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Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd University of York Kings Manor York LYO10000000

Location of interventions

Scale 1:1000



Figure 2



columns were recorded for texture, colour and components and all layers measured from present ground level to produce a deposit model.

Written, drawn and photographic records were made of all archaeological deposits. A local site grid was used for recording purposes and was rectified to the Ordnance Survey grid upon completion of the fieldwork. All co-ordinates and alignments expressed in this report refer to the Ordnance Survey grid; all heights are expressed in metres above ordnance datum (AOD).

The recording system followed *Field Research Procedure* (Carver 1999), the standard operating system employed by FA S. A single index was created for contexts, starting at C1000 and for features, starting at F1. A checklist of records created during excavation, which forms the content of the archive, is given below (Appendix B). A summary of contexts and features recorded during the evaluation is given by intervention forms Appendix C.

### 3.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS

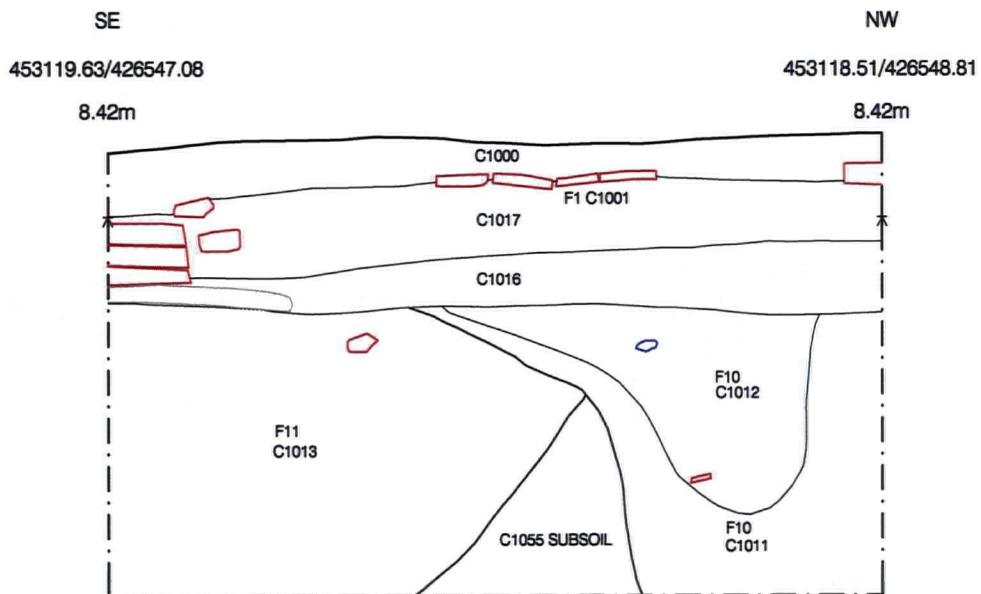
#### 3.1 INTERVENTION 1

Intervention 1 measured 5.00m x 2.00m and was positioned in an area of rubble hardstanding close to the complex of agricultural buildings and the known location of the former Church Hill cottages. The intervention was excavated by machine in two phases. The first phase contacted the ground floor of the demolished cottage and drawn, written and photographic records were made prior to its removal. The second phase encountered a cellar and natural subsoil cut with negative features at a depth of approximately 7.92m AOD (0.65m below present ground level).

The sequence encountered in Intervention 1 and visible in the northeast and southeast facing sections (Figure 3 and 4) consisted of a layer of mixed brick rubble and compacted gravel (C1000) making the current farmyard hardstanding surface. This overlay two areas of quarry tile floor (F1, C1001 and F3, C1003) abutting two wall footings orientated NW-SE (F2, C1002 and F4, C1004) (Figure 5, Plate 5). The quarry tile floor surfaces overlay a preparatory layer of clayey-silt (C1017), which in turn overlay two levelling layers (C1015 and C1016) of mixed clayey silts containing lime mortar and ceramic building material. Upon removal of C1015 and C1016 by machine they were found to prepare the ground for F1 to F4 which overlay a backfilled cellar made of a series of stone and brick walls and wall footings allocated F5 to F9.



