

# Excavation of Roman Villa Acton Trussell, Staffordshire



Interim Report  
1984-1997

**VP**  
**PENK VALLEY**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**  
**GROUP**

Fig 1.

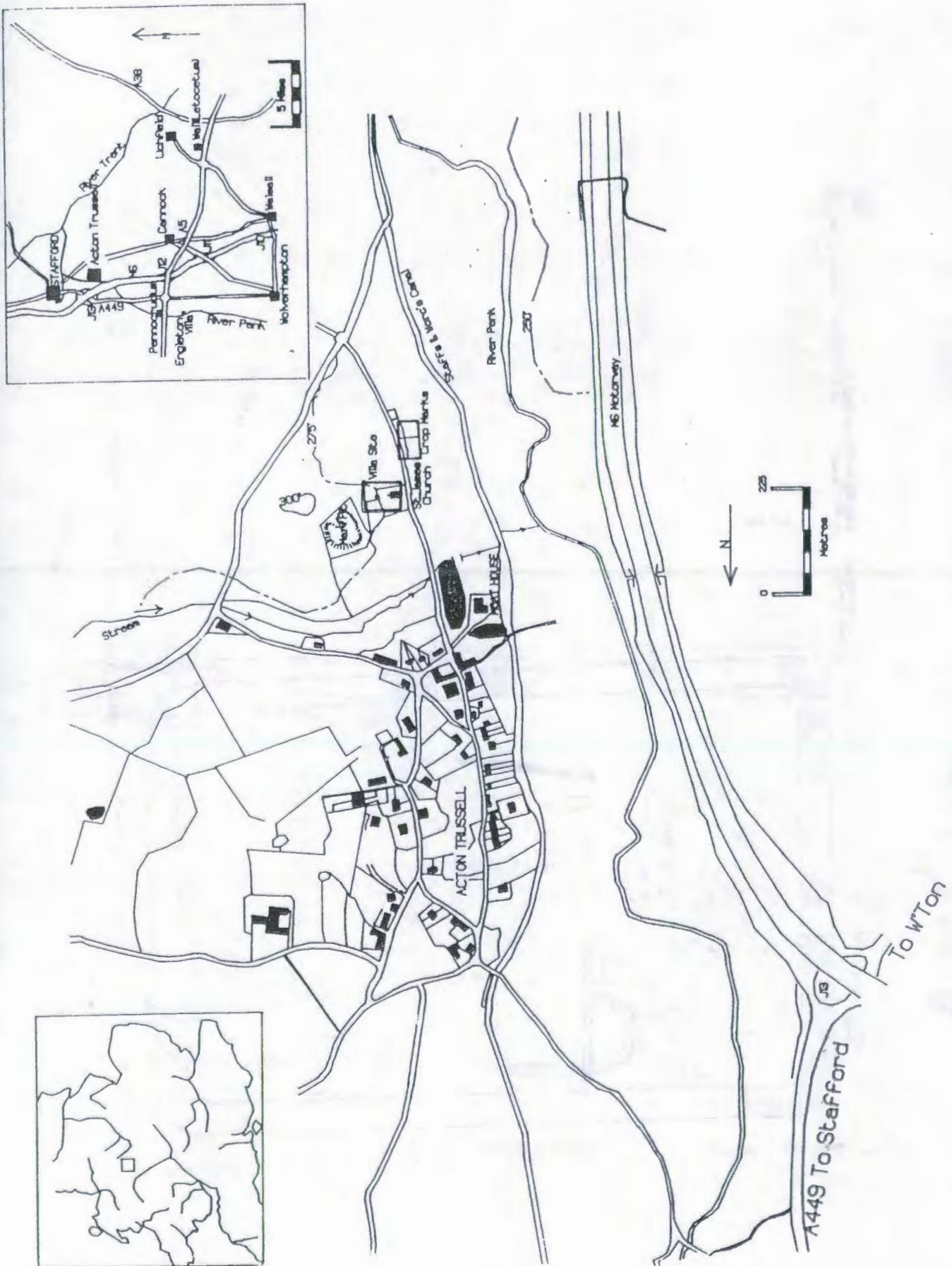
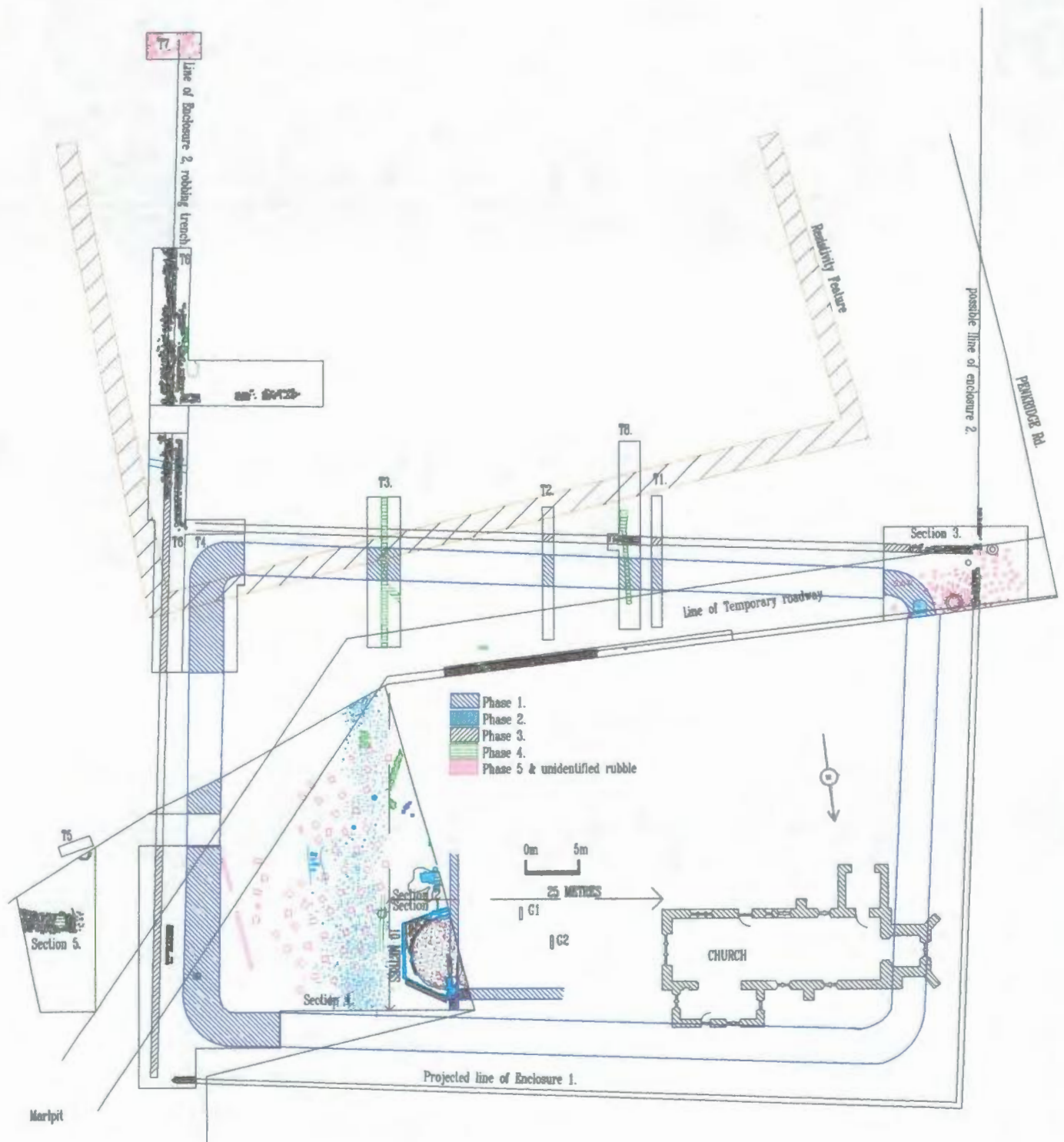


Fig 2.



# Excavation of a Roman Villa Acton Trussell, Staffordshire SJ937175

## Introduction

Acton Trussell is a village situated some 4 miles south east of the county town of Stafford, in 1951 the population was just 432, more recently the village has become popular with West Midland commuters and has seen a surge of new houses being built.

The village of Actone is mentioned in Domesday, held by Robert (probably Robert de Stafford) for the Bishop of Chester, *land for 4 ploughs. In lordship 1;*

*10 villagers and 8 smallholders with 4 ploughs.*

*A mill at 2s; meadow, 8 acres; woodland 3 furlongs long and 2 furlongs wide.*

*Value before 1066, 5s; now 20s.*

It was during 1979 that Penk Valley Archaeological Group took interest in Acton Trussell, where questions were raised regarding the geographical detachment of St James Church from the village.

It seems the same question had occurred to others before, in a short history by a previous vicar the Rev W A Appleby he says "*many people have expressed some surprise that it should have been built on that particular spot. Some attempt must be made at suggesting a reason why this spot was chosen*".

This prompted a series of field studies, the objectives were, if possible, to identify any signs of occupation that might signify a shifted village.

The church sits on high ground to the south of the village, the furthest field is a narrow strip of meadow, bisected by a stream that fed the nearby moated site of the Trussell manor house before discharging into the river Penk.

An 18<sup>th</sup> c estate map shows the stream entering this field and only continuing after leaving, it is probable therefore that, due to the low lying nature, regular flooding took place making it unsuitable for occupation.

Comments in the Rev Appleby's paper also refer to the field (Parsons meadow), "*Also there would be Riddings brook flowing through Parsons meadow and past Moat farm to the river Penk. Parsons meadow was very wet and undrainable. There must have been frequent floods, not a suitable place for a church*", or any other occupation.

William Yates map, finished in 1775, shows no houses between church and village.

The two fields nearer the church have been under cultivation for many centuries, any earlier building pads, had they ever existed, would have been removed, examination of aerial photos showed no evidence of occupation, field walking between 1979-1984 produced only a thin scatter of late medieval pottery.

The evidence, as it is, suggests that the village has not shifted.

It would appear the site for the church was chosen as the most suitable ground, despite its location to the village, it is possible the building was commissioned by the Trussell family whose manor house, on site of the present Moat farmhouse, was just 250m to the north/west.

According to the Rev Appleby "*very little is known of the former history of the church, but it is certain that it would date from about 1200 A.D – 1212 A.D has being a most likely date*".

"A History of Staffordshire" makes reference to "*In 1206 John de Acton was defending his claim for 2/3 fee in Acton against Philip de Wastenys*". Possibly the same "*John de Acton who, in 1243 held 2/3 fee in Acton*".

"*In 1297 or 1298 Bednall*" (the nearest village, and classed as waste in Domesday,) "*was held, with Brocton, by John Trussell.*"

The date of the church, according to the Rev Appleby of 1212 A.D, conflicts with the earliest mention of the Trussells at Acton in 1297 or 1298, John de Acton mentioned in 1206 is almost certainly the same as mentioned in 1243, but no evidence that he was a Trussell.

More research would be required to establish an earlier date for the Trussells, and their possible involvement in the church.

Although the results of the 4 years of fieldwork were unsuccessful in establishing the reason for the remoteness of the church, several sherds of Romano – British pottery and two 3<sup>rd</sup> c. coins had been recovered, the interest of the group now changed to establishing the source of these artifacts.

In 1984 the field to the south of the church, away from the village, was ploughed and was walked for the first time, this resulted in more Romano – British pottery sherds. Added to these were fragments of roof pantile, the presence of pantile suggested the source was quite close, with pottery on either side, the church became the focal point.

Private flights over the area proved fruitless, resorting to metal probes, stonework was located beyond the eastern boundary of the churchyard.

Full excavation commenced in May 1984.

The subsequent discovery of the Villa building may provide a reason for the siting of the church on this spot, a level area with standing/collapsed walls, providing abundant stonework for construction.

There is also the association of Villa and church, found elsewhere in Europe, which may not be co-incidental.

## Topography

The site is situated on a level plateau at 84m, on the otherwise gently sloping terrace of the River Penk to the west at 75m, to the east the ground continues to rise for some 200m to a height of 92m.

To the south the ground remains fairly level, dropping down to the wet land at the edge of the village to the north.

## Drift Geology

Alluvium deposits of the lower river terrace to the west, give way to Fluvio – Glacial gravels.

At app'x 80m these gravels become thinly banded with sand overlaying Keuper Marl to 90m, from then on eastward Boulder clay for some 2km before the bunter pebble beds of Cannock Chase at about the 120m mark. To the south and following the river terrace, the Keuper Marl gives way to a ridge of lower Keuper sandstone separating Alluvium and Boulder clay deposits.

## Agriculture

The lower reaches to the west are flood plains of the river Penk, previously only suitable for summer grazing, however due to the recent record low rain falls a cereal crop was tried for the first time in 1997, despite being completely submerged during the wet spell in June of 97 the crop survived, cereal will again be planted for 1998. The higher ground to the north and south, and stretching some 2km eastwards to the far boundary of the Boulder clays, is heavy fertile soil, producing good crops of cereal and root.

## The Villa Complex

The results of excavation over the last 13 years have confirmed the existence of a Romano-British villa site. The main structure is almost totally contained within the confines of the cemetery and church of St James, the exception is an apsidal wing (*Tri-clinium*) protruding from under the east boundary hedge, together with short sections of walls of the main building which run to the west and south from the wing, into the churchyard.

### The House

The Rev Appleby's "short history of the church" says "*there is evidence that the church was much larger at some time Internments in 1892-1893 revealed distinct traces of foundations between the east end and the fence. One wall seems to have run in a slanting direction south east quite halfway to the fence, also down to the fence on the west end (burials of Mrs Dowell and Mr Roster).*

*There is some stonework at the north east corner which is serving as a buttress. Some of this is very rough and would seem to have been part of an old wall which extended in a northerly direction from this point."*

The walls referred to are almost certainly associated with the villa building not a church.

The headstones of Mrs Dowell & Mr Roster are not at the "west end" (presumably west of the church) they are within 5m of the wing of the villa to the east of the church, inside the rooms of the main structure, it seems unlikely they would have been moved.

The reference to a wall slanting south east, would mean diagonally across the main structure of the villa, this would not fit the assumption of a plain rectangular main building beyond the wing.

It is possible that as the gravedigger encountered walling in each of the burials, and as the graves are offset to each other (see Fig 2. G1. & G2.), he actually saw two separate walls but assumed they were the same, he then interpreted a diagonal direction, both grave are approximately "half way" to the fence.

The 1<sup>st</sup> phase building, probably of timber construction on stone foundations, is likely to be a plain rectangular construction, the chronological sequence based on other areas available for excavation, suggests a construction date before the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century,

The house was contained within a ditched enclosure covering an area of 2730 sq. metres; the early house and ditch are probably contemporary.

By the 3<sup>rd</sup> century a wing had been added to the north east corner, not well keyed in to the main building, this addition still in timber on stone foundations, was semi-hexagonal in plan with an apse shaped inner.

In keeping with the practice seen in other such villas, it is probable a second wing would be located at the south east corner, the nearest example would be at Engleton just 5 miles to the south west.

Mosaic floors existed, as did painted plaster walls, an hypocaust system, and glazed windows.

The main building, if not the earlier stage of the wing, had a roof of red pantile (*Tegulae & Imbrex*).

During the late 3<sup>rd</sup> to mid 4<sup>th</sup> centuries either the wealth of the occupants had increased, or the fabric of the timber building had deteriorated.

There followed a major reconstruction in stone, part of this work involved realigning the north wall of the wing slightly northward a distance of 25cm, this alteration, only possible during such major work, appears to be purely cosmetic and aligns the wing with an earlier buttress end of the main building.

A new *Opus-Signinum* floor was built above the previous level, at this stage it appears no mosaics were included, at least in the wing, the walls were plastered and painted, no hypocaust system existed in the new wing, or at least the walls were not ducted.

During this work main roof supports were left in situ and incorporated within the stonework.

The wing was now roofed with grey micaceous slate

No evidence has yet been found that would confirm the presence, or location, of a bathhouse, neither has a suitable water supply been found.

## The Enclosures.

Figure 2.

### Ditch.

The house was contained within a ditched enclosure, which remained in use until replaced by stone walls. The ditch dimensions are 2.9-3m wide and 1.5m deep, at the south-west corner these dimensions were reduced by levelling, the reasons are as yet unexplained, but the ditch depth in this section was just 75cm, and was buried under a layer of sand and gravel which, at first, appeared to be natural.

The temporary roadway, mentioned elsewhere in this report, did pass over this section, but did not encroach the ditch, the surviving single sandstone layer, belonging to the later walled enclosure, was not removed by the roadway construction, in spite of being at a higher level than the ditch.

The dimensions of the ditch at 65m x 42m give an enclosed area of 2730 Sq. m.

There were signs of cleaning, but towards the end of its use was allowed to silt up, it was fully redundant by the time of the building reconstruction, with the last 40-50cm of the ditch being used to dispose of the reconstruction debris.

The exception was again the south-west corner, absence of any debris in the fill suggested this section of the ditch had been filled in at an earlier date, presumably at the time of the levelling and depth reduction.

A 2<sup>nd</sup> century mortarium sherd with hooked flange was recovered from the silt.

### Enclosure 1.

A walled enclosure was built to replace the now filled in ditch, this new enclosure built outside the previous ditch line, increased the enclosed area to 3700 sq. metres.

On the eastern side of the enclosure there was a break where the robber trench was lost, its continuation however is proven by wall remains at the north east corner, this break in the wall suggested a possible entrance.

The existence of a short run of wall 50cm inside the line of the enclosure is currently unexplained.

A further wicker entrance is probable at the south-west corner in section 3.

### Enclosure 2.

A second walled enclosure existed, adjoining enclosure 1 on the south side, to date the extent has not been fully traced, but continues at least a further 22m southwards from its juncture with the south east corner of enclosure 1, this was confirmed by excavation.

There is faint evidence of the west wall of enclosure 2 rejoining the south-west corner of enclosure 1.

A break in the robbing trench and debris suggest a 3m wide entrance on the eastern side.

Within the enclosure, and close to the east wall, and on either side of the supposed entrance, are the remains of two structures, probably storage or animal sheds.

Of the first, only a single course of dry sandstone walling survives running in a north south axis, a drainage channel runs under this wall.

The evidence for the second structure consists of a wall on a north south axis, mainly dry and a single course. However an earlier shallow pit like feature below this wall required a second course of stonework, this course is mortared, the reason was either levelling of the ground prior to wall construction, or more likely the black soft fill of the early feature was not a sound enough foundation.

This wall meets a second wall running on an east west axis, the remains are an insubstantial, non-continuous, single dry course.

At the juncture of these two walls the stonework is mortared.

Both these structures were probably timber on stone foundations.

### Other comments.

Geophysical survey shows a possible iron age rectangular ditch in the area of enclosure 2. Three sherds of Neolithic pot, together with several flint flakes also show occupation, or use, of this land from earlier periods.

