Archaeological excavation at Cider Mill Lane, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire

June 2019

Worcestershire Archaeology

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CIDERMILL LANE
CHIPPING CAMPDEN
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological excavation report

Worcestershire Archaeology
Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service
The Hive
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SITE INFORMATION

Site name:	Cider Mill Lane, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire
Local planning authority:	Cotswold District Council
Planning reference:	18/000846/FUL
Central NGR:	SP 15470 39525
Commissioning client:	CgMs Consulting Ltd
WA project number:	P5560
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Archaeological excavation at Cider Mill Lane, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire

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With contributions by Derek Hurst and Elizabeth Pearson

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Summary

An archaeological excavation was undertaken at Cider Mill Lane, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire (NGR SP 15470 39525). It was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Duchy Homes, in advance of residential development. Planning permission for the development has been granted by Cotswold District Council subject to a programme of archaeological works.

The site is located on the northern edge of the historic core of the town to the north of Cidermill Lane. An area of *c* 465m^2 was opened in a former car park and green area. Prehistoric, Roman and late Saxon finds were recovered, but the earliest features were datable to the 11th-12th Centuries. These comprised largely a number of pits and a hearth. Some of the pits were interpreted as former quarries. Dating allowed for this activity to be around the period when the town and its market were set up on an official footing in the later 12th century, and main urban focus shifted to the west with the laying out of extensive burgage plots and presumably new domestic premises. This would have stimulated an increase in demand for building materials such as stone, and, therefore, the exploitation of any local stone resources.

No further activity was identified on the site until the post-medieval period when small agricultural features appeared. This suggests that following the 13th century this area of the town became peripheral to the core of the settlement. Subsequently there was little intrusion into the early medieval deposits, though the top was eventually truncated, most probably in the 20th century, and so the earlier medieval remains were relatively well preserved when encountered in the excavation.

Report

1 Introduction

1.1 Background to the project

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA) in April 2019 at Cider Mill Lane, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire (NGR SP 15470 39525). This comprised the excavation of an area of *c* 465m^2. The project was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Duchy Homes, in advance of a proposed residential development. Planning permission has been granted by Cotswold District Council subject to conditions including a programme of archaeological works (planning reference 18/000846/FUL).

The archaeological advisor to the local planning authority considered that the proposed development had the potential to impact upon specific heritage assets. Previous evaluation on the site has identified five pits of post-medieval date and an undated ditch (Hughes 2014).

No brief was provided but discussions between Susanna Parker of CgMs Consulting and Charles Parry of Gloucestershire County Council established that an archaeological excavation of the area was the appropriate mitigation for the development. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2019) and approved by Charles Parry. The excavation conforms to the industry guidelines and standards set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists in *Standard and guidance: for archaeological excavation* (CIfA 2014a).

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

The site is located on the northern edge of the historic core of Chipping Campden, and is bordered by residential properties to the west and north, a school carpark to the east, and Cider Mill Lane along the southern edge. There is a retaining wall dividing the site from this road, and a drop of around 1.5m down to Cider Mill Lane.

The site was initially proposed to cover an area of *c* 800m^2 but due to services, unforeseen obstacles, and existing hedgerows, this area was reduced to *c.* 465m^2. It comprises a carpark in its western and central parts, and a landscaped lawn with tree and hedge planting in the east part. The site slopes gently from about 148.90m AOD in the north to 147.85m AOD in the south.

The site lies on the boundary between two Dyrham Formation – Siltstone and Mudstone, Interbedded and Marlstone Rock Formation – Limestone, Ferruginous (BGS 2019).

2 Archaeological and historical background

2.1 Introduction

Background archaeological context is provided by a prior evaluation report (Hughes 2014), which described archaeology recorded within *c* 100m of the excavated Site as follows:

> … There have been a small number of archaeological interventions in Chipping Campden. … ; *c* 100m due south of the site within the Sir Baptist Hicks Almshouses work yielded extensive post-medieval remains, including walls, postholes, surfaces and rubbish pits (HER 41194); on an adjacent site (HER 21487) two post-medieval pits … *c* 100m to the west at St Govans, Leysbourne (HER 29180) only modern remains were present. …To the northwest of the proposal area, west of Aston Road, … extensive medieval ridge and furrow and possibly undated roadside quarrying (HER 20082).

Hughes (2014) also makes reference to other archaeological observations in the wider vicinity (ie up to a radius of 500m) and these included evidence for late Iron Age remains to the south-east, residual Roman pottery in the vicinity of Sir Baptist Hicks' house, and ridge and furrow cultivation to the north.

The Gloucestershire Historic Towns Survey reported on Chipping Campden (Douthwaite *et al* 2007) where this town was listed as one on the earliest documented market towns in Gloucestershire. The medieval plan components map which aims to propose the current understanding of the sequence of town development (Douthwaite *et al* 2007, map 19) indicates that land to the north and west of the parish church is where the earliest medieval settlement is to be expected. This extends in its most north-westerly limit to include the location of the Site. Beyond this and further to the west the burgage plots on the High Street marked the formal laying out of the town probably in *c* 1154-89, when the borough charter was granted, and probably before *c* 1180 when the right to hold a market was established.

Historical evidence

At Domesday (1086) *Campden* was a place with a considerable number of inhabitants for the time and this was reflected in the chief indicator of agricultural activity, the number of ploughs available. The most striking change came in the late 12th century when the local weekly market was formally set up (CADHAS 2015) – this most likely stimulated a variety of craft activities and extended the economic links of the town. The *Chipping* element of the place-name then seems have come in the 13th–14th centuries with its market function, though according to Hughes (2014) decline set in in the 17th century). As in common with most Cotswolds towns, trade in wool was a mainstay in the medieval period, as this was gathered from the surrounding countryside and then merchants (or usually their agents) visited the towns to buy in quantity (Hurst 2005).

Hughes (2014) also reported that on the 1845 tithe map the excavation is part of an area shown as *Tanners Close*, while the earliest Ordnance Survey map (OS 1885) indicates the area as tree-covered, possibly an orchard. The use of this land as allotments was from the later 19th century (OS 1902), with the present site becoming a carpark between 1955 and 1977 (OS 1955, OS 1977), during which time the land to the north changed in use from allotments to housing and recreation use.

2.2 Previous archaeological work on this specific site

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by John Moore Archaeological Services in 2014. This entailed the excavation of one trench through the carpark, and revealed a number of undated pits and a ditch, and a late medieval pit of no clear function. The undated pits were thought to be a result of tree planting, possibly associated with an orchard illustrated on historic mapping.

3 Project aims

The aims and scope of the project are to locate and sample archaeological deposits and record their nature, extent and date with the aim of preserving these assets by record to mitigate the effects of the proposed development.

4 Project methodology

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2019). Fieldwork was undertaken between 8–18 April 2019.

An area amounting to 800m^2 was proposed for excavation. This was reduced whilst on site to 465m^2 due to a number of constraints, including previously unknown services, abandoned cars, and the need to avoid the root systems of existing trees. The location of the area is indicated in Figure 2.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed under constant archaeological supervision using a 360º tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012) and area and feature locations were surveyed using a differential GPS with an accuracy limit set at <0.04m. On completion of excavation the area was reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was undertaken through a combination of structural, artefactual and environmental evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

The project archive is currently held at the offices of Worcestershire Archaeology. Subject to the agreement of the landowner it is anticipated that it will be deposited at Cirencester Museum.

5 Archaeological results

5.1 Introduction

The features recorded in the excavation area are shown in Figures 2-5.