**Plate 5** F1 to F4, Intervention 1 looking northeast



Northeast facing section - Intervention 1

Scale 1:20

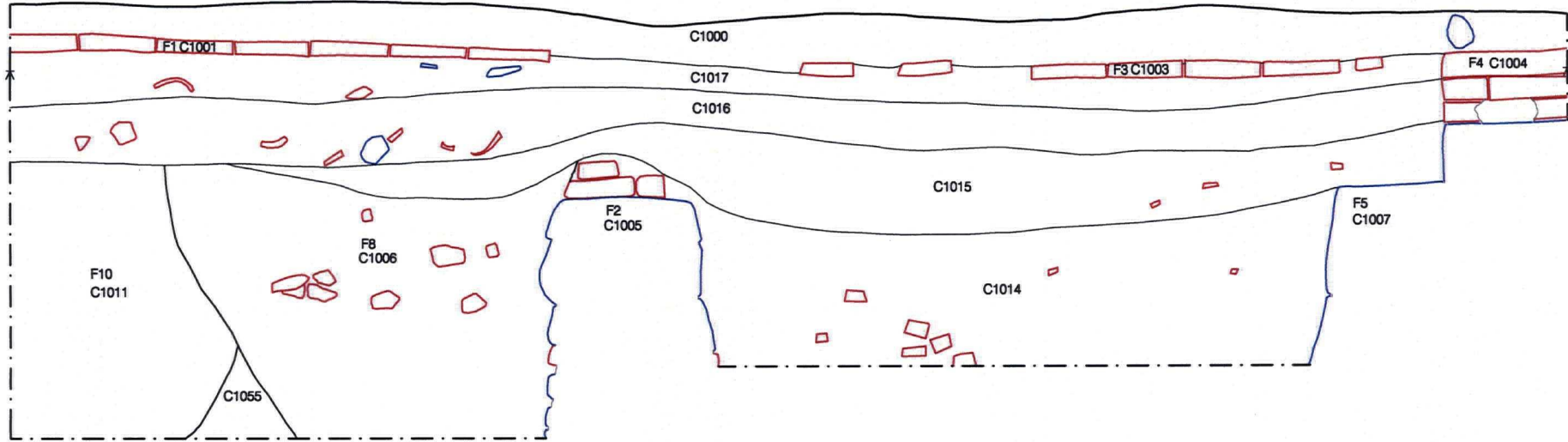
Figure 3





SW  
453118.51/426548.80  
8.40m

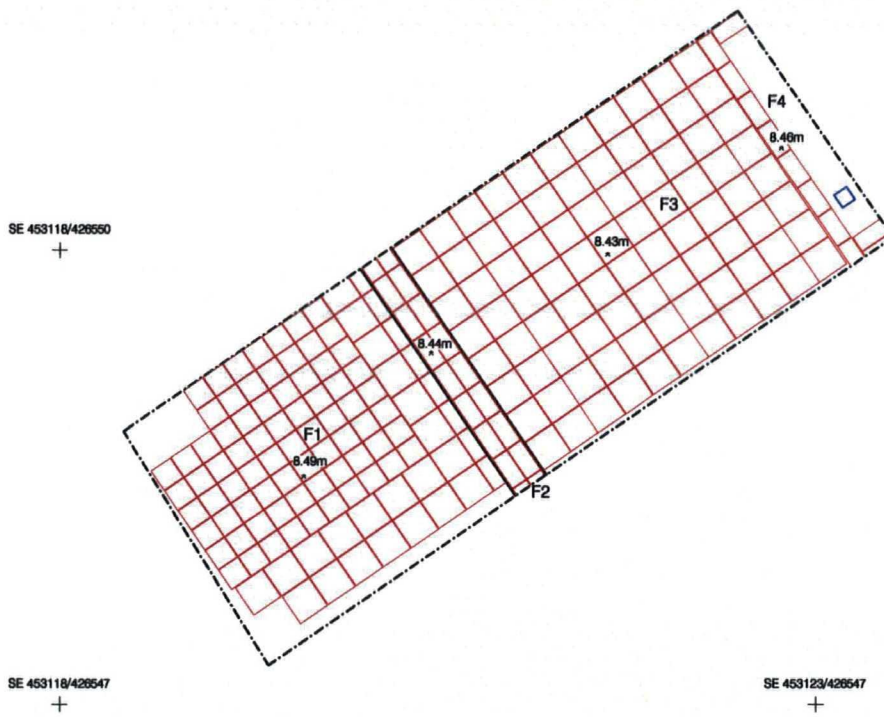
NE  
453122.51/426551.51  
8.40m



Southeast facing section - Intervention 1

Scale 1:20

Figure 4

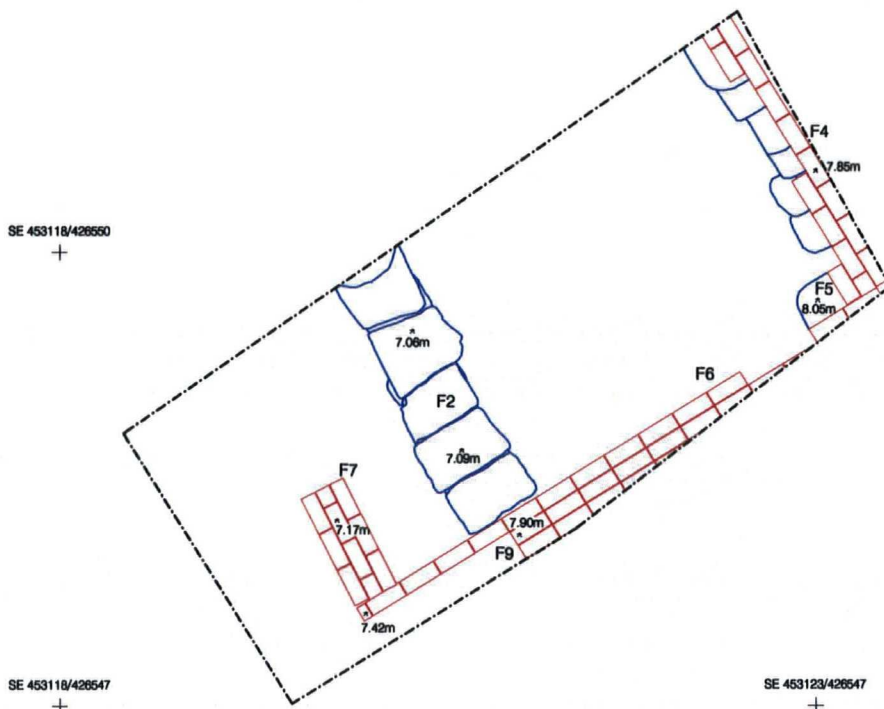


F1 to F4 pre-excitation plan - Intervention 1

Scale 1:50



Figure 5



F5 to F9 pre-excitation plan - Intervention 1

Scale 1:50



Figure 6





The full extent of the cellar was not visible within the intervention but where visible appeared to be a small possibly rectangular room made by four walls forming three sides, F5 to F9 (Figure 6, Plate 6). F6 was a plaster-rendered brick- and stone-built wall (C1008) orientated NE-SW, contacted at a depth of 8.45m AOD, forming the northwest facing section of the intervention. The full depth of the feature was not encountered within the intervention but was seen to continue below 7.00m AOD. To its northeast F6 was abutted by a plaster-rendered stone-built wall, F5, aligned NW-SE, and set at a right angle to F6. This wall was visible for the width of Intervention 1 and formed the southwest facing section. F7 and F9 formed a continuation to the alignment of F6 but was unrendered and made of coursed brick and together formed a small three-sided chamber which may be related to stair access into the cellar.



**Plate 6** F5 to F9, Intervention 1 looking northeast

The cellar formed by F5 to F9 appeared to have been disused in an operation which also altered the ground floor plan of the cottage. The alteration took the form of a stone-built wall footing abutting F6 to the southwest and truncating F9. This feature was first encountered as a brick footing abutting at ground floor level by quarry tile floors F1 and F3. During machining the upper brick make-up (C1002) was removed, and gave way to a lower make-up (C1005) consisting of an assortment of materials including complete and fragmentary bricks, large roughly shaped sandstone blocks and two reused fragments of architectural stone: a chamfered plinth and a decorative moulding (Plate 7). The construction of F2 involved the excavation of a deep construction cut (F8) visible in the southeast facing section and to the southwest of F2, the backfill of which (C1006) contained 19th century ceramic (Appendix D). To the northeast of F2 a mixed deposit of plaster, mortar and ceramic building material disused the cellar (C1014). It seems likely that the disuse of the cellar went hand-in-hand with the insertion of a foundation for F2 (of mixed make-up) to support the wall at ground floor level (of brick make-up). This alteration took place during the 19th century some time after the original construction of the cottages.



