

Archaeological Excavation

**Court House Farm Moated Site
Pembridge
Herefordshire**

NGR: SO 3908 5800

SMR No. 42577

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CONTENTS

1.	NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY	3
2.	INTRODUCTION.....	4
	2.1 Soil Characteristics & Geology.....	4
3.	HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	5
4.	METHODOLOGY	5
5.	ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION	6
	5.1 Trench 1	6
	5.2 Trench 2	10
	5.3 Trench 3	18
6.	CONCLUSIONS.....	26
	6.1 Trench 1	26
	6.2 Trench 2	27
	6.3 Trench 3	29
7.	SUMMARY.....	30
	7.1 Trench 1	30
	7.2 Trench 2	31
	7.3 Trench 3	32
	7.4 Overview	32
8.	CONTEXT REGISTER.....	34
9.	APPENDICES	43

REPORT SPECIFICATION

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1. NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

In September-October 2004, Border Archaeology carried out a limited-scale excavation under Scheduled Monument Consent on the Court House Moated Site, Pembridge, on behalf of the Pembridge Amenity Trust.

The moated site comprises a large, irregular D-shaped mound 40m wide and 50m in length, surrounded by a moat about 15m wide and 2.5m deep. One trench was excavated within the moat and two on the summit of the mound.

The trench excavated within the NE corner of the moat revealed evidence of the original cut of the moat and of two subsequent re-cuts, as well as evidence of rubble deposits within the moat which may have been derived from masonry structures on top of the mound which had collapsed into the moat. The latest of the two re-cuts appears to have been made during the 14th century

In the two trenches excavated on the summit of the mound, evidence was revealed of walls associated with masonry structures on the mound, the earliest probably dating from the late 11th/early 12th century. It appears that these buildings were either destroyed or severely damaged by fire on two separate occasions during the medieval period. Following both of these two destruction events, the moat was scoured and deepened and the surface level on top of the mound was re-established, possibly using upcast material derived from the moat scouring, prior to the reconstruction of the buildings on the mound.

It is unclear when these phases of destruction and rebuilding occurred; unfortunately, there is no documentary record of the site being attacked or destroyed. However, based on the evidence of the pottery assemblage, it would appear that the first phase of destruction occurred at an early point in the history of the site (possibly in the early 12th century) while the second destruction event took place at a later date (possibly in the late 13th/14th century). There was probably a gap of a century or more between the two events.

Later records show that the buildings on the mound were intermittently repaired throughout the 15th and 16th centuries, when the site was in the hands of the Crown, and that occupation of the site had probably ceased by the early 17th century. However, the buildings on the mound were still standing until as late as the 1650s, when the antiquary Silas Taylor described the site as the 'mansion house' of the de Pembridge family, where 'there are yet the remains of a small keep or fortified castle'. Any surviving structural remains on the mound appear to have been completely removed by the 1840s.

2. INTRODUCTION

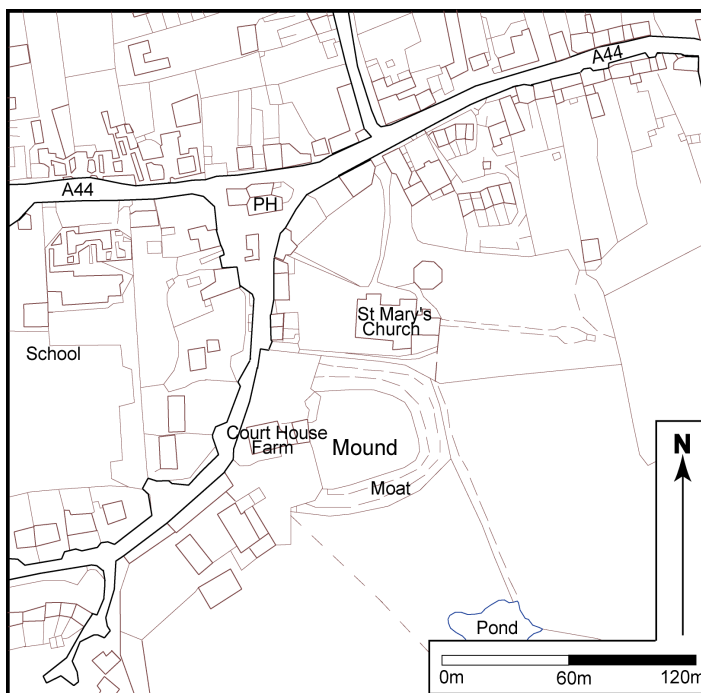
Border Archaeology was commissioned by Pembridge Amenity Trust to undertake a limited excavation of the Court House Farm Moated Site, this forming part of the wider investigative work undertaken on the Trust's behalf.

Scheduled Monument Consent was granted by DCMS London for three trenches of maximum dimensions 8.0m x 2.0m and work began in September 2004 involving both Border Archaeology staff and members of the Pembridge community.

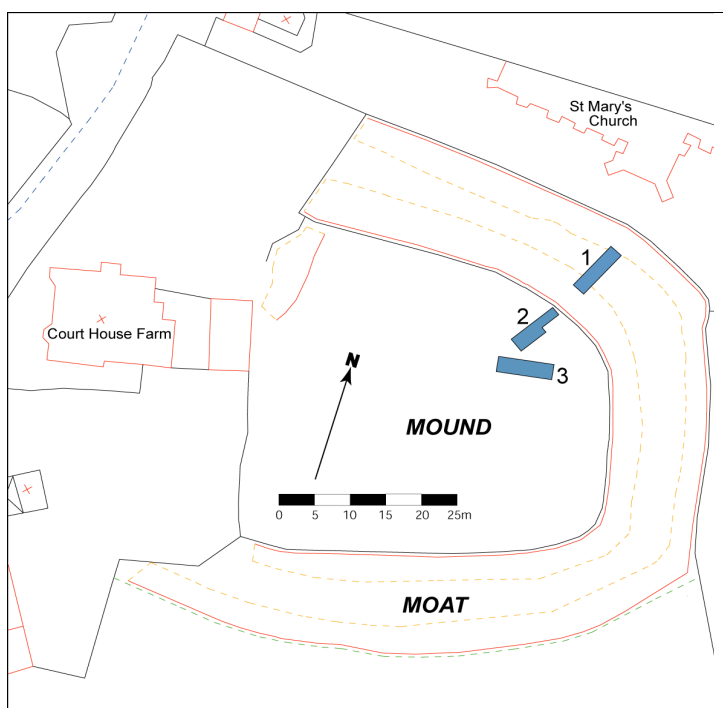
2.1 Soil Characteristics & Geology

The Soil Survey of England and Wales (1993) identifies the soil association at Pembridge as a Rowton (571A), which comprises well-drained fine silty and fine loamy soils, locally over gravel. Also present are some fine silty over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and seasonal waterlogging and some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine silty over clayey soils. The underlying geology comprises glaciofluvial or river terrace gravel and till.

This only context discovered during the excavation that may have represented unaffected geological deposits was (116) in Trench 1. However, so little of this deposit was exposed that its nature could not be accurately ascertained.



▲ Fig. 1: Site location plan



► Fig. 2: Plan of site showing trench locations

3. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

A detailed assessment of the history of the site (Report No. BA0433PAT) has been completed separately by Border Archaeology and should be considered in conjunction with this Report.

4. METHODOLOGY

Three trenches were located on the northern side of the mound and moat.

Trench 1 measured 8.0m x 2.0m and was aligned N-S within the moat, the intention being to evaluate the depth of the deposits, the original profile of the moat and any evidence of maintenance.

Trench 2 measured 8.0m x 1.5m and was aligned NE-SW. The trench was sited on the mound directly above Trench 1 with the NE edge located on the mound perimeter in order to investigate any surviving structural remains and potential defensive works. The trench width was subsequently extended to 2.0m at the SW end.

Trench 3 measured 8.0m x 2.0m and was aligned approximately E-W, its purpose being to further elucidate deposits revealed within Trench 2 and to further assess structural remains.

All trenches were excavated by hand using mattocks and shovels and cleaned by trowel. Large homogenous deposits were removed by mattock and shovel.

Trenches were recorded in plan and section and by photographic record. Plans and trench sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and feature sections and elevations at 1:10. The photographic record comprised colour print, black and white, colour slide and digital photographs.

A temporary benchmark (value 116.24m OD) was established on the site using height data obtained from the Ordnance Survey benchmark on Court House Farm and correlated with that located on St. Mary's Church.

Deposits within each trench were recorded using a sequential context numbering system, with each trench's contexts kept separate from the others by blocked divisions.

Deposits judged likely to provide useful environmental data were sampled as 15- or 20-litre bulk samples, wherever possible. Where deposits were too small to take a 15-litre sample, a bulk sample of all available, uncontaminated material was taken.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

Results have been grouped by trench and phase. No attempt to correlate the phases between trenches has been made, as no evidence to support any such correlation existed.

5.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 (**Plate 1; Fig. 3**) was located on the N side of the mound within the base of the extant remains of the moat. It measured 8.0m (N-S) x 2.0m (E-W). From the southernmost point of the trench, the moat rose 1.94m to the perimeter of the mound and from the northernmost point these rose 1.49m to the level of the churchyard.

The excavation recorded 18 contexts within this trench comprising at least three phases of activity.

5.1.1 Phase I

The earliest identifiable activity within Trench 1 [119] appeared to represent the original cut for the moat. It appears that the original moat was a defensive feature constructed on a significant scale, with a drop of more than 2.95m from the level of the churchyard and at least 4.25m from the top of the mound. Deposit (118) represented a period of standing water within the feature and may have been the primary fill of [119]. No finds were recovered associated with [119] and it is thus difficult to establish exactly when the moat was originally cut.

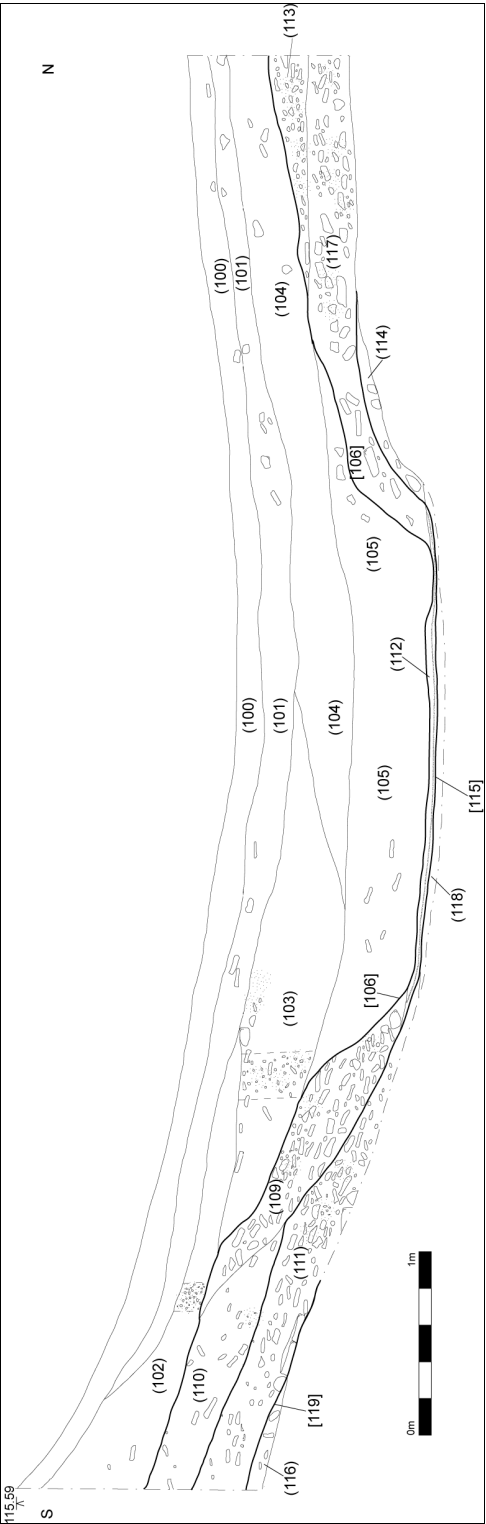
5.1.2 Phase II

The second phase of activity identified within Trench 1 was represented by [115], which was cut into deposit (116), a fairly sterile reddish-brown silty clay. This appeared to be a re-cutting of the moat and measured 1.6m from the highest point to the lowest within the trench, after truncation by Phase II cut [106], and had a maximum depth of 0.65m. The cut had uneven, gradual slopes and was filled by (112), (113), (114), (117), (111), (110) and (109). The base of this cut was 0.08m higher than that reached in [119].

Deposit (112) represented a period of standing water within the feature and may have been the primary fill of [115]. At the base of the deposit was a uniform 0.01-0.02m thick lense of charcoal, which appeared to represent the burnt remains of a structure, possibly a bridge, established within the moat. Given the limited extent of excavation it was difficult to establish whether this charcoal deposit was localised or continuous throughout the course of the moat.

Deposit (114) was a colluvial slump from the N side of the moat while (109), (110), (111), (113) and (117) represented a tumble of destruction or collapse material into the moat – potentially from both sides, although most dramatically on the S side. Contexts (113) and (109) may have been the same layer prior to Phase III cut [106] bisecting them, as may (111) and (117).

The lower deposits within [115] did not contain any datable artefacts and it was thus difficult to establish precisely when it was originally cut; however, pottery was recovered from upper fills (110) and (109), that within (109) mostly consisting of late 13th/14th century Herefordshire ware jug sherds and a small quantity of 15th/16th century pottery and tile fragments. The pottery from (110) also consisted largely of late 13th/14th century jug sherds. Based on the pottery evidence, it appears that there was a destructive collapse into the moat cut at some point during the late 13th/14th centuries. However, as the rate of accumulation prior to this collapse is unknown, it is difficult to say when feature [115] was originally cut.



▲ Plate 1 and Fig. 3: E-facing section of Trench 1

► Plate 2: 12th– 14th century pottery and roof-tile fragment recovered from deposit (105) within moat re-cut [106]

5.1.3 Phase III

Phase III began with re-cut [106], which appeared to follow the course of the moat and seemed likely to be a re-establishment of the defensive nature of the cut prior to a possible phase of rebuilding or enlargement of structures on the mound. This cleaning-out of debris did not extend to the original base of the feature, bottoming 0.08m above the limit of the excavation. The cut measured 2.24m from the highest point to the lowest and had a maximum depth of 1.06m, with uneven, gradual slopes, reflecting the fact that this trench evaluated the base of the moat rather than the full profile. Re-cut [106] was backfilled with (105), (104), (103), (102) and (101).

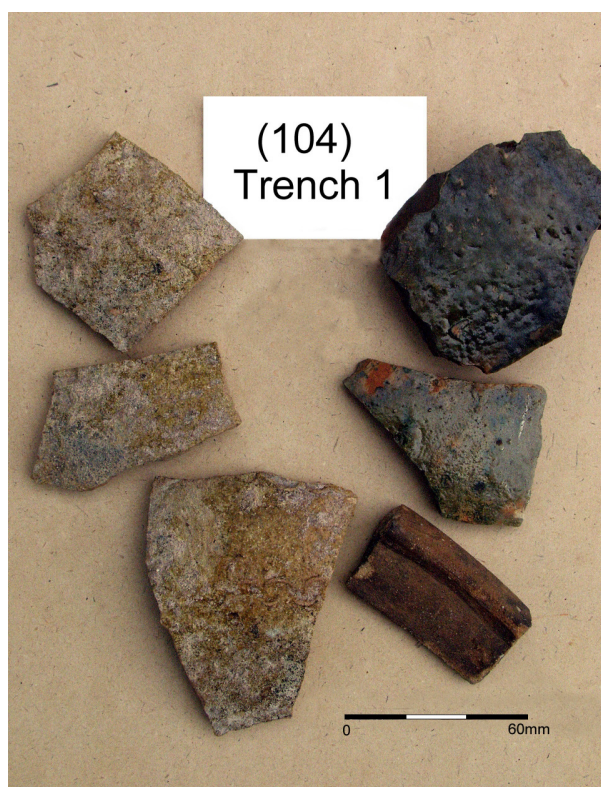
Context (105) represented a period of waterlogging and probably the initial usage period of [106]. Above this was a wedge of silts and gravels (104) from the N slope of the ditch, this being either colluvium or detritus from



maintenance of the churchyard. Over this, slumping in from the S slope, was a wedge of colluvial sandy silt (103) with further colluvium (102) from the southern slope underlying a subsoil formed of accumulated colluvium from both slopes (101).

Overlying (101) was modern topsoil (100), which produced a number of 19th/20th century finds, including a disarticulated skull (**Plate 4**), which was probably displaced during the mid-Victorian restoration of the church and, in particular, the S transept.

Pottery recovered from all the fills of [106] shows a steady accumulation of material ranging in date from the 12th to the 19th century. Deposits (104) and (105) both produced pottery mostly dating from the late 13th/14th century and a small number of sherds of 12th/13th Worcester ware (**Plates 2 & 3**). The 12th/13th century pottery can be considered to be intrusive and probably residual while the large quantity of 14th century



◄ Plate 3: 12th–14th century pottery sherds recovered from deposit (104) within moat re-cut [106]

pottery may be associated with the re-establishment and re-occupation of the site after the destruction episode at some point during the late 13th/14th centuries.

Deposit (103) produced 14th century pottery and (102) also had late medieval pottery within it. This suggests that the material slumping from the mound was banked-up material excavated from the moat during the cutting of [106]. Deposit (101) produced a wide range of small abraded fragments dating from the 12th to the 19th century suggesting that this was a garden or plough soil which had washed into the moat course.



▲ Plate 4: Disarticulated skull probably displaced during the mid-Victorian restoration of the church

5.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located on the crown of the mound and aligned NE-SW. The trench measured 8.0m x 1.5m, with its NE end aligned with the edge of the mound. A portion of the trench away from tree cover and extending 4.5m from the SW end was subsequently widened by 0.5m on the SE side.

