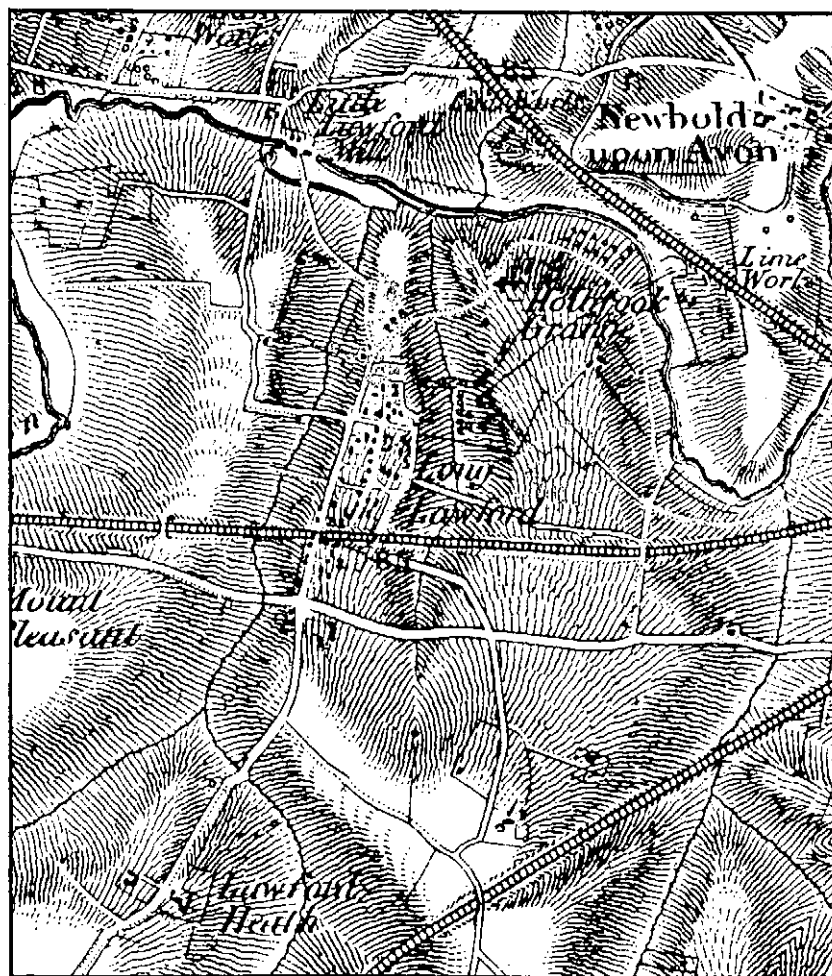


SWA 18916
EWA 7407
CWA 12933
MWA 9526
FWA 4121
MWA 9846
FWA 4120
MWA 9847

Archaeological Evaluation on land
to the West of the Caldecott Arms,
Chapel Street, Long Lawford,
Warwickshire



Report No 0408

March 2004

Archaeological Evaluation on land to the West of Caldecott Arms, Chapel Street, Long Lawford, Warwickshire

Contents

Summary

1. Introduction
2. Location and Topography
3. Aims and Methods of the Evaluation
4. Archaeological and Historical Background
5. Evaluation Trenches
6. Conclusions

Acknowledgements

Bibliography

Appendix A: List of Finds

Appendix B: List of Contexts

List of Figures

Cover: Detail from 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1-inch map of 1833

Fig. 1: Site Location and Evaluation Trenches

Fig. 2: Detail from 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map of 1887

Fig. 3: Detail from provisional edition Ordnance Survey 1:10650 map of 1938

Fig. 4: Evaluation Trenches 1, 2 and 3

Fig. 5: Sections A-P

Fig. 6: Excavated features in Trench 1

Fig. 7: Ditch (307)

Fig. 8: Gully (320) and pit (304)

Fig. 9: Trench 2

Report 0408
March 2004

Warwickshire Museum Field Services
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Summary

An archaeological field evaluation, including three trial trenches, in the centre of the medieval village of Long Lawford revealed evidence for Romano-British and medieval activity across the site. Several ditches, a wall probably representing property boundaries and a possible rubbish or quarry pit were revealed. Two ditches containing Romano-British pottery may also have been field boundaries or may relate to a settlement enclosure. A number of undated pits and gullies are most likely to be associated with either medieval or Romano-British activity.

1. Introduction

1.1 A planning application has been submitted to Rugby Borough Council for the redevelopment of land to the west of The Caldecott Arms, Chapel Street, Long Lawford (R03/0760), which will include the construction of six residential units, access and associated works. The development site lies in an area of potential archaeological sensitivity and it was a condition of planning permission that the applicant secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by the planning authority before the redevelopment of the site. A brief was issued by the Warwickshire County Planning Archaeologist (dated November 2003) detailing the excavation of three evaluation trenches.

1.2 Warwickshire Museum Field Archaeology Projects Group were commissioned to undertake the field evaluation after submitting a suitable proposal (dated 6th November 2003). This interim report presents the results of the fieldwork conducted in December 2003 and gives an account of the archaeological finds and deposits recorded. The project archive will be stored at the Warwickshire Museum under site code LC03.

2. Location and Topography

2.1 The site of the proposed development is located in the centre of the village of Long Lawford. The site is bounded by Chapel Street to the west and to the rear of properties fronting Main Street to the east and north and is centred on National Grid Reference SP 4716 7595 (Fig. 1). The development site is currently open ground with a sharp slope at the rear of the site down to Chapel Street.

