellowy brown sand matrix [96]. To the east of the hall near the tennis courts a segment of this path could still be seen on the surface and it was clearly aligned along the inside of the wall.

In the south-west corner of the hall part of a linear feature [87] running north-south was found. Only 0.8m was found in plan and it was 0.36m wide. The sides were steeply sloping and had a flattish base. The fill was a slightly plastic mid brown clay loam [88] with no finds. Cutting the south end of feature [87] was linear feature [84] running east-west for 5.1m. The east end curved slightly north and was 0.85m wide. The west end was 0.8m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.5m but was not bottomed. The feature was filled with a reddish brown clay [85] with a dark grey silt loam lens [86] which contained post medieval pottery and roof tile.

Immediately to the north-west of [84] and [87] was a layer of brown clean clay with a purplish hue [82], 50-60mm thick laid on the natural. Overlying this layer, [84] and [87] was a pebbled surface between 70mm-150mm thick [83]. Only 1.5m² was found in plan but when the foundation trenches for the hall were excavated by machine, surface [83] could be seen in the south section. The pebble surface was 2m wide and was built on a 50mm thick foundation of mortar and broken roof tile.

5.2.3 The Yard and Dry Moat (Figs. 19 & 20).

The walled yard to the south-east of the main house was removed by machine which revealed the north section of the former dry moat around the house (Fig. 19). All features in this area were later than the main building.

The earliest features in the area were cuts [124] and [125] (Fig. 20). Cut [124] was the foundation trench for the yard and its enclosing wall [99]. This cut was at least 0.55m deep and was vertically sided. The cut [125] was for brick well [115] in the middle of the yard. The well had been backfilled with a mixed deposit of redeposited red mudstone and a brown silty loam [116]. This had been sealed by the surfacing of the yard with modern concrete flagstones [114].

