

Figure 3. Plan of foundation (116). (Scale 1:10).

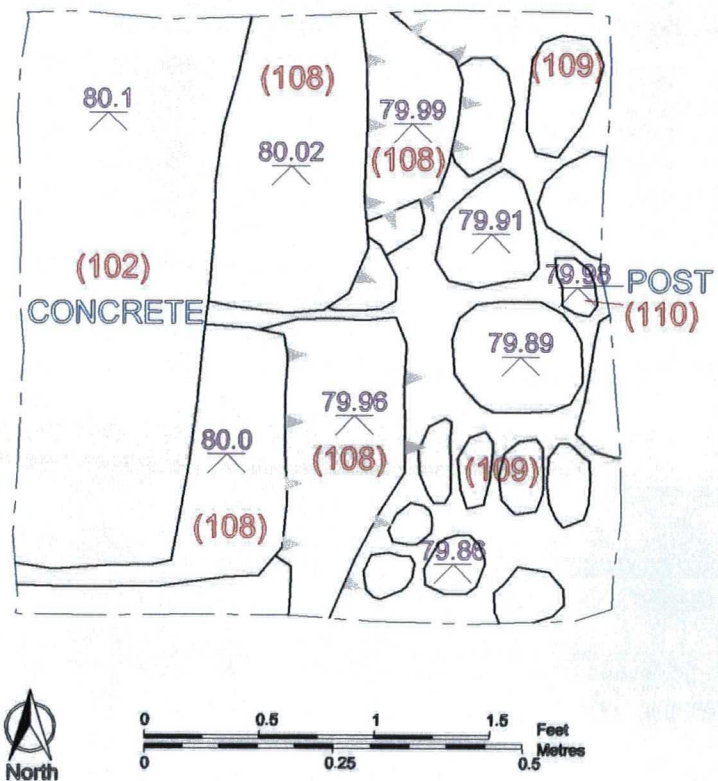


Figure 4. Plan of cobbles (109), post (110), & drain (108). (Scale 1:10).

