

Section E: Excavation

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E.1: Archaeological Excavation Methods

Archaeological information recovered at the Alderley Sandhills Project site was recorded through the Harris Matrix. According to this method, every part of the site is defined as a "context" and is assigned an individual number (Harris 1979). Contexts can be layers of soil, architectural features, natural deposits, animal disturbances, soil stains, or intrusive holes. These elements constitute a "sequence of the deposition of strata or the creation of feature interfaces on a site through the course of time" (Harris 1979:86). The stratigraphic relationship of the contexts, or their spatial positions as they accumulated on top of each other through time, can be symbolically represented as a flow chart, or "matrix" (Appendices E.1 – E.3). This flow chart represents archaeological interpretations of the history of this site -- or how the various elements of the site came to be there, and how they changed while there. The "matrices" included within this report have been modified to also provide information on the spatial location of the archaeological contexts relative to the domestic buildings represented in historic plans. Within this report, each archaeological "context" will be referred to by its unique four-digit identification number. Data on each context has been organized into a summary tabular format (Appendices E.4 – E.7).

Vertical and horizontal spatial controls were maintained throughout the Alderley Sandhills Project. With assistance from Graham Mottershead of the Greater Manchester Archaeology Unit, a site grid was established through a series of permanent survey marks mounted during the topographic site survey (Figure E.1). In June 2004, the site datum point was linked to a pre-existing National Grid Reference Point to the immediate south of the study area. Thus, reduced levels were calculated in terms of metres above sea level.

During excavations, dirt removed from the site was screened through both 4mm and 2mm mesh sieves. Field crews sieved all soil removed from stratigraphic contexts, using a combination of wet and dry sieving, depending on the texture and saturation of the soil matrix. Sieving proved to be a valuable method at the Sandhills site, as discussed in Section I of this report. The excavation method ensured a dramatically high recovery rate for small finds such as copper-alloy sewing pins, decorative glass beads, slate pencil fragments, children's toys, and coins.

During excavation, field crews systematically recorded a series of data on each stratigraphic feature, deposit and cut. Provenance data and detailed visual characteristics of each stratigraphic context were recorded through photography and scaled drawings. Colour slides, black and white prints, and digital photographs were taken for every archaeological context. Two different scales were employed to generate the measured drawings. All single context horizontal plans were drawn at a 1:20 scale. Vertical profiles of trench and baulk edges were drawn at a 1:10 scale to preserve the finer spatial details of the local stratigraphic sequence. During excavations, trench supervisors took field readings to determine the colour and pH of dirt contexts. Determination of soil color was based on comparison with the Munsell Soil Color Chart (1994 Revised Edition). A Garden Industries pH measurement kit was used to determine relative degrees acidity/alkalinity in soils. Trench supervisors also collected samples of each dirt matrix. These soil samples are included in the

Alderley Sandhills Project Collection, now permanently curated by the Manchester Museum (see Section K.2). In accordance with permit requirements, at the close of the excavation season, all trenches were backfilled. At the request of the landowner and local community, efforts were made to reinstate the original English bluebell bulbs and grass turf.

E.2: Summary of Excavation

The site was excavated between 16 July 2003 and 12 September 2003. During this time four trenches were archaeologically investigated (see Figure E.1).

Area A: This trench was ten metres by ten metres wide and situated between the site grid points 100N/150E, 100N/160E, 110N/150E, 110N/160E. Area A was divided into four five metre by five metre Units. This trench was placed in order to excavate the structural remains and associated artefactual material of the Stanley type cottage which faced West towards the sandhills and referred to as the Eastern cottage. Due to time constraints, Unit 4 was not excavated below the topsoil layer.

Area B: This area was originally another ten metre by ten metre trench situated between the site grid points 90N/130E, 90N/140E, 100N/130E, 100N/140E and divided in to four five by five metre Units. However because of the presence of archaeological remains above ground to the East of Area B it was decided to extend this Trench and a fifth five by five metre Unit was added between the site grid points 90N/140E, 90N/145E, 95N/140E, 95N/145E. Once again because of time constraints Unit 1 was not excavated below the topsoil layer. Area B was situated in order to excavate the structural remains and associated artefactual material of the earlier non-Stanley type cottage, referred to as the Southern cottage. A test trench was opened in Unit 4 to examine the vertical stratigraphy of a square brick and sandstone feature to the southern rear exterior of the cottage. Although the feature was initially interpreted as the possible remnants of a capped privy, excavation of the test trench demonstrated it to be a 'phantom' feature, created from recycling of building materials during Phase II of site occupation.

