



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING ACTION

AT

OXFORD THAMES FOUR PILLARS HOTEL,

SANDFORD-ON-THAMES, OXFORDSHIRE

NGR SU 5318 0185

On behalf of

Four Pillars Hotels

DECEMBER 2013

REPORT FOR	Four Pillrs Hotels Olney House Ducklington Lane Witney Oxfordshire OX28 4EX
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CONTENTS

	Page
<i>SUMMARY</i>	1
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Site Location	1
1.2 Planning Background	1
1.3 Archaeological Background	3
2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION	3
3 STRATEGY	4
3.1 Research Design	4
3.2 Methodology	4
4 RESULTS	4
4.1 Field Results	4
4.2 Reliability of Results	15
5 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS	16
5.1 Pottery <i>by Paul Blinkhorn</i>	16
5.2 Tile and Brick <i>by Gwilym Williams</i>	17
5.3 Metal objects	19
5.4 Glass	19
5.5 Faunal Remains <i>by Simona Denis</i>	19
5.6 Palaeo-environmental Remains	20
6 DISCUSSION	20
7 BIBLIOGRAPHY	21

FIGURES

Figure 1	Site location	2
Figure 2	Site plan	5
Figure 3	Area 1 – plan of lower level and sections	7
Figure 4a	Area 1 – plan of upper level	8
Figure 4b	Water main bypass trench	8
Figure 5	Area 1 – plan of footing trenches	12
Figure 6	Area 1 – sections	13
Figure 7	Soakaway 2 – plan and section	15

PLATES

Plate 1: Cross section of pit 117, view northwest	9
Plate 2: Pit 121, view southeast	9
Plate 3: Cross section of posthole 119, view west	9

Plate 4: Section 1.7, view northeast	14
Plate 5: Yard surface (108), view west	14
Plate 6: Well 140, view west	14
Plate 7: Wall 137 , view northeast	14

Summary

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological recording action at Oxford Thames Four Pillars Hotel, Sandford-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. A strip-map-record excavation and watching brief revealed activities within the area dating from the late 15th to the late 20th century. Four pits represented late 15th early 16th century activities. One of the pits suggested metallurgy activities within the area. Imported Seville 'Green on White' Earthenware recovered from one of the pits was clearly associated with high-status activities. Those two features broadly correspond with the last decades of existence of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John. The majority of recorded context represent a series of yard surfaces, demolition and levelling activities broadly associated with later farm and were dated to the period from the late 16th to the late 20th century. Also some evidence suggests existence of medieval buildings within the area, which could possibly be associated with the Knights Templar Preceptory.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The site is located on the eastern bank of the River Thames, west of the A4074 and north west of St Andrews Church (SP 5318 0185) and is currently part of the Oxford Thames Four Pillars Hotel's ground. It lies at approximately 55m above Ordnance Datum (OD). The underlying geology is shown as Beckley Sand Member and Upper Jurassic Corallian limestones and sands.

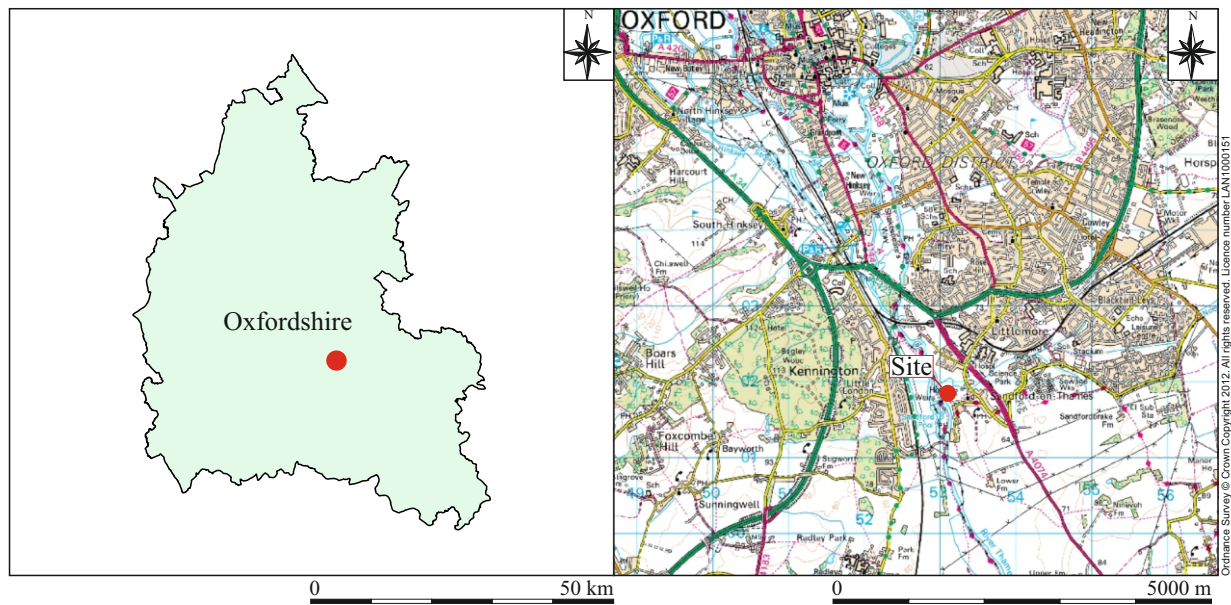
The main development areas are located to the west-northwest and southeast from existing hotel buildings.

1.2 Planning Background

South Oxfordshire District Council granted planning permission (P11/W1492) for the following: demolition of existing outbuilding; erection of two bedroom blocks to create 38 bedrooms; provision of covered courtyard to provide conference/dining facility and four treatment rooms, plus additional car parking.

Due to the potential disturbance of archaeological remains, conditions were attached requiring archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks. This required a strip-map-record excavation to be carried out for the proposed new build in the area of the present car park area and the proposed bedroom extension to the northwest of the building. The remainder of the site was to be subject to a watching brief.

John Moore Heritage Services (JMHS) was commissioned to undertake this work, and a Written Scheme of Investigation (JMHS 2012) was prepared to satisfy the requirements. The Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) proposed the methodology by which the archaeological recording action was to be carried out.



- Key**
- Development areas 2012-13
 - Evaluation trenches 2011
 - Geophysical survey 2011

Figure 1: Site location

1.3 Archaeological Background

The site is located in an area of considerable archaeological potential centred on the site of a medieval Knights Templar Preceptory, founded 1239-40 (PRN 19666). This was one of the largest English houses of the Knights Templar outside London and, after the suppression of the order in 1312, it became a house of The Knights Hospitallers of St. John, finally dissolved c.1540. The current buildings on the site date to the 18th century although some 15th century elements still survive. The hotel is grade II listed. The site is also adjacent to a deserted medieval village (DMV) identified by a series of clear rectilinear earthworks east of the church. These earthworks were levelled to create the playing field. The construction of the village hall destroyed most of the remaining earthworks of the DMV. Medieval building and domestic debris, including 13th – 15th century pottery was recorded during this construction (JMHS 2012).

