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Chapel Street, Tadcaster

Archaeological Evaluation

October 1993



West Yorkshire
Archaeology Service

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PARISH 8073
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Chapel Street, Tadcaster

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Between January and March 1993 West Yorkshire Archaeology Service was contracted by Samuel Smiths Old Brewery to carry out trial excavations in the area lying roughly between 3-23 Chapel Street and 12-18 St Joseph's Street, Tadcaster. The work was carried out ahead of proposed development of the site. The site is situated at what is possibly the western extent of the medieval/post-medieval town, well away from what is considered to be the focus of Roman and early medieval activity. Five trial trenches were excavated, revealing features and some possible structures of medieval date. There was some evidence of prehistoric and Roman activity in the area. The archaeological deposits appear to lie at quite a shallow depth and do not appear to have suffered too much disturbance from the former buildings on the site. The investigation of the ditch and bank earthworks, recorded parallel to St Joseph's Street in the 19th century, was prevented by former cellars in this area. It is anticipated that a level of further archaeological work would be required should development proceed.

1. Introduction

During the months of January to March 1993 the West Yorkshire Archaeology Service was contracted by Samuel Smiths Old Brewery to carry out a series of archaeological trial trench evaluations on three proposed development sites in the town of Tadcaster, North Yorkshire. Five trial trenches (T1, T2, T3, T4 and T7) were excavated to evaluate the site ahead of proposed development.

Tadcaster (SE485435) is situated on the A64 road, about 10 miles south-west of York. The town's origins are essentially based upon the exploitation of the immediately abundant natural elements, stone and water, as well as it being a principal bridging point of the River Wharfe.

In addition to being a route centre, Tadcaster as a commercial centre has developed around its quarrying and brewing industries. The western part of the town lies upon deposits of Upper Magnesian Limestone, which has been quarried from several outcrops around the town, possibly since Roman times. The combination of limestone overlying Middle Permian marl clays has resulted in vast subterranean reservoirs of mineral rich water which, through artesian wells, has been brought to the surface to serve the brewing industry.

The nucleus of the town is situated on the west bank where the undulating limestone topography lies at about 30m OD; the flatter boulder clay deposits around the eastern part of the town rarely rise above 15m OD. The limestone soils on the western side of the river tend to be brown calcareous earths, though elsewhere there are discrete areas of glacial sands and gravels associated with outcrops of Lower Red Sandstone, and alluvium in the low lying areas of the flood plain. On the lower eastern side of the river the geology comprises morrainic drift along the valley terraces and boulder clay. The resultant soils are silty clays, with poor drainage giving rise to some peat areas (Bartley 1962; Ordnance Survey 1974).

2. Historical Background

The history of Tadcaster has commanded considerable attention from travellers, antiquarians and local historians through the ages. Their observations, findings and resultant interpretations, up to the beginning of the twentieth century, have been compiled and published in some detail (Bogg 1904; Page 1907-13 and Speight 1902 & 1905). The town has been the subject of small scale research and investigation on an irregular basis over the last eight decades. Nevertheless, despite the known documentary and archaeological evidence, the nature and extent of Tadcaster's early development remains obscure. The threat of urban redevelopment on a large scale prompted an assessment of the town's archaeological priorities and needs in the 1970s (Tyler, n.d.). This requirement is once more being considered in the light of more recent evidence by a comprehensive assessment of Tadcaster's archaeological potential (Roberts in prep.).

2.1 The Prehistoric Period

A considerable quantity of prehistoric finds suggest early activity in the Tadcaster area. In view of the proximity of the Neolithic/Bronze Age henge at Newton Kyme, 2km up the river valley, such activity might be expected. A number of flint artefacts, axes, a palstave and a socketed celt, the majority of likely Bronze Age date, are known. However, many of these artefacts have no provenance and are no longer extant.

2.2 The Roman Period

In Roman times Tadcaster was known as *Calcaria*, in reference to it as a source of limestone. Tadcaster was certainly an integral part of quite a complex Roman landscape in the hinterland of York (*Eboracum*). Roman villas are known at Dalton Parlours and Kirby Wharfe, and there was a Roman fort at Newton Kyme. The complexities of the Roman road network to the west of Tadcaster has been discussed by Ramm (1976). The river crossing point at Tadcaster was a focus for south-west to north-east routes leading to York, the principal routes being Margary's roads 28b and 72b, coming from Castleford and Ilkley respectively (Margary 1957). The route of the Roman road through the modern town is far from certain. However, it is generally accepted (though the evidence is circumstantial) that it ran from Station Road, between the church and castle, to a ford at the river. The nature of the Roman presence in Tadcaster is not clear. The majority of the known provenanced finds, mainly pottery and coins, have come from the castle earthworks in and the general vicinity to the north of Westgate. Excavations behind the 'Old Fleece' (Whyman 1989) encountered deposits of broadly Roman date and some possible structures. It is likely that Roman activity was centred in this area, possibly protecting the river crossing, though as yet there is no firm evidence for a fort or fortlet.

2.3 The Saxon Period

There is a reasoned etymological argument for the continuation of settlement at Tadcaster into the immediate post-Roman period. The name *Kaelcacaestir* was used by Bede in the 7th century. It is thought to be directly derived from the Roman *Calcaria*, with a suffix *caestir*, providing the literal meaning 'limestone place and/or fortified town'. However, by the late Saxon period the 'kaelca' element was replaced by the personal name 'Tada' (Smith 1965). By the 11th century there was obviously a quite large settlement at Tadcaster. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle relates how King Harold drew up his levies and moored his fleet here before marching to fight the battle of Stamford Bridge in 1066 (Garmonsway 1972),

whilst in 1086 the Domesday Book alludes to a sizable manor worth 40s before 1066, twice as much as many of the surrounding settlements (Faull and Stinson 1986).

Tangible evidence of this period is rare. Some possible Anglian pottery and potential grubenhäuser (sunken floored houses) have been identified to the north of Westgate (Whyman 1989), though otherwise the evidence is restricted to a few 10th-century coins of King Olaf of Northumbria. Earthworks recorded in the last century (Ordnance Survey 1849) may feasibly represent the defences of Saxon or Danish burhs, though such a notion remains to be confirmed.

2.4 The Medieval Period

The earliest settlement nucleus was probably focused on the northern quarter of the present town, around the motte and bailey castle and the church. The castle, an early stronghold of the Percy family, may well have been superimposed upon an earlier Roman fortified site. Large amounts of Roman pottery and building materials have been recovered from the motte and peripheral earthwork banks (Ramm 1966). However, no formal investigations of the castle have been made and its form and date remain conjectural. On the face of it the present remains seem to conform to the classic model of a late 11th-century motte and bailey castle. Today there is no evidence that the castle ever had a stone phase, though the possibility of a shell keep recorded by Clarke (1889), and the tradition that the medieval bridge was built using stone from the castle (Toulmin Smith 1964) alludes to something more than a mere earth and timber structure.

The church, immediately to the south-east of the castle, dates to the late 11th/early 12th century. It is documented as having being destroyed in the Scots raids of 1318 and the present remains are essentially 15th century. Due to flooding the church was totally dismantled in the late 19th century, when evidence of its early form came to light (Fowler 1875). The earliest vicar is recorded in 1290, commensurate with the earliest phases of the town's medieval vicarage, to the west of Kirkgate (Wrathmell 1989). In addition there was a 12th-century hospital in the vicinity of the church, and a later chantry chapel on the eastern side of the river, believed to have been near the bridge.

Apart from the documentary record there is very little definite evidence for the topography of the medieval town. The town was obviously significant in its proximity to York and the Great North Road, for both road and river transport and trade. There are several references to transporting stone by river in the 13th and 14th centuries, implying formal wharves and moorings. The town is known to have possessed a charter for a market and a fair and possessed three water mills by the 13th century and at least two breweries/inns by the 14th century.

With the present level of information the best hypothesis for the medieval town's development would see Kirkgate, a wide thoroughfare leading from the church and castle to the main road and bridge, as the principal 'market' street in the early medieval town. As Tadcaster's commercial existence came to rely more and more on its function as a coaching station, rather than a seat of power for the Percy's, so the focus of the town seems to have moved. In the later medieval period, to High Street and Bridge Street on the western side of the river, and Commercial Street on the eastern side. Whether the town possessed defences at any stage is unclear. Certainly the earthworks shown on early maps (see above) could equally have medieval origins as Saxo- Danish ones.

2.5 Post-Medieval Period to 1650

A map dated 1611, and a comprehensive survey and map dated 1613, held in the Petworth Collection (West Sussex Record Office), provide a detailed layout of the township in the early 17th century. The town itself is portrayed as an essentially linear settlement on the High Street-Commercial Street axis. The castle (or manor) has not existed for some time and the only important buildings shown on the maps are the church and vicarage.

