

Figure 3. Phase 2, plan  
Scale 1:150

### 5.3 Phase 3: Medieval Activity (Figures 4-7)

In broad terms, Phase 3 reflects the backlot situation of the site throughout the medieval period. Three sub-phases have been identified, Phase 3.1, Phase 3.2 and Phase 3.3.

- **Phase 3.1** saw the establishment of a series of parallel east-west boundaries, the result being the creation of a ladder of narrow rectilinear plots presumably to the rear of, but directly associated with, properties fronting onto (what is now) High Street. An interpretative numerical sequence, from Plot 1 in the south to Plot 9 in the north, has been assigned to the plots, and features interpreted as being associated with the preparation, setting out and usage of each plot have been assigned to Phase 3.1.
- **Phase 3.2** evidently saw a significant shift in the organisation of the backlots at the site, with numerous parallel north-south aligned boundaries being created, these running at right angles to the majority of the Phase 3.1 features. Features interpreted as being associated with this revised arrangement of land management have been assigned to Phase 3.2.
- **Phase 3.3** comprises activity of medieval date which, on the basis of stratigraphic evidence, was undertaken after abandonment of Phase 3.2 features. Some boundary delineation on the same east-west orientation as that seen in Phase 3.1 was recorded, with associated pitting and possibly ploughing.

#### **Phase 3.1 (Figure 4; Plate 10)**

##### **5.3.1 Phase 3.1: Setting-out of Plot 1**

South side: Ditch [1427], fill [1426], ditch [1429], fill [1428]  
North side: Gully [1366], fill [1365], ditch [1364], fill [1363]  
Ditch [1394], fill [1393], ditch [1400], fill [1399]  
Posthole [1362], fill [1361], posthole [1379], fill [1378], posthole [1402], fill [1401], posthole [1390], fill [1389]

5.3.1.1 A narrow strip of land, c. 2.0m in width, adjacent to the southern limit of excavation at the site has been tentatively designated Plot 1, although it is possible that this was simply a corridor between broader parcels of land to the north and south. Plot 1 was defined to the south by a heavily truncated, roughly east-west orientated, ditch, [1427]. Too little of the feature survived to allow a detailed description to be compiled, for example, no full profile survived. However, the recorded portion was 5.20m in length and its maximum recorded depth was 0.33m. There was a suggestion that the feature may have terminated to the east, just beyond the surviving portion, and the feature had evidently been re-cut, to the north, as ditch [1429]. No artefactual material was recovered from either ditch.

5.3.1.2 Possibly the earliest feature defining the north side of Plot 1 was a shallow, narrow, east-west orientated gully, [1366], which had been replaced, to the west, by a more substantial ditch, [1364]. This had been heavily truncated by later activity and, again, the full profile did not survive. The feature extended from an eastern terminal c. 6m to the limit of excavation in the west and, where excavated, was 0.13m deep. Neither feature produced artefactual material. The fact that both features had a terminal to the east, perhaps suggests that this was actually a sub-division within a wider plot, up to c. 6.0m wide, encompassing Plots 1 and 2, as interpreted.

5 3 1 3 To the east, were a number of features that may also have delineated the northern side of Plot 1. A line of four postholes, [1362], [1379], [1402] and [1390], appeared to continue the east-west line of gully [1366]. To the south of the easternmost of these postholes, was the surviving portion of what may have been an east-west orientated ditch, [1394]. The eastern terminal of the feature had evidently been marked by a post, represented by a posthole, [1392]. A possible re-cut, [1400] was recorded in the western part of ditch [1394]. None of these features produced artefactual material.

### 5.3.2 *Phase 3.1: Setting-out of Plot 2 and Pathway 1*

South side Features listed above for North side of Plot 1  
North side Ditch [1473], fill [1472]

5 3 2 1 Plot 2 was a rectilinear strip of land, c. 4.0m in width, bounded to the north by an east-west orientated ditch [1473]. This feature was recorded for a distance of c. 22.50m east-west and its maximum surviving dimensions were 0.80m wide and 80mm deep, indicating significant horizontal truncation. The excavated parts of the feature produced two sherds of medieval pottery, one of which was of 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century date, while the other could only be broadly dated to the 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century.

5 3 2 2 A narrow strip of land, c. 1.80m in width, to the north of Plot 2 has been designated Pathway 1.

### 5.3.3 *Phase 3.1: Setting-out of Plot 3*

South side Ditch [1494], fill [1493], ditch [1492], fill [1491], ditch [1495], fills [1500], [1499], [1498], [1497] and [1496], ditch [1490], fill [1489]  
North side Linear feature [1187], fill [1186], posthole [1169], fill [1168], linear feature [1165], fill [1164], linear feature [1155], fill [1154]

5 3 3 1 Plot 3 was a rectilinear strip of land, c. 4.0m in width, initially defined to the south by an east-west orientated ditch, [1494], of which only the eastern terminal survived. As excavated, this was c. 1.0m wide and up to 0.95m deep. This feature was replaced by a shallower ditch, [1492], surviving to a depth of up to 0.35m. Again only the eastern terminal of this feature was exposed, this extending c. 1.0m to the east of the earlier feature. Its silty fill, [1491], produced a varied group of ten sherds of pottery, ranging from 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century date through to some late medieval material. One sherd was typically late medieval or early post-medieval date, and could perhaps have been introduced intrusively into the feature.

5 3 3 2 To the west, the south side of Plot 3 was re-defined by a substantial feature, [1495], which survived in the form of a broad, rounded ditch terminal, c. 2.20m wide and up to 1.05m deep. The northern side of the feature was near vertical, while that to the south fell far more gradually to an undulating base. Five fills were recorded, three of which produced ceramic material, a total of nearly thirty sherds, the majority broadly datable to the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century. The multi-phase nature of this boundary, along with the dating evidence recovered, suggest that this feature may have continued in use throughout the medieval period.

5 3 3 3 The south side of Plot 3 was further re-defined, as ditch [1490], of which an east-west length of c. 9.50m was exposed, extending to the east of the three-phase terminal described above. This feature had a maximum recorded width of 1.55m but was far less substantial in terms of depth compared to the earlier features associated with this boundary, having a maximum surviving depth of 0.15m.

- 5 3 3 4 A few sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from a bulk sample of the silty fill, [1489], of ditch [1490] In addition, the sample produced charred cereal grain, including oat and legumes, both of which were known to have formed part of the medieval diet in the region, all this material probably being residual rather than direct domestic waste
- 5 3 3 5 Plot 3 was defined to the north by east-west orientated linear features [1187] and [1165] If contemporary, these features would have formed an entrance c 2.40m wide, although their relative position perhaps suggests that this was not the case Feature [1187] was recorded for a distance of 3.75m and had a maximum width of 0.40m and, where excavated, a maximum depth of only 90mm Feature [1165] was of similar dimensions and its silty clay fill, [1164], produced a substantial vessel base sherd of medieval pottery, of 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century date
- 5 3 3 6 The terminal of feature [1165] appeared to post-date a discrete feature, [1169], only 80mm in depth, possibly the position of a marker during siting of the linear feature There was evidence of redefinition of this boundary, in the form of an essentially similar feature, [1155] A slight variation in position to the north may have been concerned with narrowing the plot to the north, as discussed below, while simultaneously widening Plot 3 in the east A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the silty clay fill, [1154], of feature [1155]

#### 5.3.4 *Phase 3.1: Setting-out of Plot 4*

South side Features listed above for north side of Plot 3

North side Ditch [1133], fill [1132], ditch [1122]=[1181], fill [1121]=[1180], posthole [1124], fill [1123], posthole [1126], fill [1125]

