An Archaeological Evaluation at Church Farm, Tamworth Road, Sawley, Derbyshire, 2001

## Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit **Project No. 820** August 2001

## An Archaeological Evaluation at Church Farm, Tamworth Road, Sawley, Derbyshire, 2001

NGR SK 4719 3140

Site Code: CFS 01

by

Laurence Jones

with contributions by Marina Ciaraldi, Annette Hancocks, Bob Meeson, Emily Murray and Stephanie Ratkai

Client:

W. Westerman Ltd 158 By-pass Road Chilwell Nottigham NG9 5HO

For further information please contact:
Simon Buteux or Iain Ferris (Directors)
Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
The University of Birmingham
Edgbaston
Birmingham B15 2TT

Tel: 0121 414 5513 Fax: 0121 414 5516 E-Mail: BUFAU@bham.ac.uk

Web Address: http://www.bufau.bham.ac.uk

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The University of Birmingham
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# An Archaeological Evaluation at Church Farm, Sawley, Derbyshire, 2001

#### 1.0 Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in July and August 2001 by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) on behalf of W. Westerman Limited in advance of an application for planning permission for a residential development. The development would involve the conversion of two existing brick barns at Church Farm, Tamworth Road, Sawley, in Derbyshire (NGR SK 4719 3140), and the construction of four new houses. Three trial-trenches were located within the site following a desk-based assessment, which identified areas of archaeological interest. Documentary references suggested the possibility that Anglo-Saxon and medieval remains might be encountered. The site was considered to have high archaeological potential due to its location at the heart of the medieval village of Sawley and close to All Saints' Church.

A ditch of possible Iron Age date was found in Trench 2, located to the northwest of the church. A ditch in this trench produced a possible sherd of Iron Age pottery. No features of Roman date were identified. However residual Roman pottery was recovered from a layer in Trench 3, southwest of the church, indicating Roman activity close by, or perhaps even within the site. This activity could possibly be associated with a possible Roman earthwork (SMR 22576), 200m to the east (NGR SK475 313), or with the Roman road to the west.

No Anglo-Saxon remains were found. In Trench 3 pits and ditches probably dating to the  $13^{th}$  century A D were revealed. These were sealed by a possible cultivation layer probably dating to the  $14^{th}$  century, which was cut by a possible beam-slot dating to the  $17^{th}$  century. Other features recorded were of post-medieval date probably relating to the use of the site as a farm during the late post-medieval period. A number of undated features were recorded in Trench 1, located northwest of the church, including a ditch, gully and a posthole these were sealed by an early  $18^{th}$  century layer and the features may be of post-medieval date or perhaps earlier, possibly medieval.

If preservation in situ is not feasible within the development site an archaeological excavation and/or salvage recording together with a program of post-excavation analysis and publication of the results may be appropriate. The final decision on any mitigation strategy must rest with Planning Department of Erewash Borough Council in discussion with the client.

The existing mid to late  $19^{th}$  century brick barns were briefly appraised and a descriptive report was prepared. This is considered to be a sufficient level of recording for buildings of this type and date.

#### 2.0 Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit on behalf of W. Westerman Limited, in July and August 2001. The work was carried out in advance of an application for planning permission for a residential development. The development would involve the conversion of two existing brick barns at Church Farm, Tamworth Road, Sawley, in Derbyshire (NGR SK 4719 3140), and the construction of four new houses. The site is located in Sawley in southeast Derbyshire (Fig. 1). A desk-based assessment undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (Watt 2001a) describes the historical background to the site.

The guidelines set down in the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999) were followed, along with a written scheme of investigation prepared by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (Watt 2001b). The historical context of the site has been fully discussed in the desk-based assessment and is only summarised within this report.

A site meeting was held with Alan Edwards, Principal Planning Officer and Ian McHugh Senior Planning Officer, Erewash Borough Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2001.

The site archive consists of one box of artefacts and one box of A4 files and A3 drawings, currently held at BUFAU. It will be deposited with the appropriate repository, within a reasonable time of the completion of the evaluation, subject to the approval of the landowner.

#### 3.0 Site location and geology (Figs. 1 and 2)

The Site is in the centre of the historic core of Sawley in the extreme southeast corner of Derbyshire (NGR SK 473 315). The southern edge of the Site lies within Sawley Conservation Area, as defined by Erewash Borough Council. The Site is bordered by Tamworth Road to the north and west, by All Saints churchyard to the east, and by the existing Church Farm House, gardens and orchard to the south. To the south, grassed meadowland slopes down to the River Trent.

Sawley, with Long Eaton about a mile to the northeast, lies in a shallow basin where the Derwent, Trent, Soar and Erewash rivers gather. Sawley's original settlement was sited on the well-drained gravel and loam terrace which lies above the flood level of the River Trent, which flows roughly east-west, to the south of the village. The floodplain of the Trent is made up of alluvial sediments and is often waterlogged. To the south of the Trent is a low plateau of Mercia Mudstone. To the north of Sawley lies the steep edge of a low Triassic plateau.

#### 4.0 Archaeological and historical background

The desk-based assessment carried out prior to the to the evaluation gives the detailed archaeological and historical background and only a summary is provided here. No evidence of prehistoric activity was found in the Site itself. A Neolithic or Early Bronze Age polished stone axe (SMR 22578) was found during dredging of the River Trent in 1916, to the south of the site. As the area around the site lies on the floodplains of the River Trent, archaeological features showing as cropmarks are rarely visible, although an aerial photographic survey during the dry summer of 1959 revealed extensive cropmarks on the Trent floodplain to the south-west of Sawley (Hughes 1961). Several cropmarks (SMR 22574) were located in Sawley, including linear features, rectangular enclosures, and a circular enclosure. An important Iron Age site, Red Hill, lies on the south bank of the River Trent opposite Long Eaton. This site continued to be occupied into the Roman period. Two Roman villas are located near Red Hill.

A possible Roman fort (SMR 22576) lies to the east of the Site, and within the Conservation Area. It is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (No.228) and comprises a subrectangular earthwork and, although probably too small to be a fort, may have been a guard post for the river crossing (Todd 1967). It lies adjacent to the modern crossing of the river, and one mile eastnortheast of the present confluence of the Derwent and the Trent. A trial section through the earthwork (St Joseph 1969) yielded three fragments of Roman pottery, but further excavation (Goodburn 1976) obtained no dating evidence. Further Roman activity in Sawley is evidenced by the Roman road from Derby (Little Chester) almost to the bank of the Trent, running to the west of the Site.

Sawley is referred to in the Domesday Book as Salle, which becomes Sallawa by 1166 and Sallowe by 1242. The name derives from the Old English salh, meaning 'sallow willow,' and leah, meaning 'forest, wood, glade, clearing' and later 'pasture, meadow.' Leah is regarded as an indicator of woodland in existence and recognised as ancient by arriving English speakers (Gelling 1984). However, in the case of Sawley, the topography suggests that its meaning is more likely to refer to meadowland.