The excavation recorded 19 contexts representing at least three phases of activity from early medieval (Phase I) through to the post-medieval period (Phase III). Health and safety considerations prevented further excavation.

5.2.1 Phase I

Stony layer (217) (**Figs 4 & 9; Plate 5**) and wall cut [205] represented the earliest evidence of human activity in this area of the site.

Investigation of (217), measuring 1.1m x 1.25m, revealed this to be a layer of rough, undressed stone set within a greyish-brown silt matrix flecked with frequent lime mortar fragments. Due to depth



▲ Plate 5: Trench 2 showing stony layer (217) and Phase II wall (206)

and health and safety considerations, it was not possible to excavate this layer and no finds were recovered from the surface or exposed matrix. It is possible that (217) represented a demolition or collapse phase but its date and function are uncertain. The deposit lay just 0.1-0.3m above the level of the modern churchyard and may thus represent the earliest phase of building activity on the mound or, possibly, evidence of a structure which may have existed prior to the mound's construction. Above (217) was a 0.15m thick layer of silt and gravel (216) (**Fig. 9**), interpreted as a demolition deposit, which produced sherds of Worcester and Malvernian cooking pot fabric dating to the late 11th/12th century, in addition to a quantity of animal bone. Overlying (216) was a 0.28m thick clayey layer

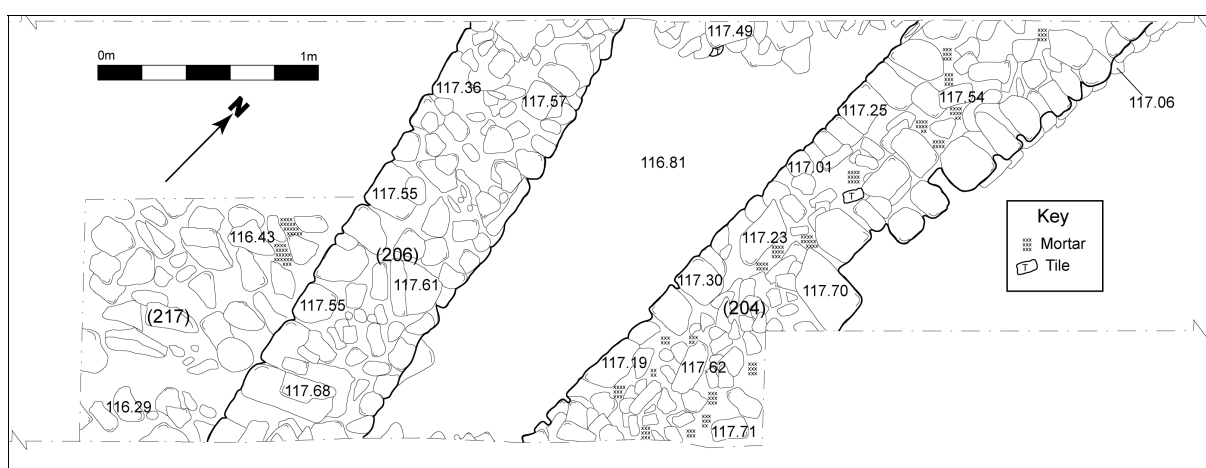
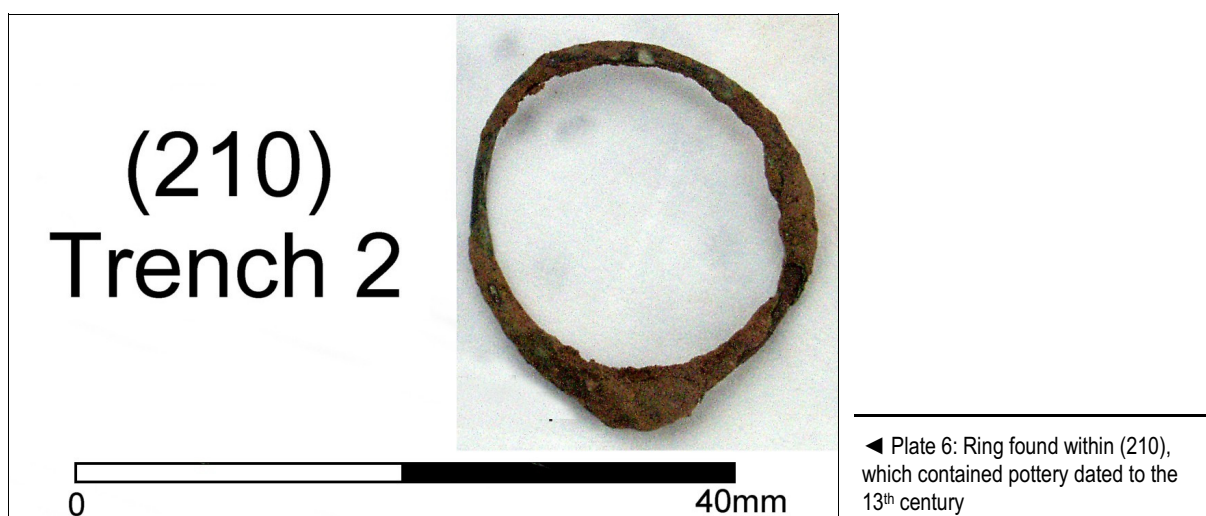
(215) (**Fig. 9**) that appeared to have been upcast material obtained from elsewhere on the mound or from the excavation of the moat; possibly associated with re-cut [115].

Wall (204) was discovered 1.58m from the NE end of the trench (**Figs 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 & 10; Plate 7**). This is presumed to have stood within a construction cut, numbered [205] (**Fig. 9**), although no evidence for this cut was seen during the excavation. The wall survived to a height of at least 1.2m and extended 1.98m (N-S across the trench) and 0.54m (E-W width). The W side was faced, although the upper 0.8m was heavily disturbed and possibly robbed. This side was quite regularly coursed. The E side was unfaced and randomly coursed but possessed an indent 0.2m in from the SE baulk (**Fig. 5; Plate 7**). This indent measured 0.27m (N-S) x 0.25m (E-W) x >0.64m and seems likely to have supported a wooden post or setting. Among the stones of (204) were two CBM fragments, one of which was extracted and proved to be a piece of Roman *tegula*.

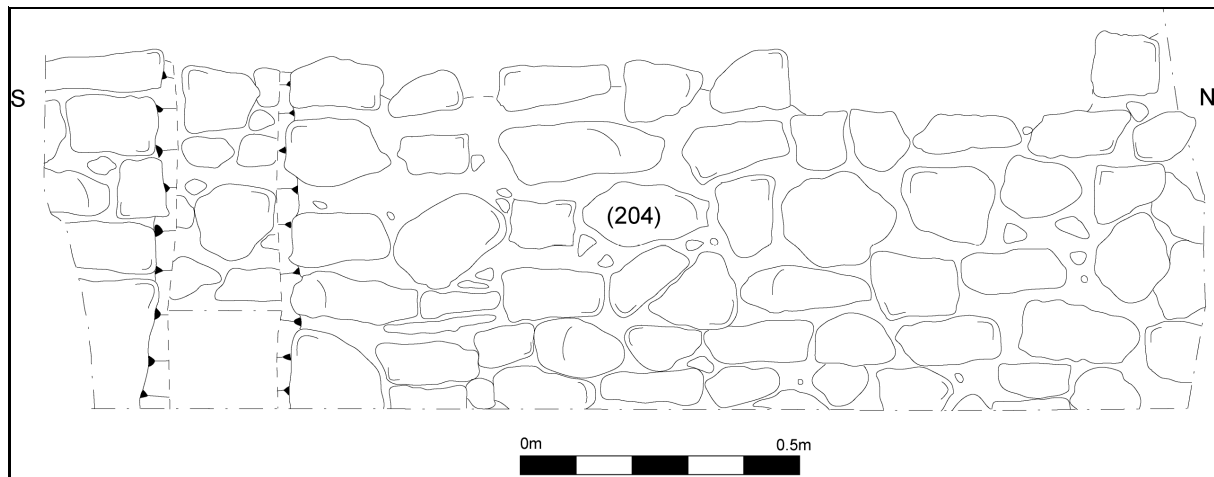
The nature of the wall is uncertain; it is unlikely that it formed part of a defensive circuit or curtain wall, particularly as its alignment clearly did not respect the perimeter of the mound. A more

plausible explanation is that the wall formed part of a structure abutting onto the edge of the mound.

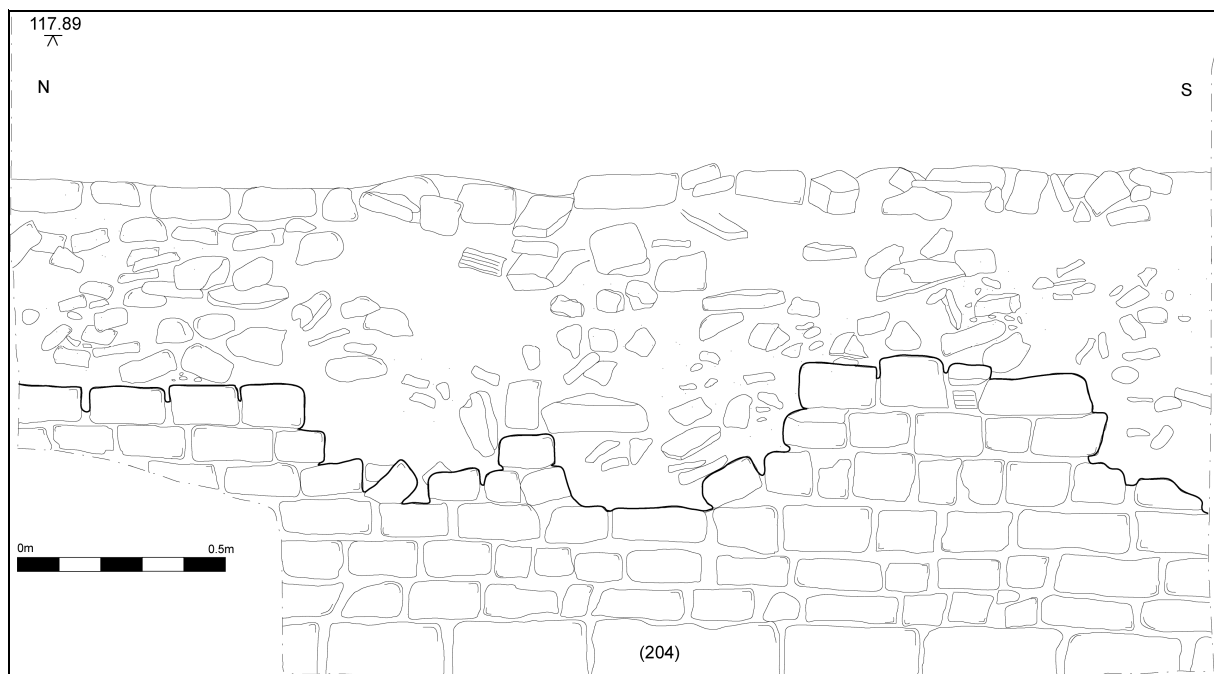
A deposit of pinkish-brown clayey silt (210) (**Plate 6; Figs 9 & 10**) had accumulated against the W face of the wall while identical deposit (211) (**Fig. 10**) sat against the E face. It is possible that these formed a single layer and that [205] bisected them but the W side of (204) was faced deep into (210) and no cut line was visible in either layer. This seems to suggest that both are later deposits. Deposit (210) contained sherds of Malvernian cooking pot ware dated approximately to the 13th century.



▲ Fig. 4: Plan of Trench 2 showing Phase I stone layer (217) and wall (204)



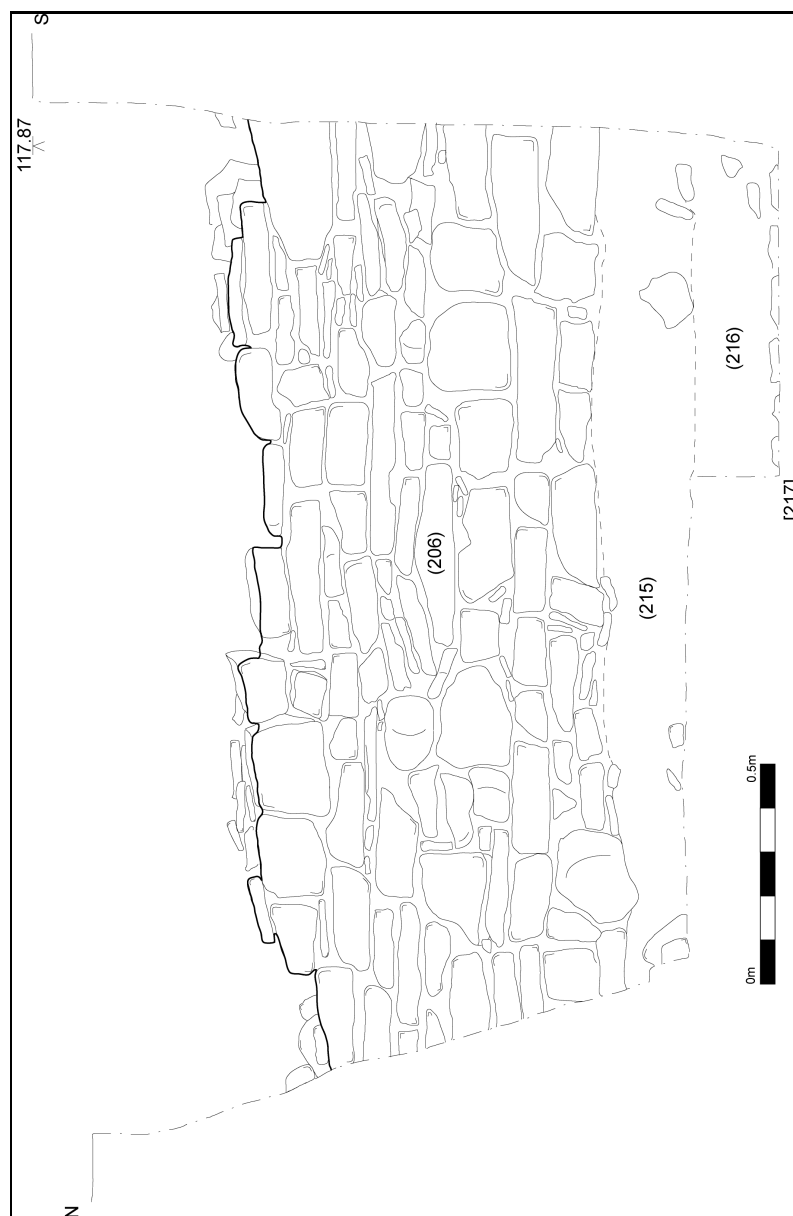
▲ Fig. 5: E-facing elevation of wall (204) showing indent, which probably supported a wooden post or setting



▲ Fig. 6: W-facing elevation of wall (204)



▲ Plate 7: E-facing elevation of wall (204) showing indent (left of picture)



▲ Fig. 7: W-facing elevation of wall (206)



▲ Plate 8: W-facing elevation of wall (206)

5.2.2 Phase II

Construction cut [207] (**Fig. 9**) was dug through (215) and (210) and within this was established N-S wall (206) (**Figs 4, 7, 8, 9 & 10; Plate 8**). The wall was fair-faced on the W but rough on the E and survived 2.24m (N-S) x 0.61m (E-W) x 0.90m. The stones were not dressed and were largely randomly coursed and bonded with clay subsoil. The rough E face was buried within (210) while the better quality W face was exposed, suggesting that (206) represented the E wall of an underground room, such as a cellar.

An irregularly shaped pit [214] (**Fig. 10**) excavated between Phase I wall (204) and (206) truncated the upper stones of (204) and probably represented localised robbing of the wall stones, possibly for repairs to – or even construction of – (206). The pit was physically cut into (210) but its W edge abutted wall (206). Construction cut [207] was dug through (210) after [214] was excavated but prior to it being backfilled, suggesting that [207] and [214] were contemporary, although (206) was constructed prior to [214] being backfilled. Pit [214] was filled by yellowish-brown silt (208) (**Fig. 10**), which was likely to be debris backfill from the robbing of (204) and construction of (206). Two ridge tile sherds of Worcester fabric dated to the 13th century were recovered within (208), although whether this represented material robbed from (204) or sherds deposited at the time of the excavation of [214] is uncertain. The deposit was disturbed to the NW by a root bole, probably relating to post-medieval tree planting on the site.

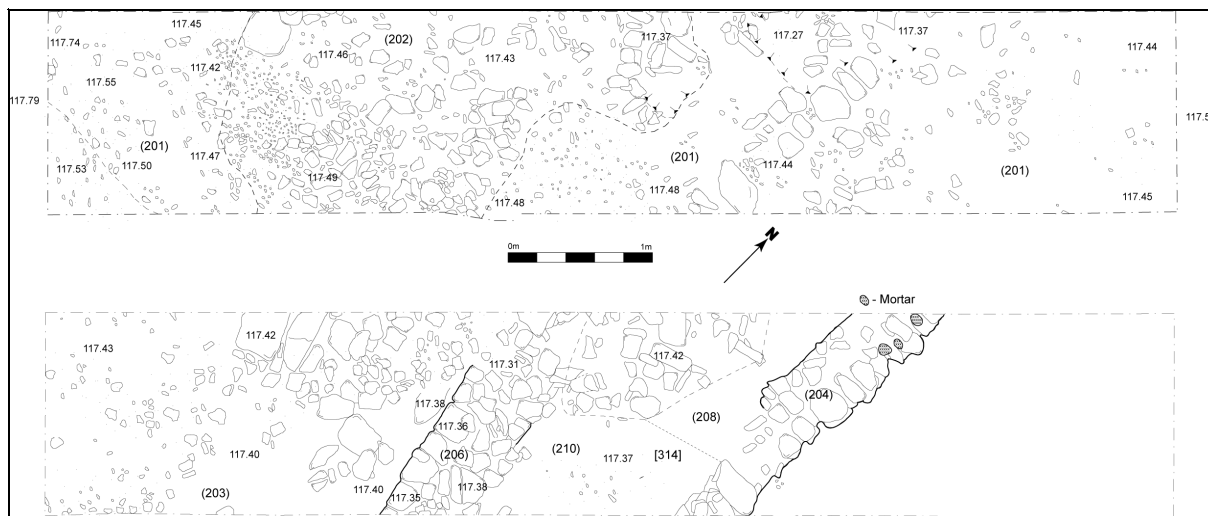
Context (213) (**Figs 9 & 10**) represented the initial disuse/collapse phase of the possible cellarge associated with (206). Pottery from (213) was dated as late 12th century and was found together with a small assemblage of animal bone. Context (213) underlay (212) (**Fig. 9**), which appeared to be material derived either from elsewhere on the mound or possibly upcast from a cleaning of the moat, which may have been used to backfill the cellarge when the structure above it was demolished. Eight sherds of Malvernian cooking pot fabric, dated to the 13th century, were found within deposit (212) together with an assemblage of animal bone.

