

Pre-surface Features Cut Into Natural.

A small section of surface 4172 (see below) was removed in the south-west corner of the excavated area; this exposed a shallow slot (4180; Fig.15) cut into natural (4012) which continued beyond the western and southern limits of excavation. The exposed segment of the slot was aligned east - west and was 0.4m long, 0.44m wide and 0.12m deep. The northern edge broke gently from the surface to fall steeply, almost vertically, to an irregular flattish base. The backfill of Slot 4180 consisted of small pebbles, in a matrix of dark grey slightly sticky clay silt sand, with occasional charcoal flecks (4179). Its shallow, linear nature suggested that 4180 was either the 'ghost' of a horizontal structural element such as a sill beam or, more likely, a shallow gully.

5.10.2 Surface Make-up 4172 (Fig. 16; Pl. 9)

The base of clearance cut 4109 was surfaced with an up to 0.32m thick deposit of compacted small to medium limestone pebbles in a matrix of pale to mid- grey fine grained silt sand with inclusions of occasional large pebbles, 'potboilers' (heat shattered pebbles), animal bone and charcoal flecks (4172). This was 11.4m in length, over 3.3m wide and extended beyond the southern and western limits of excavation. The northern limit followed, the truncated southern edge of ditch cut 4026, overlapping fill layer 4110, by up to 0.3m in a few discontinuous patches.



Plate 9:
*Surface 4172 looking
South-east (2m scale)*

Pit Cut 4073

Cut 4073 was a small pit located against, and running beyond, the southern limit of excavation at a point c.6.7m east-south-east of the south-west corner of the excavated area. The exposed northern half of 4073 was sub-circular in plan, 0.88m east - west, 0.32m north - south and up to 0.13m deep. The sides broke sharply from the surface to fall steeply on the western side, gently elsewhere, to a gently rounded irregular base. Its backfill, a crumbly mid grey to black charcoal rich silt clay with moderate flecks to large limestone fragments (4072), produced animal bone and several fragments of millstone grit that, when pieced together, formed a quadrant from the bottom stone of a rotary beehive quern (sf31). This type of artefact has its origins in the Middle Iron Age (450 - 100 BC) and continued to be used well into the Romano - British period.

