Wessex Archaeology

Radcot
Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

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Radcot, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

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Summary

In May 2008 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at a site known locally as 'The Garrison', in Radcot, Oxfordshire to investigate the remains of Queen Matilda's moated castle complex of the 12th century Anarchy Period and a 17th century Civil War Royalist enclosure.

The layout of the medieval castle complex and later Civil War earthworks had been previously investigated in a geophysical survey undertaken by Abingdon Archaeological Geophysics, which revealed the castle keep and associated ancillary buildings, as well as the line of a large defensive ditch. A small evaluation trench was subsequently dug across part of the keep by John Blair of Oxford University.

The evaluation by Time Team added to the information gathered previously by revealing the north-eastern corner of the keep and also the supporting pier for the first floor of the castle within the interior. The remains of the heavily robbed gatehouse and main access road into the castle complex and the northern moat were identified, as well as a heavily robbed structure interpreted as a chapel. The remains of a medieval ancillary building were also revealed. These structures post-dated deposits containing 11th/12th century pottery, consistent with an early post-conquest construction date, which could link it with Hugh of Buckland, the local major landowner around the turn of the 12th century. Possible evidence of the subsequent strengthening of the keep was observed, perhaps associated with Matilda's fortification of the castle during the Anarchy Period of the mid 12th century.

The abandonment of the castle complex was dated to the late 13th/early 14th century, and there was a clear hiatus in the pottery sequence from that date until the 16th century, which fits with the later occupation of the Site by the de Besilles family.

In the mid 17th century a *'minor Royalist fort'* was constructed that involved the refortification of the eastern half of the medieval moated complex by the excavation of a large ditch which split the moated site in two. The 17th century defensive ditch was shown to surround an earthen bastion for the placing of cannon.

Several late Romano-British ditches, possibly field boundaries, were also identified, as well as a low level of residual later prehistoric material, suggesting activity on or close to the Site.

The route of the medieval road from Faringdon to Witney, which apparently ran through the site, was also investigated, but no trace of the road was found.

The evaluation has contributed useful evidence that confirms and augments our knowledge of the construction, layout and date range of the castle complex at Radcot, and also of the Civil War earthworks on the same site. The results warrant further dissemination through a short publication article, to be submitted to *Oxoniensia*.

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Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

Acknowledgements

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The geophysical survey was undertaken by John Gater, Emma Wood and Jimmy Adcock of GSB Prospection. The field survey was undertaken by Henry Chapman, University of Birmingham. The excavation strategy was devised by Mick Aston, University of Bristol. The on-site recording was co-ordinated by Steve Thompson with on-site finds processing by Megan Stoakley, both of Wessex Archaeology.

The excavations were undertaken by Time Team's retained archaeologists, Phil Harding (Wessex Archaeology), Brigid Gallagher, Ian Powlesland, Raksha Dave, Kerry Ely, Tracey Smith and Matt Williams assisted by Jack Crennell, Kasia Witczak, Manne Högström, Matt Adams, Chris Pole and Jane Harrison.

The archive was collated and all post-excavation assessment and analysis undertaken by Wessex Archaeology. This report was compiled by Steve Thompson with specialist reports prepared by Lorraine Mepham (finds), Jessica Grimm (animal bone), Nicholas Cooke (jeton) and Ruth Pelling (environmental). The illustrations were prepared by Kenneth Lymer. The post-excavation project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Lorraine Mepham

The work benefited from discussion on-site with Mick Aston, Phil Harding, John Blair of Queens College, Oxford, medieval castle specialist Richard K Morriss and Roger Ainslie of Abingdon Archaeological Geophysics.

Finally thanks are extended to Tom Freeman and family for allowing access to the Site.

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Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological recording and post-excavation work on an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' in Radcot in Oxfordshire (hereafter the 'Site') (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 This report documents the results of archaeological survey and evaluation undertaken by Time Team, and presents an assessment of the results of these works.

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 Radcot is approximately 5km north of Faringdon and approximately 14.5km south of Witney along the current A4095, in the district of West Oxfordshire and in the parish of Grafton and Radcot. The evaluation involved the investigation of an area known locally as 'The Garrison', centred on NGR 428467 199650, and lying on the north bank of the River Thames.

1.2.2 The Site comprises a rectangular parcel of land measuring approximately 146m by 120m with substantial visible earthworks, and is located at a height of approximately 69m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) The Site is currently under pasture and is used for animal grazing.

1.2.3 The Site includes a large moated area surrounded by infilled ditches, with the earthworks clearest on the northern and eastern sides of the enclosure. The internal area within the moat is divided into two clear areas and the eastern half is considerably higher than the western, with a further series of earthworks enclosing the eastern half.

1.2.4 The underlying geology is alluvial silt overlying river gravels (IGS Sheet 253)

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

Prehistoric to Romano-British

1.3.1 The National Monuments Record (NMR) identifies a number of prehistoric sites considered of national importance and so designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) within a 5km radius of Radcot, including the Neolithic causewayed enclosure west of Rushey Weir (NMR 35543, NGR 432107 200058) and the Neolithic long mortuary enclosure and Bronze Age barrow south of Rushey Weir (NMR 35544, NGR 432307 199905)

1.3.2 A number of stray prehistoric finds have been recovered from around Radcot, including a Neolithic axe head from Radcot Bridge, recorded in the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (OHER) as Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) No. 3103-MOX9798, NGR 428550 199400).

1.3.3 Later prehistoric sites include a number of Late Iron Age settlements, such as the substantial defensive earthworks of the Burroway Enclosure (NMR 12006, NGR 430893 103377), and the settlement 500m south-west of Black Bourton (NMR OX157, NGR 427767 203480). About 1km south of Leaze Farm is a settlement spanning the end of the Iron Age and beginning of the Romano-British period (NMR 13807, NGR 423852 198513; www.magic.gov.uk).

1.3.4 Other Romano-British sites include the settlement south-west of Clanfield (SMR No. 1405-MOX2098, NGR 427700 200600) and the ribbon settlement at Camden Farm (SMR No. 15694-MOX9883, NGR 427900 198700).

Saxon

1.3.5 Finds recorded in the OHER from the post Romano-British period include a late Anglo-Saxon spear head from Grafton Lock (SMR No.377-MOX9800, NGR 427300 199300).

Medieval

1.3.6 The following information is taken from the Project Design (Videotext Communications, 2008) with reference to a suggested chronology for the Site supplied by Professor John Blair of Queens College Oxford.

Ælfsige of Faringdon (*c.* 1070-1100)

1.3.7 *Ælfsige* emerges from the Domesday Book as the leading local English survivor of the Norman Conquest: a modest figure in 1066, he had by 1086 amassed substantial estates both south of the Thames (Faringdon, Littleworth, Barcot) and north (Langford). *Ælfsige* almost certainly built the splendid late 11th century church, with contemporary sculpture, that survives at Langford (Blair 1994). It seems certain that his Domesday estate of *Rocote* (which doubled in value between 1066 and 1086), usually misidentified as Rycote near Thame, was in fact Radcot, and that it formed a crossing-point between his properties on the two sides of the river.

1.3.8 The road from Black Bourton to Faringdon via Clanfield and Radcot is straight, clearly artificial, and was evidently laid out to connect Burford with Faringdon while bypassing the earlier communications node and crossing at Bampton. It is possible that *Ælfsige* constructed it. This would have mirrored, on a smaller scale, Robert d'Oilly's construction of the great stone causeway over the Thames at Oxford at around the same time.

Hugh of Buckland (*c*. 1100-20)

1.3.9 *Ælfsige* of Faringdon's land-complex seems to have been broken up and redistributed by the Crown after his death. The main lay magnate in north-west Berkshire in Henry I's time was Hugh of Buckland, and the later manorial history of Radcot shows that the de Besilles family, who held it in the 13th century, inherited it from one of the de Buckland heiresses. They also held the nearby manor of Barcot, which had been *Ælfsige's* in 1086, and which was said in the late 12th century to belong to the *`barony of Buckland'*.

1.3.10 It is a reasonable inference that Radcot reverted to the Crown in the 1090s or 1100s, and was given to Hugh of Buckland by William II or Henry I. It is suggested that at this time the castle complex at Radcot was constructed, possibly to control the route between Witney and Faringdon, as the complex clearly straddles the original alignment.

Fortification by Matilda (1142)

1.3.11 The *Gesta Stephani*, the contemporary chronicle of the civil war of Stephen's reign, says that in 1142 Matilda fortified castles at Woodstock, Radcot, Cirencester and Bampton, and that the Radcot castle, *`so surrounded by water and marsh as to be inaccessible'*, shortly afterwards surrendered to Stephen. This presumably refers to 'The Garrison' site, and the existing castle complex constructed by Hugh of Buckland.

Remodelling by the de Besilles family? (*c.* 1250-1300)

1.3.12 In *c.*1250-70, Radcot passed by inheritance to the Somerset knightly family of de Besilles, who apparently maintained a residence there and were possibly responsible for the demolition of the castle keep in the later 13th century (see below).

1.3.13 It is recorded that a three-storey chamber-block was standing a century later (see below), suggesting the possibility that Matthew de Bessilles (d.1295) demolished the Norman keep and replaced it with a more comfortable and up-to-date tower-house. However, it is unclear if the tower house stood within the Garrison enclosure, or just outside its north edge on the site of the present Radcot Bridge Farm, located just to the north of the Site.

Dereliction after the Black Death (1379)

1.3.14 The survey accompanying an *inquisition post mortem* of 1379 indicates a state of extreme dereliction in both the manorial site and the adjoining village, but shows that some buildings still stood: a chapel, three superimposed chambers under one roof, a barn, and a dovecote The structure described as *`three chambers'* may be a tower-house.

The battle for Radcot Bridge (1387)

1.3.15 Richard II, on coming to the throne, removed much of the control from the established nobles; these disaffected nobles formed a group known as the Lords Appellant. Richard turned to his favourites such as Robert de Vere, 9th Earl of Oxford and Michael de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk for counsel, an unpopular move. In 1386 Parliament, under pressure from the Lords Appellant, demanded that Richard remove his unpopular counsellors, which Richard refused. Richard was facing revolt amongst the strongly armed Barons, and at this time of private armies the Barons could muster more troops than the King. Lord de Vere was sent by the King to raise troops in the Midlands and the Welsh borders and to return to London. To counter this, the Duke of Gloucester was sent to block de Vere's route back to London and to force him south to face Lord Arundel, who was holding the road from Burford to Witney and Newbridge, and the future King Henry IV, Lord Derby, who held Radcot Bridge. The defeat of the King's army at Radcot would eventually lead to Richard's imprisonment and the subsequent execution of many of his unpopular counsellors in 1388 (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_II_of_England; Pocock, 1966).

'Strong pile' to 'mansion place' (*c.*1530)

1.3.16 In the 1530s John Leland wrote of Radcot *'where hathe bene a strong pile, and now a mansion place'* (Toulmin Smith, 1964). It seems most likely that the *`strong pile'* was the tower-house mentioned in 1379, and that the *`mansion place'* was the present Radcot House.

1.3.17 To the north of the Garrison and Radcot House are the remains of a shrunken medieval village situated on either side of the main northern

approach to the castle complex (SMR No 1084-MOX9780). It is possible that the village was deserted following the movement away from the Garrison to the site of the present Radcot House, and the clearing of land around the new house for gardens and parkland.

Post-Medieval

1.3.18 The Site gets its name 'The Garrison' from the 17th Century Civil War action which took place around Radcot Bridge and Faringdon, and the eventual establishment of a Royalist garrison at Radcot House in 1645. Toynbee (1946, 49) describes the site as *'a minor Royalist fort'* whose main role was to keep open the lines of communication on the road to Faringdon.

1.4 Previous Archaeological Work

Geophysical Survey

1.4.1 No archaeological work had been undertaken within the Site until 2007 when a magnetometer survey was carried out by Abingdon Archaeological Geophysics (**Figure 11A**). The survey revealed a number of structures and features, including a large square building with a central structure interpreted as the castle keep, located just west of centre within the Site. In the south-east corner a three-celled structure interpreted as a chapel was observed, as well as a number of possible ancillary buildings. These structures were interpreted as belonging to the phase of activity associated with Hugh of Buckland *c*.1100-1120.

1.4.2 Aligned approximately north-south and running roughly centrally through the Site was a large anomaly that dog-legged to the west before continuing to the north and then dog-legging back to the east. This feature was interpreted as a large defensive ditch associated with the eastern enclosure within the moated site, and clearly followed the base of the western earthwork of the eastern enclosure, with the dog-leg creating a bulwark at the north-west corner. It was suggested that this eastern enclosure was associated with the 17th century Civil War activity which gave rise to the Site name 'The Garrison', and that it represents the *'minor Royalist fort'* referred to by Toynbee (1946, 49).

Archaeological Evaluation

1.4.3 The only intrusive archaeological work undertaken on the Site to date was a single evaluation trench excavated by Professor John Blair of The Queen's College, Oxford, and Roger Ainslie of Abingdon Archaeological Geophysics, with members of the Abingdon Archaeological Society. The trench was 5m long by 2 m wide, aligned east-west, and aimed to investigate the western wall of the large square structure identified in the geophysical survey as the castle keep.

1.4.4 The evaluation report (Blair 2007) has not been published and is presented in **Appendix 2** in its entirety. The trench will be referred to as Trench Blair 1 within the remainder of this report (see **Figure 1**).

1.4.5 Trench Blair 1 revealed the heavily robbed south-western corner of the keep, which was recorded as 3.7m wide and a maximum of 0.40m thick. It was butted on the external side by repeated gravel deposits, interpreted as a metalled surface. Overlying the metalled surface and butting the exterior of the keep was a dump of mortared ashlar blocks which was interpreted as possible evidence of the fortification of the base of Hugh of Buckland's tower

by Matilda in 1142. Evidence of other such strengthening deposits around keeps has been observed, for example, at Mount House, Witney, some 14.5 km to the north (Videotext Communications 2008, 3).

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1.1 A project design for the work was compiled (Videotext Communications 2008), providing full details of the research aims and methods. A brief summary is provided here.

2.1.2 The aim of the project was to characterise the nature and date of the Site and place it within its historical, geographical and archaeological context. Of particular priority was the establishment and refinement of the chronology and phasing of the Site.

3 METHODS

3.1 Geophysical Survey

3.1.1 Prior to the excavation of evaluation trenches, a geophysical survey was carried out across the Site by GSB Prospection Ltd, using a combination of resistance and magnetic survey, to enhance the results of the Abingdon Archaeological Geophysics survey of 2007. The survey grid was set out by Dr Henry Chapman and tied in to the Ordnance Survey grid using a Trimble real time differential GPS system.

3.1.2 Two instruments were used to collect magnetic data; Bartington Grad 601-2 and Foerster Ferex 4.032; the latter giving a greater resolution.

3.2 Evaluation Trenches

3.2.1 Seven trenches of varying sizes were excavated, their locations determined in order to investigate and to clarify geophysical anomalies and investigate standing earthworks (**Figure 1**).

3.2.2 The trenches were excavated using a combination of machine and hand digging. All machine trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision and ceased at the identification of significant archaeological remains, or at natural geology if this was encountered first. When machine excavation had ceased all trenches were cleaned by hand and archaeological deposits investigated.

3.2.3 At various stages during excavation the deposits were scanned by a metal detector and signals marked in order to facilitate investigation. The excavated spoil was scanned by metal detector.

3.2.4 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Trenches were located using a Trimble Real Time Differential GPS survey system. All archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:20 with sections drawn at 1:10. All principal strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum.

3.2.5 A full photographic record of the investigations and individual features was maintained, utilising digital images. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and general context of the archaeology revealed and the Site as a whole.

3.2.6 At the completion of the work, all trenches were reinstated using the excavated soil.

3.2.7 A unique site code (RAD 08) was issued prior to the commencement of works. The work was carried out on the 13th – 16th May 2008. The archive and all artefacts were subsequently transported to the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury where they were processed and assessed for this report.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features, the full geophysical report (GSB 2008), the summary of the landscape and earthwork survey and details of artefactual and environmental assessments, are retained in the archive. Details of the excavated sequences can be found in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Geophysical Survey

4.2.1 Conditions for survey were good as the ground cover consisted of short pasture with no obstructions.

*Gradiometer Survey (**Figure 2A**)*

4.2.2 The magnetic data clearly show the footprint of the castle keep (1); the wall foundations are visible as strong negative anomalies; this compares with both the resistance and GPR surveys. An interior wall and a central pillar can also be seen within the structure. A number of anomalies can also be seen to the north; these may represent structures attached to the building. Some of these features also correspond to the GPR data.

4.2.3 Further wall foundations can be seen at (2) and (3) to the east of the keep. These are thought to be buildings associated with the Garrison. Anomalies (2) represent a possible chapel and correspond with (H) in the GPR data. Foundations surrounding (3) proved to be of a more domestic nature when excavated; one of the buildings was thought to be a kitchen. Anomalies within the wall foundations may indicate demolition spread or areas of burning.

4.2.4 A curvilinear trend (4) to the west of the Garrison is difficult to interpret archaeologically. It may be contemporary with the keep, perhaps representing garden features; it could, however, be of either an earlier or later date.

4.2.5 Running through the data on a north-south alignment is the Civil War ditch (5). This feature is also seen in the resistance data.

4.2.6 Anomaly (6) lies on a differing alignment to the other features in the data; it may be a ditch pre-dating the castle, but this interpretation is tentative.

4.2.7 Other negative responses may have an archaeological origin although some may simply be topographic effects. The ditch surrounding the main site can be seen as a negative anomaly. There are very few anomalies of a ferrous nature throughout the data, perhaps indicating that metal detectorists have been active; some however are located with the ditches and are likely to be modern material.

*Ground Penetrating Radar (**Figure 2B**)*

4.2.8 The footings of the tower are the dominant feature of this dataset. Clear breaks can be seen in the wall lines at (A) and, owing to the sharply defined edges, these are thought to be doorways rather than robbing of construction material. To a depth of around 1m a central division (B) is apparent, splitting the floorplan of the keep roughly in half. Excavation confirmed the linear anomaly to be of a relatively superficial construction overlying a far more substantial deposit of stone, presumably to support the upper floor.

4.2.9 Immediately adjacent to the keep is a broad area of increase response (D), within which there are numerous high amplitude anomalies. Despite hints of rectilinearity, it is not possible to define individual structures or a layout; while it is assumed that this zone has structure within it, it has not been possible to differentiate potential demolition spread from *in situ* remains. An exception to this is rectilinear anomaly (E). This closely flanks the castle walls on two sides but it is not clear whether it is remnants of an earlier structure or some form of out-building.

4.2.10 Structure (F) is relatively clear and looks to be an ancillary building associated with the keep. It appears to have been truncated by the later Civil War ditch (G), as there is no obvious end wall to the south-east. It is possible that this has simply been robbed out.

4.2.11 Numerous high amplitude anomalies and trends east of, and on a shared rectilinear alignment to the keep are thought to be earlier manorial structures which the Civil War ditch may also have truncated. In this region the buildings are poorly defined, with the exception of (H) and (I). It was postulated that the former may be a chapel, possibly with an apsidal east end. The latter structure (I) is thought to have had a more domestic function, given that excavations revealed a hearth.

*Resistance Survey (**Figure 2C**)*

4.2.12 Time permitted only a small section of the site to be investigated by the resistance survey. The high resistance anomaly (a) is part of the castle keep. A small area of high resistance to the north is likely to be an associated building, as seen in the other techniques.

