

Archaeological Investigation:
Land Adjacent to the former
Swan Inn, Felmersham Road,
Radwell, Bedford, MK43 7HS

(NGR 500394 257482)

Planning Application 12/01435/FUL

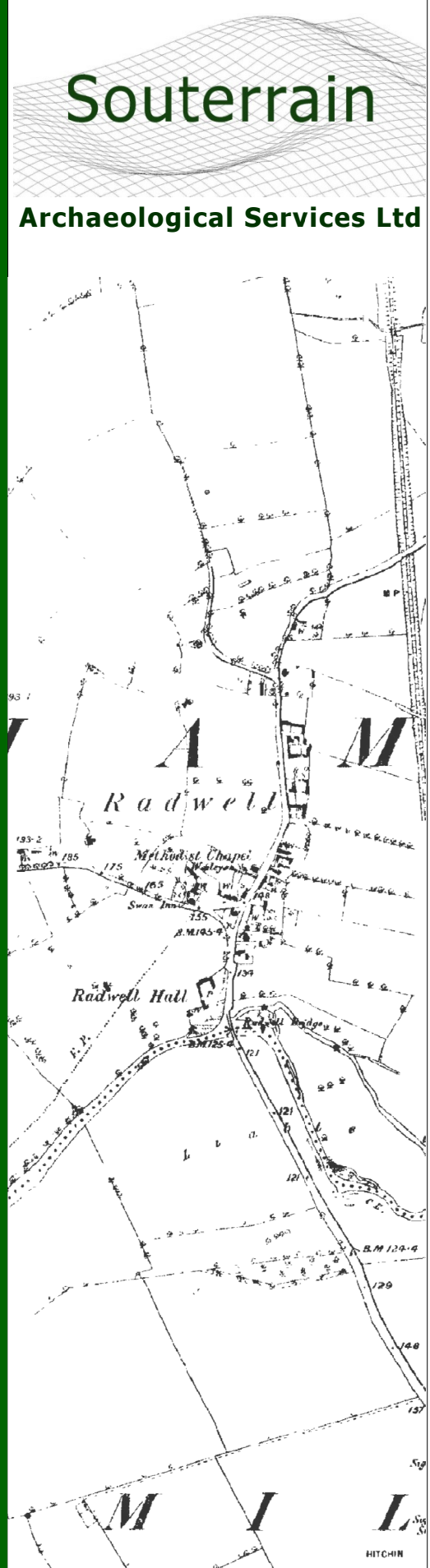


July 2013

Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd

for

Mr Phil Honeywood



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Land Adjacent to the former Swan Inn
Felmersham Road, Radwell
Bedford, MK43 7HS
(NGR 500394 257482)**

Application Reference 12/01435/FUL

Souterrain Project: SOU13-276

July 2013

Produced for:

**Mr Phil Honeywood
(The Planning Applicant)**

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Preface

All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd (Souterrain) cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

Fieldwork & Report:

Martin Wilson BA Hons, MIfA, MIEEnvSc, MEAGE, FSASc

SUMMARY

Over a period of four days in April 2013, Souterrain Archaeological Services Limited undertook archaeological investigation and recording during ground preparation for a new building on land adjacent to the former Swan Inn, Felmersham Road, Radwell, Bedfordshire (NGR 500394 257482).

The objectives of the investigation were to ensure that the archaeological interest of the site was safeguarded and broadly to attempt to recover information that may contribute to our understanding of the origin of settlement at Radwell.

The investigation revealed a shallow quadrangular pit with its base stepped down to a more irregular-shaped cavity below its north side. The pit was adjoined from the north by a shallow channel. Both features were deliberately in-filled in a single event at some juncture in the 12th / 13th century. They appear to have formed part of the same feature or structure, although of uncertain function. The upper fill of the pit contained re-deposited occupation deposits with pottery dated to the 10th / 11th century.

At least two-thirds of the development plot had been stripped of topsoil at some juncture in the 20th century for the creation of public house car park, leaving occasional thin traces of occupation deposits, possibly dating to the 12th / 13th century. There were, however, no further indications of archaeological features.

Collectively the archaeological evidence relates to domestic occupancy during the late Saxon to early Norman period (10th / 11th century) and during the 12-13th century. To date, the discoveries represent the most significant body of evidence of its kind found at Radwell.

1. SCOPE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report documents the results of archaeological observation and investigation carried out during ground preparation for a new building on land adjacent to the former Swan Inn, Felmersham Road, Radwell, Bedford (NGR 500394 257482) (Fig. 1) in compliance with a condition attached to the planning consent. The investigation took place over the course of five days in April 2013.

2. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission (Ref. 12/01435/FUL) has been granted subject to conditions, by Bedford Borough Council, on the 11th December 2012 for the erection of a detached dwelling.
- 2.2 The area of the proposed development is defined on drawings associated with the planning application: Sidey Design Architecture, Drawing No. 12/130/01A, 'Proposed Ground & First Floor Plans', 'Proposed Elevations Including Street Scene', 'Proposed Location & Block Plans'; Drawing No. 12/130/02, 'Existing Site Plan/Proposed site Plan'.
- 2.3 In view of the archaeological potential of the site, a Condition (No.2) has been attached to the grant of planning permission for the implementation of a programme of archaeological works, in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The purpose of the Condition is to ensure that features of archaeological interest encountered during groundwork are properly examined and recorded.
- 2.4 The archaeological investigation was undertaken by Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd (Souterrain) in accordance with Written Scheme of Investigation¹ approved prior to the commencement of work by Vanessa Clarke, the Historic Environment Team Officer (HETO) for Bedford Borough Council.

3. SITE LOCATION AND ASPECT

- 3.1 Radwell is situated in the parish of Felmersham. The village is located within a meander of the Ouse, bounded by the river on its north, east and south sides. The development plot (the Application Site) is located on the west side of the former Swan Inn² on the north side of Felmersham Road. The inn fronted the west side of the village green. The main part of the structure dates from the 17th century. It is built of coursed limestone and is thatched. The Application Site was formerly within the curtilage of the public house and was last used as car parking. It is surfaced in turf, hard-standing and gravel (Fig.2). The site is bounded to the north by grassland and scrub which is also in the ownership of the Planning Applicant. On the northwest side there are two 20th century semi-detached properties.
- 3.2 The area of proposed groundwork at the Application Site measured c.27m N-S by c.24m E-W (648 sq.m). Prior to the development, the fall in ground height across the site from west to east was c.50m AOD to c.49.85m AOD (Fig.2). The underlying geology consists of Great Oolitic Limestone and valley gravels.

¹ Souterrain Archaeological Services Limited. 2013. *Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication. Land Adjacent to the Swan Inn, Felmersham Road, Radwell, Bedford, MK43 7HS (NGR 500394 257482)* (Application Ref. 12/01435/FUL) , SOU13-276

² HER10260, Grade: II listed building, English Heritage Building ID: 36904.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORIC BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In the course of this project a search was carried out of Bedford Borough Council's Historic Environment Record (HER). The numbers in the footnotes refer to the specific record for each monument, find spot, historic building or archaeological site or archaeological event.

