

LAND ADJACENT TO HILLSIDE YARNSCOMBE TORRIDGE DEVON

Results of an Archaeological Evaluation



South West Archaeology Ltd. report no. 161111



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Land Adjacent to Yarnscombe, Torridge, Devon Results of an Archaeological Evaluation

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Work undertaken by SWARCH for Debbie Thorpe
of Kivells
on behalf of Brian Holland

SUMMARY

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed development of the site. The site is located within the historic settlement of Yarnscombe, to the north-west of the parish church. It is situated towards the summit of a steep-sided valley of a tributary of the River Taw at an altitude of c.145 AOD.

The evaluation identified a total of 20 archaeological features, including 7 stone filled drains, 5 stone built drains, 4 surfaces, 1 stone-built wall, 1 possible wall robber cut, and 2 modern services.

These features were primarily associated with the post-medieval to 19th century occupation and use of the site and its subdivision into a series of smaller plots, with the remains of a former boundary wall and external cobbled yard surfaces. Whilst artefactual evidence suggests that there was medieval activity on the site, much of the site has been disturbed during the 19th and 20th centuries with the demolition of the structures and its conversion into a single plot, and subsequent need for drainage, this was particularly the case to the east of the site.



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

LOCATION:	LAND ADJACENT TO HILLSIDE
PARISH:	YARNSCOMBE
DISTRICT:	TORRIDGE
COUNTY:	DEVON
NGR:	SS 56133 23621
SWARCH REF:	YHS16

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned by Debbie Thorpe of Kivells (the Agent) on behalf of Brian Holland (the Client) to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed development of the site. This work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Boyd 2016) drawn up in consultation with Stephen Reed of Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).

1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Yarnscombe is located between the A377 and B3232, 7.4km to the north-east of Great Torrington and 11km south-east of Bideford. The site is situated within the historic core of the village, to the north-west of the parish church, towards the summit of a steep-sided valley of a tributary of the River Taw at an altitude of c.145 AOD (see Figure 1). The soils of this area are the well-drained fine loamy soils of the Neath Association (SSEW 1983). These overlie the mudstones, siltstones and sandstones of the Bude Formation (BGS 2016).

1.3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Yarnscombe, in the hundred of Hartland and deanery of Barnstaple, is referred to as 'Hernescombe, the valley of the eagles' in Domesday, although given the species of birds present in the area, it is most likely that these were buzzards as opposed to eagles. The manor belonged formerly to the Barons of Torrington, and in 1280 the chapel of St. John the Baptist was dedicated in 'Little Ernescombe'. This chapel was given by Bishop Grandison of Exeter to the Exeter Hospital of St. John as a contribution towards the foundation of a grammar school in the 14th century (Lysons 1822).

In 1630, Sir William Pele recorded that 'Ernscombe lieth remote within the hundreds of Shebbeare beyond Bideforde, yet it is in the hundred of Hartland'. In the mid 19th century the parish of Yarnscombe had an area of 3047 acres and a population of over 500. The population has since decreased, now sitting at under 300 inhabitants.

1.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site is located within an area characterised by the Devon Historic Landscape Characterisation as being part of the historic core of Yarnscombe, which is surrounded by medieval enclosures (HLC). There are a small number of Listed buildings within Yarnscombe village and in the surrounding area, but very little else recorded on the Devon County HER.

1.5 METHODOLOGY

The archaeological evaluation was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Boyd 2016) drawn up in consultation with Stephen Reed of DCHET and line with best practice.

The archaeological evaluation took place between the 2nd and 3rd of November 2016. Three evaluation trenches, each 1.4m wide and totalling 34.85m in length were laid out across the site and opened by a tracked mechanical excavator to the depth of *in situ* weathered natural using a toothless grading bucket. Exposed archaeological deposits were excavated by hand in accordance with the WSI and CIFA guidelines. The evaluation was designed to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, character and date of any *in situ* archaeological deposits within the site to inform any further planning decisions.

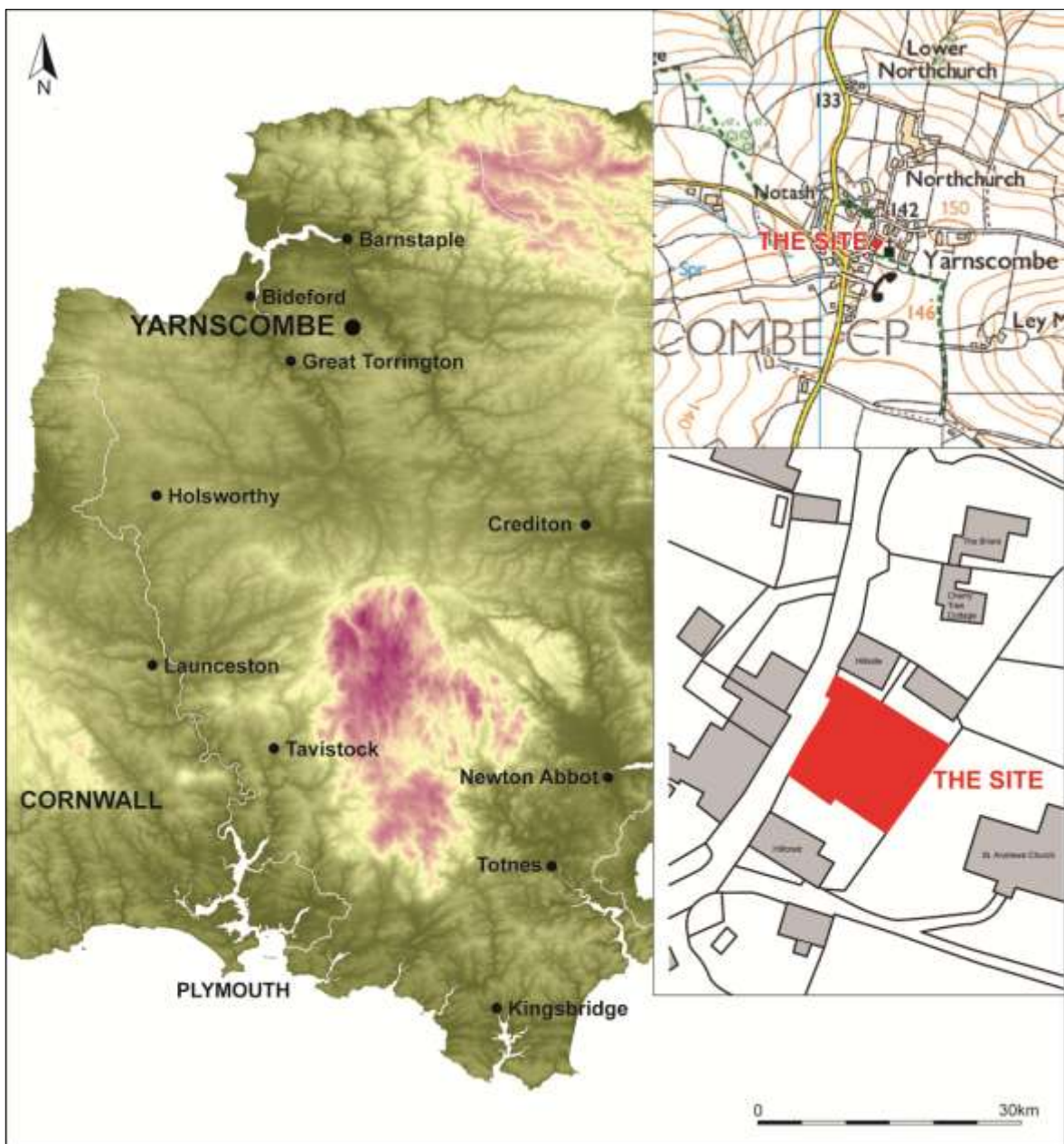


Figure 1: Site location (the site is indicated).

2.0 RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The archaeological evaluation took place between the 2nd and 3rd of November 2016. Three evaluation trenches, each c.1.4m wide and totalling 34.85m in length were opened by a tracked mechanical excavator using a toothless grading bucket (Figure 2).