5.2.3 Phase III

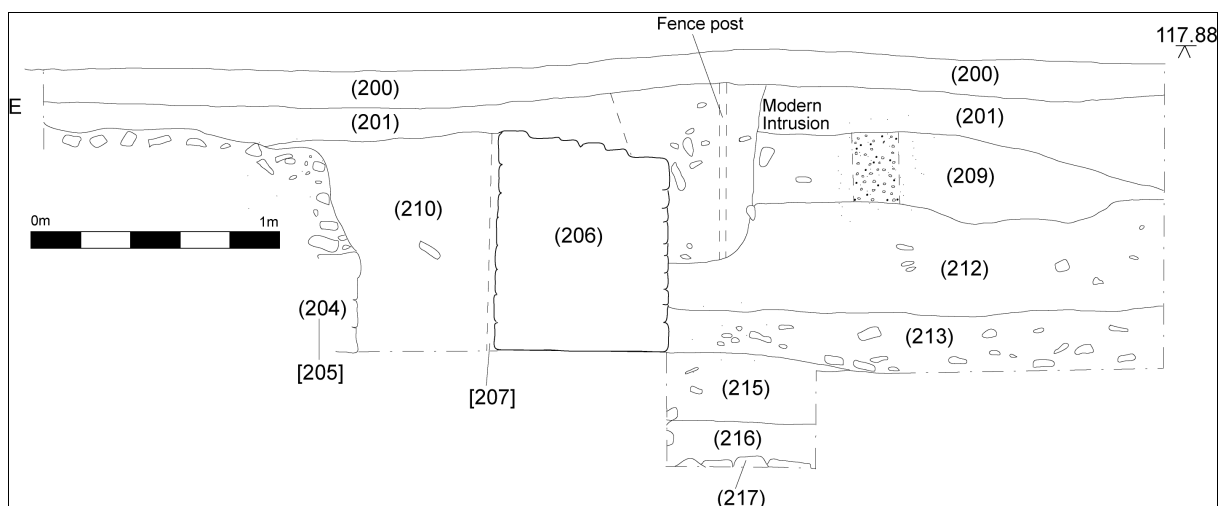
A 0.34m thick gravelly layer, tapering to the N (209) (**Fig. 9**), was dumped above (212). This survived to the same height as the surviving upper courses of (206) and it seems likely that it was intended to provide a solid surface for construction or occupation after the demolition and backfill of the structure relating to (206). This layer seemed to peter out to the NW, where it was overlaid by pinkish-brown clayey silt (203) (**Figs 8 & 10**), which appeared to be upcast material from the moat and may represent a cleaning of material that had slumped or tumbled into the moat as a result of the destruction associated with (213). Pottery recovered from (203) consisted of pottery sherds and ridge tile fragments of 14th/15th century date and was found together with CBM, mortar fragments and animal bone.

Covering the SW part of the trench was rubble layer (202) (**Figs 8 & 10**), which appeared to be a collapse or demolition layer, possibly relating to a third phase of construction the remains of which were no longer visible. Pottery recovered from (202) was dated to the 19th and 20th centuries and was found alongside animal bone. Over one area of (202), to the W of the alignment of wall (206), was a layer of rough flattish stones (218). These appeared too uneven to be a floor, too irregular to be a wall course, yet too regular to be simply rubble. This feature was not excavated due to health and safety considerations and no finds were recovered from its surface.

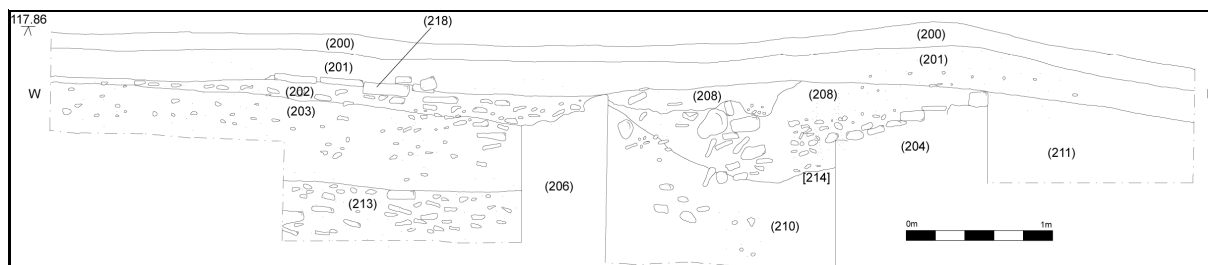
The trench was overlaid with subsoil (201) (**Figs 8 & 9**) and topsoil and turf (200), these deposits containing substantial quantities of 19th/20th century material, including pottery, bone, metalwork and mortar lumps.



▲ Fig. 8: Trench 2 showing walls (206) and (204), rubble layer (202) and deposits (208) and (210)



▲ Fig. 9: N-facing section of Trench 2



5.3 Trench 3

The W end of Trench 3 was located at the SW end of Trench 2. The trench measured 8.0m x 2.0m and was positioned with the intention of tracing the course of Trench 2 walls (204) and (206) and of assessing any further archaeological evidence on the mound.

Forty contexts were recorded within the trench, representing broadly three phases of activity. Due to the profusion of features extant at or near the permitted health and safety depth, the excavation of Trench 3 was terminated in order to preserve *in situ* those deposits already identified.

5.3.1 Phase I (Fig. 11)

Protruding from the E baulk at the very eastern end of Trench 3 was wall (321) (**Plate 11**). This was cut into pinkish-red sandy clay (328), which appeared to represent the earliest deposit located within Trench 3 and seemed likely to be upcast from excavations within the moat, either the original cut or a subsequent re-cleaning.

Wall cut [340] for (321) was presumed to cut through (328), although no physical evidence of the cut was identifiable within the slot excavated to assess the wall. It may be that the cut [340] was wider than the exploration slot and that (328) was dumped backfill within the foundation cut.



▲ Plate 9: Probable stirrup; iron with a decorative coating of copper, zinc and tin alloy

Wall (321) (**Plate 11**) ran NNW-SSE and measured 1.32m (NNW-SSE) x >0.48m (WSW-ENE) x 0.38m. The wall extended into the N, S and E baulks so its full dimensions could not be ascertained. It was constructed of rough, undressed sandstone and limestone laid to courses. No finds were recovered.

Overlying (321) was destruction layer (322) comprising brownish-grey silty sand rich in demolition debris. Among the finds were fragments of painted green and white plasterwork and other plaster fragments having a pinkish tinge. Metal finds included a quantity of Fe nails and a fragment of a Pb sheet. However, the most significant metal find was a stirrup, made of iron and given a decorative copper, zinc and tin alloy coating (**Plate 9**).

Above (322) was a 0.10m thick demolition layer

◀ Plate 10: Trench 3 looking W with wall (319) in the foreground



◀ Plate 11: Trench 3 looking NE, showing walls (319) and (321)

(318). This was thickest to the W, where it extended into the baulk maintained to support Phase II wall (319) (**Plates 10 & 11**), thinning out before reaching the line of (321). The layer was a loose mix of charcoal and burnt wood, a sample of which was taken. No finds were recovered from the deposit and it is likely to signify a destruction of the remaining combustible material following the demolition represented by (322). All the features assigned to Phase I were covered by Phase II sealing deposit (317), which contained early 12th century pottery, suggesting that the Phase I structures and features were built before c.1100, although the possibility must be considered that the pottery recovered from (317) is residual material from the moat fill thrown up over the Phase I features during re-excavation.

5.3.2 Phase II

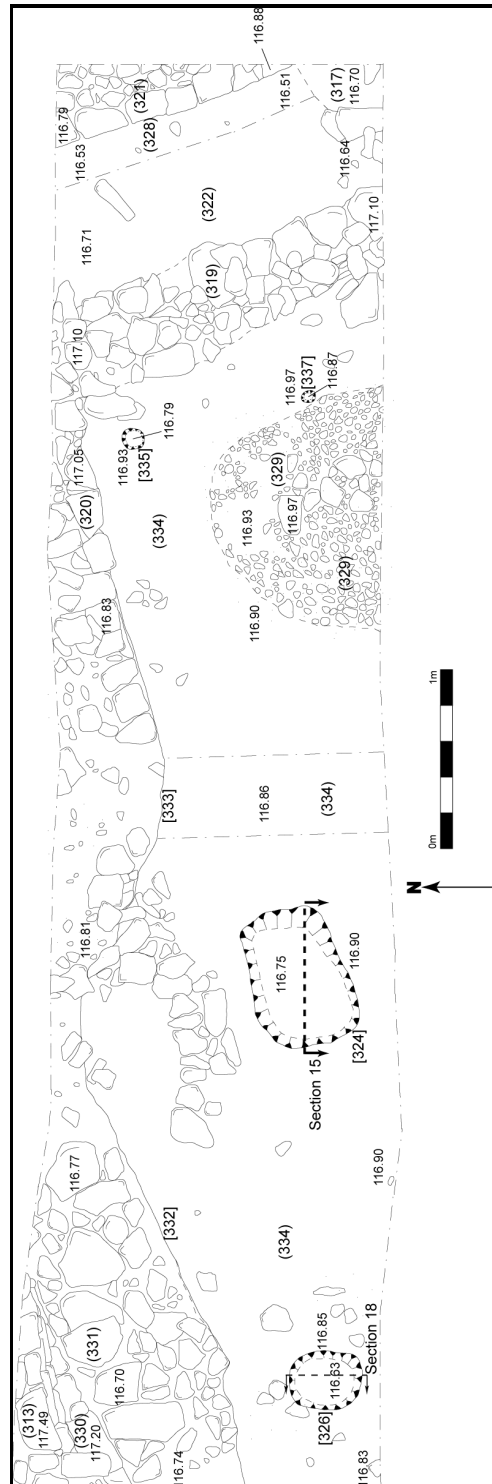
Layers (317) and (334) were deposited across the entire trench, the two being identical in form and nature and apparently the same layer divided by

wall cut [333]. Layer (334) was exposed in plan but not investigated further as previously stated. No finds were recovered from the surface. Layer (317) was the section of the deposit that lay E of (319) and overlay (318). This was 0.38m thick and produced Malvernian ware pottery dated to the early 12th century; animal bones and an Fe knife blade (**Plate 12**). Both deposits (317) and (334) are interpreted either as material derived from a clearance of the moat, possibly connected with moat re-cut [115], or from elsewhere on the mound itself. This material was then used to cover over the remains of the structure represented by wall (321) prior to a reconstruction of the buildings on the mound following the destruction event represented by burning layer (322).

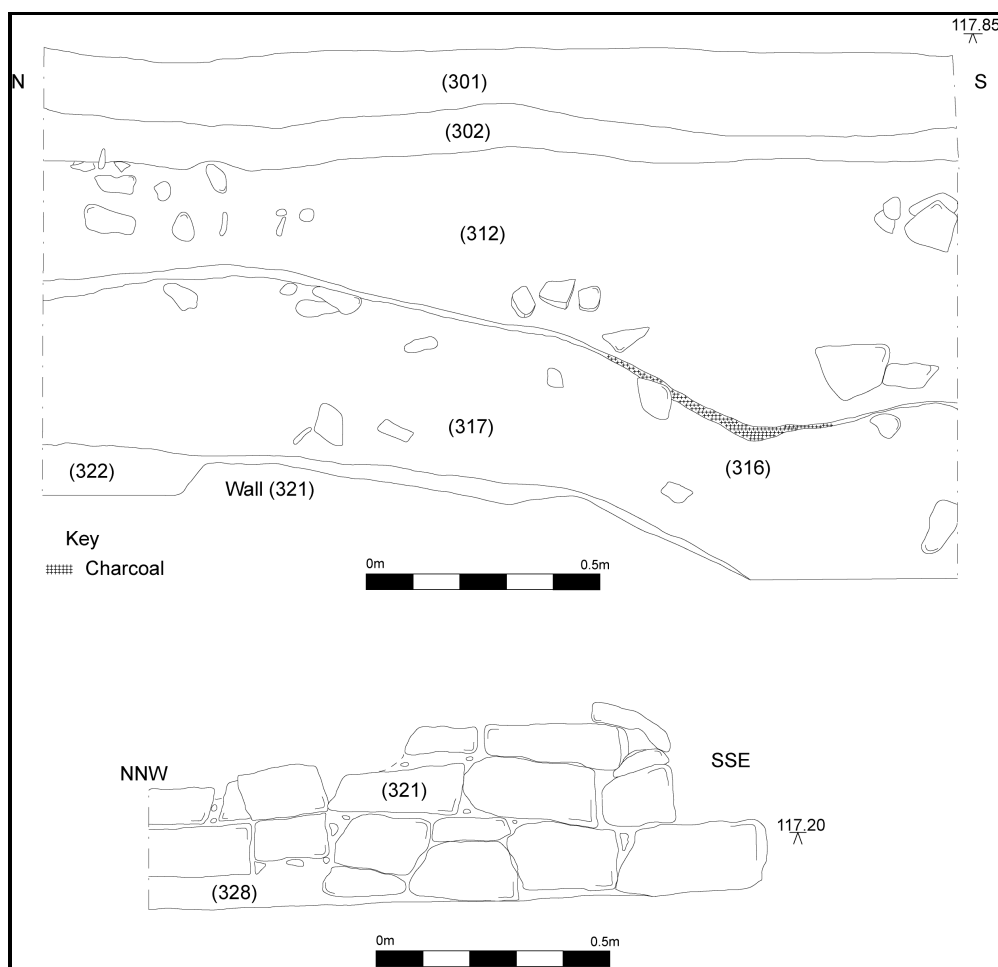
Six features were cut into (334) and (317) and a surface was established over the E end of (334). At the junction of features [332] and [333] was a curious stony spread that appeared to form a horseshoe shape. This spread was investigated but did not appear to form a feature or exist with a cut; it seemed to have been a random accumulation of stones on the surface of (334). It was oriented NE-SW and then turned 90° in the direction NW-SE. The cut running NE-SW, within which was laid course (320) (**Plate 13**), was more visible than the NW-SE cut, which contained probable foundation course (319). Both were rough, unbonded stone deposits that appeared to make up foundation material and both had notably



▶ Plate 12: Knife blade found within context (317)



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August 2005



▲ Fig. 12: W-facing section of Trench 3 and WSW-facing elevation of wall (321)

larger stones on the facing edges, although these did not make a fair face on either wall. Context (319) measured 1.94m (NW-SE) x 0.6m (NE-SW) x 0.11m while (320) measured >0.56m (NW-SE) x 2.12m (NE-SW) x 0.14m and declined gently to the SW (a drop of c. 0.25m over 2.12m). No finds were recovered associated with either wall.

Where [333] terminated at its SW end, a degree of uncertainty remained as to whether it 'kinked' 0.50m to the NW, becoming similar to cut [332], or whether it originally continued to the SW or SE prior to a presumed truncation. The nature of any such truncation was not obvious from the extant archaeology.

Cut [332] ran SW-NE through (334), extending from just NW of the terminus of (320) 3.0m SW across the trench and measuring >0.78m wide. Its visible upper fill was a stony layer consisting of frequent loose rough stones and a number of larger (c. 0.30m x 0.10m x 0.20m) flat-topped stones laid to form an apparent surface (331) (**Plate 13**). This surface, however, sloped down to the NW, the slope being roughly 1 in 10. The fill was not excavated and no finds were recovered from the surface. The fill was sufficiently different from that of [333] that [332] was unlikely to have been a 'kinked' continuation of [333]. It seems more likely that (331) represented a subsided surface established N of



◀ Plate 13: Trench 3 looking E and showing part of wall (313) (bottom left), (331) and (320)

the course of (320).

The structure framed by the foundations (319) and (320) enclosed a space within which gravelly layer (329) was laid over (334). This formed a solid metallated layer with occasional evidence of cobbling over the top, the whole being set in a matrix of greenish-yellow sand, which might suggest a degree of effluent seepage through the stones. The layer measured 0.7m (E-W) x 0.47m (N-S) x 0.04m. No finds were recovered from this surface.

On the E edge of (329) was a circular cut [337] through (334) with a diameter of 0.07m and a depth of 0.12m. The cut was steep-sided and had a concave base that had been heavily disturbed by animal activity. It was filled by a loose silty material (338), which was also heavily disturbed. No finds were recovered from the feature, which was interpreted as a stake-hole later disturbed by animals taking advantage of the softer deposits for burrowing;

but it may be that the feature was entirely the result of animal activity as no trace of undisturbed deposition remained within the cut.

