



LAND AT THE STREET
Lister Wilder Site
Wallingford
Crowmarsh OX10 8EB

County of Oxfordshire

Evaluation report

July 2011



**Land at the Street, Lister Wilder Site
The Street**

**Wallingford
Crowmarsh OX10 8EB**

Site Code: OX-STW11

An archaeological evaluation report

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Summary (non-technical)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) on the Land at The Street site, Crowmarsh, Oxfordshire. The report was commissioned from MOLA by the client Croudace Homes Ltd.

Following the recommendations of the Planning Archaeologists at South Oxfordshire Archaeological Services 13 evaluation trenches were excavated and an area of 1,090 square metres was subject to a strip, map and record exercise.

The results of the field evaluation have helped to refine the initial desk-based assessment of the archaeological potential of the site. Horizontally truncated natural deposits of Valley Gravel and alluvium were recorded across the entire site.

A large potentially ovoid defensive ditch was uncovered. This may relate to the 12th century siege castle seen on the 1914 edition OS map as a large oval platform with other earthworks and ditches to the west and north, named as "Stephen's Mount" . Evidence of this ditch was found in five of the trenches with possible remains in 2 others and again in the eastern end of the stripped Area A. The evidence suggests that the c 25m wide ditch was hastily dug with the material likely being moved to the inside edge of the ditch to form a mound or embankment. Soon after its creation the castle appears to have been slighted, where the material that created the mound/embankment was tipped back into it.

Other features to the north of the evaluation area, such as an area of chalk hard standing and several ditches and pits, probably correspond to areas supporting the larger defensive work to the south. Large amounts of pottery recovered throughout the site dating to the 12th century supports the hypothesis of a very short period of intensive activity.

In the light of revised understanding of the archaeological potential of the site and the precautions taken by the developer the report concludes that the impact of the proposed development is low and no further archaeological work within the area is recommended.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The evaluation took place at an area known as 'Land at The Street (Walter Wilder and Lister Wilder Works)', hereafter called 'the site'. It is bounded by a road called The Street to the south and Jethro Tull Gardens to the east. The centre of the site lies at National Grid Reference SU 6130 8940. Modern pavement level near to the site lies at c 45.7m OD and 45.9m OD. The existing modern ground surfaces lie at a variety of levels from 45.09m OD to the north west of the site, 46.94m OD to the central north of the site, 46.76 OD to the north east of the site, 45.87 OD to the south east of the site and 45.89 OD to the south west of the site.

A desk-based Archaeological Assessment was previously prepared, which covers the whole area of the site (Oxford, 2008). The assessment document should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site, and the initial interpretation of its archaeological potential.

An archaeological field evaluation was subsequently undertaken which included 13 evaluation trenches, an area designated for a strip, map and record exercise and a watching brief on the groundworks.



Fig 1 Site location

1.2 Planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the *Method Statement* which formed the project design for the evaluation (see Section 1.2, MOLA, 2011).

1.2.1 Planning background

Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) concerning Heritage Assets and Planning came into force as of 23 March 2010.

Policy HE6: Information requirements for applications for consent affecting heritage assets

HE6.1 Local planning authorities should require an applicant to provide a description of the significance of the heritage assets affected and the contribution of their setting the heritage asset and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on the significance of the heritage asset. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets themselves should have been assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary given the application's impact. Where an application site includes, or is considered to have the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where desk-based research is insufficient to properly assess the interest, a field evaluation.

HE6.2 This information together with an assessment of the impact of the proposal should be set out in the application (within the design and access statement when this is required) as part of the explanation of the design concept. It should detail the sources that have been considered and the expertise that has been consulted.

HE6.3 Local planning authorities should not validate applications where the extent of the impact of the proposal on the significance of any heritage assets affected cannot adequately be understood from the application and supporting documents.

Archaeology and Planning in the borough

South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011
The Historic Environment

3.66 Wallingford has a long history, with evidence of prehistoric and Roman occupation, but it was probably not until the late ninth century that it became a major settlement. This is the original date of the surviving earthwork defences and the town is mentioned in the Burghal Hidage (c.919), which lists defended strongholds in Wessex. The creation of the defensive rampart and ditch was accompanied by the formal laying-out of an internal street pattern. By the time of the Domesday Book (1086) the town was of some importance with its own mint and market. The survey mentions 491 houses, some of which were destroyed by the building of the Norman castle in the north-east corner of the town. The castle was used as a royal residence from the early thirteenth century until c.1385, when it began to fall into decay.

3.67 Indeed, the town itself had begun to decline from its former importance as early as the mid thirteenth century, reaching its nadir in the mid-seventeenth century following the siege of the re-occupied castle and the destruction of houses in the Civil War. Happily, revival stirred in the nineteenth century with the opening of railway

connections and in recent years Wallingford has once more become a prosperous small market town.

3.68 Much of the town's early medieval topography is reflected in its street pattern and open spaces. The extensive earthworks of the castle and the masonry fragments of the College of St Nicholas survive in the north-east corner of the town and in the north west lay the Benedictine priory of Holy Trinity. In addition to the chapels attached to the castle and priory, there were at one time at least 11 parish churches, only 3 of which survive. Many fine buildings of all periods remain in Wallingford. The George Hotel is a good example of a later medieval timber-framed structure and No.

18 High Street has a fourteenth-century vaulted undercroft. The Town Hall (1670) is the centre piece of the rejuvenated Market Place and, as one would expect, there are many attractive eighteenth and early nineteenth century re-frontings of earlier buildings, both here and in the other principal streets of the town.

1.2.2 Archaeology and historic building analysis and recording

Policy CON11

There will be a presumption in favour of physically preserving nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings.

Policy CON12

Before the determination of an application for development which may affect a site of archaeological interest or potentially of archaeological importance, prospective developers will be required, where necessary, to make provision for an archaeological field evaluation, in order to enable an informed and reasoned planning decision to be made.

Policy CON13

Wherever practicable and desirable, developments affecting sites of archaeological interest should be designed to achieve physical preservation in situ of archaeological deposits. Where this is not practicable or desirable, conditions will be imposed on planning permissions, or planning obligations sought, which will require the developer to provide an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation, recording and publication by a professionally-qualified body.

1.3 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by Croudace Homes Ltd. and produced by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MOLA). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA, 2001).

Field evaluation, and the *Evaluation report* which comments on the results of that exercise, are defined in the most recent English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage, 1998) as intended to provide information about the archaeological resource in order to contribute to the:

- formulation of a strategy for the preservation or management of those remains; and/or
- formulation of an appropriate response or mitigation strategy to planning applications or other proposals which may adversely affect such archaeological remains, or enhance them; and/or
- formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigations within a programme of research

1.4 Aims and objectives

The following research aims and objectives were established in the *Method Statement* for the evaluation (Section 2.2):

For this evaluation the following broad research questions can be outlined:

- What is the nature and level of natural topography for the site?
- What are the earliest deposits identified?
- What are the latest deposits identified?

Several site specific research questions were also posed:

- The Medieval Hospital of St Mary Magdalene is thought to be located in the area around the east end of the 14th century Wallingford Bridge. As this site is located immediately east of the bridge, is there any evidence for the location of the Medieval Hospital of St Mary Magdalene?
- The site is the possible location of Stephen's Mount, a 12th century siege castle. A number of earthworks are shown on the 1914 edition OS map within the site area which have been identified as Stephen's Mount. Is there any evidence to support this?
- An archaeological evaluation has been conducted on the adjacent site to the west, now Jethro Tull Gardens, which recorded a high density of settlement-related features datable by pottery to 13th and 14th century. In addition to this, the 11th century St Mary Magdalene Church is located 140m west of the site, considering that this may have formed a focus of medieval settlement what evidence is there for medieval activity on the site?
- Earlier settlement in the wider area has been shown by a series of cropmarks and findspots of Roman pottery, what evidence is there for Roman settlement?

2 Topographical and historical background

The topographic and historical aspects of the site and the area immediately surrounding it have been reviewed in detail in the archaeological desk based assessment (Oxford 2008). The following section will attempt to summarise this information and provide a contextual background, against which the results and conclusions of this report can be reviewed.

2.1 Topography

The site is located within the historic parish of Crowmarsh Gifford, in the county of Oxfordshire, and is within the administrative area of South Oxfordshire district Council.

The site is located on the western edge of the village of Crowmarsh Gifford, and is c 200m east of the River Thames. To the south runs a main road named The Street. To the north is a playing field and to the east is Collier's Builders Merchant. To the west is an open field.

Up to 3m layers of foundry/ industrial waste was recorded on site obscuring much of the natural topography. Once this was stripped off it was apparent that there was a small rise in the centre of the site, and a gradual slope towards the river.

The site is situated on Valley Gravel (BGS Map254, 1948) overlain by clayey silt alluvium.

2.2 Prehistoric

There have been no recorded Palaeolithic finds in the 1km area covered within the desk based assessment. Mesolithic tools and cores have been recorded in two nominal find spots (c 200m to the north east and c900m to the south). Unstratified prehistoric flint was discovered during the Walter Wilder Foundry evaluation, 30m to the east.

Signs of Bronze Age farming have been found in the form of ditches and a droveway c 550m to the north east of the site. Ploughed burial mounds are indicated by crop marks c 800m to the north east of the site. Several Bronze Age items have been found in the River Thames nearby.

A single Iron Age sword blade was found within the river Thames nearby.

2.3 Roman

There have been many Roman features and finds within the area studied in the desk based assessment. These include a number of field boundaries and ditches located in several locations mainly to the south, south east and north east of the site, though at least c 200m away. Many of these are supported by finds of pottery and tiles.

2.4 Saxon

The town of Wallingford, located c200m to the west of the site, was an important area of Saxon activity having been first recorded c AD 895. It is known that Alfred (the Great) adapted the town in the late 9th century to act as a burh in his defence against the Danes.

During the Riverside Meadow survey a possible 'bridgehead burh', in the form of a NE-SW running ditch, was discovered 80m to the south west of the site. It is not expected that this ditch would extend as far as the site.

The manor of Crowmarsh Gifford was recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086, suggesting its origins lie within this early medieval period. It records the area as having meadows, agricultural land and two mills.

2.5 Medieval

The site is located in an area of archaeological potential immediately east of the c 13th Wallingford Bridge. The Bridge is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (OX235).

The Medieval Hospital of St Mary Magdalene is thought to be located in the area around the east end of the Wallingford Bridge, although its location has never been verified. The hospital was thought to have been founded in 1142 and dissolved by 1547.

The site is also the possible location of Stephen's Mount a, c 12th century siege castle. A number of earthworks are shown on the 1914 edition OS map within the site boundaries, and these are identified as Stephen's Mount.

The 2004 season of the Wallingford Burh to Borough Project identified a possible siege castle c 150m to the south west of the site. The possible presence of other siege castles in the area has been noted (Christie et al 2004).

An archaeological evaluation has been conducted on the adjacent site to the east, now Jethro Tull Gardens, which recorded a high density of settlement-related features (postholes, ditches, gullies and pits) datable by pottery to c 13th/14th centuries.

The c 11th century St Mary Magdalene Church is located 140m east of the site and would have formed a focus of medieval settlement.

2.6 Post-medieval

The 1845 Tithe map of Crowmarsh Gifford shows that the fields within the site were used as meadows and one area in use as an orchard. It is assumed that these fields have been used in a similar capacity since the early post medieval period, and likely before as well.

In c 1860 Walter Wilder erected a foundry to the east of the site. The evidence of this foundry and its dumping activities are present across the site, up to 3m thick of foundry/ industrial waste has been recorded.

Two buildings are depicted on the 1972 OS map. These buildings appear to have been built directly over the earthworks depicted in the 1914 edition OS map.

Up until the commencement of clearing activities the site had been used for commercial purposes. Almost half of the site was covered with hard standing.

3 The evaluation

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and monitoring during the evaluation was carried out in accordance with the preceding *Method Statement* (MOLA, 2011), Addendum letter (dated 28 February 2011), and the *Archaeological Site Manual* (MoLAS, 1994).

Before excavation could commence a thick layer of industrial/foundry waste was stripped and cleared by contractors under MOLA supervision. Trenches were then excavated using a variety of diggers in combination with a toothless bucket by the contractors, and monitored by a member of staff from MOLA.

The locations of evaluation trenches, features and supplementary levels were recorded by MOLA Geomatics team using a GPS kit. This information was then plotted onto the OS grid.

A written and drawn record of all archaeological deposits encountered were made in accordance with the principles set out in the MOLA site recording manual (MOLAS, 1994). Levels were calculated by use of a dumpy level.

The evaluation consisted of 13 evaluation trenches, one area of 1,090 square metres stripped and a watching brief on groundwork.

Trenches 1 through to 4 were excavated first. It was decided by the Planning Archaeologist that because of the archaeology found within these trenches an area around them should undergo a strip, map and record exercise. The next trenches excavated were 5 and 6. Then due to the constraints of the site trenches 8, 9, 10 and 11 were the next to be excavated. Half way through the excavation of trench 11 the levels of ground reduction were agreed to become higher than originally planned and therefore the evaluation of the area was no longer deemed necessary. Trenches 7, 12, 13 and 14 were also deemed unnecessary due to the new levels of ground reduction.

Due to the significance of the archaeology discovered in trenches 5 and 6 in particular, the clients in consultation with the Planning Archaeologist decided to alter the finished levels/ levels for ground reduction and the method of construction in order to preserve the archaeology *in situ*. Trenches 15, 16 and 17 were then located and excavated in order to better determine the nature and extent of the archaeology already observed.

The site has produced: 13 trench location plans; 252 context records; 13 section drawings at 1:20; and 236 photographs. In addition 15 boxes of finds were recovered from the site.

The site finds and records can be found under the site code OX-STW11 in the MoLA archive.

