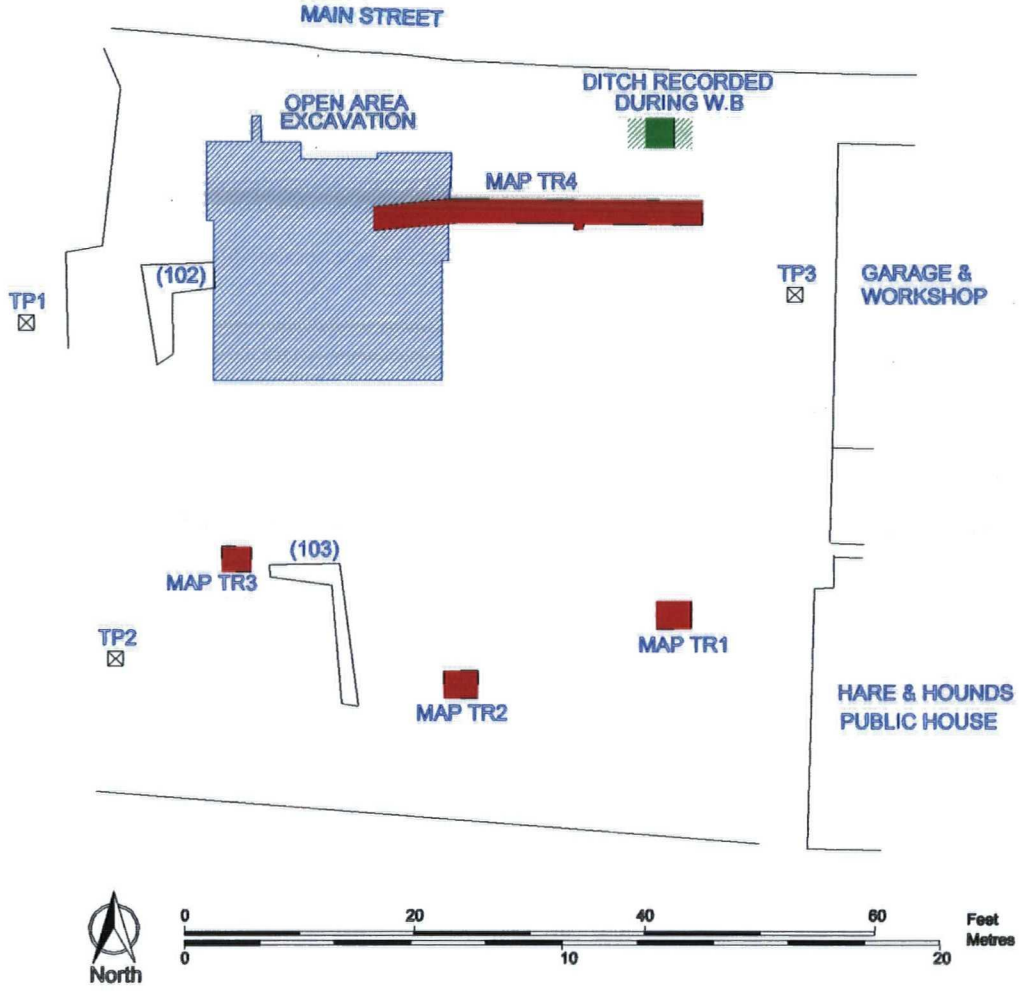

Figure 2. Areas of excavation and watching brief. (Scale 1:200).