**Plate 7** Architectural stone incorporated into F2

F8 also cut a posthole allocated F10 and visible in the northeast facing section as a post void in a posthole backfilled with C1012 and C1011 respectively. The construction cut backfill was seen to contain a piece of brown-glazed earthenware and may be associated with the original construction of the cottages. F10 cut a pit to its south, F11, also visible in the northeast facing section backfilled with C1013, consisting largely of stone roof tiles and containing ceramic of 14th to 16th century date. Its visible dimensions were approximately 1.20m x 0.70m x 0.60m. F11 was cut into a dark yellowish-brown sandy silt subsoil laminated with clay silts.



### 3.2 INTERVENTION 2

Intervention 2 measured 6.50m x 2.00m and was positioned approximately 5.50m to the northwest of Intervention 1, in the area of agricultural yard hardstanding. The trench was excavated by machine to a depth of 0.25m below present ground level (7.46m AOD). All excavation below this depth was carried out by hand.

The sequence encountered in Intervention 2 and recorded in the northeast facing section consisted of the same mixed brick rubble and compacted black gravel layer as recorded in Intervention 1 (C1000) which forms the current farmyard surface of the immediate area (Figure 7). This overlay an undulating layer of limestone and brick rubble in a light mortar and silty clay matrix (C1025 and C1026). Upon removal of this layer a series of features identified as wall footings and floors were encountered. To the southwest, this structural horizon consisted of a wall footing of mixed of brick and limestone construction (F13) abutted by a flagstone floor (F12) made of nine flags of varying sizes covering a total rectangular area of 2.50m x 0.70m (Figure 8, Plate 8), although its full extent lay beyond the limit of excavation. At its northeastern limit, F13 was abutted by another wall footing of limestone and brick construction bonded with a lime mortar (F14). F14 measured approximately 0.50m and shared the alignment of F13 but was offset slightly to the southeast. F14, along with two further stone-built features, F15 and F16, created a four-sided niche with a small opening to the north. The roughly square niche was interpreted as a possible hearth, the fill of which (C1023) abutted these features on all sides and consisted of a black silt with frequent inclusions of charcoal and a burnt reddish-brown silt throughout. The stone and brickwork of F14, F15 and F16 which formed the hearth area showed evidence of fire-scorching.



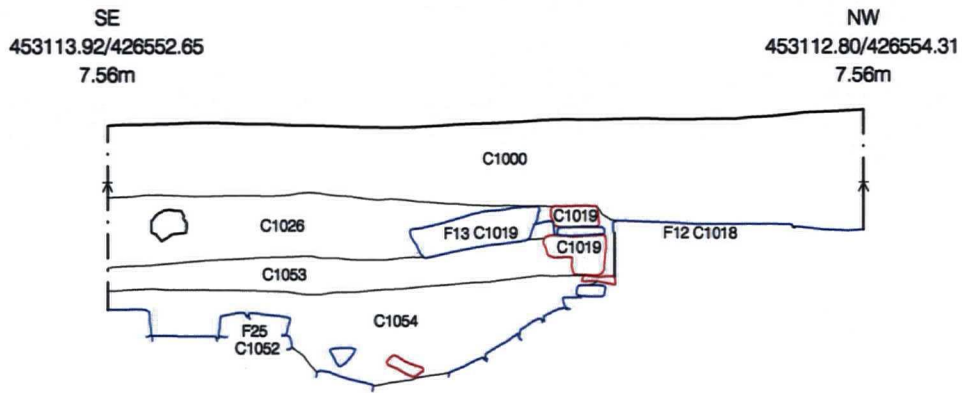
**Plate 8** F12 to F17, Intervention 2 looking southwest

To its northwest F15 was abutted by a further brick wall footing (F17), orientated NW-SE and forming the northeast edge of Intervention 2.