Tadcaster had strategic importance during the Civil War and thus played a significant part at times. The main incident occurred in 1642 when Fairfax's Parliamentarians defended the western part of the town against Newcastle's Royalists attacking from the east. A trench associated with this defence is purported to run parallel to the river bank from the bridge to the churchyard up until the mid 19th century (Bogg 1904); whilst certain earthwork anomalies on the castle site have been attributed to other defensive measures at this time (Ramm 1968).

3. The Proposed Development Site (Fig.1)

The area under investigation lies roughly between 3 and 23 Chapel Street, and 12 and 18 St Joseph's Street. The area today is clear and used for private car parking, apart from the raised garden belonging to 5 Chapel Street in the south of the area. The deeds plan of 1873 (see Appendix) shows cottages around the periphery of the area, in particular along the frontage of Chapel Street. More cottages, outbuildings and yards are shown occupying the centre of the area in an arrangement that is still prevalent in 1891 (Ordnance Survey 1891).

The area of concern lies at the western margins of what is considered to be the early town nucleus. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1849) shows a ditch and bank earthwork running nearly the full length of the eastern side of St Joseph's Street (then *Back Street*). The southern continuation of the ditch, if not the bank, is probably marked today by the thoroughfares of Centre Lane and Roman Moat. The St Joseph's Street earthworks are no longer extant, though they were still partially visible at the turn of the century. They almost certainly (in part) represent earlier town defences, though for which period remains unknown. For a long time it was assumed that the 'trench that surrounded the town' was part of the defences of the Civil War (Langdale 1822; Speight 1902). However, this assertion seems unlikely as the line of the ditch (i.e. the route of St Joseph's Street, Centre Lane and Roman Moat) is portrayed on the town maps of 1611 and 1613. Camden thought that the ditch surrounding the town was part of the defences of the Roman town (Gough 1789). However, more recently its origins have been held to be post-Conquest (Barley 1975), though there is no firm evidence to suggest that they could not originate in the pre-Conquest (Saxon/Danish) period.

4. Evaluation Strategy (Fig. 2)

The proposed development involves the construction of a series of six small dwellings fronting onto Chapel Street, with garden areas to the rear. Two further dwellings and associated gardens are proposed in the northern part of the area. The central part of the area is intended to be used for car parking and some garaging, new access being proposed from St Joseph's Street. The only major ground disturbance proposed, other than foundation trenches, is that to facilitate a sewer entering the site from St Joseph's Street (beneath the

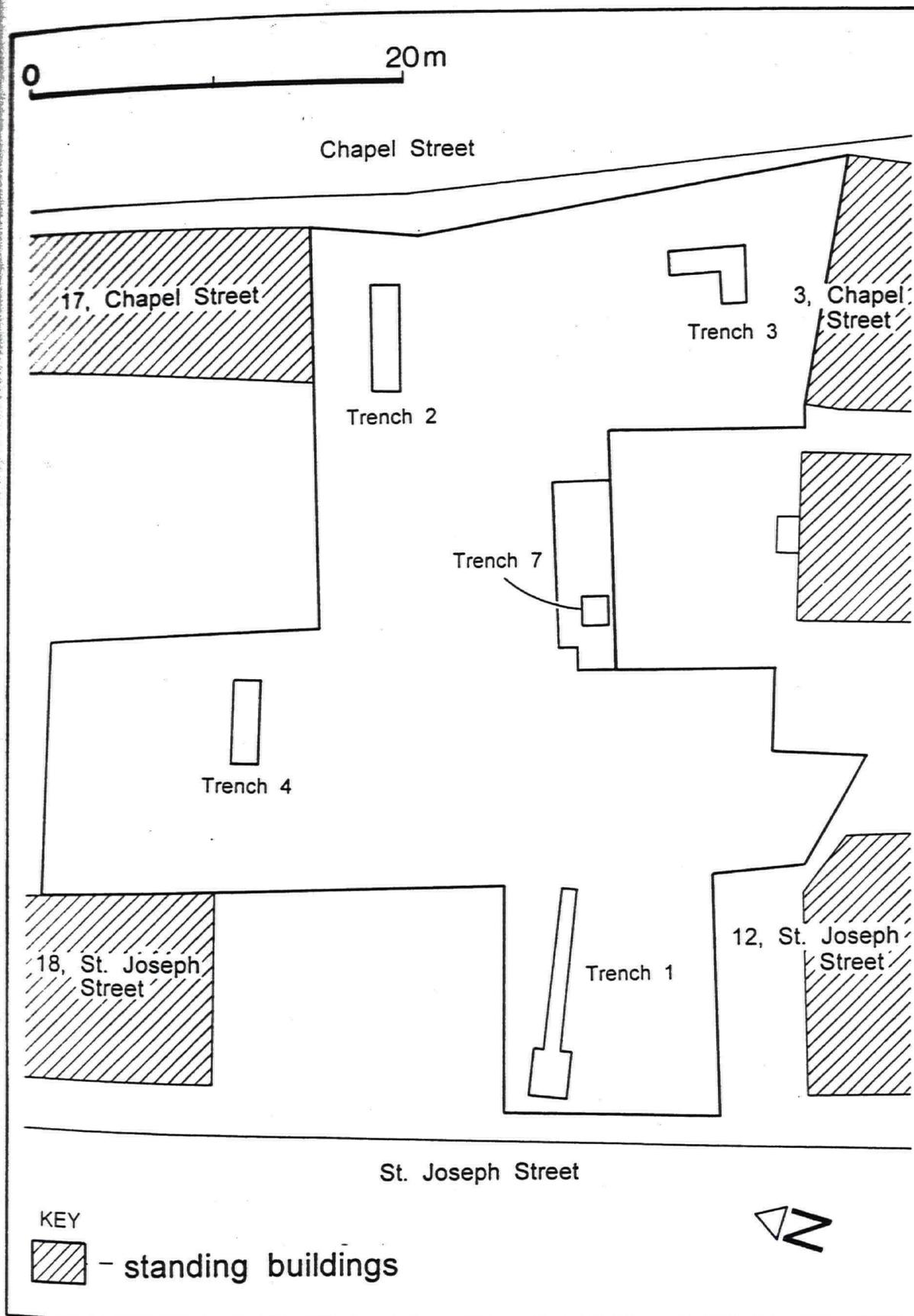


Fig.2. Trench location plan

new access road), and the removal of a narrow strip of the northern end of the raised and revetted garden of 5 Chapel Street.

Evaluation trenches were positioned in order to answer specific archaeological questions in areas that would be disturbed by the proposed development. An east-west trench (T1) was cut at right angles to St Joseph's Street, on the line of the proposed sewer trench, in order to try and detect the former earthwork ditch. A similarly oriented trench (T4) was situated in the north of the development area to try and detect any remnants of the bank (shown on the 1849 Ordnance Survey map). Two trenches (T2 and T3) were situated adjacent to Chapel Street, primarily to evaluate the nature of the archaeological deposits, but also in order to establish the degree of destruction caused by the construction of the previous cottages on the site. It was considered that the area may have been lowered in the recent past and the archaeology truncated. Therefore, a small trial trench (T7) was located in the northern end - the raised garden area which was to be removed - to investigate the depth of the archaeological deposits there.

5. Trial Trench Results (Fig 1)

Five trial trenches were excavated by machine down to potential archaeological deposits and thereafter dug by hand. All archaeological features encountered were excavated discretely and stratigraphically and a full written, drawn and photographic record was made.

