St Mary's School, Wantage, Oxfordshire

A Post-Excavation Assessment

for Berkeley Homes (Oxford and Chiltern) Ltd

by James Lewis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code SMW 07/70

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Contents

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by James Lewis

with contributions by Paul Blinkhorn, Steve Crabb, Ceri Falys, Steve Ford, Matilda Holmes, Henrietta Longden and Jane Timby

Report 07/70

1 Introduction

1.1 This report documents the results of an excavation of c.1.6ha hectares of land at St Mary's School, Wantage, Oxfordshire. Planning permission (WAN/2186/14) been granted to Berkeley Homes by the Vale of White Horse District Council for the development of apartments and houses. The archaeological potential of the site was highlighted by a brief issued by Oxfordshire County Council Archaeological Services. This potential was confirmed in a field evaluation (Gilbert 2006a and b). The evaluation revealed well-preserved features and deposits such as ditches and postholes dating from the Saxon to post-medieval periods. As a result of this, further fieldwork was required comprising excavation and watching brief. The work was commissioned by Mr Cliff Buddery of Berkeley Homes (Oxford and Chiltern) Ltd, Berkeley House, Abingdon Science Park, Barton Lane, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 4NB.

1.2 The proposed development area comprised two plots of land which were divided by Ormond Road (B4057)(Fig. 1). The site to the north of the road, known as St Mary's, (SU 3993 8774) was the main school site. Immediately to the south and west of this northern excavation area, a watching brief was undertaken. The site to the south across the road was known as St Gabriel's (SU 3993 8758??) and this contained the former tennis courts and sports area. The St Mary's site comprised a total of 1.22ha divided into two areas; 0.45ha of excavation and 0.77ha for the watching brief (Fig. 2). The excavation at the St Gabriel's site covered an area of 0.684 ha. St Mary's School is situated in the south-east of the modern day town of Wantage. The town lies at the foot of the Berkshire Downs located where the chalk meets Upper Greensand. The site is at an elevation of *c*. 95m above Ordnance Datum. Geological maps (BGS 1971) indicate that the underlying geology of the site is Upper Greensand.

1.3 As a result of likely damage to or destruction of archaeological deposits during the proposed development a formal programme of archaeological excavation was requested. This followed a specification approved by Hugh Coddington, the Deputy County Archaeological Officer for Oxfordshire which was in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16, 1990) and the Council's policies on archaeology. This was done in order to satisfy the archaeological condition placed on the planning permission.

1.4 The fieldwork was supervised by James Lewis with the assistance of Marta Buczek, Daniel Bray, Simon Cass, Aiden Colyer, Tim Dawson, James McNicoll-Norbury, Alison Meakes, Danielle Milbank, David Platt, Jo Pine and Hayley Wiggs. The excavations took place in two phases from the 25th March to the 8th May 2008 and 8th August to 7th September 2008. Occasional visits were made during the intervening period in order to carry out the watching brief phase of the archaeological investigation.

1.5 The archive is currently held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd but it is anticipated that it will be deposited with the Oxfordshire Museum Service in due course. The accession number is OXCMS:2008.104 and the site code is SMW 07/70.

1.6 Human remains were removed from the site under the terms of Home Office licence 08-0017.

2 Archaeological background

2.1 *General background for the area*

2.1.1 The town of Wantage has been subject to a small number of archaeological investigations. Excavations have taken place at Mill Street (Holbrook and Thomas 1996), Denchworth Street (Barber and Holbrook 2001), and a number of evaluations have been carried out for example at Limborough Road (Thomason 2001) and Yoplait Diary, (Taylor 2001). A number of these have found evidence of Roman, Saxon and medieval activity.

2.1.2 During the Roman period a small settlement existed to the north-west of the site on the west side of Letcombe Brook (Gilbert 2006a and b). Archaeological deposits dating from the Roman and early

Saxon periods have been found at Mill Street. Th ese included a possible granary tower and domestic building dated to the 2nd century and a small number of early Saxon ditched enclosures (Holbrook and Thomas 1996). In the Saxon period Wantage was called *Waneting* which means "intermittent stream" (Cameron 1996) and it is notewort hy for being the birthplace of King Alfred the Great in AD849, though as yet relatively few finds and deposits of Saxon date have been recorded from the town (Foster *et al*. 1975). The location of the Saxon town is unclear. However, it is thought to be located in the area of the Market place and the Church of St Peter and Paul's and to include a Royal residence (Gilbert 2006a). The Royal residence was thought to lie under the location of Fitzwarren's manor house on the west side of Letcombe Brook which itself dates to the medieval period (Gilbert 2006a).

2.2 *Previous work on the site*

2.2.1 At the twin sites of St Mary's and St Gabriel's Schools the only previous archaeological work carried out here was the evaluation (Gilbert 2006a and b) which found a number of archaeological features and evidence for Saxon, medieval and early post-medieval activity.

2.3 *Cartographic and documentary sources*

2.3.1 Historic cartographic sources were consulted to provide information on the later development of the site. The earliest map depicting Wantage and the site area is that of the Town Governors dating from 1735 which showed the site as open land. At the beginning of the 19th century the sites were open fields but by however on the 1878 Ordnance Survey Map St Marys was depicted as an orchard and much of the St Gabriels site appeared to be gardens belonging to Winslow House. By the beginning of the 20th century the St Marys site had now become a school although the area of the St Gabriels excavation still belonged to Winslow House.

2.3.2 During the 11th century Wantage maintained its royal connections and in 1066 it was in the hands of Queen Edith, wife of Edward the Confessor (Lavelle 2007, 99–100). In Domesday Book, Wantage was described as belonging to King Edward, containing a church, mill and substantial population of around 70 families (30 villans and 40 cottars). The town was estimated at being worth £61 (Williams and Martin 2002, 138). There is of course, no information as to the topography of the town at that time.

3 The Evaluation

3.1 The evaluation comprised 14 trenches of various lengths totalling 139m (Gilbert 2006 and b). These were excavated down to the natural geology or to significant archaeological deposits. A number of ditches and postholes were discovered. The features found on the St Mary's site dated to the early to middle Saxon, Saxon-Norman and medieval periods, whereas those found on the southern site dated to the post-medieval period.

4 Original objectives

4.1 *The general objectives of the project were to:*

4.1.1 Excavate and record all archaeological features within the areas threatened by the proposed development;

4.1.2 Produce relative and absolute (radiocarbon) dating and phasing for the deposits and features recorded on the site;

4.1.3 Establish the character of the deposits in an attempt to define functional areas on the site as industrial, domestic, etc; and

4.1.4 Produce information on the economy and local environment for each phase and compare and contrast this with the results of other excavations in the region.

4.2 *Specific research objectives for the excavation and post-excavation project aim to answer the following questions:*

4.2.1 When the site was first occupied? Is there any late Roman precursor to Saxon occupation?

4.2.2 When the site was finally abandoned?

4.2.3 When activities were taking place on the site?

4.2.4 What is the relationship between the different phases of occupation on the site, in terms of continuity, settlement shift and abandonment/reuse?

4.2.5 What is the layout and organization of the site in each phase?
4.2.6 What is the palaeo-environmental setting of the area?
4.2.7 Are there any deposits present to indicate high status settlement?

5 Purpose of this report

5.1 This report summarizes the results of the excavation, the archaeological features recorded and the finds recovered, and provides considered assessments of the potential these posse ss to answe r research questions about the site, and how they fit into local, regional and national context. The archaeological remains are first quantified and described, to establish their quality, character and significance. These are then assessed relativ e to the original project objectives (section 4). The potential to address these objectives is discu ssed, and any new potential objectives arising from the nature of the results of the excavation are also highlighted.

6 Excavation Methodology

6.1 The excavation was divided into two sites on opposite sides of Ormond Road. To the north of the road was St Mary's and to the south was St Gabriel's. The sites had a combined area of 1.904ha. The complete area stripped is shown in Figure 2, and the detail of the two areas in Figures 3 and 8.
6.2 Topsoil and overburden were removed by a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket to expose the uppermost surface of archaeological deposits.
6.3 The archaeological deposits include postholes, ditches, pits and structures. All archaeological deposits were cleaned and excavated by hand. All features were half sectioned as a minimum, with the majority of postholes being fully excavated. A minimum of 50% or 10m (whichever was less) of linear features was excavated in slots. A full written, drawn and photographic record of the excavation was made. A catalogue of phased features and contexts is to be found in Appendix 1.
6.4 A range of context types across the site were sampled for environmental evidence. Samples were taken from 134 sealed and securely dated contexts.

7 Results

7.1 The excavation uncovered one human burial, 13 middle Bronze Age cremation pits, 81 pits, 16 stakeholes, 40 ditches, 101 post holes and 2 wells, most of the features (apart from the burials) dating to the Medieval period.
7.1.1 The archive consists of one box of human remains, 4 boxes of animal bone, 3 boxes of pottery, one file of correspondence, two folders of context sheets, two rolls of draughting film (Permatrace) drawings and 10 rolls of photographic film.

8 Phase by phase summary

8.1 The archaeology is described according to the following phasing:

Phase 1: Prehistoric
1A Mesolithic/Early Neolithic
1B Middle Bronze Age
Phase 2: Roman
Phase 3: Saxon
Phase 4: Late Saxon-early medieval (early-mid 11th century)
Phase 5: Medieval (late 11th–early 13th century)
Phase 6: Medieval (mid 13th–14th century)
Phase 7: Medieval/early post-medieval (15th century)
Phase 8: Early post-medieval (16th century)
Phase 9: Late post-medieval (17th–19th century)

8.2 *St Mary's Site (Fig. 3)*
8.2.1 The phasing at St Mary's was carried out on the basis of pottery typology, stratigraphic and spatial relationships. The main period of activity appears to have occurred between the 11th and the 13th

centuries. Prior to this there is some evidence for activity in the middle Bronze Age, Roman period and early-middle Saxon period. After the 13th century the site appears to be almost abandoned until the 19th century when the school complex was constructed. A complete plan of excavated features is shown in Figure 3.

8.2.2 Phase 1: Prehistoric (Fig. 12)

Pit

Context	Width (m)	Length (m)	Diameter (m)	Depth (m)	Date	
2225			0.65	0.2	Mesolithic/ Neolithic?	1 flnt

8.2.2.1 One pit was very tentatively dated to the prehistoric period, and a small number of residual flints from the Mesolithic and/or early Neolithic were also recovered from various later features. Feature 2225 was an oval pit and it measured 0.65m in diameter and 0.2m deep. The pit contained a broken flint blade dated to the Mesolithic or early Neolithic period.

8.2.3 Phase 2: Roman (Fig. 12)

Pits

Context	*Length (m)*	*Width (m)*	*Diameter (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Date*	*No. of sherds*
2507	0.5	0.35		0.2	Roman	1
2511			0.65	0.12	Roman	3
2128			1.15	0.26	Roman	1

Post-Holes

Context	*Length (m)*	*Width (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Diameter (m)*	*Date*	*No.of sherds*
2527			0.35	0.06	Roman	1

8.2.4 Phase 3: Saxon 5th–10th century (Fig. 12)

8.2.4.1 The early part of the Anglo-Saxon period on the St Mary's site were modest and comprised of small number of pits and ditches with the exception of a crouched inhumation burial.

8.2.4.2 A north-south orientated oval pit (2113) measured 1m in length, 0.75m wide and 0.2m deep and contained a five sherds of early to mid Saxon pottery and animal bone.

8.2.4.3 Located on the west side of the site was a crouched burial (SK1, Fig. 4) orientated west to east. The individual was an adolescent aged between 12-14 years old and could not be sexed. The skeletal evidence showed that he/she had an active life. The skeleton was in a shallow grave cut (2229) which was truncated by a late Saxon ditch 2239. The grave cut measured 1.3m in length, 0.7m wide and 0.17m deep and contained no grave goods. A radiocarbon determination of cal AD775–887 (KIA40744) was obtained on a sample from a left rib. The details are presented in Appendix 8.

8.2.4.4 Within a cluster of pits/post-holes (5067) one oval pit contained a single sherd of 10th-century pottery. It measured 0.5m in length, 0.30m wide and 0.15m deep. The pit was the only feature in the group to have dating evidence however the close proximity of the other pits suggests a similar date too.

8.2.4.5 Pit 2427 measured 1.2m in diameter and 0.2m deep and contained one sherd of 10th-century pottery.

8.2.4.6 The remains of a Saxon ditch (2239) were found at the west side of the site. The dit ch truncated the grave of the couched burial but did not disturb the skeleton. The surviving length of ditch measured 2.7m in lengt, 0.8m wide and 0.41m deep. The ditch contained a single sherd of early –middle Anglo Saxon pottery.

8.2.4.7 Pit 2031 was oval in shape orientated north-south and truncated 5001. The pit measured 1.1m in length, 0.76m wide and 0.26m deep. It contained one sherd of late Saxon pottery.

Pits

Context	*Length (m)*	*Width (m*	*Diameter (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Date*	*No. of sherds*
2113	1	0.75		0.2	early – mid Saxon	5
2338	0.5	0.3		0.15	10th century	1
2427			1.2	0.2	10th century	1
2031	1.1	0.76		0.26	Late Saxon	1

8.2.5 Phase 4: early to mid 11th century (Fig. 13)

8.2.5.1 The early part of the 11th century compared to the previous period saw a dramatic increase in activity. Enclosure and boundary ditches were cut and a well and a number of other smaller features were dug

Ditches

8.2.5.2 A curvilinear ditch (5006 and 5005) was located in the northern half of the site and some 39m was revealed. It was 1–1.2m wide and varied in depth between 0.4 to 0.52m. It contained 11th century pottery and appears to form a complex with a number of other features dating to this time. The ditch recut earlier ditches (2021, 2044, 2135 and 5050) in which 11th century and residual Saxon pottery was recovered. The curvilinear ditch was cut by a later 13th century ditch (5003, Figs 6, 7) and appears to forms part of an enclosure which continued beyond the north-east limit of excavation.

8.2.5.3 Ditch 5001 was aligned northeast–southwest and displayed a rounded north-east terminal and a truncated southern terminal. It was 13m in length, 0.8m wide and 0.33m deep and contained five sherds of 10th- and 11th-century pottery.

8.2.5.4 Situated in the northern area of the site was a linear ditch (2000) which was orientated north-northeast-south-southwest. It measured at least 5m in length, 0.9m wide, 0.36m deep and contained a five sherds of mid to late 11th-century pottery. One metre to the south of 2000 was a shallow linear gully (2001) which was orientated northeast–southwest and measured 2.5m in length and 0.5m wide and contained no finds. The similarity and proximity to 2002 (see below) also suggests an 11th-century date. One metre to the south of 2001 was a shallow gully (2002) which was orientated northeast-southwest. Only the terminal could be excavated as it continued beyond the limit of excavation. The ditch measured 3m in length, 0.5m wide and 0.07m deep and contained two sherds of mid to late 11th-century pottery.

8.2.5.5 Located almost in the centre of the site was a wide shallow linear gully (5015) which was orientated northeast–southwest and appeared to have been recut on at least one occasion. The south-west terminal was rounded and the north-east terminal petered out and became untraceable. The gully measured 5.5m in length, 1.8m wide and 0.22m deep. It contained 15 sherds of 10th- and 11th-century pottery and a single piece of furnace slag. The remains of a shallow gully 5056 were orientated east–west. The gully measured 6.5m in length, 0.3m wide and 0.1m deep and six sherds of mid 11th-century pottery was recovered from it. The gully was truncated by a 13th-century ditch (5003, see below). Feature 2140 was the south-east terminal of a curvilinear ditch which was orientated southeast–northwest. The northern terminal was untraceable. The ditch measured 6m in length, 0.6m wide and 0.17m deep and contained two sherds of 11th-century pottery.

8.2.5.6 On the southern edge of the site was an east-west orientated ditch (5013) which measured approximately 16m in length, 1m wide and 0.36m deep and contained 11 sherds of mid 11th-century pottery. The ditch was truncated by an undated shallow pit (2514) which measured 0.8m in length, 0.5m wide and 0.17m deep and contained one sherd of residual Roman pottery. Ditch (2540) was aligned north-south. It measured 1.45m in length, 0.65m wide and 0.37m deep and contained two sherds of mid 11th century pottery. Only the northern terminal was excavated as the southern terminal continued beyond the limit of excavation.

8.2.5.7 Feature 2535 was the south-west terminal of a shallow northeast-southwest orientated gully. The northeast terminal continued beyond the eastern boundary. The ditch measured 2m in length, 0.52m wide and 0.10m deep and it contained 11 sherds of mid 11th-century pottery.

8.2.5.8 Located 1m to the east of later ditch 5003 was an oval pit (2029) which was orientated north-south and truncated an earlier pit (2030). The oval pit measured 0.9m in length, 0.7m wide and 0.4m deep and contained six sherds of 11th century pottery. The shallow truncated pit contained no dating evidence but measured at least 0.47 in length, 0.35m wide and 0.2m deep. Feature 2509 was a small square post-hole which was truncated by a shallow gully (5058) and a post-hole (2510) and it measured 0.25m in diameter and 0.25m deep.

8.2.5.9 Ditch 2102 was the terminal of a southwest-northeast orientated ditch which continued beyond the northeast boundary and it measured 4m in length 0.7m wide and 0.2m deep. Although no datable finds were recovered from the feature it was truncated by 5002 a 13th century feature (below).

8.2.5.10 Ditch 2103 was aligned northwest-southeast that was truncated by 5003. It was 0.6m wide and 0.15m deep. Although it contained no datable evidence the stratigraphic relationship with 5003 suggests a 13th century date.

Structure 5070 (Fig. 5)

8.2.5.11 A rectangular pit (2411) which was orientated north-west - south east, measured 2.3m in length, 1.2m wide and 0.75m deep. Its two fills both contained 28 sherds of mid 11th-century pottery. At its south east end were two slots, thought to have contained two wooden posts. It was located within two lines of postholes aligned north-south (2401, 2402, 2403, 2405, 2406 and 2407) and north east - south west (2443, 2344, 2345 and 2423) and formed a trapezoid shaped structure (5070). Despite its distinctive plan no function at present can be proposed for cut 2411 (Fig. 5).

Pits

Context	*Length (m)*	*Width (m)*	*Diameter (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Date*	*No. of sherds*
2036	0.44	0.3		0.1	11th century	1
2038	0.43	0.26		0.11	11th century	1
2043					11th century	2
2143	0.23	0.55		0.2	Mid 11th century	3
2144			0.4	0.19	Stratigraphy	
2145			0.26	0.07	Stratigraphy	
2200	0.93	0.83		0.16	11th century	2
2346	0.3	0.28		0.16	Stratigraphy	
2408			0.8	0.7	Mid 11th century	2
2421			0.2	0.06	Stratigraphy	
2517	1.4	1		0.25	Mid 11th century	1
2519			0.4	0.1	Early med.	1
2523					Stratigraphy	
2539	3.2	1.4		1.24+	Mid 11th century	37

Well (5068)

8.2.5.12 A well (2016) measured at least 3m deep and had a diameter of 2.5m at the top reducing down to 1m at its base. The well contained two fills; the top fill (2071) was 2m thick dark brown silty clay which contained 202 sherds of 13th century pottery. Below this was 1m thick dark grey/black clay (2199) in which was found 75 sherds of 11th- to 12th-century pottery including an intact jug. This pottery dates from when the well was back filled and it can be assumed that the well was in use for a period before that, so that its construction can reasonably be placed in the 11th century.

8.2.6 Phase 5: Late 11th–13th century (Fig. 14)

8.2.6.1 The late 11 to 13th centuries appear to be a continuation of what went before. Similar to the previous phase saw a continuation of ditches being cut and re-cut and the setting of a row of large posts.

Ditches

8.2.6.2 Feature 5008 was a substantial northwest-southeast aligned ditch, 16m in length, between 1.5–2.5m wide and 0.5m deep and contained five sherds of late 11th-13th century pottery. The ditch's southern terminal extended beyond the limit of excavation and the northern terminal displayed an unclear relationship with ditches 5009 and 5010. Based on the pottery from both of these features, late 11th century and 13th century respectively, it is probable that 5008 was broadly contemporary with 5009 (see below).

8.2.6.3 Ditch 5009 was aligned west-southwest by east-northeast, crossing the entire width of the excavated area. It measured *c.*37m in length, between 0.5–1.0m wide and the depth varied between 0.22–0.4m. Ditch 5009 was truncated by a later 11th century ditch 5010 (Fig. 7) and modern disturbance. The ditch contained one sherd of late 11th century pottery and is contemporary with features 5011 and 5012. These two shallow parallel ditches, aligned south-northwest and display approximately the same dimensions. They both measured *c.*9m in length, between 0.6–0.9m wide and their depth varied between 0.17–0.22m. One of the shallow ditches (5011) contained two sherds 11th century and one sherd of residual Roman pottery.

8.2.6.4 Extending form the eastern side of the site were two shallow ditches (5071 and 5072). The two ditches continued for approximately 10m until they joined and became ditch 5010. This sequence of ditches measured 37m in length, 1m wide and 0.4m deep. In these ditches was found some residual Roman, 10th- and 11th-century pottery and later 12th century pottery. This ditch was heavily truncated by a late 13th-century ditch (5007) and modern disturbance.

8.2.6.5 Located in the south-east corner of the site was north-south orientated ditch (5052) which measured 13m in length, 1.2m wide and 0.3m deep and contained seven sherds of mid 11th century pottery. The ditch displayed a shallow southern terminus and the northern terminal appeared contemporary with 5009 (above). No clear relationship could be found between 5052 and an undated shallow pit (2448). The pit measured 1.5m east-west, 0.4m north-south and 0.16m deep. A shallow gully 5057 which was orientated east–northeast by west-southwest and the north-east terminal appeared to cut 5052 however beyond this it was untraceable. The gully measured 5m in length, 0.5m wide and 0.14m deep and contained five sherds of 11th century pottery.

8.2.6.6 In the north-west corner of the site was a curvilinear ditch (5055, Fig. 3). The ditch measured 6.5m in length, between 1m and 2m in width and 0.5m deep and from it 50 sherds of late 11th to 13th centuries was found. This feature in turn was cut by a later 18th century feature 5051.

8.2.6.7 Ditch 2017 was the remains of a ditch which was truncated by a 19th century ditch (5051). It was only identified in one section (Fig. 7) and contained eleven sherds mid 11th century pottery.

8.2.6.8 A curvilinear ditch (5002) was located in the north-east corner of the site. The ditch continued beyond the eastern and northern limit of excavation and may have formed part of an enclosure. It measured 18m in length, 1m wide and 0.65m deep and contained three sherds of 11th century pottery. It appeared to truncate two 11th century ditches (5006 and 5054). It was truncated by a shallow east-west orientated gully (2100, Fig. 6) which contained one sherd of late 11th -13th century pottery indicating that 5002 was dug at the later end of this phase.

8.2.6.9 Gully 2532 was a shallow gully which measured 3m in length, 0.2m wide and 0.1m deep. It contained two sherds of late 11th -13th century pottery.

Pits

Context	*Length (m)*	*Width (m)*	*Diameter (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Date*	*No. of sherds*
2020			0.78	0.4	11th-13th century	4
2108	2	1		0.52	Mid 11th century	12
2141	0.7	0.5		0.25	11th-13th century	1
2142	0.46	0.23		0.11	12th century	5
2148	1	0.5		0.4	12th-13th century	3
2325			0.25	0.1	11th century	2
2500			0.5	0.2	Stratigraphy	
2541	3	1.6		0.9	Late 11th -13th century	5

Post Holes

Context	*Length (m)*	*Width (m)*	*Diameter (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Date*	*No of sherds*
2130			0.38	0.04	11th-13th century	1
2131			0.22	0.07	Stratigraphy	
2132			0.4	0.15	Stratigraphy	
2133			0.3	0.12	Stratigraphy	
2134		0.4		0.05	Stratigraphy	
2331			0.3	0.24	Late 11th century	2
2300	0.19	0.23		0.1	12th-13th century	2
2301			0.23	0.16	Stratigraphy	
2302			0.22	0.04	Stratigraphy	
2326	0.38	0.33		0.3	Late 11th-13th century	5
2510			0.25	0.15	Mid 11th-13th century	1
2512			0.3	0.4	12th-13th century	2

8.2.7 Phase 6: mid 13th-14th century (Fig. 15).

8.2.7.1 During phase six the amount of activity appeared to decrease ditches were recut and moved slightly but the amount of other features being cut reduced considerably.

Ditches

8.2.7.2 Truncating the 11th-century enclosure ditch (5005 and 5006) was a north-south orientated ditch (5003) which measured 29.9m in length, between 1.3 to 1.5m wide and between 0.4 to 0.6m deep. The southern terminal was rounded in plan, stepped in profile with a flat base which initially created a small gully, then becoming wider with the step disappearing after 3m. The ditch continued beyond the northern boundary and it also truncated other earlier features (2103 and 5054: Figs 6 and 7). It contained 57 sherds of 11th and 13th century pottery and also a single piece of furnace slag. Cuts 2121 and 2106 were the remains of an earlier feature it was only found in this section and contained a single sherd of late11th to 13th century pottery (2106). Ditch 5054 appears to be the remains of an earlier cut which was truncated by a later 13th century ditch (5003).

8.2.7.3 Several other ditches have also been dated to the 13th century. The most substantial of these was ditch 5007, extending from the eastern baulk and continued for 43m before turning sharply south for 18m and continued beyond the southern baulk. Ditch 5007 truncated two 11th-13th century ditches (5009 and 5010) and an earlier gully (5074). For much of its length, ditch 5007 followed the same line as 5010, which in turn had more-or-less replicated the line of earlier ditch 5009, indicating that this was a particularly long-lived boundary. It measured *c.*50m in length overall, between 0.5–1.8m in width and 0.47m deep. Within the ditch was found a of 28 sherds11th-century pottery and eight sherds of 13th to 14th centuries and 9 sherds of intrusive 16th century pottery was also recovered. It was truncated by a small pit (2209) within which was found residual 11th century pottery.

8.2.7.4 Cutting 5007 was a right angled gully (5014) which measured 25m long, 0.4m wide and 0.10m deep. The gully was initially aligned north-south (for *c.*10m) and then turned sharply to the east and continued for *c.*15m after which it became untraceable. The gully also truncated an earlier post-hole (2323). Within the gully was found seven sherds of 13th-century pottery. Again the function is unclear though it could be the remains of a small garden boundary. In the north-west corner of 5014 were excavated 16

stake-holes (5025) which due to their spatial relationship to the gully are also thought to date from the 13th century.

8.2.7.5 Feature 5058 was a north-south orientated gully which measured 12m in length, 0.46m wide and 0.25m deep and contained four sherds of 11th- The north and southern termini the stratigraphic relationship were unclear.

8.2.7.6 Two ephemeral north-south orientated gullies were recorded as 5059 and 5060. They are contemporary with 5007 with the relationship slot displaying no difference between the fill (24 97). Gully 5060 appeared to cut 5 005. The Gullies measured; 5059, approximately 11m in length, 0.3-0.5m wide and 0.1m deep and 5060 measured 10 in length, 0.4m wide and 0.1m deep.

Phase 6: Mid 13th – 14th century

Post-Hole

Context	*Length (m)*	*Width (m)*	*Diameter (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Date*	
2205	0.4	0.4		0.1	Late 14th century	Silver Pin

8.2.7.7 Spread 2228 was located at the southe rn end of 5058 it measured approximately 1m in diameter and was 0.2m deep it had and unclear Stratigraphy relationship with 2226 (5058) and 2227 (5007) and so is likely to be contemporary with these features

8.2.8 Phase 7: 15th century

8.2.8.1 No features could be dated to this phase in the northern excavation area.

8.2.9 Phase 8: 16th century (Fig. 16)

8.2.9.1 After a an apparent hiatus in activity during the 15th century a small amount of activity returned to the site. This modest amount of activity indicates that during this period that the site at St Mary's was peripheral to the main part of the town.

8.2.9.2 There appears to be a hiatus i n activity at St Mary's during the 14th and 15th century, with almost no evidence for activity during this time. However, it is of course possible that some of the undated features (see below) date to these periods.

8.2.9.3 Feature 2018 was a shallow ditch which was located on the west side of the site. The ditch was initially aligned east-west and then turned north where it terminated beyond the limit of excavation. It measured 7m in length, 1m wide and 0.52m deep and a substantial amount (for this site) of 16th-century pottery and furnace slag was found in it.

8.2.9.4 Located 4m south-west of 2009 was a small pit (2109) which measured 0.55m in diameter and 0.09m deep and contained five sherds of 16th-century pottery. Feature 2243 was a shal low rectangular pit which extended beyond the southern baulk and it measured 1.5m in length, 1.25m wide and 0.10m deep. Thirteen sherds of 16th century pottery and eight pie ces of furnace slag was recovered from the pit.

8.2.9.5 Located *c.*1m north of 5005 was a square post-hole (2506). It measured 0.4 by 0.4m and 0.07m deep and contained a single sherd of 11th century pottery and a post-medieval clay tobacco pipe stem.

8.2.10 Phase 9- 17th to 19th century (Fig. 16)

8.2.10.1 Located on the north-west edge of the site was a shallow east–west orientated ditch (5051). The ditch measured 4.5m in length, 1m wide and 0.52m deep and contained 17th to 19th -century pottery.