A sondage (F26) was excavated by hand in the southern corner of Intervention 2 with the aim of assessing the presence of earlier archaeological horizons and to locate natural subsoil in this area. The sequence encountered consisted of a reddish-brown layer of clayey sand (C1053) cut by F13 which overlay a very dark greyish-brown silty clay containing 16th century Humberware (C1054). C1054 sealed an irregular limestone wall footing (F25) which was contacted at a depth of 7.28m AOD (0.50m below present ground level). F25 was formed from layered stone (C1052) and was seen to cut a mottled dark yellowish-brown subsoil at a depth of 6.70m AOD (Plate 9). This feature was visible for a



**Plate 9** Stone wall footing F25, Intervention 2 looking southwest



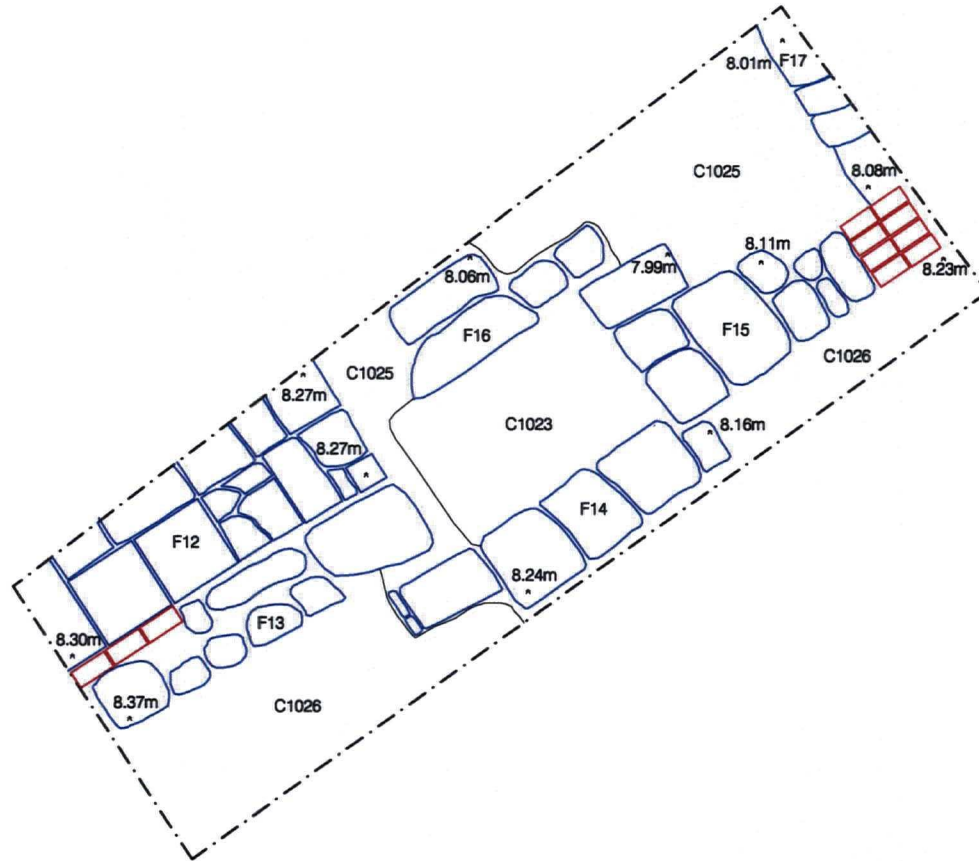
Northeast facing section - Intervention 2

Scale 1:20

Figure 7







F12 to F17 - Intervention 2

Scale 1:50



Figure 8

length of 1.00m and width of 0.40m and continued beyond the edge of excavation on a NW-SE alignment. While the stone make-up of F25 was not bonded, it appeared to represent the remains of a collapsed stone wall or footing.

### 3.3 INTERVENTION 3

Intervention 3 measured 10.00m x 2.00m, orientated NW-SE, 13.00m to the northwest of Intervention 2. The intervention was excavated by machine to a depth of no greater than 1.30m below present ground level (6.95m AOD). Excavation did not encounter an archaeological horizon or subsoil; the sequence consisted of several layers of modern made-ground (C1027 to C1033).

The sequence visible in the northeast facing section consisted of a humic, very dark greyish-brown clayey silt topsoil (C1027) and turf (Figure 9). C1027 overlay a mixed layer of brick and concrete rubble (C1028) and an homogenous brown clay dump (C1034). Beneath C1028 and C1034 was a brick rubble layer in a dark yellowish-sand matrix (C1029). Alternate layers of clean clayey silts with occasional inclusions of charcoal and fine gravel (C1030 and C1032) lay over and beneath a clay silt and limestone rubble layer (C1031). The base of Intervention 3 consisted of a clayey silt layer (C1033) containing limestone, brick rubble, and mortar. 19th century transfer printed ware was recovered from C1032.