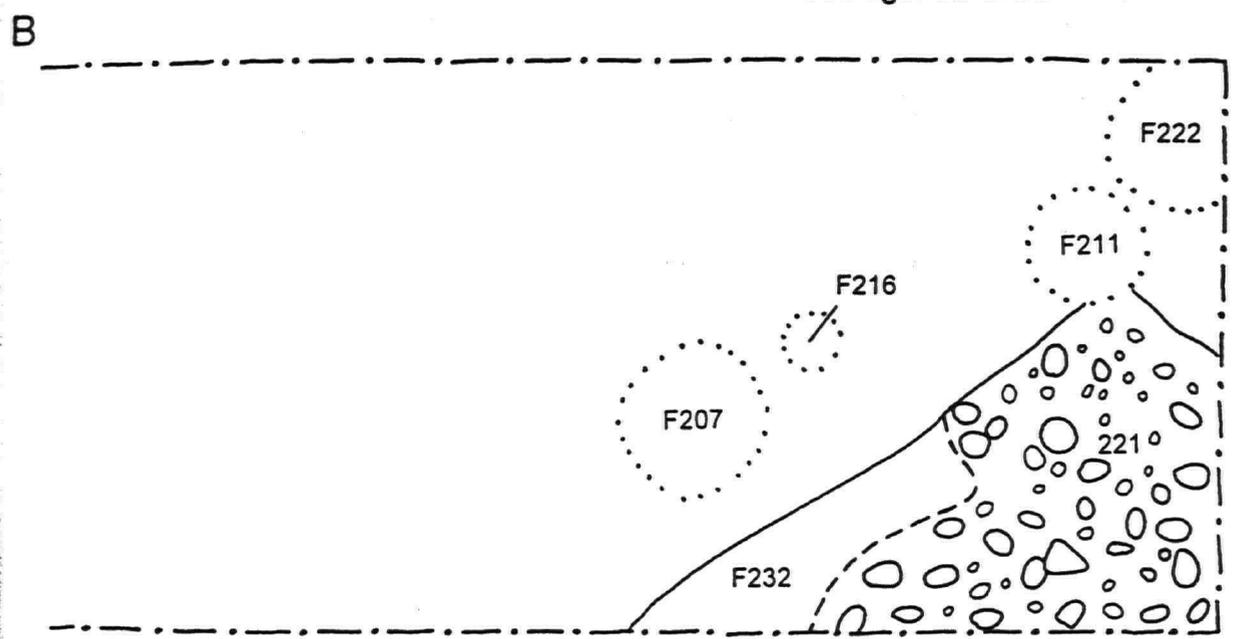
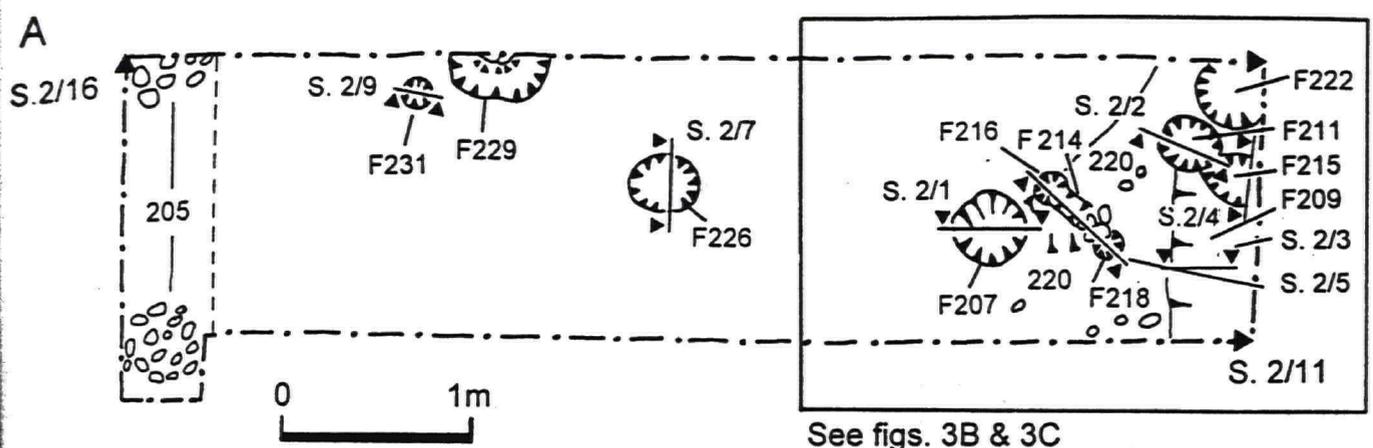
Trench 1 SE4846543295 (Fig 2)

Trench 1 was located on land between 12-18 St Joseph's Street. Its dimensions were 8.60m by 0.90m on an east-west axis. Some modern foundations were encountered at the west end of the trench. These consisted of walls (F103, F104, F105) and cellar backfill 106, a demolition deposit of bricks, mortar and limestone. To the east of the foundations a sterile clay layer 101 was excavated to a depth of 1.05m and proved to be natural. No finds were recovered from this trench and nothing of any archaeological importance was encountered. The summary context descriptions in stratigraphic sequence are as follows:

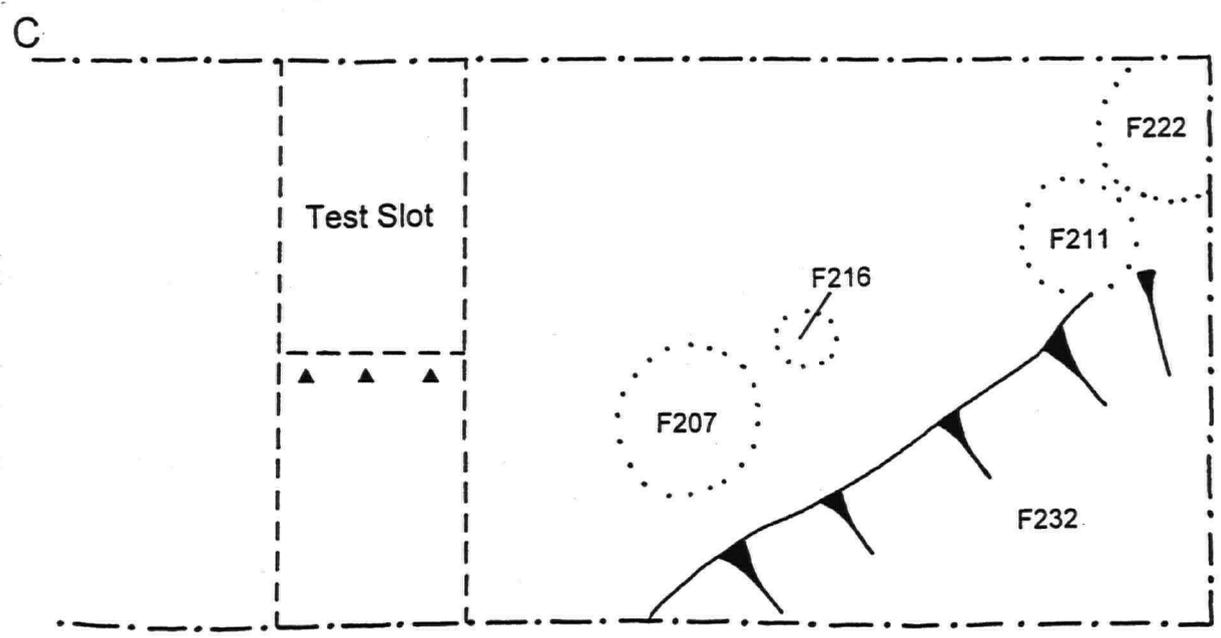
- 100: Cindery topsoil with a maximum depth of 0.35m
- 106: Cellar backfill excavated to a depth of 1.00m
- F103, F104, F105: Butting wall foundations
- 102: Cut for wall foundations
- 101: Natural orange clay excavated to a depth of 1.05m.

Trench 2 SE4332248491 (Figs 2, 3, 4 and 5)

Trench 2 was located in the north-western part of the proposed development area, oriented east-west with dimensions of 6.0m by 1.5m. Following mechanical stripping, to a depth of 0.35m, and manual cleaning several features became visible. At the western end was a deposit of irregular limestone rubble (205) oriented north-south and possibly a foundation for a structure. No construction cut was visible and the rubble appeared to sit directly upon the natural clay. Situated 1.3m east of the rubble (205) and dissected by the northern baulk, was post-hole F229 containing two fills 227 and 228. A large fragment of limestone had acted as post-packing and a body sherd of 12th-century medieval pottery was found in the lower fill 228.



