

Report on an Archaeological Evaluation

The Old Ship Inn, Combwich

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An Archaeological Evaluation at 'The Old Ship', Combwich, Otterhampton.

NGR: ST 258 424

Summary.

As a condition of planning consent an archaeological evaluation was carried out at the above location during August 2003. Two trenches were opened in the car park of the former public house with a third located in the beer garden to the west.

In the area of the beer garden modern disturbance had destroyed all archaeological strata to the surface of bedrock over much of the area of investigation. Archaeology survived at the northern end where the underlying natural marl had been cut to a depth in excess of 0.90m by a substantial prehistoric feature aligned NW-SE, the fill of which contained four sherds of pottery of mid Iron Age date. This feature became backfilled over time and was probably still visible as a linear hollow when it was finally levelled off with a further deposit which contained a plate brooch of C2nd date. This sequence was cut by a second linear feature on apparently the same alignment and, within the area of assessment, coincident with the S edge of the earlier ditch. The fill of this contained Romano-British pottery predominantly spanning the C3rd and C4th.

In the area of the car park a layer of possible alluvial clay was encountered overlying the lias marl. This was cut to the N by three N-S aligned linear features containing pottery of C12th/C13th date possibly marking the boundaries of early medieval land divisions. To the S, along the street frontage, further linear features were found to be cutting into the geological clays. Finds from the deposits contained within these features predominantly dated to the C18th/C19th suggesting an increase in activity in the area involving the imposition of successive boundaries to the property containing the public house and drainage related to it.

Introduction.

Background & Location.

(Figs 1 & 2)

The Old Ship Inn is situated on gently rising land at the northern fringe of the village of Combwich in the south east corner of Otterhampton parish some 2.5 kms south of Somerset's coastline on the Bristol Channel. The historic core of the village stands on the western bank of the estuary of the River Parrett mostly confined to a spur of Lower Lias marl and mudstone rising from the 5m contour to a point 39m above ornamance datum to the west of the village.

The remains of a possibly extensive Romano-British settlement occupied from the C1st to C4th were discovered at the southern edge of the village during clay extraction in 1937 (Dewar, 1940), investigated further in the 1960s . Further strata and artefacts dating to the C1st-C4th were observed in the bank of the River Parrett over the years 1969-77 possibly representing the remains of a further settlement in the area of Combwich Common. An

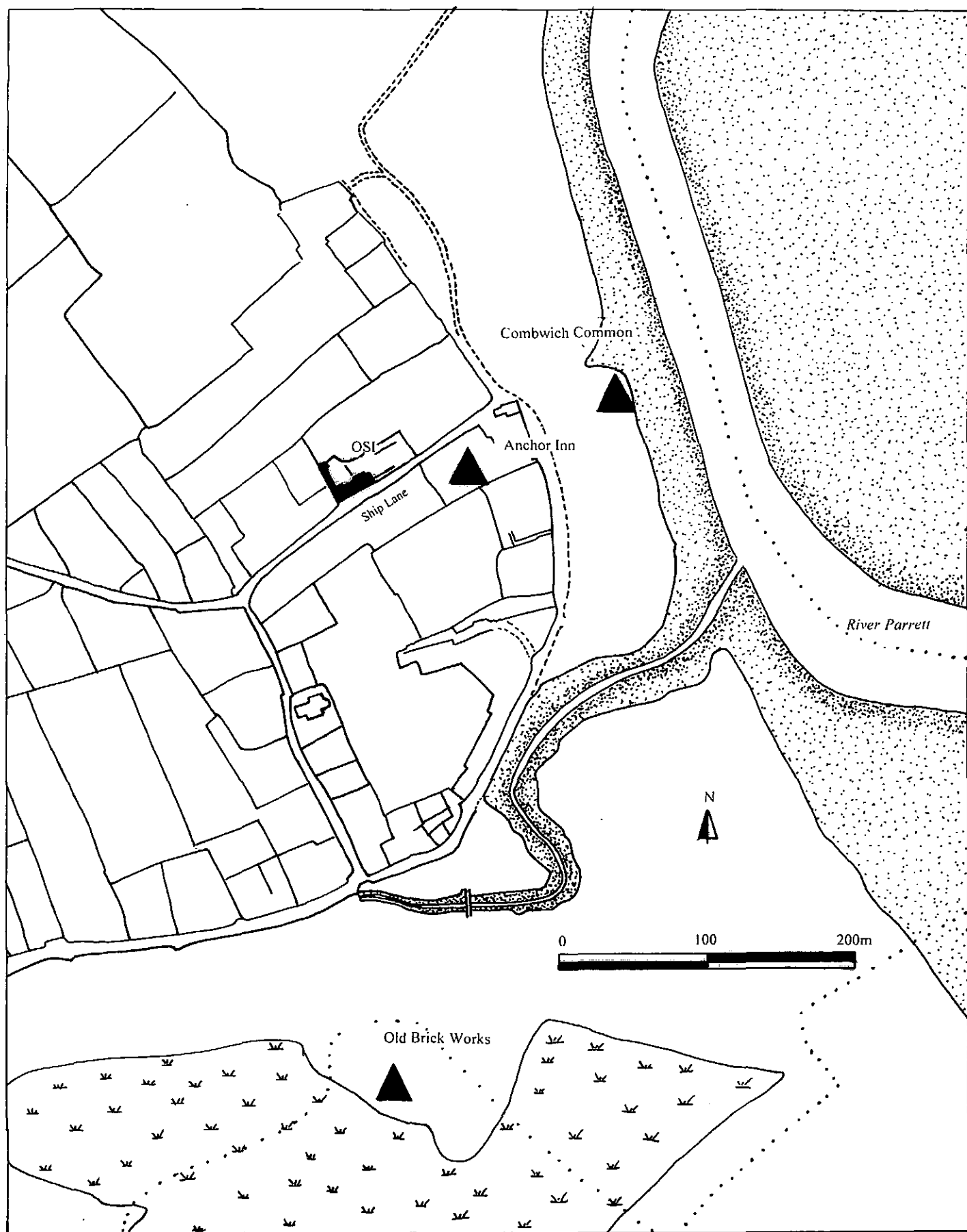


Fig. 1: Plan of Combwich showing location of the Old Ship Inn in Relation to sites with Romano-British material (black triangles).

