

Islip, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results



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Summary

In May 2005 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' in the village of Islip in Oxfordshire (centred on NGR 452900 214300), to investigate the hypothesis that the village has both Anglo-Saxon origins and a Royal connection.

The evaluation was concentrated within the village and was focussed in and around the garden of a house called 'Confessor's Gate', with further work being carried out within Manor Farm where a series of earthworks representing a moated site with associated fishponds and ornamental gardens are located.

The primary aim of the evaluation was to test the assertion that a chapel dedicated to the first Patron Saint of England, Edward the Confessor, and a Saxon palace or a Royal hunting lodge of his father Æthelred 'Unræd', were located within the village. Edward himself is believed to have been born in the village. The chapel was recorded as having been converted into a barn sometime before 1718 and subsequently used as farm buildings. The project also aimed to confirm that the area of the earthworks to the east of the village are the remains of the moated Manor house of the 14th century Abbot of Westminster, William de Curtlington.

A series of 15 trenches was excavated within the village and around the moated site east of the village, to evaluate the location, extent, character, date, and significance of any underlying archaeology.

The archaeological evaluation did not find any evidence which could be definitively associated with either a Royal residence or the chapel of Edward the Confessor. No evidence of the Chapel structure itself was located, but a compact farmyard surface, most probably associated with the conversion of the Chapel to a barn was identified. Although no evidence of the medieval building was identified, evidence of the later use of the building was revealed.

The evaluation identified within the car park of the Red Lion pub a ditch dated to the late Saxon/early medieval period. This ditch may well have been a boundary ditch from an early period of land division, or possibly a ditch surrounding a complex of buildings dated to the 11th to 13th centuries.

The evaluation also confirmed that the moated earthworks to the east of the village formed part of a high status site dated to the 13th to 14th centuries and therefore is almost certainly the site of the residence of the Abbot of Westminster, although there may have been high status occupation there prior to William de Curtlington's Manor.

Acknowledgements

This programme of post-excavation and assessment work was commissioned and funded by Videotext Communications, and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank the staff at Videotext, in particular Melinda Smith (Executive Producer), Rebecca Woodhead (Assistant Producer), Kate Edwards and Tom St. John Gray (Researchers) for their considerable help during the recording and post-excavation work.

The geophysical survey was undertaken by John Gater, Jimmy Adcock and Emma Wood of GSB Prospection. The field survey was undertaken by Henry Chapman, University of Hull. The excavation strategy was devised by Mick Aston, Bristol University. The on-site recording was co-ordinated by Steve Thompson, assisted by Andy Armstrong of Wessex Archaeology. The finds were processed on-site by Andy Armstrong, and subsequently by Talla Hopper of Wessex Archaeology.

The excavations were undertaken by Time Team's retained archaeologists, Phil Harding (also of Wessex Archaeology), Raksha Dave, Kerry Ely, Matt Williams, Ian Powlesland and Brigid Gallagher with help from Jesse Holmes, Jane Harrison, Fay Pendell, Jennifer Hurford, Hannah Fluck and Steven Yeates. On site pottery identification was undertaken by Paul Blinkhorn.

The archive was collated, and all post-excavation assessment and analysis undertaken by Wessex Archaeology. This report was compiled by Steve Thompson, with specialist reports prepared by Lorraine Mepham (finds), Stephanie Knight (animal bone) and Dr Chris J. Stevens and Dr Michael J. Allen (palaeo-environmental material). The environmental samples were processed under the supervision of Sarah F. Wyles. The illustrations were prepared by Linda Coleman. The post-excavation project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Lorraine Mepham.

The progress and successful completion of the work also benefited from discussion on site with Jonathan Foyle, Architectural Historian, Sam Newton, Historian, Phil Harding of Wessex Archaeology and Mick Aston of Bristol University.

Finally thanks are extended to all the villagers of Islip in particular Joanna and Wilf Stevenson of 'Confessor's Gate', Mike and Fran Coleman of 'Fairlight', John and Jenni Henman of Manor Farm, Kate and Darren Ward of The Red Lion Pub and Tim Ward and Alison Bancroft of the Lumber Yard who allowed access for geophysical survey and granted permission to dig.

Permission has kindly been granted by the National Monuments Record to reproduce in this report the RCHME survey of Islip (1995), and by the Victoria County History to reproduce Thomas Hearne's sketch of the Edward the Confessor Chapel (1718).

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Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 Description of the Site

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology were 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 village of Islip in Oxfordshire (**Fig. 1**).

1.1.2 This report documents the results of the archaeological survey and evaluation undertaken by Time Team, and presents an assessment of the results of these works, together with recommendations for further analysis and dissemination.

1.1.3 The village of Islip is centred on NGR 452900 214300 and is a parish of Bicester district, Oxford. It is situated on both banks of the River Ray near its confluence with the River Cherwell. The underlying geology is mixed, with areas of alluvium close to the rivers, flood plain terrace deposits and areas of cornbrash (BGS 1982).

1.1.4 The evaluation focussed on two main areas of investigation. The first was in the centre of the village, to the north and east of St. Nicholas's Church (centred on NGR 452900 214300), and the second in the north-east corner of the village to the east of Manor Farm, where a series of earthworks are clearly visible (centred on NGR 445200 290000).

1.2 Historical Background

1.2.1 The earliest documentary reference to Islip is from a charter of 670-1 or 681, where the village is referred to as *Slæpi* with a charter hidage of 40 (Blair 1994, 78). However, no remains of this date have been located within the village.

1.2.2 The word *Slæpi* comes from the Old English *Slæpe*, a 'slippery muddy place', and Islip was known from the Domesday Book as *Githslepe*, a 'slippery place by the River *Ight* or *Giht* (*Geht*)' (a pre-English name for the river Ray). *Geht* a tributary of the Cherwell is recorded *c.* 848 in Walter de Gray Birch's *Cartularium Saxonicum: a collection of charters relating to Anglo-Saxon history (1885-1887)* (Ekwall 1960, 267; Mills 1991, 188). This may be reference to the seasonal flooding of the rivers and the high water table. Local tradition recalls that the area around the earthworks does have a tendency to become wet and muddy during the winter periods.

- 1.2.3 Ekwall also states that *slæpe* is related to the Middle Low German *slepen* and the Old High German *slefen*, ‘to drag’ and suggests Islip was a ‘place where things were dragged’, potentially relating to a slipway for launching or drawing up boats (Ekwall 1960, 267; Videotext Communications 2005, 2).
- 1.2.4 Islip remained a small, relatively unimportant settlement up until the beginning of the 11th century, when Edward the Confessor is recorded as having been born there sometime between 1002 and 1005.
- 1.2.5 Edward, the seventh son of Æthelred ‘Unræd’ by his second wife Emma of Normandy, and the only English King to be canonised, is believed to have given Islip as a gift to his new foundation of St. Peter at Westminster at the dedication of the church in 1065.
- 1.2.6 Two sources exist confirming Islip as Edward’s birthplace. The first is a writ of Edward which survives only in a 14th century manuscript called the ‘Westminster Abbey Domesday’. The writ states that ‘*King Edward sends greetings to Bishop Wulfrig and Earl Gyrth and all my thegns in Oxfordshire. And I inform you that I have given to Westminster, to Christ and to St. Peter, the estate where I was born, Islip by name, and a half-hide in Marston, exempt from scot and tax and everything belonging thereto, in woodland and in open country, in meadow and in water, with church and with church-soke, as fully and as completely and as freely as I myself possessed it, and as Ælfgifu Emma my mother gave it to me on the day of my birth as a first gift, and assigned it as my heritage*’ (Harmer 1989, 369).
- 1.2.7 The second is the Westminster Abbey Muniment XXV (charter of William I). The writ, described by Christine Reynolds (Assistant Keeper of Muniments, Westminster Abbey), includes ‘Notification from William (I) to Remigius (de Fescamp), Bishop of Lincoln (1072-1092) and William son of Osbert (d.1071) and to all his lieges of Oxeneford scira (Oxfordshire) that he has confirmed to Edwuuinus, Abbat (1099-72) and the monks of Westminster, the manor of Gihtslepe (Islip, co. Oxon) wherein King Eaduard his kinsman was born, which also he granted to them and with which he endowed them at the dedication of their church. To be quit of all taxation and custom. Witness: Odo, Bishop (of Bayeaux, 1066-97), and Robert (Earl) of Moreton (1066-91), the King’s brothers, and Hugh de Mundford (AD 1072)’ (C. Reynolds pers. comm.).
- 1.2.8 The two writs both survive as later copies of earlier pieces and have been considered as forgeries. It is unlikely, however, that these writs are fabricated as it is known Edward gave Islip to Westminster; the forgery of these documents would serve little purpose, as Islip would have served no real strategic significance for Westminster.
- 1.2.9 If they are forgeries, it is possible they were created to help Islip and Westminster tap into the pilgrim trail trade. As the cult of Edward the Confessor and the potential number of pilgrims travelling to England’s first patron saint’s birthplace grew, so these documents emphasised the link between the two places and may have helped in increasing the number of

travellers making the pilgrimage. This would have in turn provided the makers of pilgrimage tokens and badges with an increased trade.

- 1.2.10 The oldest part of the church of St. Nicholas, Islip dates from about 1200, with a major period of building occurring in the 14th century and with the tower being added in the 15th century. The chancel was rebuilt and the interior refurbished in 1680 and further restoration occurred in 1861.
- 1.2.11 In 1086 Roger de Ivry became tenant-in-chief and gave the estate to his wife Adeline. It is recorded that the estate had land for 15 ploughs, three of which were in demesne. The Domesday Book also records a mill valued at 20s and meadows extending for 30 acres and pasture 3 furlongs long by 2 furlongs wide. The population included 10 villagers, 5 smallholders and 2 slaves.
- 1.2.12 The early 12th century saw the passing of the manor to the de Courcy family who retained the lands until 1203, when following their forfeit of their English estates Westminster successfully renewed its claim for Islip. The ownership remained with Westminster until 1869 when it passed to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.
- 1.2.13 A number of medieval buildings were recorded in the Victoria County History, which now no longer remain. These appear to have been centred around the area believed to have been the site of Æthelred's residence, a probable hunting lodge, recorded in 1823 by Dunkin as '*on the site of a small inn, known by the sign of the Red Lion*'. The medieval buildings are a court house which grew around Æthelred's residence, the Confessor's Chapel and the second court house built in the early 14th century by William de Curlington, Abbot of Westminster (1315-1333) (Videotext Communications 2005, 3).
- 1.2.14 The Confessor's Chapel was sketched and recorded in 1718 by Thomas Hearne who described it as '*a little way north of Islip Church (St. Nicholas's) (and) was without doubt, looked upon in the Age, in which it was built, as very good*'. He goes on to state '*and tho' it be in a shatter'd condition now (being thatch'd, and patch'd and turn'd into a Barn) yet we may easily guess from a sight of it, what it was in its greatest Perfection*'. Hearne also states the Chapel is '*in such a ruinous Condition that it is like to fall down*' (Henman 1987, 12). The later inserted barn door can be seen from Hearne's sketch (**Fig. 2, labelled C**).
- 1.2.15 Local tradition states that the Chapel, following its conversion to a barn, was pulled down sometime around 1780 due to its dangerous nature and a new barn constructed out of the materials. Some of the stonework is believed to have been used in extensions to the Red Lion Pub. However, a writer in the *Gentleman's Magazine* in 1788 stated that the barn '*was not standing twenty years ago*', inferring a demolition sometime within the 1760s (Henman, 1987, 12).
- 1.2.16 Analysis of Hearne's sketch of the Confessor's Chapel by Architectural Historian Jonathan Foyle has revealed a likely construction date within two decades either side of 1225. The sketch shows the remains of lancet

windows, a style that predates 1250 (**Fig. 2, labelled A**), and right angle buttresses (**Fig. 2, labelled B**), a style that occurs up to the middle of 13th century, when styles changed to diagonally set buttresses (J. Foyle pers. comm.). This interpretation shows that the chapel was a 13th century building, and therefore not the chapel where Edward himself was baptised, but a later chapel dedicated to the Saint in the belief that he was born in the village.

- 1.2.17 The remains of Æthelred's residence were believed to be still extant to a certain degree in 1801 when John Dunkin visited Islip and recorded the remains incorporated in the site of the Red Lion Pub, described as '*within these walls the Saxon and Norman lords held their courts, till its removal on the erection of another mansion... By the Abbot Curtlington, AD 1320, south east of the present Manor Farm house*' (Henman 1987, 13).
- 1.2.18 Various editions of OS maps (including the first edition of 1881) place the supposed site of Æthelred's palace or hunting lodge in the field adjacent to the existing Manor Farm house, where the surviving earthworks can be seen. The 1922 map is the last to show this and later editions describe the earthworks as moat and fishponds, now believed to be the site of the Manor constructed for the Abbot of Westminster, William de Curtlington (1315-1333).
- 1.2.19 John Flete (1421-1465) in his *The History of Westminster* mentions the court house which grew around Æthelred's palace and the so-called Confessor's Chapel which stood near it, and the second court house built in the early 14th century by de Curtlington. He states that de Curtlington's house occupied a site lower in the village, and that '*the Father built the manor of Islip in Oxfordshire very sumptuously, as can be seen now, since before his time the manor was in another place next to the parish church in which place St. Edward was born as his charter says...*' (Videotext Communications 2005, 4).
- 1.2.20 The moated Manor House is believed to have remained in use until the 16th century when it was rebuilt on its present site of Manor Farm (Thomason 1996, 3). It is recorded that in about '*1720 many loads of lead were dug up within the area or compass of the moat, in irregular masses, as if melted. Perhaps the edifice was destroyed by fire and never rebuilt*' (Henman 1987, 14).

1.3 Previous Archaeological Work

- 1.3.1 The Oxford SMR records the recovery of several Mesolithic and Neolithic finds including scrapers, flakes, cores and a hammerstone and macehead from along the banks of the River Cherwell outside the village. A number of Iron Age coins and a bone weaving comb dated to the Iron Age have also been recovered in the vicinity of the village. To the south-east of the village are a number of Roman sites including Islip Roman Villa (NGR 453300 213500), a Romano-Celtic temple (north-east of Woodeaton, NGR 453600

212700), and a possible Romano-British fort at Woodeaton (NGR 453600 212300).

- 1.3.2 There has, however, been no formal archaeological excavation work carried out within the village and there have been no finds of material, or remains earlier than the medieval period (Videotext Communications 2005, 2).
- 1.3.3 The only archaeological work carried out within the village was a field survey of the earthworks adjacent to Manor Farm, by the University of Oxford, Department of Continuing Education in June 1995, in association with the RCHME (**Fig. 3**).
- 1.3.4 This survey recorded the earthworks as a former Manorial complex comprising a moated enclosure, fishponds and ornamental gardens, with water management on a complex scale which may have involved the diversion of the nearby stream. The survey also identified possible house platforms to the west, perhaps signifying that the village had previously extended into this area (Thomason 1996).

2 METHODS

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 A project design for the work was compiled by Videotext Communications Ltd (2005), providing full details of the research aims and methods. A brief summary is provided here.