Area C: This trench was a one metre by one metre test trench situated between the site grid points 141N/119E, 142N/119E, 141N/118E, 142N/118E. This test trench was located to the north west of the cottages in an area where oral history suggested the cottages may have had their rubbish middens. Area C was placed in the middle of a large anomaly which was located by the magnetometer and soil resistivity surveys and was interpreted as one of the possible locations for the rubbish middens.

Area D: This test trench was also initially a one by one metre test trench excavated in order to locate a rubbish midden associated with the occupation of the Hagg cottages. This trench was located North of the cottages, immediately north of the border with National Trust land. During the initial survey of the site it was noted that artefactual material was eroding out of one of the paths that led from National Trust land on to the private land the site was situated. In addition, the area was under immediate threat of destruction from the construction of a

bridle path on National Trust land. After gaining the appropriate permit to excavate from the National Trust, Area D was opened up at the point where the eroding artefactual material seemed to be originating. This trench was excavated in order to identify the source of the eroding artefacts and determine if they were associated with the Hagg cottages or some Nield Family related landfill dumping event after 1938 (see Section C for regional history of landuse). This area was soon extended to a two metre by two metre trench in order to better answer these questions.

E.3: Site Narrative

This summary presents a basic narrative for the deposits excavated within each phase of the site's activity. This data is also presented in graphic form in the specific matrix for each trench (see Appendices E.1 – E.3). Existing documentary evidence for the structures primarily consisted of the 1872 Ordnance Survey Map (Figure E.2) and a black and white photograph of the Hagg Cottages, taken around 1930 by Mr. George Barber, father of oral history participants Mr. Roy Barber and Mrs. Molly Pitcher (nee Barber) (Figure E.3).

E.3.1: Area A: The Stanley Cottage

There were 118 contexts recorded in this trench (see Appendices E.1 and E.4). The majority of these contexts constituted structural remains of the cottage, reflecting the fact that excavations terminated at the floor of the cottage and did not continue underneath to reveal foundation trenches, previous occupation layers (if any) or the natural clay (Figure E.4). Because we know the precise date for the construction of this cottage, the matrix for Area A begins in Phase VII.

Phase VII: Construction Period II – 1747 – 1808

During this phase the original external brick walls of the structure are built (Figure E.5). These include [1014], the rear wall and [1021] and [1029], the southern walls. The internal walls [1007], [1011], [1015], [1016], [1022], [1091] and [1055] are then built within this structure and the drain [1065] found at the bottom of the cellar is built in to the western cellar wall [1016]. Once the cellar walls are constructed then the brick and sandstone flagged cellar steps [1041], [1020] and [1019] are built. Once the internal brick walls of the cottage are constructed then the bedding sand ([1010] and [1048]) for the flooring is laid down. These contexts were seen in those places where the sandstone flooring was missing or was removed during excavation. These contexts consisted of a yellow sand, typical of bedding sand. The cut sandstone flagged flooring [1006], [1009], [1030], [1040], [1042] and [1043] is the last event to take place in this phase. However before this flooring is laid down the evidence suggests that the fireplace [1027] was built on to the southern external wall [1021], because the flagstone flooring is cut around it. The chimney on the northern wall, which lay outside the excavated area and which gives the Stanley cottage its symmetrical and distinct look, must have been built at the same time. This architectural design was common throughout the period, with similar examples recorded in rural regions of England dated between 1760 and 1860 (Brunskill 1982, Figure E.6).

Phase VI: Construction Period III – 1808 - 1828

This phase on the site is tightly dated through the historical records. In 1808 the Stanley estate records indicate that both cottages were divided in to four households for the families of the new mine workers. In 1828 there were major reconstruction works at the Southern cottage. The subdivision of the cottages at the start of this phase is clearly marked in Area A with the brick walls [1045], [1046] and [1091], which block the hallway and cellar in the southern household off from the kitchen and front room of the northern household. Interestingly the western end of wall [1007], which has now become the main dividing wall between the two households, was not blocked up suggesting that there was always a doorway between the two households after the cottage was subdivided (see Figure E.4). This doorway was near the front door of the cottage which would now be front door of the southern household only. After the brick walls were built to subdivide the cottage, a large sandstone doorsill [1060] is placed between the kitchen and front room of the northern household and the doorway is mortared ([1090]). [1088] and [1089] are small square cuts in to [1060], probably for the doorframe. A smaller brick fireplace [1097] is built on to the southern wall [1029] in the area which now becomes the kitchen for the southern household. The rest of this room lies within Unit 4 and was not excavated. The last event to take place in this phase is the plastering of all the walls in the cottage. It is unclear whether all the walls were completely re-plastered after the subdivision as the plastering in all the wall joins seemed continuous. This could only be answered by dismantling each wall, which was not done. The plastering contexts are [1052], [1053], [1054], [1061], [1063] [1064], [1066], [1067], [1068], [1069], [1070], [1071], [1072], [1073], [1074], [1075], [1076], [1093] and [1120].