- 5 3 4 1 To the west, Plot 4 was a relatively broad strip of land, c 6m in width, defined to the south by linear feature [1187], as described above, and to the north by a broad linear feature, [1122] The latter feature was exposed for an east-west length of more than 8.50m, although the surviving portion had a maximum depth of only 100mm, suggesting significant horizontal truncation To the east, ditch [1122] ended with a broad rounded terminal Two postholes, [1124] and [1126], were recorded adjacent to the south edge of ditch [1122] They may have been contemporary with the boundary, perhaps being the surviving elements of a simple associated fenceline The fill, [1123], of posthole [1124] produced a sherd of 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century pottery
- 5 3 4 2 Overlapping with ditch [1122], and to its south, was an equally shallow butt-ended linear feature, [1133] To the east, the effective width of Plot 4 was narrowed to c 3.0m, taking into account the adjusted line of the south side of the plot, as described above The sandy silt fill, [1121], of feature [1122] produced a small assemblage of medieval pottery, broadly placed in the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century range

#### 5.3.5 *Phase 3.1: Usage of Plot 4*

Posthole [1128], fill [1127], posthole [1135], fill [1134], posthole [1137], fill [1136], posthole [1147], fill [1146], posthole [1149], fill [1148], posthole [1153], fill [1152], posthole [1160], fill [1159]  
Posthole [202], fill [201]

- 5 3 5 1 A group of generally shallow discrete features, for the most part possibly the bases of postholes or small pits, were recorded in association with Plot 4 No clear arrangements were apparent and, on that basis, it is difficult to be certain about the form of the structure or structures that they represent

5 3 5 2 Perhaps the most noteworthy was a relatively substantial posthole, [1153], located to the west of the terminal of linear feature [1165] This survived to a depth of 0 30m and its fill, [1152], produced three sherds of medieval pottery Three other features produced dating evidence, namely fills [1127], [1134] and [1159] of postholes [1128], [1135] and [1160], respectively Each yielded a single sherd of medieval pottery

5 3 5 2 A similar feature, pit [202], was recorded in the west facing section of a modern intrusion in the north-west of Area 1 It measured 0 31m north-south, continuing to the north beyond the limit of investigation, and had a maximum recorded depth of 0 16m No dating evidence was recovered from the feature, which has been tentatively assigned to Phase 3 1

### 5.3.5 *Phase 3.1: Setting-out of Plot 5 and Pathway 2*

South side Features listed above for north side of Plot 4

North side Ditch [667], fill [665]

Pathway 2 Posthole [705], fill [704], posthole [707], fill [706]

5 3 6 1 Plot 5 was a relatively broad strip of land, c 6 0m in width, defined to the south by a broad shallow ditch, [1122], as described above, and to the north by ditch [667] The latter ran between limits of excavation to the east and west, a distance of 8 70m, and had maximum recorded dimensions of 1 40m wide and 0 15m deep A homogeneous silty fill, [665], produced no artefactual material

5 3 6 2 A narrow strip of land, c 1 50m in width, to the north of Plot 5 has been designated Pathway 2 Two circular postholes, [705] and [707], were recorded within Pathway 2 The more substantial of the two, posthole [705], measured 0 25m in diameter and was 0 22m deep Its silty fill, [704], produced a sherd of 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century pottery These features are tentatively interpreted as representing the remains of a fence line associated with Pathway 2 The presence of a sherd of relatively early medieval pottery might suggest that the putative structure pre-dated setting-out of the parallel ditches although, on the basis of the excavated evidence, this cannot be certain

### 5.3.7 *Phase 3.1: Usage of Plot 5*

Posthole [709], fill [708], posthole [711], fill [710], posthole [713], fill [712], posthole [715], fill [714], posthole [719], fill [718], posthole [721], fill [720], posthole [725], fill [724], posthole [727], fill [726], posthole [729], fill [728], posthole [731], fill [730], posthole [1217], fill [1216]  
Pit [735], fill [734], pit [693], fill [692]

5 3 7 1 A cluster of discrete features was recorded within Plot 5 With the exception of the easternmost feature, pit [735], they were shallow - none more than 130mm deep – ranging in size from 0 14m x 0 20m up to 0 50m x 0 46m Pit [735] measured 1 32m x 1 0m and survived to depth of 0 24m, but produced no cultural material The fills of the shallower features were generally unremarkable deposits with only two, the clayey silt fills [726] and [692] of features [727] and [693], respectively, producing any dating evidence The pottery recovered from these features comprised three sherds of medieval pottery, only one of which could be broadly dated to the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century The precise purpose of these features is uncertain, they may represent the settings for posts associated with a temporary structure such as a timber frame However, there was no regularity to their arrangement to suggest the plan of any possible structure

5 3 7 2 The features described above are tentatively interpreted as being broadly contemporary, due to their stratigraphic position, spatial distribution and the general similarity of their fills They are assumed to represent activity within Plot 5, while this land parcel was in use Only one feature had a direct stratigraphic relationship with another feature assigned to Phase 3, this being pit [693] which had been truncated to the west by a Phase 3 2 ditch, [650]

### **5.3.8 Phase 3.1: Setting-out of Plot 6**

South side Ditch [648], fills [840], [636]  
North side Ditch [829], fill [828]

5 3 8 1 Plot 6 comprised a strip of land c 4 0m in width, separated from Plot 5 to the south by Pathway 2, and defined to the south by ditch [648], a relatively substantial feature, with maximum surviving dimensions of 1 62m wide and 0 40m deep. At its eastern extent, as revealed, a narrow slot was recorded in the base of ditch [648], this being filled with a sandy silt deposit, [840], which produced a sherd of 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century pottery. This might suggest that the boundary originated in the earliest part of the medieval period and perhaps underwent one or more episodes of redefinition, which left minimal evidence in the archaeological record. The remainder of the feature was filled with a silty clay deposit, [636], which produced a sherd of 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

5 3 8 2 The north side of Plot 6 was defined by an east-west orientated ditch, [829]. This had maximum surviving dimensions of 0 72m wide and 0 20m deep. Its silty fill, [828], produced two sherds of medieval pottery, one of which was broadly of 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century date. In addition, a small fragment of copper alloy 'sheet' (SF 3) was recovered.

### **5.3.9 Phase 3.1: Usage of Plot 6**

Posthole [610], fill [609], posthole [611], fill [612], posthole [613], fill [614], posthole [799], fill [798]

5 3 9 1 A cluster of discrete features was recorded within Plot 6. They were all shallow, between 50mm and 0 13m deep, with the largest, feature [613], measuring 0 86m x 0 70m in plan. Their fills were generally unremarkable deposits and only one, the silty fill, [609], of feature [610], produced any dating evidence, this being a rim sherd from a jug of 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

5 3 9 2 The features described above are tentatively interpreted as being broadly contemporary, due to their stratigraphic position, spatial distribution and the general similarity of their fills. They are assumed to represent activity within Plot 6, while this land parcel was in use. The precise functions of these features is uncertain, again they may represent the settings for posts associated with temporary structures.

### **5.3.10 Phase 3.1: Setting out of Plot 7**

South side Features described above for north side of Plot 6  
North side Pit [475], fill [474], feature [467], fill [466], ditch [468], fill [469], ditch [355], fill [354]  
Posthole [471], fill [470]

5 3 10 1 Plot 7 comprised a relatively broad strip of land, c 7 80m wide, defined to the south by ditch [829], as described above. To the east, its north side was partially defined by an east-west orientated ditch, [468]. Two features pre-dated ditch [468]. To the east was a shallow sub-circular pit, [475], which may have been an approximate marker for the required eastern extent of the linear boundary.

