

MEMBURY COURT, MEMBURY, DEVON
CHAPEL AND CIDER HOUSE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION, FEBRUARY 2006
by
Stewart Brown Associates

SUMMARY

An archaeological field evaluation comprising five small excavation trenches was carried out within the late 13th-/early 14th-century chapel standing to the north of the manor house at Membury Court. The chapel fell into disrepair in post-medieval times and was substantially rebuilt and extended c. 1790, when it was converted for use as a cider house. The evaluation established that the present floor levels date from the late 18th century or later, and are substantially lower than the original medieval floor levels which have been entirely removed by post-medieval truncation.

THE SITE AND PROJECT

The site (OS Grid Reference ST 264 038) is a scheduled ancient monument (No. 418); the standing building is listed Grade II*. The building covers an area of approximately 29m x 10m and is terraced into N-S sloping ground. The building is presently unoccupied and in need of attention. The floor comprises modern concrete throughout, apart from two large blue lias flagstones set inside the western doorway. The proposed development comprises repair and consolidation works. The field evaluation was a condition required by English Heritage prior to determination of Scheduled Ancient Monument consent for the proposed works. The five archaeological trenches were positioned in order to investigate surviving floor levels along the length of the building, and at the thresholds of the present three doorways (Fig. 1).

The local geology comprises Cretaceous Greensand and Gault, with an outlier of chalk nearby. The local subsoil is a light red stony clay with patches of green-coloured sand. The latter probably derives from weathered sandstone boulders.

The report's appendices are as follows: Finds Identification by John Allan, Exeter Archaeology (Appendix 1); Context Descriptions (Appendix 2); Stratigraphic Matrices (Appendix 3); The Project Design (Appendix 4); Archive Assessment (Appendix 5).

PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

An archaeological and historical account of the standing buildings at Membury Court, including the chapel, was produced by Keystone Historic Building Consultants in 1993 (Report No. **K431**). The chapel is thought to have been built in the late 13th or early 14th century, with a number of alterations made in the late 15th or early 16th century, including a new roof and the insertion of a chancel screen, together with a first floor to the west of the screen. Its conversion for use as a cider house took place shortly before 1795, when the building is described in a survey as 'The Old Chapel now turn'd into a Cyder House most of it new built'.

DESCRIPTION (Figs. 1-6; plates 1-7)

Trenches 1-5 (locations shown in Fig. 1) uncovered floor levels and associated features dating from after the conversion of the old chapel into a cider house c. 1790. Directly underlying these was natural clay, showing that all medieval floor levels have been lost throughout the building. The modern concrete was removed with a pneumatic drill (Plate 1).

Trench 1 (Fig. 2, Plate 2)

Trench 1 was opened against the east wall of the building where the floor level is raised higher than to the west of the medieval screen.

Beneath the modern concrete and its make-up deposit of loose stones (1 and 2), was a trampled clay deposit (4) which produced fragments of 19th-century white earthenware. This overlay a beaten clay and stone chip floor (6) containing a sherd of 19th-century stoneware. These levels directly overlay undisturbed natural clay.

A trench (9) containing two post-holes (7 and 8) had been dug alongside the east wall of the building in the mid 19th century or later, cutting through floor 6. Another post-hole found further to the west (3) was cut through trample deposit 4 and dates from more recent times. A patch of mortar (5) uncovered between layers 4 and 6 may have been associated with 19th-century building repairs.

A small sondage 0.2m deep was cut into the natural clay, confirming that it had not been disturbed.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3: Plates 3 and 4)

Trench 2 was opened along the line of a modern drain which crossed the building from north to south. At its south end, the trench was extended eastwards to examine the threshold of the easternmost doorway in the south wall.

Removal of the modern drain revealed only natural clay along the trench bottom. In the sides of the trench, some cobbles survived between the modern concrete and the natural clay, but these were too few to indicate a well-preserved cobble floor. Presumably a cobble floor once existed in this part of the building, but this had become worn and patchy by the time the concrete was laid.

Beneath the modern concrete in the vicinity of the doorway was a better-preserved cobble floor (31). This must have remained open until the concrete floor was laid directly on top of it. The level of the cobbled surface corresponds to that of the threshold through the doorway. This doorway was rebuilt and lowered as part of the conversion of the building to a cider house, so the cobbles must date from the late 18th century or later. The cobbled surface peters out at a distance of only 0.8m inside the doorway, so it may represent a 19th- or 20th-century resurfacing of the threshold.

A small sondage 0.3m deep was cut into the natural clay, confirming that it had not been

disturbed. The cobble surface 31 was left *in situ*.

Trench 3 (Fig. 4; Plate 5)

Trench 3 was opened against the west wall of the building, next to the two large blue lias flagstones inside the west doorway.

Here, the modern concrete overlay a number of features dating from the construction of the late 18th-century cider house and later. The trench uncovered projecting stone footings for the west wall (17), together with their foundation trench (16), which was filled with clay, stones and mortar flecks. Along the southern side of the trench was a cobble floor (14) which extends southward beneath the adjacent blue lias flagstones. Excavation of the edge of the cobbles produced a sherd of early 19th-century white earthenware plus a residual sherd of S. Somerset red earthenware dating from the late 16th or 17th century. The cobble surface must therefore date from the early 19th century or later, whilst the lias flagstones must post-date the cobbles. The cobbles appears to have been laid for the most part across the threshold of the doorway, in the same manner as those uncovered in Trench 2, since they peter out away from the doorway toward the north and east.

A stone-filled pit (15) dug 0.5m to the east of the west wall was probably a post-pad. The post which formerly stood on the stone setting was in all likelihood associated with the cider press structure or machinery. A stone-filled linear feature uncovered at the east end of the trench (18) was also probably associated with the cider press, since it extends beneath the presently surviving press and was constructed on much the same alignment. A smaller post-hole (20) dug between the stone settings 15 and 18 produced a sherd of S. Somerset red earthenware dating from the 18th or early 19th century.

The latest feature uncovered was a drain trench dug from the west wall eastwards (12). This produced modern finds including lengths of broken asbestos pipe (discarded).

Trench 4 (Fig. 5; Plate 6)

Trench 4 was opened across the threshold of the westernmost doorway in the south wall, to the east of one of the blue lias flagstones.

