

Excavations at The Old Vicarage, Mellor, Stockport. 2006 Season. Volume I.



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Summary

The University of Manchester Archaeological Unit (UMAU) and the Mellor Archaeological Trust (MAT) conducted a six week community excavation of land at the Old Vicarage and Mellor hilltop, Mellor, Stockport (centred on the National Grid Reference of SJ 9818 8890). The 2006 season of excavations followed previous yearly excavations on the hilltop by UMAU and MAT which first began in 1998. For a summary of these works to date see Section 2 below. The excavation took place from August to September.

Eight trenches were excavated during the 2006 season (**Figure 2**). Four of these (Trenches 43, 44, 45 and 48) lay within the Old Vicarage gardens (Area A) and were designed to evaluate further the evidence for both the medieval hall and Iron Age enclosure ditch partly discovered in previous years' excavations. Three further trenches were placed within Area B (Trenches 46, 47 and 49). Trenches 46 and 49 were designed to evaluate occupational/settlement evidence extending from Area C. Trench 47 was placed over the line of an outer enclosure ditch. Trench 50 was excavated in Area F to the east of Area E in order to evaluate the continuance of another enclosure ditch which had been found in previous seasons' work to run east-west through Area E.

The earliest feature discovered in the 2006 excavations was an outer enclosure ditch found within Trench 47. This feature measured c. 1.85m to 2.2m wide by 0.9m to 1.22m deep and provided a radiocarbon date of between BC 520 to 390 from its uppermost fill, therefore denoting an early-middle Iron Age operational date at the latest and potentially signifying earlier Bronze Age origins. The recovery of several (previously incongruous) carbon dates from the Bronze Age from Area C had previously suggested the possibility that the hilltop was utilised at this time. Though inconclusive, these dates together with that from Trench 47 have begun to build evidence to suggest that substantive settlement of the Mellor hilltop was a continuous development originating in the Bronze Age. The ditch discovered within Trench 47 shares many similarities to the ditch found within Trench 50 and it is possible that they are related. If so, this feature encloses an area approaching c. twenty hectares.

Excavations within Trench 43 uncovered evidence from a wide range of periods. An entranceway within a large (3-5.5m wide by 1.9m deep) Iron Age inner enclosure ditch was discovered facing west-northwest. This entranceway had a width of 3.2m and was flanked by a series of large post holes. It is possible that these post holes originally flanked the entranceway to form a corridor of access to within the enclosure and are associated with a gateway. One of these post holes provided a radiocarbon date of between 50BC and AD120 which denotes that developments/modifications to this entranceway were undertaken during the late Iron Age/Conquest period. An internal palisade slot was found which respects the ditch. This feature appears to have served as the foundation slot for wooden uprights which potentially either prevented accidental intrusion of livestock into the ditch, or which originally revetted a rampart separated from the ditch by a 1.6m wide berm. A possible external palisade slot reinforces other evidence to suggest that a counterscarp bank was also originally present. No trace of either bank remains in-situ today.

Plough marks, possibly of a late Iron Age 'cord rig' design were discovered in Trenches 47 and 49. Un-phased occupational evidence, in the form of pits, post holes and stake holes were

discovered within Trenches 46 and 49. Together these trenches have helped establish potential parameters for occupational activity upon the hilltop.

Post pits relating to a medieval aisled hall were uncovered in Trench 43. To date, four rows of post pits have been discovered revealing a ground plan for the hall measuring c. 11m north-south by 10m east-west. Based on artifactual evidence and a radiocarbon date, the hall would appear to have been constructed in the early thirteenth century and to have been decommissioned by the late fourteenth century, thus giving an operational life for the hall of between 150-200 years. Two medieval arrowheads were discovered during excavations. One of these was of a unique design known as a 'pheon', which previously had been thought to exist only as a heraldic device. This 'pheon' may denote a badge of office, or a heraldic emblem of a family of Foresters of the Peak Forest variously called 'de Melleur', or 'Melner', which historical records suggest lived here during this period.

1. Introduction

The University of Manchester Archaeological Unit (UMAU) and Mellor Archaeological Trust (MAT) carried out an archaeological excavation of land at the Old Vicarage, Mellor and environs (centred on the National Grid Reference of SJ 9818 8890) for six weeks during August and September 2006 (**Figure 1**). This work was carried out as part of the on-going archaeological evaluation of land on the Mellor hilltop which first began in 1998.

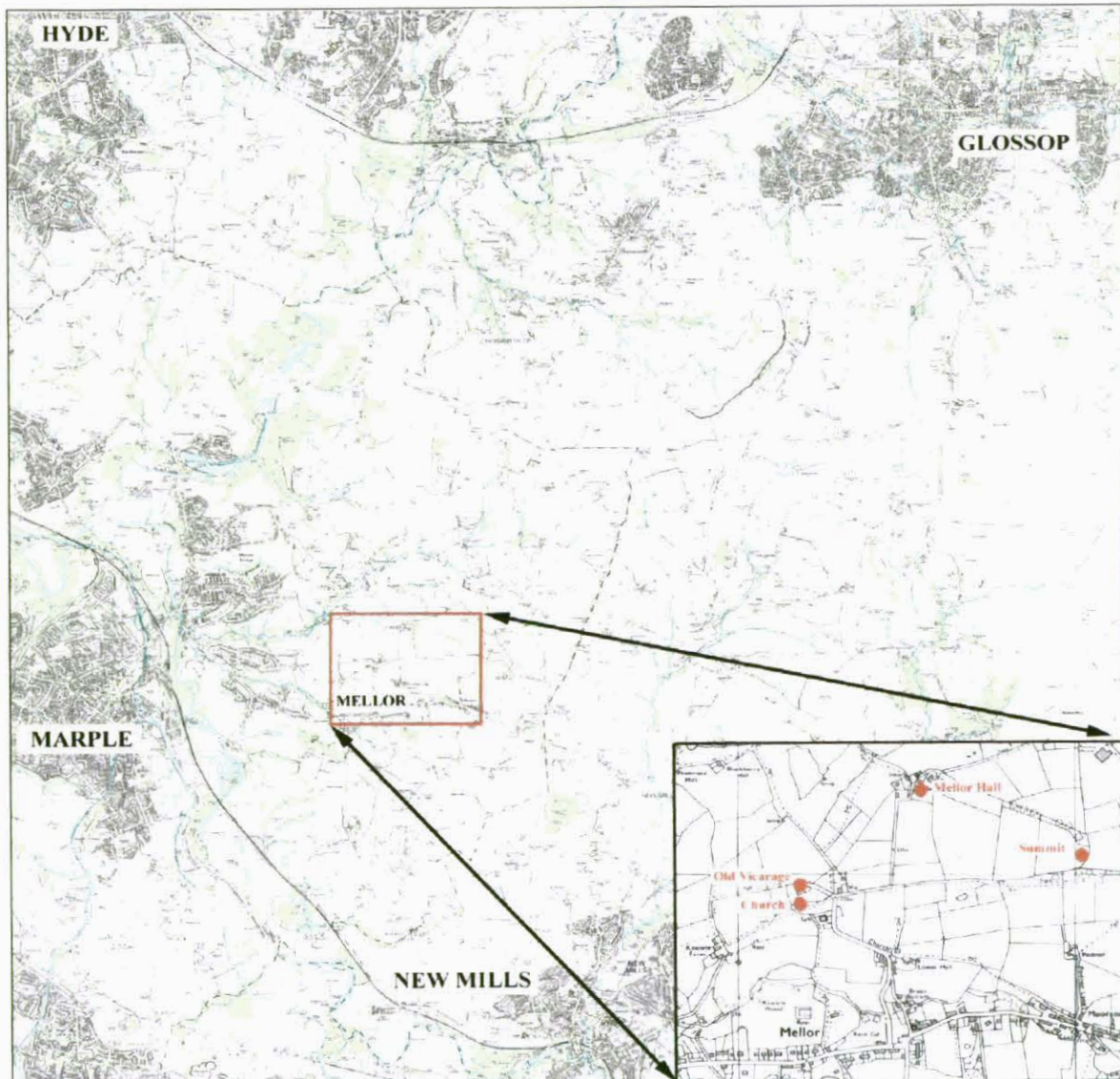


Figure 1: Site location map. Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Crown Office @ Crown copyright. All rights reserved; Licence number 100019571.

The project design for the excavation was approved by the Assistant County Archaeologist for Greater Manchester, Norman Redhead. The excavation was monitored by Norman Redhead.

Funding for the 2006 excavation was provided by MAT and Stockport MBC.

2. Background

2.1 Setting

The site is situated on an unnamed hilltop within the parish of Mellor, approximately six miles to the south-east of the centre of Stockport (centred on the National Grid Reference of SJ 9818 8890). It lies on a 900m long promontory of land which drops in height from 278m AOD at its eastern summit to 220m AOD in the west and measures approximately 1 km east-west by 0.5 km north-south. The area covers 14 or more fields belonging to three separate farms, as well as a number of private dwellings. From the promontory crest the land height falls sharply to the north, south and west.

2.2 Geology

2.2.1 Solid

The site is located upon a solid deposit of sandstone known locally as Woodhead Hill Rock, the lowest sandstone development in the Westphalian A succession, laid during the late Carboniferous Period.

2.2.2 Drift

In some areas of the hilltop, noticeably Area C and partly Area D (see **Figure 2** below) a drift deposit of boulder clay overlies the bedrock below. This clay is typically a light reddish/brown compact deposit which would have originally covered the entire hilltop before being gradually eroded over time and found now only in areas of natural depressions in the bedrock.

2.3 Land-use

The land within Areas A and C belong to the Old Vicarage private residence and is utilised for gardens and small wood copses. Areas B, D, E and F are owned by nearby farms and are used for pasture.

2.4 Archaeological Background

Archaeological work on the Mellor hilltop has focused primarily on the Old Vicarage gardens and environs, with further work conducted in farmland to the north, north-east and east of this focus (see **Figure 2**). These excavations have been informed and expanded through substantial geophysical surveys.

Excavations since 1998 have discovered a large and multi-period site. The area was first utilised during the early Mesolithic period, when the location appears to have been the setting for a knap site or seasonal camp. Sporadic finds and radiocarbon dates have also determined

that the area continued to be utilised during the late Neolithic and Bronze Age, with the discovery of an early Bronze Age flint dagger perhaps denoting a ritual aspect to this. During the Iron Age the site was occupied by a series of roundhouses and was enclosed with the cutting of two ditches. The first, the so-called 'outer enclosure', is a relatively shallow and narrow ditch which on-going geophysical surveys and test trenches suggest encloses an area of c. 20 hectares. The second, 'inner ditch', is both wider and deeper with an interior palisade slot and appears to enclose an area c. 80m east-west by 60m north-south. It is unclear at present, due to the key intersections' inaccessibility, how, if at all, these two ditches relate to each other.

Artefacts discovered during their excavation suggest that the two ditches had differing lengths of usage. Only one artefact to date has been recovered from the outer ditch, a largely intact pottery vessel with a generic Iron Age date whose clay source appears to derive from the Castleton area of Derbyshire. The inner ditch appears to have partly filled-in during the mid-late Iron Age, with the uppermost fills containing frequent late first-late fourth century A.D Romano-British artefacts. No securely dated Romano-British settlement/occupation has yet been found on the site, though several isolated features would appear to date from this period. In 2005 substantial post holes relating to a medieval hall were discovered within the Old Vicarage garden. Artefact and radiocarbon dating evidence suggests that the hall operated some time between the late eleventh to fourteenth centuries; with consulted historical records (Yeatman 1886) suggesting the building was the abode of a family of Foresters for The Forest of The Peak.

All excavation is carried out by volunteers who in 2006 were guided by three professional archaeologists from the University of Manchester Archaeological Unit and Donald Reid a highly experienced archaeologist and member of the Mellor Archaeological Trust. The excavation is a key part of UMAU's commitment to community archaeology in Greater Manchester.

In 1999 the Mellor Archaeological Trust was set up to:-

Promote the investigation, interpretation and preservation of the archaeology of the area surrounding Mellor Church and of other parts of Mellor, Stockport, in the Greater Manchester.

Organise displays, educational activities, or other means of bringing information on the history and archaeology to the notice of the public.

The Trust has had great success in raising funds from Heritage Lottery grants and from revenue raised on open days and other events held during the year. Mellor Archaeological Trust and UMAU are working closely with Stockport Museum Services. The finds recovered from the excavation are being analysed and where appropriate professionally conserved. They will be stored at Stockport museum with many of them forming part of the 'Stockport Story' display.

3. Methodology

Since 1998 a planned strategy of archaeological investigation has aimed to build on the results of previous years' excavations whilst expanding the area of potential study through an extensive and varied geophysical survey of the hilltop. By the conclusion of the 2006 season the extent of archaeological excavation since the site was first discovered consisted of 50 trenches, 15 trial trenches and 17 test pits. Though this represents a substantial body of work it should be borne in mind that together these cover only a small fraction of the viable land for archaeological investigation on the hilltop. Because of the potential scale of the site the current programme of works should be viewed as an evaluation phase. In certain instances therefore, it has not been necessary to excavate all features within any one trench once the area has been evaluated.

Eight trenches were excavated during the 2006 season (Figure 2). Four of these (Trenches 43, 44, 45 and 48) lay within the Old Vicarage gardens (Area A) and were designed to evaluate further the evidence for both the medieval hall and Iron Age enclosure ditch partly discovered in previous years' excavations. Three further trenches were placed within Area B (Trenches 46, 47 and 49). Trenches 46 and 49 were designed to evaluate occupational/settlement evidence extending from Area C. Trench 47 was placed over an enclosure ditch. Trench 50 was excavated in Area F to the east of Area E in order to evaluate a similar enclosure ditch to that found within Trench 47. For the purposes of this report, the two ditch sections discovered within Trenches 47 and 50 have together been termed the outer enclosure (see Section 5.5).

All trenches, other than Trenches 49 and 50 which were hand-excavated, were initially opened by a machine excavator which removed the overlying topsoil until the first *in-situ* archaeology was reached at which point excavation proceeded by hand. All spoil was stored at a safe working distance from the excavations.

After machine stripping had taken place, all excavation proceeded by hand to UMAU and best practice professional standards. All archaeological works, including excavation and recording were undertaken by volunteers under the supervision of professional archaeologists from UMAU. Areas of excavation were recorded in measured plan at 1:20 or 1:40 scale and section drawings at 1:10 scale. Drawings were annotated with context numbers which were individually recorded on pro-forma UMAU context record sheets, along with surveyed level information. A metal-detector was utilised in all phases of the excavation.

All archaeological remains were photographed in digital and slide format. Any finds recovered were bagged, recorded and processed according to standard archaeological practice.

The weather as usual played a significant role in the excavations and though not quite as bad as the previous seasons' did impact upon the works in both delays and results. In 2004 Trench 28 had been opened just to the east of the recreated Iron Age roundhouse in order to examine further the archaeology of Area C. Unfortunately that years' heavy rainfall meant that no work took place within the trench, though in-between the showers a complex series of archaeological features were observed. In 2006 this trench was re-opened with the wildly naïve hope that the situation would not repeat itself. The almost constant rainfall which

occurred after the trench was opened ensured that despite our best efforts no further work took place. Due to this no trench number has been assigned to this trench for the 2006 season.



Figure 2: Showing 2006 Trench locations and previous excavations.

4. Results of the Excavation

4.1 Result Typology

In this report all fills and layers are represented in rounded brackets (***) and features/cuts are in square brackets [***]. Features will be named and denoted by their principal cut number. All recorded measurements given for contexts/features are the maximum dimensions unless otherwise specified. Following standard conventions when describing the colour or matrix of a fill the greater element is listed last, thus a mid grey/brown silt clay would be principally brown in hue and have a higher percentage of clay than silt.

4.2 Trench 43

Trench 43 (**Figure 3**) was situated within the Old Vicarage garden (Area A), adjacent and overlapping the northern extent of Trench 35, excavated in 2005. The trench was sub-square in shape, measuring approximately 20.90m north-south, and 22m east-west, with a 6.50m long L-shaped arm in the south-eastern corner extending to the south. The irregular shape of the trench was a direct result of utilising the remaining area which was available for archaeological excavation within the garden.

4.2.1 The Inner Enclosure. Feature [002/048]

Throughout the history of the archaeological excavations at the Old Vicarage, Mellor, a principal focus has been upon identifying the nature and form of the enclosure ditch (sometimes referred to as 'the inner enclosure ditch') first discovered within the Old Vicarage gardens in 1998; in particular the search for an entranceway. Previous trenches within Area A, notably Trench 1 and Trench 33 established the continuation of the ditch with a small gap between these left unexcavated. The 2006 excavation within Area A incorporated this gap within the trench design in order to investigate the area conclusively. The excavations located an entranceway with associated palisades, post pits and postholes. For the purposes of this report the results will be divided into these separate feature groups, the discussion bringing all of these features together.

4.2.2 Ditch [002/048]

Initial machining and cleaning of the trench located the continuation of the large ditch feature identified within Trench 1 to the south. This formed a terminal end [002] (**Figure 4, Plates 1 and 2**) with a subsequent gap of 3.20m between the remaining terminal end [048] located to immediate north of [007]-(2005) the ditch identified during the 2005 excavations within Trench 33. Both [02] and [048] widen towards their respective terminal ends, with [02] increasing in width from c. 3m to 5-5.6m at its roughly 'club ended' terminal. Both ditches also deepen somewhat, with [048] being substantially deeper than [02] with a depth of 1.89m.

The first terminal end excavated was [002]. A 10m length of ditch was uncovered, of which initially a 3.00m wide slot was excavated, incorporating Trench 1. The resultant northeast

facing section was subsequently recorded leaving c.1m of the ditch remaining in-situ. Excavation of the eastern portion of this remaining section was undertaken in order to ascertain the extent and nature of the terminal end; to recover an appropriate quantity of material for bulk sampling of all fills within the ditch, and to record a section showing deposition from the entrance into the ditch terminal end. The final section of the ditch fill was later removed providing a completely excavated terminal end. The ditch measured 5.50m wide at its maximum, 3.04m at its minimum and was excavated to a depth of 1.42m. The ditch was cut into the natural solid bedrock.

The character and nature of the ditch's in-fills were similar in form to that identified in previous Area A trenches and are described below.

The primary deposited fill consisted of (054), a friable greyish brown silty sand containing frequent small sub-angular plated sandstone, and measuring 0.26m wide by 0.56m deep at its maximum. A total of seven sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered from this layer.

(051) was a 0.58m wide, 0.42m deep friable light brown silty sand containing frequent 0.05-0.1m rounded stones. No dateable material was recovered from this fill.

(055) was a 0.67m wide, 0.39m deep friable light orangey brown silty sand containing infrequent deposits of 0.05-0.15m rounded stone. No dateable material was recovered from this fill.

(059) was a 0.37m wide, 0.23m deep friable mid brown sandy silt containing infrequent deposits of 0.05-0.1m rounded stone. No dateable material was recovered from this fill.

(054) was a 0.26m wide, 0.56m deep friable light greyish brown silty sand containing frequent 0.1m rounded stones. No dateable material was recovered from this fill.

(056) was a 0.29m wide, 0.17m deep wet mid grey sandy clay containing frequent 0.15m rounded stones. No dateable material was recovered from this fill.

(059) was a 0.37m wide, 0.23m deep friable mid brown sandy silt containing occasional fragments of 0.10m angular and sub-angular stone.

(064) was a 0.20m wide, 0.22m deep friable mid brown silty sand containing no inclusions. No dateable material was recovered from this fill.

(057) was a 0.39m wide, 0.14m deep wet light grey sandy clay containing occasional inclusions of 0.10-0.24m rounded stone and infrequent 0.20m angular sandstone fragments.

(063) was a 0.97m wide, 0.08m deep wet dark grey sandy clay containing inclusions of frequent charcoal flecks.

(062) was a 1.79m wide, 0.30m deep friable dark brown sandy loam containing frequent inclusions of large 0.30m rounded and sub rounded stones.

(060) was a 0.71m wide, 0.12m deep friable light brown sandy silt containing infrequent 0.30m rounded stone material alongside frequent charcoal flecks.

(058) was a 1.20m wide, 0.50m deep friable dark greyish brown sandy loam containing frequent angular and sub angular material 0.2-0.3m.

(061) was a 2.96m wide, 0.17m deep, friable mid grey sandy loam containing frequent angular and sub angular material 0.30m.

(012) was a 2.96m wide, 0.29m deep friable dark greyish brown silty loam containing frequent angular and sub angular stone 0.2-0.3m.

(001) was a 2.14m wide, 0.30m deep friable dark brown silty sand containing infrequent angular and sub angular stone 0.2-0.3m.

The southern terminal [048] was similar in form to that of [002], however the upper fills contained a denser concentration of larger rounded and sub angular stone, identified during the initial clean-up phase of the excavations. The ditch here measured 4.23m wide, a depth of 1.89m and an excavated length of 6.05m (the first 2.89m of which was an overlap of feature [007] excavated in Trench 33 during 2005). Due to the limitations of space (the proximity to trees) and the inherent risks associated with excavating such a large feature within such a small area, only a quarter section of the terminal end of the ditch was excavated (**Plate 3**). Due to the similarity of fills with those identified within [002] they will not be listed here.

4.2.3 Palisade Slots. Features [089] and [097]

Previous excavations within Area A have identified an inner palisade slot aligned in the same orientation as the inner enclosure ditch approximately 3m from the ditches' inside edge (**Plate 4**). A similar feature [097] was identified on the inside of [002] with a distance of 7.04m between the two. A linear palisade slot [097] was identified for a length of 0.60m, the excavated length of which was 0.55m, the eastern extent being the eastern trench edge. The palisade was cut into the bedrock and had near vertical sides and a flat base, measuring 0.52m wide and 0.17m deep. This feature was filled with (073) and (098). No dateable material was recovered from either fill. The primary fill (073) was a light brownish grey silty sand containing frequent 0.1-0.30m angular plated bedrock fragments laid in a vertical manner. The secondary fill (098) was a mid grey silty sand containing frequent inclusions of angular bedrock fragments 0.1-0.3m, laid in a haphazard horizontal fashion.

The second palisade slot identified was [089], a linear exposed for a length of 2.65m, occupying the same orientation as the northern terminus of the inner enclosure ditch [002] and the inner palisade [097]. The palisade measured 0.43m wide was excavated for a length of 0.50m and had a depth of 0.32m. The palisade then turned at a right angle towards [002] for a distance of 0.32m before halting. The sole fill was a friable light brown silty sand (090) containing very frequent inclusions of angular stone fragments measuring 0.1-0.2m. No dateable material was recovered from the feature, though by association with the entrance features it has been assigned a preliminary Iron Age date.

4.2.4 Iron Age Post pits

During the course of the 2005 excavations a number of post pits were identified, five within Trench 34 and five within Trench 33. The recovery of numerous artefacts as well as a

radiocarbon date (Noble P, Roberts J, & Thompson A. 2005) has established that these pits represent the foundations for a medieval hall. During the excavation in 2006 a similar set of post pits were recovered, some of which were medieval and associated with the hall (Figure 5). However a number of these pits were different in form, irregular in plan and contained larger angular stones within them. It has been established that these represent Iron Age post pits possibly associated with the entranceway and would probably have held large upright timbers potentially forming the gateposts. In total three of these features were uncovered, [076], [103] and [143], representing the three corners of a square. The fourth was not identified due to limitations on the area available to excavate (under a tree).

[074] (Plates 5 and 6) was a circular feature with clearly defined edges cut into the natural surrounding fractured bedrock with near vertical sides and a horizontal base. [074] was filled by a single deposition (075) of friable mid orangey brown sandy silt containing frequent inclusions of large angular stone 0.1-0.4m. The pit measured 0.75m in diameter and 0.32m deep. No post pipe or dateable material was recovered from this feature.

Cutting [074] was post pit [076], a large irregular/oval pit possessing clearly defined edges having primarily been cut into the natural bedrock. Measuring 1.05m in diameter and 0.72m deep, the post pit contained four distinct fills. The primary fill (077) was a friable mid orangey brown sandy silt, containing frequent inclusions of large 0.2-0.35m angular and sub-angular sandstone. Above which was (078) a mid greyish brown silty sand containing frequent 0.2-0.50m rounded boulders and 0.1-0.20m angular stone. The upper fill (079) consisted of a dark greyish brown silty sand containing frequent 0.3-0.50m rounded boulders and 0.1-0.20m angular stone. A post pipe (080) was located towards the southern edge of the feature, measuring 0.46m wide and consisting of a dark greyish brown silty sand, containing infrequent angular bedrock plates measuring 0.1-0.15m. No dateable material was recovered from this feature.

Cut into post pit [074] was pit [081], an irregular oval in shape, measuring 0.98m in length and 0.67m in width. This feature had a depth of 0.52m with sharp angular sides and a horizontal base visible within the section. Possessing no post pipe, the pit was filled by four separate deposits (082), (083), (084) and (085), all of which were similar silty sands containing multiple 0-0.15m angular plated bedrock fragments. No dateable material was recovered from this feature.

Post pit [103] (Plate 7) provided the first stratigraphical relationship between an Iron Age post hole [103] and a medieval post hole [102]. [103] having been cut by [102], was irregular/circular in form, with fractured and undulating sides and an uneven bedrock base measuring 1.12m in diameter and 0.65m deep. A post pipe with two fills (151) and (152) was surrounded and supported by packing deposit (150). Fill (150) was a friable light brown silty sand containing frequent 0.30m angular plated bedrock fragments along with 0.20m rounded boulders. The primary fill of the post pipe (151) was a reddish brown silty sand with no inclusions. The upper fill (052) was a mid brown silty sand containing infrequent 0.10m sub-rounded and sub-angular inclusions. Re-cut into the upper fills of [103] was [155], subsequently cut itself by [102], unknown in plan or form, containing two deposits (153) and (154) of silty sand with multiple fragments of both angular and sub-angular sandstone fragments measuring 0.15m. Neither [103] nor its re-cut [155] produced any dateable material, however a sample of charcoal was recovered from deposit (150), producing a radiocarbon date of between 50BC and AD120 (Beta 228119).

Post pit [130] was in-line with [076] and [143], having been later cut by a medieval post pit [003] and possibly represents the continuation of the entrance features in an easterly direction. If this were the case its corresponding partner would be visible next to the third post pit of the second row, which unfortunately remains an unexcavated area. [130] measured 1.50m in diameter, 0.45m deep and was circular in nature, with irregular shaped sides and an angled bedrock base. No post pipe was identified within the pit, the sole fill being (131), a mid greyish brown clayey silt possessing frequent inclusions of 0.20m angled plated bedrock and 0.40m rounded and sub-rounded boulders. No dateable material was recovered from this feature, however stratigraphically it is cut by posthole [046], which in turn is cut by [003], also cutting [130] in the process.

Post pit [143], cut by a later medieval post pit [144], was only partially uncovered during the excavation. Measuring 1.45m in diameter and 0.55m deep the post pit possessed a sole packing fill (148) and a post pipe (149). The post pipe was a mid brown silty sand containing infrequent inclusions of angular stone measuring 0.10m. The packing (148) consisted of a light greyish brown silty sand, containing frequent inclusions of angular sandstone measuring 0.30m. No dateable material was recovered from this feature.

4.2.5 Postholes

Although a number of postholes were identified during the excavations within this trench it has been possible to date only two of these. Both [114] and [141] were located within the sides of the northern terminal end of the ditch [002]. Identified at a depth of c. 0.40m both were filled by one deposit, (115) and (142), both similar in nature, a compact greyish brown sand containing no inclusions, no finds were recovered from either feature.

4.2.6 Romano-British

Although no Romano-British features were identified during the excavations a number of pottery fragments were recovered (see Appendix 3.2 and 3.3). All of which were recovered from either the northern terminal end of the inner enclosure ditch [002] or the southern terminal end [048]. Retrieved from the upper deposit of [002] (001) were four sherds from three different vessels all broadly dated to the Roman period. The layer beneath, (012) produced eight fragments ranging in date from the mid-late second century. Terminal end [048] produced six sherds of broadly defined roman pottery within the upper deposit (049), alongside two crucible fragments presumed to date from the same period. Deposit (030) produced a single sherd of Romano-British date.

4.2.7 Medieval

During the course of the excavations within Area A the form and function of archaeological features dated to the medieval period has been post pits associated with the construction of a medieval timber aisled hall. Dating of these features has been through a single carbon date 1000-1250 AD and by artifactual recovery consisting of pottery and metalwork from the late eleventh to fourteenth centuries. Those not possessing secure dateable material within them can be associated and therefore dated as having been constructed during the same period as those with dateable material through the ground plan and layout of the hall.

A total of twelve post pits were identified during the 2006 archaeological excavations, all within Trench 43, seven of which have been dated to the medieval period (**Figures 3, 5, 6 and 9**). The five post pits excavated during 2005, within Trench 34, represent a single row of post pits that would originally have each possessed a single vertical timber, forming the eastern extent and wall of the aisled hall. The second row, located within Trench 43, was identified 3.40m to the west still possessing a similar alignment, approximately north-south. The northernmost two post pits identified were [015] and [003]. The location of the third and middle post pit can be postulated using average measurements. However their identification and subsequent excavation proved impossible due to the presence of a large tree. The fourth in line was [010], whilst the fifth was also postulated due to the positioning of another tree and therefore inaccessible, either by excavation or geophysics.

[015] was a circular post pit, cut into the natural plated bedrock, measuring 1.60m in diameter and 0.60m in depth. Possessing gently sloping sides for the first 0.15m then descending in a near vertical fashion before encountering a flat base of plated bedrock, the feature contained three fills (016), (037), and (039). Stratigraphically the earliest was (039), a friable mid brown sandy loam containing frequent 0.10m rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions. Above which was deposited a friable light grey/brown silty sand (037) containing infrequent 0.1-0.2m rounded stone inclusions. Both (037) and (039) can be interpreted as the post-packing surrounding an inserted timber post, the remains of which were represented by a post pipe (016), measuring 0.45m wide and consisting of a friable light-mid brown sandy loam containing infrequent inclusions of 0.1-0.2m rounded stones. No dateable material was recovered from this feature.

The second post pit within the row was [003] which in turn cut posthole [046] and post pit [130]. [003] was circular in nature, cut into the bedrock and similar in nature to that of [015]. Measuring 1.60m in diameter and 0.67m deep the post pit contained four separate fills (014), (036), (044), and (045). (044) represented the central post pipe. (045), the primary fill, occurred as the result of a single episode of silting and was a 0.05m deep orangey grey silty sand, and no stone inclusions. Above which lay a large 0.45m long flat bedrock slab, interpreted as having provided a solid base for the timber post that would have been within the post pipe (044). (036) consisted of the re-used excavated natural bedrock being re-deposited as packing for the timber and was a orangey brown silty sand containing frequent inclusions of 0.20m angular plated bedrock fragments. Layer (004), a friable dark brown sandy silt containing frequent inclusions of 0.1-0.40m angular inclusions to a depth of 0.15m seals both the post packing and the post pit and therefore represents a later phase of activity.

A total of 12 sherds of medieval pottery were recovered within [003], alongside an iron arrowhead (see pottery assessment Appendix 3 and arrowhead assessment Appendix 6) and a partial segment of a very large originally circular sandstone grindstone. Within the post packing layer (036), a single rim sherd of a late eleventh to early thirteenth century jar of Hillam type was recovered, providing a construction date for the insertion of the timber post. The grindstone and the arrowhead were also recovered from this deposit. The remaining ten sherds consisting of five different vessels were recovered from the upper deposit (004). The date range of these vessels lies between the late twelfth and fourteenth centuries, therefore providing a provisional date for the destruction/abandonment of the hall. A confusing issue was the recovery within (004) of a single handle fragment from a hollow ware vessel belonging to the later prehistoric period. The assumption remains that this piece was

excavated from an Iron Age feature during the process of destruction/abandonment between the late twelfth and fourteenth centuries and redeposited within (004).

The fourth post pit [010] was circular in nature, measuring 1.24m in diameter, similar in form to the other post pits with a depth of 0.40m. Located within was a post pipe (087), situated off centre to the south, and two episodes of backfilled post packing (086) and (088). The primary fill (086) was a friable light brown silty clay containing no stone inclusions, whereas (088) lying directly above was a mid greyish brown sandy loam that contained frequent inclusions of 0.1-0.20m angular and sub-angular stones. The post pipe (087) measured 0.45m in diameter and consisted of a dark brown friable sandy loam with inclusions of 0.02m rounded stones occurring at an infrequent level. A single pottery fragment was recovered from (011) the upper fill of the feature, similar to (004) within [003]. The recovery of this late twelfth-fourteenth century fragment confirms the destruction/abandonment of the hall during this period.

The next line of post pits was located 3m to the west of the second and also contained five post pits. Of which the southernmost three were identified during the 2005 excavation of Trench 33 [001], [032], and [082]. The remaining two within this row were [024] and [144], both of which were only partially excavated due to the excavation limitations provided by the trees within the area. Post pit [024], again circular in plan and rock cut, had steep uniform sides and a flat bedrock base. Measuring 1.37m in diameter, this post pit was one of the largest discovered with a depth of 0.81m. [24] contained a post pipe (025) and a single phase of post packing (026). The post pipe measured 0.35m wide and consisted of a dark grey sandy silt devoid of inclusions except a large oval rounded stone measuring 0.20m. The packing (026) was formed from an orangey brown silty sand, with very frequent inclusions of angular bedrock 0.20m in size. [024] cut feature [052] the nature of which remained unknown due to its continuation underneath the baulk. A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from this feature, within (026). This was a base sherd from a Hillam type jar and was dated from between the late eleventh-early thirteenth centuries, once again sharing the construction date identified from material recovered from the remaining post pits.

Feature [144], a post pit, was oval in nature, irregular in form and size and cut into an Iron Age post pit [143]. Measuring 1.20m long and 0.75m wide the post pit possessed irregular angular sloping sides and a rounded base. (145) represented the post pipe, 0.30m in diameter, consisting of a dark brown silty sand with occasional angular inclusions measuring 0.15m. The post packing (146) was a mixed light-mid brown silty sand containing frequent inclusions of angular and sub-angular stone measuring 0.15m in diameter. The difference in form of this post pit in comparison to the other post pits associated with the construction of the hall is possibly due to the material within which it was excavated into, the natural geology being fractured bedrock and clay and the post packing within the Iron Age post pit containing large quantities of large heavily packed stone. No dateable material was recovered from this feature.

Within the fourth row of the post pits, representing the western wall of the structure, four post pits were identified, two within the 2005 excavations of Trench 33 [011] and [073]. The remaining two were located within Trench 43 [103] and [123]. [123] was situated on the southern trench edge, and as a result only partially excavated. Measuring 1.60m in diameter and 0.56m in depth, [123] was rock cut, possessing steep angled sides onto a flat bedrock base. A post pipe (125) and two separate episodes of packing (124) and (134) were found within [123]. The primary packing (134) consisted of an orangey brown silty sand containing

frequent angular inclusions measuring 0.15m. Above which was (124) a light greyish brown silty sand containing large angular and sub-angular material measuring 0.20m. The post pipe measured 0.40m in diameter and consisted of a dark brown sandy loam with no inclusions. No dateable material was recovered from this feature.

