

DESCRIPTION OF THE EXCAVATIONS

House 1

by J H Williams with F Williams

Summary

The area of House 1 has a most interesting and varied history. A ditch, probably of prehistoric date (Phase 1), ran roughly north-south across the site. This was overlaid by a (?) timber gully associated with several post-holes and probably of Early/Middle Saxon date (Phase 2). Sand spread over from the mortar mixers to the south (Phase 3) and this was cut by the timber structures of

Phase 4. Three sub-phases could be distinguished within Phase 4—the earliest a timber building no later than the early 10th century, and the second a metal-working complex, again of early 10th century date. There was possibly an interval between Phases 4 and 5, the remains of which were extremely fragmentary. Stone was probably not used for building in the area until the general reconstruction of the street c. 1410-20 but subsequently the house underwent several modifications with further rooms constructed at the rear and the gradual consolidation of the yard itself. The house was burnt down c. 1500 and the area saw little activity before the 19th century.

Phase 1

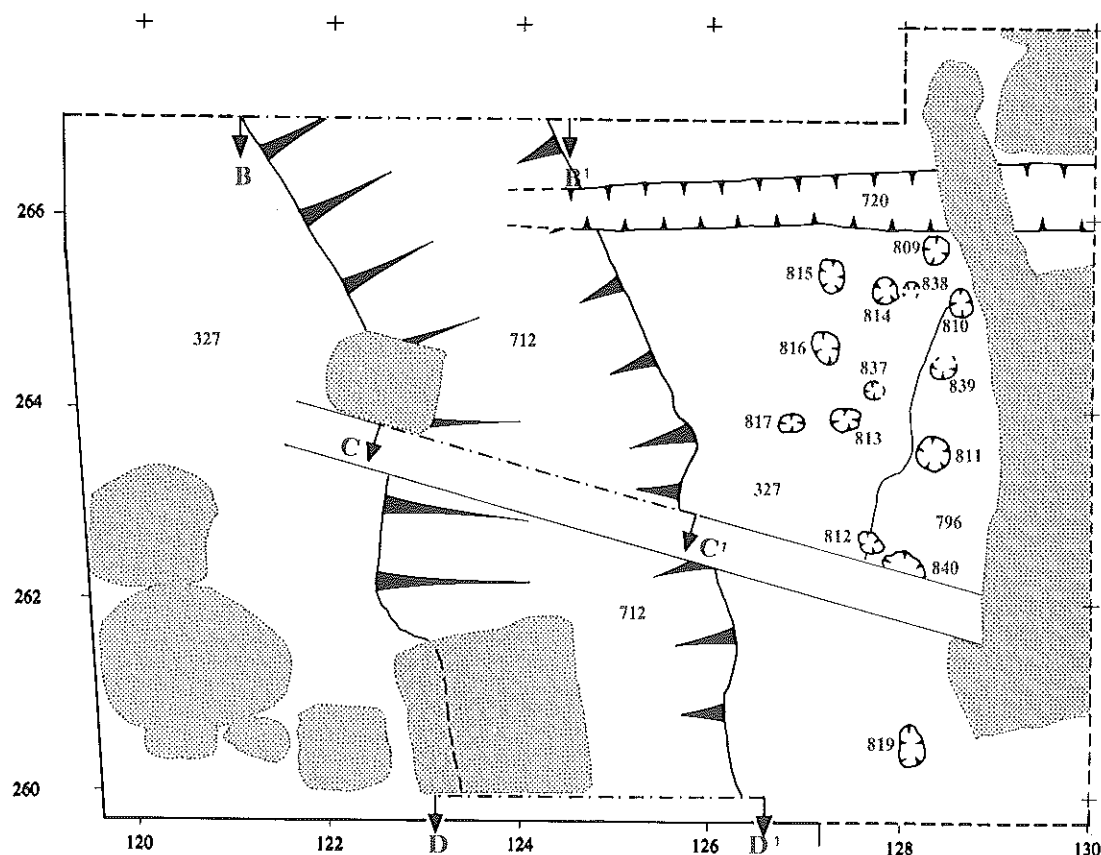
Figs. 7 and 8; Pl. 2

The following discussion includes Phase 1 features in House 8. A ditch c. 4m wide × up to 1.5m deep cut the ironstone substratum and curved in a gentle arc. The ditch was first excavated in the area of House 1 where only major distinctions were recognised while removing the fill stratigraphically, but closer examination of the sections subsequently was more illuminating. In House 8 the 'recut' was more easily recognised and excavated separately.

There was considerable variation between the sections in the detailed silting pattern but all sections except BB' gave clear evidence

House 1 Phases 1 and 2

Fig 7



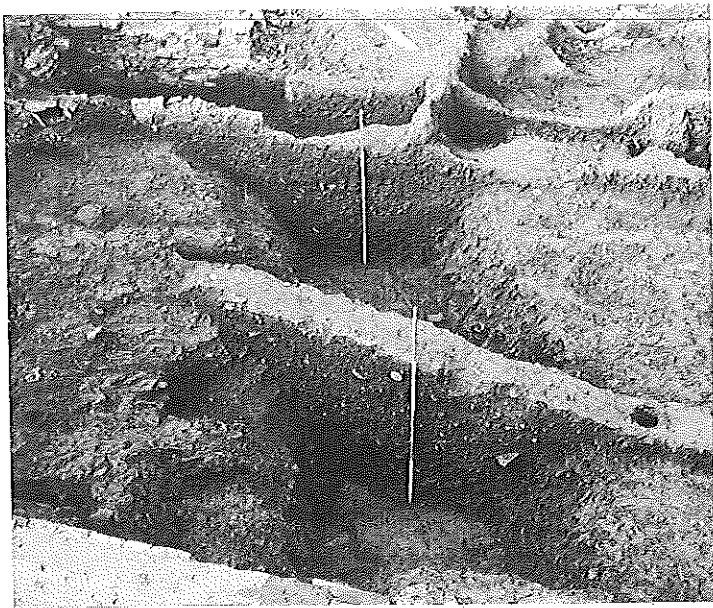
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m 0 1 2

of a recut. The initial fills sloped gently towards the centre of the ditch from each side and comprised sands and fine shaley ironstone with a minimal amount of limestone. The recut was narrower and consistently filled with large limestone blocks not available in the immediate vicinity as well as sands and shale. In neither sub-phase was there any indication of the position of the presumed bank although the large limestone blocks in the recut suggest that such a bank was by that time stone faced. It would seem most reasonable for a wall to have been on the west of the ditch on the inside of the ditch curve, the defences thus forming an enclosure on the spur above the confluence of the Nene and Northern Water. The absence of both a recut and limestone in section BB¹ possibly indicates an entrance or gap in the defences during the second sub-phase.

The dating of the ditch is somewhat problematical. The few minute sherds of pottery recovered could be prehistoric or Saxon. Silt dating was attempted by Dr Mark Noel but the high magnetic properties of the ironstone prevented any meaningful results being obtained. The evidence of worked flints and the snail assemblage does, however, lend support to a prehistoric date (below pp. 290 and 338). The largest concentration of worked flints on the site lay in the ditch itself and in the area immediately around (see below p. 290). Dr Evans, on the basis of the snail assemblage, thinks that the ditch was probably Romano-British or earlier and the absence of Romano-British artefacts strengthens the prehistoric case. Dr Evans further suggests the area was covered with dense scrub or woodland with little disturbance by agriculture.

PLATE 2 House 1: Phase 1 ditch looking north.



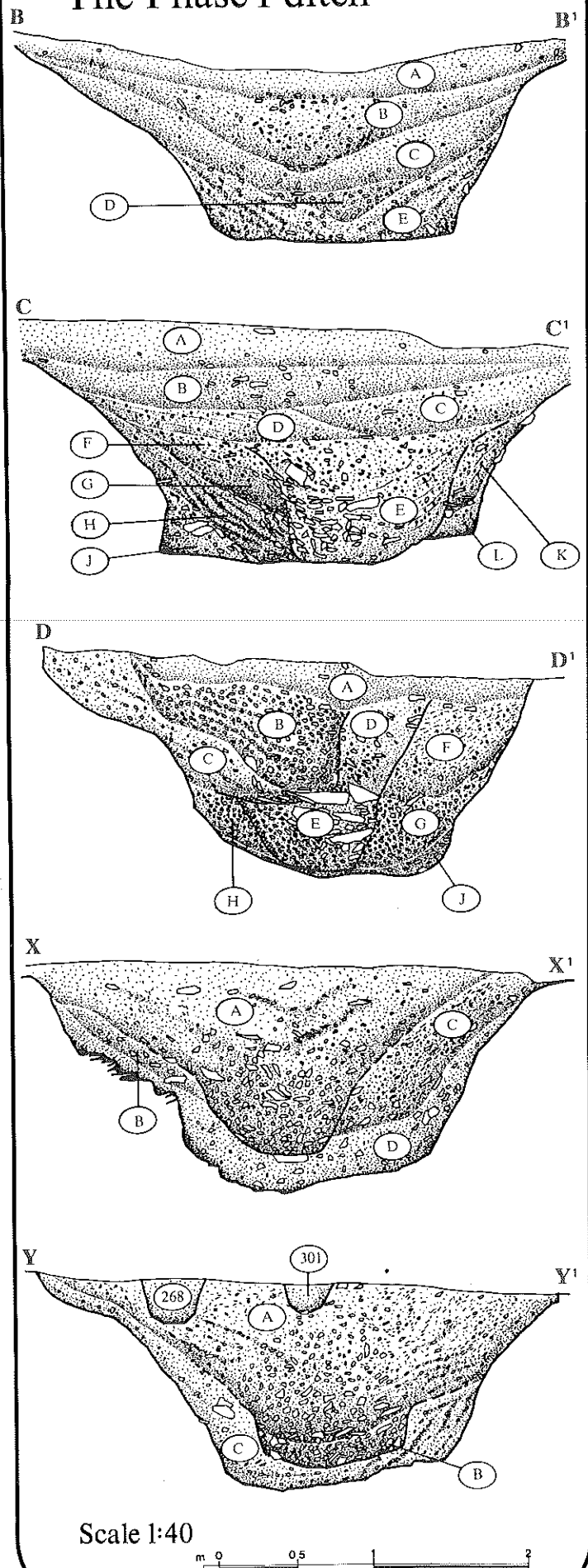
Phase 2?

Fig. 7

Phase 2? could be examined only in a limited area because of the extent of pitting to the north of northing 266 and the more limited disturbance further south. Gully 720 and a series of post-holes are attributed to this phase. The gully was straight-sided and rather shallow; it was first identified cutting the ironstone natural and subsequently traced across the infill of ditch 712 where it faded out. The eastward continuation of the gully was located in House 2. The post-holes cut into the weathered substratum and were uniformly filled with orange grey sand very similar to layer 467 above and the uppermost fill of ditch 712. It is impossible therefore to be certain either that the post-holes did not cut from a level slightly above the top of the substratum, or that further post-holes did not lie in the area of the infilled ditch. Assuming, however, that all features were identified, gully 720 is clearly later than the infilling of the ditch although the post-holes could, on stratigraphical grounds, be contemporary with it. It is probably best to regard all the House 1 features as Middle Saxon and as Phase 2—i.e. earlier than the mortar mixers and associated boundary work in House 2.

The Phase 1 ditch

Fig 8



Phase 3

Sand level 467 (Phase 3-4) was very similar in composition to the sand layers associated with the mortar mixers to the south, and should probably be correlated with them. A limited amount of later pottery was found in layer 467 which must be regarded as intrusive.

Phase 4

Figs. 9-11; Pl. 3

The general case for establishing a separate Phase 4 and 5 is discussed on pages 73ff. In House 1 problems of interpretation are accentuated by later interference but, although the overall picture there could be clearer, a good stratigraphical succession can be established when evidence from adjoining areas is taken into consideration. There are two main grounds for distinguishing as separate phases, Phases 4 and 5. Firstly, green level 551 (in its

disturbed form=120) may well be the same as general level F57 further south which is crucial in separating Phases 4 and 5 in the House 8 area. No continuous link can be demonstrated between A551 and F57 but both lie virtually immediately above sand levels A467 and F55. Secondly, there is a suggestion in both areas of new timber buildings aligned along a new street, all being above A551 and F57. Also in both areas the Phase 4 buildings seem to have gone out of use while Late Saxon pottery types were still current with new forms being associated with Phase 5. Although it is just possible that Phase 5 structures elsewhere on site may have been of Late Saxon date, it seems reasonable to postulate that most if not all Late Saxon features belong to Phase 4. The limitations of such an approach are appreciated but it probably provides the most reliable framework for the interpretation of the rather ephemeral timber structures of the House 1 area.

Within Phase 4, three sub-phases are tentatively identified. Phase 4A: A few post-holes and pit 582 lay below level 574 (see

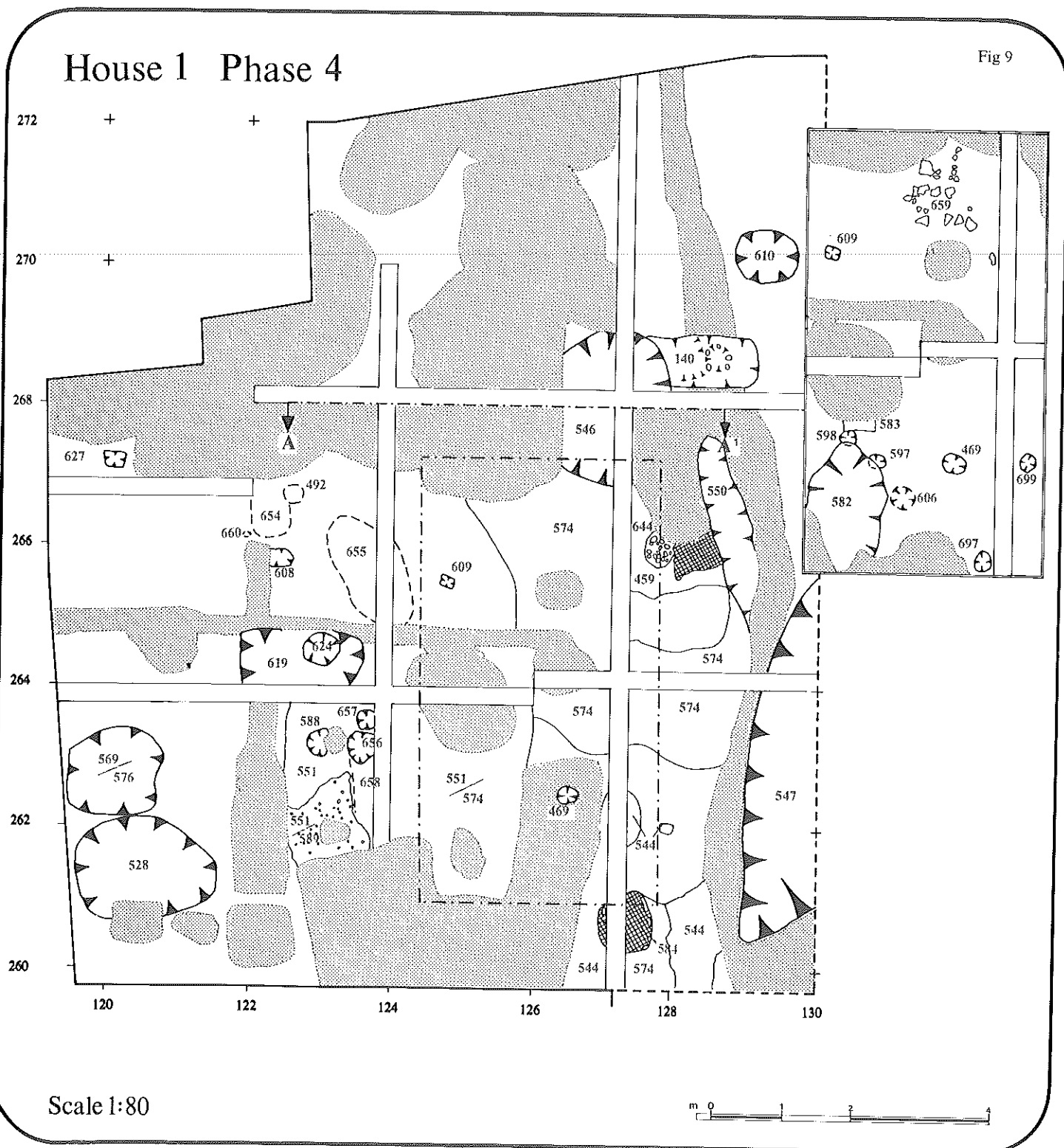


Fig. 7 inset). Post-holes 469, 606 and 699 probably formed the north wall of building 1 in the House 8 area; the north section of the east wall would have been destroyed by wall 40 and pit 547 and the north section of the west wall by modern interference (for building nos. see Fig. 76a).

Phase 4B: Overlying building 1 and extending over much of the House 1 area was a very thin yellow green level 574. This should probably be seen as a floor level but the evidence for wall lines etc. is tenuous in the extreme. 574 does not occur to the west of easting 124 where a possible slot 658 and post-holes 656 and 657 follow a roughly north-south alignment. A northward continuation of this alignment was not traced, even though there is only limited disturbance in this area. It is, however, interesting to note the small patch of limestone metallurgy (589) to the west of (?) slot 658. All other walls of the presumed building (building 2) have been destroyed by later pitting. Associated with (?) floor 574 were two hearths, 460 and 584; little survived of hearth 460 but the quantity of slag in the immediate area suggests it was an iron-working furnace (see Fig. 10, Pl. 3 and below p. 278). No slag was found associated with hearth 584 or in the ash rake-out from it. Slag was found in pits 528 and 576 and the latter also contained large quantities of ash and a crucible fragment (Fig. 11). Pits in the area of House 8 (F70, 79, 207, 106, 202) may well have been contemporary and F70 is identified as a potential non-slag-tapping furnace (p. 278). It seems plausible that the excavated remains represent a workshop for iron and copper alloy with associated pits scattered round. Two Edmund Memorial pennies from layers A574 and A576 seem to indicate an early 10th century date (Nu8, 9).

Phase 4C: Above the (?) workshop were green soil levels 551 and 120 which were very similar in character. Whereas the pottery from

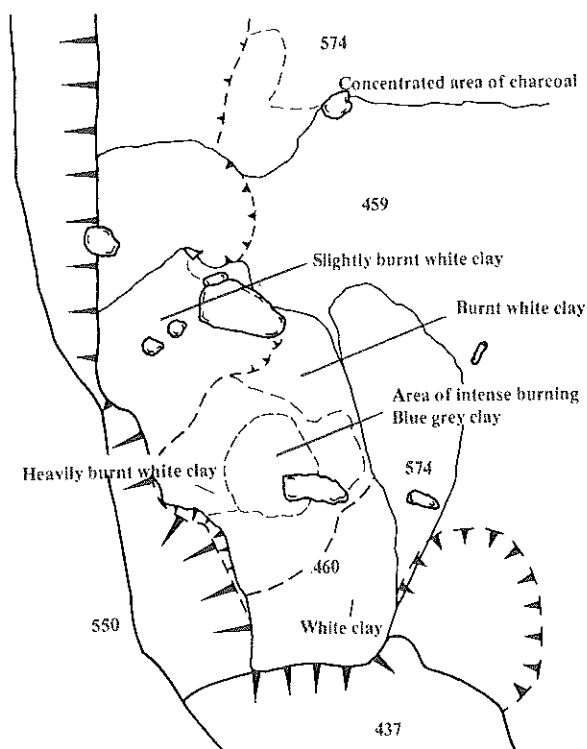
551 was Late Saxon, that from 120 was of post-Conquest date. 551 was, however, overlaid by clay floor level 421 and it seems reasonable to argue that 551 and 120 were originally the same layer but 421 effectively sealed 551 thereby preventing the disturbance to 120 which resulted in intrusive material being present there. Pit 547

PLATE 3 House 1: Phase 4B iron-working furnace A460.