Seventeen bulk environmental samples were collected for the recovery of and organic or artefactual remains in order to assess their potential to contribute to the interpretation of the site.

3.2 Results of the evaluation

For trench locations see Fig 2.

3.2.1 Results of the evaluation trenches

<i>Evaluation Trench 1</i>	
Location	Eastern boundary of Zone/Area A
Dimensions	20m by 1.6m by xx depth
Modern ground level	45.52m OD
Base of modern fill	45.02m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	1.1m deep
Level of base of trench	43.72 m OD
Natural observed	44.08m OD

Trench 1 was located on the eastern boundary of the site (See Fig 2 and Fig 3) , was 20m long, c1.6m wide at the base and was aligned N – S. Reduced ground level around the trench was recorded at between 45.05m and 44.89m OD

Natural strata, comprised of slightly clayey sands, orange and cream in colour, were identified at between 44.04m OD and 44.32m OD, in the northern and southern parts of the trench, respectively, showing a clear decrease in the elevation of the natural sands.

Archaeological features within the trench were indicative of external activity. In the centre of the trench an E- W aligned ditch [21] was observed, occupying the edge of the natural high point. Two fills were observed infilling the ditch, a primary fill [20] and a more substantial secondary fill [21]. The absence of any artefacts means that the final usage/dis-use of the feature is not dated. Directly to the north of the feature was a small pit/posthole [18]. A small quantity of pottery from the fill of this [18] has been dated to between 1125 and 1175.

Another smaller ditch [37] again aligned E- W was situated to the north of the evaluation trench. Pottery recovered from this feature has been dated c 1125 to 1175. A partially exposed pit-like feature was situated to the south of this extending beyond the eastern limit of the trench.

All of the features in the trench were sealed by what is assumed to be colluvially derived silty clays surviving to a thickness of .90m. The top of these deposits were recorded at 45.02m OD. The uppermost of these deposits contained occasional fragments of peg-tile.

<i>Evaluation Trench 2</i>	
Location	Located near the eastern boundary of Area A to the west of Jethro Tull Gardens
Dimensions	20m by 1.6m by 1.0m depth
Modern ground level	45.47m OD
Base of modern fill	44.97m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	1.0m deep

Level of base of trench	44.03m OD
Natural observed	44.41m OD

Trench 2 was situated directly to the west of Trench 1 (See Fig 2 and Fig 3). It was 20m long, c 1.6m wide and was aligned NW – SE. Reduced ground level around the trench was recorded at between 44.92m and 44.73m OD.

Natural ground comprising of slightly clayey sands was located at between 44.41m OD and 44.03m OD. The archaeological remains present within the trench were of a similar character to those identified in Trench 1. At the southern end of the trench an E - W aligned ditch [16] was located, The limit of excavation for this trench did not allow for a full section of the ditch to be exposed. No dating evidence was recovered from [15], the single fill of the ditch, and with the exception of a few flecks of charcoal, was bereft of any anthropogenically derived material or artefacts. It is likely that this forms the same boundary /enclosure as linear [21] observed in Trench 1. A ditch [14] aligned N – S, was located a little further north in the evaluation trench [14]. No datable material was recovered from the fill of the ditch and the paucity of anthropogenic material was noted. Following the disuse of this feature a smaller ditch/gully [12], presumably related to small scale drainage, was cut along the western edge of the larger ditch. This later one followed the exact alignment of ditch [14].

In the northern end of the trench a group of three small pits/scoops were investigated and the material recovered has produced spot dates of 1125 to 1175. Whilst the similarity of the remains with that in Trench 1 is obvious, one difference between the two trenches is the presence of a possible relic land surface [38] in the northern end of Trench 2. Sectional data show this to be 0.24m thick, undulating, with a sparse horizon of small chalk lumps along its upper limit which was located at 44.27m OD. The undulations may relate to small-scale agricultural activity. It is likely that the aforementioned scoop pits [6], [8] and [10] were cut through this layer.

The archaeological features and possible land surface were sealed by a possible alluvial silty clay deposit [39] which was mid brown in colour. Due to machine reduction of the area prior to the evaluation in the southern end of the trench, this formed the upper limit of deposits observed. Further to the north, the remnants of the more recent made-ground still survived to thickness of up 0.4m. This mainly comprised of clinker and possible furnace waste.

<i>Evaluation Trench 3</i>	
Location	NW corner of Area A
Dimensions	20.m by c 1.6m by .90m depth
Modern ground level	45.40m OD
Base of modern fill	44.87m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	.70m deep
Level of base of trench	44.20 m OD
Natural observed	44.27m OD

Trench 3 was located in the NW area of Area A (See Fig 2 and Fig 3). The trench was 20m long, c 1.6m wide at the base and was aligned E – W. Ground level around

the trench, following machine reduction, was recorded at between 44.87m OD and 44.97m OD.

This trench exhibited the highest density of archaeological features in the areas investigated and the best evidence for surviving structural remains. These include a possible foundation trench [24] which was infilled with clay and large unhewn chalk blocks [23], surviving to a maximum height of 44.22m OD. Pottery recovered from this has been spot dated to 1125-1175. Also recovered from the feature was a well-preserved Fe knife broadly dated to the 12th to 13th centuries. The feature itself was only partially exposed as it continued beyond the southern edge of the trench. Further remains potentially related to structural activities were located a little further east in the trench. These were comprised of a potential beam-slot [28], posthole [30] and what has been interpreted as a possible earthen floor [26]. Possible masonry remains, comprised of sandstone and chalk lumps were recorded in section atop of the floor, although the exact form and function of the deposits, and their relationship with the possible earthen floor could not be discerned without further investigation beyond the southern limit of the trench.

Also present was a fairly substantial chalk raft [63] which occupied the area between aforementioned structural elements. This survived to a maximum height of 44.65m OD, at times less than 0.2m below the current reduced level of the ground surrounding the trench in the NW corner of Area A. No datable material was recovered and it could not be ascertained whether the chalk raft was of medieval or post-medieval date. Similar remains thought to represent localised consolidation of boggy ground were identified in previous excavations to the east of the site (Richard Oram Oxfordshire Planning Archaeologist pers. comm.)

Other miscellaneous features presumably associated with the postulated settlement in this area of the site included a possible double posthole setting [33], a shallow posthole/pit [35] and a pit-like feature [25] seen in the south facing section. Fill [24] of [25] was characterised by quantities of medium sized chalk lumps and the feature may also be structural in nature, though this could not be ascertained from the limited extent of the feature identified.

<i>Evaluation Trench 4</i>	
Location	Directly to east of site compound
Dimensions	10m by c1.6m by 2.3m deep
Modern ground level	45.23m – 45.11m OD
Base of modern make-up	C4.70m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	1.64m deep
Level of base of trench	c 43.00m OD
Natural observed	c 43.00m OD

Trench 4 was aligned N-S and was 10m long and c 1.6m wide at the base (See Fig 2 and Fig 3). Due to the presence of the site compound in the intended position of the trench, its orientation dimensions and location were altered.

Natural sands and gravels [52] were identified in a sondage at the base of the trench at a level of c 43m OD.

The natural strata were overlain by a 0.44m thick layer of mottled grey and orange alluvial clay [53]. This deposit contained frequent inclusions of degraded chalk. Although no datable material was recovered from the deposit, moderate quantities of charcoal and heavily degraded flecks of what is likely to be daub were noted.

A number of archaeological features were identified cutting [53] at the southern end of the trench. These survived to a maximum height of c 43.5m OD, and included a possible shallow pit [45], one posthole [47], a single stakehole [51] and another irregular feature [49] which may relate to bioturbation. The only datable material recovered from these features, a single sherd of pottery dated 1125 to 1175, was found in the irregular feature [49].

These features were sealed by a substantial layer of clay [54]. This exceeded 0.6m in thickness and is thought to be alluvial in nature. No datable material was recovered from this although a single fire-cracked flint was noted. Possible degraded daub fragments as well as heavily degraded chalk fragments were present. Although in the case of the former, the frequency was much reduced in comparison with the underlying layer [53].

A later phase of anthropogenic activity is represented by the fairly substantial ditch cut [56] which was observed in section cutting layer [54]. This had a maximum observed depth of 0.82m and was 2.8 m wide although its full extent proceeded beyond the northern limit of the trench. No datable material was recovered from its fill [55], although some rooting and charcoal flecks were noted. The usage/disuse of the feature was thus not possible to date. It was aligned NE – SW and may relate to those ditches which were identified in trenches 1 and 2 to the NE of this particular trench.

Ditch [56] and layer [54] were sealed by another subsoil deposit [57]. This consisted of orangey brown slightly silty clay with a maximum thickness of c 0.4m. It was unclear whether it was alluvial or colluvial in nature. No dating evidence was recovered from the deposit.

[57] was overlain by a mid greyish brown silty clay [58] with occasional CBM (Ceramic building material) and clinker fragments, and was just over 0.3 m thick. This is likely to represent a post-medieval land surface/relic soil horizon. Towards the northern end of the trench this land surface was intruded upon by stiff bluish grey clay (59). Rather than representing a cut feature this deposit is likely to have formed by pooled water and is indicative of boggy conditions in the post-medieval period. Similar deposits/intrusions were noted in Trench 3 and were observed in the intervening areas between the trenches following the machine reduction of made ground in Area A.

Between this and the overlying made-ground [61] was another possible post medieval land surface/horizon [60]. This was directly sealed by [61], a mixed deposit of industrial waste/foundry waste which was up to 0.56m thick.

<i>Evaluation Trench 5</i>	
Location	West of Colliers Builders Merchant
Dimensions	25m by 2.4m by 2.4m depth
Modern ground level	c45.75 OD
Base of modern fill	45.22m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	1.5m deep
Level of base of trench	44.30 m OD
Natural observed	44.92 OD

Trench 5 was situated to the south of trench 4 (See Fig 2 and Fig 4). It was 25m long c 2.4m wide and was aligned N–S. Reduced ground level around the trench was recorded between 45.22m and 44.92m OD.

The archaeology in this trench has been interpreted as a large, probably defensive ditch cut to the southern end, which was then backfilled at a later date. The northern part of the trench has been interpreted as a succession of upcast forming the lower most layers of a raised area possibly a motte or embankment. The natural alluvium is recorded at the highest level on site in the northern sondage, indicative of the raised area in the centre of the site.

Two sondages were dug at either end of the evaluation trench to better understand the underlying natural strata. In the northern sondage, Valley Gravel and sands were encountered between 43.12m OD and 43.32m OD, overlaying this was an orangey brown clayey silt alluvium between 43.32m OD and 44.92m OD. This alluvium was cut by two irregular modern features, one filled with industrial waste and the other filled with orangey brown clayey silt having modern brick and ceramic drainage pipe. In the second sondage to the south natural V and sands were encountered between 42.92 OD and 43.12m OD. This was overlain by a possible orangey brown silty clay alluvium between 43.62m OD and 43.12m OD. It was unclear if this was alluvium or a redeposited alluvium similar to deposit [146]. It was dated 1125 to 1175 by a single piece of pottery. A large modern feature filled with dark brown clayey silt with a minor amount of industrial waste was cut through the majority of the sondage. An orangey brown silty clay alluvium was observed along the base of the trench between the two sondages.

Two ditches [155] and [153] represent an earlier phase of activity on the site. The ditch [155] ran E-W and cut into the alluvium at the northern end of the trench. Excavation stopped at 43.32m OD due to safety concerns. This ditch was interpreted as being earlier than the construction of the earthworks due to its location under what would be the centre of the mound. Unfortunately pottery from the fill [154] of the ditch was not datable.

Overlaying [155] and extending further to the south are several deposits [150] (datable 1125 to 1175 by a single piece of pottery), [159], [158] that are similar in composition being variations of mottled orangey brown clayey silt with occasional anthropogenic material throughout. These are interpreted as being layers of upcast created while digging the large defensive ditch [147], and moved to this location to create a motte or raised central platform.

At the southern end of the trench the ditch cut [147] was observed running SW – NE. This ditch was interpreted as a possible defensive ditch due to its large width. It seemed to continue into the south end of the trench.

Deposit [146] was a very mottled yellowish brown and greyish brown clayey silt. It had a maximum thickness of .70m and ran almost the entire length of the trench, overlaying [158] and [150] at the northern end and filling the ditch cut [147] at the southern end. It is datable by a single piece of pottery c 1125 to 1175. It has been interpreted as part of the upcast from the construction of the ditch [147], which had been partially backfilled into the ditch during the slighting of the earthworks.

Overlaying this was deposit [184] which has been interpreted as either another layer of redeposited natural similar to [146] or as a slightly later agricultural layer. It is datable by a single piece of pottery c 1125 to 1175.

Feature cut [127] may represent a later phase of activity. This feature cut through the topmost deposits in the southern half of the trench [184] and [146]. The irregular shape of the cut makes identification difficult, but it may be a ditch running E-W similar to other ones seen cutting through the fills of the defensive ditch.

All of the topmost features and fills were covered by a thick layer up to .5m of industrial/ foundry waste [61].

<i>Evaluation Trench 6</i>	
Location	Parallel to The Street, 15m to the north
Dimensions	10.0m by 2.4m by 2.2m depth
Modern ground level	45.63m OD
Base of modern fill	44.43 OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	1.6m deep
Level of base of deposits observed and/or base of trench	43.03 m OD
Natural observed	43.03 OD

Evaluation trench 6 was located to the south of trench 5, running E-W parallel to The Street in the south east corner of the site (See Fig 2 and Fig 4). Due to the constraints of this part of the site the trench was excavated to a length of 10m.

The archaeology within this trench has been interpreted as the various backfills of the ditch [147] seen in trench 5, followed by a slightly later phase of activity in the form of refuse pits.