The last remaining medieval post pit identified was [103], a large circular feature cut into the underlying plated bedrock. Measuring 1.14m in diameter, the pit was 0.50m deep; however there was inconclusive evidence for a post pipe. (147) the primary fill was a light brown silty sand containing no inclusions and (148) above was a dark brown silty sand also containing no inclusions, which would appear to go against the notion that both fills represent the packing for a post pipe. The upper portion of which may be represented by (149) a mid brown silty sand containing frequent angular inclusions. Post pit [103] represents the only stratigraphical relationship between an Iron Age post pit and that of a medieval post pit, [103] cutting [102]. No dateable material was recovered from this feature.

Within the centre of the projected layout of the hall a red staining [099] on the sandstone natural was located (**Plate 9**). It is possible that this represents the location of a hearth measuring roughly 0.40m by 0.40m. Although no physical remains of the hearth are present, the location and the fact that the bedrock has been subjected to high temperatures, could imply that [099] served as a hearth for the hall.

A further ten sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the trench. These can be split into two separate locations. The first was the northern terminal end of the enclosure ditch [002], within which four fragments were recovered. One from the upper fill, (001) and three from the layer below, (012), two of which identified as medieval and the third as belonging to between the late eleventh and thirteenth centuries.

The second location was the southern terminal end of the enclosure ditch [048], within the upper deposit (049). A total of six fragments were recovered, three dated broadly to the medieval period, the other three more closely to between the late eleventh and thirteenth centuries. All of the medieval sherds found within [002] and [048] are intrusive.

Although there are multiple features within Trench 43 that remain undated, it has not been possible to associate any of these with the medieval period of activity upon the site. These smaller features are possibly associated with such a phase in activity, but it has proved difficult to securely associate them with this phase.

4.2.8 Post Medieval

A single post medieval feature was excavated within Trench 43 (**Figure 3**). Feature [156] was located to the north western extent of the trench and was dated to the nineteenth century from material recovered from the sole fill (157). The feature runs into the northern and western baulks of the trench and is likely to represent the deposition of material on the edge of the Old Vicarage Garden during acts of landscaping to increase the size and fertility of the garden.

4.2.10 Unassigned features.

A number of features, particularly postholes and small pits remain unassigned to any period, primarily due to the absence of any dateable material.

Postholes [005], [013], [018], [029], [032], [041], [46], [163] and [170] were all similar in form. Each was sub-circular in plan measuring approximately 0.22m wide by 0.2m long, with a depth of 12-18cm deep.

4.3 Trench 44

Trench 44 (**Figure 11, Plate 10**) was situated within the Old Vicarage garden (Area A), adjacent and overlapping the western extent of Trench 35, excavated during the previous season in an attempt to establish the extent and nature of a group of large aligned post pits of a medieval aisled hall. The trench measured 3.1m north-south by 4m east-west and was predominantly situated within the garden border, bounded by a twentieth century stone wall along the eastern trench limit. The depth of the removed topsoil varied greatly, the depth down to geology/archaeological features being 0.3m to the west and 1m to the east. The geology across the entirety of the trench consisted of a solid deposit of sandstone known locally as Woodhead Hill Rock, laid in a fractured disjointed manner.

Within this trench three separate postholes were located, with no stratigraphical relationship between each, [020], [034] and [007]. Posthole [007] measured 0.34m in diameter and 0.14m in depth, having been cut into the natural geology and utilising fractures within the bedrock. This posthole had vertical sides and a flat bedrock plate as the base. [007] contained two fills (008) and (009). The primary fill (009) was a 0.10m deep friable dark brown silty loam containing infrequent rounded stone inclusions and contained no dateable archaeological material. The secondary fill (008) seals the posthole with a 0.09m deep layer of firm reddish yellow sandy clay containing no inclusions or dateable material.

[020] was also circular in plan, measuring 0.32m in diameter and 0.25m deep and was cut into the natural bedrock. The posthole had near vertical sides sloping down onto a flat plated bedrock base. The feature was filled with a friable dark brown silty loam (021) containing infrequent small rounded stone inclusions.

[034] was cut into the bedrock utilising a fracture joint as one edge, the remainder of the sides were near vertical sloping down onto a flat plated bedrock base. Measuring 0.26m in diameter and 0.24m in depth, the sole fill of the posthole was (035), a loose light brown sandy loam that contained no dateable material.

4.4 Trench 45

Trench 45 was situated within the Old Vicarage garden (Area A), adjacent to the southern portion of Trench 34 excavated during the 2005 season. Trench 45 was excavated to establish if the alignment of post pits located within Trench 35 continued into this area.

The trench measured 4m north-south by 4m east-west (**Figure 12**). The depth of the removed topsoil (135) and subsoil (136) was consistent down to geology being 0.3m of topsoil and

0.2m of subsoil. The geology across the trench consisted of a mixed orangey brown firm sandy clay mixed with outcrops of angular plated sandstone situated in irregular angles. Within the trench two small features were located, both of which have been interpreted as postholes. Posthole [302] was sub-circular in plan with irregular angled sides sloping steeply to a rounded base. The posthole measured 0.75m in width and 0.45m deep. The primary fill (308) was a silting horizon consisting of a loose, light orangey brown fine sand. The main fill (309) was a dark brown silty sand containing frequent inclusions of angular and sub angular fractured bedrock. The second posthole [303] was 0.68m wide and 0.32m deep. [303] contained a single fill (310), a dark greyish brown silty sand with infrequent small, angular and sub-angular fractured bedrock material. The date and function of these two postholes remains unknown.

4.5 Trench 46

Trench 46 (Figure 13, Plate 11) was excavated as part of the continuing strategy of developing areas adjoining previous archaeological work in order to expand our knowledge of the archaeology of the hilltop (see Section 3.1 above). Several previous trenches (notably Trenches 26 and 36 within Area C) had identified small stake and post enclosures and some pitting, all of which appeared to define the areas immediately adjacent to roundhouses and may have been associated with these, possibly forming small pens for livestock. In 2003 a large trial trench within Area B discovered further evidence for such pits and post holes within the immediate vicinity and raised the possibility that similar features extended into Area B. Trench 46 therefore, aimed to evaluate the areas' potential for archaeology, as well as assessing the north westerly extent of occupational activity discovered within Area C.

A recurrent theme in the survival and therefore interpretation of the archaeology of Mellor is that it is largely dictated to by the underlying geology of the specific area (see Trench 47 below). In the case of Trench 46, the natural geology contained a rather 'brackish' mixture of both bedrock and boulder clay with substantial areas where both types existed in a rather abraded and fragmentary form. The area is also the site of a small glacial dump of well-rounded stones which further hampered interpretations.

Combined with the difficulties in the geology, the vast majority of the excavated features were extremely shallow in depth. This fact has implications in interpreting many of the features' functions and exact nature as it is often very difficult to establish a specific features 'type' without recourse to its full profile, particularly when its shape in plan is often irregular due to the fragmentary geology. In those cases where some doubt exists functions have been assigned based on the features' size in plan.

In spite of these difficulties, a total of thirteen pits, nine post holes, one stake hole and a probable tree bole were excavated within Trench 46; a further seven (six possible post holes and one possible pit) features were left unexcavated.

The vast majority of the fills of the features within Trench 46 were uniform in type, being a friable mid brown/grey sand clay silt with regular small sandstone and sub-rounded pebble inclusions. Where the fills differ to this standard this is commented upon.

4.5.1 Post Holes

Post hole [154] was sub-circular in plan with irregular sides and a flat base. The dimensions were 24cm in length, 20cm in width and 4cm in depth.

Post hole [156] was circular in plan with near vertical sides and a sub-flat base. The dimensions were 30cm in length, 30cm in width and 5cm in depth.

Post hole [160] was sub-circular in plan with concave sides and a flat base. The dimensions were 20cm in length, 18cm in width and 9cm in depth.

Post hole [161] was sub-oval in plan with near vertical sides and a flat base. The dimensions were 20cm in length, 16cm in width and 7cm in depth.

Post hole [163] was sub-circular in plan with irregular sides and base. The dimensions were 40cm in length, 38cm in width and 17cm in depth.

Post hole [167] was sub-oval in plan with steep sides and a flat base. The dimensions were 18cm in length, 16cm in width and 11cm in depth.

Post hole [173] was circular in plan with irregular sides and a sub-flat base. The dimensions were 42cm in length, 32cm in width and 8cm in depth.

Post hole [181] was oval in plan with steep sides and a flat base. The dimensions were 50cm in length, 24cm in width and 16cm in depth. Several small-medium sized sandstone pieces had been used to pack this feature.

Post hole [198] was sub-oval in plan with irregular sides and a flat base. The dimensions were 50cm in length, 32cm in width and 6cm in depth. Post hole [198] had been cut by feature [201].

4.5.2 Pits

Pit [158] was sub-circular in plan with near vertical sides and a sub-flat base. The dimensions were 68cm in length, 52cm in width and 5cm in depth. Fill (159) from within this feature contained a regular amount of small and fragmentary pieces of calcinated bone.

Pit [166] was sub-circular in plan with irregular sides and a sub-flat base. The dimensions were 65cm in length, 60cm in width and 12cm in depth.

Pit [169] (**Figure 14**) was sub-oval in plan with irregular sides and base. The dimensions were 1.08m in length, 58cm in width and 12cm in depth. Pit [169] cut feature [188].

Pit [170] was sub-circular in plan with irregular sides and a flat base. The dimensions were 70cm in length, 70cm in width and 14cm in depth.

Pit [175] was sub-oval in plan with irregular sides and base. The dimensions were 60cm in length, 32cm in width and 12cm in depth.

Pit [177] was sub-oval in plan with irregular sides and a rounded base. The dimensions were 60cm in length, 38cm in width and 12cm in depth.

Pit [179] was irregular in plan with irregular sides and base. The dimensions were 70cm in length, 38cm in width and 16cm in depth.

Pit [184] was sub-oval in plan with irregular sides and base. The dimensions were 90cm in length, 48cm in width and 9cm in depth.

Pit [186] was irregular in plan with irregular sides and base. The dimensions were 45cm in length, 40cm in width and 5cm in depth.

Pit [188] was sub-oval in plan with irregular sides and a flat base. The dimensions were 1.24m in length, 60cm in width and 10cm in depth. Pit [188] had been cut by features [169] and [190].

Pit [190] was sub-circular in plan with irregular sides and base. The dimensions were 72cm in length, 60cm in width and 8cm in depth. Pit [190] cut feature [188].

Pit [196] was sub-circular in plan with irregular sides and base. The dimensions were 90cm in length, 90cm in width and 16cm in depth. Pit [196] cut pit [197].

Pit [197] was irregular in plan with concave sides and base. The dimensions were 70cm in length, 90cm in width and 22cm in depth. Pit [197] had been cut by pit [196].

4.5.3 Stake Hole

Stake hole [201] was oval in plan with a V-shaped profile. The dimensions were 10cm in length, 7cm in width and 11cm in depth. Stake hole [201] cut feature [198].

4.5.4 Probable Tree Bole

Feature [192] was highly irregular in plan with an irregular profile. [192] measured 80cm in length, 60cm in width and 14cm in depth.

4.6 Trench 47

Trench 47 was excavated to examine further the ditch feature (cut number [151] in this trench) uncovered in previous seasons' work in both this (Area B) and Mrs Bodens' field (Area D) to the east (see **Figure 2**). This earlier work had discovered that the ditch ran to the north from its junction with the Old Vicarage driveway before curving to the east through the field and 'Ale-House' trackway and continuing on a roughly east-northeast alignment towards Mellor Hall. Both excavation and geophysical survey in Areas B, D and E suggest that this ditch encloses a significant proportion of the entire hilltop. Dating evidence for the ditches' use however was scarce and other than the sherds of an Iron Age pottery vessel recovered from Trench 15 in 2001 no dating evidence had been recovered which securely dated the feature. This problem was further compounded by the fact that the pottery

recovered from Trench 15 is of a type which was previously unknown outside of Mellor and its precise date within the Iron Age therefore was unfortunately uncertain. Though the finding of this pottery greatly helped ascertain that the ditch was still in operation during the Iron Age it was felt that further excavation may help establish more precise dates either through the recovery of diagnostic artefacts or through carbon dating.

Trench 47 was principally excavated therefore to secure dating evidence but it also served to examine possible differences in the archaeological record between areas of natural boulder clay and sandstone bedrock which both lay within the trench. Previous excavations across the entire hilltop had discovered that there existed a potential bias in the archaeological record within areas of bedrock, where only the more substantial of features (large postholes, ditches, etc) were observable due to the difficulties in discerning more ephemeral features (stake holes, etc) within the often fragmentary and degraded nature of the bedrock. It was hoped that by excavating a large area over the junction of these two geological types, archaeological features could be found which would help us examine and compensate for any such bias. These archaeological features would have also helped establish areas and parameters for previous occupation and land-use upon the hilltop.

The excavated trench was roughly sub-square in plan measuring 13.8m north-south by 12.2m east-west (Figure 15, Plates 13 and 17). The western half of the trench lay on bedrock (152) whose uppermost surface was particularly fragmentary in nature; the eastern half of the area was a compact reddish brown boulder clay (153). A regular interface between these two geological deposits ran northeast through the trench. For the majority of its length ditch [151] ran through the bedrock until just before the eastern-most section when it began to cut through boulder clay.

4.6.1 Ditch [151]

The section of ditch excavated in Trench 47 measured 12.3m east-west in length and varied in its width between 1.85m and 2.2m. The profile of the ditch as it cut through bedrock revealed very steep almost vertical/irregular sides with some undercutting and a flat/irregular base. Three sections of the ditch were recorded (leaving a 3.6m long baulk *in-situ*) which revealed that the feature varied in depth between 0.9m and 1.22m in those sections excavated through the bedrock and was 1.05m deep where the ditch cut through the natural boulder clay.

The profile of the ditch as it cut boulder clay was much more regular in form with very steep/concave sides and a sub-rounded base. The width of the ditches' base narrows considerably as it enters the boulder clay thinning from c.1.1m in the bedrock to the west to c.0.3m in the eastern section.

Of the two recorded sections of [151] which lay within the bedrock no substantial differences in either their profile or fills was recorded. Therefore only the east-facing section of these two will be listed here (Figure 16, Plate 14). The fills within these sections appear to represent a combination of gradual erosion/weathering of the edges and the probable re-deposition of the originally excavated material. Other than the upper fill, the majority of the fills are sterile containing little or no organics and consisting of bedrock and sand in varying forms of degradation. The fills had been further mixed through worm action.

The uppermost fill (277) of the ditch was a 0.55m deep friable mid grey/brown sand clay silt with regular small-medium fractured sandstone and occasional charcoal and fire-cracked pebble inclusions. This fill continued throughout the ditch and was found in both sandstone and boulder clay areas (numbered (290) in the west facing section). A sample of the charcoal from within (277) was collected which was later analysed by Beta Analytic and produced three possible date ranges (95% probability) of Cal BC 760-680, 670-360 and 280-260 (see Appendix 5). Multiple probability ranges appear due to short-term fluctuations in the atmospheric ¹⁴C contents at certain time periods, however there exists a 68% probability that the charcoal dates from the years Cal BC 520-390 (Beta-228120). As this charcoal was recovered from the uppermost fill of ditch [151] it provides a date at which the ditch had become redundant and had been completely in-filled.

The fill below (277) was a firm mid grey/orange clay silt sand (278) with frequent small-medium sandstone and very occasional charcoal flecking. Fill (279) lay under (278) and was a light-mid grey/orange clay sand with frequent small-medium sandstone inclusions. This fill lay over a mid brown clay sand (280) with frequent small sandstone inclusions. Fill (281) lay under (280) and was a firm light brown/orange clay sand with frequent medium sandstone inclusions. This fill lay over a friable light brown/grey clay/silt sand (282) with frequent medium sandstone and very occasional charcoal flecking. Fill (282) lay over a light grey/orange silt sand (283) with frequent small sandstone inclusions. This fill lay over the basal fill of mica rich very light brown/orange silt sand (284) with very small sandstone inclusions.

One of the benefits of excavating archaeology within areas of boulder clay is that unlike the often sterile fills discovered within bedrock those found within boulder clay tend to retain some of their original organic content through the water-retaining characteristics of the clay. As stated above, a prime reason for the excavation of Trench 47 was the desire to recover further evidence for the ditches' date either through the discovery of diagnostic artefacts or through the recovery of enough charcoal to produce a date through carbon-dating. There also existed a strong possibility of obtaining a palaeo-environmental sample from the organics contained within the fills which could contain the seeds and pollen of plants from the immediate environment at the time of the ditches' in-filling. The section of the ditch as it cut through the boulder clay therefore was targeted from the beginning as a potential source for environmental data and excavation was centred on its recovery.

The fills from this section vary greatly in their organic content from those described above, though it should be borne in mind that they are essentially similar in form as they also predominantly represent a combination of gradual erosion/weathering of the edges and the re-deposition of the originally excavated material (**Figure 17, Plate 15**).

In order to spare the reader a stratigraphic list of the seventeen fills recorded in this section it is perhaps more effectual to give a brief description of the majority of the fills with a fuller explanation of the most pertinent of them. The vast majority of the fills are shallow bands of friable light-mid grey/brown silt clay sand which contain occasional small sub-rounded pebbles and very occasional sandstone. These fills appear to represent numerous phases of erosion/in-filling and do not suggest that the ditch was rapidly in-filled in a single act. Some iron panning was observed within the basal fill (307) which was a compact light brown/dark red silt clay. Occasional iron panning was also seen within fill (294) which was a 0.2-0.3m deep deposit of wet/plastic light grey silt clay with regular small flecks of charcoal and which lay directly under the uppermost fill (290).

Due to the seemingly rich organic content of fill (294) a sample of the soil was taken which was later analysed by Durham University (see Appendix 4 below). This sample was taken close to where in 2003 an environmental sample was taken from Trench 22 which indicated a local mixed deciduous woodland dominated by hazel with a nearby wet meadow and possible alder carr. Cereal-type pollen and associated weeds indicated a mixed farming economy.

The environmental results from Trench 47 were somewhat disappointing and revealed that conditions within the ditch were variable and that though regularly waterlogged the soils within the ditch were also prone to drought. The result of this variability means that pollen and plant macrofossils within fill (294) have degraded somewhat and the full range of potential evidence is therefore missing.

The taxa (i.e. species) that were identified in this sample indicate that hazel dominated the arboreal taxa and grasses the herbaceous taxa; this suggests an open landscape, with hazel scrub and alder growing in the wetter locations. The presence of sedges, royal fern and *Sphagnum* moss indicate localised wet-ground. The occurrence of dinoflagellate cysts may indicate that these wet areas were ephemeral, where cyst production was initiated in response to environmental stress i.e. drying out. Common polipody is usually found growing on wall tops, trees and rocks.

The pollen assemblage in this context shares some similarities with those of the previous pollen studies (Archaeological Services 2004; 2005) supporting the interpretation of an open landscape, with hazel the dominant tree and the presence of wetland areas. The previous analyses indicated a diverse range of taxa, and the presence of taxa associated with agricultural practices, which was not reflected in this context.

4.6.2 Possible Plough marks [332]

A new feature type for Mellor was potentially uncovered within Trench 47 with the discovery of four linear north-south aligned plough marks cut within the boulder clay natural in the southern half of the trench (**Plate 16**). These marks had all been filled with subsoil. [332] had a total length of 4.5m and a combined width of 0.66m with regular individual spacing between each mark of c.0.18m. Each mark had a width and depth of less than 0.05m and an irregular/sub-rounded profile. No evidence for a continuation of the features was found within the fractured sandstone bedrock to the north of their termination, though due to their rather ephemeral nature combined with the highly irregular and weathered character of the bedrock this is perhaps to be expected. It is quite possible that these marks originally extended beyond their present point and continued to the north but unfortunately all trace of them has been lost. These plough marks should be considered in combination with those from Trench 49 to the south (below) to which they probably relate.

4.7 Trench 48

Trench 48 (**Figure 18**) was excavated as part of the continuing strategy of developing areas adjoining previous archaeological work in order to expand our knowledge of the archaeology of the Old Vicarage Garden (Area A). The trench was located to the east of (and partly overlapped) Trench 34, excavated during the 2005 season of archaeological work. Square in

nature and measuring 5.20m north–south and 5.00m east–west the trench predominantly identified an interface in the geology between the plated bedrock to the east and large areas of fractured degraded bedrock to the west. Within the trench three small posthole features were also identified, [305], [306] and [307]. [305] was cut into the plated bedrock and consisted of a small 0.52m in diameter, 0.15m deep, circular posthole containing a single mid greyish brown silty sand (311) possessing infrequent small angular stone inclusions. [306] was circular in nature, measuring 0.32m in diameter and 0.12m deep, and contained a single fill, (312), identical in nature to (311). The remaining posthole, [307] was smaller again, measuring 1.30m in diameter and 0.14m deep. [307] had a sole fill of (313), also identical in nature to (311). As no dateable material was recovered from these features, and without a larger area revealed in the closer proximity each feature must therefore be treated as an individual feature and at present not attributed to belonging to a larger structure. The date and function of these features remains unknown.

4.8 Trench 49

Trench 49 (Figure 19) was not originally scheduled to be opened prior to the season beginning and was, in part, excavated in response to the lack of archaeological features found within Trench 47. The density of archaeological features within the Triangular Field (Area C) was known to be extremely high when compared to the scarcity of features discovered within Trench 47 and it was felt that a hand-dug trench should be opened between the two areas in order to assess the northern extent of the archaeological activity within Area C and examine any spatial relationship with the enclosure ditch [151].

A total of seven post holes, seven potential plough marks and thirty seven stake holes were excavated within Trench 49. A further eighteen stake holes were identified but were left unexcavated, giving a total of sixty nine archaeological features within the 6.5-6.75m long (east-southeast by west-northwest) by 4.5-4.7m wide (north-northwest by south-southeast) trench. Though many of these features were very small and rather ephemeral and were only fully revealed after much hard work, their pattern of density contrasts sharply with the results from Trench 47 only 14m to the north. Unfortunately, none of the features contained any datable evidence either in the form of artefacts or in a sufficient amount of charcoal to allow a radiometric date. A fine flint core of probable Late Neolithic date was recovered from the subsoil during cleaning.

The eastern end of Trench 49 overlapped the previously excavated Trench 4 (1999).

4.8.1 Postholes

Post Hole [203] was sub-circular in plan with an irregular base and steep sides. The fill (204) was a mid grey/brown silt clay with a slightly friable consistency and occasional small stone inclusions. The dimensions were 35cm in length, 30cm in width and 11cm in depth.

Post Hole [205] was circular in plan with a flat base and concave sides. The fill (206) was a medium orange/grey mottled silt clay with a fairly friable consistency and occasional small-large stone inclusions. The dimensions were 45cm in length, 45cm in width and 20cm in depth.

Post Hole [217] was sub-oval in plan. In profile it was shallow with an irregular base and sloping sides. The fill (218) was dark brown silt clay with a plastic consistency, with very small grit/gravel stones. The dimensions of this post hole were 40cm in length, 14cm in width and 8cm in depth. This post hole had either cut or been cut by stake hole [219] (see below).

Post Hole [220] was sub-oval in plan with a flat base and concave sides. The fill (221) was medium brown/grey clay silt, firm in consistency and less friable than the majority of fills in Trench 46. There was one large smooth stone (dimensions 14cm long, 10cm wide and 10cm high) roughly in the centre of the post hole, there were also a few smaller stones (maximum diameter 6cm) some rounded and some sub-angular included in the fill. The dimensions of this feature were 40cm in length, 16cm in width and 10cm in depth. This post hole had either cut or been cut by stake hole [222] (see below).

Post Hole [228] was sub-circular in plan, with concave sides and a flat base. The fill (229) was a medium grey/brown clay silt which was slightly plastic with occasional small rounded stones (up 4cm in diameter). The dimensions of the post hole were 30cm in length, 27cm in width and 10cm in depth.

Post Hole [236] was sub-circular in plan with a flat base and concave sides. It was filled by (237) which was medium grey/brown clay silt with a slightly plastic consistency and a few small sub-angular stones included. The dimensions were 34cm in length, 30cm in width and 8cm in depth.

4.8.2 Possible Plough Marks [330]

Seven possible plough marks [330] were discovered within the eastern half of the trench which were all aligned north-south (**Plate 18**). The majority of the marks were incomplete and appeared to fade-out, though three continued across the width of the trench to both the north and south. All of the plough-marks were filled with subsoil and contained regular small rounded pebbles. As with stake holes [219] and [222] (below) due to the shallow depth of the marks no conclusive phasing could be gained through their relationships. Three of the marks were either cut, or themselves cut, post holes [217], [236] and [256]. The marks ranged in width from 0.05-0.2m and had an average depth of 0.05m.

4.8.3 Stake Holes

Of the thirty seven stake holes excavated, twenty seven were circular in plan; the remaining ten were oval in shape. The maximum dimensions in plan of any one stake hole was 12cm long by 9cm wide, with the vast majority measuring approximately 7cm by 7cm. The greatest depth recorded was 18cm, with the average depth approximately 10cm. Their profiles were either U or V-shaped. There was no correlation between their profiles and their shapes in plan.

Stake holes [219] and [222] were only discovered once full excavation of post holes [217] and [222] had taken place and their precise relationship with these features is unclear. Though their stratigraphic relationships would have greatly helped in the phasing of the archaeology it proved impossible to discern their fills during excavation.

Other than that from within [245], all stake hole fills were as fill (244) from within [243], which appears to represent an in-wash of clay and silt once the stake had been removed. The three stake holes listed below are examples of the form and fills these features took, with stake hole [263] representing the standard form.

Stake Hole [243] was sub-oval in plan and had a V-shaped profile. The fill (244) was a medium grey/brown clay silt with a slightly plastic consistency and very occasional small pebble inclusions. The dimensions were 12cm in length, 9cm in width and 13cm in depth.

Stake Hole [245] was sub-circular in plan and U-shaped in profile. It was filled by (246) which was a dark brown clay silt with occasional small pebble inclusions. The dimensions of this stake hole were 10cm in length, 9cm in width and 15cm in depth.

Stake Hole [263] was circular in plan with a V-shaped profile. The dimensions were 8cm in length, 6cm in width and 10cm in depth.

4.9 Trench 50

Trench 50 (**Figure 20, Plate 19**) was opened as a direct result of geophysical survey work (Volume II) establishing that the ditch feature discovered in Trenches 30, 38 and 39 within Area E continued to the east into Area F (see Figure 2). The excavation of this trench was deemed necessary in order both to confirm the geophysical results and also to expand our understanding of the form and extent of this feature. The excavated trench measured 6m east-west by 2.5m north-south.

4.9.1 Ditch [209]

The uncovered section of the ditch [209] measured 6.2m long by 1.6-1.9m wide and had a regular depth of 0.7m deep (**Figure 21**). [209]'s profile was fairly regular throughout the trench having steep stepped sides and a flat base. The ditch was cut through the natural sandstone bedrock of the area.

The ditch contained two fills. Fill (210) was a light-mid grey/brown clay silt sand with frequent small-medium and occasional large angular sandstone inclusions. (210) had a depth of 0.50m and lay under the subsoil (211) and over (213). Several fire-cracked pebbles were recovered from (210) during excavation. Fill (213) was a mid-brown silt sand with very frequent small and frequent medium angular sandstone inclusions. (213) had a depth of 0.25m and lay under (210) and over [209].

5. Interpretation

5.1 Trench 43

5.1.1 Iron Age

The major discovery of the 2006 season was the entranceway within the inner enclosure formed by ditches [02] and [048]. It should be stated that the possibility of there being an entranceway here had originally been mooted as early as 2001. It must also be admitted however that this theory was primarily based on the misinterpretation of a medieval post pit. Though somewhat deflating to admit, this misunderstanding does serve as a reminder of the complexity of the site and of the limited area of excavations to date.

The entranceway is a simple gap entrance with no substantial re-alignment of the ditches other than a noticeable widening at their terminals. Although some erosion has occurred, at just 3.2m wide this entrance is quite narrow, though certainly wide enough for cart access. The entrance lies to the west-northwest of the enclosure facing down slope towards the village of Marple Bridge and the River Goyt. Whether this positioning was due to a possible fording place at this point is unknown, however movement through the landscape towards the River Goyt is somewhat restricted due to the presence of steep stream valleys other than in the direction of the entranceway. The present day footpath which links Mellor Church to Townscliffe Lane should be noted in this respect.

Post holes [074], [076], [081], [103], [140] and [143] would all appear to represent Iron Age activity, with charcoal recovered from [103] dating to the very end of the period c. 50BC and AD120. Together these often re-cut features appear to form a roughly parallel alignment running east from the entranceway for a distance of approximately 12m maintaining a rough c. 2m wide corridor between the two groups. Unfortunately, due to inaccessible areas this potential arrangement is unclear and by no means certain. It is tempting however to associate them with the entranceway and particularly the suggestion that they originally held posts designed to form a corridor through a gateway. This suggestion should be considered together with feature [057] which was discovered during the 2005 excavations. This feature was a 4.00m long rock cut gully which contained evidence for four posts settings within it (Plate 8). Information recovered from the 2006 excavations would suggest that a date within the Iron Age can now be applied to this feature by association. The gully may well have held posts to act as a physical barrier opposite the entranceway thus affecting the division of space and access and together with the post holes described above producing a corridor of access to within the enclosure.

As with the outer ditch (Trenches 47 and 50 below) no evidence for an in-situ internal bank or rampart for the inner enclosure has yet been discovered during the excavations. In contrast to the outer ditch however, ditch [02]/[048] has associated features which could suggest that a bank/rampart was originally present.

Feature [097] has been interpreted in this and other seasons' reports (2000, 2003, 2004 and 2005) as an inner palisade slot associated with the ditch (see Section 4.2.3 and Figure 7). Its function would appear to have been to act as a foundation gully for wooden uprights/posts which were in-turn braced in place by sandstone packing. Features such as these are often

associated with internal banks (Forde-Johnston p.217) where they are thought to have served as a *revetment for ramparts*. In this case, their true terminology is more akin to that denoting a timber revetted bank (English Heritage). In this way, the rampart will consist of spoil from the ditch, retained along its outer face by a row of vertical timbers/posts. These will either be set in a continuous trench or in individual postholes. If this is the case at Mellor, then the inner enclosure ditch originally had an internal revetted rampart separated from the ditch by a 1.6m wide berm. The factoring-in of such things as erosion and original depth of topsoil make this a rather approximate figure. As no evidence for such a rampart is still extant, it is uncertain what form of structure this could have been. It is possible that it may have formed, at least partly, a dry stone wall (as at Carl Wark, Yorkshire, Forde-Johnston). Alternatively, the palisade could have served as a fence-line designed to bar accidental intrusion into the ditch. This would have been especially useful if livestock were regularly penned within the enclosure.

Feature [089] shares many similarities in form to [097] and may represent a similar palisade feature. Its positioning to the outside of the ditch is somewhat confusing however and could perhaps denote a different function. Unfortunately, only a small section of this feature was uncovered during the excavation and so interpretations are limited. [089] may be associated with the entranceway, which it certainly respects, and possibly served as a foundation gully for another line of stakes/posts. This fence line may have acted as an additional external barrier, designed to funnel access through the entranceway. Alternatively, [089] may be associated with an external bank/revetment.

In all of the sections excavated through the inner ditch to date (other than the [02]/[048] terminal end section interestingly), a tip line of frequent medium-large sandstone has been noted which appears to originate from outside of the enclosure (**Plates 20 and 21**). Its regularity would appear to go against it being un-associated with the ditch and to it representing a small discrete feature. It is possible that this fill represents a tip-line from an external, or counterscarp, bank. This possible bank may have been revetted from collapsing into the ditch by feature [089].

5.1.2 Un-Phased. Pre Thirteenth Century

Though several features remain un-phased, a number of small postholes could relate to each other, lining up to form two north-south alignments, c.5m apart (**Figure 8**).

The southern-most alignment consists of [005], [013], [032], [041], [132], [163] and [170] all of which were equidistant from each other. The eastern-most line consists of [109], [035] and [078], all identified within Trench 34 during 2005, and a posthole to the south east of post pit [065] identified during the Trench 1 extension of 2001. Together with [018], these postholes provide a three-sided alignment to a potential structure measuring approximately 5m wide by 10m long.

No dateable material has been recovered from any posthole. However posthole [046] stratigraphically cuts an Iron Age feature [130] and is in turn cut by a medieval feature [003], indicating that the posthole must date from between these two periods. Furthermore, due to the date-range suggested by the artefacts recovered from the filling of the enclosure ditch, this posthole structure must (as it cuts the in-filled ditch) post-date the late second century A.D at the earliest and more probably the late fourth century.

This potential feature must therefore either represent late Romano-British activity on the site, for which we have evidence from numerous finds into the fourth century A.D but as yet no structural evidence, or early-mid medieval (mid fifth-eleventh centuries) an equally fascinating possibility. The remains of the postholes identified do not fit into any larger ground plan pattern and as no material was recovered from the fills, the features remain undated. There remains the possibility that they relate to a structure that due to the limits of excavation remains unknown.

5.1.3 Medieval. Thirteenth-Fifteenth Centuries

Excavations in 2006 have greatly enhanced our understandings of the layout of the medieval hall first discovered within the Trench 1 extension. To date four rows of post pits have been discovered (see **Figure 9**). The most easterly of the four rows (that found within Trench 1 extension and Trench 35) is the most coherent of the four, with five evenly spaced post pits approximately 1.7-2m apart. The second row of pits lays c. 1.7m to the west and consists of three features also evenly spaced with the remaining two potential pits un-excavated to date. Approximately 2m to the west, the third row consists of four post pits, with the central pit missing from the standard line of five. The fourth row is the more incomplete of the sets, with no coherent plan and consists of four features. The structure's ground plan measures c. 11m north-south by 10m east-west. The spacing between each of the aisle posts appears to be a regular 2.5m. It is intended that a more detailed report on the hall will be incorporated within the 2007 or 2008 report when it is hoped that further excavations in the area will reveal more details of the ground plan and potential associated outbuildings. A hall was often only part of a larger complex of buildings which may have included kitchens, a detached chamber and other buildings.

As in other seasons', the recovery of diagnostic artefacts from within both the post pits' packing and from within the post-pipes themselves have helped establish a date-range for the structure. Finds from the packing of the post pits date from the late eleventh to the early thirteenth century and thereby provide a date range for the construction of the building. The discovery of the pheon arrowhead (see Appendix 6) from the packing of post pit [003] would suggest an overlap date in the early thirteenth century refining the above date range somewhat and strongly suggesting therefore that the hall was constructed in the early thirteenth century. Finds from the post-pipes group within the thirteenth to fourteenth centuries and provide a point when the posts no longer stood and the hall went out of use. It is interesting to note on this point, that it was during the fourteenth or early fifteenth century that most of the today's surviving halls underwent substantial re-developments at this time in order to update them (pers. comm. J.Walker).