4.2.13 Anomalies (b) are again consistent with the other surveys and show the chapel and domestic buildings; they are, however not as clearly defined as in the magnetic or radar data.

4.2.14 A band of low resistance (c) on a north-south alignment is that of the Civil War ditch.

Conclusions

4.2.15 Past geophysical work had already demonstrated that magnetometry worked well at Radcot. The present project confirmed these earlier findings, and provided a clear picture of the Garrison and surrounding buildings.

4.2.16 Of the three geophysical techniques the GPR produced the most striking results (details of the time-slices and 3-D animations form part of the project archive).

4.3 Evaluation Trenches

Introduction

4.3.1 Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 were excavated within the moated area known as 'The Garrison' while Trench 6 was excavated some 70m south-east of the enclosure within an area of woodland adjacent to the River Thames. The results of the evaluation will be presented by area.

4.4 'The Garrison'

Site-Wide Stratigraphy

4.4.1 Each trench excavated within 'The Garrison' revealed the same upper deposits which were removed by machine. This included on average 0.22m of turf and topsoil which sealed a pea grit-rich deposit (on average 0.28m thick). The pea grit deposits sealed stratified *in situ* archaeology. Pottery recovered from these overlying deposits included a mixture of Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval pottery.

*Trench 1 (**Figures 3 & 4**)*

4.4.2 Trench 1 was sited on the north-east corner of the keep as identified in the geophysical survey, and also on the roughly north-south aligned ditch at the point where it dog-legged to the west.

4.4.3 The earliest recorded deposits in Trench 1 were revealed in two sondages, one excavated against the northern side of the northern keep wall (Group 137), and one located within the interior of the keep structure, on the south side of (Group 137) at the junction with the eastern wall of the keep (Group 136).

4.4.4 Two natural alluvial deposits (128) and (129) were observed in Sondage 1, and these were overlain in turn by buried ground surface/old agricultural deposits (127) and (122/123) (**Figure 4, section 107**). In Sondage 2 deposit (126) was observed, identical to (122/123). These deposits were interpreted as the Norman ground surface. Deposit (127) was possibly a pre-Norman ground surface – it contained only Romano-British pottery - with overlying deposit (122/123) possibly representing up-cast material from the excavation of the moat surrounding the castle enclosure, mounded into the interior, although this is unclear. Pottery recovered from (122/123) included residual Romano-British and late Saxon sherds as well as 11th and 12th century wares.

4.4.5 To the north of the keep structure, ground surface (122/123) had been reworked by trampling, resulting in the development of deposit (117), probably during the construction of the keep (**Figure 4, section 107 & Plate 4**). This deposit also contained 11th/12th century pottery.

4.4.6 The first construction in Trench 1 was the large footings trench (118) for the north-east corner of the keep. This trench cut (117) and (126) to a maximum depth of 0.90m. The foundation for the two walls (Group 136) and (Group 137) comprised a thick slurry of limestone mortar with limestone blocks, which had been poured into (118). Above this was (110), a single

basal course of limestone blocks overlain in turn by (105), the core material of the two keep walls. No facing stones of the keep structure remained - they had been removed, presumably to be reused elsewhere, leaving only the very base of the core material (105) (**Figure 3, Plate 1**).

4.4.7 Incorporated into the eastern wall of the keep was drain (Group 140), composed of drain walls (133) and (134) and capping stones (135).

4.4.8 Contemporary with the construction of the keep walls was pier base (131) (**Figure 3, Plate 2**). This had been identified in the geophysical survey as a square structure positioned centrally within the keep, and would originally have held a stone pillar supporting a large horizontal timber bridging beam (principal floor joist) on which the floor joists and floor boards of an upper storey would have rested.

4.4.9 A second phase of construction within the keep was observed butting pier base (131). The geophysical survey had identified that on both sides of (131) was a roughly east-west addition which separated the ground floor into two rooms. The eastern addition was recorded as (132), a dry-stone wall of pitched limestone blocks (**Figure 3, Plate 2**); the western addition was not revealed in the trench. The function of this additional wall is unclear. It may have been added as further support for the floor joists of the upper storey, or to divide the ground floor.

4.4.10 On the outside of the keep on the north-east side, deposit (121), overlying (117) and butting wall (Group 136), was interpreted as a deliberated metalled surface used during the occupation of the castle.

4.4.11 There then followed a large scale systematic dismantling of the keep and the removal of mortar from stonework in order to reuse the material. A number of mortar dumps were observed: (116) and (120) outside the building and (108) overlying the remains of the robbed walls (105, (110) and (114). Deposits (116) and (108) contained 11th-12th century pottery. These demolition deposits were in turn overlain by accumulation deposits (115), (107), (106) and (109). The post-demolition accumulation deposits contained pottery ranging in date from the 13th to 16th centuries.

4.4.12 These post-demolition deposits were then reworked through bioturbation and probable agricultural activity, giving rise to a large overlying deposit recorded as (102/103/104/111); this contained a mix of pottery including Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval sherds.

4.4.13 In the north-east corner of Trench 1 a large ditch (112) cut (111); the ditch was aligned east-west and could be seen to turn back on a north-south alignment. It was recorded to a maximum depth of 1.75m and was interpreted as part of the Civil War defensive enclosure. The earliest fill (125), a gleyed clay accumulation at the base of the ditch, contained a pewter goblet dating to the second half of the 17th century and a musket ball. When the ditch had almost completely filled in, a stabilisation layer (138) formed (**Figure 4, section 105 & Plate 3**).

*Trench 2 (**Figure 5**)*

4.4.14 Trench 2 was positioned on the northern limit of the moated site to investigate evidence for a possible gatehouse and access road into the castle complex. As was clear from the cartographic evidence, the original

line of the road between Witney and Faringdon passed through the Site (see **Figure 1**).

4.4.15 The earliest structures observed within Trench 2 were the parallel walls of the gatehouse (212) and (213), associated road surfaces and the northern defensive ditch of the castle complex (203). It was not observed which was constructed first.

4.4.16 The gatehouse walls were constructed of unworked limestone blocks within lime mortar, identical in construction to the keep walls in Trench 1. Both walls had been heavily robbed and no facing stones remained. Possibly associated with wall (212) was a large post-hole (208). It was unclear if this cut (212) or was actually an integral part of the gatehouse structure; it contained early medieval (11th/12th century) pottery. The distance between walls (212) and (213) was 3.8m. The road between was formed of multiple horizontal layers of gravel recorded as (210), (217), (218), (219), (220), (221) and (222) (**Figure 5, section**). Layer (210) contained 11th/12th century pottery. Following the abandonment of the castle complex, the roadway was sealed by a collapse deposits (223) and (224).

4.4.17 The northern defensive ditch (203) was not, in fact, fully observed within Trench 2 due to the narrow constraints of the latter. However, the nature of the deposits within Trench 2 and the upstanding earthworks indicate the ditch's existence. The ditch was identified through the backfill material within the feature (**Figure 5, section**). The earliest backfill recorded was (202), possibly part of the slow silting up of the feature during the lifetime of the castle enclosure, a mix of eroded topsoil material and material derived from the feature edges, which contained only residual Romano-British pottery. This was sealed by two large rubble-rich deposits (204) and (232). Deposit (204) contained 11th/12th century pottery, and was interpreted as the collapse of the surrounding curtain wall of the castle (**Figure 5, Plates 5 & 6**). The nature of the deposit, the extent of the robbing in Trench 1, and the walls of the gatehouse all combine to indicate the systematic dismantling of the structure. Overlying (204) and (232) was (231), a thick layer of decayed mortar, further evidence of the deliberate cleaning of mortar from re-used stonework. This was subsequently overlain by a thick organic deposit (230), probably material ploughed in following the total abandonment of the castle complex.

4.4.18 During the demolition of the curtain wall and the infilling of the northern defensive ditch, the gatehouse walls were also robbed – wall (213) by robber trench (214) and wall (212) by robber trench (211) (**Figure 5, section**). No datable material was recovered from the robber trenches and so it is unclear when this demolition phase occurred.

4.4.19 At the eastern end of Trench 2, ditch (225) cut the backfill of robber trench (211). The ditch contained three fills, (226), (227) and (228), but was not fully investigated (**Figure 5, section**).

4.4.20 A large north-south ditch (206) represented the final phase of activity with Trench 2. This was interpreted as the continuation of ditch (112) identified in Trench 1 as part of the 17th century Civil War defences. Ditch (206) cut through the backfill of robber trench (214) (**Figure 5, section**). The ditch was filled by a series of deposits recorded as (216), (233), (234) and (207), which contained early medieval pottery and residual Romano-British sherds.

*Trench 3 (**Figure 6**)*

4.4.21 Trench 3 was positioned to investigate the three-celled structure identified in the geophysical survey and interpreted as a possible chapel.

4.4.22 The natural alluvium (326) was revealed within a small sondage on the northern edge of the trench (**Figure 6, Plates 7 & 8**), and this had been cut through by a ditch (325) which containing three small and abraded later prehistoric (probably Iron Age) sherds of pottery, the only dating evidence. The ditch was not fully investigated; it was sealed beneath an early medieval ($11^{th}/12^{th}$ century) buried ground surface/plough soil (306/323). A late prehistoric date is possible for the ditch, but it remains ambiguous.

4.4.23 The buried soil (306/323) was cut through by a possible ditch (307) which contained 11^{th}-12^{th} century pottery, again not fully investigated; it was sealed by buried ground surface/plough soil (322).

4.4.24 The only identifiable remains of the possible chapel were two stone-lined drains (318) and (321/337), of which the latter contained 11^{th}-12^{th} century pottery; and a series of floor surfaces, repairs and make-up layers: (334), (333), (332), (331), (329) and (330) (**Figure 6, section**). The earliest floor layer (334) overlay infilled ditch (307), and both drains cut buried ground surface/plough soil (322). Deposits (327) and (328) may also have been associated with the chapel; both contained 11^{th}-12^{th} century pottery but were not investigated further.

4.4.25 The floor layers were overlain by a mortar dump (304), and the drains by layers (314) and (313). Pottery recovered from these overlying deposits dated to the $11^{th}/12^{th}$ century. These layers were all cut through by (308), a large-scale robbing event. It is considered that this was the robber trench for the removal of the walls of the possible chapel. A possible later phase of robbing is represented by cut (312).

*Trench 4 (**Figure 7**)*

4.4.26 Trench 4 was located across the northern east-west earthwork interpreted as part of the 17^{th} century Civil War fort.

4.4.27 The earliest deposit observed within Trench 4 was (416), a possible 17^{th} century buried ground surface.

4.4.28 Excavation revealed that the earthwork comprised two parallel revetment walls approximately 4m apart, the interior infilled with deliberately deposited layers of material (**Figure 7, Plate 9**). The northern revetment (Group 420) consisted of an upper and lower limestone block wall, (408) and (409) respectively. Pottery recovered from within (408) dated to the $16^{th}/17^{th}$ century, confirming the Civil War construction date. (408) was overlain by deposits (405), (406) and (417), and these were sealed by (409) to create the revetment. The southern revetment (Group (421) comprised lower stone structure (418), overlain by deposit (407) and subsequently sealed by wall (410). The two revetments contained bank make-up deposit (411).

4.4.29 The abandonment of the Site as a defensive structure can be seen from a series of erosion deposits, possibly a result of ploughing; these include (415), (414) and (413), which overlay (410) and sealed (416).

*Trench 5 (**Figure 8**)*

4.4.30 Trench 5 investigated one of the potential ancillary buildings identified from the geophysical survey.

4.4.31 Buried ground surface/old cultivation layer (504/509/511), containing 11th/12th century pottery, was cut by (519) for the construction of a large gravel raft (518). At about the same time, foundation trenches (513) and (507) were excavated and walls (505) and (506) constructed. Pottery from the footing trenches is of 11th/12th century date.

4.4.32 The building formed of walls (505) and (506) and wall remnant (513) was built upon gravel raft (518) and gravel foundations (508) (**Figure 8, Plate 10**).

4.4.33 A doorway was observed between wall remnant (513) and (520), the latter being a possible setting for a vertical jamb at the end of robbed wall (506). Another north-south wall (510) potentially butted on to the south side of wall (505). This was constructed in foundation trench (514), on top of gravel foundation material (515). The construction technique is the same as that used for walls (505) and (506) and all three walls are likely to be contemporary.

4.4.34 This structure had not been as heavily robbed for masonry as the keep and the possible chapel. This may have been because it was constructed from inferior material, which could suggest a use as an ancillary building. Wall (505) had, however, been partially robbed, as evidenced by (517).

*Trench 7 (**Figure 9**)*

4.4.35 Trench 7 aimed to investigate a series of geophysical anomalies which appeared to be on a different alignment to the features of the 11th/12th century moated site and the 17th century Civil War enclosure.

4.4.36 The natural river gravels (716) and natural alluvium (715) were cut by two late Romano-British ditches; (707) and (709), both of which contained 3rd to 4th century AD pottery (**Figure 9, section**). Ditch (709) appeared to have been cut, when backfilled, by post-hole (711). A later ditch (705) also cut (715); this contained 11th/12th century pottery. The function of these features is unclear, but the fact that the backfills comprised natural infilling deposits implies that they were possibly agricultural boundaries.

4.4.37 A possible subsoil or old ground surface/plough soil layer (703) sealed all these features and may have accumulated following the abandonment of the castle complex. It was cut by ditch (713), which was on a different alignment to the Romano-British features and to the castle structures. It contained 11th/12th century pottery, but it is possible this was residual and that the ditch relates to later activity within the Site, possibly Civil War or later.

4.5 South of 'The Garrison'

*Trench 6 (**Figure 10**)*

4.5.1 Trench 6 was located south of the main moated site, in an attempt to locate the original line of the road between Faringdon and Witney which passed through the Site and which can still be seen as an avenue passing through the grounds of Radcot House to the north of 'The Garrison' (see **Figure 1**). Due to the density of trees in this area, however, the trench position had to be altered from its originally planned location, and the road was not located.

4.5.2 Under the topsoil was a modern layer of redeposited gravels (602), overlying a buried ground surface (603). This in turn overlay a thick layer of natural, river-borne alluvium (604) and natural blue grey clay (605) (**Figure 10, section, Plates 12 & 13**). No archaeology was revealed.

5 FINDS

Introduction

5.1.1 Finds were recovered from all six of the trenches excavated across 'The Garrison' site; no finds were recovered from Trench 6, excavated to the south-east of the main site. Most of the finds came from Trench 1, excavated across the north-east corner of the keep, while the other five trenches produced relatively small quantities of material.

5.1.2 The assemblage ranges in date from prehistoric to post-medieval, although the majority is of either Romano-British or medieval date. Only pottery and animal bone were recovered in any quantity; other material types are much more sparsely represented.

5.1.3 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and totals by material type and by trench are presented in **Table 1**. Subsequent to quantification, all finds have been at least visually scanned in order to gain an overall idea of the range of types present, their condition, and their potential date range. Spot dates have been recorded for selected material types as appropriate (pottery, metalwork). All finds data are currently held on an Access database, which forms part of the project archive.

5.1.4 This section presents an overview of the finds assemblage, on which is based an assessment of the potential of this assemblage to contribute to an understanding of the site in its local and regional context, with particular reference to the construction and development of the early medieval castle, and to the Civil War activity on the site.

5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 The pottery assemblage includes material of prehistoric, Romano-British, Late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date. The condition varies; prehistoric sherds (which all appear to be residual) are small and quite heavily abraded, as are many of the Romano-British sherds (likewise largely residual). Medieval and post-medieval material is better preserved, with lower levels of abrasion.

5.2.2 The whole assemblage has been recorded in some detail, following the standard Wessex Archaeology system for pottery recording (Morris 1994),

utilising where possible the local Oxfordshire type series for post-Roman wares (Mellor 1994), and following nationally recommended nomenclature for post-Roman vessel forms (MPRG 1998). Details of surface treatment and decoration have also been recorded. Totals by ware type are presented in **Table 2.**

Prehistoric

5.2.3 A small number of sherds (23) have been identified as prehistoric, although many of these are undiagnostic and have been dated solely on the grounds of fabric type. Fabrics comprise flint-tempered, calcareous (limestone-tempered and shelly) and sandy wares. Diagnostic sherds appear to derive exclusively from carinated forms, either bowls or jars, with impressed or incised decoration on or above carinations/shoulders. These forms point to a probable date within the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age, although some of the undiagnostic sherds could equally well fall later in the Iron Age.

5.2.4 Prehistoric sherds were spread between Trenches 1, 3, 4, 5 and 7, although most came from Trench 3 (16 sherds). In most cases these sherds appear to be residual in later contexts (Romano-British and post-Roman). However, one context in Trench 3 could be of later prehistoric date – ditch (325) produced only three abraded body sherds of later prehistoric pottery (two limestone-tempered and one sandy ware).

Romano-British

5.2.5 The Romano-British assemblage (398 sherds) is dominated by coarsewares, including greywares and oxidised wares, many of which are likely to derive from the local Oxfordshire production centre. Also recognised was Black Burnished ware (BB1) from south Dorset. Coarseware vessel forms are mostly everted rim jars, with a few bowls and dishes (bead rim, carinated and straight-sided 'dog dishes'). Alongside these are a handful of finewares: Oxfordshire whitewares and colour-coated wares (dishes, bowls and mortaria), and imported samian (one form 33 cup). The range of wares and vessel forms is sufficient to suggest a date range spanning the period from at least the 2nd to the 4th century AD, with the possibility of some later 1st century material.

5.2.6 Romano-British material occurred in most trenches, the largest quantity coming from Trench 1 (229 out of the total of 398 sherds), but in most cases appears to represent residual sherds in later (medieval or post-medieval) contexts. A few contexts, however, do appear to contain *in situ* Romano-British sherds; these include alluvial layer (128) and buried ground surface (127) in Trench 1. Sherds from (127) are probably 3rd or 4th century AD in date. In addition, ditches (707) and (709) in Trench 7 can be dated as late 3rd or 4th century AD.

Late Saxon and Medieval

5.2.7 One major regional tradition dominates this chronological group, with other local and regional wares occurring in smaller quantities. The date range runs from Late Saxon (10th/11th century) through at least to the late 13th century.

<u>Fabrics and forms</u>

5.2.8 Two sherds were identified as Late Saxon; both are in the shelly St Neot's-type ware (Oxfordshire fabric OXR), although none are diagnostic. St Neot's-type ware has a potential date range of 10th to 11th century in

Oxfordshire (Mellor 1994, 57). Both sherds were residual, occurring with later, medieval pottery.

5.2.9 Predominant amongst the early medieval wares are sherds of 'East Wiltshire' or 'Kennet Valley-type' wares (OXAQ). In the Oxfordshire type series the two main types that make up this tradition, flint-tempered and chalk-/flint-tempered, are not separately defined, but have been shown elsewhere to have slightly different, although overlapping, date ranges, the flint-tempered wares appearing first by at least the 11th century, subsequently augmented by and then superseded by the chalk-/flint-tempered wares by the end of the 13th century (Vince 1997, 64-5). This chronological differentiation is of interest at Radcot, since the two types have differing distributions across the site. The flint-tempered wares are predominant in Trenches 5 and 7, while the chalk-/flint-tempered wares are largely confined to Trench 1 (quantities are too small in other trenches to make any comment). Vessel forms in OXAQ are nearly all jars, with characteristically thickened and flattened rims, sometimes finger-impressed (Vince 1997, figs. 31-3). One finger-impressed or 'dimpled' shoulder was observed (Mellor 1994, fig. 41, no. 1). Mellor recognised at least three sizes of jar (1994, 102), although there is more likely to be a continuous spectrum of sizes rather than distinct, standardised size groups (see Mepham 2000, 55-6). Rims at Radcot range in diameter from 160mm to 340mm, with one large outlier at 460mm (35 measurable examples altogether). There are also two bowls with out-turned rims, one with curvilinear combing on the exterior surface (Mellor 1994, fig. 42, no. 5).