Occupation of the site continued after the robbing of the wing, several post and stake holes are present in the *Opus-Signinum* floor, two sets of 3 stake holes in the walls could only have occurred after the building was robbed to floor levels, see Fig 3. & Plate 3.

Above, but intruding into, Roman levels, were several pads of marl (Plate 2. & Fig 2.), the thickness is varying between 5cm – 10cm, generally 30-40cm square, there does not appear to be a sensible explanation for the pattern of these features.

## Geophysical Survey.

During the summer of 1996 a resistivity survey was commenced, this was conducted over the agricultural area immediately south of the villa, this area would include the south leg of the ditch, and walled enclosure 1. The equipment used was a Geoscan Research RM15 with data logger.

The summer of 1996 came after one of the driest 2-year periods for some considerable time, in some areas the driest on record, a cereal crop had further depleted moisture content.

The results were mixed, as might be expected in none ideal conditions, the continuation of the ditched enclosure could be identified, also, a then unknown, ditched enclosure was apparent, this feature, ditch 2, is cut by the known villa enclosure, ditch 1, at its south east corner.

Although the southern extremes of ditch 2 are outside of the survey area, the enclosed area is at least 2660Sqm, at the moment very similar to the villa ditched compound.

Despite the success with the ditched enclosures, the continuation of the walled enclosures 1& 2, later discovered by excavation, nor the two buildings within enclosure 2 were detected.

The conditions for the survey were not necessarily ideal for the location of sandstone walls, particularly built directly into a sub soil of gravely sand, with very poor water retention.

Despite clay in the lower sub soil being a good medium for water retention, there was no contrast between walls and the equally dry sandy gravely sub soil

Of further interest regarding the results is that the villa ditch, 2.9m wide and up to 1.5m deep, did not give such a strong reading as the possible Iron-age ditch 2.

The fill of the villa ditch, particularly the top 30cm, is known to contain a high proportion of sandstone debris and broken roof tile material.

A trial trench across ditch 2 showed it to be of similar width 3m, but only 40cm deep, the fill was clean dark loam.

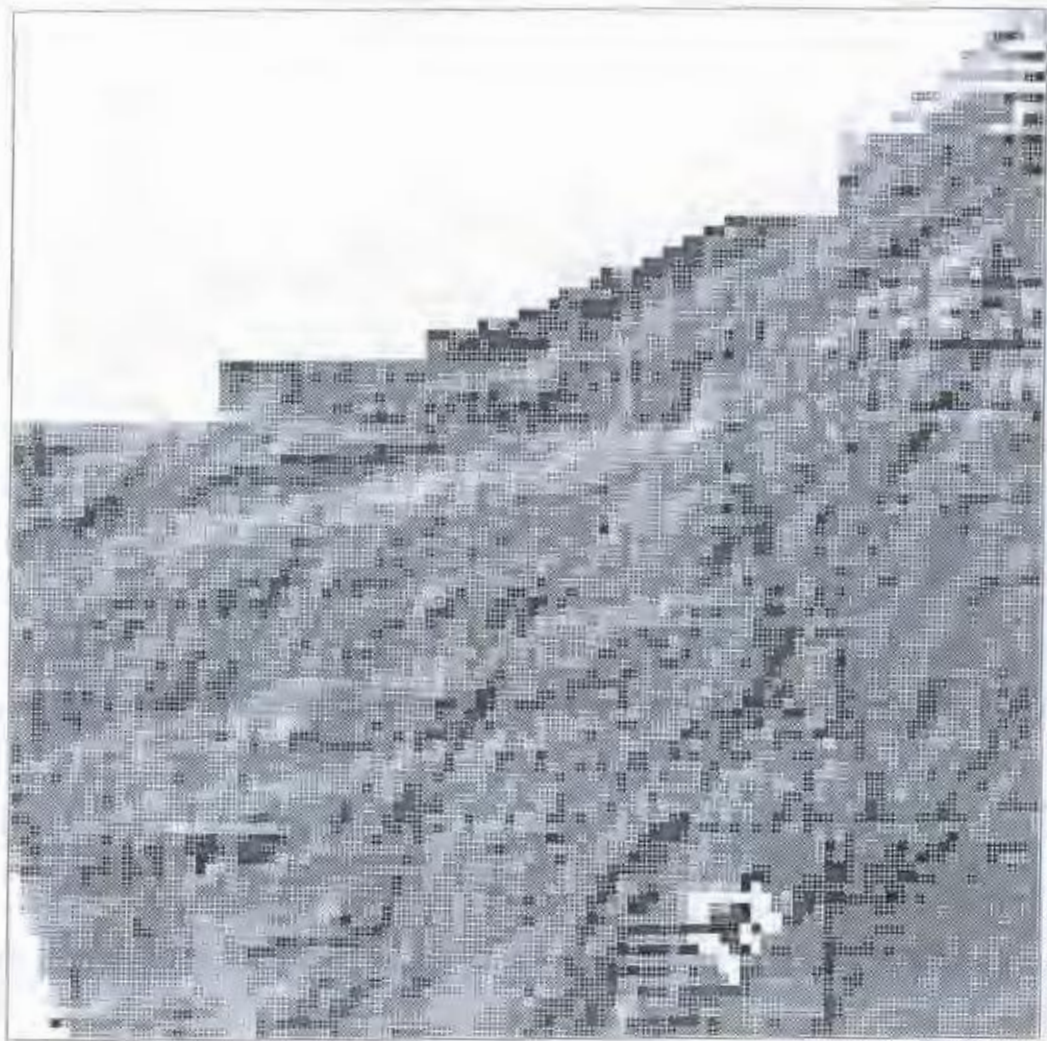
The debris top fill of the villa ditch effected the water retention, the debris in effect allowed better drainage of the top fills.

The clean dark loam fill of ditch 2 gave better water retention, and contrasted better with the sandy gravely sub soil.

A fault occurred in the equipment that resulted in spurious results, these are apparent on the printout, although this spoilt the end result, it did not negate the results.

The survey will be repeated hopefully in better conditions and over a larger area in 1998.

Site : acton Comp. : compt2		Resist. Survey	Scale	1:738
Shade Plot (Relief)		Size x 0.5	Block	Off
Scaling Factor 3 Sun Dir. (°) 45 Sun Elev. (°) 20		Grey Levels 17 Palette Positive		



## **The Excavation.**

The area initially available is to the east of the church and cemetery, see Fig 2, it covers an area of app'x 30m x 20m, and is bounded by the cemetery to the west & north, by a wooded area surrounding a ancient marl pit to east, and agricultural land to the south.

Since the sale of land, for the extension of the cemetery in 1932, this area became too small to be of any use for crops, and was used mainly for machine storage and/or silage.

After the harvest of 1996 to October 1997 a part of the field to the south of the main excavation area became available due to "temporary set-aside".

### **Section 1 east boundary**

Before excavation began a datum line was taken from the south/east corner of the church building into the site area, sufficient to include the outer line of the supposed building remains.

Due to the asymmetric line of the boundary of the churchyard, this produced a wedge shaped area running the full length of the boundary, but tapering from 8m wide at the north to 0m at the south end.

The original trial trench was extended north to the restriction formed by the modern extension to the cemetery, this gave a section length of 10m and an area of 63.5 Sq m.

Topsoil removal was taken down 20cm, although this increased up to the churchyard, which is on average 50cm higher than the site level.

Below the old plough level there was much disturbance, with no visible stratification until large quantities of building rubble were encountered, this rubble was overlying fragmented micaeous roof tile, a thin layer of dark soil separated the tile from a deposit of painted wall plaster lying directly over an Opus Signinum floor. The floor lay within apse shaped inner walls, the outer walls were semi-hexagonal in plan.

The rubble spread continued for app'x 1-2m around the outer building, and lay on a clean occupation level, virtually all tile and plaster was contained within the apsidal.

On the outside the excavation continued down to the foundations on the south, and half of the east sides, the remainder being left for future reference.

The area was then extended to include section 2. This took in the entire length of the east boundary, an area of app'x 105 sq m.

## Building remains.

The stonework exposed is that of an apsidal wing, the outer line is semi-hexagonal in shape (Fig 3. & Plate 3) and contains walls A.B.C, and is attached to walls D & E, this wing is a later addition to the main structure, just two stones form the key at the interface.

Four courses of stonework survive, the uppermost only partly, all are mortared, and sit on a marl foundation strengthened with large river washed cobbles, the lower two courses are generally as quarried, angular, and more irregularly laid, moreover the colour and texture of the mortar on the part surviving top course is different to the lower levels.

Wall B is stepped inwards at each of its top three courses, wall A is stepped, but more untidily, near its juncture with wall B the stepping reduces to minimal proportions, whilst wall C has only been excavated to its top surface, the two visible courses of wall E are also stepped (Plate 4.).

Across the cord of the apse, mostly covered by the floor, is a sleeper wall (wall D), only visible in part through postholes, and near its joint with wall C, where mortar evidence and the ghost of the wall, shows it to be a sleeper across the inner part of the apse only, it continued above floor level to form a sort of inner buttress against wall C, protruding as a complete wall for some 1.4m.

Contained within the apse is an Opus – Signinum floor, damaged, slightly by subsidence, but mainly by the intrusion of upwards of 42 post & stakeholes, the damage around some of the smaller intrusions makes it difficult to determine exact numbers.

The postholes were cut through a deposit of roof tile debris and then the painted plaster on the floor, and therefore post-date the early demolition/robbing or natural decay stages, it was impossible to determine whether they were cut through the heavy debris above.

However stakeholes F17 & F21 are cut into the top surviving courses of walls B & C, here there is no doubt they occurred after the main robbing of the walls, it is reasonable to conclude that, other than F41, all the post & stakeholes are contemporary, and it follows all are post demolition/robbing intrusions.

No pattern can be seen in the post or stake holes, however some do appear to follow the contour of the apse, (Figs 3 & Fig 3a & Plate3),

Post-hole F41 (Plate 4) is contemporary with the early building, its top tapers from 50cm to 25cm across at the bottom, it has not been inserted into the later course of wall E, rather, it appears, the wall has been built around a then existing post, the taper possibly may have been due to the trimming of the lower post due to decay.

It appears that the occupiers carried out the first robbing of the wing, perhaps for re-use in other areas of the building still occupied during the decline of the villa. The alternative is disuse of the wing followed by natural decline and decay, painted plaster deposits and roof tile debris naturally falling on to the floor, this was then overlaid with a layer of dark loam containing quantities of contemporary pottery sherds and light debris, rubbish possibly accumulating after the disuse of the wing.

A phase of robbing certainly took place before the stake holes were inserted, robbing that reduced wall B, and the east extreme of wall C at least, to floor level.

A second phase of robbing during medieval times may have taken place, possibly associated with the building of the church. There is a possible robbing trench under the church hedge over wall A, with the roots of the hedge it is difficult to be sure, but there also appears to be a break in a light mortar layer at the same position.

The floor is not the original, an earlier floor exists or existed below the present level, at the apex of the apse a course of plaster (Plate 3 bottom), cut off at floor level, is sandwiched between the floor and wall.

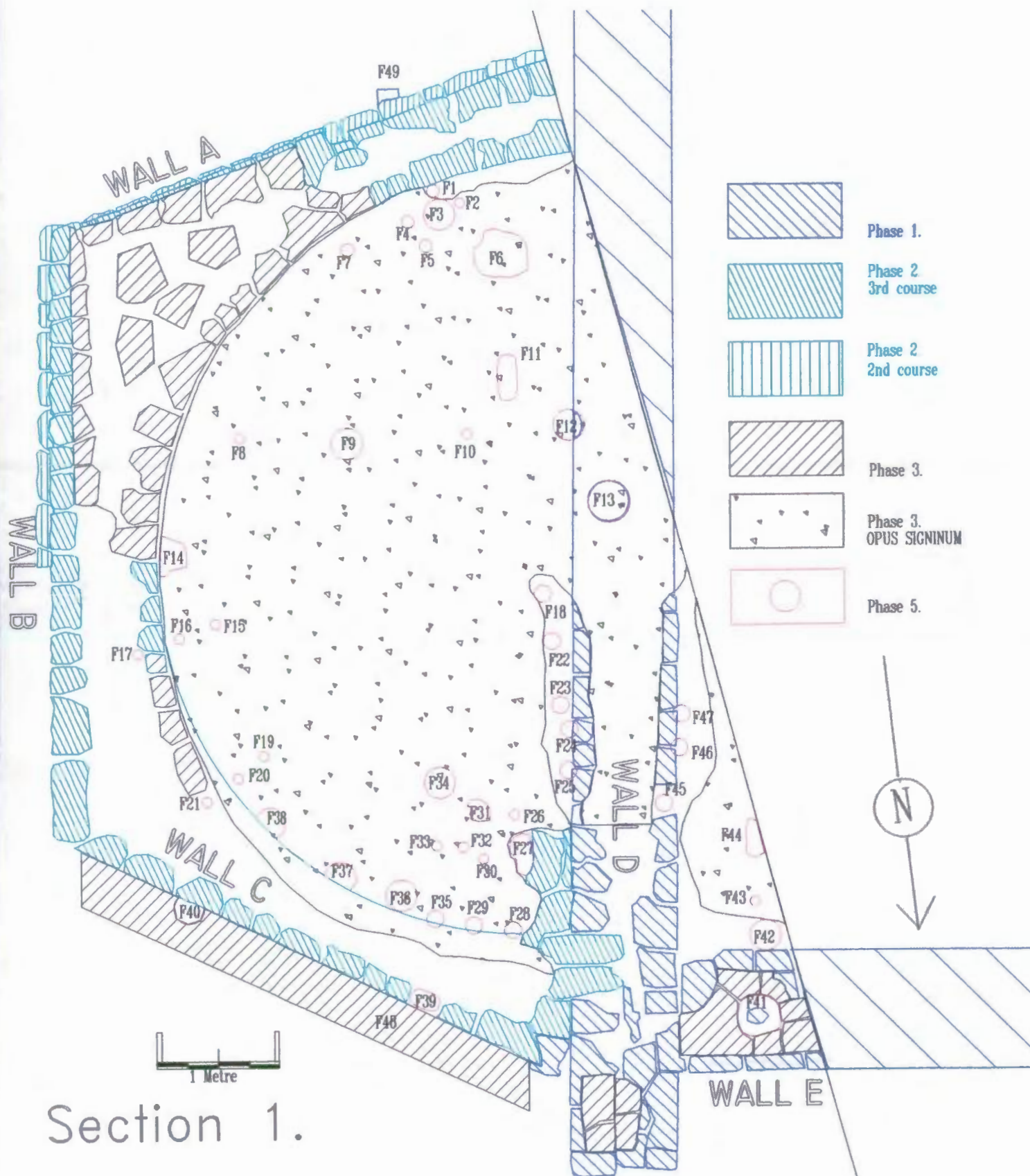
In section it can be seen that the plaster is painted, it is unlikely the decoration would be applied to the plaster before laying the floor concrete, it therefore suggests that the plaster is contemporary with a lower and earlier floor.

Over two thousand tesserae, Red, White, and Black were recovered, other than the odd example from the inner wing, they were mostly contained within a deposit outside of wall C, this deposit was a thin layer of fine mortar dust and light sandstone debris which lay on a otherwise clean sandy loam surface of an occupation level, above this layer was the heavier debris associated with robbing/demolition, amongst this were two Constantinian coins, N0 34 & 43 on coin list.

It is concluded that this light debris and tesserae were deposited before robbing and were associated with earlier construction phases, the presence of the coins dates this construction phase to later than A.D 307.

There is no evidence on the existing floor to suggest a mosaic had ever existed.

Fig 3.



Section 1.

Over wall D. where post-hole damage is more severe, large quantities of tesserae have been used as a filler in the concrete mix of the floor, these tesserae are worn and some show traces of white setting mortar, these are a residue of previous construction work.

The floor has not been sectioned to date, and in spite of several fragments of flue tile being recovered, examination via some of the post-holes through the floor shows no sign of a hypocaust system, and there are also no vents present in the surviving walls.

A 10cm thickness of sandstone fragments is visible under the floor and below that a very black soil fill, an earlier floor is not visible.

Three sherds of pottery were recovered, sealed under the floor, two were 2nd century Severn Valley organic fired, one a rim is illustrated on Fig 19. N0 196. , The third a 3<sup>rd</sup> century Samian barbotine decorated body sherd N0 1118 Plate 6.

The floor, on the north side of the apse, overlies the inner half of wall C, the inner of the two curved lines on the north side of the floor shown on Fig 3., represents the line of the inner wall, the outer line is that to which the floor concrete is, or was laid to, this can also be seen on Plate 3.

There appears to have been a re-alignment of wall C. outwards, with a marl & cobble foundation (F 48.) to carry the overhang of the new outer wall line.

It can also be seen that the line of the top, part surviving, course of wall B, is in line with the new foundation (F48), surviving portions of wall C follow the new line of the apse.

The floor and re-alignment are contemporary.

The reasons for such modifications are difficult to see (ignoring subsidence) the extra room created is so small as to not justify such work.

One possible conclusion could be that the re-alignment, which would have required demolition to ground level, was part of a larger re-construction, perhaps from timber to stone.

If the lower, rough laid courses, of stonework were foundations for a earlier timber phase, not only of the phase 2 wing, but also of the main structure phase 1, then the suggested earlier floor, and post-hole F41 are part of these two phases respectively.

The part surviving top course of stonework of wall B, and that surrounding F41, the only surviving courses above the new floor level, would then be interpreted as the only remains of the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase, or the stone re-construction.

The roof material recovered was both pan tile, tegulae & imbrex, and grey/blue micaceous slate.

The pantile was spread around the outside of the building, the grey slate was confined, other than the odd fragments, to a deposit over the painted plaster on the floor of the wing, although it might suggest a different roof material between wing and main building, it is more probable that the pantile was debris from the earlier phases, and that after re-construction the whole building had a slate roof, with no access to the main building, it is impossible to be sure.

Excavation on the north side of the wing was only taken down to the top of the surviving walls, this level being the interface between the heavy debris and a seemingly clean sandy loam occupation level, on the south side the levels were taken down to the base of the lower marl foundation.

Wall A was trench built, as were the lower courses of wall B. a shallow foundation trench was associated with the top levels, but with the stepped build, this was probably the unused part of the initial trench for the lower levels.

Recovered from this trench fill was a solitary sherd of a Samian bowl, Dr 37 (N0 65 Plate 6.). with ovolo and below a continuous wavy line, followed by a rosette design.

## **The likely phases of construction.**

### **Phase 1.**

Walls D & E are contemporary, with the exception of the uppermost course of wall E they are probably foundations for a timber framed rectangular building.

### **Phase 2.**

An apsidal wing added, again timber frame on stone foundations, an entrance from the main structure was created through wall D.