2.2 Aims and Objectives

- 2.2.1 The project provided the opportunity to undertake an archaeological evaluation in a village where no previous excavation has taken place and to test the hypothesis that Islip had an Anglo-Saxon foundation and Royal connections.
- 2.2.2 The project aimed to investigate the assertion that Edward the Confessor's Chapel once stood in Islip, and that the Saxon palace or hunting lodge of his father Æthelred, was located nearby. It also provided the opportunity to establish that the site of the earthworks to the north-east of the village, denoted as Æthelred's Palace on the early OS maps, are of later 14th century date and were built for Abbot Curtlington.
- 2.2.3 The project also aimed to provide new information for the village to use in their forthcoming millennium festival, celebrating the 1000 year anniversary of Edward the Confessor's birth.

2.3 Fieldwork Methodology

- 2.3.1 The project design identified three main areas of investigation within the village, later expanded to seven. These were:

- Area 1: The garden of ‘Confessor’s Gate’
 - Area 2: The Red Lion Pub car park
 - Area 3: The Lumber yard
 - Area 4: The garden of ‘Fairlights’
 - Area 5: The Orchard/Yard east of the Red Lion Pub
 - Area 6: The green east of the church of St. Nicholas
 - Area 7: St Nicholas’s Church graveyard
- 2.3.2 An eighth area was located to the north-east of the village and positioned to investigate the probable site of Abbot Curtlington’s residence:
- Area 8: The earthworks next to Manor Farm.
- 2.3.3 Evaluation trenches were opened in Area 1 without geophysical survey occurring as it was viewed as the most likely target for the Confessor’s Chapel, also the limited space within the garden of Confessor’s Gate provided very difficult conditions for the survey to be undertaken. A paved area within the Confessor’s Gate garden, not available for trenching, was surveyed using ground penetrating radar (GPR).
- 2.3.4 Prior to the opening of evaluation trenches in Areas 2, 3 and 4, a geophysical survey was undertaken using a combination of resistance, magnetic and GPR. Evaluation trenches were opened in Areas 5 and 6 without geophysical survey and area 7 saw GPR survey with no evaluation trenching.
- 2.3.5 Fifteen evaluation trenches of varying sizes were excavated after consultation between the on-site director Mick Aston and other specialists. Their precise locations were designed to investigate geophysical anomalies in order to answer the specific aims and objectives of the project design, with some limitations due to space constraints within the gardens of private houses.
- 2.3.6 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 where natural geology was encountered. When machine excavation had ceased all trenches were cleaned by hand and archaeological deposits investigated.
- 2.3.7 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 principle strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum.
- 2.3.8 A full photographic record of the investigations and individual features was maintained, utilising colour transparencies, black and white negatives (on 35mm film) and digital images. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and general context of the archaeology revealed and the Site as a whole.

2.3.9 The trenches were positioned within the village as follows:

Area 1	The garden of 'Confessor's Gate'	Trenches 1,2, 3 and 7
Area 2	The Red Lion car park	Trenches 6 and 11
Area 3	The Lumber Yard	Trench 4
Area 4	The garden of 'Fairlights'	Trench 5
Area 5	The Orchard/Yard east of Red Lion pub	Trench 8
Area 6	The green east of the church of St. Nicholas	Trench 10 and 12
Area 7	The graveyard of St Nicholas's church	No Trench
Area 8	The earthworks next to Manor Farm	Trenches 9,13,14 and 15

2.3.10 At the completion of the work, all trenches were reinstated using the excavated soil and turf re-laid, except in the Red Lion car park.

2.3.11 A unique site code (ISL 05) was agreed prior to the commencement of works with the Oxfordshire Museums Service (Oxfordshire County Council).

2.3.12 All artefacts were transported to the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury where they were processed and assessed for this report. The excavated material and archive, including plans, photographs and written records are currently held at the Wessex Archaeology offices under the project code 59463 and site code ISL 05. It is intended that the archive will ultimately be deposited with the Oxfordshire Museums Service (Museum accession number 2005.58).

2.3.13 The work was carried out on the 12th-15th May 2005.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features, a full geophysical report (GSB 2005), and the results of the artefactual and environmental assessments are retained in the archive. Detailed summaries of the excavated sequences can be found in **Appendix 1**, whilst a summary of the results of the geophysical survey are incorporated here.

3.2 Geophysical Survey

3.2.1 GPR survey was undertaken in Areas 1, 2, 3 and 7 with resistance survey being carried out in Area 4. A combination of resistance and magnetic survey was carried out in Area 8.

3.2.2 In Areas 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7, the survey was of limited value as few of the targets identified suggested the presence of substantial wall foundations relating to the Confessor's Chapel. A number of targets were identified for the placing of evaluation trenches.

3.2.3 The survey of Area 8 was more successful, with the resistance survey providing a relatively clear plan of the building foundations associated with the medieval manor (**Fig. 3**). The survey revealed some easily discernible wall alignments, though parts of the moated area were less easily interpreted.

Area 1: The garden of 'Confessor's Gate'

3.2.4 The GPR survey of the paved area within Area 1 was unsuccessful in identifying any targets which could be associated with the chapel of Edward the Confessor

Area 2: The Red Lion car park

3.2.5 The GPR survey was unsuccessful in revealing any targets for trenching due to the effect of differences in the tarmac surfacing. Following the excavation of Trenches 2 and 11, a large ditch and quarry pit were identified, but it appeared that the contrast between the natural geology and the fill of the feature was not sufficient enough to be shown clearly in the GPR data.

Area 3: The Lumber Yard

3.2.6 The GPR survey achieved only shallow penetration, with responses typical of the reflections from rubble deposits associated with ground consolidation and landscaping. The excavation of Trench 4 confirmed this.

Area 4: The garden of 'Fairlights'

3.2.7 A small area of resistance survey was undertaken, and revealed areas of high resistance revealed to be the remains of a former driveway and a service trench. A small high resistance anomaly to the south did provide a target for the excavation of Trench 5.

Area 7: St. Nicholas's graveyard

3.2.8 The GPR survey within the graveyard was unsuccessful in identifying any remains of the Confessor's Chapel, and all results could be associated with the present burials.

Area 8: The earthworks next to Manor Farm (Fig. 3)

- 3.2.9 The magnetic survey within Area 8 was successful in revealing the ditch and banks of the moat, and these are clearly visible within the results. Several other ferrous responses were identified and revealed to be modern.
- 3.2.10 The resistance survey clearly shows part of the structural remains of the manor, with clear wall alignments, and possible floor surfaces identified as high resistance anomalies. These anomalies were targeted for excavation. Low resistance responses were related to the moat ditches.

3.3 Archaeological Evaluation

Area 1: The Garden of 'Confessor's Gate' (Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 7)

- 3.3.1 'Confessor's Gate' is positioned directly north of the church of St. Nicholas, with the southern boundary wall of the garden bordering the current church yard (**Figs. 1, 4 & 5**).
- 3.3.2 Trench 1 was hand excavated to investigate the depth of the archaeological layers and was later widened using the machine. Trench 2 was hand excavated. Trench 3 was machine excavated. Trench 7 was hand excavated.
- 3.3.3 Trenches 1, 2, and 3 saw the removal of on average 0.30m of dark grey brown silty loam, the current topsoil of the garden (contexts 101, 201 and 301) and a further 0.17m (on average) of light-mid grey brown silty clay subsoil (contexts 102, 202, and 302), before significant archaeological deposits were identified.
- 3.3.4 Trench 7 saw the removal of 0.40m of dark grey brown clay silt of garden soil (701), and excavation ceased at the top of a series of modern deposits. Trench 7 was utilised as a small training excavation for local children and no significant archaeological remains were uncovered.
- 3.3.5 Trenches 1, 2 and 3 in Area 1 revealed a series of demolition and levelling deposits directly below the subsoil. Deposits (103), (204) and (312) consisted of light-mid yellow sandy silt, remnants of sandy mortar mixed with fragments and large irregular blocks of natural limestone. These deposits appeared to be evidence of the cleaning of masonry blocks and the discarding of waste mortar and stone which could not be re-used. Also in Trench 1, demolition/levelling deposit 109 contained fragments of ceramic building material. This deposit would appear to represent a later period of demolition/levelling than deposits (103), (204), and (312).
- 3.3.6 The most significant archaeological deposit identified in Trenches 1-3 was a very hard and compact metallised surface composed of light grey silt with almost 100 % limestone fragments (104/105, 207, 307). This deposit was initially believed to be natural geology, due to its compact nature, but was subsequently shown to be a band of natural limestone with areas of natural clay filled with redeposited natural limestone to create a hard-wearing yard

surface. It was virtually impossible to differentiate the areas of natural and those which were redeposited without the excavation of sondages to investigate the possibility of archaeology sealed below the yard surface. The relative heights of the upper surface of the metalled yard in each trench were comparable, and imply that these deposits are equivalent and contemporary. Glass fragments recovered from (104/105), and brick fragments and pottery sherds from 207, were all dated broadly to the post-medieval period (AD 1500-1799).

- 3.3.7 In Trench 1, a thin isolated deposit of limestone mortar (106) adhered to yard surface (104/105) had. A similar deposit of limestone mortar (312) was identified in Trench 3. (312) was also a thin deposit and adhered to the upper surface of the metalled yard (307). These limestone mortar deposits could represent repairs to the yard surface, or spillages of mortar used to repair structures nearby.
- 3.3.8 Trench 2 showed the possible beginnings of new topsoil formation above the metalled yard surface (207). The composition of (206), a pale grey-brown sandy silt, suggests a period of inactivity in the area to allow this deposit to form. Post-medieval brick fragments were recovered from (206), which also contained sherds of modern pottery (AD 1800 or later).
- 3.3.9 In Trench 1, two sondages were excavated through (104/105) to investigate the possibility of archaeology below the post-medieval yard surface. Natural clay 110 was identified which had been damaged by tap roots. No features were identified though fragments of ceramic building material were seen pressed into the natural clay. These fragments were dated broadly as medieval (AD 1066-1499) or post-medieval.
- 3.3.10 A sondage through (207) in Trench 2 revealed a pale brown grey silt deposit (208), which was interpreted as an earlier ground surface sealed by the metalled surface. It contained medieval and post-medieval ceramic building material. (208) lay directly over a thick layer of redeposited natural, mid orange brown clay silt (209), which was interpreted as backfill within a possible quarry pit, although due to the constraints of trench size the full extent of the feature was not identified. Fragments of modern pottery and roof tile were recovered from (209), which must be viewed as intrusive.
- 3.3.11 A number of modern deposits and features were identified, including a lead water pipe and pipe trench in Trenches 1 and 3, and the make-up deposit for an existing concrete pathway in the garden in Trenches 2 and 3.
- 3.3.12 The trenches within Area 1 had been located to seek evidence for the Confessor's Chapel and Æthelred's Palace. No such evidence was revealed within the small evaluation trenches. It is unsurprising that no evidence of Æthelred's Palace was located as it is likely that it would have been a predominantly wooden structure, despite Dunkin's observations in 1801 that the stones of the palace had been incorporated into the Red Lion pub (Videotext Communications 2005, 3).

- 3.3.13 Hearne recorded the chapel's dimensions as '15 yards in length and a little over 7 in breadth' (Henman 1987. 12), i.e. approximately 13.7m long by 6.5 wide. As the cartographic evidence places the site of the chapel in quite a large area to the north of the Church of St. Nicholas, the relatively small excavated trenches could have missed the location.
- 3.3.14 The evaluation did, however, provide potential evidence of structures associated with the chapel following its conversion to a barn sometime before 1718, as described and drawn by Hearne. The very compact yard surface identified in Trenches 1, 2 and 3 is likely to represent an external farmyard surface laid down around the time of the chapel's conversion, or perhaps slightly later when the chapel was demolished sometime around 1780, and a new barn built in its place from the materials. The new barn was thus described in 1805 by J.E. Robinson as '*the barn built where this chapel stood...wherein sheep are yearly shorn*' and '*the cemetery is now a dung-yard*' (Henman 1987, 12-13).

Area 2: The Red Lion car park (Trenches 6 and 11)

- 3.3.15 The Red Lion car park is positioned north-east of the church of St. Nicholas, and two machine trenches were excavated despite the geophysical survey being unable to provide any specific targets in this location (**Figs. 1 & 6**).
- 3.3.16 Following the removal of approximately 0.35m of tarmac, acting as the car park surface (contexts 601 and 1101) and a further 0.12m (on average) modern car park make-up/levelling deposits (602 and 1102) archaeology was encountered in Trench 6. A further 0.32m of modern make-up/levelling was removed (1103), before archaeology was encountered in Trench 11.
- 3.3.17 Trench 6 revealed the cut of a large quarry (610), which had truncated the remains of any other features which may have been present. The fill of (610) (603) was a light brown clay deposit with abundant fragments of limestone blocks, probably a deliberate backfill deposit. The quarry appeared to be of relatively modern date. The remains of a possible ditch (609) were identified in section. This was by no means clear and the nature of the feature could not be ascertained in this trench. The fill (606) was a dark brown silty clay containing sherds of late Saxon/early medieval Oxford type pottery, broadly dated as 11th to early 13th century.
- 3.3.18 Trench 11 was positioned directly over a large, roughly east-west aligned ditch (1108). Investigation of this feature was restricted to machine excavation by the constraints of the size and depth of the trench.
- 3.3.19 The full width of the feature was not revealed, but it did exceed 1.90m with a depth greater than 1.10m, and was probably a boundary ditch, dividing properties or parcels of land. Two fills were identified in section: (1104), the upper fill, dark/brown black silty clay with green flecks; and the lower fill (1105) a very dark grey black silty clay with common limestone fragments.
- 3.3.20 The nature of these fills is unclear, but they do seem to represent a mix of natural silting of surrounding ground surface and deliberate depositions of

charcoal rich and waste material. Finds recovered from both fills proved contemporary with those recovered from the possible ditch in Trench 6 (late Saxon/early medieval Oxford type and late Saxon/early medieval Wiltshire type pottery, dated 11th to 13th century).

- 3.3.21 The trenching within the Red Lion car park did not identify any structures relating to the Confessor's Chapel. The NMR states that the car park was the site of the chapel (NMR Monument Report No. SP 51 SW 31) but trenching suggests that a significant amount of earlier archaeology may have been removed by the large quarry pit identified in Trench 6.
- 3.3.22 Trench 11 (and possibly Trench 6) did, however, uncover a large ditch, possibly part of an earlier period of land divisions, or possibly the ditch surrounding a complex of buildings, dated between the 11th and early 13th centuries.