All Saints' Church lies adjacent to the Site's eastern boundary. The churchyard is separated from the Site for the most part by a high brick wall. A church has existed at Sawley since the early 9<sup>th</sup> century. In AD 822, a Prebendary of Sawley is said to have been appointed by Bishop Ethelwald to reside there, although some have discredited this account (Reedman 1979). In 874, the Danes began to settle at Repton and in Long Eaton, where they eventually acknowledged the jurisdiction of the bishop while retaining their freehold lands (Reedman 1979). Wilsthorpe, to the north of Sawley, was probably first settled by the Danes from Long Eaton. After the Norman Conquest, Sawley received a Norman bishop as lord of the manor and, in 1086, Salle was a manor in the See of Chester while Aitone (Long Eaton) was a Soke (dependency) of Salle. The two villages then returned to the possession of the See of Lichfield (Heath n.d.), to which they had belonged in the 7<sup>th</sup> century. The probable existence of a church in Sawley in the late Anglo-Saxon period is an indication of the importance of the settlement at the time. Sawley controlled a river crossing and had a church, which made it the most important

village in the parish, along with Wilne to the west which was also situated at a river crossing and possessed a church. The current All Saints' Church in Sawley is a Grade I listed building (SMR 22575/22586) and was thought to contain some Anglo-Saxon fabric in the chancel arch, although this was later attested to be of Norman date. The church was added to in the 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries and restored in 1889. The rectory, a Grade II Listed Building, was built about 1823, and lies northeast of the church.

The evidence for the medieval period is not particularly good, but Sawley clearly remained a settlement of some importance still. By the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the manor of Sawley was separate from the prebendal manor of Lichfield. However, the bishop received substantial privileges and, in 1259, Sawley was constituted a town and received a charter to hold a market. This is evidence of its status as an important small town, and the presence of a market provides some indication of the range of trades, and of agriculture, which must have been taking place here, although it is not clear exactly where the market was held.

The plan of the village has classic elements of the medieval village or small town. The church and manor house, the road system and probable burgage plots combine to form this plan. It is also possible that the village plan was influenced by the Danes, as they held control of Nottingham, Leicester, Lincoln, Stamford and Derby under Danelaw. Churches in prominent positions are often associated with village forms in Danelaw. As early settlement in Sawley is likely to have nucleated around the church, the location of the Site adjacent to this would suggest that it was a focus of activity during the medieval period, either for agricultural purposes or domestic and commercial properties, but perhaps more likely the former. Some medieval or post-medieval material was also recovered from the possible Roman earthwork to the east (Todd 1967).

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Sawley Enclosure map and award of 1787 shows the Site to have been occupied by a buildings or rows of buildings and a large 'H'-shaped building probably on the site of the existing Church Farm House, just outside the Site. The building or row of buildings within the Site fronted onto Tamworth Road and would have faced the buildings fronting onto the opposite side of the road, in an area which has been subject to a similar recent archaeological desk-based assessment (Watt 2001c). These latter buildings possessed long narrow backplots, a common feature of medieval village-planning.

It is thought that the site may have been occupied by a farm since the medieval period or earlier, although a farm is not shown to exist on the site on the maps until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and that below-ground remains of earlier buildings may exist within the site. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map, surveyed in 1881, shows the Site in more-or-less its present shape, the church or rectory to the east seemingly having acquired more land at some time during the previous hundred years. The buildings fronting onto Tamworth Road depicted on the 18<sup>th</sup> century Sawley Enclosure map had gone by this time and the existing Church Farm House and two barns (Fig. 2, Buildings 2 and 3) had been built. The barns are not listed buildings but were considered to be worth an appraisal given their location within the Sawley Conservation Area.

An archaeological evaluation was carried out to the north of the Site by BUFAU (Cuttler 2001) on the site of factory buildings at Tamworth Road (NGR SK 4473 3315). This followed a desk-based assessment (Watt 2001c) which identified areas of archaeological interest. A posthole of possible medieval date was the only feature of archaeological significance recorded there.

#### 5.0 Aims and objectives

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to:

- establish the likely presence or absence of any archaeological deposits and features within the Site.
- define the nature, extent and significance of surviving deposits and features.
- provide information to allow the formulation of a mitigation scheme, possibly involving further excavation and recording in advance of development, where appropriate.

These aims were achieved through the excavation of three archaeological trial-trenches (Fig. 2). The area evaluated was limited to the area not currently covered by standing buildings or substantial tarmacadam/ concrete surfaces.

Two existing 19<sup>th</sup> century brick barn buildings (Fig. 2, buildings 2 and 3) on the site, which are to be converted as part of the development were subject to a rapid assessment and recording by a buildings specialist.

#### 6.0 Method

A total of three archaeological trial-trenches were excavated. Trench 1 was 15m x 1.5m wide trench and was located on the east side of the proposed position of one of the new houses. Trench 2 was 'L'- shaped 15m x 10m x 1.5m wide and was situated on the west side of one of the proposed new houses. Trench 3 was 'L'- shaped and was 10m x 10m x 1.5m wide, located on ground sloping down towards the River Trent and to the south of the proposed position of a new house. Trench locations were limited to areas just outside the precise locations of the proposed new buildings, on the instruction of the client.

A JCB- type mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and supervised by an experienced archaeologist was used to remove topsoil and modern overburden. The topsoil and/ or subsoil was removed to the depth at which archaeological features first appeared (generally the interface with the underlying natural subsoil). In Trench 3, where a deep possible cultivation layer underlay the topsoil, the surface of the layer was first manually cleaned and sample excavated in order to test for the presence of archaeological features and to recover artefacts. Then part of the layer was carefully removed to test for archaeological features beneath the layer.

Subsequent sample excavation was carried out by hand in all trenches. Discrete archaeological features, such as pits, were half sectioned. A sufficient length of linear features, such as ditches, was excavated to determine their nature, profile and, where possible, date and function. All deposits encountered were described fully on individual pro-forma context and feature recording cards. A drawn record was made of all features, at scales of 1:50, 1:20 or 1:10 in plan and 1:20 or 1:10 in section and profile, as appropriate. A full monochrome print and colour slide photographic record was maintained throughout. Soil samples of 10 and 20 litres were taken from appropriate contexts for subsequent flotation to recover charred plant remains. Finds, including animal bone, were retained by individual context.

#### 7.0 Results (Fig. 2)

Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

Trench 1 was aligned northwest southeast and was 15m long and 1.5m wide. The natural orange sand and gravel subsoil (1004) was recorded at a depth of 0.65m below the modern ground surface. This subsoil was cut by several archaeological features, described from south to north.

At the southeast end of Trench 1 was a sub-circular posthole (F100), 0.28m in diameter and 0.26m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled with a greyish brown silty sand (1005) containing a fragment of sandstone. To the north of F100 was a linear gully (F101), 0.60m wide and 0.25m deep with steep sides and a flat base, aligned northeast-southwest. It was filled with a greyish brown silty sand (1006) containing a tiny ceramic fragment possibly of tile or brick. North of F101 was a small sub-circular pit or posthole (F105), 0.38m in diameter and 0.24m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a dark brown silty sand (1011) containing brick fragments.