8.2.11 Undated features

Context	*Feature*	*Width(m)*	*Length(m)*	*Diameter(m)*	*Depth(m)*
2009	Pit	0.93	1.8		0.4
2011	Pit	0.14	0.25		0.17
2033	Post-Hole			0.24	0.08
2041	Pit	0.4	0.6		0.2
2048	Pit	0.8	1.9		0.67
2112	Pit			0.7	0.1
2126	Pit/Post-Hole			0.4	0.1
2137	Pit/Post-Hole	0.65	1.6		0.15
2138	Pit/Post-Hole	0.65	1.6		0.15
2146	Pit	0.5	0.6		0.2
2202	Pit/Post-Hole	0.4	0.5		0.25
2206	Post-Hole			0.5	0.3
2212	Post-Hole			0.3	0.22
2244	Test-Pit	1	1		
2303	Post-Hole	0.28	0.36		0.11
2320	Gully	0.26	0.47		0.1

Context	*Feature*	*Width(m)*	*Length(m)*	*Diameter(m)*	*Depth(m)*
2322	Pit	0.33	0.43		0.07
2329	Pit	0.57	0.57		0.05
2341	Test-Pit	1	1		
2347	Post-Hole			0.3	0.2
2348	Post-Hole			0.3	0.12
2349	Post-Hole			0.2	0.07
2415	Pit	0.2	0.65		0.2
2515	Pit	1.65	1.9		0.28
2528	Pit			0.8	0.23
2530	Stake-Hole			0.14	0.17
2531	Pit	0.25	0.52		0.04
2533	Pit	0.13	0.32		0.06
2534	Post-Hole	0.21	0.4		0.12
2536	Pit	1.35	2.4		0.2
2538	Pit	0.62	1.21		0.26
5004	Ditch	0.6 - 0.7	*c.*12		0.32

8.3 *Watching-Brief (Fig. 2)*

8.3.1 The watching brief phase of the excavation was located immediately to the south and west of the excavation area on the St Mary's site and covered an area of approximately 0.77ha. The excavation of the ground-works in advance of the development were observed and any features recorded. A number of features were found within the footings of three buildings (1, 2 and 3) and a large soakaway (4). Only two features had any dating evidence, with pottery dating to the 11th and 13th centuries.

8.3.2 Phase: 4-early to mid 11th century (Fig. 13)

8.3.2.1 Cut 2605 was a shallow steep-sided linear ditch which measured 1.7m wide and 0.5m deep, within it was found a single shard of 11th-century pottery. Approximately 1.6m west of feature 2605 was another shallow ditch/pit 2604 and this measured 2m in width and 0.26m deep. No pottery was found in this feature. The two features were only identified in this area of the site and might possibly both date to the same period (11th century). Ditch 2605 might have been used for drainage however no function for cut 2604 could be identified

8.3.2.2 Both of these features cut into two deposits 2687 and 2688 which appear soil accumulations to be within a natural dip. One of these deposits (2687) contained one broken and one complete flint blade and these appear to date from the Mesolithic or the early Neolithic and no other finds were present. No evidence for occupation from these layers could be found.

8.3.3 Phase 5: 13th to 14th century (Fig. 15)

8.3.3.1 Cut 2610 was an east-west aligned ditch observed in the foundations of building 2 at the south edge of the site close to Ormond Road It was at least 15m long, 1m wide and 0.55m deep. It contained one fill within which was found a single shard of 13th- to 14th-century pottery. The ditch was identified in four footing trenches of a building and was sealed by over a metre of made ground. Not enough of the ditch was exposed to understand its relationship to the rest of the site and so no function was assigned to it.

8.3.4 Undated Features

Context	*Feature*	*Length(m)*	*Width (m)*	*Depth(m)*	*Diameter(m)*
2600	Pit				
2601	Ditch		1	0.26	
2603	Ditch		0.5	0.26	
2602	Ditch		2	0.4	
2606	Ditch		1.55	0.45	
2607	Ditch		1.5	0.35	
2608	Ditch	9	1.95	0.8	
2613	Ditch		2.6	0.8	
2614	Ditch		1.7	0.55	
2616	Ditch		2.5	1.1	
2615	Ditch		0.8	0.4	

8.4 *St Gabriel's (Fig. 8)*

8.4.1 At St Gabriel's the main period of activity on this site began in the middle Bronze Age with the deposition of a cremation cemetery which contained several urns. The next major period of activity began in the 9th -10th century with digging of several ditches which was followed by the major period of activity in the late 11th to the 13th centuries. It was during this time that a structure 5020 and two

associated enclosures were constructed. All excavated features on the St Gabriel's site are shown in Figure 8.

8.4.1.1 The excavation unexpectedly uncovered a large ditch located in the northern side of St Gabriel's. Due to the size of the feature it was agreed with the County Archaeologist Paul Smith that it should be excavated by a JCB digger using a grading bucket. The location of the finds were recorded during excavation. Four slots were excavated into the feature these were numbered sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 (Fig. 11). Section 1 was excavated in the west leading through to section 4 in the east. Although initially in plan it looked to be a single ditch upon investigation, this was misleading and it was found to be a number of inter-cutting ditches (5038, 5039, 5040, 5041, 5042, 5043, 5044 and 5055) the dating from at least the 9th to the 16th century.

8.4.2 Phase 1B: Middle Bronze Age (Fig. 12)

8.4.2.1 A Middle Bronze Age cremation cemetery (5037) was found in the eastern side of St Gabriel's; this consisted of fourteen pits (2909–2916, 2923, 2938–41 and 3001). Six features (2910, 2912, 2923, 2938, 2939 and 2940) contained four bucket urns and three gobular urns all in various degrees of survival. Four pits (2911, 2914, 2916 (Fig. 10) and 2941) contained pottery vessels dated to the middle Bronze Age. One pit (2909) which was severely truncated by a shallow medieval plough furrow (2908, below) contained early Bronze Age pottery and three pits (2913, 2915 and 3001) contained no pottery. The pits measured between 0.2 to 0.5m in diameter and depths varied between 0.15-0.30m deep. Pit 2916 was a larger pit, 1.2m in diameter and 0.37m deep, and itself was cut by a pit (2910) which contained an urn and this was later cut by a plough furrow (2908).

8.4.2.2 Burnt human and animal bone was found in nine of the pits (2909, 2914, 2915, 2916, 2923, 2938, 2939, 2940 and 3001). Human bone was found in four features (2916, 2938, 2939 and 2940) which contained the bucket and globular urns. Only in one pit (3001) was human bone unaccompanied by pottery. Animal bone was found was found in two (2914 and 2923) pits directly associated with pottery and in three pits (2909, 2915 and 2916) with no pottery in. In only one pit 2923 was animal and human bone was identified in the same feature. A radiocarbon date on unidentified wood charcoal from pit 2940 gave a radiocarbon date of 1403-1268 Cal BC (KIA 40745). The details are presented in Appendix 8.

8.4.3 Phase 2: Roman (Fig. 12)

8.4.3.1 One pit (2926) measured 0.47m in diameter and 0.10m deep and a single sherd of pottery was recovered from the top fill (3054).

8.4.4 Phase 3- Early to Mid Saxon 6th–10th century (Fig. 12)

8.4.4.1 The early to mid Saxon period is characterized by a number of re-cut ditches which mark the beginning of activity at this site.

8.4.4.2 A number of re-cut ditches (5043, 5044 and 5045: Fig. 11) were investigated; the earliest of these was cut 5043. It was linear in plan and was identified in sections 3 and 4 and continued curving towards the western side of the site. The surviving ditch measured a minimum of 70m in length, 1.8m wide and 1m deep. Only animal bone and a single sherd of residual Roman pottery (4003) was recovered from this feature. Ditch 5043 was cut by 5044 was identified in sections 3 and 4. The surviving ditch measured 3m wide and 1.2m deep. Animal bone but no other datable evidence was recovered from this cut. Ditch 5044 was cut on its north side by another ditch (5043). 5043 was also identified in sections 3 and 4 and measured at least, 1.5m wide and 0.64m deep.

8.4.4.3 This appears to be a re-cut boundary ditch although a single piece of Roman pottery was found in one of these ditches it is most likely to be intrusive. The date of these ditches is tentatively placed in the later part of this phase the 9th-10th century. This because the distinctive difference between the fills of the earlier and the later ditches suggests a period of time had elapsed between them. The later ditches was a sterile grey clay wh ereas these ditches was filled with the natural green sand It is unlikely that this boundary was maintained over a thousand years and so a later date is preferred.

8.4.5 Phase 4: early to mid 11th Century (Fig. 13)

The early to mid 11th century now witnesses a substantial increase in activity. The land is used for ploughing and the discovery of wheel ruts suggest the use of carts.

8.4.5.1 The remains of four east-west aligned shallow cut features (5029, 5030, 5069 and 2908) were excavated; these may be furrows from a ridge and furrow system. The longest ditch (5030) crossed almost the entire width of the site, *c*.45m long, was 2m wide and between 0.05m to 0.12m deep and it contained a two sherds of mid and late 11th century pottery and a single tiny sherd of intrusive 12th/13th century.. The eastern terminal continued beyond the limit of excavation and its shallow

western terminal displayed a rounded end. The ditch was truncated by two later 11th century ditches (5035 and 5036).

8.4.5.2 Abutting the southern edge of the western terminal of 5030 was the eastern terminal of a similar ditch (5029). This ditch measured 7m in length, 1.3m wide and 0.15m deep. The western terminal extended beyond the limit of excavation. The feature contained mid 11th century pottery and intrusive 12th century pottery.

8.4.5.3 Located 2.5m to the north of 5030 was another similar ditch (2908), 9.5m in length, 1.7m wide and 0.06m deep. The ditch displayed a shallow western terminal very similar to 5030 and 5029 and the eastern terminal continued beyond the eastern boundary. Just one 11th-century sherd was recovered from this feature, however its similarity to 5029 and 5030 suggests that it too dates from the 11th century.

8.4.5.4 Located *c*.7m south of 5030 was the remains of a similar ditch 5069. This measured *c*.30m in length, 3.55m wide and 0.25m deep. No dating evidence was found with it, however due to its similarity with 5030 and 5027 (below) an 11th century date appears likely.

8.4.5.5 These five cuts are probably the remains of ploughing, indicating that this area was an open field before the construction of the enclosure and kiln in Phase 5.

8.4.5.6 In the southwest area of the site were excavated the remains of several very ephemeral north-south aligned featuers (4103, 5063, 4105 and 4106) which may be wheel-ruts. Gully 4103 measured 4m in length, 0.7m wide and 0.17m deep. Gully 4104 was 2.5m in length, 0.40m wide and 0.17m deep. Gully 5063 was 5m in length, between 0.4-0.1m wide and 0.12-0.16m deep. Gully 4106 was curvilinear gully 4m long, 0.5m wide and 0.04m deep. Gullies 5063 and 4106 appear to be contemporary however 4104 appears to have been cut by 4105. A single sherd of 11th century pottery was recovered from 5063. South of feature 5062 was excavated three north-south aligned shallow linear gullies (4109, 4110 and 4111); again these are perhaps wheel ruts. Gully 4109 had vertical sides and flat base and measured was 4m in length, 0.20m wide and 0.04m deep. Gully 4110 had a rounded profile and measured 2m in length, 0.25m wide and 0.4m deep. Gully 4111 had a sloping base which was deeper on the west side and measured 5m in length, 0.65m wide and 0.12m deep.

8.4.5.7 Located 1m south of 5027 was a series of east–west aligned shallow gullies (4112–4116), all under 0.06m deep and very ephemeral: these may be no more than plough-marks. None contained any finds.

8.4.6 Phase 5: Late 11th–13th century (Fig. 14)

8.4.6.1 The late 11th to 13th century saw the construction of a a possible smithy and the cutting of deep ditch which was to be maintained over the next few centuries.

Structure 5020 (Figs 9 and 10)

8.4.6.2 Structure 5020 was aligned east-west and surrounded by a shallow ditch (5033) which was U-shaped in plan and open on the east side. The ditch measured at least 16.5m in length, 0.8m width and 0.15m deep. The eastern terminal on the northern side was untraceable and the terminal on the southern side was rounded and here it truncated a feature 2841. The ditch contained four sherds of late 11th- to 13th-century pottery. The structure enclosed by this ditch was constructed within a shallow scarp (2848) which was rectangular in plan with a rounded eastern side and measured 4.8m east-west and 3.5m north-south. The remains of daub and clay were found along its southern edge and a large burnt area (2848) was recorded in the eastern half of the feature. It consisted of six post-holes, each between 0.25m-0.40m in depth with diameters between 0.5m to 0.3m: two of them (3015, 3018) and contained five sherds of 11th – 13th century pottery. Four of the post-holes (3014, 3015, 3016 and 3017) formed a small square building. Two of the posts (3015 and 3016) had been halved and then placed in the ground and were set abutting the west side of the scarp. The other two post-holes (3018 and 3019) were positioned *c*.0.30m apart and aligned northwest-southeast.

8.4.6.3 Feature 5061 was a wide shallow pit which was orientated north-south and was situated 0.5m to the south of cut 5033 and it measured 4.3m in length, 2.1m wide and 0.2m deep. The pit contained 32 sherds of late 11th- to 13th-century pottery and a residual Roman coin of Constantine I minted between AD330–5.

The Enclosures

8.4.6.4 Feature 5018 (Fig. 10) was a linear ditch aligned north-south and was part of a small complex of features which included two enclosures (5017 and 5019). The ditch measured 25m in length, 1.4m wide and between 0.33-0.50m deep with the shallowest part of the feature towards the south. It contained three sherds of late 11th-13th century pottery. The northern terminal was cut by a 12th century ditch (3035) and its southern terminal was cut by a shallow ditch (5027).

8.4.6.5 The two enclosures extended east from feature 5018 and were roughly rectangular in shape. The larger southern enclosure ditch (5017) was 37.5m long, between 0.5-0.9m in width and the depth varied

between 0.45m on the southern side and 0.11m in the north side. The ditch contained 14 sherds of late 11th- to 13th-century pottery. Within this enclosure and located on the southern side was a row of five post-holes (5028). The postholes were aligned east-west and measured 0.33–0.44m in diameter and between 0.09–0.15m deep. Two sherds of 11th century pottery was found them (2741 and 2747). The smaller northern enclosure ditch (5019: Fig. 10) was 17m in length and between 1.3-0.8m wide and between 0.1m to 0.3m deep. The ditch contained some late 11th- to 13th-century pottery and a 21 sherds of 13th-14th century pottery. This suggests that the enclosure and the structure were constructed in the late 12th to early 13th century towards the end of this phase. The two enclosures may have been used to keep livestock, however the function of the post-hole structure is not clear, it may have been a fence or for tethering livestock.

Ditches

8.4.6.6 The first cut in the medieval sequence began in the late 11th-century (ditch 5042) and was identified in all the sections (Fig. 11). It measured at least 1.8m wide and 0.7m deep and yielded 11 sherds of late 11th-early13th century pottery. The ditch was cut by a post medieval well (3040, below) on its south side and truncated by 5041, a 13th century ditch, on its north side (below). Towards the end of this phase there is evidence for re-cutting of the ditch in two locations; (3048 and 3049) both dating to the 13th-century were identified in section 1. The two re-cuts predate the major 13th- to 14th-century ditch (5041). The first of these 3049 was 1.4m wide and *c.*0.8m deep and a single sherd of 13th-century pottery was recovered from it. Cutting this was 3048 and this measured 2.4m wide and 0.8m deep.

8.4.6.7 In the western part of St Gabriel's were three north-south aligned ditches. The easternmost ditch (5034) measured *c.*18m in length, 0.9m wide and 0.15m deep. Its northern terminal was truncated by a modern pipe and the southern terminal was truncated by a 19th century pit (2722). Approximately 0.8m to the west of 5034 was located 5035 and this measured 19m in length, 0.7m wide and 0.23m deep. The northern terminal was truncated by the modern pipe and the southern terminal was truncated by a later 11th century east-west aligned gully (5032, below). Two sherds of late 11th -13th century pot was found in this ditch. 2.5m west of 5035 was 5036 and this measured 13.5m in length, 0.5m wide and between 0.05-0.17m deep. The northern terminal was truncated by the modern pipe and the southern terminal was rounded. One sherd of 11th century pot was found in this feature.

8.4.6.8 Truncating the southern terminal of 5035 was an east-west aligned shallow gully (5032), 24m in length, 0.50m wide and no more than 0.12m deep. The gully truncated a north-south ditch (5034) and its western terminal was in turn truncated by a pit (5031) containing 11th-13th century pottery; its eastern terminal was untraceable. The gully contained one sherd of late 11th -13th century pottery. Approximately 1.m to the south was another east-west aligned gully (2737) and it measured 6.5m in length, 0.70m wide and 0.06m deep. It contained three sherds of 12th- to 13th-century pottery.

8.4.6.9 Cut 2811 was an oval pit which measured 0.28m in length, 0.15m wide and 0.12m deep. It contained two sherds of 13th-century pottery.

8.4.6.10 The remains of three ditches were excavated in the northwest corner of the site. Feature 5064 was an L-shaped aligning east-west and then turning north-south and it measured 17.5m in length, 1.5m wide and between 0.30-0.10m deep. The western terminal continued beyond the limit of excavation and the southern terminal was truncated by the substantial 16th century ditch. A single sherd of 13th century pottery was found in it. The L-shaped ditch re-cut an earlier ditch (5065). Approximately 2m from the turn of cut 3026 was an north-south aligned gully (2944), 8m in length and 0.15m deep.

8.4.6.11 Feature 5027 was a shallow linear ditch (5027) was aligned roughly east-west across the entire width of the site. It measured 48m in length, 3.5m wide and 0.15m deep. It contained six sherds of 11th- century pottery.

8.4.6.12 A shallow ditch 2929 was excavated in the eastern side of the site, it was close to the middle Bronze Age cremation cemetery and a cluster of 16th century pits and postholes. It was aligned north-south an measured 11m in length, 0.7m wide and 0.15m deep. Its northern terminal was truncated by a modern disturbance and the southern terminal was untraceable and contained pottery dating to the 11th century.

Pits

Context	*Length (m)*	*Width (m)*	*Diameter (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Date*	*No. of sherds*
5031	1.5	2.3		0.33	12th-13th century	3
2724	0.94	0.45		0.15	11th century	1
2928			0.89	0.1	Medieval	1
3022	2	1		0.2	Late 11th-Early 13th century	4

8.4.7 Phase 6: 13th-14th century (Fig. 15)

8.4.7.1 Cutting 3048 was the main ditch 5041 (Fig. 11) which was identified in all the excavated sections. The surviving ditch measured 70m in length, 2m wide and the depth varied between 1.5–1.88m. It generally displayed 45 degree sloping sides leading to a flat base. Despite the lack of datable evidence this ditch

cut a 13th-century ditch on its south side and was truncated by a 15th-century ditch on its north side and so a mid 13th to 14th century date appears the most likely for this feature.

8.4.8 Phase 7: 15th century (Fig. 16)

8.4.8.1 In the 15th century the amount of activity substantially decreased with only the re-cutting of the ditch occurring during this phase.

Ditches

8.4.8.2 The 13th century ditch (5041) was truncated on its north side by a 15th-century ditch (5040) (Fig. 11). In section 2 its full profile was shown displaying 45degree sloping sides leading to a flat base. The 15th-century ditch measured 3.6m at the top of the cut reducing down to 0.8m at its base and was *c*.1.2m deep. Five sherds of 15th-century pottery was recovered from the ditch. The remains of a later re-cut 15th- to 16th-century ditch (5039) were identified in sections 1 and 3 and it measured 3–5.5m wide and 1–1.2m deep. No dating evidence was recovered however stratigraphically it was situated between cut 5038 (16th century) and 5040 (15th century).

8.4.8.3 Feature 2945 was a shallow linear gully orientated east-west, the western terminal was cut by 3023 and the eastern terminal was truncated by a modern wall. It measured 9m in length, 0.60m wide, 0.10m deep. No dating evidence was recovered from it however the proximity to the dated features suggests that it too dates from the 13th century

Pits

8.4.8.4 A single pit (2700) dates to the 15th century. The pit was aligned east-west and measured 1.16m in length, 0.68m width and 0.08m deep. The pit truncated an 11th century gully (5036).

8.4.9 Phase 8: 16th century (Fig. 16)

8.4.9.1 The amount of activity in the 16th century appeared to differ little from what went before, again the main area of activity focussed around the ditch.

Ditches

8.4.9.2 Cut 5038 was a linear ditch identified in sections 1, 3 and 4 (Fig. 11). The ditch was very shallow in section 3 indicating that it was terminating which was why it was not identified in section 2. The most likely reason for this termination was the existence of a causeway dividing the ditch between sections 3 and 1. A four sherds of 16th-century pottery was recovered from this ditch. Ditch 3023 was orientated north-south at the north end of the site, and had a flat base with a stepped western side and a curving eastern side. It measured 8m in length 1.9m wide and 0.60m deep. It appeared to join a 16th century ditch (5039). Located 0.80m west of cut 3023 was two inter-cutting ephemeral gullies (2903 and 2904). Feature 2903 was an east-west aligned shallow linear gully and had a flat base with almost vertical sides, its eastern end led into feature 3023 and its western end was truncated by a modern feature. The gully measured 2m in length, 0.4m wide and 0.25m deep. It contained a single sherd of residual 13th- or 14th-century pottery. A small gully (2904) led into 2903 and it measured 3.1m in length, 0.26m wide and 0.21m deep. Unfortunately both the northern and southern termini were untraceable. No pottery was found in this feature however due to its relationship with 2903 it is most likely to be 16th century.

Pits

Context	*Length (m)*	*Width (m)*	*Diameter (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Date*	*No. of sherds*
2817		1.6		0.12		
2900			0.33	0.11	16th century	4
2901			0.28	0.12		
2849			0.26	0.09		
2902			0.3	0.17		
2927			0.68	0.15	Mid 16th century	1
2738	1	0.2		0.05	16th century	1

Well

8.4.9.3 A well 3040 was identified in section 2. The well was stone-lined *c*.1.5m in diameter and at least 1m deep. Within was found tile and bone as well as three sherds of 16th-century pottery.

8.4.10 Phase 9: 17th to 19th centuries (Fig. 16)

8.4.10.1 By the 17th century the ditch appears to have gone out of use and only a modest amount of activity was recorded for this phase.

8.4.10.2 Pit 2812 was located 5m east of 5019 and was oval in shape and aligned east-west. It measured 0.35m in length, 0.25m wide and 0.18m deep and a single sherd of late 17th century pottery was found in it.

Pit 2828 was circular in shape and had a diameter of 0.89m and 0.1m deep. This pit truncated an east-west aligned 11th-century ditch (5069). Also located within the area of the middle Bronze Age cemetery was a rectangular pit (2918). It measured 0.5m in length, 0.2m wide and 0.22m deep and contained two sherds of 17th century pottery. 2714 was a small circular pit which measured 0.6m in diameter, 0.1m deep and contained some 17th century pottery.

8.4.10.3 Truncating earlier enclosure ditch 5018 was an irregular oval shaped pit (2725) and this measured 0.68m in diameter and 0.24m deep and contained a piece of early 18th century pottery. A single pit (2733) which also truncated ditch 5018 has been dated to the 18th century. The pit was sub-circular in shape measuring 0.65m east-west, 0.55m north-south and was 0.29m deep and this contained 16 sherds of early 18th-century pottery.

8.4.10.4 One large triangular shaped pit (2722) which was found to contain residual 11th-13th, 19th and modern pottery and was orientated south-west to north-east with the longest side along the north-east edge. The pit measured 6.5m by 4m and 0.31m deep and truncated an earlier ditch (5018) and undated pit (2805). Despite its distinctive shape no obvious function could be identified for it. Located 3.5m from the eastern limit of excavation was a shallow circular pit (2833), *c*.0.40m in diameter and 0.10m deep. In the south of the St Gabriel's site was an east-west alignment of 14 modern post-holes and three of these were excavated to confirm their date (2930–2).

8.4.10.5 Pit 3002 was a modern feature which cut an 11th century gully (2929) and truncated an area of modern disturbance it did however contain a single sherd of residual Roman pottery.

8.4.11 Undated Features

Context	*Feature*	*Width(m)*	*Length(m)*	*Diameter(m)*	*Depth(m)*
2716	Pit	0.37	0.56		0.08
2735	Gully	0.41	2.41		0.05
2736	Pit	1.21	1.95		0.06
2726	Pit	0.63	1		0.3
2802	Pit	0.18	0.42		0.1
2806	Pit	0.25	0.44		0.11
2810	Gully	0.38	0.57		0.1
2813	Pit	0.18	0.24		0.18
2819	Post-Hole			0.31	0.12
2834	Pit	0.31	0.6		0.28
2835	Pit	0.5	1.3		0.07
2844	Pit			0.54	0.32
2919	Post-Hole	0.2	0.4		0.22
2925	Post-Hole	0.4	0.4		0.07
2934	Post-Hole	0.32	0.32		0.14
2935	Gully	0.45	1		0.05
2936	Post-Hole	0.35	0.35		0.1
2937	Pit			0.3	0.1
3003	Pit			0.5	0.2
3008	Gully	0.5	1.5		0.25
3045	Post-Hole			0.06	0.25
4007	Ditch	0.8			1

9 Nature and character of recovered material and statement of potential

9.1 *The Early and Middle Bronze Age Pottery* by Frances Raymond

9.1.1 Apart from one early Bronze Age sherd (weighing 11g), all of the prehistoric pottery from the site is of middle Bronze Age date (631 sherds, 7117g). This assemblage includes the remains of four bucket urns and three globular urns from six pits (2910, 2912, 2923, 2938–40). All are in very shattered condition, with the most complete being represented by refitting rim and upper wall fragments. Four pits (2911, 2914, 2916 and 2941) produced low numbers of wall sherds, providing no evidence for vessel style.

9.1.2 The pottery has been recorded by context following the guidelines of the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1997). Details of fabric, form, decoration, surface treatment and colour, wall thickness, fragmentation and condition have been entered on a database and are available in the archive.

9.1.3 Early Bronze Age pottery

9.1.4 Pit 2909 produced a single lightly abraded wall sherd (weighing 11g.). This has a weak red exterior (2.5YR4/2) and is made from a coarse grog tempered fabric (FG/1) of a kind used most typically for various early Bronze Age urn types.

9.1.5 Bucket Urns

9.1.6 The presence of refitting rim and upper wall sherds suggest that all four of the bucket urns had been inverted. It is possible to reconstruct the partial profiles of three of the vessels (from pits 2910, 2923 and 2940; Fig. 17: 1 to 3), while fragments from the fourth are confined to the rim top (from pit 2938; not illustrated).

9.1.7 The largest of the urns (from pit 2940) is represented by the highest number of sherds (247 sherds, 3861g), including 83% of the rim. It has a sub-biconical profile and is decorated with two rows of fingertip impressions and imperforate, applied oval lugs, only one of which survives (Fig. 17: 1). The exterior has been partially smoothed leaving the inclusions visible and there are intermittent traces of vertical finger smearing. The urn is made from a glauconitic sandy ware tempered with coarse burnt flint (FglS/1), while the surface colour varies from dark grey and dark reddish grey to brown (5YR4/1 and 4/2 to 7.5YR5/3 and 5/4).

9.1.8 The two smaller bucket urns (from pits 2910 and 2923) both have open to straight-sided profiles (Fig. 17: 2 and 3) and are made from glauconitic clays with medium grade flint tempering (Fgl/1 and FglS/2). The vessel from pit 2923 is represented by 24 sherds (weighing 611g) from approximately 75% of the rim and upper walls. It is decorated with an arcing line of fingertip impressions and four imperforate, applied lugs (Fig. 17: 2). The dark grey to dark greyish brown exterior (10YR4/1 and 4/2) has been smoothed, but the inclusions are clearly visible. The 31 bucket urn sherds from pit 2910 include just 23% of the rim. The vessel is decorated with a horizontal cordon embellished with a row of fingertip impressions (Fig. 17: 3). The exterior is dark grey to reddish brown (5YR4/1 and 5/4) and was originally smoothed, although most of the surface has been eroded almost certainly by post-depositional ground conditions.

9.1.9 The vessel from pit 2938 is only represented by a few rim sherds, which provide no evidence for its profile (13 sherds weighing 58g and comprising 36% of the circumference). The urn has a diameter of 220mm and is decorated with a row of fingertip impressions on the top of its rim (not illustrated). It is made from a sandy ware tempered with medium grade burnt flint (FS/1) and has a smoothed dark grey exterior (2.5YR4/N4).

9.1.10 Globular Urns

9.1.11 It is only possible to reconstruct the profile of one of the three globular urns (from pit 2912; Fig. 17: 4). The vessel is decorated with pre-firing incised, irregular chevrons and has four evenly spaced, unperforated, applied lugs. The dark grey to reddish brown exterior has been smoothed (5YR4/1 and 5/4), while the interior is burnished. The fabric is the same as the medium grade ware used for the bucket urn from Cut 2923 (FglS/2). The 145 sherds from the urn (weighing 1010g) include 83% of its rim and only one base fragment, suggesting that it was inverted.

9.1.12 The poor condition of the globular urn from pit 2939 has prevented refitting or reconstruction for illustration. It is represented by 132 sherds (632g), which include just 12% of its rim and the remains of four imperforate, applied oval lugs positioned around its belly. The brown exterior (7.5YR6/4) is heavily eroded to the extent that traces of pre-firing, parallel incised lines survive on only one neck fragment. The sherd is small and there is no evidence for the character of the design. The urn is made from a sandy fabric tempered with finely crushed burnt flint (FS/2).

9.1.13 The third globular urn is represented by six fresh to lightly abraded wall sherds (weighing 35g), which were found in association with the bucket urn from pit 2923 (Fig. 17: 2). A few pieces are decorated with an incomplete shallow-tooled zoned motif, composed of three closely spaced horizontal lines bordering an area in-filled with similar lines on a diagonal axis (not illustrated). The exterior is red to dark reddish grey (2.5YR5/6 and 5YR4/2) and both surfaces are burnished, while the fabric is a glauconitic sandy ware tempered with finely crushed burnt flint (FglS/3).

9.1.14 Pottery of Indeterminate Style

9.1.15 A small assemblage of 32 fresh to lightly abraded plain wall sherds (weighing 276g) came from four pits in the urnfield (2911, 2914, 2916 and 2941). Two of these (2916 and 2941) each produced one sherd, while pit 2911 yielded 17 fragments from a single urn (73g) and pit 2914 incorporated 13 sherds from two vessels. The pottery from 2911, 2914 and 2916 is made from two of the glauconitic wares used for the bucket and globular urns (FglS/2 and FglS/3). The fragment of pottery from pit 2941 is in a micaceous sandy ware tempered with medium grade burnt flint (FMS/1), typical of the other middle Bronze Age fabrics from the site.