5.2.10 Alongside the flint-tempered Kennet Valley-type wares in Trenches 5 and 7 are sherds of the local calcareous gravel-tempered tradition (OXAC), which has a wide date range of late 10th to early 13th century. Characteristic forms seen here include rounded or straight-sided jars with everted rims, generally thickened, and frequently finger impressed (Mellor 1994, figs. 10-11); there are also two dish/bowl forms, and a strap handle from a pitcher.

5.2.11 The visual distinction between the local calcareous gravel-tempered wares and Minety-type wares from north-east Wiltshire (OXBB) is hard to maintain on fabric grounds alone; both contain oolitic limestone. The Minety-type wares, however, tend to be slightly better made, and include glazed vessels (which are not present in OXAC). Sherds of OXBB occurred most commonly alongside the chalk-/flint-tempered Kennet Valley-type wares, particularly in Trench 1. Minety-type wares, then, appear to have been supplying the bulk of the earlier medieval tablewares – glazed tripod pitchers, frequently with linear or curvilinear incised or combed decoration; handles are slashed or stabbed. There are also jars, generally with externally bevelled or triangular-profile rims (Mellor 1994, fig. 38, nos. 2-3), and one bowl. OXBB has a wide potential date range, from the mid 12th century throughout the medieval period.

5.2.12 Sandy wares are not very commonly represented; most of those seen here are likely to be Abingdon ware (OXAG), some glazed. Diagnostic forms comprise two jars and a dish; one body sherd has applied rouletted strips and almost certainly derives from a decorated jug. Abingdon ware is dated as late 11th to at least the early 14th century (Mellor 1994, 79-80).

5.2.13 Later finewares appear to be almost exclusively supplied by the Brill-Boarstall industry (OXAM/OXAW); sherds derive from glazed jugs, many

with complex applied and slipped decoration, sometimes in vibrant polychrome designs. These can be relatively closely dated to the 13th century, and were confined to Trench 1.

5.2.14 One other regional ware was recognised; this is a visibly micaceous coarseware which is comparable to wares found across north and west Wiltshire, with a potential source in the Warminster area (Smith 1997). Only body sherds were found here. These micaceous 'West Wiltshire' wares have a wide chronology, spanning the medieval period.

5.2.15 Finally, a single sherd of imported Saintonge ware is of interest. This came from revetment wall (409) within the Civil Ware earthwork in Trench 4. It is a small body sherd with monochrome green glaze. Green-glazed Saintonge wares are generally dated as late 13th or early 14th century, but are uncommon finds outside the major ports. Inland, their occurrence is usually confined to 'high status' sites, e.g. manorial, religious or castles.

Distribution

5.2.16 Just over three-quarters of the Late Saxon/medieval assemblage (77% by sherd count) came from Trench 1, with a further 15% from Trench 5; other trenches produced only small quantities.

5.2.17 Within Trench 1 large groups came from (102), (106), (109), all later layers (post-demolition and reworked deposits) sealing underlying structures. On the basis of the wares present, these deposits can be dated no later than 13th century, although there are clearly residual Romano-British wares and possibly some earlier medieval wares as well. However, no pottery which could be definitively dated as 13th century came from pre-demolition layers, so while occupation on this part of the site appears to have extended to this date, there are no features or structures which can be tied to this period.

5.2.18 Medieval activity elsewhere on the site seems to have been largely confined to the 11th/12th century; the only group of any size came from Trench 5, associated with an ancillary building.

Post-Medieval

5.2.19 Post-medieval pottery consists largely of coarse redwares, with single sherds of Raeren (late 15th/16th century) and Cologne/Frechen stonewares (late 16th/17th century), and two sherds of tinglazed earthenware (17th/early 18th century). Most sherds came from upper layers in Trench 1 (post-demolition and reworked demolition deposits); no pottery came from deposits associated with the Civil War activity.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

5.3.1 Only very small quantities of CBM were recovered. At least two pieces are Romano-British (one *tegula* from layer (702) and one box flue tile from layer (102)). Other brick fragments (topsoil in Trenches 2 and 3, old ground surface (511)) are also likely to be Romano-British. One tile fragment from Civil War defensive ditch (112) is medieval or early post-medieval. Other fragments are undiagnostic.

5.4 Clay Pipe

5.4.1 The clay pipe consists almost entirely of plain stem fragments; one bowl fragment from Trench 5 (topsoil) is probably of early 17th century date.

5.5 Stone

5.5.1 The stone includes one identifiable object – a small part of a rotary quernstone in imported lava stone, from Trench 1 (layer 127). Lava querns were imported into this country from the Continent from the Roman period through to the early medieval period. This example was associated with Romano-British pottery.

5.6 Glass

5.6.1 The seven pieces of glass recovered (all topsoil finds) are all window glass, of late medieval or early post-medieval type. Oxidation has reduced all pieces to an almost totally opaque condition. The single piece from Trench 5 (topsoil) shows a grozed edge, as do two of the pieces from Trench 3 (topsoil). One diamond-shaped quarry is identifiable amongst the group from Trench 3; this is in a slightly thinner glass than the other pieces, and is certainly of post-medieval date. Two pieces from Trench 3 are painted, although the pieces are too small, and the glass too opaque, to discern any overall decorative schemes.

5.7 Metalwork

Copper Alloy

5.7.1 A single copper alloy jeton was recovered from the topsoil of Trench 3. Although it is both worn and corroded, this 'rose/orb' issue was almost certainly struck at Nuremberg in the first half of the 16th century. Jetons were reckoning counters used in medieval accounting and mathematical calculations.

5.7.2 They were used in conjunction with checkerboards or cloths in order to record values and sums of money. Specialist tokens for this purpose were produced from the late 13th century onwards, and they were in widespread use from the 14th century until the late 17th century, when they were made redundant by the increasing spread of Arabic numerals. Nuremberg took over from Tournai as the main European centre for jeton manufacture in the 16th century. Jetons are common finds on high status medieval sites, and the presence of one at Radcot Castle probably indicates that some form of accounting or book-keeping was taking place.

5.7.3 A copper alloy horse harness pendant from topsoil in Trench 1 is medieval; these objects are traditionally dated to the late 13th or 14th century, although their origins may lie as early as the 12th century (Griffiths 1986; 1995). This example comprises a small cinquefoil suspended within a cinquefoil frame with a suspension loop above, a less common form of pendant.

5.7.4 Apart from a post-medieval button and a modern cartridge case (both topsoil finds), other objects are not closely datable; they comprise three sheet fragments, thin wire, and a fragment from the rim of a small cast bell.

Lead/Lead alloy

5.7.5 Eight, possibly nine musket balls make up the majority of the lead objects; two show impact marks. Most were topsoil finds in Trenches 1, 2 and 3 (none from the Civil War earthwork in Trench 4), with one from the Civil War ditch (112) in Trench 1. There are also two repair plugs, possibly from vessels, and a few pieces of waste.

5.7.6 Of most interest in this category, however, is a complete pewter goblet, also from ditch (112). The goblet, although now squashed and distorted, originally had a round funnel bowl and slightly elongated inverted baluster knop, with a height of about 150mm. The style is early 17th century (compare glass examples, e.g. Willmott 2002, fig. 58) which would fit with the provenance.

Iron

5.7.7 The ironwork consists largely of nails, amongst which are several 'fiddle-key' nails of the type used to attach medieval horseshoes (Clark 1995, fig. 64); the latter were topsoil finds in Trenches 1 and 4. Two horseshoes of lobate, medieval type were also identified (Clark 1995, fig. 62); these have a date range of late 11th to 13th century. Both came from Trench 4, one from topsoil and one from the southern revetment of the Civil War earthwork. A third horseshoe fragment from Trench 4 topsoil is of uncertain form; there is also a possible ox shoe fragment from Trench 2 topsoil. One more transport-related item may be represented by a large ovoid ring, possibly a harness fitting, from the Civil War ditch (112).

5.7.8 Other identifiable iron objects include further structural items (U-staples, figure-eight-shaped hasp), but many fragments are either unidentifiable, or comprise undiagnostic sheet, plate or rod fragments.

5.8 Animal Bone

Introduction

5.8.1 The faunal assemblage consists of 1636 hand collected mammal, bird and fish bone fragments. Conjoining fragments that were demonstrably from the same bone were counted as one bone in order to minimise distortion, and therefore specimen counts (NISP) given here may differ from the absolute raw fragment counts in **Table 1**. No fragments were recorded as 'medium mammal' or 'large mammal'; these were instead consigned to the unidentified category. On the basis of associated pottery, the material is mainly medieval in date with small residual quantities of material possibly dating to the Iron Age and Roman period.

Condition and preservation

5.8.2 The overall condition of the bones is good with a few contexts in fair condition (**Table 3**). Marks left by scavengers or butchery tools were clearly visible. The presence of canid gnawing marks indicates that bone waste was accessible or fed to dogs. This means that the assemblage could be biased towards the larger bones of larger animals. The butchery marks show that at least part of the material consists of butchery and kitchen waste. Burnt fragments might derive from burning waste or cooking practices.

Species proportions

5.8.3 The assemblage is dominated by cattle, followed by sheep/goat and pig (**Table 4**). Small proportions of pig and fish as well as a large proportion of

poultry (chicken, goose and pigeon) complemented the diet. Although not present in the bone material, gnawing marks made by dogs indicate their presence on the site. It is likely that dogs had a different status than the other domesticates and were thus not disposed of together with food waste. This does not seem to hold true for cats as their bones were found in contexts (102) and (126).

5.8.4 Besides the remains of the usual domesticates, the assemblage contained the remains of fallow deer, hedgehog, rabbit, rat, wild boar, heron, small passerine, a species of wader, wild duck and cod. As some of the pig remains were rather larger or belonged to animals of advanced age (for instance a sow mandible from post-demolition context (109) with a very worn M3), it is likely that they derived from wild boar instead. The deer remains are thought to belong to fallow deer rather than red deer based upon the characteristics published by Lister (1996). The presence of fallow deer and wild boar as well as the wild bird species indicates hunting and fowling activities. The fallow deer might have been hunted in a deer park.

5.8.5 The tibia of a rat found in ground surface (122) is not surprising as these scavengers were and are very common in or near human dwellings. The tibia does not exhibit morphological characteristics to distinguish between black or brown rat (Wolff *et al.* 1980, 175). Given the medieval date of the material, black rat is more likely. Although the rabbit bone might be intrusive due to the burrowing nature of these animals, its colour and preservation suggests the bone was found in its original context. Currently, the date of the introduction of rabbits to Britain is under debate with possible finds from Roman contexts being analysed.

Population characteristics

5.8.6 Quite a high proportion of bones identified to species can inform on the age at death of the animal (22.3%) and an equally large proportion can inform on phenotype (13.7%). The presence of foetal/neonate sheep remains in ground surface (122) and Trench 5 topsoil might either indicate the slaughter of a pregnant sheep or the keeping of sheep on the site. The remains of juvenile chickens were found in several contexts in Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 5. Post-hole (208) contained the maxilla of a juvenile horse. This could indicate horse-breeding in the castle.

5.8.7 Four complete bones could be used to determine the height at the withers of cattle and sheep. Two cattle metatarsi measured 196mm and 220mm, giving heights at the withers of c. 1.07m and 1.20m respectively (von den Driesch & Boessneck 1974). Two sheep metacarpi measured 108mm and 122mm, giving heights at the withers of *c*. 0.53m and 0.60m respectively (Teichert 1975). These are normal values for the medieval period.

5.8.8 Five bones displayed signs of pathological change. A cattle metatarsus showed the beginning signs of spavin on the proximal articulation of the metatarsus. Another cattle first phalanx showed osteophytes along its proximal articulation. Both conditions might be the result of stress due to traction. The other three pathologies are the result of trauma. Particularly good examples are a broken and healed sheep metatarsal and a fractured cattle rib. The fact that the fracture had healed completely, with only slight displacement and shortening of the bone, indicates that the mishap probably happened at a young age. Trauma of this kind was obviously not a reason to slaughter the animal. Rib fractures are a common sight in cattle and occur

when they slip or trip over something and fall, when they butt each other or in the case of a cow, during mating. The remaining pathology occurred in a bird foot - the first phalanx shows excessive deposits of new bone, which is indicative of an inflammation.

Butchery

5.8.9 Butchery marks were seen on quite a proportion of bones. Most of them are clear heavy chops involved in portioning ribs, scapulae and pelves. Fine knife cuts were seen mainly on the ribs and feet. They indicate the skinning of the carcass and the filleting of the meat. The assemblages were not characterised by any particular type of waste, rather by elements from all parts of the skeleton. It thus seems that complete carcasses were processed at the site.

Consumption

5.8.10 The fact that some bones showed discrete scorching marks shows that meat cuts were roasted over open fire. Only bone sticking out of the meat would get burnt.

5.8.11 The cod vertebrae could have come from stockfish. These dried (unsalted) preserved cod were (and are) produced in Scotland and Scandinavia.

5.8.12 Although hedgehog, heron and small passerines no longer feature on our tables, all three can be and were eaten in the past. Hedgehogs can be gutted and subsequently covered by clay before being roasted in an oven or heated pit. Small birds of all sorts were commonly netted in the autumn. The birds would have fattened themselves on the berries available and these would improve the taste of the meat. The taste of a heron was probably not very pleasant, given that they eat fish and amphibians. However, their stuffed appearance on a dinner table could have been quite spectacular.

5.9 Marine Shell

5.9.1 The marine shell consists entirely of oyster. Both right and left valves are represented, i.e. representing both preparation and consumption waste. Only small quantities were recovered.

5.10 Other Finds

5.10.1 Other finds comprise very small quantities of burnt, unworked flint, fired clay, and slag; none of this material is datable.

5.11 Potential and further recommendations

5.11.1 This finds assemblage is of moderate size, containing significant quantities of pottery and animal bone; other material types occurred in small quantities only. Datable finds (from pottery, CBM, clay pipes, token, metalwork) have provided the chronological framework for the site, indicating a significant early medieval presence on the site, with some evidence for Roman and post-medieval (particularly 17th century) activity, and a very low-level background scatter of later prehistoric finds.

5.11.2 The medieval group has the most potential for an understanding of the site. As well as chronological information, there is evidence for lifestyle and therefore a possible reflection of site status – a number of transport-related

items (horseshoes and horseshoe nails; harness fitting), and glazed fineware pottery, including one import. Structural evidence (CBM, nails, staples, hasp, possibly window glass) is extremely limited.

5.11.3 From the 17th century, and therefore probably relating to the Civil War activity on the site, come a small number of datable items – a pewter goblet, at least one clay pipe, a small amount of pottery, and a small number of musket balls.

5.11.4 No further analysis is recommended for the finds assemblage; the larger categories (pottery and animal bone) have already been recorded in some detail, and all categories fulfil a minimum archive requirement. Any proposed publication could utilise the information gathered as part of this assessment stage.

6 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Four bulk samples were taken, all from Trench 1, three from features and burnt deposits within and around the keep (contexts (109), (117), (122)), and one from the basal fill (125) of the Civil War ditch (112). The samples were processed for the extraction of charred or waterlogged plant remains in order to provide information relating to the economy of the site, the nature of the various deposits and the local vegetation and environment.

6.2 Methods

6.2.1 Bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred and waterlogged remains quantified (**Tables 5 & 6**). Identifications of dominant or important taxa follow the nomenclature of Stace (1997). Three flots were found to be charred and were dominated by cereal grain with some charcoal. Where large numbers of cereal grains were present they were not counted but species presence was noted and an approximate total calculated. Chaff and weed seeds were extracted, identified and counted. The sample from the Civil War ditch (112) was found to be waterlogged. Waterlogged material was scanned and species presence was noted.

6.3 Results and discussion

Charred samples from the keep

6.3.1 The three deposits from the keep construction and demolition layers produced broadly similar deposits, all being grain rich with few weed seeds or chaff (see **Table 5**). The grain in all three samples was dominated by short rounded grains of *Triticum aestivum/turgidum* (bread/rivet wheat). Occasional grain of *Hordeum vulgare* and *Avena* sp. were noted but may represent little more than contaminants of the wheat grain. Only a small quantity of chaff and weed seeds were present in the samples which are likely to represent contaminants of the grain and suggest that the grain entered the site in a fully processed state ready for storage, consumption or

milling. The assemblages may derive from spoilt grain deliberately burnt due to fungal or insect infestation possible, although there is no evidence for this. Alternatively they may represent grain accidentally burnt during storage or during roasting prior to milling.

6.3.2 This range of cereals is fairly typical of the medieval period (Greig 1991) and the bread or rivet wheat is likely to derive from grain intended for flour and human consumption. Unusual for this period, however, are occasional glume bases of *Triticum spelta* (spelt wheat) or more poorly preserved *T. spelta/dicoccum* (spelt/emmer) present in the early medieval ground surface (122) cut by the keep foundation. It is possible that they derive from earlier (Iron Age or Roman) deposits disturbed during the construction of the foundation trench. The pulses present include a possible *Pisum sativum* (pea) and *Vicia sativa* subsp. *sativa* (cultivated fodder vetch). This is an early find of cultivated vetch. Documentary records for its cultivation exist from the mid 14th century onwards (Campbell 1983, 32). The division of cultivated and wild vetch is difficult given the potential overlap in seed size (Stace 2001), particularly in early medieval deposits, which is likely to have resulted in few early archaeobotanical finds. Cultivated examples have been identified from the first half of the 12th century AD at West Cotton, Northamptonshire (Campbell 1994) and it is likely that it was introduced just before or after the Norman Conquest.

6.3.3 The small number of weed seeds provides some indication of cultivation conditions and processing information. Several of the seeds present are large, being of comparable size to the cereal grain, such as *Agrostemma githago* (corn cockle) or *Lolium temulentum* (rye grass), or from seed heads, such as *Anthemis cotula* (stinking mayweed). Such seeds might remain with the grain following threshing and winnowing and would either be tolerated impurities, being milled with the grain, or would be picked out by hand prior to milling. *Lolium temulentum* is frequently infected with a fungus which makes the seed poisonous to humans and livestock (Terrell 1968, 31; Nesbitt 2006, 14, 54). *Agrostemma githago* is also poisonous, although both species seem to have been common contaminants in medieval grain assemblages. The majority of weeds represented are commonly encountered in corn fields or disturbed habitats in or around settlement sites and cultivated gardens. The presence of wet ground species such as *Carex* sp. (sedges) and *Eleocharis palustris* (common spikerush)type in associated with cereal assemblages suggest the cultivation of wetter parts of fields.

6.3.4 Charcoal was present in all three samples, although in small proportions compared to the grain. The taxon present appears to consist mainly of *Quercus* sp. (oak).