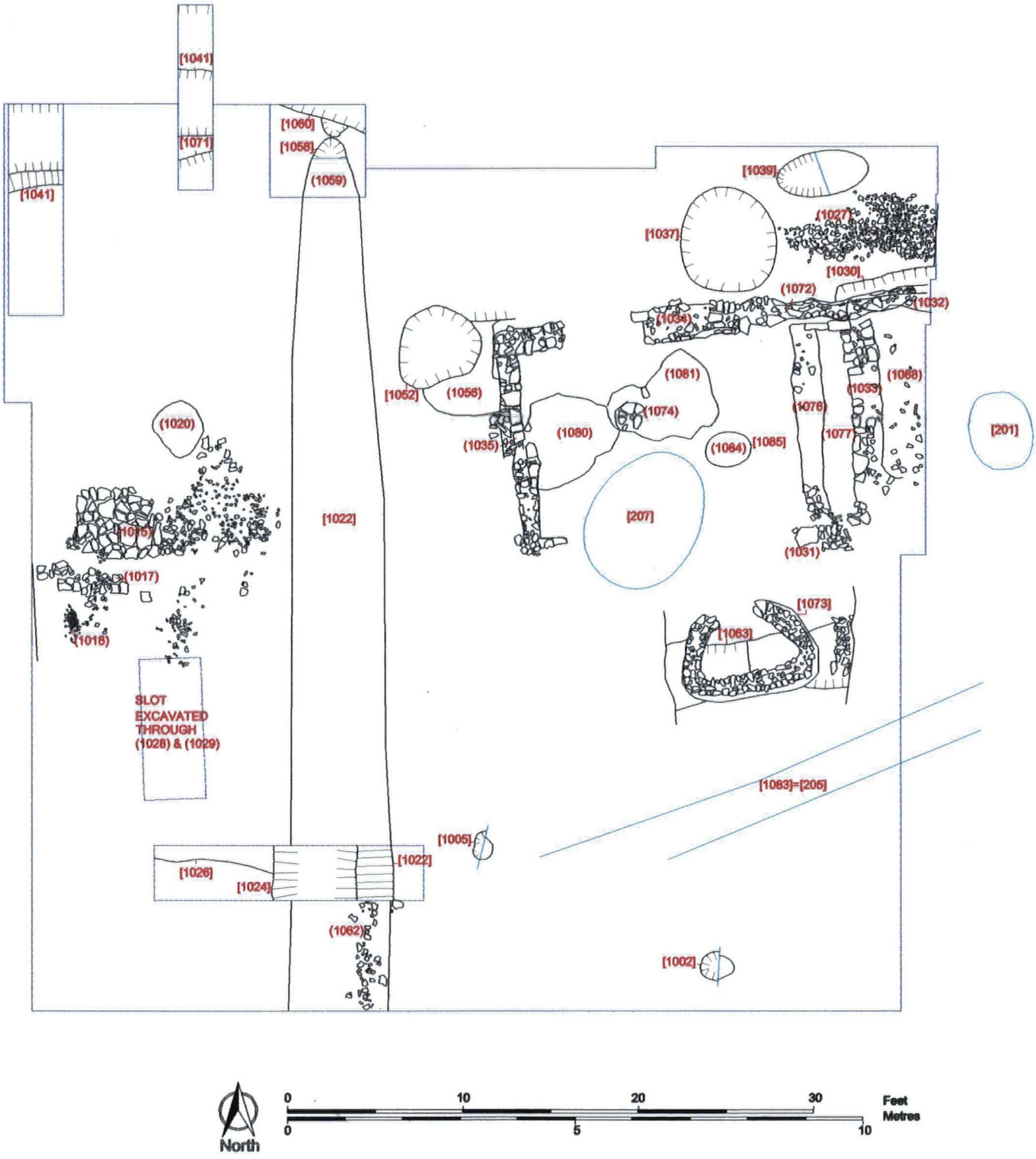

Figure 3. Plan showing excavated features. (Scale 1:100).

6.0 Discussion.

6.1 Weather and ground conditions.

The weather was very variable, alternating between hot dry periods and heavy rain with strong winds. As a result, a significant proportion of some deposits was lost to erosion while the excavation was being undertaken. In poor weather the soil was generally damp but free draining. In dry periods the soil became susceptible to erosion by wind.

The fact that the area had quite dense vegetation cover before the excavation began resulted in many of the deposits being fairly heavily disturbed by root action, and also by animal interference.

6.2 Synthesis and Conclusions.

One of the earlier events on the site seems to have been the dumping of a large volume of redeposited natural towards the southern edge of the excavation area, which covered ditch [1083]. This may have been associated with the formation of terraces on the hill slope prior to construction of buildings: dump [1004], therefore, might be the material removed during the cutting of a terrace further up slope, which has then been dumped lower down to extend that terrace platform. This material has subsequently crept down slope onto the lower terrace, accumulating against the southern side of structure [1073].

It would appear that a number of buildings were extant on the site, represented by the rubble spreads [101], [102], [103] and [206]. Spread [101] recorded during the watching brief is clearly the same feature as [1008], indicating either a building of some length, or a number of adjoining buildings.

Spread [102] appears to be associated with or part of paved area [1015] and wall [1017], the northern edge of [102] being immediately adjacent to and on the same alignment as [1017]. It would therefore seem reasonable to assume that [1015] was an external paved yard to a building represented by wall collapse [102] and wall [1017]. This building overlay deposit [1028]/[1029], and therefore clearly post-dates the phase of pottery production represented by those deposits.

