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County Council**

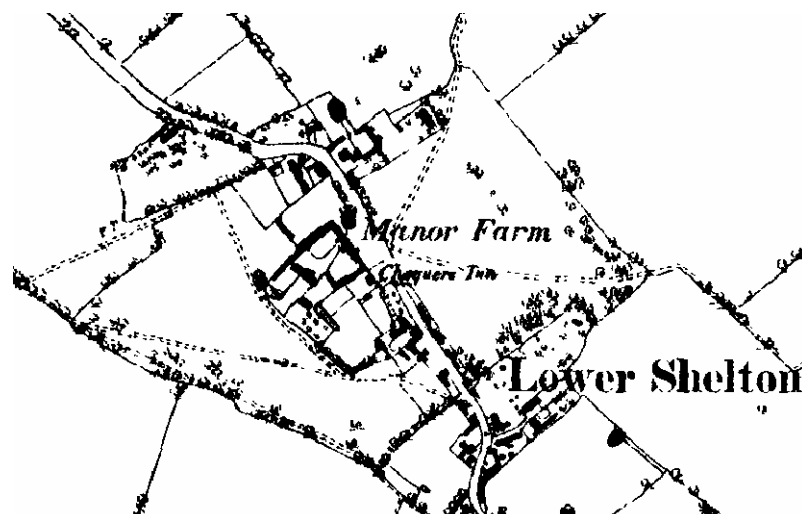
Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological Excavation on Land
Adjacent to 175 Lower Shelton Road

Marston Mortaine

Bedfordshire

July 2004



Sam Hepburn

June 2005

Report 05/011

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LOWER SHELTON ROAD, MARSTON MORTAINE, BEDFORDSHIRE

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project title	Archaeological Excavation at Lower Shelton Road, Marston Mortaine, Beds	
Short description	<p>Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned in July 2004 by Dr Isabel M G Lisboa of Archaeologia Ltd, acting on behalf of Bellcross Home; following an initial watching brief and trial trenching, to undertake a small excavation ahead of residential development on land adjacent to 175 Lower Shelton Road, Marston Moretaine, Bedfordshire. The only indication of a Romano-British and Saxon presence was limited redeposited pottery in later features. The earliest activity found was the excavation of three small pits which contained pottery dating to the Iron Age. The main activity on the site occurred during the Medieval period, with the laying out of a single plot of land. Within a short period of time the plot was subdivided creating a service access within the wider manor site. In the later Medieval period a building was constructed over the earlier boundary. This may have been a bake-house or kitchen building, possibly associated with the 16th century Shelton Manor. In the Post-Medieval period the earlier plots were amalgamated and a large ditch was dug defining the eastern boundary of activity. Two large pits were connected to the ditch, perhaps for water management. The remains of a post-medieval structure was found during the June 2004 watching brief.</p>	
Project type	Open area excavation; watching brief	
Previous work	Shelton Manor grade II listed buildings	
Future work	No	
Monument type and period		
Significant finds	Fragments from of a base from a possible alembic	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Bedfordshire	
Site address	Land adjacent to 175 Lower Shelton Road, Marston Mortaine, Bedfordshire	
Easting	49954	
Northing	24295	
Height OD		
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Isabel M G Lisboa of Archaeologica	
Project Design originator	Isabel M G Lisboa of Archaeologica	
Director/Supervisor		
Project Manager		
Sponsor or funding body	Bellcross Homes (Developer)	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	19th July 2004	
End date	13th August 2004	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content
Physical		
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Title	Archaeological excavation on land adjacent 175 Lower Shelton Road, Marston Mortaine	
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
ON LAND ADJACENT TO 175 LOWER SHELTON ROAD,
MARSTON MORTAINE, BEDFORDSHIRE
JULY 2004

ABSTRACT

During July 2004, an open area excavation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology for Archaeologica Ltd, acting on behalf of Bellcross Home on land adjacent to 175 Lower Shelton Road, Marston Moretaine, Bedfordshire. The works followed an initial watching brief and trial trenching.

The earliest activity comprised three small pits which contained pottery dating to the middle Iron Age. The only indication of a Romano-British and Saxon presence was limited redeposited pottery in later features. The main activity on the site occurred during the Medieval period, with the establishment of a single plot of land. The plot was subdivided creating a service access within the wider manor site. In the later medieval period a building was constructed over the earlier subdivision boundary. This may have been a bake-house or kitchen building, possibly associated with the 16th century Shelton Manor. In the Post-Medieval period the earlier plots were amalgamated and a large ditch was dug defining the eastern boundary of activity. Two large pits were connected to the ditch, perhaps for water management. A small number of post-medieval features were found during the June 2004 watching brief including the remains of two walls and a yard surface.

1 INTRODUCTION

The development site is located on land adjacent to 175 Lower Shelton Road, Lower Shelton, Bedfordshire (Fig 1). Lower Shelton is an historic village of medieval origin, adjacent to Shelton Manor, a 16th century timber framed grade II listed building. In light of the archaeological potential of the site the Archaeological Officer for Bedfordshire County Council Heritage and Environment Section (BCCHEs) requested an archaeological evaluation, which demonstrated the presence of a small number of ditches and a possible structure (Fisher 2004). As a result of this

evaluation, it was decided that the construction of 20 dwellings (Planning application no.04/00154/FULL) could impact on potential archaeological deposits in the proposed area.

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by Archaeologica Ltd, acting on behalf of Bellcross Home to undertake a small scale open area excavation measuring approximately 0.09ha in extent in July 2004, ahead of residential development.

The project was conducted according to a specification prepared by Dr Lisboa of Archaeologica and approved by BCCHEs.

1.1 Archaeological background

A desk based assessment of the application site was carried out as part of the Specification (Archaeologica 2004). There was no documented archaeology on the site.

The site is situated in the ribbon settlement of Lower Shelton, which together with Shelton Green and Upper Shelton formed the settlement of Marston Mortaine. Approximately 500m to the west of the site is an extensive area of cropmarks, forming visible enclosures (HER 8726) indicating the presence of an Iron Age and Romano-British farmstead. Roman coins (HER 15891) have been recovered from the area of crop-marks. A Roman road (HER 15891) situated to the north-west of the site, runs from east to west.

Lower Shelton is a village with origins from 1086 or earlier. The place name 'Shelton' describes a farmstead on a shelf of flat or sloping ground, from the Old English *scelf* + *tun*: (Mills 1998)

In Domesday Book (c1086AD) the entry for Lower Shelton (*Eseltone*) is listed under three different names:

IN REDBORNSTOKE HUNDRED

The land of Nigel d' Aubigny

In [Lower and Upper] Shelton Herfast holds 1 hide of Nigel. There is land for 1 plough, and there is [1] plough, meadow for half a plough, [and] woodland for 40 pigs. There is 1 villan and 2 bordars and 1 slave. It is worth 20s; when received, 15s; TRE 20s. Alweard, a man of AElfric son of Goding, held this land and he could give it to whom he wished.

The land of Albert of Lorraine

In [Lower and Upper] Shelton Albert holds 3 hides. There is land for 5 ploughs. In demesne [is] 1 hide, and there are 2 ploughs. There are 7 villans with 3 ploughs, and 4 slaves, meadow for 3 ploughs, [and] woodland for 100 pigs. It is worth 40s; when received, 20s; TRE 45s. This manor was and is a member of Wootton. Almaer, a man of Earl Tosti, held it.

The land of the wife of Hugh de Grandmesnil

ADELIZA, the wife of Hugh de Grandmesnil, holds of the king half a hide in [Lower and Upper] Shelton. There is land for half a plough, and there is [half a plough], meadow for half a plough, [and] woodland for 6 pigs. There is 1 bordar. It is and was worth 6s; TRE 10s. Godwine, a man of Earls Gyrth, held this land and could give it to whom he wished.

Several moated sites are known in the surrounding area. A doubtful moat (HER 4303) situated immediately to the south-west of the development site, may represent an earlier phase of the manorial site. A field visit suggested that it was not actually a moat, and there is no evidence that the manor was ever moated (Lisboa *Pers. Comm*).

Immediately south of the development site is Shelton Manor a 16th century two storey timber building (www.imagesofengland.org.uk no. 38352).). The site of the excavation appears to have been within the curtailage of the manor until the 20th century.

1.2 Historic maps

Historic maps were consulted and the features depicted on the application area on each map were transcribed. The contents of the plot in each case are summarised as follows:

1840 Enclosure Award Map

The earliest cartographic evidence for the area of development is an 1840 Enclosure Award Map. This shows Shelton Manor House, with a number of buildings in the vicinity and a small area of woodland to the rear (Fig 2). The site can be seen to have been sub-divided into two unequal sized plots, with the line of

the frontage onto the main road slightly set back from its present position. Three rectangular buildings are present within the area of the development, two positioned near the south eastern boundary of the plot and a third positioned in the centre, parallel to the road frontage.

1882 1st edition 1:2500 scale Ordnance Survey Map

The 1st edition 1:2500 scale Ordnance Survey map of 1882 (Fig 3) shows essentially the same arrangement to that visible on the 1840 Enclosure Award Map. The principal difference is that the site was further sub-divided into three numbered plots 114, 115 and 163. Plot 163 was located in the north-east corner of the development area, with plot 115 located to the north-west and part of plot 114 to the south-west. The frontage was moved slightly to the north-east to follow the alignment of the present road. Buildings are shown along the south-eastern boundary and in the centre (at the rear of plot 163). The buildings along the southern edge of the development area are shown as a continuous range, although the earlier Enclosure Award Map showed them as two structures, with one on a slightly different alignment. The only other feature of note is a footpath, which was aligned northwest-southeast through plot 114.

Further, the desk-based assessment records that in 1910 the buildings on the southern edge of the development were service buildings within the curtailage of Shelton Manor, consisting of a coach house, cart house, stable, granary, loosebox and 5 bay cow shed, (Archaeologica 2004).

1.2 Topography and Geology

Topographically the site lies on sloping ground which rises gently to the west. The underlying solid geology consists of Oxford Clay and Kellaways Beds. The overlying drift geology consists of Boulder Clay and Moranic Drift (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/index.htm>)

2 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Objectives

The objectives of the excavation were to:

- Elucidate the medieval/early post medieval occupation of the application area, with reference to features seemly related to the manor house.
- Determine the character of the medieval deposits and the extent to which they relate to the occupation of the medieval manor (Lisboa 2004)

2.2 Methodology

The excavation area measured *c* 30m square (900sqm) and was located in the south-west part of the proposed development. The area was stripped of its dark brown clay loam topsoil deposit, using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket until underlying archaeological deposits were revealed, or the natural Oxford Clay was encountered. Potential archaeological features were hand-cleaned and sample-excavated. A site record was maintained using standard Northamptonshire Archaeology *pro-forma* record sheets supplemented by scaled plans and sections. A photographic record on both colour and monochrome 35mm film was maintained. A single continuous context numbering sequence was employed with each archaeological feature receiving separate context numbers. The levels were related to the Ordnance Datum.

3 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

3.1 Summary of chronology

The earliest activity on the site comprised three small pits dating to the middle Iron Age *c* 400-100BC. Both Romano-British and Saxon pottery sherds were present in small quantities in later features. The principal phase of activity relates to the medieval period, specifically the 12th – 14th centuries, when a single plot with an in-turned entrance on its north-west side was established. The plot was subsequently added to by the insertion of a smaller possibly rectangular shaped sub-division defined by three ditches with an entrance in its north-west corner. The entrance linking with a east-west aligned path or access route situated within the northern part of the plot. During the later medieval period (the mid 14th – later 16th centuries), a timber post and slot building was constructed over the western boundary ditch of the sub-division demonstrating its abandonment at this time. Other features of this phase include a number of pits and a large amorphous ditch shaped feature in the south-east corner of the excavated area. The Post-Medieval phase of the site was defined by a large L-shaped boundary ditch constructed outside of the plot boundary ditches in addition to associated water management features. Present day use of the land prior to the excavation was for the storage of farm machinery.

3.2 Iron Age activity

Activity on the site for the Iron Age comprised three adjacent, north-west to south east aligned small rectangular or sub circular pits located within the north-east side of the excavation, [080], [118] and [231] (Fig 4). The pottery retrieved from these features dates them to the Middle Iron Age 400-100BC. Pit [231] was cut into the north edge of pit [118], suggesting that the pits were dug over an extended period of time. The limited number of features makes it difficult to determine the nature of activity taking place on the site at this date, or what they relate to.

3.3 Medieval activity - 12th -14th Century

A large plot was established with an entrance on its north-west side and a subdivision created in the eastern side. Further modifications were made to the entrance. The plot was defined by two ditches, both with evidence of re-cutting to form the north-west corner of a larger area measuring at least 36m north-south by 27m east-west with an entrance to the north-west. It may have formed part of a larger plot extending outside the limit of excavation to the south-east and north-east of the site.

The northern arm

The northern arm was initially defined by a small ditch [036] (associated segment numbers [143] and [186]) measuring up to 0.75m wide by 0.15m deep with fills of firmly compacted mid orange grey sand silt containing occasional small flint gravel. This was later re-cut by a more substantial ditch [034] (associated segment numbers [041], [050], [113] and [183]), measuring at least 2.05m wide by 0.6m deep with fills ranging from pale orange to dark grey clay silts with noticeable concentrations of domestic pottery and other debris. The re-cut ditch truncated the northern edge of the original arm and in plan splayed slightly to the north and terminated approximately 6m to the west of the original ditch terminal.

The western arm

In its initial form the west side of the plot, defined by contexts, [004], (associated numbers [010] [131] [133] [135] and [164]) comprised an inturned arm on its northern side terminating to the east parallel to the northern ditch. The ditch measured at its greatest 0.87m wide and 0.4m deep, with a generally similar V-shaped profile and a single fill of light grey/brown silty clay containing shelly ware and sandy ware with re-deposited sherds of Romano-British greywares and Saxon hand-built wares. This was later modified by the insertion of a short 8m length of gully/ditch [024], segments ([129], [145] and [150]) which truncated the in-turned part of the initial ditch arm. The amendment measured up to 1.16m wide by 0.52m deep with a single fill of compacted mid brown clay silt with occasional small stones. In plan, the re-cut ditch was shifted slightly to the north to mirror the re-cut northern boundary described above. The two amended ditches defining a

narrow c2.6m wide entrance/passageway formed the principal east-west access into plot.

The enclosed area appeared to be devoid of structural features, excepting a single posthole [012]. Pit [115] was situated to the north of the entranceway; however it was probably of later date as it contained medieval shelly ware, Brill/Boarstall ware and late medieval reduced ware.

Subdivision of plot

The subdivision was constructed approximately 14m to the east of the in-turned entrance of the plot and comprised three ditches with a similar north-west entrance to the main plot and an area of pitting. The ditch lengths formed the western side of a square or rectangular shaped area measuring at least 15m east-west by 13.5m north-south, with its eastern side continuing outside the limit of excavation.