Trench 2 showing 221 Pre 220



Trench 2 showing F232



Fig. 3 Excavation plan of trench 2 showing:
a. Feature remnants after removal of topsoil
b. Eastern end of trench following removal of 220
c. Eastern end of trench following removal of 221

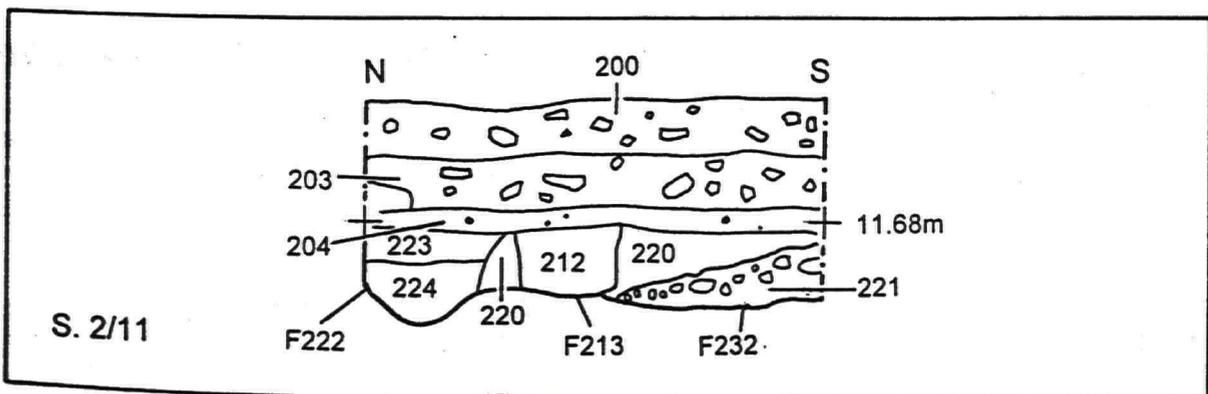
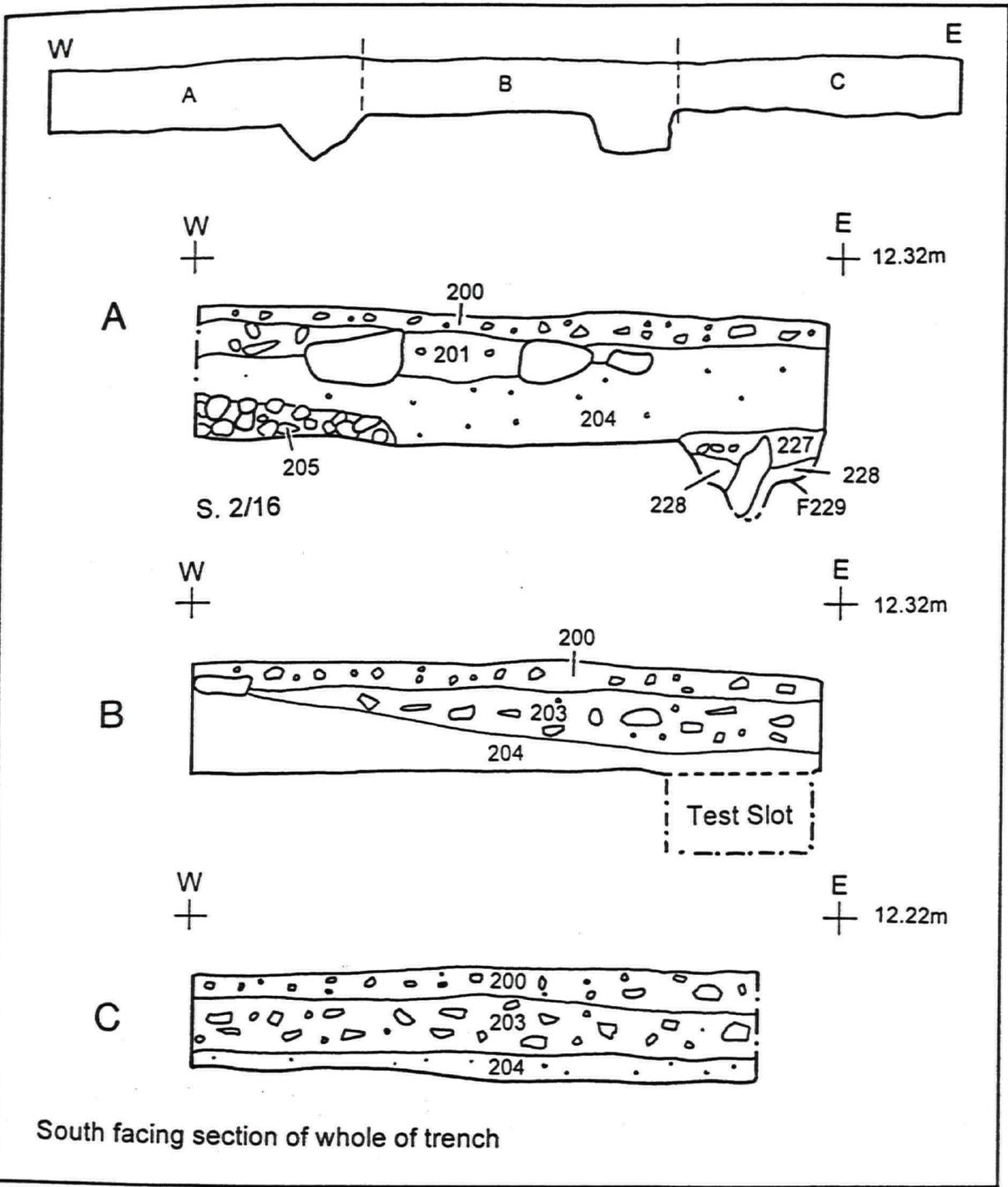


Fig. 4 Trench 2. Baulk sections



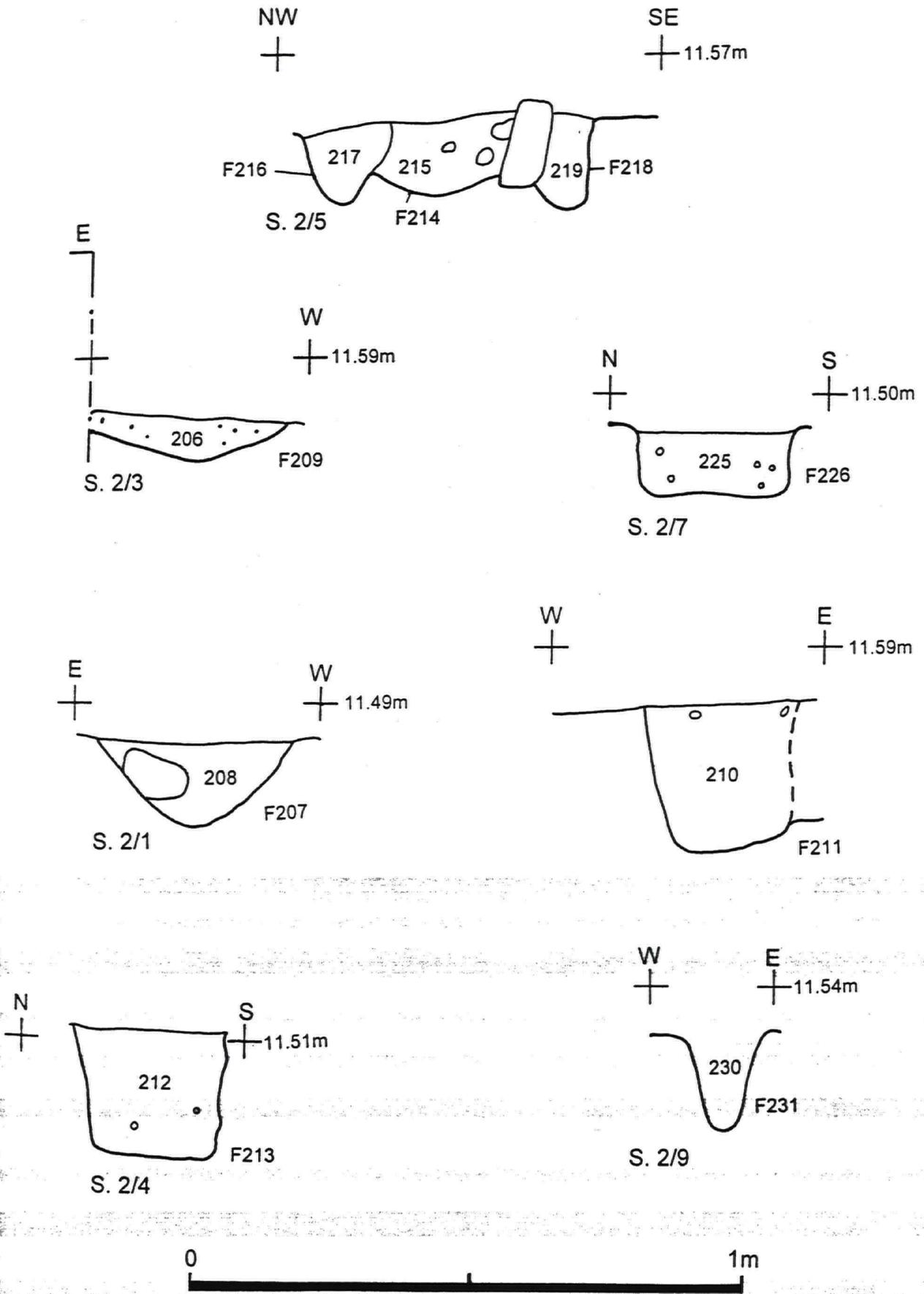


Fig. 5 Trench 2. Sections of excavated features

Immediately south-west of F229 was a small circular stake-hole (F231), with a diameter of 0.15m and a depth of 0.20m. No finds were present in its fill (230). About 1m to the south-east of (F229) was a circular steep sided post-hole (F226), with a diameter of 0.31m and depth of 0.14m. The fill (225) produced one sherd of medieval pottery.