Fig 10

House 1: Furnace A460

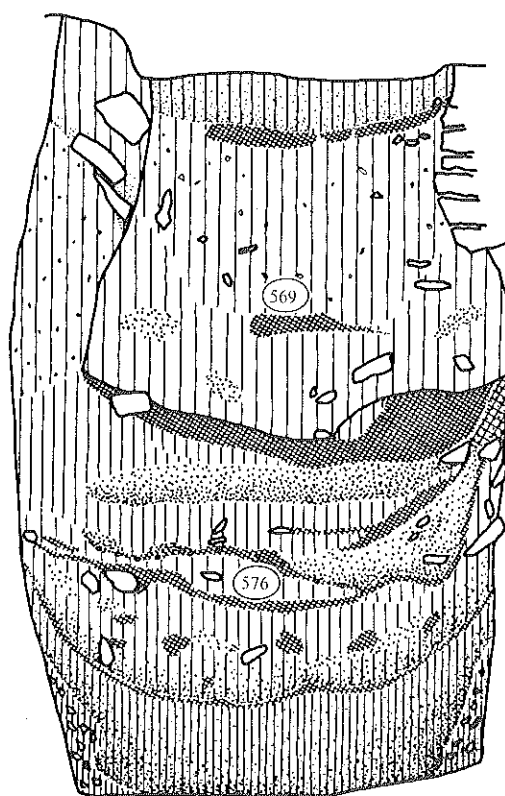


Scale 1:20

mm 0 250 500 1000

Fig 11

Pits A569 and A576



Scale 1:20

mm 0 250 500 1000

has no relationship with either 574 or 120, the crucial junction being eliminated by the later insertion of wall 40. Assuming, however, that the buildings postulated for the first two sub-phases of Phase 4 are correct, pit 547 must be roughly contemporary with layers 551 and 120 in its original form. 551 etc. should be seen as contemporary with layer F57. In the absence of any structural remains and noting the character and extent of the green soil horizon, is a period of inactivity indicated?

Slot 550 is somewhat problematical in that it appears to be later than iron-working complex 460 etc., and could well pre-date pit 547.

The pottery associated with Phase 4 is of Late Saxon type and coins Nu8 and 9 suggest an early 10th century date for Phase 4B. Phase 4A would also appear to be early 10th century or perhaps even late 9th century and Phase 4C, a probable period of dereliction, may well stretch from the 11th century back into the 10th century.

Phase 5

Fig. 12

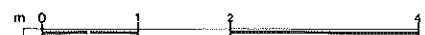
Structural evidence for Phase 5 is rather enigmatic. Slots 484 and 487, post-holes 592-4, 563-4 and 612-3 and pier-bases 125, 470 and 482-3 probably represent a rectangular building(s) fronting onto the street. Whether there was more than one building is, however, unclear. No floor levels survived west of easting 122 and 421 was the only floor level excavated east of this point. Certainly 421 is later than 551 and slots 484 and 487 cut level 120, thus establishing 421 and 484/7 as roughly contemporary. Whereas, however, the slots contained post-Conquest material, pottery within floor 421 is entirely of Late Saxon type. This would seem to indicate that the floor and other structural elements were not associated and that at least two and possibly more buildings were involved. The problem is perhaps further complicated by pit 418 which cuts floor 421 but is itself overlaid by pier-base 483.

House 1 Phase 5

Fig 12



Scale 1:80



Phase 5 had a fairly long life, stone buildings probably not appearing until the total rebuilding of the street c. 1410-20. Hearth 82 is overlaid by wall 15 and in turn is later than the limestone scatter 41 regarded as packing for the wall trench of wall 40, which was part of the first stone structure of House 2. The stones of 41, immediately adjacent to 82, are also burnt. There is some problem, however, in relating 82 to the timber buildings. Slot 484 does not extend so far east and 82 is central to its alignment. How pits 541 etc. at the east end of the site fitted into Phase 5 is also unclear.

The argument in favour of timber buildings in the front portion of the plot is strengthened by the presence of a whole series of pits north of northing 266. The pits are regarded as part of Phase 5 primarily on ceramic grounds since they are clearly earlier than the general stone rebuilding of the street. Additionally, room 4 of the stone building certainly overlies one pit complex and the ironstone spread 67, which is probably the first yard surface of Phase 6, seals another.

Soil level 256 is considered on the sequence diagram as overlying all the pits. It was, in fact, a general soil spread in which pits were variously identified at different levels. As layer B7 in House 4, it probably represents a general accumulation during the digging of the pits.

House 1, Phase 5 can in no way be completely understood. It is only possible to indicate that there was probably a series of timber buildings fronting the street while the yard area was pitted. The phase could span some 300 years and it is impossible to say whether the occupation was sporadic or unbroken. Pit 407 contained a coin (Nu14) of Henry I.

Phase 6

Figs. 14 and 15; Pls. 1 and 4

House 1 is most impressive in the remains of its final Phase 6 form. Several sub-phases can be distinguished in the yard area as the house underwent modifications throughout the 15th century, but the development of the front of the house is considerably simpler. It is probably a single unit within the general reconstruction of the street c. 1410-20.

Wall 40, the west wall of an earlier house, was probably reconstructed as a joint wall for Houses 1 and 2—some reconstruction would have been necessary as House 2 was increased in depth at this time. Little remained of the front wall (36) but the rear wall

(15) extended virtually the whole length of the plot and seemed to disappear under the western baulk, perhaps indicating that the total extent of the house was not excavated. This is perhaps confirmed by the break in the west wall 92 where clay floor 217 is present; this is possibly a doorway. A further doorway leading from the house to the yard area was probably located on the line of wall 15 immediately to the west of wall 13 where the surface of wall 15 had a smooth worn appearance.

Evidence for the internal arrangements was meagre. Traces of at least two phases of clay floor survived, both much eroded. The area was divided into two c. 4×4m modules (rooms 1 and 2) by a short length of a wall (12); an oven (126) was set into the angle of walls 12 and 15. Wall 12 showed evidence of reconstruction after the oven ceased to be used. The oven is also interesting in that its original limestone base appeared to be unburnt, although the inner faces of the 'bowl' were coloured an intense red. Additionally, is 409 the robber of a Phase 6 slot which by chance overlay a Phase 5 slot (487)?

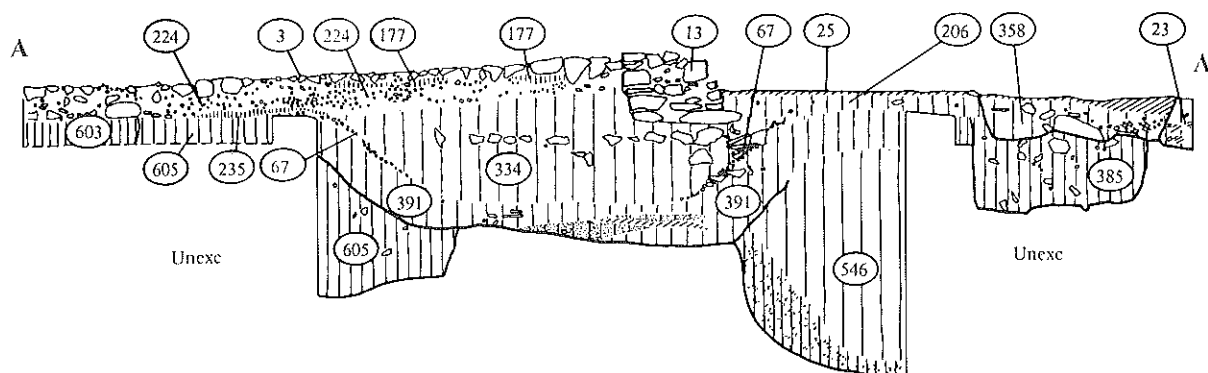
Greater activity in the way of structural modification can be distinguished at the rear of the house. The ironstone yard surface (67) should probably be regarded as belonging to the beginning of Phase 6. Also attributed to Phase 6A is the initial construction of room 4. There are no stratigraphic links which clarify the absolute chronological relationship between the construction of rooms 1/2 and room 4, but both clearly pre-date Phase 6B modifications. It would, however, be reasonable if room 4 was in fact slightly later than rooms 1/2. Room 4 is also interesting in that its eastern extent in Phase 6A (represented by robber trench 150) goes beyond the subsequent eastern boundary of the House 1 plot as defined by wall 23. Was there a redetermination of property boundaries?

Phase 6Bi involves the insertion of room 3 between rooms 2 and 4, alterations to room 4, the erection of a small out-house to the west side of the yard and the gradual consolidation of the yard area itself. Room 3 is clearly later than the soil build-up (235/334) extending over the ironstone yard surface 67. Additionally, wall 13 overlaps an offset of wall 22. The clay floor of room 3 (25) survived fairly intact. Almost certainly contemporarily room 4 was reduced in size, the east wall now continuing the line of robber trench 23. The room was also re-floored.

The yard was resurfaced with small limestone pebbles (224) which again spread over the soil level 235/334. Soon after 224 was

House 1 Section

Fig 13



Scale 1:40

laid down a small out-house represented by wall 251, limestone paving 392 and 'tank' 78 was constructed in the south-west corner of the yard. The purpose of the tank is unclear but several examples occur along the street. The size and position of the out-house can probably be paralleled by similar examples attached to Houses 2 and 3.

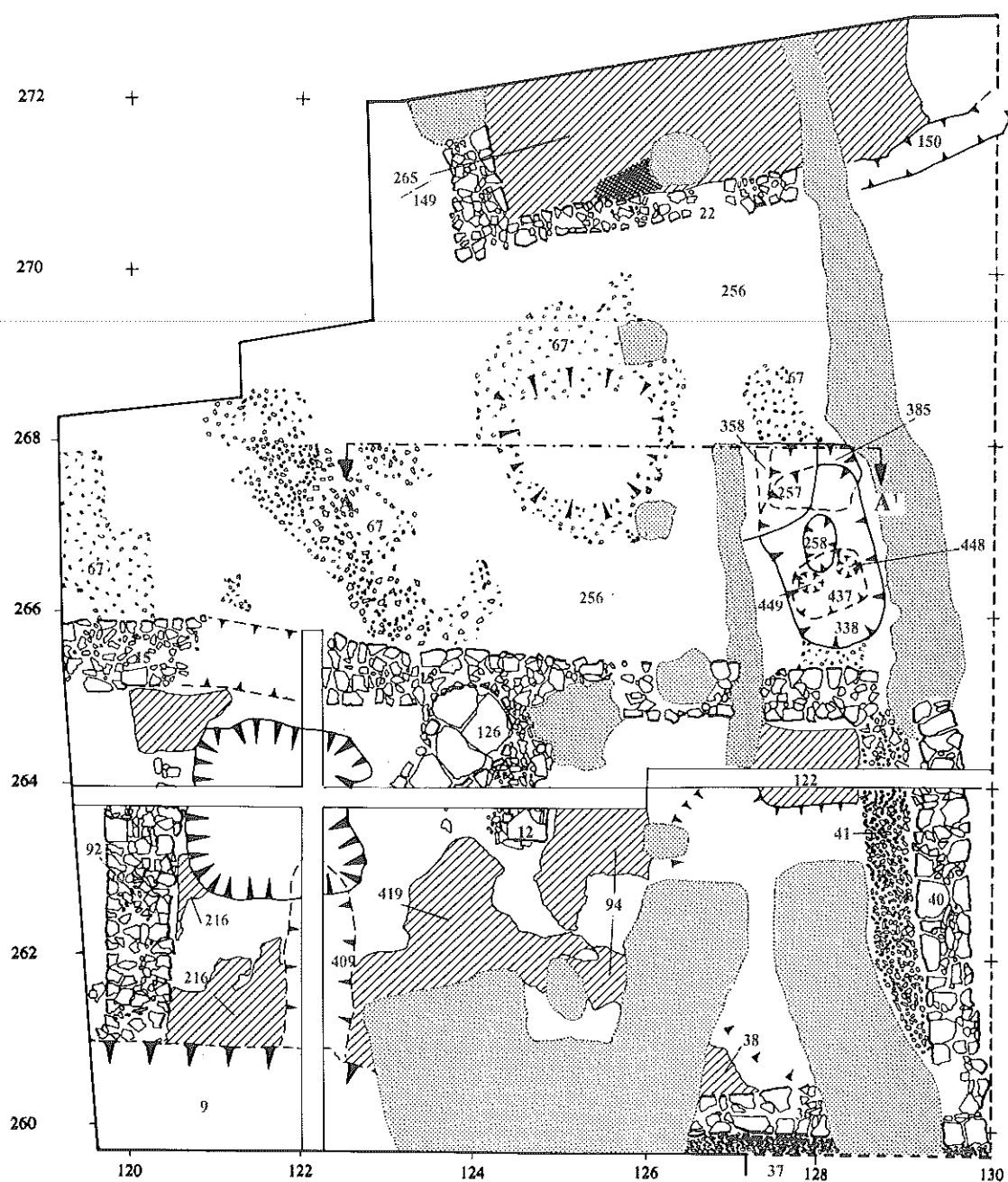
Phase 6Bii saw the probable demolition of the out-house and resurfacing of the yard area with a tightly packed surface of small ironstone and limestone fragments set on end (3, 17 and wall 19). This final work probably occurred late in the 15th century. Several

levels of burning in the soil at the front of the house indicate its destruction by fire c. 1500. A few traces of the conflagration were found in rooms 3 and 4. Subsequently several walls were robbed and pit 4 was cut through the front area in the 16th century. The site as a whole became derelict until the 19th century.

The pottery from Phase 6A is perhaps slightly at variance with its proposed constructional date of c. 1410-20. The house must on balance, however, be seen as resulting from the wholesale reconstruction of the street.

House 1 Phase 6A

Fig 14



Scale 1:80

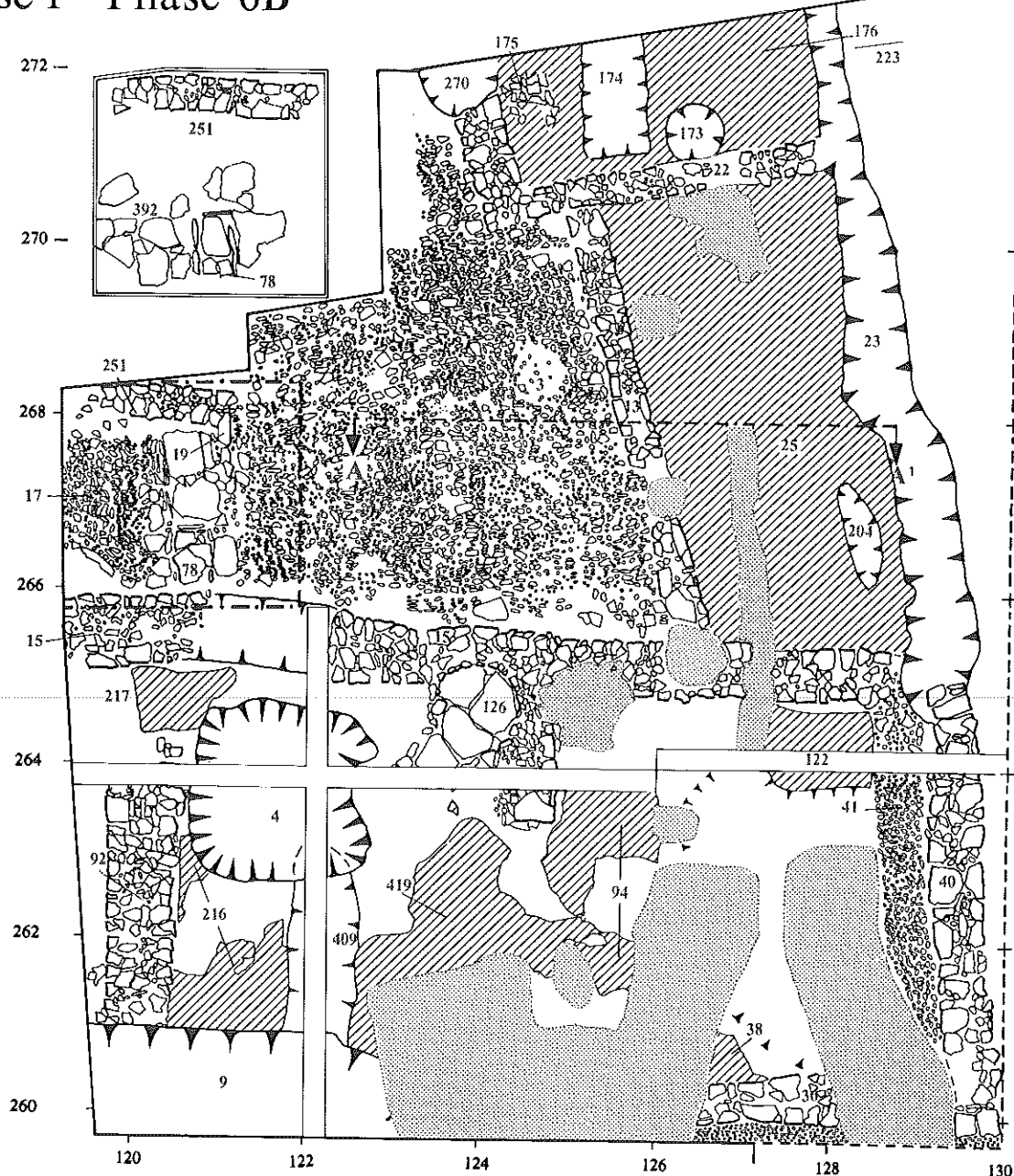
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PLATE 4 *Houses 1-2: Phase 6 (late 15th century).*



