

CHAPTER 6 MEDIEVAL AND LATER

6.1 PHASE 5 — THE DITCH (F103/300)

A ditch, with a maximum depth of 0.75m and an average width of 1.50m, ran east-west through Areas 1 and 3 before turning northwards. It was a continuation of the ditch found in earlier excavations by Bernard Johnson, but unfortunately it was not possible to trace the full extent of the feature. The ditch varied slightly in profile and width (fig 64, pl 21) while in Area 3 a shallow ledge increased the width of the feature to 1.80m (Section 24). No ledge was detected in Area 1, although Section 41 suggests the existence of one which would have extended further to the north of the area excavated. The ditch appeared to have gradually silted up and few finds came from the primary silt layers except some residual material from the Early Bronze Age ditch which the ditch had cut through in Area 3. The ultimate fill (F102.1/300.1) was earthy and produced quantities of pottery, bone and building debris suggesting that at this stage material was being dumped into the feature. In Area 1 a layer of brown earth with pebbles (layer 103) containing similar finds sealed the ditch and possibly represented a deliberate levelling of the feature. F103/300 probably served as a boundary or enclosure ditch surrounding a habitation site to the north. The finds indicate a date in the 12th century for the final infilling of the feature. The catalogue of ditch fill is on Microfiche 52.