The Civil War Ditch

6.3.5 A 21 litre sample of deposit was processed from the base of the 17th century civil war ditch. The deposit was found to be waterlogged, but was dominated by large roots and twigs (see **Table 6**). A limited range of seeds was identified. Species identified are typical of dry grassland, such as *Ranunculus bulbosus* (bulbous buttercup) and *Prunella vulgaris* (selfheal), damp, marshy grassland such as *Lychnis flos-cuculi* (ragged-robin), *Eleocharis palustris* (common spikerush) and *Carex* sp. (sedges), or disturbed habitats and waste ground (*Urtica dioica*, *U. urens*, *Chenopodium album*, *Fallopia convolvulus* etc). The economic species identified were charred and consisted of weed seeds or one wild grass seed

(*Festuca/Lolium* type), likely to be present as a contaminant of the cereal grains. Free-threshing *Triticum* sp. (wheat), *Avena* sp. (oats) and *Hordeum vulgare* (barley) were identified.

6.4 Conclusions

6.4.1 The bulk samples from Radcot Castle have produced a charred assemblage typical of many small medieval sites in which cereal grain forms the dominant component. Free-threshing wheat was by far the most numerous species represented by grain, with barley and oats present as minor components. These two minor cereals may represent little more than contamination of the wheat crop. The proportion is not necessarily an indication of the relative significance of the various cereals but may reflect their relative uses. If wheat was used as the principal bread grain it is more likely to have entered the site and become charred than the barley and oats if they were used primarily as fodder crops. A further potential fodder crop is cultivated vetch although the identification of these sub-species was tentative.

6.4.2 The presence of spelt wheat suggests prehistoric or Iron Age activity had taken place in the vicinity of the Site.

6.4.3 The range of cereals utilised in the Civil War period is likely to have been little changed from the medieval period.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Prehistoric

7.1.1 Later prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the Site is suggested by the presence of a number of sherds of pottery, ranging in date from the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age, from Trenches 1, 3 and 5, and spelt wheat from environmental samples from Trench 1. Much of this material appears to have been residual, although three abraded sherds of probable Iron Age date are the only dating evidence from ditch (325) in Trench 3.

7.2 Romano-British

7.2.1 Romano-British features observed within Trench 7 appear to be part of wider landscape of Romano-British settlement and activity which includes a number of sites viewed as nationally important and which have been designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments (see **Section 1.4**).

7.2.2 The ditches in Trench 7 had been allowed to silt up naturally, rather than being deliberately backfilled. The high levels of abrasion seen amongst the ceramic finds of this date suggest that this material was incorporated in ditch fills during manuring, rather than representing primary refuse deposits. The evidence combines to suggest that the function of the ditches is likely to have been as field boundaries, perhaps on the periphery of a settlement.

7.3 Hugh of Buckland's Castle

7.3.1 It was suggested by Blair that the square keep was constructed by Hugh of Buckland (*c*. 1100-1120) to control the road between Witney and Faringdon,

possibly on instruction from William II or Henry I (Videotext Communications 2008, 3). Blair's single trench was located on the western side of the keep, while Trench 1 investigated the north-eastern corner and part of the interior.

7.3.2 Dating evidence, however, although consistent with a construction date early in the post-conquest period, does not permit a definitive link with Hugh of Buckland. The foundation trenches were excavated through the possible old ground surface (122/123), which contained pottery ranging in date from Romano-British to 11th/12th century.

7.3.3 Only the wall foundations of the keep survived for the most part, the majority of the upper stonework having been removed and reused. Foundation construction was seen to be similar in both Trench Blair 1 and Trench 1 - yellow mortar and rubble forming a footing on which the walls were built. There is a major discrepancy between the depth of the foundations observed in Trench Blair 1 (0.40m) and that in Trench 1 (1.04m), probably due to the depth of underlying natural alluvium; both exposed footings were laid on top of this river-borne material.

7.3.4 No evidence of a main entrance to the keep was identified, either from the geophysics or from trenching, and it is possible that, as with many early medieval keeps, access was through a first floor doorway. No evidence of a stairway or fore-building leading to the entrance was, however, identified. Only a small number of keeps from this period have ground floor main entrances, including Appleby, Cumbria, and Colchester, Essex (Allen and Hiller 2002, 206).

7.3.5 The keep was surrounded by a metalled surface, possibly laid down following the initial construction of the keep to provide a dry working platform; the pre-Norman ground surface had clearly been heavily reworked by trampling. The metalled surface continued in use throughout the lifetime of the keep.

7.3.6 Within the interior of the keep the remains of a stone pier base were partially exposed. This would have held a stone pillar supporting a large horizontal timber bridging beam on which the floor joists and floor boards of an upper storey would have been placed. Similar central supporting piers are known, for example, from Witney Mount House, Oxfordshire and Richmond Castle, Yorkshire (Allen and Hiller 2002, 207, fig 7.1).

7.3.7 The gatehouse and the main access into the castle enclosure, as well as the remains of the demolished curtain wall, were also identified. The castle was clearly intended to control movement along the main Witney to Faringdon road, and it seems that the road passed directly through the Site, although no evidence for this road was recovered by the evaluation.

7.3.8 The northern gatehouse had been heavily robbed, but was built of the same stone as the keep. The roadway into the castle complex was made up of several gravel layers, and was recorded as 3.8m wide or 12.5ft. This appears to be a not untypical width for a castle approach; the entrance through the early 12th century gatehouse at Old Sarum, Wiltshire, for example, is 3.5m wide, while the 13th century entrance at Carisbrooke Castle, Isle of Wight, measured *c*. 3.3m wide (Young 2000, fig. 16).

7.3.9 Evidence for the defences of the medieval castle could be seen in the large deposit of collapsed stonework seen in Trench 2, slumping into the partially silted up ditch/moat surrounding the enclosure. The stonework was interpreted as the material from the surrounding curtain wall. The remains of the partially backfilled ditch are still visible as an earthwork, although no evidence of *in situ* curtain wall material was observed.

7.3.10 Investigation into the other buildings within the castle enclosure revealed the possible chapel and ancillary structures. It was clear from the evidence in Trench 3 that the possible chapel, seen as a three-celled structure on the geophysical survey, had been heavily robbed. Two drains were located, presumably draining away from the building, but no definitive evidence for the building's function was found.

7.3.11 Trench 5 uncovered a building of roughly shaped stonework upon a gravel raft, also subject to a certain degree of robbing. Again, no specific function for the building was identified, although its inferior construction technique perhaps indicates use as kitchen, storage or servant accommodation.

7.4 Anarchy Period

7.4.1 A major research aim of the evaluation had been to investigate the role Radcot castle played in the unrest of the Anarchy Period of the mid 12th century. The *Gesta Stephani*, the contemporary chronicle, states that Matilda fortified a castle at Radcot, which shortly afterwards surrendered to Stephen.

7.4.2 No clear evidence of Anarchy Period activity was identified on Site, although some unusual additions to the keep structure may belong to the episode of Matilda's fortification. In Trench Blair 1, '*a dump of rubble, randomly arranged but including well-faced ashlar blocks with diagonal tooling, bonded in bright-yellow mortar'* overlay a metalled surface and was packed against the footing of the keep wall. What initially appeared to be demolition material was interpreted as *ad hoc* reinforcing of the base of the keep (see **Appendix 2**). Diagonal tooling is characteristic of 12th century work (Allen and Hiller 2002, 202), implying that this material had been removed from relatively new structures, presumably elsewhere within the castle complex. A similar strengthening deposit at the base of a tower can be seen, for example, at Mount House, Witney, where, following the insertion of a central pier at ground level in the Solar Tower (rendering the basement useless except for storage), the tower was surrounded by a large earthen bank (Allen and Hiller 2002, 216).

7.4.3 In Trench 1 the addition of structure (132), an unmortared, pitched, dry-stone wall, to the central pier (131) may also have been associated with this period of fortification. The evidence is not clear, however, beyond highlighting (131) as apparently representing an *ad hoc* construction, and it may simply have served as further strengthening for the first floor.

7.5 Demolition of the Castle Complex

7.5.1 Radcot Castle was systematically demolished, with most of the stonework being removed for reuse, although whether this occurred as a single episode or took many years to complete is unclear. Post-demolition accumulation deposits and deliberate infilling deposits were observed sealing the remains

of the dismantled keep in both Trench Blair 1 and Trench 1. Pottery recovered from the post-demolition deposits ranged in date from Late Saxon to 13th century

7.5.2 No definitive date for the demolition of the gatehouse and the keep was determined, but there was clear hiatus in the pottery assemblage across the whole Site after the 13th century, lasting at least until the 16th, perhaps the 17th century. This potentially fits with the suggested abandonment of the castle during the ownership of the de Besilles family in the late 13th and early 14th century. It is clear, however, that the curtain wall had disappeared by the mid 17th century, as its original line was cut through by the defences of the Royalist fort.

7.5.3 The demolition of the structures in Trenches 3 and 5 is likely to have occurred at a similar time to the keep and gatehouse; again, no pottery later than the 12th/13th century was recovered.

7.6 Civil War Activity

7.6.1 The remains of the *'minor Royalist fort'* are still visible as earthworks within the Site, and it is clear how the existing earthworks of the medieval castle enclosure were reworked in the 17th century. It also appears that by the mid 17th century the road between Faringdon and Witney had been realigned to follow its current course, since the original route would have taken it straight through the Civil War enclosure.

7.6.2 The medieval castle enclosure was divided in half, the eastern half retained as the Civil War fort; the division was marked by the construction of a new defensive ditch. The ditch is aligned roughly north-south with a series of dog-legs at its northern end, which surround an earthen bastion; the latter feature is clearly visible in the topographical data (**Figure 11B**). Similar earthen bastions are known from many Civil War sites, both Royalist and Parliamentarian, including Donnington Castle near Newbury, Berkshire, the Royalist 'star fort' which surrounds a 14th century castle (Harrington 1992, figs. 4, 5, 26, 27). The setting of new defences in the foot-prints of pre-existing structures was not untypical either, as seen from Donnington Castle and Hawton, near Newark, Nottinghamshire (Harrington 1992, 42-3, fig 29).

7.6.3 The Civil War ditch, as seen in Trench 2, cut through the line of the curtain wall of the original medieval defences and it is likely that much of the original castle ditch had been backfilled by this time. The topographic data (which has had slight vertical exaggeration applied to make the earthworks clearer) show that the defensive banks were reformed (**Figure 11B**). The northern east-west bank was seen in Trench 4 to be a large earthen bank revetted on both sides by stone walls. On the northern, eastern and southern sides the original medieval defences were re-established.

7.7 The Road from Faringdon to Witney

7.7.1 It has been suggested that the original early medieval enclosure was established to control the movement along the road between Faringdon and Witney where Radcot Bridge crosses the River Thames, possibly on instruction from William II or Henry I (Videotext Communication 2008, 3). The original alignment of the road can still be traced to the north of 'The Garrison', on the eastern side of Radcot House, beside a small stream.

7.7.2 The route had presumably been altered by the mid 17th century (see above), although the new route was not documented until Rocque's map of 1761, which shows the new road curving around the Site to the east.

7.7.3 An attempt was made to locate the old road in Trench 6 but, as this was within a fairly densely wooded area, the trench could not be placed on the exact line of the road. No trace of the road was identified here.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1.1 The evaluation has contributed useful evidence that confirms and augments our knowledge of the construction, layout and date range of the castle complex at Radcot, and also of the Civil War earthworks on the same site. The results warrant further dissemination through a publication article for *Oxoniensia*.

8.1.2 This article, which will be prepared by Professor John Blair in consultation with Wessex Archaeology, will summarise the results of the Time Team evaluation, and incorporate details of the 2007 evaluation. Finds and environmental information will be incorporated into the text, although no further detailed analysis is considered necessary for the material from the Time team evaluation.

9 ARCHIVE

9.1.1 The excavated material and archive, including plans, photographs and written records, are currently held at the Wessex Archaeology offices under the project code 68733 and site code RAD 08. It is intended that the archive should ultimately be deposited with the Oxfordshire County Museums Service, under the Accession Code **OXCMS: 2008.51**.

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Table 1: Finds totals by material type and by trench (number / weight in grammes)

Material	Tr 1	Tr 2	Tr 3	Tr 4	Tr 5	Tr 7	TOTAL
Pottery	1281/21,555	58/657	51/508	55/1124	238/3057	117/908	**1800/27,809**
Prehistoric	*1/10*	*-*	*16/79*	*2/9*	*3/24*	*1/5*	***23/127***
Romano-British	*229/2340*	*26/276*	*14/203*	*5/57*	*21/144*	*103/800*	***398/3820***
Medieval	*1015/18107*	*31/329*	*17/184*	*36/758*	*202/2689*	*13/103*	***1314/22,170***
Post-Medieval	*36/1098*	*1/52*	*4/42*	*12/300*	*12/200*	*-*	***65/1692***
CBM	4/227	1/223	2/135	-	2/280	1/131	**10/996**
Fired Clay	5/102	-	-	-	-	-	**5/102**
Clay Pipe	2/8	1/1	5/15	1/3	3/10	-	**12/37**
Stone	8/3198	-	-	-	-	1/710	**9/3908**
Burnt Flint	3/13	-	1/11	-	-	-	**4/24**
Glass	-	-	6/33	-	1/1	-	**7/34**
Slag	1/10	-	-	-	-	-	**1/10**
Metalwork (no.)	106	14	40	23	8	14	**205**
Copper Alloy	*5*	*2*	*1*	*2*	*-*	*-*	***10***
Iron	*87*	*10*	*31*	*18*	*6*	*13*	***165***
Lead/Lead alloy	*14*	*2*	*8*	*3*	*2*	*1*	***30***
Animal Bone	1000/17,951	97/1086	139/916	79/1443	349/5766	24/358	**1688/27,520**
Shell	26/208	5/23	2/23	1/1	4/187	1/76	**39/518**

Table 2: Pottery totals by ware type

Date	Ware Code	Description	No. sherds	Wt. (g)
PREHISTORIC	CALC	Calcareous ware	15	95
	FLINT	Flint-tempered ware	2	12
	SAND	Sandy ware	6	20
		sub-total prehistoric	*23*	*127*
ROMAN	BB1	Black Burnished ware	16	101
	GREY	RB greyware	269	2136
	GROG	RB grog-tempered ware	47	952
	OXCC	Oxfordshire colour-coated ware	19	220
	OXID	RB oxidised ware	14	142
	OXWW	Oxfordshire white ware	3	105
	SAM	Samian	16	69
	SHEL	RB shell-tempered ware	14	95
		sub-total Romano-British	*398*	*3820*
LATE SAXON/MEDIEVAL	CROCK	Crockerton-type coarseware	12	108
	NEOT	St Neots type ware	2	3
	OXAC	Late Saxon calcareous ware	200	2709
	OXAG	Abingdon ware	44	871
	OXAM	Brill/Boarstall ware	42	731
	OXAQ	Kennet Valley-type ware	891	14779
	OXAW	Brill/Boarstall coarse ware	8	77
	OXBB	Minety-type ware	114	2891
	SAIM	Saintonge monochrome	1	1
		sub-total Saxon/medieval	*1314*	*22,170*
POST-MEDIEVAL	KOL/FREC	Cologne/Frechen stoneware	1	1
	PMR	Post-medieval redware	61	1666
	RAER	Raeren stoneware	1	21
	TGW	Tinglazed earthenware	2	4
		sub-total post-medieval	*65*	*1692*
		OVERALL TOTAL	**1800**	**27,809**

Table 3: Animal bone taphonomy (% N)

Period	N	NISP	NISP %	Condition	Gnawing %	Burning %	Loose teeth %	Butchery %
Medieval	1636	1168	71.4	good	6.4	1.5	3.2	4.4

Table 4: Animal bone species percentages (NISP)

Period	NISP	Horse %	Cattle %	Sheep/Goat %	Pig %	Deer %	Bird %	Fish %	Other %
Medieval	1168	0.8	47.4	34.2	7.5	0.2	9.2	0.3	0.4

Table 5: The charred plant remains from the medieval keep and surrounds

	Sample	1	2	3
	Context	109	117	122
	Sample vol (litre)	32	7	22
	Flot vol (ml)/% roots	220/10	50/50	80/20
Grain				
Triticum aestivum/turgidum	Bread/rivet type wheat	++++	76	78
Triticum sp.	Wheat grain	-	-	1
Hordeum vulgare sl.	Barley	-	2	7
Avena sp.	Oats	7	13	5
Cerealia indet	Indeterminate grain	+++	62	87
Total Grain		**500+**	**153**	**264**
Chaff				
Triticum aestivum/turgidum	Bread/rivet wheat rachis	7	10	21
Triticum spelta glume	Spelt wheat glume base	-	-	2
Triticum spelta/dicoccum	Spelt/Emmer wheat glume	-	-	3
Triticum sp.	Wheat rachis	3	-	1
Hordeum vulgare sl.	Barley, rachis	-	-	-
Hordeum vulgare/Secale cereale	Barley/Rye rachis	2	-	-
Cerealia indet	Indeterminate rachis	4	-	-
Cerealia indet	Detached cereal embryo	1	-	-
Pulses				
cf. *Pisum sativum*	Pea	-	1	-
cf. *Vicia sativa* subsp. *sativa*	Cultivated vetch	1	-	-
Vicia sp./*Pisum sativum*	Bean/Vetch/Pea	6	6	2
Weeds				
Ranunculus subsp. *Ranunculus*	Buttercup	-	9	-
Brassica/Sinapis sp.	Brassica/ hedge mustard etc	1	-	-
Agrostemma githago L.	Corn cockle	-	-	1
Atriplex sp.	Orache	5	2	2
Vicia/Lathyrus sp.	Vetch//vetchling/tares etc	1	-	3
Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus etc.	Medick/clover/trefoil etc	6	5	-
Apiaceae large seeded		-	-	5
Rumex sp.	Docks	-	31	2
Polygonum aviculare agg.	Knotgrass	-	1	-
Polygonaceae		-	-	3
Odontites verna (Bell.) Dumort	Red Bartsia	-	-	1
Galium sp.		-	-	1
Anthemis cotula L.	Stinking mayweed	1	5	2
cf. *Anthemis cotula*	Stinking mayweed	-	-	3
cf. *Anthemis cotula*	Stinking mayweed (mineralised)	-	-	1
Carex sp. 2 sided	Sedges	1	1	1
Carex sp. 3 sided	Sedges	-	-	1
Eleocharis palustris type	Common spikerush	-	4	1
Eleocharis palustris type	Common spikerush (silica)	5	-	-
Lolium cf. *temulentum* L.	Rye-grass	4	-	1
Phleum type	Cat's tail	-	-	1
Indet		2	-	-
Charcoal 4mm/2mm (ml)		60/20	10/5	35/20

Table 6: Waterlogged plant remains from the 17th century enclosure ditch

	Sample	4
	Context	125
	Feature number/type	112
	Sample vol (litre)	
	Flot vol (ml)/% roots	500
Charred Seeds		
Triticum sp. grain	Wheat grain	1
Avena sp. grain	Oats, grain	2
Hordeum vulgare grain	Barley grain	1
Festuca/Lolium sp.	Fescue/Rye grass	1
Waterlogged Plant Remains		
Ranunculus cf. *bulbosus*	Bulbous buttercup	+
Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus	Buttercup	+++
Lychnis flos-cucli	Ragged-Robin	+
Chenopodium album	Fat Hen	++
Atriplex sp.	Orache	+
Urtica dioica	Stinging Nettle	+
Prunella vulgaris	Self heal	++
Fallopia convolvulus	Black Bindweed	+
Carex sp. 3 sided	Sedges	++
Eleocharis palustris type	Spikerush	+
Picris echioides	Bristly Oxtongue	+
Sonchus asper	Prickly Sow-thistle	+
Wood- root/stem frags		+++
Insect frags		+
Molluscs		++