The prehistoric and Roman periods

- 4.2 A multi-period archaeological site³ was investigated by archaeologists during gravel quarrying in 1972 on the east side of the village, between the railway and the river Ouse. The site is located between c.450m and 900m east of the application site. The site included a Bronze Age ring-ditch⁴ with an early Iron Age cremation, a late Iron Age enclosure ditch, a small Iron Age inhumation cemetery, and substantial evidence for a 3rd to early 4th century Roman farmstead. The latter included evidence of timber and stone buildings roofed in tiles.

Settlement origins at Radwell

- 4.3 It is possible that the hamlet of Radwell is rooted in the middle or late Saxon period. The earliest mention of the village is in the Domesday survey of 1086, at which time there were fifteen heads of households (six villains and six small holders or bordars and three slaves). There was arable land sufficient for five ploughlands worked by the men's four plough teams and one demesne plough team⁵. In addition to which there was meadowland. The survey mentions two properties⁶. The first is the manor of Radwell, which was held in 1066 by Nigel le Vast, tenant of Nigel de Albini. It was assessed in 1086 at 7 hides 1½ virgates (c.85 hectares). By the 12th century this property was held (in the overlordship of Cainhoe) by a family who assumed the surname of Radwell. The manor included a water-mill and a free fishery in the river Ouse. The property remained with the Radwells until at some juncture in the early 15th century, when it passed through the female line of inheritance to the Randes family, who continued to hold it in direct descent through until 1820. The other property in Radwell was, in the 17th century, known as Felmersham Manor. The origins of the manor have been traced by Page et al⁷. Before the conquest the property belonged to a house carl by the name of Tovi. It consisted of 2 hides, 2½ virgates (c.25 hectares). It became a lordship of Hugh de Beauchamp, who held it of the Countess Judith. It apparently passed from the honour of Huntingdon to the barony of Beauchamp of Bedford, and was held by the de Patishulls, who continued their lordship until the 14th century when it passed to Beauchamps of Bletsoe. From the early 16th century it was in the hands of St. Johns of Bletsoe. By 1766 it had been largely dispersed. The extent of the two properties has not been determined. A manor house at Radwell was first recorded in c.1419, although it was probably established much earlier. The medieval house is believed to have been on the site of Radwell Hall⁸ (about 185m SSE of the Application Site) which was demolished in c.1825.
- 4.4 Documentary references to Radwell's medieval settlement are sparse. The layout of the modern village is generally presumed to reflect that of the medieval hamlet; bounding the village green and roads - Moor End Road to the north, Felmersham Road to the west and Radwell Road. The hamlet was served by the parish church of Felmersham which was already in existence in the 12th century⁹. There are references to a chapel at Radwell as early as 1204¹⁰ with the sanction of

³ HER1797, TL 011 574

⁴ HER1786

⁵ Open Domesday, <http://domesdaymap.co.uk/place/>

⁶ Summarised from Page W. (ed), *A History of the County of Bedford* Vol.3, 1912 59-63. <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=>

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ HER8999, TL 0039 5729

⁹ Page W. (ed) 1912. *A History of the County of Bedford* Vol.3, 59-63, <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=>. The extant building today dates from c.1220.

Felmersham, although this is most likely to have been a private chamber within the lord's manor house. The origin of the settlement at Felmersham, where middle to late Saxon occupation evidence has been found¹¹, more than likely followed the pattern of widespread reorganization which is widely believed to have taken place in the pre-Conquest period. Dispersed homesteads were brought together to be centralized around a church and manor house, surrounded by a planned open field system¹². The purpose of such large scale re-planning may only be speculated - to improve social cohesion, increase productivity, or a fashion adopted by the lord of the manor¹³. In this context, Radwell is comparable to an 'End' – a group of homesteads situated at the end of a track or road on the periphery of a village. The place name 'Hovel Field'¹⁴ (c.135m to the northwest of the site) indicate that there were also some outlying buildings.

- 4.5 Today, there are eighteen buildings of historic interest in Radwell village, several of which are listed, while the remainder are classed as local historic interest¹⁵. It is possible that several of these occupy the sites of former medieval tenements or closes, although there have been no archaeological investigations to confirm the early settlement. The oldest buildings date from the 17th and early 18th century and are dotted throughout the village. Most have been modernised. The majority are built in the local vernacular style of coursed limestone rubble. A few are still thatched, or partly-thatched, including the Swan Inn¹⁶ which is understood to have originated in the late 17th or early 18th century. At The Green, buildings of this period comprise Cygnet Thatch (C17)¹⁷ a two storey building; Greenaway Cottage (C18)¹⁸; Rose Cottage (late C17 with C19 additions)¹⁹; The Cottage (C18)²⁰; and Stoneleigh (C18)²¹. There are four other buildings of the period in Moor End Road: Chester House²², (C17/C19); White House (1704)²³; the Old Cottage²⁴ and Underwood Farmhouse (C18)²⁵, while at Radwell Road there are two cottages (C17)²⁶. Later buildings of historic interest are as follows: in Felmersham Road, The Cottage²⁷ and Hall Farmhouse (mid-C19)²⁸, in Moor End Road, two pairs of farm labourer cottages (mid-C19)²⁹, College Farmhouse³⁰ (C19 with C20 additions); Jasmine Cottage³¹; Magpie Cottage³² (C19) and a former Wesleyan Methodist chapel³³ (1807) which was converted to a house in 1972.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ See Edgeworth, M. 2007 'Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Bedfordshire', in Oake et al, *Bedfordshire Archaeology. Research & Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda & Strategy*, 93

¹² See Lewis, C, 2006. 'The Medieval Period', in Cooper, N (ed.), *The Archaeology of the East Midlands*, Leicester Archaeology Monograph 13, 191.

¹³ op.cit.

¹⁴ MBD8998, TL 0029 5757

¹⁵ Information from Bedford Borough Council Historic Environment Record.

¹⁶ HER10260, MBD10260, TL 0041 5747 grade II listed 17th century Inn; late C17 or early C18 origins, extended C20. The main building is coursed limestone rubble with thatched roof and brick buttresses.

¹⁷ HER5670, MBD5670, TL 0042 5749

¹⁸ HER10257, MBD10257, TL 0048 5747, grade II listed. coursed limestone rubble, with thatched roof.

¹⁹ HER10258, MBD10258, TL 0048 5748, grade II listed

²⁰ HER10259, MBD10259 TL 0047 5748, grade II listed. Coursed limestone rubble with thatched roof.

²¹ HER10255, TL 0051 5751 stone cottage, extensively modernised.

²² HER10261, MBD10261, TL 0050 5741

²³ HER10256, MBD10256, TL 0050 5748, colour-washed coursed limestone rubble with slate roof

²⁴ HER10554, MBD10554, TL 0053 5751, grade II listed house built 1704. Colour-washed coursed limestone rubble.