A total of 20 features were identified, including 7 stone filled drains; 5 stone built drains; 4 surfaces; 1 stone-built wall; 1 possible wall robber cut; and 2 modern services.

What follows is a full trench-by-trench account of the results of the evaluation. See Figure 2 for a whole site plan, showing the excavated features. A complete set of context descriptions can be found in Appendix 1 and supporting photographs in Appendix 3.

2.2 DEPOSIT MODEL

A consistent site stratigraphy was identified across the site: with dark grey-brown friable soft silt-clay topsoil, (100)/(200)/(300) 0.15-0.25m thick; overlying a lower topsoil (101)/(201)/(301) of mid-dark grey-brown soft-friable clay-silt 0.25-0.40m thick; a levelling/demolition layer (102)/(202)/(302), mid brown soft-friable clay-silt 0.10-0.25m thick; and the natural (103)/(203)/(304), grey-brown-yellow clay with common angular stone. However, it was clear that the stratigraphy reflected an episode of terracing/levelling, which had been cut into natural, with a subsoil deposit (303) of mid yellow-brown soft silt-clay which overlay the natural, evident in the north-east corner of the site.

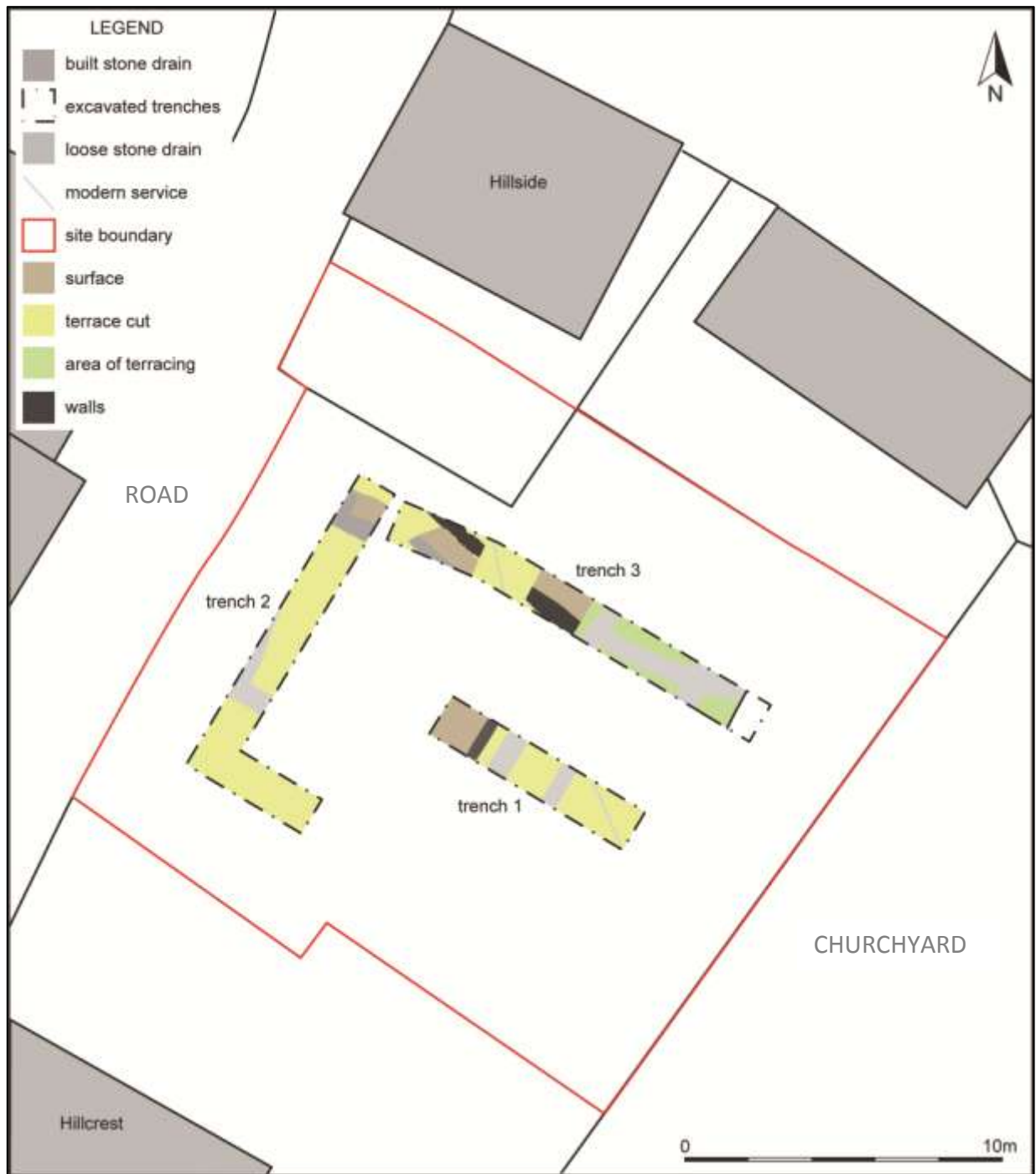


FIGURE 2: TRENCH LOCATIONS OVER GEOPHYSICAL ANOMALIES.

2.3 TRENCH 1

Trench 1, measuring 7.10m×1.40m on an approximate north-west to south-east alignment was located centrally within the site. It contained a stratigraphic sequence of: topsoil (100), 0.15-0.20m thick. This overlay lower topsoil (101), 0.25-0.40m thick; a levelling layer/made-ground (102), 0.10-0.20m thick; and the natural (103). Finds recovered from the trench included: 3× sherds (19g) of industrial wares from topsoil (100); and from the lower topsoil (101) there were 3× sherds (121g) of North Devon gravel tempered pottery; 3× sherds (49g) of industrial wares; 1× fragment (3g) of animal bone, and 5× fragments (151g) of window glass.

Five features were located within the trench: floor surface (106); stone filled drains [109] and [111]; possible robbed wall [104]; and modern service [113] (Figure 3).

Floor surface (106) comprised an area of compacted lime at the north-west end of the trench measuring 1+m wide and c.0.05m thick. Overlying the surface was a possible demolition layer (107), mid brown-grey soft silt-clay with common lime and stone inclusions, 0.15m thick. Finds recovered from this layer included: 9x sherds (131g) of industrial wares and 5x sherds (211g) of North Devon gravel tempered pottery. This had been cut at its south-eastern edge by possible wall robber cut [104], orientated north-east to south-west and measuring 0.40m wide x 0.28m deep with near vertical sides and flat base. It contained a single fill (105), a soft mid brown-grey silt-clay.

Approximately centrally within the trench were two linear drains [109] and [111] both orientated north-east to south-west and measuring c.0.70m wide x 0.25+m deep with convex tops and slightly convex sides. Both contained fills of mid grey-brown friable-soft silt-clay with frequent angular and sub-angular stone, and were filled with water. These appear to have been contemporary with levelling layer (102), being cut into layers (103) and (108), and immediately sealed by the levelling episode, along with the other features in the trench.

At the south-eastern end of the trench a modern service trench [113] with iron water pipe had been cut into the lower topsoil.