A series of post-holes, layers and features were present in the eastern most part of the trench. Post hole F207 was circular and shallow sided with a diameter of 0.35m and a depth of 0.15m. To the east of F207 were two steep sided circular post-holes (F216 and F218) aligned north-west to south-east with diameters of 0.16m. Limestone post-packing was associated with F218. These two post-holes were connected by a narrow linking slot (F214; Figs 3 and 5). It is possible that the above three features were contemporary with one another and supported upstanding timbers. Both (F207, and F218) cut layer 220, a distinctly darker material existing in the south-east corner of the trench.

Post-holes F211, F213 and F222 situated in the far north-east corner of the trench were all circular with steep sides and flat bases. Feature F211 was later than both F213 and F209. The latter was a shallow gully that ran parallel to the eastern baulk. (Figs 3, 4 and 5). Post-holes (F213 and F222) cut layer 220 and were both partially concealed beneath the baulk.

The removal of layer 220 revealed a cobbled surface of water-worn stones (221) which lay within a shallow feature F232 occupying the south-eastern corner of the excavated trench (Figs 3 and 4).

Trench 3 SE4850343305 (Figs 2, 6 and 7)

Trench 3 was located in the south-eastern corner of the proposed development area 5m west of Chapel Street. Its L-shaped plan measured 4.5m by 3.2m.

Following mechanical excavation to a depth of 0.3m and manual cleaning three modern features became visible. These were Feature F314, a construction trench containing a modern brick wall which ran into the south-west corner; Feature F312, a modern pipe trench 0.4m wide running east-west through the trench; and Feature F305, a modern chimney base made up of bricks, situated towards the northern end of the trench. This had cut an earlier post-hole (F317; Figs 6 and 7). Its fill (306) contained fourteen sherds of medieval pottery and one flint fragment. One meter north of F317 lay a small shallow stake-hole (F309). Although only 0.06m of its fill (308) remained two sherds of medieval pot were still recovered. Both F317 and F309 had cut through layer 318, a silty clay with charcoal inclusions, which contained one flint flake, two sherds of medieval pottery and one small sherd of abraded Roman samian ware.

The northern edge of the pipe trench (F312) had cut the fills (323 and 321) of two post-holes (F324 and F322) respectively which were partially concealed beneath the eastern baulk. Both these fills had also been truncated by a shallow sided linear feature (F320). What survived of F322 and F324 suggests that they were circular and shallow sided features. The fill of F322 produced four flint fragments two of which appeared to have been re-touched. The linear feature F320 was oriented south-west to north-east and was partially concealed by the eastern baulk. It had gently sloping sides with a flat base and appeared to be butt ending to the south west where it was truncated by the modern pipe trench (F312). Its fill (319) a brown silty clay produced three flint flakes.

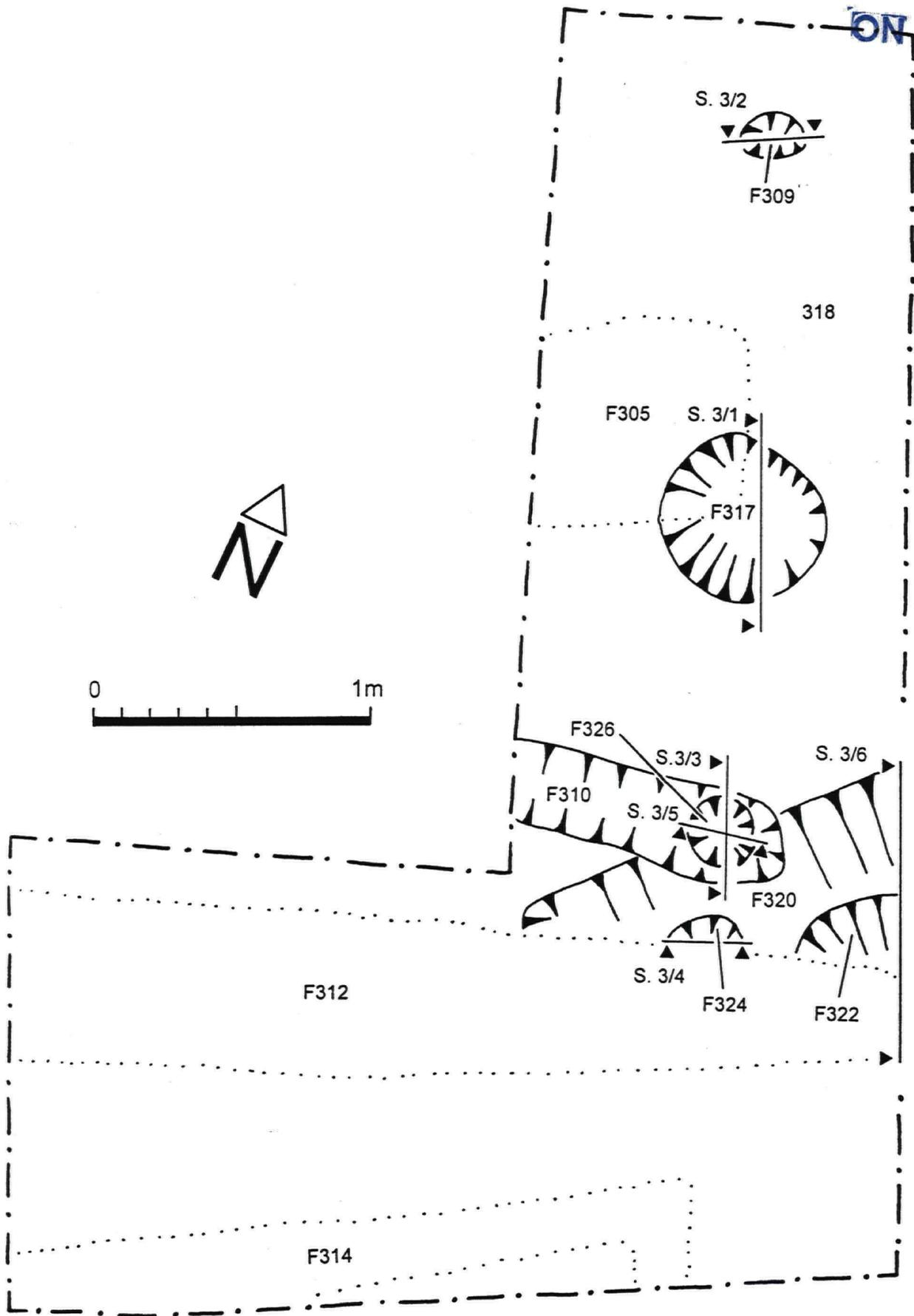


Fig. 6 Excavation plan of trench 3 showing remnants of features after removal of topsoil