The modern concrete in this area directly overlay the footings of the south wall. The footings (26) comprise large stones set in light red clay containing mortar flecks. Like the stone footings of the west wall, the footings of the south wall project some 0.2m inside the building. The footings cut across the line of an earlier stone-lined drain (25). The drain is built of stone rubble set in light brown clay. Its primary fill comprised dark brown gritty claysilt, above which the drain fills were disturbed by a modern intrusion containing shreds of plastic. Since the drain is cut by the wall, it must pre-date the construction of the cider house. Unfortunately no finds were retrieved from the primary fill of the drain, so its date is uncertain. It could be a medieval or early post-medieval feature. One sandstone capping stone of the drain survives *in situ* at the northern limit of the trench.

To the south of the south wall there is a step (the uppermost of a flight of steps) which relates

to the level of the threshold and might possibly date from the construction of the cider house, although it is probably later. It would seem that there was once a cobble floor across the threshold of the doorway since some well-laid cobbles are preserved beneath the adjacent blue lias flagstone to the west. The cobbles were very likely removed in recent times, since two modern drains (23, 24) had been laid leading to the doorway, in order to empty through the wall footings to the outside (where ground water still breaks the ground surface following heavy rain). Drain 23 contained a length of re-used cast-iron down pipe; drain 24 contains a ceramic pipe. A small pit (27), dug next to the step, contained dark brown claysilt, stones and mortar, and is another modern feature which appears to have been dug to facilitate better drainage.

The rubble wall footings and stone-lined drain have been left *in situ* since they date from the construction of the west end of the building and earlier. A small patch of natural clay was exposed immediately to the north of the wall footings, showing that no medieval deposits survive in this area.

Trench 5 (Fig. 6; Plate 7)

Trench 5 was opened across a junction between two different modern concrete surfaces in order to investigate whether the post-medieval floor levels beneath were also different at this point.

Beneath the modern concrete was a trample deposit of mid brown aerated clay containing stones, cobbles, mortar and coal fragments (29). This produced a collection of pottery and glass sherds ranging in date from the late 17th or early 18th century (a residual sherd of Westerwald stoneware tankard) to the later 19th or 20th century (a sherd of clear window glass). Underlying this layer is a remnant of a cobble floor (30). The cobbles have been left *in situ* so that they can be retained if desired, although they are very loosely set in friable clay. Further toward the west, layer 29 directly overlay natural clay.

DISCUSSION

Floor level of the medieval chapel

The original floor level of the medieval chapel is indicated by an internal plinth which was exposed at the base of the east and south walls following removal of the modern concrete (Plates 8 - 10). Above plinth level, the medieval masonry is faced and plastered; below it is uneven with no plaster. The plinth doubtless represents below-ground wall footings which were not intended to be exposed. The original medieval floor must therefore have been set at, or just above, this level.

The plinth extends westward as far as the easternmost doorway in the south wall. This doorway (Plate 11) was largely rebuilt and its threshold lowered c. 1790 when the old chapel was converted to a cider house. The chamfered east jamb of the doorway is medieval, but its present timber lintel and unchamfered west jamb date from the post-medieval conversion, as does the remainder of the building to the west (see Alterations c. 1790, below). The east jamb descends to a lower level than the plinth, showing that a flight of steps formerly rose through the doorway from outside. The medieval doorway was probably wider and grander than the

present one, with a door head set considerably higher than the existing lintel. The medieval chapel clearly would have extended further westward than the doorway, but how far is at present unknown.

Because the plinth continues at the same level to the doorway, this would indicate that the medieval floor was continuous throughout the eastern end of the chapel, and not stepped at the surviving timber screen, as at present (Plate 1). The timber screen stands to the east of the doorway and is certainly a medieval feature (Thorp, 1993, 99-102). Its present position, however, together with the height at which it is set, result from the alterations made c. 1790 when the screen was re-used in the construction of a loft for the cider house (below). The medieval floor could have stepped down to the west of the doorway, but this seems most unlikely since a step typically denotes the division between chancel and nave, and a step this far west would imply a disproportionately large chancel.

Nothing was found in the excavations to indicate what kind of floor covering was used in the medieval period. It seems likely that the floor covering would have been of a good standard, in order to compliment the high quality of the two traceried windows and internal fittings (piscina, image bracket, and lamp bracket). There may have been a tiled floor or a flagged floor, or a combination of the two. Whatever the covering, it is clear that the floor was lifted and removed at, or before, the conversion of the building for use as a cider house.

Alterations c. 1790, The Cider House and its floor

The conversion of the old chapel into a cider house, mentioned in the survey of 1795, can reasonably be equated with the rebuilding of the west end of the structure which is evident in the standing fabric. The west end of the old chapel may already have collapsed, at least in part, since the surviving medieval section of the south wall exhibits a marked lean outward as it nears the easternmost doorway. To the west of the doorway, by contrast, the replacement post-medieval walls are vertical.

The floor of the cider house was for the most part cobbled, as is clear from the cobble surfaces exposed by the excavations. These are however patchy and loose in places, showing that the floor was allowed to deteriorate throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. The better preserved cobbles surviving through the easternmost doorway in the south wall may well represent a later repair; likewise the two large blue lias flagstones inside the west doorway, although these could have been laid for some special purpose associated with cider-making.

The floor level is about the same as that of the ground surface outside the west doorway, the principal entrance into the cider house. This floor level was extended eastward as far as the medieval timber screen. Since the post-medieval floor is on average 0.2m-0.3m lower than the medieval plinth level, the builders of the cider house must have cleared away not only the medieval floor covering (if this survived up to this time), but also a considerable depth of natural clay. Beyond the screen, the post-medieval floor was laid at a higher level, only a little lower than the former medieval one. This would suggest that the medieval floor covering here was simply lifted, and the new cobble floor laid directly on the natural clay beneath.

The re-use and re-positioning of the medieval screen

The late medieval timber screen would originally have been set on the medieval chapel floor. Today, the level of its sill beam, which survives in very poor condition, relates much more closely to that of the lower post-medieval floor to the west (Plates 9 and 10). This strongly suggests that the screen was lowered at the same time that the cider house floor was laid. Indeed, there are other indications that the screen was manoeuvred into a new position at this time, so that it could be used as support for a loft within the cider house. John Thorp argues that both the screen and a medieval timber-framed first-floor cross-wall above it have been moved from their original positions (Thorp, 1993, 100-102). Moreover, the first-floor cross-wall (Plate 12) once rose to meet the underside of a roof truss, forming a closed truss, but its present position is too low, showing that the cross-wall must have been lowered, probably when the medieval roof was dismantled. The present loft floor incorporates other old timbers which are also likely to have been moved from their original positions.

