

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**A SECOND PHASE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION AT HAM COURT, BAMPTON,
OXFORDSHIRE**

NGR 43100 203070

On behalf of

CgMs Consulting Ltd

February 2012

REPORT FOR CgMs Consulting Ltd
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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services conducted an archaeological evaluation in advance of improvement works at Ham Court, Bampton, Oxfordshire. Five trenches, as part of a Phase 2 archaeological evaluation, totalling approximately 141 metres in length were excavated to the underlying natural geology or uppermost surface of the archaeology.

Within Trench 1 the earliest feature was an east-west wall dated to the early medieval period (11th century or later) running the length of the trench for 16.5m where it returned north-south. A probable entrance way was recorded on the east side of the structure with demolition deposits on the interior dated to the post-medieval period (16th century). The early 11th century date for this structure is based on one pottery sherd from wall (1/15) and one from deposit (1/16) which was residual. The other three sherds, from walls (1/05) & (1/15) which form this structure, could be as late as 1400. It is not known whether this building butted against the curtain wall but it is possible this side of the castle was left open with the river acting as a natural defence.

Trench 2 was located over the projected line of the curtain wall and revealed a large wall considered to be a moat retaining wall with modern in filled waste deposits on its western side. Near the middle of the trench part of a stone structure was uncovered projecting from the northern baulk section but was robbed on its western side leaving only a robber trench. Seven courses of this stone structure survived in medieval style. This structure is postulated as the north-western corner tower, which projected from the line of the curtain wall. On the northern side of Trench 2 and within Trench 4 beneath thick modern waste deposits was evidence of a moat or fish ponds. The amount of modern loose infilling over this area and the high water table meant further investigation of the moat or possible fish ponds was not possible at this stage.

Moat deposits were seen within Trench 3 where it was projected to have crossed this area. The moat was not as wide as expected at just 5.5m, however, a deposit of greensand close to the moat may have been redeposited, and therefore the moat could have been wider. Trench 5 was placed to investigate the curtain wall originally thought to have existed to the immediate south of the present long barns. After extensive hand and machine investigation the curtain wall was not found but was more likely to have existed further south in an area which could not be investigated due to the presence of live gas and water mains. The archaeological evaluation has enabled a better understanding of the curtain wall and layout of internal buildings of the castle bailey, proving that the more recent interpretation of the castle by Blair (CgMs 2011) is more accurate than previous reconstruction by Rodwell (1975).

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during January through to February 2012. Three separate site visits were made to monitor wall footing trenches, service trenches and two areas in advance of septic tank installation. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered. The area covered by the watching brief was within disturbed ground and archaeological features may have been truncated by years of activity during the time of the working farm.

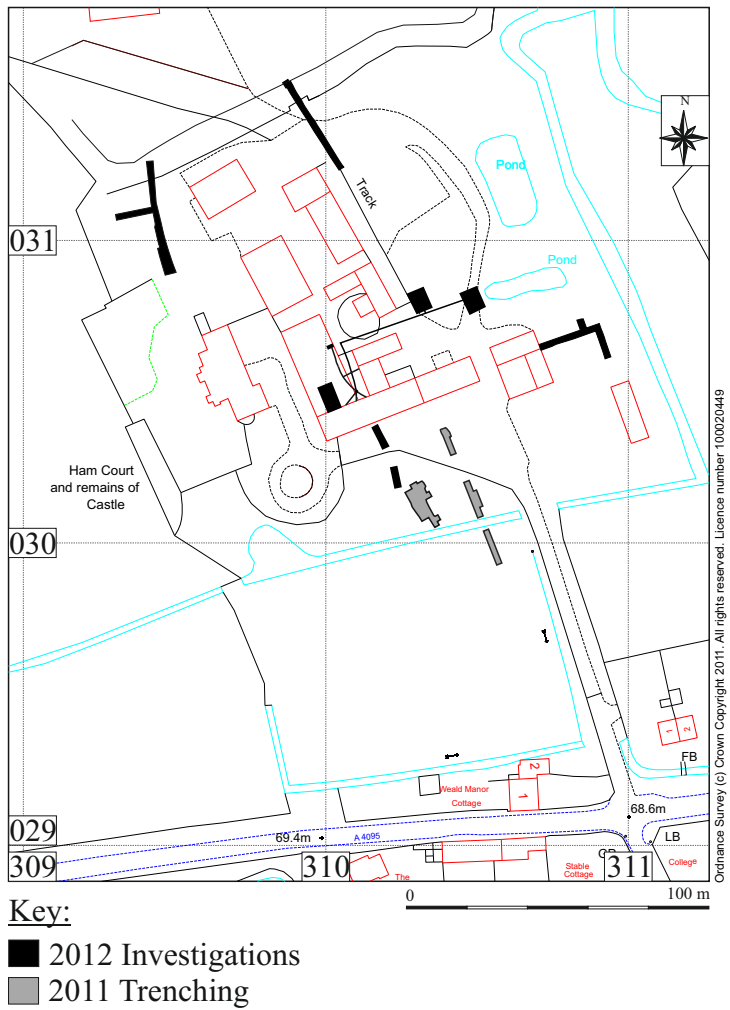
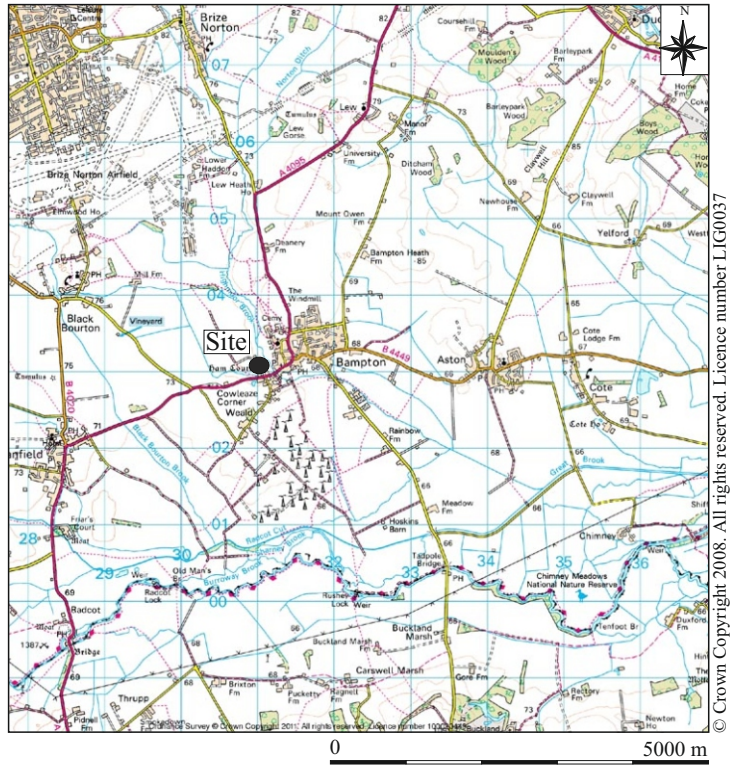