House 1 Phase 6B

Fig 15



Scale 1:80

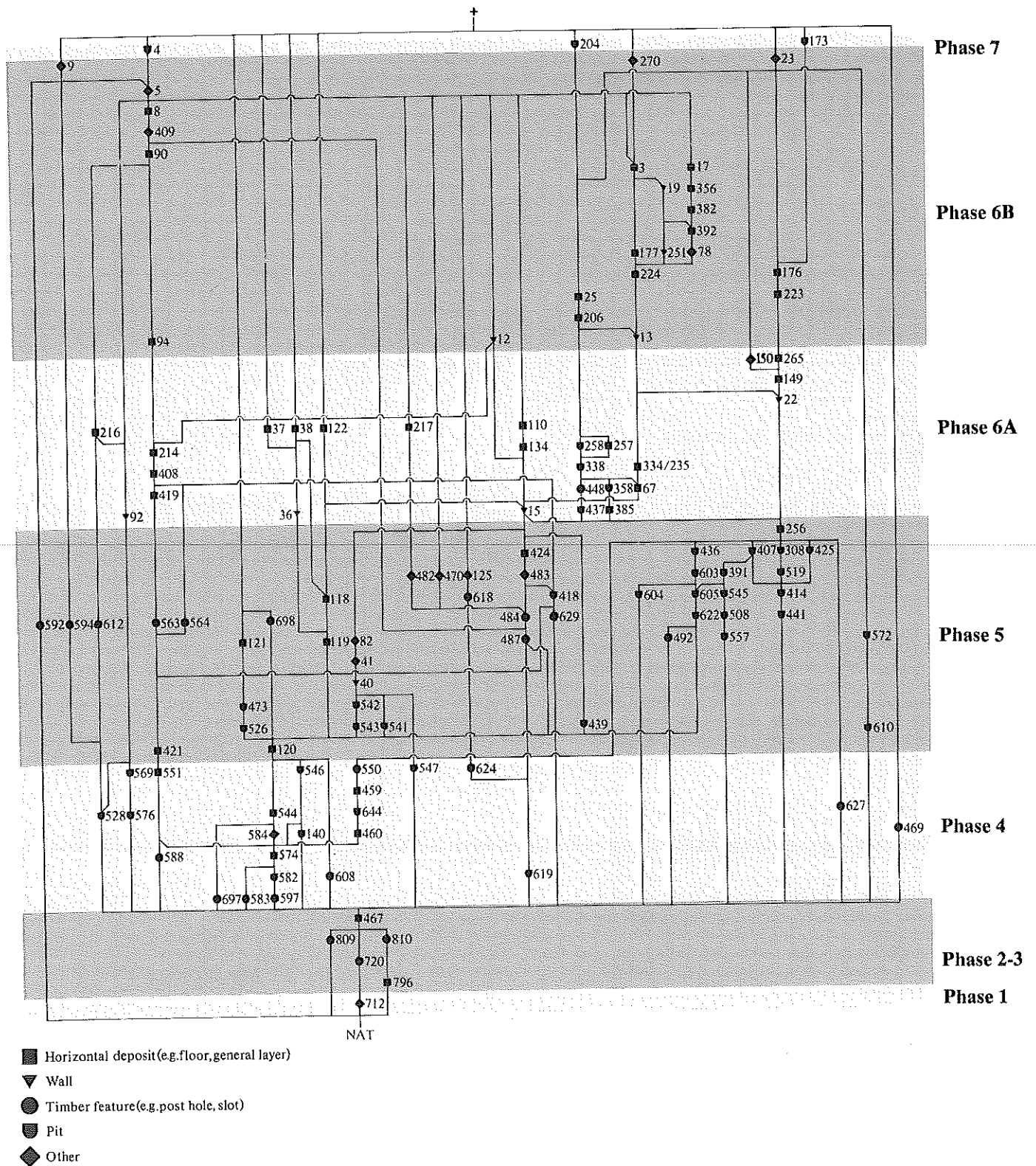
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Layer list

Layer no.	Phase and description	Finds	Layer no.	Phase and description	Finds
3	PHASE 6Bii =(200). Metalled yard. Thin-bedded pitched GL18; CP. ironstone blocks closely packed to form surface; occasional larger pieces of limestone.		8	PHASE 6Biv Brown soil, IF. Destruction debris plus Pb2,25;ts. accumulation over it? NOP.	
4	PHASE 7 Pit 0.38m deep. Black brown soil, clay, burnt Cu127;WB95. clay, IF.		9	PHASE 6Biv Robber trench. Mixed mottled clay and ironstone.	
5	PHASE 6Biv =(6,7,11,18,20). Robber trenches of walls 15 Cu126;Pb4; and 92. Ironstone rubble, some limestone; Fe42;FT1. patches of blue clay; brown soil matrix. NOP.		12	PHASE 6B? N-S ironstone cross wall.	
			13	PHASE 6Bi =(278,291). N-S wall. Ironstone blocks, occasional limestone; break in wall of c. 0.80m possible doorway.	

Fig 16

House 1 Sequence diagram



<i>Layer no.</i>	<i>Phase and description</i>	<i>Find</i>	<i>Layer no.</i>	<i>Phase and description</i>	<i>Find</i>
15	PHASE 6A = (80,115,124), (126=127). E-W wall. Large ?fs. ironstone blocks, occasional limestone, brown soil matrix, levelled stones—doorway?—immediately W of junction with 13.		120	PHASE 5 = (472,489,490,491,493,562,573). Green brown TS. soil deposit.	
17	PHASE 6Bii Pitched ironstone and limestone yard (?). Similar to 3.		121	PHASE 5 = (474,477-8). Yellow white clay floor.	
19	PHASE 6Bii Narrow wall. Tightly packed well squared ironstone blocks partially robbed at S end; brown soil matrix; surface flush with yards 3 and 17.		122	PHASE 6 Clay floor.	
22	PHASE 6A = (148). Ironstone and limestone walls. Brown soil matrix, forming detached room to rear of house. W wall possibly widened by c. 0.20m in Phase 6Bi.	Cu77.	125	PHASE 5 Pier base? 2 layers of small lumps of ironstone and limestone separated by dark green crumbly soil. Probably related to slot 484. Cf. 470,482, 483.	
23	PHASE 6Biv = (56,85,139,142). Robber trench. Brown soil, clay patches, IF. (See also House 2.)	Cu21,125.	(126)	PHASE 6A 15; = (127). Circular oven. Walls of thin flat small ironstone blocks, burnt on inner face. Floor of large limestone slabs (unburnt) covered by cobbles 110.	
25	PHASE 6Bi Grey blue clay floor.	Fe112;H29.	134	PHASE 6 Light brown soil deposit, much charcoal, clay flecks, within oven 126. NOP.	
36	PHASE 6A E-W ironstone wall. Brown soil matrix.		140	PHASE 4 = (635,636,637,638). Sub-rectangular pit with 2 or 3 deeper depressions in bottom including one surrounded by several SHs(?). Much charcoal and iron scale possibly from metal-working.	
37	PHASE 6 Metalled surface. Small IF—road?		149	PHASE 6A = (266,297). Green brown clay floor.	Cu121.
38	PHASE 6 Clay floor.		150	PHASE 6A Robber of original E wall of room 4. Brown soil, ironstone and limestone rubble.	
40	PHASE (5) = (306,394,413,415,416,420,426,427,428,433, 435). Wall foundations. Large well squared blocks of ironstone and limestone; cut through to bottom of pit 547. (See also House 2.)		173	PHASE 7 (174,175). Pit 0.15m deep. Dark brown soil, loose rubble and some burnt stone.	
41	PHASE (5) = (323). Hard packed LF—levelling alongside	ts; WB81. 40.	(174)	PHASE 7 173. Pit 0.10m deep. Dark brown black soil.	
67	PHASE 6A = (254,259,292,299,301,357,422,423). Yard surface(?). Hard packed IF, surviving where subsided into pit.	Cu122;ts.	(175)	PHASE 7 173. Patch of limestone slabs, IF.	
78	PHASE 6Bi = (320,321). Tank? Rectangular cut 0.28m deep lined with limestone slabs (top also covered with slabs). Further pieces of limestone to N may be remains of further tank(?) unless just part of surface 3/17. Area of slabs 392 presumably associated with 78. Brown sandy silty soil, IF.		176	PHASE 6B? Mixed light brown soil and light brown green clay.	
82	PHASE 5 = (458,480,561). Hearth. Sub-rectangular area of well packed burnt slabs of stone covered with clay (burnt pink).	TS.	177	PHASE 6Bi Dark brown soil, IF. Between stone yards 224 and 3. NOP.	Fe86.
90	PHASE 6Biii = (91,211,213,215). Destruction debris. Orange brown soil, burnt soil, burnt areas, charcoal concentration, plaster. NOP.	Cu101.	204	PHASE 7 Pit 0.15m deep. Brown black soil, stones, ash.	Cu129-30; Fe49.
92	PHASE 6A N-S wall. Large ironstone blocks, some limestone, soil matrix; evidence of burning along E face and traces on W face. Possible doorway where 92 stops and clay 217 extends across line of 92.	Cu70.	206	PHASE 6Bi = (261). Light brown soil, ironstone and limestone blocks, IF. General level below floor 25—levelling deposit? NOP.	
94	PHASE 6B? = (95,212). Blue clay floor, IF.		214	PHASE 6A? = (398). Dark brown and green brown soft soil. NOP.	H32.
110	PHASE 6 Thin band of cobbles overlying oven 126. Surfacing or resurfacing of oven (but no traces of burning on original oven floor). NOP.		216	PHASE 6 = (466). Floor. Red orange brown burnt clay.	
118	PHASE 5 Dark brown soil deposit. NOP.		217	PHASE 6 Clay floor.	
119	PHASE 5 = (479,523). Mixed clay deposit.	Fe2;FS/TS.	223	PHASE 6B Floor. Yellow green clay, IF.	Cu123-4.
			224	PHASE 6Bi = (279). Metalling. Small LF. Coterminous with 3. NOP.	
			235	PHASE 6A = (242,252,253,290,294,295,296,300,305,393). Dark brown soil, ironstone and limestone rubble, IF, LF, CF. Extends over most of area of house. NOP.	
			251	PHASE 6Bi Wall. Large well squared ironstone blocks.	

Layer no.	Phase and description	Finds	Layer no.	Phase and description	Finds
256	PHASE 5/6A =(260,262,293,310,359,383,384,507). brown soil.	Green Cu11;Pb46; TS/FS; WB11,28.	437	PHASE 5/6A Pit 0.50m deep. Brown sandy soil, IF.	?ts.
257	PHASE 6A. Shallow deposit of burnt soil and charcoal.		439	PHASE 5 Pit 2.15m deep. Succession of at least 10 layers. Brown to green brown soils, interspersed layers of charcoal and ash.	Pb17;ts;T3; WB27,30.
258	PHASE 6A Pit 0.21m deep. Dark brown soil, IF, LF.		441	PHASE 5 Pit 0.70m deep. Dark brown soil with much charcoal, burnt timber and ironstone overlying a layer of charcoal.	W10; WB39,40.
265	PHASE 6A Loose grey earth.		448	PHASE 5/6A (449). ?PH 0.50m deep. Loose dark brown soil.	
270	PHASE 6Biv Robber trench. Brown soil, ironstone and limestone rubble.		(449)	PHASE 5/6A 448. ?PH 0.50m deep. Loose dark brown soil.	
308	PHASE 5 =(309). Pit 0.13m deep. Mixed brown soil and clay, IF, CF.		459	PHASE 4B =(628,630,631). Charcoal deposit. Rake-out from hearth 460.	TS/FB.
327	=(672,675,719,797,834,835). Natural. (Pot included in Phase 2?.)		460	PHASE 4B =(614,632-3). Patch of burnt clay c. 0.90× 0.70m with roughly circular area in centre c. 0.25m across where intense burning had fired the clay blue grey. No evidence of 'bowl' or superstructure but the quantity of slag in immediate area suggests it was used in metal- working. Pit 644 could have been associated.	TS.
334	PHASE 6A =(335). Dark brown soil, ironstone and limestone rubble. ±235 within subsidence of pit 391. NOP.	Fe24.	467	PHASE 3-4 =(540,587,590,615,617,621,625,634). Orange sandy soil. NOP.	
338	PHASE 6A Pit 0.21m deep. Loose light soil, IF, blue clay flecks.		469	PHASE 4A? PH 0.20m deep. Dark grey brown sandy soil.	
356	PHASE 6Bi Mixed brown and orange soil, IF, LF. Between 17 and 392. NOP.	WB28.	470	PHASE 5 =(481). Pier base? Orange and dark brown soil with many IF, LF.	Pb23.
358	PHASE 5/6A Pit. Loose ironstone and limestone rubble in brown soil.		473	PHASE 5 Pit c. 0.15m deep. Dark brown soil, ironstone and limestone lumps.	
382	PHASE 6Bi Ironstone and limestone lumps in brown soil matrix. Between 17 and 392. NOP.		482	PHASE 5 Pier base? Ironstone and limestone in dark brown soil.	
385	PHASE 5/6A =(440,577,579). Pit 0.40m deep. Mixed brown orange soil, clay patches, limestone slabs, IF, LF.	ts.	483	PHASE 5 Pier base? Setting of large blocks of ironstone.	
391	PHASE 5 =(471). Pit 0.70m deep. Loose dark brown black soil, IF, LF.	Cu5;FS/?TS.	484	PHASE 5 =(485-6,600,643). Slot 0.25-35m deep. Soft brown soil.	
392	PHASE 6Bi Floor. Paving of large limestone slabs and pieces of ironstone.		487	PHASE 5 =(494). Slot. Soft brown soil.	ts.
407	PHASE 5 Pit 0.95m deep. Green brown soil, CF. 407 cuts 414.	Nu14;TS/FB; WB6,25.	492	PHASE 4/5 (654,655,660). ?PH c. 0.10m deep. Pitched ironstone blocks, brown soil.	
408	PHASE 6A? Black soil lying on floor 419, CF. NOP.		508	PHASE 5 =(556). Pit c. 0.70m deep. Dark brown soil overlying a deposit of burnt red clay, white clay and burnt stone.	WB21.
409	PHASE 6Biv Robber 0.40m deep. Dark brown soil, IF. Remains of partition from Phase 6A house?		519	PHASE 5 Pit projects only 0.10m from section, 0.08m deep. Loose grey brown soil, occasional stones.	
414	PHASE 5 Pit 0.67m deep. Orange brown soil.	Cu105;Pb6; WB7-10,26.	526	PHASE 5 Pit c. 0.15m deep. Dark brown soil, IF.	WB22.
418	PHASE 5 Pit 0.95m deep. Orange brown soil, burning, CF, M.	ts;SW29.	528	PHASE 4 Pit 0.85m deep. Dark brown soil, occasional stones.	?fs.
419	PHASE 6A? Hard packed white clay floor.		541	PHASE 5 Pit 0.70m deep. Dark brown soil, much ash, clay, limestone blocks.	
421	PHASE 4/5 Floor? Hard yellow brown clayey soil.	Pb22;GL43.	542	PHASE 5 Pit 0.22m deep. Loose grey brown soil, some charcoal, bone fragments.	
424	PHASE 5 Mixed silver grey/blue clay. Small patch over 483. Some burnt ironstone. NOP.		543	PHASE 5 Pit 0.21m deep. Dark brown soft soil, much charcoal.	ts.
425	PHASE 5 Pit, projected only 0.20m from section, not bottomed. Light orange brown soil, IF.				
436	PHASE 5 Pit 2.20m+ deep. Succession of at least 10 layers of brown, green, black soils and redeposited ironstone.	Cu64;Pb7; Fe68;TS/FS; H4;SW23,31; T5.			

Layer no.	Phase and description	Finds	Layer no.	Phase and description	Finds
544	PHASE 4B = (580,586). Pink red burnt clay and charcoal associated with hearth 584.		(606)	PHASE 4A 583. ?PH. Brown soil.	
545	PHASE 5 Pit c. 0.65m deep. Dark brown black soil, some stones.		608	PHASE 4? (609). ?PH 0.12m deep. Dark brown soil.	
546	PHASE 4C? = (623). Pit at least 1.5m deep. Dark brown black soil, some stones.	Fe36;ts.	(609)	PHASE 4? 608. ?PH 0.28m deep. Loose dark brown soil, CF.	
547	PHASE 4C = (567). Pit 2.00m deep. Various layers of dark brown, green brown and black soils. (See also House 2.)	Fe31, 7; ts; WB5,19,24, 54,6,72,8.	610	PHASE 4/5 Pit 0.75m deep. Loose dark brown soil, IF, CF.	
550	PHASE 4C? Slot. Dark brown black soil, charcoal patches, burnt IF.	TS;WB4.	612	PHASE 5? (613). PH. Loose dark brown and green soil, ash, CF, LF, IF.	
551	PHASE 4C Green brown soil, IF, CF.	Pb21,45;TS/ FB/FS/CI.	(613)	PHASE 5? 612. PH. Loose brown soil, pitched limestone slab.	
557	PHASE 5 Pit. Sticky grey clay over orange gravel over loose brown green soil and rubble.	FE66;SW28.	618	PHASE 5 Pit or PH c. 0.17m deep. Orange sandy soil, charcoal patches.	
563	PHASE 5? PH 0.48m deep. Soft grey soil, IF.		619	PHASE 4? Pit 0.80m deep. Dark brown soil, IF, LF, M.	
564	PHASE 5? PH 0.18m deep. Dark grey sandy soil.		622	PHASE 5 = (626). Depression 0.14m deep. Mixed brown and orange soil, CF.	
569	PHASE 4 Pit 0.95m deep. Green brown sandy soil, some burnt material.	ts;WB58.	624	PHASE 4? ?PH. Dark brown soil, CF.	
572	PHASE 5? Pit. Light green brown soil.		627	PHASE 4/5 ?PH. Dark brown soil.	
574	PHASE 4B = (575,581,585,596,620). Yellow green soil level, some burning.	Nu8;TS/FB/ FS/CI.	629	PHASE 4/5 ?PH c. 0.30m deep. Dark brown soil.	
576	PHASE 4B Pit 0.95m deep. Dark green brown soil with ashy deposits.	Nu9;Cu292,6; Pb44;ts; WB37,103.	644	PHASE 4B Pit. Small irregularly packed pieces of limestone (644.1) overlying loose charcoal and ashy material (644.2). Probably related to iron-working complex—460 etc.	TS/FB.
582	PHASE 4A = (595,607). Pit. Mixed dark brown soil, green brown soil, yellow brown soil, IF, LF, CF.		(654)	PHASE 4/5 492. Slot 0.38m deep. Dark brown soil, IF, CF, M.	
583	PHASE 4A (606,659). ?PH 0.05m deep. Dark brown soil, M.		(655)	PHASE 4/5 492. Depression 0.11m deep. Brown sandy soil.	
584	PHASE 4B Hearth. Oval area enclosed by pitched stones. Within stones—layer 1: blue black burnt soil/clay; layer 2: pitched stones in white clay matrix; layer 3: irregularly laid unburnt limestone pieces.		(656)	PHASE 4B 588. PH 0.12m deep. Loose green soil, CF, M.	
588	PHASE 4B (589,656-8). ?PH c. 0.15m deep. Dark brown soil.		(657)	PHASE 4B 588. PH 0.18m deep. Loose black grey soil.	
(589)	PHASE 4B 588. Metalling? Scatter of small limestone lumps.		(658)	PHASE 4B 588. Slot, shallow. Slightly darker than the orange brown on either side. Apparently delimits 589.	
592	PHASE 5? (593). ?PH 0.50m deep. Mottled clay and stone.		(659)	PHASE 4A 583. Metalling? Scatter of small limestone pieces in yellow green soil matrix.	
(593)	PHASE 5? 592. ?PH 0.42m deep. Dark brown clay, IF, M.		(660)	PHASE 4/5 492. SH 0.15m deep.	
594	PHASE 5? ?PH 0.42m deep. Mottled clay and stone.		697	PHASE 4 (699). PH 0.14m deep. Loose grey brown/ginger soil, CF.	
597	PHASE 4A (598). ?PH c. 0.15m deep. Dark brown soil.		698	PHASE 5 PH 0.13m deep. Loose dark grey brown sandy soil, CF.	ts.
(598)	PHASE 4A 597. ?PH c. 0.15m deep. Dark brown soil.		(699)	PHASE 4 697. PH 0.15m deep. Ginger brown sandy soil, possible limestone packing.	
603	PHASE 5 Pit 0.75m deep. Dark brown soil, IF.	Pb24.	712	PHASE 1 = (730). Ditch see pages 12ff.	ts(?intrusive).
604	PHASE 5 Pit. Dark brown soil.		720	PHASE 2? = (836). Slot 0.05m deep. Orange brown silty soil. (See also House 2.)	
605	PHASE 5 Pit. Medium brown soil.	Fe6.	796	PHASE 2? Light brown loose silty sand, IF, LF.	