Thames Valley Archaeological Services undertook an archaeological evaluation in 1994 (Ford 1994). Archaeological features (ditches and gullies) were to the southeast of the current hotel complex. Apart from fragments of animal bone these features produced few finds, with only one sherd of shell-tempered medieval pottery recovered from a ditch (Chadwick 2011).

As a part of planning application process a geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation were carried out in 2011.

A Ground Penetrating Radar survey undertaken by Stratascan on behalf of JMHS (Smalley 2011) identified possible masonry structures immediately to the northeast of the existing hotel complex. This area is not part of this stage of archaeological work

An evaluation carried out by JMHS (Chadwick 2011) involved excavation of three trial trenches. Trench 1 (Fig. 2) was located to the west-northwest of the current hotel complex. Archaeological features (path, robber trench, possible robber trench, two pits and one uncertain feature) found here were more likely associated with post-medieval activities. The other two trenches (Tr 2 & 3) were located to the east of existing hotel buildings, targeting the area of proposed car parking. The features found in those trenches represent postholes, pits and gullies associated with medieval occupation, and were similar to some of the features recorded during the 1994 evaluation. The mid 11th to mid 14th century date of some of the pottery broadly corresponds to the establishment of the Preceptory by the Knights Templar in AD 1239-1240 (Chadwick 2011, 13). The depth the features exist at is below the level of impact of the car parking and no further work was required for this.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the *Written Scheme of 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 to record any evidence associated with the Knights Templar Preceptory.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

Site procedures for the investigation and recording of potential archaeological deposits and features were defined in the WSI (JMHS 2012). The work was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008) and the principles of MoRPHE (English Heritage 2006).

3.2 Methodology

An archaeologist was present on site during the course of the majority of groundworks that had potential to reveal or disturb archaeological remains. The fieldwork was carried out in two stages; first stage involved strip-map-record excavation and second stage involved an archaeological watching brief.

A strip-map-record excavation was undertaken for the proposed new build in the area to the west-northwest of the existing hotel building (hereafter referred to as 'Area 1'). This archaeological work was carried out in close association with the appointed contractors. Archaeological remains were only excavated and recorded where direct impact on them was to occur.

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during machine excavation of the lines of the foundation, soakaway and some of the service trenches. Soakaway 1, c. 50% of service trenches, the groundworks in the courtyard and twenty new car park spaces were not monitored.

Construction work on the proposed bedroom block in the car park area immediately northeast of the existing hotel complex, demolition of existing outbuilding and construction of the rest car park spaces were not part of first stage of the development.

Archaeological deposits and features revealed were then cleaned by hand and recorded at an appropriate level. Archaeological features had written, drawn and photographic records made of them, and all deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers.

4 RESULTS

All features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers with no brackets indicate feature cuts, numbers in () show feature fills or deposits of material, and numbers in bold indicate any form of masonry.

4.1 Field Results

Ground reductions in Area 1, were achieved using a 7-tones tracked excavator fitted with a 1.5m wide ditching bucket. Area 1 covered c. 638m² and was reduced to the level 56.01m above OD. The excavation of footing trenches was undertaken using a 0.65m wide trenching bucket complemented by limited hand excavation. The majority of footing trenches were excavated to a general level 55.26m above OD, except of the area around the lift shaft, where ground was reduced to the level 54.56m above OD. Soakaway 2 was excavated to a general



Figure 2: Site plan

depth 1.56m from present ground surface and covered an area 11×2.5m. The water main bypass located to the east of Area 1 was 4.2m long and 0.76m deep.

The lower natural deposit was 0.08m thick (as excavated), bluish grey clay (147) identified during the excavation of soakaway 2 (Fig. 7). Overlying deposit (147) was 0.68m thick, yellowish brown natural sand (114). It was recorded across the entire monitored area and contained occasional large rounded lumps of sandstone (max. 700×200×400mm). Deposit (114) was overlaid by deposit (113=127), formed of 0.15-0.25m thick mid brown sandy loam, which covered west/southwest end of Area 1 and soakaway 2. The entire site was sealed by topsoil (100), which was 0.15-0.30m thick dark grey sandy loam.

Located at the southwest end of Area 1 were two pits. Pit 117 (Fig. 3, S.1.1; Plate 1) was oval in shape and had steep concave sides and a concave base. The pit was 1.40m wide, 1.70m long and 0.56m deep. It was filled by 0.56m thick, pinkish grey ashy sand (118), containing two pottery sherds dated that date from the period 13th to 18th century, ceramic building material, copper slag and animal bones (See 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.5). Based on an evaluation of the finds, the pit was most likely early 16th century in date.

Located to the southwest of the pit 117, on the edge of monitored area was partly exposed sub-oval pit 121 (Fig. 3, S.1.2; Plate 2). It was 1.10m long, 0.70m wide and 0.84m deep with steep sides and a concave base. The lowest fill of the pit 121 was 0.21m thick dark greyish brown sandy loam (122), which contained frequent small to medium size sub-angular sandstones. Eleven pottery sherds dated from the period 10th to mid 16th century and seven animal bones were recovered from this deposit (See 5.1 and 5.5). Fill (122) was overlaid by 0.08m thick yellowish light brown sand (123), which represents redeposited natural sand (114). The next fill (124) was 0.30m thick, dark grey sandy loam containing occasional small sub-angular stones, fragments of roof tiles and animal bones (See 5.2 and 5.5). Overlying fill (124) was 0.06m thick yellowish light brown sand (125), which represented another layer of redeposited natural sand. The final fill (126) was 0.38m thick mid grey sandy loam that contained frequent small to medium size sub-angular limestones and one larger sandstone. Finds recovered from this deposit were represented by assemblage of six pottery sherds of 11th to 17th century date, fifteen fragments of ceramic building material, one iron object and nine animal bones (See 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.5). Based on an evaluation of the finds, pit was dated to the early 16th century. Pits 117 and 121 pits were overlaid by subsoil (113=127).

Located 4.5m to the north-northeast of the pit 117 was circular posthole 119 that measured 0.50m in diameter, with 0.28m deep vertical sides (Fig. 3, S.1.3; Plate 3). It was filled by mid brown sand (120), with stone packing and larger sandstone placed at the base. No dating evidence was recovered from fill (120). Due to the nature of archaeological work, stratigraphic relations were unclear. However, posthole 119 possibly cut through deposit (113=127) and in to the natural sand (114). If this was a case, the posthole 119 and other sandstones on the same alignment in the area, which were initially interpreted as part of natural deposit (114), might form a post structure, perhaps a fence line of presumable post-medieval date.

