UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER
Archaeological Services

An Archaeological Excavation At The Vicarage, St Mary's Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire NGR: SP 4276 9376 centre

Tim Higgins

ULAS Report No 2016-043.

An Archaeological Excavation]

At The Vicarage St Mary's Road

Hinckley, Leicestershie

NGR: SP 4276 9376

Tim Higgins

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XA36.2012

The Vicarage, St Mary's Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire

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Summary

Excavations in May – June 2015 at The Vicarage, St Mary's Road Hinckley, Leicestershire (SP 4276 9376) have revealed evidence of medieval settlement activity, represented by possible timber buildings, cobbled yard surfaces and pond features. The timber structures appear to have been short lived and date to the 11th to 12th century. The site may be associated with St Mary's Priory located directly to the north of the site. The Priory was founded by the Benedictine Order before 1209 and was believed to have been closed by the early 1400s. The possible fishponds believed to be associated with the Priory are recorded to the west, south and east of the site shown on the Robinson's Plan, dated 1782. The pond features were periodically cleared but became silted up once the Priory was closed. The site remains as open land during the post-medieval period with the pond features backfilled and the ground levelled by the 17th to 18th centuries. Worked stone fragments were present on the surface within the site and are likely to be associated with the rebuilding of St Marys church in the 19th century.

The archive will be deposited with the Leicestershire County Council Museums Service under the Accession no. X.A36.2012.

Introduction

This report presents the results of archaeological excavations undertaken across part of an area of medieval settlement on land located at The Vicarage, St Mary's Road Hinckley, Leicestershire (centred on the National Grid Reference 442760, 293759). The site is located within the historic core of Hinckley (MLE 2901) and a medieval Priory (MLE 2878) founded by the Benedictine Order before 1209 is recorded immediately to the north and north-west of the site. Fishponds forming a U-Shaped channel (MLE 2880) believed to have been associated with the Priory are recorded to the west of the development site on early maps (Patrick and Gidman 2011). The archaeological work was undertaken in response to plans for new residential development comprising sheltered housing. The initial archaeological potential of the site had been highlighted by a previous desk-based assessment (Patrick and Gidman 2011). A subsequent archaeological evaluation of the site (Browning 2012) suggested the presence of potential medieval settlement activity in the form of ditches and a possible channel or pond within the proposed development area. The features were generally well defined but no closely dateable finds were recovered and their suggested medieval date was therefore tentative. However, they clearly pre-dated the use of the land as gardens and were likely to be medieval or post-medieval in date, possibly related to fishponds associated with the former priory.

Planning permission was granted for the development of a sheltered housing complex with a condition for a scheme of archaeological investigation. The Leicestershire County Council Senior Planning Archaeologist, as archaeological advisor to the planning authority, requested that a strip, map and record excavation be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains of significance as part of a mitigation

strategy. This work was undertaken in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment (March 2012). An archaeological mitigation specification was prepared by CgMs Consulting Limited at request of developers and was approved by the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council.

The work was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) in May and June 2015. The project was managed by Nick Shepherd and Cathy Patrick of CgMs Consulting.

Figure 1 Location Plan

Site description, Topography and Geology

The site covers approximately 0.42ha in the centre of Hinckley, Leicestershire and is located to the south of St. Mary's Church (Fig. 2). It is bounded to the east and south by access roads, which also lead to the Council Offices. To the north of the site is a Scout Hut and St. Mary's Churchyard, while beyond the western boundaries are Florence House and the Masonic Hall. The Vicarage, a detached residence constructed in the 1950s, was located in the centre of the plot. To the north of the building, there were

dense trees and shrubs and a gravelled car parking area, while to the south there were lawns bordered by trees and shrubbery.

The bedrock geology of the site comprises Mudstone of the Mercian Mudstone Formation, while the superficial geology is diamicton of the Oadby Member formation (Geology of Britain viewer: (http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/ Accessed 26th March 2012). The northern part of the site, adjacent to the churchyard lies at 120m OD. From this highest point, the land slopes to the south, dropping by around 3-4m overall. The ground level drops steeply close to the western boundary in the vicinity of a pond.

Historical and Archaeological Background

The site lies within the Hinckley Conservation Area. Although there are no Scheduled Monuments within the site, Hinckley's Motte and Bailey Castle (Scheduled Monument 17039) is located 105m to the north-east.

Prior to the evaluation no previous archaeological work had taken place within the site although a small excavation to the north-west was carried out by Hinckley Fieldwalking Group in 2007. Archaeological remains associated with the medieval Benedictine Priory and post-medieval Hall House were identified and recorded, along with evidence for the manufacture of building ceramics. Some remains relating to 19th century cottages, known as Hunter's Row were also recorded. A geophysical survey undertaken the same year identified possible linear anomalies, which may also relate to the medieval priory. Robinson's Plan of 1782 shows the Priory extending into the northern part of the site, which would correspond with the geophysical anomalies. The site appears to have been within the area enclosed by a U-shaped channel.

The desk-based assessment identified a number of HER entries in the vicinity of the site, based on a search carried out in January 2011 covering a 500m radius (Patrick and Gidman 2011). The only HER entry relating to the prehistoric period refers to an Iron Age brooch found at Hinckley Castle (MLE 6500). Similarly the only known evidence for Roman activity was two sherds of pottery (MLE 18561) found during the excavation of the Priory, directly to the north of the site. Its presence in the Domesday Book indicates that Hinckley was a settlement by the late Saxon period but there are no HER entries relating to this period.

There is considerable activity in and around the site in the medieval period. The site is located within the historic core of Hinckley (MLE 2901) and the HER also records an entry relating to the Priory (MLE 2878). The Priory was founded by the Benedictine Order before 1209 and was dependent on the Abbey of Lire in Normandy, however it seems to have been a small establishment. The last Prior was recorded in 1404, after which it may have been privately owned (Nichols 1812). The Priory was adapted to form a Hall House in the late 16th century, and is recorded immediately to the north and north-west of the site (MLE 2879), while fishponds associated with the Priory are recorded to the west, south and east, forming a U-Shaped moat (MLE 2880). The Scheduled Hinckley Castle (MLE 2890) and its possible rampart (MLE 16342) are located to the north-east. Further medieval remains in the vicinity include a Dominican Priory to the north-east of the site and the Castle (MLE 9162), medieval pottery to the north (MLE 16343), a possible well on Lower Bond Street (MLE 2877), the Market

Place (MLE 2884) to the north-west and, to the west, and a possible medieval road (MLE 2896).

In the post-medieval period, there is one entry for the site itself, relating to the postmedieval garden of Hall House (MLE 2881). Hall House itself was demolished in 1827. Further HER entries refer to the moated fishponds, which were extant into the post-medieval period (MLE 2880) and timber-framed cottages (no longer present) on Church Walk to the north of the site (MLE 2876).

Five evaluation trial trenches were excavated in the grounds of The Vicarage, St. Mary's Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire (NGR SP 4276 9376) between the 13th and 19th March 2012 (Browning 2012). The trenches were excavated by machine to the top of archaeology or undisturbed natural substratum. Four of the trenches produced positive evidence for archaeology in the form of ditches and a possible channel or pond. The features were generally well defined but no closely dateable finds were recovered and their date was therefore tentative. However, they clearly pre-dated the use of the land as gardens and were interpreted to be medieval or post-medieval in date, possibly related to fishponds associated with the former Priory.

Aims and Objectives

The objectives of the mitigation investigation were to:

i. mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeological resource;

ii. establish the date, extent, character and significance of archaeological remains within the site that are to be impacted on by development;

iii. place the results of the mitigation investigation within the broader archaeological context of Hinckley and assess the result within the East Midlands Regional Research Framework and national context, if appropriate;

iv. to analyse the site records, artefacts and ecofacts and to produce an archive, report and publication of the results.

Methodology

In order that the investigation supplied information of the required quality, the *Codes, Standards and Guidance* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) formed a requirement of the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2014).

The archaeological mitigation comprised a strip, map and sample excavation of an area 0.12ha in extent, as shown on Figure 2.

Development proposals in this part of the site were for a reduction in levels to achieve a finished floor level of 114.84m AOD; this was below the level of archaeological survival which had been recorded at 115.39m and 116.29m

It was noted that the natural subsoil was at a significant depth beneath the present ground surface: 0.85m in Trench 3, 0.65 0.94m in Trench 4, 0.80m in Trench 5 and 0.75m 0.91m in Trench 6. Topsoil and any overburden was carefully removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with toothless or toothed bucket to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or natural geology, whichever was the higher. That level was then cleaned by hand.

Given the depth of overlying material and the nature of the archaeology, archaeologically-controlled machine excavation of some archaeological deposits such as the potential pond in Trenches 5 and 6 was to be undertaken with the prior consent of the Senior Planning Archaeologist once the mitigation area had been opened up.

A sample of each feature and/or deposit type, such as pits, post-holes, ditches, occupation horizons, was excavated and recorded. Sample excavation was to specifically target intersections of features so that their stratigraphic relationships could be recorded. Where extensive or complex archaeological remains and deposits were encountered sample excavation was more selective, examining a range of feature and deposit types to a sufficient level to achieve the stated aims of the mitigation works. Typically this was to be at least 50% of discrete features and pits, a minimum 20% length of curvilinear features, a minimum 10% length of linear features, 100% of domestic and industrial features, 75-100% of structural features, 100% of special deposits such as inhumations or cremations. Contingency would be made for the machine-excavation of a further 30% of important enclosure ditches/pond features.

Monitoring meetings were be held during the mitigation works with CgMs Consulting and the Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council.

Watching Brief

Following the strip, map and sample excavation described below at the request of the LCC Senior Planning Archaeologist a watching brief was undertaken of areas unavailable for excavation in view of the presence of a live sewer and also within areas that had ground reduction as a result of landscaping (Fig. 2). The watching brief was undertaken University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) in July and September 2015. Generally during the watching briefs visits the ground-works revealed only disturbed ground conditions. However some additional gully features were revealed in the northern part of the building footprint and have been incorporated into the excavation results below. .

An area of former planting to the north of the old vicarage, to either side of a path connecting the vicarage with the churchyard to the north contained a significant amount of architectural stonework that may be have been connected to a re-building episode of the church. The loose stonework was removed from this area for assessment and potential further analysis (see Appendix 2 below). Further ground reduction as a result of landscaping was monitored but no more stonework was revealed.

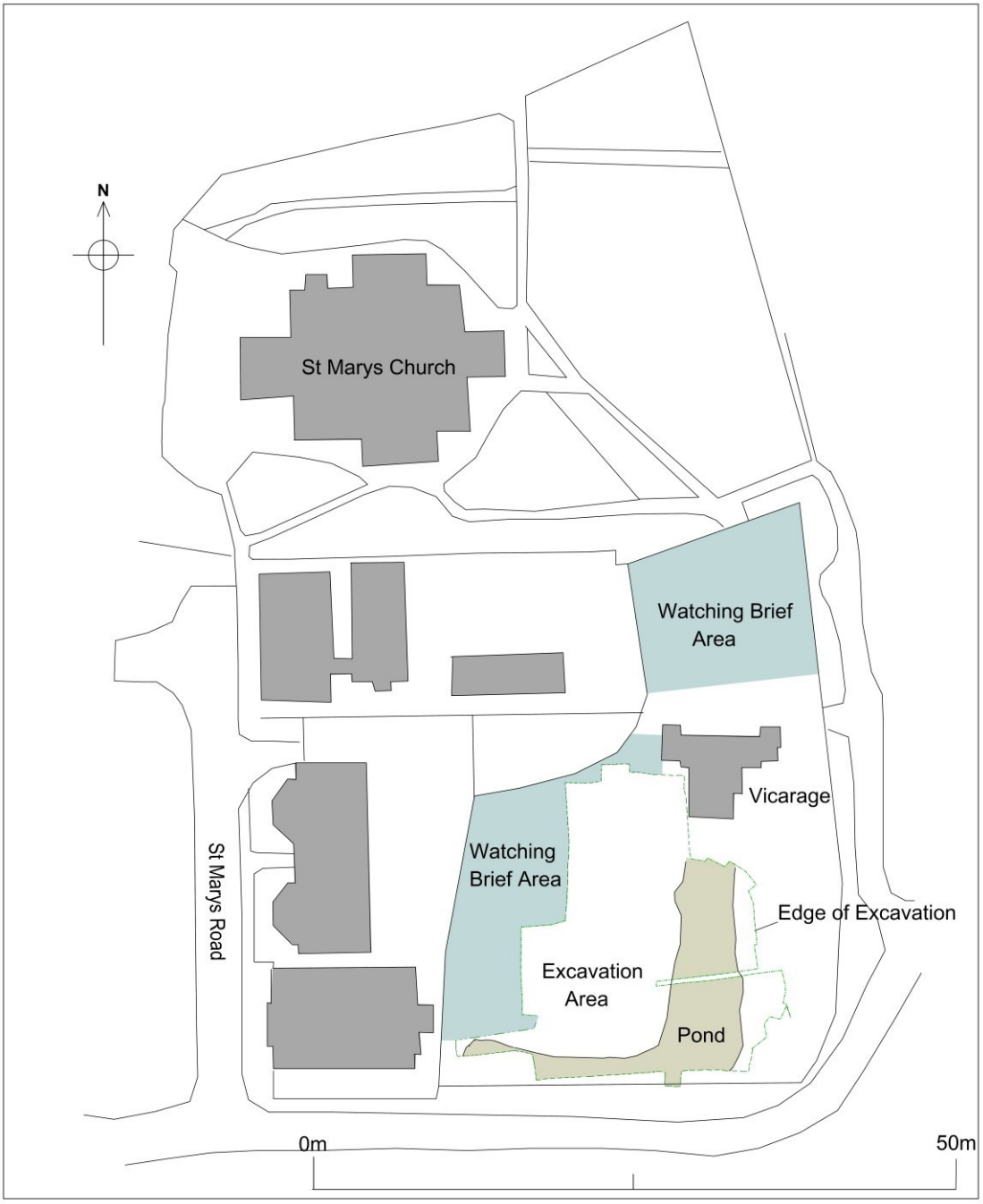

Figure 2 Location of Strip, map and sample excavation (green) and watching brief (blue)

Strip, map and sample excavation Results

Note: Archaeological contexts as a cut are indicated by square brackets e.g. [74], while those that are fills or layers are in indicated by round brackets e.g. (61). There was not a great variation within the fills of the features that were generally fairly homogenous Light brown grey clay-silt-sands. Only notable deposits are described more fully within the excavation results.

Phasing has not been possible due to an absence of diagnostic material. Essentially there are two elements. To the west are groups of post-holes, some gullies and hearths while to the east, south and south-east are a series of silted up channels and ponds. The post-holes have been tentatively interpreted as representing rectangular structures based on their position and the extent of cobbled surfaces assuming they are of external yards. No

relationships have been established between these structures and the channel pond features but it is assumed the ponds are of medieval origin and may be contemporary.

Pre-medieval

During excavations worked flint of a later prehistoric Neolithic or Early-Bronze Age date and a few Roman pottery sherds and ceramic building material (CBM) were recovered as residual finds within features (below p. 31-32).