Further north were two roughly parallel linear gullies (F102 and F103) orientated eastwest, both with steep sides and rounded bases. Gully F103 was 0.80m wide and 0.20m deep and was filled with a dark brown silty sand (1009) containing a fragment of tile. It was cut by two sub-rectangular postholes (F104 and F107). Posthole F104 was 0.50m x 0.40m x 0.20m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled with dark brown silty sand (1010) containing brick fragments. Posthole F107 extended beyond the edge of the trench and was at least 0.35m x 0.35m x 0.30m deep, with vertical sides and a rounded base. It was filled with a dark brown silty sand (1013) containing a sherd of medieval pottery, a sherd of post-medieval pottery and brick fragments. Gully F102 was 0.40m wide and 0.12m deep and was filled with dark brown silty sand (1008).

North of F102 was a sub-circular posthole (F106), 0.39m in diameter and 0.25m deep, with vertical sides and a rounded base. It was filled with dark brown silty sand (1012) containing a sherd of post-medieval pottery and large fragments of brick. Further north was a linear east-west aligned ditch (F108), 1.30m wide and 0.70m deep, with a 'V'-shaped profile. It was filled with brown clayey sandy silt (1014) and contained animal

bone. At the north end of the trench was a sub-circular posthole, 0.28m wide and 0.20m deep, with steep sides and a rounded base. It was filled with dark brown sandy silt (1015) containing brick fragments.

Features F100 and F101 and subsoil 1004 were sealed by a layer of greyish brown silty sand (1003) containing post-medieval pottery. Layer 1003 extended beyond the edge of the trench, to the south, and terminated within the trench south of F105. Partly overlying layer 1003 and subsoil 1004 to the north, was a dark brown silty sand (1007) containing tile fragments, which sealed all other features in Trench 1. Layers 1003 and 1007 were sealed by a cobbled surface (1002), up to 0.20m deep. This was overlain by a layer of compacted brick rubble (1001), up to 0.20m deep. Layer 1001 was sealed by 0.10m of tarmac (1000).

#### Interpretation

Gullies F102 and F103 are difficult to date due to the absence of dateable finds, although their fills appeared similar to other features in the this trench dated to the late post-medieval period. Features F102-F107 are probably of late post-medieval to modern date, although a sherd of medieval pottery, presumably residual, was recovered from the fill of F107. Posthole F100, gully F101 and ditch F108 are undated. Layer 1003 probably dates to the early 18<sup>th</sup> century and layer 1007 post-dates this. Layers 1001 and 1002 presumeably relate to a trackway depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1881.

#### Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

Trench 2 was 'L'- shaped, mainly aligned on a northwest-southeast axis and was 25m x 1.5m wide. The natural orange sand and gravel subsoil (2003) was recorded at a depth of 0.45m-0.65m below the modern ground surface. The subsoil was cut by three archaeological features.

Located in the northwest arm of the trench was a linear east-west aligned ditch (F200), 1.88m wide and 0.45m deep, with stepped sides and a rounded base. It was filled with a brown silty sand (2004) containing a sherd of possible Iron Age pottery and a small fragment of brick. Ditch F200 was cut by a shallow sub-circular posthole (F201), 0.30m in diameter and 0.12m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It was filled with a dark brown silty sand (2005) containing fragments of brick. Ditch F200 was also cut by a curvilinear ditch (F203), at least 1.3m wide and 0.25m deep, with steep sides. It was filled with dark brown sandy silt (2007) containing fragments of brick and tile.

South of F200 was a sub-rectangular posthole or small pit (F202), at least  $0.40 \text{m} \times 0.50 \text{m} \times 0.15 \text{m}$  deep, with slightly stepped sides and a flat base. It was filled with a dark brown silty sand (2006) and contained a fragment of clay tobacco pipe and animal bone.

Features F200 and F202 and subsoil 2003 were sealed by a layer of greyish brown silty sand (2002), 0.15m-0.35m deep. Partly overlying 2002, and sealing subsoil 2003 at the northwest end of the trench, was a dark brown or black silty sand (2008), 0.20m-0.25m

deep, containing brick fragments, which sealed all other features in Trench 1 and was cut by the concrete stanchions of a standing modern agricultural building. Layers 2002 and 2008 were overlain by a layer of brick rubble (2001), up to 0.10m deep. Layer 2001 was sealed by 0.10m of concrete (2000).

#### Interpretation

Ditch F200 may be the earliest feature in this trench and is possibly of Iron Age date. The finds recovered from F200 may indicate either an Iron Age or a post-medieval date for this feature. The fragment of post-medieval brick from F200 may be intrusive, perhaps from the fill of F201. Alternatively, the sherd of possible Iron Age pot may be residual. Features F201-F203 are probably of late post-medieval to modern date.

#### Trench 3 (Fig. 5)

Trench 3 was 'V'-shaped, 20m x 1.5m wide, situated on a south-facing slope. The natural orange sand subsoil (3005) was recorded at a depth of 0.60m-1.20m below the modern ground surface. The subsoil was cut by five archaeological features. In the deeper, southeast arm of the trench natural subsoil 3005 was only recorded in a 0.75m wide section dug through an overlying layer.

Towards the southeast end of the trench was a small pit (F304), at least 0.40m wide and 0.38m, deep with steep sides and a rounded base. It was probably sub-circular in shape and was filled with a dark greyish brown sandy silt (3007). Pit F304 was cut by another pit (F303), at least 0.65m wide and 0.28m deep, with steep sides and a rounded base. As with F304 it was probably sub-circular in shape and was filled with a dark greyish brown sandy silt (3008).

Northwest of F303 was a linear north-south aligned ditch (F300), 1.05m wide and 0.40m deep, with steep sides and a rounded base. It was filled with a dark greyish brown sandy silt (3003) containing a fragment of tile and animal bone. At the northwest end of the trench was a linear northwest-southeast aligned ditch (F301), 0.90m wide and 0.35m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It was filled with an orange brown sandy silt (3004) containing animal bone.

Overlying natural sand (3005), at the northwest end of the trench, was a narrow band of clayey sandy silt (3009), 0.10m thick. Layer 3009 was cut by a later feature (F302). Features F300, F301, F303 and F304 and layer 3009 were sealed by a dark greyish brown humic sandy silt layer (3002), 0.25-1.05m deep, deepest at the lower southeast end of the trench. Layer 3002 contained two sherds of Roman pottery, relatively large amounts of medieval pottery, tile, slate and glazed roof tile, mortar, animal bone, a fragment of brick and asbestos. A layer (3010) at the northwest end of the trench, may be the same as 3002, but the exact relationship of the two contexts was unclear due to both being disturbed by a later feature.

Layers 3002 and 3010 were cut by a negative linear feature (F302) possibly a beam slot, 0.80m wide and 0.70m deep, aligned east-west with a 'L'-shaped possible terminal. It

had vertical sides and a flat base and was filled with a dark brown sandy silt (3006) containing early post-medieval pottery, fragments of tile and animal bone.