Assessment of the surviving archaeological resource

The surviving below-ground archaeology uncovered by this evaluation exercise comprises floor levels and features associated with the c. 1790 cider house, plus one earlier stone-lined drain of uncertain date. All medieval floor levels which must formerly have existed have been lost owing to post-medieval truncation. The westward extent of the medieval chapel has yet to be established. It is possible that foundations for the chapel's west wall still survive beneath the post-medieval floor levels.

Cider Houses in Devon

Cider houses, or pound houses, are still fairly common in Devon, although their number is dwindling fast as farmsteads are developed and farm buildings converted for other uses. They are not distinctive buildings externally, and are usually only identifiable by surviving machinery. Some were built as cider houses, whilst others were sited in existing farm buildings that originally served another purpose, often a small threshing barn. Most date from the 18th and 19th centuries, although a few are earlier. One early 17th-century example survives at Week, Tawstock. Cider-making in Devon took place in the medieval period, but became a speciality of the county in the 17th century, remaining an important part of the agricultural economy until the 20th century. Cider was made soon after the apple crop had been gathered, producing a supply for the whole year, so substantial space was needed for barrel storage. Cider houses also required headroom for the screw press and a loft for apple storage. In the 19th century, the loft was also used to house mechanical crushers driven by a horse engine sited close by. The crushed apple pulp was then fed down to the press to make the juice. (Ref. Child, P. 'Farm Buildings' in Beacham, P. (ed.) *Devon Building*, 70-71)

At Membury Court, the cider press and loft survive almost intact, but the engine house which formerly stood to the west has been demolished. The surviving part of the medieval chapel was evidently used as a barrel store, since the medieval screen doorway has been cut back on each side sufficient to allow barrels to pass through.

APPENDIX 1

FINDS (identifications by John Allan, Exeter Archaeology)

Context	sherds	type	date range
4	4	Transfer print white earthenware	1800-1840
	1	English brown salt glaze stoneware	19 th cent
	3	plain white earthenware	1800+
	1	cream earthenware	19 th cent
	1	S. Somerset red earthenware bowl, int. glaze	16 th /17 th cent
6	1	English brown salt glaze stoneware	19 th cent
	1	brick fragment	18 th /19 th cent
9	1	white earthenware with gold lustre band	mid 19 th cent+
	1	plain white earthenware	1800+
14	1	S. Somerset red earthenware	late 16 th /17 th cent
	1	Transfer print white earthenware	early 19 th cent
19	1	Mocha type white earthenware	1800-1830
20	1	S. Somerset red earthenware (slip and copper green bowl)	1720-1820
29	2	Transfer print white earthenware, one plate	1800-1850
	2	plain white earthenware 1 vessel, bowl	c.1830+
	9	S. Somerset red earthenware, 3 vessels (1 jar, 1 bowl, 1 ?dish)	18 th /early 19 th cent
	1	green glass beer bottle	19 th cent
	1	clear window glass	19 th /20 th cent
	1	Westerwald stoneware tankard	1690-1720

notes:

1/ The finds require no further specialist attention and have been discarded.

2/ pottery presently known as 'S. Somerset ware' has recently been found to have been made in the Honiton area rather than S. Somerset (pers comm. John Allan)

APPENDIX 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

- 1 modern concrete floor.
- 2 loose stone rubble make-up dump for 1.
- 3 modern post-hole with post-void.
- 4 19th-/20th-century trample deposit comprising mixed orange and dark brown clay with charcoal, coal fragments, mortar, slate fragments, and small stone chips.
- 5 patch of 19th-century white lime mortar.
- 6 19th-/20th-century beaten clay and stone chip floor, comprising light brown clay with cobbles, stone chips, slate fragments, mortar and charcoal.
- 7 19th-/20th-century post-hole, filled with loose dark brown claysilt, stones and stone fragments, charcoal, and mortar.
- 8 19th-/20th-century post-hole, filled with loose dark brown claysilt, stones and stone fragments, charcoal, and mortar. Packing stones surround a square post-pipe
- 9 19th-/20th-century trench dug next to east wall of building. Contains post-holes 7 and 8.
- 10 medieval stone footings for east wall of building. These project from the plane of the wall face. Some damage to the footings caused by the digging of trench 9.

Trench 3

- 11 modern concrete
- 12 modern soakaway drain trench, filled with dark brown claysilt, with cobbles, stone fragments, charcoal, coal lumps and mortar.
- 13 Two blue lias flagstones.
- 14 Cobble floor, comprising river cobbles and angular chert stones set upright (pitched) set in light red clay mixed with dark brown gritty silt.
- 15 Late 18th-/19th-century post-pad. 0.28m deep pit filled with light red/brown clay with large cobbles and stones.
- 16 Foundation trench for wall footings 17. Fill - mid brown clay with stones, pebbles and mortar flecks.
- 17 Footings for west wall of building. Large angular stones set in mid brown clay with stones and pebbles. Cobble floor 14 set into the footings.
- 18 Stone setting – base for cider press. Large cobbles and angular chert stones set in dark brown gritty claysilt.
- 19 19th-/20th-century trampled stone chip floor. Dark brown claysilt with light red clay patches, stone chips, charcoal, and mortar flecks.
- 20 Post-hole, 0.28m deep, filled with light red clay and stone fragments.

Trench 4

- 21 South wall of building. Random chert rubble bonded with poor white lime mortar with lime flecks.

- 22 Late 18th-/19th-century door step. Large sandstone stones now pointed with modern cement.
- 23 Modern drain trench, containing part of a cast iron drain pipe. Filled with dark brown claysilt with coal fragments, stone fragments and mortar flecks.
- 24 19th-/20th-century ceramic drain pipe, laid to existing stone-lined drain 25.
- 25 Stone-lined drain built of large angular stones set in light red/brown clay. One cap stone survives – yellow sandstone. Fill of drain channel – dark brown claysilt with stone chips. Modern find (plastic shreds) retrieved from upper fill of drain channel.
- 26 Footings for late 18th-century wall 21. Large cobbles and angular stones set in light red clay with stone chips and mortar flecks.
- 27 Modern drain trench. Filled with loose stones and dark brown claysilt.
- 28 Cobbles set in light red clay. Probably a remnant from a cobble floor.