Layer no.	Phase and description	Finds
809	PHASE 2? (813,814,815,816,817,819,837,838). PH 0.15m deep. Light brown silty sand.	
810	PHASE 2? (811,812,839,840). PH 0.40m deep. Light brown silty sand.	
(811)	PHASE 2? 810. PH 0.38m deep. Light brown sandy silt, LF, M.	
(812)	PHASE 2? 810. PH 0.13m deep. Dark brown silty sand; post pipe indicated by very soft orange sandy soil.	
(813)	PHASE 2? 809. PH 0.13m deep. Soft light brown sandy silt, IF.	
(814)	PHASE 2? 809. PH 0.15m deep. Orange and grey sand, IF.	
(815)	PHASE 2? 809. PH 0.12m deep. Orange and grey sand.	
(816)	PHASE 2? 809. PH 0.23m deep. Dark orange sandy soil, IF, LF.	
(817)	PHASE 2? 809. PH 0.15m deep. Light brown sandy soil, LF.	
(819)	PHASE 2? 809. PH 0.29m deep. Light brown sandy fill, limestone lying on top.	
(837)	PHASE 2? 809. PH 0.25m deep. Dark orange soft sandy soil, LF.	
(838)	PHASE 2? 809. PH 0.15m deep. Dirty orange soft sand, CF, LF, M.	
(839)	PHASE 2? 810. PH 0.30m deep. Dirty orange soft sand, CF, M.	
(840)	PHASE 2? 810. PH. Soft light brown sandy soil.	

House 2

by J H Williams with F Williams

Summary

The earliest features in the area were a shallow ditch with a possible double palisade which may well have been a boundary work (Phase 3A) associated with the Middle Saxon church in area N. Further post-holes of the same general period may relate to a replacement fence (Phase 3B). In Phase 4 there were at least two sub-phases of rectangular timber structures. After a possible period of inactivity, Phase 5 saw two rectangular post-in-slot buildings of 12th or early 13th century date. Phase 6 comprised two sub-phases of stone rectangular buildings, Phase 6B probably being part of the general rebuilding c. 1410-20. Clear evidence was found for the destruction of the house by fire c. 1500.

Phases 1-3

Fig. 17; Pl. 5

The early levels in the House 2 area are not easy to interpret but it is argued below that they are associated with the Middle Saxon church. On the basis of mini-sequences an earlier phase, Phase 3A, can be postulated and all other features are assigned to Phase 3B. Gully 759 and a large number of post-holes were first recognised cutting the weathered ironstone natural 761. The boundary between 713 and 714 (Phase 4), however, coincides with the western edge of gully 759 and it is quite possible that all the cut features belong to a level above that at which they were clearly defined. Layer 761 and the post-holes are recorded as being overlaid by 752 but this is by no means certain as the post-hole fills were extremely similar in character to 752. Gully 759 was filled with orange brown silty soil with some limestone slabs and a small quantity of mortar and a group of post-holes (776 etc.) clearly cut the infilled gully. To the west it is possible to postulate a post-hole group (783 etc.) on the basis of their diameter, depth and regular spacing at 1.50m centres in two parallel lines. It is interesting to note that a slight change in texture was recognised on each side of the line drawn between 783 and 766. The two lines of posts also ran parallel to gully 759 and, in all cases where there was a relationship with another post-hole, post-holes of group 783 etc. were earlier. Post-holes other than group 783 etc. formed no obvious alignments. Nor is it possible to be certain of the stratigraphic position of gully 720 which in the House 1 area was assigned to Phase 2.

It seems reasonable to argue, though incapable of proof, that the double line of posts, together with the ditch, formed some sort of boundary or perimeter work. There was no evidence for a bank and the posts should probably be seen as a double palisade.

The sand from layer 752 was very similar to that found associated with mixer 2 and a few flecks of mortar were present. Careful examination, however, failed to show stratigraphically whether the gully and post-holes were earlier than, contemporary with or later than the mixers.

Pottery from the gully, post-holes and associated levels is predominantly of Early-Middle Saxon type although a few Late Saxon sherds are present. The gully also produced two radio-carbon dates of AD 870±85 and AD 940±85 (RC5,6) as well as a coin (Nu13), possibly belonging somewhere in the first half of the 10th century, and the sceatta (Nu6) and Berhtwulf penny (Nu7) should perhaps also be associated with this phase.

The gully and (?)fence are probably best interpreted as a boundary work for the church. Both radio-carbon dates lie within two standard deviations of the late 8th century and moreover the bone comes from the silting of the ditch not its cutting. The boundary work may well have continued in use for some time and some if not all of the Phase 3B post-holes may well have concerned a reconstruction. Certainly no clear structural pattern is readily detectable for the Phase 3B posts.

Phase 4

Fig. 18

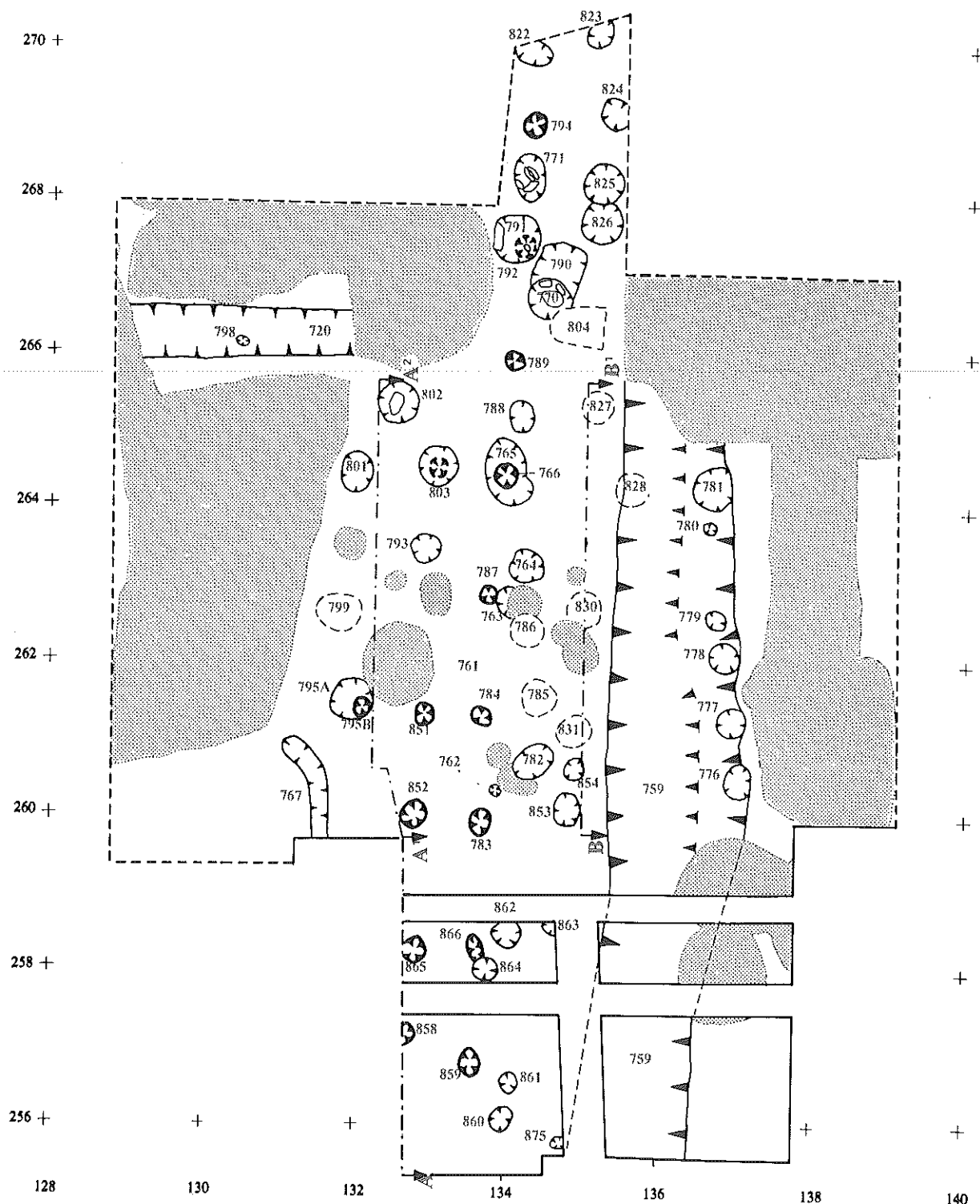
In spite of later disturbances fragments of clearly defined timber buildings of more than one sub-phase could be discerned (building 5, Fig. 76a). To the south was a metalled lane or yard. The buildings were overlaid by the same green soil deposit noted in the House 1 and House 8 areas.

The north wall of one building was clearly defined by a line

of post-holes 678-728 and a north-south division was marked by post-holes 667-8 and 686. The south wall of the building probably comprised some of the post-holes immediately to the north of northing 260. Two lines can be postulated—747, 682, 684-5 and 381, 665, 380, 388. A metalled area lay to the east of the building. A second building is probably indicated by the more scattered post-holes 711, 666, 670, 683, 744 etc. to the north and to the south by one of the two lines already noted. Which of the buildings is primary is uncertain.

House 2 Phases 1 to 3

Fig 17

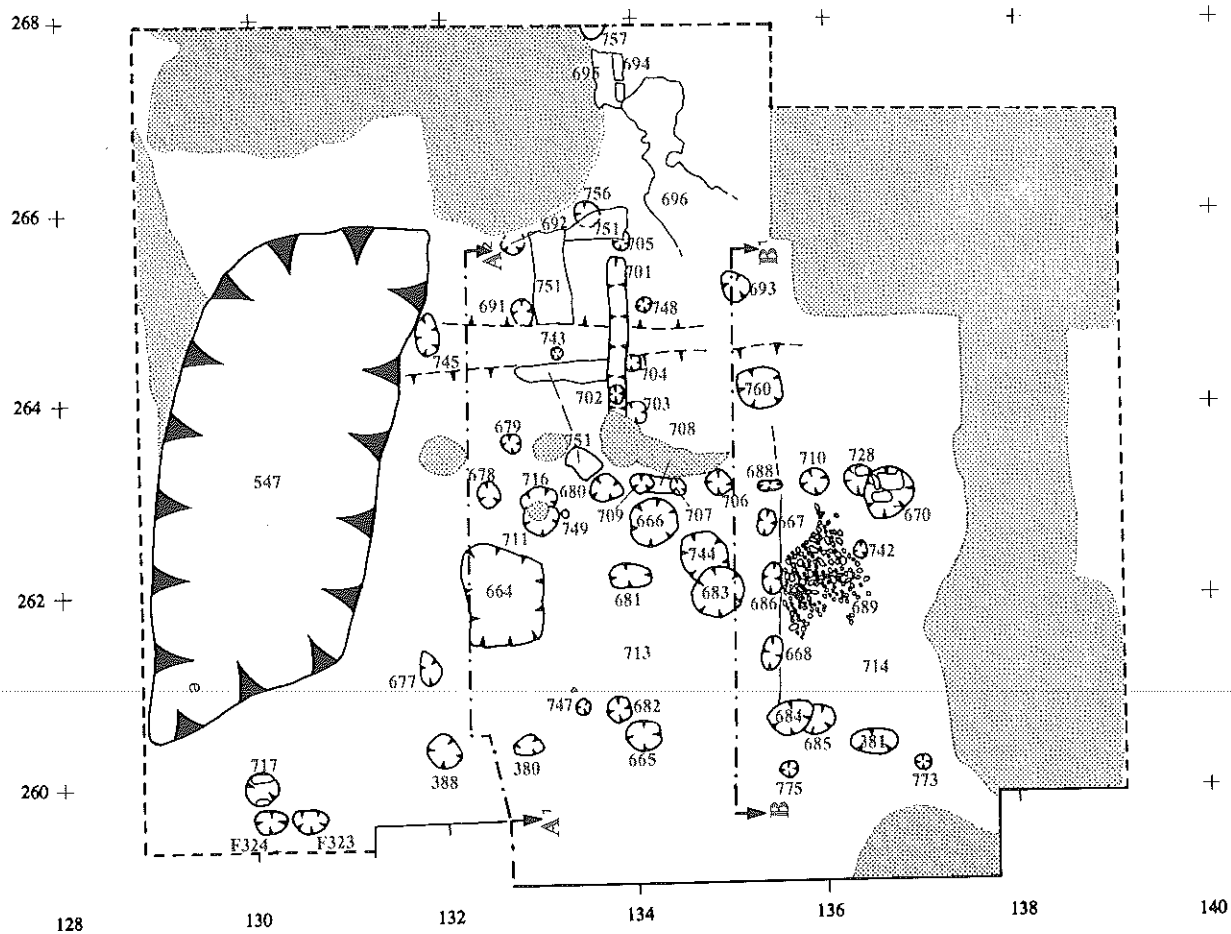


Scale 1:80

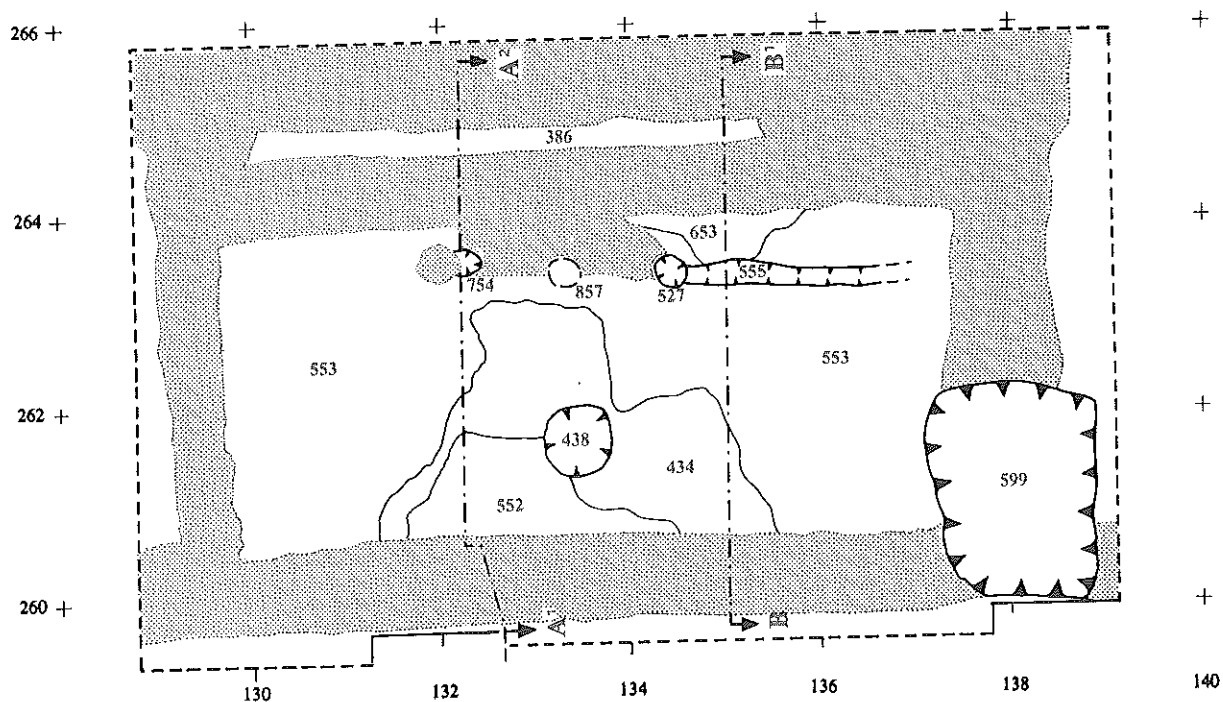


Fig 18

House 2 Phase 4



Phase 5A



Scale 1:80



To the north were further structures possibly connected with or even part of the first building described. Slot 702 is on the same line as the limestone slabs 694 and is at right angles to post-holes 678-728. Further wall lines have not survived but patches of clay, possibly the remnants of floor levels, were uncovered on either side of 694. Mortar 751 was possibly waste from the mortar mixers but not necessarily in its original position.

713/4 is the surface associated with the Phase 4 structures. The break between 713 and 714 follows the line of post-holes 668-688 but also coincides with the western edge of the Phase 3 gully 759 and extends north beyond 688. Thus although the actual surface of 713/4 represents Phase 4 floor levels the bulk of the material is a prior build-up. The finds from the whole of deposits 713/4 have been regarded as Phase 4.

To the south of the building complex and underlying the present street was a metal surface 871. Although apparently following the line of the present street, a line which one, at least, of the Phase 4 buildings respects, it can only be regarded as a yard or as a lane leading to the House 1/8 areas which are demonstrably a single complex.

Overlying the timber structures was a general green level which is probably the same as A551 in House 1 and F57 in House 8. Some post-holes and pit 664 were first recognised part way through 553 but are regarded as being overlaid by it. On the basis of the sequence postulated for Houses 1 and 8, 553 should possibly be seen as a period of dereliction and accordingly is labelled Phase 4B with the earlier timber structures 4A. Pit 547 also belongs to Phase 4B.

In the fairly limited area exposed there was, however, no sign of the 'slag horizon' of Houses 1 and 8. This could be because we are dealing with a dwelling area as opposed to an industrial area or alternatively the House 2 area could be a separate property altogether.

Pottery from Phase 4 was essentially Late Saxon with the assemblage from 553 comparing well with A551 and F57. A sceatta was found in the surface of 714 and a penny of Berhtwulf possibly

came from 713. These coins both appear to be a little early for the associated structures and may rather be related to the Phase 3 boundary work.

Phase 5

Figs. 18 and 19

In Phase 5 timber buildings were laid out parallel to the street. Two successive phases, 5A and 5B, have been identified. Only the rear walls survived for the presumed front and side walls were destroyed by later stone walls. The buildings were thus probably 3m deep x 8m long. No metalled street survived from this time, 870 being the churned up mud on the earlier surface 871.