Phase V: Construction Period IV – 1828 – 1872

During this phase in Area A the southern extension [1024] to the house is built (Figure E.7). This is dated mainly through the use of the red and grey stone quarry tiles used for the flooring of this structure which was common throughout England in the mid nineteenth century after the advent of the railway which was needed to transport these heavy tiles to places such as Alderley Edge. The walls of the southern extension are built from brick and some large sandstone blocks. A hole for a doorway in to the extension from the hallway is created between the kitchen fireplace and the brick wall which divides the hallway from the front room. After this doorway is created two sandstone blocks [1100] and [1104], are placed in the corners of the new doorway, presumably in order to strengthen it. After this the new door corner with the kitchen fireplace [1097] is plastered over – context [1105]. After the kitchen extension is built the drain [1081] on the external western side is constructed up against the wall. Also during this phase in the northern household, the kitchen is re-floored with red quarry tiles [1017]. A cut [1059] is made in to the existing sandstone floor [1040], new bedding sand [1048] is laid and then the quarry tiles are cut to fit in to this space.

Phase IV: Construction Period V – 1872 – 1940s

It is during this phase that a number of adaptations are made to the Area A cottage. A blue plaster render [1077], [1079], [1087], [1107], [1113], [1115], [1117], [1118] and [1119] is added to the walls. In the northern household a number of metal pegs and spikes [1049], [1034] and [1051] are driven in to the sandstone and red quarry tiled floorings [1047] and [1050] in the kitchen. A brick [1018] and metal plate [1062] are cemented to the southern brick wall of the kitchen. These events suggest that a heavy object such as a range was placed in this area of the kitchen during this phase. In the southern household a number of alterations take place to the main

fireplace in the front room [1027]. A metal plate [1098] is added, and mortar [1103] at the front of the fireplace suggests that a wooden surround was placed there. A series of small rectangular glazed tiles [1058] and [1001] are cemented ([1102] and [1106]) on to the front base of the fireplace. Cement is also used to fill areas of the floor which appear to have subsided, probably because of the proximity of this side of the cottage to the mine shafts. Cement is used on the southern end of the front room [1099], the southern end of the hallway and entrance to the extension [1111] and the eastern section of the extension itself [1026]. It seems the concrete was poured directly on top of whatever the previous flooring surface was. In the southern extension two single course brick walls [1056] and [1057] are also cemented directly on top of the quarry tile floor against the western wall (see Figure E.7). These appear to be the bases for a possible workbench, suggesting that the southern extension has now become more of a shed or storeroom. One of the last events to happen in this phase is the addition of a green plaster render [1095] and skirting boards [1078], [1108] and [1109] to the walls. The latter suggests the addition of carpets to the cottage at the end of this phase, which probably replaced the earlier linoleum and congoleum floor coverings which were recovered from the centre of southern front room and in the demolition layers. Outside of the cottage during this period a cobble path was added to the east [1044] and south [1031] of the structure. At the rear of the cottage this cobble path lead from the back door, and a sandstone edging [1030] separated it from a flowerbed positioned against the rear wall [1014] (Figure E.8). The dark sandy slit of this flowerbed [1039] was not excavated. There was also evidence of a brick path [1086] further east of the cottage. To the south of the southern extension there was evidence of a sandstone paved path [1032] and [1084], with a sandstone edging [1033] and [1085]. This is probably the path which led down the side of the cottage and joined up with the side path of the Southern cottage and led to the privy uncovered in Area B, Unit 5. Part of this path can be seen in the historic photographs. There was also evidence of a brick path to the east of the southern extension, however the majority of this lay under Unit 4 which was not excavated.