Given the dimension of some of the stones dragged up by the JCB, two possibilities arise for the interpretation of spread [103]. The first is that this represents the remains of a more substantial building, the larger stones perhaps having been quoins or foundation stones. The second, and to this author more likely interpretation, is that this was a building of similar proportions to that excavated [1088], and that the larger stones were from a paved area. Unfortunately, within the scope of a watching brief it was impossible to determine which interpretation is correct.

As for the function of these buildings, given the quantity of slag and pot sherds recovered from the site, it seems clear that some kind of industrial activity occurred here, although little *direct* evidence of this remains.

The western area of the site was covered to a depth of around 0.50m by the burnt deposits [1028]/[1029]. Although none of the pot sherds within this material had the usual distorted and fused shapes of what are traditionally ascribed as 'wasters', the red lenses within this material appear to be of burnt earth, and this would support the theory that [1028] and [1029] are the result of successive dumps of firing residues. The heavily tempered nature of the fabric of Staxton ware would, in any case, reduce the likelihood of distortion during the firing process. An alternative hypothesis is that clamp kilns were actually operating on this surface, and that [1028] and [1029] were formed by both the burning of the topsoil under the clamps, and an accumulation of ash, fractured pot and other debris from the kilns. This theory is supported by the presence of some fairly large sherds, including whole bases, within the deposit. Such sherds, which were often fragmented *in situ* are unlikely to have been transported far in the process of sweeping out a kiln.

Pit [207] was the only feature that clearly indicated *in situ* burning, and may possibly represent the remains of a kiln. While Brewster favoured the idea of pit kilns, some of which he suggested were in excess of 1.50m in depth, Hayfield (1992) has convincingly argued that clamp kilns were more likely to have been employed. Accepting that peat was used as the fuel for firing, it seems unlikely that high enough temperatures would be reached in a pit kiln, and a surface clamp with better ventilation control would be more appropriate. Pit [207] may conceivably have been such a clamp kiln which, perhaps with repeated firings and subsequent removal of the fired pots and debris, resulted in a slight hollow forming in the ground surface. No other cut features investigated during the excavation exhibited such burnt or sand-fused edges.

While this feature clearly pre dates the *extension* to building [1088], the relationships between [207], [1088] and [1073] are unclear.

Structure [1073], in the southern part of the open area excavation remains of uncertain function. Whilst it is of similar construction to the rectilinear buildings found across much of the rest of the site there are no direct stratigraphic links to assess whether this structure is contemporary with any of the other episodes of construction. The internal dimensions of this structure, at approximately 1.70m by 0.95m, indicate that, whilst there is clearly an entrance on the northern side, towards the main complex of buildings, this is obviously not a building in its own right. The courses of surviving walls became successively smaller, suggesting that this structure was originally domed, presumably below head height. Within the context of a small, rural, industrial complex, this structure is perhaps most likely to have functioned for some kind of storage.

The most plausible scenario therefore appears to be a small industrial complex, separated from the main road to the north by a ditch/ditches which witnessed repeated re-cutting, and with north – south boundaries initially marked by ditches but subsequently replaced by walls.

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9.0 Appendix 1 ~ Archive Index.

