



King John's Palace Clipstone Nottinghamshire

Archaeological Evaluation and
Assessment of Results



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**KING JOHN'S PALACE,
CLIPSTONE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

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Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological recording and post-excavation work on an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at the site of King John's Palace, Clipstone, Nottinghamshire (NGR 460344 364752).

One Romano-British feature was identified; this, and some residual pottery and other finds indicate sporadic Romano-British activity on the Site. A possible Romano-British feature was also found during previous excavations, in 1956.

The archaeological evidence seems to support the documented history of the Site, reflecting a programme of building and re-modelling throughout the medieval period. The earliest pottery found during the evaluation was dated to the 12th century, and this correlates with the first documentary reference to the Site, in the late 12th century. This earlier pottery was mainly found in the north-eastern part of the Site, suggesting that this was the early focus. However, pottery recovered from the foundation trenches of a structure in this area suggests that this was a later building, probably dating from the 13th or 14th century.

The Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey shows a low amplitude response forming a possible enclosure. This corresponds well with the position of an enclosure ditch located by the previous excavation trenches. This feature lies beneath and therefore pre-dates the 13th/14th century building seen in the north-eastern part of Site; it may therefore relate to an earlier, 12th century complex.

The majority of the datable finds are late medieval or early post-medieval in date. In three of the trenches, extensive robber cuts indicated the removal of substantial stone walls. It is, however, unclear how or whether these walls relate to the extant ruins. The GPR survey suggests that these extant ruins are the north-western limit of a large building complex extending to the north-east and south-east. Further possible buildings were suggested by correlations between the geophysical survey and the results of the previous excavation. Though undated, they are more likely to relate to the late medieval and early post-medieval phases of use. Due to the complexity of use of the site, however, and the amount of demolition and robbing, no clear phasing or floor plan can be determined.

The archaeological results and the historic maps suggest that the main depredation of the stonework and robbing of the masonry occurred in the 16th to 17th centuries.

The results of this evaluation, although limited, are of local significance, and it is recommended that they are published as a short summary report, with accompanying figures, to be submitted to the *Transactions of the Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire*.

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This programme of post-excavation and assessment work was commissioned and funded by Videotext Communications Ltd, and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank the staff at Videotext, and in particular Jobim Sampson (Series Editor), George Palgiero (Director), Val Croft (Head of Production), Katy Daykin (Production Co-ordinator) and Alex Rowson (Researcher) for their considerable help during the recording and post-excavation work.

The geophysical survey was undertaken by John Gater, Jimmy Adcock, Emma Wood and Graeme Attwood and landscape survey and map regression was undertaken by Alex Langlands. The excavation strategy was devised by Mick Aston. The on-site recording was co-ordinated by Naomi Brennan, and on-site finds processing was carried out by Simon Flaherty, both of Wessex Archaeology.

The excavations were undertaken by Time Team's retained archaeologists, Phil Harding, Ian Powlesland, Tracey Smith, Matt Williams, Raksha Dave and Cassie Newland assisted by David Budge, Matt Hurford, Ben Crossley, Hugh Shannon, David Parker and Andy Hyam. The metal detector survey was carried out by Paul Banks.

The archive was collated and all post-excavation assessment and analysis undertaken by Wessex Archaeology. This report was written and compiled by Naomi Brennan, incorporating specialist reports prepared by Alex Langlands (landscape survey), Paul Blinkhorn (freelance specialist, pottery), Kevin Hayward (freelance specialist, geological IDs), Lorrain Higbee (animal bone), Nicholas Cooke (coins) and Lorraine Mephram (all other finds). Paul Blinkhorn would like to thank David Budge and Chris Cumberpatch for their invaluable help in identifying the pottery from this site, and for David providing a number of extremely useful sources of information with regard to the pottery of Nottingham. The illustrations were prepared by Kenneth Lymer. The post-excavation project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Lorraine Mephram.

Wessex Archaeology would also like to acknowledge James Wright and Andy Gaunt for their initial work on the Site and Ursilla Spence (County Archaeologist) and Jon Humble (English Heritage) for their co-operation. Finally thanks are extended to the owners Mr and Mrs Bradley for allowing access to the Site for geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation and Mr Laver for permitting geophysical survey on the land to the north-east.

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Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological recording and post-excavation work on an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at the site of King John's Palace, Clipstone, Nottinghamshire, NGR 460344 364752 (hereafter the 'Site') (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 This report documents the results of archaeological survey and evaluation undertaken by Time Team, and presents an assessment of the results of these works.

1.2 The Site, location and geology

1.2.1 The Site is situated within the parish of Clipstone, but within the village of King's Clipstone which lies just to the north-east of Clipstone proper. It lies around 6km to the north-east of Mansfield and 5.8km to the south-west of Ollerton. The Site is bounded to the west by Mansfield Road, to the north by houses which lie along this road. To the east and south are further fields.

1.2.2 The field in which the remains are situated is currently under pasture but has been ploughed in the past. The Site lies at an overall height of approximately 70m aOD although the ground slopes from around 70.4m aOD at the edge of Mansfield Road to the west and falls steadily away to around 67m aOD in the eastern part of the field.

1.2.3 The current upstanding building remains lie on a slightly elevated patch of ground and form a north-east – south-west aligned section of wall with south-eastern returns at either end. This currently forms the focus of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) number 320381. The maximum height of these ruins is around 6m above present ground level.

1.2.4 The underlying geology consists of pebble beds overlying the Sherwood Sandstones (BGS 126, 142).

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 A full and detailed archaeological and historical background can be found in the project design (Videotext 2011) and the history within by Stapleton (1890). A summary of that information, along with information from the Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record (HER) is provided here.

Prehistoric, Iron Age and Romano-British (up to AD 410)

1.3.2 Some evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the Site is recorded with two separate findspots of a Bronze Age (2400-700 BC) spearhead (HER reference number L5965) and a flint arrowhead (HER L5909). There is

also Romano-British activity (AD 43-410) indicated by three separate Romano-British findspots to the north of the village (HER L5966, L5967 and L5977). This is in addition to pottery found during the 1956 excavations at King John's Palace itself (HER L9479). A number of cropmarks identified from aerial photography to the west and north of the village seem to indicate enclosures and field systems that are likely to be Iron Age (700BC – AD 43) or Romano-British in date (HER L4072, L4081, L4085, L4092, L4140, L4147, L6820, L8579 and L10401).

- 1.3.3 Nearly 3.5km to the south-west is Beeston Lodge; no there are no surviving upstanding remains here but it is thought to be the location of the former gatehouse of Clipstone Peel, a stockaded structure dating to the 14th century (Crook 2005; SAM number 318199).

Saxon and Medieval (410-1500 AD)

- 1.3.4 The place-name of Clipstone came into being sometime after the Danish incursions into the East Midlands during the mid 9th century; the earliest documentary reference to the village (as *Clipstune*) is in *Domesday Book* (1086).
- 1.3.5 Prior to Domesday, the two manors of Clipstone were held by Osbern and Ulsi but by 1086 the land had been granted to Roger de Busli, one of the great Norman landowners. The entry lists arable, pasture and woodland and a mill. After de Busli's death (c. 1099) the manor was acquired by the Crown, and in 1164 £20 is listed as being spent on works at the *King's Houses*. It is unclear whether this expenditure reflected the initial establishment of buildings on the site, or whether it was for repairs to an existing property. Sherwood Forest was a royal forest where hunting rights were solely owned by the king. Though little of the forest remains today, it once covered a large part of the county and Clipstone would have been within the heart of it.
- 1.3.6 The links between Clipstone and the royal pastime of hunting were made explicit in 1178-80 when a deer park was enclosed with a pale fence. The amenities of the King's Houses were developed alongside the park to include a fishpond and a stone-built chamber and a chapel during the years 1176-80, in advance of a visit by Henry II in 1181. Further additions and alteration are made over the next few years including, in 1186, the construction of a further fishpond - 'the Great Pond of Clipstone'.
- 1.3.7 Henry II, Richard I, John, Henry III, Edward I, Edward II, Edward III, and Richard II are all recorded as staying at Clipstone. John also endowed the chapel of St Edwin in 1205 which lay on the northern edge of the parish and was once a boundary marker of the deer park.
- 1.3.8 Although there are only three recorded visits to the King's Houses by Henry III, the palace complex was extensively developed during his reign. The list of additions and repairs mention the King's Chamber, hall, undercroft and chapel. Provision for accommodation for Henry III's consort Eleanor of Provence consisted of a timber hall, along with a kitchen and wardrobe. In 1252 there is reference to the Queen's Chapel and New Chapel.

- 1.3.9 The layout and nature of the palace was further altered in advance of Edward I's visit in 1280, with new chambers with chapels constructed for both the king and queen. Philip Rahtz (see below; Rahtz 1960) attributed the standing ruin to this phase of building, but the presence of Romanesque features associated with the extant structure which have been identified subsequent to Rahtz's fieldwork may push back the dating to Henry II's construction of 1176-80.
- 1.3.10 In 1282 Edward I ordered the construction of a stable capable of accommodating 200 horses, and in 1290 Clipstone was chosen as the venue for the Michaelmas Parliament. During the winter of 1316-17 Edward II ordered 200 acres of land to the south-west of the park to be enclosed and a peel (fence or palisade) to be established. Documents refer to buildings including a great gate, two windlasses for a drawbridge, a ditch, hall, royal chamber, chapel, bakehouse, kitchen, barn and sheds for livestock. The peel was eventually decommissioned in January 1328 when Edward III ordered Robert de Clipstone to dismantle the buildings of the peel and re-erect them at the King's Houses, except the 'greater gate of the pele, and the house built over it' which remained. Sources from the Patent Rolls in the late 14th century illustrate the great number of buildings that existed on the site.
- 1.3.11 Richard II was the last monarch to spend time at the King's Houses, as his successor Henry IV granted the manor of Clipstone for life to George Dunbar, Earl of March. However, the manor soon reverted to the Crown. A survey of the manor in 1525 makes it clear that by this time the complex was largely in ruins.

Post-medieval and early modern (1500-)

- 1.3.12 The manor and park of Clipstone finally passed out of royal ownership in 1603 when James I granted it to Charles Blount, Lord Mountjoy. It swiftly passed through a number of owners, notably William Cavendish, Earl of Newcastle, who purchased the estate in 1630 and immediately commissioned a map of his new possession. Here Clipstone Park is shown surrounded by its pale fence enclosing some 1457 acres, mainly woodland. The sites of Clipstone Peel and St Edwin's Chapel are marked, as are the gates into the park and the Great Pond. The village of Clipstone is drawn as a linear strip village to the north of the former palace complex. The open field system survives to a certain extent but enclosure has clearly begun. The site of the King's Houses is named 'manorgarth' with a gabled and possibly roofless building in the centre. A rectangular structure to the north of the ruin may represent the foundations of a gateway. This is where Brammer Farm House and Maun Cottage are situated today, both of which contain substantial stone walls. Maun Cottage was also once a tavern called 'the Gate Inn' during the mid 18th century and is marked on the 1841 tithe map as such.
- 1.3.13 Clipstone Park was virtually destroyed during the period of the Civil War and Protectorate when the pale fence and trees were used to fuel the Parliamentary war-effort. By 1677, the antiquarian Robert Thoroton ststed 'There is scarcely any ruins left at all of the king's old house, except a piece

of thick Stone Wall, and the Park is also cleared of the Gallant Oaks wherewith it was well furnished before the late Rebellion.'

1.3.14 Late 18th century antiquarian images of the extant ruins of the King's Houses show the ruin in a very similar form to the monument that exists to this day. It is not until John Chapman's Map of Nottinghamshire (1774), however, that the site is marked as 'King John's Palace' for the first time.

1.3.15 In the 19th century William Bentinck, 4th Duke of Portland instigated an irrigation scheme of flood meadows along the course of the River. The flood meadows passed through the heart of Clipstone Park, and the construction of them seems to have taken its toll on the preservation of the King's Houses. Shortly after the completion of the scheme in 1844, Francis White described the ruins: 'The only part of the palace now remaining stands in a large field close to the village and seems to have been the hall. The foundations have been formerly extensive, with several large vaults, but in 1816 a great part of these were dug up, to be employed in draining... it appears much spoliation was made on the venerable walls, though it is said his Grace had given strict orders to the contrary.'

1.4 Previous Archaeological Work

1.4.1 In October 1956 an evaluation was carried out by Philip Rahtz at King John's Palace with the aim of establishing the extent and date of the medieval complex. The method employed was to excavate two long trenches bisecting the ruins as well as some additional smaller trenches around the standing walls, and to trace the possible enclosure ditch. The following summary of the work is taken from Rahtz (1960).

1.4.2 In addition to one possible Romano-British feature, a number of residual sherds of Roman pottery were discovered during the work.

1.4.3 Several postholes, pits and possible beamslots were found and believed to come from 12th or early 13th century timber buildings. The discovery of an ornamental animal head does, however, suggest at least one stone building from this period. A large enclosure ditch was also located within several trenches and believed to relate to a palisade noted in the 13th century. This feature was traced to the south-west and south-east of the ruins (**Figure 1**) and potentially curves round to the north-east. Rahtz concluded that the upstanding ruins on the Site date from the late 13th century, but this date could not be definitely proved. He also believed that two phases of stone buildings pre-date the present ruin.

1.4.4 He found little that could be dated conclusively to the 14th/15th century and all post-15th century pottery came from disturbed deposits.

1.4.5 In general the excavation encountered a high level of truncation on the Site, with the present ground level often seen to be below what must have been the original medieval floor level. In addition, considerable evidence for robbing and demolition was encountered.

1.4.6 In 1991 excavations were undertaken by Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust in the north-west corner of the upstanding remains, prior to their consolidation. The work located part of Rahtz's excavations as well as

further evidence of robbing. A short section of wall was also identified which may represent an earlier attempt to stabilise the ruins (Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust 1992).

- 1.4.7 In 2004 a geophysical survey was undertaken by Pre-Construct Geophysics, this identified a number of linear anomalies identified as robbed out foundation trenches, ditches and traces of earlier excavations (Pre-Construct Geophysics 2004).
- 1.4.8 In 2004-5 a full condition survey of the ruins was undertaken as their increasing rate of decay became apparent (Mordan and Wright 2005). This notes voids to support beams and at one point a ledge in the upper part of the walls indicating an upper first floor as well as the occasional use of non-local stone. It also mentions the possibility that the niche in the south-west wall could be a post-medieval folly.
- 1.4.9 In 2009-2010 essential stabilization work was carried out on the upstanding remains by English Heritage and Nottinghamshire County Council.
- 1.4.10 Work undertaken by Andy Gaunt in 2010 in conjunction with an MA thesis attempted to reconstruct the old boundary of the park and locate any surviving features; geophysical survey and LiDAR analysis was also undertaken as part of this work (Gaunt 2011). This work identified some linear features in the field to the south of the ruins as well as some linear features to the south of the upstanding remains. A defined north-west – south-east aligned anomaly is thought to correspond to an enclosure marked on a 1630 map which may be the relict of the medieval palisade. Analysis indicates that the palace site occupies a spur of land created by the two rivers and is situated on a rise above the village. The most impressive view of the complex, and therefore the most likely approach, is from the north-west.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1.1 A project design for the work was compiled (Videotext Communications 2011), providing full details of the research aims and methods. A brief summary is provided here.
- 2.1.2 The aim of the project was to characterise the nature and date of the Site and place it within its historical, geographical and archaeological context. Three research aims were identified.
 - Characterise the extent, condition, form of at least one of the trenches excavated by Philip Rahtz in 1956. This work was intended to assess the validity of Rahtz's conclusions as well as to serve as a baseline from which to expand into previously unexplored areas of the site on the basis of new geophysical survey work.
 - Characterise the extent, condition, form and spatial relationships between possible medieval features at the site through known documentary references and the results of existing geophysical survey. Are there existing remains of specific structures and rooms known from documentary evidence?