The western and southern arms

This comprised an L-shaped ditch [087] (associated segment number [306]) measuring up to 1.63m wide and 0.54m deep with yellow-brown silty clay fills containing sherds of medieval shelly ware and Sandy ware pottery. Its southern side was later re-cut by ditch [017] (associated segment numbers [102] and [313]) measuring up to 1.1m wide and 0.4m deep with a single fill of firmly compacted dark orange brown sand/silt with occasional small flint gravel.

The northern arm

The northern arm was defined by a small sinuous gully [066] segments ([068] [234]), measuring up to 0.4m wide by 0.18m deep with a single fill of orange brown silt/clay. The gully was positioned approximately 2-3m to the south (rear) of the northern plot boundary defined by ditch [041] and c1.6m to the east of the western arm of the sub-division. The larger space to the north served as a continuation of the principal east-west access route through the plot, while the other formed the entrance into the sub-division interior.

Internal Features

The sub-division contained a variety of features including a possibly associated sequence of stake holes in addition to a randomly scattered pattern of pits, postholes and a small gully/slot.

The stake holes

The stake holes may have formed a curving structure, such as a fence or wind break measuring up to 15m in length with a large possible 5m wide off-centre break. The structure comprised 10 stake-holes, including 4 pairs separated by a small gap of 0.4-0.5m. The outer row comprised contexts [078] [082] [195] [225] and [229] and the inner row comprised contexts [084] [175] [203] [227] and possibly [197]. One sherd of medieval sandy ware was recovered from fill (174) of feature [175] and one sherd of 19th century pot from fill (226) of [227].

The pits

This comprised three inter-cutting pits [092] [094] and [098], situated on the east side of the possible fence line and a single pit [211] to the west. The pits were all sub-oval in plan, with gradual to steep sides and concave to flat bases measuring between 1.05-1.50m in diameter by 0.22-0.45m deep. Pottery recovered from their fills, including medieval shelly and sandy wares in addition to charcoal inclusions and a single iron nail would indicate a domestic use.

Discussion

The modifications of the northern and western arm ditch arms involved widening the funnelled passageway between the northern boundary of the plot and the internal sub-division.

The passageway may have functioned as an access to the service area, or rear of the manor complex. It would have allowed staff to enter from the footpath at the south of the manor, or from the frontage (now Shelton Road) separate from the main manor entrance (which presumably lay near the present entrance to the Shelton Manor property).

3.4 The Late Medieval activity - Mid 14th – Mid 16th Century

The plot boundaries continued in use; however the internal sub-divisions were deliberately back filled. A post and slot building, possibly a kitchen for the Manor House located to the south was superimposed onto the internal sub-division.

Building

The structure was rectangular in plan and measured 7m east-west by 6m north-south (Figure 7). It comprised 8 postholes and 2 beamslots. Postholes [215] [223] and [142] formed the south-west side of the original structure, [124] [171] and [182] the south-east side, [058] and [152] the north-east side. The north-west side was made up of two beam-slots slightly staggered [162] and [166]. The entranceway was in evidence between [166] and [215].

There was partial evidence for a later extension to the building comprising the addition of a second room on the south east side. The extended structure comprised of 13 postholes and 3 beamslots. Postholes [109] and [032] extended the west side, [052] and [177] to the south-west, [070] [189] and [180] extended the east side, with [180] replacing [182]. Posthole [171] was replaced by beam-slot [160], possibly suggestive of a threshold to the second room. There is no structural indication as to the use or purpose of the building; it was most likely an out building or service room associated with the manor house. The nature of the pottery recovered from the site suggests it may have been a kitchen or bake house (Blinkhorn, below).

Associated with this phase of activity were a small number of pits, two gullies and a large feature, possibly a ditch.

The pits

This comprised four medium to large oval shaped pits, [006] [019] [072] and [088]. Of these, two [072] and [088], measuring 0.9-2.40m in diameter by 0.46-0.90m deep are of particular interest in that their spatial patterning, set 4.2m apart at the point where the entrance ditches of the plot and the sub-division lay would seem to

suggest that they were cut to hold two opposing posts positioned to further enhance the entrance at this point.

The two remaining pits [006] and [019] were much larger in plan measuring up to 4.7m in diameter by 0.20-0.59m deep. All of the pits contained medieval shelly and sandy wares, in addition to late medieval reduced ware, animal bone, an iron nail and charcoal suggesting that they were all in their latest form utilised for the discard of domestic refuse. Pit [072] also contained two decorated copper alloy mounts, possibly from a horse harness, while pit [019] contained demolition rubble as well as domestic refuse, which may have derived from the renovation of the structure.

The gullies and ditch

The two gullies [028] and [193] and ditch [038] were positioned in the north-west and south-east corners of the excavated area. The first of the gullies, [028] was orientated northeast-southwest and truncated pit [019], while the second, [193] was aligned northwest-southeast and truncated the northern boundary of the plot. The ditch [038] was aligned north-west to south-east and truncated the eastern side of gully [028]. Both [028] and [038] contained demolition rubble, including brick, possibly associated with the alterations to the building. The ditch also cut pit [019] which contained 14th century pottery.

Discussion

The lack of daub from the demolition rubble suggests that the building was of timber frame construction, infilled with another material, perhaps 'brick noggin'. This could indicate a higher status building than a simple outhouse. Bricks were more expensive to produce than a daub infill but provided an element of fire protection. During the medieval period such service buildings close to the hall may have been kitchens or other such domestic offices, which while separate from the main hall to reduce the risk of fire, which, while separate from the main hall to reduce the risk of fire, were still close for practical reasons.

3.5 Post-medieval activity

This phase of activity comprised a single large boundary ditch constructed outside of and respecting the earlier plot boundary ditches along the northern and western edges of the excavation and two associated large pits linked to the large ditch by narrow gullies or channels. A small area of cobbles (232) was exposed at the east side of the excavation area.

Boundary Ditch

This was defined by a substantial 'L' shaped ditch [138] (Figs 5-6) which measured at least 21m long east-west by 24m north-south. It continued outside of the excavation area to both the east and south was observed in the previous trial trenches. The ditch had gradual sloping sides and an undulating concave base. It measured 3.60m wide by 0.86m deep. It was filled with two deposits of compacted pale to mid grey brown silt clay containing occasional to frequent small stones.

Whilst the north-west edge clearly followed the alignment of ditch [041], the western edge followed the alignment of the earlier footpath to the west of the manor house and marked on the 1882 OS Map. The boundary ditch probably represents the re-definition of the north-western side of the boundary enclosing the manor.

Large Pits and connecting gullies

In the southern part of the area were two large sub-oval shaped pits [062] and [122]. Both were orientated northwest-southeast, with steep sloping sides. Both were of a similar size, up to 5.20m long and 0.72-0.80m deep. At the base of the southern pit [062] were a number of small horizontally laid timbers aligned southwest-northeast, with longer timbers placed on top of them running northwest-southeast. Although it is possible that they may have formed a structure such as a platform, it is more likely that it represented a deliberately laid foundation layer of waste timbers to allow for the discard of demolition rubble. Finds recovered included tile, iron nails and glass vessel fragments, suggesting refuse deposition dating to the 19th century. Pit [122] had a similar series of deposits, but it's

infilling appeared to have been more haphazard. Pit [122] had a similar series of deposits, but its infilling appeared to have been more haphazard.

The pits were connected to the large boundary ditch by two narrow 0.32-0.48m wide by 0.16-0.31m deep gullies, [008] and [158], which could have served as drainage channels carrying excess water to the pits, which would seem to have initially been cut for water collection. The pits and gulleys were interpreted as a system of water collection, or drainage, probably associated with the stables, yards and outbuildings recorded on the 19th century maps, possibly mentioned in the 1910 survey.

Possible Yard Surface

A small area of cobbles (232) was exposed at the east side of the excavation area. It proved impossible to excavate the deposit due to the presence of a wasp nest within it. The cobbles were probably a remnant yard surface associated with the stables and outbuildings recorded in 1910.

3.6 Watching Brief

During the initial watching brief in May 2004, a small number of features of post medieval date were found. They included the remnants of a stone building(s), a yard surface, two gullies and a small pit.

Building

At the eastern end of plot 20 (Fig 8) was the remnants of two stone walls [242] and [245]. These were parallel, aligned roughly north-south. The stone core of the surviving stonework consisted of laid rubble which was faced on the south-west side and bonded with clay. They measured 1-1.5m long and were 6.70m apart. These walls correlate to structures marked on the 1840 Enclosure Award Map for the area.

Yard Surface

A cobbled surface (243) was uncovered between the walls. It survived over an area c.10m by 5.50m. No finds were retrieved from it to indicate a date for its construction or use. Logically it may be interpreted as a yard between two buildings, or an internal surface within a single building. On balance, and given the

lack of occupation debris it is believed to be a yard associated with the buildings marked on the 1840 Enclosure Award Map and later historic maps.

Ten meters west of the stone walls were two parallel gullies. They were extremely truncated, with shallow concave profiles. They measured between 0.09m-0.2m deep and extended c5-10m from the southern boundary of plot 20.

Between the gullies was a pit [217]. Oval and orientated northwest southeast, it had concave sides to a flat base. It measured 1.7m long x 1.2m wide and was 0.2m deep. Its sole fill contained a small sherd of sandy ware (C59b). This may indicate the feature was medieval. However, given the small size of the sherd and the shallowness of the pit it is more likely to be residual material in a later feature. The orientation of the gullies matched that of the walls and cobbled area, which were clearly post-medieval.

4 THE FINDS

4.1 The Iron Age Pottery by Andy Chapman

A total of 13 sherds, weighing 75g, of handmade Iron Age pottery was recovered from the fills (079, 166 and 230) of three pits [080, 118 and 231].

Most of the pottery is in a hard sandy fabric, containing fine quartz grains, although two sherds are in a softer fabric containing voids from leached inclusions, probably shell. All sherds have a grey/black reduced core and there is an even occurrence of sherds with reduced and oxidised surfaces.

The assemblage largely comprises plain body sherds, although there is also part of a flat base and a single flat-topped rim sherd from a small jar. Given the lack of diagnostic features the assemblage can only be given a broad Iron Age date, although it most probably belongs to the middle Iron Age, perhaps 400-100BC, as there are no evident earlier or later characteristics.

4.2 Romano-British Pottery

Two small and abraded residual sherds (8g) of Romano-British greyware were noted in two separate medieval contexts.

4.3 **The medieval pottery by Paul Blinkhorn**

The pottery assemblage comprised 1,480 sherds with a total weight of 16,037g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rim sherd circumference was 8.75. The majority of the assemblage was of medieval date, with the range of fabrics suggesting that there was virtually unbroken activity at the site from the 12th to mid-15th century. In addition, small quantities of Iron Age, Romano-British and early-middle Anglo-Saxon hand-built pottery were also noted.

Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type is given in Appendix 2

The assemblage is notable for the presence of somewhat enigmatic vessel which appears to probably be a chimney-pot or, less possibly, a mantle, a base for a distilling vessel, suggesting that the structure on the excavated area of the site is likely to have been industrial rather than domestic in nature. This is further supported by the fact that pottery jugs are also extremely scarce, and the interpretation, from the pottery, is that the building was most likely a bake-house.

Analytical Methodology

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

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

final calculations made with an electronic calculator. All statistical analyses were carried out to the minimum standards suggested by Orton (1998-9, 135-7).

4.3.1 Fabric

Early-Middle Saxon Hand-built wares

Two sherds from the same vessel, a small jar, were noted (see Fig. LS13). The fabric was as follows:

F1: Coarse Quartz. Moderate to dense sub-rounded clear and white quartz up to 2mm, rare sub-rounded red ironstone up to 1mm. 2 sherds, 48g, EVE = 0.

The sherds were from the shoulder and neck of the vessel, which was undecorated, and thus cannot be dated other than to within the broad early-middle Saxon period. They were redeposited in a later feature.

Medieval and later

All the post-Roman wares are types which are well-known in the region. Where appropriate, the codings and chronology of the Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service type-series were used, as follows:

B07: Medieval shelly ware, c. 1100-1400. 538 sherds, 5,826g, EVE = 4.04.

The assemblage was dominated by jars (EVE = 2.99), with the rest of the assemblage made up of bowls (EVE = 0.88) and jugs (EVE = 0.17). As is typical with the products of these industries, the vessels were largely undecorated, although a bowl with incised wavy lines (Fig. LS4) and a thumbled jug handle (Fig. LS5) were noted, as was a jug rim with rouletting (Fig. LS11). The shelly ware potters limited rouletting almost exclusively to jugs, a vessel type which itself is mainly limited to the 12th century in the shelly ware tradition.

B09: Lyveden/Stanion 'B' Ware. c. AD1225-?mid 14th century. 2 sherds, 22g, EVE = 0.

Both sherds were from the same vessel, a jug with applied strips in the body clay and a glossy green glaze.

C59b: Sandy ware, 12-13th century. 373 sherds, 4,167g, EVE = 2.02.

The assemblage comprised entirely jars (EVE = 2.02), other than the fragment of a possible chimney pot (see Fig. LS1). The jars were largely undecorated, other than

four sherds with incised wavy lines, one of which was the rim from a jar (Fig. LS12).

C09: Brill/Boarstall Ware, 13th – 15th century. 19 sherds, 196g, EVE = 0.12.

The assemblage comprised entirely sherds from slip- and glaze-decorated jugs, which is typical of the earlier medieval products of the industry. All but two of the sherds were from the same vessel.

E01: Late medieval reduced ware, M14th – 16th century. 480 sherds, 4,441g, EVE = 2.57.

The assemblage was dominated by jars (EVE = 1.76), with the rest of the assemblage made up of bowls (EVE = 0.81). Two sherds were noted with thumb applied strips, and three rimsherds were stabbed (eg Figs LS8 and LS9). One sherd was noted with an unusual upright loop handle (Fig. LS8). This may have been a skewmorph for a wicker basket.

E02: Late Medieval Oxidized Ware, mid 14th – 16th century. 12 sherds, 79g, EVE = 0.

The entire assemblage comprised plain bodysherds.

P01: Glazed Red Earthenware, 16th century? 5 sherds, 24g, EVE = 0.

The entire assemblage comprised bodysherds with internal green glaze

P03: Black-glazed Earthenware, late 16th – 19th century. 1 sherd, 62g, EVE = 0.

The sherd was the base of a jar or similar closed vessel, with a thick internal black glaze.

In addition, 26 sherds (1,085g) of miscellaneous 19th – 20th century wares were noted.

The range of medieval wares is typical of sites in Bedfordshire, with the bulk of the assemblage comprising local unglazed wares, along with small quantities of material from slightly further afield. The range of vessel types is also, in the main, typical, comprising largely jars and bowls along with a small number of jugs, although the unusual fabric E01 bowl with an upright loop handle and the chimney pot in fabric C59b are unusual. The significance of the latter is discussed in more detail below.