A similar circular cut [335] was located 1.02m N of [337]. This had a diameter of 0.11m and a depth of 0.16m and also cut (334). Its profile was identical to [337] and it too was heavily disturbed and had an entirely disturbed fill (336). No finds were recovered from (336). Cut [335] is interpreted as another disturbed stake-hole similar to [337], although they may equally be part of the same burrow, as each had an undercut running in the direction of the other. If the two were part of the same stake alignment then they ran roughly parallel to wall (319).

In the SW corner of Trench 3 was a sub-circular cut [326] through (334) measuring 0.41m (N-S) x 0.33m (E-W) x 0.2m (**Fig. 14**). The base of the cut was heavily disturbed by bioturbation and the fill (327) was loose and largely disturbed. Finds recovered from the cut included small CBM fragments and animal bone. It is likely that [326] represented a posthole that was subsequently utilised by animals or disturbed by roots but it may be that the feature was entirely of natural origin.

Located 1.7m E of [326] was sub-rectangular cut [324] also running through (334) (**Fig. 14**). It measured 0.73m (E-W) x 0.56m and contained a single fill (325) within which was a quantity of combustion debris, such as ash, charcoal, baked clay and burnt stone, but no finds. Cut [324] revealed no evidence of *in situ* burning and is thus interpreted as a raking pit for detritus from another fire. The lack of domestic waste, such as animal bone, in (325) suggests it was not related to a cooking fire.

Overlying the E end of the trench, from the SW terminus of [333] in the NW and following a perpendicular line to the SE, for its western extent, was a layer of charcoal rich silty sand (316). This layer was a maximum of 0.12m thick and largely contained sherds of Malvernian and Worcester ware dating from the late 13th century, although there were also fragments of late medieval tile and some

17th-19th century pottery sherds. (316) is interpreted as a demolition layer relating to the destruction or collapse of the structure framed by (319) and (320).

Overlying (331) was layer (323), which was identical to (316), although it appeared to be confined to the course of (331). At the boundary of (316) and (323), the only noticeable difference was a slightly higher quantity of charcoal in (316). Layer (323) was considerably thinner, measuring only 0.05m thick. A quantity of animal bone and a number of Fe nails were recovered from this deposit. No obvious demolition or destruction material covered the SW corner of the trench.

The features assigned to Phase II in Trench 3 appeared to be bounded in chronological terms by early 12th century demolition layer (317) at the earliest and late 13th century destruction deposit (316) at the latest. It must be remembered that if (317) did indeed represent upcast material derived from the moat, then the material within it was likely to be residual material that had previously accumulated in the moat and, as such, the pottery can only provide a *terminus post quem* rather than a tight date.

5.3.3 Phase III (Fig. 13)

A thick brownish-pink clayey sand layer (312), probably representing upcast from clearance of the moat, was dumped across the entire trench. Measuring 0.68m in thickness and being heavily disturbed by later root activity towards the centre of the trench, this layer probably represented a re-establishment of the surface level of the mound and moat following destruction and prior to the construction of new buildings. The pottery assemblage from (312) mostly consisted of sherds of Malvernian cooking pot dated to the 13th/early 14th century, with some residual 12th century sherds. Animal bone was recovered, along with items of metalwork, including a large quantity of Fe nails.

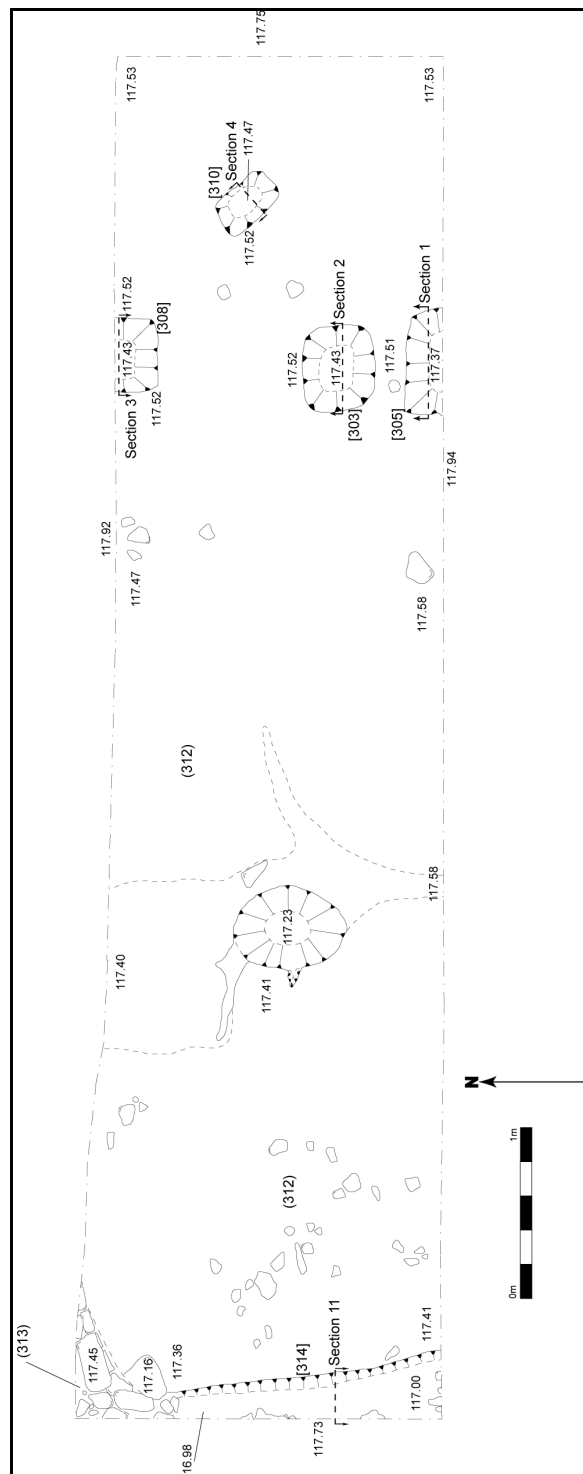
Six features were cut into (312) during this phase, three of which were postholes or small pits aligned N-S across the trench. The northernmost [308] protruded from the N baulk by 0.25m and measured 0.45m (E-W) x 0.08m (depth) (Fig. 14). It was filled by a single deposit (309) that produced no finds. Located 0.84m S of [308] was a similar cut [303] measuring 0.51m (E-W) x 0.44m (N-S) x 0.06m, which contained two deposits, the upper deposit being similar to (309) and measuring 0.04m in thickness (Fig. 14). This deposit contained no finds. The lower deposit was a clayey sand that appeared to be a deliberate backfill with the material excavated (redeposited (312)). It measured 0.02m thick and no finds were recovered from it. Located 0.18m S of [303] was a larger feature [305]

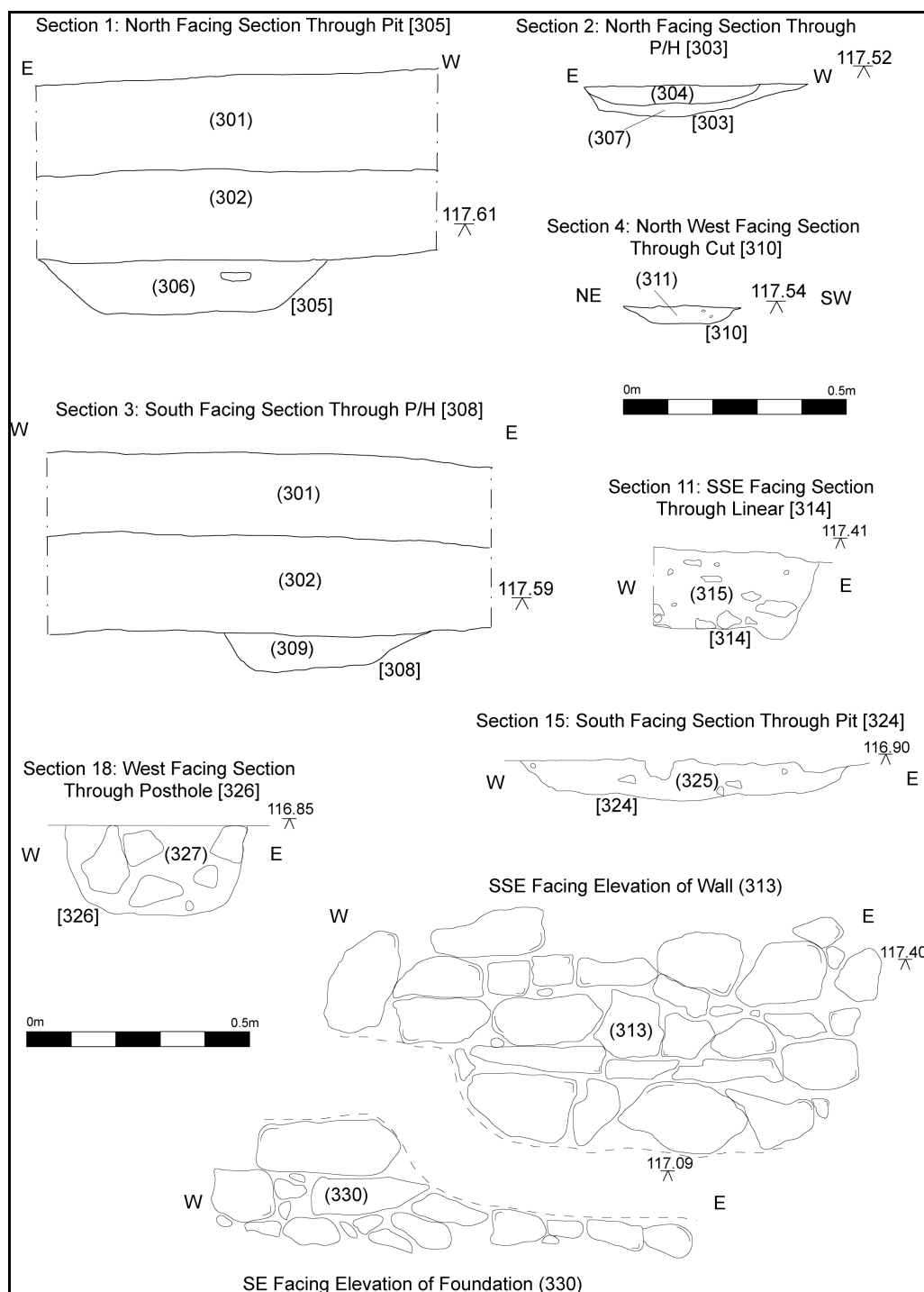
that protruded 0.2m from the S baulk of Trench 3 and measured 0.65m (E-W) x 0.12m (depth) (Fig. 14). This was backfilled by single deposit (306), which contained occasional flecks of mortar but no finds. Whilst [303] and [305] may have formed an alignment of truncated postholes, it is unlikely that [308] was part of the same series; it appeared to be the truncated remains of a small pit of uncertain function.

Located 0.5m NE of [303] was small rectangular cut [310] that measured 0.45m (NW-SE) x 0.25m (NE-SW) x



◀ Plate 14: Trench 3 looking NW showing probable foundation material (330) and wall (313)

Archaeological Excavation
Page 24



▲ Fig. 14: Trench 3 sections and elevations

0.04m and was backfilled by a charcoal rich loamy deposit (311) (**Fig. 14**). This produced a single fragment of animal bone. Cut [310] appeared to be the base of a truncated feature, probably relating to 19th century garden works or orcharding.

In the NW corner of the trench was a NE-SW cut [339] measuring 1.07m (NE-SW) x 0.21m (NW-SE) x 0.29m. Within this cut was probable foundation material (330) for wall (313) above, comprising unfinished, unbonded randomly coursed sandstone and limestone blocks and fragments (**Fig. 14; Plate 14**). However, (313) was oriented slightly askew in relation to (330) and it may be that (330) represented an earlier wall which was then reused as foundation material by the builders of (313). Wall (313) measured 1.1m (ENE-WSW) x 0.6m (NNW-SSE) x 0.55m and was constructed of sandstone and limestone, the stones being rough or undressed, only roughly laid to courses and bonded with clay and traces of lime mortar. This wall appeared to relate to the latest phase of construction on the mound, although the feature was only viewed obliquely and thus a definite interpretation cannot be made.

Protruding from the W end of the trench was linear cut [314], which ran NNW-SSE perpendicular to (313) and measured >1.6m (NNW-SSE) x >0.4m (ENE-WSW) x 0.19m (**Fig. 14**). The cut was steep sided with a flat base and a curious slot measuring 0.08m (width) x 0.03m (depth), the function of which is uncertain, along the base of the E slope. The entire cut was backfilled by a single deposit (315) that appeared to be a rough demolition backfill. A glazed floor tile of 13th/14th century date, probably manufactured in north Herefordshire or south Shropshire was recovered from within this backfill material, in addition to a small quantity of 13th century pottery.

Other finds recovered within demolition backfill (315) included stone roof tile fragments, Fe nails and animal bone. Cut [314] was interpreted as a robbed-out foundation slot, with (315) being material dumped into the slot after robbing. Accumulating over all of these deposits was subsoil (302) and topsoil and turf (301), both of which contained substantial quantities of 18th-20th century material, including pottery, bone, metalwork and mortar lumps.

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Trench 1

6.1.1 The Moat

Trench 1 was located in an attempt to reveal the original profile of the moat and any evidence of maintenance, in addition to which it was hoped to obtain a sequence of datable sediments from within the ditch. A series of deposits relating to the build-up of material within the moat were revealed.

The moat had a U-shaped profile with a sharp break of slope at the top, steep concave sides, a gradual break of slope at the base and a flat base. It is D-shaped, measuring about 80m E-W and 78m N-S, with a width of 15m and a depth, on the N side, of 1.75m below the level of the churchyard and 3.15m below the top of the mound.

Trench 1 was located within the base of the moat on its northern side, the southern edge extending 1.2m up the mound slope and the northern edge 0.25m up the bank on the churchyard side. The earliest identifiable feature was [119] which appeared to represent the original cut for the moat. It appears that the original moat was a defensive feature constructed on a significant scale, with a drop

of more than 2.95m from the level of the churchyard and at least 4.25m from the top of the mound.

Two re-cuts of the moat, represented by [115] and [106], were identified and these clearly related to the defence of the mound. The accumulated deposits within these features appeared to comprise collapse or demolition materials, indicating at least two phases of excavation, destruction, deposition, re-excavation and further deposition.

Of the two cuts revealed, [115] was the earlier and appeared to represent an early re-cut. No date can be directly attributed to this feature; however, the pottery evidence from upper fills (109) and (110) suggest that it must have been made some time before the collapse of material into the moat, which appears to have occurred at some point during the late 13th/14th centuries. It is possible that [115] may be associated with a destruction episode represented by (216) in Trench 2 and (317) in Trench 3, both of which contained pottery of 12th century date.

Subsequently, there appears to have been a second destruction episode resulting in the collapse of building material from the mound into the moat, as evidenced by the accumulation of rubble deposits (109) to (113) within [115]. Deposits (109) and (110) both contained pottery of late 13th/14th century date, suggesting that the collapse of the buildings into the moat probably occurred at some point during this period.

Following this collapse, there appears to have been a further re-cutting of the moat, represented by cut feature [106]. This re-cut was more irregular than [115] and the sides appeared to be stepped down to the base, the base itself being a steep-sided gully approximately 0.6m deep, dropping away from the more gentle slopes either side. This base was 0.1m higher than the achieved base of [115]. Although the pottery recovered from all the fills of [106] ranged in date from the 12th to the 19th century, the pottery from (105), which appeared to be the primary fill of [106], was dated to the 14th century. Based on the pottery evidence, therefore, it would appear that the moat was re-cut at some time during the 14th century.

6.2 Trench 2

6.2.1 Phase I Structure

At the SW end of Trench 2, a section of the trenching was excavated to a depth of 1.6m in order to fully evaluate Phase II wall (206). This revealed a series of archaeological deposits below the wall, excavation ceasing at stony layer (217) due to health and safety considerations.

The stones comprising (217) did not appear to form a structure or surface, although they may well have related to tumbled material from such a feature. The height of the surface of the layer varied between 116.29m AOD and 116.43m AOD, which compares approximately to the height of the modern churchyard (c. 116.20m AOD).

This suggests that layer (217) related either to a subterranean structure (e.g. a cellar) or that the mound was considerably lower when this layer was deposited. Another possibility is that (217) related to a structure existing on the site prior to the construction of the mound. Stony layer (217) was, in turn, covered by demolition deposit (216) which contained pottery of early 12th century date, indicating that the structure with which (217) was associated was probably demolished at some point during the 12th century.

Wall (204), located in the centre of the trench, was faced on the W side and rougher on the E, the upper portion of the W face being disturbed by Phase II pit [214]. The wall was faced to a considerable depth and, although exposed to 1.2m, its base was not reached, suggesting either that the wall represented an underground structure, such as a cellar, or that it, too, predated construction

of the mound. Amid the rubble infill between the two faces were identified two CBM fragments, one of which proved to be a Roman *tegula*. A rectangular indent on the E face of (204) seemed likely to be a post setting, possibly relating to a scaffold. The wall presumably formed a structure but no trace of an obviously associated wall was discovered.

No relationship between wall (204) and layer (217) could be established as Phase II wall (206) separated the two but it is possible that (217) represented accumulated debris over the floor of cellaring framed by (204) or that (204) represented a wall relating to a pre-mound structure.

6.2.2 Phase II Structure

Located 1.0m SW of (204) was a second wall (206) cut through material (210) that had accumulated against the W face of (204) and which clearly post-dated it by some degree. Deposit (210) appeared to be soil derived from elsewhere on the mound, or possibly upcast material from the moat, and contained sherds of Malvernian cooking pot dated approximately to the 13th century.

Cut through (210) was an irregularly shaped pit [214], excavated between walls (204) and (206), truncating the upper stones of (204) and probably representing localised robbing of the wall stones, possibly for the construction of wall (206). Pit [214] was backfilled by deposit (208) containing a small number of ridge tile fragments of 13th century date.