It is not possible to say if, at this stage, the wing was open completely, with wall D becoming a sleeper, or if entry was by a doorway requiring a smaller aperture.

The floor probably contained a mosaic, the wall plaster was decorated.

### Phase 3.

Building re-constructed in stone, utilising the old foundations, these are substantial enough for the purpose, at least of a single story.

Wall C was re-aligned slightly northward to align with the buttress end of wall D, the new wall used the old foundations only in part, a new foundation F48, in marl & cobbles, was laid to take the overhang.

Wall D certainly became mainly a sleeper within the apse at this time, a short, just 1.4m, run was left standing in the north corner of the apse, it is possible the same feature existed on the south side but evidence is lost under the boundary hedge.

A new floor was laid at a higher level than one associated with phase 2, this floor would now meet the newly aligned wall C, and would have extended over the old wall line, used tesserae were used in the floor mix.

If heating existed before, it is not included in this phase of the wing, or at least the ducting was not included, there are possibilities that underfloor ducts from the main building were extended into the wing but used the wall ducts of the main house for exhausting hot gasses.

The roof of the wing was now slated, it is possible the rest of the building was of similar material, but at some stage pantile was utilised.

### Section 2.

Fig 4.

Section 2 extended the excavation to the Southeast corner of the church boundary, due to the asymmetric boundary this forces the section further away from the projected building line, a number of features were identified.

Feature F53, Fig 4. Consisted of a layer of sandstone fragments, this was flanked by two 40cm square post holes F51 & F52, the layer of sandstone sloped downward away from the projected building line of wall D beyond the hedge boundary.

Above the stone fragments was a soil deposit up to 10cm thick, and then the remains of a mortar spread 2.5cm thick F54, abraded pot sherds were present in the soil deposit.

The normal sandy & gravelly subsoil at the base of the slope of F53 appeared to have been washed out leaving a mainly gravel deposit.

The mortar spread sealed a posthole F50.

Next feature was a section of mortared wall F55, 4 courses deep, this feature was just visible in the section of the hedge boundary, there was an angle to the wall very similar to wall C of the apsidal wing.

Further along the section were a number of postholes Figs 56, 57, & 59, all square in section and 17cm across, and another post hole F58 some 20cm across containing stone packing.

These features were first discernible at level 4, floor level of the wing, three were 10cm deep ending at level 5, the middle stone foundation course of the wing, two were deeper and were into level 6, the marl foundation level of the wing, a natural sand & gravel level.

Finally two features of sandstone and pantile fragments, F60 is a rectangular feature whilst F61 is linear.

There is little substance in these features, when the section is extended to the east they will possibly be found to be a single feature

A sherd of Neolithic Peterborough ware, Plate 6., was recovered on the interface with the natural levels, this makes up a total of three of this period, within this and similar levels flints have also been recovered.

### Discussion of Section 2.

Features 51, 52 & 53 are probably contemporary, the post holes may have been supports for a roofed entry into the main structure, the water running off this roof washed out the soil below leaving a mainly gravel fill.

The sloping sandstone fragments would then be packing of a pavement out of the entrance, after a period this was re-inforced with mortar F54.

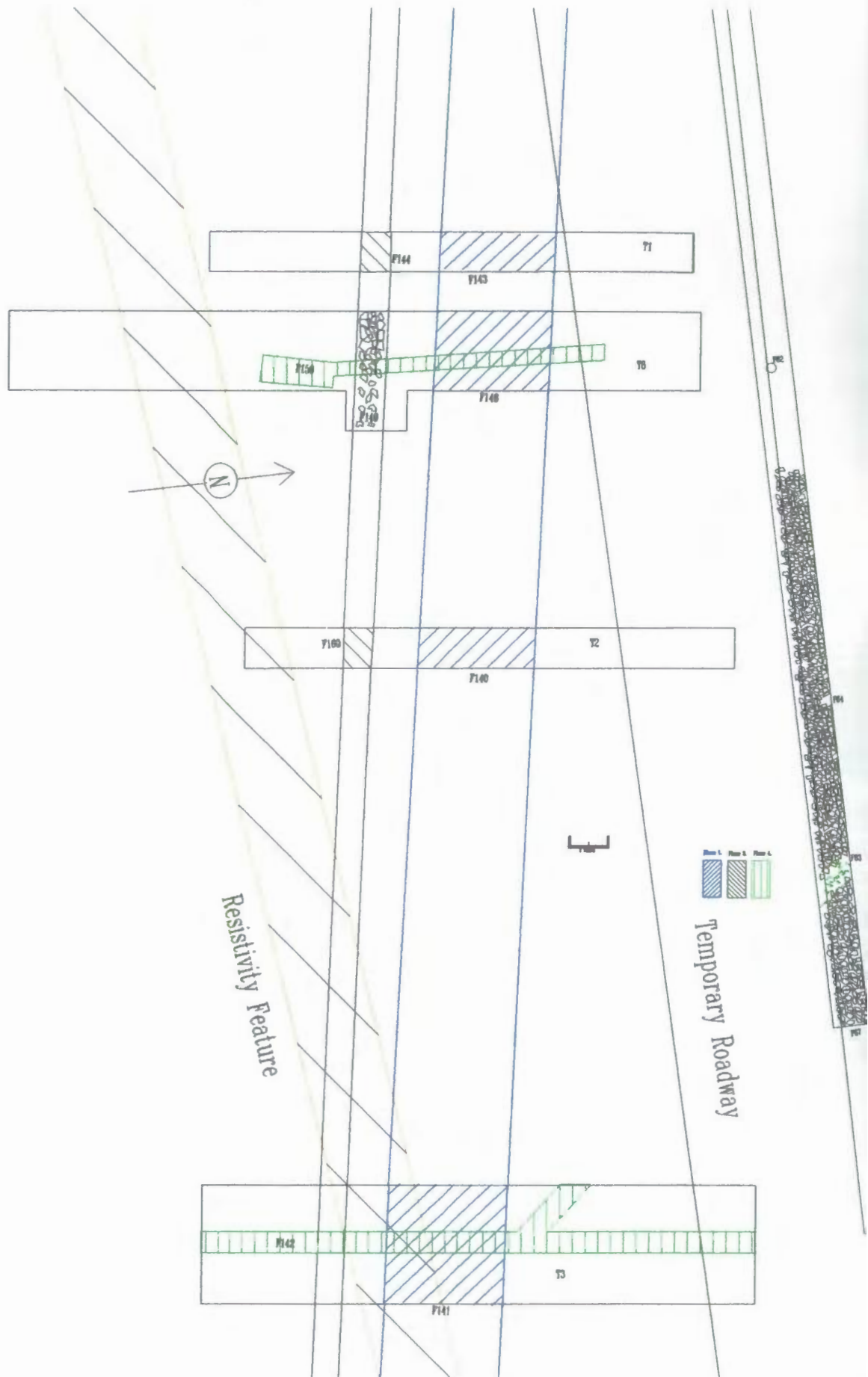
Posthole F50 is probably contemporary with F49 in section 1.

It is pure conjecture but F55 is possibly the remains of a robbed out second wing, unfortunately the remains are under the hedgerow and cemetery, if it were a second wing, the supposed doorway is midway between both.

A second wing would have balanced this aspect of the building, this with the possible entrance discussed above would provide a similarity with the nearest known villa at Engleton, near Pennocrucium, some 5m to the Southwest, excavated in 1938.

The feature F6, a linear deposit of sandstone and pantile fragments, will probably prove to be the fill of a continuing drainage cut mentioned later in section 4.

Fig 5.



## South boundary

Fig 5.

As it was apparent that the bulk of the main building lay within the confines of the churchyard, a 1m trench was taken out along the south boundary of the site to determine if any of the extremities protruded into the agricultural land on this side.

The topsoil along the boundary line was heavily contaminated with hardcore & iron slag waste, the reason for this was explained by the landowner.

During construction of the nearby M6 motorway, a old marlpit to the east of the site had been used as a tip for waste road building material, a roadway had been built all along this boundary, topsoil had been removed and replaced with hardcore.

At a depth of 25cm the hardcore ceased, immediately below this was an 80cm wide deposit of sandstone chippings F67, this deposit commenced 5m from the Southeast corner of the cemetery and continued for some 14metres, it continued under the boundary hedge.

Within this were two features F63 & F64, the former appears to be a drain cut through F67, this cut contained broken roof tile, F64 is a posthole.

A further posthole F62 was located some 3m from the end of the packed rubble.

With crops in the field the area was abandoned until access could be gained to extend southwards. See below for reports on trenches 1,2,3, & 8.

### Section 3.

Fig 6.

There are two gateways into the south field, with the re-location of the main farm out of the village, the gateway near the south-west corner of the churchyard was seldom used, with permission, this was closed off, the area provided a section of app'x 162 Sq m. see Fig 5.

The ground had been subjected to heavy disturbance by the temporary construction roadway, large quantities of brick, slag and other hardcore were mixed with the fill below the plough.

The fill below the topsoil was removed in 10cm spits, it was so densely packed with the hardcore that a pick had to be used, at a depth of 25cm, or level 3, the first of numerous features were exposed, some of these features had been damaged by earth moving machinery.

Feature F68 is a foundation like deposit of marl some 7cm thick, cut into this are two postholes F65 & F66, this marl deposit continues into the cemetery,

These features were contained within a right-angled section of dry sandstone walling F69 running east/west, and F136 (Plate 5.) running north/south into the cemetery, just one course survives,

At the corner there is a break, possibly a gateway, or the missing stone may be due to robbing or the above mentioned damage, a number of misplaced stones at the corner were thought to be a buttress.

As the excavation is progressed to cover other areas, it becomes clear that this walling is the remains of an enclosure, hereon referred to as enclosure 1.

A second walled enclosure was later discovered, this enclosure 2 abuts enclosure 1 on the south side.

It is possible that this so-called buttress end may in fact be the return of the west wall of enclosure 2.

Confined within the wall was much sandstone debris, loose and disturbed, this debris was probably the remains of a second course of stonework from F69 & F136, pottery at this level was much abraded

The next level, level 4, 10cm below the sandstone debris, produced further features, the first was a rubbish pit F134 (Plate 5.bottom), 1.5m diameter and 1m deep.

The fill was a very dark loam containing animal & fish bones, pot, small sandstone fragments, a complete imbrex tile (Plate 6a), iron nails, a door key, knife blade, latch lifter, and a Constantinian minim.

The metal objects were quite badly corroded, the bone & pot however were in exceptional condition.

The top of this pit, along with a further course of the enclosure wall F69 & 136, was almost certainly removed during the earth removal for the temporary roadway, a large section of BB1 cooking bowl amongst the debris matched exactly a sherd recovered from the pit.

There were two small shallow pits, F137 was the smallest just 50cm diameter and 10cm deep, it contained the incomplete skeleton of a small animal.

The second pit, F138, was 85cm across and 32cm deep, the fill was clean, no artifacts were present.

The level finished at what appeared, at first, to be a natural level of sandy gravel.

A further cut however was made, Level 5, this uncovered a ditch corner, the line into the corner came from an easterly direction, then a turn to the north in the direction of the church tower, it followed the same line as the wall F136.

The width of the ditch was 2.4m and at this level 75cm deep, the dark loam fill, with sandy gravelly mix, was consistent with a very short period of filling, there was no visible stratification.

Comparisons with sections of the ditch excavated later in other areas suggest that some levelling had taken place, this had reduced the depth, and width.

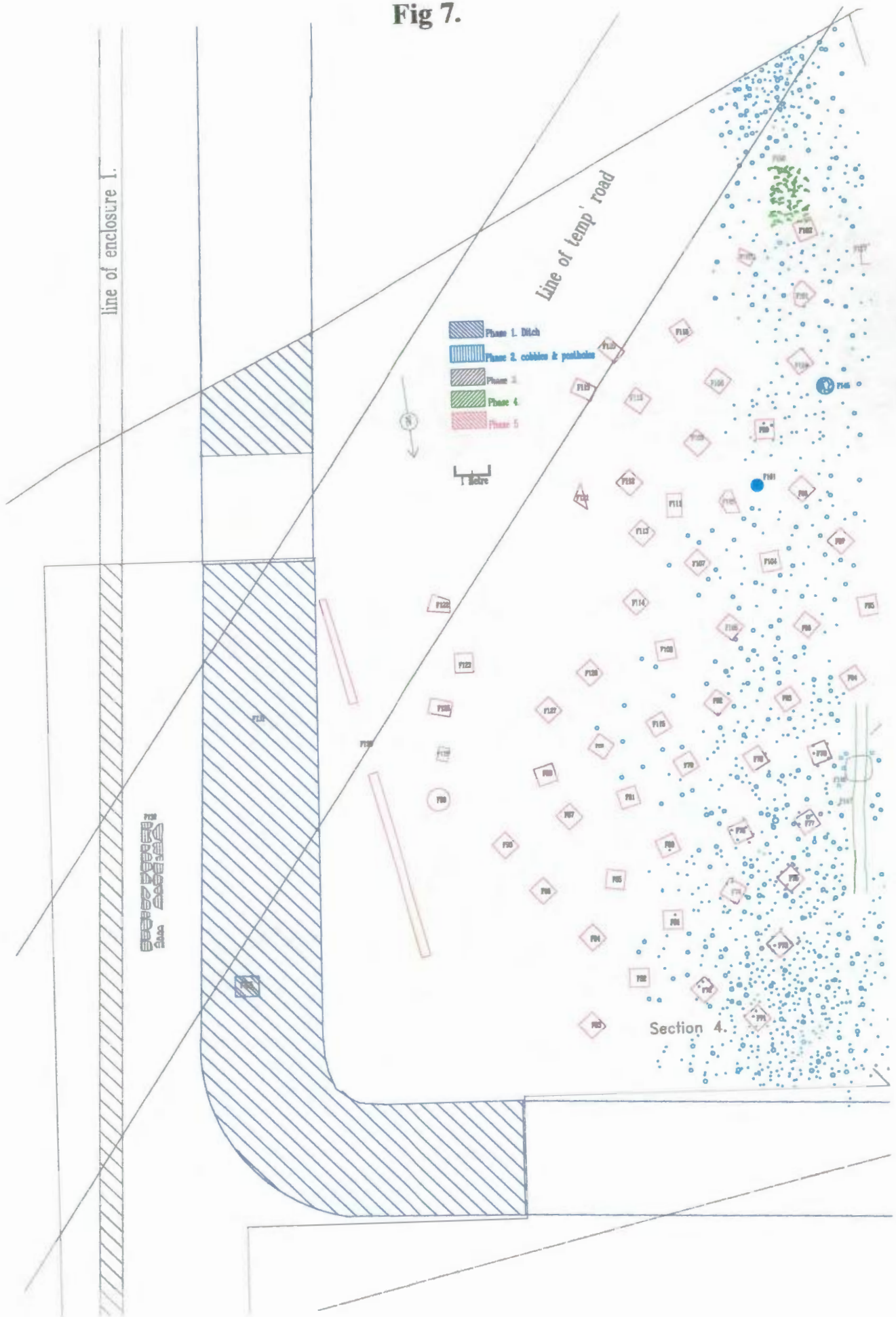
The soil stripping for the roadway had not penetrated this level.

There were potsherds recovered in the fill, see pottery report.

Fig 6.



Fig 7.



## **Section 4.**

Fig 7.

This section abuts sections 1 & 2, it covers an area of almost 600 Sq. m., all soil, at level 1, to a depth of 20cm was mechanically removed, this is the only occasion that mechanical aid was used on site, the area was then trowelled down.

The temporary roadway that had entered the area in section 3, and ran along the south boundary, now turned and crossed this section.

Level 2 consisted of dark loam with occasional sandstone and pantile fragments, potsherds were present but badly abraded.

Level 3 consisted of a similar loam slightly more sandy, several rectangular marl deposits were located over most of the area nearer the wing (Fig 2 & Plate 2.). the purpose of these pads is not clear.

Further to the rear of the section sandstone debris was abundant see plate 4 bottom, a short run of a sandstone walling F132 was exposed, and behind this, a linear deposit of debris F129, together with a heavy spread of potsherds.

Level 4 produced the remains a cobbled area nearer the wing, the cobbling was sparse in most areas and was disturbed by a drain cut F147 running across the front of the building, this feature will probably prove to be associated with F61 in section 2.

A pit feature F146 filled with concrete, cut into the cobbling, and was itself cut by the drain

Two possible postholes F161 & F145 were identified, F145 contains sandstone packing, F161 appears to be filled with black tesserae, these are irregular in shape and appear to be unused wasters, neither of these features has been sectioned to date.

Large quantities of black tesserae, probably amounting to thousands, have been recovered from this level, quite distinct from those recovered in section 1 which were smaller, had been used, and were black, red, and white.

To the south of the section a large rectangular deposit of pantile F150, with associated sandstones on the periphery may be a pit or soakaway, this has as not as yet been excavated.

The debris to the west of F132 was the top fill in the sink of a ditched enclosure F131.

This area is still being excavated.

### **Discussion on section 4.**

#### **Marl squares. F70-F128**

Plate 2.

The marl squares remain a mystery, they were first recognised just above roman levels and terminate immediately above the cobbled level, they range from a thickness of 5cm – 8cm and 30–40cm square.

After leaving in situ for two years attempting to identify their use, they were all eventually removed, under one was a Barbarous Radiate coin, so these features at least post-date the mid 3<sup>rd</sup> century, and are almost certainly post roman.

Although a total of 59 were found, others may have been destroyed by the temporary road scrape that crossed this area.

Referring to Fig 7 and Plate 2 various patterns may be suggested, but none that might suggest their use.

#### **Concrete deposit F146.**

The concrete was filling a small pit, there were red fragments in the mix, mainly from smashed pan tile like material, this concrete is very similar to the mix used in the phase 3.apsidal floor, the probability is this is a mixing pit used by the those working on the reconstruction of the wing.

#### **Cutting F147**

This feature app'x 25cm wide and 50cm deep runs across the front of the building, it cuts through and post-dates the cobbled area, and the concrete deposit F146.

If F146 was associated with the construction of the phase 3.floor, then it also postdates the ditch, which we know was redundant and filled in before phase 3.

In Trench 3 this drain appears again, this time cutting through the ditch, it seems there was no knowledge of the existence of the ditch when the drain was put in.

The general slope of the land to the east of the building would, in wet periods, cause rainwater to run down towards the main building, the ditch, when in use, would have collected this water and diverted it away. There would be a different situation, perhaps, when the ditch was redundant and filled in, and the natural drain lost.

In any case there must have been a problem quite late in the life of the villa, and perhaps in particular the wing, water may have been causing problems with dampness in what appears to be a none heated wing.

This cut was possibly an attempt to solve this problem.

### **Linear deposit F129.**

At first, due to its proximity to the wall F132, it was thought to be robbing debris of the short wall itself. However the debris line continued where the wall ceased, further excavation found the debris to be the fill of a robbed out wall trench, only the presence of the debris enabled recognition of the robber trench, the soil fill was virtually indistinguishable from the surrounds.