### 3.4 INTERVENTION 4

Intervention 4 measured 10.00m x 2.00m, orientated NE-SW, and lay 5.00m to the northwest of Intervention 3, positioned to provide a partial profile through the local topography. This profile was extended from the eastern corner of Intervention 4 by 13.00m in a series of six auger probes to establish the character and depth of natural subsoil and to test for the presence of buried features (Intervention 6).

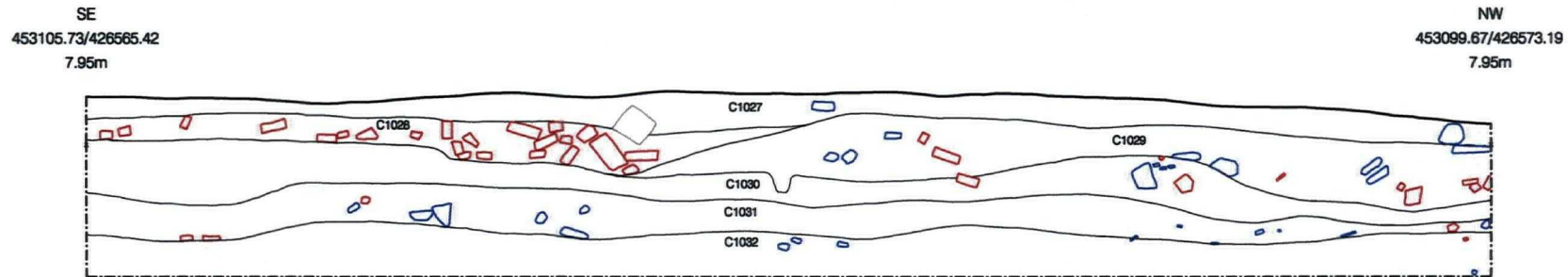
Intervention 4 was excavated by machine to a depth of between 0.60m and 0.80m below present ground level (7.29m - 7.09m AOD); excavation below this depth was undertaken by hand. The sequence encountered and visible in the southeast facing section consisted of a turf and topsoil layer (C1035) which overlay a modern service trench containing a water pipe (F27) and a dump of imported material including large concrete blocks (C1036)(Figure 10). Due to the size of the concrete blocks and the instability of the trench edges no further excavation was undertaken in the northeastern end of the intervention.

To the southwest, topsoil sealed the backfill of a 19th century brick-built drain filled with lime mortar (F18) (Figure 11, Plate 10). Both F18 and water pipe F27 cut a layer of mixed clayey silt with frequent stone, mortar and brick inclusions (C1037), dated by ceramic to the 19th century, and tentatively interpreted as a demolition layer. C1037 sealed the remains of a partially robbed clay-bonded