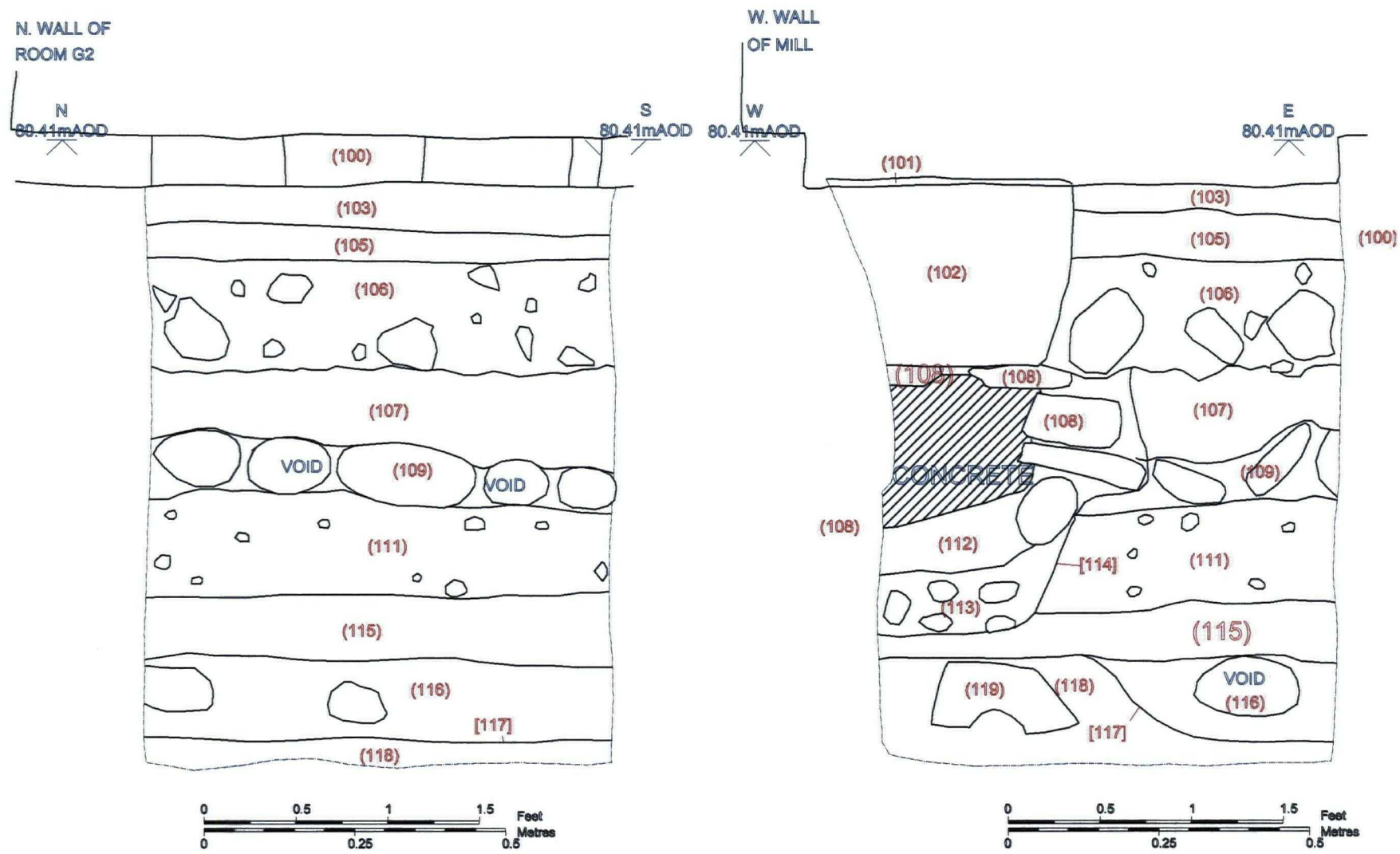


Figure 5. South facing section of trench. (Scale 1:10).
Figure 6. East facing section of trench. (Scale 1:10).