5.2 Phasing descriptions

The features identified on site were predominantly medieval in date, and largely fell into two camps; large quarry pits or smaller circular pits. Following discussion between Susanna Parker and Charles Parry, a sampling strategy that aimed to investigate between 30- 40% of the pits was adopted. As such, there is a phase of unexcavated features that were likely to have been of similar date to similar feature types that were sampled.

The distribution of features was determined mainly by the changes in the natural substrate; the eastern half of the site was a silty clay with limestone brash, and very few features. The western half, however, had seams of limestone bedrock running north to south, and these had been exploited by quarry pits.

5.2.1 Natural deposits

The natural substrate of the site varied, with a yellow limestone bedrock in the western half of the site giving way to a yellow silty clay and limestone brash in the eastern half.

5.2.2 Phase 1: Roman

No features of Roman date were identified during the excavation, but a number of finds dating to this period were recovered from the fills of medieval features, hinting at a Roman presence in the wider landscape. These finds included box flue tile and Oxford colour-coated ware pottery.

5.2.3 Phase 2: 11th-12th Century

In the centre of the site was a cluster of intercutting pits; this was excavated in broadly opposing quadrants. Both interventions, in the south-west and the north-east, revealed that the pits were very shallow, probably the result of later truncation. This made interpretation of deposits difficult, but it was considered that two separate pits were discernible in the north-eastern quadrant (1035 and 1033), neither deeper than 0.26m (Plate 3). The pit in the south-west quadrant (1025) was only 0.3m at its deepest (Fig 4). Two of the three features contained medieval pottery and animal bone, the pottery all dating to the mid-11th to 12th century. To the south-west of this cluster was am equally shallow pit, 1046, with 12th–13th century pottery. On the eastern side of the excavation area was a more isolated pit (1027), which had survived better, being 0.27m deep and containing mid-11th–12th century pottery (Plate 4).

Ditch

A small ditch ran north-west to south-east from the northern edge of the site, before fading out as the slope and later landscaping truncated it (Fig 4; Plate 6). It was 0.76m wide and 0.35m deep at its largest extent, and contained animal bone and pottery (dated mid-11th–12th century). Its exact purpose is undetermined but it likely acted as a plot division and/or drainage, possibly relating to the quarry activity to the south and west.

Pits, including quarrying

The largest features on the site were deep pits that followed the course of veins of bedrock. These were located on the western side of the site. The smallest one was 1015, which had been recorded in the evaluation as an undated ditch, though during this investigation pottery dating from mid-11th–12th century was recovered (Fig 4). It was elongated and rectangular in shape, which justifies the interpretation arrived at in the evaluation that it was a ditch. The edges of the pit were irregular, and there was a large shallow lip at the northern end before it dived down nearly vertically to a depth of 0.72m.

Two large pits were excavated on the western edge of the site, with 1018 cutting 1020 (Fig 4; Plates 7-8). 1018 was 3.3m long by 2.5m wide and 0.6m deep. It contained three fills, all derived from upcast material from the initial excavation of the pit. Mid-11th–12th century pottery and animal bone was recovered from the middle fill. Pit 1020 was truncated along its southern edge, and was probably only clipped by 1018. This pit was 1.74m long, 2.8m wide and 0.8m deep, with irregular edges following the natural bedrock. Almost all the sides were vertical, but they were not consistent, as the bedrock naturally splits into blocks. This pit was also filled with upcast material, and contained animal bone and mid-11th to 12th century pottery.

The largest of these features following the bedrock were along the north-western edge of the site, where an area 9.4m x 7.8m was taken up by a series of intercutting features (Figs 4-5; Plates 9-14). A slot 3.4 x 4.5m was excavated in the middle of it, revealing two large pits (1057 and 1063) similar in nature to 1018 and 1020, along with a hearth (1037) and associated postholes (1069, 1071, 1073), and a large shallow pit (1049). A smaller pit (1052) was cut through the top of two of these features.

The full extents of the two large pits remain unknown, but 1057 was 2.1 x 3.1m and 1.55m deep, whilst 1063 was 2.2 x 1.56m and 1.55m deep. Both pits had irregular sides, defined by the natural fractures of the bedrock. In some cases this resulted in vertical sides, elsewhere it created steep undercuts. Both pits were backfilled with upcast from the initial excavation. The basal fills in both consisted mainly of angular stone fragments, created during the quarrying of the stone, and possibly never removed from the hole, being working debris. There followed a series of rapidly deposited fills, from which a substantial amount of medieval (and occasional Roman) pottery and animal bone was recovered, along with a whetstone. The medieval pottery from both features dated from the late 12th to 13th century. Pit 1063 cut pit 1057, but it is likely that the rough extent of the feature was known to the creators of the new pit, as the truncation was along the very edge of the former hole. These two features, along with the three similar pits described above, were all clearly dug to exploit the free stone outcrops in this part of the site.

Pit 1052 cut into the top of 1050, and the upper fills of pit 1057. This was a relatively shallow feature, at 0.49m deep and 1.85m wide, containing pottery dating to the late 12th-13th century. Its function was not determined, but it may have been an exploratory hole prospecting for viable stone sources.

Hearth area

On the eastern side of the large slot, there was a wide but shallow cut (1049) (Figs 4-5; Plates 12-13). This appeared to be a working hollow, as into the base of this cut were dug three postholes and a hearth. The hearth had at least two iterations. Initially a small scoop was excavated through the bedrock, measuring 1m north to south and 0.8m east to west (up to 1.8m hypothecated), to a depth of 0.2m. A grey silty sand deposit 0.05m thick was placed in the base as a makeup layer, yielding pottery dated to the mid-12th to 13th century. This was then partially covered by charcoal deposit 1044, though there was no heat discolouration of the makeup layer, suggesting that 1044 was not burnt in situ, and so may have been rake out from another hearth; it is possible that earlier hearth features were present in unexcavated parts of the wider spread. Above the charcoal layer was a heavily fired sand layer. It was mainly red, evidence of the intense heat it had been subjected to, fading to its original yellow around the edges where it had clearly been further from the heat source. This was partially sealed by charcoal deposit 1042, being the remnants of the first discernible firing of

the hearth. A further layer of yellow sand was laid over this charcoal layer, before a new grey silty sand was deposited as a bedding layer for a hearth stone (1038). This hearth stone was of limestone, and highly fired, ranging from red to a deep purple in places. It was made up of several smaller pieces, forming a slab measuring 0.98 x 0.7m and 0.08m thick. A final charcoal layer (1041) lay against the south-western edge of the stone, though this had been disturbed somewhat by animal burrowing. It represented the final *in situ* firing of the hearth, and contained pottery from the late 12th–13th century.

Two of the postholes were present along the north-south axis of the hearth, suggesting that they may have formed a simple structure over the top of hearth. The smaller of the two features, which is probably best described as a stake hole rather than a posthole, was 0.13m across and 0.18m deep, with a tapered profile. It was covered by fill 1051, as were the other two postholes and ultimately the hearth, but the top of the material that filled it (1072) was slightly burnt, suggesting that the stake hole was redundant by the time of at least the final version of the hearth, if not the earliest one. The other posthole on the alignment (1069) was larger, at 0.27m across and 0.19m deep. The third posthole was located just to the south-west of the stakehole. Taken together with the hearth this may represent an improvised kitchen area for the quarry workers.

The material which covered these features, and effectively filled the working hollow formed by 1049, was in turn covered by 1050, with both deposits similar to the upper fills of the two quarry pits to the west.

