

Weston-juxta-Cherington, Long Compton, Warwickshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS



understanding heritage matters

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*Working for
Warwickshire*

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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Henry and Roz Warriner in the parkland associated with Weston House. The site had previously been identified as the deserted medieval village of Weston-juxta-Cherington and in addition was known to contain the Tudor gatehouse and coach road belonging to the Sheldon family. A magnetometer survey across the area by Archaeological Surveys Ltd spectacularly depicted the medieval village, a moated site and the gatehouse. These results, along with Lidar, historic mapping and an earthwork survey by Professor Chris Dyer, were used to formulate a strategy for trial trenching. A series of four trial trenches was excavated by students from Worcester University and Trinity Catholic School led by Richard Grove under the direction of Archaeology Warwickshire.

A trench positioned across a probable moat platform revealed a complex of walls relating to a substantial building with a stone slate roof thought to be the medieval manor house. A trench located within the medieval village exposed part of the main village street and an adjacent timber-framed building built on a dwarf wall. Two trenches across the Tudor gatehouse revealed a two-bay building with pitched stone floors and probably glass windows either side a central carriageway but were not able to fully characterise the building from which moderately wealthy pottery was recovered.

The work has established that well-preserved archaeological remains associated with the medieval settlement and manor house survive on the site and that the post-medieval gatehouse may not have been quite the building depicted on 18th-century engravings.

1 INTRODUCTION

Henry and Roz Warriner are the owners of an area of former parkland at Weston Gardens, at the northern end of the parish of Long Compton, Warwickshire. The parkland originally belonged to a fine Tudor mansion, built in the later 16th century by the Sheldon family. The mansion was demolished in 1826 and replaced by a new house which was itself demolished in 1934 leaving only parts of its walled gardens and stables; the parkland was given over to agriculture. The Sheldon mansion developed from the medieval village of Weston that underlies the parkland. An earthwork survey of the site by Professor Chris Dyer had previously depicted house platforms, streets and a possible moated manor.

The Warriners, having great enthusiasm for the history and development of the house and estate and a particular interest in the Sheldon gatehouse which had been depicted in Dugdale's Antiquities of Warwickshire (1714), were minded to commission a magnetometer survey along with a new interpretation of the earthworks based upon Lidar imagery (Archaeological Surveys 2014). The results of the magnetometer survey were exceptional allowing for fine resolution transcription of the medieval village. The Warriner's were thus prompted to commission the excavation of a series of evaluation trenches to ground truth the magnetometer survey and establish the state of survival of archaeological deposits. The trenches were excavated and recorded over three days from the 11th-13th of August 2014.

2 SITE LOCATION

The area of excavation was in the fields to the east of Weston Gardens. Trenches 1 and 2 were located around National Grid Reference SP 2807 3566, Trench 3 at SP 2819 3567 and Trench 4 at 2816 3584.

The superficial geology of the area is Lower Lias clay (British Geological 1968).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND *Caroline Rann*

Warwickshire Historic Environment Record

HER Ref	Record	Description
MWA 2386	Medieval (1066-1540) Settlement	The 1517 Inquiry records the depopulation of land where 38 people had lived. By Dugdale's time there was nothing here apart from 80 acres of the manor house. In 1545 the Crown licensed the imparking of 300 acres. Air photographs show a probable location for the village to the NE of the house.
MWA 2387	Medieval (1066-1540) Manor House	Dugdale records a Manor House with 80 acres of land at some date between 1500 and 1517.
MWA 2388	Imperial (1751-1914) icehouse	Created in 1828 when Sir George Philip's new house was nearing completion. A cylindrical structure, in brick, with a domed top. Beamon and Roaf report that the ice-house is in reasonable condition and under repair in 1983, although the passageway collapsed some years before this. Entrance leads to a vertical cylinder, domed top and

			dished bottom. Height above ground is about 6 ft (1.8m) to the top of the dome; below ground about 20 ft (6.2m), diameter 12 ft (3.65m). Sited 400 yds (365 m) from the building it served.
MWA 2389	Medieval fishpond	(1066-1540)	<p>In fishpond Coppice in Weston Park covers the sites of three of the original eight fishponds in the Park. This is the only one to show surface indications today, although it is now dry.</p>
MWA 5285	Post-medieval manor house	(1540-1750)	<p>In the late 16th century Ralph Sheldon built a very fair house here. Dugdale gives a view of the house and grounds in 1730. Illustrations exist of the house in 1716 and 1787. The latter shows that the house was built of brick with stone quoins and embellishments. The house was occupied until 1826 when it was demolished to build a new house. The original Tuscan columns from the front of the house are now at Tidmington house. The approximate site of the house taken from a map of around 1820. Geophysical survey and lidar analysis, followed by trial trenching has now located parts of the associated gatehouse shown on the 1716 engraving in Dugdale.</p>
MWA 5286	Imperial House	(1751-1914)	<p>The Post Medieval manor house was demolished in 1826 when Sir George Philips built a new house on the same site. The house was abandoned by 1918, the contents sold in 1922 and the house demolished in 1934. Part of a wall that used to surround the front garden is still to be seen, and the stable block survives to the rear.</p>

4 MEDIEVAL BACKGROUND *Christopher Dyer*

Documents show that a village existed from the 13th to the early 16th century, but the origins of the settlement are likely to be much earlier. There was settlement and cultivation in the area in the prehistoric and Roman periods, though the precise location of the settlements in these periods is not known. The name Weston is not recorded until the 13th century, but it may have originated at an earlier date. In the later middle ages the township lay in Long Compton parish, and was held by a tenant of one of the Long Compton lords, but an earlier association with Cherington and the great manor of Brailes to which Cherington once belonged is implied by the name, as the village lay to the west of these places (Gover,

Mawer and Stenton 1936, 300). Had the connection with Long Compton been in place in the early days of the village and its territory, it would have been called Norton. Domesday Book contains no specific reference to it, though the huge manors of Long Compton (with 85 tenants) and Brailes with 145, including slaves, could in either case have included the people and land of Weston (Farley 1783, fos. 238b; 243c). It is first fully recorded in 1279, and appears in the tax lists of 1327 and 1332, when it was a sizable village, not much smaller than its neighbours, and unlikely to have been of recent origin (John 1992, 241-3; Carter and Fry 1902, 22; Carter 1926, 15).

The lord was John de Weston with a demesne of two carucates, which would equate to about 200 acres, and a water mill on the Stour. He had 24 tenants, of whom fourteen were villeins, three freeholders, and seven cottagers. Those who held more than a cottage were yardlanders (six of them) or half yardlanders (nine), with two holders of two yardlands each. The yardland was later said to have contained 26 acres, so all of these tenants held at least 13 acres, that is enough land in normal years to feed a family and pay the rent. Their total holdings amounted to 377 acres, which with the demesne arable would suggest 577 acres in the whole township under the plough. To this must be added meadows near to the River Stour, and areas of pasture and wood, though these are likely to have been small if the territory conformed with the normal balance between corn-growing fields and other uses of land in the vicinity.

A survey of 1355 records that the area under cultivation in the demesne, 368.5 acres, was much greater than the vaguely defined 'two carucates' of 1279, and together with 14.5 tenant yardlands, 377 acres as in 1279, makes a total of 745 acres (SCLA, DR 98/866). The latter figure, which may account for 83 per cent of the whole township area of about 900 acres (VCH 5, 52), is more likely than the 577 acres suggested by the 1279 document. The 1355 document shows that the arable was divided between two large open fields, Over Field and Nether Field. It also mentions pasture near the Cliff, which is still a field name in the 21st century west of the house (Warriner 1978, p. xiii). Meadow and a marsh also appear in the documents. The amount of meadow in the valley of the Stour may have been limited in size, judging from the reference to the practice of mowing headlands in the open fields for hay. The wood was called Scyrwood, but its location is not clear, and as often happened in this part of Warwickshire, the wood was large enough to supply fuel and fencing, and timber for building came from further afield (Wager 1998, 10-18). For example in 1352-3 timber for building work on the manor house was brought from Whichford park (SCLA, DR 98/865).

The demesne had pasture for 300 sheep and 24 cattle and horses. If each yardland could pasture 30 sheep and two larger beasts, then the villagers would have more animals than the demesne. Much of their sustenance came from the fallow field, as the division into two open fields suggests that c.370 acres were fallowed each year. Both the lord and the peasants were practising the 'sheep and corn' husbandry typical of the Warwickshire Feldon. The lord's demesne (then in the hands of John de Peyto) in 1352-3 planted 57 acres with wheat, peas and drage (mixed barley and oats), a third of which was wheat, and kept 279 sheep. This was a low level of activity: three times as much corn could have been grown, and more cattle kept. There was only enough corn in that unusual year to feed the estate workers and provide seed for the next year. Normally there would have been enough peas for sheep fodder in winter, and for some grain to be sold or consumed by the lord's household.

Surnames recorded in the earliest Weston records include the not uncommon Townsend, referring to someone who lived on the edge of the settlement, and names including the word 'marsh' (de Marisco) suggest that some villagers lived in a low-lying part of the village, presumably to the S.E. where the pools and 'moat' are now visible. The name Cecilia al Cimiterio (from the churchyard) suggests that there was a chapel where villagers were buried, which was strictly against the law, as burial rights were reserved to the parish church, in Weston's case at Long Compton. Almost every small village in south Warwickshire, however, appears to have had its own chapel, recorded in surveys or deeds, or from archaeological evidence. Weston's chapel reappears in Richard Buller's will of 1527 (TNA PROB 11/405/118, transcribed in Rainsberry 1969, 46).

Thomas atte Stret's name (bi the Strete in 1327) refer to a house near a main road. This is unlikely to mean the village street as most of the villagers had houses along it, so the name would not make him distinguishable from his neighbours, but more likely Thomas lived to the W. of the village where the route from Stratford to Oxford passed close to the later Weston Site (before it was redirected nearer to Little Wolford in the 18th century (H Warriner pers. comm.)) This western extension of the settlement which is not visible because it was covered by the buildings and gardens of the great house helps to explain the discrepancy between the archaeological and documentary evidence: the earthworks and pottery scatter represent the sites of perhaps sixteen houses but the survey of 1279 describes 24 messuages and cottages. The presence of a few messuages and cottages under Weston Site would account for some of the missing houses. The eastern extension of the village lay in a field which was known as the Green in recent centuries, and indeed the village was called Weston on the Green in the 18th century, but there is no evidence of a green here in the village's heyday.

The 18th-century name referred presumably to the Green which lay next to the great house, as by then memory of the village would have faded.

In 1279 the peasant tenants who held a yardland of 26 acres were normally not heavily burdened with obligations to the lord. Each paid 5s. per annum in cash, and were expected to work on the lord's land for about 8 days. They were also supposed to participate in malting the lord's corn in order to supply ale to his household. The lord, however, had an option of cancelling the 5s. payment and requiring the tenant to serve as his ploughman, and to do onerous carrying services. The lord (following the evidence of the 1355 survey) had an unusually large demesne, and needed to reserve to himself the possibility of acquiring the labour of a number of his tenants as ploughmen. (Postan 1954) An alternative source of labour came from the seven cottagers, who had to earn wages and would find employment working on the demesne. In 1352-3 the lord had two ploughs working, but employed 1 *tentor* (plough holder) and 2 *fugatores* (plough drivers) in the winter, and a *tentor* and 2 *fugatores* in the summer.

Each plough needed both a driver and a holder, and the other two plough holders were two tenants, serving as ploughmen and let off their rent, as the 1279 survey describes. The lord offered the tenants various reciprocal benefits, such as food on one of the harvesting days, cash and a bundle of grass at hay making, and some access to pasture. On the other hand the tenants were serfs needing permission to marry, and owed extra cash payments for pasturing cattle and sheep, pannage of pigs, toll on the sale of animals, eggs at Easter, and tallage (a collective cash payment) at will. The 1355 survey shows that as well as being expected to mill their corn in the lord's mill, the lord also had an oven at which (for a charge) the villagers were expected to bake their bread. Before the plague the tenant of the oven had been the significantly named Alice Baxter (female baker). The customary or servile tenants were also said to be liable to serve as reeve, administering the manor for the lord's benefit. The survey of 1355 showed that by that date labour services had been drastically reduced and the standard annual rent for a yardland had been fixed at 13s.4d. which was slightly higher than the average for the region.

The stability of village society is implied by the continuation of names over a long period. Instead of the usual rapid turnover of families, the surnames of 1332 are essentially the same as in 1279, and in 1355, after the Black Death of 1348-9, we find three Marshes, and a Franklin, Bernard and Whatcote, still perpetuating their family names after 76 years. In contrast the lordship of the manor had been in the hands of four or five families (Weston,

Broughton, Segrave, Chiriton, Peyto) in the same period (VCH 5, 54). The village enjoyed a number of advantages. Its fields were reasonably fertile, and the inhabitants had access to meadow in the Stour valley and some wood. They could easily reach the markets of Shipston and Moreton-in-Marsh, and lived on a main road that connected them with more remote destinations. Some of the villagers had more than adequate land holdings of 26 acres, and the cottagers would have been able to find work on the lord's large demesne. The lord wielded quite a strong hand over the tenants, but they were not as heavily burdened as in some nearby villages. A test of their prosperity is the proportion of villagers who were judged wealthy enough to contribute to the lay subsidies. Setting aside the lord of the manor, nine of a potential 24 appear on the tax lists of 1327 and 1332, which is about 38 per cent of the households, quite near to the national average (Carter 1926 15; Carter and Fry 1902, 22). The cottagers, and some of the half yardlanders, were exempted because they lacked sufficient goods and particularly animals.

The village was shrinking to some degree as early as 1355. The survey of that year lists ten vacant holdings, two yardlands, two half-yardlands, and six cottages. The tenants who were itemised amounted to seventeen, but two of these held land but no messuage or cottage, which leaves 15 tenants who were likely to have been resident householders. In addition to the landholdings, both the mill and the oven were vacant. The abandonment of most of the cottages was not untypical, as smallholdings were unattractive as land became more easily available. The mill and oven would have suffered from the reduction in the number of households consuming bread. The lord's financial accounts of 1352-3 suggest some problems affecting cultivation on the demesne, which may have been felt by the tenants also. The area under the plough was much smaller than the potential 368 acres, and there are references to leys, meaning arable land converted at least temporarily to grass. Extra expenditure on weeding was justified 'because many thistles'. Later Weston was known as 'Weston in the Thistles'.

Weston may have recovered from some of these problems recorded immediately after the 1349 epidemic. A survey of 1425 recording the one-third share of the manor held by the widow of the Duke of Norfolk valued the rents at £4 13s. 4d., so the whole manor would have been worth £14 per annum (Cal. Inq Post Mortem, 22, no.124). The sum is well in excess of the rent total calculated in 1355, but although the survey mentions payments by customary tenants, it probably included revenues from the demesne which at some time after the 1350s had probably been farmed out to tenants. It suggests that the village was still inhabited. Eight years later 10 marks (£6 13s. 4d.) could be granted as an income for life from the

profits of the manor to a follower of the Duke of Norfolk, showing that it was still generating income for its lord. (Cal. Inq. Post Mortem, 24 no.106).

The conventional history of deserted villages is much influenced by the dramatic events recorded in the Inquisition of Depopulation of 1517. This inquiry found that houses at Weston had been permitted by Henry Keble to be 'devastated and destroyed' on 6 December, 1509 (Leadam 1897, 2, 415-16). These amounted to seven messuages, each of which supported a plough and cultivated a holding of 26 acres, and a cottage. Together they had provided a livelihood for 38 people, that is almost five in each residence. A total of 200 acres of former arable is mentioned, but Dugdale's notes of the 1518 Inquisition refers to the same number of messuages and 350 acres, and it was said that all were desolated (Leadam 1897, 2, 652). Henry Keble fits the model of the acquisitive money making depopulator, as he was a merchant from Coventry who became mayor of London.