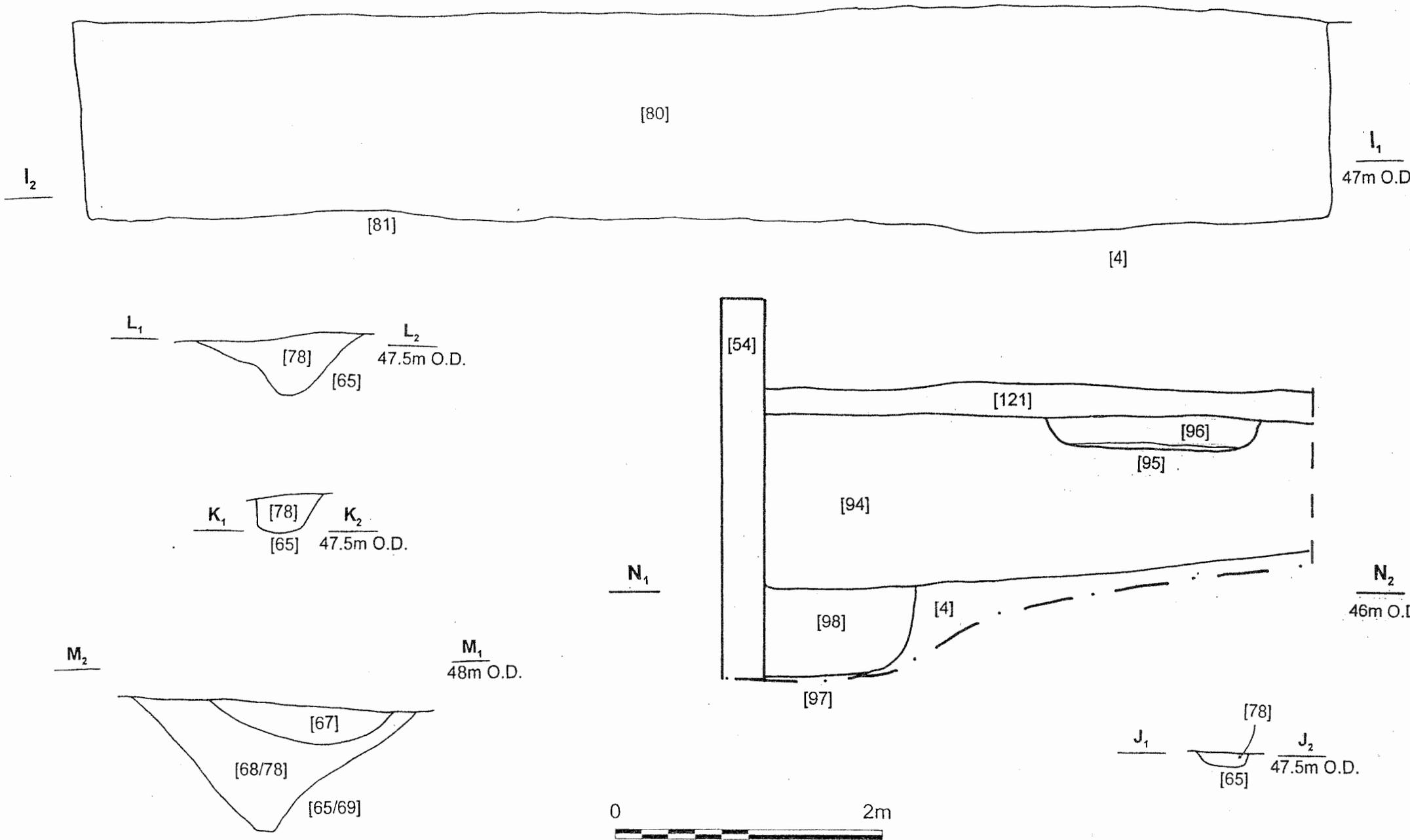


Fig. 18 Post-Medieval Phase : Sections

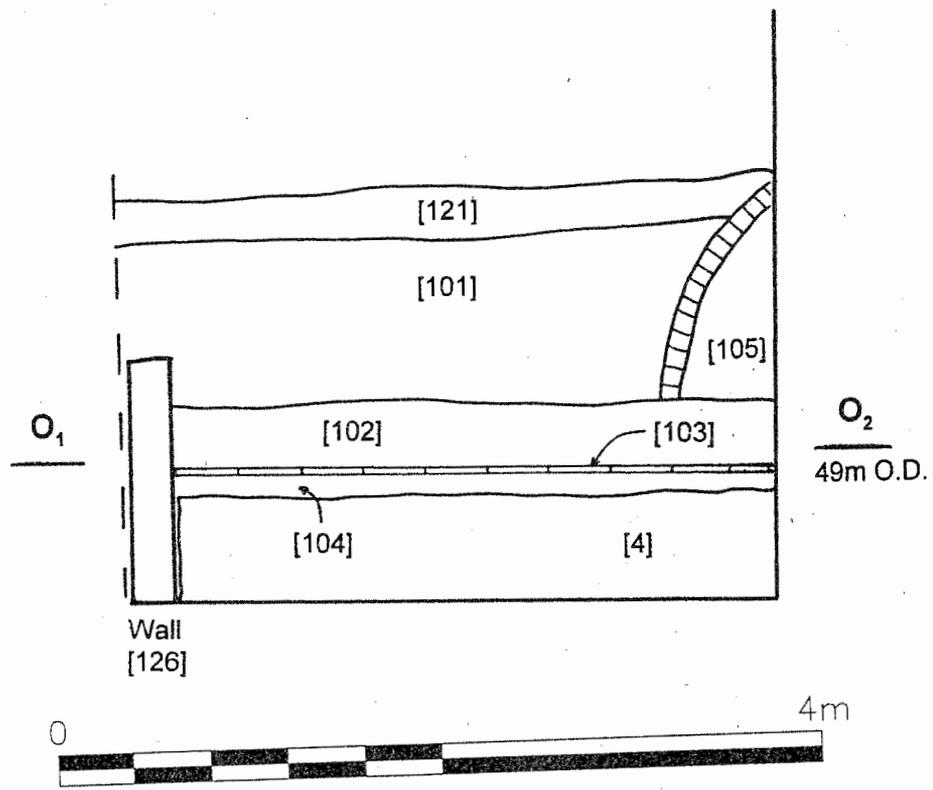


Fig. 19 Section of Yard and Dry Moat

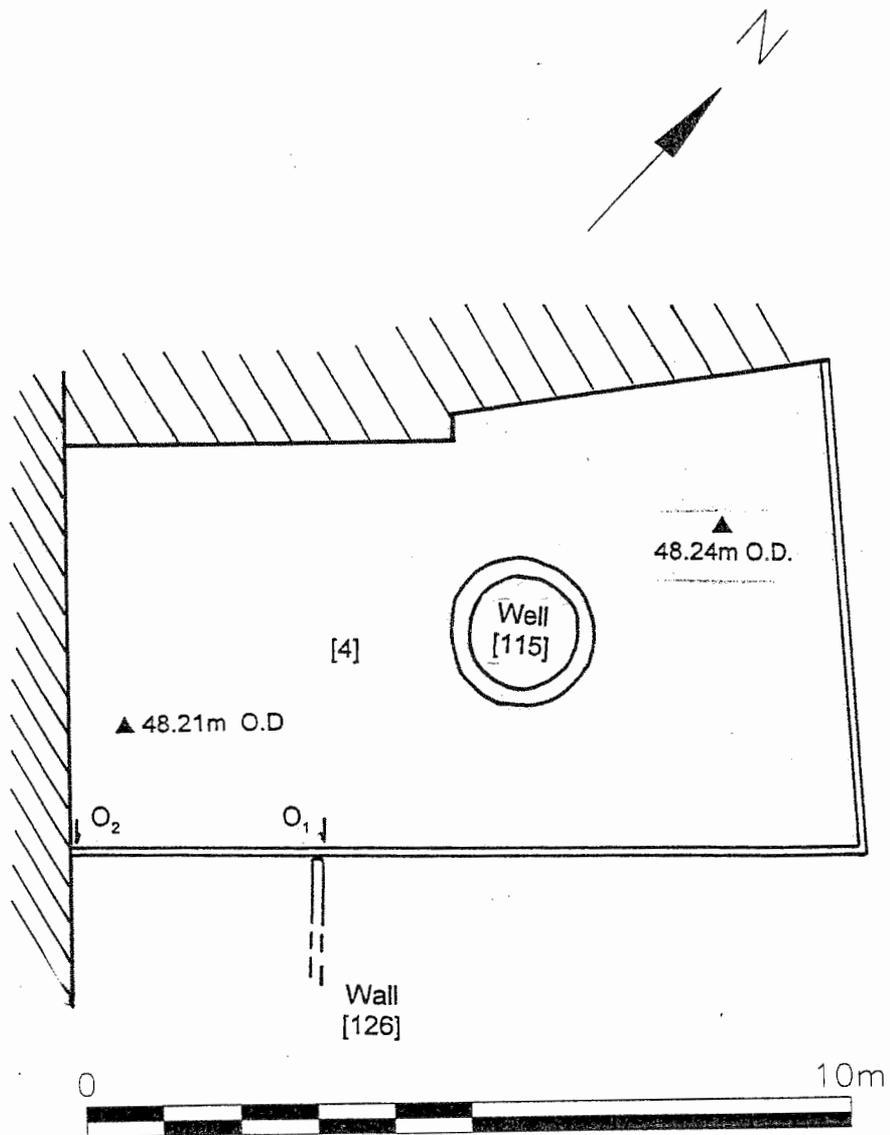


Fig. 20 Plan of Yard and Dry Moat

The earliest feature of the dry moat was cut [125] which was into the natural mudstone along the south and partially along the east side. The cut was flat based and vertical sided measuring 3.1m wide and least 1.5m deep. Cut [125] was later than wall [99] enclosing the yard. Built against the vertical side of cut [125] was wall [126] which acted as a boundary for the dry moat. Butting up against [126] was a hard lime green clay layer [104] which was the lowest layer filling the dry moat. Overlying [104] was a red ceramic tile surface [103] and wall extension [106]. Wall [106] was the outer thickening of wall [99] enclosing the yard. It was one courses thick and was built straight off green clay [104]. Tile surface [103] butted up against walls [106] and [126] and the individual tiles were 0.32m long and 20mm thick.

Above tile surface [103] was a 0.31m thick firm mixed layer of 50% brown clay and 50% brick and mortar rubble [102]. Built off this level and butting up against the building was a brick structure [105] in the form of a segment of an arch. It was one course thick and measured 1.13m high and 0.58m wide. The area enclosed by this arched segment was void of fill.

Covering the dry moat and overlying the brick structure was a 1.16m deep dark brown humic loam [101]. Overlying [101] was topsoil [121].

5.2.4 Front of the Main House (Fig. 21).

The excavation by machine of a slightly curving 25m x 5m area for nine new car parking spaces revealed a straight forward stratigraphical series of four layers.

The earliest layer [120] was a soft very clean dark red gritty clay, most likely being the upper level of the decaying hard natural mudstone [4]. This layer was only found in the south end and 0.4m below the ground level and sloped down northwards at a steeper angle than the present ground level gradient.

Above [120] was a soft mottled yellow and grey sandy silt [119]. Like [120] this layer sloped down northwards and was not found in the northern 7m of the excavation and was up to 50mm deep.

Overlying [119] and covering the whole of the trench was layer [118], a firm yellowy brown silty sand with 30% well rounded pebbles. Above [118] was a pale brown stoney clayey loam [117] which covered the whole trench. This layer was thickest in the north being up to 0.1m deep and becoming patchy and thinning to the south. There was a single sherd of 19th/20th century white glaze pottery from this deposit, the only find from this area. Overlying [117] was topsoil [121] which was 0.8m thick at the north end and gradually thinned to around halfway where it was 0.22m thick. It then maintained this constant depth for the rest of the trench.

The excavation around the perimeter of the turning circle to the east of the car parking bays was excavated by machine to a depth of 0.5m. This removed topsoil [121] until the top of layer [117] was revealed.

The service trench excavated by machine from the south-west corner of the main school building to the entrance of the teaching block was only to a depth of 0.45m below ground

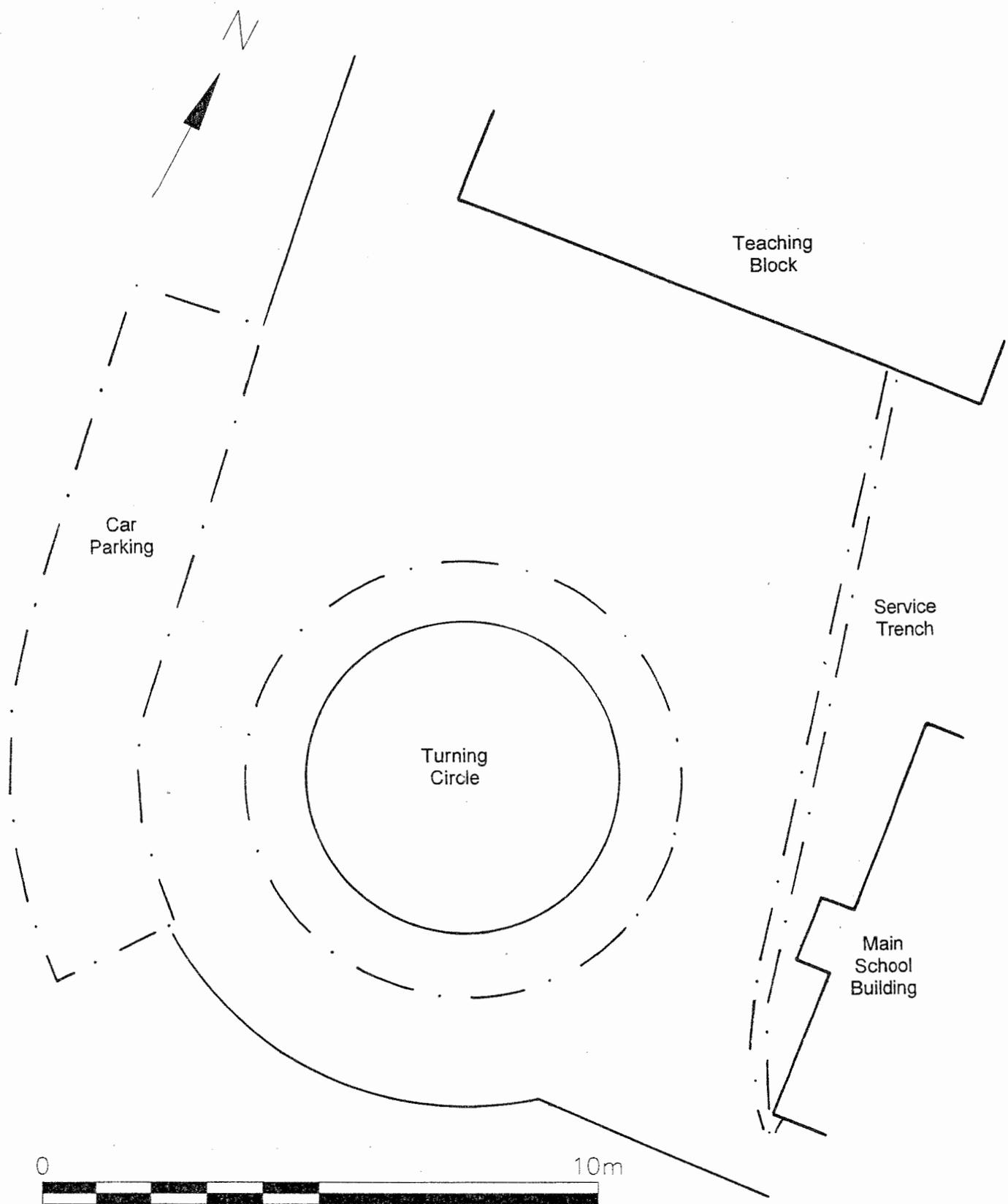


Fig. 21 Front of Main House

level. The only feature observed other than topsoil [121] was brick structure [115] butting up to the south-west corner of the main house.