- Characterise and clarify chronological relationships between possible medieval features identified through both non-invasive and invasive work with the intention of producing an occupational and building sequence for the site.
- 2.1.3 It had been agreed in advance that no invasive trenching would take place within the scheduled boundary.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Geophysical Survey

- 3.1.1 Prior to the excavation of evaluation trenches, a geophysical survey was carried out across the Site using a combination of resistance and magnetic survey. The survey grid was tied in to the Ordnance Survey grid using a Trimble real time differential GPS system.

3.2 Landscape and Cartographic Survey

- 3.2.1 A landscape survey and analysis of the cartographic evidence was undertaken by Alex Langlands. A summary of the findings is included here.

3.3 Evaluation Trenches

- 3.3.1 Seven trenches of varying sizes were excavated, their locations determined in order to investigate and to clarify geophysical anomalies and address specific research objectives (**Figure 1**).
- 3.3.2 The trenches were excavated using a combination of machine and hand digging. All machine trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision and ceased at the identification of significant archaeological remains, or at natural geology if this was encountered first. When machine excavation had ceased all trenches were cleaned by hand and archaeological deposits investigated.
- 3.3.3 At various stages during excavation the deposits were scanned by a metal detector and signals marked in order to facilitate investigation. The excavated up-cast was scanned by metal detector.
- 3.3.4 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Trenches were located using a Trimble Real Time Differential GPS survey system. All archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:20 with sections drawn at 1:10. All principal strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum.
- 3.3.5 A full photographic record of the investigations and individual features was maintained, utilising digital images. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and general context of the archaeology revealed and the Site as a whole.
- 3.3.6 At the completion of the work, all trenches were reinstated using the excavated soil.

- 3.3.7 The work was carried out on 5-8 April 2011. The archive and all artefacts were subsequently transported to the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury where they were processed and assessed for this report.

3.4 Copyright

- 3.4.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features and the full geophysical report (GSB 2011) are retained in the archive. Summaries of the excavated sequences can be found in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Geophysical Results

- 4.2.1 Geophysical survey was carried out over a total area of 1.35 hectares using a magnetometer, with a smaller area of 0.4 hectares subjected to a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey (**Figure 1**). Conditions for the survey were generally good although detail was limited to relatively confined reflectors believed to be sections of intact walls or foundations and concentrations of demolition material. The following discussion and accompanying data is taken from the report compiled by GSB (2011).

Magnetic survey (Figure 2)

Area 1

- 4.2.2 No anomalies of definite archaeological origin have been detected; a handful of responses (A) have been given the category of *Uncertain*, and whilst an archaeological interpretation is preferred due to their proximity to the remains, other factors such as topographical effects cannot be dismissed. Linear trend (B) marks the line of an old field boundary seen on first edition OS mapping; former ploughing trends are visible to the south of the boundary on a south-west – north-east alignment.

Area 2

- 4.2.3 This area is magnetically very noisy; the field used to be the site of a pheasantry (as marked on some old maps); and is also thought to have been used as a dumping ground, noted by the amount of debris on the surface.

GPR survey (Figure 3)

- 4.2.4 The GPR survey has produced a slightly frustrating dataset – it is clear that elements of the palace have been mapped, but the level of robbing has reduced this to isolated chunks of masonry, demolition spreads and some foundation material. The result is a tantalising glimpse of what once stood at

Clipstone but an inability to define the exact layout of the palace, with very few clearly definable, complete, wall-lines. By far the clearest wall-lines are those of a rectangular building (1) immediately north of, but on a different alignment to, the standing remains. Other responses interpreted as definite walls or foundations include those excavated during the evaluation and one (2) that was visible at the surface of the field immediately adjacent to the extant walls.

- 4.2.5 The areas of 'Anomalous Response', highlighted in the slices between 0.5 and 1.5m, probably indicate the extent of the primary buildings within the palace complex; this is thought to be the demolition spread. Within this there are more concentrated high amplitude anomalies which may be either *in situ* elements of the buildings or denser accumulations of demolition rubble. As mentioned previously, defining the exact layout is very difficult but there are hints of wings on the eastern side of the extant walls, possibly with some form of entrance feature (3), whilst on the western side there are suggestions of ancillary buildings and a potential north-western boundary (4). That said, the anomalies furthest out from the standing remains are difficult to classify owing to the encroaching natural anomalies, formed from reflections off the natural geology, which appear to be shallowest in the north-west.
- 4.2.6 The origin of the almost rectangular low amplitude zone (5) is unclear. It looks as though it should be anthropogenic and cuts through the presumed natural anomalies from the underlying geology. During subsequent discussion, the possibility was raised that this formed part of an enclosure ditch around the building complex. A possible north-westerly return of the feature can be seen as another low amplitude zone in the slices between 1.0 and 2.0m, running from bottom centre, and this lines up with the enclosure ditch identified by Rahtz in 1956 (**Figure 1**).
- 4.2.7 Shallow anomalies (especially clear in the raw data) are largely a result of agriculture on site.

Conclusions

- 4.2.8 The magnetic results revealed little of the buried features surrounding the standing remains, with the anomalies lacking the necessary definition to interpret them as archaeology. The GPR provided better results, most notably the identification of a rectilinear building immediately north of the extant palace walls; this may represent a chapel. The palace itself remained elusive with hints of wall lines and responses from sporadic *in situ* remains having been recorded but not with a density sufficient to define the exact layout of the palace and ancillary buildings. It seems that the extent of the nucleus of the site has been defined, but toward the edges of the survey area the presence of natural responses has clouded interpretation.

4.3 Landscape and Cartographic Survey

- 4.3.1 Existing maps, plans and background documentary material provided as part of the project were used as the base for analysis.
- 4.3.2 Observations of a small section of the rear wall of Arundel Cottage that borders the north of the Site (see **Figure 1**) revealed a regularly coursed

wall using the same limestone seen in the upstanding remains. The regular coursing suggests that this is a medieval wall, as within a later wall using re-used stone one would expect to find greater variation in stone size and type.

- 4.3.3 A pipe roll manuscript dated to 1348/49 describing work undertaken on repairs and improvements to the 'palace' talks of a '*claustrum* [barrier] encircling the manor in the north part from the great gates [gatehouse] to the angle of the field'. Maun Cottage was called The Gate Inn in the 18th century and may well be the location of the former gatehouse. The wall at the rear of the cottages is therefore likely to be part of the perimeter wall for the manor site.
- 4.3.4 The medieval boundary can still be seen as a relict feature in the 1766 estate map. The line of the wall can be traced as the perimeter of the 'manor garth' and runs through the back of the cottages built up against it. These brick cottages may well have had earlier antecedents as the road line diverts around them.
- 4.3.5 Numerous fragments of re-used medieval stone can be seen in the 19th century water-meadow works of the Duke of Portland. Whilst the facing stones of the culverts and sluices used to channel the stream were of Victorian build, it would seem that medieval stone was used for some of the vaulting of the culverts and presumably to backfill some of the causeways and access points. These water meadows were a grand scheme of works that made their way some 4.8 km up the Maun valley, suggesting wide-scale robbing of stone on the site.
- 4.3.6 The river gravels, where visible, comprised rounded stones of varying sizes. The upcast for the digging of the fish ponds in the 12th and 13th centuries may have provided a source of rounded river cobbles that could have been used as a surfacing and levelling material as the palace complex increased in size.
- 4.3.7 Some remnants of the deer park boundary can still be seen, with ephemeral traces of a bank and external ditch. Elsewhere though, just outside the deer park enclosure of the 1630 map and at the head of a valley known as 'deer leap dale', there was a bank and ditch of considerable size appearing to channel game towards a 'leap'. Here a break in the bank with a further drop below created an entrance for deer to be rounded into the park and confined within it.
- 4.3.8 Various place-names indicate other aspects of the deer park. White Gate Pub preserves the location of the south gate, while Peafield is thought to derive from 'Pele' (a palisade made of stakes).
- 4.3.9 A number of boundary oaks still survive, including Parliament Oak, which local oral history holds as the site where the various dignitaries converged for the 1290 Michaelmas parliament held at Clipstone. This is a credible idea as trees have a long association as meeting points, especially those situated at road junctions. Today two 'phoenix' oaks grow out of the root bowl which could have been as many as ten metres in circumference and would suggest an oak of considerable age.

- 4.3.10 Most interesting of all is Edwin's Chapel. King Edwin, first Christian king of Northumbria, was defeated in AD 633 by an alliance between Penda of Mercia and Cadwalla of Gwynedd at a place called 'heath field'. The battle site has commonly been taken to be Hatfield south of Doncaster, but Edwinstowe, to the immediate east of Clipstone, is also a candidate (Stapleton 1890). In 1205 King John endowed a chapel to St. Edwin but its location was far removed from the village centre. The reason for this unusual placement may be that the location for his chapel was at the head of a valley called 'Holy Well Dale' in the c. 1400 Belvoir map. Such a building, the dedication, the location and the association with a holy well has strong conversion resonances. It also perhaps suggests a tradition placing the battle site in this locality.

4.4 Evaluation Trenches

Introduction

- 4.4.1 Seven trenches were excavated. The majority of these lay in close proximity to the scheduled upstanding remains. The exceptions were Trench 4, which lay some 40m to the south and Trench 5 which lay around 0.30m to the east. The size and shape of the trenches varied, according to the targets on which they were sited and the archaeology subsequently uncovered. Any substantial remains were left *in situ*. Trench 5 lay at the lowest point at a height of 67.148m aOD and Trench 2 at the highest point of 70.30m aOD.
- 4.4.2 The trenches saw the removal of between 0.30m and 0.44m of overlying topsoil. In Trenches 2, 3, 6 and 7 this directly overlay demolition debris. Subsoil was only encountered in Trenches 4 and 5, where it existed to a depth of between 0.30m and 0.42m. Where encountered, the natural geology was sand.

Trench 1 (Figure 4)

- 4.4.3 Trench 1 was positioned over strong geophysical responses which suggested the possible corner of a structure. Removal of the topsoil (101) revealed substantial overlying demolition deposits **102** and **103**. After some trial sondages to test the depth and nature of these deposits, these were removed by machine.
- 4.4.4 The earliest feature encountered was **112 (Figure 4, section)**, a possible pit or ditch located in the northern part of the trench. Due to truncation, its position and the overlying deposits, the full shape in plan and dimensions could not be established, but the finds recovered from the fill suggest that this is a Romano-British feature. Large conjoining pottery fragments and charcoal within the main secondary deposit (**111**) suggest nearby occupation. No further traces of it can be seen on Rahtz's plan of his trenches just to the north.
- 4.4.5 Cutting through the eastern part of **112** was feature **105**. Only the north-western edge of this feature was clearly defined and it may be more of a depression than a deliberately cut feature. The fill (**106**) was identical to the overlying demolition debris (**102**).
- 4.4.6 Also seen truncating **112** on its eastern edge was north-west – south-east aligned ditch **121**. This is a probable continuation of the ditch seen in

Rathz's excavations to the north-east. The ditch was not fully excavated but contained a series of secondary deposits in which fine lenses of re-deposited natural were clearly visible, suggesting periods of gradual infilling as well as some higher energy depositional events. No datable material was recovered from **121**. This ditch cut through **108**, a possible levelling or made ground layer, as well as **110**, the buried soil which lay beneath this. Layer **110** is thought to be equivalent to **125**, which was cut by feature **113**.

- 4.4.7 Cutting through feature **112** on its southern edge was **113** (**Figure 4, section**), a clearly defined rectangular feature which appear to have a direct association with structure **104**. Partial excavation in a sondage along the north-western edge of the trench showed a straight but moderately steep-sided profile which extended to at least 0.70m below structure **104**. The deposits which are clearly within this structure (**114**, **119** and **127**) were relatively stone free and certainly included no masonry fragments. It is unclear whether they were naturally derived secondary fills or deliberate backfilling events. Fill composition and profile both make it difficult to determine whether this was a construction cut or perhaps a ditch, although its shape in plan and association with **104** would make it curious if the latter were the case. At the top of the feature were deposits **128**, **129** and **130**, **128** being a defined linear area of charcoal and burnt material, possibly the base of a burnt beam although no large or substantial fragments of charcoal were visible. That this material was hot when deposited was apparent from **129**, areas of heat affected sand beneath **128**. Overlying **128** was **130**, a wider spread of charcoal and burnt debris, and directly over this was **104**, a sub-rectangular area of mortar and rubble (**Figure 4, Plate 1**). This lacked any formal structure but could well be the base remnant of a wall; it lies just to the south-west of the alignment of the upstanding remains but could represent a buttress or other projecting structure.
- 4.4.8 In the southern-western part of the trench was a substantial north-east – south-west aligned robber trench (**120**) (**Figure 4, section**). Filled with deliberate backfill deposits **131** and **132**, it cut through **114**, an upper deposit within feature **113**, and **109**, the upper fill of ditch **121**. A fragment of medieval pottery (Nottingham Reduced Green-Glazed Ware) was recovered from deposit **114**.
- 4.4.9 In a small sondage in the southern part of the trench, the remnants of a wall (**124**) could be seen beneath robber cut **120**. This wall line is to the south-west of the alignment of the upstanding wall.

Trench 2 (Figure 5)

- 4.4.10 Trench 2 was positioned adjacent to and on the south-west side of the upstanding remains. It was designed to confirm the location of one of the 1956 excavation trenches, in order both to test the results of this and also to establish the previous excavations in OS co-ordinates and the heights above Ordnance Datum.
- 4.4.11 Removal of the overlying topsoil (**201**) clearly revealed the previous excavation trench (**203**) cutting through demolition deposits **204**, **205** and **207** (**Figure 5, Plate 2**). The demolition deposits contained a mixture of medieval and post-medieval pottery, suggesting demolition and stone robbing in the post-medieval period. A sondage through Rahtz's trench

showed that it had been overcut into the natural sand in places and this accounted for a discontinuous upper fill of re-deposited sand within the trench (**206**) which overlay the more mixed topsoil derived backfill (**202**).

- 4.4.12 At the base of the previous excavation trench the north-east side of a north-west – south-east aligned cut could be seen (**214**). This was thought to correspond to **213**, which lay 1.8m to the south-west, and examination of Rahtz's results confirmed that this was one large robber trench, backfilled with demolition rubble.
- 4.4.13 A sondage in the eastern part of the trench showed that **213** cut through **208**, a possible floor remnant (**Figure 5, Plate 3**). This consisted of stone rubble set into a pale yellow-white mortar, bedded into yellow sand and overlying a layer of redeposited sand. Lenses of mortar within the sand suggest that this is all one deliberately laid deposit. Deposits **209** and **210**, to the east of Rahtz's trench, are likely to be the remains of the yellow sand bedding and the redeposited sand respectively. Though robber cut **213** cut through these deposits, it quickly became obscured and overlain by demolition rubble. The possible continuation of **213** was seen in a sondage along the south-east edge of the trench, though this was not confirmed.
- 4.4.14 The exposed edge of **213** showed that **208** directly overlay **211**, a possible buried soil. Layer **212** beneath this may have been a former subsoil although it was poorly developed. This was stratigraphically above the natural geology (**215**) (**Figure 5, Plate 3**). The full depth of **213** was not established but was over 0.6m deep; this and its distance from **214** suggest the removal of a substantial wall.