Appendix 1: Trench Summaries

bgl = below ground level

TRENCH 1			Type: Machine Excavated	
Dimensions: 19m by 5.7m		**Max. depth:** 2.30m	**Ground level:** 69.5m aOD	
context	**description**			**depth**
101	*Topsoil*	Current topsoil and turf of pasture field, dark brown loam with very rare gravel inclusions		0-0.21m
102	*Layer*	Highly bioturbated deposit of dark brown friable fine loam with abundant common small gravels, directly below (141). Result of old plough and post demolition material being reworked by worm activity. Seals archaeology. Equal to (103), (104) and (111).		0.41-0.54m
103	*Layer*	Highly bioturbated deposit of dark brown friable fine loam with abundant common small gravels, directly below (141). Post-demolition material overlying wall component (105). Equal to (102); separated for finds recovery.		0.21-0.36m
104	*Layer*	Highly bioturbated deposit of mid to dark brown friable fine loam with abundant common small gravels, directly below (141). Post-demolition material located to the north of (105) Equal to (102) and (103); separated for finds recovery.		0.21-0.37
105	*Structure*	Remains of core material of north-east corner of castle keep. Forms core of northern east-west wall Group (136) and eastern north-south wall Group (137). Two courses of limestone blocks laid flat in a yellow limestone mortar, all external facing material and quoins removed and recycled. Spread of stonework recorded as 3.1m long by 2.8m wide and 0.20m high max. This is the base of the upstanding wall lying on the upper layer of foundation stonework (110) and foundation material (114). See (136) and (137).		0.20m high
106	*Layer*	Dark grey-brown sandy silt, frequent inclusions of pea grit and small limestone fragments. Post-demolition accumulation deposit, deliberate dumping of material within the interior of the keep. Deposit is sealed beneath (109) and overlies (108). Possible levelling or just dumping of unusable material.		0.26m thick
107	*Layer*	Mid brown silty loam, post-demolition accumulation deposit, which overlies (115) to the north of wall Group (136). Deposit laid down following the demolition of the keep walls (Groups (136) and (137)) and sealed beneath (104).		0.11m thick
108	*Layer*	Almost 100% pea grit deposit; physically overlies (114) but stratigraphically seals (105). Deposit derived from the cleaning of mortar off stonework during demolition, reworked by bioturbation.		0.05m thick
109	*Layer*	Very dark brown black silty loam deposit with occasional pea grit and larger (<0.10m) limestone blocks. Deliberate post-demolition dumping deposit filling a hollow within the centre of the keep. Sealed by (102) and overlies (106).		-
110	*Structure*	Single course of flat limestone blocks within light yellow lime mortar; flat raft of stone work laid directly upon foundation deposit (114). Upper layer of foundation of north-east corner of keep, set into a solid mass of mortar (114) and overlain by (105).		-
111	*Layer*	Highly bioturbated deposit of dark brown friable fine loam with abundant common small gravels, directly below (141). Result of old plough and post-demolition material being reworked by worm activity. Concentrated to north of Trench 1. Seals archaeology. Equal to (102), (103) and (104).		-
112	***Cut***	**Cut of large ditch recorded as 2.60.m long by 3.80m wide and 1.75m deep. Part of 17th century Civil War defences, visible on geophysics (Fig. 2A, 5; 2B, G), which gives field its name of 'The Garrison'. Ditch aligned roughly N-S before turning E-W. Cuts (117) and filled with (125), (124), (138), (139) and (113).**		**1.75m deep**

113	*Fill*	Upper fill of (**112**), mid brown silty loam with rare small limestone inclusions, final deliberate infilling of Civil War defensive ditch.	0.40m thick
114	*Structure*	Foundation deposit of north-west corner of keep. Formed of light yellow lime mortar dumped in foundation trench (118) with unworked limestone blocks. Foundation overlain by layer (110).	0.84 to 1.04m thick
115	*Layer*	Very dark brown black silty loam with common large limestone blocks <0.10m in size. Deliberate dump of material overlying (116), sealed by (104).	-
116	*Layer*	Light yellow sandy silt with common pea grits, dump of mortar externally of building, evidence of the robbing of stone for recycling and the cleaning off of mortar. Discarded mortar layer reworked by bioturbation.	-
117	*Surface?*	Mid brown silty loam, possible original ground surface but heavily reworked, sealed by (121) and cut through by (118).	0.07m thick
118	***Cut***	**Construction trench for the foundation (114) of north-west corner of keep structure. Overlain by (114); cuts (117) and (126).**	**0.90m deep max**
119	*VOID*	VOID	VOID
120	*Layer*	Light yellow sandy silt with common pea grits; dump of mortar outside building, evidence of the robbing of stone for recycling and the cleaning off of mortar. Discarded mortar layer reworked by bioturbation. Overlies (121) and sealed by (104).	-
121	*Layer*	Mid brown silty loam with abundant gravel pebbles; deliberately laid gravel metalled surface outside keep, overlying reworked ground surface (117). Deposit perhaps laid down to create a working area during the construction of the keep. Overlies (117); sealed by (120).	-
122	*Layer*	Green-hued, grey-brown, silty clay layer with rare pea grit inclusions, possible cess-rich deposit, possible earlier ground surface similar to (117), agricultural. Equal to (123); arbitrary separation.	0.22m thick
123	*Layer*	Green-hued, grey-brown, silty clay layer, as (122) but with less inclusions and slightly more charcoal components. Potentially up-cast material from the excavation of the surrounding moat with material piled into the interior.	0.18m thick
124	*Fill*	Very mixed, mid yellow sandy silt with light grey clay and mid brown silty loam with common gravels <0.05m. Heterogeneous deposit, multiple fills of backfill material with ditch (**112**), seals (125) and overlain by stabilisation layer (138). As deposit was machined out all finds assigned to a single context.	1.06m thick
125	*Fill*	Very dark grey-blue silty clay with occasional gravels at base of ditch (**112**). Natural accumulation at the base of Civil War ditch, mix of eroded edge material and water-borne silts. Sealed beneath (124).	0.24m thick
126	*Layer*	Very dark brown silty clay, pre-medieval ground surface, topsoil layer material equal to (123), cut by (118). Deposit recorded within interior of keep, between walls Group (136) and (137).	-
127	*Layer*	Dark brown compact slightly sandy silt clay, probably equal to (123), just more compact. Sealed by (123) and seals (128).	0.29m thick
128	*Natural*	Mid yellow-brown 'orange' compact stiff silty clay, probable natural accumulation of alluvial silts; overlies natural (129); sealed by (127).	0.13m thick
129	*Natural*	Compact mid orange clay, with small gravel inclusions. Natural basal alluvial geology.	-
130	*Layer*	Mid brown silty clay with common small gravels, post-demolition accumulation deposit partially overlying (131) and (132), following their demolition, compact and trampled.	-
131	*Structure*	Remnant of stone pier base, 1.90m long by 1.5m wide and 0.62m high; only partially uncovered and heavily robbed. Identified in geophysics as square structure (**Fig. 2B, B**). Seven rough courses of limestone blocks within light yellow lime mortar. Butted by (132).	0.62m high
132	*Structure*	Remnant of wall butting eastern side of (131), 1.80m long by 1.40m wide and 0.46m high; constructed of pitched limestone blocks. Four drystone courses. The addition of (132) to (131), and possibly a	0.46m high

		corresponding wall on the western side of (131), changes (131) from a single pier to a blocking wall.	
133	*Structure*	Limestone block; roughly E-W, northern wall of drain (Group 140) within wall Group (136). Forms drain with southern wall (134) and capping stones (136). Drain would have led from the interior to the exterior of the keep.	-
134	*Structure*	Limestone block; southern wall of drain (Group 140), corresponding wall to (133). Three courses of stonework in light yellow lime mortar, 0.70m long by 0.50m wide by 0.25m high.	0.25m high
135	*Structure*	Limestone block capping stones of drain Group (140); laid directly upon (133) and (134).	-
136	*Group*	Group number for roughly N-S wall of keep, bonded to E-W Group (137). Composed of construction cut (118), foundation material (114), stone layer (110) and remnant of internal stone wall core (105). All worked facing stones have been removed, leaving only core and foundation.	
137	*Group*	Group number for roughly E-W wall of keep, bonded to N-S Group (136). Composed of construction cut (118), foundation material (114), stone layer (110) and remnant of internal stone core of wall (105). All worked facing stones have been removed, leaving only core and foundation. Has drain Group (140) set into it.	-
138	*Layer*	Mid to dark brown silty loam, fill of ditch (**112**). Stabilisation/stasis layer, indicating period of inactivity on the site. Sealed beneath (139) and seals (124).	0.21m thick
139	*Fill*	Small isolated fill of light grey gravel in ditch (**112**), sealed by (113) and overlies (138).	0.06m thick
140	*Group*	Group number for the roughly E-W drain composed of walls (133) and (134) and capping stones (135).	-
141	*Layer*	Pea grit-rich layer below (101) and overlies (102), (103), (104) and (111).	0.21-0.41

TRENCH 2			Type: Machine Excavated
Dimensions: 12.5m by 3.9m **m**	**Max. depth:** 1.40m		**Ground level:** 69.7m aOD
context	**description**		**depth**
201	*Topsoil*	Current topsoil and turf of pasture field, dark brown loam with very rare gravel inclusions	0-0.24m
202	*Deposit*	Mid grey sandy silt with rare gravel inclusions. This deposit is not fully understood as it was not fully investigated; possibly fill of (203), the northern defensive ditch of the castle enclosure. Sealed beneath possible curtain wall collapse (204).	0.30m thick
203	***Cut***	**Northern defensive ditch of the medieval castle enclosure, still visible on the ground as an earthwork sloping down to the north. Ditch situated on western side of main gateway into enclosure. 3.4m long but truncated by (206), Civil War defensive ditch, and c.0.80m deep. Filled with (202), (204), (230), (231) and (232). Edges of (203) not identified but the sloping nature of the deposits and the upstanding earthwork indicates its presence.**	**0.95m+**
204	*Deposit*	Light yellow silty clay with abundant (*c*.95%) large and medium limestone blocks. Large-scale, very loose rubble deposit with no matrix between the rubble for the most part. Rubble probably represents remains of curtain wall. The light yellow silty clay which does remain is the remains of mortar cleaned off the material to be reused. Overlies (202) and sealed beneath (231).	0.95m thick
205	*Fill*	Dark grey brown silty loam. Backfill of probable robber cut (211) for the removal and reuse of the building material from gatehouse wall (212). Material appears topsoil-derived and cut by (225).	0.90m thick
206	***Cut***	**Cut of probable 17th century Civil War defensive enclosure ditch, equivalent to (112) in Trench 1. Cuts through (215) and (204).**	**1.16m + deep**

		Filled with (216) and (215). 1.90m long and 2.90m wide max; 1.16m+ deep.	
207	*Fill*	Very mixed deposit; mid brown silty clay with lens of light yellow clay with gravels. Heterogeneous fill of (206); multiple deposits of different material to create single fill. Finds bulked together.	0.76m thick
208	***Cut***	**Cut of probable post-hole, at eastern end of Trench 2, unclear if cuts (212) or is in fact part of the gatehouse structure. Filled with (209). 0.50m in diameter and 0.58m deep.**	**0.58m deep**
209	*Fill*	Mid brown silty clay, fill of (post hole (208).	0.58m thick
210	*Surface/ make-up*	Green-grey gravel layer, earliest recorded roadway surface or make up layer for road leading into castle enclosure. Horizontal band of gravel in between walls (212) and (213); overlain by series of gravel deposits. Sealed beneath (217).	0.24m thick
211	***Cut***	**Cut of robber trench for the removal and reuse of stones from wall (212). Cuts possible demolition or accumulation deposit (223). Linear with steep concave sides and an irregular base. 1.70m long by 0.70m wide and 0.90m deep.**	**0.90m deep**
212	*Structure*	Eastern wall of castle gatehouse; heavily robbed out. No facing stones remain; seven courses of limestone blocks survive, in light yellow mortar. Creates gateway with wall (213) and road surfaces (210), (217), (218), (219), (220), (221) and (222). 0.86m long by 1m wide and 0.80m high.	0.80m high
213	*Structure*	Corresponding western gatehouse wall to (212). Heavily robbed out; four courses of limestone blocks in light yellow limestone mortar. 0.86m long by 1m wide and 0.30m high.	0.30m high
214	***Cut***	**Possible robber cut for wall (213), 1.6m long by 1.86m wide and 0.90m deep. Cuts through (2240 and filled with (215).**	**0.90m deep**
215	*Fill*	Very mixed, heterogeneous deposit of mid yellow-brown silty clay with tip lines of light yellow gravel, recorded as single fill, as removed by machine. Fill of robber cut of (214), and cut through by (206).	0.90m thick
216	*Fill*	Earliest recorded fill of Civil War ditch (206); rubble deposit derived from (204) though which (206) cuts.	0.40m+ thick
217	*Surface/ make-up*	Mid brown gravel layer, possible roadway surface or make up layer, as (210). Horizontal band of gravel in between walls (212) and (213); overlain by (118) and seals (210).	0.14m thick
218	*Surface/ make-up*	Dark brown gravel layer, possible roadway surface or make up layer, as (210). Horizontal band of gravel in between walls (212) and (213); overlain by (219) and seals (217).	0.10m thick
219	*Surface/ make-up*	Mid green-orange gravel layer, possible roadway surface or make up layer, as (210). Horizontal band of gravel in between walls (212) and (213); overlain by (220) and overlies (118).	0.12m thick
220	*Layer*	Thin band of gravel overlying (219); possible road repair.	0.08m thick
221	*Surface*	Very compact, grey gravel deposit with a layer of sub-angular stones creating road surface at its upper horizon with (222).	0.36m thick
222	*Surface*	Very light grey compact gravel layer, the latest in a sequence of road way surfaces and make up layers for the main northern access into the castle complex.	0.04m thick
223	*Layer*	Mixed mid brown-grey and yellow silty loam gravel deposit, possible demolition accumulation deposit, but unclear. Stratigraphically later than (222) and sealed by (224), physically cut by (211).	0.46m thick
224	*Layer*	Mid brown silty loam with common gravel and occasional large limestone blocks. Demolition or collapse deposit prior to the robbing of the gatehouse walls, potentially indication of abandonment prior to large scale robbing. Seals (223) and cut by (214)	0.22m thick
225	***Cut***	**Cut of roughly north-south ditch that cuts through the upper fill of (211); contains fills (226), (227) and (228). Later than demolition of gatehouse; potentially associated with 17th Century Civil War fortifications. Not fully excavated. 1.70m long by 1.90m+ wide and 0.60m deep.**	**0.60m deep**

226	*Fill*	Dark grey silty loam with rare limestone pebble inclusions, earliest fill of (225) but not investigated fully.	0.60m thick
227	*Fill*	Dark grey brown silt with abundant largish limestone blocks <0.20m very similar to (226). Second recorded fill of (225).	0.20m thick
228	*Fill*	Brown grey silt with common pea grits final fill of (225), sealed beneath (229).	0.40m thick
229	*Layer*	Light grey silty loam with abundant pea grits, bioturbation layer directly below (201) same as (141) in Trench 1.	0.24m thick
230	*Fill*	Very dark grey-brown silty loam; very organic fill of (203), possibly natural accumulation. Overlies (231) and sealed by (229).	0.80m thick
231	*Fill*	Mid yellow-grey silty clay with common pea grits, decayed mortar, evidence of cleaning of stonework from the curtain wall. Sealed beneath (230) and overlies (232).	0.46m thick
232	*Fill*	Collapsed stonework; appears different to (204). Possibly an earlier phase of collapse. Sealed beneath (231); possibly overlies (202).	010m thick
233	*Fill*	Mid grey brown silty loam, fill of (206) which overlies (216).	0.30m thick
234	*Fill*	Light yellow-grey silty loam, fill of (206), sealed beneath (207) and overlies (233).	0.19m thick

TRENCH 3			Type: Machine Excavated
Dimensions: 4m by 3.7m	**Max. depth:** 0.70m		**Ground level:** 69.78m aOD
context	**description**		**depth**
301	*Topsoil*	Current topsoil and turf of pasture field, dark grey brown silty loam with very rare gravel inclusions	0-0.20m
302	*Layer*	Dark grey-brown silty loam with abundant pea grits. Pea grit rich deposit directly below (301) and seals demolition deposits (311), same as (141) and (229).	0.20-0.28m
303	*Fill*	Yellow-grey silty sand and gravel; fill of robber cut (**308**) and equal to (309), evidence of the cleaning of mortar from stonework, and material thrown back into ditch.	0.48mn thick
304	*Layer*	Light yellow sandy silt; decayed mortar deposit, associated with the demolition and dumping of mortar from reused stonework, earlier phase of robbing from (308). Cut through by (**308**) and overlies (330).	0.18m thick
305	*Fill*	Mid silty loam fill of ditch (**307**).	0.12m thick
306	*Buried ground surface*	Grey-brown silty clay; buried ground surface/old plough surface, pre-medieval, very similar to (122) to (126) in Trench 1. Cut by (**307**). Identical to (323).	0.12m thick
307	***Cut***	**Cut of possible ditch, not investigated. Possibly cuts (306), filled with (305) and overlain by a series of floor surfaces. 2.20m long by 1.10m wide.**	**-**
308	***Cut***	**Cut of robber trench for removal of possible chapel walls, filled with (303/309). Robber trench cuts (335), (313), (304) and (310)**	**0.48m deep.**
309	*Fill*	Yellow-grey silty sand and gravel; fill of robber cut (**308**) and equal to (303), evidence of the cleaning of mortar from stonework, and material thrown back into ditch.	0.48m thick
310	*Layer*	Mid brown silty loam layer which overlies (327) and is cut by (**308**). Deposit not investigated.	0.10m thick
311	*Fill*	Mixed light yellow and grey-brown silty gravel fill of (**312**), possible late robbing event. Only revealed in plan.	-
312	***Cut***	**Cut of possible robber trench which post-dates robbing event (308); 1.40m long by 1.16m wide. Cuts (309) and filled with (311). Not excavated.**	**-**
313	*Layer*	Grey-brown, gravel-rich silt spread overlying drains (**318**), (**321**) and (**327**). Revealed below (303).	-
314	*Fill*	Mixed yellow and grey silty clay fill of drain (**337**). Sealed by (313) and overlies (336).	0.10m thick
315	*Layer*	Mid brown silty loam, pea grit-rich layer overlying (317), sealed by (338). Layer only partially observed.	0.06m thick