2.2 The underlying geology of the site is Blue Lias (British Geological Survey 1984).

3. Aims and Methods of the Evaluation

3.1 The evaluation was designed to discover the date, nature and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits which might be present within the area of the proposed development scheme.

3.2 The work undertaken involved the examination of historical map evidence as well as records of archaeological remains in the area and local historical journals and other publications. This was followed by the excavation of three trial trenches. The location of the trial trenches was influenced by the potential archaeological remains associated with the street frontage and the proposed location of the development.

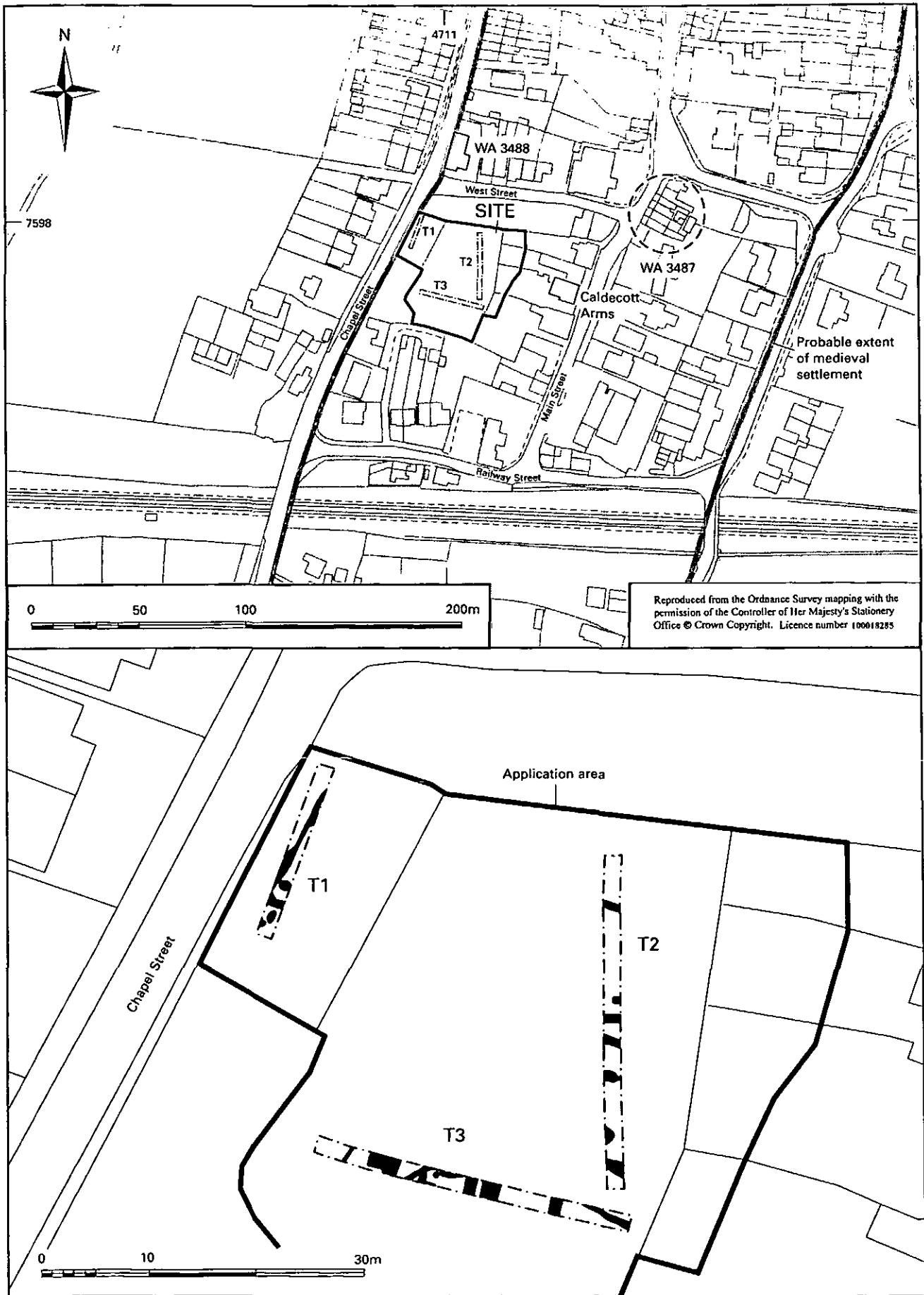


Fig 1: Site Location and Evaluation Trenches

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

4.1 The earliest evidence for human activity in the area comes from a find of Romano-British pottery from south of the river Avon in the mid 19th century (VCH 1904, 247). These included a complete Samian ware vessel that is unlikely to have been from manuring the fields and suggests that there was some settlement in the area. Unfortunately the precise location of the find is unknown.

4.2 At the time of Domesday the population of Lilleford or Lelleford, which included Long Lawford and Little Lawford can be estimated at around 140 (VCH 1904, 323, 336). During the medieval period Long Lawford was one of five manors within the parish of Newbold-on-Avon. It became a civil parish in its own right in the 19th century. Domesday book mentions a mill in the manor that was probably located to the east around Thurnmill (VCH 1951, 187), whilst by 1210 the Abbey of Pipewell had a grange in Long Lawford together with rights of pasture in Long Lawford and Long Lawford Heath. The medieval village would have been centred along the existing Main Street, with what are now Chapel Street and School Street providing access to the rear of small cultivated areas, or tofts, that ran back from properties along the Main Street frontage (Fig. 1).