9.1 Context Register.

Context No.	Description	Extent	Depth	Interpretation
100				Topsoil strip
101				Rubble spread
102				Rubble spread
103				Rubble spread
104				Backfill
105				Backfill
106				Backfill
107				Backfill
108				Backfill
200				Pit
201				Fill of Pit [200]
202				*unused*
203				Fill of possible clamp
204				Fill of Ditch [205]
205				Ditch - same as [1083]
206				Rubble spread/paved area
207				Cut:, possible clamp
1000	Layer: Friable dark brownish grey slightly sandy silt. Moderate sub rounded pebbles & charcoal flecks, Occasional angular/sub rounded chalk fragments	site	variable	Topsoil
1001	Layer: Friable mid reddish brown slightly sandy silt. Moderate chalk fragments, occasional rounded/sub rounded pebbles, rare charcoal flecks/fragments	site	variable	Subsoil
1002	Cut: Sub circular cut with sharp break of slope at top, concave sides and gradual break to rounded base. Disturbed by root action	0.47m dia	0.19m	Possible pit cut
1003	Fill: Firm reddish brown sandy silt. Moderate small irregular chalk fragments	0.47m di	0.19m	Fill of [1002]
1004	Layer: Loose mid yellowish brown sand with occasional small chalk fragments, rare angular flint fragments			Redeposited natural?
1005	Cut: Sub circular cut with sharp break of slope at top, concave sides and gradual break to concave base	0.35m di	0.08m	Possible pit cut
1006	Fill: Loose reddish brown sandy silt with occasional small chalk fragments	0.35m di	0.08m	Fill of [1005]
1007	Layer: Friable mid reddish brown silty sand with occasional small chalk frags & charcoal flecks			Spit @ N.W of site
1008	Layer: Loose/friable angular and sub-angular chalk rubble (size range 0.05-0.25m) in matrix of dark greyish brown sandy silt. Occasional tabular flint nodules & charcoal flecks			Building collapse
1009	Layer: Friable mid-dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-angular chalk frags & very occasional charcoal flecks		variable	Dark matrix around rubble
1010				*Unused*
1011	Fill/Layer: Friable highly lensed (reddish brown/dark greyish brown) sandy silt with very frequent clay lenses. Frequent charcoal flecks and frags, occasional small sub angular chalk frags		0.05-0.10m	Fill of construction cut [2000]/foundation dump
1012	*same as [1004]*			*duplicate*
1013	Fill: Friable mid-dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional/moderate small sub-angular chalk frags and medium-large sub angular chalk		c.0.10m	Upper fill of sub circular/oval feature [1073]

1014	Fill: Friable dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional large sub angular chalk frags, moderate small sub-angular chalk frags.			Fill of ditch [1063] or Primary fill of feature [1073]?
1015	Layer: Large flat chalk stones with clay between.	1.50 x 1.30m		Flagged floor
1016	Layer: Angular chalk stones (size range 0.03-0.15m) in matrix of loose reddish brown sandy silt	2.00 x 2.00m		Building collapse
1017	Masonry: Large flat chalk stones	2.00 x 0.40m		Wall
1018	Layer: Small angular chalk stones, c. 0.03m in size	0.40 x 0.15m		Cobbled surface
1019	Cut: Sub-circular with sharp break of slope at top to concave sides and gradual break to flat base	1.00 x 1.00m	0.09m	Cut; possibly for hearth
1020	Fill: very firm sandy clay, marbled with orange, grey and dark grey. Frequent charcoal flecks & fragments	1.00 x 1.00m	0.09	Burnt clay fill of [1019]
1021	Fill: Friable mid-dark reddish brown sandy silt with frequent small angular chalk fragments, occasional chalk fragments (0.05-0.10m) & charcoal flecks	1.70 x ***m	0.46m	Fill of ditch [1022]
1022	Cut: Linear with moderate break of slope at top to concave sides and gradual break of slope to flat (slightly concave) base	1.70 x ***m	0.46m	Ditch: tenement boundary?
1023	Fill: Friable light-mid reddish brown silty sand with frequent small angular chalk fragments, occasional charcoal flecks	2.00 x ***m	0.77m	Fill of ditch [1024]
1024	Cut: ?Linear with moderate break of slope at top to concave sides, gradual break of slope to concave base	2.00 x ***m	0.77m	Ditch
1025	Fill: Friable light-mid reddish brown silty sand with frequent small angular chalk fragments, occasional charcoal flecks. Unexcavated			Fill of ditch [1026]
1026	Cut: ?Linear. Unexcavated			Ditch
1027	Layer: Sub-rounded chalk fragments (size range 0.05-0.15m) in matrix of mid reddish brown sandy silt. Occasional charcoal flecks and fragments		c. 0.05m	Cobbled surface butting wall [1032]
1028	Layer: Friable dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal fragments, occasional small sub-angular chalk fragments and scatters of broken pot		variable, c. 0.50m	Layer, possibly dump of material from kiln??
1029	Layer: Friable dark reddish brown sandy silt with moderate small-medium sub-angular chalk fragments, occasional charcoal flecks and fragments, and scatters of broken pot			Layer, possibly dump of material from kiln??
1030	Cut: Linear with sharp break of slope at top to slightly concave sides with moderate break of slope to flat base			Construction cut for wall [1032]
1031	Masonry: Chalk built wall (rough hewn: max 0.50 x 0.40 x 0.20m)			Wall of building {1088}
1032	Masonry: Chalk built wall (rough hewn: foundation max 0.86 x 0.46 x 0.23m; upper courses c. 0.20 x 0.10 x 0.05m)			Wall of building {1088}
1033	Masonry: Chalk built wall, only remnants of initial course remained			Robbed out wall of building {1088}
1034	Masonry: Chalk, with occasional tabular flint & sand stone built wall (rough hewn: max 0.40 x 0.25 x 0.18m)			Wall,
1035	Masonry: Chalk, with occasional sand stone built wall			Wall
1036	Fill: Friable lensed silty sand (mid yellowish brown – mid greyish brown)	2.00 x 1.40m	0.25m	Fill of pit [1037]
1037	Cut: Sharp break of slope at top to concave sides with gradual break of slope to concave base	2.00 x 1.40m	0.25m	Pit. Same as MAP [042]
1038	Fill: Friable mid reddish brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal fragments and flecks, occasional sub-angular chalk fragments (0.02-0.10m)	0.65 x 1.60m	0.08m	Uppermost fill of pit [1039]
1039	Cut: Oval with sharp break of slope at top to concave sides with moderate break of slope to slightly concave base	0.80 x 1.60m	0.28m ***	Pit, possibly rubbish pit
1040	Fill: Friable mid reddish brown sandy silt			Fill of [1030]