Pit 128 (Fig. 3, S.1.4 & S.1.12) was located on the south-southeast edge, roughly in the middle of Area 1. Possibly half of the large sub-oval pit (2.30m long, 3m wide and 0.68m deep) was uncovered; the rest of the pit remained outside of stripped area. Pit 128, had steep concave sides and concave base. It was filled by dark grey sandy silt (129), with occasional small to medium size stones and was overlaid by topsoil (100). The major group of finds was

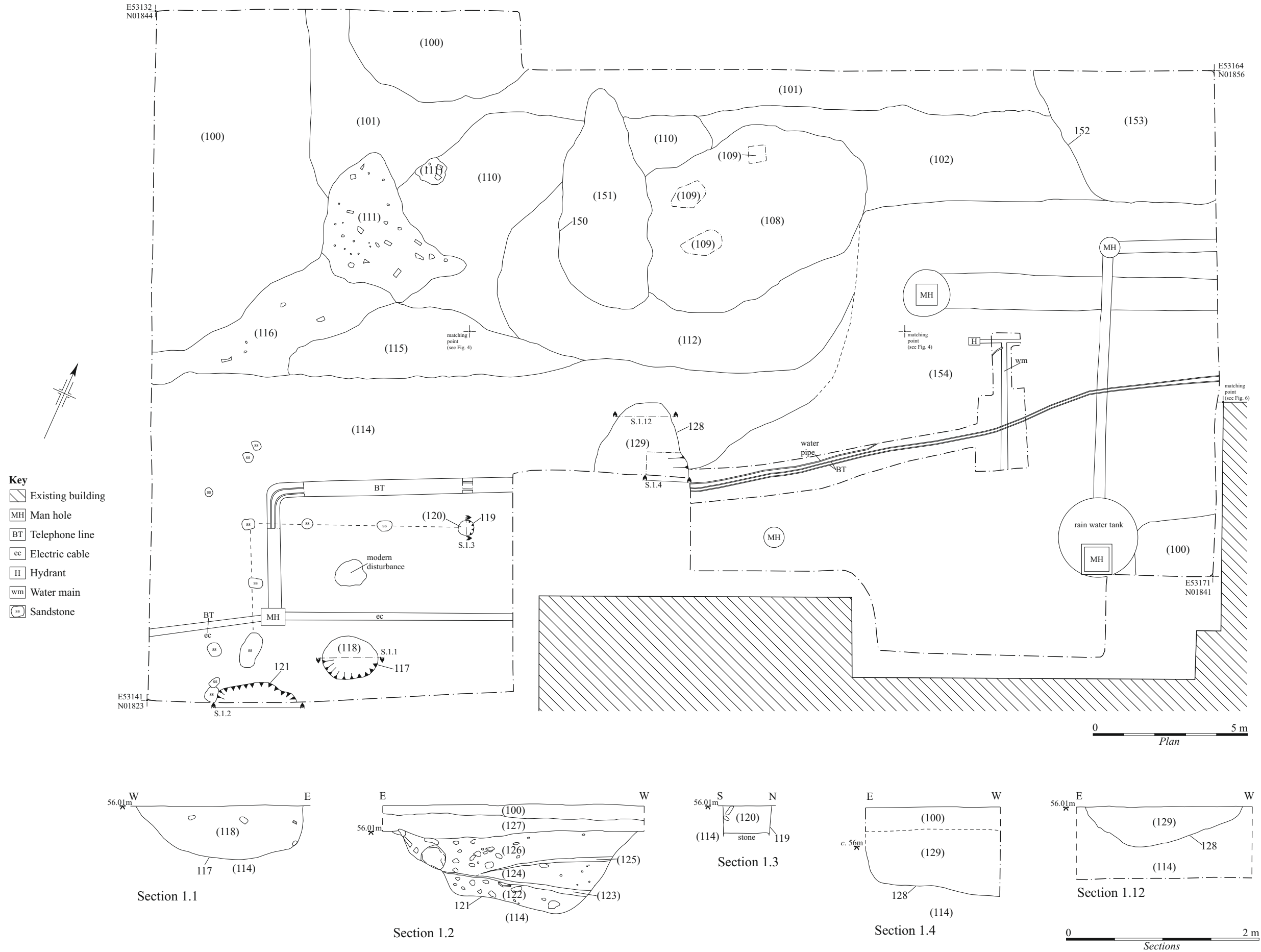
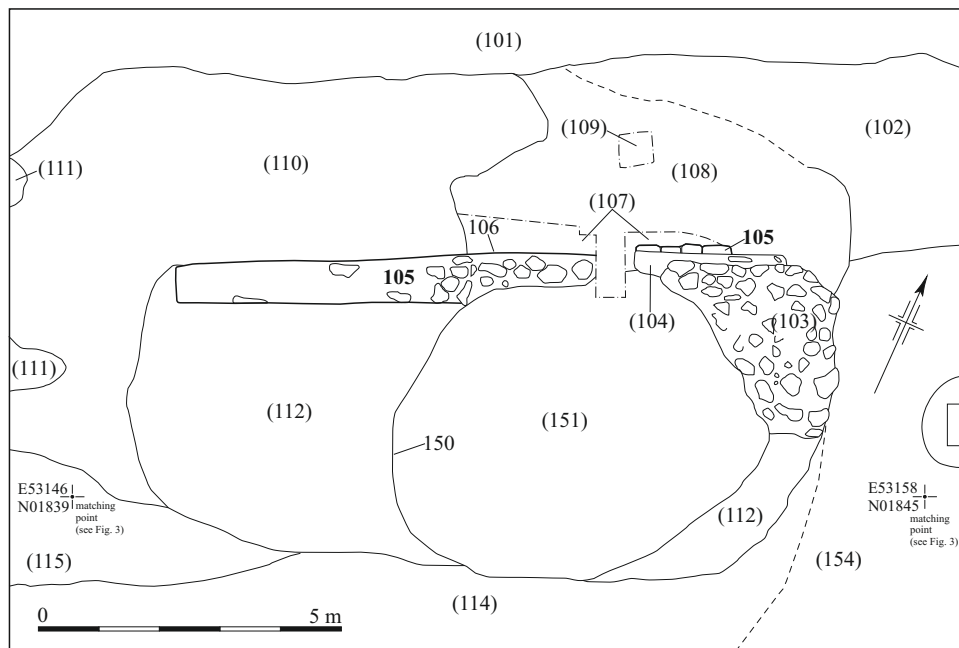
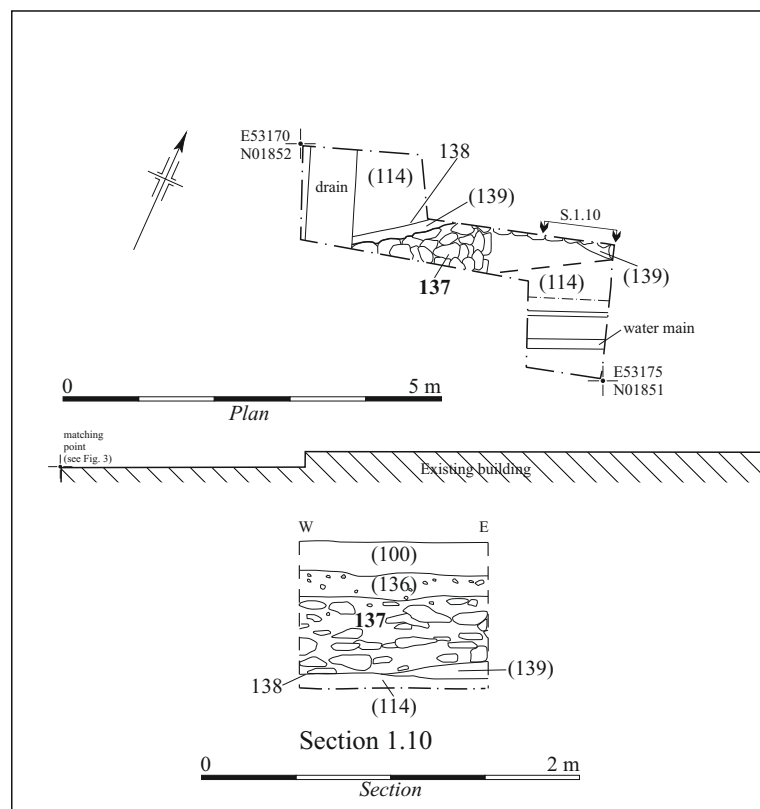