On-Site Archaeology. May 2003

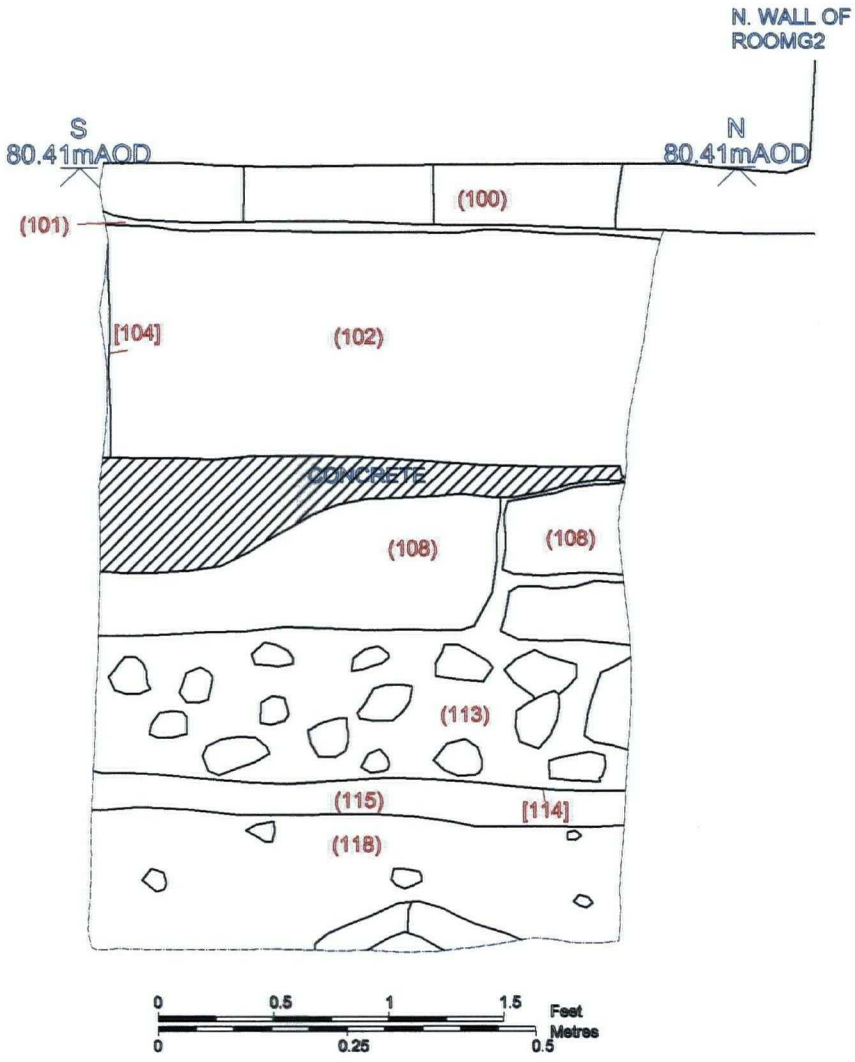
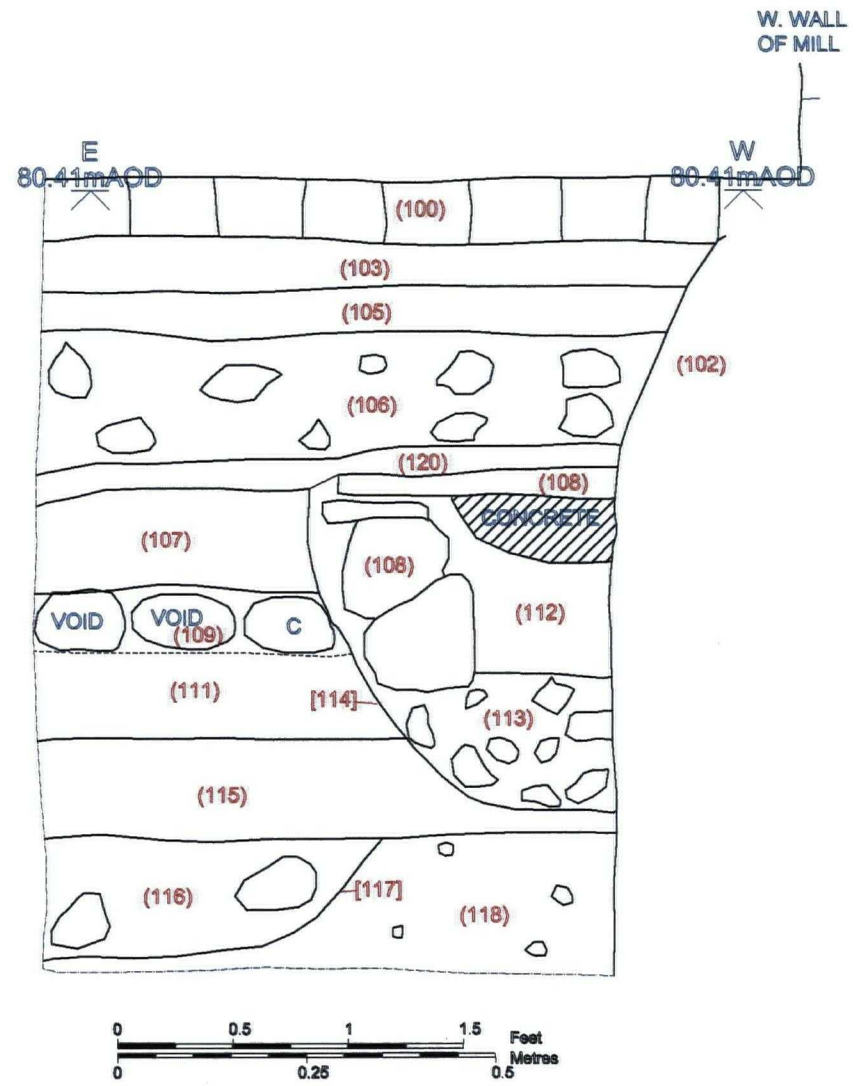


Figure 7. North facing section of trench. (Scale :10).
Figure 8. North facing section of trench. (Scale 1:10).