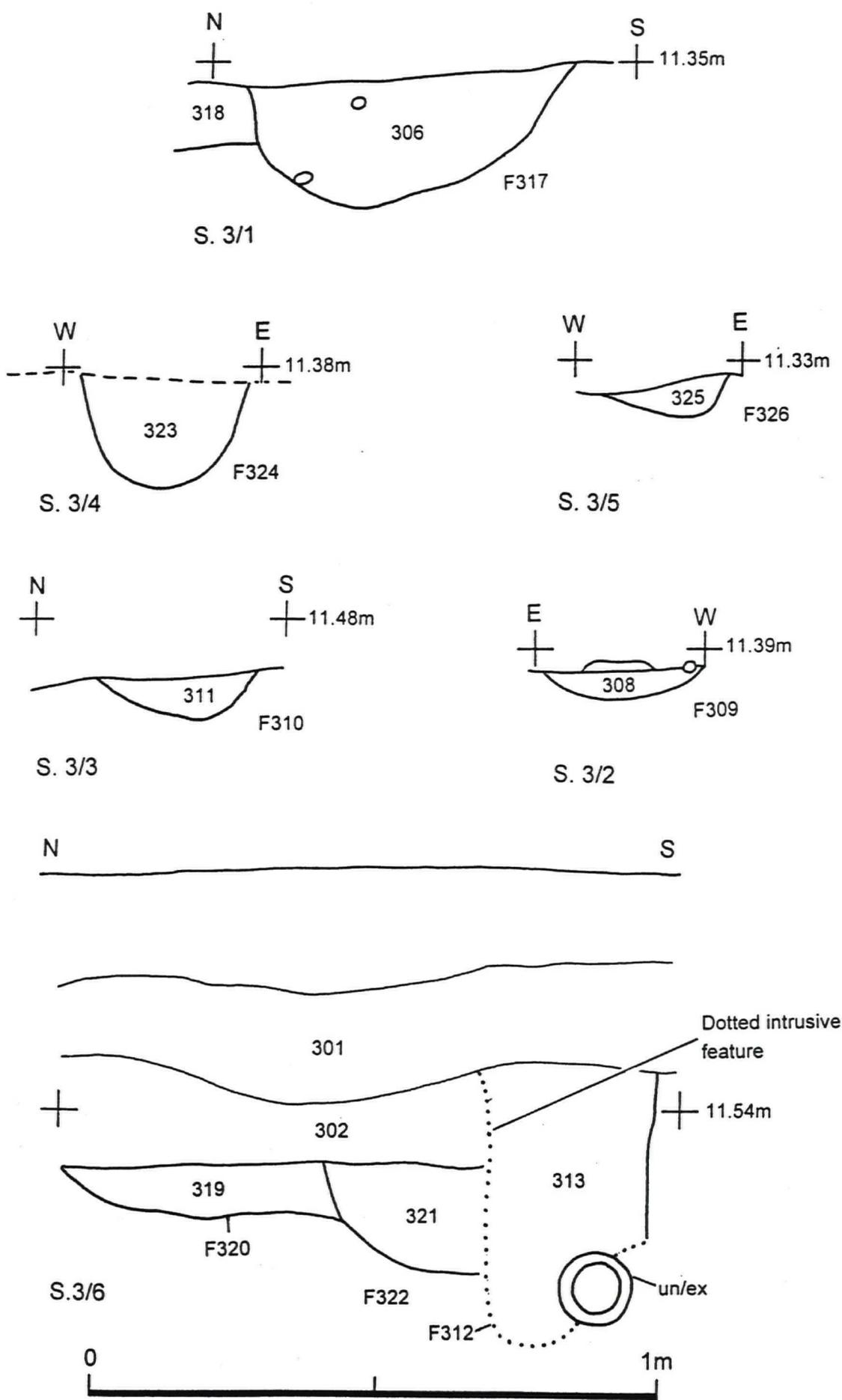


Fig. 7 Trench 3. Section drawings of excavated features

Feature F310 was oriented east-west. It was butt ended to the west where it truncated feature (F320). The sides were shallow forming a U-shaped base and the remnants of an earlier post-hole (F326) were present in its butt end showing as a shallow circular cut only 0.11m deep.

It is not possible to interpret with any accuracy the function of linear feature F320 but post-holes F309, F317 and F326 do create a line running parallel with Chapel Street and existing buildings and linear feature F310 might be interpreted as a structural beam slot.

The presence of worked flint within some of these deposits suggests that some prehistoric activity had occurred somewhere close by, but it is not likely that they were associated with the above features which seem to have been of medieval origin.

Trench 4 SE48469E43315 (Figs 2 and 8)

Trench 4 was located 3m north of the stone wall dividing the properties of 18 St Joseph's Street and 17 Chapel Street. It measured 4.50m by 1.50m and it was oriented east-west. The modern material was machine excavated to a depth of 0.40m onto layer 402, a brown silty clay, which was then cleaned by hand. This yielded a quantity of animal bone along with post-medieval pottery, clay pipe, brick and tile fragments. At the extreme western end of the trench two features, F405 and F408, were identified partially concealed beneath the western baulk. Feature F405, situated in the north-eastern corner, was sub-circular in plan, shallow sided and 0.55m deep. Its fills, 403, a modern looking ashy deposit, and 404, a thin band of clay, both contained post-medieval pottery, suggesting a post-medieval date for this small pit.

Pre-dating F405 was an apparently linear feature (F408) with steep sides and a flat base. It was partially concealed beneath the eastern baulk. Its one fill, a red brown silty clay (406), contained post-medieval pottery and glass, along with two fragments of animal bone. Although F408 was earlier than F405 the date of this feature still appears to be fairly recent. To the west of F408 and below layer 402, were three more layers. The stratigraphic sequence was 407 (a band of silty clay with abundant limestone fragments yielding one sherd of medieval pottery); 409 (a very thin band of silty clay containing no finds); and 410 (a sterile looking deposit of clay which yielded one bone fragment). Exploratory excavation at the eastern end of the trench revealed a natural clay layer (411) below layer 410.

Trench 7 SE4848343301 (Fig 2)

A trench 1.50m square was excavated through the elevated garden lawn of 5 Chapel Street. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered to a depth of 1.2m. The only finds were in the top two layers (700 and 701) and these consisted of modern pottery and clay pipe fragments, mortar, a few bone and shell fragments, and one iron nail. The layers revealed in stratigraphic sequence were as follows.

- 700 Topsoil, with a depth of 0.19m
- 701 Layer of sandy loam with a small amount of rubble, depth of 0.15m-0.40m
- 702 Layer of dark brown clay silt, with a depth of 0.10m-0.46m
- 703 Layer of red brown clay with a depth of 0.25m-0.30m.

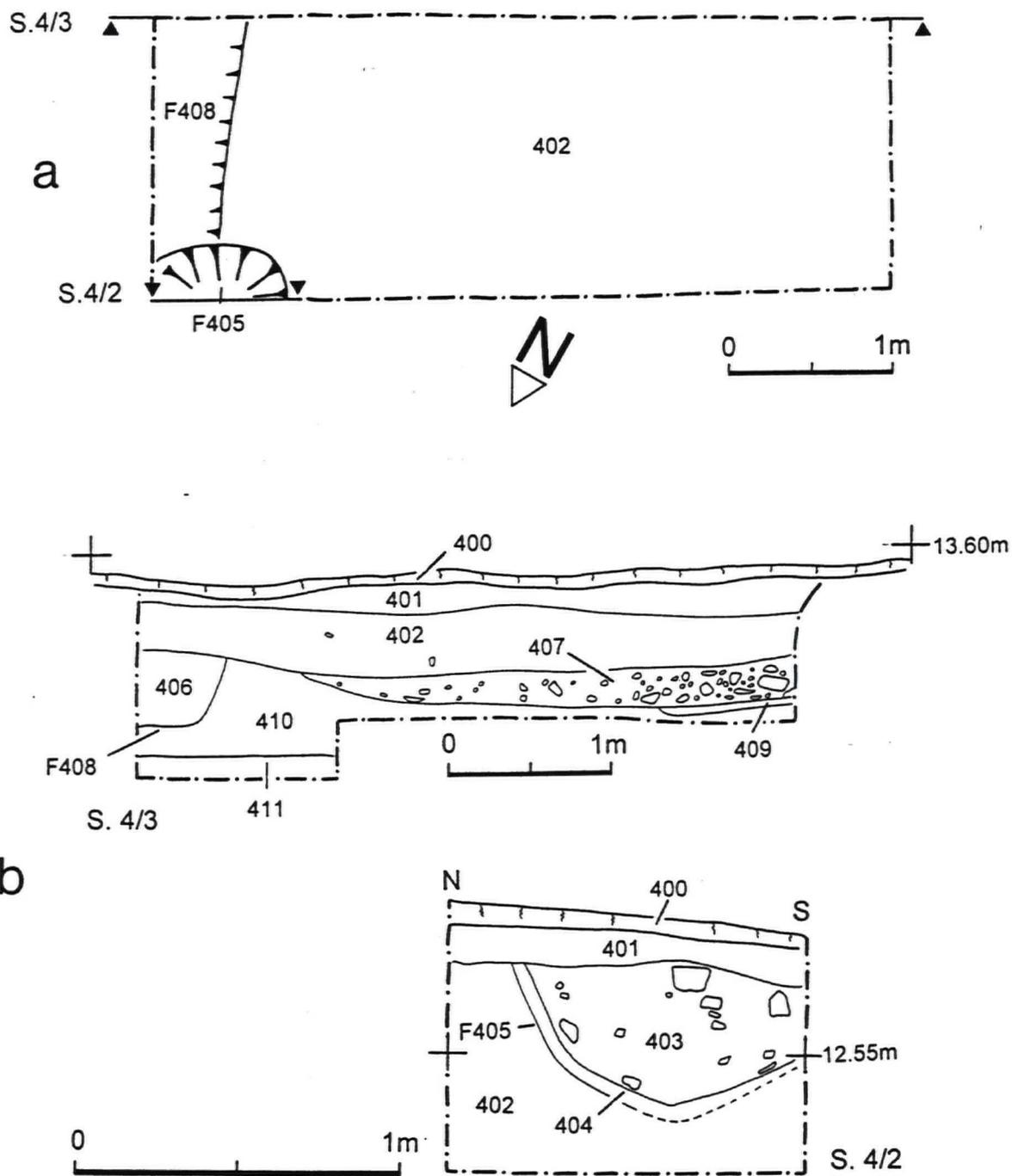


Fig. 8 a: Excavation plan of trench 4 showing feature remnants after removal of topsoil
 b: Trench 4 section drawings

6. Finds Reports

6.1 Medieval Pottery by Dr C.G. Cumberpatch

Introduction

The pottery from the evaluative excavations in Tadcaster was examined by the author on the 29th April and 4th May 1993. The material is described on a trench-by-trench basis. The fabric types have been fully described in a number of recent reports, including Kirkstall Abbey (Moorhouse and Slowikowski 1987) and Pontefract (Cumberpatch unpublished; Slowikowski, unpublished). The emphasis in this summary report is on the medieval pottery. Roman material has been noted and briefly described in order to demonstrate the nature and extent of residuality and disturbance.