Trench 3 (Figure 6)

- 4.4.15 Trench 3 was positioned over a strong geophysical anomaly which suggested possible *in situ* masonry. In common with Trench 1, removal of the overburden (**301**) revealed a considerable depth (on average 0.30m) of general demolition rubble (**302**) and (**304**). The natural sand (**316**) was only seen in the extreme southern corner of the trench.
- 4.4.16 The geophysical response was found to correspond to **310**, a north-east – south-west aligned stone-built buttress over 1.8m wide (**Figure 6, Plates 4 and 5**). One particularly finely-worked stone set into the north-west face of this structure had a chamfered edge on the internal face indicating the use of re-used masonry fragments. The buttress had been mostly removed and levelled by robbing event **314**.
- 4.4.17 Accumulated against the northern face of **310** was **311**, a deposit containing a lot of re-deposited sand which appears to be acting as a bedding layer for masonry deposit **306** (**Figure 6, Plate 5**). Only a small portion of **306** was exposed, so its nature and purpose remain unclear, although not as clearly defined as **310** it does appear to be a deliberate masonry structure.
- 4.4.18 To the east of **310** and built up against its south-east face was **307**, a buried soil or former made ground. This contained residual Romano-British pottery as well as 14th to 15th century pottery (Chilvers Coton 'C' ware). The section exposed in a small sondage showed that this overlay **313** which

may well be the backfill within the construction cut, although this could not be confirmed.

4.4.19 A dark humic deposit (**303**) directly overlaying buttress **310** indicates a period of abandonment and stability after the initial robbing event (**314**) (**Figure 6, Plate 6**). Pottery from this layer dates to the late 13th to early 15th century (Nottingham Green-Glazed Reduced Ware). Both **307** and **315** also lay beneath this buried soil deposit.

4.4.20 Cutting through **303** was a later robber cut (**309**) which appears to have removed a substantial north-west – south-east aligned wall (**Figure 6, Plate 6**). The south-western edge of this cut could be seen in the extreme southern corner of the trench; the full depth of the cut was not exposed but it was at least 1.9m wide and over 0.94m deep. It was backfilled with demolition rubble deposits **308** and **305**. A single sherd of 15th to 16th century pottery was recovered from **308** (Midlands Purple Ware).

Trench 4 (Figure 7)

4.4.21 Trench 4 was positioned over the strong linear response identified by Gaunt in 2010 and confirmed by the magnetic survey (**Figure 2**).

4.4.22 A large north-west – south-east aligned ditch was located (**403**). Despite its size and depth, this appeared to have a single homogeneous fill (**402**) which was very similar to the subsoil or colluvial layer **405**. This may suggest a period of rapid backfilling. There was no indication of a bank. A single sherd of 13th century pottery was recovered from **402** (Nottingham Early Green-Glazed Ware).

Trench 5 (not illustrated)

4.4.23 Trench 5 was dug to test whether a strong response identified by the GPR (**Figure 3**) was geological in origin. This was confirmed as no archaeological features were present.

Trench 6 (Figure 8)

4.4.24 Trench 6 was targeted on a well defined rectangular anomaly identified by GPR (**Figure 3**). It was positioned on the south-east side where a possible entrance could be seen.

4.4.25 Removal of the topsoil (**601**) initially revealed a number of layers and deposits but no clear features. Three sondages were therefore dug across the trench in order to clarify what was present. The geophysical response was seen to correspond to a south-west – north-east aligned foundation trench (**616/617/618**) (**Figure 8, section drawing; Plate 9**). Despite the strength and definition of the geophysical anomaly, no masonry was encountered in this feature, but the abundance of river cobbles and occasional lenses of more angular slabs within the feature fills suggests a deliberately structured foundation deposit rather than the more random backfilling of a robber cut. Pottery from within the backfill of these features suggests a 13th to 15th century date.

4.4.26 There is a suggestion of other structures pre-dating this building at the eastern end of the trench as foundation trench **618** cut through demolition

deposits **605** and **613** (**Figure 8, section**). Deposit **613** overlay **614**, a deliberate dump of sand which may represent degraded mortar.

- 4.4.27 Foundation trench **617** cut through **624**, a buried soil. This deposit, however, could not have extended much further east as foundation trench **616** cut through the natural geology (**621**).
- 4.4.28 In the south-west corner of the trench was masonry structure **625**. Though it had a vertical interface with **617** this seems more likely to have been built up against (filled) trench **617** than for **617** to post-date **625**. Little of the structure remains as most has been truncated by robber cut **627**, but the geophysical survey suggests that this was an entrance or porch. Overlying **610**, the backfill of the foundation trench, were demolition deposits **609** and **629**.
- 4.4.29 Foundation trench **616** appeared to be cut by **622** and **623**, but as neither of these were fully excavated it is unclear whether they were cut features or whether **607**, the uppermost fill of **616**, was overlain by demolition deposits **603**, **606** and **602** which fill these possible features.
- 4.4.30 Cutting through **612**, the demolition deposit overlying the foundation trench (**618**) in the eastern part of the trench, was **630** (**Figure 8, section**). Though it was not fully seen in plan this appears to have been a moderately-sized pit. This feature produced some of the earliest medieval pottery from the Site (Lincoln Fine-Shelled Ware and Nottingham Splashed Ware) but, given its position in the stratigraphy this may be residual.
- 4.4.31 A modern animal burial was found within and just below the topsoil. This was noted but not recorded in detail.

Trench 7 (Figure 9)

- 4.4.32 Trench 7 was positioned over the south-eastern corner of the building also investigated by Trench 6. Unlike Trench 6 where there was a number of overlying spread of demolition debris here the foundation trench (**706/708**) was clearly visible beneath the topsoil (**701**) (**Figure 9, Plate 10**).
- 4.4.33 A sondage dug through the south-eastern arm of the foundation trench (**706**), showed a similar profile and depositional sequence to that seen in Trench 6, but a sondage through the south-western arm (**708**) revealed a slightly different structure. Here a much more coherent deposit of angular stone slabs (**710**), concentrated on the external, south-western, edge of the cut, overlay (**709**), characterised by abundant river cobbles. The foundation trench at this point was not fully excavated. The change between angular slabs and river cobbles was observed in the other sondages but not to such a marked extent; it may just be variation in construction or it could be an attempt to strengthen this particular section of wall.
- 4.4.34 The foundation trench cut through a buried soil (**704**), similar to that seen in the western part of trench 6. A sondage in the southern corner of the trench showed it to be over 0.5m deep. The exposed section of **706** shows that it directly overlay the natural sand **712**. Pottery from this layer dated from the late 13th-15th century.

- 4.4.35 In the northern corner of the trench, just inside the foundation trench, was **707**, a stony, compact deposit which may well be a floor remnant. This was left *in situ*.

5 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Finds were recovered from all eight of the trenches excavated, although finds from Trenches 4, 5 and 8 were minimal. The assemblage is largely of medieval and post-medieval date, with a scattering of Romano-British artefacts.
- 5.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the totals by trench are given in **Table 1**. The quantification includes some objects that were recorded on site but not retained – these comprise nails and clearly modern metal objects from topsoil, and large amounts of masonry rubble from Trenches 1 and 3 (photographed on site). Further recommendations for finds discard are made here (see below).
- 5.1.3 All finds have subsequently been at least visually scanned, in order to provide basic identifications, and to ascertain the date range where possible. This section discusses the finds briefly within their local and regional context, and assesses their potential to contribute to an understanding of the Site, with particular reference to the use of the Site as a medieval palace (the 'King's Houses').

5.2 Pottery

Analytical Methodology

- 5.2.1 The pottery was initially bulk-sorted and recorded on a computer using DBase IV software. The material from each context was recorded by number and weight of sherds per fabric type, with featureless body sherds of the same fabric counted, weighed and recorded as one database entry. Feature sherds such as rims, bases and lugs were individually recorded, with individual codes used for the various types. Decorated sherds were similarly treated. In the case of the rimsherds, the form, diameter in mm and the percentage remaining of the original complete circumference was all recorded. This figure was summed for each fabric type to obtain the estimated vessel equivalent (EVE).
- 5.2.2 The terminology used is that defined by the Medieval Pottery Research Group's Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms (MPRG 1998) and to the minimum standards laid out in the *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of post-Roman Ceramics* (MPRG 2001). All the statistical analyses were carried out using a DBase package written by the author, which interrogated the original or subsidiary databases, with some of the final calculations made with an electronic calculator. Any statistical analyses were carried out to the minimum standards suggested by Orton (1998-9, 135-7).

Pottery Types

- 5.2.3 The pottery assemblage comprised 158 sherds with a total weight of 2730g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference was 0.33.
- 5.2.4 Where possible, the pottery was classified using the Preliminary Type Series for the City of Nottingham (Nailor and Young, 2005, unpub.), most of which are the same as those used in the classification system for the City of Lincoln (Young and Vince 2005). The CLAU system was used for post-medieval and modern fabrics which are not listed in the Nottingham Type Series. Two fabrics were not covered by either the Nottingham or Lincolnshire type series; both are Chilvers Coton wares from Warwickshire. Totals by ware type are given in **Table 2**; the alphanumeric codes prefixed with an 'F' are those used in the database (held in the project archive).
- 5.2.5 In addition, 20 sherds (529g) of Romano-British pottery were also noted, with most being apparently stratified in a single deposit in Trench 1.
- 5.2.6 The range of fabric types is fairly typical of sites in the region, with most of the wares known from previous excavations in the city of Nottingham. The presence of relatively large amounts of Chilvers Coton Wares is however very unusual. Such pottery, made near Nuneaton in Warwickshire (Mayes and Scott 1964), is a common find at sites in Warwickshire, and forms most of the 14th-16th century assemblages from sites in Coventry (eg. Blinkhorn 2003). It is also entirely possible that at least some of the Midland Purple and Cistercian Wares from this site were made at Nuneaton, as such wares were produced in very large quantities at that centre, although there is also some evidence of Midland Purple having been made more locally in Nottingham and both types were made at Ticknall in Derbyshire (Young and Vince 2005, 225-6). It is suggested that the reason for their presence here may have been that the royal retinues at Clipstone may have been provisioned from the south rather than more locally, with royal castle at Kenilworth being the obvious candidate, and a likely stopping point for royal retinues heading north to Clipstone. Certainly, recent excavations at the formal gardens at Kenilworth Castle produced large quantities of Chilvers Coton Wares, with all the 14th – 16th century stratified pottery being products of that industry, including Midland Purple and Cistercian Wares (Blinkhorn forthcoming).

The Pottery

- 5.2.7 The pottery occurrence by trench is shown in **Table 3**.

Trench 1

- 5.2.8 Trench 1 produced one of the largest groups of pottery, although the bulk of it consisted of a fairly large group of apparently stratified Romano-British material from context (111). It consisted solely of coarse greywares, with most coming from the rim and body of a single fairly large vessel.
- 5.2.9 The medieval assemblage indicates that activity during that period started no earlier than the late 13th century/early 14th century, evidenced by two small sherds of NOTGR, and a single sherd of CCC. A small amount of 15th century pottery is present in the form of a sherd from a Raeren beer-

mug and three sherds of MP. A lack of Cistercian Ware, which is otherwise fairly common at the site, suggests medieval activity in the area of the trench ended early in the second half of the 15th century at the latest, and possibly as early as the beginning of that century. The entire medieval assemblage comprised bodysherds. Two post-medieval sherds were noted, both dating to the late 17th – early 18th century.

Trench 2

- 5.2.10 All the contexts date to the mid 15th/early 16th century or later, although residual wares such as NEMCS, POTT, and NOTGR are present, indicating that there was some disturbance of earlier strata between AD 1450/70 and 1550. This period corresponds with the decline and abandonment of the site, and is probably the result of stone-robbing activity. Again, the only post-medieval pottery dated to the late 17th-18th century.

Trench 3

- 5.2.11 This trench produced the largest assemblage of pottery from the site. The date-range of the pottery is very similar to that in Trench 1. There are a few sherds of Romano-British material, all probably residual, with the rest of the pottery dating to the early/mid-13th-late 15th/early 16th century. Much of the earlier medieval pottery is residual in later contexts, again suggesting disturbance due to stone-robbing after the site had been abandoned. Most of the late medieval pottery, such as fragments of RAER mugs, CIST cups and tygs and MP large jugs or cisterns, is associated with drink, with none of the pottery apparently associated with the storage, preparation or consumption of food. Two of the three rimsherds from the site came from this trench, one from a jug in NOTGR and the other from a jug or cistern in MP. Overall, this is a fairly typical pattern for late medieval assemblages associated with heavy physical labour, with the accent on drink-related vessel forms, and supports the suggestion that the pottery was used by stone-robbers rather than being the result of domestic activity.

Trench 4

- 5.2.12 The small assemblage from this trench indicates that there was activity in 13th century, and again in the late 17th-18th century. The entire assemblage comprised bodysherds, and it all occurred in the topsoil and subsoil.

Trench 5

- 5.2.13 Just four sherds of pottery occurred, all bodysherds, all in the topsoil, and all dating to the mid/late 15th century or later.

Trench 6

- 5.2.14 The trench produced a large assemblage of, in the main, small sherds of pottery. It also produced the potentially earliest sherd from the site in the form of a small fragment of LFS, which could be of late Saxon or Saxo-Norman date. However, such pottery was still in use in the late 12th century, and given that there are other pottery types of such date present

here (*ie.* NSP and NCSW), it seems likely that this was the case. This, coupled with the fact that this is the only trench which produced sherds of NSP and NCSW, along with the only two sherds of DST from the site, indicates that this area of the site was one of the first to be developed, and dates corresponds with the record of construction of stone buildings at the site in the second half of the 12th century. The range of other medieval pottery types show that the area was in use throughout the medieval period. Given the evidence from the other trenches, it seems likely that the pottery dating to the mid-/late 15th-early 16th century represents vessels used by stone-robbers. Certainly, all the pottery of that date is once again fragments of pots used for drinking. All the pottery was bodysherds apart from a residual rimsherd from a jar or cistern in MP.

Trench 7

- 5.2.15 Only 19 sherds were recovered from this trench. All were of late 13th-14th century date (NOTGR and CCC), and comprised entirely bodysherds.

