

NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Report No. 824

**8-12 Red Lion Street, Aylsham, Norfolk
Post-Fieldwork Assessment of
Potential for Analysis and Updated Project Design**

37376 AYL

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Local Authority No.076759

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Location: 8 – 12 Red Lion Street, Aylsham
Grid Ref: TG 1937 2690
HER No: 37376 AYL
Date of fieldwork: 26th February to 3rd April 2003

Summary

Excavation occurred within an area of development at Red Lion Street, Aylsham. The work followed evaluation trenching at the site and involved the excavation of an area along the street frontage. Numerous archaeological features including Roman ditches (one bordering present-day Red Lion Street) and medieval gullies, pits and post-holes were recorded, including evidence for at least two phases of a medieval building and associated activity fronting onto the street. A hollow way was discovered which ran at a right-angle to Red Lion Street, this cutting through another medieval building. The hollow way was a predecessor to Blofields Loke which runs eastward along the northern edge of the site. Part of another possible building of medieval date was also excavated. A series of cellars truncated the medieval deposits. These were related to two inns built on the site during the 17th century and which were in turn post-dated by the remains of a 20th-century garage showroom which was demolished in advance of the excavation.

1.0 Introduction

(Figs 1 and 2)

Norfolk Archaeological Unit (NAU) was contracted by Anglia Secure Homes (South East) Limited to conduct an archaeological excavation in advance of the development of a site between Red Lion Street, Burgh Road and Blofields Loke, Aylsham. The work was undertaken in accordance with a Project Design prepared by NAU (Ref: AS/1515) and a Brief issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA Ref: ARJH/10/12/02). The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 — Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990).

The total area of the development site, 2,000 square metres, was subject to trench evaluation in September 2002. Possible evidence for activity dating to the prehistoric and Roman periods was found as well as significant evidence for the settlement of the site during the medieval and post-medieval periods (Shelley 2002). As a result of the evaluation work, full excavation of an area measuring 12 x 22m on the Red Lion Street frontage was requested by NLA.

The site archive is currently held by the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, following the relevant policy on archiving standards.

2.0 Geology and Topography

(Fig. 1)

The underlying solid geology is of upper chalk (BGS 1978) and overlying soil landscape is of loamy loess over glacial till or coarse outwash (Corbett and Dent 1994, 18).

The site has an elevated position within Aylsham. To the east the ground falls away towards the River Bure which lies some 1.4km distant. To the south the ground slopes gradually in the direction taken by Norwich Road. To the north the ground also falls away towards the River Bure, and the site is therefore 'perched' atop a small promontory. This elevation is noticeable when one stands at the junction of Burgh Road and Norwich Road and slopes can be seen in three directions. To the west the market place sits on plateau, overlooked by the church in its north-western corner.

The site also has a fortunate position within the urban landscape of the town. It originally bordered the eastern side of the market and sits close by the crossing of the major north-to-south and east-to-west routes through the town. It lies firmly, both geographically and visually, within the medieval core of the market town. This can clearly be seen on the 1890 Ordnance Survey plan.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

Little is known of the prehistory or early history of Aylsham and this is reflected in the paucity of information available within the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER). With the exception of a bronze Antoninianus of Claudius II found in the rear garden of a house on Cromer Road (Site 7398), a little way to the north of the church, the only artefacts of any antiquity to have been discovered are hoards of late Bronze Age metalwork from gardens in a housing development called Sir Williams Way (Site 7396). These lie approximately 250m to the east of the site, and therefore between the site and the river.

There are two other entries of note within the NHER. The first is a record of a possible 14th-century undercroft which lies beneath 18 Market Place and comprises a brick-barrelled vault with chamfered ribs (Site 34611). The other is the discovery in 1987 of a human skull in a trench to the rear of 36 Red Lion Street (Site 23474). This site is a little way removed from the medieval church, although it is to be noted that the Baptist Church is located to the rear of the property.

Domesday (Brown [ed], 1984) records that Gyrth Godwinson, Earl of East Anglia, held the parish of Aylsham prior to the Conquest. Aylsham (*Elesham*) appears to have been a central administrative manor for the Earl, from where his north-eastern Norfolk lands were administered. The manor had sixteen caracutes of land, twenty villagers, eighty-eight smallholders, six ploughs in lordship, twelve acres of meadow, four hundred pigs and two mills.

A market existed in Aylsham before 1296 (Blomefield 1807, 270). The weekly market was re-granted in 1519 (Sapwell 1960, 60), by which time the population of Aylsham was approaching 1,000 (Pound 1994, 94). During the medieval period it appears that Aylsham grew on the back of production of Aylsham linen, or Aylsham Web as it was known. In 1291, for instance, the Bishop of Hereford purchased four yards of

Aylsham linen, at the then considerable cost of 18 shillings (Aylsham Parish Council undated, 18).

Penn's plan of Aylsham (1994, 70) suggests that the southernmost part of Red Lion Street originally formed the eastern edge of the market-place. This being so it might be reasonable to suppose that this part of the Red Lion Street frontage dates to the 12th or 13th centuries, if not earlier. Of course, no standing building in Aylsham other than St Michael church survives from the medieval period, although Gale (2001, 13) records that the site of the Black Boys Hotel (on the west side of the market-place) was described in 1471 as a messuage and a cottage called the *stonenhus*.

Unfortunately, the original position of the market is not certain. An extensive manorial document, 'The Aylsham Rental', survives in the Public Record Office (PRO E315/360) and is dated to 1624 or thereabouts. This document has been comprehensively studied and the results of this study are published in *Aylsham in the Seventeenth Century* (1988). The book's authors suggest that the present-day market place may, in fact, be the new market, with the old market lying within the triangle of land to the west of the present-day market place. Additionally a good many of the roads which one may have expected to be listed are absent, and these include Red Lion Street and White Hart Street. This anomalous fact is discussed in Section 8 of this report.

4.0 Methodology

The area of the excavation totalled 264 square metres. It lay along the western edge of the development area, immediately to the east of Red Lion Street. Just before the archaeological work began the 20th-century garage buildings which had been standing at the time of the evaluation of the site were demolished and the concrete surfaces associated with those buildings broken ready for removal.

The broken concrete was removed and machine excavation of other overburden was carried out with a tracked 20 ton 360° excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Overburden was removed until archaeological deposits, were revealed. Two substantial concrete beams which ran east-to-west and south to-north in the south-western part of the site and which had been the footings for the modern garage building were left *in situ*. Within the post-medieval cellars much of the cellar backfill was removed by machine. In each cellar the floor level was revealed in a small area during machining before, for safety reasons, being partly backfilled.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds, other than those which were obviously modern, were retained for inspection.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NAU *pro forma* sheets. A total station theodolite was used to record the location of the trench as well as the extent of the post-medieval cellars and modern features. Plans and sections of excavated features and deposits were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken to record the archaeological evidence and the progress of the work at the site.

A level was transferred from an Ordnance Survey benchmark of 33.03m on the north-eastern corner of St Michael's Church to the north-west of the site. The site

TBM of 31.98m was established on a drain cover just west of the former New Inn stables at the north-eastern corner of the excavation.

Site conditions during the period of excavation were good remaining mostly sunny and dry. There was a marked contrast between the southern and northern parts of the site with the former being in shade for most of the day whilst the latter was mainly unshaded and, therefore, drier with some strong shadows which sometimes hindered photography. However, despite some surface dryness soil conditions were quite good.

The site plans included in this report do not fully illustrate the features discussed in the text as many can only be seen in section. They are, however, intended to allow the potential of the recorded archaeology, for future research, to be assessed.

5.0 Results (Appendix 1)

Introduction

The excavation resulted in the following site archive:

Description	Number
Context sheets	684
Plans (@ 1:20)	95
Individual section drawings (@ 1:10)	91
Colour slides	162
Back and white photographic films (@ 35 exposures)	3

Table 1: Site 37376, site archive

On completion of fieldwork site records were checked and cross referenced, a stratigraphic matrix constructed and summary context and group information inputted into a database table. The site plans of the excavated features and deposits have been digitised. All photographic records have been indexed according to Norfolk Landscape Archaeology Photographic Library guidelines.

The excavated evidence is described below, stratigraphically, by phase. Two ditches may have dated to the Roman period. Most of the features and deposits, however, date to the medieval period or later. They are described below in relation to a deposit of soil (of medieval date) which was interpreted as 'subsoil' and which sealed some features and was cut others. In some places the relationship was unclear and evidence may have been assigned to a position above or below the subsoil due to its actual level or due to its apparent similarity or relationship with other features or deposits.

Phase 1 – Possible Roman ditches

(Fig.3)

A large ditch (G3) was discovered which ran roughly parallel with the western side of trench. Its western side extended beyond the edge of the site. It was excavated in several places and in most areas was seen to be cut into the natural sand and truncated by medieval activity. The ditch was excavated to its base in segment [375] (not figured) where it was 0.92m deep and contained a lower fill of homogenous

brown silt [376] in its eastern side and a main upper fill of lighter brown silty sand with thin laminations of yellow sand [377].

Nine sherds of pottery of Roman date were found in the (largely unexcavated) fill of segment [749] and a piece of Roman tile came from [376]. Some medieval pottery came from the area of segment [375] (but evidence for a possible medieval 'building' was subsequently excavated in this area and it is possible that the pottery could be intrusive). In the north-western corner of the site, segment [857] was also interpreted as part of this ditch, although its fill was more mixed, and a few finds from its fill (wrongly recorded as [290]), include a piece of tile and a sherd of pottery, both of Roman date. Another sherd of Roman date also came from a possible fill [849] of the ditch in this area. The ditch was clearly the same as that seen in evaluation Trench A to the south where it was thought to be of possible prehistoric date. Fuller excavation suggests the ditch is more likely to date to the Roman period.

A section recorded in the south-western corner of the site showed the upper edge of ditch [756] cut through a deposit of subsoil [702]. However, it is considered most likely that this subsoil is part of the same, later, deposit as was recorded elsewhere across the site (see below) and that the upper fill of the ditch was deposited to stabilise the area prior to building during the medieval period, thus giving the impression that the ditch cut the soil layer. Some finds, which include medieval pottery and a piece of lead waste from the upper fill [678] of the ditch in this area [756], as well as the likely date of the ditch based on the other excavated evidence, support this suggestion.

In the south-eastern corner of the central part of the site a ditch [244, G65] ran north north-east to south south-west. It was exposed for a length of about two metres but was truncated by a cellar to its north and did not reappear on the other side of the concrete beam to its south. A single piece of pottery of Roman date was found in its fill and the infilled ditch was sealed by the subsoil [303]. Thus it is possible that this ditch is also of Roman date. The presence of Roman pottery and tile from other, later, deposits in this area supports this suggestion.

Small amounts of Roman pottery, mostly single sherds, were found in several other excavated deposits and it is possible that some of the excavated features, including some of those with no datable finds, may also date to a relatively early period.

Phase 2 – Medieval –activity pre-dating the deposition of 'subsoil'

(Fig. 4)

A number of pits and post-holes were revealed which cut into the natural geological deposits. The greatest concentration of these early features lay in the central part of the site (G1 and G6). They varied in size, shape and definition and some of them must have represented structures. Many of the features contained pottery of 11th- to 14th-century date (although a fragment of highly decorated Grimston glazed ware in post-hole [226], fill [227] may date stylistically to as late as the 15th century).

Towards the south-western corner of the central area a deep and well-defined beam slot [730, G36] was excavated. This was 1.85m in length and 0.55m deep. There was no indication that a beam had been left to rot *in situ* within it. Small quantities of pottery were found in its fill [731]. This included a spiral rod handle from a Local medieval unglazed ware (LMU) jug and an unusual base of a LMU bottle or cylindrical jug. In addition, several fragments of Grimston jugs were present, one of

which is highly decorated with applied scales. Overall the pottery suggests a 13th- to 14th-century date for the feature.

One larger pit [391, G6] had a dark-coloured silt with charcoal in its lower part which probably represented dumping, whilst its upper fill probably accumulated more slowly. It was the earliest of a series of probable rubbish pits which were excavated in this central part of the site (see discussion below). Ten sherds of LMU and a sherd of 16th- to 18th-century pottery (probably intrusive) were found in this pit as well as some animal bone and a fragment of lead. Another probable pit [387]/[389] contained a large amount of pottery, most of it from LMU jugs, in a deeper area at its western end. Three fragments of fired clay and a piece of burnt animal bone were also found in the pit. At the western side of the site, west of the concrete beam which had supported the garage buildings demolished in 2003, another post-hole [402, G79] may have been contemporary with those in the central area. In addition, immediately to the west of the eastern cellar, seven probable post-holes might have formed a square or rectangular structure [G99], its eastern end truncated by the later cellar.

Other probable post-holes and pits were seen cutting the natural deposits to the east of the northern cellar [708], [710], [706] and [712] (all G7) and [217], [219], [223], [305], [317], [319] and [322] (all G13). Single sherds of medieval pottery were found in a few of these features and a sherd of 10th- to 11th-century Thetford type ware came from pit [219].

In the north-eastern part of the site evidence for a small structure was excavated [552] (G5). This area was machined to a lower level due to disturbances of post-medieval date. Thus, the relationship between the structure and the 'subsoil' was lost. Its actual level however, in relation to the excavated features to its west, suggests that it may have pre-dated the layer of subsoil. It comprised a right-angled gully interpreted as representing two sides of a possible building. The gully was up to 0.40m in depth and contained a variety of grey brown and yellow brown sand silts. Thirteen fragments of pottery, weighing 0.033 kg, were recovered from its fills. They consist of body sherds from Grimston wares and LMU, with a date range of the late 12th to 14th centuries. Depressions in its base may have been post-settings. In a couple of places [566] and [568] these were small well-defined holes in the bottom of the gully, elsewhere possible post-settings were represented by hollows in the base of the gully or by differences in its fills which may have indicated the removal or replacement of posts. The northern and eastern ends of the gully became more shallow and may have been termini. However, the original extent of the possible structure was uncertain. The eastern end, which was cut by a pit of post-medieval date, terminated just within the edge of the trench and although a feature of some kind, which might have been a continuation of the gully, was seen immediately to its east, this could not be investigated as it ran under the spoil heap. Later, post-medieval activity had occurred in the area to the north and would almost certainly have truncated any northern side to the gully/building had it originally existed.

Inside the corner formed by the gully lay a small circular pit [529] which was interpreted as a hearth associated with the putative building. Its fill consisted of a red brown sand, interpreted as *in situ* scorched material in the lower part with a thin layer of chalk and charcoal-flecked silt at the top. Overlaying the infilled pit or hearth was a thin layer of compacted buff-coloured silt with frequent flecks of chalk and some of charcoal [527, G50]. A single piece of 11th- to 14th-century LMU and a few fragments of fired clay were found in the deposit. It was probably a surviving remnant

of a floor and may have related to the gully building (although it is possible that it related to a later, post-medieval brick floor [457], see below, part of which survived immediately above it).

At the western side of the site some evidence for a building and a small pit may have been contemporary with, or slightly later in date than, the pits and post-holes described above. Two phases of building were represented by a beam slot [779, G26] and by a post-hole [755], occupation debris [746] and possible hearth rakings or demolition debris [739] (all G27). Two pieces of pottery of 11th- to 14th-century date and two fragments of fired clay came from deposit [746] and three pieces of 12th- to 14th-century pottery were found deposit [739]. The deposits were truncated to their north by a foundation trench of post-medieval date [768] and to their south by an east-to-west path or track [794] (see below). The pit [397] (G9) contained a dark red brown organic silt [398] with large quantities of cockle shell, and a sheep jaw bone, probably domestic rubbish. In the top of it was a burnt organic silt [382] which spread in a thin layer to the south [770] and east [372] (<0.05m). A total of nine sherds of 11th- to 14th-century LMU pottery came from the fill of the pit and spread of burnt material. To the east of the concrete, the burnt spread [372] sealed the infilled post-holes; the pit, or at least its final infilling, must post-date those.

Phase 3 – Medieval - build up of 'subsoil' and other deposits

(not illustrated)

In the central part of the site, above the thin spread of organic silt [372], patches of burnt clay occurred within a thicker layer (0.10m) of silt sand [441] (G59) and this was overlaid in turn by brown sand silt subsoil [359] (G22). This was <0.15m in thickness (elsewhere in the central part of the site, the 'subsoil' was also recorded as [303] and [333]). Pottery, all of it of medieval date, a cattle tooth, a copper alloy pin, a piece of lead waste and a fragment of possible marble were recovered from the 'subsoil'. It was cut by a short length of shallow gully [380] (G80) which curved from a western terminus, ran for about 2.5m and was truncated by later pits to its east. Its purpose was unknown.