evaluation carried out by Peter Leach in 2000 to the W of the Anchor Inn produced only a scatter of Roman pottery fragments on the surface of alluvium and a single ditch of probable Roman date, suggesting that the core of this settlement lay further to the E and is now almost totally destroyed by erosion caused by the change in position of the river channel.

It is believed (Rahtz, 1969) that the Parrett could be crossed by a ford at this point, along a shelf of rock that becomes visible at low tide. During the Roman period this probably carried the extension of the road that runs along the crest of the Polden Hills to Ilchester thus providing opportunities of trade via coastal and inland routes.

Excavation of a cemetery close to Cannington hillfort 1.5kms to the south west during the 1960s (Rahtz, 1969) provide evidence that the area remained occupied into the Post Roman period possibly involving the movement of the population from the roman settlement at Combwich to the hillfort to assume some kind of protection from coastal raids by pirates in the C5th to C8th. It is probable that the lower reaches of the Parrett remained an important point of contact with the rump of the Roman Empire following the C5th withdrawal of the legions.

The site was probably re-occupied following the Anglo-Saxon conquest of the area in the C8th with the combination of its ford and the river sustaining it as an important node of communications and it is the most likely point at which the North Somerset Herepath crossed the Parrett. Throughout the medieval period Combwich remained in use as a harbour as part of the port of Bridgwater, trading with Ireland and elsewhere and sending lighters up the Parrett and Tone to Langport and Ham Mills near Taunton. However the settlement never attained the status of being a manor or parish in its own right, being shared between the parishes of Otterhampton and Cannington until the C19th.

The Old Ship Inn, the location of the current investigation, is first mentioned as a public house in 1702 known as the Passage Boat, becoming renamed the Ship or Old Ship by 1730. The existing building appears to be ostensibly early C18th in date.

The only known archaeological work to have been carried out in this area of the village were an evaluation in advance of building works at the Anchor Inn 30m to the north on the opposite side of Ship Lane in 2000 (Leach 2000) which produced a scatter of Roman pottery and a ditch. Also observations of erosion in the river bank adjacent to Combwich common which produced evidence of occupation of a sizable area alongside the river throughout the C1st to C4th. An evaluation by BUFAU immediately to the W was completely negative.