The lowest deposits observed were natural sands and gravels running along the base of the trench. This was capped by a thick deposit of silty clay [128] containing charcoal, occasional pieces of pottery and a single copper alloy find which has thus far been undatable and been suggested for further study. Upon the excavation of trenches 15, 16 and 17 this layer along with similar deposits [133] and [136] that overlaid [128] have been interpreted as probable fills of the ditch cut [147] seen in trench 5. Based upon the similarity of these deposits to the natural alluvium it is possible that these fills are originally upcast from the digging of the ditch [147] that was then redeposited into this same ditch [147] upon the slighting of it.

Two refuse pits [131] and [141] were observed in section and excavated in the southern step of the trench. They cut through the earlier deposits [133], [136] and [128]. They contain the largest concentrations of pottery and finds found on the site. Fill [130] in pit [131] in particular had 221 datable pieces of pottery recovered from it. All the pottery is datable to between 1125-1175, some of which is high status and may represent a direct correlation with visitations to the site by King Stephen or other noble persons thought to have visited at this time. Other notable finds from these pit fills are a plain square copper alloy probably from a horse harness from fill [138], a small plain annular brooch and a bone pin made from a long bone of a horse, cow or red deer from fill [130]. The pits themselves probably represent refuse pits that were used at the final stage of occupation, as the site's occupants were preparing to abandon the area.

These pits were covered over by deposit [132] which may represent a slightly later agricultural or occupational layer that is datable by several pieces of pottery dated to 1150-1175. Also contained in this deposit was a single piece of roman tessera dated to c AD 40 to 400 this is thought to be have been mixed in alluvially at a much later date than the artefact suggests.

All of the topmost features and fills were covered by a thick layer up to .5m of industrial/ foundry waste [61].

<i>Evaluation Trench 8</i>	
Location	East of trench 9 and 40m south of tennis courts
Dimensions	20.0m by 2.4m by 1.6m depth
Modern ground level	46.50m OD
Base of modern fill	44.28 OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	1.4m deep
Level of base of deposits observed and/or base of trench	42.73 m OD
Natural observed	43.84 OD

Trench 8 was situated 50m to the west of trench 4, near the centre of the site (See Fig 2 and Fig 5). It measured 20m by 2.4m wide and 1.6m in depth.

This trench contained two ditches and two pits cutting into the natural strata, which consisted of a Greenish brown clayey silt alluvium encountered from 43.84m OD to 43.34m OD, overlaying Valley Gravel and sands which also had a greenish/ grey colouration. The natural and archaeological elements of this trench all have a greenish hue. This distinct coloration is due to reduced conditions caused by seasonal overbank flooding not allowing the soils to oxidize. This greenish hue made seeing the archaeology difficult until it was allowed to oxidize, and even then it hampered interpretation.

To the north was a large ditch [161] that ran across the width of the trench NW-SE and was most likely seen again in trench 9. The fill [160] was a maximum of .90m thick and was a fairly homogenous greenish grey, silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and small pieces of daub throughout. It is likely that this was either a large drainage ditch or related to the defensive earthworks on the site. This feature continued into the end of the trench in the SW corner and was truncated by a modern pit feature to the NE side which is filled with industrial waste. Overlaying this ditch [161] was a dark greenish grey, silty clay layer that runs along the entire length of the trench and probably made up part of the backfill of the ditches [161] and [169]. Unfortunately no datable material was uncovered in this fill.

Towards the centre of the ditch, a square refuse pit [164] with rounded corners was observed and excavated. It cut through layer [171] and in to the natural alluvium, and was in turn cut by a modern pit filled with foundry waste on its SW side. It was comprised of two fills, the top [162] was an orangey brown silty clay and was interpreted as capping layer made from redeposited natural from the initial excavation of the pit. The primary fill [163] was comprised of large pieces of burnt chalk, concentrations of charcoal and burnt daub. It showed evidence of dumping along the sides of the pit and is interpreted as the burnt remains of a structure. Similar deposits have been found on site and may relate to the later phase of activity abandonment and destruction of fortifications on the site towards the end of the 12th century.

Further along the trench towards the NE was another possible refuse pit [167]. This pit was similar to [164] and probably served the same function except that this pit was slightly rounder in shape and the primary fill [166] consisted mainly of charcoal with moderate amounts of medium sized chalk lumps and occasional pieces of daub.

It was capped by what seems to be redeposited natural [165] from the original construction of the pit.

At the NE end of the trench was a ditch [169] running N-S which cut through the natural alluvium and into the natural gravels and sands. Fills [168], [170] and [171] all of similar makeup with minor amounts of charcoal and daub flecks may have been backfills of [169]. And they may all have been associated with the postulated defensive ditch; however this is tenuous as only a small portion of the western side of this ditch could be seen in the trench before it ran out the NE side of the trench. However it did seem to be of a similar size and depth to the defensive ditch seen in other trenches.

<i>Evaluation Trench 9</i>	
Location	Parallel to The Street, 15m to the north
Dimensions	10.0m by 2.4m by 2.2m depth
Modern ground level	45.63m OD
Base of modern fill	44.43 OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	1.6m deep
Level of base of deposits observed and/or base of trench	43.03 m OD
Natural observed	43.03 OD

Trench 9 was situated to the west of trench 8 (See Fig 2 and Fig 5). It was 20m long c 2.4m wide and was aligned NE–SW. Reduced ground level around the trench was recorded at between 44.01m OD and 43.93m OD.

This trench contained three ditches cutting into the natural strata, which consisted of a greenish brown clayey silt alluvium encountered from 43.47m OD to 42.91m OD. This alluvium overlaid Valley Gravel and sands along the bottom of the trench. The natural and archaeological elements of this trench all have a greenish hue. This distinct coloration is due to reduced conditions caused by seasonal overbank flooding not allowing the soils to oxidize. This greenish hue made seeing the archaeology difficult until it was allowed to oxidize, and even then it hampered interpretation.

These ditches represent either a series of phased earthworks pertaining to the possible siege castle that would have been located to the east of this trench or a series of drainage ditches. It is also possible that it was a combination of the two. Due to the limitations of the evaluation a better understanding could not be reached.

A wide ditch [175] running NW-SE with gently sloping NE edge was recorded. The top fill [172] of the ditch was a slightly greyish brown clayey silt, which appeared to have been the result of a single backfilling event as it was fairly homogenous. The fill was datable c 1125 to 1175 from a single piece of pottery. The primary fill of this ditch [173] was a light bluish grey silty clay with occasional charcoal and daub flecks, interestingly this fill included a thick deposit of medium sized chalk blocks along the NE slope that appeared to have been thrown into the ditch during its backfilling. The exact function of this feature is unknown but it may have been either a defensive ditch associated with the earliest phase of earthworks on the site or it may be a wide drainage ditch from the same time period.

A later slightly concave V-shaped ditch [178] recuts the SW edge of ditch [175], it probably ran from N-S but was obliterated in the NW face of the trench by a modern industrial waste intrusion. No datable artefactual evidence was recovered from its fill [177].

The third ditch [179] was located at the SW end of the ditch running in a similar N_S direction as the other ditches. Its large width and gentle slopes may indicate that this was a natural channel. The primary fill [180] was a mixture of natural gravels, alluvial silt and sand which further supports this idea. Above this fill was [174] which may be a part of [182] that has just depressed into ditch [179]. Both of these fills appear to be clay subsoil layers with no signs of anthropomorphic disturbance. Deposit [182] is datable by a piece of pottery c 1125 to 1175.

These features were overlain by layer [176], a potentially alluvially derived layer of silty clay containing a mix of anthropomorphic material such as charcoal, daub, and CBM.

This in turn was covered by a thick layer up to 2m of industrial/ foundry waste [61].

<i>Evaluation Trench 10</i>	
Location	40m to the SW of the park tennis courts
Dimensions	20.0m by 2.4m by 1.15m depth
Modern ground level	45.63m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	43.69 OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	1.12m deep
Level of base of deposits observed and/or base of trench	42.85 m OD
Natural observed	43.35 OD

Trench 10 was situated to the west of trench 9 (See Fig 2 and Fig 5). It was 20m long c 2.4m wide and was aligned NW–SE. Reduced ground level around the trench was recorded at between 43.69m and 43.77m OD.

This trench contained one ditch and a single pit cutting into the natural strata, which consisted of a greenish brown clayey silt alluvium encountered from 43.35m OD to 42.85m OD. This alluvium overlaid Valley Gravel and sands along the bottom of the trench, which also had a greenish coloration. This distinct coloration is due to reduced conditions caused by seasonal overbank flooding not allowing the soils to oxidize. This greenish hue made seeing the archaeology difficult until it was allowed to oxidize, and even then it hampered interpretation.

The ditch located toward the centre of the trench, ran N-S and had a single clay fill that did not contain any anthropogenic material. It may have been either a drainage or boundary ditch but this is unknown.

A circular pit [191] was located at the SE end of the trench with a primary fill [190] consisting mainly of dark grey silty clay and a large amount of charcoal. This was in turn capped by mottled orangey brown/ greyish green silty clay that may have been redeposited natural thrown in over the top of [190]. The feature appears to have been a refuse pit quite similar in size, shape and characteristics of pit [167] in trench 8.

These features may predate the major earthworks on site due to their location within the stratigraphy

These features are overlain by deposit [188] a potential alluvial deposit of silty clay that most likely relates to a similar deposit [182] in trench 9. Overlaying this was another possibly alluvial deposit [187] that again seems to correspond to a deposit in trench 9, deposit [176].

Both of these alluvial deposits sloped down towards the NW side following the natural slope towards the Thames.

Deposit [176] was covered by a thick layer up to 2m of industrial/foundry waste [61].

<i>Evaluation Trench 11</i>	
Location	Parallel to The Street, 15m to the north
Dimensions	10.0m by 2.4m by 2.2m depth
Modern ground level	45.63m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	44.43 OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	1.6m deep
Level of base of deposits observed and/or base of trench	43.03 m OD
Natural observed	43.03 OD

Trench 11 was situated to the south of Trench 10 (See Fig 2 and Fig 5). It was 10m long c 2.4m wide and was aligned E–W. Reduced ground level around the trench was recorded at between 43.50m and 43.92m OD.

This trench was only partially recorded due to the decision not to complete any more work in the area as the finished levels/ and levels for ground reduction were agreed to become higher than originally planned, and therefore there would be no impact to the potential archaeology in the area.

This trench contained two ditches and two postholes cutting into the natural strata, which consisted of a greenish brown clayey silt alluvium encountered from 42.10m OD to 42.80m OD. This alluvium overlaid Valley Gravel and sands along the bottom of the trench, which also had a greenish grey coloration. This distinct coloration is due to reduced conditions caused by seasonal overbank flooding not allowing the soils to oxidize. This greenish hue made seeing the archaeology difficult until it was allowed to oxidize, and even then it hampered interpretation.

Two fairly shallow ditches [198] and [196] were recorded running through the centre of the trench. Both had single silty clay fills [195] and [197]. These have been interpreted as drainage ditches probably predating the earthworks on site due to their location within the stratigraphy

Two postholes [200] and [202] were located at the eastern end of the trench. Both were of similar size c .50m NW-SE, .36m SW-NE and .22m in depth, neither showed evidence of timber post remains and both were filled with a clay fill [199] and [201]. No dating evidence was recovered. Further work would be needed to establish if these postholes create a meaningful pattern.

These features were capped by a thick fairly sterile alluvial deposit [194] of clay which corresponds with similar deposits [188] and [182] found in trenches 10 and 9.

Deposit [194] was covered by a thick layer up to 2m of industrial/ foundry waste [61].

Deposits [238], [247] and [248] overlaid these fills and comprised the main fills of the ditch. They are quite similar with a depth of up to 1.0m and appear to be redeposited natural gravels mixed with silt topsoils. All three of these deposits were dated to c 1125 to 1175 with a single piece of pottery from each. These fills may represent a deliberate backfilling of the ditch similar to the deposits they overlaid.

Towards the SW end of the trench were a series of three intercutting ditches [255], [257] and [251], all running broadly NW-SE. These have been interpreted as either recuts of the large defensive ditch in a possible second phase of construction, or as slightly later activity on site related to agricultural practices, such as the cutting and recutting of drainage or boundary ditches. These ditches most likely correlate to similar sized ditches observed in Trench 16

The ditch [237] and its associated fills would have survived higher up, similar to those seen in Trench 17, except that the prior mixing of the topsoil and industrial waste as well as building construction most likely obliterated this evidence.

All of the topmost features were covered by a thick layer up to .5m of industrial/foundry waste [61].

<i>Evaluation Trench 16</i>	
Location	10m north of The Street
Dimensions	20.0m by 2.4m by 1.6m depth
Modern ground level	44.53m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	44.03 OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	1.6m deep
Level of base of trench	42.69 m OD
Natural observed	43.65 OD

Trench 16 was situated to the SE of Trench 15 (See Fig 2 and Fig 4). It was 20m long c 2.4m wide and was aligned NE-SW. Reduced ground level around the trench was recorded at between 44.53m and 44.11m OD.

The trench was excavated in this spot after the completion of trench 17; it was situated to ascertain the outside/southern edge of the ditch [212] that was observed in trench 17.

The archaeology within this trench has been interpreted as the continuation of the large ditches [212] and [237] and [147], seen in trenches 15, 17 and 5. This ditch [222] displayed a number of recuts or later ditches going through its fills in the centre and towards the SW end. Another ditch was located at the SW end of the trench.

Ditch [222] which began near the SW edge of the trench had a clear convex cut recorded at 43.85m OD and came to a flat base at 42.89mOD which runs the entire length of the trench before appearing to come up again right before the end of the trench at the NE end (See Fig 9 and Fig 10). It cut into the natural stratum which was recorded in three layers. First between 43.65m OD and 42.99m OD, observed as a thick flood deposit of gravels and silty sand, some of which appear to have slid into the ditch when it was open. Underlying this was a layer of banded alluvium consisting of silts and sands recorded between 43.29m OD and 42.99m OD. Finally underlying both of those were the natural Valley Gravel and sands seen throughout the site.