Overlying 3002, 3006 and 3010 was a 0.15m-0.40m thick layer of compacted brick rubble (3001). This was sealed by 0.10m-0.35m of topsoil (3000), deepest at the lower southeast end of the trench. At the southeast end of the trench, topsoil 3000 contained a large dressed green sandstone block, 0.40m x 0.25m x 0.18m.

#### Interpretation

The residual Roman pottery recovered from layer 3002 suggests Roman activity nearby, possibly associated with the possible Roman earthwork (SMR 22576), 200m to the east, or activity associated with the Roman road to the west. Ditch F300 probably dates to the medieval period on the basis of the finds. Ditch F301 and pits F303 and F304 are also probably of medieval date or possibly earlier since they are sealed by a medieval layer, although no datable finds were recovered. All these features were sealed by a thick medieval layer, the humic content of which may suggest it might be a cultivation layer. This layer, contained relatively large amounts of medieval pottery, tile and animal bone, indicating disposal of domestic rubbish. Small amounts of brick and other modern material indicated some contamination from later post-medieval layers. Possible beam slot F302 is probably of 17<sup>th</sup> century date, possibly associated with a timber building.

The dressed sandstone block found within the topsoil is undated, although it may have originated from All Saints Church or from sandstone structures within the Site. Brick rubble layer 3001 is of modern date forming the surface of a trackway.

#### 8.0 The finds

#### 8.1 The pottery

The pottery was quantified by count and weight (g) only (Table 1). It was rapidly scanned, assigned to a ceramic period and spot-dated to provide a *terminus post quem*.

#### 8.1.1 The prehistoric and Romano-British pottery by Annette Hancocks

A single grog-tempered sherd of probable late Iron Age/early Roman date was recovered from Trench 2 (2004.) All of the Romano-British pottery was recovered from evaluation trench 3 and was of 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> century AD date. A total of six sherds were recovered from layer 3002. These comprised four sherds of Derbyshire coarseware, including a lid-seated/globular jar and two greyware sherds, one with burnished lattice decoration. All of this Roman material is residual, although it does demonstrate limited Roman activity. None of the Roman ceramics showed signs of abrasion.

The national research framework for the study of Romano-British pottery identifies pottery from rural sites as being 'highly significant for our understanding of the Romano-British economy and 'Romanization' (Willis 1997, 15) and indicates the potential academic significance of the recovered assemblage and material from any

further work on the site, although only a relatively small quantity of material was recovered.

## 8.1.2 The medieval and post-medieval pottery by Stephanie Rátkai

A 75 sherds of medieval and 7 sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered. Although the sherds were in good condition, with little abrasion, there were very few form sherds or other diagnostic sherds. All the medieval pottery was examined under x20 magnification.

The largest group of pottery came from (3002), a layer sealing medieval features. The pottery could be divided into two main groups, iron-poor, sandy wares and iron-rich sandy wares. There were glazed sherds in both groups. Differences could be seen in terms of inclusion frequency in both groups but these most likely represent a continuum rather than separate fabric groups. The shortage of diagnostic material made this hypothesis impossible to prove or disprove.

Sawley lies roughly equidistantly from both Nottingham and Derby. Both towns had their own or near-by, pottery producing industries and it seems likely that Sawley would have been supplied primarily from these two sources in the medieval period. The iron-poor wares should probably be equated with Naylor's Nottingham Light Bodied Green Glazed ware (Naylor 2000). The small rim fragment in the moderately sandy group seems to match those illustrated by Naylor.

Iron rich wares are known from both Nottingham and Derby. However the coarse nature of many of the iron-rich wares, and the similarity between the Sawley bowl form and one from Burley Hill (see above) suggests that many of them were derived from the Derby area.

The dating of this group probably lies in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, although the decorated jug sherds and some of the iron-poor vessels could date to the second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The lack of overfired or Midland Purple type sherds suggests that the group pre-dates the 15<sup>th</sup> century, although the presence of a glazed roof tile might tend to favour a date in the later 14<sup>th</sup> century or even later. However, the significance of the roof tile must be weighed against the presence of modern material, showing that there could be some contamination of the fill.

Table 1: Spot-dating of prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval, post-medieval pottery and other finds

Trench Feature Conte		Context	Description	Date range		
1	-	1003	2x post-medieval pottery (53g)	Early 18th century		
1	F101	1006	1x ceramic brick (<5g)	Post-medieval		
1	-	1007	1x ceramic tile (18g)	Post-medieval		
1	F106	1012	1x post–medieval pottery (1g)	19 <sup>th</sup> century		
1	F107	1013	2x ceramic brick (9g); 1x medieval pottery (22g); 1x post-medieval pottery (6g)	17 <sup>th</sup> /early 18 <sup>th</sup> century		
1	F108	1014	animal bone (5g)			
2	F200	2004	1x ceramic brick (7g); 1x ?prehistoric pottery (15g)	?late Iron Age/early 1 <sup>st</sup> century AD with intrusive post-medieval		
2	F201	2005	1x ceramic tile (4g)	post-medieval		
2	F202	2006	1x clay pipe (1g); animal bone (5g)	post-medieval		
2	F203	2007	7x ceramic tile (144g)	post-medieval		
3	-	3002	2x ceramic tile (24g); 1x ceramic brick (22g); 2x mortar (113g); 1x slate tile (511g);1 x glazed roof tile (30g); 6x Romano-British pottery (77g); 70x medieval pottery (833g); animal bone (1680g); 1x stone (26g) and 1 x modern material	14 <sup>th</sup> century with residual 2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> century A.D. and intrusive post-medieval/modern		
3	F300	3003	1x medieval pottery (2g) and animal bone (53g)	?13 <sup>th</sup> century		
3	F301	3004	animal bone (78g)	-		
3	F302	3006	8x ceramic tile (342g) 3x post-medieval pottery (38g) and animal bone	17 <sup>th</sup> century		
3	F303	3007	1x ceramic tile (23g) and animal bone	?medieval		
3		U/S	1x medieval pottery (5g)	medieval		

Table 2: Quantification of finds by type

Material Type	Trenches	Quantity	Weight (g)
Ceramic: tile	1,2 and 3	19	532g
Ceramic: brick	1,2 and 3	6	66g
prehistoric pottery	2	1	15g
Romano-British pottery	3	6	77
Medieval pottery	1,2 and 3	73	862g
Post-medieval pottery	1,2 and 3	7	98g
Clay pipe	2	1	1g
Mortar	3	2	113g
Animal bone	1,2 and 3		1821g
Glazed roof tile	3	1	30g
Stone tile: slate	3	1	511g
Stone: miscellaneous	3	1	26g

#### 8.2 The plant remains by Marina Ciaraldi

Two samples of 20 litres were collected respectively from layer 3002 and ditch F200 while a 10 litre sample represented the whole fill of pit F303. Layer 3002 was thought to be a cultivated surface. All the samples had a loose sandy loam matrix and were of a

dark brown colour. The samples were processed at the University of Birmingham with a York flotation machine. The flots were recovered on a 0.5 mm sieve and scanned under a low power microscope. The residue was recovered on a 1mm mesh and sorted by eye.

