Ordsall Hall Phase 3, Ordsall Lane, Salford

An Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

The University of Manchester Archaeological Unit (UMAU) was commissioned to undertake a three phase programme of archaeological excavation and evaluation at the site of Ordsall Hall, Ordsall Lane, Ordsall, Salford, Greater Manchester. The evaluation and excavation consisted of fourteen trenches, two test pits and an open area community excavation.

This report is a continuation of the 2006 community excavation and evaluation work where there is extensive coverage of the historical and archaeological background of the site. Information from the June 2007 report and the Desk-Based assessment (July 2005) will be referred to where necessary.

The archaeological phases of work have been undertaken as mitigation in response to the proposed refurbishment and development of Ordsall Hall and the landscaping of the grounds. Phases 1 and 2 have been dealt with in a prior publication produced by UMAU (UMAU June (34)). Phase 3 took place during June 2007 and August 2007. During July Trenches 13 and 14, and Test Pits 1 and 2 were excavated immediately to the north of the Hall. This phase of work continued in August with the excavation of Trenches 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 to the south and south west of the Hall. The trenches were situated to determine the presence and level of survival of any below ground archaeological remains.

To the south of the Hall there was a generally high level of modern disturbance, with disused services, landscaping and drainage systems exposed in all trenches. Trenches 10 and 11 provided evidence for the presence of the medieval moat and a rough sandstone wall corresponding to the edge of the moat. Within Trench 11 a possible medieval ditch was exposed with late medieval pottery in its upper fill.

Trench 14 to the north of the Hall also provided evidence for the partial survival of the medieval moat and previous archaeological work. The north eastern end of this trench also contained modern concrete surfaces and machine made brick walls. The two test pits contained ephemeral wall remains, which would correspond to building remains from the demolished East Wing.

No early dateable evidence was found within the moat fills with further excavation work precluded through the depth of Trench 10 and areas of Trench 14. The limited assemblage contained several medieval and post-medieval sherds, with the bulk of the finds dating to the eighteenth to nineteenth centuries.

1. Introduction

1.1. The University of Manchester Archaeological Unit (UMAU) was commissioned by Salford City Council to carry out the Phase 3 archaeological evaluation at the site of Ordsall Hall, Salford (National Grid Reference NGR: SJ 816 969). The work was undertaken during June 2007 and August 2007 in order to satisfy an archaeological condition.

1.2. The fieldwork was supervised by Graham Mottershead and undertaken by Steve Bell, Ruth Garratt, Brian Grimsditch and Joanne Wright. The historical background was supplied by Dr. Peter Arrowsmith. The Phase 3 report was written and illustrated by Steve Bell. The pottery report was written by Ruth Garratt. The project was managed by Dave Power, Deputy Director, University of Manchester Archaeological Unit (UMAU). All archaeological works were monitored by Norman Redhead, Assistant County Archaeologist, Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit (GMAU).

1.3. Thanks to: Jackie Ashley, Urban Vision, Salford City Council; Nick Harrison and Aysha Iqbal, Urban Vision Partnership; all the staff at Ordsall Hall.

2. Background

2.1. Location

Ordsall Hall is located in the City of Salford, Greater Manchester, to the north of Ordsall Lane (NGR SJ 816 969) (**Illus. 1**).

2.2. Geology

The Hall stands on a shallow shelf within the northern edge of the Irwell flood plain on recent alluvium. To the north the drift geology as mapped by the OS Geological Survey (Sheet 85) is glacial boulder clay and the underlying geology is comprised of Triassic Bunter Sandstone, now known as Sherwood Sandstone (Sheet 85).

2.3. Historical Background

The historical background has been extensively discussed in the Archaeological Desk-Based Survey, UMAU July 2005 (48), and within the report compiled for the previous phase of works, UMAU June 2007 (34).

3. Evaluation Methodology

3.1. Archaeological Evaluation

3.1.1. Phase 3 of the archaeological evaluation was undertaken to continue the assessment of the extent, depth, state of preservation and importance of any archaeological remains within the grounds of the Hall.

3.1.2. The agreed program of works for Phase 3 comprised of the excavation of seven trenches and two test pits (**Illus. 2**) to target specific elements of the site. Trenches 13 and 14, and Test Pits 1 and 2 located to the north of the Hall were excavated during June 2007. Trenches 8 to 12 were excavated during August 2007; these were located to the south and south east of the Hall.

3.1.3. Trenches 8 to 14 were opened using a mechanical wheeled excavator equipped with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket, which was supervised at all times by a experienced professional archaeologist. The two Test Pits were manually excavated. All spoil was deposited on plastic sheeting laid down prior to the commencement of machine or hand excavation.

3.1.4. In order to assess the possible survival of the moat within Trenches 9, 10 and 14 the depth of excavation exceeded 1.2m and therefore precluded entry with regard to our Health and Safety policy.

3.1.5. After machine stripping had taken place, all excavation proceeded by hand where possible. Structures and areas of excavation were recorded in measured plan at 1:20 or 1:50 scale and section drawings at 1:10 or 1:20 scale. Drawings were annotated with context numbers which were individually recorded on pro-forma UMAU context record sheets, along with surveyed level information. All archaeological remains were photographed in digital format. Any finds recovered were bagged, recorded and processed according to standard archaeological practice.

3.1.6. All material removed during the excavation was used to backfill the trenches. The trenches machine excavated were machine tamped and tracked over.

4. Evaluation results

4.1 Results Morphology

In this report all fills and layers are in rounded brackets (***) and features/cuts are in square brackets [***]. Features will be named and denoted by their principal cut number. The site plans and sections illustrate the location of fills and cuts mentioned in the text.

4.2 Evaluation Trenches

4.2.1 Evaluation Trench 8

Trench 8 (**Illus. 3**) was situated to the south of the Hall. The upper deposits within this trench were heavily disturbed by drainage systems (1008), (1014), (1013), (1036) and disused services (1020). During the course of the machine excavation a live water pipe (1013) was exposed. The trench was excavated to natural (1001), where nineteenth century features were exposed [1005], [1007], [1009] and [1012]. Within this area the Hall grounds appear to have been extensively disturbed to a depth of c.1m.

Trench 8 measured 9m by 1.6m, with a maximum depth of 1.2m (**Illus. 4**). The natural within this trench was mixed brownish yellow and red coarse sand (1001). To the south east this was overlaid by deposit (1019), a layer of brownish yellow sand, with slate, sandstone and charcoal fragments. These were capped by a layer of loamy topsoil and turf (1016). From north west to south east (1001) was cut into by features [1034], [1030], [1023], [1015] and [1037], the latter also cutting through deposit (1019). [1034] and [1030] were further cut into by features [1033] and [1029]. [1033] had destroyed the interface between [1034] and 1030] making the relationship and between these features unclear. [1023] was re-cut by [1027] and [1015] cut into by [1022].

Feature [1033] was a steep sided, flat bottomed cut, measuring c.0.7m in depth by a maximum of c.0.6m wide. This feature contained (1032), a compact mid to dark brownish grey mixture of sand and ash, with large sandstone and small brick fragments. [1029] was the cut for pipe (1013) and contained fill (1028). [1029] was c.0.8m in depth by a maximum of c.0.6m, with steep sides and a concave base. The base of the feature was partially destroyed. This cut contained a copper pipe c.0.08m in diameter, which entered the trench as a shallow angle and turned to the north west. The cut was filled with mid to dark loose sand and ash (1028), which contained brick fragments and other building material.

[1033] cut into features [1034] and [1030]. [1034] was a wide deep cut for ceramic drain (1036). The drain lay at a depth of c.0.9m within fill (1035), which consisted of very mixed ash, cinder, slag and brownish sand, with sandstone, brick and mortar fragments. Cut by [1033] and [1028] was partially visible shallow cut [1030] sloping down from the south east to north west at a shallow angle. Although this appeared to be consistent with cut [1034] the fill was different. (1031) was compact mid to dark brownish sand with manganese flecks, small fragments of brick and a notable level of root disturbance.

[1023] was a c.1.1m wide cut with a maximum depth of c.0.8m, with vertical sides and a shallow sloping base from north west to south east. This feature contained two fills (1024) and (1025), and appears to have been re-cut [1027] for ceramic drain (1014). Deposit (1024) was a c.0.08m thick layer at the base of the cut consisting of compact dark greyish black sand with small sandstone and brick fragments. Overlying this was fill (1025), a compact mixture of (1001) and dark grey sandy ash, with

mortar, slag and small to medium sized rounded stones. Re-cut [1027] partially destroyed the south eastern edge of [1028] and took the form of a rounded concave scoop with a deeper steep sided, flat bottomed channel cut into the base. The channel contained ceramic pipe (1014) which sloped down from the north east to south west and was visible in the base of the trench (**Illus. 5**). [1027] was filled with compact mid to dark greyish brown sand, ash and mortar, which contained ash, mortar, brick, glass and pottery fragments.

Cut [1022] was exposed at a shallow angle along the edge of the trench wall for a distance of c.1.6m, with a maximum depth of c.0.45m. This cut contained fills (1021), (1020) and (1018). A layer of ash and brownish yellow sand (1021) was initially laid under loose pinkish sand (1020), which contained a rubber pipe c.0.03m in diameter. Capping these fills was (1018) a mix of ash and mid brownish yellow sand with mortar, brick, pottery and glass fragments. One of the bricks was handmade and measured 230x110x80mm in size. [1022] cut through an earlier drainage channel [1015]. [1015] was a shallow steep sided, concave based cut which sloped down from the north east to south west. The cut contained an intact ceramic drain (1003) with sections measuring c.0.7x0.18m in size and fill (1002), a black and grey mixed deposit of ash and sand. This fill had various inclusions, including post-medieval pottery sherds, brick, glass and clay pipe fragments.

To the south east of the trench feature [1037] cut through deposits (1019) and (1001). [1037] was a relatively shallow, steep sided cut with a rounded bottom and maximum depth of c.0.35m. The cut contained c.0.2m diameter ceramic pipe (1017) and fill (1038), which consisted of compact re-deposited natural with brick fragments and charcoal flecks.

Within the base of the trench several features were noted. From north west to south east these were [1012], [1009], [1005] and previously described feature [1023]/[1007]. [1012] was a wide circular feature that extended outside the area of the trench. The visible area of this feature measured a maximum of c.1.5m wide and contained fill (1011). (1011) was a very mixed deposit of black and grey sand containing brick, glass, ash, slag, pottery and ceramic drain sherds. An ill-defined deposit of brownish orange sandy gravel (1010) was visible around the edge of [1012]. The central area of the trench contained sub-rectangular cut [1009] and circular feature [1005]. [1009] measured c.0.7m by c.0.4m and extended to the west under the edge of excavation. [1009] contained a black and brown deposit of sand and ash (1008) with whitish ash, glass, slate, slag, charcoal and brick inclusions. The edge of this feature appeared to interface with cut [1007]/[1023]. Cut [1005] was sub-circular in shape with a maximum diameter of c.0.4m and contained (1004), which consisted of black and grey ashy sand, with pottery, glass, charcoal and coal inclusions.

4.2.2 Evaluation Trench 9

Trench 9 (**Illus. 6**) was situated to the south of the Hall. The trench appears to consist of extensive layers of re-deposited natural/made ground with drainage pipes (1041), (1043) and (1044) visible in section. Trench 9 measured 15m by 1.6m with a maximum depth of c.1.85m (**Illus. 7**).

Beneath the turf was a layer of mixed mid grey compact clayey loam with abundant brick inclusions (1039). The underlying sequence of deposits suggested that they were laid over a short period during the nineteenth century, with fill (1040), a fine, firm, mid brown silty sand, used as made ground to separate north west to south east orientated ceramic drainage pipes (1043) and (1044). Within the uppermost level of (1040) a further ceramic pipe (1041) orientated south west to north east was visible in both sections; this was laid within steep sided cut [1042], which measured c.0.3-4m wide by c.0.2m in depth. Underlying (1044) was fine yellow natural sand (1045). Within the north east facing section was cut [1047] measuring c.1.3m wide by c.0.4m deep, which contained machine made brick feature (1046). The feature cut through deposit (1039) into (1040) and appeared to be a brick manhole.

4.2.3 Evaluation Trench 10

Trench 10 (**Illus. 8**) was located to the south of the Hall and orientated north west to south east to cross the projected line of the medieval moat. This trench contained a re-cut of the moat [1081], moat cut [1084] and sandstone wall [1051], which was possibly contemporary with the medieval moat. There was a substantial build up of deposit layers and later cuts, including [1062] and [1070]. Furthermore, there was distinct difference in the upper layers of deposit between those to the north west with those to the centre and south east of the trench. A large cut [1062] destroyed the relationship between these deposits. Underlying (1067) were a sequence of deposits related to ceramic drain [1079], and the possible eighteenth century moat re-cut which had disturbed or destroyed deposits associated with the early moat.

This trench measured c.19.5m by 1.6m, with a maximum depth of c.2.7m (**Illus. 9**). Underlying the turf to the north east of the trench was (1048), a mixed light yellow brownish sand with brick inclusions overlying greyish dark brown compact sand also with stone and brick inclusions (1049). Beneath (1049) was a layer of dark cinders (1052), cut through by [1051]. Cut [1051] contained the remains of a rough sandstone wall measuring c.0.9m by c.0.3m, which also cut into the underlying light yellowish brown sandy natural (1058). To the south east of the wall was a sequence of three thin deposits (1053), a layer of dark cinders, (1054) mixed yellow sand with plaster inclusions and (1055) consisting of red crushed sandstone. To the north west of wall [1051] and also cut into natural was pit [1057], which measured c.1.8m wide and was a maximum of c.0.45m in depth. [1057] contained mid to dark greyish brown silt (1056) (**Illus. 10**).

Layers (1048), (1049), (1053) and (1054) and (1055) were cut through by pit [1062], which appeared to partially follow the slope of the early moat [1084]. [1062] had a sharp break of slope to the north west and gradual to the south east, with a base sloping from the north to south. This feature measured a maximum width of 3.2m and c.1.5m in depth; it contained mixed dark brown to blue loam with dark cinders (1061). Partially overlying (1061) and extending to the south east of the trench was a layer of mid grey compact clayey loam (1063). Underlying this was a sequence of overlapping lenses (1066), (1065), (1064), (1071), (1072), (1073) overlying deposit (1067). (1064), light yellow brown gravel was the latest of these, with (1065), black gritty loam to the north and black gritty sand (1071) to the south east. Partially underlying (1065) was a layer of light yellow brown mixed sand with sandstone and bricks (1066). Underlying (1064) and (1071) were lenses of mid brown clayey sand (1072) and cinders (1073). Beneath these was a thick layer of mixed crushed brick with sandstone and brown sand (1067). Fills (1063), (1072), (1073) and (1067) were cut through to the south east by feature [1070], a pit with a gradual break of slope and flat bottom, which contained a single fill of dark cinders (1069).

Underlying (1067) were a sequence of fills associated with sewer cut [1075]/[1077] and the cut [1084] and re-cut [1081] of the moat. These included a shallow scoop containing light brown gravel (1068) that was cut through by [1062]. Deposits (1074) mid brown mixed silty sand and (1078) light grey sandy silt would appear to be the bulk of the backfilled cut for the sewer. Underlying the sewer cut was an eighteenth century re-cut [1081] of the moat filled with a sticky anaerobic organic black silt (1080). Beneath these was mid grey anaerobic silt (1082)/(1083), which appeared to be pre-eighteenth century moat fill. This lay within the cut for the moat [1084]. To the north east of the moat cuts were natural deposits (1058) light yellow brown natural sand, (1059) dark brown iron-panning and (1060) natural yellow brown gravels.

To the south east of the cut for sewer [1075] a deposit of light grey sandy silt (1076) was visible in section. (1076) sat within a cut that may have been part of either [1081] or [1084], the presence of the nineteenth century sewer pipe (1079) obstructed excavation in this area. To the south of this cut were

natural deposits (1085) mid brown silty sand and (1086) yellow natural sand (**Illus. 11**).