Figure 1. Site and Trench Location

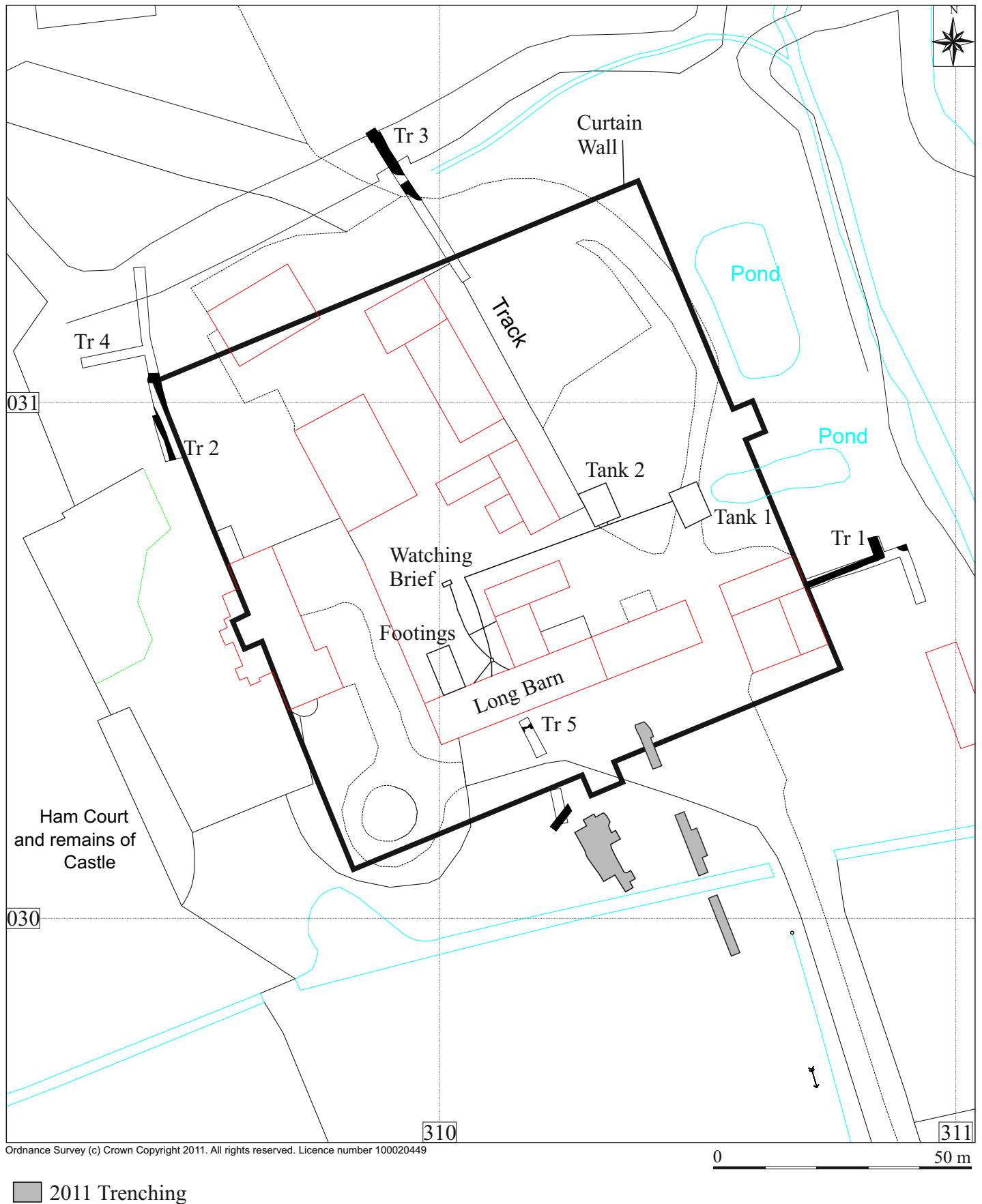


Figure 2. Trench plan showing watching brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location and Geology (Figure 1)

The site is located at Ham Court, Bampton, Oxfordshire (NGR SP 431000 203070). The site lies at *c.* 70m AOD and the underlying geology is River Gravel Second Terrace Deposits overlying Oxford Clay, with some alluvial deposits present in the area.

1.2 Planning Background

Development is being considered for improvements across the estate. The site is located in an area of archaeological potential and the results of a desk based assessment (Pugh 2011), a geophysical survey (Bartlett 2011) and archaeological field evaluation (Williams 2011) were undertaken to form the basic requirements needed for submission to any future planning application as set out in PPS5 (HE6.1).

The first stage of trenching (Williams 2011) was undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by John Moore Heritage Services and CgMs Consulting Ltd. The results of this evaluation trenching established the presence of a *c.* 10-13m wide moat (Williams 2011). Following this initial trenching work Greg Pugh (CgMs Ltd) had discussions with his client and Hugh Coddington at Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services (OCAS) and agreed a second stage of trenching in accordance with a separate WSI, submitted by CgMs Consulting Ltd and approved by the County Archaeological Services. This second WSI proposed the methodology by which the archaeological evaluation was to be carried out by John Moore Heritage Services to the satisfaction of OCAS. This stage of works relates to the eastern side of The Steading Barn, the south side of Long Barn Central and east and west of Block 10 covered by five trenches.

A Watching Brief was also undertaken prior to and during the phase 2 evaluation works. The watching brief involved the monitoring of any below ground works thought to possibly impact on archaeological remains. As a result wall footing trenches, service trenches and septic tank locations were carefully monitored to archaeological standards and are reported on as part of this report.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The site has been the subject of a Desk Based Assessment (Pugh 2011), the results of which are summarised below:

The assessment has established that there are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Registered Historic Parks and Gardens or Registered Battlefields on or adjacent to the study site. Ham Court is a Grade II* listed building. The desk-based assessment has established that a high status building later known as Bampton Castle occupied the study site from at least 13th century, with Ham Court providing the only extant evidence for the structure. There is potential for further remains of the castle to survive below ground within the study site. The Lady Well, an enclosed structure, may also survive in the northwest corner of the study site. There is also potential for earlier remains from the prehistoric period onwards.