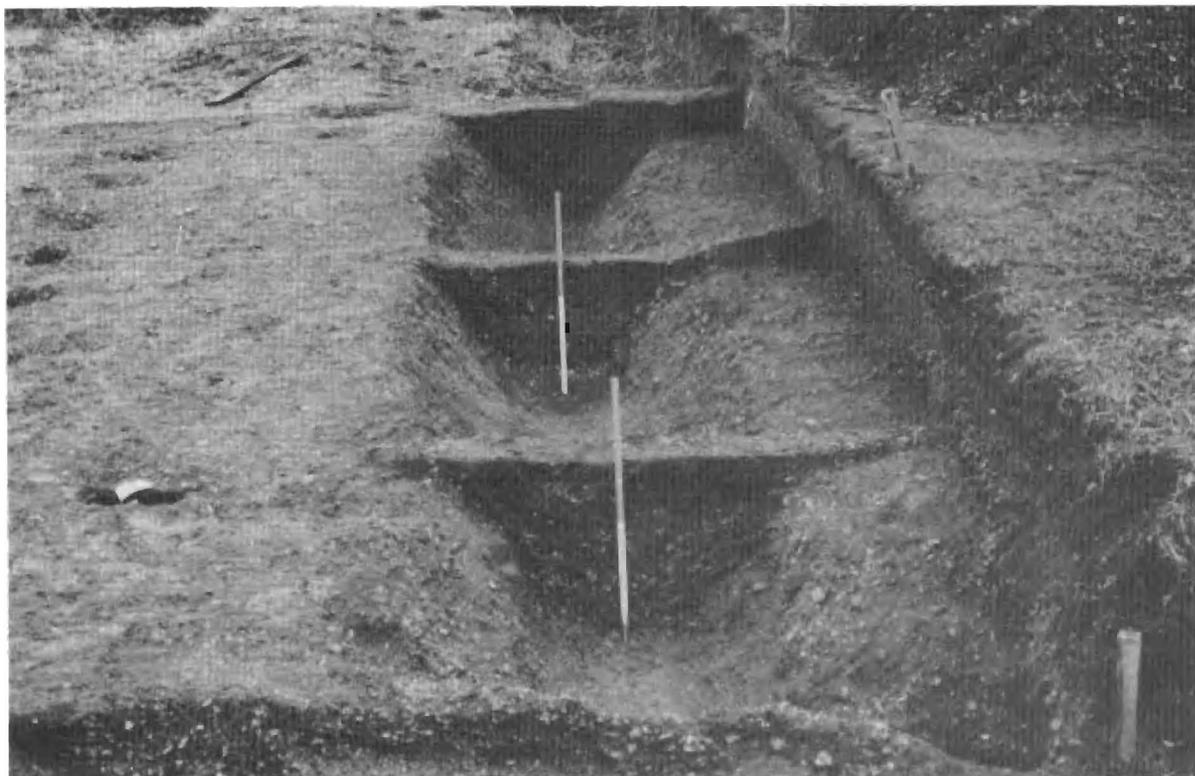


Plate 21 Medieval ditch F103

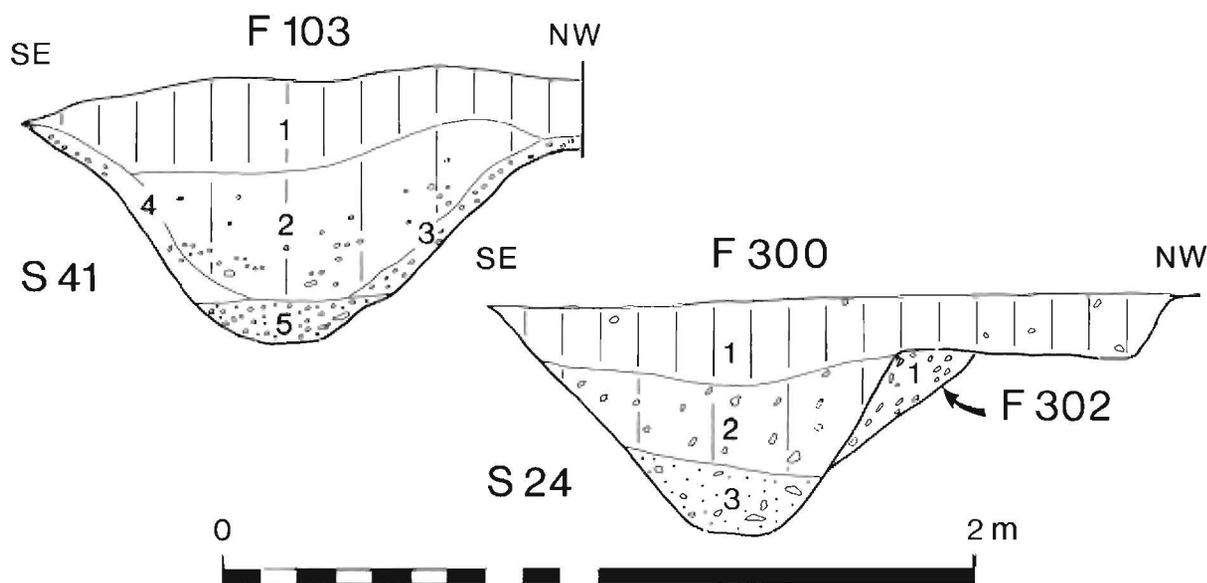


Fig 64 Sections 24 and 41 across Medieval ditch F103/300

6.2 THE POTTERY (fig 65)

The majority of the pottery came from the ultimate fill of the medieval ditch (F103.1/300.1). Three of the sherds described (2, 8 and 9), were found in a layer (103) partly sealing the ditch, while one sherd (1) from the ploughsoil (layer 300) immediately above the ditch has also been included. Apart from two residual sherds from earlier periods the pottery forms a roughly contemporary assemblage for which a date range between the middle to the end of the 12th century has been proposed. The catalogue of Medieval pottery is on Microfiche 53–4.