4.2.4 Evaluation Trench 11

Trench 11 was located to the south of the Hall and orientated south west to north east (**Illus. 12**). The upper levels of the trench show some disturbance from modern services [1151] and [1135]. Within the western end of the trench a ditch-like feature was partially exposed [1149]; the fill (1142) contained medieval pottery sherds. The trench was lengthened and the depth increased within this area to c.1.8m, where a possible medieval ditch was exposed.

The trench measured 16.5m by 1.6m, with depths of c.1m to a maximum of c.1.8m (**Illus. 13**). Directly underlying the turf was a layer of mid to dark grey compact sandy loam, with brick and stone inclusion (1130). Feature [1151] with a gradual break of slope and flat bottom was cut into (1130). This feature contained fills (1131), (1132) and (1133) and appeared to be part of the fill of a manhole directly to the west of the trench. Underlying (1130) was a layer of dark brown compact silty sand with brick, stone, charcoal and 19th century pottery sherds (1134). The interface between (1134) and underlying fill (1140) had a distinct drop within the area of ditch like feature [1146]/[1149]. The interface also contained a lens of mid brown compact silty sand with very abundant charcoal (1139) and [1141], a 'V' shaped cut with rounded base, filled by layer (1134).

Cut [1138] for a pipe trench was visible in both sections. This feature measured c.0.4m wide by c.0.4m in depth and cut through layers (1134) and (1140). The cut contained a mixed loamy fill (1135), with a line of modern 'frogged' machine made bricks (1136) at the base and two black plastic pipes (1137), which ran directly towards the Hall.

Underlying (1140) to the west of the trench was wide ditch-like feature [1149] (**Illus. 14**). The edges of this feature were clearly visible to the north east and south west as they were defined by a layer of iron pan (1143), (1145), (1147) or a sharp interface between fill (1142) and the underlying natural (1150) (**Illus. 15**) . The central area of this feature appeared to have a raised bank (1146), again partially defined by iron pan (1148) and (1144). However, the south western edge of this bank was very ephemeral with no clear interface between (1142) and (1146) (**Illus. 16**).

The fill of the ditch consisted of grey slightly sticky sandy silt fill (1142), the upper 0.3m contained late medieval pottery and animal bone. The sides of cut [1149] were irregular in shape and partially defined with the reddish friable iron pan deposits (1143), (1145) and (1147). The central bank (1146) contained material very similar to (1142) and was again outlined by iron pan (1144) and (1148). [1149] was cut into natural light to mid yellow brown fine sandy gravels (1150).

The structuring of the fills suggests that the central raised area was an initial deposit of (1142). This would have left very little trace when the rest of the ditch was filled with similar material if not for the accumulation of the iron pan layers.

4.2.5 Evaluation Trench 12

Trench 12 was located to the south east of the Hall and orientated north west to south east (**Illus. 17**). The findings from this trench were generally consistent with the archaeology of Trench 10, as the possible edge of the moat and rough sandstone wall (1107) were exposed. The area to the south east of the moat was a mix of re-deposited material that suggests a period of relatively recent ground works or landscaping. The area to the north west of sandstone wall (1107) contained several features noted in plan [1089], [1092], [1094] and [1098]. The excavated features were shallow with no dateable evidence.

The trench measured 30m by 1.6m, with a maximum depth of c.1.10m (**Illus. 18**). Directly underlying the turf and loamy topsoil (1120) was layer (1118) and (1116). Layer (1118) consisted of mid greyish brown friable sand with brick, ash and slag inclusions, this also overlaid (1116), a very mixed context of friable mid orange and grey sand/silty sand, with sandstone and brick inclusions. To the south east of the trench a shallow lens of dark greyish friable sand, with small angular stones (1119) was exposed between (1120) and (1116). A shallow ill defined layer of black friable slag and small angular stones (1117) was noted between layers (1118) and (1116).

Layer (1118) was present across almost the full extent of the trench, which suggests this and (1116) and (1111) were levelling materials used to raise the ground level. Although the south eastern area of the trench contained cuts which appear to demarcate the edges of the moat *as per* Trench 10, the fills suggest a much later period of activity, with very churned and ill defined contexts (**Illus. 19**).

Layer (1116) capped several fills and cut features. The latest of these was sub-circular feature [1105], which had a gradual break of slope and cut into fills (1001) and (1002) to the north east, adjacent to wall (1107) and layer (1111) to the south west. [1105] was a large eighteenth to nineteenth century cut, which contained blackish sand, slag waste and organic material (1106). (1111) was generally mid grey silty sand, very mixed with yellow sand, ash and leaves. This fill overlaid a sequence of modern deposits (1112) mid grey/black silty sand with brick and small pebble inclusions, (1113) dark greyish sand, friable with brick fragments, charcoal and bands of yellow sand, and (1114) dark yellow soft silty sand and brick fragments. (1114) was deposited over mid yellow sandy natural (1115), which contained infrequent traces of iron panning. The cut [1152] for (1114) had a sharp interface and where visible had a steep break of slope (**Illus. 20**).

The central area of the trench contained rough sandstone wall [1108), which corresponded to cut [1051] in Trench 10. To the south of the wall were several fills (1101), (1102) and a block of sandstone (1104) in cut [1110]. Although (1102) and (1104) may have been contemporary with wall (1107), feature [1105] appears to have destroyed any early moat edge at this depth. Furthermore, fill (1101) which consisted of compact dark brownish orange deposit of fine sandy silt with glass and brick fragments suggests other modern activity in this area before cut [1105]. Deposit (1101) partially overlaid (1102), a firm orangey yellow clayey sand, with infrequent pebbles. (1102) was also cut by irregular feature [1110], this contained (1109) fine mid grey charcoal flecked sand, with crushed red sandstone and (1104) a block of reddish sandstone.

The sandstone wall [1108] sat within cut [1153] and consisted of large irregular fragments of sandstone varying in colour from red to pink, with occasional orange colouring (1107). The visible remains of the wall measured c.1m wide by c.0.4m in height. Part of the wall contained a compact layer of packed pebble layer set in orangey sand (1103) (**Illus. 21**). Directly to the north west of the wall was a wedge of crushed sandstone (1129) and thick deposit of degraded dark reddish pink sandstone (1126). Fills (1129) and (1126) were probably packing material to fill the cut for the wall [1153]. However, an additional cut was exposed to the north [1100], which contained (1099), a deposit of discoloured brownish grey sand and gravels. Partially overlying (1107), (1129) and (1126) was a layer of soft dark greyish orange sandy silt, with small brick inclusions (1125).

Underlying layer (1118) to the north west of the wall were two shallow lenses (1122) and (1121), cut feature [1096] and a very mixed band of deposits for c.0.4m. (1122) was dark blackish grey soft silty sand and (1121) a dense layer of whitish mortar, with brick, wood and slate fragments. Cut [1096] had a concave base with a gradual break of slope, this feature had a maximum depth of c.0.4m and contained soft dark greyish orange sandy silt, with brick inclusions (1095). This cut contained the remains of a disused plastic pipe. Layer (1123)/(1127) consisted of mid greyish firm clayey sand, with

mortar, brick fragments and ash, this was mixed with irregular deposits of discoloured soft friable greyish brown sand, with charcoal and small brick inclusions (1124). Underlying these were (1088) fine natural yellowish sand and (1087) mid brownish yellow fine sand and gravels.

The base of the trench to the north east of wall [1108] contained various cut features (**Illus. 22**). [1098] was a sub-rectangular cut measuring c.1.2m wide and extending to the west, this cut contained (1097) mid brownish yellow silty sand, with handmade brick fragments and charcoal. [1094] was a rectangular cut measuring c.1m wide with a visible length of 1.2m, and contained (1093) firm brownish grey sand with abraded brick. [1090] was very similar to [1094], but slightly wider at c.1.2m. This feature was half-sectioned exposing a depth of c.0.3m (**Illus. 23 & 24**). The uppermost fill was (1089) firm brownish grey sand with abraded brick, overlying (1128) firm mixed grey clayey sand with abundant charcoal. Sub-circular feature [1091] was also half-sectioned; this feature measured a maximum of c.0.35m diameter, with a depth of c.0.08m and contained a single fill (1092), also consisting of firm brownish grey sand with abraded brick (**Illus. 25 & 26**).

4.2.6 Evaluation Trench 13

Trench 13 was located to the east of the Hall (**Illus. 27**). The north west facing section shows various layers of natural or re-deposited natural with no inclusions to the east of the trench. Within the centre of the trench was a wide pit [007]. This also cut through [011], which sloped down to the north east and contained a thick deposit of backfilled rubble (013).

This trench measured 20m long by 1.6m wide, with a maximum depth of c.1.2m (**Illus. 28**). To the north east of the trench underlying the turf (001) was a layer of mid brownish grey clayey sand subsoil (002). This overlaid a layer of yellowish brown silty sand (003) and a yellowish brown sand layer (004), neither of which contained any inclusions, suggesting that these represent natural deposits. (004) ran under a band of mottled yellow brown mineralization (005) c.1.8m thick, with layer (006) to the west (**Illus. 29**). (006) was a continuation of (004).

The latest feature within this trench was [007], an irregular sided cut with a gradual break of slope to the north east and gradual to sharp break of slope to the south west (**Illus. 30**). This feature measured a maximum of 2.4m wide by c.0.8m in depth and contained (008) very mixed black brown friable sandy silt, with slate, brick and stone inclusions. [007] cut through [011] to the south west, which had a gradual undulating break of slope descending to the south west. [011] contained very mixed greyish brown sand with mixed rubble inclusions (013). This fill may have been the result of previous excavation work in this area. Within the base of [011] was a lens of mid greyish brown friable silty sand with brick inclusions (012).

Underlying and possibly cut through by [011] was cut [009]. This feature had a sharp break of slope with a relatively flat bottom, measuring a maximum of c.0.9m wide by c.0.3m in depth. [009] contained light greyish brown sandy gravels (010). [011] was cut into a layer of greyish brown silty sand (014).

4.2.7 Evaluation Trench 14

Trench 14 was located to the north of the Hall (**Illus. 31**). This trench generally consisted of three areas of interest. To the south west was large cut [017] which was consistent with prior excavation work in 1991. Within the central section were two handmade brick walls (019) and (025), with the remains of rubble and debris between them. To the north west of wall (025) were two large drains and various fills that were located within the cut of the moat. To the north east the edge of the moat was destroyed by twentieth century building activity..

Trench 14 measured 30m by 1.6m, with a maximum depth of c.2.1m (**Illus. 32**). Underlying the turf (001) to the south west of the trench was a c.1.2m deep cut, with a sharp break of slope to the north east [017]. This cut contained a very mixed loam and rubble backfill (015). This trench cut through two contexts (018) and (021), into the underlying layer of orangey brown sand (016), which was placed there after the 1991 excavation.

To the north west was a layer of grey brown loam and rubble made ground (118). This deposit appears synonymous with the levelling of walls (019) and (025) as the base of the layer cuts through the walls and other deposits. To the north west of wall (019) was a continuation of the dark grey clay deposit (021). Wall (019) was constructed of handmade brick, with a stretcher bond and 3 leaves thick (**Illus. 33**). Five metres to the north east was handmade brick wall (025), with an 'English Garden Wall' bond and 2 leaves thick (025) (**Illus. 34**). These walls cut through various early deposits including cut [022], which contained dark grey clay deposit (021). Underlying (021) was a sequence of fills, which consisted of (023) mid dark brown clay, (042) red mixed sand and clay backfill, (043) compact mid brown clay and grey brown clay loam with brick fragments (024). Exposed at the base of the trench was the cut [044] for drain (028), no overlying cut was visible for this drain, suggesting that it predated the backfilling activity.

To the north east of wall (025) was the mixed fill of various drainage cuts (026), with large drain (027) to the north east. These drains and the walls were cut into a sequence of moat fill visible in section (**Illus. 35**). The uppermost of these was also capped by (018). The sequence consisted of (029) pinkish brown clay, (030) dark cinders, (031) mixed brown clay, (032) black cinders and gravel and (033) greyish brown silty clay. These fills sloped from the north east to south west with no cut evident. These deposits were cut through to the east by the construction of concrete floor (037) and (038).

The north eastern end of the trench contained three concrete surfaces at different levels (**Illus. 36**). Concrete surfaces (037) and (038) were separated by machine made brick wall (039), the cut [045] for this wall was visible in section. This wall consisted of 'frogged' bricks, 110 x 230mm in size and bonded with cement mortar. Part of concrete surface (037) was obscured by demolition rubble and clay with brick inclusions (034). To the north east of wall (039) the remains of concrete surface (040) were set around a rectangular brick feature. This feature measured 2m by 1.4m with bricks measuring 70 x 220mm. The north eastern end of the trench also contained the remains of mid twentieth century machine made red brick wall (041) orientated north west to south east. Overlying surfaces (037) and (038) were deposits (035) mixed brown clay with brick and stone and (034) mid brown firm clay. To the north east of cut [045] was a layer of landscaping backfill (046).

4.2.8 Test Pit 1

Test Pit 1 was located to the north of the Hall and measured 1m by 1.m, with a maximum depth of c.0.8m (**Illus. 37**). The test pit contained wall cut [047] aligned north west to south east. The cut contained black gritty sand (048) packed around red handmade made bricks (049). These bricks measured 110 x 240mm in size and dated to the late nineteenth century, with no visible bonding material. To the west of the wall was fill (050) mixed mid brown clay (**Illus. 38**).

4.2.9 Test Pit 2

Test Pit 2 was also located to the north of the Hall (**Illus. 37**) and measured 1.1m by 1m, with a maximum depth of c.0.5m. This test pit also contained north west to south east orientated wall (051). (051) was damaged with two courses depth visible by one leaf wide, the bricks appeared handmade but were very degraded with signs of mortar bonding. To the north east of the wall was (052) very

indurated mixed blackish backfill and to the west (053) a possible metalled surface, compacted with cinder, mortar and iron slag waste (**Illus. 39**).

5. Discussion

5.1 The extensive phases of archaeological evaluation undertaken around the Hall were deemed necessary through the limited available evidence from previous excavation work. The community excavation and evaluation trenches excavated during 2006 have been discussed in detail (June 2007). The aims of the Phase 3 evaluation were to establish the level and survival of below ground archaeological remains in areas subject to development. The results will discussed trench by trench with information regarding the depth of archaeological remains, an evaluation of their importance and state of preservation.

5.2 Trench 8

Trench 8 was heavily disturbed by late nineteenth to twentieth century activity cut into the natural fill. The archaeology primarily consisted of ceramic drainage pipes and disused services, with live copper water pipe (1013) extending from the Hall and then to the north west at a depth of c.0.7m below ground level. The base of the trench contained features with fills containing nineteenth to early twentieth century pottery and brick fragments at a depth of c.1.2m.

Trench 9

The below ground remains exposed in Trench 9 all dated to the nineteenth to twentieth century with an extensive depth of deposit backfilled around ceramic drainage pipes to a depth of c.1.3m below ground level. Underlying this was layer of clean natural sand. There was no evidence of any early archaeological features cutting through this trench or into the underlying natural.

Trench 10

Trench 10 was excavated to a depth of c.2.7m in order to investigate the survival and extent of any cut or fills from the medieval moat. The archaeology had been disturbed by an extensive sewer cut to the south west of the trench at a depth of c.2.5m. The drainage pipe was exposed at a depth of c.1.9m and was orientated north east to south west and followed the course of the moat.

Very little of the cut for the moat [1084] or any associated fills remained apart from grey silt (1082), which appeared to pre-date the eighteenth century re-cut of the moat [1081]. The only other remaining archaeology that may have been contemporary with the medieval moat was badly damaged sandstone wall [1051] situated to the north west of the moat cut at a depth of c.0.3m below ground level. The cut for the moat to the north west was damaged by the cut for late pit feature [1062].