There are two alternative reconstructions of the castle (Rodwell 1975 & Blair 2011) illustrated within the DBA (Pugh 2011) and also shown on the site plan supplied by CgMs Ltd within the WSI (Pugh 2011). The 1975 interpretation by Rodwell indicates a bailey with towers on each corner surrounded by a moat. The later interpretation by Blair suggests a larger curtain wall surrounded by a wide moat with a second moated enclosure to the north.

The first non-intrusive survey was undertaken by R. Ainslie in 2010 which indicated the possibility of the curtain wall to the east of Castle Barn, but the area covered by the trial resistivity was small and not conclusive. A geophysical survey (Bartlett 2011) was undertaken to test the conjectures set out by Rodwell and Blair and in particular to discover whether a silted channel could be present in the field north of the castle (known as Turf Close). The survey confirmed that much of the more open ground within and near to the farmyard is heavily disturbed.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

2.1 Project Objectives

The aims as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits.

In particular;

- To establish whether the moat or curtain wall is present in this area
- To establish whether features related to the medieval settlement survive in this area.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

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 for Archaeologists (2008) and the procedures laid down in MAP2 (English Heritage 1991).

3.2 Methodology

The trenching sample required was achieved through the excavation of five trenches measuring 141m long, locations shown on Figure 1 & 2.

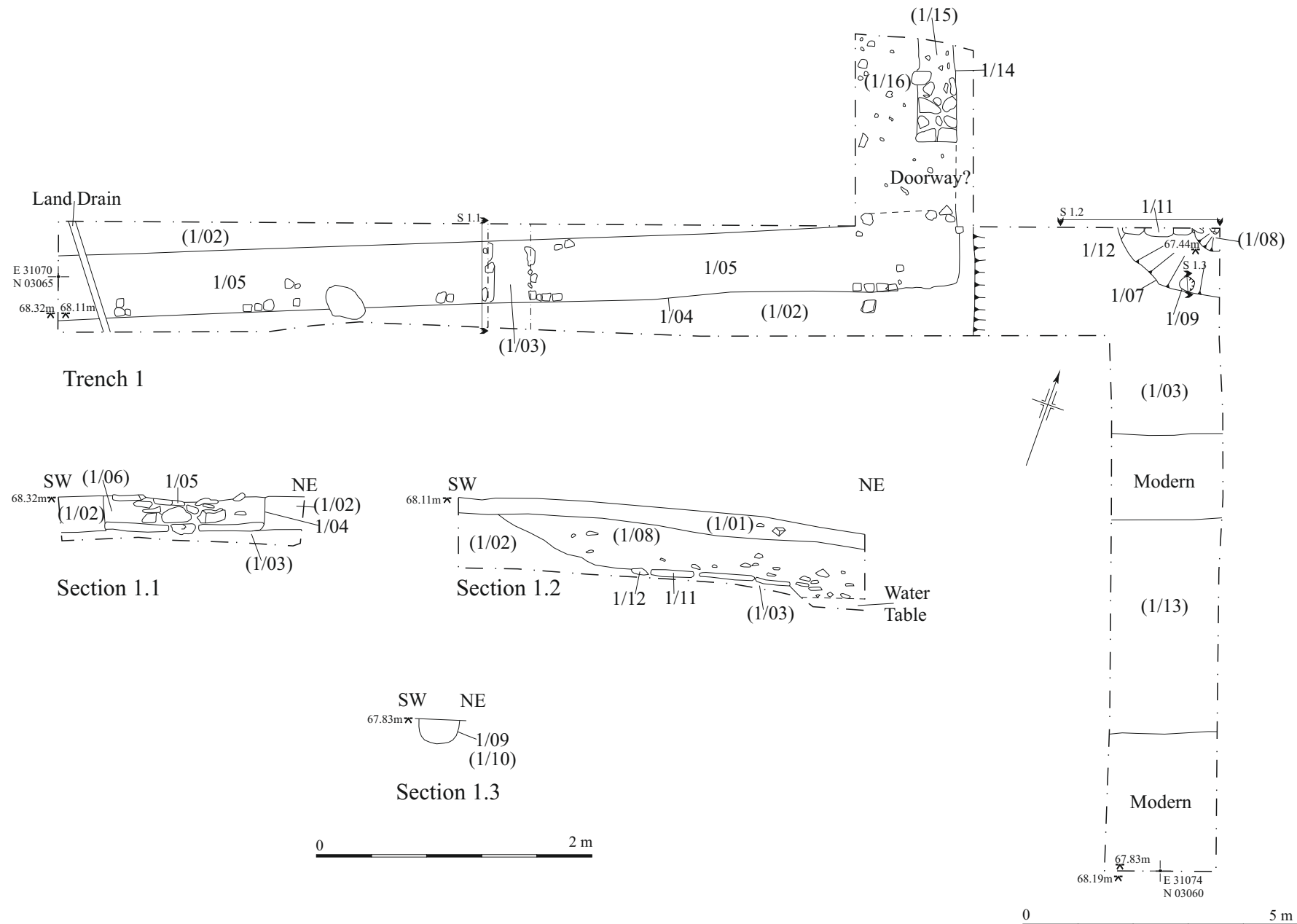


Figure 3. Trench 1 plan and sections

The trenches were excavated by a 360° type tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The resultant surfaces were cleaned by hand (where necessary) prior to hand excavation of the archaeological deposits and features.

Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and sections drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was produced using colour transparency, black and white and digital cameras. The trenches were backfilled after recording.

The work was monitored by the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority, Hugh Coddington and Greg Pugh from CgMs Consulting Ltd.

4 RESULTS

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers without brackets indicate features i.e. pit cuts or walls; while numbers in () show feature fills or deposits of material. The trenches described in this report are labelled Trenches 1-5 with Trench 5 having two parts (a) & (b), with the distinction of being part of Phase 2 works.

4.1 Excavation Results (Figure 2)

The trenches were set out across the general area of the proposed new development. The lowest deposit noted within the trenches consisted of natural clays, which was reached between varying heights of 69.95m to 67.99m AOD.