Medieval

Building 1 (Figs 3, 4, 5 and 6)

East Wall foundations
Post-holes Cut [163] (164), [171] (172), [179] (180), [181] (182), [185] (186), [187] (188), [189] (190), [197] (198), [205] (206), [263] (264)

West Wall Foundations
Post-hole [173] (174)

South Wall Foundations
Post-hole [211] (212)

Possible Extension Structure foundations
Post-holes [138] (137), [140] (139), [145] (146) [147] (148), [161] (162)

Internal Structures
Post-holes [175] (176), [177] (178), [183] (184), [199] (200), [201] (202)

Pavements Yard surfaces
Spreads (215), (418), (425), (426)

Possible Fence Post-holes
[105] (104), [107] (106), [136] (135), [213] (214)

Finds:
Fired Baked Clay [140] (139), [145] (146) [147] (148), [161] (162), [136] (135) (see below p.32),

Building 1 consisted of post-holes which can be tentatively interpreted as forming a rectangular structure based on the position of the post-holes and extent of cobbled surfaces assuming they are external to the building. A possible angled rectangular extension or perhaps more likely a different phase building is located on the east side. These foundations consisted of series of ten post-holes on the east side, [263], [205], [197], [189], [179], [171], [163], [185], [187], [181]) orientated north-east to southwest and a single opposing post-hole [173] on the east side. Another single post-hole may represent a south side foundation [211]. The building measured 11.70m long and 5.00m wide. Typically the post-holes contained either mid yellow brown sandy-silt mixed with 1% sub-rounded pebbles and 4% charcoal flecks or a dark reddish brown clay silt mixed with 3% charcoal flecks and fragments of daub. The east wall foundations comprised

of three large post-holes [263], [189] and [181] that were broadly bowl shape features with steep sides and wide flat bases and measured between 1.00m and 0.52m in diameter and from 0.12m to 0.22m deep. The remaining post-holes were smaller 'U' Shape features with steep sides and rounded bases. The post-holes measured between 0.34m and 0.48m in diameter and 0.11m to 0.18m deep. The south wall post-hole was a sub-circular post-hole or stake hole with 'U' shape profile that had moderate to steep sloping sides and concave base, measuring 0.20m in diameter and 0.06m deep. On the west side of the structure was a large circular posthole with steep concave sloping sides and concave base, measuring 0.43m long, 0.28m wide and 0.15m deep. On the east side the building an additional rectangular structure appears to have been constructed with five post-holes and measured 3.20m long and 2.95m wide. The post-holes comprised three large bowl shaped features [138], [147] and [161] that had steep sides and broad undulating bases and measured up to 0.65m long, 0.39m wide and 0.17m deep. The remaining two post-holes were smaller in size with 'V' and 'U' shape profiles that measured 0.50m in diameter and up to 0.17m deep. Although this may be an angled porch arrangement it is perhaps more likely to represent a small building of another phase.

The building appeared to have seven additional internal post-holes within the structure ([175], [177], [183], [199], [201]) which are perhaps either internal subdivisions or perhaps support the building's roof. Three of the post-holes [185], [199] and [201] were large and bowl shape and had steep sloping sides and broad flat bases. The features measured between 0.45m and 0.67m long, 0.45m wide and up to 0.18m deep. The four remaining post-holes were smaller in size with 'V' and 'U' shape profiles that measured 0.16m and 0.27m in diameter and up to 0.20m deep.

Externally the building appeared to be associated with potential yard surfaces (215), (418), (425) and (426) that appear to respect and surround Building 1. The surface spreads comprised pale grey silty-sandy-clay mixed with abundant rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks and fragments of daub or fired clay. The spreads were irregular in shape but spread (215) appeared to be a linear path running north to south and was approaching the east side building and what might be a potential threshold or porch. Another spread [418] appeared to respect or abut the west side of the building. To the east and south-east a group of additional post-holes ([105], [107], [136] and [213]) were uncovered at this level. Their function was uncertain but they may have been for fence posts rather than footings for buildings.

Figure 3 Location of pond feature with Buildings 1 and 2. The projected outlines of possible rectangular buildings are shown as dashed lines

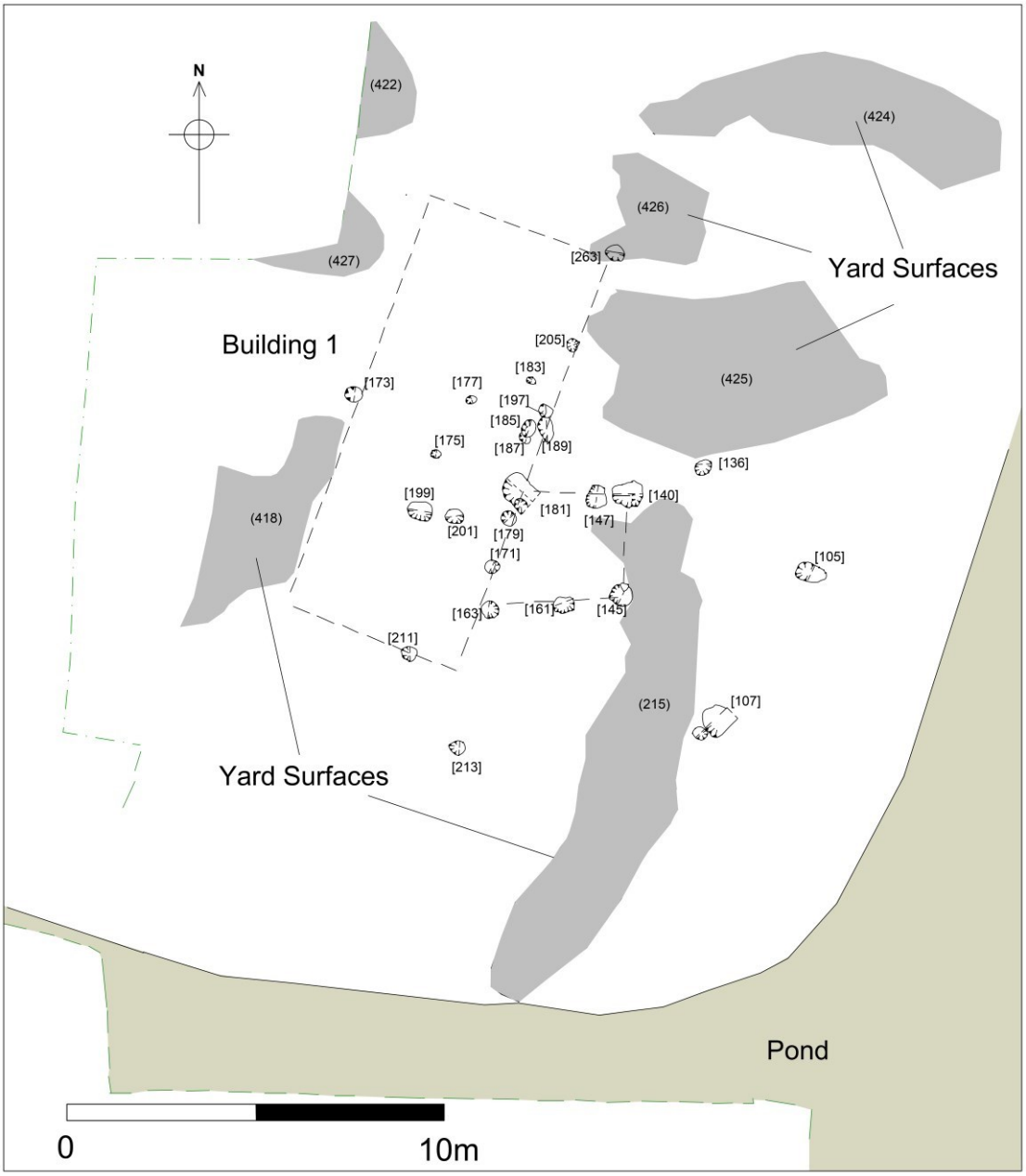

Figure 4 Building 1 and associated features. The projected outlines of possible rectangular buildings are shown as dashed lines

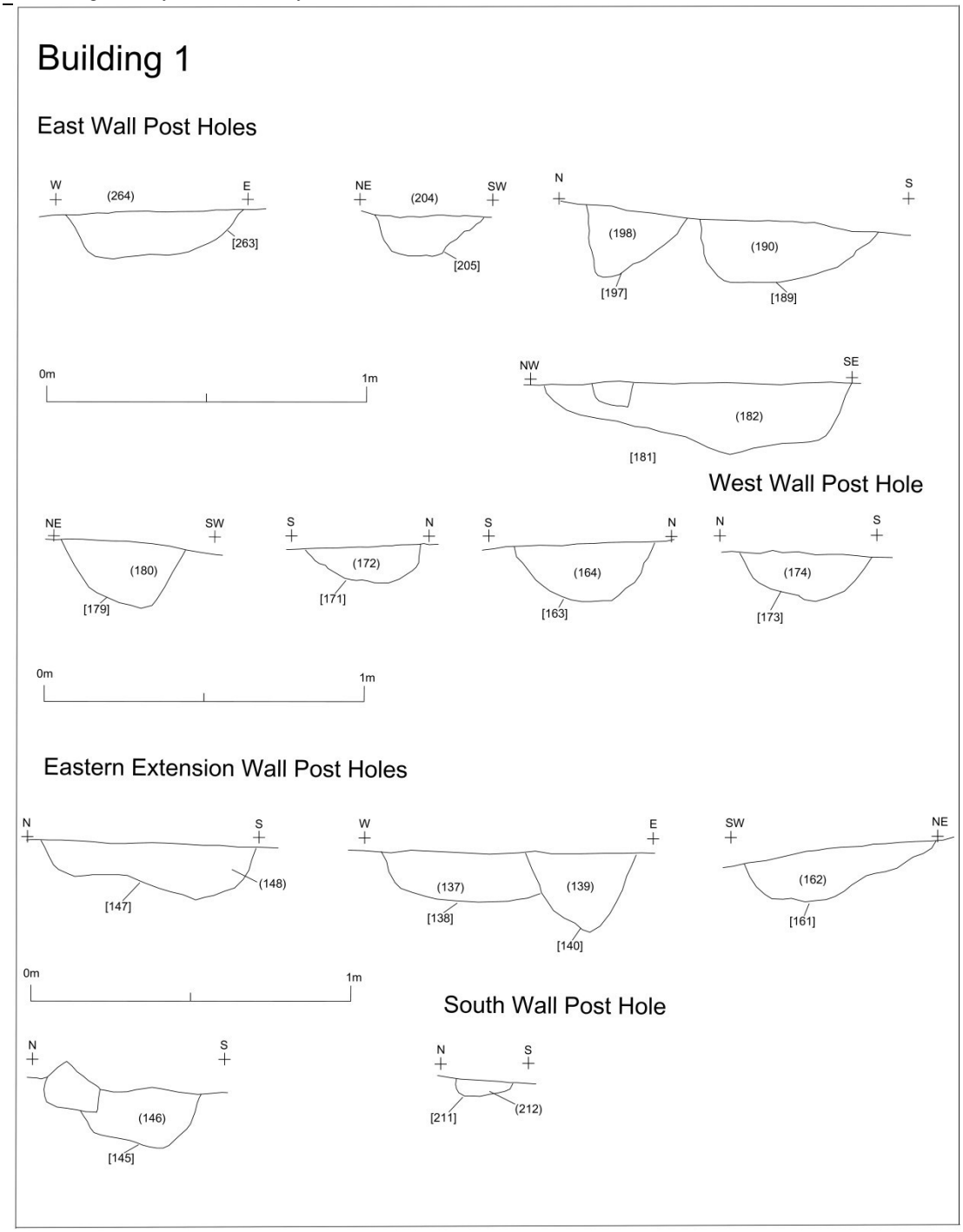

Figure 5 Building 1 sections. Average archaeological level 114.80m OD

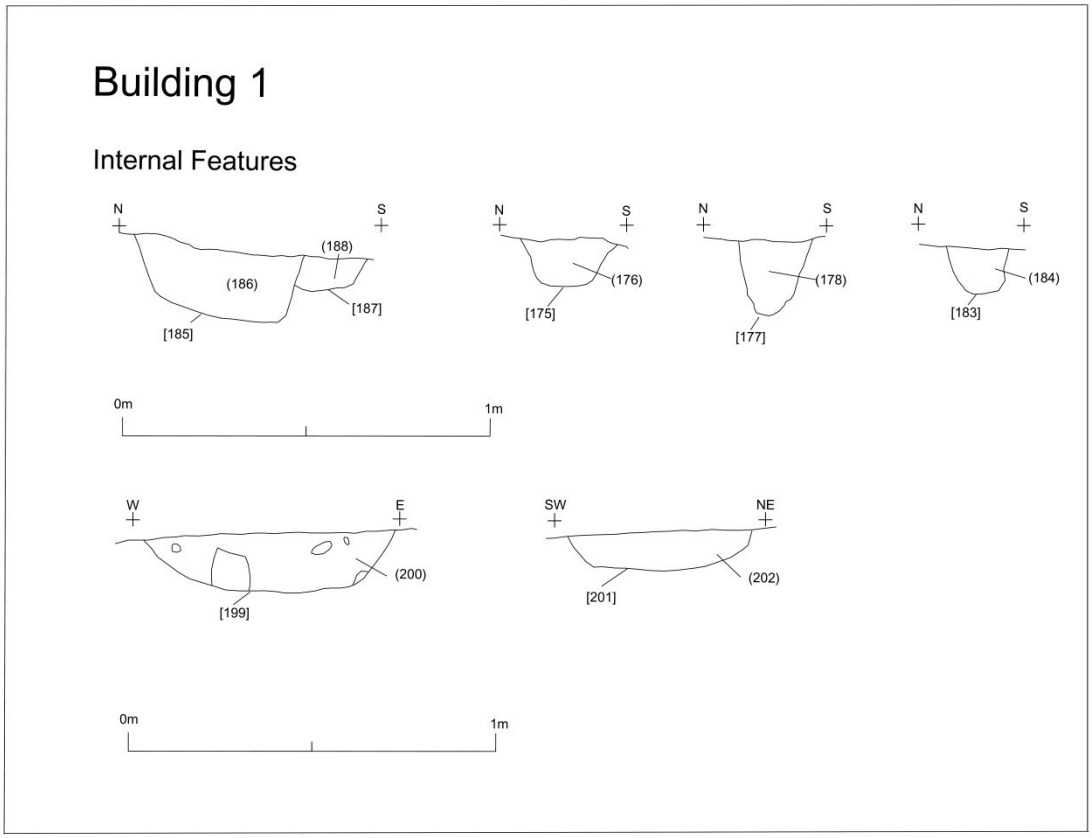

Figure 6 Building 1 internal features sections. Average archaeological level 114.80m OD

Plate 1 Yard or pavement surfaces Building 1 looking south

Building 2 (Figs 3, 7, 8, 9, 10)

East Wall Foundations
Post-holes [150] (149), [152] (151), [156] (155), [167] (166), [194] (193), [204] (203) [225] (224), [227] (226), [231] (230), [247] (246), [251] (250)

South Wall Foundations
Post-holes [235] (234), [237] (236), [239] (238), [241] (240)

West Wall Foundations
Post-holes [268] (267), [270] (269) [276] (275), [278] (277), [280] (279), [293] (292), [295] (294), [339] (338), [345] (344), [347] (346), [349] (348), [351] (350), [357] (356), [362] (361)

West Extension Foundations
Post-holes [343] (342), [383] (384), [385] (386), [387] (388) [389] (390), [391] (392), [397] (398), [427] (428),

Internal Features
Post-holes [154] (153), [192] (191), [208] (207), [210] (209),
[272] (271), [276] (275), [287] (286), [289] (288), [290] (291), [341] (340),

Beam Slot [285] (284)

Possible Fence Structure Post-holes
[158] (157), [170] (169) (168), [196] (195), [221] (220), [223] (222), [229] (228), [233] (232), [244] (245), [247] (246), [360] (359), [364] (363), [399] (400), [401] (402), [403] (404), [405] (406), [407] (408),

Boundary/Drainage Ditches
[101] (100), [373] (374) (375), [415] (412), [417] (414)

Yard Surfaces
(382), (421), (423)

Finds
Pottery [401] (402), SN – St Neots type ware c.11th C+, [373] (374) (375) SN – St Neots type ware *c.*11th C+
Fired baked clay [101] (100), [150] (149), [204] (203), [223] (222), [270] (269) [276] (275) [287] (286), [289] (288), [290] (291), [341] (340), [373] (374) (375), [399] (400),
Fuel Ash [276] (275)
Flint Secondary Flake [101] (100), [293] (292),
A few fragments animal bone present [373] (375), [403] (402)

Building 2 was located approximately 7m to the north of Building 1, and can be tentatively interpreted as forming a broadly rectangular structure based on the position of the post-holes and extent of cobbled surfaces assuming they are external to the building. Building 2 also appear to respect a group of drainage ditches or gullies located to the north-west.