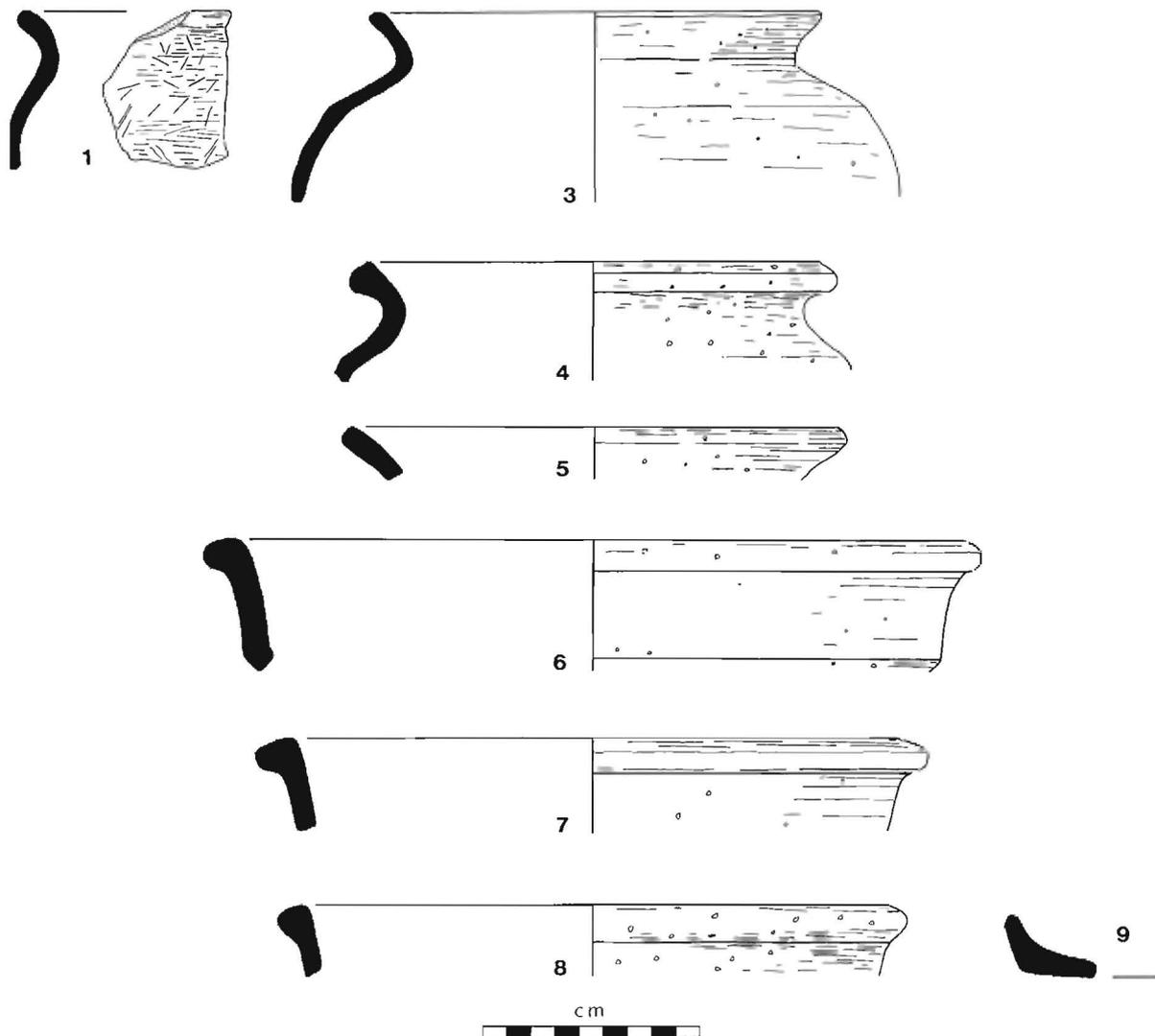


Fig 65 Medieval pottery 1-9

6.3 PHASE 6 — POST-MEDIEVAL FEATURES

The spacing and line of 4 postholes (F475, 478, 480, 482) may indicate the existence of a fence in the Post-medieval period. The similarity of F485 to these features suggests that it may belong to the same period. Three other postholes (F401, 402, 403) may have belonged to a similar structure.

The little dating evidence obtained appeared to be 18th or 19th century. The catalogue of post-medieval postholes is on Microfiche 55–6 and of post-medieval pits is on Microfiche 57–9.

6.4 FEATURES OF UNCERTAIN DATE

A number of pits and postholes could not be assigned to any one period either by the material found within them or by their association with other more readily dateable features.

6 postholes, however, (F107, 106, 139, 105, 104, 109) formed a continuous straight line (fig 3) and could have belonged to a timber structure such as a fence or a building. If F102 — a posthole at right angles to this line and cut into the ultimate fill of the medieval ditch (F103.1) — formed part of the same feature, it would suggest that the structure postdated F103 and possibly extended to the north of the area excavated. The catalogue of postholes of uncertain date is on Microfiche 58 and of pits of uncertain date is on Microfiche 60–1.