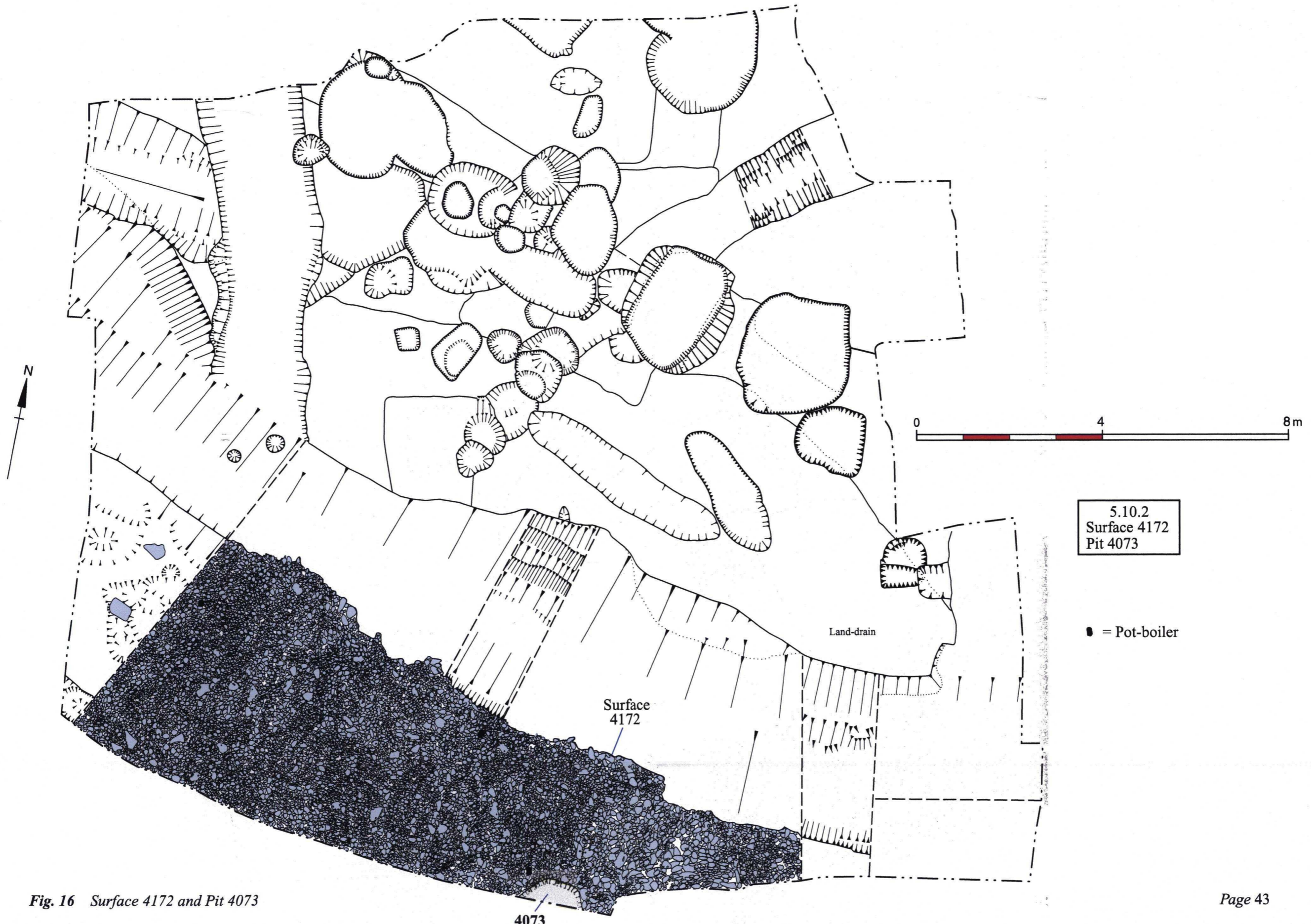


Fig. 16 Surface 4172 and Pit 4073

5 10 3 Deposits over Cut 4109 and Surface Make-up 4172

Deposit 4090

An area 1m wide on the northern edge of 4172 was encroached upon by 4090. It was a compact mid-yellowish brown silt sand clay which extended for a distance of 11.3m north-west / south-east, was a maximum of 2.6m wide and terminated at between 0.3m to 0.8m below the northern edge of clearance cut 4109.

Deposit 4089

Deposit 4090 was below 4089, a compact, brown mottled, light grey brown sand silt clay with moderate flecks to small limestone pebbles and occasional small angular limestone fragments. This deposit was similar to 4090 in that it also was restricted to the northern side of Cut 4109 yet only extended for a distance of 5.7m north-west / south-east and 0.9m north-east / south-west with its northern edge at 9.28m AOD, before falling gently towards the south, to 9.12m AOD. Context 4089 was sealed by Deposits 4077 and 4068.

Deposit 4077

Context 4077 was an up to 0.38m thick deposit of fine to medium pebble gravel in a matrix of a compact, pale grey brown silt clay, with moderate decayed sandstone flecks, occasional small angular limestone fragments and charcoal flecks. This was located against the western limit of excavation and, due to later truncation, was reduced to a width of 1.24m and fell steeply towards the south-west. It then tapered towards the south-east, for a distance of 2.5m. Context 4077 produced several fragmentary pieces of animal bone.

Deposit 4068

Context 4068 was located 1.4m to the east of 4077 and consisted of an extensive, up to 0.46m thick, deposit of a compact, orange flecked, mid-brown clay with moderate large limestone fragments, small to medium limestone pebbles and occasional decayed limestone flecks. Context 4068 was located 0.3m south of the northern side of Cut 4109. The southern edge of 4068 overlapped Surface 4172 by approximately 0.4m and extended for a distance of 7.4m east - west before turning gently and 'tailing' off towards the north-west at its western end.

It appeared that both Contexts 4068 and 4077 signified the abandonment of Surface 4172. This was further highlighted by the fact that both contexts were cut by Ditch 4074.

5 10 4 Ditch Cut 4074 (Fig 17)

Ditch 4074 had truncated the fills (4068 and 4077), of Clearance cut 4109 (5 10 3) and was recorded over a distance of 4.6m. It was aligned north-west / south-east and was up to 1.4m wide and 0.51m deep. It continued beyond the western limit of excavation and, at its south-east end, was truncated by Clearance cut 4070. The north-eastern side of the feature broke gently from the surface to fall steeply to a rounded base. The south-western



Fig.17 Ditch 4074 and Clearance Cut 4070

side lay mostly outside the western limit of excavation yet appeared to rise from the base at a similar angle to the north-eastern side, indicating that ditch cut 4074 originally had a wide U-shaped cross-section profile

The primary fill of Cut 4074 (4071) consisted of an up to 0.18m thick compact, mid- to dark brown silt sand clay with dispersed moderate to frequent patches of small to medium limestone fragments and moderate small to medium limestone pebble gravel. This was in turn sealed beneath an upper fill (4069) of a compact orange brown clay with frequent small to medium limestone fragments, up to 0.33m thick

5.11 Activity in the Southern Part of Area 4

5.11.1 Deposits above Ditch 4026

Two deposits were located above Ditch 4026 in the south-east corner of Area 4 in a small test pit positioned over the right angled return / 'T' junction described above (5.9.1) dug to verify the relationships in this area. Context 4083 was a compact, mid-grey brown clay, with occasional orange decayed limestone flecks, white limestone flecks and small to medium limestone fragments, which also produced a fragment of Roman tegula (flanged roof tile). It was sealed by 4079 (= 4022) a compact, mid-grey mottled, orange tinged, mid-brown silty clay which included occasional small pale grey or orange limestone pebbles, orange limestone flecks and charcoal flecks. A single intrusive sherd of abraded 12th century splashed ware sherd was found in 4079.