5.2.4 Phase 3: Post-medieval

One post-medieval pit was excavated, being a shallow, irregularly shaped feature. It may have association with the otherwise undated pits in the central part of the site, discussed below.

5.2.5 Phase 4: Modern

The site was overlain by a clay subsoil, which was partially truncated by subsequent construction associated with the carpark. A layer of stone hard-core sealed the subsoil in all but the eastern side of the excavation are, being the base for a tarmac surface. On the eastern side, modern landscaping had sealed the original topsoil that overlay the subsoil with a made ground and a new topsoil and turf.

5.2.6 Unexcavated features

A number of small pits similar in form to the intercutting 11th–12th century pits remained unexcavated at the end of the excavation. This followed discussions with the Council Planning Archaeologist, where it was agreed that the sampling strategy was sufficient to characterize the site.

5.2.7 Undated

Five features remained undated, all but one being shallow pits in the central part of the site. They were similar in size to some of the undated features recorded in the evaluation that were interpreted as tree planting pits, associated possibly with an orchard as indicated on 19th century mapping. The one other pit contained the remains of at least four piglets (Plate 5). It was a heavily truncated pit, as most of the pits were, but it was felt at the time as if it may have been excavated through the subsoil, suggesting a post-medieval or later date.

6 Artefactual evidence

6.1 Methods

Recovery of artefacts was undertaken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012).

The finds work reported here conforms with the following guidance: for findswork by CIfA (2014b), for pottery analysis by PCRG/SGRP/MPRG (2016), for archive creation by AAF (2011), and for museum deposition by SMA (1993).

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* date was produced for each stratified context. The date was used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on a Microsoft Access database.

The pottery and ceramic building material were examined under x20 magnification where appropriate, and referenced as appropriate by fabric type and form according to the Gloucester pottery fabric series (Vince 1978), and also the fabric reference series maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology (Hurst and Rees 1992 and www.worcestershireceramics.org).

For overall quantification of finds see Table 1 – this table only includes finds from samples where it results in new information about dating for the site.

Discard policy

Artefacts from topsoil and subsoil and unstratified contexts will normally be noted but not retained, unless they are of intrinsic interest (eg worked flint or flint debitage, featured pottery sherds, and other potential 'registered artefacts'). All artefacts will be collected from stratified excavated contexts, except for large assemblages of post-medieval or modern material, unless there is some special reason to retain such as local production. Such material may be noted and not retained, or, if appropriate, a representative sample may be collected and retained. Discard of finds from post-medieval and earlier deposits will only be instituted with reference to museum collection policy and/or with agreement of the local museum.

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)
prehistoric	stone	flint	scraper	1	36
Roman	ceramic	earthenware	pot	5	61
Roman	ceramic	earthenware	roof tile	2	253
late Saxon	ceramic	earthenware	pot	2	45
medieval	ceramic	earthenware	pot	499	5787
post-medieval	ceramic	earthenware	clay pipe	1	1
post-medieval	glass		vessel	1	4
modern	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	1
undated	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	2
undated	ceramic	fired clay		1	1
undated	metal	iron	horseshoe nail	1	8
undated	metal	iron	nail	3	9
undated	organic	charcoal		3	3
undated	slag	fuel ash slag		2	74
undated	stone		whetstone	1	212

Table 1: Artefactual quantification

6.2 Flint by Rob Hedge

A single piece of worked stone from (1017) comprises a crude end-scraper on a poor-quality secondary flake of opaque light orange-grey pebble flint. Post-depositional edge damage has cut through the partial cortication, and extensive abrasion suggests that the scraper is residual. The casual approach, poor flaking control and low-grade raw material are all features typical of later prehistoric flintworking (Humphrey and Young 1999, 59); this scraper was, therefore, probably manufactured in the later Bronze Age or Iron Age.

6.3 Ceramics by Derek Hurst

The most common artefact type was pottery (Table 1) and this was generally in very good condition, being generally unabraded, as reflected in a slightly larger than average sherd size of 11.8g for the late Saxon/medieval pottery (and, when also taking into account that much of the pottery was very thinly made, this serves to emphasise that this is indeed a well preserved assemblage).

broad period	Worcs fabric code	Gloucester fabric code**	fabric common name	count	weight(g)
Romano-British	12	TF11B	Severn Valley ware	3	17
Romano-British	29	TF12A	Oxfordshire red/brown colour coated ware	2	44
Late Saxon	49	TF45	St Neots-type ware	2	45
Medieval	?55/148.1	TF91	Worcester-type/Evesham sandy unglazed ware	449	4981
Medieval	57	TF41B	Cotswolds unglazed ware	46	495
Medieval	65	TF44	Glazed oolitic limestone tempered ware	3	267
Medieval	99	-	Miscellaneous medieval wares	3	47
Modern	85	-	Modern china	1	1

*Table 2: Pottery quantification by fabric (**based on Vince 1978 with updating for Roman fabrics by ?Timby 2008)*

Roman

A small quantity of Roman finds (Table 1) comprised Severn Valley ware pottery of broadly Roman date (1048, 1076), colour-coated Oxfordshire ware (1058, 1068) of mid-3rd–4th century date, and some box-flue tile (1059). These were all abraded, and clearly residual given they were found associated with later material.

Late Saxon

St Neots-type ware was present, though only in a small quantity (Table 1; Gloucester TF45), and only one form was represented, namely the inturned-rim bowl (cf Hurst 1992, fig 91, no 6). This ware usually dates to the 10th–mid-11th century and is a considerable rarity, though is best known from major towns in the region of the period such as Droitwich (Hurst 1992) as listed by Vince (1978). It denotes a pre-Conquest era of long distance trade with few production centres to call on for quite ordinary goods, as it was produced in eastern England. However, it was residual in this case and so does not necessarily imply activity of this date on the Site itself. Though it could give a good clue as to when activity in this locale started, as all the fills present were indistinguishable from disuse (except

for the hearth), which, being the case, would mean their dating would only signify when activity ceased.

11th-12th Century

The pottery of this period comprised two main ware types: either limestone- or quartz-tempered fabrics. The former was a well-established fabric type (Gloucester TF41B), which is a well characterised and occurs in both club-rimmed and everted rim forms (cf Hurst 1992, fig 95, nos 12–14). This ware is also relatively well datable to the mid-11th–12th century.

The latter fabric type (sandy ware) was far more common (*c* 90%), though much less easy to specifically characterise, as there was considerable variation in quartz grain size, and also given that quartz is such a common inclusion generally in pottery of this period. Some of this sandy ware was very fine-grained and thinly potted, and it was characteristics like this that suggested it differed from unglazed Worcester-type ware (Gloucester TF91) which it otherwise closely resembled– it was all in everted rim 'cooking pot' forms typical of the 12th/13th–14th century. Similar material has been recovered from Evesham (Worcestershire fabric 148.1; unglazed micaceous ware) where it was first recognised (in 2002 by V Bryant), and seemingly confirmed more recently during excavation at Merstow Green in Evesham (L Griffin, pers comm). To date a local source to Evesham has been suggested. The recovery of a range of sandy wares in Chipping Campden, might also suggest that this area should potentially also be considered as a possible production source. The micaceous sandstone being quarried on the site might well indicate a suitable parent rock if clay sources are available locally.