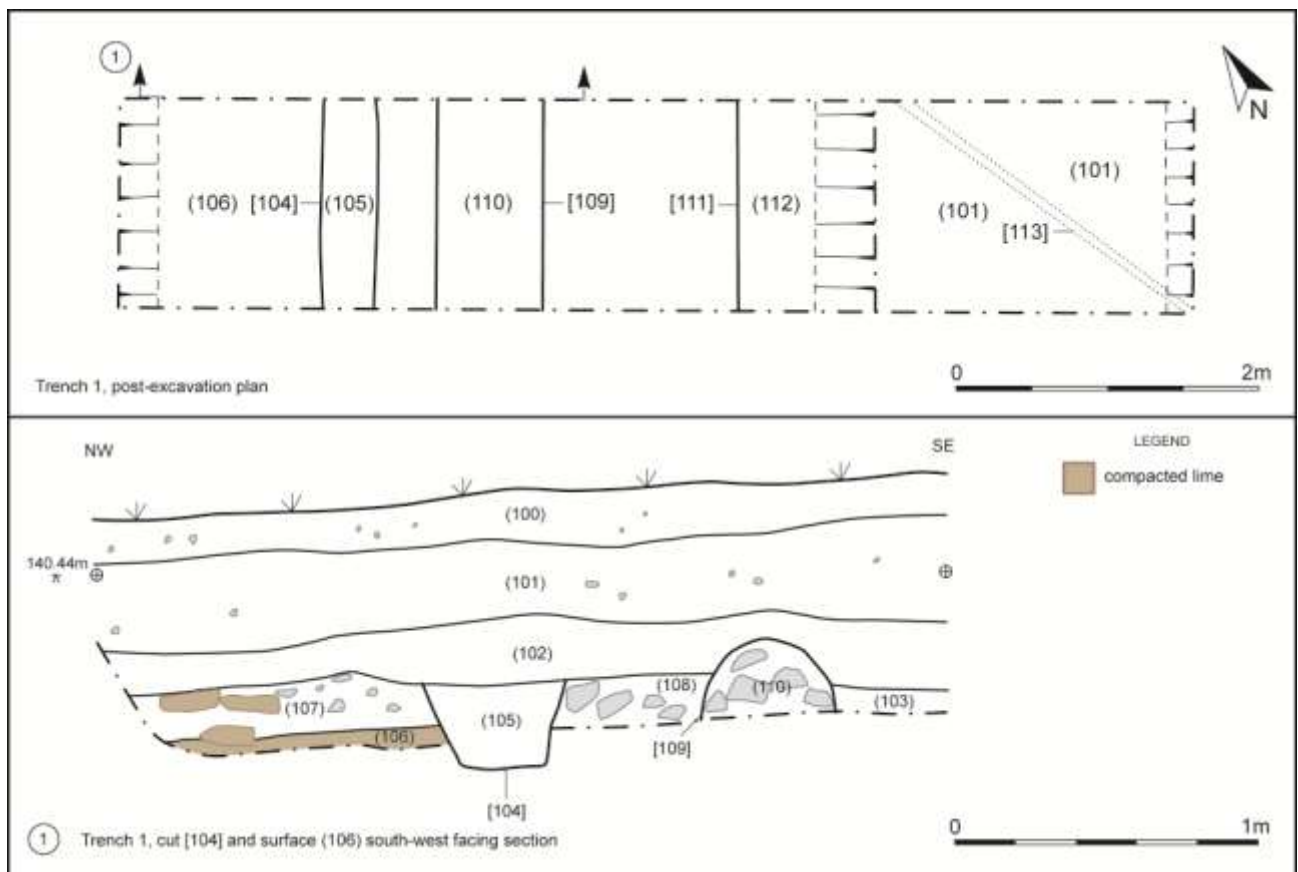


FIGURE 3: TRENCH 1 PLANS AND SECTIONS.

2.4 TRENCH 2

Trench 2, 'L'-shaped in plan measuring 10.70m×1.4m on an approximate north-east to south-west alignment, with a north-west to south-east return at the southern end measuring 3m×1.4m was located towards the north-western and south-western site boundaries. It contained a stratigraphic sequence of: topsoil (200), c.0.20m thick, which overlay the lower topsoil (201), 0.19-0.32m thick; a levelling layer/made-ground (202), 0.16-0.20m thick; and the natural (203). Finds recovered from the trench included: 12× sherds (126g) of industrial wares, 7× sherds (166g) of North Devon pottery; 2× fragments (17g) of window and bottle glass, 8× fragments (142g) of building material and 1× fragment (4g) of slate from levelling layer (202).

Four features were identified within the trench: drains [204], [206] and [209]; and cobble surface (211) (Figure 4).

Drain [204], located towards the southern end of the trench and orientated north-north-east to south-south-west measured 0.37m wide × 0.14m deep, with moderate to steep sides and flat, stony base. It contained a single fill (205), mid grey-brown soft-friable clay-silt, and the feature petered out towards the south. Finds recovered from this feature included 3× sherds (30g) of North Devon gravel tempered pottery, 4× sherds (15g) of medieval pottery, and 1× fragment (51g) of slate) from fill (205).

Drain [206], orientated north-west to south-east cut the southern end of [204], and was orientated north-west to south-east, measuring 0.70m wide × 0.15+m deep with gentle to near vertical sides. This feature was not bottomed but contained an upper fill (207), dark brown-grey soft clay-silt and filled with water. Finds comprised a single sherd (20g) of industrial ware.

A third drain [209] was located at the northern end of the trench. It measured 0.94m wide × c.0.36m deep with a near vertical north-east side and medium-gentle south-western side and flat base. Its construction comprised {214}, angular and sub-angular stones pressed into the natural with laid stone capping, the southern edge having been built-up with (210), light blue compact clay 0.26m thick to create a waterproof raised edge. The drain had been infilled with (215), light-mid yellow-brown loose-soft gritty clay-silt-loam. Finds recovered from this feature included 1× sherd (1g) of residual medieval pottery from clay construction/repair (210); and 1× sherd (5g) of post-medieval North Devon gravel free pottery, and 2× fragments (7g) of modern glass from drain fill (215).

Overlying stone drain [209] at the northern end of the trench was a rectangular area of cobbles (211), comprising irregularly laid rounded sub-angular stone c.0.15m in size (Figure 5). These had been set in a bedding layer (212) of mottled mid yellow-brown firm silt-clay and formed a probable external yard surface. Finds recovered from cobble layer (211) included 18× sherds (70g) of industrial wares, 16× sherds (202g) of post-medieval North Devon gravel tempered pottery, and 1× sherd (2g) of residual medieval pottery; 4× fragments (26g) of animal bone; 5× fragments (40g) of vessel glass; 2× fragments (122g) of building material; and 1× (3g) clay pipe stem.