²⁵ HER10251, MBD10251, TL 0058 5766

²⁶ HER5669, MBD5669, TL 0014 5755, Rosemead and Applethatch

²⁷ MBD8661, TL 0012 5755

²⁸ HER10224, MBD10224. TL 0043 5729

²⁹ HER 10253, TL 0056 5786, Rose Tree Cottage / Fairview; HER10254, TL 0052 5783, The Cottages

³⁰ HER10252, TL 0057 5774

³¹ HER15116, MBD15181, TL 0052 5739

³² HER 10227, MBD18278, TL 0055 5755

³³ HER1057, MBD1057, TL 0052 5753

Archaeological knowledge

- 4.6 Prior to the present project there have been no known archaeological investigations made within the village. The paucity of discoveries therefore is most likely to be a reflection of a lack of archaeological fieldwork rather than a genuine absence of archaeology, particularly if the present village is situated above the medieval settlement.
- 4.7 Traces of medieval cultivation strips have been identified at least three locations around the village, but it is not yet determined whether these formed part of the common fields or were part of the manorial demesne³⁴. The parish was enclosed by Act of Parliament in 1765.
- 4.8 There have been very few artefacts of the period discovered, just three metal objects reported by metal detectorists between 2008 and 2011, all of which represent casual losses. These comprise: half of a 13th century lead seal matrix³⁵ which was found on the track side, north of College Farm, about c.430m north of the Application Site; a silver penny of Henry III (AD 1217-c.1242)³⁶ recovered from a field on the north side of the same track (c.480m NE of the site), and part of a silver coin of Edward I (AD 1279 – 1307)³⁷ found in a back garden on the west side of Moor End Road (c.250m NE of the site). Only one post-medieval find is recorded from the village- a copper-alloy buckle³⁸ which was found in a back garden off Moor End Road, c. 290m to the northeast of the application site. Again it reflects a casual loss.

Research Objectives

- 4.9 The Application Site was considered to have the potential to contain buried archaeology that might contribute both to our understanding of the origins and developmental history of Radwell and to current research areas addressed by regional and national research agenda³⁹. In particular, the origins of rural settlements are generally poorly understood since relatively few have been dated by archaeological excavation⁴⁰, especially those that are still in occupation⁴¹. It was also possible that the site may be able to contribute to the study of the origins of green-side settlements⁴². Additionally, given the relative proximity of the prehistoric and Romano-British settlement evidence found during the quarrying on the east side of the village, there was the chance that the site might also yield evidence for proto settlement in the area of the historic village.

The purpose of the investigation was therefore:

1. to aim to record the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
2. to attempt to recover information that may contribute to understanding of the origin of the settlement;
3. to gain an understanding of former land-use at this end of the village.

³⁴ Two of these records (MBD5108) are at Radwell: Moor End, c. 740m NE of the application site; at Pinchmill Islands, c. 1.2km to the NW; and c.200m SW. A fourth site further to the southwest at Hawkswell Farm is more rightly placed in Felmersham. 5108, c.2.3km, 5108 SE.

³⁵ MBD20877, TL 00 57

³⁶ MBB20543, TL 00 57

³⁷ MBB20274, TL 00 57

³⁸ MBB20272, TL 00 57

³⁹ i.e. Brown N & Glazebrook, J 2000. *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties*, 2. research agenda and strategy Occ Pap 8; Oake et al, 2007. *Bedfordshire Archaeology. Research & Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda & Strategy*; Glazebrook, J (ed) 1997. *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties* 1. resource assessment. Occ Pap 3; Medlycott M & Brown N (eds) 2008. *Revision of the Regional Research Framework for the Eastern Region*; Medlycott 2001.

⁴⁰ c.f Medlycott 2001, 70

⁴¹ c.f. Lewis C. in Cooper N. 2006 212, Ayers B. in Glazebrook, J (ed) 1997, 52

⁴² c.f Medlycott 2001, 70

4. to attempt to identify whether medieval tenements, or earlier occupation existed alongside the main road at this point;
5. to recover information that will contribute to long-term regional research aims of identifying the form and development of low-status rural buildings, rural economy and material culture;
6. to gain an understanding of the nature of any earlier remains of archaeological interest.

5 FIELD PROCEDURE

- 5.1 The investigation was conducted with due consideration to Health and Safety and in accordance with the requirements of the Written Scheme of Investigation and the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and Standard Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Rev.2008). Ground reduction and trenching was monitored throughout by an archaeologist, with the facility to make investigations and records as appropriate. All recording was carried out in accordance with the written scheme. Archaeological features were surveyed to Ordnance Survey National Grid co-ordinates and height datum by RTK GPS.

6. INVESTIGATION RESULTS

- 6.1 In the descriptions which follow, context numbers in square brackets denote 'cuts' (i.e. dug features), whilst those in round brackets denote layers, deposits, fills or structures.
- 6.2 The sequence of ground works comprised ground reduction of the western half of the development plot, followed by the excavation of strip foundation trenches for the new dwelling. All soil stripping and trenching was carried out by mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Made-up ground (modern) and topsoil layers (001) on the western side of the site were up to 1.5m in thickness (*ante*. 3.2). Ground reduction commenced in the southwest corner of the site and gradually progressed northwards and then eastwards as spoil mounds were removed from the site. Archaeological visibility and working methods were periodically impeded by groundwater entering the site from the west and northwest.
- 6.3 The first buried archaeological horizon was reached at approximately 48.96m to 49.00m AOD. This comprised a layer of brick rubble (004), c.0.10m in thickness, which was evidently a layer of hard-standing for the public house car park. Whilst most of the bricks were handmade, there were several with a 'frog' indicating that the deposit was probably laid in the 20th century. It lay directly upon the geological clay stratum (005), except in the southern-central part of the site (c. 48.87m AOD; centred at NGR 500385, 257485) where there were sporadic thin (<0.02m) patches of dark grey clay (007) (not illustrated) over an area of roughly 6m by 4m, which were probably remnants of an ancient occupation layer. Three fragments of medieval pottery (10th to 12th century: Table 1) were recovered from this layer; there was nothing to indicate a later date for the layer. The brick rubble (004) continued over the east half of the site though thinning out (c.0.05m). Again, this lay directly upon the geological stratum (005) showing that the ground had been stripped of top soil prior to the preparation of the public house car park.

Medieval features

- 6.4 Directly beneath the brick rubble layer (004) on the west side of the site, two adjoining 'negative' features were exposed at c. 48.86m to 48.91m AOD. These comprised a sub-quadrangular form [002] with a narrow linear feature adjoining it from the north [006] (Fig. 4). The features were cut into the geological clay (005). The edges of the feature [002] were partly indistinct on account of differential fill material (003), some of which blended with the surrounding geology. The fill (003) varied between dark brown silty clay and re-deposited clean clay. The feature [002] had been deliberately filled in a single event, using material from various

nearby sources. The sub-rectangular feature [002] (Fig.4) measured c.3m (E-W) by 2.8m (N-S). It was initially quarter-sectioned by hand-excavation, removing the north-western and south-eastern quadrants (Fig.4; Fig. 5, Sections 1 to 4; Fig.6). Groundwater constraints largely determined the positioning of the excavated quadrants. Excavation revealed a shallow pit [002] with a flattish base at a depth of c.0.2m to 0.26m throughout the greater part of the feature, except in the north-eastern part where a greater depth was evident. The base of the shallow part of the feature appeared to have a very thin layer of dirty soil (008), less than 5mm in thickness, which was interpreted as 'trample'. In places the compacted nature of the fill made it difficult to distinguish between re-deposited clay and the undisturbed geology. There were no artefacts present other than three pieces of animal bone (*post.* 7.6).