Whereas such a sandy ware fabric in the range of forms present could date as late as the end of the 14th century, the main phase of site activity seems to be at the commencement of this ware type, as it was accompanied in the main only by Cotswolds ware of the type which is typically mid-11th–12th century in date, and the only glazed pottery was Cotswolds/Minety-type ware (Gloucester TF44) spouted pitcher also dated to the 12th (–early 13th) century (a decorated body sherd, handle, spout from 1048 1058,1065 respectively). Given this evidence, then the absence of glazed jug forms seems to confirm categorically that the site assemblage pre-dates the early 1200s at the latest. The sandy wares are, therefore, probably also to be dated from the middle to end of the 12th century in this particular site context. Though tentative, the following chronological sequence is suggested based on the ceramics.

Up to c?1150

It is possible that some features pre-dated *c* ?1150, though this is based on some context assemblages not including any sandy wares which are usually thought to be around later 12th century at the earliest. However, the rather small size of the individual context groups may mean this is a misleading distinction to be making in at least some cases.

Post c?1150 to c 1200

This main phase of activity on the site comprised a good scatter of pottery (both Cotswolds and the sandy wares) across all the features, though with much of it from the backfills to the quarry 1057. In the nature of ceramics of this period it was almost exclusively wide-mouthed jars, usually also termed 'cooking pots' and there was certainly sooting traces on some to confirm this function. It is possible that some would have been used in association with the hearth 1037, though only a few small sherds were directly linked to that feature. The only other vessel form was the spouted pitcher (handle and spout sherds present) from quarry 1057 backfills (1059, 1065). Such vessels are relatively rare but form the other part of the ceramic repertoire of the period, and have been provenanced to Minety in north Wiltshire.

Post 12th century

There is no firm evidence from the finds that any of the deposits in the main phase of site activity date to later than *c* 1200 (see above). A single sherd of modern pottery was contamination (1028). Such

evidence suggests strongly that the site has been both little disturbed since the 12th century but also then severely truncated.

6.4 Other finds by Derek Hurst

There were few other medieval/later finds than pottery sherds:

1006 – two nail fragments

1059 – whetstone (broken)

1065 – nail shaft fragment

1067 – horseshoe nail (bent and complete except for tip)

Except for 1006 in [1005], these were all from 12th-century contexts and associated with quarry [1057] backfill. The large whetstone was made from a fine-grained greyish-brown tabular micaceous sandstone, and has a rectangular section (30 x 33mm max) while being of irregular thickness along its length – an incised ?pin sharpening groove is present on one side.

7 Environmental evidence

Environmental sampling was undertaken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). The environmental project conforms to guidance by CIfA (2014a) on archaeological excavation and guidance by English Heritage (2011).

7.1 Methods

7.1.1 Sampling policy

Samples were taken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (2012). A total of four samples (each of up to 20 litres) of 12th to 13th century date were taken from the site (Table 3).

7.1.2 Processing and analysis

The samples were processed by flotation using a Siraf tank. The flots were collected on a 300μm sieve and the residue retained on a 1mm mesh. This allows for the recovery of items such as small animal bones, molluscs and seeds.

The residues were scanned eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. A magnet was also used to test for the presence of hammerscale.

Following processing and residue scanning, the flot richest in grain (1041) was selected for analysis and one flot (1045) selected for assessment to compare composition. Charred plant remains were viewed using a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology, and a seed identification manual (Cappers *et al* 2012). Nomenclature for the plant remains follows the New Flora of the British Isles, 3rd edition (Stace 2010).

7.1.3 Discard policy

Remaining sample material and scanned residues will be discarded after a period of three months following submission of this report unless there is a specific request to retain them.

7.2 Plant macrofossils by Elizabeth Pearson

The samples are summarised in Tables 4–5.

All four samples from hearth [1037] contained charred cereal crop remains. Results are presented here for the two samples richest in these remains.

The flot from the earliest fill (1045) was scanned to characterise the assemblage (Table 5). Cereal crop remains were dominated by grains of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum* sp free-threshing), with

occasional grains of hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and oat (*Avena* sp) being recorded. Crop weeds were moderately common, suggesting a cereal waste fraction rather than a cleaned crop product. The weed assemblage included weeds which are commonly found with medieval cereal crop waste, such as vetch or pea (*Vicia*/*Lathyrus* sp), fragments of possible field bean (*Vicia faba*), corncockle (*Agrostemma githago*), sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and cornflower/knapweed (*Centaurea* sp).

The uppermost fill (1041) of hearth [1037] was fully quantified (Table 6). This material was dominated by charred cereal grain, and to a lesser extent, small weed seeds. Free-threshing wheat was dominant, with a small quantity of rye (*Secale cereale*) and oat (*Avena* sp) grain. Seeds of legumes such as vetch or pea (*Vicia*/*Lathyrus* sp), clover (*Trifolium* sp) and melilot/medick (*Melilotus*/*Medicago* sp) were present, as is often the case with medieval charred cereal crop waste. These are likely to have been weeds contaminating the cereals, perhaps originating originally as nitrogen-fixing cover crops and subsequently persisting as weeds in cereal crops. As the weed assemblage was made up of both weeds of heavy clay soils, such as stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), and weeds of acid, sandy soils (sheep's sorrel or *Rumex acetosella*), it is likely that the cereal crop waste derives from crops grown on different soils.

These remains are more likely to be the residue of cereal crop waste used as fuel for a hearth, than the remains from a specific activity such as corn drying. As the site is located on fertile soils, the surrounding farmland is likely to have been largely arable, providing ample cereal crops waste to fuel hearths. The site is located on fertile freely draining slightly acid but base-rich soils. Similarly fertile, but loamy and clayey soils exist to the west and east (Cranfield Soil and AgriFood Institute 2019).

context	sample	feature type	fill of	provisional date	phase	sample volume (L)	volume processed (L)	residue assessed	flot assessed
1041	1	Hearth	1037	Medieval	Late 12th to 13th century	20	20	Yes	Yes
1042	2	Hearth	1037	Medieval		10	10	Yes	No
1044	3	Hearth	1037	Medieval		10	10	Yes	No
1045	4	Hearth	1037	Medieval		20	20	Yes	Yes

Table 3: List of bulk samples

context	sample	large mammal	small mammal	fish	frog/td	eggshell	charcoal	charred plant	artefacts	comments
1041	1	occ	occ		occ	occ	occ	occ	occ pot, mod burnt stone	
1042	2	occ	occ			occ		occ*	occ pot, burnt stone	*= burnt cereal grains and nut-shell
1044	3	occ					occ	occ	occ fired clay, clinker, pot, burnt stone	

1045	4	occ		occ	occ		occ	occ	occ pot, burnt stone	

*Table 4: Summary of environmental samples; occ = occasional, mod = moderate, abt = abundant, * = fragments*

context	sample	species detail	category remains	quantity/diversity
1045	4	*Triticum* sp (free-threshing) grain, *Triticum* sp tail grain, *Hordeum vulgare* grain (hulled), cf *Avena* sp grain, *Bromus* sp grain, Poaceae sp indet grain	grain	++/+++/low
1045	4	*Vicia sativa* ssp *nigra*, cf *Vicia faba**, *Vicia/Lathyrus* sp, *Rumex acetosella*, *Agrostemma githago*, *Centaurea* sp, *Carex* sp (3-sided) nutlets	grain	++/low
1045	4	unidentified wood fragments	misc	+/low

Table 5: Charred plant remains from hearth fill (1045)