Trench 11

Trench 11 was generally excavated to a depth of c.1m with evidence for modern services in the upper fills. However, to the south west of the trench a medieval twelfth to fourteenth century pottery sherd was found in deposit (1142), which led to the extension and lowering of the trench to a depth to c.1.8m below ground level. During the course of the excavation three other medieval pottery sherds of a similar date range were recovered from fill (1142) and ditch like feature [1149]. This feature measured c.5.8m wide with a minimum depth to deposit (1142) of c.1m and c.1.8m to the base of cut [11149]. Feature [1149] was initially partially backfilled with (1146) before being filled with deposit (1142). There was no evidence of silting or organic residue at the base of the feature to suggest that [1149] had been open for any length of time. The interface was between (1142) and the underlying natural was

generally sharp, again suggesting that [1149] had not been open for long to degrade from weathering or further activity, before being partially filled with (1146) and then (1152). The formation of the iron pan layers would have been a natural post-depositional occurrence.

Trench 12

Trench 12 was generally consistent with the archaeology of Trench 10. The remains of sandstone wall (1107) and later cuts and fills were exposed within the central and south western area of the trench. To a depth of c.1m below ground level to the south west of (1107) the archaeology was extensively disturbed and churned, probably through relatively modern landscaping and ground works. Underlying these disturbed contexts was mixed deposit (1111), which suggests the continuation of sewer pipe [1079] to the north east following the line of the moat.

Deposits (1102) and (1109) appeared contemporary with sandstone wall (1107) and may have been part of the moat fill; however pit cut [1105] destroyed the earlier archaeology within this area. To the north west a series of rectangular features were exposed within the sandy gravel natural at a depth of c.1m. These contained fragments of handmade brick and charcoal, but no dateable evidence to refine their date clearer that post late eighteenth century.

Trench 13

Trench 13 contained very little archaeological material, with only late feature [007] and deposit (013). Cut [007] was filled with modern demolition rubble and (013) may have been the result of previous excavation work as it cut through Trench 1 from the 1991 excavations (UMAU 2005).

Trench 14

This trench was extensively disturbed by a series of nineteenth and twentieth century features, including a trench from the 1994 excavations. To the south west of the trench two handmade brick walls enclosed various backfilled deposits, post dating the late eighteenth century. The other fills to the north east were capped by a layer of made ground (018) to a depth of c.1m above wall (019) to c.0.6m above wall (025). Underlying (018) and to the north east of drain (027) were a series of moat fills (032) and (033), with a minimum depth of c.0.7m below ground level. These were cut through by late nineteenth to twentieth century building activity with concrete floors at a minimum depth of c.0.5m below ground level.

Test Pits 1 and 2

The test pits contained partially visible walls underlying rubble backfill. Test Pit 1 contained wall (049) at a depth of c.0.8m and Test Pit 2 wall (051) at a depth of c.0.5m with a possible metalled surface. These test pits were situated within the area of the demolished Church north of the Hall, which was exposed during the 1994 excavations.

5.3 Trenches 10 and 12 provided evidence for the partial survival of the medieval moat and possible contemporary sandstone wall. However, the eighteenth century re-cut of the moat and cut for the sewer pipe has destroyed most of the archaeological remains within these areas. Similarly, the partial exposure of moat fills in Trench 14 suggests the potential for pockets of surviving medieval archaeology to the north of the Hall. The ditch like feature in Trench 11 and the cut features in Trench 12 also indicates a good potential for the survival of archaeological remains beneath c.1m within the area immediately to the south of the Hall.

The results of the evaluation trenches indicate a moderate to high level of modern disturbance within the grounds of the Hall. This would average to a depth of c.1m to the south of the Hall with the line of the moat being preserved but the original medieval remains having been truncated by later scouring of the moat and its subsequent re-use as a sewer. To the north the Test Pits indicate a minimum level of survival for the later post-medieval remains at c.0.5m below the current ground level at the western side of the northern lawn. Within the south-western end of Trench 14 the remains previously uncovered and backfilled during the 1994 excavations survive at 1.4m below the present ground level. In the central and north-eastern portions of Trench 14 archaeologically significant remains survive at a depth of c. 0.7m below the current ground level. This however is within the area to be infilled and raised in the current landscaping proposals.

6. Sources

Arrowsmith P 2005 *Ordsall Hall, Salford: An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*, unpublished report, University of Manchester Archaeological Unit.
Thompson J 2007 *Ordsall Hall: An Archaeological Evaluation and Community Excavation*, unpublished report, University of Manchester Archaeological Unit.

Maps

OS Geological Survey Drift sheet 85, Manchester Sheet
OS Geological Survey Solid sheet 85, Manchester Sheet

7. Illustrations and Photographs

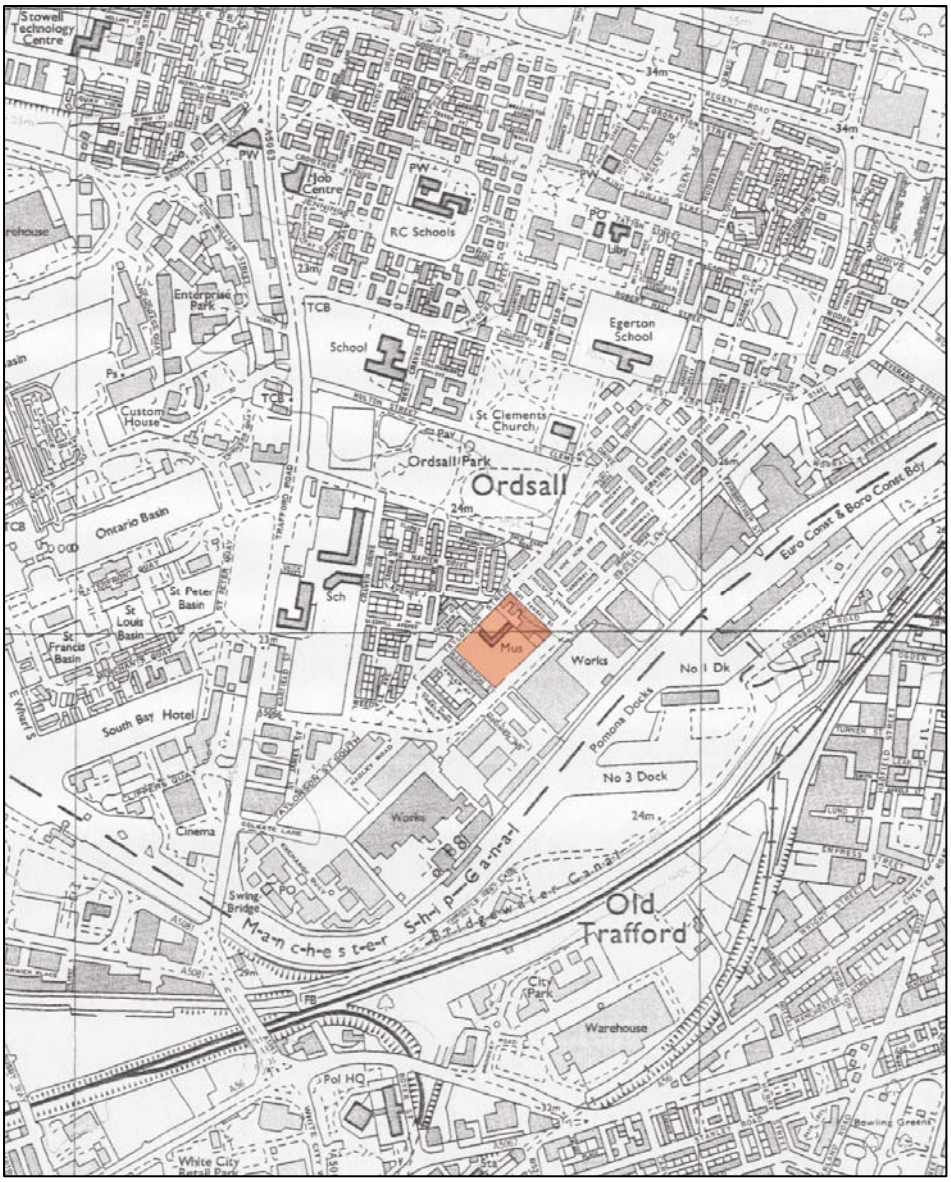

Illustration 1. Location of Ordsall Hall, Ordsall Lane, Salford, Manchester. Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Crown Office.

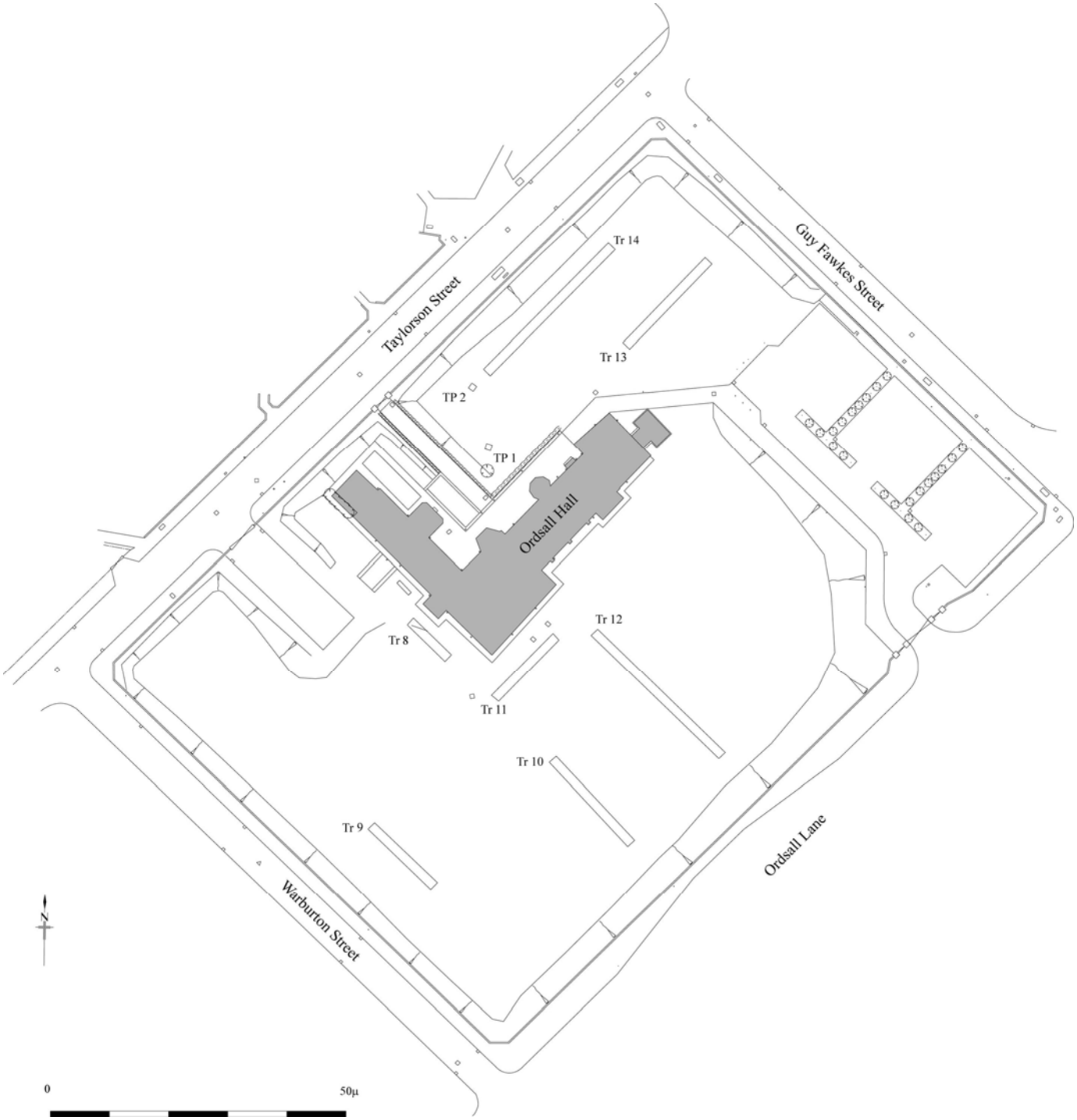

Illustration 2. Trench location Plan

Illustration 3. General photograph of Trench 8, showing south west facing section

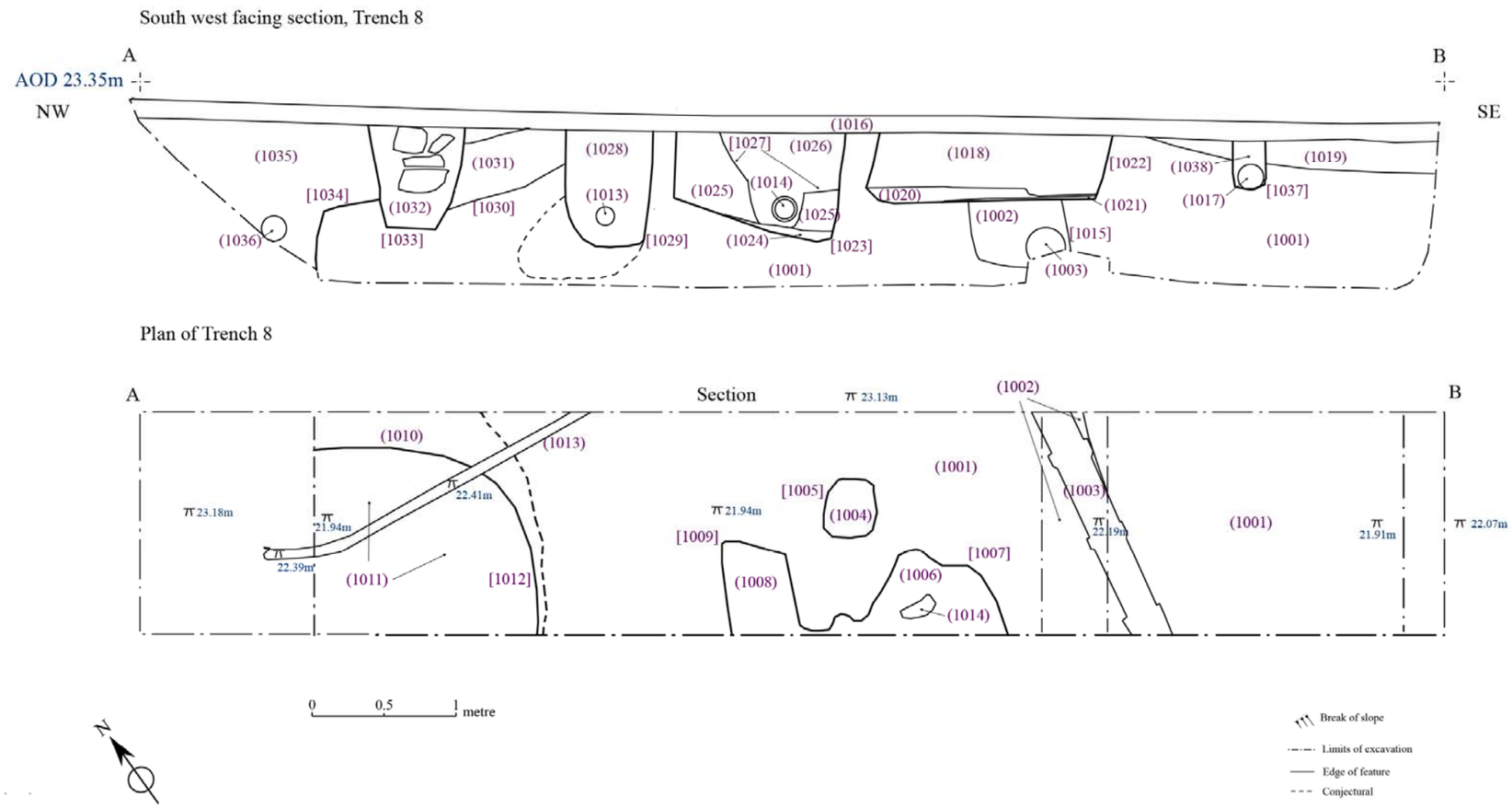

Illustration 4. Section and plan drawings, Trench 8

Illustration 5. Plan photograph of Trench 8, looking north east

Illustration 6. General photograph of Trench 9, showing north east facing section