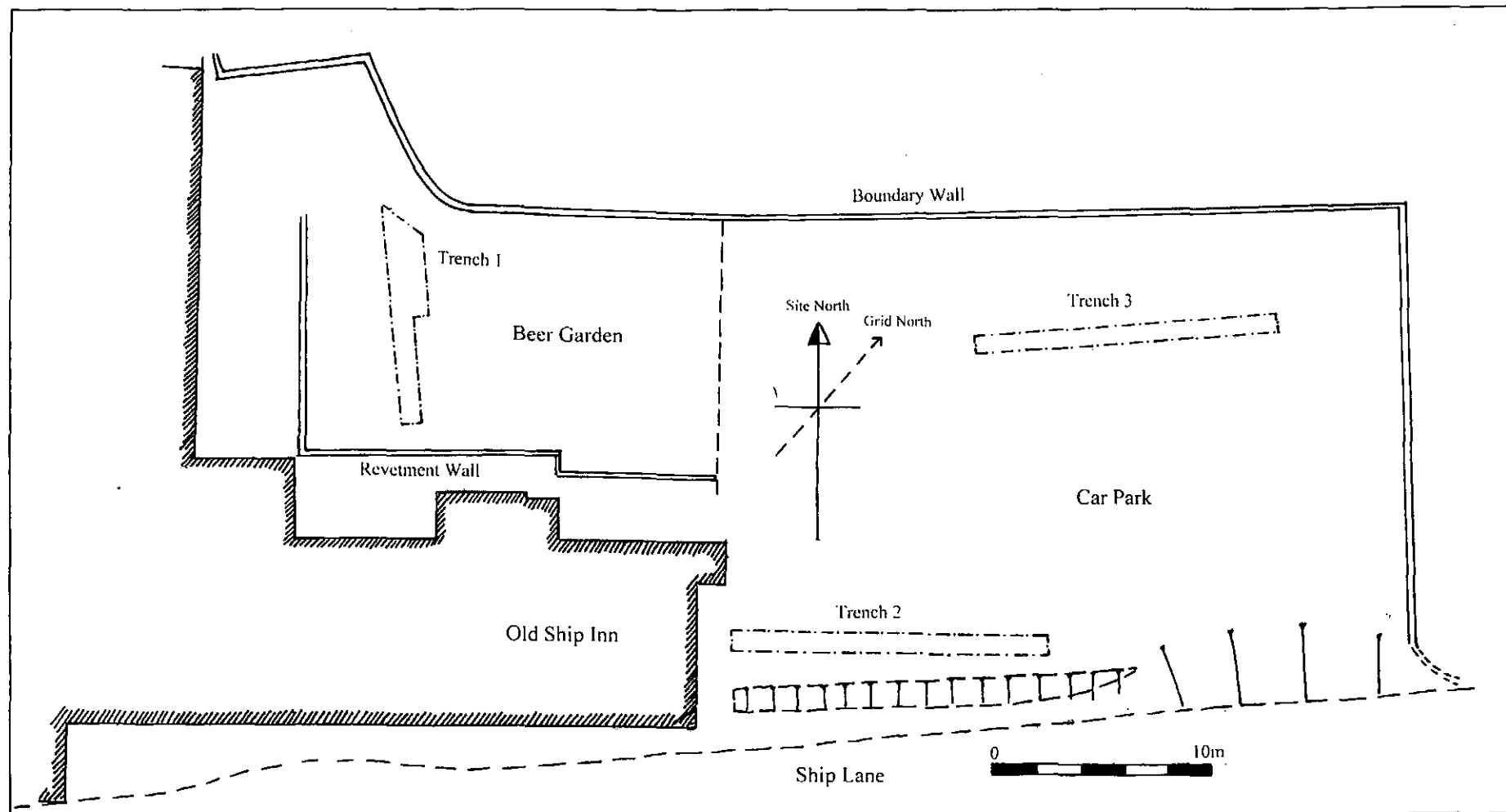


Fig. 2: Old Ship Inn, Combwich. Plan of Site.

The Archaeology.

Method

Three trenches were opened in the vicinity of the former pub. The location and scale of these was determined by a specification issued by the development control officer for Somerset County Council.

The area of the former beer garden was examined by the excavation of a north-south aligned trench 10m in length with an original width of 0.80m. Discovery of intact archaeological strata at the northern end of this trench necessitated enlargement in width to 1.8m at this point. Trenches 2 & 3 were opened within the former car park, Trench 2 being opened to an overall length of 15m E-W along the Ship Lane frontage with Trench 3 on the same alignment to the S of the northern boundary of the car park to the same length.

All three trenches were initially excavated by machine to a depth at which discreet archaeological features became visible. Sections of all exposed features and deposits were then excavated by hand. Recording was carried out in accordance with County Council guidelines, plans and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20 with photographic recording carried out where deemed necessary. All levels taken were subsequently referenced to an Ordnance Survey spot height in the road to the west of the Anchor Inn

The archaeological investigations were carried out by James L. Brigers, BA on behalf of the architects, Applied Design. Assistance in the field was provided by Alan Graham and Cedric. Specialist assessment of the finds was carried out by Peter Leach, J.M. Mills, Jo Draper and Stephen Minnitt,

Archaeological Description.

Trench 1. (Fig. 3; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was orientated approximately N-S and sited within the area of the former beer garden immediately to the N of the Old Ship Inn. The surface of bedrock [103] was reached at a level of 8.87m aod at the northern end of the trench and was found slope to the S to 8.17m. Here this consisted of very compact red-brown marl with bands of green-grey mudstone. At the S end hollows in the surface of [103] contained a small amount of compact reddish-brown clay, [102], probably a natural derivative of weathering in the surface of the marl.

At the N end of the trench bedrock was cut to a depth of at least 0.90m by substantial feature [114]. For safety reasons the base of this could not be reached but it is believed that less than 0.30m of fill remained below the lowest level of excavation. Only the SW side of this feature was available for investigation within the trench making it impossible to accurately assess its true extent and orientation, however, the evidence obtained

suggests that this is a section of a NE-SW aligned linear feature possibly in excess of 4.00m in width.

This lowest fill of feature [114] consisted of a very compact mid red-brown silty clay [116] with only a few charcoal flecks, small pieces of burnt daub and animal bone as inclusions. This formed a layer never more than 0.20m thick adhering to the S side and plunging towards the base. Above this was a much thicker layer of fill [117] consisting of very compact red-brown silty clay becoming increasingly brown towards its upper limit. This material contained an increasing density of charcoal flecks, sandstone and lias fragments and produced four small pottery sherds of mid Iron Age date. Sealing the top of [117] was a layer of very compact pale grey-brown loamy clay [104] that increased in thickness from S to N to a maximum of 0.40m due to its lower profile sloping down into a depression in the centre of [117]. The only find from this deposit was a copper alloy and enamel cruciform plate brooch of possible C2nd date.

The surface of [104] was subsequently cut by a probable linear feature [113] seemingly on a similar alignment to [114] and measuring 1.20m in width and 0.85m in depth with a 'V' shaped base profile. This contained [115] which consisted of a compact mid grey sandy clay with tip lines of sand and gravel mixed with small fragments of lias and burnt sandstone. Pottery from this fill has been identified as late Roman dating from the C3rd or C4th. The upper fill of feature [113], [105], was made up of angular fragments of weathered and occasionally burnt lias and sandstone in a matrix of compact grey clay set into a depression 1.20m in width with its deepest point of 0.30m close to the N top edge of [113].

These deposits were in turn sealed by a further layer of compact grey-brown silty clay [108] covering the N end of the trench to a depth of no more than 0.10m. Finds from this layer included Roman greyware sherds and a fragment of tegula tile all apparently of late date.

The surface of [108] was cut by three small features, probably the bases of postholes [107], [110] & [112]. The fills of these cuts contained pottery and clay pipe suggestive of a date no earlier than the C18th.

To the S of these features no archaeological strata dating prior to the C19th/20th could be detected, instead bedrock was overlain by a mixed dump of clay and rubble, [101]. This material increased in thickness to the S to a maximum of 0.50m. This suggests truncation and levelling of the area towards the pub building probably as a result of landscaping works associated with the laying out of the beer garden. The whole area was finally sealed by a thick dump of dark grey, gritty topsoil up to 0.50m in thickness.