The discovery of the pheon arrowhead is another first for Mellor, as this form of arrowhead was not thought to exist other than as a heraldic device. They are perhaps most widely known where stamped on Crown property and are often used within armorial bearings such as in those for Sydney Sussex College in Cambridge and of the City of Salford. The presence of the indentations and truncated barbs, being suggestive of a heraldic pheon, raises the possibility that the arrowhead was purposely shaped to indicate some special significance, esoteric, ceremonial or heraldic (for a full commentary on the recovered arrowheads see Appendix 6).

5.2 Trenches 44 and 45

These trenches were both similar in size and positioning close to the medieval hall and both discovered similar archaeological evidence. No evidence for a further row of medieval post pits was present within either trench.

As no artefacts or other dateable material were recovered within any of the archaeological features their purposes are unclear. It is perhaps worth noting here that any potential structures associated with the hall almost certainly would not have had postholes of the same size as the hall itself and their archaeological impact could have been limited to rather ephemeral post holes. In cases such as this, it is often impossible to discriminate between related features, especially on a multi-period site such as this. It is possible therefore, that some, if not all, of the postholes discovered within these two trenches are related to the hall and may have formed lean-to's adjoining the building.

5.3 Trench 46

As stated above (Section 4.5), the limited depth of archaeological survival and the lack of diagnostic artefacts within this trench had an adverse effect on potential interpretations of this area. The shallow depth of survival would indicate that some form of truncation has occurred in the past.

There does appear to be some spatial correlation between some of the features, notably towards to centre of the trench with [156], [163], [166], [170], [173] and [177]. As with other trenches however, it is often unclear what ground-plan exists until surrounding areas have also been excavated and interpretation is limited due to this.

What is clear however is that the area contains a relatively high level of archaeological activity in a similar manner to that seen within Area C. In particular, the density of post holes and pits resembles most closely those areas which lie immediately outside roundhouses. It has been suggested at the time (Noble, Roberts, & Thompson 2003 and 2004) that these areas could represent spaces associated with the roundhouses themselves and denote 'yards' set-aside for the penning of livestock, cooking, etc. If this were the case, then it is tempting to propose that Trench 46 'yard' area is associated with the roundhouse tentatively identified at the western end of Trench 26 within Area C (Figure 22).

5.4 Trench 47

This is one of the largest trenches ever excavated at Mellor and yet interestingly it produced very few archaeological features. This situation would appear to suggest that the density of archaeological features and in particular occupational evidence from the prehistoric period does not extend from Area C to this point. This conclusion should be coupled with the archaeological evidence from Trench 49 which together perhaps identify the northernmost limit of this activity in the area.

Unfortunately, the potential plough marks [332] are un-phased and their date is unknown. They could also represent several phases of ploughing activity rather than the one which they have been assigned. Feature [332] should be viewed together with the similar feature [330]

from Trench 49 to which they probably relate. Due to their form and their unique occurrence within this area these features have been interpreted as relating to pre-medieval activity with the likelihood that they relate to either Iron Age or Romano-British activity.

In form they most closely relate to a prehistoric form of ploughing known as 'cord rig' which is thought to date from the late Iron Age. In this form a series of very narrow ploughs less than a metre apart were made which originally formed cultivation ridges.

Alternatively, [332] and [330] may possibly represent linear beds for crops and/or vegetables. These foods no doubt formed a key component in earlier diets and vegetables such as peas, beans, carrots, garlic and cabbage are known to have been cultivated during the Iron Age. Dyes and herbs would also have been desirable.

These interpretations are somewhat weakly supported by the available evidence but it is interesting to suggest them in order to envisage this type of everyday activity which would almost certainly have taken place upon the hilltop. This suggestion should also be borne in mind when considering the vast amounts of post and stake holes discovered on the site, which would have required considerable quantities of applicable wood. Though no evidence exists for the practice, it would seem likely that woodland management would have been essential in order to fulfil these requirements. It is sometimes hard to discern the everyday activities from the somewhat monumental Iron Age and medieval features at Mellor, but it should be remembered that these grand statements of intent took a few years at most to construct. For the remainder of the great length of time of settlement upon the hilltop, people were occupied with the everyday chores of life.

5.5 Outer Enclosure Ditch. Trenches 47 and 50.

In terms of form, ditch [151] uncovered in Trench 47 conforms to that found in other sections placed across this feature in earlier seasons' work within Area B. Trench 47 was unusual however in that it was located over a change in the underlying geology from sandstone bedrock to boulder clay thereby potentially revealing any discrepancies in the ditches' design which were necessitated by the geological conditions. Other than some minor variance in the basal profile and sides, the ditch maintained its general dimensions as it passed from one geological area to the next.

No evidence for an associated bank to the ditch has ever been discovered, either through fieldwork or by reference to historical records and aerial photographs. It is therefore unclear what form this feature originally took. Due to the variances in the underlying geology if such a bank existed it would probably have been a rather patchwork affair with stretches of both bedrock and boulder clay. The relatively small amount of material excavated from such a narrow ditch would not have created a monumental bank and it is probable that such a feature would have been truncated by later medieval or post-medieval ploughing.

Other than the uppermost fill (277), the majority of the infills appear to represent material which had originally been excavated from the ditch in various forms of degradation. As the ditch itself does not show significant signs of weathering, with a relatively short distance from its edge to the first significant change in depth, it would not appear that these fills originated post-construction. It is probable therefore, that they denote original up cast from the excavation of the ditch which had been placed close to the ditches edge. Some deliberate

backfilling may have taken place, though the thin lenses of silts and clays seen in Section 2 would suggest that this process was either not completed or that it was incomplete with material gradually washing/eroding in from the edges. The lack of a significant silt or clay based basal fill within the ditch would suggest that the ditch was regularly cleaned, as these soils would be expected to be washed-in on a regular basis.

As with the majority of other sections excavated through this ditch, no artefacts were recovered from Trench 47 during the excavation. The recovery of charcoal however, and the subsequent radiocarbon date, has been of great benefit in helping to establish a date range for not only the ditches' closure but also for the so called 'Mellor Pot' discovered from within Trench 15 in 2001.

Though there exists an unfortunate fluctuation in the possible date range for the charcoal (see Appendix 5) a date firmly in the Iron Age is assured with the most likely range lying between BC 520 to 390. As the charcoal was recovered from the uppermost fill of the ditch this date provides a terminus-post-quem for the ditches' use and denotes that the ditch was operational in the early or mid Iron Age at the very latest and potentially earlier.

At the time of its discovery the largely intact and unique 'Mellor Pot' from within Trench 15 was provisionally dated to the Iron Age. The 2006 radiocarbon dating has helped to refine this date somewhat, with a similar BC 520-390 date range most likely. As was suggested at the time (Holden 2001) the deposition of such an object within the ditch is highly unusual and potentially ritualistic. It is tempting on the back of the radiocarbon dates to propose that its deposition denoted an act of 'closure' when the ditch was de-commissioned during the early/middle Iron Age.

Though a closure date has been established, many questions about the ditch remain to be answered. It is still unclear for example what the extent of the ditched enclosure was. Geophysical survey work backed-up by excavation is gradually resolving this problem and each year's work expands our knowledge of its size and extent (see Volume II). There remains a perennial problem however, in establishing any potential relationship between the outer and the inner ditches due to the presence of the Old Vicarage and St. Thomas's Church at the ditches' key junctions. Due to this circumstance it is also unclear whether the ditch uncovered in Trench 47 is the same ditch as that found in Trench 50.

It is unfortunate that to date no evidence has been found to establish the relationship between the ditch feature found within Trench 47 and Areas B and D with the similar ditch feature [209] found within Trench 50 and Areas E and F. Though some variance exists in their respective depths, with that found in Areas B and D being c. 20-50cm deeper, their general similarities in form, orientation and placement (with both lying on relatively flat land away from a sharp contour break) suggest that they related. If, as seems possible, these two ditches are found to be related then this feature potentially encloses an area up to c. 20 hectares in size. In form, size and date an enclosure of this nature most closely resembles a site type known as a Hilltop Enclosure (English Heritage Monuments Class Descriptions). This type of enclosure is traditionally associated with late Bronze Age or early Iron Age activity, both of which could fit with the operational date for the ditch as suggested by the radiocarbon date. At this point, further theorising on the potential type of enclosure that these two ditches denote is perhaps premature until further work discovers their true extent. It is to be hoped that further geophysical survey and trial excavation to the east of Area D will establish

whether this is the case or not. This work will form a major component of forthcoming seasons.

5.6 Trench 49

As stated above (Section 4.8), the decision to excavate this trench was primarily based on the limited archaeological presence within Trench 47 when compared to the nearby densely occupied Area C and the desire to evaluate the northernmost limit of this activity. Trench 49 successfully established that the zone of intense archaeological activity extends to this point. Trench 49 also established a southern expansion of the previously un-documented ploughing activity first uncovered within Trench 47. Due to a lack of artifactual evidence however, it is unclear which time period the features discovered relate to.

Post holes [203], [220], [236], [237] and [256] would appear to form a regularly spaced, 3.5m long linear east-west alignment. This alignment appears to terminate at post hole [203] to the west. This alignment may have originally extended further to the east. Any evidence for this has potentially been truncated by the 1999 Trench 4.

Post holes [205] and [228] may represent a related north-south alignment which together with those described above form a right angled post enclosure. If so, the 2m wide space between [203] and [228] may denote an entranceway.

The plethora of stake holes makes establishing potential relationships between them extremely difficult. There does appear to be a northern limit to the stake holes which shares its parameters with the post hole alignment. It is possible that both sets of features represent repeated phases of a fenced enclosure.

The potential interpretation for plough marks [330] has been discussed above (Section 5.4). As both plough marks and post holes are un-phased, interpretation is limited. It is clear however that land-use within this specific area was repeated and varied with usage changing between specialised/enclosed areas and agricultural land.

6. *Conclusions*

6.1 Trench 43

6.1.1 Iron Age

The discovery of an entranceway within the inner enclosure was a great step forward in our understandings of the design and functions of this feature. Although uncertain, the orientation of the entranceway may have been determined by a desire for access to the traditional fording point across the River Goyt at Marple Bridge.

The numerous large post holes grouped around the entrance possibly flanked an inner corridor of access within the enclosure and it is probable that these were associated with a gateway. Gateway features have been uncovered at other similar sites within most excavated site entranceways (English Heritage), although they do not always occur within simple gaps. These features can include timber or stone revetment along the ends of the rampart; and gate posts. The postholes which are thought to have supported the timber frame for the gate are usually large and occasionally stone-based or packed as is the case at Mellor. They can be placed in line with the crest of the rampart, or at either end of the entrance passage. Two kinds of gate have been found to occur: single portals with posts on either side of the entrance; and dual portals with three posts in line, one in the centre of the passage. Gates are often situated in line with the crests of inner ramparts, and on sites with lengthened passageways they are located towards the inner end. Potentially therefore, any gate associated with the Mellor entranceway would most likely lie within the interior of the enclosure at the end of the passageway of posts. Single portals are usually marked by gateposts on either side of the entrance; dual portals by a central post. The postholes are sometimes accompanied by beam slots and feature [57] may be evidence of this. The radiocarbon date of between 50BC and AD120 from one of the large post holes associated with the inner enclosures' entranceway would confirm that this enclosure was still operational and undergoing modifications to its entranceway during the late Iron Age/Conquest period.

The interior palisade slot discovered within Trench 43 would confirm results from previous seasons' that this feature both respects and is related to the ditch. It is probable that the feature represents a foundation gully/slot designed to support wooden uprights. Due to this relationship to the ditch it seems that these wooden uprights served either as a fence-line to prevent accidental intrusion of livestock into the ditch or as a revetment for an interior rampart separated from the ditch by a 1.6m wide berm. The potential exterior palisade slot found close to the entranceway, in conjunction with evidence from excavated sections of the ditch, suggests that an external/counterscarp bank could also have existed.

6.1.2 Romano-British

As in previous seasons', no evidence for the apparent Romano-British settlement on the hilltop was discovered other than through the recovery of pottery sherds. The noticeable drop in the quantity of artefacts from Trench 43 when compared to that found within Trench 18 to the east may denote a spatial division in activity during this period and help establish parameters for this.

The recovery of Romano-British pottery from the upper fills of the ditch, confirm findings from elsewhere that the ditch remained functional to some extent throughout this period. It is interesting to note on this point, that whilst the inner ditch is partly in-filled during the Iron Age (as suggested both by the retrieval of Iron Age artefacts and through radiocarbon dating from the lower fills) it is not fully de-commissioned until the late fourth century AD when it is finally filled in what appears to be a deliberate closure event (Roberts 2002). With the recovery of a secure radiocarbon date for the outer enclosure ditch there now exists a potential time-span of approximately one thousand years between the closure of these two ditches. It is fascinating to ponder what this significant break in time reflects. Does this for example, denote a break in occupation between the two enclosures, with a reoccupation of the hilltop during the later Iron Age/Romano-British period? Or does it perhaps characterise a change in society's needs and/or its ability to organise resources? These and other questions will unfortunately remain unanswered until the relationship between the two enclosures is established.

6.1.3 Medieval

Artefacts and a radiocarbon date recovered from associated post pits denote that the hall was constructed in the early thirteenth century and de-commissioned by the late fourteenth century, thus giving an operational life for the hall of between 150-200 years. At c. 11m north-south by 10m east-west the hall is similar in length to the open hall at Harlowbury, Essex built in 1225 (pers.comm. J. Walker). The Mellor hall is somewhat unusual however, in having four rather short bays as well as a significant width. Of the surviving buildings from this period the widest is the Bishops Palace at Hereford with 24ft between the arcade plates (*ibid.*). Due to the width of the hall, the roof must have originally been very high.

Regionally few examples of medieval timber structures have been excavated: one is the rectangular aisled buildings located during excavations of a medieval village at Tatton Park (**Figure 24**). Structures B and D closely resemble the structure located at Mellor, in that they were timber buildings of a medieval date, the first being 14.4m long by 4.6m wide with all four walls bowing out slightly, structure D, a rectangular structure measuring 9m long by 4.5m wide (Higham 2000). The significant difference between these two examples and that identified at Mellor is the size of the postholes and their irregular form. The average size of those at Tatton was 0.70m in diameter compared with 1.20m at Mellor, possibly due to the differing nature of the natural geology within each area. The other is the aisled hall identified during the Baguley Hall excavations (**Figure 23**). In total seven large post pits were identified and the eighth postulated, forming a small rectangular timber building. The pits are almost identical to those found at Mellor, although slightly larger in plan and depth and would have contained similar sized posts within (0.40m). The date of this is considered to be prior to the fourteenth century hall and therefore similar to the one identified at Mellor.

The recovery of the pheon arrowhead is a unique occurrence. This may denote a badge of office, or a heraldic emblem of the Foresters which historical records suggest lived here during this period (Yeatman 1886). The deposition of two arrowheads within the packing of the post pits for the hall is unlikely to be happenstance and would suggest a ritualistic aspect to their placing.

6.2 Trenches 44 and 45

Trenches 44 and 45 have confirmed that the medieval hall does not extend into their respective areas and so have helped establish the both the size and ground-plan for the hall. At the same time, the postholes uncovered in both trenches may also help provide evidence for potential outbuildings for the hall. Following the archaeological methodology of the site, their true value may only be revealed in future seasons, but they have established a precedent for due diligence in this respect.

6.3 Trenches 46, 47 and 49

Trenches 46, 47 and 49 all provided evidence for the extent as well as for the character of archaeological evidence synonymous with occupation. Whilst Trenches 46 and 49 contained quite dense archaeological remains, Trench 47 revealed that this form of practice did not extend from its central zone within Area C to this point, thereby establishing parameters for occupation. Trench 47 did however, along with Trench 49, reveal that at some stage (potentially during the late Iron Age/Romano-British period) this area was utilised for agricultural ploughing.

6.4 Trench 47 and Trench 50. Outer Enclosure Ditch.

Geophysical survey, backed-up by trial excavation, continues to prove a most effective method for expanding our understanding of the outer enclosure ditch and the area which it encloses. Trench 50 in this year's excavations confirmed geophysical results that the ditch continued from Area E into Area F. Further survey work towards the summit of the hilltop has pushed this understanding further still and it is to be hoped that future seasons' work will continue to refine and expand our knowledge of this important feature.

The recovery of a charcoal date from Trench 47 and the outer ditch was a great result for the 2006 excavations. The terminus-post-quem date of between BC 520 to 390 would appear to confirm an operational date for the ditch during the early to middle Iron Age and potentially denotes pre-Iron Age origins. This last possibility has far-reaching implications for the site as it ties in with work from around the country which suggests that hilltop and hillfort developments which had previously been thought to be an Iron Age phenomenon had their origins in the Late Bronze Age. The recovery of several (previously incongruous) carbon dates from the Bronze Age from Area C (Roberts 2003 and Noble, Roberts & Thompson 2004) had previously suggested the possibility that the hilltop was utilised at this time. Though inconclusive, these dates together with that from Trench 47, have begun to build evidence to suggest that rather than a sporadic occupation with differing levels and character, substantive settlement of the Mellor hilltop was a continuous development originating in the Bronze Age.

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Internet:

www.eng-h.gov.uk	<i>Momument</i>	<i>Class</i>	<i>Descriptions</i>
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8. Acknowledgements

The excavations were directed by John Roberts and supervised by Peter Noble and Adam Thompson (all UMAU). The project was monitored by the Assistant County Archaeologist for Greater Manchester Norman Redhead (GMAU). The Volume 1 report was written by Peter Noble and Adam Thompson (Trenches 43-45 and 48). Volume 2 was written and compiled by Philip Day.

As ever, many thanks are due to many people; Anne and John Hearle who continue to allow us to dig-up their wonderful garden, Peter and John Hodgson for all their help and for permitting us to excavate on their land, the Boden Family who kindly agreed for trenching and geophysical survey to take place within their fields, Janet and all at the Parish Centre for looking after us every day, Peter Jenner and family for accommodating our last minute changes, Philip Day for his very generous and expert geophysical surveying work, Fred Broadhurst who continues to help our understanding of the geology, Dave Watson for his generous help, the various specialists for their expert reports, Dr Sonia O'Connor for her work conserving the arrowheads, Jennie Reynolds for her work on the Trench 49 results, Donald Reid for his help both during and post excavation, Paul Jackson Plant Hire and especially their driver Rob, The Friends of Mellor for their support and commitment of time, energy and finances to the excavations, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund whose combined support has been invaluable, and last but not least to all the volunteers who willingly gave up their free time come rain or shine and without whom the project could not exist.

On a final note, sincere thanks and best wishes from all are due to John Roberts whose last season directing the excavations at Mellor was 2006. John has directed the excavations since 2002 and under his guardianship the project has prospered, discovering more about a fascinating archaeological site as well as increasing the opportunities for volunteers from all walks of life to have hands-on involvement with their local heritage.

9. *Archive*

The records are archived by UMAU under the site code OVM 06 at their offices at Room 4.10, Mansfield Cooper Building, University of Manchester. It is the aim of UMAU and MAT to have digitised copies of all yearly reports available for viewing and download on the Mellor Archaeology home web site.

The finds from the 2006 season will be held at Stockport Story Museum.

Copies of this report will be sent to all concerned parties. Further copies are available upon request at the UMAU offices.

Appendix 1: Figures



Figure 3: Plan of Trench 43 showing archaeological features, context numbers and section locations.

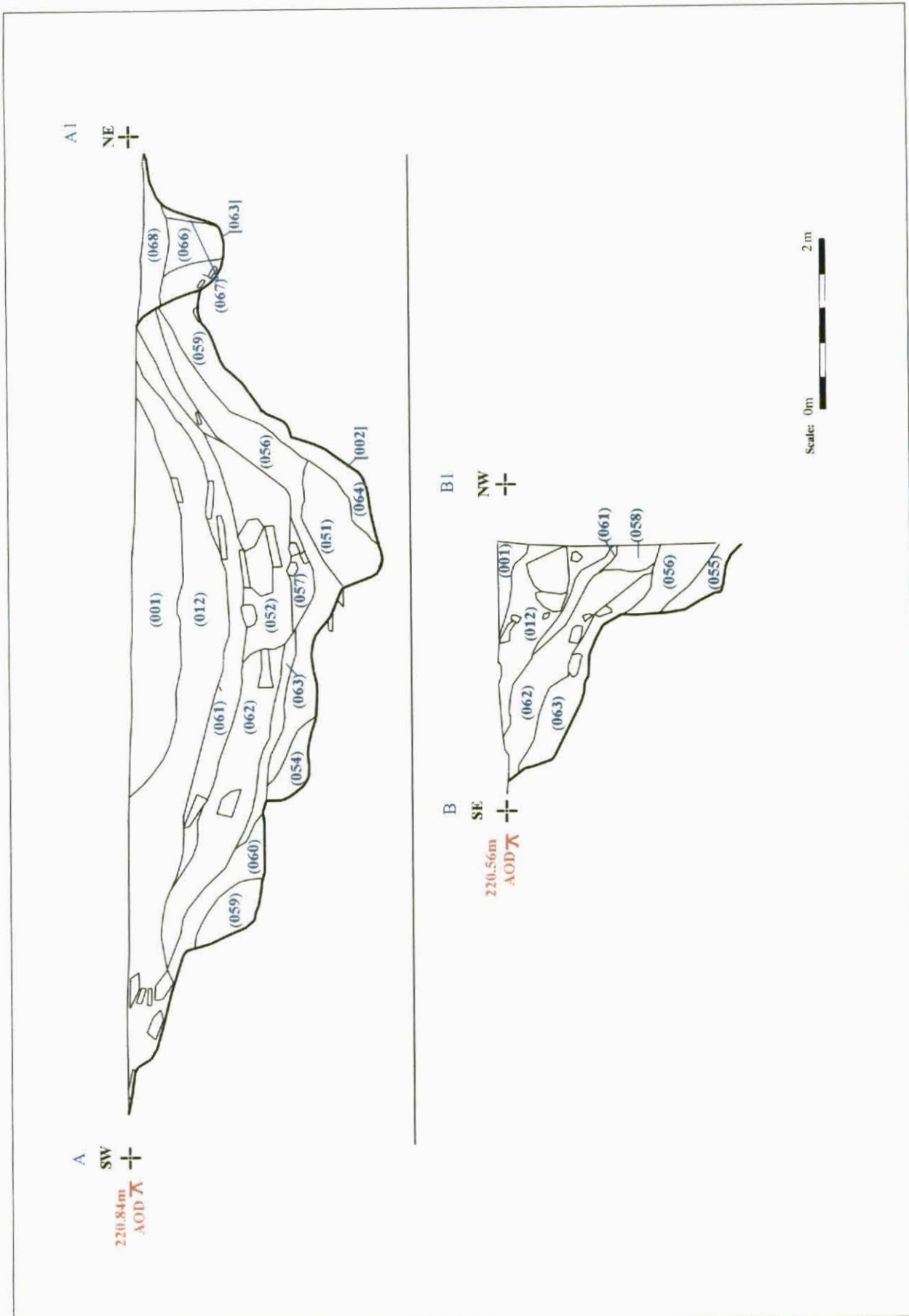


Figure 4: Sections of the northern terminal end of the inner enclosure ditch [002].

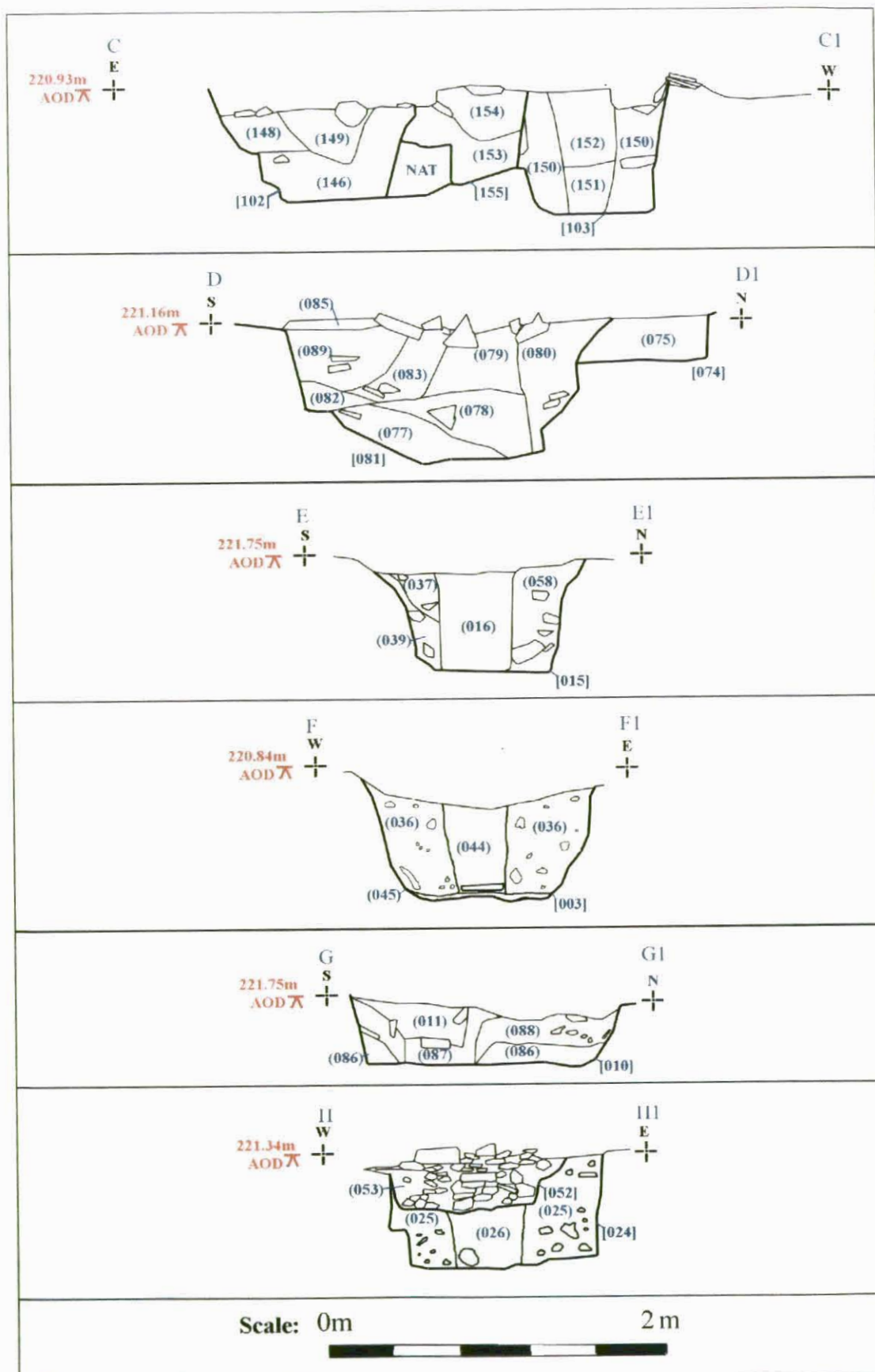


Figure 5: Sections C – H, Iron Age and Medieval Post-pits located within Trench 43

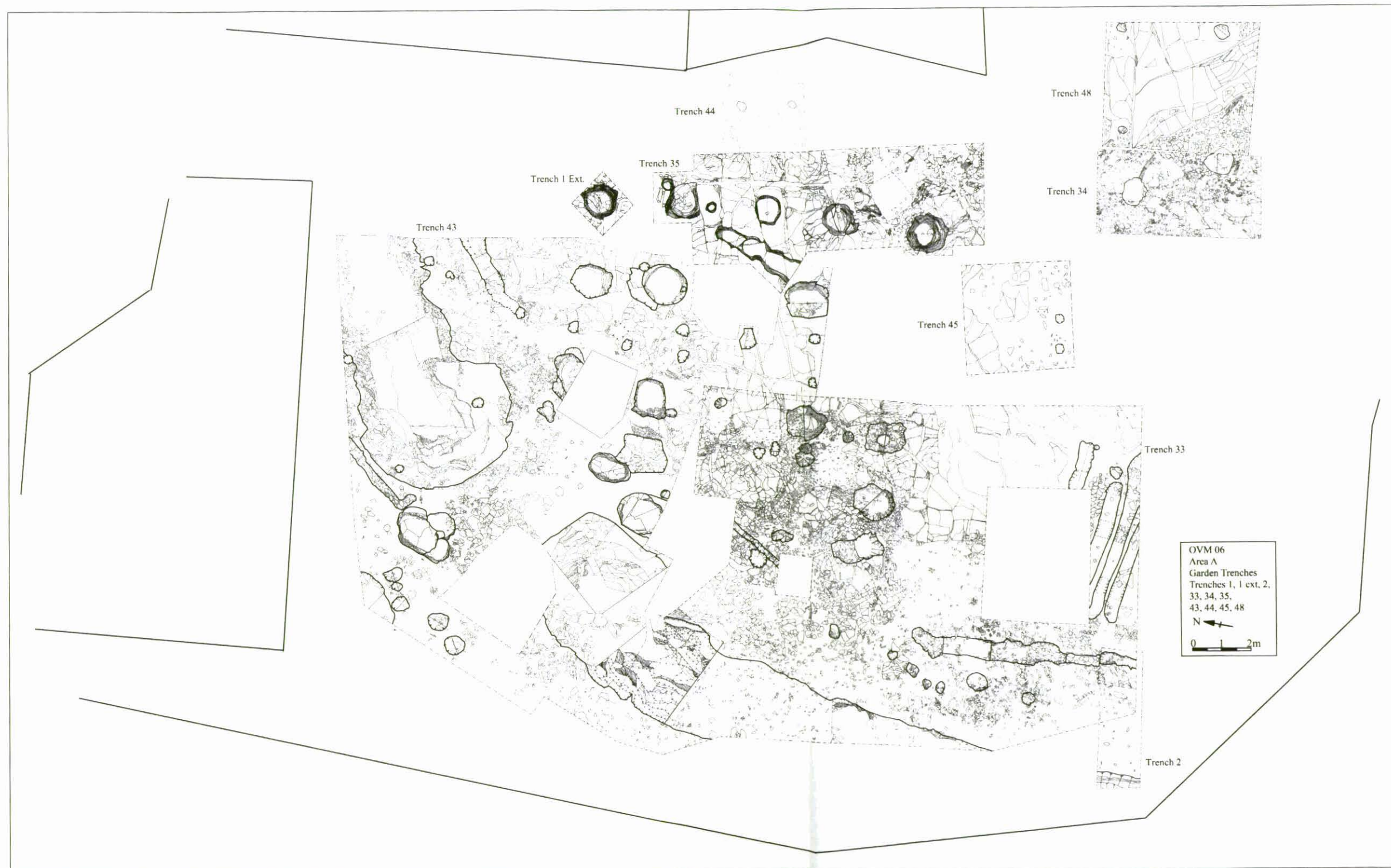


Figure 6: Combined plan of excavated trenches within the Old Vicarage Garden (Area A).

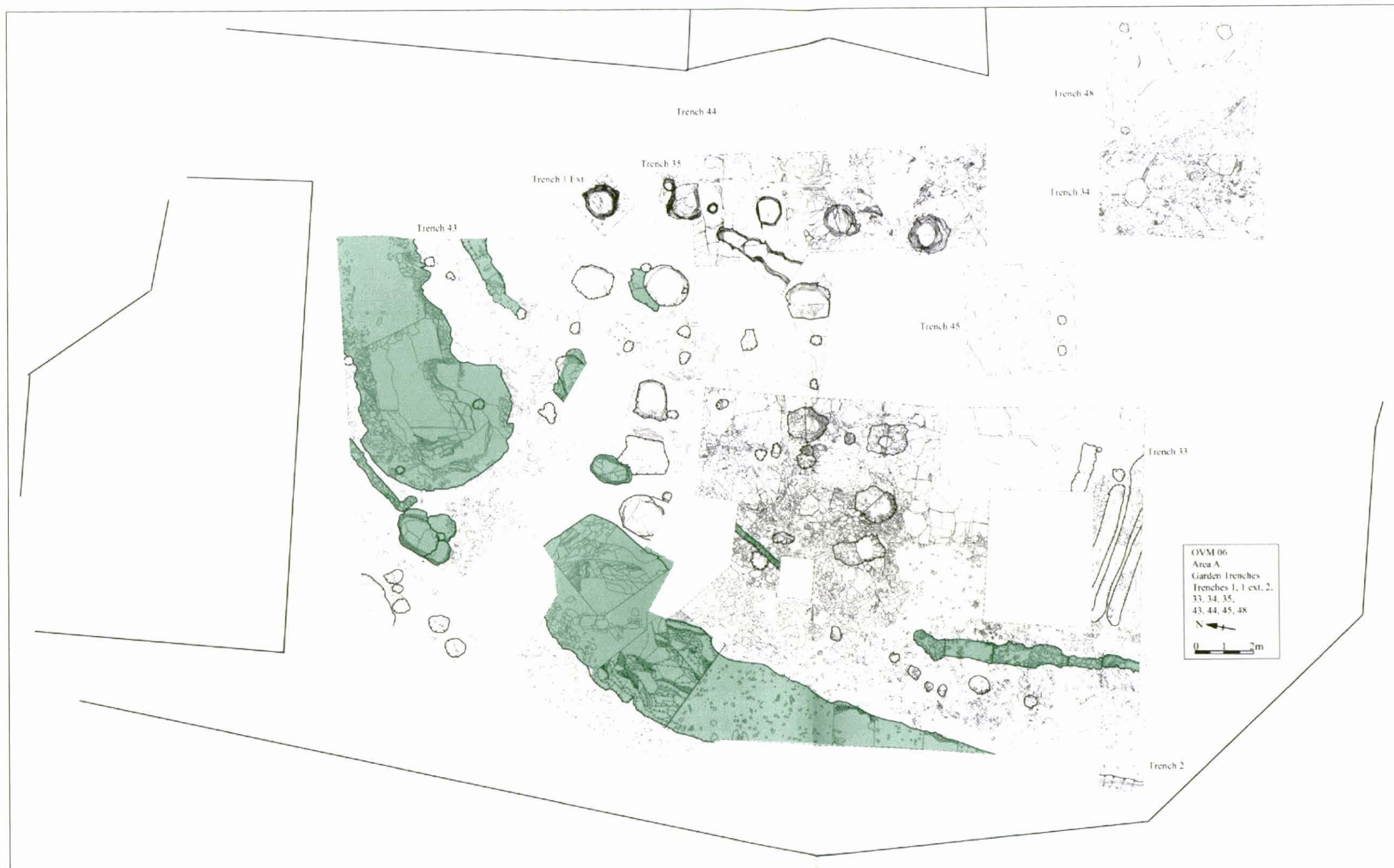


Figure 7: Combined plan of excavated trenches within the Old Vicarage Garden (Area A) with the Iron Age features highlighted.