6 Discussion

6.1 Prehistoric

The presence of residual flints in Roman features indicate nearby prehistoric activity. The finds included a small core from surface [75] and a flake utilised as a blade and a broken blade, both showing wear, from ditch [62]. The broken blade is similar to the Mesolithic microlith tool tradition. In the near vicinity a concentration of possible Mesolithic flints were recovered from Bays Meadow to the west (HWCM 3956; Hurst 1987). To the north-east, a small flint core and scraper were recovered from the potential Roman fort site on the east side of Crutch Lane (HWCM 4154; Hurst *et al*, 1988, 79).

6.2 Roman

The small amount of closely datable material from the site meant that only two phases of Roman activity could be identified from the stratigraphy. These were the negative features underlying the metalled surface [75] and the surface itself. None of the negative features had any direct stratigraphic relationship with each other and were taken as a general phase earlier than surface [75]. All the Roman features were broadly dated to the 1st to 2nd centuries. Ditch [63] had no stratigraphic relationship with any other Roman feature and its relative date is conjectural.

Ditch [61] was also of the general first phase and was apparently the north-east corner of an enclosed area. The steep scarp slopes to the south and west limit the enclosure to a maximum size of approximately 120m², but it may have been significantly less than this size.

Pits [77] and [108] were in close proximity in the south-east corner of the hall and were sealed by surface [75]. Pit [77] appears to have contained cess as its fill was a fine light green clayey silt. Pit [108] was similar to the shallow scoops which served as evaporation pits connected with salt extraction found at the south (McAvoy, forthcoming). However, there were no finds of briquetage usually found with these pits and pit [108] is probably a rubbish pit.

Daub fragments, including two which bore wattle impressions, were found in the fills of ditch [61], pits [108, 77] and in metalled surface [75]. This suggests that the backfilling and laying of metalled surface [75] were of a contemporary date and there was demolition/renovation of buildings in the vicinity.

The stratigraphical isolation and the two sherds of medieval pottery in the upper fill of ditch [63] makes the dating problematic. The similar form to ditch [61] suggests that this feature could be of Roman date and the medieval finds maybe from an undetected later intrusion.

Metalled surface [75] represented a second phase of activity and a change of land use, as the earlier ditches are backfilled and covered.

6.3 *Saxon*

The single sherd of 11th century Oxford-type glazed ware is the only find of this period found. Late Saxon activity represented by a series of gullies and pits were recorded approximately 150m to the south (McAvoy, forthcoming) and it may be tentatively suggested that this activity extended north near to the vicinity of the Multi-purpose Hall.

6.4 *Medieval*

Little can be said about the two medieval features [56] and [112] at the south end of the hall. Both appear to have been used for the depositing of domestic rubbish in the 12th to 13th centuries.

6.5 *Post medieval*

None of the features found were earlier than the beginning of the 19th century. The majority of the features were associated with the existing main house either with the landscaping of the grounds or the gardens features.

The most prominent and probably the earliest feature was the general landscaping [111] of the whole site. This reduced the level of the natural across the whole junior school area and most of the hall and must be responsible for the absence of Roman features. This process was not necessarily a single event and was widespread, being recorded by Edwards to the west and McAvoy to the east.

Features [65/69], [87], [84], [66], [92] and [109] all probably represent plant holes and flower beds of the walled garden. Around this garden ran metalled paths [96] and [83]. The large ditch [80] is of unknown function being too deep for a garden feature.

To the north of wall [54] in the junior area was a probably a similar garden area with post hole [40] and pit [42] representing a plant supported by a post. At a similar period was the digging of a grave [90] for a donkey. After the build up of the ground level by the dumping of ash [38] and layer [37]. There appears to have been another period of use as a garden with the digging of probable flower bed [34]. This period also saw the construction of brick culverts [28] and [31] for drainage from the main house and coach house.

Layers [9] and [10] represent a second period of ground level build up possibly aided by the material from the demolition of the vicarage at the south of Church Lane in 1905. This demolition is probably the source of the large amounts of ceramic roof tile found across the site.

After the construction of the courtyard area butting up against the main house extension, brick well [115] was constructed. This was later backfilled and the courtyard was laid with concrete flagstones [114].

The main house had a tiled dry moat around some of its perimeter, before it was back filled with [102] and a segment of a arch was built in brick up against the main house wall [105]. This presumably acted as some form of damp coursing.

The layers located at the front of the main house [117, 118, 119] represent make up layers for a former and the present driveway.

6.6 Undated

Post hole [72] could not be dated as it contained no finds and was stratigraphically isolated. The uniformity of fills, based upon redeposited red mudstone, across the site gave no indication of its probable date. It may have been part of a structure but the lack of any associated structural features suggests it probably supported a single post.

7 Conclusions

The first phase of Roman activity is represented by pits [77, 108], ditch [61] and probably ditch [63]. The small dimensions of ditches [61, 63] of only a maximum of 1.4m wide and 0.64m deep suggests that their function was not defensive. There was no evidence of any associated structures and can best be interpreted as an two enclosed areas within the fort.

The second Roman phase is characterised by a change of land-use, with the backfilling of the above negative features and the laying of metalled surface [75]. The daub fragments found in these features indicate that there was destruction/renovation of buildings in the vicinity. Another possible product of this change of land-use are the reused timbers found at the Upwich brine well site, which were dendrochronologically dated to c61-65 AD and may well have originated from Dodderhill (HWCM 4575; Hurst forthcoming).

A similar metalled surface to [75] was found approximately 60m to the south-east during the excavation of McAvoy's Trench 16. McAvoy's surface was in a similar patchy condition and approximately 13 x 4m was revealed and it may have been contemporary.

No evidence of related buildings to metalled surface [75] were found but from such a small area it is difficult determine whether this surface was a floor of a building or part of the fort internal road system. In this central area of the fort the headquarters or *principia* was built, where the two main roadways crossed, the *via praetoria* and the *via principalis* (Breeze, 1987, 27).

The single Saxon pottery sherd and the two medieval features indicate that there was little, or at least archaeologically untraceable, occupation of this area during these periods. Only 4 Saxon sherds have been recovered from Dodderhill and it may support the suggestion of agricultural usage of the site during this period. There also appears to have been some form of medieval occupation to the south and pit [57] is probably a domestic rubbish pit related to this settlement (McAvoy, forthcoming, 18-20). Whitehead mentions that in the 1960's the hillside was covered with ridge and furrow (Whitehead, 1962, 57). Therefore, it appears most likely that this area was under agriculture between the Roman and post-medieval period.

The burial of a small adult donkey in grave [90] is significant as identified donkey remains from any period in Britain are rare. This reflects not only there low frequency compared to ponies and horses but also the failure of recognition (Ian L. Baxter, *pers.comm.*)

The lack of closely datable finds from the burial makes precise dating difficult. It was stratigraphically earlier than the garden features and the brick culverts and it may be as early as the 18th century. The donkey may well be slightly later, as in the early 19th century, the British donkey population saw a dramatic increase as they were extensively employed to transport cow's milk.

Interestingly, a dog burial was found during the evaluation excavation in January 1998 approximately 50m to the south-west of the donkey and it was similarly cut into the natural. They may well be of a contemporary date and both could quite possibly be the loved pets of Hill Court residents laid to rest in the garden.

8 The Finds

8.1 The Pottery

8.1.1 *The Roman Ceramics by Jeremy Evans and Steven Willis*

Some 78 sherds of Roman pottery have been recovered, along with 31 tile fragments including many small chips and 31 fragments of daub. Little of the material is closely datable and the assemblage does not provide good evidence for the dating of the site. All of the fabrics from the site are compatible with a 1st-2nd century date range. The single sherd of Nene Valley colour coat from context 64 is by far the latest piece. The rest of the material would probably fit into a 1st to early 2nd century range, but the quality of the evidence is too poor to be more specific or for absence of ceramics to give a good indication of absence of activity.

All three Samian vessels represented are South Gaulish, the only closely datable piece within the general 1st century South Gaulish range being Flavian.

Table 1 lists the numbers of sherds in the major fabric classes. As might be expected Severn Valley wares are commonest, but there are also reasonable components of greywares, which tend to be 1st or 2nd century in this region and quite a few sherds of mortaria.

Table 1. Roman Sherd Numbers in Fabric Classes

Dressel 20	1	
BB1	0	
Shelly	0	
Nene Valley	1	
Mortaria	7	
Severn Valley wares		27
Other oxidised	8	
Buff wares	4	
Handmade	4	
Malvernian	3	
White slipped	2	
Greywares	13	
Samian	5	
Whitewares	3	

There seems to be a relatively high proportion of daub from the site, which presumably reflect the nature of structures here. None of the daub seems likely to come from salt containers. The fabrics do not match the published descriptions of such (Hurst and Rees 1992) and wattle impressions can be observed on several pieces.