Only the two samples, both from Trench 3, contained charred plant remains. Their preservation was good although they were not particularly abundant. The sample from Feature F303 contained two small mammal bones. No biological remains were observed in the sample from Trench 2 (Table 3).

The plant remains recovered from F303/3007 and layer 3002 included cultivated plants and weeds. Apart from a single rachis internode of barley, no chaff was recovered from the samples, suggesting that probably crop processing did not take place at this part of the site. The plant remains from layer 3002 do not seem to support the hypothesis that this was a cultivated surface and other types of investigation (e.g. soil micromorphology) could be considered to answer this question. The presence of broad bean (*Vicia faba L.*) is of interest as it indicates the existence of a crop rotation system or, alternatively, that broad beans were cultivated in vegetable gardens. The plant assemblage seems to derive from domestic activities and, in this respect, it might be significant that both samples with plant remains come from the same trench.

There are no published records of medieval plant assemblages from Derbyshire, therefore, the plant remains from Church Farm are of particular interest. The samples examined show a variation in the distribution of plant remains on site. This might be significant for the reconstruction of activity areas on site. It is suggested that further sampling strategy takes this aspect into account by sampling features that are visibly charcoal rich as well as those which are not. It is suggested that larger samples (30 litres) should be taken, given the low concentration of charred remains, if further work is undertaken.

Table 3: Quantification of the plant remains

Trench	Feature	Context	Type of context	Vol. of sample (L.)	Vol. of flot (ml.)/% scanned	Notes
Tr.3	-	3002	layer	20	100/50	hulled barley grains (xxx) and rachis internodes (x), bread/rivet wheat (xx); oats (x), rye (x), Vicia faba (x), fruit (x), vetch (x), Anthemis cotula (x), Centaurea sp. (x). Charcoal very fragmented
Tr.3	F303	3007	pit	10	20/100	bread/rivet wheat (xxx -some germinated grains); oats (x), vetch (x), culm nodes (x), vetch (x), broad beans (x). Charcoal very fragmented. Animal bones
Tr.2	F200	2004	ditch	20	10/100	no biological remains

Key: x = present; xx = abundant; xxx = very abundant

## 8.3 The animal bone by Emily Murray

c. 1.8 kgs of hand-collected animal bones were recovered (Table 1). The majority of the bones were found in Trench 3 and derive from medieval ditch fills (3003 & 3004), a possible medieval cultivation layer (3002), a medieval pit (3007) and the fill of a possible 17<sup>th</sup> century beam-slot (3006). Layer 3002 also contained two sherds of residual Roman pottery. A small number of 'non-countable' mammal bone fragments (10g) were also found in Trench 1 (context 1014, undated) and Trench 2 (context 2006, post-medieval).

A 10 litre bulk sample from the medieval pit F303 (3007) was sieved to recover macrofossil and other organic remains, including bone. Just two animal bones were present in the sample.

Overall the bones were moderately well preserved. The structural integrity of the bones was not altered in any way although the cortical surface of a number of specimens had been abraded, in particular the bones from context 3004. Although the Site lies on the floodplains of the river Trent, none of the animal bones showed signs of waterlogging.

The assemblage was recorded using a modified version of a system devised by Davis (Davis 1992; Albarella & Davis 1994). This system considers a selection of anatomical elements as 'countable', while the presence of 'non-countable' specimens of interest are noted. Bones of caprines were differentiated on a limited number of specimens using the criteria described in Boessneck (1969) and Kratochvil (1969). Goose bones were recorded as *Anser* and were not differentiated into wild or domestic goose.

The small assemblage comprised both mammal and bird remains representing cattle, sheep/goat, pig, dog, domestic fowl/pheasant, goose and lapwing (Table 4). Although the assemblage is too small to allow quantitative analysis (the number of identified species (NISP) from the medieval contexts was 25), bones of sheep/goat were most commonly represented. Three caprine (i.e. sheep and goat) elements were positively identified as sheep and no positive goat bones were recorded.

Pigs are represented principally by cranial elements including three loose male mandibular canines (Schmid 1972, 81) from medieval contexts. Two ulnae from immature pigs, one medieval and one post-medieval the latter from a neo-natal individual, were also recorded and their presence would suggest the breeding of pigs on or close to the site during both periods of occupation. A juvenile tarsometatarus of a fowl, probably chicken, was recovered in the sieved sample suggesting that chickens too may have been kept on site.

Several elements, both countable and non-countable, showed signs of carnivorous gnawing, probably caused by dogs. Dog was also represented by a semi-complete scapula and a fragment of maxilla ('non-countable') with an incisor in situ (I³), in the 17<sup>th</sup> century assemblage (context 3006, F302). The former had shallow knife marks located around the neck of the scapula, which may have been caused through skinning or defleshing with the meat intended either for human consumption or as food for other dogs. Dog bones with

cut and chop marks have been found at several contemporary sites including Lincoln (Dobney et al. 1996, 46-7) and Castle Mall, Norwich (Albarella et al. 1997, 44).

The only wild species represented at Church Farm, with the possible exception of goose, is lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*). Lapwings are the most common inland plover in Britain and are typically found in open countryside such as on farmlands, heaths, or moors and often by fresh or estuarine waters (Heinzel *et al.* 1995, 142). The specimen from Church Farm may derive from a natural mortality given the proximity of the site to the River Trent although the possibility that it was eaten cannot be excluded. No signs of butchery were noted on the bone (proximal tibiotarsus).

The range of species represented in the medieval assemblage and the level of fragmentation of the bones is typical of material derived from butchery waste. The nature of these deposits therefore suggests the occurrence of domestic activities nearby, as well as the possibility that certain farmyard animals, namely pig and domestic fowl, were kept and bred on site. The butchered dog scapula from the possible 17<sup>th</sup> century beam-slot (F302) indicates that either dog skins were being processed or that dog flesh was being consumed, perhaps at a time of food shortages.

The potential of an animal bone assemblage recovered from any further excavations in this immediate area is very good, on the basis of the material evaluated for this report. The state of preservation, including the survival of juvenile pig and fowl bones, and the wide range of species represented are both very promising in terms of reconstructing the diet and economy of the former occupants of the site. However, the possible problem of residuality is an issue that would have to be addressed. Also, the sieved sample presented for the evaluation was too small to allow any detailed analysis but in the case of a full excavation, samples should be taken throughout so that an assemblage, unaffected by recovery biases, can be fully analysed.

Table 4: Number of 'countable' hand-collected animal bone elements (NISP) recorded by species and context. ('Sheep/goat' includes the specimens identified to species).