Area 3: The Lumber Yard (Trench 4)

- 3.3.23 The Lumber Yard is positioned directly north of the church of St. Nicholas and to the east of 'Confessor's Gate'. A single trench was machine excavated.
- 3.3.24 Following the removal of 0.30m of (401), a mix of gravel, and modern hardcore comprising the Lumber Yard ground surface, and a further 0.26m of (402), a mid grey brown loam with brick rubble and limestone fragments modern make-up/levelling layer, a sandy deposit was encountered. (403) was interpreted as the remains of the subsoil. (403) was 0.10m thick and lay directly upon the top of the natural basal geology which consisted of bands of compact firm light grey clay, firm light orange clay and decayed limestone fragments in light orange clay.
- 3.3.25 No archaeology was identified in Trench 4 although a Romano-British coin was recovered from the topsoil.
- 3.3.26 The cartographic evidence placed the Lumber Yard as a potential site of the Confessor's chapel, although it would appear that the area is sterile of archaeology. It should be pointed out, however, that the trench excavated was relatively small due to the size constraints of the yard, and it is possible that evidence may exist further to the south, closer to St. Nicholas's.

Area 4: The garden of 'Fairlights' (Trench 5)

- 3.3.27 'Fairlights' is positioned directly north of the church of St. Nicholas, between 'Confessor's Gate' to the west and the Lumber Yard to the east. A single trench was machine and hand excavated and targeted on a high resistance anomaly identified in the geophysical survey (**Figs. 1 & 7**).
- 3.3.28 Following the removal of 0.26m of (501), the current topsoil and turf of the lawned garden, and a further 0.19m of mid grey brown silty loam subsoil (502), significant archaeological deposits were encountered.

- 3.3.29 (503) was 0.15m thick and initially believed to be a natural layer of light, grey/white sandy silt due to its completely sterile and compact nature. It was however, subsequently shown to be a deliberate dump of sandy mortar acting as a levelling deposit, perhaps as make-up for the current garden.
- 3.3.30 Directly below (503) was a 0.5m thick deposit of mid brown silty clay, with common limestone fragments, broken ceramic building material and mortar (504). This deposit appears to be demolition/levelling deposit sealing the remains of a limestone block lined latrine pit (513).
- 3.3.31 The latrine consisted of a roughly square pit (508) lined with dry stone walls consisting of roughly shaped limestone blocks with a number of re-used broken ceramic roof tiles. Lining walls (509), (510) and (511) were revealed following the removal of (506), a mid grey brown sandy silt deposit which sealed the walls. (506) contained fragments of limestone and may be evidence of the collapse of, or perhaps the demolition and robbing of the stone lining, which only survived to a maximum height of 0.28m. The ceramic roof tiles re-used in the latrine lining are broadly of post-medieval date, giving a construction date for the latrine some time after *c.* AD 1500.
- 3.3.32 It would also appear that a certain degree of emptying of the contents of the latrine may have occurred. Cess deposit (507) only survived to a thickness of 0.19m, and could be seen to overly urea-stained natural (512). The emptying of the latrine may have occurred just prior to the demolition/robbing of the lining, with the emptied cess material utilised as fertiliser. Finds recovered from sealing layer (506) included medieval and post-medieval ceramic building material and fragments of post-medieval pottery including 16th/17th century slipware and Border ware. No datable finds were recovered from (507). Mineralised plant remains contained in the cess deposit were probably a mixture of those that were growing in the vicinity, and those that entered the deposit with cess, and included dead-nettle, docks, henbane, mustard type, elder, bramble, and possible cherry/sloe, apple and fig.

Area 5: The Orchard/Yard east of Red Lion pub (Trench 8)

- 3.3.33 Area 5 is known from the 1st edition OS map of 1881 to have been an orchard at that time, and also the possible location of the Plume of Feathers Inn, the hostelry favoured by the gentry while the Red Lion was favoured by the common man. The Plume of Feathers was described in 1803 as having ‘*become waste and fallen into ruin*’ (Henman 1987, 14). It is now a coal merchant’s yard, and positioned on the east side of High Street opposite the Red Lion pub. A single trench was machine excavated here.
- 3.3.34 Following the removal of 0.40m of (801), a highly bioturbated dark grey brown silty loam topsoil, mixed with light grey subsoil, the natural mid yellow brown sandy natural geology was encountered. A single sherd of modern pottery was identified pressed into the natural, but was shown to be intrusive.
- 3.3.35 No archaeology was identified in Trench 8.

Area 6: The green east of the church of St. Nicholas (Trenches 10 and 12)

- 3.3.36 Area 6 is located directly east of the Church of St. Nicholas, at Church Square, west of the junction of The Walk, King's Head Lane and Middle Street. Two trenches, both measuring 4m long by 1m wide and 0.40m deep, were machine excavated.
- 3.3.37 Following the removal of on average 0.11m, of dark grey brown silty loam topsoil (1001 and 1201) and a further 0.08m (on average) mid grey brown silty loam (1002 and 1202), the natural bedrock was encountered.
- 3.3.38 It appears that the natural limestone bedrock had been utilised here as a metalled surface in a similar fashion to that in Area 1 ('Confessor's Gate'). Trench 12 showed that there had been a number of attempts perhaps to repair damage to this surface, with the deposition of dumps of sand and gravel (1204) and cinder (1203). 1203 contained post-medieval and modern pottery, a 1938 coin and a cap badge from the Royal Berkshire regiment.
- 3.3.39 A potential thin occupation layer of mid dark brown loam (1205) was identified, but no dateable material was recovered from his deposit.
- 3.3.40 This small area of green open space is all that remains of the village green of Islip, which can be seen to have been encroached upon since the compilation of the 1843 Tithe map (Bond 1985, 119). The area was used for the local village market, and local tradition recounts that during the Georgian period the green held quite a large market. No evidence was recovered for the stalls of the market place, though post-medieval and modern finds were recovered.

Area 8: The earthworks next to Manor Farm (Trenches 9, 13, 14 and 15)

- 3.3.41 Area 8 is located at the north-eastern corner of the village, east of the current Manor Farm house, where four trenches of varying lengths were machine excavated (**Figs. 1, 3 & 8**).
- 3.3.42 Trench 9 was positioned on the central mound area of the moated site close to the north east corner, and aimed to investigate high resistance anomalies identified within the geophysical survey.
- 3.3.43 Following the removal of (901), 0.30m of mid brown silty loam, topsoil and turf of the pasture field and a further 0.30m of (902), a mid orange brown silty subsoil, a series of archaeological deposits and features was identified. These features and deposits were subsequently hand cleaned with only deposit (903) being fully excavated. No further excavation of the trench occurred, and therefore only limited interpretation of what was uncovered can be made.
- 3.3.44 (903) was a mid brown silt deposit overlying (907) and represents a demolition layer associated with the robbing of the site. This layer produced sherds of medieval pottery including Minety-type ware and Brill/Boarstall type ware, including glazed wares, both dated as 13th/14th century. A number

of iron nails were also recovered, perhaps evidence of the robbing of and subsequent re-use of structural timbers.

- 3.3.45 The remains of a substantial but extensively robbed limestone wall (911) was identified aligned roughly north-south across the middle of the trench, and clearly seen as a high resistance anomaly within the geophysical survey. Wall (911) was comprised of roughly shaped limestone blocks and stones, bonded with a light grey clay, with no lime or sandy mortar. It survived for a length of roughly 2.2m and a width of 1m, but the surviving height of the wall is unknown as unexcavated.
- 3.3.46 As it was clear there was no bonding mortar, and only clay infilling, wall (911) is in essence a dry stone with the clay infilling arising from the structure being sealed below subsoil. It is therefore possible that (911) represents the remains of a wall foundation which has held its shape within a foundation trench, but there are a number of possible floor surfaces within Trench 9 which suggest that (911) was in fact a positive structure.
- 3.3.47 Wall (911) was aligned parallel to the moat, and approximately 4.5m west of the moat's inner lip. A small, roughly east-west aligned wall (908) butted against it at right angles and was bonded to it on the western side. This wall was of similar construction to (911), and was revealed as approximately 1m in length by 0.50m in width (again the height could not be determined). It is unclear whether the two walls form the corner of a building or belong to two separate structures.
- 3.3.48 To the north-west of the junction between these two walls deposit (909) was encountered, a mid brown silty clay deposit with common rubble fragments, possible evidence of the collapse or demolition of the walls. To the south-west was a very similar deposit (912), possibly representing a similar period of collapse or demolition.
- 3.3.49 Towards the southern end of the trench were a series of partially overlying layers. Interpretation of these features again is without the benefit of excavation and investigation further than surface cleaning.
- 3.3.50 The earliest deposit was (906), a light brown silty clay with abundant limestone slabs, broken stone roofing tiles and limestone fragments, forming a relatively flat surface. It is unclear whether this deposit represents a paved limestone flag floor utilising broken tiles to create a surface or is the result of a period of collapse or demolition. The limestone slabs and broken tiles do, however, appear to form a deliberately laid surface, using fairly equally sized, flat stones.
- 3.3.51 Deposit (906) may well be a floor surface as it appeared to be sealed beneath (904), a mid brown grey silt deposit interpreted on-site as a possible occupation layer. Deposit (904) was in turn sealed beneath (907), a light grey brown silty loam, with common fragments of limestone and broken stone roofing tile. The stone fragments within (907) appear more randomly distributed and this deposit may therefore be the result of demolition, and the

robbing of material for re-use elsewhere, with fragments unsuitable for re-use being discarded.

- 3.3.52 Possibly overlying occupation layer (904), was possible gravel surface (905). (905) was a mid grey brown silt with common rounded flint gravel. Again the true nature of this deposit is unclear as it was unexcavated but it does appear to be sealed by possible collapse/demolition deposit (912).
- 3.3.53 Trench 13 was positioned roughly centrally within the mound of the moat, on a slightly raised platform occupying the mound's western half. It was targeted upon a large, high resistance anomaly identified by the geophysical survey, suggestive of a major structure, potentially the Manor House itself.
- 3.3.54 Following the removal of 0.23m of (1301), a mid grey brown silty loam topsoil and a further 0.09m of (1302), a light grey brown silty clay subsoil, a thick deposit of mortar rich mid grey sandy silt with limestone blocks and fragments and was uncovered. (1303) was 0.28m thick and appears to represent a large scale waste deposit from the robbing of demolished material from the Manor, with the remnants of materials which could not be used being discarded.
- 3.3.55 Directly below (1303) was deposit (1304), 0.19m thick layer of mid grey brown sandy silt and small limestone fragments. This deposit lay directly upon the earlier ground surface (1305), and constitutes possible evidence for attempts to aid drainage on the site during the construction of the moat and the associated structures within it. (1304) could be seen to be equivalent to deposit (1406) in Trench 14, showing that a large scale spread of material was deposited, probably during the construction phase of the moat and internal buildings.
- 3.3.56 The original ground surface was identified, sealed below deposit (1304). (1305) was a mid yellow brown silty clay and could be seen to be equivalent to (1412) in Trench 14, and overlying the original subsoil deposit, (1306), a light yellow silty clay. Natural mid yellow brown clay with abundant gravel, (1307), was encountered at 1.37m below the current ground surface. Pottery recovered from Trench 13 (all unstratified) was dated to the medieval period, including late Saxon/early medieval Oxford type ware, Minety-type ware and Brill/Boarstall type ware, with a broad potential date range overall of 11th to 14th century.
- 3.3.57 Trench 14 was positioned at right angles to the northern edge of the moat, again targeted upon high resistance geophysical anomalies. Following the machine excavation of the trench and subsequent hand cleaning, only a limited amount of excavation and investigation of deposits and features was possible due to time constraints; interpretation of the archaeology is therefore limited. The trench did, however, establish the date and condition of the surviving archaeology.
- 3.3.58 The earliest deposit identified in Trench 14 following the removal of 0.15m of topsoil (1401), a further 0.22m of subsoil (1425) and several large deposits relating to large robber cut (1413), was deposit (1406). (1406) was

equivalent to (1305) in Trench 13 and represents a deliberate deposit of limestone fragments, interpreted as an aid to drainage during the original construction of the moated site. (1406) sealed the original ground surface/topsoil deposit (1412/1423).

- 3.3.59 Cutting through (1406) was (1421), the construction cut for wall (1404). This was a roughly east-west aligned, unmortared wall, comprising roughly shaped limestone blocks bonded with mid yellow brown clay. It is unclear if the wall represents wall foundation below the ground surface or a positive structure above ground level. (1404) extended 1.60m in length, roughly 1m in width and survived to height of at least 0.30m (the sondage excavated alongside did not find the base of the wall).
- 3.3.60 On the northern side of wall (1404) was deposit (1407), the nature of which is unclear, as it was unexcavated. It may represent the remains of a robbing event and may actually be the lowest fill of a robber cut (1413), waste material discarded after the useful material has been taken away.
- 3.3.61 To the north of wall (1404) and deposit (1407) was the butt end of stone structure (1415). Only the western end of the structure was revealed. This was constructed of roughly shaped limestone blocks bonded with light grey brown clay. The structure appears to be aligned east-west, running parallel to, and approximately 4.5m from the moat.
- 3.3.62 The nature of the two stone structures (1404 and 1415) within Trench 14 are unclear, and it is unknown whether they form the walls of buildings (no definite floor surfaces were revealed) or belong to other structures such as the curtain wall. Both structures have suffered from extensive robbing, as could be seen from the presence of two large robber cuts identified in section. There appears to have been at least two periods of robbing, first of structure (1415) (robber cut (1414)), which was allowed to silt up, then of (1404) (large robber cut (1413)). Several periods of robbing would be likely as a demolished building would be seen as a convenient quarry to be used as and when stone was required. The backfill deposit of (1413) contained a mix of material dating from the Romano-British to the post-medieval period, with nothing to provide a more precise date for the robbing events.
- 3.3.63 At the northern end of Trench 14 was identified the possible upcast from the initial construction of the moat. (1408) was a light-mid yellow brown silty clay with common small limestone fragments, cut through by the construction cut for (1415), (1420), and later sub-rectangular pit (1416). (1408) could therefore be shown to have been deposited before the construction of buildings and structures within the moated site itself. The pottery recovered from (1408) was dated to the 13th/14th century (Brill/Boarstall type) with some earlier late Saxon/early medieval Oxford type ware (11th/12th century). The deposit also contained fragments of glazed ceramic ridge tiles, again probably of 13th/14th century date. These, and the Brill/Boarstall type pottery, which included fine glazed table ware, suggest high status occupation. If this deposit does indeed represent upcast from the moat, it begs the question as to where these high status finds derive from,

since no other structures were identified which are known to precede the construction of the moated site.

- 3.3.64 The function of pit (1416) is unknown but it was filled with a very charcoal rich deposit (1409) (containing charred wheat and possible lentil seeds) and was sealed by a thick deposit of mid orange brown silty clay (1410/1411), which possibly represents the upcast from the recutting of, or maintenance of, the moat. (1409) contained residual abraded sherds of possible later prehistoric and Romano-British pottery as well as medieval sherds (broadly dated to the 11th to 14th centuries).
- 3.3.65 Trench 15 was positioned over a small mound on the raised platform in the western half of the moat area, targeted on a large spike within the magnetic survey, initially believed to be the site of a potential lime kiln for the burning of waste limestone. The presence of lime kilns are a common occurrence on demolished sites for the recycling of masonry which could not be reused (Aston pers. comm.).
- 3.3.66 Following the removal of 0.30m of mid grey brown silty loam topsoil (1501) and the underlying subsoil (1502), a mid orange brown clay silt was encountered. Cutting this was a modern pit filled with old metal oil drums. The local farmer confirmed that the area had been used for the burying of farm waste.