The collection is small and contains no publishable rimsherds. No further work can be recommended on it except as part of a larger collection.

Fabric Descriptions

All fabrics are wheelmade unless otherwise stated.

Fabric A - Greyware with an orange brown core and black margins and surfaces with some moderate-coarse sand $\approx 0.3-1\text{mm}$ and some fine organics.

Fabric B - Greyware; a hard, crisp fracturing, 'soapy' fabric with common very fine silver mica, 'clean' with some fine sand $>0.1\text{mm}$.

Fabric C - Mortarium in a buff oxidised fabric with common angular white quartz $\approx 1\text{mm}$ and occasional large gold mica $\approx 1\text{mm}$. Not Noyon, but a continental import.

Fabric D - Severn Valley ware with a grey core and orange-brown margins and surfaces, with common organic temper voids $0.3-3\text{mm}$ and some rounded red ironstone $1-2\text{mm}$. Similar to Warwickshire Museum fabric O36, probably Malvernian.

Fabric E - Severn Valley ware with a pale grey core and orange margins and surfaces with occasional-some fine white inclusions and very occasional pellets(?) up to 1mm . Similar to Warwickshire Museum fabric O27, probably Malvernian.

Fabric F - Severn Valley ware(?) with grey core and orange margins and surfaces, hard, with common sub-angular white (non-calcareous) inclusions $\approx 0.2-2\text{mm}$ and some rounded brown inclusions $\approx 0.5\text{mm}$.

Fabric G - Oxidised fabric with orange core and buff margins and surfaces, hard, with some rounded white inclusions $\approx 0.2-0.5\text{mm}$ and occasional rounded red ironstone $\approx 0.3\text{mm}$, and very occasional moderate sand $\approx 0.3\text{mm}$.

Fabric H - White-slipped flagon oxidised fabric with a dark grey core and orange-brown margins and surfaces with a thin white slip, with abundant very fine sand $\approx 0.1\text{mm}$. Warwickshire Museum fabric Q21, possibly Cirencester fabric 95, possibly North Wiltshire.

Fabric I - A sandy greyware with dark grey core and brown to orange-brown margins and surfaces, with common coarse sand $\approx 0.3-0.4\text{mm}$ and some $\approx 0.1\text{mm}$, and some large brown ironstone.

Fabric J - An oxidised fabric with orange core, margins and surfaces, 'clean'.

Fabric K - An oxidised fabric with orange core, margins and surfaces, 'clean' with abundant fine silver mica $>0.1\text{mm}$.

Fabric L - A greyware, very hard fired, with a grey core, orange -brown margins and grey surfaces with occasional-some moderate sand $\approx 0.3-0.4\text{mm}$.

Fabric M - Malvernian Metamorphic tempered ware. Warwickshire Museum fabric G44.

Fabric N - A fine whiteware with white core, margins and surfaces with common sand $\approx 0.1-0.3\text{mm}$. Possibly a Gallic import.

Fabric O - Baetican Dressel 20 amphorae. 1st-3rd century.

Fabric P - A whiteware with a buff white core, margins and surfaces, 'soapy', 'clean', with some fine sand $\leq 0.1\text{mm}$ and some red ironstone $\leq 0.1\text{mm}$.

Fabric Q - Oxidised fabric, possibly from a very eroded mortarium rim, with orange-brown core, margins and surfaces with occasional-some sand $\leq 0.2-0.3\text{mm}$.

Fabric R - Hartley's Pas-de-Calais Group I and II mortaria, Noyon, Département of Oise.

Fabric S - Malvernian Palaeozoic Limestone tempered ware. 1st century.

Fabric T - A reduced ware with a black core, margins and surfaces, hard, with some-common moderate sand temper $\leq 0.3\text{mm}$. Wt 3g

Fabric U - A handmade fabric with black core and buff-brown margins and surfaces with some moderate sand $\leq 0.3\text{mm}$ and some large quartz $\leq 1-3\text{mm}$, and occasional sandstone up to 3mm and some red ironstone $\leq 1-3\text{mm}$. Probably Hereford and Worcester fabric 5.2. Late Iron Age.

Fabric V - A handmade reduced fabric with black core, margins and surfaces, with abundant coarse sand temper $\leq 0.4-0.5\text{mm}$ and occasional large quartz $\leq 1-2\text{mm}$. Probably Hereford and Worcester fabric 5.1.

Fabric W - A whiteware with white core, margins and surfaces, 'soapy', with occasional very fine sand $> 0.1\text{mm}$.

Fabric X - A buff fabric with a grey core and buff brown margins and surfaces, 'soapy', with abundant fine silver mica $\leq > 0.1\text{mm}$ and occasional rounded brown ironstone $\leq 0.5\text{mm}$.

Fabric Y - Nene Valley colour-coated ware, mid-late Antonine onwards.

Context 1

A Severn Valley ware wide-mouthed bowl/jar rim, form indeterminable, fabric E. Wt 35g, D. 25 cms, RE 8%

A Severn Valley ware bodysherd, fabric D. Wt 11g

An oxidised bodysherd, fabric J?? Wt 3g

A tile fragment. Wt 2g

A daub fragment with some moderate sand and organics. Wt 1g

Context 7

A Severn Valley ware bodysherd, fabric F. Wt 8g

A Severn Valley ware bodysherd, fabric E. Wt 1g

A Severn Valley ware chip, fabric D. Wt 1g

A Severn Valley ware sherd, fabric D? Wt 3g

A greyware bodysherd, fabric I. Wt 4g

Two tile fragments. Wt 6g

Context 13

A tile chip. Wt 1g

Context 17

A rim fragment in buffware, fabric G. Wt 2g, D. ?, RE >2%

Context 20

Two Severn Valley ware bodysherds, fabric D. Wt 6g

A Severn Valley ware bodysherd, fabric D? Wt 6g

A handmade bodysherd, fabric U, later Iron Age. Wt 7g

Ten tile chips. Wt 25g

Context 21

A Severn Valley ware lower wall sherd of a jar or tankard, fabric D Wt 9g

A Severn Valley ware bodysherd, fabric E. Wt 1g

Three tile fragments. Wt 2g

Context 22

A very eroded mortarium bodysherd, fabric C. 1st-early 2nd century. Wt 2g

A Severn Valley ware bodysherd, fabric D. Wt 1g

A Severn Valley ware bodysherd, fabric E. Wt 11g

A handmade sherd, fabric U, late Iron Age. Wt 7g

A handmade simple base sherd, fabric V. Wt 3g, D. c9 cms, BE c6%

Four daub fragments with abundant coarse sand. Wt 10g

Context 23

A minute Severn Valley ware chip, fabric D? Wt >1g

Seven tile chips. Wt 6g

Context 50

A very eroded mortarium(?) flange, fabric Q. Wt 15g

Context 57

A Severn Valley ware bodysherd, fabric D. Wt 7g

An oxidised bodysherd, probably Severn Valley ware, fabric F. Wt 6g

Buffware bodysherd, fabric G. Wt 10g

White-slipped flagon bodysherd, fabric H. Wt 7g

Tile flake, exterior sanded. Wt 6g

Context 58

Bodysherd in buffware, fabric G. Cross-joins context 57. Wt 8g

Context 60

Greyware bodysherd, fabric I. Wt 5g

Oxidised bodysherd, fabric J. Wt 3g

Context 62

Two Malvernian bodysherds, fabric M. Wt 12g

A Dressel 20 amphora shoulder sherd with handle scar. 1st-3rd century. Wt 205g

Two Severn Valley ware bodysherds, fabric D. Wt 20g

An oxidised sherd, fabric K? Wt 4g

Three joining minute samian chips, SG, La Graufesenque, AD40-100. Wt > 1g

Another minute samian flake, possibly from a cup, cAD40-100. Wt > 1g

A whiteware bodysherd, fabric P. Wt 1g

A rounded oxidised ?tile fragment. Wt > 1g

Nine daub fragments with clay pellets. Wt 27g

Context 62 Sample 8

A thin whiteware bodysherd, exterior rouletted, possibly a butt-beaker. Probably 1st century.