- 6.5 A soil sample was taken from (003) / (009) (from Section 3) for environmental analysis. This revealed a low density of carbonised cereal grains of crop types which were common in the Anglo-Saxon and Norman periods (*post.* 7.7 to 7.13).
- 6.6 A segment, 1m x 0.7m, was then hand-excavated in the northeast corner of feature [002] (Fig. 4; Fig.5, Sections Nos. 5 to 7; Fig.7), in order to establish the relationship between it and the linear feature [006], the latter which appeared to be a channel. There was no discernible differentiation between the fills ((003) and (010)) of the two features. Notably, there were a number of medium-sized fragments of limestone tumbled into the north and east sides of feature [002]. The segment confirmed that feature [002] contained a deeper element (i.e. [011]) at this point.
- 6.7 Subsequent excavation of the north-east quadrant of feature [002] proved the presence of a deep pit [011]. This was sub-rectangular to sub-oval in plan (c.1.4m by 1.66m) (Figs.4) with its base stepped down from southeast to northwest, to respective depths of c.0.5 and 0.64m (Fig.5, sections 3 and 11: Fig.8).
- 6.8 The lowermost deposit of pit [011] comprised a quantity of limestone fragments (012) (Fig.5, Section 3; Fig.8). This also rested against the north side of the pit, overlapping into the base of the channel above (i.e.[006]). Amongst the limestone rubble were 14 fragments of un-abraded pottery of 12th-13th century date and a single piece of ceramic building material (Table 3). The pieces of broken vessels derive from three strap handled jugs or pitchers. The 'fresh' appearance of these fragments smashed amongst the limestone rubble seems to suggest that both this pit ([011]) and the shallow pit ([002]) were in-filled in the 12th-13th century.
- 6.9 The main (upper) fill (009) of pit [011] was indistinguishable from the fill of the shallow quadrangular pit (i.e. (003)). A separate context number was however allocated in case a division became apparent after 'weathering out'. Nine small fragments of abraded pottery were recovered. These were St Neot's-type (10th/11th century), evidently residual and presumably derived from an old occupation layer or midden in proximity to the pit. Four scraps of animal bone were recovered indicative of domestic processing and consumption (*post.* 7.5, Table 4) including a fragment of sheep *humerus* with a knife cut.
- 6.10 The adjoining channel [006] was approximately 4.2m in length and between 0.86m and c.1.2m in width. Two additional segments were hand-excavated through it. These revealed a shallow, open-U profile and a surviving depth between 0.14m and 0.2m (Fig.4; Fig.5, Sections 8 to 10; Fig.9). Its fill (010) comprised compact dark brown silty clay and occasional re-deposited geological clay, which was indistinguishable from (009) and (003). A single piece of 12th-13th century pottery (Table 1) found in the terminus of the channel is likely to have been from the same vessel as one of the pieces found amongst the limestone fragments (012) near to the base

of pit [011]; about 4.5m away. The presence of the sherd not only demonstrates that both pit [011]/[002] and channel were in-filled at the same time, but probably indicates that they formed part of the same feature or structure.

- 6.11 Across the west half of the site, the ground was reduced to expose the geological stratum (005) at a height of approximately 48.80m AOD (Fig.3). The east half of the site retained a layer of hardcore overburden of the former public house car park at a height of 48.80m to 48.85m AOD. Subsequent excavation of strip foundation trenches for the new building, however, provided extensive coverage of the east half (Figs. 3 and 10). There was no archaeology present.

7. THE FINDS

The Medieval Pottery by Jackie Wells and Martin Wilson

- 7.1 The medieval pottery identification and dating was done by Jackie Wells MA. The pottery sherds in Table 1 are arranged by Context Number. A total of 27 medieval pottery sherds, with an overall weight of 357 grams, were recovered during the investigations; primarily from stratified contexts. The pottery falls broadly into two periods – the 10th / 11th century and the 12th / 13th century. The minimum number of vessels (MNV) represented is 10 (Table 2).

- 7.2 The 10th / 11th century assemblage consists of small lightly abraded fragments of St Neots-type coarse ware, derived from cooking pots and bowls or dishes. These represent residual deposits recovered from the fill of pit [011] (i.e. context (009). Two additional pieces were recovered from a possible residue of a medieval occupation layer, together with a single piece of Stamfordware (12th century). The 13th / 14th century sherds are derived from jugs or pitchers, and include part of a strap handle with finger impressions. In contrast to the residual St Neots-type fragments, these are fairly 'fresh' in appearance, presumably having been smashed shortly before their deposition at the bottom of pit [009]. A single sherd was found in the terminus of channel [006] which, however, is probably from the same vessel as a sherd found in the bottom of pit [009].

7.3 Table 1. Pottery: Types and chronology

(Note: Fabric codes used in descriptions refer to those of the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series).

Context No.	Description	Period
003/009	3 rim sherds. Fabric B01, St Neots type shelly ware. ?Jars	C10-11
	1 rim sherd. Fabric B01B, St Neots type shelly ware. ?Jar	C10-11
	5 body sherds Fabric B01	C10-11
007	2 body sherds, Fabric B02 St Neots type.	C10-11
	1 body sherd, Stamfordware	C12
012	14 body, base and strap handle sherds. Jugs. Medieval shelly Fabric B7.	C12-13
010	1 body sherd Medieval shelly ,Fabric B7	C12-13

7.4 Table 2. Medieval Pottery Quantification (MNV= minimum number of vessels)

Context	No. of sherds	Weight (grams)	MNV
003/009	9	25	4

Context	No. of sherds	Weight (grams)	MNV
012	14	300	3
010	1	20	1
007	3	12	2
Totals	27	357	10

7.5 Other Finds

A single fragment of ceramic building material, was recovered from amongst the limestone fragments (012) within pit [002] / [009]. It measures approximately 60mm x 90mm with a thickness of 25mm and weighs 225grams. Its fabric is shelly and not dissimilar to medieval pottery fabric B7. The date of the object is, however uncertain and could possibly be a fragment of Roman roof tile.

Table 3. Other finds

Context	Type	Date
009	tile	? Medieval or Roman

Animal Bones *by Dr Matilda Holmes*

- 7.6 A very small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from two medieval contexts. Details are provided in Table 4, but there is little to be understood of the diet, economy or social standing of the inhabitants of the site from such a small sample. Gnawing was present on the sheep tibia from context (009) implying the presence of dogs on the site. A knife cut to the sheep *humerus* fragment also indicates processing of the bones, presumably for meat on a domestic level.

Table 4. Animal bones: species represented

	Context (003)			Context (009)	
Anatomy	Pig	Sheep/ goat	Large mammal	Unidentified Mammal	Sheep/ goat
Incisor	1				
Rib				2	
Tibia					1
Unidentified		1	1	1	

Environmental Samples *by Dr John Summers*

- 7.7 A single bulk soil sample (20 litres) was taken of pit context (003) to enable an assessment of any possible archaeo-botanical remains which may have been present. This report presents the results from the analysis of the bulk sample light fraction and discusses the potential and significance of the material recovered.