Contex	t 1014	3002	3003	3006	3004	3007	Total
cattle (Bos taurus)	-	4	-	1	-	-	5
sheep/goat (Ovis/Capra)	*	6	-	_	3	1	10
sheep (Ovis aries)	_	-	-	_	2	1	3
pig (Sus scrofa)	<del>-</del> -	6	1	1	_	-	8
dog (Canis familiaris)	_	-	-	1	_	_	1
Domestic fowl/pheasant (Gallus/Phasianus)	-	-	-	*	-		
goose (Anser sp.)	-	-	_	_	1	-	1
lapwing (Vanellus vanellus)	-	*	-	-	_	-	-
Total		18	1	3	6	2	28

<sup>\* -&#</sup>x27;non-countable'

## 8.4 The brick and tile by Annette Hancocks

A total of nineteen fragments of ceramic tile, weighing 532g were noted. These were mainly small fragments of undiagnostic roof tile. However, depth and form suggested they were of medieval date. The assemblage was fragmentary and quite abraded; no complete examples were noted. A single, modern slate roof tile was recognised from trench 3 (511g). In addition, six pieces of modern brick (66g) were recovered from the three evaluation trenches.

## 9.0 Building assessment by Bob Meeson

#### Building 2 (Fig. 6)

Probably constructed in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, building B has three two-storeyed bays to the west but it is single-storeyed to the east. The building has one main primary build, but it has been subject to a number of alterations. It was constructed in Flemish stretcher bond, with gritty sandstone dressings and dentilated eaves. With one exception, the segmental heads of primary ground-floor windows and doorways employ alternating red and blue brick headers. The primary doorway on the south side of bay C has recessed reveals and its segmental head is entirely of red brick. The storeyed end of the building retains thin grey-green slates over a roof of shallow pitch, but the lower eastern portion has been re-covered with modern concrete tiles. In bays A and C midspan support is provided by king-post trussed rafter trusses, supporting single side purlins and a ridge board.

In the storeyed end of the building the central bay was originally for threshing, and was open to the roof; there are ventilation slits in both walls of bays A and C. The partition walls on each side of bay B were originally no more than wings, rising to form 'brick trusses' to carry the purlins – a common type in central lowland Staffordshire in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. At first-floor level the wide aperture has been retained in its original form between bays B and C, but in the other partition wall the gap has been narrowed down to a doorway. There were probably lofts in bays A and C from the outset, as at least some of the apertures on the upper floor are primary. Accordingly, there was storage for only small quantities of grain.

On the south elevation, in bay C the eastern window and the central doorway are primary, but the western doorway is an insertion. With a rectangular pitching eye on the first floor, it is possible that this bay was originally intended as a stable with hay-loft over, but latterly it has been subdivided to form a dairy. All of the windows have fixed glazing in the lower portions with glazed drop-back vents above. The first floor of bay A is now subdivided by old doors into makeshift corn-bins, and on the ground floor there are concrete block bases for feed-processing machinery, most of which has been removed. Two pulley wheels survive, and these probably served as sack-hoists for grain being lifted into bay A.

The dairy was inserted into bay C so as to be conveniently located next to the milking parlour in the single-storeyed eastern portion of the building, but there are milking bays to serve only four cows at a time.

#### Building 3 (Fig. 7).

The single-storeyed L-plan Building 3 defines the west and south sides of the yard. It is mainly of Flemish garden wall red brick construction, with stone dressings, similar in character to building 2 and almost certainly contemporary with it. The chamfered brick eaves employ alternating blue and red bricks. The shallow-pitched roof has been recovered with modern concrete tiles; the nine bays are covered by a king-post, trussed rafter roof with single side purlins and a ridge board. In the south range the windows have segmental heads of alternating blue and red bricks; within the wooden frames there is fixed glazing in the upper half but slatted vents below. In the west range the windows have straight heads, fixed glazing in the top half and drop-back glazing below. All of the south range, and 1 at the north end of the west range has a lath-and-plaster ceiling. All floors are of concrete, and except for 6 in the south range, all have drains. There are split 'stable' doors to 4 and 5, but 6 has a full-height door.

The west range is the longer of the two. Originally there were small rooms divided off from the main parlour at each end. The wide aperture at the south end of the east wall is a relatively modern adaptation. 1, 3 and 4 all now have tethering chains for two beasts, but possible primary functions of these smaller spaces include bull-house, loose-box, calf-house. The main cow-house (2) has small high vents in the long west wall; it was long enough to accommodate at least 24 animals.

In the south range the central chamber (5) the only fixtures left are two tethering chains. Room 6 has a small fireplace in its SW corner; the room has been fitted out as a workshop; it retains work-benches with the remains of lathes for metal-turning.

In conclusion, Buildings 2 and 3 were constructed to serve a modest-sized mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century farm with a mainly pastoral base, but with a small level of cereal production. The primary function of building 2 was as a threshing barn, possibly with an attached stable with hay-loft over, and a cow-house or milking parlour to the east. Building 3 was primarily for cattle. The fireplace in 6 might imply a dairy in this location at some stage, but at a later date a new dairy was inserted into A (Building 2). No hay racks or feeding mangers survive. It is not clear where fodder root crops were originally stored, although a location near to the processing machinery in Building 2 would have been logical, possibly on the ground floor of bay B following its conversion from a threshing bay.

#### 10.0 Discussion

Evidence of possible Iron Age activity was found in Trench 2, ditch F200 which contained a possible sherd of Iron Age pottery which may or may not date the feature. The small quantity of finds from this feature mean it is difficult to be certain if the possible Iron Age pottery is residual. No features of Roman date were identified.

However the residual Roman pottery from layer 3002, Trench 3 indicates Roman activity close by, or perhaps within the Site. This activity could possibly be associated with the possible Roman earthwork (SMR 22576), 200m to the east (NGR SK475 313), or with the Roman road to the west.

Medieval activity was represented by ditch F300 and layer 3002, which each produced datable pottery and probably by ditch F301 and pits F303 and F304. The relatively large amounts of pottery and animal bone recovered from possible cultivation layer 3002 suggest domestic structures may have been located nearby, probably within the Site. A possible 17<sup>th</sup> century structure was represented by beam slot F302. Undated features F100, F101 and ditch F108 in Trench 1 were sealed by post-medieval layers and may be of post-medieval date or perhaps earlier, possibly medieval.

The Site is located in what would have been the heart of the medieval village of Sawley, a village known to be of some importance in both Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods, and close to the church, the focal point of this settlement since the medieval period. The medieval archaeological features recorded during the evaluation here may relate to activities within village burgage plots, which would have also contained timber dwellings. Evidence of inter-cutting pits suggests there could be several phases of medieval activity here. The presence of a possible 17<sup>th</sup> century structure and other early possible post-medieval features indicate there may be some continuity of occupation. Other features encountered during the evaluation probably relate to late post-medieval to modern occupation of the site by a farm. The impact of 19<sup>th</sup> century and modern features and buildings on the earlier archaeology appears to have been slight within the areas tested by trenching, although a small amount of contamination of earlier archaeological features by these later features was apparent.

The evaluation demonstrated that archaeological remains possibly dating from the Iron Age may survive and that there is a possibility of survival of Roman features within the Site. Archaeological features dating to the medieval and early post-medieval periods survive within the Site. Archaeological remains dating to these periods are relatively rare in this part of Derbyshire and are of local and regional archaeological importance. The preservation of these archaeological remains is generally quite good. To complement the good survival and preservation of archaeological features the evaluation indicated relatively good survival of animal bone and charred plant remains. The likelihood of other medieval archaeological features and deposits surviving elsewhere, within the Site, is high and it is probable that archaeological features may even survive beneath the existing agricultural buildings.