Trench 2

The assemblage from trench 2 consists of five sherds from three contexts. All of the pottery is of medieval date, the earliest appearing to be the sherd from context 228, which, although lacking diagnostic traits linking it to a particular source, can be dated to the 12th century through the use of splashed glaze which was replaced by suspension glazes during the latter quarter of the 12th century (Hayfield 1984). Of the remaining material, two sherds are of sandy textured fabrics and too heavily abraded to be identified. Two are of medieval Gritty wares, datable in general terms to between the 13th and early 15th centuries.

Trench 3

The assemblage from Trench 3 consists of 22 stratified sherds and one unstratified Roman sherd, the former including two abraded sherds of Roman pottery (contexts 306 and 318), both probably residual. Contexts 306 and 308 contain medieval Gritty wares, datable to between the 13th and early 15th centuries. The earliest medieval pottery appears to be the two sherds of Pimply type ware from context 318 which can be dated to between the later 12th and later 13th centuries. The latest context, 313, is post-medieval in date.

Trench 4

The assemblage from Trench 4 is dominated by post-medieval pottery (19 out of 24 sherds) with the four sherds of medieval pottery showing signs of abrasion which suggests that they are residual. It is difficult to put a date on the post-medieval material, but it would seem to be no earlier than the 17th century. The residual medieval sherds date to between the 13th and 15th centuries. Other material from the trench (clay pipes, brick and tile) confirms the post-medieval nature of the deposits.

Trench 7

The assemblage from Trench 7 consists of 32 sherds of pottery together with fragments of clay pipes, bricks and mortar. The material from context 700 is exclusively recent in date, late 19th to 20th century.

The group from context 701 consists of a mixture of medieval wares (including Pimply wares and later medieval green glazed sandy types) and post-medieval wares. Later medieval and post-medieval material dominates the group and it is possible that the Pimply wares are residual.

Summary

The examination of the pottery from Tadcaster indicates the existence of well preserved medieval layers beneath the modern town. Trenches 2 and 3 are particularly notable in this respect with a relatively low degree of intrusive material. Trench 4 does not appear to have cut medieval deposits, the medieval sherds seeming to be residual. Medieval pottery from trench 7 seems likewise to be mainly residual, although the greater quantities involved may be significant.

Catalogue

Trench 2

Context 206

- One small, abraded body sherd in a fine Gritty ware
- One small, heavily abraded fine sandy sherd of medieval type
- One small, abraded red oxidised sandy ware sherd with green glaze internally. Medieval type.

Context 225

One flat base, medieval Gritty ware in a dense, hard fabric with quartz grit. Self slipped internally and externally giving a slightly metallic surface.

Context 228

One sherd (freshly broken into two) in a medieval fine sandy fabric with fine white (calcareous) inclusions and one lump of possible grog. Oxidised internally and externally with a grey core. Splash glazed externally with spots of green glaze.

Trench 3

Unstratified

One slightly abraded rim sherd of Samian ware. The diameter and size suggests a cup or bowl.

Context 306

Thirteen sherds of medieval Gritty ware showing some variation in specific characteristics, but of the same general type. Three are blackened externally. One sherd of Roman grey ware, abraded.

Context 308

One sherd (with fresh break) of medieval Gritty ware type. Abundant angular quartz grit in a dense homogeneous fabric, blackened externally with an oxidised, buff interior.

Context 313

Four sherds of post-medieval wares:

- 1) One small chip of yellow glazed tableware.
- 2) Two sherds in a hard grey fabric of unidentified type.
- 3) One sherd in a very hard, 'stoneware-like' fabric with fine quartz inclusions, wet-hand finish internally and externally.

Context 318

- One abraded chip of Samian ware
- Two body sherds of medieval Gritty ware, resembling Pimply ware.

Trench 4**Context 402**

- One clay pipe bowl
- One clay pipe stem
- Four fragments of brick/tile
- Two fragments of stone
- One heavily abraded body sherd of Pimply/Hillam ware type
- One body sherd of white glazed tableware
- One body sherd of blackware/colour glazed ware
- Two fragments of 17th/18th century slipware (yellow on brown)
- One fragment of (?)late medieval green glazed ware
- One body sherd, stoneware, white fabric, mottled brown externally.
- Two fragments of colour glazed type ware
- One base sherd, flat with corrugation forming lower part of wall
- One body sherd green glazed ware, possibly medieval

Context 403

- One body sherd of Brown Glazed Coarse ware, glazed internally and externally.
- One large fragment of tile.

Context 404

- One body sherd of post-medieval colour glazed type ware, with black, shiny, metallic glaze internally and externally.
- One body sherd of brown, colour glazed type ware.

Context 406

- Post-medieval (?17th/18th century) tableware:
 - 1) Rim of a flat plate or dish with a geometric border and part of floral decoration
 - 2) Body sherd (plate/dish) with blue on white floral decoration on both sides and part of a word (CONVOLVO...) externally. It is not clear whether this is a makers mark or part of a Latin sentence or motto.
- Two sherds of Brown Glazed Coarse ware
- Two sherds of post-medieval (?17th - 18th century) glazed wares, one brown externally and yellow internally, the other glazed green internally and externally, flaked).
- One abraded body sherd of Pimply/Hillam type ware
- One fragment of unidentified late medieval type ware with sparse, but large, white non-crystalline inclusions.
- Two fragments of brick.
- Eight fragments of glass.

Context 407

- One small gritty ware body sherd in a dense fabric with abundant quartz grit.

Trench 7

Context 700

Eight sherds of post-medieval tableware, blue on white geometric and floral designs, one cup handle. 18th/19th century type.

Two sherds of anonymous red sandy ware

Context 701

Eight sherds of post-medieval tableware (plates and bowls), five body sherds (two joining) and three rims. All with blue decoration on white.

Three clay pipe stems

One clay pipe bowl

One fragment of bone

One fragment of brick

Two fragments of mortar

Two sherds of Pimply type ware:

1) Everted, square sectioned rim, fine textured gritty fabric

2) Flat base with a knife trimmed body.

Two sherds of Brown Glazed Coarseware:

1) Pancheon rim, brown glaze internally, unglazed rim and external surface.

2) Flat base with a small foot, dark brown glaze externally, unglazed externally.

Late medieval green glazed bowl/pancheon. Rounded rim with green glaze internally, unglazed externally.

Two sherds of Brown Glazed Coarseware type, but rather finer finish than is common.

One body sherd and one rim sherd, the latter from an open vessel.

Post-medieval yellow glazed ware, one 'D' shaped handle, one ring foot base.

Three sherds of unidentified red oxidised ware, probably late medieval/post-medieval.

One handle stump/body sherd of Colour Glazed type ware, yellow and brown mottled and streaky glaze externally, mainly yellow internally.

One body sherd of Late Medieval Green Glazed ware, in an oxidised sandy fabric.

One sherd, possibly a fragment of an industrial vessel. Reduced grey fabric with abundant fine quartz, difficult to distinguish interior and exterior, but one side is rough and rather cindery in texture, the other smoother.

6.2 Animal Bone by D.Berg

A small number of animal bones was recovered from trenches 2, 3, 4 and 7; the majority derived from context 402 on Trench 4. All the bone was in excellent condition, although fragments from lower levels showed a higher degree of erosion, and there were very few fresh breaks observed. All the species identified represent domestic food waste, with the exception of a single horse tooth and a dog first phalange. Some cattle elements; vertebrae, ribs and one proximal humerus, show signs of extensive butchery using both knives and heavy choppers and many of the unidentified bones are small longbone chips resulting from butchery. Signs of butchery on the bones of smaller species, sheep/goat and pig, was less evident.