In order to follow the robbed out wall line an extension was added to the north east corner of the section, in this a short stretch dry sandstone walling, Fig 162, three courses still survived, the wall runs westward into the churchyard.

The remains and the robbed out wall trench are part of the north-east corner of enclosure 1, first located in section 3.

The position of the wall F132 just 35cm from the robbed out enclosure wall F129, and sandwiched between F129 trench and the ditch, raises questions as to the use of F132.

At the point where the robber trench passed F132, the trench depth reduces for a distance and then increases again, a possible suggestion is that the wall was not continuous at this point, but the robbers, not recognising this, continued with the robbing trench looking for the continuation of the wall.

The possible argument against this is that the line of surface rubble was continuous, see Plate 4 bottom.

A further possibility is that, if the robbed out enclosure wall F129 contained a break in the position opposite F132, the gap could have been an entrance, with F132 forming a barrier only suitable for pedestrian entry into the enclosure, is it an entrance that restricted passage to people only and kept animals out?

### **Ditch.**

The higher ditch fill, not just in this section, consisted of construction debris, sandstone fragments some quite large, mortar and broken pantile mixed in a dark loam, this fill in the centre being some 30cm thick.

Below the debris was a generally dark loam some 25cm thick, containing pottery and the odd small fragment of sandstone, below this a deposit of sandy gravely mix, generally clean, lay over the sandy primary silt.

A narrow cut at the base of the ditch was probably due to a cleaning out exercise

The excavation of the ditch yielded much pottery, a low silver content ring N0 3. Plate 5a on the top rubble fill, a military style belt decoration N0 4. Plate 5, amongst the rubble, also amongst the rubble a Denarius of Septimius Severus c191-211 N0 9 in coin report, and a Denarius of Vespasian c 69AD, coin 2, in the primary silt.

The pottery in the top rubble level included a large section of Mancetter mortarium, its reeded hammer head rim circa late 3<sup>rd</sup> early 4<sup>th</sup> c, helps to date the building reconstruction which generated much of the top fill of the ditch, the early 3<sup>rd</sup> century coin in the rubble also fits, allowing for use before loss.

At the north edge of the section the fill pattern and shape of profile suggested that a corner was near, a small extension was added and proved the position of the north east corner of the enclosure.

No associated bank was identified with the ditch.

## Section 5.

This section started as an exploratory trench at the east extremity beyond section 4.

The purpose was to determine if any archaeological remains were present, and if clear would have allowed the dumper truck access to be moved to the rear of the site, allowing for the extension of section 4.

This area is outside both the ditched enclosure and the later walled enclosure, however archaeology was present, first a cobbled area some 2.5m wide running east into the wooded area, and westward toward section 4. and the walled enclosure, near the possible entrance discussed in section 4.

Above this cobbled area was a circular burnt area with a burnt clay base, and at the southwest corner a semi-circular deposit of burnt sandstone with black fill, a possible hearth.

A small trench outside the section in the agricultural area was cut in order to determine if the possible hearth continues, this proved negative, a much larger area would need to be excavated when sufficient time is available between harvest and reseeding.

This area has been abandoned until logistics of site access and spoil removal has been solved.

## Trenches 1-8.

During the autumn of 1995 and the spring of 1997 a section of agricultural land immediately south of the excavation became available, partly at first due to temporary set aside, and then a potato crop planned for 1997 meant ploughing was not planned until the spring of that year.

Mechanical removal of topsoil was considered, but with time limitations, a large area excavation was not possible.

There was much that needed to be done including a resistivity survey, confirming the south leg of the ditched and walled enclosures, the south-east corner of the ditch (the north-east and south-east corners had already been located in sections 3 & 4.

See resistivity survey page 6.

Trenches 1, 2, & 3 were spaced along and near the south boundary of the churchyard.

### Trenches 1.2.

Fig 5.

Both were cut 2m from the church boundary, each were 1m wide and 12m in length.

There were no new features discovered in either, the line of the ditch was confirmed and that of the walled enclosure.

Excavation of the ditch produced pottery sherds, very similar fill to that found in section 4 ditch was repeated in both these new sections, with the upper fill being construction debris.

Only a robber trench, with no surviving walling represented the walled enclosure.

Trench 2. was in line with the main building remains inside the churchyard, although the 1m trench, cut in the early days along the south boundary, only showed a 80 cm wide rubble deposit F67, there was always the possibility that the temporary roadway might have removed building evidence.

No evidence was found in this trench of any continuation of F67 on the other side of the temporary roadway.

### Trench 3.

Fig 5.

This trench was again 2m from the church boundary, the width was 3m with a length of 14m.

The continuation of the ditch line was confirmed, the fill again similar to that in section 4 and trenches 1 & 2.

The expected robbed wall trench, present in trenches 1 & 2, was not present, was there a break in the wall in this area?

Below the roadway hard core a Denarius of Alexander Severus was recovered, NO 10 in coin report

A drainage cut was present, it started at the north end of the trench and may be associated with a similar cut F147 in section 4.

A branch cut joined the main channel, coming from a point in the churchyard where the building would be expected, probably a drain from near the south-east corner of the main building.

This cut then proceeded over and through the ditch and out of the south end of the trench, it would appear there was no knowledge of the existence of a filled ditch at the time the cut was made, if it were in fact a drain, then the ditch would have presumably made an ideal soak-away.

With the line for the south leg of the ditch, and the line of the enclosure from the two previous trenches now confirmed, it was possible to plot the expected position of the corners of both features.

### Trench 4.

Fig 8.

The sole aim of this trench was to confirm the south-east corner of the ditched compound, the projection was accurate and the position of the corner was established, it was now possible to plot the whole enclosure from the three known corners.

It can be seen Fig 2. that the ditch must pass under the church tower, with the north-west corner just a few metres further to the north.

In the rubble fill a coin of Tetricus II c270-273AD, NO 19. in coin report, was recovered, and in the levelling fill above the rubble a Follis of Diocletian c 284-305. NO 33.

### Trench 5.

This was a very small exploratory trench near the edge of section 5, this was just to establish whether the semi-circular hearth in the corner of that section protruded into the area under crop.

This was totally negative and was abandoned until proper area excavation could take place.

**Trench 7.**

Fig 2.

The line of the enclosure 2 wall F151, running the length of trench had now determined from where robber trench F151 left the south end of trench 6.

An attempt was made to trace the extent of the enclosure 2 wall by using a steel probe to trace the rubble in the robber trench.

Rubble could be traced for distance of 30m from the end of trench 6., a small trench was cut to examine this rubble, no wall or robber trench was located, however a heavy debris spread filled the base of the trench, this was all left in-situ until an opportunity for area excavation arises.

**Trench 8.**

Fig 5.

The results of the resistivity survey although not able to distinguish the rubble spread of the two buildings mentioned in trench 6, or the robbed trench of enclosure 2 in the same location, did show anomalies in the other areas.

A rectangular low resistance ditch like feature was showing, this feature was just to the south of the known enclosure ditch also just possible to see on the trace.

It was also possible to align high resistance readings with the robbed out trench of enclosure 1., between trenches 1 & 2.

Trenches 1,2 & 3 had not shown any remaining walls, just robbed trenches.

Trench 8 was cut between the backfilled trenches 1 & 2, this time stretched further south to include the low resistant anomaly, but also still to include enclosure ditch and the wall line of enclosure 1.

Very little rubble was present in this trench, the ditch fill was similar to that in other ditch sections with the now expected rubble layers levelling the top fill.

The enclosure wall line was now represented, in part, by 2 courses of surviving dry stone wall, and a section robbed out.

No wall had survived in the neighbouring trenches 1 & 2.

The drain cut F150 passed through wall F149 at the robbed section, unfortunately the disturbance made it impossible to determine chronology of wall and drain.

Just to the south the new ditch feature suggested by the resistivity survey was confirmed, this feature was only 40cm deep into the sandy/gravelly subsoil but was filled with dark clean loam, no artefacts were recovered.

It can just be seen on the plot in the survey report, that this new feature appears to be earlier than the enclosure ditch that cuts through it.

Fig 2 shows this shallow feature was just missed by trenches 1 & 2, and was probably too disturbed by the cutting of the enclosure ditch, and the drain cut, to be identified in trench 3 and the ditch and robbing in trenches 6 & 8.

### Trench 6.

Fig 8.

The east side of the walled enclosure 1 in section 4, mainly a robbed trench, and the south-west corner in section 3. together with the robbed out walls in trenches 1 & 2, allowed for a good idea as to the position of the south-east corner of the walled enclosure.

This trench was in fact a widening of trench 4. on its south and east sides, in the event there was little trace of the expected corner.

Wall remains were found going out of the trench in a southerly direction and off the line of the enclosure east wall, a sparse deposit of loose sandstone at the north end of this wall might represent the south east corner.

The trench was finally extended for a distance of some 25m in order to investigate this new feature.

The results of this trench added significantly to the site as a whole, the presence of a robbed out wall trench, F151, exactly in line with the east side of enclosure 1, strongly suggests a second enclosure.

From the projected corner of enclosure 1., this robbed wall line continued to the end of the trench, the full extent has not been determined.

A break, F159, in the robbed wall is probably a gateway, the ground in the break was more compacted and suggested traffic.

The single course of dry walling F152 continued for 8.1m until the suggested gateway was reached.

There is no evidence of any right-angled walls at the south end, the wall, and is likely a foundation for a timber building.

However on the other side of the gateway was a further run of walling, this time a corner with two walls, one running to the west F158, the other F153 following the robbed enclosure 2 trench to the south for a distance of 9.15m.

These walls are almost certainly the remains of a second light building.

The leg to the west F158 is very light and in parts is completely missing, no robber trench could be identified.

The leg to the south F153 is generally a single course, however at the midpoint a depression in the old ground surface, containing a very dark fill, has been levelled up by two extra courses of sandstone, here the wall is mortared.

The juncture of F153 with F158 is also mortared.

To the west of this wall were archaeological features consisting of packed sandstone fragments F154, and a burnt clay and cobbles deposit F155.

One other feature F157 was identified, this was a channel passing diagonally under wall F152, and possibly the robbed enclosure trench F151.

This is possibly a drain from the lean-to building which may have been a cattle shed, due to robbing disturbance it was impossible to determine the chronology of the drain F157 and robbed wall F151.

It was a disappointment that the resistivity survey had not been able to show these walls existed, see survey report.

Time ran out before the north end of this trench could be taken down to the archaeological levels, area excavation is needed, hopefully this can be achieved in the future.

On the assumption that a second enclosure exists, it would seem reasonable to refer back to section 3. Fig 6. here it can be seen there is a short projection on wall F69, this was thought to be a small buttress on the south-west corner of enclosure 1.

In the light of a possible second enclosure this could just as well be the returning west leg of enclosure 2. Joining enclosure 1 at the south west corner.

**Fig 8.**

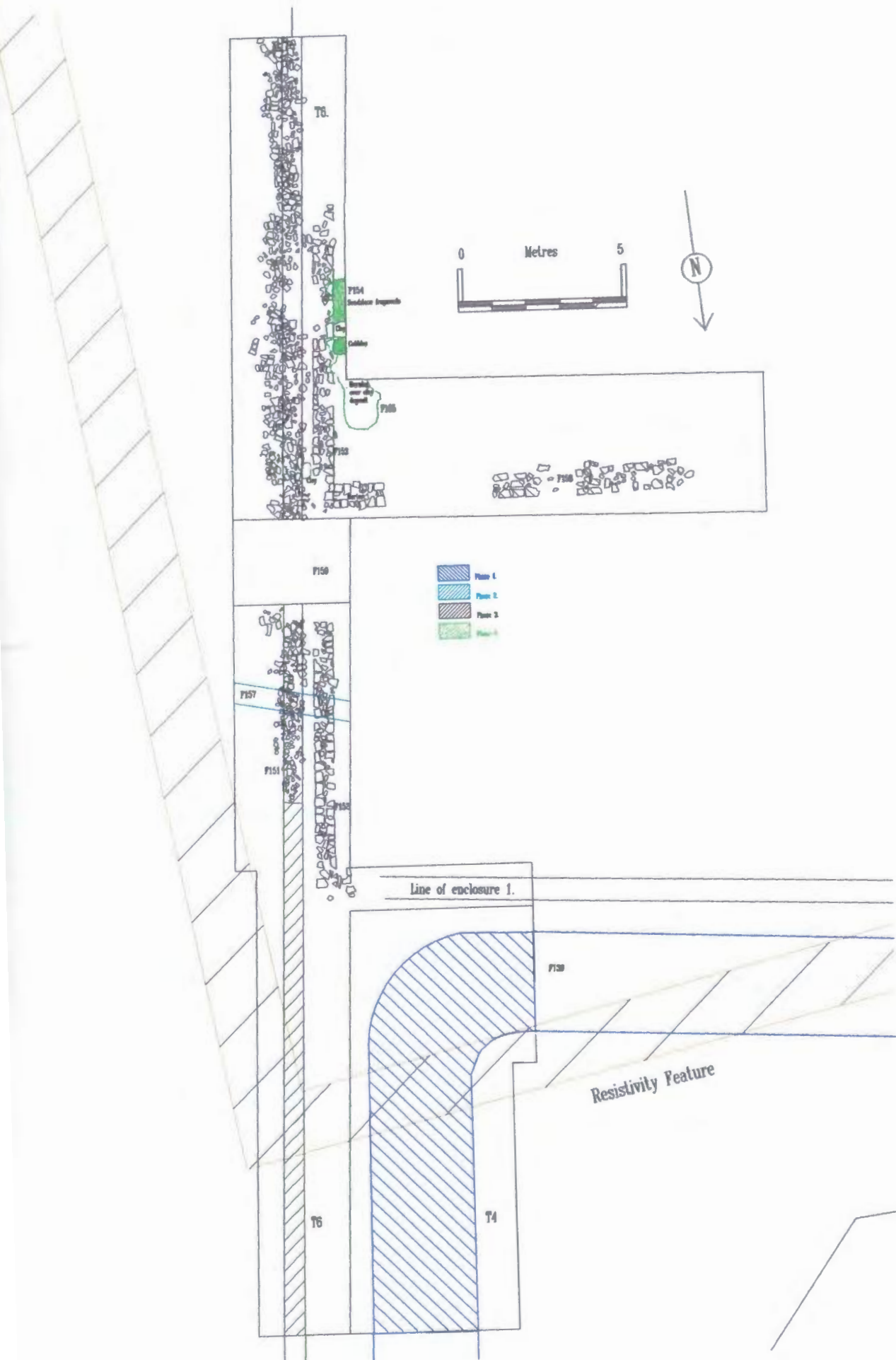


Plate 1.



# Plate 1a.

Mortarium with evidence of repair, and cooking pot mender.

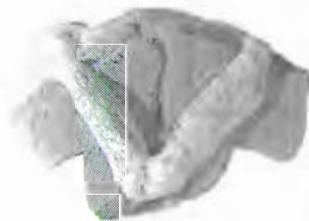
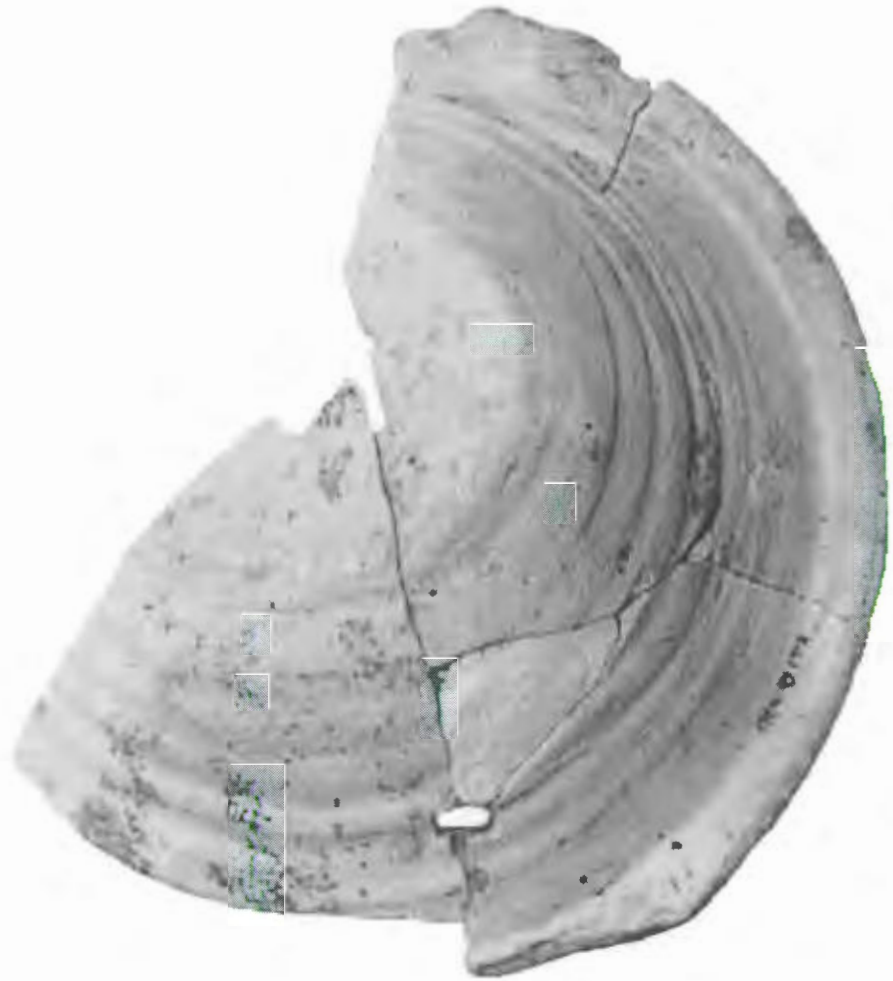


Plate 2.



Bone from Pit F134.

Plate 2a



Scale 2.1

Plate 3.



Plate 3a.