The primary fills of this ditch were [223] and [231], which consisted of orangey brown clayey silt mottled with greyish brown gravels, and these have been interpreted as redeposited alluvium most likely backfilled into the ditch upon the slighting of the earthworks.

Overlaying these fills was a second layer of fills [221], [224], [230] and [234]. These were interpreted as also being redeposited natural thrown back into the ditch upon the slighting of the earthworks. These were all generally described as brownish grey clayey silt with moderate amounts of charcoal and chalk flecks and occasional pottery. Fill [234] contained five pieces of pottery from five different vessels datable to c 1125 to 1175.

Another ditch [219] was recorded at the SW end of the ditch. It was cut from a similar position in the stratigraphy and has a similar convex cut as ditch [222] although dating material was not collected from this feature it is assumed to be contemporary with the large ditch [222] to the NE. However, only a small portion of it was seen in section so the exact function of it is unknown.

Overlaying both ditches and their fills were layers [229] and [217], running almost the entire length of the trench. These were recorded as dark greyish brown clayey silt with frequent charcoal and have been interpreted as a slightly later occupation/ agricultural layer. Five pieces of pottery datable to c 1125 to 1175 were recovered from [217].

Towards the SW end of the trench were two intercutting ditches [226] and [228] both running NW-SE. These cut through the fills of ditch [222]. They have been interpreted as either recuts of the large defensive ditch in a possible second phase of construction or as slightly later activity on site related to agricultural practices, such as the cutting and recutting of drainage or boundary ditches. Another ditch [233] interpreted in the same manner was located near the NE end of the trench. The fills of these three ditches all had a single piece of pottery recovered from them; this was datable to c 1125 to 1175.

All of the topmost features were covered by a thick layer up to .5m of industrial/ foundry waste [61].

<i>Evaluation Trench 17</i>	
Location	Perpendicular to The Street, 15m to the north
Dimensions	20.0m by 2.4m by 2.1m depth
Modern ground level	45.63m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	45.07 OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	2.0m deep
Level base of trench	43.03 m OD
Natural observed	43.93 OD

Trench 17 (See Fig 2 and Fig 4) was situated to the west of Trench 5. It was 20m long c 2.4m wide and was aligned N-S. Reduced ground level around the trench was recorded at between 44.97m and 45.07m OD.

Trench 17 was excavated in this area in the hope of locating the large ditch cut [147] seen in trench 5.

The archaeology within the trench has been interpreted as continuation of the inner/northern cut [147] of the defensive ditch and its associated fills (Fig 11 and Fig

12), as well as a single recut or later ditch going through the fills of the larger ditch at the centre of the trench.

At the base of the trench to the north the natural was recorded as an orangey brown clayey silt alluvium at 43.87m OD. The southern half of the trench was deeper in order to follow the archaeology; here the alluvium was recorded to a depth of 43.03m OD. The alluvium overlaid the natural Valley Gravel and sands which was recorded at the base of the southern half of the trench.

At the northern half of the trench overlaying the alluvium is a weathered natural [215] and over this is [214] which was observed as a mid-brown silty clay subsoil .30m thick, datable by a single piece of pottery c 1125 to 1175. Overlaying this was [213] which was recorded as a brownish grey sandy silt buried top soil .40m thick, datable by a single piece of pottery c 1125 to 1175. Overlaying this was [216] which was a very mottled mid greyish brown to light orangey brown silt sand .40m, which has been interpreted as the lowest deposit of a possible motte or bank. It appears it could have been a mix of topsoil and subsoil or alluvium. This layer was most likely impacted upon by the levelling of ground for the building that once stood here and by the earlier dumping of foundry waste [61] over the top of it.

At the centre of the trench a large ditch cut [212], running NW-SE was recorded at 44.77m OD, sloping at approximately a 45 degree angle before coming down to a flat bottom 43.37m OD, that ran 7.60m before disappearing into the southern end of the trench. At the base of the ditch was fill [211] .22m thick which has been interpreted as the primary silting of the ditch mixed with the natural alluvium. Overlaying this was a thick fill [210] 1.10m on average, this was observed as a very mottled mid brownish grey clayey silt and very light greyish brown. It has been interpreted as redeposited natural alluvium that was probably originally sourced from the construction of the ditch and then backfilled into it during the slighting of the earthworks. At the base of this deposit along the base of the cut of the ditch was a large amount of chalk blocks, which appear to have been tipped into the ditch followed by the rest of the clayey silt material. These blocks have sunk slightly into the underlying deposit [211].

Overlaying this was fill [207] which has been recorded as a .60m thick mid-brownish grey clayey silt, datable to between c 1125 and 1175 by three pieces of pottery. It has been interpreted as another deliberate backfill of ditch [212], a clear boundary between this and the underlying fill suggests a nearly contemporary deposition.

Overlaying layer [213] and ditch [212] and its associated fills was layer [206], this was recorded as a dark brownish grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks datable to between c 1125 and 1175 by 11 pieces of pottery, and has been interpreted as a slightly later occupation/ agricultural layer.

This layer and fill [210] were cut by a later V shaped ditch [209] that is comparable to ditches seen in trenches 16 and 17. This has been interpreted as either a possible recut of the defensive ditch in a second phase of earthworks on site or as a slightly later drainage or boundary ditch related to agricultural activity.

2.2.2 Results of the strip, map, and record exercise

The agreed upon area of 1,090 square metres, was stripped of the foundry/industrial waste [61] and then down to the relevant archaeological horizon, initially identified during the evaluation, using a 9 tonne digger, directed and supervised by the Senior Archaeologist.

A total of forty-nine individual contexts were identified and recorded. Of these contexts there were five postholes, two pits, nine ditches, and four deposits. All ditches and deposits had slots dug in them, and all pits and postholes were subject to half sectioning in order to understand the character and size of the features.

The area has been generally interpreted as an area of settlement and agricultural related features. Few discernible functions were clearly evident. A large curvilinear ditch was recorded which may be part of the large defensive ditch seen in other locations throughout the site.

For explanation purposes the stripped back area of the site, known as Area A, has been divided into two distinct areas, the eastern and western portions of the site. The eastern half can be seen as a long N-S rectangle and the western part in a longer E-W rectangle in the NW corner of the stripped area.

The eastern half of the stripped area was covered by a thick layer of up to .50m of dark brown clayey silt which has been interpreted as a fairly modern topsoil. Undemeath this was the orangey brown natural alluvium typically seen across the site. The recorded archaeology (See Fig 2 and Fig 3) was cut into this alluvial layer.

Feature [95] located in the NE corner of the site along the eastern edge is possibly a pit but this is impossible to confirm presently as only a small percentage of the feature was within the excavated area. The feature had several fills, silting at the base [96], a possible domestic dump [94] above this and alluvial spreads [93] and [92] above these. Fills [96], [94] and [92] are all datable by large amounts of pottery c 1125 to 1175. However the highest capping layer [92] contained a piece of peg roofing tile dating it to c 1200 to 1500.

A wide shallow deposit [81] located .60m to the NW of the northern end of Trench 1, possibly filling a tree bowl is datable c 1125 to 1175 from several pieces of pottery.

Ditch [120] aligned SW-NE, was a wide shallow ditch measuring 3.60m in width and was cut by ditch [91] running E-W which was a continuation of ditch [21] originally recorded in Trench 1. The fill [90] of ditch [21] contained several pieces of pottery datable c 1125 to 1175. The eastern end of this ditch was in turn cut by the N-S running ditch [89] which measured 2.30m wide and .85m deep. This ditch ran the entire N-S extent of the stripped area before coming to a terminus. Running parallel to this ditch and also cutting it was a slightly thinner ditch [87]. [87] was cut by ditch [83] to its northern extent. Ditch [83] appeared on the 1914 OS map and ran E-W along the entire northern border of the site still partially open for drainage. A slot through it indicated that it was originally much larger- perhaps c 6m wide. It has apparently been recut, probably many times, to keep the water draining which would make dating it difficult. These ditches clearly represent different phases of activity, but they most likely served the same functions in the form of drainage/ boundary ditches supporting agricultural practices.

A small collection of postholes were recorded 1m west of pit [95]. They were generally .50m in diameter and .30m deep. One of the fills was datable from a single piece of pottery to c 1125 to 1175. They did not however seem to form any discernible pattern.

A small pit [85] was found to contain a large amount of amphibian bones in the fill [84], which has been interpreted as a natural phenomenon. Pit [118] located at the SE end of the site contained no datable material and may have been a natural occurrence.

The western half of the stripped area was covered by a thick layer of up to .50m of dark brown clayey silt which has been interpreted as a fairly modern topsoil. Underneath this was the orangey brown natural alluvium typically seen across the site. Between the two areas there was a noticeable rise in the alluvium. The recorded archaeology (See Fig 2 and Fig 3) was generally cut into this alluvial layer.

Ditch [108] was a continuation of E-W aligned ditch [83] recorded in the eastern half of the stripped area.

Ditch [106] was located running N-S along the western edge of the stripped area, and came to a terminus just before reaching ditch [108]. It appears to run roughly parallel to ditch [85] and came to a terminus at a similar northern extent. The fill [105] of this ditch contained a single piece of peg roofing datable c 1125 to 1175.

Feature [101] was a large deposit of compact chalk blocks measuring 8m E-W and 3m N-S with an average thickness of .25m. It was located on top of the alluvium with two separate patches of burning [102] and [123] on top of it. From deposit [102] several pieces of pottery were recovered and datable c 1125 to 1175. A single square posthole [100] was recorded cutting into the chalk at its western end. The exact function of this chalk and the burning on top of it is unknown. The dating suggests that it was contemporary with the defensive ditch and may represent an area of hardstanding for a former building located just outside the ditch.

Located 1m east of this chalk area was a rectangular 1.50m by 1.00m by .15m deep hollow [114] having large amounts of burnt material in its fill [113]. The function of this feature was indiscernible.

Along the southern edge of the western half a large and deep ditch [122] and [112] was recorded cutting through the natural alluvium and into the Valley Gravel below. Due to a threat of diesel contamination the 9 tonne digger excavated three slots into the ditch instead of hand digging. The ditch itself reached a depth of 1.2m and was 3.50m wide running into limit of excavation. The ditch had at least three fills with evidence of tipped in material [110] and [109] from the northern edge, such as chalk pieces, daub and burnt material. This major ditch was most likely a continuation of the defensive ditch and possibly formed the northern edge of a circular possible moat feature.

2.2.3 Results of the watching briefs

A watching brief was undertaken during the course of the evaluation.

The initial watching brief began in a contaminated oil area that needed to be mitigated by the contractor. This was located 15m east of trench 8. The area was c20m E-W and c10m N-S. It was excavated down to the Valley Gravel to a depth of c2m. This was monitored by a senior archaeologist, and no evidence of archaeological remains was observed.

A later watching brief was undertaken for the ground reduction associated with the lifting of the paved, access/ through road within the site. This was monitored by a senior archaeologist. The area was reduced to the interface between the foundry waste and a dark brown clayey silt topsoil. No archaeological remains were observed.

3.3 Assessment of the evaluation

GLAAS guidelines (English Heritage, 1998) require an assessment of the success of the evaluation 'in order to illustrate what level of confidence can be placed on the information which will provide the basis of the mitigation strategy'.

It is considered that the combination of 13 evaluation trenches, the stripped, mapped and recorded Area A and the watching brief form a thorough assessment of the site, giving a good representative sample and a sufficient amount of evaluation data upon which reliable interpretations can be made. In particular, the evaluation has clarified one of the main objectives in terms of archaeological potential, namely the highly probable existence and location of a 12th century siege castle on the site, as well as a number of associated features datable to the same time period.

A number of observations were made possible of the underlying alluvial sequence, although much of this uppermost material was truncated in parts by the archaeology. However, in most trenches the levels of the underlying gravels were undisturbed providing a good record of observable variation across the site.

4 Archaeological potential

4.1 Realisation of original research aims

- What is the nature and level of natural topography for the site?

Evidence of alluvial deposits on the site was readily observable. This is seen in multiple alluvial layers sloping west towards the Thames River. The one exception to this is that there appears to be a high point of alluvial material near the centre of the site. The alluvium was generally described as orangey brown clayey silt mottled with white calciferous patches. It should be noted that much of the alluvium was truncated by archaeology.

The alluvium overlaid Valley Gravel and sands across the entire site. These gravels were recorded between 43.22m OD in trench 5 and 42.92m OD in Trench 11, indicating a very level layer with a very minor slope towards the River.

- What are the earliest deposits identified?

Besides the underlying natural, the earliest deposits identified are likely to be those that are cut by the large defensive ditch. Pottery from one of these layers [214] dates from 1125 to 1175, similar to much of the pottery found on the site. However, the location of the layer within the stratigraphy suggests an earlier date than other activity on site. No deposit could be positively identified as earlier than c 1125.

- What are the latest deposits identified?

The latest deposit identified was the foundry/industrial waste [61], it is known to post date the construction of the Walter Wilder foundry c 1860.

Several site specific research questions were also posed:

- The Medieval Hospital of St Mary Magdalene is thought to be located in the area around the east end of the 14th century Wallingford Bridge. As this site is located immediately east of the bridge, is there any evidence for the location of the Medieval Hospital of St Mary Magdalene?

Nothing specifically attributable to the hospital was found on site. However, several peg tiles datable to 1200-1500 were found, but could have come from a number of buildings within the vicinity.

- The site is the possible location of Stephen's Mount a 12th century siege castle. A number of earthworks are shown on the 1914 edition OS map within the site area which has been identified as Stephen's Mount. Is there any evidence to support this?