Trench 5

- 29 19th-/20th-century trample layer comprising mid brown aerated clay with stone fragments and cobbles, mortar flecks and coal fragments.
- 30 Remains of cobbled floor. Cobbles set loosely in brown clay. The cobbles date from the late 18th-century or later

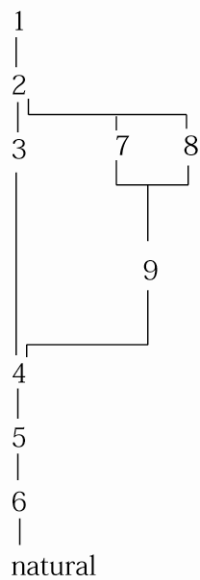
Trench 2

- 31 19th-/20th-century cobble floor laid across doorway threshold (left *in situ*).
- 32 Make –up dump for 31 or remains of earlier cobble floor. Large cobbles and stone fragments set in light red claysilt.

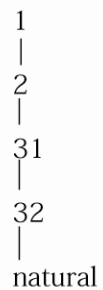
APPENDIX 3

STRATIGRAPHIC MATRICES

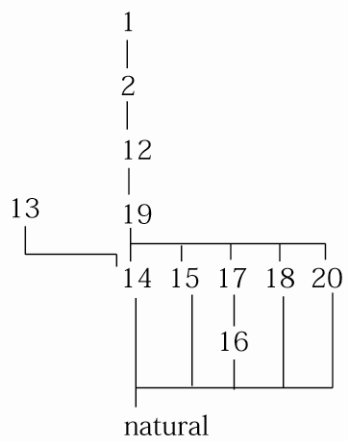
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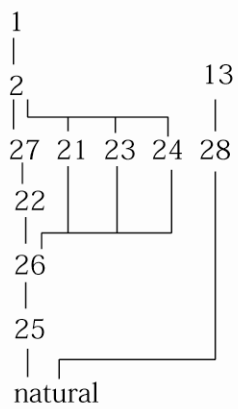
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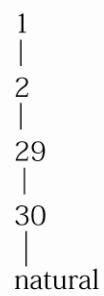
Trench 3



Trench 4



Trench 5



APPENDIX 4
PROJECT DESIGN FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION
CHAPEL AND CIDER HOUSE
MEMBURY COURT, MEMBURY, DEVON, FEBRUARY 2006

This project design has been produced by S. Brown Associates on behalf of Mr and Mrs Denny, the owners of Membury Court, and their agent John Bucknall, Architect. It sets out a programme for an archaeological field evaluation in response to proposals to alter existing floor levels within the standing building, formerly a late medieval chapel, which was converted for use as a cider house in the late 18th century. The alteration to the floor level is part of a more extensive scheme of restoration and consolidation works which will affect the standing structure. The archaeological field evaluation is a condition required by English Heritage prior to determination of Scheduled Ancient Monument consent for the proposed works.

1. THE SITE AND PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

1.1 The site of the proposed works is centred on Ordnance Survey Grid Reference ST 264 038, and covers an area of approximately 29m x 10m (plan attached, Fig. 1). The building is terraced into N-S sloping ground. The local geology comprises Cretaceous Greensand and Gault, with an outlier of chalk nearby.

1.2 The building is presently unoccupied and in need of attention.

1.3 The proposed development comprises repair and consolidation works.

1.4 The standing building is listed (Grade II*) and the site is a scheduled ancient monument (No. 418).

1.5 The field evaluation forms an initial stage of the works.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND AND POTENTIAL

2.1 An archaeological and historical account of the standing buildings at Membury Court, including the chapel, already exists (Keystone Historic Building Consultants Report No. **K431**, 1993). The chapel is believed to date from the late 13th century. Alterations were made to the structure in the late 15th century. Its conversion for use as a cider house took place c. 1790.

2.2 The archaeological potential of the chapel site primarily comprises:

- a) the possible survival of medieval floor levels, which might include high status floor coverings such as ceramic floor tiles and/or stone flags;
- b) the survival of post-medieval floor levels and features associated with the building's later use for agricultural purposes and as a cider house.

3. AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND LIMITATIONS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

- 3.1 The aims of the field evaluation are: to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains and/or deposits within the area of the proposed development; and to define the character, extent, date, and condition of any such remains and deposits.
- 3.2 The objectives of the field evaluation are: to provide sufficient information to enable an assessment to be made of the archaeological value of the remains and deposits in a local, regional, or national context as appropriate; and thereby to inform judgements leading to an appropriate statutory and planning response to the proposed development application.

3.3 Limitations

The purpose of the field evaluation and its results, ie report, accompanying illustrations and survey drawings, is solely to provide archaeological information, and not to advise or comment on any matter concerning present or future engineering, construction, repair or other development works.

4. METHOD STATEMENT

4.1 The present floor

The present floor consists of modern concrete, apart from two very large stone flags just inside the west doorway. The floor level at the east end of the building, to the east of the surviving medieval screen, is raised c. 0.2 – 0.3m above that to the west, possibly reflecting a former medieval arrangement. To the west, a modern N-S drain has been cut through the concrete floor. Further to the west, concrete has been spread thinly across a stone floor which appears to comprise cobbles, probably associated with the late 18th-century cider house. The two large stone flags at the west end of the building, and extending through the threshold of the west doorway, may also be associated with the cider house, or they may possibly be earlier in date.

The present level of concrete at the east end and in the middle of the building is certainly higher than the original floor level since it no longer relates to existing doorway thresholds, nor to surviving medieval features, eg: the timber screen; a 'shadow' scar in the plaster on the east wall, which indicates the former position and height of the medieval altar; and the piscina in the south wall.

4.2 Excavation

It is intended to remove the entire concrete floor at the east end of the building. This will be done carefully and under archaeological supervision so as not to disturb any of

the underlying levels. The surface of the deposits and/or features thereby exposed will then be cleaned archaeologically by hand and examined. If a significant medieval floor survives at this level, this will be left *in situ* and recorded appropriately. Should this not be the case, a limited-scale evaluation trench will be opened with the aim of exposing any significant floor level of medieval date surviving lower down. Should no significant medieval floor be encountered, then the evaluation trench will be excavated to natural. All medieval and post-medieval levels and features will be recorded archaeologically.