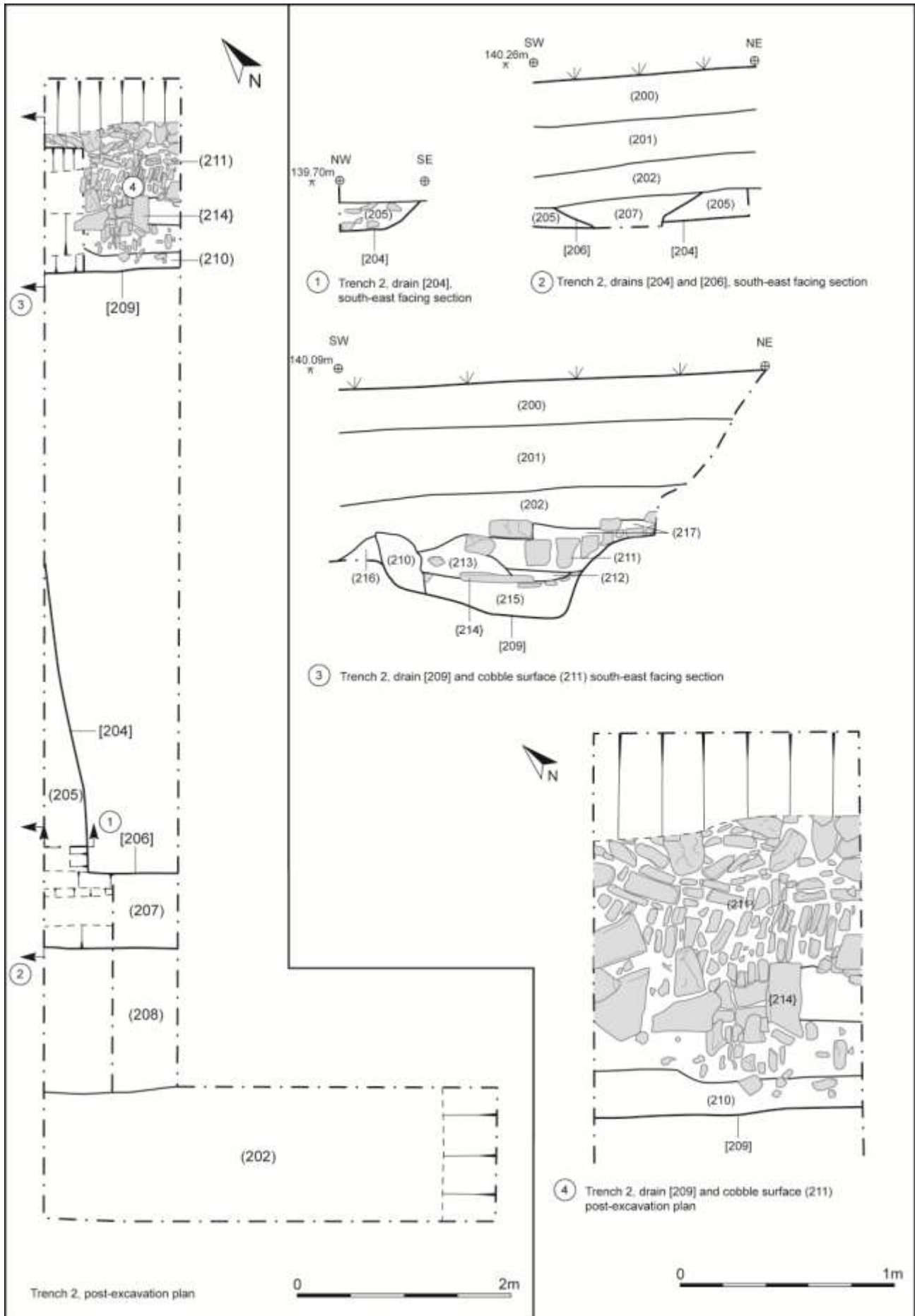


FIGURE 4: TRENCH 2 PLANS AND SECTIONS.



FIGURE 5: COBBLE SURFACE (211); VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (0.30M & 1M SCALES).

2.5 TRENCH 3

Trench 3, measuring 13.25m×1.40m on an approximate north-west to south-east alignment, was located towards the north-eastern site boundary. It contained a stratigraphic sequence of: topsoil (300), c.0.25m thick; lower topsoil (301), 0.20-0.30m thick; levelling layer/made-ground (302), c.0.25m thick; and the natural (304). Subsoil (303), a mid yellow-brown soft silt-clay, overlay the natural at the eastern end of the trench, this was cut by [305] (see below). Finds recovered from the trench included: 13× sheds (57g) of industrial wares, 10× sherds (83g) of post-medieval North Devon pottery, 1× sherd (4g) of Jackfield pottery, and 2× fragments (83g) of brick from topsoil (300). From the lower topsoil deposit (301) finds were 4× sherds (29g) of industrial wares, 3× sherds (235g) of post-medieval North Devon gravel tempered pottery, and 1× fragment (14g) of building material.

Eleven features were located within the trench: drains [306], [308], [310], [316], [319] and [322]; cobble surface (312); slab surface (317); terrace cut [305]; wall [314]; and modern service [325] (Figure 6).

Drains [306] and [308] were located towards the eastern end of the trench and measured 0.6-0.8m wide and contained upper fills (307) and (309) respectively, mid grey-brown soft silt-clay with abundant sub-angular stone. These had been cut by a further drain [310], orientated approximately north-west to south-east, measuring 0.60m wide. It contained an upper fill (311), mid grey-brown soft silt-clay with abundant sub-angular stone. None of these features were excavated and filled with water. These drains were within the fill of terrace cut [305], orientated approximately north-east to south-west, extending to the west and measuring 0.35m deep with vertical east side and flat base. No evidence was seen of the western edge of this feature, and it is believed to have continued for the full length of the trench, and to have covered most of the garden area. It was filled by levelling layer/made-ground (302) and lower topsoil (301). Finds recovered from levelling layer (302)

included: 27× sherds (195g) of industrial wares, 1× sherd (8g) of stoneware pottery, 58× sherds (987g) of post-medieval North Devon locally produced pottery, 1× sherd (3g) of salt glazed white earthenware, 2× sherds (33g) of sgraffito pottery, and 2× sherds (7g) of medieval pottery; 2× fragments (17g) of animal bone; 3× fragments (145g) of bottle and vessel glass; 7× fragments (239g) of building material; and 4× fragments (14g) of clay pipe stem.

To the west of these, cobble surface (312) formed a rectangular area measuring 2+m × 0.70+m on a north-west to south-east alignment. It was created from irregularly placed rounded sub-angular stone up to 0.17m in size set within a matrix of mid grey-brown soft-friable clay-silt, and on a bedding layer (315) of light grey-brown soft-friable silt-clay, which was formed from the possible demolition rubble of wall {314}. Finds recovered from the bedding/possible demolition layer (315) included 2× sherds (29g) of post-medieval North Devon pottery and 2× fragments (1815g) of brick.

At the north-western end of the trench, was located Wall {314}, orientated north-west to south-east and measuring 6+m long × 0.30m wide × 0.28m high (Figure 7), which was set within foundation cut [313], which was a 0.50m wide cut with near vertical sides and flat base. Wall {314}, was constructed of angular stone blocks bonded within a matrix of brown soft silt-clay. The wall had been robbed out towards its eastern end, and towards its western end it overlay drain [322], orientated north-west to south-east and measuring 0.35+m wide. It was capped by slates {323} and was filled by (324), water.

Abutting the southern face of Wall {314} was a partial stone slab surface (317), measuring c. 0.9m wide. Its surviving elements comprised a single large angular stone slab 0.70m × 0.55m, with smaller sloped angular slabs abutting {314} and bonded with concreted mortar and set on bedding layer (328), mid yellow-grey-brown friable-soft silt-clay 0.14m thick. The southern edge of (317) was formed by a possible drainage channel of lower set angular stone slabs. Surface (317) may have formed the capping to a crude drainage channel [316] on the same north-west to south-east alignment, formed by the setting of angular and sub-angular stones within the natural with a slight 'v'-shaped profile up to 0.15m deep. This was filled by (318), a mid grey-brown friable-soft silt-clay. Finds recovered from this feature included 4× sherds (142g) of post-medieval North Devon pottery, 6× sherds (21g) of medieval pottery and 2× fragments (918) of slate from surface (317); and 1× sherd (9g) of stoneware pottery, 7× sherds (272g) of North Devon pottery, and 1× sherd (8g) of medieval pottery, and 3× fragments (21g) of plaster from possible drain fill/bedding layer (318).

Abutted by the drainage channel of (317), a further drain [319] was orientated north-west to south-east and measured 0.20+m wide. It was constructed from {320} angular stone and filled by (321), mid grey-brown soft-friable clay-silt. Finds recovered from the construction of the drain {320} included 3× fragments (96g) of concrete.

Towards the centre of the trench a modern service trench [325] containing an iron water pipe had been cut into lower topsoil (301).