Overview

- 5.2.16 The medieval assemblage (131 sherds, 1897g, EVE = 0.33) comprises mainly fairly small body sherds, other than a few large fragments of late medieval vessels. Just three rimsherds were noted, two from late medieval jugs or cisterns, and the third from a medieval jug. Most appear to be the product of secondary deposition, and a lot of the earlier medieval material is redeposited in later contexts. The range of fabric types is fairly typical of sites in the region, although a relatively large assemblage of Chilvers Coton Wares indicates that the site was being provisioned from the south, with Kenilworth Castle perhaps being the most obvious supply source.
- 5.2.17 The assemblage shows that there was activity here more or less all the way through the medieval period, with the earliest pottery being from Trench 6, and probably of mid-late 12th century date. The rest of the trenches largely produced pottery of 13th-15th/16th century date, with the latest medieval pottery in all cases being fragments of vessels associated with the storage, transportation or consumption of drink, suggesting that there was a major episode of stone-robbing during that time. A few sherds of late 17th-18th date may be indicative of a further episode of stone-robbing, or may simply be due to the area having been ploughed and manured.
- 5.2.18 Generally, the earlier medieval assemblage (late 12th-14th century) is fairly sparse, and comprises almost entirely fragments of glazed jugs, with unglazed jars, usually by far the commonest pottery type at sites of the period, virtually absent. The fact that the only sherds of unglazed pottery at the site date around the time of an historically documented phase of stone building construction may be due to it having been used by builders rather than the later inhabitants.
- 5.2.19 This pattern almost certainly is a reflection of the site's very high status in the late 12th-14th centuries, and suggests that, for all intents and purposes, the only pottery used here was jugs, with cookery taking place solely in metal vessels. Certainly, one would expect that the royal visitors to the site would have dined using vessels made from metal and glass (eg. McCarthy and Brooks 1988, fig. 39); many 15th-16th century religious paintings, such

as the 'Master of The Catholic Kings' late 15th-century work *The Marriage at Cana* show pottery only appearing as large jugs placed on the floor behind diners or under the table, enabling diners or servants to replenish their drinking vessels with ease. The range of pottery types in use at this site suggest that a similar regime may have been in place here.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

- 5.3.1 This category includes fragments of brick and tile. Some fragments are certainly or probably Romano-British: these include one *tegula* fragment from Trench 4 topsoil, a second undiagnostic tile fragment from the same context, and four tile fragments from Trench 6 topsoil, of which one might be from an *imbrex*.
- 5.3.2 Two medieval roof tile fragments, one nibbed, came from demolition layer **304** and the fill of pit **630** respectively. A post-medieval brick fragment from Trench 4 topsoil is of unfrogged form but uncertain dimensions. Other fragments are undiagnostic.

5.4 Stone

- 5.4.1 All of the stone recovered is building stone of some kind, and this includes five architectural fragments and one possible roof tile. One of the architectural fragments features a mason's mark. Also recovered was part of a figurative sculpture, featuring a hand. All these pieces are from the Permian sandy facies of the Lower Magnesian Limestone, probably Red Mansfield stone (K. Hayward pers. comm.; Smith *et al.* 1967, 201-2).
- 5.4.2 In addition, large amounts of masonry rubble were observed in Trenches 1 and 3, from which a small sample of the best examples were recorded on Site but not retained.

5.5 Glass

- 5.5.1 All but one of the pieces of glass consists of medieval window glass, recovered from Trench 6 (topsoil, and the fill of foundation trench **616**). These are small fragments are in very poor, degraded and fragile condition, opaque and devitrified.
- 5.5.2 The remaining fragment is from a post-medieval green bottle of 17th century form, found in the topsoil in Trench 2.

5.6 Metalwork

Coins

- 5.6.1 Two coins were recovered. The earliest (from Trench 6 topsoil) is an extremely worn Roman sestertius, struck in the 1st or 2nd century AD. This has a neat hole drilled through it to allow it to be suspended as a pendant, although this does not seem to have been done to display either the image on the obverse, or that on the reverse, and probably post-dates the wear on the coin.
- 5.6.2 The second coin from the site is a fragmentary hammered silver half groat (Trench 5 topsoil). This appears to have been folded prior to its loss, and seems to have broken along this fold. Only just over half of the coin was

present. It is badly worn, but appears to be a half groat of Henry VI (1422-61), although it is not possible to establish to which issue it belongs.

Copper alloy

- 5.6.3 The five copper alloy objects recovered include one of Romano-British date. This is a simple one-piece brooch, lacking the pin, of Nauheim-derivative type, dating to the 1st century AD. This came from the topsoil in Trench 4.
- 5.6.4 One small object found unstratified in Trench 3 is a winged belt fitting with three rivet holes, probably medieval (see Geddes 1985, fig. 50, no. 49b). Part of a thin circular washer, probably modern, was found unstratified in Trench 2. The other objects comprise a small oval sheet with a small, off-centre slit-shaped perforation, perhaps a simple mount of some kind; and another small sheet fragment of unknown function. Neither of these two objects are closely datable; both came from topsoil or unstratified contexts.

Lead/lead alloy

- 5.6.5 Most of the lead comprises small scrap/waste fragments, and pieces of sheet, including six small rectangular pieces, each with two nail holes at one end. The only other recognisable objects are fragments of window came. These are folded and otherwise distorted, and it is difficult to discern their mode of manufacture, although at least some of the fragments appear to be milled rather than cast, which would place them no earlier than the mid 16th century (see Knight 1985, 156, fig. 48, 2d). The lead fragments came mainly from the topsoil (Trenches 1, 2, 3, 6, 7), also from a buried soil (303) in Trench 3, and from demolition debris in Trench 6 (layers 603, 605, 606).

Iron

- 5.6.6 The iron consists almost entirely of nails, of which those from topsoil contexts were recorded on site but not retained. Also present were fragments from a modern object, probably a cartridge shell (topsoil in Trench 3), also discarded following recording on site.

Other Metal

- 5.6.7 Other metal comprises modern objects recovered from topsoil contexts; these were recorded on site and subsequently discarded.

5.7 Animal Bone

Introduction

- 5.7.1 The assemblage comprises 208 fragments (or 2.640kg) of animal bone. Once conjoins are taken into account this figure falls to 179 (**Table 4**). Animal bone was recovered from 29 separate contexts located in Trenches 1 to 4 and 6 and 7. The assemblage is considered as a whole in the following sections.

Methods

- 5.7.2 The assemblage was rapidly scanned and the following information quantified were applicable: species, skeletal element, preservation condition, fusion data, tooth ageing data, butchery marks, metrical data, gnawing, burning, surface condition, pathology and non-metric traits. This

information was directly recorded into a relational database (in MS Access) and cross-referenced with relevant contextual information and spot dating evidence.

Results

5.7.3 The majority of the bone is well-preserved, only a few fragments show signs of weathering, this is quite moderate and the result of surface exposure. The proportion of gnawed bones is fairly high (9%) and this supports the notion that some bones were exposed for a period before they were buried.

5.7.4 Sheep/goat and cattle bones are common and the majority are from adult animals. Other domestic species include pig, horse, dog, domestic fowl and goat. The latter is represented by a single horn core from the deliberate backfill of foundation trench **(618)**. Butchery marks consistent with portioning and filleting were noted on a distal horse femur from Trench 3 topsoil. It is likely that dogs were the intended recipients of this particular meat.

5.7.5 The assemblage also includes a reasonable number of bones from wild species, namely deer and rabbit. Both native deer species (i.e. red deer and roe deer) are present, and the former is more common than the latter. Fallow deer bones are also present and this species is thought to have been imported by the Normans in the 11th century specifically to stock private parks where the social elite could hunt (Sykes 2010). Several different areas of the deer carcass are represented including limbs and fragments of skull and most are from the right-hand side. The butchery of deer carcasses was highly ritualised and certain carcass parts were intended for particular hunt participants depending upon their social status and role in the hunt. The type of body parts and side preference noted in the Clipstone assemblage is typical of high status sites (Sykes 2007).

5.8 Marine Shell

5.8.1 The marine shell consists almost entirely of oyster, with a few fragments of mussel shell. The oyster includes examples of both right and left valves, i.e. both preparation and consumption waste. Fragments are small and none of the valves are complete.

5.9 Other Finds

5.9.1 Other finds comprise one piece of undiagnostic fired clay, of uncertain date and function; and three pieces of clay pipe, including a 19th century decorated bowl.

5.10 Potential and recommendations

5.10.1 This is a relatively small assemblage. Only pottery, animal bone and metalwork (mostly lead waste) are represented in any appreciable quantities. A high proportion of the finds came from topsoil or unstratified contexts, or from demolition contexts, i.e. there is little here that can be regarded as representing *in situ* deposits. Only six contexts were spot-dated on pottery evidence to the medieval period, and of these only three (foundation trenches in Trenches 6 and 7) could be related with any degree of confidence to construction episodes. Apart from pottery sherds, and a

few structural fragments (building stone, window glass), only one object – a small metal belt fitting – could be definitively dated as medieval.

- 5.10.2 The identification of a scattering of Romano-British finds (brooch, pottery, ceramic building material) is of some interest as indicating activity in the vicinity of the site, and these can be seen against a background of other sporadic finds of this date from previous investigations at Clipstone.
- 5.10.3 Some structural evidence was recovered which is presumed to relate to the medieval palace, amongst which four architectural fragments and a fragment of possible statuary are of interest; the few fragments of window glass recovered are heavily degraded.
- 5.10.4 The pottery (including a high proportion of glazed wares) and faunal assemblages (including deer and other wild species) both reflect the Site's high status during the medieval period. The range of pottery wares has usefully highlighted a primary source of supply to the south, perhaps via Kenilworth Castle, which would have been a likely stopping point for royal retinues heading north to Clipstone.
- 5.10.5 No further analysis is proposed; the finds have already been recorded to an appropriate archive level. The information on the finds included in this report can be incorporated in the proposed summary publication of the site.

6 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 No material suitable for palaeo-environmental analysis was encountered during this evaluation.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 This evaluation, although small in extent, proved sufficient to contribute to the archaeological interpretation of the site known as King John's Palace. It demonstrated a complex sequence of building phases, robbing and demolition and confirmed the validity of earlier work undertaken in 1956.

7.2 Romano-British (AD 43-410)

- 7.2.1 Residual pottery within Trenches 1 and 3, together with material recovered during the 1956 excavation, and stray finds such as the copper alloy brooch, indicate sporadic Romano-British activity on the Site. This is confirmed by the presence of feature **112** in Trench 1. A possible Romano-British feature was also found during the 1956 excavations. Given the other recorded findspots and cropmarks in the vicinity of the Site, Romano-British occupation of some form in the area seems likely.

7.3 Medieval (1066-1500)

- 7.3.1 The first documentary reference to the Site as '*King's Houses*' comes in the late 12th century. This corresponds well with the pottery recovered, the earliest of which is probably 12th century (with the possibility that some

could be earlier, 10th or 11th century). This earlier pottery was mainly found in Trench 6, suggesting that the early focus of the Site was there (see also below, **Unphased**). However, pottery recovered from the foundation trenches of the structure in Trenches 6 and 7 suggests that this was a later building, probably from the 13th or 14th century. The feature found by Rahtz in his trench to the east of Trench 6 seems to correspond to a geophysical response beneath and therefore pre-dating the structure seen in Trenches 6 and 7. Rahtz's feature, then, may well relate to a 12th century complex.

7.3.2 The fact that the same feature was not encountered within Trench 6 seems to support Rahtz's belief that it did not represent the continuation of his enclosure ditch but perhaps another area of stone robbing. However, the GPR 1.5-2.0m depth slice does show a low amplitude response running south-west to north-east which may have formed part of a possible enclosure ditch (**Figure 3**, [5]). This feature was not at first identified in the geophysical survey report, as interpretation is difficult at these depths, but subsequent discussion raised this possibility, and noted a possible return of the feature that corresponds well with the line of the enclosure ditch found by Rahtz in 1956 (**Figure 1**). It is still not clear, however, whether the ditches found by Rahtz all formed part of the same feature or whether the GPR response represents a different linear that continued to the north-east.

7.3.3 Rahtz recorded a number of postholes, pits and beams slots dating to the 12th/13th century, potentially from an earlier timber building beneath the present stone ruins. He did, however, consider that there was also a stone structure within the earliest complex of buildings, based on the high cost of the works and a Romanesque animal head recovered from the Site (Rahtz 1960).

7.4 Post-medieval (1500-1800)

7.4.1 The majority of the pottery from Trenches 1, 2 and 3 is late medieval and early post-medieval in date. In each of these trenches, extensive robber cuts indicate the removal of substantial stone walls. It is, however, unclear how or whether these walls relate to the extant ruins. The GPR survey suggests that the extant ruins formed the north-western limit of a large building complex extending to the north-east and south-east (**Figure 3**).

7.4.2 What the archaeological results and the historic maps suggest is that the main period of robbing of the masonry walls did not occur, as it is often quoted, during the Duke of Portland's construction of a water meadow system in the early 19th century, but that it had mostly occurred earlier, in the 16th to 17th centuries. Given these dates it is likely that useable masonry may have been removed either before it passed out of royal ownership or soon after it was granted to Lord Mountjoy in 1603. Certainly the 1766 Welbeck estate map only appears to indicate the north-west wall. A number of drawings exist from late 18th century in which the ruins appear almost exactly as they are today.

7.5 Unphased

7.5.1 Further possible buildings are suggested by correlations between the geophysical survey and Rahtz's excavation. Though undated they are more likely to relate to the late medieval and early post-medieval phases of use.

Due to the complexity of use of the site and the amount of demolition and robbing, however, no clear phasing or floor plan can be determined

7.5.2 To the north of the extant ruins are some walls partly seen by Rahtz in his excavations but also clearly seen in the GPR data (**Figure 3**, [2]). This structure, so close to but not apparently directly related to the extant ruins, may belong to an earlier phase of building.

7.5.3 Another possible small structure identified from the GPR survey lies just to the north-west of the ruins (**Figure 3**). Rahtz encountered a wall and a possible beam slot in his trench around this location.

7.5.4 Further wall lines are implied to the north-east of the Site which may relate to the extant ruins.

7.6 Conclusions

7.6.1 The archaeological evidence seems to support the documented history of the Site, reflecting a programme of building and re-modelling throughout the medieval period. It also must not be forgotten that the complex of buildings lay within the wider situation of the enclosed park, which was often the subject of uneasy relations with the neighbouring villages (Crook 1976). Moreover, the focus of the Site today was not the only complex of buildings within the park and Crook (2005) believes that the 'peel' created in the early 14th century and associated buildings in the southern part of the park were intended to serve as a defensive royal residence. The political climate changed, however, and in 1328, Edward II's successor Edward III had all the buildings at the peel taken down and re-established at the King's Houses, with the exception of the gatehouse (*ibid.*).

7.6.2 The buildings investigated do seem to represent the heart of the building complex which appears at least initially to have been within a ditched enclosure. There is an early documentary ref to 'hays' (enclosures) in the late 12th century (Stapleton 1890). Royal parks were often compartmentalised - for example, Clarendon Palace in Wiltshire has a defined inner park and a number of divisions (Richardson 2007). It is likely that such an arrangement existed here. A 1774 map by John Chapman, and an earlier map of 1630, both clearly indicate the park lying as an almost separate entity to the west. The ditch seen in Trench 4 may also be one of the internal boundaries within the complex.

7.6.3 The finds assemblage reflects the complex's role and status as a royal hunting lodge with evidence for hunting deer and game, and high quality pottery. However, few personal items were found.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1.1 An online OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) entry will be created for this evaluation and its findings and submitted to the website.

8.1.2 Given the relatively small scale of the Time Team evaluation, and the level of information already recorded for stratigraphic, artefactual and environmental data, no further analysis of the results is proposed.

- 8.1.3 The results of this evaluation are, however, of local significance, and it is recommended that they are published as a summary report, with accompanying figures, to be submitted to the *Transactions of the Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire*.

9 ARCHIVE

- 9.1.1 The excavated material and archive, including plans, photographs and written records, are currently held at the Wessex Archaeology offices under the project code 77500. It is intended that the archive should ultimately be deposited with the Newark and Sherwood Museum Service, under the accession code **NEKMS:2011.14**.
- 9.1.2 The project archive will be prepared in accordance with guidelines for *The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Newark and Sherwood Museum Service*, and generally following nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2007).