5 3 10 2 To the west of ditch [468] was a shallow elongated feature, [467], of uncertain function. To the east of ditch [468] was a sub-circular posthole, [471], probably related to the siting of this boundary.

5 3 10 3 Ditch [468] had a rounded terminal to the east, and ran to the west for 12.65m before also ending with a rounded terminal. Lying c. 1.40m to the south of that terminal was the eastern terminal of a narrow east-west orientated ditch, [355], this representing the earliest version of the north side of Plot 7 to the west. It had a maximum surviving width of 0.34m, a maximum depth of only 0.12m and was traced for a length of 8.60m. Ditches [355] and [468] are interpreted as forming the earliest version of the north side of Plot 7, their relative alignments seemingly creating an entrance into the plot.

#### **5.3.11 Phase 3.1: Usage of Plot 7**

Posthole [856], fill [855], posthole [858], fill [857], posthole [860], fill [859], posthole [862], fill [861], posthole [864], fill [863], posthole [866], fill [865], post-pit [871], posthole [868], fill [867], posthole [870], fill [869]  
Pit [455], fill [454]

5 3 11 1 A cluster of small features was recorded close to the southern boundary of Plot 7. The features are interpreted as relating to simple structural, but otherwise undetermined, activity within the plot sometime after it had been set out. A circular feature, [858], measuring 0.64m x 0.56m x 80mm deep, possibly the surviving base of a posthole, was truncated by two postholes, [856] and [862]. These features were similar in dimensions and profile, with an average diameter of 0.32m and maximum surviving depths of 0.14m, and generally with steep sides and rounded bases. To the east, were the bases of two postholes, [864] and [866], both of which had been truncated by a sub-rectangular posthole, [860]. To the south was a post-pit, [871], into which two postholes, [868] and [870], had been inserted. The similar and generally unremarkable silty fills of all these features produced no cultural material. They did not appear to form any coherent structural arrangement, and the overall impression was that this particular location witnessed the insertion and probable reinstatement of one or more uprights for some reason.

5 3 11 2 Close to the northern boundary of Plot 7, an irregularly shaped pit, [455], was recorded. It measured 1.80m x 0.78m and had a maximum depth of 0.25m. Its fill, [454] was notable for the frequent inclusion of river cobbles and such a deposit suggests that the feature may have had a load-bearing function, perhaps being a discrete foundation pit associated with a building. However, no similar features were recorded in the immediate vicinity and, since the area to the south was not reduced to the same level to allow investigation, this interpretation remains unproven.

#### **5.3.12 Phase 3.1: Setting out of Plot 8**

South side: Features described above for north side of Plot 7  
?North side: Ditch [1655], fill [1654], ditch [1617], fill [1616]

5 3 12 1 Plot 8 was evidently a broad strip of land, at least c. 18.0m, possibly c. 22.0m wide, defined to the south by the staggered boundary created by ditches [355] and [468], as described above. No features that could be interpreted as defining the north side of Plot 8 were identified in Area 2, although stratigraphic evidence suggests that, at a later juncture, Plot 8 was sub-divided into two plots, as described below in Phase 3.2.

5 3 12 2 Further north, in Area 5, only very limited evidence of boundary definition on an east-west orientation was recorded. Portions of two features, ditches [1617] and [1655], were recorded and these have been tentatively interpreted as representing the north side of Plot 8. Of course, it is entirely possible that an east-west plot boundary lay within the c. 6.0m strip between Areas 2 and 5 which it was not possible to investigate.

5 3 12 3 The aforementioned east-west orientated feature, [1655], was recorded in the southeastern corner of Area 5. It met the limit of excavation to the east and had been truncated c. 1.40m to the west. It measured 0.60m wide and survived to a maximum depth of 0.55m. Its silty fill, [1654], contained no cultural material. Immediately to the north was the probable western terminal of another east-west orientated feature, [1617]. This measured up to 1.22m wide, where it met the limit of excavation to the east, and was c. 2.0m to the west, where an irregular terminal was recorded. Its maximum depth was 0.14m and its clayey fill, [1616], produced two sherds of medieval pottery.

### 5.3.13 Phase 3.1: Usage of Plot 8

Pit [476], fill [477], pit [472]=[133], fill [473]=[132]  
 Pit [461], fill [460], posthole [465], fill [464],  
 Posthole [106], fill [105], fill [104]  
 Pit [444], fill [443], pit [432], fill [431]

5 3 13 1 The apparent larger dimension of Plot 8, as discussed above, may have been a practical requirement due to the specific nature of activities undertaken in this plot. One of the largest discrete features of medieval date recorded at the site was recorded in Plot 8, at the northern limit of Area 2. It was a massive pit, [472]=[133], which measured c. 6.80m north-south x 4.40m east-west. Interpreted as a possible well, it was excavated to a depth of c. 0.75m, before ground water ingress prevented further investigation. The silty fill, [473]=[132], produced a mixed group of medieval pottery, including material of 12<sup>th</sup> to early 13<sup>th</sup> century date through to material of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date. A bulk sample of this fill yielded a low number of waterlogged seeds, all durable varieties, indicative of preferential preservation due to poor conditions. A few charred cereal grains were recovered, again in relatively low numbers, suggesting that they were not present due to direct waste disposal, but via indirect means.

5 3 13 2 To the south, feature [472]=[133] truncated a small sub-rectangular pit, [476], up to 0.30m deep, the silty clay fill, [477], of which produced no dating evidence. To the east of feature [472]=[133], the eastern portion of a large shallow pit, [461], was recorded. It measured 2.0m north-south, meeting the limit of excavation to the north, by 1.90m east-west, truncated to the west. The base of a posthole, [465], was recorded in the base of feature [461], sealed beneath a silty fill, [460], which produced two sherds of medieval pottery broadly datable to the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century. Despite its relatively substantial dimensions in plan, pit [461] was shallow, surviving to a depth of only c. 0.25m deep, and has been tentatively interpreted as a 'working hollow'.

5 3 13 3 Immediately to the north-east of well [472]=[133], the shallow base of a posthole, [106], was recorded. It was c. 0.60m in diameter and 0.27m deep. It had a silty primary packing fill, [105], and a silty secondary central fill, [104]. The latter suggested that a timber approximately 0.35m in diameter had originally been housed within the feature. A sherd of pottery, of 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century date, was recovered from fill [104], along with a scrap of burnt daub.

5 3 13 4 A small sub-rectangular feature, [444], was recorded in the western part of Plot 8, towards the southern boundary features. It measured 0.42m north-south, truncated to the north, by 0.80m east-west and was 0.18m deep. Its sandy fill, [443], produced a sherd of medieval pottery.