In the northern part of the site, a deposit of soil, probably the same as that interpreted as subsoil in the central area, was recorded as [703] and overlaid the infilled pits there. In the south-western corner of the site a deposit of orange brown clay silt sand subsoil [702] was cut by the features there (see above for relationship with the ?Roman ditch).

A total of 103 sherds of pottery weighing 0.618kg came from the deposits making up the 'subsoil' (G22) and a further 76 fragments weighing 0.475kg may also belong to this group (?G22). The pottery includes some medieval coarseware and Grimston ware but a much greater quantity of LMU. A range of LMU cooking vessel rim types are present, with one early example in [356]. Several developed types dating to the 13th to 14th centuries were recorded in [359], as well as one vessel with an inturned rim. Sixteen fragments of Grimston ware are also present. These are not highly decorated, and are only covered with a plain lead glaze. A small sherd of a late Grimston variant in [516] has an iron oxide strip, indicative of a 13th- to 14th-century date.

Phase 4 – Medieval - activity immediately post-dating build up of subsoil

(Fig.5)

Evidence for several phases of building was revealed in the south-western corner of the site. The earliest occupation evidence included three post-holes [626], [675] and [757] and a truncated pit [725] (G17) which were cut into the subsoil [702] G95 and contained a total of 31 pieces of pottery, weighing 0.115kg, chiefly from post-hole [675]. The pottery includes an unusual bowl with recessed rim, which joins fragments from the same vessel found in [469]. The context also contains a small and well-made LMU cooking vessel with an everted but thickened rim. A 13th- to 14th- century date is suggested for the pottery from this deposit.

The post-holes contained similar clayey fills and two of them [675] and [757] were of similar shape and size. Pit [725] was truncated to its north by two small pits/post-holes [740] and [742] (G90) which contained no datable finds, and post-hole [626] was truncated on its eastern side by a large modern pit. A deposit which was interpreted as an area of scorched subsoil [463] was revealed to the west of, and was possibly contemporary with, these features. This phase of activity was overlaid by a pale orangey brown clay silt sand [701] (G91) which is interpreted as the ephemeral remains of a floor. Also of probable early date, but with an unknown relationship to 'floor' [701] was a possible beam-slot with two post-holes [847] (G92). This extended, at an oblique angle, beyond the southern edge of the trench.

In the south-western corner of the central area, pit [733] G73 extended under the baulk formed by the concrete beam. It was only seen after the subsoil had been removed from the area but appeared, in section, to be cut from a relatively high level, probably through the subsoil. Its well-defined nature and proximity to other structural features led to it being interpreted as possibly structural in nature. Its mixed fill (perhaps more than one deposit) included grey brown silt sand, yellow brown sand and patches of charcoal and burnt debris, some of it very similar in appearance to a possible clay floor [701] revealed to the south of the concrete. Possibly, if not part of the floor, the pit-fill represents redeposited material from it. No pottery was recovered from the fill of this feature, nor from the possible floor material to the south.

The scorched subsoil [463] was post-dated by elements which have been interpreted as the remains of another building [542] (G34) which extended beyond the southern edge of the trench and were probably also revealed in Evaluation Trench 1. It included two sub-rectangular post-settings [562] and [564] which contained pale brown compact clay silt and a slot [863] within which were two stake-holes [812] and [814] (unillustrated) with remains of wooden stakes. Also probably relating to this phase of building, and located just to its east, were compact deposits of sand silt with charcoal [550] and clay silt sand [625] (G40) which were thought to be make-up material or levelling. On top of these was a layer of very compact silt clay sand [606] interpreted as an exterior surface to the east of the building, and a mixed, but also compacted, thick deposit of clay silt sand with flecks of charcoal and red clay [572] which was thought to be a floor to the building and occurred 'within' the building along the southern edge of the trench. Twenty-two sherds of medieval pottery, most of it of 13th- to 14th-century date were found in this deposit and a further ten sherds, mostly of 11th- to 14th-century date came from deposit [469] which was probably part of the same material. At the eastern end of slot [863] the floor was cut by a post-hole [464] which probably represented a door post and which replaced one of the post-holes

([675]) of the earlier phase of building. The 'floor' layer extended in a linear north to south strip outside the building to the east; possibly a transitional area between the internal floor and an exterior surface [606].

The exterior surface [606] was cut by a rubbish pit [611] (G35), the fills of which included oyster shell and charcoal and which was apparently sealed by a capping of chalky mortar. Seventy fragments of pottery, weighing 0.762kg, were recovered from the fills of the refuse pit [611]. The majority consists of small abraded sherds of LMU, but the complete profile of a cooking vessel was present in [612]. In addition four fragments of a Grimston ware pitcher with large strap handle were present in this context. The capped pit was cut by another feature [603] (G89) which extended beyond the edge of the trench and whose infill formed levelling for a later exterior surface [470] (G41). This consisted of close-set rounded cobbles (20-50mm in size) and extended eastwards from the building. Three sherds of medieval pottery, one of 12th- to 14th-century date were found in the deposit. It was truncated by a later pit to its north and by a large modern disturbance to its east.

In the north-western corner of the site evidence for another building was seen. The fill of the possible Roman ditch was cut by the eastern edge of a hollow of some kind [853]. It was well defined and quite steeply sloping and to its west, and 'within' it, was a dark grey silty fill [855] which peeled off along the edge as if it had been deliberately packed there. No western edge to this 'feature' was seen but on top of the dark grey silt and to its west was a grey brown sand silt overlaid by a thin deposit of more clayey charcoal-flecked material which included some burnt patches [854]. The latter was interpreted as a possible floor and a reddish brown scorched patch [871] at its lower interface was thought to be possible hearth. The evidence may have represented an initial phase of building G20. It was overlaid by a layer of light brown clay sand [753] (G11) of about 0.15m thickness which had been thoroughly mixed with straw before being laid as a floor and which extended over a wider area from the western edge of the site eastwards to where it was truncated by a modern construction trench. Two post-holes [760] and [762] cut through the floor and were interpreted as having supported some kind of internal division to a building [885] (G11). Between the two post-holes a scorched reddish black area [754] was probably a hearth. Three irregular depressions in the floor [763] were probably disturbances rather than deliberately dug post-holes. No finds were recovered from any of these deposits. The date of the building relative to the different phases of activity in the south-west corner of the site is uncertain. Its clay floor, and the fact that it was post-dated by another phase of medieval activity (a hollow way) suggests that it could be contemporary with the clay-floored building [542] G34 in the south-west corner. However, this is uncertain, as is its relationship with the 'subsoil' seen elsewhere.

Phase 5 – Medieval - build up of soil after abandonment of building [542]

(Fig. 6)

A hiatus in building activity seems to followed occupation represented by building [542] and the features associated with it in the south-western corner of the site. The slot [863] was infilled with a grey brown silt sand with charcoal and fragments of daub, interpreted as the charred remains of a wattle and daub wall. Running across the top of the infilled slot and 'door' post-hole, the floor and the later exterior surface was a thin deposit of burnt debris [797] G85. This layer of material and the charred remains of the wall represent the destruction of building [542]. They were both cut by

a small pit [461] (G86) which contained silt sand with occasional charcoal. A total of 104 sherds of medieval pottery, weighing 0.195kg, were found in the pit. Most of the pottery consists of small sherds of LMU but two developed rims of 13th- to 14th-century date were also present. In addition one vessel had particularly delicate and carefully applied incised applied strips. This pit may well have been dug to rob a timber post from the demolished building.

Deposit [766] (G87) sealed the early features in the south-western corner of the site. It was a fairly compact pale to mid grey silt sand with some flecks of charcoal. It is interpreted as a layer of soil which formed over the abandoned building. There were no finds from it. The material associated with demolition or abandonment of the earliest phases of building in the south-west corner of the site may correlate with a deposit of dumped material [337] (G58) to the north. This overlaid the subsoil [359], in an area of about 2.0 x 3.0m area in the north-western corner of the central area and consisted of very dark grey sand and charcoal and pale grey ashy silt, much of it burnt. Thirty-five fragments of pottery, weighing 0.148kg, were recovered from this deposit. They include two developed rims of LMU cooking vessels indicative of a 13th- to 14th-century date. Small quantities of medieval coarseware, several tiny fragments of mammal bone, fired clay and brick or tile were also found in the deposit.

Dumped/burnt deposit [337] was cut to its east by pit [355] (G56), which was truncated to its northern side by the wall of the post-medieval cellar. The fill of the pit, a mid grey brown silt sand, was very similar to the general 'subsoil' and the eastern side of the pit was not defined. Eleven sherds of medieval pottery, including one of 13th- to 14th-century date and a piece of brick or tile were found in the pit.

At the western side of the central area a probable post-hole [347] (G96) which contained a few large flints or possible packing stones was cut through the subsoil. It was not recorded in plan and was truncated by a probable path or track [794] (see below). A much smaller post-hole [352] (G63), also cut into the subsoil and recorded only in section, to the west may have been contemporary or later in date. At the southern edge of this area a possible pit [868] (G72) also post-dated the build-up of subsoil. No finds were recovered from any of these features.

At the eastern side of the central area and cutting the subsoil lay pit [340] (G57). This was probably sub-circular in shape and was cut to its east by the eastern cellar. It was 0.75m in depth with almost vertical sides and a flat bottom. Its main fill was a quite dark grey brown silt sand with numerous dark reddish brown patches and flecks of charcoal which represented burnt debris dumped into the pit. Twenty sherds of pottery, weighing 0.149kg, were found in the pit. LMU was the predominant fabric, with two bowls and a cooking vessel or jar with an inturned rim. In addition two fragments of plain glazed Grimston ware indicate a late 12th- to 14th-century date. The pit was probably a rubbish pit and indicated the continued use of this part of the site for rubbish disposal.

A number of sandy deposits [329], [328], [299] G53 and [320] and [323] (G54) lay on top of the main deposit of subsoil in the central part of the site. They may have resulted from the digging of pits or other activity in the area. A total of 103 sherds of medieval pottery and a few fragments of animal bone, some butchered, were recovered from these deposits. Thirty-eight of these are of 13th- to 14th-century date and one sherd is of possible Late Saxon date.

In the south-eastern corner of the site the subsoil which sealed the possible Roman ditch [244] was subsequently cut by another ditch [240] (G2). This ditch ran from beyond the southern edge of the site and became more shallow to its north, terminating just to the north of the concrete beam. It was cut to its east by ditch [364] (G66). A piece of tile of Roman date was found in the fill of the latter. These infilled ditches, and a smaller gully [365] (G66) to the east of ditch [364], which was truncated to its southern end, were overlaid by a layer of soil [379] (G68) from which three pieces of Roman pottery as well as thirty-three medieval sherds were recovered. One of these was of 13th- to 14th-century date. Some fragments of butchered animal bone and two iron nails were also found. The Roman pottery may have originated from the earlier ditch [244] (see above). The relative date of these ditches are uncertain other than that they cut the subsoil.

Phase 6 – Medieval – Activity subsequent to build up of soil

(Fig. 7)

In the south-western corner of the site, a large sub-rectangular pit [695]/[715] (G19) cut the layer of soil [766] which had formed over the abandoned building [542]. It had quite steeply sloping sides and a fairly level base and was 0.30m deep. The large pit is tentatively interpreted as representing another building, perhaps some type of, so-called, sunken-featured building. There were no post-holes associated with the large pit at its southern end (in the part recorded as [695]) but at the northern end [715] two post-holes [751] and [880] and four stake-holes ([785], [787], [789] and [791]) some of which contained rotted wood. Post-hole (G29) could possibly have been dug at the same time as the pit and related to it. A piece of fired clay was found in post-hole [751].

A patchy layer of yellowish sand silt [720] which occurred in hollows in the sides and base of the northern part of the pit probably represented material which washed into the pit when it was first dug. Above it, a very thin layer of black silt/charcoal formed a 'lining' to the sloping sides and base to the pit. This material was only seen in the north-eastern part of the pit and seemed to peter out to the west and south. At the north edge [715] was a deposit of pinkish brown sand with flecks of charcoal [882] and on top of that was a pale brown fine sand silt [718] which appeared to be cut by the edge of pit [715]. However, deposit [718] was on top of the initial fills of the pit suggesting that edge of the pit may have been re-cut here. The main part of the pit contained a lower fill [719] of quite loamy sand silt with patches of reddish-coloured peat-ash and a more silty upper fill [622]. This fill was cut by a possible pit [486] G83 but the feature ran under the concrete beam and was not fully understood. In the south-western corner of the central area, above the infilled pit [733] (see above), a thin deposit of charcoal and pinkish clayey silt [793] was probably the same material as [882] to the west and represented the north-eastern edge of the large pit. A total of fifty-three sherds of medieval pottery were found in the large pit. A single fragment of pottery of possible Early Saxon date and a fragment of Grimston-type ware were present in [696], the remainder being LMU. A fragment of a LMU cooking vessel with an inturned rim in [696] joins a smaller fragment, which is probably intrusive, in [678] (a fill of the possible Roman ditch [756]). The pottery from [622] consists of LMU, with some Grimston ware and a very abraded fragment of Grimston unglazed ware. Three iron nails and part of an object of copper alloy were also found in the pit.

Cutting deposit [766] to the east of pit/SFB [695] was a pit [471] (G93). This extended northwards into the baulk formed beneath the concrete beam for the modern building but not northwards of the baulk. The pit contained sandy fills, largely clean uncompacted material. The pit might have been contemporary with the pit/SFB [695]. Five sherds of pottery were present in its fill. They included three fragments of LMU, a fragment of a rod handle with raised ribs of a Grimston ware jug likely to date to the 13th to 14th centuries, and a partially oxidised sherd of Grimston ware.

At the southern edge of the trench (seen in the trench section only), the layer of buried soil [766] was overlaid by a thin deposit of burnt debris [798] (G88). This might have related to clearance of the area prior to modern activity.

In the north-western corner of the site, the clay floor [753] of building [885] was cut to its north by a large linear feature [745] (G37) which ran west-to-east and was thought to have accommodated a road or track-way; an early phase of today's Blofield's Loke which runs along the northern side of the site. A sunken road such as this, known as a 'hollow way', is often formed by wear but in this case a deliberate cut through the existing deposits appears to have been made, at least in the north-western corner of the site. To the east this was truncated by the construction of the modern building and by a flint and mortar structure of post-medieval date (G47). To the east of that structure the linear track or road continued (recorded as [630] G10) towards the north-eastern corner of the site where it was truncated by a modern drain.

There was a distinct difference in the nature of the road at either side of the site. At the western side [745] it was up to 0.65m deep. Its southern side was cut vertically through the earlier deposits and its flat base sloped gently down to the east and was covered with a thin patchy layer of gravel [777], probably the original road surface. On top of that, the whole feature was infilled with a homogenous deposit of grey brown sand silt [784] in which were found thirty-seven sherds of medieval pottery, three of them of 13th- to 14th-century date and a piece of brick or tile of post-medieval date. This might have been deliberately dumped into the road to level the area for later building and it was overlaid by floor deposits associated with the post-medieval pub.

To the east of the flint structure and at a higher level than the gravel road surface to the west, a series of deposits were recorded within a much shallower linear hollow [630] some of which may have been infilling hollows (e.g. sand silt [608] (G10) and redeposited orange clay sand [582] (G39)) and some of which were probable surfaces (e.g. chalk-flecked buff-coloured silt [583] (G42)). A total of 89 pieces of medieval pottery, weighing 0.166kg, a few fragments of mammal and fowl bone and a sherd of crucible came from deposit [608]. Most of the pottery consisted of small LMU body sherds, but cooking vessels with developed rims are also present and two fragments of glazed ware, one Grimston-type ware and one unprovenanced. A small sherd of a highly fired grey ware is probably from a crucible, although there is no visible evidence of any metalworking residue. A further ten fragments of LMU found in [583] can only be dated to the 11th to 14th centuries and a bird bone were also found in deposit [583]. Further east, no cut for the road was apparent in the excavated trench but a series of deposits which were interpreted as subsequent road make-up and surfaces were recorded in the south-facing trench section (G39) and continued upwards, only being truncated by late post-medieval or modern disturbances (G21 and G6).

About a metre to the north of the northern side of pit [715] on the western side of the site, a shallow linear feature [794] (G28) which contained compacted redeposited natural sand was recorded in section. It was about 1.5m wide and ran east-to-west from the central area of the site, east of the concrete beam, extending beyond the west edge of the site. The feature was interpreted as a possible track or path leading from Red Lion Street. It could have been contemporary with the large pit/SFB [715] but this is unproven. No finds were recovered from the sand.