4 FINDS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Finds were recovered from 13 of the 15 trenches excavated across seven areas; no finds were recovered from Trench 10, and Trenches 4, 6, 8, 9 and 12 produced only minimal quantities of finds. The assemblage ranges in date from Romano-British to post-medieval, although Romano-British and Saxon material appears to occur only as residual finds in later contexts. All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and totals by material type and by trench/site area are presented in **Table 1**.
- 4.1.2 Subsequent to quantification, all finds have been at least visually scanned in order to gain an overall idea of the range of types present, their condition, and their potential date range. Spot dates have been recorded for selected material types as appropriate (pottery, ceramic building material, clay pipes).
- 4.1.3 All finds data are currently held on an Access database. This section presents an overview of the finds assemblage, on which is based an assessment of the potential of this assemblage to contribute to an understanding of the site in its local and regional context, with particular reference to the Saxon origins of the village, and the potential connection with the Saxon royal family.

4.2 Pottery

- 4.2.1 The pottery assemblage includes sherds of ?late prehistoric, Romano-British, late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date. Condition overall is fair to good – medieval and post-medieval sherds are relatively unabraded, while the residuality of earlier sherds is reflected in smaller sherd size and higher levels of abrasion.
- 4.2.2 The whole assemblage has been quantified by ware type within each context, cross referenced to the Oxfordshire type series for post-Roman pottery (Mellor 1994) and the presence of diagnostic sherds noted. Pottery totals by ware type are given in **Table 2**.

Prehistoric

- 4.2.3 Two abraded body sherds in calcareous (oolitic) fabrics from a medieval context at Manor Farm (Trench 14, pit (1416)) have been tentatively dated as later prehistoric, although the possibility that they are medieval must also be recognised.

Romano-British

- 4.2.4 Three Romano-British sherds, all coarsewares, were identified, all occurring residually in medieval or later contexts, again at Manor Farm (Trench 14, robber cut (1413) and pit (1416)).

Late Saxon to Medieval

- 4.2.5 Only one sherd of pottery can be definitively dated as late Saxon – this is St Neot's type ware (10th/11th century), found unstratified at Manor Farm (Trench 14). Other fabric types identified have a date range commencing in the late Saxon period – West Oxfordshire ware (OXAC) and Oxford Ware (OXY) – but there is little diagnostic material to enable closer dating. All sherds of OXAC came from Manor Farm (Trench 14), and include one lid-seated rim from a globular jar, which is more characteristic of the 11th/12th century than earlier (robber cut (1413)). Sherds of OXY, most of which came from the Red Lion car park (Trench 11), include one glazed jug rim and two jar rims and are also unlikely to pre-date the medieval period.
- 4.2.6 Three other wares were identified amongst the medieval assemblage – Minety-type ware from north Wiltshire (OXBB), East Wiltshire, or Kennet Valley ware (OXAQ), and Brill/Boarstall type ware (OXAM). Of these the Brill/Boarstall type wares are most numerous, all deriving from Manor Farm (Trenches 9, 13, 14). Since these appear to comprise the finer ware variant rather than the coarser, earlier variant (OXAW), a date range of 13th to 14th century can be suggested, supported by the presence of sherds from slip-decorated and glazed jugs. The Minety-type wares are probably of similar date, and include a possible curfew (fire-cover), a relatively uncommon vessel form generally associated with higher status occupation. These 13th/14th century sherds came from robber cut (1413), charcoal-rich pit (1416), and possible moat upcast (1408).

Post-Medieval

- 4.2.7 The remainder of the assemblage is of post-medieval date, consisting mainly of roughly equal quantities of coarse redwares (not generally closely datable within the post-medieval period although some sherds are obviously from modern flowerpots) and modern (19th/20th century) refined wares and stonewares. A few sherds are also present in other wares - Border Ware from the Surrey/Hampshire border industry (16th/17th century), Staffordshire-type slipware (17th/early 18th century), white saltglaze (early 18th century) and porcelain (probably 18th century). A large proportion of the post-medieval assemblage came from 'Confessor's Gate' (Trenches 1, 2, 3, 7), with a smaller group from 'Fairlights' (Trench 5).

4.3 Ceramic Building Material

- 4.3.1 Most of the ceramic building material recovered is of post-medieval or modern date and includes fragments of brick, flat roof (peg) tile, pantile, floor tile, paving brick and drainpipe. A large proportion of this material came from 'Confessor's Gate' (Trenches 1, 2, 3, 7).
- 4.3.2 However, there is also a significant presence of glazed medieval ridge tile, nearly all from the Manor Farm earthworks (Trenches 13 and 14). It is apparent from the fabric types observed that several sources for these ridge tiles are represented here – some fragments are in fabrics tempered with oolitic limestone and possibly originate from the Minety production centre in north Wiltshire (Musty 1973), and a few are in a pale-firing fabric comparable to products of the Laverstock kilns outside Salisbury (Musty *et al.* 1969). None, however, are likely to date earlier than the 13th century.

4.4 Stone

- 4.4.1 The stone includes three fragments of roofing slate, probably post-medieval; two larger pieces of limestone roof tile, found unstratified and of uncertain date; and a small architectural fragment, also of limestone and also of uncertain date, from Manor Farm (Trench 13, unstratified).

4.5 Glass

- 4.5.1 This includes both window and vessel glass. Most examples of both types are post-medieval; the window glass includes a small collection of stained glass from 'Confessor's Gate' (Trench 7, from topsoil). A small group of fragments from Manor Farm (Trench 14, robber cut (1413) and pit (1416)), however, are earlier in date, and have the heavily degraded appearance of medieval glass. One piece is from a rounded base with a slight kick, perhaps from a flask or urinal.

4.6 Metalwork

- 4.6.1 Metalwork includes objects of copper alloy, iron and lead.

- 4.6.2 The copper alloy includes two coins, one Romano-British from the Lumber Yard (Trench 4, unstratified) and one modern halfpenny from ‘Confessor’s Gate’ (Trench 3, unstratified). Other copper alloy items, most of which were unstratified finds, are also demonstrably or probably of post-medieval date and include a Royal Berkshire regimental cap badge, a couple of buttons and a large decorative sheet fitting.
- 4.6.3 Ironwork consists largely of nails and other probable structural items. The only other identifiable object is a large post-medieval key from Manor Farm (Trench 9, unstratified).
- 4.6.4 Lead objects consist of waste pieces, with one possible window came fragment from Manor Farm (Trench 14, unstratified). Fragments from Trench 9 (unstratified) appear to represent partially melted waste.

4.7 Animal Bone

- 4.7.1 Of the 279 bones recovered, many were from mixed, modern or post-medieval contexts, but a total of 179 were from deposits that contained predominantly medieval pottery (although only 33 were well-stratified with no residual or intrusive material).
- 4.7.2 46% of bones were well-preserved, and the remainder in moderate condition. There were very few loose teeth (1%), which is often taken to indicate good condition and limited bone fragmentation. Gnawing was also infrequently observed, seen on 2% of bones, again attesting to the relatively good condition of the assemblage, and the proportion of identified bones was 43%.

Animal husbandry

- 4.7.3 The three main domesticates are all fairly well represented, with a high proportion of deer post-cranial bones indicating the consumption of venison. Birds were also relatively common, including those similar in morphology to domestic fowl and to swan (although not yet positively identified). Equid bones were present in small numbers as were rabbit remains, and while the latter may be intrusive it is probable that this species was being hunted (or kept) and eaten.
- 4.7.4 Almost a third of bones could be aged, and a tenth could be measured to indicate size. Neonatal animals were relatively common and included a pig pelvis, femur, calcaneum and metapodial in the upper fill of ditch (1108), other elements from possibly a single young pig in Trench 7 topsoil and the skull of a young pig in robber cut (1413). The remains of very young cattle bones were also seen in topsoil contexts (101) and (701) and in unstratified material from Trench 9.
- 4.7.5 Immature birds, probably domestic fowl, were also present in pit (1416) and topsoil (701), and in the former a spurred tarsometatarsus indicates at least one male. A ridge of extra bone growth along the medial aspect of a distal tibiotarsus in (701) is the only other pathological condition. Two male pigs were present as represented by the mandible of a large, old animal in Trench 14 and a younger individual in Trench 13; the larger mandible is almost of

wild boar size (length of the lower third molar is 40mm). Two cattle mandibles with uneven toothwear suggest loss or misalignment of teeth.

Consumption and deposition

- 4.7.6 Butchery marks were seen on 19% of bones, although 5% were modern saw marks. The majority of the rest were heavy chops for portioning or jointing, and helical fractures and cuts to fillet meat from the bone or perhaps to skin domestic animals were rarer. Several cuts around the proximal part of probable fallow deer tibia indicative of trimming the outstanding bone parts, probably as part of the hunting ritual (Sykes 2001), and other deer bones had been butchered (disarticulated and fractured).
- 4.7.7 The presence of both left and right deer bone elements and absence of meat bearing parts of the forelimb conform well to the patterning expected at elite medieval sites (Sykes forthcoming 2006). The tentatively identified deer pelvis fragment, however, would not be expected in noble households, since tradition was to leave this element as an offering at the hunt site.
- 4.7.8 5% of bones were burnt, all from charcoal-rich pit (1416), from which unburnt and partially calcined bones were recovered. Burning was not restricted to particular size classes or bones and included a cattle second phalange and bird bone, while other bird bones and cattle phalanges were unburnt.
- 4.7.9 Several bone groups may have resulted from the deposition of whole or partial animals, and these include the young pig remains mentioned above. Other unusual bone groups include the fill of the robber cut (1413), which contained the remains of one cattle and two pig skulls, as well as the possible paired fallow femora, perhaps indicating butchery waste.

4.8 Marine Shell

- 4.8.1 This consists entirely of oyster, and includes both left and right valves, i.e. both preparation and consumption waste. All fragments came from Manor Farm (Trenches 9, 13, 14), from both medieval and post-medieval contexts.

4.9 Other Finds

- 4.9.1 Other finds comprise a few fragments of fired clay (uncertain date and origin), clay pipe stems, plain white wall plaster (?medieval from Trench 14, post-medieval from Trench 7), and two post-medieval buttons, one bone and the other mother-of-pearl.

4.10 Potential

- 4.10.1 The finds evidence from Islip has shed some light on medieval activity in the village, particularly from the area of earthworks at Manor Farm, but has produced virtually nothing to elucidate the Saxon origins of the village, and certainly nothing to prove any royal connection. Building materials (ceramic, stone, wall plaster) indicate the existence of substantial building(s), at least at Manor Farm, but these cannot be definitively dated earlier than the 13th

century and, with the exception of a few pottery sherds, this seems to be the chronological focus of the overall post-Roman finds assemblage. High status occupation on this site in the medieval period is also evidenced by the presence of a relatively high proportion of glazed wares (and a possible curfew) amongst the pottery, a few pieces of vessel glass, and specific animal bone species (e.g. deer, possible swan). The relatively broad dating for the pottery (and other finds) from Manor Farm means that the initial construction and use of the site cannot be definitively tied to William de Curtlington in *c.* 1320, but could date to the 13th century or even earlier.

- 4.10.2 Further analysis is unlikely either to refine further the provisional dating (provided largely by the pottery) or to provide more details of the nature of medieval activity in the village. Any publication text prepared could include data gathered as part of this assessment stage, and could include illustrations of a few selected finds (e.g. pottery vessels, ceramic ridge tiles).
- 4.10.3 Given the relatively recent origin of much of this assemblage, recommendations for long-term storage could include a discard policy, to be agreed with the recipient museum. This could target obviously modern artefacts (pottery, ceramic building material, glass, and metalwork). Given the success of the recent temporary exhibition in to celebrate Islip's millennium, any finds not deposited with the museum could be returned to the village for teaching/display purposes.

5 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 5.1.1 Samples were taken to evaluate the presence, preservation and diversity of biological remains. The potential of the remains to aid with interpreting the features and to provide information about the site was assessed.
- 5.1.2 Two bulk samples of 6 litres and 4 litres were taken from a post-medieval cess pit and a rectangular cut through the moat. The samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals.
- 5.1.3 Categories of palaeo-environmental evidence recovered comprise charred plant remains, charcoal, mineralised material and molluscs.

5.2 Charred Plant Remains, Mineralised Material and Charcoals

- 5.2.1 The bulk sample was processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh and the residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. The mineralised sample from latrine pit 513 was similarly processed but using a 0.25 mesh to collect the flot.
- 5.2.2 The flots were scanned under a x10 - x30 stereo-binocular microscope and presence of charred remains quantified (**Table 4**), in order to present data to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and charcoal remains and assess their potential to address the project and subsidiary aims.

5.3 Charred plant remains

- 5.3.1 The samples contained a small amount of roots and a few modern seeds indicative of possible contamination. The sample from latrine pit 513 contained almost no charred plant remains. That from pit 1416 contained some thirty grains of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum* s.l.), as well as a possible grain of lentil (*Lens culinaris*), although given the presence of only one poorly preserved seed it might be an immature seed of vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.).

5.4 Mineralised Remains

- 5.4.1 Mineralised remains were present within the possible cess deposit from cess pit **513**. This contained some fragments of mineralised wood, as well as mineralised seeds. The seeds were probably a mixture of those that were growing in the vicinity, and those that entered the deposit with cess (cf. Greig 1982). However, it is possible that almost all may feasibly come from the local environment.
- 5.4.2 Species most likely to have been growing in the local environment included seeds of dead-nettle (*Lamium* sp.), docks (*Rumex* sp.), henbane (*Hyocyamus niger*) and several of the goosefoot family (*Chenopodium/Atriplex*). These are all common species growing within disturbed settlement environments, and several are particularly associated with the nitrogen rich soils, perhaps the cess itself. Those of more uncertain origin include elder (*Sambucus nigra*), bramble (*Rubus* sp.) and mustard type (*Brassica* sp.). Elderberries could have been digested, although many recipes usually involve usually either crushing the berries or flowers for flavouring. They may, therefore, indicate elder shrub or hedgerows in close proximity to the pit. Seeds of bramble likewise could have come from the local environment, although they are commonly ingested with blackberries or foods made of blackberries and are also commonly found within cess pits (Greig 1991). The seeds of mustard type (*Brassica*) were very well mineralised, but not identifiable to species. Such seeds may come from their use in flavourings, although a number of species also grow wild in Britain and again it may be that those recovered come from plants growing locally in the vicinity of the cess pit.
- 5.4.3 The remaining recovered material included one mineralised stone of possible cherry (*Prunus avium*). This was so poorly preserved that little external morphology remained and it might, therefore, be of sloe (*Prunus spinosa*) or possibly dogwood (*Cornus sanguineus*). Other remains included a possible seed of fig (*Ficus carica*), although it too was so poorly preserved as to make positive identification problematic. A mineralised ‘inner-cast’ of possible apple (*Malus* sp.) and a single mineralised culm node or straw fragment was also recovered. It is probable that straw may have been regularly added to the cess to aid in its later removal. This same sample also contained several mineralised remains of insect larvae.