Wall (206) was well faced on the W side and roughly made on the E. The deposits to the W of the wall accumulated after it was built, suggesting that (206) may have framed an underground structure such as a cellar or undercroft. The wall survived to a height of 0.9m and, presuming the surface level of the mound has not changed dramatically, it is likely that the structure would have projected at least 0.5m from the ground, leading to an elevated 'ground floor' in the building above, which would not be inconsistent with a defended structure. The similarity in orientation to Phase I wall (204) is notable, which may suggest that (206) was intended to replace (204).

The artefactual evidence from deposit (208) within pit [214] is correct, than the demolition of wall (204) and the construction of the building represented by wall (206) probably occurred at some point during the 13th century. It should be noted that this suggested dating conflicts with the evidence of the pottery recovered within (213), interpreted as a collapse layer associated with the possible cellaring framed by wall (206), which has been dated to the late 12th century. However, deposit (213), representing the backfilling of the cellaring framed by wall (206), contained pottery of 13th century date. Assuming the pottery contained in (212) was residual, then it would appear that the structure associated with wall (206) was both constructed and demolished at some time during the 13th century.

6.2.3 Phase III Stonework

Several layers of tumbled stonework and gravel suggest a period of collapse with layer (218) then deposited over rubble layer (202). This layer was too uneven to be a floor, too irregular to be a wall course, yet too regular to be simply rubble. It is possible that it was deposited as foundation material for a floor surface or wall, which has since been removed; however, no trace of a structure to support such a theory was identified. The 19th century pottery assemblage recovered from (202) suggests that this was a levelling deposit – probably relating to the destruction of any remaining structures that might have survived on the mound into the early 19th century.

6.3 Trench 3

6.3.1 Phase I Structure

At the eastern end of Trench 3, E of Phase II wall (319), a portion of trench roughly 1.0m wide was excavated to a depth of 1.1m, revealing a NW-SE wall (321), only the SW face of which projected into the trench. This wall survived to a height of 0.38m and was evaluated by means of a 0.2m-wide slot along its SW face, which revealed no evidence of a foundation cut, although one is presumed to have existed. The wall was aligned differently from those in Trench 2 and is presumed to have related to another structure. The wall and the clayey deposit into which it was cut were covered by debris layer (322), this, in turn, being covered by a 0.1m-thick layer of burnt wood and charcoal (318).

It is likely these two together represent a phase of destruction on top of the mound. Whether (318) related to destruction of wooden remains during demolition or clearance of combustible overburden prior to construction is unclear; however, as the majority of the material was burnt oak, it is likely to represent cut wood and hence structural material.

Phase I was capped by demolition layer (317), which may represent either upcast material derived from another part of the site or thrown up from a re-cutting of the moat. Deposit (317) contained pottery of early 12th century date, although the possibility that it may represent residual pottery that had accumulated within the moat during Phase I cannot be disregarded. It is possible that this layer was associated with the early re-cut of the moat represented by [115].

6.3.2 Phase II Structure

Occupying the centre of Trench 3 was an L-shaped arrangement of two walls running NW-SE (319) and NE-SW (320), which were likely to have framed a structure, although the lack of evidence for a SW wall is puzzling. Such a wall may not have existed (an open-ended structure seems unlikely) or it may have been of perishable material (but no beam slot or postholes survived in that location). Other alternatives are that the SW wall was truncated or robbed at a later date (no evidence of such activity was noted) or that (320) turned N to create a larger open-plan structure. It may also be the case that stone course (331) represented foundation material relating to a continuation of (320) 'kinked' slightly to the N. This seems less likely, as (331) appeared to form a subsided surface rather than wall foundations. This surface would have stood N of the wall course of (320) so it may have represented an external floor or the floor of a contiguous building.

Immediately SW of the apparent terminus of (320) was a stone spread on the surface of (334). This was investigated but appeared to be a stony lense on the interface of (334) and (312). The stones, however, were sited in line with (320) and appeared to form a slight curve, suggesting they may have been tumble from a demolished feature, possibly a continuation of (320) or a doorway or similar feature. Within the frame of (319) and (320) was a metalled surface (329) with the remains of cobbling buried beneath the destruction layer (316) that covered (319) and (320), suggesting that it was a contemporary surface, probably a floor within the structure or the base of a feature such as a hearth.

In the corner of (319) and (320) was a small 'stake-hole' [335] with a second located 1.0m SE [337]. Both were so heavily disturbed by animal activity that it was impossible to be certain whether they were archaeological features or burrows. If they were indeed stake-holes, then their similarity suggests they would have formed part of the same alignment, the orientation of which would be similar to that of wall (319).

No dateable artefacts were recovered from any of the features in Phase II but this phase of activity

seemed to be bounded by early 12th century sealing layer (317) and late 13th century destruction layer (316).

6.3.3 Phase III Activity

Within Phase III, a series of postholes or small pits was excavated towards the eastern end of the trench. Three of these ([303], [305] and [308]) formed a linear arrangement, although only two ([303] and [308]) were similar in size and shape. This line ran N-S, and, perhaps coincidentally, the northernmost of the three ([308]) was dug over the corner of Phase II walls (319) and (320). None of the features contained any cultural material that would elucidate their purpose or nature and without following the alignment it was impossible to assign a function to the features.

In the very NW corner of the trench was part of an ENE-WSW wall (313) projecting into the trench, only the SSE face of which was visible. The wall survived to a height of 0.55m and overlay a much rougher fragment of stonework (330) that was aligned slightly askew from (313), NE-SW. This was interpreted as the splayed foundations of (313), although it may have been an earlier wall subsequently reused as foundation material for (313).

Along the western edge of the trench was a NNW-SSE linear [314] backfilled by what appeared to be demolition debris, including roof tile, floor tile and nails. It is likely that this represented a robbed-out wall slot or a beam slot for a wooden wall that had been backfilled with rubble during construction. This may have been a return for (313) or possibly an interior division.

Based on the dating evidence from the deposits associated with Phase III, there appears to have been a re-establishment of (312) after the Phase II destruction episode evidenced by burning layer (316), probably during the late 13th/14th centuries. This may also be associated with the re-cutting of the moat represented by Trench 1 re-cut [106].

Most of the Phase III features produced no accurate dating material but that recovered from deposit (315) within cut [314] suggests that the structure associated with [314] was probably of late 13th/14th century date. Capping layers (301) and (302) contained 18th century material and probably represented the final demolition of the remaining structures on the mound. It is notable that Trench 3 did not seem to have a layer corresponding to the 19th century levelling deposit (202) visible in Trench 2.

7. SUMMARY

7.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was excavated to expose the original profile of the moat and to obtain a dateable sequence of sediment deposition. The earliest identifiable activity within the moat was [119], which appeared to be the original cut. Also revealed were two major cut features, [115] which appeared to be an early re-cut, and [106], representing a later re-cutting. It was not possible to establish precisely when [115] was cut; however, the pottery within upper fills (109) and (110) was of late 13th/14th century date, suggesting that [115] must have been cut at a considerably earlier date, possibly in the early 12th century. The pottery evidence from (105), the primary fill of second re-cut [106], indicated that this re-cut was probably made at some point during the 14th century.

It has been suggested, based on the large quantity of stone previously found in the ditch, that the moat was originally revetted in stone. However, no evidence of a stone revetment wall was found in Trench 1 and the large quantity of limestone and sandstone rubble found in deposits (109) to (113)

appears to have been derived from the remains of masonry structures standing on top of the mound. Another possible explanation for rubble deposits (109) to (113) is that they represented building materials dumped in the moat when the adjacent parish church was restored in the mid-19th century.

7.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was excavated to assess the survival of archaeological evidence on the mound, the prior assumption being that extensive landscaping had severely truncated any remains. The trench was located on the edge of the mound to reveal the remains of any defences.

No archaeological evidence was found of a stone perimeter wall (curtain wall) at the top of the mound in Trench 2 nor (even more surprisingly) was there any evidence of a wooden palisade or even an earthen rampart around the summit of the mound. It is possible that any evidence of an earthen rampart or palisade on the mound could have been obliterated by erosion after the complete abandonment of the site in the early to mid 17th century or by subsequent 19th century landscaping of the site.

The earliest evidence of occupation identified within Trench 2 consisted of stony layer (217) located against the W face of (206), consisting of rough undressed stone set within a greyish-brown silt matrix flecked with lime mortar fragments. The height AOD of (217) suggests that it might have related either to a subterranean structure (e.g. cellarage) or possibly to a structure predating the construction of the mound. No relationship with wall (204) could be established as (206) separated the two but it is possible that (217) represented accumulated debris over the floor of cellaring framed by (204).

In Trench 2, the lower courses of two walls running broadly N-S were revealed, the northernmost of which (204) pre-dated the southern (206), and there was some evidence that facing stones from (204) were re-used in the southern wall. Neither wall appears to have respected the perimeter of the mound, suggesting that they did not form part of a defensive circuit or curtain wall around its summit.

It is possible that the earlier wall (204) formed part of the foundations of a substantial masonry structure (judging by the regular coursing of the stonework) abutting at an acute angle to the edge of the mound. The indent for a posthole in the E facing wall may relate to scaffolding erected in the course of construction, or it may possibly represent evidence of a timber lean-to structure adjoining the masonry building.

This structure was then demolished and the remains covered over by soil. A new structure was then built, located immediately to the SW of the earlier building and on a slightly different alignment, probably using materials from the demolished building. Wall (206) appeared to constitute the E wall of a partly submerged cellar or undercroft belonging to this later structure. It is unclear when the later structure was built; however the quality of the stonework in wall (206) is also noticeably inferior to the regular coursing of the earlier wall (204).

It is difficult to establish the date or function of the two walls identified in Trench 2, but the lack of any definite relationship between features (204) and (206) and the fact that the two walls are on slightly different alignments possibly suggests that the two structures may also have differed in function. It is also noticeable that the construction of wall (206) was inferior in quality to wall (204).

It may be tentatively suggested that the structure, of which wall (204) formed a component, may date from an early phase of occupation on the mound, possibly dating from the late 11th/early 12th century, although the possibility of a pre-Conquest date cannot altogether be ruled out, particularly as the wall incorporated early building materials, including a fragment of a Roman *tegula*. Based on the evidence of pottery recovered from [214] which appears to represent a localised robbing of the wall



stones from (204) for the construction of (206) it is likely that (206) was built at some point during the 13th century.

7.3 Trench 3

The location of Trench 3 was influenced by discoveries in Trench 2, the intention being to trace the course of walls (204) and (206) and to identify their intersection while in addition providing further evidence of structural remains. As neither wall was identified, it was presumed that they turned or terminated at a point lying somewhere between Trench 2 and Trench 3. The W end of the trench revealed a wall oriented ENE-WSW (313) and evidence of a robbed-out foundation trench or beam slot [314] protruding SSE.

Towards the E end of the trench was a possible posthole alignment, the function of which could not be established. Beneath the northernmost posthole [308] was the corner of two walls, (319) running NW-SE and (320) running SW-NE, which appeared to frame an area containing a metallised surface (329), probably supporting cobbling, and a pair of possible stake-holes [335] and [337]. The purpose of this structure is uncertain.

To the N of the alignment of (320) was stony layer (331), which seemed to form either an exterior surface N of (320) or the floor of a contiguous structure. A posthole [326] and possible fire raking pit [324] were discovered S of (331) and seemed to relate to contemporary activity. At the E end of the trench was an early wall aligned NW-SE (321), the nature and function of which could not be fully assessed.

Trench 3 gave excellent phasing of the site, with wall (321) being buried beneath two demolition deposits, (322) and (318), prior to the dumping of clayey sand layer (317), which may have been associated with preparations for a new phase of construction on the mound. This appears to date from before the early 12th century.

Walls (319) and (320), layers (331) and (329) and their associated features then followed. All of this was then covered by destruction layer (316), except the SW corner of the trench, which suggests that this area had either been truncated or that it was protected in some way from the destruction. This seems to date from the late 13th century. The entire trench area was then covered by (312), a layer similar to (317), which may have been obtained from elsewhere on the site or upcast material derived from a scouring of the moat. This layer contained pottery of 14th century date.

The next phase of construction was represented by wall (313), slot [314] and postholes [303], [305] and [308]. Slot [314] appeared to be a 15th century construction, although the others may have dated from any period up to the deposition of (302) at some point during the 18th century.

7.4 Overview

At present, the building sequence and function of the structures discovered in Trenches 2 and 3 are extremely difficult to determine precisely. Documentary evidence suggests that there were probably substantial masonry and timber buildings on top of the mound by the early 1220s, when the site is referred to as a 'castle'. The 'castle' was held from c.1225-1267 by Henry de Pembridge, a prominent local landowner and royal official in Herefordshire during the mid 13th century and it is likely that he made extensive alterations to the family seat at Pembridge.

The buildings on the mound were probably enlarged further in the late 13th-early 14th century, when it appears to have been a favoured seat of the Mortimer family, who acquired Pembridge in 1267. The site is described as a 'capital messuage' in a survey of 1336, indicating that it was then regarded as a high-status residence. Documentary references to the Archbishop of Canterbury residing at



Pembridge in 1282 indicate that the buildings must have been of sufficient size and status to accommodate the archbishop and his retinue. Surviving accounts of the manor of Pembridge for the 14th-16th centuries allude to the presence of stone and timber-framed structures on the mound during this period.

The archaeological evidence indicates that the earliest stone buildings on the mound were constructed in the late 11th/early 12th century and that they were destroyed or severely damaged by fire on two separate occasions during the medieval period. Following both of these two destruction events, the moat was scoured and deepened and the surface level on top of the mound was re-established, possibly using upcast material derived from the moat scouring, prior to a substantial reconstruction of the structures there.

It is unclear exactly when these phases of destruction and rebuilding occurred; unfortunately, there is no documentary record of the site being attacked or destroyed, although its exposed position on the Welsh Marches, close to the Radnorshire border, meant that it was always a potential target for raids by the Welsh or neighbouring Marcher barons throughout the medieval period. It would appear that the first phase of destruction occurred at an early point in the history of the site (possibly in the early 12th century) while the second destruction event took place at a somewhat later date (possibly in the late 13th/14th century); there may have been a gap of a century or more between the two events.

Based on the evidence from all three trenches a three-phase sequence can be suggested.

Phase I includes structures represented by walls (321) and (204), stony layer (217) and the original moat cut [119]. No exact date can be established for the start of this phase; however, the capping of these structures by demolition layers (216) and (317) containing early 12th century pottery suggests that this phase of occupation ended abruptly in the early 12th century with the partial destruction of some of the buildings on the site, which may have been followed by a re-cutting of the moat evidenced by [115].

Phase II extends from the re-cutting episode represented by [115] and comprises wall (206) in Trench 2 and the structure framed by walls (319) and (320) in Trench 3 and extends up to the second destruction episode resulting in an apparent collapse of buildings into the moat, as evidenced by deposits (109) to (113) in Trench 1, which contained late 13th/14th century pottery. Following this destruction episode there was another re-cut of the moat evidenced by [106], the primary fill of which contained 14th century pottery.

Phase III represents a final phase of construction following moat re-cut (106) in the 14th century, which is evidenced by walls (313) and (330), slot (314) and the postholes in Trench 3. The structure represented by the walls and beam slot appears to be of 15th century date while the postholes may be of any date after this. Phase III ends before the 19th century.

All three trenches were capped by 19th century garden material represented by (218).

Later documents show that the buildings on the mound were intermittently repaired throughout the 15th and 16th centuries, when the site was in the hands of the Crown, and that occupation of the site had probably ceased by the early 17th century. However, the buildings on the mound were still standing (albeit in a ruined state) until as late as the 1650s, when the antiquary Silas Taylor described the site as the 'mansion house' of the de Pembridge family, where 'there are yet the remains of a small keep or fortified castle'.