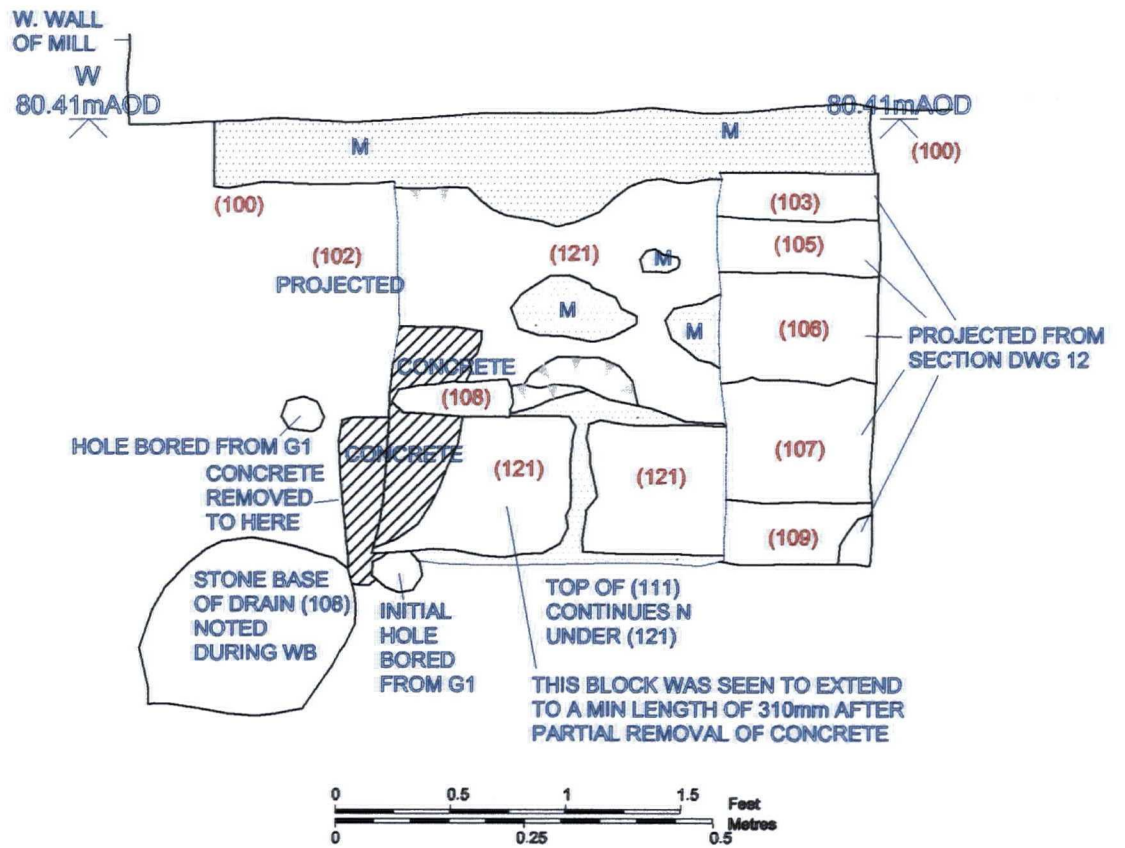


Figure 9. South facing elevation of wall (121). (Scale 1:10).

6.0 Discussion and Conclusions.

Where possible the results of this excavation and watching brief have been considered in relation to the evidence retrieved during the much more extensive investigations carried out between April 2000 and May 2001, especially Trench 11, in the location of the new lift pit.

As with many of the investigations within and around the mill the current excavation suffers from a well-dated assemblage of finds to assist in the construction of a chronological framework. Many of the earliest deposits and structures may be medieval, but none of them contained any finds other than occasional fragments of undiagnostic tile (which may be either medieval or post-medieval in date).

The small clay, sandstone rubble and cobble foundation (116) is probably medieval in date. The level at which it was encountered, (approximately 79.50m AOD), strongly suggests a medieval date for this feature. To the south, in Trench 11, a stratigraphically medieval wall foundation (1122) was found at almost exactly this level. To the north, none of the excavations within Room G2 extended to such a depth, but outside the mill the original, medieval, north wall was found, the top of the exterior, foundation for which was found at approximately 80.00m AOD. As it has previously been shown that the original mill was at least 11.3m wide (OSA, January 2002, p.30), then this newly discovered foundation would form an internal division, approximately 3m inside the west wall of the mill.

