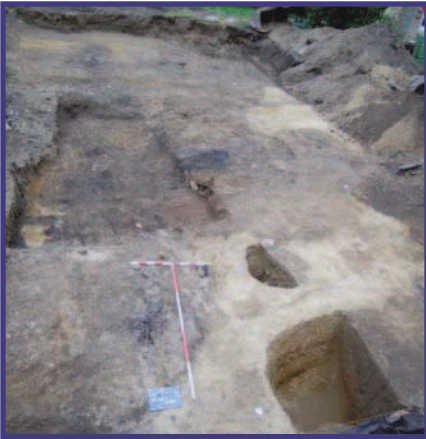


# Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief at Cobb House Bampton Oxfordshire



## Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief Report

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## **Excavations at Cobb House, Bampton, Oxfordshire**

*Centred on NGR SP 3120 0345*

*Archaeological Excavation Report*

*Written by Rebecca Peacock and Tim Allen*

*with contributions from Leigh Allen, Sharon Cook, John Cotter, Geraldine Crann, Ian Scott and Lena Strid, and illustrated by Julia Collins, Markus Dylewski, Lucy Gane and Anne Kilgour-Cooper*

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## Summary

*Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Richard McBrien to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the excavation of a swimming pool and foundations for a pool house at Cobb House, Bampton, in accordance with conditions 8 and 9 of planning consent 14/0384/P/FP. Stripping of the swimming pool revealed an area of densely intercutting features, some possibly Late Saxon and structural. Initial excavation confirmed activity of Late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date, and OA was instructed to sample the Saxon and medieval features by hand. This resulted in a small area excavation lasting nine days.*

*An archaeological watching brief was maintained on the subsequent machine-excavation of the remainder of the swimming pool area. Design of the pool-house showed that it would not impact upon undisturbed archaeological deposits, so no watching brief was required for this.*

*Two pits of the Late Saxon period were found, both towards the west side of the area, and a range of medieval pits, mostly of later 13th or 14th century date, were clustered in the central part of the site. One later medieval pit was found, on the west side of the site, and a horse burial was also either of this or of early post-medieval date. The northern and eastern part of the site was taken up with post-medieval features, with a concentration of activity of the later 18th century. The post-medieval features also extended southwards in the centre of the site, truncating earlier pits on the west, south and east. A Victorian sewer ran diagonally from south-east to north-west across the middle of the area, truncating all earlier deposits.*

*The character of the finds is of domestic waste, such as might be expected in a tenement at the centre of the settlement, and due to the limited sampling, the finds assemblages are fairly small and of limited variety. The Late Saxon remains, however, include non-local pottery from St Neots in Cambridgeshire and a probable harness buckle, the medieval remains include a stylus, while the post-medieval finds include a hinged spur and a sherd of North Devon ware, which had been traded well beyond its normal range.*





## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Richard McBrien to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the excavation of a swimming pool and foundations for a pool house at Cobb House, Bampton (the site), in accordance with conditions 8 and 9 of planning consent 14/0384/P/FP.
- 1.1.2 Cobb House is located in the heart of the historic village, and occupies a plot across the road immediately to the north of St Mary's church, situated between Manor Croft and Woods House to the east and Deanery Cottages to the west (Fig. 1). It is centred on NGR SP 3120 0345.
- 1.1.3 The swimming pool was excavated in the garden north of the house, between the house and the coach house (see Fig. 2). Both the house and coach house are of 17th-18th century date. The total area investigated was 117m<sup>2</sup>.
- 1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigations (WSI), detailing how OA would implement the requirements of the condition, was prepared (OA 2014) and approved by Joanne Robinson, Assistant Archaeological Officer Oxfordshire County Council (hereafter OCC).
- 1.1.5 All work was undertaken in accordance with local and national planning policies.

### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site sits upon gravels of the Summertown-Radley terrace, overlying Oxford Clay (BGS Online Viewer 2014). It lies 200m of the Highmoor Brook, which runs NNW-SSE past the village before turning east towards the river Thames. In consequence, the ground drops away west of the site down into the narrow floodplain of the brook.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The area surrounding the site has been the subject of a series of historical and archaeological investigations, carried out by Professor John Blair of the Queen's College, Oxford (Blair in Tiller and Darkes 2010, 30-31; see also Fig. 7) and by Oxford Archaeology. The relevant information is summarised here.
- 1.3.2 A large Bronze Age ring ditch or barrow lay west of the church, and the Deanery was constructed within its limits (Blair 1992, 55). A further ring ditch was found east of this, partly overlain by the south side of St Mary's church. The large ring ditch lies only 70m south of the site.
- 1.3.3 A pit and a ditch of the Earliest Iron Age (800-600 BC) were found around 250m to the south in excavations west of Church View (Mayes *et al.* 2000).
- 1.3.4 Radiocarbon dating of skulls in a roadside ditch adjacent to the churchyard gave one date in the mid-9th century, evidence of mid-Saxon burial adjacent to a 'minster' known to have existed from documentary evidence by AD1069. Early or middle Saxon sherds were recovered from the excavations west of Church View some 170m south of the church, as well as sherds of imported pottery (North French Blackware) of 8th-9th century date (Mayes *et al.* 2000, 280-283). The presence of high status pottery is further evidence for a mid-Saxon minster.
- 1.3.5 A large boundary ditch, believed to have surrounded the minster, was excavated at the north-west corner of the churchyard only 60m south of the site, and is believed to have run north beneath the road just west of Cobb House. Pottery was of late 11th century



date, suggesting that it was infilled by around AD1100, but also included earlier sherds (Blair 1988, 89-90). This ditch indicates that Cobb House lay within the late Saxon minster enclosure.

- 1.3.6 A gully, ditch and large pit of late Saxon or early Norman date were also found at the excavations west of Church View, 250m south of the site (Mayes *et al.* 2000, 271-2).
- 1.3.7 A market is mentioned in Domesday Book at Bampton, and a royal centre was present, probably west of the Highmoor Brook (Blair in Tiller and Darkes 2010, 30-31).
- 1.3.8 St Mary's church probably dates from as early as AD1070, and is believed to overlie a late Saxon predecessor (Blair 1992, 56). The Deanery is of late 11th or early 12th century origin, and it is suggested that the church enclosure was enlarged when the Deanery was built, hence the infilling of the earlier western boundary ditch just south of the site (Blair 1988, 89-91). Known dates for undisturbed burials in the churchyard start in the late 12th century.
- 1.3.9 Further ditches and pits of the 11th-13th century were found west of Church View to the south (Mayes *et al.* 2000), confirming the extensive nature of occupation of the area at this time.
- 1.3.10 In the early 14th century a castle was built west of the Highmoor Brook, probably overlying the earlier royal centre (Blair 1988, 91-3), and it appears that the northern church enclosure boundary was recut and reinforced at this time (*ibid.*, 89-90). Although the site west of Church View to the south was given over to quarries at this time, the site of the proposed development lay within the church enclosure at the heart of the settlement throughout the medieval period.
- 1.3.11 Activity is likely to have continued during the early post-medieval period, as the adjacent ecclesiastical buildings remained in use. To the south at land west of Church View, a late 15th or 16th century barn was found (Mayes *et al.* 2000, 271-6).
- 1.3.12 The present buildings at Cobb House date from the 17th or 18th century, by which time Bampton had declined due to the building of Radcot Bridge, and was known as 'Bampton in the Bush' (Blair in Tiller and Darkes 2010).

## 1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 OA would like to thank Richard McBrien for commissioning the work and Emma Kirby, the Project Manager. OA also would like to thank the contractor, Edvard Bjarnason from Aqua Services Ltd for close co-operation on site; Joanne Robinson, Assistant Archaeological Officer, Oxfordshire County Council, for guidance and site visit. Tim Allen would like to thank Rebecca Peacock for supervising the main excavation, and Mark Gibson for the final watching brief. The site team would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the kindness and hospitality of Richard McBrien and Pippa Harris, their family and household throughout the duration of the excavation.
- 1.4.2 Tim Allen would like to thank Dana Goodburn-Brown for X-raying the ironwork at short notice.



## 2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

### 2.2 General

- (i) To determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the stripped areas.
- (ii) To determine the approximate extent of any surviving remains within the stripped areas.
- (iii) To determine the date range of any surviving remains by artefactual or other means.
- (iv) To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.
- (v) To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy.
- (vi) To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.
- (vii) To determine whether palaeo-environmental and/or economic evidence, is present, and to sample any deposits of potential.
- (viii) To determine the implications of any remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity.
- (ix) To determine the range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.

### 2.3 Specific Aims and Objectives

#### 2.3.1 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

- (x) Given the presence of barrows close to the site, to determine whether any earlier prehistoric activity (ie Neolithic) is present within the site, and if so, to date and characterise this.
- (xi) To determine whether evidence of Bronze Age activity associated with the known barrows to the south is present, and if so, to date and characterise this.
- (xii) To establish whether Iron Age activity is present on the site, and if so, to date and characterise this, and compare the date to that of the material recovered south of the church.
- (xiii) To establish whether early or middle Saxon remains connected with the minster exist within the site, and if so, to attempt to date and characterise these.
- (xiv) To look for evidence of the mid-late Saxon enclosure boundary, or of its associated bank, within the site, and of other late Saxon occupation evidence within the enclosed area.
- (xv) If any remains of a bank survive, to examine the buried ground surface beneath it for evidence of earlier activity and environmental evidence.
- (xvi) To aim to determine how this area was used in the medieval period, and to date and characterise any archaeological features that may occur.
- (xvii) To look for evidence of late medieval/early post-medieval activity, and to date and characterise this.



- (xviii) To look for evidence of the use of this part of the land attached to Cobb House in the 17th-19th centuries, in order to inform the history of occupation of the property.

## **2.4 Methodology**

- 2.4.1 The area of the swimming pool was cleared of topsoil and modern garden soils by an 8-ton tracked excavator with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.4.2 The machine stripped the area, starting at the west end, in controlled, level spits no more than 0.2m deep. Machine excavation continued until either undisturbed archaeological deposits or natural gravels were reached, at a depth of 0.4-0.5m.
- 2.4.3 Once this level had been reached at the west end of the site, the remainder of the area was stripped to the same level (Plate 1). This revealed very little natural, but a mass of soil deposits of varying dates, which were cleaned by hand and planned (Fig. 3). While stripping was continuing, the largest visible feature at the west end was tested by hand-excavation, and produced late Saxon pottery.
- 2.4.4 In the light of this discovery, and of the quantity and complexity of the archaeological remains, the Assistant Archaeological Officer OCC was informed, and a site meeting convened to discuss how the archaeology should be dealt with.
- 2.4.5 In the northern centre of the site, where surface finds showed that the exposed deposits were all of post-medieval date, a bucket-width slot was excavated to greater depth in order to clarify the line of a sewer known to cross the site, and to establish whether the post-medieval deposits were shallow, or lay within deeper features (Fig. 3). Machine excavation continued to a depth of 0.4m, but when it became clear that the post-medieval deposits lay within deep features, this was abandoned pending further instruction from the Assistant Archaeological Officer OCC.
- 2.4.6 At the ensuing site meeting it was agreed with the Assistant Archaeological Officer OCC that all undisturbed and clearly medieval or earlier deposits were to be sampled by hand-excavation, as were those of uncertain date. Post-medieval deposits and features were to have finds retrieved from the surface where present, and were to be planned, but were not to be excavated. Where undated features proved during excavation to be post-medieval, excavation then ceased, but these features were recorded.
- 2.4.7 The excavation was carried out in accordance with OA's standard excavation procedures and national guidance.
- 2.4.8 Due to an error in laying out by the contractor, the excavation extended beyond the area of impact of the swimming pool on the south-west. This area was planned, and an initial slot projected into it, but once the error had been realised, no further work was carried out in this area.
- 2.4.9 Once hand investigation was complete, watching brief was resumed on the reduction of the swimming pool area to the required depth (Plate 2). The remaining parts of the known Late Saxon or medieval features were excavated by machine and the spoil dumped and rapidly sorted through for finds. In areas of post-medieval activity, the machine excavation was monitored for finds, and in case earlier deposits might survive below them, but none was found.
- 2.4.10 Consultation with the client established that the depth of excavation for the pool-house lay within the depth of modern made ground across the adjacent swimming pool area. In consequence, the Assistant Archaeological Officer OCC agreed that no archaeological watching brief would be required for this operation.



### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results below are presented in chronological and stratigraphic order, starting with the earliest deposits found (see Fig. 3). The features fit into four phases, which are broadly datable as Late Saxon (Phase 1), High Medieval (Phase 2), Late Medieval (Phase 3) and Post-Medieval (Phase 4) on the basis of the artefacts recovered (see section 4 for details). Some features did not contain any finds, and so are unphased, although stratigraphic relationships allowed one or two to be broadly placed between features of earlier and later phases.

3.1.2 Across the site the features relating to phase 1 were at the west end of the site, with the majority of the pits from phase 2 towards the southern half and central area of the excavation (Fig. 3). The features from phase 4 were located more towards the east and northern half of the site.

#### 3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The excavation area was covered in raised flower beds and gravel paths at the west end and an area of gravel at the east end.

3.2.2 The uppermost deposits were a mixture of garden soils and made ground, the latter a mid brownish-yellow sandy gravel with mixed stone and brick rubble (2). These layers sealed the archaeological deposits. The natural gravel (3), a light brownish yellow sandy limestone gravel, was visible in small isolated patches. The northern half of the site was also covered in patchy rubble, which obscured the definition of the earlier deposits.

3.2.3 Working conditions throughout the excavation were good, mainly overcast and dry. The machining was well-executed with a clean finish wherever possible, and the resulting surface was cleaned by hand to clarify the definition of the deposits.

#### 3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 The clearly defined archaeological features were mostly located in the southern half of the area and consisted of large and small pits, many intercutting, together with a few postholes. One medieval pit, truncated almost to the bottom, was found below a post-medieval pit north of the sewer, but otherwise the northern half was taken up with a dense group of intercutting post-medieval features that had removed any traces of earlier activity.

#### 3.4 Phase 1 (Figs 3 and 4; Plates 3 and 4)

3.4.1 Pit 6 was a large sub-rectangular pit with steep sides and rounded corners curving to a flattish base, only the eastern part of which lay within the excavation. It contained five fills (Fig. 4 section 1; Plate 3). The earliest fill 11, was a sterile gravel from initial erosion of the sides. Fills 10, 9 and 8 appear to represent episodes of natural silting with greater or lesser amounts of occupation material, probably washed in from the immediate surroundings of the pit. Layer 9 was a sterile gravel, while layer 8 was reddish-brown, suggesting inwashed topsoil. The upper fill, 7, was 0.86m thick, and was a more gravelly silt including occasional limestones and occupation material. Some large sherds of Late Saxon pottery and fragments of animal bone suggesting the incorporation of fresh domestic rubbish during deliberate backfilling.

3.4.2 Pit 30 was a sub-rectangular pit with steep sides and measured 1.95m by 0.87m deep (Fig. 4 section 8; Plate 4). It was cut by post-medieval posthole 28 on the south corner

and truncated by post-medieval pit 15 to the east. There were three fills. The primary fill 31 was sterile, redeposited natural. The main fill, 32, was 0.76m deep and was a sandy silt containing limestone, gravel and charcoal, Late Saxon pottery and animal bone. The thickness and the finds suggest a phase of deliberate dumping, perhaps including midden material. The upper fill 33 was a shallow deposit, 0.14m thick and had bands of sand and gravel and of redeposited topsoil, suggesting further natural silting.