Phase III: Abandonment and Demolition – 1940s – 1950s

Historical and Oral histories suggest that Mrs Perrin and one of her Barber nephews were still living in this cottage until after the second World War. During this time or soon after the residents left the silt around the house built up. The dark brown sandy silt layer [1037] at the rear of the cottage was probably the result of the bank washing down in to the backyard and not being cleared away (Figure E.9). At the same time the drain [1081] next to the southern extension and the area around the extension silted up with the same sort of sandy silt. Within the cottage itself the soot around the fireplace [1028] was left to accumulate. Following this was a demolition event. Inside the cellar a damp light brown sandy layer [1013] was deposited which included large amounts of mortar, plaster, small brick rubble and structural wood such as the stairs banisters. At the rear of the cottage a demolition layer [1036] which included large brick and roofing sandstone rubble was deposited. Overlying these demolition layers was another dark brown silty layer [1012] and [1035] which suggested it was deposited over a longer period than the short demolition event. Above this was the large demolition layer [1004] which included large amounts of brick as well as other structural and artefactual material. [1004] covered the entire trench and was approximately thirty centimetres thick at the rear and only five centimetres thick at the front of the cottage. At the front of the cottage [1004] lay directly on top of the structural remains and it was at this interface that the majority of the artefacts were recovered suggesting that the last occupants left most of their belongings in the

cottage when they were finally removed from the house (Figure E.10). This stratigraphic sequence suggests that soon after the last occupants left the cottage the roof was pulled down, perhaps to be reused elsewhere or to discourage squatters. The site was then left for a period of time while the silt layers accumulated before the entire house was eventually demolished some time before 1954 when the cottages no longer appears on the aerial photograph taken that year.

Phase II: Recycling – 1950s

The cottage in Area A did not undergo the extensive recycling for materials which affected Area B. This is evident in the large amount of bricks and sandstone that constituted [1004] which covered the entire area (Figures E.10 and E.11). The demolition of the Stanley cottage also sealed in the structural remains of the cottage which explains why there are more of them in much better condition than in Area A.

Phase I: Topsoil – post 1950s

The topsoil which covered the entire site was a dark brown humic sandy silt, recorded as [1001] in Area A. Context [1000] was the turf overlying this topsoil. Between the topsoil and the demolition layer [1004] were large yellow-brown lumps of clay [1005]. [1002] and [1003] were the cuts and fills from the extensive rabbit activity which went on in Area A.

E.3.2: Area B: The Southern Cottage

In this Area there were 210 contexts recorded (see Appendices E.2 and E.5). This quantity was mostly because of the numerous cut and fill episodes that took place in this area in order to landscape the natural slope and build and adapt the structure. The structure was cut in to the natural clay which allows us to see the earliest phase of the site.

Phase IX: Natural – pre 17th Century

The context [2092] was the natural deposit in this area, which is a dark red – orange clay. The contexts [2075], [2164] and [2183] were the interface to this natural clay in different areas across the trench. They were all dark orange clays with varying amounts of artefactual material within them. Because of the natural slope of the land, context [2075] rose to a high level inside the structure in Units 2 and 4, and after the recycling events of the 1950s, this context was just under the surface layers. Therefore artefacts from this period had become embedded within [2075] in these excavation units.

Phase VIII: Construction Period I – c.1650 – 1747

This is the period where the first recorded structure on the site is built and the first evidence we have for human activity in this specific area. After excavating the southern cottage it was expected that it was older than the Stanley cottage, but it was not certain how much older. The floor plan of the structure uncovered was confusing because of the large amount of rebuilding and adaptations which had affected the structure during the different phases. However it seemed that the structure most resembled a rural three roomed, two storey farmhouse with a “baffle-entrance” which Brunskill commonly dates from c.1600 – c.1730 (Brunskill 1982, Figure E.12). In this structure the entrance opens straight on to the chimney which is positioned in the middle between the first two rooms. In such a structure the chimney is probably built

first as it is the central feature of the house. The possible remnant chimney butts [2156] and [2102] were uncovered in Unit 3. The original brick and stone southern wall [2045] and side wall [2202] were constructed next (Figure E.13). The next event to happen in Area B was the construction of the square brick structure which it is proposed is the original entrance of this 17th century farm house (Figure E.14). This structure would have been cut back in to the sloping ground, south of the structure, although no sign of this original cut can be seen. However the original wall trench cuts [2182], [2123] and [2207] for the foundations of this structure were recorded adjacent to the brick wall in numerous places. The sandstone and brick foundation plinth for this structure [2211], [2213], [2214], [2215], [2216] and [2217] was then built in to the wall trench and filled with a dark silty clay and small rubble packing, [2124], [2181], [2208], [2212] (Figure E.15). It was at the base of one of these wall trench fills, [2124] that a small clay pipe bowl was found which gives the best indication of the construction of this building: c.1650 – c.1670 (see Section F.3.5). This brick entrance structure was then floored with a brick surface [2077] before the brick wall [2039] and [2227] was built (see Figures E.14 & E.15). It seems this entrance was built with a small alcove on either side of the entrance way and a large step up in to the house. Combined with the fact that bricks were relatively expensive construction materials for farm houses in the 17th century, the structure seems to indicate that the residents of this farm house were of a relatively high status and probably belonged to the upper socio-economic background of tenant farmers in the region. After the rear wall was constructed a brick and stone box drain [2165] was constructed running at a diagonal from the wall and heading south west in Unit 3. This drain was cut [2167] in to the natural interface [2075] and packed with a sandy clay and small rubble matrix, [2168]. The only deposit uncovered which dates to this phase is [2186], which is a unexcavated clay layer found to the south of and below the foundation plinth level of the brick entrance structure.