Figure 3: Area 1 - plan of lower level and sections



a. Area 1 - plan of upper level



b. Water main bypass trench

Figure 4



Plate 1: Cross section of pit 117,
view northwest



Plate 2: Pit 121, view southeast



Plate 3: Cross section of posthole 119,
view west

an assemblage of ninety animal bones, followed by twenty pottery sherds dated into the period from 13th to mid 16th century, thirteen fragments of ceramic building material and five iron objects (See 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.5). Based on evaluation of finds, pit was dated to the late 15th century. The fragment of 19th century roof tile was intrusive.

One metre to the west of pit 128 was located smaller pit 143 (Fig. 5; Fig. 6: S.1.13). It was sub-circular in plan, 1.70m wide and 0.56m deep with steep concave sides and concave base. The fill sequence suggests that this may have been two pits. Fill (144) was dark grey/black mixed ash and clay, containing fragments of 19th century bricks (See 5.2) and may have been an earlier pit. Fill (145) was 0.50m thick, of reddish brown sand and may have been a later pit. The pit(s) was possibly overlaid by topsoil (100), but at the time of recording, the entire area was covered by a temporary access road, so stratigraphic relations were uncertain.

In the northwest end of Area 1 was recorded pit 134 (Fig. 5). It was circular in plan, 1.25m in diameter and 0.34m deep, with vertical sides and a gently concave base (Fig. 6: S.1.9). Pit 134 was filled by loose mid grey sandy loam (135), containing sub-angular medium size sandstones and occasional fragments of ceramic building material. A sample of brick, was dated at the earliest in the 16th century (See 5.2). Overlying the pit 134 was deposit (111).

During the excavation of footing trench in the northeast end of the Area 1 was recorded half of an oval cut 130 (Fig. 5; Fig 6: S.1.5) 1.5m wide, 0.30m long (as seen in footing trench) and 0.60m deep (as excavated). It was filled by mid reddish brown sand silt (131) thick 0.60m (as excavated). The lower part of the fill contained frequent small to medium size limestone. No dating evidence was obtained from the fill (131). However, the cut 130 was on the same alignment as robber trench 1/110 recorded in evaluation Trench 1 (Chadwick 2011), which suggest that cut 130 was the southern end of the robber trench (Fig. 2).

The north part of Area 1 was covered by a series of yard surfaces, make up and demolition layers.

The lowest make up layer (133) was 0.14m thick firm light grey sandy clay with frequent sub-angular stones, contained fragments of ceramic building material (Fig 6: S.1.6, S.1.7, S.1.8; Plate 4) A brick fragment taken as a sample, was of unknown date (See 5.2). Overlaying the layer (133) was second make up layer (132). It was light orange brown fine sandy gravel 0.06m thick (Fig 6: S.1.6 & S.1.7; Plate 4). No finds were recovered from this layer.

The next layer (109) was compact 0.03m to 0.05m thick mid grey sandy gravel, which represented a yard surface (Fig. 3; Fig. 6: S.1.6 & S.1.7; Plate 4). A second yard surface (108) was compact 0.03m thick mid grey gravel and covered an area of c. 32m² (Fig. 3; Fig 6: S.1.6 & 1.7; Plate 5). Both yard surfaces were disturbed by levelling layers (110) and (112). Levelling layer (110) was firm dark grey sandy loam, 0.10m thick (Fig. 3; Fig. 6: S.1.7) Layer (112) was semi compact 0.20m thick yellowish brown sandy clay with sub-angular stone (Fig. 3; Fig. 6: S.1.7 & S.1.11). Fragments of ceramic building material recovered from this layer were medieval or later in date (See 5.2). The stratigraphic relationship between those two layers was uncertain.

During the excavation of central footing trench was recorded a 0.18m thick layer of dark brown sandy loam (142) (Fig. 5; Fig. 6: S.1.11). Stratigraphically this layer was earlier than levelling layer (112) and possibly represented a buried topsoil.

Overlying yard surface (108) was 0.05m mid grey brown sandy loam (107) mixed with gravel. It covered a relatively small area, measured 1.90×1.70m and possibly represented a third yard surface. Placed on the top of surface (107) were heavily disturbed remains of one coursed stonewall foundation **105**. Wall foundation **105** and construction cut 106 were 10m long and 0.70m wide, and aligned west-southwest to east-northeast (Fig. 4a). The wall **105** represented a late post-medieval garden wall.

In the eastern end, wall foundation **105** was overlaid by compact 0.01-0.02m thick mid brown fine gravel layer (104), which possibly represents a fourth yard surface. Overlaying surface (104) and layer (112) was up to 0.15m thick deposit (103). It was formed of medium size sub-angular stones and yellowish sandy mortar. This deposit was interpreted as demolition rubble from the wall **105**. The entire area was heavily disturbed by modern tree throw hole 150 (Fig. 4a).

The northwest end of Area 1 was covered by three demolition / makeup layers (Fig. 3). Layer (111) was a mixture of topsoil, sand, mortar and fragments of machine made bricks and it overlay pit 134 (Fig. 6: S.1.9). To the south of layer (111) was 0.15m thick layer of dark grey-brown sandy silt mixed with mortar and fragments of bricks (116). Pottery sherds recovered from this layer were 19th century in date (See 5.1). Next to the layer (116) was a layer of 0.16m thick dark grey clayey loam (115). It also contained 19th century pottery sherds.