A large ditch c 25m in width was excavated and recorded in several of the evaluation trenches that roughly correspond to the outer edge of the oval earthwork shown in the 1914 edition OS map. In Trench 5 there appeared to be redeposited natural alluvium on top of earlier features indicating that the area had been deliberately

raised, this area corresponded closely with the oval earthwork seen on the map. However, the exact form and location of the entire set of earthworks is not known.

Historical accounts suggest that the Treaty of Wallingford called for the deconstruction of King Stephen's siege castles. Evidence of the slighting of the large ditch was recorded in tip lines of redeposited soil, construction material (chalk blocks) and occupational refuse (charcoal and pottery) thrown in from what has been interpreted as the central motte or raised area.

Large amounts of dating evidence in the form of pottery and assorted finds provided further evidence of a large amount of activity on the between the years 1125 and 1175.

It is thought that with these three main points of evidence that the site is highly likely to have been one of King Stephen's siege castles.

- An archaeological evaluation has been conducted on the adjacent site to the west, now Jethro Tull Gardens, which recorded a high density of settlement-related features datable by pottery to 13th and 14th century. In addition to this, the 11th century St Mary Magdalene Church is located 140m west of the site, considering that this may have formed a focus of medieval settlement what evidence is there for medieval activity on the site?

It would seem that in the stripped portion of Area A there was similar activity in the form of shallow ditches, postholes and areas of chalk hard standing. However the dating of the pottery from many these features suggested a date of c 1125 to 1175, contemporary with the earthworks found throughout the rest of the site. There remains a possibility that some of these later ditches and undated postholes are in fact a continuation of this possible settlement.

- Earlier settlement in the wider area has been shown by a series of cropmarks and findspots of Roman pottery, what evidence is there for Roman settlement?

There was little evidence of Roman settlement. A single piece of tessera was recovered on site. This serves to reinforce the idea that there was Roman activity in the nearby area.

4.2 General discussion of potential

The potential of the site agrees broadly with the potential that was postulated in the earlier DBA (Oxford 2008)

The evaluation has shown that the potential for survival of ground surfaces (horizontal archaeological stratification) on the site is good for archaeology predating c 1300. In particular a large number of deposits dating to the 12th century were recorded. There is potential for the survival of earlier Saxon, Roman, or Prehistoric features as well, but these would most likely have been truncated by the high level of medieval activity on the site if they existed at all.

Although there is good evidence for 12th century features, it would appear that a combination of industrial dumping and the levelling of the ground for building construction will have truncated or removed evidence of later archaeology.

Archaeology on site has been recorded as high as 45.22m OD and to a depth of 2.50m below the reduced ground surface. The average depth of archaeological deposits where they do survive is likely to be between 45.00m OD and 43.00m OD.

4.3 Significance

As evidence of siege castles and archaeology of any kind pertaining to the Civil War of the 12th century is rare, the archaeological remains recorded in the evaluation are undoubtedly of local significance and most likely regional importance. However due to much of the site being impacted upon by industrial dumping and levelling, as well as the relatively small portion of the area examined, the evidence is not conclusive thereby denying it national importance.

There has been only one other castle of similar size and time period excavated, this was Danes Castle in Exeter. It was also thought to have been built by King Stephen, in 1136 to lay a siege on Rougemount Castle.

The evaluation of this site, thought to be a similar siege castle, adds considerably to the general knowledge of this monument type.

It is thought that the interpretation of this site will help further understand the historical landscape of the Wallingford/ Crowmarsh, especially during the years of the 12th century Civil War. It is hoped that this may open up further avenues of research on the subject as well.

5 Proposed development impact and recommendations

The proposed development at the site involves the construction of primarily residential developments, with associated roads, paths and green areas. The evaluation has uncovered archaeological remains of high significance at the site. Thus the developers have put in place preventative measures to mitigate the impact upon the remains. These include the laying down of terram along the base and sides of trenches that had significant archaeological deposits, as well as redesigning their plans to use a form of piling for the foundations of the buildings that is considered to be less invasive and therefore have a minimal impact upon the archaeology.

It is the recommendation of MOLA that these preventative measures, including the preservation *in situ* of the archaeological remains, are sufficient. However it should be noted that further work has been recommended on the finds retrieved during the evaluation, given the significance of the site.

The decision on the appropriate archaeological response to the results of the archaeological evaluation rests with the Local Planning Authority and their designated archaeological advisor.

6 Acknowledgements

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8 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID: molas1-106503**Project details**

Project name	Land at The Street, Lister Wilder Site
Short description of the project	13 evaluation trenches were excavated and an area of 1,090 square metres was subject to a strip, map and record exercise. Natural deposits of Valley Gravel and alluvium were recorded across the entire site. A large potentially ovoid defensive ditch was uncovered. This probably relates to a 12th century siege castle. Large amounts of 12th century pottery collected.
Project dates	Start: 21-02-2011 End: 25-05-2011
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Significant Finds	RIM SHERD Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Environmental Sampling', 'Measured Survey', 'Metal Detectors', 'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	OXFORDSHIRE SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE CROWMARSH Land at The Street, Lister Wilder site
Postcode	OX10 8EB

Study area	14869.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 461300 189400 50.9674845054 -1.342985867890 50 58 02 N 001 20 34 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 42.85m Max: 44.92m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	MOLA
Project brief originator	MOLA project manager
Project design originator	Beliz Tecirli
Project director/manager	Beliz Tecirli
Project supervisor	Greg Laban
Type of sponsor/funding body	Croudace Homes Ltd.

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Oxfordshire County Council
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Metal','Worked bone'
Digital Archive recipient	Oxfordshire County Council
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Survey'
Paper Archive recipient	Oxfordshire County Council
Paper Media available	'Map','Matrices','Plan','Report','Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at The Street, Lister Wilder Site. Evaluation Report

Author(s)/Editor(s) Laban, G.

Date 2011

Issuer or publisher MOLA

Place of issue or publication London

Description A4 Evaluation Report

Entered by Greg Laban (glaban@museumoflondon.org.uk)

Entered on 3 August 2011

9 Appendix 1

**Evaluation of the environmental samples from The Street,
Lister Wilder site in Wallingford, Oxford.**

(OX-STW11)

P:\OXFO\1034\ha\Env

ENV/BOT/ASS/09/11

Karen Stewart

June 2011

Museum of London Archaeology

1 Quantification and assessment

1.1 Site archive: finds and environmental, quantification and description

Table 1 Finds and environmental archive general summary

Bulk soil samples	One archive box; flots from 11 samples
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1.1.1 The botanical samples

1.1.1.1 Introduction/methodology

Seventeen bulk environmental samples were collected for the recovery of archaeobotanical and other bio-archaeological remains in order to assess their potential to contribute to the interpretation of the site.

All samples were processed at MoLA using a modified Siraf flotation tank, with meshes of 0.25mm and 1mm aperture for the retention of the flots and residues respectively, which were subsequently left to dry. All flots were fully scanned with a low-powered binocular microscope, recording their bio-archaeological remains by category and estimating their diversity and abundance. Plant names follow Stace (1995). The rating system used was:

Abundance

1 = 1-10 items (occasional); 2 = 11-100 items (moderate); 3 = >100 items (abundant)

Diversity

1 = 1-3 species (low); 2 = 4-8 species (intermediate); 3 = >8 species (high)

The residues were sorted by eye for organic material and other artefacts, while any flora remains retrieved were scanned with a binocular microscope in order to record any archaeobotanical material present. The processing and assessment data are stored on the MoLA Oracle database in order to be integrated with other archaeological data from the site and compiled to summary tables.

Samples {1} [81], {2} [84], {4} [96], {6} [86] and {7} (88), did not produce any flot material.

1.1.1.2 Charred remains

Wood charcoal was recovered in all samples. In samples {5} (102) and {8} (123) some of the charcoal fragments bore characteristics indicative of coppiced hazel wood.

Charred grains were recovered from all samples that produced flots. In samples {3} [94], {8} [123], {10} [137], {11} [138], {12} [139] and {14} [185] charred grain was noted as being 'abundant', containing between 50 and 500+ grains. Free-threshing wheats were the most commonly noted taxa in the assemblages, with barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) also common. Oats (*Avena* sp.) were rare occurrences while low numbers of legumes such as peas and beans were also noted.

Charred weed seeds were also common, more often in association with the large grain assemblages. Grasses (Poaceae), fat hen (*Chenopodium album* L.) and stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula* L.) were all commonly noted.

Hazel nutshell was noted in sample {10} [137].

1.1.1.3 Faunal remains

Some mammal bones were noted in processing and passed to the relevant specialist. Fish bones and scales were noted in the flots of samples {11} [138], {12} [139] and {14} [185].

1.1.1.4 Artefactual remains

Pottery, flint and daub were noted. See Table 3.

2 Discussion

The charred plant remains are typical of a medieval rural assemblage. Free-threshing wheats are frequently the most common on sites of this period, and would likely have been cultivated to mill for flour. The barley grains present in the samples may have been destined for brewing. The charred grain assemblages, associated as they are with charcoal and various other artefacts, are likely to represent dumps of material. It may be that the grains were accidentally burned during drying, or perhaps purposefully thrown or swept into a hearth. Stinking mayweed and fat hen are common crop weeds and are likely to be present and charred as contaminants of the cereal crop.

The presence of coppiced hazel charcoal indicates a degree of woodland management taking place in the vicinity, again typical of the period.

3 Bibliography

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4 Tables

Context	Sample	Processed vol.	Wet sieve d vol.	Wet sieve size	Flotation	Flotation vol	Unprocessed
81	1	0.4	10	1			N
86	6	0.95	30	1			N
88	7	0.35	30	1			N
94	3	1.7	40	1	Y	60	N
96	4	0.72	30	1			N
102	5	0.4	10	1	Y	300	N
110	9	1.3	30	1	Y	100	N
123	8	0.33	30	1	Y	200	N
137	10	1.1	20	1	Y	80	N
138	11	1.45	20	1	Y	80	U

139	12	1.2	10	1	Y	100	N
140	13	0.7	10	1	Y	25	N
185	14	2.2	20	1	Y	300	N
211	15	0.6	10	1			N
236	16	0.7	10	1			N

Table 2: Processing details

Context	Sample	ID	Proportion
96	4	POT	O
102	5	BFLINT	O
102	5	POT	O
110	9	DAUB	O
123	8	DAUB	O
123	8	POT	O
138	11	POT	O
139	12	POT	O
140	13	POT	O
185	14	POT	O

Table 3: Finds from samples
O = Occasional

Context	Sample	Process	ID	Abundance	Diversity	Comments
88	7	W	BONE L MAM	1	1	
94	3	F	CHD GRAIN	3	2	INDET, PISSA, LATVIC,C25 HORVU,C40 TRI
94	3	F	CHD SEEDS	2	1	POAC,CHE,RUM,APA,ANTCO,CAR
94	3	F	CHD WOOD	2	1	
94	3	F	MOLSC TR	1	1	
94	3	W	CHD WOOD	1	1	THROWN
96	4	W	BONE L MAM	1	1	
96	4	W	CHD WOOD	1	1	THROWN
102	5	F	CHD GRAIN	2	1	C.15 TRIFT, 5 OAT,HORVU
102	5	F	CHD WOOD	3	1	COPP HAZEL
102	5	F	MOLSC TR	1	1	
102	5	F	WLG ROOTS	1	1	
102	5	W	CHD WOOD	1	1	THROWN
110	9	F	CHD GRAIN	1	1	INDET
110	9	F	CHD WOOD	2	1	

110	9	F	WLG ROOTS	1	1	
123	8	F	CHD GRAIN	3	1	C20 HORVU,TRIFT C5AVE
123	8	F	CHD SEEDS	1	1	RUM, ANTCO
123	8	F	CHD WOOD	3	1	COPP HAZEL
123	8	F	MOLSC TR	1	1	
123	8	F	WLG ROOTS	1	1	
137	10	F	CHD CHAFF	1	1	ST
137	10	F	CHD GRAIN	3	2	VIC, LVP,AVE,TRIFT,INDET,HOR
137	10	F	CHD MISC	1	1	CORAV
137	10	F	CHD SEEDS	2	2	POC,ANTCO,CHE,POL,RUM
137	10	F	CHD WOOD	2	1	
137	10	W	BONE L MAM	1	1	
138	11	F	BONE FISH	1	1	SCALES
138	11	F	CHD GRAIN	3	2	C30 HORVU C26TRIFT, LENS,AVE
138	11	F	CHD SEEDS	2	2	LITH,ANTCO,CHE,POAC
138	11	F	CHD WOOD	1	1	
138	11	W	BONE L MAM	1	1	
139	12	F	BONE FISH	1	1	
139	12	F	CHD CHAFF	1	1	STRAW
139	12	F	CHD GRAIN	3	1	C50 TRIFT C50HORVU, PIS, AVE
139	12	F	CHD SEEDS	3	2	AGRGI(INC HEAD), CHE,POAC,ANTCO,CRPWEEDS
139	12	F	CHD WOOD	2	1	
139	12	W	BONE L MAM	1	1	
140	13	F	BONE S MAM	1	1	
140	13	F	CHD GRAIN	2	1	C20, TRIFT, SECCE, AVE
140	13	F	CHD WOOD	2	1	
140	13	F	MOLSC TR	1	1	
185	14	F	BONE	1	1	+SCALES

			FISH			
185	14	F	CHD CHAFF	1	1	RAC, AW
185	14	F	CHD GRAIN	3	2	MOSTLY TRIFT+HORVU, LATVICPIS, INDET
185	14	F	CHD SEEDS	1	1	POAC, CARCIR
185	14	F	CHD WOOD	1	1	
185	14	F	MOLSC TR	1	1	
185	14	W	BONE BIRD	1	1	
185	14	W	BONE FISH	1	1	
185	14	W	BONE L MAM	1	1	
185	14	W	BONE S MAM	1	1	
185	14	W	COPRO	1	1	

Table 4: Environmental remains from samples
F = Flot; W = Residue

The Street, Lister Wilder Site, Wallingford. Oxfordshire, OX10 (OX-STW11)

Ian M. Betts
22nd July 2011

Summary Note on Building Materials

A total of 12 fragments of building material were recovered from nine contexts. These comprise various pieces of medieval peg roofing tile and fragments of worked stone, not all of which may be building material. One fragment of Roman tile was also recovered along with a piece of daub.