Methods

- 7.8 Samples were processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St. Edmunds using a Siraf style flotation tank. The light fractions were washed onto a mesh of 250µm (microns), while the heavy fractions were sieved to 500µm. The dried light fractions were sorted under a low power stereomicroscope (x10 - x30 magnification) and all botanical and molluscan remains were identified and fully recorded. Reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006;

Kerney and Cameron 1979; Kerney 1999) and a reference collection of modern seeds were consulted where necessary. Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

Results

- 7.9 The results from the analysis of the bulk sample light fraction are presented in Table 5.

Table 5. Results from the analysis of bulk sample 003/009 light fraction

Sample number	003/009
Feature type	Possible SFB/pit
Volume (litres)	20
Cereal grains:	
Cereal NFI	2
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> - Hulled barley	2
<i>Triticum aestivum/ compactum</i> type - Free-threshing type wheat	4
Wild taxa:	
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp. L. - Vetch/wild pea	1
Poaceae indet. - Grass (large)	1
Charcoal:	
Charcoal >2mm	X
Other carbonised:	
Fungal <i>sclerotia</i>	X
Molluscs	
<i>Helicidae</i> indet.	X
Contaminants:	
Modern roots	XX
Modern seeds	X
Modern insect	X
Modern mollusc	-
Earthworm capsules	-

X = present

XX = common

XXX = abundant

Plant macrofossils

- 7.10 A relatively small number of charred plant macrofossils were present in the sample, predominantly in the form of carbonised cereal grains. Two taxa were present: free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ compactum*) and hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*). Both were common crops during the Anglo-Saxon period (e.g. Murphy 1985; Ballantyne 2006) and are likely to represent debris from domestic activities. In addition to the cereal remains was a single seed of vetch/ wild pea (*Vicia/ Lathyrus* sp.) and a single wild grass (*Poaceae* indet.) caryopsis. Both most likely represent the remains of arable weeds which grew amongst the cereal crops. Both are large seeded plants and may represent contaminants retained with the grain after processing.

Terrestrial molluscs

- 7.11 A very small number of *Helicidae* shells were present. The low concentration and poor condition of the remains means that further comment is not possible.

Contaminants

- 7.12 Modern rootlets, seeds and burrowing molluscs (*Cecilioides acicula*) were present in the sample. The relatively low concentration of such remains suggests that there is unlikely to have been significant biological disturbance of the deposit.

Discussion

- 7.13 The range of cultivars and associated weed flora are typical of Anglo-Saxon assemblages (e.g. Murphy 1985; Ballantyne 2006) and carry on well into the Norman and later medieval periods. A larger assemblage may have provided some more information (presence of certain less common cultivars or information about cultivation practices from weed seeds). The difference between Saxon and later periods is largely a question of intensity and scale rather than crop types and diversity. The low density of material is indicative of low level loss during daily activities, such as food preparation. No further work on this material is recommended.

8. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE & REVIEW OF RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- 8.1 During the excavation of the shallow quadrangular feature [002], it was initially considered that it might represent the remains of a sunken floored structure of Anglo-Saxon date, or else an early medieval cellar-pit. Both stratigraphy and finds, however, demonstrated that pit [011] within the northeast corner of the quadrangular feature was in-filled at the same time, together with the channel [006]. Based on the pottery evidence, this is likely to have taken place at some juncture in the 12th - 13th century. It is more than likely that all three features (i.e. [002], [011] and [006] formed part of a single structure.
- 8.2 The function of the feature, however, is uncertain. One possibility is that the feature was a latrine pit with chute covered by a structure, although the environmental sample is not revealing. There was no evidence of industrial or craft activity, so the function of these features is presumed to have been of a domestic or mundane nature. There were no other structural elements present, such as post-holes. It is difficult to say how much of the pit and channel were lost in the past to truncation (perhaps removing external post holes at the same time), although the presence of a remnant of a medieval occupation layer (i.e. (007)) approximately 3m to the south would suggest that little ground disturbance has taken place.
- 8.3 A small amount of abraded pottery of 10th /11th century date was present in fill (009) which is likely to have derived from an old occupation layer nearby. The faunal remains and finds from the environmental analysis from pit fill (009) may therefore also be regarded as residual material, indicating debris from domestic food-processing activities.
- 8.4 Collectively, the evidence relates to occupancy during the late Saxon to early Norman period (10th /11th century) and the during the 12th-13th century and may well pertain to medieval tenement at this location (c.f. 4.10, 3 to 5). To date, the discoveries represent the most significant body of evidence for medieval domestic occupation at Radwell. With regard to other research questions raised, there was no artefactual or physical evidence of occupation or activity at the site earlier than the 10th / 11th century (*ante*. 4.10, 6), and no recognizable evidence for medieval industries or crafts. The greater part of the site (eastern two-thirds) had suffered truncation for the creation of public house car park at some juncture in the 20th century (*ante*. 4.10, 1).

8.5 There is no potential for further assessment and analysis.

9. ARCHIVE

9.1 The Bedford Museum's Accessions Number for the project is BEDFM 2013.07. The paper archive comprises field drawing sheets, monochrome photographs and digital photographs. All artefacts will remain the property of the landowner.

9.2 The English Heritage OASIS Data Collection Form ID for this project is souterra1-155822.

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10.2 Souterrain undertakes to respect all requirements for confidentiality about the Applicant's proposals provided that these are clearly stated. It is expected that owners respect Souterrain's and the Institute for Archaeologists' general ethical obligations not to suppress significant archaeological data for an unreasonable period.