Overlaying the build up of soil and infilled pit [355] in the central part of the site was a deposit of mottled orange and light brown sand silt [331] (G51) which lay alongside the cellar wall to its north. It consisted largely of redeposited natural sand and appeared to form a bank, perhaps up-cast from levelling an area prior to building although, stratigraphically, the deposit was too early to relate to the building of the cellar. Eighteen sherds of medieval pottery were present. They include a highly decorated fragment of a glazed Grimston-type ware jug, and the developed rim of a LMU cooking vessel, together with a fragment of medieval Dutch-type redware suggesting a 14th-century date. An iron nail was also found in the deposit. On top of the eastern part of deposit [331] and running eastwards in a narrow strip, truncated to its north and to its east by the walls of, or construction trenches for, the post-medieval cellars, was a compact deposit of mottled brown clay sand [327] (G52) which was interpreted as a surface, possibly of a yard and in which were found five sherds of pottery of 11th- to 14th-century date and an iron nail.

Phase 7- Medieval – later occupation deposits and pits

(Fig. 7)

Overlying the infilled pit/SFB and ?pit [486] and on top of the re-deposited sand of path or track [794] was a layer of sand silt [547]/[879] (G82) representing a build up of soil in the area. A small rounded Grimston-type ware jug was found in [547]. It was damaged on its southern side by a modern pipe trench but its base and a large part of its body were present. The jug is undecorated apart from intermittent thumbing around the base, it has an olive lead glaze over most of its surface and shares some of the characteristics of jugs which are considered to be of a later 15th-century date, or even later, in the assemblages at King's Lynn (Clark and Carter 1977, 235, fig 87, No 4). The jug has a heavily sooted base and seemed to have a brown residue within it. A thin layer of dark brown/black silt and charcoal [878] (G81) overlaid deposit [547] and was seen in the west side of the trench. It was, possibly, a trampled surface which may be associated with activity represented by some lumpy patches of scorched sand and clay [884], truncated by modern service trenches, to the south-east. These deposits were overlaid by a layer of compact clay sand with flecks of charcoal and numerous impressions of straw or other organic material [581] (G32) which formed a floor or surface of some kind and extended over most of the area, if patchily, in places, to the north of the concrete beam, as far south as the modern service trench and to the north as far as the excavated sondage through ditch [375]. Three sherds of pottery and a worn fragment of animal bone were found in the deposit. The pottery consists of a highly abraded miscellaneous grey ware, a fragment of Early medieval ware and a sherd of Grimston unglazed ware dating to the 11th to mid 13th centuries.

Above the clay surface [581] were a series of thin deposits. These included ash and charcoal [817] (G69) which were recorded in the east-facing trench section at the south side and, to the north, alternating layers of silt sand [624], [633], [634] and [644] and charcoal-rich burnt debris [479] and [576] (G31). Twenty-five sherds of pottery, three iron nails and an unidentified iron object, some animal bone (including some butchered fragments), a fish bone and shell were recovered from the latter deposits. The pottery included a fragment of a LMU cooking vessel with developed rim of 13th- to 14th-century date as well as two sherds of oxidised Grimston-type ware which may be of a later 14th- to 15th-century date.

An area of concentrated burning which formed a slight hollow [862] (G30) in the clay surface to its north side was interpreted as a hearth or oven. It probably relates to the same phase of activity as the build-up of soils and debris to its south. It consisted of scorched sand silt which formed a shallow bowl-like area and was filled with alternating charcoal-rich and unburnt material. A single small glazed redware fragment and some small burnt fragments of animal bone were present in [577]. The pottery is heat-affected and cannot be identified with certainty, but it is likely that it is a fragment of Grimston-type ware. To the north of [862] a narrower area extended for a short distance and was recorded in section cutting the fills of the early ditch [375]. This area had a thin 'lining' of scorched dark red fine sand and was infilled with pale buff-coloured fine sand silt with occasional flecks of charcoal and impressions of organic material. It is possible that the unburnt material may represent the collapsed remains of a superstructure or redeposited floor material which was dumped into the disused feature. The ?hearth post-dated the building evidence to the south.

Towards the northern side of the central area was a well-defined ovate pit [203] (G15). It cut through the upcast material [331] and some dumps of sandy soil [276], [277] and [278] (G24) which may have pre-dated the pit or might represent material dug out of it. Some butchered fragments of animal bone, a nail and a piece of slag were also found in these deposits. The pit contained a charcoal-rich primary fill with brown clay silt in its upper part. Six sherds of medieval pottery, weighing 0.173kg, were found in the pit as well as a piece of lava quernstone, animal bone, shell, iron nails and smelting slag. In addition to fragments of LMU in the upper fill [205] a single fragment of a highly decorated Grimston-type ware jug with applied strip decoration of 13th- to 14th-century date was present. A large fragment of a sooted sagging base was present in primary fill [204]. The fabric resembles some types of LMU, but there is a small splattering of lead glaze on the interior on the side of the vessel. It may be an early type of Late medieval and transitional ware, and dates to the 14th to 15th centuries. Twelve small possible stakeholes ((G23) and (G25)), all but one of them at the eastern end of the pit, may have related to the pit, although their purpose was unknown.

Cutting the infilled pit [203] was a small linear pit [200] (G60). It was only 0.12m in depth. A thin deposit of clay silt and charcoal, almost black in colour, formed a 'lining' to the pit and its main part was filled with a brown clay silt. A sherd of 11th- to 14th-century LMU, an iron nail and a burnt fragment of animal bone were found in the pit.

At the western and south-western sides of the central area were two substantial post-hole type features [311] (G55) and [292] (G64). Their similar size and depth (both >0.50m deep) suggest that they might have been associated and have represented a building. It was unclear as to the level from which they were cut but the fact that they were both excavated during the early stages of the excavation, and the fact that the

former lay above the redeposited sand of the putative pathway [794], suggests that they were of relatively late date. Eighteen sherds of medieval pottery, all of it LMU, and an iron nail, were found in the features. One sherd is from a cooking vessel or jar with a developed rim of 13th- to 14th-century date. Twelve sherds, weighing 0.336kg, two iron nails and two unidentified iron objects were recovered from post-hole [292]. The pottery includes a very large fragment of an LMU bowl and a number of highly abraded sherds of Grimston-type ware of late 12th- to 14th-century date.

A layer of grey brown sand [887] (G74) was seen in section above deposit [793] in the south-western corner of the central area. It was overlaid by a series of deposits, recorded in the north-facing section, which were interpreted as possibly representing a collapsed building ((G77) and (G78)). These included the stump of a possible clay wall [888], a possible post-hole [309] filled with a dark grey charcoal-rich silt and, running off to the east, layers of yellowish brown clay silt [306], light brown clay silt sand [283], sand [310] and silt clay [282] G77 which may have been a floor and/or collapsed walls. These deposits appeared at a relatively high level and were recorded in section only, having been removed during machining.

In the northern/central part of the site a number of probable post-holes (G8) were recorded cutting the subsoil [703]. These varied in size and definition and, for the most part, no clear pattern could be seen in their distribution. They may not all date to the same period; two or three at least were probably of post-medieval date (see below) but no datable finds were recovered from any of the other post-holes. Near to the northern edge of the site a group of intercutting pits were excavated (G97). Pit [697] was the earliest of these and was cut by pit [691]. Both were only partly exposed in the area of excavation. A total of 63 sherds, weighing 0.471kg, a piece of clay tobacco pipe and an iron nail were found in the fill of the latter. Thirty-four fragments of Grimston-type ware included several fragments of a jug which is likely to date to the 14th or 15th centuries. The decoration includes a white slipped floral decoration on a green background. Another pit [679] to the east of these two may have been contemporary with them. Pit [681]/[689] (G44) was cut into the top of these infilled features. Two sherds of Grimston ware with a date range of the late 12th to 14th centuries were recovered from its fills. All of these pits were excavated prior to the removal of the subsoil from this area and the latter two, at least, post-dated that deposit.

Phase 8 - Post-medieval

(Fig. 8)

A small circular rubbish pit [517] (G46) cut the infilled gully of the probable building [552] in the north-eastern part of the site. It was 0.50m deep and contained an uncompacted sand silt in its lower part with a more clayey upper fill. Two sherds of glazed redware dating to the 16th to 18th centuries, animal bone, part of an ivory comb, an iron nail, flecks of charcoal and fragments of brick were found in the pit.

Two quite large post-holes [659] and [670] (part of G8) cut the subsoil immediately to the east of the wall of the northernmost cellar. They were evenly spaced along the wall and might have related to its construction. A sherd of 15th- to 16th-century pottery and a piece of brick or tile of post-medieval date was found in the latter. Another large post-hole [657] G8, cutting the subsoil at the top of the steps down into the cellar could also possibly relate to its construction and also contained a sherd of 15th- to 16th-century pottery, brick or tile, animal bone, fish bone and shell.

In the extreme south-eastern corner of the site, the medieval deposits were cut by two pits [366] and [367] (G67), and near the eastern side of the site two small pits [221] and [225] (G98) also probably dated to the post-medieval period. All of these pits included finds of post-medieval date in their fills.

Post-medieval and modern buildings

(Fig. 8)

Until demolition of the extant buildings on the site in 2003 the built environment was comprised of buildings from three distinct campaigns of construction. These were;

- 1 Post-medieval public houses and their ancillary buildings
- 2 19th-century buildings
- 3 20th-century garage buildings

Observations were made of the buildings which resulted from Campaigns 1, 2 and 3. Archaeological excavation revealed evidence of the buildings resulting from Campaign 1. The post-medieval evidence is dealt with first.

Post-medieval public houses and their ancillary buildings

(Fig. 8)

It seems that the two post-medieval public houses which lined the street in the early 20th century may have been the first substantial buildings to have been built on the site. To the south there was a thatched cottage (8 Red Lion Street) of early 17th-century date. This formed, until 1907, part of the 'Bull Inn' (Gale 2001, 48). The street-fronting part of the workshop was of timber, with a thatched roof. After the inn closed the ground-floor front was converted into a fishmonger's shop and was later acquired by Arthur J. Dazely as the 'Old Bull Motor and Cycle Works' (Gale 2001, 49). This building was eventually purchased by the Cooper brothers, who wanted its outbuildings to fit cars, and as such these buildings formed the first part of the conglomerated garage site.

The building was eventually demolished in 1955 and few remains survived. During the excavation a backfilled cellar was discovered which must have lain to the rear of the 'Bull Inn'. This presented a curious shape, with an alignment at odds to Red Lion Street. Its north-to-south length measured 3.8m, and its (truncated) width 3.2m. The walls were constructed from brick bonded with an off-white mortar and had been whitewashed. The floor was also of brick. Entry to the cellar was gained via a set of shallow brick steps in the south-western corner [235], the treads of which were still covered with decaying timber planks. These treads were let into the southern wall at the time of the cellar's construction.

The remains of the springers to a brick arch showed that a vault had been set against the northern wall. This vault was internally rendered and was originally 1.4m deep. There was evidence that the vault had been sub-divided into a series of small spaces. A second brick barrel vault [232] sat in the south-eastern corner of the cellar. Entry to this was not possible, since its entrance had been blocked by a concrete breeze block wall which bisected the cellar and had carried the eastern wall of the car showroom. A small remnant of arch springing, however, showed that entrance would have been gained from the cellar. The vault was 3.75m deep, and had obviously extended beyond the south wall of the 'Bull Inn' and under its yard access.

Aside from the cellar two other remnants of the building survived. The first was an east-to-west aligned foundation cut [330]/[768] recorded on the western side of the site. This contained a banded fill consisting of alternate layers of lime mortar and silty sand. Although this contained seven sherds of 11th- to 14th-century LMU, these were quite obviously residual. The trench measured 3.7m in length and undoubtedly carried one of walls to the 'Bull Inn'.

The other remnant of the 'Bull Inn' to have survived was its ?stable block, which was built against the gable of 6 Red Lion Street and was demolished in 2003. This had been converted into a thin workshop/showroom by Cooper's Garage.

The second inn had, by all accounts, been a larger and more prestigious establishment. 12 Red Lion Street had been occupied by the 'New Inn' between 1689 (if not earlier) and 1953 (Gale 2001, 50). It had changed its name in 1791 from the 'King's Head'. Until its demolition in 1955 it had been joined at first-floor level to 16 Red Lion Street, which survives and has a timber-framed east wing (Pevsner and Wilson 1997, 368). According to Gale (2001, 51) the area at the rear of the inn stretched as far as Oakfield Road and included a yard, stables, outbuildings, a garden and a bowling green. The inn, built with a jettied timber-frame and a steeply pitched pantile roof was part of the Morgan brewery estate. The only part of the 'New Inn' complex to have survived until 2003 were the stables, which lay behind the street-fronting car showroom and which had been enlarged by local firm Ducker and Sons to take cars. These were constructed from brick with a pantiled roof.

There was again very little remaining of this building with the exception of its backfilled cellars and a small area in the extreme north-western corner of the trench where a series of alternating deposits of black silt ([439] and [444]) and orange clay [440] and [520] represented trampled floor material and make-up. One deposit in particular [456] included organic material (straw or, more likely, saw-dust) from a floor.

The cellars survived in good order and were recorded during the excavation. It was not possible to examine the street-fronting element of the cellars, and it remains possible that barrel vaults originally extended out under the street. Likewise the floor of the cellar was only briefly exposed, and then only in a small test area. The earliest part of the cellarage complex was that which lay in the northern half of the cellar. This was formed from a north wall of rounded flint cobbles set in an off-white lime mortar [585]. This had been raised in a vertical cut and was 0.3m wide. There were no brick elements in its build. A deep-set lamp niche [584] which measured 0.37m by 0.68m in area had helped light this part of the cellar. It had a 'floor' of thick chalky mortar. The eastern wall of this element of the cellar [587] was constructed with the same materials as the northern wall, although a few straw-impressed bricks had been set into its uppermost courses. The wall was also considerably wider, at 0.45m, and this may indicate that it had carried an internal north-to-south wall within the inn. A lamp niche in this wall, which was set at a higher level than niche 585, measured 0.55m by 0.40m [609]. It had been floored with red tiles.

The south wall of the cellar had probably been formed from a similar wall. This had, however, been removed during an extension to the cellar and survived only where it had formed part of a load-bearing wall to the superstructure of the inn which lay to the east of the cellar. Entry to the cellar had in the past (but not originally) been gained via a set of steps [588] which lay outside the plan of the cellar. The steps were of brick and had carried timber treads which had been set into the surrounding

brickwork. The eastern wall of the cellar [587] was broken into to allow the steps to be inserted, and until then it is possible that entry to the cellar was gained via a ladder. The stairwell had later been blocked when a new wall [610] was joined to wall [587] and material which had gathered behind the wall contained a sherd of transfer-printed pearlware dating to the period 1770-1850.

An enlargement to the cellar was probably undertaken during the 19th century. This extended the cellar area eastwards and southwards, the south wall of the original cellar apparently being removed in the process. The new build was of brick with a contemporary stairwell let into its eastern wall [592]. The steps again carried wooden treads, although the top step was formed from screeded clay pammets. This part of the cellar was well supplied with lamp niches, seven in all being recorded. The niche in the northern wall of the new-build cellar contained a cork bung from a beer barrel. Five of the niches had been set into the southern wall. The best surviving of these, niche 738, was 0.37m wide, 0.23m deep and measured at its maximum 0.45m in height. The tops of the niches were formed from two angled bricks to create a one-centred pointed arch.

There were few remains of internal detailing to the cellars, with the exception of a brick vault which had been set against the northern wall of the original cellar. This had formed a 0.95m deep end bay within the footprint of the cellar, and had been sub-divided with smaller brick walls. There was also evidence that other internal brick walls had existed within the northern cellar, and it would have had a very much more sub-divided appearance than was visible during the excavations.

There were a few other masonry remains to the pub. A flint and mortar chimney base ([747] G47) was recorded against the northern edge of the excavated area. The mortar was exceptionally hard. The structure measured 1.6m by 2.0m and had presumably supported an internal stack set against the Blofields Loke frontage. The internal area formed a 'tank' which had a screed floor, stained green.

Part of one of the 'New Inn' internal walls had survived by virtue of its unusual depth. This lay immediately to the north of northern cellar wall [585], which suggests that the cellar was a later insertion, and apparently lay directly above an earth floor [753] to an earlier, medieval building. The flint and mortar wall [177] was approximately 0.45m wide and 1.70m of its length was recorded. A series of floor surfaces relating to the inn had been laid against the wall. The earliest of these, [182]/[783], was formed from a compacted light brown sandy silty clay of 0.10m thickness. This was overlain by a 0.03m thick layer of brown peaty material [181], in turn overlaid by a 0.07m thick layer of pale brown clay with occasional chalk and charcoal flecks and evidence of plant materials [176]. This was sealed by a 0.10m thick layer of compact mid orange brown silty clay and sand ([175]/[780]). In total the floors were 0.27m thick.