4.2 Trench 1 (Phase 2) (Figures 1-3)

Trench 1 was excavated to a length of 21m x 15m x 5m (1.8m wide) and to varying depths of between 0.12m (68.11m AOD) at the western end and 0.36m (67.83m AOD) at the southern end. In the middle of the trench the natural gravel was reached at a height of 68.05m AOD. Machine excavation ceased at the top of archaeology or the natural clay or gravel.

The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following layers (earliest to latest) (Fig 3; S: 1.1). The natural yellow-orange gravels (1/13) or natural clay (1/03) were seen at the base of the trench. Overlying these was *c.* 0.26m thick yellow brown clay silt subsoil (1/02) overlain by *c.* 0.15-0.20m thick dark black-brown silty clay topsoil (1/01).

Wall

On an approximate east-west orientation was wall 1/05 (Figure 3 Section 1.1). This wall dated to the medieval period by two sherds of pottery may have been a load bearing structural wall, suggested as it was *c.* 1m wide. The wall returned on a north-south direction (1/15) where it was 0.70m wide with both internal and outer facing. A further two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from within this wall (1/15). There was a gap for a postulated doorway on the eastern side of the structure between the two walls. A demolition layer (1/16) was dated to the post-medieval period on the interior of the structure. This layer contained one residual Saxo-Norman rim sherd.

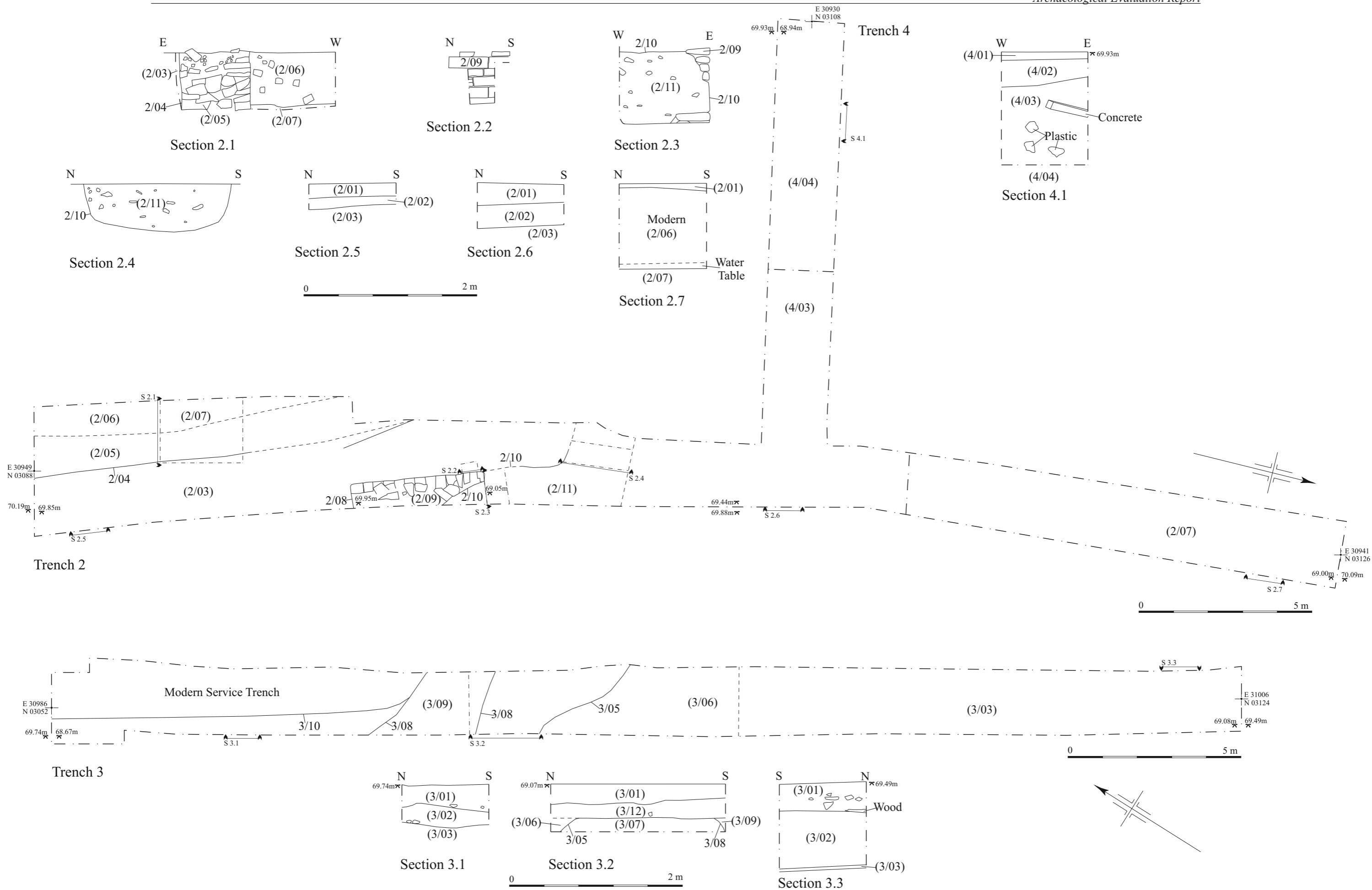


Figure 4. Trenches 2-4 plans and sections

Pit

A pit 1/07 was discovered in the corner of the eastern end of the trench. It was a minimum of 2.40m x 1.26m and had a depth of 0.44m. The pit was filled with mid grey sandy silt with gravels (1/08).

Other Masonry

At the base of pit 1/07 were *insitu* squared stones 1/11 one course thick set in construction cut 1/12, which looked to be the remains of a robbed structure possibly connected in an unknown way to the adjacent medieval building (Figure 3; Section 1.2).

Posthole

A posthole 1/09 was seen at the base of pit 1/07, it was 0.30m wide and 0.17m thick with sharp almost vertical sides and concave base (Figure 3; Section 1.3). It was filled by firm mid brownish grey silty clay (1/10) with no finds.

4.3 Trench 2 (Phase 2) (Figures 1, 2 & 4)

Trench 2 was excavated to a length of 37m (1.8m wide) and to varying depths of between 0.34m (69.85m AOD) at the south-eastern end and 1.09m (69.0m AOD) at the north-western end of the trench. Machine excavation ceased at the top of archaeology or the natural clay.