Wt 1g

Context 64

A Nene Valley CC ware bodysherd, late Antonine or later, fabric Y. Wt 7g

A whiteware flagon neck bodysherd, fabric W. Wt 5g

A Severn Valley ware bodysherd, fabric K. Wt 2g

A tile fragment. Wt 6g

A smooth, 'clean', 'soapy', fragment of fired clay(?). Wt 3g

Context 68

A greyware bodysherd, fabric A. Wt 2g

A tile chip. 1g

Context 70

A mortarium flake. Fabric C. Wt 2g

A chip of Noyon mortarium, Fabric R. 1st to early 2nd century. Wt 2g

A Severn Valley ware bodysherd, fabric D?. Wt 3g

A Severn Valley ware necked jar rimsherd with everted beaded rim. Fabric D. Probably 1st-2nd century. Wt 4g, D. c10 cms, RE 10%

A sandy greyware bodysherd, fabric I. Wt 45g

Three greyware bodysherds, exterior burnished, fabric I. Wt 14g

A Malvernian Palaeozoic Limestone tempered ware bodysherd, fabric S. 1st century. Wt 10g

An oxidised bodysherd, fabric K? Wt 1g

Two oxidised bodysherds, fabric J. Wt 7g

A tile fragment. Wt 3g

Context 71

Severn Valley ware bodysherd, fabric D. Wt 4g

Context 75

A Severn Valley ware bodysherd, fabric D. Wt 6g

A Severn Valley ware bodysherd, very thin, fabric E. Wt 1g

An oxidised bodysherd, fabric K. Wt 2g

A greyware bodysherd, fabric L. Wt 7g

A tile fragment. Wt 2g

Daub fragments with clay pellets, two have wattle impressions. Wt 33g

Context 76

Two greyware bodysherds, fabric A. Wt 6g

A greyware bodysherd, fabric B. Wt 6g

Two joining mortarium flange rimsherds with hooked flange. 1st-early 2nd century. Fabric C. Wt 54g, D. c40 cms, RE c7%

Context 76, Sample 5

A Malvernian bodysherd, interior soot/carbon deposits, Fabric M. Wt 5g

A daub fragment with clay pellets. Wt 1g

Context 98

Severn Valley ware bodysherd, fabric D. Wt 15g

Context 100

A mortarium bodysherd, fabric C, with circular drilled rivet hole, 1st-early 2nd century. Wt 8g

Context 107

Flagon neck with thin white slip, fabric H. Wt 91g

Samian Dr 30 rim from a small vessel, cAD65-100, Wt 1g, D. ?, RE >3%

Two fragments of daub with clay pellets, one with wattle impression. Wt 18g

Context 107, Sample 6

Seven fragments of daub with clay pellets, two sherds have a smoothed face. Wt 45g

A daub fragment with large quartz inclusions and calcined bone. Wt 7g

Context 113, Sample 7

Two reduced ware bodysherds, fabric T. Wt 3g

Context 117

Oxidised bodysherd, fabric G. Wt 9g

Context 121

A Severn Valley ware bodysherd, fabric D. Wt 25g

Severn Valley ware jar base, fabric D. Wt 11g, D. c8 cms, BEc10%

Buff bodysherd, fabric X. Wt 13g

A tile(?) fragment Wt 7g

8.1.2 *The Post-Roman Ceramics by Stephanie Rátkai*

The medieval pottery was examined under x20 magnification and divided into fabrics according to the Hereford and Worcester pottery fabric type series (Hurst and Rees 1992 as amended Hurst 1994). The pottery was quantified by sherd weight and sherd count, minimum number of rims and rim percentage. Details of vessel form, glaze, decoration and sooting were recorded. A total of 143 medieval sherds and 30 post-medieval sherds were recovered.

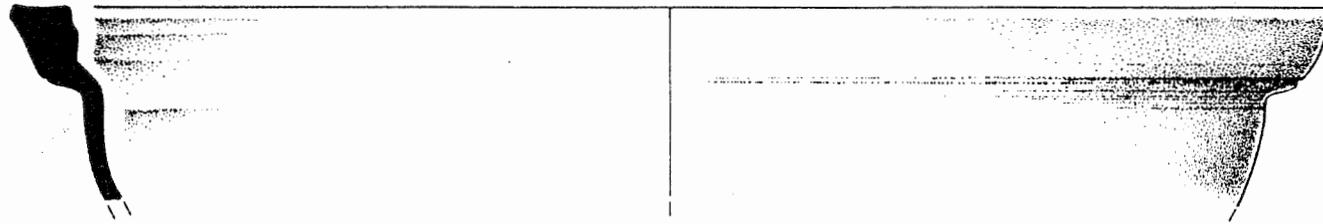
The usual limited range of fabrics were present. These consisted of Worcester-type sandy cooking pots (fabric 55), Worcester-type sandy glazed ware (fabric 64.1), Malvernian cooking pots (fabric 56), hand-made glazed Malvernian ware (fabric 53), wheel-thrown oxidized Malvernian ware (fabric 69), buff ware (fabric 64.2), white ware (fabric 64.3), Cotswold oolitic limestone tempered ware (fabric 57), Surrey white ware and Midlands purple ware. Two fabrics were present which were not in the type series. The first, represented by a single sherd, was a late Saxon-early medieval Oxford-type glazed ware, decorated with an applied wavy strip, a common decorative motif in this ware (cf Mellor 1994, fig21, 5-6). The second was a sandy oxidized orange ware. This was not recorded at Droitwich (Hurst 1992) but similar late medieval fabrics are known from north Worcestershire, Staffordshire and Warwickshire.

The term Worcester-type cooking pot is one which, although described in Hurst and Rees in fairly narrow terms (1992), has subsequently allowed of a wide variation in the make up and colour of the fabric, although the forms are relatively constant. As might be expected differences in inclusion size and density etc have been noted before (see Jackson *et al* 1996 where a fabric sub-group 55.1 was identified at Strensham, south Worcestershire). At Dodderhill another sub-group, fabric 55a was identified, which contained moderate medium sized quartz, sparse ferruginous inclusions and some organics in a fine sandy matrix and moderate fine mica visible primarily on the surfaces. Surface colour was usually brown. There were two glazed sherds in this fabric which were coded 64.1a on the analogy of the glazed version of Worcester cooking pot (fabric 55) being fabric 64.1.

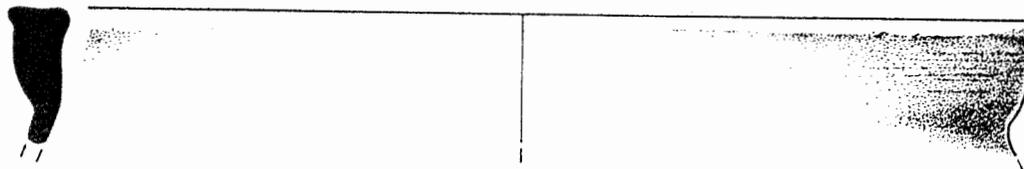
A small quantity of post-medieval pottery was also found which was made up of coarsewares (cw), blackware (blw), slipware (slpw) and modern late 18th-19th century glazed wares (mgw)

A single Malvernian roof tile came from [23] and two abraded floor tile fragments came from [75].

The features generally contained a mix of residual Roman and medieval pottery. Pit [57] produced the largest group of pottery. It contained Malvernian and Worcester-type sandy cooking pots, a rim sherd from a Cotswold oolitic tempered cooking pot and glazed wares which were represented by Worcester-type jugs, white ware and buff ware. The remains of about a dozen vessels were found in the pit. These consisted of at least three Malvernian cooking pots, two of the usual rolled rim type but the third with an unusual upright, expanded rim with an in-sloping upper face (Fig. 22). A similar rim form but with a flat slightly grooved top (Fig. 22), in Worcester-type sandy ware was found in [58]. Worcester-type cooking pots were represented by body sherds only, one of which had an applied thumbed strip. There were 12 sherds from a whiteware jug with a dull olive glaze, decorated with



Malvernian pot from [57]



Fabric 55 from [58]

Scale 1:2

Fig. 22 Medieval Pottery Rim Forms

roughly horizontal rows of stabbing. The other jug sherds, although glazed, were otherwise undecorated. The pottery apart from the oolitic tempered sherd, could have been a fairly closed group. Deposition of the pottery into the pit is likely to have taken place in the 13th century.

A full quantification of the medieval ceramic finds by context can be seen in Tables 2 and 3 at the end of this report.

Discussion

The quantity of pottery is generally too small to allow any definitive interpretation of the site. The range of fabrics is in the main the same as that from Droitwich (Hurst 1992) and occupation is represented from at least the 11th century by the Cotswold oolitic tempered ware from pit [57] through to the post-medieval period. There is a greater proportion of pottery of the 12th-13th centuries but with such a small collection of sherds this may be of no significance. Hurst (1992) has outlined trade patterns and pottery supply for Droitwich which were significantly influenced by the salt trade. The pottery from Dodderhill confirms this pattern. The two fabrics not recorded at Droitwich, the early Oxford ware and the late medieval oxidised ware are further instances to the effect of the salt trade, since salt rights and saltways are associated with southern Warwickshire, from where the late medieval oxidized ware may have come, and Oxfordshire.