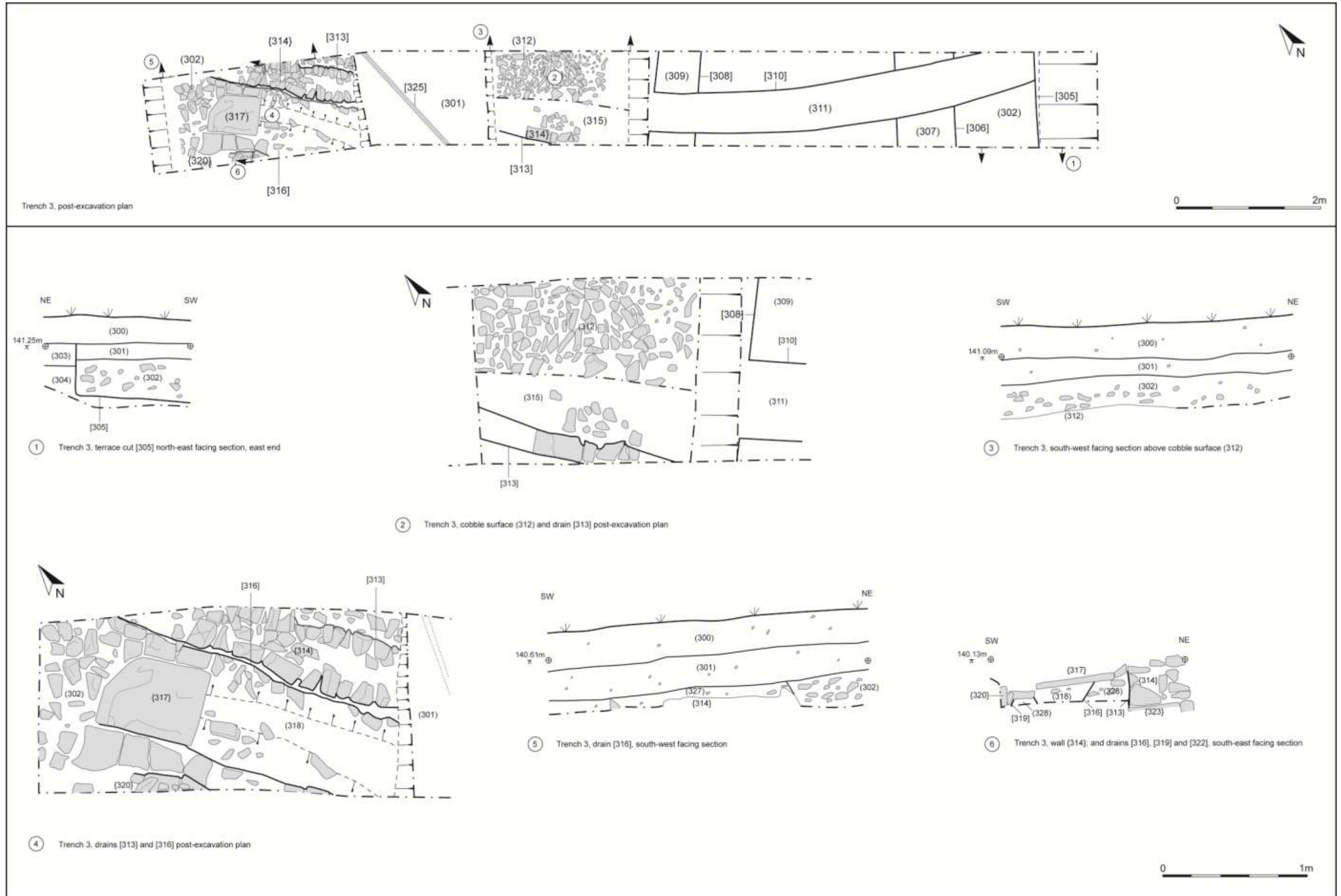


FIGURE 6: TRENCH 3 PLANS AND SECTIONS.



FIGURE 7: TRENCH 3 POST-EXCAVATION SHOWING WALL {314}, AND SLAB SURFACE (317) WITH COBBLE SURFACE (312) TOWARDS THE MIDDLE; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (1M & 2M SCALES).

2.6 FINDS

A relatively large number of finds were encountered across the site. Seven features contained finds: four within Trench 2; and three within Trench 3. The majority, however, were recovered from levelling layers/demolition spreads across the site; the remaining finds being recovered from the topsoil. All of the finds recovered from the site were as follows:

2.6.1 TOPSOIL AND SUBSOIL:

Topsoil (100) contained 3× sherds (19g) of industrial wares. Lower topsoil (101) contained 2× sherds (51g) of North Devon gravel tempered pottery, 1× sherd (70g) of North Devon gravel tempered pottery with yellow slip, and 3× sherds (49g) of industrial wares. Topsoil (300) contained 13× sherds (57g) of industrial wares, 5× sherds (49g) of North Devon gravel free pottery, 5× sherds (34g) of North Devon gravel tempered pottery, 1× sherd (4g) of Jackfield pottery, and 2× fragments (83g) of brick. Lower topsoil (301) contained 4× sherds (29g) of industrial wares, 3× sherds (235g) of North Devon gravel tempered pottery, and 1× fragment (14g) of building material.

2.6.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS AND FEATURES:

Levelling layer (102) contained 1× fragment (3g) of animal bone, and 5× fragments (151g) of window glass. Demolition deposit (107) contained 9× sherds (131g) of industrial wares, 5× sherds (211g) of North Devon gravel tempered pottery and 7× fragments (350g) of brick.

Levelling layer (202) contained 12× sherds (126g) of industrial wares, 3× sherds (77g) of North Devon gravel free pottery, including 1× 19th century example, 4× sherds (89g) of North Devon gravel tempered pottery; 2× fragments (17g) of window and bottle glass, 1× fragment (23g) of ridge tile, 1× fragment (36g) of brick, 2× fragments (27g) of CBM, 4× fragments (56g) of plaster and 1× fragment (4g) of slate. Drain fill (205) contained 3× sherds (30g) of North Devon gravel tempered pottery, 4× sherds (15g) of medieval pottery, and 1× fragment (51g) of slate. Drain fill (207) contained 1× sherd (20g) of industrial ware. Spread (208) contained 9× sherds (105g) of North Devon gravel tempered pottery, 4× sherds (19g) of medieval pottery, 1× fragment (17g) of plaster, and 1× fragment (3g) of clay pipe stem. Drain construction/repair (210) contained 1× sherd (1g) of medieval pottery. Cobble layer (211) contained 18× sherds (70g) of industrial wares, 16× sherds (202g) of North Devon gravel tempered pottery, including 1× early example, 1× sherd (2g) of medieval pottery; 4× fragments (26g) of animal bone; 5× fragments (40g) of vessel glass; 1× fragment (42g) of pantile, 1× fragment (80g) of CBM; and 1× (3g) clay pipe stem. Disturbed layer (213) contained 27× sherds (235g) of industrial wares, 9× sherds (110g) of North Devon gravel free pottery, 4× sherds (77g) of North Devon gravel tempered pottery, 2× sherds (14g) of medieval pottery, 2× fragments (9g) of animal bone, 2× fragments (15g) of window and bottle glass, 3× fragments (17g) of brick, 1× fragment (9g) of plaster, 3× fragments (11g) of clay pipe stem and bowl, and 1× fragment (31g) of slag. Drain fill (215) contained 1× sherd (5g) of North Devon gravel free pottery, and 2× fragments (7g) of modern glass. Layer (217) contained 6× sherds (69g) of industrial wares, 1× sherd (20g) of North Devon gravel tempered pottery, 1× fragment (49g) of ridge tile, 2× fragments (47g) of pantile, 2× fragments (517g) of brick, and 1× (12g) iron object.

Levelling layer (302) contained 27× sherds (195g) of industrial wares, 1× sherd (8g) of stoneware pottery, 5× sherds (192g) of North Devon gravel free pottery, 1× sherd (5g) of North Devon gravel free pottery with yellow slip, 50× sherds (737g) of North Devon gravel tempered pottery, 2× sherds (53g) of North Devon gravel tempered pottery with yellow slip, 1× sherd (3g) of salt glazed white earthenware, 2× sherds (33g) of sgraffito pottery, 2× sherds (7g) of medieval pottery; 2× fragments (17g) of animal bone; 3× fragments (145g) of bottle and vessel glass; 2× fragments (46g) of CBM, 5× fragments (193g) of ridge tile; and 4× fragments (14g) of clay pipe stem. Possible demolition layer (315) contained 1× sherd (15g) of North Devon gravel free pottery, 1× sherd (14g) of North Devon

gravel tempered pottery and 2× fragments (1815g) of brick. Surface (317) contained 4× sherds (142g) of North Devon pottery, 6× sherds (21g) of medieval pottery and 2× fragments (918g) of slate. Possible drain fill/bedding layer (318) contained 1× sherd (9g) of stoneware vessel, 4× sherds (207g) of North Devon gravel free pottery, including tankard handle fragments, 3× sherds (65g) of North Devon gravel tempered pottery, 1× sherd (8g) of medieval pottery, and 3× fragments (21g) of plaster. The construction of drain {320} contained 3× fragments (96g) of concrete. Demolition spread (327) contained 2× fragments (13g) of industrial wares, 10× sherds (175g) North Devon gravel free pottery, 15× sherds (179g) North Devon gravel tempered pottery, 1× sherd (11g) of German stoneware, 2× sherds (5g) of white refined earthenwares, 1× (9g) animal tooth, 1× fragment (1g) of shell, 1× fragment (16g) of pantile, 2× fragments (1091g) of brick, 3× fragments (54g) of plaster and 2× fragments (4g) of clay pipe stem.