At the southern end of the trench the general stratigraphic sequence consisted of the following (earliest to latest): the natural light brownish orange gravel silt (2/03) with dense gravels was seen at the base of the trench. This was overlain by light-mid orange brown gravelly silt subsoil with frequent gravel inclusions (2/02). The latest deposit was dark brownish black silty clay with grit and gravel inclusions (2/01) (Figure 4; Section 2.5).

At the northern end of the trench the stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following (earliest to latest). At the base of the trench was humic dark grey blue sticky clay (2/07) considered to be created by moat infilling. Overlying (2/07) was *c.* 1m thick dark brownish black silty clay with modern waste throughout (2/06) (Figure 4; Section 2.7).

Walls

A wall orientated approximately north-south was encountered at the southern end of the trench. A section was excavated across this wall (Figure 4; Section 2.1) showing construction cut 2/04 which was 0.70m wide and 0.70m deep filled by roughly hewn stone blocks some possibly squared on the outer face (2/05). This wall was constructed with vertical sides on the edge of the moat and although had little trace of any surviving mortar between the stones, it was considered to be an *insitu* structural wall and not remains of curtain wall collapse.

Stone masonry was seen projecting from the eastern side of the trench roughly on the alignment of the curtain wall. The stone wall 2/09 was surviving 0.85m deep (seven courses) constructed in uneven coursing (Figure 4; Section 2.2; Section 2.3) and set within a gritty sandy lime mortar. The surviving masonry was 4m in length and well faced on its outer side with squared stone. There was clear evidence the wall was robbed.

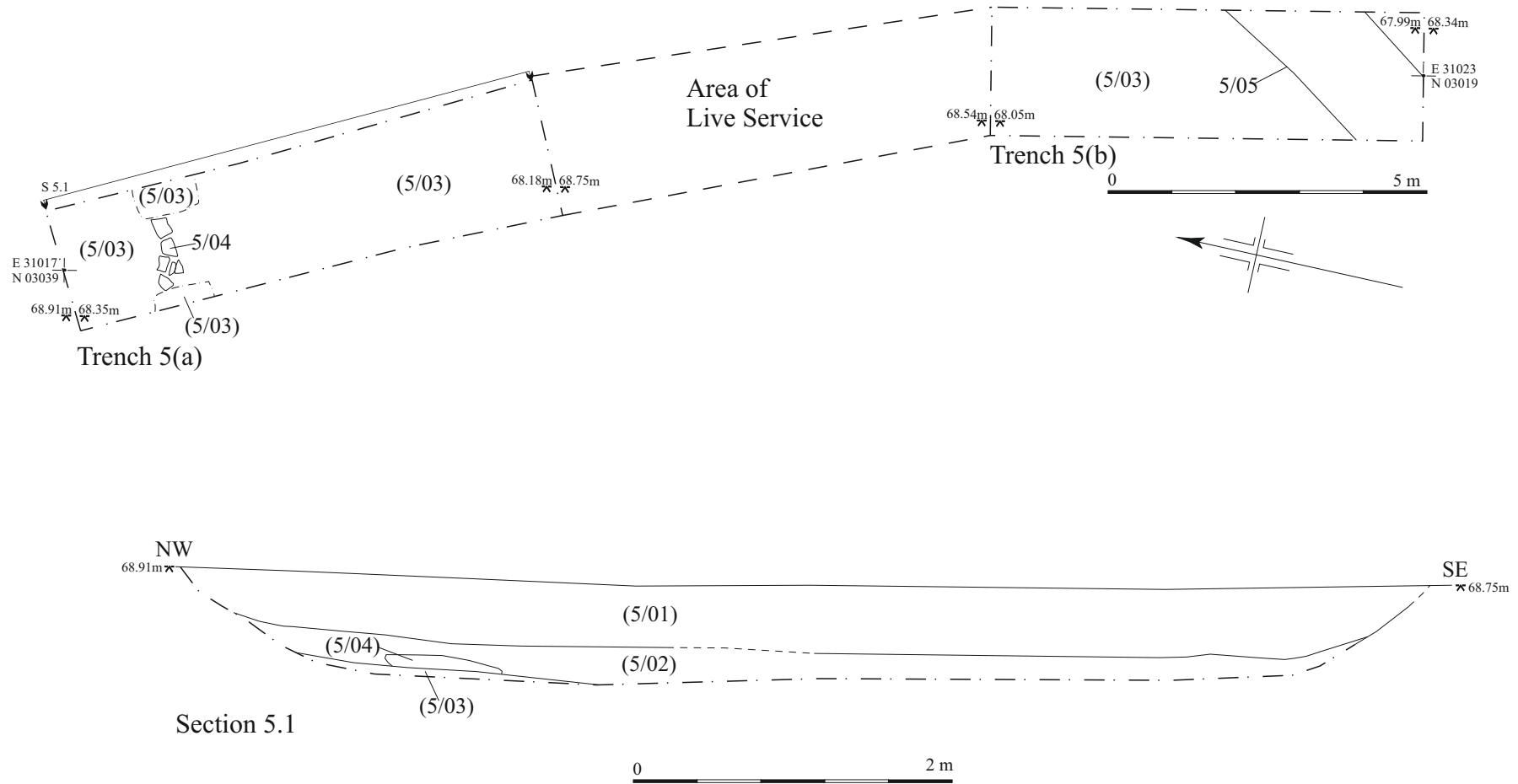


Figure 5. Trench 5 Plan and section

Robber trench

Ditch 2/10, 5.5m length (min) x 1m wide (min) truncated the *in situ* masonry 2/09. It was filled by *c.* 0.55m thick light orange brown gravely silt with mortar and stone fragments throughout (2/11).

Other deposits

Modern waste deposits have been used to infill the area once used for a moat or fish ponds. The waste deposits (2/06) contained tyres, plastics and metals.

4.4 Trench 3 (Phase 2) (Figure 4)

Trench 3 was excavated to a length of 35m (1.8m wide) and to varying depths of between 1.07m (68.67m AOD) at the northern end and 0.41m (69.08m AOD) at the southern end of the trench. Machine excavation ceased at the top of archaeology or the natural clay or gravels.

At the north western end of the trench the earliest deposit was the natural orange yellow gravels (3/03). Overlying this was dark grey brown silty clay with frequent gravels (3/02) subsoil. The latest deposit was dark brownish black topsoil (3/01) (Figure 4; Section 3.1). At the south eastern end of the trench the stratigraphy consisted of the same stratigraphy but with deeper topsoil and subsoil (Figure 4; Section 3.3)

Towards the centre of the trench was firm sterile light greenish yellow sand, which was recorded as 4.10m across, considered to be a rare band of natural greensand (3/07), unless it was imported and used to infill the moat.

