

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT

63-69 HIGH STREET,

WITNEY,

OXFORDSHIRE

NGR SP 3567 1000

On behalf of

Rivar Limited

MAY 2012

REPORT FOR Rivar Ltd
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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services conducted a watching brief at the former site of Kernahan's Garage, 63-69 High Street, Witney (NGR SP 3567 1000). The rapid removal of ground uncovered significant in situ deposits over an area of approximately 0.31ha. The earliest features uncovered included parts of early field systems. Stratigraphically this had to consist of at least two phases, both were essentially undated but this type of feature would fit into types of settlement that generally fit into a period from the middle Bronze Age to the early medieval period. Medieval properties facing onto the line of the High Street were also identified, which must be associated with the establishment of the burgh when the manor was owned by the Bishop of Witney. The 11th century pottery recovered from the site could be indicative of the borough in the central area of the High Street being a product of the late 11th century or the early 12th century, rather than the 13th century in which it has been conservatively placed by the Victoria County History series. These structures appear to be associated with substantial stone walls. Stratigraphically they overlie the ephemeral remains of sill beam structures. To the rear of the medieval town properties there are indications of a substantial ditch that is historically recorded as the town ditch in the 16th century. The feature is probably older than this although the ditch essentially lay below the impact layer of the development, so no firm dating evidence was obtained for its construction. There is evidence of alteration to the medieval tenements at some time in the High or Later medieval period. The remains of the medieval tenements were not totally cleared in the post-medieval period but were eventually replaced by predominantly early post-medieval properties of the 16th and 17th centuries. Behind this a series of outbuildings can be recognised that must date roughly from the later 17th to 19th century.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The development site was located in the West Oxfordshire town of Witney, which lies in the topographical massif called the Cotswold Hills. Topographically the site lies between 85-90m OD and is located in the valley of the River Windrush.

The old centre of the town, including the church, lies to the south of the site on a raised outcrop of Cornbrash, which is surrounded by two deposits, to the north an outcrop of Forest Marble (limestone with clay) and on the south quaternary deposits of the first river terrace (BGS 1982, sheet 236). It is likely that the site lies on the Forest Marble, however extending across the valley to the north are alluvial deposits.

The site of 63-69 High Street, also known as Kernahan's Garage (NGR SP 3567 1000), now incorporates three sometimes four former properties that front onto the High Street. In two of these plots the old properties were left in some form still standing, although it is apparent that the rear extensions to these properties saw considerable alterations and demolition. The one on the south side was once a public house called the Prince of Wales. The development site thus extended from the west side of the High Street and extends to the street known as Welch Way and Witan Way. The 19th century maps indicate that this area had previously a number of properties that were probably sub-divided. Consequently the land was amalgamated in a piecemeal fashion into its present boundary.

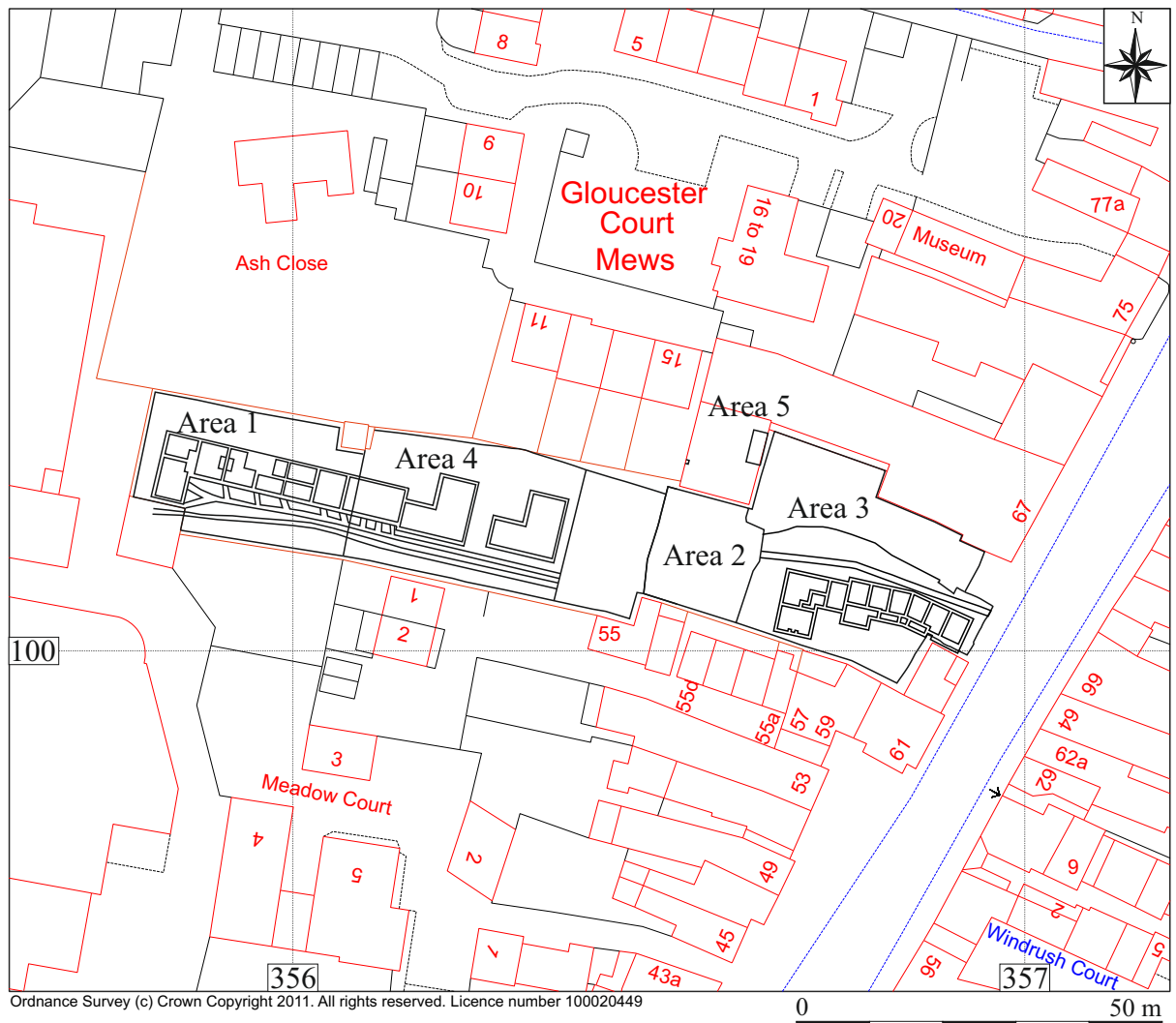
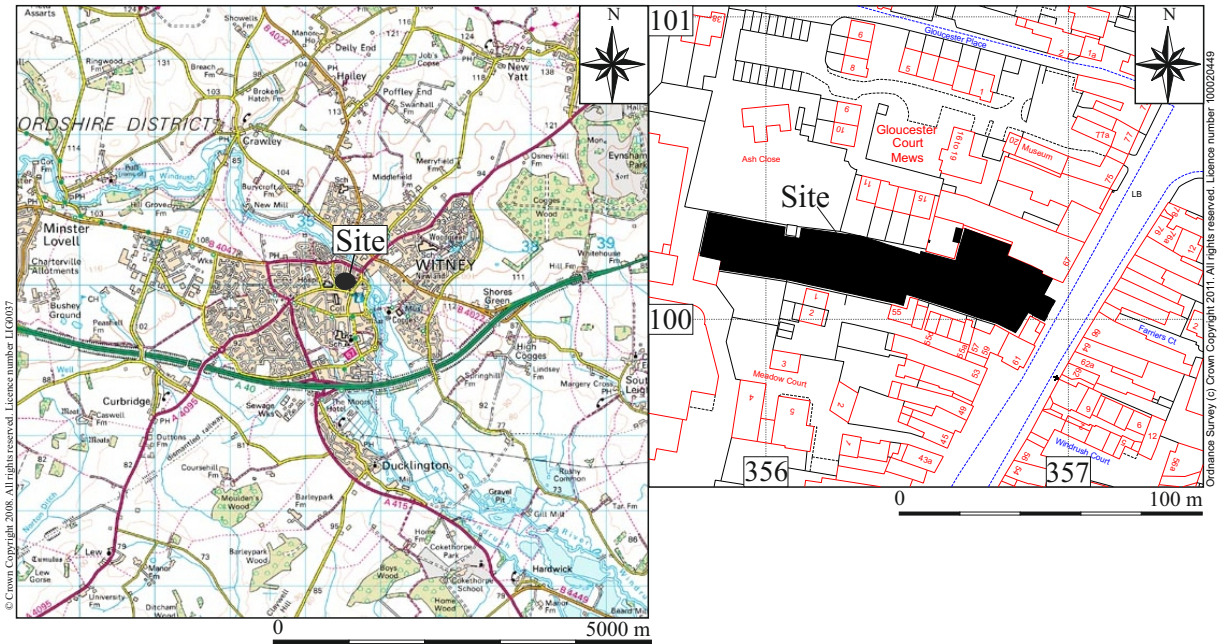


Figure 1. Site location

The High Street is one of Witney's ancient thoroughfares, a road orientated north to south and extending from the church to the present crossing of the Windrush. The older route crosses this and survived as Crown and Corn Streets. This east to west route is considered to be the oldest trackway in the area historically. Subsequently the area lies at the centre of this medieval town, and it is for this reason that the site is of archaeological interest.

1.2 Planning Background

Planning permission was initially sought from West Oxfordshire District Council for change of use of premises from a car show room in 2006 (06/0804/P/FP). Due to the potential for archaeology on the site and in line with PPG 16 (current at the time) and BE13 the local plan an archaeological field evaluation was requested. On appeal the inspector attached a condition that only required an archaeological watching brief.

1.3 Archaeological Background

Bronze Age activity in Witney is recognised in the remains of a Late Bronze Age sword (HER 1496) and a spearhead (HER 12338), both recovered in the vicinity of Emma's Dyke.

Late Iron Age and Roman coins have been recovered from Witney (Foster *et al.* 1975, 179; VCH 1939, 266). The remains of a rampart of an enclosure has been claimed to surround part of the town, but the evidence concerning this is inconclusive (Foster *et al.* 1975, 179; VCH 1907, 333; Allen and Hillier 2002, 7, 201). The defensive system has been claimed as early medieval in date, but this is not confirmed or substantiated. Any defensive system in the vicinity of the church if recognised could equally well be of a prehistoric origin. At Blanker Mill on the north side of the River Windrush the remains of a deep ditch was identified containing 11th century pottery, but the feature was believed to be part of a defended Iron Age settlement (Yeates 2006, 1191-2).

To the north of the town the names Bury Croft and Castill Ditch can be identified on historic maps (Yeates 2006, 1192), however, no castle or fortification is known to have been located there. It is possible that this is the location of a ploughed out fort or substantial enclosure. A ditch at High Cogges isolates the promontory of Springhill forming a probable promontory fort (VCH 1990, 54-9). The Windrush valley has a number of recognised Iron Age and Roman farmsteads with field systems of which a good example is Mingies Ditches, and it has long been suspected that non-urban prehistoric and Roman sites existed under the town (Foster *et al.* 1975, 179).

The remains of a significant Roman site has been recognised to the southeast of Witney at a place called Ducklington (Yeates 2006, 1186-7). Grundy (1933, 30) noted that the name *burhdic* occurred in an early medieval charter referring to a camp in the Ducklington area. Significant Roman archaeological remains have been noted in the Duckington and Gill Mill area from 1963 to 2001 (Sturdy and Case 1963, 88; Goodburn 1976, 336; HER 11636; Frere 1989, 297; Pike 1989, 50; Frere 1991, 258; Pike 1991, 95-6; Horne 1996, 56; Burnham, Keppie *et al.* 1999, 348; Horne 1999, 76; Henig and Booth 2000, 72; Horne 2002, 60). The site represents the location of a significant Roman settlement of a nucleated form, but there is also evidence of a shrine probably associated with the river Windrush, and it is likely that Ducklington was the early focus of the historic period. Ducklington is also the recognised site of rich 7th

century burials (Foster *et al.* 1975, 179), which may be associated with the development of Duclington as a minster centre.

The earliest historical accounts concerning the manor, estate, or parish of Witney dates back to the 10th century (VCH 2004, 1-7, 68-73). The name is first recorded for 969 as *Wyttanige*, but only in a 12th century text (Gelling 1954, 333), the etymology of the name is generally given as **Witta's** island. There are other possibilities for the first part of the name as historically there has been a trend to over emphasise individual personal names in onomastics. Other possibilities are that the name is derived from **with**, Old English a bend (Smith 1956, 265); or Old English **wita** (**witan** gen.sg., **witena** gen.pl.), a councillor. If the prefix is not a personal name it may indicate an island on a bend in the Windrush or simply an island where council was held and imply that there was a an early hundred with a meeting place in the Witney area. It has been noted that Witney was the location for witan's of the Saxon kings (Foster *et al.* 1975, 179). If the latter the hundred was subsequently disbanded by 1086.

The suffix implies that the high ground around the church was once an island and the settlement was first established in this location. There are further island names recorded at this time for example *hengestes ige*, interpreted as **Hengest's** island or island of the stallion (Gelling 1954, 333). This is indicative of the Windrush being a braided stream with a number of distinct islands in the 10th century.

A charter survives for the later Windrush estate and parish for AD 956 x 957 that sees the granting of 17 hides at Curbridge by abbot Æthelwold of Abingdon Abbey to bishop Brihthelm of Wells (Gelling 1979, no.76). The gift of Curbridge was in exchange for an estate at Kennington by Abingdon. This is the first indication of any manorial holdings in Witney parish. The exchange is with the agreement of king Eadwig. In 969 an estate focussed on Witney was granted to Aelfhelm a minister of King Eadgar (Gelling 1979, no.278). The boundary of this grant indicates that the original estate and parish were coterminous with the later parish of Witney, and included the hamlets of Curbridge, Crawley and Hailey. This grant has led to the suggestion that the estate was established in the 950s or 960s (VCH 2004, 1-7) and that the land to the south of the Windrush originally belonged to Bampton church and that to the north originally belonged to the church at Minster Lovell. This last suggestion is unsound and based on extremely small evidence; it is easily just as possible that modern claims concerning the neighbouring parish of Cogges was always part of the *parochiae* of Eynsham or that Ducklington was also firmly established in the *parochiae* of Bampton may have been pushed to far (see below). Indeed a charter of 958 grants Ducklington and Barley Park mentions an unidentified old church at a place called *Astlea* (Gelling 1979, no.275). It is likely that this is a significant church or minster on a royal estate (perhaps Ducklington in the east of the estate) and that its territory has been effectively dismantled, and that this territory once included Witney.

By 1044 the estate at Witney was back in royal hands as Edward the Confessor gave the territory to the bishop of Winchester (VCH 2004, 68-73). It has been suggested that there was possibly an ecclesiastical palace located at Witney at this time, and that the development of the town was encouraged by the bishops after this date (Foster *et al.* 1975, 179). The church is considered to be a pre-existing feature of the town.

Archbishop Stigand held Witney in 1066 and the bishop of Winchester in 1086 (Morris 1978, 3.1). The Domesday Book entry states that the manor accounted for 30 hides and contained 36 villagers, 11 smallholders, had 2 mills, 100 acres of meadow and woodland measuring 3 leagues by 2 leagues. The parish is recognised later as being large (containing the hamlets of Curbidge, Crawley and Hailey) but the woodland listed is also extensive indicating that Witney was a manor with extensive woodlands located in Wychwood Forest.

The chief manor at Witney remained in the possession of the bishop of Winchester down to the 19th century except for two brief periods in the 16th and 17th centuries (VCH 2004, 68-73).

The manor house at Witney lay in a cluster of buildings, which presumably as they are located on the outcrop of Cornbrash set on the original island after which the town is named, may well have formed the settlements early nucleus. In this group of buildings are the locations of the church, the rectory and the vicarage (VCH 2004, 68-73, 130-44). The latter buildings lie respectively to the west and east of the church.

The church is considered to have had a 10th to 11th century origin, although the surviving structural evidence would indicate a late 11th century construction (VCH 2004, 130-44). The earliest reference to the church in a textual record is in 1162 when the bishop granted the church to Saint Cross, Winchester, which was subsequently confirmed in 1189. In 1211 Hugh of Gayhurst, the chancellor of Salisbury, was in possession of the church. It is apparent that Saint Cross lost possession of the church in a dispute between the Knights Hospitallers and the bishop of Winchester. In 1212 the bishop had regained control of the church, but the reason why there was a dispute and how it came about has not been explained.

The church at Witney was probably part of a larger parochial system, which was dismantled under the influence of the two more powerful churches at Eynsham and Bampton. Cogges Priory although it was sending tithes for burial rights to Eynsham Abbey in 1238 (VCH 1990, 59-61), was making agreements with the bishop of Winchester who had to make payments to the priory of Cogges for the establishment of tenements in Witney borough on the north side of the bridge in 1219-20 (VCH 1990, 54-9). This was in an area called Grimesmead, which is indicative of the church of Cogges holding land in the earlier established Witney estate of 969 AD.

To the north of the manor and ecclesiastical buildings the bishop of Winchester established a market town in the late 12th or very early 13th century (VCH 2004, 8-33). The bishop established three other market towns that are better documented at a similar time, which included Downton in Wiltshire, New Arlesford and Overton both in Hampshire. The first documented account of the borough at Witney is in 1208. In 1210-1 there is an account of the granting of borough rights to existing tenements at Witney. The Victoria County History proposes the following three phases of the development of the borough. The earliest phase of the manor is considered to have seen the establishment of a borough from the church down to the crossing with Corn and Crown Streets. The second phase (in which the site is located) was established not long after. The third phase of the development was constructed or planned about 1219-20 when 16 new burgage plots were established to the north of the River Windrush. It is this extension that would have been placed on land in Grimesmead belonging to the priory of Cogges (VCH 1990, 54-9). This linked the borough of

Witney with that of the borough of Newland established at a slightly earlier date in the parish of Cogges.

A number of market towns were founded in England in the 12th to 13th century (Hinton 1990, 158-61). Excavations at The Hamel in Oxford's West suburbs have provided an example of a developing urban site at this time. Artists impressions of the types of buildings expected in these developments is suggestive of single story dwellings, probably operating as halls with central fireplaces that would be vented through an opening in the roof. At The Hamel these appear to be butted together or joined in a not always regular fashion. Such house designs are considered to have continued into the late 14th century (Hinton 1990, 194-5), with a shift of house designs and styles in the mid-16th century to two story dwellings. In other towns the building of two storey structures has been noted at a significantly earlier date, for example at Tewkesbury where a 24 timber frame cottage terrace was built in the mid-15th century (Platt 1978, 163-4). In London such developments are known to have occurred in the later part of the 14th century: dated 1369, 1370 and 1373.

The population of Witney is noted in various textual sources over time (VCH 2002, 8-33). In 1377 the population contained 434 adults as indicated by Poll Tax documentation. In 1523-4 there were 62 taxpayers, while in 1596-7 there were a 140 deaths recorded over five months. In the middle of the 17th century it is estimated that between 1,200 and 1,400 people lived in the parish of Witney of which 800 people lived in the town.

The houses in the borough were all described as messuages in 1279 (VCH 2004, 8-33), while in the 16th century large houses were being built in the environs of the church. Noted features of the town not including specific buildings and roads already mentioned included the Town Ditch that is described as adjoining two properties on the west side of High Street in 1540. The ditch is considered to have remained open till the 19th century, although this may only have been the case in one or two places.

A discussion of the surviving buildings in the town indicates that many of the surviving structures are of an 18th or 19th century date (Foster et al. 1975, 181-2). There are one or two examples of timber framing which survives at 26 Market Square and the Marlborough Hotel, and also at Batt House and Eagle Vaults, while 16th century stone houses are considered to be located at 23-25 Church Green and 3-5 Church Green. There are also certain properties which are considered to have had a 17th century origin, but these have largely had their eaves raised in the 18th and 19th centuries. It is suggested that in the late 17th and early 18th century a specific type of Witney house emerged that has been classed as a 3 bay, 2 ½ storey house with a carriageway at one end. Some of these structures are recognised as having narrow flagged cross passages called locally turries. From the 17th century the large medieval plots were gradually filled in to house the labourers for the ever demanding weaving trade. Map 2 attached to Foster et al. (1975) shows the building fronting onto the High Street as a structure that pre-dated 1700.

The two earliest surviving historic maps of Witney show the remains of the site at two points in the 19th century. The earliest map is the tithe map of 1840 (ORO P332/M/1), which shows the present property carved out of four numbered parcels of land plots 491, 493, 494 and 497 (Fig. 2). This map shows a series of buildings fronting onto the High Street with an alley way or passage on the north side, in the position of the

present entrance, but one that would have been far narrower. The property boundaries are perhaps indicative of premises being split and rented or sold. The public house is known to have occupied the southern part of the frontage. However, due to the apparent sub-division of the properties here it is not apparent to what extent the original public house would have extended and if there were additional guest rooms. On the northern part of the frontage long narrow buildings are shown extending either side of this alleyway. The western part of the premises are enclosed areas, the later is part of a large open space which has a building located in the northeast corner, which was the surviving structure on the north boundary wall.

The second map to survive from the 19th century is the Ordnance Survey map first series of 1876 (Fig. 3). This shows a similar series of buildings, but it is apparent that some of the structures have been altered from 1840 to 1876, with a number of premises to the rear demolished. The public house here is marked as the southern structure, part of which would appear to be still standing. However, the boundaries of this property don't appear to confirm totally to the outline of the current building. It is also apparent that these boundaries conform to the earlier property boundaries of the 1840 map. The exact extent of the public house previously is unclear. The shape of the building on the south side of the High Street frontage has altered very little; the building on the south side of the alleyway has had part of its back extension removed. The building to the north side of the alleyway has also changed very little. The buildings to the rear of these properties show slight variations. The enclosure behind this is laid out as a formal garden with trees or shrubs, while the field to the west of this shows indications of a structure in its corner as before.

The site or part of the site, as noted above, was formerly the location of a public house known by the sign of the Prince of Wales (Stene 1978, 16-22). The property boundaries have altered. The public house was claimed to have been built in or by 1703, but was described as a primitive structure with internal partitions of wattle and daub. The rough location of the Prince of Wales was clarified by further research (Cooper 1980, 14-15). The public house in trade directories of the 1960s is part of a chain held by Clinches Brewery, which was in that decade bought by Courage (Jenkins 1980, 13). This act subsequently led to the closure of a number of public houses in the town of Witney of which the Prince of Wales was one.

The Prince of Wales public house name has in Cox's research (1994, 29, 35, 64, 74, 93) focussed on Leicestershire and Rutland been recognised as being recorded as early as 1820, and it is apparent that a number of these names may have originated in the 19th century. The Witney example indicates that the name was used at a far earlier date and it is possible that as Cox suggested the name may have been one of a number of names that became current at the time of the restoration of the monarchy in the reign of Charles II.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation were as follows:

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

In particular:



 Site location

Not to scale

Figure 2. Tithe Map of 1840 (BRO P332/M/1)



 Site location

Not to scale

Figure 3. First Series Ordnance Survey

To record any evidence of remains relating to the later medieval settlement of Witney.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work in accordance with West Oxfordshire District Council planning appeal procedure, but due to appeal this was not in line with the initial wishes of the advisors to that Council, the Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services (*OCAS*). Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate and possible.

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (1994).

3.2 Methodology

An archaeologist was present to record any archaeological feature uncovered during the stripping of the road and car park areas, the insertion of the house foundations and also the cutting of service trenches.

Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was also produced.

4 RESULTS

The written scheme of investigation, as a result of prior negotiation, determined that the archaeological investigation should be carried out under watching brief conditions. The archaeology uncovered was extremely extensive in its survival, especially along the High Street frontage. The nature of the survival of the archaeology and the designated method of recording meant that recording was often difficult, and though the record has been brought together in the most cohesive form it could, nevertheless it must be recognised that problems can arise when recording conditions are not ideal.

Due to the extensive area of the site at 3.1ha the site was divided into five areas to make it easier to relate the contexts to specific locations across the site. The majority of numbers are prefixed with the area number, although this was not always the case in area 3 primarily due to the disjointed process of the ground working and subsequent recording that resulted from it. The areas were not numbered consecutively from east to west but were designated when soil reduction or foundation or service trench excavation was started in that area.

The site can overall be divided into two parts; to the east are Areas 2, 3 and 5 which are located over the area of the medieval and post-medieval town plots (Figs. 1-3). This area lies on the eastern part of the site and on the western frontage of the High

Street. Areas 1 and 4 are located on the western part of the site in an area that was used for agricultural activity and later garden and industrial activity and was used extensively for drainage, it can be noted that this area lies outside the line of the historically recorded boundary ditch of the town, and the feature identified that must represent this feature.

The Areas 2, 3, and 5 will be discussed first in the following period based descriptions and interpretations as this area was archaeologically the more complex in nature. Areas 1 and 4 will be discussed towards the end of each period.

Area 3

The lowest layer recognised in area 3 was deposit (3/55), also numbered (3/80), which was a compact light orange silt clay. This was similar to deposit (3/166) a highly compact red orange clay with limestone fragments; and also deposit (3/150) a compact light orange silt clay. These deposits can be interpreted as the Forest Marble or marl beds in the area, or deposits just above them. These were similar to the deposit (1/18) in Area 1 at the western end of the site.