5 3 13 5 Feature [444] had been truncated to the north by an elongated pit, [432] This measured c 3 50m in length, orientated east-west, by 0 90m north-south, but survived to a maximum depth of only c 0 10m Its sandy fill, [431], was notable for the frequent presence of charcoal flecks throughout and this deposit produced four sherds of pottery, all only broadly datable to the medieval period, along with an undateable fragment of ceramic building material The precise function of the feature is uncertain, it may have been associated with the southern boundary of Plot 8, although its limited extent probably weighs against such an interpretation

#### **5.3.14 Phase 3.1: Setting out of Plot 9**

South side Features described above for north side of Plot 8  
North side No features identified

5 3 14 1 Features [1617] and [1665], as described above, have been tentatively interpreted as defining the north side of Plot 8 Since no other linear east-west orientated features were recorded in Area 5, it is assumed that the northern boundary lay beyond the northern limit of excavation Thus Plot 9 can be broadly described as a rectilinear strip of land at least 9 0m wide

#### **5.3.15 Phase 3.1: Usage of Plot 9(Plate 10)**

Pit [1551], fill [1594], fill [1550]

5 3 15 1 Against the western limit of excavation in Area 5, the majority of the perimeter of a massive sub-circular feature, [1551], was exposed (Plate 10) This feature, interpreted as a well cone, measured up to 5 20m in diameter It was at least 1 25m deep and excavation ceased due to Health and Safety concerns c 1 95m below existing ground level Its sides had been crudely stepped with generally very steep falls There was no evidence of any structural lining within the feature A sandy silt primary fill, [1594], c 0 50m thick, was exposed against part of the western side, and this probably represents a collapsed side while the feature was open The majority of the cone was filled with a mixed deposit, [1550], predominantly silty clay in nature, with frequent gravel throughout This deposit yielded more than 60 sherds of pottery, broadly indicative of a 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century date for infilling, and including many nm sherds and handle fragments, from an assortment of domestic vessels, such as jars and a couple of large jugs The deposit also produced a copper alloy 'darning' needle (SF 5), of unusually long length (see Section 12) A bulk sample of this deposit contained some domestic waste, including some charred cereal remains from food waste, although the majority was too degraded to enable identification (see Section 14)

#### **5.3.16 Summary discussion of Phase 3.1**

5 3 16 1 The earliest medieval activity at the site resulted in the creation of a ladder of narrow rectilinear plots presumably to the rear of, but directly associated with, properties fronting onto (what is now) High Street

5 3 16 2 The plots themselves are likely to have served a variety of functions, perhaps being used as kitchen gardens, orchards, grazing pasture or for keeping animals such as pigs and chickens In some cases, episodes of re-cutting or boundary redefinition were recorded but, at this stage, such events have not been allocated to sub-phases Where very narrow corridors of land, c 1 30m or less in width, were seemingly created between parallel boundary features, the preferred interpretation is that these were simply pathways to allow access between plots

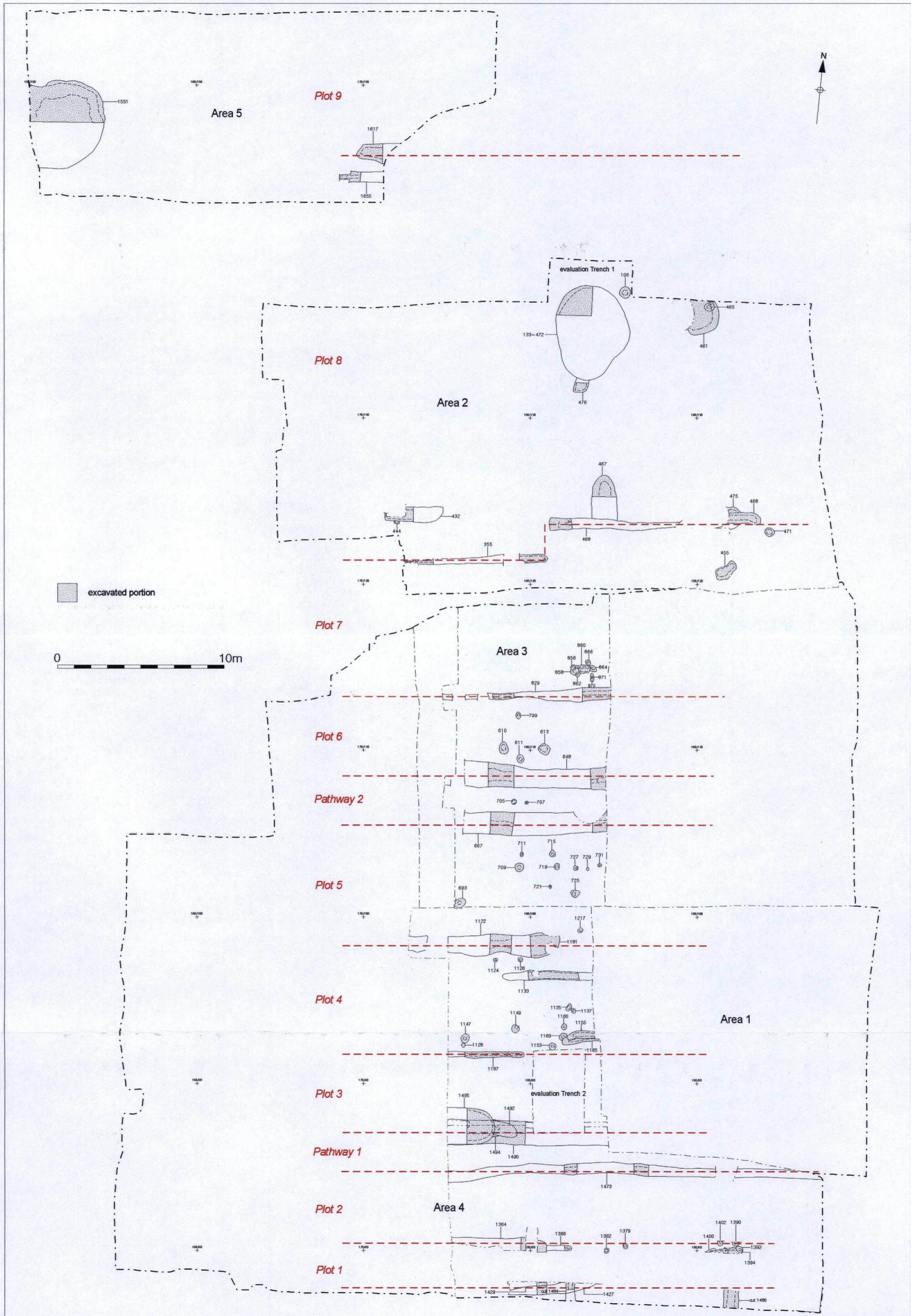


Figure 4. Phase 3.1, plan  
Scale 1:200

### **Phase 3.2 (Figures 5 and 6; Plates 2 and 4)**

#### **5.3.17 Phase 3.2: Eastemmost north-south boundaries**

Ditch [1398], fill [1397], ditch [1396], fill [1395]  
Posthole [1467], fill [1466], posthole [1469], fill [1468]  
Ditch [1471], fill [1470], ditch [1465], fill [1464]  
Gully [448], fill [447], gully [450], fill [449]  
Ditch [457], fill [456], ditch [459], fill [458]