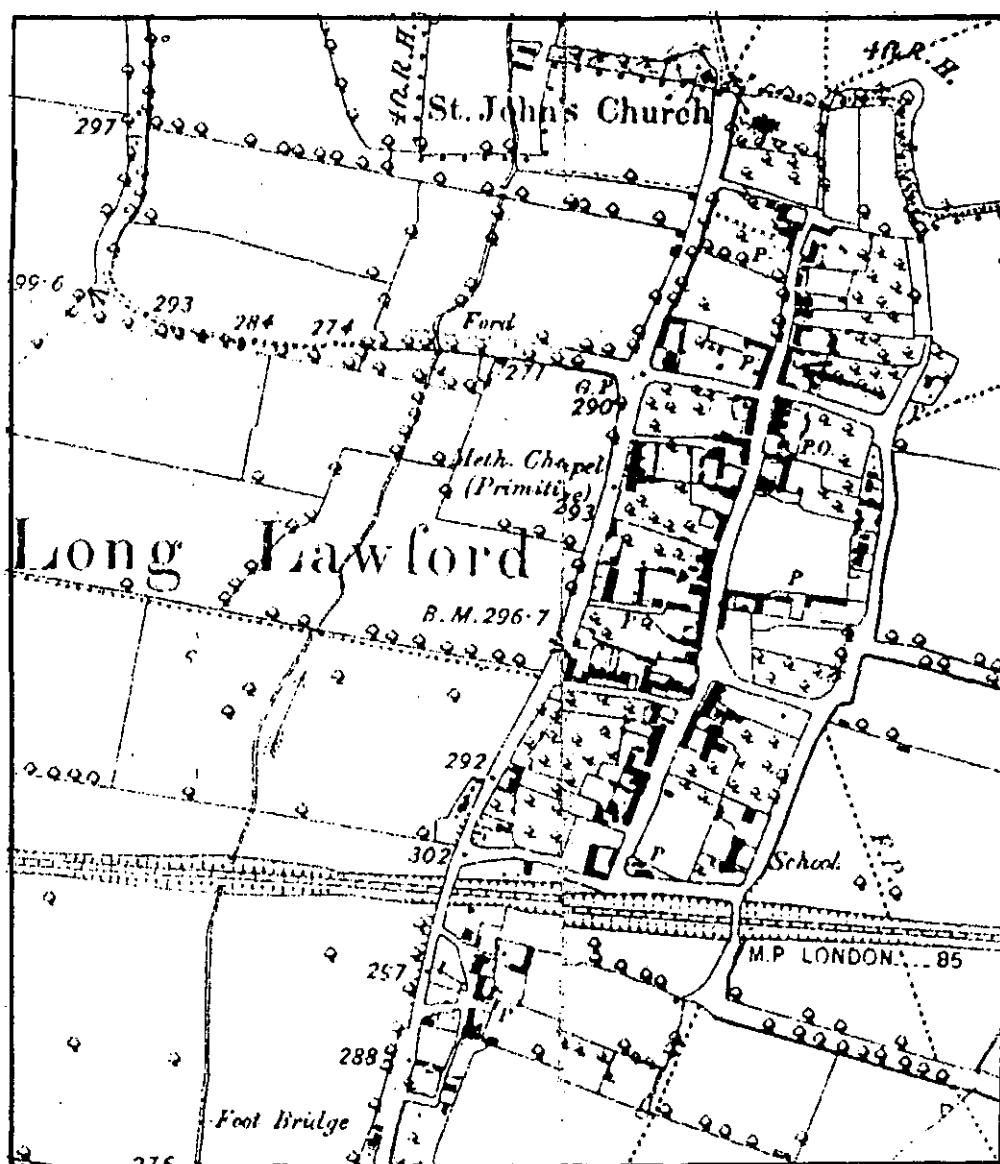


Fig. 2: Detail from 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map of 1887

4.3 The medieval open fields of Long Lawford were inclosed into a series of compact farms in 1773 (VCH 1951, 188). In 1793 the occupants of the village lived for the most part in houses along the main street. Hardly any properties were located on what later became School Street and Chapel Street or on Cross Street, West Lane or Bailey Lane (WCRO CR 2026/24). Over the course of the 19th century properties were constructed along parts of these streets and lanes; a smithy, shown in the village in 1913, is probably a 19th century foundation (Warwickshire Sites and Monuments Record WA 3487, Fig. 1). The Chapel Street frontage appears to have been unoccupied by buildings from 1793 until the present day (WCRO CR 569/174, Ordnance Survey 1889, Ordnance Survey 1913, Fig. 3).

4.4 There are no records of a medieval chapel in the township, but by the mid-19th century there was both an Anglican chapel (SMR WA 3480, not shown on Fig. 1), that of St John dating to 1839, and a Primitive Methodist chapel (SMR WA 3486, Fig. 2). The modern Wesleyan Methodist chapel dates from 1955 (SMR WA 3488, Fig. 1).