The three deposits (3004), (4007) and (5037) all contain roughly similar descriptions. Deposit (3004) was a firm mid yellow brown fine gravel, interpreted as the natural. Deposit (4007) was a medium compact light yellow brown fine sand gravel. The depth of the deposit is 0.3m. Deposit (5037) was a firm yellow brown fine gravel. They are all stratigraphically low in the sequence, while one of the sections indicate that the deposit was over 0.7m deep. The description is not consistent with the described geology, unless it is part of a river terrace. The recorded interpretations describe this as natural; which is one possibility for this layer, and one that will be retained here as no artefacts were recovered from the horizon.

Area 2

The natural was not reached in Area 2.

Area 4

The natural (4/67) was a hard brown orange clay silt with frequent limestone fragments. This context was identical to that of (1/18).

Area 1

The natural (1/18) was a hard brown orange clay silt containing frequent limestone fragments. This was interpreted as the natural and was a limestone brash, a marl clay deposit with fragments of decayed limestone. This deposit was identified near the western end of the site when an L-shaped sondage was opened up, and also in the lower levels of the new foundation trenches.

4.1 Phase 1a: Undated early features (Late Prehistoric to Roman)

Area 1

The opening of an L-shaped sondage in Area 1 (Fig. 4) was of importance as it was apparent that there were a number of undated features cut into the natural, and also through a shallow layer above the natural. It is for this reason that it is proposed that there was a Phase 1, which is of a pre-medieval date, and which has subsequently been divided into two sub-phases.

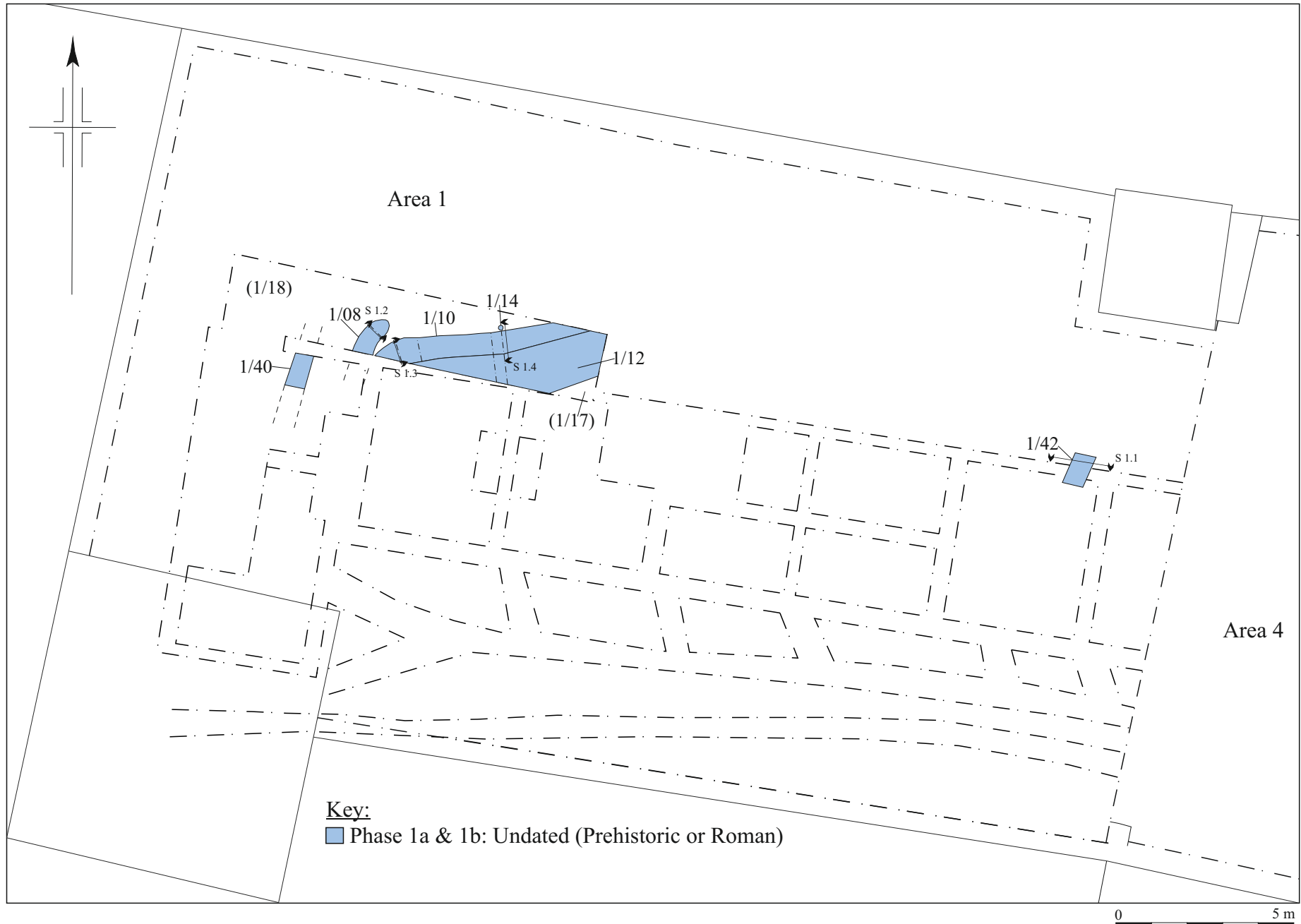


Figure 4. Area 1: phases 1a & 1b



Plate 1. Area 1: cut 1/10.



Plate 2. Area 1: cuts 1/12 and 1/14.



Plate 3. Area 3: wall 3/163.



Plate 4. Area 3: floor 3/51.

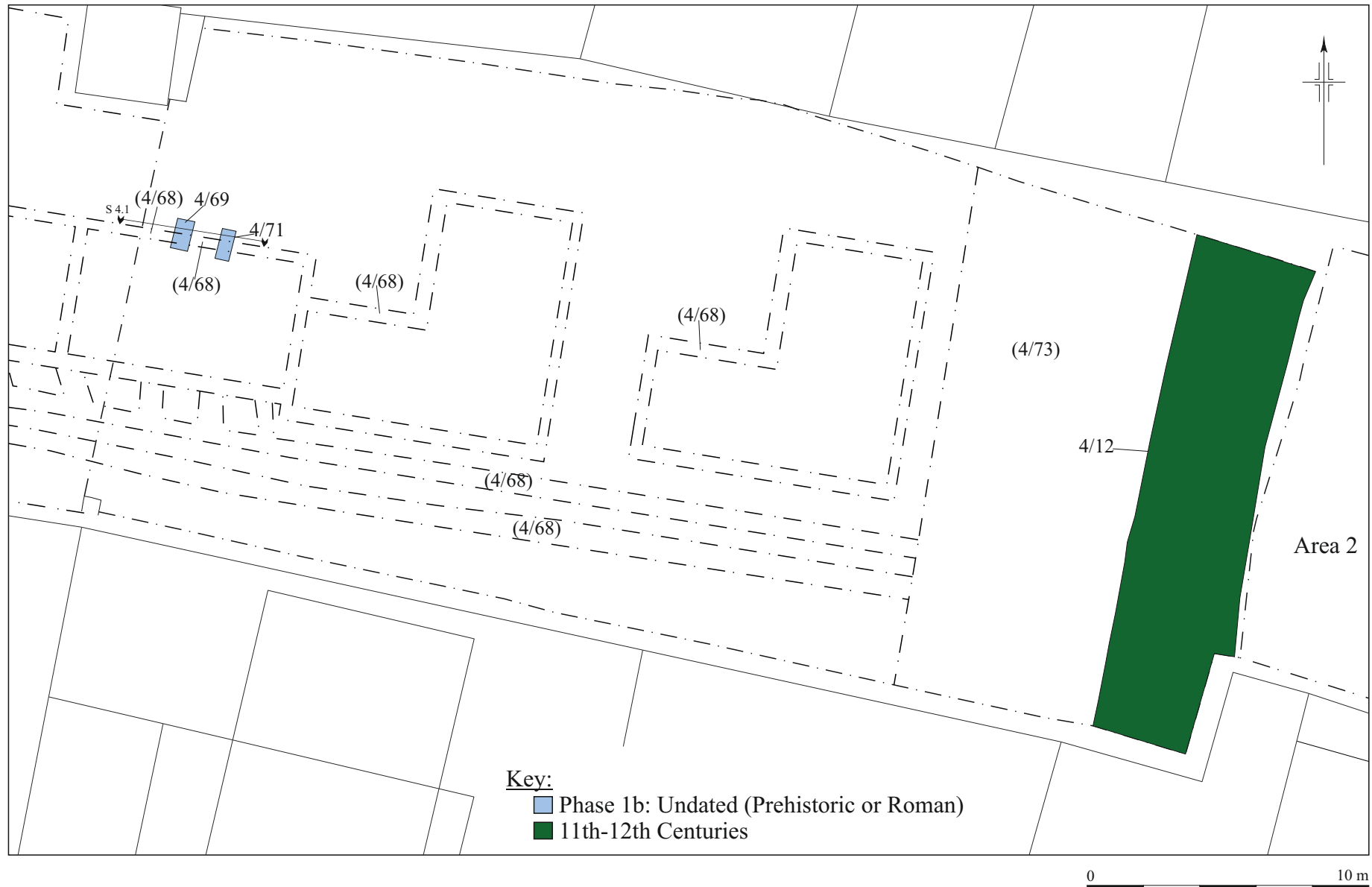


Figure 5. Area 4: Phases 1b & 3

Cut into deposit (1/18) were two features. Cut 1/08 was a rounded terminus of a linear measuring 0.54m across and 0.08m deep (Fig. 22, section 1.2). The sides sloped gently and the base was rounded. The cut was orientated northeast to southwest and may well have been truncated. The fill (1/09) of the shallow ditch or gully was a compact brown orange silt clay. The other linear truncating this deposit was cut 1/10 that was also orientated northeast to southwest and measured 0.62m across and 0.12m deep (Plate 1, Fig. 22, section 1.3). The sides were steep with the base flat and broad. The fill (1/11) was a compact brown yellow silt clay. These features contained no artefacts but typologically they are likely to form part of boundary ditches for agricultural use of the later prehistoric or Roman period. Stratigraphically they would appear to be early in date.

Also apparently cut 1/40 into deposit (1/18) was a gully 0.7m across and 0.1m deep. Its fill (1/41) was a compact brown yellow silt clay. Initially it was considered that this feature was an extension of cut 1/10, but the features seem to be out of alignment with each other when later plotted, thus a further set of contexts were created.

4.2 Phase 1b: Undated early features (Late Prehistoric to Roman)

Area 1

Sealing the earlier ditches was a layer (1/17) of compact orange brown silt clay 0.05m to 0.1m thick. Truncating this deposit were two cuts 1/12 and 1/14 (Plate 2). Cut 1/12 was a linear feature measuring 0.25m deep and due to the shape of the sondage of an undetermined width. The sides were initially gentle becoming steeper and containing a flat base. Its fill (1/13) was a compact grey yellow silt clay. The second cut 1/14 was circular in plan measuring 0.28m in diameter by 0.1m deep. The sides were sharp to vertical and the base rounded and the inclination axis vertical. The fill (1/15) was a compact yellow grey silt clay. These features may also have suffered truncation. The linear ditch or gully 1/12 lay on the same axis as the earlier ditch 1/10 and may thus represent a re-establishment of the earlier ditch system (Fig. 22, section 1.4).

The remains of a further linear cut was noted as truncating layer (1/17), this was cut 1/42 a feature 0.8m wide but for which only the top 0.1m was visible (Fig. 22, section 1.1). Fill (1/43) was a compact red brown silt clay. The fill of this deposit was extremely similar to that of the layer into which it was cut; however, fragments of limestone could be seen in tip lines on the shoulder of the ditch.

Area 4

The earliest deposit recognised in Area 4 was layer (4/68), the same as (1/17), a compact orange brown silt clay with occasional fragments of limestone (Fig. 5). It was noted in the base of the foundation cuts for the new build. Two probable linear cuts were noted cut into this layer (4/68); cuts 4/69, and 4/71. The profiles of these cuts were not fully seen as they extended below the impact layer, with only approximately 0.1m above. The internal fills (4/70) and (4/72) were a similar compact orange brown silt clay. The deposits were evident due to the cluster and tip lines of limestone fragments on the shoulder of the cut (Fig. 22 section 4.1). These cuts were sealed by deposit (4/73) (see later).

Stratigraphically these features are early although they contained no artefacts to date them. Typologically they are likely to form part of a series of boundary ditches of the later prehistoric or Roman period, probably field systems associated with an

agricultural settlement. Bronze Age and Iron Age activity is suspected in the Witney area, for example the bronze sword and spear and the defended enclosure on the north side of the river Windrush at Blanker Mill.

4.3 Phase 2: Pre mid-11th century

Area 3 (early structures)

Cut into layer (3/55), was a feature 3/117 that was only partially revealed as it extended under the baulk onto the street entrance (Fig. 6). The feature was probably the remains of an oval or circular hearth pit with gentle sides and a rounded profile. It was extremely shallow in nature either being truncated or possibly never excavated to a great extent originally. The fill (3/60) was a moderately compact red brown silt clay, which appeared to have the hue of burnt deposit, whereas the feature was reminiscent of hearth pits noted in later layers in the stratigraphic sequence. No burnt flora or fauna material survived in this deposit and no dating evidence was obtained.

Deposit (3/161) was a compact brown clay seen at the base of the east end of the new service trench. A linear cut 3/162 truncated this deposit (3/161), it was 0.3m wide and orientated north to south. The fill was a masonry wall 3/163 made of small rough pieces of limestone, which formed a foundation bonded by a brown clay which contained charcoal flecks (Plate 3). This feature was probably the remains of a dwarf wall or light foundation that would have supported a sill beam for a structure. Linear cut 3/164, also truncated deposit (3/161), it was 0.18m wide and also lay on the verge of the impact layer. The fill (3/165) was a firm grey white mortar gravel, which was also probably the bedding for a sill beam. These two footings have a different type of construction; they have been suggested as Phase 2 because they appear to be cut from a similar level. That there are two types of construction trenches may have a number of implications, most notably that they represent two phases of one building or may even represent two different buildings of two different dates. The former wall would seem to be the more substantial of the two features.

These features are not satisfactorily dated, like those of Phases 1a and 1b. However, later features would appear to be dated to the 11th century, and it is possible that these features are 11th century or earlier. The structures may represent the simple remains of rectangular structures with sill beams set on gravel packing or stone rubble bonded with clay. The hearth pit or scoop could be associated with the more substantial of these wall settings. These features are sealed by later levels in which 11th century material was recovered from, it is for this reason that these features are likely to be of a 10th or 11th century date, though the paucity of 11th century material along with 12th to 15th century material makes the exact phasing of the sequences problematic.

The remains of the footings survived at the base of the new service trench and thus no firm dating evidence was obtained.

Area 4

Layer (4/73), comparable to (1/16), was a compact orange brown silt clay measuring 0.3m maximum (Fig. 5), which sealed deposits (4/70) and (4/72). Layer (4/73) was in turn sealed by deposits (4/21) and (4/60).

Area 1

Layer (1/16) subsequently sealed fills (1/13), (1/15) and (1/43). Deposit (1/16) was a compact orange brown silt clay measuring 0.1-0.3m in depth (not on plan). The deposit increased in depth towards the east end of Area 1. This was an earlier subsoil or relic soil horizon. The date of this layer was not determined, but it is apparent that it is stratigraphically early.

4.4 Phase 3: 11th-12th centuries (Early-High Medieval)**Area 3**

Early buildings of the borough of Witney lay along the line of the High Street between the junction of Corn and Crown Streets and the bridge. These were considered to have been established at the very beginning of the 13th century, if not the later end of the 12th century (as mentioned above). Phase 2 seems to represent undated features that are stratigraphically earlier than the initial period of major stone wall construction (Fig. 7). The first substantial stone structures for which any significant plans can be identified are probably part of the borough development and are here classed as Phase 3. There would seem to be two structures that front onto the High Street, subsequently described as Structures 1 (located in the frontage stripped for the new road) and 2 (located in the area cut by the foundation trenches). Structure 3 produced no real dating evidence but would appear to be part of a structure stratigraphically also of the earliest borough. There are also a number of garden soils developing between these structures, but no distinctive town plots with boundaries at this date.

Area 3 (Structure 1)

Structure 1 lay in the area where the ground was graded down through the archaeology to allow for the foundation for the new access road (Fig. 7).

Deposit (3/56) was identified as one of the lower layers in the area that was stripped for the new road access, sealing deposit (3/60). This deposit was a compact light grey silt clay. Truncating deposit (3/56) were cuts 3/140, 3/141, 3/142 and 3/143.

Cut 3/140 was a linear feature with steep sides and a flat base orientated north to south. The fill of cut 3/140 was wall 3/46 a limestone wall of roughly squared limestone blocks and clay bonding. Foundation cut 3/141 was a linear feature with steep sides and a flat base orientated east to west. The fill of cut 3/141 was wall 3/45 a limestone wall with roughly squared blocks bonded with a clay material, which measured 0.6m wide. Though these walls were different widths they seem to have been built at the same time. It is possible that wall 3/46 contained an alcove or recess and that wall 3/45 was a narrower dwarf wall perhaps supporting a timber frame. Set within these two walls, 3/46 and 3/45, and lying to the east of wall 3/46, was a deposit (3/54) a compact dark orange silt clay. This deposit being bounded by the two walls must represent an early floor layer or bedding layer for later layers, possibly truncated (Fig. 7).

Foundation cut 3/143 was a linear feature noted as being over 2.5m in length and being 0.5-0.6m wide. Wall 3/49 was made of roughly squared limestone blocks and bonded with a clay material. This wall was parallel to wall 3/46 and may represent the west wall of structure 1. The wall appeared to terminate roughly in line with wall 3/45 although this wall did not survive fully. Foundation cut 3/142 was about 0.8m wide,

with steep sides and a flat base, and was orientated north to south. Wall 3/48 was set in cut 3/142 and was constructed of roughly squared limestone blocks and bonded with a clay material. This wall may originally have butted up to that of 3/145 as it terminated in line with that wall.

Two deposits were noted as adjoining the east side of wall 3/49, these were (3/50) and (3/144), and two on the west side of wall 3/46, which were 3/51 and (3/47). The earliest of these deposits was (3/50), the second 3/51, and the latter two (3/47) and (3/144). Deposit (3/50) was a moderately compact yellow sand, perhaps part of a bedding layer for the later floor. Floor 3/51 (Plate 4), butted up to the west side of wall 3/46, and was constructed of flat limestone slabs bonded with a clay material. It survived as two layers of stone which is indicative of there being more than one sequence of events here, which are two paving layers of the floor with small flat limestone blocks. Deposit (3/47) was a moderately compact grey silt and clay deposit containing angular limestone pebbles. This deposit contained Cotswold ware and North-East Wiltshire ware dated to the mid-11th century. There was also a problematic fragment of clay pipe (see below). Deposit (3/144), overlay deposit (3/50) on the east side of wall 3/49, was a compact black grey silt clay with numerous fragments of rammed stones as inclusions. It is likely that this was an extension of deposit (3/47). The apparent recovery of clay pipe from layer (3/47) is problematic in a number of ways, not least that the author removed the remains of this deposit and photographed the paving slabs underneath. The only finds which can be remembered as coming from this deposit are the two fragments of pottery. Coupled to this it is apparent that the clay pipe is stained with an orange sandy material, which in no way resembles this context, but does resemble context (2/47) and other contexts such as (3/58). The floor deposits are low down in the sequence and at the very latest this deposit (3/47) would be expected to be part of a medieval floor layer, however, the feature was truncated and disturbed by a large pit (see below) that contained 16th century pottery, which in turn was disturbed by a smaller pit that contained 17th century pottery. The minimal dating evidence from the floor layers is indicative of this being a structure of the medieval period. The pottery which was securely dated in the deposit indicate a deposition in the 11th century. Other factors that should be considered are that there are clearly three phases of re-flooring; of which the dating evidence was recovered from the latest phase. The clay pipe is problematic but could be a result of later disturbance, from the pits, which removed a significant amount of the floor layers, or due to its orange staining may have been mislabelled.

In the area to the south of wall 3/45 and defined at its east end by wall 3/48, was deposit (3/57). This deposit was a moderately compact yellow sand. This probably represented a bedding deposit of a floor that had been removed.

Area 3 (Structure 2)

Three walls are considered to form part of structure 2; however, the structure is problematic as only two north to south orientated walls were clearly identified, while a further east west wall was identified in a more fragmentary form. The two north to south orientated walls probably truncated deposit (3/161). The cuts were 3/170 and 3/172 (Fig. 7).

Foundation cut 3/170 was a linear 0.8m wide orientated north to south, parallel to the High Street, with vertical sides and a flat base. The fill was wall 3/171 that was constructed of large limestone blocks that were squared on the outside of the wall but

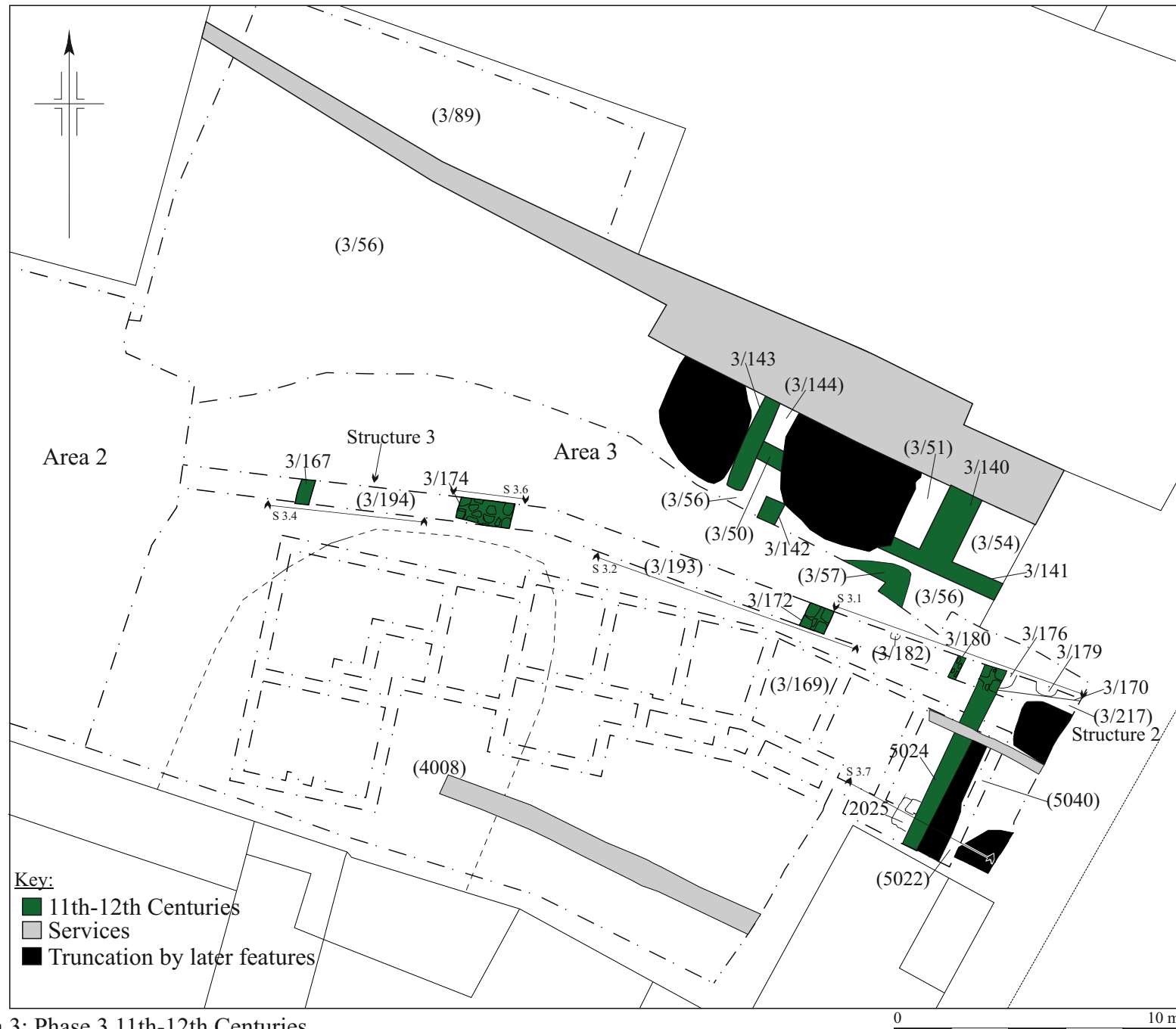


Figure 7. Area 3: Phase 3 11th-12th Centuries



Plate 5. Area 3: wall 3/171.



Plate 6. Area 3: wall 3/175.



Plate 7. Area 3: wall 5024.



Plate 8. Area 3: section through deposits east side of wall 5003.



Plate 9. Area 3: wall 5002.



Plate 10. Area 3: section through deposits west of wall 5024.



Plate 11. Area 3: walls 5003,
5004, 5008 and 5010.



Plate 12. Area 3: cut 5015.

roughly shaped internally (Fig.23). The wall was bonded by a yellow brown clay. The wall still remained to quite a height and must have remained as an important feature of the building on the site until the 16th or more likely the 17th century. Foundation cut 3/172 was a linear 0.9m wide and also oriented parallel to the High Street, with vertical sides and a flat base. The fill was wall 3/173 built of large limestone blocks with squared and shaped faces on the outside and roughly shaped internally. This wall was also bonded by a yellow brown clay. The wall 3/171 (Plate 5) appears to be in line with the remains of wall 5024. Masonry (5024), assuming the same cut number, was a limestone wall of roughly worked blocks bonded by lime mortar (Plate 7). The stones average 200mm x 200mm x 300mm. That it was in line with the wall 3/171 is significant as it was also of a similar width, however, it was apparently bonded with a different material and this may also be significant. It is possible that it may represent part of a rebuild or that clay was used to bond the foundations only and mortar above. Here it is considered that wall 3/171 and 5024 represent the front or internal wall of a building fronting onto the high street. Wall 3/173 must represent the back wall of the building. There were similar layers identified to the east and west of wall 3/171, which are different to those to the west of wall 3/173. This is perhaps suggestive of wall 3/173 being the back wall of the structure as suggested.