1041	Cut: Linear with sharp break of slope at top to steep ***			Ditch, possibly tenement boundary
1042	***			Fill of 1041
1043	***			Fill of 1041
1044	***			Fill of 1041
1045	Fill: Mixed sandy silt with frequent chalk fragments			Backfill
1046	Cut: Linear			Cut: of MAP Trench 4
1047	Layer: Friable mid reddish brown silty sand with occasional chalk sub-angular through sub-rounded pebbles			Dump/accumulation layer
1048				*Unused*
1049	Fill: Friable very dark grey/black charcoal fragments and flecks in matrix of sandy silt (c. 90% charcoal, 10% sandy silt) with occasional small sub-angular chalk fragments	0.80 x 1.60m	0.11m	Fill of [1039]
1050	Fill: Compact slag nodules in matrix of mid reddish brown sandy silt. Frequent charcoal fragments and flecks	0.80 x 1.60m	0.12m +	Fill of [1039]
1051	Fill: Loose greyish brown sandy clay with small irregular gravel	1.20 x 1.40m	0.20m	Fill of pit [1052]
1052	Cut: Sub-circular with sharp break of slope to concave sides with gradual break of slope to slightly concave base	1.20 x 1.40m	0.20m	Pit
1053	Fill:			Fill
1054				Fill
1055				Fill
1056				Fill of pit
1057				Fill of pit
1058	Cut: Linear (terminal of) sharp break of slope to concave sides with gradual break of slope to concave base	0.50 – 0.03m x ***m	0.30m	Terminal of ditch. Same as [1022] ***
1059	Fill: Friable greyish brown sandy clay with occasional small gravel	0.50 – 0.03m x ***m	0.30m	Fill of ditch terminal [1058]
1060	Cut: Linear with sharp break of slope at top to moderate/steep sides			Ditch, possible tenement boundary
1061	Fill: Friable greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small gravel			Fill of ditch [1060]
1062	Masonry: Chalk built wall, severely robbed out with only vestiges of lower course remaining			Wall, possible tenement boundary
1063	Cut: Linear. Only partially excavated			Ditch/construction cut
1064	Fill: Friable dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional large sub angular chalk frags, moderate small sub-angular chalk frags.			
1065	Layer: Compact mid reddish brown silty sand with occasional small chalk fragments and frequent charcoal flecks. Frequent lenses of red sand			Layer
1066	Fill: Friable mid brownish red slightly clayey sand with frequent lenses and moderate charcoal flecks			Fill of ditch [1067]
1067	Cut: ***			Ditch
1068	Fill: Friable mid brownish pink silty sand with frequent small chalk fragments and occasional charcoal fragments			Fill of ditch [1041]
1069	Fill: Loose/friable light greyish yellowish pink sand with frequent chalk fragments			Fill of ditch [1041]
1070	Fill: Loose mid yellowish brown sand with frequent small chalk fragments			Fill of ditch [1071]
1071	Cut: ?Linear. Only partially excavated			Ditch
1072	Masonry: Chalk (with one sandstone) built wall, bonded with earth and clay			Wall, blocking/repair between [1032] and [1034]
1073	Masonry: Chalk built structure (rough hewn: ***)			Structure, unknown function