**Plate 10** Brick drain F18, looking northwest

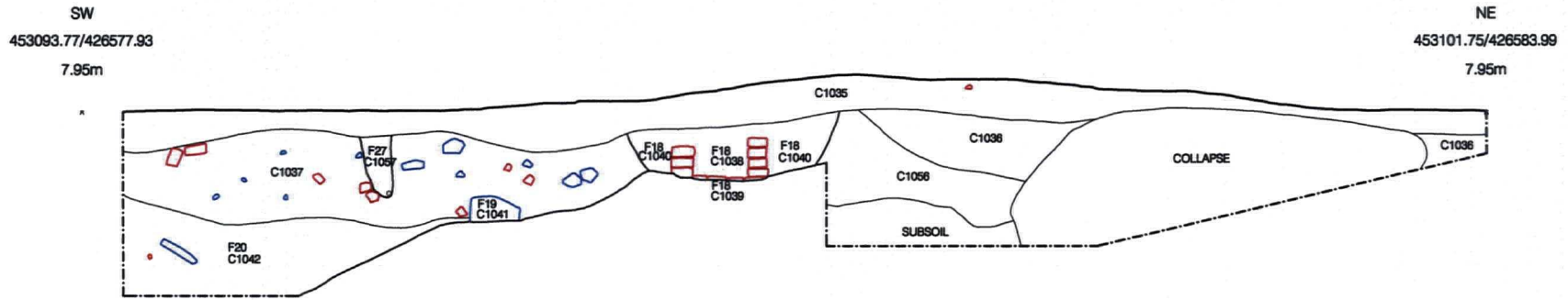




Northeast facing section - Intervention 3

Scale 1:50

Figure 9



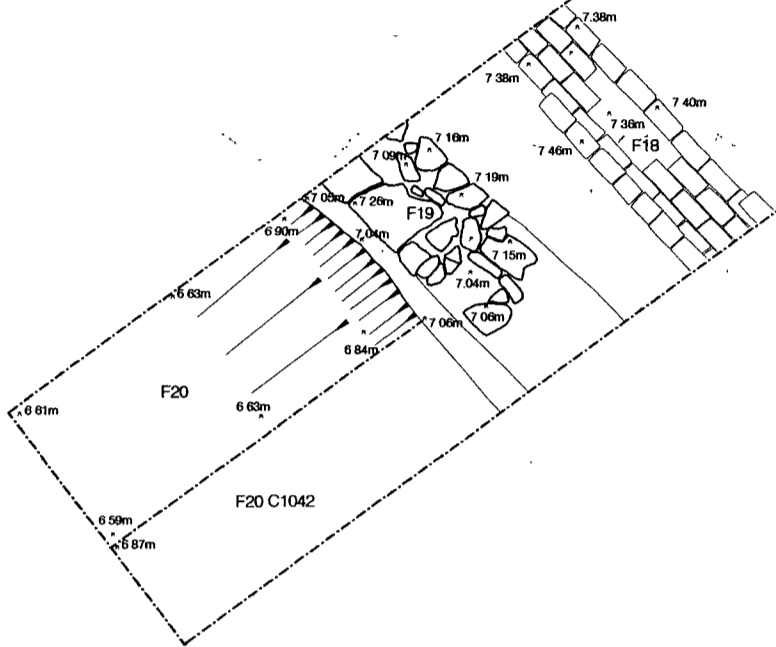
Southeast facing section - Intervention 4