There may have been a fall in the population of the village in the late 14th and 15th centuries. The evidence for a long term decline can be inferred from the fact that the eight resident families who left in 1509 represent a half of the households apparently surviving after the Black Death in 1355, and a third of those in 1279. The implication of the 1517 allegation is that before the depopulation of 1509, but after 1355, at least seven houses had been abandoned and near to 200 acres of tenant land had been converted to pasture, and this would accord with a pattern of decay followed by removal of tenants in other villages (Dyer 1982). This would explain why John Rous of Warwick included 'Weston' in his list of destroyed villages in Warwickshire in c.1486, as he was prone to include partly deserted places (Rous 1745, 122). As well as the grassing over of the land held by the villagers, the lord's demesne was also largely converted to pasture, as its ploughed acreage declined from the 368.5 acres recorded in 1355 to 80 acres in 1509.

Part of the village may have survived the last phase of depopulation of 1509, and the occupation (or reoccupation) of one house in the 17th century is implied by finds of pottery of that date among the predominantly medieval sherds from the pottery scatter at (I) on the plan of the village earthworks. The mill may also have continued in use, or perhaps activity resumed there in modern times serving the inhabitants of such villages as Cherington. Only the great house of Weston (called a palace) appears in the Hearth Tax of 1670 (Arkell and Alcock 2010, 200).

The 1517 document refers to the displacement of ploughs and arable land being converted to the 'pasture of beasts', but enclosure is not mentioned. The increase in grazing is depicted in the remarkable will of Richard Buller of 1527 who bequeathed 1,640 sheep, 131 cattle, and 15 horses (TNA PROB 11/405/118, transcribed in Rainsberry 1969, 46-7). Weston was evidently not his only pasture, as he refers to half of a flock of sheep 'wintering there', as if some of his sheep wintered elsewhere; flocks could have spent their summers on higher ground, perhaps on Brailes Hill, or more likely on the Cotswolds to the south. He evidently regarded 'my ground at Weston' as his property, and that was his place of residence. He was probably Henry Keble's farmer, but instead of holding just the demesne on leasehold, his farm probably included the village and its fields as well as the c.400 acres of demesne. His specialism in pasture farming is suggested by his bequest of a cart, but not of a plough. He did not lack for corn as he seems to have leased a rectory, both the tithes and the glebe, which was probably that of Long Compton.

Weston had been gradually converting from a mainly arable to an entirely pastoral economy over a long period, and there can be no doubt of the profits that could be gained. Richard Buller was able to leave to his relatives and friends large flocks and herds, which were probably only part of his livestock, and also make bequests for various pious and more practical ends totalling a minimum of £22. Three years earlier he had been assessed for the new subsidy on goods worth £15, which would have been a considerable understatement (TNA:PRO, E199/192/122). In 1522 for the military survey 'the heir of Mr Keble', that is the lord of the manor, was assessed on lands worth £26 13s. 4d. per annum, so the manor was worth much more than the £11 at which it had been assessed in 1355, and the annual value of £14 in 1425 (L & P, 3, no. 3685). The lord of the manor would have received a high rent from the farmer, and the farmer would have had the opportunity to make profits for himself from the livestock he kept.

Buller may have lived in the manor house, as he refers in his will to his possession of the profit of the dovecot. Keble, based in London, was perhaps an absentee. Earlier lords, however, did inhabit the manor house. In the late 13th century John de Weston's name suggests that the manor house was his principal residence. In 1355, when the lord was John de Peyto (Dugdale 1730, 583), the residential buildings consisted of a hall, chambers, kitchen, brewhouse, larder, and the agricultural operations were served by a barn, stable, byre, poultry house and dovecot, and a farmyard. The financial accounts of 1352-3 hint at some luxury, as 10d was spent on bringing wine from Tewkesbury (the nearest river port for boats heading north from Bristol) and a penny was spent on a hen to feed a falcon. In 1509

there was a capital messuage, with 80 acres of cultivated land attached to it, presumably to provide food for a visiting household (Leadam 1897, 2, 652). The Sheldons may have built their residence on a new site in the late 16th century, in preparation for which a licence was obtained in 1545 to empark 300 acres of land formerly occupied by the village fields (VCH 5, 55).

The details of the history and archaeology of Weston can contribute to our understanding of wider issues in the long term development of settlements and farming methods. The territory of Weston was likely to have formed in the early middle ages out of land already cultivated in the Roman period. The original village was planned along a main street, but had at least two offshoots – it may have been polyfocal with three distinct centres of settlement growing simultaneously. The village may have originated as a secondary settlement, but it had a balanced social structure and the inhabitants seem to have been as prosperous as in neighbouring comparable communities. The lords of the manor were consistently members of lay aristocratic families, most of them gentry, who exercised a rather stronger lordship than is often found, though as is typical of such estates, they cultivated a large demesne that was potentially more productive of revenue than the rents paid by the peasant tenants.

Dependent villages, that worshipped in a chapel rather than a parish church, and which lived under the jurisdiction of a court held in another village, tended to be smaller than average and seem to have been more vulnerable to decay in the period of low population in the 14th and 15th centuries. In this period the village lost two-thirds of its houses, and presumably its land was converted partially to pastures. The last holdings were removed in 1509, and a combination of a commercially-minded lord and a profit-seeking farmer turned the whole township over to grazing. The changes in the farming system and the collapse of the peasant community were shared by many places in the Warwickshire Feldon. It was not inevitable that the village would fail totally, and the chance arrival of an individual lord pursuing a policy of rationalisation finally sealed the fate of a place which in its state of desolation became known as Weston in the Thistles. Instead of a village, Weston became the site of one of the largest country houses in Warwickshire, and parts of its surrounding land were converted from a pasture farm into a park and gardens. These grounds were doubtless redesigned in line with successive fashions. The modern landscape for pleasure gives us difficulties in distinguishing between the remains of the medieval settlement and the gardens. The great house went the same way as the peasant settlement, and farming has been re-established as the main function of the landscape.

Earthwork Survey 2012 (Fig 4)

The village earthworks were planned at Easter 2010 and on subsequent visits in 2011.

The earthworks represent a number of periods, and the original village plan is overlain by later features. The site is surrounded by extensive ridge and furrow, well defined to the north and north-east, fainter to the south, which together usefully define the boundaries of the area potentially occupied by the settlement's houses, yards and roads. The most prominent feature is a long depression running south to north in the middle of the site (**a**). This is likely to be the village street, which is flanked by roughly rectangular platforms to the south-west (**b**), the south-east (**c**) and the north-east (**d**). There are three ditches which could be narrow hollow ways leading west from the 'street' (**a**), which are labelled here (**e**), (**f**) and (**g**). A ditch continuing the line of **g** turns southward as if defining a rectangular enclosure fronting on to (**a**). On the east side of (**a**) apparently similar ditches/paths can be seen at (**h**). Fainter earthworks to the south, of the long depression (village street), on the other side of the driveway leading east-west to Weston Site, consist of shallow depressions and some terraces (**i**), but they could be post medieval. A well-defined hollow (**j**) runs south-north on the east edge of the field. This respects the ridge and furrow, and could be contemporary with it. When this depression reaches the modern east-west drive, there are a number of earthworks, depressions and terraces, including a ditch which turns a right angle, suggestive of the corner of a moated site (**k**). Across the lane leading south from the public road, well to the north-east of the main village earthworks, is a well-preserved platform (**l**), again contemporary with the ridge and furrow, with some apparently associated ditches and terraces. To the south of (**l**) is a ploughed field with a depression, stone fragments on the surface nearby, and a scatter of pottery, stippled on the map to show its varied density (**m**). The pottery dates from the Roman period to the 17th century, with a heavy emphasis on wares of the 12th and 13th centuries.

The earthworks and features labelled (**a**) to (**m**) are not necessarily all of one period, but they are likely to date from the period when the village was inhabited between the 10th and the 15th century. Other features are later, and belong to the time from the 16th century and later when the land became an adjunct to the great house of Weston. The obvious features of that period are the ice house (**n**) and the pools, now hidden in a wood (**o**), presumably from which the ice was obtained. More subtle post-village features are the systems of ditches (**p**), probably dug in two phases, which run down the E. side of the village street (**a**) from north to south, which seem to skirt round some of the earlier platforms, and in places cut through them. A small platform at (**q**) seems to be contemporary with these ditches. To the south

the banks and ditches (**k**) could be partly explained as a moat surrounding a house, but some of them look later than the village because they partly block the village street as they run across to the W. To the north a narrow hollow way (**r**) cuts through the ridge and furrow.

A brief interpretation can be attempted. The village was laid out on a north-south axis, with a street which approached from the south and then turned to the north-west, around (**k**) on the map. The street then proceeded to the N, but seems to reach a cul de sac, though it may have turned left (west) towards the northern end of what became the house and garden complex of Weston Site. The village houses stood mainly in two rows, now indicated by about ten platforms along both sides of the street. Some houses presumably stood to the south, and the depressions at (**i**) might represent yards around which buildings stood. A straight main street flanked by rows of houses is usually identified as a planned village, and it must be thought that a planning process took place in the early days of the settlement. The village stretched to the east, where at least two house sites are visible at (**l**) and (**m**). This could point to an expansion of the settlement in a period of population growth, probably in the 12th or 13th centuries, but the settlement may have had two or three simultaneous points of growth. The village was surrounded by arable land in its early stages – the village earthworks, especially to the north and north-east, conform with the prevailing orientation of the ridge and furrow, but we do not know which came first, and they could have been laid out at the same time. The medieval manor house, which we know was an extensive structure in the 14th century, may be visible among the earthworks at (**k**). The ditches are not a very deep or prominent moat as they survive today, but on the map of 1824 they look much more convincing as two arms of a moat (Warwickshire CRO CR1635/357). This would explain the apparent kink in the road system between (**a**) and (**a**). It is still possible that the medieval manor stood on the rising ground later used to accommodate the successive houses which occupied Weston Site. If this is the case, then the ‘moat’ and other earthworks at (**k**) could have been garden features – the plot of land adjacent to them to the south was named ‘Old Garden’ in 1824, and canals and pools were favoured in the garden designs of the 17th century.

After the decline of the settlement, long ditches were dug through the village earthworks at some stage, perhaps to drain the land, or more likely to irrigate the pasture that occupied the village site. A narrow lane (**r**) went over the uncultivated field system to the north. The ice house (**n**) was built and new roads laid out. The map of 1824 shows a puzzling group of rectangular ponds, corresponding to the pools in the wood, and the ‘moat’, and others to the S. perhaps connected with the ‘Old Garden’. In the 19th and 20th centuries the whole site

may have been cultivated, which would explain the lack of sharpness and clarity in the earthworks.

5 THE SHELDON HOUSE AT WESTON *Henry Warriner*

Many Sheldon records were destroyed during the civil war. EAB Barnard (1936) quotes William Sheldon (1588/9-1659) in *“The book of Beoley Manor”*, now lost; *“That in Sept. 1643 my house at Weston in Warwickshire was ransacked and my cattle and goods taken away by souldiers to a great vallow”*. *“That in Dec. following my house at Beoley was burnt to the ground and all my goods and cattle there plundered by the souldiers to a very great vallow besides the incurable loss of my chiefest evidence and court rolls consumed in the fire.”* Some of their archives passed to George Philips when he bought Weston in 1819 and are now in Warwick Record Office (Warriner loan). Others were probably dispersed following the death, commemorated in Brailes churchyard, of Henry James Sheldon in 1901. *“This monument was erected by his only sister, Isabel Calmady, the last of the Sheldons.”*

In 1586 and 1588 Ralph Sheldon (died 1613) was building his new house at Weston. (WRO CR2632). The tapestry maps that Ralph commissioned to hang in his house include recognisable images of the house. No other descriptive record survives of the house in the 16th century and we do not know when it was first occupied, when the gatehouse was built or when the medieval manor house, recorded in Richard Buller's will, was demolished. A link with the earlier Manor house comes from 1599 when Edward Bickerstaffe of Daylesford claimed that his wife Elizabeth, a granddaughter of Richard Buller, was entitled to some of the Sheldon land at Weston. This claim appears to have failed (TNA C2/Eliz/B9/34).

17th century sources, though plentiful, are hardly more useful in obtaining a description of the houses at Weston:

Examination of Thos Savage, of Weston, servant to Wm. Sheldon, taken 6 Feb 1645-6. (Calendar of State Papers Domestic: Charles I, 1645-7 1645. 28 Nov. Vol DXI. 57 page 240,241.) *“That shortly after Kineton fight, Captain Needham, with a party of horse, took out of the grounds of Mr Sheldon 10 oxen and 12 cows, which were driven to Kenilworth garrison, and about the same time a party of horse from Warwick Castle took a trunk or two of Mr Sheldon's, containing plate, linen, &c. That Lord Gray's soldiers, about the time when the Earl of Essex went to relieve Gloucester, took 5 horse and mares from Mr Sheldon, and plundered his house of goods worth 300”*.

(Committee for Advance of Money – Cases 1648. 17 March): *“Wm. Sheldon, Beeley, Co. Worcester, and Weston, Co. Warwick, Papist Delinquent. Information that ---- Bagshaw, M.P., has in hand 7,000l belonging to Sheldon, who adhered to the King and the malignants all through the late unnatural war against Parliament, and has kept it concealed these 5 years, for which his estate is also liable to be sequestered according to the Ordinance of Parliament”*.

In 1670 Weston Palace is recorded with 38 hearths, the sixth most numerous of any house in Warwickshire (Arkell & Alcock 2010). Even if this total included the stables and outbuildings the house was one of the largest in the county.

In 1676 Anthony à Wood, the Oxford antiquarian, first met Ralph Sheldon in Oxford. Wood later paid many visits to Weston. In July 1676 Wood stayed at Weston for ten weeks, cataloguing the library and he records the tips he gave to the (named) servants there, but he never describes the house (Wood 1891).

Ralph Sheldon, a committed Catholic, was a dangerous friend – in 1678 Weston was searched for arms and in the same year Ralph was taken by the High Sheriff to be imprisoned in Warwick. In December Wood was investigated by the Vice Chancellor of Oxford University because of his friendship with Ralph *“and sorry he seem'd to be, because he could find nothing, that he could not please the parliament: he would (have) hanged me.”*

Ralph died in 1684. Anthony Wood was in charge of the funeral. *“I had caused the hall at Weston, staircase, dining roome, roome of state, to be hung with scocheons, Mr Sheldon's body laid in state and was viewed by above 500 country people.”* A funeral procession took the body to Beoley for burial.

Wood has this note about tapestry at Weston *“Richard Hycks was bound prentice to a Dutch arras weaver in Holland by Ralph Sheldon (who built the great house at Weston in com. Warw. anno 1588), and being out of his time settled at Barcheston (a manor that belongs to the Sheldons) and made and weaved those fair hangings that are in the dining roome at Weston”* (Wood 1891, footnote).

The second edition of Dugdale's *The Antiquities of Warwickshire Illustrated* which was published in 1730 contains Beighton's 1716 print “The south east Prospect of Weston.” The perspectives of this drawing are clearly wrong and following this archaeological survey it is

now obvious that Beighton flattered his client and that the separation of the gatehouse and Weston Hall was far less than he showed. It also follows that the ornamental gardens were on a much smaller scale than was suggested.

The house at Weston did not always impress visitors, very few of whom have left any recollections for posterity. In 1741, probably, Judith Townsend of Honington wrote to a friend (Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies: D-X1069/2/112): *"We have dined once, at Mr. Sheldons; wch tho' ye situation seems to be very pretty, is a very disagreeable house, for the rooms are very dark, & what windows there are, are so high you can see nothing wth out getting up & looking out of them"*.

