

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT
COMMUNITY CENTRE, CHURCH VIEW,
BAMPTON,
OXFORDSHIRE**

SP 3128 0311

On behalf of

Oxfordshire County Council

JULY 2010

REPORT FOR Oxfordshire County Council
Property Asset Management
Environment & Economy
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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at the development site between 6th January and 10th June 2011. Two extensions to the present Community Centre – former school – and associated ground reduction for landscaping and excavation for services were monitored. Medieval activity was present at the Church View frontage, while an undated pit, which was undoubtedly associated with undated features identified during a preceding evaluation, was identified to the rear. The medieval pits and ditch date from between the 11th and 13th centuries. Across the site were post-medieval features including soakaways and pits, some of the latter were quarry-pits.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The development site was located south of Shrewsbury Place, either side of the Community Centre, a former school, (NGR SP 3132 0311). The underlying geology is Second Terrace Gravel Deposits and the site lies at approximately 69 OD. The site was a hard surface play area with a single large tree on the west side.

1.2 Planning Background

A condition attached to planning permission (R3.0103/10) granted by Oxfordshire County Council to erect two single storey extensions with new six space car parking at the Bampton Community Centre required an archaeological watching brief during the course of the groundworks. This is due to archaeological remains being found during an evaluation of the site. Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services (OCAS) prepared a *Brief* for such archaeological work.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The site lies to the south of the Church of St Mary, the site of a minster church that is first mentioned in AD 956-8, although it was probably in existence from the eighth century. The original settlement would appear to have been centred on the southern side of the minster enclosure and several grubenhaus have been found in the area. The focus of the settlement shifted in the thirteenth century when the current market place was laid out. There is also evidence of prehistoric activity on the site of the minster enclosure with evidence of a Bronze Age ring ditch.

In 1999 archaeological excavation was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology on the adjacent site to the north in advance of a housing development (Mayes et al 2000). This revealed prehistoric features including a possible ritual pit as well as gully, which are perhaps related to other prehistoric features in the area. Anglo-Saxon pottery was also found. A series of ditches dating from the 10th to 13th centuries was also revealed along with a later medieval barn, dating from the 15th century.

In 2008 an archaeological field evaluation was undertaken by JMHS on the west side of the existing community centre. This revealed several undated features including a

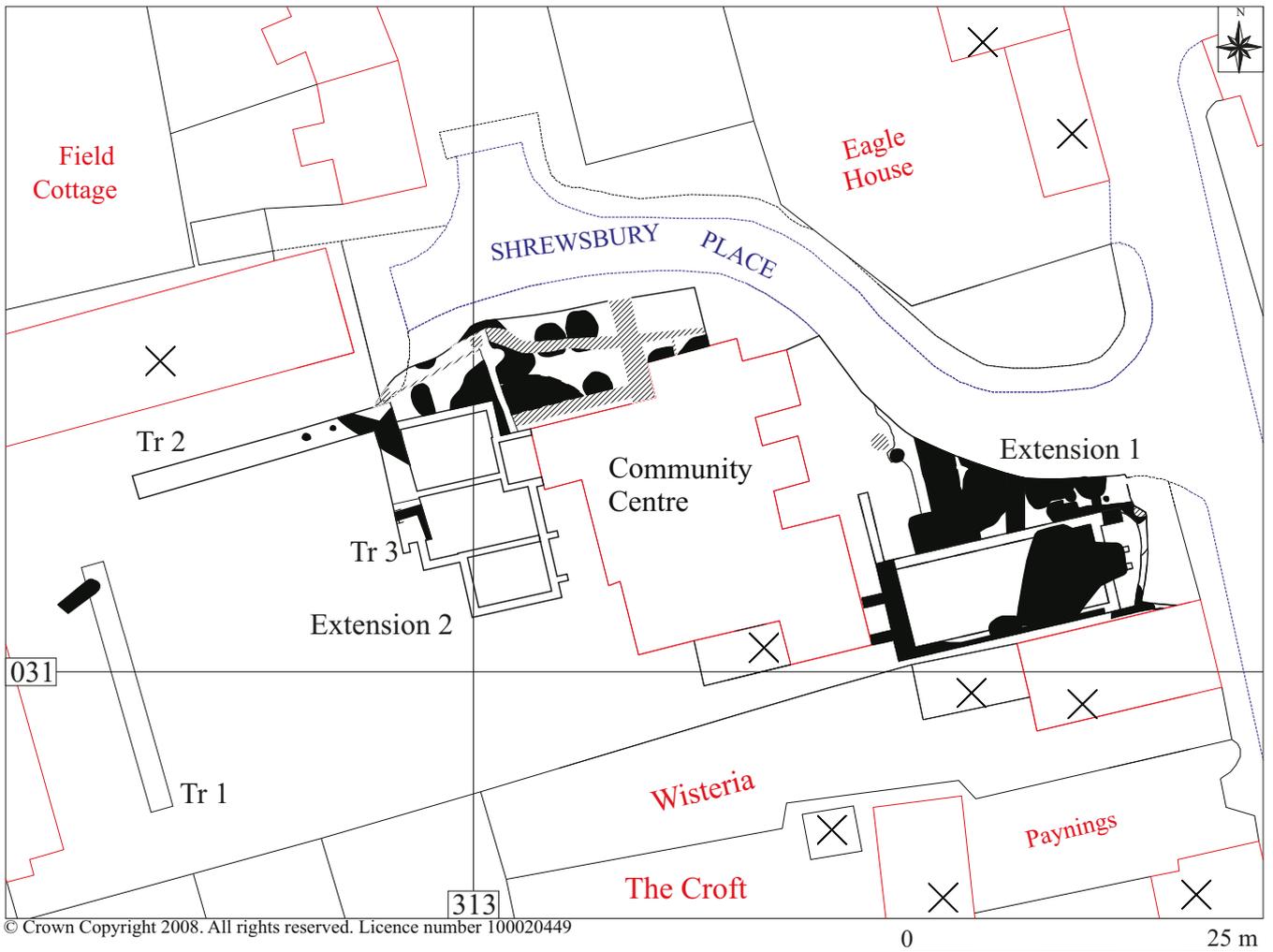
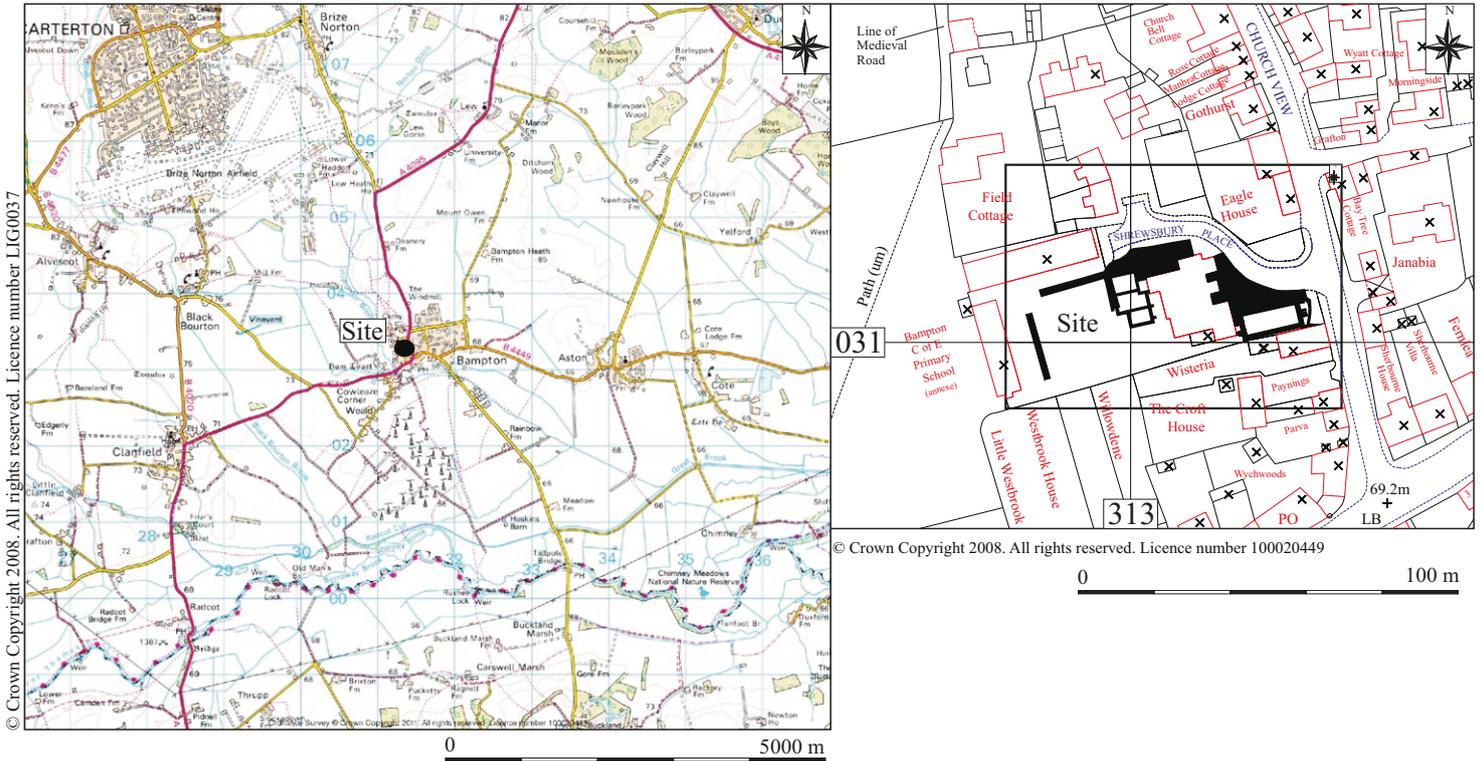