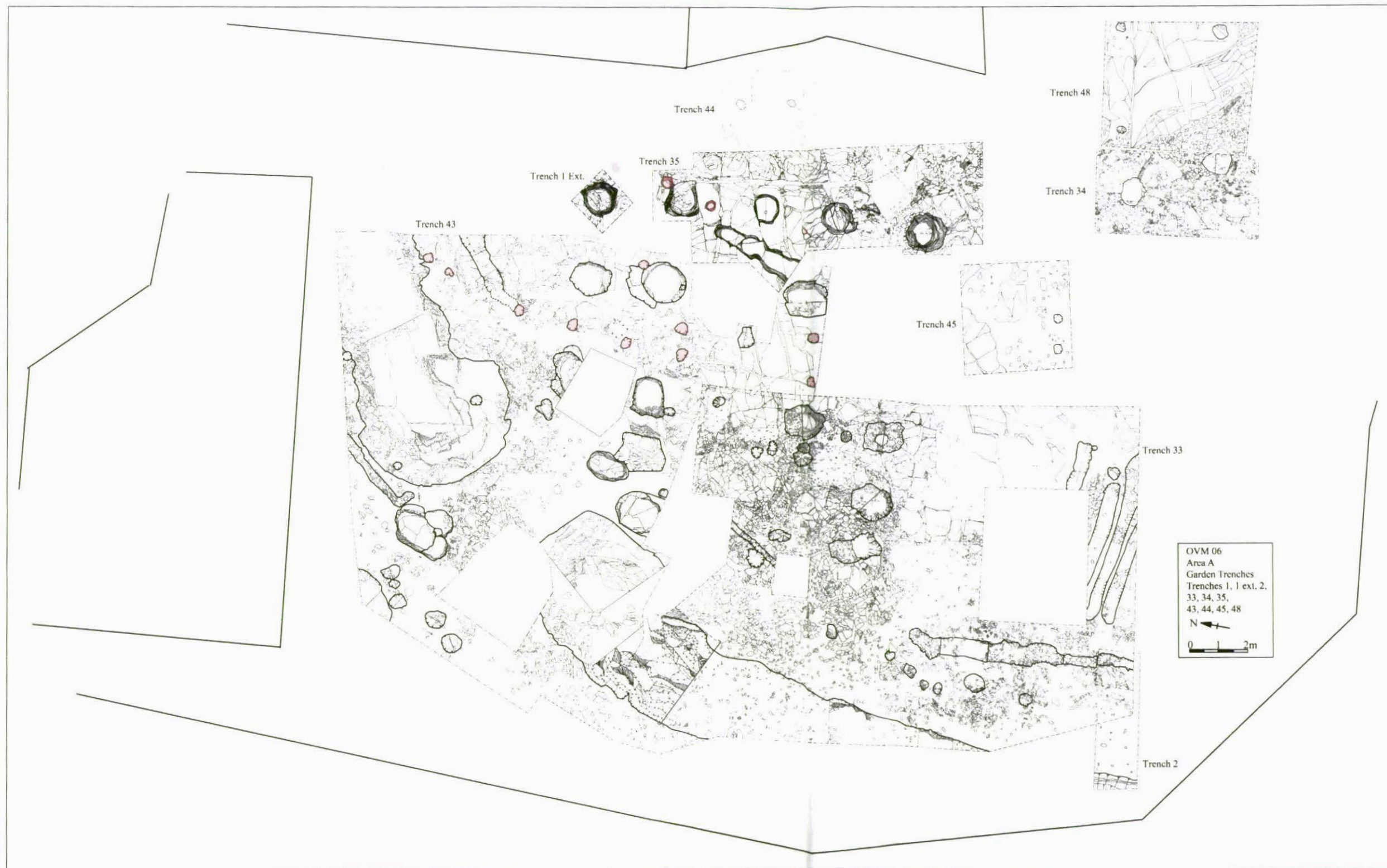


Figure 8: Combined plan of excavated trenches within the Old Vicarage Garden (Area A), with the possible Roman / early medieval features highlighted.



Figure 9: Combined plan of excavated trenches within the Old Vicarage Garden (Area A), with the medieval features highlighted.



Figure 10: Combined plan of excavated trenches within the Old Vicarage Garden (Area A), with the Post-Medieval features highlighted.

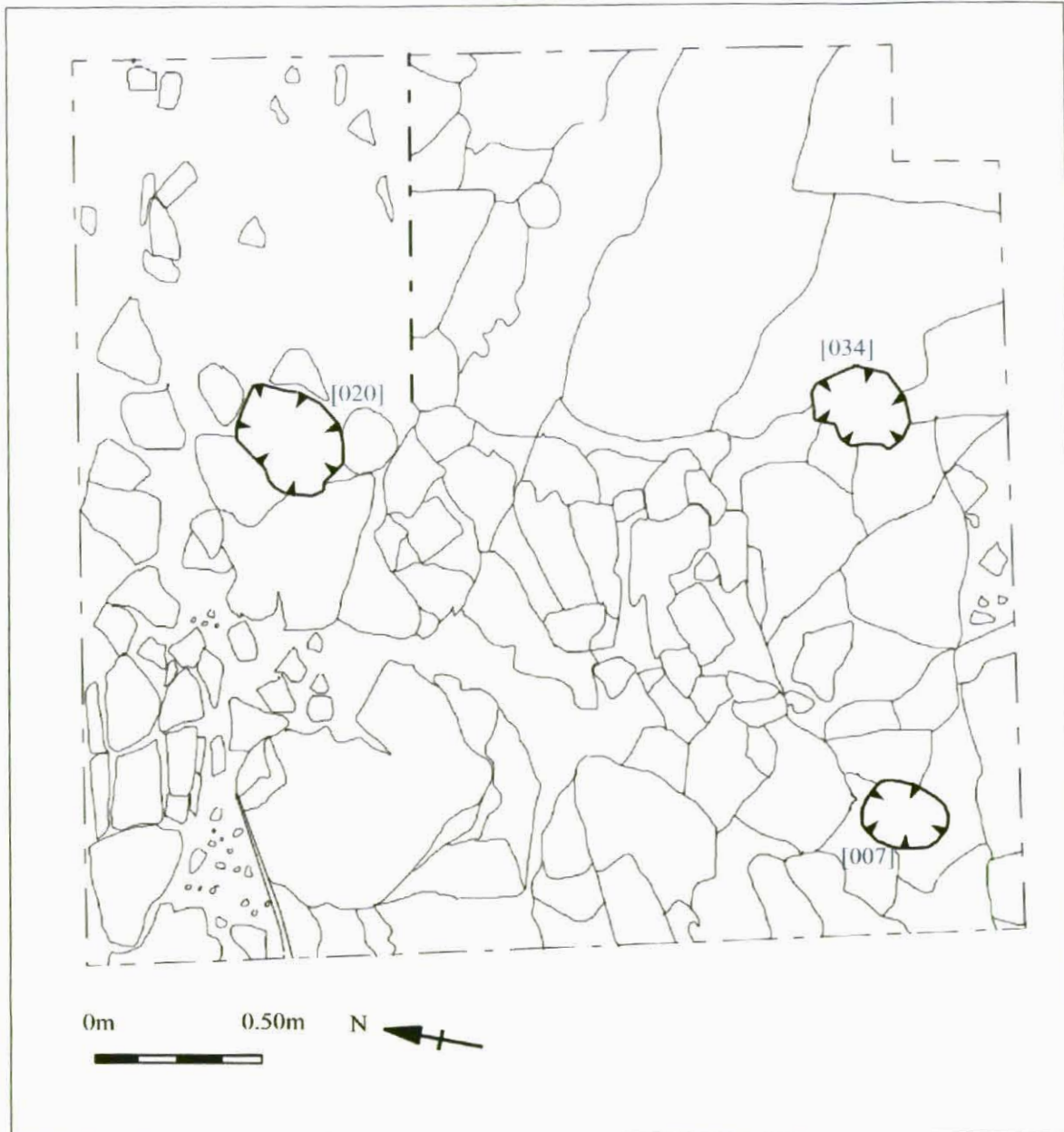


Figure 11: Plan of Trench 44.



Figure 12: Plan of Trench 45.

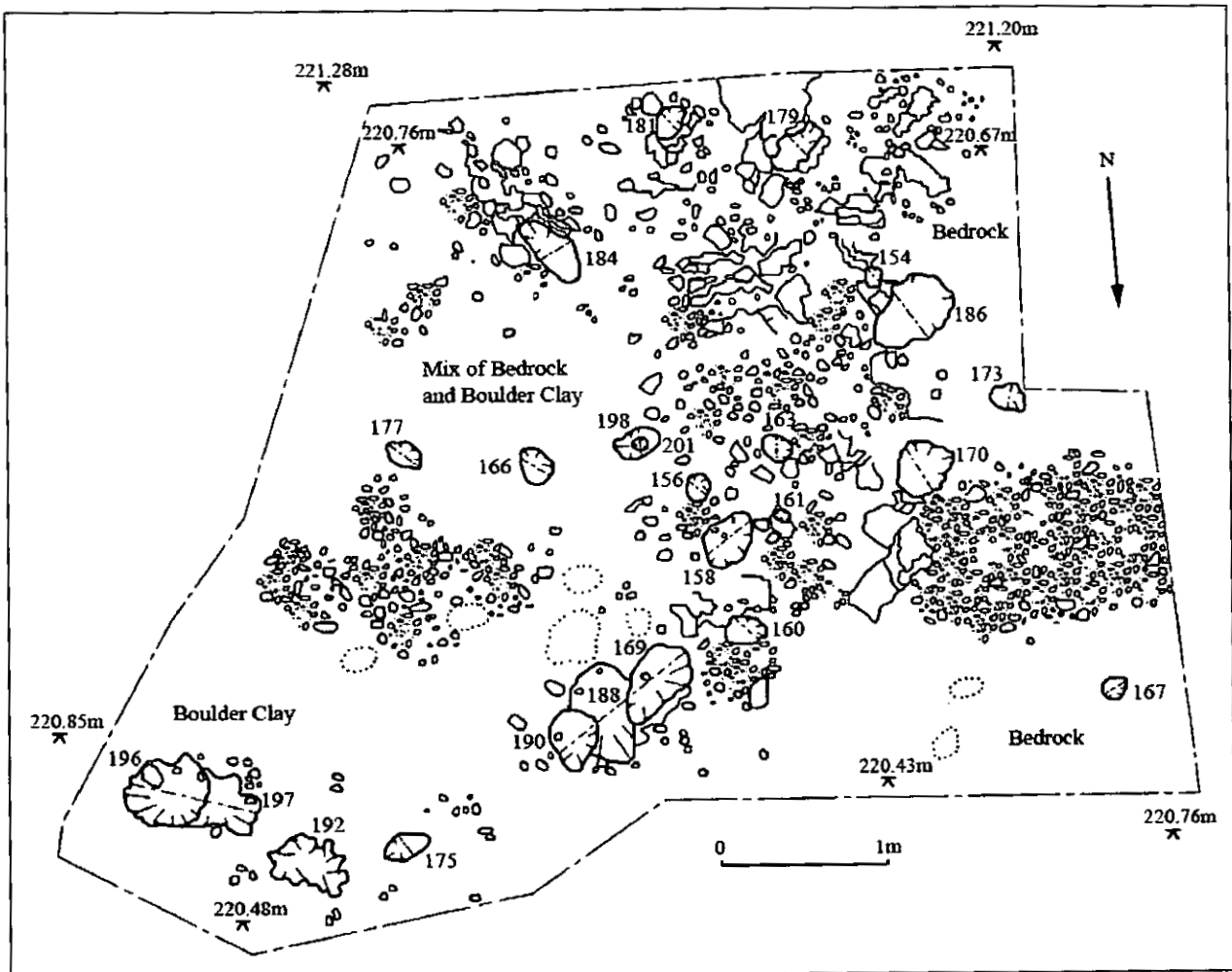


Figure 13: Trench 46 plan. Broken lines denote unexcavated features.

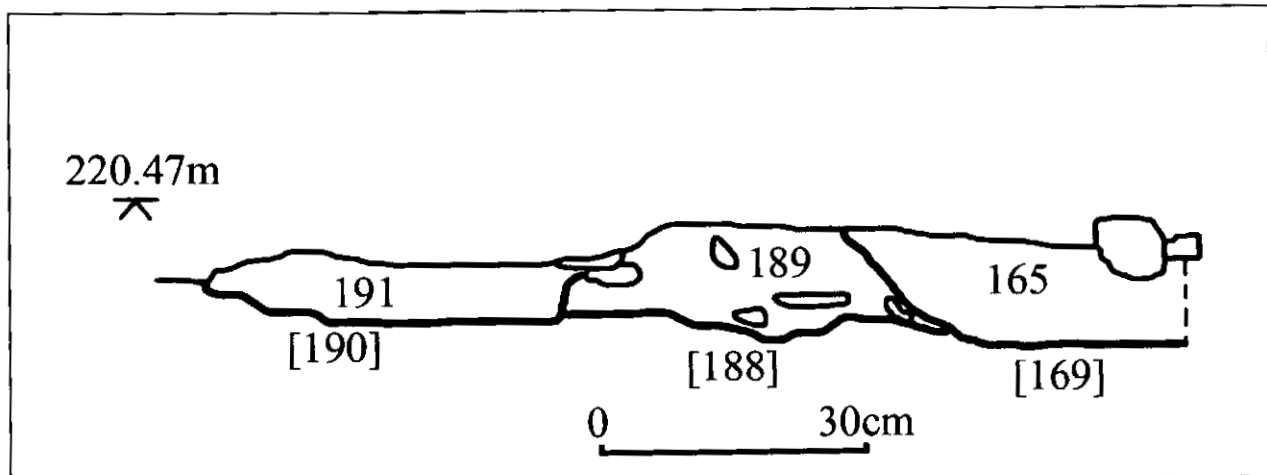


Figure 14: Trench 46. Northwest facing section of pits [169], [188] and [190].

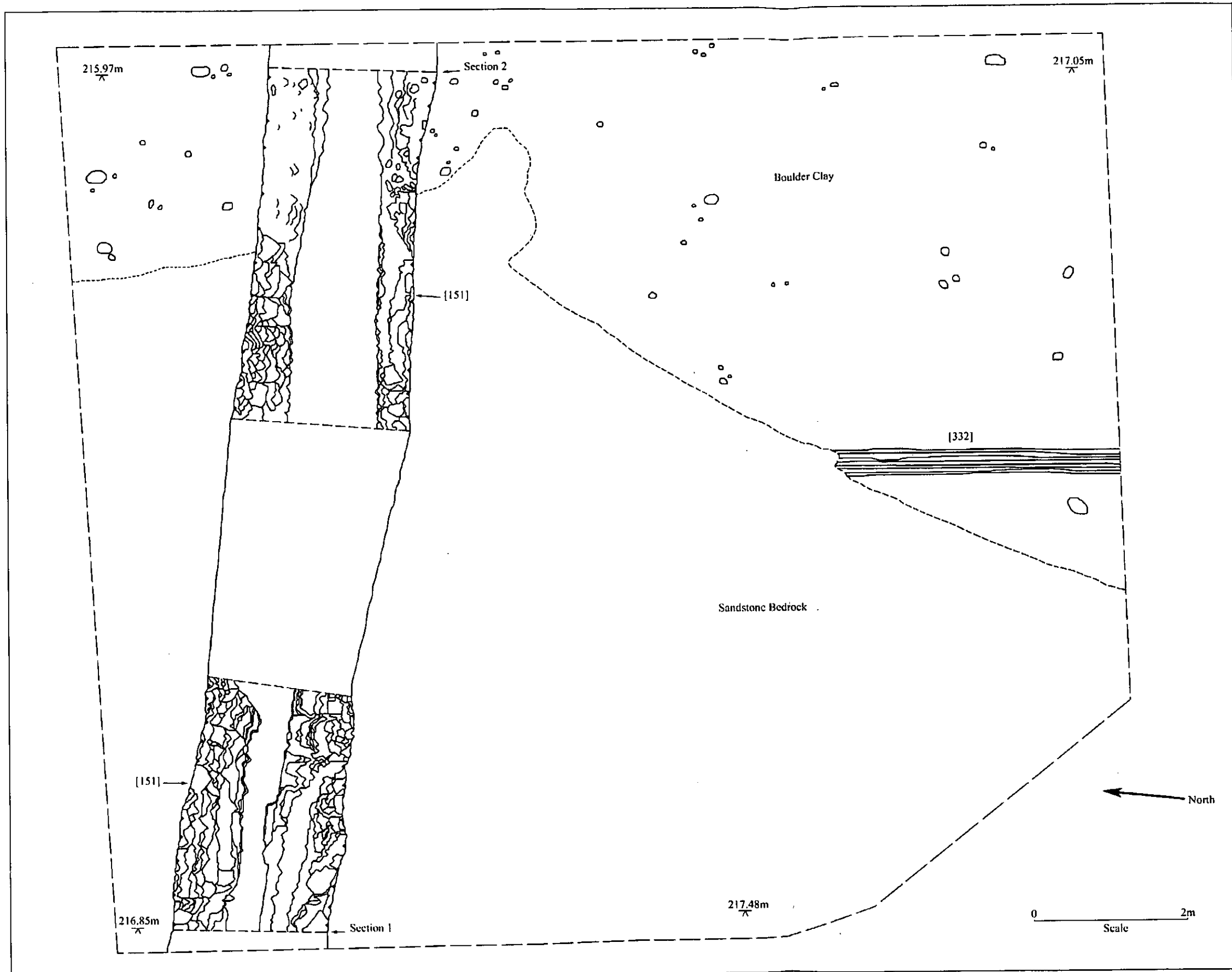


Figure 15: Trench 47 plan.

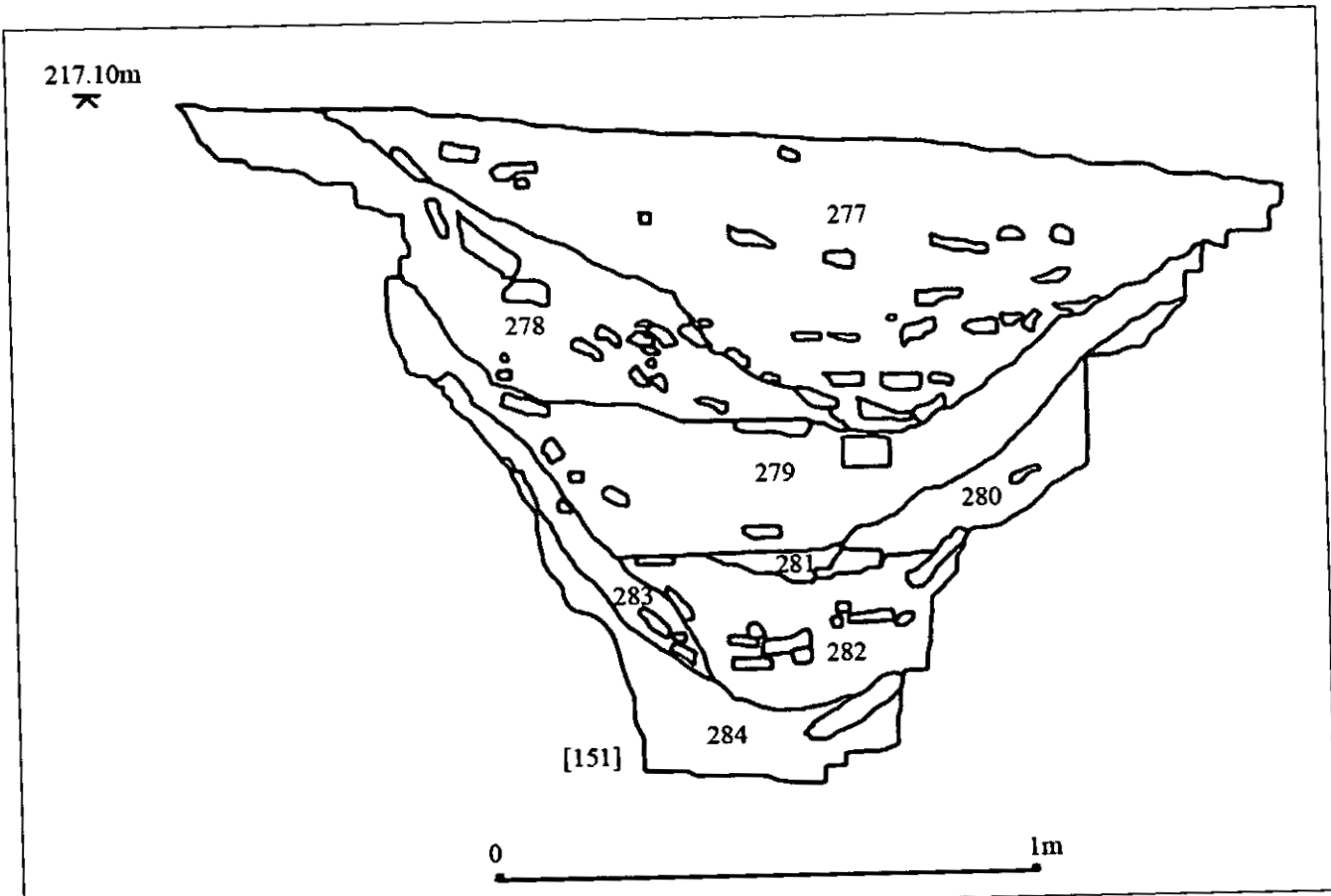


Figure 16: East facing section of ditch [151]. Section 1.

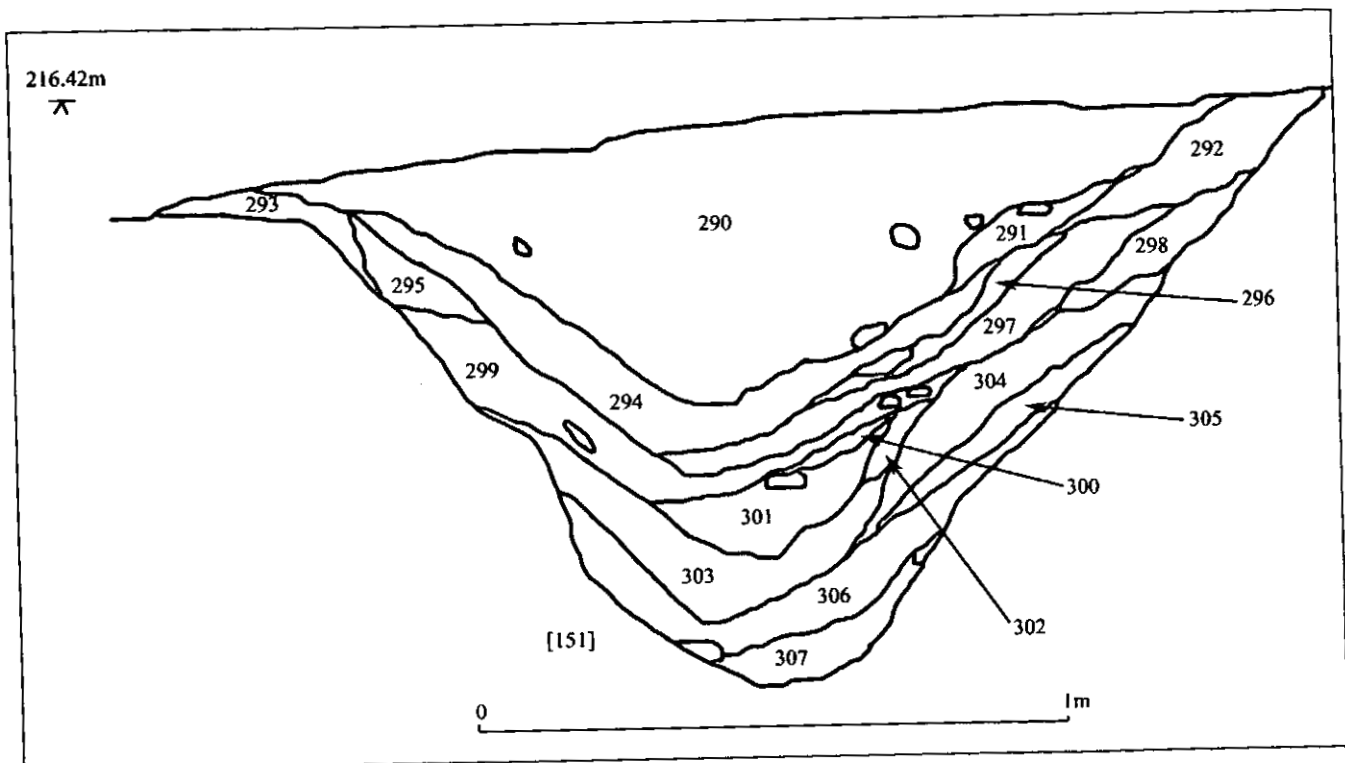


Figure 17: West facing section of ditch [151]. Section 2.



Figure 18: Plan of Trench 48.

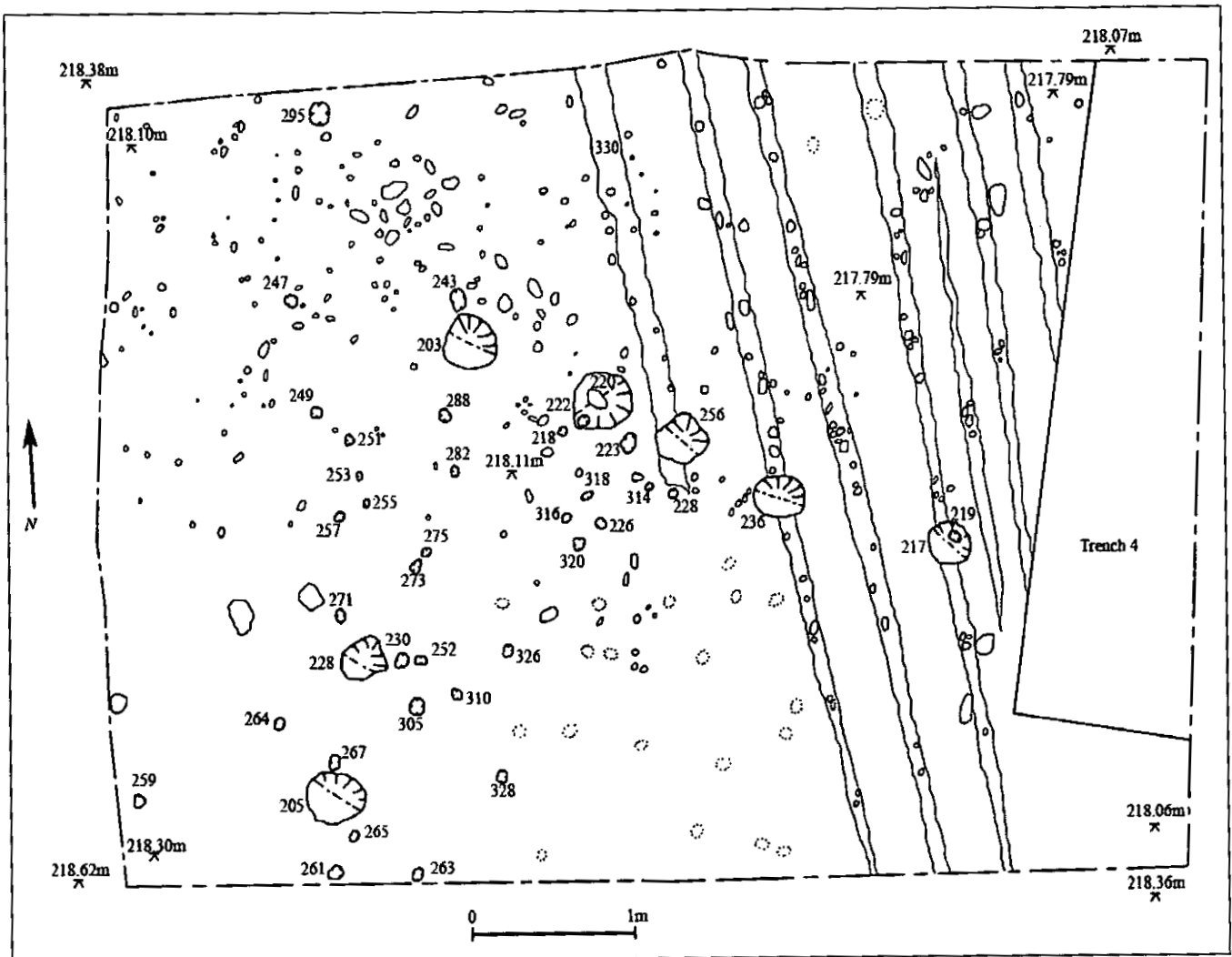


Figure 19: Trench 49 plan.

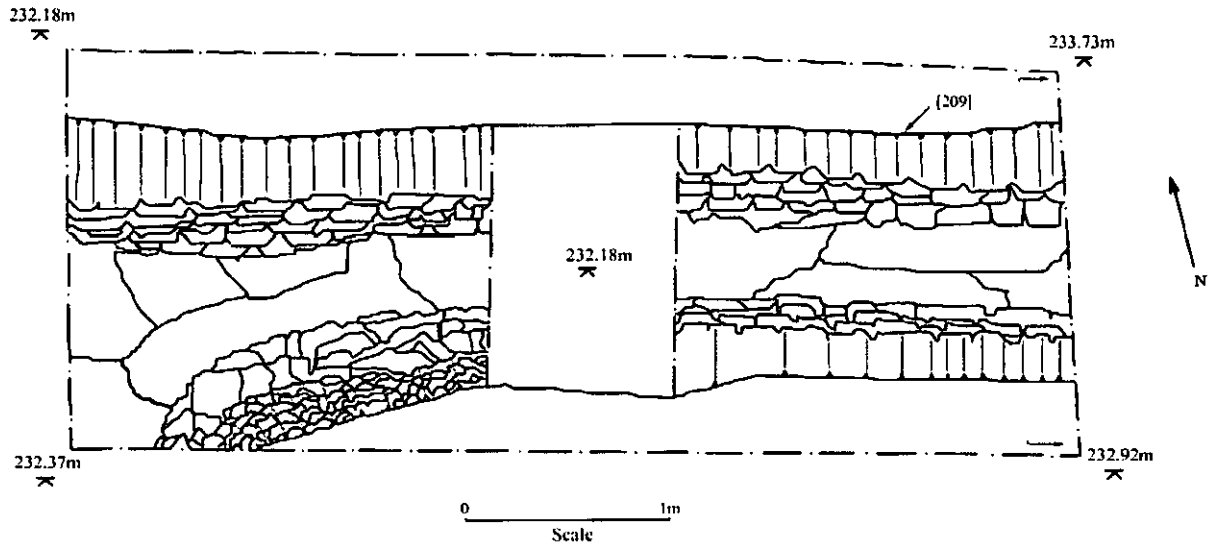


Figure 20: Trench 50 plan.

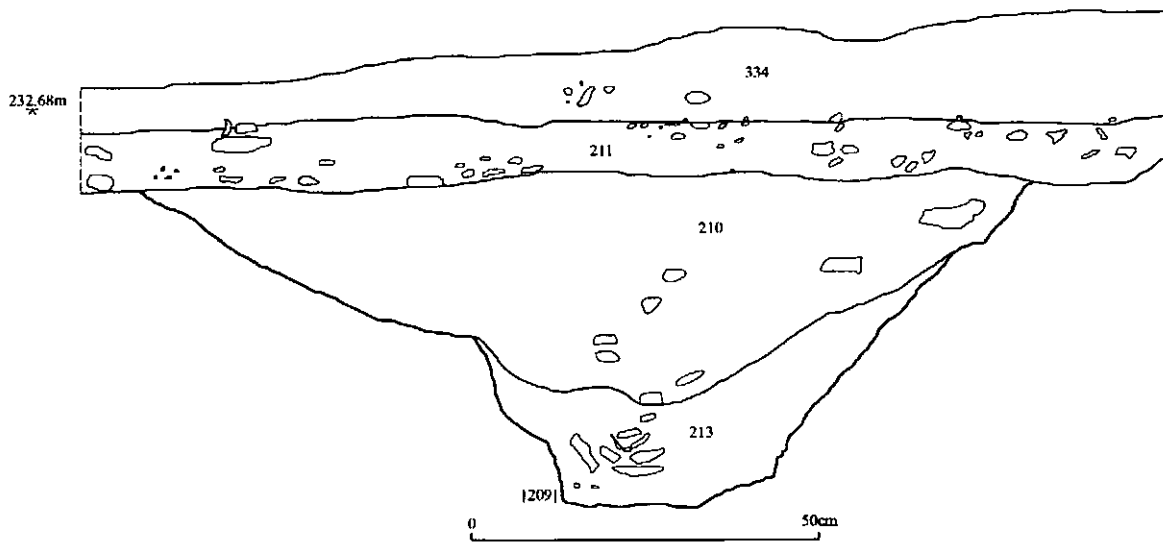


Figure 21: Trench 50 west facing section.