The early foundation was covered by a layer of very clean grey silting (115). This appears to be a water lain deposit and may indicate the very wet nature of the interior of the mill during the medieval period. Alternatively as it clearly post-dates the demolition of the wall that had originally sat upon foundation (116) this area may not have been inside the mill at the time of its deposition. The possible period for the accumulation of this silting would be during the narrowing of the mill, from the original 11.3m width, down to the 9.6m represented by the extant east and west walls.

The silting was sealed by a compact clay layer (111), which was tentatively interpreted as a floor, followed by the cobble surface (109), which was clearly a continuation of that found in Trench 11 (1113). The possible clay floor and definite cobbled one were presumably laid within the second, narrower, medieval mill, although, once again, the lack of dating evidence limits the certainty of this chronological development.

The drain running along the inside of the west wall of the mill has been confirmed as being of fairly late (late 18th to 19th century) date. Its construction may relate to alterations to the functions and configuration of the mill and millpond during the 19th century. One of the most significant discoveries, relating the early modern development of the mill, is that the wall dividing Rooms G1 and G2 definitely post-dates the drain, and is therefore of late 18th century construction at the very earliest. Whilst the northernmost part of the mill is obviously an addition to the earlier fabric the date of this extension has never been certain.

7.0 Bibliography.

- Newman, M. (June 2001). Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal Estate. An Archaeological & Historical Survey. (MNNTYR96)
- OSA (Jan. 2002). Fountains Abbey Mill, Fountains Abbey. Report on an Archaeological Investigation. (OSA Report No: 00EV06).
- OSA (Aug. 2002). Fountains Abbey Mill, Fountains Abbey. Report on an Archaeological Evaluation. (OSA Report No: 02EV06).
- Senior, J. R. (1989). The selection of dimensional and ornamental stone types used in some Northern Monasteries – The exploitation and distribution of a natural resource. In:- Gilchrist & Mytum, eds. (1989).

8.0 Appendix 1 ~ List of Contexts.

Context	Description (and interpretation)	Extent	Thickness
100	Brick floor	Trench	0.75m
101	Loose, brownish yellow sand	0.75m x 0.40m	0.02m
102	Mixed sandy clay silt and rubble, with a concrete base	0.75m x 0.35m	0.55m
103	Soft reddish brown sandy silt	0.75m x 0.40m	0.05m
104	Sub-rectangular cut	0.74m x 0.35m	0.30m
105	Compact grey brown sandy silt with very frequent frags of mortar/ plaster	0.75m x 0.40m	0.05m
106	Loose brownish yellow sand with very frequent frags of sandstone rubble	0.75m x 0.45m	0.17m
107	Friable reddish brown silty clay with pebbles, sandstone, mortar	0.75m x 0.40m	0.15m
108	N-S aligned sandstone and cobble drain	0.75m x 0.45m	0.40m
109	Cobbles set within reddish brown silty clay	0.75m x 0.40m	0.15m
110	Tapering timber post	0.09m x 0.06m	0.55m
111	Compact dark yellowish brown silty clay with frequent pebbles	0.75m x 0.45m	0.14m
112	Loose reddish brown sandy silt	0.75m x 0.20m	0.10m
113	Compact, brownish yellow gritty sandy clay	0.75m x 0.40m	0.10m
114	N-S aligned linear cut	0.75m x 0.35m	0.35m
115	Soft greyish brown silty clay sand	0.75m x 0.75m	0.10m
116	Firm dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent frags of sandstone and moderate cobbles	0.75m x 0.50m	0.15m
117	Shallow N-S aligned linear cut	0.75m x 0.50m	0.15m
118	Firm light brown sandy silty clay with moderate gravel, sandstone, and cobbles	0.75m x 0.75m	0.17m +
119	Single block of sandstone	0.24m x ?	0.12m
120	Friable reddish brown silty clay	0.75m x 0.70m	0.04m
121	Base of wall dividing Rooms G1 and G2	0.75m x (approx 0.60m thick)	0.60m (within the trench)