Phase 5A

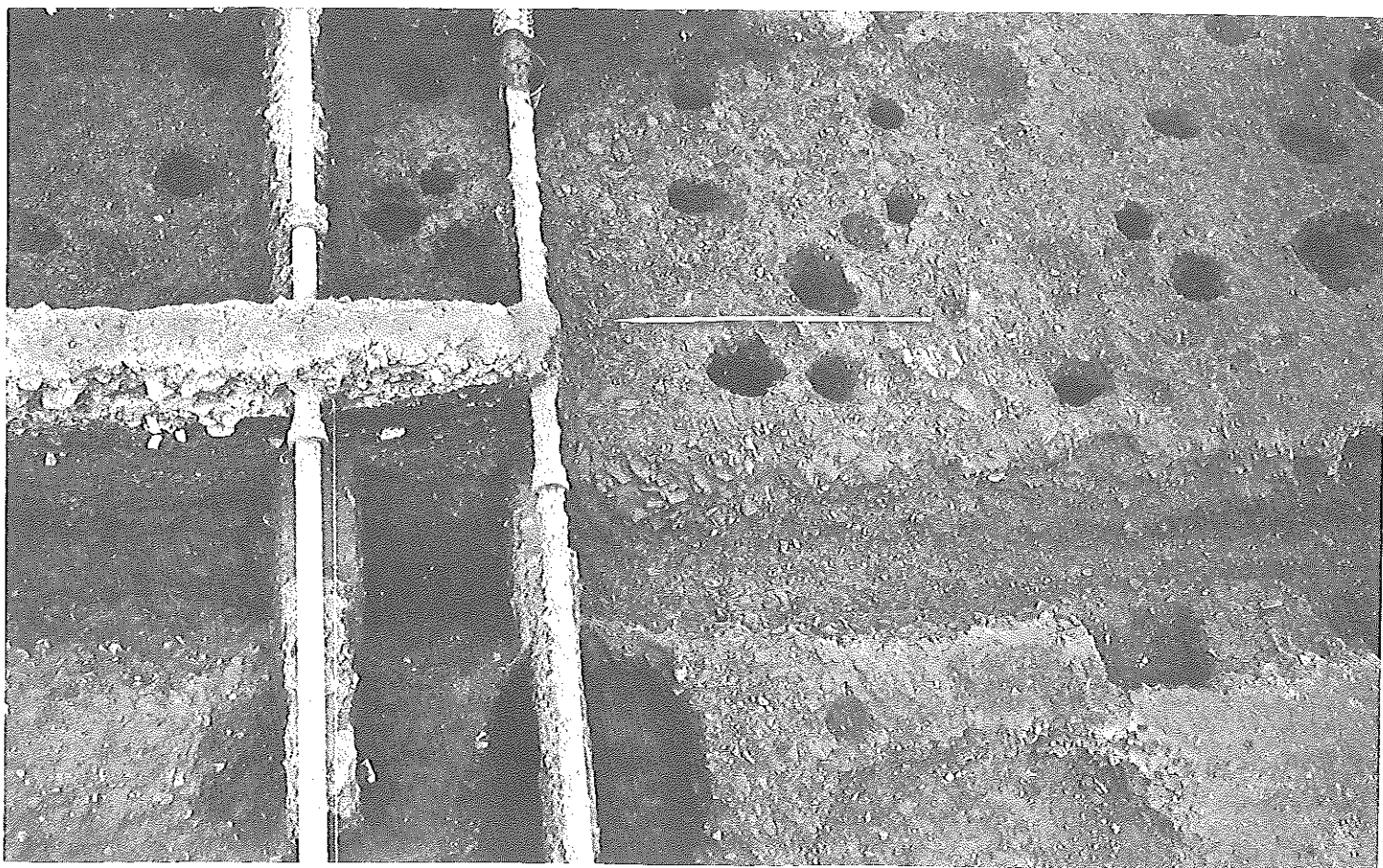
553 has been assigned to Phase 4B as a period of dereliction and pit 547 was also regarded as Phase 4B. Pit 599 probably pre-dates Phase 5 as well but the pottery is somewhat later than that from 547 and 553. The top of 553 was used as the Phase 5A floor level with no additional surfacing. The rear wall of the building was defined by a shallow slot and post-holes 527, 754 and 857. The slot petered out at its east end where it was interfered with by the Phase 5B slot. Within the building was an area of intense burning 552 with overlying ash 434 which was probably rake-out from the hearth.

Phase 5B

Deposit 271 lay over the Phase 5A levels. It should be seen either as a build-up for Phase 5B or as a second dereliction phase (cf. 553). The rear of the house was formed by a slot, more substantial than that for Phase 5A, with post-holes set within. Inside the building was a well laid stone hearth 405. Below 405 a rectangular depression filled with rubble (410) possibly defined an earlier hearth structure.

It is suggested (p. 141) that there may have been a general period

PLATE 5 *House 2: Phase 3 post-holes and gully looking west.*



of dereliction in the 11th century with redevelopment starting in the late 11th century or early 12th century. The pottery from Phase 5A is possibly a transitional assemblage relating to the end of Phase 4 rather than the beginning of Phase 5 and representing activity in the late 11th century. Phase 5B is certainly post-Conquest.

Phase 6

Figs. 19 and 21; Pl. 4

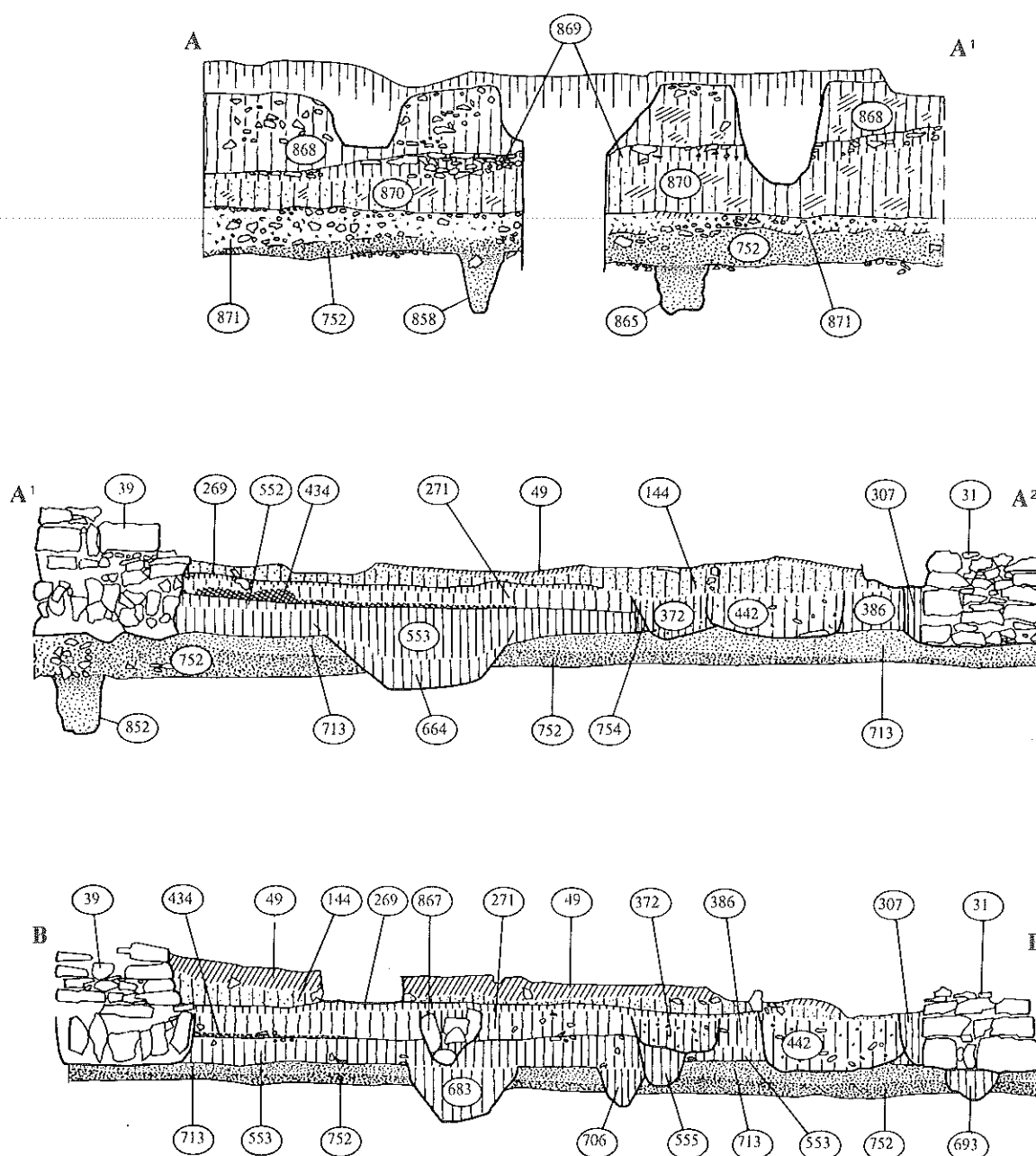
The House 2 area received stone buildings earlier than House 1 but later than House 3. Two sub-phases were distinguished—6A and 6B. Both had buildings 8m long internally with their long sides facing on to the street but Phase 6A was 3.6m broad internally compared with Phase 6B which was 4.2m broad. Phase 6B was probably part of the general rebuilding of the street c. 1410-20.

Phase 6A

The first stone building was apparently tacked on to House 3, which was reconstructed (Phase 6C) at the same time. Their common party wall was robbed away but the front wall of the houses showed a slight kink at easting 135 and there was also a change in foundations at this point. To the east the blocks were laid flat but to the west they were pitched. The rear wall was largely robbed away but survived for a short distance in pit 547. West wall 40 also survived to a considerable depth in pit 547—it was somewhat narrower than the other walls and contained a higher proportion of limestone. The rear wall was roughly on the same line as the House 3, Phase 6C rear wall. The floor level for Phase 6A was a black soil with mortar flecks. It abutted wall 39 but could not be firmly linked stratigraphically with the other walls because of disturbance. A

House 2 Sections

Fig 20



Scale 1:40



doorway 1m wide had been set into the front wall 39 with a step down from the street outside, which had been remodelled at this time.

Phase 6B

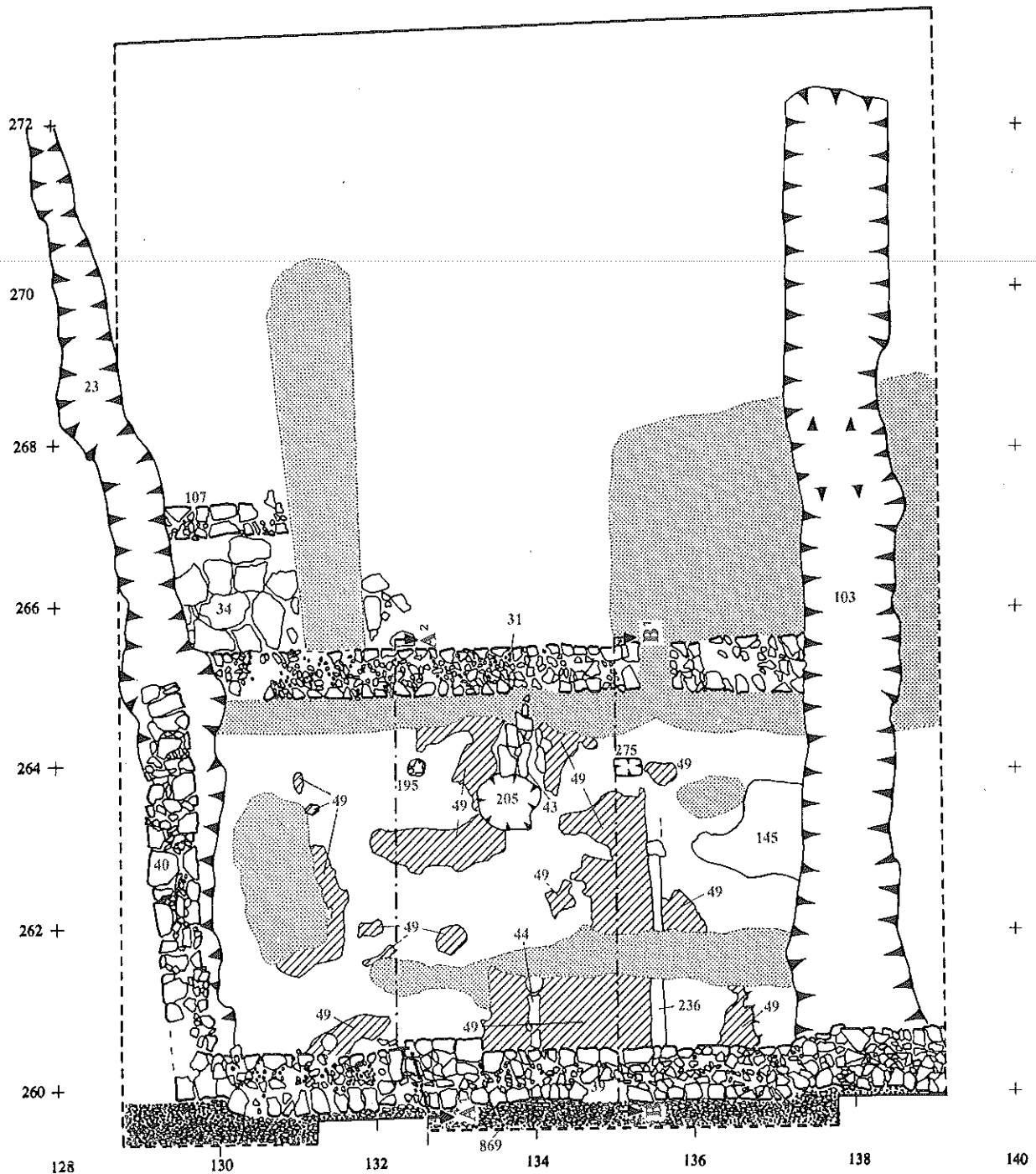
The south, west and east walls were retained in Phase 6B but a new rear wall was built further north, thus extending the breadth of the house by 0.60m. The rear wall line was now consistent with that of the postulated general rebuilding c. 1410-20 and is probably part of it. The whole of the interior was floored with clay (49) but this only survived in fragmentary form. Immediately to the east of the doorway foundations 43 and 44 probably represent an internal partition. The floor level to the east was some 0.12m higher than that to the west. Moreover in the area centred on co-ordinates

133/263 was a tangled mass of burnt timbers associated with the destruction of the buildings. These timbers could have been the remains of a screen although it is also possible that they were roof timbers. A further screen or partition is probably indicated by the north-south slot along easting 135.8. Post-holes 195 and 275 are also probably part of the internal arrangements but not necessarily contemporary with the screens. To the rear of the house limestone slabbing 34 and wall 107 are probably the remains of a small lean-to building such as also existed in Houses 1 and 3. This again is useful in linking these three houses chronologically.

The rear of the house in Phases 6A and 6B and possibly earlier was heavily pitted. The various pits were uniformly filled with a brown 'garden soil' and pit boundaries could not be clearly defined.

House 2 Phase 6B

Fig 21



Scale 1:80

Only limited excavation was undertaken and the virtually meaningless mass of information is not published.

House 2 provides some of the best evidence for the destruction of the street by fire. The burnt (?) screen has already been referred to; further burnt material spread over most of the house interior and the inner face of wall 39 was substantially burnt.

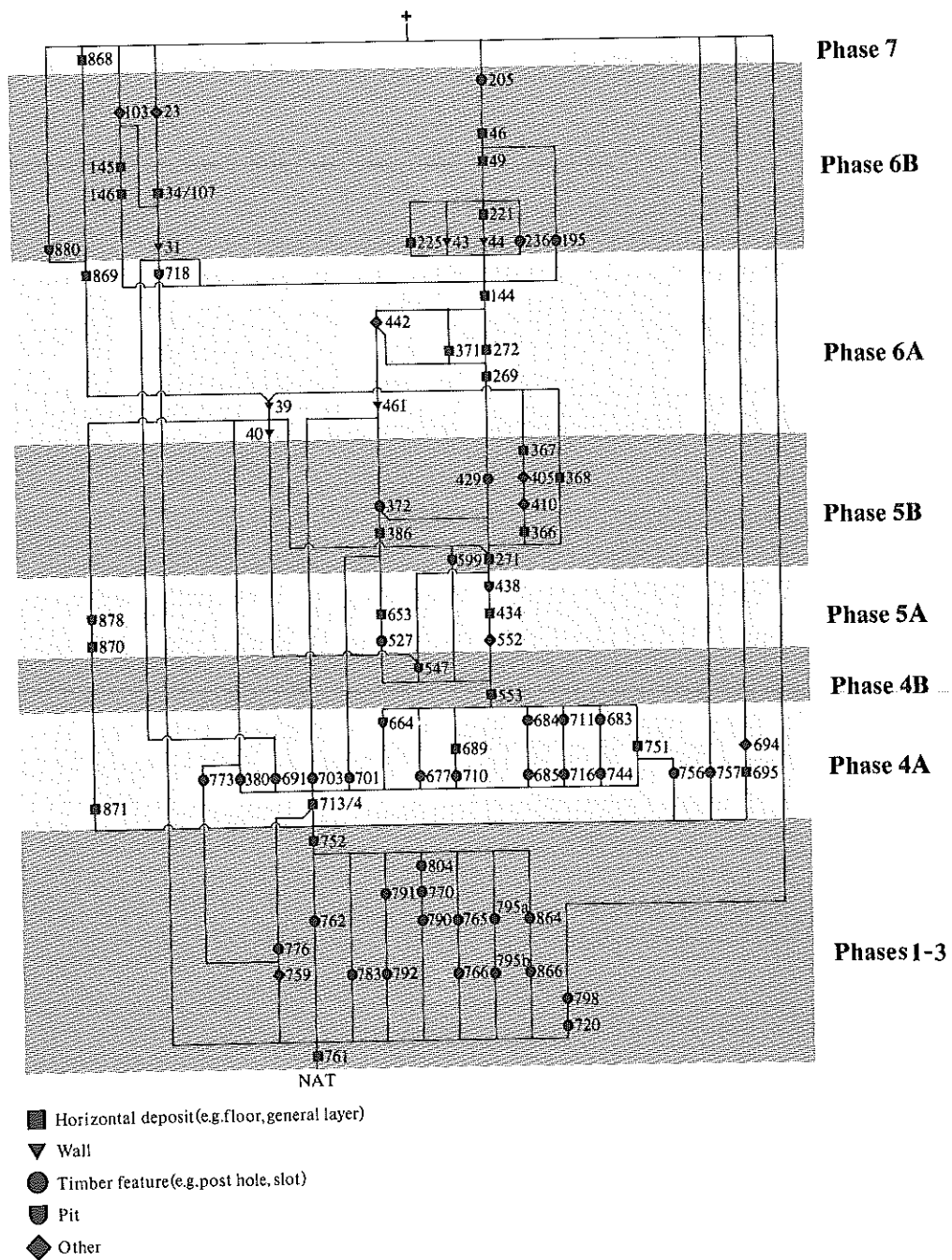
Pottery from House 2 was not plentiful. The Phase 6A assemblage appears to be somewhat earlier than that of House 3, Phase 6C but was almost entirely from constructional levels whereas the House 3 material was from occupation deposits. Phase 6A may well date to the 14th century with Phase 6B constructed c. 1410-20 and destroyed c. 1500.