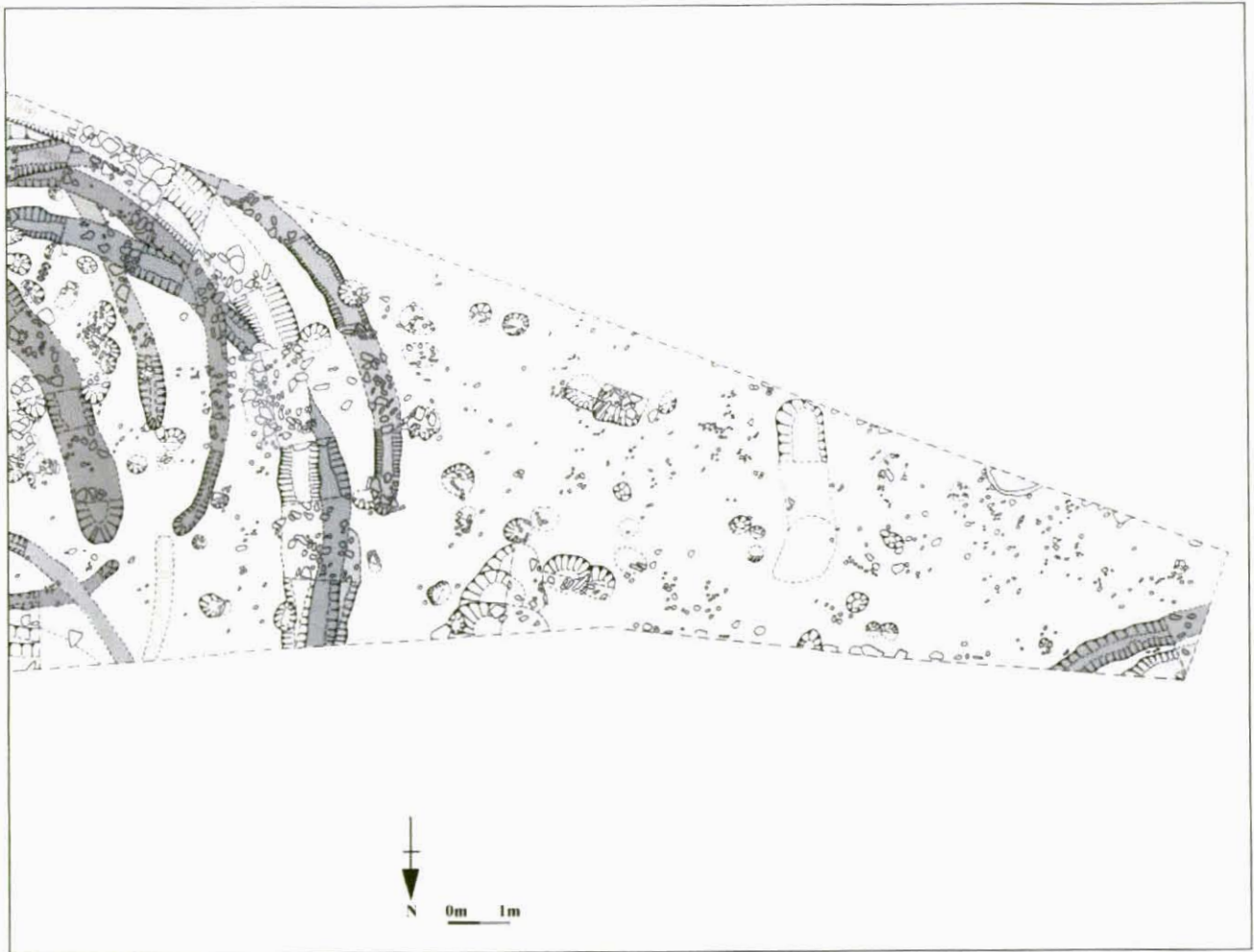


Figure 22: Plan showing Trench 36 to the east of Trench 46. Note 'yard' area and potential roundhouse gullies to the right of the plan.

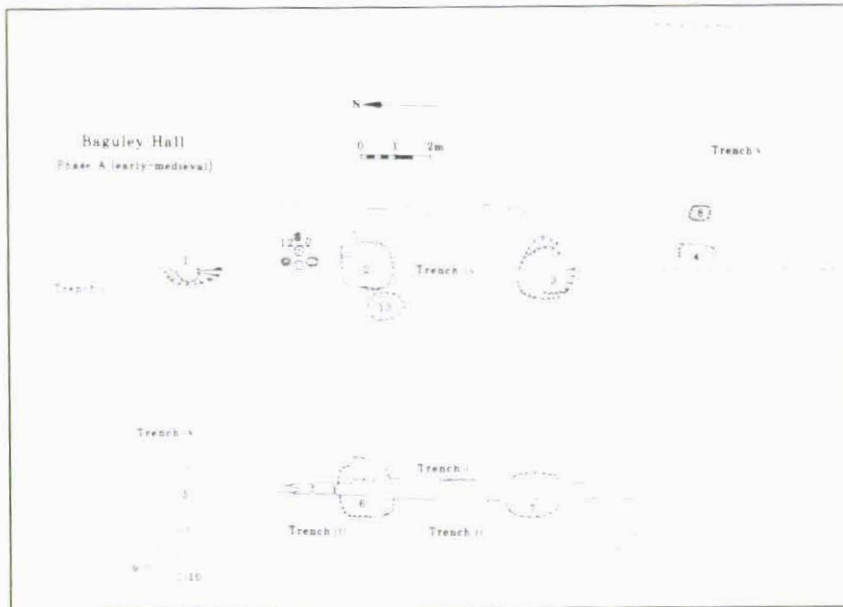


Figure 23: Baguley Hall, aisled hall post pit phase (after Dixon, Hayfield and Startin 1989).



Figure 24: Tatton Village, excavated medieval features (after Higham 2000).

Appendix 2: Plates



Plate 1: Northern terminal end of enclosure ditch [002] part-excavated, showing postholes [114] and [141], post pit [076] and the outer palisade [089], looking south west.

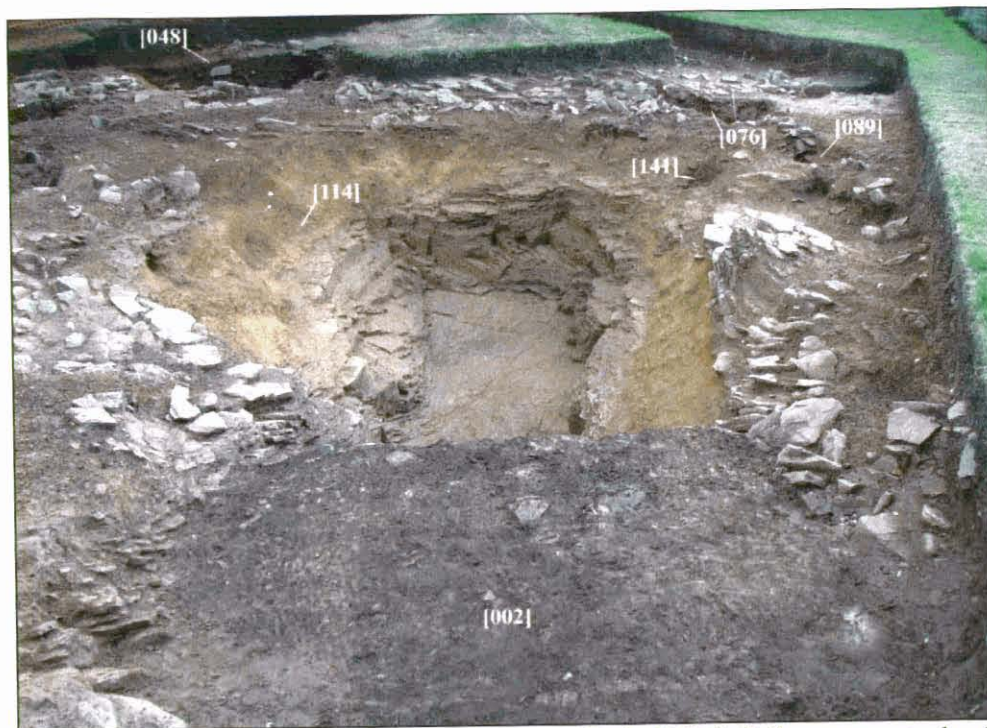


Plate 2: Northern terminal end of enclosure ditch [002] fully excavated, showing postholes [114] and [141], post pit [076] and the outer palisade [089], looking south west.

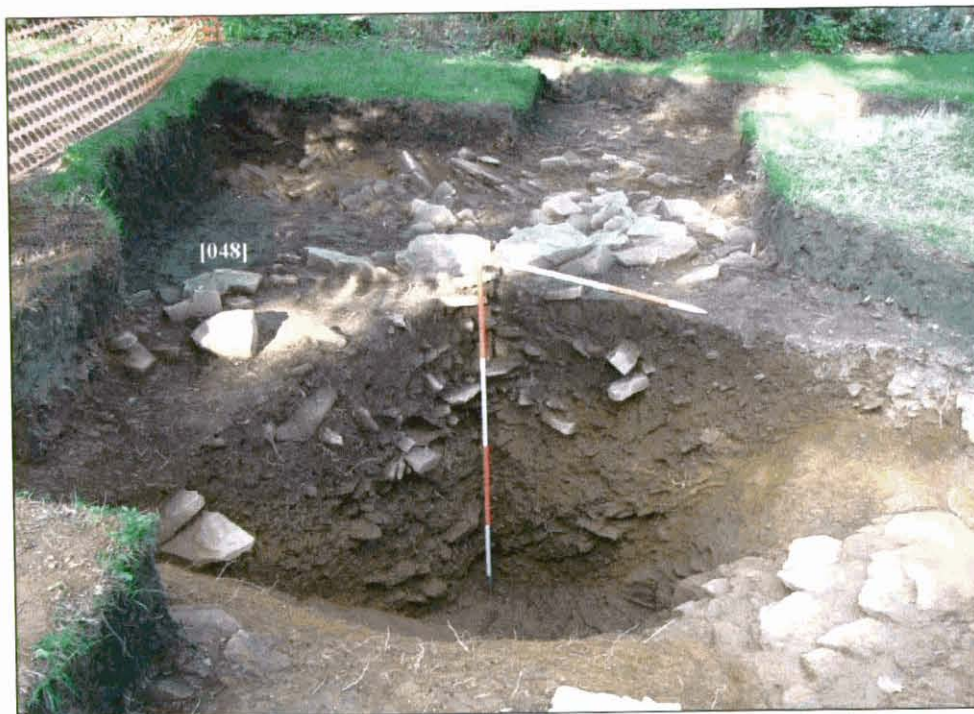


Plate 3: Post excavation view of the quarter section of the southern terminus of enclosure ditch [048], looking west.



Plate 4: General view of the inner palisade slot [097] during excavation, looking north-east.



Plate 5: General site shot, identifying the outer palisade slot [089] running into the large post pits of [076], [074] and [081], on the same alignment as the northern terminal end of ditch [002]. Viewed from the Southwest.

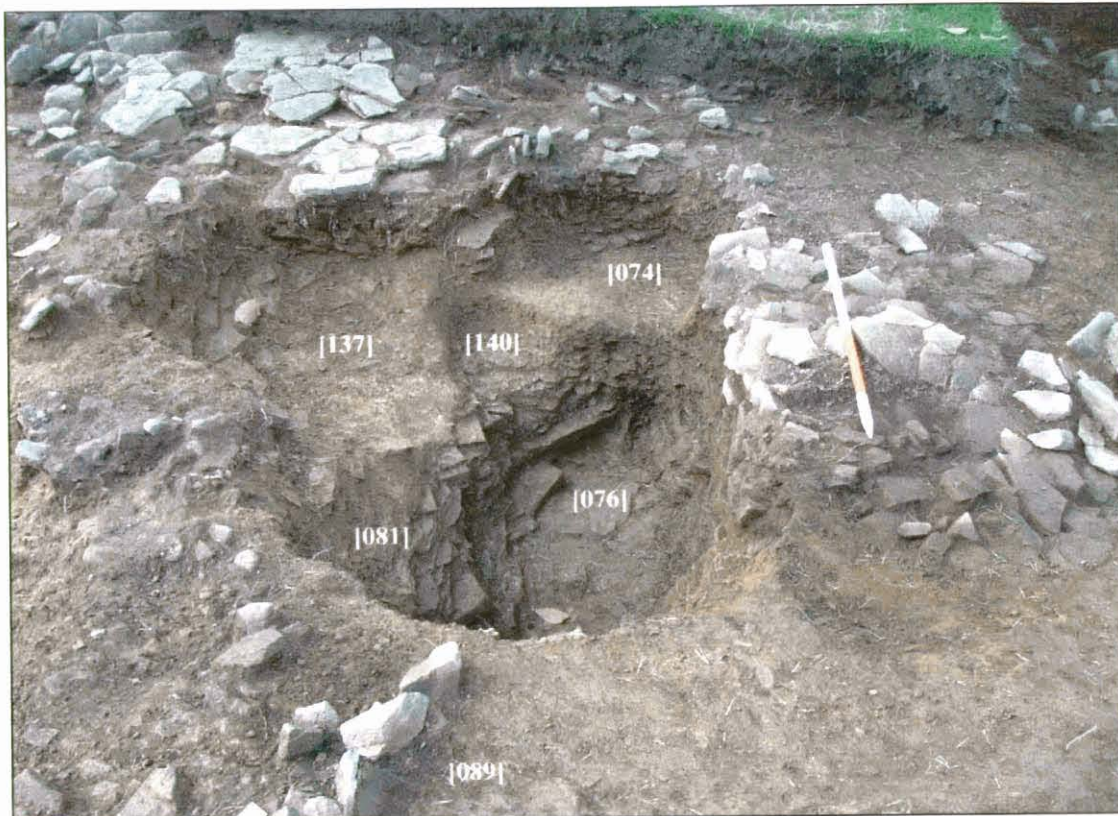


Plate 6: Post Excavation view of Iron Age Post pit sequence, containing post pits [074], [076], [081], [137] and [140]. Viewed from the north.



Plate 7: Iron Age Post Pit on the left [102], medieval post pits [103] on the right and top [123] and undated posthole [118]. Viewed from the north.



Plate 8: Trench 34, 2005 excavations, looking south, showing two medieval post pits, two un-phased postholes and a gully presumed to be part of the Iron Age entrance way defences.



Plate 9: Possible hearth [099]. Note the reddened colouring of the sandstone.



Plate 10: Trench 44 part-excavated, containing postholes [020], [034] and [007].



Plate 11: Trench 46 after topsoil removal. Viewed from the West.



Plate 12: Trench 46. Northwest facing section through pits [166], [188] and [190].



Plate 13: Trench 47 after topsoil has been removed showing ditch [151].
Viewed from the East.



Plate 14: Trench 47 showing east facing section of ditch [151].

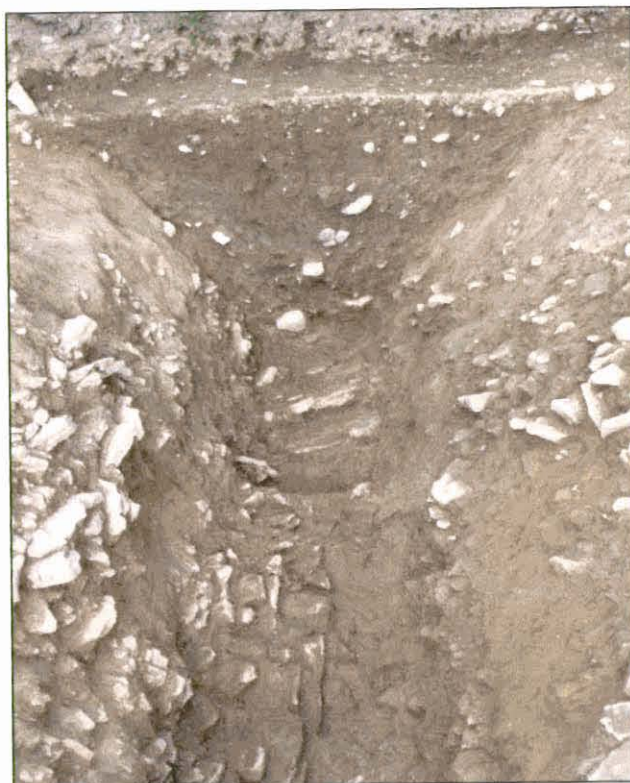


Plate 15: Trench 47 showing west facing section of ditch [151].
Note the change from bedrock to boulder clay.



Plate 16: Trench 47 showing possible plough marks [332].
Viewed from the North.



Plate 17: Trench 47 showing ditch [151]. Note junction of bedrock and boulder clay.
Viewed from the West.



Plate 18: Trench 49 showing post hole alignment [203], [220], [256], [236] and [217] and possible plough marks [330]. Viewed from the South.



Plate 19: Trench 50 showing ditch [209]. Viewed from the West.



Plates 20 and 21: Showing sections through the inner enclosure ditch from Trenches 33 (top) and 18. Note stone rich fills on outer edges.

Appendix 3: Specialist Pottery Reports

3.1 Prehistoric Pottery from excavations at Mellor 2006 (OVM06)

A Report by C.G. Cumberpatch BA PhD

Introduction

The pottery assemblage from the excavations at the Mellor hilltop in 2006 was examined by the author between the 23rd and 27th April 2007. It consisted of three distinct components which are described below. The data are summarised in Tables 1 – 3 with the abbreviations used listed in Table 4.

Later prehistoric pottery

The details of the later prehistoric pottery are summarised in Table 1 which also includes a sherd of Roman pottery. It is expected that the latter will be removed and incorporated into the report on the Roman pottery from the site prior to the finalisation of the report.

The later prehistoric pottery from earlier seasons at Mellor has been described elsewhere and a provisional fabric type series has been proposed (Cumberpatch, Walster, Ixer and Morris 2005). This consisted of six fabric types with three additional sub-types. The pottery assemblage from the 2006 excavations appears to extend this type series as the sherds examined for this report are in fabrics which do not appear to have been identified in earlier assemblages. It is unclear whether this indicates a chronological difference, a difference in the origin of the vessels or is a result of a relatively haphazard pattern of raw material acquisition. Heterogeneity, as well as scarcity appears to be a characteristic of later prehistoric pottery fabrics in this part of northern England. While it would be unwise to draw definite parallels with the situation in East Yorkshire, recent work on pottery from a site at Reighton (between Filey and Bridlington) has demonstrated that even within groups of pottery which appear similar at the macroscopic level there are significantly different compositions when sherds are analysed petrologically and chemically (Vince 2006). In view of this the apparent diversity in pottery fabrics at Mellor should perhaps be seen as more than chance. The sherds described here will require direct comparison with sherds from earlier seasons prior to decisions being taken about a further programme of analysis. It would perhaps be appropriate to delay this until the completion of the 2007 season so as to include any additional material recovered during the summer's programme of excavation.

As with earlier finds, there is little in the character of the sherds themselves to indicate the date of either the vessels or the contexts from which they were recovered.

Trench 42 Cut/feature 003, fill/layer 004 Small find number 57

Small find number 57 is a small abraded sherd which was most probably part of a lug-like handle. The fabric is very fine in texture, predominantly reduced to a dark grey but with patchily oxidised surfaces. The fabric contains moderate to abundant fine quartz (c.15% - c.20%; less than 0.5mm), both clear and translucent and occasional larger rounded white

inclusions (up to 1.5mm). The extent of the abrasion makes it difficult to determine the surface finish of the vessel.

Trench 43 Cut/Feature 002, fill/layer 050, Small find number 65

Small find number 65 consists of seven sherds forming two distinct groups based on the fabrics and the finish of the vessels. The first group consists of three body sherds, two of them joining sherds and the third most probably from the same vessel. The fabric is a fine, sandy textured one containing common (15% - 20%) rounded quartz grit up to 0.5mm in diameter. There are also rarer larger angular quartz inclusions (up to 2mm) amongst the finer ones. The fabric also contains irregularly shaped black inclusions (up to 2mm) with a rather vesicular, clinkery appearance. These can be described as resembling small pieces of iron slag, although whether they are actually of such a material is a matter for conjecture until such time as a sample can be analysed.

All of these were body sherds with dull orange smoothed external surfaces but with the internal surfaces removed to reveal the reduced core.

The second group consisted of four sherds which were thicker and somewhat more roughly finished than the group described above. Three of the sherds joined to form the rim and upper body of a globular jar-like vessel with a short, flat-topped vertical rim. The remaining sherd was a body sherd, possibly from the same vessel or from one of similar size and shape. The sherds all had dull orange internal and external margins but only the top and interior of the rim appeared to have been smoothed after the vessel was formed.

The fabric of these four sherds was coarser than the three described above but the range and type of inclusions were generally similar with quartz and black vesicular grit. Densities were similar to those in the finer sherds but there were slightly more large angular fragments of both quartz and the black vesicular type.

Trench 43 Small find number 65

A distinctive vertical flat-topped rim formed by pinching and smoothing most probably on a barrel-shaped body. The vessel has abundant fine grains of silver mica (muscovite) at the surface and contains very common fine (up to 0.5mm) rounded quartz grains (c.20% - c.25%), occasional larger rounded translucent quartz grit (up to 2mm) and sparse to moderate black grit.

Trench 43 Cut/feature 198, fill/layer 199 (from the north-west side of the trench from a brown layer above the ditch

Two fragments from a shallow but very thick dish-shaped vessel in a dense, grey reduced fabric (Plate 4). Examination of these sherds was difficult as they had not been washed, but this was probably advisable as it seems that they might be from a crucible. Internally there appeared to be a whitish deposit which would probably repay analysis. Externally the surface was smoothed but uneven.

Trench 43 Unstratified

An unstratified and unnumbered sherd with coarse temper and no surfaces surviving. There is no indication of the type or shape of the vessel from which it was derived. The fabric is bright orange with a grey core and contains abundant (c.30% - c.35%) fine quartz and occasional larger rounded white or translucent quartz grains.

Trench 43 Unstratified

A thick sherd with a single surviving surface, densely tempered (c.40%) with sub-angular and rounded quartz, rounded non-crystalline grit and sliver mica (muscovite). The sherd is a dull orange throughout and it is not clear what part of a vessel it once formed. The thickness of the sherd might imply that it was part of the base although it may be regarded as unusually thick, even if this is the case.

Discussion

Although the assemblage is small in size, the fact that pottery has been recovered from stratified contexts at Mellor is of considerable significance both for the site and for the wider region. As outlined elsewhere (Cumberpatch 2005:42-3) later prehistoric pottery is generally rare in the area around Mellor and the continuing discoveries on the site are significant on a number of levels. It shows that pottery was in use at the site (although the numbers of vessels involved may imply that it was not used on an everyday basis) and that it was discarded in features on the site. Analysis of the pottery, when taken together with the analysis and identification of other objects (briquetage, shale bracelets and possibly faunal and environmental data) will permit a reconstruction of the patterns of regional contacts maintained by the inhabitants of the site. Residue analysis may offer an insight into the purposes for which the pots were used.

Attempts to use orthodox typological methods to classify and date later prehistoric pottery in eastern Yorkshire have proved only partially successful (Mackey 2003) and it is possible that a similar situation will be found to exist in the north-west. Whether this is the case, or whether there are regularities in either the form or fabric of the vessels which can be related to the chronology of the site is, at present unclear and only further research will clarify the situation.

Further work

It would be desirable to follow the individual pottery reports with a programme of further work. The proposed further work could form a 'stand-alone' project or, preferably, could be incorporated into a wider programme of work which will incorporate material from the forthcoming 2007 season. It should include the following elements:

Analysis of prehistoric pottery: Two forms of analysis are recommended for the prehistoric pottery. The possible crucible fragments should be considered for metallographic analysis while the sherds from other types of vessels should be included in a comprehensive programme of petrological and chemical analysis designed to identify the sources of the sherds. This might provide some indication of where best to seek typological parallels for the vessels which in turn may allow some estimate of the date range of the vessels. It should be noted however that the pottery is unlikely to ever form a very reliable method of dating

activity at Mellor given the evidence from other areas of the difficulty of linking vessel types with particular chronological periods.

Illustration: The two later prehistoric rim sherds should be drawn and photographed. The rim and body from Trench 43 [002] (050) SFN 65 should be reconstructed before drawing. Reconstruction should be undertaken with the advice of a qualified conservator. Adhesive tape should not be used as a temporary measure as it is likely to further damage the surfaces of the sherds. The possible crucible fragments should also be drawn but advice should be taken as to whether this should take place after the analysis of the possible internal deposits.

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Cumberpatch, C.G. Ixer, R., Morris, E. and Walster, A. 2005 Mellor: *A review of the Later Prehistoric ceramics* In: M. Nevell and N. Redhead (Eds.) **Mellor: Living on the Edge: A regional study of an Iron Age and Romano-British upland settlement.** Manchester Archaeological Monographs volume 1. University of Manchester Archaeological Unit / Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit / Mellor Archaeological Trust.

Cumberpatch 2005 Discussion In: C. Cumberpatch, R. Ixer, E. Morris, E. and A. Walster *Mellor: A review of the Later Prehistoric ceramics* In: M. Nevell and N. Redhead (Eds.) **Mellor: Living on the Edge: A regional study of an Iron Age and Romano-British upland settlement.** Manchester Archaeological Monographs volume 1. University of Manchester Archaeological Unit / Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit / Mellor Archaeological Trust.

Mackey, R. 2003 *The Iron Age in East Yorkshire: A summary of current knowledge and recommendations for future research* In: T. Manby, S. Moorhouse and P. Ottaway **The Archaeology of Yorkshire.** Yorkshire Archaeological Society. Occasional Paper No. 3.

Vince, A. 2007 *Characterisation Studies of Iron Age and Medieval Pottery from Reighton Bypass, North Yorkshire (RBY06).* In C. Cumberpatch **Hand-made pottery of later prehistoric and Roman date from excavations on the A165 Reighton by-pass, North Yorkshire.** Unpublished report for Archaeological Services WYAS.

Tr.	Cut/Feat.	Fill/layer	SFN	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date	Notes
43	2	50	65		3	23	2	BS	Hollow ware	Smoothed surface ext, int surfaces missing		Abundant fine quartz grit & non-crystalline grit with muscovite at ext surface
43	2	50	65		1	29	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec		Thick-walled sherd; oxidised surfaces with grey core; angular quartz and black iron-rich grit with abundant fine mica at surface
43	2	50	65		3	41	1	Rim	Jar	Turned rim, slightly everted		Thick-walled sherd; oxidised surfaces with grey core; angular quartz and black iron-rich grit with abundant fine mica at surface
43	3	4	57		1	5	1	Handle	Hollow ware	Lug handle stump		Very fine grey reduced body with patchily oxidised surfaces; occasional rounded quartz grit and moderate-abundant fine angular quartz
43	198	199		?Crucible	2	28	2	Rim	?Crucible	Shallow dish-like form with smooth ext surface		Hard, fine reduced grey body with a whitish deposit internally
43		U/S			1	8	1	BS	U/ID	U/Dec		Bright orange with grey core, no surfaces surviving; abundant quartz grit
43		U/S			1	31	1	BS	U/ID	U/Dec; unidentified form		Densely tempered (c.40%); quartz, iron-rich grit, sub-angular & rounded quartz, mica and rounded non-crystalline grit
43			65		1	33	1	Rim	Hollow ware	Flat-topped rim with short neck		Abundant rounded quartz grains, some black grit & abundant muscovite at the surface
49		Subsoil		Greyware	1	63	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	Roman	Abraded Roman greyware
49		Subsoil		Stone	1	9	1	BS	Hollow ware	No surviving surfaces	N/A	Hard, dense, fine grained stone with white deposit ext
				Total	15	270	12					

Table 1. Later prehistoric pottery from Mellor (OVM06)

3.2 Mellor 2006 Romano-British pottery

A Report by Ruth Leary

A small group of 56 fragments (410g) of ceramics were examined and catalogued by ware group. A further fragment from trench 43 subsoil, probably not ceramic, was also examined. One sherd was probably prehistoric and two were of mediaeval type. A further three sherds may be of mediaeval date and are all included within the mediaeval report. Two were in a fabric not dissimilar to pre-Derbyshire ware but the surface finish suggested they may be later in date. 28 fragments of fired clay (75g) were present. These were very abraded and small in size. They should be examined by a specialist since other fired clay fragments from Mellor have been associated with the salt trade. One fragment of brick was found and cannot be dated.

Eighteen Romano-British sherds of pottery (204g) were identified. These included two very abraded sherds of samian ware, imported from Gaul from the mid 1st to mid 3rd century. Six sherds of black burnished ware from Dorset were found and these came from a jar which must date after AD120 when this ware became widespread in the region. Unfortunately the jar lacked the part which would help give a more precise date. A fine oxidised sherd from trench 43 compares with fabrics found in the late 1st-2nd century at Manchester but the other oxidised bodysherds were in a coarser ware group common in the 2nd and 3rd century in the Cheshire Plains industry (Webster 1991) and made at a number of centres including Wilderspool (Hartley and Webster 1976). A grey ware bodysherd also belongs to this group but one thick bodysherd, burnished externally, in a finer fabric is quite unlike this group.

The group included very few diagnostic sherds. The fabrics are similar to those previously excavated. The sherds can only be broadly dated to the Roman period although the 4th century wares excavated previously were absent.

Fabrics

- BB1 black or dark grey. Hard with smooth feel and granular fracture. Abundant, well-sorted, medium-sized, subangular quartz. Black burnished ware category 1 (Tomber and Dore 1997 BB1 DOR).
- GRA Very hard smooth, medium grey ware with smooth fracture. Moderate fine quartz and rare coarse black burnt organics and rounded white inclusions. Overfired. Unknown.
- GRB1 Hard, smooth grey ware with irregular fracture. Moderate, medium, subrounded quartz, sparse, medium, rounded, brown inclusions and rare, long, thin black inclusions- burnt organics.
- OAA2 orange with grey core. Soft with powdery feel and finely irregular fracture. Common, well-sorted, fine quartz and sparse ill-sorted fine to medium, rounded red brown inclusions.
- OAB1 pale orange ware. Slightly soft with irregular fracture. Moderate, medium, subrounded quartz, sparse, medium, rounded red/brown argillaceous inclusions and rare, medium, rounded white inclusions.

OAC1 Pale orange. Hard, rough with irregular fracture. Moderate, coarse, ill-sorted, subangular quartz, often crystalline appearance; moderate, coarse, ill-sorted, rounded, black or brown inclusions, probably iron oxides.

3.3 Mellor 2006 The Samian Ware Pottery.

A Report by Felicity Wild

The ditch fills excavated in 2006 produced six sherds of samian ware, in a very fragmentary and abraded condition. All were Central Gaulish and of second-century date.

Two joining sherds, presumably from a bowl of form 37, badly degraded and with all surface slip missing, showed traces of possible scroll decoration (both from (01)/[02]). Two of the other pieces were rim sherds of dishes, probably of the Hadrianic-early Antonine form 18/31 rather than the later second-century form 31 (one from (17)/[02] the other from (49)/[48]); a third scrap may have come from the base of a similar, but rather thin, dish (from within (01)/[02]). The sixth scrap was too small and worn for the form to be identifiable (from (30)/[48]).

The material was in too poor a condition for further work to be necessary, or even possible. The decoration on the form 37 sherds was too abraded for the scheme of decoration, still less the potter and date, to be identifiable with certainty. A date in the middle of the second century AD seems most likely for the group as a whole.

3.4 Mellor 2006 The Medieval pottery

A Report by Chris Cumberpatch

The medieval pottery from Mellor is listed in Table 2. The quantities were relatively small (twenty-eight sherds weighing 386 grams and representing a maximum of twenty-five vessels). In addition, a small quantity of later medieval pottery (Cistercian ware) was identified amongst the material from the upper layers of the site and this is discussed in the following section.

Hillam type ware

The earliest type of post-Conquest pottery from Mellor appears to be Hillam type ware, identified in contexts 26, 36, 49 and the subsoil. Hillam type ware is believed to date to between the later eleventh and early thirteenth centuries (Cumberpatch 2002) and is characterised by its buff to white colour, gritty texture and abundant quartz and non-crystalline red and/or black inclusions. The extent of the diversity within the class suggests that it was made widely by many potters exploiting different clay sources but working to a common design (Cumberpatch 1997, 2002:173-4). The distribution of the pottery indicates that it is principally a West Yorkshire type although it also occurs in South Yorkshire (generally north of the river Don) and, as here, in the northern and western part of the Peak District. The commonest vessel type is a wide-mouthed jar or cooking pot with a distinctive square or diamond shaped rim. Such vessels often have black sooty deposits externally and have been interpreted as having been used for processing milk and milk products and as cooking pots. The Buff Sandy ware sherd identified in context 1 is an example of a closely related type which lacks the iron-rich non-crystalline element and was presumably manufactured using different clay resources to those which produced the Hillam type wares.

Splash glazed sandy ware

As discussed elsewhere (Cumberpatch 1997) medieval pottery in Yorkshire and neighbouring areas falls into two broad classes; Gritty ware and Sandy ware. While Hillam type ware is an example of the Gritty ware class, contemporary Sandy wares are represented by a variety of splash glazed, sandy textured wares. Two sherds of this type were identified amongst the Mellor assemblage (contexts 12 and 154). It has not proved possible to identify a source for these sherds and while it is probable that they are of local origin it should be noted that medieval wares were often transported over considerable distances and not always as an adjunct to the movement of other goods, as has been discussed in relation to the assemblage from Pontefract Castle (Cumberpatch 2002).

Shell tempered ware

The Shell Tempered ware was examined by Jane Young and her catalogue has been incorporated into Table 2. The high proportion of calcareous shell fragments in shell tempered ware means that it is susceptible to chemical erosion when in an acidic soil, resulting in a pitted vesicular appearance. The loss of the shell makes it difficult to identify such sherds with any certainty and as a result the date ranges are less precise than they might otherwise be. The sherds from Mellor are either of Potterhanworth type (POTT) or North Lincolnshire Shelly ware type (NLST) but the condition is too poor for it to be certain. The

possible date ranges are indicated in the data table (see also Young and Vince 2005). It is of interest that this type of pottery occurs so far west and it is far from clear whether it was the intrinsic qualities of the pots themselves that led to their wide distribution or whether they were of value because of their contents.

Derbyshire Coarse Soft Orange Sandy ware (DCSOSW)

Two sherds of Derbyshire Coarse Soft Orange Sandy ware were noted in contexts 12 and 49. This type of pottery has been defined elsewhere (Cumberpatch 2004a, 2004b) but, as yet, no source has been determined for it and the date range remains unknown, a problem discussed in greater detail elsewhere (Cumberpatch 2004b). A probable variant, Oxidised Sandy ware was identified in context 17.

Imported wares

Two sherds of pottery (contexts 49 and subsoil) have been tentatively identified as of Northern French origin. Both had been heavily burnt at a temperature high enough to blister and discolour the glaze and to render the task of identification difficult. The suggestion that they represent French imports must therefore be treated with some caution, but they do not appear to be local, although white-firing clays do occur where Coal Measures deposits outcrop to the east of the Pennines and may also occur to the west.

Cistercian ware

The Cistercian ware from the site is listed together with the early modern and later pottery in Table 3, reflecting the circumstances of its recovery and the somewhat ambiguous status of this type of pottery. Cistercian ware appeared around the middle of the 15th century and persisted until c.1600 when it was replaced with Blackware. It was amongst the first of the distinctively post-medieval types of pottery and its appearance in the later medieval period underlines the difficulty of arriving at a definite date for a widespread series of changes in society which manifested themselves in different ways. The evidence of Cistercian ware suggests that significant changes were occurring in society which preceded the establishment of the Tudor dynasty (c.1485) or of the political changes associated with the dissolution of the monasteries which ended in c.1530 (Cumberpatch 2003).

Cistercian ware was manufactured widely in northern England, most notably at Wrenthorpe near Wakefield (Moorhouse and Roberts 1992) and at Ticknall in south Derbyshire (Spavold and Brown 2005). Other sites have been noted by Boyle (unpublished) who has also proposed the mid 15th century date for the start of production, in place of the earlier suggestion of c.1485, proposed by Moorhouse (1983).

Further work

Medieval pottery: it would be advantageous if all of the medieval pottery from past seasons could be brought together for the purposes of comparison and the creation of a unified type series, to be cross-referenced as far as possible with the wares discussed by the author elsewhere (Cumberpatch 2004a, 2004b) and in relation to any reports that may exist covering medieval pottery from sites in Greater Manchester and the surrounding area (with which the author is unfamiliar). It is probable that this was the source of at least some of medieval

pottery from Mellor even though it seems clear that the Hillam type wares were coming from potteries located to the east and north of the site. This work might be best undertaken after the completion of the 2007 season in order to include as wide a range of material as possible.