Phase VII: Construction Period II – 1747 – 1808

This is the phase at the site between when the Stanley cottage is built, and when both the cottages are subdivided. In Area B during this phase the original brick entrance structure is bricked up and the orientation of the house is flipped from South facing to North facing in order to face the Stanley cottage and Hagg Lane. The former entrance way is blocked by a new brick wall [2209], and another brick wall [2210] is built down the middle of the structure effectively dividing it in to two small rooms at what has become the southern rear of the Area B cottage (Figures E.16 & E.14). The trenches for these walls can be seen as cut, [2218], in to the natural interface [2075]. This was constructed in the same manner as the original walls and the wall trench fill, [2219], consisted of a similar clay and rubble packing. The new walls were mainly distinguished by the fact that they did not key in to the original structure (Figure E.17).

The western wall of this structure is demolished and the rubble is used as fill [2130] in the western room (see Figure E.14). The rest of the structure is filled with a series of sand, [2040] and [2046], and clay, [2086] and [2087], fills in order to raise the ground level of this structure to the same ground level as the rest of the house. Because this structure is no longer the entrance way there is no need for the large step up to the level of the rest of the house.

Externally there are a series of cutting and filling episodes which relate to the re-orientation of this structure. [2093] and [2094] are grey sandy clay and clayey silt deposits which are cut into by [2083] (Figure E.18). Context [2083] also cuts into the

natural [2092], and natural interface [2095]. This is filled by a series of grey clay and small rubble fills, [2073] and [2138]. These fills raise the external ground level to a similar height as the new ground level within the brick structure [2039]. A sandstone path, [2183], is then laid to the east of the brick structure where the new entrance way is now positioned. Context [2137] is a post hole cut into [2138], possibly for a fence or gatepost relating to the new external sandstone path. The fill of this cut is a dark sandy soil, [2136].

During this phase the single course retaining wall originally excavated as a possible privy is also cut into the bank running north south. The wall trench cut [2188] is cut into the natural and natural interface, and the brick retaining wall, [2030], and dark brown sandy clay, with small rubble inclusion, packing, [2189], is used to fill the cut.

The accumulated deposits during this phase are [2088] which is a dark yellow silty clay to the south of the house in Unit 3; [2143] which is a yellow clay deposit and [2144] which is a grey clay deposit, both to the east of the structure in Unit 2.

Phase VI: Construction Period III – 1808 – 1828

Unlike in Area A there are no structures in this trench which clearly show how the house was subdivided in 1808. From the historical photographs and plans it seems certain that the dividing wall would have been positioned in the western end of Units 1 and 3 however this was not located during excavation. The reason for this is that these areas had been heavily destroyed during the recycling phase on site and the wall seems to have been removed completely.

Phase V: Construction Period IV – 1828 – 1872

As mentioned previously this phase can be tightly dated through the historical records which mention that the front wall and roof of the Southern cottage was rebuilt in 1828 and the historical plans show that the kitchen extension was constructed by 1872.

Archaeologically the rebuilding of this cottage was identified through the new brick and stone front wall, [2012], and the new brick and stone side wall, [2100]. There was no evidence uncovered of the original front wall, and therefore it is unclear whether the new front wall was in exactly the same position (Figure E.19). However the original side wall was still in situ and the new side wall was constructed abutting this wall to the west. It is not clear whether this is all of the original side wall or if the northern section of it was demolished along with the original front wall. The reason for constructing the new side wall next to the old side wall is unclear. However it may be because this side of the house was unstable.