- 3.4.3 Pit 30 cut pit 34 on the north, which was undated (Fig. 3; Fig 6 section 8; Plate 4). The basal fill, 35, was a mixture of grey-black and yellowish brown silty sands, with frequent charcoal, small limestones and animal bone. It suggests a deliberate dump composed of excavated natural and occupation debris. The middle fill, 36, was only 0.18m thick and was sterile, so may indicate a period of abandonment with natural silting. Fill 37 was a reddish-brown silt, similar to the unmodified topsoil that developed over the gravel, but with occasional charcoal flecks and occasional larger limestones. This was 0.44m thick, without obvious evidence of lensing, so was probably deliberately dumped rather than accumulating by natural silting.
- 3.4.4 On the north this feature was truncated by the stone-filled rectangular trench 89 within feature 15 (see Fig. 3 and section 6). This feature must be Late Saxon or earlier.

### **3.5 Phase 2 (Figs 3, 4 and 5; Plates 5, 6 and 7)**

- 3.5.1 Pit 48 was in the south area of the site in an area of concentrated activity (Fig. 3; Fig. 4 section 9). It was mostly truncated by pits 38 and 40. Two fills remained and the tip lines of 50 suggest the pit was centred further towards the east. The lowest fill, 49, was a mixture of redeposited natural and surrounding soils and contained 12th-14th century pottery.
- 3.5.2 East of this a large sub-rectangular pit, 12, measuring 0.72m by 1.46m and 0.42m deep, had a flat base and steep near-vertical sides (Fig. 3; Fig. 4 section 9; Fig. 5 section 3). It contained two fills (Plate 5). The basal fill, 14, varied in thickness from 0.13m in the centre to 0.42m towards the edges, and was clearly redeposited natural fallen from the sides. The upper fill, 13, was 1.34m across and 0.29m thick. It was a yellowish brown silty sand with charcoal flecks and contained a single sherd of 12th-14th century pottery. This suggests it was a deliberate backfill with surrounding occupation deposits.
- 3.5.3 In the south half of the site, towards the east end, a large pit, 60, was excavated. It contained five fills (Plate 6), the nature of which suggest it was a storage pit or possibly had a structural purpose (Fig. 5 section 11). The cut measured 1.64m by 1.22m where it survived and to a depth of 0.98m. It was sub-rectangular with a flat base, vertical sides and a gradual break of slope with the base. The basal fill, 61, was redeposited gravel, 0.22m thick, and containing a 13th-14th century potsherd. This was sealed by a dark greyish brown silt 62, 0.12m thick, with large flat limestone blocks, up to 0.25m wide, laid horizontally within it. The stones could have been laid to consolidate the base of the pit for storage or for access, or may have been dumped from construction together with occupation debris. Fill 62 was sealed by layer 63, which was 0.32m thick at the south end, but thinned and ended before reaching the west edge of the pit. This was probably deliberate backfill, and contained 13th-14th century pottery. Fill 64 was a silty layer 0.08m thick, and suggests natural accumulation while the pit was left open. The upper fill, 65, is a thick, 0.54m, greyish brown deposit with frequent gravel and limestone inclusions. It contained more 13th-14th century pottery and a possible stone weight, and suggests that domestic refuse was used to backfill the pit once out of use.



3.5.4 North of pit 60 was pit 82, only the base of which survived below a post-medieval pit (Fig. 3; Fig. 5 section 13). It was sub-rectangular and was at least 1.1m across; watching brief observations suggested 1.4m east-west. The base was flat and the surviving sides suggested a steep or near-vertical profile. The single surviving fill, 83, was 0.15m deep, and was a dark reddish brown sandy silt containing fine charcoal flecks, small potsherds of 12th-14th century type and animal bone (Plate 7). The fine nature of this fill suggests a deliberate dump of occupation material. It was overlain by a much coarser more gravelly clayey sand that included small post-medieval glass fragments and slag. This was part of deposit 69.

### 3.6 Phase 3 (Figs 3 and 5; Plate 8)

3.6.1 A pit or possible posthole, 4, in the west area of the site was sub circular with a concave, slightly irregular base and steep sides, steeper on the east side (Fig. 3; Fig. 5 section 2). The fill of the pit was a dark yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional large limestones (Plate 8), and contained a single sherd of pottery of 13th-15th century date. The fill suggests deliberate backfill. During excavation the central portion of the fill was believed to be siltier and softer, but despite being excavated first as a possible postpipe, the limits were uncertain, and it was not visible in section nor in plan during excavation of the second half. The steep sides and narrow base of this feature may indicate that it was originally structural, but no similar features were found within the excavation area.

3.6.2 There are no other features of this date, although residual pottery of this date was found in fill 75 of post-medieval pit 74 (see below).

### 3.7 Phase 4 (Figs 3-6; Plates 9-13)

3.7.1 Pit 23 was located on the north limit of the site. It was a large irregular cut, truncated by the modern sewage trench. It was partially investigated for a width of 0.75m to determine the relationship with other features (Fig. 3; Fig. 6 section 7). It contained one patchy brownish grey sandy clay fill with black patches, charcoal, pottery and brick rubble inclusions. The pottery was 16th-18th century, the bricks of 18th or early 19th century type, giving an 18th century date overall.

3.7.2 On the south, and cutting pits 12 and 48, was pit 40. Pit 40 contained a horse (Plate 9), buried at its base in fill 47, and covered by six further fills (Fig. 3; Fig. 4 section 9). Part of an iron spur was also recovered lying upon the ribs of the horse in basal fill 47 (Plate 9), and this is dated to the late 17th or early 18th century. The sides of the pit were near-vertical and the base was flat, although on the west the side stepped in partway down, presumably to decrease the amount of digging and to provide a step for access and egress.

3.7.3 The basal fill 47 surrounding the horse skeleton was a soft blackish-grey silt and very organic. Fill 43 sealing the skeleton was a clean gravel and was most likely deliberately dumped in to cover the burial. Fills 41, 44 and 46 were all mid greyish-brown sandy silt deposits, and were interspersed with gravel layers 42 and 45. The alternation might indicate that the pit was used periodically for refuse, but in the absence of other finds, it is more likely that all of these fills were part of one backfilling process.

3.7.4 Pit 40 was cut by pit 38 (Fig. 4 section 9). This had irregular stepped, moderately sloping sides with a shallow concave base. It measured 0.72m by 0.28m thick and contained one mid greyish brown sandy silt fill which contained 16th-18th century pottery. Given that it cut pit 40, this pit must be of 18th century date.



- 3.7.5 Feature 28 lay just north of pit 38, cutting pit 30 (Fig. 3). It was sub-circular, measured 0.44m across and 0.64m deep with very steep sides sloping in lower down to a narrow, cupped base (Fig. 4 section 8). It contained one fill, 29, which was a dark yellowish brown clayey sand and was likely deliberate backfill. One sherd of 16th-18th century pottery came from this. The narrowness of the feature and the single fill suggests that it was a posthole.
- 3.7.6 Pit 15 was a large sub-square cut in the centre of the site, measuring 2.6m by 2.6m, but of unknown depth. It was filled by 16, a mixed rubble and clay deposit with frequent charcoal. Along the west edge the side was straight, and against it was a linear spread of stones numbered 88. It was believed that these infilled a trench, 89, which may represent a wall or lining (Fig. 3). The stones were also visible, though less distinct, further north beyond the sewer trench, but were machined out during the search for earlier features. Immediately west of the stones was a deposit of black charcoal-rich soil with brick and window glass fragments, which overlay a layer of yellow gravel that ended against the base of the stonework (Plate 10). Below this again was a further deposit of black soil and charcoal.
- 3.7.7 The correspondence of the gravel layer with the base of the stones might suggest that they were deposited contemporarily, ie that the stones were lining feature 15, rather than cutting it. The sloping angle of the stones on this side, however, does not suggest a well-made edge on this side, supporting the view that trench 89 was cut through the pit fills, and was then filled with stones 88.
- 3.7.8 This pit cut pits 30 and pit 12 (Fig. 5 section 3), and a cross-section of the uppermost part was also drawn towards the north end (Fig. 6 section 6; Plate 10). It also cut pit 40 containing the horse burial, and so must be 18th century or later.
- 3.7.9 Pit 84 lay north of the sewer, and cut medieval pit 82. It was 0.45m across and 0.3m deep. It was circular, though somewhat obscured by sealing deposit 81. It had sloping concave sides, but the base was not reached in the intervention (Fig. 3; Fig. 5 section 13). Fill 83 contained 18th century pottery.
- 3.7.10 Adjacent pit 86 was circular and measured 0.45m across and 0.3m deep. It had one fill, 87, that was a sandy clay with frequent gravel, similar to layer 81 that overlay 18th century pits, but 86 was cut by pit 84. Although there were no finds from 87, it too must have been post-medieval, as it was cut through not only pit 82 but the post-medieval layer 69 that had truncated it.
- 3.7.11 At the very north-east corner of the site stripping revealed a sequence of post-medieval features (Plate 11). The earliest of these was pit 58 (Fig. 3; Fig. 6 section 10). This was a sub-circular pit with steep sides, which contained one mid yellowish brown gravelly fill, 57. The fill included mid-18th century clay pipe.
- 3.7.12 Pit 58 was cut by posthole 56 and was truncated in plan by the construction cut, 52, of a stone drain, 27 (Plate 12). These features extended beyond the limit of the site. Posthole 56, had steep, near vertical sides and contained two fills (Fig. 6 section 10). The lower fill 59 was very gravelly, and was probably redeposited natural used as packing material round the post. The upper fill, 55, was a mid yellowish brown silty sand containing brick, and was probably backfill of the postpipe. The brick was of later 18th or early 19th century type.
- 3.7.13 A small irregular pit, 54, with a V-shaped base, cut posthole 56. It contained one fill, 53, a dark brown gravelly fill with limestones likely to have derived from surrounding occupation deposits. According to the plan, this may be the same as pit 72, which was the number given to the south end of this pit, where it was cut by ditch 76 (Fig. 6





section 12). At this point the pit was 0.15m deep and contained one fill, a mid greyish brown silty sand and gravelly fill that did not contain any finds.

- 3.7.14 Overlying pit 58 and posthole 56 was stone drain 27 (Fig. 3 inset; Fig. 6 section 10). This was constructed in cut 52, only the flat base of which could be seen. The drain itself was a drystone construction of flat dark grey limestone slabs on the base and sides (Plate 13), built tight to the edges of the construction cut. The top was capped with pale yellowish limestones. The different coloured capping slabs may indicate that the drain was intended to be visible when first constructed; when first uncovered, the drain was found at shallower depth than any of the other features.
- 3.7.15 A probable ditch with irregular edges, 76, ran along the site from east to west for 2.48m and was 0.46m deep. It contained four fills, all mixed sandy clays with varying amounts of rubble mixed into them. The rubble, together with window glass, suggests that the fills derive from building alterations. There was also plenty of domestic debris, and this indicates that it was infilled during the mid-late 18th century.
- 3.7.16 Layer 81 was the number given to a spread of brownish-grey sandy clay with patches of dark brownish-orange gravel, frequent brick and tile rubble fragments, charcoal, coal and clinker. This was found in the eastern half of the site overlying some of the post-medieval features, but was cut by others such as ditch 76 (Fig. 3; Fig. 6 section 12). It survived only as a thin spread.

### 3.8 Victorian or later features

- 3.8.1 A field drain of terracotta pipe construction, 70, cut across the south of the site, north west- south east and contained one fill, 71.
- 3.8.2 The sewage pipe trench ran across the site from the northwest to the southeast corner. It ran between a redbrick constructed manhole at both ends. The pipe was not visible anywhere in the works area. It truncated field drain 70.

### 3.9 Undated or poorly-dated features (Fig. 3)

- 3.9.1 Small posthole, 21, in the west area of site, had one fill, 22. It was sub-circular with steep straight sides and measured 0.28m by 0.34m and 0.31m deep. It was filled by a yellowish brown sandy silt with frequent gravel.
- 3.9.2 Cut 25, likely to have been a small pit, extended beyond the north limit of the site and was a shallow feature with sloping sides and one fill numbered 26. This was brownish-grey with black patches, was gravelly and contained lumps of charcoal. Its character suggests a recent origin.
- 3.9.3 Pit 17, a rectangular pit with a flat base measured 0.64m across by 0.4m deep. It was filled by a brownish yellow silt and contained occasional large angular limestones and small-medium limestones. This suggests that may relate to a structure, perhaps a construction trench for a wall which terminates. It was cut by 19, the number given to a series of intercutting pits, probably of varying dates, and therefore is difficult to assign a phase.
- 3.9.4 Cut 68 was the number given to a large area of post-medieval activity across the north half of the site, cut across by the sewer pipe trench. It almost certainly consisted of more than one feature. At the west end of the site it lay north of pits 6, 4 and 34, and had a curving south edge, continuing north as far as the limit of excavation. East of pit 15, which cut it, it represented a shallow cut running up to, and cutting the edge of, pit 60, but was itself cut by field drain 70. The fill 69 continued as far north as the line of the sewer and continued north of it, truncating medieval pit 82. Here it was described



as a coarse gravelly clayey sand that included small post-medieval glass fragments and slag. To the north it was cut by ditch 76, and east of this it was obscured by overlying layer 81, so the full extent of this deposit is uncertain.

## 4 FINDS REPORTS

### 4.1 The pottery by John Cotter

4.1.1 A total of 104 sherds of pottery weighing 1808g was recovered with a total EVEs of 1.74 (see Appendix B, Table 1 for catalogue, and below). Of this 60% of the pottery by sherd count is medieval and 40% post-medieval (c 1500+). The percentages for weight however are almost reversed (46% medieval, 54% post-medieval) owing to the normally heavier nature of post-medieval material. The pottery is in a fairly mixed and fragmentary condition but mostly occurs as fairly large fresh sherds (typical of pit assemblages); some however are small and worn. Vessel forms present are entirely domestic in character. A range of pottery fabrics from the late Saxon period through to the early 19th century is present. The majority of this comprises types which are well-known in the Oxfordshire region. A similar range of medieval pottery fabrics is reported from an earlier excavation at Church View, Bampton, although this mainly dates from the mid 11th to the 15th century and includes no definite late Saxon or post-medieval material, as here (Blinkhorn 2000).