Chronology and Pottery Occurrence

The data in Table 1 shows the general pottery occurrence by phase. They indicate that activity at the site, as evidenced by pottery deposition, is mainly limited to the period CP1 – CP3. It also shows that in general, from the mean sherd weight, the pottery from phases CP2 and CP3 comprised large sherds in fairly good condition. The slight drop in the site mean for CP3 is probably due to the introduction of Reduced Ware (Fabric E01), which is thin-walled and thus usually has a lower mean sherd weight than the more robust earlier wares. The data for CP1 suggests that much of the pottery is a result of secondary deposition, and a similarly low weight for the CP5 material confirms that much of it is residual medieval material.

The data in Table 2, which shows the pottery occurrence per phase by fabric type, allows the chronology to be further refined. The lack of late medieval wares, such as Cistercian ware (BCAS fabric P12) which was introduced in the later part of the 15th century, suggests that the site was abandoned before the late 15th century, so a chronology of occupation of the 12th – mid 15th century does not seem unreasonable. There is some activity during the late 16th – 17th century, but around 95% of the pottery from that phase is residual medieval material.

The data in Table 2 also shows some traits which may relate to pottery use at the site. Glazed medieval pottery of the 13th – 15th centuries, specifically B09 and C09 is very rare, whereas such material is usually reasonably common at sites of the period in the south-east midlands. This treatment was usually applied to jugs, and so it suggests that these vessels were very rare here, and that pottery had a very utilitarian role. The vessel use analysis (Table 4, below) presents a similar picture. This may relate to the nature of the site; at the medieval manorial complex at Tempsford in Bedfordshire, jugs represented over 10% of the vessels in 13th century and later contexts (Blinkhorn in print), suggesting a different domestic regime at that site. Here, only the 12th century contexts produced jugs in any quantity (7.2% by EVE; see Table 4), and all those were shelly ware (B07) types. Shelly ware jugs appear generally to be a 12th century type, by the 13th century, the potters in those industries appear to have largely stopped making them, presumably due to competition from other industries, such as Brill and Lyveden, who produced glazed examples. The fact that jugs virtually fall from use between the 12th and 13th centuries suggests that there may have been major reorganization

of the excavated area of the site, and what had been a domestic area went over to a more industrial use.

Table1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per site phase, all fabrics

Phase	Date	Defining Wares	No	Wt	EVE	Mean Wt.
CP1	12 th – early/mid 13 th century	B07, C59b	366	2952	1.81	8.1g
CP2	Early/mid 13 th – mid 14 th century	B09, C09	192	2790	1.50	14.5g
CP3	Mid 14 th –16 th century	E01, E02	685	7205	4.56	10.5g
CP4	16 th - late 16 th century	P01	8	48	0	6.0g
CP5	Late 16 th – 17 th century	P03	138	1196	0.88	8.7g
Total			1389	14191	8.75	

There is also some evidence that the different types of coarsewares, that is the sandy and shelly wares, had different functional roles at this site. During the period CP2 –CP3, the shelly wares represent largely the same proportion of the potter consumed here, but the earlier sandy wares, which represent over 60% of the pottery in CP2, drop to just over 12% in CP3, but appear to have been replaced by Reduced wares, which are also sandy, make the total of sandy wares in that phase up to around 60%. However, bowls become a lot more common during CP3 (see Table 3), although these were mainly Reduced wares, and so it would seem that the functional role of the sandy wares changed somewhat at that time, bowls were more widely used.

The range of vessel types at this site is very limited, being almost entirely limited to jars, bowls and jugs (Table 4). One rather unusual bowl in fabric E01, with an upright loop handle (Fig. LS8) was noted, and a small number of vessels had decoration of various types (eg. Figs LS8, LS9 and LS11), but the most unusual vessel came from contexts 110 and 111 (both CP3), shown in Fig. LS1. It appears to be a chimney pot or a mantle, an industrial vessel used in association with distilling equipment.

A Mid-14th – Mid 15th century pottery? chimney-pot fragment

The vessel in question is incomplete (Fig. LS1), but has a near-cylindrical profile, at least one vent-hole, and is decorated on the outside with incised wavy lines. There is a glassy substance around the rim which may be partially vitrified glaze,

or metal slag. The most obvious parallels are chimney pots, but there is also a large base-*sherd* from the same context which does not join, but is so similar in colour and fabric that it is almost certainly part of the same vessel. A number of medieval chimney-pots are known from Chichester in West Sussex (op. cit. Herman and Nenk 2000, Fig. 1) which are very similar to this vessel. One end of each is partially closed, with a central hole which could be missing from the *sherd* from the example at this site, and there are vent holes in the sides of the vessels. However, the exterior of the closed end of the vessel under examination here is scorched externally, and there is absolutely no trace of sooting or scorching on the interior of the vessel, which would be expected if it had functioned as a chimney. In addition, the base is completely flat, whereas the closed ends of the Chichester chimney-pots are generally slightly pressed out. It is also considerably larger than the chimney-pots from Chichester. The closed end of this vessel has a diameter of *c* 205mm, whereas the largest of the Chichester vessels is *c* 150mm.

If it is not a chimney-pot, then the nearest parallel to vessels with such a form are mantles (MPRG 2001, no. 9.5). Such vessels are extremely rare in medieval archaeology, and were used as bases for distilling apparatus such as alembics, and allowed the latter to be indirectly heated over a fire. The base *sherd* from the vessel from this site has been scored on the outside, so it was definitely subject to heating during its use-life. If this is a piece of distilling apparatus, it suggests that industrial rather than domestic processes were taking place at the site, which may explain the lack of glazed jugs in the 13th – 14th century contexts. Such vessels were generally used as table-ware, although they were sometimes used in industrial processes which required large quantities of water (Blinkhorn 1997).

There appears to be few published parallels of distilling apparatus which are similar to this vessel; Moorhouse (1972) has illustrations of a number of distilling bases from around England, including examples from Brill and Northamptonshire (ibid. Fig. 32), but none are of the same form as the vessel from this site, although many are show signs of heating and scorching on the exterior. One vessel, from Gresham Street in London, has a slag-like substance around the rim, in a manner similar to this one. Distilling apparatus, such vessels are usually found at monastic sites or castles, but some are known from urban or manorial contexts, such as the large assemblage of glass vessels excavated at the manor of the More near Rickmansworth in 1958, although they are thought to date to the 16th century (op. cit. Moorhouse 1972, 81). There is evidence from both archaeology and

documents which indicate that such vessels were in use by the late 13th century (ibid, 105).

The balance of probability suggests that the vessel is a chimney-pot, but the case is far from clear-cut, with the lack of sooting and the external scorching being somewhat problematic in terms of supporting such an interpretation. However, informal discussion with other analysts have indicated that chimneys without internal sooting are known (thanks are to Mike Stokes and Anna Slowikowski for sharing their wisdom on this matter).

Hurman and Nenck, on the basis of Dunning's work, assert that Bedfordshire marks part of the northernmost limit for such vessels in the medieval period (ibid. 2000, 65) and cite examples published by Dunning from Bedford itself. Moorhouse (1988, 44) confirmed that they appear to be a phenomenon which is wholly limited to the south of England. He also stated that ornamental roof furniture, such as louvers, are found associated with structures across virtually the entire social scale in the medieval period.

Table 2: Pottery occurrence per ceramic phase by major fabric type, by weight in g

Phase	B07	C59b	B09	C09	E01	E02	P01	P03	Total
CP1	55.5%	44.3%	-	-	-	-	-	-	2952
CP2	39.1%	60.6%	0.3%	0	-	-	-	-	2790
CP3	36.6%	12.7%	0.2%	2.5%	47.1%	0.2%	-	-	7205
CP4	29.2%	20.8%	0	0	0	0	50.0%	-	48
CP5	15.4%	7.8%	0	1.3%	69.9%	0.5%	0	5.2%	1196

Table 3: Mean sherd weight in g per ceramic phase, major fabrics

Phase	B07	C59b	B09	C09	E01	E02	P01	P03
CP1	8.3g	7.8g	-	-	-	-	-	-
CP2	12.0g	16.9g	9.0g	0	-	-	-	-
CP3	12.4g	10.9g	13.0g	10.6g	9.4g	1.8g	-	-
CP4	7.0g	10.0g	0	0	0	0	4.8g	-
CP5	10.2g	9.3g	0	7.5g	8.0g	3.0g	0	62.0g

Table 4: Vessel occurrence per medieval ceramic phase, by EVE

Phase	Jars	Bowls	Jugs	Other	Total EVE
CP1	84.5%	8.3%	7.2%	0	1.81
CP2	89.3%	10.7%	0	0	1.50
CP3	68.8%	30.3%	0.9%	0	4.56
Total	6.01	1.69	0.17	0	7.87

Cross-fits

The entire assemblage was examined for cross-fits, and the following were noted:

71 (CP2) = 123 (CP3), B09, jug.

111 = 114, both CP3, C09, jug

111 = 114, both CP3, E01, bowl

110 = 111, both CP3, C59b, ?Chimney-pot

184 (CP3) = 185 (CP1), B07 jar

Each cross-fit was made between different deposits within the same feature, suggesting that there was no major site-clearance event, and that the fills of the features took place at different times.

Local and Regional Context

In recent years, excavations have taken place at nearby Marston Mortaine, in the vicinity of Morteayne Manor (Crick 1999) and at Church End Lower School (Edmondson and Steadman 2001) produced a range of Saxon and later pottery. The pottery assemblage from the former site comprised 513 sherds (Wells 1999), and included a range of material indicating occupation from around the 10th century onwards. Small assemblages of 'Belgic' and Roman pottery were also noted at that site, and a large assemblage of late Iron Age pottery is known from Beancroft Road at Marston Mortaine (Shotliff and Crick, 1999). The area of these excavations may therefore represent an outlier to the main settlement, although the Iron Age pottery cannot be dated other than to within the broad period.

The presence of residual hand-built early Saxon pottery at this site is not without parallel in the area. The excavations at Church end Lower School also produced two residual sherds, and a large assemblage of such material is said to have been

found during excavations at nearby Stewartby (op. cit. Edmondson and Steadman 2001, 54). The finds at this site support the suggestion that there was fairly extensive early Saxon settlement in the area of the Elstow Brook (ibid.).

Saxo-Norman pottery was present at both the Marston Mortaine sites, but absent here, indicating that this site was something of a 'green field' development, although it is entirely possible that a Saxo-Norman focus may lie outside the area of these excavations.

The range of medieval fabrics at this site is fairly typical of those noted at other contemporary settlements in the area. Comparison with the pottery assemblage from the Church End Lower School site cannot be made, as the pottery from that site was reported in a most perfunctory manner. Saxon wares which are mentioned as being present at that site (ibid. 52-4) were not noted here. The range of medieval wares at that site appears to be similar to that at this settlement, but it impossible to be certain, as they are not fully listed.

At the Manor site, a wider range of pottery was noted than was the case here, although glazed wares were just as scarce, with only three noted, although this may be due to the fact that there was thought to have been an hiatus in activity at the site in the 13th – 14th centuries, and that the only structure at the site in the later medieval period was a barn. However, if the excavated structures at that site were of an industrial use, a similar pottery consumption regime may have been in place, with glazed jugs, absent, and thus little evidence to indicate 13th century activity.

Summary and Discussion

The range of pottery types at this site indicate that the medieval activity spanned the 12th to early/mid 15th centuries. The range of vessel types, which demonstrated a paucity of pottery jugs from the 13th centuries onwards, suggest that the building on the site probably was more industrial than domestic in nature, with the most likely interpretation being that the structure was a bake-house or kitchen, certainly in the medieval period, such structures tended to be sited away from the main group of buildings at a settlement due to the risk of fire, and jugs appear to have been rarely used in them. The excavation of a brew- or bake-house at Brackley in Northamptonshire produced very few jug sherds from contexts dating to before the late 13th century (Blinkhorn 1998-9), and jugs were also an extremely rare component of the pottery from the middens associated with the

bake-houses at the hamlet of West Cotton in Northants (Blinkhorn in print b). The vessel interpreted as a chimney pot adds further support to this; such roof furniture was invariably used for ventilation in buildings with a smoky atmosphere, to provide ventilation and also to prevent thatched roofs from catching fire.

4.4 Other finds by Tora Hylton

The excavations produced a small number of finds spanning the medieval and post-medieval period. In total there are 10 small finds manufactured from copper alloy (x 2) and iron (x 8). The assemblage was recovered from a series of features dating from the early medieval through to the post-medieval period.

Finds from early medieval features, include a fiddle key nail from ditch [041], and an undiagnostic strip from boundary ditch [102]. The former would have been for use with a distinctive type of early horseshoe, easily recognised because of its sinuous, wavy profile; such horseshoes date to the mid 11th to mid 13th centuries. In addition, there are 2 nails with small, flat sub-circular heads, one from a stakehole [203] and the other from a pit [211].

Finds from late medieval features include 2 decorative copper alloy mounts, 2 nails and an undiagnostic strip. The mounts were recovered from a pit [072], both are identical and manufactured from copper alloy sheet. They are rectangular with shaped terminals, in the form of U-shaped cut-outs. They would have been secured by and single rivet at each end (three dome headed rivets extant). The upper surface of mount is ornamented with a marginally placed double line of opposing triangles and is gilded. On the underside of one of the mounts, vestiges of the original leather strap adhere to the rivet shanks, suggesting that originally they may have been used to visually enhance the leather straps of a horse harness. Other finds include 2 nails, one from a pit [006] and the other from a post-hole [182], plus an undiagnostic iron strip from a beam slot [205].

Finally a small number of post-medieval finds were recovered from pit [062]. These include an iron strip, 2 nails and 4 sherds of vessel glass, including a neck sherd from a wine bottle, the form of the rim and string (moulding beneath the rim) suggests that the bottle dates to the early 19th century.

4.5 **Building material** by Pat Chapman

Ceramic roof tile

This assemblage comprises 91 fragments, weighing 5006g. It is largely very fragmentary, with few diagnostic features, a typical thickness of 15mm but no other complete measurable dimensions. Nearly half these pieces have mortar still adhering to the surfaces.

There are six examples with perforations, five of which are large and round with a 15mm diameter; the other is a square 12mm wide. There are no extant nib remains. There is one example of a pantile from context (120) within pit [122].

The majority of the tile fragments are manufactured from a mainly coarse red sandy fabric with frequent fine crushed shell and fine vesicular surfaces. Two pieces had been fired to a purple surface with a large black reduced core. There are a few fragments in a silty buff fabric with occasional inclusions of flint up to 20mm in length, with surfaces sandy from being laid out whilst drying. The pantile is also in a red, but finer fabric without the crushed shell.

The majority of these tiles are associated with post-medieval contexts, with one third of the assemblage by number, but a half by weight coming from pit [62]. The few fragments of purple and pale buff tile indicate that they may have come from a roof or roofs decorated with coloured tiles. However, it is difficult to date the tile fragments, with the exception of the pantile. These tiles were being imported to England, and Norfolk in particular, from Holland in the late 16th century, then spread along the south and east coasts and into the eastern counties (Lucas 1998). They were being manufactured in Norfolk and Humberside from the early 18th century for these areas.