Trench 2 (Fig 4; Pl. 2 & 3)

This trench was opened to investigate an area 15m x 0.80m running from the E wall of The Old Ship along the street frontage of the car park.

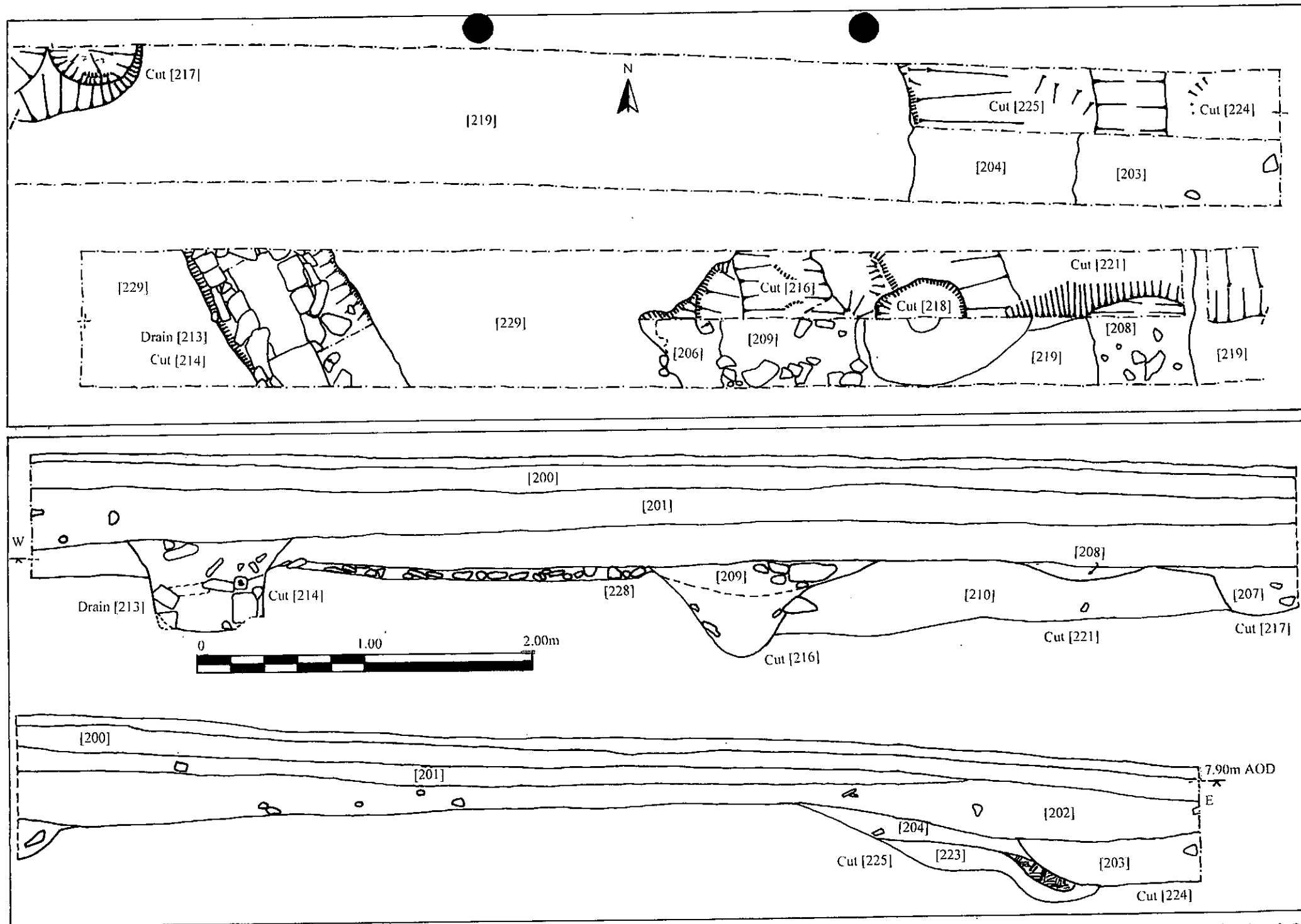


Fig. 4: Old Ship Inn, Combwich: Trench 2, South Facing Section & Plan of Excavated Features.

Bedrock of deep red-brown marl and pale grey-green mudstone and marl was reached at a level of 7.85m aod with its surface sloping gently down to the E. Over much of the central portion of the trench and to the extreme W this was found to be overlain by light yellow-brown sandy clay silt [219] to a depth of up to 0.30m. This probably represents natural deposition of alluvium as the result of a marine incursion of uncertain date and produced no finds.

At the extreme E end of the trench the surface of [219] was cut by a probable N-S aligned linear feature with gently sloping sides and an overall depth of 0.65m, [225]. The fills of this, [223], [226] and [204] consisted of a mixture of re-deposited natural silts and grey clay loam and produced pottery and clay pipe fragments of C17th/C18th date. These were cut by [224], a later linear feature 0.30m in depth with a flat base on the same alignment 1.30m further E. This had been backfilled with a dark yellow-brown silty clay loam [203] that contained frequent small stones and coal-ash with pottery sherds of C18th date.

4.40m from the W end of the trench a narrow linear feature [221] could be detected cutting into the surface of [219]. Although heavily truncated by later activity in places this seemed to run SSW to NNE across the trench for 3.60m before turning to the N into the section. The maximum width of [221] would appear to be no greater than 0.60m with a depth of 0.30m. This contained one fill of compact silty clay loam, [210]. The W end of [210] was cut an N-S aligned linear 1.20m in width with a 'V' shaped profile, [216], containing two fills, [227] & [209]. 0.90m to the E of this [210] was found to be further truncated by shallow linear [222] with its distinctive fill containing frequent lias fragments and coal-ash. This was in turn cut by a steep-sided sub-circular feature, [218] which contained compact packing material [211] around a central post-pipe [220]. N-S linear [216] was found to cut through a thin layer of plaster, mortar and lias rubble lying on the surface of bedrock [229]. This material, [228], extended W for 2.20m never any more than 0.10m in thickness.