2.6.3 DISCUSSION:

The relatively large number of finds across the site suggests frequent disposal of waste across the site through the medieval, and more dominantly post-medieval and modern periods. The mixed collection of finds within the levelling layers is likely a reflection of the later post-medieval clearance of the site, mixing finds from earlier activity with those of the later. Similarly within the topsoil this is likely a reflection of multiple episodes of turning of the soil during its use as a garden.

The pottery indicates that the site was in use from the medieval period, probably deposited in scatters within an agricultural field. The bulk of the material, however, comprises locally produced post-medieval domestic wares and indicates increased occupation activity, similarly reflected in the presence of building demolition material.

3.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

3.1 DISCUSSION

The evaluation trenching identified a series of archaeological features dating to the post-medieval period, including: stone-built walls, possible cob-built structures; cobble and stone slab surfaces; and stone-built drains. However, much of the site had been disturbed by the creation of a series of stone-filled land drains, particularly to the east.

Finds from the site indicate that it has been in use since at least the medieval period, to be expected given its proximity to the church and location in the historic core of the village. However, very little evidence of this early activity survives, and it is likely to have been an agricultural field. Surface (106) and its associated possible robbed out wall may reflect early occupation of the site, compacted lime being a long-used technique, though no finds were recovered to date the feature. However, finds recovered from the demolition sealing the surface suggest that it is more likely post-medieval in date.

The 1840 tithe map depicts three houses with associated boundaries, and it is likely that these reflect the majority of the features identified during the evaluation. There are no remains of the houses, a result of their being probably primarily cob-built. Wall {314} appears to have been more substantially built, and its position indicates that it forms the remains of the property boundary between two plots; whilst surfaces (211), (312) and (317) on either side of the wall reflect former external yard areas associated with the buildings. It is likely that the stone-built and possible drains [209], [316], [319], [322] running beneath and alongside the stone surfaces were similarly associated with the structures.

The consolidation of the site into a single plot during the late 19th century can be seen in terrace cut [305] which contains levelling deposits with rubble from the demolition of the various buildings from the site, and into which a series of stone-filled drains [109], [111], [306], [308] and [310] and terracing cut [305] towards the eastern end of the site have been cut.

3.2 CONCLUSION

The evaluation identified a series of features primarily associated with the post-medieval to 19th century occupation of the site and its subdivision into a series of smaller plots, and included a stone-built boundary wall and external cobbled yard surfaces. Whilst artefactual evidence suggests that there was medieval activity on the site, much of the site has been disturbed during the 19th and 20th centuries with the demolition of the structures and its conversion into a single plot, and subsequent need for drainage, particularly to the east of the site.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DETAILS

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION		RELATIONSHIPS	DEPTH/THICKNESS	SPOT DATE
Trench 1					
(100)	Layer	Topsoil. Dark grey-brown friable-soft silt-clay with rare sub-angular stone 10-20mm.	Overlies (101)	0.15-0.20m	Modern
(101)	Layer	Lower topsoil. Mid-dark grey-brown soft-friable clay-silt with rare sub-angular stone 10-20mm.	Overlain by (100); overlies (102)	0.25-0.40m	Post-medieval / modern
(102)	Layer	Levelling layer/made-ground. Mid brown soft-friable clay-silt with occasional lime flecks and sub-angular stone 10-50mm.	Overlain by (101); overlies (110)	0.10-0.20m	Post-medieval / modern
(103)	Natural	Natural. Soft grey-brown-yellow clay with common sub-angular to angular stone 10-150mm.	Overlain by (106), (108)	-	-
[104]	Cut	Cut of possible robbed-out wall. Linear feature orientated approximately north-east to south-west. Measures 0.40m wide × 0.28m deep with near vertical sides and flat base.	Filled by (105); cuts (107), (108)	0.28m	Post-medieval
(105)	Fill	Fill of robber cut [104]. Mid brown-grey soft silt-clay with occasional sub-angular stone 30-70mm.	Overlain by (102); fill of [104]	0.28m	Post-medieval
(106)	Surface	Compacted white lime / lime-crete surface measuring 1+m wide.	Overlain by (107); overlies (103)	0.05m	Post-medieval?
(107)	Layer	Demolition layer. Mid brown-grey soft silt-clay with occasional to common lime-crete patches and angular stone 10-50mm.	Cut by [104]; overlies (106)	0.15m	Post-medieval?
(108)	Layer	Demolition layer? Mid brown-grey soft silt-clay with common angular stone 10-70mm.	Cut by [104], [109]; overlies (103)	0.15-0.20m	Post-medieval?
[109]	Cut	Stone filled drain. Linear drain orientated north-east to south-west. Measures 0.70m wide × 0.3+m deep with convex top and slightly convex sides.	Filled by (110); cuts (108)	0.30+m	Post-medieval
(110)	Fill	Fill of drain [109]. Mid grey-brown friable-soft silt-clay with very frequent-abundant angular and sub-angular stone 70-20mm.	Overlain by (102); fill of [109]	0.30+m	Post-medieval
[111]	Cut	Stone filled drain. Linear drain orientated north-east to south-west. Measures 0.50+m wide × 0.25+m deep with convex top and slightly convex sides.	Filled by (112); cuts (103)	0.25+m	Post-medieval
(112)	Fill	Fill of drain [111]. Mid grey-brown friable-soft silt-clay with very frequent-abundant angular and sub-angular stone 70-200mm.	Overlain by (102); fill of [111]	0.25+m	Post-medieval
[113]	Cut	Modern service trench. Linear cut orientated north-north-west to south-south-east. Measures 0.05m wide.	Filled by (114); cuts (101)	-	Modern
(114)	Fill	Fill of modern service. Mid grey-brown soft-friable clay-silt with iron water pipe.	Overlain by (100); fill of [113]	-	Modern

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Trench 2					
(200)	Layer	Topsoil. Dark grey-brown friable-soft silt-clay with rare sub-angular stone 10-20mm.	Overlies (201)	0.20m	Modern
(201)	Layer	Lower topsoil. Mid-dark grey-brown soft-friable clay-silt with rare sub-angular stone 10-20mm.	Overlain by (200); overlies (202)	0.19-0.32m	Post-medieval / modern
(202)	Layer	Levelling layer / made-ground. Mid brown soft-friable clay-silt with sub-angular stone 10-50mm.	Overlain by (201); overlies (207), (217)	0.12-0.24m	Post-medieval / modern
(203)	Natural	Natural. Soft grey-brown-yellow clay with common sub-angular to angular stone 10-150mm.	Cut by [204], [209]	-	-
[204]	Cut	Drain. Linear drain orientated north-north-east to south-south-west. Measures 0.37+m wide × 0.14m deep with moderate to steep sloping sides and flat, stony base. Fades as it runs downslope, the base levelling out with the natural at the southern end.	Filled by (205); cuts (203)	0.14m	Medieval / post-medieval
(205)	Fill	Fill of drain [204]. Mid grey-brown soft-friable clay-silt with frequent sub-angular stone 10-100mm.	Cut by [206]; fill of [204]	0.14m	Medieval / post-medieval
[206]	Cut	Drain. Linear drain orientated north-west to south-east. Measures 0.70m wide × 0.15+m deep with gentle to near vertical sloping sides.	Filled by (207); cuts (205)	0.15+m	Post-medieval
(207)	Fill	Fill of drain [206]. Dark brown-grey soft clay-silt with frequent stone and grit inclusion 10-30mm.	Overlain by (202); fill of [206]	0.15+m	Post-medieval
(208)	Layer	Spread. Mid grey-brown soft-friable clay-silt with sub-angular stone 10-50mm.	Overlain by 202	-	Post-medieval
[209]	Cut	Stone-built drain. Linear features orientated north-west to south-east. Measures 0.94m wide × 0.36m deep with near vertical north-east side and medium to gentle south-west slope, and flat base.	Filled by (210), {214}, (215); cuts (203)	0.36m	Post-medieval
(210)	Fill	Fill of drain [209]. Light blue compact clay. Forms lining along south-western edge of drain.	Overlain by (215); fill of [209]	0.26m	Post-medieval
(211)	Surface	Cobble surface. Area of irregularly laid rounded sub-angular stone cobbles c.0.15m. Measures 1.4+m wide × 0.15m thick.	Overlain by (217); overlies (213)	0.15m	Post-medieval
(212)	Layer	Bedding layer for cobble surface. Mottled mid yellow-brown firm silt-clay.	Overlain by (211); overlies (213)	Up to 0.18m	Post-medieval
(213)	Layer	Disturbed backfill over drain. Mid grey-brown soft-friable gritty clay-silt.	Overlain by (212); overlies {214}	0.15m	Post-medieval
{214}	Structure	Stone-built structure of drain [209]. Angular and sub-angular stone pressed into natural with laid stone capping.	Overlain by (213); fill of [209]	0.03-0.08m	Post-medieval
(215)	Fill	Fill of drain [209]. Light-mid yellow-brown loose-soft gritty clay-silt-loam with moderate stone. Infill of drain	Fill of [209]	0.16m	Post-medieval