In 1747 John Loveday of Caversham visited Weston *"This magnificent large old house, built of stone, has a noble gallery well-proportioned. In the great parlour are the celebrated Tapestry-Hangings, being spacious and very distinct maps of several counties in England. ... But in the great parlour are portraits of several of our Princes and contemporary Monarchs, such as Francis 1st of France, together with several of our great men ... Henrys 5, 6 and 7 begin the collection and are just like those on the Provost's Great Parlour at Eton. Besides many family pictures, here are admirable good ones of some Popes and Cardinals"* (Markham 1984).

The next visitor who left a surviving record and the only written confirmation of existence of the gatehouse was Horace Walpole in 1768 *"Weston in Warwickshire, M^r Sheldon's. good Situation with wood and water. disparked. pretty gatehouse with bow-windows. very ancient House, in bad repair. some windows modernized. large hall almost in ruins. old cielings. James 1st chimneys. Handsome great dining-room with chimney d^o. Kings of England from Henry 5th to Edward 6th both inclusive. Prince Arthur, very like Henry 7th. Three large maps of Counties in Tapestry, but with the arms of Queen Elizabeth. Teddington spelled Tuddington. views of all the old seats of that time in the maps. Several of Charles 2nd's beauties. very handsome Duchess of Cleveland; Lady Chesterfield, M^{rs} Middleton, Lady Whitmore qu. if not Witnell of Grammont. good old picture of Giles Lord Chandow. Gallery at top of the House 160 feet long, trunk cieling. Mary Countess of Arundel 1578 aet. 21. an old Woodman, very good. three very ancient pieces of Kings of the Heptarchy. a picture of Sir Henry Saville"* (Toynbee 1928). Walpole subsequently bought the tapestry maps at the sale of Weston House contents in 1781.

In 1776 E Blyth produced a print "Weston in Warwickshire. The seat of William Sheldon Esq." (*Antiquarian Repertory* 1780, also in WCRO and Birmingham Archives). The ornamental garden has disappeared, replaced by parkland. The gatehouse remains.

A description of Weston in 1780 is provided in the *Antiquarian Repertory*, (2nd edition). This seems to confirm that the formal gardens had been converted into the parkland shown in the print of 1776. *"This House is situated on a fine knole, from which the lawn gradually descends, and is bounded by clumps and a grove of very large trees ; the extensive prospects, the inequality of the ground, and the luxuriancy of the trees, make the whole extremely picturesque and beautiful."*

Much of the other information in this reference is however incorrect, not least the attribution of the "Maids of Honour's room" to a supposed visit by Queen Elizabeth 1st. in 1572 which would have predated the building of the house. The "Maid of Honour's room" was so called for Frances Sheldon, first cousin of Ralph (1623-1684). She had been Maid of Honour to Catherine of Braganza, Charles II's wife.

William Sheldon died in 1780 in Ghent. He appointed his younger son William as his sole executor. The wealth of the family had vanished, replaced by massive debts and as the first stage in sorting out the family's problems William organised the sale of the contents of Weston in August 1781.

The sales catalogue (TNA PROB 31/722 683) lists the contents of the house room by room. It was most likely to have been a viewing list for prospective bidders. It would probably have been impractical to have taken them round the house during the auction. It does not necessarily list every room or building and definitely omits the chapel (although it includes "The Bed Chamber below the Chapel"). The contents of a number of outbuildings are included but there is no explicit reference to the gatehouse. The contents of Weston sold for £3,392.

We know that the house contained a private Catholic chapel as Frederick Crisp published in 1898 a transcription of the *"Baptisms in the Private Chapel of Sir William Sheldon of Weston in the Parish of Long Compton Warwickshire 1763-1784"*. T. Brendan Minney, in his article *Sheldons of Beoley* in *Worcestershire Recusant*, May 1965 states *"About 1780, the chaplaincy at Weston was discontinued...."* A further drawing is dated 1781 or 7. It was

possibly for architectural purposes and shows the front of the house, presumably whilst it was unoccupied.

A more attractive pencil drawing by Edward Blore (architect of the Philips house) is dated to about 1820 by WCRO. It shows the house with a small area in front, several shrubs and no ornamental garden. This appears to be the source for a drawing by T. Radclyffe dated 1829, after the demolition of the house (*A New and Compendious History of the County of Warwick ...* by William Smith published in 1830. p 52).

Weston appears to have been largely unoccupied until 1790 when Ralph leased it to the Earl of Powis (SCLA). The lease mentions “household stuff” which suggests that the 1781 sale had not emptied the house entirely. The Earl of Powis leased the Mansion, stables, coach house, old maltkiln, greenhouse and pleasure grounds, the fishponds and ponds. The house was clearly not in perfect condition – “*the said Ralph Sheldon shall put into proper repair the roof of the house offices stables coach house and old maltkiln and open up such of the windows (now stopped up) as the said Earl of Powis shall desire.*” There is no explicit mention of the gatehouse.

In 1812 Ralph and his son Edward Sheldon leased Weston to the Earl of Clonmell (WCRO CR456 Box 7 part 1). This lease was renewed in 1817 (also WRO CR456 Box 7 part 1) so that when Weston was sold in 1819 the house was tenanted. The lease was further renewed between George Philips and The Earl of Clonmell for 5 years from October 1821. “*That capital messuage and Mansion House called Weston Hall with offices stables coach house dog kennels greenhouse garden houses hot house 2 several gardens or pieces of garden ground pleasure grounds lawn shrubberies and premises in and about which the said mansion stands and usually held and enjoyed therewith containing 16 acres together with several fixtures, household goods, beer casks, brewing and dairy utensils, furniture and effects of the said Ralph Sheldon being in and about the said capital messuage or Mansion house and premises mentioned and particularly comprised in a schedule or inventory thereof.*” “*and also the fish ponds belonging to the said mansion house and all the fish of whatever nature that are now or shall be hereafter found therein.*” The 1812 inventory is lost.

The later agreement between George Philips and the Earl of Clonmell has a further clause in the lease: “*and for such further term as Ralph Sheldon should live.*” Ralph by then of Donnington Cottage in Berkshire and MP for Wilton died in November 1822 so this clause had no effect.

Cherry carried out a survey of the property in 1817 (WCRO CR450 Boxes 4/5) and the 1819 sales documents largely repeat this survey. The full abstract of title (WCRO CR456 Box 17 part iii) runs to more than 230 pages. The property sold is itemised by fields, with their areas, and includes: *“all that ... Mansion house called Weston House situate in the hamlet of Weston ... with the stables coach houses buildings pleasure grounds gardens ...*

[measured in acres, roods (1/4 of an acre) and perches. (40 perches to one rood)]

the site of the said Mansion house.. 9a.0.10

Budds Close and Old Town with the buildings fish ponds and plantations

21a.3.36

The old Garden 3a.1.29

the piece by the side of the road and fish ponds 1a.3.5

the Clift 16a.1.15

... are now or late were in the occupation of the Right Honourable the Earl of Clonmel under a lease thereof for the life of the said Edward Sheldon” (this was a misprint for Ralph, Edward’s father).

Ralph and his son Edward sold the entire Weston estate to George Philips in 1819. The associated documents, mainly at WCRO (for example CR456 17 box iv. and CR343 1306) are immensely complicated because the Sheldons had repeatedly borrowed money using Weston as their security. Their mortgages had been bequeathed in wills adding another layer of complexity with the need to establish the current legal owners. Their accumulated mortgages and other liabilities at about £110,000 comfortably exceeded the money – £75,000, that they received from the sale.

A friend of George Philips wrote to him in July 1819 (WCRO CR456/50) in the clear expectation that George would be living in the Sheldon’s house. *“My dear Friend, ... I am sincerely glad that you all have so good an opinion of Weston. It is heartily hoped that George’s great great grandchildren may play about in the library from generation to generation, that all may be good, the boys active and clever and the girls pretty and domestic ...”*

Following Ralph’s death in 1822 there was a sale of the contents of Weston House by order of his executors (*Jacksons Oxford Journal 1823*) which included: *“80 fine old paintings, in rich gilt frames, handsome billiard table, 12 feet by 6, eight-day dial clock, a large assortment of fenders and fire irons, Baker’s patent mangle, Mahogany sideboards, oak chests, oak presses, 20 large Iron-bound casks, in high condition, a 20. bushel mash tub,*

with a number of useful brewing and washing tubs, 120 gallon brewing copper, with a brass cock, barrel churn, with different kinds of dairy, brewing, and washing utensils."

A further sale took place in September 1826 of The Earl of Clonmell's farming stock (Birmingham Gazette 4th Sept 1826): "*Extensive and superior Flock of fat Wethers and Shearhogs, well-bred Durham and Alderney cows, true-bred Durham and Alderney Bulls, blood Colts, Pigs, Implements of Husbandry, Ricks of old and new Wheat, Barley, Beans, Oats and Hay, the extensive neat and valuable Household Furniture, with the Dairy and Brewing Utensils, Barrels, Greenhouse Plants, &c. at WESTON HOUSE, near Long Compton, Warwickshire.*" The sale was "*on the premises of the Right Hon. the Earl of Clonmell, who is leaving Weston house.*" This sale suggests that the Sheldon house was still standing in September 1826.

Construction of the new house started in 1827 and was effectively completed in 1830. Extensive details of the building of the house are given in M H Warriner's *A Prospect of Weston in Warwickshire*.

The icehouse was built in 1828. No plans for the icehouse survive. The agent Charles Murton's diary for January 1829 (WCRO *Thomas's Daily Register* 1829): "*New ice house filled with ice on Monday 19th and two following days. Ice house contains about 80 cart loads. About half ton of salt mixed with the ice.*"

The Philips then set about altering the landscape and in 1829 diverted the road between the Wolfords and Cherington away from the boundary of their gardens (WCRO QS32/2 and minute book of Quarter sessions for 1829). In 1845 the turnpike road, now the A3400 Oxford to Stratford road, was moved off the skyline into the adjacent valley in order to hide the house and gardens from passing travellers.

A further survey of Sir George Philips's land in Weston was carried out in 1854. Many of the field names are still in use, although not always for the same pieces of land. The fishponds appear to have survived, as did the field name "Old Town", remembering the site of the medieval village.

The Philips house, unoccupied for several years and afflicted with dry rot, was demolished in 1934 and its site planted with trees. A few Victorian conifers and bamboos survive from the shrubbery. Otherwise only the elaborate stables and ice house survive.

6 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The main aim of the evaluation was to form an understanding of the archaeological remains and their potential to shed light on the lives and practices of the people who worked, lived and died at Weston. Secondary aims included placing the results in their wider local and regional contexts as appropriate. The objectives were to locate, record and analyse archaeological materials and deposits and to disseminate the results in an appropriate format.

Specific aims

Four trial trenches were to be excavated in an attempt to resolve specific issues:

- 1 Establish the chronology and character of the building
 - How extensive was the activity over time?
 - When did it start and end?
 - What can be discovered about the nature of structures and other activity on the site?
 - How were these constructed? what function did they perform?
- 2 Provide information on the survival and quality of the archaeological resource to assist in the management of the resource and aid future enquiry
 - How truncated were features and deposits?
 - What types of material evidence might be expected and what had survived?
- 3 Archive and disseminate the results of the work as appropriate

The four trenches were excavated using a 180° wheeled excavator with a 1.6m toothless ditching bucket. In all cases the trenches were excavated down to the top of archaeological deposits and then all further work was carried out by hand. Trench 1 was designed to examine the gatehouse of the 16th-century Sheldon Mansion as indicated by the geophysical survey and earthwork survey. Upon opening the trench it became clear that the building was not easy to interpret so a second trench was opened (Trench 2). The ground sloped gently from north to south and more steeply from west to east. Trench 3 was to examine the interior of the medieval moated manor complex and to sample potential structural remains. It was 20.3m long and varied considerably in depth, being almost 1m deep at the western end but only 0.4m deep at the eastern end. Trench 4 was to examine one of the potential medieval buildings as well as the curvilinear enclosure complex.

7 EXCAVATIONS *Bryn Gethin and Stuart Palmer*

The Moated Site (Trench 3)

A substantial building was implied by an arrangement of limestone walls (304, 305, 306). The walls were recorded as a single course without bonding but with dressed faces (0.9m wide). Between the walls was a large hearth or oven 317 which was sufficiently hot to burn the adjacent stonework reddish orange. The oven was lined with a layer of reddish yellow clay (307) along its northern edge which had been partially fired by repeated heating and above this was a deposit of black ash and charcoal (308) over 0.1m in depth. The southern edge of 308 was covered by a layer of greyish brown clay loam and limestone rubble (313). An adjacent floor layer (302) comprised yellowish brown clay loam with small limestone fragments.

To the east was another wall 315 which had been partially robbed out (309) and backfilled using fragments of stone roof tiles made from thinly split limestone. This feature suggests that a considerable depth of stratigraphy could survive within the moat island.

Overlying all of the walls was demolition rubble (301) from which pottery and roof tile were recovered. A single fragmentary glazed ridge tile attested to the high status of some of the buildings within the moat.

Medieval Settlement

Trench 4 was L-shaped and the western end was extended to cross the 'holloway' or village street. The street was metalled with packed pebbles and limestone fragments (405) and was at least 1.4m wide with a possible roadside ditch immediately to the east backfilled with grey clay loam (406) and leaving no appreciable earthwork.

A timber-framed building was implied by a 0.8m wide linear arrangement of limestone rubble and pebbles 402. Sherds of 12th- to 13th-century pottery were recovered from between the stones along with a large conical lead weight. An overlying spread of limestone rubble (403) probably represented the tumbled remains of a dwarf wall.

Two later 18th- to mid-19th-century pits of uncertain function were excavated (407 and 409). Rectangular pit 407 was 3.6m long and over 0.6m wide and its loamy fill (408) produced two 18th- or 19th-century pottery sherds, whilst adjacent pit 409 was 3m long and up to 0.78m wide and produced small fragments of brick or roof tile.

The Gatehouse (Trenches 1 and 2)

The gatehouse was represented by a number of limestone walls broadly confirming the NW/SE axis, although ascertaining the position of the walls relative to the historical representation and using the archaeological evidence to reconstruct the footprint of the gatehouse, or any building for that matter, remains problematic.

The clues to this conundrum are the two areas of pitched stone floor in Trench 2 (203 and 211). Originally 203 was thought to be the remains of a carriageway but given that it was not reproduced in Trench 1, internal flooring is more likely. These pitched floors then equate with the bays on the Dugdale image and show that Trench 2 was located just inside the eastern façade. The substantial wall 201 then becomes the pier between the gate and the northern bay, which would have been replicated on the south but the stone had been removed only leaving the foundation rubble 212 at the end of wall 202. The entrance was thus approximately 2.6m wide but given the offsetting it was marginally wider inside the building. The narrow foundation 209 seems likely then to have been either for the outer bay.

None of the structural elements in Trench 1 match those in Trench 2 which implies asymmetry from front to rear. The substantial wall 101 must have been partnered by a wall robbed from the top of foundation 108, which therefore suggest wall foundation 102 was an internal partition, supporting a timber frame. A mortar floor surface (109) to the south of wall 101 survived either side of walls 102 and 103.

A rough stone drain 106, which contained a large fragment of carved limestone plinth or coping is uncertain to have been internal or external to the building. Similarly two linear spreads of limestone rubble (213 and 214) at the northern edge of Trench 2 are difficult to interpret but are likely to have been external features.

Very few of the finds recovered relate to the occupation of the house as opposed to its demolition. The finds-rich layer 107, possibly related to the foundation 108, contained medieval and post-medieval material. Most of the pottery from these trenches came from demolition deposits and does not relate. Limestone rubble features 213 and 214 mainly contained pottery of the 17th and 18th centuries but included pearlware of early 19th century date.