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Table 1: Finds totals by material type and by trench (number / weight in grammes)

Material	Tr 1	Tr 2	Tr 3	Tr 4	Tr 5	Tr 6	Tr 7	Tr 8	TOTAL
Pottery	26/654	16/257	47/1085	4/62	4/94	42/423	19/155	-	158/2730
<i>Romano-British</i>	17/491	-	3/38	-	-	-	-	-	20/529
<i>Medieval</i>	3/18	8/97	20/280	3/44	-	38/352	19/155	-	91/946
<i>Post-medieval</i>	6/145	8/160	24/767	1/18	4/94	4/71	-	-	47/1255
Ceramic Building Material	1/51	-	2/212	6/1325	-	6/273	1/61	-	16/1922
Fired Clay	-	-	-	-	-	1/19	-	-	1/19
Clay Pipe	1/7	3/17	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/24
Stone	27/30433	-	5/185	-	-	2/1499	1/174	-	35/32291
Glass	-	1/14	-	-	-	23/8	-	-	24/22
Metalwork (no. objects)	92	36	43	1	1	39	17	1	231
<i>Coins</i>	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
<i>Copper Alloy</i>	-	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	5
<i>Lead/Lead alloy</i>	87	34	32	-	-	25	15	1	194
<i>Iron</i>	5	1	9	-	-	10	1	-	26
<i>Other metal</i>	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	4
Animal Bone	38/531	11/146	86/1136	5/78	-	30/167	38/582	-	208/2640
Marine Shell	1/14	3/9	21/103	-	-	1/1	2/16	-	28/143

Table 2: Pottery totals by type

Database fabric code	Fabric code	Fabric type	Date range	No. sherds	Weight	EVE
RB	-	Romano-British wares	Romano-British	20	529	0
F300	LFS	Lincoln Fine-Shelled Ware	late 10th – late 12th C	1	1	0
F301	NEMCS	Nottingham Early Medieval Coarse Sandy Ware	late 11th – early/mid 12th C	1	4	0
F310	NSP	Nottingham Splashed Ware – Fine fabric	early - mid 12th C	3	21	0
F311	NSP	Nottingham Splashed Ware – Sandy fabric	mid 12th – early/mid 13th C	2	10	0
F315	NCSW	Nottingham Coarse Sandy Ware	late 12th – 15th C	1	2	0
F316	POTT	Potterhanworth Ware	13th – 14th C	2	11	0
F320	NOTGR	Nottingham Reduced Green-Glazed Ware	late 13th – early 15th C	37	370	0.11
F321	NOTGI	Nottingham Iron-Rich Glazed Ware	early – early/mid 13th C	1	24	0
F322	NOTGE	Nottingham Early Green-glazed Ware	early – early/mid 13th C	2	40	0
F331	DST	Developed Stamford Ware	mid 12th – early/mid 13th C	2	3	0.
F350	NOTLGW	Late Nottingham Glazed Ware	late 14th – 15th C	3	52	0
F403	LMF	Surrey/Hampshire 'Tudor Green'-type Ware	late 14th – 17th C	1	2	0
F404	CIST	Cistercian Ware	mid/late 15th – 17th C	20	190	0
F405	RAER	Raeren Stoneware	mid/late 15th – late 16th C	3	24	0
F406	MP	Midlands Purple Ware	15th – 16th C	15	732	0.22
F414	STMO	Staffordshire Mottled Ware	late 17th – 18th C	1	3	0
F426	LERTH	Early modern black-glazed earthenwares	late 17th – 19th C	6	299	0
F1000	LPM	Early modern or modern wares	19th – 20th C	1	5	0
F324	CCA	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware (Ratkai and Soden n.d.)	mid 13th – 14th C	7	73	0
F325	CCC	Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware	14th – 15th C	29	335	0
			TOTALS	158	2730	0.33

EVE = estimated vessel equivalent

Table 3: Pottery occurrence per trench

Trench	No Sherds	Wt Sherds	EVE	Date Range
1	26	654	0	late 13th – mid 15th C, + RB + late 17th C
2	16	257	0	12th – late 15th/early 16th + late 17th C
3	47	1085	0.23	mid/late 13th – late 15th/early 16th C+ RB
4	4	62	0	early – mid/late 13th + late 17th C
5	4	94	0	late 15th – mid 16th C + early modern
6	42	423	0.10	early/mid 12th - late 15th/early 16th C+ late 17th C
7	19	155	0	late 13th – 14th C
Total	158	2730	0.33	

EVE = estimated vessel equivalent

Table 4: Number of identified animal bone fragments present (or NISP)

Species	NISP
cattle	16
sheep/goat	22
goat	1
pig	5
horse	5
dog	5
red deer	8
roe deer	1
fallow deer	8
domestic fowl	4
rabbit	2
Total identified	77
large mammal	43
medium mammal	13
mammal	41
bird	4
fish	1
Total unidentified	102
Overall total	179

Table 5: Quantity of detailed animal bone information available by type

	No.
Age - fusion	26
Age - mandibles	4
Biometric	6
Butchery	12

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

bgl = below ground level

TRENCH 1		Type:	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 6.35x6.35m		Max. depth: 1.49m	Ground level: 68.65-69.25m aOD
Context	Description	Depth (m)	
101	<i>Topsoil</i> Modern topsoil. Dark grey-brown sandy silt loam. <1% stone, sub-rounded – sub-rounded, <1-8cm. Occasional charcoal and mortar flecks. Homogeneous; fairly loose and friable; bioturbated. Under grass; overlies 103.	0.00-0.30 bgl	
102	<i>Layer</i> Demolition debris. Pale grey-brown sand. 30% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, 2-40cm. Abundant mortar fragments. Mixed with orange-brown lenses. Moderately compact. Overlies 104, 106 and 131.	0.60 deep	
103	<i>Layer</i> Demolition debris. Pale grey-brown sand. 30% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-18cm. Abundant mortar fragments. Mixed with clear bands of yellow-brown and pink-brown sand. Moderately compact. Thought to overlie 102, but relationship difficult to determine.	1.17 deep	
104	<i>Structure</i> Raft of pale yellow-grey lime mortar with rare sub-angular blocks of stone. Roughly sub-rectangular. Hard and compact. 1.82m wide, over 2.15m long. Overlies 130.	0.08 high	
105	<i>Cut</i> Possible cut or depression, filled with 106. North-south aligned. Irregular, steep sides, flat base. Only west side clearly pronounced. Cuts 117 and possibly 126.	0.36 deep	
106	<i>Deposit</i> Fill of 105 ; identical to 102; demolition debris accumulated in feature or depression.	0.36 deep	
107	<i>Deposit</i> Secondary fill of ditch 121 . Mid orange-brown sand. 5% stone, rounded, <1-6cm. Rare charcoal flecks. Occasional dark orange sand lenses. Fairly compact.	0.27+ deep	
108	<i>Layer</i> Possible levelling layer or made ground. Mid orange-brown sand. 5% stone, sub-angular – rounded, <1-6cm. Rare charcoal flecks. Fairly homogeneous; moderately compact. Overlies 110.	0.45 deep	
109	<i>Deposit</i> Secondary fill of ditch 121 . Mid orange-brown sand. 15% stone, rounded, <1-5cm. Rare charcoal flecks. Occasional pale orange and dark brown sand lenses. Fairly compact. Overlies 107 and 116.	0.37 deep	
110	<i>Layer</i> Buried soil. Mid brown sand. 5% stone, rounded, <1-6cm. Fairly homogeneous; moderately compact. Not fully excavated.	0.33+ deep	
111	<i>Deposit</i> Secondary fill of feature 112 . Mid orange-brown sand. 5% stone, rounded, <1-6cm. Occasional charcoal flecks and heat-affected pebbles. Fairly homogeneous; fairly compact.	0.62 deep	
112	<i>Cut</i> Possible linear or large pit, filled with 111 (possibly also filled with 117 and 126). Moderate, convex sides, flat base. Full dimensions and shape in plan not visible. Cuts 123.	0.62 deep	
113	<i>Cut</i> Possible ditch or construction cut, north-west – south-east aligned. Filled with 114 and 127 but also associated with 128, 129, 130 and 104. Straight, moderate sides, base unexcavated. 2.27m wide. Cuts 123.	0.72 deep	
114	<i>Deposit</i> Secondary fill of feature 113 . Mid orange sand. 5% stone, rounded, <1-6cm. Fairly homogeneous; fairly compact. Overlies 127/119.	0.60 deep	
115	<i>Deposit</i> Secondary fill of ditch 121 . Mid orange-brown sand. 10% stone, rounded –angular, <1-8cm. Occasional pale red sand lenses. Fairly compact. Not fully excavated.	0.70+ deep	
116	<i>Deposit</i> Secondary fill of ditch 121 . Dark grey-brown sand. 1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Fairly homogeneous; fairly compact. Overlies 115.	0.19 deep	
117	<i>Layer</i> Possible secondary fill of 112 . Mid orange-brown sand. 5% stone,	-	

		rounded, <1-4cm. Fairly homogeneous; moderately compact. Very similar to (111), possibly identical. Largely unexcavated.	
118	-	VOID	-
119	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of feature 113 , same as 127. Dark orange-brown sand. 5% stone, rounded, <1-6cm. Fairly homogeneous; fairly compact. Unexcavated.	-
120	Cut	North-west – south-east aligned robber trench filled with 131 and 132. Steep, vertical sides, flat base. Width unclear but probably over 1.3m. Cuts 109, 114 and 124.	0.87 deep
121	Cut	North-east – south-west aligned ditch filled with 107, 109, 115 and 116. Steeped, steep sides. Not fully excavated. 2.5m wide. Cuts 108 and 126.	0.60+ deep
122	-	VOID	-
123	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid red sand; no visible inclusions. Moderately compact; homogeneous.	
124	<i>Structure</i>	Wall remnant, not fully exposed in plan. Angular stone slabs, (length 16-30cm, width 12-14cm) set into pale pink lime mortar with frequent white flecks and rare charcoal flecks. Unexcavated.	-
125	<i>Layer</i>	Buried soil horizon, probably same as 110. Mid to dark brown sand. <1% stone, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-4cm. Fairly homogeneous; moderately compact. Largely unexcavated.	-
126	<i>Layer</i>	Possible secondary fill of 112 . Pale orange-brown sand. 5% stone, rounded, <1-4cm. Rare mortar flecks. Fairly homogeneous; moderately compact. Very similar to 111, possibly identical. Unexcavated.	-
127	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of feature 113 , same as 119. Dark orange-brown sand. 5% stone, rounded, <1-6cm. Fairly homogeneous; fairly compact.	0.38 deep
128	<i>Layer</i>	Deliberate deposit, possibly base of charred beam or floor remnant. Dark grey-black sandy silt. Approximately 60% of the material is fine charcoal/soot. Contains lenses of grey sand. Overlies 129.	<0.01 deep
129	<i>Layer</i>	In-situ burning, heat affected sand. Pale red sand. Compact; fairly homogeneous. Unexcavated. Overlies 114.	-
130	<i>Layer</i>	Related to 128, spread of material. Dark grey-brown sand. No visible coarse components. Defined area. Compact; fairly homogeneous. Overlies 128.	0.03 deep
131	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate backfill of robber cut 120 . Mid grey-brown sand. 10% stone, sub-angular - angular, <1-7cm. Moderately compact; slightly mixed. Overlies 132.	0.31 deep
132	<i>Deposit</i>	Possible deliberate backfill of robber cut 120 , possible degraded mortar. Pale yellow-brown sand. No visible coarse components. Fairly homogeneous.	0.18 deep

TRENCH 2		Type:	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 4.60x3.92m		Max. depth: 1.10m	Ground level: 69.86-70.30m aOD
Context	Description	Depth (m)	
201	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Dark grey-brown sandy silt loam. 5% stone, sub-rounded – sub-rounded, <1-20cm. Homogeneous; fairly loose and friable; bioturbated. Under grass; overlies 206.	
202	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate backfill of 1956 excavation trench 203 . Dark grey sandy silt loam. 8% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-10cm. Frequent mortar flecks and fragments. Occasional charcoal flecks. Moderately loose and friable; fairly homogeneous.	
203	Cut	North-east – south-west aligned 1956 excavation trench, filled with 202 and 206. Straight, vertical sides, flat but undulating base. Width varies from 0.82-1.08m. Cuts 204, 207 and exposes 214 in the base.	
		0.60+ deep	

204	<i>Layer</i>	Demolition debris. Mid orange sand. 70% stone rubble, sub-angular, 4-20cm. Occasional charcoal flecks. Slightly mixed; fairly loose deposit. Similar to 207, possible fill of 213 though appears to obscure it in places. Overlies 205.	0.26 deep
205	<i>Layer</i>	Demolition debris. Mid brown sand. 20% stone rubble, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-8cm. Fairly mixed, patches of mid to pale red sand. Moderately compact but fairly friable. Possible fill of 213 . Overlies 215.	0.21+ deep
206	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate backfill of 1956 excavation trench 203 . Redeposited sand. Mid to pale red sand. 2% stone, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-4cm. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous though includes some lenses of paler sand. Overlies 202.	0.08 deep
207	<i>Deposit</i>	Demolition debris within 213 . Mid red-orange sand. 60% stone rubble, sub-angular, <1-25cm. Occasional charcoal and mortar flecks. Fairly mixed, includes mid grey sandy silt loam and pale red sand lenses. Moderately compact. Similar to 204.	0.61+ deep
208	<i>Structure</i>	Possible floor remnant. Pale yellow-white sandy lime mortar set with 75% sub-angular stone rubble, 2-8cm. This is bedded into yellow sand which in turn overlies mid red sand with some mortar lenses. Overlies 211 and 210.	0.19 deep
209	<i>Layer</i>	Possible lower remnant of floor bedding, equivalent to sandy part of 208. Pale yellow sand. <1% stone, rounded, <1-2cm. Fairly homogeneous; fairly compact. Unexcavated. Overlies 210.	-
210	<i>Layer</i>	Redeposited sand, similar to lower part of 208. Pale red sand. 2% stone, sub-rounded – rounded, rare angular stone fragments, <1-5cm. Fairly homogeneous; fairly compact. Unexcavated.	-
211	<i>Layer</i>	Possible buried soil. Mid red brown sand. 2% stone, sub-angular – rounded, <1-4cm. Fairly homogeneous; fairly compact. Overlies 212.	0.10 deep
212	<i>Layer</i>	Disturbed natural, possible poorly developed buried subsoil. Mid red sand. 1% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Occasional mid red brown diffuse mottles. Evidence of bioturbation; fairly compact. Overlies 215.	0.18 deep
213	Cut	South-west side of cut only; may correspond to 214. Filled with 207 but may also include 204 and 205. North-west – south-east aligned. Clearest in north-western part of trench but possibly runs across the full length of the trench. Straight, vertical sides, not fully excavated. Cuts 208 and possibly 209 as well.	0.61+ deep
214	Cut	North-east side of cut only but may correspond to 213. Exposed within base of 203 where it is still filled with the trench backfill 202. North-west – south-east aligned. Straight, steep sides, not excavated. Cuts 215.	0.08+ deep
215	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid red sand. No visible inclusions. Moderately compact; homogeneous.	0.70+ bgl