9.1.16 The Fabrics

9.1.17 Contrasts in the character of the fabrics suggest that two different clay sources were being exploited: one glauconite rich deposit; and another lacking or incorporating only a small amount of this mineral. Approximately 72% of the pottery is made from wares containing moderate to common amounts of

glauconite/limonite (FglS/1, FglS/2 and FglS/3). This includes the four illustrated vessels (Fig. 17) and the globular urn sherds from Cut 2923. A local origin for these wares in the Upper Greensand outcrops at the foot of the North Wessex Downs to the south of the site or in the Gault Clay to the north of Wantage is probable. The source of the fabrics with little or no glauconite is uncertain, but again the raw materials could have been obtained nearby, possibly from the extensive deposits of Clay-with-Flints on the chalk downs to the south.

9.1.18 The potential contrast in the clay sources does not correspond with a difference in the type or grade of the tempering. The three glauconite rich fabrics and four of the other wares are all characterized by abundant to common quantities of crushed burnt flint, while the two groups include both fine and medium grade fabrics. Whatever the reasons for the exploitation of contrasting clays, it does not appear to have been related to a perceived technological advantage.

Fabric Descriptions

FG/1: This is a coarse and soft fabric used for a single featureless early Bronze Age wall sherd tempered with sparse burnt flint (0.2 to 5mm.) and moderate quantities of grog (0.2–6mm).

Fgl/1: A medium grade, soft ware used for a bucket urn (Fig. 17: 3) that has been tempered with abundant burnt flint (0.2–4mm) and additionally includes sparse amounts of well-rounded glauconite/limonite (up to 0.25mm).

FglS/1: A coarse soft ware used for a bucket urn (Fig. 17: 1) tempered with common burnt flint (0.2–7mm), which also includes common well-rounded glauconite/limonite (0.06–1mm) and similar quantities of sub-angular silt-sized to very fine quartz sand (up to 0.125mm).

FglS/2: This is a medium grade hard fabric used for a bucket urn and a globular urn (Fig. 17: 2 and 4) tempered with common burnt flint (0.2–4mm), which additionally incorporates moderate amounts of well-rounded glauconite/limonite (up to 0.25mm) and common rounded silt-sized to medium grains of quartz sand (up to 0.5mm).

FglS/3: A fine, hard fabric used for a globular urn tempered with common burnt flint (0.2–2mm) that also includes moderate amounts of well-rounded glauconite/limonite (up to 0.25mm) and common sub-rounded silt-sized to fine quartz sand (up to 0.25mm).

FMS/1: This is a medium grade hard fabric used for a single featureless wall sherd characterized by very common burnt flint (0.2–4mm), sparse silt-sized mica (<0.06mm) and very common sub-angular grains of silt-sized to very fine quartz sand (up to 0.125mm).

FS/1: A medium grade soft ware used for a bucket urn tempered with common burnt flint (0.2–4mm), which also contains common sub-rounded, silt-sized to very fine quartz sand (up to 0.125mm).

FS/2: A fine soft fabric used for a globular urn tempered with common burnt flint (0.2–2mm), which also includes very common sub-angular grains of silt-sized to fine quartz sand (up to 0.25mm).

9.1.19 Discussion

9.1.20 The clustered distribution of the various urns and associated ceramic deposits is a common arrangement within middle Bronze Age cremation cemeteries, many of which tend to be relatively small (Ellison 1980, 119). Similarly the deposition of incomplete vessels or sherds is a practice which in recent years has been recorded with increasing frequency on funerary sites. The seminal report on the slab burials at Kimpton is one of the better known studies in this field (Dacre and Ellison 1981, 159–65, and 169–70), while a recent paper has highlighted the potential role of fragmentation in rites of passage and transformation (Brück 2006, 297 and 301). At Wantage the contrasts between some of the deposits with partial vessels and those with sherds seem likely to reflect distinctions made deliberately at the time of burial. Unfortunately this is difficult to demonstrate unequivocally, given that the generally poor condition of the pottery points to a significant level of later disturbance.

9.1.21 Bucket urns are a dominant component of middle Bronze Age ceramic repertoires in southern England and are amongst the most common vessel types found on sites in the Upper Thames Valley. By contrast globular urns occur relatively infrequently in this region when compared with the neighbouring ceramic zones of the Middle/Lower Thames Valley and Central Wessex. It ms probable that the prominence of these vessels within the Wantage assemblage reflects the location of the site in an area where communities are likely to have been influenced by the ceramic traditions of all three regions.

9.1.22 To a limited extent such influences appear to be indicated by the character of the bucket urns. The sub-biconical profile of the vessel from Cut 2940 (Fig. 17: 1) recalls the shape of the Upper Thames bucket urns from Shorncote Quarry (Barclay 1995, 42–3) and is reflected locally by one of the vessels from Long Wittenham (Case *et al*. 1964-5, fig. 28: 4). It is also reminiscent of some of the Lower Thames Valley sub-styles (Ellison 1975, Lower Thames Valley Types 2 and 5). The character of the decoration seems to have similar affinities with the ceramic repertoire produced and used by communities to the east. This is apparently shared by the Long Wittenham assemblage, which includes three vessels with finger impressed cordons (Case *et al*. 1964-5, fig. 28: 3, 4 and 8), and two embossed accessories (Case

et al. 1964-5, fig. 28: 5 and 7). Although bucket urns with fingertip impressed cordons have a widespread distribution cutting across regional divides, such relief decoration is rare in the Upper Thames area (cf. Barclay 1995, 42). By contrast, fingertip rows and imperforate lugs or bosses (Fig. 17: 2 and 3) are amongst the most common of the decorative devices on Bucket Urns to the south and west in Central Wessex and in the Avon and Stour Valleys, and to the east in the Thames Valley (Barrett 1973, 123–4); while the positioning of the line of fingertip impressions around the outer rim edge of the urn from pit 2940 (Fig. 17: 1) is a feature with Lower Thames affinities (Barrett 1973, 123).

9.1.23 The decorative devices embellishing the globular urns from pits 2912 (Fig. 17: 4), 2939 and 2923 (not illustrated) are common on vessels of this type both in Central Wessex and in the Lower Thames Valley. The few published local parallels tend to be fragmented, as at Chieveley (Timby 2007, 65–72) and Barrow Hills, Radley (Cleal 1999, 209), providing little comparative stylistic evidence. To the south at Kimpton unperforated lugs occur on both Type 1A and 1B vessels (Dacre and Ellison 1981, fig. 14, D15; fig. 15, D/E 5 and D/E 6); while examples to the east are from Swilly Copse near Snelsmore Common (Birbeck 2000, fig. 9), Wood Lane, Cippenham (Raymond 2003, fig. 3.25: 5) and Sunningdale (Abercromby 1912, 416b). The simple geometric motifs and their position at and just above the belly are typical characteristics of globular urns, as is the use of irregular incised and shallow tooled devices, including chevrons (e.g., Dacre and Ellison 1981, 173, fig. 14: D6 and D16).

9.2 *Medieval Pottery* by Paul Blinkhorn

9.2.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 1178 sherds with a total weight of 12,252g (Appendix 2). The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference was 7.30. The post-Roman assemblage comprised a mixture of Anglo-Saxon and later pottery, indicating that there has been activity at the site from the 8th or 9th centuries onward, if not earlier. The most remarkable pottery finds were two sherds of middle-late Saxon North French Blackware, an extremely rare find in the region, and an almost certain indicator of an high-status Anglo-Saxon site of the period in the vicinity of these excavations. Almost as rare, and of a similar date, is a sherd of middle Saxon Ipswich ware, one of a very few finds in the Thames Valley to the west of London. These and an assemblage of early/middle Saxon hand-built pottery occurred in the northern St. Mary's site, indicating that there is a focus of high-status middle Saxon activity was near there. The northern area of the excavation appears to have been intensively occupied from around the time of the Norman Conquest until the 14th century, after which it appears to have been derelict until the end of the medieval period. The southern, St. Gabriel's site revealed activity in the late 11th – 12th century, but otherwise it appears to have been unoccupied before then, and somewhat marginal for the rest of the medieval period.

9.2.2 In the post-medieval period, there was little activity at the site, with the St. Mary's site more or less derelict or archaeologically 'closed' throughout that time. The assemblage from the St. Gabriel's site indicates that there was very low-level pottery deposition from around the middle of the 16th century to the present.

9.2.3 The pottery was initially bulk-sorted and recorded on a computer using Dbase IV software. The material from each context was recorded by number and weight of sherds per fabric type, with featureless body sherds of the same fabric counted, weighed and recorded as one database entry. Feature sherds such as rims, bases and lugs were individually recorded, with individual codes used for the various types. Decorated sherds were similarly treated. In the case of the rimsherds, the form, diameter in mm and the percentage remaining of the original complete circumference was all recorded. This figure was summed for each fabric type to obtain the estimated vessel equivalent (EVE).

9.2.4 The terminology used is that defined by the Medieval Pottery Research Group's Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms (MPRG 1998) and to the minimum standards laid out in the Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of post-roman Ceramics (MPRG2001). All the statistical analyses were carried out using a Dbase package written by the author, which interrogated the original or subsidiary databases, with some of the final calculations made with an electronic calculator. Any statistical analyses were carried out to the minimum standards suggested by Orton (1998-9, 135-7).

9.2.5 Fabrics

9.2.6 The pottery was recorded utilizing the coding system and chronology of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1984; 1994), as follows:

OXT: North French Blackware, 9th–10th century. 2 sherds, 26g.
OXR: St. Neots Ware type T1(1), AD850–1100. 59 sherds, 459g, EVE = 0.54g.
OXAC: Cotswold-type ware, AD975–1350. 197 sherds, 2054g, EVE = 0.75.
OXBF: Newbury-type ware, AD1050–1400. 449 sherds, 5003g, EVE = 3.66.
OXY: Medieval Oxford ware, AD1075–1350. 40 sherds, 556g, EVE = 0.69.
OXAG: Abingdon ware, mid/late 11th–mid 14th century. 223 sherds, 1090g, EVE =0.05
OXBB: Minety-type ware. Early 12th–16th century. 4 sherds, 55g.
OX162: South-East Oxfordshire Ware. Late 11th–late 13th century. 35 sherds, 1091g, EVE = 1.39.
OXAM: Brill/Boarstall ware, AD1200–1600. 53 sherds, 405g, EVE = 0.14.
OXBN: Tudor Green Ware, late 14th century to *c*. 1500. 3 sherds, 7g, EVE =0.05.
OXCL: Cistercian ware, AD1475–1700. 6 sherds, 19g, EVE =0.03.
OXST: Rhenish Stoneware, AD1480–1700. 1 sherd, 12g.
OXDR: Red Earthenwares, AD1550 onwards. 49 sherds, 895g.
OXBESWL: Staffordshire slip-trailed earthenware, AD1650–1750. 2 sherds, 18g.
OXCE: Tin-glazed Earthenware, AD1613–1800. 3 sherds, 20g.
OXFM: Staffordshire White Salt-glazed Stoneware, AD1730–1800. 4 sherds, 11g.
OXFI: Chinese Porcelain, *c*. AD1650 onwards. 1 sherd, 1g.
OXEST: London stoneware. c. AD1680 onwards. 3 sherds, 50g.
WHEW: Mass-produced white earthenwares, 19th – 20th century. 1 sherd, 7g.

9.2.6.1 In addition, the following, not covered by the Oxfordshire type-series, was noted:
F95: Ipswich Ware**,** AD725–850 (Blinkhorn in prep.) Middle Saxon, slow-wheel made ware, manufactured exclusively in the eponymous Suffolk wic. The material probably had a currency of AD 725/740 – mid 9th century at sites outside East Anglia. There are two main fabric types, although individual vessels which do not conform to these groups also occur. The sherd from this site was in a group 1 fabric: Hard and slightly sandy to the touch, with visible small quartz grains and some shreds of mica. Frequent fairly well-sorted angular to sub-angular grains of quartz, generally measuring below 0.3 mm in size but with some larger grains, including a number which are polycrystalline in appearance. 1 sherd, 16g, EVE = 0.

9.2.6.2 Thirty-four sherds (346g) of Roman material was also present, and a small assemblage of early/middle Saxon (*c*. AD450–850) hand-built pottery was noted, as follows:
F1: Chaff, no other visible inclusions. 2 sherds, 26g, EVE = 0.
F2: Fine sandy. Moderate to dense sub-rounded quartz up to 0.5mm, rare red ironstone up to 0.5mm. 1 sherd, 6g, EVE = 0.
F3: Oolitic. Sparse to moderate limestone ooliths up to 1 mm, rare sub-rounded red ironstone up to 2mm. 5 sherds, 75g, EVE = 0.

9.2.6.3 The bulk of the assemblage is pottery types which are well-known in this area of Oxfordshire. The sherds of North French Blackware and Ipswich ware are, however, extremely rare finds in the area, and at inland sites in the south midlands of England generally. Usually, such pottery, of mid-late Saxon date, only occurs at major ports, coastal settlements, or at inland sites of greater than usual status. Given that the historical record indicates that a royal manor was sited in Wantage, this pottery represents solid archaeological evidence of a site of such status (below).
9.2.6.4 The sherd of Ipswich ware is almost as rare a find as the Blackware, and, again, one of only a handful known from Oxfordshire, and the Thames Valley to the west of London generally, which appears to be the southernmost limit of its distribution, apart from a few finds in northern Kent and a single sherd from *Hamwic*, middle Saxon Southampton. It is well-known in the Saxon settlement in the Strand area of London (e.g., Blackmore 1988), where several thousand sherds have been found. However, in Oxfordshire, it occurred in small quantities at Eynsham Abbey (Blinkhorn 2003), Yarnton, Oxon. (Blinkhorn 2004), and at the Beaumont Palace site in Oxford (Blinkhorn 2001). Recent excavations at the Ashmolean Museum site in Oxford, adjoining the Beaumont Palace site, have produced a further small assemblage of the material (Blinkhorn forthcoming). Few other finds have been made, other than one or two sherds from small scale excavations at Black Bourton, Chipping Warden, Sutton Courtney and South Newington (all seen by the author). Like the Blackware, it is almost certainly a sign of a high status settlement.
9.2.6.5 The small assemblage of undecorated early/middle Saxon hand-built pottery from this site can only really be given a broad period date (AD450–850) due to the lack of diagnostic sherds, the assemblage from the site is impossible to date other than to within the broad early/middle Saxon period. All the sherds are undecorated, and the refined dating of Anglo-Saxon pottery relies largely on decorated sherds. The Anglo-Saxons appear to have largely stopped decorating hand-built pottery in the 7th

century, but, in the earlier period, i.e., the 5th – 6th centuries, decorated wares only usually comprised around 3–4% of domestic assemblages, so it is impossible with an assemblage of this size to say if the sherds date to the period when decoration was not used, i.e., the 7th – 9th century, or are earlier, with the decorated pottery not being present due to the small assemblage size.

9.2.6.6 To complicate the issue further, Mellor (1994, 36) noted that some hand-built wares may be contemporary with the earliest, mid-late 9th century late Saxon wares in the county, including at places fairly close to Wantage, such as Dorchester-on-Thames, Benson, and North Stoke. It is thus entirely possible that the hand-built pottery from this site dates to the mid-late 9th century. However, none of the hand-built sherds from this site occurred in contexts which produced St. Neots ware, so they are likely to pre-date the mid-9th century.

9.2.6.7 Small quantities of pottery of this type are known from the region around Wantage, but are rare finds in the town. For example, small quantities of Saxon pottery occurred at Childrey, some 5km to the west of Wantage (Taylor 2000), and Timby (1997, 136) listed a number of sites in the area where such pottery has occurred. In Wantage itself, excavations at Mill Street produced over 60 sherds of mainly chaff-tempered material, including a single stamped sherd, suggesting a 6th- to 7th-century date for the assemblage (Timby 1997, 136). Excavations at the Vicarage produced a single chaff-tempered sherd (Youngs *et al*. 1985, 197), but no other pottery of the period has been noted in the town in recent decades.

9.2.6.8 The pottery classified here as OXAG and named 'Abingdon Ware' by Mellor (1994) has since been shown to have made at a manufactory to the west of Reading, and is now generally referred to as 'Ashampton Ware' (Mepham and Heaton 1995).

9.2.7 Chronology

9.2.7.1 Each context-specific pottery assemblage was given a ceramic phase date (CP) based on the range of fabric types present. The scheme, and the amount of pottery from each phase by number and weight of sherds and EVE is shown in Appendix 2: Table 1.

9.2.7.2 As noted above, the presence of two sherds of North French Blackware and the Ipswich ware indicate that there was activity near the site in the middle – late Saxon period, and the hand-built wares could date to anytime between AD450–850, and a case can be made for them being of early Late Saxon (mid-late 9th century) date.

9.2.7.3 The majority of the contexts dated to site phase 4a produced Newbury-type ware (fabric OXBF), which is often found in conjunction with Cotswolds-type ware (OXAC) in southern Oxfordshire in the mid-11th century (Mellor 1994, 54). The dating of Cotswolds type Ware is problematic. It did not appear to have been reaching Oxford in quantity until the mid-11th century, but a vessel of this type is known from Oxford from a context securely dated to the early 10th century, and sherds from Cricklade and Fairford could be as early as the late 9th century (Mellor 1994, 51). Some of the contexts from site phase 4a produced only Cotswolds-type wares and/or St. Neots ware (fabric OXR), and thus could be earlier. The early vessels from elsewhere noted above to m to be exceptions, however, so it does m reasonably safe to give OXAC a start-date for the early-mid 11th century here. The fact that most phase 4 contexts produced OXBF suggests that the main phase of activity at the site, and most of the site phase CP4a material dates to around the mid-11th century.

9.2.7.4 The data in Appendix 2: Table 2 show that the main period of activity at the site, in terms of pottery deposition was during from the early/mid 11th – 14th century, although there appears to have been a reasonably substantial human presence at the site in the late Saxon period, and, as suggested by the hand-built wares and imported sherds, possibly earlier. Activity does m to have dropped off rapidly in the 14th century, and, the 16th century apart, very little pottery deposition took place after that time. The small assemblage size of site phase 5b is most likely due to the scarcity in this area of the defining ware, Minety Ware (fabric OXBB), rather than any hiatus in activity.

9.2.7.5 It is likely however that the site was largely derelict in the 15th century (site phase 7), with the following site phase 6 perhaps ing a clearance and reorganization of the site, especially when the levels of residuality in the 16th century deposits (site phases 8 and 9) are taken into consideration (below). Late medieval pottery was not present in the later deposits, indicating that it is a lack of activity rather than later destruction that is responsible for the dearth of pottery from the 15th century at the site.

9.2.7.6 The fabric occurrence by phase is shown in Appendix 2: Table 3. It demonstrates a fairly typical pattern for the region, with wares being used in the sort of quantities that would be expected. The data for South-East Oxfordshire ware (fabric OX162) in site phase 4b is somewhat skewed by the presence of a complete jug (Fig. SW3). It weighs 768g, and thus comprises nearly 18% of the entire site phase assemblage.

9.2.7.7 Residuality is fairly low until the late medieval/post-medieval period, when there ms to have been considerable disturbance of the earlier strata in the 16th century, despite the assemblages from that time

being somewhat small compared to those from the medieval period. Around 88% of the pottery from site phase 9 is residual.

9.2.8 Spatial Analysis: Evidence for a High-Status middle Saxon Centre in Wantage

9.2.8.1 All the Anglo-Saxon hand-built pottery and the residual sherds of North French Blackware and the Ipswich Ware occurred at the St. Mary's School site. The distribution of the St. Neots ware shows a similar pattern with all but three sherds of the assemblage occurring in the St. Mary's School trench. Pottery dating to site phase 4a is also rather scarce at the St. Gabriel's site, with just 140g (4.2% of the site phase assemblage) noted there. Pottery is much more common at the southern site during phase 4b, with 1821g (42.6% of the phase assemblage) occurring there. Activity, in terms of pottery deposition, does m to have dropped off quite rapidly after this time at St. Gabriels'; site phase 6 features in that trench yielded just 284g of pottery (12.0% of the site phase assemblage).

9.2.8.2 This all suggests that there is a focus of Saxon activity near to the St. Mary's School site and that the area to the south was not much occupied until after the Norman Conquest, at which time the core of the town expanded southwards, but also that, other than in the late 11th – 12th centuries, the southerly area was somewhat marginal until around the end of the medieval period.

9.2.8.3 The crucial evidence is the sherds of North French Blackware and the Ipswich Ware. Small quantities of various North French and Low Countries Blackwares are known from Oxford (Mellor 2003, table 6.7), with some associated with radiocarbon dates of the late 8th/early 9th century (Mellor 1994, 41), associated with an important river crossing and the monastery of St. Frideswide. The only other pottery of this type known at this time from Oxfordshire are two sherds from Bampton (Blinkhorn 2000), the reputed site of a Middle Saxon royal minster. These, and the pottery from this site are the most westerly inland finds of such pottery in England. More generally, inland finds of imported Blackware pottery are very rare. At this time, the only other findspots in the Thames Valley region, apart from *Lundenwic*, are from Lake End Road, Maidenhead (Blinkhorn 2002) and Old Windsor (Dunning *et al.* 1959, fig. 24). The former is a site of uncertain type, but did produce some high-status metalwork, while the latter is thought to have been a royal centre.

9.2.8.4 The Ipswich ware, as noted above, is one of only a handful of finds from Oxfordshire, and is generally very rare in the Thames Valley to the west of London. It provides definite evidence of middle Saxon activity at some point between AD725–850 near this site, and, like the Blackware, in the Thames Valley, nearly all the finds of the material are from sites which appear to have some status.

9.2.8.5 For example, at Reading Broad Street (Blinkhorn 2005), a single sherd was found at a site which was located within 100m of the reputed location of a 'royal settlement' mentioned in Asser's *Life of Alfred* (Astill 1978, 77). The other Berkshire finds were from Old Windsor, a Saxon royal estate centre (Wilson and Hurst 1958, 183–5), and at Thatcham, another possible minster site. In Oxfordshire, Eynsham Abbey was an important minster church (Blinkhorn 2003), and the settlement at Yarnton (Blinkhorn 2004) appears to be a little out of the ordinary, as the main structure was sited within a large enclosure ditch. As noted, Oxford appears to have been an important river-crossing, and the site of another minster. Elsewhere in the Thames Valley, it occurred at Lake End Road, Maidenhead, alongside imported North French wares. To the west and the Ipswich ware has also been found at Lechlade in Gloucestershire, at the junction of the Thames and a major overland route to Winchester, which may have been a loading-place for salt to have been transported to London (Blinkhorn in print).

9.2.8.6 The relatively large assemblage of Anglo-Saxon hand-built pottery occurred to the north of Mill Street, over 200m to the north-west of this site, would indicate that there was a settlement there during the 6th or 7th century (Timby 1997). This predates the North French Blackware sherds from this site by at least a century, and most likely two or even three. The relative lack of hand-built pottery at this site could perhaps be n as problematic to there being a site very close by, but evidence from other sites in the region, particularly Eynsham Abbey (Blinkhorn 2003) and Yarnton (Blinkhorn 2004) indicates that there is a very good case to be made for an hiatus in hand-built pottery manufacture in the region in the middle Saxon period, although imported pottery of the 8th and 9th centuries, such as Ipswich Ware and foreign wares, do occur. Thus, a lack of hand-built pottery is not necessarily an indicator of a lack of activity in the 8th and 9th centuries in the area.

9.2.8.7 The area to the east of the church, north of Church Street and to the west of Newbury Street and less than 100m to the north-west of the St. Mary's School site is one of the favoured sites for the location of the Anglo-Saxon royal centre reputed to be the birthplace of King Alfred (Garnish 2000). The pattern of pottery deposition at these two sites offers positive support to such a scenario. Certainly, there is an high-status Saxon site in the vicinity of the St. Mary's School site. It is suggested therefore that this pottery is the first solid archaeological evidence for a high-status site in Wantage around the time of the birth of King Alfred.

9.2.9 The Pottery by Phase

Site Phase 3: 7th – Early 11th century. 10 sherds, 105g, EVE = 0

9.2.9.1 This phase assemblage, although small, represents solid evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity at the site. Six sherds of hand-built pottery were noted in features of this date, with none being stratified with late Saxon St. Neots ware (fabric OXR), so they all appear to likely to date to the mid-9th century or earlier. Three sherds of late Saxon St. Neots ware occurred in features with no later pottery, so it would m that there was not much activity here in the 10th century. A single sherd of residual Romano-British pottery was also present.

Site Phase 4: Early – late 11th century. 281 sherds, 3302g, EVE = 2.59

9.2.9.2 The bulk of the St. Neots ware assemblage (34 sherds, 289g, EVE = 0.40), occurred in this phase, although only four sherds occurred in contexts which did not contain later pottery, and a further four to contexts which did not contain any pottery later than Cotswolds ware, suggesting limited late Saxon activity from the 10th – mid 11th century. The sherds in question all occurred in the St. Mary's site. The relatively small quantities present, and the suggested dating, correspond with that for the ware from Oxford, where it was in decline by the middle of the 11th century, having reached its peak there *c*.AD1020 (Mellor 1994, 57).

9.2.9.3 The assemblage for this site phase is dominated by Newbury-type ware (fabric OXBF), which comprised nearly two-thirds of the assemblage by weight (65.2%), with Cotswolds-type ware (fabric OXAC) making up 21.7%, and St. Neots ware 8.8%). Five sherds (98g) of residual Roman-British wares were noted, along with two sherds (27g) of early/middle Saxon hand-built material. One of the sherds of North French Blackware, from the base of a jug, was also present (to illustrate: SW1). It came from pit 2033, which did not produce any other pottery apart from a sherd from the rim of an OXBF jar. The Blackware sherd is a little worn, and highly likely to be residual.

9.2.9.4 The rimsherd assemblage comprised mainly jars (EVE = 2.22; 85.7% of the rim assemblage), with the rest bowls. The majority of the jars were OXBF types (EVE = 1.66; 74.8% of the jar assemblage), along with OXAC (EVE = 0.23; 10.4%) and OXR (EVE = 0.30; 13.5%). One of the OXAC rims, from pit 2541 is of a form that suggests that it is perhaps earlier than the 11th century (SW2). Most of the bowls were OXBF types (EVE = 0.27; 73.0% of the bowl assemblage), with the rest St. Neots type.

9.2.9.5 The entire site phase assemblage was undecorated.

Site Phase 5: Late 11th – early 12th century. 340 sherds, 4279g, EVE = 3.04

9.2.9.6 This phase saw the introduction of sand-tempered wares in the form of Oxford ware (fabric OXY), Abingdon ware (OXAG) and South-East Oxfordshire ware (OX162), all of which includes the first glazed and decorated jugs of the medieval period in the region. Given that the following phase is defined by quite a rare fabric in the form of Minety ware (OXBB), is very likely that at least some of the material from this phase is later that the given date range, and a chronology of late 11th – early 13th century is probably more appropriate for this site phase.

9.2.9.7 The most common pottery type is still OXBF (38.4% of the phase assemblage), with OX162 making up 22.6%, although, as noted above, a complete jug in the latter fabric makes up around 18% of the entire phase assemblage. OXAC is still fairly common, comprising 18.3% of the group, with the rest of the contemporary pottery being OXY (6.3%) and OXAG (8.2%). St. Neots ware makes up just 2.2% of the assemblage, and is almost certainly residual by this time, although such pottery was still in use until the mid-late 12th century at sites further to the north, such as Northampton (Denham 1985). The second sherd of North French Blackware occurred in this phase, from the terminal of ditch 5015 (2201). As with the other sherd, it is somewhat abraded, and most likely redeposited.

9.2.9.8 The range of rimsherds shows that the assemblage has a typically medieval character. Jars are the most common (EVE = 1.67; 54.9% of the site phase assemblage), but jugs also make up a sizeable proportion (EVE = 1.10; 36.2%), with the rest from bowls (EVE = 0.27; 8.9%). The most common jar rims were in OXBF (EVE = 0.99; 59.3% of the jar assemblage), with the rest of the jar assemblage comprising OX162 (EVE = 0.31; 18.6%), OXAC (EVE = 0.16; 9.6%), OXR (EVE = 0.14; 8.4%) and OXY (EVE = 0.07; 4.2%). The bulk of the jug assemblage comprised OX162 (EVE = 1.05; 95.5% of the jug assemblage), with the rest OXAG. The most common bowl rims are in OXY (EVE = 0.15; 55.6% of the bowl assemblage), with the rest OXAC (EVE = 0.07; 25.9%) and OXY (EVE = 0.05; 18.5%). Again, the data for the rim assemblage is somewhat distorted due to the presence of the complete jug in OX162 (SW3).

9.2.9.9 One of the Cotswolds-type jars, from ditch 5010 (2247), has a drilled hole near the rim (SW4), and a rim from an OX162 jar has a rather unusual upright lug on the rim. Decorated sherds were entirely absent, other than some slip-decorated glazed jug sherds, which are typical of the period.

Site Phase 5b: Early 12th – early 13th century. 3 sherds, 21g, EVE = 0

9.2.9.10 Pottery was very scarce for this site phase, but as noted above, this is likely to be due to the scarcity of the defining ware, OXBB, rather than an hiatus in activity. The pottery comprised two sherd of OXBB, including the glaze strap handle from a jug, and a single sherd of OXBF.

Site Phase 6: Early 13th – late 14th century. 391 sherds, 2364g, EVE = 0.66

9.2.9.11 This phase s t he introduction of Brill/Bo arstall ware (Oxfordshire fabric OXAM), an d the material comprises 14.5% of the pottery noted. The assemblage is fairly scattered and fragmented, with the mean sherd weight of 6.0g very low for a medieval urban site, suggesting much of the assemblage is the product of secondary deposition. The sherd of Ipswich ware occurred, redeposited in gully 5014 (2324), in this phase. It is very abraded, but appears to be from near the base of a large burnished jar, which is a typical find at sites outside the East Anglian kingdom.