316	*Fill*	Mid brown silty loam fill of drain (**318**). Natural accumulation which overlies (317) and is sealed by (313).	0.18m thick
317	*Structure*	Stone lining of drain cut (**318**); series of limestone pitched stones creating drain lining.	0.28m
318	***Cut***	**Cut of E-W stone-lined drain; possibly leading away from down spout. Filled with lining (317) and fill (316). 1.08m long by 0.12m wide and 0.28m deep.**	**0.28m deep.**
319	*Fill*	Mid brown gravelly silt, fill of drain (**321**), overlies (320); sealed by (336).	-
320	*Structure*	Stone lining of drain (**321**) limestone pitched stones.	-
321	***Cut***	**Cut of E-W stone lined drain, filled with lining (320) and fill (319).**	**0.40m deep**
322	*Buried ground surface*	Dark brown silty loam disturbed old ground surface, disturbed by cutting of drains. Overlies (323)..	0.12m thick
323	*Buried ground surface*	Buried ground surface/old cultivation layer equal to (306), reworked to form (322).	-
324	*Fill*	Yellow-grey silty clay upper fill of (325), only revealed in plan possible fill of Romano-British ditch.	-
325	***Cut***	**Cut of possible Iron Age ditch below buried ground surface (323). Cut through (326) and filled with (324).**	**-**
326	*Natural*	Mid brown with orange patches silty clay, possibly the beginnings of natural alluvial geology. Only visible in sondage cut by (325).	-
327	*Layer*	Spread of compact sand and gravel and pea grit rich. Possible earlier demolition activity, or perhaps associated with construction of possible chapel, and the mortar-rich layer accumulated during construction. Unclear. Sealed beneath (310).	-
328	*Layer*	Mixed grey-green-brown silty sand layer, unexcavated. Possibly associated with chapel construction or demolition. If a demolition deposit, pre-dates (308).	-
329	*Floor surface*	Mid yellow sandy silt with very fine gravels, associated with (334), (333), (332), (331) and (330). Possible floor surface or surface make-up for structure, now demolished. Sealed by (330) and overlies (331).	0.04m thick
330	*Floor surface*	Mid brown silty clay floor surface or trample activity. Overlies (329) and sealed by (304).	0.03m thick
331	*Floor make-up*	Grey-brown silty clay floor make-up, sealed below (329), overlying (332).	0.02m thick
332	*Floor make-up*	Dark yellow silty sand floor make-up layer sealed below (331), overlying (333).	0.12m thick
333	*Floor make-up*	Reddish-yellow natural gravel, redeposited natural floor make-up layer sealed beneath (332) and overlies (334).	0.06m thick
334	*Floor make-up*	Yellow sandy silt; earlier floor make-up layer or decayed floor material. Sealed by (333) and overlies (305).	0.04m thick
335	*Layer*	Grey-brown, gravel-rich silt spread overlying drains (**318**), (**321**) and (**327**). Cut by **(308)** and overlying (328).	-
336	*Fill*	Grey-brown sandy silt gravel rich fill of drain (337). Sealed by (314).	-
337	***Cut***	**Identical to (321)**	**-**

TRENCH 4			Type:	Machine Excavated
Dimensions: 14.1m by1.2m		**Max. depth:** 1.10m	**Ground level:** 69.74m aOD	
context	**description**			**depth**
401	*Topsoil*	Current topsoil and turf of pasture field, dark grey-brown silty loam with very rare gravel inclusions		0-0.25
402	*Layer*	Mid brown-grey silty loam with abundant pea grits. Pea grit rich deposit directly below (401); seals (403) and (412). Same as (141), (229) and (302).		0.55m thick

403	*Layer*	Dark grey-brown sandy silt layer which partially overlies (408), possibly result of ploughing over earthworks. Overlies (408) and sealed by (402).	0.30m thick
404	*VOID*	VOID	VOID
405	*Layer*	Compact mid brown-grey silty sand layer associated with the northern revetment of Civil War earthwork. Overlies stone revetment layer (408) and clay bedding layer (406); sealed beneath further revetting (409). Component of Group (420).	0.40m thick
406	*Layer*	Light yellow-grey clay layer, used in construction of northern revetment. Sealed beneath (405). Component of Group (420).	0.08m thick
407	*Layer*	Compact mid brown-grey sandy silt layer associated with southern revetment of Civil War earthwork. Overlies stone revetting material (419) and sealed by (410). Similar deposit to (405). Component of Group (421).	0.45m thick
408	*Structure*	Limestone, lower part of northern revetment. 0.50m long by 1.40m wide and 0.10m high. Overlain by (405) to create edge of earthwork. Component of Group (420).	0.15m high
409	*Structure*	Limestone, upper part of northern revetment, 0.80m long by 1.40m wide and 0.15m high. Rubble revetment, material probably robbed from earlier structures on site. Component of Group (420). Overlain by (405) to create edge of earthwork. Component of Group (420).	0.10m high
410	*Structure*	Limestone, upper part of southern revetment of Civil War earthwork. Corresponding structure to (409), recorded as 0.40m long by 1.40m wide and 0.40m high. Overlies (407) and sealed by (415). Component of Group (421).	0.40m high
411	*Layer*	Loose, dark grey-brown clay silt deposit; main component of east west Civil War earthwork, contained between northern revetment Group (420) and southern revetment Group (421). Not fully excavated.	0.15m+ thick
412	*Layer*	Mid brown-grey silty sand layer, possibly derived from (411), ploughed to the south. Stonework within (412) is likely to be derived from (410). Sealed by (402) and overlies (413).	0.25m thick
413	*Layer*	Light orange-yellow gravelly sand, redeposited natural gravels sealed by (412) and overlying (414). Originally part of earthen bank, probably moved by ploughing.	0.15m thick
414	*Layer*	Mid brown-grey silty sand, material ploughed from bank to south including large stone blocks from revetment (410). Deposit sealed by (413) and overlies (415).	0.20m thick
415	*Layer*	Mid orange-yellow gravelly sand material, ploughed from the bank to the south. Sealed by (414) and overlies (407).	0.05m thick
416	*Layer*	Dark black-grey sandy silt, possible buried ground surface or old occupation layer. Sealed beneath (411).	0.05m thick
417	*Layer*	Light grey clay layer packed on the face of the northern revetment Group (420). Sealed beneath (402) and overlies (408).	0.10m thick
418	*Structure*	Limestone, lower part of southern revetment; basal structure similar to (408). Overlain by (407). Component of Group (421).	0.10m high
419	*VOID*	VOID	VOID
420	*Group*	Group for northern revetment of Civil War fortification; composed of stone revetting (408) and (409), and bank material (405), (406) and (417).	
421	*Group*	Group for southern revetment of Civil War fortification; composed of stone revetting (410) and (418), and bank material (407).	

TRENCH 5			Type:	Machine Excavated
Dimensions: 3.4m by 3m		**Max. depth:** 0.70m	**Ground level:** 69.33m aOD	
context	**description**			**depth**
501	*Topsoil*	Current topsoil and turf of pasture field, dark brown silty loam with very rare gravel inclusions.		0.20m thick

502	*Layer*	Mid brown-grey silty loam with abundant pea grits. Pea grit rich deposit directly below (501); seals (508) and (512), same as (141), (229), (302) and (402).	0.35m thick
503	*Layer*	Mixed deposit of mid brown and light yellow silty sandy clay. Post-demolition accumulation deposit overlying (516), the fill of (517). Deposit is concentrated on the south side of (505), physically overlying (511).	-
504	*Layer*	Dark black grey sandy silt. Buried ground surface/old cultivation layer. Cut by (519) for gravel raft. Equal to (509) and (511).	0.20m thick
505	*Structure*	E-W limestone wall; six courses in yellow lime mortar. Roughly shaped outer face with rubble core, bonded at western end to southern end of N-S wall (506). (505) is constructed within (507), overlies (508) and has been cut through (517). 2.50m long by 0.70m wide and 0.27m high	0.27m high
506	*Structure*	Roughly N-S wall, heavily truncated and robbed at the point of western doorway (see (513) and (512)). Roughly shaped outer face with rubble core; three courses of limestone blocks in light yellow mortar. 0.30m long by 0.70m wide and 0.25m high. Bonded at southern end to western end of wall (505).	0.25m high
507	***Cut***	**Foundation trench for walls (505) and (506), filled with foundation gravel material (508) on which the two walls are sat. Cuts (511/509/504)**	**-**
508	*Foundation*	Light yellow sandy gravel deposit at the base of foundation trench (507), on which walls (505) and (506) are sat. Material very similar if not identical to (418).	-
509	*Layer*	Dark grey-brown sand silt with occasional charcoal flecks and small gravels. Buried ground surface/old cultivation layer, truncated by digging of foundation trenches. Cut by (519). Equivalent to (504) and (511).	0.25m+
510	*Structure*	Roughly N-S wall; two courses of roughly faced limestone blocks within yellow mortar, 0.60m long by 0.60m wide and 0.25m high. On the same alignment as wall (506); may originally have butted the southern end of (506) at the junction with (505), but this may have been truncated by later robbing. Possibly indicates a second phase of building.	0.25m high
511	*Layer*	Dark grey-brown sand silt with occasional charcoal flecks and small gravel. Buried ground surface/old cultivation layer, truncated by the digging of foundation trenches. Cut by (507). Equal to (504) and (509).	0.20m+
512	*Fill*	Mid yellow-brown silty sand with common pea grits and mortar, fill of construction trench (513). Deliberate infilling of robbed wall foundation trench. Fill of (513) and overlain by (503).	-
513	***Cut***	**Construction trench for robbed wall that would have formed the northern side of an entrance into the structure. Usable material removed and waste thrown back into cut. Cuts (511/509/504)and filled with (512).**	**-**
514	***Cut***	**Construction cut for wall (510), 0.60m long by 0.60m wide and 0.40m deep, and backfilled with foundation material (515) with wall (510) sat on (515). Cuts (507).**	**0.15m deep**
515	*Fill*	Light orange-yellow sandy gravel fill of (514), acts as foundation material for wall (510). Redeposited river gravels within foundation trench, identical to (509).	0.15m thick
516	*Fill*	Mix of yellow sandy mortar and pea grit within patches of grey sandy silt. Fill of robber cut (517). Material derived from the cleaning of mortar as stone work is recycled. Fill of (517) sealed by (502).	0.30m thick
517	***Cut***	**Cut of robbing event that cuts (505); infilled with (516), sealed by (502). 0.60m long by 0.40m wide and 0.30m deep.**	**0.30m deep**
518	*Layer/fill*	Light orange-yellow sandy gravels; redeposited natural river	0.30m deep

		gravels within construction cut (519), to create a solid raft on which the structure could be built. 2.80m long by 2.40m wide by 0.30m deep; associated with foundation trenches (507) and (513) and therefore equivalent to (515) and (508).	
519	***Cut***	**Cut for gravel raft (518), contemporary with foundation trenches (507) and (513).**	**0.30m deep**
520	***Cut***	**Cut of unknown feature at the northern end of partially robbed wall (506). Semi-circular, 0.20m long by 0.70m wide and 0.20m deep and filled with (521), it is the possible setting for a vertical jamb-stone for the western entrance.**	**0.20m deep**
521	*Fill*	Dark brown grey fill of door jamb-stone hole (520).	0.20m thick

TRENCH 6			Type:	Machine Excavated
Dimensions: 13m by 1.7`m		**Max. depth:** 2m	**Ground level:** 68.63 m aOD	
context	**description**			**depth**
601	*Topsoil*	Very organic, leaf litter rich, very dark brown-black silty loam, current ground surface.		0-0.20
602	*Layer*	Light yellow gravel, deliberate modern dump of redeposited natural river gravels; creation of made ground, possibly area of hard standing.		0.20-0.49
603	*Buried ground surface*	Very dark grey-brown silty loam original ground surface layer, heavily bioturbated and root-rich, sealed beneath (602); overlies (604).		0.49-0.66
604	*Layer*	Mid yellow-brown, slightly grey patches, river-borne silty clay, natural accumulation.		0.66-1.47
605	*Natural*	Blue-grey clay; gleyed, river-borne material, natural accumulation.		1.47-2m+

TRENCH 7			Type:	Machine Excavated
Dimensions: 7.5m by 1.4m		**Max. depth:** 1.6m	**Ground level:** 69.19 m aOD	
context	**description**			**depth**
701	*Topsoil*	Current topsoil and turf of pasture field, dark brown silty loam with very rare gravel inclusions.		0.24m thick
702	*Layer*	Mid brown-grey silty loam with abundant pea grits. Pea grit rich deposit directly below (701) and seals (712), same as (141), (229), (302), (402) and (502).		0.10m thick
703	*Subsoil*	Dark blackish-brown silty sand, subsoil layer sealing Romano-British deposits (704), (708) and (706); cut by medieval feature (713).		0.34m thick
704	*Fill*	Mid to dark grey-brown, friable sandy silt; single fill of ditch (705). Appears derived from erosion of feature edges and surrounding topsoil. Natural silting.		0.29m thick
705	***Cut***	**Cut of roughly E-W ditch that cuts through (715), filled with (704). 1.50m long by 1.80m wide and 0.29m deep, roughly linear but with undulating sides due to the soft nature of the natural, slightly concave sides and concave base. Romano-British.**		**0.29m deep**
706	*Fill*	Dark grey-brown, friable sandy silt; single fill of ditch (707). Homogenous deposit, repeated depositions of similar material giving rise to single deposit. Natural accumulation derived from erosion of the feature edges and the surrounding topsoil. Sealed by (703), and physically cut through by later ditch (713).		0.98m thick
707	***Cut***	**Cut of roughly E-W ditch that cuts (715), filled with (706). 1.50m long by 2.64m wide and 0.98m deep, roughly linear with steep straight sides and a flat base. Romano-British.**		**0.98m deep**
708	*Fill*	Mid yellow-grey-brown, friable silt; single fill of gully (709), natural accumulation, erosion of the feature edges and surrounding topsoil. Stratigraphically cut by post hole (711).		0.24m thick
709	***Cut***	**Cut of roughly E-W, slightly curving gully that cuts (715), filled with (709), and cut through by post-hole (711). 1.50m long by**		**0.24m deep**

		0.64m wide and 0.24m deep, slightly curving in plan with steep concave sides and a concave base.	
710	*Fill*	Mid reddish-brown, friable sandy silt; single fill of post-hole (711). No evidence of post pipe or packing.	0.06m thick
711	***Cut***	**Cut of circular post-hole that cuts though (708), the fill of ditch (709). 0.35m in diameter and 0.06m deep; only the base remains as the majority removed during the excavation of (708).**	**0.06m deep**
712	*Fill*	Mid grey-brown, friable sandy silt; upper fill of ditch (713), which cuts through the upper fill of (707). Deposit naturally derived; overlies fill (714 and sealed by (702).	0.76m thick
713	***Cut***	**Cut of later ditch stratigraphically cutting (703) and physically cutting earlier ditch (707). Not fully excavated; recorded as 1.50m long by 1.06m+ wide and 0.80m+ deep. Two fills (714) and (712). Early medieval.**	**0.80m deep**
714	*Fill*	Light yellow-brown, loose to friable silty sand; earliest recorded fill of (713); appears derived from the natural deposits through which (713) is cut.	0.50m thick
715	*Natural*	Light yellow-brown, friable silty and with common gravel natural accumulation of river-borne material. Overlies natural (716) and is cut through by (705), (707) and (709).	0.14m thick
716	*Natural*	Light yellow loose gravels, natural river deposits, overlain by (715).	-

APPENDIX 2

EXCAVATION AT 'THE GARRISON', RADCOT, 29-30 SEPTEMBER 2007

by J. Blair

Results

The earliest observed layer (14 and 15), examined in small sondages in the SW and SE corners of the trench, was a fine grey-brown clayey silt. Cut into this was a N-S footing (4a) built of coursed rubble with yellow mortar bonding, 3.7 m. wide but only two courses deep, which returned eastwards in the extreme SE corner of the trench (i.e. at the internal SW angle of the building). Abutting the W face of this footing, a mixed deposit (12), containing thin layers of gravel and earth and a lens of clean gravel, overlay 14. The bottom of the footing was 16 cm. higher on the W than on the E side.

The wall above the footing only survived as a narrow strip (4) along its W face, everything E of this strip having been robbed to footing level. This fragment survived as four to five courses of rubble with yellow mortar bonding; above these on the outer face, at a height of 45 cm. above the expanded footing, a straight ridge of hard white mortar was set back 4.5 cm. from the face.

Against the outer (i.e. W) face of the wall was a deposit of medium-brown gravelly loam (6a), overlying and apparently cutting 12. Packed against this was a dump of rubble, randomly arranged but including well-faced ashlar blocks with diagonal tooling, bonded with bright-yellow mortar (7).

The robbing of the wall down to footing level was followed by a series of deposits seen in the NE corner of the trench. One or more episodes of burning left thin, alternating layers of red, black and grey ash (13), slumping into an apparent hollow in the surface of 15 just inside the SW corner of the building, and fire-reddening the surface of the footing where that underlay it. Over this was a layer of dark humic loam (10), rich in pottery (including a large sherd of an elaborate mid to late 13th-cent. Brill-Boarstall jug) and containing lenses of burning and timber charcoal fragments; on its surface was a patch of random rubble (11) with traces of yellow mortar. All these layers sloped down to the NE, presumably into the interior of the demolished building. Above them, and a layer of peagrit (9) over the footing, were thick layers of gravelly loam with much limestone rubble (8), and mixed grey-brown sandy loam with c.50% gravel (5), both of these abutting the robbed rear (E) face of wall fragment (4).

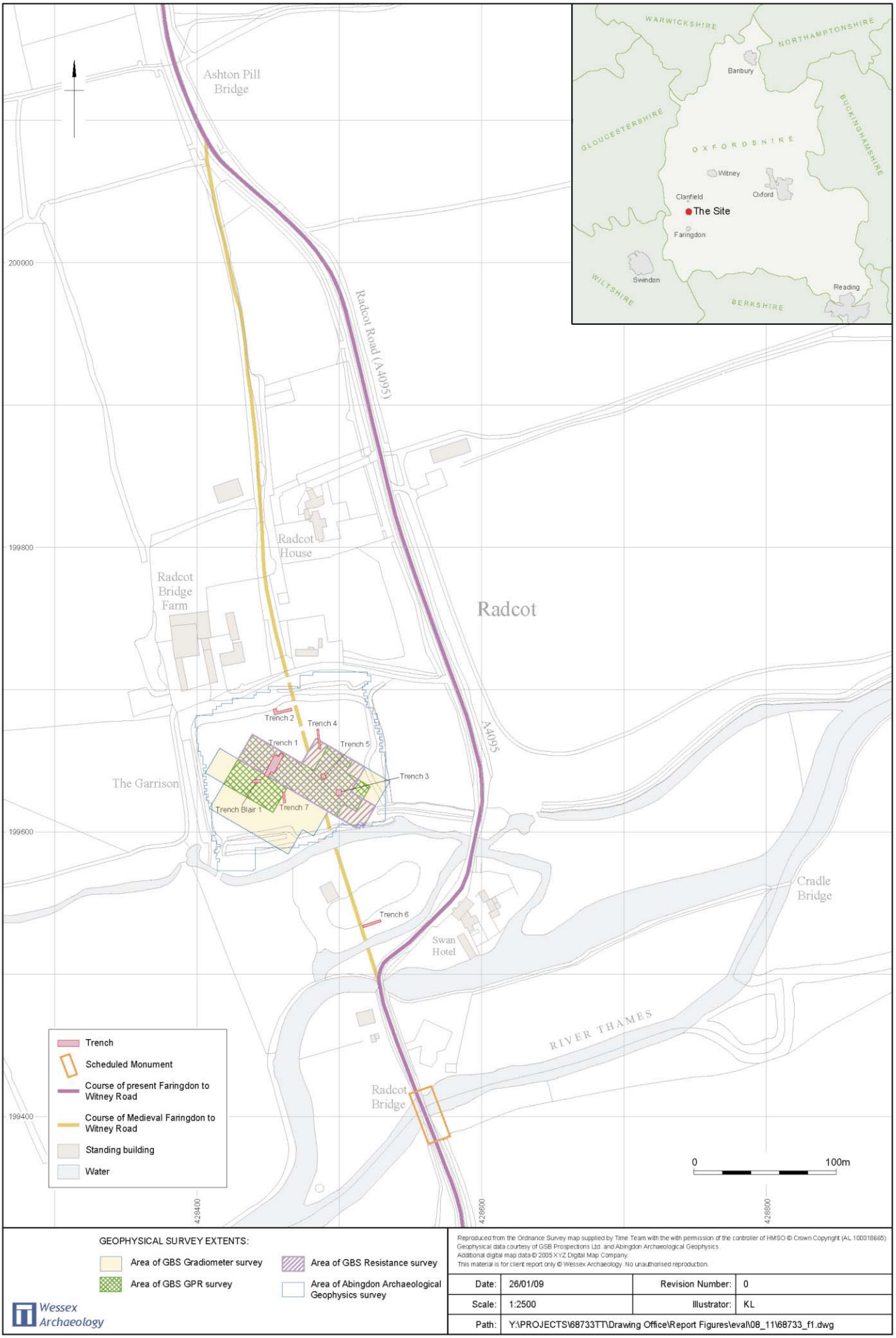
Later layers on the W side of the footing comprised dark-brown loam with c.20% gravel (6), in a strip against the W edge of the footing; and, overlying this, a scatter of rubble (3). The topsoil (1 and 2) was a mixed dark-brown gravely loam, 20 to 25 cm. thick.