5.5 Charcoal

5.5.1 Charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 4**. That from cess pit (513) contained almost no charcoal. That from cut (1416) was very rich in charcoal, which included also a fair amount of roundwood and twig charcoal. In at least one case this could be seen to be of hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) or sloe (*Prunus spinosa*) from the presence of thorns complete with partially developed buds.

5.6 Land snails

5.6.1 During the processing of bulk soil samples for the recovery of charred plant remains and charcoals, snails were noted, and recorded (**Table 4**), in the flots from cut (1416). This comprised of one shell of *Oxychilus* sp. *Discus rotundatus*, *Helicella itala* *Vallonia* spp. The origin of these species is hard to define (Thomas 1977; Shackley 1976), and they may include species living in the pit micro-environments, those living around the pit and/or species brought into the pit with discarded material and waste.

5.6.2 At this period we would expect the majority of the wider landscape lived-in to be generally open and the presence of shade-loving species may reflect the shady conditions of the feature itself, or of long herbaceous vegetation and synanthropic habitats within the immediate vicinity of the feature.

5.7 Small mammal bones

5.7.1 During the processing of bulk soil samples for the recovery of charred plant remains and charcoals, small mammal bones were noted, and recorded (**Table 4**), in the flots.

5.8 Summary and Potential

5.8.1 The remains are in keeping with the general period and status of the site. While positive identifications of cherry, fig, apple and possibly lentil were not possible, such finds are common upon both medieval and post-medieval sites, especially those that are associated with higher status individuals (Greig 1991). Free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum* *sl*) was commonly farmed from the Saxon period and would have been one of the main cereals cultivated within Oxfordshire during this period.

5.8.2 This indicates a relatively high status occupation but the limited nature of the evidence cannot really expand on this here.

5.8.3 The plant remains have a limited potential to reveal the nature of the diet of the inhabitants of the site. However, given the low quantity and poor preservation of the material, it is unlikely that any more detailed identification could be made than already given. The plant remains then have no further potential.

5.8.4 Shell numbers for land snails are low, and the taphonomy complex. There is no further potential for analysis.

- 5.8.5 No further work on the palaeo-environmental evidence is proposed, but the information above should be incorporated into any publication.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 Prior to the Time Team investigations, any previous understanding of Islip's history had come from documentary evidence and very limited topographical survey. The current archaeological evaluation therefore offered an opportunity to expand on this previous work, in particular to investigate the hypothesis that the village has an Anglo-Saxon foundation and Royal connections. In this the evaluation was partially successful, although leaving many questions unanswered.

6.2 Æthelred's Palace

- 6.2.1 The belief in a residence at Islip belonging to Æthelred arose from the belief that Edward had been born there and therefore, presumably, at a royal palace or hunting lodge. It is possible that the birth occurred at Islip while Emma was travelling between royal houses, for example from the hunting lodge at Headington (due south of Islip) to the royal vill at Woodstock (north-west of Islip) (Blair 1994, 108), but no evidence of a royal residence has ever been identified at Islip itself, and all information concerning this is found within documentary sources.
- 6.2.2 John Dunkin in his *The History and Antiquities of the Hundreds of Bullington and Ploughley* of 1823 recorded his visit to Islip in 1801 and the remains of where *'the Saxon and Norman lords held their manorial court'* as the site of the Red Lion, and stated that the remaining stone walls had been incorporated into the inn's structure. However, it is unlikely that the stonework Dunkin recorded was the remains of Æthelred's court. Comparisons to a hunting lodge of Æthelred's at Woodstock suggest that any such residence is far more likely to have been constructed from wood (Blair 1994, 110).
- 6.2.3 The only potential evidence for Late Saxon activity within the village was a single feature excavated within the Red Lion car park, possibly an enclosure ditch, although the feature was not fully exposed, and the dating evidence recovered from it (late Saxon/early medieval Oxford type pottery) has a fairly broad date range of 11th to early 13th century.

6.3 The Confessor's Chapel

- 6.3.1 The Chapel is believed to have been constructed within the first half of the 13th century, a date derived from the architectural details (window configuration and buttress position) visible in the 1718 sketch of the Chapel by Thomas Hearne.
- 6.3.2 As the chapel had undergone considerable alterations from its original foundation (as identified by Hearne), and was eventually demolished due to

the unstable nature of the structure, recovery of any structural remains of the building was always going to be difficult, and would have been compounded by the removal of materials for re-use within the village. The exact position of the Chapel was unknown and only a rough estimate of its position, '*a little way north of Islip Church*' as described by Hearne (Henman 1987, 12), provided a basis of where to excavate.

- 6.3.3 Locating the Chapel within the garden of 'Confessor's Gate' proved unsuccessful, as were all attempts in the neighbouring properties. The position of the Chapel therefore remains unknown; it may have been either beneath the present house of 'Confessor's Gate', or within the church yard of St. Nicholas' church.
- 6.3.4 Evidence was, however, recovered for the post-medieval use of the site, probably corresponding to the conversion of the chapel to a barn sometime before 1718, in the form of a metalled yard surface.

6.4 The Moated Site

- 6.4.1 The earthworks adjacent to Manor Farm were thought to be associated with the Court House of the Abbot of Westminster, William de Curtlington, built around 1320. Evaluation of this area provided an opportunity to investigate the possibility that an earlier structure or structures may once have stood on the moated site, either demolished or incorporated into the 14th century Manor.
- 6.4.2 Considerable work has been conducted into the investigation and the categorisation of moated sites since they were first identified as a distinct category of monument during the 19th century, with later classifications made in 1901 by the Earthworks Committee of the Congress of Archaeological Societies (Aberg 1978, 1). The dating of moated sites, where dating has been possible, has shown that the majority date from the 13th and 14th centuries, although exceptions are known. Their function and reasons for construction have also been much debated, with the consensus being that they were constructed for a number of reasons; as a sign of wealth and prosperity, creating an image of defensibility and of course providing dry raised areas for habitation, in parts of the country prone to flooding and high ground water (Platt 1978, 111; Aberg 1978).
- 6.4.3 The moated site at Islip is believed to have been constructed around 1320 (information once again provided by John Dunkin: see Henman 1987, 13) and have to have been inhabited until the 16th century, when the current Manor House was constructed and the moated site abandoned. It was later recorded that the area was robbed around 1720 of '*many loads of lead*', and there are likely to have been numerous such episodes of robbing and recycling of materials from the Site (*ibid.*, 14).
- 6.4.4 Evidence for the sequence and dating of construction on the site hinges on the identification of possible moat upcast in Trench 14, which was cut by the construction cut for at least one of the stone structures excavated, and which contained 13th/14th century fineware pottery and glazed ceramic roof tiles.

This potentially indicates high status occupation on the site prior to the initial construction of the moat, although no structures or features were excavated which could be stratigraphically linked with such occupation. Similar pottery and ceramic tiles were also recovered from a pit in Trench 14 cutting the moat upcast, and from a robber cut associated with one of the stone walls.

- 6.4.5 The preparation of a site can often provide dating evidence for the period in which the moat was constructed by the sealing of dateable finds beneath the moat upcast, but no such finds were recovered at Islip. At sites such as Gannow Green Moat, Worcester, evidence of the clearance of the site was sealed beneath the internal structures and overlying the original ground surface; a layer of burnt brushwood, wood chips and decayed vegetation reflected the removal of trees and vegetation before moat construction (Blair 1978, 111). Preparation at Islip was shown by the deposit of limestone fragments over the original ground surface, as seen in Trenches 13 and 14, presumably in an attempt to provide a dry working platform for the moat excavation and building construction.
- 6.4.6 The trenches within the moated area revealed evidence of two, or possibly three, structures upon the raised platform within the moat although, due to the restricted size of the evaluation trenches the nature of these structures is not fully understood. The walls which were revealed are difficult to interpret and it is not clear if they represent parts of buildings or free-standing structures. No clear internal floor deposits were associated with any of them.
- 6.4.7 A range of different buildings could potentially be located within moated sites, such as manor houses, chapels, bake houses, brew houses, stables, kitchens, barns and granaries; and their relative positions varied from site to site. All that can be suggested here is that certain structures such as bake houses, brew houses and kitchens are likely to have been placed away from the main habitation buildings and close to the moat due to the increased risk of fire, and the structure within Trench 9 could be one such building, although the thickness of one of the walls would suggest it was part of a more substantial structure than an ancillary building.
- 6.4.8 The geophysical survey revealed high resistance anomalies indicative of a large wall, running within the north-east corner of the moat. This could be a surrounding curtain wall, but without further excavation it remains unclear.
- 6.4.9 Trench 14 was positioned upon a slight raised platform within the central raised area inside the moat. It is possible that the walls identified within Trench 14 belong to a substantial, possibly two-storey building, on the basis of its elevated position, and the presence of a possible buttress; it could even be the Manor House itself.
- 6.4.10 The identification of robber trenches and highly robbed structures in Trenches 9 and 14, and the recovery of melted window lead from Trench 9 does fit with the documentary evidence which identified the site as having suffered periods of robbing such as the '*many loads of lead*' around 1720. No evidence, however, was found of the Manor House having been

'destroyed by fire'. It was clear, however, that the structure was *'never rebuilt'* (Henman 1987, 14).

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1.1 Given the above assessment of the results of the evaluation, no further analysis of the data is warranted.
- 7.1.2 A report on the evaluation will be submitted to the Oxfordshire Sites and Monuments Record, and it is recommended that a report summarising the results of this assessment is published in *Oxoniensia*.

8 ARCHIVE

- 8.1.1 The archive, which includes all artefacts, written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigation undertaken, is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology under the site code ISL 05 and Wessex Archaeology project number 59468. The paper/photographic archive is contained in one lever-arch file, and the material archive in nine cardboard or airtight plastic boxes. In due course, and following written consent by the landowners, the archive will be transferred to the Oxfordshire Museums Service (Museum Accession Number 2005.58).

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

	CONFESSOR'S GATE				LUMBER YARD	FAIR LIGHTS	RED LION		E OF RED LION	GREEN	MANOR FARM EARTHWORKS			Unstrat	TOTAL
Material	1	2	3	7	4	5	6	11	8	12	9	13	14		
Pottery	28/216	108/992	33/317	38/468	2/22	31/579	7/65	22/285	1/14	6/14	3/63	27/541	70/1206	-	375/4723
<i>Prehistoric</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2/13	-	2/13
<i>Romano-British</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3/17	-	3/17
<i>Late Sax/Medieval</i>	-	3/3	1/6	-	2/22	-	1/6	21/281	-	-	3/63	24/486	63/1153	-	117/1961
<i>Post-medieval</i>	28/216	105/989	32/311	38/468	-	31/579	6/59	1/4	1/14	6/14	-	3/55	2/23	-	253/2732
Ceramic Building Material	15/1360	32/6700	55/4805	35/2928	-	12/766	1/18	3/167	-	-	-	3/76	77/6822	4/1129	237/24771
Wall Plaster	-	-	-	2/66	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12/77	-	14/143
Fired Clay	-	-	1/95	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/35	-	5/130
Clay Pipe	1/1	6/17	3/4	3/5	-	-	-	1/1	2/6	-	-	-	-	-	16/34
Stone	1/4	-	-	1/15	-	1/15	-	-	-	-	-	1/803	-	2/1622	6/2459
Glass	8/71	29/281	12/132	85/513	-	2/25	3/10	4/9	-	2/5	-	-	9/32	-	154/1078
Metalwork	9	31	16	16	1	18	-	-	-	6	15	1	16	-	129
<i>Copper Alloy</i>	3	-	2	5	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	14
<i>Iron</i>	6	30	14	11	-	18	-	-	-	3	11	1	12	-	106
<i>Lead</i>	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	3	-	9
Worked Bone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/1	-	-	-	-	1/1
Animal Bone	8/56	7/157	14/163	46/569	-	16/251	-	16/108	-	5/8	12/105	67/1171	88/1754	-	279/4342
Marine Shell	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/1*	2/26	1/23	11/197	-	15/247

* mother-of-pearl button

Table 2: Pottery totals by ware type

Date Range	Ware Type	No. sherds	Weight (g)
?PREHISTORIC	Oolitic ware	2	13
ROMANO-BRITISH	RB oxidised ware	2	14
	RB greyware	1	3
	<i>Sub-total Romano-British</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>17</i>
LATE SAXON & MEDIEVAL	St Neot's type ware (OXR)	1	4
	late Saxon/early med W Oxon ware (OXAC)	12	172
	late Saxon & early Med Oxford ware (OXY)	23	282
	Minety-type ware (OXBB)	8	271
	early to late Med East Wilts ware (OXAQ)	13	252
	Brill/Boarstall type ware (OXAM)	60	980
	<i>sub-total late Saxon/medieval</i>	<i>117</i>	<i>1961</i>
POST-MEDIEVAL	Redware	111	1705
	Border ware	4	12
	Staffordshire-type slipware	1	9
	Stonewares	12	189
	White saltglaze	4	8
	Porcelain	3	5
	Bone china	1	2
	Modern refined wares	117	802
	<i>sub-total post-medieval</i>	<i>253</i>	<i>2732</i>
	OVERALL TOTAL	375	4723

Table 3: Animal bone species list and percentage of identified specimens

	Horse	Cattle	Sheep/Goat	Pig	Deer	Rabbit	Bird	Unidentified	Total
No.	2	36	31	23	10	4	15	158	279
%	2	30	26	19	8	3	12		

Table 4: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature type/ no	Context	Sample	size litres	Flot							Residue
				flot ml	size	Grain	Chaff	Weed seeds uncharred charred	Charcoal >5.6mm	Other	Charcoal >5.6mm
Tr 5 Latrine pit 513	507	1	6	40 ⁵	-	-	a*	-	-	min (B) smb (C)	-
Tr 14 Pit 1416	1409	2	4	100 ¹⁰	A	-	-	C	A**	moll (C)	-

KEY: A** = exceptional, A* = 30+ items, A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items, (h) = hazelnuts, smb = small mammal bones; Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs Moll-f = freshwater molluscs; Analysis, C = charcoal, P = plant, M = molluscs

NOTE: ¹flot is total, but flot in superscript = ml of rooty material. ²Unburnt seed in lower case to distinguish from charred remains

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1 – ‘Confessor’s Gate’				
Max Depth: 1.10m		Length: 5.90m	Width: 1.90m	
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth	
101	<i>Topsoil</i>	Dark grey brown silty loam, current garden soil	0-0.36m	
102	<i>Subsoil</i>	Light-mid grey brown silty clay, below 101, common flecks of light yellow sandy mortar.	0.36-0.66m	
103	<i>Deposit</i>	Light –mid yellow sandy mortar, with rare small limestone fragments, thin deposit overlies 104=105. Likely a dump of waste material.	0.66-0.71m	
104	<i>Deposit</i>	Very compact light grey silt with abundant almost 100% limestone fragments. Metalled surface, redeposited natural limestone blocks. Yard surface. See 207 and 307	0.66-0.95m	
105	<i>Deposit</i>	Equal to 104	-	
106	<i>Deposit</i>	Very compact very light grey/white limestone mortar deposit, deliberate dump.	0.60-0.63m	
107	<i>Cut</i>	Cut of lead water pipe trench. Equal to 309 in Trench 3.	0.48-0.71m	
108	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of 107 , mixed mid grey brown and light grey sandy silt clay, trench backfill including lead pipe. Equal to 307.	0.48-0.71m	
109	<i>Deposit</i>	Mixed mid grey brown and light grey sandy loam, deliberate dump of rubble and demolition material. Leveling deposit. Concentrated at the northern end of Trench 1.	0.41-0.59m	
110	<i>Natural</i>	Natural mottled light orange and grey silty clay.	0.95-1.00m	

Trench 2 – ‘Confessor’s Gate’				
Max Depth: 1.25m		Length: 2m	Width: 2m	
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth	
201	<i>Topsoil</i>	Dark grey brown silty loam, current garden soil	0-0.18m	
202	<i>Subsoil</i>	Light-mid grey brown silty clay	0.15-0.30m	
203	<i>Deposit</i>	Mid grey silty clay with abundant limestone blocks and fragments. Modern make-up for garden path.	0.18-0.35m	
204	<i>Deposit</i>	Light-mid yellow sandy mortar, common flecks and fragments of limestone. Demolition deposit from the cleaning of robbed material, potentially from the Chapel.	0.35-0.45m	
205	<i>Deposit</i>	Equal to 204.	-	
206	<i>Layer</i>	Pale grey brown sandy silt, potentially the beginnings of new soil formation.	0.45-0.57m	
207	<i>Deposit</i>	Very compact light grey silt with abundant almost 100% limestone fragments. Metalled surface, redeposited natural limestone blocks. Yard surface. See 104 and 307.	0.57-0.73m	
208	<i>Deposit</i>	Pale brown grey silt, potentially and earlier soil deposit/ground surface.	0.73-0.95m	
209	<i>Deposit</i>	Mid orange brown clay silt, redeposited natural deposit.	0.95-1.25m	
210	<i>Natural</i>	Natural, yellow grey stiff clay.		