Figure 1. Site location

ditch, gully and postholes sealed by a post-medieval cultivation soil. These are likely to be contemporary with the late medieval barn (Williams 2008). A stone wall, which is probably the structure, visible on the 1st Ed. OS map (1876) to the west of the former school, undoubtedly representing outdoor toilets.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

To make a record of any significant remains revealed during the course of any operations that may disturb or destroy archaeological remains.

In particular to record:

- any further prehistoric remains that are known in the area
- any evidence associated with the medieval occupation in the area

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with OCAS.

Site procedures for the investigation and recording of potential archaeological deposits and features were defined in the *Written Scheme of Investigation*. The work was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999) and the procedures laid down in MAP2 (English Heritage 1991).

3.2 Methodology

An archaeologist was present on site during the course of all groundwork that had the potential to reveal or disturb archaeological remains. This included all surface stripping, the excavation for new foundations and new services.

All archaeological features and other remains were recorded by written, drawn and photographic record. Where archaeological features were exposed during any ground reduction but otherwise remained unaffected they were recorded only by plan and written description with any surface finds collected. Where remains were impacted on then they were sample excavated. All artefacts were collected and retained except for concentrations of building material where a representative sample was kept.

Hugh Coddington monitored the work for OCAS.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Field results (Figures 2-6)

All features were assigned individual context numbers. Numbers without brackets indicate cuts or structural remains, such as walls. Context numbers in () indicate feature fills or deposits of material. The new additions to the Community Centre are referred to as Extension 1, on the east side of the former school, and Extension 2, on the west.



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0 50 m

Figure 2. Site showing archaeological activity in the vicinity (redrawn from Mayes *et al.* 2000)

The lowest deposits present during the watching brief were the natural orange, brown and yellow banded gravels (006); on the west side of the former school. The second terrace gravel was overlain by firm dark red brown sand silt with very frequent small angular and rounded stone (052) a subsoil, representing a former cultivation soil. This deposit was also seen to the west during the evaluation in 2008 (Williams 2008), as deposit (1/03), (2/03) and (3/05).

Undated early feature (Figure 6)

The cut 058 was located in the eastern foundation trench in Extension 2. It had a sharp break of slope at the top of the feature, steep concave sides and a sharp break of slope to a slightly concave base, measuring 1m × >0.7m × 0.66m deep. Due to site constraints it was not possible to determine whether the feature was a small pit, or the terminus of a gully. The cut 058 was filled with firm dark brown sand silt with frequent small sub-angular gravel inclusions (059), which appeared to contain the complete remains of a disarticulated horse, seven bones of which were recovered in addition to two cattle bones, two sheep/goat bones and eight indeterminate bone fragments; the pit was otherwise undated. The pit was sealed by the subsoil (052) (see above).

Features observed at this level during the evaluation (Williams 2008) were associated with the prehistoric and medieval activity found in the adjacent excavation (Mayes *et al* 2000). Although this feature was also undated, it is clearly part of this group of features. It is probable that the cut 058 is part of the ditch 2/10 identified during the evaluation. However the later pit 066 (see below), to the west (see section 2), truncated the ditch

11th-century features

There were three features yielding dating from the 11th century onwards, which were cut into the gravel (006). One of these was only observed in section; the other two were observed in plan. The dating was limited: seven sherds, weighing 37g in total, with five of those from a single feature – the undetermined cut 704 (Fig. 3).

Cut into the natural at the southern side of Extension 1 was the cut 021, which probably represented a pit. The pit 021 was partly truncated so the break of slope is unknown, although it had slightly irregular sides, the eastern of which was gradual and slightly convex, whilst the western was near vertical, both had a sharp break of slope to a flat base. It was 2.20m wide and 1.40m deep and filled by deposit (022), which was a firm, dark brown clay silt with frequent small sub rounded gravels and moderate oyster shell inclusions.

Approximately 10m to the east was the feature 704. The feature was only seen in plan, within a service-trench measuring 0.25m wide. The feature measured *c*1.2m by >0.25m and was of unknown depth. The fill was red brown sandy silt, becoming increasingly black and charcoal rich at the south edge (703), which yielded five sherds of Cotswold-type Ware as well as a single unidentified animal bone.

507, which was located to the northwest of 704, was approximately 0.7m diameter, and contained moderately compacted pale grey brown gravelly silty sand (506), containing one sherd weighing 12g of medieval pottery. This may well represent a posthole. There were no other associated features.