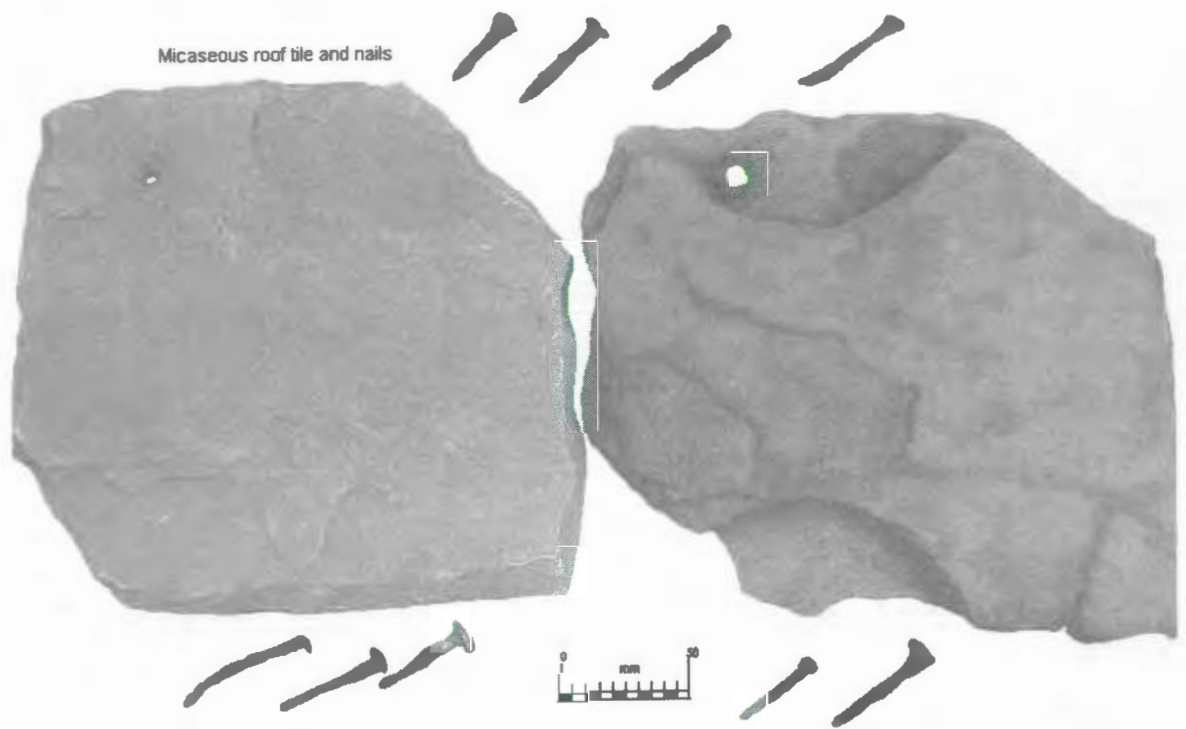


Plate 4.



Plate 5.



## Plate 5a

N0 1. Key from Pit F134



N0 2. Lifter from Pit F134



N0 3. Ring from Ditch rubble



N0 4. Military style belt decoration from ditch rubble.



Scale 1-1



N0.1118



N0 194.



N0 1115.



N0 65.



N0 135.



N0 1001



N0 1011



N0 1248.



N0. 132.

Neolithic Pot, Peterborough Ware & Flints



Plate 6a

Roof & Flue tile with animal footprints.



Imbrex tile from Pit 1F134.

## Pottery

The occupation levels are quite shallow, in places just 1cm below the plough, the deposits have been disturbed in sections 3 & 4, and trenches 1,2,3, & 8, by a temporary roadway, created during the construction of the nearby M6 motorway, by robbing from the wing in section 1, and robbing of the enclosure walls in trenches 1-8.

The exceptions to the disturbance are, a rubbish pit located in section three, the early enclosure ditch, and the floor of the wing.

Various post and stake holes intrude through the floor of the wing into lower levels, through one of these post holes a rim sherd late 2<sup>nd</sup> century calcite tempered pottery, was recovered.

Some 6000 sherds have been recovered in total, mostly from disturbed levels.

Rim sherds represent some 8% of the total, and where practical have been drawn.

198 of the 399 rims drawn are included in this report and represent a cross-section of the type in use on the site.

Decorated pot is shown on plate 6, also illustrated is a neolithic Peterborough ware body sherd, one of three recovered from the base of the roman levels at the interface with a sand & gravel natural level, together with a sample of recovered flint.

Cooking pot and bowls are represented by both BB1, and similar vessels in a grey fabric, these latter vessels are generally well formed and burnished, the grits are similar to that of BB1 but less dense, some distorted rims suggest the possibility of a local kiln, or the purchase of seconds.

A pot mender was recovered in the rubbish pit (F134) section 3, fragments of pot attached suggests even common cooking vessels were subject to repair, a large section of mortarium was also recovered with evidence of repair, Plate 1a.

A constantinian minim was recovered from the rubbish pit (F134) c. 354-364, see coin report, that provides a *Terminus post quem* of mid 4<sup>th</sup> century to all artefacts from this pit.

Very little of the enclosure wall has survived robbing, the exceptions being a short stretch, 3 courses deep, at the north east corner before it enters the churchyard, and a single course at the south east corner, none of these remains have been removed.

However in trench 1, below the robbed out wall, a mortarium hooked flange typical of Mancetter/Hartshill of the mid to late 2<sup>nd</sup> century was recovered see N0 193 Fig 19.

After the reconstruction phase, of at least the villa wing, the enclosure ditch, already redundant, was used for the disposal of stone and pantile debris, this final fill was consistent throughout, with the exception of section 3.

This debris formed a consistent layer just below the ditch top, below was a generally clean fill over a silt deposit, after consolidation, a levelling layer finished of the fill.

If the interpretation of the rubble fill is correct, and these deposits were the result of the disposal of construction debris over a very short period, then associated pottery could be classed as a group.

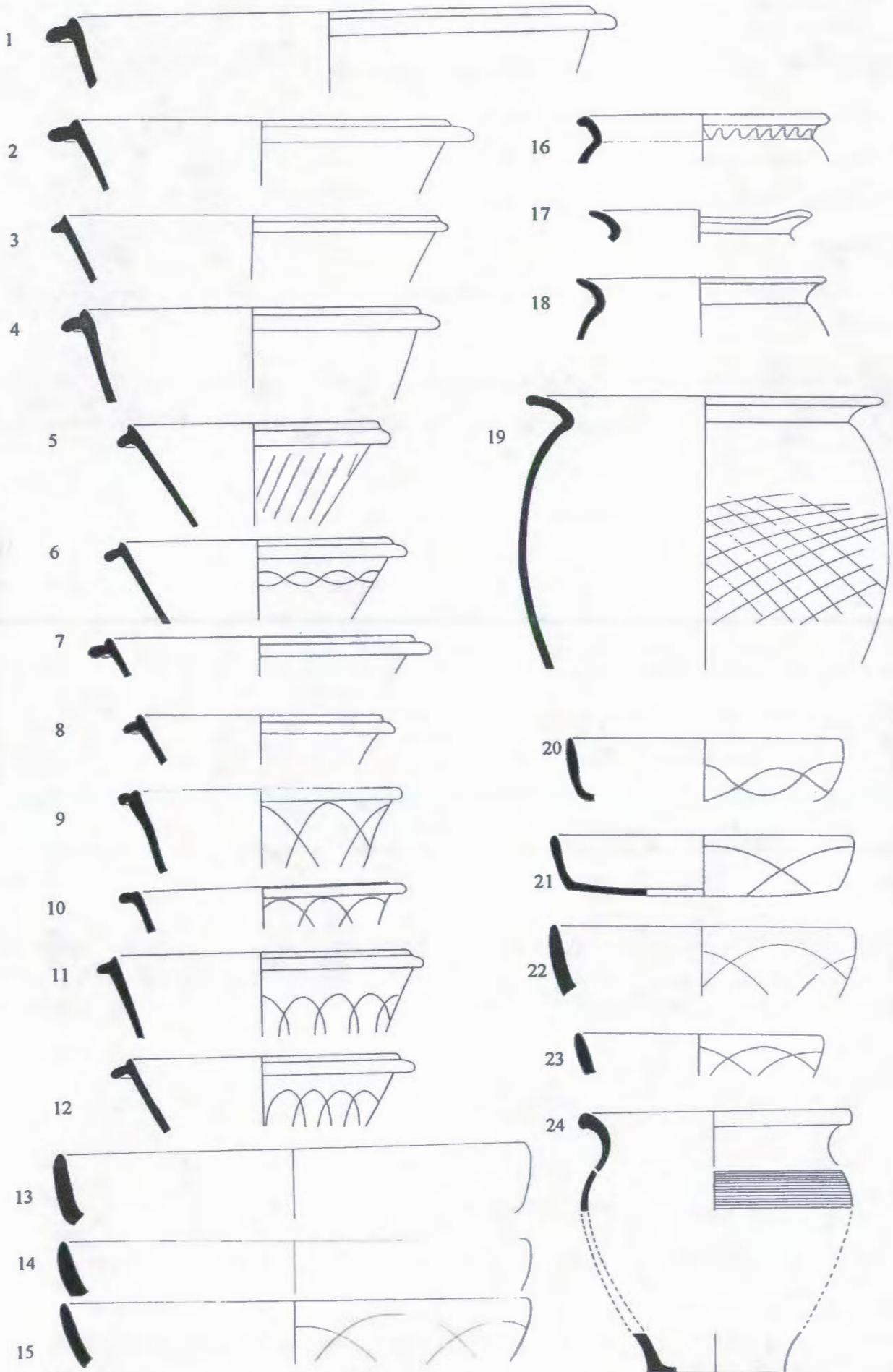
Section 3 ditch fill, the south west corner, was quite different, here the depth of the ditch was only 75cm compared to 1.5m in the nearby trench 1., for reasons not yet understood there was a reduction in the ground levels which removed the depth of the ditch, the ditch fill was consistent with the surrounding dark loam soil, possibly the spoil of the levelling, just two pot sherds were recovered from this ditch section, pot report Fig 19 N0's 194 & 195.

**Fig 9.**

Pottery from disturbed levels in sections 1,2,3 &4  
Cooking pots, cooking bowls, dishes/ lids.

- N0 1. Large Bowl in dark grey coarse fabric, the fabric contains a high content of white grits and quartzite inclusions up to 2mm, medium bead and shallow furrow, Burnished.
- N0 2. Bowl in grey medium sandy fabric with medium content of white grits, medium bead and shallow furrow, burnished on inner only, outer may be lost.
- N0 3. Bowl in grey medium sandy fabric with medium content of white grits, sharp rim no furrow, no burnishing survives.
- N0 4. Bowl in grey medium sandy fabric with medium content of white grits, no burnishing survives.
- N0 5. Bowl in grey medium sandy fabric with medium content of white grits, burnished with diagonal line decoration.
- N0 6. Bowl in medium sandy grey fabric with medium content of white grits, oxidised to orange outer surface, overlapping waveform decoration.
- N0 7. Bowl in grey fabric with white grits, high rim sharp furrow, traces of creamy wash,
- N0 8. Bowl in very hard grey fabric with white grits, high rim, cream wash, stress cracking under flange during firing.
- N0 9. BB1 bowl in black fabric with dense white grits, rounded bead undercut flange, overlapping arch decoration, burnished.
- N0 10. BB1 bowl dark grey fabric with dense white grits, insipid bead, overlapping arch decoration, burnished.
- N0 11. BB1 bowl black fabric with dense white grits, overlapping arch decoration, burnished.
- N0 12. As N0 11.
- N0 13. Heavy section dish/lid, grey fabric with medium content of rounded white grits, surface cracking during firing, possible inner cream wash, very hard.
- N0 14. as N0 13, oxidised inner surfaces.
- N0 15. As N0 14, overlapping arch decoration.
- N0 16. BB1 cooking pot, everted rim, black fabric with dense white grits, wavy line decoration under rim, burnished. mid to late 2<sup>nd</sup> c.
- N0 17. Cooking pot in grey fabric with medium content of white grits, very hard, this vessel is distorted quite badly with the everted rim almost flattened.
- N0 18. Cooking pot with everted rim, grey fabric with medium content of white grits, trace of burnishing.
- N0 19. Cooking pot everted rim, grey fabric with medium content of white grits, obtuse lattice, burnished, the flattened outward pointing rim would suggest a mid to late 3<sup>rd</sup> c example, the width of the body equalling the rim diameter suggests perhaps the earlier.
- N0 20. Dish/lid in grey fabric with medium content white grits, twin overlapping waveform decoration.
- N0 21. as N0 20, overlapping arch decoration, burnished inner, outer may be lost.
- N0 22. as N0 21 but heavy section.
- N0 23. BB1 dish/lid in black fabric with dense white grits, burnished inner, outer poss' lost, overlapping arch decoration.
- N0 24. Midland shell gritted ware, rolled rim, hard fired, surface and core varying from black, grey, buff to light Orange, rilling round girth.

**Fig 9.**



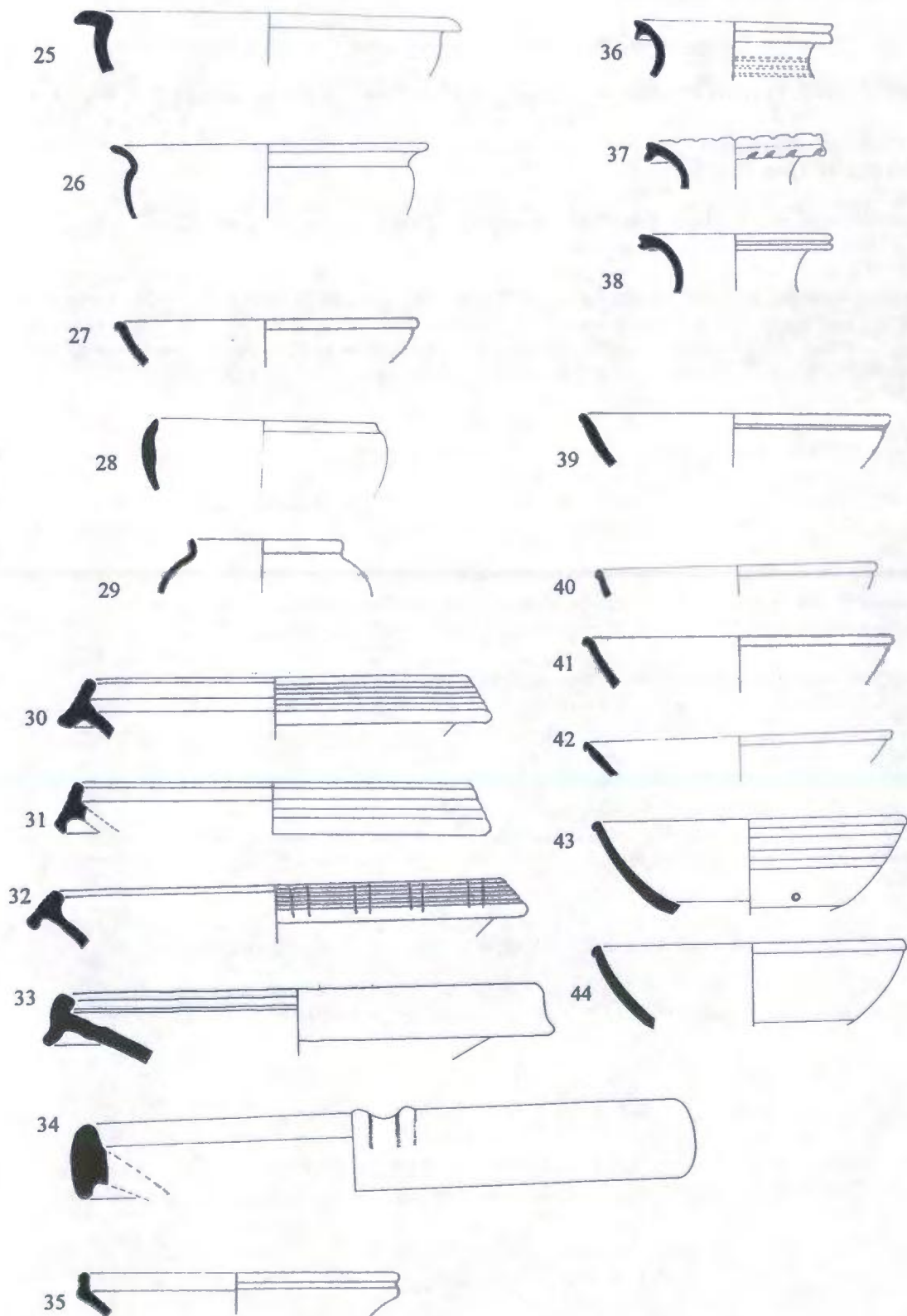
Scale 1-4

**Fig 10.**

Disturbed levels sections 1,2,3 & 4.  
Other vessels.

- N0 25. Severn valley flanged bowl, red slightly sandy fabric with reduced core.
- N0 26. Severn valley bowl, fine slightly sandy soft orange fabric.
- N0 27. Dish with bead rim, grey fabric with medium content of white grits, burnished.
- N0 28. Dish plain rim, very sandy red fabric, reduced core.
- N0 29. Small jar plain rim, grey fabric with white grits.
- N0 30. Mancetter/Hartshill mortarium, hammer rim reeded, White fine fabric, black, brown & red trituration grits.
- N0 31. As N0 30 no trituration grits available.
- N0 32. As 30, brown & red trituration grits, red vertical bands round rim.
- N0 33. Mortarium hammer rim reeded, pinkish fabric, red & brown trituration grits.
- N0 34. Mortarium with crude pourer, white fabric with very fine black grits, no trituration grits available.
- N0 35. Mortarium double beaded rim, fine slightly sandy red fabric, red trituration grits.
- N0 36. Flagon with flanged rim, grey slightly sandy fabric, triple lines of burnishing round neck.
- N0 37. Flagon flanged rim, grey sandy fabric, piecrust on rim & flange.
- N0 38. Severn valley flagon, red sandy fabric with reduced core, the otherwise plain rim has a rectangular groove which forms a flange or double bead rim.
- N0 39. Severn valley dish with bead rim, red sandy fabric with reduced core.
- N0 40., 41 & 42 Dr 31 type plain samian bowl, bead rim, red slip
- N0 43. Samian bowl Dr 31 or copy, fine orange fabric with dense white inclusions, brownish red slip  
4 incised lines below bead rim, perforated below carination.
- N0 44. Samian plan bowl Dr 31 bead rim, fabric and slip similar to N0 43.

Fig 10.