The upper fills of these features were sealed by [202], a layer of dark yellow-brown clayey silty loam forming to a maximum thickness of 0.25m along the entire length of the trench. [202] was cut at the W end of the trench by NW-SE aligned, steep-sided linear feature [214]. This contained a stone and brick lined culvert with slate and lias capping [213] which was sealed by backfill of dark grey-brown silty clay loam [212]. This latest feature was finally sealed by a continuous layer of dark grey-brown compact clayey silt-loam topsoil [201] up to 0.30m in thickness. Above this was make-up of hardcore and the tarmac surface of the car park at a western level of 8.61m aod.

Trench 3. (Figs. 5 & 6; Pl. 4)

Trench 3 was opened to examine an area 15m x 0.80m E-W approximately 5m to the S of the N boundary of the car park.

Here the marl and mudstone bedrock, [312], was found to be sealed by 0.80m of compact mid yellow-brown clay silt [309] and was only located in the base of feature

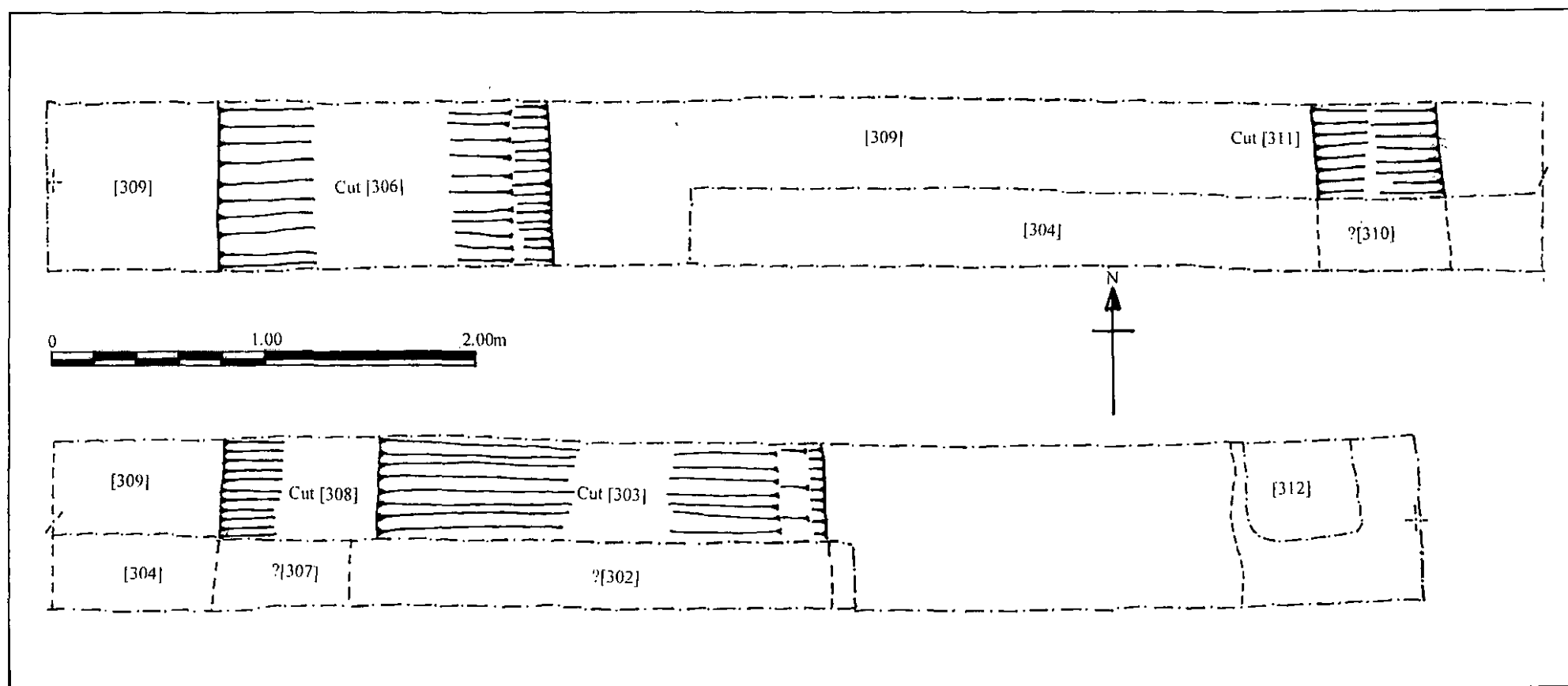


Fig. 5: Old Ship Inn, Combwich. Trench 3, Plan of Excavated Features.