Provisional examination of the pottery suggests that much of it is 13th century, though with residual Romano-British and perhaps earlier medieval sherds scattered through several layers.

Interpretation
The underlying grey-brown silt (14 and 15) is probably a natural alluvial deposit on the surface of the gravel terrace. The massively wide footing laid on it evidently relied on breadth rather than depth: the wall itself came almost to the outer edge of the footing, but the position of its inner face is unknown and it could have been somewhat narrower. The thin line of white mortar on the surface of 4 probably marks the face of rendering on higher courses that were slightly set-back, and may thus indicate the ground-level at the time of building. If the ashlar blocks re-used in the mortared rubble-dump (7) come from this building, it had high-quality dressed quoins. Layer 12, against the outer face at footing level, should probably be understood as a construction deposit.

This rubble-dump is puzzling because, although it comprises tumbled building material, it was copiously mortared in situ and therefore cannot be interpreted as a straightforward demolition deposit. Perhaps, therefore, it should be seen as a deliberate but very ad hoc strengthening of the base of the tower, involving the demolition of high-quality structures that were probably not very old (in which case the events of 1142 come to mind).

The burning episode(s) seen in the NE corner of the trench presumably occurred just after the demolition of the tower, since they overlay not only the footing but also the surface of the underlying silt in this corner of the building, which must have been left exposed by the recent removal of flooring. Thereafter, the pottery-rich layer 10 has the character of a midden, and implies that the interior of the tower (which, as suggested by the survival of the outer wall-face (4), was probably still visible at ground-level) was used for dumping rubbish. The 13th-century jug fragments in (10), in conjunction with the mainly 13th-century pottery in (8) and (5), indicate the likely date of the demolition of the tower.



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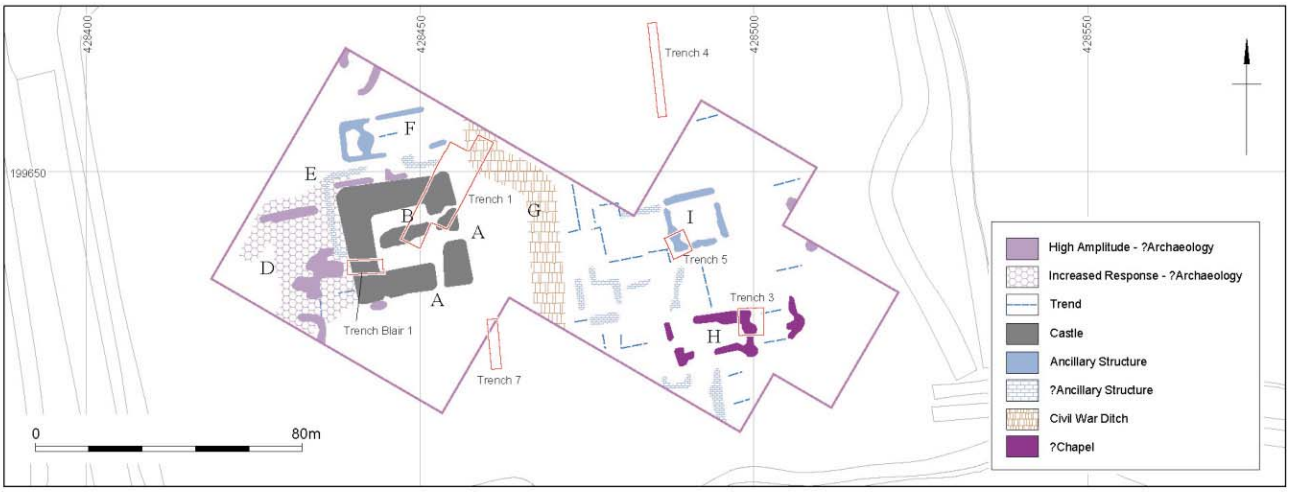
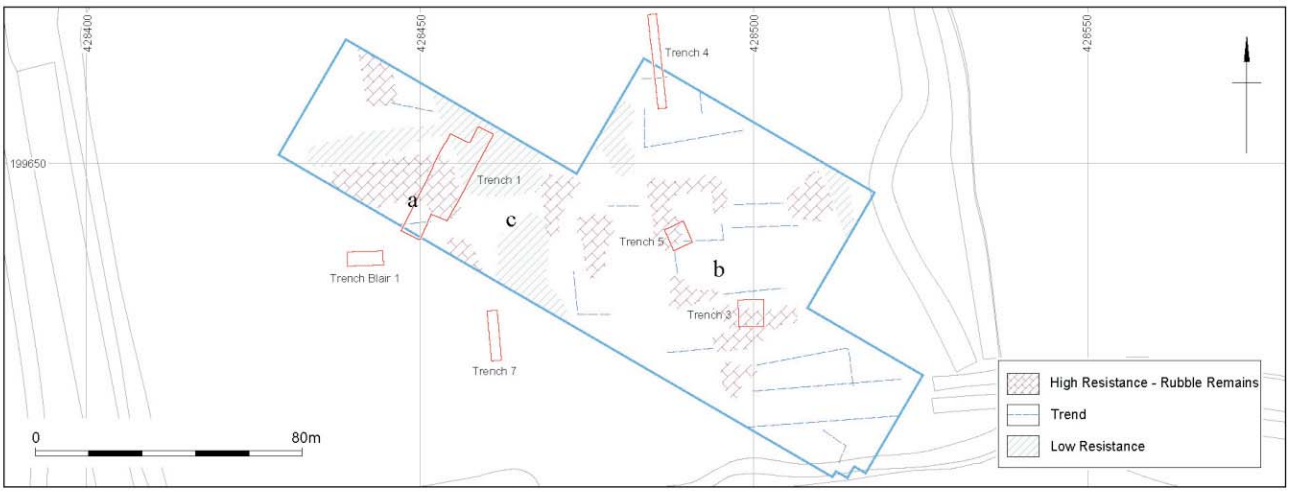
Site and trench location

Figure 1

A. Gradiometer survey results



B. GPR survey results



C. Resistance survey results

Trench
Area of GBS Gradiometer survey
Area of GBS GPR survey
Area of GBS Resistance survey

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Geophysical data courtesy of GSB Prospection Ltd

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Plate 1: Trench 1 from the north

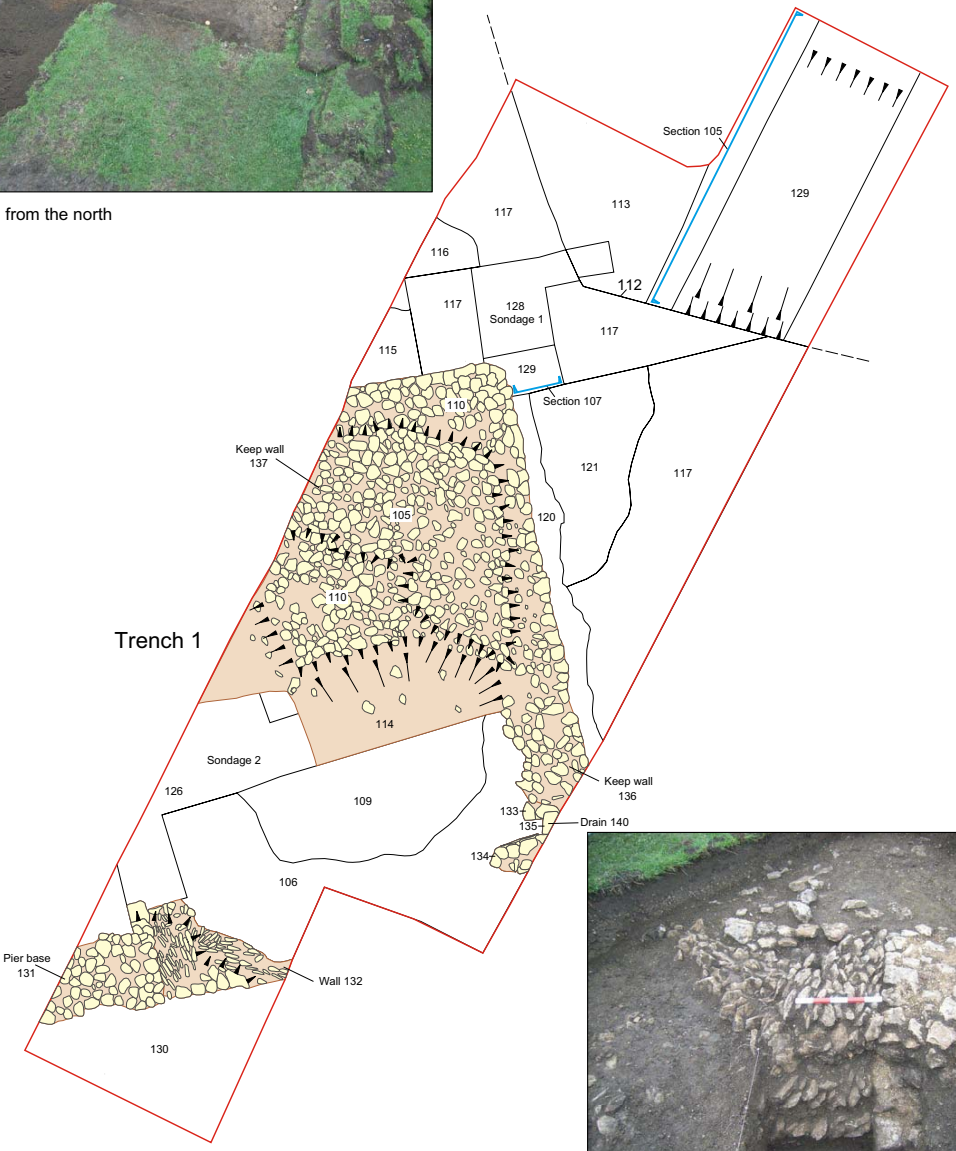

Plate 2: Detail of 131 and 132 from the north

Evaluation trench

Wall

Stone

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Date:	26/01/09	Revision Number:	0
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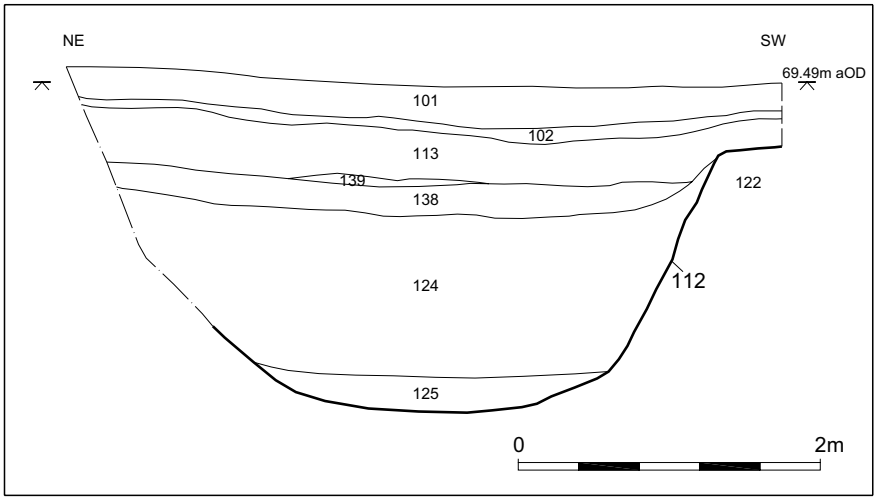
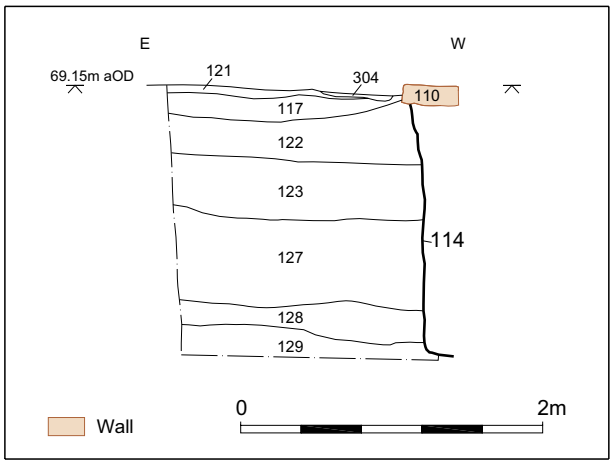
Trench 1: plan and photographs

Figure 3



Section 105

Plate 3: North-west facing section 105 of ditch 112



Section 107

Plate 4: North-facing section 107 with structure 114

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Trench 1: sections

Figure 4

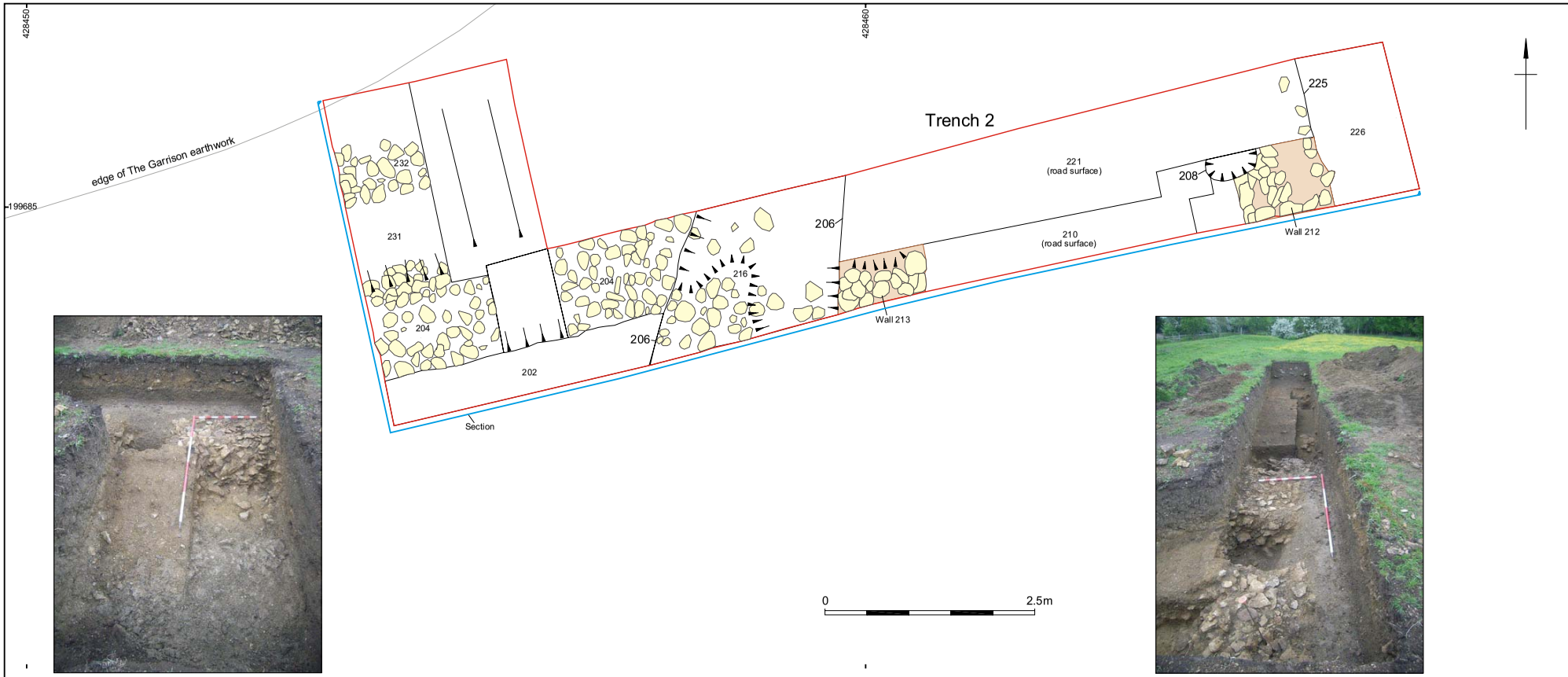
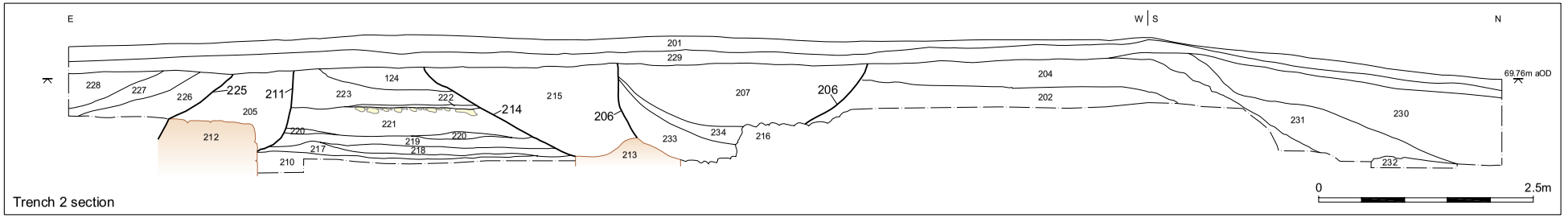


Plate 6: Trench 2 from the north

Plate 6: Trench from the west



Trench 2 section

Evaluation trench

Wall

Stone

Date:	26/01/09	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Plan 1:50 & Section 1:50	Illustrator:	KL
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\68733TT\Drawing Office\Report Figures\eval\08_11\68733_f3.dwg		

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Trench 2: plan, section and photographs