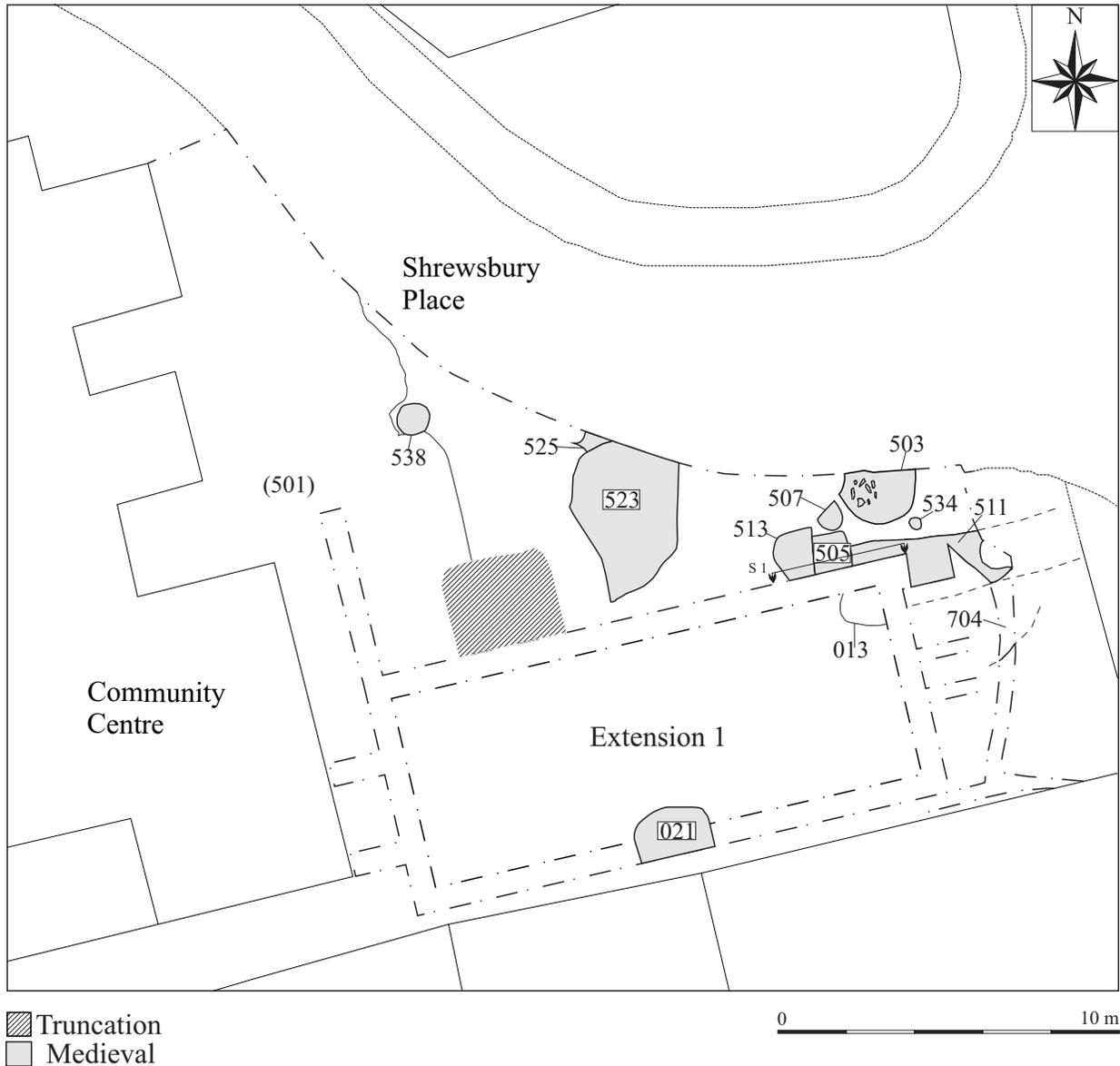


Figure 3. Extension 1 Medieval features and section

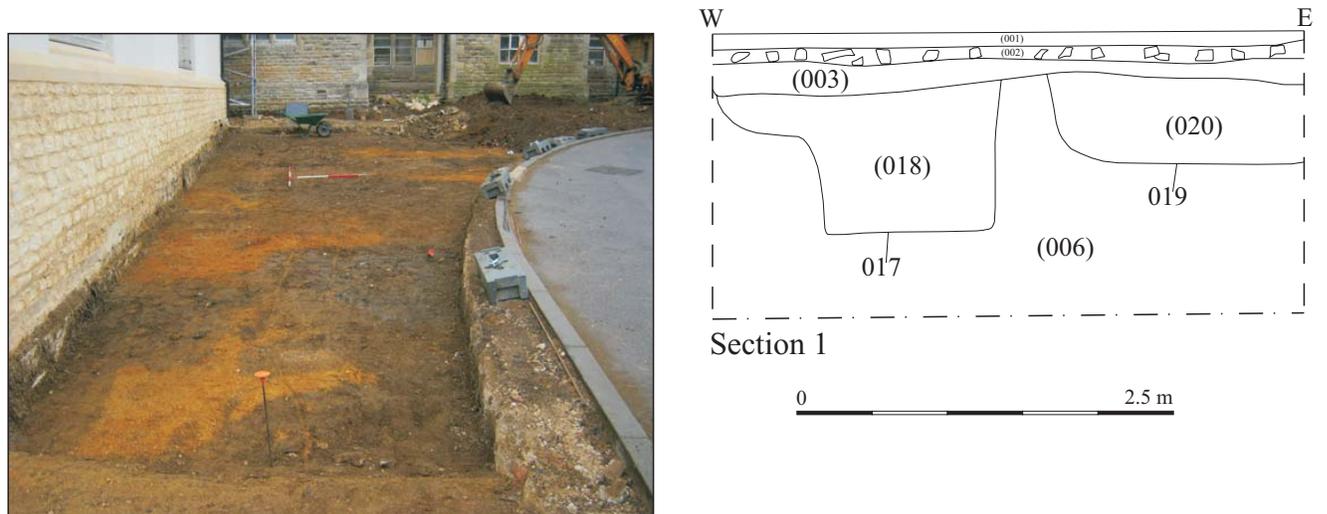


Figure 4. Area north of Extension 1

12th-century features

The posthole or small pit 538, which measured 0.9m diameter was located to the west of the 11th-century features, and was filled with mid grey brown sandy loam (537), containing two sherds weighing 5g of medieval pottery (Fig. 3).

13th-century features

Cut 019 was located in the north-east corner of Extension 1 and was not fully visible during the watching brief of the footings; during the later watching brief for the external ground-reduction, features were present which do not quite match up. From the area that was visible it appeared to be a rounded pit with a sharp break of slope at the top, a steep side and a more gradual break of slope to a flat base. It was 0.60m deep and at least 1.70m long. It was filled by deposit (020), a firm, mid red brown sand silt with occasional small rounded gravel inclusions. Cut 013, which was located opposite cut 511 within the northeast footings trench of Extension 1, was 0.70m deep and at least 1.40m wide. The sides were truncated away by the later gravel pit 031 (here 010 and 015), so all that remained of the cut was the small, gradual break of slope and the flat base. The cut 013 was filled with firm dark brown clay silt (014) containing two sherds weighing 113g of medieval pottery.

The ditch 511, which ran west by southwest by northeast (Fig. 3) at a right angle to Church View, may well be the same as cuts 019 and 013, as the fills – (510) and (020) were apparently similar red brown loamy sand to sandy silt – although fill (014) was a dark brown clay silt. The fill of 511 contained six sherds weighing 80g of medieval pottery; sherds recovered during the watching of services across the east end of Extension 1 were given the context number (700), and yielded an 11th century date. If they are indeed the same feature, then 019 and 013 represent the terminal to the ditch 511. During the reduced dig, it was clear that in plan, ditch 511 was cut by pit 505, itself cut by 513, to the west. The section drawing does not show the cut 019 cut to the west by pit 017, which itself may well have been two features, pits 505 and 513, although was recorded as a single feature.