5.11.2 Clearance Cut 4070 (Fig 17)

Clearance cut 4070 had truncated the southern end of cut 4074 and the fill (4072), of Pit 4073 (5.10.2). Clearance cut 4070 had a maximum depth of 0.7m, was 3.26m north-east / south-west and continued beyond both the south and west limits of excavation. As well as being narrower than 4109 (5.9.3), Cut 4070 also differed from 4109 in the way that its northern edge followed the northernmost edge of Surface 4172 rather than the northern edge of ditch cut 4026. The northern edge of Cut 4070 was aligned east-south-east / west-north-west. The north side broke gently from the surface (before falling steeply to a flat base). The level of the base coincided with the top of Surface 4172.

5.11.3 Backfilling of Clearance Cut 4070

Deposit 4067

The primary fill of Cut 4070 consisted of a compact, orange sand mottled, mid-grey brown silt clay with frequent small to medium limestone pebbles and limestone flecks (4067). This was located against the base of the northern side of the cut and extended for a distance of 5.5m north-west / south-east before terminating at 5.2m from the western limit of excavation. This had probably been formed by loose material slipping down the sides of the cut and accumulating at the base.

Deposit 4063

4070 was succeeded by 4063, an extensive, up to 0.2m thick, deposit of jumbled angular and rounded small to medium pale yellow limestone fragments in a matrix of a friable, mid to dark grey, clay silt which contained frequent small limestone pebbles, charcoal fragments and a single small fragment of burnt daub. This deposit covered the whole of the base of Cut 4070 and extended beyond both the western and southern limits of excavation. Context 4063 produced 43 sherds of Roman pottery, including two sherds of samian, two large fragments of amphora and, from the interface between 4063 and Surface 4172, a complete, translucent, blue glass bead with an inlaid 'wave' of opaque white glass (sf 2; Pl.15) that was dated stylistically to the Roman period. These artefacts provided a date range spanning the 2nd to 4th Centuries AD. A small sample of charcoal was retained for species identification and proved to be from the roundwood of hazel.



Plate 10: Demolition deposit 4063 looking East (1m scale)

Deposit 4045

Context 4063 was followed by 4045, a deposit of a compact mid-orange brown silty clay with moderate limestone flecks, occasional medium limestone fragments and occasional charcoal flecks. Context 4045 extended for a distance of 8m from the western limit of excavation and completely covered the earlier rubble layer with the exception of a few places where the larger stones showed through from below. Context 4045 produced nine sherds of Roman pottery, including Samian, and three iron nail fragments (sf 06), a fired clay mould fragment (sf 32), and several fragments of animal bone. Context 4045 was also sampled for environmental remains (Section 9).

Medieval (12th Century)

5 12 Sequence of Structure-related Deposits and Features (Fig 18)

5 12 1 Deposits

4186

Deposit 4186 was a compact mid- brown silty clay, with moderate small to medium pebbles, flecks to small limestone fragments and occasional charcoal flecks. It was restricted to the south-east corner of Area 4 and was up to 0.15m thick and 1.7m wide, and extended for a distance of 9.5m north-west / south-east, continuing beyond the southern limit of the excavation.

4044

4186 was sealed by 4044, a further levelling deposit which consisted of compact, orange tinged, mid-brown silty clay with frequent small to medium limestone pebbles, moderate limestone flecks and occasional charcoal flecks. It extended for a distance of 2.05m north-west / south-east and was up to 1m wide at the point where it ran beyond the southern limit of the excavation. Context 4044 produced two rim sherds of Roman pottery, ten sherds of 12th century Gritty ware as well as several fragments of animal bone and 'potboilers'.

4051

Deposit 4044 was sealed by 4051, the latest deposit in this sequence of levelling. It consisted of a compact, mid-brown slightly silty clay, with moderate charcoal flecks, limestone flecks and occasional small pebbles. This produced two sherds of abraded Roman pottery as well as four sherds of 12th century Gritty Wares and several fragments of animal bone.

The presence of deposits 4044 and 4051 suggested that, although backfilled many years earlier, the location of clearance cut 4070 (5 11) was still visible as a slump hollow in the 12th century and, as such, was levelled by the deposition of 4044 and 4051 prior to a further phase of activity commencing.