Features

The remains of the medieval moat 3/05 were seen to cross the trench on an east-west direction adjacent to the existing ditch. The moat was *c.* 5.5m wide and filled by firm dark grey black silty clay with rare limestone rubble (3/06) (Figure 4; Section 3.2). The moat edge on the northern side was ambiguous to see as a modern drainage trench passed through this area.

4.5 Trench 4 (Phase 2) (Figure 3)

Trench 4 was excavated to a length of 11m (1.8m wide) and to varying depths of between 0.54m (69.44m AOD) at the eastern end and 0.99m (68.94m AOD) at the western end of the trench. Machine excavation ceased at the top of the suspected moat or fish pond fill (4/04).

Above (4/04) were 0.90m thick modern waste deposits (4/03) overlain by a recent subsoil (4/02) and dark grey brown topsoil (4/01). There were no archaeological features or deposits within this trench (Figure 4; Section. 4.1).

4.6 Trench 5 (Phase 2) (Figure 1; Figure 5)

Trench 5 (a) was excavated in two parts due to the presence of live services, which traversed this area of the site. The northern part of the trench was 8m long and the southern part (b) was 5m in length (1.8m wide). The northern part of the trench was excavated to varying depths of between 0.56m (68.35m AOD) at the northern end and 0.60m (68.18m AOD) at the southern end of the trench. Machine excavation ceased at the top of a suspected wall (5/04) or natural gravels (5/03). The suspected wall was investigated by two hand excavated sections and a result was proved to be a thin layer of stone and not a wall. The stratigraphy consisted of the

following layers (earliest to latest). The natural gravels (5/03) were observed at the base of the trench, overlain by *c.* 0.20m thick dark grey silty clay (5/02) with limestone fragments. The latest layer was mixed yellow orange grey concrete hardstanding (5/01).

Trench 5 (b) was excavated to 0.49m (68.05m AOD) at the northern end and 0.35m (67.99m AOD) at the southern end. The earliest layer was natural yellow orange gravels (5/03), overlain directly by topsoil (5/01).

Ditch

A drainage channel 5/05 was noted traversing the southern end of the trench on a north-east south-west orientation, *c.* 1.5m wide. This ditch was not investigated further as the feature was beneath the standing water table.

4.7 The Watching Brief Area

4.7.1 The Wall footing trenches

Three wall footing trenches were monitored for possible archaeological deposits in an area immediately adjacent to the west end of Long Barn (See Figure 2). The stratigraphic sequence recorded was as follows (earliest to latest). The natural gravels were seen at the base of the trench (08). Overlying this was 0.15-0.20m light grey gritty silt with rare gravels (07). The latest layer was *c.* 0.30m thick light orange clay silt (01). No archaeological features or deposits were seen within these trenches.

4.7.2 The Service Trenches

A series of deposits assumed to be of recent origin were recorded in the shallow sections of the service trenches. These deposits numbered (03), (04), (05) & (06) were a series of overlying pale grey to mid grey mottled sands and silts. None of these deposits were thought to be archaeological in origin but recently laid yard deposits associated with the working farm.

4.7.3 The Septic Tank Excavations

The area over the location of Tank 1 (see Figure 2) was reduced under archaeological direction down to the natural gravels. Clear evidence of diesel contamination was present and no archaeological features or deposits were seen. Overlying this was 0.30m thick topsoil (09) with modern finds (not retained).

The area over the location of Tank 2 (see Figure 2) was reduced under archaeological direction to the surface of the natural gravels (07). Overlying the gravels was dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (10) with no finds.

4.8 Reliability of Techniques and Results

The reliability of results is considered to be good with excellent co-operation from the site contractors (T.E. Gifford). The on site field work was directed by Paul Riccoboni (Project Officer), with the aid of two assistant archaeologists Andreij Celovsky and Gavin Davis. The excavation of the trenches took place in wintry weather conditions with a high water table within Trench 5 and all trenches and areas reduced as part of the watching brief. The water

table was so high that overnight the trenches had to be pumped almost continuously in order to see features or work in them at all. On the higher ground the wet conditions were not so much of a problem and the archaeology could be seen and walls cleaned to appropriate standards. The depths of modern waste deposits were considerable in places, particularly over the area of the moat or fish ponds around Trench 2 & 4. Care was taken not to work in parts of the trenches where the risk of side collapse was high.

5. THE FINDS

5.1 The Medieval Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 6 sherds with a total weight of 47g. It was recorded utilizing the coding system and chronology of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1984; 1994), as follows:

F200. OXAC: **Cotswold-type ware**, AD975-1350. 2 sherds, 14g.

F202. OXBF: **North-East Wiltshire Ware**, AD1050 – 1400. 2 sherds, 10g.

F425: OXDR: **Red Earthenwares**, 1550+. 2 sherds, 23g.

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*. The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region. The sherds are entirely unabraded, and appear reliably stratified.

Two rimsherds were noted, one from context (15) and the other from context (16). Both are from jars, with the former being a developed and everted form typical of the Saxon-Norman period. The rest of the assemblage comprised bodysherds. A single sherd of tile (weight = 15g), in an Oolitic fabric very similar to OXAC, occurred in Tr. 1 context (02).

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

Tr	Cntxt	OXAC		OXBF		OXDR		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	5			2	10			M11thC
1	15	2	14					M11thC
1	16					2	23	M16thC
	Total	2	14	2	10	2	23	

5.2 The Animal Bone by Hayley McParland

Two contexts contained animal bone, context 1/01 contained 21 fragments of animal bone, the assemblage comprised nine fragments of rib bone, most likely from Cattle (*Bos sp.*) and Sheep/Goat (*Ovis/Caprid sp.*), as well as 12 complete unfused juvenile bones, possibly of Sheep/Goat (*Ovis/Caprid sp.*). It is notable that at least one of the radial bones demonstrates pathology either in the form of injury, deformity or underdevelopment in the form of a flat vertical plane through the centre of the bone which has healed over, it is possible that the bone grew in this way due to illness, injury or underdevelopment or the bone has recovered from a traumatic injury.

Context 1/08 contained an assemblage of twenty animal bones, the majority of which are fragmentary, some demonstrating fresh breaks where the bone has been damaged by machine excavation. Within this assemblage, all of the identifiable bone fragments are of Horse (*Equus sp.*); two maxilla teeth are present, as well as a single diagnostic fragment of Tibia, three femur fragments, and a vertebral fragment. The remainder of the assemblage is composed of unidentified bone fragments, including some rib fragments.