A large number of tobacco pipe fragments of the later 17th century were recovered, along with nearly 400 fragments of window glass derived from diamond panes and some lead

pieces to secure them. The 18th-century engravings depict mullioned windows of the appropriate type.

8 MEDIEVAL POTTERY *Stephanie Ratkai*

Introduction and Methodology

A small assemblage of pottery was recovered. The site of Weston-juxta-Cherington had previously been fieldwalked in 2013 (Dyer 2013) and some of the pottery information derived from that exercise has been incorporated (albeit briefly) in this report. The pottery ranged in date from the 12th century through to the early 19th century with the greater part of the pottery dating to the 17th and 18th centuries.

The pottery was divided into fabric or ware types and matched to the Warwickshire County Pottery Type Series (*WCTS*, Soden and Rátkai 1998), where possible. The pottery was quantified by sherd count and weight. All data were stored on Excel spreadsheets.

Pottery fabrics and wares, sources and chronology

MEDIEVAL

The most common medieval pottery had an oolitic limestone-tempered fabric (*WCTS* CO01). This ware is sometimes known as calcareous gravel-tempered ware or Cotswold oolitic ware. It is found in Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire (Mellor 1994, Fabric OXAC) and there were two main areas of production; one around Winchcombe, Gloucestershire and another in the Wychwood, Oxfordshire (Mellor 1994, 50). There are likely to have been several sites making this ware. Cotswold oolitic ware is not uncommon on sites in Warwickshire, particularly those of Saxo-Norman date. The ware was first made in the Late Saxon period and continued to be made into the 13th century by which time its distribution was less extensive. The early trade in Cotswold oolitic ware may have been facilitated by the use of the Fosse, which runs some 11km to the west of Shipton-under-Wychwood, a production site suggested by Mellor (1994). The identifiable vessels in this ware were straight-sided cooking pots with club rims, a classic form of the early post-Conquest period and through the 12th century.

A variant of *WCTS* Fabric CO01 was found. At present this is not in the Warwickshire County Type Series and is denoted in this report as *WCTS* Fabric CO01.1. Three sherds from a single vessel, a possible storage jar, with an applied thumbled cordon below the rim,

were recorded in Trench 3, layer 302. The fabric differs slightly from Fabric CO01 in having a sparse sub-rounded quartz grains and large shell platelets within the clay body; the surface feel is also harsher. The vessel form is also not one associated with Fabric CO01. However a very close parallel can be found for it (Mellor 1994, fig.46, 6) in Early Medieval-Late Medieval North West Oxfordshire ware (Fabric OXCX). The parallel is undated but the form is reminiscent of some of the large Saxo-Norman storage jars but there is very little to go on. Mellor (1994, 110) suggests Ascott-under-Wychwood and Leafield as sources for this ware.

Only one other calcareous-tempered ware was noted from the site; a bead rim from a cooking pot/jar in a shelly fabric. This has been coded CS. The form and fabric suggest an origin in the east or south-east Midlands but there are shelly limestone outcrops in Warwickshire at the foot of the Cotswolds, so a more local source is not impossible.

Two further links to the Oxford region are provided by an early Oxford ware cooking pot sherd and an early Brill ware (Mellor 1994, Fabrics OXY and OXAW respectively). The early Brill ware is effectively a transition from early Oxford ware to the 'full-blown' Brill ware (Oxford fabric OXAM) of the mid-13th century and later. The Brill sherd was decorated with red slip – a small section of which survived along one edge of the sherd. Neither of these wares has a precise code in the Warwickshire type series and they have been recorded here as Sq06.1 and Sq06.2. A black, sandy cooking pot sherd, *WCTS* Fabric RS03 may be from the south-east Midlands.

Three wares were from north Warwickshire; Reduced Deritend Ware (from Birmingham, see Rátkai 2009b), Coventry-type ware and Wolvey-type ware. Perhaps surprisingly, Reduced Deritend ware is far more widely distributed in Warwickshire than Coventry or Coventry-type wares. Wolvey-type ware was first identified at Wolvey (Rátkai 1998) along with North Warwickshire Granitic ware but both were probably made in the Nuneaton area, although different from the 'standard' Chilvers Coton wares (Mayes and Scott 1984).

Overall the medieval pottery seems to belong to the 12th or 13th centuries, regardless of whether it came from the Moat, the Gatehouse or the deserted village. There was only one glazed sherd (early Brill ware), the remaining sherds, being for the most part sooted, seem to have been from cooking pots. Indeed, it is possible that the date range of the pottery is c.1100-c.1250.

POST-MEDIEVAL

There is very little pottery that can definitely be ascribed to the later medieval or early post-medieval transitional phase, i.e. the 15th-16th centuries, apart from three sherds; a pipkin (*WCTS* Fabric SLM20) probably a product of the Wednesbury kilns in South Staffordshire, a Cistercian ware cup and a Cologne stoneware drinking jug, the glaze and form of which suggest a 16th-century date.

A major component of the post-medieval assemblage was the generic 'Glazed Red Earthenware' (*WCTS* Fabric GRE). This was primarily a utilitarian ware, with a sandy orange or red fabric and olive, orange or tan glazes. There is no evidence that the ware was made in Warwickshire. Glazed Red Earthenware is found in the east and south-east Midlands, and East Anglia, where it strongly influenced by Dutch redwares (Jennings 1981, 157-58). It is made from the mid-16th to 18th centuries and production seems to have taken place at a number of places.

Glazed red earthenware does occur sporadically on Warwickshire sites, particularly those in the south-east and east of the county. Examples have also been found in Coventry (for example a candlestick, Rátkai 2013, 127, plate 8.7 and a jug from the same site). However the more usual utilitarian ware in Warwickshire is coarseware (*WCTS* Fabric CW) – a poorly mixed fabric, although some clean red fabrics are known, varying in colour from cream through orange and salmon pink to red. Glazes are predominantly brown or black (definitions of coarseware, blackware and slip-coated ware can be found in Rátkai 2009b, 102-105). It was probably made from towards the end of the 16th century to the 19th but is particularly common in the 17th and 18th centuries (see Rátkai 1987; Rátkai 2009b). Known production sites are in Staffordshire eg Burslem and Hanley in the Potteries (Kelly and Greaves 1974; Greaves 1976) and Wednesbury (Rátkai forthcoming).

Other wares that are likely to have been made in Staffordshire are blackware, yellow ware, mottled ware, slip-coated ware, feathered slipware and trailed slipware. These wares were produced in substantial quantities and could be loosely described as table wares, although some more utilitarian forms eg colanders, jars and mixing bowls or sanitary forms (chamber pots) are found. This group of wares are found in the 17th and 18th centuries where they bridge the gap between the most basic utilitarian or kitchen wares and formal dining wares.

Wares associated with 'formal dining' are white salt-glazed stoneware and creamware, both of which were found associated with the Tudor Gatehouse. Unfortunately there was very

little of either of these two wares. More disappointingly, few sherds could be identified to form and those that could were from a white salt-glazed stoneware mug or jug base and a creamware chamber pot. However, there was evidence of tea drinking. A small fragment of a possibly burnt pearlware tea bowl with painted blue decoration was noted, and a small rim sherd from a blue transfer-printed pearlware saucer was identified. The tea bowl dates to the later 18th century, possibly pre-dating the Commutation Act of 1784 when the tax on tea was substantially reduced making it more affordable to a greater section of society and thus reducing its elite status. The foliate border decoration on the saucer could date to the 1820s. Confirmation of tea-drinking is provided by a sherd from a Chinese export porcelain saucer, with internal blue painted decoration and two minute sherds of black basalt ware, a stoneware produced by Wedgwood in the 18th century (and later) and used for tea wares.

A large number of very battered sherds of tin-glazed earthenware were recovered. The sherds were generally small and a large number had areas where the glaze had flaked away from the body and in some cases was entirely absent. Two undecorated plates or shallow bowls were identified. At least one chamber pot was present with the possibility of two further examples. Tin-glazed earthenware was popular for chamber pots in the 17th and 18th centuries and a large collection of discarded chamber pots of this ware were found outside the Reader's House, Ludlow (Rátkai 2015). The third form that could be identified was the *albarello* or drug jar. One of these had painted cobalt blue decoration. Two rim sherds appear to have come from small *albarelli*, and a base-body sherd with manganese purple decoration may have been from a large drug jar (or possibly a bowl). Three function classes are therefore represented by the tin-glazed earthenware; table ware, sanitary ware and medicinal ware.

A final category of household ceramics was made up of Rhenish stoneware drinking jugs and/or bottles. The sherds were usually small and often very worn making identification difficult. A maximum of nine drinking jugs were identified. There was only one decorative element, a rosette medallion in a grey stoneware; this could be a Frechen product or an early Westerwald stoneware. For this report, stoneware with a grey body and golden brown surface or mottles has been called Cologne/Frechen stoneware; stoneware with a grey body and large dark brown mottles has been called Frechen stoneware, sometimes known as 'tiger ware'. Whatever the sources of the stoneware, they are most likely to date to the 17th century.

A further group of stoneware drinking jug sherds (representing six vessels) were found with the Rhenish stoneware. These were characterised by a very thin worn brown glaze and an absence of mottling on the glaze. One vessel had a reddish slip beneath the glaze. The use of an iron-rich slip is attested in English stoneware (see Gaimster 1995, 164, fig. 163). It is difficult to be certain if all these sherds are from English brown salt-glazed stoneware copies of the Rhenish vessels or very worn Cologne stoneware types. If the former then they are date to the late 17th or early 18th century, if the latter then they are more likely to date to the 16th century. Unfortunately there is nothing diagnostic about the sherds e.g. base form and decoration that might help identify the source more definitively but given the other pottery with which the sherds were found the later date and an English source is perhaps more likely.

Activity associated with horticulture was represented by sherds from garden pots or flowerpots. Some of these were decorated with white slip bands on the base, body or rim. Although numerous sherds were found, this material was unfortunately too fragmentary to say much about the vessel forms. Extensive formal gardens surrounded the Sheldon mansion and small clipped trees or shrubs in ceramic pots can be seen on the 18th-century engraving of the house.

The pottery and the site

The greater part of the pottery dated to the 17th and 18th centuries and was associated with the gatehouse of the Sheldon mansion. The house itself was demolished in 1826 and the gatehouse appears to have gone by the 1813 (Ordnance Survey 2 inch to 1 mile map). Only a small amount of pottery was found on the deserted village site.

The deserted village site (Trench 4) produced medieval pottery dating to the 12th to 13th centuries. The dominant fabric was Cotswold oolitic ware (see Appendix C: **Table 1**). A small Roman sherd was present in **402** and post-medieval coarseware pottery was found in **410**, the fill of pit **409**, the only pottery from this context, and a single flower pot sherd was found in the topsoil **400**.

Trench 3, sited over the Moat, contained medieval pottery of a similar date to that found in Trench 4 (see Appendix C: **Table 2**). Cotswold oolitic ware was again present, including the possibly early jar with thumbled neck cordon (see above). Fill **310** is dated by the presence of Wolvey-type ware. There is no very close dating evidence, other than a 13th-century *floruit* but here, at Weston-juxta-Cherington, the ware was probably in use in the first half of

the 13th century. Layer **302**, a possible floor surface, is also medieval in date. Cotswold oolitic ware and Reduced Deritend ware were found in it, again suggesting a 13th-century date, although the pottery could be residual, incorporated into the floor make-up. Six small late medieval sherds were almost certainly intrusive, since they are part of the Wednesbury ware pipkin found in rubble spread **301**. In the rubble spread, the earliest sherd was from the pipkin dating to the 15th or 16th centuries. A tall, Cistercian ware cup, dating to the later 15th to mid-16th century and a 16th-century Cologne stoneware drinking jug were also found in (**301**). It is quite possible that these three sherds were from the medieval manor house. The remaining pottery (particularly the yellow ware and coarseware sherds) from the rubble indicate that it dates from the 17th or 18th centuries.

Most of the pottery came from Trenches 1 and 2 (Appendix C: **Table 3**), which were associated with the Tudor gatehouse, and from demolition deposits therein. Limestone rubble **213** and **214**, possibly robbed-out wall lines, mainly contained pottery of the 17th and 18th centuries. This pottery was probably that used by someone living in the gatehouse. It is here that many of the stoneware drinking jugs and bottles were found. However, sherds of pearlware in **213** may indicate when the robbing took place. The blue transfer-printed pearlware is of a type likely to date to the early 19th century, and includes part of a saucer with a foliate border datable to the 1820s. Demolition deposits (contexts **207** and **219**) contain pottery that seems to have derived from occupation of the gatehouse and again, mainly dates from the 17th and 18th centuries. Further sherds of pearlware and blue transfer-printed earthenware may be intrusive as map evidence appears to show that the gatehouse had been demolished by the early 1800s, a few years before the main house and before the construction of the later house, itself demolished in 1934.

Discussion

The author is fortunate enough to have seen the pottery collected during fieldwalking at Weston-juxta-Cherington by Professor Dyer. The similarities between the fieldwalking material and that recovered during excavation are marked. Both assemblages indicate a Roman presence, the pottery probably being derived from manuring scatters. The earliest medieval pottery consisted of the Cotswold oolitic wares and, possibly, the much less common shelly wares. The primary suppliers of pottery to the village and manor were evidently the Cotswolds industries, perhaps with Chipping Norton as the main market, probably with Long Compton as a subsidiary market. However, the fieldwalking pottery did contain more medieval pottery post-dating the mid-13th century, mainly Brill and Chilvers Coton (Nuneaton) wares, and wares from the end of the medieval period i.e. Malvern Chase

ware and late medieval oxidised wares, such as the Wednesbury pipkin found in Trench 2. In contrast, the pottery from the excavation does seem to have quite a limited date range.

Both assemblages are notable for the Rhenish stoneware but the examples from the fieldwalking, are probably 16th-century and include a drinking jug with a (partial) motto waistband, which can be reconstructed as reading 'DRINCK VND EST GODES NIT VERGEST' or 'DRINCK VND EST GODEZ NIT VERGEZT' - '*Drink and eat but do not forget your God.*'

The issue of the significance of Rhenish stonewares is complicated. Essentially they are commonplace in English ports and the east of the country. They were not expensive items (often arriving as 'ballast') but they seem to have been prized – hence the use of silver mounts on some examples. Gaimster (1995, 126-127) suggests that they were the *sine qua non* of gentry living. They are generally not that common in the West Midlands on rural sites. Their frequency on high status or urban sites is variable. There seem to be a good many in Coventry, including some highly decorated examples (see, for example, Rátkai 2013, 129, plates 8.10-11) and there is a good collection of plain and decorated Rhenish stoneware drinking jugs from Stafford Castle (Rátkai 2007, fig. 43, 235-237; fig. 44, 238-250). They are less common in Birmingham (Rátkai 2009b) and at Dudley Castle (personal inspection by author) and these tend to be plain rather than decorated. On rural sites in Warwickshire there is a single example from Barston (Rátkai 2009a) and one from Kineton (Rátkai 2012, in Gethin B, 2012). Another example with a motto waistband (WAN GOT WIL IST MEIN ZIL - '*When God wills it, so is my goal*' or 'WANN GOTT WILL IST MEIN ZEIL' – '*When God wills it, my time is up*') is known from, New Place, Stratford-upon-Avon (personal inspection by author). The presence of so much Rhenish stoneware at Weston-juxta-Cherington is, therefore, significant, despite its fragmentary nature.

The pottery associated with the Tudor Gatehouse does seem to indicate that someone was living there. The 18th-century engraving of the Sheldon's 'palace' (see Fig 2) shows no other buildings in the vicinity of the gatehouse from which the pottery could have derived. The absence of pottery such as Malvern Chase ware, late medieval oxidised wares and Midlands Purple ware, all commonly found in the 15th and 16th centuries, and wares that were all found amongst the fieldwalked pottery, suggests that occupation began in the 17th century. It is difficult to be certain at what point occupation ceased. The latest pottery in demolition layer **219** was the base of a mug or jug in white salt-glazed stoneware, dating from the 1720s to the 1760s/1770s. Taken with the other pottery in the demolition, an earlier rather than a

later date is possible. However, later 18th- and early 19th-century pottery was present in layer 207 which might indicate that there was still someone living in the gatehouse until the house and estate were sold by Ralph Sheldon to Sir George Philips c.1820.