5 12 2 Pit Cut 4185

Cut 4185 was the base of a pit heavily truncated during the initial site stripping which had been cut into the top of 4051 (5 12 1). It continued beyond the southern limit of excavation and was sub-circular in plan, aligned north-west / south-east, and was 1.08m long, 0.6m wide and only 0.03m deep. The observed northern half had sides that broke sharply from the surface to fall steeply to a flat base. The backfill was a compact, stiff, mid- orange tinged dark brown clay silt with moderate small limestone fragments and occasional charcoal flecks (4053) which produced six sherds of 12th century Gritty ware, a fragment of Roman brick / tile, fragments of animal bone, an iron nail fragment (sf 16), and a Late Mesolithic, primary flint flake (sf 39).

5.12.3 Structural Features (Fig 18)

Cut 4052 and Wall 4050

Contexts 4050 and 4052 were located in the north-west corner of Area 4 and continued beyond both the north and west limits. Context 4052 was aligned north-west / south-east and was 0.74m long, 0.72m wide, and up to 0.11m deep with a rounded south-east end. The top edge broke gently from the surface to fall vertically on its northern edge, gently elsewhere, to a gently rounded base. This cut contained Wall Foundation 4050 which consisted of two courses of several thin fragments of small to large, roughly hewn and horizontally laid Magnesian Limestone slabs. They were bonded with a plastic, pale grey-brown, slightly sandy silt clay, with moderate flecks to small fragments of yellow decayed sandstone and occasional charcoal flecks.

Cut 4017 and Wall 4016

Cut 4017 was a construction trench or marking out trench which extended for a distance of 3m on a north-west / south-east alignment in the centre of Area 4. Cut 4107 was up to 0.62m wide and barely 0.06m deep with sides that broke gently from the surface to fall gently or steeply to a flat uneven base. It contained a wall / foundation (4016) which was constructed from loosely coursed, roughly shaped, slabs of small to large limestone fragments, up to 0.03m thick, bonded with a plastic mid-grey clay.

Cut 4019

The north-eastern and south-western faces of Wall 4016 were disturbed by tree roots, they were recognisable as two amorphous holes (4019). The backfill was a plastic, grey green silt clay flecked, friable dark brown silt clay with occasional charcoal flecks (4018) which produced a single residual fragment of Roman brick.

Cut 4081 and Wall 4080

Cut 4081 was aligned north-west / south-east and recorded for a distance of 1.28m before continuing beyond the northern limit of excavation. Cut 4081 was up to 0.24m wide and 0.15m deep with sides that broke sharply from the surface to fall vertically to an irregular base. Contained within it was a single, 0.09m thick, foundation course of medium to large roughly worked limestone fragments bonded with a mid- to dark brown sand silt clay, with occasional small burnt clay fragments, limestone flecks and charcoal flecks (4080). Foundation 4080 was 0.3m wide and would have been more substantial but for the fact that it was truncated to the north-east by Cut 4029.

Cut 4029 and Wall 4028

Cut 4029 signified a wall construction cut / marking out trench for a second phase of construction or alteration to the building represented by Wall 4080.

Cut 4029 was aligned north-west / south-east, and was 1m long, up to 0.6m wide and 0.29m deep. The sides broke sharply from the surface to fall steeply and / or vertically to