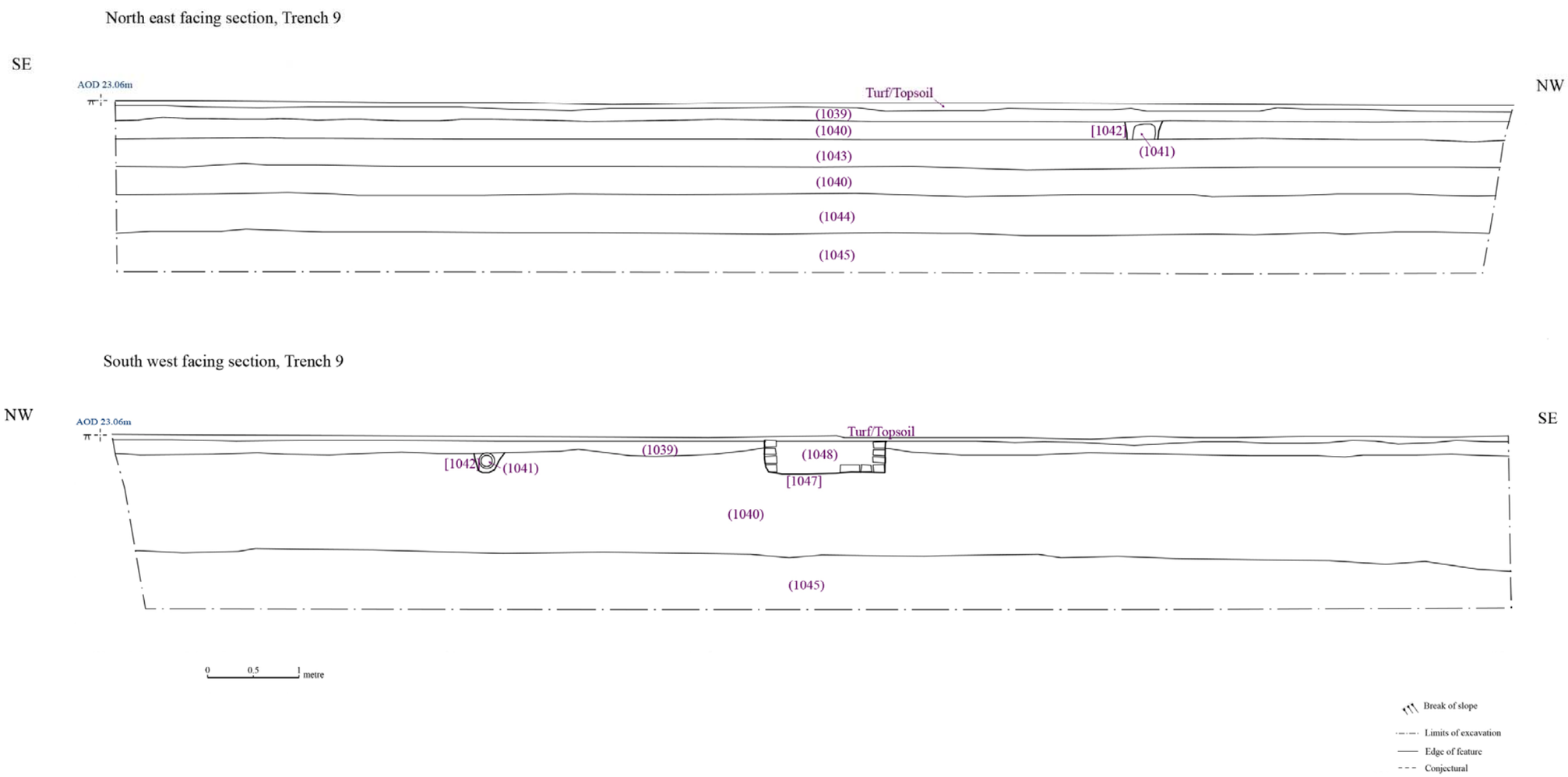

Illustration 7. North east and south west facing section drawings, Trench 9

Illustration 8. General photograph of Trench 10, looking north west

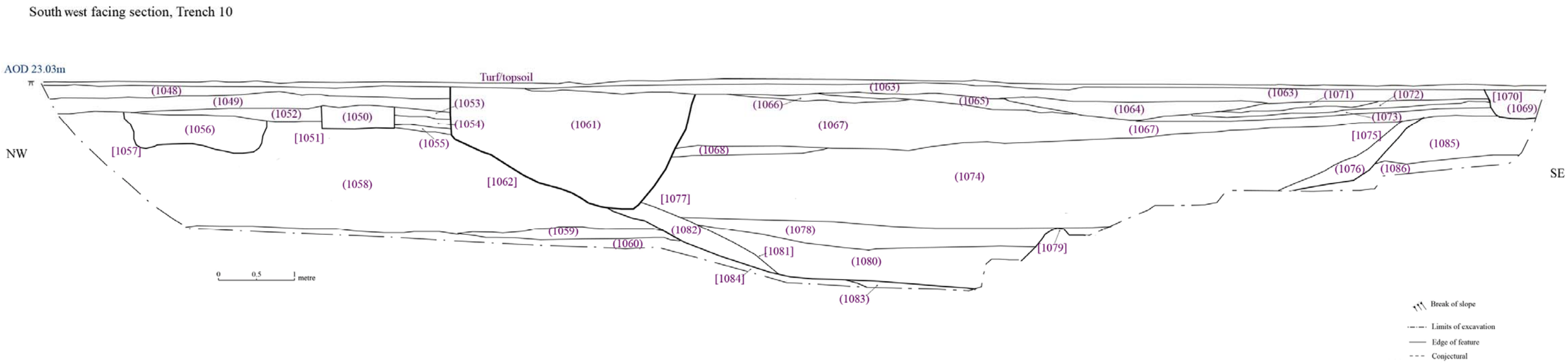

Illustration 9. South east facing section drawing, Trench 10

Illustration 10. General photograph of Trench 10, showing south east facing section

Illustration 11. General photograph of Trench 10, showing south east facing section

Illustration 12. General photograph of Trench 11, looking south west

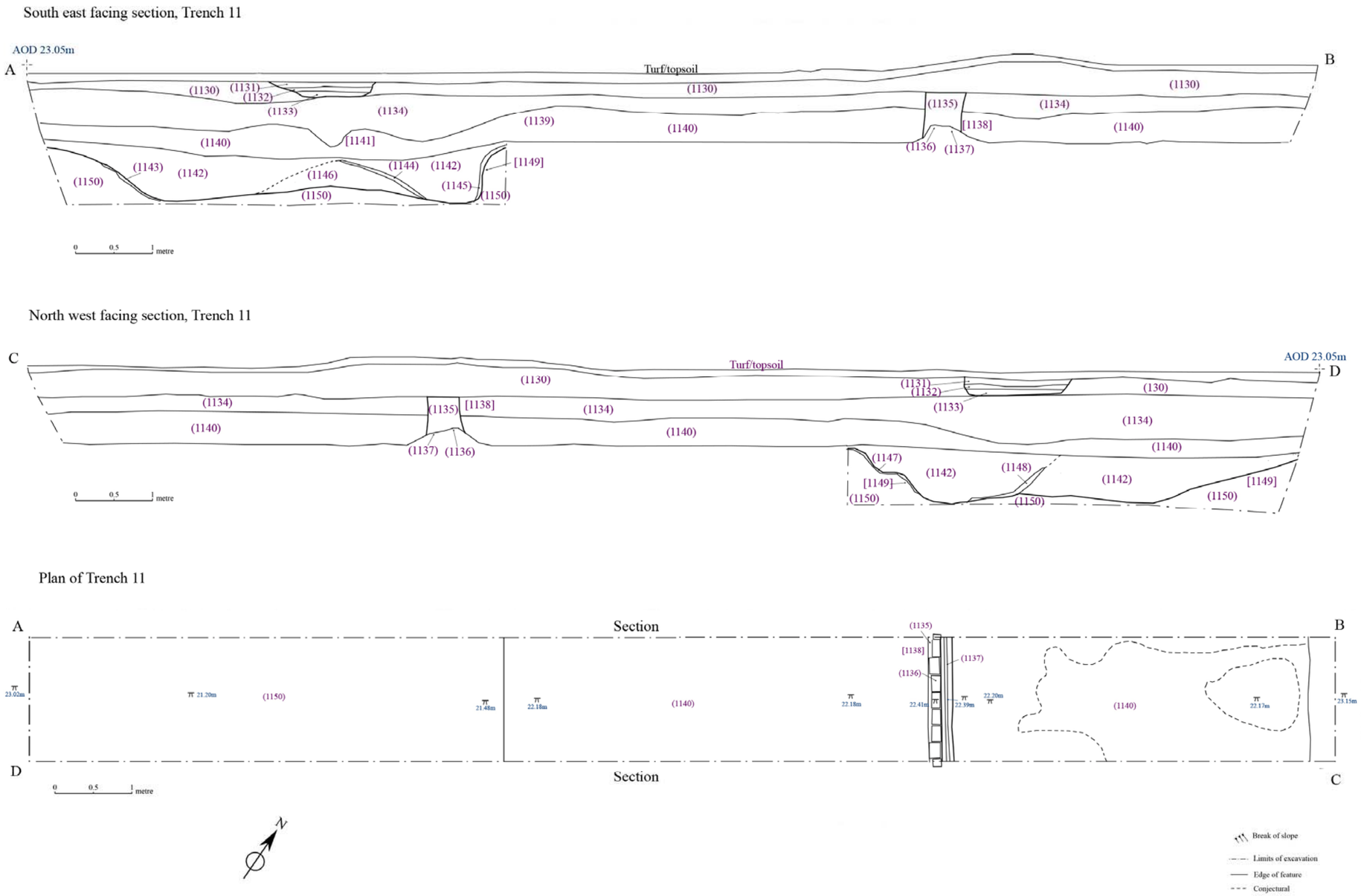

Illustration 13. South east facing section, north west facing section and plan drawings of Trench 11

Illustration 14. General photograph of ditch feature [1149], Trench 11

Illustration 15. Detailed photograph of feature [1149], Trench 11 (south western extent)

Illustration 16. Detailed photograph of feature [1149], Trench 11 (eastern extent)

Illustration 17. General photograph of Trench 12, looking south

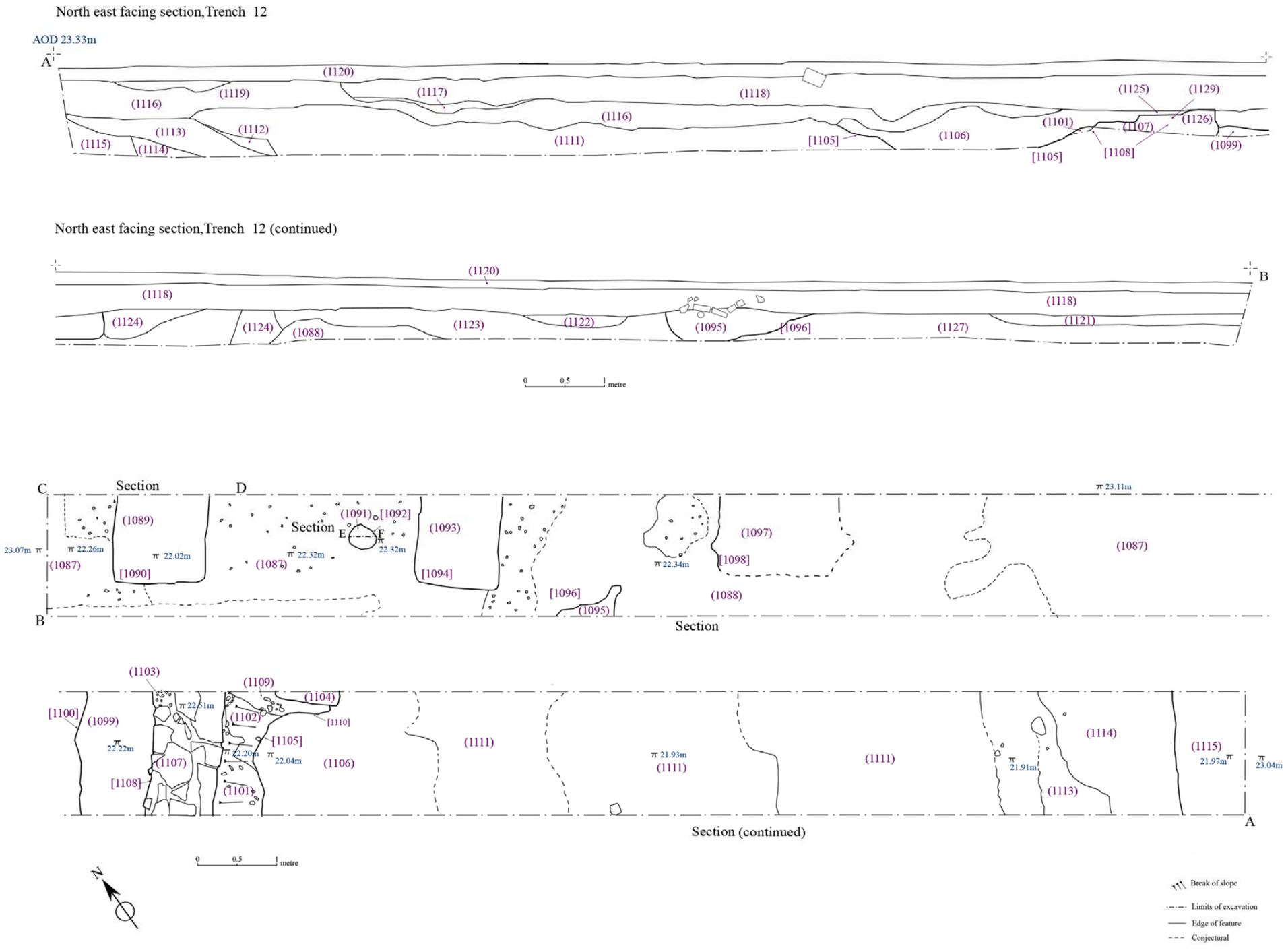

Illustration 18. North east facing section and plan drawings of Trench 12

Illustration 19. General shot of southern end of Trench 12, with sandstone wall (1107) in the foreground

Illustration 20. Detailed photograph of southern end of Trench 12, north east facing section

Illustration 21. Detailed photograph of sandstone wall (1107)

Illustration 22. General photograph of north end of Trench 12, with cut features in the foreground

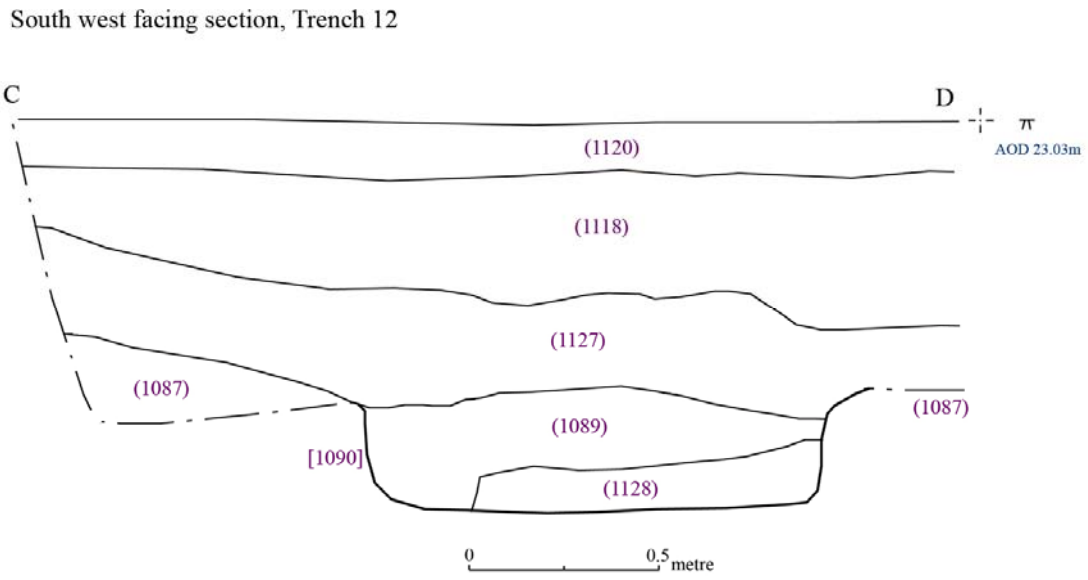

Illustration 23. South west facing section drawing of feature [1090], Trench 12

Illustration 24. Detailed photograph of feature [1090]