The deposits encountered butting up to the east of wall 3/171 and 5024 at the north end included layers (3/217), (3/176), (3/179), (3/177), and (3/178). Deposit (3/217) was a compact brown yellow clay with a depth of 0.24m (Fig. 23 section 3.1). Deposit (5040) was a firm mid brown sand silt with a depth of 0.46m, which was probably contemporary with deposit (3/217). Deposit (3/176) was a compact white clay mortar layer measuring 0.08m thick where it survived. Deposit (3/179) was a compact orange clay probably a hearth. Deposit (3/177), sealed (3/176) and (3/179), was a compact grey gravel clay with limestone cobbles measuring 0.24m deep. Deposit (5039) was a firm mid grey brown sand silt with occasional inclusions of small rounded stones. This deposit is probably an extension of (3/177). Deposit (3/178) was a moderately compact orange sand spread measuring 0.08m in depth. It is difficult to know where to separate these floor layers, and they are not probably all of the 11th century but represent later development and floor laying throughout the 12th to the 15th centuries, but without dating evidence it is practically impossible to attribute a date to the layers and is easier to describe these layers as a stratigraphical sequence of how they were laid in the building, section 3.1.

The deposits encountered to the east of wall 5024 and 3/171 (Fig. 24 sections 3.7 & 3.10) at the south end included layers (5030), (5023), (5022), (5021), (5020) and (5019). Layer (5030) was a compact yellow brown clay silt with limestone fragments. Layer (5023) was a moderately compact clean yellow silt sand, with large grains. The deposit contained a sherd of Cotswold ware of the mid-11th century. This deposit would seem to be comparable to deposit (3/178). Layer (5022) was a moderately compact dark grey brown silt clay with occasional inclusions of small stones and charcoal. This deposit contained Cotswold ware of a mid-11th century date. Layer (5021) was a soft black clay silt with occasional inclusions of coarse sand and more frequent inclusions of charcoal. Layer (5020) was a moderately compact mottled yellow silt sand, with large grained sand. Layer (5019) was a soft dark grey brown clay silt gravel sand about 0.05m thick. The dating evidence would indicate that these floor layers were first deposited in the 11th century, but due to the sequence and time and the lack of dating evidence in the upper deposits it is simpler to list them stratigraphically how they occur on section 3.7 (Fig. 24). Like the other recognised

deposits there is probably a build-up of floor layers throughout the 12th to the 15th centuries.

The sequence of deposits was considerably different on the west side of wall 3/171 and 5024 (Fig. 24, section 3.7). Butting up to walls 3/171 and 3/173 and covering wall 3/163 was deposit (3/169). Deposit (3/169) was a compact brown yellow clay measuring 0.24m deep, which was apparent in the lower part of the service trench cut. Overlying deposit (3/169) was deposit (3/182) a compact red silt, which looked as if it could represent a hearth placed centrally between walls 3/171 and 3/173. Truncating deposit (3/169) is linear cut 3/180 that was 0.4m wide with steep sides and a rounded base and oriented north to south being parallel to wall 3/171. The fill (3/181) was a friable white mortar surrounding components of decaying timber. This feature was probably a cut for an internal sill beam of a screen or partition. The date of the insertion of this internal feature is not known precisely, but it has been placed here as it appears to truncate the earliest identifiable floor horizon. The floor deposits are significantly different on either side of feature (3/181).

The sequence of deposits on the west side of wall 5024 and 3/171 to the south were as followed (Fig. 24 section 3.7). Feature 5025 is the remains of pitched limestone floor, with the stones set on a vertical axis. This survived in an area 0.6m by 0.3m and butted up to wall 5024. Layer (5028) was a tenacious pale grey brown silt clay with occasional small stones measuring 2m by 0.3m and being 0.05m thick. This deposit contained a sherd of Cotswold ware of the mid-11th century. Deposit (5032) was a moderate black clay silt with occasional charcoal and small stone inclusions. The dimensions were 1.1m by 0.3m and 0.1m thick. Layer (5027) was a moderately clean yellow silt clay, with large grained sand inclusions, measuring 2.1m by 0.3m. This deposit contained a sherd of Medieval Oxford ware of the 11th century. Deposit (5033) was a moderately compact grey brown silt clay with occasional small stones, measuring 0.07m thick. This was interpreted as the remains of a floor layer. Deposit (5034) was a moderately compact black clay silt. Deposit (5035) was a moderately compact pink brown mortar silt clay. Deposit (5036) was sealed by deposit (5036). Like the other floor layers apparent in this building it is difficult to determine where the 11th century deposits end and the later 12th to 15th century floor deposits begin, so for simplicity they have all been described in this stratigraphic sequence (Fig.24, section 3.7).

Area 3 (Structure 3)

The subsequent paragraph describes the remains of a structure set away from the road, but still located in Area 3. There is no dating evidence but it can be argued from the stratigraphic sequence that the structure has to be of an early date. Cut into deposit (3/166) was foundation cut 3/174 that consisted of a series of linear cuts. The cut was uncovered over a short stretch measuring 1.9m long, and which must have contained two further linears orientated north to south that represent returns. The sides were vertical and the base flat. The fill of this cut was wall 3/175 (Plate 6) that was constructed of large limestone blocks that were squared on the external side of the wall and left unshaped internally, which was bonded by a yellow brown clay. These walls all extended below the impact layer of the new service trench. Cut 3/167 was a linear measuring 0.48m wide; the feature lay beneath the impact layer of the new service cut. The fill (3/168) was a compact brown grey clay. This was left unexcavated. The feature may be a gully but could equally represent a trench for a sill

beam. Deposit (3/194) was a compact brown yellow clay that butted up to wall 3/175 and terminated alongside deposit (3/168).

Area 3 (Garden soils)

There were a number of deposits that could be identified as the base of the garden soils, which presumably started to accumulate in any depth from the 11th century, or earlier soils were reworked behind the structures fronting on to the High Street. Deposit (3/193) a moderately compact light grey silt clay was interpreted as part of an early relic subsoil, which extended between structures 2 and 3, sealing deposit (3/165). This deposit was similar to deposit (3/56). In other areas on the north side of Area 3 was deposit (3/89) where it was a yellow grey silt sand clay, probably contemporary with (3/56).

Deposit (4008) was a firm mid red brown sand silt with occasional rounded stone inclusions and contained Cotswold ware of the mid-11th century, a deposit that sealed layer (4007). This deposit was similar to deposits (1/16) and (1/17) and although it contained a sherd of 10th-11th century pottery it was probably part of a shallow soil that had formed from later-prehistory into the early medieval period.

Area 2

Sat over the bedrock in the central part of Area 2 (Fig. 9) was deposit (2/62). Deposit (2/62) was a compact yellow red clay, similar to deposits (4008) and (1/16) and (1/17). Overlying this was deposit (2/30). Deposit (2/30) was a compact yellow brown clay. Both of these deposits (2/30) and (2/62) formed distinct layers of earlier subsoil or relic soil horizon. Their different colours would indicate that these were part of different relic horizons.

Area 4

The cut 4/12, though not viewed in section as it extended below the impact level, had steep sides in its upper level but the lower part of the profile was not determined. It was not determined where initially it was cut from, but this stratigraphically would have to be deposit (4/73). The cut was extremely wide measuring and must represent the cut along the back of the burgage plots, the date for its initial execution probably ties in with an 11th century date as indicated by the pottery in the floor layers of structures 1 and 2, although it should be acknowledged that this was quite likely recut and cleaned on numerous occasions, and was still a documented feature of the town in the 16th century.

4.5 Phase 4: 12th-15th centuries (High-Late Medieval)

Usually in the Oxford area finds of Brill/Boarstall ware profoundly mark the 13th century horizon, but there at Witney they are lacking, thus implying an 11th or 12th century date for the previously discussed phases.

Area 3 (Structure 1)

The walls 3/45 and 3/46 had the remains of a later wall 3/39 built above, which contained mortar bonding (Fig 8). The exact date of this rebuild is not known, but in reality could have occurred at any time between the 12th and 18th centuries, in 1840 a road or alley is shown in this location across the tenement (ORO P322/M/1). Perhaps more importantly the imprint of the building continued with the same wall lines reused. This wall 3/39 was a wall built predominantly of limestone but also contained

some red bricks; the latter presumably indicative of a later rebuild or construction from the 15th centuries or later. It is indeed possible that the wall was rebuilt or repaired on a number of occasions perhaps even as late as the early 17th century when the façade of Structure 2 was rebuilt. The reason for the inclusion of the initial rebuild in this period is that there are indications that the back of this building was robbed out in the 16th century and further robbing and pitting occurred in the 17th century. It is highly likely that the east to west orientated wall formed the northern wall of Structure 2. Butting up to wall 3/39 was deposit (3/43) a compact yellow sand with cobbles bedded in the surface.

Area 3 (structure 2)

It is possible to suggest that there were alterations and breaks in the sequences of floors in Structure 2 between walls 3/171 and 3/173. The insertion of a sill beam was noted in Phase 3, but the different floor levels that built up around this internal partition or wall were not. Between the timber framed sill beam wall (3/181) and wall 3/171 were deposits similar to those on the north side of wall 3/171 (Fig 23 section 3.1, accounted in Phase 3), but the depths varied which was indicative of layers being built up either side of the wall as opposed to the foundation truncating the layers. Butting both these walls was deposit (3/183) a compact grey gravel clay 0.48m deep. Sealing (3/183) was deposit (3/190) a compact white lime mortar 0.08m thick.

To the west of the timber framed partition were a further series of distinct floor layers. Layer (3/184) was a compact red and black silt clay. The lenses formed layers of red and black, but the full depth of the deposit was 0.19m. Deposit (3/184) overlay the remains of hearth (3/182), and it is likely that the red and black banding and lenses here represented a complete sequence of floor layers and hearths built up over a number of centuries. The location of the centralised hearth here is indicative of this being a medieval hall structure with central hearth as opposed to a later structure with a fireplace and chimney. Hall tenement buildings were located at the Hamel, Oxford, and it would be most appropriate to regard these as floor layers in a hall. Deposit (3/185) was a compact white mortar 0.07m deep. Deposit (3/186) was a compact grey yellow mortar clay (Fig 23 section 3.1).

It was not fully apparent where foundation cut 3/195 was truncated from; however, it is likely to have been through one of these later deposits. The cut 3/195 was a linear 1.06m wide and 0.6m deep with steep sides and flat base, being orientated north to south. The fill was masonry wall 3/196 constructed of roughly squared limestone blocks. This wall appears to have been noted in other locations in a fragmentary form where it has been labelled 3/105, 3/112, and 3/115. Backfill (3/197) to the cut was a moderately compact yellow grey silt clay 0.15m in depth (Fig 23 section 3.1).

Wall 3/105 was a foundation formed by squared limestone blocks. Deposit (3/104) was a compact yellow clay which overlies wall 3/105, it presumably is part of a rebuild of the wall or a spread associated with destruction. Wall 3/115 was a foundation formed of roughly squared blocks. Wall 3/112 was a foundation formed of roughly squared limestone blocks and measuring some 0.7m wide. These two walls lie on the same alignment as wall 3/196, although structurally on the ground they were not joined. The wall lies at a similar angle to the back wall of the building of the structure evident on the map of 1840. The way the wall was built in alignment with the stratigraphically earlier wall of probable 11th century it is assumed here that it is probably a later medieval replacement for that wall. It is possible that the earlier wall

alongside which it was built was partially robbed out in places, hence the fragmentary nature observed. That this is also a structure of a pre-17th century date is also likely as it would explain why the back and front walls on the 19th century maps do not run parallel to each other. There are two walls that appear to join to this wall at right angles, which are structure 3/111 and 3/113. These are narrower and probably later (see below).

Area 3 (Structure 4)

Cut into deposit (3/89) were cuts 3/148, 3/149 and 3/151. They are treated here as if they were all part of the same building. The foundation cut 3/148 was an L shaped cut. The wall 3/147 was constructed of limestone blocks and bonded with a mortar. To the south of this was a further foundation cut 3/149 that was rectangular in shape and contained a series of stones 3/38 set around a void. The feature had the appearance that it could have been a hearth setting, but if so it showed no real signs of use. Deposit (3/36), butted up to the wall 3/147 and stone structure 3/38, was a moderately compact dark grey clay. Deposit (3/36) contained sherds of Cotswold ware and Brill/Boarstall ware that probably indicates a 13th century date, and animal bone. The rectangular foundation cut 3/151 was 0.8m by 0.6m with steep sides and a flat base. The surviving foundation 3/152 was disturbed but consisted of roughly squared limestone blocks with mortar. These deposits were sealed by layer (3/29).

Area 3 (Garden features)

Truncating deposit (3/89) was cut 3/32 an oval pit measuring 1.9m by 1.7m also with an unknown profile as this also extended below the impact layer. The fill (3/33) was a moderately compact yellow clay with angular limestone pebbles. This deposit contained a sherd of Brill/Boarstall ware and was probably of a 15th century date. This deposit was sealed by layer (3/29).

Deposit (4008) was cut by pit 4004 (Fig 24 section 3.9). Cut 4004 was sub-circular being 1.3m wide and 0.68m deep with steep sides and a concave base. The feature was orientated east to west. The fill (4005) was a firm dark grey sand silt, this feature contained a sherd of Minety ware and also Cotswold ware and may date to the earlier 12th century.

Area 2

Set on top of layer (2/30) was deposit (2/24). This deposit (2/24) was essentially a rubble scatter; it appeared to be of an irregularly shape and was extremely disturbed (Fig. 9). It was not apparent if this was a result of ancient disturbance or if this was a result of modern stripping. In one or two areas it was possible that this deposit may have contained part of a structure as there were some groups of pitched stones as if this could have been part of a foundation. This building material may be associated with the building identified in the new service trench in Area 3 to the rear of the High Street frontage, or could be a different structure. The deposit contained animal bone.

Covering (2/24) was deposit (2/56) a friable yellow orange sand with gravel inclusions. Overlying (2/56) was a spread (2/63), which was friable yellow sand with gravel.

The deposits (2/62) formed a band of surviving layers down the centre of the site, the survival of material here, although in a somewhat disturbed fashion may have been due to the presence of an earlier boundary running across the site above, which no



Figure 9. Area 2: Phases 3, 4 & 5

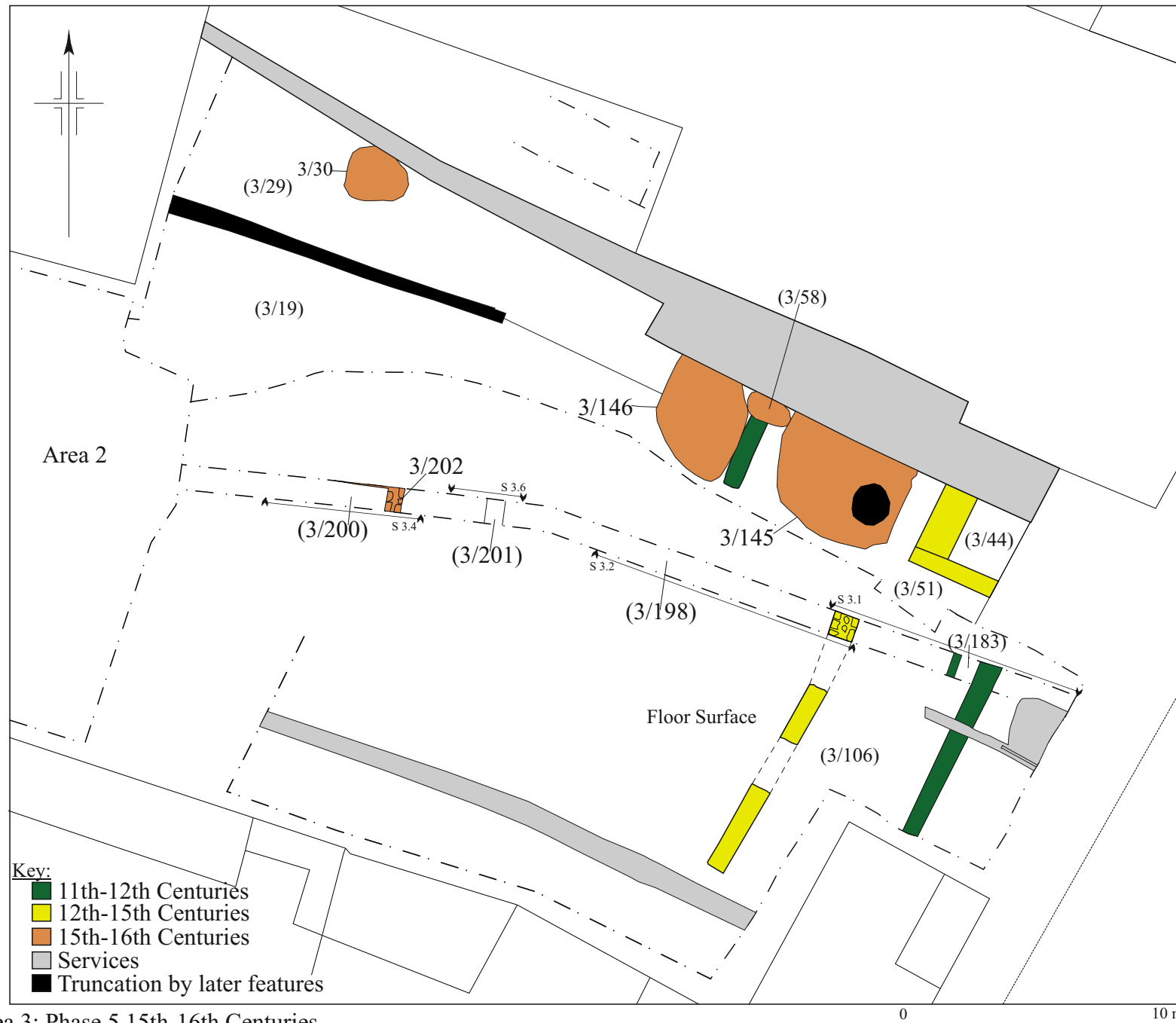


Figure 10. Area 3: Phase 5 15th-16th Centuries

longer survived in a physical form. On either side of this deposit there were two areas of what appeared as layers or single contexts that were numbered (2/20) to the south and (2/21) to the north. These have been treated as layers but in reality it is unlikely that these features represent layers. It is probably a series of cuts of numerous interconnecting pits, which due to the process employed for the archaeological work and the uniform nature of the soil deposits could not be properly defined. Thus cut 2/64 represents the series of pits cut to the south of the central band of deposits and truncated layer (2/56). The fill (2/20) was a compact grey brown silt clay. The pottery recovered from this deposit was a Cotswold-type ware of 975-1300, and Brill/Boarstall ware of 1200-1600. These finds are indicative of this area being repeatedly pitted from the 10th to the 16th century. The cut 2/65 represents a series of pits cut to the north of the central band of deposits. It truncated gravel layer (2/63) and subsoil or relic soil horizon (2/62). The fill (2/21), of cut 2/65, was a compact grey brown silt clay. The date of these cuts is difficult to ascertain, but one would logically suggest that pit cutting probably commenced with the establishment of the borough. The repetitive use of the area over a long period of time is indicated by the homogenous nature of the soils and the mixed natures of the finds. The finds may give a general age range for the creation of these deposits even if they are not fully defined. The general mixed nature and late material recovered from the deposits are simply indicative of the inability to distinguish any cuts in the area (Fig. 9).

Area 2 and 4

The number of the feature that foundation cut 4/18 truncated was not apparent. The cut 4/18 was linear and had a width of 0.6m. The cut extended for a longer distance than apparent on the plan being 4.5m long. The fill was wall 4/19 constructed of irregular limestone blocks bonded by clay, only 2-3m survived of the wall. The clay bonding of the original wall would indicate that this wall was potentially early. Wall 4/19 lay on the boundary between Areas 2 and 4, and this wall in Area 2 was given the number 2/27. Wall 4/19 may well have started off as the boundary wall to the borough and be an extension of wall 5/03. A structure was constructed against the wall on its east side in Area 2 which contained 16th century dating material implying that the original construction of this wall has to be in the medieval period, even if there was only evidence of later rebuilds.

4.6 Phase 5: 15th-16th centuries (Late to Post-Medieval)

Area 3 (Structure 1)

Overlying deposit (3/43) was layer (3/44) a moderately compact yellow clay. Deposit (3/44) contained a piece tile, which was too fragmentary to provide precise dating, but could have been later medieval to earlier post-medieval. The context also contained animal bone including that of an unidentified bird (Fig. 10).

Deposit (3/58) was a moderately compact yellow sand that lay over the top of the remains of wall 3/49, when it was partially demolished. The finds included a piece of Red Earthenware of a mid-16th century date. Either side of wall 3/49 were two robber cuts numbered cuts 3/145 and 3/146. Cut 3/145 was a large sub oval shaped cut measuring approximately 3m by 2m and although on the north and west appeared to have predominantly gently sloping sides in some parts on the south and east side the profile on the cut was steeper. This cut directly truncated deposits (3/47), (3/144), (3/50) and also part of wall 3/48. The pits full profile was not ascertained as it extended below the impact layer. The fill (3/52) was a moderately compact grey

brown silt clay with rubble inclusions. This deposit contained Red Earthenware probably of a mid-16th century date or later, an iron object and animal bone. The second pit was formed by cut 3/146, which truncated deposit (3/56) and (3/58), and lay to the west of wall 3/49. The pit probably had gently sloping sides and extended below the impact layer. The fill (3/59) was a moderately compact grey silt clay with stone rubble inclusions. This deposit contained Brill/Boarstall ware of the 13th century.

Area 3 (Garden deposits above Structure 3)

The structure 3/175 was robbed out at an early date probably in the later medieval period. Overlying the wall remains was deposit (3/201) a compact yellow clay that may have been residue from the robbing of the wall, as the deposit extended towards the west its feel became more of a sand clay. Deposit (3/200), overlay deposit (3/201), and was a compact grey clay. To the west of the remains of wall 3/173 and extending to cover deposit (3/200) was a relic garden soil horizon deposit (3/198). Deposit (3/198) was identifiable running for a considerable distance along the new service trench cut and was a compact grey brown clay with a maximum depth of 0.44m (Fig 23 section 3.3).

Deposit (3/200) was probably the same deposit as (3/19), which was identified as the area was stripped out for the new road access. Deposit (3/19) was a moderately compact grey brown silt clay, similar to deposits. This deposit contained sherds of Red Earthenware probably of a mid-16th century date, and animal bone.

On the northern edge of Area 3 was deposit (3/29) that covers the contexts (3/36), (3/31), (3/33), and (3/152). Deposit (3/29) was a moderately compact dark brown silt clay with inclusion deposits of brick and limestone rubble. This deposit contained sherds of Red Earthenware that were probably of a mid-16th century date, and also animal bone.

Cut into deposit (3/29) was cut 3/30. Cut 3/30 was the remains of an oval scoop or pit; the profile was unknown as it extended below the impact layer. The fill (3/31) was a moderately compact dark brown silt clay with inclusions of limestone rubble. This deposit contained sherds of Red Earthenware probably of a mid-16th century date, and a horse bone.

Area 3 (Structure 5)

Truncating deposit (3/200) was the foundation cut 3/202, of which two linear stretches were evident in the new service trench cut. The fill was a wall 3/203, constructed of limestone blocks bonded with mortar and measuring 0.5m wide. This structure was probably a small outbuilding or hovel.

Area 2

Though many of the cuts were perceived as probably occurring in Area 2, but not easily defined, there were also a number of cuts that could be defined and have thus been given a later chronological date. Three pits could be identified truncating the top of deposit (2/56). These included the cuts of pit 2/33, and pit 2/37, with the latter pit apparently truncated by the cut of a larger pit 2/35. Cut 2/33 was an oval shaped feature measuring 1m by 1.3m and had a shallow cut. It may well have been cut from a far higher layer. The fill (2/34) was a compact grey brown silt clay. Cut 2/37 was an oval cut that survived to a size of 0.6m by 0.6m, although this feature was truncated

and extended under the baulk, and would have been larger than this. The fill (2/38) was a compact grey brown silt clay. Cut 2/35 was of an oval shape and measured 1.2m by over 1.2m, it also extended under the baulk. The fill (2/36) was a compact grey brown silt clay. The nature of these pits remains unknown, they could have been rubbish pits that were initially cut through higher layers in the homogenous soils, or alternatively shallow features associated with stone robbing.

The deposit 2/20 had two distinct pits cut into it that could be reasonably defined. These were pits 2/22 and 2/31. The cut 2/22 was an oval shaped cut measuring 1m by 0.7m. The fill (2/23) was a compact black grey silt clay with minimal ash deposits. This produced a copper alloy weight. Cut 2/31 was circular with a diameter of 0.6m. The fill (2/32) was a compact black grey silt clay with charcoal inclusions. It was the darker ash and charcoal deposits that made these pits stand out.

4.7 Phase 6: Later 16th-17th centuries

Area 3 (Structure 1)

The removal of tenement structure 1 probably coincided with the development of a road. Pit cut 3/216, truncated deposit 3/52, a circular feature filled by deposit (3/53). Deposit (3/53) was a moderately compact yellow sand clay with rubble inclusions (Fig. 11).