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Figure.1.
Location of Site

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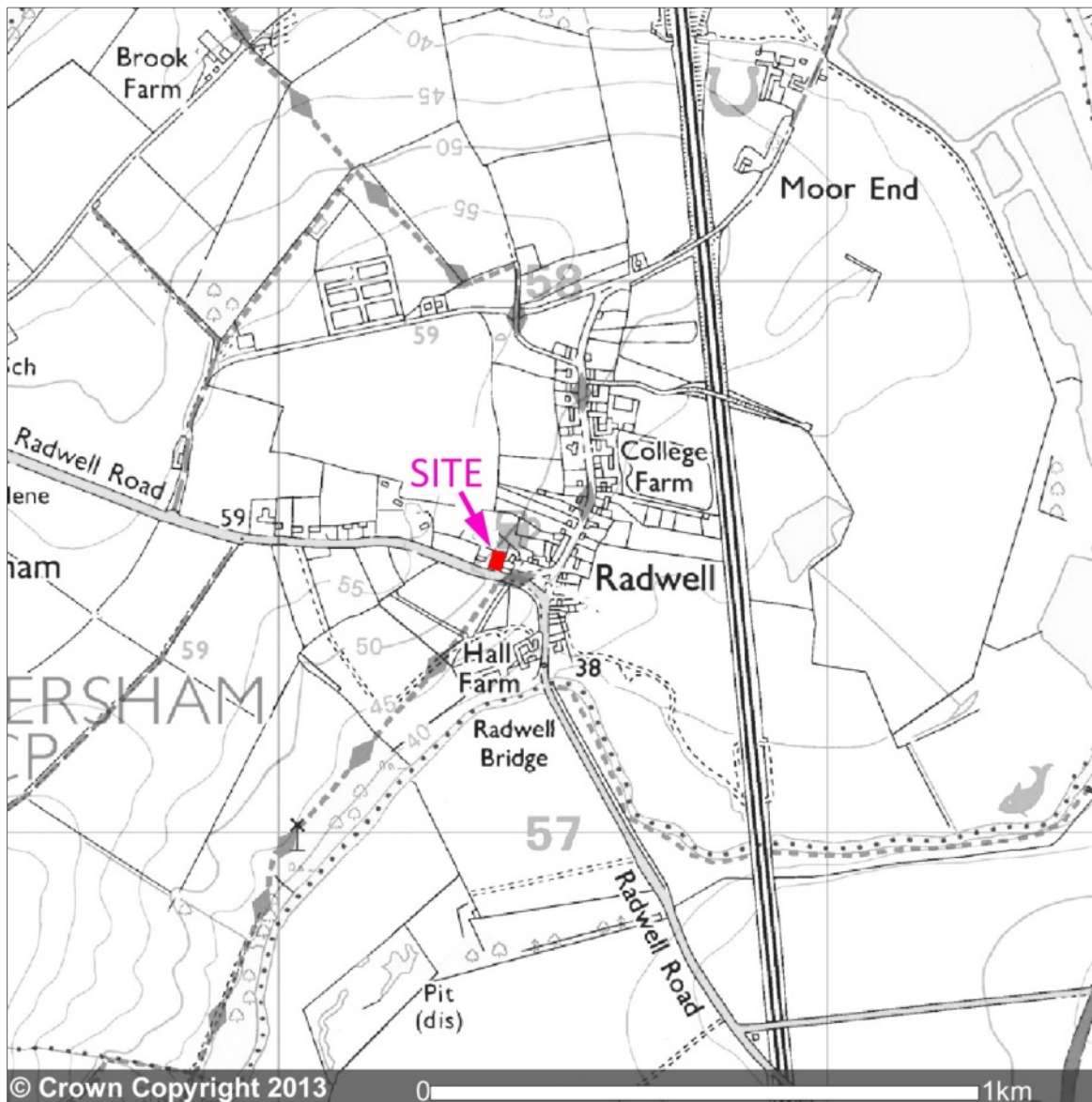