In the north end of Area 1 was recorded levelling layer (101) (Fig. 3; Fig. 6: S.1.5). It was firm orange brown sandy gravel contained frequent small angular limestones. The maximum thickness of this layer reached 0.18m. Located in the northwest part of Area 1, next to the layer (101) (Fig. 3), was 0.04-0.08m thick, firm mid brown sandy gravel (102), which also represented a levelling layer. Both layers were presumably associated with late 20th century landscaping which took place within the hotel grounds. In the northeast corner of Area 1 was recorded modern tree root disturbance 152 (Fig. 3).

Approximately 190m² in the southeast part of Area 1 was heavily disturbed by late 20th century services, sewerage system, drains and rainwater tank (Fig. 3 & 5). It was covered by a mixture of rubble material, topsoil and natural sand (154). During the excavation of the lift shaft in the area, a well 140 was found (Fig. 5; Plate 6). It was built of large sub-angular stones **141** and backfilled with dark brown silt (146). It was c. 1.30m in diameter and 1.60m deep (as excavated). Due to the health and safety issues, only a basic record of the well was made. No dating evidence was recovered from backfill (146).

To the east of Area 1, next to the existing building (Fig. 2 & 4b; Plate 7), a trench for the water main bypass was excavated. In the bypass trench was wall **137**. The wall construction cut 138 was linear in plan, 1m wide and 3.40m long (as excavated) with vertical 0.44m deep sides and a flattish base, cutting into natural sand (114). It was aligned northwest to southeast. Wall **137** was 0.70m wide, 3.30m long (as exposed) and 0.44m high. It was constructed of roughly worked sub-angular stone. The maximum dimensions of the building stones were 200×300×80mm. A bonding material of greyish white sandy lime mortar was used. The backfill of the construction cut was firm dark brown sandy loam (139). Overlaying the wall **137** was 0.18m thick modern makeup layer containing residual fragments of medieval floor tiles, roof tiles (See 5.2) and fragments of asphalt. The entire area was sealed by topsoil (100).