Though fragmentary, none of the bones in the assemblage demonstrate clear signs of butchery. Identifications were carried out with the aid of a reference text (Schmid 1972).

Table 2; Quantification of animal bone

Context	Quantity	Weight (g)	Comments
1/01	21	143	9 unidentified rib fragments, possibly Bos and Ovis/Caprid, 12 complete unfused juvenile bones possibly of Ovis/Caprid. Two radial and ulna bones demonstrate pathological marker of traumatic injury, deformity or underdevelopment.
1/08	20	1060	20 fragments of bone, seven identifiable fragments of Equus, including two maxilla teeth, diagnostic Tibia fragment, three diagnostic femur fragments and an incomplete vertebra.

5.3 Clay Pipe by Hayley McParland

A single fine bored clay pipe stem fragment measuring 30mm in length, with a diameter of 5mm, was recovered from context 1/16, weighing 3g.

Table 3; Quantification of clay pipe

Context	Quantity	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Diameter (mm)	Comments
1/01	1	3	30	5	Clay pipe stem, fine bored.

5.4 Metal Objects by Hayley McParland

A single fragment of Iron wire or a pin measuring 62mm in length and 3mm in diameter, was found within context 1/16. There are no diagnostic features to suggest that the object was a pin and it is rather too thin to have been a nail.

Table 4; Quantification of metal (fe) objects

Context	Quantity	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Comments
1/01	1	5	62	3	Iron wire or pin, corroded.

6 DISCUSSION

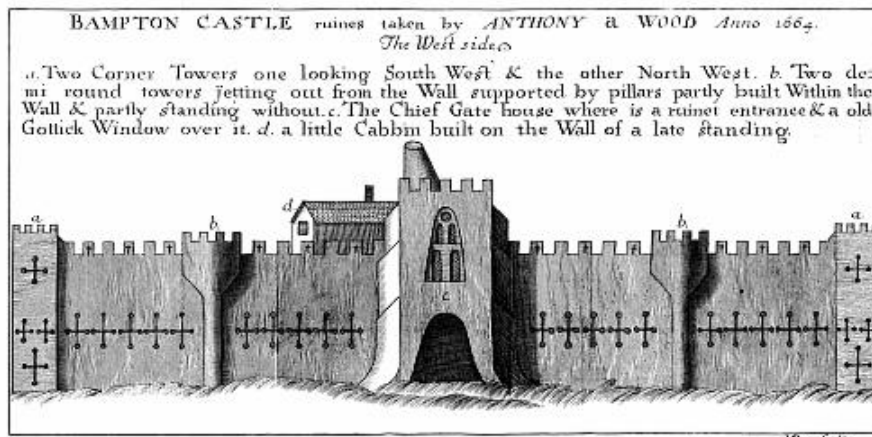
The evaluation confirmed the presence of archaeological features, assumed to be related to the early medieval castle first constructed around the 13th century AD. The depth of the overburden was generally shallow with the surface of the archaeological features just below the topsoil in most places.

Trench 1 revealed the structural remains of a medieval building, possibly a barn or horse stable. The east-west wall was substantial in width but did not have deep footings. A total of four sherds of early medieval pottery (11th century and later) were recovered from the wall footing, providing good dating evidence. The wall returned north-south with a doorway on the eastern side. Frequent animal bones, considered to be goat, sheep and horse, were discovered from this area leading to the tentative suggestion that this structure was a barn or used as a horse stable. This building was potentially the earliest structure discovered within the castle complex. The earliest possible date for the building was 11th century but the early pottery sherds from (105) & (106) may have been residual. Having said that, the building may also prove that the settlement of Bampton, known to exist from Saxon times, could have extended this far west of the central nucleus of the settlement. Documentary evidence suggests the Castle was at least 13th century in origin. The royal manor of Bampton was given to William de Valence in 1249 and a survey undertaken on William's death in 1296 records a court. William's son Aymer obtained a royal licence to crenellate his house in 1315 (Blair 1988). The discovered building may indicate an earlier barn was absorbed into the castle estate by William de Valence and survived as a working barn/stable until the 16th century. A demolition layer recorded on the inside of the structure was dated by pottery sherds to the early post-medieval period (16th century), indicating this was when the building was demolished. If the curtain wall existed in this area then the building would have butted up against it. This would be unusual as the nature of a curtain wall was traditionally defensive and a barn on the outside of the wall would have been a defensive weakness; a problem unless the wall was used primarily for show purposes. Another explanation is that there was no curtain wall on this side of the castle and the river acted as a natural defensive barrier. A subsequent building probably replaced this barn, which is the building shown on the earliest historic map of 1789.

Trench 2 revealed surviving archaeological walls and the probable north-western corner tower on the curtain wall (see Figure 6 for reconstruction of the castle from Anthony Wood drawing in 1664). The probable tower 2/09 was constructed in medieval style and was of a square shape, as illustrated on the 1664 drawing. This corner tower was partially robbed for its stone but some well faced squared stone did survive (see figure 10). The location of the corner tower was on Blair's projected suggestion of the castle curtain wall and corner tower almost exactly where it would have returned on a north-east direction (See Figure 2). This leads us to the conclusion that John Blair's (2011) reconstruction of the castle is accurate and Rodwell's interpretation should be considered as redundant. The robber trench has a curious bend westwards towards the moat indicating another wall or connecting turret to the retaining moat wall may have been possible. More archaeological work would be necessary to investigate this robber trench more fully.

The main north-south wall 2/05 uncovered at the southern end of the trench, was considered to be a retaining wall for the moat.

Figure 6; Anthony Wood's engraving of Bampton Castle 1664



This wall was substantial in size and reached a surviving depth of 0.70m from the existing ground level. Butting up against the wall was *c.* 0.60m thick modern waste, overlying the grey blue clay silt moat fill. The modern waste deposits were considered to have been used for infilling and levelling the ground over this general area during the 20th century. We can therefore now postulate with confidence that the moat did not exist immediately beneath the curtain wall, but there was a *c.* 1m gap between the curtain wall and the moat retaining wall (shown as possible earthworks on the Figure 6; 1664 engraving). The humic dark grey blue clay moat fill was also seen at the northern end of Trench 2 and within Trench 4. The high water table and depth of made ground deposits meant the moat could not be investigated further at this stage, but there was a suggestion in section that perhaps this area was used for fish ponds rather than a traditional moat.