4.1.2 An overview of the chronological sequence follows.

#### **Late Saxon**

4.1.3 The ceramic sequence begins in the late Saxon period. Pit 6 and Pit 31 are almost certainly of this date - and this can possibly be narrowed-down to the late 10th or first half of the 11th century. Critical here is the presence in these pits of both St Neot's-type ware (OXR) and Cotswold-type ware (OXAC). The presence of Cotswold-type ware alone in a context is not usually sufficient evidence to prove a late Saxon dating, but in combination with St Neot's-type ware the case is considerably strengthened. Cotswold-type ware has a broad dating in Oxfordshire and the Cotswolds area of c 875-1250 but in Oxford is more typical of the period c 1050-1250 (Mellor 1994, 51-52). St Neot's-type ware is likewise broadly dated from c 850 or c 900 to c 1100 in the south-east Midlands, but in Oxford has a main currency of c 950-1050, but probably endured a little later than this (ibid., 57). Pit 6, with 19 sherds of pottery, is the larger of the two pit assemblages. This produced large fresh sherds of both Neot's-type ware and Cotswold-type ware. No other fabrics were present. Vessels are in the form of jars/cooking pots nearly all of which are sooted externally (and sometimes internally) from use. Sherds from at least two St Neot's-type jars are present in Pit 6 including fresh joining sherds from a jar with 34% of its rim circumference (Ctx 7, 0.34 EVEs). Large fresh sherds from at least four jars in Cotswold-type ware also occur and although vessels in this fabric generally show little chronological change in terms of typology, the plain straight everted rims present (with an internal neck angle) have an 'early look' which is more typical of late Saxon pottery in the region (including Winchester and Southampton) than the more necked and developed rim forms of the early medieval period (c 1050 or 1100+). Pit 30 has only 5 smaller sherds, in the same fabrics, but also has two small body sherds in Late Saxon Oxford shelly ware (OXB), from two separate vessels. This fabric has a broad late Saxon date range of c 775-1050 in the region but a core date range of perhaps c 820-1020 in Oxford (ibid., 41-44). Although probably residual to some degree the sherds of OXB represent the earliest ceramic type from the site and provide useful additional evidence - if any were needed - for the late Saxon date of these two pits. The absence of Medieval Oxford ware (OXY) is also useful negative confirmation for this



dating. This fabric almost invariably occurs alongside the later forms of Cotswold-type ware in Oxford pit assemblages of the late 11th and 12th centuries, and although it is absent from the site here it does occur elsewhere in Bampton (Blinkhorn 2000, 282).

### **Medieval**

- 4.1.4 There are no definite 12th-century contexts. Pit 48 (Ctx 49) is spot-dated c 1150-1250 on the basis of a few sherds of East Wiltshire ware (OXAQ) and a small sherd of OXAC but the dating could be as late as 14th century if the latter is residual. It was noted that some sherds of East Wiltshire ware were almost purely tempered with coarse algal limestone (or chalk?) inclusions and contained remarkably little flint. This may be a more local variant of OXAQ, or perhaps a chalk-tempered ware unknown in the Oxfordshire series. Most medieval contexts here are dated by Minety ware (OXBB), the commonest high medieval fabric from the site. Also from Wiltshire, Minety ware was produced from c 1120 but the wheel-turned forms of this ware (as here) were only produced from c 1250. The largest high medieval assemblage (22 sherds) is from Pit 60 - dated to c 1250-1400 by the presence of Minety ware including glazed and unglazed sherds from jars/cooking pots and bowls. Two small body sherds from a single plain jug in Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM, c 1225+) provide useful dating confirmation. Two small sherds from a couple of other vessels in this fabric were noted from other medieval and post-medieval contexts. No definite late medieval pottery types (c 1375-1500) were noted.

### **Post-medieval**

- 4.1.5 The largest assemblage of this date is from Pit (or Trench) 76 which produced 14 sherds including some large fresh pieces. These include dishes and possible teapot sherds in Staffordshire white salt-glazed stoneware (SWSG) which provides a useful date bracket of c 1720-1780 for this group. Complex moulded decoration on the rim of one dish refines the date further to c 1750-1780 while fresh pieces of clay tobacco pipe stems suggest a late 18th- to 19th-century deposition date. Most of the post-medieval pottery from the site appears to date from the later 17th and 18th centuries and represents types commonly found in the region. Perhaps the only really notable piece (Pit 76, Ctx 78) is a large rim sherd from a globular storage jar in North Devon gravel-tempered ware (NDGT). This type is common further west along the Severn valley in places like Bristol, but its presence further east and as far inland as Oxfordshire is unusual and does not seem to have been previously noted in the county. It may have arrived here as a personal possession and - as the context is later 18th century - it may have reached the west Oxfordshire via the early canal system. The latest pieces in the assemblage (from field drain 70) are a couple of sherds of developed Creamware (made in Staffordshire or perhaps Bristol) including a jar rim of c 1790-1830 with rouletted and slipped decoration.

## **4.2 The clay tobacco pipes by John Cotter**

- 4.2.1 Seven pieces of clay pipe weighing 30g were recovered from four contexts. These have not been separately catalogued but are described below. No further work is recommended.
- 4.2.2 Context 53, produced a fairly worn stem fragment (4g) with stem bore c 3.25mm and dates to late 17th to early 18th century
- 4.2.3 Two fairly fresh stem fragments (8g) from context 57 gave a spot-date of early to mid 18th century. One has fairly chunky early-style stem but with a relatively narrow stem bore of c 2.5mm. The other earlier piece has a larger stem bore of c 3.5mm suggesting a date in the 17th century.



- 4.2.4 There was a fairly fresh stem fragment (5g) with a narrow stem bore c 2mm and a trace of pipe bowl base with a complete and prominent conical spur from context 75. It had a faint maker's mark in relief at the top of the spur. It had a spot-date of late 18th to 19th century.
- 4.2.5 Three fresh stem fragments came from context, 79, with narrow stem bores of c 2mm. They are probably from two pipes. One long slender stem (85mm long) is probably from the same pipe as one of the shorter stems (30mm). They are spot-dated to the 19th century.

### **4.3 Ceramic building material (CBM) by John Cotter**

- 4.3.1 Three pieces of CBM (all brick) weighing 2025g were recovered from three contexts. These have not been separately catalogued but are described below. No further work is recommended.
- 4.3.2 From context 24, a single piece (484g) of CBM was recovered. It was a fresh edge/side fragment from an unfrosted neatly-made brick in a soft, orange-red sandy fabric. One face (possibly the upper face) and part of the edge are covered in a fairly thick light grey ash glaze, and the brick itself is slightly bloated. The thickness (55mm) and ash glaze might suggest a 17th-century date but the but the sharp angles suggest a later date.
- 4.3.3 Context 55 had one piece of CBM, weighing 615g. It was a fairly worn fragment from central area of an unfrosted brick (thickness 62mm, width 108mm). It was a fairly soft lightweight fabric with light brown surfaces and a light orange core with few visible inclusions. It was fairly neatly made with fairly sharp angles but with slight creasing on the sides. It was probably mid 18th to early 19th century.
- 4.3.4 One piece of CBM was recovered from context 81, and weighed 926g. It was a fairly fresh complete end fragment from an unfrosted brick (thickness 65m, width 110mm). A dense fairly uniform orange-brown sandy fabric with races of white lime mortar on upper and lower faces. It was very regular with sharp angles and was possibly machine-made. It was probably 19th to early 20th century.

### **4.4 Glass by Ian Scott**

- 4.4.1 There are 41 sherds of glass comprising 26 sherds of vessel glass 15 sherds of window glass. The glass was recovered from six contexts (see Table 2, Appendix B).

#### ***Window glass***

- 4.4.2 All the window glass comes from a single context (77) and comprises small sherds of thin glass, most colourless or only slightly tinted, but including some pale green sherds and some pale blue glass. Three sherds have a single thickened edge and are clearly hand-made. The glass is probably post-medieval in date, but not more closely datable.

#### ***Vessel glass***

- 4.4.3 The vessel glass comes from five contexts (see Table 2). Much of the vessel glass can be dated (Table 3, Appendix B). Context 51 produced a single tiny thin-walled sherd of olive green glass, which is undiagnostic.
- 4.4.4 Context 53 produced twelve sherds, all from wine bottles. Three sherds were not closely datable. The remaining sherds ranged in date from the mid-18th century to the late 18th or early 19th century. The glass includes part of the base of 'Mallet' bottle or squat cylindrical bottle dating to the mid-18th century and parts of three moulded cylindrical wine bottles – possibly dip-moulded – dating to the late 18th or early 19th



century. From this context there was also a wine bottle seal. The seal was flat with no border but with slight indentation in the centre. It appears to have been embossed twice at slightly different angles. The embossing reads "FORT[E] . . CV.." over "F . . . . SC ." giving the impression of FF at the start of the name. It should perhaps read: "FORTEESCVE". The seal has not been identified but probably dates to the 18th century.

- 4.4.5 Context 75 produced six sherds, one undated, and three refitting sherds from a single bottle neck and finish. The latter was a short tapered neck from a squat mid-18th century bottle. It has a cracked-off rim and hand applied down-tooled string rim. There was also a sherd from a bottle base of similar date. There was also a thick-walled body sherd from moulded cylindrical bottle of late 18th- or early 19th-century date.
- 4.4.6 Context 78 produced two undated sherds and an almost complete tapered neck from an early 18th-century wine bottle. This had a cracked-off rim with a hand applied horizontal string rim immediately below.
- 4.4.7 Context 81 produced an undated body sherd, and three refitting sherds forming the base of a free blown cylindrical wine bottle of late 18th-century date. This was thick-walled with a deep domed push-up.
- 4.4.8 Although the window glass and some of the vessel glass cannot be closely dated, there is no glass that need date later than the early 19th century. The glass assemblages from contexts 53 and 75 probably date no later than the late 18th or early 19th century, and the associated bottle glass from context 81 also fits within this date span. The glass from context 77 is in association with wine bottle and pottery of mid 18th century date, and may have been manufactured earlier still. There is no modern window glass.

## 4.5 Metals by *Ian R Scott*

- 4.5.1 There are just eight pieces of ironwork from eight contexts (Table 4, Appendix B). The objects have been X-rayed and are fully recorded. Nail heads and complete nails are quantified.
- 4.5.2 Most of the metalwork is not closely datable typologically. One object cannot be identified to function. The most interesting object is a fragment of a post-medieval spur with hinged side and riveted strap attachments. It probably dates from the late 17th or 18th century.

### ***Catalogue***

- Context 5, Sf 2 Bar, or nail stem, fragment. Fe.
- Context 7, Sf 1 Probable tongue from a harness buckle, comprising narrow strip curved through its length with rolled over loop at one end and slight taper at the other end. Fe. L: 46; W: 8mm
- Context 32 Nail with small head and incomplete tapered shank rectangular in section, encrusted. Fe
- Context 39 Object of uncertain identification, comprising short curved bar deliberately flattened at one end to form a crude double lobed terminal. The lobed end is pierced by



a square hole filled by a square piece of iron, presumably part of a rivet or nail. Fe. L: 53mm; W: 26mm

- Context 47, Sf 3 Spur. Part of a spur comprising an incomplete curved and tapered half round section bar forming the heel portion of the spur. There is a slight evidence for the attachment of a prick or rowel neck at the extant wider end of the heel piece. The heel piece is hinged to a narrow tapering side piece ending with two linked riveted attachments for leather straps. Fe. L: 80mm; W: 70mm
- The riveted attachments and the hinged sides suggest a post medieval date, and this example probably dates to to the late 17th or 18th century.
- Context 65, sample 4 Nail stem fragment. Fe
- Context 71 T-headed nail with rectangular section stem and probable chisel tip (encrusted). Fe. L: 90mm
- Context 81 Strip, thick and bent at a right angle at one end and curved at the other. Possibly a handle or clamp. Fe. L: 130mm; W: 22mm
- Context 83, sample 3 Nail head. Fe

#### **4.6 Worked bone by Leigh Allen**

- 4.6.1 Layer 61 in pit 60 produced a fragment of worked bone stylus with iron point which could be part of a writing set. The stylus was found in a fill dated by pottery to the 13th-14th century. Bone styli of this date can be paralleled locally by examples from Eynsham (Allen in Hardy *et al.* 2003, 263-6). They are often associated with ecclesiastical sites, perhaps indicating a connection with the church at Bampton, but are also found in tenements, as at the Hamel in Oxford.

#### **4.7 Clinker by Geraldine Crann**

- 4.7.1 Context 83 produced five pieces of clinker. This context is of 13th-14th century medieval date, but it is uncertain whether the clinker is genuinely of this date, or has sunk into the pit fill from the post-medieval feature that truncated it, whose fill also contained clinker (not retained).



## 5 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

### 5.1 Animal Bone *by Lena Strid*

- 5.1.1 A total of 616 animal bone fragments were recovered from features dating to the Late Saxon, High Medieval and Post-medieval periods (Table 5, Appendix C). The assemblage included 118 fragments (19%) which came from sieved soil samples. These were rich in bones from microfauna such as amphibians. A full record of the assemblage, documented in a Microsoft Access database, can be found in the site archive.
- 5.1.2 The bone condition was generally good to fair. Gnaw marks from carnivores, probably dogs, were found on a total of 34 bones. Three bones from the High Medieval assemblages were burnt (Table 6, Appendix C).
- 5.1.3 The assemblage contains bones from cattle, sheep/goat, pig, horse, domestic fowl, duck, mouse/vole and frog. The predominance of cattle, sheep/goat and pig is common for Saxon, Medieval and Post-medieval assemblages, although due to the small sample size it is not possible to extrapolate the frequency of cattle, sheep/goat and pig and their contribution to the economy and diet. For comparison, the 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century assemblage from nearby Church View was dominated by bones from sheep/goat (n:334) followed by cattle (n:238), although considering meat weight, cattle would have been the most important meat provider (Charles 2000). The prevalence of sheep in Bampton points to the importance of wool production in the Middle Ages. As a market town Bampton would probably have been the temporary as well as the final destination for many sheep that were pastured in the nearby downlands.
- 5.1.4 A small number of bones could be attributed to minimum age at death (Tables 7-8, Appendix C). Cattle and sheep displayed a range of ages, suggesting that the animals comprised young surplus animals as well as older adults past their prime as milk cows, draught oxen, breeders or wool producers. The three ageable pig bones are consistent with animals kept for meat production. A small number of bones from juvenile cattle, sheep/goat and pig may be indicative of infant mortalities or of the utilization of veal/lamb/suckling pig.
- 5.1.5 Butchery marks occurred in all periods. The only evidence for primary butchery comprises a sagittally split vertebra from the post-medieval period and cut marks on a Late Saxon cattle tarsal bone, the latter suggesting disarticulation of the lower leg, or alternatively skinning. A sheep horn core from the Late Saxon period had been chopped off at the base, either as a way to utilize the horn sheath or to make the head easier to handle during processing. The next stages in the butchery process were disarticulation of the carcass and portioning of cuts suitable for individual meals, using heavy cleavers. Such butchery marks were found on a High Medieval distal cattle tibia and a post-medieval cattle pelvis, as well as vertebrae and ribs from large and medium mammals from most periods. Cut marks from filleting occurred on a Late Saxon sheep/goat femur, a post-medieval sheep/goat scapula, a post-medieval medium mammal long bone and on a hyoid from a large mammal, probably cattle, that was recovered from an undated feature.
- 5.1.6 Pathologies were found on two cattle bones and one sheep/goat bone in the Late Saxon assemblage, as well as on a horse skeleton, which will be discussed below. The pathologies on the cattle bones comprise fusion of tarsal bones and extended medial condyle on a metatarsal. Such pathologies have been associated with the use of cattle



as draught animals, although while they may derive from muscle strain, fusion of bones in particular can also derive from age related wear and tear of the joints (O'Connor 2008, 177-178). A sheep/goat ulna had porous bone growth on the lateral and medial side of the ulna shaft, possibly associated with infection.