9.2.9.12 The most common ware is still OXBF (32.2%), with OXAG also well-represented (27.5%). The rest of the assemblage comprises OXAC (10.4%), OXY (5.8%) OX162 (1.8%) and O XBB (0.8%). Residual material is present is the form of OXR (1.8%) and three sherds of Roman pottery (87g; 3.9%).

9.2.9.13 The rimsherd assemblage is q uite small, with jars and jugs represented in the same quantity (EVE = 0.29; each 43.9% of the site phase assemblage). The rest of t he rimsherds are bowls (EVE = 0 .08; 12.2%). There is also a sm all bodysherd from a cruci ble in OXAC. The bulk of the jar rims are in OXBF (EVE = 0.18; 62.1% of the jar assemblage), with the rest OXY (EVE = 0.07; 24.1%) and OXAC (EVE = 0.04 ; 13.8%). The majority of the jug rims are OXY (EVE = 0 .18; 62.1% of the jug assemblage), with the rest OXAM. The bowls are represented by a single sherd of OXAC.

9.2.9.14 There were no decorated sherds, other than fragments of glazed and slipped jugs.

Site Phase 7: 15th century. 10 sherds, 49g, EVE = 0.06

9.2.9.15 The pottery assemblage from this phase is very sm all, as is the mean sherd size (4.9g). All the pottery was from the St, Gabriel's site indicating that the St. Mary's site was either archaeologically 'closed' or derelict at this time, and the former in a similar state.

9.2.9.16 The assemblage comprises small quantities of OXAC, OXBF, OXBB, 'Tudor Green' type wares (fabric OXBN) and Cistercian ware (OXCL), with the first two certainly residual. Two rimsherds were present, a jar in OXBF and a Cistercian ware cup rim. The presence of cup sherds may be evidence of industrial activity, as such vessels are common at sites with such a component in the late medieval period, such as tanneries (eg Shaw 1996; Blinkhorn 2000a), but the assemblage is so small that it is difficult to suggest this in this case.

Site Phase 8: 16th century. 30 sherds, 590g, EVE = 0.14

9.2.9.17 All but three sherds (35g) of the pottery dated to this phase occurred in the southern, St. Gabriel's site, indicating that the St. Mary's site was in a similar derelict or closed state as in the preceding phase. Two of the three sherds date from there to after the middle of the 16th century, with the other a very small residual early medieval sherd.

9.2.9.18 The rest of t he assemblage, from the St. Gabriel' s' site, comprises mainly Glazed Red Earthenwares (fabric OXDR), weighing 501g and making up 93.6% of the site phase assemblage from that site. All the contexts from this phase produced OXDR, meaning that there was no activity in this area of the site in the first half of the 16th century. The assemblage also includes a sherd of Frechen Stoneware (fabric OXST) which has a fragment of a moulded prunt, and again dates to the second half of the 16th century. There is also a small sherd from a 'Tudor Green' lobed cup or bowl, with the rest of the assemblage comprising small sherds of residual medieval wares.

Site Phase 9: 17th – early 19th century. 68 sherds, 781g, EVE = 0.53

9.2.9.19 The two centuries covered by this sitephase saw very little pottery deposition, with the majority of the assemblage made up of residual medieval material (77.1%). The bulk of the post-medieval pottery was OXDR, comprised 11.5% of the as semblage, with the rest of the material being OXCL (0.4%), Staffordshire Slipware (fabric OXBESWL. 14g, 1.8%), English Stonewares (OXEST and OXFI. 50g; 6.4%) and Tin-glazed Earthenwares (OXCE. 14g; 1.8g).

9.2.9.20 The bulk of the pottery (651g; 83.4% of the site p hase assemblage) occurred in the St Mary's area, but all except 79g was residual, with the only contemporary pottery being OXDR, meaning there was very little activity in this phase.

9.2.9.21 The St Gabriel's area produced only 130g of pottery from this phase, but most appears contemporary, and indicates that there was low-level activity throughout the sitephase.

Site Phase MOD: Early 19th+ century. 1 sherd, 7g, EVE = 0.

9.2.9.22 The only pottery from this sitephase was a single sherd of mass-produced white earthenware.

9.2.10 Sherds to be illustrated

SW1: Context 2085, fabric OXF. Base from a ?jug. Dark reddish-brown fabric with black, burnished outer surface, inner surface missing.
SW2: Context 2671, fabric OXAC. Jar rim. Dark grey fabric with brown surfaces.
SW3: Context 2271, fabric OX162. complete jug. Grey fabric with variegated red to reddish brown surfaces. The vessel is sharply carinated, with a dull green glaze on the neck, outer face of the handle and the area of the outer body above the carination. The upper part of the body has painted vertical stripes in a white slip which appears yellow under the glaze.
SW4: Context 2359, fabric OXAC. Rimsherd with a drilled hole. Dark grey fabric with black surfaces.

9.3 *Struck Flint* by Steve Ford

9.3.1 A small collection comprising just 81 struck flints was recovered during the course of the excavation. These comprise 64 flakes 16 spalls and a scraper (Appendix 3). No contexts produced more than three flints and most of the material comprises residual finds in Saxon or later deposits.

9.3.2 The flint is made from a range of flint colours with black, brown and dark grey colours represented with light grey cherty inclusions. A thick white cortex is present on some pieces. With the chalk escarpment of the Berkshire Downs just to the south of the site both in-situ and drift deposits of flint are widely available locally. Two pieces are burnt and one flake is heavily patinated, such as would be expected from a chalkland setting. This is likely to have been brought to the site after languishing for some time in a chalky environment.

9.3.3 A significant proportion (33%) of the flake component is of narrow flake proportions with length:breadth ratios exceeding 2:1 (assigned by eye). Some of the pieces are well made blades rather than fortuitous by-products of flint knapping. This would m to indicate the presence of a significant Mesolithic or possibly early Neolithic component to the collection, though distinctive period-specific items such as microliths are absent. The one retouched piece is a single scraper which is unexceptional.

9.3.4 One broken flake was recovered from the crouched inhumation burial. With the exception of the well made blades, none of the items are closely datable in themselves and could be of Neolithic or Bronze Age date contemporary with the Bronze Age cremation burials on the site.

9.4 *Metalwork and coins* by Henrietta Longden

9.4.1 In total, iron pieces of metal, weighing 566g were recovered from various contexts (Appendix 4). Some 34 nails and nail fragments were found, 15 of these were round headed and round shanked. Nine were flat headed and square shanked. The majority of the nails are from features spanning phases 5 to 8.

9.4.2 A silver pin from posthole 2205 was found. It has a small spherical wound wire head and is 29mm long. Wound wire pins of this type were common from the Medieval period through to the Post-medieval period (Cox 1996). It is unlikely that this pin is earlier than the 14th century (Egan and Pritchard 1997).

9.4.3 Nine fragments of various iron work were recovered, probably the remnants of assorted fittings.

9.4.4 Two curved blades are probably pruning hooks. The larger fragment has evidence of the socket to which the handle was hafted. Curved blades are known from the Iron Age and had long running typologies so dating is not possible.

9.4.5 A heavily corroded iron object constituting an oval sectioned shaft with a sub-triangular loop at one end. The find was recorded from a post-hole alongside Roman pottery. It may be a key or a ring-headed pin or fitting common to the Roman period.

9.4.6 The only other object of interest is iron, 110mm long, weighing 20g. It is perhaps part of a scale. This was recovered from a ditch terminal that has been dated to the 13th-14th century.

9.5 *Slag and Industrial Debris* by Steven Crabb

9.5.1 A small amount of slag was recovered (under 1.5kg). The majority of this is iron slag and in particular iron smelting slag in the form of furnace slag (Appendix 5). A quanti ty of smithing slag was also recovered which can be further split into smithing slag and hearth lining. Also recovered was some natural ironstone. The smelting slag recovered is solely furnace slag, with no tap slag recove red, this suggests that any production of iron either on or near this site did not use a slag tapping furnace.

9.5.2 Most of the slag is unfortunately from undated features, and most of that which can be dated is post-medieval, with only two tiny pieces from medieval contexts (which may in turn cast doubt on their reliability). The small quantity of slag recovered from this site suggests that it is only 'background noise' typical of urban deposits and not evidence that iron was being produced or artefacts manufactured on site.

9.6 *Human Bone* by Ceri Falys

9.6.1 A single inhumation was recovered from within the excavation area (context 2229 Skeleton 1). The non-adult skeleton was in an East –West (head) alignment and in absence of coffin fittings and grave goods. The body was in a crouched position, lying on its left side. The arms were acutely bent with the hands resting under the left side of the skull (Fig. 4). The upper portions of the legs (femora) were angled towards the chest and roughly parallel. The knees were sharply bent, with the lower legs crossed at the mid-shaft. The right foot was pointing northeast, and the left foot to the east. During excavation, soil samples were taken from around the cranium, pelvis, abdomen, hands, feet, and the base of the excavated grave cut. These samples were floated and wet-sieved to a 2mm mesh size. Many small bones were recovered (e.g. unfused epiphyses and phalanges of the hands and feet).

9.6.2 Osteological analysis was undertaken using suggested guidelines by Brickley and McKinley (2004) and Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994). The completeness and preservation of the skeleton was assessed, in addition to the age-at-death and any observable non-metric traits and pathological alteration to the skeletal elements. It is noted that the sex of this individual was not able to be determined.

9.6.3 Skeleton 1 was approximately 95% complete, with only a few of the small bones of the hands, feet and developing epiphyses absent. The preservation of the remains was fair, with very little fragmentation noted, however frequent surface damage affected many of the postcranial elements, with the most pronounced erosion present on the axial skeleton (i.e. ribs and vertebrae) and the upper limbs.

9.6.4 Age-at-death estimations of immature skeletal remains are made based upon the extent of dental development (van Beek 2002) and degree of skeletal maturation (Scheuer and Black 2004), both of which occur at consistent and predictable rates. Both of these states suggest an age of approximately 12-14 years at the time of death.

9.6.5 Pathology

9.6.5.1 Several pathological alterations were present, which primarily affected three main regions of the body: the cranium, the teeth and the axial skeleton (i.e. vertebrae and ribs).

9.6.5.2 The pathological changes to the cranium were all located on the endocranial surface, and are likely to all result from a related disease process. Unusually frequent and deep arachnoid granulations were present on the frontal bone and anterior portion of both the left and right parietal bones. Although not strictly pathological, the number of such depressions in a young individual is unusual. Three small and deep erosive lesions, differing in morphological appearance from arachnoid granulations, were also present on the anterior parietals and frontal bone. These roughly circular pits, measuring a maximum diameter of 5mm, show signs of healing (i.e. the edges of the lesions are rounded), although there is not evidence of associated reaction (e.g. porosity or new bone growth) surrounding the affected areas of cranium. However, it is noted there is a marked increase in blood flow to these regions, demonstrated by grooves for the middle meningeal vessels that run directly to these pits. Such observations to the frontal and parietal bones *could* suggest meningioma, a tumour of the membranous covering of the brain, however this is difficult to diagnose in skeletal individuals and as a result, no definite diagnoses have been made.

9.6.5.3 In addition, most likely related to these lesions of the frontal and parietal bones is the sagittal sinus is notably deep in profile. The sagittal sinus is a groove on the endocranial surface that runs down the midline from the front to the back of the skull, carrying a large blood vessel. Porosity with active new bone growth present on the endocranial surface of the occipital bone.

9.6.5.4 The occurrences of pathological alterations to the dentition were the result of two separate processes: poor dental hygiene and a period of chronic stress in childhood. Slight deposits of calculus (i.e. dental plaque) were present on all buccal (i.e. cheek) surfaces of the maxillary premolars and molars, while moderate calculus deposits on the lingual (i.e. tongue) surface of the mandibular dentition. Periodontal disease was also observed, significantly remodelling and reducing the height of the alveolar processes of both the maxilla and mandible. Periodontal disease is an inflammatory disease affecting the soft tissues and bone surrounding the teeth (Roberts and Manchester 1995). Lastly, very faint grooves of linear enamel hypoplasia were observed on all canines and premolars. These defects of the dental enamel are indicative that the individual survived through a period of systemic stress, which affected the body during the time the adult dentition was developing within the jaw (Ortner 2003). Such stress could be caused by illness (i.e. a fever) or a period of malnutrition.

9.6.5.5 Pathological alterations identified in the axial skeleton (i.e. ribs and vertebral column), are all likely to be the result of a single congenital (developmental defect) origin. Vertebral anomalies were observed, with seven cervical present, 11 thoracic and six lumbar vertebrae. The usual distribution of vertebrae within a "normal" spinal column is seven cervical, twelve thoracic and five lumbar vertebrae. The

anterior surface of the eight thoracic vertebrae has an unusual appearance, possibly also a developmental defect.

9.6.5.6 Costal facets (articulations for ribs) were identified on both sides of the seventh cervical vertebral body as well as a single facet on the right side of the first lumbar vertebral body. The occurrence is unusual, as ribs typically only articulate with the thoracic vertebrae. In addition to these observations, a very small, unusually shaped rib was recovered. The head of this rib is consistent with the morphology of the first ribs, and is believed to articulate with the right costal facet on the seventh cervical vertebra.

9.6.5.7 Spondylolysis was present, affecting the left superior articular facet of the sixth lumbar vertebra. This articular facet was unfused, ultimately separating the inferior one-quarter of the articular surface and entire inferior articular facet from the rest of the vertebral body. The right articular facets were not present for analysis. This lack of fusion is the probable result of a congenital weakness in the bone (Roberts and Manchester 1997), or could also be the result of a recurrent stress and strain rather than separation following a traumatic incident. This pathology would have caused slight, yet constant lower back pain (Roberts and Manchester 1997).

9.6.5.8 The sacral vertebrae also demonstrated a congenital anomaly. All five neural arches of the posterior sacrum remained open and unfused, indicative of *spina bifida occulta*. Although this defect in the bony canal leaves the spinal cord exposed, increasing the risk of injury or infection, this condition does not usually cause significant symptoms or difficulties in life (Roberts and Manchester 1997). There were no signs of atrophy or paralysis in the lower limbs. On the contrary, the skeletal elements of the arms and legs were robust with strong muscle markings, suggesting much physical activity was undertaken during the individual's lifetime.

9.6.5.9 Lastly, a non-pathological observation was made regarding the asymmetry of the clavicles in both length and curvature. The cause of this occurrence is unknown, and is not reflected by any other skeletal element of the upper limb.

9.6.6 Non-metric Traits

9.6.6.1 Two non-metric traits (i.e. non-pathological morphological variations) were identified within the skeleton of this individual. The left side of the axis (second cervical vertebra) does not have an enclosed transverse foramen. Also, each femur demonstrates an Allen's fossa.

9.6.6.2 In summary, Skeleton 1 was approximately 12 to 14 years of age at the time of death. The sex of this individual was not possible to assess, as non-adult skeletons do not demonstrate sexually dimorphic traits until after puberty. The pathological alterations to the remains suggested a disease process affecting the inside of the cranium. Alterations affecting the teeth primarily suggest poor dental hygiene, and indicate a period of childhood stress. Congenital abnormalities observed were *spina bifida occulta*, spondylolysis of the sixth lumbar vertebra, and ribs attaching to the seventh cervical and the first lumbar vertebrae. These congenital abnormalities do not appear to have had a detrimental affect on physical abilities, as all limb bones demonstrated strong muscle attachments, suggesting an active lifestyle.

9.7 *Burnt Human Bone* by Ceri Falys

9.7.1 Deposits of burnt human bone were recovered from five contexts across the excavated area. Each deposit of bone was whole-earth recovered. During the post-excavation processing, the "samples" were floated and wet-sieved to a 2mm mesh size, with all burnt bone and other associated residues separated for further analysis. The burnt bone from each context was sorted using a sieve stack of 10mm, 5mm, and 2mm mesh sizes. For ease of sorting and weighing, the remains were considered in terms of those over the sizes of 10mm and 5mm, and those under 5mm.

9.7.2 The burnt bone recovered from each sieve (10mm, 5mm and 2mm) was weighed. The relative weights of the "10mm", "5mm" and "smaller than 5mm" were recorded, along with the maximum fragment size, and colour of the burnt bone for each deposit (Appendix 6: Tables 1 and 2). The degree of bone fragmentation can be inferred by the weight of bone in each category when compared to the fragment size (Appendix 6: Table 2). The maximum fragment sizes ranged between 17mm and 30mm, with the vast majority of bone 5mm or smaller, making element identification impossible in many instances, and greatly decreased the amount of retrievable demographic and pathological data from the remains.

9.7.3 As demonstrated by Appendix 6: Tables 1 and 2, the deposits of human bone varied greatly in quantity, ranging from 65g to 546g. Two pits (2938 and 2940) contained less than 100g of burnt bone, while the remaining three contexts contained quantities substantially more than 100g. McKinley (1993) investigated the amount of burnt bone expected from the cremation of complete adult individuals using information gained from modern crematoria. These values were found to range between 1001.5g to 2442.5g, with an average of 1625.9g. Admittedly, all contexts of burnt bone from this site are much less than this expected weight range. It is, however, still suggested that these deposits do in fact represent

human cremation burials. It has been noted that a common archaeological practice was to deposit only some of the calcined bone from a cremated individual, representing a symbolic or token interment (McKinley 2006). It is likely this is a contributing factor to some, if not all, of the smaller deposits of burnt bone.

9.7.4 Osteological Analysis

9.7.4.1 All bone was subjected to osteological analysis following the procedures suggested by McKinley (2004). The purpose of osteological analysis is to determine the demographic profile of skeletal assemblages based on the assessment of age, sex, pathological conditions and non-metric traits that can be extracted from skeletal remains, primarily through macroscopic morphological examination. In addition, the minimum number of individuals (MNI) represented within each context was determined through the duplication of the same skeletal element, or by the presence of differing age-related development of teeth and/or skeletal element.

9.7.4.2 Initial osteological analysis divided fragments into five main areas of the body: cranial, axial, upper limb, lower limb and long bone (unidentifiable to specific limb). A more detailed identification of fragments to specific skeletal element and side was also undertaken, where possible. The most frequently preserved fragments were portions of the cranial vault, tooth roots, and phalanges of the fingers and toes. Non-descript fragments of long bone shafts were also exceptionally common. All deposits were found to suggest the presence of only one individual.

9.7.4.3 It is again noted that the reliability of skeletal demographic techniques (i.e. age at death estimation and sex determination methods) greatly reflect both the quantity and quality of observable traits. Both the preservation of the remains and the degree of fragmentation were detrimental to this reliability.

9.7.4.4 All deposits of burnt human remains indicated the individuals were skeletally mature at the time of death (i.e. adults). The determination of the sex of the individuals present was largely not possible to assess, due to the lack of sufficiently sized fragments of the necessary skeletal elements (i.e. aspects of the cranium and pelvis), although a small portion of brow ridge from context [3001] suggested a possibly male individual.

9.7.4.5 No evidence of pathological alterations were observed, and no non-metric traits were observed. No further information could be retrieved from these highly fragmented cremation burials.

9.8 *Animal Bone* by Matilda Holmes

9.8.1 The majority of the animal bone came from ditches, but also gullies, pits, post holes, a well and other features (Appendix 7: Table 1). The assemblage came from contexts spanning the roman to post medieval periods, although most were dated to the 11th century, phases 4 and 5 (Appendix 7: table 2). The extremely small size of the identified assemblage from most phases means that only phases 4 and 5 will be considered in any detail.

9.8.2 All fragments were recorded. Articulated or associated fragments were entered as a count of 1, so they did not bias the relative frequency of species present. Due to anatomical similarities between sheep and goat, bones of this type were assigned to the category 'sheep/goat', unless a definite identification using guidelines from Prummel and Frisch (1986) or Payne (1985) could be made. Bones that could not be identified to species were, where possible, categorized according to the relative size of the animal represented (small – rodent /rabbit sized, medium – sheep / pig / dog sized, or large – cattle / horse size). Ribs and vertebrae were not identified to species with the exception of 1st and 2nd cervical vertebrae and sacral elements. Maxilla, zygomatic arch and occipital areas of the skull were identified from skull fragments.

9.8.3 Tooth wear and eruption were noted using guidelines from Grant (1982) and Silver (1969), as were bone fusion (Amorosi, 1989; Silver, 1969), metrical data (Albarella and Payne, 2005; Davis, 1992; von den Driesch, 1976), anatomy, side, zone (Serjeantson, 1996), pathology, butchery (Lauwerier, 1988; Sykes, 2007), bone working and condition (Lyman, 1994) of the bones.

9.8.4 A number of sieved samples were collected but because of the highly fragmentary nature of such samples a selective process was undertaken, whereby fragments were recorded only if they could be identified to species and / or element, or showed signs of taphonomic processing.

9.8.5 Taphonomy and Condition

9.8.5.1 The surface of the bones was generally moderately preserved, although condition was recorded in the range of good to poor. There were few fresh breaks, or bones that could be conjoined, suggesting that there had been little post depositional movement of the deposits, and that the bones were fairly robust structurally.

9.8.5.2 There was evidence for butchery on bones from phases 3 to 9, and the bones were highly fragmentary – the assemblage consisting largely of small fragments of long bones, indicating that some form of

processing had taken place, but only one fragment (from phase 3) had been burnt, suggesting that bones were not directly exposed to fire either during cooking or disposal. A significant number of bones had been gnawed by dogs, ranging from 24% to 41% of the larger assemblages, indicating that dogs were present on the site in all periods, and that bones were not deeply buried immediately, allowing them access.

9.8.6 Species Representation and Diet

9.8.6.1 Appendix 7: Table 3 shows the species present in the assemblage for all phases. As mentioned above, the high fragmentation of the assemblage has meant that many of the fragments were unidentified. Cattle, sheep / goat, pig, chicken and goose were predominant, and present in most phases as were horse and dog, though to a lesser extent. Wild mammals were present in phases 4 and 7, and wild bird in phases 4a and 8. The presence of rabbit in phase 3 (10th century) is likely to be intrusive, as they were not successfully introduced to England until the 12th century (Sykes, 2007). Goose was only present from phase 5.

9.8.6.2 The most varied assemblages came from phases 4 (mid 11th century) and 7 (15th century), the presence of wild species possibly indicating a site of some status, particularly given the small sample sizes. It is likely that the bones recovered are the product of food waste, given the high proportion of edible species, and large quantity of highly fragmented bones.

9.8.6.3 A nearly complete dog skeleton was recovered from phase 4acontext 2168, from pit 2108, and a partially complete hare from phase 4 context 2350, ditch 2233. The latter is likely to be food waste, as small animals such as hare were often served whole (Driver, 2004). As dogs were probably not eaten in this period, the dog skeleton is more likely to be the disposal of a carcass, rather than food waste. Although ritual deposition is also possible, there were also a number of other animal bones buried in the same context more typical of domestic refuse.

9.8.6.4 As noted previously only phase 4 will be discussed further, given the narrow date range of contexts to the mid and late 11th century.

9.8.6.5 Although the assemblages are small, there are some notable differences between phases 4 and 5. Only domestic species were recovered from phase 5, of which cattle were clearly predominant then sheep / goat, with pig, chicken and goose present only in small numbers. The assemblage from phase 4a was much more varied, with a wider range of wild and domestic species including horse, dog, hare, red deer and partridge. Of the main three domesticates cattle and sheep / goat were recovered in similar proportions as those in phase 4, but with a greater number of pigs. These differences (notably the greater diversity and the increased proportion of pig) may be indicative of higher status inhabitants during the earlier phase or, with such a small sample size, simply be the result of differential deposition.

9.8.6.6 There are few comparable sites in the region, although the species recorded from St. Mary's were present on many of them (Appendix 7: Table 4). The late Saxon / Norman assemblage of phase 4a is most comparable with the assemblages from High St, Oxford and the rural site of Yarnton, other sites having fewer cattle in favour of greater numbers of sheep and pigs. The animal bones recovered from Norman phase 4b was not reflected in any of the other sites in the region, which may be a result of the small sample size, or that there were no rural sites to compare the Wantage bones with.

9.8.7 Carcass Representation and Butchery

9.8.7.1 Butchery was noted in the form of chop marks on cattle, sheep / goat and pig limb bones in phase 4, and cattle and sheep / goat bones in phase 4b. Butchery methods were consistent between both phases, whereby 90% of bones were chopped through transversely. The high fragmentation of the assemblage may indicate that bones were smashed to recover the marrow from within, which was used during this period to flavour stews and soups (Banham, 2004).

9.8.7.2 The frequency of bones recovered from various parts of the carcass was calculated (Appendix 7: Table 5). In both phases cattle and sheep / goat were represented by bones from all parts of the carcass, as was pig in phase 4 (the sample being too small to be representative from 5). This suggests that complete carcasses were disposed of on site in both the mid and late 11th centuries, deposits containing refuse from primary butchery (heads and feet) and table waste (upper limb bones).

9.8.8 The assemblage

9.8.8.1 There was some difference noted between the cattle mortality data from phases 4 and 5, in the former, cattle were apparently culled at much younger ages, neonatal animals were present, and culls started from 13 months, until only 25% of the population was alive into maturity (over 48 months). A completely different mortality curve is presented by the phase 5 assemblage, whereby very few animals died before reaching maturity. No mandibles were recovered suitable for ageing.

9.8.8.2 This may indicate a shift in economy from the acquisition of young animals at prime meat producing age in phase 4 to one where secondary products (most likely traction, but possibly dairying) were more important in phase 5.

9.8.8.3 One metatarsal was recovered from phase 4 that was complete enough for the calculation of a shoulder height of 1.15Mtrs (using indices from von den Driesch and Boessneck, 1974).

9.8.8.4 Sheep mortality curves were similar in both phases: a small cull took place before 16 months, followed by a larger cull of animals aged less than 36 months where upon no bones were recovered from animals older than this. The tooth wear data largely reflect this, as it indicates that the majority of animals were less than 3 years of age when they died (stage E). There was evidence, however, for older animals aged 3-4 (stage F) and 6-8 years (stage H) in phase 4, and 8-10 years (stage I) in phase 4 (Hambleton, 1999).

9.8.8.5 Such a mortality profile indicates that animals were not intensively exploited for secondary products such as wool or milk, but that they were alive long enough to provide one or two clips of wool, before being culled when nearing maturity, which would provide optimum meat. The older animals possibly being important for breeding purposes.

9.8.8.6 No bones were complete enough for metrical analysis or wither height calculations.

9.8.9 Pigs

9.8.9.1 The pig assemblage was small, and in phase 4a there was evidence for animals which died before reaching two years of age, but also for at least one older than 42 months. In phase 4b all bones were unfused. This type of age profile is indicative of animals killed for meat, but also, in phase 4a for older, possibly breeding stock.

9.8.10 Other mammals

9.8.10.1 All horse, dog and hare bones were fused, suggesting that these animals were not killed before maturity – horses and dogs probably being used as working animals, and the hare not being large enough to produce much meat when juvenile. The red deer was represented by an antler fragment with part of the skull attached, indicating that deer were hunted.

9.8.10.2 One of the horse metacarpals was complete enough to calculate a wither height of 1.31mtrs (using indices from Kiesewalter, 1888). The bones from the dog skeleton in context 2168 gave a range of heights from 0.46-0.48m (Harcourt, 1974).

9.8.11 Birds

9.8.11.1 All bird bones were mature, the majority from chicken and goose, which were probably kept for their eggs and feathers. Wader sp. And partridge were also recovered.

9.8.12 Summary

9.8.12.1 The analysis of this small assemblage can be used to tentatively suggest a period of comparatively greater affluence in the mid 11th century, where the population disposing of the waste had access to a wide variety of species and young animals, both of which can be indicative of a luxury diet (Van der Veen, 2003). In contrast, the assemblage from the late 11th century was from a much more restricted range of species culled after use for secondary products. In both periods, the animal bones point to a self sufficient economy, where animals were probably slaughtered, butchered and eaten on site.

9.9 *Coins by Henrietta Longden*

9.9.1 Two coins were recovered from the site.

1> A type D Lunette coin of Burgred (852-874).

Obverse: BURGRED REX. Diademed bust facing right.

Reverse: Moneyer's name CENRED between two lunettes consisting of lines with crooks at either end.

2> A two standard *Gloria Exercitus* issue of Constantine II. Although this coin was minted AD330–5 it was commonly copied in the 330s–340s.

Obverse: CONSTANTINIVS IVN NOB C. Wreathed portrait facing right.

Reverse: GLORIA EXERCITUS. Two soldiers either side of two standards. A partial mint mark LG in the exergue for *Lugdunum* (Lyon)

9.10 *Environmental remains*

9.10.1 134 bulk soil samples were taken form 129 contexts for recovery of palaeoenvironmental remains. These were floated over a 0.5mm mesh. No analysis has yet been undertaken but it is planned.

10 Summary of the significance of the data

10.1 The site at St Mary's and St Gabriel's represents one of only a small number of excavations to have taken place within the modern town of Wantage and provide an insight into the settlement history of this part of the town. The excavation has produced a significant body of data to tackle the majority of the original objectives. Relative (ceramic) and absolute dating have been obtained and may be further refined; the nature of the various phases of activity has been characterized; and economic evidence has been collected and will be subject to further analysis.

10.2 *Prehistoric*

10.2.1 The earliest activity is represented by a modest collection of struck flints including material of Mesolithic/early Neolithic and later date. The majority of these finds were residual or unstratified with just one small pit possibly being of earlier prehistoric date. The finds point to some activity at this time in the area though the nature of this cannot now be easily determined.

10.2.2 Unambiguous evidence of activity occurred in the middle Bronze Age with the formation of a small cremation cemetery with both urned and un-urned burials present on the St Gabriel's site. One radiocarbon date was obtained to support this chronology. The site was not distinguished by the presence of a barrow or ring ditch and seems to be an 'urnfield' typical of this period, but better known in regions to the south and south east (Deverel-Rimbury). No contemporary occupation deposits were recorded nearby and the undated features seem unlikely to belong to this period. Further, no residual sherds of Middle Bronze Age pottery were recovered from other deposits on the site. This aspect might reasonably be expected to have occurred if non-earthfast occupation had taken place with durable cultural debris left in middens. It seems that the lived-in component of this burial activity is to be found elsewhere.