8.2 Animal Bone Assessment Report by Ian L. Baxter

Introduction

The total assemblage from the site amounts to 610 fragments with a weight of just over 10kg. It includes the partial skeleton of a donkey, which is counted as 1 fragment in Table 1. The animal bone originates from deposits dating from the Romano-British, Medieval and Post-Medieval/Modern periods. Table 1 presents the Number of Identifiable fragments of bones of each Species (NISP) collected by hand for each temporal period, and Table 2 the NISP for the Romano-British samples. Table 3 comprises the bone measurements and withers height estimates for the donkey skeleton in context (91). Figure 1 is a plot of selected equid third metatarsal measurements compared with the specimen from context (91), and Figure 2 is a comparative plot of equid posterior first phalanx measurements. Bone preservation from the site was good to fair.

Methodology

Bone was identified by comparison with published descriptions (in particular Schmid 1972, Sisson and Grossman 1953, Cohen and Serjeantson 1986, Prummel 1987 and 1989), and reference material in the collection of the author and Leicester City Museums. Bone measurements are based on Eisenmann (1986), Eisenmann and Beckouche 1986, and Dive and Eisenmann 1991. Withers height estimates are based on Kiese-walter 1888. Long bone fragments without diagnostic features, most rib and vertebrae fragments are recorded as Large Mammal and Medium Mammal.

Notes on the species

Horse

The right femur of a horse was found in Roman context (70). Unfortunately this was not sufficiently complete to estimate the withers height of the animal.

Donkey

The burial of a donkey (*Equus asinus* L.), complete with iron shoes, was found in Post-Medieval context (91). The skull and much of the anterior skeleton was not recovered, but study of the available remains indicates that the animal was a donkey rather than a small pony. The available long bones and posterior phalanx I were measured to provide data to establish species identity and withers height estimate (Table 3). In the donkey the cranium, radius and tibia are long and the scapula, humerus and femur are short relative to those of the horse (Groves 1986:14; Eisenmann 1986:78). The specimen from (91) has a long radius and tibia compared to the femorae resulting in higher withers estimates. The distal phalanges (phalanx III) are very short and narrow, which is characteristic of donkey (Groves 1986). According to Barone (1986:511, Fig. 273) the donkey radius is much more curved than that of the horse and when placed on a flat surface will only rest on its middle and one extremity. This is the case with the context (91) specimen. More conclusive, however, are charts plotting the log differences of equid species with the onager (*Equus hemionus onager*). The species selected for comparison with (91) were the wild horse (*Equus przewalskii*), pony (*E. caballus*), hinny (*E. caballus* X *E. asinus*) and donkey (*E. asinus*) from extensive measurements published by Eisenmann and Beckouche (1986) and Dive and Eisenmann (1991). The

methodologies of Eisenmann and Beckouche (1986) were used for the third metatarsal and Dive and Eisenmann (1991) for the posterior phalanx I (Figures 1 and 2). Due to recent damage not all the phalanx I measurements could be taken, however, in both cases the Dodderhill equid resembles the asinines more closely than the caballines. The best indicator is the relative proportions of the distal articular surface of Mt.III: the least depth of the medial condyle (Figure 1 measure 13) is relatively smaller than the depth of the sagittal ridge (measure 12) in the horses than it is in the asses (Eisenmann and Beckouche 1986:126). The Dodderhill donkey was an adult of slight build approximately 10 hands high at the shoulder, and aged over five years on the basis of vertebral epiphyseal fusion (Silver 1969). It may have been a female, although this cannot be conclusively demonstrated due to loss of the skull and recent damage to the pelvis.

No pathologies were seen affecting the available bones.

Fallow Deer

The bones of fallow deer (*Dama dama*) were recovered from Medieval and Post-Medieval features. A left tibia fragment was found in Medieval context (57), and in Post-Medieval deposits a right astragalus in (50) and a Mt. III+IV in (68).

Cattle

The remains of domestic cattle account for 70% of fragments identified to species in Romano-British deposits, 47% in Medieval features and 36.3% in Post-Medieval/Modern contexts. The only noteworthy specimens are female innominate fragments from Medieval context (57) and Post-Medieval context (50), and a phalanx I from Roman context [62] with an exostosis on the distal shaft probably resulting from trauma. Only adult beasts are represented in the remains recovered from all periods.

Pig

Pig remains account for just under 15% of fragments identified to species from Roman contexts, 32% from Medieval features and just under 23.1% from Post-Medieval/Modern deposits. They include a female right upper canine from Roman context (62), a male lower mandible from Roman context (113) from an animal aged under 17 months, and a mandible from an animal around two years old from Medieval context (57). The remains of young pigs were recovered from Medieval context (57), a mandible fragment and a radius diaphysis from a piglet around a month old (Prummel 1989). A very stout radius and ulna with unfused epiphyses was found in Post-Medieval/Modern context (130) belonging to an animal aged less than twelve months (Silver 1969).

Sheep/Goat

Sheep/Goat remains account for 11% of fragments identified to species from Roman contexts, only 6.7% from Medieval features, and 39.6% from Post-Medieval/Modern deposits. No suitable bones were sufficiently complete to discriminate between the two taxa or to provide a basis for withers height estimates. A Mc.III+IV with unfused distal epiphysis found in Medieval context (57) came from an animal a few weeks old (Prummel 1989).

Fowl

A total of seven fragments of domestic fowl bones were found in Medieval context (57), originating from at least two individuals. The indeterminate bird fragments from (57) and Post-Medieval/Modern context (68) also probably belong to domestic fowl.

Woodcock

The carpometacarpus of a Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*) was found in Medieval context (57). The Woodcock is a game bird with a preference for damp woodland with open clearings and a good growth of bracken and bramble.

Summary and Conclusion

The remains of domestic cattle dominate the faunal assemblage recovered from the Romano-British deposits. This is typical of military sites (King 1978:227). The relatively large numbers of pig remains from the Medieval features, together with the occurrence of fallow deer and woodcock indicate the presence of woodland and/or parkland in the vicinity. A lightly built (and possibly female) donkey was buried in a pit during the Post-Medieval period.

**Table 4. Number of Identifiable fragments of bones of each Species (NISP):
hand-collected**

Taxon/Period		Roman	Medieval	Post-Medieval/Modern	Total
Horse	<i>Equus caballus</i> L.	1	0	0	1
Donkey	<i>Equus asinus</i> L.	0	0	1*	1*
Cattle	<i>Bos</i> f. domestic	19	28	11	58
Fallow Deer	<i>Dama dama</i> L.	0	1	2	3
Pig	<i>Sus</i> f. domestic	4	19	7	30
Sheep/Goat	<i>Ovis/Capra</i> f. domestic	3	4	12	19
Large Mammal		23	49	14	86
Medium Mammal		8	21	6	35
Fowl	<i>Gallus</i> f. domestic	0	7	0	7
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i> L.	0	1	0	1
Indeterminate Bird		0	2	1	3
Indeterminate		25	73	21	119
Total		83	205	65*	353*

* skeleton counted as 1

Table 5. Number of Identifiable fragments of bones of each Species (NISP): samples

Taxon/Period		Roman	Total
Cattle	<i>Bos f. domestic</i>	2	2
Pig	<i>Sus f. domestic</i>	1	1
Large Mammal		1	1
Medium Mammal		3	3
Indeterminate		37	37
Total		44	44

Table 6. Bone measurements and withers height calculations of equid skeleton [91]
(based on Eisenmann 1986, Eisenmann and Beckouche 1986, Dive and Eisenmann 1991, Kiesevalter 1888)

Skeletal element	L/R	1(GL)	2(LI)	Withers Height (cm)	
Radius	L		250.0	108.5	}
Femur	L	283.0		99.3	}
Femur	R	286.0		100.4	} Mean 104.5cm
Tibia	L		255.0	111.2	}
Mt.III	L		217.0	115.7	}
Mt.III	R		210.0	91.6	}

Metatarsal III (Mt.III)	Right	Posterior Phalanx I	Left
1(GL)	212.0	1(GL)	61.3
2(LI)	210.0	2(-)	55.9
3(SD)	21.2	3(SD)	21.0
4(-)	21.3	4(Bp)	
5(Bp)	34.7	5(Dp)	
6(Dp)	28.2	6(Bd)	30.4
7(-)	31.5	7(-)	
8(-)	8.4	8(-)	
9(-)	5.4	9(-)	
10(Bd)	33.2	10(-)	49.0
11(Bd)	31.8	11(-)	
12(Dd)	26.1	12(-)	10.6
13(-)	21.1	13(-)	
14(-)	21.2	14(BFd)	28.2

Table 7. Ratio diagrams of mean values for equid metatarsals (based on Eisenmann and Beckouche 1986)