The structure consisted again of post-hole foundations forming another possible rectangular structure with an additional smaller rectangular extension located on the

west side. These foundations consisted of series of 11 post-holes on the east side, ([150], [152], [156], [167], [194], [204], [225], [227], [231], [247] [251]) orientated north-east to south-west and opposing 15 post-holes ([362], [351], [349], [347], [357], [347], [345], [339], [293] [295], [280], [278], [276], [268], [270]) on the west side. Another four post-holes represented a south side of the building ([241], [239], [237], [235]). This building measured 11.70m long and 3.60m wide and was orientated north-east to south-west. On the west side another group of eight post-holes ([343], [427], [397], [385], [387], [383], [391], [389]) appeared to form a rectangular extension measuring approximately 3.60m long and 2.40m wide. Generally the postholes contained either mid yellow brown sandy-silt mixed with sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks or dark reddish brown clay-silt mixed with charcoal flecks and abundant fragments of fired daub or clay.

The east wall foundations comprised of three large post-holes [150], [227] and [249] that were broadly oval 'U' shape features with steep sides and rounded bases and measured between 0.33m and 0.45m in diameter and from 0.18m to 0.28m deep. Another five post-holes [152], [167], [194] and [204] were smaller with 'V' shaped profiles and measured between 0.15m and 0.35m in diameter and up to 0.28m deep. To the south-east were three smaller shallow 'U' shaped post-holes [231], [247] and [251] with steep sides and rounded bases measured between 0.15m and 0.25m in diameter and up to 0.10mdeep.

The opposing west side of the rectangular structure had four large post-holes [362], [357], [270] and [268] that were broadly oval with steep sides and rounded bases and measured between 0.30m and 0.40m in diameter and from 0.18m to 0.39m deep. One of the post settings [399] was very different in character. It comprise post pad that measured 0.70m long, 0.60m wide and 0.11m deep with shallow irregular sides and base and contained a mid dark grey sandy-silt with packing material of several medium and large pebbles mixed burnt daub fragments. Seven post-holes were smaller shallow 'U' Shape features [351], [349], [347], [345], [293] [295] and [280] which had steep sides and rounded bases an measured between 0.20m and 0.35m in diameter and up to 0.13m deep.

The south wall foundations comprised of four 'U' Shape features [241], [239], [237], and [235] with steep sides and rounded bases measuring between 0.35m and 0.015m in diameter and up to 0.19m deep.

On the west side of the building an additional rectangular structure appears to have been constructed with nine post-holes [343], [427], [397], [385], [387], [383], (384), [391], [389] and measured 3.20m long and 2.95m wide. Seven of post-holes [343], [385], [383], [391], [389] were small shallow features with 'V' and 'U' shape profiles that measured 0.16m to 0.22m in diameter and up to 0.06m deep. The remaining three post-holes [427], 397] and [387] were larger and had either 'U' and 'V' profiles that measured up to 0.45m in diameter 0.17m deep.

This building had ten additional internal post-holes and one possible beam slot [285] within the structure, which were perhaps either internal sub-divisions or perhaps foundations to support the building's roof. Six of the post-holes [291], [341], [154], [208], [210] and [192] were large 'U' shaped features with steep sloping sides and rounded bases. The features measured between 0.25m and 0.35m long, 0.20m to 30m wide and up to 0.19m deep. The four remaining post-holes were small stake holes with

'V' and 'U' shape profiles that measured 0.15m to 0.20m in diameter and up to 0.12m deep. The narrow beam slot [285] had a north-east to south-west orientation and measured 1.20m long, 0.15m wide and 0.07m deep.

Like Building 1 this structure may have potential external metalling or yard surfaces (382), (421) and (423) that appear to respect the building on the west side. The surface spreads comprised pale grey silty-sandy-clay mixed with abundant rounded pebbles, occasional charcoal flecks and fragments of daub or fired clay. The spreads were sub rectangular and (421) appeared to be a pavement approaching a potential threshold or entrance on the west side. Another metalling spread [423] was located in the south-west corner of the building and was perhaps another threshold or entrance into the structure. This metalled surface also appeared to be enclosed with a potential fence enclosure structure ([362], [363] [401], [360], [407], [405], [403], [401] and [399]) located to the directly to south-west.

On the south-east side a line of post-holes ([233], [229], [196] and [223] [221] [170] and [158]) were uncovered at this level. Their function was uncertain but they may be from a boundary fence running north-east to south-west in alignment with the building. The north-east corner the structure was bounded by two narrow drainage ditches or gullies, [101], [373], [415] and [417], running in a west to east direction and turned sharply to the south before terminating and apparently respecting Building 2. These linear features had moderate concave sloping sides and rounded bases, measuring between 0.20m to 0.28m deep and 0.20m to 0.70m wide, with grey brown silty sand fills mixed with infrequent small pebbles and some charcoal flecks abundant fired clay or daub fragments.

The Structures and buildings from Phase 1 appeared to be abandoned and may have been dismantled or demolished. Many of the post-holes associated with Buildings 1 and 2 contained numerous fragments of fired/baked clay or daub, many of the pieces weighing less than 10 grams. Wattle impressions were visible on some of the larger fragments, which had clearly been used as daub. The gullies associated with Building 2 ([101], [373], [415] and [417]) also contained larger fragments of fired clay or daub and are perhaps deposits associated the dismantling or demolition of the buildings that were then swept into the gullies. Other finds included pottery sherds of St Neots type ware from post-hole [401] (402), and gully [373] (374) (375) of *c*.11th century date.