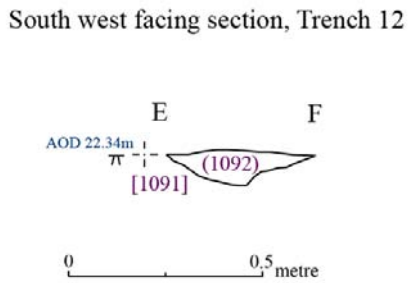

Illustration 25. South west facing section drawing of feature [1091], Trench 12

Illustration 26. Detailed photograph of feature [1091]

Illustration 27. General photograph of Trench 12, looking south west

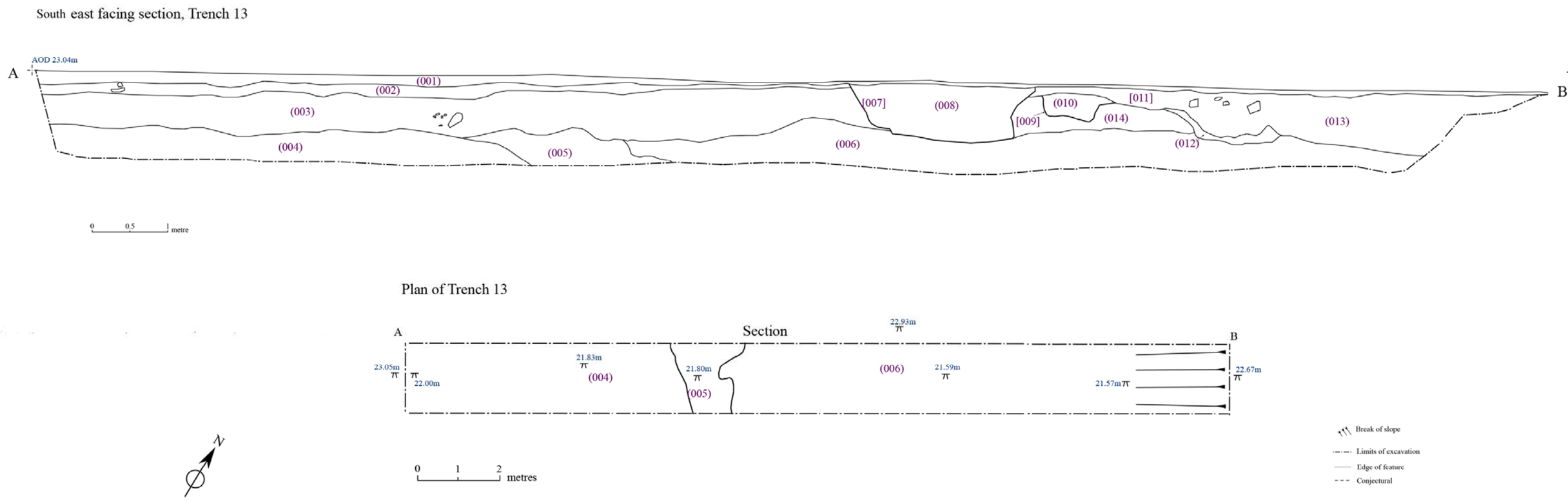

Illustration 28. North west facing section and plan drawings of Trench 13

Illustration 29. Detailed photograph of mineralization (005), Trench 13

Illustration 30. Detailed photograph of cut feature (007), Trench 13

Illustration 31. General photograph of Trench 14, looking north east

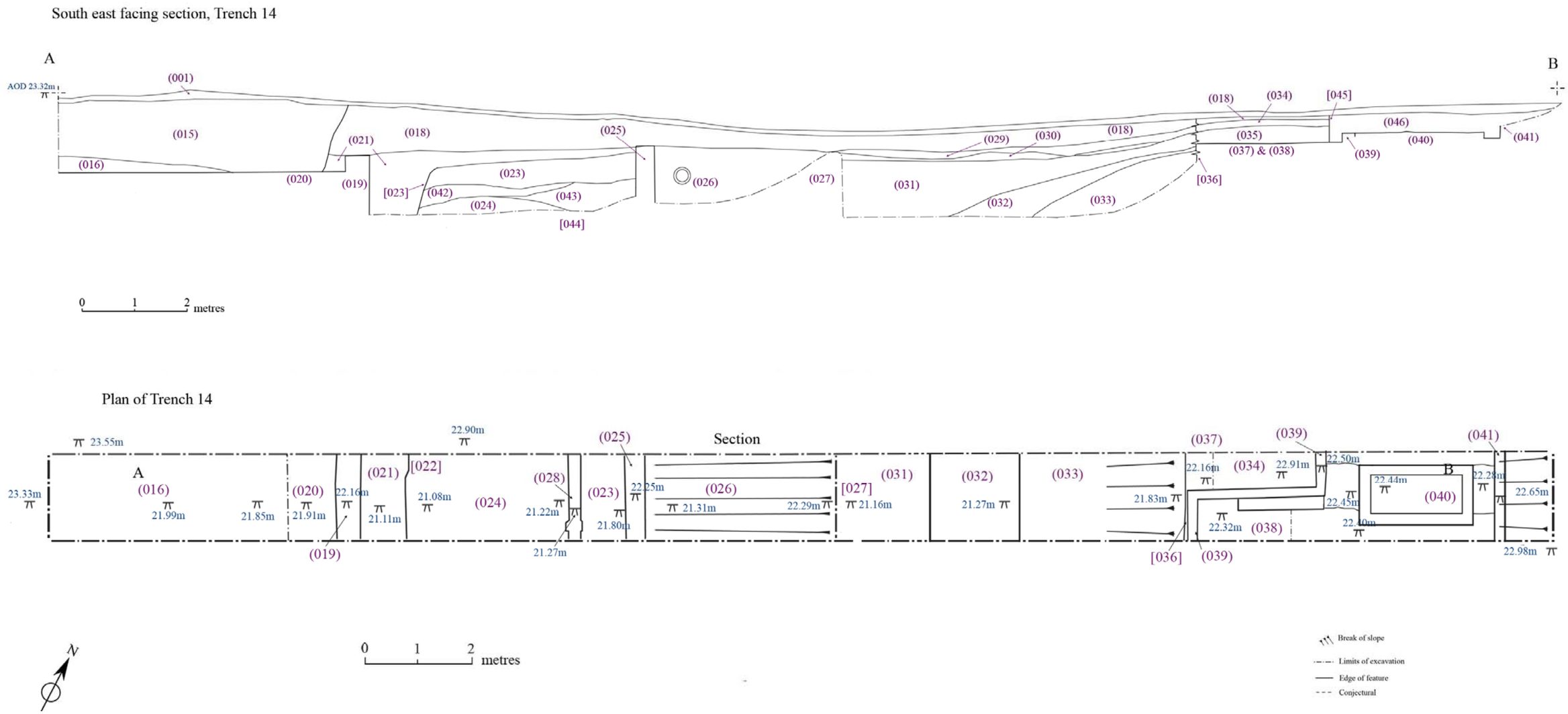

Illustration 32. South east facing section and plan drawings of Trench 14

Illustration 33. Detailed photograph of wall (019), Trench 12

Illustration 34. Detailed photograph of wall (025), Trench 12

Illustration 35. Detailed photograph of fills (031), (032) and (033), Trench 12

Illustration 36. General photograph of Trench12, looking south west

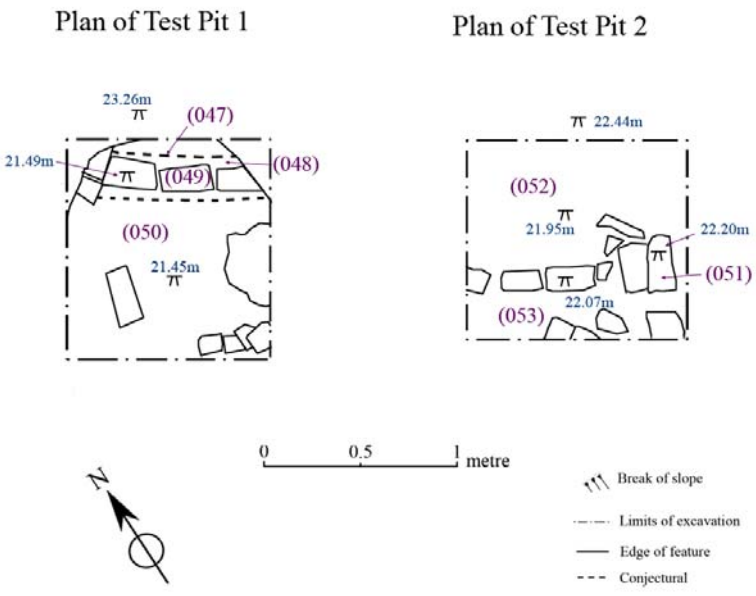

Illustration 37. Plan drawings of Test Pits 1 and 2

Illustration 38. General photograph of Test Pit 1, looking east

Illustration 39. General photograph of Test Pit 2, looking east

Appendices

Appendix 1: Ceramics Report

Pottery and Additional Material From Ordsall Hall, Salford 2007
Phase 3: Archaeological Evaluation

An Assessment Report by Ruth Garratt

1. Introduction

This report contains details of the pottery and additional material excavated by the University of Manchester Archaeological Unit from Ordsall Hall (site code: OH07) during phase three of the archaeological evaluation undertaken in June and August 2007. The assemblage was viewed by the author in October 2007.

2. Methodology

The assessment was carried out in accordance with the guidelines set out by English Heritage in the document *Management of Archaeological Projects 2nd Edition, Appendix 4* (English Heritage 1991) and with reference to the Medieval and Post-Medieval Research Agendas drafted by the *North West Region Research Framework* (Newman & McNeil *et al.*, February 2005a & 2005b). The *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics* (MPRG 2001) and the *Guidelines for the Processing and Publication of Medieval Pottery from Excavations* (Blake & Davey 1983) were also consulted during the assessment stages.

The finds recovered from the excavation comprised various categories of material including; medieval and post-medieval ceramics, glass, metalwork, clay tobacco pipes and organics such as bone and shell. The full contents of the assemblage are listed in Table 1.1.

All categories of finds were examined in full, with observations supplemented by the finds records generated during the course of the fieldwork. The finds were categorised according to type and class and entered onto a database in order to prepare a preliminary catalogue. The finds were then given a unique accession number (SF No.) and digitally photographed. Full details of all recovered material reside within the project archive held at the University of Manchester Archaeological Unit.

Area/ Trench	Context	SF No.	Type	Quantity	MNV	Date	Context Date
Tr. 11	(1142) in [1149]	1 - 4	Medieval Pottery	4	4	L 12th - 14th	Medieval

Tr. 8	Mixed (019) in [022]	5 - 7	Post-Medieval Pottery	7	3	19th	Post-Medieval - Modern
		8	Animal Bone	1	1	19th	
		9	Clay Tobacco Pipe bowl	1	1	19th	
Tr. 10	Mixed (074)	11-17	Post-Medieval Pottery	9	8	19th – 20th	Post-Medieval - Modern
		10	Glass	1	1	Late 19th – 20th	
Tr. 10	(067)	18 & 20 - 29	Post-Medieval Pottery	18	14	Late 19th – 20th	Post-Medieval - Modern
		19	Glass	1	1	Late 19th - 20th	
Tr. 10	(1080) in [1081]	30 & 31	Post-Medieval Pottery	4	2?	Late 18th	Post-Medieval

Table 1.1. Excavated materials given by Trench and category of artefact.

3. The Pottery

The pottery was examined in context groups alongside the other categories of artefact recovered from the excavations. The ceramic material was separated off and catalogued according to ware type and sherd family. The assessment conformed to the minimum standards established by the *Medieval Pottery Research Group* (2001) for the processing, recording and analysis of Post-Roman ceramics. Each ware group within the context was assigned a unique accession number (SF No.).

The pottery was washed, bagged and then sorted by type. The Medieval and Post-Medieval stratified pottery was divided further into individual vessels, with any cross-context joins noted at this point. The ware types and fabrics were examined by eye and sorted into ware groups on the basis of fabric, form, glaze and decorative technique. An estimation of the range of forms was based on sherd profile and diagnostic features such as rim and base fragments.

The early modern stratified pottery was grouped solely by type, the part of the vessel represented was noted, i.e. the number of rims, base and body fragments and any cross-vessel joins were identified.

The unstratified material recovered from the demolition deposits was visually scanned and spot-dated after preliminary identification but not quantified or described in detail.

A digital photographic archive was produced and any near complete vessels were bagged individually.

An approximate date was established for the contexts based on ceramic ware types and an overall date for each deposit based on the datable pottery types present was established. The information is recorded in Table 1.2.

Area/ Trench	**Context**	**Number of Sherds (n)**	**Minimum Number of Vessels (MNV)**	**Date (earliest)**	**Date (latest)**
Tr. 11	(1142) in [1143]	4	4	12th	14th
Tr. 8	Mixed (018) in [022]	7	3	Late 18th	early 20th
Tr. 10	Mixed (074)	9	8	Mid 19th	Early 20th
Tr. 10	(067)	18	14	19th	20th
Tr. 10	(1080) in [1081]	4	2?	Mid 18th	Late 18th
	Total	**42**	**31**		

Table 1.2. Provisional date range of Archaeological deposits based on stratified ceramic evidence.

In total, a small ceramic assemblage of 42 individual fragments of pottery vessels were recovered from the phase three (part 2) archaeological evaluation, representing a minimum estimated number (MNV) of 31 pottery vessels recovered from stratified deposits at Ordsall Hall. The ceramic material can be sub-divided into three main groups according to period, see Table 1.3.

Period	**Contexts**	**Total Number of Sherds**	**% of Ceramic Assemblage**
Medieval (12th – 14th)	Tr. 11 (1141) in [1149]	4	9.5%
Post-Medieval (mid 17th to late 18th century)	Tr. 10 (1080) in [1081]	4	9.5%
Modern (19th to 20th century)	Tr. 8 (018) in [022] Tr. 10 (067) Tr. 10 (074) Mixed	34	81%

Table 1.3. Ceramic assemblage categorised by period, shown as % equivalent to total ceramic assemblage

3.1 The Medieval Pottery

A total of 4 body sherds were recovered during the fieldwork investigations at Ordsall Hall. This closely dated group were all derived from the same context but were not found with any other independently datable material. The ceramic evidence has been dated to the 'High Medieval' period (late 12th to early 14th century) on fabric and surface treatment alone and could represent residual types present from earlier phases of medieval occupation on the site. Without a regional ceramic type series on which to base comparative analysis, identification has been based on relative material recovered from excavations in close proximity to the study area and sites within a 10 to 20 mile radius. There follows a descriptive analysis of the medieval pot sherds recovered from context (1141) in [1149]:

SF 1: A large body-sherd in an oxidised pale-firing orange/pink fabric with abundant inclusions of small sub-angular white-grey quartz and occasional medium sub-angular inclusions of black/red iron. Exhibiting an internal pale pink-orange slip with internal throwing marks from a fast-wheel, producing a relatively thin-walled upright vessel. The external surface has a thin patchy purple splash-glaze with darker red-orange slip. Form identification is difficult but could represent a small to medium-sized straight-sided open-mouthed vessel, such as a jar or storage pot dating to the mid 12th to 13th century. This fragment fits into the 'Splash-Glazed (oxidised) Gritty Ware' tradition, paralleling contemporary fabrics and forms known from sites in Yorkshire (Cumberpatch 1997).