TRENCH 3		Type:	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 3.74x3.96m		Max. depth: 1.25m	Ground level: 68.01-68.45m aOD
Context	Description	Depth (m)	
301	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Dark grey-brown sandy silt loam. 1% stone, sub-rounded – sub-rounded, <1-8cm. Homogeneous; fairly loose and friable; bioturbated. Under grass; overlies 302.	
302	<i>Layer</i>	Demolition debris. Mid brown-yellow sand. 20% stone rubble, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-14cm. Slightly mixed. Moderately compact. Overlies 304.	
303	<i>Layer</i>	Buried soil, accumulated on levelled masonry 310, indicating period of disuse. Mid brown sandy silt loam. 2% sub-rounded – rounded, <1-4cm. Homogeneous; fairly loose and friable. Overlies 307, 314 and	

		315.	
304	Layer	Demolition debris. Mid brown-yellow sand. 20% stone rubble, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-19cm. Slightly mixed; moderately compact. Overlies 305.	0.35 deep
305	Deposit	Deliberate backfill of robber cut 309 . Mid pink-brown sand. 60% stone, sub-angular - angular, <1-15cm. Moderately compact; slightly mixed with occasional mid red sand mottles. Overlies 308.	0.94 deep
306	Structure	Possible wall remnant, post-dates 310. Angular stone slabs (length 28-33cm, width 11-34cm, depth 4-8cm) set in mid red-brown sand. Smaller more sub-angular fragments in south-eastern part of deposit bonded with pale white-grey lime mortar with occasional small rounded pebbles. Full shape in plan and extent not seen. Overlies 311.	0.38 high
307	Layer	Buried soil or former made ground. Mid brown sand. 2% stone, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-6cm, occasional angular stone fragments. Compact; fairly homogeneous. Overlies 313.	0.30 deep
308	Deposit	Deliberate backfill of robber cut 309 . Mid brown sand. 70% stone, sub-angular - angular, 2-20cm. Moderately compact; slightly mixed with occasional mid red brown sand lenses..	0.45+ deep
309	Cut	Robber cut filled with 305 and 308. South-east – north-west aligned, has removed south-east – north-west wall and further robbed 310. Straight, vertical sides. 1.9m+ wide. Only partly excavated. Cuts 303.	0.94+ deep
310	Structure	North-east – south-west aligned buttress, squared limestone blocks (length 34-52cm, width 10-50cm, depth 10-15) in pale white-grey lime mortar, occasional white flecks. Slightly irregular jointing. Stone rubble core, angular – sub-angular, 2-20cm. One facing stone is a re-used finely tooled, ashlar block with chamfered edge. 1.88m wide, approximately 1.3m long. Fill of 312 .	0.90+ deep
311	Layer	Possible bedding for 306. Pale red sand. 2% stone, rounded, <1-5cm. Slightly mixed; fairly compact. Unexcavated.	-
312	Cut	Unseen construction cut. Filled with 313 and 310.	-
313	Deposit	Thought to be deliberate backfill of 312 seen in exposed edge of 309 beneath 307. Mid brown sand. 2% stone, rounded, <1-2cm. Slightly mixed. Fairly compact. Overlies 310.	0.25+ deep
314	Cut	Initial robbing/levelling of buttress 310 followed by accumulation 303. Cuts 310.	-
315	Layer	Possible buried subsoil. Mid red-brown sand. 1% stone, sub-rounded, <1-4cm. Slightly mixed; fairly compact. Overlies 306.	0.42 deep
316	Natural	Natural geology. Mid red sand. Compact; fairly homogeneous.	1.03+ bgl

TRENCH 4		Type:	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 8.60x1.80m		Max. depth: 2.20m	Ground level: 68.58-68.76m aOD
Context	Description		Depth (m)
401	Topsoil	Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam. 2% stone, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-6cm. Homogeneous; fairly loose and friable; bioturbated. Under grass; overlies 405.	0.00-0.44 bgl
402	Deposit	Secondary fill of ditch 403 . Mid brown sand. 8% stone, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-6cm. Moderately compact; homogeneous. Diffuse interface and very similar to 405.	1.24 deep
403	Cut	Cut of south-east – north-west aligned boundary ditch. Filled with 402. 4.55m wide. Upper part slightly diffuse and bioturbated, lower part clearer interface. Cuts 404.	1.24 deep
404	Natural	Natural geology. Pale red-orange sand. Occasional 10% gravel bands. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous.	0.80+ bgl
405	Subsoil	Modern subsoil and colluvium. Mid brown sand. 5% stone, sub-	0.38-0.94

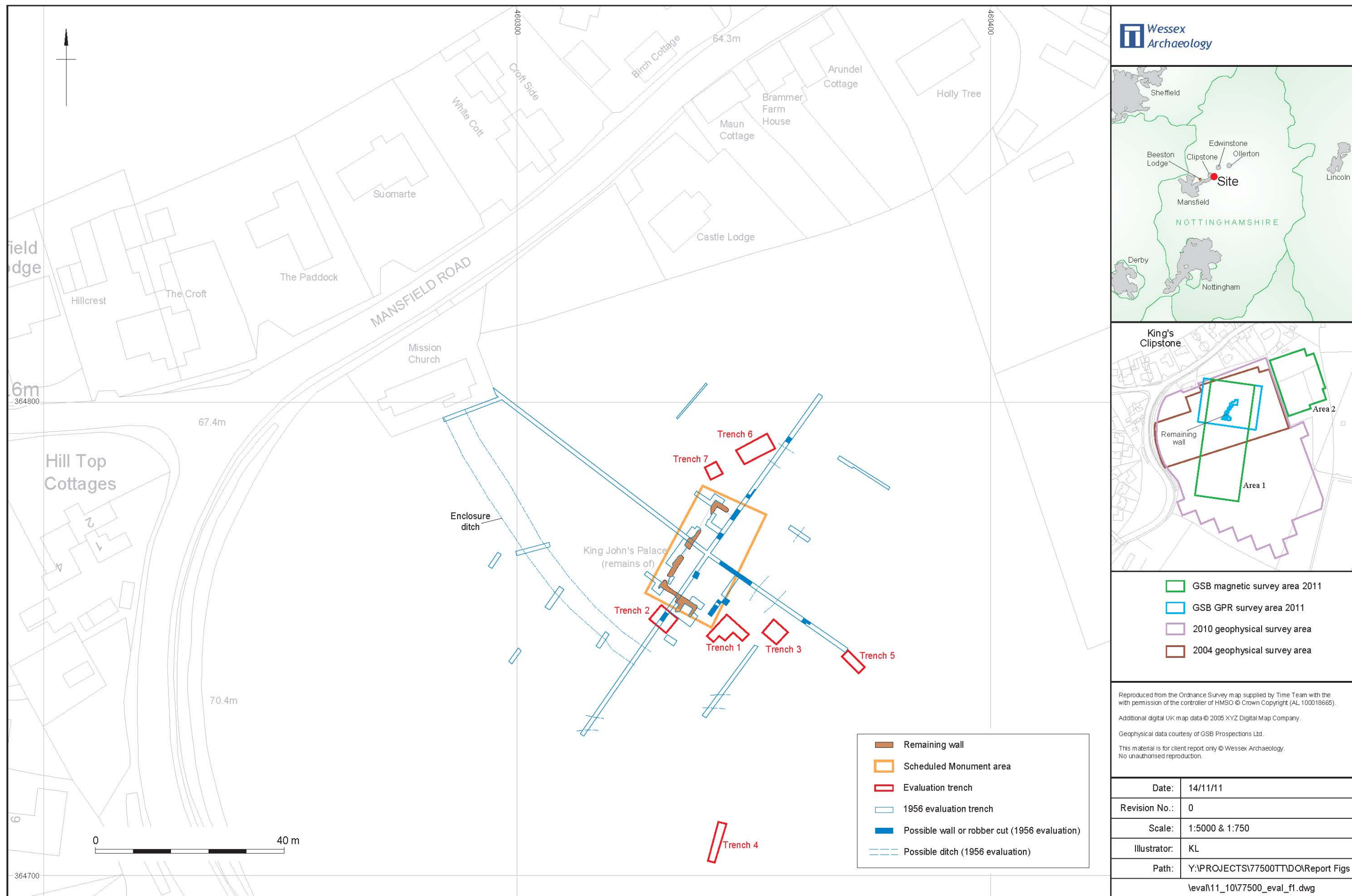
	rounded – rounded, <1-5cm. Homogeneous; moderately compact; some bioturbation. Overlies 404.	bgl
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TRENCH 5		Type:	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 4.90x1.80m		Max. depth: 1.12m	Ground level: 67.18-67.27m aOD
Context	Description		Depth (m)
501	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam. 2% stone, sub-angular – rounded, <1-4cm. Homogeneous; fairly loose and friable; bioturbated. Under grass; overlies 502.	0.00-0.42 bgl
502	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil and colluvium. Mid red-brown sand. 5% stone, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-4cm. Fairly loose and friable; some bioturbation; fairly homogeneous except bottom 5cm. Diffuse interface with 503.	0.41-0.85 bgl
503	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Pale yellow-red sand. 10% stone, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-4cm. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous but slightly 'dirty' in upper portion. Less stone, cleaner below.	0.78-1.12+ bgl

TRENCH 6		Type:	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 7.80x3.60m		Max. depth: 1.51m	Ground level: 68.31-68.95m aOD
Context	Description		Depth (m)
601	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam. 1% stone, sub-rounded – rounded, <1cm. Homogeneous; fairly loose and friable; bioturbated. Under grass; overlies 602.	0.00-0.39 bgl
602	<i>Deposit</i>	Demolition debris within cut 622 . Mid pink-brown sand. 8% stone, sub-angular – rounded, <1-12cm. Slightly mixed. Rare fragments of mercia mudstone. Fairly compact. Overlies 606.	0.23+ deep
603	<i>Deposit</i>	Demolition debris within cut 623 . Mid red-brown sand. 10% stone, sub-angular – rounded, <1-15cm. Slightly mixed; fairly compact. Overlies 606.	0.16 deep
604	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of possible pit (630). Mid brown sand. 5% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-5cm. Fairly homogeneous; moderately compact.	0.44+ deep
605	<i>Layer</i>	Demolition debris. Mid pink-brown sand. 15% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-12cm. Very slightly mixed; fairly compact. Not fully excavated.	0.27+ deep
606	<i>Deposit</i>	Demolition debris within cut 623 . Mid red-brown sand. 40% stone, sub-angular, 8-22cm. Fairly homogeneous; fairly compact.	0.14+ deep
607	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate backfill of foundation trench 616 . Mid red-brown sand. 20% cobbles, rounded, 2-15cm, 2% stone, sub-angular, 4-14cm. Rare charcoal flecks. Moderately compact. Possible bands of variation/lenses/tiplines. Overlies 611.	0.91 deep
608	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate backfill of foundation trench 618 . Mid yellow-brown sand. 5% cobbles, rounded, 1-8cm, 1% stone, sub-angular, 2-6cm. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous. Overlies (615).	0.74 deep
609	<i>Layer</i>	Demolition debris, possible eroded surface remnants. Mid brown sand. 1% stone, sub-angular – rounded, <1-3cm. Frequent degraded plaster/mortar flecks. Slightly mixed; fairly compact. Overlies 610.	0.12 deep
610	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate backfill of foundation trench 617 . Mid red-brown sand. 40% cobbles, rounded, 2-20cm, 10% stone, sub-angular, 4-8cm. Moderately compact. Occasional pale brown mottles but generally fairly homogeneous.	1.16 deep
611	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate backfill of foundation trench 616 . Mid brown sandy silt loam. 10% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-5cm. Occasional charcoal and degraded mortar flecks. Rare patches of green-grey clay. Moderately compact. Overlies 620.	0.08 deep

612	<i>Layer</i>	Demolition debris. Mid grey-brown sand. 10% stone, sub-angular – rounded, <1-10cm. Slightly mixed; fairly compact. Overlies 608.	0.25 deep
613	<i>Layer</i>	Demolition debris. Mid yellow-grey sand. 10% stone, sub-angular – rounded, <1-10cm. Slightly mixed; fairly compact. Overlies 614.	0.25 deep
614	<i>Layer</i>	Deliberate dump of sand, possibly degraded mortar. Pale yellow sand. 1% stone, sub-angular – rounded, <1-10cm. Homogeneous; fairly compact. Not fully excavated.	0.60+ deep
615	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate backfill of foundation trench 618 . Mid red-brown sand. 5% cobbles, rounded, 2-12cm, 2% stone, sub-angular, 4-8cm. Moderately compact. Occasional charcoal flecks. Fairly homogeneous but possible lenses and tip lines within fill.	0.92+ deep
616	<i>Cut</i>	Foundation trench filled with 607, 611, 619 and 620. North-east – south-west aligned. Straight, vertical sides, flat base. 1.32m wide. Same as 617 and 618. Cuts 621.	1.00 deep
617	<i>Cut</i>	Foundation trench filled with 610. North-east – south-west aligned. Straight, vertical sides, flat base. 1.26m wide. Same as 616 and 618. Cuts 624.	1.16 deep
618	<i>Cut</i>	Foundation trench filled with 608 and 615. North-east – south-west aligned. Straight, vertical sides, flat base. 1.25m wide. Same as 616 and 617. Cuts 613 and 605.	0.92+ deep
619	<i>Deposit</i>	Primary fill of foundation trench 616 . Mid orange-brown sand. 1% cobbles, rounded, <1-4cm, <1% stone, sub-angular, <1-10cm. Moderately compact. Fairly homogeneous.	0.08 deep
620	<i>Deposit</i>	Primary fill of foundation trench 616 . Mid orange-red sand. No coarse components observed. Moderately compact; homogeneous. Overlies 619.	0.07 deep
621	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Pale red sand. <1% stone, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-2cm. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous.	0.60+ bgl
622	<i>Cut</i>	Exact nature unclear, may not be cut feature, filled with 607. Shape not fully seen in plan. Straight, steep sides, not fully excavated. Over 2.10m wide. Cuts 607.	0.23+ deep
623	<i>Cut</i>	Exact nature unclear, may not be cut feature, filled with 603 and 606. Shape not fully seen in plan. Straight, steep sides, not fully excavated. Over 0.98m wide. Cuts 607.	0.24+ deep
624	<i>Layer</i>	Possible buried soil. Mid grey-brown sand. 2% stone, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-3cm. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous. Not fully excavated.	0.19+ deep
625	<i>Structure</i>	Possible wall, north-west – south-east aligned. Sub-angular sandstone blocks bedded into mid green-grey clay. Shape in plan unclear. Vertical interface with 617 but likely to overlie 610.	0.26+ high
626	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate backfill of robber cut 627 . Mid red-brown sand. 10% stone, angular – sub-rounded, <1-12cm. Moderately compact. Occasional degraded mortar lenses. Mixed with mid orange-brown mottles.	0.34 deep
627	<i>Cut</i>	Robber cut, filled with 626. Shape not fully seen in plan. Straight, steep sides, irregular base. Over 1m wide. Cuts 625 and 609.	0.34 deep
628	<i>Layer</i>	Demolition debris similar to 603. Mid red-brown sand. 5% stone, sub-angular – rounded, <1-12cm. Slightly mixed; fairly compact. Unexcavated.	-
629	<i>Layer</i>	Demolition debris. Mid brown sand. 5% stone, sub-angular – rounded, <1-3cm. Frequent degraded plaster/mortar flecks. Slightly mixed; fairly compact. Overlies 626.	0.13 deep
630	<i>Cut</i>	Possible pit, filled with 604. Not fully seen in plan. Convex, vertical sides, not fully excavated. 0.82+m wide. Cuts 612.	0.44+ deep