9.0 Appendix 2 ~ Archive Index.

9.1 Drawing Register.

Dwg No	Description	Scale	Date	Initials
1	Plan of (102) (103)	1:20	290403	GB
2	Plan of [104]	1:20	290403	GB
3	Plan of (105)	1:20	290403	GB
4	Plan of (106)	1:20	290403	GB
5	Plan of (107) (108)	1:20	290403	GB
6	Plan of (108) (109) (110)	1:20	290403	GB
7	Plan of (111) [114]	1:20	300403	GB
8	Plan of (115)	1:20	300403	GB
9	Plan of (116)	1:20	300403	GB
10	Plan of [117] (118)	1:20	300403	GB
11	Plan of (118) (final)	1:20	300403	GB
12	S facing section	1:10	010503	GB
13	W facing section	1:10	010503	GB
14	E facing section	1:10	010503	GB
15	N facing section	1:10	010503	GB
16	S facing elevation wall 121	1:10	090503	GB

9.2 Photographic Register.

Frame	Description	Scale	Date	Initials
Digital / Download 01-05-03				
23-24	Pre-exc (102) and (103)	0.5m	290403	GB
25-26	[104] partially exc	0.5m	290403	GB
27-28	(102) concrete, (107) and (108) top	0.5m	290403	GB
29-32	Drain (108), Cobbles (109), Post (110)	0.5m	290403	GB
33-36	(111) and [114]	0.5m	300403	GB
37-38	(115)	0.5m	300403	GB
39-43	Foundation (116)	0.5m	300403	GB
44-47	[117] and (118)	0.5m	300403	GB
48-51	S facing section	0.5m	010503	GB
52-54	E facing section	0.5m	010503	GB
55-57	N facing section	0.5m	010503	GB
58-60	W facing section	0.5m	010503	GB
61-63	Manhole outside W wall of G2	none	010503	GB
64-65	Floor in G1 (present condition)	none	010503	GB
66-67	Drilling from Room G1	none	010503	GB
Digital / Download 12-05-03				
82-83	Wall (121) during WB	none	090503	GB
84-88	Wall (121) during WB	0.5m	090503	GB
89-91	Wall (121) during WB	none	090503	GB

10.0 Appendix 3 ~ Finds Assessment.

Graham Bruce.

10.1 Ceramic Building Material Catalogue.

The investigation produced a small sized assemblage of ceramic building material, totalling 8 fragments (0.360Kg in weight), contained within a single small box. This has been quantified by fragment count and weight, per context with each fragment being examined to ascertain its form and identify any unusual characteristics. No attempt has been made to analyse the fabrics from which the assemblage had been produced. This methodology has been used to conform with that employed on the CBM assemblage collected during the earlier investigations carried out in and around the mill (OSA, January 2002, Appendix 6).

The most frequently represented material is plain flat roof tile, which may have originally been either nib or peg attached. In the single example where an attachment method is present this takes the form of a circular peg hole. These roof tiles can be of medieval or post-medieval date, however, in view of the known existence of medieval buildings on the site, and the demonstrable change to pantile in the post-medieval period, it is likely that a significant proportion of this material is of medieval date. The fragment from drain (108) is likely to be residual. Deposits (111) and (115) are therefore tentatively dated to the medieval period.

No further work is required on this assemblage at this stage. However, it should be retained within the site archive to allow the potential comparison with material retrieved from earlier investigations.

Context	Form	No.	Weight (g)	Comments
108	plain	1	110	
111	plain	2	220	
	Cbm	3	20	
115	peg	1	5	Very small fragment with part of a R hole
	Cbm	1	5	
Total		8	360	

R = Round (hole).

Cbm = ceramic building material, used on very small fragments when form cannot be ascertained.

10.2 Note on the Pottery.

A single sherd of Early Modern pottery was recovered from context (113). This was a base sherd of a Creamware bowl, dated to the late 18th century or later.

10.3 Note on metal objects

A total of three metal objects were recovered during the excavation. All of these were from context (107), a dump, which, although undated in its own right immediately preceded the

construction of the 19th century drain (108). One of the objects is an iron nail, and the other two are short, straight, lengths of lead window came 75mm and 80mm long. These are similar to lead window comes found within the mill during the previous investigations (OSA, Jan. 2002, Appendix 10).