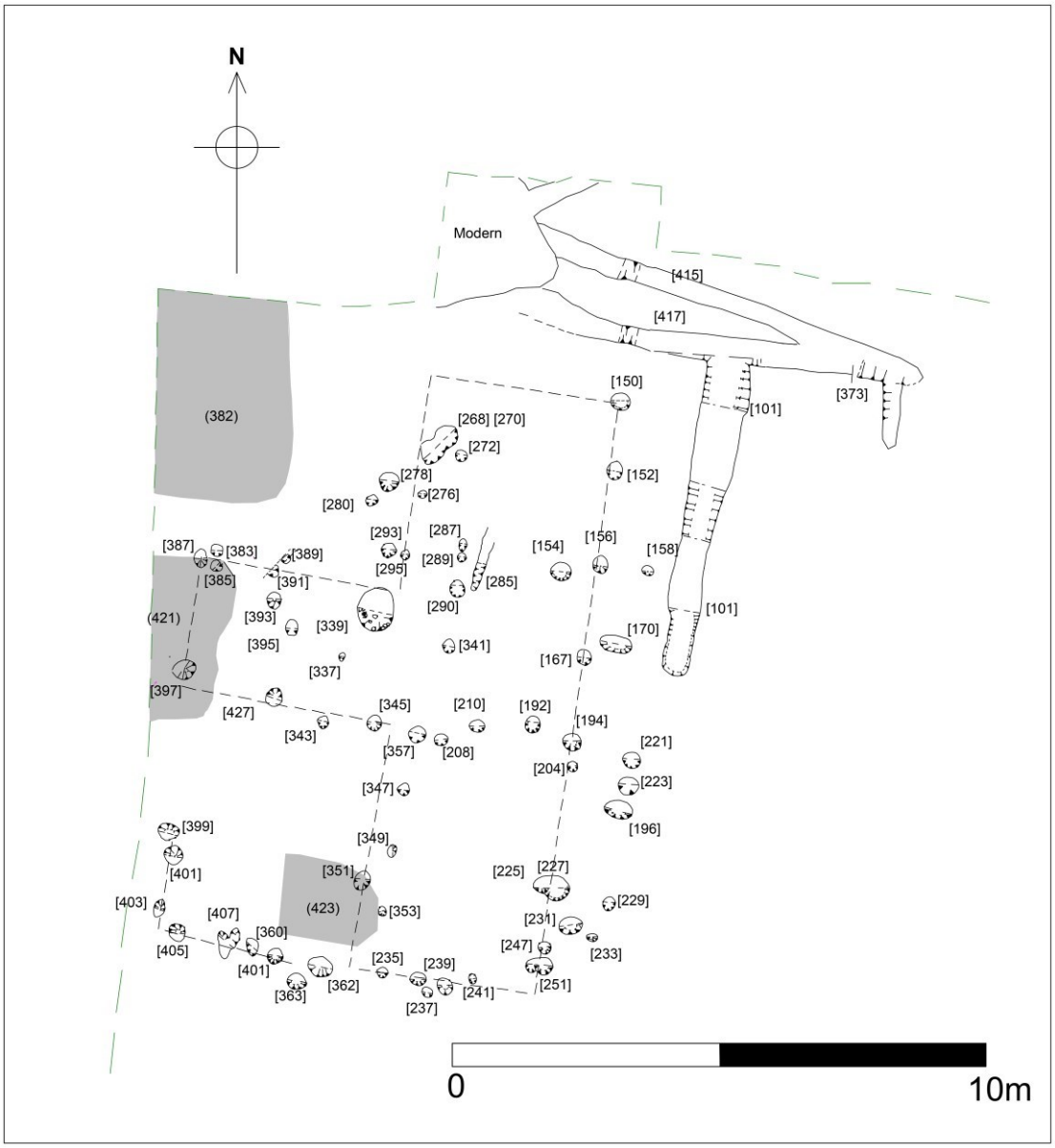

Figure 7 Building 2

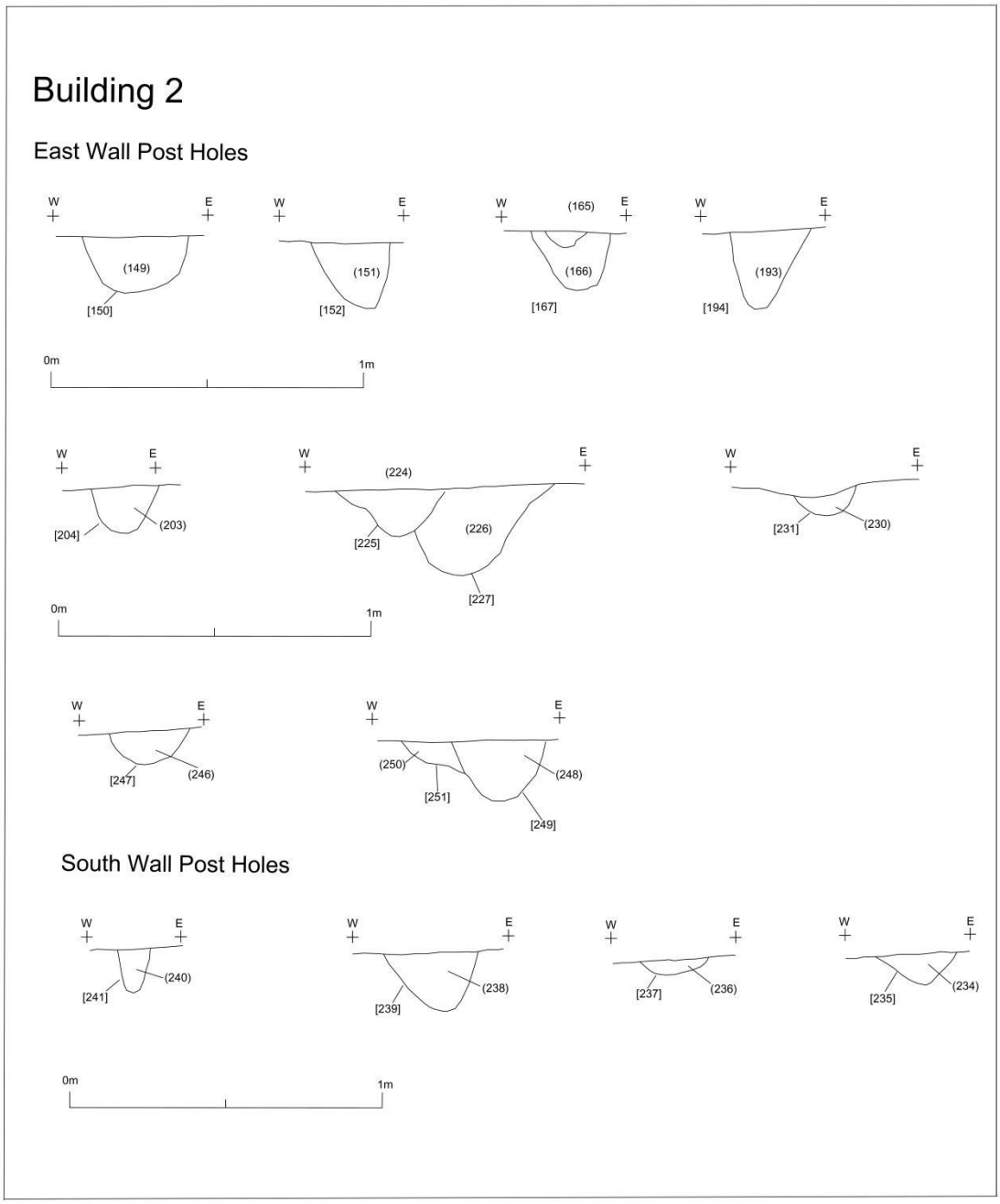

Figure 8 Building 2 sections. Average archaeological level 115.80m OD

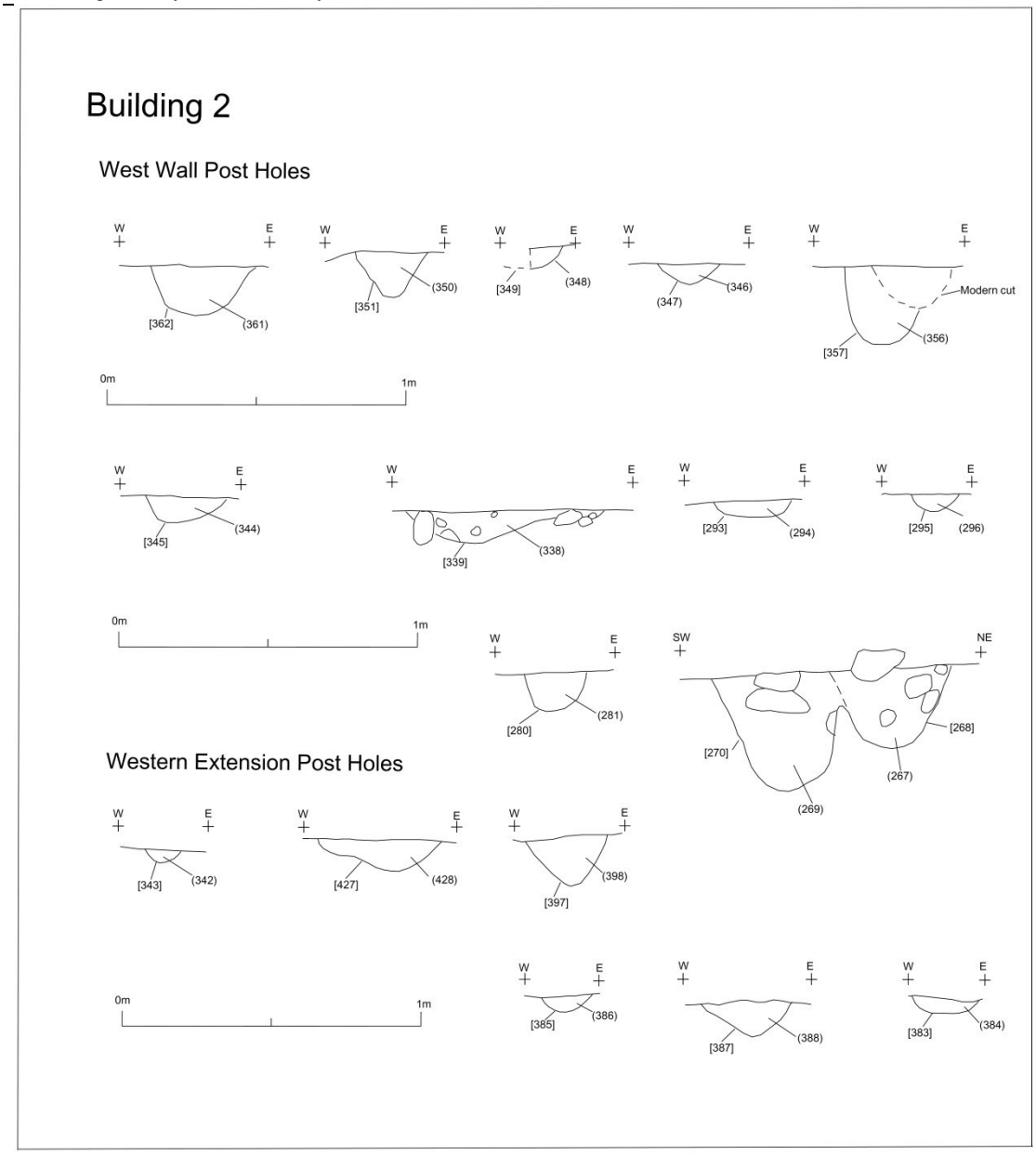

Figure 9 Building 2 sections. Average archaeological level 115.80m OD

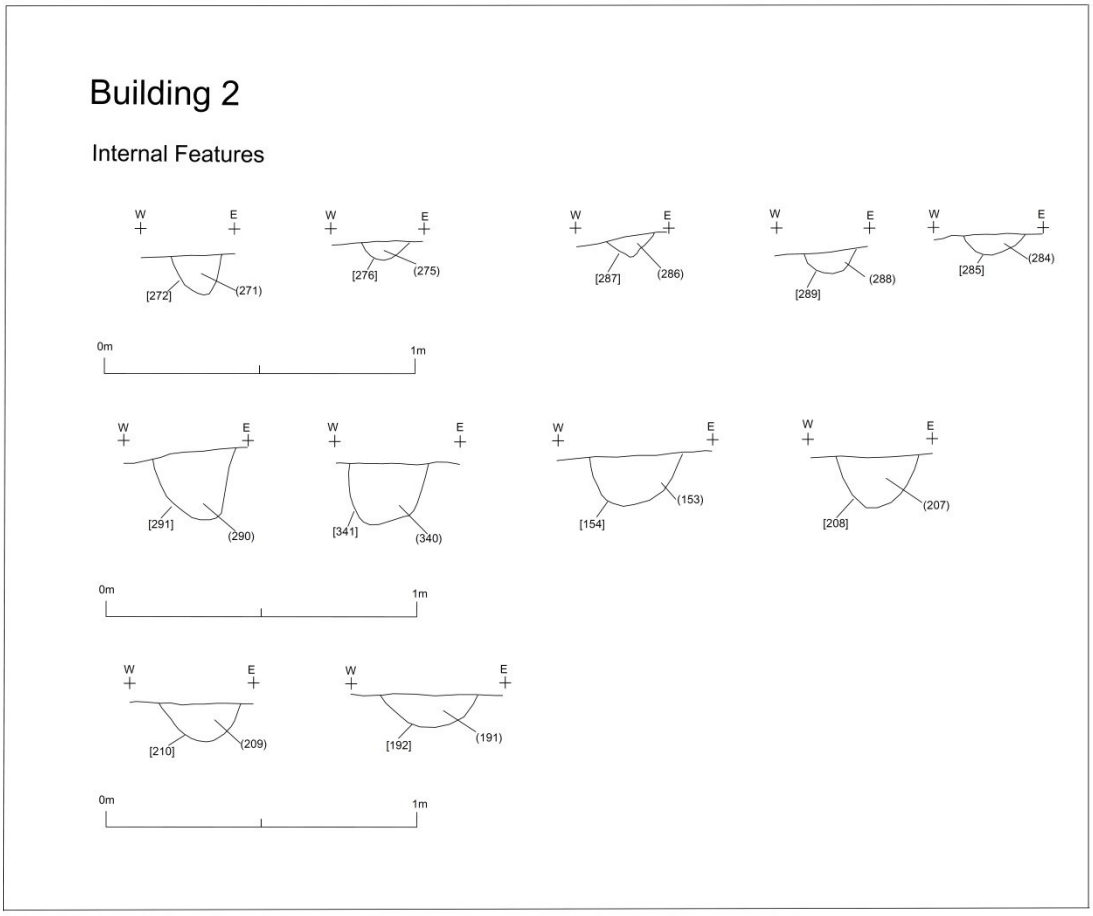

Figure 10 Building 2 internal features sections. Average archaeological level 115.80m OD

Plate 2 Excavated post-holes and gully Building 2 looking east

Plate 3 Excavated Post-holes and gully Building 2 looking west

Phase 2 Medieval Open land (Fig 11)

Destruction Layers
(216) (217)

Hearth/Oven [265] (266)
Hearth/Spread (283)
Pits [159] (160), [296] (331) (332) (333), [298] (315) (316)

Finds
A fragment animal bone (216)

Overlying the various yard surfaces abandoned structures and gullies, layers of soil had accumulated (216) and (217). These deposits comprised pale grey silty-sandy- clay mixed with a few rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks which also contained various fragments of daub or fired clay perhaps resulting from demolition material being spread across the site.

Two potential hearths were cutting or overlying layers (216) and (217). The first hearth [265] (266) in the north-west corner of the site comprised a sub-rectangular cut with moderately sloping sides and a flat base and measured 3.25m long, 1.20m wide and 0.20m deep. At the eastern end of the feature a red sub-circular halo of scorched natural substratum was observed at the base of the feature. The deposit measured 0.90m long and 0.65m wide and could be the location of a fire pit within this kiln, oven or hearth. The hearth had been backfilled with dark greyish brown silty-clay mixed with abundant flecks of charcoal, fired clay and fragments of millstone grit.
A second potential hearth (283) was located towards the centre of the site, but was heavily disturbed by tree roots. It comprised brown orange silty-clay mixed with frequent sub-rounded stones and abundant charcoal flecks covering an area *c*. 1.6m by

1.6m under a tree stump which has disturbed the feature. A halo of burning scorched substratum encircled the deposit. The function of both hearths was uncertain.

Further to the south a group of small pits ([159], [296], [298]) was found to be cutting layers (216) and (217) and are thought to be small scale quarry pits. A small pit [159] with shallow sloping sides and irregular base was located close to Hearth (283). Measuring 1.10m long, 0.40m wide 0.10m it contained a fill (160) of charcoal, silty clay and occasional pebbles. Another shallow pit [298] was found further east close to the pond feature. The feature was roughly circular in plan with steeply sloping concave sides and a rounded base, and measured 1.25m in diameter and 0.54m deep. The primary fill (315) comprised mid greyish brown sandy-clay mixed with occasional stones and charcoal flecks. The pit appeared to have been capped with a second fill (316) that consisted of mid brownish grey silty clay with orange patches mixed with occasional rounded pebbles. A third larger pit [296] was partially revealed four metres to the west of pit [298]. The feature was semi-circular with steep slightly convex sides and contained a lower fill of light brown-grey clay-silt mixed with occasional stones and charcoal flecks. Overlying this was (332) a mid-browngrey clay-silt mixed with small pebbles below a third fill (333) a mid-grey brown sandy-clay-silt mixed with stones.

Post-medieval Open land

Spread (334)

Boundary Fence
Post-holes [103] (102), [115] (114), [117] (116), [122] (121), [124] (123), [126] (125), [128] (127), [130] (129), [132] (131), [134] (133), [218] (219), [242] (243), [244] (245),

Wall Foundation [419] (420)

Finds
Pottery [130] (129), Fine White Earthenware/China
Fired baked clay [115] (114), [117] (116), [126] (125), [132] (131), [265] (266), [298] (315) (316

There was another phase of activity that consisted of boundary fences and wall that appeared to have been deposited or cut through spread (334). This layer had accumulated over the hearth features to a depth of 0.15m and comprised mid greyish brown silty-sandy-clay mixed with a few rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks.

The fence line comprised 13 post-holes ([122], [124], [126], [128], [130], [132], [134], [244], [242], [117], [115], [103], [218]) located towards the centre of the site and suggested a boundary on a north-east to south-west alignment. All the post-holes typically contained either grey brown sandy-silt with occasional charcoal flecks or mottled orange grey sandy-silt with frequent sub-rounded stones. The post-holes varied in size and shape and were either small circular features with 'U' shape profile that measured *c*. 0.27m long, 0.18m wide and 0.10m deep, or large oval post-holes with 'U' shape profiles measuring 0.57m long, 0.41m wide and 0.33m deep.

To the west of the fence line an east to west boundary wall appeared to have been established [419] (420). The foundation comprised an irregular linear cut with steep vertical side and rounded base that measured 9.60m long, 0.80m wide and 0.20m deep. The rubble un-mortared foundation comprised large angular granite stones mixed or bonded with dark greyish brown clay-silt.

Figure 11 Plan of post-medieval features and location of pond feature sections

Medieval Pond Feature

Pond Feature channels/ditches (Figs 11, 12, 13, 14, 15)

Section A-A
Pond Channel
[252] (253) (254)
Section B-B
[354] (355) (261) (260)

Section C-C
Pond Channel
[300] (312) (313) (314)
Section D-D
[300] (312) (313) (314)

Finds
Fired Clay [252] (253) (254) [354] (355) (261) (260)
Roman brick or tile [252] (253) (254)
Fragments of animal bone present including cattle and sheep (260) (261)

The eastern and southern sides of the site contained very large features thought to be silted up ponds associated with the Priory to the north and north-west. The eastern side of the site contained a series of inter cutting linear ditches or channels [252], [354] and [300] running north to south. The northern extent of these channels is unknown as they run beyond the limit of excavation, but they did extended southwards following the natural gradient down to a large basin or pond feature [378] [430], located at the southern edge of the site

The earliest channels [252], [354] and [300] had minimum lengths of 27m and measured 2.40m wide and 1.00m deep at northern end. The cut of the channel at the northern end comprised a 'U' shaped profile with steep irregular sides and wide rounded base. Towards the southern end the profile [354] had widened to 4.70m and increased in depth to 1.55m towards the southern end with moderate sloping sides and wide slightly undulating base. As channel the approached the pond it reverted back to
'U' Shape and narrowed to 2.90m width and 1.55m deep.

The channels contained primary silts (253), (261), (312) and (355) comprised dark pinkish brown or light yellow-brown silty-clay mixed with occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks. The secondary fills (254), (260), (313) and (314) consisted of dark grey clay or light grey brown sandy clay mixed with orange patches of sand. They also contained occasional small stones and flecks of charcoal. The only finds associated with these deposits were residual Roman brick or tile and fragments of fired clay

Re-cut Pond channels/ditches

Section B-B
[118] (119) (120)
Section C-C
[299] (304) (358) (305) (306) (307)
Section C-C
[297] (317) (318) [298] (315) (316)
Section D-D
[301] (321) (322); [302] (319)
Section D-D
[141] [143] [299] (144) (304) (305) (306) (325) (326) (327) (328) (329) (330)
Section D-D
[143] (358)

Finds (below p.31-33)

Fired Clay [118] (119) (120), [141] [143], [299] (304) (358) (305) (306) (307), [297] (317) (318), [298] (315) (316),
Roman brick or tile [118] (119) (120)
A few fragments of animal bone (144)
Animal bone fragments present including cattle [299](304)

The original channel appeared to have been allowed to silt up and then periodically cleared indicated by various recuts ([118], [141], [143], [299] [297], [298], [301], [302]). Other additional channels appeared to cut along the side of the original channel during this period. The channels were all broadly linear and some were more narrow with gradually sloping sides and rounded undulating bases. They measured between 0.70m and 1.20m wide and 0.40m deep. Other re-cut channels were much wider with moderate slightly stepped sides and wide undulating bases. These cuts measured up to 2.00m wide and 1.50m deep. The re-cuts contained fills (119), (304), (315), (317), (321) (325) that comprised light brown grey with orange brown or dark brown grey clay-silt-sand mixed with small rounded pebbles and a few flecks of charcoal. Some of the channels had secondary fills ((120), (304), (305), (306), (307), (316), (318), (322), (326) (327), (328), (329), (330), (304), (305), (306), (358)) that comprised either dark brown grey or mid greyish brown clay-silt mixed with frequent charcoal flecks and stones. The finds within these deposits were sparse and included Roman brick or tile and fragments of fired clay.