The pottery that can be dated to the 17th to mid-18th centuries would seem to indicate that those living in the gatehouse were moderately prosperous, with table wares such as drinking vessels being particularly well represented (see Appendix C: **Table 4**).

In conclusion, the pottery from the excavations has demonstrated that there was occupation of the village and moat platform in the 12th century. It has not, however, been possible to find evidence of any pre-Conquest activity, although, of course, the extent of excavation was limited. The pottery also suggests that occupation or activity on the moat platform continued during the early years of the Sheldon house. Apart from the moat area, the medieval pottery is limited in date range, consistent with an end date of c.1250. Again the small sample size may be responsible for this.

As Dyer has suggested (pers. comm.) as village communities shrink or are dissipated, the disruption that spells ruin for some families is beneficial to others. In the fieldwalking material we can see that those who survived into the 16th century were really quite prosperous or at least had sufficient disposable income with which to purchase Rhenish stonewares.

During the post-medieval period, the remains of domestic activity were visible in Trenches 1 and 2, on the site of the Tudor Gatehouse. The pottery here suggests middling prosperity and comfortable living. In Trenches 3 and 4 post-medieval pottery was all but absent and although post-medieval pottery was picked up during fieldwalking, it was much more basic and utilitarian than that seen in the area of the gatehouse.

The demolition of the gatehouse appears to have occurred once Ralph Sheldon sold the house and estate in the 19th century. Neither the excavation nor the fieldwalking produced any evidence of pottery that need be later than the 1820s and no later material seems to have been disposed of in the fields and gardens of Weston House, the new country house built by Sir George Philips.

9 OTHER FINDS *Hayley McParland*

Iron, Copper-alloy and Lead

MOATED SITE

A single iron knife tang (SF7) was recovered from post-medieval rubble layer (301), sited over the moat. A rectangular iron sheet deriving from layer 308 was subject to heavy corrosion. The plate appears to be perforated by a nail, protruding from the centre of the plate although the entry hole point is obscured by corrosion (see Table 1 for more detail). Two iron nails were recovered from context (310), a ditch or robber trench fill dated to the 13th century through the presence of Wolvey-type ware.

MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT

A conical lead hanging weight or plumb bob weighing 638 grams, featuring a flat circular base with a small concave depression, tapered sides and integrated loop at the apex, was recovered from the base of context (402), a wall footing associated with a timber building dated to the 12th-13th century. A similar object weighing 600 grams was recovered from 13th-century Coppergate, York, and was identified as an industrial weight (Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2955). However, the Coppergate example was crudely made with a rough bell shape, featuring an axial perforation. The example discussed here is much more refined, featuring a basal depression and an integrated lead loop. A single iron nail was also recovered from this deposit.

GATEHOUSE

A small assemblage of post-medieval metal objects, dating from the 17th and 18th centuries, were recovered from demolition layers (207) and (219). These objects represent structural elements and domestic objects. Structural elements include 12 lead window comes, a single iron window or door latch (SF3), 31 iron nails and a single iron plate with fixing perforations from context (219) (see Table 1 for detail). In addition, a fragment of double-twisted copper wire (SF20) was recorded (see Table 1 for detail).

Objects representative of domestic activities and personal adornment from context (219) included a copper alloy cap end (SF14), which may be a component of a button or a copper alloy ferrule most likely from a walking stick, cane, umbrella or crop. Also an incomplete copper alloy button, concave, with a twisted copper fixing loop inserted through a central perforation (SF5), and a partial decorative post-medieval nickel-coated copper alloy buckle (SF2): though the preservation of the object is excellent, it is not complete and the pin is no

longer intact. In addition, a single, probably post-medieval, iron buckle was recovered complete with pin, though this is heavily corroded and in a poor state of preservation. A common artefact of medieval and post-medieval urban sites, a single copper alloy aglet or lace chape (SF10, from 219) was recorded (see Table 1 for detail).

A partial post-medieval cast copper alloy open thimble or tailor's thimble (SF4), featuring nine rows of regular circular pits, decreasing in circumference towards the apex and bordered at the base by a complete band, and at the apex by a double band, was also recovered from context 219. The earliest example of such a thimble was recorded from the Bedern Foundry, York, dated to the late 13th- early 14th centuries AD (Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2739).

A total of eight fragments of lead window came and 20 heavily corroded Iron nails were recovered from demolition deposit (207). A single domestic artefact, SF16, was recovered from this context and is identified as part of a small pair of iron scissors or alternatively as part of a candle snuffer. A similar example dating from the late 16th- early 17th centuries was recorded in London by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (Unique ID: LON-03E816). The object is fragmentary and heavily corroded, featuring only a partial handle with curved terminals, the mechanism and terminal blades are absent.

Two fragments of lead window came and two iron nails were recorded from undated robber trench fill (207).

A copper alloy aglet or lace chape (SF15) and four heavily corroded iron nails were recovered from rubble spread (213). A single iron buckle from rubble spread (214), is rectangular and complete, including the pin, though it is heavily corroded (see Table 1 for detail).

A single folded lead sheet (SF107), measuring 55mm in length and 35mm in width was recovered from a finds-rich layer (107) associated with the foundation of the gatehouse. The sheet features two to three incisions on the fold, and is most likely lead waste. Within the same deposit a total of seven fragments of lead window came were recorded. A total of 24 iron nails were also identified within this deposit as well as a single corroded yet complete square iron buckle with attached pin (SF18).

Table 1 Objects of Copper alloy, Iron and Lead

Context	Small Find No.	Material	Quantity	Weight (g)	Dimensions (mm)	Description
107	18	Fe	1	9	30mm length, 28mm width	Square buckle complete with central pin
107	-	Fe	24	133	-	Nails
107	17	Pb	1	107	55mm length, 35mm width	Folded lead offcut with incisions on the fold
107	-	Pb	7	32	-	Window came
205	-	Fe	2	9	-	Nails
205	-	Pb	2	23	-	Window came
207	16	Fe	1	4	55mm length, 3- 10mm width	Handle of a pair of scissors or candle snuffer. Partial. Poorly preserved and corroded
207	-	Fe	20	86	-	Nails
207	-	Pb	8	22	-	Window came
213	15	Cu alloy	1	<1	40mm length, 3mm width	Aglet or lace chape. Slightly misshapen.
213	-	Fe	4	88	-	Nails
214	8	Fe	1	26	40mm length, 35mm width	Heavily corroded rectangular buckle featuring central pin
219	2	Cu alloy	1	12	35mm length, 32mm width	Decorative nickel coated buckle. Pin is absent but the fixing holes for the pin are visible
219	4	Cu alloy	1	3	22mm length, 15mm width	Open topped or tailor's thimble. Partial and misshapen
219	5	Cu alloy	1	2	15mm diameter	Concave button with wire loop fixing
219	10	Cu alloy	1	<1	25mm length, 15mm width	Lace chape or aglet
219	14	Cu alloy	1	1	20mm diameter	Ferrule or end cap. Concave and partial

219	20	Cu alloy	1	4	Maximum length 145mm	Twisted wire
219	3	Fe	1	24	170mm length, 5-23mm width	Window or door fitting - a long narrow object culminating in a leaf shaped terminus, which features a central perforation of 4mm
219	6	Fe	1	4	30mm length, 17mm width	Sub-rectangular buckle with central pin for a small strap
219	-	Fe	31	167	-	Nails
219	-	Fe	1	10	60mm length, 27mm width	Sheet with a single 3mm perforation in one corner
219	-	Pb	13	54	-	12 window comes and one lead offcut
301	7	Fe	1	100	134mm length, 22mm width	Knife tang
308	11	Fe	1	33	65mm length, 3mm width	Iron sheet
310	-	Fe	2	8	-	Nails
402	-	Fe	1	5	-	Nail
402	1	Pb	1	638	43mm diameter at base, 5mm diameter at tip	Conical lead weight or plumb bob with a round base and central depression that measures 10mm in diameter. Tapers to a point and features an integral loop with a 5mm perforation.

Clay Pipe

A large assemblage of 81 clay pipe fragments were recovered from gatehouse context 219, a 17th- to 18th-century demolition layer. Within this assemblage, a total of four bowl and foot and stem fragments are marked with the makers mark, EC, likely Elizabeth Carty, 1847, Banbury (Oswald 1975, 189). Three of the stems feature flat feet, five feature spurs. A single bowl fragment forms part of a tulip-shaped bowl with decorative rilling to the rim, suggesting a date of early to mid 17th century; no makers mark is recorded (Atkinson and

Oswald 1969; Oswald 1975). In addition, a complete, relatively upright, tulip-shaped clay pipe bowl featured a flat foot and a slightly raised ridge running from the lip of the bowl to the stem. There are no other diagnostic decorative or makers marks. A single bowl fragment, with a tulip-shaped design and evidence of decorative rilling near to the rim, with a flat foot was noted within the assemblage derived from demolition deposit (207), dated to the 17th-18th century. A further eight undiagnostic clay pipe stems were identified.

Rubble spread (213), dated to the 17th-18th century, yielded eleven clay pipe bowl fragments; a single complete tulip-shaped bowl with decorative rilling near to the rim and a flat foot is tentatively dated to late 16th- early 17th century (Oswald 1975). The majority of the bowls are fragmentary, though there is evidence for some decorative rilling near to the rim in three of the fragments. A single upright bowl featuring a wide mouth, thin stem and flat base was identified and dated to the mid 18th century (Oswald 1975). A further 41 undiagnostic stem fragments were noted from context 213.

Two clay pipe bowls, both tulip-shaped with decorative rilling to the lip and a short spur base were recovered from associated rubble spread (214). These features suggest a date of early to mid 17th century, no makers mark is recorded (Atkinson and Oswald 1969; Oswald 1975). In addition, eight undiagnostic clay pipe stem fragments were noted. Four clay pipe bowl fragments were recovered from finds-rich layer (107), one of which is largely complete, featuring a tulip shaped bowl, with decorative rilling to the lip, thick stem and short spur. These features suggest a date of early to mid 17th century, no makers mark is recorded (Atkinson and Oswald 1969; Oswald 1975). A partial clay pipe bowl, with a flat foot is also recorded, though fragmentary, the makers mark stamped on the foot of the pipe is recorded as EC, likely Elizabeth Carty, 1847, Banbury (Oswald 1975, 189). A further 12 undiagnostic stem fragments are noted from this context.

A further two unidentifiable clay pipe stems were recorded from context 205, the fill of a robber trench.

Table 2 Clay Pipes

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (g)	Description
107	Clay Pipe	16	63	Four clay pipe bowl fragments, 12 undiagnostic stem fragments.
205	Clay Pipe	2	6	Two undiagnostic stem fragments.

207	Clay Pipe	9	30	One bowl, eight undiagnostic stem fragments.
213	Clay Pipe	53	237	11 bowl fragments, one complete bowl, 41 undiagnostic stem fragments.
214	Clay Pipe	10	55	Two clay pipe bowls, eight undiagnostic stem fragments.
219	Clay Pipe	81	283	Six clay pipe bowls, four with makers mark 'EC'. 75 undiagnostic clay pipe stem fragments.

Flint Objects

Two post-medieval gun flints, *circa.* 1600-1700, (SFs12-13) were recovered from demolition layer (219). Object SF12 weighed 5 grams with dimensions of 29mm in length, and 24mm in width. Object SF13 weighed 9 grams with dimensions of 37mm in length and 26mm in width.

Wall Plaster

Two small fragments of faced undecorated lime wall plaster, weighing a total of 18 grams, were recovered from context 205, the fill of a robber trench.

Glass

The majority of the glass objects comprise undiagnostic fragments, which are poorly preserved and laminated. Therefore the scope for discussion is limited.

Finds-rich layer (107), associated with the foundation of the gatehouse, featured 45 fragments of window glass, and a further 16 fragments of vessel glass.

A total of 137 fragments of vessel glass were recovered during the evaluation. The majority are poorly preserved and non-diagnostic. A single partial glass bottle neck was recovered from context 219. The glass is heavily patinated, deriving from a clear or green glass bottle. A further 88 fragments of vessel glass were recovered from the same context. Three small fragments of decorated glass (SF9), most likely derived from a single vessel, were recovered from context 219; the fragments are painted with a black, blue and white design. A further 268 fragments of window glass were recovered from context 219. A total of 60 window glass fragments were recovered from associated context (207), whilst a further thirteen vessel glass fragments were noted. Context 213, a rubble spread dated to the 17th-18th century, contained 19 fragments of vessel glass, whilst a single fragment of vessel glass was noted within associated context 214.

Context (205), the fill of a robber trench, contained 60 fragments of window glass.

Table 3 Glass Objects

Context	Small Find No.	Material	Quantity	Weight (g)	Description
107		Glass	45	102	Window glass
107		Glass	16	197	Vessel glass
205		Glass	60	75	Window glass
207		Glass	60	94	Window glass
207		Glass	13	200	Vessel glass
213		Glass	19	369	Vessel glass
214		Glass	1	16	Vessel glass
219	9	Glass	3	5	Three small fragments of vessel glass, possibly deriving from a single vessel. Decoration in black, blue and white
219		Glass	88	833	Vessel glass
219		Glass	268	515	Window glass

Ceramic and Stone Building Materials

Samples of building material encountered during the excavation have been retained. The assemblage included a variety of ceramic roofing tiles and stone pegged roofing tiles, which are detailed in Table 4.

A single fragment of worked sandstone architrave measuring 164mm x 90mm and weighing 706 grams was recovered from context (107). This fragment most likely derives from a window or door frame.

Table 4 Ceramic and Stone Building Materials

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (g)	Description
107	Ceramic	1	93	Ceramic roof tile
301	Stone	1	80	Worked stone roof tile 105mm in length, 61mm in width
301	Ceramic	2	632	Ceramic roof tiles, one fired within reduced conditions
310	Ceramic	28	1754	Glazed ceramic roof tiles, green-glazed
400	Ceramic	1	53	Ceramic roof tile
310	Stone	2	2158	Worked stone roof tiles, 185mm in length, 130mm in width and 229mm in length, 155mm in width. Both feature a with a peg hole of 10mm diameter

311 Ceramic 4 821 towards a single edge
Ceramic roof tiles

10 CONCLUSIONS

The geophysical survey and evaluation at Weston have successfully demonstrated that a wealth of significant archaeological data survives across an extensive area of farmland. In Trenches 1 and 2 the remains of the Tudor gatehouse survive just below the current ground surface. The footprint of the building is far from obvious but the excavated remains demonstrate that the 17th-century etchings may have exaggerated. The potential for resolving the building still remains.

The moated site contains a significant building complex which there can be little doubt was the medieval manor house. An oven or hearth within the complex demonstrates the potential for environmental remains and a robbed out wall, the potential for significant stratigraphy.

The level of survival within the wider medieval settlement is less easy to be certain of, but a building positioned alongside the main street was exposed in the evaluation which suggests that the full range of medieval settlement is possible.

The archaeological deposits examined were remarkably well-preserved despite prolonged episodes of ploughing. The extant earthworks when combined with the geophysics and Lidar survey remain to illuminate the medieval and Tudor occupation and the small amount of trenching undertaken serve to ground-truth that expectation.