SF 2: A large body-sherd in a hard, relatively thick-walled oxidised pale-firing fabric. The fabric is a fine-textured pink-orange in colour with frequent very small argillaceous and white quartz inclusions. The internal surface has a thick dark purple-grey slip possibly surface treatment concerned with the porosity of the vessel and has a rough, 'goose-flesh' appearance. The external surface also has a dark purple-grey slip coat with evidence of an applied lead glaze, firing to a thin patchy splash-glaze. This type of colour-coating and glaze is unusual on such a pale firing fabric compared to medieval ceramic evidence from comparable assemblages. The external surface of the vessel is similar to later 'Transitional' North-West Purple types but the fabric remains distinctly medieval. This would suggest a possibly later date for this piece, possibly 14th or early 15th century in emulation of contemporary popularity of metal vessels and the evolving 'Midlands Purple' ceramic tradition. The straight-sided and open-mouthed shape of the fragment suggests this would be a hollow form vessel such as a bung-hole pitcher or cistern (McCarthy & Brooks 1988, 90) of the 'Splash-Glazed Sandy Ware' type.

SF 3: A base-angle sherd from a small highly oxidised orange vessel with abundant grey and white small to medium inclusions of sub-rounded quartz and large sub-angular limestone tempering. The internal surface is unglazed, but possibly has a thin orange-pink slip. The external surface has a thick applied dark orange-red slip coat and has a small trace of purple glaze on the edge of the base. This fabric is indicative of a 'Coarse Sandy Ware' type, dating to c. late 12th – early 13th. The appearance of the glazed external surface and lack of sooting or scorching would suggest this is a flared jug form. Similar fabrics are known from production sites and assemblages in Doncaster (McCarthy & Brooks 1988, 145), although this vessel is likely to be the

product of a local kiln, possibly another example of the 'Splash-Glazed (oxidised) Gritty Ware' tradition.

SF 4: A small abraded body-sherd from an oxidised soft sandy-bodied ware with frequent small white quartz inclusions and limestone tempering. The surfaces show no sign of glazing which suggests a relatively early date for this fragment, perhaps c. early to mid 12th century. There is a possibility of a thin red-brown slip on the external surface and some micaceous dusting although this could be part of the clay matrix which has small iron pyrites inclusions. The inner core is partially reduced to a light grey. The shape suggests a small vessel with relatively straight-sides and an open-aspect, possibly a jar, pitcher or storage vessel as no sign of sooting or discolouration is visible over either surface. This fragment could represent part of the 'Coarse Sandy Ware' Tradition which has parallels east of the Pennines and in contemporary assemblages from Salford (Garratt 2005) and Greater Manchester (UMAU 2003a: 2003b: 2003c: 2007 forthcoming).

3.1.1 Condition

The Ordsall assemblage from this phase of archaeological works comprised a relatively small and generally abraded group of somewhat undiagnostic bodysherds. This is not an unfamiliar picture for assemblages excavated across the North-west as medieval ceramic groups from this region tend to be small and fragmentary in nature and recovered from unstratified contexts, often associated with later material. There were no complete forms, suggesting occupation debris was regularly cleared away, leaving only a small proportion of the pottery that was used on site, surviving in sealed ditch fills in this feature.

The Ordsall Hall assemblage, although small does represent a collection of medieval material recovered from an indistinct but undisturbed archaeological deposit. The pottery comprised a closely datable 12th to 14th century group, representative of a period of medieval activity associated with early occupation at the site, albeit not from the known medieval moat deposits.

Unfortunately, the material was not found alongside any independently datable material or structural remains and the full extent and nature of the feature from which the fragments were recovered was not established during the evaluation trenching. However, comparable material from excavations within Greater Manchester can be used to set the medieval ceramic evidence from Ordsall Hall within its wider context.

3.1.2 Fabric

The indistinctive local coal-measures and boulder clays which were used to produce these vessels are common to large parts of the West Midlands, North-west England and North Wales (Philpott 1989, 28) making petrological analysis of the fabrics ineffective. Likewise the colour variations apparent across the fabric groups are determined by the degree of oxidation and reduction during firing in the kiln and it is uncertain whether these variations are the result of accidental or deliberate control of the firing process. It is not unusual to find dramatic colour variation within a singe fabric type and therefore should not

necessarily be used to designate a separate and distinct fabric group.

Due to the high incidence of quartz naturally occurring in the regions clays, it is often difficult to determine the extent to which quartz was used as an additional tempering agent. Two of the Ordsall Hall sherds (SF3 & SF4) have relatively large limestone pellets alongside the common quartz inclusions suggesting some additional tempering agents were being added to refine the quality of the clay before firing of the vessel. However, the abundance and regularity of the quartz inclusions would suggest they are naturally occurring rather that being deliberately added to the clay matrix.

Previous excavations at Ordsall Hall have produced similarly small and undiagnostic medieval pottery fragments. Excavations around the area of the early post-medieval farm buildings produced a single fragment of 14th century pottery, descried as a grey earthenware fabric with a pale firing interior and a green lead glaze (Higham 1980, 34). Unfortunately no precise fabric description, photographic or illustrative record exists for this sherd but it is likely that it was of the same 'Gritty ware' tradition as the current examples. Subsequent excavations during community archaeology project also produced some small fragmentary medieval ceramics (UMAU 2006). However, this material has not been published or combined with archive material excavated from the moat and the east wing areas. Higham has mentioned the possibility of a kiln in close proximity to the hall itself (Higham 1980). Certainly this would resolve the issue of provenancing the ceramic material in the early assemblage. Pottery production would be small-scale and locally based during this period, with the kiln producing local products, using local resources, for local market demands. This would excuse the sometimes unrefined nature of the ceramic vessels in assemblages of this period. However, no specific date for such a structure has been mentioned and could refer to a later, possibly early-post-medieval kiln somewhere in the area.

Comparable fabrics have been attested at sites excavated on the border of Manchester and Salford near the Irwell, historically occupying the centre of the medieval market place of Salford. The assemblage recovered from the Greengate area (Noble UMAU 2005a) produced a range of types, identifying at least 10 different fabrics including; Reduced Grey wares, Gritty wares, Sandy-Bodied oxidised fabrics and imported finewares in white-firing cays and with rouletted decoration similar to that found on vessels from Norton Priory, Runcorn (Garratt 2005a, 57).

3.1.3 The Wider Context

Similar fabrics have also been identified from excavations in the west of the Greater Manchester region such as; Gibfield Park, Atherton (Speakman 2003d), Hallgate, Wigan (GMAU 1991) and the Wiend (GMAU unpublished), however distinct differences can be identified. Recent excavations in close proximity to the Greengate area of Salford produced evidence for 12th-13th century Northern Gritty wares, later medieval grey gritty quartz-tempered wares and Tudor Green wares dating to the 15th-16th century (OAN 2006, 27).

Other sites bordering the River Irwell, under a 1 mile away from Ordsall Hall have produced larger groups of medieval pottery from nightsoil deposits and pristine medieval land surface levels. At Chapel Wharf (Garratt 2007b, forthcoming), and Spinningfields,

Deansgate ((Plot 106) Garratt 2007a: (Plot 202) Garratt 2005b) both sandy-bodied oxidised wares and reduced gritty wares, unglazed and splash-glazed types were recovered suggesting a combination of types from the east and west of the region.

The Spinningfields excavation produced fragments from medium-sized jugs and open-mouthed vessels in oxidised and reduced gritty fabrics. The sandy-bodied vessels generally exhibit fine oxidised fabrics, occasionally with purple-orange splash-glazes. These soft, highly oxidised sandy fabrics have been identified at Hallgate, Wigan and appear again in the small Ordsall assemblage (SF4). These types are broadly represented in assemblages from Yorkshire (Cumberpatch 1997) and parallel contemporary 12th-13th century Northern Reduced Gritty wares.

Excavations on sites to the south of Manchester and Salford with contemporary occupation also have comparable assemblages. Sale Old Hall (UMAU 2003b: Speakman 2003b) produced sherds from unglazed, pale-firing sandy-bodied medieval vessels, and excavations in Staircase House Stockport, produced fragmentary evidence of jugs in pale-firing oxidised and reduced sandy fabrics with patchy green glazes (UMAU 2003b: Speakman 2003a) whereas excavations at Castle Yard in Stockport (UMAU 2004) produced two fragments of highly glazed, Reduced Gritty ware pottery. Medieval assemblages to the south of Manchester and Salford appear to be favouring the sandy-bodied tradition, implying a closer affinity with the ceramic markets of Yorkshire and Cheshire, although evidence from Castle Yard suggests that fashions for ceramic vessels across Greater Manchester show a greater degree of diversity and variation than in other regions, representing a melting pot of pottery types, perhaps because of its uniquely land-locked position.

South-east of Manchester, the medieval ceramic repertoire from Mellor (Cumberpatch 2005) emphasises affinities with the West Yorkshire and Derbyshire traditions more than south-west Lancashire, represented by Buff Gritty wares and Shell Tempered wares. Again, this site's position on a marginal and liminal zone in the uplands suggests it could be accessing ceramic vessels from several different regional traditions at any one time. The site has produced both gritty and sandy-bodied wares, but interestingly exclusively in oxidised and pale firing fabrics, perhaps indicating a distinction in kiln technology and firing technique rather than fabric choice. This could be taken to represent a relatively early and utilitarian medieval ceramic assemblage or perhaps more significantly the site appears to have affinities with the Sale and Stockport material, suggesting a buffer zone or hiatus adhering to and paralleling the Mersey river valley boundary.

Larger assemblages of medieval pottery have been recovered during excavations at White Carr Lane, Hale (UMAU 2003c) which provides a larger group of material for comparison and shows a variety of types providing a useful type series by which to cross reference other contemporary sites, such as Ordsall Hall. The fabric groups are distinguished by the use of local sandy boulder and coal-measures clays common to the region and the variations in the different ware types are the result of firing processes akin to the Ordsall group. The Hale group exhibits often coarse rounded mixed quartz inclusions like the Salford material. However diagnostic sherds reveal similarities in vessel form with both Hallgate (GMAU 1991), Stockport Castle (Dent 1977) and Beeston Castle (Courtney 1993)

assemblages as well as products from the Chester and Audlem Kiln groups (Laing 1977, 117).

3.1.4 Provenance

In the absence of known kiln sites and the relative lack of published groups we need further analysis of local wares, especially in terms of form and decoration in order to differentiate between local ceramic traditions. Identification based on fabric definitions alone clearly has its limitations in a region were so many fabrics appear to have existed alongside each other.

Identifying the exact source of the clays used to produce the Ordsall ceramics would be difficult as geological deposits around the study area comprise large expanses of sandy boulder clays and coal-measures seams needed for pottery production. It is likely that this early material would have been produced locally and whilst sharing initial similarities with south-west Lancashire fabrics seen at excavations in Hallgate, Wigan, Gibfield Park, Atherton and the Wiend, the fabrics from Ordsall, Manchester and Stockport also have marked differences, discounting a provenance in that direction (Speakman 2003a). The Ordsall sherds and those recovered from excavations around the Greengate and Irwell areas of Salford, combined with the information supplied by the relatively complete White Carr Lane assemblage from Hale, appear to have a higher incidence of quartz in their fabric compared to medieval pottery recovered from excavations in west Lancashire. Philpott has noted that medieval wares from the east of the region appear to have a more gritty appearance than those in the west (Speakman 2003c; after Philpott *pers. comm.*). Gritty wares are known from excavations in the south-west Lancashire; the Gibfield Park and Hallgate assemblages do contain fragments from the Northern Gritty ware tradition. However, these tend to have larger and more angular quartz inclusions suggesting they have been intentionally added as a tempering agent as opposed to the naturally occurring smaller and more rounded quartz inclusions in the fabrics from Ordsall Hall, Chapel Wharf and White Carr Lane.

The variation also comes down to a matter of style. In south Lancashire ceramic assemblages from the medieval period generally have a higher proportion of jar forms as opposed to jugs. The latter are associated with high status sites such as castle and abbey sites in North Wales and Cheshire (Davey 1977, 7) whereas the former can more accurately reflect the everyday use of practical vessels in rural and urban peasant communities.

Certainly the production of predominantly jar forms is attested on many kiln sites supplying market centres in Lancashire and West Yorkshire (Speakman 2003c) suggesting a limited demand for jugs. However, at Ordsall the presence of fine glazed fabrics could indicate the presence of these high-status tablewares in use by the occupants during the 13th and 14th centuries. Although the assemblage is extremely small and the surviving fragments are largely undiagnostic, the lack of sooting and fire-damage to their surfaces and the splash-glazed decoration on their external surfaces would suggest that these are vessels functioning as pitchers or jugs, perhaps to store and serve liquids such as water or increasingly for wine during the 13th and 14th centuries.

These conclusions would lessen the affinity with the production centres to the east of the

Pennines, reflecting a similar high incidence of jugs in the White Carr Lane assemblage. However, the nature of the archaeological remains differs greatly between the two sites; Ordsall is a Moated Hall site which continues to be occupied into the subsequent post-medieval period, whereas the archaeology at White Carr Lane is indicative of an early medieval metalworking site, suggesting two very different uses of ceramics vessels on these sites.

General variations in comparable assemblages emphasise differences already recorded between the medieval fabrics of south-west Lancashire and those of Cheshire suggesting there maybe similar variations within Greater Manchester. Based on clay pipe evidence from Ordsall Hall (Davey 1980, 27), there seems to have been greater trade links between Greater Manchester, Cheshire and Yorkshire than from the Merseyside and south-west Lancashire area (Speakman 2003a). Generally speaking, the assemblage from Ordsall Hall suggests a more eastward link perhaps to the markets of West Yorkshire rather than west Lancashire, where the Gritty Ware traditions in the former prevailed into the 14th century. The appearance of the assemblage would also suggest a Lancashire rather a Cheshire origin, although imports from these areas are attested at White Carr Lane (UMAU 2003c) and Greengate (UMAU 2005).

3.1.5 Date

The absence of independently dated, well-stratified groups of medieval pottery from the region has made the establishment of a chronological sequence difficult. The fabrics, glazes and method of manufacture of the Ordsall Hall assemblage has similarities with fragmentary evidence from small assemblages recovered from excavations elsewhere in the area.

The assemblage appears to be predominantly 12th to 14th century and includes several different fabric types, ranging from locally produced Gritty wares to Sandy-bodied oxidised wares with Splash-glazes, possibly from outside the region. The Gritty wares form part of a widespread tradition of Northern Gritty Wares which become the dominant ceramic tradition throughout the region during the 12th to early 13th century (McCarthy & Brooks 1992). These types are superseded by a generically termed group, the 'Partially Reduced Grey wares' during the late 13th and 14th centuries, which continue to dominate ceramic repertoires in the north of England into the 15th and 16th centuries. The small stratified group from Ordsall did not contain any of these latter types, implying it did not subscribe to these northern traditions, although the paucity of medieval evidence from the site may have more to do with contemporary clearance of occupation layers than with active selection policies given evidence from nearby sites.

From the late 15th century onwards developments in kiln technology and socio-economic factors influence the development of an increasingly regionalised pattern of pottery traditions with an increase in the production of new types of pottery over much of England (Haslam 1984, 28). The Ordsall assemblage would be crucial in identifying the ceramic traditions of a region before the early post-medieval period technological changes.

3.1.6 Discussion

Only a small number of medieval kiln sites are known in Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and West Lancashire and these are mostly in southern and central Cheshire (Speakman 2004a). These known sites represent a very small percentage of the actual kilns which would have been servicing the small villages and townships of the period. This makes it difficult to assign any of the pottery to a known kiln, although it is likely to have been produced locally.