Latin name	Family	Common name	Habitat	1041
Triticum sp (free-threshing) grain	Poaceae	free-threshing wheat	F	81
Triticum sp grain	Poaceae	wheat	F	1
Secale cereale grain	Poaceae	rye	F	11
Cereal sp indet grain	Poaceae	cereal	F	100+
Cereal sp indet culm node	Poaceae	cereal	F	1
Avena sp grain	Poaceae	oat	AF	10
cf *Avena* sp grain	Poaceae	oat	AF	14
Vicia/Lathyrus sp	Fabaceae	vetch/pea	ABCD	11
Melilotus/Medicago sp	Fabaceae	melilot/medick	ABD	2
Trifolium sp	Fabaceae	clover	ABD	2
cf *Linum catharticum*	Linaceae	fairy flax	D	1
Raphanus raphanistrum (pod fragments)	Brassicaceae	wild radish	ABG	2
Rumex acetosella	Polygonaceae	sheep's sorrel	ABD	2
Rumex sp	Polygonaceae	dock	ABCD	3
Hyoscyamus niger	Solanaceae	henbane	AB	2
Centaurea sp	Asteraceae	knapweed/cornflower	ABD	1
Anthemis cotula	Asteraceae	stinking chamomile	AB	18
cf *Anthemis cotula*	Asteraceae	stinking chamomile	AB	++
Glebionis segetum	Asteraceae	corn marigold	AB	5
Rumex/Carex sp	Polygonaceae/ Cyperaceae	dock/sedge	ABCDE	2
Poaceae sp indet grain	Poaceae	grass	AF	7

Table 6: Plant remains from bulk samples

Key:

habitat	quantity
A= cultivated ground	+ = 1 - 10
B= disturbed ground	++ = 11- 50
C= woodlands, hedgerows, scrub etc	+++ = 51 - 100
D = grasslands, meadows and heathland	++++ = 101+
E = aquatic/wet habitats	* estimate from fragments
F = cultivar	

7.3 Animal bone by Matilda Holmes

A small assemblage of bone was recovered (Table 7). Bones were in good condition, with a few gnawed, butchered and burnt bones recorded. Sheep/ goat bones were most common, followed by cattle, with a few pig, equid (horse or donkey), canid (dog or fox), domestic fowl (chicken), goose and red deer bones. This is quite a diverse species list for such a small assemblage, and could indicate high status, though with the caveat that it is not a large sample size.

The assemblage is too small to be useful as a reliable indicator of diet, husbandry or status, but there was one deposit of note. Context 1030 contained the remains of at least four piglets. Limb bones were well represented, but no cranial or mandible fragments. It is possible that they were eaten, rather than being breeding casualties. The consumption of very young animals increased considerably in the post-medieval period (Holmes 2018). It may be that the unstratified context is also related to the same deposit, as it contains the remains of at least two piglets, including mandible and cranial fragments.

context	unidentified	cattle	sheep/ goat	pig	other mammal	bird	other taxa
1006	1						
1017			2		1		Medium mammal
1022	2						
1023	3	1	1	1	1		Equid
1028						1	Domestic fowl
1030	12			5			
1036	1				1		Equid
1048	9		3				
1051	7	4	1				
1056		1					
1058	32	2	6		2	2	Equid, red deer, goose, domestic fowl
1059	5	5	5	1			
1060	4						
1061	8	2	1				
1064	9	1	2				
1067	12	1	3		1	1	Equid, domestic fowl
1068	1						

1076	10				5	1	Equid, canid
U/S				2			
Total		17	24	9	11	5	

Table 7: Species representation by context

8 Discussion

The excavation at Cider Mill Lane has revealed some of the earliest medieval activity so far identified at Chipping Campden. The form of this activity can be generally divided into two types; large quarry pits for stone extraction, and smaller circular pits of probable domestic function. A small ditch of similar date may form a boundary to this activity.

Domestic pits

The shallow clusters of pits that were most prevalent on the western side of the site had clearly been heavily truncated in the years following their use and disuse. Including the somewhat isolated pit on the south-eastern side of the excavation area, the pits returned pottery from AD 1050-1200.

It was not possible to discern a specific function, due to the truncation and the lack of indicative remains. Such features are often considered to be rubbish pits but analysis of similar features in medieval Worcester has suggested that domestic waste disposal is often a secondary function, and mineral extraction or cess storage is often the initial purpose (Buteux & Jackson 2000). This theory relies upon analysis of the pottery and animal bone assemblage, and the later truncation has made such insight impossible.

The dating of the pits would suggest a slightly earlier use of the land than much of the subsequent quarrying, and the small ditch was contemporary with these earlier features. The medieval plan components map from the Historic Towns Survey (Douthwaite *et al* 2007) includes the Site in the north-western limit of the area of earliest medieval settlement. These features are just the sort of edge-of-settlement workings that would be expected.

Quarry pits

The seam of freestone that runs roughly north to south on the western edge of the site was exploited by a series of large quarry pits. These pits all show evidence for quite rapid backfilling, and also for respecting earlier cuttings; where one pit cuts another, it is evident that the limits of the first quarry were known and the new pit was dug tight against the old one. Such an approach does beg the question of why the pits were closed so rapidly if it was such a useful but compact resource.

The dating recovered from the quarry pits could possibly divide these features into two groups; the southernmost (and smallest) quarry pits would be contemporary with the domestic pits, whilst the larger ones to the north date slightly later to the late 12th-13th century.

The hearth that was located next to the large area of quarrying, alongside the volume of cooking pot forms and animal bone suggests that it may have been used to provide food for a dedicated workforce. Environmental analysis suggested that the charred cereal crop that was recovered from the hearth was used as a fuel rather than derived from crop drying, and certainly the setting of the hearth would not suggest such a function as crop processing.

The focus of the town shifted from around the church (to the south of the Site) to the west, as the formal laying out of burgage plots on the High Street occurred in the mid-12th century. This coincided with the booming prosperity of Cotswold towns such as Chipping Campden due to the buoyant wool trade, and saw an increase in stone-built vernacular buildings (Thomas 2016, 39). It is possible that this was the destination for the stone quarried from the Cider Mill Lane site.

Subsequent activity

There was a clear hiatus in activity across the site until the post-medieval period, and even that activity was restricted to some light pitting, of agricultural function and possibly associated with the creation of an orchard. The site was definitely truncated but at what point is not clear. The fact that no later medieval truncation had impacted upon the pits suggests that this part of the town very rapidly became peripheral as the new urban centre developed down slope to the west.

9 Conclusions

An area of *c* 465m^2 was excavated on the northern edge of the historic core of Chipping Campden. These works revealed an area of activity from the mid-11th to 13th century, defined by small pits of probable domestic function and large quarry pits exploiting a seam of freestone that ran north to south along the western edge of the site. This activity is some of the earliest medieval remains found in Chipping Campden and confirms some of the conjectured mapping of the historic development of the town. The stone quarrying corresponds with the increased wealth of the town due to the wool trade that occurred in the mid-12th century, as well as the planned development of the burgage plots along the High Street. This increase in prosperity and formal urbanisation may have seen an increase in stone built vernacular dwellings, and therefore the rapid exploitation of the stone resource.

No further activity was identified on the site until the post-medieval period when small agricultural features appeared. This suggests that following the 13th century this area of the town very quickly became peripheral.

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved. Conditions were suitable in all of the trenches to identify the presence or absence of archaeological features. It is considered that the nature, density and distribution of archaeological features provides an accurate characterisation of the development site as a whole.

10 Discard and retention – excavation archive

Locally speaking this seems a significant assemblage of finds and so retention is recommended in a suitable local museum.