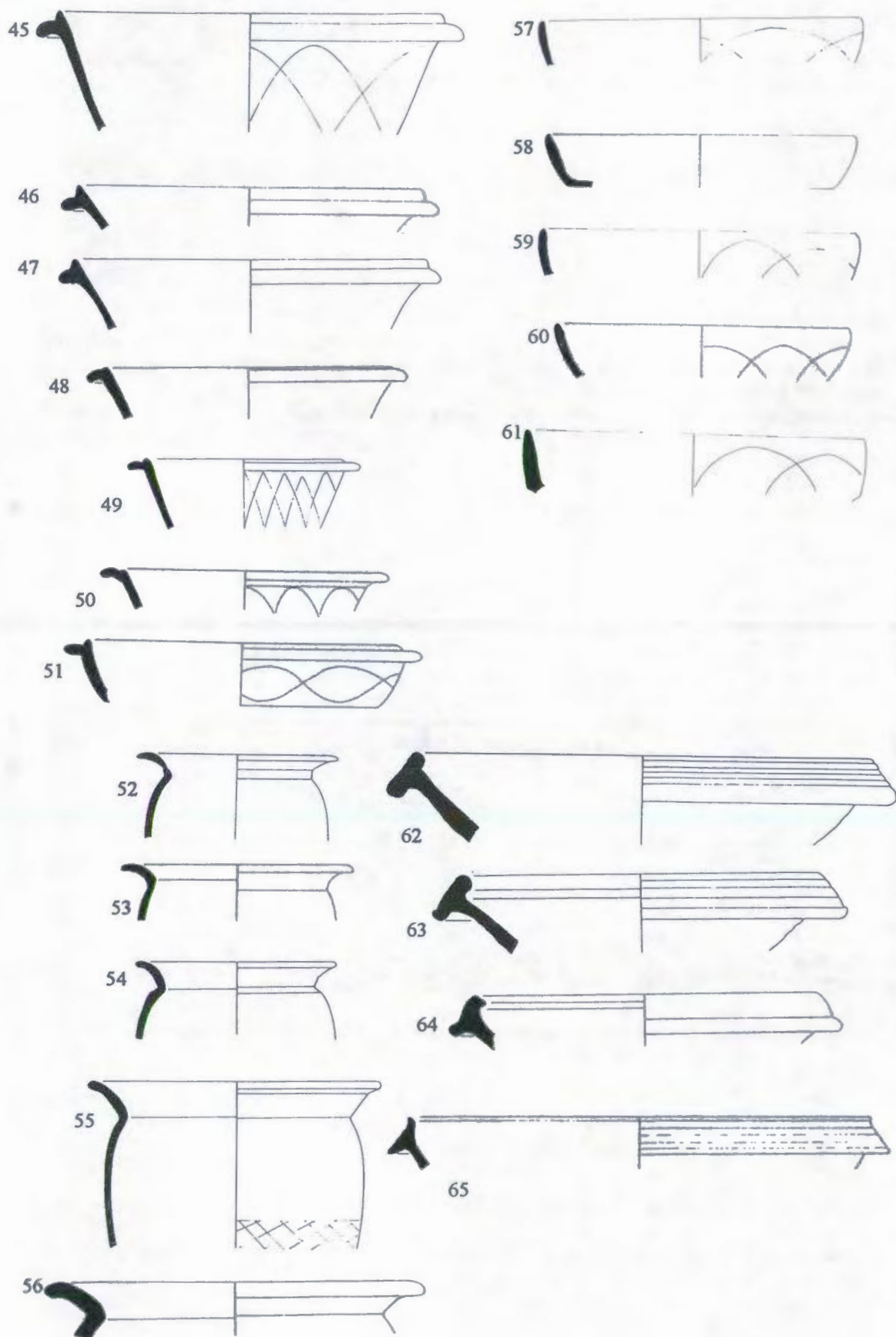


**Fig 11.**

Disturbed levels, trenches 1,2,3,4,6 & 8.

- N0 45. Cooking bowl, high bead rim with hooked flange, dark grey hard fabric with medium content of white grits, overlapping arch decoration, burnished.
- N0 46. Cooking bowl, high bead rim with slightly hooked flange, grey fabric with medium content of white grits.
- N0 47. Cooking bowl high bead rim with thick flange, grey fabric with medium content of white grits, burnished.
- N0 48. Black burnished cooking bowl, low rim hooked flange, fabric similar to BB1 with dense white grits, black outer surface with grey core, hard.
- N0 49. BB1 cooking bowl, medium bead, black fabric brownish core with dense white grits, twin zigzag line or diamond shaped decoration, burnished, hard.
- N0 50. BB1 cooking bowl, insipid bead hooked flange of 2<sup>nd</sup> century type, black fabric with dense white grits, Overlapping arch decoration, burnished, hard.
- N0 51. Shallow BB1 cooking bowl, high bead rim flanged, black fabric with dense white grits, overlapping waveform decoration, burnished, hard.
- N0 52. Cooking pot everted rim, grey fabric with medium content white grits, burnished, no evidence of lattice.
- N0 53. As N0 52.
- N0 54. As N0 52.
- N0 55. BB1 cooking pot everted rim, black fabric with dense angular grits, obtuse lattice, burnished, hard, 4<sup>th</sup> century profile.
- N0 56. Cooking pot flattened everted rim, heavy section, black fabric with dense angular grits, burnished, hard.
- N0 57. Dish/lid plain rim, Black fabric brown to grey core, medium content white grits, overlapping arch decoration, burnished.
- N0 58. Dish/lid plain rim, grey fabric oxidised red core to black inner surface, medium content fine white grits with larger black grit inclusions, burnishing survives on inner only, hard.
- N0 59. BB1 dish/lid plain rim, black fabric with dense small white grits, overlapping arch decoration, burnished.
- N0 60. As N0 59.
- N0 61. As N0 59.
- N0 62. Mancetter/Hartshill mortarium hammer rim reeded, Creamy fine fabric, black trituration grits.
- N0 63. As N0 62.
- N0 64. Mancetter/Hartshill mortarium, white fine fabric, no trituration grits available.
- N0 65. Mortarium sharp hammer type rim, cream fabric with red and white grits, larger black grit inclusions up 1.5mm breaking to surface, no trituration grits available, very hard.

**Fig 11.**



Scale 1-4

**Fig 12.**

Disturbed levels, trenches 1,2,3,4,6 & 8.

N0 66. Severn valley bowl undercut tri-section rim, orange medium sandy fabric grey core.

N0 67. As N0 66.

N0 68. As N0 66.

N0 69. As N0 66.

N0 70. As N0 66.

N0 71. Severn valley elongated tri-section rim, orange smooth fabric grey core, soft.

N0 72. Severn valley shallow bowl flange rim, orange slightly gritty fabric white, red & black fine grits, lightly reduced core.

N0 73. Severn valley dish bead rim, red sandy fabric lightly reduced core, hard.

N0 74. Severn valley dish squared bead rim, orange fine fabric, soft.

N0 75. Severn valley bowl, orange medium smooth fabric, soft.

N0 76. Severn valley dish plain rim, red fabric orange core, medium to soft.

N0 77. Red dish, medium sandy fabric, hard.

N0 78. Severn valley flagon tri-section undercut rim, orange medium fabric white grits, hard.

N0 79. Severn valley flagon, orange medium fabric, medium to hard.

N0 80. Flagon tri-section rim, fine grey fabric, medium to hard.

N0 81. Bowl bead rim, black coarse fabric with mixed angular grits, grey core brown inner surface, hard.

N0 82. Probably a Bi-conical beaker bead rim, fine cream fabric with black colour wash, poss Nean valley, hard.

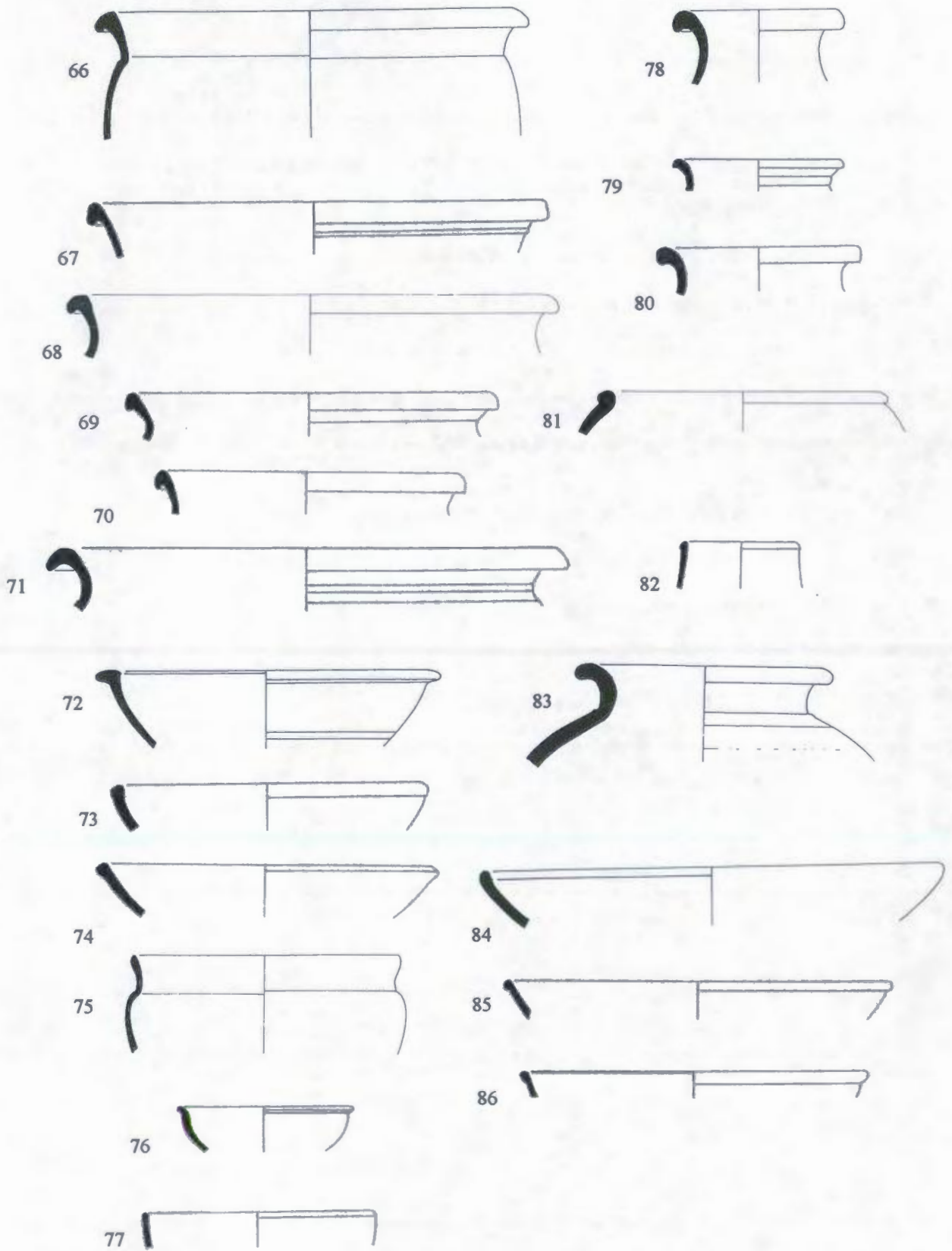
N0 83. Narrow necked jar, fine to medium grey slightly sandy fabric, medium to hard.

N0 84. Samian bowl poss Dr 32, inner plain rim is fluted as if for lid, orange fabric dense white inclusions, red slip.

N0 85. Samian bowl Dr 31, red fabric with dense white inclusions, brownish red slip.

N0 86. Samian bowl Dr 31, stretched bead rim, red fabric with dense white inclusions, dark red slip.

Fig 12.

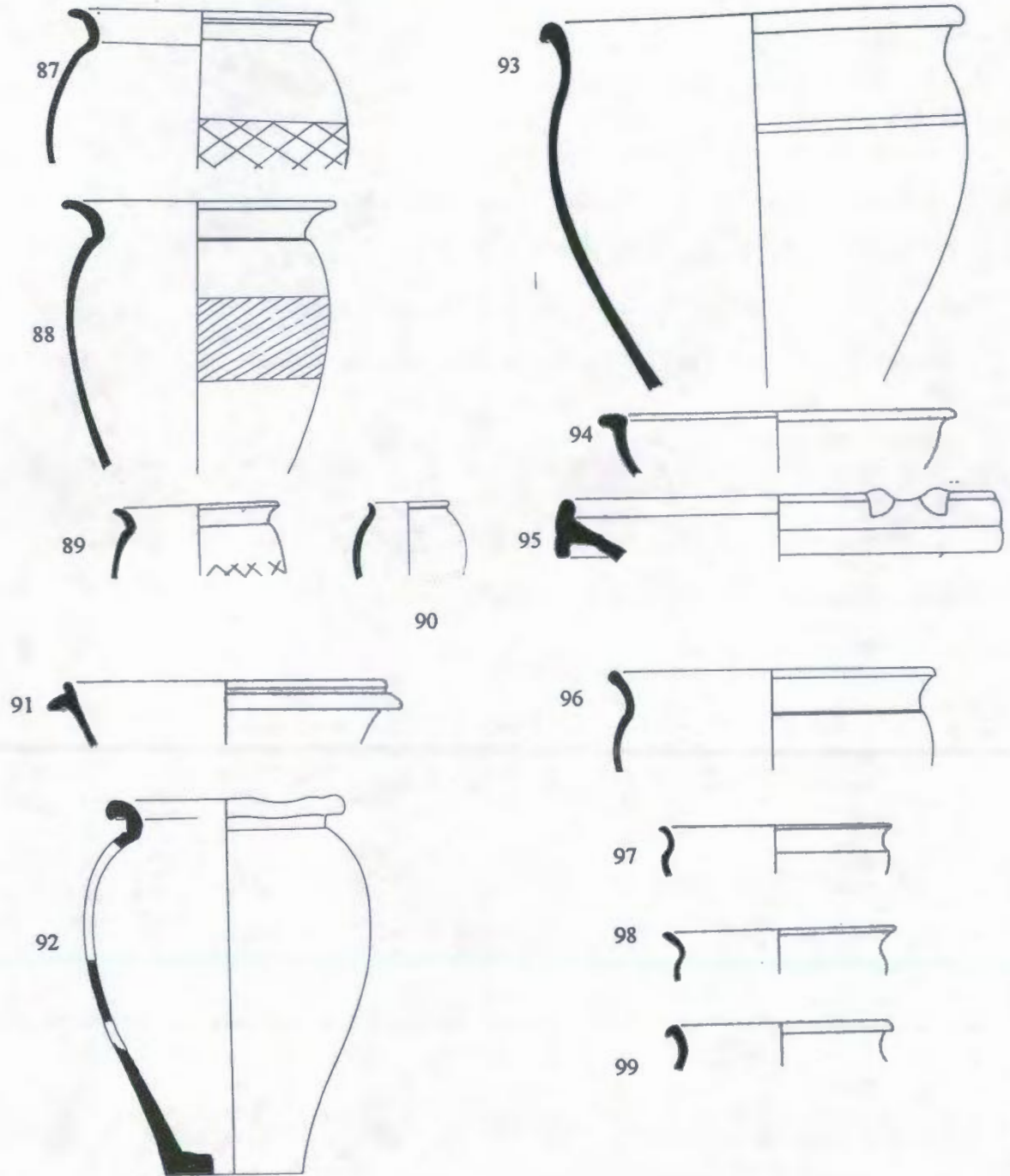


**Fig 13.**

**Section 4, silt and low fill.**

- N0 87. BB1 cooking pot everted rim, black fabric with dense white grits, obtuse lattice, burnished.
- N0 88. BB1 cooking pot everted rim, black fabric with dense white grits, diagonal lines in place of lattice, Burnished, soot ingrained under rim and in fabric of early break on rim suggesting use even after large section of rim was lost.
- N0 89. BB1 cooking pot everted rim, black fabric with dense white rounded grits, obtuse lattice, burnished.
- N0 90. Small jar plain rim, red smooth fabric, traces of yellowish painted lines.
- N0 91. Severn valley bowl tri-section uncut rim, orange sandy fabric reduced grey core.
- N0 92. Severn valley? bowl flanged rim, red gritty fabric with calcite inclusions, soft.
- N0 93. Mortarium hammer rim, white fabric, red trituration grits, with pourer.
- N0 94. Cooking bowl high bead rim hooked flange, the furrow has been formed with a small round tool, dark grey fabric with dense white grits, burnished, hard.
- N0 95. Jar turned over rim, black coarse fabric with large angular quartz grits giving pimply surface, hard.
- N0 96. Severn valley bowl wide mouthed, orange slightly sandy fabric, soft.
- N0 97. Severn valley bowl, orange medium fabric grey core, soft.
- N0 98. Severn valley bowl, smooth red fabric light grey core, hard.
- N0 99. Severn valley bowl tri-section undercut rim, orange sandy fabric, hard.

**Fig 13.**

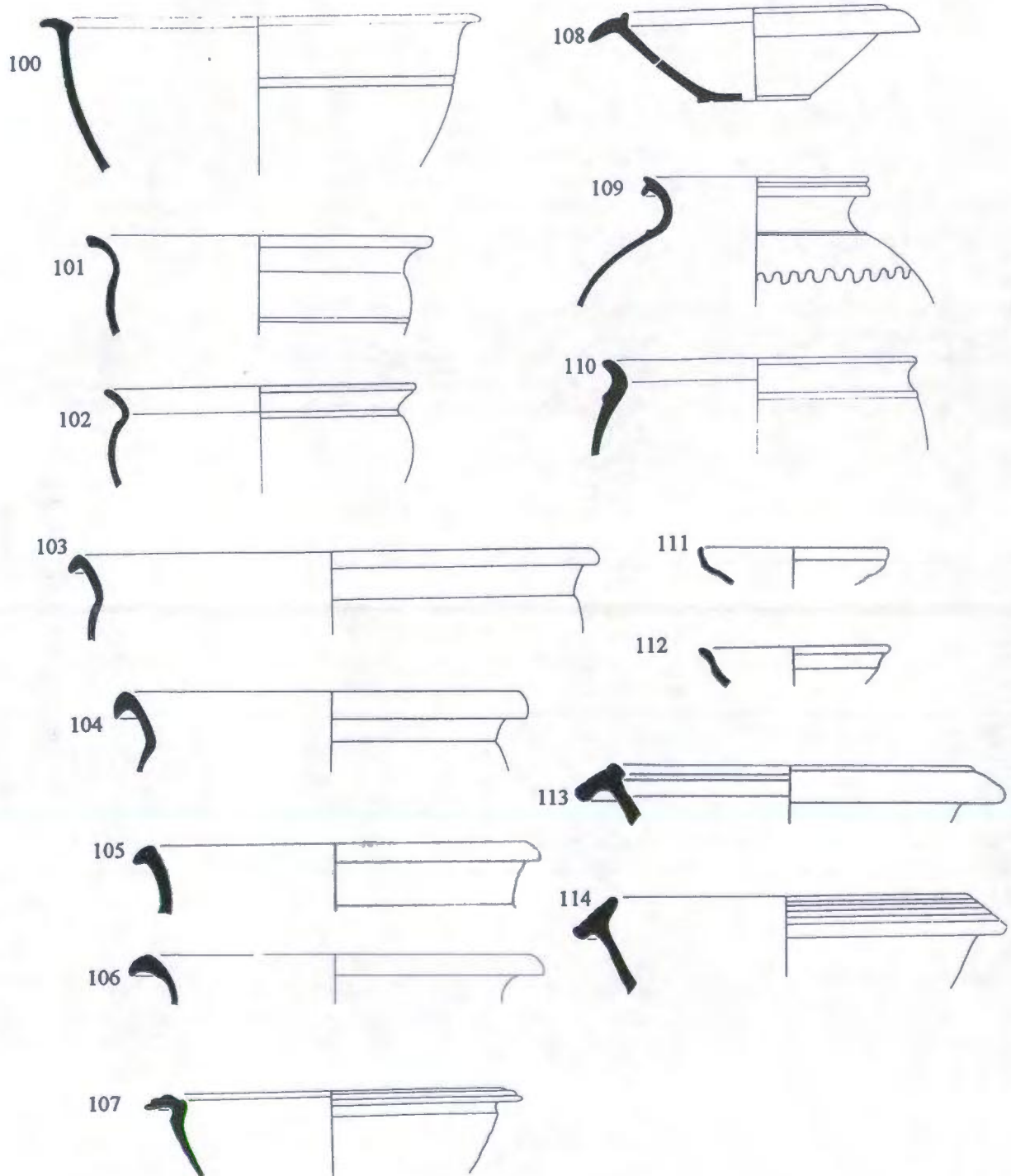


**Fig 14.**

**Section 4. Rubble fill of ditch.**

- N0 100. Bowl with flanged rim, light brown fabric light grey core, fine white & red grits, pitted surface, double groove round girth, soft to medium.
- N0 101. Severn valley bowl, orange gritty fabric light grey core, red & white grits, soft to medium.
- N0 102. Severn valley bowl, fine smooth orange fabric, twin grooves round neck, soft.
- N0 103. Severn valley bowl tri-section undercut rim, fine smooth orange fabric, soft.
- N0 104. Severn valley bowl tri-section undercut rim, medium sandy orange fabric grey core, soft.
- N0 105. Severn valley bowl tri-section undercut rim, smooth orange fabric light grey core, occasional burnt inclusions, medium to hard.
- N0 106. Severn valley bowl tri-section rim, smooth orange fabric, soft.
- N0 107. Bowl with flanged rim small inner bead, Red gritty fabric light grey core, white & black grits, medium.
- N0 108. Bowl with hooked flange and bead, possibly Oxfordshire, fine white fabric, soft.
- N0 109. Narrow necked jar, grey fine fabric with varying areas of oxidation, the surface is pimply this gives a mottled appearance where the orange oxidation shows through, the vessel is very well formed, hard.
- N0 110. Bowl plain turned out rim, raised cordon below neck, Red medium fabric grey core, medium to hard.
- N0 111. Dish plain rim, buff fabric slightly sandy, banded brown & black core, hard.
- N0112. Dish plain rim, red slightly sandy fabric, soft.
- N0 113. Mortarium Mancetter/Hartshill flanged rim, creamy fabric black trituration grits, hard.
- N0 114. Mortarium Mancetter/Hartshill hammer rim reeded, white fine fabric, badly abraded surface has removed trituration grits, two isolated grits suggest they were possibly red.