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Tr.	Cut / Feature	Fill/layer	SFN	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes	Illustr.
43	2	1		Buff Sandy ware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	Medieval	Small, abraded sherd, no surfaces surviving	
43	3	4		POTT NLST	1	6	1	Base	Hollow ware	U/Dec	LC12th - C14th	Too leached for positive identification; partially sooted	
43	3	4		POTT NLST	1	7	1	BS	Large jar	U/Dec	LC12th - C14th	Too leached for positive identification; partial internal soot	
43	3	4		POTT NLST	1	12	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	LC12th - C14th	Possibly part of the large, multi-shoulder vessel but looks sandier	
43	3	4		POTT NLST	2	16	1	BS	Large jar	Red slip externally	LC12th - C14th	Too leached for positive identification	
43	3	4		POTT NLST	6	163	1	Rim & BS	Large jar	Early rim, sharp, plain and everted	LC12th - MC13th	Partial int & ext soot; too leached for positive identification	Yes
43		11		POTT NLST	1	11	1	Base	Large jar/bowl	U/Dec	LC12th - C14th	Too leached for positive identification	
43	2	12		DCSOSW	1	4	1	Rim	Hollow ware	Rounded, slightly everted rim	Medieval	Abraded; quartz temper	
43	2	12		Splash Glazed Sandy ware	1	3	1	Base	Hollow ware	U/Dec	LC11th - EC13th	No splash glaze but fabric is similar to [153] (154) /49\	
43	2	17		Oxidised Sandy ware	1	12	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	Medieval	cf. DSOSW but harder and with a denser texture; angular quartz and fine black grit	
43	24	26	64	Hillam type ware	1	17	1	BS	Jar/CP	U/Dec	LC11th - EC13th	Thin walled vessel with quartz and sparse non-crystalline grit; sooted ext	
43	3	36	61	Hillam type ware	1	13	1	Rim	Jar/CP	U/Dec	LC11th - EC13th	Flat topped rim, curved ext ; sooted int & ext	Yes
43	48	49		DCSOSW	2	16	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	Medieval	See Cumberpatch 2004a, 2004b	
43	48	49		Hillam type ware	2	30	1	Rim	Jar/CP	U/Dec	LC11th - EC13th	Flat-topped, square-sectioned rim; no sooting	Yes
43	48	49		Hillam type ware	1	15	1	Base	Jar/CP	U/Dec	LC11th - EC13th	Burnt on underside and ext of walls	
43	48	49		N.French?	1	11	1	Rim &	Hollow ware	Blistered yellow	Medieval	White to buff body with	

								handle		glaze int & ext; patchy		voids and fine inclusions
43	102	154		POTT / NLST	1	10	1	BS	Large jar/bowl	U/Dec	LC12th - C14th	Too leached to be positively identifiable
43	102	154	49	Splash Glazed Sandy ware	1	18	1	Base	Hollow ware	Sparse green splashed glaze ext	LC11th - EC13th	Abundant fine quartz and black grit, oxidised ext with reduced core
43		Subsoil		Hillam type ware	1	13	1	Base	Jar/CP	U/Dec	LC11th - EC13th	Sooted on underside
45		Subsoil		N.French?	2	13	1	Rim & BS	Hollow ware	Blistered glaze int	Medieval	Dull buff body, grey ext surface, glazed int, but heavily burnt
				Total	29	391	20					

Table 2. Medieval pottery from Mellor (OVM06)

3.5 Mellor 2006 The Later post-medieval, early modern and recent pottery

A Report by Chris Cumberpatch

The post-medieval, early modern and recent pottery is listed and described in Table 3. The assemblage consisted of 905 sherds weighing 5243 grams and represented a maximum of 887 vessels. The range of types was wide and spanned the period between the 17th and later 19th centuries with the greater part of the assemblage being of 18th and 19th century (early modern to recent) date. The group also included a collection of unstratified material from the ground surface and the spoil heap. This material was scanned but not quantified or described in detail.

Purple Glazed ware

The term Purple Glazed ware has been used to refer to sherds with a distinctive very hard, dense fabric and thin, hard purple glaze, applied internally, externally and both. Such wares form part of the Midlands Purple ware group but this name conceals a wide variety of fabrics and vessel forms and it seems clear that this type of pottery was being made very widely between the later 15th and later 17th centuries. In some cases it is probable that the type overlaps with some of the larger Blackware vessels, specifically those of a utilitarian rather than tableware type. Of particular note amongst the Mellor assemblage were the joining rim sherds from Trenches 49 and 51.

Brown Glazed Coarse and Fine ware (BGCW and BGFW)

Brown glazed utilitarian wares (pancheons, jars and cisterns) form a major part of pottery assemblages dating to between the 17th and early 20th centuries but remain the least investigated of any major class of domestic pottery within this period. For this reason, and in spite of clear differences in both the details of vessel form and fabric, it is exceptionally difficult to provide adequate date ranges for particular sub-types. The suggested wide date ranges represent the maximum possible range and where more closely datable material (normally tablewares) can be identified, this is a more reliable indicator of the possible date of the group or assemblage.

Two groups of wares have been identified within the larger utilitarian ware group. The origin of the *Brown Glazed Coarsewares* can be traced back to the 16th and early 17th centuries (Cumberpatch 2003) and similar wares remained in production throughout the 18th and 19th centuries and into the early years of the 20th century. The commonest vessel form is the pancheon, a narrow-based wide-mouthed bowl, typically glazed internally. The numbers of these vessels excavated from all types of site is vast and it seems that they must have fulfilled a variety of domestic functions. Production is poorly understood and documented but must have played a significant part in the economy of many areas throughout the period of their use. A smaller number of large jars usually glazed internally and externally, has been noted on a variety of sites. Cisterns are a rarer and earlier form. They rarely seem to occur after the later 18th century and it is probable that they were superseded by stoneware cisterns and water coolers. The suggested date ranges for individual vessels and groups of vessels from Mellor have been ascribed on this somewhat insecure basis with narrower ranges proposed where the technical characteristics of the sherds suggest that this is appropriate.

Brown Glazed Finewares form a distinctive group within this utilitarian ware tradition consisting mainly of smaller hollow wares (jars, jugs etc) and appear to be principally of later 17th and 18th century date and to occur in 19th century contexts principally as a residual element. As with the Brown Glazed Coarsewares, individual sherds have been ascribed dates which appear appropriate in the light of their individual characteristics.

Yellow Glazed Coarseware

A counterpart of Brown Glazed Coarseware was Yellow Glazed Coarseware, a slightly inaccurate term which refers to vessels, normally bowls or pancheons bearing a coat of white slip internally. When combined with clear glaze this gives the distinctive yellow finish from which the type takes its name. The date range is similar to that of Brown Glazed Coarseware. The reason for the use of the slip is unknown.

Slipware

The term Slipware has been applied to vessels bearing trailed, combed (or feathered) and 'joggled' slip decoration (Barker 1993). It covers press moulded and wheel thrown dishes as well as a relatively small number of hollow wares which bear trailed decoration. For the purposes of description and analysis, Slipwares have been distinguished from Slip Coated wares which are described below.

Slipware type 1 appears to be the earliest type of slipware on the site. This is distinguished by the use of white slip, applied in linear trails, to a Redware body, normally an open dish or bowl. It appears that this type of slipware was predominantly of 17th century date with relatively little occurring in later contexts (other than as a residual element).

Trailed and combed slip decoration is typically found on the press moulded dishes. These are made by pressing a flat sheet of clay into a fired clay mould and allowing the porous clay of the mould to absorb some of the water in the clay sheet. The shrinkage of the clay allows the moulded vessel to be removed from the mould once it has reached the leather hard stage. The rims were finished with a tool giving the distinctive 'pie-crust' or scalloped effect. This seems to have been both practical and decorative in nature as dishes could be stacked rim-to-rim in the kiln with the scalloping preventing (or minimising) adhesion during firing. Coloured slip was applied to the inside of the dish (prior to firing) coating the surface and the excess poured off. A basic colour gave a ground upon which decorative motifs in slips of contrasting colour could be applied. The commonest procedure seems to have been to apply a coat of dark red slip to a clay body that was generally white or pale buff in colour. White slip and red-brown slip were then applied over this to achieve a range of decorative effects (other sequences of application can also be seen). Examination of the sherds in cross section with a hand lense or microscope clearly show the layering effect achieved in this fashion. The commonest designs were based upon trailed lines and bands (with the slip contained in a horn or other receptacle with a narrow aperture) which were then modified with the use of a feather or pointed instrument to produce the characteristic 'Bakewell Tart' effect or were joggled whilst the slip was still liquid to produce a swirled effect. A maximum of three colours (white, red-brown and dark red) seems to have been used and these sherds are noted as 'tri-coloured' in the data tables. Other sherds were bi-coloured or simply coated with a single layer of white slip.

Slip coated ware

Slip Coated wares overlap in terms of vessel form and overall appearance with the Late Blackwares described below. The term Slip Coated ware has been reserved for vessels with a buff to white body coated with a dark slip while late Blackwares have a darker, usually red, body with clear glaze inside and out. The term refers principally to hollow wares, but may also be applied to dishes and other flatwares where only a single layer of slip has been employed. In the case of a hollow ware vessel, once the pot has been thrown and allowed to dry, it is dipped into a coloured slip, the dry but porous surface allowing a thin, generally even, layer of slip to stick to the body of the pot. If the intention was to coat the inside of the pot (whether flat or hollow) slip would be poured in and immediately poured out again, leaving a similar thin layer. Once glazed, the visual effect on light-bodied vessels with a dark slip would resemble that of the Late Blackwares where the dark body underlying the clear glaze was obtained by the use of a dark red firing body.

The pattern of slip application on the slip coated wares is not regular. Some vessels seem to have a more or less complete coverage externally, only ending immediately above the base while other vessels have irregular patches and stripes of dark red slip under clear glaze, giving a streaky mottled effect which has led these vessels to be classified as a form of Mottled ware. As with all classes of pottery within the early modern and recent group from Mellor, the small sherd size and the lack of reconstructable profiles makes it difficult to be certain about the appearance of the finished vessels but there is no reason to suppose that they differed in any respects from examples from other sites.

Typical forms include globular vessels with small footed bases. Such vessels are extremely common on sites of all types of later 17th and 18th century date but they are rarely found as either complete or reconstructable vessels and the bases and lower bodies are the commonest identifiable elements. Some certainly had handles and it is probable that they were handled porringers or globular mugs, although the shape contrasts with the straight sided mugs in Mottled ware and Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware which are a common contemporary form.

Blackware and Late Blackware

A relatively small number of sherds from the site were identified as 17th century Blackwares (see Moorhouse and Slowikowski 1992 and Cumberpatch 2002 for general descriptions of the type) with considerably more being classified as 'Blackware type', reflecting the difficulty of making positive identifications on the basis of small and highly fragmented sherds of pottery. It seems certain, however, that these vessels represent 17th century activity on the site although it is unclear as to exactly how extensive this was in comparison to 18th century activity which is represented by a much greater volume of pottery

Late Blackwares are characterised by their dark red fabric with glaze internally and externally, in the latter case usually ending just above the footed base. The dark fabric with clear glaze gives a dark red to black finish and seems to have been judged as a desirable finish, to the extent that the Slip Coated wares described above were slipped in order to obtain a similar effect.

The term 'Late Blackware' relates back to the 17th century Blackwares, themselves a development from the earlier Cistercian wares (Cumberpatch 2002:186-7). Although visually similar in terms of the shiny black finish, the Late Blackwares represent a different

range of vessel forms, being rounded with globular bodies rather than having the tall, flaring forms typical of true Blackwares (e.g. Moorhouse and Slowikowski 1992: 96-98, Figs.47, 61-64). The typical globular handled form of the Late Blackwares was formerly known as a *meeas* (or *meace* or *mease*) pot in Yorkshire and has been described by Kenworthy in his early (1928) account of the Midhope and Midhopestones pottery near Sheffield (Kenworthy 1928:88-93).

As a general note, it should be emphasised that there is a degree of ambiguity in the definition of Late Blackwares, Mottled type wares and Slip Coated wares. Distinctive examples are easy to define and to classify, but there is a degree of convergence between these groups which leads to some degree of overlap and uncertainty in identification. This is, to some extent, reflected in the notes section of the tables and the use of the 'type' suffix in a number of cases.

Yellow ware

A rarer counterpart of later Cistercian wares and Blackwares were the Yellow wares. These seem to have been manufactured alongside the Cistercian wares and Blackwares (they are sometimes referred to as 'reversed Cistercian wares') but have a white firing body with clear glaze which gives them their distinctive lemon yellow colour. The date range of individual vessels is not always easy to determine as the vessel forms are not as distinctive of those of the related wares. The dates ascribed in the data tables are those which seem most appropriate to the sherds in question.

Mottled ware

Mottled ware is a standard part of most 18th century pottery assemblages and is characterised by its buff to white body and honey-coloured to brown mottled glazed finish. The mottling is the result of the inclusion of manganese in the glaze and vessel forms are similar to those in the broadly contemporary Brown Salt Glazed stoneware; mugs, tankards etc. The vessels tend to be small and relatively thin-walled which makes them susceptible to breakage and further fragmentation after deposition. This was certainly the case with the current assemblage and explains the relatively small number of sherds identified to vessel type. One sherd is worthy of particular note, part of the rim of a dish with a moulded 'cable' design around the edge of the rim. This is an unusual vessel for which no parallels are known to the author.

Tin Glazed Earthenware

Tin Glazed earthenware represents the first successful effort to produce a bright white glazed ware type to compete with imported porcelain and with a surface which could be painted in bright colours. Although to a degree impractical (the soft body and hard, brittle glaze are easily damaged), the type achieved widespread popularity in Europe and was manufactured in Britain, although not on a widespread basis. In the absence of distinctive designs and without detailed chemical analysis it is not possible to suggest the origin of the three sherds from Mellor or to be certain about their date, other than it lies within the later 17th to 18th century range. By the middle of the 18th century Tin Glazed Earthenware had been rendered obsolete by the development of fine stonewares and refined earthenwares, both of which are far commoner archaeologically than are the tin glazed wares.

Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware (BSGSW)

Brown Salt Glazed Stonewares are ubiquitous on 18th and 19th century sites throughout northern England (and more widely). The group as a whole can be divided into three sub-groups; tablewares, cooking/storage wares and retail or transport vessels (bottles, flagons etc). Tablewares are typically of 18th century date and include mugs and tankards, jugs and bowls (e.g. Jennings 1981: Fig 100). Such vessels become rarer in the later 18th and 19th centuries and production appears to have shifted towards the manufacture of utilitarian wares including bottles and flasks, cooking vessels (loaf pots, stew pots, souse pots) and storage jars (Walter 1999). In part this appears to be connected with the rise of the coal fired domestic cooking range incorporating an oven which allowed families to prepare a wider range of food in their own homes and so created a demand for a range of durable cooking vessels suitable for oven use. It is also linked with the decline in the importance of vernacular tablewares and the spread of everyday tablewares in refined earthenware bodies.

The 19th century cooking wares were typically decorated with bands of rouletting around the body, frequently combined with repeated stamped patterns consisting of stars, wheel patterns and short curved or angular lines. The presence or absence of such designs is indicated in the data tables as is the date range of the individual vessels.

White Salt Glazed Stoneware (WSGSW)

White Salt Glazed Stoneware was the first ceramic body to challenge effectively the dominance of imported Chinese porcelain and to bring fine, hard whitewares within the financial reach of consumers of the middle and aspiring middle classes (Edwards and Hampson 2005). Developed in Staffordshire in the early 18th century, this ware was the most significant home produced refined ware between c.1720 and c.1770 (Barker and Ford 1999) and appears to have been manufactured by at least 125 potters throughout Britain (Edwards and Hampson 2005: Appendix 1). It was produced widely in Staffordshire and in South and West Yorkshire as well as in the north-east, the north Midlands and southern England. Production at the famous Rockingham pottery in South Yorkshire appears to have begun around 1769 and to have continued until at least 1775 (Cox and Cox 2001:31-33). It is also known to have been manufactured at the Rotherham Old Pottery and a vessel bearing John Platt's name and the date 1767 is held in the Victoria and Albert Museum (Lawrence 1974:122).

The date range shown in the tables (c.1720 – c.1780) reflects the known dates of production in both Staffordshire and Yorkshire and also makes allowance for possible later production elsewhere (Barker and Ford 1999). The types of vessels and the range of designs were highly standardised across the country and it is impossible to ascribe individual vessels to manufacturers on the basis of form or design.

Other stonewares

In addition to the salt glazed stonewares described above, a variety of other green, buff and pale brown stonewares were noted and are listed in the tables. These appeared to be of 19th century date and included bottles and flagons as well as less easily identifiable vessel forms.

Creamware

The general date range for Creamwares, the first of the refined lead-glazed earthenwares, is generally taken as *c.*1740 – *c.*1820, based on the evidence from Staffordshire (Barker and Ford 1999). Production at the Swinton Pottery in South Yorkshire was underway by June 1770, the date of the first documentary reference to the ware while the earliest marked piece dates to 1771 (Cox and Cox 2001:34). Creamware appears to have been a major element in the earlier phases of manufacture at the Don Pottery (established in 1801) where production continued until well into the 1820s (Griffin 2001:104) and at the Leeds Pottery from its establishment in 1770 (Griffin 2001, 2005). It was also manufactured widely at other potteries throughout the country. In Staffordshire it was in production from the mid-18th century, hence the early start-date (*c.*1740) indicated in the tables. Barker and Ford have suggested that the popularity of the ware began to decline after *c.*1780 when transfer printed Pearlwares became popular, but the continuation of production at the Don Pottery into the 19th century suggests that such changes in fashion took place at different times and perhaps at different rates in different places throughout the country. In his discussion of the relative dating of Creamware at the Leeds pottery, Griffin has noted that

creamware continued to be made, alongside pearlware, well into the third decade of the nineteenth century (2005:193)

It should not, therefore, be assumed that the Creamwares necessarily predate Pearlwares, as production of the latter appears to have begun, at the Don Pottery at least, in the first decade of the 19th century (Griffin 2001:104). This pattern may well have been similar elsewhere.

The range of Creamwares at Mellor appeared to include both flatwares and hollow wares but it was difficult to be certain of the character of certain sherds due to their highly fragmented state. Decoration was sparse but where present conformed to the generally recognised range of styles and motifs. Like the earlier White Salt Glazed Stonewares, Creamwares are highly standardised in character and it is generally not possible to attribute particular items to specific potteries without the evidence of maker's marks.

Pearlware, Transfer Printed Pearlware and Edged ware

A date range of *c.*1780 – *c.*1840 has been ascribed to the Pearlwares on the basis of Barker's dating of the industry in Staffordshire and additional evidence available from the South and West Yorkshire potteries. It should be noted that Pearlwares are somewhat more difficult to identify precisely than are Creamwares or White Salt Glazed Stonewares, particularly as in the present case, when sherds are crazed, discoloured and highly fragmented. The chief characteristic, a blue-white or blue-grey tint to the glaze, obtained by including small quantities of cobalt and copper to the glaze (Barker and Ford 1999), is not one which is particularly distinctive as later Whitewares occasionally appear to have been subject to slight 'bluing' as the colour from the transfer printed designs can leach into the surrounding glaze. This having been noted, other characteristics tend to suggest that there are both Pearlware and Whiteware elements within the Mellor assemblage.

The first reference to transfer printed wares at Swinton (later the Rockingham pottery) dates to 14th July 1788 and early printed wares from the pottery appear to have been in both black and blue (Cox and Cox 2001:70-2). Production of Pearlwares continued after the pottery was taken over by the Bramelds in 1806 with transfer printed patterns in blue, brown and black.

After 1820 a wider range of printed designs were manufactured and individual pieces continue to be described as Pearlware by Cox and Cox up until c.1830. Production of transfer printed wares continued up until the closure of the pottery in 1842, presumably with a progressive whitening of the glaze, as seen elsewhere.

If identifiable wares from the Rockingham pottery are generally rare, the same cannot be said of the Don Pottery where production began in 1801. Barker period marks in particular are relatively common and the distinctive Italian Scenes borders design occurs regularly. In terms of the identification of Pearlwares, Griffin has noted that

Don Pearlware ranges from a very obvious addition of cobalt, one may at times be tempted to say 'over generous' to a glaze where it is hardly discernable at all (2001:104).

A similar trait has been ascribed to the Leeds Pottery (Griffin 2005; 191) where production seems to have begun at around the same time as it did at Swinton (the precise date is not known).

Although there is no direct evidence that wares from these potteries reached Mellor, the example is useful in indicating the ambiguities in the dating of individual sherds and vessels and the degree of latitude that must be allowed in dating individual features or events on the basis of the pottery associated with them.

The Pearlwares from Mellor included both plain and transfer printed examples, although few of the latter were complete enough to allow positive identification of the design. No maker's marks were present and it was not therefore possible to suggest a source or sources for the vessels. Evidence from Sheffield suggests that local potteries dominated local markets until the latter part of the 19th century, but it is unclear whether it is possible to generalise from this example.

Edged wares form a distinctive group within the wider Pearlware category. The distinctive characteristic of this group of wares is the moulded 'grass' pattern edge emphasised with blue or, less commonly, green paint. Barker and Ford (1999) have suggested that the type, which was easy and cheap to manufacture, was popular from c.1810 to the early 1830s. It was manufactured widely throughout Britain but as individual vessels are rarely marked, it is virtually impossible to ascribe particular vessels to specific potteries unless they carry marks.

Whiteware and Transfer Printed Whiteware

As noted above, the distinction between Pearlware and Whiteware is by no means a straightforward one and on some sites this has had an impact on the dating of Whiteware sherds. In the case of Mellor, this was a factor in the case of sherds which were weathered, crazed or discoloured. Such examples are noted in the data tables.

Whitewares of a variety of kinds were the standard tableware from the mid 19th century onwards. Underglaze transfer printing was the normal type of decoration into the later 19th and early 20th century when the development of lithographic printing and overglaze transfer techniques made a much wider range of colour and decoration possible. Plain white wares, including ironstone and white granite wares also form part of the whiteware group, alongside a variety of other decorated wares, some of which are described below.

The Whitewares from Mellor included the standard range of tablewares and kitchen wares. The range of transfer printed designs is unremarkable and includes examples of some of the more popular designs (Willow, Asiatic Pheasants), some of which also appear on transfer printed Bone China and transfer printed Pearlware from the site. Other designs were certainly present but the fragmentation of the assemblage precluded definite identifications.

Colour Glazed ware

The term *Colour Glazed ware* refers to refined earthenwares which were decorated with coloured glaze. These include Creamwares, Pearlwares and Whitewares but it is often difficult or impossible to distinguish the type involved, especially when the sherds are small and fragmented, as they are in this case. Probable date ranges for the individual sherds are given in the data tables.

Slip Banded ware and Mocha ware

Banded wares, both blue painted and decorated with a variety of coloured slips, are a common find on sites throughout Yorkshire and Derbyshire (as well as beyond) and, as one of the cheapest decorated hollow wares available during the 19th century, clearly represented a significant part of many domestic ceramic assemblages. Banded decoration is found on both Whiteware and Cane Coloured ware (see below) bodies and the combination of band and line widths and colours is highly variable (as noted in the data table). Inevitably, given the fragmentation of the vessels, it is not always possible to determine the precise combination of lines and bands which make up individual motifs or, indeed the extent to which there were regular patterns shared by particular vessel types or sets of complementary vessels.

Amongst the commonest types were *Blue Banded wares*, principally bowls with ring foot bases and mugs. Bowls occurred in two forms, a simple rounded form and the carinated or 'London' form. Both forms have simple rounded rims with those on the carinated bowls being slightly everted. A third bowl form, usually resembling a pudding basin, has a folded rim which gives a distinctive external bulge. Rarer forms include jugs and jars. According to Barker and Ford (1999) slip decoration first appears on Staffordshire Creamwares and Pearlwares around 1775 and on whitewares from the 1830s / 1840s. Banded wares continued in production into the 20th century (and are still manufactured as 'Cornish wares'), but as the 19th century progressed the numbers of banded mugs declined and the number of bowls, particularly the carinated or 'London' form, increased. Barker and Ford suggest that the rounded bowls are generally pre-1815 in date with the carinated bowls becoming popular subsequently. This having been noted, it should be said that the rounded bowls from sites in Sheffield (the only city in the region to have produced significant excavated assemblages) generally do not seem to be as early as this; the vessels lack the thin, fine finish which seems to be characteristic of Pearlwares and the ring-foot bases have a thick, rounded profile which is a trait perhaps more commonly associated with Whitewares.

Mugs are distinguished by their straight-sided form and the small footed or splayed bases, sometimes with one of more raised lines or ridges above the foot. In this, they seem to have some affinity with the 18th century Mottled ware and Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware mugs and the design of these can perhaps be seen as the progenitor of the 19th century types.

Mocha ware is a distinctive variant of the slip banded wares with dendritic 'trees' and 'bushes' formed by dropping a spot of a weak acidic solution onto wet slip. Only one sherd was noted amongst the Mellor assemblage (Trench 51), part of a brown mocha motif on a buff slip band. As with the Cane Coloured wares described below, Mocha ware has been linked with Sharpe's pottery in Derbyshire but was certainly manufactured much more widely from the 1790s to c.1895.

Cane Coloured ware

Cane Coloured wares, which Barker and Ford suggest become common from the 1830s/1840s onwards, are present in both slip banded and plain varieties. The name 'Cane Coloured ware' has been preferred to 'Yellow ware' (as used by Barker and Ford, 1999) to avoid confusion with 16th and 17th century Yellow wares and the later Yellow Glazed Coarsewares. Contemporary 19th century names included yellow ware, yellow cane ware and Derbyshire ironstone cane ware. It was made very widely but is often associated particularly with Sharpe's pottery at Swadlincote and other Derbyshire potteries, although excavations on sites in the Don Valley have produced numerous examples of wares manufactured locally (e.g. Griffin 2001:212, Plate 300) and it should not be thought of as a regionally restricted ware in any sense. The cane coloured wares in the assemblage discussed here included the base of a dish and a sherd bearing an undiagnostic wheel stamp.

Sponged ware and Sponge Printed ware

The sponge decorated Whitewares have been divided into two groups in the data tables; *Sponged wares* and *Sponge Printed wares*. The former are distinguished by all-over sponging with the decoration forming an irregular pattern. The *Sponge Printed wares* are distinguished by having repeated motifs or designs at intervals around the vessel. Sponged decoration appears on teawares from the early 19th century but becomes much more common from the 1840s with the introduction of the pre-cut sponges which were used to produce repeated patterns including diamonds, flowers, fronds etc (Barker and Ford 1999). Sponged wares of both types were cheap and easy to produce as they required very little skill to decorate. As a result they were popular amongst poorer sections of the population and occur widely on sites of mid-19th century and later date.

Bone China and porcelain

Bone china is a type of soft paste porcelain which became the standard type of Staffordshire body by c.1810 (Barker and Ford 1999). It consisted of china clay, china stone and up to 50% calcined bone and was normally lead glazed. The result was a distinctive very white body with a 'crystalline' appearance in cross-section. Bone china was in widespread production by 1810 and a variety of decorative techniques were employed, including underglaze transfer printing. A range of decorative techniques were noted on the material from Mellor, reflecting the broad date range of this type of pottery. Underglaze transfer prints included Chinese landscapes while other sherds bore overglaze gold and silver lines and blue sprigged decoration.

Unglazed Red Earthenware (URE)

The term Unglazed Red Earthenwares refers principally to horticultural wares, but can also include some utilitarian domestic wares similar to Brown Glazed Coarseware but without the

glaze. In addition to conventional flowerpots (identified by the presence of perforated bases), a variety of other types of vessel including shallow trays, dishes and bowls also appear to have been used in gardens and greenhouses in the 18th and 19th centuries and it is possible that such vessels are amongst those represented by the sherds listed in Table 3.

Discussion

While the assemblage of early modern and recent pottery described here considerably extends the quantity of material from the site, it does not add a great deal in terms of the date range or range of vessel types known from the site. It also appears to be somewhat more fragmented than assemblages recovered from earlier years, probably indicating different patterns of activity across the site. A full review and comparison of the pottery assemblages of this date from the various season's excavations may well prove informative in this regard.

The unstratified assemblage from the spoil heap and surface collection in the garden include further examples of many of the types from the stratified deposits. Individual items of interest included an unusual later medieval rod handle, and an unusual spiral decorative element in Mottled ware. One sherd of transfer printed ware has part of the maker's mark on the reverse. This reads 'INDIAN...' and may be one of a number of series of designs featuring Indian subjects. Unfortunately the sherd is too small for the mark to be identified with any certainty.

Further work

Post-medieval and later pottery: It is likely that further excavation will produce further assemblages of post-medieval, early modern and recent pottery. The broad pattern of types of pottery present on the site is most probably already clear from the work undertaken to date and it would be feasible to begin to draft an account of the activities on the site from the 16th or 17th century onwards in which patterns of material culture acquisition and use could be linked with historical events and historically attested activities on the site. The broad pattern of changes in social practice from the medieval to the post-medieval period as indicated by changes in pottery styles have been discussed by the author elsewhere (Cumberpatch 2003) and a further consideration of the situation from the end of the 17th century to the end of the 19th century is in preparation (Cumberpatch, in prep). A review of the evidence accumulated to date would form a useful starting point for a narrative which would link the pottery with other aspects of the history and archaeology of the site. Comparative data exists in the form of the work undertaken at Alderley Sandhills where the excavation of a number of cottages produced an assemblage which overlaps chronologically with that from Mellor.

Currently lacking is data pertaining to post-medieval potteries in the Greater Manchester area which might have supplied Mellor. A literature search, followed by documentary research in local archives would be a useful start in identifying potteries active in the period between the 16th and later 19th centuries. It is possible that the area was drawing on Staffordshire potteries throughout this period, but it would be unwise to assume such a connection and the evidence from South and West Yorkshire and Derbyshire suggests that local production played a significant part in the supply of all classes of pottery; utilitarian ware, vernacular and formal tableware.