The sources of medieval pottery in the north-west are not well understood (McCarthy & Brooks 1992: Mellor 1994). The absence of securely stratified sequences of deposits containing medieval pottery, and the lack of dateable structural remains associated with historically attested events has led to a scarcity of good medieval pottery assemblages. Recent excavations in urban centres have produced sizeable groups of ceramic material and are useful in establishing regional distribution patterns. However, these are predominantly found in North Lancashire (OAN 2006, 58) and more kiln groups are needed to directly source ceramic products. A recent discovery of a kiln site at Samlesbury, near Preston (Bradley *et al*, forthcoming) may provide a rare insight into contemporary products, albeit, from outside the region.

In light of the evidence, the Greater Manchester area appears to have been a melting pot for several ceramic traditions more commonly associated with neighbouring regions. Both Gritty ware and sandy-bodied types appear in assemblages from excavations in the centre and peripheral zones of the region. There is some distinction in the use of quartzitic inclusions between the west and eastern parts of the region, with the inclusions becoming more recognisable as a tempering agent further to the west. However, parallels can be drawn in other characteristics, such as form, decorative technique, surface treatment and kiln technology.

Ordsall is fundamentally a Moated hall site. This is inextricably linked to the type of archaeological remains and therefore the nature of the occupation we are likely to find. Recent excavations at sites in south-east Lancashire such as Grand Arcade, Wigan (OAN 2006) and Gibfield Park, Atherton (UMAU 2005b) and Hale, Cheshire (UMAU 2003c) are useful in that they have recovered medieval assemblages associated with domestic properties in the town and contemporary industrial workings respectively. Yet these sites differ fundamentally in the nature of occupation and thereby the use of medieval ceramics and therefore have limitations in their usefulness for interpreting the Ordsall Hall assemblage.

Ideally, the moat deposits at Ordsall could yield information which would bridge the gaps in our knowledge of medieval ceramics, providing us with an assemblage showing a length of occupation and consequently ceramic use from the 12th through to 15th and 16th centuries, chronicling the transition from oxidised soft sandy fabrics, giving way to the highly fired and reduced, hard dark and refined fabrics of the 15th and 16th centuries, which begin to emulate metal prototypes. These vessels have been found during previous excavations at Ordsall Hall and should be considered in light of evidence from comparable sites such as Denton and Dukinfield Halls (Nevell, M. and Walker, J. June 2002).

3.2. The Post-Medieval and Industrial Period Pottery

The bulk of the ceramic assemblage recovered from the phase 3 archaeological works at Ordsall was made up of post-medieval and modern ceramics.

Area/ Trench	Context	Number of Sherds (n)	Minimum Number of Vessels (MNV)	Date (earliest)	Date (latest)
Tr. 8	Mixed (018) in [022]	7	3	Late 18th	early 20th
Tr. 10	Mixed (074)	9	8	Mid 19th	Early 20th
Tr. 10	(067)	18	14	19th	20th
Tr. 10	(1080) in [1081]	4	2?	Mid 18th	Late 18th
	Total	**38**	**27**		

Table 1.4. Post-medieval ceramics by context and date.

A total of 38 individual sherds, representing a maximum number of 27 individual vessels were recovered from four contexts in two trenches. These figures can be categorised further into ceramic vessels from the 17th and 18th century (9.5 % of the total assemblage) and those from the 19th and 20th centuries (81 %) relating to the latest backfilling activities which effectively closed the moat and re-landscaping the grounds around Ordsall Hall.

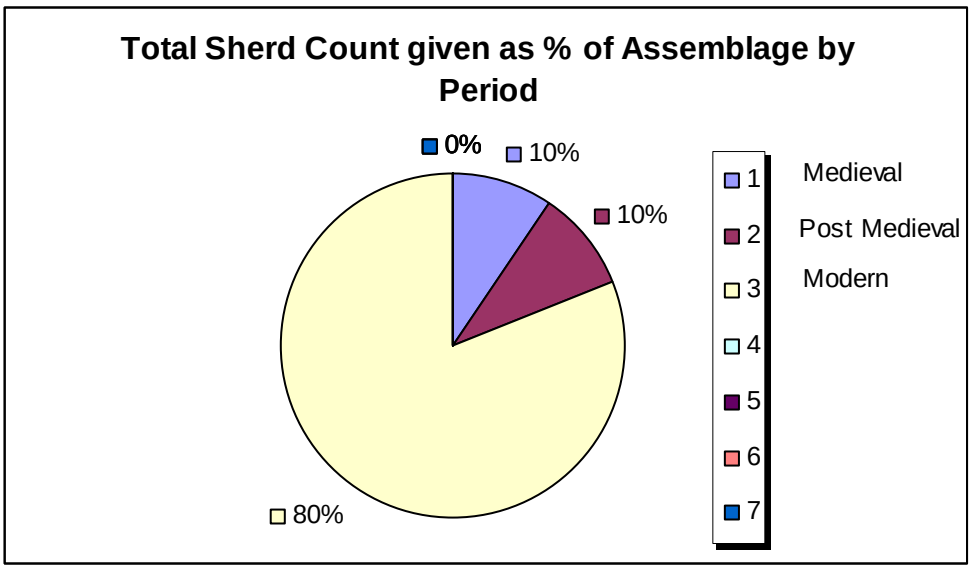

Fig.1.5. Ceramic Assemblage by sherd count and % total of assemblage

3.2.1 Condition

The Post-medieval ceramic assemblage was in a fragmentary but unabraded condition, with many clean breaks and some potential for reconstruction of complete forms, suggesting the ceramics had been cleared into the upper moat fills as part of a demolition or backfill

deposit. Many of the post-medieval ceramics from Trench 10 were datable to the mid 19th century or early 20th century and were recovered alongside other type of artefact such as bottle glass from late 19th century carbonated water manufacturers (SF10 had the manufacturer's trademark embossed in relief 'Austin Craven' registered Trademark).

3.2.2 Date

Typical ceramics of this period recovered from Ordsall were white stoneware preserve jars, usually produced to contain jam or marmalade, brown stoneware soda bottles, (SF17 embossed with the manufacturer's trademark 'R.WHITE LONDON registered') and an unusual mottled-green fluted stoneware neck from a large ceramic bottle (SF16). Other fragments of brown and white stoneware were recovered from deposits (067) and (074) in Trench 10. These types of Victorian utilitarian industrially produced vessels are common in urban backfilling deposits of this period and contrast with the white earthenware tablewares found alongside them.

Lustre-decorated China tea cups and saucers (SF13), polychrome slip-banded (SF20) and lithographic printed (SF21) white wares alongside transfer-printed blue and white chinoiserie motifs on china and porcelain all typify the type of tablewares which would have been in use during the 19th century. These fragmentary examples may represent the ceramic repertoires of later tenants at Ordsall Hall or may have come from properties surrounding the hall, such as the terraced housing on Warburton street.

The only securely datable deposit from the surviving original moat fills was represented by 4 sherds of late 18th century dark-glazed coarse earthenware recovered from context (1080) in [1081]. These fragmentary rim and body sherds have been interpreted as two separate vessels although the T-shaped rim forms are very similar. The vessels are 'pancheons', medium sized storage or mixing vessels with a flared conical profile. These are common vessels forms during the 18t and 19th century and are part of a dark-glazed earthenware tradition which has its roots in the early post-medieval period.

3.2.3 Provenance

The fragments of dark-glazed earthenware recovered from context (1080) appear to have been produced from the local clays of the region and thee products were likely to have been manufactured in a kiln within no more than 20 – 30 miles of the Ordsall area. Pottery production in Lancashire was already attested during the 16th century (Speakman 2004b) and by the late 18th century finewares were being traded inter-regionally in a moderately large scale. More utilitarian earthenware vessels were likely to have been supplied by a local producer and stylistically do not conform to fluctuations in fashion for contemporary ceramics and are therefore more difficult to date with certainty.

Later ceramics were produced by major manufacturers in stoke, Staffordshire and Liverpool, especially the stonewares, although some of the products were later stamped with the trademark for the consumable goods inside, such as the 'R.Whites' brand (SF17) and the 'Austin Craven' glass bottle (SF10).

3.2.4 Discussion

The assemblage from Ordsall typifies a 19th century demolition deposit which has material relating to the everyday functional and utilitarian dairy and kitchen products of a low status household to the more refined tablewares used in the Victorian formal dinner setting. These ceramics are not exclusive to Ordsall Hall and may not have even come from occupation levels associated with the hall directly, their use lies only in the fact that they represent a relatively short sequence in the re-landscaping activity associated with the moat.

4. Conclusion

Only a small number of medieval kiln sites are known in Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and West Lancashire and these are mostly in southern and central Cheshire (Speakman 2004a). These known sites represent a very small percentage of the actual kilns which would have been servicing the small villages and townships of the period. This makes it difficult to assign any of the pottery to a known kiln, although it is likely to have been produced locally.

The sources of medieval pottery in the north-west are not well understood (McCarthy & Brooks 1992: Mellor 1994). The absence of securely stratified sequences of deposits containing medieval pottery, and the lack of dateable structural remains associated with historically attested events has led to a scarcity of good medieval pottery assemblages. Recent excavations in urban centres have produced sizeable groups of ceramic material and are useful in establishing regional distribution patterns. However, these are predominantly found in North Lancashire (Miller 2006, 58) and more kiln groups are needed to directly source ceramic products. A recent discovery of a kiln site at Samlesbury, near Preston (Bradley *et al*, forthcoming after Miller 2006, 58) may provide a rare insight into contemporary products, albeit, from outside the region.

In light of the evidence from Ordsall and the surrounding area, Greater Manchester seems to have been a melting-pot for several ceramic traditions more commonly associated with neighbouring regions. Both Gritty ware and sandy-bodied types appear in assemblages from excavations in the centre and peripheral zones of the region. There is some distinction in the use of quartzitic inclusions between the west and eastern parts of the region, with the inclusions becoming more recognisable as a tempering agent further to the west. However, parallels can be drawn in other characteristics, such as form, decorative technique, surface treatment and kiln technology.

Ordsall is fundamentally a Moated hall site. This is inextricably linked to the type of archaeological remains and therefore the nature of the occupation we are likely to find. Recent excavations at sites in south-east Lancashire such as Grand Arcade, Wigan (OAN 2006), Gibfield Park, Atherton (UMAU 2005b) and Hale, in Cheshire (UMAU 2003c) are useful in that they have recovered medieval assemblages associated with domestic properties in the town and contemporary industrial sites respectively. Yet these sites differ fundamentally in the nature of occupation and thereby the use of medieval ceramics and therefore have limitations in their usefulness for interpreting the Ordsall Hall assemblage.

When considering an assemblage such as the medieval ceramics from Ordsall Hall, it is not a simple case of trying to identify from which kiln or regional production centre they may have come from. We have to take into consideration the more general trends which were also affecting the nature of ceramic repertoires during this period. The transition from unglazed to glazed vessels in the 12th to 13th centuries, the preference for cooking pots in the early medieval period and the increase in individual jugs, pitchers, and drinking vessels in later periods are general trends, working independently on a regional and intra-regional scale, which should be considered alongside an assessment of the status of site and the nature of the archaeological remains. These factors all have a part to play in determining what we find and our proposed sampling strategy.

5. Potential and Recommendations

Further work on the ceramics from all phases of archaeological investigation at Ordsall Hall are needed to assess the provenance of the finds and the differences between Greater Manchester, Merseyside and North Cheshire. This may have great significance for our understanding of not only the ceramics in use, the transitions from the medieval to the post-medieval pottery traditions, but also the discussion of the variations in pottery use at difference types of site, at different times and the economic and social interaction between them.

12th to 14th century pot sherds from feature [1149]

Late 18th century pot sherds from (1080)

Stoneware neck from large ceramic bottle

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Appendix 2: List of Contexts, June 2007

Context No.	Trench	Description
(001)	13 & 14	Turf
(002)	13	Subsoil
(003)	13	Yellowish brown silty sand layer
(004)	13	Yellowish brown sand layer
(005)	13	Mottled yellow/brown mineralization layer
(006)	13	Yellowish brown sand layer
[007]	13	Cut, filled with [008]
(008)	13	Black/brown modern fill of (007)
(009)	13	Modern cut filled with (010)
[010]	13	Greyish brown fill of [010]
[011]	13	Modern cut filled with (012) and (013)
(012)	13	Layer of fill, possibly from previous excavation
(013)	13	Mixed rubble with black/brown fill, possibly from previous excavation
(014)	13	Greyish brown silty sand layer
(015)	14	Loam and rubble backfill
(016)	14	Sand covering archaeology from 1991 excavation
[017]	14	1991 trench cut
(018)	14	Grey brown loam and rubble made ground
(019)	14	Handmade brick wall, stretcher bond, 3 leaves
(020)	14	Clay deposit possible related to moat infill
(021)	14	Dark grey clay deposit
[022]	14	Cut possibly for wall (019) into upper moat fills
(023)	14	Mid-dark brown clayey loam, moat fill
(024)	14	Greyish brown clayey loam, moat fill
(025)	14	Handmade brick wall, orientated east west, 3 leaves
(026)	14	Mixed cut fill of drainage cuts
(027)	14	Large drain
(028)	14	Drain
(029)	14	Pinkish brown clay, moat capping
(030)	14	Blackish cinders, moat capping
(031)	14	Mixed brown clay, moat capping
(032)	14	Black cinders and gravel moat fill
(033)	14	Grey brown silty clay, moat fill
(034)	14	Mid brown firm clay
(035)	14	Mixed brown clay with brick and stone inclusions
[036]	14	Cut for concrete floor
(037)	14	Lower level of concrete floor
(038)	14	Upper level of concrete floor
(039)	14	Machine made brick (with frog), 20th C. wall, 3 leaves
(040)	14	Concrete floor surface
(041)	14	Modern brick wall

(042)	14	Red mixed sand and clay backfill, upper moat fill
(043)	14	Compact mid brownish clay
[044]	14	Cut for drain (028) (clay packed)
[045]	14	Cut for wall (039)
(046)	14	Layer of landscaping bricks
[047]	TP1	Cut for wall (048)
(048)	TP1	Fill of wall cut
(049)	TP1	Brick wall
(050)	TP1	Mixed brownish clay infill
(051)	TP2	Wall
(052)	TP2	Black indurated deposit
(053)	TP2	Possible metalled surface

Appendix 3: List of Contexts, August 2007

Context No.	Trench	Description
(1001)	8	Mixed brownish yellow and red coarse sandy natural
(1002)	8	Black/grey deposit of ash, sand and infrequent mortar
(1003)	8	Ceramic drain, sloping from north east to south
(1004)	8	Black/grey deposit, contains ash sand and pottery/glass fragments
[1005]	8	Cut for sub-circular feature, contains (1004)
(1006)	8	Similar to (1004), contains drain (1004), with sand and backfilled natural
[1007]	8	Cut for ceramic drain (1014), contains fill (1006)
(1008)	8	Black/grey deposit of sand and ash, contains greyish white ash, glass, slate and slag
[1009]	8	Sub-rectangular features. May intersect with [1007]
(1010)	8	Brownish orange sandy gravel natural
(1011)	8	Mixed deposit, black and mid-grey sandy fill containing brick fragments, glass and ash
[1012]	8	Cut for large sub-circular feature, contains (1011)
(1013)	8	Live copper water pipe
(1014)	8	Ceramic drain, within fill (1006) and cut [1007]
[1015]	8	Linear cut for ceramic pipe (1003), contains fill (1002), cut by [1022]
(1016)	8	Topsoil/Turf
(1017)	8	Ceramic drainage pipe
(1018)	8	Mixed fill of ash and mid brownish yellow sand
(1019)	8	Mixed brownish yellow sand with slate, sandstone and charcoal fragments
(1020)	8	Fine pinkish sand, very loose, contains rubber pipe
(1021)	8	Thin layer, similar to fill (1018), without brick fragments
[1022]	8	Cut for services, contains rubber pipe
[1023]	8	Cut for drain
(1024)	8	Dark compact greyish black sand with brick fragments
(1025)	8	Compact mixed fill, contains mixture of (1001) and mid to dark greyish brown sand, ash and mortar
(1026)	8	Fill of [1027], compact mid to dark greyish brown sand, ash and mortar
[1027]	8	Re-cut into [1023] for ceramic drain (1014), possibly same as [1007]
(1028)	8	Mid to dark loose mixture of sand and ash
[1029]	8	Cut for pipe (1013) and deposit (1028)
[1030]	8	Cut sloping from south to north filled with (1031)
(1031)	8	Compact mid to dark brownish sand
(1032)	8	Mid to dark brownish grey mixture of sand and ash