The building material from OX-STW11 has been fully recorded and the information added to the Oracle database.

Listed below is a summary of the building material in each context:

Context	Fabric	Type	Date
[+]	OO2	Peg roofing	1200–1500
[75]	3116	moulding	?
[92]	OO12	Peg roofing	1200–1500
[94]	3120	?	?
[101]	3109	Ashlar block?	?
[101]	3109	Moulding	?
[105]	OO8	Peg roofing	1200–1500
[123]	3120	?	?
[124]	3102	Daub	?
[130]	3109	Ashlar block?	?
[132]	OO11	Tessera	AD40–400

Discussion

A solitary Roman tessera was found in context [132]. This has a worn upper surface indicating that it probably came from a plain red tessellated pavement, or from a red border around a mosaic floor. Of possible Roman date is a partly burnt daub fragment from context [124].

Fragments of peg roofing tile, of probable medieval date, were recovered from contexts [92] and [105] and a further fragment was found unstratified. A number of peg tiles have the remains of round nail/peg holes.

A number of pieces of stone were recovered from the site, although further work will be required to determine their age. Most are oolitic limestone (fabric 3109) (contexts [101], [130]), which are partly grey and pink in colour suggesting they have been burnt at some stage in their lives. Some appear to be ashlar blocks, whilst one (context [101]) may originally have been round or semi-circular in shape. Other stone comprises a semi-

circular fragment of chalk (fabric 3116) (context [75]), an odd circular object with a deep hole in its base made of grey siltstone (fabric 3120) (context [94]), possibly a finial, and a light grey stone (calcareous siltstone?) with a possible worked surface (context [123]).

A note on the medieval pottery from Crowmarsh, Wallingford, Oxfordshire (OX-STW11)

Lyn Blackmore

Introduction

An important assemblage of medieval pottery was recovered from 53 contexts in 10 trenches on this site, though to be that of a siege castle used by King Stephen in the mid 12th century. In all there are 814 hand-collected sherds, and 18 from sieved samples (413 ENV, 11.858kg); of these, 100 sherds (32 ENV, 1.209kg) are technically unstratified but from known locations. The sherds were examined macroscopically and using a binocular microscope (x 20) and sorted into broad ware types by Maureen Mellor, and then recorded in an Excel file by the author using standard Oxford codes for known fabrics (Mellor 1994), and standard Museum of London codes for forms and decoration. The numerical data comprises sherd count, estimated number of vessels and weight. Approximately 92% of the assemblage was assigned to a provisional ware type; other fabrics have been recorded as MISC and need to be compared with the reference collection at Oxford Archaeology. Several finds merit illustration.

The medieval wares

Locally made wares, probably using Lower Greensand for the temper (fabric WA38; Mellor 1994, 61) are the most common category, comprising c 71% of the assemblage by sherd count, c 70% by weight (594 sherds, 273 ENV, 8.254kg). There is a wide variation in this group, the fabrics ranging from fine to coarse and from low-fired to highly fired; a few sherds have distinctive large rounded black inclusions that could be grog or iron (eg C.111, C.207). Pitchers are well represented, with 217 sherds (85 ENV) from jugs/pitchers, including six with definite spouts secured by collar-like straps; it is likely that all had tripod bases, although only two were found. The pitcher forms are paralleled in Oxford fabric OXY (ibid, fig 21, 22). They mainly have deep flaring necks, but a few are carinated or corrugated; several rims are thumbbed or milled, and the same appears on the handles, several of which are decorated with applied thumbbed strips or inlaid twisted strips giving a cabled effect. Decoration on the body mainly comprises incised horizontal lines alternating with bands of vertical or wavy lines. The most complete find is a tripod pitcher from south of C81, at interface with natural (unstratified); examples with spouts were present in C.130, C.137, C.138/C.139 (whole rim) and C.217, while C.0, C.17, C.23/C.29, C.137 and C.138 all contained jug/pitcher sherds with different types of decoration that merit illustration. The other sherds are mainly from cooking pots, but include a possible cauldron, a bowl and two dishes. Some of the rim forms are typical of the Late Saxon/early medieval period (ie c 1050-1150), notably the cooking pots with thumbbed decoration and a spouted pitcher with rouletted decoration. Most vessels appear to be wheel-made, but some are knife-trimmed. The industry spans the early/mid 11th century until the late 13th century (ibid, 63); as a whole the present collection appears to date to the mid 12th century, but the more developed rims could possibly be of late 12th/early 13th-century date.

Some 58 sherds (34 ENV, 661g) from C.7, C.130, C.185 and C.206, are provisionally recorded as late Saxon/early medieval south-east Oxfordshire ware (fabric OX162), a

broad category that comprises five similar wares containing 10-20% polycrystalline quartz (Mellor 1994, 84). The earliest ware within this tradition is fabric 27, first recognised in late 11th/early 12th-century contexts at Wallingford castle (ibid, 85). The tradition continued into the late medieval period but the present forms (jars and cooking pots) are all typical of the 12th century.

Wares from outside the county are not uncommon, although they appear to be concentrated in a smaller number of contexts. The East Wiltshire flint- and limestone-tempered wares (WA37; Oxford fabric OXAQ; Mellor 1994, 100), probably from the Kennet valley, are the second most common on the site, with 69 sherds (27 ENV, 1.972kg); found in C.140, C.132, C.137, C.185. These include a large cooking pot/cauldron with pronounced thumbing on the rim and finger impressions around the shoulder (C.130). The earliest datable occurrence of this ware in Oxfordshire is from a well in Oxford where it was associated with a coin of 1168-80 (ibid, 106). It was, therefore, in use before this (and might perhaps be expected earlier in the southern part of the county) but seems to have become more popular in the 13th century. The latest find, from context C.206, is a sherd of Brill/Boastall ware from Buckinghamshire which dates to the 13th century (fabric WA39; Oxford fabrics OXAM, OXAW; ibid, 111).

The currently unidentified fabrics (85 sherds, 71 ENV, 807g) comprise a range of sandy wares and fabrics tempered with chalk/limestone, chalk/limestone with flint, or flint. Some of the chalk/limestone-tempered wares probably belong to Mellor's Group 1B, while the flint-tempered wares could belong to her Group II (M Mellor pers comm).

Discussion

In terms of dating, the assemblage appears to be quite homogenous, with no contexts standing out as clearly earlier or later than others, and the bulk of the pottery would appear to date to the mid/third quarter of the 12th century, although some of the Wiltshire fabrics could potentially be as late as the early 13th century (M Mellor pers com). Thus most contexts are currently dated to 1125-1175/1200, but those with WA37 have been placed at 1150-1175/1200. There are also a number of substantially complete forms with large sherd that probably represent primary rubbish than material redeposited from middens. Both facts would be consistent with a siege site that was only occupied over a short space of time, between c 1154–60. It is quite possible that all the pottery was discarded at this time, and dating of individual contexts can be refined if further analysis takes place. The relatively high number of jugs and pitchers (c 20% of the estimated number of vessels, 26% of the total sherd count), is, however, of interest, suggesting at first sight a high status, manorial setting where entertaining took place, rather than a retreat in time of war. They could, however, be explained by the supposed royal connections of the site. Many of the ceramic forms merit illustration and, with some conservation input, a number of pieces are displayable. Given the historic context of the site, the assemblage is of importance as it provides a snapshot of wares in use at what would appear to be a very short, fixed period in time, which will be of value to pottery studies in southern Oxfordshire. The assemblage thus has clear potential for further analysis and publication, especially if considered in the light of the results of excavation work in progress in Wallingford itself (the Burh to Borough project).

Bibliography

Mellor, M, 1994 A synthesis of Middle and Late Saxon, medieval and early post-medieval pottery in the Oxford region, *Oxoniensia* 59, 17–217

The registered finds from The Street, Wallingford (OX-STW11)

Beth Richardson

There are 24 individually registered finds. The majority are metal (iron, copper-alloy and lead) with one bone object, a pin. The finds are catalogued individually below. With the exception of a gilded and enamelled mount (<S 9>), currently undated, all the identifiable finds are early medieval. Three iron horseshoes (<S 10>, <S 11>, <S 12> two from [81], one un-stratified) and two 'fiddlehead' horseshoe nails (<S 20>, <S 22> from [128] and [137]) can be dated typologically to the late 11th to the early 13th century (Clark 1995, 86, type 2B). Four pieces from iron knife-blades display no signs of pattern-moulding or makers' marks; they are probably also 11th to 13th century, although they could be slightly later (<S 14> –<S 17>, [23], [92] and [130]) The one bone object, a pin made from the mid shaft of a long bone from a horse, cow or red deer (<S 1>, from [130]), is probably Saxo-Norman (cf Pritchard in Vince et al, 1991, 203–5). The three copper-alloy fittings and dress accessories are broadly medieval but because they are common forms and un-decorated, are hard to date with precision. A plain copper alloy two-piece rectangular strap-end (<S 8>, [138]) and a plain square copper-alloy mount, possibly from a horse harness, (<S 7>, [92]) could date to any period within the late 12th to the 14th centuries; a small plain annular brooch in good condition (<S 8>, [130]) is very similar to a 14th century brooch from London (cf Egan and Pritchard 1991, Fig 160, 1307); it could be intrusive or just an earlier example of the type. A small length of lead came (<S 4>, [172]) is an indication (unless re-deposited) that there was a high-status building with glazed windows on the site. An ornate enamelled and gilded crescent- or 'pelta'-shaped fitting or mount with a central lozenge-shaped opening was found in the primary fill of a Saxo-Norman feature ([128]). If it is Saxo-Norman or earlier it is highly unusual; the most comparable items appear to be mounts from 7th- or 8th-century hanging bowls. The mount, which is made from quite thick copper-alloy and is in good condition, may be post-medieval (the initial reaction of Claire Costin and Sonja Marzinzik at the British Museum, who have seen photographs), but it is well-stratified with early medieval pottery and finds and further research would be advisable.

Generally the finds are high-status and many possibly military, with an emphasis on horse-fittings (horseshoes, horseshoe nails and a possible harness-fitting), knives (blades) and plain dress accessories (a strap-end and a small annular brooch). A short length of lead window-came indicates that there may have been a building with glazed windows on the site. An ornate gilded and enamelled mount or fitting may be Saxon, early medieval (possibly from an imported object) or post-medieval; further research, and publication (if the object proves to be Saxon or early medieval) is recommended.

Catalogue

<S 1> Bone pin

<28>, [130]

Possibly complete; L 89mm, W 10mm tapering to 3mm. Curved mid-shaft of long bone from cow, horse or red deer (identification Alan Pipe). All surfaces polished; shaft carved to sharp point, head roughly carved to rectangular 4-sided pyramid, two cut-marks on and just below head on one long side and one slightly oblique cut-mark in the same position on the other long side. Possibly unfinished or discarded. Exact

function unknown but possibly a hairpin, or an unfinished) needle (cf Pritchard in Vince et al 1991, 203–5).

<S 2> Lead object

<26>, [176]

Complete; L/W approx 18mm. Moulded solid three-sided object with one rounded side and two striated surfaces (one flat and sprued). A weight or warfare projectile?

<S 3> Lead waste

<29>, [206]

L26mm, W 25mm. Piece of lead waste made up of fused droplets.

<S 4> Lead window came

<27>, [172]

L 20mm. Flattish triangular piece of lead with central ridge; probably a piece from a window came (cf Egan 1998, 51-3).

<S 5> Copper-alloy fitting or sheet

<18>, [138]

Incomplete; approx 21x25mm. Thin uneven copper-alloy sheet with two parallel straight edges angled slightly towards a broken edge (possibly originally curved), fourth edge also broken; small square-headed repair or rivet, and (aligned) part of hole for another possible rivet.

<S 6> Copper alloy strap-end

<19>, [138]

Complete; L 30mm, W 18mm. Two-piece strap-end composed of two thin rectangular pieces of copper-alloy, un-decorated, with a rivet at each corner, holding piece of leather strap still in situ. Medieval.

<S 7> Copper-alloy mount

<7>, [92]

Complete; 20x20mm. Square slightly domed plain mount; single central rivet (L approx 6mm). Although undecorated possibly a mount for horse harness. Medieval.

<S 8> Copper-alloy brooch

<17>, [130]

Complete; Diam 11mm. Very good condition. Plain circular-sectioned annular, with pin. A similar but larger example from London is 14th century.

<S 9> Copper-alloy mount

<16>, [128]

(?) Complete; max H approx 35mm, max W 49mm, Th 1.5mm. Flat crescent or pelta-shaped (?) mount with a central lozenge-shaped hole surmounted by small crescent-shaped horn-like projections. A small central protrusion at the bottom of the mount may be broken. Upper side enamelled and gilded; intricate border of small enamelled triangles on one lower side of crescent, small squares on the other; central hole also

edged with small enamelled squares forming lozenge-shaped border; border of indentations around outside edge; possible enamelling inside borders, currently largely hidden by corrosion.

<S 10> Iron horseshoe

<2>, [+]

Complete; L 116mm, W 96mm. Corroded; narrow-webbed, three rectangular nail-holes on each branch punched through to create characteristic 'lobate' wavy edge, five nails in situ, calkins just visible in x-ray; Clark type 2B, late 11th to early 13th century (Clark 1995, 86, fig 62).