10.2.3 The prehistoric settlement of the Vale of the White Horse is much less known than the rich deposits recorded for the chalklands to the south or on the Thames gravels further to the north. Some contemporary occupation sites are known as at Didcot (Ruben and Ford 1991). The pottery styles of the urnfield appear widely linked with those from the Upper Thames Valley to the west, the Lower and Middle Thames Valley and Central Wessex yet urnfield cemeteries are uncommon in the Upper Thames region.

10.3 *Roman*

10.3.1 Roman activity on the site is equally slight. This comprised a small amount of pottery with a few truncated ditches and a small pits. Few of the features are unambiguously dated to Roman times though it is clear that some Roman activity is present. These modest remains contrast with Roman finds from other excavations in Wantage, notably at Mill Street on thee west side of the town centre (Holbrook and Thomas 1996) and the possible villa site at Stockholm Way/Denchworth Road in Grove to the north (Barber and Walker 1999). It is perhaps best to consider these finds and features as representing activity within an agricultural landscape and being peripheral to the core of a Roman settlement.

10.4 *Saxon*

10.4.1 The early/middle Saxon deposits consist of a small number of post-holes, pits, a truncated ditch (2239) and a crouched burial. All of these features were found on the St Mary's site. Early/Middle Saxon deposits have been found on Mill Street on the west side of the town centre but, unlike here, without evidence of subsequent late Saxon occupation (Holbrook and Thomas 1996).

10.4.2 The presence of a crouched burial, of middle Saxon date, determined by radiocarbon dating was unexpected. Crouched burials from the Anglo-Saxon period are not unknown with for example the individual in Grave 83 at, Berinsfield, Oxfordshire (Dodd, 2007). Crouched burials are found in 10% of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries and have been used as an indicator of indigenous 'British' individuals buried there (Highan 1992). However it has been argued that the crouched burial is just an alternative funerary rite employed during the Saxon period (Lucy 2000). With the middle Saxon date for the crouched burial here, it would be difficult to reconcile the survival of Britons to be buried in a distinctive manner so long after the demise of Roman authority.

10.4.3 The presence of middle Saxon deposits may be significant in terns of the nature and location as of the *villa regia* which was documented here by AD849. Wantage is located on the main route of communication between the port of Southampton *Hamwic* and Oxford and this may account for the presence of the villa regia. Bishop Asser refers to it as the "royal estate called Wantage in the district known as Berkshire (*Berroscire*)" (Blair 1994, 102). With the founding of Newbury in medieval times, records refer to a *herpo* or *stræt* linking the royal *vill* at Wantage to the new Burgh (Hooke1988, 142).

10.4.4 Despite these documentary sources significant evidence for middle Saxon activity has not yet been found in the town, until now. A plan presented in the last comprehensive overview of the historic town, suggested that the late Saxon settlement may eventually be found around the church of SS Peter and Paul some 300m to the north west of our excavations (Foster et al , 1975, 168). The deposits found here suggest at least an extension to this proposed core area, if not an alternative location. For our site, the nature of the middle Saxon deposits do not seem sufficient for it to be considered as the *villa regia* alone but the presence of rare imported (and presumably high status pottery may act as a guide as to where such as site may eventually be found within the town.

10.5 *Saxo-Norman*

10.5.1 During the 11th century Wantage maintained its royal connections and in 1066 it was in the hands of Queen Edith, wife of Edward the Confessor (Lavelle 2007, 99–100). In Domesday Book, Wantage was described as belonging to King Edward, containing a church, mill and substantial population of around 70 families (30 villans and 40 cottars). The town was estimated at being worth £61 (Williams and Martin 2002, 138). The topography of Wantage during the 11th century is not yet understood.

10.5.2 Prior to the present excavation, the evidence from Wantage for activity during the 11th century was limited. An evaluation carried out at Grove Road on the northen margins of th town revealed possible evidence for a small early medieval farm (Taylor 2002). Another evaluation carried out to the north-east of the site at Garston Lane revealed evidence for activity focused mainly around the 11th to the 14th century (along with Roman and Saxon pottery) (Hindmarch 2002). At the two sites the limited evidence of activity in the middle Saxon period was followed by a significant volume during late Saxon and early medieval times (10th - 11th centuries). On the St Mary's site, th e partial plan of a circular or oval enclosure was found (5005 and 5006). The enclosure appeared to have been re-cut on several occasions. No evidence for any contemporary structural remains lay within. The paucity of artefactual material suggests that it was not related to domestic activity. Alternatively it may have been a used to keep livestock.

10.5.3 The associated ditches to the north-east appear to be boundary markers. The north-east termini of cuts 2001, 2002 and 5001 all align at the same point, and cut 2003 which appears to be associated with the well (2016) also stops here. This might suggest that the well itself may originally date to the 11th century and was only backfilled during the late 13th century.

10.5.4 At some point the main enclosure was backfilled and another ditch (5002) was cut. There is not enough evidence to indicate if this formed another enclosure or was just a curving boundary or field ditch. Ceramic evidence indicates that the north west -south east aligned ditches were in use at the same time as 5002. Feature 5002 was not in use for long and at some point during the mid 11th century it and the associated ditches were backfilled. No domestic structures were identified

10.5.5 On the St Gabriel's site, this area also witnessed a major period of activity during the late 11th century. A deep, east-west orientated ditch was dug (and re-dug over the next three centuries). To the south of this a small structure (5020) was built and this is associated with two enclosures 5019 and 5017. The structure appears to be a kiln of some kind. The structure was located immediately north of the smallest enclosure (5019).

10.5.6 Comparison of the excavation plan with that presented in the last comprehensive overview of the historic town, for late Saxon times, is instructive (Foster *et al*. 1975, 168). Then, the suggested former extent of the town in *c*. 1500 includes the St Mary's site but excludes the St. Gabriel's site. Clearly, the excavations here have shown that the extent of the town, at least for this small segment, is greater than previously thought. Such an observation was also made for the topography of medieval Abingdon where a significant increase in the known extent of the town was established (Anthony *et al*. 2006, fig. 1.1).

10.6 *Medieval*

10.6.1 During the 12th and 13th centuries there appears to be a redefining of boundaries at St Mary's. A new ditch 5007 was dug which was similar in plan to the earlier ditches 5010 and 5009. These ditches appear to have undergone several episodes of re-cutting but the re-defining of these boundaries appears to be the last major episode of activity on this site after which the site appears to have been abandoned by the end 14th century.

10.6.2 After the initial period of activity, the majority of the St Gabriel's site also appears to have been abandoned. The exception to this was the east-west aligned ditch which was re-cut on several occasions over the next three centuries. The function of this ditch seems most probably to be that of a boundary. Furthermore the line of the Ormond Road (which divides the two sites) turns and leads into Garston Lane and this forms a large U-shape, orientated east and the 'large ditch' appears to follow the southern side of this landscape feature. The landscape feature appears to form a large U-shaped enclosure as

much as 400m wide and the 'large ditch' may be the boundary ditch of this enclosure. It is possible to envisage that the road may run along the route of an enclosure of which the ditch is part. A possible comparison might be monastic enclosures such as at Bampton in Oxford or Bisley in Gloucestershire. At Bampton the enclosure was sub-rectangular and approximately 240m wide whereas Bisley displayed an irregular enclosure nearly 300m wide (Blair 2005). In Ireland monastic enclosurses are usually between 2-400m across. Where subsequent development has destroyed the enclosures these are often reflected by an encircling road (Blair 1992). This is speculation but it is an interesting possibility which requires further investigation. Unfortunately until the route of the ditch can be more thoroughly documented its function must remain conjecture.

10.6.3 This abandonment of plots within later medieval towns is a common observation and examining the causes and consequences is a major research objective in urban archaeology. The observations here suggest that Wantage too entered a period of decline from the late 13th century onwards with the environs of the site not recovering until well into the 19th century. However, the maintenance of the large ditch at the St Gabriel's site indicates some requirement to continue to define this feature until even this feature went out off use in post-medieval times.

10.7 *Post-medieval*

10.7.1 Activity after the early 14th century on the site is restricted to a few pits and post holes. Cartographic evidence dating to the 18th century presents the site at St Marys as initially as open fields and being used as an orchard until the school was constructed.

11 Conclusions

11.1 The excavation of these two areas represents a considerable advance in the study of the development of this important Saxon and medieval settlement, hitherto little explored archaeologically. The results should be published in an appropriate journal, such as *Oxoniensia*. The general and specific objectives of the project (Section 4 above) have been achieved and the research questions posed can be as follow:

11.2 *When the site was first occupied? Is there any late Roman precursor to Saxon occupation?* The site appears to have first been used during Mesolithic/Early Neolithic times and again during the Middle Bronze Age when a cremation cemetery were deposited. There is no unambiguous evidence that the site areas were occupied at this time.Other than the possible existence of the truncated Roman ditches at the St Gabriels site and a few isolated pits in St Marys there is very little evidence for Roman activity o the site. There is even less to indicate that it was a precursor to early Saxon activity as there is no convincing evidence for the latter at all.

11.3 *When were the sites finally abandoned?* The major period at St Mary's was between the 11th and 13th centuries. There was very little evidence for significant activity before or after this time until Victorian expansion of the town. Although the site was never completely abandoned with the occasional pit or stray find being found here, the archaeological evidence supports the cartographic evidence which show the area as open ground and orchard in the 19th century. Similar to St Mary's the site at St Gabriel's witnessed a major period of activity during the late 11th century however, other than the large ditch nothing of significance occurred beyond the 12th century. On the north side of the large ditch (presumably within the town) several shallow ditches and gullies were found dating to the 15th century. To the south of the ditch which formed the majority of the site very little archaeological activity was recorded until well into the post-medieval period.

11.4 *What activities were taking place on the sites?* At St Mary's during the Bronze Age activities here were predominantly funerary: one crouched inhumation and several cremation burials. The 10th century saw the beginning of the cutting of the enclosure and associated ditches. In this period animal exploitation occurred here, initially for meat and then secondary products in the later 11th century. Throughout the 11th to 13th centuries, ditches and boundaries were redefined until at some point in the13th century the site was abandoned. A piece of crucible was recovered indicating the processing of metal at St Mary's, however no forge has been positively identified at present and so it may be that the crucible fragment came from off site or was just a residual find. On the St Gabriel's site in the Bronze Age funerary activity was predominate and this took the form of a small cremation cemetery. Evidence of Roman activity was confined to a series truncated ditches which contrasts with other excavations in Wantage which has found significant amount of Roman material. In the early 11th century the site was used for ploughing and then in the later 11th century a structure and enclosures were constructed. The ploughing in turn moved further south. Animal exploitation occurred here although this was associated and linked to what was happening at St Marys. The 11th century saw the beginning of the excavation of the large ditch and this was to be maintained and re-cut over the next several centuries. After the 11th century activity significantly

decreased, there was no evidence of ploughing continuing and the activity which did occur was confined to the digging of a few pits and shallow gullies.

11.5 *What is the relationship between the different phases of occupation on the site, in terms of continuity, settlement shift and abandonment/reuse?* Phases 3 to 5 represent the main phases of occupation on the site. These phases represent continuous occupation from the 10th century through to the 13th century. It is unclear if the very slender middle Saxon evidence can push the continuous settlement back further; more likely this material is only stray finds from a settlement located. Only two structures dating to the late 11th century have been identified here and neither of these are domestic. Furthermore both buildings appear to have only existed for less than 100 years. After this period at St Mary's the site is now characterized by the digging and re-cutting of boundaries until this stops in the 13th century. At St Gabriel's after the 11th century the site is almost completely abandoned.

11.6 *What is the layout and organization of the site in each phase?* At St Mary's in phase 3 the enclosure and associated ditches are located in the northern part of the site and possibly an east-west aligned ditch located in the centre of the site which was later destroyed by the 13th century ditch.

11.7 *What is the palaeo-environmental setting of the area?* To be completed

11.8 *Are there any deposits present to indicate high status settlement?* The only deposits so far found which might indicate a high status site was the animal bone deposits from phase 4 and a HOW MUCH of high status Saxon pottery, in the early to mid 10th century. The bone assemblage includes a wide range of wild and domestic species which suggests a high status site in the area. This however is only tentative and it could be the result of differential deposition. Nonetheless the available evidence so far does not suggest a particularly high status site and this based upon what was not found as opposed to what was. To begin with there were no coins directly dated to any of the phases the only two coins that were found appeared to have been residual. There was a significant lack of metal and bone work which one would expect to find on a high status site from this period. The lack of stone work especially spindle whorls which were absent all indicates a lack of high status and even domestic site with the excavation area. The discovery of high status pottery on the site dating from the 8th to the early 9th centuries strongly suggests the existence of an important site close by. However exactly where this site was is not clear Garnish after considering the evidence favours areas to the north and east of the church of St Peter and St Pauls (Garnish 2000). The eastern area is closest to the site of St Marys and at this point may be the most likely candidate for the location of a royal residence.

12 Updated Project Design

12.1 The fieldwork and assessment phases of the project have achieved all but one of the general and specific objectives outlined in section 4.1 and 4.2. The one exception is identifying the birthplace of Alfred the Great who we shall assume was born in a high status residence which is absent from our site. The major objective for future work is identifying the extent of a number of features on the site, especially the large ditch found at St Gabriel's, and how these relate to the town. This can be addressed through the use of watching briefs and evaluations within Wantage. Due to the successive re-cuts the large ditch is very wide so individuals must be able to recognize when they are in the ditch which might not be immediately obvious in small evaluations and watching briefs.

12.2 Future excavations should also focus on establishing if the faunal exploitation between the early/mid 11th century and the later 11th century is replicated or just due to differential deposition.

12.3 Work required to complete the report includes receiving the environmental report. The processing of carbon dates from the burial and cremation cemetery. In addition further comparative research would be beneficial. Finally illustrations, fiching and archiving will be required.

13 Proposals for Publication

13.1 The site presents important new archaeological data on the development of Wantage from prehistory to the 19th century and certainly from a regional perspective it deserves to be published in a learned journal, in this case Oxoniensia. The publication would focus upon the prehistoric and the medieval activity.

13.2 The text and the illustrations already prepared for this assessment and for the archive will form the basis of the publication report. No new work is proposed, it will only be necessary to edit the archive reports into a publishable form.

13.3 An out line synopsis of the report is presented in Appendix 8.

14 Resources and timetable

14.1 It will only be necessary to edit the current report into a publishable form. This is achievable within the budget already agreed.

14.2 In addition the environmental analysis, full illustration of the finds and archiving has still to be completed.

14.3 A draft will be ready for submission to the journal in spring of 2010, although it is not expected to be realistic for it to be ready for the inclusion in the immediately upcoming volume, which has already been typeset, so it may be 2011/12 before it appears in print.

14.4

15 Illustration Acknowledgements

15.1 Prehistoric pottery illustrations are by Roy Entwistle. All other figures are by Tim Dawson.

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APPENDIX 1: Catalogue of excavated features with approximate dating and phasing.

Cut	*Deposit*	*Group*	*Type*	*Area*	*Phase*	*Dating Evidence*
2000	2050		Ditch	St M	4	Pottery
2001	2051		Gully Terminus	St M	4	Spatial
2002	2052		Gully Terminus	St M	4	Pottery
2003	2053	5068	Gully Terminus	St M	4	Pottery
2004	2054	5068	Realtionship	St M	4	Spatial
2005	2055	5068	Relationship	St M	4	Pottery
2006	2056	5068	Pit	St M	4	Spatial
2007	2057	5068	Relationship	St M	4	Spatial
2007	2058	5068	Relationship	St M	4	Spatial
2008	2059	5068	Relationship	St M	4	Spatial
2009	2060		Ditch	St M	8	Pottery
2009	2061		Ditch	St M	8	Pottery
2010	2062	5001	Ditch Terminus	St M	4	Pottery
2011	2063		Relationship	St M	Undated	Stratigraphic
2009	2064		Ditch Terminus	St M	Undated	Pottery
2009	2065		Ditch	St M	Undated	Pottery
2012	2066	5003	Ditch	St M	6	Pottery
2013	2067	5056	Ditch	St M	4	Pottery
	2068		Spread	St M	4	Pottery
2014	2069	5002	Ditch	St M	5	Pottery
2015	2070	5002	Ditch	St M	5	Pottery
2016	2071	5068	Well	St M	4	Pottery
2017	2072	5051	Ditch	St M	4	Pottery
2018	2073	5051	Ditch	St M	9	Pottery
2019	2074		Ditch	St M	5	Pottery
2020	2075		Pit	St M	5	Pottery
2025	2076	5051	Ditch Terminus	St M	9	Pottery
2021	2077		Ditch	St M	4	Stratigraphic
2022	2078	5006	Ditch	St M	4	Stratigraphic
2023	2079	5006	Ditch	St M	4	Pottery
2024	2080	5003	Ditch	St M	6	Pottery
2026	2081	5006	slot	St M	4	Pottery
2029	2082		Pit	St M	5	Pottery
2029	2083		Pit	St M	5	Pottery
2029	2084		Pit	St M	4	Pottery
2030	2085		Pit	St M	4	Pottery
2028	2086	5055	Ditch	St M	5	Pottery
2031	2087		Pit	St M	3	Pottery
2032	2088		pit	St M	5	Pottery
2033	2089	5056	Post hole	St M	Undated	Stratigraphic
2035	2090		Pit	St M	4	Pottery
2036	2091		Pit	St M	4	Pottery
2037	2092	5056	gully	St M		Pottery
2038	2093		Pit	St M	4	Pottery
2034	2094	-	void	St M	-	
2039	2095	5001	Ditch	St M	4	Pottery
2040	2096	5001	Ditch	St M	4	Pottery
2041	2097	-	Pit	St M	Undated	
2042	2098	5006	Ditch	St M	4	Pottery
2043	2099		Pit	St M	4	Pottery
2044	2150	5005	Ditch	St M	4	Pottery
2045	2151	5005	Ditch	St M	4	Pottery
2046	2152		Pit	St M	4	
2047	2153	5077	Pit	St M	5	Pottery
2048	2154		Pit	St M	Undated	
2048	2155		Pit	St M	Undated	
2042	2156	5006	Ditch	St M	4	Pottery
2049	2157	5002	Ditch	St M	5	Pottery
2049	2158	5002	Ditch	St M	5	Pottery
2100	2159		Gully Terminus	St M	5	Pottery
2101	2160	5055	Ditch	St M	5	Pottery

Cut	*Deposit*	*Group*	*Type*	*Area*	*Phase*	*Dating Evidence*
2102	2161		Gully terminus	St M	Undated	
2103	2162		Ditch Terminus	St M	Undated	
2104	2163	5006	Ditch	St M	4	Pottery
2105	2164	5003	Ditch	St M	6	Pottery
2106	2165	5054	Ditch Terminus	St M	6	
2107	2167	5054	Ditch	St M	4	Pottery
2108	2168		Pit	St M	5	Pottery
2109	2169		Pit	St M	8	Pottery
2110	2170	5054	Gully	St M	4	
2111	2171	5075	Gully	St M	4	Pottery
2112	2172	5003	Pit	St M	Undated	Pottery
2113	2173		Posthole	St M	3	Pottery
2114	2174	5077	Post hole	St M	5	Pottery
2115	2175		Gully	St M	6	Flint
2116	2176	5077	Posthole	St M	5	Pottery
2117	2177	5003	Ditch	St M	6	Pottery
2118	2178	5077	Post hole	St M	5	
2119	2179	5006	Ditch	St M	4	Pottery
2120	2180	5003	Ditch	St M	6	Pottery
2121	2181	5054	Ditch	St M	4	
2122	2182		Pit	St M	9	Pottery
2123	2183	5001	Ditch	St M	4	Pottery
2124	2184	5077	Post hole	St M	5	Pottery
2125	2185	5077	Post hole	St M	Undated	Pottery
2126	2186		pit / post hole	St M	Undated	
2127	2187		Gully	St M	2	Stratigraphic
2128	2188		Pit	St M	2	Pottery
2129	2189	5060	Gully	St M	Undated	Pottery
2130	2190		Post hole	St M	5	Pottery
2131	2191		Post hole	St M	5	Pottery
2132	2192		Post hole	St M	4	Pottery
2133	2193		Post hole	St M	4	Pottery
2134	2194		Post hole	St M	5	Pottery
2135	2195	-	Ditch	St M	4	
2136	2196	5050	Ditch	St M	4	
2137	2197		Pit	St M	Undated	
2138	2198		Pit	St M	Undated	
2016	2199	5068	Well	St M	4	Pottery
2140	2250		Ditch Terminus	St M	4	Pottery
2141	2251		Pit	St M	5	Pottery
2142	2252		Pit	St M	5	Pottery
2143	2253	5046	Pit	St M	4	Pottery
2144	2254	5046	Post hole	St M	4	
2145	2255	5046	Post hole	St M	4	
2146	2256	-	Pit	St M	Undated	
2147	2257	5060	Gully	St M		
2148	2258	-	Pit	St M	5	Pottery
2149	2259	5058	Ditch	St M	5	Stratigraphic
2200	2260	-	Pit	St M	4	Pottery
2201	2261	5015	Ditch Terminus	St M	4	Pottery
2202	2262		Post hole	St M	Undated	
2203	2263	5059	Gully	St M	6	Stratagraphic
2204	2264	5050	Gully	St M	6	Stratagraphic
2205	2265	-	Post hole	St M	6	Silver Pin
2206	2266	-	Post hole	St M	Undated	
2207	2267	5067	Post hole	St M	3	
2208	2268	5077	Post hole	St M	5	Pottery
2209	2269	5007	Post hole	St M	6	Pottery
2210	2270	5070	Ditch	St M	4	
2211	2271	5077	Post hole	St M	5	Pottery
2212	2272	5077	Post hole	St M	5	
2213	2273	5007	Ditch	St M	6	Pottery
2214	2274	-	Post hole	St M	5	Pottery

Cut	*Deposit*	*Group*	*Type*	*Area*	*Phase*	*Dating Evidence*
2215	2275		Void	St M		
2215	2276		Void	St M		
2216	2277	5058	Gully	St M	6	
2217	2278	5014	Gully	St M	6	
2218	2279	5014	Pit	St M	6	Pottery
2219	2280	5077	Posthole	St M	5	
2219	2281	5077	Posthole	St M	5	Pottery
2219	2282	5077	Posthole	St M	5	
2220	2283		Pit	St M	5	
2221	2284	5005	Ditch	St M	3	
2221	2285	5005	Ditch	St M	3	
2222	2286	5007	Ditch	St M	6	Pottery
2223	2287	5004	Ditch terminus	St M	Undated	
2223	2288	5004	Ditch terminus	St M	Undated	
2224	2289	5004	Ditch	St M	Undated	
2224	2290	5004	Ditch	St M	Undated	
2225	2291	-	Pit	St M	1	Flint
2226	2292	5058	Gully	St M	5	Pottery
2227	2293	5007	Ditch	St M	6	Pottery
2228	2294		Spread	St M	6	Pottery
2229	2295	5008	Grave	St M	3	Carbon Date
2230	2296	5008	Ditch	St M	5	Pottery
2231	2297	5008	Ditch	St M	5	Pottery
2232	2298	5009	Ditch	St M	5	
	2299		Spread	St M		
2233	2350	5007	Ditch	St M	6h	Pottery
2239	2351	5009	Ditch	St M	5	Pottery
2240	2352	5010	Ditch	St M	5b	Pottery
2241	2353	5008	Ditch	St M	5b	
2241	2354	5008	Ditch	St M	5	Pottery
2242	2355	5008	Ditch	St M	5	Pottery
2243	2356	-	Pit	St M	8	Pottery
2245	2357	5008	Ditch Terminus	St M	5	Pottery
2246	2358	5010	Ditch	St M	5	
2247	2359	5010	Ditch	St M	5	Pottery
	2360		Spread	St M		
2248	2361	5009	Ditch	St M	5	
2249	2362	5007	Ditch	St M	6	
2300	2363	5049	Post Hole	St M	5	Pottery
2301	2364	5049	Post Hole	St M	5	
2302	2365	5049	Post Hole	St M	5	
2303	2366		Post Hole	St M	Undated	
2304	2367	5025	Stake-hole	St M	Undated	
2305	2368	5025	Stake-hole	St M	Undated	
2306	2369	5025	Stake-hole	St M	Undated	
2307	2370	5025	Stake-hole	St M	Undated	
2308	2371	5025	Stake-hole	St M	Undated	Pottery
2309	2372	5025	Stake-hole	St M	Undated	
2310	2373	5025	Stake-hole	St M	Undated	
2311	2374	5025	Stake-hole	St M	Undated	
2312	2375	5025	Stake-hole	St M	Undated	
2313	2376	5025	Stake-hole	St M	Undated	
2314	2377	5025	Stake-hole	St M	Undated	
2315	2378	5025	Stake-hole	St M	Undated	
2316	2379	5025	Stake-hole	St M	Undated	
2317	2380	5025	Stake-hole	St M	Undated	Pottery
2318	2381	5025	Stake-hole	St M	Undated	
2319	2382	5025	Stake-hole	St M	Undated	
2320	2383		Pit	St M	Undated	
2321	2384		Post hole	St M	4	Pottery
2322	2385		Post hole	St M	Undated	
2323	2386		Post hole	St M	5	
2324	2387	5014	Gully	St M	6	Pottery

Cut	*Deposit*	*Group*	*Type*	*Area*	*Phase*	*Dating Evidence*
2325	2388		Pit	St M	5b	Pottery
2326	2389		Post hole	St M	5	Pottery
2327	2390		Gully	St M	Undated	
2328	2391	5007	Ditch	St M	6	
2329	2392		Pit / post hole	St M	Undated	
2330	2393	5010	Ditch	St M	5	
2331	2394		Post hole	St M	5	Pottery
2332	2395	5067	Post hole	St M	3	
2333	2396	5067	Stake hole	St M	3	
2334	2397	5067	Stake hole	St M	3	
2335	2398	5067	Post hole	St M	3	
2336	2399	5067	Post hole	St M	3	
2337	2450	5067	Pit	St M	3	
2338	2451	5067	Pit	St M	3	Pottery
2339	2452	5067	Post-hole	St M	3	
2340	2453	5067	Pit	St M	3	
2341	2454		Test Trench	St M	-	
2342	2455	5067	Pit	St M	3	
2343	2456	5070	Post-hole	St M	4	
2344	2457	5070	Post-hole	St M	4	
2345	2458	5070	Post-hole	St M	4	Pottery
2346	2459	5046	Post-hole	St M	4	
2347	2460		Post-hole	St M	Undated	
2348	2461		Post-hole	St M	Undated	
2349	2462		Post-hole	St M	Undated	
2400	2463		Test Trench	St M		
2401	2464	5070	Post-hole	St M	4	
2402	2465	5070	Post-hole	St M	4	
2403	2466	5070	Post-hole	St M	4	
2404	2467	5070	Pit	St M	4	
2405	2468	5070	Post-hole	St M	3	
2406	2469	5070	Post-hole	St M	4	
2407	2470	5070	Post-hole	St M	4	
2409	2474	5015	Gully	St M	6	
2410	2472	5015	Gully	St M	6	
2408	2473		Pit	St M	4	Pottery
2411	2474	5070	Ditch	St M	4	Pottery
2411	2475	5070	Ditch	St M	4	Pottery
2411	2476	5070	Ditch	St M	4	Pottery
2412	2477	5077	Post-hole	St M	5	Pottery
2413	2478	5073	Gully	St M	6	Stratigraphic
2414	2479		Gully	St M	6	Stratigraphic
2415	2480		Pit	St M	Undated	
2415	2481		Pit	St M	Undated	
2416	2482		Ditch Terminus	St M	4	
2416	2483		Ditch Terminus	St M	4	Pottery
2417		5015	Ditch Terminus	St M	5	
2418	2484	5009	Gully	St M	5	
2418	2485	5009	Gully	St M	5	
2419	2486	5011	Gully	St M	5	
2419	2487	5011	Gully	St M	5	Pottery
2420	2488	5070	Pit / post-hole	St M	4	Stratigraphic
2421	2489	5046	Post-hole	St M	4	
2422	2490	5009	Gully	St M	5	
2423	2491	-	Post-hole	St M	4	
2424	2492	5009	Gully	St M	5	
2425	2493	5052	Gully	St M	5	
2426	2494	5012	Gully	St M	5	
2427	2495	-	Pit	St M	3	Pottery
2428	2496	5073	Ditch	St M	6	Pottery
2429	2497	5060	Relationship	St M	6	
2430	2497	5007	Relationship	St M	6	
2431	2497	5073	Relationship			