Stone roof tile

There is one corner fragment of a perforated limestone roof tile. The hole is cleanly drilled through with a 10mm diameter.

Brick

There are two bricks, one complete and one half brick. The complete brick comes from context (60) within pit [62] and measures 223mm (8 inches) by 100mm (4 inches) by 50mm (2 inches) thick. The fabric is a hard fired dark red with the remains of a vitrified surface that is partially covered by cement. The handmade half brick from context (121) is 100mm (4 inches) wide and 63mm (2½ inches)

thick. The fabric is an orange red, relatively poorly mixed silty sand with a light grey core. Both these bricks are datable to the 19th century.

Fired clay

There are four small featureless fragments of fired clay from context (26) pit [6].

5 FAUNAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Animal bone by Karen Deighton

Methodology

A total of 4.718kg of animal bone was hand recovered from a range of features including ditches, pits and postholes during the excavation. The material was scanned to establish the species present, the state of preservation and to assess the potential for future work. Identifiable bones were noted. Ageable and measurable bones (after Von den Driesch) were also noted. Ageable elements included cheek tooth rows, bones where the state of epiphyseal fusion could be determined and neonatal bones. Hand collected bones had previously been washed. Phasing follows S.Hepburn (pers.comm.)

Results

Preservation

Fragmentation was fairly heavy and was largely the result of old breaks. A single instance of a fresh break resulting from possible damage during excavation was noted. Surface condition was good with most bones exhibiting smooth hard surfaces. Bones from contexts 116 and 231 had mottled dark brown/black staining. Only material from context 040 was abraded. Ten instances of canid gnawing were observed. Evidence of butchery was slight with a possible chop mark on a cattle (Bos) bone in context 042 and knife marks on a goose (Anser) humerus from 099. No burned fragments were noted.

Temporal distribution

Table 5: Table contexts with bone by phase

Phase	Iron Age	Early medieval	Late Medieval	Post Medieval
Number of contexts	2	15	11	8

No bones were recovered from sieved samples.

Taxonomic distribution

Table 6: Table identifiable bones by phase

Phase	Bos	Ovic	Sus	Equus	Felis	Gallus	Anser	Avis indet	L.ung	S.ung	Total
Iron Age	3	1									4
Early Medieval	6	3	3	2		1	1	3	3	2	24
Late Medieval	5	4		1						1	11
Post Medieval	3	2	1*	3	1		1				11
Total	17	10	4	6	1	1	2	3	3	3	50

Key Ovic=Ovicaprid, S.ung=small ungulate, L.ung=Large ungulate

*partial skeleton

Table 7: Number of ageable and measurable bones by taxa

Taxon	Bos	Ovicaprid	Sus	Equus	Felis
Ageable	6	5	1	4	1
Measurements	18	6		11	

Discussion.

The assemblage consists of a range of common domesticates. The Early Medieval and Post Medieval phases show the greatest diversity of species. Cattle and sheep/goat appear to be the most frequent. Although no canid (dog or fox) bones were observed, gnaw marks on bones attest to the presence of members of this genus at site. The species present are typical of those exploited for food, skins, traction and pest control during the periods encountered at the site. No wild species are present.

The range of body parts and species suggests the origin of the assemblage to be domestic although the small number of bones recovered precludes any discussion of the exact nature of this domestic activity.

The partial skeleton was that of a neonatal pig. The apparent articulation in the ground and the lack of selection among body parts suggests its presence is the result of deliberate burial.

Potential

Only fifty identifiable and recordable fragments were observed from the assemblage and these were spread across four phases. Owing to this paucity of material the scope of further work would be very limited.

5.2 Environmental Remains by Karen Deighton

Method

Four samples were hand collected from the excavation. Assessment was undertaken to establish the nature, preservation and presence of ecofacts and their potential contribution to the understanding of the function and economy of the site.

Two samples were processed using a siraf tank fitted with a 500-micron mesh and flot sieve. The resulting flots were dried and analysed using a microscope (10xmagnification). The two waterlogged samples were stacked sieved (sieve sizes from 3.4mm to 500microns) and the resulting retents were examined.

Results

Preservation

Preservation by waterlogging and by charring was seen at the site. Preservation for charred grains was good with many grains complete and surface abrasion at a low level. Charcoal was very fragmentary. The condition of the waterlogged plant remains was reasonable.

Species present

Table 8: Finds by sample and context

Sam ple	Cut/fill	Feature	Volume (litres)	Charcoal	Cereal	Wild/ weed	Other
1	/005	Pit	20	Frequent	Frequent		Pulses, fish vert.
2	/62	Pit	0			Occasional	Wood fragments
3	/121	Pit	10			Occasional	
4	/63	Posthole	2				Timber fragments

Discussion

Cereal types from sample 1 included Emmer/spelt (*Triticum dicoccum /spelta*), barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and possible oat (*Avena* sp) grains. A low number of small, medium and large pulses were also observed. The large pulses were possibly field bean (*Vicia faba*). The lack of weed seed and chaff within sample 1 could

suggest a late stage of crop processing such as material prepared for storage or consumption. The provenance of the sample (i.e. from a pit) would seem to confirm this assumption. Charring could be the result of accidental fire or the cumulative results of repeated scouring of the pit. The presence of pulses could suggest a maslin (pulses and cereal grown and harvested together). Pulses were a cheap source of protein and used in the production of soups and pottage.

The wild /weed taxa from the waterlogged samples included nettle (*urtica dioica*), elder (*Sambucus* sp), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) and dock (*Rumex* sp). Nettle is a coloniser of waste ground. Both elder and bramble produce edible fruit which could have been collected.

The wood fragments from sample 4 were probably associated with adjacent timber recovered from the posthole during excavation.

The samples have provided an insight into the plant types utilised and growing around the site at various periods of its history.

6 DISCUSSION

The establishment of Shelton Manor

The earliest activity found in the excavation was three small Iron Age pits. These are generally contemporary with the possible late Iron Age/Romano-British farmstead situated 500m west of the site (HER 8726). Tantalisingly the SMR records a Roman road (HER 15891) that runs east to west to the north-west of the site. This may continue along the north edge of the manor plot. An established route may explain the positioning of the manor, upon a ridge of dryer gravel, within the clay vale.

Supporting evidence that the establishment of the manorial plot is earlier than the current road layout is given by the historic maps (Figs 2-3), which show that the main road connecting Lower Shelton and Marston Mortaine (Shelton Road), respects that plot containing the manor.

Domesday (1086 AD) records that there was a manor in Lower Shelton. Although no deposits of Saxon date were found during the excavation a small amount of residual pottery was recovered from later features. The small quantity of material may be consistent with domestic activity nearby, however it does not necessarily confirm the current Shelton Manor is one of those mentioned.

The twelfth century.

The earliest archaeological features found date from the 12th century. A ditch defined the boundary of the manor plot, with an entrance to the west. The arrangement of the entrance with parallel gullies suggests the intention was to create an access along the north edge of the plot, which would allow persons on foot to enter either from the west or east. In the present landscape this would mean from the footpath at the rear of the manor, and Shelton Road. As discussed earlier the route of Shelton road clearly respects the manor plot. It may be that the notion of 'front' and 'back', was formalised in the 12th century.

Due to its width the entrance was clearly not intended for mounted or wheeled traffic. Persons using it could go three ways. East to west, along the north side of the plot; through a wide entrance into the manor grounds proper; or through a narrower gap into the smaller rectangular subdivision bounded by ditches [17]/[87].

The function of the smaller sub-division is not clear. Although there were a number of small postholes and pits within it no clear structures could be deduced from their arrangement.

This layout appears to have continued in use for some time, and was redefined by the re-cutting of ditches at least once. The entrance itself was re-cut on a more directly east-west alignment.

Late Medieval period

In the Late Medieval period, the rectangular subdivision defined by ditch [017] was abandoned and a building constructed over it (Fig 7). At the same time the excavation of two pits redefined the earlier wide entrance. It is tempting to interpret these pits as substantial gateposts, although this does not allow for the introduction of quantities of domestic debris in their fills.

The building appears to have been primarily post-built although three possible short beam slots were found, one on the south side and two on the north. There may have been an entrance on the north side, between slot [166] and posthole [215]. Such an entrance would have faced the smaller gap in the parallel gullies that formed the access along the north side of the plot.

As recovered the plan of the building consisted of two parts. Originally the building may have consisted of a single cell with its west side aligned with the entrance to the plot, defined by pit [88]. Intercutting postholes and beamslots, on the south side indicate intermittent repairs and a slight misalignment of postholes at the west end may indicate it was later extended. A small amount of relatively early demolition debris including brick was recovered from pit [19]. This may well have come from repair of extension of the building, or its final demolition.

The evidence of the pottery recovered from features nearby, primarily ditches, suggests that the structure was most likely a bake-house or kitchen, as opposed to a domestic dwelling. The material was finding its way into the features as refuse, but there were no large pits dug specifically for the purpose of the disposal of large quantities of waste. Presumably these lay at a distance from the manorial kitchens.

The building does not appear to have survived into the post medieval period. The surviving Shelton Manor House is of sixteenth century date, constructed of close-studded timber framing. The archaic arrangement with a separate kitchen may not have projected the right image for the owners of such a building.

Post Medieval Period

In the Post-Medieval period a large ditch was dug re-defining the northern and eastern boundary of the manor, closing the open entrance to the west.

The large Post-Medieval boundary ditch [138] roughly followed the alignment of the earlier medieval enclosure ditches. The east-west length of ditch clearly continues the line of the current property boundary, marked by a modern chain link fence. It equates with the east-west boundary shown on the 1840 Enclosure map and as such is likely to have extended as far east as the road. The focus of access had clearly shifted towards the Shelton Road. The north-south return of the ditch was also maintained in the later post-medieval period, being present on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map. The footpath shown on the First Edition map to the rear of the Manor and the site also ultimately connects with the Shelton Road, diverted around the site. It may have connected to the medieval ditch access on the site in earlier phases.

There were two large pits [062] and [122] associated with ditch [138], connected to it by shallow gullies. They probably were intended to contain water, possibly for animals kept in the stables and yards which are shown on the historic maps. There is a slight slope on the site from the north-east down to the south-west, which suggests that the boundary ditch acted as an overflow for the pits.

When they were no longer needed the pits were filled with rubble and demolition material. This was clearly opportunistic dumping of waste from the demolition and removal of the buildings shown on the Ordnance Survey map.

The fragmentary building recorded in the watching brief probably equates with the easterly of the three 1840 Enclosure Award Map buildings within the site area, but this had been replaced by a larger range by 1882. This building straddled the current southern site boundary but is no longer extant.

The rear of the site had suffered little modern disturbance, and was still partially protected by a considerable depth of soil. However the post medieval buildings lay directly below the thin topsoil and the level of truncation by modern drainage features, isolated rubbish pits and ground levelling increased greatly with nearness to the street frontage. There was no surviving topsoil at the site entrance. It is not known when the disturbance took place as the site had been open ground for some time prior to redevelopment. A large cess-pit associated with the Manor was the only certainly recent feature.

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Appendix 1: Context details

Context	Context Type	Descriptions
(001)	Topsoil	Dark brown sand/silt/clay, frequent stones and flints of various sizes, 0.30m deep
(002)	Natural	A mixture of orange and blue clay with patches of gravel
(003)	Fill of [004]	Mid yellowish grey/brown clay/silt, 5 sherds of pottery were retrieved, M14thC
[004]	Enclosure Ditch	Orientated NW-SE, with steep sloping sides, a concave base, 0.50m wide by 0.21m deep
(005)	Tertiary Fill of [006]	Mid yellowish grey silty clay, 111 sherds of pottery M14th C
[006]	Pit	Roughly triangular in shape with rounded corners, gradually sloping sides break on to shallower slopes that form the concave base, 2.54m long by 1.75m wide by 0.59m deep.
(007)	Fill of [008]	Mid grey/brown silty clay
[008]	Gully	Moderately sloping concave sides with a concave base, measuring 0.32m wide and 0.16m deep.
(009)	Fill of [010]	Mid yellowish grey/brown clay/silt
[010]	Enclosure Ditch	Orientated NW-SE, gradual sloping sides with a concave base, 0.80m wide by 0.22m deep
(011)	Fill of [012]	Mid yellowy grey silty clay
[012]	Posthole	Oval in plan, steep sloping sides with a flat base, 0.33m long by 0.24m wide by 0.09m deep
(013)	Fill of [014]	Mid brown/grey silt/clay
[014]	Pit	Sub-oval in plan, steep sloping sides with a concave base, 0.90m long by 0.80m wide by 0.13m deep
(015)	Secondary Fill of [017]	Grey/brown sandy silt, 32 sherds of pottery 12thC
(016)	Primary Fill of [017]	Mid brownish orange silty clay
[017]	Ditch	Orientated NE-SW, it had steep sloping sides with a flat base, 0.94m wide by 0.37m deep
(018)	Fill of [019]	Mid grey silty clay, 79 sherds of 14thC pottery
[019]	Pit	Sub-oval in plan, shallow sloping sides with a flattish base, 4.70m long by 3.30m wide by 0.20m deep
(020)	Fill of [022]	Pale grey clay
(021)	Animal Burial	Partial articulated remains of a juvenile animal
[022]	Cut of Animal Burial	Sub-circular, shallow sloping sides, with a flat base. 0.50m diameter by 0.04m deep
(023)	Fill of [024]	Mid-dark orange/brown clay silt
[024]	Gully Terminus	Aligned SE-NW, terminates at the SE end, steep sloping sides, with a slightly concave base, 0.81m wide by 0.10m deep
(025)	Final Fill of [006]	Dark yellowish grey silty clay, 14 sherds of pottery M14thC
(026)	Secondary Fill of [006]	Mid greyish yellow silty clay deposit, 7 sherds of pottery M14thC.
(027)	Fill of [028]	Mid grey/brown silty clay, brick and tile was abundant with in the deposit suggesting a dump of demolition material
[028]	Gully	Orientated NE-SW, steep sloping sides, and a concave base, and measured 0.65m wide by 0.26m deep.
(029)	Fill of [030]	mid grey/brown silty clay, brick and tile was abundant with in the deposit suggesting a dump of demolition material
[030]	Gully	Orientated NE-SW, steep sloping sides, and a concave base, and measured 0.65m wide by 0.26m deep.
(031)	Fill of [032]	Mid grey brown silty clay
[032]	Posthole	Circular, steep sloping sides with a concave base, 0.12m deep
(033)	Fill of [034]	Mid brown/grey clay/silt deposit
[034]	Gully	NE-SW aligned, gradually sloping sides, with a concave base, 0.81m wide by 0.27m deep
(035)	Fill of [036]	Mid orange/grey/brown clay/silt deposit
[036]	Gully	NE-SW aligned, shallow to gradual sloping side, with a slightly concave base, 0.75m wide by 0.15m deep