**Fig 14.**

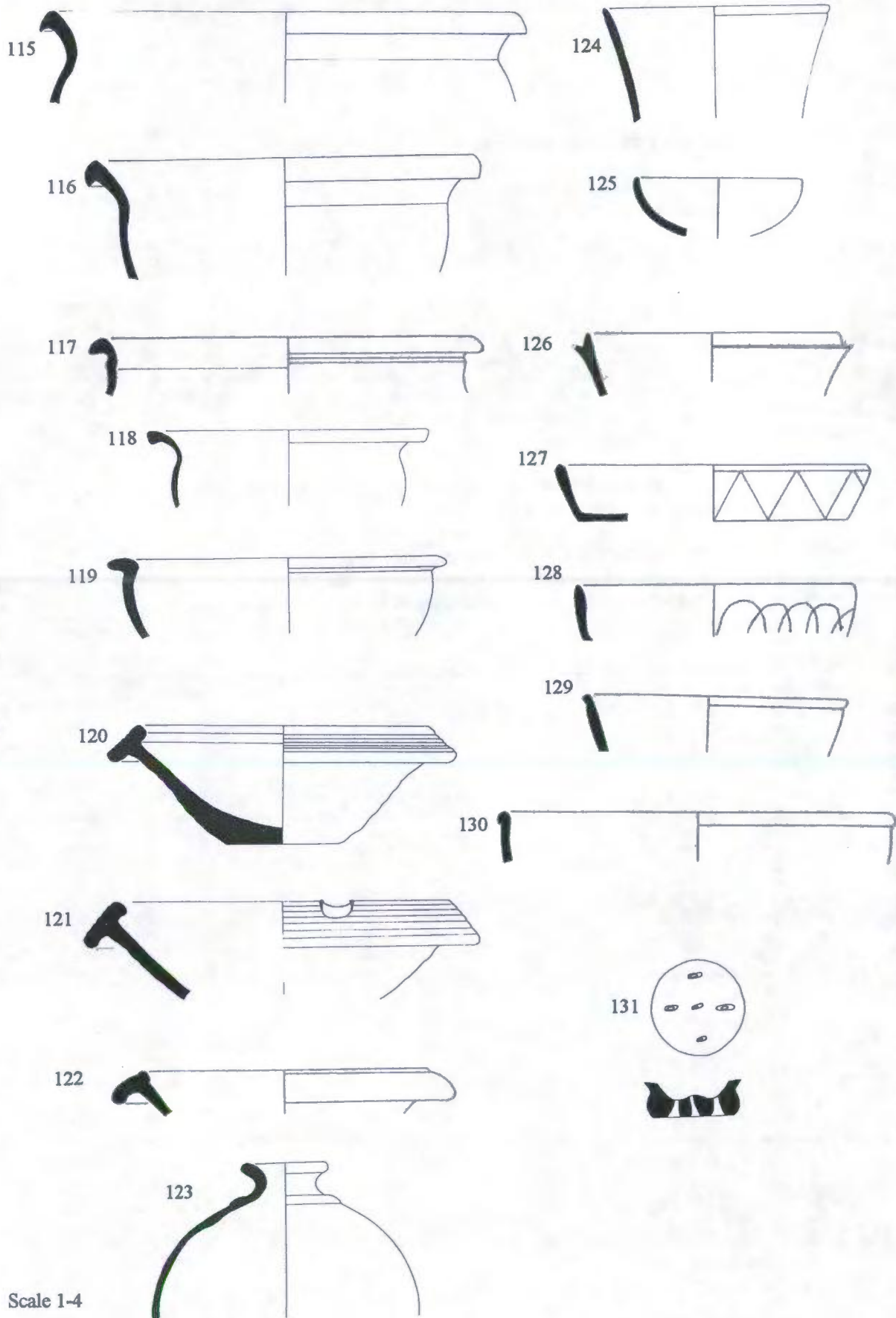


## Fig 15.

### Section 4 levelling top fill of ditch.

- N0 115. Severn valley bowl tri-section undercut rim, orange sandy fabric fine white inclusions, grey core, medium.
- N0 116. Severn valley bowl tri-section undercut rim, red sandy fabric grey core, medium.
- N0 117. Severn valley bowl tri-section rim, raised cordon under rim, orange sandy fabric grey core, medium.
- N0 118. Severn valley bowl everted rim, orange slightly sandy fabric, soft.
- N0 119. Severn valley bowl flanged rim, red sandy fabric grey core, burnt out surface inclusions, medium.
- N0 120. Mancetter/Hartshill mortarium hammer rim reeded, fine cream fabric, black trituration grits, hard, evidence of repair in two places.
- N0 121. Mancetter/Hartshill mortarium hammer rim reeded, fine white fabric, black trituration grits, hard, simple thumbbed spout.
- N0 122. Mortarium hooked flange rim, fine white fabric, red & brown trituration grits, hard.
- N0 123. Narrow necked flagon, grey fine to medium fabric with fine white grits, occasional 2mm black grits, medium.
- N0 124. Severn valley tankard insipid bead rim, orange slightly sandy fabric with fine white grits, light grey core, medium.
- N0 125. Small bowl plain rim, red sandy fabric with white and black medium grits, soft.
- N0 126. Flanged bowl plain rim, black medium fabric with dense white angular grits, burnished, hard.
- N0 127. BB1 dish/lid plain rim, black fabric with dense white angular grits, zigzag decoration, burnished hard.
- N0 128. BB1 dish/lid plain rim, black fabric with dense white angular grits, overlapping arch decoration, burnished, hard.
- N0 129. Dish bead rim, red slightly sandy fabric, very fine white & black grits with occasional larger calcite like inclusions, soft.
- N0 130. Samian bowl Dr 37 beaded rim, orange fine fabric with dense white inclusions, dark brownish slip.
- N0 131. Perforated base, black sandy fabric with mixed angular and round grits, hard.

Fig 15.



**Fig 16.**

Trench 8 below deliberate fill over silt.

- N0 132. BB1 cooking pot everted rim, black fabric with dense white grits, obtuse lattice, burnished, early-mid 3<sup>rd</sup> century.
- N0 133. BB1 cooking pot everted rim, black fabric with dense white grits, large obtuse lattice, burnished mid 3<sup>rd</sup> century.
- N0 134. BB1 cooking pot everted rim, black fabric with dense white grits, burnished.
- N0 135. Narrow necked jar/flagon with plain rim and flange, red slightly sandy fabric, two raised cordons round shoulder, medium.
- N0 140. Small globular bowl cornice rim, black fabric oxidised red core, hard.

Trench 8 rubble fill.

- N0 136. Dish/lid plain rim, grey fabric fairly dense white grits, lightly oxidised surface, possibly burnished, Overlapping arch decoration, medium.
- N0 137. Mancetter/Hartshill mortarium hammer rim, fine white fabric, black trituration grits, reddish brown painted waveform decoration round rim, hard.
- N0 138. Severn valley bowl rectangular flanged rim, smooth red fabric very fine sparse white grits, soft.
- N0 139. Cooking bowl low bead flanged rim, grey fabric with very fine dense white grits, hard.
- N0 141. Possibly carinated beaker bead rim, fine red fabric with fine mixed white/red grits, black painted surface medium to hard.
- N0 142. Tankard with insipid bead rim, red smooth fabric with orange core, medium.

**Fig 17.**

Trench 2. Below rubble above silt.

N0 143. Cooking bowl low bead heavy flange, grey fabric with mixed white grits, no surviving burnishing, hard.

N0 144. Mancetter/Hartshill mortarium hammer rim reeded, white fabric, black trituration grits, hard.

Trench 4. Over primary silt.

N0 145. BB1 cooking bowl low bead rounded flange, black fabric with dense white grits, grey core, burnished, hard.

N0 146. BB1 cooking bowl low bead hooked flange, black fabric with dense white grits, grey core, burnished, Overlapping arch decoration, hard.

N0 147. Severn valley bowl, smooth brownish red fabric, grey core, incised line round girth, hard.

N0 148. Severn valley flanged bowl, red sandy fabric with grey core, fine mixed grits, medium.

N0 149. Severn valley bowl, red slightly sandy fabric, fine mixed grits, grey core, soft.

Trench 4. Rubble layers.

N0 150. Severn valley bowl tri-section undercut rim, orange medium fabric with fine mixed grits, grey core, twin incised lines round girth, soft.

N0 151. Severn valley bowl tri-section undercut rim, smooth orange fabric, twin incised lines round girth, medium

N0 152. Severn valley bowl tri-section undercut rim, orange slightly sandy fabric grey core, soft.

N0 153. Severn valley bowl tri-section undercut rim, orange slightly sandy fabric with fine grits, medium.

N0 154. Severn valley bowl tri-section undercut rim, orange smooth fabric with red core, medium.

N0 155. Deep bowl with flanged rim, brownish red fabric with light grey core, mixed white/ black grits, medium.

N0 156. Severn valley owl with flanged rim, orange sandy fabric, medium.

N0 157. BB1 cooking pot everted rim, black fabric with dense white grits, burnished, hard.

N0 158. Dish/lid plain rim, grey slightly sandy fabric with fine white & brown grits, burnished, medium.

N0 159. Severn valley tankard insipid bead rim, red slightly sandy fabric, soft.

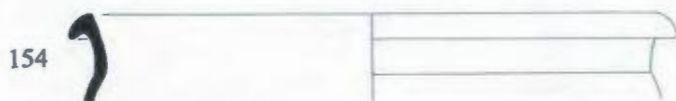
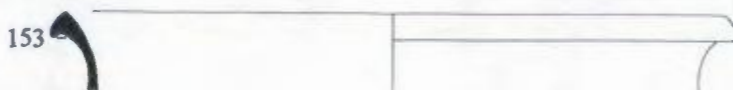
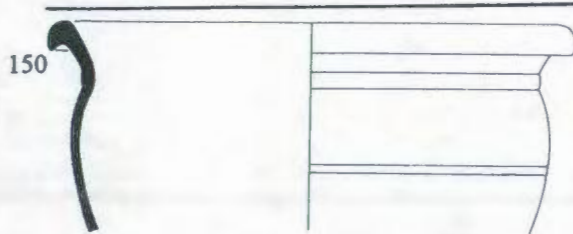
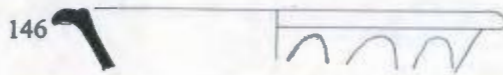
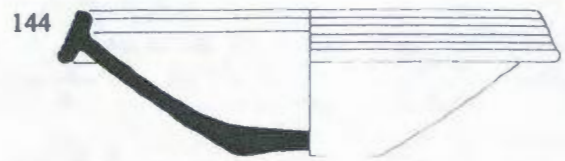
N0 160. Severn valley tankard insipid bead rim, red smooth fabric grey core, medium.

N0 161. Severn valley tankard bead rim, red smooth fabric, soft.

N0 162. Severn valley dish plain rim, orange smooth fabric grey core, soft.

N0 163. Narrow necked jar, grey slightly sandy fabric with fine white grits, fully oxidised red neck & shoulder.

Fig 17.



Scale 1-4

**Fig 18.**

**Trench 4. Ditch top fill levelling layer.**

- N0 164. Cooking bowl medium bead flanged, grey slightly sandy fabric with mixed white to black grits, hard.
- N0 165. Cooking bowl medium bead flanged, grey slightly sandy fabric with mixed white to black dense grits, possibly burnished, hard.
- N0 166. BB1 shallow cooking bowl small bead flanged, black fabric with dense white grits, overlapping arch decoration, burnished, hard.
- N0 167. BB1 shallow cooking bowl small bead flanged, black fabric grey core, with dense white grits, burnished, hard.
- N0 168. BB1 dish/lid plain rim, dark grey medium fabric with dense white grits, overlapping arch decoration, burnished, hard.
- N0 169. Dish light bead rim, grey/buff fabric with dense white to black grits, overlapping arch decoration, burnished, hard.
- N0 170. BB1 dish bead rim, black fabric with dense white grits, burnished, hard.
- N0 171. Severn valley bowl, medium orange slightly sandy fabric, medium.
- N0 172. Severn valley bowl, red smooth fabric, soft.
- N0 173. Severn valley bowl with tri-section rim, red smooth fabric with fine mixed grits, medium.
- N0 174. Severn valley bowl with tri-section rim, red sandy fabric with fine mixed grits, medium.
- N0 175. Bowl rounded tri-section rim, red sandy fabric with mixed fine grits, medium.
- N0 176. Bowl flanged rim inward bead, light brown to orange fabric grey core, mixed red & white grits, medium.

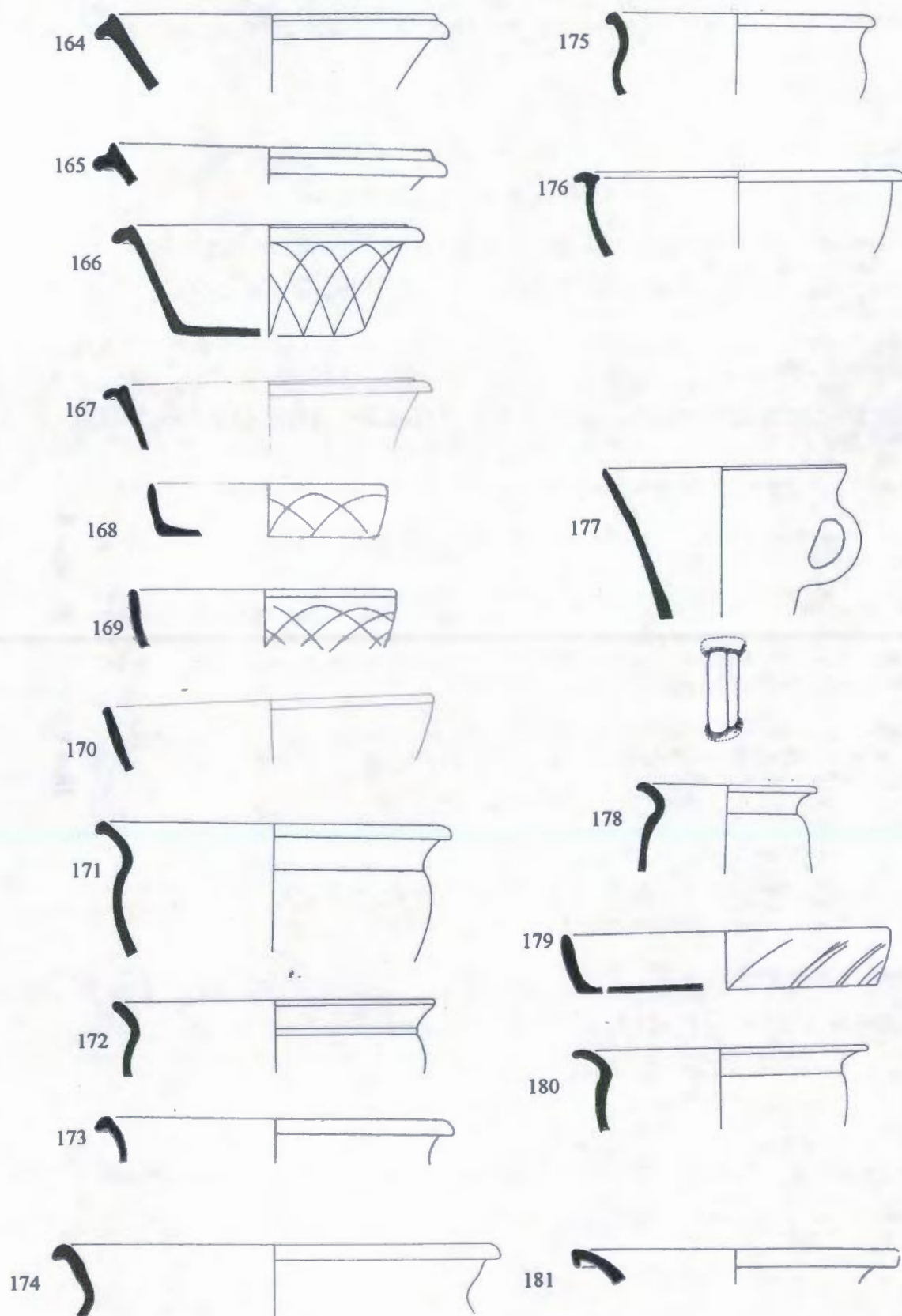
**Trench 2. Ditch top levelling layer.**

- N0 177. Severn valley tankard with handle, insipid bead rim, red medium fabric slightly reduced core, medium.
- N0 178. BB1 cooking pot everted rim, black fabric with dense white angular grits, burnished, hard, 4<sup>th</sup> c.
- N0 179. BB1 dish/lid plain rim, black fabric with dense white grits, diagonal whipped line decoration burnished, hard.
- N0 180. Cooking pot everted rim, dark grey fabric oxidised core, dense white grits, burnished, hard.