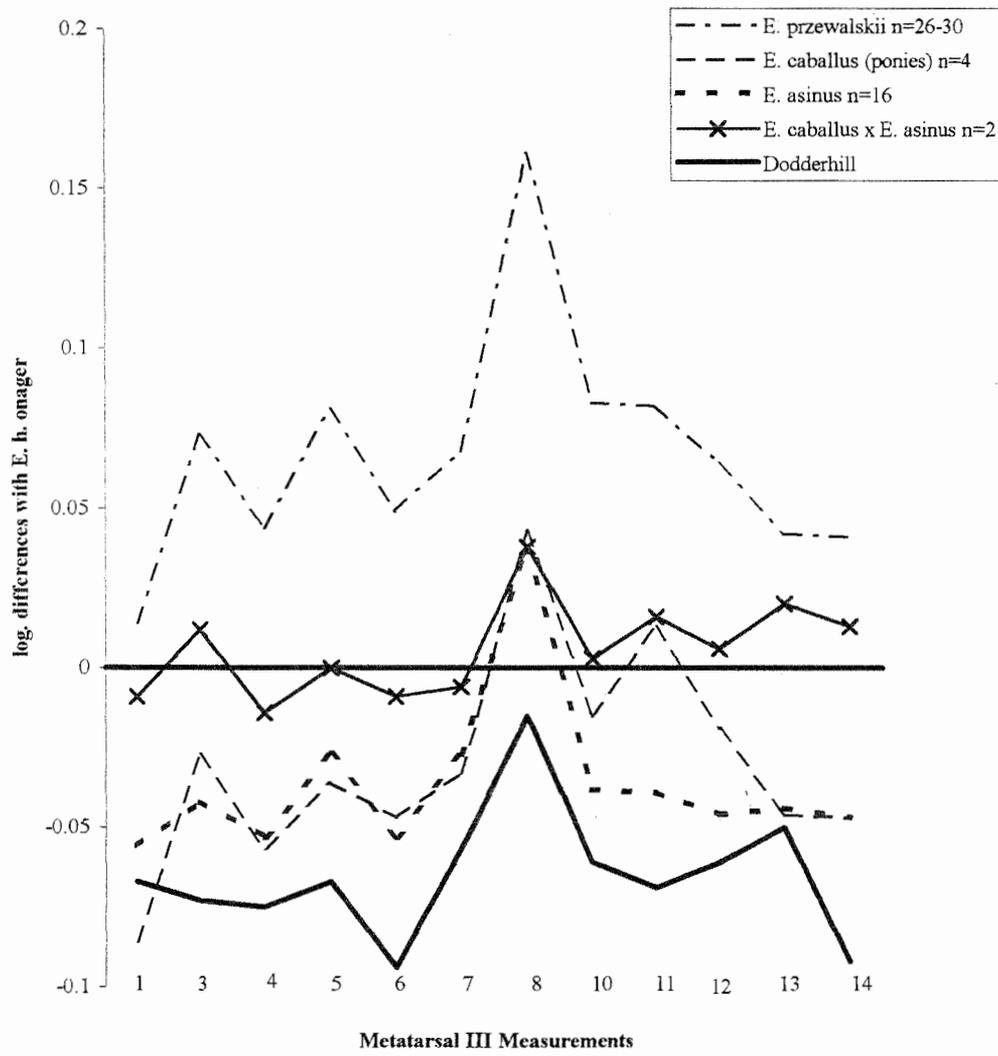
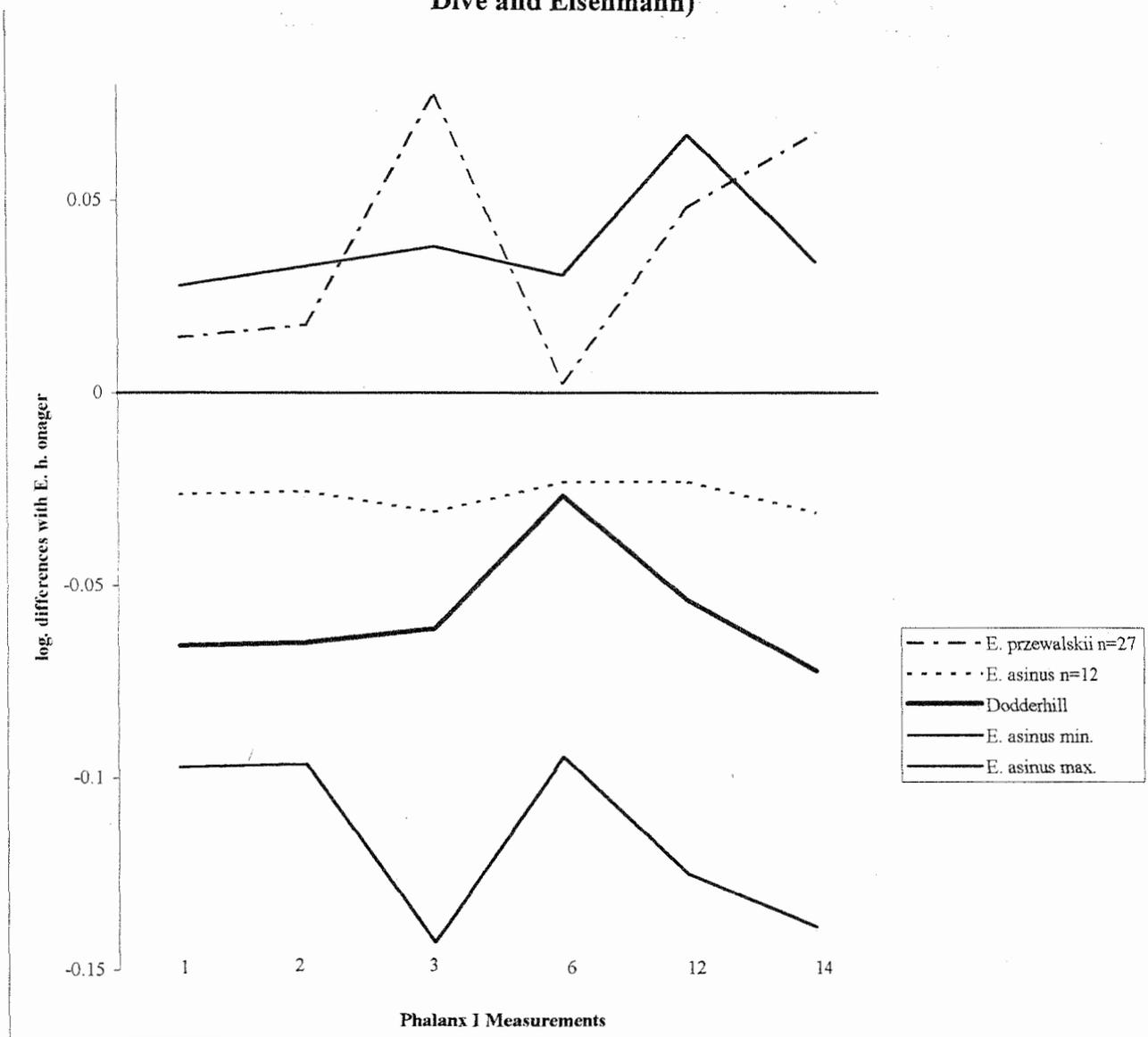


Table 8. Ratio diagrams of mean values for equid posterior phalanx 1 (based on Dive and Eisenmann)



8.3 The Metal Finds by Phil Parkes

The 23 metal finds were x-rayed using a Faxitron 43805 x-ray system and Kodak CX-5 x-ray film. A range of kilovoltage and time exposure were used.

Table 9. X-rayed Finds

Find No.	Context	Description
1	107	Tongs? <i>Fibulae</i> ? The x-ray determined that no decoration was present on the object.
2	57	Nail
3	57	Nail
4	57	Nail
5	57	Nail
9	75	Nail
10	75	Hook/broken loop?
11	75	Decorated object/fitting? The x-ray shows that there maybe small fragments of a dissimilar metal coating (e.g. tinning) surviving in the corners next to the ball. The object is broken and would have had another 'leg' extending on the opposite side to the one still present.
12	75	Blade fragment?
13	91	Horseshoe with nails in-situ.
14	91	Horseshoe with nails in-situ.
15	91	Horseshoe with nails in-situ.
16	121	Nail
17	121	Nail
18	121	Unknown
19	1	Button. No x-ray was taken as no further information would be gained.
20	100	½ horseshoe with no nails in-situ.
21	78	Nail
22	68	Nail
23	68	Unknown. The thin line on the x-ray suggests that a dissimilar metal coating (e.g. tinning) survives in places.
24	60	Nail
25	78	Unknown. The object was too dense to get further information.
26	78	Nail?