The roughly square pit 505, which measured at least 1m × 1m, was filled with dark grey brown loamy sand with small gravel (504) through it and contained seven sherds weighing 242g of medieval pottery, a cow bone and five unidentified bones. It was cut by the slightly shaped irregular pit 513, which measured 1.15m × 1.15m, filled with dark grey brown loamy sand with yellow gravel (512), containing three sherds weighing 19g of medieval pottery, and a cow bone. The length of the cut adjacent to the wall of Extension 1 was 1.8m, which was roughly the same as the length of 017 in section. The pit 017 was straight-sided on its east edge with a flat base and a west edge which was straight in the lower two-thirds, before stepping slightly into a scoop-profiled cut. Pit 017 was filled with firm dark brown clay silt with moderate medium rounded gravel inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks (018).

The pit 503, which measured *c* 2.2m × 1.6m, was located immediately adjacent to ditch 511 on the north side of the Extension 1 investigation area. The pit was filled with moderately loose grey brown loamy sand with limestone fragments (502) and contained 17 sherds weighing 256g of medieval pottery, and a single unidentified bone fragment.

To the west was the large irregular pit 523, which might represent a quarry pit. It was filled with mid grey brown loamy sand with up to 10% gravel and limestone pieces (522), containing 3 sherds of medieval pottery, weighing 36g, and a single intrusive sherd of white earthenware, weighing 2g. There was a single pig bone in addition to seven unidentified bones also retrieved from the pit fill (522). The pit 523 cut the feature 525, which is of unknown size or form, largely extending beyond the north edge of the investigation area north of Extension 1.

16th-century feature (Figure 5)

A sub-rounded pit 623, measuring 2.3m diameter, was located on the north side of the Community Centre. It was filled with dark brown grey silty clay (624), containing two sherds of red earthenware, weighing 43g. The pit was heavily truncated by a service run.

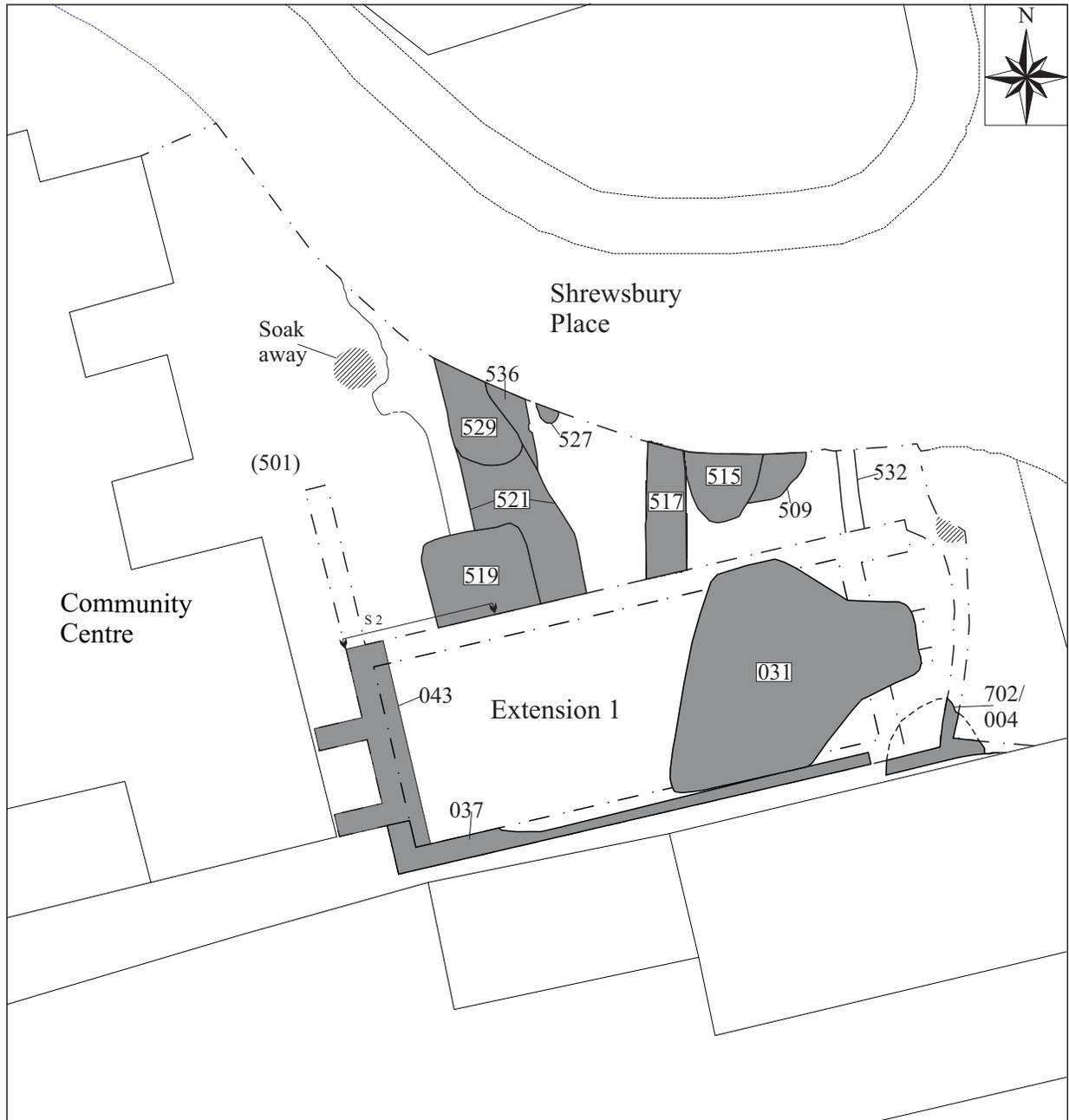
Undated features cut by M18th-century pit

On the north side of Extension 1 was a sequence of features – one of which, 521, cut the medieval pit 523 – extending to the pit 519, which dated from the mid 18th-century onwards. The earliest feature was the probable ditch 536; the cut measured 2.2m × 1m, and was filled with moderately compacted red brown silty sand and grey brown loamy sand (535). Too little of this feature was seen to be unequivocally certain that it was a ditch as it extended to the north beyond the edge of excavation, and was truncated to the south by pits 521 and the later 529; no relationship could be established with the medieval quarry pit 523. However, the ditch 517, which was located *c* 3.5m to east where it cut the eastern edge of the quarry pit 523, was filled with a similar moderately compacted red brown silty sand and grey brown loamy sand (516) to ditch 536. The fill (516) contained three sheep/goat bones, one cow bone and 19 unidentified bones.

The large irregular cut 521, which cut the west edge of 523 as well as the southern extent of 536, measured at least 4.4m long and a maximum of 2.6m wide. It was filled with compact light grey brown sandy silt with *c* 10% mortar and small limestone fragments (520). The pit 521 may well be the same as pit 025, seen during the excavation of the footings. The fill of 025 was mid red brown sandy silt (026).

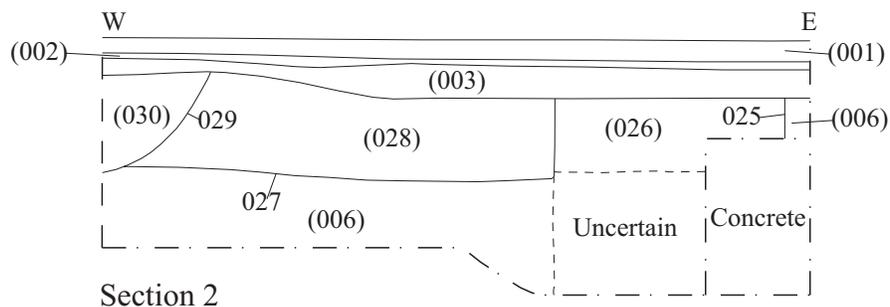
The pit 521 was cut by the apparently square-sided pit 519, which measured 3.2m × >2.6m, and filled with loose dark brown to black loam and *c* 20% limestone fragments (518) containing a small assemblage of pottery including cream ware, Staffordshire stoneware and red earthenware, comprising four sherds weighing 50g; one sheep/goat and one cow bone were also recovered from the fill. The west side of pit 519 is uncertain as remnant topsoil (003) was present at the level of the bottom of the reduced dig.