Cut	*Deposit*	*Group*	*Type*	*Area*	*Phase*	*Dating Evidence*
2432	2498	5010	Ditch	St M	5	Pottery
2433	2499	5010	Ditch	St M	5	
2434	2550	5011	Gully	St M	5	
2435	2551	5012	Gully	St M	5	
2436	2552	5010	Ditch	St M	5	
2437	2553	5012	Gully terminus	St M	5	
2438	2554	5003	Ditch Terminus	St M	6	Pottery
2438	2555	5003	Ditch Terminus	St M	6	
2438	2556	5003	Ditch terminus	St M	6	
2439	2557	5006	Ditch	St M	4	
2440	2558	5011	Ditch terminus	St M	5	Pottery
2441	2559	5057	Gully terminus	St M	5	Pottery
2442	2560	5071	Ditch	St M	5	
2443	2561	5070	Ditch	St M	5	
2444	2562	5010	Void	St M		
2445	2563	5009	Ditch	St M	5	Pottery
2446	2564	5010	Ditch	St M	5	Pottery
2446	2565	5010	Ditch	St M	5	
2447	2566	5052	Gully terminus	St M	5	Pottery
2448	2567	-	Pit	St M	5	
2449	2568	-	Pit	St M	5	
2500	2569	-	Pit	St M	5	
2501	2570	-	Posthole	St M	5	
2502	2571	5057	Relationship	St M	5	Pottery
2503	2572	5052	Gully	St M	5	
2504	2573	-	Post-hole	St M	Undated	
2505	2574	5077	Pit	St M	5	Pottery
2506	2575	-	Post-hole	St M	8	Pottery/Pipe stem
2507	2576	-	Pit	St M	2	Pottery
2508	2577	5058	Ditch	St M	5	
2509	2578		Post-hole	St M		
2509	2579		Post-hole	St M	Undated	
2510	2580		Post-hole	St M	5	Pottery
2511	2581		Pit	St M	Undated	
2512	2582		Pit	St M	5	
2512	2583		Pit	St M	5	Pottery
2513	2584	5013	Ditch	St M	4	Pottery
2514	2585		Pit	St M	Undated	Pottery
2515	2586		Pit	St M	Undated	
2515	2587		Pit	St M	Undated	
2516	2588	5048	Post-hole	St M	4	
2517	2589	5048	Pit	St M	4	Pottery
2518	2590		Gully terminus	St M	2	
2519	2591	5048	Post-hole	St M		
2519	2592	5048	Post-hole	St M	4	
2519	2593	5048	Post-hole	St M	4	Crucible Fragment
2520	2594	5048	Post-hole	St M	4	
2521	2595	5048	Post-hole	St M	4	
2522	2596	5048	Post-hole	St M	4	
2523	2597	5048	Pit	St M	4	Pottery
2524	2598	5052	Ditch	St M	5	Pottery
2525	2599	5013	Ditch	St M	4	Pottery
2526	2650		Gully terminus	St M		
2527	2651	5048	Post-hole	St M	2	Pottery
2528	2652		Pit	St M	Undated	
2529	2653	5013	Gully terminus	St M	4	
2530	2654		Stake Hole	St M	Undated	
2531	2655		Pit	St M	Undated	
2532	2656		Gully	St M	5	Pottery
2533	2657		Pit	St M	Undated	
2534	2658		Post-hole	St M	Undated	
2535	2659		Gully	St M	4	Pottery
2536	2660	-	Pit	St M	Undated	

Cut	*Deposit*	*Group*	*Type*	*Area*	*Phase*	*Dating Evidence*
2537	2661		Gully	St M	modern	Pottery
2538	2662		Pit	St M	Undated	
2539	2663		Pit	St M	4	Pottery
2539	2664		Pit	St M	4	Pottery
2539	2665		Pit	St M	4	Pottery
2539	2666		Pit	St M	4	
2539	2667		Pit	St M	4	Pottery
2540	2668		Ditch Terminus	St M	4	Pottery
2541	2669		Pit	St M	5	Pottery
2541	2670		Pit	St M	5	
2541	2671		Pit	St M	5	Pottery
2234	2672	5009	Ditch	St M	5	
2235	2673	5010	Ditch	St M	5	Pottery
2236	2674		Pit	St M	5	
2236	2675		Pit	St M	5	
	2676		Void	St M		
2237	2677		Modern	St M	Modern	
2238	2678		Modern	St M	modern	
	2679		Void	St M		
2600	2680		Pit	WB		
2600	2681		Pit	WB		
2600	2682		Pit	WB		
2601	2683		Ditch	WB		
2602	2684		Ditch	WB		
2603	2685		Gully	WB		
2604	2686		Pit	WB		
	2687		Spread	WB		
	2688		Spread	WB		
2605	2689		Ditch	WB	4	Pottery
2605	2690		Ditch	WB		
	2691		Spread	WB		
2606	2692		Ditch	WB		
2607	2693	5017	Ditch	WB		
2608	2694		Ditch	WB		
2609	2695		Ditch	WB		
2610	2696		Ditch	WB	6	Pottery
2613	2697		Ditch	WB		
2613	2698		Ditch	WB		
2613	2699		Ditch	WB		
	2750		void	St G		
2700	2751		Pit	St G	7	Pottery
2701	2752		Gully	St G	5	
2702	2753	5036	Gully	St G	5	Pottery
2703	2754	5035	Gully	St G	5	Pottery
2704	2755	5029	Ditch	St G	4	Pottery
2704	2756	5029	Ditch	St G	4	Pottery
2705	2757	5036	Gully	St G	5	Pottery
2704	2758	5029	Ditch	St G	4	Pottery
2706	2759	5029	Ditch	St G	4	Pottery
2706	2760	5029	Ditch	St G	4	Pottery
2707	2761	5035	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
2708	2762	5034	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
2709	2763	5029	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
2709	2764	5029	Ditch	St G	5	
2710	2765	5034	Ditch	St G	4	Pottery
2711	2766	5036	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
2712	2767	5032	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
2713	2768	5036	Gully	St G	5	Pottery
2714	2769	-	Pit	St G	9	Pottery
2715	2770	5031	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
2716	2771	-	Pit	St G	Undated	
2717	2772	5036	Gully	St G	5	Pottery
2718	2773	5031	Pit	St G	5	Pottery

Cut	*Deposit*	*Group*	*Type*	*Area*	*Phase*	*Dating Evidence*
2719	2774	5032	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
	2775		Spread	St G		
2720	2776	5036	Gully	St G	5	Pottery
2721	2777	5036	Gully	St G	5	Pottery
2722	2778	-	Pit	St G	9	Pottery
2722	2779	-	Pit	St G	9	Pottery
2722	2780	-	Pit	St G	9	Pottery
2722	2781	-	Pit	St G	9	Pottery
2722	2782	-	Pit	St G	9	Pottery
2722	2783	-	Pit	St G	9	Pottery
2724	2784	-	Pit	St G	5	Pottery
2725	2785		Pit	St G	9	Pottery
2726	2786		Pit	St G	9	
2722	2787		Pit	St G	9	Pottery
2727	2788	5031	Ditch Terminus	St G	5	Pottery
2728	2789	5030	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
2729	2790	5019	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
2730	2791	5030	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
2731	2792		Pit	St G	Undated	
2732	2793	5019	Gully	St G	5	Pottery
2733	2794		Pit	St G	9	Pottery
2734	2795	5034	Gully	St G	5	Pottery
2735	2796		Pit	St G	Undated	
2736	2797		Pit	St G	Undated	
2737	2798		Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
2738	2799		Ditch	St G	8	Pottery
2739	2850		Pit	St G	5	Pottery
2740	2851	5028	Post-hole	St G	5	Stratigraphic
2741	2852	5028	post-hole	St G	5	Pottery
2742	2853	5028	post-hole	St G	5	Pottery
2743	2854		post-hole	St G	Modern	
2744	2855		post-hole	St G	Modern	
2745	2856		post-hole	St G	Modern	
2746	2857	5028	post-hole	St G	5	Pottery
2747	2858	5028	post-hole	St G	5	Pottery
2748	2859	5019	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
2749	2860	5017	Gully	St G	5	Pottery
2800	2861	5030	Ditch	St G	4	Pottery
2801	2862	5017	Gully	St G	5	Pottery
2802	2863		Pit	St G	Undated	
2803	2864		Pit	St G	Undated	
2804	2865	5018	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
2805	2866		Pit	St G	Undated	
2806	2867		Pit	St G	Undated	
2807	2868	5017	Gully terminus	St G	5	Pottery
2808	2869	5066	Gully	St G	8	Pottery
2809	2870	5066	Gully	St G	8	Pottery
2810	2871		Gully terminus	St G	Undated	
2811	2872		Post-hole	St G	6	Stratigraphic
2812	2873		Pit	St G	9	Pottery
2813	2874		post-hole	St G	Undated	
2814	2875	5032	Gully	St G	5	Pottery
2815	2876		void	St G		
2816	2877		Pit	St G	Undated	
2817	2878		Pit	St G	8	Pottery
2818	2879		Pit	St G	8	
2614	2880		Ditch	WB	Undated	
2615	2881		Pit	WB	Undated	
2616	2882		Tree Bowl	WB	Undated	
2616	2883		Tree Bowl	WB	Undated	
2616	2884		Tree Bowl	WB	Undated	
2616	2885		Tree Bowl	W B	Undated	
2819	2886		Pit / post-hole	St G	Undated	

Cut	*Deposit*	*Group*	*Type*	*Area*	*Phase*	*Dating Evidence*
2820	2887	5030	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
2821	2888	5017	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
2822	2889	5017	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
2823	2890	5017	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
2824	2891		Spread	St G		
2825	2892		Spread	St G		
2826	2893	5017	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
2827	2894	5017	Gully terminus	St G	5	Pottery
2828	2895	-	Pit	St G	9	Pottery
2829	2896	5017	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
2830	2897	5027	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
2831	2898	5069	Ditch	St G	4	Pottery
2832	2899	5069	Ditch Terminus	St G	4	Pottery
2833	2950		Pit	St G	Undated	
2834	2951		Pit	St G	Undated	
2835	2952		Pit	St G	Undated	
2836	2953	5035	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
2837	2954	5029	Ditch	St G	4	Pottery
2838	2955	5030	Ditch Terminus	St G	4	Pottery
2839	2956	5033	Gully	St G	5	Pottery
2840	2957	5019	Ditch Terminus	St G	5	Pottery
2841	2958	5033	Gully	St G	5	Pottery
2842	2959	5033	Gully	St G	5	Pottery
2843	2960	5033	Ditch Terminus	St G	5	Pottery
2844	2961		Pit	St G	Undated	
2844	2962		Pit	St G	Undated	
2845	2963	5019	Gully	St G	5	Pottery
2846	2964	5019	Gully	St G	5	Pottery
2847	2965	5033	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
2848	2966	5020	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
2849	2967	-	Post-hole	St G	6	Pottery
2900	2968	-	Post-hole	St G	8	Pottery
2901	2969	-	post-hole	St G	8	Pottery
2848	2970	5020	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
2848	2971	5020	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
2917	2972	5020	Burnt area	St G	5	Pottery
2917	2973	5020	Burnt area	St G	5	Pottery
2917	2974	5020	Burnt area	St G	5	Pottery
2847	2975	5033	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
2902	2976		Post-hole	St G	8	Pottery
2903	2977		Gully	St G	6	Pottery
2904	2978		Gully	St G	6	Pottery
2905	2979	5040	Pit	St G	7	Pottery
2906	2980	5040	Ditch	St G	7	Pottery
2907	2981		void		-	
2908	2982		Plough furrow	St G	4	Pottery
2909	2983	5037	Pit	St G	1	Bone
2910	2984	5037	Pit	St G	1	Bone
2911	2985	5037	Pit	St G	1	Pottery
2912	2986	5037	Pit	St G	1	Pottery
2913	2987	5037	Pit	St G	6	Pottery
2914	2988	5037	Pit	St G	1	Pottery
2915	2989	5037	Pit	St G	1	Pottery
2916	2990	5037	Pit	St G	1	Pottery
2916	2991	5037	Pit	St G	1	Pottery
2916	2992	5037	Pit	St G	1	Pottery
2917	2993	5020	Burnt area	St G	5	Pottery
2918	2994		Pit	St G	9	Pottery
2919	2995		Post-hole	St G	Undated	
2920	2996	5018	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
2916	2997	5037	Pit	St G	1	Pottery
2922	2998	5037	Pit	St G	1	
2923	2999	5037	Pit	St G	1	Pottery

Cut	*Deposit*	*Group*	*Type*	*Area*	*Phase*	*Dating Evidence*
2924	3050	-	Post-hole	St G	Undated	
2925	3052	-	Pit	St G	Undated	
2926	3053	-	Post-hole	St G	Undated	Pottery
2926	3054		Pit	St G	2	Pottery
2927	3055		Pit	St G	8	Pottery
2928	3056		Gully	St G	4	Pottery
2929	3057		Ditch	St G	4	Pottery
2930	3058	-	Post-hole	St G	Undated	
2931	3059	-	Post-hole	St G	Undated	
2932	3060	-	Post-hole	St G	Undated	
2933	3061	-	Post-hole	St G	Undated	
2934	3051	-	Post-hole	St G	Undated	
3000	3062	-	Ditch	St G	7	Pottery
3001	3063	5037	Pit	St G	1	Pottery
3001	3064	5037	Pit	St G	1	Pottery
2935	3065	-	Gully	St G	Undated	
2936	3066	-	Post-hole	St G	Undated	
2937	3067	-	Post-hole	St G	Undated	
2938	3068	5037	Pit	St G	1	Pottery
2940	3069	5037	Pit	St G	1	Pottery
2941	3070	5037	Pit	St G	1	Pottery
2941	3071	5037	Pit	St G	1	Pottery
3002	3072		Pit	St G	9	Pottery
3002	3073		Pit	St G	2	Pottery
3002	3074		Pit	St G	Undated	
3003	3075		Pit	St G	Undated	
2848	3076	5033	Ditch	St G	Undated	Pottery
3004	3077	5061	Pit	St G	5t	Pottery
3005	3078	5061	Pit	St G	5	Pottery
3006	3079	5018	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
3007	3080		Pit	St G	8	Pottery
3008	3081		Ditch	St G	8	Stratigraphic
3015	3082	5020	Post-hole	St G	5	
3015	3083	5020	Post-hole	St G	5	Pottery
3014	3084	5020	Post-hole	St G	5	Pottery
3016	3085	5020	Post-hole	St G	5	Pottery
3017	3086	5020	Post-hole	St G	5	Pottery
3018	3087	5020	Post-hole	St G	5	Pottery
3019	3088	5020	Post-hole	St G	5	Pottery
	3089		Void	St G		
3009	3090	5033	Gully	St G	5	Pottery
3012	3091	5033	Gully	St G	5	Pottery
3010	3092	5033	Gully	St G	5	Pottery
3011	3093		Ditch	St G	2	Stratigraphic
3013	3094		Ditch	St G	2	Stratigraphic
3021	3095		Pit	St G		
3022	3096		Pit	St G	5	Pottery
3023	3097		Ditch	St G	6	Pottery
3024	3098	5064	Ditch	St G	6	Pottery
3025	3099	5065	Ditch	St G	6	Pottery
3026	4050	5064	Ditch	St G	6	Pottery
2943	4051	5064	Ditch	St G	6	Pottery
2944	4052	-	Ditch	St G	Undated	
	4053		void	St G		
3027	4054		Pit	St G		
3036	4055	5040	Ditch	St G	7	Pottery
3037	4056	5041	Ditch	St G	6	Pottery
3037	4057	5041	Ditch	St G	6	Pottery
3038	4058		Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
3040	4059	-	Well	St G	8	Pottery
3040	4060	-=	Well	St G	8	Pottery
3039	4061		Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
3036	4062	5040	Ditch	St G	7	Pottery

Cut	*Deposit*	*Group*	*Type*	*Area*	*Phase*	*Dating Evidence*
3043	4063	5043	Ditch	St G	2	Stratigraphic
3044	4064	5042	Ditch	St G	4	Pottery
3045	4065		Post-hole	St G	Undated	
4000	4066	5043	Ditch	St G	2	Stratigraphic
4001	4067	5044	Ditch	St G	2	Stratigraphic
4001	4068	5044	Ditch	St G	2	Stratigraphic
4002	4069	5045	Ditch	St G	2	Stratigraphic
3030	4070	5042	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
3030	4071	5042	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
3028	4072	5040	Ditch	St G	7	Stratigraphic
3028	4073	5040	Ditch	St G	7	Stratigraphic
3028	4074	5040	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
4003	4075	5043	Ditch	St G	2	Pottery
4004	4076		Gully	St G	Undated	
	4077		Void	St G		
	4078		Void	St G		
	4079		Void	St G		
3029	4080	5041	Ditch	St G	6	Pottery
3022	4081		Pit	St G	5	Pottery
4005	4082	5038	Ditch	St G	8	Pottery
4006	4083	5039	Ditch	St G	7	Stratigraphic
3046	4084	5040	Ditch	St G	7	Stratigraphic
3046	4085	5040	Ditch	St G	7	
3047	4086	5041	Ditch	St G	6	
3047	4087	5041	Ditch	St G	6	
3048	4088		Ditch	St G	6	
3049	4089		Ditch	St G	6	Pottery
4007	4090		Ditch	St G		
4008	4091	5038	Ditch	St G	8	Pottery
4009	4092	5039	Ditch	St G	7	Stratigraphic
4009	4093	5039	Ditch	St G	7	
3032	4094	5043	Ditch	St G	2	Stratigraphic
3041	4095	5044	Ditch	St G	2	Startigraphic
3042	4096	5045	Ditch	St G	2	Stratigraphic
3034	4097		Ditch	St G	6	Pottery
3033	4098	5042	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
3046	4099		Ditch	St G		
4101	4151	5018	Ditch	St G	5	Pottery
4102	4152	5027	Gully / Ploughmark	St G	5	Pottery
4103	4153	-	Gully	St G	4	Pottery
4104	4154	-	Gully	St G	4	Pottery
4105	4155	5063	Gully	St G	4	Stratigraphic
4106	4156		Gully	St G	4	Stratigraphic
4107	4157	5063	Gully	St G	4	Pottery
4108	4158		Post-hole	St G	Undated	
4109	4159		Gully / Ploughmark	St G	4	Stratigraphic
4110	4160		Gully / Ploughmark	St G	4	Stratigraphic
4111	4161		Gully / Ploughmark	St G	4	Stratigraphic
4112	4162	5062	Shallow Gully	St G	5	Stratigraphic
4113	4163	5062	Shallow Gully	St G	5	Stratigraphic
4114	4164		Shallow Gully	St G	5	Stratigraphic
4115	4165		Ploughmark	St G	5	Stratigraphic
4116	4166		Ploughmark		5	Stratigraphic
3035	4167	5040	Ditch		7	Stratigraphic
2939	4168	5037	Fill of Urn		1	Pottery
2938	4169	5037	Fill of Urn		1	Pottery
2923	4170	5037	Fill of Urn		1	Pottery
2923	4171	5037	Fill of Urn		1	Pottery
2923	4172	5037	Fill of urn		1	Pottery
2940	4173	5037	Fill of Urn		1	Pottery
2942	4174	5045	Fill of Urn		1	Stratigraphic
2235	4175	5010	Ditch		5	
2942	4176		Ditch		2	

Cut	*Deposit*	*Group*	*Type*	*Area*	*Phase*	*Dating Evidence*
4100	4150	5018	Ditch	St G		
2234	4151	5009	Ditch	St M	5	

APPENDIX 2: Medieval pottery

Table 1: Ceramic Phasing Scheme

CP	*Site Phase*	*Date*	*Defining Wares*
E/MS	3	?AD 450 – 850	F1, F2
LS	3	10th – E 11th C	OXR, OXT
1	4	E-M 11th C	OXAC
2	5	L 11th –E 13th	OXBF, OXAG, OXY, OX162
3	5b	E 12th – E 13th C	OXBB
4	6	13th –L 14th C	OXAM
5	7	15th C	OXBN
6 & 7	8	L 15th – E 17th	OXCL, OXDR, OXST
8 & 9	9	17th – E 19th C	OXCE OXEST, OXBESWL, OXFI OXFM
MOD	MOD	E 19th C +	WHEW

Table 2: Pottery Occurrence per Site Phase(Phased contexts only)

Site Phase	No. Sherds	Wt. Sherds (g)	EVE
3	10	105	0
4	281	3302	2.59
5	340	4279	3.04
5b	3	21	0
6	391	2364	0.66
7	10	49	0.06
8	30	590	0.14
9	89	1005	0.53
Total	1155	11722	7.02

Table 3: Fabric occurrence per ceramic phase, as a percentage of the phase assemblage by weight (major wares only)

Phase	OXR	OXAC	OXBF	OXY	OXAG	OX162	OXBB	OXAM	OXBN	OXCL	OXDR	Total Wt
3	20.0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	105
4a	8.8%	21.7%	65.2%	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	3302
4b	2.2%	18.3%	38.4%	6.3%	8.2%	22.8%	-	-	-	-		4279
5	-	-	28.6%	-	-	-	71.4%	-	-	-	-	21
6	1.8%	10.4%	32.2%	5.8%	27.5%	1.8%	0.8%	14.5%	-	-	-	2364
7	-	12.2%	14.3%	-	-	-	40.8%	-	2.0%	30.6%	-	49
8	-	0.8%	0.5%	4.7%	0.2%	-	-	0.8%	0.5%	-	90.3%	590
9	0.4%	7.7%	45.6%	6.4%	11.0%	-	-	6.0%	-	0.4%	11.5%	781
10	-	0.4%	-	-	-	-	-	1.8%	-	0.4%	87.5%	224

Shaded cells = residual material

APPENDIX 3: Struck flint

Cut	*Deposit*	*Group*	*Type*	*Area*	*Phase*	*Intact Flake*	*Intact Blade*	*Broken Flake*	*Broken Blade*	*P.Broken Blade*	*Spall*	*Core*	*Blade core*	*Other*
	U/S					1(ret-modern?)		5			2			
2014	2069	5002	Ditch	A	4a			1(burnt)						
2042	2098		Ditch	A					1					
2044	2150	5005	Ditch	A				1						
2107	2167		Ditch	A	4a			1						
2115	2175		Gully	A		1								
2116	2176		Pit	A	4a					1				
2124	2184		Pit / post hole	A	4b						1			
2130	2190		Post hole	A	4a				3					
2148	2258		Pit	A	4b						1			
2205	2265		Post hole	A							2			
2208	2268		Post hole	A	4a					1	1			
2213	2273		Ditch	A	6					1				
2219	2281		Pit	A	4b						1			
2225	2291		Post hole	A					1					
2229	2295		Grave	A	1			1						
2231	2297		Ditch	A	4a			1						
2239	2351	5009	Ditch	A	3	1		1						
2243	2356		Pit	A	8			1						
2320	2383		Pit	A	4a			1						
2324	2387	5014	Gully	A	6						1			
2411	2474		Ditch	A	4a	1								
2411	2476		Ditch	A	4a	1		1						
2416	2482		Ditch Terminus	A	3		1							
2426	2494	5012	Gully	A			1							
2430	2497		Ditch	A				1						
2438	2554		Ditch Terminus	A	4a					1(burnt)				
2447	2566		Gully terminus	A	4b	2(1 retouched/								scraper
2515	2586		Pit	A		1								
2517	2589		Pit	A	4a			1						
2526	2650		Gully terminus	A							1			
2536	2660		Pit	A				1						
	2687		Spread	WB			1		1					
2605	2690		Ditch	WB	4a				1					
2608	2694		Ditch	WB			1	1						
2702	2753		Gully	C	4a			1						
2705	2757		Gully	C					1					
2704	2758		Ditch	C		1								
2708	2762		Ditch	C							1			
2714	2769		Pit	C	9						2			
2715	2770		Ditch	C	4b			1(patinated)						
2722	2778	top	Pit	C	9			1						
2722	2779		Pit	C	9			2						
2725	2785		Pit	C	9			1						
2732	2793	5019	Gully	C	4b	1								
2734	2795		Gully	C	4b			1						
2737	2798		Ditch	C	4a	1								
2746	2857		post hole	C			1							
2804	2865		Ditch	C	4b				1					
2809	2870		Gully	C	8						1			
2821	2888	5017	Ditch- top	C	4b	1								
2824	2891		Spread	C			1							
2845	2963	5019	Gully Relationship	C	6					1				
2908	2982		Ditch	C	4a						1			
3005	3078		Pit	C	4b			1						
3009	3090		Gully	C	4a			1						
4006	4083		Ditch	C		1								
4102	4152		Gully / Ploughmark	C	4a	1								
4107	4157		Gully	C	4a			3(1ret)						

APPENDIX 4: Metalwork

Cut	*Deposit*	*Group*	*No*	*Type*	*Area*	*Cat No*	*Material*	*Type*	*No*	*Wt (g)*
2012	2066			Ditch	STM	1	iron	object	1	20
2035	2090			Pit	STM	3	iron	nail	1	16
2034	2094			Ditch	STM	71	iron	nail	1	2
2047	2153			Pit/post hole	STM	5	iron	frag	1	4
2047	2153			Pit / post hole	STM	4	iron	lump	1	26
2102	2161			Gully terminus	STM	72	iron	frag	1	2
2113	2173			Pit	STM	7	iron	iron ore	1	46
2113	2173			Pit / post hole	STM	6	iron		1	42
2116	2176			Pit / post hole	STM	8	iron	frag	1	6
2117	2177		5003	Ditch	STM	73	iron	frag	1	10
2130	2190			Post hole	STM	74	iron	nail	1	4
2140	2250			Ditch Terminus	STM	75	iron	nail	1	4
2146	2256			Post hole	STM	9	iron	nail	1	6
2148	2258			Pit	STM	76	iron	frag	1	0
2205	2265			Post hole	STM	77	iron	frag	1	0
2205	2265			Post hole	STM	78	silver	pin	1	0
2206	2266			Post hole	STM	10	iron	frag	1	2
2208	2268			Post hole	STM	11	iron	frag	1	4
2212	2272			Post hole	STM	12	iron	nail	1	8
2213	2273			Gully	STM	13	iron	frag	1	4
2219	2281			Ditch	STM	14	iron	nail?	1	4
2219	2282			Ditch	STM	15	iron	frag	3	2
2226	2292			Gully	STM	97	iron	flat piece	1	6
2243	2356			Ditch	STM	18	iron	lump	1	2
2243	2356			Ditch	STM	20	iron	lump	1	12
2243	2356			Ditch	STM	21	iron	lump	1	18
2243	2356			Ditch	STM	16	iron	nail	1	12
2243	2356			Ditch	STM	19	iron	nail	1	14
2243	2356			Ditch	STM	17	iron	pierced frag	1	2
2345	2458			Post Hole	STM	23	iron	nail	1	42
2438	2554			Ditch	STM	25	iron	object	1	20
2507	2576			Post hole	STM	26	iron	frag	1	4
2519	2593			Post hole	STM	27	iron	lump	1	8
2519	2593			Post hole	STM	28	iron	nail	1	74
2520	2594			Post hole	STM	87	iron	nail	1	6
2524	2598			Ditch	STM	94	iron	flat frag	1	10
2524	2598			Ditch	STM	88	iron	frag	1	6
2524	2598			Ditch	STM	89	iron	iron ore	1	66
2527	2651			Post hole	STM	29	iron	ring headed object	1	36
2539	2663			Pit	STM	31	iron	frag	1	2
2539	2663			Pit	STM	32	iron	frag	1	2
2539	2663			Pit	STM	34	iron	frag	1	2
2539	2663			Pit	STM	35	iron	frag	1	4
2539	2663			Pit	STM	36	iron	frag	1	4
2539	2663			Pit	STM	37	iron	frag	1	10
2539	2663			Pit	STM	38	iron	frag	1	4
2539	2663			Pit	STM	39	iron	frag	1	2
2539	2663			Pit	STM	40	iron	frag	1	6
2539	2663			Pit	STM	33	iron	lump	1	16
2539	2663			Pit	STM	30	iron	nail	1	22
2539	2664			Pit	STM	79	iron	nail	1	6
2541	2669			Pit	STM	92	iron	iron ore	1	16
2722	2779			Pit	STG	41	iron	nail	1	16
2722	2783			Pit	STG	81	iron	object	1	4
2733	2794			Pit	STG	42	iron	frag	1	6
2733	2794			Pit	STG	45	iron	frag	1	10
2733	2794			Pit	STG	44	iron	frag	1	4
2733	2794			Pit	STG	43	iron	Nail?	1	10
2741	2852			post hole	STG	80	iron	nail	1	2
2805	2866			Pit	STG	82	iron	nail	1	10
2808	2869			Gully	STG	46	iron	nail	1	22
2818	2879			Pit	STG	47	iron	nail	1	14

Cut	*Deposit Group*	*No*	*Type*	*Area*	*Cat No*	*Material*	*Type*	*No*	*Wt (g)*
2818	2879		Pit	STG	48	iron	nail	1	10
2900	2968		Post hole	STG	49	iron	frag	1	6
2848	2971		Ditch	STG	50	iron	curved object	1	108
2848	2971		Ditch	STG	57	iron	flat frag	1	4
2848	2971		Ditch	STG	54	iron	frag	1	2
2848	2971		Ditch	STG	56	iron	frag	1	2
2848	2971		Ditch	STG	52	iron	lump	1	4
2848	2971		Ditch	STG	55	iron	lump	1	2
2848	2971		Ditch	STG	53	iron	nail	1	6
2848	2971		Ditch	STG	86	iron	object	1	4
2848	2971		Ditch	STG	51	iron		1	4
2905	2979		Pit	STG	99	iron	curved blade	1	68
2905	2979		Pit	STG	91	iron	nail	1	66
2905	2979		Pit	STG	90	iron		1	14
2908	3054		Ditch	STG	58	iron	nail	1	6
3002	3072		Pit	STG	83	iron	frag	1	6
2929	3077		Ditch	STG	98	iron	frag	1	6
2933	3081		Post hole	STG	96	iron	frag	1	4
2933	3081		Post hole	STG	84	iron	nail	1	6
3022	3096		Pit	STG	61	iron	lump	1	4
3023	3097		Ditch	STG	93	iron	nail	1	16
3023	3097		Ditch	STG	95	iron	object	1	48
3023	3097		Ditch	STG	91	iron		1	10
3024	3098		Ditch	STG	62	iron	nail	1	8
2945	4053		Void	STG	63	iron	lump	1	54
2945	4053		void	STG	64	iron	lump	1	20
2945	4053		Void	STG	65	iron	pruning hook	1	162
3027	4054		Pit	STG	67	iron	lump	1	8
3036	4055		Ditch	STG	100	iron	frag	1	6
3036	4055		Ditch	STG	101	iron	frag	1	4
3033	4098		Ditch	STG	68	iron	nail	1	10
4109	4159		Gully / Ploughmark	STG	69	iron	frag	1	4
4109	4159		Gully/Ploughmark	STG	70	iron	lump	1	12
3022	base		Pit	STG	60	iron	lump	1	12
2345			Post Hole	StM	22	iron	iron ore	1	28
3027			Pit	STG	66	iron	socketed tool	1	42

APPENDIX 5: Slag

Cut	*Deposit*	*Group*	*Type*	*Area*	*Phase*	*No*	*Wt (g)*
2018	2073		Ditch	StM	8	1	19
2105	2164	5003	Ditch	StM	4a	1	34
2201	2261		Ditch Terminus	StM	4a	1	13
2212	2272		Post hole	StM		2	12
2243	2356		Pit	StM	8	8	225
2329	2392		Pit / post hole	StM		34	769
2443	2561		Pit	StM		1	21
2534	2658		Post hole	StM		2	408
2541	2671		Pit	StM	4a	2	4
2714	2769		Pit	StG	9	1	4

APPENDIX 6: Bunt human bone

Table 1 – Inventory of burnt human remains

Cut	*Deposit*	*Bone Colour*	*Weight (g)*	*Max Frag size (mm)*	*Age*	*Sex*
2916	2990					
2938	URN 4	White	68	17	Adult	?
2939	URN 6	White	248	26	Adult	?
2940	3069	White	65	20	Adult	?
3001	3064	White	220	27	Adult	M?