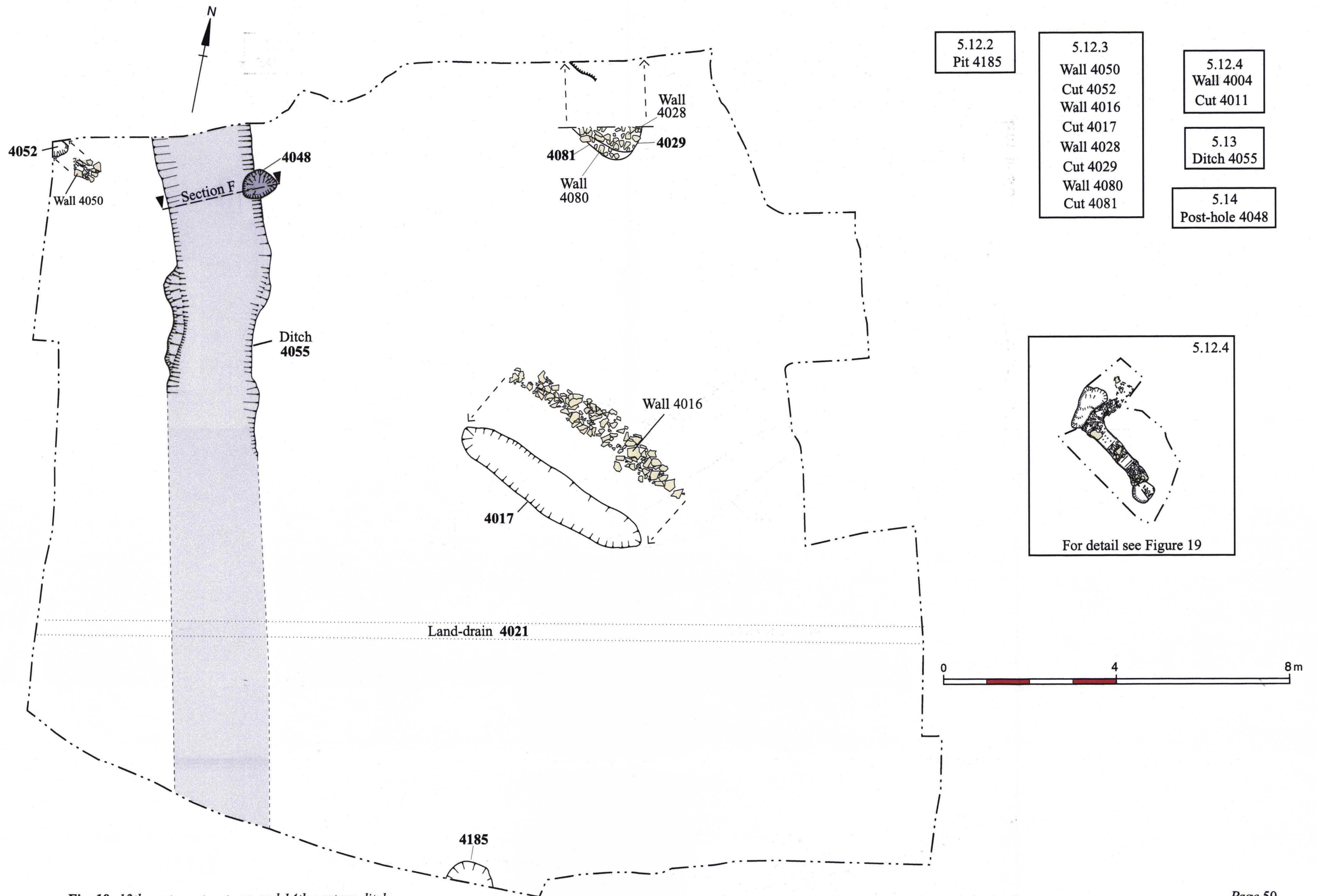


Fig. 18 12th century structures and 14th century ditch

an uneven base. The base fell gradually towards the north-west. It contained a wall or foundation course (4028) which was a 0.39m thick. This was constructed from horizontally laid, roughly trimmed, small to large flat limestone fragments (and a fragment of Roman roof tile) bonded with a plastic mid-yellow brown silt clay. Wall 4028 extended for a distance of 1m towards the south-east, from the northern limit of excavation, before turning through 90° towards the north-east and continuing for a further 0.6m before also ending beyond the northern limit of excavation.

Demolition of Wall 4028

The upper surface of Wall 4028 was sealed by a 0.1m thick deposit of small to medium limestone fragments and pebbles in a matrix of a friable, sticky mid-brown clay silt with occasional charcoal flecks (4027). This also produced three sherds of 12th century pottery, a fragment of fired clay and one small fragment of non-metallic slag (sf 09).

5.12.4 Structural Features in Trench to East of Area 4 (Figs 18-19)

Described below are a group of features recorded in a car parking area immediately to the east of Area 4.

Cut 4011 and Wall 4004

Wall 4004 was some 10.5m to the east of Wall 4016 (5.12.3). Wall 4004 was not fully excavated as the top of the wall approximated with the formation level required for the construction of the car park. The depth and profile of the wall construction cut (4011) was, however, tested by means of two hand-excavated slots through the fabric of the wall. The wall construction cut was aligned north-west / south-east, and ran for a distance of 2.82m before, at its north-western end, turning at c 90° and continuing for a further 2.2m towards the north-east after which it was sealed beneath a subsoil deposit (4001 = 4010 = 4013). Cut 4011 was up to 0.5m wide and 0.12m deep with sides that broke sharply from the surface to fall steeply to a flat, uneven base. The wall it contained (4004) was similar to those observed elsewhere (4050, 4080, 4028 and 4016), and consisted of horizontally laid, flat, angular slabs of limestone. These were, if at all, roughly worked and 0.05 - 0.29m long and up to 0.14m thick. The bonding material was a plastic, light greyish brown clay silt which also produced a single sherd of 12th century Gritty ware.

Demolition of Wall 4004

Wall 4004 was cut by a pit (4003) and post-hole (4009).