Layer list

Layer no.	Phase and description	Finds
23	PHASE 6Biii (See also House 1.)	
31	PHASE 6Bi =(129,307,339). Ironstone wall. Brown earth matrix. Deep foundations at each end in earlier pits.	
34	PHASE 6Bi =(35). Limestone slabbed floor.	Cu24,135.
39	PHASE 6Ai =(81,346,715). Ironstone wall. Dark brown earth matrix. Foundations of small lumps pitched ironstone and limestone. Doorway with step down into house. Had been blocked after a fire. Part of burnt door sill <i>in situ</i> . Floor level 269 probably abutted 39; 39 definitely earlier than 144.	ts;W3.
40	PHASE 6Ai (See also House 1.)	Pb47;WB86.
43	PHASE 6Bi =(387). Ironstone and limestone alignment. Probably foundations for screen. Burnt at S end.	WB94.
44	PHASE 6Bi =(233). Row of ironstone blocks probably foundations for screen. Drop in level of floor of c. 0.12m from E to W side of 44.	?fs.
46	PHASE 6Bii =(47,69,71). Patches of dense charcoal and burnt clay. Burnt timbers lying diagonally across western half of house. Fallen screen or roof timbers—destruction debris. NOP.	Fe20,6;W4.
49	PHASE 6Bi =(51,54,70,194,199). Floor. Patches of yellow and silver grey clay.	ts;H8;WB91.
103	PHASE 6Biii =(105,106,131,132). Robber. Brown soil and stones. (See also House 3.)	Cu137; GL8,45.
107	PHASE 6Bi Wall. Well squared ironstone and limestone blocks. Brown earth matrix.	
144	PHASE 6A-B =(193,234,243,244,245). Dark brown soil, IF. Build-up for floor 49. NOP.	Cu134; Pb27-8;Fe54, 60,9;SW2; GL19,44; WB106.
145	PHASE 6Bi Clay patch.	
146	PHASE 6Bi Small area burnt clay and charcoal. NOP.	
195	PHASE 6Bi (275). PH. Small square setting of stones.	
205	PHASE 6B or later Small pit or PH 0.45m deep. Loose rubble fill.	
221	PHASE 6Bi Two concentrations tightly packed small pieces of limestone and ironstone against screen 44. NOP.	
225	PHASE 6Bi Spread of light brown soil. Possible bedding for clay floor 49. NOP.	Cu136;Fe41.
236	PHASE 6Bi Timber slot? Strip of dark brown soil.	
269	PHASE 6Ai =(273,274,369). Dark black stiff soil, M. Floor deposit.	ts.
271	PHASE 5A-B =(411,412,417). Orange brown soil—5A-B transition.	ts;WB57.
272	PHASE 6Ai Circular patch of orange purple burning.	
(275)	PHASE 6Bi 195. Thin strip of crushed ironstone and small limestone pieces. ?PH. Possibly part of internal arrangements later than screen 43,44.	
(307)	PHASE 6Bi =31.	
366	PHASE 5B =(554). Light orange soil deposit. Spread across area of and probably associated with 405,410.	
367	PHASE 5B Mixed deposit, yellow clay, burnt red clay and charcoal; several concentrations of burning—hearths? Overlaid hearth 405 but extended beyond.	
368	PHASE 5B Orange soil, IF. Possibly upcast from slot 372.	
371	PHASE 6Ai Orange soil, many IF.	
372	PHASE 5B (373-8). Timber slot running W-E. Filled with brown soil and many stones. Depth increases from 0.15m at W end to 0.30m at E end. Associated with floor deposit 271.	SW1.
(373)	PHASE 5B 372. PH 0.15m deep below base of 372. Fill as 372.	
(374)	PHASE 5B 372. PH c. 0.43m deep below base of 372. Fill as 372.	
(375)	PHASE 5B 372. PH c. 0.35m deep below base of 372. Fill as 372.	
(376)	PHASE 5B 372. PH c. 0.16m deep below base of 372. Fill as 372.	
(377)	PHASE 5B 372. PH c. 0.10m deep below base of 372. Fill as 372.	
(378)	PHASE 5B 372. PH c. 0.05m deep below base of 372. Fill as 372.	
380	PHASE 74A (381,388,717). PH 0.10m deep. Soft yellow sandy soil.	
(381)	PHASE 74A 380. PH c. 0.12m deep. Dark brown sandy soil.	
386	PHASE 75B =(443). Brown soil IF, LF.	
(388)	PHASE 74A 380. PH 0.23m deep. Brown soil, yellow flecks.	
405	PHASE 5B Hearth. Large area of laid ironstone and limestone. Well squared blocks along western and northern edges. Some large blocks in middle; elsewhere areas of small packed stones. Two concentrations of burning. Cf plan.	

Fig 22

House2 Sequence diagram

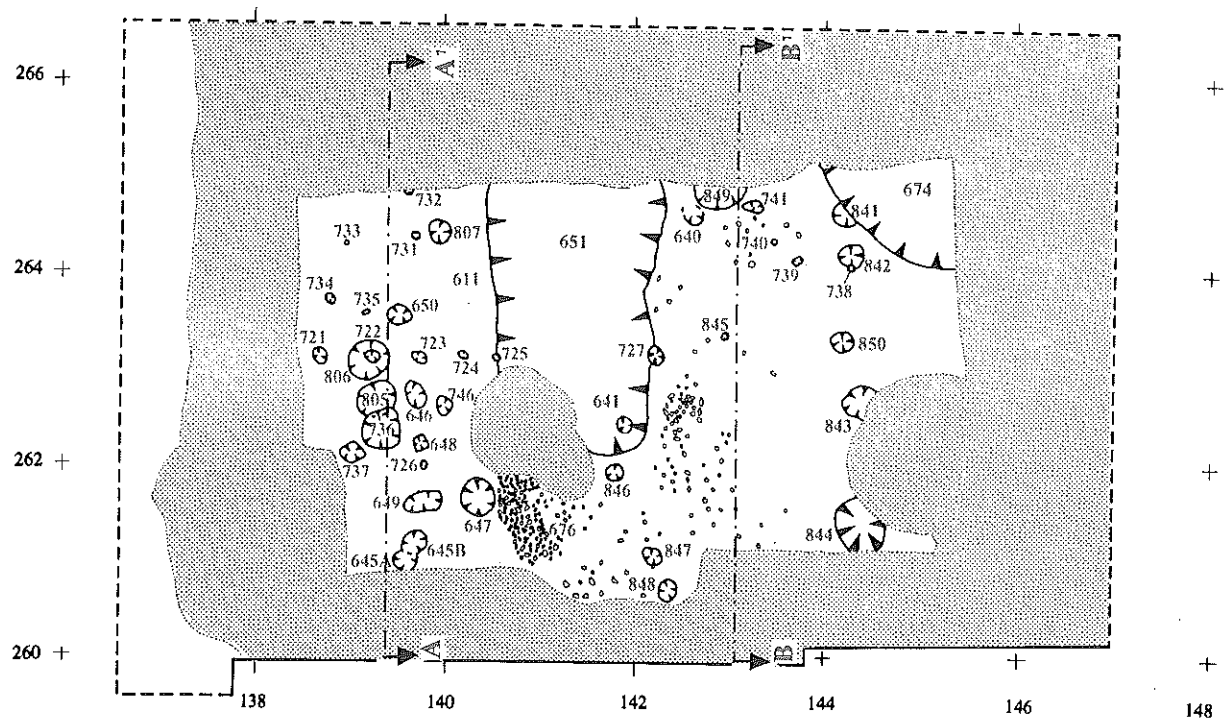


Layer no.	Phase and description	Finds	Layer no.	Phase and description	Finds
410	PHASE 5B =(560)? Foundation pit 0.42m deep, maximum. ?fs. Roughly rectangular cut filled with loose ironstone rubble, some limestone, occasional burning. Possibly foundation for hearth but more likely pre-existing feature.		(682)	PHASE 4A 677. PH 0.22m deep. Green soil.	
429	PHASE 5B? (538,867). PH 0.12m deep. Orange brown soil, IF, LF, CF.		683	PHASE 4A PH 0.28m deep. Loose dark brown soil, IF.	
434	PHASE 5A? Deposit. Mixed red/purple/pink burnt material, charcoal, small lumps white clay. Possibly hearth rake-out from 552.	Pb12;ts.	684	PHASE 4A PH 0.18m deep. Dark green soil, IF.	
438	PHASE 5A? Pit 0.25m deep. Dark green brown soil, lenses of white sandy soil, occasional small yellow orange clay patches.	Cu63.	685	PHASE 4A PH 0.20m deep. Green yellow soil, IF.	
442	PHASE 6Aii Robber of wall 461. Soft brown soil, IF.	TS.	(686)	PHASE 4A 677. PH 0.10m deep. Green yellow soil.	
461	PHASE 6Ai =(568,570). Ironstone wall.	Cu72;fl.	(688)	PHASE 4A 677. PH 0.08m deep. Green yellow soil, IF.	
527	PHASE 5A? (555,754,857). PH. Medium brown soil, IF.		689	PHASE 4A Compact surface of small IF, some large pieces and occasional LF.	
(538)	PHASE 5B 429. PH 0.30m deep. Medium brown soil, IF.		691	PHASE 4A? (692-3,705,748). PH 0.07m deep. Green yellow soil, IF.	
547	PHASE 4B (See also House 1.)		(692)	PHASE 4A? 691. PH.	
552	PHASE 5A? Hearth?—concentrated area of red burning.		(693)	PHASE 4A? 691. PH 0.17m deep. Green yellow soil, IF.	
553	PHASE 4B =(661,662,690). Dark green soil, IF, CF. Probably = House 1, A551 and House 8, F57. (Plan Phase 5A.)	Nu2;Cu74, 133;Pb26; Fe82;ts/?fs.	694	PHASE 4? 2 pitched limestone blocks. ?Defining wall line.	
(555)	PHASE 5A? 527. Slot. Loose dark brown stony soil, white flecks.		695	PHASE 4? (696). Clay ?floor level abutting 694.	
599	PHASE 5 (774). Pit 1.00m deep. Fairly thick bands yellow stony soil and dark brown black soil, CF. (See also House 3.)	WB20.	(696)	PHASE 4? 695. Clay ?floor level abutting 694.	
653	PHASE ?5A Redeposited natural ironstone—upcast from 555?		701	PHASE 4A? (702,743,745). Slot 0.22m deep. Green yellow soil, IF.	
664	PHASE 4A (665-8,670). Pit 0.40m deep. Dark green soil, IF, over light brown sandy soil, IF, CF.		(702)	PHASE 4A? 701. PH within 701.	
(665)	PHASE 4A 664. PH 0.40m deep. Loose dark brown black soil, IF.		703	PHASE 4A? (704). PH 0.15m deep. Green yellow soil.	
(666)	PHASE 4A 664. PH 0.33m deep. Loose dark brown soil, IF, LF.		(704)	PHASE 4A? 703. PH 0.10m deep. Green yellow soil.	
(667)	PHASE 4A 664. PH 0.07m deep. Green yellow soil, IF.		(705)	PHASE 4A? 691. PH 0.10m deep.	
(668)	PHASE 4A 664. Shallow depression. Soft dark brown soil. Probably PH.		(706)	PHASE 4A 677. PH 0.23m deep. Post pipe—loose dark soil, IF; packing—green yellow soil.	
(670)	PHASE 4A 664. PH 0.30m deep. Post pipe—loose ashy and stony soil; packing—medium brown soil, IF.		(707)	PHASE 4A 677. PH 0.05m deep. Green yellow soil.	
677	PHASE 4A (678-82,686,688,706-9,728,742,747,749,760). PH 0.06m deep. Green yellow soil, IF.		(708)	PHASE 4A 677. Slot 0.06m deep. Green yellow soil.	
(678)	PHASE 4A 677. PH 0.22m deep. Green yellow soil, IF.		(709)	PHASE 4A 677. PH 0.08m deep. Green yellow soil.	
(679)	PHASE 4A 677. PH 0.20m deep. Green yellow soil.		710	PHASE 4A PH 0.15m deep. Light yellow brown soil, IF.	
(680)	PHASE 4A 677. PH 0.16m deep. Green yellow soil.		711	PHASE 4A PH 0.26m deep. Dark brown soil, IF.	FB.
(681)	PHASE 4A 677. PH 0.11m deep. Green yellow soil.		713	PHASE 4A Deep orange soil deposit, occasional CF.	?Nu7;ts.
			714	PHASE 4A Brown orange soil deposit.	Nu6.
			716	PHASE 4A PH 0.20m deep. Green yellow soil, IF.	
			(717)	PHASE 4A? 380. PH 0.16m deep. Greenish soil, limestone packing.	
			718	PHASE pre-6B Pit remnant cut by wall 31 at E end. Not fully excavated. NOP.	
			720	PHASE 2? (See House 1.)	
			(728)	PHASE 4A 677. PH 0.24m deep. Light brown soil.	

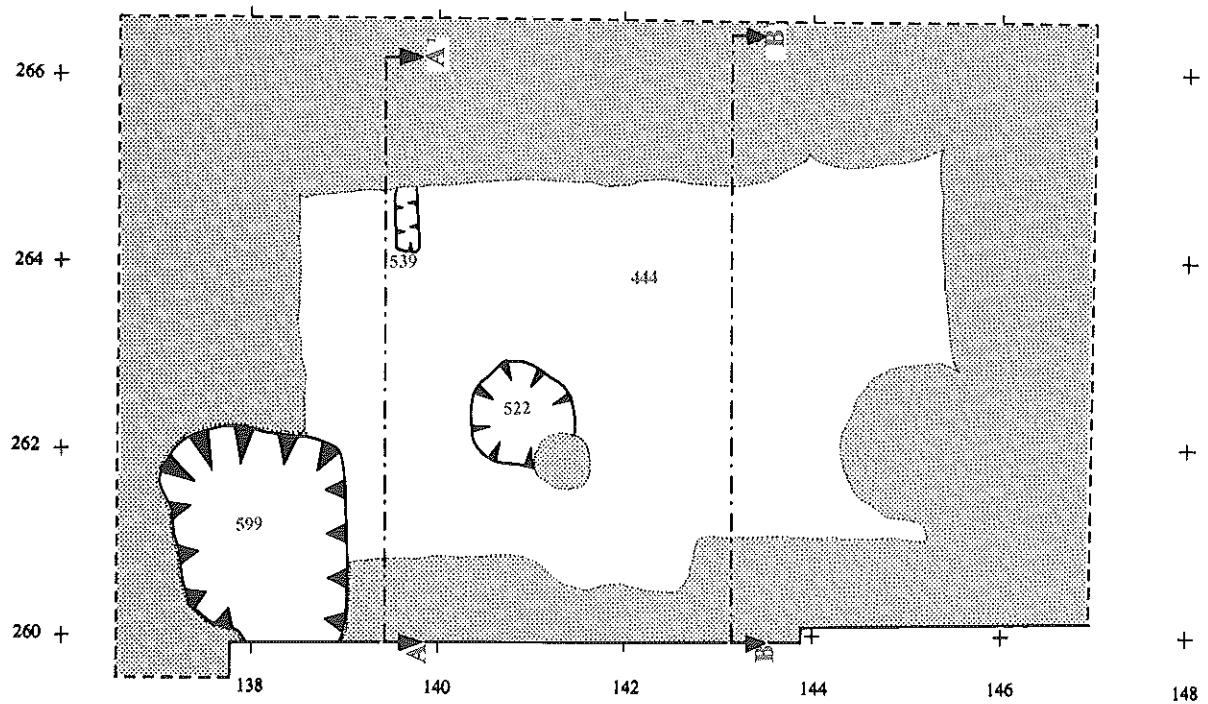
<i>Phase and description</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Layer no.</i>	<i>Phase and description</i>	<i>Finds</i>
PHASE 4A 677. PH 0.18m deep. Light brown soil, green flecks.		776	PHASE 3A? (777-81,828). PH 0.30m deep. Loose grey soil and stone.	
PHASE 4A? 701. PH 0.25m deep. Green yellow soil.		(777)	PHASE 3A? 776. PH 0.43m deep. Loose light brown soil and stone.	
PHASE 4A PH 0.45m deep. Yellow soil, green flecks.		(778)	PHASE 3A? 776. PH 0.40m deep. Loose brown grey soil, CF, much stone.	
PHASE 4A? 701. PH 0.08m deep. Green soil, yellow flecks, IF.		(779)	PHASE 3A? 776. PH 0.56m deep. Loose light grey brown soil.	
PHASE 4A 677. PH 0.26m deep. Yellow green soil.		(780)	PHASE 3A? 776. PH 0.53m deep. Loose light brown grey soil.	
PHASE 4A? 691. PH 0.12m deep. Green yellow soil.		(781)	PHASE 3A? 776. PH 0.58m deep. Loose light brown stony soil.	
PHASE 4A 677. SH 0.09m deep. Black soil, white flecks.		(782)	PHASE 3B? 762. PH 0.46m deep. Light brown silty sand.	
PHASE 4A? Mortar spread—related to mixers?		783	PHASE 3A? (784,787,789,794,851-2,858-9,865). PH 0.26m deep. Medium brown silty soil.	
PHASE 3B =(753,872-3, H5, H6). Orange silty sand, IF, ts. LF, CF, NOP.		(784)	PHASE 3A? 783. PH 0.28m deep. Medium brown very silty soil.	
PHASE 5A 527. PH 0.15m deep. Light brown soil, yellow flecks.		(785)	PHASE 3B? 762. PH 0.10m deep. Loose ironstone fragments in black soil matrix.	
PHASE 4A? PH 0.12m deep. Grey soil, occasional yellow flecks.		(786)	PHASE 3B? 762. ?PH 0.10m deep. Light brown silty sand, IF.	
PHASE 4A? PH 0.14m deep. Grey soil, occasional yellow flecks.		(787)	PHASE 3A? 783. PH 0.35m deep. Medium brown silty soil.	
PHASE 3A? =(J14). Gully 0.60m deep. Brown orange sandy silt, ironstone and limestone.	Nu13; RC5-6;ts.	(788)	PHASE 3B? 762. PH 0.18m deep. Light brown silty soil.	
PHASE 4A 677. Depression 0.05m deep.		(789)	PHASE 3A? 783. PH 0.38m deep. Medium brown silty soil.	
=(832-3,874, H7). Orange ironstone deposit. Weathered ironstone natural.		790	PHASE 3B? PH 0.30m deep. Light brown soil, grey flecks, limestone packing.	
PHASE 3B? (763-4,767,771,782,785-6,788,793,799,801-3, 822-7,830-1,853-4,860-3,875=(H13)). PH 0.15m deep. Light brown soil, green flecks.		791	PHASE 3B? PH 0.45m deep. Light brown silty soil.	
PHASE 3B? 762. PH 0.15m deep. Light brown soil, ironstone and limestone packing.		792	PHASE 3A? SH 0.10m deep. Medium brown silty soil.	
PHASE 3B? 762. PH 0.30m deep. Light brown silt, dark flecks.		(793)	PHASE 3B? 762. PH 0.30m deep. Grey brown soil, IF.	
PHASE 3B? PH 0.18m deep. Orange brown soil, IF, M.		(794)	PHASE 3A? 783. PH 0.30m deep. Grey brown soil, IF.	
PHASE 3A? PH 0.35m deep. Medium brown silt.		795a	PHASE 3B? PH 0.28m deep. Brown stony soil with light brown silt.	
PHASE 3B? 762. Gully 0.07m deep. Light brown silt, IF, CF.		795b	PHASE 3A PH 0.28m deep. Brown stony soil with light brown silt.	
PHASE 3B? PH 0.20m deep. Yellow soil, brown flecks, limestone packing.		797	Natural.	
PHASE 3B? 762. PH 0.26m deep. Yellow brown soil, limestone packing.		798	PHASE 2? PH in 720.	
PHASE 4? (775). PH 0.18m deep. Light brown soil, mottled green, CF.		(799)	PHASE 3B? 762. PH 0.13m deep. Light brown soil, IF.	
PHASE 5A? 599. ?PH or part of pit 599, 0.17m deep. Dark green soil. NOP.		(801)	PHASE 3B? 762. PH 0.28m deep. Loose medium brown soil, IF.	
PHASE 4? 773. PH 0.12m deep. Dark green soil, light brown flecks.		(802)	PHASE 3B? 762. PH 0.30m deep. Brown silty soil, IF, LF, M.	
		(803)	PHASE 3B? 762. PH 0.28m deep. Light brown soil, IF.	