The Pond Feature

Pond Feature
Section E-E
[430] (431)

Section F-F
[378] (434)

A large feature thought to be a pond [378], was found towards the southern end of site orientated east to west. The feature was not fully exposed during the strip for these excavations, but from what was excavated the feature appeared to be sub-rectangular with rounded ends. The feature measured 38m long and had a minimum width of 7m. Only the northern side of the feature was revealed in the excavation area, the southern side extending southward beyond the site and under the adjacent road. Trench excavations on the northern side of the feature suggest a minimum depth of 1.80m and revealed a dark yellow-brown silt-clay (434) natural silting at the base of the pond.

Post-medieval

Final Re-cut Clearance Pond Channel ditches

Section A-A
[256] (255) (257)
Section B-B
[258] (259)
Section C-C

[303] (311) (308) (309)
Section D-D
[303] (320)
(308) (309)

Finds
Fired Clay [303] (320)
Flint
[256] (255) (257) Flint Scraper
Lava quern
[256] (255) (257)

There appears to have been a final attempt to partially clear the channels ([256], [258], [303]) and then backfill them with layers of clay. The final clearance cuts were generally shallow up to 5.50m wide and 0.40m deep with steep sides and broad flat bases. Other final clearance cuts comprised linear cuts with shallow 'U' shape sides and a rounded base, that measured 1.00m wide by 0.58m deep. The channels appeared to have been capped or sealed with fills (255), (257), (259), (308), (309) and (311) that consisted of pinkish reddish brown silty-clay mixed with charcoal flecks, pebbles and occasional fired clay or daub fragments. The finds again were rare in these final deposits and included residual flint and occasional fired clay fragments. Six joining, but undiagnostic and abraded, fragments from a lava quern were recovered from (257). Rotary querns, manufactured from Niedermendig basalt from the Eifel mountains in Germany, were imported into Britain during the Roman, Saxon and medieval periods. Unfortunately, it is not possible to determine if this is a Roman or a medieval example as none of the distinctive features are present, or if it is a lower or upper stone. Given the dating of the site, a medieval date is most likely.

Pond Feature
Section E-E
[430] (431) (432) (433)

Section F-F
[378] (434) (380) (379)

Finds (below p.31)
Pottery [378] (379) Earthenware 2 17th -18th century +

Overlying [256], [258] and [303] was another silt deposit (380) (432) that measured 0.95m deep. This fill consisted yellow brown silty-clay mixed with a few stones and occasional tile and brick. Sealing these lower deposits was 0.20m deep fill (379) (432) that consisted of mid-grey silty-clay and occasional stones. The deposit contained ceramic building material (CBM) and pottery sherds that suggested a date for this final back fill of 17th -18th century. A spread (381) of mid-orange brown clay 0.30m deep was found towards the top of the pond deposits. This may have been an attempt to back fill the pond and level the ground. The pond was finally sealed by a layer of topsoil.

Plate 4 Section C-C channels looking north

Plate 5 Section B-B channels looking south

Plate 6 Section B-B pond channels looking south-west

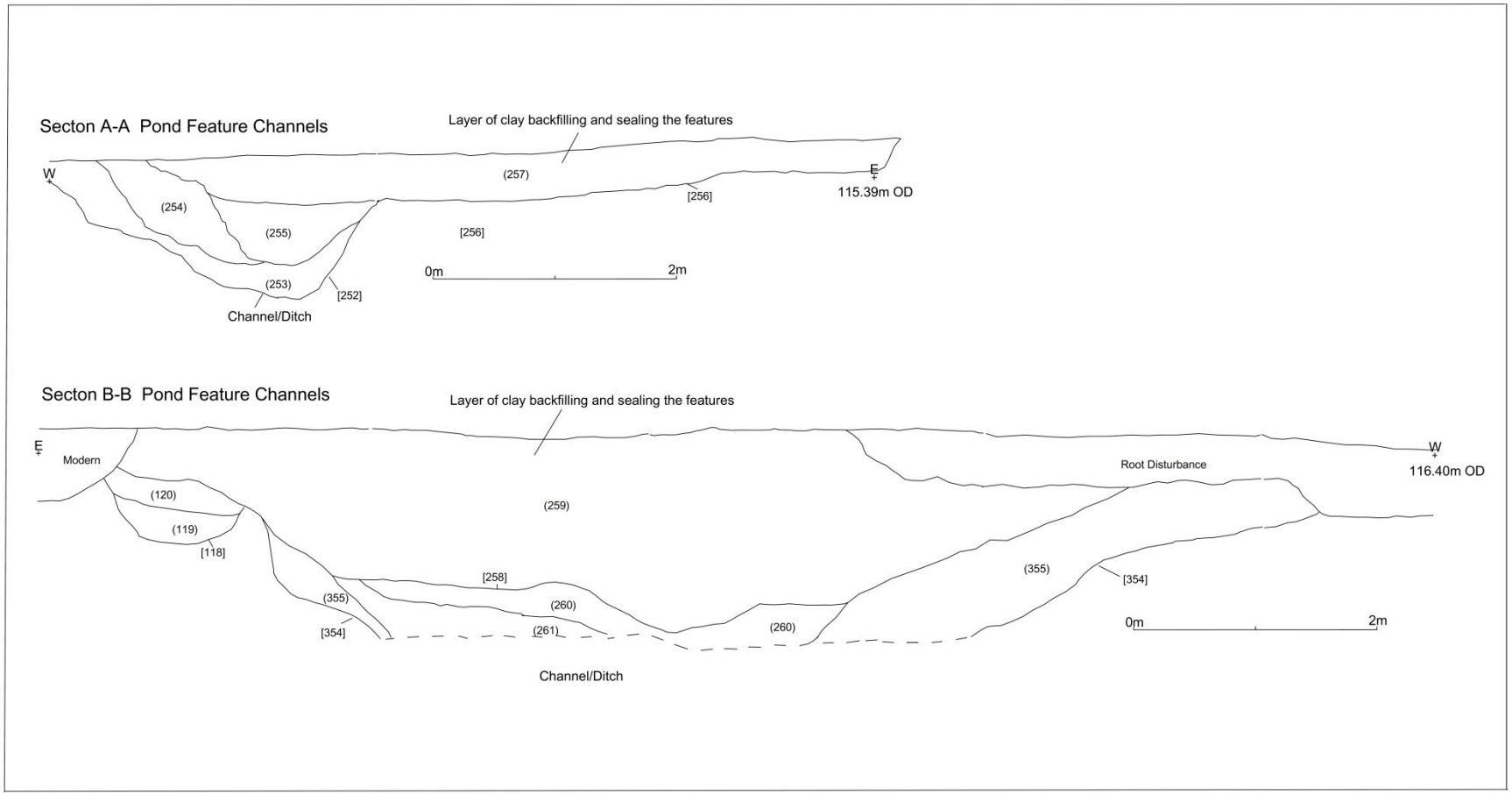

Figure 12 Sections A-A (west to east) and B-B (east to west) across Pond and Channel/Ditch (see Fig.11)

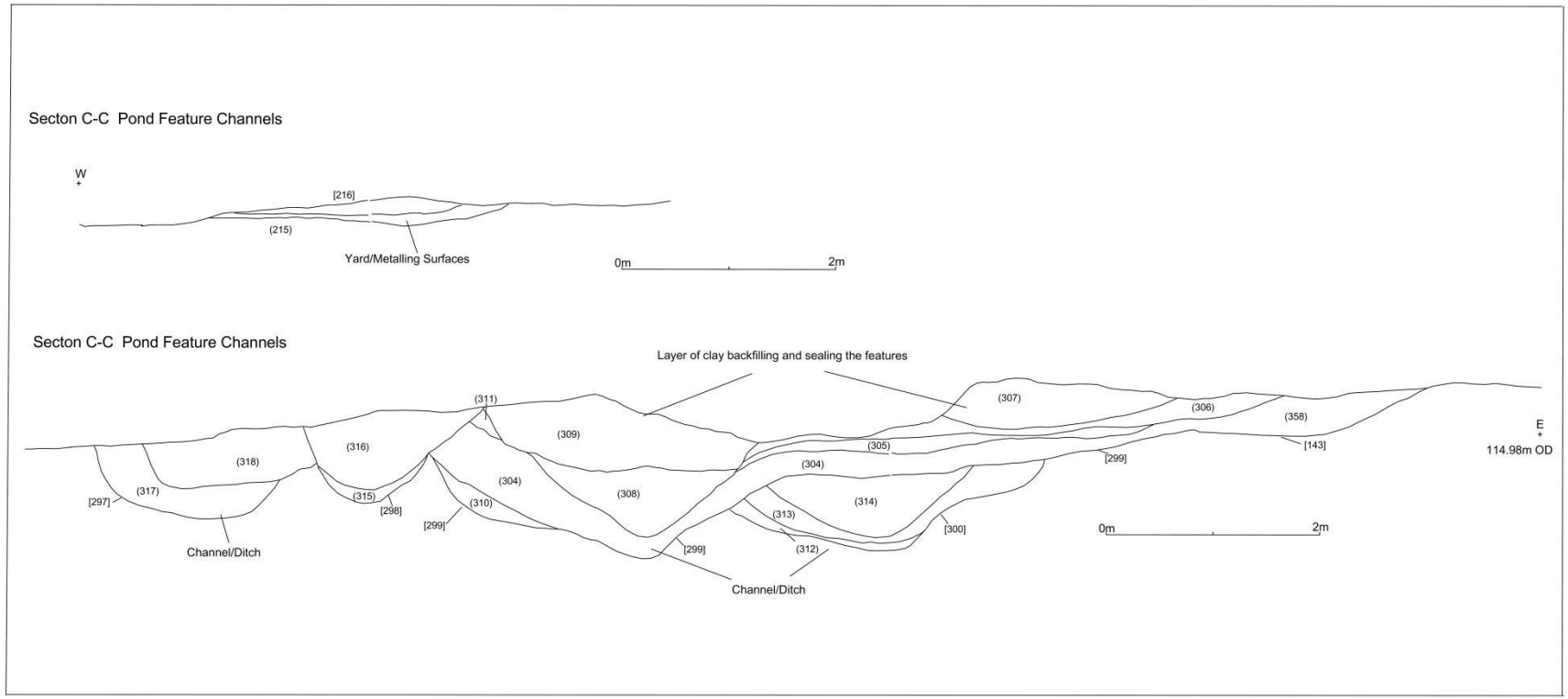

Figure 13 Section C-C (west to east) across pond and channels/ditches (see Fig.11)

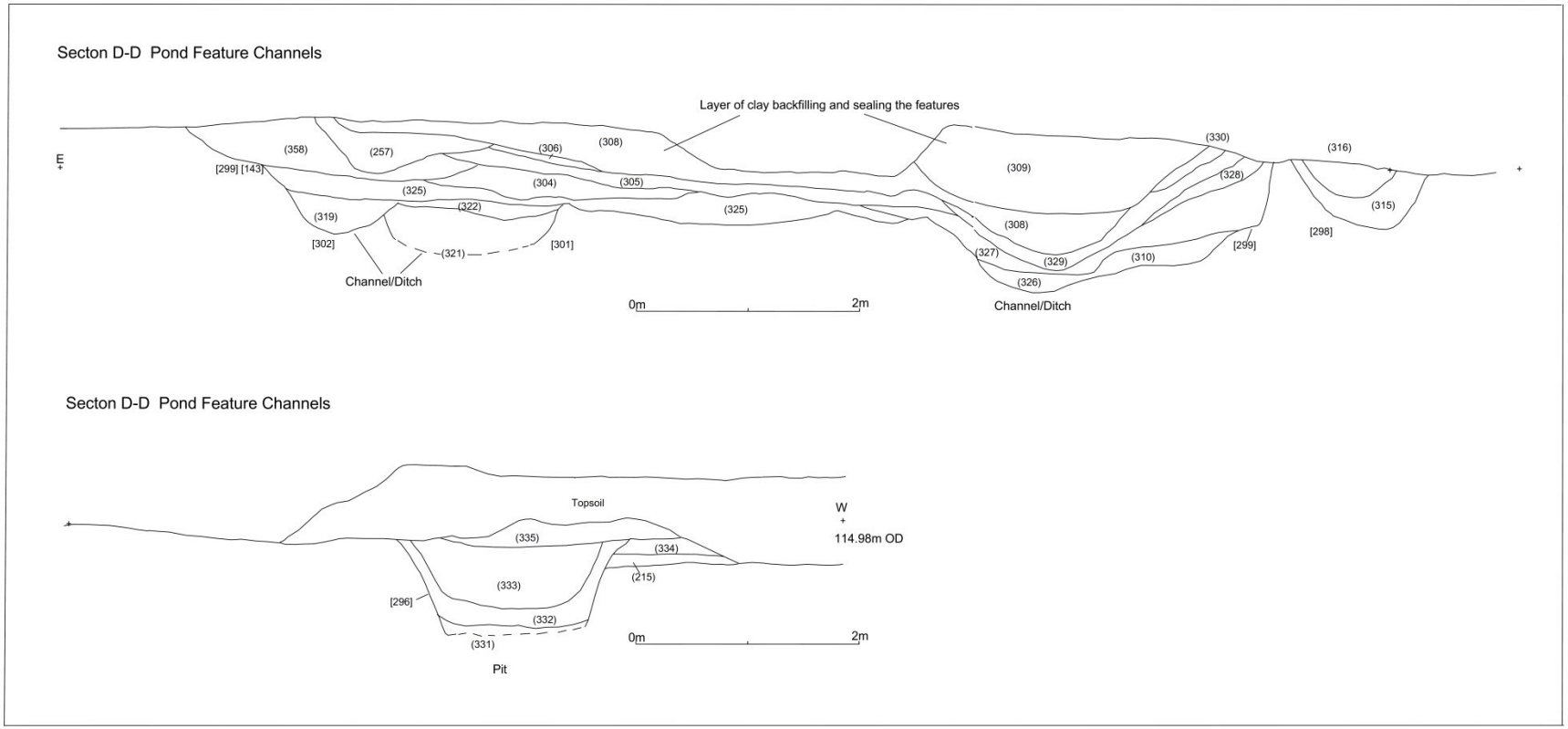

Figure 14 Section D-D (east to west) across pond and channels/ditches (see Fig.11)