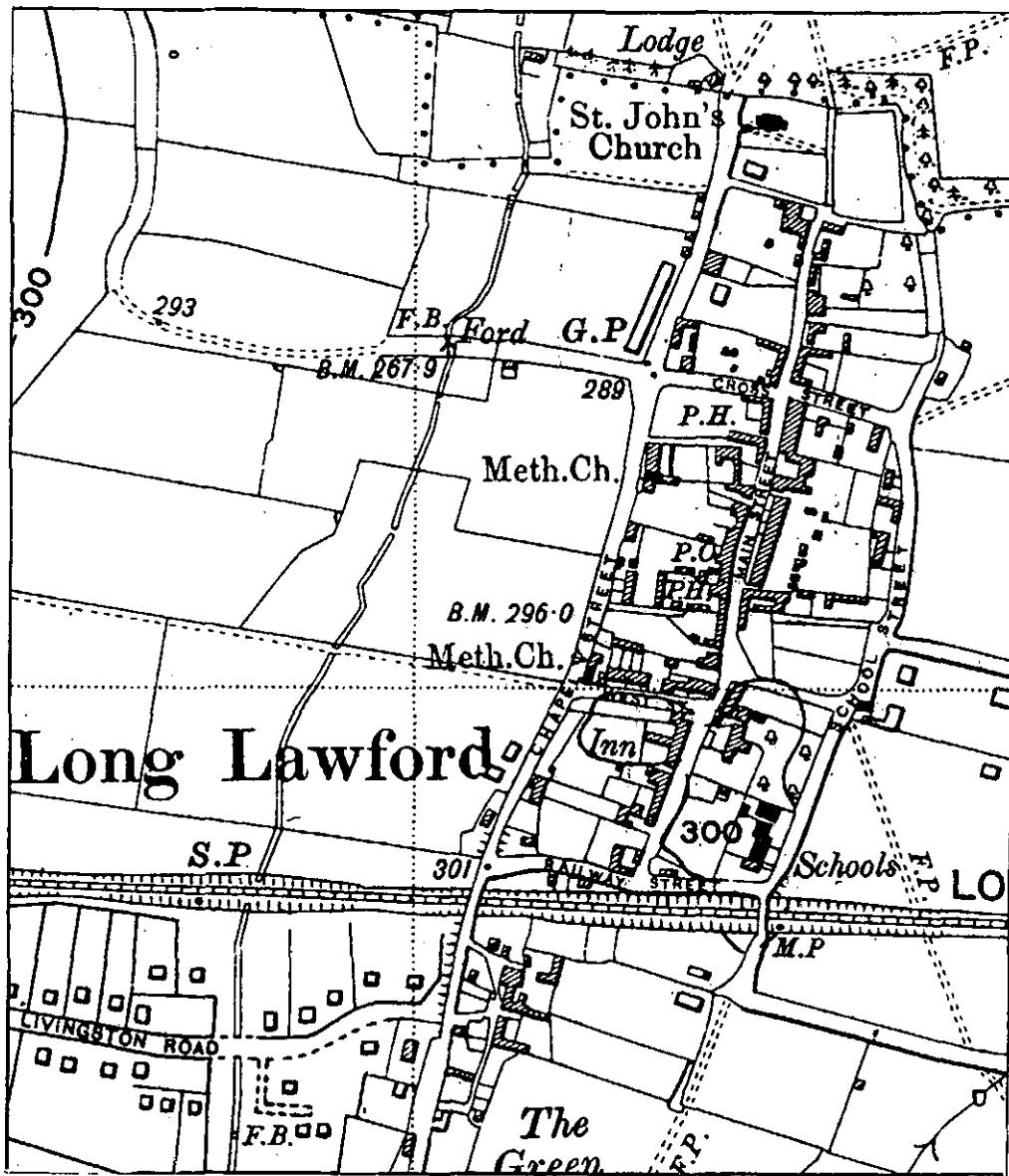


Fig. 3: Detail from provisional edition 1:10650 Ordnance Survey map of 1938

5. Evaluation Trenches

5.1 The evaluation trenches were laid out in order to investigate the potential archaeological resource present on the site. The three trenches were opened with a JCB-type machine using a 1.6m wide ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. All modern surface material, topsoil and recent disturbance were removed by machine. Archaeological deposits and features, where revealed, were then excavated by hand.

Trench 1

5.2 Trench 1 measured 16.6m long by 1.6m wide, orientated roughly south-west to north-east, and positioned adjacent to and parallel with the Chapel Street frontage (Fig. 1). Geological natural sand/sandy clay (112) was encountered generally at c. 0.55m below the existing ground surface (between c. 88.56m and 88.89m Above Ordnance Datum).

5.3 Geological natural (112) was cut by an undated steep-sided gully (104) up to 0.60m wide with a rounded base 0.25m deep (Figs. 4-5, Section C and D) running south-north across the trench, before apparently turning at right angles to run SSW-NNE (Fig. 4, Trench 1). No datable material was recovered from the dark greyish brown sandy loam fill of the gully (105) though it did contain a number of heat cracked pebbles. The feature may have formed an enclosure and its alignment appears to be roughly parallel with the existing Chapel Street. The gully may, therefore, be of medieval or pre-medieval date, but this is not certain. A possible post hole (108) was also investigated, but the feature and fill (109) proved to be part of gully (105).

5.4 Three undated pits cut geological natural 112 in the south-western corner of the trench (Fig. 4, Trench 1). Pit 102 was an oval-shaped feature with steep sides and a flattish base. It measured some 1.3m long by 0.80m wide and 0.15m deep (Fig. 5, Section B). The pit would appear to respect the southern edge of gully 104, lying outside any enclosure formed by it. Similarly pit 106, a roughly circular feature with a steep north-eastern edge and more gently sloping other sides, appears to respect gully 104, but lay within its enclosure. This pit measured some 0.80m in diameter and was 0.11m deep (Fig. 5, Section E). In the south-west corner of the trench was part of a flat bottomed pit (110) with gently sloping sides, most of which lay beyond the excavated trench (Fig. 6). The pit measured c.0.70m across and was 0.10m deep, but the full extent was not determined (Fig 5, Section A). All three pits were backfilled with dark greyish brown sandy loam (103, 107, 111) and the pits may have been contemporary with the gully. However, no datable material was recovered to confirm this.

