

16.3 To set the evidence of Roman period activity into a local and regional context

- 16 3 1 Given the limited extent of the Phase 2 remains and the lack of previous evidence of Roman period activity in both the town and surrounding area, it is impossible to be anything more than extremely tentative regarding the status of a possible settlement with which the recorded features may have been associated. The small amount of dating evidence recovered suggests that the activity took place c AD 70-85 or later
- 16 3 2 Approximately 20km to the north-west of Northallerton lies the Roman small town of Catterick (*Catafractonium*), with its extensive suburbs, on the line of the Dere Street Roman road, where it crosses the River Swale. The town owed its inception to the auxiliary fort constructed overlooking the river, probably during the campaigning of Agricola, who arrived in Britain as governor in AD 77 or 78 and whose governorship was brought to an end under Domitian in AD 83 or 84. It seems then that whatever form of settlement existed in Northallerton, it may have been established during the time of the Agnolian campaigns in the northern frontier zone. Another late 1st century AD fort was constructed where Dere Street crosses the River Ure, c. 40km to the south of Northallerton. The Roman town of *Isurium Brigantum* developed there in the Hadrianic period and the modern village of Aldborough now overlies this.
- 16 3 3 A direct military connection with Roman period settlement in Northallerton, in whatever form, is by no means certain. In recent years, extensive archaeological excavations have been undertaken at the 'villa' site at Quarry Farm, Ingleby Barwick, which stands on the Tees c. 28km to the NNE of Northallerton. That site has, to date, been regarded as being unique in the region in displaying a highly romanised form, evidently without obvious military connections. Another site of possible relevance is Faverdale East, c. 28km NNW of Northallerton. This was previously unknown prior to a major archaeological excavation in 2004, which recorded an extensive Roman site, probably with significant military influence, which began in the late 1st century AD and reached peak of occupation in the 2nd century. Perhaps also of note is the course of a second Roman road, known as 'Cades Road', assumed to be the principal north-south route through the eastern part of County Durham, leading to the fort at Chester-le-Street. This road entered County Durham at the crossing of the Tees, south of Middleton St. George. Aerial photography has highlighted several areas of cropmarks to indicate probable Romano-British rural settlement in the area of Middleton St. George, which lies c. 18km north of Northallerton. It is of note that extending the line of Cades Road south from Middleton St. George, takes it through Northallerton.
- 16 3 4 The NERRF Roman Research Strategy contains a Research Topic (under Section 4.2 'Roads and Communication') entitled '*There is a need to fill in our basic map of the Roman communication network in the region....*'. One particular focus of this topic was described as exploring Cades road and the installations along it. The Phase 2 data from East Road may provide evidence – albeit in fragmentary form - relevant to this research topic.
- 16 3.5 The NERRF Roman Research Strategy contains a Research Topic (under Section 4.4 'Native and Civilian Life') entitled '*4.4.3. Recent discoveries at Ingleby Barwick and Faverdale East, Darlington have shown the presence of small villa settlements in Cleveland and South Durham. There is a need to further understand these sites and their wider contexts*'. Again, the Phase 2 data from East Road may provide evidence relevant to this research topic.

16.4 To identify evidence for the layout or use of land as part of the development of the medieval town core

16.4 1 Whether or not the East Road site was occupied between the Roman period and the 12th century is uncertain. In fact the extent of the settlement core in Northallerton at the time of the Norman Conquest is largely uncertain. The Domesday survey lists the pre-Conquest manor of 'Aluertune' as one of the king's estates but describes it as being 'wasted', probably a reference to the campaign of William I in 1069-70 known as the 'harrying of the north'. There are mentions of (the town of?) 'Aluerton' in documentary (royal exchequer) records from the late 12th century and it is of note that the archaeological data from East Road indicates that utilisation of this part of the town probably began from the 12th century onwards.

16.4 2 Archaeological features assigned to Phase 3.1 demonstrate that the site was occupied by part of a ladder of narrow burgage plots and access pathways, almost certainly set out to the east of and associated with properties fronting onto High Street. The site was situated on the southeastern periphery of the medieval town core. In common with many market towns of similar size in the region, property boundaries established during the medieval era have effectively become fossilised in the modern layout of the town. Documentary evidence indicates that the 12th-14th century was a period of relative vitality for Northallerton, despite having a relatively prominent role in Anglo-Scottish warfare during those centuries. The backlot plots of High Street properties would have been utilised for a variety of functions, including as kitchen gardens, orchards, pasture or for keeping animals. Evidence of re-definition of the plot boundaries underlines the fact that the burgage plot layout was significant, even on the periphery of the town core. A variety of discrete archaeological features were recorded, such as refuse pits and wells, the presence of such features being entirely consistent with the backlot situation of the site in the 12th-14th century.