1074	Structure: Fractured sub-circular stone set in red & black sandy silt with associated burnt chalk		Possible hearth
1075	Layer: Compact – friable mid reddish brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks & small sub-angular chalk fragments	variable, c. 0.01 – 0.05m	Accumulation/dump layer
1076	Masonry: Chalk built wall, largely robbed out		Wall associated with building {1088}
1077	Layer: Compact light-mid brownish grey mortar/crushed chalk in matrix of silty sand. Unexcavated		Floor surface
1078	Layer: Compact highly lensed silty sand (greenish brown & reddish brown). Unexcavated		?beaten earth floor?
1079			
1080	Layer: Compact – friable highly lensed/mottled sandy silt		?Accumulation/occupation layer
1081	Layer: Friable clayey silt, highly mixed with lenses of mid pink, 'bright' pink, dark brown, mid greyish blue, white and dark grey/black	0.10 – 0.15m	Dump
1082	Cut: Linear. Unexcavated		Construction cut for wall [1076]
1083	Cut:		
1084	Fill:		Fill of pit [1085]
1085	Cut:		Pit
1086	Fill:		Fill of [1087]
1087	Cut:		?Beam slot
1088	Group: comprising contexts [		Building
1089	Cut:		Construction cut for wall [1033]
1090	Root/plough disturbance		
1091	Root/plough disturbance		
1092	Root/plough disturbance		
1093	Fill:		Fill of ditch [1083]
1094	Fill:		Fill of construction cut [1082]
1095	Fill:		Fill of construction cut [1089]
1096	Cut:		?Terrace

9.2 *Drawing Register.*

Drawing No	Contexts	Initials	Scale	Plan/Section/Elev.
1	[1002],[1003]	L.H.	1:10	S
2	[1002]	L.H.	1:20	P
3	[1005], [1006]	L.H.	1:10	S
4	[1005]	L.H.	1:20	P
5	[1008]	M-C.F.	1:20	P
6	[1015]-[1020]	L.H.	1:20	P
7	[1019], [1020]	L.H.	1:10	S
8	[1027]	G.H.	1:20	P
9	[1052]	L.H.	1:20	P
10	[1058], [1060]	L.H.	1:20	P
11	[1058]	L.H.	1:10	S
12	[1041], [1060]	M-C.F.	1:10	S
13	Walls	M-C.F.	1:20	P
14	[1032],[1034],[1072]	M-C.F.	1:10	S
15	[1032], [1034]	L.H.	1:10	E
16	[1035]	L.H.	1:10	E
17	[1035]	L.H.	1:10	E
18	[1024],[1026],[1062]	M-C.F.	1:20	P

19	[1041],[1071]	M-C.F.	1:20	P
20	[1041]	M-C.F.	1:20	P
21	[1024]	M-C.F.	1:10	S
22	[1074]-[1081]	GH	1:20	P

9.3 *Photographic Register.*

Film	Frames	Description	Scale	Initials
3	10-12	Section 1		
	13-15	Section 3		
	16-18	W facing section of fill of feature Rubble oval???		
	19-24	Flagged floor [1015], Hearth? [1019], Rubble [1016].		
4	19-21	Section 1		
	22-24	Section 3		
5	1-3	W facing section of fill of Oval???		
	4-9	Flagged floor [1015], Hearth? [1019], Rubble [1016].		
	10-16	Oblique shot of rubble feature ???		
	17-19	Section 7 Hearth? [1019]		
8	2-4	Pit [1052]		
	5-7	Ditch???		
	8-10	Ditch [1058], section 11		
	11-24	View of walls [1031], [1032], [1034], [1035].		
9	2-24	Overhead view of walls [1031], [1032], [1034], [1035].		
10	0-8	Overhead view of walls [1031], [1032,] [1034], [1035].		
	10	Robbed out wall [1033].		
	11	Wall [1031].		
	12	Wall [1035].		
	13	Wall blocking [1072].		
	14-15	Wall [1032].		
	16	Wall blocking [1072].		
11	6-29	[1073], various views		
12	1-24	[1073], various views		

9.4 *Environmental Sample Register.*

Sample No.	Context No.	Sample Type
1	1081	GBA
2	1014	GBA
3	1028	GBA
4	1080	GBA
5	1065	GBA
6	1066	GBA
7	1064	GBA
8	1068	GBA
9	1069	GBA
10	1061	GBA
11	1050	SPOT
12	1049	GBA