- 5 3 17 1 In the southeastern corner of Area 4, part of what was probably a small posthole, [1467], was recorded. The feature measured 0.78m east-west by 0.39m north-south, meeting the limit of excavation to the north, and survived to a maximum depth of 0.16m. To the east, it had been truncated by a similar feature, [1469], which survived to a maximum depth of 0.21m. Neither feature produced dating evidence. These features, lying within the now presumably defunct 'Pathway 1', may represent the positioning and reinstatement of a marker prior to the laying out of a north-south boundary, as described below.
- 5 3 17 2 A shallow, north-south aligned, linear feature, [1471], was recorded to the west of, and stratigraphically later than, posthole [1467], as described above. It was traced for 3.20m, had a maximum width of 0.85m but survived to a depth of only 70mm. The feature is interpreted as the surviving portion of a north-south orientated boundary delineation. It had been cut through Phase 3.1 ditch [1473], giving the first indication of a variation in alignment of boundary features at the site in Phase 3.2.
- 5 3 17 3 Ditch [1471] had been re-cut, with a slight change of position to the east, as ditch [1465], which had a maximum width of 0.65m and survived to a similar depth as the earlier version. Three sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from its silty fill, [1464], one of which could be broadly dated to the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century. To the south, beyond an intrusion, what is likely to have been a continuation of the same feature was recorded as a short length of shallow ditch, [1398], which had a maximum depth of 0.12m. Its sandy silt fill, [1397], produced a sherd of pottery, datable to the 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century. The southern terminal of a linear, NW-SE orientated, feature, [1396], was recorded immediately to the west, slightly truncating the edge of ditch [1398]. This may represent a partial redefinition of the boundary although, as a length of only 0.66m of the feature survived, it is difficult to be certain. Alternatively it may have been the southern terminal of the ditch recorded to the north as feature [1471].
- 5 3 17 4 Possible additional evidence for the boundary delineation represented by the features described above was recorded c. 34.0m to the north, in the eastern part of Area 2. Two very shallow, parallel linear gullies, [448] and [450], were recorded cutting through the upper part of Phase 3.1 pit [455]. A length of c. 2.50m of each gully was exposed, truncated to the north, both being c. 0.30m wide and surviving to a depth of only 100mm. A single sherd of medieval pottery, broadly 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century in date, was recovered from the fill of gully [450]. These features, although not necessarily contemporary, are interpreted as possibly representing a continuation of the boundary recorded to the south.

5 3 17 5 To the north, two lengths of NNW-SSE orientated ditch, [459] and [457], were recorded. The first, ditch [459], extended c. 8-10m, with rounded terminals at each end, and had maximum surviving dimensions of 1.30m wide and 0.20m deep. Immediately adjacent to its northern terminal, was the southern terminal of ditch [457], of which a length of c. 4.0m was recorded, truncated to the north. It had a maximum surviving width of 1.10m and a maximum surviving depth of 0.20m. Its silty fill, [456], yielded a single sherd of medieval pottery, broadly datable to the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century.

#### 5.3.15 *Phase 3.2: 'Central' north-south boundaries (Plate 2)*

Ditch [1368], fill [1367]

Gully [717], fill [716], posthole [1177], fill [1176], posthole [1215], fill [1214]

Ditch [650], fills [668], [649]

Pit [405], fill [404], pit [409], fill [408]

Ditch [805], fill [804], ditch [396], fill [397]

Pit [1139], fill [1138], pit [1141], fill [1140], ditch [1143], fill [1142], posthole [1145], fill [1144]

Ditch [1643], fill [1642]

5 3 18 1 Towards the southern limit of excavation in Area 4, and lying c. 10-50m to the west of the boundary features described above, was a similarly aligned boundary delineation, ditch [1368]. This had been cut through Phase 3.1 boundary ditch [1364], which defined the northern side of Plots 1. This feature was traced for 1.40m north-south, truncated at either end, and had maximum recorded dimensions of 0.70m wide and 0.24m deep. Its silty fill, [1367], produced a single sherd of medieval pottery, broadly datable to the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century.

5 3 18 2 Some 19.0m to the north, and on the same alignment, a linear gully, [717], was recorded. Terminally defined to the north, it was traced for c. 1.40m, meeting the limit of excavation to the south, and survived with maximum dimensions of 0.28m wide and only 45mm deep. Due to the limited degree to which the feature was exposed, a precise function cannot be determined. To the south was a truncated posthole, [1177], c. 0.20m in diameter and surviving to a depth of 0.16m. To the south again was the very base of what may have been another posthole, [1215], 0.46m in diameter and surviving to a depth of only 80mm. Both features may have been associated with the boundary represented by gully [717]. It is perhaps worthy of note that posthole [1177], along with another posthole, [1145], to the west, lay along the line of an infilled Phase 3.1 ditch, [1122], and, if contemporary, could conceivably have been elements within a simple structure, such as a fence-line, erected along the line of the former boundary.

5 3 18 3 Some 13.0m to the north of the feature described above, was another north-south orientated ditch, [805]. This had a rounded terminal to the south and extended c. 3.80m north to the limit of excavation of Area 3. It measured 1.13m wide and its maximum recorded depth was 0.17m. Its clayey silt fill, [804], produced a single sherd of pottery only broadly datable to the medieval period. Within a sequence of features recorded to the north, beyond an unexcavated strip of land, was a linear north-south orientated ditch, [396], with which ditch [805] has reasonable concordance. Two discrete features pre-dated ditch [396]. These comprised portions of shallow sub-circular pits, [405] and [409]. The silty fills of both, [404] and [408], respectively, produced single sherds of medieval pottery, the item from the latter deposit being datable to the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century. These features may have been marker pits for the siting of ditch [396], which was traced for c. 2.60m. It was partly truncated to the north but had a narrow squashed terminal on its western side, where there was some evidence to suggest re-cutting had taken place. The ditch was c. 1.0m wide and survived to a maximum depth of 0.20m. Its silty fill, [397], produced part of the strap handle from a jug, in an unusual medieval coarseware.

- 5 3 18 4 A north-south orientated ditch, [650], was recorded close to the western limit of excavation in Area 3, and this had been cut through Phase 3 1 boundary features. To the north, ditch [650] had an irregular rounded terminal, not dissimilar to that recorded in ditch [396], as described above, and survived with maximum dimensions of 1 0m wide and 0 30m deep (Plate 2). A narrow slot ran centrally along the base of ditch [650], in the southernmost portion to be excavated. The total length of the feature to be exposed was c. 13 0m, and it had evidently been truncated to the south by pit [1139].
- 5 3 18 5 A clayey primary fill, [668], of ditch [650] probably represents material which accumulated naturally in ditch [650], while a silty clay uppermost fill, [649], represents backfilling. The latter deposit produced six sherds of medieval pottery, broadly indicating a 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century date for disuse. If contemporary, ditches [805] and [650] may have formed a staggered entrance, perhaps to a field lying to the east of the street frontage properties.
- 5 3 18 6 Two intercutting pits, [1139] and [1141], were recorded in Area 4, close to its boundary with Area 3. The earliest, pit [1139], had, as mentioned above, evidently truncated the southern terminal of ditch [650]. Pit [1139] measured 0 90m by 0 70m and survived to a depth of 0 30m with its silty fill, [1138], producing a sherd of pottery only broadly datable to the medieval period. To the west, the feature was truncated by a relatively substantial sub-rounded pit, [1141], which measured 1 06m by at least 0 83m and survived to depth of c. 0 70m. This feature produced no dating evidence.
- 5 3 18 7 The excavated evidence at the Area 3/4 interface suggests that the boundary represented by ditch [650] was re-set, slightly to the west, as a linear north-south ditch, [1143]. A length of 2 50m of the feature was exposed and, within this portion, it was 1 30m wide and survived to a maximum depth of 0 35m. Three sherds of pottery were recovered from its sandy silt fill, [1142], and one of these was broadly of late medieval date. A bulk sample produced cinder/clinker and some coal, this probably burnt fuel waste, along with fish bone and a small quantity of charred cereal grain, legumes and hazelnut fragments. Some of this material is likely to have derived from domestic waste.
- 5 3 18 8 A posthole, [1145], was recorded to the west of boundary ditch [1143] and could conceivably have been associated with it. It survived to a depth of only 0 16m, but was notable for the presence of a large flat-sided stone exposed within the base of the feature, below a silty fill, [1144]. This is likely to have been a post-setting. As discussed above, if not associated with ditch [1143], this feature could have been one element of a simple fence-line erected along the former plot boundary ditch, [1122].
- 5 3 18 9 In the eastern part of Area 5, what was probably the northern terminal of north-south orientated linear feature [1643], was recorded. It measured up to 0 76m wide by 0 10m deep and its silty clay fill, [1642], produced no artefactual material. Based on its position, it can be tentatively suggested that this feature may represent continuation of the same – albeit intermittent – boundary delineation as that described above.