16.4 3 Archaeological features assigned to Phase 3.2 included structural remains representing the stone footings, with associated surfaces, of what may have been a row of outbuildings. This evidence indicates an entirely different land use, possibly while a significant variation in land management was occurring at the site. Several north-south orientated boundaries were set out, at right angles to the former, abandoned, burgage plot boundaries. This was evidently a far more irregular arrangement of boundaries and it may have been that the site was turned over, for example, to communal arable cultivation or pasture. Research into documentary sources, suggests that the town, in common with many other settlements and indeed regions, was suffering from the demographic upheavals of the period. Of particular note, the tithes of the church of Northallerton fluctuated markedly after the Black Death before falling into decline after the 1370s.

16.4 4 The NERRF Medieval Research Strategy contains a Research Topic (under Section 6.2 'Urbanism') entitled '6.2.1. There is a need for a better understanding of the development of all levels of urbanism, including chronology and spatial layout and growth.' This highlights how the origins and development of medieval small towns should be studied as a priority, particularly as many towns in the region saw massive expansion in the early post-medieval period, which has often obscured understanding of earlier phases of urban development.

Since the layout of streets and properties in the historic core of Northallerton have been affected relatively little in this respect, the Phase 3 data from East Road provides evidence relevant to this research topic. At this site, the noticeable variation in property boundary orientation (between sub-phases 3.1 and 3.2) may be related to variations in economic factors and possibly tenural patterns, as discussed.

- 16.4.5 The NERRF Medieval Research Strategy contains a Research Topic (under Section 6.2 'Urbanism') entitled '6.2.3. *There is a need for a better understanding of patterns of urban-rural interdependence through studies of urban consumption*'. This highlights the importance of exploring links between studies of material culture assemblages, including faunal remains, research into suites of environmental remains and documentary research. By this means research can move beyond site specific studies in order to expand current knowledge of regional economic and social interactions. The Phase 3 data from East Road could provide evidence relevant to this research topic.
- 16.4.6 The NERRF Medieval Research Strategy contains a Research Topic (under Section 6.5 'Material Culture and Production') entitled '6.5.1. *Medieval Ceramics*'. This highlights how ceramic evidence can be crucial as an indicator of chronology and informing on patterns of economic exchange and consumption. The Phase 3 data from East Road provides important evidence relevant to this research topic.
- 16.4.7 The NERRF Medieval Research Strategy contains a Research Topic (under Section 6.5 'Material Culture and Production') entitled '6.5.2. *Other industries*'. This highlights the importance of identifying evidence of all proto-urban industrial activity, particularly when exploring the relationship between individual production sites and tenural factors. The Phase 3 data from East Road could provide evidence relevant to this research topic.

16.5 *To identify evidence of generalised or repeated medieval or post-medieval activities, such as pitting, well-building, horticulture and agriculture*

- 16.5.1 The site data proved fruitful in terms of addressing this research objective, with medieval and, particularly, post-medieval remains yielding significant information related to specific trades and activities.
- 16.5.2 Evidence of medieval well-digging was identified in the northern portion of the site, with one feature being re-defined on at least one occasion in the medieval period, before a period of abandonment prior to re-definition, this incorporating a stone lining, probably in the 17th-18th century. The structure probably remained in use until the 20th century, with brick capping being added as a final phase of activity. Other wells attributable to the medieval period were recorded, these being relatively simple features, essentially large pits with no evidence of an interior lining, even of simple wooden form. One such feature produced the largest assemblage of ceramic material to be recovered from a single medieval feature during the excavation, this being broadly indicative of 13th-15th century date for abandonment.

- 16.5.3 The identification of medieval pits at the site was entirely consistent with its backlot situation in the 12th-14th century. However, the relatively small number of such features to be recorded does not suggest very intensive usage of the backlot area away from the frontage.
- 16.5.4 In terms of identifying evidence of agricultural or horticultural activities during the medieval period, biological data from the project was not particularly informative. When bulk samples from medieval deposits did produce charred botanical remains, the broad finding was that although cereals such as barley, breadwheat and oats almost certainly formed part of the diet of the occupants of the site, there was no evidence to indicate either growth or processing of such material in backlot areas.
- 16.5.5 Pitting to dispose of trade waste rather than domestic refuse was certainly a repeated activity at the site during the post-medieval period. The western portion of Area 2 and the eastern portion of Area 3 were both notable for their evidence of intensive pitting, in the mid-late 18th century and c. 1900, respectively. Since the faunal remains recovered are indicative of proto-urban industry in each case, further discussion of this evidence more appropriately forms part of Section 16.7, below.