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APPENDICES

A List of contexts

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Comment</i>
100	Topsoil	
101	Stone wall	
102	Stone wall	
103	Stone wall	
104	Rubble	
105	Mortar surface	
106	Wall/drain	
107	Layer	
108	Rubble spread/drain	
109	Layer	
200	Topsoil	
201	Stone wall	
202	Stone wall	
203	Stone driveway	
204	Robber trench	
205	Robber trench fill	
206	Layer	
207	Layer	
208	Layer	
209	Stone footing	
210	Offset foundation	of 209
211	Stone floor	
212	Rubble	
213	Rubble spread	
214	Rubble spread	
215	Layer	between 201 and 203
216	Layer	between 209 and 203
217	Pit	
218	Pit fill	of 217

300	Topsoil	
301	Rubble	
302	Layer	
303	Layer	
304	Wall	
305	Wall	
306	Wall	
307	Pit fill	of 317
308	Layer	
309	Ditch/robber trench	
310	Ditch/robber trench fill	of 309
311	Robber trench fill	of 318
312	Robber trench fill	of 319
313	Rubble	
314	Fill of 309	
315	Wall	
316	Offset foundation of 315	
317	Pit (hearth/oven)	
318	Robber trench	over wall 304
319	Robber trench	over wall 305
400	Topsoil	
401	Layer	
402	Wall footing	
403	Rubble	
404	Geological natural	
405	Road surface	
406	Layer	
407	Pit	
408	Pit fill (of 407)	
409	Pit	
410	Pit fill (of 409)	

B List of Finds

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>SF</i>	<i>Comments</i>
107	Pottery	32		5 medieval, 20 post-med, 7 flower pot
107	Tile	1		Roof
107	Glass	16		Vessel
107	Glass	45		Window
107	Clay pipe	16		12 stems, 4 bowls
107	A. Bone	32		
107	Lead	1	17	Sheet
107	Iron	1	18	Buckle
107	Lead	1		Window came
107	Iron	24		Nails
107	Shell	10		Oyster
107	Stone	1		Worked
205	Pottery	1		Post-med
205	Glass	60		Window
205	Clay pipe	2		Stem
205	A. Bone	5		
205	Lead	2		Window came
205	Iron	2		Nails
205	Plaster	2		Wall
207	Pottery	2		2 Med, 20 post-med
207	Glass	60		Window
207	Glass	13		Vessel
207	A. Bone	10		
207	Iron	2		Scissors, 2 frags
207	Cu Alloy	1		Aglet
207	Clay pipe	9		8 stems, 1 bowl
207	Iron	20		Nails
207	Lead	8		Window came
207	Shell	3		Oyster
213	Pottery	43		Post-med

213	Glass	19		Vessel
213	A. Bone	7		
213	Iron	2		Scissors, 2 frags
213	Cu Alloy	1	15	Aglet
213	Clay pipe	16		4 stems, 12 bowls
213	Iron	4		Nails
213	Shell	2		Oyster
214	Pottery	5		
214	A. Bone	3		
214	Glass	1		Vessel
214	Clay pipe	10		8 stems, 2 bowls
214	Iron	1	8	Buckle
219	Pottery	92		31 flower pot, 61 post-med
219	Clay pipe	81		58 stems, 10 stem & foot 13 bowls
219	Glass	268		Window
219	Glass	88		Vessel
219	A. Bone	34		
219	Shell	3		Oyster
219	Cu Alloy	1	20	Twisted wire
219	Gun flint	1	12	17th-18th century
219	Gun flint	1	13	17th-18th century
219	Lead	12		Window came
219	Cu Alloy	1	14	Object
219	Iron	31		Nails
219	Iron	1		Sheet
219	Cu Alloy	1	2	Buckle
219	Iron	1	3	Latch
219	Cu Alloy	1	4	Thimble
219	Cu Alloy	1	5	Button
219	Iron	1	6	Buckle
219	Glass	3	9	Decorated frags
301	Pottery	10		1 med, 9 post-med
301	A .Bone	10		

301	Tile	2		Roof
301	Slate	2		Roof
301	Iron	1	7	Object
302	A. bone	5		
302	Pottery	12		Medieval
308	Pottery	1		Post-med
308	A. Bone	8		
308	Shell	2		Oyster
308	Iron	1	11	Sheet
310	Pottery	2		Med
310	Tile	28		Roof, glazed
310	Slate	2		Roof
310	Iron	2		Nails
311	Tile	4		Roof
400	Pottery	4		3 Med, 1 post-med
400	A. Bone	8		
400	Tile	1		Roof
402	Pottery	14		1 Roman, 13 Med
402	Iron	1		Nail
402	Lead	1		Weight
402	A. Bone	2		
406	A. Bone	34		
408	Pottery	2		Post-med
410	Pottery	2		Post-med

C Pottery Tables

Table 1: Quantification of the pottery from Trench 4 (*bracketed figures indicate assemblage total from all four trenches*)

Fabric/Ware	WCTS Code	400 wght	400 qty	402 wght	402 qty	410 wght	410 qty	Total Wght	Total Count
Roman	O			1	1			1 (12)	1 (2)
Cotswolds oolitic ware	CO01	17	1	51	10			68 (160)	11 (20)
Shelly ware (fine)	CS	16	1					16 (16)	1 (1)
Brill (early)	Sq06.1			8	2			8 (8)	2 (20)
Early Oxford ware	Sq06.2			7	1			7 (7)	1 (1)
Reduced ware	RS03	1	1					1 (1)	1 (1)
Coarseware	CW					45	2	45 (648)	2 (21)
Flower pot	FPOT	29	1					29 (842)	1 (48)
Total		63	4	67	14	45	2	175 (3366)	20 (252)

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery from Trench 3 (*bracketed figures indicate assemblage total from all four trenches*)

Fabric/Ware	WCTS Code	301 wght	301 qty	302 wght	302 qty	308 wght	308 qty	310 wght	310 qty	Total Wght	Total Count
Roman	O							11	1	11 (12)	1 (2)
Cotswolds oolitic ware	CO01			64	4					64 (160)	4 (20)
Reduced Deritend ware	RS01			42	2					42 (42)	2 (2)
Wolvey type ware	StR14							5	1	5 (5)	1 (2)
Late medieval oxidised ware	SLM20	131	1	13	6					144 (144)	7 (7)
Cistercian ware	CIST	31	1							31 (32)	1 (2)
Glazed red earthenware	GRE	113	2							113 (521)	2 (24)
Yellow ware	MY	13	1			4	1			17 (28)	2 (5)
Cologne stoneware	STG02	20	1							20 (54)	1 (6)
Coarseware	CW	204	4							204 (648)	4 (21)
Total		512	10	119	12	4	1	16	2	651 (3366)	25 (252)

Table 3: Quantification of the pottery from Trenches 1 and 2 (*bracketed figures indicate assemblage total from all four trenches*)

Fabric	WCTS Code	Layer		RT fills						Demolition				Total Wght	Total Count
		107 wght	107 qty	205 wght	205 qty	213 wght	213 qty	214 wght	214 qty	207 wght	207 qty	219 wght	219 qty		
Cotswolds oolitic ware	C001	28	5											28 (160)	5 (20)
Coventry-type ware?	Sq20.2									19	2			19 (19)	2 (2)
Cistercian ware	CIST									1	1			1 (32)	1 (2)
Glazed red earthenware	GRE	21	7			60	2			8	1	319	12	408 (521)	22 (24)
Blackware	MB	12	1			70	8			2	1			84 (84)	10 (10)
Yellow ware	MY	11	3											11 (28)	3 (5)
Cologne stoneware	STG02											34	5	34 (54)	5 (6)
Cologne/Frechen stoneware	STG02/03					82	4	7	1					89 (89)	5 (5)
Frechen/Westerwald stoneware	STG03/05					27	1							27 (27)	1 (1)
Brown salt-glazed stoneware	STE	168	1			138	4	10	1			12	2	328 (328)	8 (8)
Coarseware	CW	14	1			62	4			124	2	199	8	648	21
Tin-glazed earthenware	TGE	5	1			37	5					90	34	132 (132)	40 (40)
Trailed slipware	SLPW 02					3	2							3 (3)	2 (2)
Feathered slipware	SLPW01					14	7			53	1			67 (67)	8 (8)
Mottled ware	MOT											10	3	10 (10)	3 (3)
Slip-coated ware	SLIPCO	5	1			21	4			5	1			31 (31)	6 (6)
White salt-glazed stoneware	WSG											10	1	10 (10)	1 (1)
Creamware	CRW	6	4							15	4			21 (21)	8 (8)
Porcelain (Chinese)	PORC									1	1			1 (1)	1 (1)
pearlware?	PLW									1	2			1 (1)	2 (2)
Black Basalt	MGW									<1	2			<1	2
Pearlware (blue transfer printed)	PLW					15	5							15 (15)	5 (5)
Blue-transfer-printed ware	MGW									6	2			6 (6)	2 (2)
Utilitarian whiteware?	MGW									2	2			2 (2)	2 (2)
Flower pot	FPOT	141	7	10	1			215	3	23	2	424	34	813 (842)	47 (48)
Total Sum - Wght		411	31	10	1	529	46	232	5	260	24	1098	99	2540 (3366)	206 (251)

Table 4 Post-medieval vessel function associated with the Tudor Gatehouse

Ware	Trench 1		Trench 2	
	Qty	Form/Function	Qty	Form/Function
Glazed red earthenware	7	hollow ware	15	Bowls (2); ?bowls (2); jar (1); 10 sherds not identified
Coarseware	1	jar	14	jars (3); wide-mouthed bowl (1); ?bowl; 1 sherd not identified
Blackware	1	hollow ware	9	mug/jug; large jug; 2 sherds not identified
Yellow ware	3	hollow ware		
Rhenish stoneware			11	drinking jugs/bottles (10)
Brown salt-glazed stoneware	1	drinking jug/bottle	7	drinking jugs/bottles (5)
Tin-glazed earthenware	1	hollow ware	39	bowls/plates(2); ?flatware; chamber pot; ?chamber pots (2); albarelo (1); ?small jars/albarelli (2);?bowl; 24 sherds not identified
Trilled slipware			2	cup
Feathered slipware			8	platter; cup
Mottled ware			3	not identified
Slip-coated ware	1	hollow ware	5	chamber pot; 1 sherd not identified
White salt-glazed stoneware			1	mug/jug
Creamware	4	hollow ware	4	chamber pot; hollow ware; 1 sherd not identified
Porcelain (Chinese)			1	saucer
Pearlware (blue painted)			2	tea bowl
Black Basalt			2	tea ware (?teapot)
Pearlware (blue transfer printed)			5	saucer; ?flatware; 1 sherd not identified
Blue-transfer-printed ware			2	carinated bowl; 1 sherd not identified
Utilitarian whiteware?			2	small hollow ware with bead rim
Garden furniture	7	Flower pot	40	Flower pot
Total	26		172	



1. The moated manor complex looking east



2. Trench 3, looking north.

The Tudor driveway earthwork aligns between the trees towards the distant car



3. Wall 304 looking north

Note the heat affected stonework bottom right and associated charcoal patch in oven 317.



4. Section through robber trench 309, from which a very large number of stone roof tile was recovered, revealing underlying stonework of wall 316



5. A selection of stone roof tiles backfilled in robber trench 309 (fill 310).
Note the single nail holes for attaching them to the roof in the top row