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Context	Context Type	Descriptions
(037)	Fill of [038]	Dark brown/grey clay/silt deposit, 10 sherds of 12thC pottery.
[038]	Ditch	Aligned NW-SE, shallow sloping side that broke onto a steeper slope with a slightly concave base, 1.90m wide by 0.33m deep.
(039)	Secondary Fill of [041]	Dark grey brown silt/clay, 50 sherds of pottery M14thC
(040)	Primary Fill of [041]	Mid green/brown/grey silty clay, 15 sherds of pottery 12thC
[041]	Ditch	Orientated NE-SW, with steep sloping sides, slightly concave base, 1.50m wide by 0.60m deep
(042)	Fill of [043]	Mid brown/grey silty clay with orange mottling in places, 17 sherds of pottery 12thC
[043]	Ditch	Orientated NE-SW, with steep sloping sides, flattish base, 1.24m wide by 0.60m deep, cut by modern field drain.
(044)	Fill of [045]	mid brown/grey silty clay
[045]	Ditch	Orientated N-S; it had steep sloping sides, slightly concave base, 1.02m wide by 0.42m deep
(046)	Fill of [047]	Dark grey brown sandy clay, 2 sherds of 12thC pottery
[047]	Posthole	Sub-circular, steep sloping sides with a concave base, 0.69m long by 0.46m wide by 0.12m deep
(048)	Primary Fill of [006]	Mid orange/yellow silty clay, 6 sherds of L16thC pottery
(049)	Fill of [050]	Mid brown/grey silty clay with orange mottling in places
[050]	Ditch Terminus	Orientated NE-SW, with steep sloping sides, base slopes gradually to the NE, 1.63m wide by 0.41m deep
(051)	Fill of [052]	Mid brown silty clay, 6 sherds of M14thC pottery
[052]	Pit	Roughly circular, steep sloping sides with a flat base, 0.80m diameter by 0.44m.
(053)	Secondary Fill of [055]	Mid brownish orange silty clay, 6 sherds of pottery 12thC
(054)	Primary Fill of [055]	Greenish grey/brown sandy silt/clay
[055]	Ditch	Orientated NE-SW, it had steep sloping sides with a flat base, 1m wide by 0.45m deep
(056)	Fill of [088]	Light yellowish grey silty clay, 160 sherds of 12thC pottery
(057)	Fill of [058]	Mid grey brown sandy clay
[058]	Posthole	Sub-circular, steep sloping sides with a concave base, 0.48m long by 0.45m wide by 0.09m deep
(059)	Tertiary Fill of [062]	A small dump deposit of bricks 1m by 0.80m by 0.15m in a yellowish brown sandy loam matrix.
(060)	Secondary Fill of [062]	A dark yellowish brown sand/clay/silt 0.50m deep, a mixture of demolition rubble and domestic rubbish.
(061)	Primary Fill of [062]	Mottled brown and yellowish grey loamy clay 0.30m deep.
[062]	Pit	Steep sloping sides, with a flat base, 4.60m long by 2.36m wide by 0.72m deep.
(063)	Fill of [064]	Mid grey brown silty clay
[064]	Posthole	Circular, steep sloping sides with a concave base, 0.33m diameter by 0.09m deep
(065)	Fill of [066]	Mid orangey grey silty clay, 7 sherds of pottery M14thC
[066]	Gully/Channel	Narrow curving feature aligned NE-SW, steep sloping sides, with a concave base, 0.40m wide by 0.18m deep
(067)	Fill of [068]	Mid orangey grey silty clay, 16 sherds of 12thC pottery
[068]	Gully/Channel Terminus	Narrow curving feature aligned NE-SW, gradually sloping sides, with a concave base, 0.35m wide by 0.08m deep
(069)	Fill of [070]	Mid orangey brown silty clay
[070]	Posthole	Circular, shallow sloping sides with a concave base, 0.36m diameter by 0.07m deep
(071)	Fill of [072]	Dark brown gravel/clay/silt, the SE of the deposit had a slight cassy appearance to it. 227 sherds of pottery 12-13thC
[072]	Pit	Oval in plan, steep sloping sides that broke on to more gradual slopes, with a flat base, 2.15m long by 1.97m wide by 0.90m deep.
(073)	Fill of [074]	Mid orangey brown clay silt deposit

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Context	Context Type	Descriptions
[074]	Stake-hole	Circular, shallow sloping sides, concave base, 0.30m diameter by 0.08m deep
(075)	Fill of [076]	Mid orangey brown clay silt deposit
[076]	Stake-hole	Circular, steep sloping sides, concave base, 0.22m diameter, by 0.11m deep
(077)	Fill of [078]	Dark grey silty clay deposit
[078]	Stake-hole	Circular, steep sloping sides, concave base, 0.18m diameter, by 0.11m deep
[079]	Fill of [080]	Mid brownish grey silty clay, with a single sherd of IA pottery
[080]	Pit	Rectangular with rounded corners, shallow sloping concave sides with a flat base. It measured 0.80m long by 0.30m wide by 0.10m deep.
(081)	Fill of [082]	Mid-dark grey/brown silty clay
[082]	Stake-hole	Circular, steep sloping sides, uneven base, 0.14m diameter, by 0.12m deep
(083)	Fill of [084]	Mid-dark grey silty clay deposit
[084]	Stake-hole	Circular, steep sloping sides, concave base, 0.23m diameter, by 0.13m deep
(085)	Fill of [087]	Pale yellowish grey silty clay, 3 sherds of 12thC pottery
(086)	Fill of [87]	Pale yellowish grey silty clay, 2 sherds of 12thC pottery
[087]	Ditch	Orientated N-S; it had steep sloping sides, slightly concave base, 1.63m wide by 0.54m deep
[088]	Pit	Irregular oval in plan, steep sloping sides with a flat base, 2.40m long by 1.15m wide by 0.46m deep
(089)	Secondary Fill of [087]	Mid brown/grey silty clay, 14 sherds of 12thC pottery
(090)	Primary Fill of [087]	Mid greenish brown silty clay, 1 sherd of 12thC pot
(091)	Fill of [092]	Mid orangey grey/brown silty clay
[092]	Pit	Roughly circular with steep sloping sides and a flat base, measuring 1.05m by 1.10m by 0.24m
(093)	Fill of [094]	Mid orangey grey silty clay, 7 sherds of 12thC pottery
[094]	Pit	Sub-oval in shape, with steep sloping sides and a concave base, 1.50m by 1.35m by 0.35m.
(095)	Tertiary Fill of [098]	Dark brown silty clay, 4 sherds of 12thC pottery
(096)	Secondary Fill of [098]	Dark orange clay
(097)	Primary Fill of [098]	Mid brown clay/silt
[098]	Pit	Sub-oval in shape, with steep almost vertical sides and a flat base. 1.45m by 1.25m by 0.45m
(099)	Secondary Fill of [102]	Greenish grey silt/clay, 113 sherds of pottery M14thC
(100)	Fill of [101]	Mid brown/orange silt/clay
[101]	Posthole	Oval in plan, steep sloping sides with a concave base, 0.56m long by 0.36m wide by 0.08m deep
[102]	Ditch	Orientated NE-SW, steep sloping sides with a flat base, 1.10m wide by 0.40m deep
(103)	Secondary Fill of [105]	Mid brown/grey silty clay, 9 sherds of pottery M14thC
(104)	Primary Fill of [105]	Mid brown silty clay
[105]	Ditch	Orientated N-S; it had steep sloping sides, slightly concave base, 1.05m wide by 0.45m deep
(106)	Primary Fill of [102]	Mid brownish orange silty clay
(107)	Secondary Fill of [109]	Mid orangey grey silty clay
(108)	Primary Fill of [109]	Mid orangey brown silty clay
[109]	Posthole	Roughly circular, gradually sloping sides with a concave base, 0.60m diameter by 0.39m deep

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Context	Context Type	Descriptions
(110)	Tertiary Fill of [113]	Pale orange/grey silty clay, 0.18m thick
(111)	Secondary Fill of [113]	Mid green/brown/grey silty clay with orange mottling in places
(112)	Primary Fill of [113]	Pale brown/grey sandy clay/silt
[113]	Ditch	Orientated NE-SW, with steep sloping sides, slightly concave base, 1.74m wide by 0.60m deep
(114)	Fill of [115]	Pale brown/grey clay/silt, 150 sherds of pottery M14thC
[115]	Pit	Oval in shape, gradual sloping sides with a flat base, roughly 2.06m by 2m by 0.32m
(116)	Secondary fill of [118]	Blue grey clay, 0.25m thick, and contained 12 sherds of IA pottery.
(117)	Primary fill of [118]	Primarily filled with a mid orange/brown clay silt 0.04m thick, which suggests that the pit was left open for a while before it was back filled.
[118]	Pit	Oval shaped in plan; it had steep sloping sides with a flat base. It measured 1.70m long by 0.29m deep.
(119)	Tertiary Fill of [122]	Pale brown silt, formed by rain washed material.
(120)	Secondary Fill of [122]	Mid green/blue clay with orange mottling, a sealing layer of some kind or a dump of redeposited natural.
(121)	Primary Fill of [122]	Dark grey silty clay with orange mottling this deposit covers a piece of wood.
[122]	Pit	Steep sloping sides, not bottomed. 5.20m long by 2.10m wide by 0.80m deep.
(123)	Fill of [124]	Mid orangey grey silty clay, 8 sherds of 14thC pottery
[124]	Posthole	Roughly circular, steep sloping sides with a concave base, 0.90m diameter by 0.26m deep
(125)	Fill of [126]	Light brownish orange silty clay
[126]	Slot	E-W aligned, narrow slot with gradually sloping sides and a flat base, 0.21m wide by 0.07m deep
(127)	Tertiary Fill of [109]	Mid orangey grey/brown silty clay.
(128)	Fill of [129]	Mid grey/brown clay/silt
[129]	Gully/Ditch	Orientated SW-NE, almost vertical in places sloping sides, with a slightly concave base, 1.16m wide by 0.52m deep.
(130)	Fill of [131]	Mid grey/brown clay/silt
[131]	Enclosure ditch	Orientated SW-NE, with steep sloping sides, a concave base, 0.83m wide by 0.65m deep
(132)	Fill of [133]	Mid yellowish brown clay/silt, 14 sherds of pottery 12thC
[133]	Enclosure ditch	Orientated SW-NE, with steep sloping sides, a concave base, 0.70m wide by 0.40m deep
(134)	Fill of [135]	Mid yellowish brown clay/silt
[135]	Enclosure ditch	Orientated NW-SE, with steep sloping sides, a concave base, 0.60m wide by 0.40m deep
(136)	Secondary Fill of [118]	A pale brown silt 0.15m thick, covers part of the surface of the ditch,
(137)	Primary Fill of [138]	A compacted mid brown/grey silty clay, a back fill deposit, comprising of demolition materials i.e. brick and tile.
[138]	Boundary Ditch	Steep sloping sides with a concave base. It measured 3.60m wide by 0.86m deep.
(139)	Secondary Fill of [142]	Mid brown/grey silty clay
(140)	Primary Fill of [142]	Mid green/orange clay, post packing.
(141)	Primary Fill of [142]	Mid green/orange clay, post packing.
[142]	Posthole	Circular, steep sloping sides with a flat base, 1.15m diameter by 0.44m deep
[143]	Gully Terminus	NE-SW aligned, shallow to gradual sloping side, with a slightly concave base, 0.75m wide by 0.15m deep
(144)	Fill of [143]	mid orange/grey/brown clay/silt deposit