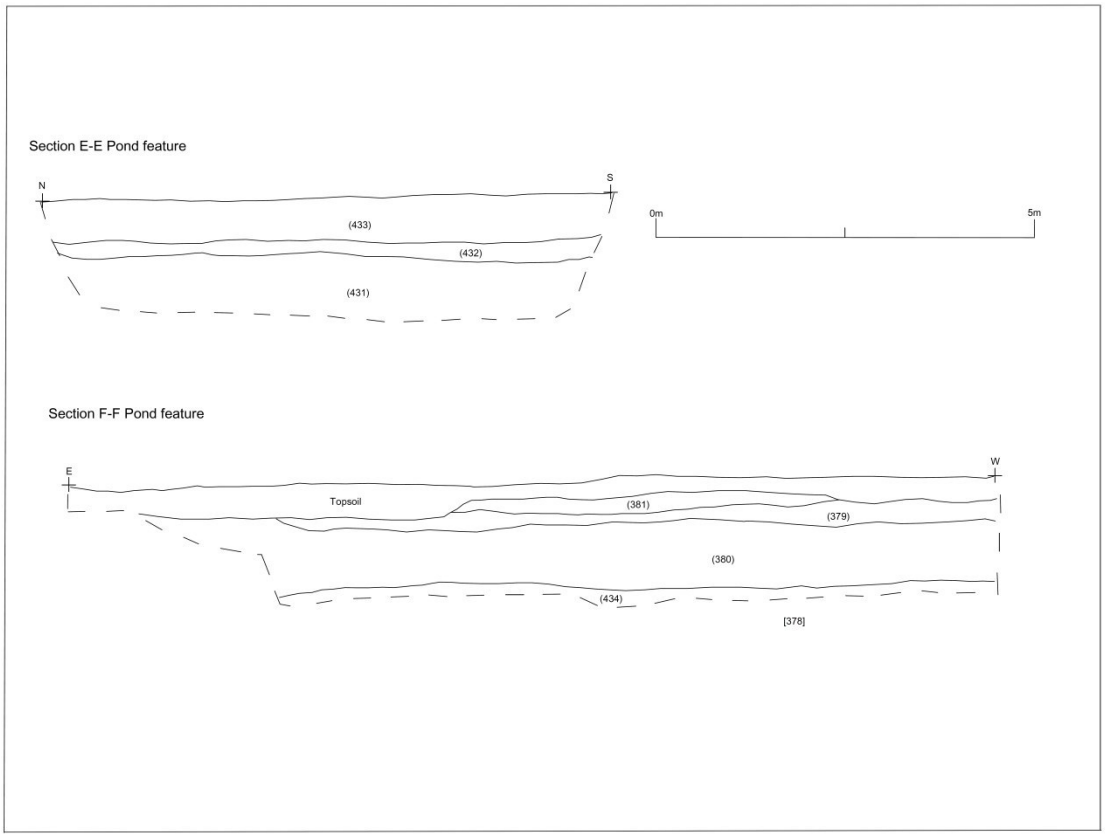

Figure 15 Sections E-E (notrth to south) and F-F (east to west) across Pond feature (see Fig.11)

The Ceramics/Fired Clay

Deborah Sawday

The Pottery

The pottery, eleven sherds, weighing 155 grams, was examined under a x20 binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to the guidelines set out by the Medieval Pottery Research Group, (MPRG 1998; MPRG, 2001) and the ULAS Roman and medieval fabric series (Connor & Buckley 1999; Sawday 2009). The results are shown below, (tables 1 and 2).

Discussion

In spite of the very small size of the pottery assemblage recovered during the excavations, the six sherds, 14 grams, of medieval Stamford and Saint Neots type ware are of some interest as they represent the earliest group of post-Roman material seen by the author from the village. The sherds date from the 11th or 12th centuries, and

possibly relate to Hinckley Priory which may have been founded in the 11th century (MLE2890). The Priory lay immediately to the north and north-west of the site. Another possibility is Hinckley Castle, which was in existence by the mid-12th century, the rampart of which was located to the north-east.

The Fired/Baked Clay

Approximately 1.337 kg of fired/baked clay, many of the pieces weighing less than 10 grams, was recovered from the following contexts:

100, 108, 113, 114 [115], 116, 120, 125, 131, 135, 139, 144, 146,148, 149, 161, 165, 190 [189], 203, 216, 217, 222, 254, 260, 262, 266, 269, 275, 284, 286, 288, 290, 294, 304, 307, 310, 315 [298], 3316 [298], 320, 340, 344, 374, 375, 400, 402, 411 and 496.

Wattle impressions were visible on some of the fragments, notably from contexts 135 and 284, which had clearly been used as daub. A few examples of abraded, probably residual, pieces of Roman brick or tile were also identifiable, for example in contexts 120, 216 and 254.

Table 1: The pottery fabrics

Fabric	Common Name	Approx. Date Range
GW3	Grey ware 3	2nd – 4th C. AD
ST2	Stamford - fine, fabrics G B/(A) (1)	c.1050-12th C.
SN	St Neots/St Neots type ware , Northants CTS fabric 100 (2)	c.11th C+
EA2	Earthenware 2 – 'Pancheon ware', Chilvers Coton (3)	17th C-18th C. +
EA3	Mottled ware	1680-1780
(1) Kilmurry 1980, Leach 1987		
(2) Young *et al* 2005, 97, Northants CTS		
(3) Mayes & Scott 1984		

Table 2: The medieval and later pottery fabric, sherd numbers and weight (grams) and miscellaneous finds

Context	Fabric/Ware	no	gr.	Comments
POT				
129	EA10 – Fine White Earthenware/China	1	1	Blue & white under glaze
318	ST2 – Fine Stamford ware	1	2	Abraded white/grey body
375	?SN – St Neots type ware	2	4	Abraded, reduced body sherds, with one buff surface, very fine 'degraded' calcareous inclusions
375	?SN – St Neots type ware	1	2	Abraded oxidised body with grey core, rouletted externally, 'degraded' calcareous inclusions.

379 [378]	EA2 – Earthenware 2	2	132	Join – flared bowl with everted rim, brown glaze on interior below, red bodied, probably Chilvers Coton.
402	?SN – St Neots type ware	2	6	Body/base, grey core & interior surfaces, exterior surface & margin oxidised a pale buff, 'degraded' calcareous inclusions
U/S	EA3 – Mottled ware	1	1	body
U/S	GW3 – Roman Grey ware	1	7	Roman jar rim
MISC				
144	mortar	2		
260	?industrial residue			
375	Fuel ash/slag	1		
FLINT				
100		1		Secondary flake
216		3		Tertiary flakes
216		1		Shatter
257		1		Scraper
292		1		Secondary flake
338		1		Primary flake

Site/ Parish: The Vicarage, St Mary's Road, Hinckley Accession No.: XA36 2012 Document Ref: hinckley7a.docx Site Type: historic village core –S of St Mary's church, ? In vicinity of Priory	Submitter: T. Higgins/J. Harvey Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Identification: 5.10.15 Method of Recovery: Job Number: 15-686 Material: pot/flint./miscn

Miscellaneous Finds

Deborah Sawday

The Flint

The eight flints recovered from the site are all in local, semi-translucent stone and are later prehistoric in date (L. Cooper, pers. comm.) (Table 2).

Lava Quern

Nicholas J. Cooper

Six joining, but undiagnostic and abraded, fragments from a lava quern were recovered from (257). One surface worn smooth. Thickness: 42mm.

Rotary querns, manufactured from Niedermendig basalt from the Eifel mountains in Germany, were imported into Britain during the Roman, Saxon and medieval periods. Unfortunately, it is not possible to determine if this is a Roman or a medieval example as none of the distinctive features are present, or if it is a lower or upper stone. Given

the dating of the site, a medieval date is most likely. Examples of this date come from Colchester (Buckley and Major 1988, 36, fig.42. 1962-3).

Animal Bone

Rachel Small

Introduction

The bones came from eight contexts associated with the pond feature and the remains of timber buildings.

Methods

Identification to element and species was attempted on all specimens using the University of Leicester's bone laboratory reference collection. Recording of tooth eruption and wear followed Grant's (1982) system for cattle and Payne's (1973) system for sheep/goat. Measurements followed von den Driesch (1976) and Harland et al's (2003) four point scale was used to consider preservation.

Results

Preservation of the specimens was generally 'fair' - the surfaces of the bones were solid in places, but flaky or powdery on up to half of the specimen. Concretions were also present on the remains. The majority of fragments were very small and fragmentary (table1). Therefore, it was only possible to identify a very small number (only three specimens) to element and species and this included: a gnawed cattle metatarsal (260), a cattle mandibular deciduous-third premolar (299), and a sheep/goat mandibular first/second molar (261). Fragments of pelvis and skull from large and medium mammals were also present. Of note was a fragment of ilium (261) which had possible cut marks and a bone fragment from (144) which was calcined.

Discussion

The assemblage probably represents consumption refuse; it is too small in size to permit meaningful analysis of diet and animal husbandry strategies beyond the results presented.

Table 3: Catalogue of the animal bone. Key: BP = breadth of proximal, BD = breadth of distal, wear stages follow Grant's (1982) and Payne's (1973).

Context	Description	Frags	Bone	Species	Notes
144	Pond feature or drainage channel	2	Indent.	Medium mammal	Frag, calcined
216	Layer	1	Indent.	Large mammal	Frag
260	Pond feature or drainage channel	1	Metatarsal	Cattle	Proximal end and midshaft, gnawed BP = 47.4mm BD = 47.2mm

260	Pond feature or drainage channel	1	Indent.	Indent.	Frag
261	Pond feature or drainage channel	1	Pelvis	Large mammal	Ilium, possible cut marks
261	Pond feature or drainage channel	2	Pelvis	Large mammal	Articulating ilium frags
261	Pond feature or drainage channel	2	Pelvis	Large mammal	Frags
261	Pond feature or drainage channel	12	Indent.	Indent.	Frags
261	Pond feature or drainage channel	4	Indent.	Large mammal	Frags
261	Pond feature or drainage channel	10	Indent.	Large mammal	Frags
261	Pond feature or drainage channel	1	Tooth	Sheep/goat	Mandibular M1/M2 Width = 6.6mm Stage 9A
299	Pond re-cut feature or channel	2	Mandible	Large/medium mammal	Frags
299	Pond re-cut feature or channel	1	Tooth	Cattle	Mandibular DP3 Width = 11.5 mm Stage G
304	Pond re-cut feature or channel	1	Indent.	Medium mammal	Frag
375	Gully fill or beam slot	1	Pelvis	Large mammal	Ilium
375	Gully fill or beam slot	4	Indent.	Large mammal	Frags
375	Gully fill or beam slot	4	Indent.	Indent.	Frags
402	N/A	1	Skull	Large/medium mammal	Alveolus frag
TOTAL		**51**			

The charred plant remains

Rachel Small

Introduction

Seventeen samples were considered that were taken from medieval timber structures and a pond feature. Charred plant remains, which may include cereal grains, chaff and weed seeds provide evidence for past food production, consumption, agricultural practise and environment.

Methods

The samples were wet sieved in a York tank using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation into a 0.3mm mesh sieve. The flotation fractions (flots) were transferred into plastic boxes and left to air dry; they were then sorted for plant remains using a x10-40 stereo microscope. The residues were air dried and the fractions over 4mm sorted for all finds. Samples which had over 50 items had the fraction under 4mm re-floated and sorted to ensure the remains collected were representative – clay can get stuck in chaff fragments causing them not to float. Plant remains were identified by comparison to modern reference material available at ULAS and plant names follow Stace (1991). Regarding quantification; for grains only the embryo or embryo scar was counted, and each rachis segment was counted as one. Weed seeds were counted as one, even when broken, with the exception of large weed seeds fragments when they clearly represented parts of the same seed. Ratios of remains were calculated following Van der Veen (2007).

Results

Charred plant remains were present in all of the samples except for 115 (321) which was the lower fill of a pit/ditch terminal (table 4). Five samples had a sufficient quantity of remains for ratios to be calculated. Firstly, taphonomy will be discussed, followed by the types of species present, and then the ratios of remains will then be considered.

Taphonomy

Modern rootlets were present in the samples suggesting a level of disturbance to the contexts; however, the ancient remains showed little sign of abrasion from the ground conditions. The remains were very distorted and fragmented from burning at high temperatures.

Grain

Bread/rivet wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum* L.) grain was most common. Barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) was also frequent and the presence of twisted grains indicates six-row. Rye (*Secale cereale* L.) grains were found in smaller quantities. Many of the cereal grains showed signs of germination: sprouting, pitting and missing embryos. Oat grains were present in the samples; however it is not possible to tell whether the oat grains (*Avena* spp.) are of wild or cultivated type (therefore, their counts were included in those for large grass seeds).

Chaff

It was possible to identify some of the *Triticum* spp. rachis as bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.). Barley rachis was also present.

Nut shell

A large fragment of hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana* L.) was found in sample 104 (143), a fill of ditch. This wild resource would have been gathered from the surrounding area.

Seeds

A variety of seeds were identified most of which grow in arable or disturbed habitats, for example: knotgrasses (*Polygonum* spp.), vetches/vetchlings (*Vicia/lathyrus*), docks (*Rumex* spp.), mayweeds (*Tripleurospermum* spp.) and nipplewort (*Lapsana communis* L.). Stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula* L.) grows in heavy poorly drained agricultural soils whilst sedges (*Carex* spp.) tend to grow in wet field conditions. Goosefoots (*Chenopodium* spp.), which thrive in areas of human occupation, were also present. Grassland species were identified including: selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris* L.), which is suited to alkaline and neutral soil conditions, and buttercups (*Ranunculus* spp.).

Ratios

Van der Veen's (2007, 987) ratios should only be calculated when adequate numbers are available - a minimum of 25 items per context. By comparing the relative proportions of charred plant remains specific crop processing activities can be inferred because different stages produce different residues.

Two of the five samples, which contained a sufficient quantity of remains to consider ratios, came from contexts associated with timber structures: samples 102 (190) and 106 (269) were posthole fills. The remaining samples: 104 (144), 107 (260) and 112 (304) were fills of the moat.

Table 4: plant remains in samples. (CS stands for column sample.)

Sample	**100**	**101**	**102**	**103**	**104**	**105**	**106**	**107**	**109**	**110**	**111**	**112**	**113**	**114**	**115**	**116**	**117**	
Context	113	160	190	206	144	266	269	260	308	306	305	304	325	322	321	314	304	
Cut	101	159	189	205	143	265	270	354	299	299	299	299	299	301	301	300	299	
Description	Beam slot fill	Pot fill	Posthole fill	Posthole fill	Pond/drainage channel	Kiln fill	Posthole fill	Pond/drainage channel	Back fill of ditch/moat	Disuse layer	Sandy deposit of	Grey fill/ ditch/moat eastern	Primary fill of ditch/moat CS	Upper fill of pit /ditch	Upper fill /ditch	Grey fill of pit	Grey fill/ ditch/moat	
Grain																		
Triticum aestivum/ turgidum L.	3		9	1	78	6	2	64			10	18	2	2				Bread/ rivet wheat
Hordeum vulgare L.	5	1	23		26	1	41	28	1		1	6	1	3				Barley
Secale cereale L.			3	2	9			7				1				2		Rye
Cereal				1	60		19	48		1	2		5			1	1	Cereal
Cereal/poaceae	1	1	2															Cereal/ grass
Chaff																		
Triticum aestivum L. rachis	2				6			13		1		1	1					Bread wheat rachis
Triticum aestivum/ turgidum L. rachis					2			3										Bread/ rivet wheat rachis
Hordeum vulgare L. rachis			2		12			11			3							Barley rachis
Cereal rachis					7			10					1				1	Cereal rachis
Other																		
Corylus avellana L.					1													Hazel nut shell
Weeds																		
Anthemis cotula L.			16					2			1							Stinking mayweed
Carex sp.	1		1				1											Sedge
cf. *Lapsana communis* L.							1											Nipplewort
Chenopodium sp.				1	14	2	7	9		1						1		Goosefoot
Large poaceae (poss. inc. *Avena* sp.)			22	2	43	2	9	21		1	3	6				1		Large grass (poss. inc. oat)
Polygonum sp.					1													Knot weed
Polygonum convolvulus L.						1												Black bindweed
Polygonum persicaria L.	1						1											Lady's-thumb
Prunella vulgaris L.						1												Selfheal
Ranunculus sp.							1											Buttercup
Rumex sp.	1		1		1		1	2										Dock
Small poaceae			3			1												Small grass
Tripleurospermum sp.							10											Mayweed
Vicia sp.			11				5	5					1					Vetch
Vicia/*Lathyrus* type											1							Vetch/ vetchling type

Indent.	1		10	1	10	2	3	4		1	2	4	1					Indeterminate
TOTAL	15	2	103	8	270	16	101	227	1	5	23	36	12	5	0	5	2	
VOLUME	10	9	7	4	10	10	9	10	8	5	8	7	4	4	5	10	10	
% SORTED	100	100	100	100	25	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
ITEMS PER LITRE	1.5	0.22	14.71	2	108	1.6	11.22	22.7	0.13	1	2.88	5.14	3	1.25	0	0.5	0.2	

The ratio of bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) rachis internodes to grains was considered (table 5). In the cereal plant the ratio is 0.3, one rachis internode to three grains (average). All samples for which the ratio could be calculated were below 0.3 indicating a preponderance of grain, suggesting the samples primarily represent 'grain products'.