8. CONTEXT REGISTER

TRENCH 1	
(100)	Moderately compacted dark brownish-grey humic loam with occasional fragments of late C19 th /C20 th pottery & frequent charcoal flecking. 0.15m in thickness. Finds included a disarticulated human skull. Overlay (101)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Topsoil. Human skull probably disturbed during mid-Victorian renovation of St. Mary's Church.</i>
(101)	Moderately compacted mid reddish-brown silty sand with occasional fragments of C19 th /C20 th pottery. 0.2m in thickness. Finds also included animal bone & C12 th -C17 th pottery sherds. Underlay (100), overlay (102)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Colluvial subsoil deposit eroded from both N & S slopes.</i>
(102)	Firm mid reddish-brown silty clayey sand (20:30:50). Frequent small-large angular sandstone & siltstone fragments. 0.38m in thickness. Finds included C14 th -C16 th pottery. Underlay (101), overlay (103)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Accumulative sub-soil colluvium from S slope of moat.</i>
(103)	Moderately compacted mid reddish-brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks, small-large angular stones & CBM fragments. 0.44m in thickness. Finds included C12 th -C15 th pottery & animal bone. Underlay (102), overlay (104)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Accumulated fill within moat representing a period of low maintenance.</i>
(104)	Firm mid reddish-brown clayey silt. Frequent small gravel inclusions & occasional charcoal flecks. Max. 0.3m thickness. Finds included C12 th -C14 th pottery & animal bone. Sampled as <1>. Underlay (103), overlay (105) & (113)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Colluvial deposit from N slope of moat. Presence of large amount of gravel within deposit, which did not appear to occur on N slope, suggests deliberate dumping of gravelly material. Appeared to serve no purpose within moat so may be interpreted as disposal of excess material.</i>
(105)	Firm yet plastic mottled grey & red silty clay. Frequent grit / gravel lenses, moderate charcoal flecking. 0.44m in thickness. Finds included C13 th -C14 th pottery, a single fragment of C16 th ridge tile & animal bone. Sampled as <3>. Underlay (104), overlay [106]
INTERPRETATION	<i>Moist clayey deposit indicative of long-term presence of standing water. Appears likely that (105) represents primary fill of a re-cut or cleaning episode within moat [106].</i>
[106]	Cut line seen in section but presumably following course of D-shaped moat. Max. 1.06m depth, to present ground surface, with sides of moat rising approximately 3.15m on S slope & 1.75m on N slope. Break of slope at top not visible within trench, sides gradual & stepped on S, uneven & convex on N. Break of slope at base sharp, base flat. Filled by (105), (104), (103) & (102). Cut (109) & (113)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Re-cut or cleaning episode of moat cut [115]. Followed an apparent episode of destruction & presumably was intended to re-establish defensive function of moat. Gradual sides indicative of broad base to moat. Possible that (104) represents primary fill of another re-cut or cleaning episode but this could not be substantiated within trench.</i>
(107), (108)	VOID

(109)	Friable dark greyish-brown gravelly silt with moderate small-medium angular sandstone & limestone fragments & occasional charcoal flecking. 0.34m thickness. Finds included late C13 th /C14 th -C15 th /C16 th pottery & tile fragments & animal bone. Underlay [106], overlay (110)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Slump of demolition (?) material from mound into moat</i>
(110)	Friable light greyish-brown gravelly silt with occasional small angular sandstone & limestone fragments & occasional charcoal flecking. 0.32m thickness. Finds included late C13 th /C14 th pottery & animal bone. Underlay (109), overlay (111)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Slump of demolition material between 2 much stonier demolition slumps. May suggest (109), (110) & (111) were all part of same demolition episode on mound.</i>
(111)	Friable dark greyish-brown gravelly silt measuring 0.4m in thickness with occasional charcoal flecks & frequent small-medium angular sandstone & limestone fragments. Deposit also contained a single large dressed sandstone block. No finds recovered. Underlay (110), overlay (112)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Collapse of building material probably relating to destruction episode on mound. Deposit appeared identical to (117) on N side of the moat, suggesting they may have formed a single layer prior to re-cleaning of moat [106].</i>
(112)	Firm yet plastic mid greyish-brown silty clay with red sand mottling and a moderate amount of charcoal flecking & patches. At the upper layer of the deposit was a 0.01m thick lense of charcoal, which may have been the base of a layer truncated by [106]. (112) measured 0.06m in thickness, as excavated. No finds recovered. Underlay (111) & (114), filled [115]
INTERPRETATION	<i>Silty fill of moat cut [115], apparently formed through steady accumulation of material in waterlogged environment. Possible primary fill of [115].</i>
(113)	Firm mid pinkish-brown clayey silt with frequent gravels & small angular stones & occasional charcoal flecking. 0.22m thickness, extending 1.2m into trench from N slope. No finds recovered. Cut by [106], overlay (117)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Stony slump from N side of moat possibly the result of weathering or the tipping of waste material. Also possible that this was part of broader layer – possibly with (109)- prior to truncation by [106]</i>
(114)	Firm mid pinkish-brown clayey silt with moderate gravel inclusions and measuring 0.08m in thickness. No finds recovered. Underlay (117), overlay (112)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Possible demolition debris or colluvial slump from N slope.</i>
[115]	D-shaped curvilinear cut. Break of slope at top & base not identified. Sides gradual & uneven, where visible. >40m E-W x 38m N-S. Filled by (112), (114), (111), (110), (109), (113), (117), cut (116)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Probable early re-cut of moat.</i>
(116)	Firm mid reddish-brown silty clay with moderate small-medium angular sandstone fragments. 0.08m of deposit excavated at S end of trench. No finds recovered. Cut by [115]
INTERPRETATION	<i>Sterile deposit - possible natural deposit into which [115] was cut. It may be that (116) was a further fill within the moat & that [115] represented a cleaning episode or re-cut.</i>
(117)	Friable dark greyish-brown gravelly silt with occasional charcoal flecking and frequent small-medium angular sandstone & limestone fragments. Also found was a single large dressed sandstone block. Deposit measured 0.3m in thickness. No finds recovered. Underlay (113), overlay (114)

INTERPRETATION	<i>Collapse of building material probably relating to destruction episode on mound. Deposit appeared identical to (111) on S side of the moat, suggesting they may have formed a single layer prior to re-cleaning of moat [106].</i>
(118)	Firm yet plastic mid greyish-brown silty clay. (118) measured 0.08m in thickness, as excavated. No finds recovered. Underlay (112), filled [119]
INTERPRETATION	<i>Deposit (118) represented a period of standing water within the feature and may have been the primary fill of [119]</i>
[119]	Curvilinear cut. Break of slope at top & base not identified. Sides gradual & uneven, where visible. From top of mound to lowest point of Trench 1 measured 4.27m; from churchyard to lowest point of [119] reached within Trench 1 measured 2.95m. Filled by (118).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Earliest identifiable activity within Trench 1 and appeared to represent the original cut for the moat. No finds were recovered associated with [119] and it is thus difficult to establish exactly when the moat was originally cut.</i>

TRENCH 2	
(200)	Friable mid brown humic loam with moderate amounts of gravel and small stones. Measured 0.12m in thickness. Finds included animal bone and metal fragments. Overlay (201)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Topsoil</i>
(201)	Firm mid greyish-brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal fragments & flecks and moderate small-large angular and rounded stones (sandstone, siltstone, limestone). Measures 0.38m in thickness. Finds included predominantly C19 th /C20 th pottery, animal bone, metal fragments & mortar lumps. Underlay (201). Overlay (218) and (208)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Subsoil</i>
(202)	Loose mid greyish-brown clayey silt forming a loose matrix around frequent small-large angular and rounded stones (sandstone, siltstone, limestone). No evidence of bonding in layer or remnant on stones. Measured 0.15m in thickness. Finds included predominantly C19 th /C20 th pottery and animal bone. Underlay (218). Overlay (203)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Collapse or demolition spread, although lack of evidence of bonding material may suggest otherwise.</i>
(203)	Firm mid pinkish-brown clayey silt. Frequent gravel and small angular stones. Occasional flecks and fragments of charcoal. Occasional lenses of dark brown silt. 0.55m thick. Finds included C14 th /C15 th pottery & ridge tile, animal bone, mortar fragments, clay tile. Underlay (202), overlay (209)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Layer of subsoil, although may possibly represent material upcast from a re-cleaning of moat – i.e. [106] - or material derived from elsewhere on the site</i>
(204)	Wall constructed of local 'field' stone. Facing stones measured 0.1m x 0.08m x 0.06m - 0.25m x 0.12m x 0.1m. Stones not dressed. Wall faced to E and W & regularly coursed. 0.7m wide. Inner core rubble and clay bonded with clay-silt and fragments of mortar. Facing stones mortared in. Fragment of CBM among facing stones and Roman <i>tegula</i> among stones of inner core. In E face, on S side of Trench 2, was an indent measuring 0.27m N-S x 0.25m E-W x >0.64m, which may have held a wooden post. Underlay (210), overlay [205]

INTERPRETATION	<i>Wall relating to early structure of unknown function on mound. As it seemed narrow and poorly sited for a defensive structure, it may have related to an ancillary structure.</i>
[205]	Wall (204) presumed to be built within a construction cut, although no evidence of this was located. Filled by (204), possibly cut (211)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Presumed construction cut for wall (204)</i>
(206)	Ragstone wall. Facing stones measured up to 0.36m x 0.18m x 0.12m. Wall faced to W. Irregularly coursed. 0.6m wide. Inner core rubble and clay bonded with clay-silt and fragments of mortar. W face flush and fair-faced. E rough-faced. Underlay (208) and (213), overlay [207]
INTERPRETATION	<i>Possible remains of undercroft or cellar. If so, then cellar would have been only part submerged and part above ground</i>
[207]	Presumed cut of wall (206) but no evidence of cut located. Filled by (206), contemporary with [214], cut (210) and (215)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Presumed construction cut for wall (206)</i>
(208)	Friable mid yellowish-brown gritty silt with moderate flecks of charcoal, frequent flecks & lumps of mortar. 0.15m in thickness. C13 th ridge tile fragments. Underlay (201), overlay (206), filled [214]
INTERPRETATION	<i>Appeared to mirror in extent the disturbed upper portion of (204) and probably related to detritus resulting from the robbing of wall [214].</i>
(209)	Moderately compacted light greyish-brown sandy silt with frequent gravel / pea grit and occasional mid greenish-grey silty patches. Very occasional mortar flecking. 0.34m in thickness. Finds included animal bone. Underlay (203), overlay (212)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Dumped layer of probable construction material.</i>
(210)	Firm mid pinkish-brown clayey silt with frequent gravel and pea grit and small angular stones. >1m thick. Finds included C13 th pottery. Cut by [207], overlay (204)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Upcast from excavation or cleaning episode of moat or material derived from elsewhere on the site</i>
(211)	Firm mid pinkish-brown clayey silt with frequent gravel and pea grit and small angular stones. >0.6m thick. No finds recovered. Either cut by or overlay [205].
INTERPRETATION	<i>Upcast from excavation or cleaning episode of moat or material derived from elsewhere on the site.</i>
(212)	Firm mid pinkish-brown clayey silt with frequent gravel and pea grit and small angular stones. Moderate flecks and fragments of charcoal. Moderate flecks, fragments and lumps of mortar. Moderate small angular limestone fragments. 0.44m thick. C13 th pottery and animal bone. Underlay (209), overlay (213)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Probable upcast from moat used to backfill cellar framed by (206). Whether originally excavated from moat for this purpose or whether transferred from another point on mound to backfill the cellar at a later date is uncertain.</i>
(213)	Loose mid greyish-brown gritty silt mixed with patches of mid greenish-grey silty gravel. Moderate flecks and fragments of charcoal and mortar. Frequent small-large angular sandstone and siltstone fragments. 0.22m thick. Finds included animal bone and late C12 th pottery. Underlay (212), overlay (206)

INTERPRETATION	<i>Layer of material relating to demolition / destruction on mound. Probable initial phase of disuse / collapse of cellarge framed by (206)</i>
[214]	Cut, irregular in plan & measuring 1.4m N-S x 0.6m E-W x 0.42m. Break of slope at top sharp, sides uneven, generally gradual and concave. Break of slope at base gradual, base concave. Truncated to NE by tree bole. Filled by (208), contemporary with [207], cut (210).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Probable robber pit for recovery of stones from (204).</i>
(215)	Firm mid pinkish-brown clayey silt with frequent gravel and pea grit and small angular stones. Occasional charcoal flecks and fragments. 0.28m thick. Finds included animal bone. Cut by [205], overlay (216)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Upcast from excavation or cleaning episode of moat or material derived from elsewhere on the site.</i>
(216)	Friable mid greyish-brown silt with frequent gravel and pea grit and small angular stones. Moderate charcoal flecking and fragments. Moderate fragments of mortar. Measured 0.15m in thickness. Finds included C12 th pottery and animal bone. Sampled as <4>. Underlay (215), overlay (217)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Demolition or destruction layer relating to earlier – possibly pre-mound – activity (217).</i>
(217)	Friable mid greyish-brown silt matrix around stone layer (primarily sandstone and siltstone). Frequent mortar fragments. Thickness of layer unknown. No finds recovered. Underlay (216)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Rubble layer overlay structural remains.</i>
(218)	Concentration of stone measuring 1.66m E-W x 0.48m N-S x 0.08m. No finds recovered. Underlay (201), overlay (202)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Spread of stone that appeared to be too uneven to represent a floor, too irregular to be a wall, yet too regular to be rubble. Possibly part of destruction layer (202).</i>

TRENCH 3	
(301)	Friable dark brownish-grey humic loam with occasional small angular stones & charcoal flecks. 0.23m thick. Finds included C18 th /C19 th pottery. Overlay (302)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Topsoil</i>
(302)	Moderately compacted mid brownish-grey silty sand with moderate small angular stones & occasional charcoal flecks. 0.2m thick. Finds included C18 th /C19 th pottery, animal bone, metal objects and bottle and window glass. Underlay (301), Overlay (304), (306), (309), (311), (313), (315)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Subsoil</i>
[303]	Sub-circular cut measuring 0.51m W-E x 0.44m N-S x 0.06m. Break of slope at top sharp, sides steep and concave, break of slope at base gradual, base concave. Filled by (304) and (307), underlay (307), cut (312)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Truncated posthole, possibly relating to [308] and perhaps also [305], although the latter differed more in plan and profile.</i>
(304)	Friable mid grey-brown sandy silt with occasional small angular stones & occasional charcoal flecks. 0.04m thick. No finds recovered. Underlay (302), overlay (307), fills [303]
INTERPRETATION	<i>Upper fill of possible posthole [303]</i>
[305]	Sub-rectangular cut measuring 0.65m E-W x >0.2m N-S x 0.12m. Break of slope at top and base sharp, sides steep and straight, base flat. Feature continued beyond southern extent of trench. Filled by (306), cut (312)

INTERPRETATION	<i>Small pit or posthole possibly relating to posthole sequence with [303] and [308] but differed in plan and profile.</i>
(306)	Friable mid reddish-brown silty sand with occasional small angular stones & charcoal flecks. Occasional lime mortar flecking. 0.12m thick. No finds recovered. Feature not fully excavated as extended S beyond trench. Underlay (302), filled [305]
INTERPRETATION	<i>Single dumped fill of pit [305]</i>
(307)	Firm mid reddish-grey clayey sand with occasional small angular stones & occasional charcoal flecks. 0.03m thick. No finds recovered. Underlay (304), filled [303]
INTERPRETATION	<i>Primary fill of [303], possible remnant of original backfill of posthole prior to removal of post</i>
[308]	Sub-circular cut measuring 0.45m E-W x >0.25m N-S x 0.08m. Break of slope at top and base sharp, sides steep to E, more gradual to W. Base undulating. Feature continued beyond northern extent of trench. Filled by (309), cut (312)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Truncated posthole, possibly relating to [303] and perhaps also [305], although the latter differed in plan and profile.</i>
(309)	Friable mid grey-brown sandy silt with occasional small angular stones & occasional charcoal flecking. 0.08m thick. No finds recovered. Feature not fully excavated as extended N beyond limit of trench. Underlay (302), filled [308]
INTERPRETATION	<i>Single fill of probable posthole [308]</i>
[310]	Sub-rectangular cut with rounded corners measuring 0.45m NW-SE x 0.25m NE-SW x 0.04m. Break of slope at top sharp, sides straight and gradual. Break of slope at base not discernable. Base concave. Filled by (311), cut (312)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Base of a later intrusion, possibly relating to post-medieval orcharding on site or C19th garden works.</i>
(311)	Loose dark brownish-grey clayey silty sand (25:35:40) with occasional small – medium angular stones and moderate amounts of charcoal flecking and patches. Measured 0.04m in thickness. Single fragment of animal rib recovered. Underlay (302), filled [310]
INTERPRETATION	<i>Mix of subsoils and burning residue backfilling recent intrusion.</i>
(312)	Firm light brownish-pink clayey sand with moderate small – medium angular stones & occasional charcoal flecking. Occasional mortar flecks & CBM fragments. Measured 0.68m in thickness. Finds included C13 th /early C14 th pottery, with some residual C12 th sherds. Also animal bone and Fe objects, primarily nails. Heavy root disturbance particularly near centre of trench. Cut by [303], [305], [308], [310], [314], and [339], overlay (316), (323), (325) and (327)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Dumped sandy clay layer over demolition material (316) possibly representing cleaning of moat to re-establish defensive function prior to construction of (313).</i>
(313)	Wall constructed of limestone and sandstone. Facing stones measured up to 0.30m x 0.16m x 0.2m. Undressed. Bonded with clay and traces of lime mortar. Roughly laid to courses. Only visible face was SSE. Measured 1.1m ENE-WSW x 0.6m NNW-SSE x 0.55m. No finds recovered. Underlay (302), overlay (330), filled [339]
INTERPRETATION	<i>Roughly made wall caught obliquely in corner of trench. Overlay (330), which lay on a slightly different alignment. Thus (330) probably comprised foundation material for (313) but it may have been an earlier wall replaced by (313). Poor construction and lack of proper facing suggests (313) may have been the rear of a cellar-style wall (i.e. 206) or may itself have comprised foundation material.</i>