<S 11> Iron horseshoe

<3>, [81]

Complete; L 100mm, W 92mm. Corroded and worn; narrow-webbed, three rectangular nail-holes on each branch with all nails in situ; punched through to create characteristic 'lobate' wavy edge; calkins appear folded in x-ray; Clark type 2B, late 11th to early 13th century (Clark 1995, 86, fig 62).

<S 12> Iron horseshoe

<4>, [81]

Incomplete; W approx 100mm. Narrow-webbed lobate branch with three rectangular nail holes, possibly one nail in situ; Clark type 2B, late 11th to early 13th century (Clark 1995, 86, fig 62).

<S 13> Iron horseshoe

<5>, [98]

Incomplete. Part of a broad-webbed branch (max W 25mm) with three surviving small square nail holes, shanks from two nails visible in situ in x-ray; Clark type 4, late 13th to early 15th century (Clark 1995, 88-91, fig 69). The square nail-holes probably indicate a late 13th to mid 14th-century date (Clark *ibid*, 88).

<S 14> Iron knife blade

<1>, [23]

Incomplete; whittle tang (incomplete) L 42mm, blade 94mm, W approx 18–15mm. parallel-sided blade, slightly sloping shoulders. No obvious maker's mark or pattern welding.

<S 15> Iron blade

<22>, [130]

Incomplete; max W 18mm (tapering). Corroded fragment from lower half of probable knife-blade.

<S 16> Iron blade

<13>, [92]

Incomplete; max W 20mm (tapering). Corroded fragment from lower half of probable knife-blade.

<S 17> Iron blade

<23>, [130]

Incomplete; max W 9mm (tapering). Corroded fragment from lower half of probable knife-blade.

<S 18> Iron object

<6>, [94]

Incomplete; L 50mm and 15mm, W 6–4mm. Two pieces from a corroded hollow tube-like object, wider at one end.

<S 19> Iron object

<25>, [139]

Incomplete; very corroded, possible blade fragment

<S 20> Iron horseshoe nail

<20>, [128]

Incomplete; head (W 20mm) and part of shank from corroded 'fiddlehead' horseshoe nail. 11th-13th century nail type.

<S 21> Iron object

<25>, [139]

Incomplete; very corroded, possible blade fragment

<S 22> Iron horseshoe nail

<24>, [137].

Complete; 'fiddlehead' type head (W approx 15mm), shank bent with 'double-clenched' point; 11th-13th century nail type.

<S 23> Iron (?) blade

<21>, [130]

Incomplete; corroded; (?) blade fragment

<S 24> Iron (?) nail

<14>, [+]

Incomplete; corroded, small curved L-shaped piece of iron, possibly shank from horseshoe nail

<S 25> Iron pintle

<12>, [102]

Incomplete; corroded. Two pieces from an L-shaped pintle, one end broken (as separate piece), other end also broken and missing.

Bibliography

Clark, J (ed), 1995 *The medieval horse and its equipment, c 1150–c 1450*, HMSO
Medieval Finds Excav London 5, London

Egan, G, and Pritchard, F, 1991 *Dress accessories c 1150–c 1450*, HMSO Medieval Finds Excav London 3, London

Conservation Note for The Street, Wallingford (OX-STW11)

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Liz Barham

Jun 2011

Summary of conservation work

	Material	No. accessioned	No. conserved	No. to be treated (see below)
Inorganics	Iron	16 (inc 1 possible bulk nail)	0	0
	Copper alloy	5(0 coins)	0 (0 coins)	1
	Lead	3	0	0
Organics	Bone	1	0	0

The following assessment of conservation needs for the accessioned finds from excavations at The Street, Wallingford, covers any requirements for finds analysis, illustration, analytical conservation and long term curation. Work outlined in this document is needed to produce a stable archive in accordance with MAP2 (English Heritage 1992), the Museum of London's Standards for archive preparation (Museum of London 1999) and Oxfordshire Museums Service's Requirements for transferring archaeological archives (OMS 2008).

Please note this assessment does not include any recommendations for the pottery, as the pot assessment was not available at time of the conservation assessment. This can be costed for by a conservator at a later stage, if, for example, any reconstruction for illustration/photography is recommended.

5.1.1.1 Finds analysis/investigation

The registered finds were examined with reference to the finds notes by Beth Richardson and Ian Betts. <16>[128] copper alloy mount has possible gilding and enamel and raised decoration currently obscured by some corrosion. This should be investigated further prior to any publication, and could include some XRF analysis to check for the presence of gilding remains. Non-destructive XRF could be done at UCL cost-effectively within the time stated below, provided that there were finds from other sites to be analysed simultaneously (therefore it would await some months for assembly of a batch of other finds for analysis).

5.1.1.2 Work recommended for illustration/photography

<16> [128] copper alloy mount has decoration currently obscured by corrosion. The obscuring corrosion should be removed prior to any illustration/photography. This may be completed as part of analysis/investigation (above).

5.1.1.3 Preparation for deposition in the archive

The ironwork must be placed imminently in sealable storers with silica gel to prevent loss. Oxford Museums Service archive transfer requirements require all metal finds to be boxed in sealed Stewart plastic storers with silica gel. This will leave the bone pin to be boxed separately in a card box to enable transfer. This can be carried out by the Processing Team. Otherwise, registered finds from this site are currently stable and are appropriately packed for archive storage.

5.1.1.4 Remedial work outstanding

There is no remedial work outstanding.

Method statements

Conservation

Task 1 Analysis/investigation of <16> [128] prior to any publication; this would also prepare it for illustration/photography	0.5 days
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Total	0.5 days
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Bibliography

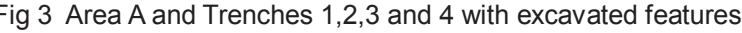
English Heritage 1992 *Management of Archaeological Projects II*

Museum of London 1999 *General standards for the preparation of archaeological archives to be deposited with the Museum of London*

Oxfordshire Museums Service 2008 *Requirements for Transferring Archaeological Archives*



Fig 2 Trench locations and area of excavation



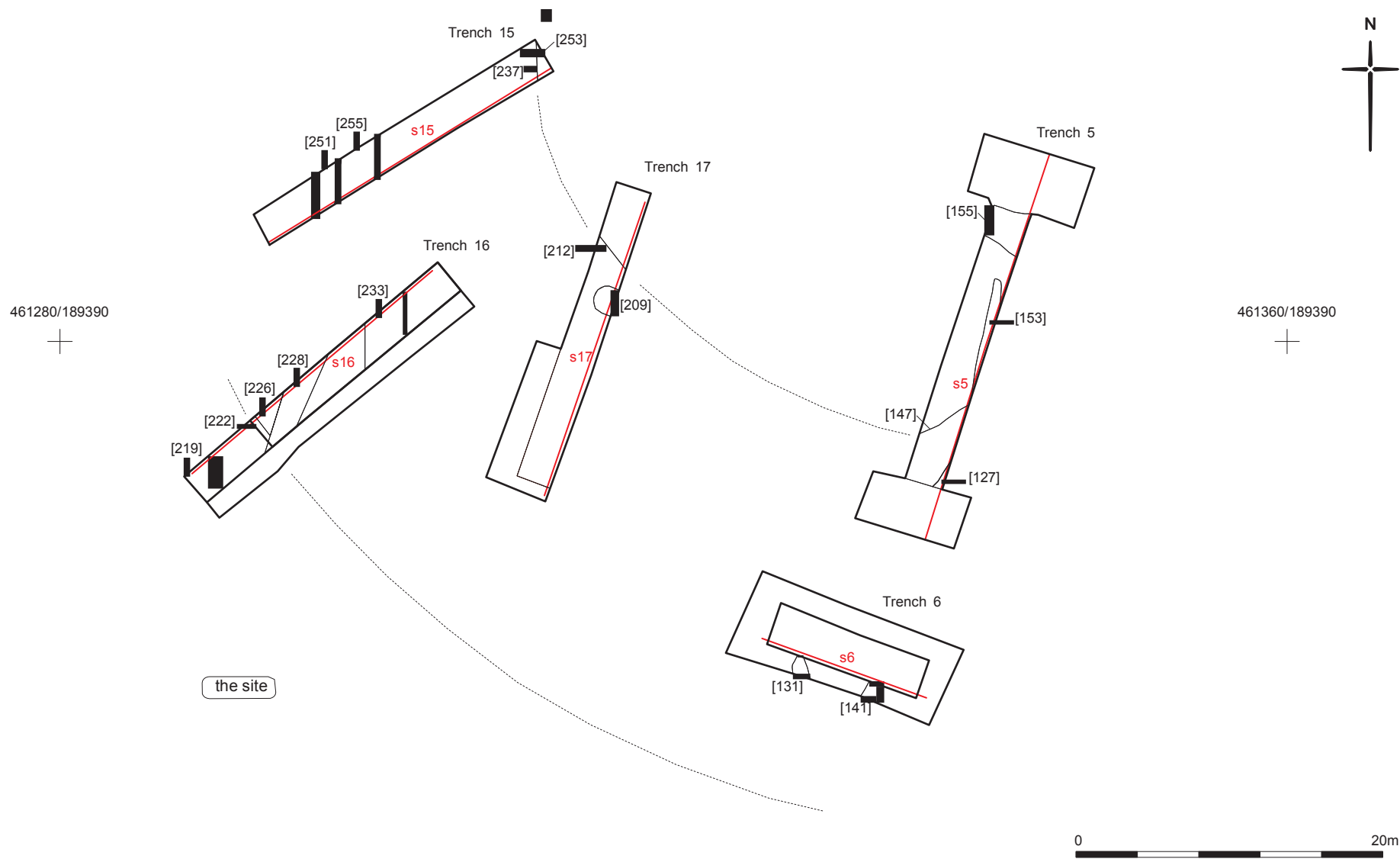


Fig 4 Trenches 5, 6, 15, 16 and 17 with excavated features

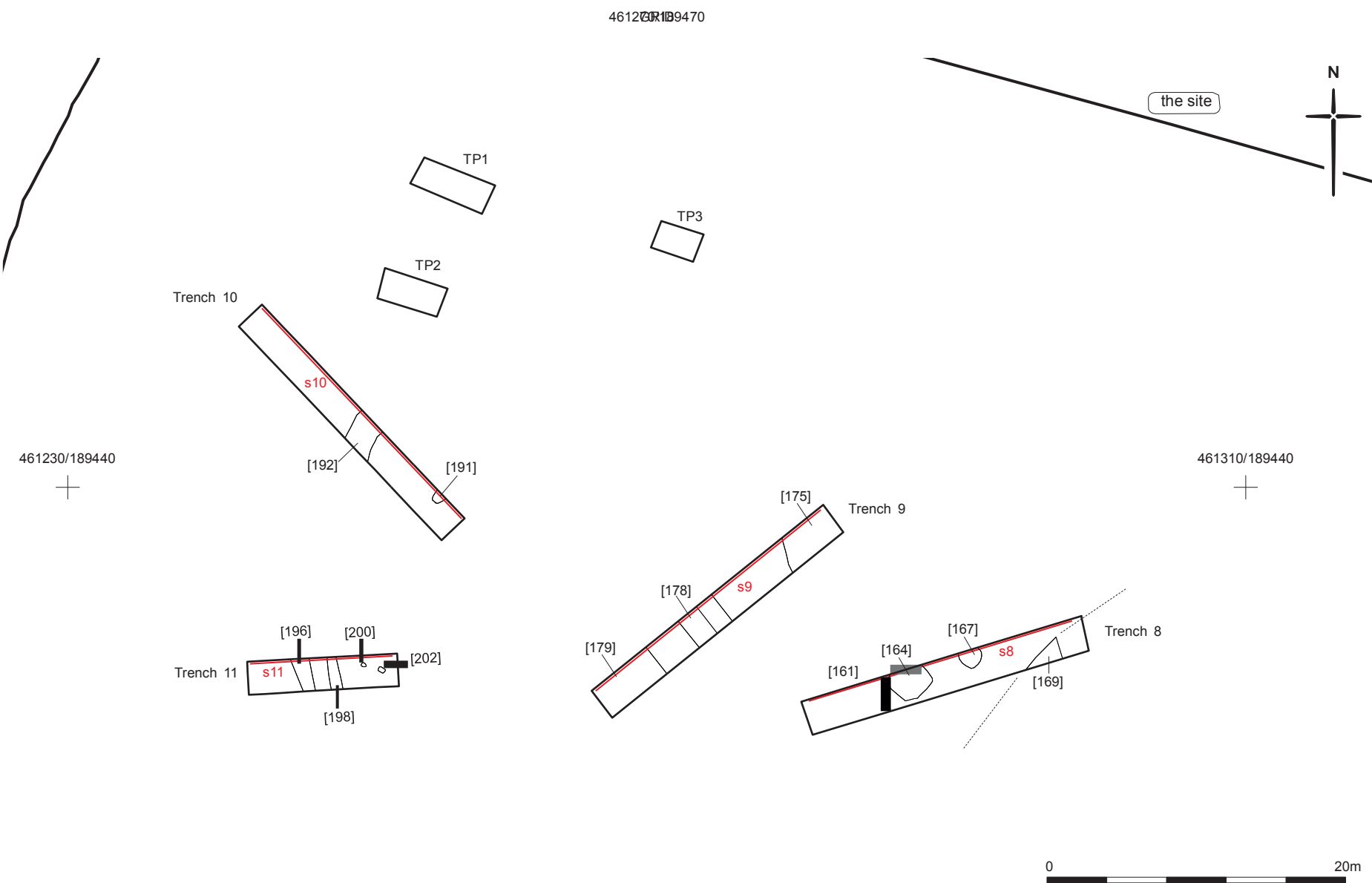


Fig 5 Trenches 8,9,11, and 12 with excavated features

461270/189450

461410/189450



the site

ditch conjecture

Trench 8

[169]

[122]

[112]

[112]

Area A

Trench 4

[56]

Trench 15

[237]

[212]

[222]

Trench 16

Trench 17

Trench 5

[147]