16.6 To identify evidence for changes in site activities from medieval to early modern times

- 16.6.1 Since the medieval period, the East Road site has occupied a backlot location on the edge of the town's historic core. In broad terms, this has effectively limited the range of activities to be undertaken at the site - which is largely reflected in the archaeological evidence. Burgage plot boundaries established at the site in the 12th-14th century have essentially remained fossilised in the site layout until relatively recently. Of note, however, was the time during the later medieval period when the distinctive ladder arrangement of burgage plots appears to have been abandoned, possibly as a result of shrinkage of the overall settlement size following the Black Death.
- 16.6.2 With one or two notable exceptions, such as well-digging and (limited) pitting, site activities during the medieval period can only be broadly speculated upon given the available archaeological evidence. In fact, the site data suggests that following the setting-out of plot boundaries, the portions of the backlots within the site were used relatively little for specific activities, or at least those that could have left a trace in the archaeological record. Evidence of specific post-medieval activities has been far easier to identify from the disposal of faunal remains derived from commercial operations during the 18th century and c. 1900. In both cases, it is assumed that the street frontage property associated with the plot of land in which the waste disposal took place was the premises of the relevant trade.
- 16.6.3 The NERRF Medieval Research Strategy contains a Research Topic entitled '6.7. The medieval to post-medieval transition'. This highlights the importance of studies of the crucial transition into the post-medieval period through assessment of whether the process can be characterised as 'rupture' or 'continuity'. Given the relatively peripheral location of the East Road site in relation to the historic core of the settlement in Northallerton, the extent to which the site data can provide evidence relevant to this research topic is perhaps rather limited.

16.7 To identify evidence for medieval and post-medieval crafts or small scale proto-urban industries, such as brewing or butchery

- 16.7.1 Amongst the pottery assemblage were various medieval items types subsumed under the broad category of 'unidentified Sandy wares'. It may be that some or all of these will be eventually identified as part of established local ceramic traditions or, alternatively, some or all may represent new types, perhaps from Northallerton itself. Further analysis of the ceramic assemblage therefore has the potential to reveal significant new information regarding the medieval ceramic industry at both local and regional levels.
- 16.7.2 The ceramic assessment has also flagged-up the potential importance of post-medieval and early modern pottery from the site given that there have been relatively few reports on such assemblages in the region. The variation in fabrics noted within the assessment of ceramic building material, certainly suggests that bricks used at the site were sourced from a variety of areas, or alternatively, from different local brickyards. The NERRF Post-medieval Research Strategy contains a Research Topic (under Section 7.2 'Industrialisation') entitled '7.2.7 Ceramic Industry'. This highlights the importance of creating a better understanding of local pottery industries. The importance of establishing a catalogue of brick and tile manufacturers is also highlighted, with such information potentially providing an important resource for dating post-medieval sites in the region. The Phase 5 data certainly has potential to provide important evidence relevant to this research topic.
- 16.7.3 Particularly informative evidence in relation to this research objective has been provided by faunal remains recovered from areas of intensive post-medieval pitting. The western portion of Area 2 was notable for such an area of pitting, confined within a narrow corridor of land, presumably the backlot of a street frontage premises, with ceramic evidence indicating a mid-late 18th century date for the activity. The majority of the features were of distinctive sub-rectangular or sub-square form, with some producing a significant assemblage of sheep bones, mostly or exclusively metapodials, indicating a commercial rather than a domestic origin for the remains. Suggested trades are skinner, tawyer, parchment maker or roofer, in the case of the last-listed occupation, the bones would have been used to peg down stone roof slabs. This evidence is of particular significance within the overall corpus of data collected during the excavation.
- 16.7.4 Similarly, the eastern portion of Area 3 was notable for evidence of trade-related disposal of waste, this being of late 19th or early 20th century date. Again, an area of intensive pitting within a defined corridor of land was recorded, with dating evidence indicating a date around 1900 for the activity. The majority of these features were small, shallow rounded pits, which collectively produced a significant assemblage of fish bones, again indicating a commercial source, in this instance clearly a fishmonger. Again, such evidence is of particular significance within the collective project data.