9.5 *Finds Register.*

Object No.	Context	Description	Easting	Northing	mAOD
1	1009	Slag	1003.385	1006.593	41.980
2	1001	Spindle Whorl	995.839	1008.243	41.633
3	1027	Iron Nail	1008.188	1013.194	41.763
4	1027	Slag	1008.231	1012.832	41.818
5	1027	Slag	1006.991	1013.376	41.795
6	1027	Slag	1006.984	1012.688	41.774
7	1027	Slag	1006.954	1012.472	41.831
8	1027	Slag	1008.388	1012.522	41.877
9	1027	Slag	1008.394	1012.629	41.848
10	1027	Slag	1008.084	1013.146	41.753
11	1027	Slag	1008.131	1012.274	41.854
12	1027	Slag	1008.517	1012.374	41.865
13	1027	Slag	1008.215	1012.247	41.841
14	1027	Slag	1008.414	1012.090	41.877
15	1008	Iron Object	1003.247	1009.467	42.037
16	1080	Iron Object	1003.121	1009.858	41.844
17*	1080	Slag	1004.906	1009.807	41.988
18	1024	Hone Stone?	997.658	1001.378	41.367
19 - 29	-	*unused*	-	-	-
30	1008	Slag	1005.555	1010.276	42.043
31*	1009	Slag	999.972	1011.058	41.901
32	1050	Spur	1006.454	1013.038	41.660
33	1011	Iron Object	1005.454	1011.041	41.922
34	1011	Copper Alloy Object	1004.036	1011.135	41.819

10.0 Appendix 2 ~ Pottery from Staxton, Hare & Hounds.

Alan Vince and Jane Young.

10.1 Background.

The 1998 excavations at Staxton produced a large quantity of medieval pottery, the majority of which was clearly production waste of "Staxton ware". The Staxton ware pottery industry is thought to have begun in the later 12th century and to have continued into the 14th century. During this long period, perhaps over 200 years, the main products of the industry changed little. In order to study the 1998 assemblage in more detail it was therefore necessary to look in detail at rim forms, vessel sizes and the range of decoration and manufacturing methods used as it is thought that there was in fact a chronological progression at this level of detail.

Despite this detailed study, there was no evidence that the Staxton ware from the site belonged to more than one phase of production and it is suggested that the pottery is all waste dumped on the site in the late 12th or early 13th century and recycled thereafter as a result of later ground disturbance.

Other wares were present, in very small quantities, and these confirm that the site was occupied in the late 12th and 13th centuries but perhaps abandoned before the end of the 13th century. Rare sherds of later date were recovered, but all were from the topsoil, contexts 1000 and 1001.

10.2 Medieval Pottery.

4153 sherds of Staxton ware weighing 72.513Kg were recorded by sherd count and weight after being assigned to a vessel form and vessel part (body sherd or base). These sherds have not been examined further.

context	Feature	Description	Cname	Sherds	Vessels	Weight
0		Unstratified	Stax	53	53	1345
201	200	Fill of Pit [200]	Stax	19	19	228
203		Fill of possible clamp	Stax	40	40	1045
208		not on Guy's list	Stax	318	318	7068
1000		Topsoil	Stax	149	149	1397
1001		Spit (hand cleaning)	Stax	1759	1731	25391
1003	1002	Fill of 1002	Stax	17	17	157
1007		Spit @ N.W of site	Stax	129	129	2553
1008		Rubble spread - collapse of building	Stax	210	210	4553
1009		Dark soil around rubble spread [1008].	Stax	377	377	7608
1011		Layer; under rebuild of collapsed building (spread [1008])	Stax	35	35	1000
1012		Layer; Yellow brown sand	Stax	38	38	855
1013		Upper fill of rubble feature???	Stax	23	23	404
1014		Primary fill of feature??/	Stax	23	23	431
1021	1022	Fill of ditch 1022	Stax	37	37	356
1023	1024	Fill of ditch 1024	Stax	15	15	1288

1027		Cobbled surface @ N.E. corner of 1008	Stax	10	10	98
1028		Layer	Stax	641	626	12436
1029		Layer	Stax	60	60	742
1036	1037	Fill of pit 1037	Stax	14	14	243
1038	1039	Fill of pit 1039	Stax	18	18	198
1044	1041	Fill of 1041	Stax	32	32	808
1046		Cut: MAP Trench 4	Stax	13	13	256
1050	1039	Fill of 1039, pit near cobbled surface [1027]	Stax	12	12	73
1051	1052	Fill of pit 1052	Stax	45	45	776
1066			Stax	6	6	30
1068			Stax	14	14	211
1069			Stax	1	1	12
1080		Spread of dark soil within and around building, stratigraphically earlier than building	Stax	26	25	626
1081		not on Guy's list	Stax	14	14	268
1086		not on Guy's list	Stax	5	5	58