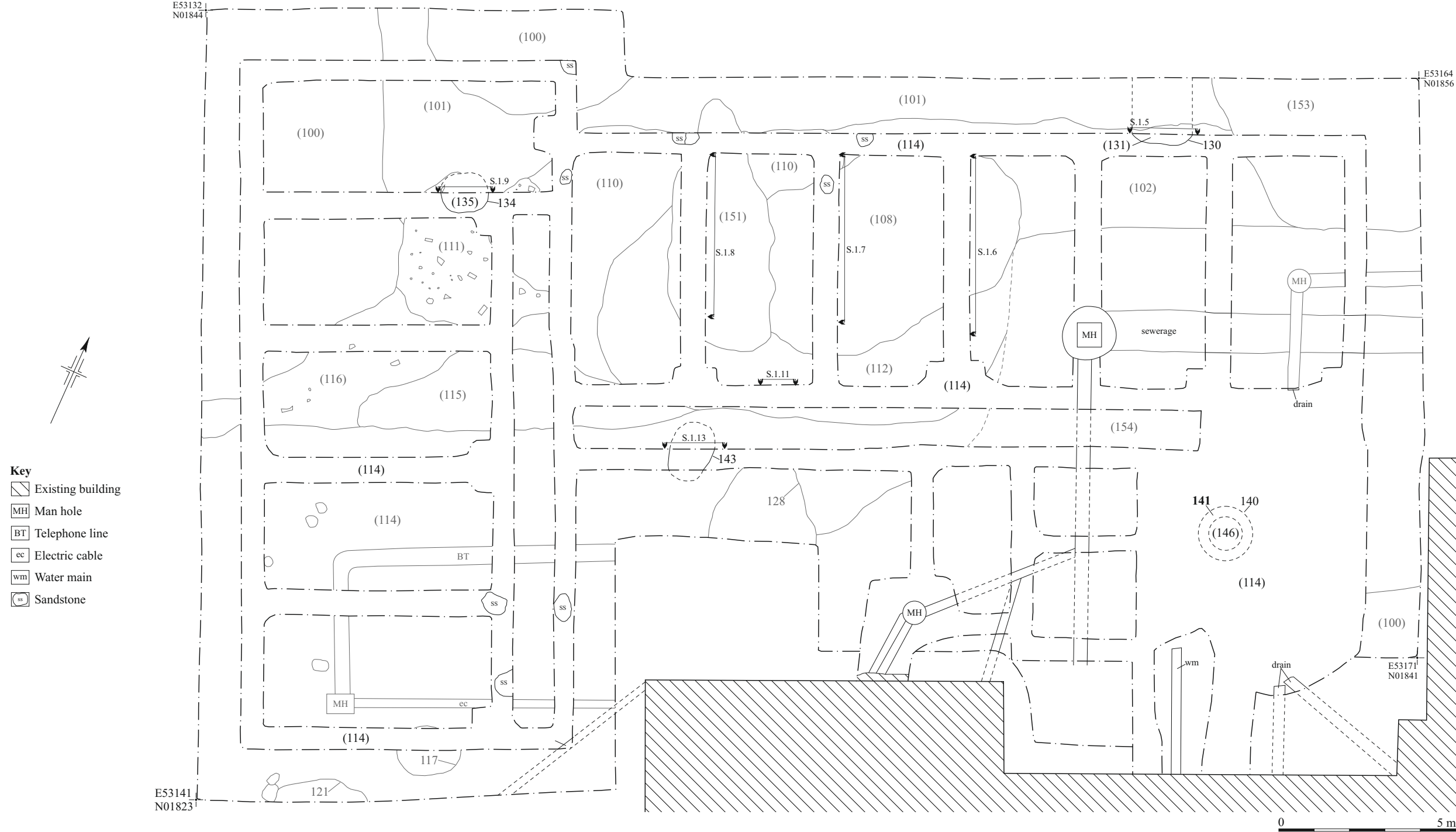


Figure 5: Area 1 - plan of footing trenches

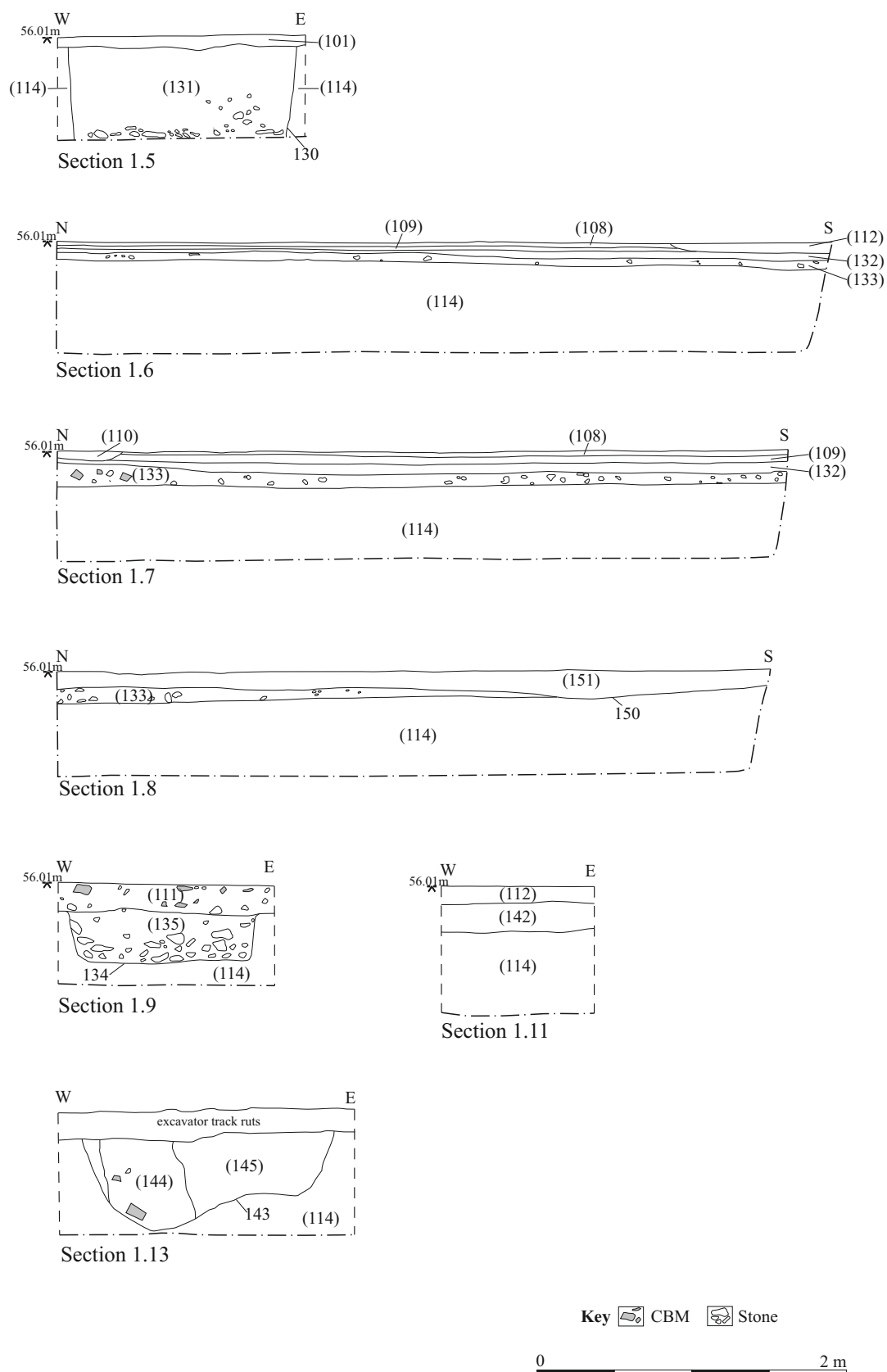


Figure 6: Area 1 - sections



Plate 4: Section 1.7, view northeast



Plate 7: Wall 137, view northeast



Plate 5: Yard surface (108), view west



Plate 6: Well 140, view west

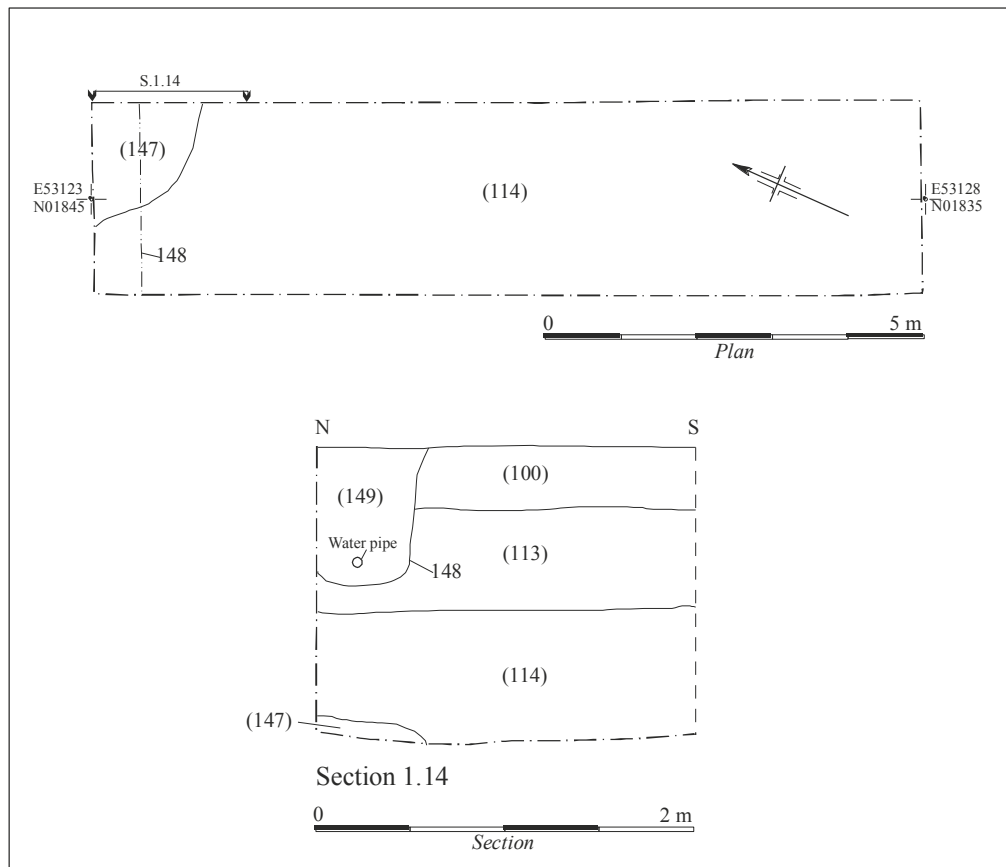


Figure 7: Soakaway 2 – plan and section

During the excavation of soakaway 2, located west of the Area 1 (Fig. 2) was a late 20th century service trench 148, backfilled with dark brown silty clay (149) containing a PVC water main pipe (Fig 7). No archaeological features were discovered in soakaway 2.

4.2 Reliability of Results

The archaeological investigations took place in changeable weather conditions, often very cold and wet. The first stage of fieldwork (25/10/2012 – 15/11/2012) was characterized by excellent cooperation with the site management and ground workers who ensured that sufficient time was allowed to investigate and record the archaeological features to the appropriate standards. During the period from 16/11/2012 – 18/02/2013, due to lack of communication, some of the development areas were not monitored.