11 Project personnel

The fieldwork was led by Peter Lovett, assisted by Hazel Whitefoot, Gwyneth Thomas, Jem Brewer, Andy Walsh, Tommaso Gallo, Charlotte Manning, and Saskia Winslow.

The project was managed by Tom Rogers. The report was produced and collated by Peter Lovett. Specialist contributions and individual sections of the report are attributed to the relevant authors throughout the text.

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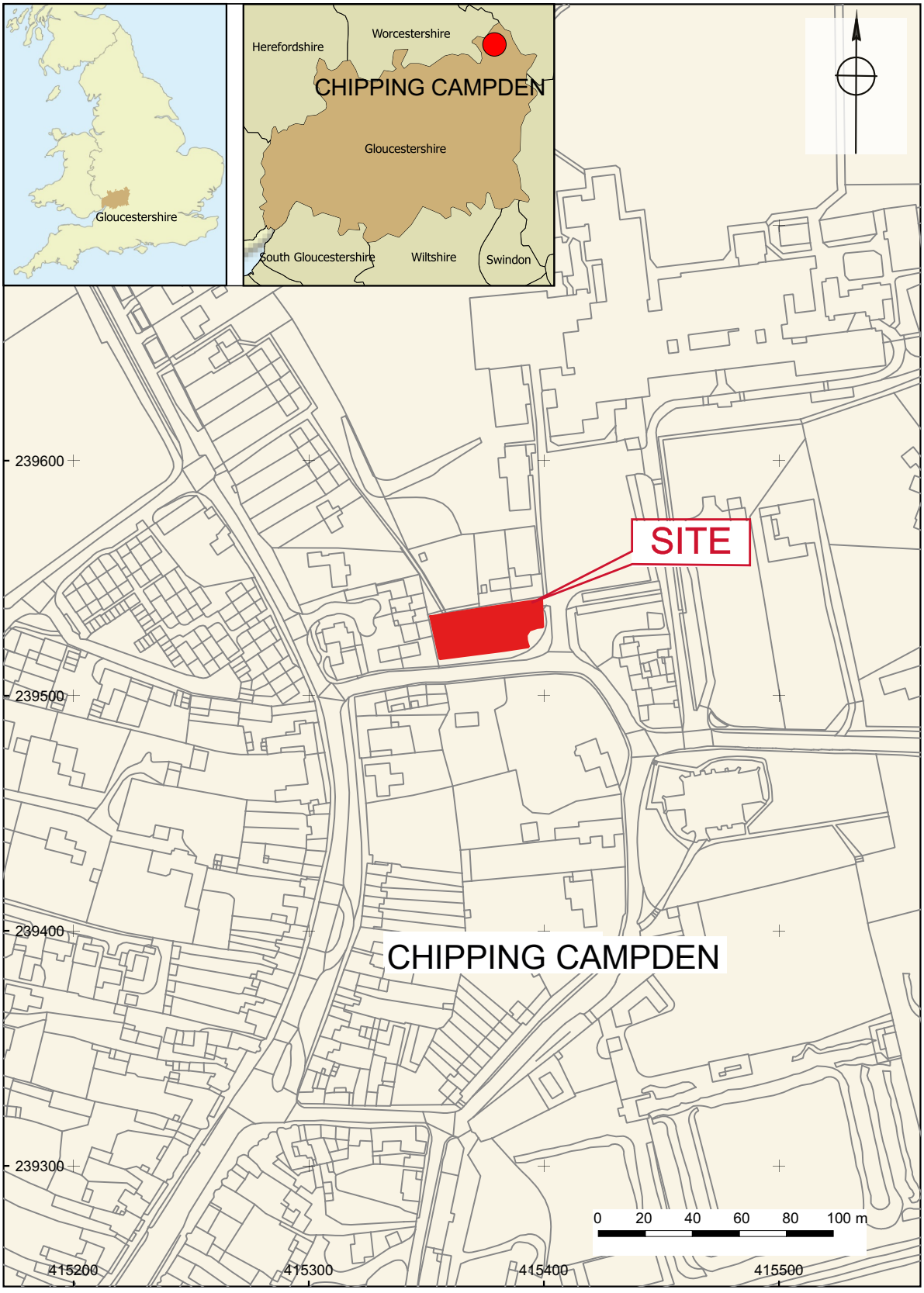
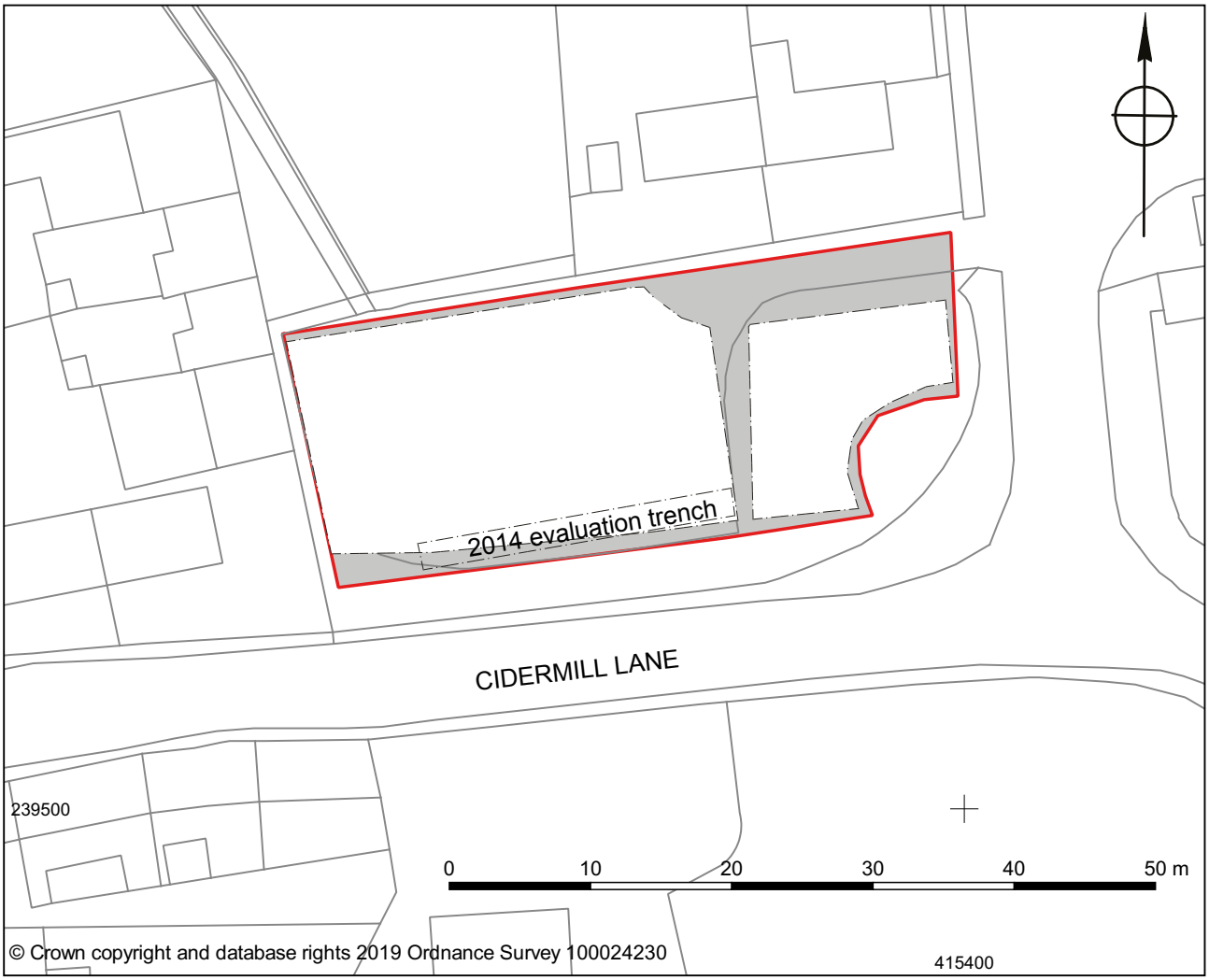
Figures