Layer (3/40), overlay deposit (3/44), a compact dark silt clay with inclusions of rubble and burnt lenses. This may be part of a surviving destruction layer over the building that probably occurred in the 16th or 17th centuries although there is no firm dating evidence for this development. Foster *et al.* (1975, 181-2) suggested that these roads were probably a product of the 17th century, and associated with the developing blanket trade. The deposit had significant amounts of disturbance and was cut by a number of modern services.

Area 3 (Garden deposits)

Covering layer (3/198) was layer (3/199) a compact yellow grey clay 0.28m deep, which also butted up to wall 3/173. Layer (3/37) was similar to layer (3/199), and seems to have been an extension of that deposit extending north to the later boundary wall 3/22 (see below). Deposit (3/37) was a compact dark grey clay layer with patches of cobbling inclusions. This deposit was covered by two spreads (3/34) and (3/35). The first of these (3/34) was a moderately compact black brown silt clay with cinders. The second spread (3/35) was a moderately compact grey yellow clay. This deposit contained a sherd of Brill/Boarstall ware and Red Earthenware of the mid-16th century. The cobbles and cinders in these deposits may indicate that the area had previously had phases of hard standing and dumping deposited (Fig 23 section 3.2).

The sequence of deposits discussed in respect to deposits (3/198) and (3/199), are probably contemporary with the following deposits (3003), and (5036). Deposit (3003) was a firm mid grey brown silt with a depth of 0.38m. Deposit (5036) was a moderately compact grey brown silt clay with occasional inclusions of charcoal and small stones. These deposits probably represent further garden soil deposits that have accumulated over a number of years, with ephemeral layers of hard standing and dumping. There are probably later cuts through the deposits that are obscured.

Area 3 (Structure 2)

Masonry feature 3/189 was a brick dome bonded in white mortar, perhaps part of a hearth, set on layer (3/186). Deposit (3/187), was butted up to feature 3/189, a compact white lime floor measuring 0.09m deep. Deposit (3/188), sealed layer (3/187), was a compact white mortar some 0.09m deep (Fig 23 section 3.2). Cut through deposit (5019) was cut 5017 an irregular shaped pit measuring 2m by 1.15m and 0.03m deep. Deposit (5031) was a soft humic mid grey brown clay silt with occasional limestone fragments. The deposit measured 2m by 1.3m and 0.3m thick. This deposit contained a redeposited sherd of Cotswold ware (Fig 24 section 3.7).

Area 3 (Structures 6)

Truncating the tops of the surfaces (3/198) and (3/199) and visible in the new service trench cut were a series of features 3/205, 3/207, 3/209, and 3/212. Cut 3/205 is of a rectangular shape measuring 0.5m x 0.8m. The fill contained a limestone slab 3/206, with a depth of 0.12m. The stone slab may well have been a threshold stone located in a wall, but due to the way the stone was removed cleanly from the trench this was not apparent. Foundation cut 3/207 was a linear measuring 0.9m wide and 0.3m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base. The fill was wall 3/208 built of limestone blocks. Deposit (3/211) was a compact grey black silt clay 0.14m deep that butted up to wall 3/208. Cut 3/212 was a linear cut running east to west with steep sides and a flat base. The fill was wall 3/213 formed of roughly squared limestone blocks. There may be fragmentary remains of this wall line in Area 2 in cuts 2/48 and 2/52, which appear to align. Wall 3/213 lay below wall 3/103, and would seem to be an earlier build but covering a shorter distance. Cut 3/209 was of an oval or circular shaped pit or posthole with a diameter of 0.6m and a depth of over 0.4m that extended below the impact layer. The sides were steep but the shape of the base not determined. Fill (3/210) was a moderately compact dark grey clay.

On the south side of Area 3 the ground was stripped back uncovering a number of walls. The relationship of these walls was not properly established through stratigraphy as no new foundations were cut in this area. However, one of these walls appeared to have a return that aligned with wall 3/208. Cut 3/126 was a recognised linear cut with two recognised turns and measuring 3.3m by 0.6m. The profile of the cut contained vertical sides. Wall 3/125 was constructed of irregular limestone blocks roughly squared on the outside and bonded with mortar. The wall was orientated north to south and measured 3.2m long.

Area 3 (Structure 7)

Cut into deposit (3/89) were cuts 3/153, 3/154, 3/155, 3/157, and 3/214. Cut 3/154 was the remains of an L-shaped feature 7.5m long and 0.8m wide orientated east to west with a 3m long extension on the north side. The cuts was steep on the sides and flat on the base. The fill was wall foundation 3/78 constructed of squared limestone blocks. The north to south extension of this wall was wall foundation 3/79, also numbered 3/93. Cut 3/214 is a linear cut over 5m long but with an unknown width and part of the profile showed that this had steep sides and a flat base. The fill was wall 3/92 a foundation/wall constructed of squared limestone blocks. This wall formed a parallel wall to that of 3/78. These probably formed the three sides of a rectangular structure.

Either side of wall 3/78 are the two cuts 3/153 and 3/155. Cut 3/153 was 2.25m long, but extended to wall 3/92 in the baulk, and was 0.55m wide. The foundation 3/85 was

constructed of limestone blocks that were roughly squared. The wall was built into and properly joined to wall 3/78. Internally there were two recognisable deposits, the first layer (3/90) butted up to walls 3/78 and 3/85. This deposit (3/90) was a moderately compact dark grey clay. It is likely to be a floor layer or lower bedding layer for a floor. Also butting onto wall 3/78 was layer (3/84) a firm brown yellow sand with cobbles.

Cut 3/155 was a linear feature 2m long and 0.55m wide with steep sides and a flat base. The foundation 3/156 was of squared limestone blocks but was extremely fragmentary and disturbed as though it was potentially robbed. The wall 3/156 even though aligned with wall 3/85 was butted to wall 3/78, thus indicating two phases. Deposit (3/83) was a moderately compact brown silt clay, which butted up to the south side of wall 3/78. This deposit was sealed by deposit (3/73).

Cut 3/157 was the remains of a linear feature measuring over 5m in length and 1m wide. The sides were steep and the base flat. The fill was wall 3/87 a limestone wall of squared blocks that formed the remains of a foundation of one or two courses high. Wall 3/94 was a continuation of wall 3/87.

Area 2

No distinct pit fills were evident in the northern deposit (2/21), but it was apparent that the deposits above the impact layer consisted of a layer (2/57) as there were a number of features recognised as being cut into this horizon in the homogenous soils (Fig. 12).

There may have been a number of pits cut through the garden soils but these were essentially unrecognisable. Layer (2/57) was a compact grey brown silt clay similar to deposits (2/21) and (2/20), and sealing them. Overlying deposit (2/57) were deposits (2/54) and (2/55), and also cuts 2/52, 2/48 and 2/07. The cut 2/52 was a linear measuring 2m in length and 0.6m wide with a depth of 0.1-0.15m deep. The sides were vertical and the base flat. The cut was filled by the remains of a limestone wall 2/53 that was filled with roughly squared blocks forming a foundation. The wall remained in a fragmentary form, and it is highly likely that this feature was truncated at either end. Cut 2/48 was also a linear feature surviving as a visible length of 1m to 2m in length and containing vertical sides and a flat base. The cut was filled by the remains of a wall 2/49; made of roughly squared limestone blocks that formed the remains of a foundation. These two fragments of wall were on the same alignment and must have belonged to an earlier wall running the length of the area. Deposit (2/54) was a friable yellow orange sand and gravel inclusion measuring 0.5m by 0.4m and with a maximum depth of 0.05m. Deposit (2/55) was also a friable yellow orange sand with gravel inclusions, of which the larger part of the deposit measured 0.5m by 0.25m and had a depth of 0.05m. These were interpreted as gravel spreads. Cut 2/07 was the remains of a linear feature measuring just over 1m long by 0.5m wide and 0.15m deep. The sides were vertical and the base flat. The wall 2/08 was constructed of roughly squared limestone that was mortared to form a foundation 9Fig. 22 section 2.1).

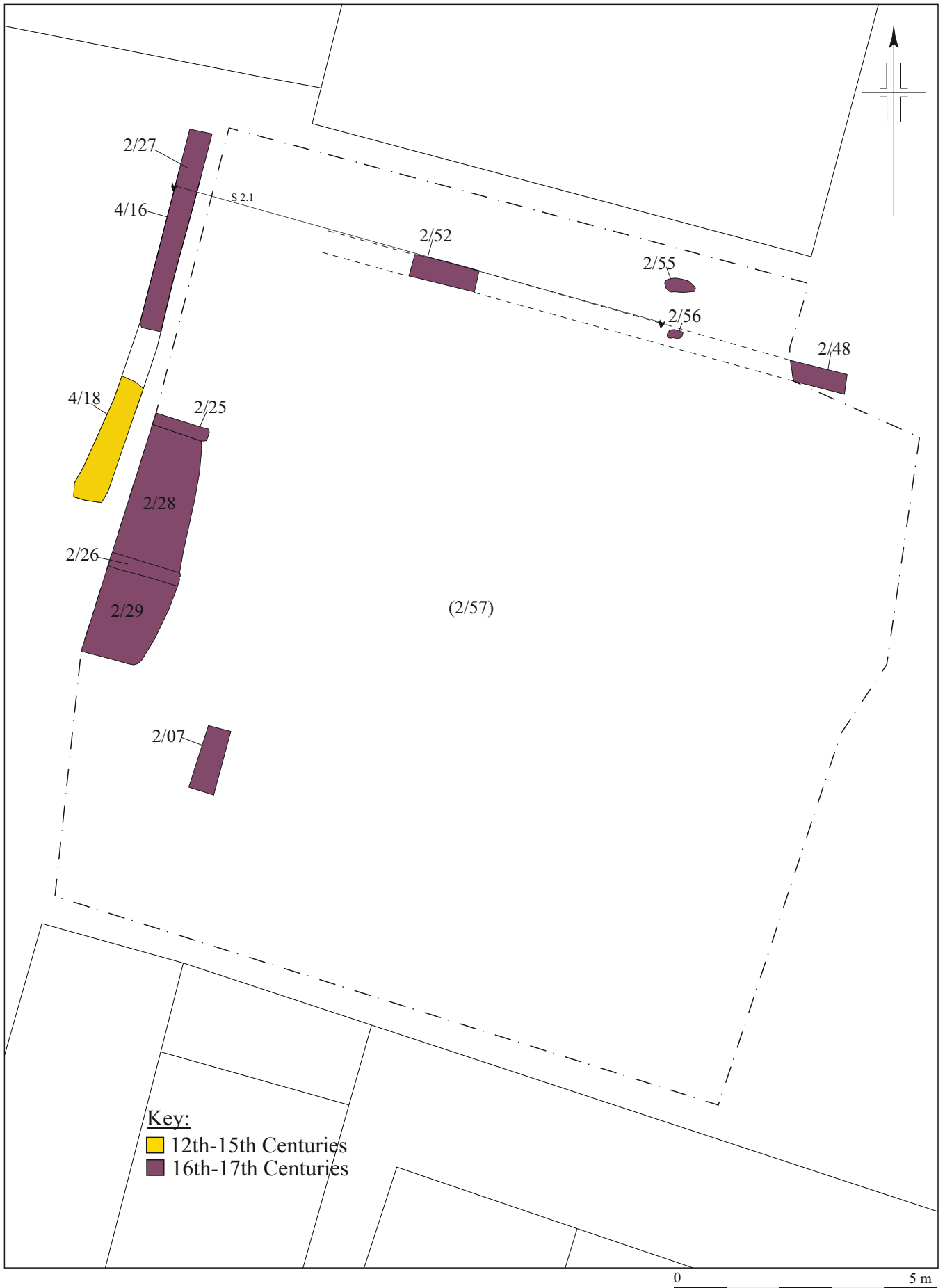


Figure 12. Area 2: Phase 6 16th-17th Centuries



Figure 13. Area 4: Phase 6 16th-17th Centuries

Cut into deposit (2/57) was a large sub-rectangular cut 2/75 with vertical sides and a flat base. The cut was placed along the wall, which had various numbers 4/19 for the earliest build and 4/17 for the later rebuild or reconstruction. There were two walls that were constructed butting on to this 2/25 and 2/26. Feature 2/25 was part of an irregularly squared limestone rubble foundation bonded by clay measuring 1.2m x 0.3m wide. Feature 2/26 was also a wall built of irregularly squared limestone rubble foundation bonded by clay and measuring 1.3m long by 0.3m. Lying between walls 2/25 and 2/26 and butting up to them were the remains of a clay layer 2/28. Deposit 2/28 was a compact light grey yellow clay. Deposit 2/29, butted up to wall 2/26. The deposit 2/29 was a compact light grey yellow clay. This deposit contained fragments of Red Earthenware and is probably of a mid-16th century date.

These deposits were sealed by layer (2/03) that represented the upper part of these homogenous garden deposits (see below).

Area 4

The lower fills of cut 4/12 were not uncovered and not dated (see above). The upper part of the fill was deposit (4/11) a moderately compact dark brown grey silt clay with occasional limestone inclusions and containing animal bone fragments. The deposit was orientated lay in the north to south ditch and had a width approaching 8.3m. Above it was suggested that this fill lay to the rear of the burghage plots and was the upper fill of a medieval boundary ditch. As the feature lay below the impact layer it was not possible to determine the recutting and fills, this feature may have had a number of such events of which the latter may be in the 16th century at this location. It is in 1540 that the ditch is described. The material recovered from the upper fills can only demonstrate a potential date of the final silting and not the primary silts. Set in deposit (4/11) was wall 4/19 and 4/14 (Fig. 13).

There were a number of walls or foundation cuts that were identified as being built on to or being cut into the top of deposit (4/11). These structures are not on the maps of Witney of the 19th century so presumably a 16th-17th century date is feasible. Set in deposit (4/11) was masonry wall 4/14 a wall of irregularly squared blocks but bonded with clay. The clay bonding of this wall may indicate that this was an early wall. Around this wall 4/14 was deposit (4/13) a moderately compact dark brown grey silt clay with limestone fragments. The deposit is probably a destruction or construction deposit associated with these walls. The features (4/11), (4/13) and 4/14 were partially sealed by deposit (4/03).

Deposit (4/21) was a compact yellow brown silt clay with much gravel and limestone fragments; although this deposit had confusing lenses throughout. The deposit varied in depth from 0.15 to 0.3m. The length of the deposit was some 35m and extended along this section of the site. The pottery was a Red Earthenware of the mid-16th century, and other material picked up from the surface of this deposit was of a post-medieval date. The feature may well have been a deposit of ridge or headland. If so this deposit must represent a ploughed feature originating in the medieval period and probably continued in use into the early post-medieval period.

On the north side of Area 4 was the remains of a deposit (4/60), it must have overlain deposit (4/73) and have terminated towards the edge of the ditch 4/11. Deposit (4/60) was a compact yellow brown silt clay with much gravel and limestone fragments; although this deposit had confusing lenses throughout. The deposit was similar to that

of deposit (4/21), which was accounted earlier, they probably represent the remains of medieval ridge and furrow. Deposit (4/21) was accounted earlier in the 16th century because it contained pottery of that date, whereas deposit (4/60) contained sherds of a 17th century date. These features must have been formed over a long duree, with annual reworking of the upper layers. The surface pottery is an indication of when these deposits would have finally ceased, and this must have continued to the early to mid-17th century.

4.8 Phase 7: 17th century

Area 3

Facing onto the High Street are the remains of a series of walls and deposits, some of which must have formed part of the Prince of Wales public house. The map of 1840 shows possible piecemeal division of the original properties, and if there was an older public house on the site it is difficult to determine the exact extent of the property boundaries. Indeed the property appears to be subdivided in such a way as to indicate division of an earlier and larger property. The Prince of Wales public house is known to have been in existence in 1703 (Stene 1978, 19), and some of the walls are described as being old even then. Indeed Foster *et al.* (1975, 181-2, map 2) indicates that a pre-1700 date is likely for this structure, which was still standing at that date. We have no record that the High Street Frontage to the north contained a public house, but it is possible with some of the design features evident in what would appear to be the later 17th century development of the area that it was, including what is structure 2 and the still standing structure to the south (Fig. 14).

Area 3 (Structure 2)

The initial activity on structure 2 concerns the dramatic rebuild of the front of the structure, although it is apparent that the existing back wall of the property remained in place. This action explains the reason why the plans of 1840 and 1876-8 show a building for which the front and the back walls do not align. Why this occurred can only be speculated upon, but it is apparent that the events must have occurred in the mid to late 17th century. The first indication of major renovation of the structure is the removal of earlier features through what must be processes of robbing in the form of cuts 3/191 and 5018.

Deposits (3/188) and (3/190) were subsequently truncated by the removal of the internal timber and mortar partition (3/181). The cut 3/191 was a linear truncation 0.4m deep and 0.6m wide that pulled the timber structure out down to its sill beam. The fill (3/192) was a moderately compact yellow black mortar sand containing frequent cobbles. This deposit also extended over layer (3/190) so that the two floor levels formed an even horizon.

Cut 5018 was a linear truncation probably initially designed as a process of wall robbing, and subsequently operating as a foundation cut. The sides are steep and the base flat, this is the cut of the new foundation trench. This deposit truncated deposit (5019). Deposit (5029) was a moderately loose pale yellow brown clay silt with inclusions of limestone fragments and blocks and mortar. The deposit covers an area 0.75m by 0.3m and has a thickness of 0.38m. Deposit (5029) contained 4 residual sherds of Cotswold ware of the 11th century. This deposit covered wall 5024 and 3/171, it is possibly associated with the robbing of that wall. Masonry foundation 5003 was a roughly made limestone wall bonded in clay and measuring 2.6m by

0.45m wide. The bonding of the wall contained a sherd of Staffordshire sliptailed earthenware of the mid-17th century. Deposit (5016), fills cut 5018, was a soft mid grey brown clay with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions. This deposit contained a sherd of Cotswold ware that must be residual. The deposit measured about 2m by 0.2m and is 0.3m deep (Fig. 24 section 3.7).

Masonry 5010 was a wall of roughly worked limestone blocks (Plate 11). The stones measured 250mm x 250mm x 50mm. The wall contained a sherd of Medieval Oxford ware that must be residual. This wall was constructed in alignment with wall 5003. Masonry 5004 was a roughly coursed limestone wall measuring over 2.05m and up to 0.82m wide, the wall mortar contained a sherd of Red Earthenware that was probably of a mid-17th century date, a piece of clay pipe and a post-medieval copper alloy button. This wall appeared to be at right angles and bonded with wall 5003. Masonry 5008, also numbered 3/99, was a limestone wall of roughly squared limestone blocks and roughly coursed clay bonded wall measuring 10m by 0.65m. This wall was also apparently bonded to wall 5003.

The following walls 3/113 and 3/111 would also appear to be part of this reworking of the building, adjoining wall 3/112, but being aligned and orientated with the walls at the front of the building. Wall 3/113 was a foundation formed of roughly squared limestone blocks with some red brick additions. Wall 3/111 was a foundation formed of roughly squared limestone blocks.

Structure 2 clearly has up to now appeared from identified remains as a group of walls orientated north to south, with the joining walls obscured. This is a result of the piecemeal way in which the site was dug by the contractors and also the process of survival. The walls for the first time define an enclosed area. On the street frontage proper there is a room defined as lying between walls 5003, 5004 and 5002. There is a passageway running to the north of walls 5004 and 5008. The final part of the frontage contains an area of disturbance, which according to the 19th century maps was once a room, this can only be recognised as an area lying to the east of wall 5010. The main range of the building lies to the west of walls 5003 and 5010, and is delineated by the older surviving High or Late medieval wall running along the rear of the property (walls 1/196, 3/115, 3/112 and 3/105). These areas are subsequently described as the area between walls 5010 and 3/196 (described above). The room created by walls 5003, 5008, 3/115 and 3/113. There is a further room to the rear of the surviving building that would seem to have been joined into that of this structure, but was evidently from the maps part of a further property.

Floor levels and features identified in the room bounded by walls 5003, 5004 and 5002 (Plate 9) include the cutting of a large pit, and a floor layer. The cut 5017 may be part of the destruction phases of the building, but so that it can be adequately shown on a phase plan it has been placed in the previous phase. The fill was deposit (5031). This was sealed by floor layer (5005) which also butted up to the surrounding walls. Layer (5005) was a moderate brown yellow silt clay with limestone inclusions.

On the north side of walls 5004 and 5008 there was evidence of a passageway running between these structures and wall 5010. Here deposit (5038), sealed layer (5039), a firm red brown silt with a depth of 0.11m. This passageway contained an area of cobbling, set within bedding (5038). The edging of this cobbled area 5007 was formed of limestone and measured 2.55m long. Deposit (5009) is a highly compact

grey brown sand clay with silt mottling and cobblestone inclusions covering an area of over 4.25m and 1.1m wide, which butted up to deposit 5007. Deposit (5009) contained a piece of clay pipe. Foster et al. (1975, 181-2) noted the development of these features, which were locally called turries, and which they suggested may have been a 17th century development.

A number of earlier features were recognised in the room bonded by walls 5003, 5008, 3/115 and 3/113. Layer (5006) was a soft mid brown deposit derived from decomposed wood, measuring 0.05m wide and 0.05m deep. This is probably a beam slot forming the base of a wall for internal division. The beam slot has a similar orientation to that of the wall 5008, and the other contemporary walls, it is likely that it belongs to this building Phase 7. The beam slot must have lain on top of deposit (5029). This beam slot (5006) was bounded on the one side by deposit (5013), and it is either the case that the beam was laid in this floor layer or the layer (5013) was butted up to it. Deposit (5013) was a moderately compact grey brown mottled clay.

To the west of wall 5003 and south of beam slot (5006) were floor layers (5011) and (5012) that butted up to these structural features. Layer (5011) was a compact brown yellow clay covering an area 1.75m by over 0.5m and with a depth of 0.02m. This was interpreted as a clay floor. Deposit (5012) was a compact dark grey sand clay.

Area 3 (Boundary wall and garden area)

Cut into deposit (3/19) and (3/29) was the cut 3/03, the cut of a wall. The cut had steep sides and a flat base and was approximately 0.6m wide. The wall 3/22, set into this cut 3/03, was constructed of roughly squared limestone blocks that were bonded with a grey yellow clay material (Plates 13 & 14). A sherd of pottery recovered from the bonding of the wall is indicative of this having a construction date in the late 17th century; animal bone was also recovered. The trench was backfilled by deposit (3/20) a compact grey brown silt clay.

Set within the walls 3/78 and 3/79 was layer (3/74). Layer (3/74) was a moderately compact mid brown silt clay deposit (Plate 15) containing tin-glazed earthenware, Polychrome Slip ware and Red Earthenware and probably dated to the 17th century. This deposit also contained a piece of clay pipe and animal bone.

Deposit (3/160) was a compact yellow clay band, identified in the new service trench run. This deposit produced a pottery sherd of Staffordshire striptailed earthenware, probably of the 17th century. Deposit (3/222) was similar but with a sand clay component. Cut 3/215 was a long linear feature, about 0.5m wide. This feature cut into deposit (3/160) and removed part of a lower and earlier wall. The length of the wall appears to be extended. Wall 3/103 was a foundation constructed of roughly squared limestone blocks. Cut into deposit (3/160) was a circular pit 3/219 with a diameter of 1.15m and extending over 0.7m deep. Fill (3/220) was a moderately compact grey clay with gravel inclusions (Fig. 23 section 3.2).

The wall 3/202 was sealed by a layer (3/204) compact yellow grey clay, perhaps a distinct lens in the layer that sealed this one. Stratigraphically one would think that this deposit has to date to the 17th century.

Cut 3/223 was a sub-circular shaped scoop measuring 0.75m across with a depth of 0.09m. The feature was recognised as truncating layer (3/160). The fill (3/224) was a moderately compact black brown silt clay.

Deposits (3/221) and (3/218) were similar moderately compact grey brown clays with variable thickness. They were at a similar horizon to other 17th century deposits.

Area 2

The upper part of the apparently homogenous soils of Area 2 was layer (2/03), similar to (3/221) and (3/218), a compact grey brown silt clay that spread across the whole area. This deposit contained a number of medieval and post-medieval sherds, especially Polychrome Slipware, Staffordshire manganese ware, Staffordshire slip-trailed earthenware, Red Earthenware and border wares, which would be indicative of a date in the late 17th century. The deposit also contained the remains of a post-medieval wine bottle, a piece of clay pipe, a corroded lump of iron, and animal bone. There were a number of cuts truncating this deposit. These included cuts 2/39, 2/42, 2/44, and 2/46 that formed part of a foundation sequence on a structure. Cut 2/39 was the remains of a short linear cut measuring 1m by 0.6m wide with vertical sides and a flat base. The wall 2/40 was constructed of roughly squared limestone blocks and formed a foundation running north to south. Cut 2/42 was a linear feature measuring 3.2m long and 0.6m wide. The cut 2/42 had vertical sides and a flat base. The wall 2/43 was constructed of roughly squared limestone blocks and measured 3.2m by 0.6m. Wall 4/19 later 4/17 (see Area 4 in Phase 4) formed the other end of the building, but as the latter wall was a boundary wall of the burgage plots, it could be earlier with the later building butted against it. Sat within these walls are the remains of a deposit (2/41) a friable to moderately compact orange yellow sand with numerous fragments of limestone and gravel measuring 5m by 3m. Joined to these structural remains at the east side were the remains of a further series of features. There were two linear cuts 2/44 that formed an L-shape of which one measured 3m in length and the other 2.5m in length with a depth of 0.1m. The sides of the cut were vertical and the base flat. The trench was filled by deposit (2/45) a friable to moderately compact yellow orange sand with gravel and limestone inclusions (Fig. 15).