The pit 519 is the same as pit 027, a heavily truncated feature with a flat base, seen during the excavation of footings. It was at least 2.80m wide and 0.60m deep. The fill of 027 was loose dark brown sandy silt with moderate small angular gravel inclusions (028); three cow bones, a single pig and nine indeterminate bone-fragments were recovered from (028). If this were the case then 519 was cut by the footings trench 029 for the school, extending farther to the west than was apparent in plan. Although during the watching brief of the footings-excavation it was believed that 025/521 cut 027/519, this was clearly not so in plan. The section wall was not cleaned due to the



▨ Truncation
■ Post-medieval

0 10 m



0 2.5 m

Figure 5. Extension 1 Post-medieval features

danger of collapse. It is possible that 025 in section comprises both 025/521 and another feature.

19th-century and undated features

There were five pits in the vicinity of Extension 1 which were dated to the 19th century; a sixth, pit 529, is assumed to be 19th century as well. Three of these pits were within the area of the watching brief on the footings trench: pit 035, gravel pit 031 and 004/702; with a further three within the area of the reduced dig, pits 509, 515 and 529.

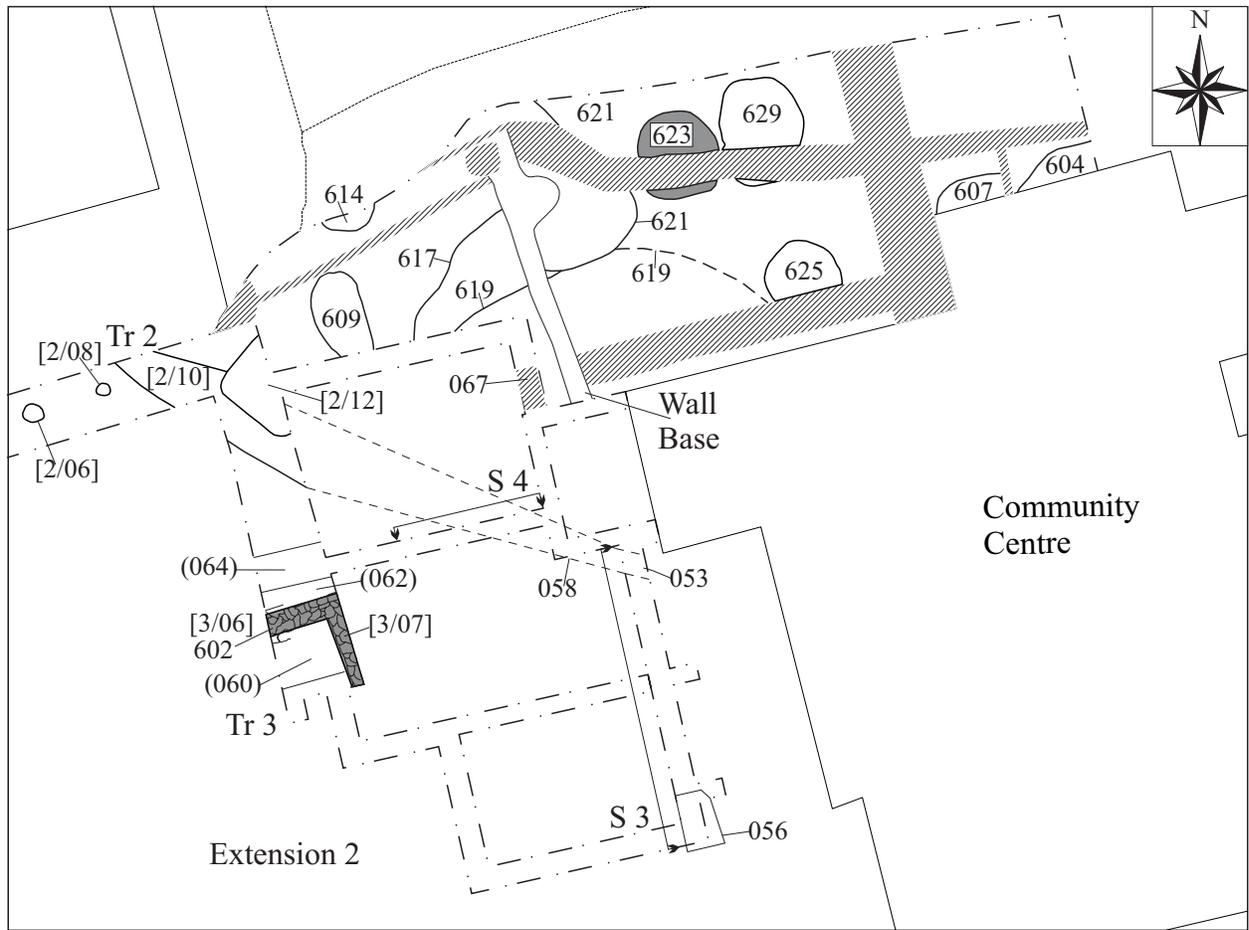
The pit 035, located in the south wall of the south footings trench of Extension 1, measured 1.4m (east/west) and 0.6m deep. Its north/south dimensions are unknown. It was filled with soft dark brown sandy silt (036) containing five sherds of post-medieval pottery weighing 195g. It was truncated by the pipe trench 037. It was not seen in the opposing wall of the footings trench, indicating that it probably predates the gravel pit 031 but is otherwise undated.

At the east end of Extension 1 and seen in the opposing north wall of the south footings trench to 035 was a large gravel pit recorded as 031 there, and as 010 and 015 to the northeast where it cuts the medieval ditch 511, and as 007/706 east of the east end of Extension 1. The gravel pit extended for approximately 7.5m × 6m × >1.5m. There were eight deposits making up to three observed fills: the basal fill ranging from friable dark red brown sandy clay (034) to a loose light grey coarse sand with frequent broken limestone and slate (012). A layer of dark blue to black silty clay (033) overlay fill (034). These deposits were overlain by dark to mid brown sandy to clay silt – (016), (011) (032) and (008)/(705); fill (032) contained a single sherd of white earthenware weighing 23g. Four fragments of unidentified bone were recovered from (16). Slate from the fill (012) was not retained.

In the southeast corner of Extension 1 was the pit 004/702, which measured at least 4m by 2.5m, extending into the service trench to the east of the extension. It was filled with compact, mid brown clay silt with occasional very small rounded stone inclusions (005)/(701), containing one sherd of 19th-century whit earthenware weighing 6g.

The pit 509 was north of the east end of Extension 1. It extended beyond the north edge of excavation and measured 1.3m × >1.2m. The pit 509 was cut by the pit 515. The fill of pit 509 was sticky dark grey/black brown clay sand with *c* 10% gravel (508) containing two sherds of white earthenware weighing 20g. The later pit 515 also extended beyond the edge of the investigation area, and measured 2.2m × >2m, with very sticky dark brown clay sand with *c* 10% gravel and occasional limestone fragments (514), containing two sherds of white earthenware weighing 50g and an unidentified bone.