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11 Acknowledgements

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Appendix 1

List of contexts

Context Category Interpretation

1	Layer	Topsoil
2	Fill	?fill of pit?
3	Cut	more likely to be a natural undulation in mudstone
4	Layer	natural
5	Fill	pit fill
6	Cut	Pit
7	Fill	pit fill
8	Cut	series of pits
9	Layer	Demolition layer?
10	Layer	earlier demolition layer
11	Masonry	Probably the former Garden wall before the existing one was built to the south
12	Cut	post hole cut
13	Fill	post hole fill
14	Cut	The post appears to have been waggled to remove leaving larger shallower hole
15	Fill	fill of post hole 14
16	Cut	post hole cut
17	Fill	fill of post hole 16
18	Cut	post med pit
19	Fill	fill of pit 18
20	Layer	Disturbed layer former topsoil
21	Fill	fill of linear feature 24
22	Layer	mixed layer
23	Fill	lower fill of linear feature 24
24	Cut	linear feature
25	Fill	modern ceramic drainpipe and backfill in trench
26	Cut	cut for modern drainpipe
27	Fill	backfill of culvert 28
28	Masonry	brick culvert probably linked to the main house
29	Cut	cut for culvert 28
30	Fill	backfill around culvert 31
31	Masonry	Brick culvert
32	Cut	cut for culvert 31
33	Fill	?part of formal garden
34	Cut	?garden feature
35	Fill	fill of 34
36	Fill	fill of 34
37	Layer	former ground level
38	Layer	dump of grey ash
39	Fill	fill of posthole 40
40	Cut	?plant post
41	Fill	fill of pit 42
42	Cut	possibly a root hole associated with post hole 40
43	Fill	modern drainpipe
44	Cut	cut for drainpipe 43
45	Layer	mottled clay
46	Masonry	garden feature. Possible boundary wall of path 83
47	Layer	lower portion of topsoil
48	Cut	Cut for modern waterpipe
49	Cut	cut for old water main
50	Cut	cut for modern gas main
51	Cut	wall foundation trench
52	Fill	robbed out wall trench
53	Masonry	wall
54	Masonry	wall to north of garden
55	Cut	cut for wall 53
56	Cut	medieval linear feature/pit
57	Fill	fill of feature 56
58	Fill	upper fill of 56
59	Cut	later pit cutting 56

Context	Category	Interpretation
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60	Fill	post med pit fill
61	Cut	Roman enclosure
62	Fill	roman fill of ditch 61
63	Cut	Ditch
64	Fill	Upper fill of ditch 63
65	Cut	ditch
66	Cut	small post-medieval gully
67	Fill	upper fill of 69
68	Fill	lower fill of 69
69	Cut	Post med Ditch
70	Layer	finds context from above ditch 61 and fill 62
71	Fill	Primary fill of ?Roman ditch 63
72	Cut	post hole cut
73	Fill	post hole fill
74	Fill	post hole packing
75	Layer	metalled surface but shows no sign of wear; upper stones or flags removed?
76	Fill	fill of 77
77	Cut	roman pit
78	Fill	fill of 65
79	Fill	fill of 66
80	Cut	post med ditch
81	Fill	post med ditch fill
82	Layer	?levelling layer
83	Layer	post med path. See also wall 46
84	Cut	post-medieval flower bed
85	Fill	fill of 84
86	Fill	lense - part of 85
87	Cut	small ditch?
88	Fill	fill of 87
89	Layer	soil build up on 75
90	Cut	Grave cut
91	Fill	Grave fill
92	Cut	root hole
93	Fill	root hole fill
94	Layer	former garden soil or levelling layer
95	Cremationcut	cut for path 96
96	Fill	post med path
97	Cut	foundation cut of wall 54
98	Fill	backfill of wall 54 foundation
99	Masonry	Wall
100	Layer	clay loam
101	Fill	backfill of house moat
102	Fill	make up layer for brick damp coursing arch 105
103	Layer	tile surface
104	Layer	levelling layer for tile surface 103
105	Masonry	brick arch damp coursing
106	Masonry	wall thickening of 99 and outer wall of moat
107	Fill	roman pit fill
108	Cut	roman pit
109	Cut	post med pit
110	Fill	fill of post med pit
111	Cut	post med landscaping
112	Cut	pit or linear feature
113	Fill	pit fill
114	Layer	courtyard floor
115	Masonry	post med well
116	Fill	backfill of well 115
117	Layer	post med/modern driveway
118	Layer	makeup layer for driveway

Context Category Interpretation

119	Layer	makeup layer for driveway 117
120	Layer	natural
121	Layer	topsoil
122	Layer	topsoil
123	Fill	grave backfill
124	Cut	cut for yard
125	Cut	cut for dry moat
126	Masonry	wall around dry moat
127	Layer	driveway tarmac
128	Fill	tarmac levelling layer
129	Layer	redeposited natural clay
130	Fill	ceramic land drain and backfill
131	Cut	cut for manhole
132	Cut	drain cut
133	Layer	pea gravel foundation for tarmac
134	Masonry	brick manhole
135	Cut	foundation cut for driveway
136	Layer	levelling layer for tarmac
137	Fill	backfill of foundation cut 55

Appendix 2

List of finds

DOD98C Weight and quantity of finds by context

Context number Weight Quantity Comments

Animal bone

130	70	2	
1	30	3	
9	10	1	
50	130	6	
52	60	1	
57	2800	213	
58	270	15	
60	30	2	
62	650	26	
64	60	7	
68	290	21	
70	1250	19	
71	10	2	
75	500	18	
76	10	9	
83	80	5	
91	2750	214	ARTICULATED SKELETON
93	10	2	
100	90	2	
107	20	5	
110	10	2	
113	130	5	
121	710	19	
133	10	2	
62	5	1	from sample 8
78	6	2	
76	118	34	from sample 5

DOD98C Weight and quantity of finds by context

Context number	Weight	Quantity	Comments
113	4	3	from sample 7
107	5	5	from sample 6
	<hr/> 10118	646	

Brick

133	4100	16	
136	40	1	
10	50	2	
21	10	1	
38	360	2	
50	70	1	
91	260	45	
96	80	4	
133	4500	17	
	<hr/> 9470	89	

Clay pipe

133	10	1	
1	10	1	
19	10	1	
133	10	1	
	<hr/> 40	4	

Cu alloy objects

1	5	1	SMALL FIND [19]
107	5	1	SMALL FIND [1]
	<hr/> 10	2	

Daub/burnt clay

70	60	1	
	<hr/> 60	1	

DOD98C Weight and quantity of finds by context

Context number Weight Quantity Comments

Fish bone

107	20	2
	<hr/> 20	2

Flint

62	20	1	SMALL FIND [7]
70	5	1	SMALL FIND [6]
75	10	1	SMALL FIND [8]
	<hr/> 35	3	

Floor tile (ceramic)

75	80	5
121	120	4
	<hr/> 200	9

Mortar

110	10	4
	<hr/> 10	4

Nails

57	50	4	SMALL FINDS [2], [3], [4] & [5]
60	10	1	
68	10	1	
75	20	1	SMALL FIND [9]
78	10	1	SMALL FINDS [21] & [26]
121	20	2	SMALL FIND [16] & [17]
	<hr/> 120	10	

Other iron objects

68	20	1	
75	60	3	SMALL FINDS [10], [11] & [12]
78	190	2	SMALL FIND [25]

DOD98C Weight and quantity of finds by context

Context number	Weight	Quantity	Comments
91	710	3	SMALL FINDS [13], [14], [15]
100	80	1	SMALL FIND [20]
121	70	1	SMALL FIND [18]
	<hr/> 1130	11	

Plaster

60	20	1	
	<hr/> 20	1	

Pottery

136	10	1	
128	80	5	
130	10	2	
129	10	3	
1	230	26	
7	20	5	
8	5	2	
9	320	7	
13	5	1	
15	10	1	
17	10	1	
20	60	17	
21	20	6	
22	140	14	
23	40	10	
50	20	1	
57	1000	78	
58	40	2	
60	20	4	
62	270	23	

DOD98C Weight and quantity of finds by context

Context number Weight Quantity Comments

64	80	7	
68	180	14	
70	50	13	
71	10	1	
75	20	5	
76	60	5	
78	20	3	
83	20	2	
91	20	1	
98	10	1	
100	80	2	
107	90	2	
113	20	2	
117	10	1	
121	170	12	
121	1500	17	
133	1600	68	

6260 365

Roof tile (ceramic)

133	3600	80	
128	470	7	
130	170	2	
1	1100	40	
9	50	2	
10	20	1	
20	90	3	
23	40	1	
38	50	1	

DOD98C Weight and quantity of finds by context

Context number	Weight	Quantity	Comments
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52	260	5	
58	60	1	
60	200	7	
64	50	1	
68	1000	49	
70	50	4	
78	950	18	
79	90	6	
81	210	4	
83	3000	69	
83	280	7	
93	70	5	
96	50	1	
100	4500	90	
110	1000	23	
121	3250	78	
133	3600	80	

24210	585		
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Shell

107	30	1	
110	10	1	OYSTER

40	2		
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Slag

133	60	2	
1	750	1	GLASS SLAG?
57	20	1	
75	60	1	

DOD98C Weight and quantity of finds by context

Context number Weight Quantity Comments

133 60 2

950 7

Slate

10 40 1

40 1

Vessel glass

130 120 2

9 5 1

70 5 1

100 20 1

121 90 1

133 10 1

250 7

Window glass

23 5 1

64 5 1

10 2

52993