At some stage following this rebuilding episode, the kitchen extension, [2110] was added to the east of these side walls (Figure E.20). The entrance to this kitchen was through the east side wall of the house, most probably where the original side wall ended. The wall trench, [2132] and [2169], for the brick kitchen wall, [2110], was cut into [2143] and [2144]. The packing for this wall trench cut, [2231] and [2170], is a reddish-brown silt with small rubble inclusions. A small metal water pipe, [2203], obviously used as a service for the kitchen, is cut, [2205], into [2144]. Context [2206] is the stone rubble packing for this water pipe. The last event within the kitchen during this phase is a sandy build up, [2146], against the north wall of the kitchen.

Externally, to the north of the structure, is evidence of the demolition layer, [2152], associated with the rebuilding of the front wall and roof of the structure. This context

consisted of sandstone and brick rubble in a hard packed orange clay matrix with artefactual material such as the large ferrous (Fe) metal pipe [2106]. Overlaying this in the North-East corner of the trench is a grey silty sand deposit, [2095]. The demolition layer seems to peter out at the western end and in this area is a hard packed grey silty clay, [2150], which forms the bedding for the cobble path, [2103]. This cobble path extends from the front wall, [2012], to the northern edge of the trench, and from the eastern edge of the trench to where its western edge is obscured by the tree roots (see Figure E.19). The cobble path is the first external pathway built after the front wall of the house is reconstructed. There is a series of post hole cuts, [2105] and [2159], into the cobbled path in the same location, immediately north of the front wall. These cuts are filled with a grey sandy silt, [2160], and a charcoal rich dark deposit, [2104], which may be the burnt remains of the wooden post.

A covered brick box drain, [2067], is then cut, [2155], into the cobbled path. This brick box drain runs East-West parallel to the front wall until the middle of Unit 2, and then it seems to run North-East, however the junction of this bend is obscured, as this is where the tree had taken root. Context [2161] is the grey silty fill of the brick box drain. A thin layer of small brick rubble packing, [2229], is then laid over the cobbled path and brick box drain. This forms a bedding for the new path, [2151]. This path consists of small pebbles in a hard packed silt matrix, and covers this whole area, west of the tree. This path may be part of Hagg Lane.

During this period there is another cut and fill episode to the South-East of the brick structure. Context [2238] cut into [2073] and remnants of {2075}, and then filled with a dark sandy silt, [2084] (Figures E.18 & E.21). Immediately to the south of the brick structure a large brick and sandstone rubble fill, [2117], in a dark sandy clay matrix, [2184], is used to fill the cut and raise the ground level to a higher position in this rear external area.

To the west of this brick structure and to the south of the rear external wall, [2045], a series of small brick walls, [2063], [2223] and [2226], are constructed to lay down a brick paved area, contexts [2220] and [2222] (Figure E.22). The remains of a metal gatepost, [2221], suggests that this area may have been an enclosed animal pen, and that the western room of the brick structure, [2039], was used as a covered section of this pen. This area would have belonged to the Western household of the sub-divided house.

Phase IV: Construction Period V; 1872-1940s.

During this phase a large number of additions and alterations are made to the structure in this area. A brick boiler room is added to the kitchen extension. This is positioned to the south of the kitchen, and the east of the original side wall (see Figure E.14). Once again the brick boiler wall is built abutting the original side wall. The bricks used in the construction of this boiler wall, [2038], are all older half bricks and sections of bricks, suggesting that this addition was constructed from re-used bricks (Figure E.23). The wall trench, [2187], [2175] and [2009], was cut into the natural interface, [2075], and a rubble packing, [2098], and sand, [2074], was used as bedding for the boiler walls, [2038]. The wall trench was filled with a sand matrix, [2239] and [2176]. An orange sandy clay, [2134], overlay these deposits inside the boiler room. A circular cut, [2177], into [2134], is probably related to the boiler itself. This is filled with a grey sandy clay, [2178]. In the North-West of the boiler room, where the tree was growing, was a dark charcoal rich layer, [2135], which is probably the remains of charcoal from the boiler.