16.7.5 The NERRF Post-medieval Research Strategy contains a Research Topic (under Section 7.2 'industrialisation') entitled '7.2.3. *Industrialisation and Consumption*'. This highlights the importance of examining factors that govern consumption patterns, such as supply, economy and ideology. For consumption to be better understood, it is crucial that material culture assemblages can be related to individual properties, which, in an urban situation, underlines the critical importance of archaeological investigation of backlot areas and the retention and analysis of post-medieval assemblages. The Phase 5.1 and 5.3 data certainly provide evidence relevant to this research topic.

16.8 *To analyse deposits to show the taphonomy of their components, particularly charred cereals and bone, and also compare bone as a by-product of food production and consumption to bone used for other purposes, such as crafts*

16.8.1 Assessment of plant macrofossils in bulk samples recovered from the East Road site identified charred plant macrofossils and waterlogged plant macrofossils within 77% and 64%, respectively, of samples that were assessed. However, for all archaeological eras, there was a general absence of well-preserved charred plant macrofossils, with the material as a whole having little or no potential for further analysis to provide significant data regarding food consumption or socio-economic status of the site. Botanical remains within medieval deposits can give only a broad indication of the contribution of cereals, such as oat, barley and breadwheat, legumes and other items, such as hazel nuts, to the medieval diet.

16.8.2 As discussed above in relation to evidence of post-medieval proto-urban industry, the faunal remains assemblage contains material with high potential for further study with the aim of extracting important evidence of at least two commercial operations probably undertaken at premises which owned or occupied portions of the site. The specialised faunal waste in the cluster of 18th century features in Area 2 is probably a large enough sample to recover data which could give an insight into factors such as the sourcing of livestock for the particular activity under consideration. The large and well-preserved fish bone assemblage from the group of late 19th century features in Area 3 is almost certainly derived from a waste area at the rear of the premises of a commercial fishmonger and is considered worthy of further analysis to provide important data on fish processing techniques and the variety of species of fish within the late Victorian/Edwardian diet.

17. SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL OF THE SITE DATA FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS

17.1 The Site Data

17 1 1 In broad terms, the archaeological project at East Road was important because it offered a rare opportunity to examine the development of an extensive backlot area close to the historic core of Northallerton from medieval times to the present day. This assessment of the archaeological data-set has demonstrated that the recorded remains are of variable significance. However, elements of the site data are of moderate to high significance at a local and regional level and, therefore, sections of the stratigraphic, artefactual and biological evidence warrant further analysis leading to some form of publication.

17 1 2 The evidence of Roman period activity is of moderate to high significance, as it indicates, albeit in fragmentary form, hitherto unknown utilisation of the area at the time of Roman military occupation of northern England. Thus the site data can contribute a small but significant amount of information related to knowledge of the Roman communication network in the region and to the wider context of recent discoveries of settlement sites in Cleveland and South Durham.

17 1 3 The evidence derived from medieval occupation of the site varies from low to moderate to high significance. The most informative data contributes important information to a greater understanding of the chronology, layout and development of this peripheral portion of the town. In addition, significant information related to the origin and development of the regional ceramic industry is contained within the site data, along with findings that can inform to a limited extent on studies of urban consumption and economic exchange throughout the medieval period and during the crucial transition into the post-medieval period.

17 1 4 The evidence derived from post-medieval occupation of the site also varies from low to moderate to high significance, with the majority being of low to moderate significance. The more significant post-medieval data can contribute to a greater understanding of critical studies of factors, such as supply and economy, which govern patterns of urban consumption and industrialisation. Further work will allow material cultural assemblages – specifically two groups of faunal remains – to be related to individual properties. In addition, some information was recovered with the potential to inform on the origin and development of the regional ceramic industry in the post-medieval period.

17.1 5 A summary of the recommendations for further analysis of each element of the artefactual and biological evidence in order to fulfil the stated research objectives of the project completes this section of the report.