To the west, the existing modern N-S drain will be broken out and removed so as to provide a section through the surviving archaeological deposits in this area. Again, should a significant medieval floor be exposed, this will be left *in situ* and recorded. If not, the drain trench will be deepened to the level of natural, and a section drawing made.

At the west end of the building, a small 'keyhole' evaluation trench will be opened alongside one of the surviving large flagstones and next to the footings of the west wall. This trench is intended to investigate surviving archaeological levels at this end of the structure, which may or may not include medieval deposits and features.

The placing of the three evaluation trenches (Fig. 1) has been selected to provide an appropriate sample of the underlying archaeology within each of the three differing areas of the present floor. The precise location of the trenches may vary a little. All archaeological features and deposits exposed by the trenches will be excavated by hand.

Provisions for dealing with excavation spoil will be agreed beforehand.

4.3 Finds and environmental sampling:

All finds will be retrieved from the excavations for further study, except finds of undoubted modern origin, which will be recorded and discarded on site. Should deposits of environmental potential be uncovered, advice from relevant specialists will be sought and an appropriate level of environmental sampling undertaken.

4.4 Site Recording:

The location of the trench excavations will be plotted onto a ground plan of the building. Archaeological features and deposits will be individually identified and recorded as archaeological 'contexts', each being allocated a unique number for the site. Finds will be related to the context from which they were retrieved by a system of coding.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

5.1 Prior notification regarding the start date of the evaluation will be made to English Heritage, and provision made for monitoring visits during the excavations if

requested.

6. POST-FIELDWORK PROCESSING AND REPORTING

6.1 Following completion of the fieldwork, the site records (written, drawn, photographic) will be sorted, filed and indexed.

6.2 Evaluation Report:

An evaluation report will be compiled which summarises the fieldwork results. This will include:

- * A non-technical summary
- * A stratigraphic report containing context descriptions and associated stratigraphic matrices
- * Selected photographs from the photographic record
- * Plans and sections at appropriate scales
- * A summary of recovered dating evidence
- * An assessment of the potential for further study of the finds
- * An assessment of the potential for further study of any environmental samples
- * An interpretation of the archaeological evidence, and a suggested 'development' of the site
- * An assessment of the archaeological resource in its broader historic and archaeological context

Circulation:

Two copies of the report will be supplied to Mr and Mrs Denny, and one copy to English Heritage. One copy will be sent to the Devon County SMR, and another to the NMR.

6.3 Finds

All artefacts retrieved from the evaluation will be cleaned, marked, quantified, identified (so far as possible) and stored temporarily in suitable containers in order to minimise deterioration. Advice and recommendations concerning any further necessary conservation treatment and permanent storage for the finds will be sought from appropriate conservation and collection bodies. An inspection of the pottery and other ceramic finds will be made by John Allan (Exeter Archaeology) with a view to identifying types, and assessing probable date ranges for the principal archaeological contexts.

6.4 Environmental Samples

Environmental samples and ecofacts will be processed and assessed for their archaeological potential by relevant specialists.

7. SITE ARCHIVE AND DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE AND FINDS

A project archive will be prepared containing project records and finds in a permanently accessible form within a reasonable time of the completion of works (normally six months). The structure of the archive will follow the specifications outlined in 'Management of Archaeological Projects 2' (English Heritage). The archive, including the finds, will be deposited with the relevant repository. It is usual practice for ownership of the archive and finds to pass into the hands of the museum/repository in order to guarantee permanent safekeeping.

8. STANDARDS

All projects will be conducted in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' 'Code of Practice'.

9. HEALTH AND SAFETY

Archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with guidelines issued by the Health and Safety Executive. Unless specifically agreed otherwise, the owners will be responsible for general safety on the site and for preventing access by unauthorised persons to the area of excavation.

10. INSURANCE

10.1 Stewart Brown Associates has insurance cover in the following areas: Public Liability, Employers Liability, Professional Indemnity, All Risks, and Personal Accident.

10.2 Stewart Brown Associates will not be liable for any damage caused to the site which unavoidably results from archaeological site operations being carried out within the agreed scope of works.

11. PERMISSIONS AND START DATE

11.1 Mr and Mrs Denny will be responsible for obtaining any necessary permissions or consents required for the purpose of archaeological excavation.

11.2 It is hoped that excavation can start in the week beginning Monday 13th February 2006.

12. PERSONNEL

S.Brown (MIFA) will conduct and supervise the excavations. One or more site assistants will be sought if necessary. Additional labour to assist with removing modern concrete and the modern drain is to be organised by Mr and Mrs Denny.

Addendum: Two more evaluation trenches (Trenches 4 and 5) were subsequently opened inside the building with the agreement of Ian Morrison (English Heritage).

APPENDIX 5 ARCHIVE ASSESSMENT

In view of the small scale of the evaluation excavations, the simple stratigraphy, and the late date of most of the finds collection, very few of which have intrinsic interest, it is considered appropriate that the record compiled in the present report is sufficient and that a site archive is not required. All site records have been reproduced in the report, including context descriptions, context flowcharts, and site plans showing context numbers. The finds, while useful in providing dating of particular late post-medieval features, are of little value otherwise so have been discarded. The majority were of 18th-century date or later, with a few earlier residual sherds of no particular interest. They were identified and assessed by John Allan, a local archaeological ceramics expert. The photographic record of the excavations is adequately represented in the report.