6. Trench 3 during excavation



7. The earthwork remains of the main village street.
Trench 4 is positioned on its eastern edge



8. Trench 4 looking east.
The rubble in the foreground is the eastern edge of the main village street



9. Trench 4 looking south

The alignment of rubble formed the foundation for a timber-framed building



10. Trench 4 under excavation



11. Trench 1 looking WNW



12. Trench 2 looking north, across the site of the village



13. Gate pier 201 looking SW



14. Pitched stone floor 211 looking SW

Note wall 202 in top right with gate pier foundation rubble 212 below



15. Pitched stone floor 203



16. Wall 209 looking north



17. Wall 101



18. Wall foundation 108



19. Mortar surface 105



20. Wall 102



21. Section through foundation 213



22. Drain 106 composed of re-used carved stone



23. Recording stonework in Trench 2 and looking NE



24. Excavating in Trench 2.



25. Trench 1, looking south



26. Volunteers excavating in Trench 1 and Trench 2



27. Excavating the gatehouse



28. Uncovering stonework in Trench 2

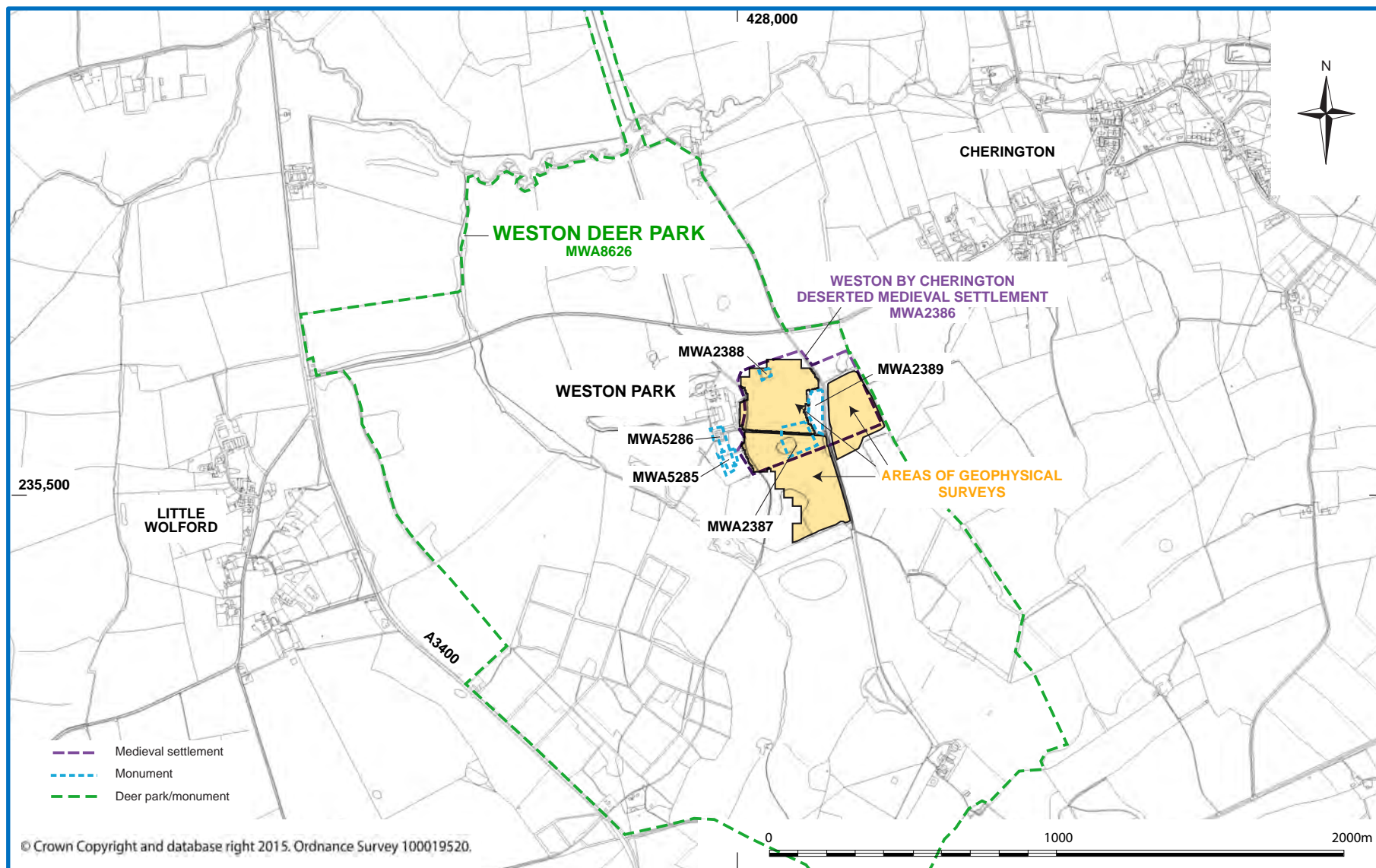


Fig 1: Location of Weston Park Survey areas and Historic Environment Information

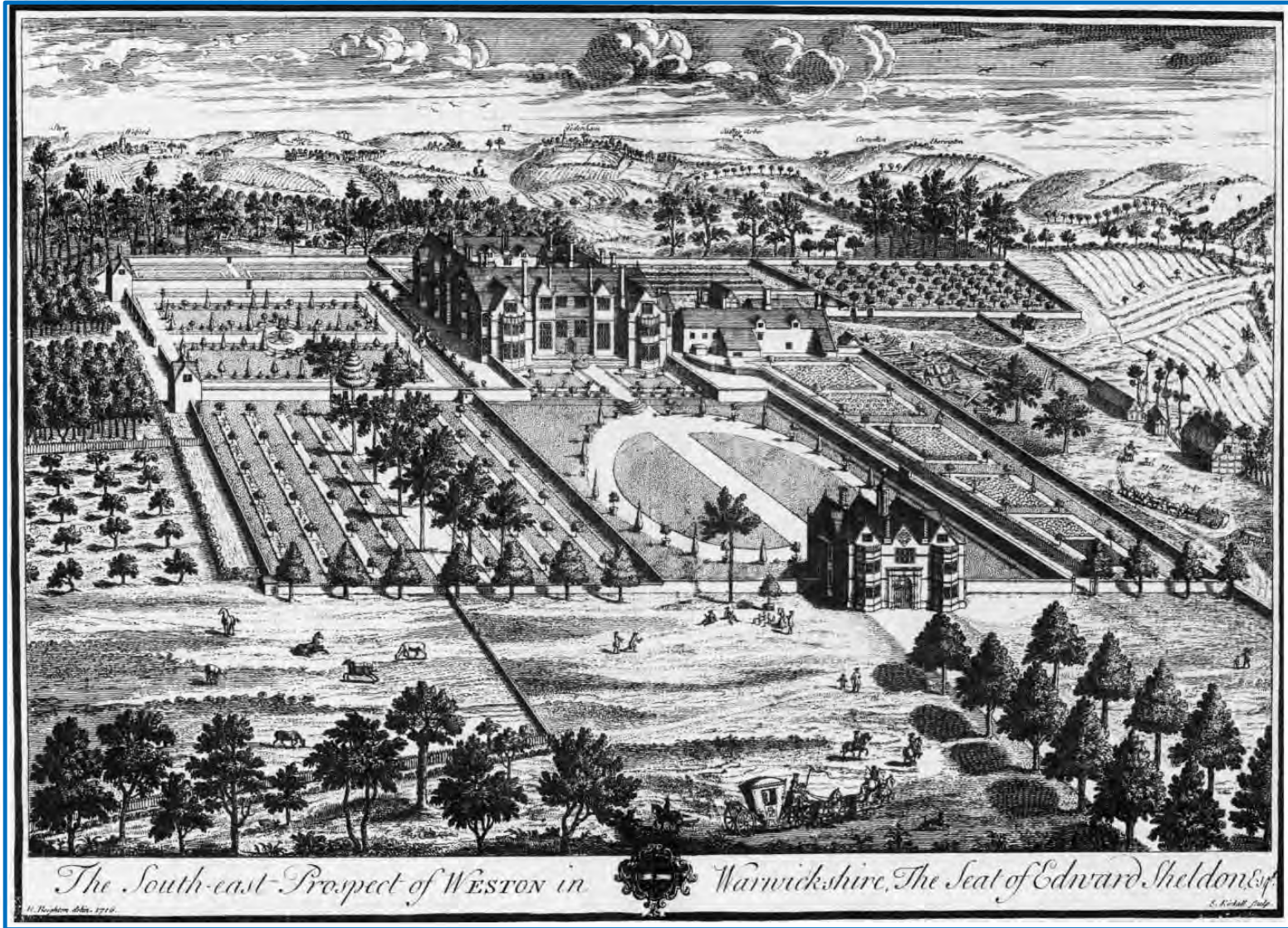


Fig 2: The view of Weston House in 1714 from the Second Edition of Dugdale's 'Antiquities of Warwickshire'

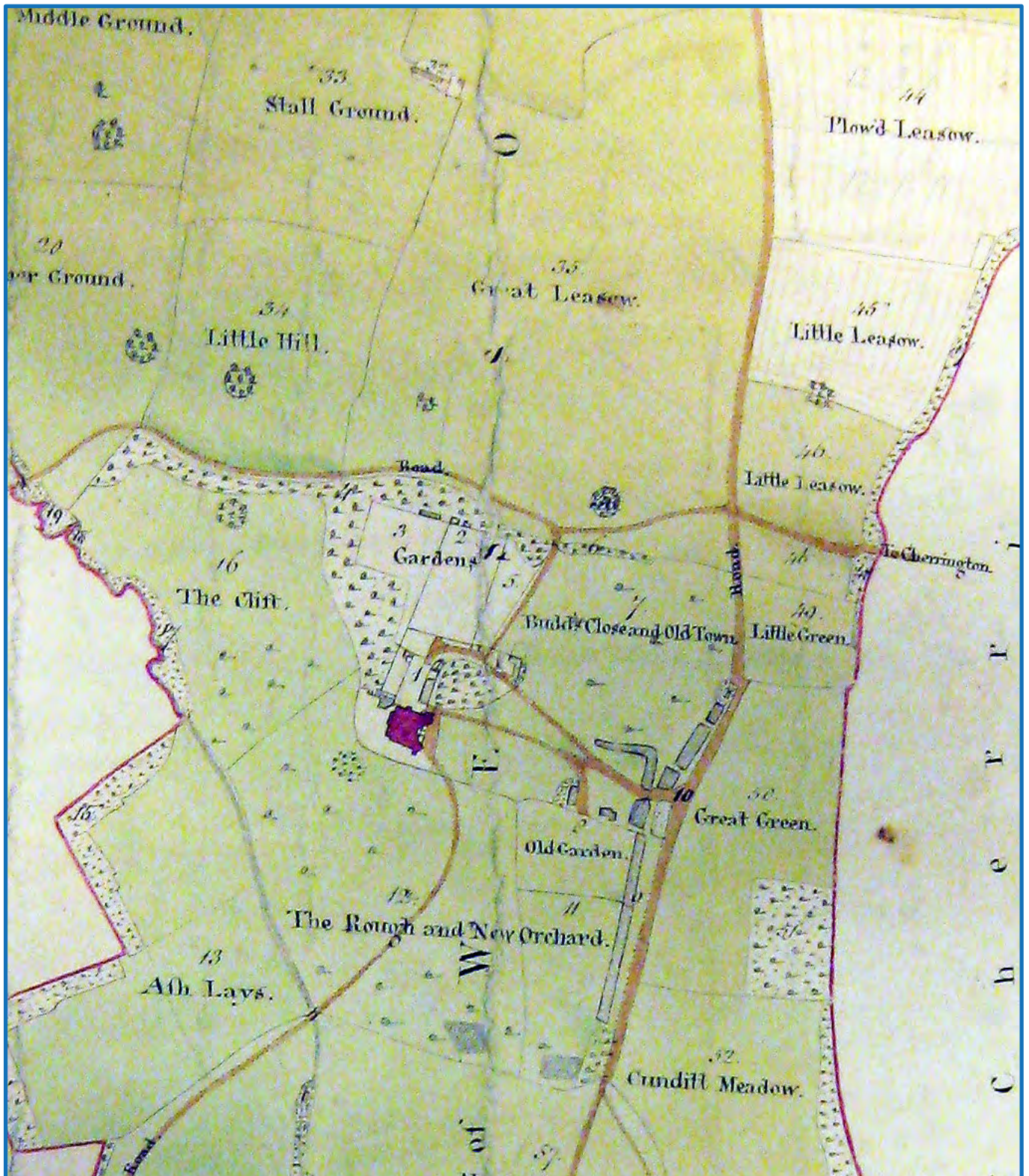


Fig 3: The final years of the Sheldon's house and surrounding parkland as shown in 1817. The various water features, largely visible as earthworks on the lidar image (see Fig 5), and the remains of the south-eastern walled gardens, show clearly