Trench 6

461270/189360

461410/189360

0 50m

Fig 6 Suggested location of the medieval defensive ditch

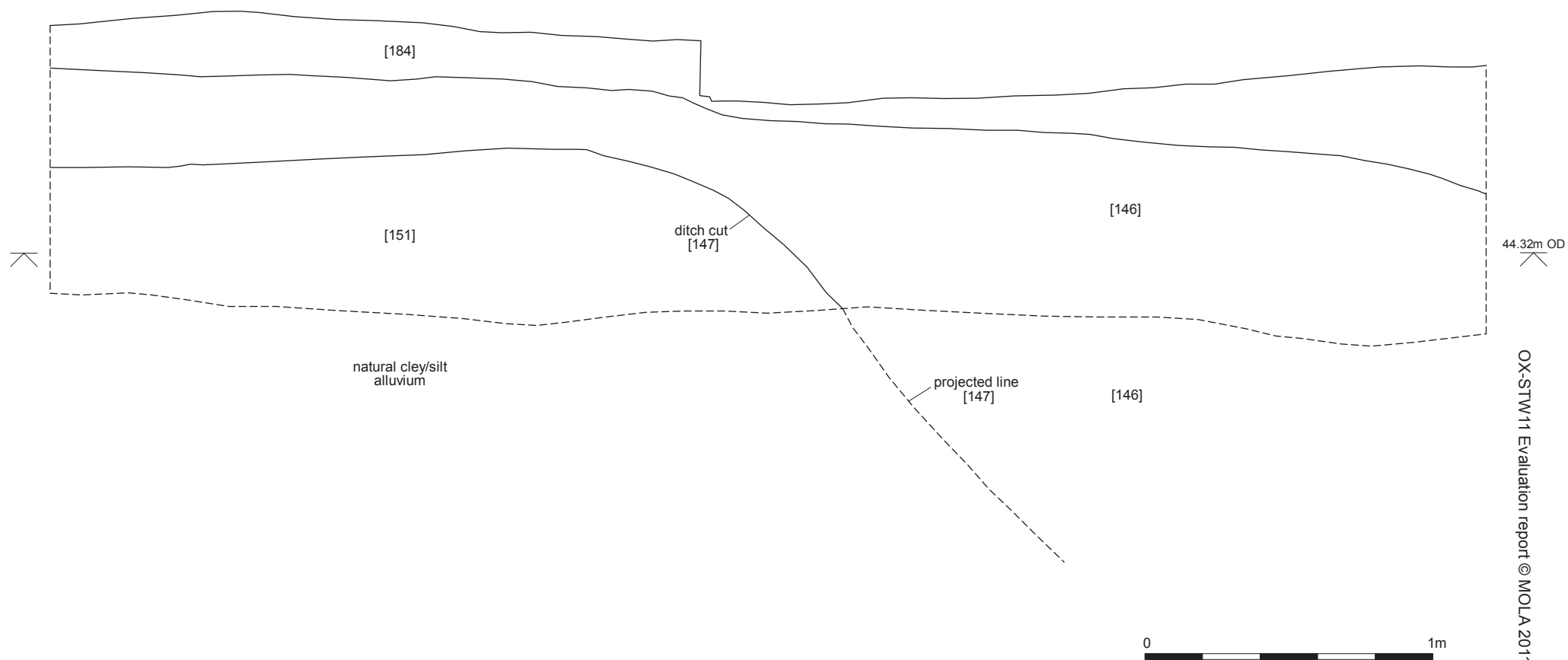


Fig 7 Portion of section 5, west facing, in trench 5 showing possible defensive ditch [147]

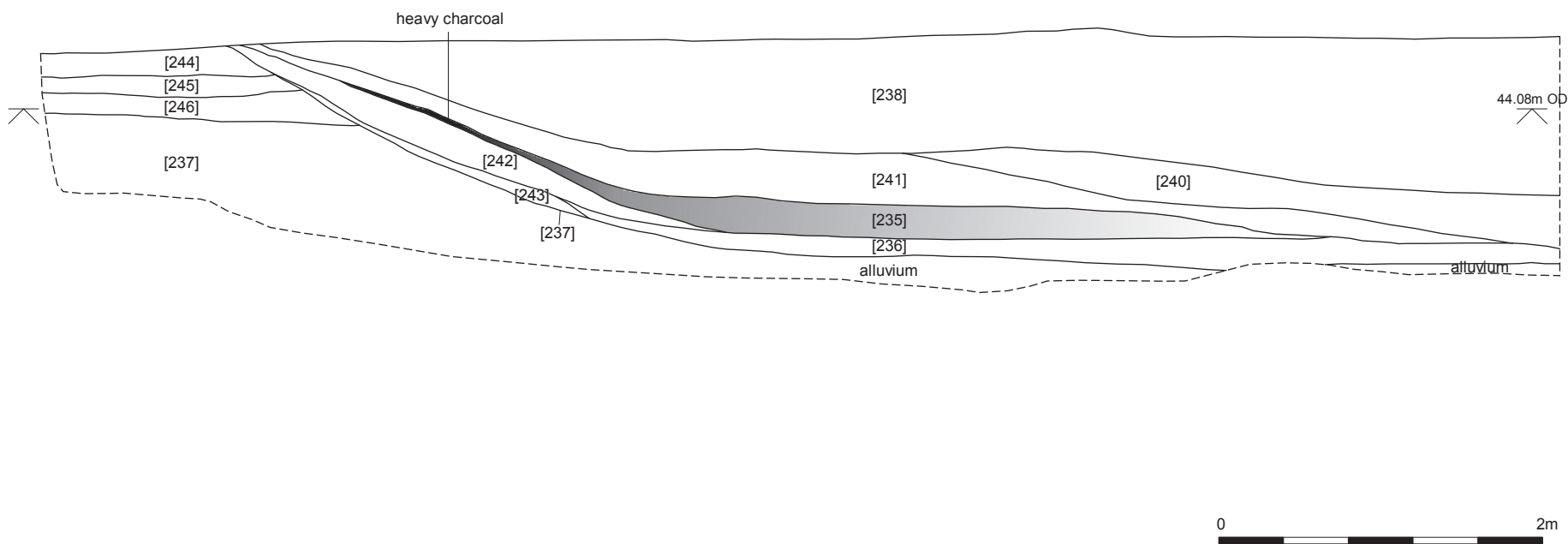


Fig 8 Portion of section 15, west facing, in trench 15 showing possible defensive ditch [237]

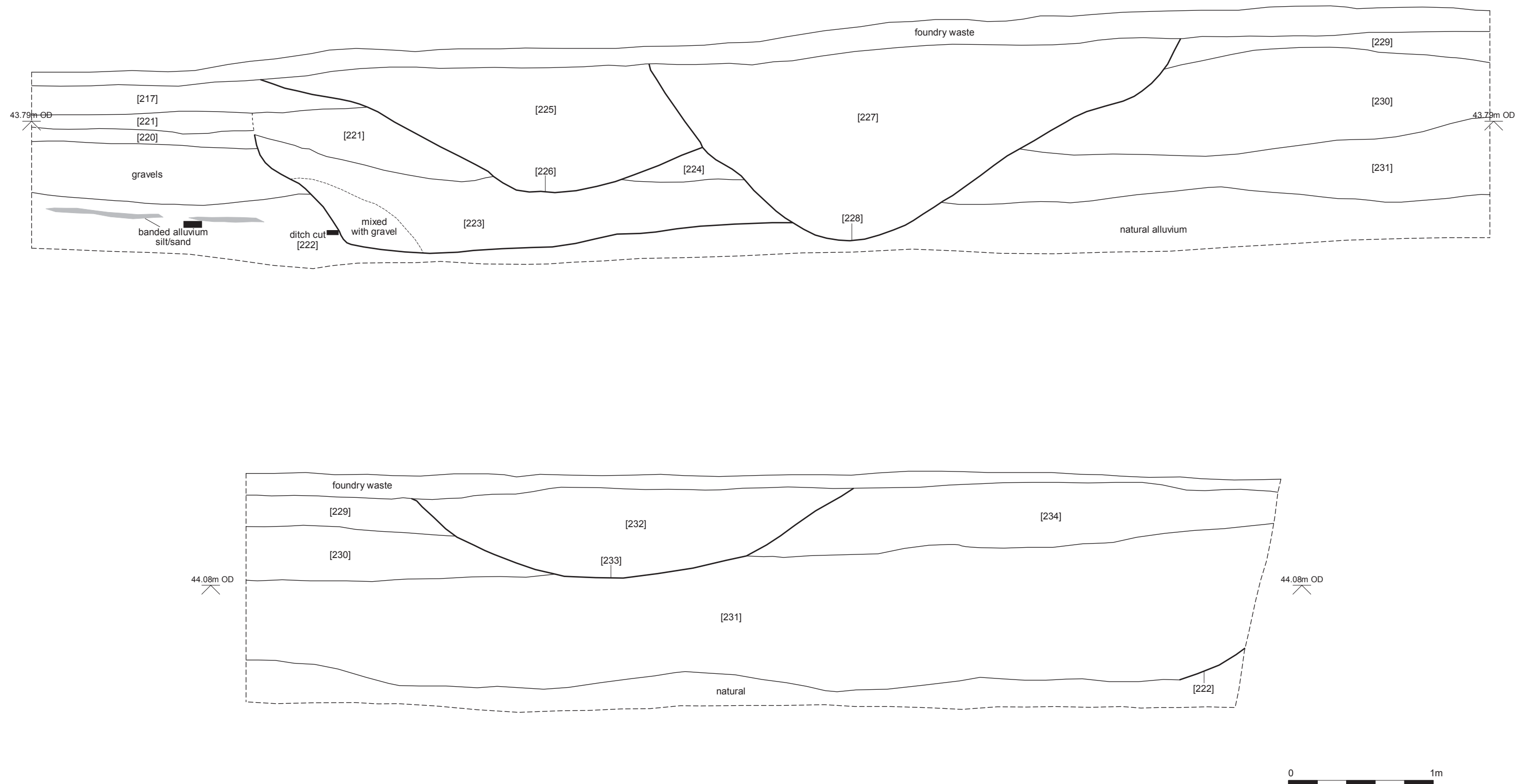


Fig 9 Portion of section 16, south east facing, in trench 16 showing possible defensive ditch [222]



Fig 10 Trench 16 showing ditch [222], looking south east (scale bar .60m)

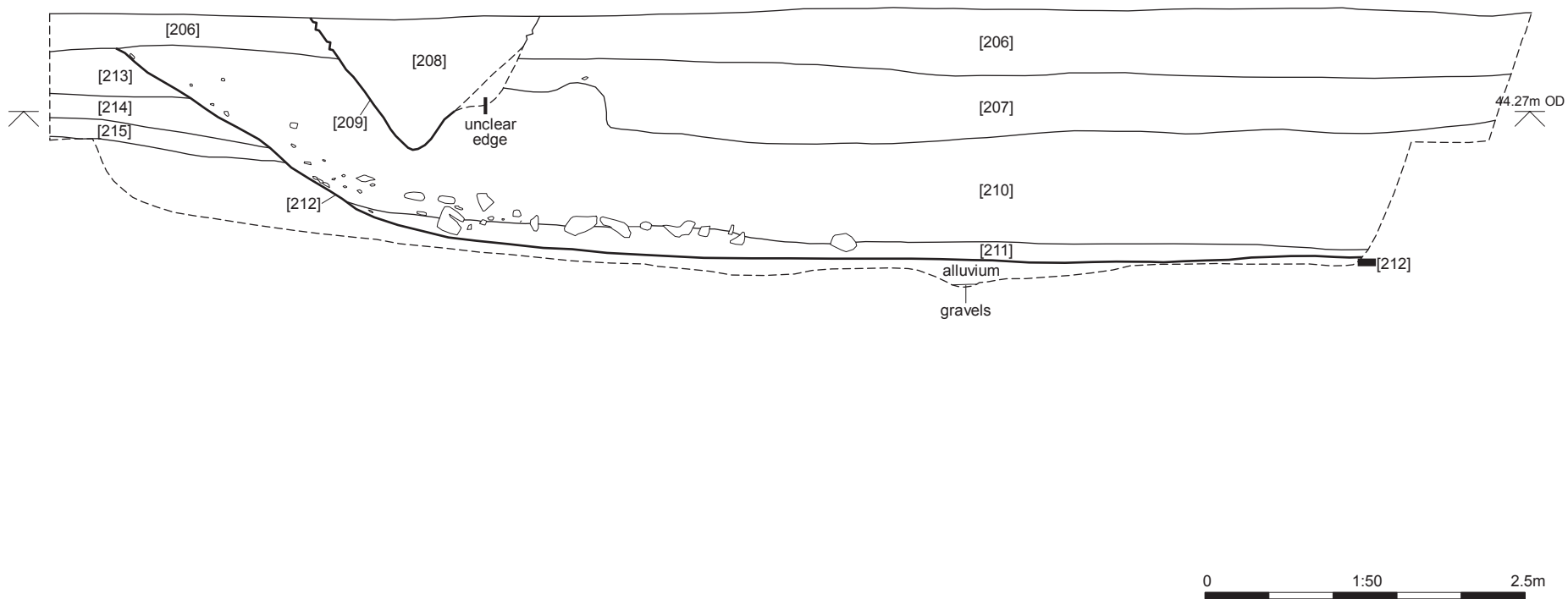


Fig 11 Portion of section 17, west facing, in trench 17 showing possible defensive ditch [212]



Fig 12 Trench 17 showing ditch [212], looking north west (scale bar .60m)



Fig 13 Area A, looking west, showing ditch [122] the possible northern extent of the medieval defensive ditch (scale bar 1.00m)



Fig 14 Area A, looking south, area of chalk hard-standing [101] with patches of burning [102] and [123] (scale bar 1.00m)