To the north of the wall [2012], the external front of the house, a circular ceramic drain [2107] is laid, cutting through [2151] (Figure E.24). This drain may be the replacement for the earlier brick box drain. To the west of the tree an orange clay layer [2028] is deposited over the compact rubble path, while to the north and east of the tree a compact brown silt deposit builds up. Overlaying [2028] is a similar brown compact silt deposit [2027]. Overlaying this is the last pathway associated with the front of this structure, [2018], which comprised of a yellow compact sand. This path was edged on both sides with a black sandy silt, [2020] and [2015], this may be the remains of a wooden fence or the base for a sandstone lining. There was a distinct cut, [2026], into [2027] for a dark humic sandy silt, [2025], which abutted the path and the front wall of the structure. This is possibly the remains of a flower bed related with the final occupation phase of this structure. Overlaying [2006] were the remnants of a sandstone path, [2005]. This was laid onto yellow bedding sand [2120]. Cut into this paving, and abutting the northern kitchen wall, was a large ceramic drain hole, [2007], with metal grate (Figure E.25). The cut, [2009], for this ceramic drain was packed with a sandstone and brick rubble fill, [2021]. This ceramic drain is part of the last drainage system to be constructed on the site during the occupational phase of the site. The feature may be related to the ceramic drain segments which appear stacked in front of the "Stanley Cottage" in the historic photograph taken by Mr. George Barber during the 1930s (Figure E.3).

To the external rear of the house the brick paved area is extended, bedding sand, [2162] and [2163], is laid over [2088], and a brick and sandstone paving, [2061] and [2157], is laid running west. To the South-West of the brick structure, [2039], were the remains of two brick walls, [2224] and [2225], which may be related to the small square structure which appears in the 1872 Ordnance Survey plan in this area (see Figure E.2). A rich coal deposit builds up in the South-East of the brick paved area and a fine grey mortar, [2190], is laid directly on top of this and the wall, [2223]. This mortar is also used to construct the short wall, [2064]. To the South and West of the brick paved area a later sandstone flag flooring, [2158] and [2062], is laid. However, the extent of this could not be determined as it only appeared at the edge of the trench.

To the south and east of the brick structure, [2039], a sandy silt layer builds up over the rubble fill, [2117]. During this phase the 20th century privy uncovered in Area B/5 is constructed. The brick foundation plinth, [2233], seems to have been built directly on top of the natural interface, [2075]. The 20th century privy walls, [2068], were laid on top of this foundation plinth, and a concrete drain, [2071], was built to the south of the privy (Figure E.26). The external walls of the 20th century privy were plastered, [2234], and the remnants of a blue paint, [2235] could be seen on the plaster. Joining this privy to the back door of the house, which was situated between the boiler room and the brick structure, 2039, was a brick and sandstone path. This path, [2029], [2113], [2031], [2032], [2034], [2035], [2036], [2037], [2059], [2079] and [2080], was constructed from a range of bricks, brick rubble, sandstone rubble, and large sandstone blocks, which suggests these were all re-used material (Figure E.18). Because some of this path was laid in square formation close to the retaining wall [2030], it appeared to contain an earlier pre-20th century capped privy. A test trench (schlitt) was excavated, in order to stratigraphically examine the possible 'privy' feature (see Figure E.14, E.18 & E.21). Excavations later revealed that this was not the case. The bedding sand for this path, [2111], [2116], [2193], [2065], [2131] and [2193], was laid directly on top of [2173], [2084] and [2073]. This rubble path was at a higher level than the sandstone path [2183].

To the south of the brick structure [2039], between the edge of this path and the brick wall [2225], a rich charcoal layer, [2044], was deposited. This may be related to the fact that the brick structure, [2039], was used as a coal shed during this phase. Overlaying this deposit a poorly constructed brick drain, [2042], was built. This drain was probably used to direct the water which must have run off the path and made this area extremely boggy. This drain was filled with a similar charcoal rich deposit, [2043].

At this later stage of the phase another concrete drain, [2069], is constructed south of the privy. An orange clay layer, [2114], builds up in the area to the North of the privy. A sandstone edging, [2081], is constructed along the garden path, which must have run to the East of the kitchen extension. The last event in this phase is the original brick box drain, [2165], is filled with a dark grey sandy silt, [2166].

Phase III: Abandonment/Demolition, 1940s-1950s

Unlike Area A it is unclear when the last occupant left this house. However, the demolition and subsequent recycling events in this area had a larger impact on the amounts of artefactual and structural material that remained archaeologically. The first event in this phase is the rabbit activity which took place around the path area between the privy and back door, indicating that this area was unused for some time. This rabbit activity constituted a series of cuts; [2128], [2237], [2133], [2140], [2125], into the bedding sand of the path. These burrows were filled with a similar sandy matrix; [2129], [2096], [2127], [2139] and [2126].