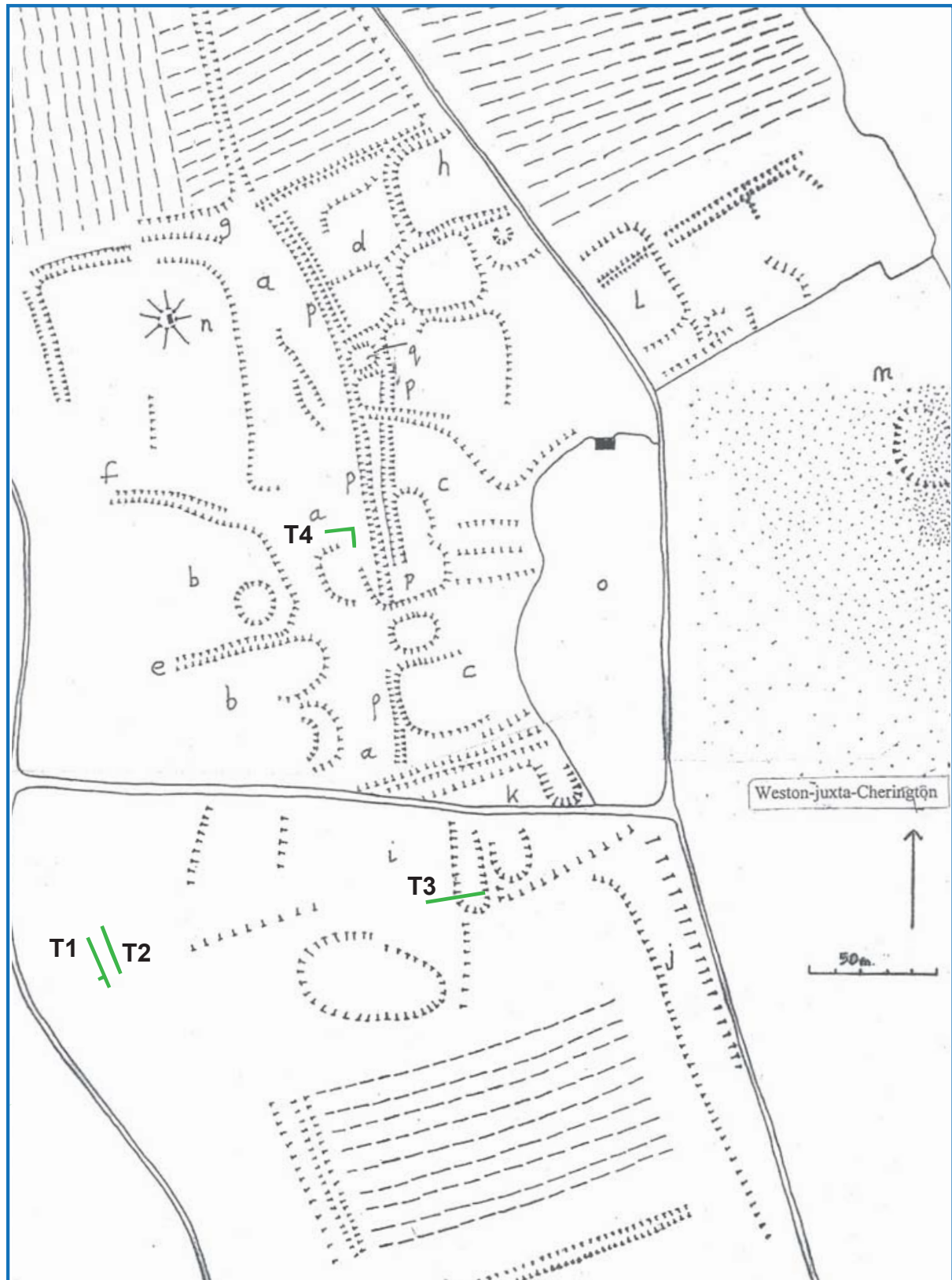


Fig 4: Earthwork Survey by Chris Dyer and location of trial trenches, T1 to T4



Fig 5: Lidar image REF and location of trial trenches, T1 to T4

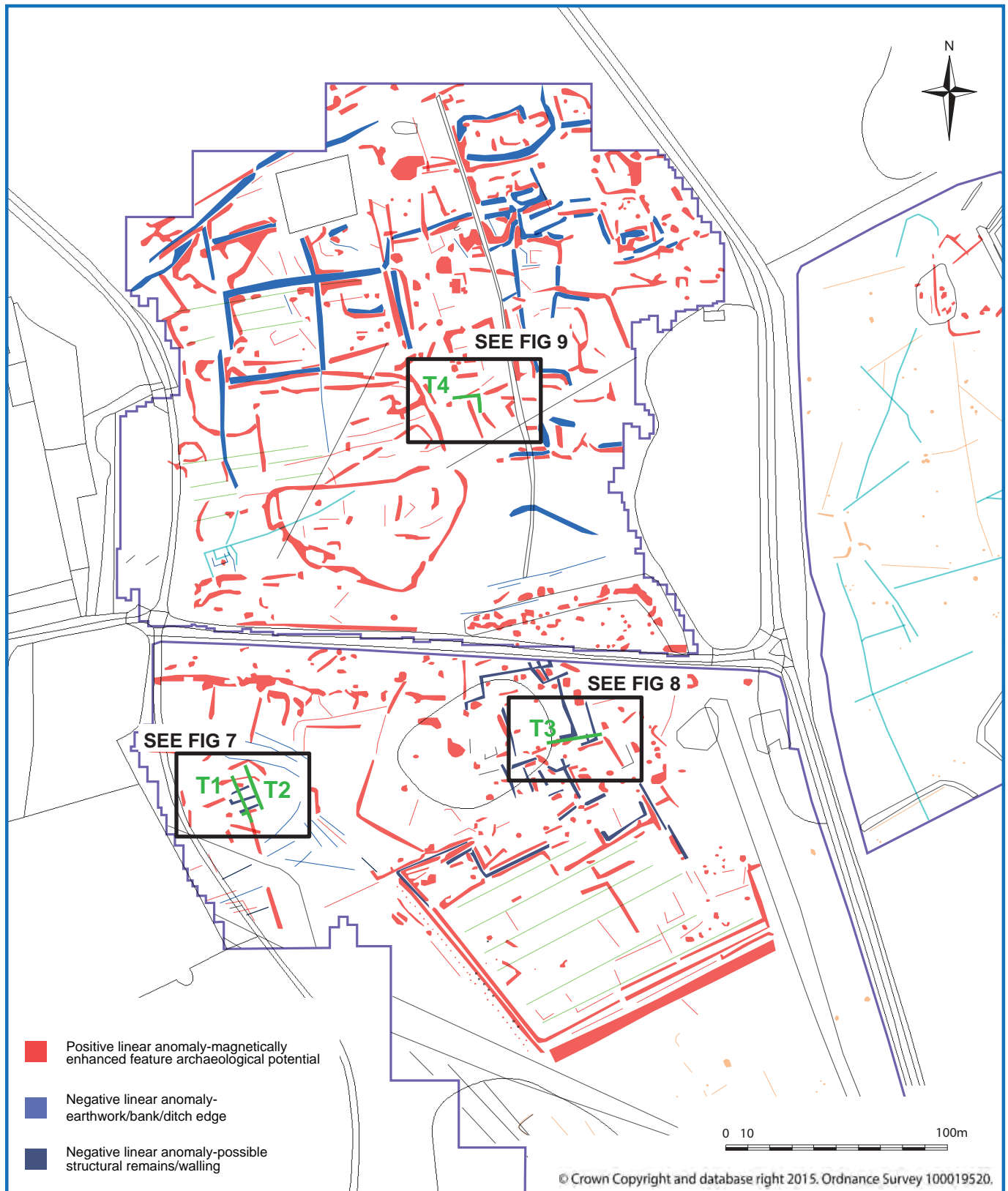


Fig 6: Geophysical survey results and location of trial trenches, T1 to T4

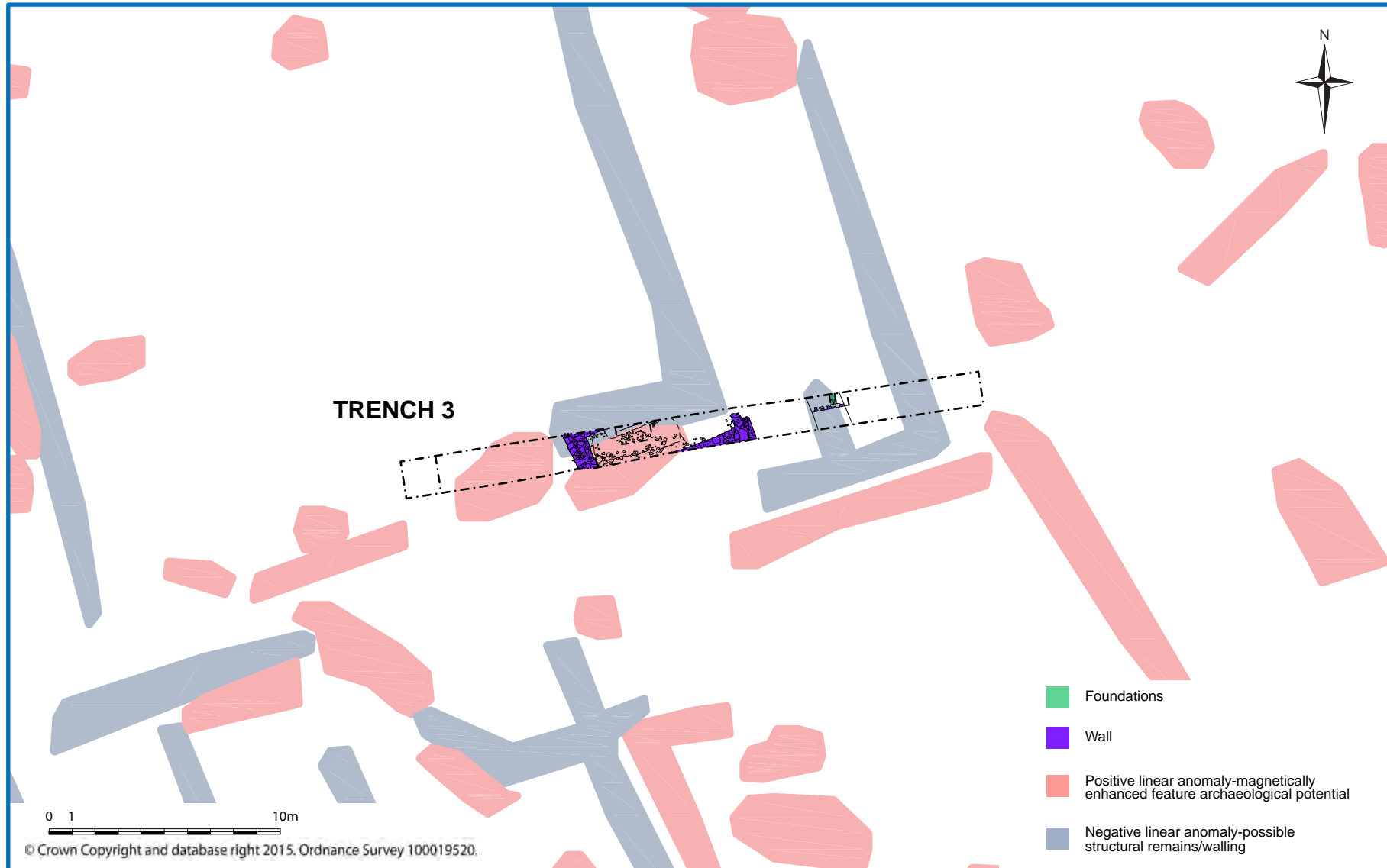


Fig 7: The moated manor, geophysics, and trial trench T3

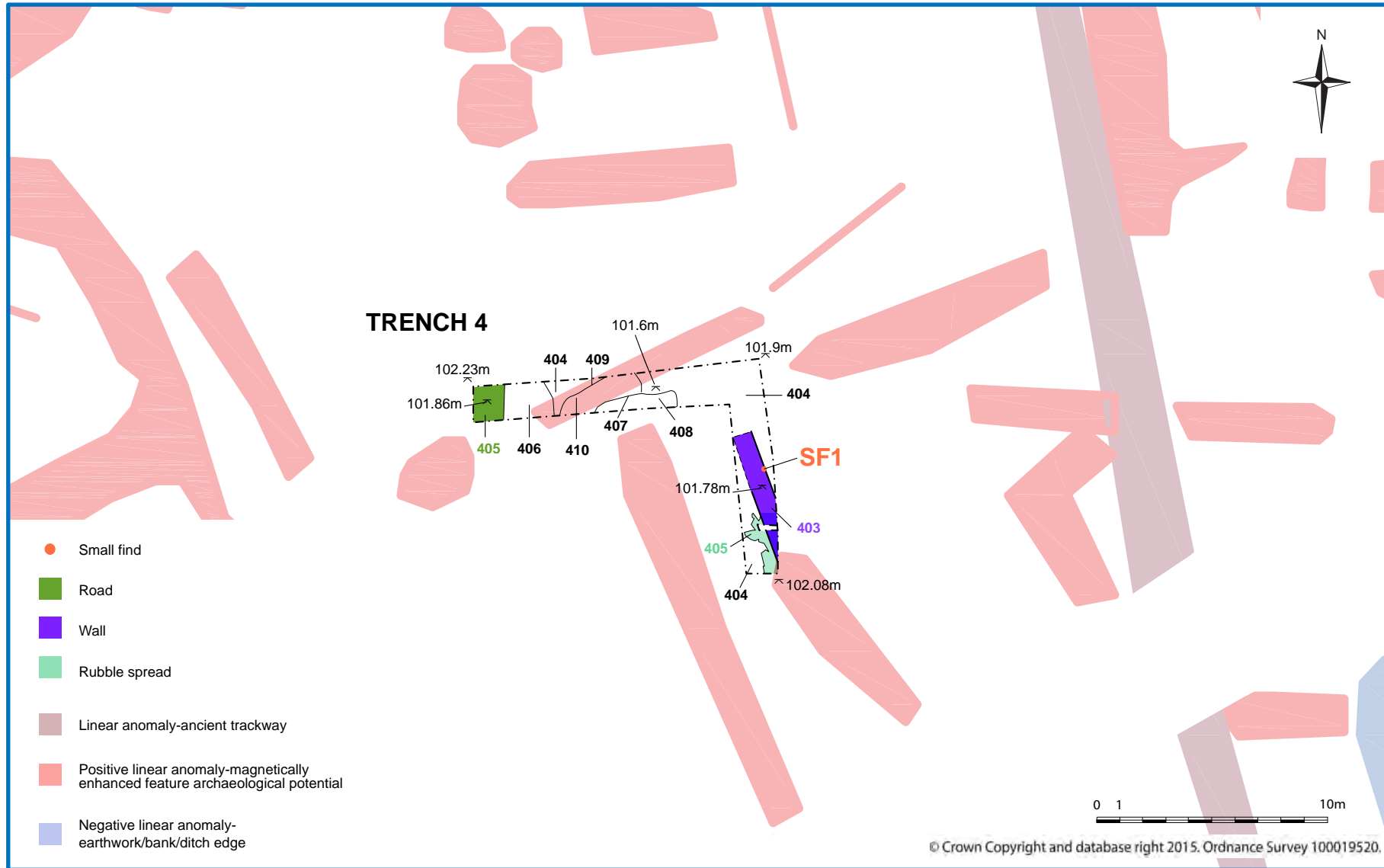


Fig 8: The medieval village street and adjacent buildings, geophysics, and trial trench T4

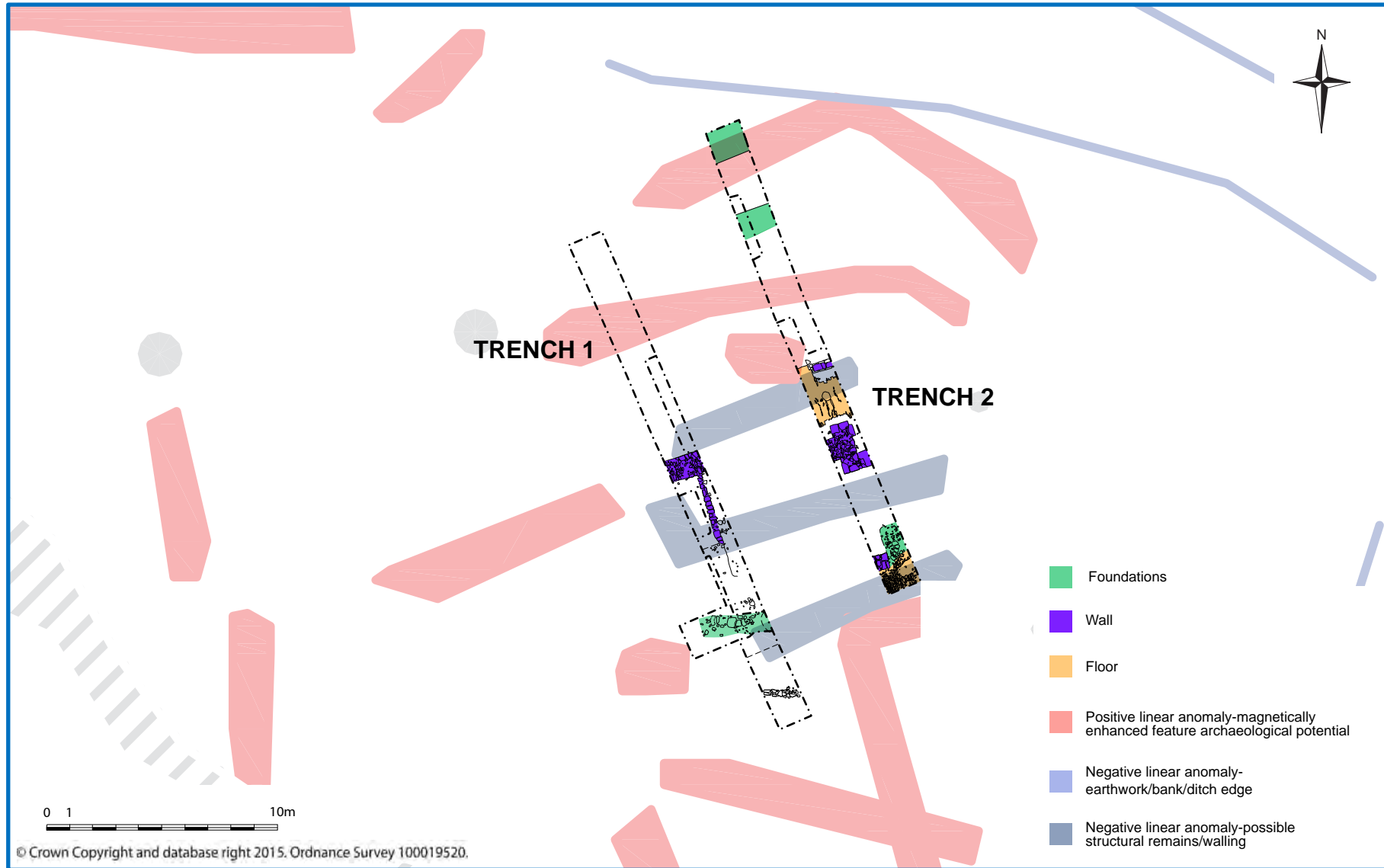


Fig 9: The Tudor gatehouse, geophysics and trial trenches T1 and T2

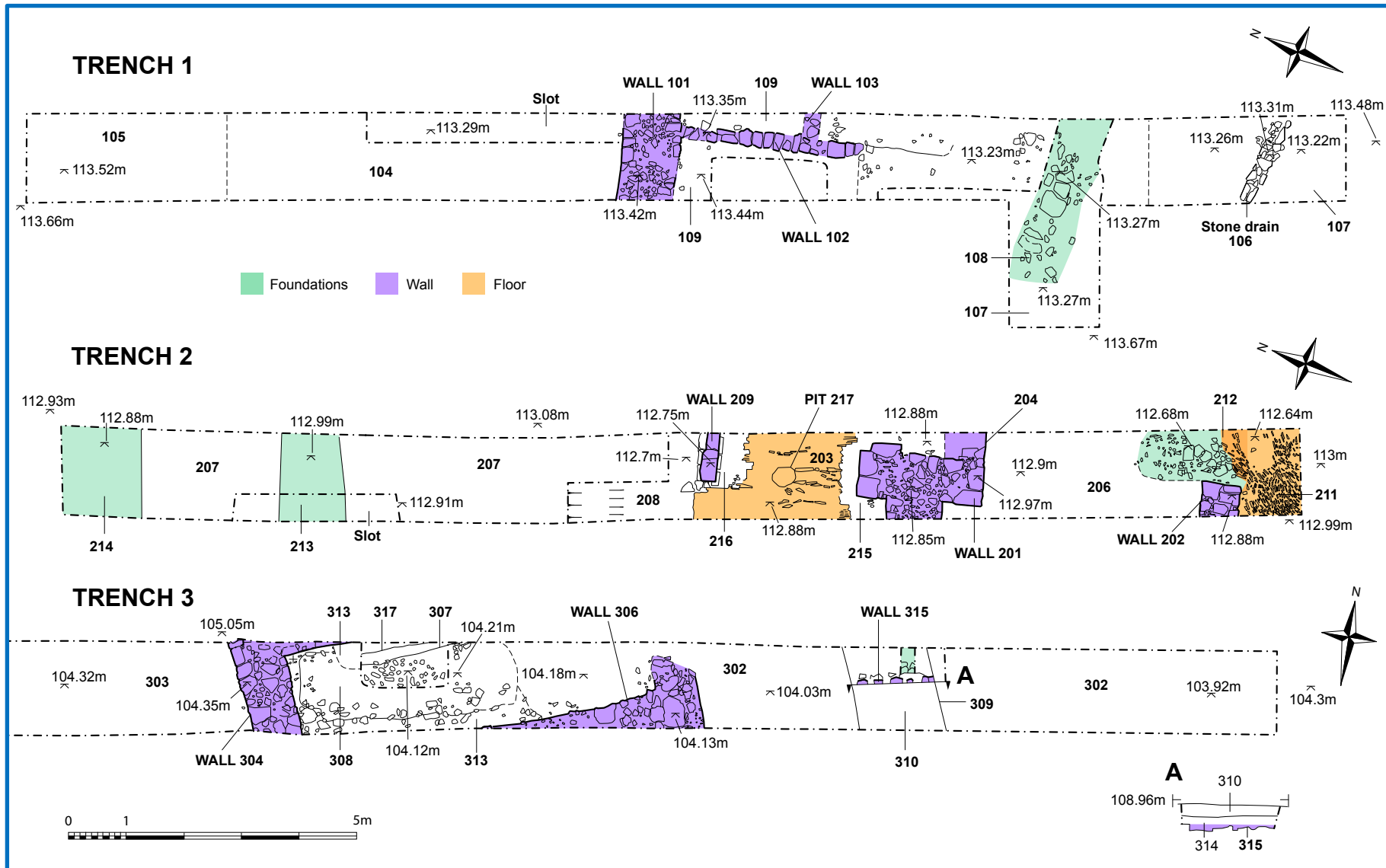


Fig 10: Trial trenches 1-3, plans and section A