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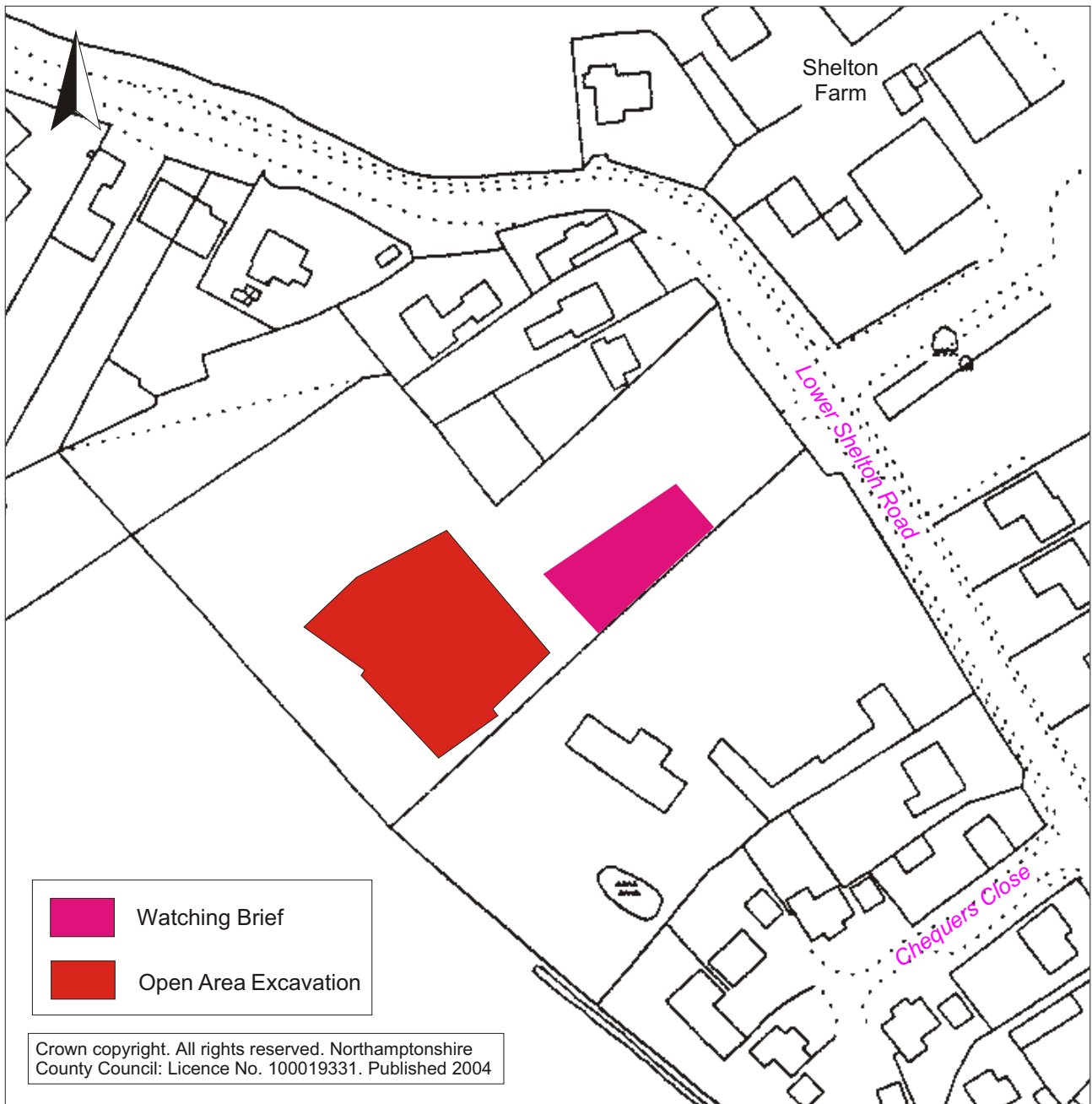
Context	Context Type	Descriptions
[145]	Gully/Ditch	Orientated SW-NE, almost vertical in places sloping sides, with a slightly concave base, 1.52m wide by 0.35m deep.
(146)	Fill of [145]	Mid grey/brown clay/silt, 2 sherds of M14thC pottery
(147)	Animal Burial	Partial articulated remains of a juvenile animal, within a mid brown clay/silt
[148]	Cut of Animal Burial	Circular, shallow sloping sides, with a slightly concave base. 0.50m diameter by 0.02m deep
(149)	Fill of [150]	Mid-dark orange/brown clay silt
[150]	Gully	Aligned SE-NW, steep sloping sides, with a slightly concave base, 0.50m wide by 0.22m deep
(151)	Fill of [152]	Mid yellowish brown silty clay, 2 sherds of 14thC pottery
[152]	Posthole	Circular, steep sloping sides with a flat base, 0.30m diameter by 0.09m deep
(153)	Fill of [154]	Dark grey clay/silt
[154]	Posthole	Circular, steep sloping sides with a concave base, 0.36m diameter by 0.12m deep
(155)	Fill of [156]	Mid orangey brown clay silt deposit
[156]	Stake-hole	Circular, steep sloping sides, concave base, 0.21m diameter, by 0.11m deep
(157)	Fill of [158]	A pale grey silty clay
[158]	Gully	Orientated approximately E-W. It had steeply sloping sides and an almost flat base, 0.48m wide and 0.31m deep
(159)	Fill of [160]	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 2 sherds of 14thC pottery
[160]	Beam Slot Terminus	NE-SW aligned, shallow gradual sloping sides with a slightly concave base, 0.20m wide by 0.03m deep
(161)	Fill of [162]	Dark brown clay/silt
[162]	Beam Slot Terminus	NE-SW aligned, steep sloping sides with a concave base, 0.25m wide by 0.11m deep
(163)	Fill of [164]	Mid grey/brown clay/silt 2 sherds of pottery M14thC
[164]	Enclosure ditch	Corner of the ditch, with steep sloping sides and a concave base, 0.87m wide by 0.38m deep
(165)	Fill of [166]	Dark brown clay/silt, 1 sherd of 14thC pottery
[166]	Beam Slot Terminus	NE-SW aligned, steep sloping sides with a concave base, 0.20m wide by 0.16m deep
(167)	Fill of [168]	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 5 sherds of 14thC pottery
[168]	Beam Slot	NE-SW aligned, steep sloping sides with a flat base, 0.50m wide by 0.12m deep
(169)	Secondary Fill of [171]	Mid yellowish brown silty clay, 6 sherds of 14thC pottery
(170)	Primary Fill of [171]	Light yellowish brown clay/silt
[171]	Posthole	Roughly circular, stepped concave profile with a flat base, 1.30m diameter by 0.41m deep
(172)	Fill of [173]	Dark brown/grey clay/silt deposit 13 sherds of 12thC pottery.
[173]	Ditch Terminus	Aligned NW-SE, shallow sloping side that broke onto a steeper slope with a slightly concave base, 1.90m wide by 0.33m deep.
(174)	Fill of [175]	Dark brown clay/silt, 1 sherd of 12thC pottery
[175]	Posthole	Circular, gradual sloping sides with a concave base, 0.40m diameter by 0.16m deep
(176)	Fill of [177]	Mid grey brown clay/silt
[177]	Pit	Oval in plan, steep sloping sides with a flat base, 1.50m long by 1.30m wide by 0.52m deep
(178)	Secondary Fill of [180]	Mid greyish brown silty clay.
(179)	Primary Fill of [180]	Mid yellowish brown silty clay, 3 sherds of 14thC pottery
[180]	Posthole	Circular, steep sloping sides with a flat base, 0.53m diameter by 0.28m deep
(181)	Fill of [182]	Mid orange-ish grey silty clay
[182]	Posthole	Oval in plan, shallow sloping sides with a flat base, 0.75m wide by 0.12m deep
[183]	Ditch	Orientated NE-SW, with steep sloping sides, slightly concave base,

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Context	Context Type	Descriptions
		2.05m wide by 0.67m deep
(184)	Secondary Fill of [183]	Mid brown/grey silty clay, 79 sherds of pottery M14thC
(185)	Primary Fill of [183]	Pale brown/grey sandy clay/silt, 4 sherds of pottery 12thC
[186]	Gully	NE-SW aligned, gradually sloping sides, with a concave base, 0.81m wide by 0.27m deep
(187)	Fill of [186]	mid brown/grey clay/silt deposit, 4 sherds of M14thC pottery
(188)	Fill of [189]	Mid brown clay/silt
[189]	Posthole	Circular, steep sloping sides with a flat base, 0.60m long by 0.50m wide by 0.06m deep
(190)	Fill of [191]	Mid grey/brown clay/silt
[191]	Posthole	Oval in plan, shallow sloping sides with a concave base, 0.60m diameter by 0.27m deep
(192)	Fill of [193]	Mid grey clay/silt, 1 sherds of 12thC pottery
[193]	Gully	NW-SE aligned, gradual sloping sides with a concave base, 0.42m wide by 0.13m deep
(194)	Fill of [195]	Mid-dark grey silty clay deposit
[195]	Stake-hole	Sub-circular, steep sloping sides, concave base, 0.23m long by 0.19m wide by 0.12m deep
(196)	Fill of [197]	Dark grey clay/silt, 2 sherds of M14thC pottery
[197]	Posthole	Oval in plan, gradual sloping sides with a concave base, 0.42m long by 0.32m wide by 0.07m deep
(198)	Fill of [199]	Dark brown clay/silt, 14 sherds of 12thC pottery
[199]	Posthole/Slot	Oval in plan, shallow sloping sides with a concave base, 0.84m long by 0.26m wide by 0.06m deep
(200)	Fill of [201]	Dark grey clay/silt, 3 sherds of M14thC pottery
[201]	Posthole	Oval in plan, shallow sloping sides with a concave base, 0.60m long by 0.50m wide by 0.08m deep
(202)	Fill of [203]	Mid-dark grey/brown silty clay
[203]	Stake-hole	Circular, steep sloping sides, concave base, 0.21m diameter, by 0.12m deep
(204)	Fill of [205]	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 1 sherd of 14thC pottery
[205]	Beam Slot Terminus	NE-SW aligned, gradual sloping sides with a flat base, 0.56m wide by 0.10m deep
(206)	Fill of [207]	Mid grey brown clay/silt, 16 sherds of 12thC pottery
[207]	Posthole	Sub-circular, steep sloping sides with a flat base, 0.80m long by 0.70m wide by 0.16m deep
(208)	Animal Burial	Semi-articulated animal bones, within a mid greenish brown silty clay
[209]	Cut of Animal Burial	Roughly rectangular, shallow sloping sides with a flat base. 0.25m long by 0.15m wide by 0.01m deep.
(210)	Fill of [211]	Mid greyish brown sandy loam, 5 sherds of pottery, 12thC
[211]	Pit	Sub-circular, near vertical sides with a flat base, 1.17m long by 0.90m wide by 0.22m
(212)	Tertiary Fill of [215]	Mid greyish brown silty loam, 4 sherds of pottery, M14thC
(213)	Secondary Fill of [215]	Pale orangey brown sandy silt
(214)	Primary Fill of [215]	Mid brownish orange sandy gravel
[215]	Posthole	Sub-circular, near vertical sides with an uneven base, 0.90m diameter by 0.39m
(216)	Fill of [217]	Mid grey brown silty clay
[217]	Beam Slot? Terminus	NE-SW aligned, shallow sloping sides with a concave base, 2.40m long by 0.28m wide by 0.07m deep
(218)	Secondary Fill of [182]	Mid yellowish brown gritty silty clay
(219)	Fill of [220]	Dark grey silt
[220]	Beam Slot? Terminus	NE-SW aligned, shallow sloping sides with a concave base, 0.20m wide by 0.03m deep
(221)	Secondary Fill of [223]	Mid greyish brown sandy silt, 0.25m deep. 10 sherds of pottery, M14thC

LOWER SHELTON ROAD, MARSTON MORTAINE, BEDFORDSHIRE

Context	Context Type	Descriptions
(222)	Primary Fill of [223]	Mid brownish orange redeposited natural gravels, possible packing material. 0.19m deep
[223]	Posthole	Sub-circular, near vertical sides with a flat base, 0.90m diameter by 0.44m deep.
(224)	Fill of [225]	Mid-dark grey/brown silty clay
[225]	Stake-hole	Circular, shallow sloping sides, concave base, 0.19m diameter, by 0.02m deep
(226)	Fill of [227]	Mid-dark grey silty clay deposit, 1 sherd of 19thC pottery
[227]	Stake-hole	Sub-circular, steep sloping sides, concave base, 0.23m diameter, by 0.17m deep
(228)	Fill of [229]	Mid-dark grey/brown silty clay
[229]	Stake-hole	Sub-circular, steep sloping sides, flat base, 0.20m diameter, by 0.30m deep
(230)	Fill of [231]	Mid grey silty clay, containing 5 sherds of IA pottery
[231]	Pit	Steep sloping sides and a flat base. It measured 1.20m long by 0.58m wide by 0.31m deep.
(232)	Cobbled Surface	Cobbles set into a dark grey/brown clay/silt matrix, 10m long by 5.50m wide by 0.33m deep
(233)	Fill of [234]	Mid orangey grey clay/silt
[234]	Gully	NE-SW aligned, shallow sloping sides with a flat base, 0.20m wide by 0.05m deep.
	Watching Brief Contexts	
(235)	Fill of [236]	Mid grey/blue brown clay
[236]	Ditch	N-S aligned linear, concave sloping 50° sides, concave base. 10.40m long by 0.82m wide by 0.26m deep
(237)	Fill of [238]	Mid grey/blue brown clay
[238]	Gully	N-S aligned linear, concave sloping 30° sides, concave base. 2.80m long by 0.52m wide by 0.09m deep
(239)	Fill of [240]	Orange/brown grey/blue clay
[240]	Pit	Sub-circular, sharp 60° sloping sides, with a flat base. 1.19m diameter by 0.21m deep
(241)	Wall Foundation	Roughly cut limestone blocks 0.10m-0.40m, bonded with an orange clay/silt with gravel inclusions
[242]	Cut for Wall	N-S aligned, 2.20m long by 0.40m wide
(243)	Cobbled Surface	A rounded flint pebble surface 7m by 5m by 0.04m
(244)	Wall Foundation	Roughly cut limestone blocks 0.10m-0.40m, bonded with an orange clay/silt with gravel inclusions
[245]	Cut for Wall	N-S aligned, 1m long by 0.38m wide



Scale 1:1250

Fig. 1

Lower Shelton: 1840 Enclosure Award

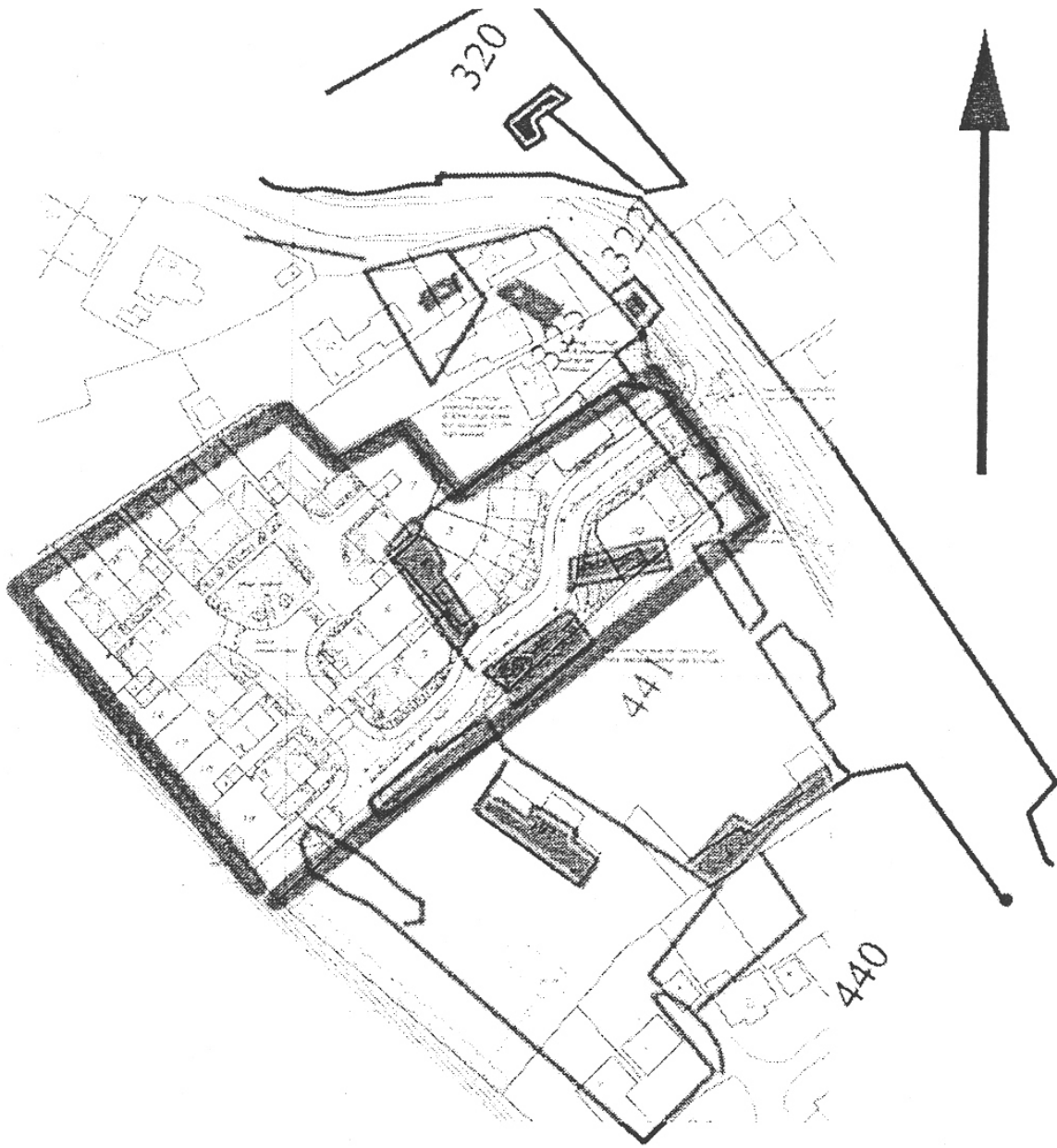
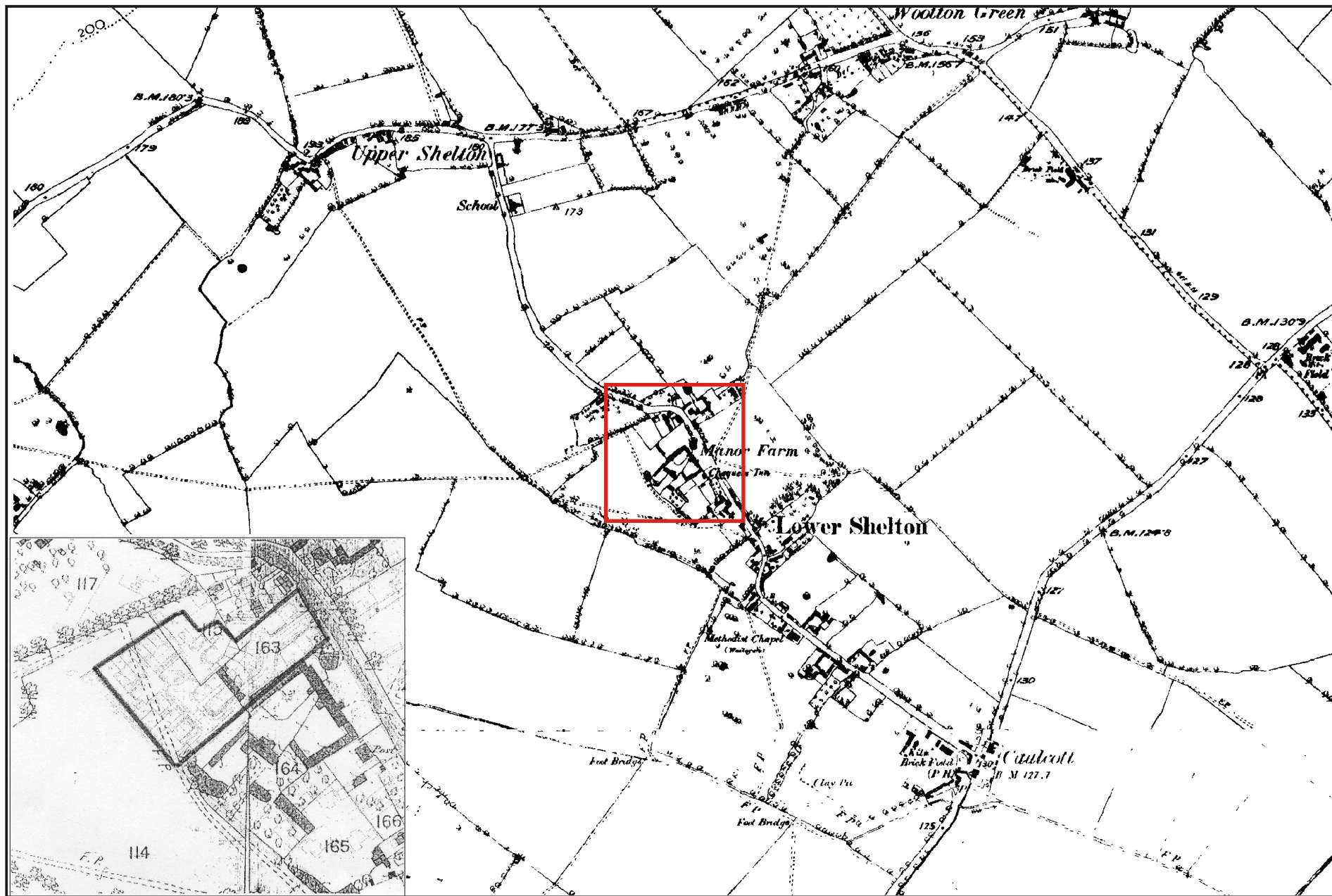