5.5 The pits were overlaid by a c.0.24m thick layer of dark grey brown silty loam (101). The cultivation soil extended over the remainder of the trench (Section C, Fig. 5). This was sealed by c.0.25m thick layer of very dark grey sandy clay loam topsoil (100). This formed the current ground surface at 89.13m AOD at the southern end of the trench and 89.40m AOD at the northern end.

Trench 2

5.6 Trench 2 measured 31m long and was aligned roughly north-south across the eastern half of the area of the proposed development (Fig. 1). Geological natural sand/sandy clay (222) was encountered generally at c.0.6m below the existing ground surface (90.67m AOD), though it deepened to 0.77m at the southern end of the trench (between 90.55m and 90.57m AOD).

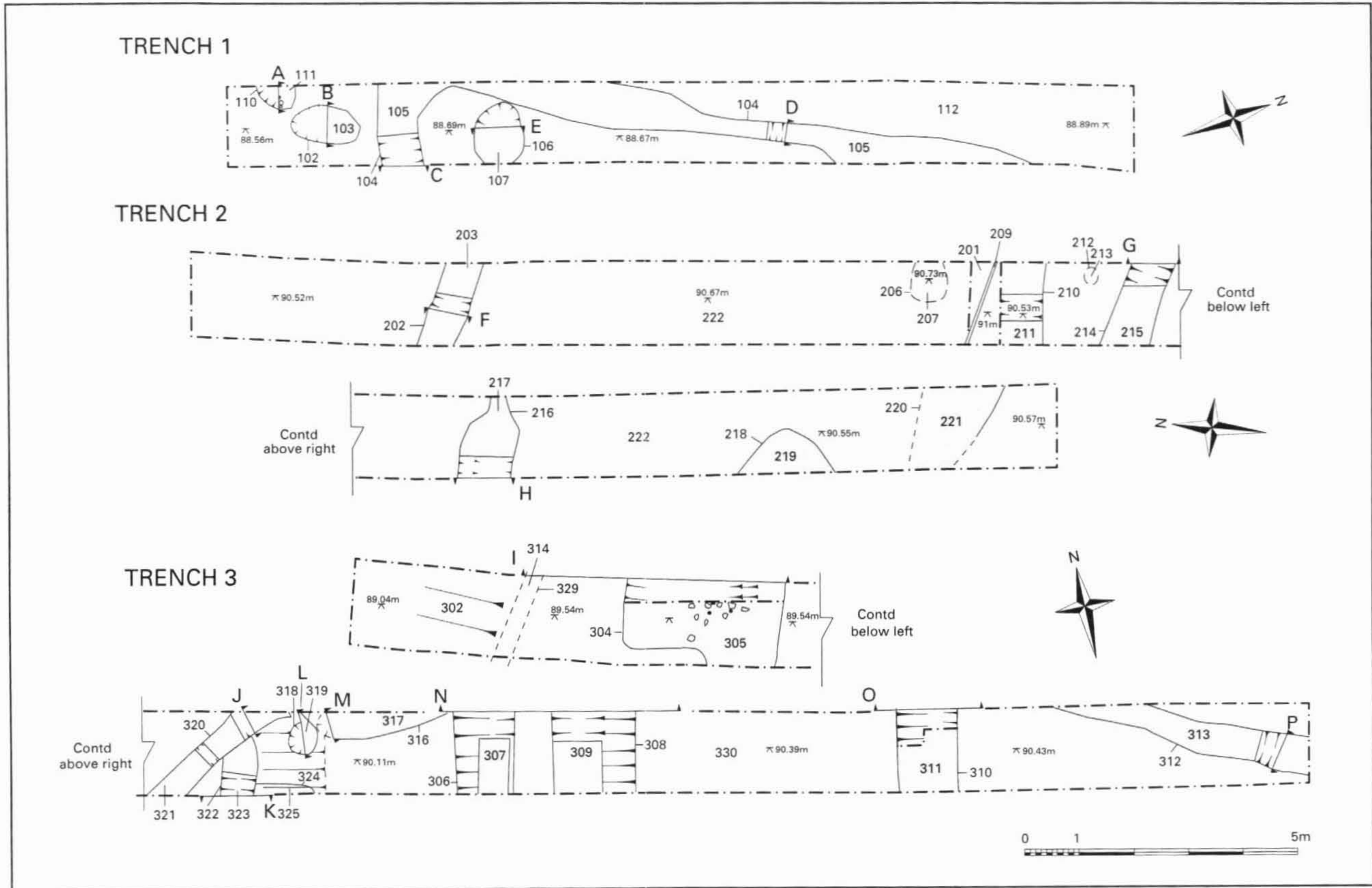


Fig. 4: Evaluation Trenches 1, 2 and 3

5.7 A number of features were recorded as cutting geological natural 222 (Fig. 4, Trench 2) In the centre of the trench was a gully or small ditch (214) running roughly west-east approximately at right angles to Main Street. The ditch was 0.80m wide and had moderately steep sloping sides to a rounded base 0.18m deep (Fig. 5, Section G). A single sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered from its dark greyish brown sandy clay loam fill (215). This may have been a residual find, but more probably indicates a Roman date for the feature.

5.8 The other features in this trench were undated. Close to the northern end of the trench was a gully (202) running roughly west-east across the trench. This measured 0.69m wide and 0.07m deep, with moderately steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 5, Section F). No datable material was recovered from the dark greyish brown sandy clay loam fill (203). The gully appears to continue the line of a former property boundary running back from Main Street to the east.