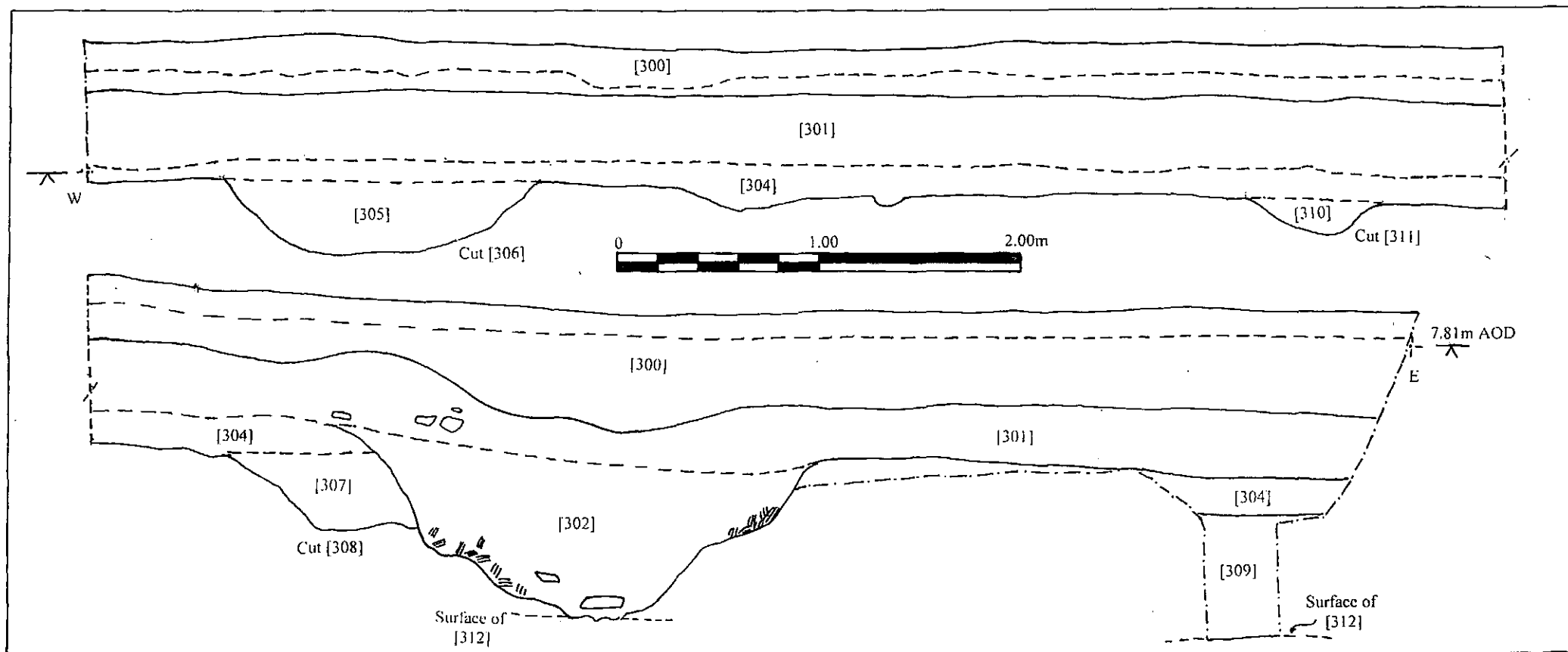


Fig. 6: Old Ship Inn, Combwich: Trench 3, South-Facing Section.

[303] and a small test-pit at the E end of the trench. In these limited areas the marl was found to be overlain by small, rounded fragments of lias rubble. This was almost certainly a natural phenomenon and was probably evidence for the existence of a former beach deposit of unknown date. The yellow-brown clay-silt [309] was found to cover the full extent of the trench and yielded only one small fragment of animal bone.

The surface of [309] was sealed by a layer of very compact dark-grey clay-silt, [304]. This material included very few coarse components but did produce a quantity of pottery fragments dating from the C12th/C13th along with small amounts of animal bone. Due to similarities between deposits at this level the exact relationship of [304] with the three N-S aligned linear features [306], [308] & [311] was uncertain, the fills of dark grey-brown clay loam [305], [307] & [310] being virtually indistinguishable from [304]. These fills produced pottery of C12th/C13th date with the exception of [310] that contained no finds at all. The E side of [308] was subsequently destroyed by the intrusion of a substantial linear feature [303]. This proved to be a cut on a N-S alignment 2.40m in width and 1.00m deep, penetrating to, but not into, the marl beneath alluvium [309]. The fill of this feature [302] produced some Romano-British pottery, but the finds predominantly consisted of pottery, glass and clay pipe spanning the C18th.

The surface of [304] and, therefore, the fills of the above features were sealed by up to 0.40m of very compact dark grey clay silt, [301] throughout the area of the trench dateable from pottery and pipe fragments to the C18th/19th. This in turn was overlain by a very compact, dark grey clay loam and clinker forming the base for the hardcore and tarmac surface of the existing car park the surface of which stands a height of 8.41m aod at the centre of the trench.

Interpretation & Discussion

Topography & Geology

The area of the evaluation falls into two zones; the area of Trench 1 lies on the E facing slope of relatively high ground where the lias bedrock strata was encountered immediately beneath the archaeological deposits (here represented by red and grey marls); Trenches 2 & 3 lay where the lias bedrock was covered by a sheet possible alluvium consisting of homogenous yellow-brown sandy clay [219]/[309] up to 0.80m thick into which the archaeological features were then cut. The site appears, therefore, to straddle a division between high, unflooded ground and the flood plain of the Parrett at some point in the past prior to the C12th.

In Trench II the maximum thickness of this alluvial material reduced to 0.30m and it was not apparent throughout the whole length of the excavated area. The discrepancy in the size of the build up between Trenches 2 & 3 is probably due to its truncation by activity associated with the construction of the medieval hollow-way through which Ship Lane now runs.