In some cases investigations of archaeological features were affected by health and safety issues. However the reliability of the results is considered to be good.

5 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

5.1 Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 59 sherds with a total weight of 1,969g. It was recorded utilizing the coding system and chronology of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1984; 1994), as follows:

OXAC: Cotswold-type ware, AD975-1350. 1 sherd, 30 g.

OXBF: North-East Wiltshire Ware, AD1050 – 1400. 9 sherds, 147g.

OXBB: Minety-type ware. Early 13th – 16th century. 1 sherd, 27g.

OXAM: Brill/Boarstall ware, AD1200 – 1600. 19 sherds, 492g.

BBTG: Brill/Boarstall ‘Tudor Green’ Wares, 1470 – 1550. 6 sherds, 22g.

OXCL: Cistercian ware, 1475-1700. 1 sherd, 26g.

OXDR: Red Earthenwares, 1550+. 1 sherd, 58g.

WHEW: Mass-produced white earthenwares, 19th - 20th C. 21 sherds, 1,167g.

In addition, the following, not included in the Oxfordshire type-series, was also noted:

SEV: Seville ‘Green on White’ Earthenware. 16th century (Hurst et al. 1986), Spanish import. Salmon-pink fabric with a well-sorted matrix. Sparse white and milky quartz up to 0.3mm, sparse mica, abundant red and black ironstone and white and grey quartz up to 0.1mm. Lustrous, thick, slightly patinated green glaze over a white tin glaze.

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 mainly typical of sites in the region, other than the Seville tin-glazed ware, which is very unusual. The two sherds, which are from the same vessel and join, are from a jar or other vessel with a closed form. The base from a very similar vessel occurred in a Dissolution-era deposit at Eynsham Abbey in Oxfordshire (Blinkhorn and Jeffries 2003, 186), just 10km to the north-west of this site. Eynsham Abbey also produced a Spanish Albarello (ibid.), and a similar vessel occurred at Bartholomew Street, Newbury (Mephram 1997, 63), but such pottery is generally rare in the Thames Valley at sites outside London, so it seems very likely that there was high-status activity in the vicinity of these excavations.

The rest of the medieval assemblage is typical of sites in the region. The unglazed wares are all sherds from jars, and the glazed wares from jugs, other than the late medieval Cistercian Ware and Brill/Boarstall ‘Tudor Green’ Ware, which are fragments of cups or mugs. The modern wares are all typical domestic vessels.

	OXAC		OXBF		OXBB		OXAM		BBTG		OXCL		SEV		OXDR		WHEW		
Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
102																	3	332	19thC
115															1	58	5	268	19thC
116																	13	567	19thC
118							1	62			1	26							L15thC
122	1	30	6	97	1	27	1	27					2	60					16thC
126			3	50			3	82											13thC
129							14	321	6	22									L15thC
Total	1	30	9	147	1	27	19	492	6	22	1	26	2	60	1	58	21	1167	

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

5.2 Tile and Brick by Gwilym Williams

The tile recovered from the watching brief comprised 53 fragments, weighing 5159g, of ceramic roof and floor tile from seven contexts (Table 2). A sample of three bricks, weighing >3796g, was also taken for analysis (Table 5).

Context	Wt	Frgs
102	226	1
108	48	1
118	1413	15
124	671	4
126	640	15
129	1344	13
136	817	4
Total	5159	53

Table 2: Context by weight by fragment count

The tile and brick were scanned, weighed and counted. The fabrics have been rapidly scanned by eye (Table 3). A rough date-range was assigned which provides a *terminus post quem*.

Fabrics	Wt	No	Description	Date
1	1011	13	pink red clay with occasional haematite, marl and gritty inclusions	Medieval
2	662	8	red clay with occasional grit	Medieval+
3	706	7	orange clay with occasional haematite	Medieval+
4	589	12	overfired fabric	Medieval+
5	463	3	orange corky fabric with reduced core	Medieval+
6	421	3	orange sandy fabric	Medieval+
7	564	3	red poorly mixed marly clay with haematite	Medieval+
8	593	2	orange fine clay fabric with reduced core & occasional small grit	Medieval
9	112	1	reduced fabric with green splashed glaze on outer surface	Medieval
10	38	1	orange fine clay fabric; occasional small grit	Modern
Total	5159	53		5159

Table 3: Fabrics by weight and by number of fragments; with description & ascribed date

As was the case during the evaluation, the majority of the tile recovered was roof tile, although three fragments of floor tile were recovered, two of which were fragments of worn Penn tiles and a single fragment of 'Stabbed Wessex' style tile (Table 4).

Weight of decorated fragments (g)	Number of decorated fragments	Weight of plain fragments	Number of plain fragments	Totals	
705	3	4454	50	5159g	53

Table 4: Decorated and roof tile by weight and quantity

The roof tile was generally quite fragmented with only a small number of fragments – seven pieces – having pegholes. Although a sure date is not possible, a medieval date is most likely for most of the tile represented. There was a single fragment – Fabric 10 – from deposit (129) which was 19th-century or later. There were several fragments which had undergone heat-treatment; it is worth recalling that during the evaluation a single fragment of deformed tile which had been heavily reduced almost to the point of vitrification was recovered. It was previously suggested that the fragment might represent either a waster or a piece of kiln/oven furniture. The presence of further burnt tile during the watching brief might point to the latter

as perhaps the more likely. There were four conjoining fragments from contexts (124) and (126); two fragments from each context yielding part of a tile weighing 463g. There were no pegholes present.

The 'Stabbed Wessex' date from the late 13th to early 14th centuries whereas the Penn tiles are a little later dating from the middle to the end of the 14th century. Due to breakage in the case of the 'Stabbed Wessex' tile fragment and wear in the case of the Penn tiles, it is not possible to comment on any design. There are traces of green glaze on the complete Penn tile, and there is the 'shadow' of a design, but it cannot be identified. The 'Stabbed Wessex' fragment appears to have been incorporated into a later structure as there is mortar on its upper face.

All of the tile was medieval or later; and indeed even those fragments marked in Table 2 as potentially later were probably medieval. The range of fabrics is not certain without petrological examination; the fabrics therefore indicate tendencies rather than necessarily different sources for the building materials. Different mixing of clay will produce marked dissimilarities despite the source being the same. As a consequence it is possible that, for example, fabrics 1 and 7 are the same, but from either different years of production or different brickyards.

The assemblage is entirely in keeping with the demolition of structures associated with the former priory and its change of use in the post-Reformation period. No designs on the floor tiles were recognisable, however other evaluations in the area such as Minchery Farm, which may also have been a Templar holding (Williams 2006: 21), have yielded reasonably good assemblages of floor tile.

Three bricks were retained during the watching brief.