Pit cut 4003 was 1.6m long, up to 0.21m deep, and located against the north-western side of the return at the north-west end of Wall 4004. The cut was irregular in plan, at the narrowest point it was 0.5m wide and gradually increased in width to 0.7m as the northernmost extent of the cut was approached. Its sides broke sharply from the surface to fall vertically, less steep with depth, to an irregular, flattish base. Its backfill (4002) consisted of a friable to plastic orange-yellow spotted, mid-brown slightly sandy silt clay with occasional charcoal flecks and small to medium limestone fragments. It also

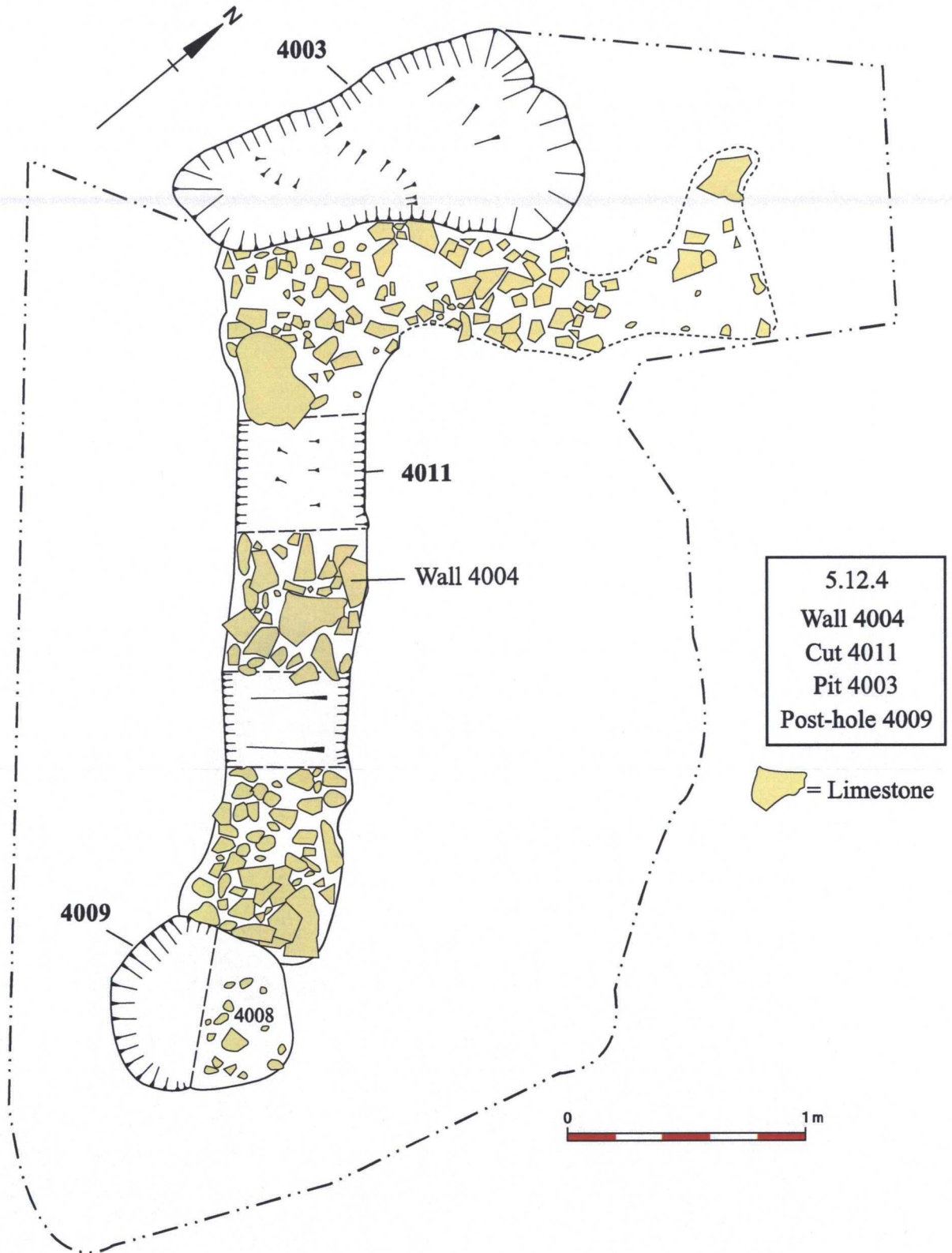


Fig. 19: Detail of Wall 4004 (5.12.4)

produced four sherds of 12th century pottery, a fragment of an iron nail (sf 14) and a small piece of non-ferrous slag (sf 15).

Post-hole Cut 4009

Post-hole cut 4009, sub-circular in plan, was located at the extreme easternmost end of Wall 4004. Cut 4009 was 0.76m long, 0.70m wide and 0.24m deep. The sides broke sharply from the surface to fall steeply to a gently rounded base. The backfill of 4009 was a plastic mid- orange yellow clay with moderate small to medium limestone fragments and occasional charcoal flecks (4008).