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(216)	Deposit	Deposit. Mid yellow-brown firm silt-clay.	Overlain by (202); abuts (210)	0.11m	Post-medieval
(217)	Layer	Demolition spread. Mid grey soft-friable clay-silt with frequent sub-angular stone 10-50mm.	Overlain by (202); overlies (211)	0.07m	Post-medieval
Trench 3					
(300)	Layer	Topsoil. Dark grey-brown slightly soft-friable silt with rare sub-angular stone 10-20mm.	Overlies (301)	0.25m	Modern
(301)	Layer	Lower topsoil. Mid slightly grey-brown soft-friable silt with rare sub-angular stone 10-30mm.	Overlain by (300); overlies (302); fill of [305]	0.20-0.30m	Post-medieval / modern
(302)	Layer	Levelling layer / made-ground. Mid brown friable-soft silt-clay with frequent angular to sub-angular stone 30-70mm, and brick fragments.	Overlain by (301); fill of [305]	0.25m	Post-medieval / modern
(303)	Layer	Subsoil. Mid yellow-brown soft silt-clay.	Cut by [305]; overlies (304)	0.15m	-
(304)	Natural	Natural. Mid grey-brown-yellow soft clay with frequent angular stone 50-150mm.	Overlain by (303)	-	-
[305]	Cut	Terrace cut. Linear cut orientated approximately north-east to south-west. Width extends across most of site × 0.35m deep with vertical east side and flat base.	Filled by (302), (305); cuts (303)	0.35m	Post-medieval
[306]	Cut	Stone-filled drain. Linear drain orientated north-east to south-west. Measures 0.80m wide. Not excavated.	Filled by (307); cuts (302)	-	Post-medieval / modern
(307)	Fill	Fill of drain [306]. Mid grey-brown soft silt-clay with frequent to abundant sub-angular to angular stone 50-200mm.	Cut by [310]; fill of [306]	-	Post-medieval / modern
[308]	Cut	Stone-filled drain. Linear drain orientated north-east to south-west. Measures 0.60m wide. Not excavated.	Filled by (309); cuts (302)	-	Post-medieval / modern
(309)	Fill	Fill of drain [308]. Mid grey-brown soft silt-clay with frequent to abundant sub-angular to angular stone 50-200mm.	Cut by [310]; fill of [308]	-	Post-medieval / modern
[310]	Cut	Stone-filled drain. Linear drain orientated north-west to south-east. Measures 0.60m wide. Not excavated.	Filled by (311); cuts (307), (308)	-	Post-medieval / modern
(311)	Fill	Fill of drain [310]. Mid grey-brown soft silt-clay with frequent to abundant sub-angular to angular stone 50-200mm.	Overlain by (301); fill of [310]	-	Post-medieval / modern
(312)	Surface	Cobble surface. Rectangular area of cobbles measuring 2+m × 0.70+m × 0.10m thick. Cobbles irregularly place rounded sub-angular stone up to 0.17m in size.	Overlain by (302); overlies (315)	0.10m	Post-medieval
[313]	Cut	Foundation cut for boundary wall. Linear cut orientated north-west to south-east. Measures 6+m long × 0.30m wide × 0.28m high with	Filled by {314}, (315); overlies {323}	0.28m deep	Post-medieval

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		vertical sides and concave base.			
{314}	Structure	Property boundary wall. Stone-built construction within foundation cut [313]. Angular stone blocks 0.1+m wide, varying in length within a matrix of brown soft silt-clay.	Overlain by (302); fill of [313]	0.28m high	Post-medieval
(315)	Fill	Rubble backfill of wall foundation [313]. Light grey-brown soft-friable silt-clay with frequent angular stone 50-100mm. Forms bedding layer for cobble surface (312), but likely demolition of wall [314].	Overlain by (312); overlies {314}; fill of [313]	-	Post-medieval
[316]	Cut	Cut of drain. Linear drain orientated north-west to south-east. Measures 0.60m wide × 0.15m deep with 'v'-shaped profile.	Filled by (318); cuts (328)	0.15m	Post-medieval
(317)	Surface	Possible slab floor surface. Linear/rectangular area of stone slab measuring 0.9m wide. Surviving elements comprise single large stone slab 0.70m × 0.55m with smaller sloped slabs abutting wall {314}, and lower set slabs forming possible drainage channel along the southern edge. Bonded with concrete mortar.	Overlain by (327); overlies (318)	0.04m	Post-medieval
(318)	Fill	Fill of drain [316]. Mid grey-brown friable-soft silt-clay.	Overlain by (317); fill of [316]	0.15m	Post-medieval
[319]	Cut	Cut of stone-built drain. Linear drain orientated north-west to south-east. Measures 0.20+m wide.	Filled by {320}, (321)	-	Post-medieval
{320}	Structure	Stone-built drain within [319]. Angular stones c.0.25m with mid brown clay-silt bond.	Overlain by (321); fill of [319]	-	Post-medieval
(321)	Fill	Infill of drain [319]. Mid grey-brown soft-friable clay-silt.	Overlain by (327); fill of [319]	-	Post-medieval
[322]	Cut	Cut of stone-built drain. Linear drain orientated north-west to south-east. Measures 0.35+m wide. Not excavated.	Filled by {323}	-	Post-medieval
{323}	Structure	Capping of stone-built drain [322]. Slate capping to drain.	Overlain by {314}	-	Post-medieval
(324)	Fill	Infill of stone-built drain [322]. Water with silt deposits.	Fill of {323}	-	Modern
[325]	Cut	Modern service trench. Linear cut orientated north-north-west to south-south-east. Measures 0.05m wide.	Filled by (326); cuts (301)	-	Modern
(326)	Fill	Fill of modern service. Mid grey-brown soft-friable clay-silt with iron water pipe.	Overlain by (300); fill of [325]	-	Modern
(327)	Layer	Spread. Mid brown soft-friable silt-clay	Overlain by (301); overlies (317)	0.10m	Post-medieval
(328)	Layer	Bedding layer for slab surface (317). Mid yellow-brown friable-soft silt-clay.	Cut by [316]; overlies (303)	0.15m	Post-medieval