- 5.1.7 A partially dismembered horse was found at the base of 17th century pit 40. The remains comprised the rib cage and associated thoracic spine upon which the left fore limb, right and left hind limbs were placed. Femora, pelvis, humeri, scapulae, neck and tail vertebrae, mandibles and the skull were absent. Some or all of these bones may originally have been deposited in the pit, as it extended beyond the excavation area. The endplates on the vertebrae ranged from fused to unfused, suggesting an age at death of c. 4-5 years (Habermehl 1975, 48). Periarticular exostoses were present on the five vertebrae closest to the lumbar region. This pathology is tentatively associated with bareback riding (Bartosiewicz and Gál 2013, 136-141; Levine *et al.* 2000; Levine *et al.* 2005), although a spur found with the skeleton implies a saddle. Although the bones were in good condition, no butchery marks were noted. While horses were not eaten in the Medieval or post-medieval period, they were often rendered for hide and fat. Horse meat could also be used as dog food. The disarticulation of the horse was probably a function of the relatively small size of the pit. Measurements of the metatarsal suggests that the horse had a withers' height of 148cm.

## 5.2 Environmental bulk samples by Sharon Cook

- 5.2.1 Six environmental samples were taken from this site. Samples <1> and <2> were taken from the uppermost and lower fills (7 and 9 respectively) of Late Saxon Pit 6. Sample <3> was taken from fill 83 in medieval pit 82, and samples <4> , <5> and <6> from the top, middle and lower fills (65, 63 and 61 respectively) of medieval pit 60. Finds retrieved from the environmental samples are reported upon in the relevant finds reports.
- 5.2.2 From pit 6, sample <1> contained pottery fragments, bone and a small fragment of iron. It was from the uppermost fill 7 and contained no charred weed seeds within the scanned portion. Twenty fragments of charred grain could be identified as probable wheat (*Triticum sp.*), but could not be identified to species. A single grain was identified as possibly oat (*Avena sativa*) and a second as possibly barley (*Hordeum vulgare*).
- 5.2.3 Also from pit 6, sample <2> contained pottery, and small quantities of bone including fish bone. It was from layer 9 towards the base, contained five charred weed seeds, only two of which could be identified. The first of these was a sedge (*Carex sp.*) and the other a member of the carrot family (*Apiaceae*), though its condition was too poor to take identification further. One charred grass seed fragment and ten cereal fragments were also present, the cereal is again probably wheat (*Triticum sp.*).
- 5.2.4 While both contexts contained a small amount of charcoal potentially large enough for species identification, on the whole both samples produced poor results. Modern fine roots and seeds as well as insects were common in both, probably wind-blown into the feature during excavation. The charred remains present were in poor condition possibly due to poor preservation although some grain fragments had a shiny and almost glass-like in appearance, indicative of a high heat during burning.
- 5.2.5 Sample <3>, from pit 82, which came from fill 83 at the base of the pit, contained bone, iron and a few fragments of slag. The condition of the charred remains from this feature was also poor, although a fragment of charcoal was noted which may be suitable for species identification. Modern roots were common as were modern seeds. A single fragment of grass seed and a fragment of legume were noted but could not be further





identified. Nineteen charred grain fragments were observed which are probably wheat (*Triticum sp.*).

- 5.2.6 Three samples were taken from pit 60. Sample <4>, context 65, contained bone, including fish, pottery fragments, and a small amount of marine shell. The flot was 25ml of which 50% was scanned. Sample <5>, from 63, contained bone and pottery fragments and only fine flecks of charcoal together with six charred grain fragments. Sample <6>, fill 61, contained bone and pottery fragments and contained a single large piece of charcoal and a fragment of charred legume.
- 5.2.7 The fills of this pit were poor in charred material, although modern seeds and insects were again common. Sample <4>, which was from upper fill 65, contained the majority of material retrieved. Two fragments of chaff may indicate the presence of glume wheat, however the grains while frequent, were in poor condition and could only be identified as wheat (*Triticum sp.*). Three legume fragments could not be further identified.
- 5.2.8 In conclusion, while the preservation of charred remains on this site was generally poor, this would appear to be the result of the burning process rather than a result of site conditions, as the bone and other artefacts were well preserved. There is a lack of wild plant remains generally, the majority of material being domestic in nature. The grain observed from the different periods appears to be very similar both in preservation and type, showing possible continuity of the activities carried out in the area of the site.

### 5.3 Fish bone by Rebecca Nicholson

- 5.3.1 A small quantity of well preserved fish bone was recovered from four of the sieved soil samples and was identified using the author's reference collection. Small numbers of rays and spines are present but are considered unidentifiable. Identified fragments comprise:

Sample 1, Late Saxon pit 6, fill 7: A small herring (*Clupea harengus*) vertebra.

Sample 2, Late Saxon pit 6, lower fill 9: Two herring maxillae (left and right side) together with a herring dentary and fragments of a cleithrum and an articular, probably also herring.

Sample 4, medieval pit 60, fill 65: A fragment of pike (*Esox lucius*) cleithrum, from a fish of less than c. 30cm long, together with a sea bream (Sparidae) tooth.

Sample 6, medieval pit 60, fill 61: A single herring vertebra.

- 5.3.2 The small assemblage includes both freshwater fish (pike) and marine fish (herring and sea bream). While the pike was probably caught locally the marine fish must have been imported, probably as preserved fish. To find sea bream in such a small assemblage is noteworthy and the assemblage should be retained for archive.

### 5.4 Marine Shell by Rebecca Nicholson

- 5.4.1 Native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) valves, in fair-poor condition and weighing 114g in total, were hand recovered from several contexts:

Late Saxon pit 6, fill 7: Two fragments of oyster valve (4g).

Late Saxon pit 30, fill 32: 1 fragment of oyster, left valve (16g). Thick shell.

Medieval pit 12, fill 13: Fossil oyster (*Gryphaea*) (21g).

Medieval pit 60, fill 61: One oyster left valve (43g). Thick and chalky shell with abundant perforations externally probably from the sponge *Cliona celata*.



Medieval pit 60, fill 65, sample 4: Three oyster valves (2 right, 1 left) fragmented and very flaky (21g).

Undated pit 17, fill 18: One small fragment of oyster valve (4g).

5.4.2 The shell clearly came from shellfish imported from the coast but no further information can be gained from such a small collection, which could be discarded.

## **5.5 Coprolite** *by Rebecca Nicholson*

5.5.1 A small pale brown vesicular concretion (7g) from pit 34, fill 35, includes a corroded fragment of mammal bone and is likely to be a partial dog coprolite.



## 6 DISCUSSION

### 6.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 6.1.1 Working conditions during the excavation were good, with fair weather and plenty of sunlight.
- 6.1.2 The intercutting of many features, and truncation of medieval features in particular by later ones, may sometimes have resulted in some intrusive later material becoming incorporated into earlier fills by post-depositional settling and earthworm activity.
- 6.1.3 Due to the circumstances of discovery, the hand-excavated sample represents only a small proportion of the many of the larger medieval features, and finds from some features are very few. In such cases, unless stratigraphic relationships also support the date suggested by the finds, the possibility of residual material providing the given date cannot be discounted. This should be borne in mind when considering the chronology presented above.
- 6.1.4 Finally, the degree of truncation by post-medieval features, which were mostly left unexcavated, will have significantly distorted the survival of medieval and Late Saxon features, and the surviving sample may not be representative of the original site assemblages of these periods. As the post-medieval features were not excavated by hand, and were only rapidly sorted during final machine removal, it is not possible to provide any quantification of the possible level of disturbed material that may have been involved.

### 6.2 Excavation objectives and results

- 6.2.1 (i) Archaeological features were encountered during the monitoring of the excavation of the swimming pool.
- (ii) The extents of the features were established in some cases, although truncation had removed parts of many, and others such as pit 6, the horse burial 40 in pit 47 and drain 27, extended beyond the limits of the excavation.
- (iii) Pottery, bricks, bottle glass, clay pipe and metal finds provided dating for many of the features and deposits, and stratigraphic relationships enabled others to be placed in broad sequence. A small proportion of the excavated features did not produce any finds, and had no relationships with other features, so remain undated.
- (iv) The earlier remains were often truncated, sometimes severely, so that the representativeness of the samples that were excavated in relation to the original contents of the features is uncertain. Finds and animal and fish bones and shells were fairly well-preserved, although other environmental remains were generally less well-preserved.
- (v) A matrix and phased site plan were produced to clarify the stratigraphic relationships on site. Vertical stratigraphy was only encountered in the north-east corner of the site, where a drain overlay a sequence of pits. Elsewhere, horizontal stratigraphy in the form of intercutting pits was very common, allowing some refinement of the chronological sequence. The full sequence of post-medieval activity was not however established due to the approach agreed on site.
- (vi) The extent of investigation was very limited, and none of the features was of landscape type. There was however negative evidence for an enclosure bank postulated as passing along the west side of the site.



(vii) Bulk samples were taken for charred plant remains (CPR) from dated and sealed contexts.

(viii) The animal bone, fish bones, shell and carbonised remains were studied for evidence of economy, diet and status. Marine fish bones and shells were present from the Late Saxon period onwards, showing that Bampton was tied into the circulation of these imported foodstuffs at this early period, as well as later on. The presence of sea bream is of note for the medieval period in an inland site such as this. The animal bones did not indicate any special status to the settlement, which showed the usual Late Saxon and medieval pattern for rural settlements.

(ix) The pottery and other finds were also studied for evidence of imported (ie non-local) materials potentially indicating high status or specific economic activities. The presence of St Neot's Ware showed, like the marine fish and shells, that Bampton was tied into the network of long-distance trade and exchange in the Late Saxon period. In the medieval period only the stylus is of particular note, but in the 18th century a sherd of North Devon gravel-tempered ware indicates an exotic import from the Bristol Channel area, while the spur and the wine bottles indicate horse-riding and the consumption of wine, which at this time was still affordable only by the well-to-do, and has clear implications for the social status of the owners of the property.

(x) and (xi) No evidence for earlier prehistoric activity was present, nor any relating to the Bronze Age barrows known close to the site.

(xii) There were no deposits or material encountered relating to the Iron Age, although the earliest undated feature, pit 34, might conceivably have been of prehistoric rather than of Saxon date.

(xiii) No middle Saxon remains were encountered, but late Saxon features that were clearly dated by pottery were found, and were likely to have been connected with settlement relating to the minster.

(xiv) and (xv) There was no evidence for the mid-late Saxon enclosure boundary (xiv), and neither did any of the bank material survive.

(xvi) The medieval evidence suggested a possible hiatus at the start of the medieval period, with a burst of renewed activity in the 13th-14th centuries. The area examined was however limited, so may not be representative of occupation on the property as a whole. The nature and range of features are indicative of settlement, in the form of pits, probably dug for domestic refuse. A possible link to the church may be indicated by a stylus, or otherwise a literate occupant.

(xvii) Evidence for late medieval and early post-medieval activity (1400-1650) was sparse. However, the area examined was insufficient to be sure that this is a reflection of the true level of activity across the property.

(xviii) Post-medieval activity was plentiful, mainly concentrated in the north and east half of the site. Significant levels of material are evident from the late 17th century onwards, and largely end in the early 19th century. Again, the area examined was small, and was compounded by the low level of excavation of the post-medieval features, so that the picture obtained may not be representative of the pattern of activity across the whole plot. Nevertheless, it may not be accidental that activity picks up at much the same time as the current buildings on the site are believed to have been constructed, and suggests that the finds are those used by the first generations inhabiting the buildings still standing on the property, in the later 17th and 18th centuries.



Despite being limited in number, the finds do provide some indication of the status of the inhabitants during this time. As already indicated in (ix) above, a sherd of North Devon gravel-tempered ware indicates an exotic import from the Bristol Channel area, while the spur and the wine bottles indicate horse-riding and the consumption of wine, which at this time was still affordable only by the well-to-do, and has clear implications for the social status of the owners of the property.

## 6.3 Interpretation

### *Prehistoric to Romano-British period*

- 6.3.1 There were no features revealed in the excavation area that were dated to the prehistoric or Romano-British periods, and only one undated feature (Pit 34) could possibly be so. Interestingly, this pit contained the only dog coprolite from the site. There were also no residual finds within the later features to indicate activity of these earlier dates within the site or its immediate vicinity.

### *Early-mid Saxon period*

- 6.3.2 There were no features or residual finds from the excavated features that indicate there was any Early or Middle Saxon activity within the development area.

### *Late Saxon period*

- 6.3.3 Two large features, pits 6 and 30, were of Late Saxon date. Their situation, and the fact that most of their fills appeared to derive from deliberate backfilling, would suggest that these pits were large refuse pits. It was originally thought that pit 6 might have been a cellar, but there was no evidence of structural supports, or of trample at the base, to support this suggestion. Both pits were deep and had relatively flat bottoms, so their primary use may have been for storage, before they were later used as middens.
- 6.3.4 Among the material recovered were bones of herring and marine oyster shells, like the St Neot's Ware pottery indicating that the occupants enjoyed imported goods and foodstuffs, and were tied into the long-distance trade network of the period. The harness buckle suggests the presence of horses on the property, another indication of status.
- 6.3.5 The two pits were located near to the west edge of the property, adjacent to the proposed line of the continuation of a large boundary ditch found by John Blair some 60m further south, and infilled by the early Norman period. This was believed by Professor Blair to surround the late Saxon minster, and to have run along Church Close west of the site. No trace of this feature, or of an upcast bank on its inner (eastern) side, was found, and given that pit 6 continued west beyond the limits of excavation, may indicate that the ditch ran further west than previously supposed. It seems less likely that the ditch postdated pit 6, if it represented a long-lived minster boundary.

### *High Medieval period*

- 6.3.6 More pits dating to the medieval period were found, almost all containing finds dated between the mid-13th century and the end of the 14th century. Although pits 48 and 82 were heavily truncated such that only the basal fills survived, pit 12 was better-preserved, with steep sides and a flat base, and included domestic debris, particularly in its upper fill.
- 6.3.7 The largest pit, 60, was perhaps the most interesting as it could have had a structural use. The layer with flat stones close to the bottom, 62, may have been a consolidation layer with the stones acting as a level surface, perhaps a floor upon which to store items. It may even have been the floor of a small cellar pit, the dark silty material



being an occupation layer, although against this there were however no clear structural features around the edges within the pit or external to it. Interpretation as a simple dump including stones seems less likely, as the stones were almost all horizontal, unless they had been dumped together with organic material, and settled as this decayed.

- 6.3.8 Among the finds from the primary fill of this pit was part of a 13th/14th century stylus, which are most commonly associated with either ecclesiastical or urban sites. Here, it may indicate a link with the adjacent church, or a person of some education. Otherwise the medieval finds were similar to those of the Late Saxon period. The limited environmental evidence did not indicate any significant changes in animal or crop husbandry between these two periods, but the fish remains were more varied, adding sea bream and freshwater species to the menu. This is a common finding for inland medieval rural sites of reasonable status, as at the grange of Abingdon Abbey at Dean Court Farm, Cumnor (Jones in Allen 1994, 396-8).

#### ***Late Medieval period***

- 6.3.9 There was only one feature that may have belonged to this period, feature 4, a small pit or posthole in the west half of the site. It is however likely that occupation this close to the church and the centre of the settlement continued throughout the whole of the medieval period, even if perhaps the main focus of activity shifted elsewhere within the property.
- 6.3.10 There was possibly a gap of up to 5m between the medieval pits and the road to the west (more like 4m including late medieval feature 4). It is possible that a small building might have stood here, against the hollow way sitting over the infilled ditch proposed by Blair in the medieval period, and the undated postholes 17 and 21 may provide some indication that this was indeed the case. It is however more likely that any substantial tenement buildings lay further south, closer to the position of the existing Cobb House.