**Trench 1. Ditch to levelling layer.**

- N0 181. Samian dish Curle 15, fine red fabric, brownish red slip.

Fig 18.



Scale 1-4

### Fig 19.

The rubbish pit, F134 section 3, contained pot, bone, iron objects including a door key, window glass, a complete imbrex roof tile with setting mortar, fragments of painted plaster, tesserae.

Also recovered was a constantinian minim, such copying of official coins seems to have been terminated by the succession of Valentinian I and Valens in 364, to give a probable date of minting between 354-364 AD.

The pottery recovered would constitute a small mid 4<sup>th</sup> century group.

#### Section 3. Rubbish pit.

- N0 182. Cooking pot everted rim, grey fabric with dense white grits, obtuse lattice, burnished, hard.
- N0 183. BB1 cooking pot everted rim, black fabric with dense white grits, bold obtuse lattice, burnished, hard.
- N0 184. Cooking bowl high bead rim flanged, dark grey fabric with dense white grits, overlapping arch decoration, burnished, hard.
- N0 185. Dish/lid plain rim, grey fabric with dense white grits, overlapping arch decoration, burnished, hard..
- N0 186. Dish/lid plain rim, grey fabric with dense white grits, overlapping arch decoration, burnished, burnished swirls on base, hard.
- N0 187. Dish/lid plain rim, grey fabric with dense white grits, overlapping arch decoration, burnished, burnished swirls on base, hard.
- N0 188. Narrow necked flagon plain bead rim with flange, red/grey smooth outer fabric red core, very hard.
- N0 189. Narrow necked flagon beaded with rectangular groove to create double bead like rim, grey medium fabric with fine white grits, hard.
- N0 190. Samian bowl Dr 32 bead rim, fine red fabric with dense white calcite like inclusions, red slip.
- N0 191. Mortarium Mancetter/Hartshill hammer rim reeded, white fabric, black trituration grits, subject to fire after breakage, hard.
- N0 192. Mortarium hammer rim, cream fabric with fine white, red, and occasional black grits, inner surface and rim yellow colour coated, bands of vertical mid brown stripe decoration on rim, hard. Brown & red trituration grits.

#### Recovered below remains of enclosure wall robbing trench 1.

- N0 193. Mortarium hooked flange, Fine white fabric with occasional fine white grits, black trituration grits, hard. fabric, grits and style similar to Mancetter/Hartshill circa 140-170 AD

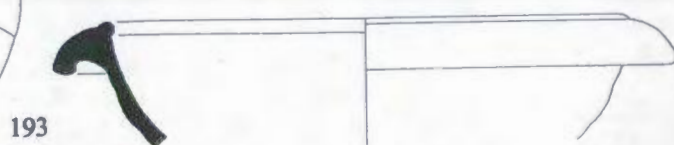
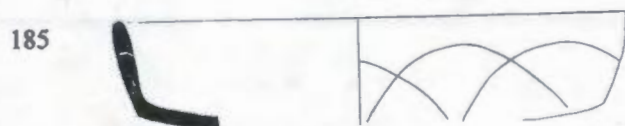
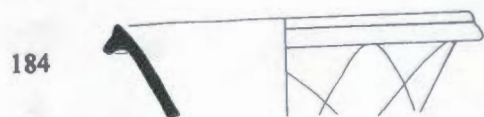
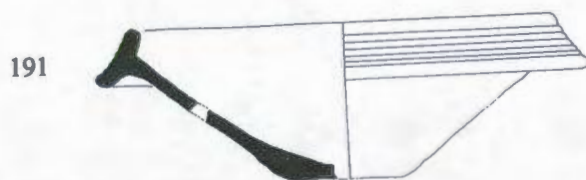
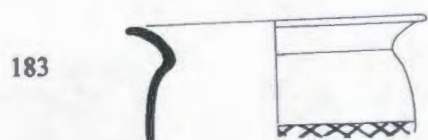
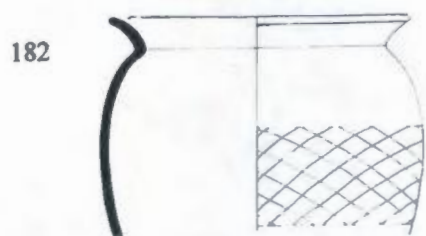
#### Recovered in ditch fill section 3.

- N0 194. Severn valley bowl tri-section rim, red slightly sandy fabric, hard.
- N0 195. Mortarium hooked flange, Fine creamy white fabric, black trituration grits, hard. fabric, grits and style similar to Mancetter/Hartshill circa 140-170 AD.

#### Recovered under apsidal floor, this floor is sealed access was gained through one of many post hole intrusions.

- N0 196. Severn valley bowl flanged rim, Coarse orange gritty fabric, calcite gritted, blackened outer surface, biscuit core, hard, 2<sup>nd</sup> century.

Fig 19.



## BROOCHES & COINS

Just 9 coins and 3 fibula have been recovered during excavation, however 14 years of study in fields surrounding the villa complex has increased the total coin list to 48, and fibula to 23.

In order to present a spread of the types in use in the locality all are included in this supplement.

Of the locations mentioned, the "West" field is located just 50 metres to West of the villa building, the Meadow and canal field are two adjoining fields sandwiched between the canal and the River Penk some 400 metres North West of the complex, a public footpath bisects the meadow and the canal field, this path carries on to cross the river at this point, due to the number of brooches found in this locality it is possible a river crossing existed in Roman times.

The meadow finds were recovered during the laying of new water mains to service the village.

The landowner has reported that during work to divert the River for construction of the nearby M6 motorway, a heavy concentration of Roman roof tile material was disturbed, if the identification of this material is correct it would appear that a building of sorts existed in this same area as most of the finds.

The coins found during excavation are mentioned separately in the excavation report and are listed below.

Coin N0. 2. Located in the primary silt of the ditch.

N0. 9. Located in top rubble fill of ditch.

N0 10. Recovered in Trench 3. On interface between temp' road and L3.

N0 19. Located in top rubble fill of ditch.

N0 24. Located under Marl rectangular deposits F83, and top of cobbles section 4.

N0 32. & 41 Located below robbing debris above clean occupation level, 1m north of wall C.

N0 30 Located in top levelling fill of ditch.

N0 46. Located in Rubbish pit F134

Of the remainder (see Plate 1 for location of fields mentioned)

10 were found in South field

8 " " " West field

8 " " " Church field.

5 " " " 1m below surface during soil clearance for church car park in Church field.

1 " " " molehill in churchyard.

4 " " " Canal field

1 " " " pipeline trench in meadow

1 " " " 0.5km south in Barn field(not on plate 1.)

1 " " " Shuthill 0.25km south (not on plate 1.)

Of the fibula

N0.2. Located in section 5.

N0 14. Located above cobbled surface section 4.

N0 15. Located under final rubble fill of ditch.

Of the remainder

13 were found in Canal field.

2 " " " West field.

2 " " " South field inside enclosure 1.

2 " " " Pipeline trench in meadow.

## The Coins

1. Mark Anthony Denarius 18mm, worn smooth  
R faint galley no legend, 2.6 grams
2. Vespasian Denarius 20mm. IMP CAES VESPASIANVS AVG  
R IOVIS CVSTOS. Jupiter standing. l. 2.2 grams



3. Hadrian Sestertius. 31mm. Badly worn, R figure seated with child, 14.4 grams.
4. Hadrian Sestertius 30mm. Badly worn, R figure standing, 19.6 grams.
5. Hadrian Sestertius 29mm Badly worn, R figure standing, 17 grams.
6. Hadrian Sestertius 28mm Badly worn, R figure standing, 13.3 grams.
7. Faustina Dupondius. 27mm \*\*\*TINA Badly worn, R figure Seated l hand raised, 9.4 grams.
8. Septimius Severus Denarius 18mm. L\*\*\* SEV PERT AVG \*\*\* CV111  
R. PM TR P V COS 11 PP. Salus seated, 1.9 grams



9. Septimius Severus Denarius 17mm. SEV PERT AVG. part legend missing  
R. P.M.TR.P.V.COS 11.P.P Sol standing holding whip, 1.9 grams



10. Alexander Severus. Denarius, 15mm. Legends lost.  
R. Emperor std l sacrificing from patera over tripod, holding scroll in l hd, 1.2 grams.



11. Gallienus Antoninianus 20mm. legend lost  
R. figure holding palm and sceptre, 1.7 grams
12. Gallienus Antoninianus. 20mm legend lost, 2.3 grams
13. Postumus Antoninianus. 20-25mm IMP C POSTVMVS PF AVG  
R figure standing legend lost, 3.0 grams



14. Postumus Antoninianus. 19mm IMP C POSTVMVS PF AVG.  
R IOVI STATORI Jupiter holding sceptre and thunderbolt, 2.8 grams



15. Postumus Radiate copy. Antoninianus 15mm legends lost, 1.7 grams  
16. Postumus Radiate Antoninianus. 15mm legends lost  
R Felisitas holding caduceus and cornucopiae, 2.1 grams  
17. Tetricus II Radiate Antoninianus. 19mm C.PIV.ESV.TETRICVS CAES.  
R. Spes advancing. \*\*\*\* AVGG. 2.3 grams  
18. Tetricus II Radiate. Antoninianus. 15mm legends lost, 0.9 grams  
19. Tetricus II Radiate. Antoninianus. 14mm legends lost, 1.1 grams  
20. Victorinus Antoninianus. 20mm IMP VICTORIVS \*\*\* AUG.  
R. INVICTVS Sol advancing, 2.5 grams



21. Victorinus Antoninianus. 18mm As above, 2.8 grams



22. Claudius Antoninianus. 17mm legends lost R. Salus feeding serpent. 3.2 grams.  
23. Claudius Antoninianus 15mm Radiate copy. legends lost, R totally corroded. 1.2 grams.  
24. Unidentifiable Radiate 16mm, 1.3 grams.  
25. Unidentifiable Radiate 12mm, 0.9 grams.  
26. Unidentifiable Radiate 14mm, 1.2 grams.  
27. Unidentifiable Radiate 15mm, 1 gram.  
28. Unidentifiable Radiate 15mm, 1 gram.  
29. Unidentifiable Radiate 15mm, 0.9 grams.

30. Diocletian Follis 29mm IMP C DIOCLETIAN AVG  
R GENIO POPVLI ROMANI Genius std 1, In ex. PLG, 10.6 grams.



31. Constantine I. Follis 22mm. DIVO CONSTANTIO PIO. Bust, laureate, veiled, draped, r.  
R MEMORIA FELIX Eagle either side of altar. PTR, 3.6 grams  
Issued by Constantine in honour of his father Constantius.



32. Constantine I. Follis 18mm. CONSTANTINVS \*\*\*.  
R Campgate, legend lost. 1.8 grams.



33. Constantine I. Follis 19mm. CONSTANTINVS \*\*\*.  
R SOLI INVICTO COMITI. Sol std holding globe  
In ex STR 2.6 grams.



34. Constantine I. Follis 21mm Ob no clear legend R FELICITAS figure(Jupiter?) holding In r hd,  
Victory on globe twin sceptres in l hd. 3.4 grams.



35. Constantine I. Follis 14-17mm Bust l, no legend R Campgate, 1.1 grams.  
36. Constantine I. Follis 18mm As 34.1.5 grams.  
37. Constantine I. Follis 16mm Ob badly corroded, R Laurel wreath VOT X, In ex PL\*\*, 1.5 grams.  
38. Constantine I. Follis 16mm CONSTANTINVS AVG,  
R BEATA TRANQVILLITAS Alter inscribed VOTIS XX In ex PL\*\*, 1.3 grams.



39. Constantine I. Follis 18mm As 34, 1.9 grams.  
40. Fausta. Badly corroded poss AE4 All legends lost.  
R Fausta std, hd l, holding Constantine II and Constantius II. 0.8 grams.

41. Helena 17mm. FL HELENA AVGVSTA

R SECVRITAS REIPVBLICE Helena std holding branch, In ex \*TRP, 2.5 grams.



42. Crispus 14mm all legends lost. R Standard between two soldiers. 1 gram.

43 Constantine II 18mm CONSTANTINVS IVN NOB C

R CAESARVM NOSTRORVM. Laurel wreath around VOT X, 2 grams.



44 Constantine II 12mm all legends lost R two standards between two soldiers, 0.9 grams.

45 Constans 18mm \*\*\*CONSTANS NOB CAES hd l,

R BEATA TRANQVILLITAS Alter inscribed VOTIS XX In ex PLTm 1.5 grams.

46. "Minim" 9mm all legends lost, R no features, 0.4 grams

Scale 2.1



47. "Minim" 9mm, 0.5 gram

48. "Minim" 10mm, 0.3 grams

Tony Habberley

Penk Valley Archaeological Group.

## The Fibula

### N0.1

Trumpet type similar to N0.2  
Head missing, wavy line each side of leg.  
Recovered in Canal field.  
Weight 7 grams



### N0.2

Trumpet type, Celtic design on the head,  
with wavy line decoration each side of leg.  
Traces of Silver plating.  
Spring gear brooch with underslung chord.  
Recovered in section 5. Villa excavation  
Weight 17.3 grams



### N0 3.

Trumpet type  
Blind chain loop on head, no decoration.  
Spring lug and gear missing.  
Recovered in West field.  
Weight 11.4 grams



### N0 4.

Trumpet type, head only, blind chain loop.  
Spring lug and gear missing, no decoration.  
Recovered in Canal field.  
Weight 12 grams



N0 5.

Trumpet type, this small brooch is very poor condition such that any decoration is difficult to determine, there may however be a trace of Celtic design on the head.

Late 1st to late 2nd centuries.

Located in meadow during laying of new water mains.

Weight 6.4 grams



N0 6.

Trumpet derivative, trumpet head replaced with a shield shaped flat plate.

Remains of axle lugs in extensions to side of head, and remnant of chain loop. Foot protrudes forwards.

Decoration consists of twin furrows on upper part of leg, Orange enamel is set in alternative rectangles within the furrow no trace of enamel in alternate rectangles.

Located in Canal field

Weight 6.9 grams



N0 7.

Colchester type B Two piece brooch.

Mid to late 1st century.

Chord external as La Tene 1, spring has 6 coils.

wings plain, V shaped central rib of the bow, perforated catch plate.

Located in meadow during laying of new water main.

Weight 6.9 grams



N0 8.

T- shaped brooch.

Head shows no means of spring retention, catch plate missing, foot turned outwards.

Decorated by upwards of 12 very small Red enamel pellets, a lug at the head of the leg suggests a larger enamel pellet.

The wide wings have large lugs each of which are perforated through to the gear area, were these for decoration?, or are they somehow connected with spring retention?.

Recovered in Canal field.

Weight 5.5 grams



**N0 9.**

This brooch is missing its head, is difficult to classify, triple raised ridges raised knee on the leg are the only means of decoration. A small foot protrudes forward slightly. Recovered in Canal field.  
Weight 5 grams



**N0 10.**

This very heavy brooch does not seem to fit any category. A large chain loop is cast into the head, the hinge and axle are located in a solid carrier which appears to have been sawn to create the gap for the head of the pin, (saw cut is visible cutting into back of chain loop). The foot is grooved and protrudes forward. Recovered in Canal field.  
Weight 22.8 grams



**N0 11.**

Dolphin brooch with Polden Hill spring gear. 6 coils to the spring, pin and chord missing. Axle held in two integral lugs. Decoration is 3 raised ribs running from head to foot, at the head 3 similar ribs on run to the base of the head curving back to the wings. Below the head, a chevron design is bisected by the triple ribs. The foot has 2 fine raised ribs. Recovered in Canal field.  
Weight 18.9 grams



**N0 12.**

Dolphin brooch with Polden Hill spring gear, the hook for loop is present. The iron gear is heavily corroded and may consist of 6 coils. No decoration is visible on this badly corroded example. Recovered in Canal field.  
Weight 13.6 grams



**N0 13.**

Dolphin type, possible remains of chord hook suggests a Polden Hill gear design. However the poor condition does not allow interpretation of the gear which could also be hinged rather than sprung. There are the ovoid appendages normally associated with the Polden Hill type. The leg and foot are plain, no catch plate survives. Recovered in Canal field. Weight 11.3 grams



**N0 14.**

Dolphin type, semi-cylindrical wings for gear containment which is missing. Ovoid mouldings each side of head as per Polden Hill but with no hint of a hook for a chord. A badly corroded brooch with no decoration obvious. Location above cobbled area of villa complex section 4. Weight 4.2 grams



**N0 15.**

Dolphin brooch badly corroded, Original surface completely lost, spring gear however is complete. Although only the tiniest vestige of a possible hook remains, the overhead chord suggests a Polden Hill type. Location under final rubble fill of ditch on villa complex. Weight 4.4 grams



**N0 16.**

Dolphin brooch badly corroded, Spring gear is a corroded block, lower foot missing. No decoration other than ovoid appendages at intersection of head and wings. Recovered in Canal field. Weight 4.1 grams



**N0 17.**

Dolphin brooch, no spring gear surviving.  
Faint ovoid appendages at intersection of head and wings.  
Possible vestige of hook for Polden Hill gear.  
Decoration, where original surface survives, is a tapering groove from head, possibly down to the foot, in the groove are a line of raised pellets.  
No catch plate survives.  
Recovered in Canal field.  
Wiegth 5.9 grams



**N0 18.**

Dolphin brooch in poor condition.  
Spring missing, possible trace of hook for Polden Hill gear, Ovoid appendages at Intersection of head and wings.  
No catch plate.  
Recovered in Canal field.  
Wiegth 6.1 grams



**N0 19.**

Knee brooch hinged pin.  
Possible chain loop missing, extreme of foot and catchplate also lost.  
Decorated with 3 rows of rectangular depressions which may have been enamelled, a boss on the knee may also have been enamelled.  
Recovered in West field.  
Wiegth 10.1 grams



**N0 20.**

Knee brooch.  
The spring gear, except for the end of the pin, is complete and contains 6 coils with the chord below.  
The axle is contained in rearward extensions of the wings.  
There is a large rectangular foot set horizontal to the foot, the catch plate is integral to the foot  
Other than traces of plating there is no other decoration. Recovered in South field, within villa enclosure1.  
Wiegth 18.2 grams  
This brooch is simial to N0 92. Ancient and Romano-British Brooches.  
Richard Hattat.