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Tr	Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
43	Subsoil	BGFW	2	23	2	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	LC17th - C18th	
43	Subsoil	Blackware type	1	2	1	Base	Hollow ware	Black glaze int	?C17th	Could be Late Blackware (C18th)
43	Subsoil	Edged ware	1	3	1	Rim	Plate	Moulded rim with blue paint	c.1810 - c.1830	
43	Subsoil	Late Blackware	1	5	1	BS	Hollow ware	Black ware int & partially ext	C18th	Sooted ext
43	Subsoil	Purple glazed ware	1	79	1	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze ext, brown glaze int	C16th - C17th	Hard, dense reduced fabric with sparse black and quartz grit
43	Subsoil	TP Whiteware	2	10	2	Rim	Plate	Asiatic Pheasants	M - LC19th	
43	Topsoil	BGFW	1	2	1	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext	C18th - EC19th	Bright orange fabric
43	Topsoil	Blue Banded ware	1	8	1	BS	Carinated bowl	Blue band ext	C19th	
43	Topsoil	Blue Banded ware	1	2	1	BS	Hollow ware	Rilled band with blue paint ext	LC18th - C19th	
43	Topsoil	Bone china	2	10	2	Rim	Flatware	Low definition relief moulding int	C19th	
43	Topsoil	Bone china	1	1	1	BS	Flatware	Blue sprigged decoration	C19th	
43	Topsoil	BSGSW	1	1	1	Rim	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C18th	Possibly a mug
43	Topsoil	Cistercian ware	1	81	1	Base	Cup/tyg	U/Dec	c.1450 - c.1600	Brown finish
43	Topsoil	Cistercian/Blackware	2	3	1	Rim	Cup/tyg	U/Dec	LC15th - C17th	
43	Topsoil	Colour glazed ware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	Dark blue ext, mottled blue-green int	LC18th - C19th	Could be a coloured Creamware but uncertain
43	Topsoil	Creamware	3	4	3	BS	Flatware	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	Abraded and discoloured
43	Topsoil	Creamware	1	32	1	Base	Mug/tankard	Footed base	c.1740 - c.1820	
43	Topsoil	Creamware	1	6	1	Handle	Mug/jug	Profiled handle with wide central lobe	c.1740 - c.1820	
43	Topsoil	Creamware	4	13	4	BS	Flatware	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	
43	Topsoil	Creamware	3	2	3	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	
43	Topsoil	Creamware	1	1	1	Rim	Hollow ware	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	
43	Topsoil	Creamware	1	4	1	BS	Flatware	Gold overglaze painted design	c.1740 - c.1820	
43	Topsoil	Creamware	1	5	1	BS	Hollow ware	Pale green underglaze leaf-like design ext	c.1740 - c.1820	
43	Topsoil	Edged ware	1	1	1	Rim	Plate	Moulded edge with blue paint	c.1810 - c.1830	
43	Topsoil	Mottled ware	1	1	1	Rim	Hollow ware	Mottled glaze int & ext	C18th	
43	Topsoil	Mottled ware	1	8	1	Handle & BS	Hollow ware	Rilled band on body	C18th	
43	Topsoil	Mottled ware	1	9	1	Rim	Hollow ware	Mottled glaze int & ext, groove below rim	C18th	
43	Topsoil	Pearlware	1	1	1	Rim	Rim/flake	Hand painted geometric frieze int	c.1780 - c.1820	
43	Topsoil	Porcelain	1	3	1	BS	Hollow ware	Overglaze transfer print; beach scene?	M - LC19th	
43	Topsoil	Redware	1	7	1	BS	Flatware	Clear glaze int	C18th	
43	Topsoil	Slip Banded ware	1	1	1	Rim	Hollow ware	Rilled band below rim with green paint	LC18th - C19th	
43	Topsoil	Slip Banded ware	1	1	1	Rim	Hollow ware	Dark line below rim int& ext	LC18th - C19th	
43	Topsoil	Slip Banded ware	1	1	1	Rim	Hollow ware	Diffuse brown bands below rim	LC18th - C19th	

Tr	Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
43	Topsoil	Slip Banded ware	1	1	1	Rim	Hollow ware	Red-ochre red bands below rim	LC18th - C19th	
43	Topsoil	Slip Banded ware	1	4	1	BS	Hollow ware	Dark slip lines ext	LC18th - C19th	
43	Topsoil	Slip Banded ware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	Brown, orange and blue bands ext	LC18th - C19th	
43	Topsoil	Slip coated ware	1	6	1	Handle & BS	Cup/tyg	Red slip int & ext under clear glaze	C18th	White body
43	Topsoil	Slip coated ware	3	12	2	Base	Hollow ware	Red slip under clear glaze	C18th	
43	Topsoil	Slip coated ware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	Red slip under clear glaze	C18th	
43	Topsoil	Slipware	1	10	1	BS	Hollow ware	Feathered slip ext	C18th	Hard, dense fabric
43	Topsoil	Slipware	1	7	1	Rim	Flatware	Embossed and rouletted design int	C18th	Press moulded dish with finger-impressed edge
43	Topsoil	TP Whiteware	1	2	1	Rim	Plate	Willow	M - LC19th	
43	Topsoil	TP Whiteware	4	4	4	BS	U/ID	Chinese landscapes	M - LC19th	
43	Topsoil	TP Whiteware	1	3	1	BS	Hollow ware	Floral-geometric design ext	M - LC19th	
43	Topsoil	TP Whiteware	1	3	1	Footring base	Plate	U/ID TP design	M - LC19th	
43	Topsoil	TP Whiteware	2	3	2	BS	Hollow ware	U/ID TP design	M - LC19th	
43	Topsoil	Whiteware	4	5	4	BS	U/ID	U/Dec	M - LC19th	Abraded and discoloured
43	Topsoil	Whiteware	1	3	1	Base	Hollow ware	Footed base	C19th	
43	Topsoil	Whiteware	5	6	5	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	M - LC19th	Flakes and body sherds
43	Topsoil	Whiteware	1	2	1	Rim	Cup/bowl	Fluted moulding	M - LC19th	
43	Topsoil	Whiteware	1	3	1	Rim	Flatware	U/Dec	M - LC19th	
43	Topsoil	WSGSW	1	1	1	BS	Plate	Moulded rim	c.1720 - c.1780	
43	Topsoil	WSGSW	1	1	1	BS	Plate	Moulded decoration around rim	c.1720 - c.1780	
43	Topsoil	WSGSW	1	2	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	c.1720 - c.1780	
43	U/S	BGCW	1	14	1	BS	Pancheon	Brown glaze int	C18th - C19th	
43	U/S	BGFW type	2	8	2	Base & BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext, int only on base	C18th	Ambiguous sherds
43	U/S	Blackware	3	7	3	Rim	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C17th	Hard, fine dark red body
43	U/S	Blackware type	1	21	1	Rim	Hollow ware	Rilled profile, thickened rim	C17th - ?EC18th	Distinctive profile; Blackware or a later version?
43	U/S	Blackware type	13	54	13	Rim	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext	C17th	Hard dark red body
43	U/S	Blackware type	1	21	1	Base	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext	C17th	Bright red fabric
43	U/S	Blackware type	1	10	1	Handle	Hollow ware	Double lobed handle	C17th	
43	U/S	Blackware type	2	3	2	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext	C17th	Red body
43	U/S	Blackware type	1	8	1	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int & ext; handle scar	C17th	
43	U/S	BSGSW	2	20	2	Base	Mug/tankard	Rilled band above base	C18th	
43	U/S	BSGSW	3	17	3	Rim	Mug/tankard	Wide rilled band below rim	C18th	
43	U/S	BSGSW	1	1	1	Rim	Mug/tankard	U/Dec	C18th	
43	U/S	BSGSW	1	2	1	Ring foot base	Bowl	U/Dec	C18th	Angular ring foot base
43	U/S	BSGSW	6	28	6	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C18th	
43	U/S	BSGSW	1	3	1	Handle	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C18th	

Tr	Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
43	U/S	BSGSW	2	7	2	BS	Hollow ware	Incised lines ext	C18th	
43	U/S	BSGSW	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	Incised wavy line ext	C18th	
43	U/S	Cistercian ware	1	3	1	Rim	Cup/tyg	U/Dec	c.1450 - c.1600	
43	U/S	Purple glazed ware	1	14	1	Rim	Hollow ware	Thin purple glaze int	C17th - C18th	Very hard, dense, semi-vitrified body
43	U/S	Slip coated ware	2	5	2	Base	Hollow ware	Red slip under clear glaze	C18th	Could be part of the slipware vessel from this vessel
43	U/S	Slip coated ware	1	12	1	Rim	Hollow ware	Red slip on white/buff body under clear glaze	C18th	
43	U/S	Slip coated ware	1	1	1	Handle	Cup/tyg	Red slip on a pale orange/buff body	C18th	
43	U/S	Slip coated ware	6	24	6	BS	Hollow ware	Red slip ext on buff body	C18th	
43	U/S	Slipware	2	2	2	BS	Hollow ware	Red slip on white body with trailed white slip over red	C18th	
43	U/S	Slipware	2	2	2	BS	Hollow ware	Red slip stripes with small white dots	C18th	
43	U/S	Slipware type 1	1	23	1	Rim	Dish/bowl	Trailed wavy white slip line around rim	C17th - EC18th	
43	U/S	Slipware type 1	2	4	2	Rim	Dish/bowl	Trailed wavy white slip line around rim	C17th - EC18th	
43	U/S	Slipware type 1	1	14	1	BS	Dish/bowl	Trailed curvilinear slip line int	C17th - EC18th	
43	U/S	Slipware type 1	1	2	1	BS	Hollow ware	Wavy white slip line int	C17th - EC18th	
43	U/S	Stoneware	4	22	4	BS	Jam jar	Fluted body, buff stoneware	M - LC19th	
43	U/S	Stoneware	1	27	1	Handle	Flagon	Green finish	M - LC19th	
43	U/S	Stoneware	1	31	1	Rim	Lid	Moulded grooves and raised blobs	M - LC19th	
43	U/S	Wall tile	1	5	1	Fragment	Wall tile	Blue decoration	Recent	
43	U/S	WSGSW	3	4	3	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	c.1720 - c.1780	
43	U/S	Yellow ware	1	10	1	Rim	Dish/bowl	Clear glaze on a white body	LC15th - C16th	
43	U/S	YGCW	1	41	1	BS	Pancheon	White slip int under clear glaze	C18th - C19th	
43	U/S	YGCW	1	1	1	BS	Dish/bowl	White slip int under clear glaze	C17th - C18th	Smaller vessel
44	Subsoil	?Blackware	1	2	1	Base	Hollow ware	Black glaze ext	C17th - C18th	Fabric is orange-red rather than the dark red of Blackware
44	Subsoil	Blackware	1	4	1	Handle	Cup/tyg	U/Dec	C17th	
44	Subsoil	Colour glazed ware	1	19	1	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext	C18th	Buff fabric
44	Subsoil	Stoneware	1	12	1	BS	Jam jar	Fluted body, buff stoneware	C19th	
44	Subsoil	Whiteware	2	7	2	Ringfoot base	Bowl	U/Dec	M - LC19th	
44	Topsoil	BGFW	4	21	4	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int & ext	C18th - EC19th	
44	Topsoil	BGFW	1	16	1	Rim	Hollow ware	Brown glaze ext	C18th - EC19th	
44	Topsoil	Blue Banded ware	3	6	3	BS	Hollow ware	Blue bands ext	C19th	
44	Topsoil	Bone china	1	3	1	BS	Hollow ware	Green glaze ext	C19th	
44	Topsoil	Bone china	1	9	1	BS	Hollow ware	Blue glaze int	C19th	
44	Topsoil	BSGSW	1	33	1	Rim	Bowl	Grey int, brown ext., beaded rim	C19th	

Tr	Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
44	Topsoil	BSGSW	1	5	1	BS	Hollow ware	Two incised lines ext	C19th	
44	Topsoil	BSGSW	1	2	1	BS	Hollow ware	Grey int, brown ext., beaded rim	C19th	
44	Topsoil	BSGSW	1	2	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C19th	
44	Topsoil	Sponged ware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	Blue sponged pattern ext	c.1830+	
44	Topsoil	Stoneware	2	10	2	BS	Jam jar	Fluted body, buff stoneware	M - LC19th	
44	Topsoil	Stoneware	3	31	3	Shoulder & BS	Jar/bottle	U/Dec	M - LC19th	
44	Topsoil	Stoneware	1	35	1	Recessed base	Jar	U/Dec	M - LC19th	
44	Topsoil	TP Whiteware	1	1	1	BS	Flatware	Willow	M - LC19th	
44	Topsoil	TP Whiteware	1	4	1	Rim	Flatware	U/ID ?sunburst design	M - LC19th	
44	Topsoil	TP Whiteware	1	4	1	BS	Flatware	Asiatic Pheasants	M - LC19th	
44	Topsoil	TP Whiteware	1	1	1	BS	Flatware	U/ID TP design int	M - LC19th	
44	Topsoil	TP Whiteware	1	2	1	Rim	Flatware	U/Dec	M - LC19th	
44	Topsoil	Whiteware	4	11	4	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	M - LC19th	
44	Topsoil	WSGSW	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	c.1720 - c.1780	
45	Topsoil	BGCW	1	86	1	Rim	Jar	Patchy brown glaze int & ext	C18th - EC19th	Distinctive square sectioned rim
45	Topsoil	BGFW	3	23	3	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int & ext	C18th - C19th	Red fabric with white streaks
45	Topsoil	BGFW	1	10	1	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int only	LC18th - C19th	
45	Topsoil	BSGSW	1	10	1	Handle	Mug/tankard	Lobed handle	C18th	
45	Topsoil	BSGSW	2	20	2	BS	Hollow ware	Stamped, moulded and rouletted decoration ext	C19th	
45	Topsoil	BSGSW	8	17	8	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C18th - C19th	
45	Topsoil	BSGSW	2	9	2	Rim	Dish/bowl	U/Dec	C19th	
45	Topsoil	BSGSW	1	1	1	Rim	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C19th	
45	Topsoil	BSGSW	1	6	1	Base	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C18th - C19th	
45	Topsoil	BSGSW	1	2	1	Handle	Hollow ware	Grooves on handle	C18th - C19th	
45	Topsoil	Colour glazed ware	2	8	2	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext	C18th	Buff fabric
45	Topsoil	Creamware	1	3	1	Base	Flatware	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	
45	Topsoil	Creamware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	
45	Topsoil	Creamware	1	1	1	Rim	Hollow ware	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	
45	Topsoil	Fine Redware	1	20	1	Base	Cup/tyg	Clear glaze on red body	C17th - C18th	
45	Topsoil	Late Blackware	2	6	2	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext	C18th	
45	Topsoil	Late Blackware	1	2	1	Base	Hollow ware	Dark glaze int & ext	C18th	
45	Topsoil	Late Blackware	1	2	1	BS	Hollow ware	Dark glaze int & ext	C18th	
45	Topsoil	Late Blackware type	1	4	1	BS	U/ID	Dark glaze int & ext	C18th	
45	Topsoil	Mottled ware	2	10	1	Base	Hollow ware	Mottled glaze int & ext	C18th	
45	Topsoil	Mottled ware	1	6	1	Base	Mug/tankard	Mottled glaze int & ext	C18th	
45	Topsoil	Mottled ware	1	2	1	Rim	Hollow ware	Mottled glaze int & ext	C18th	

Tr	Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
45	Topsoil	Mottled ware	2	4	2	BS	Hollow ware	Mottled glaze int & ext	C18th	
45	Topsoil	Mottled ware	1	1	1	Rim	Hollow ware	Mottled glaze int & ext	C18th	
45	Topsoil	Slip coated ware	1	10	1	Rim	Dish/bowl	Red slip int under dark glaze	C18th	
45	Topsoil	Slip coated ware	3	12	3	BS	Flatware	Red slip int under dark glaze	C18th	
45	Topsoil	Slip coated ware	2	2	2	BS	Hollow ware	Red slip int & ext under dark glaze	C18th	
45	Topsoil	Slipware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	White slip decoration ext	C17th - C18th	
45	Topsoil	Slipware type 1	1	14	1	BS	Dish/bowl	Trailed white slip on a redware body	C17th - EC18th	
45	Topsoil	Slipware type 1	1	7	1	Base	Dish/bowl	Trailed white slip on a redware body	C17th - EC18th	
45	Topsoil	Slipware type 1	1	2	1	BS	Dish/bowl	Trailed white slip on a redware body	C17th - EC18th	
45	Topsoil	Stoneware	1	48	1	Base	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext	C19th	Unusual stoneware
45	Topsoil	Tin Glazed Earthenware	1	5	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	LC17th - C18th	
45	Topsoil	Tin Glazed Earthenware	1	2	1	Base	Flatware	Red and yellow painted design internally	LC17th - C18th	
45	Topsoil	TP Whiteware	1	23	1	Base	Flatware	Sepia print, u/id design	M - LC19th	
45	Topsoil	TP Whiteware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	Unidentifiable blue printed design	M - LC19th	
45	Topsoil	TP Whiteware	1	5	1	BS	Hollow ware	Sepia printed design including a large bird	M - LC19th	
45	Topsoil	TP Whiteware	1	2	1	Rim	Cup/bowl	Chinese landscape frieze	M - LC19th	
45	Topsoil	TP Whiteware	2	1	2	BS	Hollow ware	U/ID design	M - LC19th	
45	Topsoil	URE	2	6	2	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C19th	
45	Topsoil	URE	1	4	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	Recent	
45	Topsoil	Whiteware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	M - LC19th	
45	Topsoil	WSGSW	1	9	1	Rim	Plate	Seed or barley pattern	c.1720 - c.1780	
45	Topsoil	WSGSW	1	2	1	Rim	Hollow ware	Grooves below rim	c.1720 - c.1780	
45	Topsoil	Yellow ware	1	1	1	Rim	Bowl	Clear glaze int & ext on a white body	C17th	
46	Topsoil	BGCW	3	27	3	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int only	C18th - C19th	
46	Topsoil	BGFW	3	23	3	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int & ext	C18th	
46	Topsoil	BGFW	1	27	1	Base	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int & ext	C18th - C19th	
46	Topsoil	Blue Banded type ware	4	6	4	BS	Hollow ware	Blue surfaces, parts of bands, one with rilled body ext	C19th	
46	Topsoil	Blue Banded ware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	Blue bands ext	C19th	
46	Topsoil	Bone china	1	1	1	Rim	Cup/bowl	Overglaze gold lines below rim	LC19th - EC20th	
46	Topsoil	BSGSW	3	10	3	Rim	Dish	U/Dec	C19th	
46	Topsoil	BSGSW	2	26	2	Rim	Bowl	Brown ext, grey int	C19th	Beaded rim
46	Topsoil	BSGSW	1	39	1	Base	Bowl	U/Dec	C19th	
46	Topsoil	BSGSW	2	9	2	Handle	Mug/jug	U/Dec	C19th	
46	Topsoil	BSGSW	17	57	17	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C19th	
46	Topsoil	BSGSW	3	17	3	BS	Hollow ware	Stamped decoration ext, grey surface int	C19th	

Tr	Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
46	Topsoil	BSGSW	2	9	2	BS	Hollow ware	Stamped decoration ext	C19th	
46	Topsoil	Cane Coloured ware	1	2	1	BS	U/ID	Wheel stamp on one side	C19th	
46	Topsoil	Colour glazed type ware	1	12	1	Rim	Jar	Dark brown glaze on white body	C18th - C19th	
46	Topsoil	Colour glazed type ware	2	16	2	BS	Hollow ware	Moulded band, brown glaze on white body	C18th - C19th	
46	Topsoil	Colour glazed type ware	2	29	2	Base	Hollow ware	Dark glaze on white body	C18th - C19th	
46	Topsoil	Creamware	14	23	14	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	
46	Topsoil	Creamware	1	1	1	Rim	Flatware	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	
46	Topsoil	Creamware	1	1	1	Footring base	Flatware	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	
46	Topsoil	Edged ware	1	2	1	Rim	Plate	Moulded rim with blue paint	c.1810 - c.1830	
46	Topsoil	Late Blackware	4	9	4	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext	C18th	
46	Topsoil	Late Blackware	1	1	1	Handle	Hollow ware	Black glaze	C18th	
46	Topsoil	Mottled ware	2	6	2	BS	Mug	Rilled band above base	C18th	
46	Topsoil	Pearlware	1	1	1	Rim	Cup/bowl	Blue line and blobs int	c.1780 - c.1820	
46	Topsoil	Pearlware	2	1	2	BS	Hollow ware	Fluted body	LC18th - EC19th	
46	Topsoil	Porcelain	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C19th	
46	Topsoil	Redware	1	13	1	BS	Hollow ware	Clear glaze int and partially ext	C18th	
46	Topsoil	Slip Banded ware	3	2	3	BS	Hollow ware	Dark slip bands ext	C19th	
46	Topsoil	Slipware type 1	1	17	1	Rim	Dish	Red and white wavy slip lines ext	C17th - EC18th	
46	Topsoil	Sponge printed ware	1	14	1	BS	Hollow ware	Circular blue sponge printed design ext	1840+	
46	Topsoil	Stoneware	5	62	5	BS	Bottle	Pale grey glaze ext, unglazed int	C19th	
46	Topsoil	Stoneware	1	41	1	Base	Bottle	Pale grey with iron-wash band above base	C19th	
46	Topsoil	Stoneware	2	14	2	BS	Hollow ware	Pale grey	C19th	
46	Topsoil	Stoneware	2	6	2	Rim	Jam jar	Fluted body	C19th	
46	Topsoil	Stoneware	1	9	1	Base	Hollow ware	Part of stamped label on underside	M - LC19th	Stamped '...BUY ... / ... E...'
46	Topsoil	TP Bone China	1	2	1	BS	Plate	Chinese landscape	C19th	
46	Topsoil	TP Bone China	1	4	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/ID TP design ext	M - LC19th	
46	Topsoil	TP Bone China	1	2	1	BS	Flatware	U/ID TP design int	M - LC19th	
46	Topsoil	TP Bone China	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	Red printed 'God help ... / ...mse...'	C19th	
46	Topsoil	TP Pearlware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	Floral design int	c.1780 - c.1820	
46	Topsoil	TP Whiteware	4	15	4	Rim & BS	Flatware	Willow	M - LC19th	
46	Topsoil	TP Whiteware	1	2	1	BS	Flatware	U/ID Flow Blue design int	c.1840+	
46	Topsoil	TP Whiteware	1	12	1	Footring base	Plate	Purple TP design with Greek style vases	M - LC19th	
46	Topsoil	TP Whiteware	7	30	7	BS	Flatware	Asiatic Pheasants	M - LC19th	
46	Topsoil	TP Whiteware	1	4	1	Rim	Lid	Asiatic Pheasants	M - LC19th	Tureen or server lid
46	Topsoil	TP Whiteware	8	10	8	BS	Flatware	Unidentified designs	M - LC19th	

Tr	Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
46	Topsoil	TP Whiteware	1	1	1	Rim	Saucer	Chinese style frieze around edge	M - LC19th	
46	Topsoil	TP Whiteware	1	2	1	Footring base	Plate	Chinese landscape int	M - LC19th	
46	Topsoil	Whiteware	2	1	2	Rim	Hollow ware	Thin red lines below rim int	M - LC19th	
46	Topsoil	Whiteware	2	1	2	BS	U/ID	U/Dec	C19th	Small fragments
46	Topsoil	Whiteware	1	1	1	Rim	Hollow ware	Thin blue lines below rim	M - LC19th	
46	Topsoil	Whiteware	1	1	1	Rim	?Jug	Moulded wickerwork pattern	M - LC19th	
46	Topsoil	Whiteware	1	2	1	BS	U/ID	Relief moulded int, blue ext	M - LC19th	
46	Topsoil	Whiteware	22	38	22	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	M - LC19th	Crazed and abraded
46	Topsoil	Whiteware	1	3	1	Rim	Flatware	U/Dec	M - LC19th	
46	Topsoil	WSGSW	1	4	1	Rim	Dish	U/Dec	c.1720 - c.1780	
47	U/S	BGCW	2	213	2	Rim	Pancheon	Brown glaze int	C18th - C19th	
47	U/S	BGCW	3	16	3	BS	Pancheon	Brown glaze int	C18th - EC19th	
47	U/S	BGFW	6	36	6	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int & ext	C18th - EC19th	
47	U/S	BGFW	1	6	1	Rim	Dish	Brown glaze int; sharply everted rim	C18th	
47	U/S	BGFW	1	8	1	Base	Bowl	Brown glaze int & ext	C18th	Flat base
47	U/S	Blackware type	2	5	2	Handle stump & BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext on dark red body	C17th	Could be a variety of Late Blackware (C18th)
47	U/S	Blue Banded ware	1	7	1	BS	Hollow ware	Broad blue band with thin brown lines above	C19th	
47	U/S	BSGSW	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	Incised line ext	LC18th - C19th	Heavily burnt
47	U/S	BSGSW	12	47	12	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C18th - EC19th	
47	U/S	BSGSW	1	50	1	Base	Bowl	U/Dec	C18th - EC19th	
47	U/S	BSGSW	1	19	1	Base	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C18th - EC19th	
47	U/S	BSGSW	1	6	1	Handle	Hollow ware	Ridged handle	C18th - EC19th	
47	U/S	BSGSW	2	5	2	Rim	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C18th	
47	U/S	BSGSW	3	5	2	Rim	Dish	U/Dec	C18th	
47	U/S	BSGSW	2	15	2	Rim	Hollow ware	Beaded rim, slightly everted	C18th - EC19th	
47	U/S	BSGSW	1	5	1	Rim	Hollow ware	U/Dec, everted rim	C18th - EC19th	
47	U/S	BSGSW	2	17	2	BS	Hollow ware	Brown ext, grey int	C18th - C19th	
47	U/S	BSGSW type?	2	5	2	Handle	Hollow ware	Brown finish	C18th - EC19th	Secondarily burnt
47	U/S	CBM	1	77	1	Edge	?Tile	U/Dec	Undated	Tile or an unusual decorative brick or trough?
47	U/S	Creamware	1	5	1	Footring base	Bowl	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	Rounded ring foot base
47	U/S	Creamware	1	3	1	Recessed base	Hollow ware	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	
47	U/S	Creamware	1	2	1	Ringfoot base	Hollow ware	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	
47	U/S	Creamware	1	3	1	Rim	Flatware	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	
47	U/S	Creamware	1	1	1	Rim	Plate	Wavy edge	c.1740 - c.1820	
47	U/S	Creamware	1	1	1	Rim	Bowl	Moulded rim	c.1740 - c.1820	

Tr	Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
47	U/S	Creamware	1	3	1	Rim	BS	Relief banded vessel	c.1740 - c.1820	
47	U/S	Creamware	15	24	15	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	
47	U/S	Creamware	3	3	3	BS	Flatware	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	
47	U/S	Creamware	1	1	1	Rim	Cup/bowl	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	
47	U/S	Edged ware	2	4	2	Rim	Plate	Moulded edge with blue paint	c.1810 - c.1830	
47	U/S	Fine Redware	1	3	1	Handle	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C18th - C19th	
47	U/S	Late Blackware	3	4	3	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext on buff body	C18th	
47	U/S	Midlands purple type ware	1	16	1	Handle	Hollow ware	Hard, thin purple glaze	LC16th - C17th	Narrow strap handle
47	U/S	Mottled ware	1	15	1	Rim	Dish	Relief moulded cable effect on rim	C18th	Unusual decoration
47	U/S	Mottled ware	1	3	1	BS	Hollow ware	Mottled glaze int & ext	C18th	
47	U/S	Pearlware	1	1	1	Rim	Cup/bowl	Rouletted band with blue paint	c.1780 - c.1820	Very thin walled vessel
47	U/S	Redware type	2	5	2	BS	Hollow ware	Clear - brown glaze int & ext	C18th - EC19th	BGFW/Redware
47	U/S	Slip Banded ware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	Rilled band with green paint, blue and red-brown bands above	C19th	
47	U/S	Slip coated ware	1	8	1	Base	Hollow ware	Red slip on buff body under dark glaze	C18th	
47	U/S	Slip coated ware	2	7	2	BS	Hollow ware	Red slip on buff body, clear glaze	C18th	
47	U/S	Slipware	1	13	1	Base	Hollow ware	Short white slip lines above base ext	LC17th - C18th	
47	U/S	Slipware type 1	1	6	1	Rim	Dish	Trailed white slip on a redware body	C17th - EC18th	
47	U/S	Stoneware	1	7	1	Base	Jam jar	Fluted body	C19th	
47	U/S	Stoneware	1	9	1	Rim	Jar	Sprigged decoration on matte green body	LC18th - C19th	Resembles a pale green version on Jasper ware
47	U/S	Tin Glazed Earthenware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	Blue-white glaze int & ext	LC17th - C18th	
47	U/S	TP Bone China	1	7	1	Ring foot base	Flatware	Chinese landscape	C19th	Unusually abraded
47	U/S	TP Pearlware	1	2	1	Rim	Plate	Willow	c.1780 - c.1820	
47	U/S	TP Pearlware	3	6	3	BS	Hollow ware	U/ID TP designs int	c.1780 - c.1820	
47	U/S	TP Pearlware	1	1	1	Rim	Cup/bowl	U/ID cellular pattern int	c.1780 - c.1820	
47	U/S	TP Whiteware	1	2	1	Rim	Flatware	Purple printed floral frieze int	M - LC19th	
47	U/S	TP Whiteware	4	5	4	BS	Flatware	Unidentified TP designs	M - LC19th	
47	U/S	TP Whiteware	1	8	1	Handle	Jug	Brown geometric printed design on spine	M - LC19th	
47	U/S	URE	1	4	1	Rim & BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C18th - EC20th	
47	U/S	URE	1	8	1	Rim	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C18th - C19th	
47	U/S	Whiteware	4	6	4	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	M - LC19th	
47	U/S	Whiteware	2	11	2	Rim	Cup/bowl	U/Dec	M - LC19th	
47	U/S	Whiteware	1	3	1	Rim	Bowl	U/Dec	M - LC19th	
47	U/S	Whiteware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	Fluted body, blue surface int	M - LC19th	
47	U/S	WSGSW	4	11	4	BS	Hollow ware	Two sherds with single incised lines ext	c.1720 - c.1780	

Tr	Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
49	U/S	BGFW	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C18th - C19th	
49	U/S	BGFW	2	11	1	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int & ext	C18th	Red body with white streaks and quartz grit
49	U/S	BGFW	1	11	1	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int & ext	C18th	
49	U/S	BGFW type	1	5	1	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int	C18th	Harder, denser fabric than normal
49	U/S	BSGSW	1	19	1	Base	Mug	Rilled band above base and on body	C18th	
49	U/S	BSGSW	1	39	1	Base	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C18th	Splayed base
49	U/S	BSGSW	1	90	1	Base	Bowl	Stamped decoration ext	C19th	
49	U/S	BSGSW	1	17	1	BS	Hollow ware	Rilled band ext	C19th	
49	U/S	BSGSW	1	5	1	Rim	Hollow ware	Everted rim with incised lines on body	C18th	
49	U/S	BSGSW	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C18th - C19th	
49	U/S	BSGSW	1	5	1	BS	Mug	Rilled band ext	C18th	
49	U/S	BSGSW	2	24	2	BS	Hollow ware	One sherd with rouletted band, one plain	C18th - EC19th	
49	U/S	Cane Coloured ware	1	5	1	Flat base	Dish	U/Dec	C19th	
49	U/S	Mottled ware	1	2	1	BS	Hollow ware	Mottled glaze	C18th	Heavily abraded
49	U/S	Pearlware	1	1	1	BS	Flatware	U/Dec	c.1780 - c.1820	
49	U/S	Slip Banded ware	1	4	1	BS	Carinated bowl	Grey-green slip stripes ext	C19th	
49	U/S	Slip coated ware	1	2	1	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int & ext over red slip	C18th	
49	U/S	Slipware	1	21	1	BS	Dish	Tri-coloured joggled slipware	C18th	Press-moulded dish
49	U/S	Slipware	1	2	1	BS	Hollow ware	Trailed white slip curvilinear designs ext	C18th	
49	U/S	Slipware type 1	1	31	1	BS	Dish	Trailed white slip curvilinear design int	C17th - EC18th	
49	U/S	Stoneware	1	5	1	BS	Jam jar	Fluted body	M - LC19th	
49	U/S	TP Whiteware	1	1	1	BS	Flatware	Chinese landscape int	M - LC19th	
51	Topsoil	BGCW	3	80	3	BS	Pancheon	Brown glaze int	C18th - C19th	
51	Topsoil	BGFW	3	40	1	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int & partially ext	LC18th - C19th	
51	Topsoil	BGFW	1	4	1	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int only	C19th	
51	Topsoil	Blackware	1	4	1	Rim	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C17th	
51	Topsoil	Bone china	3	5	3	Footring base & BS	Flatware	Overglaze painted floral design	C19th	
51	Topsoil	BSGSW	1	33	1	Rim	Dish	Rouletted band ext	LC18th - C19th	Sharply everted rim
51	Topsoil	BSGSW	5	7	5	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C18th	
51	Topsoil	BSGSW	3	6	2	BS	Hollow ware	Incised lines ext	C18th	
51	Topsoil	BSGSW	1	1	1	Handle	Mug/tankard	Grooves and ridges on top of handle	C18th	
51	Topsoil	Cane Coloured ware	1	1	1	BS/flake	U/ID	U/Dec	C19th	
51	Topsoil	Cistercian ware	1	18	1	Base	Cup/tyg	Patchy brown glaze int & ext	c.1450 - c.1600	
51	Topsoil	Creamware	2	1	2	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	c.1720 - c.1780	
51	Topsoil	Fine Redware	1	4	1	Ring foot base	Bowl	White slip int under clear glaze	C19th	

Tr	Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
51	Topsoil	Mocha ware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	Brown mocha decoration on buff band	C19th	
51	Topsoil	Mottled ware	5	16	5	BS	Hollow ware	Mottled glaze int & ext	C18th	
51	Topsoil	Mottled ware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	Mottled glaze int & ext	C18th	
51	Topsoil	Mottled ware	1	10	1	Base	Hollow ware	Mottled glaze int & ext	C18th	
51	Topsoil	Pearlware	1	1	1	Rim	Cup/bowl	Blue line on top of rim	c.1780 - c.1820	
51	Topsoil	Pearlware	1	5	1	Recessed base	Plate	U/Dec	c.1780 - c.1820	
51	Topsoil	Pearlware	2	3	2	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	c.1780 - c.1820	
51	Topsoil	Purple glazed ware	3	128	1	Rim	Hollow ware	Patchy purple glaze int & ext	C17th - EC18th	Joins with a sherd from Tr 49, Topsoil
51	Topsoil	Slip Banded ware	3	6	3	BS	Hollow ware	Brown slip lines and bands ext	C19th	
51	Topsoil	Slip Banded ware	1	2	1	BS	Hollow ware	Brown slip line above base	C19th	
51	Topsoil	Slip Banded ware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	Brown, red-brown and blue bands ext	C19th	Possibly on a Creamware body
51	Topsoil	Slip coated ware	1	10	1	Base	Hollow ware	Red slip int	C18th	
51	Topsoil	Slip coated ware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	Red slip ext	C18th	
51	Topsoil	Slip coated ware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	Red slip int & ext on white body	C18th	
51	Topsoil	Slipware	1	2	1	BS	Hollow ware	Dark slip linear decoration ext	C18th	
51	Topsoil	Slipware	1	1	1	BS	Flatware	Trailed wavy white slip line around rim	C18th	
51	Topsoil	Slipware	1	3	1	BS	Dish?	White slip int	LC17th - C18th	Heavily secondarily burnt
51	Topsoil	Slipware type 1	3	14	3	Rim	Dish	Trailed slip design int	C17th - EC18th	
51	Topsoil	Stoneware	1	8	1	Base	Hollow ware	Pale green-brown stoneware	C19th	
51	Topsoil	Stoneware	1	14	1	BS	Flagon/bottle	Green stoneware	C19th	
51	Topsoil	TP Pearlware	6	4	6	BS	Cup/bowl?	Unidentified TP designs	c.1780 - c.1820	
51	Topsoil	TP Whiteware	2	2	2	BS	Hollow ware	Green TP decoration ext	C19th	
51	Topsoil	WSGSW	3	7	3	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	c.1720 - c.1780	
51	Topsoil	WSGSW	1	1	1	Recessed base	Hollow ware	U/Dec	c.1720 - c.1780	
49 Ext	Topsoil	BGCW	2	10	2	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int & ext	C18th - C19th	
49 Ext	Topsoil	Purple glazed ware	1	126	1	Rim	Hollow ware	Purple glaze int & ext	C17th - EC18th	Square sectioned rim; joins with a sherd from Tr 51 Topsoil
49 Ext	Topsoil	Purple glazed ware	1	23	1	Base	Hollow ware	Purple glaze int & ext	C17th - EC18th	
49 Ext	Topsoil	Purple glazed ware	14	193	14	BS	Hollow ware	Purple glaze int & ext	C17th - EC18th	
49 Ext	U/S	BGCW	1	118	1	Rim	Jar	Black glaze int & ext	C18th - C19th	Flat-topped everted rim
49 Ext	U/S	BGCW	1	74	1	Base	Pancheon	Brown glaze int; red slip ext	C18th - C19th	
49 Ext	U/S	BGCW	6	44	6	BS	Pancheon	Brown glaze int	C18th - C19th	
49 Ext	U/S	BGCW	18	128	18	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int and/or ext	C18th - C19th	
49 Ext	U/S	Blue Banded ware	2	2	1	BS	Hollow ware	Blue bands ext	C19th	
49 Ext	U/S	BSGSW	19	49	19	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C18th - EC19th	
49 Ext	U/S	BSGSW	1	2	1	Handle	Mug	Grooves on top of handle	C18th	
49 Ext	U/S	BSGSW	1	19	1	Base	Bowl	U/Dec	C18th - C19th	