Figure 5

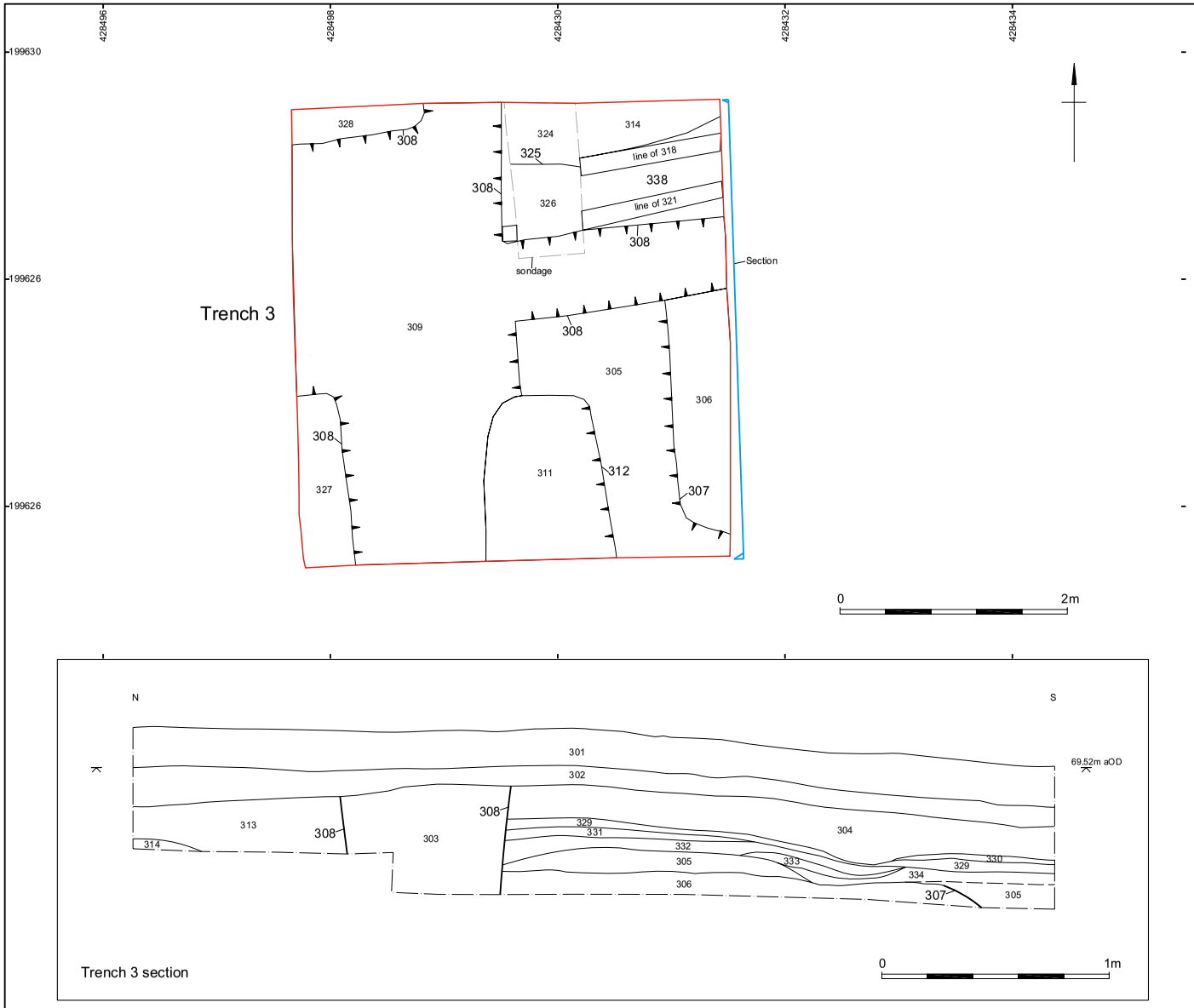

Plate 7: Trench 3 view from above

Plate 8: Trench 3 view from the west

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Trench 3: plan, section and photographs

Figure 6

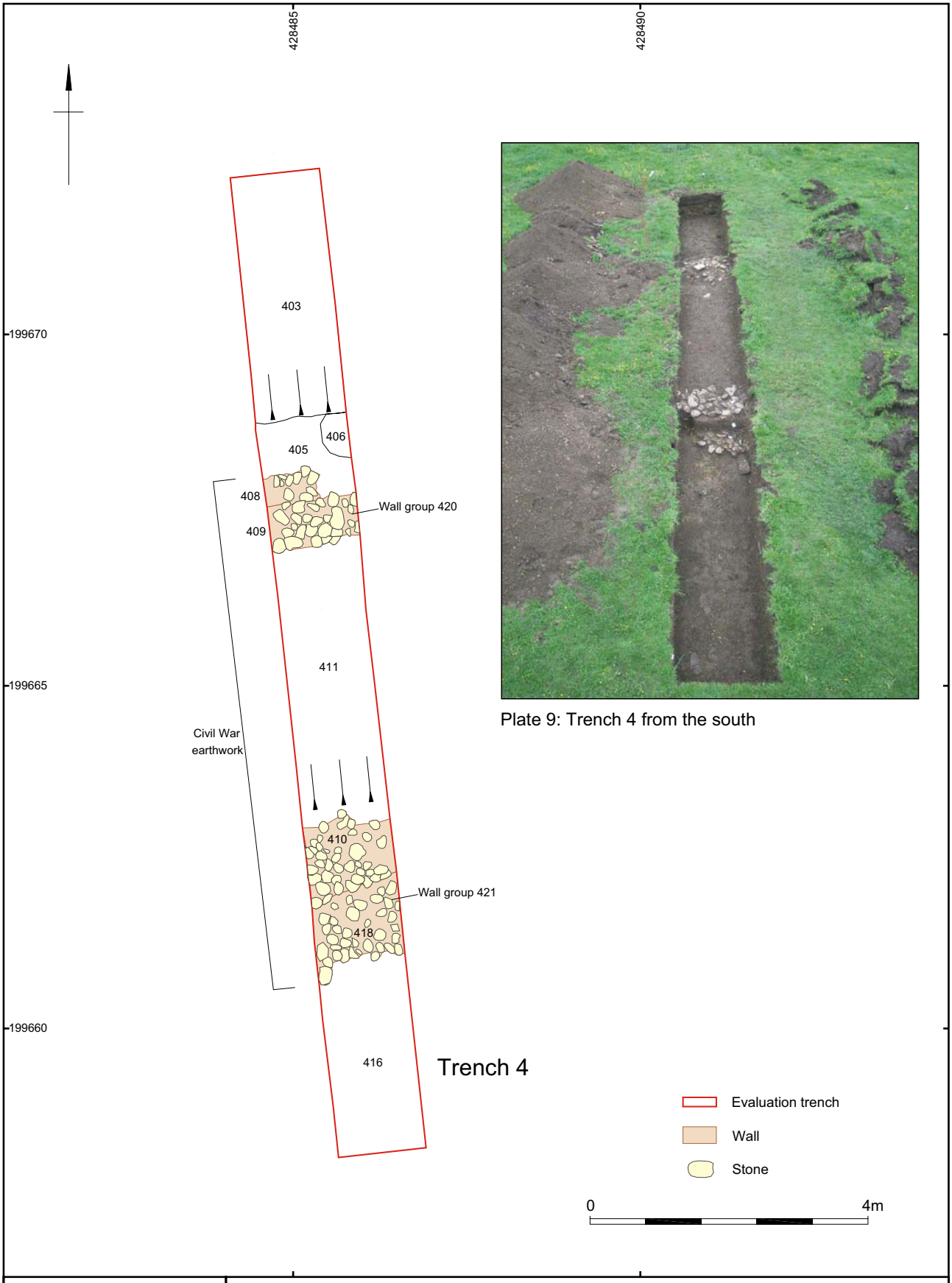

Plate 9: Trench 4 from the south

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Trench 4: plan and photograph

Figure 7

Plate 10: Trench 5 from the south-west

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Scale:	Plan 1:50	Illustrator:	KL
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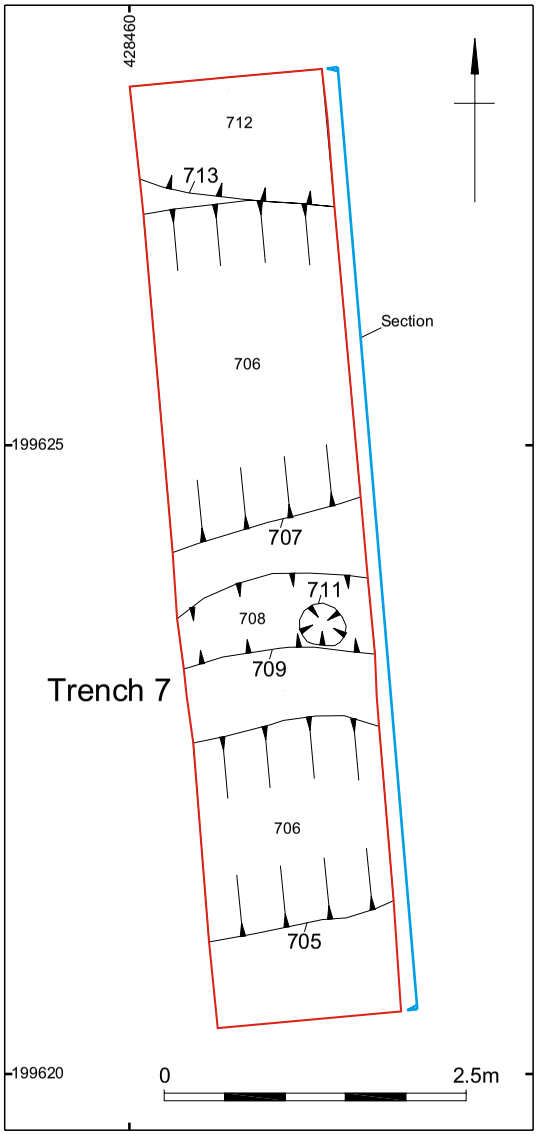
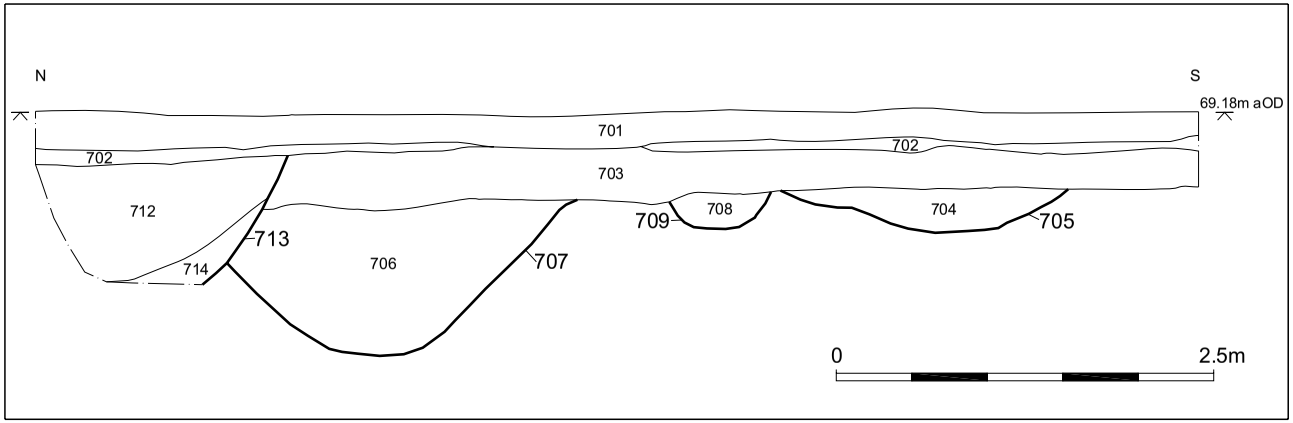
Trench 5: plan and photograph

Figure 8



Trench 7 plan



Trench 7 section

Plate 11: Trench 7 from the north

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		Scale: Plan 1:60 & Section 1:50	Illustrator: KL
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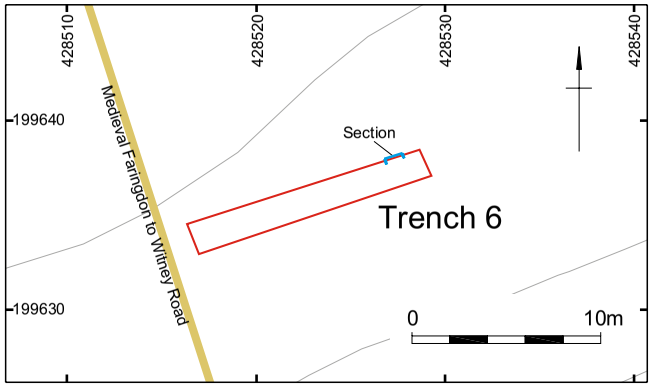
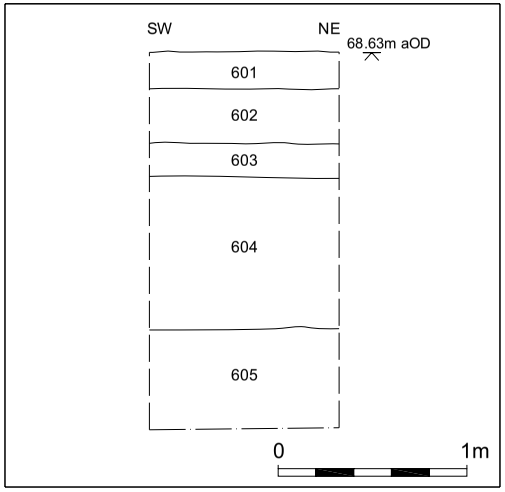
Trench 7: plan, section and photographs

Figure 9



Trench 6 plan



Trench 6 section

Plate 12: Trench 6 from the south-west

Plate 13: North west-facing section

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Date:	27/01/09	Revision Number:	0
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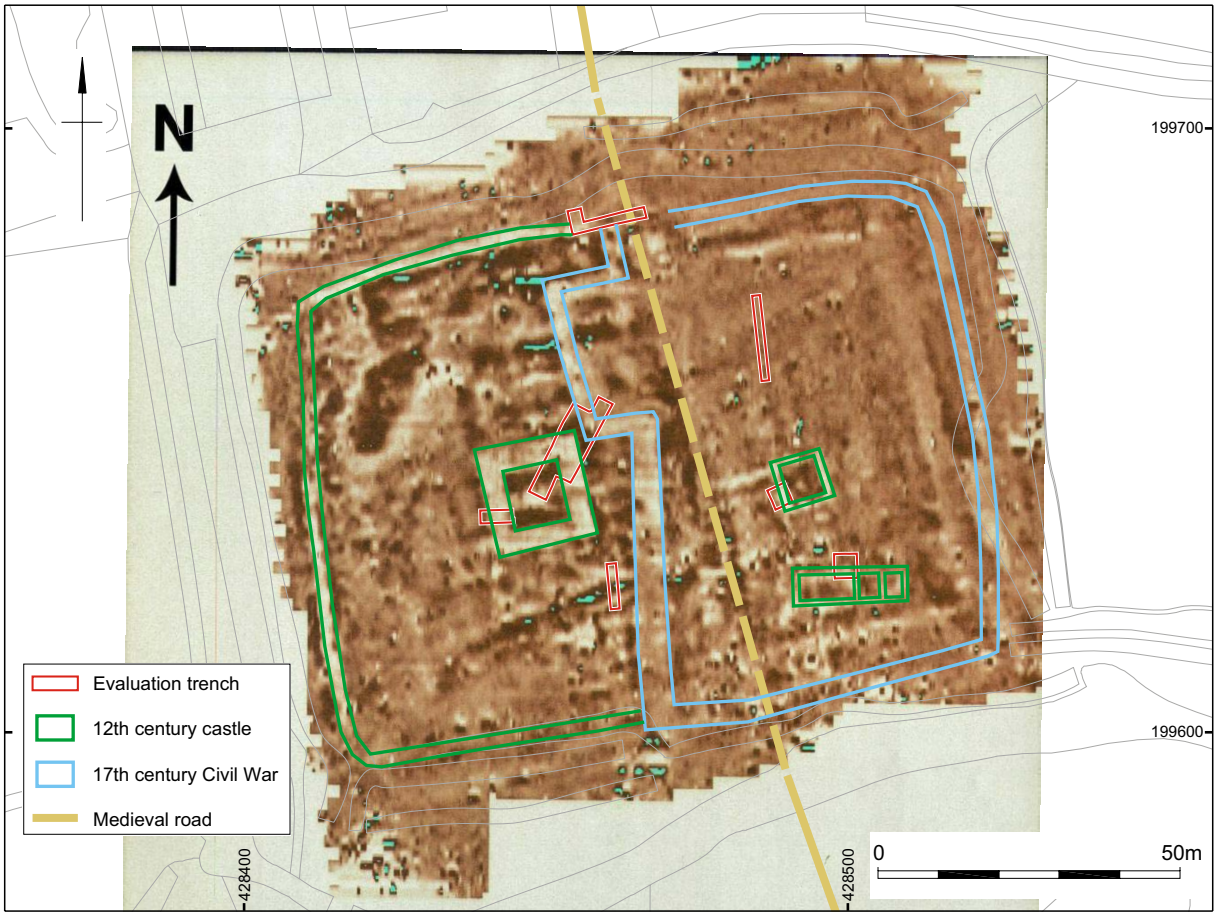
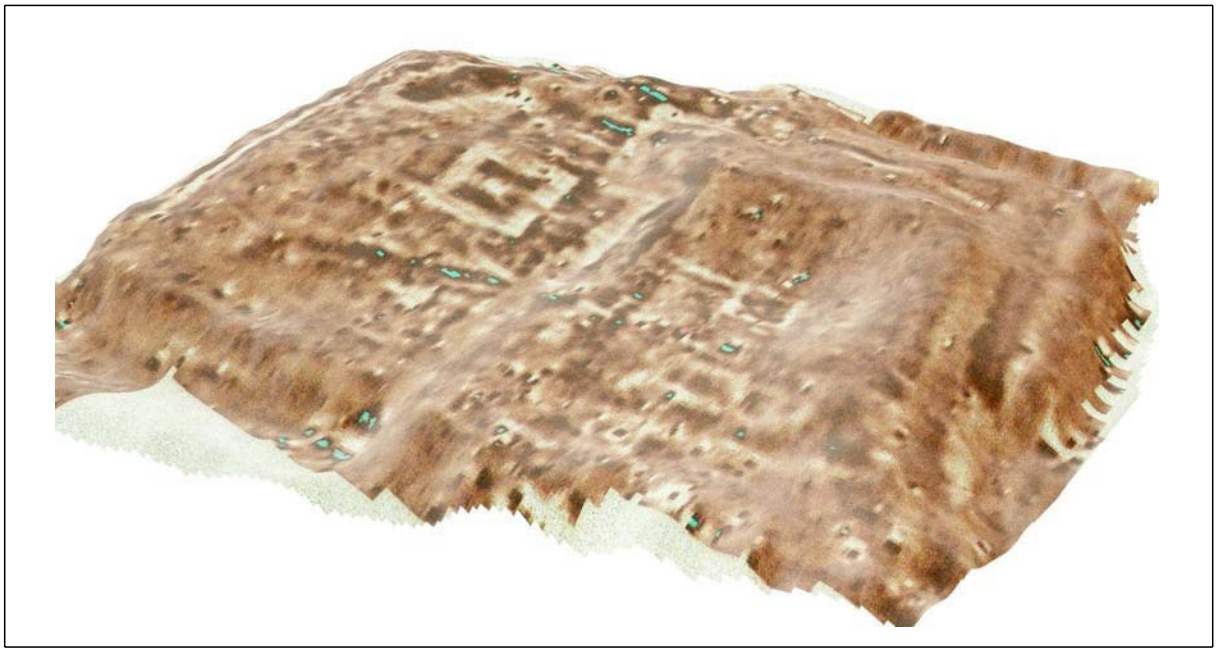
Trench 6: plan, section and photographs

Figure 10



A. Plan of 2007 geophysical survey



B. Topographical survey with slight vertical exaggeration

Geophysical data courtesy of Abingdon Archaeological Geophysics.

Date:	27/01/09	Revision Number:	0
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2007 geophysical and topographical surveys

Figure 11

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