#### ***Post-medieval period***

- 6.3.11 As discussed above, there was little evidence of post-medieval activity before the late 17th century.
- 6.3.12 From then on features were numerous and varied, comprising deep and shallow pits, postholes, a horse burial and shallow spreads. The stone-filled trench 89 along one side of one central large feature may have been the foundation of a wall, though it appeared to be contemporary with the deposits within the feature on one side, suggesting instead that it was a stone lining. There was however no trace of a similar lining anywhere else around the perimeter.
- 6.3.13 Ditch 76 appears to have been infilled with a mixture of domestic debris and building rubble, including window glass. This suggests a link with building construction, possibly with the construction or alteration of one or more of the buildings still standing on the property, as these are of later 17th or 18th century date.
- 6.3.14 Otherwise the contents of the pits generally contained domestic rubbish. The horse was not a workhorse, and was probably ridden, given the spur found with it. These and the wine bottles suggest that the occupants of the site during this period were well-to-do and of some social status. The sherd of North Devon ware may indicate someone with connections in the south-west.



### **Victorian and Modern**

- 6.3.15 One of the latest features in this area was the stone drain, which overlay a sequence of late 18th or early 19th century pits and postholes. The presence of this drain presumably indicates that this area had become a garden by the time it was constructed, which would chime with the comparative absence of Victorian pits and domestic debris from the site.

### **6.4 Significance**

- 6.4.1 A series of investigations at Bampton led by Professor John Blair have indicated that there were prehistoric barrows under central Bampton, and that there was probably a mid-Saxon minster, following which Bampton continued to be important in the Late Saxon and medieval periods.
- 6.4.2 Hard evidence for Saxon occupation has however been relatively slight, consisting of one radiocarbon-dated burial of the mid-Saxon period, a handful of sherds of early or mid-Saxon pottery from Church View, including two sherds from a North French Blackware vessel (Blinkhorn in Mayes *et al.* 2000, 280-283), and residual sherds in a large multi-phased ditch that was probably infilled by AD 1100.
- 6.4.3 Although pottery of fabric OXAC was also found at Church View, the absence of St Neot's ware there meant that this pottery was dated after the Norman conquest, and no features could confidently be dated to the Late Saxon period. At Cobb House, however, the combination of these traditions, as well as pottery of Saxon fabric OXB, clearly demonstrates the Late Saxon date of the earliest features here.
- 6.4.4 Although small in scale, the excavation at Cobb House has therefore provided significant new evidence for Late Saxon occupation in Bampton.
- 6.4.5 The location of the Late Saxon pits has also raised questions about the line of proposed minster enclosure north of the church, contributing to the debate about the extent and location of the minster.
- 6.4.6 The small number of previous excavations in Bampton mean that even the limited area examined at Cobb House represents a significant addition to the medieval evidence for the town. With the possible exception of the stylus, however, the medieval features and finds at Cobb House are not in themselves particularly significant. There is a difference of emphasis in terms of date to that at Church View (Mayes *et al.* 2000), but in neither case were the areas examined, or the assemblages of material recovered, very large.
- 6.4.7 The post-medieval evidence is also of limited and local significance, though it sheds some light on the diet, tastes and lifestyle of the first generations living in the buildings that still survive on the property. Here there may be the possibility of comparing the excavated evidence to documentary records for the property, and so increasing its significance. This however lies beyond the scope of this report.



## APPENDIX A. CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context no	Type	Extent (m)	Depth (m)	Comments/ interpretation	Context description	Finds and date
1	Topsoil	-			-	-
2	Made ground	-			-	-
3	Natural	-	-		-	-
4	Posthole cut	1.08 x 0.78	0.6	Possibly small pit, depth and location suggest likely a posthole.	Sub-circular; concave, slightly irregular base, steep sides, steeper on east side.	
5	Fill of posthole 4	1.08 x 0.78	0.6	Sole fill of posthole.	Friable, dark yellowish brown, sandy silt, moderate small-medium angular limestone inclusions.	Potsherd C13-15
6	Pit cut	1.46 x 1.37	1.12	Large sub-rectangular pit. Likely rubbish pit.	Sub-rectangular, concave base, steep sloped sides, rounded corners.	
7	Fill of pit 6		0.86	Upper fill. Substantial, homogenous deposit.	Soft, mid yellowish brown, sandy silt; frequent pea gravel, moderate small-medium angular limestone, moderate charcoal flecks.	Pottery C10-11 (fresh large sherds)
8	Fill of pit 6		0.15	Washed in silt layer.	Friable, mid brownish red, sandy silt; occasional pea gravel and charcoal flecks.	Pottery C10-early 13
9	Fill of pit 6		0.24		Friable, mid brownish yellow, silty sand; fine gravel, small limestone pebbles, charcoal flecks.	Pottery C10-early 13 (cf 8 above)
10	Pit fill		0.09	Near base of pit.	Friable, mid purpley brown clayey silt, occasional small pea gravel, charcoal flecks.	Pottery C10-early 13
11	Pit fill		0.05	Base fill, very sterile, redeposited natural.	Friable mid brownish yellow, silty sand, frequent small limestone gravel.	
12	Pit cut	0.72 x 1.46	0.42	Large pit in series of intercutting pits	Sub rectangular, flat base, steep near vertical sides.	
13	Fill of pit 12	1.34	0.29	Upper fill	Soft mid yellowish brown silty sand, small sub rounded limestone	Potsherd C12-14





Context no	Type	Extent (m)	Depth (m)	Comments/ interpretation	Context description	Finds and date
					pebbles, frequent small limestone gravel poorly sorted, moderate charcoal flecks.	
14	Fill of pit 12	1.48	0.13 - 0.42	Base fill	Friable mid brownish yellow silty sand, frequent small limestone pebbles and pea gravel, poorly sorted.	
15	Cut			Modern truncation	Cuts [12]	
16	Fill of 15			Modern backfill	Contained charcoal	
17	Pit cut	0.64	0.4	Possible terminus or rectangular pit	Rectangular, tapering at NW edge, flat base, steep regular sides. Truncated by 19.	
18	Fill of pit 17		0.4		Soft pale brownish yellow sandy silt, occasional large angular limestones, occasional small-medium limestones, moderate gravel, moderate charcoal flecks.	
19	Linear cut	5.3 x 2.48	-	Intercutting pits, unexcavated	Irregular linear, straight near vertical sides where seen. Not investigated due to site restrictions.	
20	Fill of linear 19	5.3 x 2.48			Firm, mid greyish brown, patchy, silty clay, patches of silty sand; frequent small-medium angular limestone in concentrations, occasional large limestones, moderate gravel.	
21	Posthole cut	0.28 x 0.34	0.31		Sub circular, shallow concave base, steep straight sides.	
22	Fill of posthole 21	0.28 x 0.34	0.31	Sole fill	Soft, mid yellowish brown, sandy silt; frequent limestone gravel	
23	Pit cut	0.75		Modern cut	Irregular, sides concave, gradual slope. Base unknown, not fully excavated.	
24	Fill of pit 23	0.75		Charcoal and brick dumps	Loose, mid brownish grey, black patches, sandy clay, pea grit and	Potsherd late 16C- 18, brick 18-early 19C



Context no	Type	Extent (m)	Depth (m)	Comments/ interpretation	Context description	Findings and date
					small gravel, charcoal lumps.	
25	Pit cut	0.25 x 0.4	0.23	Small modern pit	Oval, concave base, moderate sloped slightly convex sides.	
26	Fill of pit 25	0.25 x 0.4	0.23		Loose, mid brownish grey, black patches, sandy clay; charcoal lumps and peagrit inclusions	
27	Drain	0.6 x 1.8	0.28	Stone drain, north-south aligned. Made of two walls of drystone slabs with larger slabs for capping and a stone base.	Pale yellowish grey limestone in flat slabs on top of drain and dark bluey grey shelley limestone slabs at the bottom. Capping slabs up to 0.5x0.3x0.06m, smaller stones in sides. Rough undressed. Irregular coursing. Drystone construction.	
28	Pit cut	0.44	0.64		Oval, shallow concave base, steep sloped sides. Cuts pit 30.	
29	Fill of pit 28	0.44	0.64		Soft, dark yellowish brown, clayey sand, occasional small rounded limestone gravel.	Potsherd mid 16C-18
30	Pit cut	2.28	0.87	Large pit cut by pit 28. Possibly structural as it has a flat base. Irregular edge in nw corner may suggest a post hole. Was not visible in plan.	Sub rectangular, flat base steep sides, undercutting slightly on south side.	
31	Fill of pit 30	1.65	0.10	Base fill, sterile, redeposited natural	Friable, mid brownish yellow, silty sand, frequent, small rounded limestone gravel and peagrit.	Potsherd C8-11
32	Fill of pit 30	1.96	0.76		Soft, mid yellowish brown, sandy silt; occasional small-medium angular limestone, moderate charcoal flecks, frequent limestone gravel.	Pottery C10-11



Context no	Type	Extent (m)	Depth (m)	Comments/ interpretation	Context description	Findings and date
33	Fill of pit 30	1.26	0.14	Upper fill, banding within deposit of gravels and darker soils.	Firm, mid pinkish brown silty sand, frequent rounded limestone gravel,	
34	Pit cut	1.44	0.9		Oval, concave base, steep sides, get steeper towards top. Cut by 30 on south side.	
35	Fill of pit 34	1.44	0.3	Base fill	Friable, mottles mid blackish grey to mid yellowish brown, silty sand; frequent charcoal fragments, small angular limestones, frequent gravel.	
36	Fill of pit 34	1.14	0.18	Middle fill of pit	Friable, mid orangish brown mottled and patchy, silty sand.	
37	Fill of pit 34	0.9	0.44	Upper fill	Soft, mid reddish brown, sandy silt; moderate small limestone gravel, occasional charcoal flecks.	
38	Pit cut	0.72	0.28	Shallow pit, cuts 40.	Moderate sloping sides, with irregular steps, concave base.	
39	Fill of 38	0.72	0.28		Friable, mid greyish brown, sandy silt; frequent peagrit.	Pottery late 16C-18, worn
40	Pit cut	0.98	0.84	Horse burial	Near vertical sides, flat base, cut by 38 and truncated by modern cut.	
41	Fill of pit 40	0.81	0.31		Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt; frequent peagrit	
42	Fill of pit 40	0.82	0.07	Redeposited natural	Loose, mid brownish yellow, sandy gravel.	
43	Fill of pit 40	0.75	0.19-0.30	Deliberate backfill of redeposited gravel to cover burial	Loose, mid orange yellow, sandy gravel.	
44	Fill of pit 40	1.01	0.18	Likely deliberate backfill	Friable, mid greyish brown sandy silt; frequent gravel	
45	Fill of pit 40	0.94	0.25	Likely deliberate backfill	Friable, mid orange yellow with brownish	



Context no	Type	Extent (m)	Depth (m)	Comments/ interpretation	Context description	Findings and date
					patches, sandy gravel.	
46	Fill of pit 40	0.64	0.21	Upper fill	Friable, mid grey brown, sandy silt, frequent peagrit.	
47	Pit fill of 40			Fill surrounding horse burial	Soft, blackish grey silt; very organic	Iron spur late 17C
48	Pit cut	0.56	0.23	Truncated by 38 and 40	No sides visible, flat base.	
49	Fill of pit 48	0.56	0.18		Friable, mid grey brown, sandy silt; moderate gravel inclusions.	Pottery C12-14
50	Fill of pit 48	0.21	0.22	Slump of natural gravel	Friable, mid brownish yellow, sandy gravel.	
51	Fill of drain 27	0.26	0.16	Fill within stone drain 27.	Soft dark orange brown, sandy silt; occasional gravel	
52	Cut for drain 27	0.58	0.3	Construction cut	Linear, vertical sides, flat base.	
53	Fill of pit 54	0.45	0.22		Soft. Dark, yellowish brown, silty sand; frequent gravel, occasional large angular limestone.	Pottery later 18C, clay pipe L17/E18C, glass wine bottle late 18/early 19C
54	Pit cut	0.45	0.22		Irregular, v-shaped angular base, straight moderate sloped sides.	
55	Fill of posthole 56	0.42	0.31	Possible post pipe	Soft, loose, mid yellowish brown, silty sand; frequent gravel, occasional small angular limestone blocks. Fine root disturbance.	Brick mid 18-early 19C
56	Posthole cut	0.4	0.69		Circular, concave base, steep sides.	
57	Fill of pit 58	0.43	0.35		Soft, mid yellowish brown, silty sand; frequent gravel, occasional small limestones.	Clay pipe mid 18C
58	Pit cut	0.43	0.35		Sub circular, flat base, gradual break of slope with steep sides. Cut by 56 and 52.	
59	Posthole fill	0.4	0.22		Soft, mid yellowish brown, silty sand; frequent gravel.	
60	Pit cut	1.64 x	0.98	Possibly	Sub rectangular, flat	



Context no	Type	Extent (m)	Depth (m)	Comments/ interpretation	Context description	Finds and date
		1.22		structural	base, vertical sides, gradual break of slope to base.	
61	Fill of pit 60	1.14 x 1.14	0.22	Base fill of pit, redeposited natural	Friable, mid yellowish brown, silty sand; frequent gravel, occasional small limestone.	Potsherd mid 13C-14
62	Fill of pit 60	1.14 x 1.16	0.12	Consolidation deposit, layer of stones.	Soft, dark greyish brown, sandy silt; frequent large limestone slabs, laid horizontally in the deposit, occasional charcoal.	
63	Fill of pit 60	1.14 x 1.18	0.32	Thinner to west and north.	Soft, mid greyish brown, sandy silt; frequent small-medium limestone.	Pottery mid 13C-14
64	Fill of pit 60	1.12 x 1.6	0.08	Silty layer	Soft mid brownish orange, silty sand; occasional small limestone, frequent gravel.	
65	Fill of pit 60	1.64 x 1.22	0.54	Upper fill. Possible deliberate backfill.	Soft, mid greyish brown, clayey sand; frequent gravel, occasional large angular limestones, small limestones, occasional charcoal.	Pottery mid 13C-14
66	Pit cut	0.36 +	0.34	Cut by field drain 70.	Sub-circular, concave base, shallow concave sides.	
67	Fill of pit 66	0.36	0.34		Soft, dark greyish brown, sandy silt; moderate small-medium limestone, frequent gravel.	
68	Cut	0.64 +	0.32 +	Large cut.	Irregular, sub rectangular, top edge gradual slope, concave.	
69	Fill of 68	0.32 +	0.64 +		Firm, mid yellowish brown, sandy clay; frequent medium limestones, frequent gravel, moderate brick and tile.	
70	Field drain cut	0.24	0.36		Linear, vertical sides, flat base.	
71	Fill of field drain	0.24	0.36		Firm, dark greyish brown, sandy clay; frequent stone and rubble.	Pottery L18C/early 19C



Context no	Type	Extent (m)	Depth (m)	Comments/ interpretation	Context description	Findings and date
72	Pit cut	0.16+	0.15	Cut by 76	Irregular pit, flat base, very little of pit excavated within this slot.	
73	Fill of pit 72	0.16+	0.15	Only small amount excavated within the intervention	Soft, mid greyish brown, silty sand; frequent gravel inclusions.	
74	Pit cut	1.5	0.3	Full extent unknown. Cut by 76.	Irregular, upper part of sides steep and convex, not fully excavated in intervention	
75	Fill of pit 74	1.46 x 0.3	0.34	Not fully excavated	Firm, mid greyish brown sandy clay; frequent brick, moderate small-medium limestone	Potsherd C12-16, clay pipe L18-19C, bottle glass late 18/early 19C
76	Ditch cut	2.48 (l)	0.46		Linear, shallow concave base, steep, slightly irregular sides.	
77	Fill of ditch 76	1.54	0.25	Deliberate backfill with rubble and surrounding soils	Soft, dark greyish brown, sandy clay; frequent gravel, moderate small limestone pebbles.	Pottery mid 18C, post-med window glass
78	Fill of ditch 76	0.14 x 2	0.25, varies	Deliberate backfill with rubble and surrounding soils	Firm, dark brownish grey, sandy clay; frequent small-medium limestone, occasional large limestone, frequent brick and tile rubble.	Pottery late 17C-18, bottle glass early 18C
79	Fill of ditch 76	0.34 x 2	0.14	Towards upper part of feature	Firm, dark greyish brown, clayey sand; frequent gravel	Pottery later 18C, clay pipe L18-19C
80	Fill of ditch 76	1.34 x 0.25	0.06	Upper fill of ditch. Likely dumped deposit, deliberate backfill	Soft, mid greyish brown, silty sand; frequent gravel, frequent rubble, ash, charcoal.	Pottery later 18C
81	Deposit	1.4 x 1.12	0.08-0.10	Spread of patchy material	Firm, mid brownish grey, patchy, dark brownish orange, sandy clay; frequent gravel, frequent brick, tile, rubble, charcoal, coal and clinker?	Pottery mid 18C, brick 19-early 20C, bottle glass late 18C
82	Pit cut	1.04	0.5	All sides of pit truncated. Base survives, fill remained to 0.5m.	Rectangular, flat base, gradual break of slope with sides, no edges visible in slot.	