The pit 529, to the west, which cut the feature 521 (see above), measured 3m × 1.8m and was filled with sticky dark brown/black clay silt with *c* 5% gravel and limestone fragments (528). The similarity of fill with those of 509 and 515 has led to grouping these three as contemporary. To the northwest of 529 was a stone soakaway which was *c* 1.2m diameter. The capping was removed during machining but it was not investigated further.



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■ Post-medieval

0 10 m

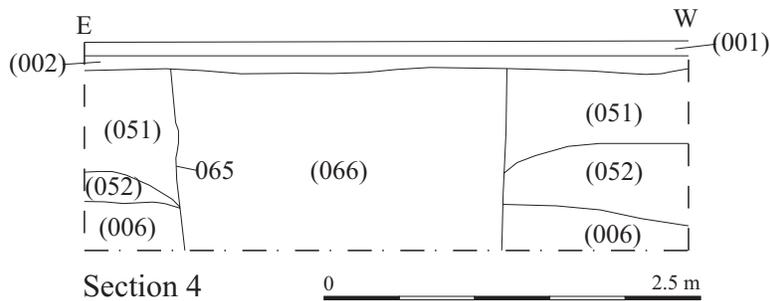
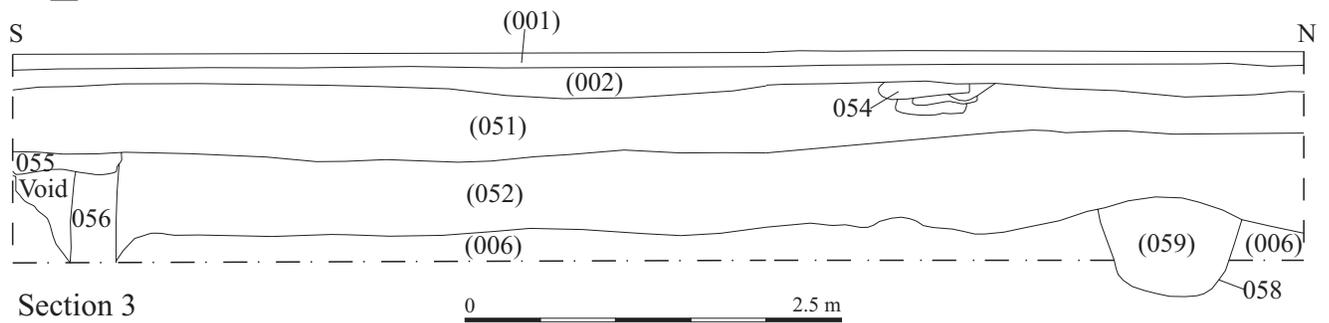


Figure 6. Extension 2 Post-medieval and undated

To the west, the foundation cut 043 – also recorded as 029 – ran north by northwest/south by southeast roughly parallel with the school building. It measured at least 7m (north/south) and 4.5m (east/west). It was cut into the natural (006) at the western edge and at the south end had been truncated away by the later pipe-trench 037. The foundation trench had a flat base visible in most of the western sections, and a sharp break of slope at the top, a gradual concave side with a gradual break of slope visible as cut 029 and was up to 0.75m in depth. It was filled with firm dark brown black silt (044).

The pipe trench 037 ran east by northeast/west by southwest from the southwest corner of the former school, now the Community Centre, toward Church View. The cut was over 2m wide in places and 0.45-0.5m deep; it was filled with mid orange brown silt (038) and the pipe (042) and the loose yellow sand backfill (41). At the east end of the pipe trench was the cut 004/702, although no relationship between the two features could be established.

Cut through the deposit (052) was a small soakaway 056, measuring more than 0.35m (north/south) and 0.7m (east/west), which consisted of five visible courses of rough finished limestone blocks with no bond. The limestone blocks were approx. 0.25m wide, by 0.25m deep and 0.10m high. The soakaway was partially backfilled with redeposited natural gravels and capped with a roughly finished, single course limestone block 055.

Sealing the soakaway capping (055) was firm mid black brown clay silt with frequent charcoal flecks and small angular gravels (051). The layer (051) extended across the entire area of the footings and was heavily disturbed by bioturbation, yielding 6 sherds, weighing 139g of white earthenware. This was undoubtedly a garden soil associated with the use of the property as a school.

Cut through the garden soil (051) were a number of features. On the opposing east wall of the footings trench to the pit 058 was the cut 053 of a soakaway. The cut measured 2.65m across at the top and 1.6m at the base of the trench. The sides were straight and it was not excavated to full depth. The soakaway-cut 053 was backfilled firm dark black brown ash silt with frequent charcoal flecks and small rounded stones (050). The soakaway 054 consisted of 8 visible courses of rough limestone blocks forming a circular wall with no bonding. The blocks were approx. 0.25m x 0.25m x 0.10m in size and were filled by deposit (057), a loose light mixed orange and yellow sandy gravel with frequent medium stone inclusions. This was capped with a (now broken) rough limestone block

The pit 066, a large, straight-sided pit similar to those seen under Extension 1, was located west of soakaway 053, with which it was broadly contemporary. The pit 066, which measured 2.2m (east/west) and more than 0.7m (north/south), was not fully excavated; however, it was filled with firm dark brown silt with moderate charcoal flecks and small angular gravels (066). The modern soakaway 067, which was located at the northwest corner of the former school, was also cut through deposit (051). The soakaway was filled with loose dark brown black silt with very frequent large rough limestone blocks and medium sub angular gravels (068).

To the west, the construction cut 071 for the wall 061 (also recorded as 602, and previously as 3/06 during the evaluation) was present along the western extent of

Extension 2. The building here was disturbed by the previous evaluation and the field-records reflect this. There was an area of brick flooring (062), abutted by a concrete floor (064), on the north side of wall 061 and a concrete floor (060) to the south.

To the north of Extension 2, with the exception of pit 623, which was dated to the middle of the 16th century or later, all the features were undated or modern. The ground reduction here was limited to *c.* 200mm below present ground-surface; the base of the topsoil/top of the subsoil (627) was still present in places, particularly in proximity to the former school, which prevented clear identification of features. A further outcome of this is that features, which were seen during the immediately adjacent evaluation, were not visible as they were encountered below this level. As a consequence of the limited depth of the reduced dig, only the pit 625 was investigated. The area was heavily disturbed in places by modern drainage.

At the west end of the area north of Extension 2 was the pit 609, which measured 2.25m × 1.3m. It was filled with mottled sandy gravelly silt with dark brown silty sand patches (610). Located 1m to the north of 609 was the edge of pit 614, which extended beyond the edges of the investigation area. It was filled with dark grey brown silty clay and mixed natural gravel (615). Southeast of 614 was the large pit 617 – possibly one of several quarry pits in the immediate area – which measured at least 4.2m × 1.8m but was truncated by later possible quarrying to the south and east; it was filled with mottled yellow brown gravel and loamy silt (616). The possible quarry pit 619, which measured at least 6.25m × 2.2m and cut the southern edge of 617, was filled with dark grey brown silty clay (618). The possible quarry pit 621, which cut both 619 and 617, measured 3.2m × 2.8m and was filled with dark grey black clay silt (622). There was a deposit of orange brown clay silt with gravel through it (620) north of a number of service runs which cut through 621. The relationship between the deposit (620) and 621 is ambiguous, and it is not entirely clear whether deposit (620) is a fill of 621 or not.