Table 2 – Fragmentation of burnt human remains

		10mm		***5mm***		***<5mm***		***Total Human (g)***
Cut	***Deposit***	***(g)***	***(%)***	***(g)***	***(%)***	***(g)***	***(%)***	
2916	2990	119	22.4	150	28.2	262	49.3	**531**
2938	URN 4	7	10.3	16	23.5	45	66.2	**68**
2939	URN 6	41	16.5	61	24.6	146	58.9	**248**
2940	3069	12	18.5	10	15.4	43	66.1	**65**
3001	3064	70	31.8	71	32.3	79	35.9	**220**

APPENDIX 7: Animal bone

Table 1: Number of identified bones recovered from the major feature types

	St Mary's							*St Gabriel's*		
Phase	*Ditch*	*Gully*	*Pit*	*Post Hole*	*Slot*	*Spread*	*Well*	*Ditch*	*Gully*	*Pit*
1										
2	4									
3	23		7							
4	79		15	8		1				
5a	58	6	12	3	2			7	3	1
5b	11						9			
6	17	5					4	3		
7								18		13
8	17		8							2
9										22

Table 2: Number of identified fragments recorded by phase

Phase	Period	No.
1	Early Neolithic / Bronze Age	0
2	Roman	2
3	10th century	25
4	Early-Mid 11th century	90
5a	Late 11th century	102
5	12th - 13th century	28
6	13th- 14th century	28
7	15th century	27
8	Mid 16th century	17
9	17th century	1

Table 3: Species representation (NISP)

Phase	*1*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*5b*	*6*	*7 8 9*		
Cattle			10	39	44	9	12	8	7 7	
Sheep / Goat		2	6	23	28	4	10	1	12	4
Sheep			1	1				1		
Pig			3	16	3	1	2	5 4 2		
Horse			2	5		1		1		1
Cat										
Dog				2				7	1	
Rabbit			1							
Hare				1						
Deer								1		
Red deer				1						
Roe deer										
Chicken			2	1	4	3	1	2 1 1		
Goose					4	1	3	2 1 3		
Partridge				1						
Wader									1	
Total Identified	0	2	25	90	83	19	28	28 27 19		
Unidentified Mammal		46	205	710	927	193	330	43	47 63	
Large Mammal		8	47	225	174	33	27	27 29 44		
Medium Mammal	5	24	23	283	221	21	66	15 21 11		
Small Mammal				3	1					
Unidentified Bird			2	1	2	1				
Medium Bird			1							
Total	5	80	303	1312	1408	267	451	113 124	112	

APPENDIX 7: Animal bone (cont'd)

Table 4: Species proportions from comparative sites from Oxfordshire (% NISP)

Site	*Reference*	*Site Type*	*Phase*	*Cattle*	*Sheep / Goat*	*Pig*	*Wild mammal*	*Dom. bird*	*Total*	*Wild bird*
Aelfric's Abbey, Eynsham	Ayres *et al*, 2003	Religious Rural	Late Saxon	27	40	24	3	6	1486	y
Aelfric's Abbey, Eynsham	Ayres *et al*, 2003	Religious Rural	Late Saxon	27	34	27	6	5	951	y
113-119 High st, Oxford	Maltby, 2000	Urban Domestic	Late Saxon	51	28	19	0	3	570	y
St Ebbes, Oxford	Wilson *et al*, 1989	Urban Domestic	Late Saxon	20	48	14	0	17	2623	
Hinxey Hall, Oxford	Wilson *et al*, 1983	Urban Domestic	Late Saxon	17	36	29	2	16	933	y
Yarnton	Mulville, 2004	Rural Settlement	Late Saxon	54	34	13	0	0	80	
St Mary's, Wantage			Late Saxon	48	29	20	2	1	82	y
Aelfric's Abbey, Eynsham	Ayres *et al*, 2003		Norman	33	23	33	3	8	2021	y
Oxford Castle	Marples, 1976	Castle urban	Norman	27	49	18	0	6	515	
Lincoln College, Oxford	Charles, 2003	Urban Domestic	Norman	31	56	8	0	4	693	y
St Mary's, Wantage			Norman	53	34	4	0	10	83	

Table 5: Fragment representation (epiphysis count)

Anatomy	*Phase 4*			*Phase 5*		
	Cattle	*Sheep*	*Pig*	*Cattle*	*Sheep*	*Pig*
Horn Core	1	1		1		
Mandible**		10	2		4	1
Scapula	1	1	1		1	
Humerus D		4	3	1	4	
Humerus P						
Radius P	2	1		4	3	
Radius D	2		1	1		1
Pelvis	2		1			
Femur P	1	1			1	
Femur D	2			4		
Tibia P				1		
Tibia D		4	1	5	3	
Calcaneum	1				1	
Metacarpal P	3	2		2	1	
Metatarsal P	3	1	1		2	
Metacarpal D	1			2	1	
Metatarsal D	3		1			
1st phalange*	2	1	1	1	1	1
2nd phalange*			1	2	1	
3rd phalange*	1 1		1	1	1	1
Total	25	27	14	25	24	4

APPENDIX 8: Radiocarbon Dating

Two samples, one of charcoal and one of human bone were submitted to the University of Kiel for radiocarbon dating. Details of methodology and assessment of the reliability of the results are held in archive. In summary, all sev en produced results which are considered to be reliable. The dates were calibrated using the IntCal04 curve (Reimer et al 2004). The results are presented in Table xxx.

KIA40744 PIT 2229; Human skeleton 1 Left rib

Radiocarbon Age:	BP 1198 ± 20 d^{13} -18.22 ± 0.31
One Sigma Range:	cal AD 780 - 792 (Probability 11.6 %)
(Probability 68,3 %)	805 - 870 (Probability 56.7 %)
Two Sigma Range:	**cal AD 775 - 887 (Probability 95.4 %)**
(Probability 95,4 %)	

KIA40745 Urn pit 2940 (3069); unidentified wood charcoal

Radiocarbon Age:	BP 3061 ± 23 d^{13} -29.54 ± 0.16
One Sigma Range:	cal BC 1386 - 1311 (Probability 68.3 %)
(Probability 68,3 %)	
Two Sigma Range:	**cal BC 1403 - 1268 (Probability 95.4 %)**
(Probability 95,4 %)	

APPENDIX 9: Outline publication synopsis

A publication text will be prepared for submission to *Oxoniensia*. This will include a detailed report on the site features and major finds types, complete with appropriate illustrations, with summary data on the minor finds. An outline of the form of the article is suggested below, although details of the final form may have to be modified in the light of further work. The estimated length of text can be, naturally, no more than a very rough guide.

Section Heading	*Estimated length of text*	*Estimated number of illustrations*
Background	1500 words	2 plans
The site		
Methodology		
Phase summary, dating evidence	6000 words	8 plans, 3 pages of sections
The artefacts	10,000 words	3 pages of illustrations, 4 tables
Pottery		
Human remains		
Other finds		
The environmental evidence	?2000 words	4 tables
Animal bone		
Plant macrofossils		
Discussion	2000 words	
Acknowledgements	200 words	
References		

The full report can therefore be envisaged as around 20,000 words plus references accompanied by 15–16 pages of illustration and tables of data possibly amounting to 6–8 more pages.

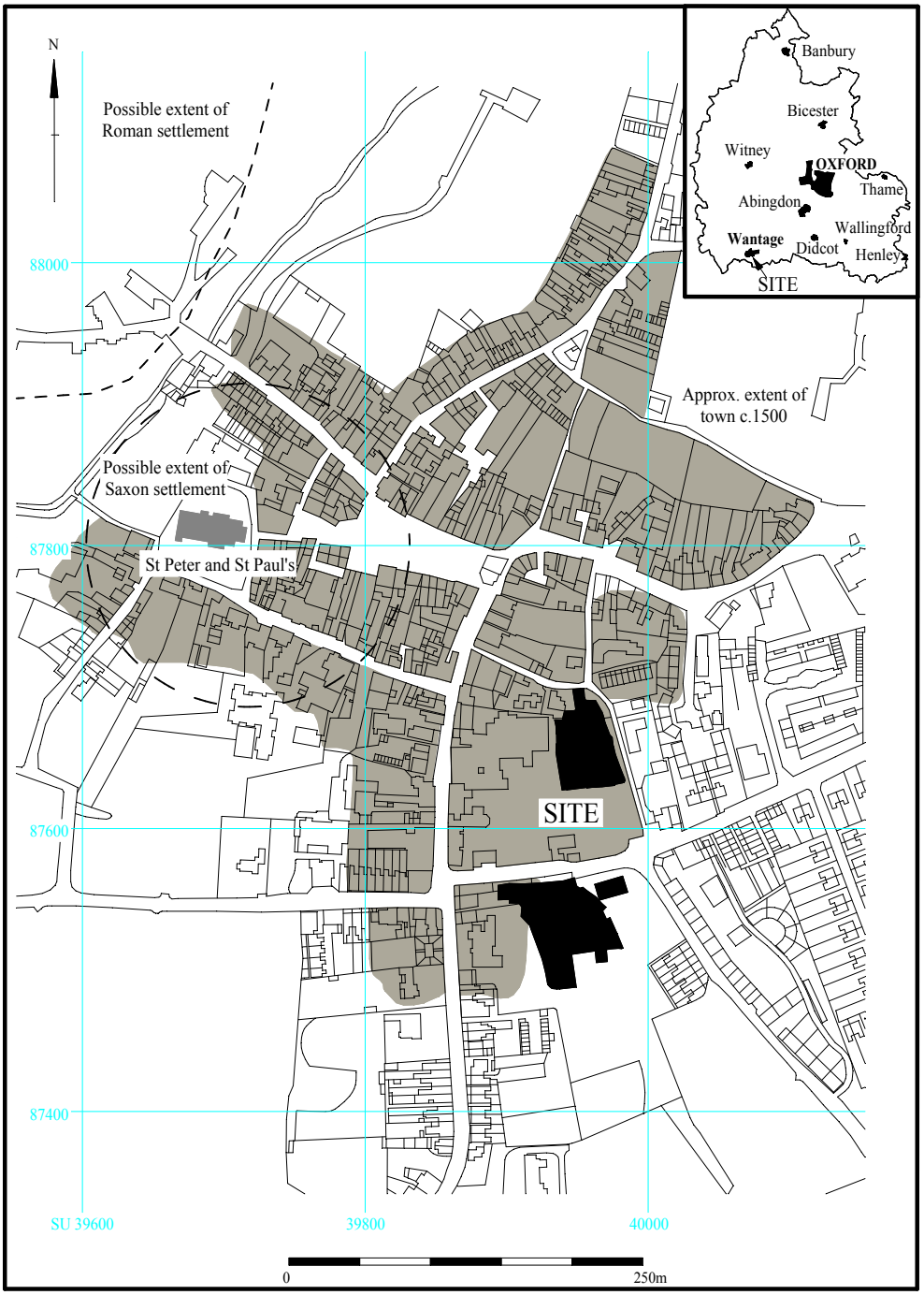

Figure 1. Location of the site in Oxfordshire and Wantage showing the possible extents of the settlement in Roman, late Saxon and late medieval times (after Foster et al 1975). SMW 07/70

northings are 100m out

Figure 2. Overview of the site showing the location of the excavation areas and watching brief. SMW 07/70

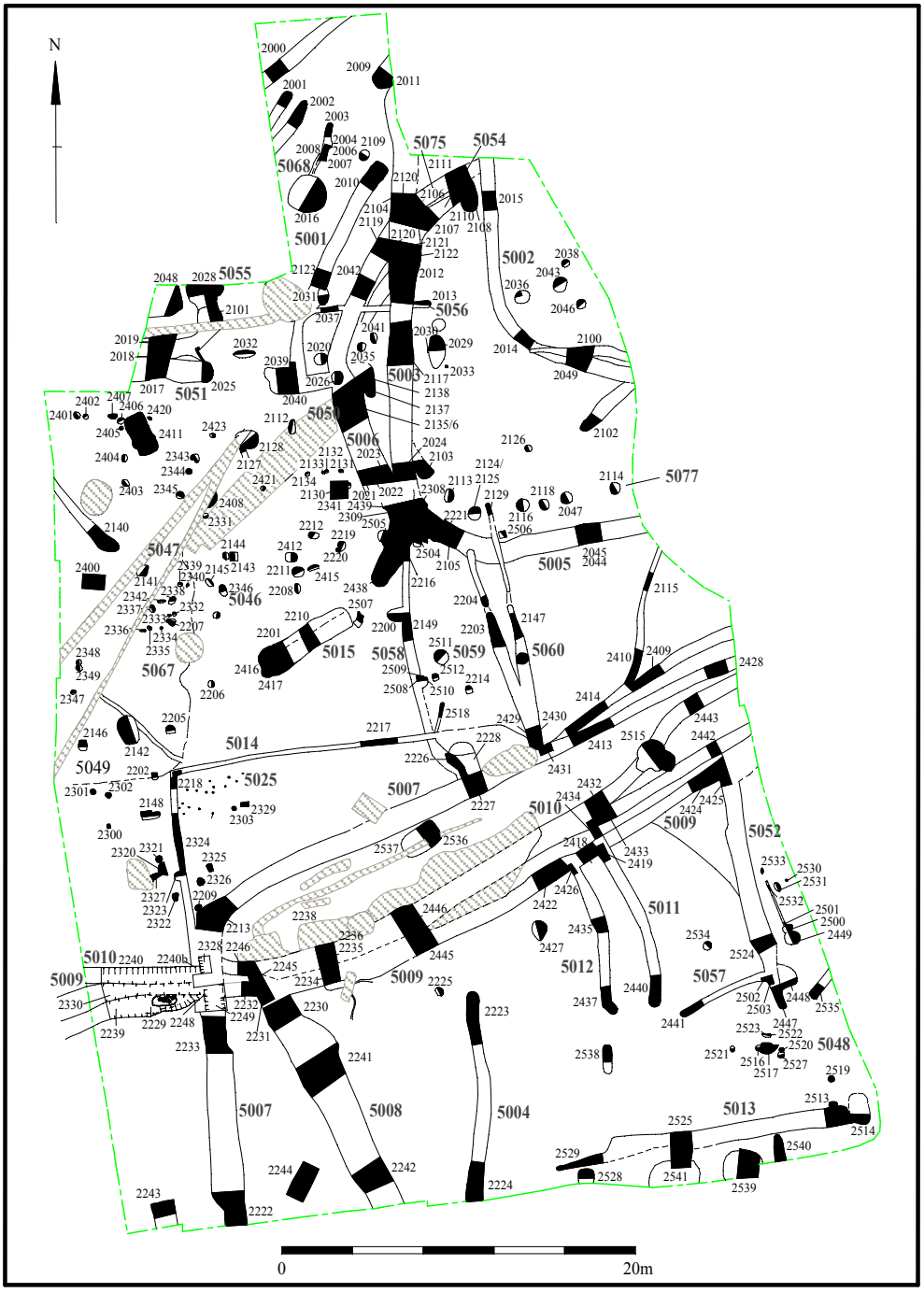

Figure 3. Plan showing the St. Mary's area of the site.

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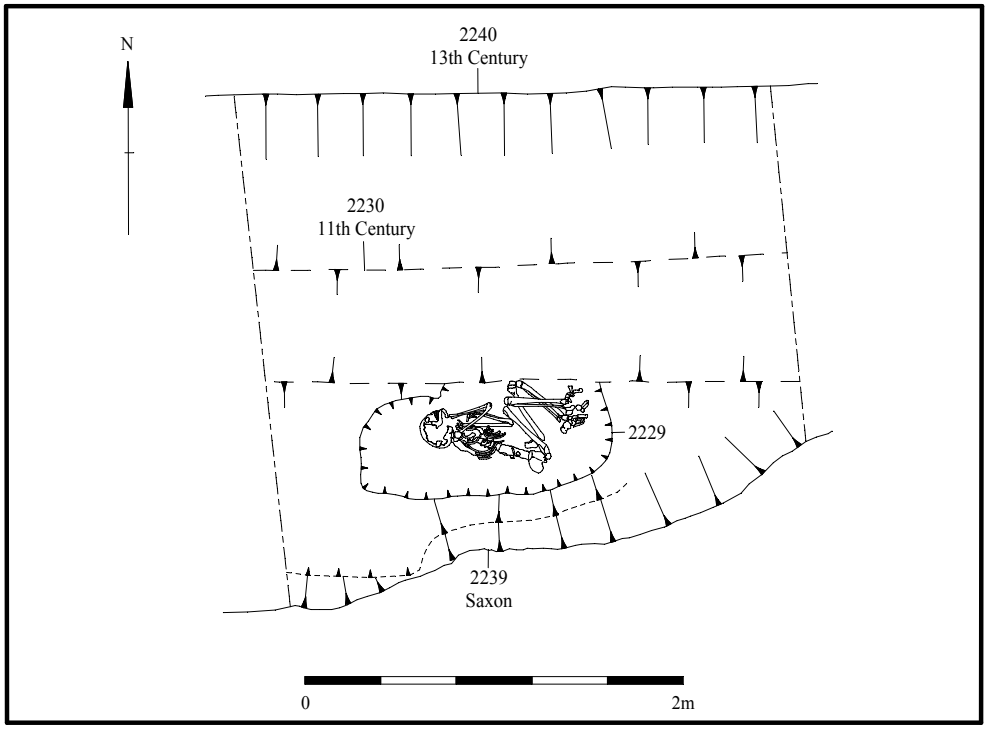