Within Trench 3 the moat was uncovered and shown to be *c.* 5.5m in width, less than the width of the moat discovered at the southern side of the estate by John Moore Heritage Services (Williams 2011), which reached a width of up to 12-15m. Perhaps there was not a need for such large impressionable defences on this side of the castle grounds as it was less visible. If the greensand deposit noted within the trench was redeposited into backfill the moat then this would make the moat a similar width as previously discovered.

Additional trenches south of Long Barn Central did not reveal any evidence of the curtain wall close to the existing wall of the barn as suggested on Rodwell's (1975) interpretation of the castle. This area had been subject to modern disturbance, which may explain the lack of features in this trench. The location of the curtain wall as proposed by Blair crossed where it was not possible to excavate due to the presence of live gas and water mains. A drainage trench in the south part of Trench 5 probably represents the remains of a drainage channel associated with the medieval moat.

The archaeological evaluation has enabled a better understanding of the curtain wall and layout of internal buildings of the castle bailey, proving that the more recent interpretation of the castle by Blair (Pugh 2011) should be considered more accurate than any earlier suggestions.

7 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 (pottery and animal bones)

The archive is currently maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service under accession number 2011.129

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Table 5: Summary of contexts within Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
1/01	Deposit	Dark grey brown silty clay topsoil with modern waste	0.15-0.22	Tr.	Tr.	Animal bones	/
1/02	Deposit	Mid yellow light brown silty clay subsoil	0.26	Tr.	Tr.	/	/
1/03	Deposit	Yellow light brown clay	0.10	Tr.	2.2	/	/
1/04	Cut	Construction for wall	0.26	1.14		/	/
1/05	Masonry	Stone wall foundation	0.80	1.10	16.5 (min)	/	/
1/06	Deposit	Greyish brown clay silt	0.18	1.14	16.5	Pot	Medieval
1/07	Cut	Sub circular pit	0.44	1.26	2.40		
1/08	Deposit	Mid grey brown sandy silt	0.44	1.25 (min)	2.40	/	/
1/09	Cut	Circular posthole	0.17	0.30	0.30	/	/
1/10	Deposit	Mid brownish grey silty clay	0.17	0.30	0.30	/	/
1/11	Masonry	Stone footing	0.06-0.10	0.10 (min)	1.1	/	/
1/12	Cut	Construction cut	0.06-0.10	0.10 (min)	1.1	/	/
1/13	Deposit	Light yellow brown natural gravels	/	Tr.	Tr.	/	/
1/14	Cut	Construction cut of wall	/	0.75	1.85 (min)	/	/
1/15	Masonry	Stone wall footing	/	0.75	1.85 (min)	/	/
1/16	Deposit	Grey brown sandy silt with frequent waste building materials	/	1.80	3.20	Pot	Post-medieval

Table 6: Summary of contexts within Trench 2

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
2/01	Deposit	Dark brownish black silty clay topsoil	0.25	Tr.	Tr.	/	/
2/02	Deposit	Light – mid orange brown gravelly silt subsoil	0.20	Tr.	Tr.	/	/
2/03	Deposit	Light brownish orange gravel silt Natural	/	Tr.	Tr.	/	/
2/04	Cut	Construction cut for moat retaining wall	0.70	0.70	10 (min)	/	/
2/05	Masonry	Moat retaining wall	0.70	0.70	10 (min)	/	/
2/06	Deposit	Dark brown black silty clay with modern waste	0.70	Tr.	8 (min)	/	/

		throughout					
2/07	Deposit	Dark grey blue humic moat silt	/	Tr.	8 (min)	/	/
2/08	Cut	Construction cut for medieval masonry	0.90	0.70	4m	/	/
2/09	Masonry	Square stone blocks set in even coursing	0.90	0.70	4m	/	/
2/10	Cut	Cut of robber trench	0.90	2m	5.5m	/	/
2/11	Deposit	A mottled gravelly mortar with uneven stones inclusions throughout	0.90	2m	5.5m	/	/

Table 7: Summary of contexts within Trench 3

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
3/01	Deposit	Mixed gravels and stone rubble	0.05-0.25	Tr.	Tr.	/	/
3/02	Deposit	Dark grey brown silty layer	0.50	Tr.	Tr.	/	/
3/03	Deposit	Mid yellow orange gravel natural	/	Tr.	Tr.	/	/
3/04	Void					/	/
3/05	Cut	Cut of moat	/	Tr.	5.9	/	/
3/06	Deposit	Fill of 3/05	/	Tr.	5.9	/	/
3/07	Deposit	Firm grey orange sand-natural?	0.14 (min)	Tr.	4.10	/	/
3/08	Cut?	Possible cut containing 3/07 or edge to 3/07	0.14 (min)	Tr.	4.10	/	/
3/09	Deposit	Greenish sandy silt with modern finds	0.15 (min)	Tr.	3.70	None retained	/
3/10	Cut	Cut of modern service	/	1.5 (min)	11m	/	/
3/11	Deposit	Dark greyish brown silty clay with modern finds	/	1.5 (min)	11m	None retained	/

Table 8: Summary of contexts within Trench 4

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
4/01	Deposit	Dark grey brown sandy loam topsoil	0.09	Tr.	Tr.	/	/
4/02	Deposit	Light yellow brown sandy silt subsoil	0.30	Tr.	Tr.	/	/
4/03	Deposit	Dark grey black with modern waste throughout	0.90	Tr.	Tr.	None retained	/
4/04	Deposit	Light brown yellow clay silt Natural	/	Tr.	/	/	/

Table 9: Summary of contexts within Trench 5

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
5/01	Deposit	Mixed yellow orange grey gravel and rubble layers – modern hardstanding	0.40	Tr.	Tr.	/	/
5/02	Deposit	Dark grey silty clay	0.20-0.30	Tr.	Tr.	/	/
5/03	Deposit	mid yellow orange natural gravels	/	Tr.	Tr.	/	/
5/04	Deposit	Stone layer with grey sand	0.08-0.10	Tr.	0.60	/	/
5/05	Cut	Cut of Ditch	/	1.5	3 (min)	/	/
5/06	Deposit	Dark blue grey clay silt with stone inclusions	/	1.5	3 (min)	/	/

Figure 7; Showing medieval building T1



Figure 8; Showing wall 1/16 of medieval building and entrance.



Figure 9; Showing wall 2/04 with existing with house in rear



Figure 10; Corner tower 2/09