There is evidence of adult sheep and cattle being eaten as well as immature cattle and pigs. A number of elements show the results of chewing by carnivores, dogs and/or pigs, suggesting waste bones were deliberately fed to these animals or were accessible as surface accumulations prior to being buried.

Species/trench	Trench 2	Trench 3	Trench 4	Trench 7	Total
Sheep/goat		1	21	2	24
Cattle		1	27	3	31
Pig			3		3
Horse			1		1
Dog			1		1
Bird		1			1
Unidentified	2		31		33
TOTAL	2	3	84	5	94

The total species quantification for each trench is provided in the table above with the details for each context listed in the following catalogue.

Animal bone catalogue

Trench	Context	Species	Bone	n	cut	chop	fbreak	chewed	notes
T2	206	Unidentified	Unidentified	2			1		
T3	306	Sheep/goat	Scapula	1					distal fused
T3	306	Cattle	Metapodial	1					
T3	306	Bird	Unidentified	1					
T4	402	Sheep/goat	Maxilla	1					incl. 2 teeth
T4	402	Sheep/goat	Premaxilla	1					
T4	402	Sheep/goat	Upper molar	4					
T4	402	Sheep/goat	Lower incisor	1					
T4	402	Sheep/goat	Radius	2	1				1 proximal fused
T4	402	Sheep/goat	Metacarpal	1					proximal fused
T4	402	Sheep/goat	Metacarpal	1	1			1	distal fused
T4	402	Sheep/goat	Pelvis	1				1	
T4	402	Sheep/goat	Femur	3					
T4	402	Sheep/goat	Tibia	1					
T4	402	Cattle	Horn core	1					
T4	402	Cattle	Upper molar	1					
T4	402	Cattle	Lower molar	3					
T4	402	Cattle	Lower M3	1					adult
T4	402	Cattle	Tooth fragment	1					
T4	402	Cattle	Mandible	2					
T4	402	Cattle	Humerus	4	1				
T4	402	Cattle	Carpal	1					
T4	402	Cattle	Pelvis	1	1		1		
T4	402	Cattle	Femur	2					
T4	402	Cattle	Metapodial	2					unfused epiphysis
T4	402	Cattle	Vertebra	3	1	1			
T4	402	Cattle	Rib	1	1				
T4	402	Pig	Upper canine	1					female
T4	402	Pig	Metatarsal	1					distal not fused
T4	402	Pig	Vertebra	1					centrum unfused
T4	402	Dog	Phalanx I	1					distal fused
T4	402	Unidentified	Unidentified	21					
T4	403	Cattle	Humerus	2		1			same bone
T4	406	Sheep/goat	Pelvis	1				1	
T4	406	Sheep/goat	Tibia	2				1	
T4	406	Sheep/goat	Rib	1					
T4	406	Cattle	Carpal	1	1				

Trench	Context	Species	Bone	n	cut	chop	fbreak	chewed	notes
T4	406	Cattle	Metapodial	1					unfused epiphysis
T4	406	Horse	Lower tooth	1					
T4	406	Unidentified	Unidentified	10					
T4	410	Sheep/goat	Vertebra	1					
T7	701	Sheep/goat	Lower M3	1					adult
T7	701	Sheep/goat	Humerus	1					distal fused
T7	701	Cattle	Upper tooth	1					
T7	701	Cattle	Humerus	1	1				
T7	701	Cattle	Rib	1					
T7	701	Oyster shell		2					

6.3 Flint by C.J. Wright

The flint from Trench 3 fill 321 can be dated to the Mesolithic period, approximately 8500-3000BC. The occurrence of a blank for a microlith; two finished microliths, one of which showed use damage; and debitage possibly suggests the proximity of a flint working area of mesolithic date. Similarly, the flint recovered from context 319 is likely to have derived from a working area. However, it is not possible to date closely these few pieces. Many of the pieces from this context are patinated white, which is usually caused by contact with chalk.

Catalogue

Context

306 Bipolar remnant. Has scars of five flakes detached from it. Struck off multi directionally - Class C (Clark 1960, 216). Later was burnt. 25mm by 21mm by 12

318 Waste flake. 13mm by 13mm by 2mm

319 Core using two opposed and parallel platforms - Class B1 (Clark 1960, 216). Patinated white. 36mm by 15mm by 8mm.

Waste flake, patinated white. 24mm by 17mm by 6mm

Debitage, later burnt. 20mm by 9mm by 6mm

Core rejuvenating flake. Punctiform platform and four or five flake scars on dorsal. Subsequently burnt. White patina. 7mm by 10mm by 2mm.

Shattered piece or debitage. 5mm by 7mm by 1mm

Two waste flakes from retouch, both patinated white. Both smaller than 3mm.

321 Scalene triangle microlith. Retouched on right side. 12mm by 6mm by 1mm

Crescentic microlith. Retouched on right side. Has use damage. 12mm by 4mm by 1mm

Blank for microlith. 12mm by 5mm by 1mm.

Debitage of irregular shape. 9mm by 12mm by 2mm.

6.4 Environmental Sample Results by C. Morris

Soil samples were aggregated over a 1mm mesh sieve using a Siraf tank and the flot captured in a 500 micron sieve. The resulting samples were allowed to air dry before examination under a low-powered microscope. The results are as follows:

Trench 2:

Layer 220 - several tiny fragments of charcoal too small to identify to species.

Trench 3:

Fill 311 of feature (F310) - approximately 2gm of charcoal fragments too small to identify to species.

Fill 319 of feature (F320) - one small cinder fragment; one small charcoal fragment; four small, unworked flint fragments and two small animal bone fragments.

7. Discussion

The evaluation trenches in the western part of the proposed development area (Trenches 1 and 4) failed to locate any remnants of the ditch and bank earthwork recorded in the last century. In the case of Trench 1 the investigation of the ditch was foiled by the presence of cellars on the frontage of St Joseph's Street. No evidence of a bank was revealed in Trench 4; it is possible that levelling in the past may, in part, explain the residuality and mixed nature of deposits in this area today. The location and further investigation of the ditch, in particular, might be given consideration in any further site works across its line. As well as yielding datable material, its fill could contain well-preserved waterlogged deposits which could vastly increase our knowledge of past life styles and environment in the town.

In the eastern part of the proposed development area the excavations in Trenches 2 and 3 revealed that the former cottages on the frontage of Chapel Street had caused minimal disturbance to the archaeological deposits. The latter lay at a relatively shallow depth (between 0.1 and 0.2m) and essentially consisted of features cutting natural. It is very likely that the archaeology in this area has been truncated in the past (perhaps during the construction of the former buildings). However, the excavation results from Trench 7, in the raised garden, suggest that the archaeological deposits had not been reduced significantly.

Apart from the suggestion of a wall foundation (205) parallel to Chapel Street, Trench 2 contained evidence for a possible sunken floored structure (F232) oriented north-south. Another similarly oriented feature (F320) might be represented in Trench 3. The pottery from both Trenches 2 and 3 suggests medieval activity no earlier than the 12th century, though a handful of prehistoric flints and Roman pottery sherds (presumed residual) attest to earlier activity in the area.

The features revealed in Trenches 2 and 3 would seem to be medieval in date and lie just within the extreme western extent of the town (perhaps in the lee of an earthwork bank surrounding the town). Given the current lack of knowledge about the development and topography of the medieval town, the archaeology of this area is of significance. The deposits do not appear to have been excessively damaged by activity on the site to date, though their relatively shallow depth and ephemeral nature makes them particularly vulnerable to any surface stripping and tracking by large plant vehicles.

It would be appropriate that any further development on this site takes into account the potential and vulnerable nature of the archaeology of the site. It is anticipated that any future groundworks will involve an archaeological component. This might require archaeological monitoring and manual excavation of discrete areas, or, in the case of wholesale reduction of ground level, the requirement for topsoil stripping, cleaning, planning and sample excavation of archaeological features in the eastern part of the site.

Acknowledgements

Research: Ian Roberts BSc MIFA

Fieldwork: Charlie Morris BA,
Alistair Webb BA,
Richard Barkle BA,
Magda Staddon BA,
Anthony Martin BSc,
Jacqui Mulville BSc

Figures: Andy Swann MAAIS,
Suzanne Frankland

Report: Ian Roberts (1-4 & 7),
Charlie Morris (5 & 6.4),
Dr C.G. Cumberpatch (6.1),
David Berg BA (6.2),
Jamie Wright BSc (6.3)

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Appendix