During this phase the disused privy was filled with a mortar rich rubble layer, [2072], and the concrete drain, [2069], is filled with a sandy deposit, [2070]. The ceramic drain, [2009], is filled with a dark sandy silt, [2008]. During this abandonment phase a grey clay and rubble layer, [2085], is deposited at the external front of the structure, and overlying this are a series of sand layers, [2023], [2011] and [2179], which seem to be sand used to fill depressions to the east of the structure, caused by subsidence due to the mining in the area, washing down over the area. Contexts [2078], [2082] and [2115] are the remnants of the demolition event in this area. Context [2076] is a compact brown silt deposit which builds up in the area north of the privy.

Phase II: Recycling c.1950s

It is in Area B that the recycling activities of Thomas Nield are most archaeologically visible. After the structure is demolished the vast majority of the building materials were removed and this is the reason that very little of the structure above foundation level remains. Contexts [2004] and [2109] are the remnants of brick and sandstone rubble which has been pushed over a wide area during this phase. Context [2024] is a compact yellow clay with a high level of inclusions of small rubble, this context seems to have been spread across most of the area including over the remains of some of the wall foundations. These contexts may be the result of a bulldozer moving over the area.

Phase I: Topsoil – post 1950s

The topsoil which covered the entire site was a dark brown humic sandy silt, recorded as [2001] in Area B. Context [2000] was the turf overlying this topsoil. Contexts [2002], [2055] and [2016] were cuts of rabbit warrens, and [2052], [2003], [2056] and [2017] were the fills of these warrens. There were also large mounds of

spoil, [2051] and [2057], from the rabbit burrows. The rabbit activity in Area B was confined to the eastern side of the trench due to the hard clay, [2024], which covered the rest of the site.

E.3.3: Area C

Area C comprised of seven contexts (see Appendices E.3 and E.6). This 1m x 1m test trench was placed in order to investigate the anomalies recorded in the geophysical survey (see Figure E.1, and Sections D.2 and D.3). This trench did not reveal a midden, and the archaeology did not conclusively prove what type of activity was happening in this area. Therefore the phasing of this trench is based upon analysis of the artefacts recovered.

Phase IX: Natural

The context [3006] is a dark orange clay layer which is the natural deposit in this area and is probably the same as [2092] in Area B (Figure E.27).

Phase V: 1828-1872

Context [3005] is a hard packed mottled black, orange and red clay with large rubble inclusions which may be related to the mining activity in the area as one of the mine entrances was approximately 15 metres to the South-West of this trench. Context [3004] is a dark silt deposit in one small area overlying [3005].

Phase IV: 1872-1940s

The contexts [3002] and [3003] are brown compact silt deposits approximately 80 cm thick. This is the accumulated build up of silt washing down the slope over this seventy year period.

Phase I: Topsoil – post 1950s

The topsoil which covered the entire site was a dark brown humic sandy silt, recorded as [3001] in Area C. Context [3000] was the leaf litter and vegetation covering this soil.

E.3.4: Area D

Area D comprised of eight contexts (see Appendices E.3 and E.7). This 2 x 2 metre trench was positioned in consultation with the National Trust in order to establish the origin of artefacts eroding from the National Trust pathway immediately to the North of the site (see Figure E.1). The archaeological evidence suggested that these artefacts were indeed eroding from a midden. The artefactual analysis (undertaken by ARCUS, University of Sheffield, see Section F) suggested that these artefacts were contemporary with the final phase of occupation of the cottages (Phase IV). Combined with the evidence of vessels found in this context and contexts in Area A, it seems certain that this dump of artefacts was one of the rubbish middens from the Hagg Cottages.

Phase IX: Natural

Context [4009] was a dark orange clay similar to [3006] and [2092]. Context [4008] is an orange sandy clay with some charcoal inclusions, and a single small artefact, and is therefore the interface to natural (Figure E.28).

Phase IV: 1872-1940s

As mentioned above it was during this phase that the dumping event occurred, which is contexts [4002] and [4003]. These contexts contained a large amount of artefacts of all fabric types, as would be expected from a midden (Figure E.29).

Phase III: 1940s-1950s

Context [4007] was a brown/grey silty sand deposit overlying the midden. Context [4006] was a compact leaf litter layer overlying [4007], and [4004] was an orange clay deposit. Contexts [4007] and [4004] are probably the result of silt washing down the hillside.

Phase I: Topsoil – post 1950s

The topsoil which covered the entire site was a dark brown humic sandy silt, recorded as context [4000] in Area D. On 26 August 2003, the Area D trench was partially damaged by illegal looting activities (Figure E.30). To continue excavation of the stratigraphically intact contexts, the disturbed soil deposits and artefacts were labelled as context [4000U], and removed as an isolated context. Context [4001] was a yellow sand which had washed down the path over the topsoil.