Medieval (14th Century)

5.13 Ditch Cut 4055 (Fig. 18; Fig. 20, Section F)

Ditch 4055 was located c. 1.6m east of the western limit of excavation and continued beyond both the north and south limits. The ditch was aligned north - south and had sides that broke gently from the surface to fall steeply or, at the southern end vertically to a flat or gently rounded base. The backfill of 4055 consisted of a compact, mid-creamy brown, slightly sandy silt clay with moderate flecks to small fragments of limestone, occasional small pebbles and very occasional charcoal flecks (4046). This deposit produced 60 sherds of medieval pottery, including 50 of Gritty ware and ten of Walmgate type, and other wares which provided a date of the 14th century for the backfilling of the ditch. In addition, 4046 produced fragmentary animal bone, a decorated, socketed bone handle (sf03), two complete iron nails (sf51), one iron nail fragment (sf23) and a bundle of approximately 250 copper alloy dress-pins (sf01) which were recovered from the very top of the deposit and are thought to be relatively modern.

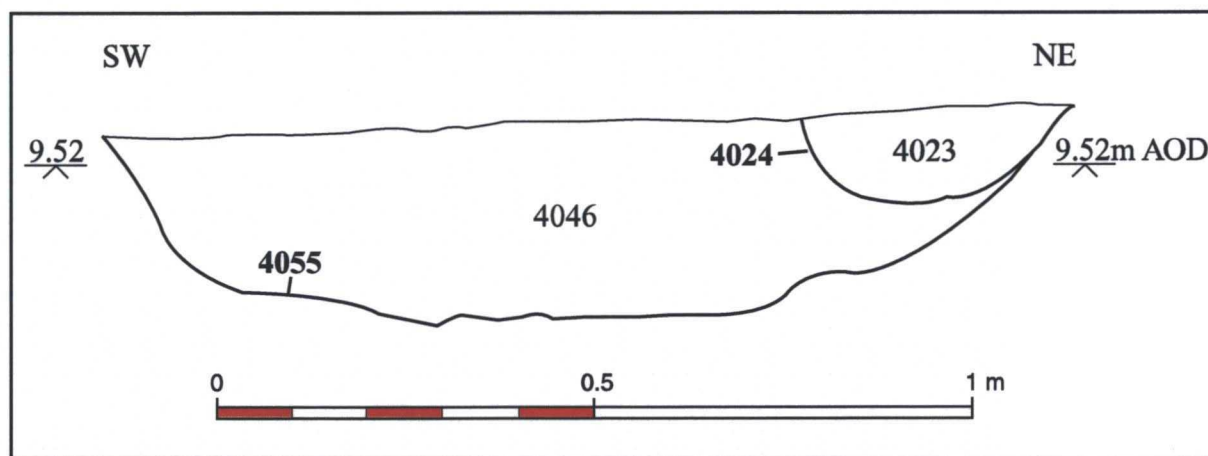


Fig. 20: Section F, south-east facing, Ditch 4055 (5.13)

Late / Post-Medieval

5 14 Deposit and Post-Hole

Deposit 4010

Contexts 4002, 4008, 4018, 4027, 4040, 4042, 4047, 4053, 4060, 4064, 5075, 4079, 4082, 4096, 4122, 4124, 4128, 4151 and 4175 were all sealed by an extensive, up to 0.59m thick, deposit of a compact to plastic pale yellowish brown silty clay (4001 = 4010 = 4013), with moderate small to medium limestone fragments, occasional charcoal flecks, burnt clay flecks and animal bone. Deposit 4010 produced a single sherd of Roman grey ware, fourteen fragments of gritty ware, a single piece of 13th century pottery, a medieval iron horseshoe fragment (sf 07), and a post-medieval clay pipe bowl (sf 04).

Context 4010 was an extensive layer of subsoil that was either formed by agricultural practices or, more likely, had been laid down to bury the earlier building remains and the slump hollows formed in the tops of settled cut features, and provide a level horizon at approximately 10.00m AOD, prior to cultivation commencing.

Post-hole Cut 4048 (Fig 18)

The fill (4046) of Ditch 4055 was cut by a post-hole (4048), located c 0.8m south of the northern limit of excavation. Cut 4048 was oval in plan, and 0.48m long, 0.4m wide and only 0.12m deep. The sides broke gently from the surface to fall steeply on its northern side, gently elsewhere, to a flat base. The backfill was a compact, grey-flecked mid-brown silt clay with occasional 'pea-grit' and small coal fragments (4047). The feature failed to produce any dating evidence, but its stratigraphic relationship with the fill of Ditch 4045 implies that it was back-filled in the late or post-medieval period.