It is difficult to determine what lay behind the 'New Inn' frontage, although it appears that the rear range may have been formed at a lower level than the street-fronting elements (this was also shown in Evaluation Trench B where a brick floor [001] was seen at a level of 31.15m OD – the top of the street-fronting floors lay at 32.16m OD). It was within this lower level that a possible fireplace or oven [525] was recorded. This consisted of three walls of brick, surviving to a height of three courses, which surrounded a burnt brick surface. It had been infilled with black and red ash and cinders [526] to a depth of 0.10m. This material contained two sherds of Glazed red earthenware of 16th- to 18th-century date. The feature had the appearance of an oven or kiln. To the south of this, a small remnant of a brick floor [457] overlaid the

infilled hearth and a thin clay surface interpreted as associated with the earlier gully building [552] (see above).

A large square disturbance [514] (G9), possibly a pit of some kind, revealed at a lower level to the east of floor [457], contained brick rubble with mortar and flecks of charcoal, and probably also related to the post-medieval buildings.

19th-century buildings

The two-storied cottages on Burgh Road are shown on the 1890 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map. These brick-built structures were set against the east-to-west boundary which forms the northern gable of 6 Red Lion Street. From the appearance of the cottages this formed the curtilage of the properties, since both lacked a back door.

To the north of the cottages a larger building had been constructed against the Blofields Loke frontage. Foresters Hall belonged to the Ancient Order of Foresters, a Friendly Society established in 1860 (Sapwell 1960, 112), and was used for events and gatherings. After its post-WWII demise it was altered to become a paint shop for Cooper Bros. Ltd. It was again Duckers who did the alterations, which included installing toilets and adding a small extension in the late 1960s to act as a parts department reception.

20th-century garage buildings

The buildings which formed Cooper's Garage until their demolition in 2003 provided a visually complete example of a market town garage. The company traded as Cooper's Garage (formerly Cooper Bros. Ltd) and for many years acted as the local agent for Morris motor vehicles. The franchise was maintained until 1995, when as Rover Group it lapsed. The Cooper brothers set up business in the 1920s, and for many years sold cycles. Alan Cooper died in c.1963 and George Cooper, who had been a Sergeant Mechanic in the Royal Flying Corps, in c.1970. The garage closed for business in 2002.

The dominant building of the group was the showroom which was set back a little from the street frontage to allow room for a concrete apron. This was constructed in 1962 by local firm Ducker and Sons, the architect being Ronald Toone of Great Yarmouth. The front wall was glass, in timber framing and of one and a half-storey height. The rear wall was largely formed from floor-to-ceiling timber doors and was one storey high. The structure was built around a skeleton of reinforced steel joists. The light within the space was moderated by an cantilevered roof which sloped from front to rear. More light entered through openings in the brick gable wall against Blofields Loke. A small office sat in the north-eastern corner of the showroom.

The showroom was connected via a large lintelled opening with the building to the south. This two-storied brick building was constructed as a joint showroom and flat after 1966, again by Ducker and Sons. The front wall was again of glass, and entrance to the first-floor was gained through a side door. Another small glass-panelled office lay to the rear of the ground-floor, and a door in the east gable connected the showroom with a large double garage of brick.

The largest building on the site lay to the rear of the two-storied building. The garage workshop was constructed in 1947 using the roof and windows from a building on Haveringland Airfield. Its north-facing wall was constructed against the then current

boundary between 8 and 10 Red Lion Street. Large doors were let into its western and eastern gables.

Phase 9 - Modern

In some areas of the site the medieval and post-medieval deposits were disturbed by modern activity. This included a number of service trenches which generally ran in an east-to-west direction in the south-western corner of the site, a very large pit at the south edge of the site which may have related to Cooper's garage and a number of drains and related features which were recorded in section in the south-eastern part of the site and in the south-facing trench section in the north-eastern corner. These lay immediately beneath the modern concrete surfaces and foundations for the garage building. The latter were problematic as, having been left *in situ*, they divided the area of the site into several areas and led to difficulties in correlating (and hence interpreting) the deposits between the different parts of the site.

6.0 Discussion of the Excavated Evidence

Prehistoric

Apart from three sherds of prehistoric pottery found during the evaluation of the site and a few stray struck flints, found residually in later deposits, there appears to be no evidence for occupation at the site during the prehistoric period. A large ditch, considered to be of possible prehistoric date after the evaluation is now considered more likely to be of Roman date (see below).

Romano-British

The surprisingly large number of sherds of Roman pottery found during the excavation of the site strongly suggests that activity occurred in the vicinity during the Romano-British period, although most of the pottery is abraded and was found residually in later, medieval, deposits. There are, however, at least two excavated features which might date to the Romano-British period; a quite large ditch running along the western edge of the site and a smaller one, seen for a short distance in the south-eastern corner. It is possible, of course, that other, undated, pits or post-holes may also date to this period. It is likely that the ditches were boundaries of some kind and may represent hitherto unknown early settlement on the small promontory which overlooks the Bure Valley and was later occupied by the town of Aylsham. It is noted that the major Romano-British kiln site of Brampton lies about 3km to the south east (Green 1977) and significant remains of buildings and other material of Roman date have been excavated 2.5km to the south south-east of Aylsham at Brampton Piece, Bolwick (HER 7586). The larger of the ditches, should it have represented a roadside ditch, implies that Red Lion Street may also have its origins in this period.

Medieval

Most of the evidence excavated at the site appears to date to the medieval period with a sequence of deposits which probably date to the 13th and 14th centuries. A deposit of subsoil, observed in several parts of the site appears to seal the earliest phase of activity and is cut by that of a later date. The survival of the archaeological deposits in 'islands' formed by the truncation caused by the post-medieval cellars as well as by the modern footings, led to some difficulties in correlating deposits and

phases of activity. The following discussion summarises the main phases of activity represented by the excavated evidence. More detailed information about the excavated features and deposits, some of which can not be easily assigned to a particular phase, is included above in the site narrative.

The earliest excavated features (of medieval date) were probably a series of pits and postholes which cut the natural deposits and were sealed by the subsoil in the central and northern part of the site. Some of these probably represented structures, including a group of seven post-holes which was truncated by the eastern cellar. A probable building, with two sides surviving, formed by a gully, post-settings and an associated hearth, also seemed to date to a relatively early period and was situated in the north-eastern part of the site. It can be seen that these two possible buildings are on the same alignment. They may represent an early phase of building which lay set back from the street or were perhaps outbuildings to the rear of buildings on the Red Lion Street frontage.

Another possible building represented by a post-hole and a small beam slot at the western side of the site was also of probably quite early date. A small rubbish pit filled with cockle shells and other domestic rubbish seems likely to have been associated with this - its fill spread out to seal some of the pits and post-holes described above thus post-dating them.

The layer of 'subsoil', was not continuous across the site, probably because of its truncation by later activity in some areas. In some places its development may have been interrupted. In an area apparently reserved for rubbish pits and dumping of material in the central part of the site, for example, it consisted of more than one deposit. In the south-western corner of the site the subsoil, part of it scorched, was cut by a few features which indicated the earliest activity there and were superseded by a building represented by a clay-floor, a slot and some post-holes, and some associated external surfaces and pits. The deposit of subsoil was not observed in the north-western corner of the site but another clay-floored building recorded there might have been of the same date as that to the south (only suggested by the slightly similar nature of the two and by the fact that both were relatively early, being cut by later medieval activity).

The clay-floored building in the south-western corner of the site may have burnt down; the slot was infilled with charred remains and a deposit of burnt debris ran across the top of the associated features. A thick deposit of burnt clay and soil, overlaying the subsoil, in the central part of the site might have been contemporary and may have even been burnt material originating from the clay-floored, and walled, building.

A layer of soil formed over the abandoned building, and after some time this was cut by a large, flat-bottomed sub-rectangular pit, interpreted as another possible building (although as there are only one or two post-holes which might be associated with the large pit, the form of such a building is uncertain). It is uncertain as to which other excavated features might be contemporary with this large pit or building. It is possible that a linear deposit of sand and gravel interpreted as a possible path or track at the western side of the site to the north could date to the same period and that in turn might relate to an area of re-deposited sand and a clayey surface interpreted as a yard surface in the central area.

In the north-western corner of the site the clay-floored building was cut by a west-to-east aligned road or 'hollow way' which seems to have formed an early expression of today's Blofields Loke. The fact that it had been necessary to cut into the floors of the building suggest that Red Lion Street at this period lay at a lower level in relation to the street frontage than is apparent today. The hollow way was later infilled, perhaps when the timber-framed building which housed the 'New Inn' was established.

Although correlation and interpretation of the medieval evidence is difficult, it is clear that buildings existed along the western edge of the site, fronting onto Red Lion Street, which at the time probably formed the eastern edge of the market-place (Penn 1994). Building is also evidenced, to a lesser extent, further back from the street. There is some suggestion of a long-lived property boundary. This is suggested by a number of rubbish pits running roughly west-to-east across the central part of the site with pits apparently dating to several periods and without any obvious evidence for building within the area. It is also of interest to note that this line is approximately that of the boundary dividing the properties at the site during the later, post-medieval, period.

Late medieval to early post-medieval

In the south-western corner of the site the large pit or building was post-dated by another build up of soil overlaid by a thin layer of trampled charcoal, possibly associated with some scorched, 'hearth-like' sandy patches. A floor formed of clay and organic material overlaid those and ran across the area between the corner of the concrete beam and the western edge of the site. On top of this floor were occupation deposits of ash, charcoal and silt sand and a probable oven or hearth of some type, only part of which was excavated in the area of the trench. It seems likely that these deposits were internal to a building but the existence/extent of such was not realised by excavation.

Post-medieval and modern

The evidence is dominated by the establishment of two timber-framed buildings which housed 'The New Inn' and 'The Bull Inn'. Little remained of these with the exception of their cellars and some walls, or wall footings and chimney stack bases. Some evidence was, however, discovered for activities taking place to the rear of 'The New Inn', where an oven or fireplace was discovered.

7.0 The Finds (Appendix 2)

The Roman Pottery (Appendix 3)

Summary

This is a small assemblage of abraded Romano-British pottery, the majority of which was found residually in post-Roman features. Small amounts of samian, from Roman Gaul, and single sherds of pottery imported from the regional pottery manufacturing centres of Hadham (Hertfordshire) and Oxfordshire are present. The majority of the pottery, however, was locally produced, constituting principally of utilitarian jars originating from the large pottery production centre located at nearby Brampton.

Although much of the material is not closely datable, the small amounts retrieved from two possible Roman ditches date to between the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. Later Roman pottery, dating from the 4th century AD and including Hadham and Oxfordshire fabrics, were found in deposits which also contained post-Roman material.

Methodology

The pottery was analysed using the pottery recording procedure described in the *Norfolk Archaeological Unit Finds Manual* (Shepherd 1999) and following guidelines recommended by the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Young 1980). All sherds were assigned a fabric type, following macroscopic examination and the use of a (x20 power) hand lens. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram and recorded by context. Each diagnostic sherd was assigned a form type and where possible the diameter and percentage of the rims were recorded. The presence of decoration, abrasion, sooting and limescaling were also noted. This data was recorded on an NAU standard *pro-forma* sheet and inputted into a spreadsheet. The pottery is listed in Appendix 3.

The pottery and archive are stored by the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service.

Discussion

A total of 43 sherds of Romano-British pottery weighing 0.437kg, was recovered from the site (Table 2). Seven different pottery fabrics were identified. Samian was the only material imported from abroad whilst a few sherds originated from the regional centres of Hadham (Hertfordshire) and Oxfordshire. Most of the pottery consists of utilitarian sandy grey wares, some (if not all) from the nearby Romano-British pottery production centre at Brampton (Knowles 1967; Knowles 1977; Green 1977) which lies approximately 3km to the south-east of Aylsham. The majority of vessel forms included medium mouthed and storage jars, and bowls. Single examples of the specialist flagon and mortarium vessels were also recorded.

The majority of the pottery is abraded, or severely abraded, which is consistent with the high level of residuality indicated by the site record. Two ditches are interpreted as of possible Romano-British date. Nine sherds of Roman pottery were found in the fill of an excavated segment of one of these, the large ditch at the west edge of the site (G3) and a single sherd from the fill of a smaller ditch [244] (G65). It is worthy of note, however, that the material from these deposits is also abraded and has certainly suffered disturbance from post-depositional processes. Six sherds of Roman pottery were from the fills of the medieval hollow way (G37) in the area where

it cut the large Roman ditch and it seems likely that they originated from the fills of the ditch.

Fabric	Form	Quantity (sherd count)	Weight (kg)	Percentage (kg)
Hadham red ware		1	2	0.46
Micaceous reduced ware		1	4	0.92
Oxfordshire red colour coat	6.14, 7	2	21	4.80
Red colour coat		1	2	0.46
Samian	Dr31	3	7	1.60
Sandy grey ware	1.9, 4.1, 4.5.2, 4.5.3, 4.14, 6, 6.19	27	255	58.35
Brampton (Spong Hill) grey ware	4.5.2, 5.3	8	146	33.41
Total		43	437	100.00

Table 2: The Romano-British Pottery

The pottery from the two ditches, as well as that from the fill of the hollow way, is broadly datable to between the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, although the lack of fine wares and high levels of abrasion make close dating difficult.

Conclusion

This is a small, highly abraded assemblage of Romano-British pottery. The majority probably originates from the large pottery production centre at Brampton which lies 3km to the south-east. It is consistent with the pottery found during the evaluation phase of the project (Lyons 2002).

The Post-Roman pottery (Appendix 4)

Introduction

A total of 1,444 fragments of pottery of post-Roman date, weighing 10.016kg, were recovered from the excavation. The assemblage spans a wide date range, possibly from the Early Saxon period through to the post-medieval period. The excavation provided a valuable opportunity to examine the ceramics associated with the early settlement of the centre of Aylsham. Little archaeological work had previously been undertaken in this area. Particular attention was given to the medieval component of the ceramic assemblage, in order to supply evidence for the date and nature of occupation during this period.

Methodology

The ceramics were quantified by recording the number of sherds present in each context, the estimated number of vessels represented and the weight of each fabric. Other characteristics such as condition and decoration were noted, and an overall date range for the pottery in each context was established. The pottery was catalogued on *pro-forma* sheets by context using letter codes based on fabric, form and decoration.

The fabric codes used are based mainly on those identified by Jennings (1981) supplemented by additional ones compiled by Suffolk Archaeological Unit (S Anderson, unpublished fabric list).

A breakdown of the post-Roman pottery by ceramic period is shown in Table 3.

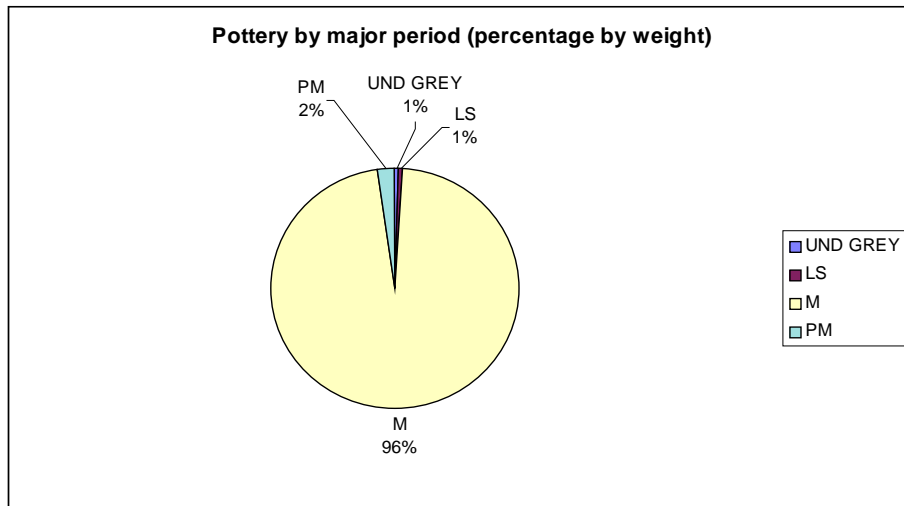


Table 3: Piechart showing pottery by major ceramic period (UND GREY = Unidentified grey ware)

Pottery by ceramic period

Iron Age/Early Saxon

A total of three fragments of pottery of indeterminate date, weighing 0.035kg, were identified from the site. Two sherds, possibly from the same vessel, were redeposited into the fill [621] of a hearth-like feature of medieval date. Both sherds are thick-walled and hand-made, with oxidised external surfaces. The fabric is medium sandy with frequent voids where organic material has burnt out. Occasional flint inclusions up to 4mm in length are present. Both the interior and exterior surfaces of the sherds are tooled. A similar sherd was found with medieval pottery in [696] [G19], the fill of a large pit, possibly representing a building, in the south-western corner of the site. This fragment is also hand-made and thick-walled with an oxidised external surface which has been lightly tooled. The fabric has a fine sandy matrix, with moderate organic voids, sparse quartz inclusions and some mica.