#### 11.0 Provisional recommendations

### 11.1 Below ground archaeology

The recommendations below provide an outline of the suggested archaeological mitigation measures, which may be required in advance of the proposed development.

Significant archaeological features and deposits of local and regional importance have been shown to survive at depths of 0.20m below the present ground surface in some places and would presumeably be affected by groundworks below this level, during any proposed development. A design solution preserving the archaeological features and deposits *in situ* is one option to be considered. In this case a watching brief during excavation of deep service trenches may be necessary.

If preservation *in situ* is not possible an archaeological mitigation strategy of the kind suggested in paragraph 30 of PPG16 (DoE 1990) may be applicable in this situation. This could involve archaeological excavation of areas affected by groundworks for the development deeper than 0.20m below the present ground surface. This could include locations of proposed new houses, and any associated ground works. A watching brief during excavation of service trenches may also need to be undertaken.

The final decision on any mitigation strategy must rest with Planning Department of Erewash Borough Council or the Planning Archaeologist, Derbyshire Council in discussion with the client.

#### 11.2 Above ground archaeology

The brief description and photographic survey (contained in the site archive) of the standing buildings carried out as part of evaluation is considered a sufficient level of recording for buildings of this type and date.

#### 12.0 Acknowledgements

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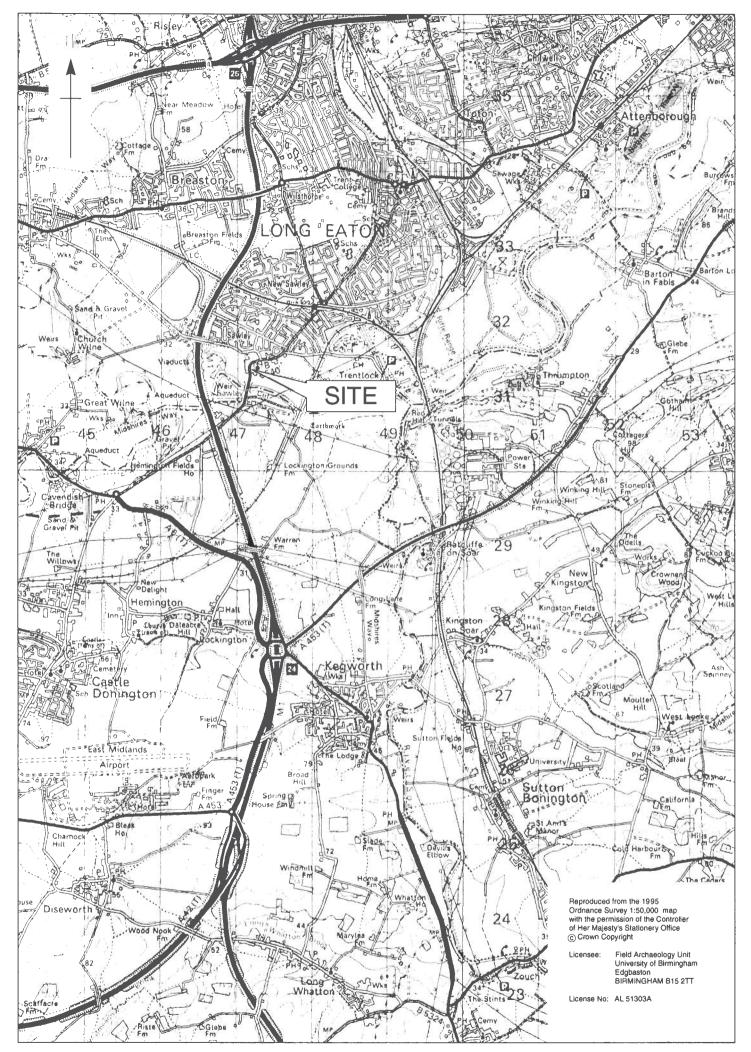