### 5.3.19 *Phase 3.2: 'Westermost' north-south boundary features*

Ditch [1539], fill [1538], ditch [1508], fill [1507], feature [1510], fill [1515]  
 Ditch [1546], fills [1603], [1605], [1544], [1604]  
 Gully [1637], fill [1636]  
 Gully [413], fill [412], gully [415], fill [414]  
 Ditch [490], fill [489], ditch [1647], fill [1646]

- 5 3 19 1 Portions of numerous, north-south orientated, linear features were recorded in Area 5. In common with most of the similarly aligned features seen to the east, each member of this group had a terminal, suggesting that they were parts of intermittent boundary delineations.
- 5 3 19 2 In the northwestern corner of Area 5 was a shallow north-south orientated ditch, [1539], the recorded part of which measured 0.60m wide by 0.14m deep. It ended to the south in a slightly pointed terminal. Its gritty fill, [1538], produced a single fragment of bone, but no pottery. Part of its eastern edge had been truncated by a similar but slightly differently orientated ditch, [1508], the surviving part of which measured 0.50m wide by 0.19m deep. Its silty fill, [1507], produced more than 20 sherds of pottery, suggesting a later medieval date for infilling. These features may have defined one side of an area set aside for a particular backlot activity. The apparent replacement of ditch [1539] by ditch [1508] indicates relative longevity of the boundary. A shallow feature, [1510], had been cut into the two ditches and met the limit of excavation to the north. It may have been the base of a shallow posthole.
- 5 3 19 3 To the south-east, but also in Area 5, was another north-south orientated ditch, [1546], the surviving part of which measured 0.50m wide and 0.58m deep. It had a rounded terminal to the north and extended 4.10m to the southern limit of excavation in Area 5. A primary silting-up fill, [1603], was overlain by a sandy deposit, [1605], probably material eroded from the sides of the feature as it lay open. The upper portion of the feature was filled with similar silty deposits, [1544] and [1604], both of which yielded pottery of 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century date. A bulk sample of fill [1544] produced some fuel waste - coal, cinder/clinker and charcoal - and evidence of domestic food products, mostly charred cereal grains and hazelnut fragments. It is possible that feature [1546] was broadly contemporary with one or other of ditches [1539] and [1508], as previously described. The location and form of these features indicates that well [1551], from Phase 3 1, was in place, although possibly largely abandoned, when they were cut, since they appeared to respect the position of that substantial feature.
- 5 3 19 4 At the southern limit of Area 5, the heavily truncated part of a north-south orientated linear gully, [1637], was recorded. The surviving portion measured 0.55m wide by 0.27m deep, although it had been horizontally truncated. Its clayey silt fill, [1636], produced no artefactual material.
- 5 3 19 5 To the south, in the western part of Area 2, two parallel linear gullies, [413] and [415], were recorded, on the same alignment as feature [1637], described above. It is also perhaps worthy of note that this pair of gullies were similar in form and alignment to gullies [448] and [450], recorded c. 24.0m to the east. The easternmost feature had a rounded southern terminal and extended c. 3.50m to the north before being truncated. It was 0.44m wide and up to 0.16m deep. The silty fills of the two features, [412] and [414], respectively, did not produce any dating evidence.
- 5 3 19 6 To the north-east, was another linear ditch, [490]. It had a rounded terminal to the south and extended 2.60m to the north, up to the limit of excavation of Area 5. It was 0.40m wide but survived to a depth of only 0.10m. Its silty fill, [489], produced a single sherd of medieval pottery, datable to the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century.

5 3 19 7 The northern terminal of a relatively substantial north-south orientated ditch, [1647], was recorded to the north in Area 5, on a slightly different line to ditch [490] and a few metres to the east of feature [1637], both described above. Ditch [1647] met the limit of excavation to the south and extended to the north for c. 6.0 m to its terminal. It measured 1.16 m wide and survived to a depth of 0.26 m. Three sherds of pottery, broadly of 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century date, were recovered from its silty fill, [1646], along with a few fragments of animal bone.

#### **5.3.20 Phase 3.2: Structure [1418] (Figure 6)**

Construction cut [1675], wall [1545], construction cut backfill [1674], linear feature [1409], fill [1408], stakehole [1407], fill [1406], stakeholes [1661-1673] (odd numbers), fills [1670-1672] (even numbers), surface [1410]

5 3 20 1 A rectilinear construction cut, [1675], was recorded adjacent to the southern limit of excavation in Area 4. It contained a shallow wall foundation, [1545], up to 0.45 m wide and up to 0.25 m deep, principally comprising roughly hewn fragments of limestone, up to 120 mm x 90 mm x 40 mm in size, with a lesser proportion of medium and large sub-rounded river cobbles. The structure extended 2.15 m east-west, truncated to the west, and then returned to the south for a further 0.40 m to meet the limit of excavation. The foundation bounded a surface, [1410], comprising medium and large sub-rounded river cobbles, in a silty clay matrix. This was recorded across an area measuring 2.40 m east-west by 0.55 m north-south, meeting the limit of excavation to the south. Together the wall foundation and surface comprise 'Structure [1418]', interpreted as the northeastern corner of a backlot building.

5 3 20 2 There was some evidence of the form of the superstructure associated with foundation [1545]. Running along the centre of the east-west orientated portion was a narrow linear 'groove', [1409], interpreted as the housing for a regular line of stakeholes, [1661]-[1673] (odd numbers). It is assumed that the uprights represented by these features would have formed the framework for a wall, perhaps of wattle and daub construction. A single stakehole, [1407], was recorded centrally in the southern return, although no housing 'groove' was recorded in that portion.

#### **5.3.21 Phase 3.2: Structure [1417] (Figure 6; Plate 4)**

Construction cut [1484], wall [1421], construction cut backfill [1483], construction cut [1425], wall [1405], make-up layer [1419], surface [1420], make-up layer [1414], surface [1413], make-up layer [1416], surface [1415], construction cut [1486], wall [1483], construction cut backfill [1485], surface [1424]

5 3 21 1 To the east of Structure [1418], more extensive structural evidence was recorded, these remains interpreted as comprising the northern portion of a building, 'Structure [1417]'. A principal element of this structure was a rectilinear construction cut, [1425], up to 0.75 m wide and with a maximum depth of 0.23 m. It contained a shallow wall foundation, [1405], again comprising mostly roughly hewn fragments of limestone with a lesser proportion of sub-rounded river cobbles. The structure extended c. 7.0 m east-west, truncated to the east, and had two returns to the south, one at the western end, the other c. 1.50 m to the east, both of which met the limit of excavation to the south so that lengths of only c. 0.60 m survived.