Cut 2/46 was a square feature measuring 0.25m square by 0.1m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. The trench was filled by deposit (2/47) was a friable yellow orange sand with gravel and limestone fragments. This probably represents a lean to extension with a post pad in a central position.

There are other walls the foundations of which truncate deposit (2/03). These include cuts 2/67, and 2/05. Cut 2/67 was a linear 2.5m in length and 0.3m wide. The sides were vertical and the base flat. The wall 2/68 was of roughly squared limestone blocks mortared forming a foundation. This was the remains of a wall foundation. The other linear cut 2/05 measured 0.5m wide and had a depth of 0.25m, and had vertical sides and a flat base. The fill of this trench was wall 2/06 a structure of roughly squared limestone blocks forming a foundation. The wall survived in places to a height of 0.38m. The single sherd that was recovered from the wall was a piece of Staffordshire manganese ware, and a later 17th date is possible, besides this was animal bone.

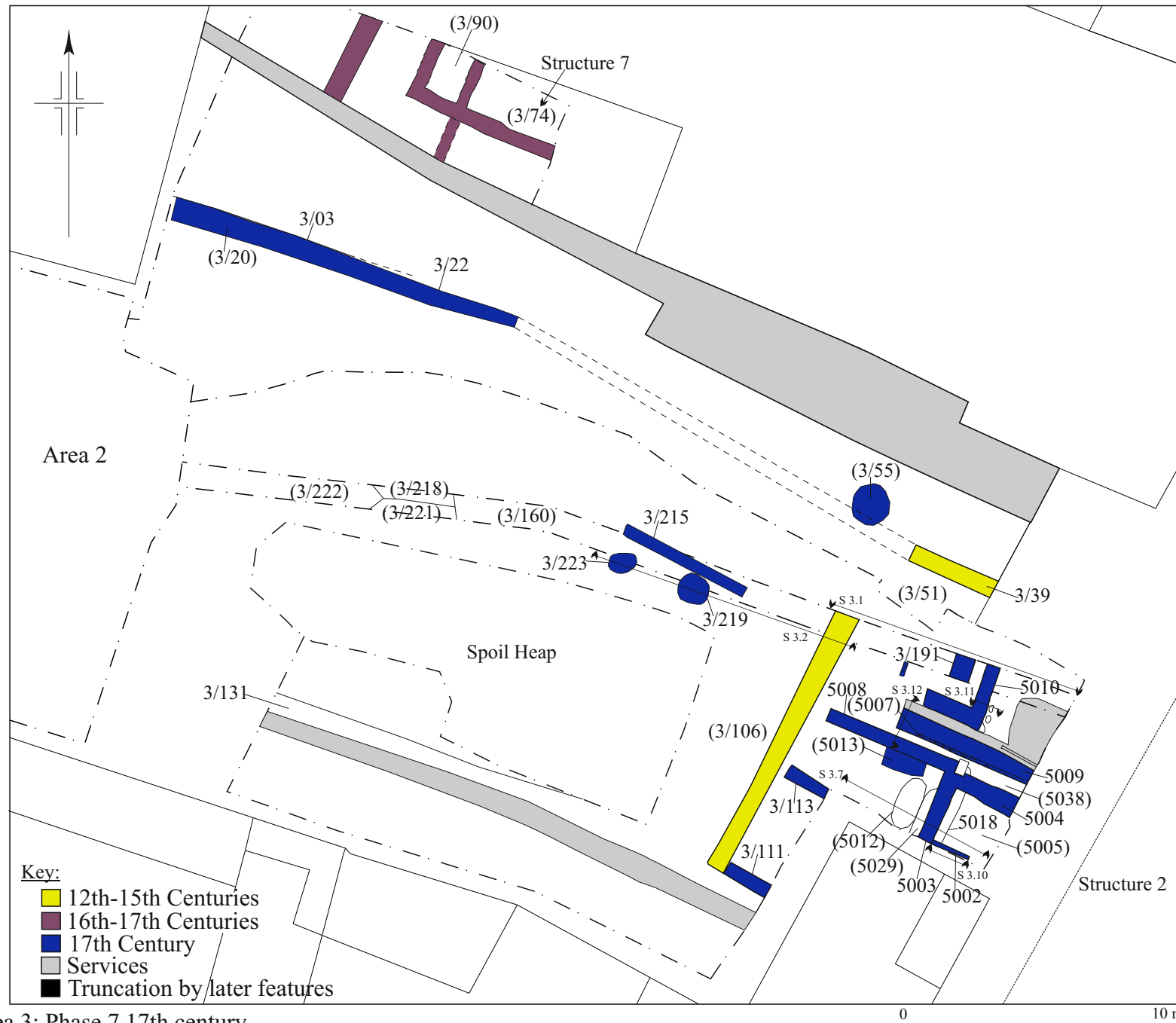


Figure 14. Area 3: Phase 7 17th century



Plate 13. Area 3: wall 3/22 and 3/04.



Plate 14. Area 3: wall 3/22
and 3/04.



Plate 15. Area 3: walls 3/78, 3/79 and 3/77.



Plate 16. Area 4: sump 4/39.

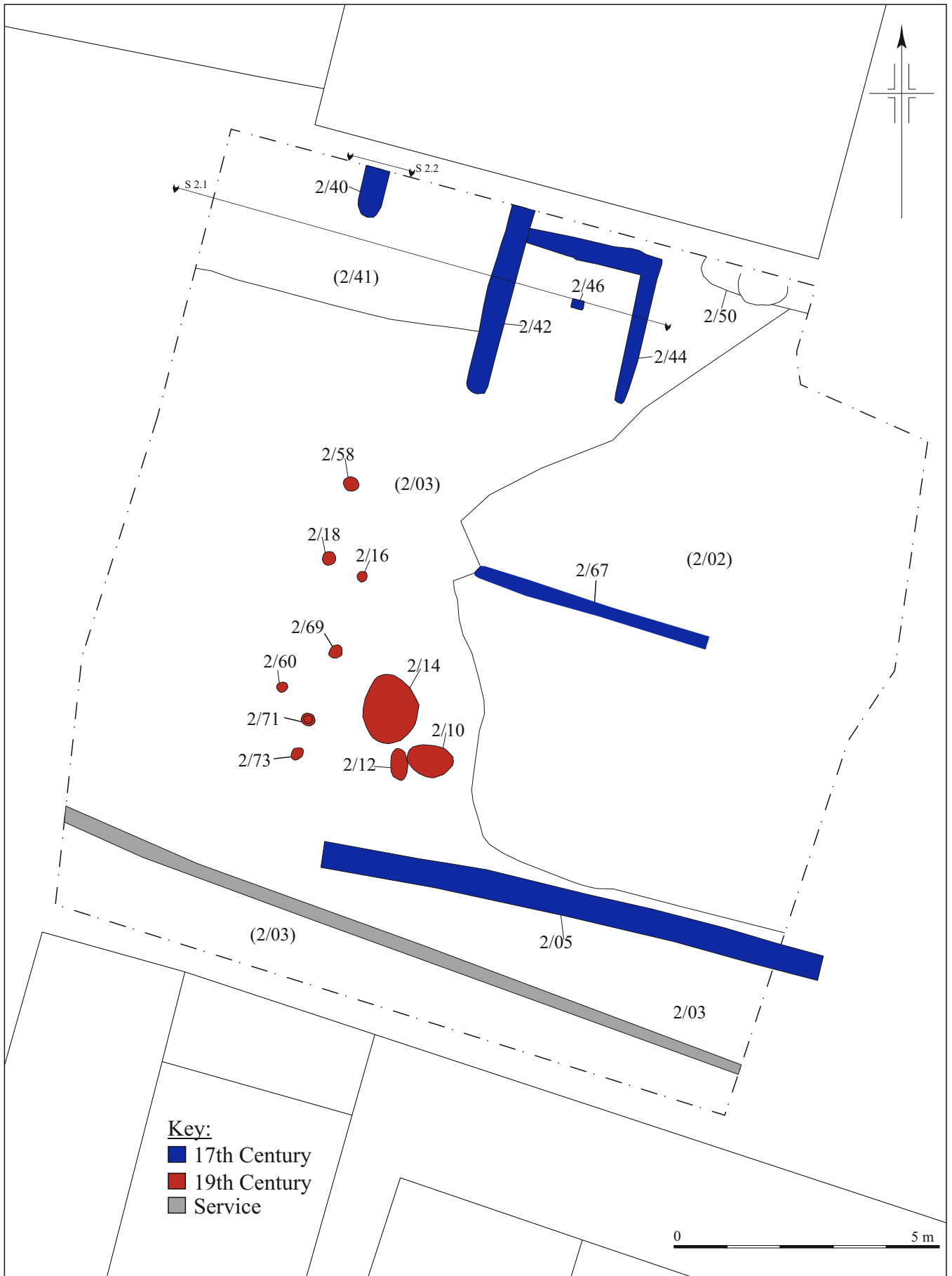


Figure 15. Area 2: Phases 7 and 9

Area 4

Layer (4/03) was a compact brown grey silt that was probably an extension of deposit (1/34). Deposit (4/03) contained pottery of the 17th century and also produced a piece of clay pipe, post-medieval bottle glass and deer bone. It was into this layer that the boundary wall 1/33 was set, and this deposit butted walls 4/19. Layer (4/03) was truncated by the following cuts 4/06, 4/10, 4/61, 4/16 and 4/63 (Fig. 16).

Cut 4/06 truncated deposit (4/03) that survived to a length of 2-3m. The wall 4/05 was a limestone foundation of irregularly squared blocks and bonded by a yellow sand mortar. Cut 4/10 was a short L-shaped linear that was 2.5m long and 0.6m wide, probably cut into deposit (4/03). The sides were steep to vertical and the base flat. The wall 4/09 was built of irregular limestone blocks bonded with mortar and only the foundation survived to one or two courses. Deposit (4/08) was a friable yellow orange silt clay containing limestone, which had a depth of 0.05-0.1m and covered an area 3m by 2m. The scatter butted up to wall 4/09 and it is probable that this deposit represents a destruction of this deposit.

Cut 4/63 was a shallow cut forming three sides of a broadly rectangular shape. The linear runs were 0.8m deep and 0.2m wide. The fill (4/15) was a friable red orange sand gravel and in section looked as though it was layered with lenses of brown grey soils. In the southwest corner it looked as if the mortar bedding remained for a stone indicating that this was possibly the bedding for the base of a wall. In align with the south linear there were possibly the further fragmentary remains of a wall. The outline of the building on the south side extended to the boundary wall 4/17, and presumably this feature butted up to that wall. A short linear cut 4/61 was 2-3m in length and 0.6m wide with vertical sides and a flat base. This contained wall 4/62 a fragmentary piece of limestone wall with roughly squared blocks bonded with mortar. This wall lay parallel to the southern part of feature 4/15.

Cut 4/16 represents a recut into wall 4/19 presumably at a similar time to the construction of these walls. The cut 4/16 was a linear 4m long and 0.6m wide. The wall 4/19 was rebuilt at a higher level as wall 4/17. Wall 4/17 was also a limestone wall with irregularly squared blocks and a foundation of 3/4 courses. The wall is 4.5m long and 0.6m wide.

Deposit (4/64) was a linear spread of loose yellow orange gravel. Deposit (4/66) was a friable yellow material of crushed limestone. The dimensions are 2m in length and 0.6m wide.

There would seem to be a series of structures built backing onto the pack of the medieval property boundaries in the late 17th century. It is possible at this time a series of shanty developments took place at this date, perhaps agricultural or industrial rather than dwellings.

4.9 Phase 8: 18th century

Area 3 (Structure 2)

Deposit (5001) was a moderately compact brown yellow layer predominantly a clay sand but with more silt clay deposits at the top, the deposit contained residual sherds of the 11th century and animal bone. This layer (5001) covered deposit (5005), it is a later flooring phase of Structure 2 (Fig. 17).

Area 3 (garden)

Overlying deposit (3/19) and butting wall 3/04 and sealing deposit (3/20) was deposit (3/12) a compact yellow clay mortar. Deposit (3/12) contained Red Earthenware probably dated to the mid-16th century, post-medieval glass, and a fragmentary iron object with copper staining. Cut into deposit (3/12) were cuts 3/13, 3/15 and 3/17. Cut 3/13 was a sub-oval pit or scoop measuring 1.15m by 0.8m with gently sloping sides and a flat base. The fill (3/14) was a compact grey brown silt clay. The deposit contained Red Earthenware sherds of a probable mid-16th century, post-medieval glass, one of which post-dated 1678, and an animal fragment. Cut 3/15 was an elongated oval measuring 2.2m by 1m with a gentle profile and a flat base. The fill (3/16) was a compact grey brown silt clay that contained sherds of the 19th century. The final one of these three cuts was 3/17 an oval pit with a flattened side on the west measuring 1.25m by 1.3m and containing a gentle profile. The fill (3/18) was a compact grey brown silt clay. These deposits were sealed by layer (3/09). Though these deposits produced material of the 16th century, they are stratigraphically later than wall 3/22 that contains 17th century pottery, thus a later 17th or 18th century date is likely.

Area 3 (above structure 4)

Deposit (3/21) was a compact grey brown silt clay, located to the north of later wall 3/22. This deposit contained a sherd of Minety ware and Red Earthenware probably dated to the mid-16th century. Deposit (3/21) also contained a piece of clay pipe, and animal bone. Truncating this deposit were cuts 3/10 and 3/24. Cut 3/10 was an elongated oval pit measuring 2.4m by 1m and had gently sloping sides and a flat base. The fill (3/11) was a compact black grey clay. This deposit contained a sherd of Cotswold ware that is probably residual, a fragment of oyster shell, an iron nail, and animal bone. The fragment of oyster shell would imply that this is likely to date to the Georgian period of the 18th century when these were common food. Cut 3/24 was for a circular well measuring about 0.6m across, the sides were vertical. The fill (3/25) was a loose orange grey sand containing brick and stone.

Deposit (3/23) was a moderately compact black brown silt clay containing cinders, which overlay deposits (3/10). The deposit was probably an extension of deposit 5/12 in Area 5. It is likely that this structure was constructed in the 18th century, so an 18th century date has been suggested for this deposit.

Area 3 (rear of surviving structure Prince of Wales)

The following walls and features were uncovered by the reduction of ground layers on the south side of Area 3. This included walls 3/114, 3/120, and 3/122. It was not apparent from where these deposits were cut as no investigation was carried out here by the excavation of a new foundation or service trench. They cannot be satisfactorily aligned with the walls on the plans of the 19th century maps, except for wall 3/114. It is assumed that these walls must be constructions of the later 17th to 18th century and that some may have been demolished by the mid-19th century. Wall 3/114 was a foundation formed of roughly squared blocks. Wall 3/120 was a foundation orientated east to west formed of roughly squared blocks and bonded with mortar. The wall measured 2.1m by 0.6m wide. Wall 3/122 was a wall with roughly squared blocks on the outer face, was orientated east to west and contained a threshold stone for a doorway.



Figure 17. Area 3: Phase 8



Figure 18. Area 5: Phase 8 18th Century 51



Figure 19. Area 1: Phase 8 18th Century

Deposit 3/123 was a compact grey silt clay with cobble inclusions measuring an area of 2.1m by 5m. This deposit extended between walls 3/120 and 3/122, and probably represents a surface butting up to these walls. Deposit (3/128) was a moderately compact grey silt clay abutting wall 3/122. Feature 3/124 was constructed of flat limestone paving slabs bedded in mortar, covering an area of 0.9m by 1.1m. The paving butted up to feature 3/128 or overlay it.

Area 5

The earliest deposit noted in Area 5 was deposit (5/12). This was truncated by cuts 5/08 and 5/09. Cut 5/08 was a linear measuring 0.6m wide with vertical sides and a flat base and orientated north to south. Deposit (5/11) was a bed of oyster shells. The fill was masonry wall 5/04 made of squared limestone blocks measuring 2500mm x 300mm x 100mm. The wall was bonded by clay and had a width 0.6m wide. Cut 5/09 was a linear measuring 0.6m wide with vertical sides and a flat base orientated north to south. Deposit (5/10) was a bed of oyster shells. The fill was masonry wall 5/05 made of squared limestone blocks measuring 2500mm x 300mm x 100mm. The wall was bonded by clay and measured 0.6m wide (Fig. 18).

Foundation cut 5/07 was a linear approximately 1m deep with an undefined width. The cut had steep sides and the linear was orientated north to south. The fill was masonry 5/03 constructed of large limestone blocks that were externally squared. It is presumed, based on our limited knowledge, that the cut was made from the same level as the other walls, however, the recognised depth of the foundations are considerably deeper. This wall appears to lie on the boundary of the borough so there is a possibility if one considers the depth of the foundation that this wall line is older. The upper wall could have been re-built or the new building could have been butted up to an earlier wall.

Layer (5/02) was a moderately compact dark grey black silt sand with cobble inclusions. It formed the floor of what is noted on the 1840 map as an industrial or agricultural building. This floor was evident butting up to the walls 5/04 and 5/05. It is highly likely that this feature once extended to the back wall of the building, but this was not demonstrated.

Area 1

The layer (1/34), sealed deposit (1/16), was in section similar if not the same as deposit (1/03) that sealed it. However, we have to consider that this deposit, probably an accumulating garden or plough soil must have over time had other horizons from which other features could be cut or deposited. The layer (1/34) was a moderately compact brown grey silt clay with stone inclusions with a depth of 0.16m (Fig. 19).

Truncating deposit (1/34) was foundation cut 1/06 measuring 0.6m wide with vertical sides. The foundation 1/07 was a limestone wall of variable sized blocks roughly squared and bonded by a yellow sand mortar. This wall was identified in three locations, in the foundation and drainage trench cuts. Set within the walls was the remains of a floor 1/35, which was a compact yellow orange crushed limestone of an unknown depth and measuring over 4m by 2m. The location of this deposit would indicate that it was part of a rough floor surface or bedding for flagstones. This deposit was sealed or partially sealed by layer (1/03).

Overlying deposit (1/34) was deposit (1/32). Layer (1/32) was a compact yellow orange crushed limestone measuring 2m by 0.6m. This was sealed by layer (1/03).

Set into layer (1/34) was masonry structure 1/33. No cut number has been given for this as it was not known if there was one or if the feature had just been set on the ground level. Wall 1/33 was a structure that was constructed of irregularly squared limestone blocks. The surviving feature was some 2m long and probably formed a wall of a lean-to structure.

Cut 1/27 was a circular truncation with a diameter of 1.35m and was over 1.8m deep with vertical sides. The masonry wall of the well was of roughly finished limestone blocks forming a dry-stone wall. The interior diameter of the well was 0.65m. Though it is feasible that the well could be early 20th century it is more likely that it was of a 19th century date or potentially earlier. The cut was lined with wall 1/28 a dry stonewall of roughly finished blocks. The interior measured 0.65m and the exterior 1.35m. The cutting of a service trench alongside the well revealed the remains of a probable stone wall continuing off from the southeast side in a southerly direction. This extra run was not given its own number as it was not apparent how far this wall extended and it appeared to have been integral. Two other linear cuts 1/44 and 1/46 had vertical sides and flat bases being 0.5m wide. They both contained fragments of limestone wall, cut 1/44 wall 1/45, and cut 1/46 wall 1/47.

The cut for the boundary wall 1/30, lay between Areas 1 and 4, was a linear extending from the small square building at the corner of the site. The cut was 0.4-0.5m deep and 0.5-0.6m across with vertical sides and orientated north to south. The original boundary wall on the south side had been removed, but that on the north side was intact. A short spur of this wall survived to its original height, although most of it had been reduced. As this wall was probably an early boundary of a garden and probably still stood to its original height into the 20th century it is difficult to determine exactly where it was cut from. The wall 1/31 was built of roughly squared limestone blocks and was bonded by a yellow mortar. This wall and the boundary walls on the north sides of Areas 1 and 4 along with the small square structure in Area 1 are all located on the first edition Ordnance Survey map dated 1876-8.

The map of Witney of 1840 shows no buildings in this area, apart from the square structure located in the northeast corner. All of the subsequent Ordnance Survey maps from 1876-8 to 1972 show Area 1 as part of a large open space with boundaries running along the current walls recognised and the north side and the dividing wall of Areas 1 and 4. There are some other boundaries but these were not recognised. Briefly for a short period there is a further boundary marked cutting a smaller area of this field off, but it is not apparent where this boundary is, and it may have been extremely ephemeral. The building associated with walls 1/07 is not apparent on any of these maps and one has to conclude that this must be a structure that predates the laying out of this field or garden arrangement.

4.10 Phase 9: 19th century

Area 3 (Structure 2)

Located between walls 5003, 5008, 3/115, and 3/113 were a number of features. Cut 5015 was a linear measuring 2m long and 1m wide with sharp sides and a flat base (Plate 12), it truncated deposits (5036) and (5012). The fill was deposit (5014) was a

moderately loose pale yellow clay silt with limestone fragment inclusions. This deposit contained a piece of clay pipe. Layer (5026) was a moderate grey brown silt clay with occasional charcoal and stone inclusions containing pottery of the mid-16th century, a piece of clay pipe, corroded iron nails and animal rib, which overlay (5014). This deposit and subsequent deposits in this sequence are not shown on plan and will have to be identified on a section 3.7. The layer covered an area of 2.3m by 2m and measured 0.1m thick. Deposit (3/97), probably overlay (5026), was a mixed deposit with hard and loose patches and comprised black soot silt with burnt brick and limestone (Fig. 20).

Located between walls 3/112, 3/113, and 3/111 and butting them was layer (3/106). Deposit (3/106) was a moderately compact brown orange silt sand containing 19th century pottery, a post-medieval wine bottle and animal bone.

Area 3 (structures on the north side of alley way)

The wall 3/22 was reconstructed as wall 3/04 with limestone blocks, possibly simply reused, and this time was bonded with a yellow mortar. The wall bonding contained a sherd of Red Earthenware that was probably of 19th century date and oyster shell fragment. The wall survived to a height of 2 courses of stone and there was a slightly darker material where the walls were joined together. All subsequent layers to the south of this must have been butted up to the boundary wall.

Deposit (3/28) was a moderately compact black brown silt clay with cinder inclusions, that sealed deposit (3/29). Cut 3/26 truncated deposits (3/28) and (3/73). Cut 3/26 was a linear feature measuring 0.6m wide. The fill (3/27) was a compact yellow clay. The purpose of this feature remains unknown, it could represent a foundation for a now defunct feature some clay bonding.

Overlying wall foundation 3/87 was a homogenous deposit (3/88) a moderately compact brown silt clay, which contained pottery of a 19th century date and animal bone. This was truncated by cut 3/158 a sub-rectangular feature measuring 1.75m by 1.25m but the profile of the cut was unknown as it lay near the impact layer. The fill (3/86) was a moderately compact dark grey silt clay that contained pottery probably of a 19th century date. This deposit was covered by layer (3/73).

Deposit (3/75) overlay clay layer (3/90) and the remains of limestone floor 3/84. Layer (3/75) was a moderately compact mid brown silt clay, the latest pottery dated to the 19th century. The layer also contained a piece of clay pipe 2 iron nails, and animal bone. Cut 3/159 truncated deposit (3/75). Cut 3/159 is a linear with a slight curve measuring 3m by 1.2m with steep sides and a flat base, and which is orientated northwest to southeast. The fill is foundation 3/77 constructed of roughly squared and sub-rectangular limestone blocks. The wall runs at a different angle to the other walls and contains a slight curve. This wall is significantly wider than many in the area, and where it joins wall 3/78 it is noticeable at this level that that wall becomes wider. It is possible here that the east west running wall has some rebuilding from this point.

Butting up to the walls 3/78 and 3/79 to the south and east and overlying deposit (3/88) is deposit (3/73). This would appear to be the remains of a relic soil horizon.

Overlying deposit (3/73) is deposit (3/76) a moderately compact brown sand silt, which contained pottery dated to the 19th century. The deposit contained a piece of

clay pipe and animal bone (locate by (3/73) these are not on plan). Overlying deposit (3/76) was deposit (3/91) a moderately compact mid brown silt clay, which contained pottery dating to the mid-16th century and animal bone. The deposit also contained a piece of clay pipe and post-medieval window glass. Overlying deposit (3/91) was deposit (3/72) a moderately compact mid brown silt clay.

Area 3 (alley way)

Lying to the north of wall 3/103 and west of wall 3/105 was deposit (3/116). Deposit (3/116) was a moderately compact yellow grey sand silt, that overlay deposit (3/160) and its associated cuts and fills, which contained animal bone. Overlying deposit (3/116) was feature 3/100 a series of limestone paving slabs.

Deposit (3/09), overlay the pit fills (3/14), (3/16) and (3/18), was a compact yellow clay mortar, which was probably an extension of deposit (3/116). This covered the earlier pits but also butted up to the wall 3/04, it may be associated with a levelling process. Cut into the top part of this deposit were the cuts 3/05 and 3/07. Cut 3/05 was a linear measuring 0.5m wide and survived as a stretch 2m long and orientated north to south. This was the foundation trench for wall 3/06 created of roughly squared limestone blocks and bonded with yellow mortar. The wall butted onto that of the boundary wall 3/04. Cut 3/07 represented the remains of a foundation cut for a wall, linear in nature with steep sides and a flat base and measuring 0.6m across. The foundation wall 3/08 was constructed of roughly squared limestone blocks and bonded with a yellow mortar. The wall was orientated east to west.