Trench 3 – ‘Confessor’s Gate’				
Max Depth: 0.66m		Length: 8.40m	Width: 0.90m	
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth	
301	<i>Topsoil</i>	Dark grey brown clay silt, current garden soil	0-0.38m	
302	<i>Subsoil</i>	Mid brown grey fine sandy silt	0.38-0.45m	
303	<i>Deposit</i>	Dark red brown sandy silt, modern rubble deposit, fill of 311.	0.18-0.28m	
304	<i>Deposit</i>	Dark brown sandy silt, fill of 311.	0.28-0.40m	
305	<i>Deposit</i>	Light yellow grey silty sand, fill of 311.	0.40-0.50m	

306	<i>Deposit</i>	Light yellow brown sandy silt, fill of 311.	0.50-0.63m
307	<i>Deposit</i>	Very compact light grey silt with abundant almost 100% limestone fragments. Metalled surface, redeposited natural limestone blocks. Yard surface. See 104 and 207.	0.55m+
308	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of modern lead water pipe trench 309 . Equal to 108.	0.55-0.65m
309	<i>Cut</i>	Cut of lead water pipe trench. Equal to 107 in Trench 1.	0.55-0.65m
310	<i>VOID</i>	Number not used	-
311	<i>Cut</i>	Cut of rubble filled pit, modern,	0.28-0.66m
312	<i>Deposit</i>	Layer of very light grey/white limestone mortar, which overlies 307, unclear if dump or deliberate deposition.	0.52-0.55m

Trench 4 – Lumber Yard			
Max Depth: 0.80m		Length: 3.40m	Width: 1.50m
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth
401	<i>Deposit</i>	Gravel, rubble and hardcore deposit, current yard surface	0-0.30m
402	<i>Deposit</i>	Mid grey brown loam and rubble layer, hard-core for yard surface.	0.30-0.56m
403	<i>Deposit</i>	Light brown sandy subsoil remnant	0.56-0.64m
404	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology, bands of light grey firm clay, light orange firm clay and decayed limestone fragments in light orange clay.	0.64-0.80m

Trench 5 – ‘Fairlights’			
Max Depth: 0.94m		Length: 3.30m	Width: 2m
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth
501	<i>Topsoil</i>	Dark grey brown silty loam, current topsoil and turf of garden lawn	0-0.26m
502	<i>Subsoil</i>	mid grey brown silty loam	0.26-0.45m
503	<i>Deposit</i>	Mixed light brown and light grey/white sandy silt, deliberate dump of demolition material, acting as leveling deposit. Totally sterile.	0.45-0.60m
504	<i>Deposit</i>	Demolition deposit of mid brown silty clay, with common limestone fragments and broken tile and mortar remnants.	0.60-0.95m
505	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology, orange brown and grey green clay.	0.95m+
506	<i>Deposit</i>	Fill of 508 . Mid grey brown sandy silt capping 507, probable collapse/demolition/robbing of latrine lining.	-
507	<i>Deposit</i>	Mid grey green brown silty clay remains of cess deposit of Latrine 513.	-
508	<i>Cut</i>	Cut of latrine pit, lined with limestone walling 509, 510 and 511.	-
509	<i>Structure</i>	Limestone wall latrine lining	-
510	<i>Structure</i>	Limestone wall latrine lining	-
511	<i>Structure</i>	Limestone wall latrine lining	-
512	<i>Natural</i>	Urea stained natural at the base of 508	-
513	<i>Group</i>	Group number for latrine pit comprising Cut 508 , walls 509, 510 and 511 and cess fill 507.	-

Trench 6 - Red Lion car park			
Max Depth: 1.5m		Length: 5.70m	Width: 1.80m
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth
601	<i>Deposit</i>	Current carpark surface, tarmac and scalplings.	0-0.34m
602	<i>Deposit</i>	Modern make-up/leveling material for the carpark, fragmented limestone.	0.34-0.52m
603	<i>Deposit</i>	Light brown clay and fragmented limestone blocks, deliberate fill of quarry pit 610 . Equal to 605 and 611.	0.52-1.15m
604	<i>VOID</i>	Number not used	-
605	<i>Deposit</i>	Equal to 603	-
606	<i>Deposit</i>	Dark brown/black silty clay, remnant fill of truncated ditch 609 .	1.00-1.50m

607	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology, light grey compact clay and limestone	1.15m+
608	<i>Natural</i>	Equal 607.	-
609	<i>Cut</i>	Cut of ditch. Very unclear in section and in plan due to its truncation by later quarry pit 610, likely to align with ditch identified in Trench 11.	1.00-1.50m
610	<i>Cut</i>	Cut of modern quarry pit which truncates ditch 609, irregular in shape with steep stepped sides and flat base.	0.52-1.15m
611	<i>Deposit</i>	Light grey clay and limestone fragments, fill of quarry, equal to 603 and 605.	0.52-1.15m

Trench 7 – ‘Confessor’s Gate’				
Max Depth: 0.40m		Length: 3.25m		Width: 1.50m
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth	
701	<i>Topsoil</i>	Dark grey brown clay silt, current garden soil	0-0.40m	
702	<i>Deposit</i>	Localised mid yellow brown sandy silt demolition/leveling deposit, with a certain amount of mixing with the topsoil, very disturbed.	0.40m+	
703	<i>Structure</i>	Modern concrete block set in northwest corner.	0.20m+	
704	<i>Deposit</i>	Light yellow grey/white, compact layer of mortar waste, possible surface but more likely demolition/leveling layer.	0.40m+	
705	<i>Deposit</i>	Mixed layer of black and reddish brown sandy silt, modern layer.	0.40m+	
706	<i>Deposit</i>	Layer of cobbles forming a rough line, perhaps indication of a pipe of some sort.		

Trench 8 – Orchard/Yard to east of Red Lion				
Max Depth: 0.70m		Length: 3m		Width: 1m
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth	
801	<i>Topsoil</i>	Dark grey brown silty loam. Highly bioturbated due to roots of recently felled tree, most likely mixed with subsoil.	0-0.40m	
802	<i>Natural</i>	Mid yellow brown sandy clay natural geology.	0.40m+	

Trench 9 – Moated site				
Max Depth: 1.10m		Length: 5.90m		Width: 1.90m
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth	
901	<i>Topsoil</i>	Mid brown silty loam, current turf and topsoil of pasture field.	0-0.30m	
902	<i>Subsoil</i>	Mid orange brown silt, with moderate limestone fragments.	0.30-0.60m	
903	<i>Deposit</i>	Mid grey brown silt deposit which overlies demolition deposit 907, possibly represents a demolition deposit associated with robbing of the site.	0.60-0.70m	
904	<i>Layer</i>	Mid brown grey silt with occasional small limestone fragments, possible occupation layer over possible floor surface 906, and below gravel layer 905. Unclear as unexcavated.	0.60m+	
905	<i>Layer</i>	Mid grey brown silt with common rounded flint gravel, possible floor surface. Unclear as unexcavated.	0.60m+	
906	<i>Layer</i>	Light brown silty clay with common-abundant limestone slabs and fragments. Unclear if 906 represents a paved floor surface utilizing broken roofing stone tiles, or is a collapse deposit associated with the end of the Manors life, material which was not robbed away. Unclear as unexcavated.	0.60m+	
907	<i>Layer</i>	Light grey brown silty loam, with common limestone fragments and broken stone roofing tiles, demolition deposit or the remains left following robbing. Unclear as unexcavated.	0.60m+	
908	<i>Structure</i>	Roughly east-west aligned limestone block on unmortared wall foundation, likely to be foundation as only clay bonded. Bonded to 911	0.50m+	

		Unclear as unexcavated.	
909	<i>Deposit</i>	Probable rubble collapse deposit of mid brown silty clay with common fragments of limestone. Unclear as unexcavated.	0.50m+
910	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology light orange brown silty clay and limestone fragments. Cornbrash.	0.70m+
911	<i>Structure</i>	Roughly north-south aligned limestone block unmortared wall foundation, likely to be foundation as only clay bonded. Bonded to 908. Unclear as unexcavated.	0.50m+
912	<i>Deposit</i>	Equal to 909	0.50m+
913	<i>Deposit</i>	Light grey clay deposit, unclear of function, either butts up against or is cut through by wall 911.	-

Trench 10 – Green east of Church			
Max Depth: 0.40m		Length: 4m	Width: 1m
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth
1001	<i>Topsoil</i>	Dark grey brown silty loam	0-0.15m
1002	<i>Subsoil</i>	Mid grey brown silty loam	0.15-0.25m
1003	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology sandy clay with clay lens and shattered limestone, utilized as ground surface of Georgian Market.	0.25m+

Trench 10 – Red Lion car park			
Max Depth: 1.90m		Length: 2.80m	Width: 2.3m
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth
1101	<i>Deposit</i>	Current carpark surface, tarmac and scalplings	0-0.35m
1102	<i>Deposit</i>	Mid brown silty clay, unclear of origin, deliberate deposition.	0.35-0.48m
1103	<i>Deposit</i>	Modern make-up/leveling material for the carpark, fragmented limestone	0.48-0.80m
1104	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper fill of 1108 , dark brown/black with green flecks silty clay.	0.80-1.55m
1105	<i>Deposit</i>	Lowest recorded fill of ditch 1108 , very dark grey brown/black	1.55-1.90m
1106	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology, green/brown clay.	1.54m+
1107	<i>Natural</i>	Pale yellow grey clay with limestone banding.	1.54m+
1108	<i>Cut</i>	Cut of probable east-west aligned large ditch, unclear in plan and section due to the size and depth of Trench 11	1.54m+

Trench 12 – Green east of Church			
Max Depth: 0.40m		Length: 4m	Width: 1m
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth
1201	<i>Topsoil</i>	Dark grey brown silty loam	0-0.07m
1202	<i>Subsoil</i>	Mid grey brown silty loam	0.07-0.14m
1203	<i>Deposit</i>	Isolated deposit of crushed cinder	0.14-0.16m
1204	<i>Deposit</i>	Dump of sand and gravel. Perhaps repair to natural limestone surface utilized as market surface.	0.16-0.20m
1205	<i>Deposit</i>	Occupation layer, 18 th century debris associated with market.	0.20-0.40m
1206	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology sandy clay with clay lens and shattered limestone, utilized as ground surface of Georgian Market	0.40m+