Trench 1 (Beer Garden)

The earliest identified feature in Trench 1 was the substantial cut [114]. Due to the constraints of the excavation specification only a small section of the SE edge of this feature could be investigated, evidence from which gives the impression that this represents a section of a large ditch, of proportions suggestive of a defensive function, aligned WNW-ESE across the northern end of the beer garden running towards the W side of the car park. The fills of this feature indicate that it became gradually infilled over a period of time with silty-clay probably derived from the weathering of the natural marl, possibly incorporating material washed from an associated bank. Only a few small sherds of pottery were recovered from this material dating from the mid Iron Age. The top of the feature was finally sealed by the deliberate deposition of a layer of compact clay that produced a plate brooch of unusual type possibly dating from the C2nd and indicating that the remaining hollow in the top of the ditch appears to have been deliberately levelled in the mid-late Roman Period.

Subsequent to the backfilling of this feature a further ditch [113] was cut through its fills. In the area of the excavation this ditch runs parallel to the S edge of its predecessor suggesting that it may have been cut on the same line, however it is impossible to judge whether this is the case without examining a much greater length of both features. This ditch appears to have been backfilled and sealed by deposits dated by pottery using the available typology to the C3rd/C4th. The available evidence does not allow a definite interpretation of the function of either of these features. Feature [114] possibly represents a section of a pre-historic ditch which would have been of the correct proportions to serve a defensive role, while [113] may be evidence of the reaffirmation of this boundary in the late Roman period.

The area of the beer garden appears to have been severely affected by recent landscaping thus removing any significant later archaeology, if any was indeed present. Dumped topsoil of less than 0.50m following this process is the only protection offered to the extant deposits from any future development.

Trenches 2 & 3 (Car Park)

Archaeological features in this area were typified by ditches and gulleys cut into the deposit of naturally derived alluvium that was found to be present in both trenches excavated here.

In Trench 3 Three N-S aligned ditches all producing pottery of C12th/C13th date were encountered, probably indicating the positions of the boundaries of deliberately imposed medieval tenement plots. These showed no evidence of re-use and contained single fills suggesting that they passed out of use very soon after their creation with no obvious attempt at re-establishment in this area. Feature [225] at the E end of Trench 2 appears to continue the line of medieval ditch [306] towards the street frontage but the fills produced

only pottery of C17th/C18th date indicating a later continuation of use of this boundary immediately to the N of Ship Lane. This is further confirmed by a stratigraphically later re-cut of this feature slightly to the E but on the same line [224], the fill of this cut did produce one sherd of medieval pottery but this is certainly residual.

No evidence of the continuation of the medieval layer [304] was located in Trench 2, if it did spread onto this area it was possibly removed by the construction of the hollow-way which became Ship Lane as this process appears to have truncated the probable alluvial layer here. Instead the natural geology here was sealed by a thin layer of mortar, plaster and lias rubble [228] which could be evidence of building, demolition or general levelling in the area of unknown date. To the E this material is cut by sequence of four small linear features, the earliest of which, [221], ran obliquely NE-SW across the trench. The other cuts in the sequence respected the general trend for being N-S aligned thus projecting to join the street frontage approximately at a right-angle. The probably deliberate backfills of these features all produced pottery of C17th/C18th. These features indicate a phase of increased activity in the area during the earlier C18th and probably represent the imposition of minor boundaries and artificial drainage related to the development of the site at this time.

Following the backfilling of these features the area became sealed by a substantial layer [202], comparable to layer [301] in Trench 3 and produced material dating to the C18th/C19th. This indicates a period of stasis possibly associated with the use of this area as garden or paddock belonging to the newly-established public house. This material was cut by the construction of a stone-lined drain [213] at the W end of Trench 2 the fill of which produced pottery and pipe fragments of C17th/C18th indicating that it had probably fallen out of use by the C19th. To the NE, in Trench 3, [301] appeared to have been cut by a substantial N-S aligned ditch [302] the fill of which contained material of dates spanning the C18th. This feature possibly indicates the position of the original eastern boundary of the property on which the Old Ship Inn was built and appears to have remained in use as a boundary until at least 1904 when it is marked as such on the Ordnance Survey 6 inch map.

This area seems to have been used primarily as a paddock or orchard until quite recent times, consequently allowing the build-up of soil that seals the above features eventually being capped by hardcore and tarmac for the car park surface. No later activity has caused any significant disturbance to the existing strata where examined in the evaluation trenches.

No evidence of structural features or floors relating to the medieval boundaries was encountered in either of Trenches 2 & 3. This does not rule out the possibility that structures existed in the central part of the area.

In general, preservation of the archaeological strata over the site was very good. The only exception to this was the southern portion of Trench I where there was no survival of any material above bedrock. The action that caused this destruction has also left the

potentially important existing archaeology in the N of the area of the beer garden shallow and vulnerable to any future development.

References.

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Cannington Hillfort; Rahtz, P.A, SANHS 1969.
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Pl. 1



Pl. 2



Pl. 3



Pl. 4

APPENDIX I

Finds descriptions by Context.

(numbers in brackets after the finds category name are number of pieces - weight in grammes.)