Butting up to the walls 3/06 and 3/08 was deposit (3/02) a compact black grey silt clay with significant amounts of cinder and measuring a depth of 0.13m. The pottery would date this context to the later 19th century and the layer also contained glass of a post-medieval to modern date, an iron nail, iron object, a lead and iron object, and animal bone. This deposit was a continuation of deposit (2/02) (see below).

Area 3 (south side of wall 3/103)

Deposit (4008) was truncated by cut 4010. Cut 4010 was a sub-circular feature with a depth of 0.74m and a width of 1.56m. The profile of the cut had sharp concave sides and a concave base. The fill (4011) was a firm dark grey brown silt with moderate medium and large angular stones, which contained pottery of the 19th century and an iron nail (Fig.24 section 3.18).

In some locations deposit (4008) was sealed by layer (4009) a firm dark grey brown sand silt with a depth of 0.58m, which contained pottery of the 19th century.

Cut 4001, truncated deposit (4009), was rectangular feature orientated west to east measuring 1.7m with a depth of 0.91m. The sides were vertical and the base was flat. This was cut from high in the sequence. This was part of a cellar or sump. Feature 4002, set in cut 4001, was a limestone wall with random courses of stone, with a depth of 0.35m and a width of 0.25m. The structure was filled by deposit (4003) a moderately compact dark grey sand silt with a depth of 0.72m (Fig.24 section 3.17).

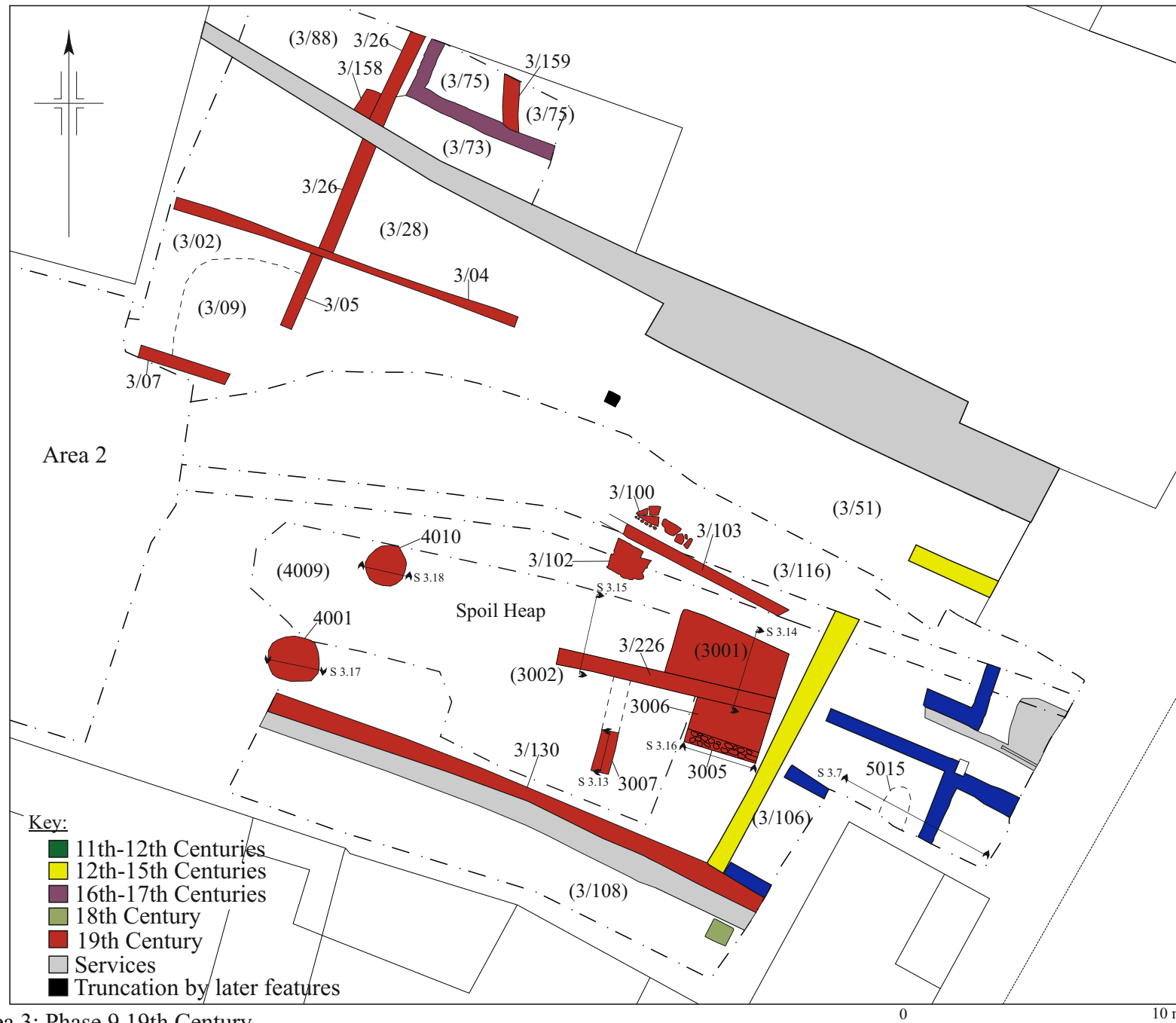


Figure 20. Area 3: Phase 9 19th Century

Deposit (3/107) was a moderately compact dark grey brown silt clay, that lay outside of the walls 3/111, and 3/112. The deposit was also called (3/129) and also probably (3002). The deposits contained Staffordshire manganese ware of the late 17th century, and also 19th century sherds along with animal bone. The layer (3/107) also contained a piece of post-medieval vessel glass. This is probably a soil horizon of that date into which the foundation cuts of the buildings behind the remaining standing part of the Prince of Wales public house. Deposit (3002) was a firm grey brown sandy silt with a depth of 0.58m, which contained pottery of the 19th century. This feature was truncated by cuts 3005 and 3007.

Cut (3005) was sub-rectangular with rounded corners, a length of 1.3m and a depth of 1.6m, with vertical sides and a flat base. This cut (3005) truncated deposit (3002). Feature (3006) was a dry limestone wall with roughly shaped stones with an average size of 400mm x 300mm x 90mm (Fig.24 section 3.16).

Cut 3007 was for a linear wall over 1.32m long and with a depth over 1.1m deep. The sides were vertical to steep and the base flat. The cut was orientated north to south. Feature (3008) was a limestone wall constructed of roughly squared blocks with an average measurement of 300mm x 250mm x 110mm (Fig.24 section 3.13).

Feature 3/226 appears to be a linear cut for a wall, with vertical sides and a flat base. The wall 3/225 is made of limestone blocks. Deposit (3001) was a hard white light grey sandy lime mortar with the inclusion of frequent medium and small angular stones, this is a floor layer butted up to wall 3/226, and overlay deposit 3002. The deposit was 0.1m deep and witnessed in section (Fig.24 section 3.14).

Feature 3/102 was a group of limestone paving slabs that also overlay deposit (3002).

Deposit (3/108) was a moderately compact black brown silt clay with cinder inclusions. This was a late deposit sealing the structures behind the surviving standing component of the Prince of Wales public house. The deposits (3/108) and (3/107) were garden soils between the most western structures and the buildings on the rear of the surviving part of the Prince of Wales public house. They contained 19th century material (see below).

Cut 3/130, truncated (3/107) and initially probably (3/108), was an irregular feature possibly an area of disturbance. The fill 1/31 was a compact blue grey clay. This area of disturbance runs parallel to a later service trench and it is possible that it represents an earlier service cut, or perhaps even a robbed out boundary wall.

Area 2

There were a number of discrete features cut into the top of deposit (2/03) that included scoops and postholes: 2/10, 2/12, 2/14, 2/16, 2/18, 2/58, 2/60, 2/69, 2/71, and 2/73, which must be of the 19th century (Fig. 15). Cut 2/10 was an oval feature measuring 0.6m x 0.46m x 0.03m. The sides were gently sloping and the base rounded. The profile of the cut may indicate that the feature was truncated. The fill (2/11) was a compact grey black silt clay with charcoal inclusions. Cut 2/12 was an oval shape measuring 0.55m x 0.39m x 0.04m deep. The sides were gently sloping and the base rounded, the feature may also have been truncated. The fill 2/13 was a compact grey black silt clay with ash, charcoal and cinder inclusions. The deposit contained a piece of clay pipe. Cut 2/14 was also of an oval shape measuring 1.2m x

1.1m and with a depth of 0.12m. The sides sloped gently and the base was rounded. The fill (2/15) was a compact grey and black silt clay. The pottery is indicative of this feature being of a 19th century date, and the fill contained a piece of clay pipe, post-medieval to modern glass and an iron object. These three features were scoops.

Cut 2/16 was circular with a 0.29m diameter and a depth of 0.09m. The sides were vertical and the base rounded, with the inclination being vertical also. The fill (2/17) was a moderately compact black grey silt clay. The pottery from the fill was Red Earthenware and the deposit probably late 17th century in date. The deposit also contained a piece of clay pipe. The cut 2/18 was oval measuring 0.33m x 0.3m x 0.12m deep. The sides were steep and the base rounded, the inclination of the axis was vertical. The fill (2/19) was a moderately compact black grey silt clay with ash and cinder inclusions. The pottery recovered from this deposit was of the 19th century. Cut 2/58 was a circular feature with a 0.33m diameter and a depth of 0.17m. The sides were steep and the base rounded and the inclination of the axis vertical. The fill (2/59) was a moderately compact black grey silt clay with cinder inclusions. Cut 2/60 was a circular cut with a diameter of 0.29m, with steep sides and a rounded base. The fill (2/61) was a moderately compact black grey sand with a cinder and ash matrix. Cut 2/69 was circular with a diameter of 0.31m and with vertical sides and a rounded base, and a vertical inclination of the axis. The fill (2/70) was a moderately compact black grey silt clay with ash and cinder inclusions. Cut 2/71 was circular with a 0.36m diameter and vertical sides and a rounded base, and a vertical inclination axis. The fill (2/72) was a moderately compact black grey silt clay with cinder inclusions. Cut 2/73 was a circular feature with a 0.33m diameter and vertical sides and a round base, with a vertical inclination of axis. The fill (2/74) was a moderately compact black grey silt clay with ash and cinder inclusions. These postholes look as though they were originally part of two rows that ran parallel or roughly parallel to the back of the burgage properties.

All of the postholes and scoops and some of the wall foundations were covered by layer (2/02) a compact grey black silt clay with ash inclusions. This was an extensive spread with a depth of 0.1m. The deposit contained sherds of mass-produced white earthenware of the 19th and 20th century and post-medieval bottle glass.

Area 4

Overlying deposit (4/03) were layers (4/04) and (4/20). Deposit (4/04) was a compact brown grey silt clay that contained pottery of the 19th century, post-medieval bottle glass, an iron nail and animal bone. Deposit (4/04) lay to the south of the gravel ridge (4/21). Deposit (4/20) was a compact brown grey silt clay, containing Red Earthenware sherds of the late 17th century, which lay to the north of the gravel ridge (4/21).

The earliest feature truncating the top of deposit (4/20) was cut 4/47. Linear cut 4/47 was 0.8m wide and over 5m long. The nature of the cut was not identified. The linear was orientated roughly east to west. The fill (4/48) was a compact dark grey silt clay with black streaks and residue charcoal and burnt deposits. This feature is older than the drainage cuts mentioned in the paragraph below and looks as though it is orientated in such a manner to be truncated by this linear. The feature tapers out at one end and it is possible that it is cut into an unrecognised horizon in deposit (4/20). Over the top of the east end of the linear feature there was a small deposit spread (4/46) and a further spread (4/49) alongside it. Deposit (4/46) was a compact yellow

orange silt clay with gravel and limestone aggregate inclusions, which measured 2.5m by 1.5m. Deposit (4/49) was a moderately compact light brown silt clay measuring about 2m by 1m (Fig. 16).

Truncating deposits (4/04) and (4/20) was a rather elaborate drain. A number of cuts were given to this feature due to the size and shape of the cut and the subsequent fills encountered although it is probably the case that they were all cut together probably as one act. The main drainage sump was cut 4/38 a square to slightly rectangular cut measuring approximately 1.6m by 2m. The depth of the cut was not ascertained. The internal structure was of limestone dry stonewalls of flattish stones 4/39 (Plate 16). The internal dimensions measured 1.8m by 1.44m, the depth to the base of the structure was 1.5m and to the top of the deposit in the structure 1m. There was a large timber beam, partially rotted, running east to west that supported a large, but broken, capping stone. This feature operated as a sump or well for the larger drainage system. On the north side of the sump there is a drainage run. The cut 4/36 was a linear orientated north to south being 1.6m wide and becoming deeper at the south end. The sides are vertical and the base was flat. Dry stonewalls of limestone 4/37 were constructed along the sides of the drain and between these walls was rubble. The run of the drain faded out towards the north. This construction contained Red Earthenware sherds of the 19th century. On the west side of the drain was a further linear cut 4/34 of a similar profile with vertical sides and a flat base, that measured 2m across and became deeper at the west end near the sump. The internal structure 4/35 was a similar construction to that in the other spur 4/36. There were walls constructed along the inside that were dry stonewalls of limestone, but which had occasional brick included. Internally the fill was of smaller pieces of limestone rubble.

The east to west orientated run continued in as cuts, which are given as 4/27, 4/30 and 4/32, given initially because of the different widths and apparent infill. In reality they seem to form the basis of a large drainage system of a large H-shape. These cuts are the outlying components of the central sump. The line of the cut continued, here labelled as cut 4/32. There was a further T-shaped section with measurements of 1-1.6m wide and an overall length on the T-bar of 2.7m. What distinguishes this part of the cut from the rest is again the nature of the fill encountered. The fill (4/33) was a friable orange yellow sand containing frequent fragments of aggregate limestone. The east to west extension of this cut appeared to peter out, and it was the northern extension that continued, narrowing and with different fills.

On the north side of the site the feature was a lot narrower, and this broadens out with the run across the centre of the site, before encountering the widest ditches on the south side of the site. The cut 4/27 forms part of a T-system with a run east to west of 18m in length and a north south run 11m in length. The width of the cut varies broadening to 0.6m along the east to west run and broadening again in the north to south run. The depth of this cut was not recorded. The fill (4/28) of this section of the drain was a friable yellow orange material with sand and limestone fragments. The sand is presumably a result of silting into a French drain. This feature contained Red Earthenware material of the mid-16th century. This loose material channelled material to an area that contained deposit (4/29) a compact light brown clay. The reason for the clay is not known, nor is its depth. If this is a drainage system the clay may simply have been restricting silting and blockage into the drain and may have been an upper capping. The deposit measured about 2m by 1m, with the depth of this clay unknown.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1876 shows the remains of a formally laid out garden in this part of the site and it is presumably the case that this drainage system is part of the laid out garden sequence.

There is a further cut 4/25 a long linear, apparently with a shallow profile, extending for over 20m, and varying in width from 1.4m to 0.5m. There is a short spur on the north side towards the eastern end and another broader one at the west end. The fill (4/26) was a friable yellow orange sand gravel. The feature may be to do with the laying out of the gardens.

Truncating through layer (4/20) are a number of short linears and scoops that could also be associated with the 19th century garden features. These include the short linear cut 4/50 which was 0.62m across and about 5m in length. There was probably a small extension to the east. The fill (4/51) was a compact light blue yellow clay.

Truncating deposit (4/21) was cut 4/54 was a circular feature with a diameter of 0.3m. The fill (4/55) was a moderately compact black silt clay with ash and charcoal inclusions. Cut 4/56 was a circular feature with a diameter of 0.1m. The fill (4/57) was a moderately compact black silt clay with ash and charcoal inclusions. The last of these small features was cut 4/58 being circular with a diameter of 0.1m. The fill (4/59) was a moderately compact black silt clay with ash and charcoal inclusions. These small and discrete features may be associated with features identified belonging to the garden.

4.11 Phase 10: 20th century

Area 3

There was much disturbance of the earlier contexts along the street frontage, but in some areas, as has been noted above, significant earlier deposits survive (Fig. 21).

There were a number of deposits that were probably disturbance in the upper layers across the site. The destruction deposits varied across the site, primarily due to the nature of the features that were being destroyed. These different areas received different numbers. Deposit (3/96) was a compact mixed grey brown clay silt, overlying deposit (3/97). Deposit (5000) a compact layer of mixed sand clay with a surface of rammed small cobbles. This represents part of the make-up layer associated with the garage or the destruction of the garage. These deposits were both located over the top of structure 2. Deposit (3/121), overlay wall 3/120, was a compact yellow clay mortar with frequent brick and tile inclusions. This deposit lay to the rear of the surviving structure which formed part of the Prince of Wales public house. These deposits were sealed by (3/95). The garden area was sealed by deposit (4006) was a firm dark grey sand silt with frequent small to medium angular stones.

On the north side of the street frontage there were a number of service trenches noted cutting down from these higher levels. The service cuts included 3/64, 3/41, and 3/61, while there was also the remains of a cut and concrete slab 3/67. Cut 3/41 was a modern service that had brick lining 3/42. Cut through deposits (3/91) and (3/72) and subsequently truncating lower deposits were cuts 3/81 and 3/69. The cut 3/81 was linear with vertical sides and a flat base. The fill (3/82) contained a moderately compact orange yellow sand around a burnt or blackened pipe. Cut 3/69 was also a service trench with steep sides and a flat base. The fill (3/70) was a loose to

moderately compact yellow sand and gravel. Cut 3/109 was a linear service trench with steep sides and a flat base. The fill (3/110) was a loose yellow white pea gravel. Cut 3/98 was a linear service trench with steep sides and a flat base. These service cuts have not been numbered on the plans.

The area was then sealed by deposit (3/01) a concrete and limestone crush, also referred to as deposit (3/68) and (3/95), a modern deposit of concrete and limestone crush.

Area 2

There were a number of modern features identified in Area 2, which included the run of a service trench 2/04, which was an extension of the soak-away and drainage run 4/07. This contained residual pottery of which the latest was of the 19th century and a corroded lump of iron. There is an area of disturbance truncation 2/50 measuring 2.5m by 1.25m. The fill (2/51) was a moderately compact black grey silt clay with stone inclusions. A layer of crush (2/01) covered these modern features, the finds included a piece of clay pipe (Fig. 21).

Area 5

Overlying the cobbled floor (5/02) was deposit (5/01). Deposit (5/01) was a moderately compact yellow brown sand make-up layer containing some rubble fragments. The feature is probably modern and associated with the development with the partial destruction of the building on Area 5, and the laying of a bedding for the floor of the car showroom.

Area 4

Overlying the above features in Area 4 was layer (4/02) a compact black brown silt clay. This deposit contained pottery of the 19th century. A number of features must have been cut through this deposit. There is a short linear cut 4/44 measuring 0.3m wide by 2m in length that is orientated east to west. The fill (4/45) was a compact light brown yellow clay. The orientation matches that of the soakaway and it is presumed here that this may be associated with the soakaway in some way. The soakaway or drainage system 4/07 (cut and fill) is a complicated feature in line with cut 4/44 and truncates this deposit. This has a large soakaway that must have measured 1.8m to 2m across at the east end and about 10m long. This main soakaway and a narrow 2m extension was full of rubble. The service drain at the east end contained a salt glazed pipe (Fig. 21).

Cut 4/42 may also be cut through this deposit, but it was not overly apparent in stripping, but had to be the case from material identified. The cut was circular with a diameter of 0.9m. The fill (4/43) was a friable grey ash and sand fill with a modern rubble fill with breeze and concrete blocks. The appearance could have indicated that this was a later infill of a well.

A further feature that was likely to be cut through deposit (4/02) was linear cut 4/52 that measured 2.4m by 0.6m wide. This linear was orientated north to south. The fill (4/53) was a light blue yellow clay. What survived of the deposits were extremely shallow and in some places were no longer extant at the impact layer.