To the east of pit 621 were a further five pits; the immediately adjacent pit 623 has been described above as a pit dating from the mid-16th-century or later. However, pit 629 was immediately adjacent, measuring 2.8m × 2.15m, filled with dark brown grey silty clay (630). South of 629 was the pit 625, which was partly investigated and measured 2m × >1.45m; it was filled with dark brown grey silty clay (626), containing three sheep/goat bones and nine unidentified bones. To the east was pit 607, which was heavily truncated by the former school, measuring >1.8m × >0.7m and filled with dark grey brown silty clay (608). The adjacent pit 604, which measured >1.8m × >0.8m, was filled with dark grey brown silty clay with black mottling (605).

Sealing the archaeology was firm, mid black brown, ashy clay silt with moderate small angular gravel inclusions (003). The deposit was between 0.10m and 0.20m in depth and covered most of the area.

Above deposit (003) at the southern end of the site was a small area of redeposited natural gravel. Deposit (009) was a loose mixed light yellow, orange and grey fine gravel sand. It was up to 0.40m deep and 4.20m in length, unfortunately the section in this area collapsed before the southern edge could be recorded.

Directly above deposit (009) and covering the entire excavated area was deposit (002), a firm, light grey brown, clay silt. The deposit had inclusions of moderate amounts of small angular gravels and, in the north-east contained a frequent amount of broken brick fragments. Deposit (002) was between 0.10m and 0.20m deep.

Above deposit (002) and sealing the entire site was the solid black tarmac (001). This was between 0.10m and 0.15m deep.

4.2 Reliability of Techniques and Results

The reliability of results is considered to be good. The groundworks took place during fair weather with good cooperation from the ground crew.

Collapse of some sections due to unstable ground at the depth of machining (approx. 1.90m) means some information was lost. Some of the deeper pits were not fully excavated for reasons of safety. These did however, seem to be the more modern of the pits and it is felt that no significant information was lost.

5 FINDS

5.1 Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 86 sherds with a total weight of 1,483g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference was 0.64. It was recorded utilizing the coding system and chronology of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1984; 1994), as follows:

OXAC: Cotswold-type ware, AD975-1350. 23 sherds, 174g, EVE = 0.07.

OXBF: North-East Wiltshire Ware, AD1050 – 1400. 17 sherds, 312g, EVE = 0.36.

OXY: Medieval Oxford ware, AD1075 – 1350. 1 sherd, 5g, EVE = 0.

OXBB: Minety-type ware, early 12th – 16th century. 4 sherds, 102g, EVE = 0.21.

OXAM: Brill/Boarstall ware, AD1200 – 1600. 8 sherds, 198g, EVE = 0.

OXDR: Red Earthenwares, 1550+. 6 sherds, 120g .

OXFM: Staffordshire White-glazed English Stoneware, 1730 – 1800. 1 sherd, 8g.

CRM: Creamware, mid 18th - early 19th C. 1 sherd, 7g.

WHEW: Mass-produced white earthenwares, 19th - 20th C. 24 sherd, 542g.

In addition, the following, not covered by the Oxfordshire Type-Series, was also present:

F2: Early/Middle Saxon Hand-Built Ware, 5th – 9th century. Moderate oolitic limestone fragments up to 4mm, rare organic voids up to 4mm, sparse fine flecks of silver mica. 1 sherd, 15g, EVE = 0.

The fabric types are all well-known in the region. The range of Anglo-Saxon and medieval pottery is almost exactly the same as that noted at previous excavations at Church View (Blinkhorn 2000, 282), although this site did not produce any imported Frankish pottery, nor any evidence of medieval activity in the post-Black Death period. This is a similar deposition pattern to that at the previous excavation (*ibid.*), where just four sherds, probably all from the same vessel, could be dated to the late medieval period. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

Discussion

Nearly all the pottery from this site comes from two main period of activity. The first is from the Saxo-Norman period (11th century) to the 13th – 14th centuries, and the second in the 19th century, although very small amounts of other post-medieval pottery also indicated activity in the mid-late 16th century and the mid-late 18th century. The single redeposited sherd of Early/Middle Saxon hand-built pottery could date to any time in that period, and could conceivably be as late as the 9th century, as Mellor (1994, 36) has suggested.

The medieval assemblage is fairly unremarkable, and appears largely the result of secondary deposition. Feature sherds were rare with just three rimsherds noted: a Minety Ware example from a large jar, a Cotswolds type from a bowl and another from an OXBF jug. The last-named is quite rare, as the overwhelming bulk of the output of that tradition was jars, although jugs have been noted (eg. *ibid.* Fig. 14.2).

The 19th century pottery was largely transfer-printed table wares, although some evidence of the Victorian school was present in the form of the base of a stoneware ink-bottle from context (36), and a complete but broken china ink-well from context (68). The latter had “Manchester Desk John Heywood” printed on the upper surface.

No further work on the assemblage is required.

Cntxt	F2		OXAC		OXBF		OXY		OXBB		OXAM		OXDR		OXFM		CRM		WHEW		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
3													2	20							M16thC
20									1	90	1	23									13thC
22			1	1																	11thC
32																			1	23	19thC
36													1	26					4	169	19thC
51																			6	139	19thC
66																			3	31	19thC
68																			1	35	19thC
69																			3	67	19thC
502	1	15	3	56	11	150			1	4	2	31									13thC
504			1	6	3	100			1	4	2	132									13thC
507			1	12																	11thC
508																			2	20	19thC
510			2	26	2	43	1	5			1	6									13thC
512			1	13							2	6									13thC
514																			2	50	19thC
518			1	4									1	31	1	8	1	7			M18thC
522			2	17	1	19													1	2	13thC int
537			1	1					1	4											E12thC
624													2	43							M16thC
700			5	24																	11thC
701																			1	6	19thC
703			5	14																	11thC
Total	1	15	23	174	17	312	1	5	4	102	8	198	6	120	1	8	1	7	24	542	

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

5.2 Animal Bone by Hayley McParland

Preliminary identifications of faunal remains from a range of contexts was carried out.

In total 2.06kg of animal bone (Table 2) was retrieved from thirteen features, ranging in date from a mid 19th Century deposit (003) to an 11th Century pit (703).

Context	Sheep/Goat	Cattle	Horse	Pig	Bird	Indet.	Weight (g)
003						1	25
016						4	128
028		3		1		9	433
059	2	2	7			8	680
502						1	7
504		1				5	79
512		1					1
514						1	18
516	3	1				19	252
518	1	1					327
522				1		7	78
626	3					9	27
703					1	1	9
Total	9	9	7	2	1	65	2064

Table 2. Context by species and total weight

The majority of the assemblage consisted of small unidentifiable fragments of bone, however, some general observations regarding the assemblage have been noted. Juvenile bone is present within the assemblage, context (059) contains a juvenile *Bos* metacarpal and the unidentified ulna in pit (516) is also juvenile. Several of the unidentifiable bone fragments are also juvenile.

Context (626), the undated fill of a pit, contained an unidentifiable rib fragment and six unidentifiable fragments of bone, though it also contained *Ovis/Caprid* teeth and jaw fragments and two jaw fragments which could not be identified. It is interesting to note that teeth or jaw fragments make up the majority of the recovered assemblage (Table 3).

Species	Skull	Jaw/Teeth	Scapula	Rib	Metapodial	Femur	Vertebrae	Horn	Radius	Humerus	Ulna	Tibia	Indet.
Sheep/Goat		4	2					2	1				
Cattle	1	1		2	3	1					1		
Horse						1	5					1	
Pig		2											
Bird													1
Indet.		4		7						1	1		53
Total	1	11	2	9	3	2	5	2	1	1	2	1	54

Table 3. Species by number of fragments

Context (059), the fill of a probable pit, contained *Equus* bone, including a femur, tibia and vertebrae, as well as a *Bos* skull, an immature *Bos* metacarpal and probable *Ovis/Caprid* horns and vertebrae.