Context no	Type	Extent (m)	Depth (m)	Comments/ interpretation	Context description	Findings and date
83	Fill of pit 82	1.04	0.5	Sole fill of pit	Firm, mid reddish brown, sandy silt; frequent gravel	Pottery mid 13C-14
84	Pit cut	0.52 x 0.46	0.3	Small pit, not easily defined in plan due to layer 81	Circular, not fully excavated, moderate concave sides.	
85	Fill of pit 84	0.52 x 0.46	0.3	Sole fill of pit	Firm, mid brownish grey, sandy clay; frequent charcoal, frequent limestone gravel and medium limestones; frequent cbm	Pottery 18C
86	Pit cut	0.45	0.3	Small pit, difficult to define in plan.	Circular, not fully excavated, shallow concave sides and base.	
87	Fill of pit 86	0.45	0.3	Similar material to dumped deposit 81	Firm, mid brownish grey, sandy clay; frequent gravel and small-medium limestones, brick, tile, charcoal.	
88	Fill of cut 89	0.78	0.25	Wall foundation	Stone rubble fill, large angular limestone blocks and small limestone, patches of mid grey sandy mortar.	
89	Construction cut	0.78	0.25	Cut for wall foundation	Linear, flat base, steep near vertical sides.	



## APPENDIX B. FINDS TABLES

**Table 1: Catalogue of Pottery**

Context	Spot-date	Fabric	Form	Sherds	Wt	Diam	EVEs	Comments
5	c1225-1625	OXAM		1	1			Scrappy thin-walled (3mm) bo (body sherd) poss from a jug in deep buff fine Brill/Boarstall ware with speck of brown glaze. Medieval (to c 1500) rather than early post med?
7	c900-1100	OXR	JAR	3	88	145	34	Fresh joining large rim sherd & 2 bos (body sherds). Globular neckless St Neots ware jar/cook pot with short everted flanged/angled rim with rounded lip. Reduced black fabric with patches of sooting ext. Thin-walled. ILLUS?
7	c900-1100	OXR	JAR	1	11	180	6	Fresh jar rim as above but more thickly potted. Everted rim as above but slightly convex on int surface. Black. Sooted ext
7	c900-1100	OXR		4	12			SIEVED SAMPLE <1>. Bos St Neots. Prob from jars above
7	c900-1100	OXAC	JAR	3	164	160	33	Fresh joining sherds. Large rim & small joining rims & 1 bo. Globular neckless jar/cook pot, heavily potted, with (late Saxon?) straight everted angled rim slightly flattened top/ lip. Internal neck/shoulder angle. Heavily sooted/blackened ext & int over rim. Brown fabric with grey core. Abund oolite & some rounded quartz grains. Sparse platy fossil shell inclusions including bivalve and gastropod to 3mm across & a single sea urchin fossil 2mm across. Rare bryozoa. Prob knife-trimmed at neck/shoulder junction ext (slightly angled/ridged). 2x possible ancient rough perforations through shoulder (soil-stained not sooted). ILLUS?
7	c900-1100	OXAC	JAR	1	13	200	5	Jar rim as above but more thickly potted. Neck area missing. Sooted ext & int over rim. Fairly fresh
7	c900-1100	OXAC	JAR	2	33			Fairly fresh bos from 2 separate vess but poss from one or other of the jars above. The larger sherd sooted int. Both brownish
7	c900-1100	OXAC	JAR	1	5			SIEVED SAMPLE <1>. Bo OXAC. Prob from jars above





8	c900-1250	OXAC	JAR	1	18			Fresh sagging base/lower wall prob jar. Unsooted. Light brown fabric with v coarse inclusions - up to 3mm. Prob separate vess from those in (7)
9	c900-1250	OXAC	JAR	2	17			SIEVED SAMPLE <2> Fresh sagging base/lower wall prob jar. Light brown fabric with v coarse inclusions - incl ironstone up to 5mm. V similar to base in (8) but heavily sooted int & prob from a separate vessel?. The smaller bo is sooted on break edge only
10	c900-1250	OXAC	JAR	1	7			Fresh fairly thin-walled bo prob from jar shoulder. Reduced. Sooted ext. poss wheel- or turntable-finished. Coarse inclusions incl fossil ?echinoid spine or coral & sparse rounded black/brown ironstone. Less likely an early wheel-turned Minety ware ware c 1250+
13	c1150-1350	OXAQ		1	5			Bo from neck of jug or jar in sandy OXAQ with sparse limestone & sparse v coarse rounded flint to 6mm. Reduc int, oxidised brownish ext. Band of vertical or oblique combed decoration ext
24	c1580-1800	PMR		1	33			Fresh bo from flat base of dish or jar with glossy greenish-brown glaze. Possibly post-med Brill redware?
29	c1550-1800	PMR	JAR	1	11			Worn/damaged rim probably from jar with lid-seated rim with int dark brown glaze. Orange-brown surfaces/margins with broad grey core
31	c775-1050	OXB		1	5			Worn bo Late Saxon Oxfordshire shelly ware. Fairly sandy. Coarse platy fossil shell inclusions up to 3mm across.
32	c900-1100	OXR	JAR	2	20			St Neots. Large sagging base prob from a wide jar (base diam c 200mm?). Reduced with thick carbonised deposit int. Smaller bo prob from same base. Both fairly worn
32	c900-1100	OXAC	JAR	1	9	300	4	Plain everted tapering rim with rounded lip. Probably from a large jar or bowl? Brownish with grey core. Heavily sooted ext
32	c900-1100	OXB		1	2			Scrappy bo. Coarse platy shell. Sooted
39	c1580-1750?	PMBL		1	3			Fresh bo black-glazed PMR poss jug or globular cup/jar?
39	c1580-1750?	PMR		1	29			Worn bo from lower wall jar/jug with int brown glaze



39	c1580-1750?	BORDG		1	4			Worn bo (c1550-1700) poss from dish/bowl with int green glaze
49	c1150-1250?	OXAQ	JAR	3	16			Joining fresh bos. Hard-fired, thin-walled. Mainly algal chalk/limestone-tempered with only rare flint. Reduc int, oxid ext. sooted ext
49	c1150-1250?	OXAC	JAR	1	3			Bo. Fairly fresh. Fine inclusions
53	c1750-1780	ENPO		1	15			Fresh bo from jug/jar in 18C English porcelain with groups of stylised blue painted flowers/sprigs
53	c1750-1780	SWSG	JAR	3	22	180	15	Joining fresh sherds Staffs white salt-glazed stoneware incl 2 rims from globular jar or poss chamber pot with a rolled-over ext bead rim which is hollow
53	c1750-1780	SWSG	DISH	2	21			Poss 1 vess. Fresh sherds. Scalloped outline rim from a dish/plate with beaded decoration on lip (diam uncertain). Flat base poss from same dish
53	c1750-1780	BRSL	FLP	2	32			Brill-type flower pot. Incl worn bo with band of white slip decoration under rim. Flat base with central perforation & pool of brown glaze underside with rim stacking impression
53	c1750-1780	BRSL	BOWL	1	31	240	10	Brill slipware bowl/dish with straight flaring wall and short downturned rim. Large vertical dashes or bands of white slip int under clear brown glaze
53	c1750-1780	BRSL	BOWL	1	18			Bowl as above with same style of decoration but separate vessel . Broken/worn rim. Diam not measurable
53	c1750-1780	PMR	JAR	1	24	240	5	Storage jar with large triangular rim. Brown glaze allover int, partially ext. slightly worn
53	c1750-1780	PMR		1	48			Flat base from bowl/jar with int orange-brown glaze. Worn
61	c1250-1400	OXAQ		1	18			Fresh basal sherd from large jar/bowl. OXAQ fabric as above in (49) but mainly algal limestone/chalk & v little visible flint. Black reduced
61	c1250-1400	OXBB	JAR	1	30			Fresh bo Minety ware. Prob jar or jug? Wheel-thrown with light brownish fabric throughout
61	c1250-1400	OXAM	JUG	1	9			V hard, fresh, over-fired bo prob Brill/Boarstall-type ware - probably from lower wall of jug. Unglazed buff-brown fine sandy fabric with reduced ext. Vessel poss deformed/warped?



61	c1250-1400	OXBB	BOWL	1	14	180	6	SIEVED SAMPLE <6> Bowl/dish with short curving wall & plain upright thickened, slightly flattened, rim. Handmade? Oxidised light orange-brown fabric with traces of yellow glaze in basal/lower wall area. ILLUS?
61	c1250-1400	OXBB		1	1			SIEVED SAMPLE <6> Small bo. Reduc. Thin-walled
63	c1250-1400	OXBB	BOWL	1	41	420	4	Prob Minety. Rim from wide bowl in reduced grey fabric. Everted sickle-shaped rim with upturned/inturned hook/lip with broad thumbed decoration along the top. Furrowed or finger-grooved dec ext. Sooted ext
63	c1250-1400	OXBB	JAR	2	40			Bos from 1 or 2 jars. 1 probably JOINS (61). The other has a horizontal thumbed strip. Both light brown
63	c1250-1400	OXBB	JAR	1	15			SIEVED SAMPLE <5>. Fresh bo from shoulder of large thin-walled jar/cpot with slight shoulder carination/angle. Brownish grey
63	c1250-1400	OXAQ	JAR	2	30			Fairly worn sagging base from large jar/cpot with ext sooting. Smaller flat bo prob JOINS (61). Both in algal limestone/chalk-temp fabric as above
65	c1250-1400	OXBB	JAR	7	82			1x sag base & other bos (some joining) from at least 4 vessels Minety ware. Includes oxid brown bos that probably JOIN (61) & (63) above - 1 of the latter has typical (worn) glaze internally. 2 reduced incl 1 dark grey. All probably wheel-turned. Fresh & worn
65	c1250-1400	OXBB		1	30			SIEVED SAMPLE <4>. Sag base from v wide jar or bow with low-angle wall. Reduced grey. Dull greenish-grey glaze all over int. Patches of sooting int & ext
65	c1250-1400	OXAM		1	1			SIEVED SAMPLE <4>. Small bo hard buff-brown Brill/Boarstall ware with over-fired glossy dark brown glaze ext. V prob JOINS (61) but no physical join - from higher up the vessel ? Jug?
65	c1250-1400	OXAQ	JAR	1	10	190	3	Diam approx. Worn rim - thickened flat-topped with thumbing along lip. Reduced. Shell & flint
65	c1250-1400	OXBF		1	6			Reduced bo with v coarse flint & little else. Kennet Valley A, prob c 1050-1250
71	c1790-1830	CREA	JAR	1	2	180	2	Creamware. Plain rim from cylindrical jar with banded pale blue slip & roulette pellets under green glaze band



71	c1790-1830	CREA		1	2			Poss dish base. Burnt
71	c1790-1830	OXAM		1	2			Unglazed bo Brill/Boarstall ware. Buff-brown
71	c1790-1830	OXBB	JAR	1	15			Oxid bo with int glaze. JOINS (65).
71	c1790-1830	OXBB		1	5			Hard reduc flat bo with chalky limestone rather than oolite - ldark grey surfaces, grey-brown core. Surfaces slurried
75	c1150-1550	OXBB	JAR	1	7			Hard oxid brown bo. Prob Minety. Sooted ext
77	c1720-1780	SWSG		1	35			Fresh flat basal sherd - poss dish?
77	c1720-1780	PMR	BOWL	1	86	320	9	Flaring straight wall bowl with heavy bead rim. Int glossy brown glaze. Poss Brill?
78	c1680-1800?	PMR		1	21			Pad base from jug/bowl in PMR with brown glaze allover int/ext & fine brown iron-streaking in glaze (like STMO)
78	c1680-1800?	PMR	JAR	1	131	340	12	Storage jar rim (or bowl?). Poss pmred Brill redware. Slack globular form with heavy triangular rim. Glossy int greenish-brow glaze with large glaze droplets on apex of rim (inverted firing position) & trail of glaze ext. Fresh
78	c1680-1800?	NDGT	JAR	1	119	240	16	North Devon gravel-tempered ware. Storage jar rim. Globular with thickened everted cavetto rim with an internal bead or lip. Finger-grooves or furrows on int of neck. Slight ridge on shoulder. V pale grey-brown ext surface, pale brown-buff int with same colour margins & pale grey core. V hard smooth fabric with moderate coarse angular to sub-rounded milky & clear quartz & sparse coarse metamorphic inclusions including brown biotite mica, probably white feldspar & shiny black augite or tourmaline? Below neck int are traces of v dark brown/black shiny glaze & horizontal glaze dribbles on int neck. Poss the first eg of NDGT identified in Oxon. ILLUS?
79	c1750-1780	SWSG	DISH	2	23	260	3	Profile dish with flat base & scallop outline rim with moulded diaper & pellet decoration on flange