A further 1300 sherds were selected for further study, either because they were not Staxton ware or because they were 'featured' sherds such as rims and decorated body sherds. This sub-sample was recorded in more detail, assigning rims to a rim type, diameter, Estimated Vessel Equivalent (EVE) and, if sherds from the same vessel were noted in other contexts, a Vessel Number.

10.2.1 Staxton Ware.

Status.

There are several indications that much of the Staxton ware from this site is not domestic debris but production waste. Firstly, there is the vast quantity, far in excess of what might be expected from a rural tenement excavation. Secondly, the colour of the sherds is atypical. Staxton ware from consumer sites is usually oxidized with a light brown colour throughout. A significant proportion of this collection, however, is fired grey or black. This is likely to be a result of poor control of the firing conditions. A further sign that some of this pottery is waste (apart from the vast quantity) is the presence of cracks in the vessel walls. Such cracks were noted in material from 14 contexts, spanning the entire stratigraphic sequence and occurring on both sides of the tenement boundary.

On the other hand, there were no bloated or melted sherds and it would seem, assuming that this is indeed production waste, that the kilns or clamps used for firing were never prone to overfiring. Furthermore, none of the material had the soft texture found on underfired vessels.

Some of the Staxton ware is, however, likely to be normal domestic waste. Forty-seven sherds had soot on the external surface, a probable sign of use for cooking rather than being acquired during the firing process, and two sherds had been reused as counters or perhaps spindle whorls after breakage (and in one case after use in cooking before that). These sherds have a similar distribution to the cracked sherds and there does not appear to be any concentration either of domestic or waste material.

In sum, it seems that the Staxton ware was mainly production waste, but with some domestic debris included and there is no obvious reason to treat any particular deposits separately. In the following analysis, therefore, all the Staxton ware is treated as a single assemblage, produced on or near the site, perhaps at a single period in time (in which case virtually none of the sherds would be contemporary with the deposits in which they were found).

Fabric.

Staxton ware is usually oxidized throughout and shows no signs of deliberate tempering. However, vessels often contain large angular inclusions often several mm across and numerous inclusions up to 1.0mm across are visible.

Manufacture.

Although some Staxton ware was thrown on the wheel, much of the material from this site seems to have been formed by hand with the rim and shoulder 'trued up' on a wheel or turntable. Only a few of the jug sherds show signs of being completely wheelthrown. The individual coils of clay were luted together with long vertical movements, often leaving a distinctly fluted appearance on the inside of the vessel. Even when this working is not clear to the eye it can usually be felt. The external surfaces, however, were usually smoothed over, before the finishing of the rim and shoulder.

Forms.

By far the most common form produced at Staxton was the *jar (Nos. 1-49, 96, 101)*. These vessels have a rounded profile and a sagging base. The rims are usually thickened in some way, normally by folding in or, less often, out. The second most common form is known in the literature as a *'peat pot' (Nos. 50-6)*. These vessels have a similar overall shape as the top two thirds of a jar. Thus, they have a sharp base angle in contrast to the obtuse base angle of the standard jar. From the few complete profiles found, it is clear that these peat pots shared the same range of rim forms and decoration as other jars and can therefore only be recognised from their base angles.

A total of 792 base sherds of jars/peat pots were recovered and these were split 630:162 in favour of jars. Similar figures were calculated from the number of vessels (623:155) and by weight of sherds (16690:5029). Roughly speaking, therefore, jars outnumbered peat pots 4 to 1. Because the bases are sagging it is usually not possible to determine either diameter or base percentage, so this method of quantification is not available.

A variety of other vessel forms were found. Jars/peat pots form the majority - 83% by sherd count and 87% by rim percentage (EVEs). The next more common form, *bowls*, only accounts for 7% by sherd count and 5% by EVEs. Eleven sherds of *jugs* were present, enough to show that these vessels formed a regular, though numerically unimportant, element in the production. Other vessel forms were rare and represented by a handful of sherds. Eight sherds of large *curfews* used as fire covers, were present, three sherds from *cisterns*, large vessels