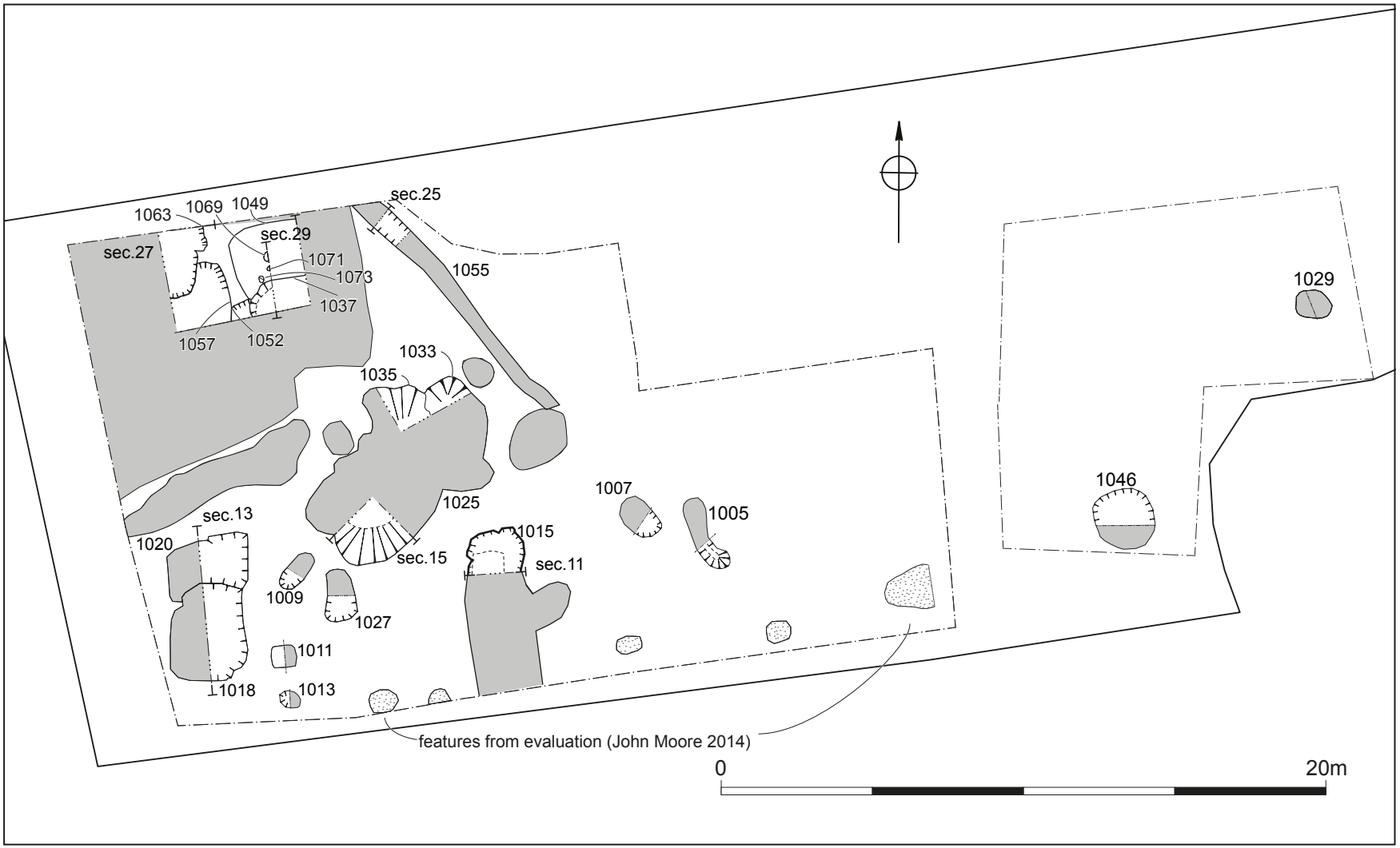


Location of the site *Figure 1*



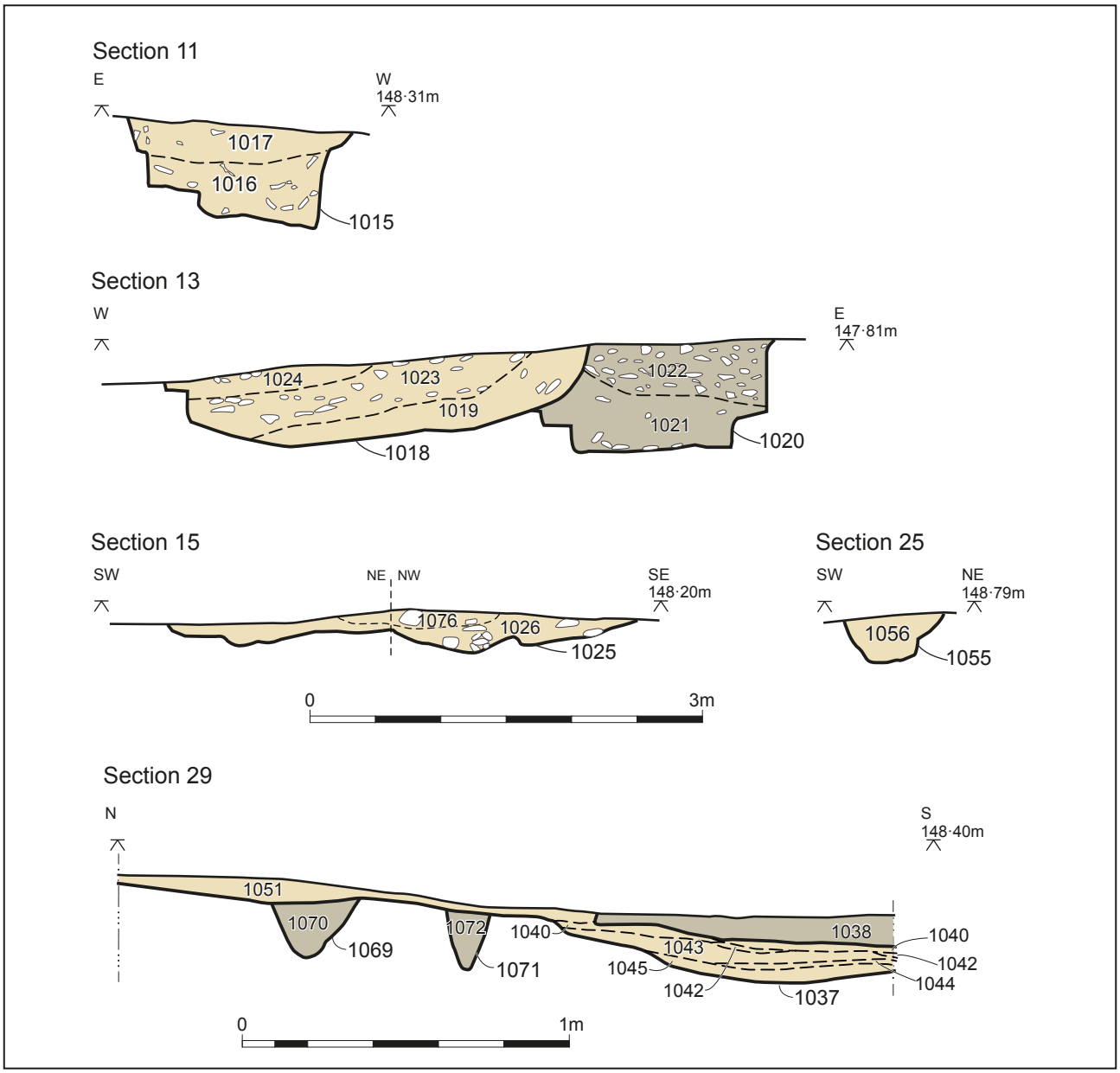
Trench Plan

Figure 2

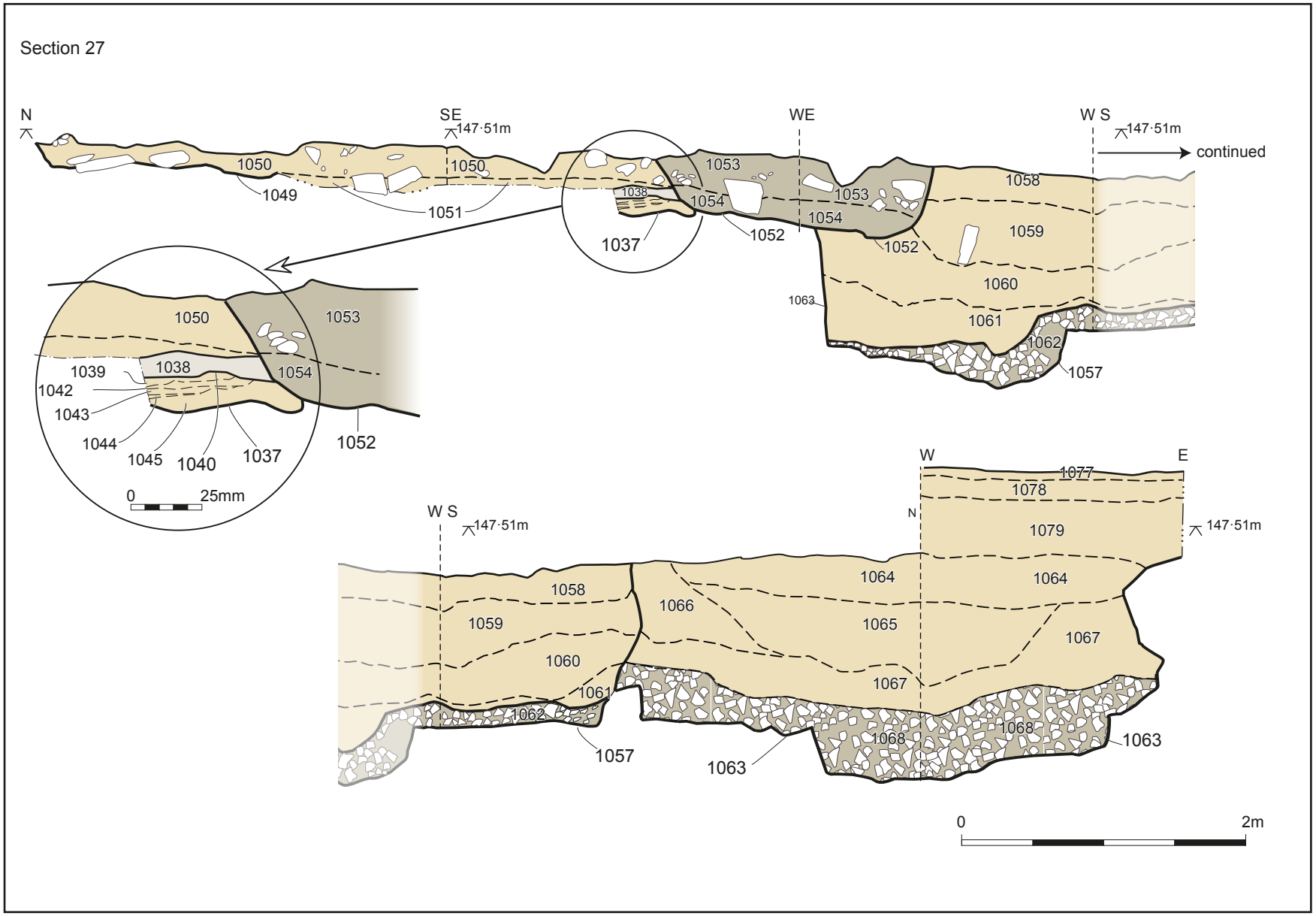


Archaeological features

Figure 3



Sections *Figure 4*



Section 27

Figure 5

Plates

Plate 1: Site before excavation, looking south-east

Plate 2: Southern half of the site following stripping of overburden. Looking east (1m scales)

Plate 3: Shallow remnants of 11th-12th Century pits 1033 and 1035, looking south-west (1m scales)

Plate 4: Pit 1031, looking south (1m scale)

Plate 5: Pre-excavation shot of piglets burial in pit 1029 (0.4m scale)

Plate 6: Small ditch 1055, looking north-west (0.4m scale)

Plate 7: East-facing section of quarry pits 1018 and 1020 (1m scales)

Plate 8: Oblique view of quarry pits 1018 and 1020 (1m scales)

Plate 9: North-facing section of hearth 1037, pit 1052, and quarry pit 1057 (1m scales)

Plate 10: East-facing section of quarry pits 1057 and 1063 (1m scales)

Plate 11: South facing section of quarry pit 1063 (1m scale)

Plate 12: Quarry pits and hearth, looking east (1m scales)

Plate 13: West-facing section of hearth 1037 (0.4m scale)