Fig. 2



1882 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map

Fig. 3

Fig. 4



Lower Shelton: All medieval features plan

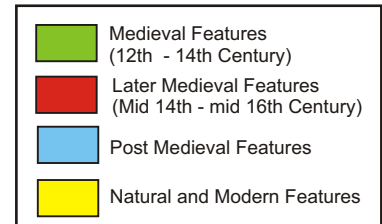
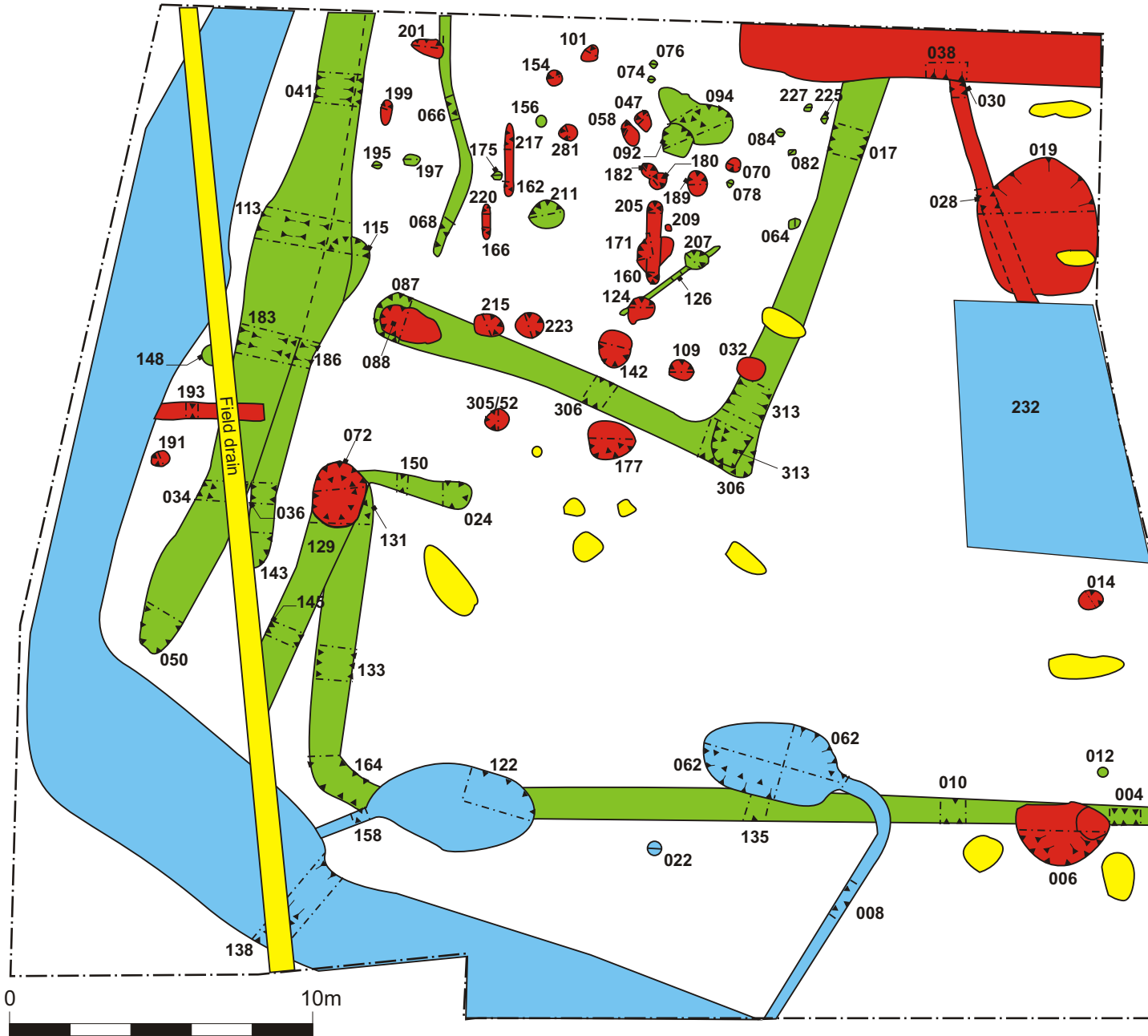
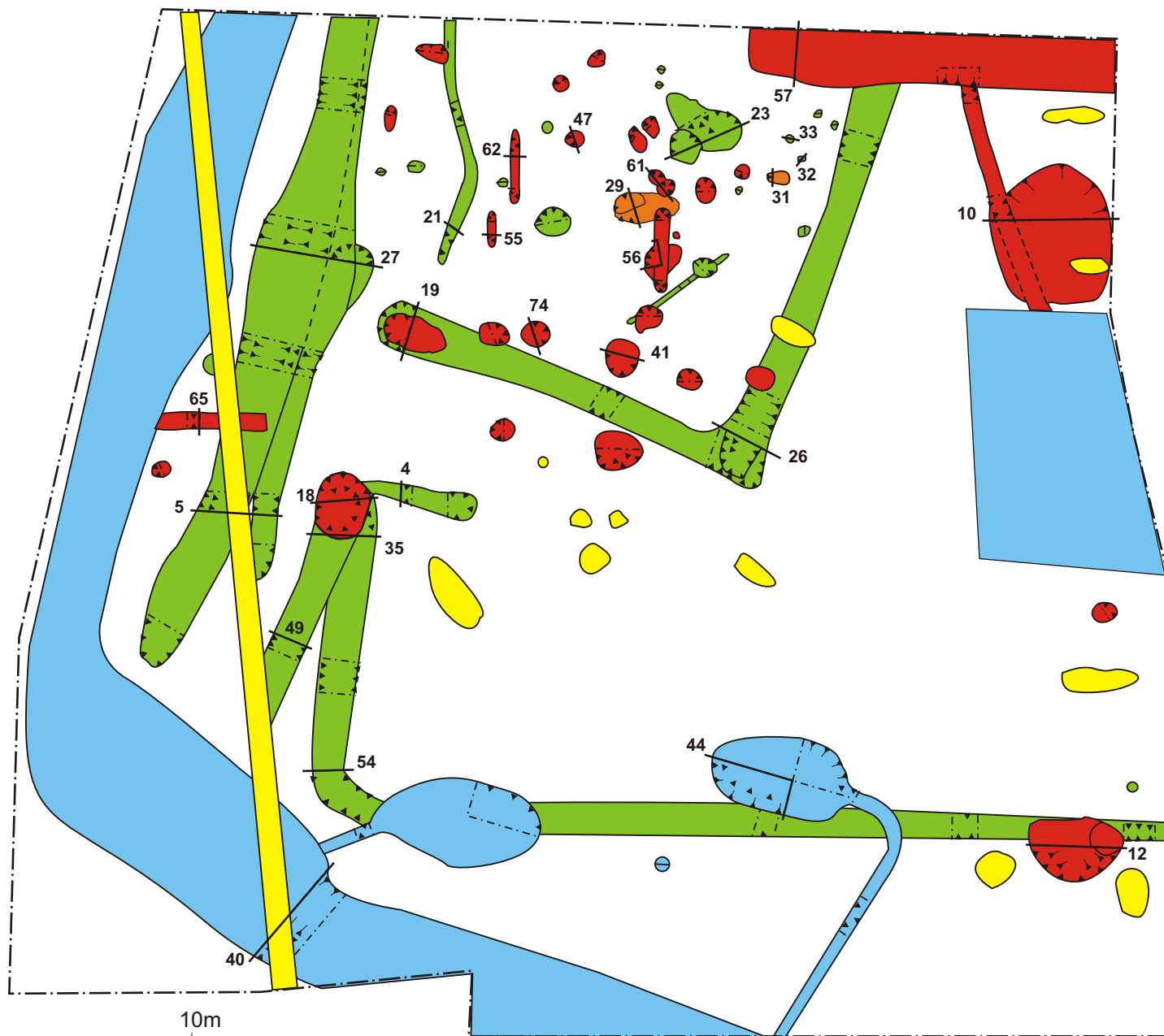


Fig. 5

Lower Shelton: All features plan and section numbers



- Medieval Features (12th - 14th Century)
- Later Medieval Features (Mid 14th - mid 16th Century)
- Post Medieval Features
- Natural and Modern Features



Fig. 6

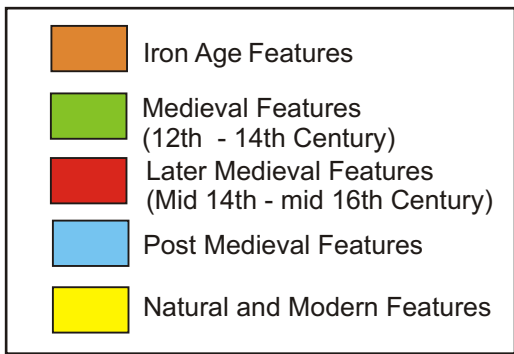
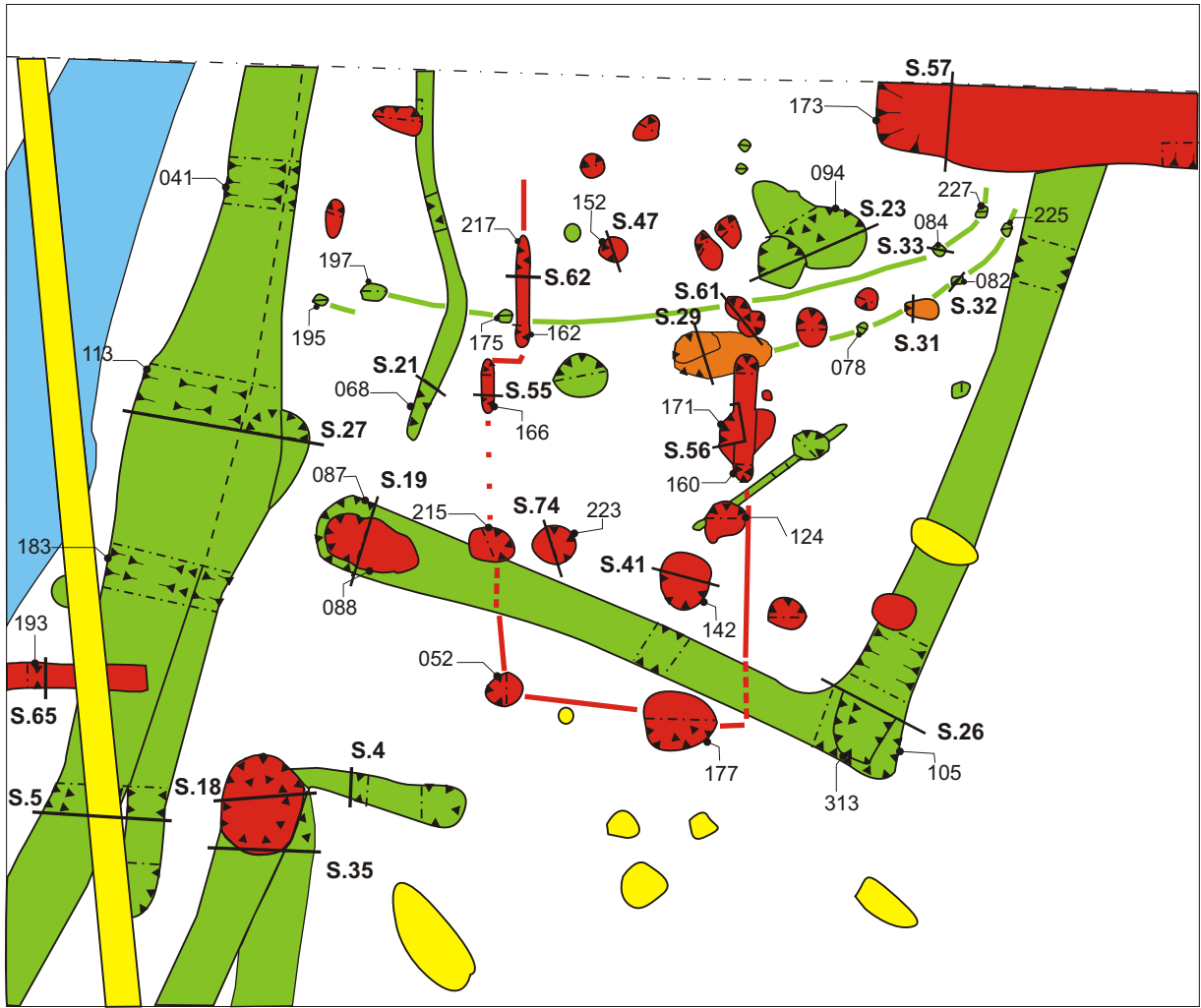