17.2 Pottery

17 2 1 The recommendations for further analysis of the pottery assemblage can be summarised thus:

- Further work should concentrate on the medieval and early post-medieval pottery, although the importance of the later post-medieval and early modern material should not be underestimated
- Further research is needed to identify, or at least classify, the various types subsumed under the heading of (medieval) 'unidentified Sandy wares' with reference to existing reports, there being a number of groups within the assemblage that will certainly repay further work
- The relationship between 'unidentified Sandy wares' and the broad 'Tees Valley wares' category is of particular interest. Work on such material is ongoing and all relevant recent research would need to be consulted in order to ensure that the analysis of the Northallerton assemblage contributes to, and is informed by, the latest information. Internally, the range of fabrics within the 'Tees Valley type ware' group needs to be established and defined, given that assessment identified a number of sub-types
- Conventional dating of 'Tees Valley wares' places them between the 13th and 15th centuries, although the assessment suggests that this dating may need to be revised to include an earlier phase of activity. Before asserting this, however, the fabrics of the splashed wares require comparison with other examples
- The provisionally named 'Slipped Sandy ware type' requires a more detailed description and parallels sought. The types described as 'Orange' and 'Oxidised Sandy ware' require further study and classification and the relationship between these and the 'Tees Valley wares' requires further investigation
- A provisional type series has been assembled for 'Reduced Sandy wares' in Durham and, perhaps more relevantly, Darlington. Comparison between the known group and the Northallerton assemblage may prove of significance
- Wares subsumed under the names of 'Late Medieval Sandy ware' and 'Post-Medieval Sandy ware' require comparison with the published details of apparently similar wares, given that the examples from Northallerton are probably of 15th rather than 16th century date.

17.3 Clay Tobacco Pipe

17.3.1 The recommendations for further analysis of the clay tobacco pipe assemblage can be summarised thus:

- The East Road assemblage, although of limited size, is of intrinsic interest in contributing to the regional corpus of clay pipe data, since there are little or no published groups of material from the area and relatively little is known of local clay pipe makers. Thus wider research for parallels is recommended

17.4 Ceramic Building Material

17.4.1 The recommendations for further analysis of the ceramic building material assemblage can be summarised thus

- The assemblage has no potential for further analysis. The existing data, as gathered through assessment, can however, provide a contribution to the regional corpus of ceramic building material data

17.5 Small Finds

17.5.1 The recommendations for further analysis of the small finds can be summarised thus

- It is considered that the value of the items lies only as possible date indicators for the relevant contexts and no further work is therefore recommended.

17.6 Botanical Remains

17.6.1 The recommendations for further analysis of plant remains can be summarised thus

- Due to the limited number of well preserved charred plant macrofossils from the 22 samples assessed, it is considered that none of the contexts have the potential to produce significant data regarding domestic food consumption or the socio-economic status of the site. Therefore, full analysis of any botanical remains or further evaluation of any bulk samples is not recommended

17.7 Faunal Remains

17.7.1 The recommendations for further analysis of the faunal remains assemblage can be summarised thus:

- For the medieval sub-phases, a fragment count of the mammalian species present is recommended, together with the compilation of an archive record of the limited ageing and metrical data. Furthermore, the apparent chronological change from cattle based to sheep based assemblages requires testing by a catalogue of the identifiable fragments for each species from Phases 3 and 5
- The unusual assemblage of sheep metapodials from Phase 5.1 necessitates a detailed record, a documentary search for historical evidence relating to the occupier or use of the site and comparison with similar assemblages from Newcastle-upon-Tyne and York
- The sheep bones, in particular, from the later post-medieval Phase 5.3 assemblage could be studied as a deposit of mainly domestic refuse. This would provide an interesting contrast, in terms of both age and body part representation, with both the preceding specialised, possibly industrial, assemblage.

- The fish bone assemblage from Phase 5 is a good size and further work is recommended. Full analysis of the assemblage should incorporate the identification of smaller fish and measuring of the complete bones to elucidate the size of the extremely large fish. A documentary search for historical evidence relating to the occupier or use of the site should be undertaken and data should thus be analysed with respect to comparable fish assemblages.

PART D:
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & REFERENCES

18. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

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Pottery Chns Cumberpatch

Clay Tobacco Pipe Jenny Vaughan (Northern Counties Archaeological Services)

Ceramic Building Material: Sandra Garside–Neville (Brick & Tile Services)

Glass. Jenny Vaughan (Northern Counties Archaeological Services)

Metalwork (X-Ray & Conservation): Jennifer Jones (University of Durham), EDXRF analyses were undertaken by Phil Clogg

Small Finds: Jenny Vaughan (Northern Counties Archaeological Services)

Faunal Remains. Louisa J. Gidney and Paul Stokes (Archaeological Services University of Durham)

Plant Macrofossils: Jacqui Cotton with sample processing by D. Still and D. Graham (Archaeological Services University of Durham)

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PLATES



Plate 1. Area 2, Phase 5.1 well shaft [308] and Phase 6 infill [300], working shot, looking north.