Plate 14: Tommaso Gallo and Charlotte Manning excavating quarry pits

Appendix 1: Summary of project archive

TYPE	DETAILS*
Artefacts and Environmental	Animal bones, Ceramics, Environmental, Glass, Human bones, Industrial, Leather, Metal, Textiles, Wood, Worked bone, Worked stone/lithics, other
Paper	Context sheet, Correspondence, Diary (Field progress form), Drawing, Matrices, Photograph, Plan, Report, Section, Survey
Digital	Database, GIS, Geophysics, Images raster/digital photography, Spreadsheets, Survey, Text

**OASIS terminology*

Appendix 2: List of context *tpq* dates

NB the following context *tpq* dates do not imply date ranges.

context	context type	fill of	context *tpq* date
1006	Fill	1005	post-med
1017	Fill	1015	M11-12
1022	Fill	1020	M11-12
1023	Fill	1018	M11-12
1028	Fill	1027	M11-12(contaminated)
1036	Fill	1035	M11-12
1041	Fill	1037	L12/13-14
1042	Fill	1037	L12/13-14
1044	Fill	1037	L12/13-14
1045	Fill	1037	L12/13-14
1047	Fill	1046	L12/13-14
1048	Fill	1046	L12/E13
1051	Fill	1049	L12/13-14c
1054	Fill	1052	L12/13-14
1056	Fill	1055	M11-12
1058	Fill	1057	L12/E13
1059	Fill	1057	L12/E13
1060	Fill	1057	L12
1064	Fill	1063	L12/E13
1065	Fill	1063	L12
1067	Fill	1063	L12/E13
1068	Fill	1063	L12/E13
1076	Fill	1025	M11-12