Table 5: calculations for the ratio of bread wheat rachis internodes to grain in the samples. Indeterminate grains (including cereal/poaceae) and chaff were split according to the proportion of identified grains and chaff in the sample and included in the ratio. Only those samples which had a total of 25 items for the ratio are included.

Sample number	**104**	**106**	**107**
No. of *Triticum aestivum* L. rachis internodes	11	0	22
No. of *Triticum aestivum* L. grains	119	3	95
Ratio	0.09	0	0.23

The ratio of barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) rachis internodes to grains was considered (table 6). In the cereal plant the ratio is 0.3, the same as bread wheat, because there is similarly one rachis internode to three grains. The ratios for samples 102 (190) and 106 (269) were below 0.3 indicating more grain than rachis internodes, typical of a grain product. Whereas, samples 104 (144) and 107 (260) had ratios higher than 0.3, indicating a greater number of rachis internodes, suggesting the samples were dominated by residues from early processing stages. It is worthy of note that rachis internodes are one of the components of free-threshing cereals that most readily burn; therefore, the presence alone of this type of remain is of importance when considering the crop processing stages represented (Boardman and Jones 1990).

Table 6: calculations for the ratio of barley rachis internodes to grain in the samples. Indeterminate grains (including cereal/poaceae) and chaff were split according to the proportion of identified grains and chaff in the sample and included in the ratio. Only those samples which had a total of 25 items for the ratio are included.

Sample number	**102**	**104**	**106**	**107**
No. of *Hordeum vulgare* L. rachis internodes	2	16	0	15
No. of *Hordeum vulgare* L. grains	24	40	59	42
Ratio	0.08	0.4	0	0.36

The ratio of weed seeds to cereal grains was calculated (table 4). The ratio for sample 102 (190) was higher than the others. However, the ratios for all of the samples were comparatively low for the region.

Table 7: calculations for the ratio of weed seeds to cereal grains. Only those samples which had a total of 25 items for the ratio are included.

Sample number	**102**	**104**	**106**	**107**	**112**
No. weed seeds	64	69	39	43	10
No. cereal grains	37	173	62	147	25
Ratio	1.73	0.40	0.63	0.29	0.4

Considering the type of weed seeds represented (following Jones 1984), the majority were small free and heavy (SFH) in type, such as docks and goosefoots, and these were removed during fine sieving. Big free and heavy seeds were also common, such as the large grasses and vetches, and these were removed during hand-picking. Mayweeds (*Tripleurospermum* sp.) and small grasses were present in smaller numbers, these are classified as small free and light (SFL) seeds and are removed during winnowing.

Considering the results from the ratios together, the samples seem to primarily represent a grain product – probably spillage from cooking. However, the assemblage is mixed; residues from processing the grain for consumption (early and later stages) are also present. Barley rachis was particularly abundant in samples 104 (144) and 107 (260). The residues from crop processing would have been thrown onto the fire acting as good tinder.

Regarding the density of remains, sample 104 (144) was most abundant with 108 items per litre. The samples probably represent repeated deposition on a day to day basis; if they represented a single event one would expect a much higher density of remains, a couple of hundred for example.

Discussion

Regarding medieval sites in Leicestershire, sampling for plant remains has been undertaken at a number of urban excavations, such as Causeway Lane (Connor and Buckley 1999) and Oakham (Monckton 2004). However, few ecclesiastical and moated sites in the County have been considered (Monckton 2006, 280); therefore the site of St. Marys Hinckley is an important contribution to the regional data set.

Evidence for diet, at St Mary's Hinckley, comprised bread wheat, barley, rye and oats, and gathered hazelnuts, which is typical of the medieval Leicestershire sites. Absent, however, was rivet wheat (*Triticum turgidum* L.), which has been found at a number of sites dating from AD 850 in the midlands and south of England (Monckton 2006, 278). It is believed that bread and rivet wheat may have been used for different purposes; bread wheat was used to make bread, whilst rivet wheat was more suited to making biscuits and pottage. The straw also had different uses, bread wheat straw made good fodder, whilst rivet wheat had long straw which was useful for thatching (Campbell 1994). Germinated cereal grains were present in the St Mary's assemblage possibly suggesting the use of a mixed crop for brewing beer. Other Leicestershire sites, where germinated grains have been found include Oxford Street (Monckton 2006). At St Mary's there is also evidence for crop processing on site, suggested by the presence of cereal rachis and weed seeds, this evidence is again typical of Leicestershire sites and

it is thought that in the medieval period small batches were processed on a day to day basis (Monckton 2006). The cereal crops were most probably grown in damp heavy agricultural soils near to the site. Present in the St Mary's assemblage was stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula* L.), a very common specimen in medieval deposits. Its abundance is thought to relate to the use of the mould board plough in agriculture which enabled more efficient cultivation of difficult soils (Greig 1991). Species such as buttercup also indicated the presence of grassland near to the site.

Discussion

Pre-medieval

During excavations worked flint of a later prehistoric Neolithic or Early-Bronze Age date were found as residual finds within features. A light scatter of residual of Roman pottery sherds and CBM were also found. Overall there is lack of confirmed prehistoric archaeological evidence with in the vicinity of the development area. The only HER entry relating to the prehistoric period refers to an Iron Age brooch found at Hinckley Castle (MLE 6500). Similarly the only known evidence for Roman activity was two sherds of pottery (MLE 18561) found during the excavation of the Priory, directly to the north of the site.

Medieval

The medieval deposits comprise distinctive types of evidence. To the west ephemeral remains of post-holes are interpreted as 11th-12th century rectangular timber buildings. The absence of hearths and very low quantities of domestic refuse suggests that these were not dwellings but perhaps barns or workshops associated with the Priory. Although lacking clear dating evidence it is interpreted that the pond features to the east and south are of medieval origin although there is no clear associations with the timber buildings.

Buildings 1 and 2

Buildings 1 and 2 can be interpreted as a 11th-12th century timber post built structures *c*. 5m wide by 11m long. The interpretation of Building 2 as rectangular is more conjectural and partly based on the extent of surrounding yard surfaces. The buildings may have been post beam structures which supported a tie beam wall plate and rafter. The earth-fast foundations are typical of early post-conquest structures and the 11th century pottery sherds found within some post-holes and associated ditches appear to confirm this date. There was no archaeological evidence of wall foundations perhaps suggesting that the building may have had an interrupted base plate or sills supporting the walls, its stability still relying on there being mortised into the earth-fast posts.

The buildings may have formed a double square structure divided into two bays with internally placed dividing post-holes. No evidence of a hearth was found within either building.

Some structures of this period are believed to have had an interrupted base plate or sill with grooves into which stave built walls were possibly set give the building a ridged structure. If the timber was plentiful then studs may have been used and infilled with wattle and daub while another option was for the wattle panels to be set into base plates and covered in daub. The back filling of the foundations and associated ditches contained abundant fragments daub suggesting that these structures constructed with wattle and daub. The ditches found to the north of Building 2 may represent the eaves drip for drainage or boundary to the building plots.

The cobbled surfaces may have been the remnants of a pavement or yard which was laid around and between Buildings 1 and 2. These surfaces are quite commonly found associated with these types of structures. They were generally laid particularly near to entrances of structures where the traffic of people and animals necessitate hard surfaces. The pavements may also offer hard stands for people to work on the outside of their domestic buildings and workshops. The excavations at Eye Kettleby (Finn 1999) and Anstey (Higgins 2000) Leicestershire also noted cobbled surfaces surrounding medieval buildings. Further afield excavations at Thuxton, Norfolk (Butler and Wade-Martins 1989) have revealed similar domestic structures, barns and sheds, again with cobbled yard surfaces. Extensive cobbled areas were also found on excavations of tofts at Tattenhoe Westbury Buckinghamshire (Ivens, Busby and Shepard 1995) again forming pavements and yards surrounding the buildings.

Pond and Channels

The eastern and southern sides of the site contained very large features thought to be silted-up ponds. The eastern side of the site contained a series of intercutting linear ditches or channels. The southern end of these channels ran into a large feature thought to be a pond at the southern end of the site and orientated east to west. The feature was not fully exposed during the strip for these excavations, but from what was excavated the feature appeared to be sub-rectangular with rounded ends. The original channel appeared to have been allowed to silt up and then periodically be cleared with various recuts that were then subsequently re-excavated and allowed to silt up again. Other additional linear channels appeared to be cut alongside the original channel during this period. The channels were all broadly linear some with narrow gradually sloping sides and rounded undulating bases. The only finds associated with these deposits were that were residual Roman brick or tile and fragments of fired clay. The latter may have derived from the demolition of the western timber buildings.

Some of the ditches contained small quantities of refuse or midden material sourced perhaps from either the adjacent structures to the west or the Priory to the north. The material contained domestic refuse including animal bone and the environmental samples from this deposit contained evidence of food plants and charred cereal grains.

The Priory Context

The site lies within the historic core of Hinckley and adjacent to the remains of the Priory (MLE 2878). Hall House, with associated Priory remains, is recorded immediately to the north and north-west of the Site. The possible fishponds that are thought to be associated with the Priory are recorded to the west, south and east of the site, forming a 'U' Shaped pond and shown as no. 21 and 22 on the Robinson's Plan of Hinckley dated 1782 (Figure 16). The plan also suggests that there was open land between the Priory and the moat feature.

The Priory was established sometime before 1209 as a Benedictine foundation which was dependent on the Abbey of Lire in Normandy. The last Prior was recorded in 1404 and thereafter the Priory may have been owned privately (Nichols 1812) (Patrick and Gidman 2011).

Robinson's 1782 plan (Fig. 16), does provide more detail. The Church of St. Mary is depicted (No. 1), with Hall House/the Priory (No. 7) shown to the north of the Site, extending into the northern third of the Site. A 'U' shaped pond, with a small pond to the east, is also shown (no. 21 and 22), enclosing an open piece of land which represents the Site (No. 20). The Site is listed as being part of the 'Priory Garden' and 'Hunts Bowling Green.

The site excavation was thought to be located within the open land to the east of the 'U' shaped pond (no. 21) and to the north of the pond feature (no. 22) in Robinsons Plan. The pond feature found at the southern end of the site appears to be the feature depicted (no. 22). The additional pond channels features found on the eastern side of the site are not shown on this plan but were likely to be water management channels used to drain water towards the pond feature.

The 11th-12th century timber post buildings found in the western half of site were probably located within the open land. Although they may be domestic structures that related to the settlement that pre-dates the priory, it is more likely that they are either barns or workshops that were associated with Priory complex located to the north and north-west.

Evidence for diet from charred plan remains, comprised bread wheat, barley, rye and oats, and gathered hazelnuts, which is typical of the medieval Leicestershire sites. Unfortunately bone survival was poor. Of note was the absence of rivet wheat which is believed to have been more suited to making biscuits and pottage while bread wheat was used to make bread. Germinated cereal grains were present possibly suggesting the use of a mixed crops for brewing beer. There is also evidence for crop processing which is again typical of Leicestershire sites where small batches may have been processed on a day to day basis (Monckton 2006). The cereal crops were most probably grown in damp heavy agricultural soils near to the site. Species such as buttercup also indicated the presence of grassland near to the site.

Post-medieval Activity

No major structures are evident during this period and this plot within the Priory precinct appears to be have been used as open land. Overlying the various yard surfaces

post-holes and gullies a layer of soil had accumulated. These layers could have resulted from trample accumulating over medieval yard surfaces after buildings 1 and 2 were demolished. These deposits had also contained various fragments of daub or fired clay which could be further evidence demolition debris material spread across the site. Other features included two hearths and scatter of small quarry pits all located in the western half of the site. There were no datable finds associated with these features but it is thought that these feature relate to the period after the Priory was closed.

Towards the centre of the site west of the fence line an east to west boundary wall appeared to have been established. This suggests that the open land was partitioned with fences and walls. The finds associated with these features suggest that this occurred after the Priory had been rebuilt in *c*. 1598 to become Hall House may be part of its garden.

On the east of the site the pond channel features were intermittently cleared of silt before being capped or sealed with clay layers. This may have been attempts at landscaping levelling the ground. The deposit contained CBM, and pottery sherds that suggested a date for this activity in the 17th -18th century. This again post-dates the closure of the Priory and these features are not depicted on the 1782 Robinson's Plan. By 1818 only the 'U' shaped moat is visible on the Phillip's Plan and no longer depicts an additional pond feature seen in Robinson's plan (Fig 16).

Post-medieval to Modern land use

The pond or channel features are no longer visible and the features are cut by various land drains which probable relate to the period when the site was part of the garden of Hall House

A scatter of modern features consisted of modern services which had truncated the various earlier features and layers across the development area. The northern half of the development site had been completely truncated by modern services and foundations associated with the Vicarage, which had probably removed any potential early deposits. All modern features were sealed by a layer of modern overburden capped by garden soil and concrete surfaces.

The investigation also revealed worked stone which appeared to have been used to embellish the previous, Victorian, vicarage's gardens as rockery or edging stones. The stones had no other stratigraphic provenance. There is no conclusive evidence in the assemblage to indicate that any of the stones are from the Priory or indeed from the mid- to late medieval period. Only one stone an ovolo moulded mullion, indicates a specific period, that being post-medieval. It is likely some stones are from the mid 18th century spire, and the bulk of the remaining stones from the demolition and rebuild of the south aisle and transept in the 19th century (below Appendix 2).