Post-medieval – Modern

5 15 Features

Cut 4024

Deposit 4010 was cut by 4024, an animal burrow (fill 4023).

Pit Cut 4007

Cut 4007 was a small pit, circular in plan which was located against, and continued beyond, the northern limit of excavation. Its fill (4006), consisted almost entirely of small to large non-metallic slag and burnt brick fragments in a matrix of stiff cobbly silt clay, with moderate limestone fragments. This also produced a single sherd of 19th century tin-

glazed earthenware, a sherd of residual Gritty Ware and a fragment of Roman brick. A small amount of slag (sf 30) was retained for identification.

Drain Cut 4021

Deposit 4010 was cut by 4021 which spanned the full east – west width of Area 4. It was a machine cut trench for a 20th century ceramic land drain, 0.24m wide and 0.12m in diameter. The back-fill was 4020.

The three features described above were all sealed by a 0.27m thick build-up deposit (4005) of a friable to sticky mid- to dark greyish brown, slightly sandy clay silt, with occasional charcoal flecks and small limestone fragments that formed the topsoil for the market garden centre that occupied the site prior to the construction of the new dwellings.

Context number 4000 was assigned to unstratified or stray finds disturbed by the machine clearance of Area 4 and accounted for 30 sherds of pottery ranging in date from the 12th to 19th centuries.

AREA 5

(House plots 14 – 17)

5.16 Introduction

Area 5 (Fig 2) was located against the western boundary of the development area. It extended for a distance of 38.2m north - south and was between 10.70m (north end) and 13.0m (south end) wide. The type of foundation used was a strip footing as opposed to the rafted foundations employed in Areas 4 and 9. The initial ground works for this type of foundation involved the removal of all topsoils to a depth deemed sufficiently clean of roots and vegetation prior to the excavation of the foundation trenches themselves. The majority of the archaeological features recorded in Area 5 were located in the southern half of the trench. This was the only area where the topsoil stripping penetrated an extensive deposit which concealed the underlying archaeological features. The majority of the features in Area 5 was therefore located and recorded by observing profiles in the sides of the machine cut foundation trenches which were up to 0.76m deep.

5.17 Natural

The earliest deposits observed in Area 5 were the natural subsoils. The earliest of these was a coarse limestone gravel of small to medium rounded pebbles (5022) which was machine-excavated to a maximum depth of 0.15m and continued beneath the base of the foundation trench. This was sealed by an up to 0.42m thick waterlain deposit consisting of a fine, plastic, pale pinkish brown, clay silt interspersed with many thin, structured lenses of a very fine-grained, pale yellowish brown sand silt (5021) which fell over a

distance of 5.10m from 10.74m AOD in the north to 10.21m AOD in the south, before finally mning beyond the southern limit of excavation

Context 5021 was sealed by an up to 0.74m thick band of small to medium water-rounded limestone pebbles and coarse gravel in a matrix of friable, plastic pale orange brown, slightly silty clay sand (5020) which was seen in several places within Area 5. This occurred at approximately 11.09m AOD, the level to which Area 5 was machine-stripped to reach a satisfactory formation level for the internal floors of the new build. Subsoil 5020 also fell towards the south, in a much gentler gradient than 5021 and appeared to be levelling the fall in the underlying strata.

Deposit 5020 was sealed beneath the uppermost deposit of the sequence of natural subsoils which consisted of patches of a plastic, medium-grained, ginger brown, silty clay sand with occasional flecks to small fragments of limestone (5023).

5.18 Undated Features Cut Into Natural

Ditch 5018 (Fig 21, Fig 22, Section H) (Pl 11)

Ditch 5018 was located at the southern end of Area 5. It was aligned east - west, and continued beyond the sides of the trench. The ditch was exposed at surface level and extended for a width of 3.60m before continuing beyond the southern limit of excavation. The backfill was subsequently excavated by the imposition of a machine-dug box section located against the western limit of excavation.

The northern edge of 5018 broke sharply from the surface to fall gently to a 0.8m wide step that rose gently towards the south before falling gently, to a rounded break of slope, and then steeply to a flat base. Although the top 0.36m of the southern side of 5018 was removed by a later intrusion, its profile was similar to that observed on the northern side, indicating that the ditch had been 1.04m deep.

The backfill of Cut 5018 was an homogenous 1m thick deposit of a friable light to mid-brown sand silt clay with moderate medium limestone fragments (5017) which also appeared to have been used to backfill the ditch in one concerted effort. The lack of evidence for silting suggested that Ditches 5018 and 5026 were both kept clean and maintained on a regular basis, almost up to the point when backfilling commenced.

The upper fill of Ditch 5026 (5024) and the fill of Ditch 5018 (5017) were similar and suggested that these features were contemporary and had formed part of an east - west aligned double ditch boundary.