House 3 Phases 1 to 5

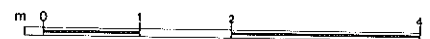
Fig 23



Phase 5

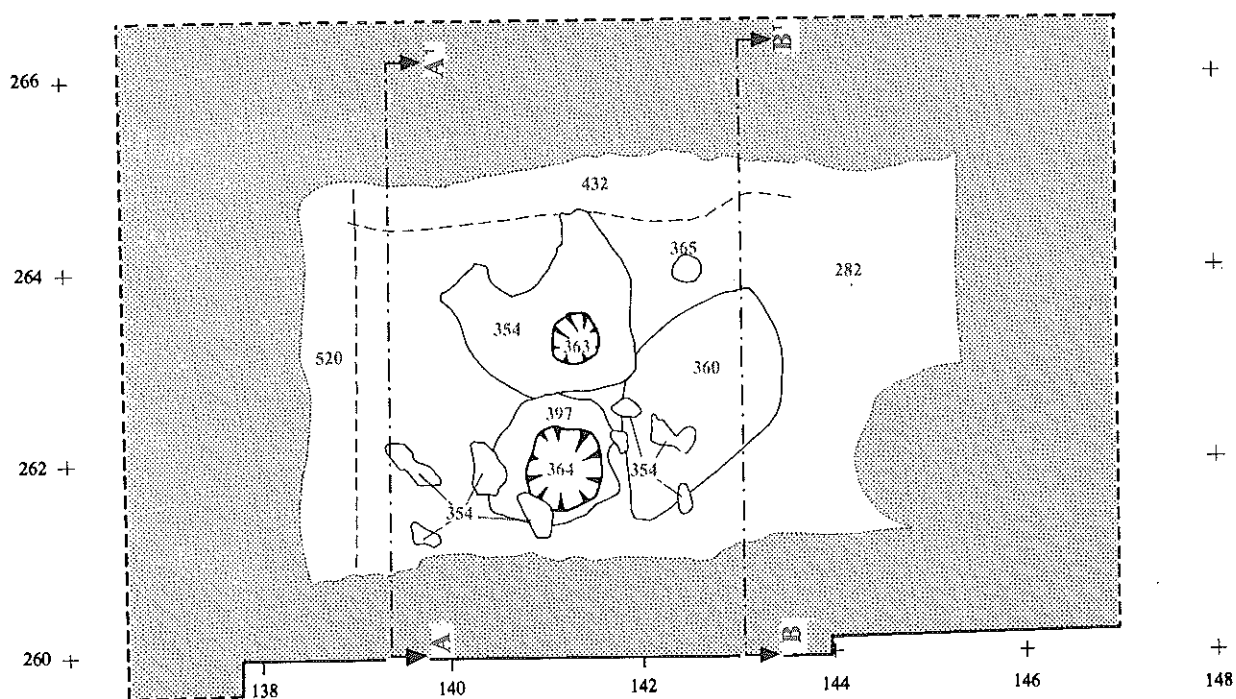


Scale 1:80

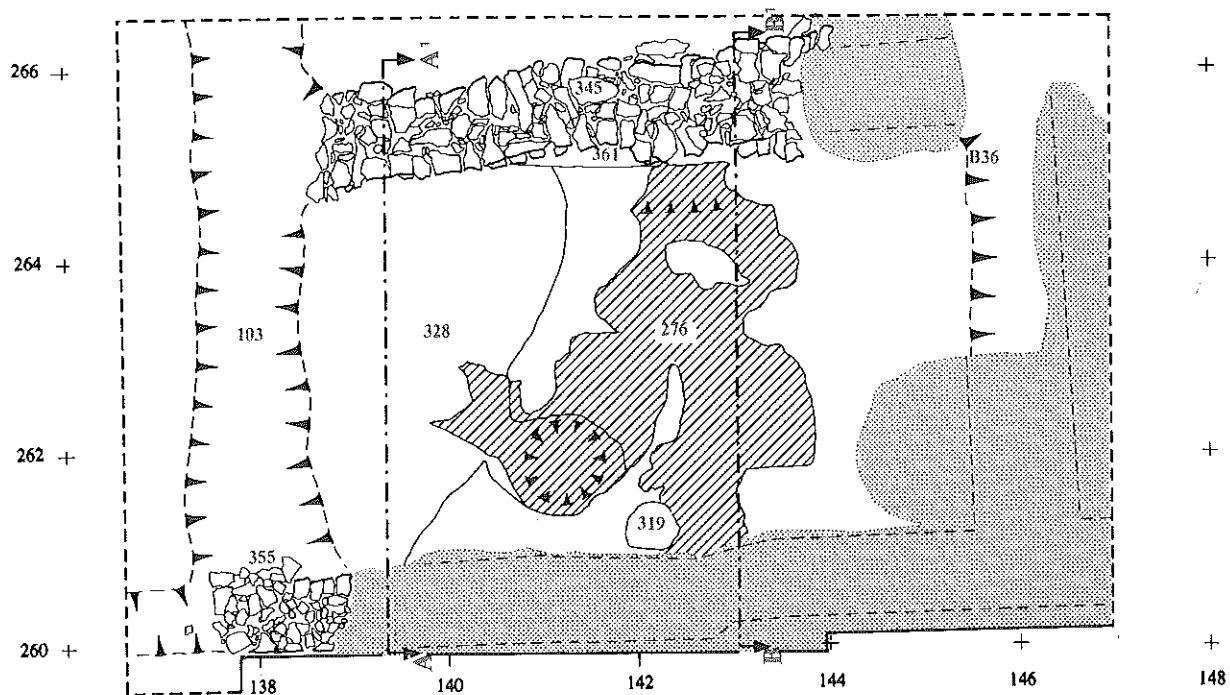


House 3 Phase 6A

Fig 24



Phase 6B



Scale 1:80



contemporary with House 2, Phase 6A in that the rear walls of both houses are on the same alignment which differs from all the other stone phases to the north of the street. It is also probable (see above) that wall 399 was constructed at this time although the wall was apparently different in character to wall 286. In the garden area wall 515 (with associated garderobe 455) is probably to be associated with Phase 6C in that it continued the line of the north-south section of wall 286 and robber 288.

Several successive deposits representing mortar floors and their subsequent erosion or disturbance were laid or allowed to accumulate in this phase. The first was a soil deposit mixed with some mortar flecks (289) and this was followed by two small areas of mortar floor 287. This was sealed in turn by another mixed soil and mortar level 280 identified only on the north side of the house. 280 was overlaid by 267, a grey brown soil, with a finds horizon identified on its surface, which extended over the whole house. These levels were not, however, homogeneous over the whole of the house; in fact where mortar floor 287 had not survived it was difficult to distinguish between 280 and 289. Phase 6C probably belongs in the 14th century.

Phase 6D

In the final stage of stone building as part of the general rebuilding of the street c. 1410-20 the front wall of Phase 6C was re-utilised but the rear wall 57 reverted to the Phase 6B line. The wall sat on a soil course overlying the foundations and contrasted with the other phases of stone building being composed of limestone facing with small lumps of stone in the core.

To the rear of the house, wall 96 cannot be associated clearly with any phase but perhaps it is best to regard it as a lean-to structure as in Houses 1 and 2, in which case a Phase 6D date would appear to be most likely. Wall 451 was possibly contemporary.

The earliest deposit overlying 267 and wall 286 and its robber was 170, a thick layer of light brown soil with many small lumps of ironstone and limestone and containing a great deal of pottery. Unfortunately the relationship between construction trench 303 and 170 could not be established because of disturbance by the Victorian stables above. Three interpretations are possible for 170. It could have been a dump below the clay floor of Phase 6Di, it could have been a floor surface in its own right or it could have been an accumulation during a period of dereliction between Phases 6C and 6D. If the latter were the case the period of dereliction is unlikely to have been great.

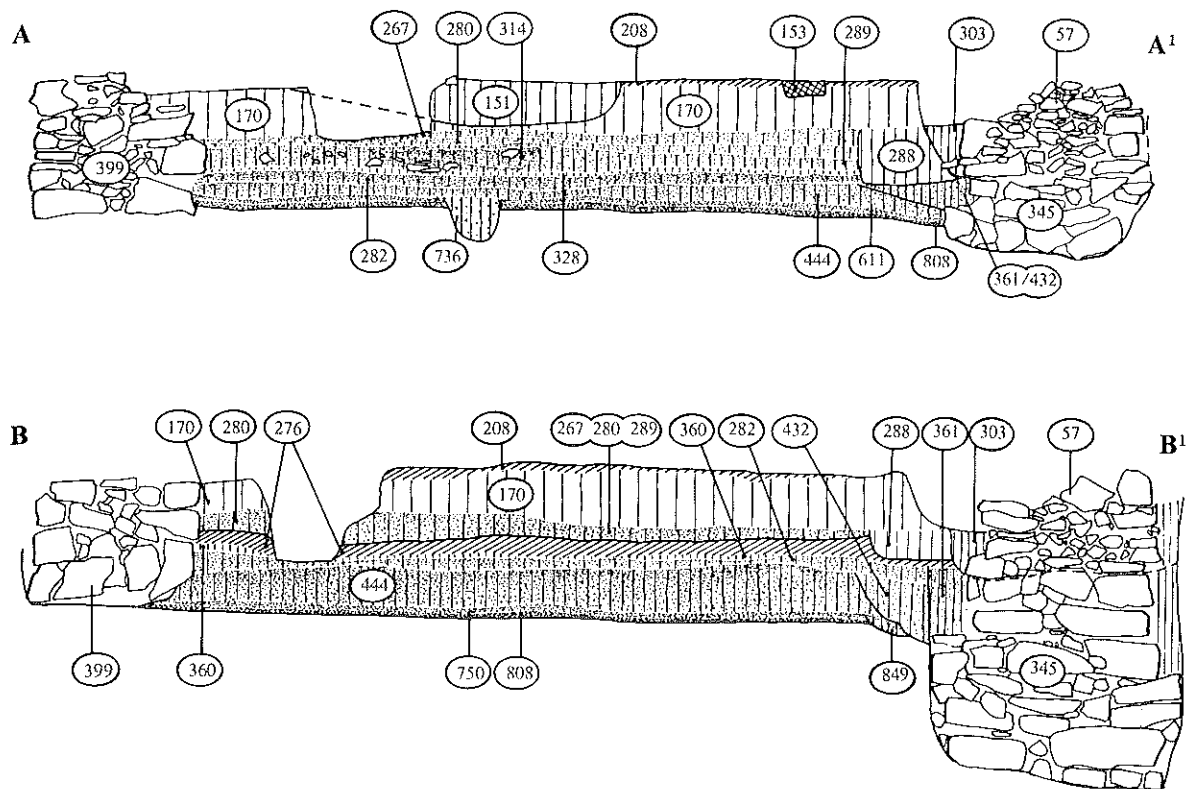
The clay floors of Phase 6D can be divided into (i) and (ii) but because of the patchy nature of the deposits further subdivision may have been missed and the scheme presented be rather simplified. Not all relationships for the Phase 6D floors have been shown on the sequence diagram.

Phase 6Di

202, a line of ironstone blocks with a post-hole (203) at its south end and a short gully 210 may represent an internal division of the house. The screen may have been associated with 170 if this is

House 3 Sections

Fig 25



Scale 1:40

m 0 0.5 1 2

regarded as a floor surface but more likely with 179 etc., the first clay floor of Phase 6Di. Although some stones of 202 were partially overlaid by 179 the floor was burnt only to the east of 202 although right up to it. The burning on floor 179 was stratigraphically clearly not associated with the final destruction of the building. As the burning respected the line of 202, presumably a timber screen which would not have halted a structural fire, perhaps the east end of the house was a kitchen area.

Phase 6Dii

At the east end of the house there were at least two major sub-phases of clay flooring in Phase 6D. The white patch of clay 180, since it shows no trace of burning, must post-date 179 etc. In the western

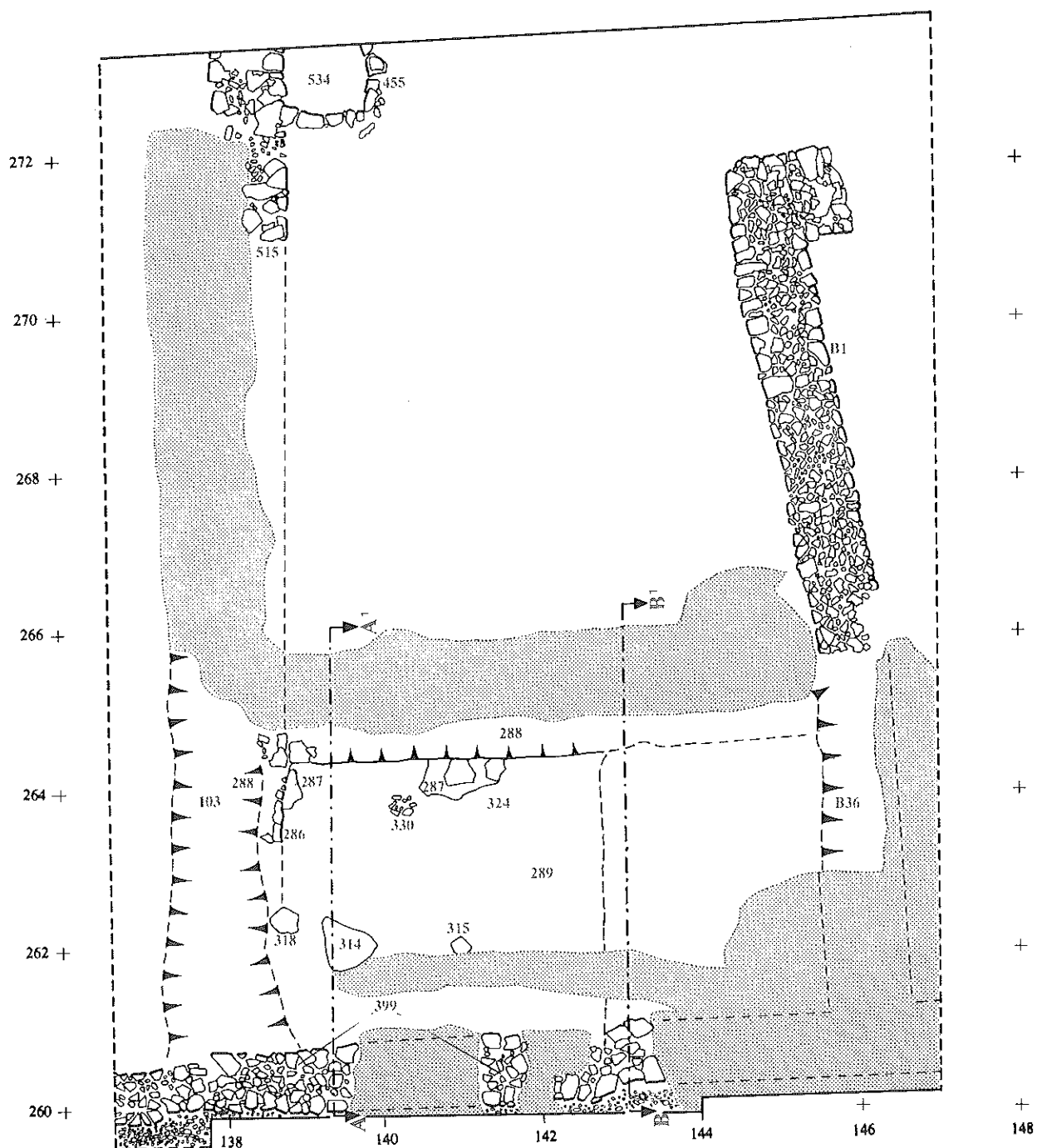
half of the house a three stage sequence can be demonstrated—166 over 63 over 159. There were also patches of soil.

A major alteration was made to the internal arrangements of the house. An east-west partition, marked by a series of post-holes (226, 163, 158, 153) and a burnt sill beam 154, was inserted c. 1m south of the rear wall. This arrangement seems incompatible with screen 202 which is therefore presumed to have gone out of use. Additionally there may have been a new north-south partition between posts 163 and 165 where the remains of a charred timber (186) were found.

The pottery from Phase 6D is consistent with a 15th century date and two coins (Nu16,22), probably of mid- to late 14th although possibly early 15th century date, were found in the floor levels.