Figure 2. Overview of the development plot, facing southwest

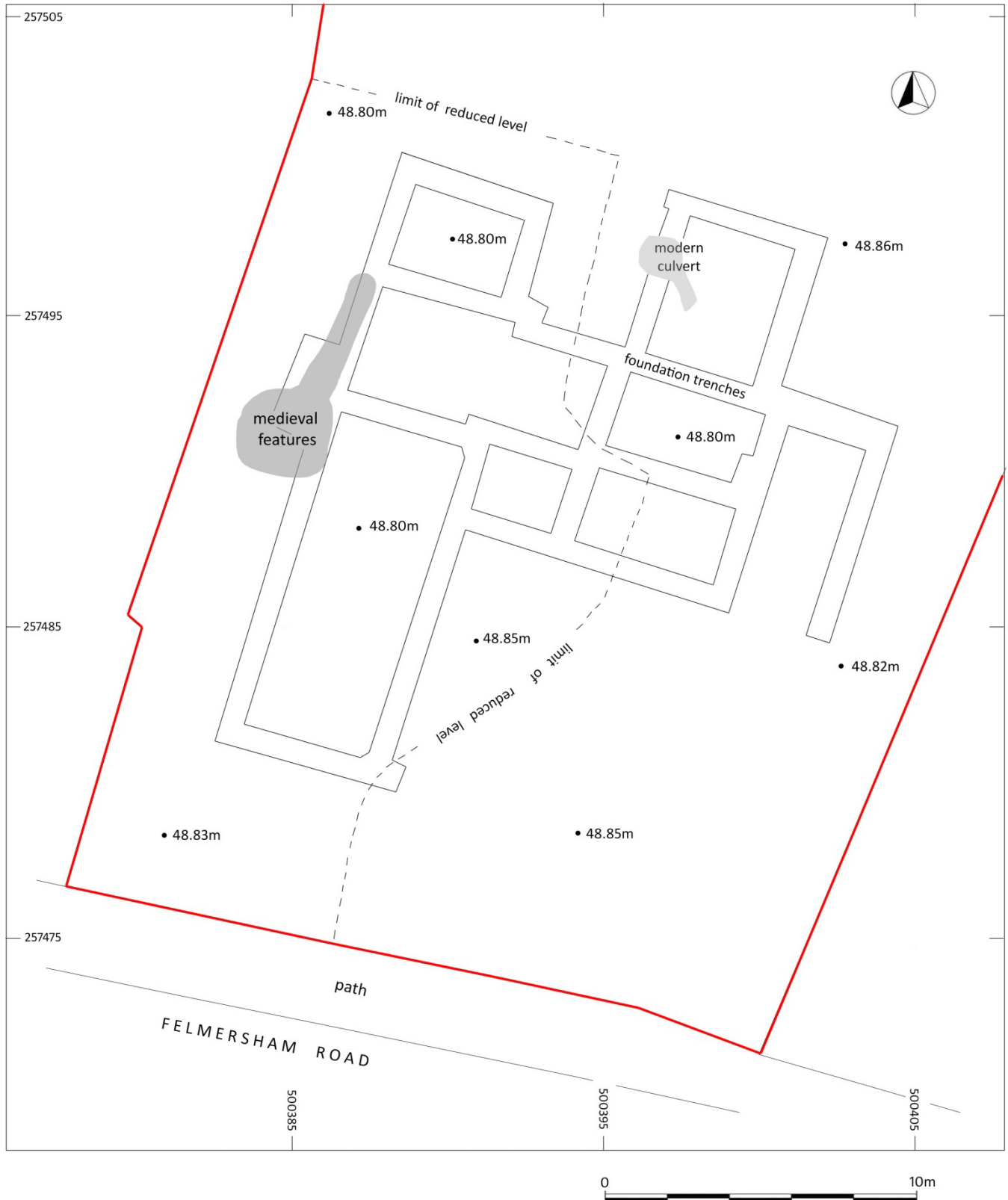
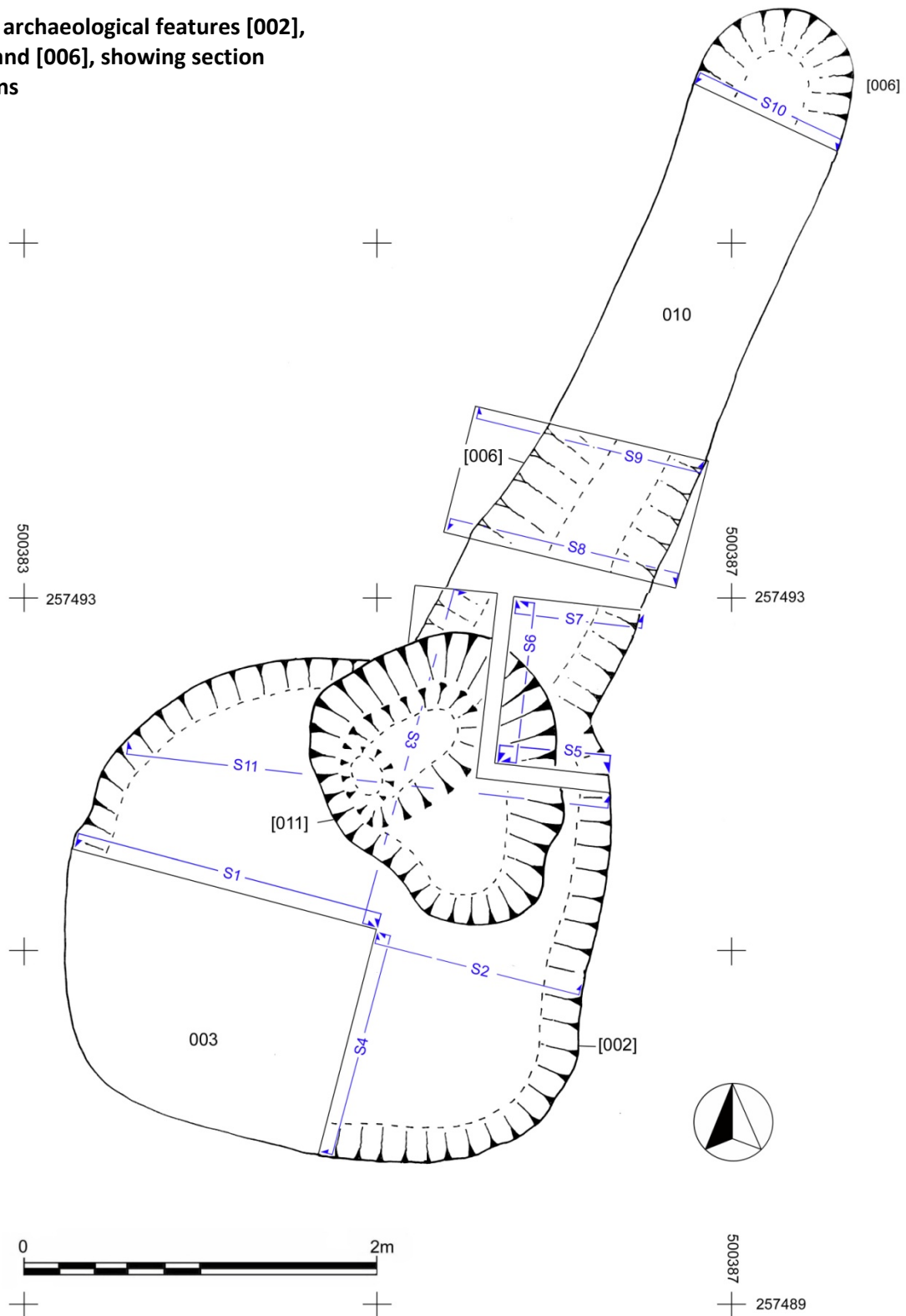