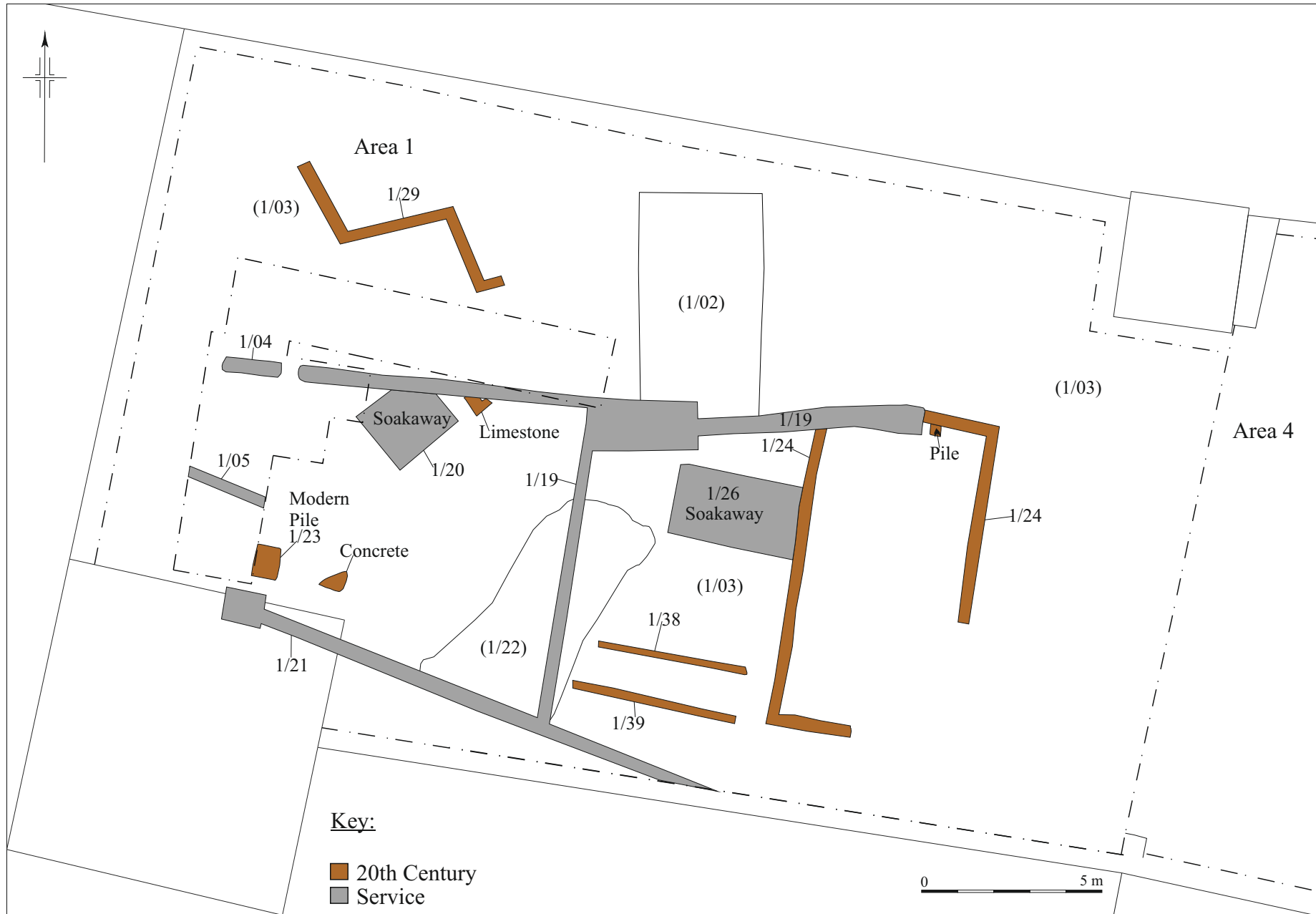


Figure 21. Area 1: Phase 10 20th Century

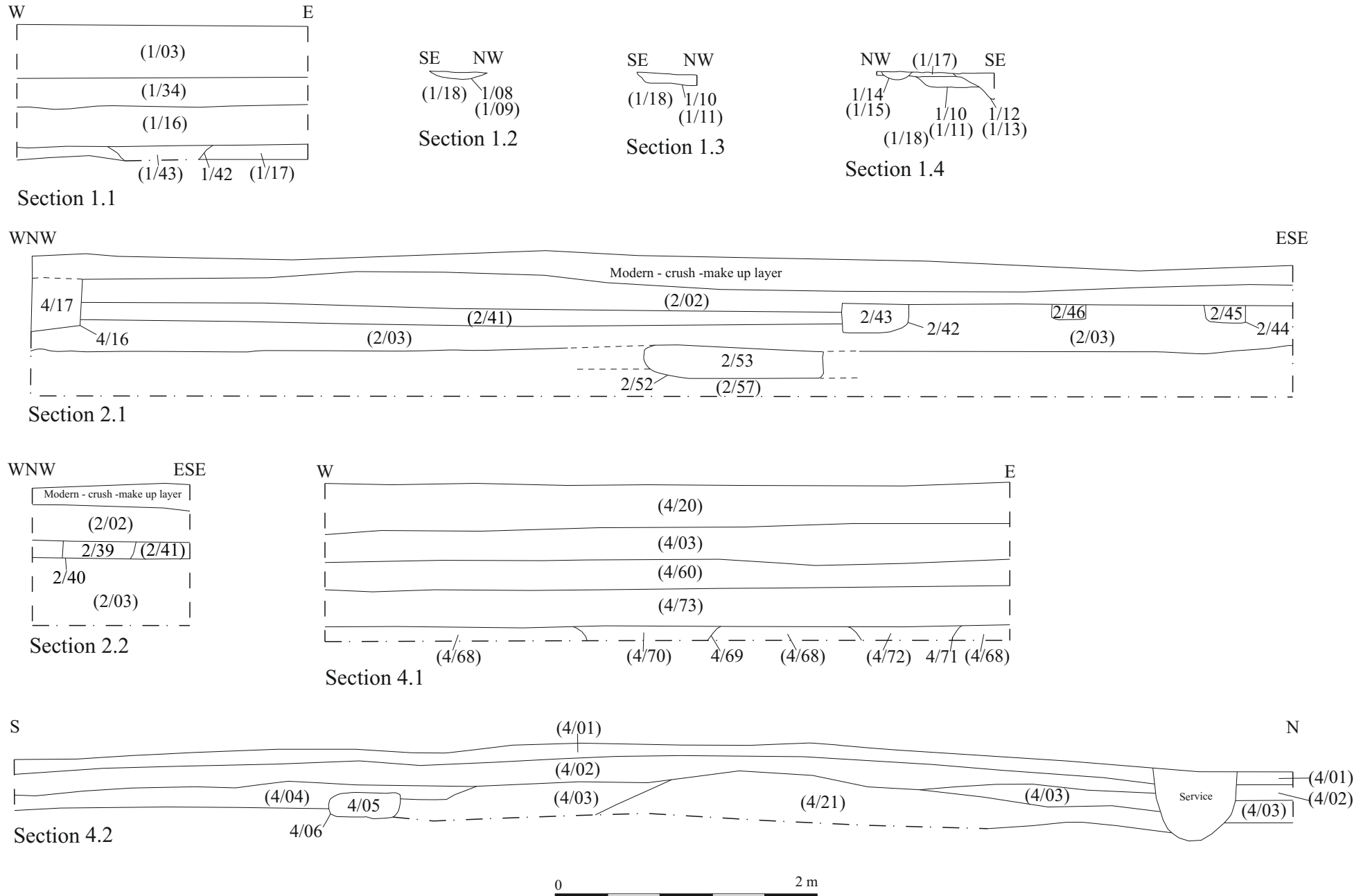


Figure 22. Area 1, 2 and 4 Sections

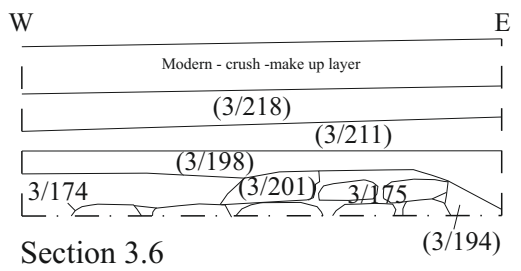
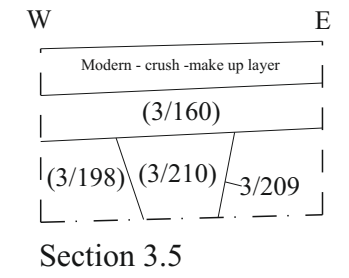
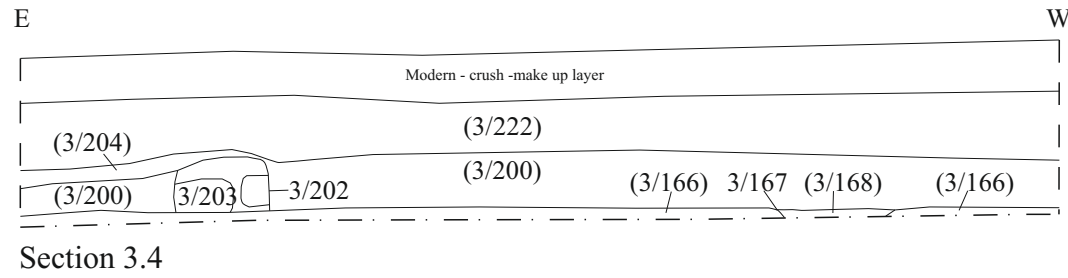
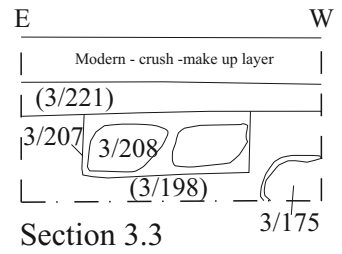
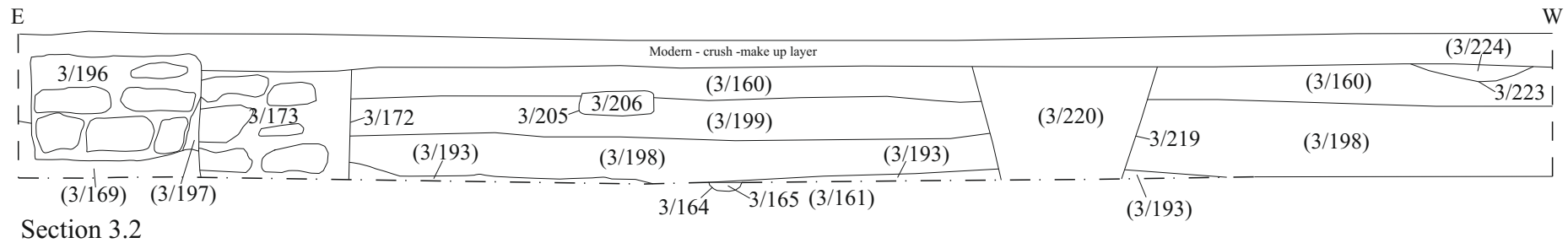
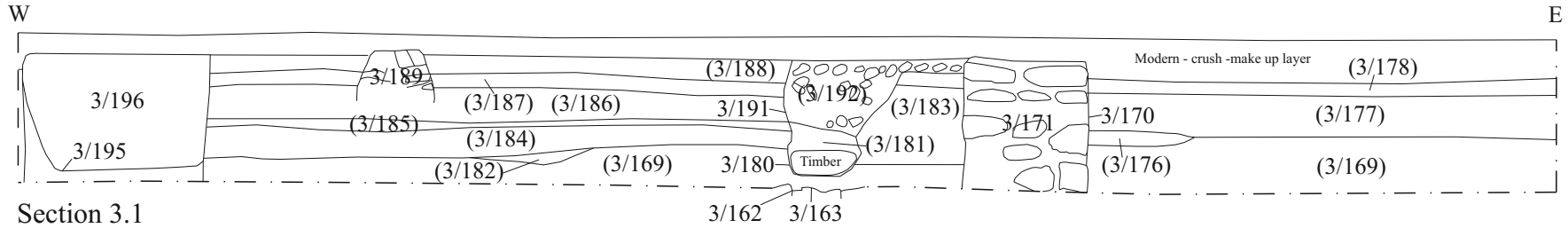
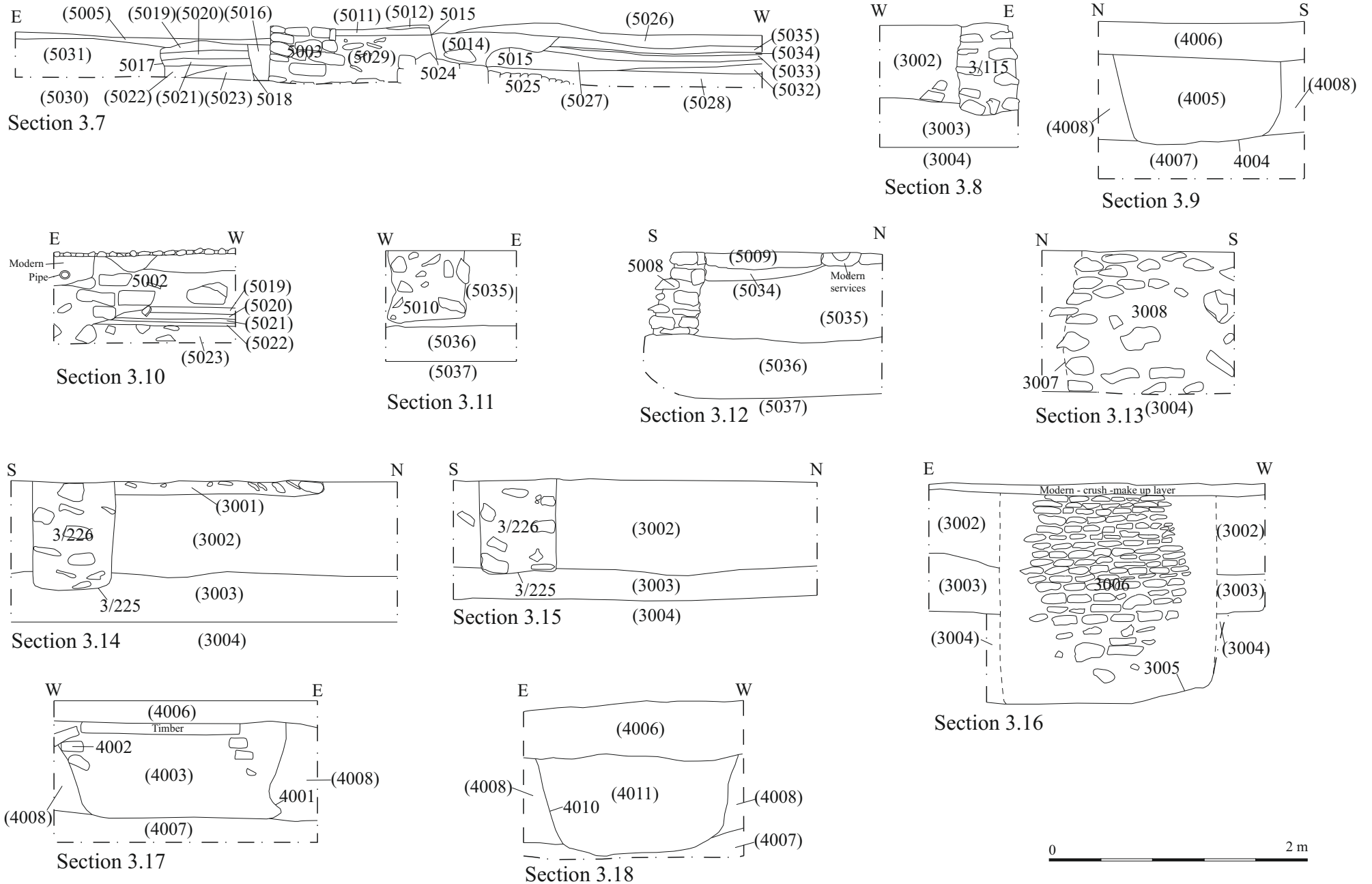


Figure 23. Area 3 Sections



0 2 m

Figure 24. Area 3 Sections

There was an area of disturbance cutting through deposit (4/02), which has been numbered 4/65 (cut and fill).

Area 1 (The Coal Yard)

The following features either cut or overlie context (1/03) and are considered 20th century in origin: 1/04, 1/05, 1/19, 1/20, 1/21, (1/22), 1/24, 1/26, 1/29, 1/38 and 1/39.

Cuts 1/38 and 1/39 were both narrow linear cuts about 2m in length. Both contained the remains of single width, red brick foundations built of stretcher courses. Wall 1/36 was set in cut 1/38 and wall 1/37 was set in cut 1/39. These may be associated with an earlier garden in the area.

Cut and fill 1/04 was a service cut containing a copper pipe. A piece of residual Brill/Boarstall ware, 1200-1600, was recovered from this context. Cut and fill 1/05 was a service run containing a salt glazed pipe. These two services truncated deposit 1/03 and also cut into the remains of the structure 1/07.

Deposit (1/22) was a moderately compact yellow orange sand with gravel and pebble inclusions. This deposit was truncated by service 1/19 and 1/21. Cut and fill 1/20 was an earlier soakaway that had been truncated by 1/19. Cut 1/24 was a series of four linears cut in a rectangular form measuring approximately 5m by 9m and with vertically cut sides. Masonry 1/25 contained yellow bricks set in a stretcher course and bonded by mortar. The bricks survived to two or three courses high. There is a pile 1/23 probably associated with this structure and thus a 20th century date is more likely. This cut had also been destroyed partially by service 1/19. Cut and fill 1/26 was for a soakaway that looked as if it respected the wall 1/25. Deposit (1/02) was a layer of tarmac that was cut by service 1/19.

Cut and fill 1/19 was for a modern soakaway measuring 3.2m by 1.7m and an associated service. This feature had not destroyed all of the features located in Area 1. Cut and fill 1/21 was also for a service, it also truncated deposit (1/22) and was possibly linked to that of 1/19.

5 FINDS

5.1 Pottery (By Paul Blinkhorn)

Analytical Methodology

The pottery was initially bulk-sorted and recorded on a computer using DBase IV software. The material from each context was recorded by number and weight of sherds per fabric type, with featureless body sherds of the same fabric counted, weighed and recorded as one database entry. Feature sherds such as rims, bases and lugs were individually recorded, with individual codes used for the various types. Decorated sherds were similarly treated.

The terminology used is that defined by the Medieval Pottery Research Group's Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms (MPRG 1998) and to the minimum standards laid out in the Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of post-Roman Ceramics (MPRG 2001). All the statistical analyses were carried out using a DBase package written by the author, which interrogated the original or subsidiary databases, with some of the final calculations made with an

electronic calculator. Any statistical analyses were carried out to the minimum standards suggested by Orton (1998-9, 135-7).

Quantification

The pottery assemblage comprised 375 sherds with a total weight of 14,961g. It was mostly post-medieval, although small quantities of stratified medieval pottery were also present. 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. 16 sherds, 225g.
 F202: OXBF: **North-East Wiltshire ware**, AD1050 – 1400. 6 sherds, 86g.
 F300: OXY: **Medieval Oxford ware**, AD1075 – 1350. 3 sherds, 33g.
 F352: OXAM: **Brill/Boarstall ware**, AD1200 – 1600. 18 sherds, 210g.
 F355: OXBB: **Minety-type ware**. Early 13th – 16th century. 2 sherds, 24g.
 F404: OXCL: **Cistercian ware**, 1475-1700. 1 sherd, 4g.
 F410: OXCE: **Tin-glazed Earthenware**, 1613 – 1800. 5 sherds, 35g.
 F412: OXRESWL: **Polychrome Slipware**, 17thC. 3 sherds, 66g
 F413: OXST: **Westerwald stoneware**. c. 1590-1800. 1 sherd, 40g.
 F414: OXBEW: **Staffordshire manganese wares**. c. 1700-1800. 12 sherds, 105g.
 F416: OXBESWL: **Staffordshire slip-trailed earthenware**, 1650 – 1750. 4 sherds, 32g.
 F425: OXDR: **Red Earthenwares**, 1550+. 202 sherds, 12823g.
 F430: OXFI: **Chinese Porcelain**, c. 1650+. 3 sherds, 24g.
 F433: OXFM: **Staffordshire White-glazed English Stoneware**, 1720 – 80. 2 sherds, 7g.
 F438: OXEST: **London stoneware**. c. 1680 +. 3 sherds, 42g.
 F451: OXFH: **Border wares**, 1550 - 1700. 5 sherds, 33g.
 F1000: WHEW: **Mass-produced white earthenwares**, 19th - 20th C. 89 sherds, 1172g.

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.

Chronology and Pottery Occurrence

Each stratified, context-specific pottery assemblage has been given a ceramic phase ('CP') date based on the range of ware and vessel types present, and adjusted according to the stratigraphic matrix. The chronology, defining wares and the amount of pottery per phase is shown in Table P1.

The bulk of the pottery dates to the post-medieval period, but there is also a small group of medieval material which indicates, from the raw data, that there was activity at the site from the mid/late 11th – 13th/14th centuries. Most of the stratified pottery of this date comes from Area 3, where there is a short stratigraphic sequence. The earliest deposits, contexts (5022), (5023), and (5028) produced only Cotswolds-type wares (fabric OXAC). The exact date of this pottery type in this area of the county is slightly uncertain; Mellor (1994, 52) noted that it was present at Witney by the early 12th century, and also that it was also arriving in quantity in Oxford before the construction of the castle c AD1070. The fact that, at this site, stratigraphically, it pre-dates Oxford ware (fabric OXY) suggests that it could be as early as the mid-late 11th century, as OXY post-dates the construction of Oxford Castle (Mellor 1994, 71). However, at Witney Bishop's Palace, very little OXY was present, with the earliest finds dating to the mid-late 12th century, and it was not noted in quantity until the late 12th century (Mellor 1994, 68). The few sherds of OXBF present are likely to be of a similar date to the OXAC (Mellor 1994, 54). It seems likely therefore that the earliest

medieval activity at this site dates to sometime between the mid/late 11th and early/mid-12th century. Brill/Boarstall Ware (fabric OXAM), is a common find at medieval sites of the 13th century and later in this area of the county, so its absence from the sequence would appear to confirm the veracity of the dating, as it is present in later features. The fact that the only stratified sherd of Minety-type ware from the site, from context (4005), came from a feature which was stratigraphically later than one (context 4004) which contained just a single sherd of OXAC and no other pottery further suggests that the earliest deposits at the site pre-date the early/mid-12th century, the date of the earliest groups of Minety ware from Witney Bishop's Palace (associated with a coin of AD1135-44 (Mellor 1994, 100)).

Table P1: Ceramic Phase Chronology, Occurrence and Defining Wares

CP	Date	Defining Ware	No	Wt (g)
1	M/L 11 th – E 13 th C	OXAC, OXBF, OXY	20	281
1a	E12 th – E 13 th C	OXBB	1	6
2	E 13 th – 14 th C	OXAM	13	169
3	15 th – M 16 th C	OXAM	1	14
4	M 16 th – 17 th C	OXDR, OXFH	110	9092
5	17 th – M 17 th C	OXCE, OXREWSL, OXST	15	903
6	M – L 17 th C	OXBEWSL, OXFI	4	37
7	L 17 th – L 18 th C	OXBEW, OXEST	62	1302
8	19 th C +	WHEW	126	2635
U/S	Unstratified		23	522
		Total	375	14961

There seems little doubt that there was an hiatus in activity at the site in terms of pottery deposition, during CP3. It seems unlikely that this was due to strata of this date being removed by later activity, as there was none of the usually commonly-found later OXAM fabrics in residual contexts, despite earlier medieval wares occurring in post-medieval deposits (see Table P2). Similarly, other contemporary wares which often occur on sites in the region, such as Surrey 'Tudor Green' Wares, were absent, and Cistercian Ware was represented by just a single sherd.

The post-medieval material is typical of sites in the region, with Red Earthenware particularly dominant. This is a very long-lived pottery type, and it is entirely possible that some, if not most of the groups given a CP4 date could be later, especially as other 17th – 18th century types appear a little under-represented. However, given that the 18th-century public house at the site was described as a 'primitive structure' (see passage 1.3, above), a utilitarian pottery assemblage, with fine tablewares somewhat lacking, is perhaps to be expected. For example, the CP7 assemblage, which broadly covers the late 17th – late 18th century, is dominated by OXDR, with the other, minor pottery types, eg. OXBEW, OXEST, being largely from drinking vessels, although small amounts of table- and display wares (eg. OXREWSL, OXBEWSL, OXCE) are also present (see Table P2).

Table P2: Pottery occurrence per ceramic phase by fabric type, expressed as a percentage of the total wt per phase, major fabrics only

Fabric	CP1	CP2	CP3	CP4	CP5	CP6	CP7	CP8
OXAC	58.4%	21.3%	0	>0.1%	0	0	0	0.8%
OXBF	30.6%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OXY	11.0%	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
OXAM	-	78.7%	100%	0.1%	0	0	2.2%	0.9%
OXCL	-	-	0	>0.1%	0	0	0	0

OXDR	-	-	-	99.5%	91.8%	45.9%	85.0%	56.9%
OXFH	-	-	-	0.1%	0	0	0.8%	0.4%
OXCE	-	-	-	-	0.7%	0	0.5%	0.9%
OXRESWL	-	-	-	-	3.1%	0	2.2%	0.4%
OXST	-	-	-	-	4.4%	0	0	0
OXBESWL	-	-	-	-	-	54.1%	1.1%	0
OXFI	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0.3%
OXBEW	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.3%	0.4%
OXEST	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.0%	1.1%
WHEW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37.7%
Total	281	169	14	9092	903	37	1302	2635

Shaded cells = residual material

The Assemblages

Medieval

The medieval assemblage was small, and indicates that the main period of activity at the site during this period was from the mid/late 11th to early 12th – 14th centuries. The ware types present are all well known in the region. The range of vessel types comprised jars in OXBF, OXBF and OXY, along with highly decorated glazed jugs in OXAM and OXBB. This is again a typical pattern. Only one rimsherd was present, from in OXAC jar. Residuality is, in the main very low, although the mean sherd size for this period is reasonable, and indicates that the stratified material is likely to be securely deposited.

Post-medieval

The overwhelming majority of the post-medieval assemblage comprised utilitarian glazed Red Earthenwares, usually in the form of large bowls, although jars and a single cauldron foot were also noted. Small quantities of finer wares were present, but not in quantities that would suggest that the occupants of the site were of any great status, and perhaps even that they were a little poorer than most. The tin-glazed wares, for example, were largely plain, other than a single small sherd of a finely-painted polychrome dish or plate, and other tablewares such as Staffordshire Slip-trailed Ware and English Stonewares appear rather under-represented.

Residuality is low, other than in the 19th century phase, where there appears to have been considerable disturbance of earlier deposits, including early medieval strata. It is likely that at least some of the OXDR, the major ware from the phase, is contemporary, but it is clear from the range of residual pottery that features of mid-16th – 18th century date were disturbed during this phase, thus at least some of the OXDR is residual. It is a pottery type which shows very little change from the early post-medieval to early modern periods, and thus it is not, in the main, possible to differentiate between early and late vessels.

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

Area	Cntxt	F200		F202		F300		F352		F355		F404		F410		F412		F413		F414		F416		F425		F430		F433		F438		F451		F1000		DATE		
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt			
0	0																							13	327	2	16							8	179	U/S		
1	4							1	25																										19thC			
2	2																																		2	107	19thC	
2	3							4	28					1	6	1	28				5	32	1	11	34	992						1	5			1	5	L17thC
2	4																							1	23										2	32	19thC	
2	6																				1	4															L17thC	
2	15													1	8						2	10			1	6									12	235	19thC	
2	17																							1	23												L17thC	
2	19																																	4	11	19thC		
2	20	1	5					1	3																												13thC	
2	29																							2	55													M16thC
3	2																							3	52			1	3					5	46	19thC		
3	4																						1	11													19thC	
3	11	1	3																																		M16thC	
3	12																							13	3535													M16thC
3	14																							8	171												M16thC	
3	16																																1	5			19thC	
3	19																							12	753												M16thC	
3	21									1	18													4	58												M16thC	
3	22																				1	2			1	25											L17thC	
3	29																							31	2467												M16thC	
3	31																							12	1229												M16thC	
3	33							1	14																												15thC	
3	35							1	10															1	34												M16thC	
3	36	1	31					1	10																												13thC	
3	47	1	16	4	68																																M11thC	
3	52																							3	162													M16thC

Area	Cntxt	F200		F202		F300		F352		F355		F404		F410		F412		F413		F414		F416		F425		F430		F433		F438		F451		F1000		DATE	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt				
3	59							9	120																											13thC	
3	74													1	6	1	28							1	11											17thC	
3	75															1	10							3	187			1	4					1	2	19thC	
3	76													1	12																	1	10			19thC	
3	86																							1	15											19thC	
3	88																							4	202									1	22	19thC	
3	91											1	4																			1	12			M16thC	
3	106													1	3									3	212	1	8							34	261	19thC	
3	107																							5	59									4	25	19thC	
3	129																			2	47															L17thC	
3	160																					1	15													M17thC	
3	3002																																	2	31	19thC	
3	4004	1	5																																	M11thC	
3	4005									1	6																									E12thC	
3	4008	1	25																																	M11thC	
3	4009																																		1	59	19thC
3	4011																																	1	37	19thC	
3	5001	1	2	2	18	1	5																													L11thC	
3	5003																					1	3													M17thC	
3	5004																							1	17											M17thC	
3	5010					1	2																													M17thC	
3	5016	1	22																																	19thC	
3	5022	1	14																																	M11thC	
3	5023	1	18																																	M11thC	
3	5026																								2	36										M16thC	
3	5027					1	26																													L11thC	
3	5028	1	9																																	M11thC	
3	5029	4	66																																	L11thC	
3	5031	1	9																																	M11thC	

Area	Cntxt	F200		F202		F300		F352		F355		F404		F410		F412		F413		F414		F416		F425		F430		F433		F438		F451		F1000		DATE
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt			
4	2																							1	5									2	15	19thC
4	3																1	40							11	818										17thC
4	4																							8	375					1	29			9	105	19thC
4	20																							2	27											L17thC
4	21																							7	131											M16thC
4	27																							10	414											M16thC
4	37																							1	351											19thC
4	60																		1	10	1	3	1	40					2	13	2	6			L17thC	
	Total	16	225	6	86	3	33	18	210	2	24	1	4	5	35	3	66	1	40	12	105	4	32	202	12823	3	24	2	7	3	42	5	33	89	1172	

5.2 Brick and Tile (by Gwyl Williams)

Introduction

The tile fragments were examined by naked eye and with occasional $\times 10$ magnification. A total of 17 contexts yielded 31 pieces of ceramic building material weighing 2504g, as well as a further unstratified context which also yielded ceramic building material. Nine fragments of tile weighing 175g were unstratified. A fragment of a base of a large salt-glazed red ware storage vessel (OX), weighing 109g, was recovered from (3/58).

Two fragments of limestone were recovered during the investigation. The first came from (5003), weighing 52g; the second from (3/02), weighing 32g.