[1033]	8	Steep sided, flat bottomed cut containing (1032)
[1034]	8	Cut, possibly for ceramic drain (1036)
(1035)	8	Very mixed fill containing ash, cinder, slag and mid brown sand
(1036)	8	Ceramic drain
[1037]	8	Cut for pipe (1017), cuts through (1019)
(1038)	8	Compact re-deposited natural (1001), with brick fragments and charcoal flecks
(1039)	9	Mixed mid grey compact clay loam
(1040)	9	Fine, firm, mid brown silty sand with no cuts for (1043) or (1044), contains 19th C. pottery
(1041)	9	Ceramic drain, links into (1043)
[1042]	9	Cut for (1041)
(1043)	9	0.3m diameter ceramic drain pipe, also runs to west
(1044)	9	0.4m diameter ceramic drain/sewer pipe, no cuts visible
(1045)	9	Fine yellow natural sand
(1046)	9	Possible brick manhole, machine made brick
[1047]	9	Cut for (1046)
(1048)	10	Mixed light yellowish brown sand with brick fragments
(1049)	10	Dark greyish brown compact sand with stone and brick fragments
(1050)	10	Rough sandstone wall
[1051]	10	Cut for (1050)
(1052)	10	Dark cinders
(1053)	10	Dark cinders
(1054)	10	Mixed yellowish sand with plaster fragments
(1055)	10	Red crushed sandstone
(1056)	10	Mid to dark grey brown silt
[1057]	10	Cut
(1058)	10	Light yellowish brown natural sand
(1059)	10	Dark brown iron panning
(1060)	10	Natural yellowish brown gravels
(1061)	10	Mixed dark brown to bluish loam, contains blackish cinders
[1062]	10	Cut containing (1061)
(1063)	10	Mid grey compact clayey loam
(1064)	10	Light yellowish brown gravel
(1065)	10	Black gritty loam
(1066)	10	Light yellowish brown mixed sand with sandstone
(1067)	10	Mixed crushed brick with sandstone and brown sand
(1068)	10	Light brown gravel
(1069)	10	Dark cinders
[1070]	10	Cut containing [069]
(1071)	10	Black gritty sand
(1072)	10	Mid brown clayey sand
(1073)	10	Cinder
(1074)	10	Mid brown mixed silty sand
[1075]	10	Sewer pipe re-cut

(1076)	10	Mid to dark brown silty sand
[1077]	10	Sewer cut
(1078)	10	Light grey sandy silt
(1079)	10	Ceramic 19th C. sewer
(1080)	10	Sticky anaerobic organic black silt, 18th C. moat re-cut fill
[1081]	10	18th C. re-cut of moat
(1082)	10	Mid grey anaerobic silt, possibly pre 18th C. moat fill
(1083)	10	As (1082)
[1084]	10	Moat cut
(1085)	10	Mid brown silty sand
(1086)	10	Yellowish natural sand
(1087)	12	Mid brownish yellow fine sand and gravels, probably natural
(1088)	12	Fine natural yellowish sand
(1089)	12	Firm brownish grey sand with abraded brick
[1090]	12	Rectangular feature, contains (1089), cut into (1087)
(1091)	12	Similar to (1089)
[1092]	12	Sub-circular feature, contains (1091), cut into (1087)
(1093)	12	Similar to (1089)
[1094]	12	Rectangular feature, contains (1093), cut into (1087)
(1095)	12	Blackish silty sand, with brick fragments and small rounded pebbles
[1096]	12	Cut for services, black plastic pipe in section, orientated east-west
(1097)	12	Mid brownish yellow silty sand, with handmade brick fragments and charcoal
[1098]	12	Feature, possibly rectangular in shape, unclear edges, contains (1096)
(1099)	12	Discoloured, brownish grey sand and gravels
[1100]	12	Possible edge of cut for feature [1108] a sandstone wall, orientated east- west
(1101)	12	Compact dark brownish orange deposit of fine sandy silt with glass and brick fragments
(1102)	12	Firm orangey yellow clayey sand, with infrequent pebbles
(1103)	12	Packed pebble layer set in orangey sand
[1104]	12	Reddish sandstone feature
(1105)	12	Large 18th to 19th century cut, contains (1106)
(1106)	12	Black deposit of sand, slag waste and organic material
(1107)	12	Possible wall, large shaped sandstone fragments, red to pink, with occasional orange colouring. Very fractured
[1108]	12	Linear feature, possible wall orientated east-west
(1109)	12	Fine mid grey charcoal flecked sand, with a soft consistence, contains crushed sandstone
[1110]	12	Possible cut for (1104), also cut by [1105]
(1111)	12	Mid grey silty sand. Very mixed with yellow sand, ash and leaves
(1112)	12	Mid grey/black silty sand with brick and small pebble inclusions

(1113)	12	Dark greyish sand, friable with brick fragments, charcoal and bands of yellow sand
(1114)	12	Dark yellow soft silty sand and brick fragments
(1115)	12	Mid yellow sandy natural with infrequent iron panning
(1116)	12	Very mixed context. Mid orange and grey sand/silty sand. Friable, with sandstone and brick inclusions
(1117)	12	Ill defined layer of black friable slag and small angular stones
(1118)	12	Mid greyish brown friable sand with brick, ash and slag inclusions
(1119)	12	Dark greyish sand, friable with small angular stones
(1120)	12	Topsoil/turf
(1121)	12	Dense layer of whitish mortar, with brick, wood and slate fragments
(1122)	12	Dark blackish grey soft silty sand
(1123)	12	Same as (1127), slightly more sandy
(1124)	12	Discoloured greyish brown, soft friable, with charcoal and small brick inclusions
(1125)	12	Soft dark greyish orange sandy silt, with small brick inclusions
(1126)	12	Degraded dark reddish pink sandstone
(1127)	12	Mid greyish firm clayey sand, with mortar, brick fragments and ash
[1128]	12	Firm mixed grey clayey sand with abundant charcoal
(1129)	12	Crushed sandstone adjacent to wall [1108]
(1130)	11	Mid to dark grey compact sandy loam, levelling material with brick and stone inclusion
(1131)	11	Black cinders
(1132)	11	Light yellow gravels
(1133)	11	Black cinders
(1134)	11	Dark brown compact silty sand with brick, stone, charcoal and 19th century pottery sherds
(1135)	11	Mixed loamy fill of pipe trench
(1136)	11	Modern frogged bricks “HUNCOAT REDAG ACCRINGTON’ stamp
(1137)	11	Two black plastic pipes
[1138]	11	Cut for pipe trench
(1139)	11	Mid brown compact silty sand with very abundant charcoal
(1140)	11	Light – mid brown compact sandy loam with bioturbation
[1141]	11	V shaped cut with rounded base, filled by layer (1134)
(1142)	11	Grey slightly sticky sandy silt fill of [1149], upper 0.3m contains late medieval pottery and animal bone.
(1143)	11	Iron pan along edge of cut
(1144)	11	Iron pan, possible re-cut or edge of dumped material
(1145)	11	Iron pan along edge of cut [1149]
(1146)	11	Possible mound of re-deposited sand, similar to (1142), western edge very ephemeral
(1147)	11	Iron pan along edge of [1148]
[1148]	11	Iron pan within (1142), possible edge of re-cut or re-deposited

		material (1146)
[1149]	11	Cut for feature, irregular
(1150)	11	Natural, light – mid yellow brown fine sand with some gravel
[1151]	11	Cut, gradual break of slope, flat bottomed, contains (1131), (1132) and (1133)
(1152)	12	Cut with a steep break of slope, contains (1114)

Appendix 4: Photographic Catalogue

Digital Photo File 1

Shot	Subdiv	Description	Looking
1	Trench 13	West end	North
2	Trench 13	West end	North
3	Trench 13	West end	North
4	Trench13	West end	North
5	Trench 13	West end	North
6	Trench 13	West end	North
7	Trench 13	West end	North
8	Trench 13	East End	North
9	Trench 14	West end	North
11	Trench 14	West end	North
12	Trench 14	West end	North
13	Trench 14	West end	North
14	Trench 14	West end	North
15	Trench 14	West end	North
16	Trench 14	West end	North
17	Trench 14	West end	North
18	Trench 14	West end	North
19	Trench 14	West end	North
20	Trench 14	West end	North
21	Trench 14	West end	North
22	Trench 14	East end	North
23	Trench 14	Along length	West
24	Trench 14	Along length	North
25	Trench 14	Along length	West
26	Trench 14	Along length	South
27	Trench 14	Along length	West
28	Trench 14	Along length	North West
29	Trench 14	Along length – Backfilled 1991 trench	South
30	Trench 14	Along length – Backfilled 1991 trench	South
31	Trench 14	Along length – Backfilled 1991 trench	East
32	Trench 14	Along length – Backfilled 1991 trench	East
33	Trench 14	Along length	South
34	Trench 14	Along length	South
35	Trench 14	Along length	South
36	Trench 14	Along length	South
37	Trench 14	Along length	South
38	Trench 14	Along length	South
39	Trench 14	Along length – Top of moat	South
40	Trench 14	Trench 14	South

41	Trench 14	Trench 14	South
42	Trench 14	Trench 14	South
43	Trench 14	Trench 14	South
44	Trench 14	Trench 14	South
45	Trench 14	Trench 14	South
46	Trench 14	Trench 14	South
47	Trench 14	Trench 14	West
48	Trench 14	Trench 14	West
49	Trench 14	Trench 14	North West
50	Trench 14	Trench 14	South
51		Not Used	
52		Not Used	
53		Not Used	
54	Trench 14	Trench 14	East
55		Not Used	
56		Not Used	
57	Trench 14	Trench 14	West
58	Trench 14	Trench 14	West
59	Trench 13	Trench 13	South East
60	Trench 13	Trench 13	West
61	Trench 13	Trench 13	West
62	Trench 14	Trench 14	West
63	Trench 13/14	Reinstatement of trench 13 and 14	N/A
64	Trench 13/14	Reinstatement of trench 13 and 14	N/A
65	Trench 13/14	Reinstatement of trench 13 and 14	N/A
67	Trench 13/14	Reinstatement of trench 13 and 14	N/A
66	Trench 13/14	Reinstatement of trench 13 and 14	N/A
67	Trench 13/14	Reinstatement of trench 13 and 14	N/A
68	Trench 13/14	Reinstatement of trench 13 and 14	N/A
69	Trench 13/14	Reinstatement of trench 13 and 14	N/A
70	Trench 13/14	Reinstatement of trench 13 and 14	N/A
71	Trench 13/14	Reinstatement of trench 13 and 14	N/A
72	Trench 13/14	Reinstatement of trench 13 and 14	N/A
73	Trench 13/14	Reinstatement of trench 13 and 14	N/A
74	Trench 13/14	Reinstatement of trench 13 and 14	N/A
75	Trench 13/14	Reinstatement of trench 13 and 14	N/A
76	Trench 13/14	Reinstatement of trench 13 and 14	N/A
77	Test Pit 1	Test Pit 1	West
78	Test Pit 1	Test Pit 1	West
79	Test Pit 1	Test Pit 1	South
80	Test Pit 1	Test Pit 1	West
81	Test Pit 1	Test Pit 1	South

Digital Photo File 2

Shot	Subdiv	Description	Looking
1	Trench 9	Post-Ex with collapse	South West
2	Trench 9	Post-Ex with collapse	North West
3	Trench 9	Post-Ex with collapse	North East
4	Trench 10	Post-Ex	South
5	Trench 10	Post-Ex	South East
6	Trench 10	Post-Ex	South West
7	Trench 10	Post-Ex	South West
8	Trench 10	Post-Ex	North
9	Trench 8	Post-Ex	North
10	Trench 8	Section	North East
11	Trench 11	Post clean	East
12	Trench 11	Section West	South East
13	Trench 11	Section corner	South East
14	Trench 11	Section East	South West
15	Trench 11	Post clean	West
16	Trench 12	Post clean along length	South
17	Trench 12	Feature north end	South East
18	Trench 12	Centre	South West
19	Trench 12	Centre wall	West
20	Trench 12	Moat/ sewer south of wall	South
21	Trench 12	South end	South
22	Trench 12	South end section	South West
23	Trench 12	Along length	North
24	Trench 12	North square feature post-ex	North East
25	Trench 12	North square feature post-ex	East
26	Trench 12	Sub-circular posthole between square flags	South
27	Trench 12	Sub-circular posthole between square flags	South
28	Trench 11	Late medieval feature (1 of 2)west	South
29	Trench 11	Late medieval feature (2 of 2) east	South
30	Trench 11	Late medieval feature- angled, general	South West
31	Trench 11	Late medieval feature- angled, general	North West
32	Trench 11	Late medieval feature (1 of 2) east	North
33	Trench 11	Late medieval feature (2 of 20 west	North

Appendix 5: Project Summary Sheet

PROJECT NAME: Ordsall Hall Phase 3, Ordsall Lane, Salford			
PROJECT LOCATION:	COUNTY Greater Manchester DISTRICT Salford PARISH/TOWNSHIP Ordsall		NGR(S)centred: SJ 816 969
TYPE OF PROJECT:	EXCAVATION FIELD SURVEY GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES	**TRIAL TRENCHING** WATCHING BRIEF DESK BASED STUDY BUILDING SURVEY	OTHER (SPECIFY)
RESPONSIBLE ORGANISATION: University of Manchester Archaeological Unit			PROJECT CODE: OH07
STAFF: Steve Bell, Ruth Garratt, Graham Mottershead, Jo Wright			
COMMISSIONED/FUNDED BY: Salford City Council			
REASON(S) FOR WORK:	RESEARCH/TRAINING INTERPRETATION/DISPLAY CONSERVATION/MANAGEMENT	**DEVELOPMENT** OTHER (SPECIFY)	
DATE PROJECT STARTED : 2nd July 2007		DATE FINISHED : 20th August 2007	
SUMMARY OF RESULTS : To the south of the Hall there was a generally high level of modern disturbance, with disused services, landscaping and drainage systems exposed in all trenches. Trenches 10 and 11 provided evidence for the presence of the medieval moat and a rough sandstone wall corresponding to the edge of the moat. Within Trench 11 a possible medieval ditch was exposed with late medieval pottery in its upper fill. Trench 14 to the north of the Hall also provided evidence for the partial survival of the medieval moat and previous archaeological work. The north eastern end of this trench also contained modern concrete surfaces and machine made brick walls. The two test pits contained ephemeral wall remains, which would correspond to building remains from the demolished East Wing. No early dateable evidence was found within the moat fills with further excavation work precluded through the depth of Trench 10 and areas of Trench 14. The limited assemblage contained several medieval and post-medieval sherds, with the bulk of the finds dating to the eighteenth to nineteenth centuries.			
REPORT REFERENCE: UMAU 2007 (50)			
PROPOSED ARCHIVE REPOSITORY (name and address): UMAU, as below			
CONTACT NAME (FOR INFORMATION/ENQUIRIES): Dr Mike Nevell ADDRESS: University of Manchester Archaeological Unit, Architecture & Planning Building, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL. TEL: 0161-275-2314; FAX: 0161-275-2315; E-MAIL: umfac@man.ac.uk			