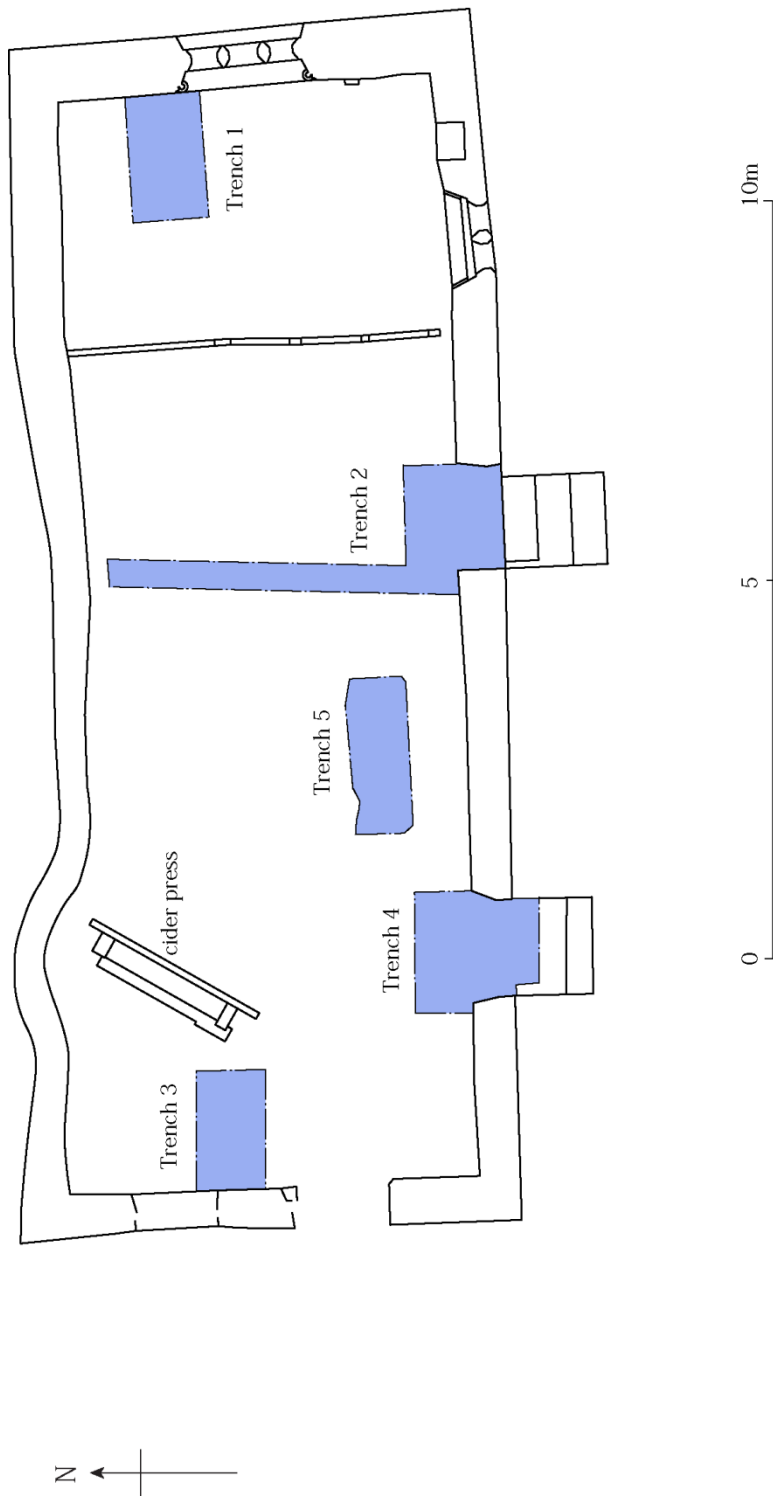


Fig. 1 Plan of chapel/cider house, showing location of archaeological evaluation trenches
(plan after Anthony Brookes Surveys March 2006)