Prehistoric and Romano-British pottery examined by Peter Leach, medieval and Post-medieval pottery by Jo Draper; Iron and Clay Tobacco pipe By J.M.Mills

Trench 1

- 101 **Pottery** (4-72); post-medieval glazed earthenwares including a late 18th century jug base.
- Animal bone** (2-68); sheep mandible and chopped vertebra
- 104 **Copper alloy** (1-); cruciform plate brooch, equal arms 32mm width. Arms have broadly pointed termini with evidence of further ornament Visible in places. Towards the end of each arm a chevron of yellow Enamel reflects the shape of each terminus. The arms spring from a Raised square central hub with a circular setting at its centre. Remains of The clasp are visible on the reverse, pin absent. Possibly 2nd century.
- 107 **Pottery** (2-44); North Devon glazed earthenware, 18-19th century.
- Tile** (1-44); hard fired clay tile fragment, possibly Romano-British.
- 108 **Iron** (1-12); nail frag. obj no 8.
- Pottery** (12-51); sherds of Romano-British grey wares, probably local, including two rim sherds. Date range 2nd -4th century AD.
- Tile** (2-451); hard fired, coarsely gritted Romano-British roof tile (tegulae).
- Animal Bone** (2-15); inc. one cattle molar.
- 115 **Pottery** (32-390); the group contains two small sherds of medieval pottery but is otherwise of Romano-British date 2nd -4th century AD. There is a single amphora sherd (possibly Dressel 20) at 113g. and three sherds of worn fine ware. The rest of the group comprises a mixture of local grey wares and locally produced black-burnished wares; there may be a single sherd of Dorset Black Burnished ware. The standard range of bowls and jars is present.
- Tile** (8-764); two small fragments of thin tile or daub; 1 fragment of roof tile (tegula); 1 fragment of a tile with a 'keying' mark on it not unlike those found on medieval floor tiles; 4 fragments of a very hard fired Romano-British brick. All the material could be Romano-British.

Animal bone (18-190); the assemblage appears abraded and has a distinctive patina compared with other bone from the site. It includes identifiable remains of both cattle and sheep.

- 116 **Pottery** (4-13); all four appear to be sherds of early to mid Iron Age date; 2 sherds of a quartz tempered fabric; 1 rim sherd of a sand and grog tempered bowl and an indeterminate sherd.

Animal bone (3-9); includes one sheep bone frag.

Trench 2

201 **Pottery** (4-71); 18th century glazed earthenwares and 1 late medieval glazed sherd.

Clay tobacco pipe(1-4); stem frag.

202 **Iron** (1-63); heavy bolt or nail with large head, obj.no.7.

Pottery (9-131); fragment of the corner of a dripping tray, probably Donyatt, of late 18th –19th century date; glazed earthenwares of similar date.

Animal bone (2-7); cattle rib frags?

203 **Pottery** (2-15); decorated medieval strap handle and one?not pottery.

204 **Pottery** (2-25); 1 glazed earthenware sherd and 1 Bellarmine jug fragment of late 17th-18th century date.

Animal bone (2-36); Sheep long bone fragments.

206 **Iron** (3-80); three fitting pieces of a lever lock key with ?plain circular bow and ?tubular shank. 13th-15th century. Should be reconstructed before any X ray is undertaken.

207 **Pottery** (5-87); local glazed earthenwares 17th-18th century.

Animal bone (2-46); ?cattle long bone fragments.

208 **Pottery** (10-71); 18th century glazed earthenware but including 3 medieval sherds.

Animal bone (2-15); inc 1 sheep vertebra frag.

209 **Pottery** (9-319); 1 body sherd of a late medieval internally glazed jug with applied strip decoration; otherwise glazed earthenwares of the 17th-18th century including 2 pipkin handles of the late 17th century.

Animal bone (3-165); fragments of cattle pelvis.

Clay tobacco pipe (2-6); stem fragments.

210 **Pottery** (3-192); glazed earthenware, 18th century.

211 **Pottery** (1-1); Romano-British fineware sherd.

Animal bone (1-29); cattle frag.

212 **Pottery** (1-16); 17th-18th century earthenware.

Building stone (1-1714); possible a cut stone of blue lias.

Animal bone (1-50); cattle frag.

Clay tobacco pipe (1-2); stem fragment.

213 **Brick** (1-1117); half a hand made brick.

215 **Iron** (4-148); obj.no.2, nail or hook; obj.no.3, large headed nail or bolt;
 obj.no.4, cut nail; obj.no.5, nail.

Pottery (4-27) 17th-18th century glazed earthenwares.

Tile (1-183) fragment medieval floor tile, stabbed back. ?13th century

Clay tobacco Pipe (2-5); stem and bowl probably 18th century

Trench 3

- 302 **Pottery** (27-646); 3 Romano-British sherds and 1 medieval sherd, otherwise all later 18th century. The group includes a handled jerry in slipped Donyatt ware as well as cream ware and white stone ware sherds, and a single sherd each of tin glaze, Bristol combed slip ware and manganese slip ware.

Glass 5-286; fitting fragments of an onion bottle dated to the early 18th century.

Animal bone (2-118); cattle and sheep fragments.

Clay tobacco pipe (7-20); 5 stem fragments, 1 bowl frag probably later 17th century and 1 bowl of early 17th century West Country type.

- 304 **Iron** (1-2); nail shank, obj.no.1.

Pottery (30-412); 1 sherd of Romano-British period amphora (cf context 115) otherwise all medieval, dating to the 12th-13th century. The group comprises coarsely gritted earthenware cookpot fragments and a single sherd of a finer, sandy externally glazed jug.

Animal bone (1-12); frag.

- 305 **Pottery** (14-161); coarse cooking pot fragments including hammer head rim and a single sherd of a probably Ham Green glazed jug. 12th-13th century medieval.

Stone (1-70); slate roofing fragment.

Animal bone (3-20); sheep fragments.

- 307 **Pottery** (10-104); small sherds of coarsely gritted cook pots, cf 304 and 305. Includes joining sherds of a raised lip spouted vessel probably a bowl or spouted cookpot. This is in a hard well fired grey fabric, slightly granular with frequent small (1mm) sub-angular inclusions, less frequent white sub-angular inclusions and occasional brown-white inclusions up to 4mm; surfaces black interior, red to buff exterior. This is a previously unknown form, but its date is as the other vessels of the group.

Animal bone (2-50); cattle frags.