5.9 Approximately 10m to the south of gully 202 was another steep sided, flat-bottomed ditch (210), c. 0.16m deep and of unknown width. This was roughly parallel to gully (202) and may also continue the line of a former boundary between properties fronting onto Main Street to the east. No datable material was recovered from the dark greyish brown sandy clay loam fill (211). The two ditches/gullies may represent the property boundaries to a toft, or an area of cultivated land, behind street frontage buildings possibly during the medieval period.

5.10 To the south of ditch 214 was a sub-rectangular pit (216) aligned roughly east-west (Fig. 4, Trench 2). This measured at least 1.15m long by 1.00m wide and was 0.40m deep with a steep southern and moderately steep northern edge to an irregular base (Fig. 5 Section H). No datable material was recovered from the dark greyish brown sandy clay loam fill (217), but this feature may have been a medieval rubbish pit or small quarry pit. To the south were two other large features (218, 220) whose exact extent was uncertain and were not excavated due to the waterlogging that occurred in this area (Fig. 9).

5.11 The backfilled features were overlain by a c.0.40m thick layer of dark greyish brown sandy clay loam cultivation soil (201). This may have developed over the site after the tofts went out of use and the area became a single field (Fig. 5, Section H). The cultivation soil 201 was cut by what appeared to be a small circular pit (206), c.0.80m in diameter. This was not fully excavated, but was filled by a dark grey sandy clay loam (207). As it post-dated the cultivation soil, it was probably a post medieval posthole, possibly part of a fenceline. A possible circular feature (212) was identified adjacent to ditch 214, however further investigation suggested this was likely to be due to natural disturbance. Cultivation soil 201 was also cut by a trench (208) for a probable service pipe (209).

5.12 The backfilled pit 206, pipe trench 208 and cultivation soil 201 were sealed by c. 0.24m of very dark grey sandy clay loam topsoil (200) that formed the current ground surface at c.91.30m AOD.

Trench 3

5.13 Trench 3 measured 30.5m long, 1.6m wide, aligned roughly east-west and positioned in the southern part of the site (Fig 1). The geological natural sand and sandy clay and pebbles (330) was encountered at c.0.6m below the existing ground surface in the eastern half of the trench (90.43m AOD), sloping down to 1.10m in the western half (89.69m AOD). The natural dropped away sharply (302) at the west end of the trench to 1.50m below the existing ground surface (89.04m AOD). At this point the geological natural changed to a dark grey sandy silt making it difficult to differentiate from archaeological deposits. The slope (302) followed the edge of the

existing steep drop in the ground surface towards and parallel with the Chapel Street frontage.

5.14 The geological natural was cut by a number of features, mainly gullies and ditches. In the centre of the trench a steep-sided ditch with a narrow, flat base (308) was aligned south-west to north-east. Ditch 308 measured 1.6m wide and 0.7m deep. Immediately adjacent was a parallel gully or ditch (306), which was 1.2m wide and 0.25m deep with moderately steep sides to a 'V shaped' base (Fig. 5, Section N). The larger ditch was filled with a dark greyish brown sandy clay loam (309); although towards the base this became mottled with reddish yellow sandy clay and light brownish grey sandy silt (315) suggesting that it may have been deliberately backfilled using redeposited natural (Fig. 7). Romano-British pottery was recovered from the upper fill (309). Gully 306 was filled by a dark greyish brown sandy clay loam (307) and although no datable material was recovered from the fill it is likely to have been contemporary with ditch 308. The arrangement may represent field or property boundaries.