Tr	Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
49 Ext	U/S	BSGSW	1	16	1	Base	Mug/tankard	Rilled band above base, part of elaborate incised decoration	C18th	
49 Ext	U/S	BSGSW	1	19	1	Base	Hollow ware	Band of moulded decoration ext	C19th	
49 Ext	U/S	BSGSW	2	17	1	BS	Bottle	Brown ext, unglazed int	C19th	
49 Ext	U/S	BSGSW	1	12	1	BS	Hollow ware	Brown ext, grey int	C19th	
49 Ext	U/S	BSGSW	1	4	1	BS	Hollow ware	Stamped decoration ext	C19th	
49 Ext	U/S	BSGSW	3	5	3	Rim	Hollow ware	Groove below rim	C18th	
49 Ext	U/S	BSGSW	1	2	1	Rim	Mug/tankard	Rilled band below rim	C18th	
49 Ext	U/S	BSGSW	3	4	3	Rim	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C18th	
49 Ext	U/S	BSGSW	1	2	1	Rim	Dish	U/Dec	C18th - EC19th	
49 Ext	U/S	BSGSW	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	Rilled band ext	C18th	
49 Ext	U/S	Cabled slipware	4	19	1	BS	Hollow ware	Blue, pale green and brown slip lines with cabled slip decoration	C19th	
49 Ext	U/S	Colour glazed ware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	White int, red-brown ext	C19th	
49 Ext	U/S	Colour glazed ware	1	1	1	Rim	Hollow ware	Yellow int & ext	C19th	
49 Ext	U/S	Creamware	4	10	4	Rim	Plate	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	
49 Ext	U/S	Creamware	2	1	2	Rim	Flatware	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	
49 Ext	U/S	Creamware	1	6	1	Footring base	Bowl	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	Angular footring base
49 Ext	U/S	Creamware	7	13	7	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	
49 Ext	U/S	Creamware	22	30	22	BS	Flatware	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	
49 Ext	U/S	Creamware	1	3	1	BS	Hollow ware	Relief banded vessel	c.1740 - c.1820	
49 Ext	U/S	Creamware	1	1	1	Rim	Plate	Moulded feather edge	c.1740 - c.1820	
49 Ext	U/S	Edged ware	2	9	2	BS	Hollow ware	Moulded edge with blue paint, one wavy edge	c.1810 - c.1830	
49 Ext	U/S	Late Blackware	18	51	18	BS	Hollow ware	Red slip ext, dark glaze int & ext	C18th	
49 Ext	U/S	Late Blackware	3	34	3	Base	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext	C18th	Poorly finished, unlike normal Late Blackware
49 Ext	U/S	Late Blackware	1	1	1	Rim	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext	C18th	
49 Ext	U/S	Late Blackware	1	1	1	Ringfoot base	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int & ext	C18th	
49 Ext	U/S	Mottled ware	1	4	1	Base	Hollow ware	Mottled glaze int & ext	C18th	Footed base
49 Ext	U/S	Mottled ware	4	11	4	BS	Hollow ware	Mottled glaze int & ext	C18th	
49 Ext	U/S	Mottled ware	6	14	5	BS	Hollow ware	Mottled glaze int & ext, rilled externally	C18th	Probably the same vessel
49 Ext	U/S	Mottled ware	3	7	3	BS	Hollow ware	Mottled glaze int & ext, deep rilling ext	C18th	
49 Ext	U/S	Mottled ware	1	2	1	BS	Hollow ware	Mottled glaze int, unglazed ext, rilled	C18th	
49 Ext	U/S	Mottled ware	1	3	1	BS	Hollow ware	Applied pellet with deeply incised grid pattern ext	C18th	
49 Ext	U/S	Mottled ware type	2	7	2	Base & BS	Hollow ware	Surfaces removed; probably Mottled ware	C18th	

Tr	Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
49 Ext	U/S	Pearlware	1	2	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	c.1780 - c.1820	
49 Ext	U/S	Pearlware	2	1	2	Rim & BS	Flatware	Hand painted linear designs int	c.1780 - c.1820	
49 Ext	U/S	Purple glazed ware	19	185	19	BS	Hollow ware	Purple/brown glaze int & ext	C17th - C18th	Hard, dense purple fabric with white streaks
49 Ext	U/S	Redware type	6	17	5	Rim & BS	Hollow ware	Pale red-brown glaze on white body	C18th	
49 Ext	U/S	Redware type	1	1	1	BS	U/ID	Clear glaze int	C18th	
49 Ext	U/S	Slip Banded ware	8	11	8	BS	Hollow ware	Various combinations of coloured slip lines	C19th	
49 Ext	U/S	Slip Banded ware	1	3	1	Rim	Bowl	Pale green slip lines ext	C19th	
49 Ext	U/S	Slip coated ware	1	2	1	BS	Hollow ware	Red slip on white body	C18th	
49 Ext	U/S	Slipware	1	7	1	BS	Dish	Brown and white slip int with embossed pattern int	C18th	Press moulded dish
49 Ext	U/S	Slipware	1	1	1	BS	Flatware	Trailed white slip line int	C18th	
49 Ext	U/S	Slipware type 1	1	6	1	BS	Hollow ware	Trailed white slip internally	C17th - EC18th	
49 Ext	U/S	Stoneware	3	20	3	Base & BS	Jam jar	Fluted body	C19th	
49 Ext	U/S	Stoneware	1	1	1	Base	Hollow ware	Footed base; white to pale brown stoneware	C18th	
49 Ext	U/S	TP Pearlware	4	5	4	Rim	Flatware	Unidentified TP designs int	c.1780 - c.1820	
49 Ext	U/S	TP Pearlware	6	4	6	BS	Flatware	Unidentified TP designs	c.1780 - c.1820	
49 Ext	U/S	TP Whiteware	1	2	1	Rim	Plate	Willow	M - LC19th	
49 Ext	U/S	TP Whiteware	1	2	1	Handle	Hollow ware	Traces of blue design	M - LC19th	
49 Ext	U/S	TP Whiteware	2	3	1	BS	Flatware	Unidentifiable design	M - LC19th	
49 Ext	U/S	TP Whiteware	1	1	1	Footring base	Flatware	Black printed design with part of a word '...AS...'	M - LC19th	
49 Ext	U/S	URE	7	39	7	Base & BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C18th - C19th	
49 Ext	U/S	Whiteware	28	55	28	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	M - LC19th	Shattered and abraded
49 Ext	U/S	Whiteware	2	15	2	Base	Hollow ware	U/Dec	M - LC19th	Recessed base
49 Ext	U/S	Whiteware	1	1	1	Handle	Hollow ware	U/Dec	M - LC19th	
49 Ext	U/S	WSGSW	2	8	2	Rim	Flatware	Moulded cable effect rim	c.1720 - c.1780	
49 Ext	U/S	WSGSW	7	20	7	BS	Flatware	U/Dec	c.1720 - c.1780	
49 Ext	U/S	WSGSW	2	3	2	BS	Cup/bowl	U/Dec	c.1720 - c.1780	
49 Ext	U/S	WSGSW	1	1	1	Rim	Plate	Wavy edge	c.1720 - c.1780	Small plate
49 Ext	U/S	WSGSW	4	4	4	BS	Hollow ware	One sherd with fine incised lines ext	c.1720 - c.1780	
		Total	905	5243	887					

Table 3. Post-medieval, early modern and recent pottery from Mellor (OVM06).

Appendix 4: Environmental Report

Mellor, Greater Manchester

plant macrofossil and pollen assessment

Report 1673

June 2007

Archaeological Services Durham University

on behalf of

University of Manchester Archaeological Unit

University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL

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1. Summary

1.1 *The project*

This report presents the results of plant macrofossil and pollen assessment of one sample, taken during the excavation of a prehistoric settlement at Mellor, Greater Manchester.

1.2 *Plant macrofossil assessment*

There was no preservation of charred plant macrofossil remains. A single piece of non-oak charcoal was identified that would be suitable for radiocarbon dating.

1.3 *Pollen assessment*

Due to the lack of diversity of taxa, it is considered unlikely that further work would provide a more comprehensive interpretation of the data.

1.4 *Recommendations*

No further work is recommended.

2. Project background

2.1 *Location and background*

A series of archaeological works have been carried out by Manchester University Archaeological Unit at Mellor since 1998 and have confirmed the presence of an Iron Age Hilltop Enclosure. In August 2003, trench 22 was excavated over the line of the enclosure ditch which surrounds the hilltop. Plant macrofossil and pollen work was undertaken on samples from this trench by Archaeological Services Durham University (Archaeological Services 2003; 2004a; 2004b). Plant macrofossils were poorly preserved and only charred remains of hazelnuts occurred. Pollen analysis indicated that a mixture of arable and pastoral farming was being carried out.

2.2 Trench 36 was excavated during August 2005 in a field to the north of the Old Vicarage at Mellor, near Stockport (NGR SJ 9818 8890). Two environmental samples were collected. Context (285) is the fill of a post hole from which, what is believed to be industrial waste was recovered. Context (343) is the fill of a pit thought by the excavators to represent Iron Age or Romano British activity. Plant macrofossil and pollen work was undertaken on these contexts by Archaeological Services Durham University (Archaeological Services 2005a; 2005b), and a sample from context (285) was sent for AMS radiocarbon dating (Archaeological Services 2006). Similarly, plant macrofossils were poorly preserved and only charred remains of hazelnuts occurred. Pollen analysis indicated local mixed deciduous woodland dominated by hazel with a nearby wet meadow and possible alder carr. The cereal-type pollen and associated weeds indicated a mixed farming economy

2.3 The sample (71), from context (47) for this assessment, is taken from a waterlogged deposit within the enclosure ditch found within trench 22 (2003).

2.4 *Objective*

The objective of the assessments was to determine the archaeobotanical potential of the material and to make recommendations for further work if appropriate.

2.5 *Dates*

Plant macrofossil and pollen assessment was carried out on 29th May 2007. This report was prepared on the 4th June 2007.

2.6 *Personnel*

Sample processing was carried out by Dr David Webster and Mr Lorne Elliott. The assessment and report preparation were undertaken by Dr Helen Ranner.

2.7 *Archive*

The site code is **OVM06**, for Mellor, Greater Manchester 2006. The flots and pollen preparations are retained in the Environmental Laboratory at Archaeological Services Durham University, for collection.

3. Methods

3.1 *Plant macrofossils*

Eleven litres of the sample was manually floated and sieved through a 500 µm mesh. The residue was retained, described and scanned using a magnet for ferrous

fragments. The flot was dried slowly, and scanned at x 40 magnification for waterlogged and charred botanical remains. Identification of these was undertaken by comparison with modern reference material held in the Environmental Laboratory at Archaeological Services Durham University. Plant taxonomic nomenclature follows Stace (1997).

3.2 Pollen

Pollen was extracted from one ml of the sample, using sodium hydroxide digestion followed by sieving and heavy liquid separation. A *Lycopodium* spore tablet was added to the sample in order to facilitate calculation of total pollen/spore concentrations. The pollen was mounted in silicone fluid and scanned at high magnification. Identification of pollen and spores was undertaken by comparison with modern reference material, using Moore et al (1991) as a guide. Plant taxonomic nomenclature follows Stace (1997).

4. Plant macrofossils

4.1 Results

The residue and flot matrix from this context contained very small amounts of charcoal, coal and clinker with some matted modern roots, and the flot contained only a very few waterlogged seeds from ruderal and wide niche taxa. The relative abundances of the contents are recorded in Table 1.

Table 1: Residue, flot matrix and flot contents (relative abundance)

Context	47
Sample	71
Volume processed (ml)	11000
Volume of flot (ml)	20
Volume of flot assessed (ml)	20
<i>Residue contents (relative abundance)</i>	
Coal	1
<i>Flot matrix (relative abundance)</i>	
Charcoal	3
Clinker	2
Coal	2
Modern roots (matted)	2
<i>Waterlogged remains (relative abundance)</i>	
(r) <i>Polygonum aviculare</i> (Knotgrass)	1
(r) <i>Stellaria media</i> (Common Chickweed)	1
(r) <i>Taraxacum</i> sp(p) (Dandelion)	1
(x) <i>Ranunculus</i> subgenus <i>Ranunculus</i> (Buttercup)	2

[r-ruderal; x-wide niche]

Relative abundance is based on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest).

4.2 Discussion

The very low abundance of fire waste in this context probably represents a background level associated with habitation. There was no preservation of charred plant macrofossil remains, and the poor preservation of uncharred seeds indicates that the soil is not fully waterlogged, and therefore the seeds that have been identified may be of later origin. There is insufficient material here to allow interpretation of the nature of the feature or the natural environment. A single piece of non-oak charcoal was identified which would be suitable for radiocarbon dating.

5. Pollen

5.1 Results

Abundant microscopic charcoal in this sample again represents a background level that could be associated with habitation. The pollen preservation is poor with many crumpled and degraded grains making identification difficult, and resulting in a potential under recording of some taxa, particularly grasses, sedges and ferns. Two arboreal taxa were recorded, principally hazel with some alder, and the dominant herbaceous taxa were grasses with an unidentified member of the pink family and sedges. Ferns are well represented and include common polipody and royal fern. *Sphagnum* moss spores and dinoflagellate cysts were present. Absolute counts for pollen grains and spores (grains/ml) are recorded in Table 1, together with an estimated figure for the total concentration of pollen grains, in the sample.

Table 2: Pollen and spore counts

Context	47
Sample	71
Volume processed (ml)	1
Charcoal	Abundant
Fungal spores	4
<i>Lycopodium</i> spores	190
Pollen/spores (absolute counts)	
Arboreal taxa	
<i>Alnus</i> (Alder)	5
<i>Corylus</i> -type (Hazel)	15
Herbaceous taxa	
Brassicaceae (Cabbage family)	3
cf Caryophyllaceae (Pink family)	29
Cyperaceae (Sedge family)	17
Poaceae (Grass)	60
<i>Taraxacum</i> agg. (Dandelion)	1
Spores	
Filicales undifferentiated (Ferns)	14
<i>Osmunda regalis</i> (Royal fern)	14
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i> (Common polipody)	33
<i>Sphagnum</i> (Moss)	5
Dinoflagellate cysts	10
Damaged pollen grains	28
Unidentified pollen grains	1
Total concentration of pollen grains (grains / ml)	9237

5.2 Discussion

The taxa identified in this sample indicate that hazel dominated the arboreal taxa and grasses the herbaceous taxa; this suggests an open landscape, with hazel scrub and alder growing in the wetter locations. The presence of sedges, royal fern and *Sphagnum* moss indicate localised wet-ground. The occurrence of dinoflagellate cysts may indicate that these wet areas were ephemeral, where cyst production was initiated in response to environmental stress i.e. drying out. Common polipody is usually found growing on wall tops, trees and rocks (Phillips 1980).

5.3 The pollen assemblage in this context shares some similarities with those of the previous pollen studies (Archaeological Services 2004; 2005) supporting the interpretation of an open landscape, with hazel the dominant tree and the presence of wetland areas. The previous analyses indicated a diverse range of taxa, and the

presence of taxa associated with agricultural practices, which was not reflected in this context. There is sufficient pollen in this sample to obtain a count of 500 grains, however, due to the lack of diversity of taxa it is considered unlikely that further work would provide a more comprehensive interpretation of the data.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 No further work is recommended for this sample due to the poor preservation of plant macrofossils and the limited diversity of pollen and spore taxa.

7. Sources

Archaeological Services 2006 *Old Vicarage Mellor, near Stockport, Greater Manchester; radiocarbon dating*, unpublished report 1389, for University of Manchester Archaeological Unit, Archaeological Services Durham University

Archaeological Services 2005a *Old Vicarage Mellor, near Stockport, Greater Manchester; pollen analysis*, unpublished report 1361, for University of Manchester Archaeological Unit, Archaeological Services Durham University

Archaeological Services 2005b *Old Vicarage Mellor, near Stockport, Greater Manchester; plant macrofossil and pollen assessment*, unpublished report 1349, for University of Manchester Archaeological Unit, Archaeological Services Durham University

Archaeological Services 2004a *Mellor, near Stockport, Greater Manchester; pollen analysis*, unpublished report 1090, for University of Manchester Archaeological Unit, Archaeological Services Durham University

Archaeological Services 2004b *Mellor, near Stockport, Greater Manchester; pollen assessment*, unpublished report 1073, for University of Manchester Archaeological Unit, Archaeological Services Durham University

Archaeological Services 2003 *Mellor, near Stockport, Greater Manchester; plant macrofossil assessment*, unpublished report 1059, for University of Manchester Archaeological Unit, Archaeological Services Durham University

Moore, P D, and Webb, J A, 1978 *An illustrated guide to pollen analysis* London

Phillips, R, 1980 *Grasses, Ferns, Mosses & Lichens of Great Britain and Ireland*, London

Stace, C, 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*, 2nd Edition, Cambridge

Appendix 5: Radiocarbon Report

A Report by Beta Analytic Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory

Below is a report on the radiocarbon dating results for two samples recently sent to Beta. They each provided plenty of carbon for accurate measurements and all the analyses proceeded normally. The report sheet contains the dating result, method used, material type, applied pretreatment and two-sigma calendar calibration result (where applicable) for each sample.

References are quoted on the bottom of each calibration page. Multiple probability ranges may appear in some cases, due to short-term variations in the atmospheric ^{14}C contents at certain time periods. Examining the calibration graphs will help you understand this phenomenon. Calibrations may not be included with all analyses. The upper limit is about 20,000 years, the lower limit is about 250 years and some material types are not suitable for calibration (e.g. water).

We analyzed these samples on a sole priority basis. No students or intern researchers who would necessarily be distracted with other obligations and priorities were used in the analyses. We analyzed them with the combined attention of our entire professional staff.

Sample Data	Measured Radiocarbon Age	$^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ Ratio
Beta - 228119 Conventional Age: 1970 +/- 40 BP SAMPLE: OVM06 150 [103] ANALYSIS: AMS-Standard delivery MATERIAL/PRETREATMENT: (charred material): acid/alkali/acid 2 SIGMA CALIBRATION: Cal BC 50 to Cal AD 120 (Cal BP 2000 to 1830)	2000 +/- 40 BP	-26.7 o/oo
Beta - 228120 Conventional Age: 2370 +/- 70 BP SAMPLE: OVM06 277 [151] ANALYSIS: Radiometric-Standard delivery (with extended counting) MATERIAL/PRETREATMENT: (charred material): acid/alkali/acid 2 SIGMA CALIBRATION: Cal BC 760 to 680 (Cal BP 2710 to 2630) AND Cal BC 670 to 360 (Cal BP 2620 to 2310) AND Cal BC 280 to 260 (Cal BP 2230 to 2200)	2370 +/- 70 BP	-25.1 o/oo

CALIBRATION OF RADIOCARBON AGE TO CALENDAR YEARS

(Variables: C13/C12=-26.7;lab.mult=1)

Laboratory number: Beta-228119

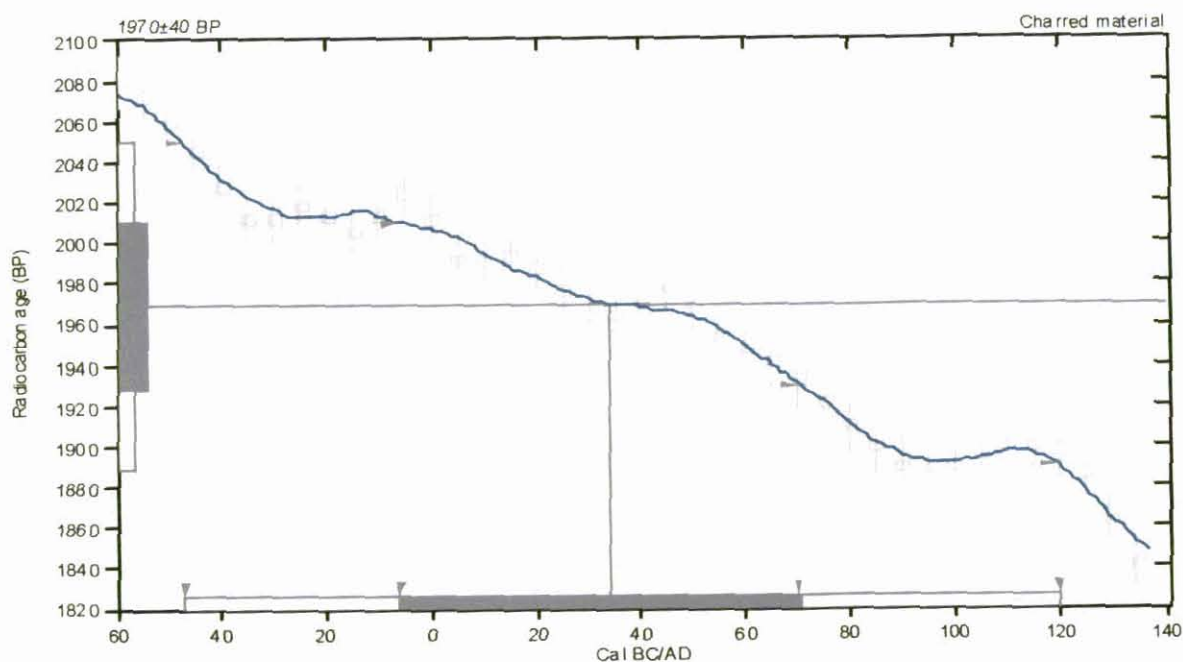
Conventional radiocarbon age: 1970 ± 40 BP

2 Sigma calibrated result: Cal BC 50 to Cal AD 120 (Cal BP 2000 to 1830)
(95% probability)

Intercept data

Intercept of radiocarbon age
with calibration curve: Cal AD 30 (Cal BP 1920)

1 Sigma calibrated result: Cal BC 10 to Cal AD 70 (Cal BP 1960 to 1880)
(68% probability)



References:

Database used

INTCAL04

Calibration Database

INTCAL04 Radiocarbon Age Calibration

IntCal04: Calibration Issue of Radiocarbon (Volume 46, nr 3, 2004).

Mathematics

A Simplified Approach to Calibrating C14 Dates

Talma, A. S., Vogel, J. C., 1993, Radiocarbon 35(2), p317-322

Beta Analytic Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory

4985 S.W. 74th Court, Miami, Florida 33155 • Tel: (305)667-5167 • Fax: (305)663-0964 • E-Mail: beta@radiocarbon.com

CALIBRATION OF RADIOCARBON AGE TO CALENDAR YEARS

(Variables: C13/C12=-25.1;lab.mult=1)

Laboratory number: Beta-228120

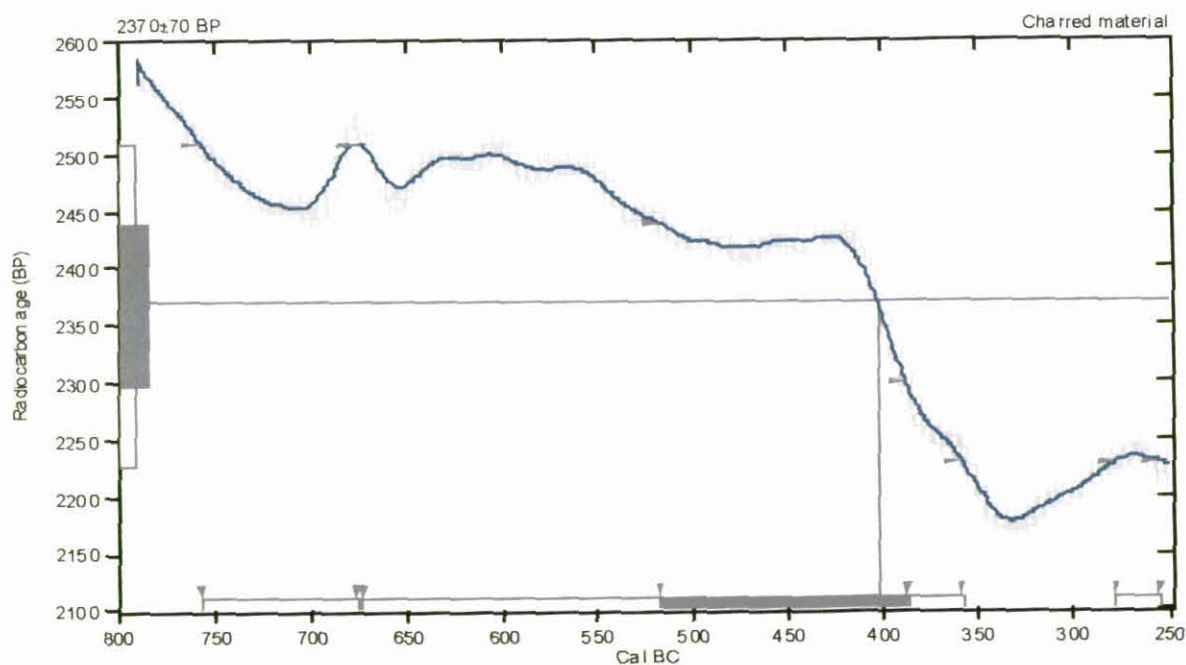
Conventional radiocarbon age: 2370±70 BP

2 Sigma calibrated results: Cal BC 760 to 680 (Cal BP 2710 to 2630) and
(95% probability) Cal BC 670 to 360 (Cal BP 2620 to 2310) and
Cal BC 280 to 260 (Cal BP 2230 to 2200)

Intercept data

Intercept of radiocarbon age
with calibration curve: Cal BC 400 (Cal BP 2350)

1 Sigma calibrated result: Cal BC 520 to 390 (Cal BP 2470 to 2340)
(68% probability)



References:

Database used

INTCAL04

Calibration Database

INTCAL04 Radiocarbon Age Calibration

IntCal04: Calibration Issue of Radiocarbon (Volume 46, nr 3, 2004).

Mathematics

A Simplified Approach to Calibrating C14 Dates

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Appendix 6: Arrowhead Report

Archery-Historical Comments on the Medieval Arrowheads found at Mellor in Cheshire

A Report by Geoff Gaunt

Three arrowheads were shown to the author for comment which had all been discovered during archaeological excavations at Mellor. The arrowheads had all been conserved prior to the author viewing them by Dr. Sonia O'Connor of Bradford University. All three arrowheads were made of iron or steel. One was recovered during excavations in 2005, and a further two arrowheads were found during the 2006 season and their report is also included here.

The arrowhead discovered in 2005 (from within pit [65]) is socketed, with an elongated isosceles triangular blade, i.e. the sides of the blade are longer than its base, and the two basal corners are slightly extended to give the appearance of embryonic barbs (**Plate I**). The length of the blade from point to midway along the base is slightly longer than that (? surviving) part of the socket extending beyond the blade, and the total length is c.75mm.

These features are closely comparable to the medieval type 2 arrowhead as classified in the London Museums Catalogues (1954, pp. 65-73), the only difference being that the base of the blade of the type 2 arrowhead is either straight or only slightly angled, with appreciably less of a tendency towards barbs than has the Mellor arrowhead. In Britain the type 2 arrowhead is generally attributed to the period between the 11th (?and Late 10th) and 13th centuries, and is considered to have been 'multi-purpose', i.e. useable for both hunting and warfare (Jessop, 1997). Typical examples have been found in Chester. Similar arrowheads are dateable to slightly earlier times however. Halpin (1997, p.540) refers briefly to triangular-bladed arrowheads from Dublin that range in date from the mid-10th to 13th centuries and comparable examples have been found in 'Frankish' graves (London Museums Catalogues 1954, p.68). Manley (1985, p.227, referencing Graham-Campbell, 1980) states that "Triangular or quadrangular arrowheads were introduced to Scandinavia during the Viking period for military purposes".

The embryonic barbs on the Mellor find raise the possibility that the type 2 arrowhead evolved into one with more distinct barbs. In the London Museums Catalogues (1954) the latter is represented by type 13, which has barbs that, although quite well marked are generally less than half the length of the socket, i.e. are relatively short compared to those on late medieval hunting broadheads. Type 13 is the earliest form of barbed arrowhead used in medieval Britain, apparently ranging from the 11th to at least the 14th centuries. According to the London Museums Catalogues (1954, p.67) it was "probably used occasionally in battle as late as the 13th century". Its use for hunting seems to have persisted for at least another century, possibly for small game.

In order to propel a heavy iron or steel arrowhead from a sufficiently high draw-weight longbow (in effect at least 55 pounds) to kill or disable a man or large animal, an arrow shaft of 11/32-inch diameter or more would be advisable. A 10/32-inch diameter shaft shot from a moderate draw-weight bow at short range might suffice, but a quarter-inch (i.e. 8/32-inch)

diameter shaft, nowadays used for longbow target archery only by the young, elderly or otherwise disadvantaged, would be much too flexible to be efficient. It is suggested therefore, that as the diameter of the Mellor arrowhead socket as it exists now is 9/32-inch then the original socket may have been both longer and wider at its end. This may also explain the lack of a small pin or nail hole close to the original socket termination, common on most type 2 and type 13 arrowheads, designed in order to hold the arrowhead more firmly in place.

Unfortunately, on the available evidence summarised above, types 2 and 13 co-existed for at least three centuries (11th to 13th), so although the Mellor arrowhead looks superficially like a type 2 beginning to evolve into a type 13 it could have originated at any time within these three centuries. The discovery in 2006 of an arrowhead (below) from within a similar context suggests an overlap date in the late 13th century, though due to the longevity of objects such as these this remains uncertain.

The two arrowheads discovered in 2006 (**Plates III and IV**) appear to have been similar in both type and size but on one of them (recovered from fill (001)/[002]) the socket (or tang) and one of the barbs is missing. The following comments therefore, refer to the other (from fill (036)/[003]), which is almost complete.

Its general shape and dimensions both are closely comparable to those of late medieval arrowheads known variously as broadheads or broad arrows, which could be tanged or socketed, and are distinguished by having two long rearward-pointed barbs. These broadheads were designed primarily for hunting large game such as deer and boar. Those that can be dated even approximately suggest an age range from late 13th to early 16th century. Numerous finds testify to their common usage in the British Isles, and art-evidence suggests similar usage in adjacent continental regions also.

In archery-historical literature the primary measurement of a broadhead is normally from the point along the outer edge of the barb to the termination of the barb. However, this measurement can lead to wide variations because some broadheads are of the 'swallowtail' variety with barbs extending well beyond the base of the tang or socket. For the purpose of these comments therefore, a measurement from the point to the base of the tang or socket is considered to give a better comparison between the Mellor arrowhead and those for which measurements are available (most of which are swallowtails). On the Mellor arrowhead this measurement is 67 mm, with some slight wear or breakage at the point. Four broadheads illustrated in the London Museums Catalogues (1954, plate xv, see also pp. 65-73) have approximately the following equivalent measurements (allowing at least plus or minus 1 mm for scaling error)-

No. 27= 70 mm; No. 29= 79 mm; No. 31= 75 mm; No. 32= 68 mm

Three broadheads from Clarendon Palace (James and Robinson, 1988, pp. 222-223) have the following equivalent measurements (with the same allowance for scaling error)-

No. 122= 82 mm; No. 123= 82 mm (incomplete); No. 124= 102 mm

On a broadhead 'from the old bed of the stream at Walbrook' (Cuming, 1855, p. 143, plate 11) the equivalent measurement is 73 mm, although the base of the socket as figured may not quite be its original termination. By comparison with these few measurements the Mellor arrowhead is seen to be at the lower end of the late medieval broadhead size range.

The Mellor arrowhead is of the socketed type, designed to fit over a suitably tapered wooden shaft. Assuming that the maximum preserved length of the socket is the original manufactured length, the internal diameter of the base of the socket was not more than 10.5 mm (13/32 inch) and possibly (allowing for increased apparent internal diameter during flattening) as little as 8.5 mm (11/32 inch). Most modern archers who shoot longbows of over 55 pounds draw weight use 11/32-inch diameter shafts. In certain competitions use of the heavier 'standard arrow' is obligatory; this arrow must have a minimum shaft diameter of 3/8-inch (i.e. 12/32-inch). The longbows used with these arrows are generally 70 to 120 pounds draw weight, a range closely comparable to the estimated 90 to 120 pounds draw weight of the Mary Rose bows.

There are two features on the Mellor arrowhead however, which are atypical of medieval broadheads. The most significant is the presence of indentations along the inner edges of both barbs. The x-ray photograph (Plate II) shows that this is not due to corrosion but is an original feature, the barbs having been purposely indented during manufacture (the x-ray of the other incomplete arrowhead from 2006 appears indistinct in this respect). The writer has not previously seen indentations figured or described on any other late medieval broadheads, or indeed on any other metal arrowheads found in Britain. Such indentations however, called engrailings, are present on the inner barbs on arrowhead-like figures known as pheons, which are heraldic charges or bearings. They are perhaps most widely known where stamped on Crown property, especially MOD (Ministry of Defence) or former WD (War Department) property, and on caricatures of convicts due to having been formerly printed on prisoners' uniforms. Other examples (but without the engrailings) are on the Ordnance Survey's trigonometrical and altitudinal marks. Where a pheon is included on a personal or corporate heraldic coat of arms it is more commonly drawn point downwards. Examples include the arms of Sydney Sussex College in Cambridge and of the City of Salford. In Parliament the Sergeant-at-arms carries a staff topped by a pheon when in procession on state occasions. The origin of the pheon as an indicator of Crown property is uncertain. One theory traces it back to a member of the Sydney family (whose armorial bearings include a pheon) when he was Master of the Ordnance in 1693-1702, although the mark of the "brode arrow" on Crown possessions is referred to much earlier by Sir Thomas Gresham in a letter from Seville to the Royal Council in England, dated 30th November 1554 (Dillon, 1899). There are more obscure references to a barbed javelin being carried by the Sergeant-at-arms in the royal presence as early as Richard I.

The other atypical feature on the Mellor arrowhead is the truncated terminations of the barbs, which the x-ray photograph shows to have been an original feature, not due to breakage. With only rare exceptions the barb terminations on late medieval broadheads, where complete, are pointed. In this respect therefore, the truncated barb terminations of the Mellor arrowhead are more suggestive of a heraldic pheon than of a typical late medieval broadhead.

In conclusion, except for the inner-barb indentations and truncated barb terminations, the Mellor arrowhead is typical of most late medieval hunting broadheads, being perhaps more closely comparable to those at the smaller end of the size range; it could probably have been shot quite effectively from a longbow with a 60 to 90 pounds draw weight. The presence of the indentations and truncated barbs however, being suggestive of a heraldic pheon, raises the possibility that the arrowhead was purposely shaped to indicate some special significance, esoteric, ceremonial or heraldic.

Appendix 6: Plates



Plate I: Detail of arrowhead from postpit [065] 2005 after conservation. Scale 5cm.

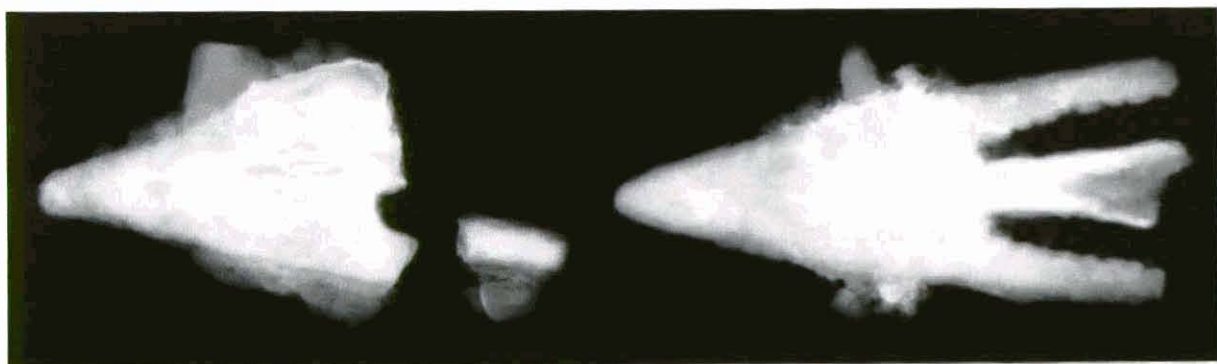


Plate II: X-ray photograph of the 2006 arrowheads prior to conservation. Courtesy of Dr. Sonia O'Connor, Bradford University.



Plate III: The 2006 pheon arrowhead from (036)/[03] after conservation. Note engravings on the inner barbs and truncated barb-tangs. Scale 5cm.



Plate IV: 2006 broadhead recovered from (001)/[002] after conservation. Scale 5cm.

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