Body sherds of such handmade sandy wares with organic inclusions can be found in pottery assemblages of both the Iron Age and the Early Saxon period in the East Anglian region. In the absence of stratigraphic evidence for activity of a particular period, the presence of diagnostic features such as rim shapes or decoration are often the determining factor in establishing the date. At the present site there is no stratigraphic evidence for either period nor do the sherds exhibit diagnostic features. The date of the pottery is, therefore, uncertain.

Late Saxon

Nine fragments of Thetford-type ware were recovered from the excavation, weighing 0.050kg. All the fragments are body sherds, which are mostly abraded. Two sherds were found in [849], a deposit probably associated with the medieval building in the

north-western corner of the site. Other fragments were found as residual elements with medieval pottery [329] and [520].

Medieval

The largest component of the assemblage consists of pottery of medieval date (1,406 fragments weighing 9.659kg (96.4% by weight, 97.3% by sherd count). Such a substantial stratified group provides a rare opportunity to examine both the sources and the types of pottery which were reaching this small but growing settlement during the period from the 11th to 14th centuries.

The vast majority of the pottery of this date was made from a range of wheel-thrown coarseware fabrics, mainly in the form of cooking vessels and jars, with smaller quantities of bowls and jugs, and large open vessels which could be bowls or curfews.

Much of this pottery is made of a fine to medium sandy fabric containing sparse mica, which is found on many sites in Norfolk. This fabric, LMU, is thought to have been produced around the Woodbastwick and Potter Heigham areas to the south-east of Aylsham in the area of modern Broadland, where waster sherds have been found (Jennings 1981, 41). Field-walking at Hemblingham to the south of Woodbastwick has also produced waster sherds of medieval and late medieval date which are similar to LMU (John Ames, pers. comm). The rivers Bure and Thurne would have provided an easy method of transportation for these wares into Aylsham. It is likely too that other production centres, perhaps closer to Aylsham, were making pottery of a similar type for the demands of the local community. Although some of the Local medieval unglazed wares from Aylsham are light grey or buff in appearance, much of the pottery is dark brown in colour, and is made of a harder fine to medium sandy fabric. The term 'LMU' is therefore used collectively to describe fine to medium sandy wheel-thrown fabrics produced in a distinctive range of forms, but likely to represent the products of several different kiln sites. Overall the LMU ware comprises 1,173 sherds weighing 7.129kg, that is 71.2% of the total assemblage by weight, and 81.2% by sherd count.

A smaller range of a second collective fabric group, medieval coarsewares, is present. These are wheel-thrown coarse sandy fabrics which can not be provenanced. A total of 25 fragments, weighing 0.249kg, made up 2.5% of the assemblage by weight, and 1.7% by sherd count.

In addition, small quantities of Grimston unglazed or coarseware are present. This fabric is described as 'a soft fabric with abundant quartz and flint inclusions' (Little 1994, 84). Although present in small quantities in assemblages from Norwich, it is noticeably a much larger component of those from the sites to the west of Norfolk such as King's Lynn (Clark and Carter 1977, 184-5) and Castle Acre (Milligan 1982). Only two sherds, weighing 0.006kg, were found at the present site.

A small quantity of hand-made sandy early medieval ware of 11th- to 12th-century date is present, (3 sherds, weighing 0.003kg). These were all found with pottery dating from the late 12th to 14th centuries, and it likely that some, if not all, of them are residual.

Local medieval unglazed wares

Cooking vessels/jars

In common with most other sites, the most frequent LMU form at Aylsham is the cooking vessel or jar. These have been recorded by broad rim type, using the typologies established by Jennings (1981), and Anderson (forthcoming a). Only two rim sherds with simple everted rim, indicative of an 11th- to 13th-century date, are present. There are a maximum of thirty-five vessels with fully developed rims of 13th- to 14th-century date (possibly the number is slightly less as rims from the same vessel may not always have been detected if they have been dispersed through different contexts). Six cooking vessels or jars have everted rims with inturned ends. The everted/inturned rim form has been considered to date to the 11th to 13th centuries, but at Aylsham these are present in the same contexts as the fully developed types dating to the 13th to 14th centuries. Although it is possible that these rims are residual, the small quantity of early simple everted rims from the site does suggest a lack of 11th- to 12th-century activity, and may indicate that inturned rims do not come from the early part of the typological sequence. Everted vessels with inturned ends are found to be present not before mid 13th- to mid 14th-century deposits at Dragon Hall in Norwich (Anderson forthcoming a). Evidence from other sites may substantiate the likelihood that such rims occur relatively late in the LMU typology.

Many of the LMU cooking vessels from Aylsham are very fine-walled, with sharply defined and angular rims. A range of different types of rims have been illustrated, to demonstrate the variety of thickened everted developed rims, and those with everted but inturned rims. The best preserved vessel in [612] has a thickened everted rim which is almost upright (Cp No 1). Two jars in [366] have a classic developed shape (Cp Nos. 2 and 3), but more extreme variants are present in [520] (Cp Nos. 4 and 5). Fragments of jars with inturned rims are present in [341], [359], [572] and [696] (Cp Nos. 6, 7, 8 and 9). A rim which is upright but is recessed internally was recovered from [572] (Cp No 10).

Bowls and curfews

A comparatively high number of LMU bowl fragments are present in the assemblage (26 vessels). Several different types are represented, many of which have been illustrated. Four vessels with large diameters may be curfews rather than bowls. The most simple straight-sided vessel in [337] has a thickened rim and a diameter of c.300mm (Bowl No 1). The bowl (?curfew) is heavily sooted on the outside rather than internally. A second possible curfew was present in [292]. It also has a wide diameter of c.320mm, but is heavily sooted on the exterior (B No 2). A third large rim in [707] also has a diameter of c.320mm, and has a developed rim shape very similar to a curfew from Exchange Street, Norwich (Jennings 1981, fig 13, No 269). A further large bowl (or curfew) with external sooting in [341] has a diameter of c.340 and a thickened rounded rim (B No 3). A substantial bowl fragment in [359] is decorated with a horizontal applied strip, and has a diameter of c.360mm (B No 4).

A smaller, more curved bowl with a thickened rim was found in [337] (B No 5). One very abraded bowl fragment in floor deposit [469] (same as [572]) is everted and has thumbing along the internal edge of the rim (B No 6). The same vessel is present in [676], the fill of an earlier but nearby posthole. A second bowl in [469] has a recessed rim (B No 7). The sooted bowl is made in a fine sandy fawn and grey fabric which is

slightly micaceous. The shape of the recessed rim suggests that it may be a precursor of later bowls and panchions made in the tradition of Late medieval and transitional wares which have a slight internal projection. Although LMU is most commonly dated to the 11th to 14th centuries, vessels made in this fabric are known to have still been in use in Norwich during the 15th century (see, for example, an early 15th-century pit group [1269] from Site 149N St Laurence's Lane frontage, Area E, which also contains Late Grimston and a non-local Late medieval transitional ware cistern) (Evans 1985, 38). Such pottery may date to a period of transition and co-existence before the full emergence of the glazed successors to LMU, the Late medieval and transitional ware industries.

Jugs and bottles

Fragments of eight LMU jugs are present. Part of a spirally twisted rod handle was found in [731]. It is similar to one found at Norwich Castle Keep (Jennings 1981, fig 17 No 318). The most unusual LMU form found is the base of a bottle or cylindrical jug in [731].

Decoration

Few of the LMU wares from Aylsham are decorated, although several vessels have applied thumbed strips. In one case these are so delicately and carefully made that they are decorative rather than functional (two joining fragments from [462] (Dec No 1)). Two vessels have unobtrusive stabbing marks on the outside of the rim [359]. A further rim from [608] has finger nail impressions randomly made along the outside (Dec No 2). The strap handle from a jug in [299] also had stabbing.

Grimston-type ware

Glazed Grimston type ware forms the second largest group of medieval wares (20.5% of the overall assemblage by weight, 13% by sherd count).

A total of 189 fragments of Grimston-type ware weighing 2.058kg were recovered from the excavation. All the fragments are from glazed jugs, several of which are highly decorated. Fragments of one vessel in [625] have applied strips and blobs coloured with brown iron oxide, and many other examples of jugs with applied vertical strips coloured in iron oxide are present. One jug in [692] has three different decorative elements. These consist of vertical applied strips coloured with iron oxide, areas of white slip over which there are circular stamps, and incised wavy line decoration which runs underneath (Jug No 1). All these elements are covered with an olive lead glaze. Grimston jugs with incised decoration only were found in a well shaft at Grimston (Site 1016) but these are on later forms (Wade 1994, fig 55). Combed wavy line decoration is common on the jug sherds recovered from Sites 22954 and 24054 at Grimston (Little 1994, 84).

Fragments of another highly decorated Grimston jug were found in [338]. Several sherds are decorated in a white slip which is thickened at one end to form the shapes of petals or leaves, which are further delineated by incised lines. A fragment with similar decoration was also found in [227]. This yellow floral design on a green background type has been recorded on Grimston ware found at sites in King's Lynn, where it is associated with the 15th century (Clarke and Carter 1977, 208).

A substantial part of a small shouldered jug was present in [547]. It has intermittent pronounced single thumbing along its base, and external grooving on its shoulder but is otherwise undecorated. The rim is slightly inturned and the top half is covered in an

overall olive lead glaze. It is heavily sooted and contained a brown residue. The vessel has some features of jugs of late medieval date, such as a relatively upright neck (Clarke and Carter 1977, 235). It may be a 15th-century product.

In addition four fragments of a Grimston pitcher with large strap handle were present in the fill [612] of pit [611]. The whole vessel is crudely made with scraps of clay still adhering to the external surface under the handle, which has been roughly applied to the outside of the vessel and pressed against the body of the jug with shallow thumbing marks. The jug is covered with a drab olive glaze overall. Grimston ware jugs with multi-ridged handles are a feature of the later part of the industry (Clarke and Carter 1977, 235).

Medieval coarsewares

Twenty-five sherds of medieval coarsewares were identified, weighing 0.249kg (2.5% by weight of the overall assemblage, 1.7% by sherd count). These are mainly body sherds of cooking vessels or jars. None of the sherds could be provenanced to a particular production site, but they were notably coarser than the Local medieval unglazed wares.

Grimston coarseware

Very little Grimston coarseware was identified, amounting to 2 sherds weighing 0.006kg.

Unidentified glazed wares

Five additional glazed sherds remain unprovenanced, although they are likely to date to the later medieval/early post-medieval transitional period. One sooted sagging base in [204] has small splashes of lead glaze on the inside. The fabric is fine and slightly micaceous, and if it were not glazed would be described as LMU. A large fragment from a glazed jug in [277] may be a late Grimston ware. It has a grey sandy fabric with red brown external surface, and is knife-trimmed with some lead glaze.

Three other similar fragments from [278] may also be of Grimston origin.

A small fragment of a heavily stained whiteware jug, possibly Stamford ware, was found in [444].

Post-medieval

Twenty-two fragments of post-medieval date, weighing 0.218kg were recovered from the site. Six fragments date to the earlier transitional period (the 15th to 16th centuries). Small quantities of Late medieval or transitional wares are present in [658], the fill of a post-hole cutting into the subsoil in the northern part of the site and [605] the fill of a refuse pit, although the latter may be intrusive as most of the pottery from this pit is of medieval date. A fragment from the frilled base of a Raeren stoneware drinking jug was identified in [671], dating to the late 15th or first half of the 16th centuries. A further body sherd of 16th-century Cologne/Frechen stoneware was recovered with pottery of a later date from [524].

Little 16th- to 18th-century pottery was identified. Five fragments of Glazed red earthenware and two sherds of dark green glazed redware are present. The latter are likely to have been made at the Fulmodeston kilnsite, to the west of Aylsham (Wade-Martins 1983).

Small quantities of pottery of 18th- to 19th-century date are present. A single fragment from the handle of an 18th-century Staffordshire white-dipped tankard was recovered from [315], along with a blue and white pearlware teabowl sherd, a creamware fragment and two sherds of Glazed red earthenware, one of which is a late variant. Part of the base of a Staffordshire Manganese glazed tankard was identified in [524], dating to the late 17th to 18th century. The rim of a transfer printed blue and white pearlware vessel, perhaps a cup, of late 18th to mid-19th-century date, was found in [613]. Two fragments from the base of an English stoneware bottle found in [367] are likely to be of 19th-century date.

Conclusions

The ceramic evidence from the excavation at Aylsham suggests that the first major period of development on this part of Red Lion Street dates to the medieval date, especially the 13th and 14th centuries. This supports documentary evidence for the existence of the market and/or settlement in the late 13th century.

The medieval component of the assemblage demonstrates a very limited range of fabrics, suggesting that the demand for pottery was being met by locally produced ceramics such as LMU and Grimston-type wares. The high proportion of LMU and other fine to medium sandy coarsewares, and the small quantity of Grimston coarseware does suggest that the ceramic pattern at Aylsham is similar to other excavated medieval town assemblages in the north and east of the county. At Burnham Market and Great Yarmouth, for example, LMU forms by far the largest component of the medieval coarsewares present (Anderson forthcoming (a)). Current research suggests that it is only further to the west of the county that the character of these assemblages changes significantly so that Grimston coarseware becomes more dominant, at the expense of LMU (Anderson forthcoming (a)). The Grimston kiln sites, however, were the main source of glazed wares for the settlement at Aylsham.

The other significant feature is the lack of medieval imported wares in the assemblage at Aylsham. This may reflect an essentially rural and inland community which was supplied with coarsewares locally and glazed jugs by the Grimston potters. A comparison with pottery from the excavation at Burnham Market shows a similar lack of imports up to the end of the 13th century, although, there, a small quantity of regional wares such as Scarborough ware was identified, reflecting the location of Burnham close to the coast (Anderson forthcoming (b)).

Ceramic Building Material (Appendix 5)

Twenty-five fragments of brick and roof tile and one almost complete brick (5.161kg) were recovered.

Roman

This group consists mainly of fragments of Tegula roof tile (0.714kg, [290], [368] and [376]) whilst the piece recovered from [728] and weighing (0.172kg) is undiagnostic. The assemblage was very abraded and no complete examples were recovered.

Medieval

A single fragment of medieval brick (0.018kg, [729]) was recovered.

Post-medieval

This was the largest group, consisting of brick, flat roof tile and pan tile, weighing (4.157kg). A single fragment of flat roof tile [526] and one piece of pan tile [539] were collected, whilst the remainder of the material is brick, recovered from [337], [457], [518], [530], [608], [658] and 671]. Although the majority of the brick is fragmentary one complete example [457] and a half brick [658] were also recovered.

Undated

Five fragments of unidentified and undated building material (0.100kg) were collected from [222], [230], 336] and [852].

Fired Clay and Non-Fired Clay

Fifteen pieces of fired clay were found (0.380kg, [337], [388], [527], [746] and [751]). The majority of it is burnt. A sample of unfired compacted clay with vegetable matter inclusions was recovered (0.829kg, [456]). It formed part of a floor of post-medieval date.

Clay tobacco pipe

Thirty pieces of clay tobacco pipe (0.083kg) were collected from various deposits across the site. The majority of the material consists of fragments of stem whilst [222] produced a small undatable piece of bowl.

Small Finds (Appendix 6)

Twenty artefacts, of various materials, have been assigned small find numbers. Those from 'subsoil' [516] and unstratified context [850] were found by metal detector.

Copper Alloy

Four copper alloy artefacts were recovered. They include a single dress pin (SF2, [440]), a thimble (SF4, [850]) and two unidentified artefacts. One (SF3, [622]) is a fragment of a three-sided object with square cut corners, the other (SF5, [333]) is heavily encrusted and unidentifiable without x-ray.

Iron

This assemblage consists of a probable fragment of knife blade (SF14, [526]), and five heavily encrusted unidentified artefacts (SF10 [520], SF11 [242], SFs 12 and 13 [292] and SF15 [576]) which will require x-raying.

Lead

Five lead artefacts were retrieved. They include one possible musket ball (SF16, [850]) and a fragment of window came (SF17, [392]). The remainder of the group consists of three pieces of waste material (SF18 [326], SF19 [516] and SF20 [678]).

Other Materials

An incomplete double-sided ivory hair comb, in three pieces (SF6, [518]) and a small fragment of late medieval or post medieval glass vessel (SF7, [440]) were recovered, along with a piece of lava quern stone with traces of grinding surface surviving on

one face (SF8, [204]) A fragment of badly weathered marble was also retrieved (SF9, [303]) and possibly forms part of a bowl. A small sherd of a highly fired grey ware from deposit [608] (SF21) is probably from a crucible, although there is no visible evidence of any metalworking residue.