[314]	NNW-SSE linear cut measuring >1.6m NNW-SSE x >0.4m ENE-WSW x 0.19m. Break of slope at top and base sharp, sides steep and straight, base generally flat, although with a slight deeper slot along base of ENE slope. Filled by (315), cut (312)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Robbed-out foundation trench for return or spur wall off (313)=(330).</i>
(315)	Loose mid yellowish-brown silty sand with moderate small-medium angular sandstone fragments, charcoal flecks and patches of charcoal. 0.19m thick. Finds included animal bone, glazed C13 th /C14 th floor tile & a small quantity of C13 th pottery, stone roof tile fragments & a Fe nail. Underlay (302), filled [314]
INTERPRETATION	<i>Demolition backfill in robber trench [314]</i>
(316)	Loose mid brownish-grey silty sand with frequent charcoal, comprising, to the W, more than 25% of the deposit. Occasional small-medium sandstone and limestone angular fragments. Deposit measured 0.12m in thickness. Covered E end of trench – from apparent SW terminus of (320) over remainder of trench to E. Finds included predominantly late C13 th pottery & fragments of late medieval tile together with some C17 th -C19 th pottery and animal bone. Underlay (312), overlay (319), (320), (329), (336) and (338), same as (323)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Destruction or demolition layer relating to structure framed by (319) and (320).</i>
(317)	Firm mid pinkish-brown clayey sand with occasional charcoal flecks & small-medium angular sandstone fragments. 0.38m thick. Finds included predominantly early C12 th pottery with an intrusive C20 th pantile fragment, animal bone and Fe knife blade. Cut by [333], overlay (318), probably same as (334)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Dumped layer, possibly relating to clearance of moat after destruction sequence (318) and (322)</i>
(318)	Loose black charcoal and burnt wood deposit measuring >0.72m E-W x >2m N-S x 0.1m. No finds recovered. Sampled as <5>. Underlay (317), overlay (322)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Heavy burning layer, presumably relating to clearance of combustible remains on mound after destruction (322).</i>
(319)	NW-SE wall. Single course of rough ragstone blocks. Undressed and unfaced to either side. 1.94m NW-SE x 0.6m NE-SW x 0.11m thick. Stones unbonded. No finds recovered. Underlay (316), filled [333], contemporary with (320)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Base course of wall or foundation forming NE side of a structure with (320) forming the NW. No construction cut evident at this point but [333] presumed to continue here from (320)</i>
(320)	NE-SW wall. Single course of rough ragstone blocks. Undressed and unfaced to either side. Declined gently to SW (drop of approx 0.25m). >0.56m NW-SE x 2.12m NE-SW x 0.14m. Stones unbonded. No finds recovered. Underlay (316), fills [333]. Contemporary with (319)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Base course of wall or foundation forming NW side of a structure with (319) forming the NE. At its SW extent (320) appeared either to 'kink' slightly to the NW and become (331) or to terminate. More likely that (320) would have maintained its original course and that (331) represented a surface contemporary with, but N of, the wall course. Another possibility is that (320) did terminate at this point and a return to the SE had been truncated or was constructed from a more perishable material.</i>
(321)	NNW-SSE Wall. Constructed of sandstone and ragstone. Stones up to 0.32m x 0.15m x 0.2m. Undressed. Poorly faced to WSW. Laid to courses. Bonded with friable mid brownish-grey clayey silt and mortar traces. 1.32m NNW-SSE x >0.48m WSW-ENE x 0.38m. Underlay (322), filled [340]

INTERPRETATION	<i>Wall relating to earliest phase of construction identified in Trench 3. No related structural elements identified.</i>
(322)	Friable light brownish-grey silty sand. Frequent mortar and charcoal flecks. Moderate CBM flecks and small fragments. Occasional small-large angular sandstone and limestone fragments. Occasional flecks and small lumps of baked clay. 0.36m thick. Sampled as <6>. Finds included pottery, animal bone, Fe nails, painted plaster and a Cu & Fe composite object. Underlay (318), overlay (321)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Demolition layer relating to destruction of (321). Layer only partially excavated.</i>
(323)	Loose mid brownish-grey silty sand. Frequent charcoal, to the E comprising over 25% of deposit. Occasional small-medium sandstone and limestone angular fragments. 0.05m thick. Covered (331) to the apparent SW terminus of (320). Finds included pottery, animal bone & Fe nails. Underlay (312), overlay (331)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Continuation of demolition layer (316) W of (320) but confined over (331).</i>
[324]	Sub-rectangular cut. Corners 90° and rounded. 0.73m E-W x 0.56m N-S x 0.09m. Break of slope at top and base sharp. Sides irregular and steep (60-80°). Base flat. Filled by (325), cut (334)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Possible raking-pit for burnt material, although lack of finds is unusual for a raking-pit associated with a domestic fire. Sides of feature showed no sign of in-situ burning.</i>
(325)	Firm dark reddish-grey clayey sand. Frequent charcoal flecks. Moderate burnt clay fragments. Occasional small angular fragments of burnt stone. 0.09m thick. No finds recovered. Underlay (312), filled [324]
INTERPRETATION	<i>Fill rich in evidence of burning, although edges of feature showed no signs of heat. Most likely to be dumped material raked from a nearby fire but lack of domestic debris (e.g. animal bone) suggests that this was not a cooking fire.</i>
[326]	Sub-circular cut. 0.41m N-S x 0.33m E-W x 0.2m. Break of slope at top sharp. Sides steep and straight. Break of slope at base gradual. Base flat. Feature heavily disturbed by animal activity. Filled by (327), cut (334)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Possible posthole disturbed by animal activity or possibly a collapsed burrow.</i>
(327)	Loose light greyish-brown sandy silt. Moderate medium – large angular sandstone fragments. Occasional charcoal flecks. 0.2m deep. Finds included animal bone and small CBM fragments. Underlay (312), filled [326]
INTERPRETATION	<i>Very loose, disturbed deposit. Possible archaeological deposit disturbed by animal activity or collapse of archaeological material into recent burrow.</i>
(328)	Firm mid pinkish-red sandy clay. Occasional small angular sandstone fragments. Occasional charcoal flecks. Deposit not excavated. No finds recovered. Cut by [340]
INTERPRETATION	<i>Clayey dump relating to cleaning of moat or original excavation of moat.</i>
(329)	Friable mid greenish-yellow sand. Frequent small pebble gravel. Occasional larger (0.11m ²) rounded cobblestones. 0.7m E-W x 0.47m N-S x 0.04m. No finds recovered. Underlay (316), overlay (334)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Metalled surface, probably originally cobbled. Formed floor or structural base.</i>
(330)	NE-SW wall constructed of limestone and sandstone and measuring >1.07m SW-NE x >0.21m NW-SE x 0.29m. Facing stones measured up to 0.32m x 0.13m x 0.21m. Stones undressed, wall unfaced and randomly coursed. No visible bonding material. One of the large upper stones was a crumbly creamy material initially identified as tufa but its softness suggests it is more likely to be degraded limestone. No finds recovered. Underlay (313), filled [339]

INTERPRETATION	<i>Stone courses below (313) and apparently on a slightly different alignment. These were most likely to be splayed foundations for (313) but may conceivably have been an earlier wall course re-used as foundation material.</i>
(331)	Series of stones, some of which were large (0.35m ²) with flat upper surfaces, which did not appear to form a continuous pavement. Stones declined to N by 0.05m over 0.5m and appeared to lie within projected cut [332], which ran roughly NE-SW. Feature measured >2.56m NE-SW x >0.8m NW-SE. No finds recovered. Underlay (323), filled [332]
INTERPRETATION	<i>Foundation material relating to a 'kinked' continuation of (320) or a surface to N of course of (320).</i>
[332]	NE-SW linear cut measuring >2.56m NE-SW x >0.8m NW-SE. Filled by (331), cut (334)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Presumed cut for (331), although it may be that (331) represented a subsided layer abutting N face of a truncated continuation of (320).</i>
[333]	NE-SW linear cut measuring 2.12m SW-NE x >0.56m NW-SE. Feature appeared to terminate at SW extent, to be truncated or to turn either NW or SE. No finds recovered. Filled by (319) and (320), cut (317) and (334)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Presumed construction cut for wall (320). If cut turned NW it may have 'kinked' to become [332] and if it turned SE it presumably would have formed the SW wall of the structure formed by (319) and (320). May have terminated where wall (320) stopped or may have continued SW prior to truncation.</i>
(334)	Firm mid pinkish-brown clayey sand up to 0.25m thick. Occasional charcoal flecks and small-medium angular sandstone fragments. No finds recovered. Cut by [324], [326], [332], [333], [335] and [337], underlay (329), prob. same as (317)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Probable continuation of (317) to the W of (319).</i>
[335]	Circular cut measuring 0.11m diameter x 0.16m depth. Break of slope at top and base sharp. Sides steep and straight. Base concave. Heavy bioturbation. Filled by (336), cut (334)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Probable result of animal activity, with animals taking advantage of siltier soils filling a stake-hole or similar feature. If an archaeological feature it would probably have formed part of a stake line with [337]</i>
(336)	Loose light brownish-grey sandy silt. Occasional charcoal flecks. 0.16m thick. No finds recovered. Heavy bioturbation. Underlay (316), filled [335]
INTERPRETATION	<i>Animal or root disturbed silts.</i>
[337]	Circular cut measuring 0.07m diameter x 0.12m depth. Break of slope at top and base sharp. Sides steep and straight. Base concave. Heavy bioturbation. Filled by (338), cut (334)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Probable result of animals taking advantage of siltier soils filling a stake-hole or similar feature; however, if an archaeological feature, it would probably have formed part of a stake line with [335]</i>
(338)	Loose light brownish-grey sandy silt. Occasional charcoal flecks. 0.16m thick. No finds recovered. Heavy bioturbation. Underlay (316), filled [337]
INTERPRETATION	<i>Animal or root disturbed silts.</i>
[339]	Hypothetical cut feature. Walls (313) and (330) are presumed to have been built within a construction cut, although no evidence for this cut was located. Filled by (313) and (330). Underlay (330), cut (312)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Hypothetical construction cut for (313) and (330)</i>
[340]	Hypothetical cut feature. Wall (321) presumed built within a construction cut, although no evidence for cut located. Filled by (321), cut (328)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Hypothetical construction cut for wall (321). It may have been that the construction cut lay just beyond the extent of the keyhole slot to evaluate (321) and that (328) represented material packed into the construction cut.</i>

APPENDIX 1: POTTERY ANALYSIS

Stephen Clarke, Monmouth Archaeology

1. Summary

Thirty-two assemblages from Border Archaeology's excavations at Court House Farm Moated Site, Pembridge, Herefordshire, were examined for this report. The pottery covers a wide date range—from the 12th century to post-medieval and modern times. Tile fragments (Context (105)) and a worn sherd (Context (213)) may be Roman.

2. Method

All sherds were examined under a binocular microscope at x8 magnification in order to identify temper. Simple tests for calcareous inclusions, hardness, etc. were used and Munsell colour charts are employed to record the fabric colours.

The soil in northern Herefordshire causes an incrustation which obscures the edges of the potsherds making it hard to identify the inclusions. A cloth is wrapped around a sherd before using a pair of pliers to snap off a thin edge-flake. The cloth prevents the pliers burring the break or causing a large area of the sherd to fracture.

3. Codes and frequency

The pottery types are recorded using the system and codes devised by Dr. Alan Vince for the pottery from the City of Hereford (Vince 1983). As the assemblages are small the record is by sherd count only.

4. The Pottery

The following fabrics occur in the Pembridge assemblages:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Group A | <i>Herefordshire wares</i> |
| A2 | ?Tile in a similar fabric that is normally found in Hereford City |
| A4 | North Herefordshire/Shropshire cooking pottery / Floor tile |
| A5 | Jugs |
| A7b | Later Herefordshire wares, various forms |
| A7c | Fine, post-medieval wares |
| A7d | Herefordshire 17 th century kilns |
| Group B | <i>Pottery from the Malvern area</i> |
| B1 | Cooking pots |
| B4 | Later oxidised wares |
| Group C | <i>Pottery from the Worcester area</i> |
| C1 | Jugs |
| C1b | Cooking pots |
| Group E | <i>Non-local wares</i> |



E2b Bristol Redcliffe ware

Group G *Various local and non-local post-medieval and later wares*

5. General

All the assemblages were relatively small, making it hard to apply firm or even very close dating – even single intrusive or residual sherds can be very misleading. However, I am confident that the dates suggested are reasonably accurate in the present state of our knowledge.

6. References

Vince, A.G., 'The Medieval and Post-Medieval Ceramic Industry of the Malvern Region: The Study of a Ware and its Distribution,' in D.P.S. Peacock (ed), *Pottery and Early Commerce*, 257-305. (London 1977).

Vince, A.G., 'The Ceramic Finds', in R. Shoesmith (Ed.): *Hereford City Excavations, Volume 3, The Finds*, Council for British Archaeology Research Report 56: 34-83. (London 1985).

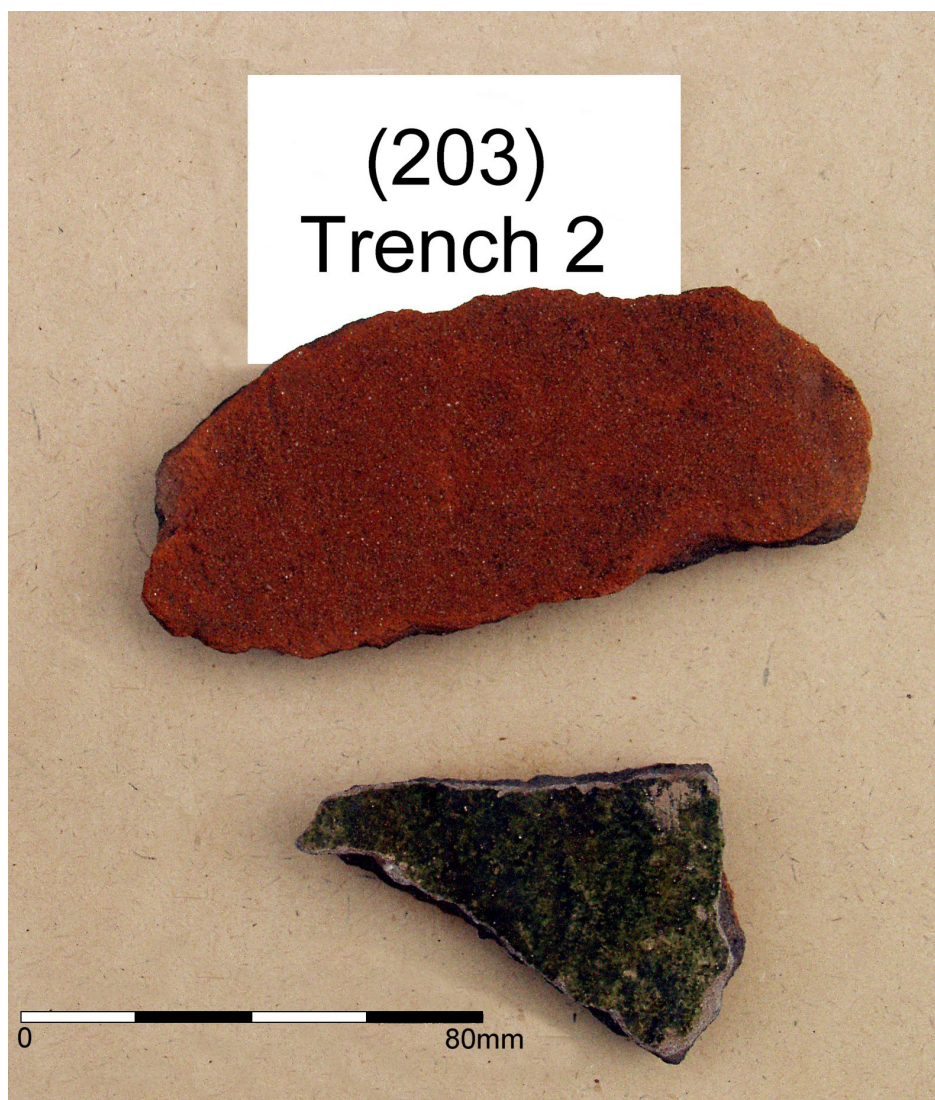
TRENCH 1			
CONTEXT (100)			
<i>Ware/form etc</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
C20 th assemblage with earlier material, including a sherd of Bristol Redcliffe ware		C20 th	
Ridge tile	C1b		2
CONTEXT (101)			
Later Herefordshire ware	A7b	Late C13 th -C15 th	6 + 1 base, 2 handles
Worcester cooking pot	C1	C12 th -C13 th	1
Worcester jug	C2	C13 th	1
North Herefordshire/Shropshire cooking pot	A4	C13 th	1
Worcester fabric ridge tile	C1b	C13 th	1
Fine post-medieval ware	A7c	C16 th	2
Herefordshire C17 th kilns	A7d	C17 th	1 + handle, base
Post-medieval—unknown origin			1
Transfer printed		C19 th	1
(?) Midlands		C19 th	3
Unglazed unknown origin			1
Jug base, (?) Severn Valley/Shrops.		C13 th	1
Later Herefordshire ware	A7b		3
Similar to A7b but with inert white clay pellets as in (109), bag 25			1
CONTEXT (103)			
<i>Ware/form etc</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
Ridge tile—fabric very like C1 but this does not seem to be recorded in Hfd—too dense for Droitwich and too thin for floor tile			
(?) Local jug—Herefordshire C17 th kilns	Prob. A7d		1 + 1 rim
Later Herefordshire ware	A7b		4 + 1 rim
Spurred ridge tile Late Malvernian oxidised ware	B4	C14 th /C15 th	1
Late Malvernian oxidised ware	B4		1
Fine post-medieval ware	A7c		10 + 1 rim

Malvernian cooking pot	B1	C12 th /early C13 th	2 + 1 rim
Worcester cooking pot	C1		1
Later Herefordshire ware	A7b		1
Fine post-medieval ware	A7c		1
CONTEXT (104)			
<i>Ware/form etc</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
Later Herefordshire ware jug with applied face	A7b	Style and copper flecked glaze suggest a late C13 th to mid C14 th date	
Later Herefordshire ware	A7b		31 + 2 rims, 2 bases
Worcester cooking pot	C1b	C12 th /C13 th	5 + 3 rims
Malvernian cooking pot	B1		3
Fine post-medieval ware	A7c		2 + 1 base
Worcester cooking pot	C1		1
Late Malvernian oxidised ware	B4		1
Herefordshire jug ware	A5		1 handle
Fine post-medieval ware	A7c		1
Herefordshire C17 th kilns	A7d		Base and handle
Jug, micaceous, prob. Shrop or Severn Valley			2
Tin glazed earthenware		C17 th /C18 th	1
Hard fired brick/tile/(?)flue tile			
CONTEXT (105)			
<i>Ware/form etc</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
Large fragment (?)Roman tegula			1
Herefordshire C17 th kilns	A7d		3 + 2 rims
Later Herefordshire ware	A7b		4
Malvernian cooking pot	B1		3 + 1 rim
Fine post-medieval ware	A7c		2
	C1b type ridge tile fabric		