Fig. 7

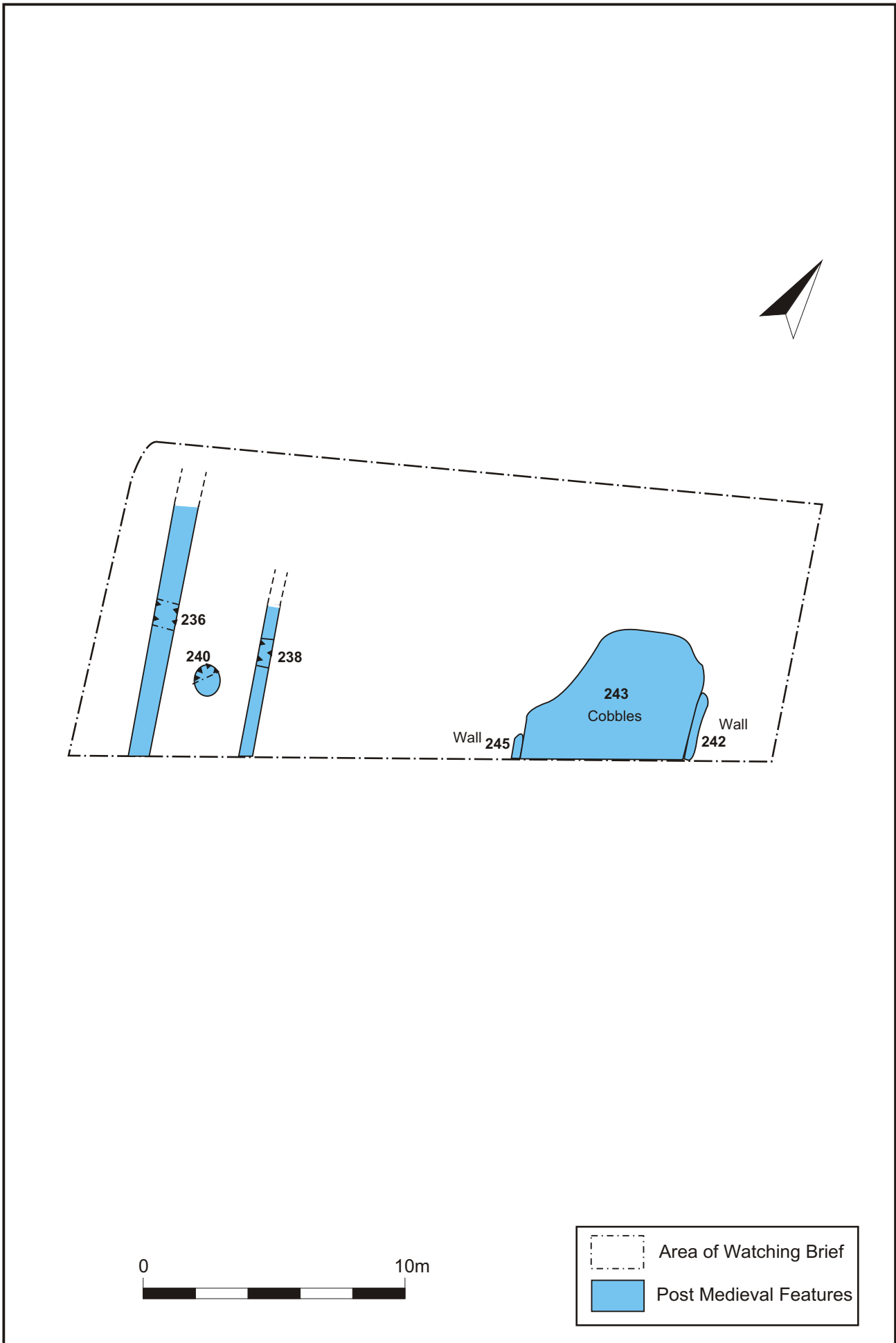


Fig. 8

Ditch Sections

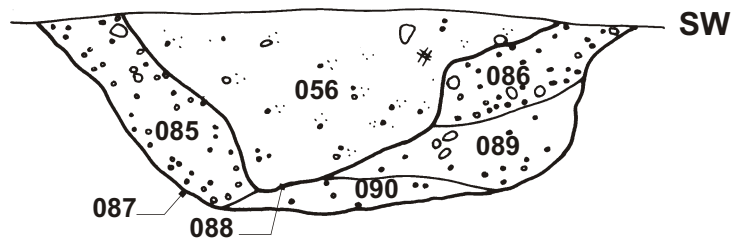
Section 4

44.69mOD
SW



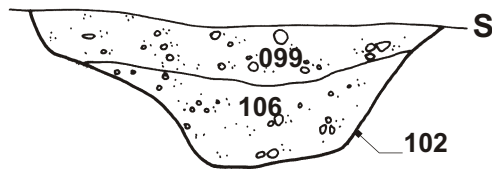
Section 19

44.79mOD
NE



Section 26

44.83mOD
N



Section 27

44.80mOD
SE

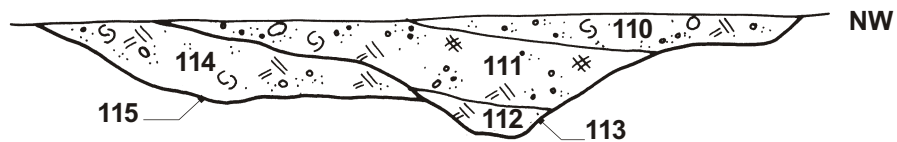


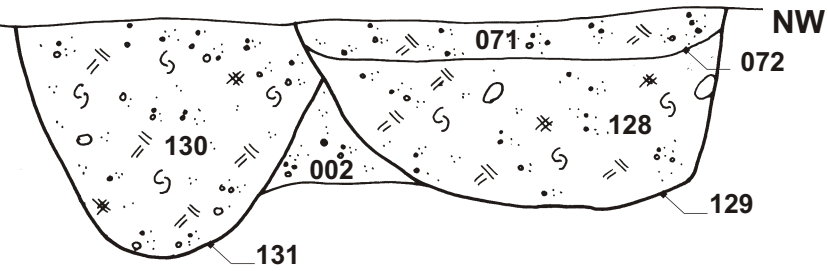
Fig. 9

Ditch Sections

Section 35

44.87mOD

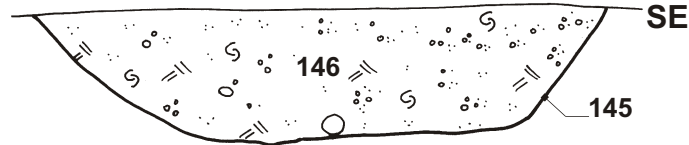
SE



Section 49

44.69mOD

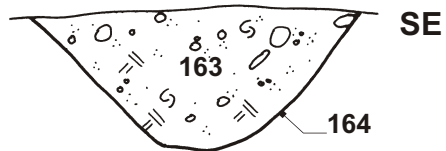
NW



Section 54

44.72mOD

NW



Section 57

44.60mOD

NE



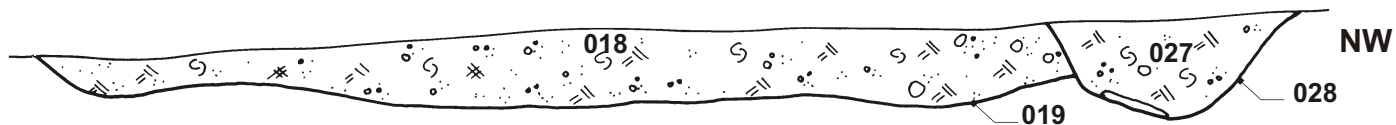
Fig. 10

Pit Sections

Section 10

44.54mOD

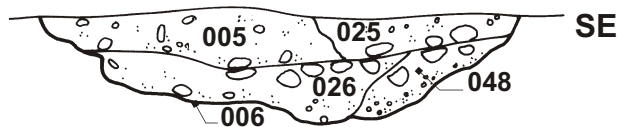
SE



Section 12

44.72mOD

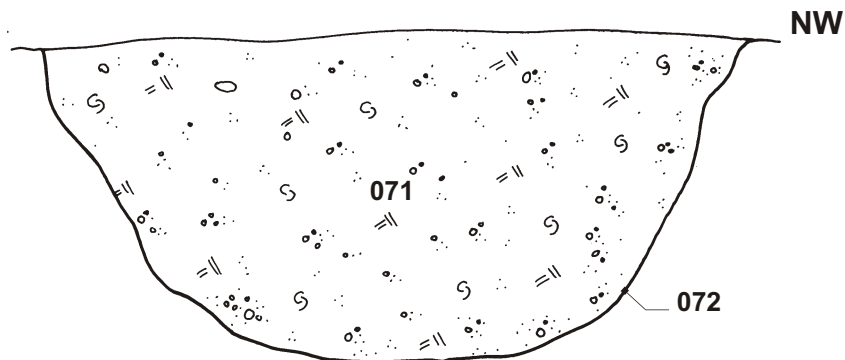
NW



Section 18

44.87mOD

SE



Section 23

44.72mOD

NE

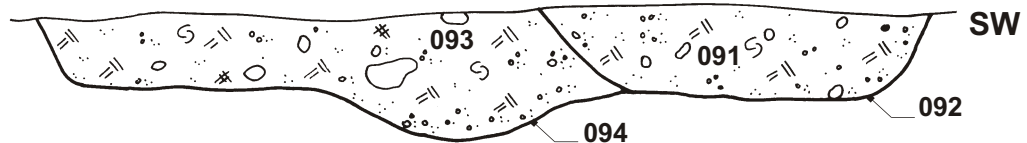
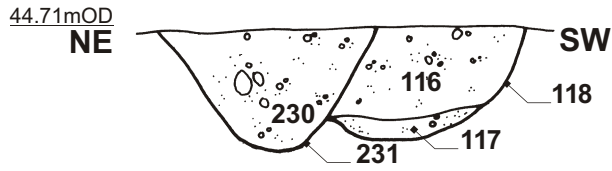


Fig. 11

Pit Sections

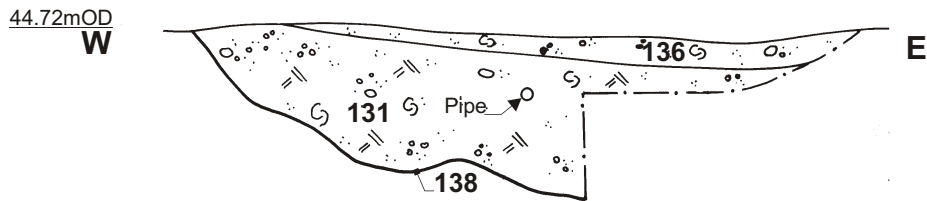
Section 29



Section 31



Section 40



Section 44

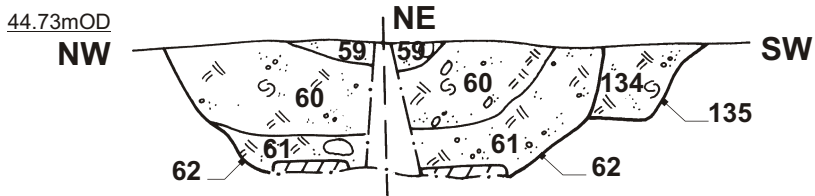


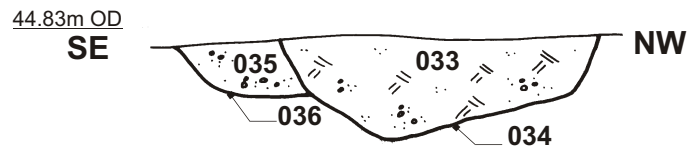
Fig. 12

Gully Sections

Section 21



Section 5

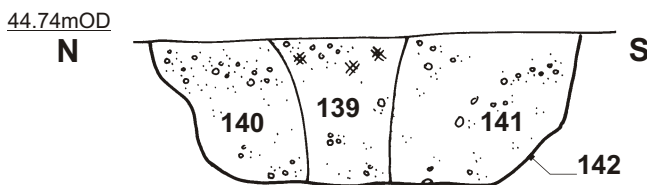


Section 65



Post Hole Sections

Section 41



Section 47



Section 56

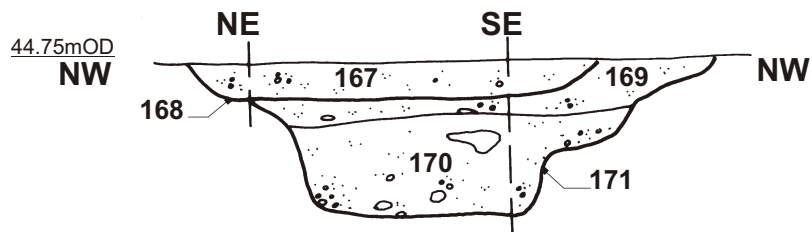
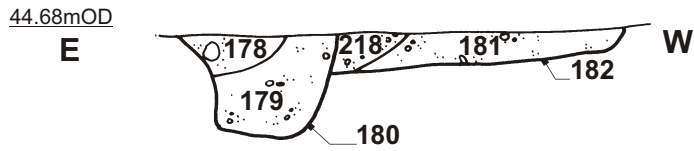


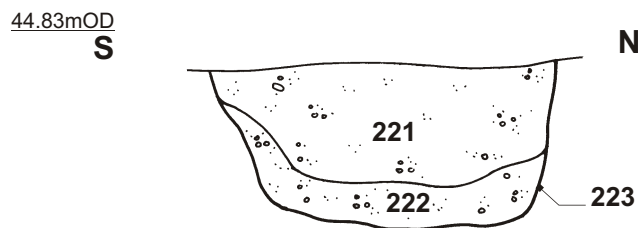
Fig. 13

Post Hole Sections (Continued)

Section 61



Section 74



Beam Slot Sections

Section 55



Section 62



Stake Hole Sections

Section 33



Section 32