Figure 4. Detail plan of the Anglo-Saxon burial. SMW 07/70

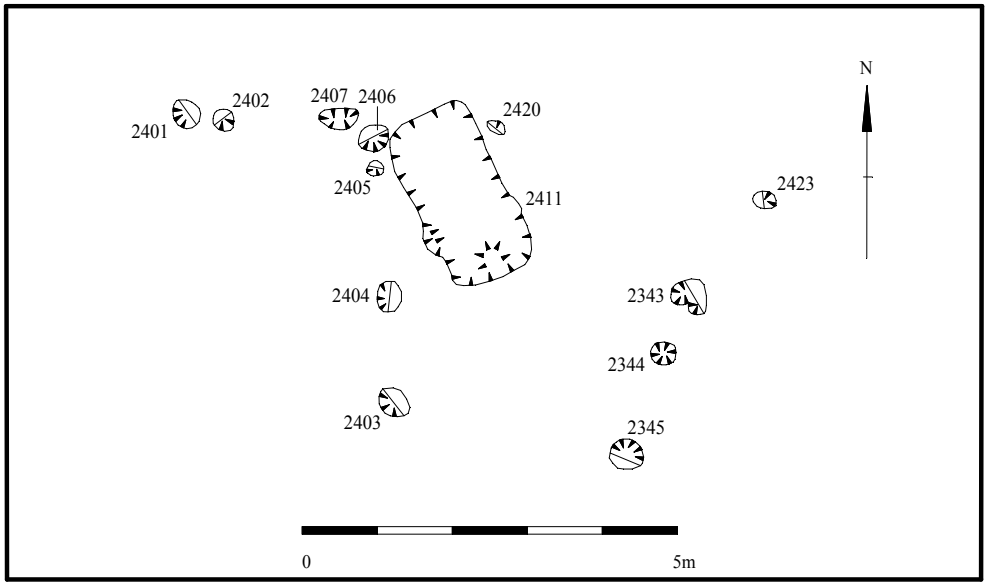

Figure 5. Detail plan of possible post-built structure 5070. SMW 07/70

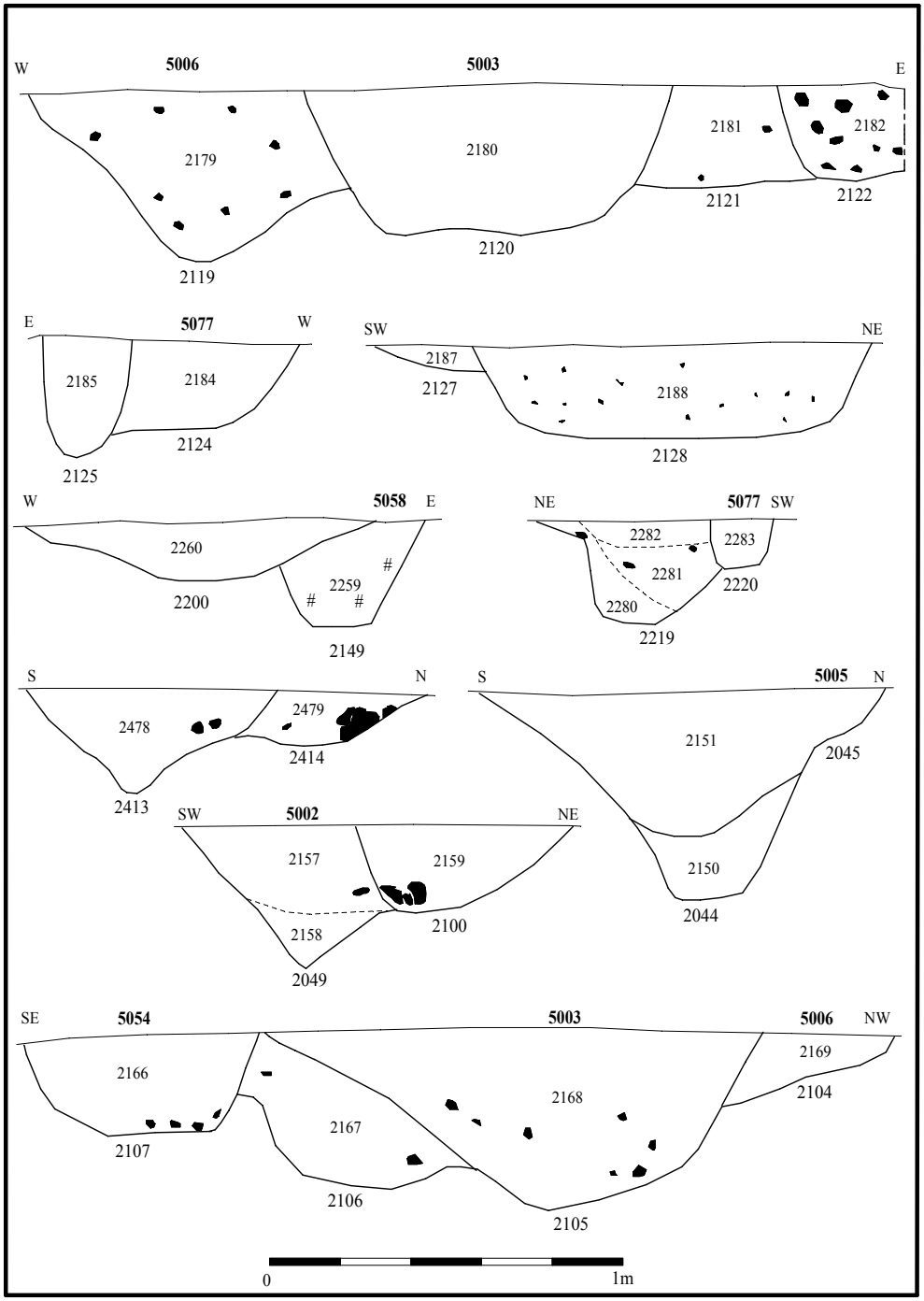

Figure 6. Sections (St. Mary's site). SMW 07/70

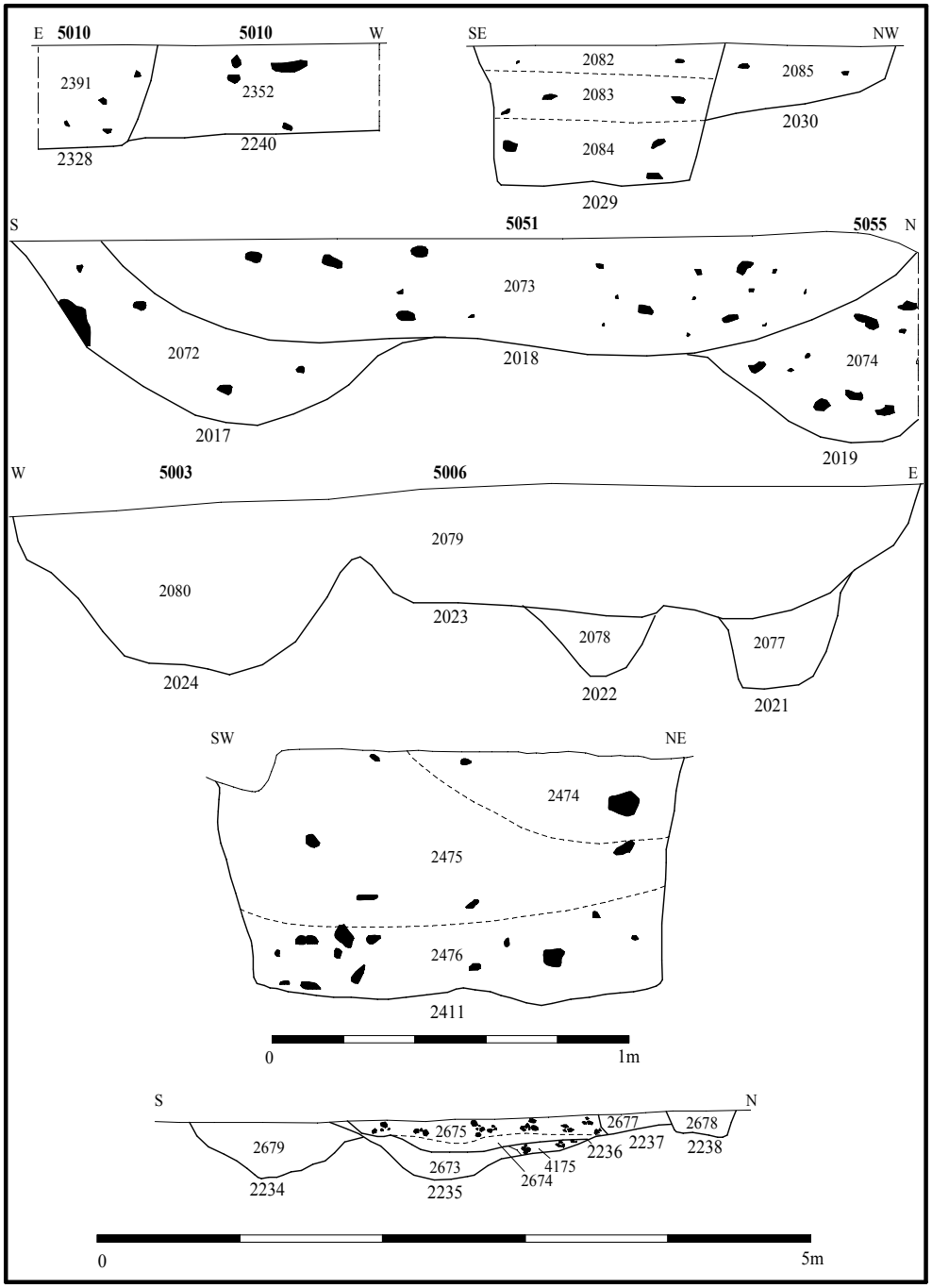

Figure 7. Sections (St. Mary's site). SMW 07/70

Figure 8. Plan showing the St. Gabriel's area of the site. SMW 07/70

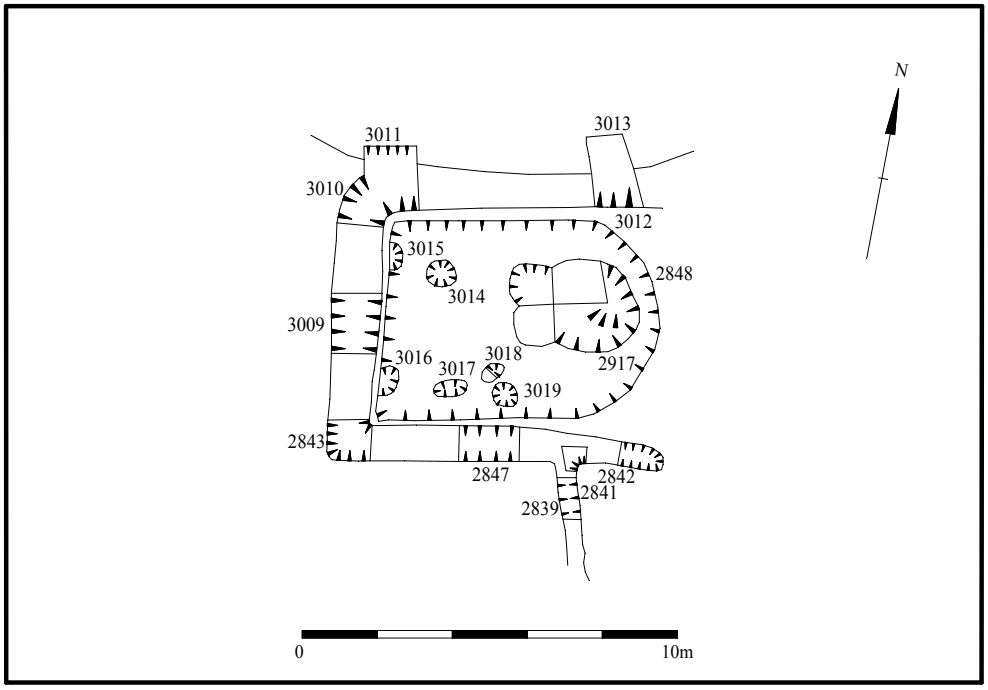

Figure 9. Detail plan of group 5020. SMW 07/70

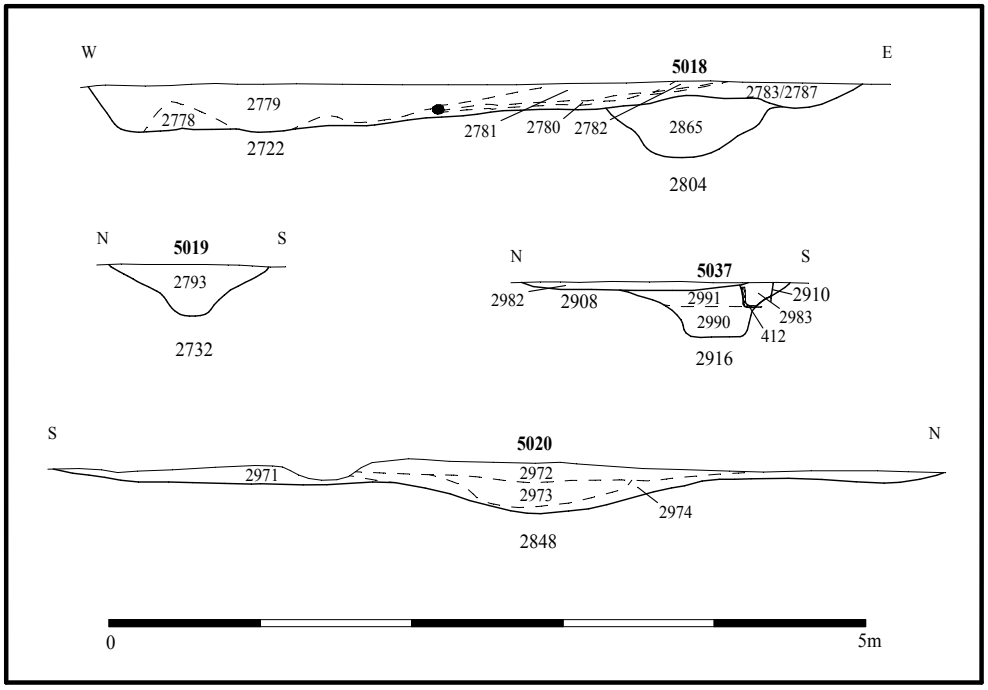

Figure 10. Sections (St. Gabriel's site). SMW 07/70

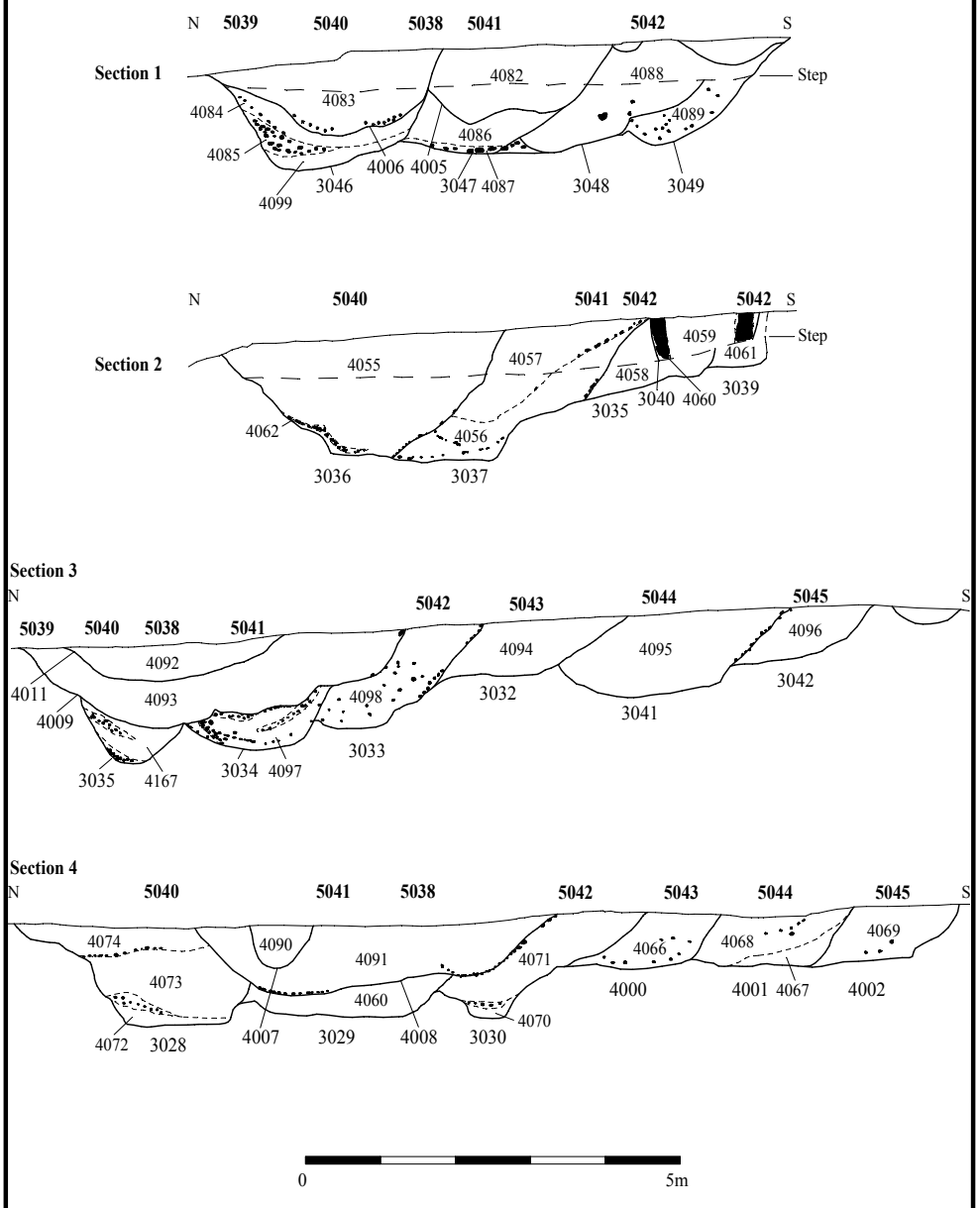

Figure 11. Sections from the large ditch.

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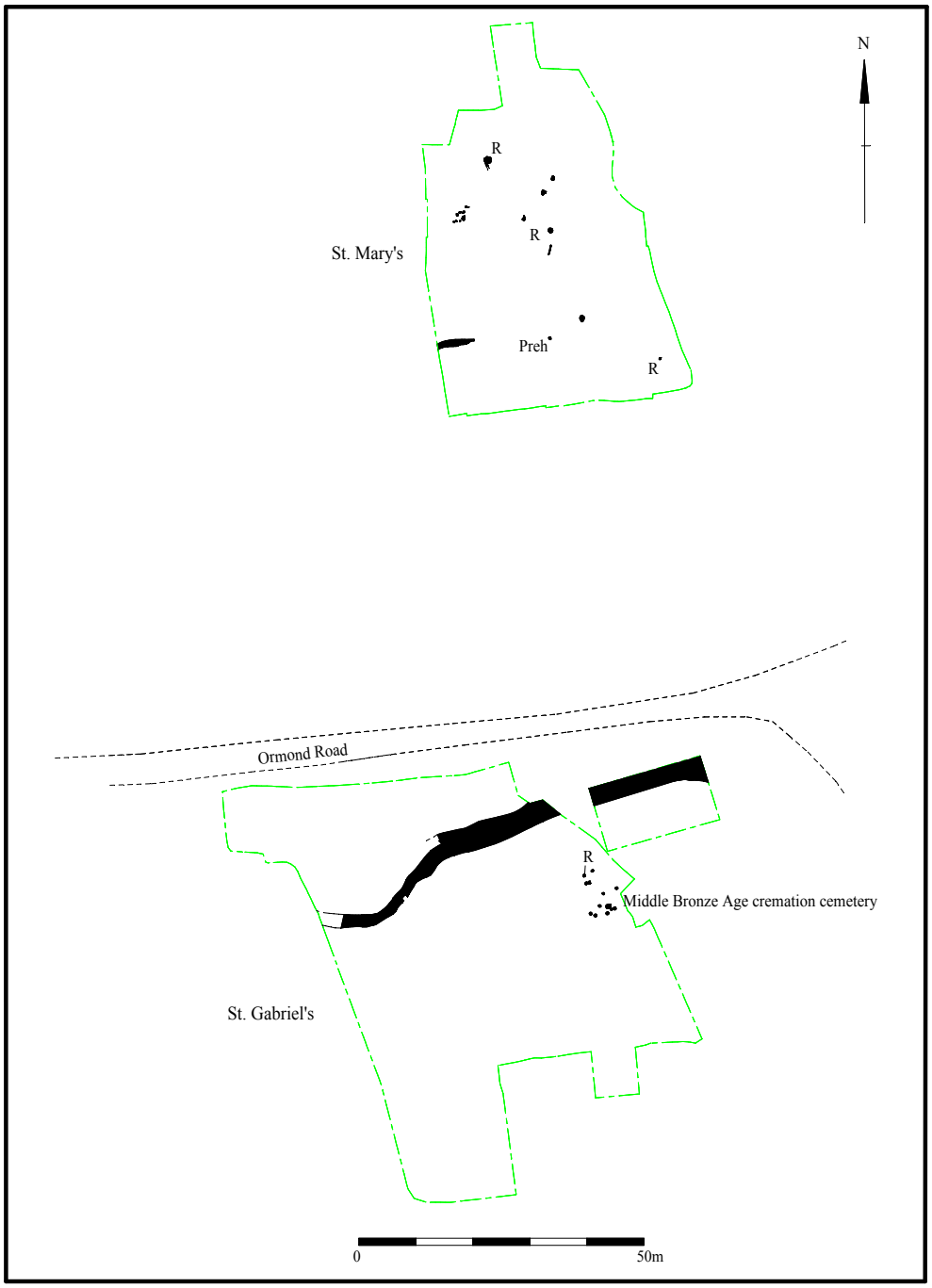

Figure 12. Plan showing Phases 1 (Prehistoric), 1B (Bronze Age), 2 (Romano-British) and 3 (Anglo-Saxon).

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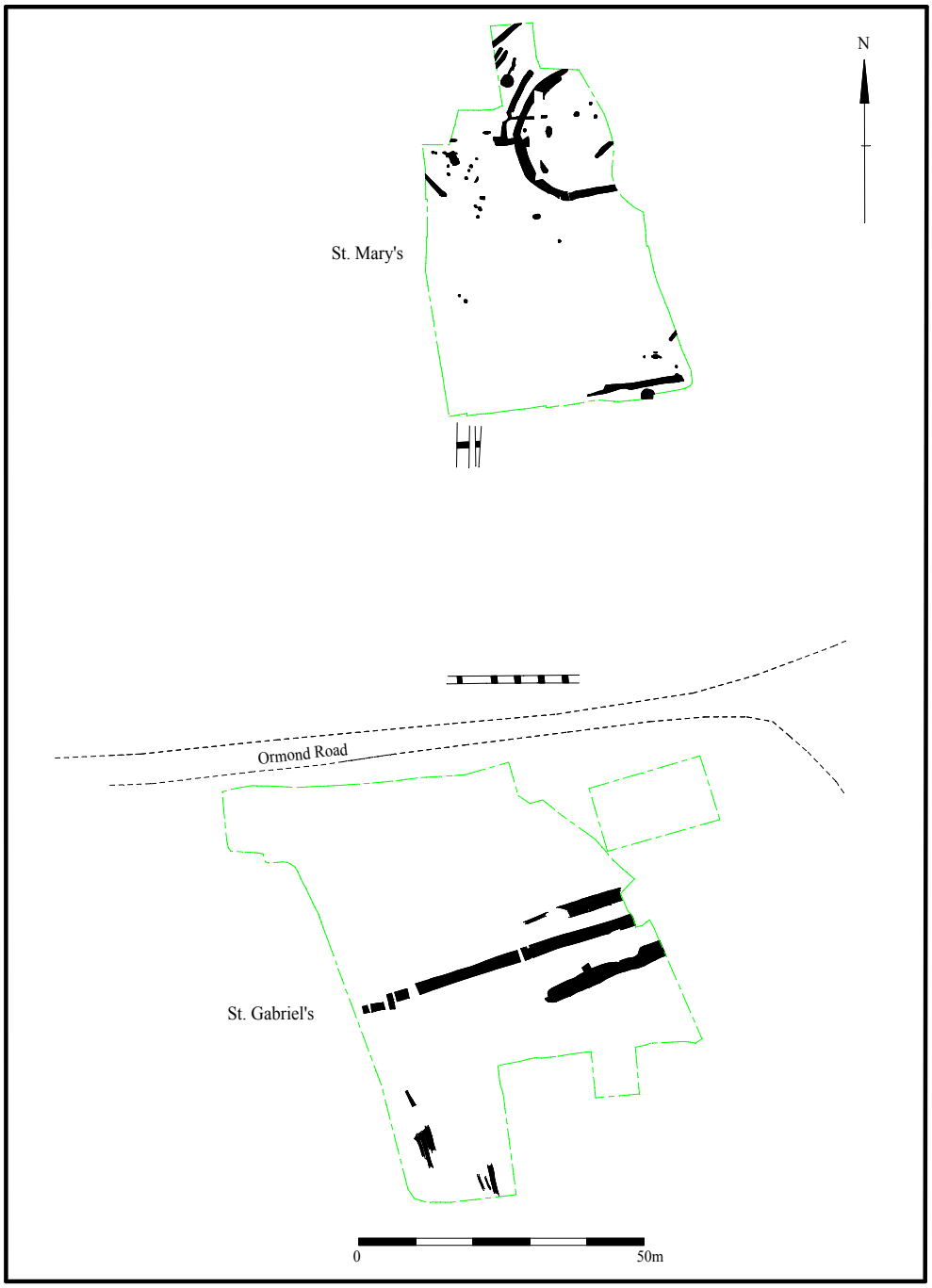

Figure 13. Plan showing Phase 4 (early-mid 11th century). SMW 07/70

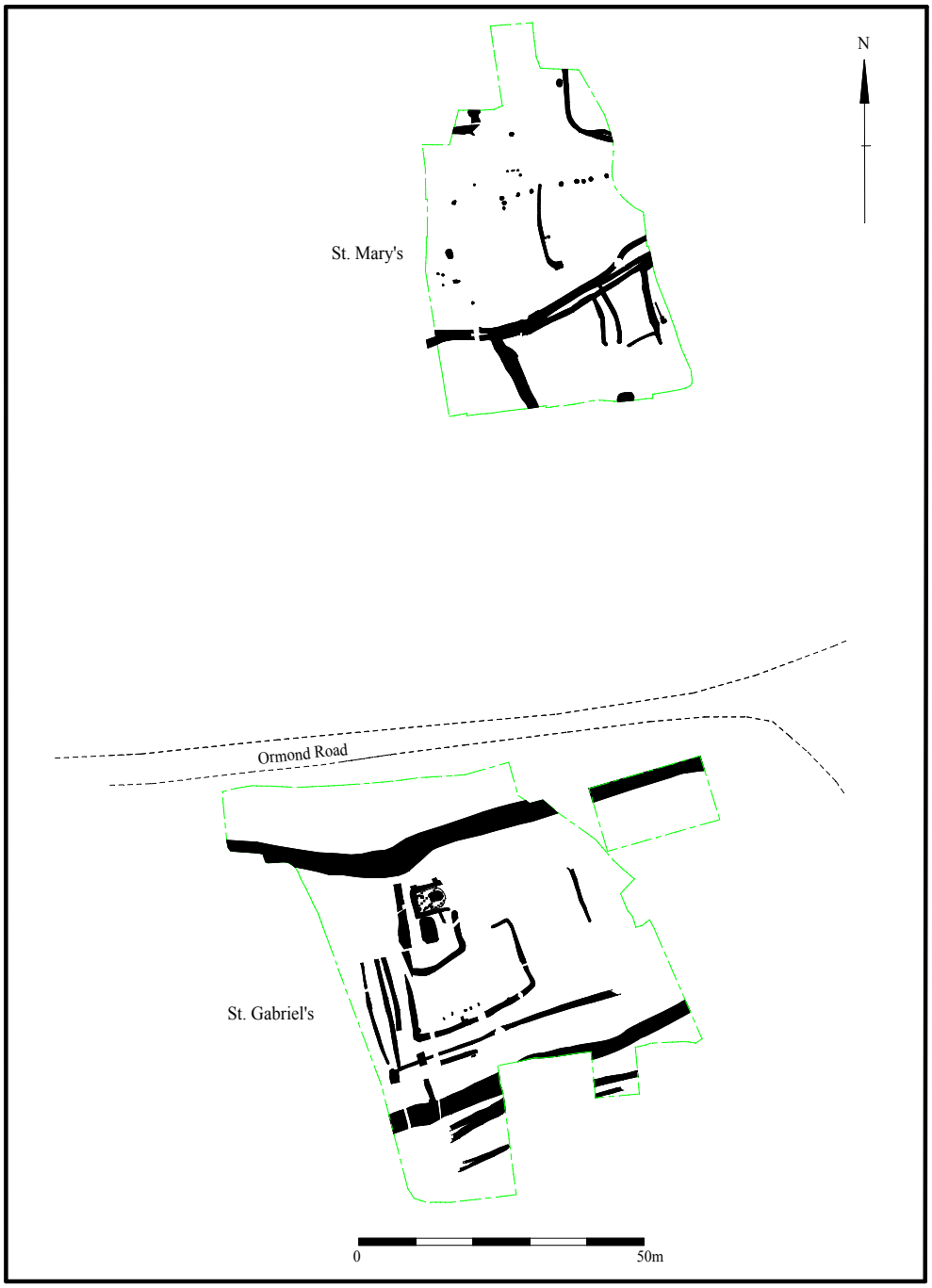

Figure 14. Plan showing Phase 5 (11th-13th century). SMW 07/70

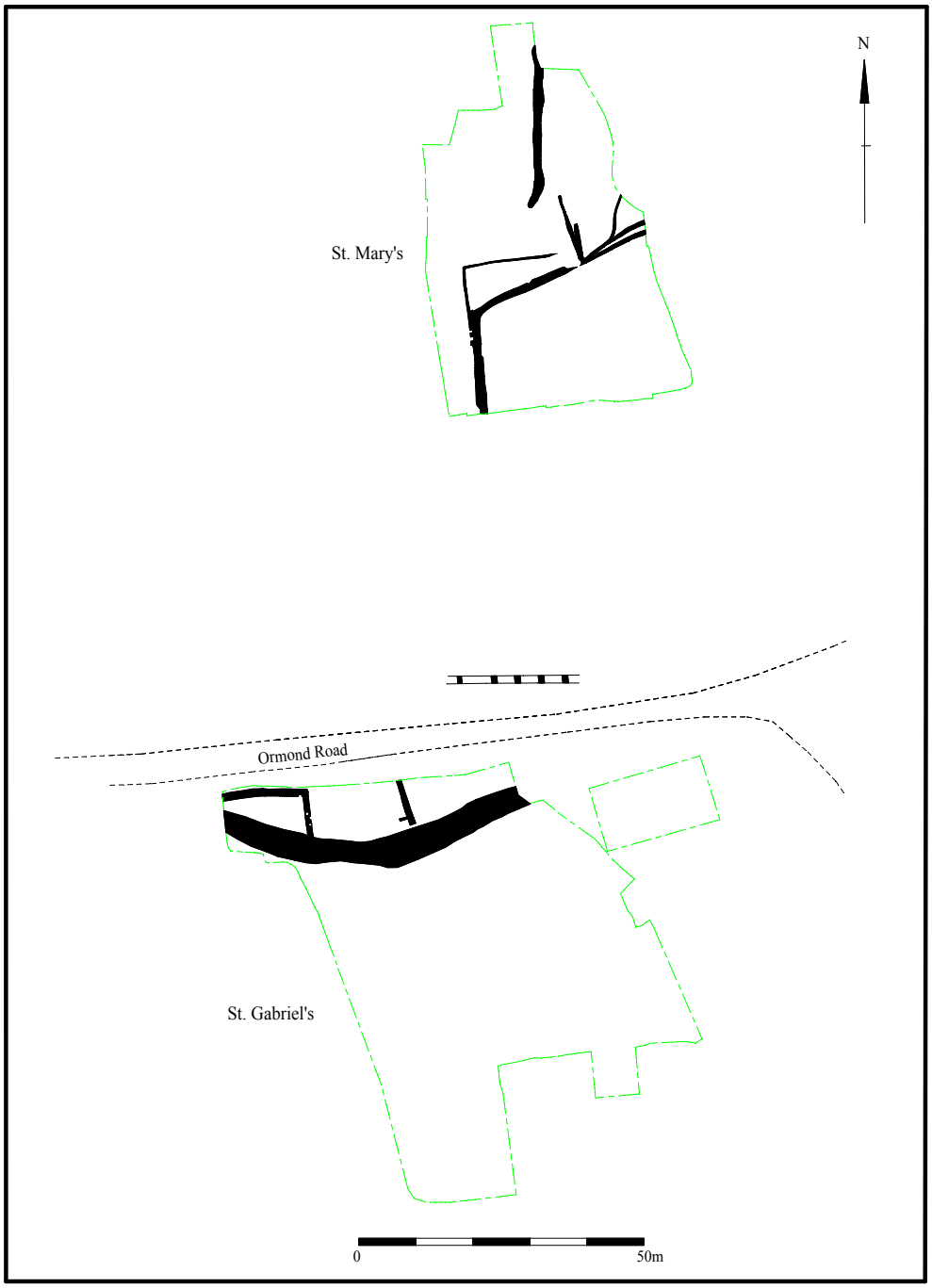

Figure 15. Plan showing Phase 6 (13th century). SMW 07/70

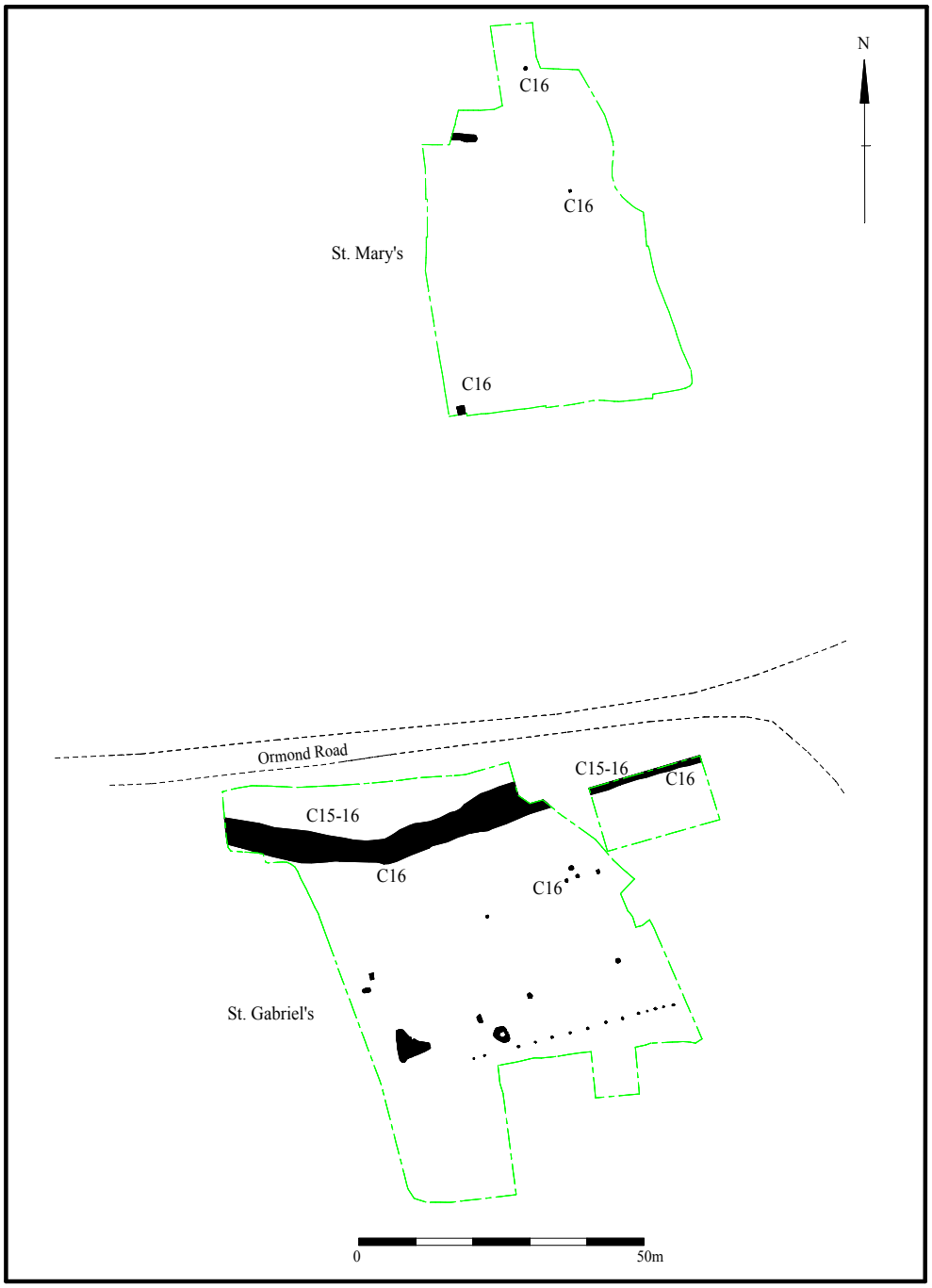

Figure 16. Plan showing Phase 7 (late 15th-early 16th century), Phase 8 (16th century) and Phase 9 (post-medieval).

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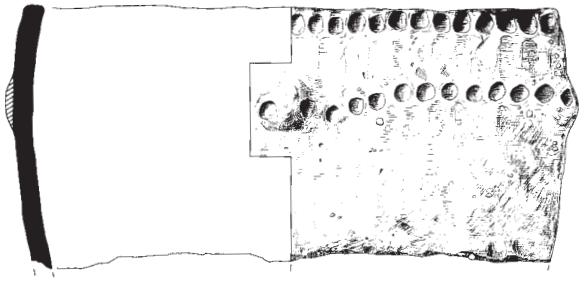

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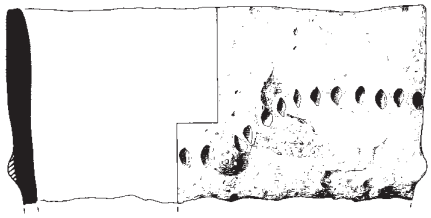

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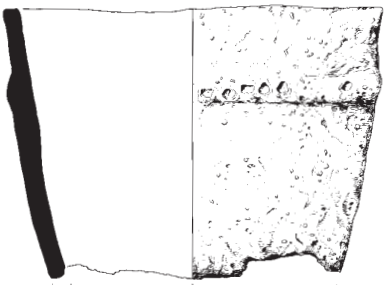

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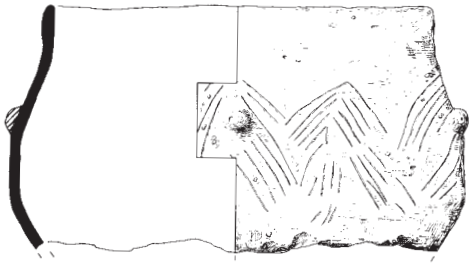

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0 100mm

Figure 17. Prehistoric pottery. **SMW 07/70**

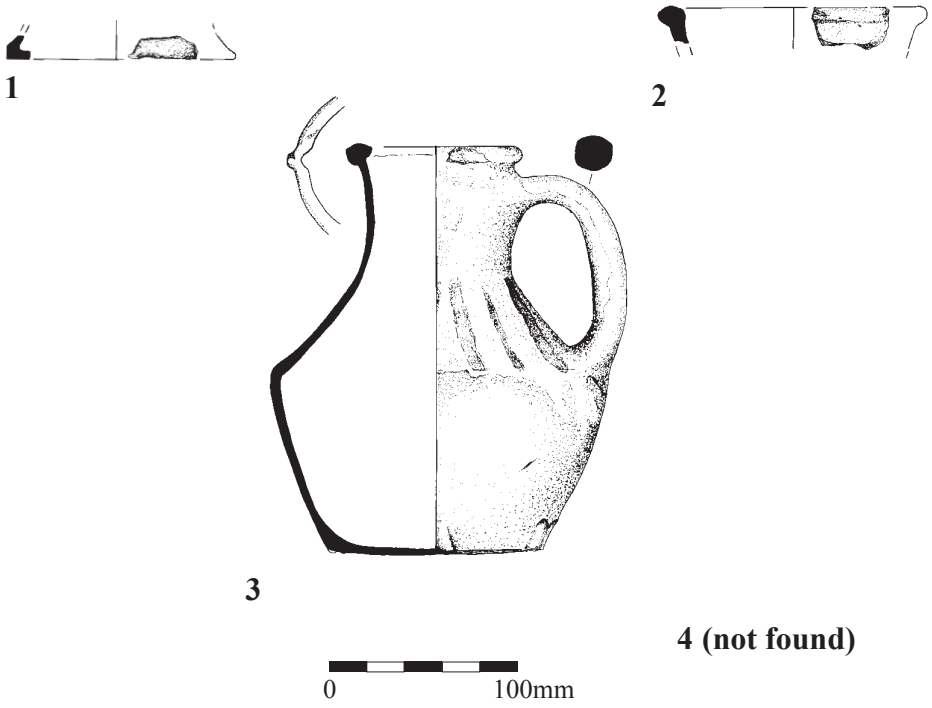

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Figure 18. Medieval pottery.