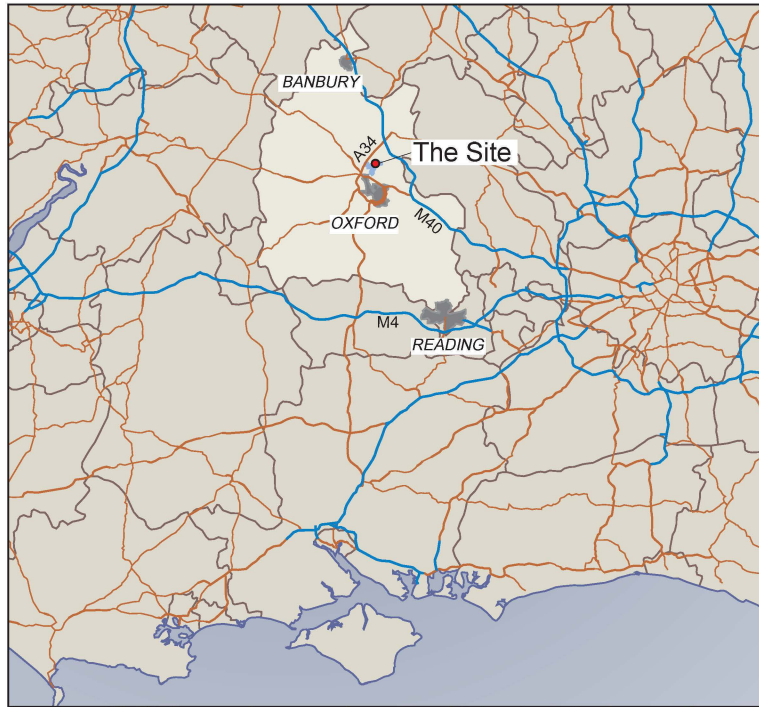
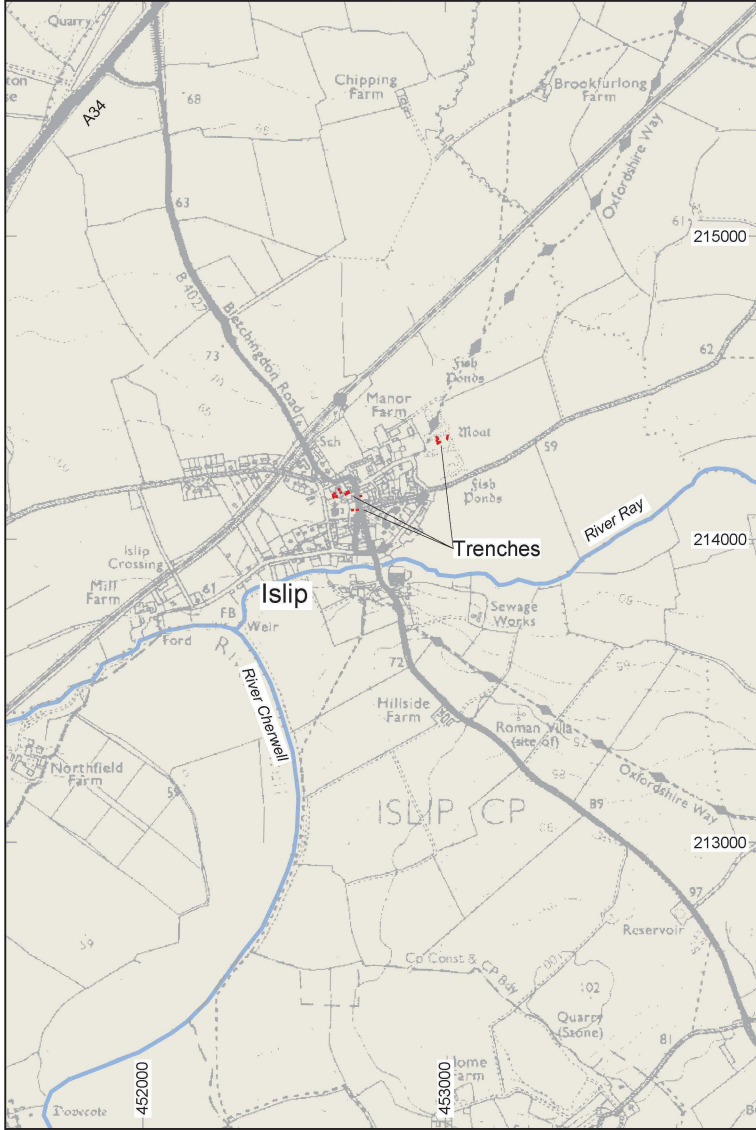
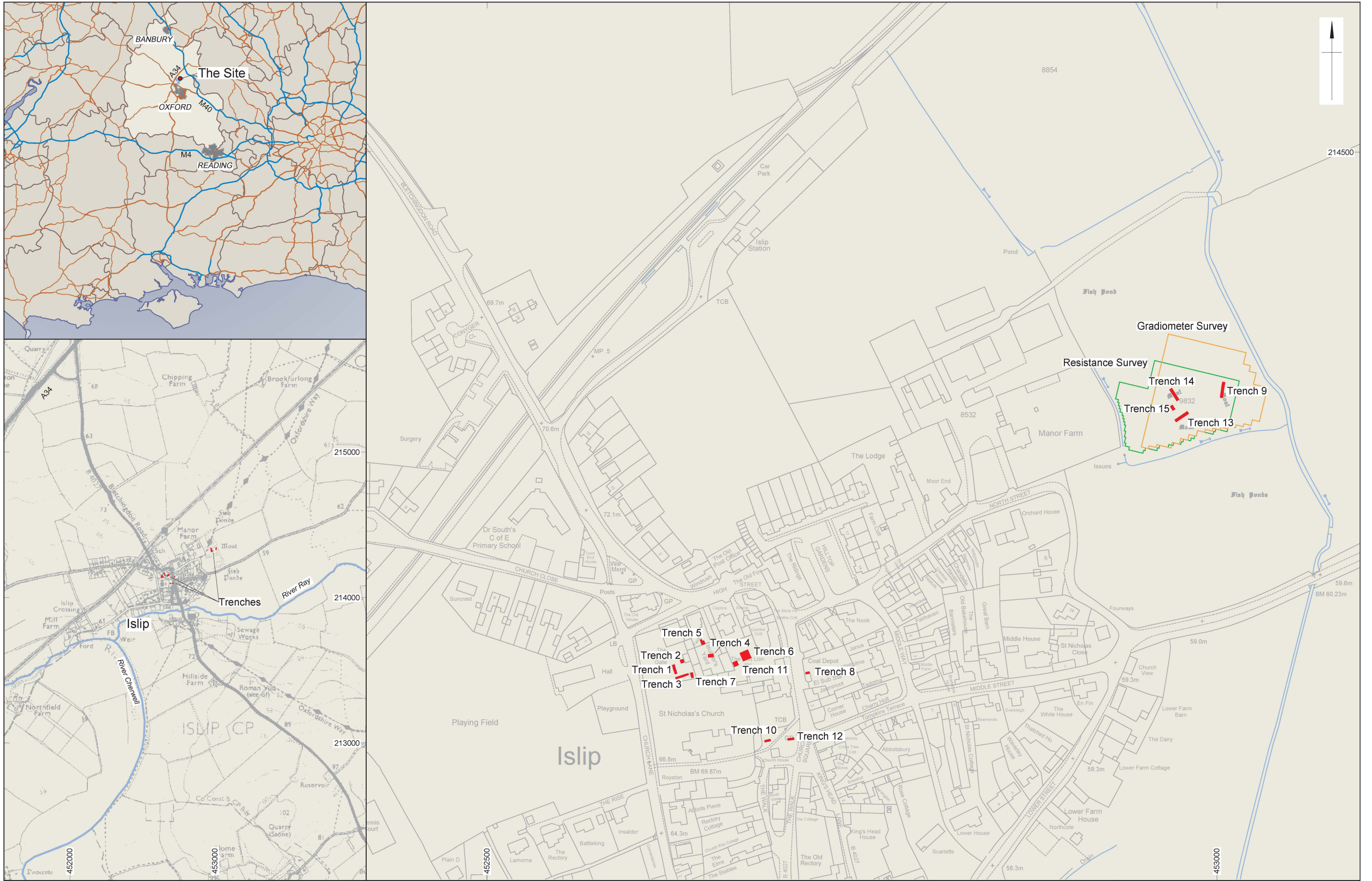
Trench 13 – Moated site			
Max Depth: 1.40m		Length: 10m	Width: 1.45m
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth
1301	<i>Topsoil</i>	Current topsoil and turf of pasture field, mid grey brown silty loam	0-0.23m

1302	<i>Subsoil</i>	Light grey brown silty clay with common small limestone pebbles.	0.23-0.32m
1303	<i>Deposit</i>	Mid grey sandy silt, mortar rich demolition layer with limestone fragments, probable waste deposit from robbing events.	0.32-0.60m
1304	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate deposit of limestone blocks and fragments overlying original ground surface 1305. Potentially laid down to aid drainage of water during the construction of the moated site. Equal to 1406 in Trench 14	0.60-0.81m
1305	<i>Layer</i>	Mid yellow brown silty clay, original ground surface, overlain by 1304. Equal to 1412 in Trench 14.	0.81-1.18m
1306	<i>Layer</i>	Subsoil layer, directly below 1305, light yellow silty clay.	1.18-1.37m
1307	<i>Natural</i>	Mid yellow brown clay with abundant gravel.	

Trench 14 – Moated site				
	Max Depth: 1.08m		Length: 9m	Width: 1.80m
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth	
1401	<i>Topsoil</i>	Current topsoil and turf of pasture field, mid grey brown silty loam	0-0.15m	
1402	<i>Deposit</i>	Mid brown silty clay, Fill of robber cut 1413 , possible erosion deposit mixed with some deliberate backfilling.	0.15-0.52	
1403	<i>Deposit</i>	Light grey brown silty clay with abundant fragments of limestone, demolition layer at the base of robber cut 1413 .	-	
1404	<i>Structure</i>	Roughly east-west aligned limestone block unmortared wall foundation, likely to be foundation as only clay bonded. Unclear if part of building or boundary wall. Unclear as unexcavated.	-	
1405	<i>Deposit</i>	Mid red brown silty clay with common sub-rounded pebbles, fill of robber cut 1413 .	-	
1406	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate deposit of limestone blocks and fragments overlying original ground surface 1412. Potentially laid down to aid drainage of water during the construction of the moated site. Equal to 1304 in Trench 13	-	
1407	<i>Deposit</i>	Mid grey brown silty sandy clay rubble deposit, unclear of association with wall 1404, but appears to butt up against it. but may also be a dump of discarded material from a robbing event. Unclear as unexcavated.	-	
1408	<i>Deposit</i>	Mid yellow brown silty clay with common limestone fragments. Layer of redeposited natural, upcast from the excavation of the moat.	-	
1409	<i>Deposit</i>	Dark grey brown silty clay fill of 1416 , deliberate charcoal rich backfill, sealed by 1411.	-	
1410	<i>Deposit</i>	Mid orange brown silty clay, upcast from the re-cutting of the moat, evidence of moat maintenance. Equal to 1411.	-	
1411	<i>Deposit</i>	Equal to 1410.	-	
1412	<i>Layer</i>	Mid yellow brown silty clay, original ground surface, overlain by 1406. Equal to 1305 in Trench 13. Equal to 1423.	-	
1413	<i>Cut</i>	Cut of large robber trench for the removal of wall 1404. Backfilled with 1403, 1405 and 1402	-	
1414	<i>Cut</i>	Cut of robber trench for the removal of wall 1415. Backfilled with 1417.	-	
1415	<i>Structure</i>	Eastern end of wall lost into the western limit of excavation of Trench 14. Potentially east-west aligned but unclear as so little exposed. Limestone block unmortared wall foundation, likely to be foundation as only clay bonded.	-	
1416	<i>Cut</i>	Cut of roughly sub-rectangular pit filled with 1409, and sealed by 1411. Date and function unknown.	-	
1417	<i>Deposit</i>	Mid orange brown silty clay fill of robber trench 1414.	-	
1418	<i>Deposit</i>	Light orange yellow silty clay, possible fill of construction cut around wall 1415. Construction cut 1420 .	-	
1419	<i>Deposit</i>	Mid grey brown silty clay. Possible soil accumulation layer, or dump of material, unclear. Equal to 1426.	-	
1420	<i>Cut</i>	Construction cut for foundation 1415.	-	
1421	<i>Cut</i>	Construction cut for foundation 1404	-	

1422	<i>Subsoil</i>	Natural subsoil deposit mid yellow brown silty clay, overlain by 1412, equal to 1306 in Trench 13.	-
1423	<i>Layer</i>	Equal to 1412 and 1305 in Trench 13	-
1424	<i>Deposit</i>	Light yellow clay deposit, overlies 1407.	-
1425	<i>Subsoil</i>	Mid orange brown clay silt.	-
1426	<i>Deposit</i>	Mid grey brown silty clay. Possible soil accumulation layer, or dump of material, unclear	-
1427	<i>Cut</i>	Cut of small pit or tree bole.	-
1428	<i>Deposit</i>	Mid brown grey clayey silt fill of 1427 .	-

Trench 15 – Moated site			
Max Depth: 0.40m		Length: 3m	Width: 1.5m
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth
1501	<i>Topsoil</i>	Current topsoil and turf of pasture field, mid grey brown silty loam	0-0.30m
1502	<i>Subsoil</i>	Mid orange brown clay silt	0.30-0.40
1503	<i>Cut</i>	Cut of modern pit	-
1504	<i>Deposit</i>	Mid brown silty clay fill of 1503 , filled with modern metal oil drums.	-

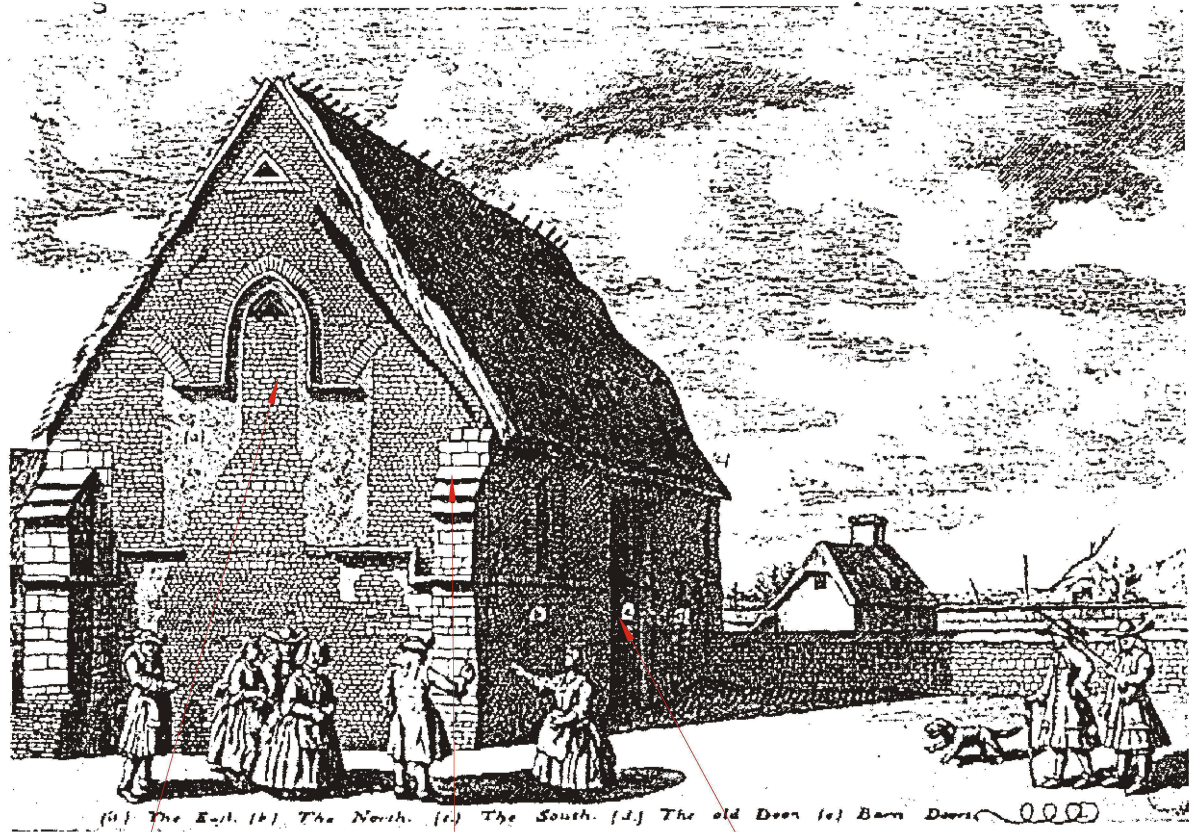


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Site and trench location

Figure 1



A

B

C

- A - Remains of lancet window
- B - Right angle buttress
- C - Insertion of barn door

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Geophysical and RCHME surveys of moated site