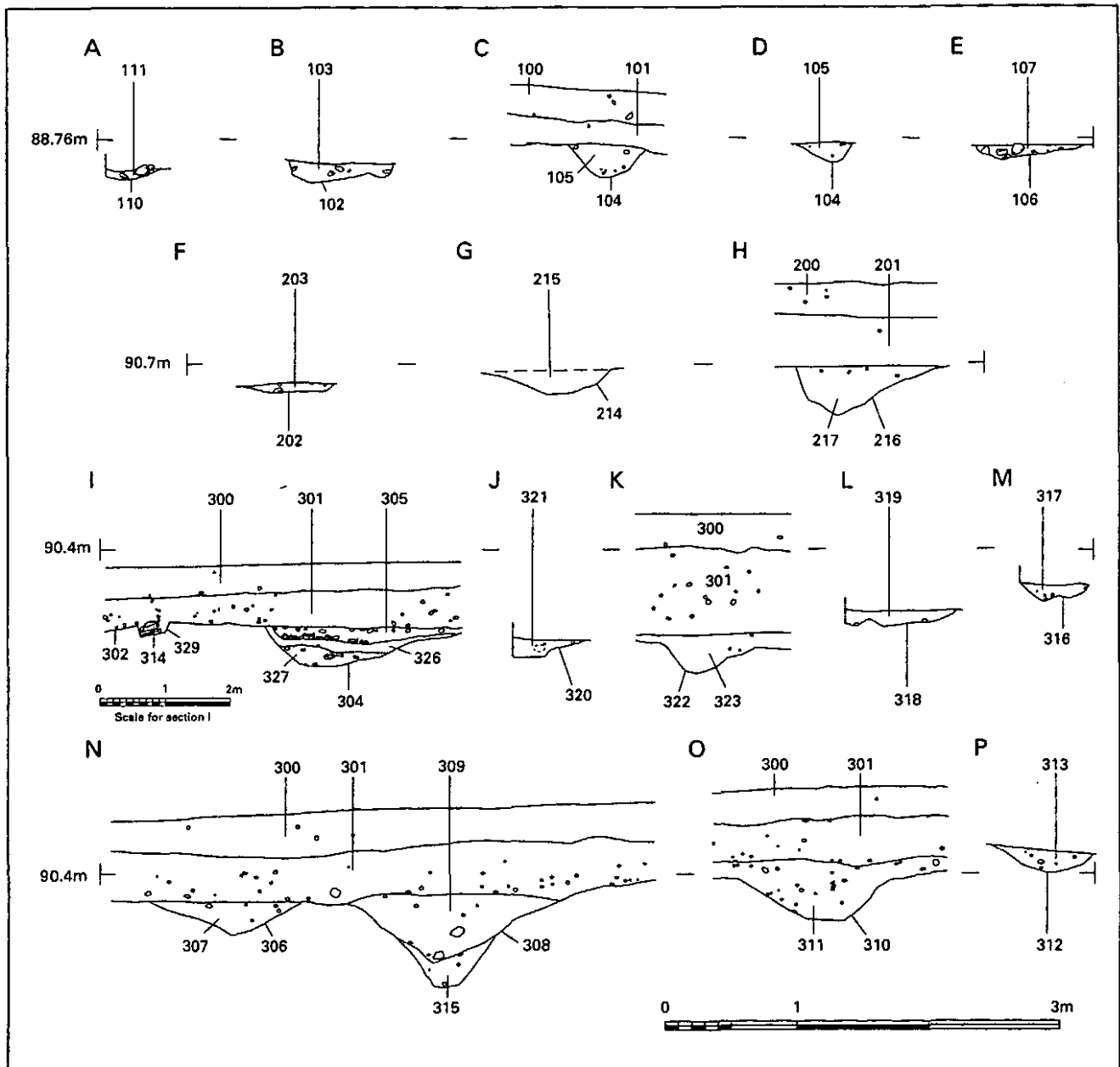


Fig. 5: Sections A-P

5.15 To the north-west of ditch 322 was a large, 0.60m deep, sub-rectangular pit (304) measuring 2.90m across with steep western and moderately steep eastern sides (Fig. 5, Section I) to a flattish base. Pit 304 had three fills, the secondary fill (326) being a dark greyish brown sandy clay loam, and the primary (327) and tertiary (305) fills differentiated from this by the inclusion of large quantities of irregular limestone blocks. It seems probable that parts of the fills were made up of material from a demolished wall. The pit may have been used as a rubbish pit or small quarry pit (Fig. 8). A sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from secondary fill (326) giving a possible date for the abandonment of both pit and wall (314).

5.16 Immediately to the north-west of pit 304 was a drystone wall, c. 0.40m wide, constructed of irregular limestone blocks (314) (Fig. 5, Section I). The wall was aligned south-west to north-east and there was some evidence for a construction cut or trench (329). The wall extended across the evaluation trench and it coincided with the top edge of slope 302. No further wall foundations were revealed and it would appear to have been a boundary feature

5.17 In the south-east half of the trench was another ditch (310) running parallel to, and c.11m east of ditch 322. This was a steep-sided, flat-bottomed feature 1.15m wide and 0.35m deep (Fig. 5, Section O). Medieval pottery was recovered from the dark greyish brown sandy clay loam fill of the ditch (311) and it is possible that ditches 310 and 322 marked the edges of a single field or plot. The wall (314) and two ditches were all probably contemporary boundary features, though ditch 310 probably may have also marked the rear boundary of the tofts running back from Main Street to the east.

5.18 The other features were undated including the fill (319) of pit 318 around 3m to the north-east of gully 306, which appeared to have been cut by a deliberate steepening of the slope from east to west. At the base of the slope, and running along it south-west to north-east, was a steep sided ditch (322) which was 0.70m wide and 0.20m deep with a rounded base (Fig. 5, Section K). The ditch cut the western edge of pit 324. The location at the base of the slope is unlikely to be accidental and the feature may represent an associated drainage feature, perhaps doubling up as a field or property boundary. No dateable finds were recovered from its dark greyish brown sandy clay loam fill (323), though it did contain fragments of animal bone. The slope itself may be part of an attempt to terrace the area, which had a general downward slope to the north-east, in order to make it easier to cultivate. The drop was c.0.50m. It is probable that the steep downwards slope at the north-west end of the trench (302) was part of the same process and here the drop was also c.0.50m. The alignment of ditch 322 is totally different to gullies 312 and 316 which suggests that they belong to a different, and probably earlier phase. It is possible that the ditch was contemporary with the Romano-British ditch and gully, given that they run parallel with one another, but they appear to be too closely spaced to be associated boundary features.

5.19 At the south-eastern end of the trench was a gully (312), 0.80m wide with moderately steep sides to a rounded base 0.16m deep, aligned roughly north-west to south-east (Fig. 5, Section P). The dark greyish brown sandy clay loam fill of the gully (313) contained no datable material, but did contain a number of heat cracked stones. Gully 312 continued beyond the edges of the excavated trench and may have been the continuation of another gully (316) recorded further to the north-west. This feature was aligned west-east, measured 0.55m wide by 0.13m deep and had moderately steep sloping sides and an irregular/rounded base (Fig. 5, Section M). It was filled by a dark greyish brown sandy clay loam (317) from which no finds were recovered.

5.20 Gully 316 butt ended to the north-west at which point the base of a small pit (318) was recorded. This was a circular feature of 0.70m diameter, with gently



Fig. 6: Excavated features in Trench 1



Fig. 7: Ditch (307)



Fig. 8: Gully (320) and pit (304)



Fig. 9: Trench 2

sloping sides and a rounded base 0.11m deep (Fig. 5, Section L). It was filled by a dark greyish brown sandy clay loam (319) from which no finds were recovered. A second pit (324) of possibly similar shape and fill (325) occurred 0.5m to the south-west, but this was not excavated. It measured at least 1.10m in diameter. It is not clear if this combination of features represents a structure or particular activity. It is possible that they may be contemporary with one another and similar to features recorded in Trench 1.