Context	Frag	Wt (g)	Fabric	Length	Breadth	Thickness	Date
144	1	1670	A	-	108	70	19thC+
133	1	126	B	-	-	-	unk
135	1	>2000	C	245	120	40	mid 16thC+
Totals	3	>3796					

Table 5

The brick from deposit (144) was in fabric A was bright orange well-mixed clay with plenty of airholes; the brick, which has no frog, is a moulded brick dating from the 19th century onwards.

The brick from deposit (133) was in fabric B, which defines a bit of brick of unknown dimensions, similar to fabric 1 in the tile series, although associating brick and tile production is notoriously difficult due to slightly differing methods of clay preparation.

The brick from deposit (135) was in fabric C which was represented by a single complete brick of typically late medieval or early post-medieval dimensions; while it is always possible that it is a later brick intentionally made in an old style, it appears to date from between the mid 16th century and the late 17th century at the latest. There are limited traces of mortar on the brick.

5.3 Metal Objects

A total of 7 metal objects were recovered during archaeological investigation. Six of them represented iron fittings of total weight 136g and one was copper alloy slag weight 91g (Table 6).

Context	Identity	Preservation	Material	Length	Cross section (mm)	Weight (g)	Description	Date
126	unknown	Incomplete	Fe	52	8x8	11		16th century
129	nail	Incomplete	Fe	39	6.6x6.6	9	16x16mm head	late 15th century
129	nail	Incomplete	Fe	68	7x7	21	21.5x21mm head	late 15th century
129	hinge stripe	Incomplete	Fe	97	27x5	49		late 15th century
129	hinge pivot	Incomplete	Fe	66 (53+13)	8	22	2 fragments	late 15th century
129	unknown	complete (?)	Fe	30.5	31x21	24	spherig object with central hole 8mm	late 15th century
118	slag	?	cu	51	31	91	iregular shape	late 15th century

Table 6: Metal objects

5.4 Glass

One unstratified complete simple dark blue glass bead was recovered during the watching brief from Area 1.

The bead is spheroidal in shape, with slightly flattened ends (12x11mm). It has a central hole with a diameter of 2mm. The bead was possible made using mandrel-wound method (Frieman & Bray 2008, 443-444; Orser 2002, 57). The edges around central hole are slightly worn, which might suggest that bead was part of a necklaces or wristlet. On the surface of the bead are visible fine parallel lines, which are associated with manufacturing process. Within dark blue semi translucent glass are visible occasional air bubbles. Considering the shape and quality of manufacturing, the bead is most likely post-medieval in date.

5.5 Faunal Remains *by Simona Denis*

A total of 121 fragments of animal bone were retrieved with a combined weight of 4275g, representing Bovid, Ovicaprid and Swine Families. A single Fowl Family bone was also noted. A number of Ovicaprid and Bovid fragments showed butchering marks (Table 7).

Context	Number	Weight (g)	Identified Family	Identified Fragments	Unidentified Family Fragments	Unidentified Fragments	Notes
118	10	156	Ovicaprid	Femur, 1 Rib, 4 Scapula, 1		4	Femur with butchering marks
122	7	49	Ovicaprid	Rib, 4 Thoracic Digit, 1		2	
124	4	221	Bovid	Humerus, 1 Rib, 1		1	Unidentified

			Ovicaprid	Tibia, 1			fragment with butchering marks
126	9	222	Bovid	Humerus, 1 Metacarpal, 1 Rib, 1		3	
			Ovicaprid	Humerus, 1 Metacarpal, 1 Rib, 1			
129	90	3305	Bovid	Femur, 4 Mandible, 2 (?) Metacarpal 2 Phalanx, 2 Rib, 6 Scapula, 1 (?) Tibia, 5 Vertebra, 1 Lumbar, 1 Vertebra, 1 Thoracic, 1	Premolar, 1 Rib (Small), 6 Vertebra, 1 Vertebra, 2 Thoracic, 2	26, 1 with butchering marks	2 Femur, 1 Rib with butchering marks
			Fowl	Carpometacarpus, 1			
			Ovicaprid	Femur (?), 2 Humerus, 4 Mandible, 1 Metacarpal, 1 Metatarsal, 2 Os Coxae, 1 Radius, 2 Rib, 11 Scapula, 7 Tibia, 4			1 complete Metacarpus 1 Radius, 1 Tibia with butchering marks
			Swine	Mandible, 3 Incisor, 1			
135	1	322	Bovid	Metatarsal, 1			Sawn

Table 7: Faunal Remains

5.6 Environmental Remains

No deposits suitable for environmental analysis were identified, and no samples were taken.

6 DISCUSSION

Archaeological investigation at Area 1 revealed series of activities dated to the period from the late medieval to the late 20th century.

The earliest feature was late 15th century rubbish pit 128 that contained mainly animal bones, pottery sherds and building metal fittings. Pits 117 and 121 were positively dated to the first half of 16th century. Copper alloy slag recovered from the ashy fill of pit 117 indicated metallurgy of copper or bronze within area. Imported Seville 'Green on White' Earthenware recovered from pit 121 was clearly associated with high-status activities within the site. Pit 134 containing a fragment of 16th century brick could be from the same phase too. These features broadly correspondent with last decades of existence of The Knights Hospitallers of St. John.

After the dissolution, the monastic complex become a farm, and it was known as Temple Farm. Presumably makeup layers (133) and (132), were associated with the establishment of the farmyard in the late 16th/early 17th century. The series of yard surfaces (109), (108) and (107) showing constant use of the farmyard during the period from the 17th to 19th centuries.

On the Ordnance Survey maps from 1876 to 1900 is shown a 'L' shape outbuilding butting against a still standing 17th century garden wall and one free standing outbuilding located to the west of the walled garden. The 1913 OS map does not show any of those buildings, which suggest that outbuildings were demolished in period from 1900 to 1913. Associated with this demolition works could be layers (111), (115) and (116). Presumably of the same date were levelling layers (110) and (112). OS maps dated to the period 1914 – 1922 show two smaller square buildings and an extension of the garden wall to the west. The next OS map dated to 1936-1937 does not show these buildings. A new feature on this map is a track or footpath, which was on same alignment as garden wall **105**. The footpath is plotted on all OS maps up to 1976, which suggest that garden wall **105** was demolished after this date. Based on this fact deposits (101), (102), (103) and (104) could be dated to the post 1976 period and were associated with demolitions and landscaping activities within the area.

Wall **137** could not be positively dated, but its different alignment than the rest of the standing buildings, suggest that it predated them and might be medieval in date. Robber trench 130 also suggests existence of a possible major medieval building within the area. Presumably of medieval date was buried topsoil (142). Well 140 was more likely associated with the post-medieval farm, although is not excluded possibility that it was also medieval in date. The fence line located in the southwest end of Area 1 was not shown on OS maps; however it seems to be late post-medieval in date.

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