Fig.1

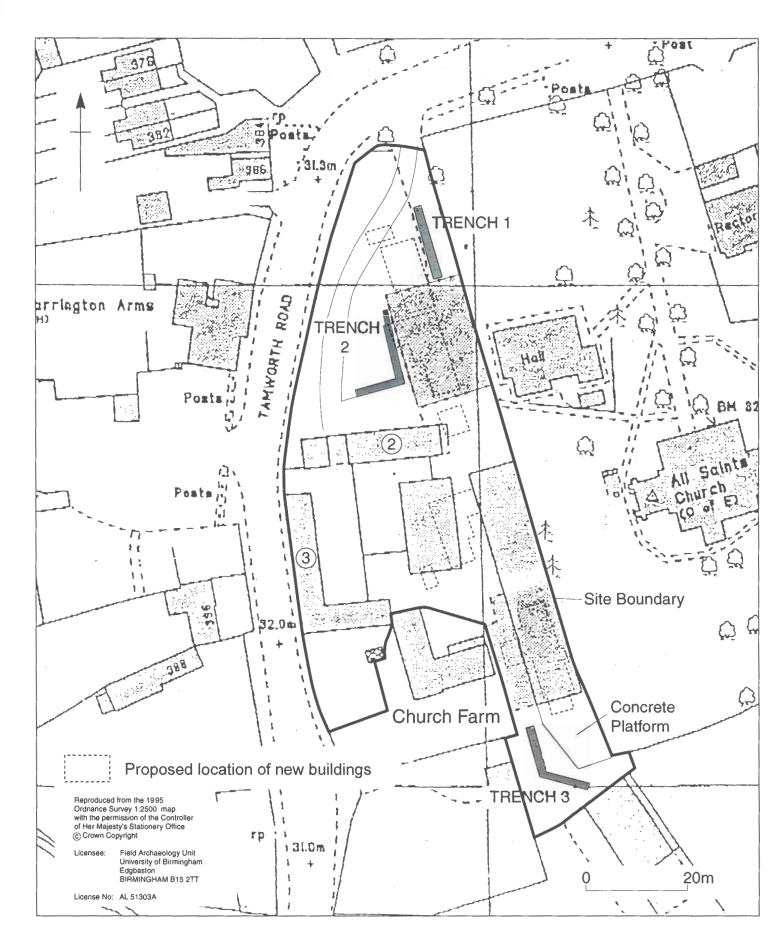


Fig.2

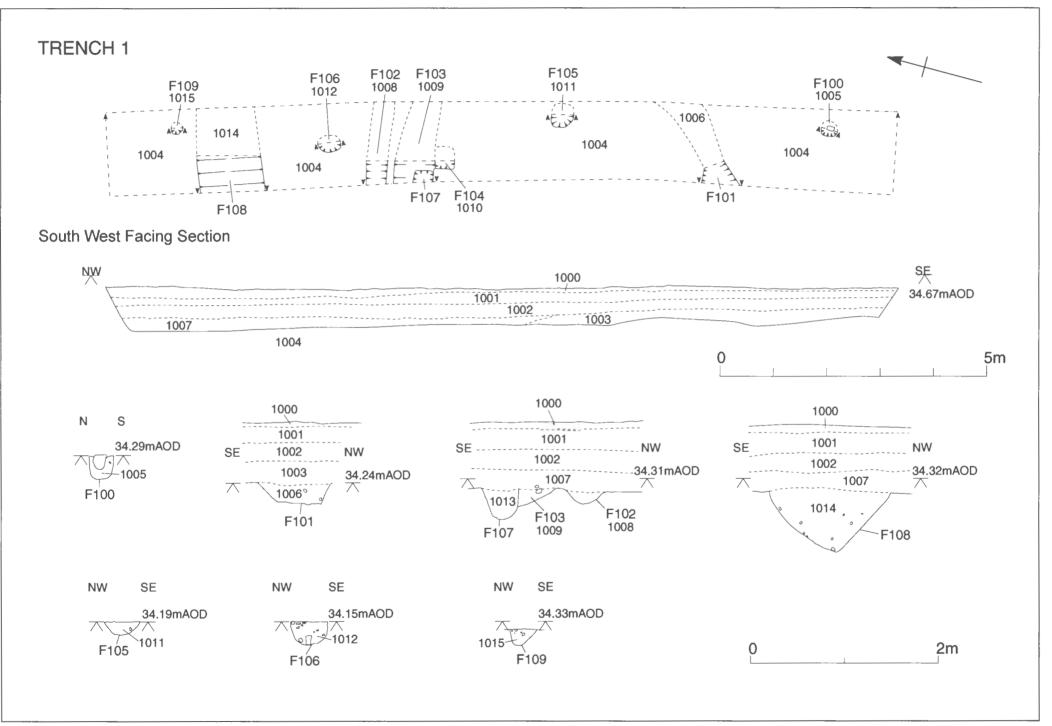


Fig.3

#### TRENCH 2 F201 2003 2004 2003 2007 2003 F203 2006 Trench Continues South West Facing Section SE NW 2000 2000 2000 2000 $\frac{30.81 \text{mAOD}}{\triangle}$ 2002 2008 2008 2008 2008 2001 2001 2001 2001 Concrete Stanchion Concrete Stanchion Concrete Stanchion 5m 2000 NE SW SE NW 2001 NW 30.29mAOD 30.38mAOD 2008 30.21mAOD 2004 2007 2006 F202 F203 F200 2m

Fig.4

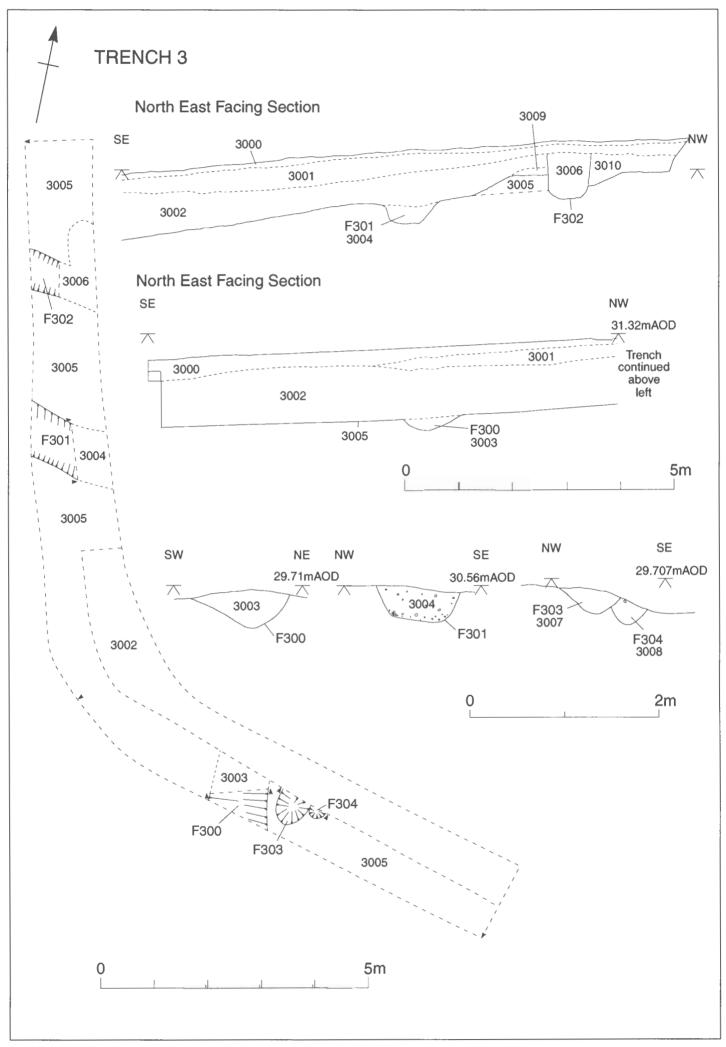


Fig.5

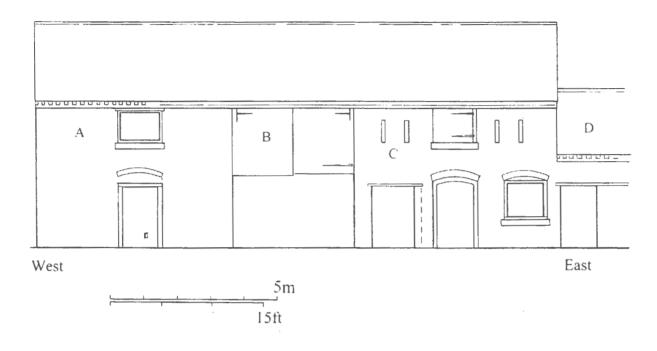


Fig. 6

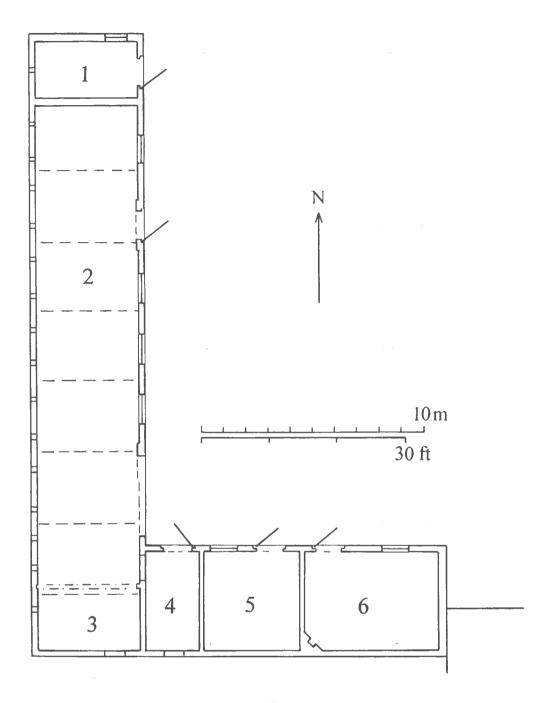


Fig. 7