5.21 The fill (323) of ditch 322 was cut by a small, 0.14m deep gully (321), which was c.0.50m wide with steep sides with a flat base (Fig. 5, Section J). This gully was on a different alignment to any of the other features in the trench, running south-west to north-east, and its exact purpose and date are unknown. The gully was backfilled by a dark greyish brown sandy clay loam deposit (321) overlain by a thin band of charcoal (328).

5.22 All of the backfilled features described above were overlain by layer of dark greyish brown sandy clay loam cultivation soil (301) and (303), which contained sherds of medieval pottery (Fig. 5, Section K). This probably developed after the abandonment of the boundaries represented by wall foundation 314 and ditches 310 and 322, and after the abandonment of gully 320. It may represent a period when the whole of this area became part of a single field. The layer varied in thickness from 0.28m at the east end of the trench to 1.06m at the west end. Cultivation soil 301 was sealed by a 0.30-0.40m thick topsoil layer (300), (Fig. 5, Section K). The soil was a very dark grey sandy clay loam that formed the current ground surface at 91.09m AOD at the east end of the trench, and 90.57m AOD at the west end.

6. Conclusions

6.1 Evidence of Romano-British activity was revealed including two ditches recorded in Trenches 2 and 3. These ran roughly at right angles to one another and may have formed an enclosure or part of a field system. It is possible that such an enclosure may be close to an associated settlement, however the quantities of finds recovered were relatively small.

6.2 Medieval activity was also revealed on the site including a ditch (310) and stone wall (314), which were recorded in Trench 3. These probably represent medieval property boundaries behind houses fronting onto the Main Street. Evidence of terracing down the hill to the north-west was recorded and this was probably carried out in the medieval period as an aid to cultivation. The boundaries and terraces may have gone out of use in the later medieval period, possibly associated with the shrinkage and abandonment of the settlement. Evidence of such shrinkage over the 14th and 15th centuries has been recorded in other medieval villages in the area. This was brought about, in part, by the black death. The whole of the upslope area of the site, around Trenches 2 and 3, probably lay within a single plot by the early post medieval period at the latest.

6.4 No evidence for medieval structures or occupation along the Chapel Street frontage was recovered, though it is possible that the pits and gullies recorded in this area were of medieval or later date.

6.3 A variety of other ditches and pits were revealed, however these contained no dating evidence, but it is likely that these features form part of the Romano-British or medieval activity on the site.

Acknowledgements

The Warwickshire Museum would like to thank Ian Gidley of IG Land and Planning for commissioning the work on behalf of the Pub People Company Limited. Thanks are also due to the Warwickshire Planning Archaeologist Ed Wilson. The project was managed by Peter Thompson and the fieldwork was carried out by Bryn Gethin, John Harman and Chris Jones. The report was written by Chris Jones and Peter Thompson with illustrations by Candy Stevens and Andrew Isham. It was checked by Nicholas Palmer.

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Appendix A: List of Finds

<i>Context</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Date/Comments</i>
Trench 1			
US*	Cu alloy	1	George III halfpenny in Trench 1
103	Iron	4	
103	Animal bone	6	
Trench 2			
201	Pottery	2	Medieval
215	Pottery	1	Romano-British
Trench 3			
300	Pottery	3	19th century
301	Pottery	5	Medieval
301	Brick	1	Hand-made
309	Pottery	9	Romano-British
311	Pottery	1	Medieval
313	Animal bone	1	
323	Animal bone	3	
326	Pottery	1	Medieval

*US = unstratified

Appendix B: List of Contexts

Context No. Type/description

Trench 1

100	Topsoil
101	Layer
102	Pit
103	Fill of pit 102
104	Gully
105	Fill of gully 104
106	Pit
107	Fill of pit 106
108	?Posthole (Part of Gully 104)
109	Fill of ?posthole 108 (Part of Gully 104)
110	Pit
111	Fill of Pit 110
112	Natural

Trench 2

200	Topsoil
201	Layer
202	Gully
203	Fill of gully 202
204	Pit
205	Fill of pit 204
206	Posthole
207	Fill of posthole 206
208	Pipe trench
209	Pipe
210	Ditch
211	Fill of ditch 210
212	? Natural disturbance
213	? Fill or disturbed natural
214	Ditch
215	Fill of ditch 214
216	Pit
217	Fill of pit 216
218	Pit
219	Fill of pit 218
220	Ditch
221	Fill of ditch 220
222	Natural

Trench 3

300	Topsoil
301	Layer
302	Edge of slope
303	Subsoil, same as layer 301
304	Pit
305	Fill of pit 304
306	Gully
307	Fill of gully 306
308	Ditch
309	Fill of ditch 308

Context No. Type/description

Trench 3 (cont.)

310	Gully
311	Fill of gully 310
312	Gully
313	Fill of gully 312
314	Wall foundation
315	Lower fill of ditch 308
316	Gully
317	Fill of gully 316
318	Pit
319	Fill of pit 318
320	Gully
321	Fill of gully 320
322	Ditch
323	Fill of ditch 322
324	Pit
325	Fill of pit 324
326	Middle fill of pit 304
327	Lower fill of pit 304
328	Upper fill of gully 320
329	Construction cut for wall 314
330	Natural

The Warwickshire Museum

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