TRENCH 7		Type:	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 2.84x2.96m		Max. depth: 1.08m	
		Ground level: 69.21-69.44m aOD	
Context	Description	Depth (m)	
701	<i>Topsoil</i> Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam. 1% stone, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-5cm. Homogeneous; fairly loose and friable; bioturbated. Under grass; overlies 704.	0.00-0.33 bgl	
702	<i>Deposit</i> Deliberate backfill of foundation trench 706 . Mid red-brown sand. 15% stone, sub- angular – sub-rounded, <1-12cm. Moderately compact; very slightly mixed. Overlies 703.	0.32 deep	
703	<i>Deposit</i> Deliberate backfill of foundation trench 706 . Mid red-brown sand. 60% cobbles, rounded, 2-15cm. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous. Overlies 705.	0.20 deep	
704	<i>Layer</i> Buried soil. Dark brown sand. 5% stone, sub-angular – rounded, <1-8cm. Occasional charcoal flecks. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous. Overlies 712.	0.27-0.80+ bgl	
705	<i>Deposit</i> Deliberate backfill of foundation trench 706 . Mid red-brown sand. 30% cobbles, rounded, 2-18cm. Moderately compact. Occasional mid red mottles but generally fairly homogeneous.	0.33 deep	
706	Cut Foundation trench filled with 702, 703 and 705. North-east – south-west aligned with north-west return. Straight, vertical sides, flat base. 1.35m wide but some of this width is due to erosion of upper edge. Same as 708. Cuts 704.	0.77 deep	
707	<i>Layer</i> Possible floor remnant. Pale yellow sand. 50% stone, sub-angular, 2-30cm. Very compact. Has vertical interface with 706 and 708 but function would suggest this is stratigraphically above 702 and 711. Physically overlies material equivalent to 704. Unexcavated.	-	
708	Cut Foundation trench filled with 709, 710 and 711. North-east – south-west aligned with north-west return. Straight, vertical sides, flat base. 1.58m wide but some of this width is due to erosion of upper edge. Only partly excavated. Same as 706. Cuts 704.	0.37+ deep	
709	<i>Deposit</i> Deliberate backfill of foundation trench 708 . Mid red sand. 70% cobbles, rounded, 2-18cm. Moderately compact; homogeneous. Exposed in plan only. Unexcavated. Lowest exposed fill of 708 .	-	
710	<i>Deposit</i> Deliberate deposit within foundation trench 708 , possible foundation or strengthening of outer edge. Mid brown sand. 80% angular stone slabs 10-40cm long, 7-25cm wide, 3-7cm deep. Moderately compact; very slightly mixed. Slabs appear to be deliberately laid but lack overall form. Only partly excavated. Overlies 709.	0.16+ deep	
711	<i>Deposit</i> Deliberate backfill of foundation trench 708 . Mid red sand. 5% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-8cm. Occasional charcoal flecks. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous. Overlies 710.	0.37 deep	
712	<i>Natural</i> Natural geology. Pale red sand. <1% stone, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-2cm. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous.	0.90+ bgl	



Location of Site, evaluation trenches and geophysical survey areas

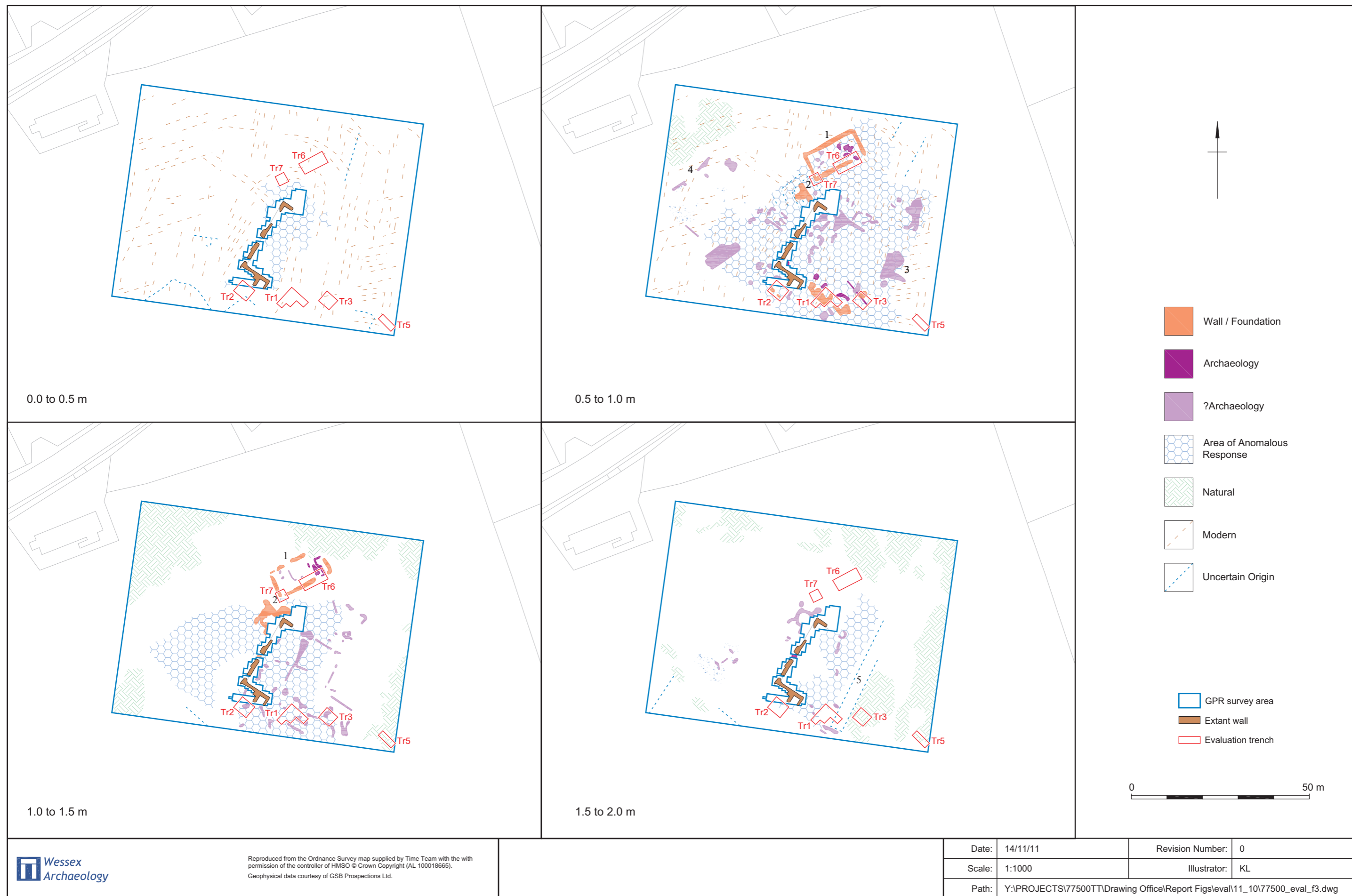
Figure 1

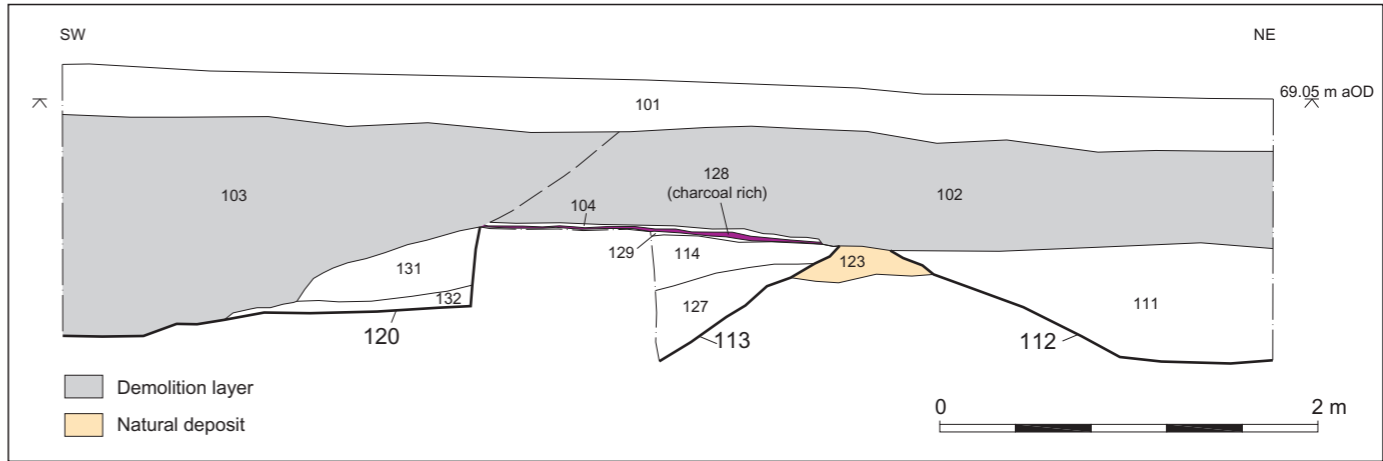


Magnetic survey area Remaining wall Evaluation trench 	Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map supplied by Time Team with the with permission of the controller of HMSO © Crown Copyright (AL 100018665). Geophysical data courtesy of GSB Prospections Ltd. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
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Results of magnetic survey (GSB 2011)

Figure 2





South-east facing section of features 123, 112 and 120



Plate 1: Trench 1, view from north-west

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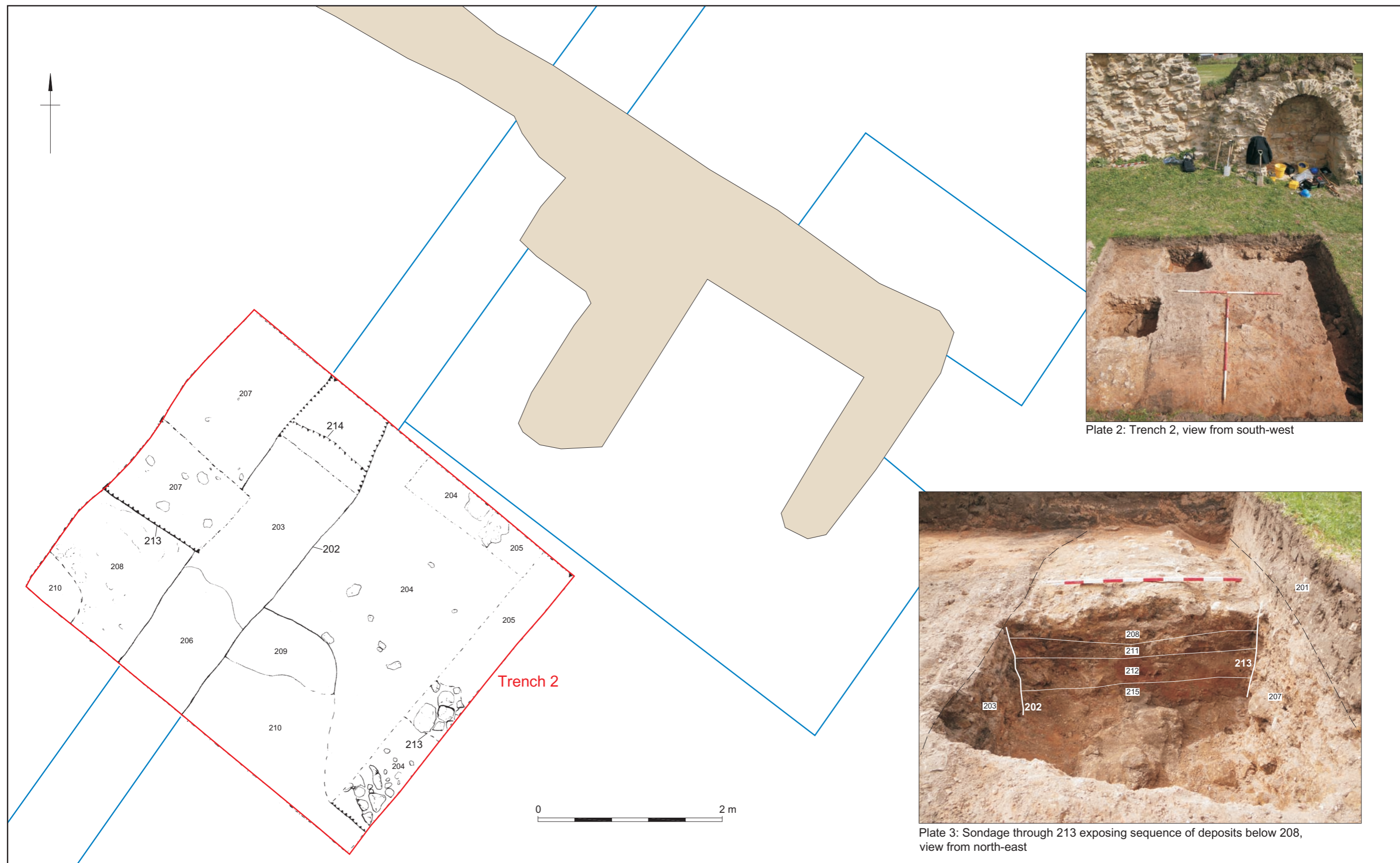


Plate 2: Trench 2, view from south-west

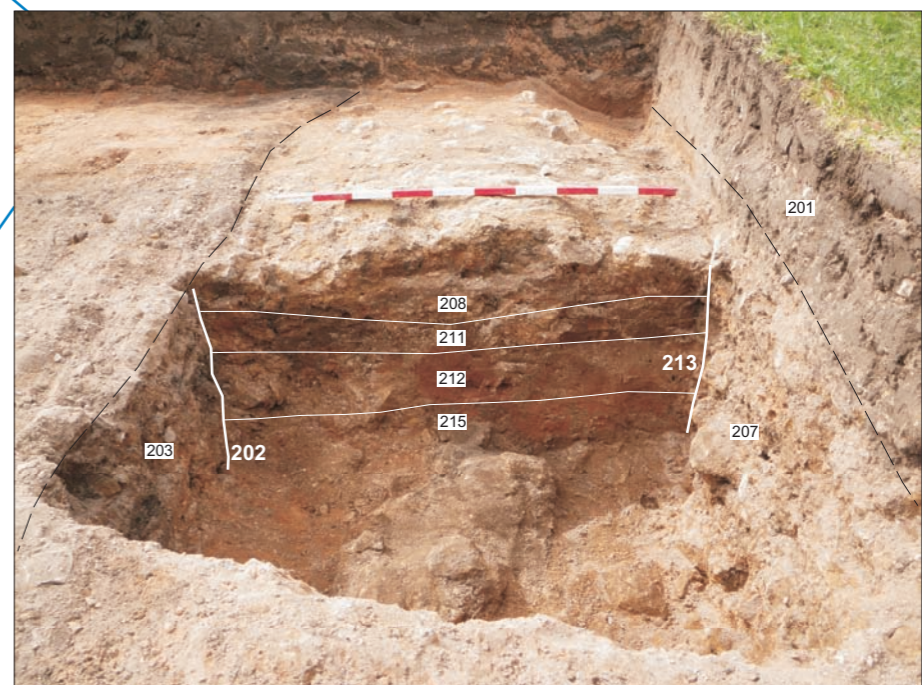


Plate 3: Sondage through 213 exposing sequence of deposits below 208, view from north-east