79	c1750-1780	WEST	MUG	1	8			Fresh bo Westerwald stoneware mug/tankard with typical moulded complex leaf-shaped panels filled with blue & purple glaze, c 1675-1750
80	c1750-1780	SWSG	DISH	1	6	260	3	Rim JOINS (79) but has basketwork moulded dec (alternating panel of basket & diaper dec around the rim)
80	c1750-1780	SWSG	TPOT	4	40			Prob 1 vess. 2x footing bases & 2 fresh bos from globular form - probably a teapot as the int has been fairly roughly smoothed (unlike a bowl)
80	c1750-1780	PMR	BOWL	1	24			Slightly worn bo. JOINS (81)
81	c1720-1780	CHPO	DISH	1	1	160	2	Diam approx. Chinese porcelain dish or saucer rim. Thin-walled with pale blue painted border and traces of dec int and a café au lait rim
81	c1720-1780	SWSG		1	10			Deep footing base, diam 80mm. Poss bowl or small teapot etc
81	c1720-1780	SWSG	DISH	1	4			Bo from dish wall. Steep straight sided
81	c1720-1780	PMBL	BOWL	1	7	180	2	Bowl or dish. Slack S-shaped profile with plain flaring rim. Thin walled. Black glaze allover int/ext. horiz groove on shoulder. Poss a shallow porringer-type bowl?
81	c1720-1780	PMR	BOWL	2	131			Joining bos from thick-walled bowl (Brill?) with glossy brown glaze int & broad horiz glaze dribble or run ext. glaze flaked in places
81	c1720-1780	PMR		1	16			Bo poss from jar, with int glaze
83	c1250-1400?	OXBB	JAR	2	33			Fairly fresh bos prob from 2 separate jars/cpots. Wheel-thrown. Large sherd reduced with traces decayed glaze int. Smaller brownish-grey
83	c1250-1400?	OXAQ	JAR	2	15			Worn bos. Prob 2 vess? Sooted ext. both with more algal limestone/chalk than flint
83	c1250-1400?	OXBF		1	3			Worn bo. V coarse flint
83	c1250-1400?	OXR		1	2			Worn scrappy bo St Neots. Sooted int
85	c1700-1800?	PMBL		1	2			Thin-walled prob flat basal sherd/bo. Similar to PMBL bowl in (81) poss same vess?
85	c1700-1800?	PMR		1	11			Poss jar bo with int brown glaze. Similar in (81) but prob separate vessel
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>104</b>	<b>1808</b>		<b>174</b>	

Key: bo – body sherd, bos- body sherds



**Table 2: Glass: Summary quantification by context and glass type (sherd count)**

Context	Type		Totals
	vessel	window	
51	1		1
53	12		12
75	6		6
77		15	15
78	3		3
81	4		4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>41</b>

**Table 3: Glass: Summary quantification by context and glass date (sherd count)**

Context	glass date							Totals
	18th c	early 18th c	mid 18th c	late 18th c	late 18th or early 19th c	post medieval	undated	
51							1	1
53	3	1		3	2		3	12
75			4		1		1	6
77						15		15
78		1					2	3
81				3			1	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>41</b>

**Table 4: Metals: Summary by Function and context (object count)**

Context	Function					Totals
	Transport	Binding	Nails	Misc	Query	
5				1		1
7	1					1
32			1			1
39					1	1
47	1					1
65			*			*
71			1			1
81		1				1
83			1			1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>

## APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL TABLES

**Table 5. Animal bone assemblage from Cobb House by species**

	Late Saxon	High Medieval	Post-medieval	Undated
Cattle	26	3	6	1
Sheep/goat	34	7	9	1
Pig	19	5		
Horse	3		1	244*
Domestic fowl	3	4		
Duck			1	
Indet. bird	1	10		
Mouse/vole		2		
Frog	1			
Amphibian	5	15		
Microfauna	1	4		
Small mammal	1			
Medium mammal	44	14	3	6
Large mammal	22	16	9	3
Indeterminate	37	51	2	2
TOTAL	197	131	31	257
Weight (g)	3409	826	994	4084

\*: horse burial

**Table 6: Bone preservation and number of bones with traces of burning and gnawing**

	Number	0	1	2	3	4	5	Burnt	Gnawed
Late Saxon	197	15	113	68	1				21
High Medieval	131	35	40	55	1			3	8
Post-medieval	31		27	3	1				5
Undated	257		253	4					

**Table 7: Tooth wear and estimated age of sheep/goat and pig in the Cobb House assemblage, following Grant (1982), O'Connor (1988) and Payne (1973).**

Phase	Species	dp4	M1	M2	M3	MWS	Estimated age
Late Saxon	Cattle		m	j	l	49	Senile
	Sheep/goat			g	c	32-34	2-3 years
	Pig		f	c	V	20	Sub-adult
			j	e	a	30	Sub-adult
Post-medieval	Sheep/goat		k	g	f	38	3-4 years
Undated	Sheep/goat	j	g	V		14	6-12 months



**Table 8: Epiphyseal fusion of cattle, sheep/goat, pig and horse in all phases from the Cobb House assemblage, following Habermehl (1975). Fusion stages follows Serjeantson (1996).**

LATE SAXON		Unfused	Fusing	Fused
Cattle	Early fusion			2
	Mid fusion			4
	Late fusion	1	1	
Sheep/goat	Early fusion			6
	Mid fusion		1	2
	Late fusion	1		
Pig	Early fusion			
	Mid fusion	1		
	Late fusion			
Horse	Early fusion			1
	Mid fusion			
	Late fusion			
HIGH MEDIEVAL		Unfused	Fusing	Fused
Sheep/goat	Early fusion			
	Mid fusion			1
	Late fusion			
POST-MEDIEVAL		Unfused	Fusing	Fused
Sheep/goat	Early fusion			1
	Mid fusion			2
	Late fusion			





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## APPENDIX E. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

<b>Site name:</b>	Cobb House, Bampton
<b>Site code:</b>	BAMCOBWB
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SP 3120 0345
<b>Type:</b>	Watching Brief becoming small excavation
<b>Date and duration:</b>	27th May to 10th June
<b>Area of site:</b>	117m <sup>2</sup> .

**Summary of results:** Late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval features were found to the north of Cobb House during monitoring of machine excavation for a swimming pool. In the light of these discoveries, the watching brief was changed to a small excavation that targeted the earlier, that is the Late Saxon and medieval features for sampling by hand. Surface finds were gathered from post-medieval features to provide rough dating, and a small number of post-medieval features were also part-excavated where their date was not immediately apparent from surface finds. Once it was clear that they were post-medieval, excavation ceased. When the characterisation of the earlier features was completed, machine excavation under archaeological watching brief resumed.

Three principal phases of activity were discovered: Late Saxon, characterised by large pits with domestic debris, mid 13th-14th century, characterised by large and smaller pits, and again producing domestic debris, and later 17th-early 19th century, comprising pits and occasional postholes, a partial horse burial, a ditch and a stone drain. Given the small area examined, however, the remains from other phases of the medieval and post-medieval periods may be represented elsewhere on the property.

The finds of the Late Saxon period included marine fish and shells and traded pottery, evidence that the site was tied into the long distance trade network of the period. Among the medieval finds was part of a 13th/14th century stylus, which are most commonly associated with either ecclesiastical or urban sites. Here, it may indicate a link with the adjacent church, or a person of unusual education. The post-medieval finds included a spur found with a horse burial and a collection of wine bottles, indicating that the inhabitants were persons of some status.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course, under accession number OXCMS. 2014.121.



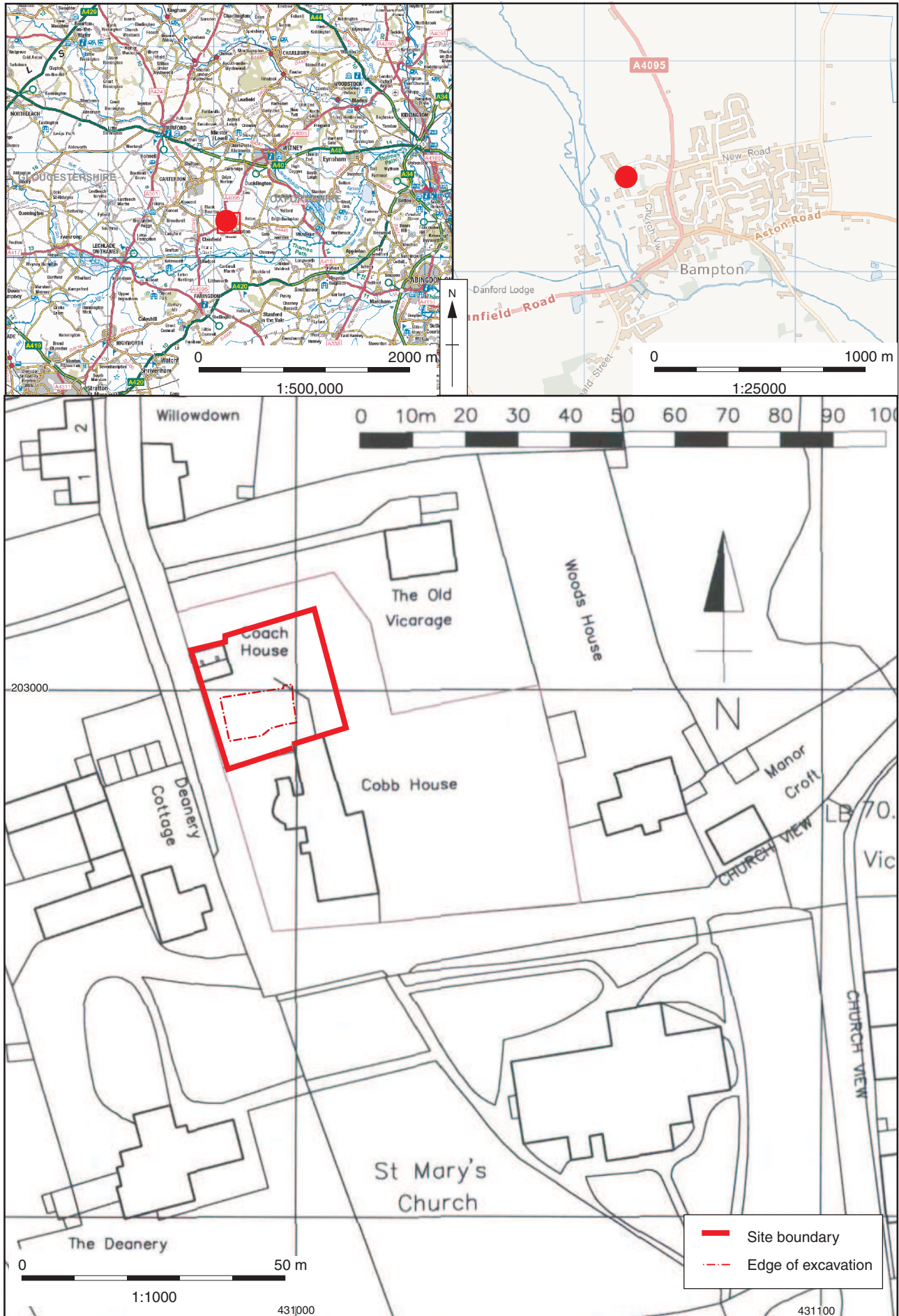
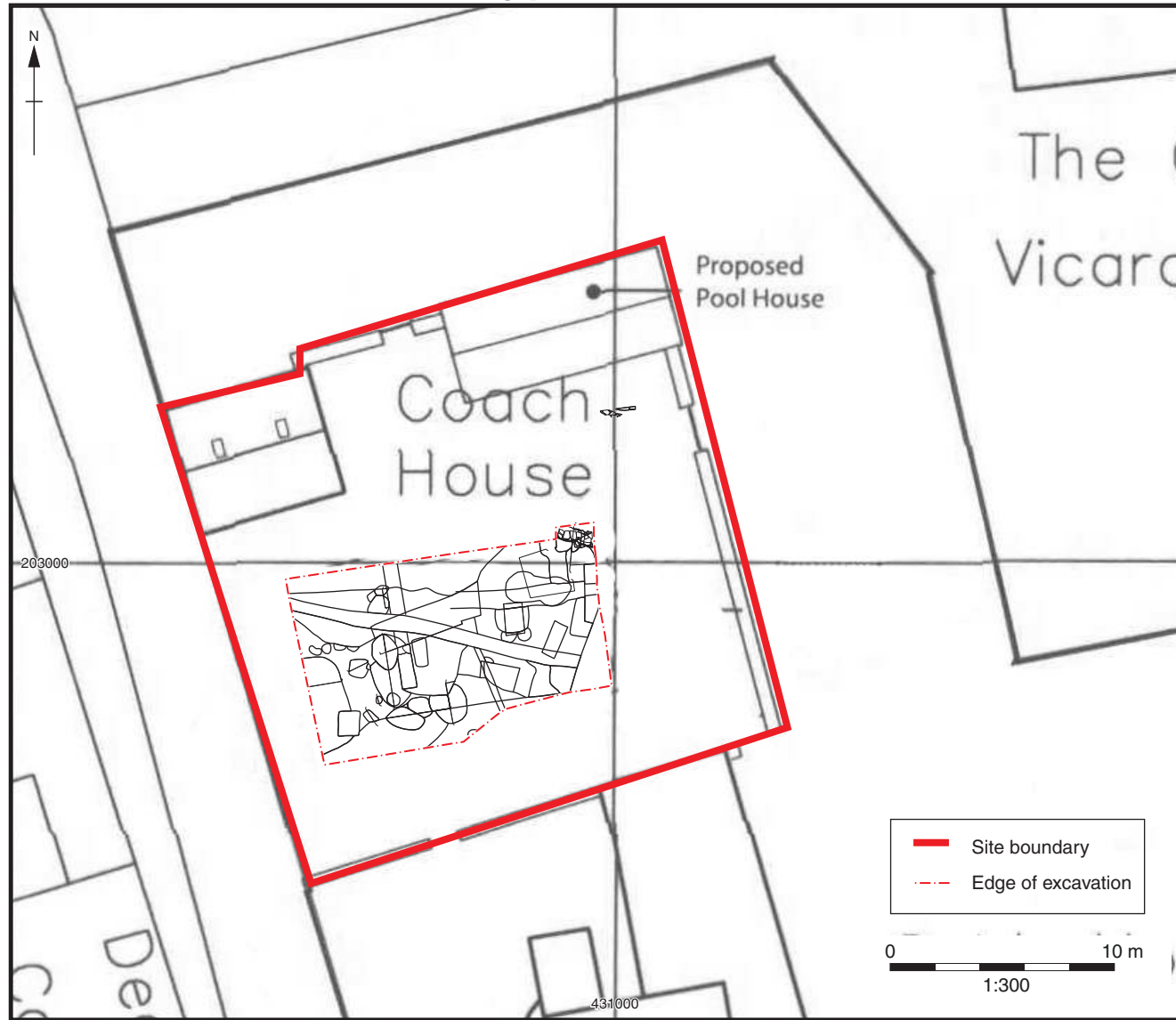


Figure 1: Site location map



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Figure 2: Detailed location of the swimming pool excavation within the site