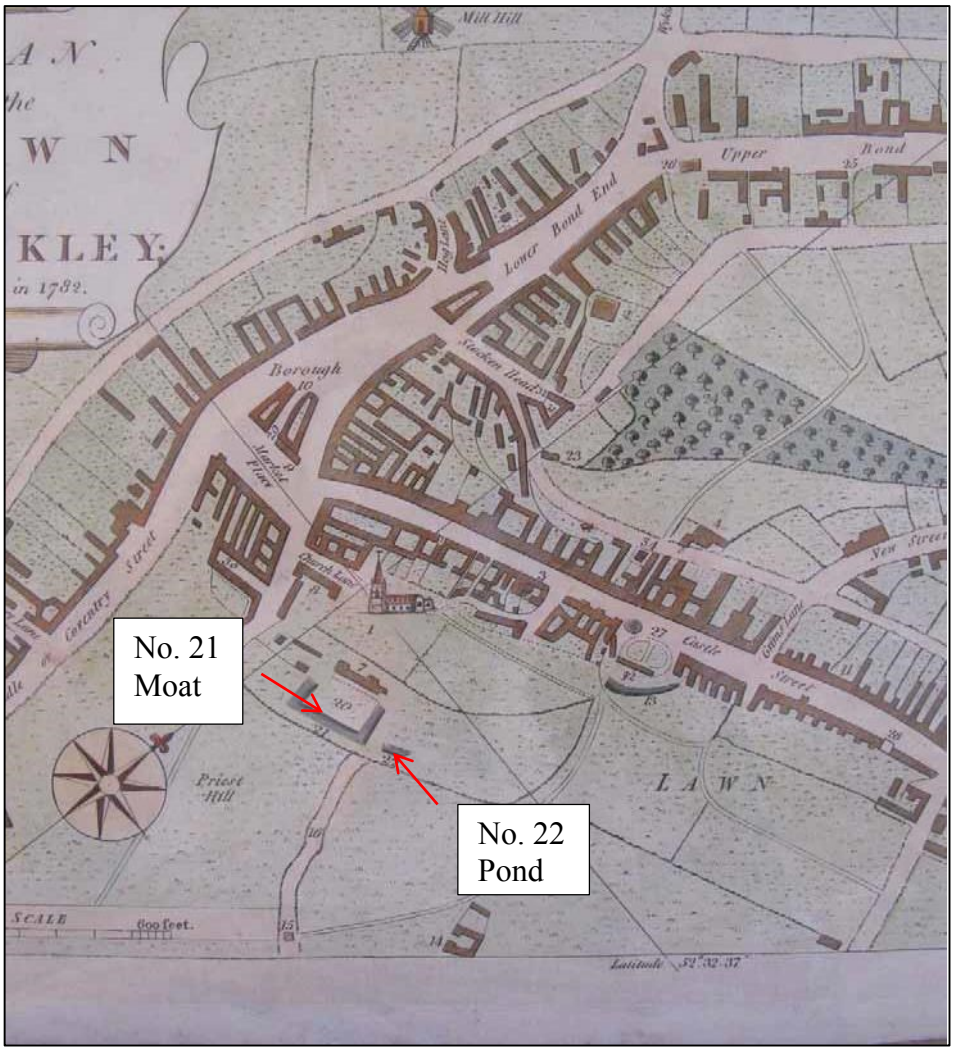

Figure 16 A Plan of the Town of Hinckley by J. Robinson 1782

Figure 17 A Plan of the Town of Hinckley by Phillips 1818

Archive

A summary of the work will appear in *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*. A more detailed article may also be submitted for publication in due course.

The archive will be deposited with Leicester County Council Museums Service under the Accession no. X36.2012. A record of the project will also be included on the OASIS data collection service.

The content of the archive consists of:
A4 unbound copy of this report
A4 Context summary sheets
A5 Context sheets
A4 Context Records, Drawing records Sample record
A4 photo records

CD containing digital photos
Films of black and white contact prints and negatives
Boxes of finds

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Appendix 1

INFORMATION REQUIRED	**EXAMPLE**
Project Name	An Archaeological Excavation at the Vicarage, St Mary's Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire |NGR: SP 4276 9376
Project Type	Excavation
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Tim Higgins
Previous/Future work	Evaluation/None

Current Land Use	Vicarage/residential
Development Type	Residential/Commercial
Reason for Investigation	NPPF Dept Communities and Local Government; 27th March 2012
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	NGR SP 4276 9376
Start/end dates of field work	07/09/2015 to 20/11/2015
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council Heritage Museums
Study Area	*c*. 0.42 hectares

Appendix 2 Worked Stones

David J. Kendrick, BA., MPhil.(Oxon.)

Background.

Work was carried out by the University of Leicester Archaeology Service (ULAS) at and around the site of a 1960s vicarage in land adjacent to, and to the south of, St Mary's Parish Church in Hinckley. This land is being developed by Messrs McCarthy & Stone as a sheltered housing complex. The investigation established the presence of worked stone. The stones appeared to have been used to embellish the previous, Victorian, vicarage's gardens that in part shared the same area as the garden of the later 1960s vicarage. The stones were either on the surface or semi-submerged, and were intended as rockery or edging stones. The stones had no other stratigraphic provenance.

In June 2015 David Kendrick was contracted by ULAS to examine, and produce an assessment of, the stones removed from the garden area and placed in several locations near to the churchyard, and with one assemblage stored at the home of a member of the Hinckley Field Walking Group (HFWG). This preliminary assessment was submitted to ULAS in June of 2015.

In October 2015 Kendrick was further engaged to create an 'Informed Inventory' of the stones that his initial report had selected as worthy of further attention.

Methodology.

The stones were brought together at one site adjacent to the churchyard and examined on 13th, 14th and 27th October 2015. For the inventory each stone of diagnostic quality or special interest was allocated a single reference number. The numbers were prefixed T (for Type Stone) and numbered from 001 on. T numbers were placed on each stone using a black felt tip marker in an unobtrusive area where possible. Other numbers recently placed onto some stones by the HFWG in white ink were left *in situ* as they

did not present any confusion with the 'T' numbers. When photographed each stone had a pre-printed T number identification label placed beside it together with a scale rod.

The recording forms used are based upon forms previously used on contracts for English Heritage and various diocesan authorities where inventories of masonry dumps and loose stones were being investigated and recorded.

Photographs were taken on a Finepix HS50 EXR digital SLR camera using a 241000mm lens. The images were taken outdoors and no artificial light was used.

The images were processed on an Asus F555LA laptop computer running Windows 10 and Microsoft Office Professional 2002. All images are in jpeg format. All images, including those not selected for inclusion in the inventory, were retained in a separate folder that is copied to the complete archive. Back up images, together with all other parts of the archive, are retained by the recorder on a hard drive.

Each selected stone was marked, photographed, and measured. In many cases, the stones being non-diagnostic, their orientation was unclear and therefore the measurements given are the greatest remaining overall height/width/depth or thickness. The original orientation may have been different. The photographic scale rod in every case was of 30cms or 10cms.

Each stone was commented upon. Each was dated to an architectural period where possible, and the type of stone given. Each was graded using a 'Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor, Very Poor' categorization. Each stone's potential original use and/or place was, where possible, given under both its Simple and Generic name. Recommendations for the future retention or otherwise of the assemblage are proposed elsewhere in this report.

Summary/Discussion.

The assemblage is in the main non-diagnostic as to period. It has no stratigraphic provenance earlier than the present day. It is in overall poor surface condition with bad to very bad weathering caused by air pollution during the locality's industrial era, and latterly by semi-burial as decorative features in the gardens of the Victorian, and later 1960s, vicarage where it was found during the current development works.

Unfortunately, and curiously, there are no recognisable tracery fragments in the assemblage with the exception of one, probably later 16th century, mullion section T044 (see below.) Neither are there any complex mouldings on voussoirs, ribs, bases or capitals. Such fragments are the usual way of dating worked stones to at least a general period – Early English, Decorated, Perpendicular e*tc*. Without them as guides the more common mouldings of chamfers and single rolls are not datable. The use of the term 'Gothic' in the inventory is to indicate this difficulty as the stones could be from any era after the Romanesque and up to the Gothic Revival. As the Priory was dissolved in 1415 or soon thereafter (certainly before the Henry Vlll's general dissolution in the 1530s) it is possible that during the century before its conversion into Hall House (also known as Priory House) in the mid to late 1500s, it was systematically

demolished and the useful elements of columns, windows and doors *etc*. sold off. Hall House would then have arisen from a footprint, with perhaps some stubs of walls and arcading remaining, rather than from seizure and transfer of ownership as with other conversions from monastic to domestic use in the mid 1500s. Further research might clarify this matter however the lack of *any* tracery and complex moulding fragments is most unusual on monastic sites.

There are frequent signs of re-use with heavy mortaring over mouldings (using a random white vinegar test this is shown to be mainly modern, not lime, mortar.) The original use of most stones is unclear however their most probable purpose in structure and/or decoration is suggested herein where possible.

The stones bearing no clearly worked surfaces were treated as discards. At the conclusion of the inspection there were 54 recorded stones and 71 discards, the latter photographed in three groups (A, B & C) but not included in the inventory. Group B of these consists of 13 lumps of a pinkish granite such as that used by monumental masons for gravestones. This group may be from a levelling of parts of the churchyard in the modern era.
There are some stones that can be assessed more precisely:

T001 to T006 taper vertically and have mouldings, incised construction marks and incised Roman numerals that all suggest they are from a spire. From this and their size it is reasonable to say they are stones from the 1778 spire that was partially dismantled and the top courses rebuilt in 1995/96. A photograph taken at that time shows the stones being removed. Their moulding appears to be the same flat axial surface with lateral rolls that is evident on the stones examined on site. During these repairs numbers of other stones from the north 'spitter', the south-west pinnacle, the gable parapet of the south transept and elsewhere were restored (see Davis, 2007, 10).

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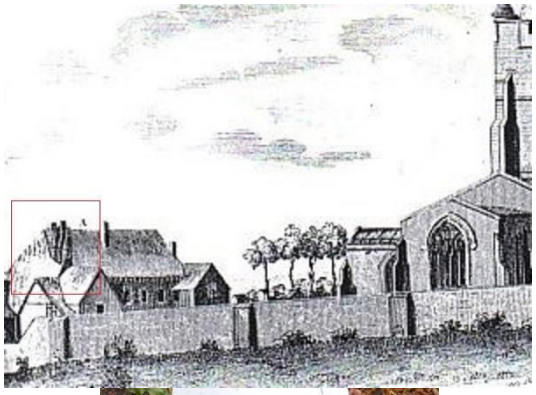
Also identifiable are stones T007 and T008 that appear contiguous and make up approximately two-thirds of a chimney flue capping. They are complex stones that would abut into a roof or gable end and are very well cut. From their quality and style these can be placed as being from Hall House and dating to the 16th/17th century. A 1782 print of Hall House shows a group of chimneys at the east end of the building and it is possible these stones come from that location.



There are two observations that make the diagnosis slightly problematic. Firstly there is only slight dark staining on the base of T007 and this may be from lying in the soil. It would be expected for this type of stone to be heavily sooted, even scorched, given its position at the flue shoulder and head. Secondly there is no sign of old mortar or scarring on the top surface from which a stack would have risen. Nonetheless the overall design indicates a chimney feature.

There are further pieces of a chimney – T049, T050, T052 & T053 that are in fair condition and do carry scorching marks. However these do not have any observable link to the flue capping.

Stones T011, a detached colonette base, and T044, a mullion section with ovolo moulding to one edge, also present features that can be seen as early post-medieval or in the case of the base, even later, possibly 19th century.

A considerable number of stones including T021 to T031, T036 & T037 and T040 are all of an overall triangular form with the upper edge bearing a simple roll moulding and one side cut into a chamfer. These carry a deeply incised and heavily chiselled groove to the rear surface that suggests they are capping stones for a roof parapet, the groove being there to receive the lead sheeting.

In the case of T036 the groove is cut diagonally and this would accommodate the lead sheeting at a gable end. It can be seen in the third image below that the surface above the groove (which would be visible) is tooled, that below, hidden in the roof void, is left rough.

At the time of writing there are stones of the same profile and size still *in situ* along the roof parapet of the south-east chapel (currently serving as the vestry and offices.) This area was newly built in the 1870s restyling of the church. It may well be that these stones were reused from the demolished 14th / 15th century south aisle and transept at that time. Many other stones may simultaneously have been taken from the demolition and barrowed to the vicarage garden some few yards away to the south east. They would have been ideal lawn or border edging stones.

There are three stones that seem to be, if not contiguous, then from the same feature. These are T032, T033 & T034 and have the appearance of jamb sections for an aperture

of some type. No glazing grooves can be seen so a window is not likely. A suggested reconstruction image taken in June 2015 is given below.

Scale rod 10 cms

There is one small piece of foliate carving, T047, which from its size would appear to originate from a fitting rather than as part of the overall structure of a building. It has the appearance of being a decorative element from a screen or rereredos. Its style of foliation is a flowing acanthus leaf. This suggests the Decorated period rather than the earlier 'stiff leaf' found on capitals.

Scale rod 10 cms

Non-architectural stones include T045 and T046 that are sections of a large, probably agricultural, mortar. These are in a pinkish-buff sandstone, crudely tooled inside and out. The overall form indicates a mortar shape but with much fabric missing this may have been more ovoid and therefore a small trough or water container of some type.

Several stones have been recently re-cut with an electric stone saw. This may be from the current work on the site when some small pieces of stone were required, or for onsite training purposes. The example shown below (not included in the inventory) is typical of these.

Scale rod 10 cms

The overall stone type is grey-white sandstone that may have been taken from the quarry at Attleborough a hamlet in the parish of Nuneaton known for this type of stone. "Attleborough freestone has been worked from medieval times. It is a form of sandstone, which was ideal for building purposes being easy to cut and shape into regular shaped blocks with little waste [….] the stone was actually light grey in colour." (Lee, Peter, 'Attleborough, A Walking Tour', in www.nuneatonhistory.com.)

This quarry, together with the Attleborough chapel, was originally part of a gift from Robert de Bossu, Earl of Leicester, to Hinckley Priory's mother church at Lire, Normandy in the middle 12th century (see Wallis, 2012, 139). Unfortunately, the quarry was in production until the 1930s (Lee, Peter, *op.cit*.) so no dating evidence for the stones can be gleaned from this.

There is no conclusive evidence in the assemblage to indicate that any of the stones are from the Priory or indeed from the mid- to late medieval period (here taken as being 1066 – 1485.) Only one stone T044 the ovolo moulded mullion, indicates a specific

period, that being post-medieval. Conversely there is no evidence to say that some of the stones are *not* originally from the Priory and have been used and re-used over time. The balance of probability is that stones T001 to T006 date from the mid 18th century spire, and the bulk of the remaining stones from the demolition and rebuild of the south aisle and transept in the 19th century.

Recommendations.

The main part of the assemblage is in 'Fair' to 'Poor' condition and it appears that it is now the property of the Parish Church. There are ongoing discussions within the parish as to what will be done with the stones. The recorder has suggested to the vicar and others that a lapidary wall might be considered. Such a wall would (a) retain the stones safely and securely on site and (b) facilitate any further research if needed. Certain stones are non-diagnostic and may be disposed of as general rubble if not required as walling. A few of the more complete stones (*e.g.* spire pieces, flue cap) may be considered by the local town museum as worthy of display, research stock or educational material.

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