5 3 21 2 Three areas of cobble surface, [1413], [1415] and [1420], were recorded in association with the walls, all three evidently having been laid down upon silty sand bedding layers, [1414], [1416] and [1419], respectively, following the insertion of the walls. The westernmost cobble surface, [1420], was bounded to the west by a north-south wall foundation, [1421], of similar form to those described above. This element was 0.46m wide and was housed within a linear construction cut, [1484], 0.25m deep. This wall is interpreted as forming the western limit of structure [1417] and it too had evidently been inserted prior to the laying down of surface [1420]. When initially built, therefore, Structure [1417] extended at least 9.50m east-west, with a western 'corridor' c. 2.0m wide and two internal bays, at least c. 1.60m and 3.60m wide.

5 3 21 3 To the east, what appeared to be a later addition to Structure [1417] was recorded, in the form of a north-south orientated construction cut, [1486], which housed a wall foundation, [1463]. The construction cut truncated the eastern end of wall [1405] and its associated surface, [1413]. Foundation [1463] was of similar construction to the foundations described above. To the east, was a small area of cobbled surface, [1424], which had evidently been laid down following the insertion of wall [1463]. This addition to the eastern end of Structure [1417] extended the dimension of the building to at least 11.50m east-west.

### 5.3.22 *Phase 3.2: 'Corridor' between Structure [1417] and [1418]*

Construction cut [1445], wall [1423], construction cut backfill [1444]  
Construction cut [1677], wall [1422], construction cut backfill [1676]

5 3 22 1 If Structures [1417] and [1418] were broadly contemporary, as is likely, they were divided by a strip of land c. 3.60m wide. No surfaces were recorded in this strip, although two sections of wall foundation were recorded. The first, wall [1423], lay c. 0.90m to the east of the north-south portion of wall [1545], running parallel to it. It was of similar construction, housed within a construction cut, [1445], up to 0.20m deep. This structure could conceivably have been associated with either Structure [1417] or [1418] or neither, on the basis of the excavated evidence, there is no way to be certain. It is perhaps also worthy of note that wall [1423] lay on the same alignment as Phase 3.2 ditch [1368], recorded a few metres to the north, beyond a modern intrusion. The second wall, [1422], lay c. 1.0m to the east, and on a true north-south alignment. It was housed within a linear construction cut, [1677], up to 0.15m deep, and comprised only medium and large sub-rounded river cobbles, forming a foundation up to 0.34m wide. Based upon the variation in both construction technique and alignment between wall [1422] and the north-south elements of Structures [1417] and [1415], it is considered that wall [1422] was probably not contemporary with those structures.

### 5.3.23 *Phase 3.2: Other possible structural evidence*

Pit [1158]=[103], fill [1157]=[107], fill [1156]=[102], pit [1163]=[101], fill [1162]=[120], fill [1161]=[100]

5 3 23 1 In the central part of Area 4, a substantial sub-square pit, [1155]=[103], was recorded, cutting through Phase 3.1 ditch [1490]. It measured c. 1.0m in each direction and its maximum recorded depth was c. 0.85m. A silty clay primary fill, [1157]=[107], produced two large fresh potsherds, one being part of vessel handle of 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century date, the second being medieval, possibly of European origin, but otherwise unidentified. A bulk sample of the deposit yielded charcoal and a small quantity of charred cereal grain, which probably did not arrive in the feature by direct disposal, rather via run-off from nearby sources. A single waterlogged seed indicated that conditions within the pit were generally unsuitable for organic preservation.



5 3 23 2 The upper fill, [1156]=[102], produced an assemblage of pottery of 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century date, including part of the same handle as recovered from the primary fill. This upper fill essentially consisted of compacted river cobbles, between 100mm and 200mm diameter, and the implication of this distinctive infilling is discussed below.

5 3 23 3 To the north-west, was a sub-oval pit, [1163]=[101], which measured 0.98m north-south by more than 0.60m east-west and was 0.64m deep. The silty primary fill, [1162]=[120], was largely unremarkable, while the upper fill, [1161]=[100], contained frequent river cobbles, in similar fashion to the upper fill of pit [103] to the south. The upper fill yielded a collection of local sandy wares broadly datable to the 12<sup>th</sup> to later 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

5 3 23 3 The cobble infill of the two pits described above suggests that these features may have been discrete load-bearing foundation pits, upon which timber uprights could have been supported, associated with what may have been a timber-framed building. However, their relative position, along with the fact that no similar features were exposed in the vicinity, perhaps weighs against such an interpretation.

Pit [436], fill [435], pit [442], fill [441], pit [356], fill [357]

5 3 23 4 Two sub-oval pits, [436] and [442], were recorded immediately to the west of gully [448], in the southeastern corner of Area 2. The surviving portions were relatively shallow, up to 0.25m deep, but their compact fills, [435] and [441], respectively, were notable in that they consisted essentially of river cobbles in a silty matrix. Both fills produced dating evidence, fill [435] yielded a small assemblage of 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century pottery and fill [441] produced a single sherd of pottery in the same broad date range. A similar feature, [356], was recorded c. 15.0m to the west. This survived to a depth of only 80mm, but again its fill, [357], was notable for its compaction and content of river cobbles within a silty clay matrix. Three sherds of later medieval pottery, broadly datable to the 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century, were recovered. Again, the composition of the fills of these features perhaps implies a load-bearing function, and again it is possible that all were discrete foundation pits associated with timber-framed buildings. However, this interpretation remains unproven due to the absence of additional features of this type in the vicinity.

Posthole [1570], fill [1569], posthole [1573], fills [1571], [1572], posthole [1575], fill [1574], posthole [1577], fill [1576], posthole [1579], fill [1578], posthole [1583], fill [1582]

5 3 23 5 A rectilinear arrangement of circular and sub-circular postholes was recorded in the western part of Area 5. The features were arranged in two east-west orientated, roughly parallel lines. The individual features varied in size, from 0.25m in diameter ([1583]) to 0.33m x 0.44m ([1579]), and depth from 80mm ([1583]) to 0.41m ([1570]). Posthole [1573] was perhaps the most notable as it had a distinctive stepped profile indicative of a post-pipe/posthole and contained two silty fills, [1571] representing the central post-pipe and [1572] representing the surrounding post-packing. The silty fills of each of the features were generally unremarkable, and none produced dating evidence. These features are interpreted as representing some form of post-built structure, the maximum dimensions of which would have been c. 4.0m east-west x 2.0m north-south. Although the arrangement of the features broadly continues the line of Phase 3.1 boundary features [1617] and [1665], the preferred interpretation is that they were associated with a Phase 3.2 structure and the location, to the east of well [1551], as described below, is probably significant.

Construction trench [1615], fill [1614]

- 5 3 23 6 In the northeastern corner of Area 5 was part of a rectilinear feature, [1615], which in its north-south orientated portion measured up to 1.75m wide by 0.14m deep. To the north, it met the limit of excavation. The east-west orientated portion had suffered horizontal truncation and the feature had been completely truncated to the west. Its fill, [1614], predominantly over cobbles in a silty matrix, did not produce dating evidence. The function of the feature is uncertain given the limited degree to which it was exposed, but its rectilinear form and the nature of its fill imply that it may have been a wall foundation trench.

### 5.3.24 *Phase 3.2: Discrete non-structural features*

Pit [1596], fill [1595]

- 5 3 24 1 Internal to the northwestern edge of infilled well [1551], in the western part of Area 5, was a shallow elongated feature, [1596], of uncertain purpose. It measured 1.70m x 0.50m and was 0.19m deep, filled with a silty clay and gravel deposit, [1595], which produced no artefactual material.