A single fragment of modern cement weighing 10 g was recovered from (3/52).

The tile (Table CBM1) was largely undiagnostic as too few fragments were of any significant size. Although some fragments had reduced cores, and a single fragment from (2/03) was in a corky fabric, the rest were in pale orange red to deep red fabrics, although whether these changes were relevant or not was not possible to say given the fragment size. The larger fragments were quite hard-fired, suggesting that they were later in date, rather than earlier. Although most fragments were cleanly broken, a few pieces ie (3/75) and (2/03) were abraded.

Description

Context	Qty	Wt (g)
1/03	3	32
2/03	6	327
2/11	1	17
3/44	1	15
3/75	2	113
4/20	1	38
4/37	1	161
4/04	2	78
4/21	1	36
1 Total	18	817

Table CBM1. Tile

Context	Qty	Wt (g)
2/03	1	85
2/29	1	11
3/19	2	130
3/21	2	77
3/35	1	144
3/75	2	84
4/21	1	65
4/35	3	1091
2 Total	13	1687

Table CBM2. Brick

The brick (Table CBM2) was similarly undiagnostic. Only the fragment of unfrosted brick from (4/35) retained any dimensions (110mm \times 52mm), but was clearly a fragment of post-18th century brick.

Conclusion

As the ceramic building material from High Street, Witney was a very fragmented assemblage it is not possible to comment in any depth on it.

The date range is very possibly late medieval, although early post-medieval seems more likely, through to mid-18th or early 19th century. The assemblage is not diagnostic, except insofar as it might indicate that contexts with earlier pottery are in fact post-medieval. It is not recommended that retention occur of any of the assemblage.

5.3 Clay Pipe (by Hayley McParland)

A total of 31 fragments of clay pipe with a combined weight of 150g, were recovered from a range of contexts, the majority of which were pipe stems. In addition, five bowl fragments were recovered, two of which bear the makers mark 'E C' either side of the foot. This is potentially the mark of a local maker, with similar examples noted from excavations at Tom Quad Christ Church and Abingdon Old Gaol (JMHS 2011). In addition, a single small fragment of bowl, stem and spur was recovered. The fragment is heavily vitrified and discoloured.

Context	Qty	Weight (g)	Stem Dimensions (mm)	Comments
1/03	1	15	N/A	Bowl fragment, some abraded evidence of possible rilling to rim. Length: 45mm, Diameter: 17mm.
2/01	2	10	Length: 45-62, Diameter: 7	A stem and partial bowl, including the spur and bowl base but missing the body and rim. A stem fragment, likely from the same pipe is also noted.
2/03	8	42	Length: 20-75, Diameter: 6-9	Seven stem fragments, and a stem and partial bowl, marked 'E C' either side of the foot.
2/13	1	2	N/A	Small fragment of bowl and stem with spur. Re-fired and heavily vitrified.
2/15	2	5	Length: 33, Diameter: 7.	Small stem fragment and undiagnostic bowl body fragment.
2/17	1	5	Length: 20, Diameter: 8	Stem fragment.
3/21	1	4	Length: 36, Diameter: 6	Stem fragment.
3/47	1	3	Length: 25, Diameter: 10	Stem fragment. Probably residual.
3/74	2	8	Length: 30-35, Diameter: 9	Stem fragments.
3/75	2	12	Length: 55-65, Diameter: 7	Two stem fragments.
3/76	3	16	Length: 50, Diameter: 9	Stem fragment and two bowl fragments, one with a markers mark either side of the foot (E C).
3/91	1	2	Length: 28, Diameter: 5.	Stem fragment.
4/03	1	7	Length: 109, Diameter: 6	Stem fragment.
5004	1	4	Length: 23, Diameter: 7	Stem fragment.
5009	2	7	Length: 43-67, Diameter: 7-9	Stem fragments.
5014	1	5	Length: 40, Diameter: 9	Stem fragment.
5026	2	5	Length: 23-32, Diameter: 7	Stem fragments.

5.4 Oyster Shell (by Hayley McParland)

Two partial oyster shells weighing 10g in total, were recovered from Trench 3, both are right valves, the left valves were not present and may have been deposited elsewhere. The shells are fragmentary and are heavily abraded and unmeasurable. The Oyster shells have not been retained.

Context	Qty	Weight (g)	Comments
3/04	1	5	Oyster shell fragment, incomplete
3/11	1	5	Oyster shell fragment, incomplete
5/11	8	172	Sample: 4 left, 4 right

5.5 Metal Objects (by Hayley McParland)

A total of 24 metal objects with a combined weight of 1251g were recovered from a range of contexts. The majority of the objects are heavily corroded Iron objects, the bulk of which are Iron nails and fittings, although two Copper alloy objects were also recovered, including a possible Iron one ounce weight or token featuring score marks at 45° angles on the reverse and a Copper alloy button. Metal objects from unstratified deposits have not been retained.

Context	Qty	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Comments
U/S	1	12	38	20	10	Heavily corroded Iron nail.
U/S	2	97	70-90	15-20	15-20	Two heavily corroded Iron objects, possibly large nails or pins.
U/S	1	552	300	17-45	25	Iron object, featuring a bowed, squared shaft with two flat ovular plates at each end. Possibly an architectural fitting such as a door handle.
U/S	1	56	125	3-20	5	Heavily corroded rectangular Iron nail, with complete head and point. Possibly architectural.
2/03	1	58	80	25-35	10	Unidentified 'lump' of heavily corroded Iron.
2/04	1	48	50	35	20	Unidentified 'lump' of heavily corroded Iron.
2/15	1	112	230	13-20	8	Iron object, featuring a flattened portion with a central hole at one end, a flattened shaft and a bend terminating in a blunt point. The object may be a bar or fitting of some description or a hook.
2/23	1	27	37	37	4	Copper alloy weight/token, weighing exactly one ounce. Obverse side is plain but features a raised rim 3mm thick. The reverse is flat, though it features several linear scores across the diameter of the object, at approximately 45° angles.
3/02	1	51	105	17	10	Heavily corroded Iron nail with square shank and head, the point is not visible due to corrosion product.
3/02	1	5	40	12	12	Heavily corroded Iron object, with centrally positioned 'wire' projecting from a break at the head of the object. A possible Iron nail with only part of the shank and point preserved.
3/02	1	71	42	22	22	Heavily corroded, compact and heavy object, possibly a lead and Iron composite object featuring a horizontal ribbed pattern, and a bar running from head to base.
3/11	1	25	44	15	17	Heavily corroded Iron nail, with intact head.
3/12	3	19	28-50	10-30	4	Three flat fragments of an Iron object

						with a patch of copper corrosion or staining noted on one fragment.
3/52	1	10	50	12	12	Heavily corroded Iron object, possibly an Iron nail missing the head and point.
3/75	1	78	150	10	10	Iron nail or pin, with flat squared head and shaft, and point.
3/75	1	5	67	7	5	Iron nail with square shank and head, point intact, though the nail is misshapen.
4/04	1	11	75	8	5	Iron nail with flat rectangular head, rectangular shaft and point.
4011	1	8	53	9	7	Heavily corroded Iron nail featuring square shank and rounded head.
5004	1	3	16	16	4	Post-medieval Copper alloy button.
5026	2	3	53-55	9-12	9-12	Two heavily corroded probable Iron nails.

5.6 Slag (by Hayley McParland)

Two fragments of slag weighing a total of 37g were recovered from an unstratified deposit, the two fragments are part of the same object, featuring heavily vitrified obverse and reverse surfaces. The type of slag is unidentified, though it has been suggested that this type of slag is casting slag.

5.7 Animal Bone (by Hayley McParland)

A total of 145 fragments of animal bone were retrieved with a combined weight of 3727g, representing *Bos* sp., *Ovis/Caprid* sp., *Sus* sp., *Equus* sp. and *Cervus* sp. Small rodent bone was also noted, as well as fragments of Aves bone.

Context	Qty	Weight (g)	Comments
U/S	1	10	Possible <i>Cervus</i> sp. humerus fragment.
2/03	19	320	13 unidentified bone fragments, three unidentified rib fragments, possibly <i>Bos</i> sp., one <i>Ovis/Caprid</i> sp. tibia fragment, one <i>Ovis/Caprid</i> sp. tooth, one <i>Bos</i> sp. calcaneus and one unidentified metapodial.
2/06	1	21	Unidentified animal bone fragment.
2/24	1	47	Unidentified juvenile scapula, possibly <i>Bos</i> sp.
3/02	17	26	Two unidentified animal bone fragments and 15 unidentified fragments of rodent bone, two of which may be fragments of rodent skull, possibly Rabbit or Rat bone.
3/11	5	100	Three unidentified animal bones, one unidentified rib fragment and one possible <i>Bos</i> sp. radius.
3/14	2	43	Two unidentified rib fragments.
3/19	4	183	One <i>Bos</i> sp. radius and radial fragment, a single unidentified rib fragment and one unidentified tooth.
3/21	3	8	Three unidentified animal rib fragments.
3/22	7	119	Five unidentified fragments of animal bone and two fragments of a single <i>Bos</i> sp. radius.
3/29	4	137	Five unidentified fragments of animal bone and one probable <i>Ovis/Caprid</i> sp. tibia.
3/31	1	68	<i>Equus</i> sp. phalanx secunda.
3/36	3	57	Three unidentified animal bone fragments.
3/44	7	190	Four unidentified fragments of animal bone, one unidentified Aves bone and a <i>Bos</i> sp. humerus, incomplete and composed of two fragments.
3/52	7	526	One <i>Bos</i> sp. tibia, four unidentified rib fragments, one unidentified

			possible <i>Bos</i> sp. long bone fragment and one unidentified long bone fragment.
3/74	12	79	Nine unidentifiable fragments of animal bone, two rib fragments (possible <i>Bos</i> sp.) and a possible <i>Bos</i> sp. astragalus.
3/75	35	997	29 unidentified fragments of animal bone, one unidentified tooth, one <i>Bos</i> sp. radius, a probable partial <i>Bos</i> sp. jaw, a possible <i>Bos</i> sp. calcaneus and three <i>Sus</i> sp. teeth are noted - 1 incisor and 2 canine.
3/76	4	19	Three unidentified fragments of animal bone, one fragment of <i>Ovis/Caprid</i> sp. metatarsus.
3/88	2	84	Two unidentified fragments of animal bone, one is a possible fragment of <i>Bos</i> sp. femur.
3/91	5	307	One <i>Bos</i> sp. tibia, one <i>Ovis/Caprid</i> sp. scapula fragment, one <i>Ovis/Caprid</i> sp. metapodial and three unidentified fragments of animal bone.
3/106	2	20	One <i>Bos</i> sp. phalange and a possible <i>Ovis/Caprid</i> sp. metapodial fragment.
3/107	1	10	Unidentified fragment of animal bone.
3/116	1	5	Single unidentified vertebral fragment.
4/03	2	174	Possible <i>Cervus</i> sp. femur and tibia.
4/04	1	32	Unidentified fragment of animal bone.
4/11	1	137	Unidentified large animal bone fragment.
5001	1	3	Three unidentified fragments of animal bone.
5026	1	5	Unidentified animal rib fragment.

5.8 Glass (by Hayley McParland)

A total of 81 glass fragments were recovered with a combined weight of 4146g. The majority of the glass assemblage is post-medieval and includes both window glass, including blown window glass, most likely Crown glass, and vessel glass, including glasses and bottle glass.

Context	Qty	Weight (g)	Comments
U/S	2	<1	Two small fragments of window glass.
U/S	1	9	Glass marble, likely a stopper from a glass bottle. Post-1872.
U/S	1	11	Single fragment of glass, most likely from the body of a wine bottle.
2/02	1	9	Fragment of blue bottle glass, featuring moulded letters, of which only 'A T E and E are visible. Post-medieval in date.
2/03	2	423	Two wine bottle fragments, featuring a base and body sherd, and a single fragment of possible window glass, post-medieval in date.
2/15	7	121	Base of a clear glass bottle, with moulding 'EYNSHAM OXON' visible, and six fragments of a small, square, clear glass bottle, with incomplete moulded lettering 'HAM's....ERINE &UMBER'. Post-medieval-Modern in date.
3/02	21	336	Two glass bottle fragments, one of which is likely to be a fragment of wine bottle and nineteen fragments of a green glass bottle, with base, body fragments and neck with rim. Partial moulded lettering visible 'DALE & SHA....WHITNEY'. Post-medieval-Modern in date.
3/12	20	102	Twelve fragments of clear and coloured glass, most likely bottle glass, 4 fragments of clear window glass, 1 fragment of clear vessel glass, 3 fragments of vessel glass, 2 fragments of a wine bottle base, with two associated bottle necks and rims, also from a probable wine bottle. Post-medieval.
3/14	13	2672	Post-medieval glass, stem, partial base and partial bowl of a clear wine glass, 6 partial wine bottle bases, neck and rim of a small clear glass bottle, two bottle neck fragments with rims and a large

			fragment mouth blown green convex 'Crown' glass featuring the central pontil or punt mark, post-medieval in date, post 1678.
3/91	1	8	Fragment of post-medieval window glass.
3/106	9	348	Nine fragments of wine bottle, consisting of a base fragment and several smaller body sherds. Post-medieval in date.
3/107	1	2	Probable vessel glass. Post-medieval in date.
4/03	1	19	Post-medieval bottle glass body fragment.
4/04	1	85	Single fragment of bottle glass, likely from a wine bottle base. Post-medieval in date.

5.9 Charred Plant Remains (by Hayley McParland)

Introduction

One bulk environmental sample of 5.5 litres was taken from a deposit underlying a possible hearth structure of medieval date (3/60). The sample was processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains, charcoal and material representative of metalworking.

Methodology

The sample was processed by Elizabeth Cross using standard methodology. Samples were processed indoors and were bucket floated into mesh with an aperture of 0.5mm, the residue was wet sieved following flotation into a 0.5mm mesh. Following air-drying the residue was sorted, weighed and discarded, though it was not fractionated prior to sorting. Little environmental evidence remained in the residue and no artefacts were present. The floated material was fractionated to 5mm, 2mm and 0.5mm, then sorted and assessed using a Vickers Stereo Zoom Microscope.

Potential and Further Work

No diagnostic charred plant material was present in sample <001>, though a quantity of modern roots was noted. Further assessment or analysis of the material is not required and the sample has not been retained.

Table CPR1: Sample Information

Phase	Sample No.	Context no.	Sample Vol. (litres)	Flot Vol. (ml)	Residue weight (g)	Residue discard weight (g)	Comments
Medieval	<001>	3/60	5.5	10	710	710	Modern roots present. No diagnostic charred plant material present.

6 DISCUSSION

The archaeology at 63-69 High Street produced a number of unexpected surprises, not least of all in the extent of surviving remains present. The substantive nature of the archaeological features was at odds with the process requested for the recording, a watching brief.

In Areas 1 and 4 it was apparent that a series of ditches and gullies survived of what would appear to be stratigraphically of an early date. In the sondage that was opened up in Area 1 it was apparent that there were two phases and that these were recorded as Phase 1a and Phase 1b (Fig. 4). No datable material was recovered from the ditches

that were excavated; but typologically they would appear to be part of a ditched agricultural field system that one would normally associate with the Bronze Age, Iron Age or Roman period. The depth of the features recorded was not great and they may have had significant truncation from later medieval ploughing, in other parts of the site these features may have been completely ploughed out. Evidence of Bronze Age and Iron Age activity has previously been noted in Witney along the south side of the river Windrush and features of this date have been suspected (Foster *et al.* 1975, 179).

Phases 1a and 1b consisted of rather ephemeral features, as did Phase 2. The indications of activity associated with Phase 2 contained the remains of two ephemeral wall lines and a hearth pit. These deposits were low down in the stratigraphy and it is for this reason that an 11th century or pre-11th century date is suspected for these features, again no significant dating evidence was noted for these structures, but stratigraphically they were sealed by deposits that contained 11th century pottery.

Phase 3 sealed the Phase 2 deposits. Here we seem to have a number of significant stone structures, with intact and complicated floor layers. The pottery sherds recovered from the earliest floor layers in this sequence are Cotswold-type ware, North-East Wiltshire ware, and Medieval Oxford ware. These pottery types are in the majority of floor layers securely placed. This group of pottery as a whole is indicative of the earliest floor layers possibly being in-situ and dating to the mid to late 11th century. The absence of Brill/Boarstall type ware is significant as this is often seen as an indicator of 13th century activity in the region. This date is considerably earlier than previous suggestions for the foundation of the borough from the junction of Corn and Crown Streets with the High Street to Windrush Bridge. Previously suggested dates from documentary sources favour a foundation date in the early 13th century, over a 100 years after that indicated by the pottery and floor sequence.

The Domesday Book of 1086 (Morris 1978, 3.1) contains a reference to 36 villagers and 11 smallholders. Presumably from this statement we should assume that the settlement referred to at Witney contained a village with 36 dwellings and other buildings and that the smallholdings would have been scattered throughout the wider parochial area. Whether these implied dwellings refer to the remains identified in Phase 2 or 3 is not readily discernible. What it would imply is that the 36 dwellings or so may have lain each side of the High Street in the vicinity of the crossing of this road with Crown and Corn Streets, which also mark the location of a postulated ancient trackway running east to west.

The types of houses constructed at this time are not overly clear due to the piecemeal way in which some of the new foundation and services were excavated and subsequently planned. However, it is possible to suggest that they were probably single story hall type structures reminiscent of the Hamel. In the new service trench cut it was possible to see layers of red burning with black lenses of mortar clay, which would be indicative of a build-up of deposits and successive cuttings of a probable central hearth.

This part of Witney formed part of the borough; however, some of the long linear wall divisions that could be thought of as borough plots of a medieval date only have clear indications for existing from the 17th century. Structure 2 may contain two rectangular halls butting up along one of the longer walls, thus one of them fronted onto the High

Street, while the other faced onto a side passage or the garden area. Structure 1 would seem to contain two rectangular areas. The nature of Structure 3 is uncertain, but the surviving wall is significant. The line of a ditch was also noted with a probable width of 8.3m, but due to its fill and cut lying below the level of the impact layer it was difficult to date this precisely. If as the pottery from the stratified floor levels suggest it is late 11th century in date, then it is highly likely that the ditch is contemporary. There is a slight possibility that the ditch could be older, but there is no clear indication of this. A ditch recorded in 1540 as marking the edge of the town (VCH 2004, 8-33) and one may speculate that this feature is related.

Investigation of the site was not able to confirm if there was an associated wall running on the east side of the large ditch at the east end of Area 4. However, the wall to the west of Area 5 was substantial and appeared to extend far deeper into the ground than other walls observed on this building. The evidence recovered of this structure may indicate that the lower part of this wall could be the remains of Witney town wall or that it is a later wall reconstructed along similar lines.

Areas 1 and 4 contained evidence of agricultural activity, in Area 1 this was in the form ploughed down relic soil horizons, while in Area 4 there appeared to be two possible ridges surviving in the soils which may represent relic plough ridges, which would have originated in the medieval period and appear to contain 16th and 17th century pottery fragments in their upper layers. This is indicative of the ridge and furrow ploughing regime being abandoned in the 17th century. The parish of Witney went through piecemeal inclosure in the 15th and 16th century (VCH 2004, 107-8). This suggestion would tie in with the pottery recovered from ridge (4/21) but not ridge (4/60).

Structures 1 and 2 continued in use into Phase 4, which covers the period from the 12th to the 15th century. The anticipated Brill/Boarstall ware horizon of the 13th century was largely absent. Structure 3, whatever its purpose, went out of use in this period, and only the lower courses of its foundations remained. The rear of Structure 2 seems to have a new wall built adjacent to the remains of one of the earlier 11th to 12th century walls. This perhaps saw the amalgamation of two of the hall structures into a single dwelling. The back wall of this structure survived to be incorporated into the remains of the later 17th century building. Structure 1 probably also saw the rebuilding of its walls in the later part of the medieval period, although this process of rebuilding and reconstruction may have continued into the 17th century.

In Area 2 there were rubble spreads, probably also the remains of a structure, of this date. Either side of the structure was the remains of large irregular cuts that are assumed to be created by extensive pitting. Individual cuts can no longer be recognised due to the homogenous nature of the deposits. The pottery recovered from these areas is of a medieval date.

In the 15th-16th century the western part of Structure 1 is dismantled, large shallow pits are evident that sees the removal of the floor surfaces and some of the walls. The front part of the building continues in use. Through the 15th and 16th centuries there are further structures built to the rear of the properties. These structures are perhaps short lived. Further pitting is also evident in Areas 1 and 2.

Phase 7 saw the transformation of Areas 3 and 2 into the landscape, which would have been recognised into the mid-20th century. The front wall of Structure 2 was rebuilt, Structure 1 may have been all but demolished at this time to make way for an ally way, however, the south wall of that structure may have survived as the north wall of a new build. It is the surviving structure on the south side of the High Street frontage that is marked as the public house called the Prince of Wales on the first series Ordnance Survey map. What was initially covered or included in this premise is not known. What can be said about the development of the 17th century Structure 2, however, is that its plan is reminiscent of other public houses. The building contained a central passageway with a cobbled surface. This was flanked by two rooms to the rear. There were two protruding rooms to the fore, facing onto the High Street. These were possibly single story extensions. This central passageway design was employed at the Ostrich in Newland, Gloucestershire, where the central passageway leads to an enclosed rear courtyard. The Ostrich at Newland was constructed c. 1694 for William Probyn and is known to have operated as a public house prior to 1816 (VCH 1996, 195-231). This building is indicative of structures with central passageways, in the case of the Ostrich cobbled and set lower than the floor levels in the adjoining two rooms. There are indications of a later 17th century construction date for this type of building.

At present it is not possible to determine if the standing structure and the demolished structure were all part of the same public house in the later 17th century, although it is possible. The public house called the Prince of Wales is recognised as being in existence in 1703 (Stene 1978, 19). The Witney recording of the Prince of Wales public house name is older than that recorded by Cox in his Leicester and Rutland based study (1994, 280). Public house names are now regarded as being products of specific times, noting historical events and political allegiances (Cox 1994). Historically as a name the sign of the Prince of Wales could have been used from 1301 when the title was formalised by the Parliament of Lincoln for the heir apparent Edward of Caernarvon, later Edward II. In theory the name may show allegiance to any later member of the royal family with this title. If the name does originate at this date it could have applied to one of the early hall structures in existence prior to the 17th century rebuild. However, a plethora of public house names proclaiming allegiance to the re-established monarchy were created in the reign of Charles II at the time of the restoration. The group of public house names which were probably generated in this reign from 1660 to 1685, probably included the King's Head where Charles II is portrayed on the sign, The Royal Oak in reference to the stories of the battle of Worcester, The Britannia in recognition of the minting of a medallion for Frances Stewart in 1665, and the Rising Sun in allusion to the Charles being the French Sun King restored. To this list could be added the Prince of Wales in allusion to Charles' earlier title. The material recovered from the walls of Structure 2 are indicative of a 17th century construction date, the public house name is perhaps suggestive of a refinement of this date from 1660 to 1685.

It is in the 17th century also that the long run linear walls are apparent to the rear of the High Street frontage. There is no clear sign of these boundaries existing at an earlier date, so presumably the town plots as we recognise them on the 19th and early 20th century maps were laid out in this area of Witney at the time of the restoration. That no clear indication of the earlier town plot boundary layout was detected should not be seen as an indication that this would have been the case throughout this section of Witney from the High Street junction of Crown and Corn Street to the Windrush

Bridge. The earlier boundaries may have been located on the edge of the site, and there is the possibility that an earlier boundary probably once lay in Area 2, where an earlier relic soil horizon survived in a linear form between areas of pitting.

Though fragmentary remains were found of some early floors, while other floors were probably completely intact with their central hearths, it is possible that from the 16th and 17th century the build-up of floor layers becomes a problem and it is in this period that it is apparent that pits are being dug into some of the floor layers and quite likely the 13th and 14th century floors and pottery is being removed. Into these pits new flooring and bedding layers were being deposited.

Areas 4 and 2 seem to contain structures that lie against the line of the town ditch and possible wall and in the case of Area 4 over the line of the town wall.

The High Street frontage remained unchanged up until the 1960s, but it is evident that a number of structures were built and rebuilt throughout this period to the rear of the properties. In the 18th century a building of a lean-to type was constructed in Area 5. No dating evidence was recovered from the walls, but it was noted that at the base of the wall beds of oyster shells were laid. The oysters are in themselves indicative of a probable 18th century date, when it is historically recognised that shipments of this species were loaded into barrels full of salt water and shipped to inland locations, such as Witney. The structure contained a cobbled floor and must have had a front containing a large set of double doors. The building appears on the map of 1840 where it is marked as an outbuilding. It has been suggested that this structure was the location of a smithy or farrier, there is as yet no clear indication of confirming this from the remains observed, but the suggestion would be in keeping with a structure with large double fronted doors. A minimal amount of slag was recovered from the site in general, which would indicate some metalworking in the vicinity.

The other main structures in Area 3 concerned the structures fronting on to the side alley, for which fragmentary remains survived. Though some of the walls have evidence of 17th century construction it is highly likely that these structures were in essence only boundary walls dividing the garden. It is possible that the 19th century rebuilding of these walls represents a process in which the garden walls became the supporting walls for outbuildings. If this is the case the map of 1840 would suggest that this process had occurred by 1840. There is to the rear of the street frontage indications for the construction of a cellar and sump. The cellar was not constructed under the existing building, but left the stratigraphy intact.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

Paper record

The project brief

Written scheme of investigation

The project report

The primary site record

Physical record

Finds

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the County Museums' Store.

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