Appendix 2: Finds Concordance

Context	No.	Weight (g)	Pottery Detail	No.	Weight (g)	Bone Detail	No.	Weight (g)	Glass Detail	No.	Weight (g)	CBM Detail	No.	Weight (g)	Clay Pipe Detail	No.	Weight (g)	Other Detail	Date
(100)	3	19	Industrial wares																18 th -20 th
(101)	2	51	North Devon Gravel Tempered (NDGT), 1 base																17 th -18 th
	1	70	NDGT yellow slip rim																17 th -18 th
	3	49	Industrial ware																18 th -20 th
(102)				1	3	Animal bone	5	151	Ribbed window glass									Fe obj, broken ring?	19 th -20 th
(107)	9	131	Industrial wares							5	284	Brick							18 th -20 th
	4	101	NDGT							2	66	Brick							17 th -19 th
	1	110	NDGT rim																17 th -19 th
(202)	11	68	Industrial ware				1	1	Window	1	23	Ridge				1	4	Slate	18 th -20 th
	2	53	North Devon Gravel Free (NDGF)				1	16	Dark green 19 th wine bottle	1	36	Brick							17 th -19 th
	3	51	NDGT							4	56	Plaster							17 th -19 th
	1	58	Industrial ware							2	27	CBM							18 th -20 th
	1	38	NDGT																17 th -19 th
	1	24	Late NDGF																19 th
(205)	3	30	NDGT													1	51	Slate	17 th -19 th
	4	15	Medieval																14 th -16 th
(207)	1	20	Industrial ware																18 th -20 th
(208)	2	34	NDGT, 1 rim							1	17	Plaster	1	3	Stem				17 th -19 th
	7	71	NDGT																17 th -19 th
	4	19	Medieval																14 th -16 th
(210)	1	>1	Medieval																14 th -16 th
(211)	18	70	Industrial ware	4	26	Animal bone	5	40	Vessel shards	1	42	Pantile	1	3	Stem				18 th -20 th
	15	196	NDGT							1	80	CBM							17 th -19 th
	1	2	Medieval, 1 with glaze																14 th -16 th

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	1	6	Early NDGT															16 th		
(213)	27	235	Industrial ware	2	9	Animal bone	1	2	Modern window	3	17	Brick	3	11	2 stem, 1 bowl frag	1	31	Slag	18 th -20 th	
	9	110	NDGF				1	13	Dark green base	1	9	Plaster							17 th -19 th	
	4	77	NDGT																17 th -19 th	
	2	14	Med																14 th -16 th	
(215)	1	5	NDGF				2	7	modern										17 th -19 th	
(217)	6	69	Industrial ware							1	49	Ridge				1	12	Fe object	18 th -20 th	
	1	20	NDGT							2	47	Pantile							17 th -19 th	
										2	517	Brick							18 th -19 th	
(300)	13	57	Industrial ware							2	83	Brick							18 th -20 th	
	5	49	NDGF																17 th -19 th	
	1	4	Jackfield																18 th -19 th	
	5	34	NDGT																17 th -19 th	
(301)	3	235	NDGT							1	14	CBM							17 th -19 th	
	4	29	Industrial ware																18 th -20 th	
(302)	27	195	Industrial ware	2	17	Animal bone	1	9	Vessel shard	2	46	CBM	4	14	Stem, including 1 with decoration				18 th -20 th	
	1	8	Stoneware				1	6	Green vessel shard	5	193	Ridge tile							17 th -19 th	
	5	192	NDGF including base				1	130	Wine bottle base late 18 th /early 19 th										17 th -19 th	
	50	737	NDGT including skillet handle																17 th -19 th	
	2	53	NDGT yellow slip																17 th -19 th	
	1	5	NDGF yellow slip																17 th -19 th	
	1	3	Salt glazed white earthenware																	17 th -19 th
	2	33	Sgraffito																	17 th
	2	7	Medieval																	14 th -16 th
(315)	1	14	NDGT							2	1815	Brick							17 th -19 th	
	1	15	NDGF																17 th -19 th	
(317)	4	142	NDGT, including rim													2	918	Slate	17 th -19 th	

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	2	9	Medieval															14 th -16 th
	4	12	Medieval															14 th -16 th
(318)	1	9	Stoneware						3	21	Plaster							17 th -19 th
	3	65	NDGT															17 th -19 th
	4	207	NDGF, including base, thumb decorated rim, 2 co- joining tankard rim & handle															17 th -19 th
	1	8	Medieval															14 th -16 th
(320)									3	96	concrete							Modern
(327)	2	13	Industrial ware	1	9	Tooth			1	16	Pantile	2	4	Stem				18 th -20 th
	15	179	NDGT	1	>1	Shell			2	1091	Brick							17 th -19 th
	10	175	NDGF						3	54	Plaster							17 th -19 th
	1	11	Stoneware, German?															17 th
	2	5	White refined earthenware															18 th -20 th

APPENDIX 3: SUPPORTING PHOTOGRAPHS



PRE-EXCAVATION VIEW OF THE SITE, SOUTH-EAST END; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (NO SCALE).



TRENCH 1, POST-EXCAVATION SOUTH-EAST END; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (2M SCALE).



TRENCH 1, POST-EXCAVATION NORTH-WEST END; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (1 & 2M SCALE).



TRENCH 1, SOUTH-WEST FACING SECTION, OBLIQUE; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (2M SCALE).



TRENCH 1, SOUTH-WEST FACING SECTION, OBLIQUE; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (2M SCALE).



TRENCH 1, SOUTH-WEST FACING SECTION OVER SURFACE (106); VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (1M SCALE).



TRENCH 1, SURFACE (106); VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (1M & 2M SCALES).



PRE-EXCAVATION VIEW OF THE SITE; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



TRENCH 2, POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (1M & 2M SCALES).



TRENCH 2, POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (1M & 2M SCALES).



TRENCH 2, POST-EXCAVATION VIEW OF SOUTHERN RETURN OF TRENCH; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (1M SCALE).



TRENCH 2, SOUTH-EAST FACING SECTION, OBLIQUE; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (2M SCALE).



TRENCH 2, DRAINS [204] AND [206] PRE-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M & 2M SCALES).



TRENCH 2, SOUTH-EAST FACING SECTION OVER DRAINS [204] AND [206]; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (2M SCALE).



TRENCH 2, DRAIN [204] SOUTH-WEST FACING SECTION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (0.30M SCALE).



TRENCH 3, DRAIN [206] SOUTH-EAST FACING SECTION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (1M SCALE).



TRENCH 2, SOUTH-EAST FACING SECTION OVER COBBLE SURFACE (211); VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (0.30M & 2M SCALES).



TRENCH 2, COBBLE SURFACE (211) AND STONE DRAIN {214} PRE-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (0.30M & 1M SCALES).



TRENCH 2, DRAIN {214} SOUTH-EAST FACING SECTION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (2M SCALE).



(LEFT) TRENCH 3, POST-EXCAVATION SHOWING STONE WALL {314} AND SLAB SURFACE (317), WITH COBBLE SURFACE (312) MID TRENCH; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (1M & 2M SCALES).

(RIGHT) TRENCH 3, POST-EXCAVATION SHOWING TERRACE CUT [305]; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (1M & 2M SCALES).



TRENCH 3, SOUTH-WEST FACING SECTION WEST END; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (2M SCALE).



TRENCH 3, SOUTH-WEST FACING SECTION, MID; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (2M SCALE).



TRENCH 3, NORTH-EAST FACING SECTION, EAST END SHOWING TERRACE CUT [305]; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (1M SCALE).



TRENCH 3, COBBLE SURFACE (312); VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (0.30M & 1M SCALES).



TRENCH 3, COBBLE SURFACE (312); VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (0.30M & 1M SCALES).



TRENCH 3, STONE WALL {314} PRE-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (0.30M & 1M SCALES).



TRENCH 3, ROBBED-OUT REMAINS OF STONE WALL {314} MID TRENCH; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (0.30M & 1M SCALES).



TRENCH 3, SLAB SURFACE (317) PRE-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (0.30M & 1M SCALES).



TRENCH 3, STONE WALL {314} AND SLAB SURFACE (317) PART EXCAVATED; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (0.30M & 1M SCALES).



TRENCH 3, STONE WALL {314} AND SLAB SURFACE (317) PART EXCAVATED; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (0.30M & 1M SCALES).



TRENCH 3, STONE WALL {314}, SLAB SURFACE (317) AND STONE DRAIN {323} SOUTH-EAST FACING SECTION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (0.30M & 1M SCALES).



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