It is suggested that given the fragmentary nature of the majority of the remains and the nature of the assemblage, further assessment and analysis would not be of benefit.

5.3 Environmental Remains

Due to the nature of the deposits encountered no environmental samples were taken

6 DISCUSSION

There were at least seven pits dating from the 11th to 13th centuries located at the Church View end of the site. An undated feature, which was clearly earlier than the post-medieval activity, was present to the rear of the Community Centre, under the new built extension and extending northwest to Trench 2 of the previous evaluation. A pit dating from after the middle of the 16th century was located to the north of the Community Centre. To the front there was a large quarry pit, several smaller rubbish pits and a soakaway. To the rear were a further two soakaways associated with the construction of the school, as well as a more recent one. There was also a large pit located between the former school and the associated toilet block visible on the 1876 OS map. North of the former school were six undated small pits and a further three possible quarry pits.

Interpretation of the medieval features is limited due to the small quantity of finds recovered as none of the features were excavated; finds were only recovered from the cleaned surface. Nevertheless, the presence of a single residual sherd of Saxon pottery accords with the results of the previous work to the north (Mayes *et al* 2000: 282, 288), where Saxon pottery in association with North French Blackware indicated the probability of Bampton being a high-status site during the middle and late Saxon period. It is not clear whether features present during the evaluation (Williams 2008) were Saxon or earlier. It is possible that the ditch 058 was Saxon, but could equally have been prehistoric. The evaluation report noted that the ditch could equally have been parallel with the ditches seen during the excavation to the north (Mayes *et al*, 2000).

Activity at the current site appears to start later during the 11th century, with the digging of rubbish pits and a posthole. Too little was exposed to be certain that no structures were present within the investigation area. The frontage at Church View was only investigated with a pipe-trench 0.25m wide, which would be a likely position for street-front activity. The posthole 507 may be indicative of structures, but given the constraints of the investigation it is not possible to assess fully the significance of the 11th-century features.

Equally the single early 12th-century feature, the posthole 538 is not easily interpretable. However, in the context of 10th-13th century activity on this site and to the north it is unsurprising.

The ditch 511 may well be a property boundary, although this must be qualified by the limited view afforded of the archaeology. Nonetheless, it is possible that it dated from earlier as only a single sherd of Brill/Boarstall ware was recovered in contrast with seven sherds, weighing 50g of Cotswold-type ware, as well as North-East Wiltshire and Early Medieval Oxford ware, productions earlier than Brill/Boarstall. The ditch 511 was cut by two rubbish pits 505 and 513 dating from the 13th century, which may well have introduced the Brill/Boarstall sherd into the top of the fill.

The 13th-century rubbish pits might indicate that any earlier activity close to Church View was dropping off, and the area used for rubbish disposal. In contrast to the site excavated by OA to the north (Mayes *et al* 2000) the current site was dominated by pits, rather than ditches during the medieval period, which may be indicative of occupation activity, which in light of the proximity to the Church View frontage is unsurprising. It was during the latter part of the 13th century that Bampton passed into the hands of the Talbots (Crossley *et al* 1996a). The site lies within the holdings of the Earl of Shrewsbury, who gave the land for the former school to be built (see below). It is not clear whether the unusual shape of the land-holding is medieval in date or later (Fig. 7).

The site appears to have been abandoned after the 13th century, until the pit dating from the middle of the 16th century or later was dug. Given that it was only investigated at the surface it may well be earlier or later. Given the presence of undated pits in the immediate vicinity it is not possible to assign further significance to the pit.

A pit dating from after the middle of the 18th century was present at the front of the former school, which was cut by the construction cut for the school. The precise nature or function of this pit is unclear.

Pits associated with the construction and use of the school dominate the remains, as these pits were most apparent, although it should be noted that some of these may be earlier and the dating – frequently only a single sherd – may well be intrusive. Whether the large gravel quarry pit 031 to the front of the former school, under Extension 1 was 19th century or earlier is not entirely clear, given the extensive 13th to 14th-century quarrying present to the north.

The 1821 tithe map shows the land before the school was built; no structures are shown at all.

As during the evaluation part of the former school's 19th-century toilet block was located. The walls observed were the north-east return of the northern of the two outbuildings observed on the 1st and 2nd Ed. OS maps (1876 and 1899). As was noted in the evaluation report, there was a wall dividing the boys' play area from the girls' (Williams 2008, 8). The brick building identified during fieldwork is not shown on the Shrewsbury Bampton Estate map of 1870, although the school was opened in 1864 (Crossley *et al* 1996b); the toilet block had not yet been built. The 1870 estate map shows the school and the field to the rear of the school, which continued to form the western extent of the school on the 1876 OS map. Interestingly, the schoolyard overlies an ornamental garden shown on the 1876 OS map; no evidence for this garden was observed in either Trenches 1 or 2. The plot boundary visible on the 1870 Bampton estate map was not observed as an archaeological feature.

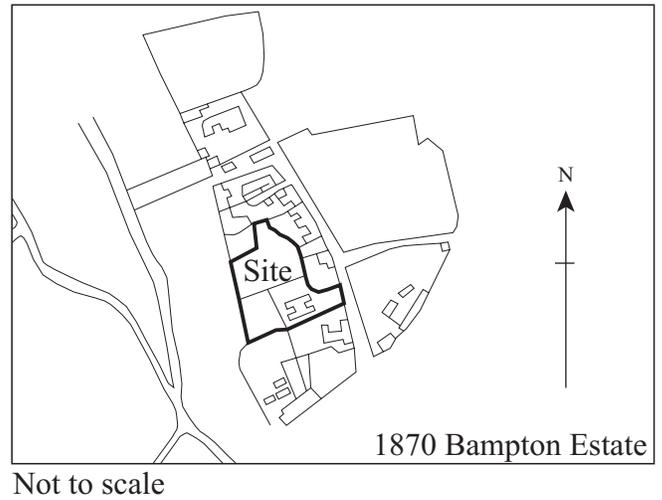
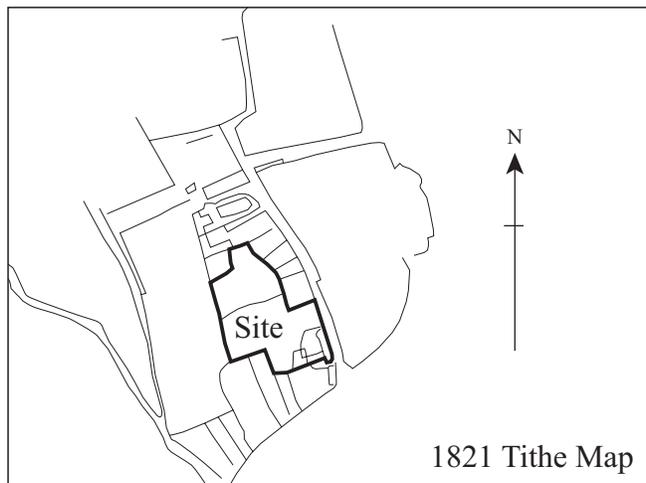


Figure 7. Historic maps

ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

Paper Record

The project brief	The project report
Written Scheme of Investigation	The primary site records
The drawn records	

Physical Record

The finds

The archive and finds are currently maintained by John Moore Heritage Services. The archive will be transferred to: Oxfordshire County Museum Service with the accession number 2011.5

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