Well [453], fill [358], well re-cut [336], fill [335]

- 5 3 24 2 At the northwestern corner of Area 2, a small part of the eastern edge of a sub-circular feature, [453], was recorded. This is interpreted as the earliest surviving version of a well cone, which survived in far more complete fashion as the eastern part of a substantial sub-circular pit, [336]. The earliest version could have been assigned to Phase 3.1, although it is difficult to be certain due to the limited extent to which it survived. Its fill, [358], produced ten sherds of medieval pottery, one distinctively of the late medieval period. The later element, [336], measured 4.40m north-south by 3.20m east-west, meeting the limit of excavation to the north and west. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.52m, at which point excavation could not continue due to Health and Safety concerns as the investigation lay c. 1.50m below existing ground level. In the upper portion, the feature had gently sloping sides, breaking into a near vertical fall.
- 5 3 24 3 Within the excavated portion, the cone was filled with a silty clay deposit, [335], which produced a relatively large - almost 90 sherds - and interesting assemblage of medieval pottery, some distinctly of later medieval date. A bulk sample of this deposit did not produce any charred plant remains, although a variety of cultural materials was recovered, including shell, hammer scale, slag and bone, such diversity indicating both an industrial and domestic origin.

Hollow [1631], fill [1630]

- 5 3 24 3 A substantial but generally shallow feature, [1631], was excavated in the south of Area 5 to facilitate the investigation of features [1635], [1637] and [1647]. It had a rather pointed terminal to the north and met the limit of excavation to the south, at which point it measured 5.95m wide and was 0.32m deep. Its mottled silty fill, [1630], produced seven sherds of medieval pottery, indicating that infilling occurred broadly during the later medieval period. The feature was probably too substantial to be a ditch terminal and it may have been either a working hollow or may simply have formed due to traffic accessing the north side of well [453]/[336], as described above.

Pit [407], fill [406]

- 5 3 24 4 A substantial pit, [407], was recorded in the northeastern corner of Area 2. It measured 2.65m east-west by 2.40m north-south, meeting the limit of excavation to the north and had a maximum depth of c. 0.60m. Its base was stepped, with a distinctive lower central element. A homogeneous silty fill, [406], yielded 11 sherds of medieval pottery, these broadly datable to the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century. The pit truncated the western side of Phase 3.1 feature [461], which it resembled in dimension and form, as well as appearing to truncate the northern end of Phase 3.2 north-south orientated linear feature [457]. Pit [407] could reasonably have been assigned to Phase 3.3, although it is considered likely that feature [457] was closely associated with it.

Pit [689], fill [688], pit [1517], fill [1516], pit [1514], fill [1513], pit [1645], fill [1644], pit/posthole [1607], fill [1606], pit [1600], fill [1599], pit [1589], fill [1588], pit [1635], fills [1632-1634]

- 5 3 24 5 Towards the centre of Area 3, a substantial sub-circular pit, [689], was recorded within the land corridor formerly designated Pathway 2. It measured 2.0m in diameter but survived to a depth of only 0.30m. Its sandy silt fill, [688], produced two sherds of medieval pottery, one a sagging base sherd broadly datable to the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century. The feature may have been the base of a refuse pit.

- 5 3 24 6 A sub-rounded pit, [1517], was recorded in the southwestern corner of Area 5. It measured up to 0.95m across and survived to a depth of 0.28m. Its silty fill, [1516], notable for frequent charcoal inclusions, produced a small assemblage of pottery, suggesting a late medieval, probably 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century, date of infilling. To the north, was a shallow sub-oval pit, [1514], which measured up to 0.69m across and was 0.18m deep. To the east, was a shallow sub-oval feature, [1645], which measured 1.0m by 0.60m and was 0.10m deep. Its clayey fill, [1644], produced a single sherd of pottery, broadly datable to the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century. To the south-east was a small sub-circular pit or posthole base, [1607], which measured up to 0.48m across and was 0.29m deep. It had been partially truncated to the east by a more substantial pit, [1600], which measured up to 1.22m across and was 0.20m deep. Neither contained any artefactual material. Immediately to the north-west was a shallow sub-circular pit, [1589], which measured up to 0.62m across but survived to a depth of only 90mm. Its silty fill, [1588], produced a single sherd of 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

- 5 3 24 7 A more substantial sub-circular feature, [1635], was recorded close to the southern limit of excavation. Truncated to the east, its diameter was c. 2.10m and it survived to a depth of 0.40m. A clayey primary fill, [1644], may have been a deliberate lining, implying that the feature may have been used to hold water. A silty secondary fill, [1633], was evidently a deliberate backfill, from which a few fragments of animal bone were recovered. A clayey tertiary fill, [1632], may have been the disturbed clay lining.

Pit [1175], fill [1174], pit [1179], fill [1178]

- 5 3 24 7 Two shallow small pits were recorded in the northern part of Area 4, to the east of north-south boundary ditch [1143]. The silty fill, [1178], of pit [1179] produced three sherds of medieval pottery, one broadly datable to the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century. Both features are interpreted as the bases of shallow refuse pits.

Pit [340], fill [339], pit [347], fill [346], pit [343], fills [344-345], pit [348], fill [349], pit [364], fill [363], pit [383], fills [384-385], [382], pit [391], fill [390], ?pit [492], fills [478-479], [481-484]

5 3 24 8 A cluster of pits was recorded in the southwestern portion of Area 2. They were generally unremarkable, mostly sub-circular, features and have been broadly interpreted as the remains of refuse pits. The deepest of the features was pit [347], which was only partially exposed against the southern limit of excavation. It survived to a depth of c. 0.50m and its silty fill, [346], produced a small assemblage of medieval pottery, including part of a narrow strap handle from a jug. The two largest features, [348] and [383], were perhaps noteworthy because of their sub-rectangular form, both being at least 1.20m in length and at least c. 1.0m wide. Pit [383], recorded adjacent to the southern limit of Area 2, had three fills, one of these, deposit [384], comprising a dump of lime mortar, presumably debris from a structure in the vicinity. The silty uppermost fill, [382], yielded a single shed of medieval pottery.

5 3 24 9 Feature [492] was recorded, in section only, towards the western boundary of Area 2. It was probably a flat-bottomed pit and measured c. 1.50m north-south and was at least 0.36m deep. One of its fills, [479], yielded five sherds of medieval pottery, and although two were an early coarse sandy ware of 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century date, one was a later medieval sandy ware.

### **5.3.25 Summary discussion of Phase 3.2**

5 3 25 1 Phase 3.2 again broadly reflects activity in the backlot situation of the site during the medieval period. However, there was evidently a significant shift in the way land was managed at the site, with numerous parallel north-south orientated boundaries being created, these running at right angles to the east-west boundaries so evident in Phase 3.1. In numerous cases, stratigraphic evidence indicates that these were cut across disused east-west aligned features from Phase 3.1. This activity did not seemingly create such a regular arrangement of boundaries as in Phase 3.1 and it may be that the site was turned over, for example, to communal arable cultivation or pasture. No interpretative numerical sequence has been assigned to the parcels of land thus created, due to the general irregularity. All features interpreted as being associated with this new arrangement of boundaries have been assigned to Phase 3.2.

5 3 25 2 The other significant element of Phase 3.2 is the evidence of structural remains at the site during the medieval period. These remains were best preserved adjacent to the southern limit of the site although, even at that location, survival was limited by the extent of modern intrusions.

5 3 25 3 In addition, this sub-phase contains the majority of the remaining medieval features recorded at the site. In some, but not all, cases, the assignment of features is based upon stratigraphic and/or dating evidence, while for some features the assignment simply reflects the preferred interpretation of the excavator.