Finds of non-archaeological interest

A single piece of modern copper alloy plate was recovered [515]. It is pierced through the centre and broken off at one end.

Iron

Thirty-eight miscellaneous iron nails, were recovered from a variety of deposits.

Metalworking Debris

Nine pieces of undiagnostic smelting slag (0.350kg, {204}, [222], [277], [379] and [526]) were recovered. This, and the presence of a fragment of crucible (SF21, [608]), suggests that metalworking was probably being carried out in the vicinity of, although not necessarily at, the site.

Glass

Four fragments of post-medieval bottle [315], [526], and window glass [315] were found.

Stone

Five pieces of unworked, non-local stone were recovered, (0.452kg, [644], [731] and [849]).

Shell

Oyster, cockle and mussel shell weighing (1.039kg) was retrieved from [205], [398], [518], [576], [608], [612] and [658]. The majority of the assemblage consists of cockle shells (0.933kg) from [398].

Flint (Appendix 7)

A total of ten struck flints were found during the excavation of the site. Two fragments of burnt flint, weighing a total of 0.053kg, were also found and have been discarded.

Type	Number
Flake	5
Blade-like flake	1
Retouched flake	2
Scraper	1
Hammerstone flake	1
Total	10
Burnt fragment	2

Table 4: The flint

The flints consist mostly of unmodified pieces. One or two pieces are quite sharp but most are edge damaged. A thermal fragment has flakes struck from one edge and may be a crude scraper or a core. Two retouched flakes are present and one flake is

probably from a hammerstone; its dorsal surface is battered. The latter piece, one retouched flake and a fragment of burnt flint were found in part of the large ditch which is of probable Romano-British date. The rest was found in deposits which dated to the medieval period. All the flint is, therefore, residual, but indicates activity in the vicinity of the site during the prehistoric period.

8.0 The Environmental Evidence

Faunal remains (Appendix 8)

Summary

A total of 0.961kg of faunal remains, consisting of 148 pieces of bone, was recovered from Red Lion Street, Aylsham. The assemblage is generally in quite poor condition and fragmentary, although the main domestic food animals were all identified and wild species were also present in this assemblage.

Methodology

All of the bone was examined to determine species and ages of animals present. Types of bone were recorded, along with details of any butchering or pathology present on the bone. Weights, total context counts and species counts were made for each context. All information was recorded on faunal remains recording sheets and a table giving a summary of the assemblage and individual contexts is included with this report.

Results and conclusions

Bone was recovered from thirty-seven contexts and was derived mostly from pits, dumps and layers. Most of the material was recovered from medieval contexts dating to between the 11th and 14th centuries, although some material was produced from later fills. Cattle were the most commonly identified and were noted in nine contexts, sheep were recorded in five contexts and pig in three. The remains of the domestic mammals were mostly from adult animals and had been butchered.

Bird bone was noted from six contexts and consisted of sparse remains of goose and domestic fowl, both of which would have probably been kept for a supply of eggs, meat and feathers. A single butchered pelvic bone from a hare was recorded in [204] and one rabbit radius was recovered from [208]. Sparse remains of fish were also produced but none were in good enough condition to be identified to species.

Much of the bone in this assemblage was in quite poor condition and fragmentary with over half of the bone only identifiable as 'mammal'. Burnt remains were present in [202], [388] and [577]. Due to the fragmentary nature of the bone it meant that little information was yielded and few ageable or measurable bones were recorded.

It is probably that the majority of the assemblage was derived from primary and secondary butchering of the main domesticated food animals and birds. The presence of the butchered hare and rabbit shows that wild fauna was also exploited.

Due to the poor quality of the bone, no further work is recommended for this assemblage.

Plant macrofossils and other remains (Appendix 9)

Introduction

Six soil samples for the extraction of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from across the excavated area from deposits associated with medieval occupation and activity.

Methods

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover, collecting the flots in a 500 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16, and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed on Appendix 9. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). Although most plant remains were charred, a small number of mineral replaced specimens were also recorded. The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve, and will be sorted, when dry, for the retrieval of artefacts/ecofacts.

Results of assessment

Plant macrofossils

Cereal grains/chaff and seeds of common weeds and wetland plants were present at varying densities in all samples. Although most plant remains were moderately well preserved, a large number of the cereal grains were puffed and distorted, probably due to high temperatures during combustion.

Cereals

Oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.), rye (*Secale cereale*) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were recorded, with barley being predominant. With the exception of barley rachis nodes, which were common in Samples 3 and 4, chaff elements were extremely rare.

Wild flora

Although seeds of common weed plants were noted in all samples, the density recorded was very low. Segetal taxa and grassland plant species were both represented and included fat hen (*Chenopodium album*), medick/clover/trefoil (*Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus* sp.), indeterminate grasses (Poaceae), dock (*Rumex* sp.) and vetch/vetchling (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.). The sedge (*Carex* sp.) and spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp.) nutlets noted in Samples 3, 4 and 6 were the only wetland plant macrofossils recorded.

Other plant macrofossils

Charcoal fragments and pieces of charred root/stem were common or abundant throughout. Heather (Ericaceae) stem fragments, florets and leaves were noted in Samples 1, 4 and 5 and bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) pinnule and stem fragments were present in Samples 3 and 4. Other plant macrofossils included indeterminate buds, culm nodes and seeds.

Molluscs

Burnt shells and operculi of freshwater obligate molluscs were noted as single specimens in Sample 3.

Other materials

The fragments of burnt porous 'cokey' material and black tarry material may be derived from the combustion of organic remains (including cereal grains) at extremely high temperatures. Mineralised soil concretions were common in Samples 1, 5 and 6 and possible faecal concretions were noted in Sample 4. With the exception of fish bones, all other materials were extremely rare.

Discussion

All samples are from deposits associated with activity relating to occupation on the street frontage close to the market place in Aylsham.

Sample 3 is from a deposit of occupation debris possibly associated with an oven or hearth. Assuming that the debris and hearth/oven are associated, the predominance of cereal grains within the assemblage may indicate that this 'structure' served a domestic purpose, with the grains being derived from accidental spillages during food preparation. Other food residues, including bone fragments, eggshell and fish bone, are also present. Burnt freshwater mollusc shells have been noted in association with other contemporary ovens/hearths within the eastern region, and they may be indicative of the use of riverine mud/clay as part of the structure.

The assemblage from Sample 4, which came from a small pit, is somewhat unusual. Although cereal grains are present, barley chaff is predominant, along with numerous culm nodes, bracken pinnules and stem fragments. Possible faecal concretions and mineral replaced seeds are also recorded, and it would appear most likely that this material is derived from burnt litter/bedding, possibly stable or byre waste.

Samples 1, 5 and 6 are all from dumps or layers of material which appear to be associated with floor surfaces or indeterminate structures. Although cereal grains, seeds and charcoal fragments are present, the density of material is generally low and the assemblages cannot be readily interpreted. Sample 2 is from a small shell midden within pit [397]. With the exception of charcoal fragments, plant macrofossils are very rare, and the assemblage is probably derived from refuse incorporated into the midden deposit.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, small quantities of domestic hearth waste and possible burnt litter/bedding appear to be present within the assemblages studied. However the density of material recovered is low, and in only one instance (Sample 3) is the assemblage quantifiably viable (*i.e.* 200+ specimens). As analysis of a single sample in isolation would add little to the overall interpretation of the site or its component features, no further work is recommended.

9.0 Conclusions

No evidence of prehistoric activity, other than a few struck flints which were found residually, was recovered during the present work.

Considering the almost complete absence of previous evidence for activity dating to the Roman period in Aylsham a relatively large amount of pottery of that date was recovered from the site. The residual nature of most of it was clear. However, two ditches were considered, possibly, to be of Roman date and to represent boundaries of some kind. The ditch beside Red Lion Street is important in that it implies this route may have been in existence during the period when the ditch was still a visible landscape feature.

Much of the excavated evidence dated to the medieval period. It corroborates the evidence revealed by the evaluation trenches, which showed that buildings developed along the Red Lion Street frontage, and provides a likely 13th- to 14th-century date for their establishment. Several phases of building were apparent with structures apparently utilising timber posts, probably with either timber and daub walls or partially clay-built walls. At least one building seems to have been destroyed by fire. Further to the east, away from the street, a number of post-holes and a gully probably represented other, lesser, structures – perhaps outbuildings. The exact form and nature of the buildings remains unclear but a few pits, some of which contained probable domestic rubbish, were excavated. Some of these formed a rough line and may have represented a lasting boundary, perhaps an area of waste ground between two properties.

The evidence suggests that these buildings were primarily domestic in nature, and that their inhabitants relied on locally-produced commodities. Imported ceramics were few, and there was also little evidence of expensive, or high-status items. This may reflect Aylsham's position as a market town of relatively minor importance, or alternatively that these properties were a little removed from the heart of the town.

At the northern end of the site, a hollow way of medieval date was excavated. This cut through one side of the floor of a medieval building and lay slightly to the south of today's Blofields Loke. It probably represents an earlier expression of Blofields Loke and may also represent the expansion of settlement eastwards away from the market-place.

During the post-medieval period, a series of timber buildings was built on the Red Lion Street frontage. These included the 'New Inn' and 'The Bull Inn', the former of which survived until the 1950s. The cellars of both were recorded and floor surfaces and other structures which almost certainly related to the two pubs were excavated.

10.0 Statement of Potential

The excavation has indicated hitherto unknown Roman-British activity in Aylsham town centre. This took the form of a substantial ditch which was situated against the eastern side of Red Lion Street. This suggests that the origins of Red Lion Street may possibly lie in this period and this would have implications for our understanding of the Roman road network in the area.

The bulk of the excavated evidence, however, relates to the formation during the medieval period of two medieval properties separated by a boundary marked at various times by refuse pitting and a small bank. Several phases of buildings were identified in each, these probably dating to the 13th and 14th centuries, and indicating the first settlement in this part of the town. Periods of abandonment occurred, shown in the archaeological record by soil build-up, with the building in the southern property being replaced by an enigmatic sunken-floored structure. This evidence confirms the existence of medieval properties against the eastern side of the market-place, and can additionally supply some indication of the nature, type and character of the settlement.

Settlement appears, from the ceramic evidence, to have continued into the 14th and 15th centuries but the stratigraphic evidence does not support a period of sustained settlement. This apparent conflict needs resolution during the analysis stage, when it should be possible to isolate those activities which definitely did occur during this later medieval period. It is the later 15th- and 16th-century period which requires most definition on this site, since it appears that very little occurred. This may have much to do with demographic changes within the town and a definite statement on activity during the early post-medieval period is required.

The establishment of two inns on the site during the 17th century probably coincided with infilling of areas of the market-place. A summary of the nature, character and extent of the cellarge uncovered is required in order to supplement the work on these buildings by Gale (2001).

11.0 Updated Project Design

Stratigraphic

In order to complete the analysis of the excavated evidence and bring the report to publication, some further work is required. Although the results of the evaluation trenching of the site have been fully reported on (Shelley 2002), the evidence revealed in the trenches positioned on the western side of the development site (*i.e.* in the vicinity of the present site) should be further considered in light of the subsequent excavation and fully incorporated in the final report.

Some further interrogation of NHER is required in order to establish whether there is existing evidence for Roman cropmarks and field boundaries within the area, and how these would tie in the Romano-British evidence from the site.

Additionally the stratigraphic sequence outlined in the site narrative requires some further refinement. The aim here is to draw out the evidence for the spatial disposition of buildings and refuse disposal areas within the two properties throughout the medieval period, and to provide definition to activities which occurred during the early post-medieval period. The buildings need to be given building

numbers and their description and character set out as individual components within the final publication report. Any pits associated with these buildings need to be identified and incorporated within a property numbering system. Additionally the stratigraphic evidence which forms Phases 2 to 4 needs further consideration, since it is possible that these might be consolidated into two or even one broad phase of activity.

Documentary evidence

The publication report would benefit from a limited programme of documentary analysis, with the aim of identifying whether records exist for properties and owners on the site before the establishment of the two inns. Although Gale (2001) has provided an admirable summary of the history of the two establishments it might be possible to discover further evidence for the history of the inns. A note should also be incorporated into the publication report on the 20th-century history of the site.

The finds

There is little further work required on the finds assemblage from the site, although seven metal small finds require x-rays prior to full identification. The small finds will be catalogued and described by staff from NAU and a small finds report incorporated into the final publication report.

Environmental evidence

No further work is required on either the faunal remains or the plant macrofossils and other remains recovered from the site.

Publication

A synthesised report on the results of the work will be produced for *Norfolk Archaeology*, the journal of the Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society (this has a print run of approximately 600 copies and is issued annually). This will discuss the background to the project and to the site itself, provide some historical background for the area and detail the results of the documentary research. It will then proceed to describe the results of the excavation, paying attention to the topics discussed in Section 10 and above in this report. It will also include the relevant results from the evaluation trenching of the site. Artefactual and environmental evidence will be included as separate specialist reports but, with the agreement of the individual specialists, will be edited for publication.

Illustrations will be produced by NAU and will consist of a location map and plan, plans of selected parts of the site by period, selected section drawings and pottery and small find illustrations.

Research archive

The excavation archive will be prepared and microfilmed in accordance with RCHME guidelines. It will be held by the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service.

Donation of the finds from the site by the landowner will be sought and the material, if donated, will be deposited with Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service.

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The finds were processed and reported on by Lucy Talbot with specialist reports by Sarah Bates (flint), Julie Curl (animal bone), Richenda Goffin (medieval and post-medieval pottery) and Alice Lyons (Roman pottery). This report was edited by Andy Shelley and Alice Lyons, illustrated by Sandrine Whitmore and formatted and produced by Maggie Footitt.

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Appendix 1: List of Contexts

Context	Type	Category	Cut	Group	Site phase
200	Cut	Pit	200	60	Medieval
201	Deposit	Pit	200	60	Medieval
202	Deposit	Pit	200	60	Medieval
203	Cut	Pit	203	15	Medieval
204	Deposit	Pit	203	15	Medieval
205	Deposit	Pit	203	15	Medieval
206	Deposit	Drain	207	75	Post medieval
207	Cut	Drain	207	75	Post medieval
208	Deposit	Drain	207	75	Post medieval
209	Cut	Pit	209	75	Post medieval
210	Deposit	Pit	209	75	Post medieval
213	Deposit	Post-hole	214	1	Medieval
214	Cut	Post-hole	214	1	Medieval
215	Deposit	Post-hole	216	1	Medieval
216	Cut	Post-hole	216	1	Medieval
217	Cut	Post-hole	218	13	Medieval
218	Deposit	Post-hole	217	13	Medieval
219	Cut	Pit	219	13	Late Saxon/Medieval
220	Deposit	Pit	219	13	Late Saxon/Medieval
221	Cut	Post-hole	222	13	Medieval
222	Deposit	Post-hole	221	13	Medieval
223	Cut	Post-hole	223	13	Medieval
224	Deposit	Post-hole	223	13	Medieval
225	Cut	Pit	225	13	Medieval
226	Cut	Post-hole	226	1	Medieval
227	Deposit	Post-hole	226	1	Medieval
228	Cut	Post-hole	228	1	Medieval
229	Deposit	Post-hole	228	1	Medieval
230	Deposit	Pit	225	13	Medieval
231	Deposit	Footing/wall	231		Post medieval
232	Deposit	Vault	0		Post medieval
233	Deposit	Wall	0		Post medieval
234	Deposit	Wall	0		Post medieval
235	Deposit	Steps	0		Post medieval
236	Deposit	Wall	0		Post medieval
237	Deposit	Vault	0	62	Post medieval
238	Deposit	Wall	0	62	Post medieval
239	Deposit	Ditch	240	2	Medieval
240	Cut	Ditch	240	2	Medieval
241	Cut	Pit	242		Medieval
242	Deposit	Pit	242		Medieval
243	Deposit	Linear feature	244	65	Medieval
244	Cut	Linear feature	244	65	Medieval
245	Cut	Stakehole	245	23	Medieval
246	Deposit	Stakehole	245	23	Medieval
247	Cut	Stakehole	247	23	Medieval
248	Deposit	Stakehole	247	23	Medieval
249	Cut	Stakehole	249	23	Medieval
250	Deposit	Stakehole	249	23	Medieval
251	Cut	Stakehole	251	23	Medieval
252	Deposit	Stakehole	251	23	Medieval