Figure 3



Trench 1 from the south



- Metalled surface
- Mortar overlying metalled surface
- Modern

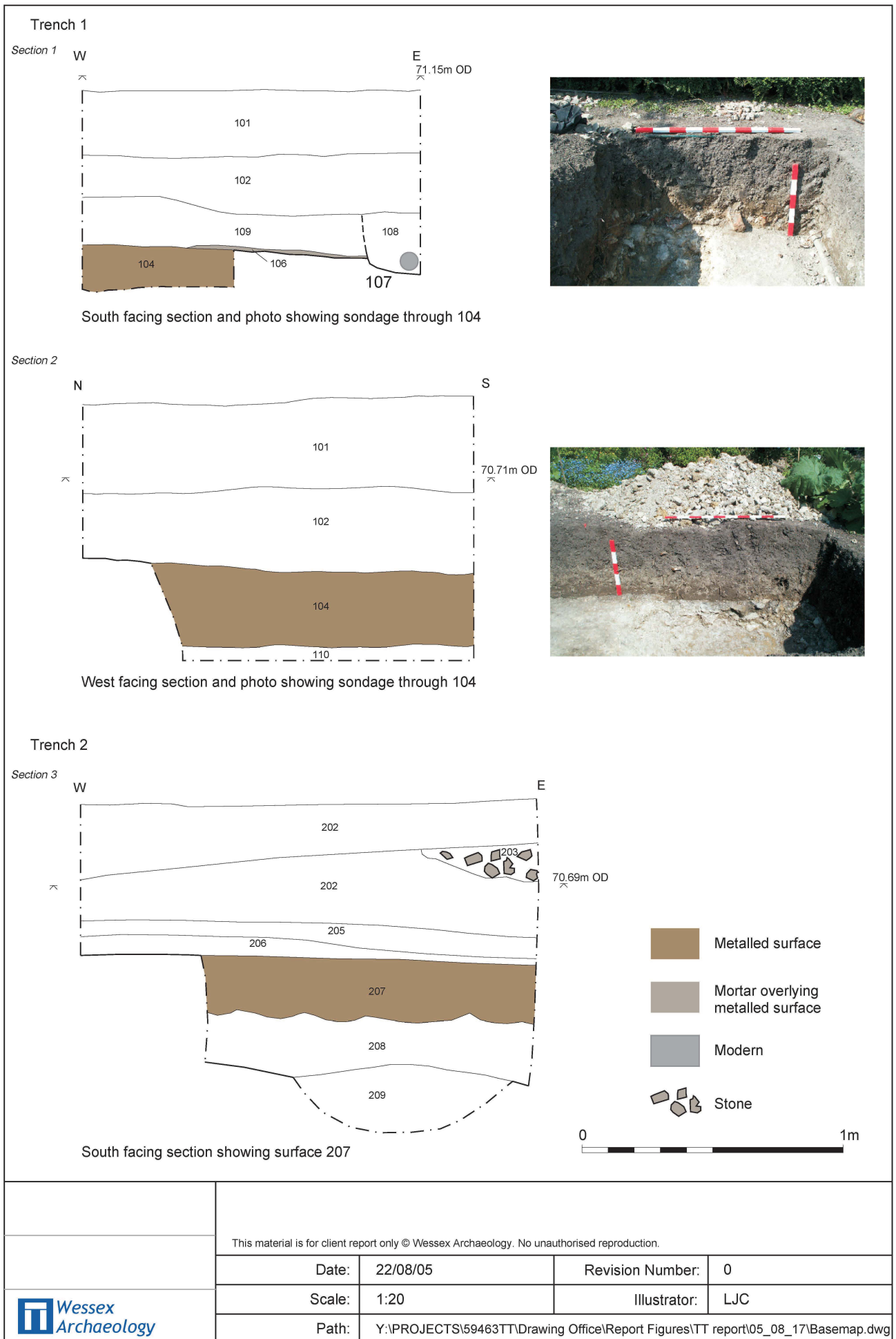


Trench 2, following partial removal of 207, from the east



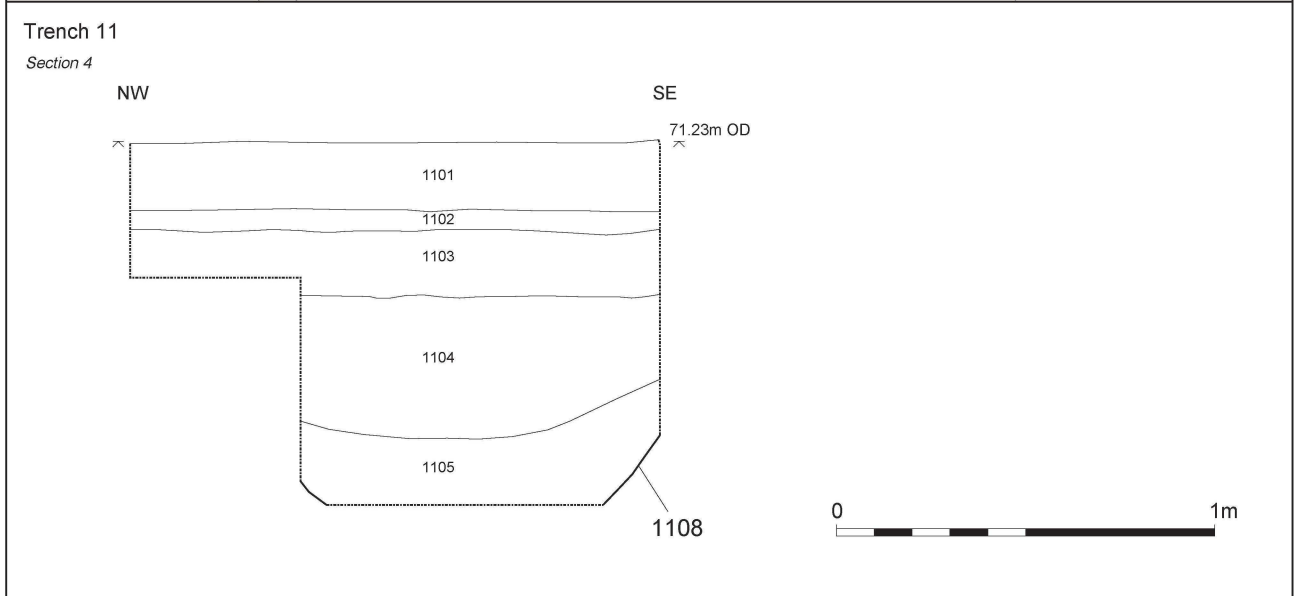
Trench 3 from the west

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Sections and photos of Trenches 1 and 2

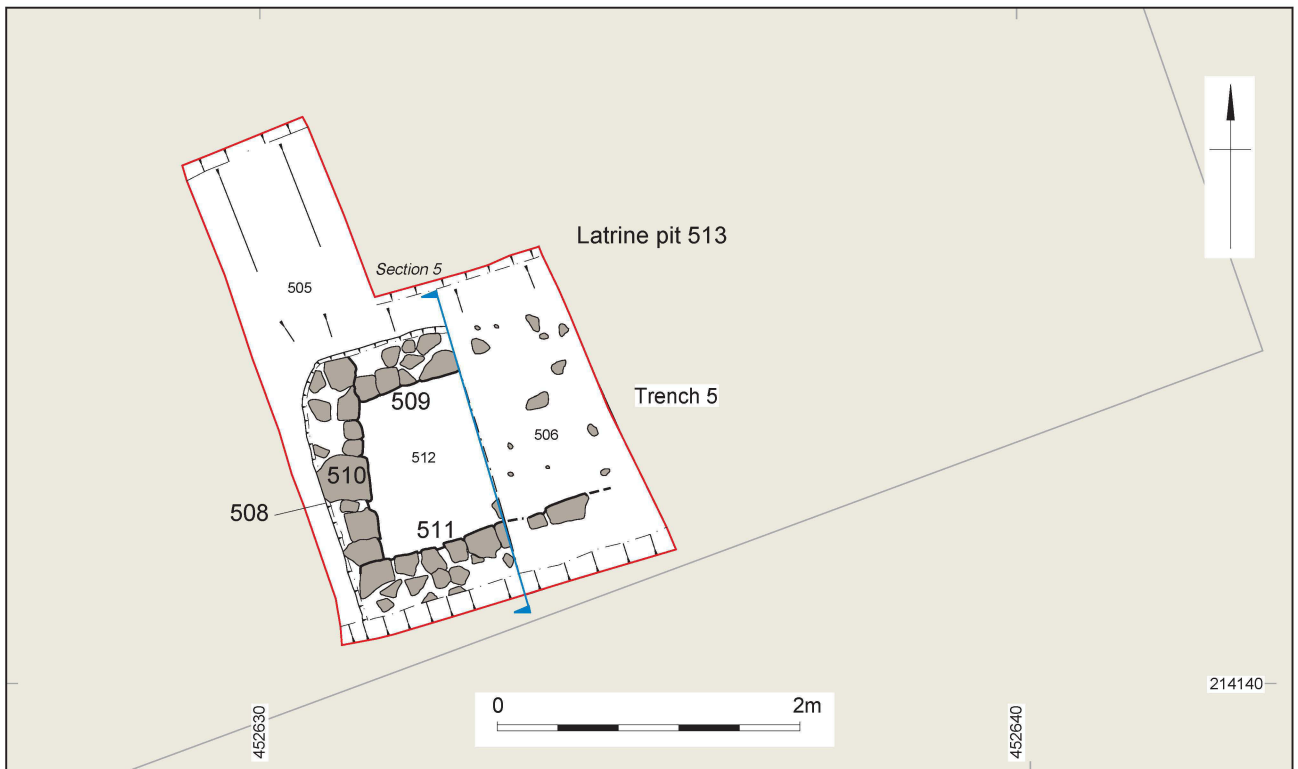
Figure 5



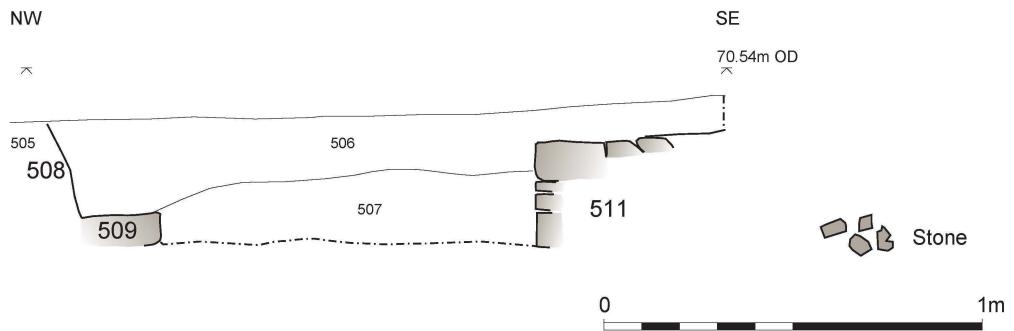
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Trenches 6 and 11; plans and Trench 11; section

Figure 6



Trench 5
Section 5

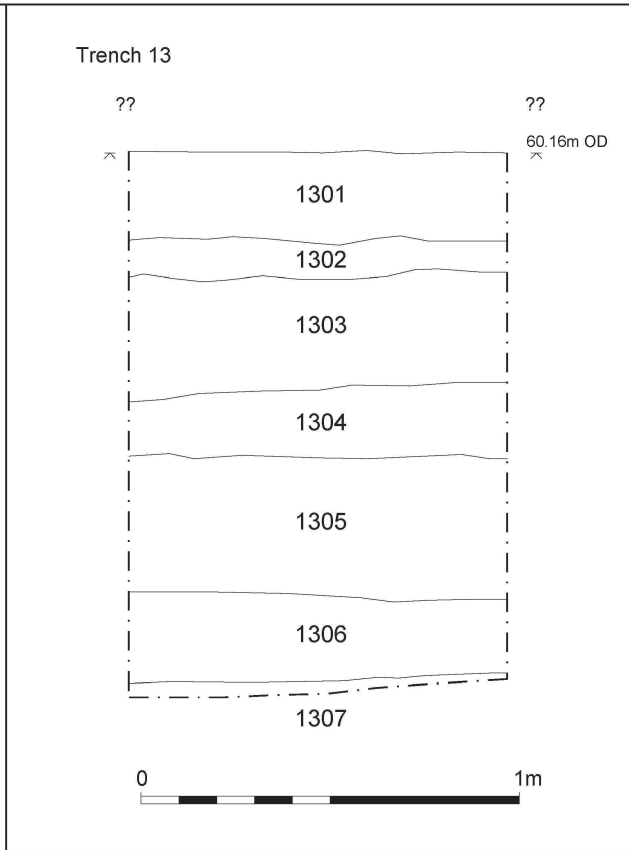


Trench 5, latrine pit 513 from the west

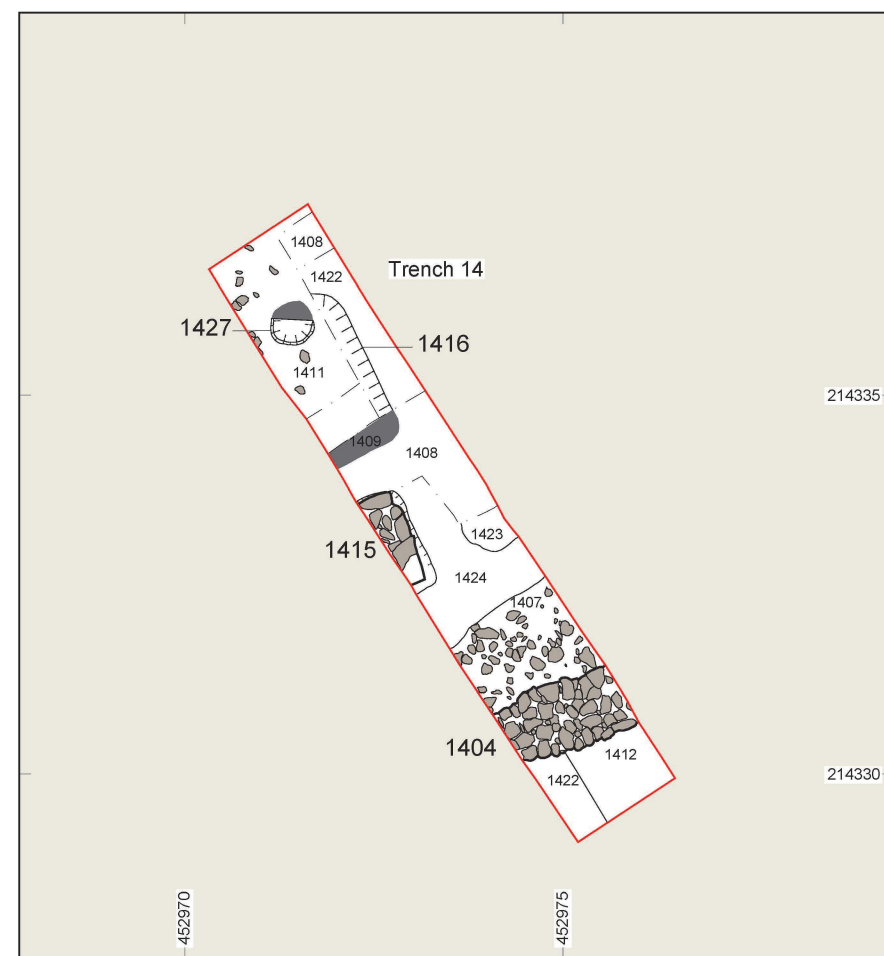
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Trench 5; plan, section and photo

Figure 7



Trench 14, from the south





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