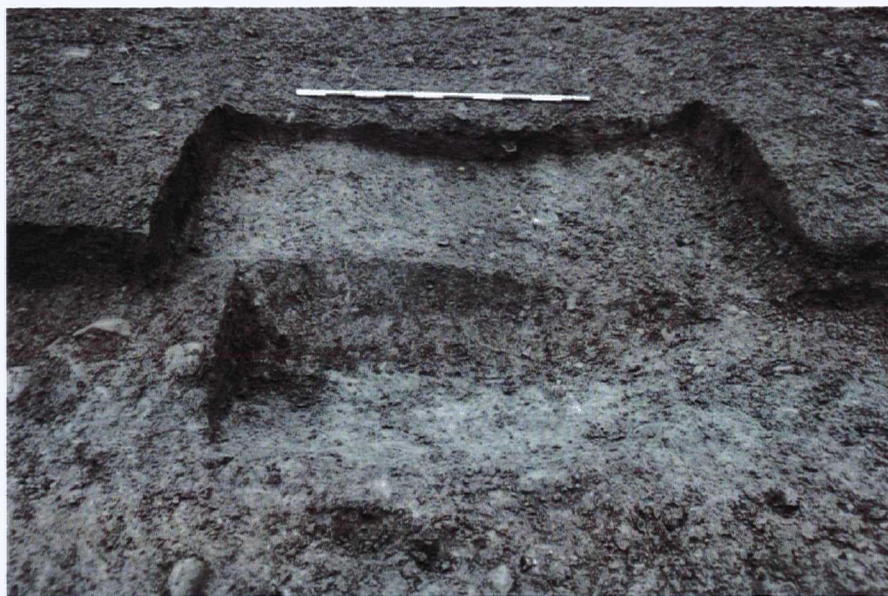


Plate 2. Area 3, Phase 3.2 ditch [650], north terminal, looking west (1m scale).

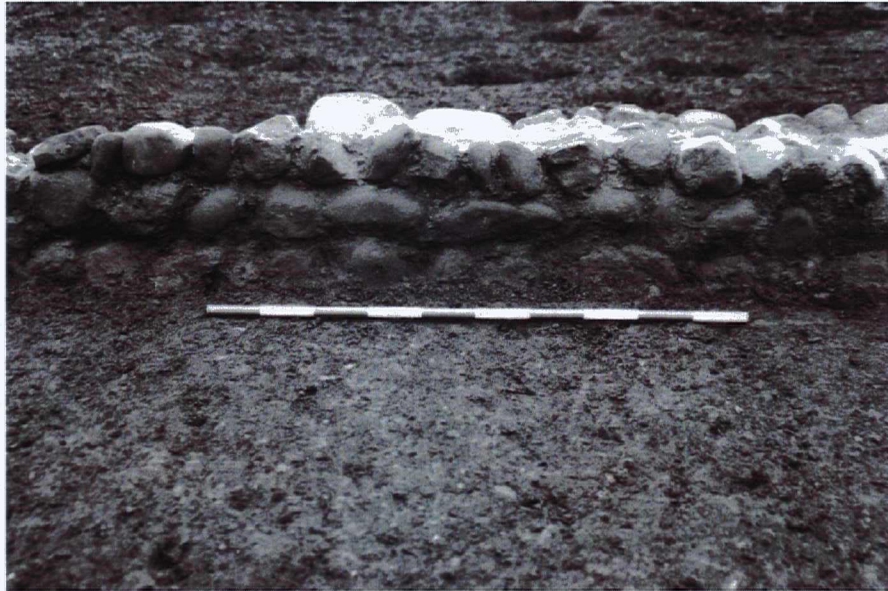


Plate 3. Area 3, Phase 5.3 wall [777], detail, looking north (1m scale).



Plate 4. Area 4, Phase 3.2 structure [1417], working shot, looking west.



Plate 5. Area 4, working shot, looking south-east.



Plate 6. Area 4, Phase 5.3 wall [1020], looking north-west.



Plate 7. Area 4, Phase 5.3 surface [1250], working shot, looking south-west.



Plate 8. Area 4, Phase 5.3 surface [1250], looking east.



Plate 9. Area 5, Phase 5.3 structure [1280], looking west (1m x 1m scale).



Plate 10. Area 5, Phase 3.1 well [1551], working shot.