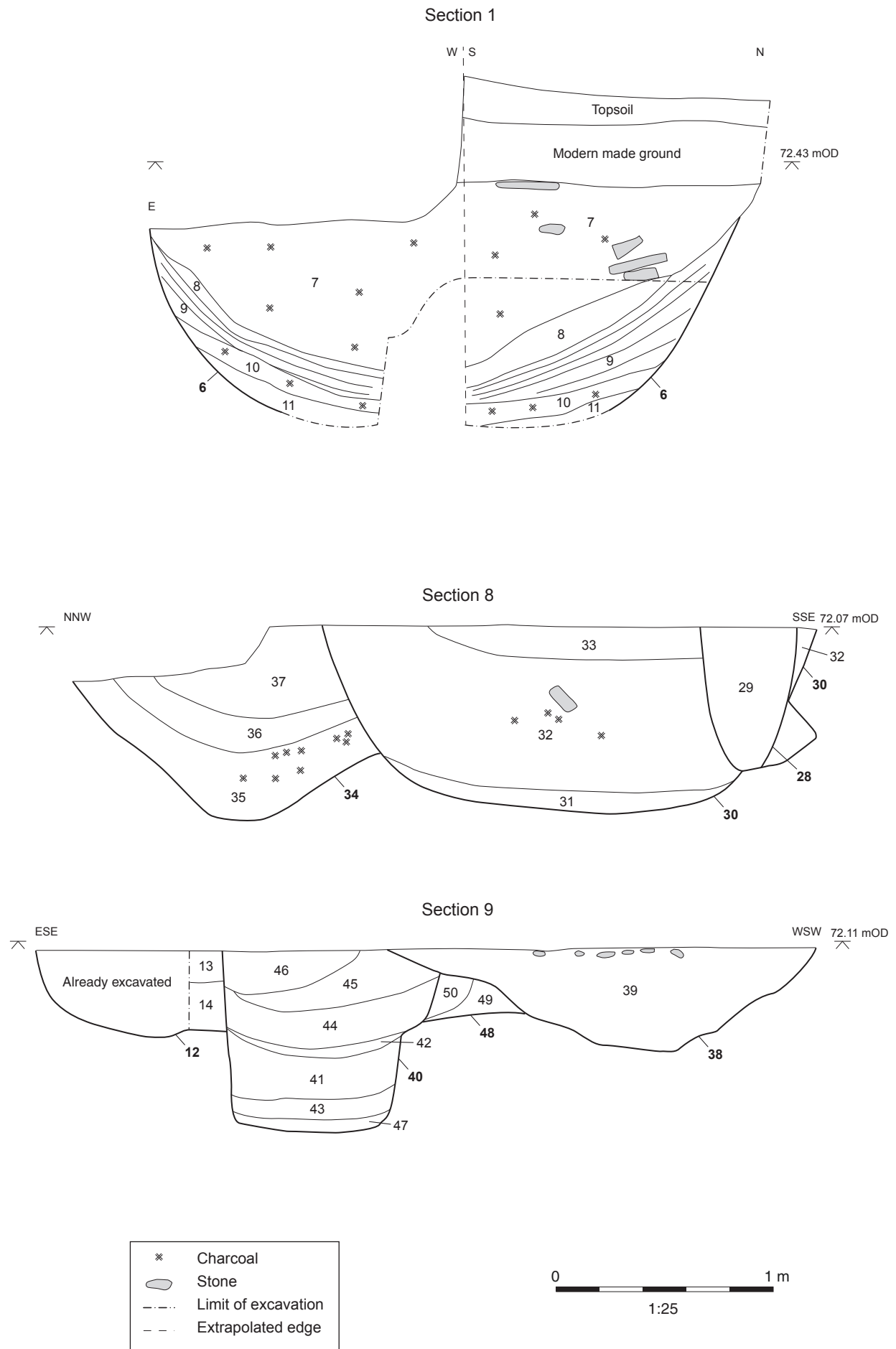


Figure 4: Sections 1, 8, and 9 - Late Saxon and medieval features



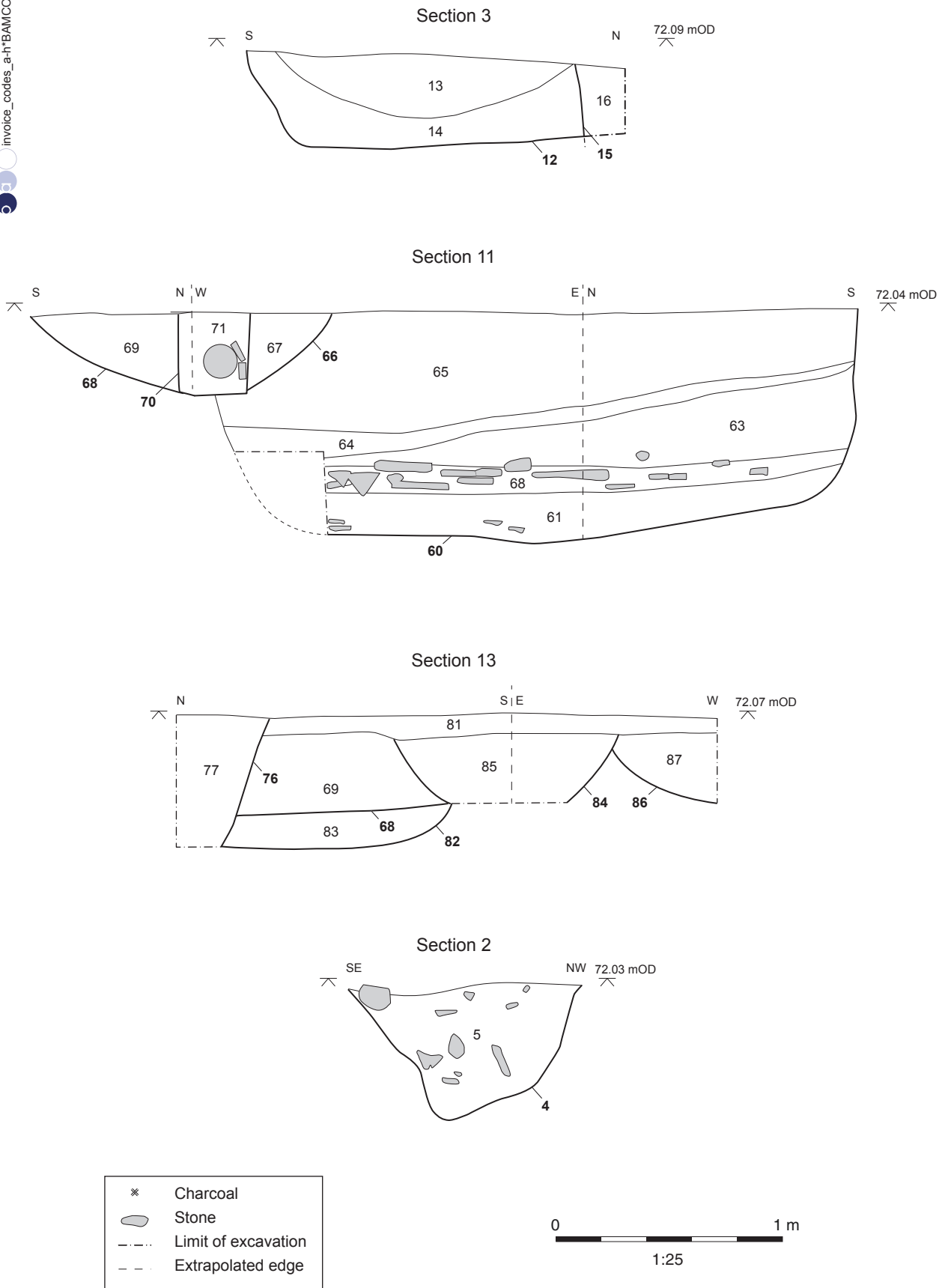


Figure 5: Sections 3, 11, 13 and 2 - Medieval and post-medieval features

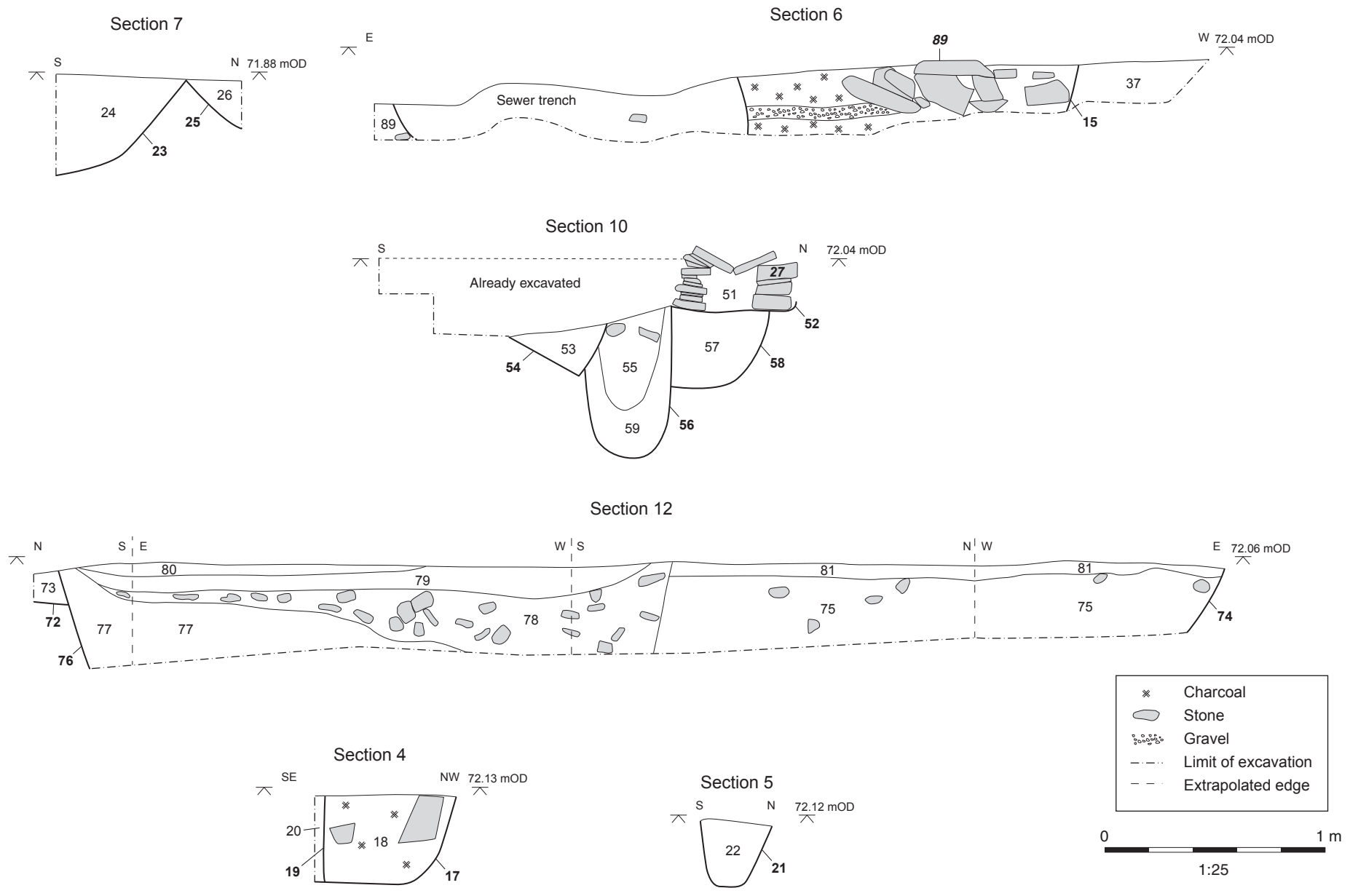
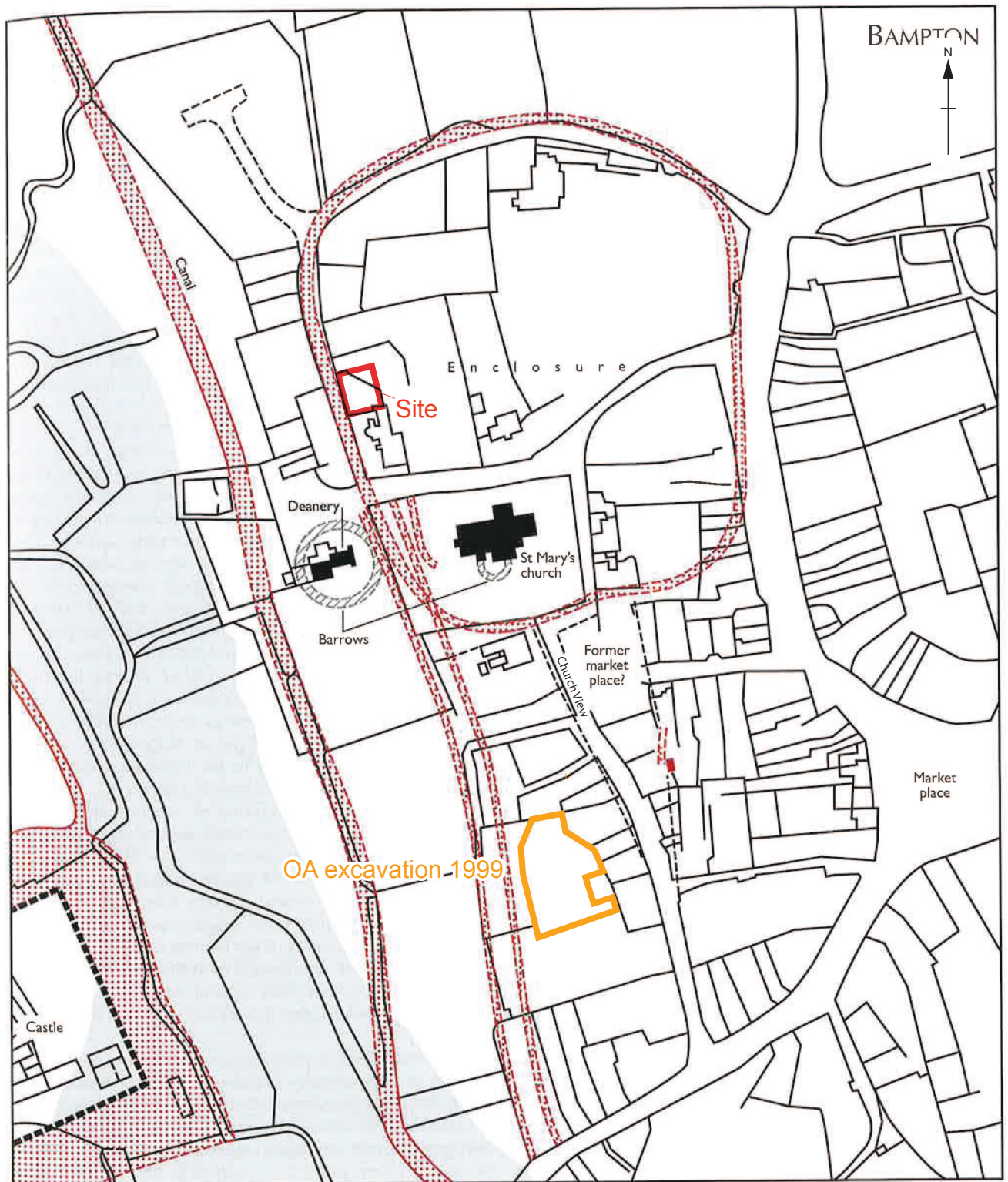







Figure 6: Sections 7, 6, 10, 12, 4 and 5 - Post-medieval features



-  Bronze Age barrow
-  Medieval ditch
-  Alluvium
-  Late Anglo-Saxon building
-  Previous excavation

0 100 m  
1:3000

Figure 7: The context of the site within ancient Bampton



Plate 1: Whole site cleaned, looking east



Plate 2: Swimming pool fully excavated, looking west



Plate 3: Pit 6 as excavated, looking south-west



Plate 4 : Pit 34 cut by pit 30, looking east-west



Plate 6: Pit 60, looking east-west



Plate 5: Pit 12 half-sectioned, looking east-west



Plate 7: Pits 83, 84, ditch 76 and deposit 69, looking east



Plate 8: Pit 4 half-excavated, looking south



Plate 9: Part horse skeleton 40 with iron spur resting upon the ribs



Plate 10: Pit 34, stone foundation 89, pit 15 and the sewer in Section 6, looking south-east







Plate 13: Stone drain 27 exposed, looking north-east





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