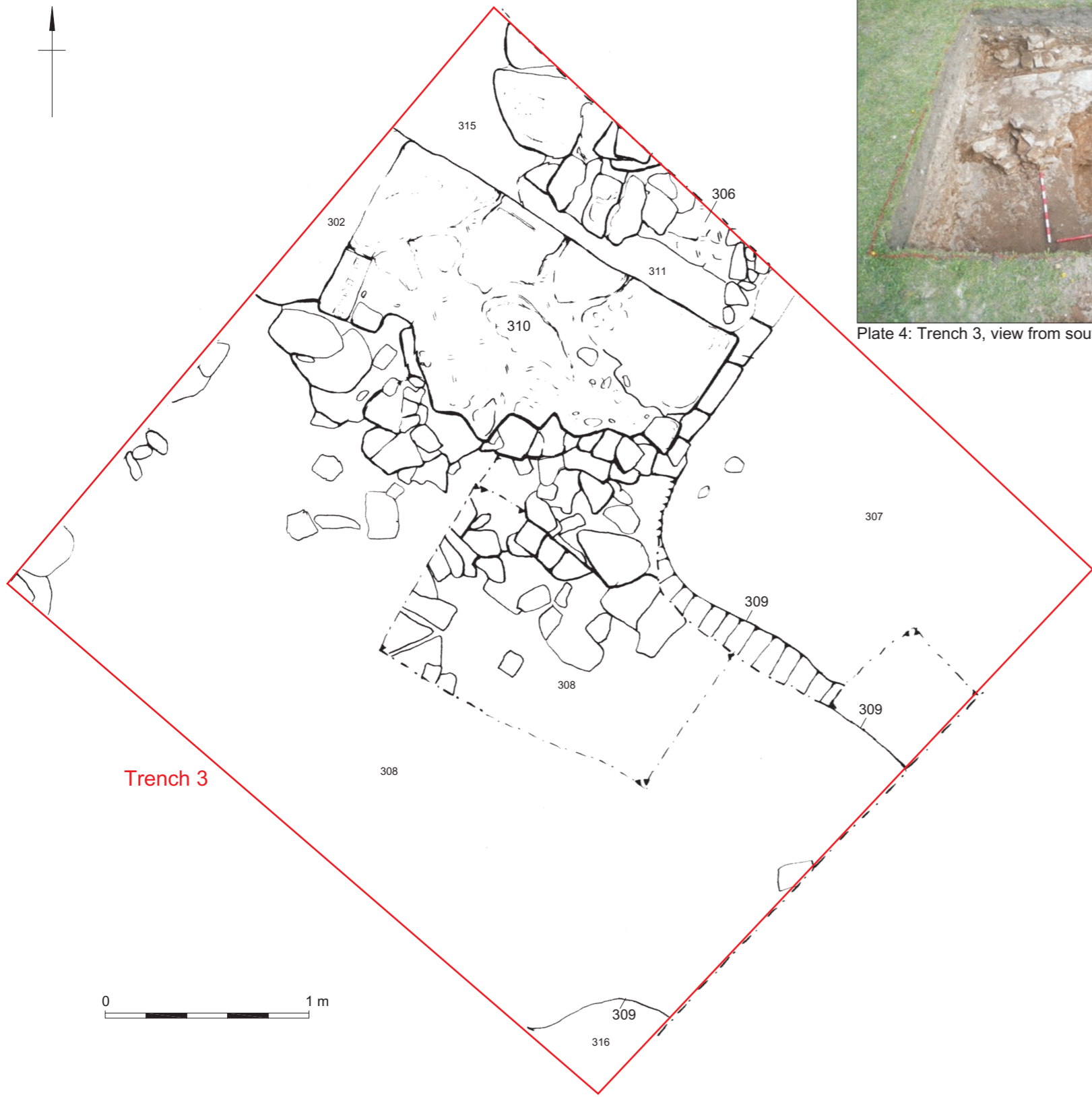


Plate 4: Trench 3, view from south-west



Plate 5: Buttress 310 and deposits 306 and 311, view from east



Plate 6: South-east facing section Trench 3, view from south

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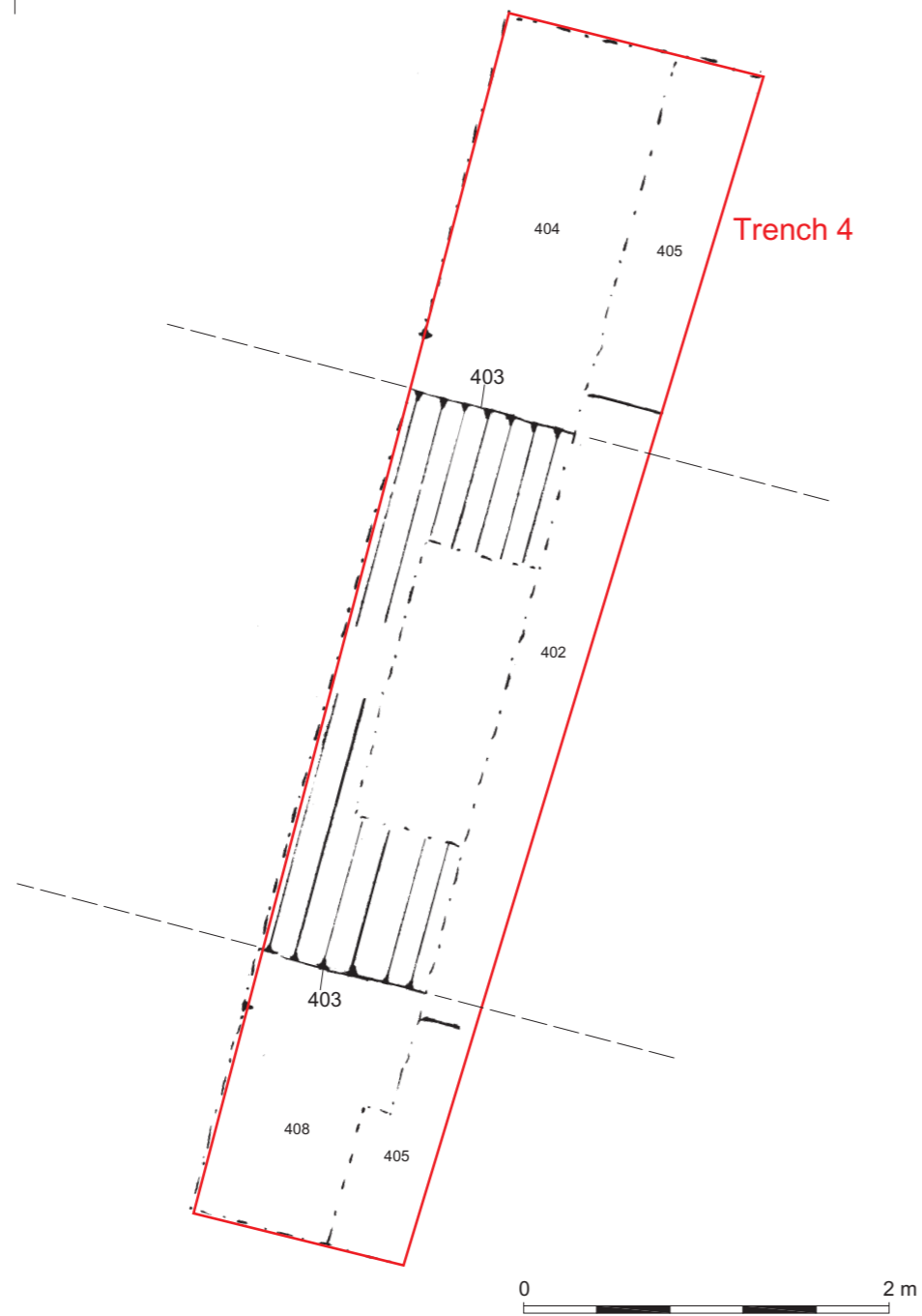
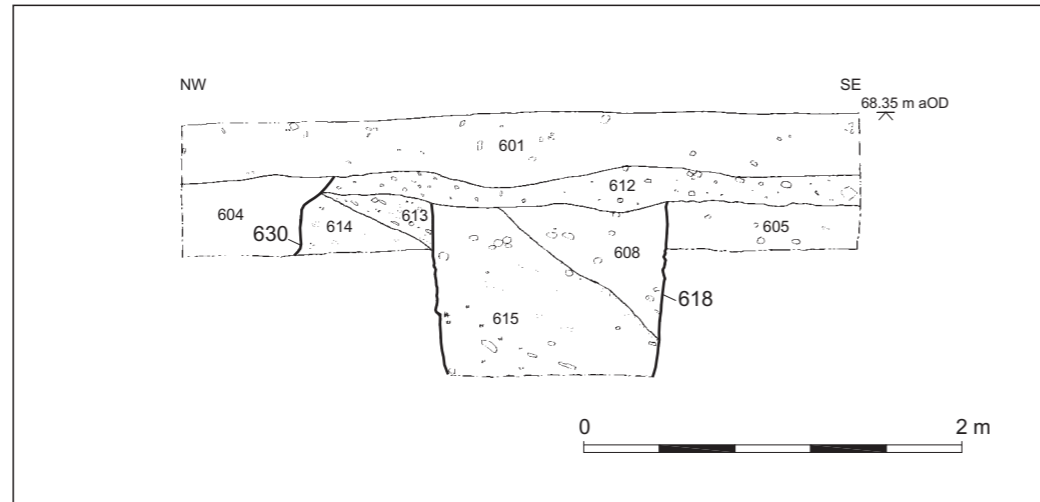


Plate 7: Trench 4, view from north-east



Plate 8: South-east facing section ditch 403, view from east

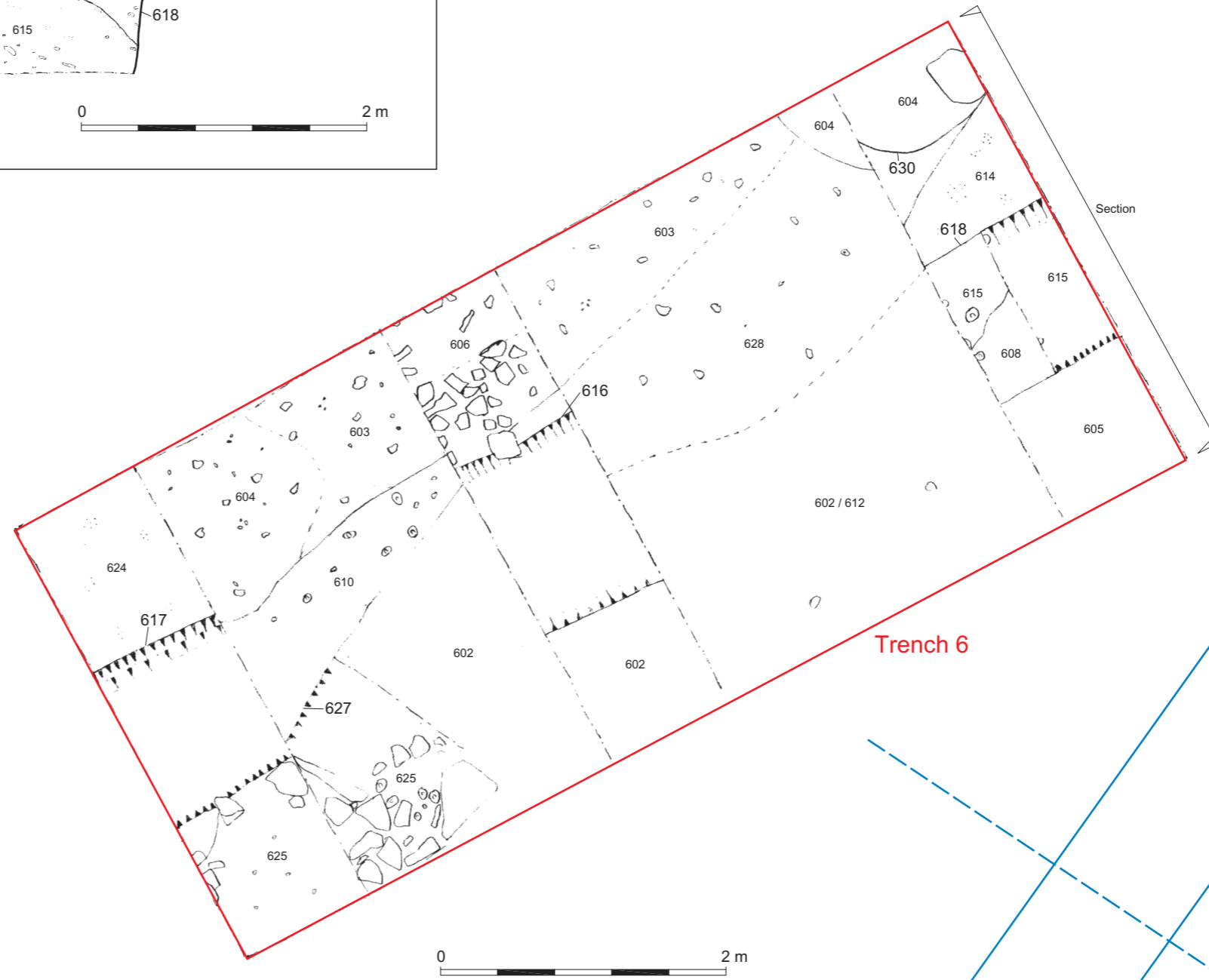
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South-west facing section 618 and 630

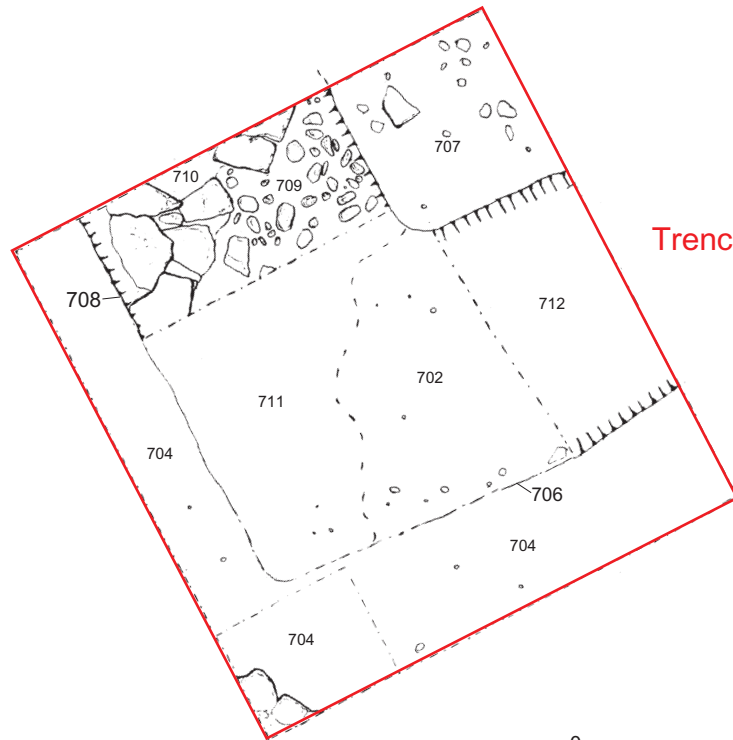


Plate 9: Trench 6, view from north-east



- ▭ Evaluation trench
- ▭ 1956 evaluation trench
- - - Possible ditch (1956 evaluation)

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Trench 7



Plate 10: Trench 7, view from north-west

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Evaluation trench



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