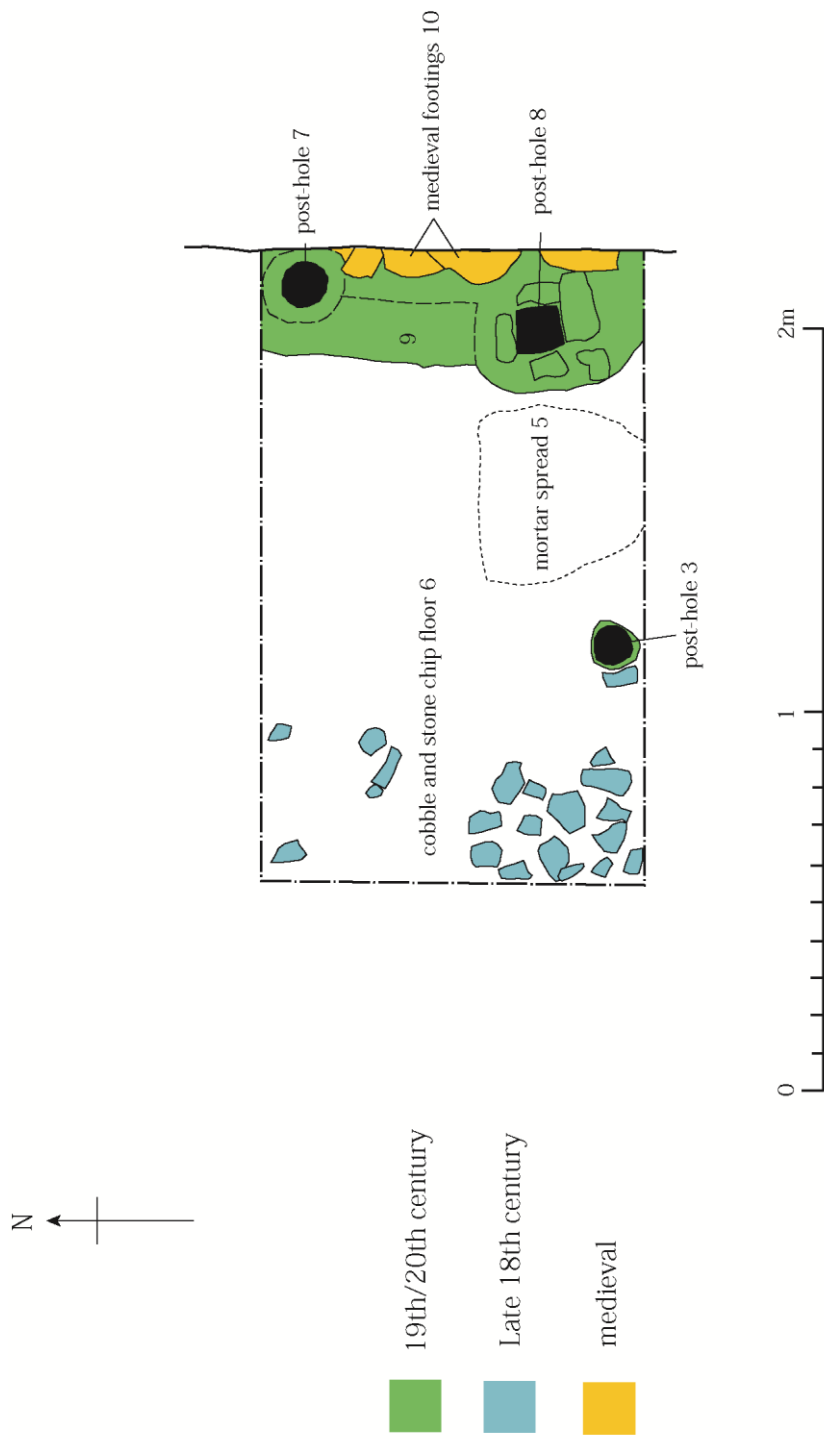


Fig. 2 Plan of Trench 1

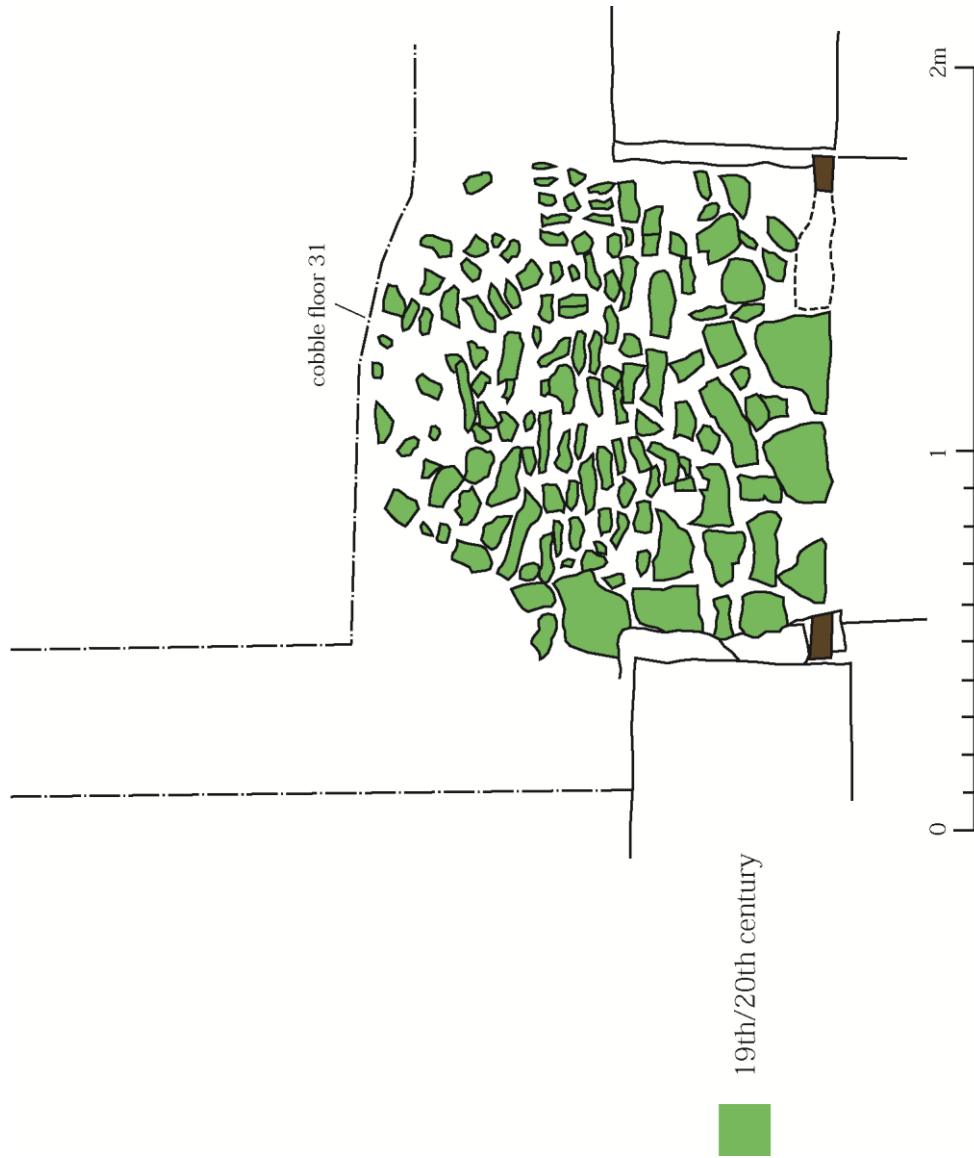


Fig. 3 Plan of Trench 2



Fig. 4 Plan of Trench 3

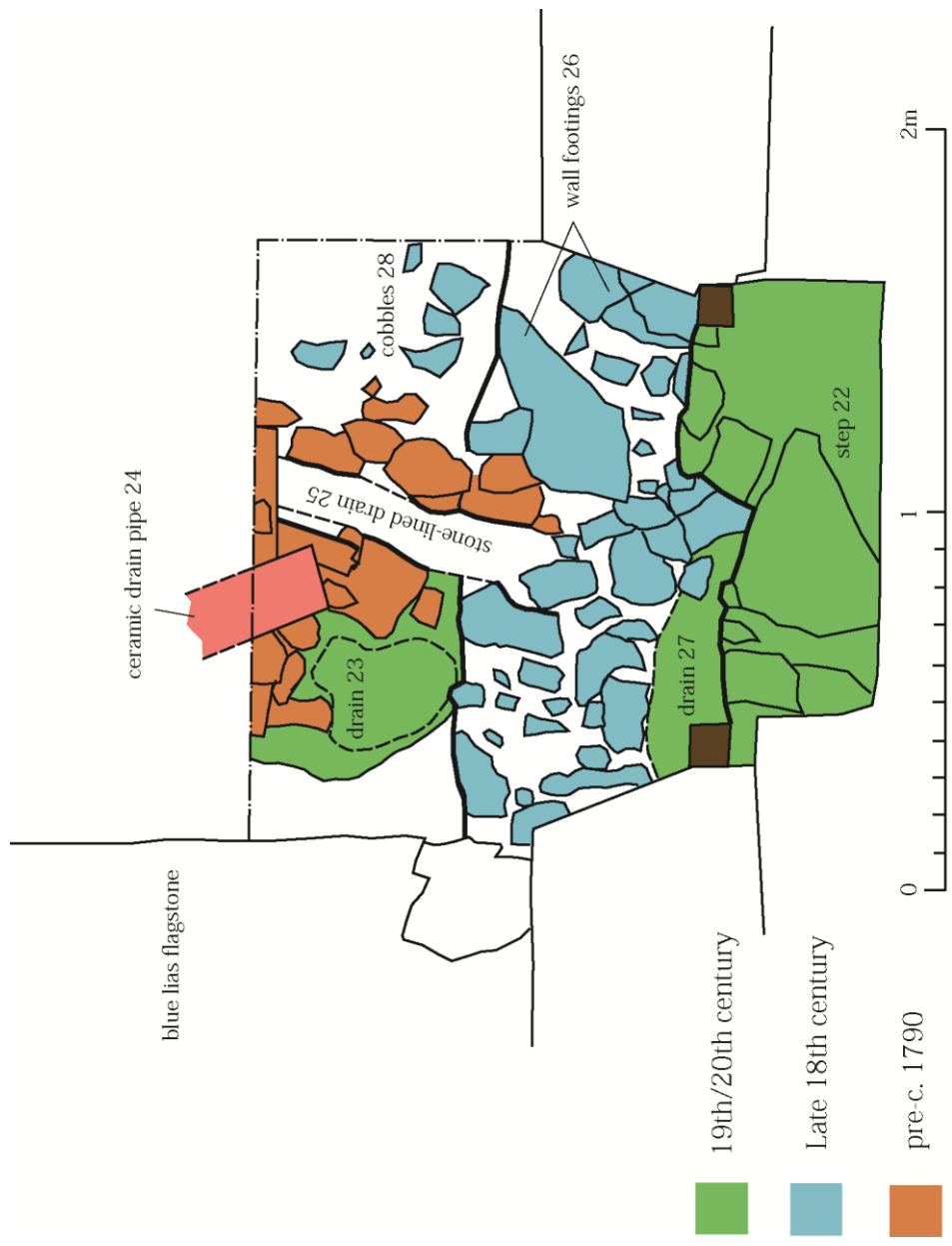
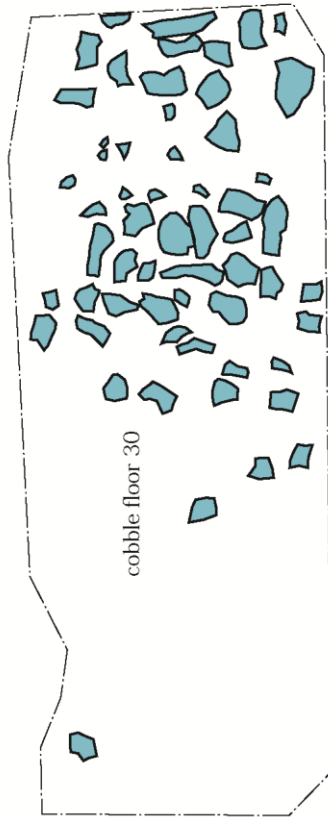


Fig. 5 Plan of Trench 4



■ Late 18th century

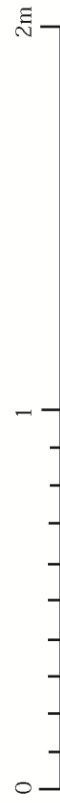


Fig. 6 Plan of Trench 5



Plate 1 Removal of modern concrete, showing spin in the floor at the medieval screen.



Plate 2 Trench 1, looking East.



Plate 3 Trench 2 looking South



Plate 4 Trench 2 looking North