Context	Type	Category	Cut	Group	Site phase
253	Cut	Stakehole	255	23	Medieval
254	Deposit	Stakehole	253	23	Medieval
255	Cut	Stakehole	255	23	Medieval
256	Deposit	Stakehole	255	23	Medieval
257	Cut	Stakehole	258	23	Medieval
258	Deposit	Stakehole	257	23	Medieval
259	Cut	Stakehole	260	23	Medieval
260	Deposit	Stakehole	259	23	Medieval
261	Cut	Stakehole	261	23	Medieval
262	Deposit	Stakehole	261	23	Medieval
263	Cut	Stakehole	263	23	Medieval
264	Deposit	Stakehole	263	23	Medieval
265	Cut	Stakehole	265	25	Medieval
266	Deposit	Stakehole	265	25	Medieval
267	Cut	Stakehole	267	25	Medieval
268	Deposit	Stakehole	267	25	Medieval
269	Cut	Stakehole	269	25	Medieval
270	Deposit	Stakehole	269	25	Medieval
271	Deposit	Stakehole	269	25	Medieval
272	Cut	Post-hole	272	1	Medieval
273	Deposit	Post-hole	272	1	Medieval
274	Deposit	Pit	275		Undated
275	Cut	Pit	275		Undated
276	Deposit	Dump	0	24	Medieval
277	Deposit	Dump	0	24	Medieval
278	Deposit	Dump	0	24	Medieval
279	Deposit	Construction cut	281		Modern
280	Deposit	Cellar	0		Post medieval
281	Cut	Construction cut	281		Modern
282	Deposit	Layer	0	77	Medieval
283	Deposit	Layer	0	77	Medieval
284	Deposit	Pit	285	2	Medieval
285	Cut	Pit	285	2	Medieval
286	Deposit	Drain	207		Post medieval
287	Deposit	Drain	208	75	Post medieval
288	Deposit	Drain	207	75	Post medieval
289	Deposit	Layer	0	77	Medieval
290	Deposit	Drain	291	76	Post medieval
291	Cut	Drain	291	76	Post medieval
292	Cut	Post-hole	292	64	Medieval
293	Deposit	Post-hole	292	64	Medieval
294	Cut	Construction cut	294	62	Post medieval
295	Deposit	Construction cut	294	62	Post medieval
296	Deposit	Construction cut	294	62	Post medieval
297	Deposit	Construction cut	294	62	Post medieval
298	Deposit	Dump	0	25	Medieval
299	Deposit	Dump	0	53	Medieval
300	Cut	Stakehole	300	25	Medieval
301	Deposit	Stakehole	300	25	Medieval
302	Deposit	Drain	207	75	Post medieval
303	Deposit	Subsoil	0	22	Medieval
304	Deposit	Post-hole	305	13	Medieval

Context	Type	Category	Cut	Group	Site phase
305	Cut	Post-hole	305	13	Medieval
306	Deposit	Layer	0	78	Medieval
307	Deposit	Layer	0	78	Medieval
308	Deposit	Post-hole	309	78	Medieval
309	Cut	Post-hole	309	78	Medieval
310	Deposit	Layer	0	77	Medieval
311	Cut	Linear feature	311	55	Medieval
312	Deposit	Linear feature	311	55	Medieval
313	Cut	Construction cut	313	61	Post medieval
314	Deposit	Construction cut	313	61	Post medieval
315	Deposit	Construction cut	313	61	Post medieval
316	Deposit	Post-hole	317	13	Medieval
317	Cut	Post-hole	317	13	Medieval
318	Deposit	Post-hole	319	13	Medieval
319	Cut	Post-hole	319	13	Medieval
320	Deposit	Layer	0	54	Medieval
321	Deposit	Post-hole	322	13	Medieval
322	Cut	Post-hole	322	13	Medieval
323	Deposit	Layer	0	54	Medieval
324	Cut	Construction cut	0	12	Post medieval
325	Deposit	Construction cut	234	12	Post medieval
326	Deposit	Construction cut	330	14	Post medieval
327	Deposit	Layer	0	52	Medieval
328	Deposit	Layer	0	53	Medieval
329	Deposit	Layer	0	53	Medieval
330	Cut	Construction cut	330	14	Post medieval
331	Deposit	Layer	0	51	Medieval
332	Deposit	Fill	0		Undated
333	Deposit	Subsoil	0	22	Medieval
334	Deposit	Layer	0	51	Medieval
335	Deposit	Layer	0	?52	Medieval
336	Deposit	Pit	355	56	Medieval
337	Deposit	Layer	0	58	Medieval
338	Deposit	Layer	0	?22	Medieval
340	Cut	Pit	340	57	Medieval
341	Deposit	Pit	340	57	Medieval
342	Deposit	Pit	340	57	Medieval
343	Deposit	Pit	340	57	Medieval
344	Cut	Post-hole	344	6	Medieval
345	Deposit	Post-hole	344	6	Medieval
346	Deposit	Subsoil	0	?22	Medieval
347	Cut	Pit	347	96	Medieval
348	Deposit	Pit	347	96	Medieval
349	Cut	Pit	349	63	Medieval
350	Deposit	Pit	349	63	Medieval
351	Deposit	Layer	0	22	Medieval
352	Cut	Post-hole	352	63	Undated
353	Deposit	Post-hole	352	63	Undated
354	Deposit	Post-hole	352	63	Undated
355	Cut	Pit	355	56	Medieval
356	Deposit	Subsoil	0	22	Medieval
357	Deposit	Track	794	28	Medieval

Context	Type	Category	Cut	Group	Site phase
358	Deposit	Layer	0		Undated
359	Deposit	Subsoil	0	22	Medieval
360	Deposit	Post-hole	361	1	Medieval
361	Cut	Post-hole	361	1	Medieval
362	Deposit	Post-hole	363	1	Medieval
363	Cut	Post-hole	363	1	Medieval
364	Cut	Ditch	364	66	Medieval
365	Cut	Gully	365	66	Medieval
366	Cut	Pit	366	67	Post medieval
367	Cut	Pit	367	67	Post medieval
368	Deposit	Ditch	364	66	Medieval
369	Deposit	Gully	365	66	Medieval
370	Deposit	Pit	366	67	Post medieval
371	Deposit	Pit	367	67	Post medieval
372	Deposit	Layer	0	9	Medieval
373	Cut	Post-hole	373	6	Medieval
374	Deposit	Post-hole	373	6	Medieval
375	Cut	Ditch	375	3	Romano-British
376	Deposit	Ditch	375	3	Romano-British
377	Deposit	Ditch	375	3	Romano-British
378	Deposit	Track	794	28	Medieval
379	Deposit	Layer	0	68	Medieval
380	Cut	Gully	380	80	Medieval
381	Deposit	Subsoil	0	22	Medieval
382	Deposit	Dump	0	9	Medieval
383	Cut	Post-hole	383	6	Medieval
384	Deposit	Post-hole	383	6	Medieval
385	Cut	Stakehole	385		Medieval
386	Deposit	Stakehole	385	1	Medieval
387	Cut	Post-hole	387	6	Medieval
388	Deposit	Post-hole	387	6	Medieval
389	Cut	Pit	389	6	Medieval
390	Deposit	Pit	389	6	Medieval
391	Cut	Pit	391	6	Medieval
392	Deposit	Pit	391	6	Medieval
392	Deposit	Pit	391	6	Medieval
393	Cut	Post-hole	393		Medieval
394	Deposit	Post-hole	393	6	Medieval
395	Cut	Post-hole	395		Medieval
396	Deposit	Post-hole	395		Medieval
397	Cut	Pit	397	9	Medieval
398	Deposit	Pit	397	9	Medieval
402	Cut	Post-hole	402	79	Medieval
403	Deposit	Post-hole	402	79	Medieval
404	Cut	Pit	404	6	Medieval
405	Deposit	Post-hole	404	6	Medieval
406	Deposit	Pit	389	6	Medieval
407	Deposit	Post-hole	383		Medieval
408	Deposit	Pit	391	6	Medieval
409	Deposit	Pit	391	6	Medieval
410	Deposit	Pit	391	6	Medieval
411	Deposit	Pit	391	6	Medieval

Context	Type	Category	Cut	Group	Site phase
412	Deposit	Post-hole	393		Medieval
413	Cut	Post-hole	413	6	Medieval
414	Deposit	Post-hole	413	6	Medieval
415	Cut	Post-hole	415		Medieval
416	Deposit	Post-hole	415		Medieval
417	Cut	Post-hole	417		U
418	Deposit	Post-hole	417		U
419	Cut	Post-hole	419		U
420	Deposit	Post-hole	419		U
421	Cut	Post-hole	421	6	Medieval
422	Deposit	Post-hole	421	6	Medieval
423	Cut	Post-hole	423	6	Medieval
424	Deposit	Post-hole	423	6	Medieval
425	Cut	Post-hole	425	6	Medieval
426	Deposit	Post-hole	425	6	Medieval
427	Cut	Post-hole	428	6	Medieval
428	Deposit	Post-hole	428	6	Medieval
429	Cut	Post-hole	430	6	Medieval
430	Deposit	Post-hole	429		Medieval
431	Cut	Post-hole	431	6	Medieval
432	Deposit	Post-hole	431	6	Medieval
433	Cut	Stakehole	433	6	Medieval
434	Deposit	Stakehole	433	6	Medieval
435	Cut	Pit	435	6	Medieval
436	Deposit	Pit	435	6	Medieval
437	Deposit	Pit	774	16	MOD
438	Deposit	Layer	0		Post medieval
439	Deposit	Surface	0		Post medieval
440	Deposit	Layer	0	?38	Post medieval
441	Deposit	Layer	0	59	Medieval
442	Cut	Post-hole	442	6	Medieval
443	Deposit	Post-hole	442	6	Medieval
444	Deposit	Surface	0	?38	Post medieval
445	Deposit	Layer	0		Undated
446	Deposit	Layer	0		Undated
447	Deposit	Layer	0		Undated
448	Deposit	Drain	454	76	Modern
449	Deposit	Layer	0		Undated
450	Deposit	Layer	0		Undated
451	Deposit	Drain	0		Post medieval
452	Deposit	Post-hole	453	94	Post medieval
453	Cut	Post-hole	453	94	Post medieval
454	Cut	Drain	454	76	Modern
455	Cut	Drain	455		Post medieval
456	Deposit	Floor	0	?38	Post medieval
457	Deposit	Floor	0	48	Post medieval
458	Deposit	Layer	0	16	Modern
459	Cut	Pit	459	33	Medieval
460	Deposit	Pit	459	33	Medieval
461	Cut	Pit	461	86	Medieval
462	Deposit	Pit	461	86	Medieval
463	Deposit	Subsoil	0	95	Medieval

Context	Type	Category	Cut	Group	Site phase
464	Cut	Post-hole	464	34	Medieval
465	Deposit	Post-hole	464	34	Medieval
466	Cut	Post-hole	466	33	Medieval
467	Deposit	Post-hole	466	33	Medieval
468	Cut	Pit	468		Medieval
469	Deposit	Pit	468	34	Medieval
470	Deposit	Surface	0	41	Medieval
471	Cut	Pit	471	93	Medieval
472	Deposit	Pit	471	93	Medieval
473	Cut	Pit	473	16	Modern
475	Cut	Pipe trench	475	16	Modern
476	Deposit	Pipe trench	475	16	Modern
477	Cut	Pipe trench	477	16	Modern
478	Deposit	Pipe trench	477	16	Modern
479	Deposit	Layer	0	31	Medieval
480	Deposit	Layer	0	32	Medieval
481	Deposit	Pipe trench	473	16	Modern
482	Deposit	Pit	611	35	Medieval
486	Cut	Linear feature	486	83	Medieval
487	Deposit	Linear feature	486	83	Medieval
488	Cut	Machine hole	488		Modern
489	Deposit	Machine hole	488		Modern