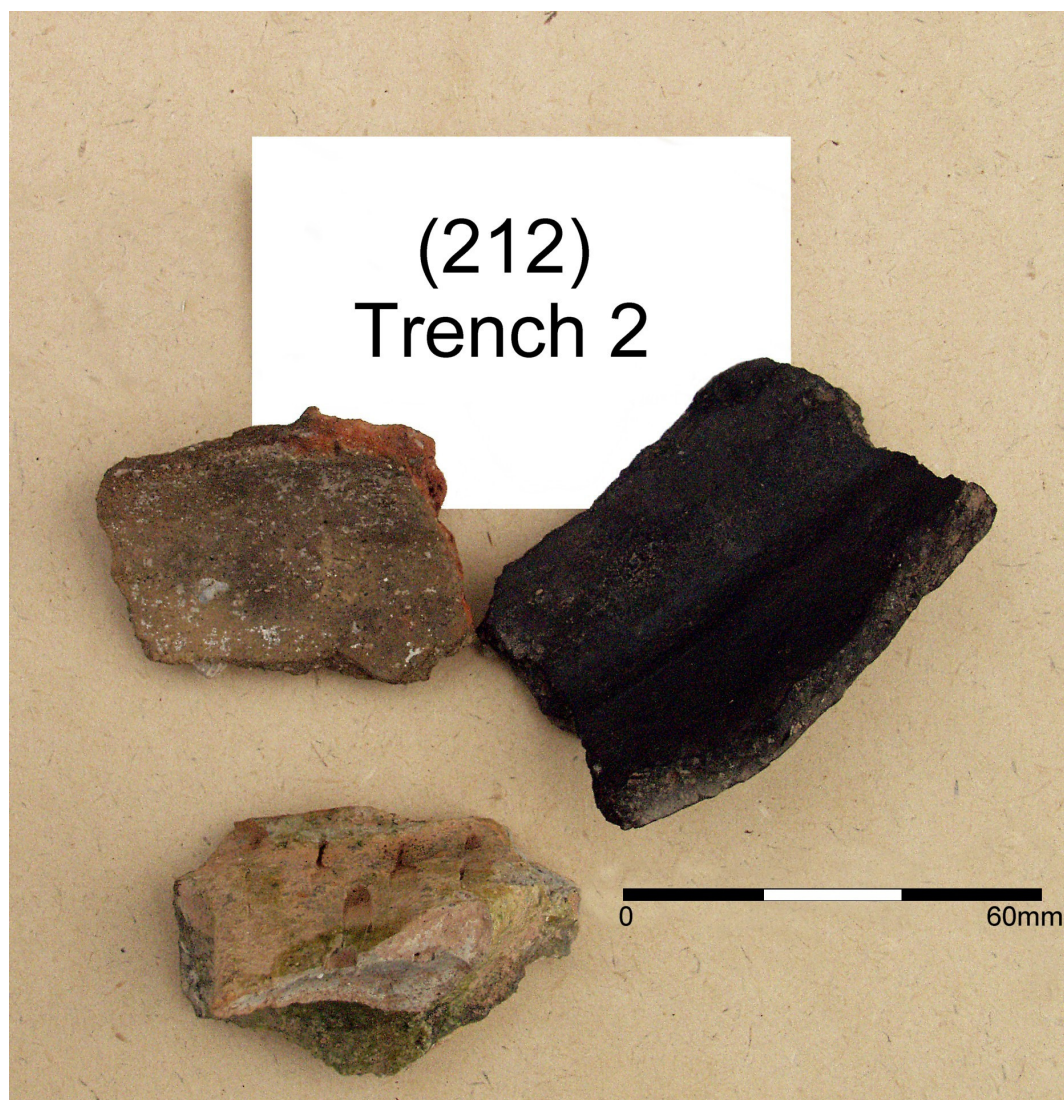
	B5	C14 th /C15 th	1
Later Herefordshire ware	A7b	C13 th /C14 th	2
Worcester ware rod handle	C1	C13 th	1
Malvernian cooking pot	B1	Late C12 th /C13 th form	1
CONTEXT (109)			
<i>Ware/form etc</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
Ridge tile	C1b		1
Jug with finger frilled base, similar to A7b except various differences, including inert white clay pellets, unknown origin		Prob. late C13 th /C14 th	19 + 3 bases
Late Malvernian oxidised ware int. glazed base	B4	Late medieval	2 + 1 base
Fine post-medieval ware	A7c		8
CONTEXT (110)			
<i>Ware/form etc</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
Jug with slashed strap handle. No distinctive brown clay pellets as in A7b. Possible local Pembridge kiln			19 + 1 rim
Cooking pot	C1b		9
Malvernian cooking pot	B1		1
Ridge tile	C1b type fabric		

TRENCH 2			
CONTEXT (201) (Bag 13)			
<i>Ware/Form, etc.</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
North Herefordshire/Shropshire cooking pot	A4	C13 th	1
Malvernian cooking pot	B1	C13 th	1
Modern pottery		C20 th	
CONTEXT (202) (Bag 14)			
<i>Ware/Form, etc.</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
Worcester cooking pot	C1	C12 th	1 + 1 rim
Malvernian cooking pot	B1	C13 th	1
Modern pottery		C19 th /20 th	
CONTEXT (203) (Bag 26)			
<i>Ware/Form, etc.</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
Worcester cooking pot	C1b	C14 th /15 th	2
Worcester fabric ridge tile fragments	C1b	C14 th /15 th	3
Malvernian cooking pot	B1	C14 th	4 + 1 rim + 1 base
Midlands ware		C18 th /19 th (?)	1
CONTEXT (208) (Bag 19)			
<i>Ware/Form, etc.</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
Worcester fabric ridge tile fragments	C1	C13 th	2
CONTEXT (210) (Bag 16)			
<i>Ware/Form, etc.</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
Malvernian cooking pot	B1	C13 th	10 + 4 bases
CONTEXT (212) (Bag 6)			
<i>Ware/Form, etc.</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
Malvernian cooking pot	B1	C13 th	8 + 2 bases
Worcester jug ware	C1	C12 th /13 th	2
Worcester cooking pot	C1b	C13 th	2
Non local post-medieval ware	GA	C16 th (?)	1
Non local post-medieval ware	GB	C16 th (?)	1
CONTEXT (213) (Bag 7)			
<i>Ware/Form, etc.</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
Worcester cooking pot	C1b	Late C12 th /13 th	2
Malvernian cooking pot	B1	Late C12 th /13 th	9 + 3 rims+ 3 bases
Roman Severn Valley ware (?)		1 st -4 th century AD (?)	1
Brick/tile fragment		Undated	1
CONTEXT (216) (Bag 2)			
<i>Ware/Form, etc.</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
Malvernian cooking pot	B1	Late C11 th /early C12 th	4
Worcester cooking pot	C1	Late C11 th / C12 th	3 + 1 rim
Oxidised fragment of tile		C16 th century (?)	1

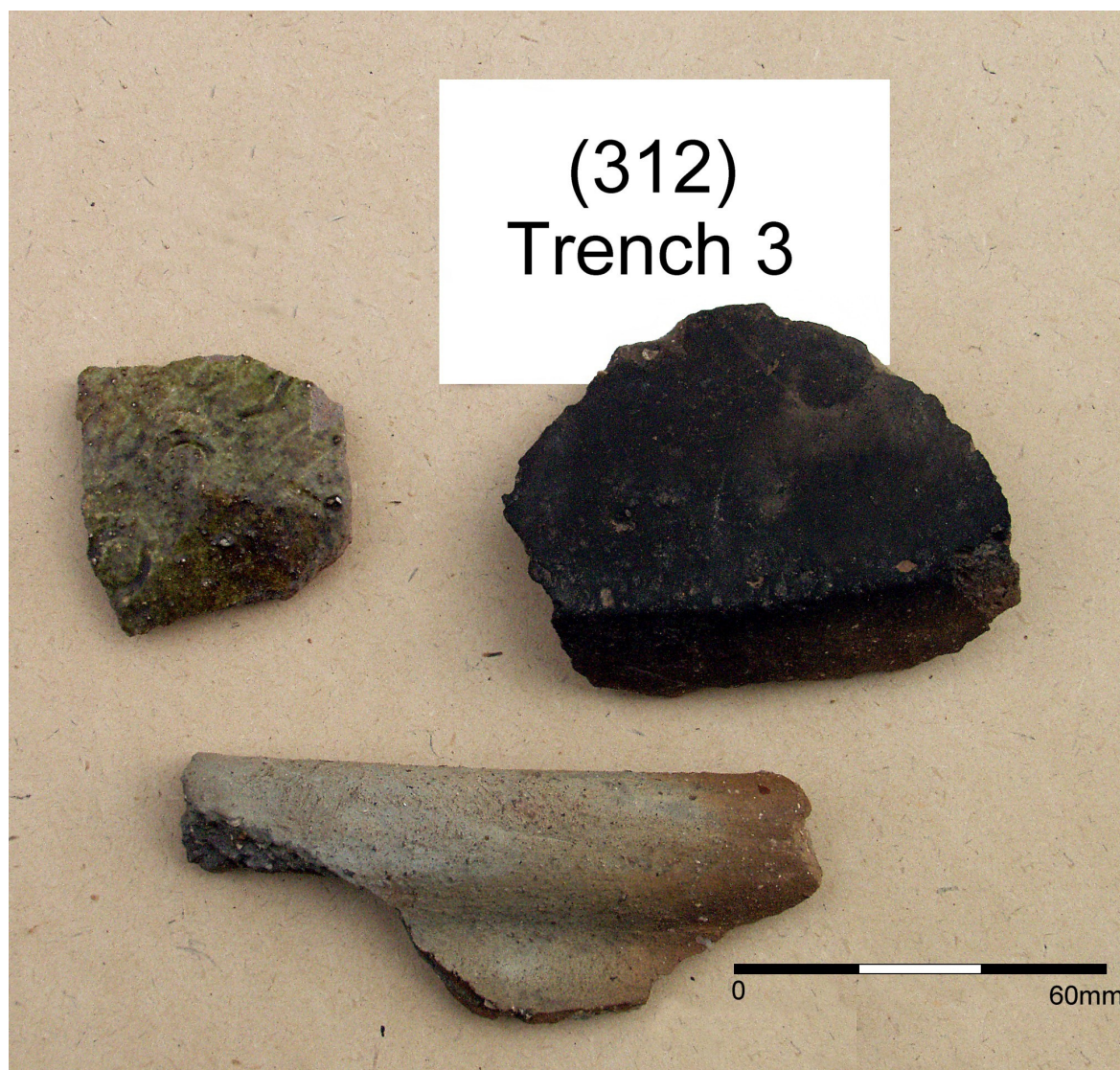
TRENCH 3			
CONTEXT (301) (Bag 11)			
<i>Ware/Form, etc.</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
Modern pottery		C18 th /19 th	
CONTEXT 302 (Bag 28)			
<i>Ware/Form, etc.</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
Modern pottery	C1	C18 th /19 th	
CONTEXT (312) (Bag 17)			
<i>Ware/Form, etc.</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
Worcester cooking pot	C1b	C12 th /13 th	3 + 1 rim
Worcester fabric ridge tile fragment	C1b	C12 th	1
Malvernian cooking pot	B1	C13/14 th	24 + 4 rims + 2 bases
Herefordshire jug ware	A7b	C14 th	6 + 1 rim
North Herefordshire/Shropshire ware	A4	C14 th	1
Herefordshire jug ware	A5	C13 th /14 th	1
CONTEXT (315) (Bag 32)			
<i>Ware/Form, etc.</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
North Herefordshire/Shropshire fabric glazed floor tile	A4	Late C13 th /14 th	1
Malvernian cooking pot	B1	C13 th	1
Herefordshire jug ware (?)	A5	C13 th /14 th	2
CONTEXT (316) (BAG 21)			
<i>Ware/Form, etc.</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
Malvernian cooking pot	B1	Late C13 th	11 + 5 rims
Worcester jug fabric (with diamond and small square rouletting)	C1	C13 th	9 + 1 rim
Herefordshire tripod pitcher fabric oxidised tile fragment	A2	C13 th	1
Modern pottery (intrusive)		C19 th /C20 th	
CONTEXT (317) (BAG 22)			
<i>Ware/Form, etc.</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
Herefordshire tripod pitcher fabric (?) tile fragments	A2	C13 th (?)	2
Malvernian cooking pot	B1	Early C12 th	6
Pantile fragment		C20 th	1



▲ Plate 15: 14th and 15th century pottery from Trench 2 context (203)



▲ Plate 16: 12th/13th century pottery from Trench 2 context (212)



▲ Plate 17: 12th-14th century pottery from Trench 3 context (312)

APPENDIX 2: PLANT MACROFOSSIL AND CHARCOAL ASSESSMENT

Dr Charlotte O'Brien, Archaeological Services University of Durham

1. Summary

Background

A bulk environmental sample was taken during excavations at Court House Farm Moated Site, Pembridge, Herefordshire. This report presents the results of plant macrofossil and charcoal assessment of the sample.

Results

Plant macrofossils were absent from the sample. All of the charcoal pieces identified were oak. No suitable material was available for radiocarbon dating.

Recommendations

No further work is recommended for the sample.

2. Project background

Location

The sample is from Court House Farm Moated Site, Pembridge, Herefordshire.

Objective

The objective was to carry out a plant macrofossil and charcoal assessment of the bulk sample and to identify suitable material for radiocarbon dating.

Dates

The plant macrofossil and charcoal assessments were carried out between 1st–14th March 2005. This report was prepared on the 14th March 2005.

Personnel

The assessments and report preparation were undertaken by Dr Charlotte O'Brien.

Archive

The site code is PEM04. The flots are retained in the Environmental Laboratory at Archaeological Services University of Durham for collection.

3. Methods

The sample was manually floated and sieved through a 500 µm mesh. The residues were retained, described and scanned using a magnet for ferrous fragments. The flots were dried slowly and scanned at x 40 magnification for waterlogged and charred botanical remains. The charcoal samples were scanned at up to x100 magnification, in order to analyse the macroscopic and microscopic characteristics, which were compared with modern reference material.

4. Results

Plant macrofossils

No plant macrofossils were preserved in the samples. The flot contained a large amount of charcoal and a mollusc shell.

Table 1. Contents of the sample from PEM04

Sample	5
Context	318
<i>Volume processed (ml)</i>	1000
<i>Volume of flot (ml)</i>	900
<i>Volume of flot assessed (ml)</i>	500
<i>Flot matrix (relative abundance)</i>	
Charcoal	5
Mollusc	1

Relative abundance is based on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest).

Charcoal

Twenty five pieces of charcoal were large enough to be identified (>1.5cm long axis). All were oak, and may have originated from a single piece of wood. No bark or roundwood was present.

5. Discussion

Plant macrofossils were absent from the sample and so could not provide any further information about the site. The mollusc shell is likely to be a modern introduction as a result of burrowing activity. All of the identified charcoal was oak and may have originated from a single piece of wood.

6. Recommendations

No further work is recommended for the sample. It is not recommended that any of the charcoal pieces are used for radiocarbon dating due to the likelihood of heartwood being present, which may have been of a considerable age before its incorporation into the sample.

APPENDIX 3: METALWORK ANALYSIS

Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services Cardiff University

Treatment Record			
Lab No.		Conservator	Date
5964/01	<p>The object was in several pieces and covered with dense areas of iron corrosion and dirt. It appeared to be a composite of copper alloy and iron.</p> <p>The pieces were re-adhered using Araldite epoxy resin and the object cleaned mechanically using an airabrasive machine with aluminium oxide powder to reveal a dark grey magnetite surface on the iron and a thin green corrosion layer, probably malachite, on the copper alloy. Evidence of a tin alloy was also found in association with the copper alloy layer.</p> <p>The object is probably a stirrup made of iron and given a decorative copper, zinc and tin alloy coating. This coating has possibly been applied as a thin sheet using lead and tin alloy solder.</p>	Phil Parkes	24/06/05

SITE SUMMARY

Title of Report	Archaeological Excavation: Court House Farm Moated Site Pembridge Herefordshire		
Contractor	Border Archaeology, PO Box 36, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 OYQ		
Site Name	Court House Farm Moated Site		
Grid Ref	SO 3908 5800		
SMR number(s) of site	42577		
Date of Fieldwork	September/October 2004		
Date of Report	August 2005		
NUMBER AND TYPE OF FINDS			
Pottery	Period	Med./Post-med.	Number of sherds 697
Other	Period	Med./Post-med.	Quantity Metal objects (4) Glass (103) Metal (47) Clay pipe (44) CBM (100) Mortar/plaster (45) Tile (9) Bone (688)
NUMBER AND TYPE OF SAMPLES COLLECTED			
Environmental samples	No of features sampled 6		
	No of buckets 11		
C14/scientific dates	No and type N/A		
	Result N/A		
Pollen	No of columns/spot samples N/A		
	Name of pollen specialist N/A		
Bone	Number of buckets sieved for bone N/A		
Insect	No of columns/spot samples N/A		
Other	Type and specialist N/A		
REPORT SUMMARY			
One trench was excavated within the moat and two on the summit of the mound.			
The trench excavated within the NE corner of the moat revealed evidence of the original cut of the moat and of two subsequent re-cuts, as well as evidence of rubble deposits which may have been derived from masonry structures on top of the mound which had collapsed into the moat. The latest of the two re-cuts appears to have been made during the 14 th century			
In the two trenches excavated on the summit of the mound, evidence was revealed of walls associated with masonry structures on the mound, the earliest probably dating from the late 11 th /early 12 th century. These buildings were probably destroyed by fire on two separate occasions during the medieval period. Following both of these two destruction events, the moat was scoured and deepened and the surface level on top of the mound was re-established, possibly using upcast material derived from the moat scouring, prior to the reconstruction of the buildings on the mound.			
It is unclear when these phases of destruction and rebuilding occurred; however, based on the pottery evidence, it would appear that the first phase of destruction occurred possibly in the early 12 th century and the second in the late 13 th /14 th century.			