Plate 5 Trench 3 looking West.



Plate 6 Trench 4 looking North



Plate 7 Trench 5 looking East.



Plate 8 South wall of the medieval chapel, showing plinth level, looking South.

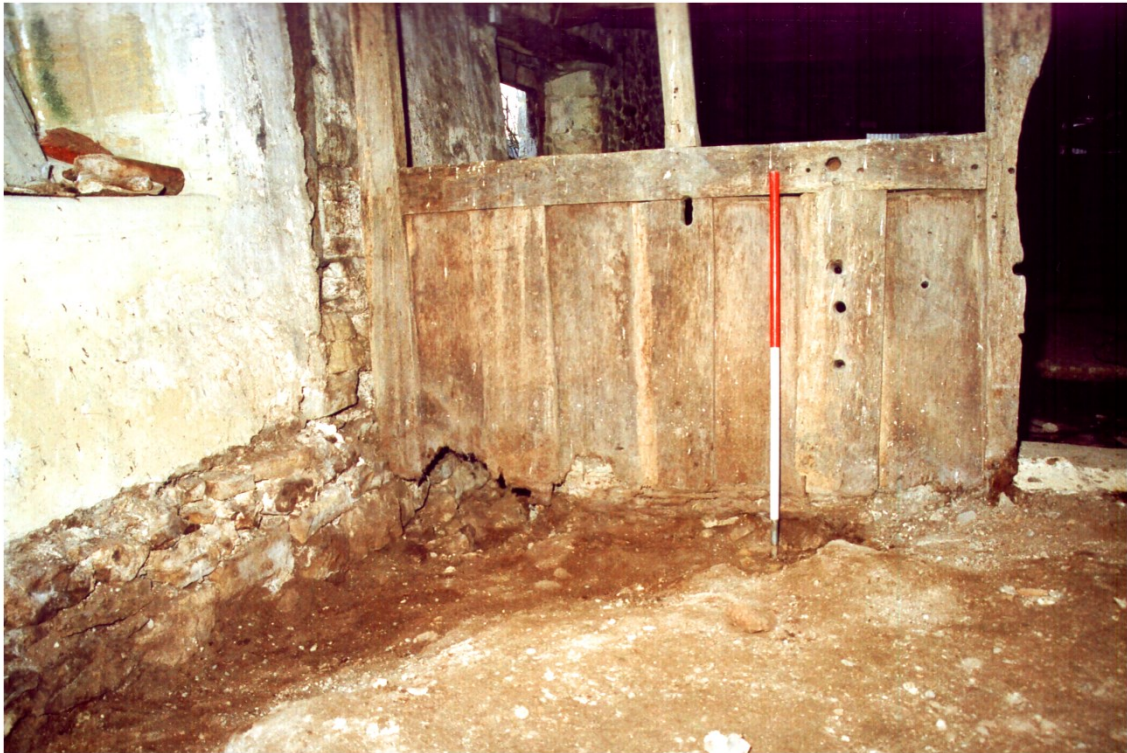


Plate 9 The late medieval screen and medieval plinth level, looking South-west.



Plate 10 The late medieval screen and medieval plinth level, looking South-east.



Plate 11 The easternmost doorway in the south wall, looking South.



Plate 12 The late medieval timber-framed cross-wall above the screen, looking South-west.