Fig 26

House 3 Phase 6C

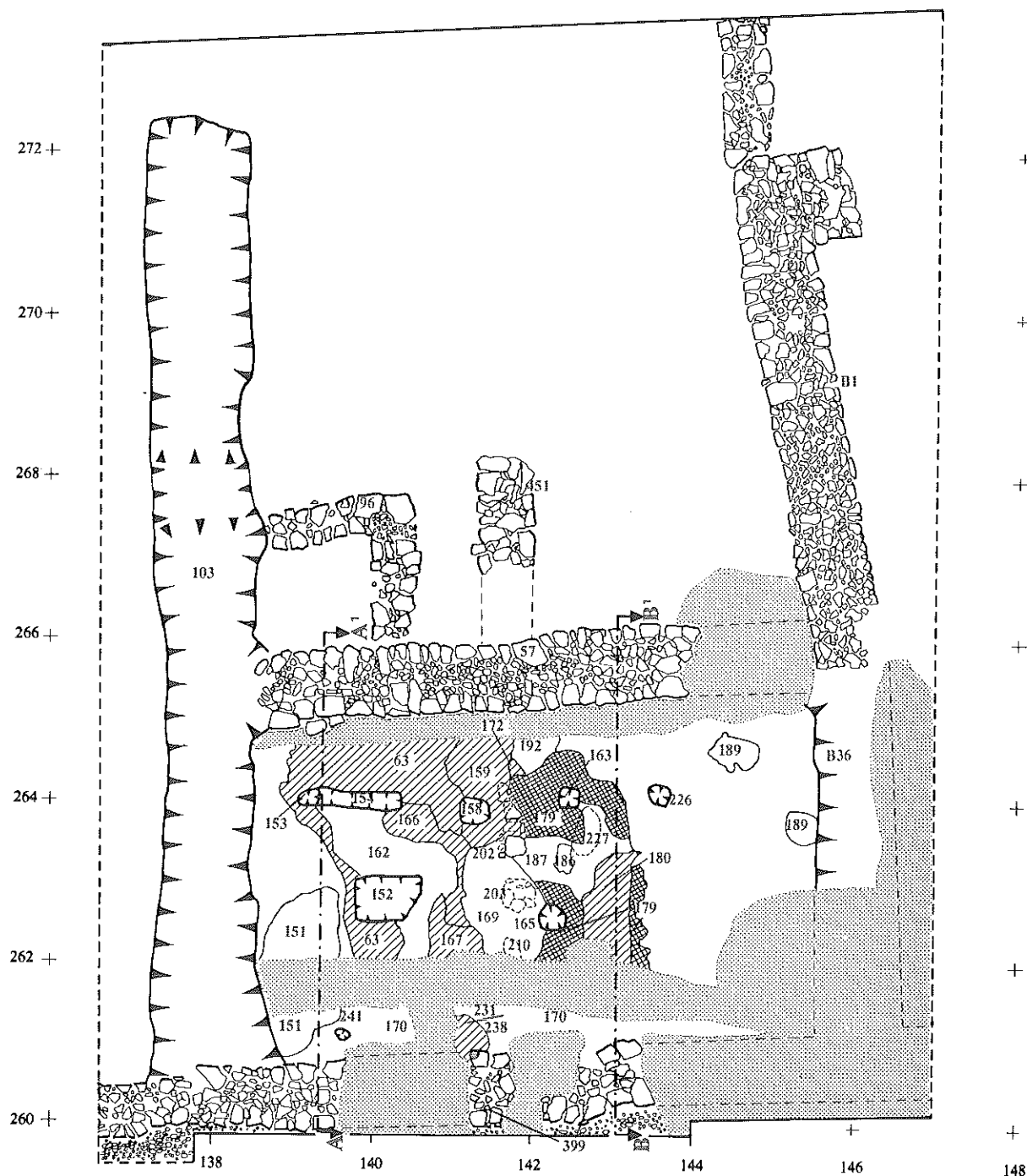


Scale 1:80

m 0 1 2

House 3 Phase 6D

Fig 27



Scale 1:80

m 0 1 2 3 4

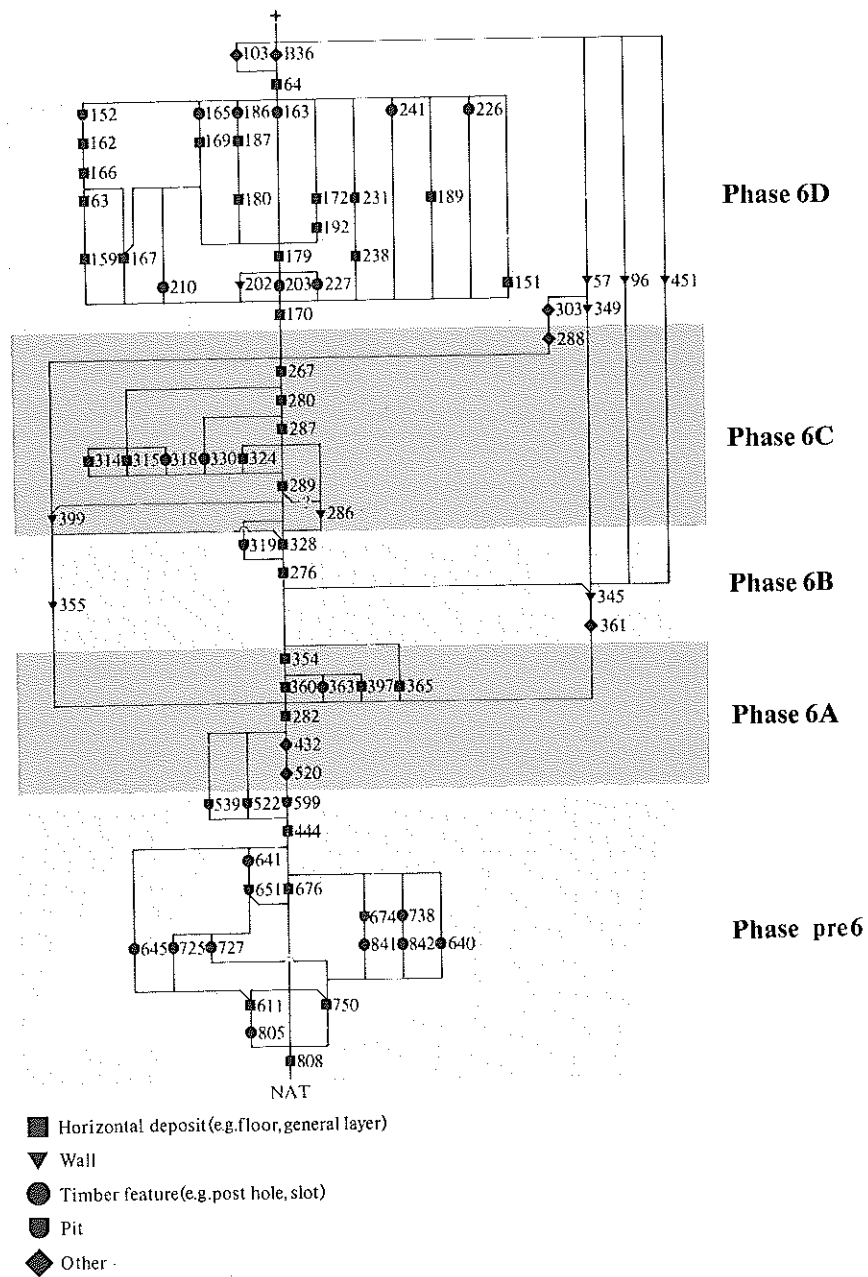
Layer list

Layer no.	Phase and description	Finds
57	PHASE 6Di =(59,336,337). Ironstone wall. Brown earth matrix. 303 = construction trench.	
63	PHASE 6Dii =(161). Floor deposit. White/grey clay, IF. Removed as part of 208.	
64	PHASE 6Diii =(66,87,164,168). Patches of densely burnt Fe58;GL21, material within house. Destruction deposits. NOP.	

Layer no.	Phase and description	Finds
96	PHASE 6D? =(450). Ironstone wall. Built on to 345. Forms lean-to in yard area.	
103	PHASE 6Div (See also House 2.)	SW6.
151	PHASE 6C-Di transition/6Di =(228,240). Pit. Light brown soil, clay, IF, Cu46,256. over dark green brown soil.	
152	PHASE 6Dii (153-4,158). Pit. Dark brown soil and small stones.	

Fig 28

House3 Sequence diagram



Layer no.	Phase and description	Finds	Layer no.	Phase and description	Finds
(153)	PHASE 6Dii 152. PH 0.15m deep. Concentrated charcoal fill. Set at W end of slot 154.		208	PHASE 6Di & ii = (209). Patchings etc. of floor removed as single level under composite numbers 208 (and 209). Individual nos. are used for areas of 208 in plan and sequence diagram to elucidate relationships and possible no. of phases. In section drawings composite no. 208 used since individual patchings could not always be distinguished. All finds recorded as 208. NOSD.	Nu22; Cu146-7,257; Fe27,9.
(154)	PHASE 6Dii 152. Slot c. 0.06m deep. Loose black soil, charcoal and daub.		210	PHASE 6Di Narrow gully 0.12m deep. Perhaps related to screen 202/3.	
(158)	PHASE 6Dii 152. PH. Dark brown soil, CF.		226	PHASE 6Dii PH 0.10m deep. Burnt ironstone, CF, burnt clay.	
159	PHASE 6Di = (160). Floor deposit. Grey green clay, IF. Removed as part of 208.		227	PHASE 6Di ?PH 0.05m deep. Grey ashy soil, CF.	
162	PHASE 6Dii Floor deposit. Dark brown soil, CF. Removed as part of 208.		231	PHASE 6Dii Floor deposit. Green yellow clay.	
163	PHASE 6Dii PH 0.44m deep. Dark brown sandy soil, IF, Cu148-9, daub.		238	PHASE 6Di Floor deposit. Dark purple and charcoal patches; probably burnt clay.	
165	PHASE 6Dii PH. Dark brown soil.		241	PHASE 6Dii ?SH 0.09m deep. Dark brown soil.	
166	PHASE 6Dii Floor deposit. Green yellow clay, IF. Removed as part of 208.		267	PHASE 6C Floor deposit. Dark grey brown loose earth, few stones. Finds horizon along top of 267. NOP.	
167	PHASE 6Di Floor deposit. Yellow light brown clay. Removed as part of 208.		276	PHASE 6B Floor deposit. Mixed green/blue/yellow clay up to 0.10m thick.	Pb30.
169	PHASE 6Dii Floor deposit. Light brown stony soil. Removed as part of 208.		280	PHASE 6C Floor deposit. Light brown soil with numerous IF, M. (280 overlaid surviving patches of mortar floor 287 which in turn overlaid 289 a deposit of mixed soil, M. 287 covered only a very small area and elsewhere it was not always possible to distinguish between 280 and 289). NOP.	
170	PHASE 6C-Di transition/6Di = (178,220,232,239). Floor deposit or floor make-up. Light brown soil, IF, LF. The relationship between construction trench 303 and 170 could not be established because of post-medieval disturbance. 170 could be a make-up below clay floor of 6Di or a floor level of 6D in its own right; alternatively 170 could be an accumulation of material post-dating 6C and unrelated to 6D.	Cu16,86,255; GL47.	282	PHASE 6A = (352,353,395). Floor deposit. Medium brown soil, IF.	
172	PHASE 6Dii Floor deposit. White clay, pink flecks. Removed as part of 208.		286	PHASE 6C = (304). Wall. Single course of limestone slabs.	
179	PHASE 6Di = (181,183,184,185). Dark red/purple burnt soil, probably burnt clay. Floor burnt <i>in situ</i> at E end of house; apparently respecting line of 202; kitchen area? Removed as part of 208.		287	PHASE 6C = (316). Floor deposit. White mortar.	
180	PHASE 6Dii Floor deposit. White/grey clay. Removed as part of 208.		288	PHASE 6C = (302). Robber of wall 286. Dark brown soil, IF, M.	
186	PHASE 6Dii ?Sill beam or fallen timber. Possibly line of timber running between 163 and 165; but perhaps deceptive and only represents a fallen timber from partition or ceiling.		289	PHASE 6C = (311,312,313,317,331). Floor deposit. Dark brown soil, IF, M.	
187	PHASE 6Dii = (188). Floor deposit. Dark brown soil, some stones. Removed as part of 208.		303	PHASE 6Di Construction trench for wall 57. Dark brown soil. NOP.	
189	PHASE 6Dii = (190). Floor deposit. Mixed white clay and dark brown soil. Removed as part of 208.		314	PHASE 6C Area of concentrated red/orange burning.	
192	PHASE 6Di Floor deposit. Light brown soil with small stones. Removed as part of 208.	Nu16.	315	PHASE 6C Area of concentrated red/purple burning.	
202	PHASE 6Di Screen base. Line of ironstone blocks. Area of burning 179 seemed to respect the line of 202. Gully 210 and ?PH 203 possibly relate to 202.		318	PHASE 6C PH 0.28m deep. Limestone and ironstone lumps in clay matrix.	
203	PHASE 6Di ?PH. Dark brown soil, IF. Possible ironstone and limestone packing. Possibly related to screen 202. Some brick, however, in fill.		319	PHASE 6B Pit 0.30m deep. Various brown soil deposits, clay and charcoal.	
			324	PHASE 6C = (341). Area of burning.	
			328	PHASE 6B = (329,332,333,342). Floor deposit. Mixed dark and light brown soil.	
			330	PHASE 6C PH. Squarish setting of small ironstone blocks.	

Layer no.	Phase and description	Finds
5	PHASE 6B =(350,571,578). Ironstone wall. Brown soil fsc. matrix.	
19	PHASE 6Di Soil deposit within wall. Probably levelling course during construction but could be robber disturbance. NOP.	
54	PHASE 6A Floor deposit. Golden orange brown soil.	
55	PHASE 6A/6B =(464,465,468,402,403). Wall. Substantial ts;SW11. blocks of ironstone with pitched ironstone footings.	
60	PHASE 6A Floor deposit. Dark green brown loose earth.	
61	PHASE 6B =(431). Construction trench. 361 identified as construction trench; subsequently divided into 431 and 432 when realised that 2 construction trenches involved. Pottery from 361 is regarded as equivalent of 431, the later of the trenches.	
363	PHASE 6A (364). PH 0.18m deep. Loose soil.	
(364)	PHASE 6A 363. Pit 0.50m deep. Soft brown black soil, IF, CF.	
365	PHASE 6A Floor deposit. Mixed brown soil, red flecks possibly burnt clay.	
397	PHASE 6A Soil band. Light green brown soil, IF. Upcast from pit 364.	
399	PHASE 6C =(518). Ironstone wall. Large blocks of ironstone with core of small lumps, brown earth matrix.	
432	PHASE 6A Construction trench or robber trench for wall for which no other evidence survives.	
444	PHASE 5 Floor deposit? Brown soil. Either floor level of timber building of which no trace, accumulation of material on waste ground or make-up for Phase 6A.	Pb19,29;ci; WB59.
451	PHASE 6D Ironstone wall. Some large squared blocks and also some small pieces of ironstone and limestone.	
455	PHASE 6C? Ironstone wall. ?Garderobe added to wall 515. NOSD.	
515	PHASE 6C? =(530). Ironstone wall—continuation of 286? NOSD.	
520	PHASE 6A ?Construction trench 0.05m deep. Light green brown soil, IF. Related to wall robbed by 103?	
522	PHASE 5 Pit 0.35m deep. Dark brown black soft soil.	
534	PHASE 6C? =(535,536). Fill of 455. NOSD.	
539	PHASE 5 Pit or PH 0.12m deep. Loose brown soil.	
599	PHASE 5 (See also House 2.)	SW10.
611	PHASE pre-5/5 Floor deposit? Light brown sandy soil, small stones, M.	
640	PHASE pre-5/5 (739-41,843-50). PH 0.15m deep. Loose dark brown soil.	

Layer no.	Phase and description	Finds
641	PHASE pre-5/5 SH 0.17m deep. Void.	
645	PHASE pre-5/5 (646-50,721-4,726,731-7,746). PH (2 posts, relationship indeterminate) 645a 0.28m deep; 645b 0.18m deep.	
(646)	PHASE pre-5/5 645. PH 0.10m deep. Grey brown soil, white flecks, over orange soil.	
(647)	PHASE pre-5/5 645. PH 0.35m deep. Post pipe—loose dark soil, white flecks; packing—light brown soil and stones.	
(648)	PHASE pre-5/5 645. ??PH very shallow. Dark brown soil.	
(649)	PHASE pre-5/5 645. PH 0.10m deep. Dark brown soil, white clay and mortar flecks.	
(650)	PHASE pre-5/5 645. ??PH very shallow. Black soil.	
651	PHASE pre-5/5 Large shallow depression 0.10m deep. Dark brown soil with mixture of stones and yellow sandy material.	
674	PHASE pre-5/5 Pit, only corner surviving. Dark brown soil, CF, IF, clay.	
676	PHASE pre-5/5 Hard packed area of small IF.	
(721)	PHASE pre-5/5 645. PH 0.16m deep. Grey brown sandy soil, CF, IF.	
(722)	PHASE pre-5/5 645. PH 0.20m deep. Grey silty soil over brown silty soil.	
(723)	PHASE pre-5/5 645. PH 0.08m deep. Brown silty soil.	
(724)	PHASE pre-5/5 645. PH 0.16m deep. Dark brown soil, CF, over orange sandy soil.	
725	PHASE pre-5/5 PH 0.03m deep. Grey brown silty soil.	
(726)	PHASE pre-5/5 645. ??PH 0.04m deep. Dark brown sandy soil.	
727	PHASE pre-5/5 PH. Grey brown sandy soil over orange sandy soil.	
(731)	PHASE pre-5/5 645. PH, shallow. Brown soil.	
(732)	PHASE pre-5/5 645. PH, shallow. Brown soil.	
(733)	PHASE pre-5/5 645. SH. Brown soil.	
(734)	PHASE pre-5/5 645. PH 0.11m deep. Brown soil.	
(735)	PHASE pre-5/5 645. ??PH 0.20m deep. Dark brown soil over a void.	
(736)	PHASE pre-5/5 645. PH 0.20m deep. Brown soil with stones. Limestone packing.	
(737)	PHASE pre-5/5 645. SH. Dark brown soil, white flecks.	
738	PHASE pre-5/5 PH 0.15m deep. Brown soil.	
(739)	PHASE pre-5/5 640. PH 0.08m deep. Brown soil, some stone.	
(740)	PHASE pre-5/5 640. PH 0.06m deep. Brown soil.	

House 4

by J H Williams with R Hunter

Summary

The importance of House 4 lies in the interesting development of the stone house in the 13th to 15th centuries. A few Early/Middle Saxon features were located but formed no regular plan. Little evidence survived for the Late Saxon/early post-Conquest period although a timber building parallel to the street can be postulated. Sometime, probably in the 13th century, a substantial stone building was constructed with its gable end fronting onto the street (Phase 6A). Subsequently, probably at the time of the general rebuilding of the street c. 1410-20, the front was remodelled and extended eastward making the house L-shaped (Phase 6B). Phase 6C saw some internal modifications and probably the further extension of the house northward. Later in the 15th century (Phase 6D) the rear of the house became derelict with only the front portion continuing in use. Effectively after some 200 or more years the house had changed its axis through 90 degrees. Burnt debris at the front of the house argues for its destruction by fire c. 1500. After that there is little sign of activity on the site prior to Victorian times.

Phase 2?

Fig. 29

Only a limited area of this phase survived because of disturbance by later medieval and modern intrusions.

380, an orange brown sandy soil with ironstone fragments, lay above the bright orange weathered ironstone substratum and merged upwards into 363 which was similar in consistency to 380 but rather browner. Both levels probably represent buried soils formed naturally on top of the substratum but the nature of the soil (e.g. whether it was plough-soil) was unclear. 380 contained some 57 sherds almost exclusively Early/Middle Saxon, but the pottery from 363 was far more mixed and 363 probably belongs to Phase 4 or 5. A series of post-holes (493 etc., 503 etc.) and depression 502, of similar character to Phase 2 features elsewhere on site, were only recognised as cutting the substratum but should probably be seen as contemporary with 380. They are marked on Fig. 29 with a dashed outline. The post-holes formed no obvious pattern apart from the north-south line of 503 etc. This latter group, however, is somewhat less securely stratified than the other features.

Phases 4 and 5

Fig. 29

Post-holes and pits cutting 363 and overlaid by Phase 6A walls and soil level 117 can be securely assigned somewhere within Phase 4/5. It is also reasonable to include a number of pits lying within the area of the Phase 6A building and containing post-Conquest pottery. As, however, the Phase 6A floor levels were eroded away during Phase 6A, no evidence remains of the relationship between the pits and the construction of the Phase 6A building. A number of post-holes etc. centred on co-ordinates 153/262 can either be Phase 4/5 or Phase 6A.

As with Phase 2 the problems of later disturbance have made interpretation difficult. A number of general comments can, however, be made. The large number of post-holes recognised seems to indicate that there were several sub-phases. The post-holes are concentrated along the street frontage, possibly indicating a fence or building associated with the street, and additionally there is a slight change of texture in the underlying level 380 to the north and south of the lines formed by post-holes 456-8 and 469, 470. The case against buildings being present is the absence of further lines of post-holes to the north and parallel to the street, but since such post-holes (based on dimensions of clear timber buildings of similar date elsewhere on site) would probably lie between northings 263 and 264, later disturbance could have removed all trace. It is perhaps significant that the pits, although far from numerous, are

Layer no.	Phase and description	Finds
(741)	PHASE pre-5/5 640. PH 0.16m deep. Brown sandy soil with closely packed IF.	
(746)	PHASE pre-5/5 645. PH 0.20m deep. Brown soil.	
750	PHASE pre-5/5 Orange stony surface—weathered natural or floor.	
805	PHASE pre-5? (806,807). PH 0.22m deep. Grey brown soil, IF.	
(806)	PHASE pre-5? 805. PH 0.29m deep. Grey brown sandy silt, IF.	
(807)	PHASE pre-5? 805. PH 0.29m deep. Grey brown sandy silt, IF.	
808	PHASE pre-5? Orange grey silty sand, IF. Weathered natural.	
841	PHASE pre-5/5 ?PH 0.10m deep. Green brown soil.	
842	PHASE pre-5/5 ?PH 0.16m deep. Green brown soil, IF.	
(843)	PHASE pre-5/5 640. ??PH 0.20m deep. Light green brown soil.	
(844)	PHASE pre-5/5 640. PH 0.20m deep. Post pipe—green brown loose soil; packing—light green brown soil, IF.	
(845)	PHASE pre-5/5 640. ?SH 0.14m deep. Dark green brown soil.	
(846)	PHASE pre-5/5 640. ??PH 0.06m deep. Dark green brown soil.	
(847)	PHASE pre-5/5 640. ??PH 0.10m deep. Dark green brown soil.	
(848)	PHASE pre-5/5 640. ???PH 0.08m deep. Dark green brown soil, IF.	
(849)	PHASE pre-5/5 640. ?PH. Light brown soil, dark brown sand, IF.	
(850)	PHASE pre-5/5 640. PH 0.60m deep. Dark green brown soil.	
B36	PHASE 6Dii Robber of E wall, House 3.	