Scale 1:50

Figure 10



SE 453094/426581



SE 453094/426576

SE 453103/426581

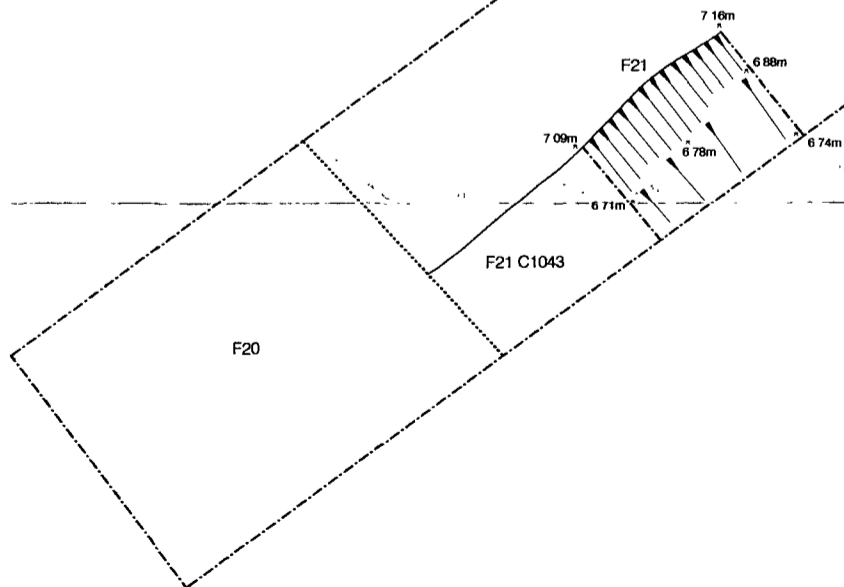
F18 to F20 - Intervention 4

Scale 1:50



Figure 11

SE 453094/426581



SE 453094/426576

SE 453103/426581

F21 - Intervention 4

Scale 1:50



Figure 12

limestone wall footing (F19) (Plate 11) aligned NW-SE, flanked by a backfilled ditch on the same alignment (F20, C1042). F20 was positioned at the western end of the intervention and continued beyond the edges of excavation on a NW-SE alignment. Where visible, the feature appeared to be a wide U-shaped ditch with gently sloping sides and had been backfilled with a brown clayey silt deposit. F19 and F20 cut a buried soil horizon (C1056) which in turn sealed a NE-SW aligned ditch (F21) (Figure 12). A 1.20m sample of F21 was excavated and although only partially visible within the excavation, it proved to be a U-shaped ditch with gently sloping sides and produced a sherd of 16th century Humberware. F21 was found to cut a laminated yellowish-brown silty and clayey sand subsoil at a depth of 7.20m AOD. Unfortunately, no direct dating evidence was recovered from stone wall footing F19 and associated ditch F20 and the features are indirectly dated to between the 16th and 19th century by stratigraphic relationships. It is likely that the stone and brick in C1037 derived from the disuse of F19 and residual pottery of the 16th to 17th century from C1037 might indicate a tighter date bracket for these features.



**Plate 11** Stone wall footing F19, looking northwest

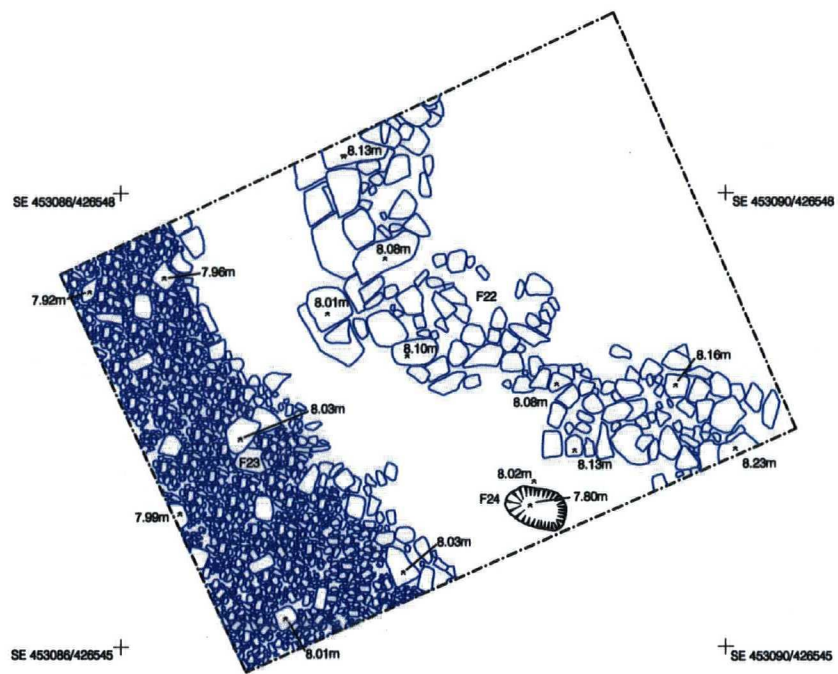
### 3.5 INTERVENTION 5

Intervention 5 measured 4.00m x 3.00m, and was located 26.00m to the northeast of St Mary's churchyard wall in the small area of pasture. The trench was excavated mechanically to the first archaeological horizon contacted at a depth of approximately 0.25m below present ground level (8.18m AOD). The sequence encountered consisted of a turf and topsoil layer (C1044) overlying a dark greyish-brown clay silt with frequent inclusions of limestone fragments (C1045). This layer sealed an horizon of three features; a curvilinear limestone wall footing (F22), a cobbled surface (F23) and a posthole (F24) (Figure 13, Plate 12). F22 was situated at the western end of the intervention and disappeared beneath the southern and northern limits of the trench. Enough of the feature was visible to suggest it belonged to a circular or semi-circular foundation and the stone make-up displayed fire reddened stone and was partially overlain by burnt material (C1050). The feature consisted primarily of foundation make-up but a small portion of elevation survived on the southwest face. Adjacent to F22, in the southwestern half of the intervention a cobble surface was encountered, F23. The feature was made of gravel and pebble and fragments of plain roof tile set in a matrix of silty clay (C1047); larger pebbles defined the edge of the surface against underlying soil layer C1049. 16th century pottery and animal bone (Appendix F) was recovered from the make-up of F23 during cleaning. Between F22 and F23 a posthole (F24) was defined and upon excavation proved to be 0.25m x 0.40m, and backfilled with a deposit of dark



**Plate 12** F22 to F24, Intervention 5, looking northeast





F22 to F24, Intervention 5

Scale 1:50



Figure 13