Figure 3. Location of the Application Site, showing: areas of investigation; extent of development ground disturbance; final construction levels; site boundary (red).

Figure 4.

Plan of archaeological features [002],
[011], and [006], showing section
locations



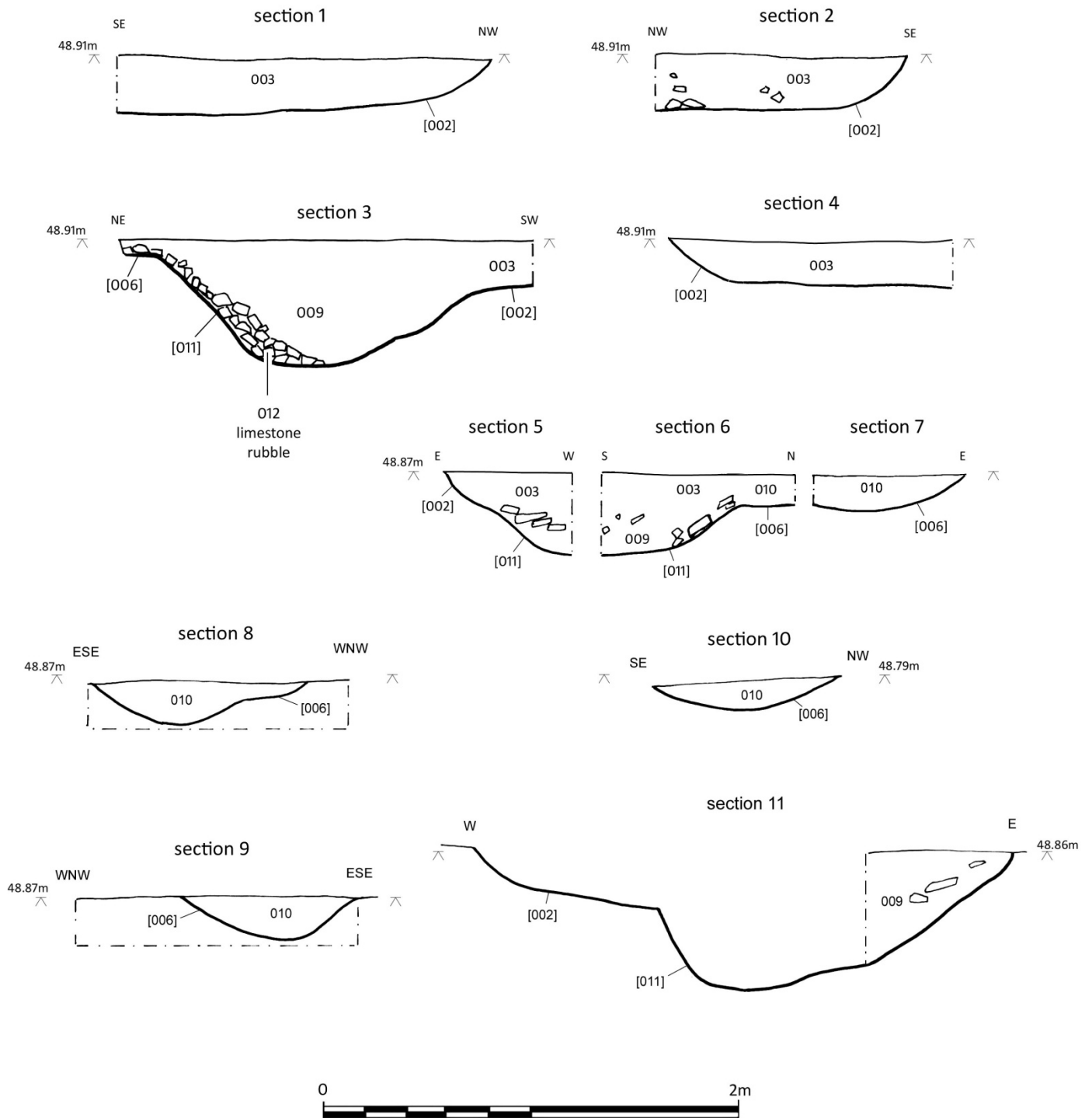


Figure 5. Sections



Figure 6. Pit [002] / [011] under excavation, facing NW

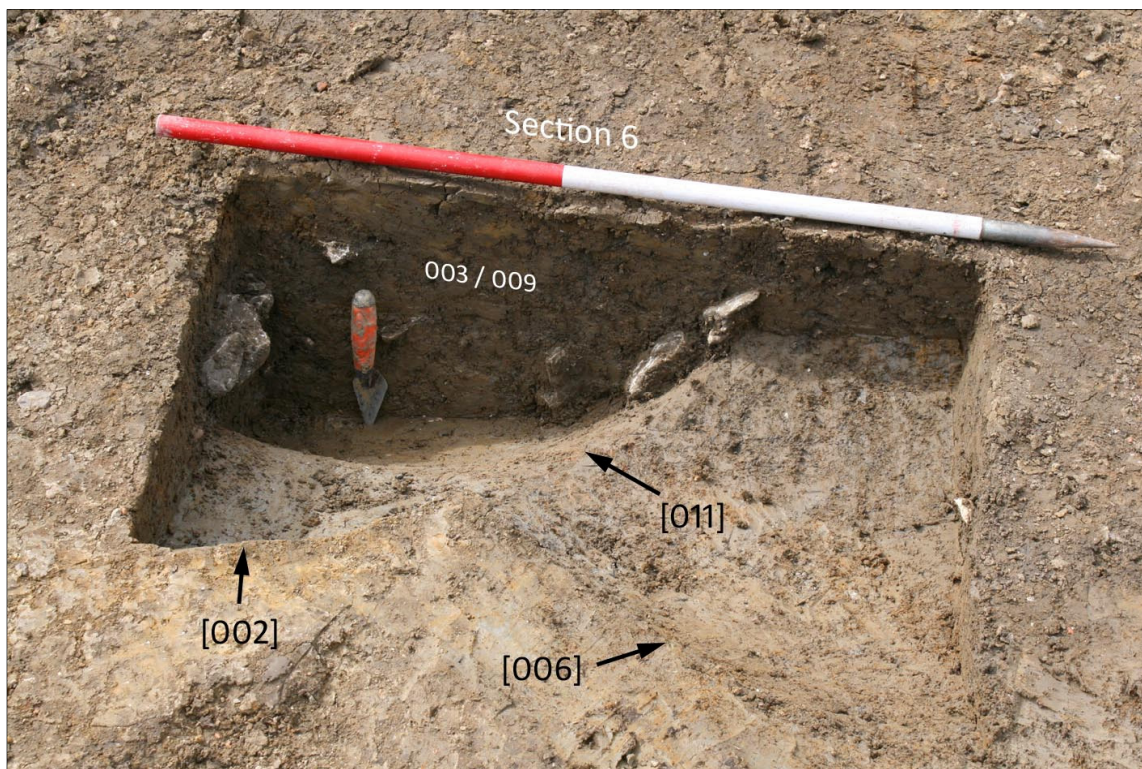


Figure 7. Excavated segment through pit [002]/[011] and channel [006] (Sections 5, 6 and 7). Facing WNW



Figure 8. Pit [011] under excavation, showing location of limestone rubble (012). Facing E



Figure 9. Section 9, through channel [006]. Facing NE

APPENDIX 1 List of Contexts

KEY: Relationships: **a.** above; **abt.** abuts; **b.** below; **c.** cuts; **cub.** cut by; **co.** contains; **wi** within
Dimensions: **le.** length; **wid.** width; **de.** depth; **th.** thickness

Context No.	Type	Description and Interpretation	Relationships	Dimensions	Drawing	Suggested Period	Date of record
001	layer	Topsoil. Dark brown	a.(004)		-	C 20 th	14:04:2013
002	cut	Quadrangular pit, shallow. Flattish base. Cut into geology (clay). Negative feature (c. 48.86m to 48.91m AOD). Uncertain function.	c.(005); co.(003); prob. Same as [011]	c.3m (E-W) x 2.8m (N-S); de.c.0.2 to 0.26m	S1, S2, S4-S6; S11	C 12 th /13 th	14 04:2013 – 17:04:2013
003	fill	Fill of pit [002]. Differential fill -varies between dark brown silty clay and re-deposited clean clay, denoting various nearby sources. Indistinguishable from (009) – 3 pieces of animal bone recovered.	wi.[002]; b.(004); Prob. same as (009)		S1, S2, S4-S6	C 12 th /13 th	14 04:2013 – 17:04:2013
004	layer	Brick rubble. C.48.96m to 49.00m AOD. Bricks largely handmade with mortar adhering, though a number a 'frog' indicating 20 th century date. Former hard-standing for public house car park. Thins out (c.0.05m) over the E half of the site. Ground evidently stripped of top soil prior to deposition of bricks.	b.(001); a.(005), (007)	th. c. 0.10m	-	C 20 th	14:04:2013
005	deposit	Geological stratum. Stiff clay, predominantly yellow though with areas of blue-grey.	cub.[002], [006], [011]	-	-	-	14 04:2013 – 18:04:2013
006	cut	Narrow shallow linear feature adjoining NE corner of pit [002]. Shallow, open-U profile Probably a water or drainage channel. Uncertain function.	b.(004), co.(010)	le.c. wid. btwn 0.86 & c.1.2m. 4.2m; de. 0.14 -0.2m	S6-S10	C 12 th /13 th	15: 04:2013 – 17:04:2013
007	Deposit/ layer	Sporadic thin (<0.02m) patches of dark grey clay (007) over an area of roughly. 3 fragments of medieval pottery (10 th to 12 th century.	b.(004), a.(005)	6m x 4m	-	C 12 th /13 th	14:04:2013 / 16:04:2013
008	Deposit	A very thin patchy deposit of dirty soil in the base of pit [002]. Probably 'trample'.	b.(003); wi.[002]; a.(005)	<5mm	-	C 12 th /13 th	



Figure 10. Overview of strip foundation trenches. Facing S

Context No.	Type	Description and Interpretation	Relationships	Dimensions	Drawing	Suggested Period	Date of record
009	fill	Fill of pit [011]. Differential fill -varies between dark brown silty clay and re-deposited clean clay, denoting various nearby sources. Indistinguishable from (003) – no division apparent. 9 small fragments of abraded St Neot's-type (10 th /11 th century) pottery and 4 fragments of animal bone. recovered. Soil sample taken.	wi.[011], b.(004); Prob. same as [002]	th.up to 0.64m	S3, S5, S6, S11	C 12 th /13 th	14: 04:2013 – 17:04:2013
010	fill	Fill of channel [006]. Compact dark brown silty clay, appears to be the same deposit as (003) and (009). 1 sherd of 12 th -13 th century pottery	wi.[011], b.(004)	-	S6-S10	C 12 th /13 th	15: 04:2013 – 17:04:2013
011	cut	Pit. Located at the north end of pit [002]. Sub-rectangular to sub-oval in plan. Irregular sides. Stepped down from southeast.	c.(005); co.(009); prob. Same as [002]	c.1.4m x 1.66m;de. c.0.5 and 0.64m	S3, S5, S6, S11	C 12 th /13 th	15: 04:2013 – 16:04:2013
012	fill	Limestone rubble deposited against north side and north part of the base of pit [011]. Overlaps base of channel [006]. Un-abraded medieval pottery (C12 th -13 th) smashed amongst rubble.	wi.[011]; b.(009)	th.c.0.05 – 0.14m		C 12 th /13 th	15: 04:2013 – 16:04:2013