Fig. 1 Site location. Scale 1:5000

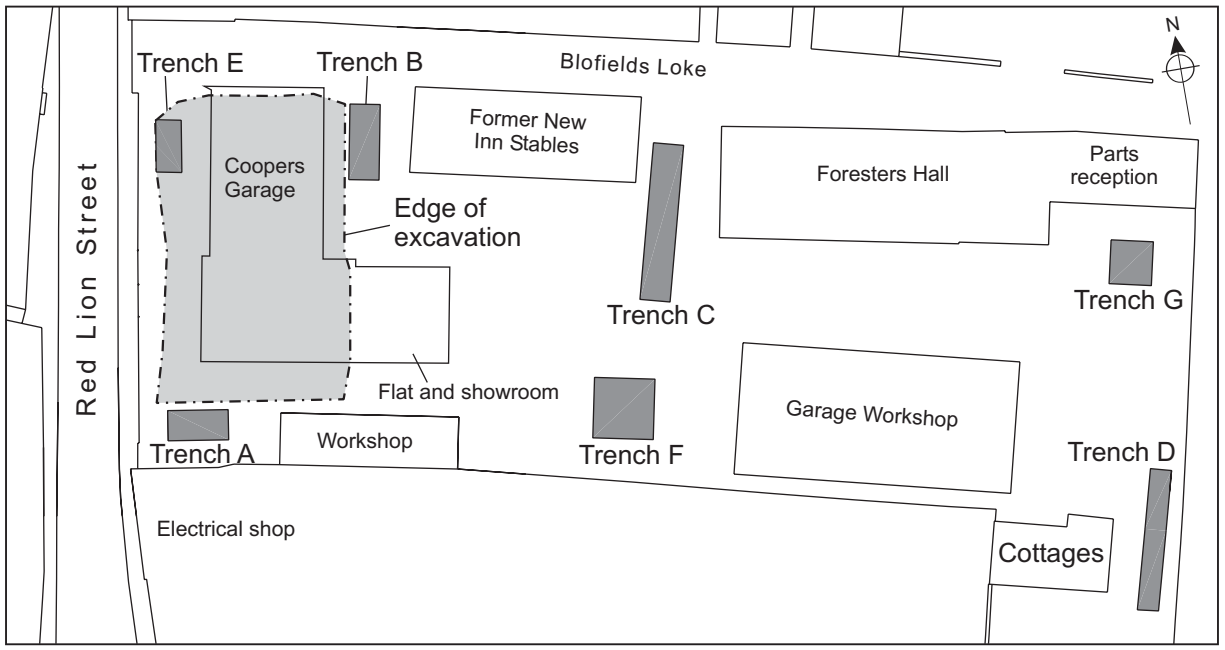


Fig. 2 Trench location plan. Scale 1:500

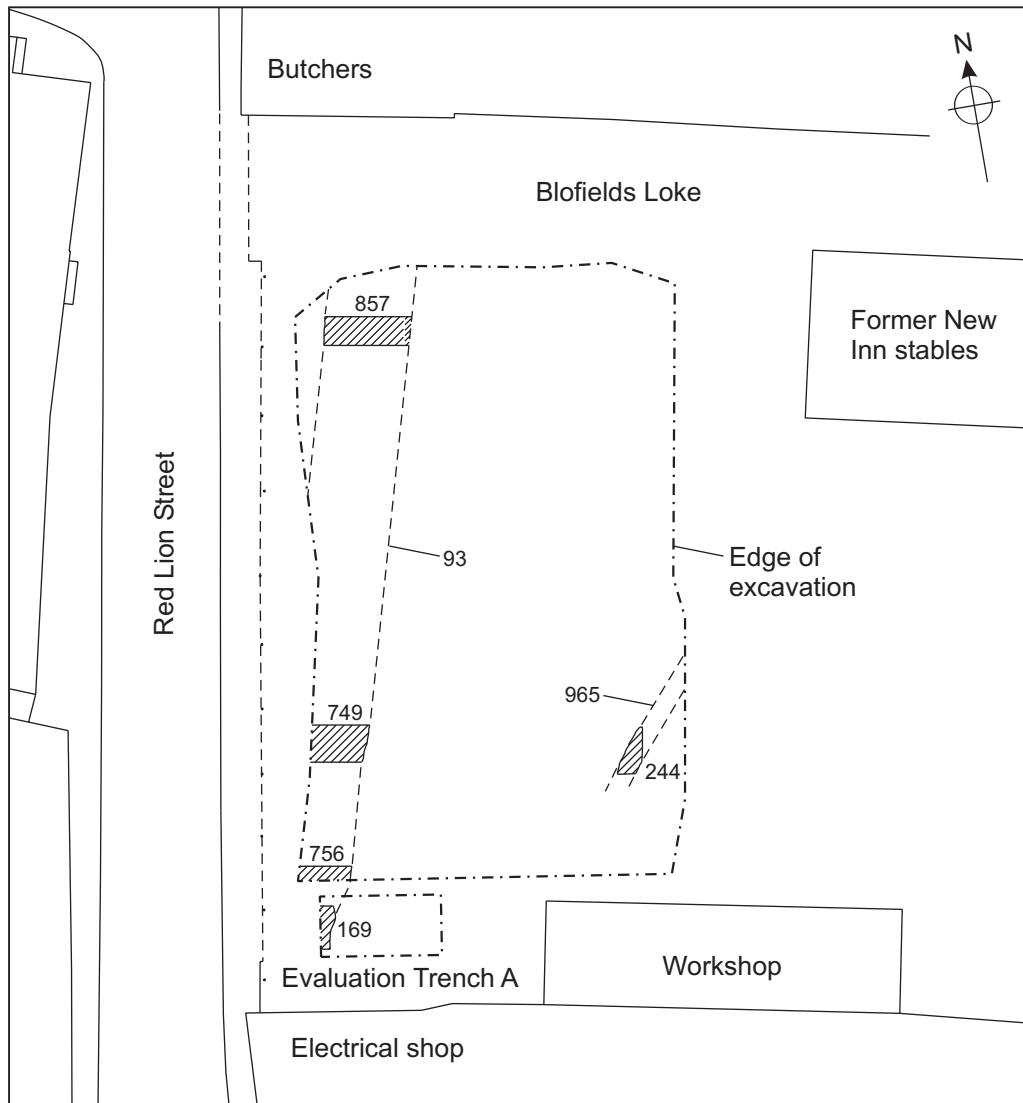


Fig. 3 Phase 1: Roman ditches. Scale 1:250

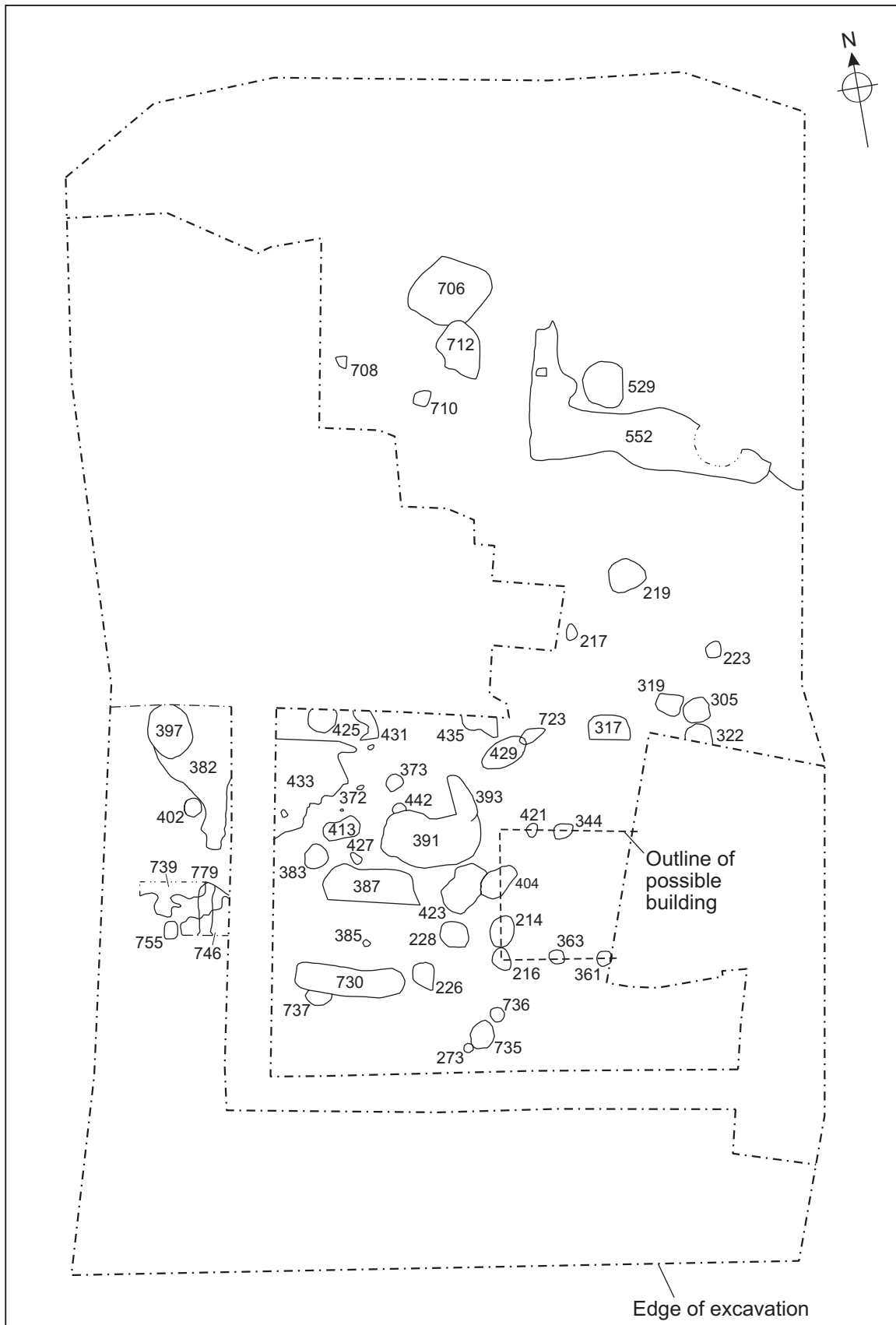


Fig. 4 Phase 2: Medieval features (12th to 14th centuries) Scale 1:100

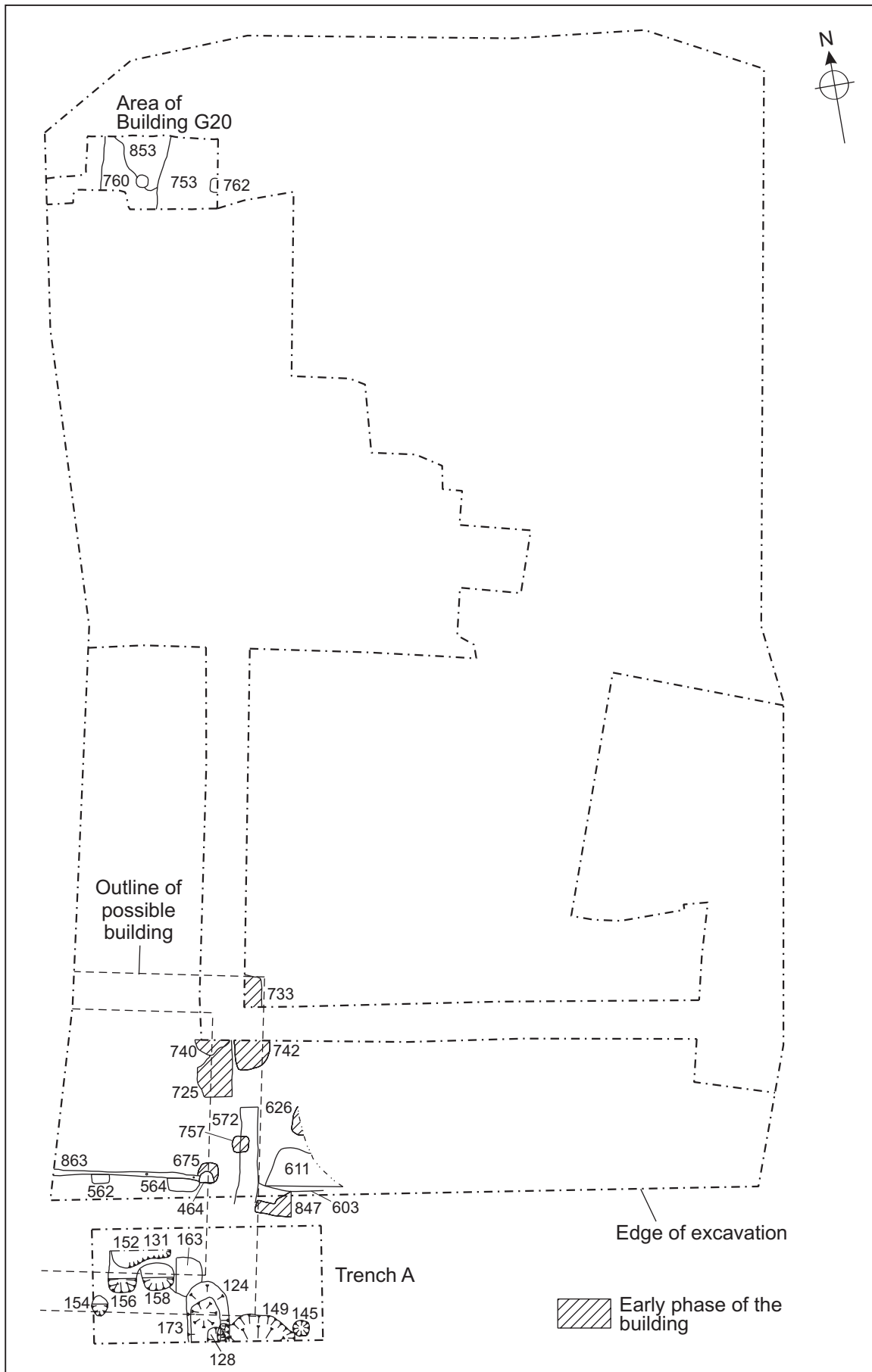


Fig. 5 Phase 4: Medieval buildings and features (13th to 14th centuries).
Scale 1:100

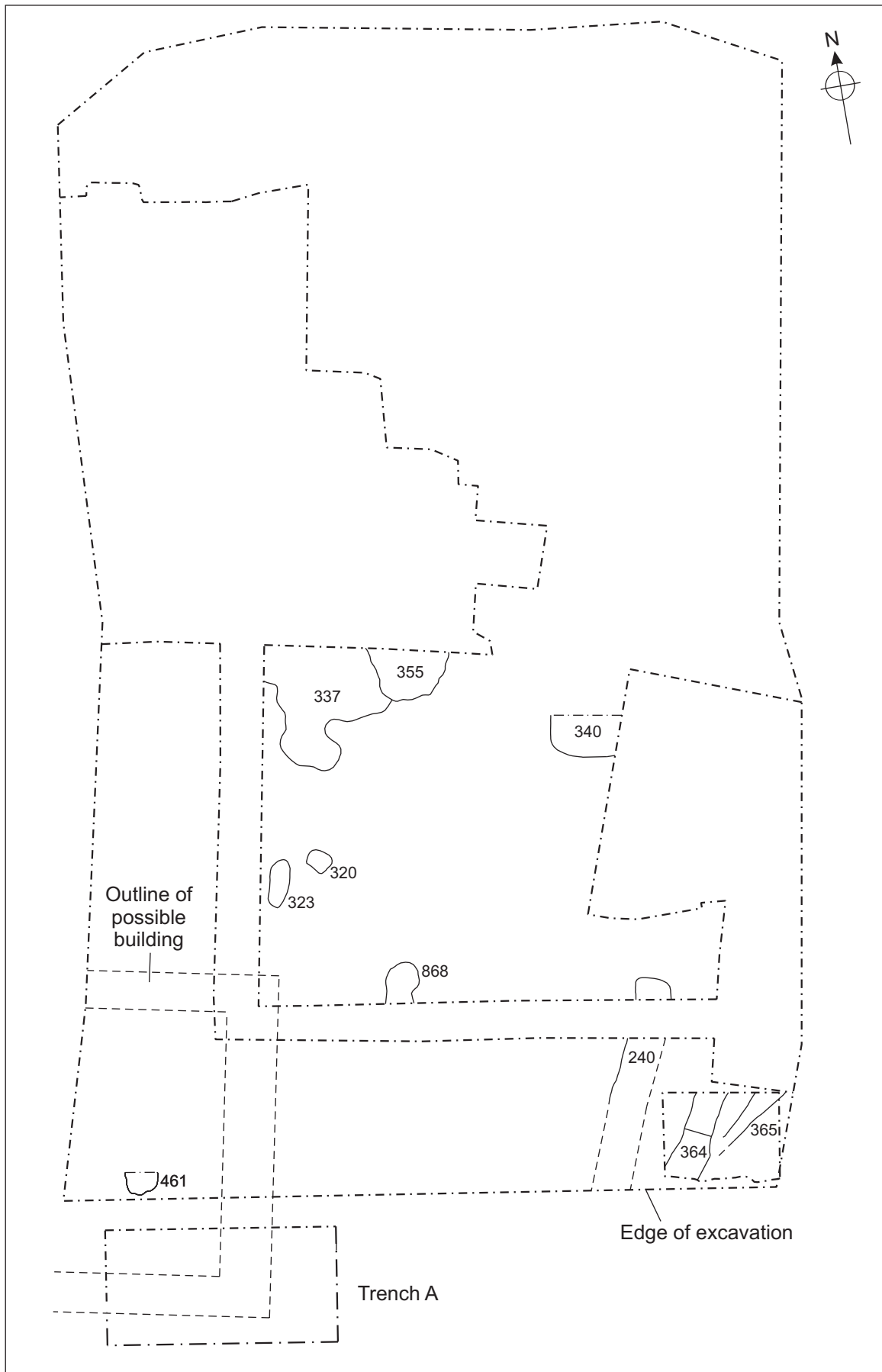


Fig. 6 Phase 5: Medieval features (13th to 14th centuries). Scale 1:100

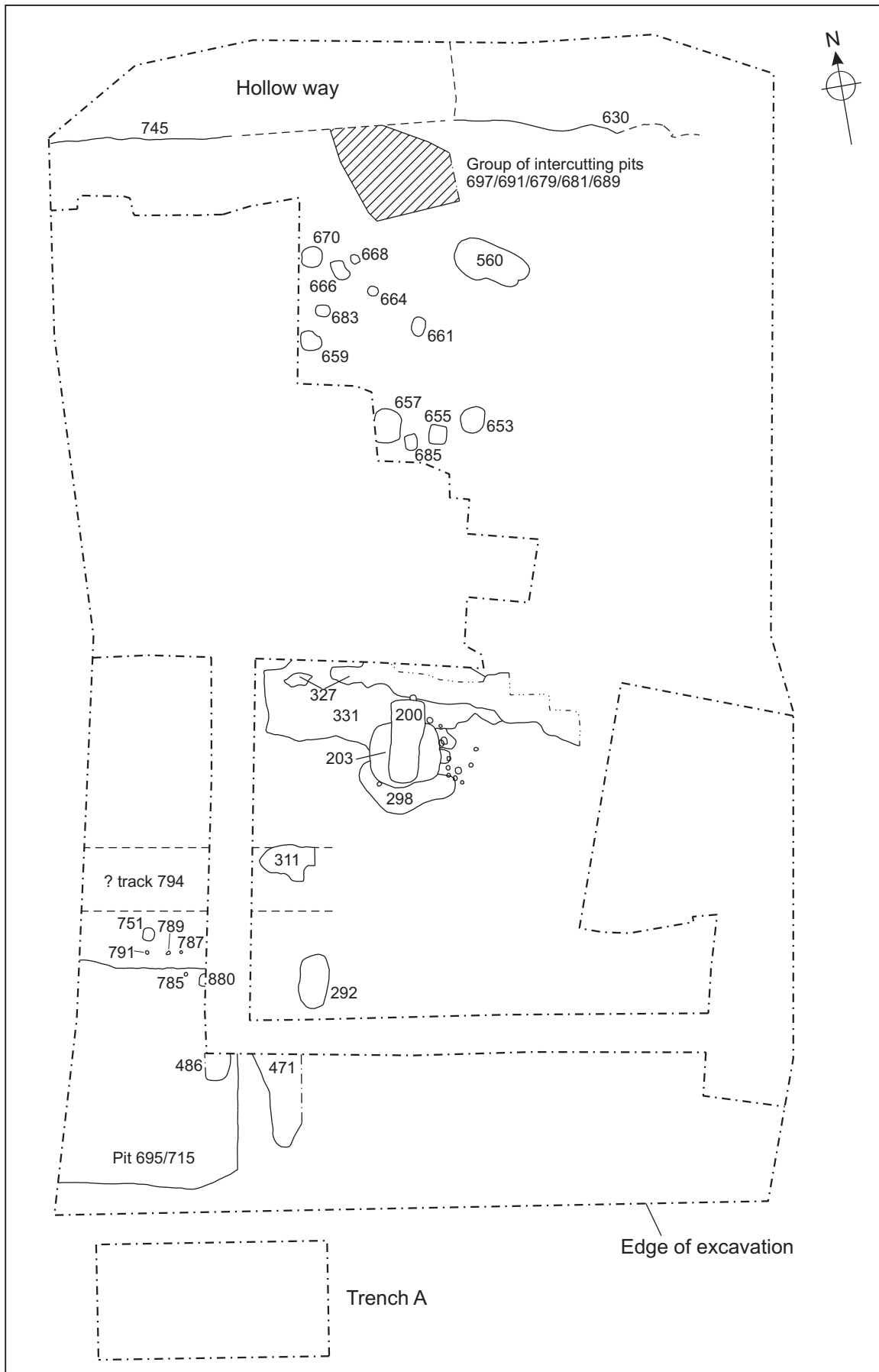


Fig. 7 Phases 6 and 7: Medieval features (14th to 15th centuries).
Scale 1:100

