



## Wicken, Northamptonshire

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results



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**Wicken, Northamptonshire**  
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# Wicken, Northamptonshire

## Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

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# **Wicken, Northamptonshire**

## **Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results**

### **Summary**

In July 2006 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' in the village of Wicken in Northamptonshire (centred on NGR 474539 239362), to investigate the lost site of the church of St James at Wick Hamon, and to examine the early 'nucleated' settlement in the northern half of the village, Wick Dive.

The evaluation was concentrated within two areas of the village and was focused in a field known as The Warren, where a series of earthworks are located, and Home Farm, thought to be the site of St James Church, with further work being carried out in gardens along Cross Tree Road and Leckhamstead Road.

The primary aim of the evaluation was to confirm the exact location of the lost church of St James thus adding to the understanding of the manorial relationships in Wicken and to further evaluate the condition and extent of the early settlement site of Wicken, already under investigation by Richard Jones of University of Leicester.

A series of six trenches and nine test pits were excavated within the village to evaluate the location, extent, character, date, and significance of any underlying archaeology.

The archaeological evaluation provided a small but significant contribution to the story of Wicken which, when taken in conjunction with the work of the University of Leicester, will help to provide further insight into the beginnings and subsequent expansion of the village.

It was successful in achieving its aim of pinpointing the lost location of the Church of St James and of piecing together a basic floorplan of the structure from the archaeological remains.

However, little evidence for early settlement was revealed during the evaluation.

# **Wicken, Northamptonshire**

## **Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results**

### **Acknowledgements**

This programme of post-excavation and assessment work was commissioned and funded by Videotext Communications, and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank the staff at Videotext, in particular Kate Edwards (Assistant Producer) and Ben Knappett (Researcher) for their considerable help during the recording and post-excavation work.

The geophysical survey was undertaken by John Gater, Fiona Robertson and Emma Wood of GSB Prospection. The field survey was undertaken by Henry Chapman, University of Hull. The excavation strategy was devised by Mick Aston, Bristol University. The on-site recording was co-ordinated by Caroline Budd, assisted by Naomi Hall of Wessex Archaeology. The finds were processed on-site by Naomi Hall.

The excavations were undertaken by Time Team's retained archaeologists, Phil Harding (also of Wessex Archaeology), Raksha Dave, Kerry Ely, Matt Williams, Ian Powlesland and Brigid Gallagher with help from Sam Worrall, Tracey Smith, Anthony Maull, Tim Upton-Smith and Anthony Walsh. On site pottery identification was undertaken by Paul Blinkhorn and on-site human bone identification was undertaken by Jacqueline I. McKinley (Wessex Archaeology).

The archive was collated and all post-excavation assessment and analysis undertaken by Wessex Archaeology. This report was compiled by Caroline Budd, with specialist reports prepared by Lorraine Mephram (finds), Jessica Grimm (animal bone), Jacqueline McKinley (human bone) and Chris Stevens and Michael J. Allen (palaeo-environmental material). The illustrations were prepared by Linda Coleman. The post-excavation project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Lorraine Mephram.

The progress and successful completion of the work also benefited from discussion with Phil Harding and Phil Andrews of Wessex Archaeology, Richard Jones of Leicester University and Mick Aston of Bristol University.

Finally thanks are extended to all the villagers of Wicken in particular Chris Williams of the Manor House, Keith Ward of Home Farm, Linda and Mike Clarke of 'The Old School', Dennis and Beryl Bignall of 10 Cross Tree Road, Terry Levit of 6 Cross Tree Road, Rob Lambert of Heriot House and Leo and Cassandra McNeir of Glebe Cottage who allowed access for geophysical survey and granted permission to dig.

# Wicken, Northamptonshire

## Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

### 1 BACKGROUND

#### 1.1 Introduction

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

1.1.2 This report documents the results of the archaeological survey and evaluation undertaken by Time Team, and presents an assessment of the results of these works, together with recommendations for further analysis and dissemination.

#### 1.2 Description of Site

1.2.1 The village of Wicken is centred on NGR 474539 239362. It is situated approximately five miles from Milton Keynes on the north bank of the Great Ouse River, which forms the boundary between Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire at approximately 90m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is Great Oolitic Limestone overlain with boulder clay (BGS).

1.2.2 The evaluation focused on two main areas of investigation. The first was in the centre of the village, to the south of the Church of St John the Evangelist (centred on NGR 474485 239419), where a series of earthworks are clearly visible, and the second in the south-west corner of the village at Home Farm, (centred on NGR 474074 239281).

#### 1.3 Historical Background

1.3.1 It is likely that Wicken existed as one manor pre-Domesday but was divided into two separate entities sometime before 1086. The separate histories continue until 1449 when they came to be owned by the same family. The estates were subsequently treated as one entity in 1587 when the parishes of Wick Dive and Wick Hamon were unified by Sir John Spencer into the more familiar Wicken.

##### *Wick Dive*

1.3.2 The origins of Wick Dive can be seen in Domesday Book. In 1086, Robert D'Oyley, of the barony of Hook Norton, held one hide and one virgate in Wick, which Azur held freely in the time of King Edward. The manor and its associated capital message passed down the family through various deaths and marriages, eventually held by the De Plessis Family around 1242. The Church of Wick Dive (St John the Evangelist) is not mentioned in Domesday but in about 1130 Robert D'Oyley granted a gift of two of the tithes to the church at Oxford Castle.

- 1.3.3 The origins of the place name ‘Wicken’ appear to derive from the Old English, meaning ‘a dwelling, a building or collection of buildings for special purposes, a farm, a dairy farm’.
- 1.3.4 The next identifiable holder was Guy de Dive, whose son held one fee in Wick in 1242 (VCH). Presumably, it is around this time that the name of Wick Dive passed into common usage. In 1281 the capital messuage with garden was valued at 8s a year with a dovecote worth an additional 2s per annum (Page and Jones 2004). It was held by Henry de Dive, ancestor of Guy, until between 1356-9, when it passed to Roger de Mortimer. The manor stayed with the de Mortimers until it was leased by Edmund de Mortimer to William and Margaret Lucy in 1424. The manor house itself was described in 1427 as containing merely a hall, chamber, kitchen, barn and a dovecote worth 2s a year (VCH). In 1449, Richard and Jacquetta Woodville of Grafton purchased both the reversal and the Lucy’s life interest from Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York (Edmund de Mortimer’s nephew). In 1511 the estate was sold to John Spencer and the two separate estates unified in 1587.
- 1.3.5 It was still known as the manor house in 1670, when it was let with a farm of about 440 acres, after rebuilding in 1620 by Robert Spencer (VCH). In 1679, when a new lease of the same holding was granted, the house was called the ‘porter’s lodge’. This change confirms the belief that the rest of the buildings were demolished during Lord Sunderland’s (Robert Spencer) time and only the gatehouse left standing (VCH).
- 1.3.6 The remains of a medieval dovecote have been recently discovered within the manorial complex of Wick Dive (R. Jones, pers. comm.). The surrounding earthworks suggest a probable 13<sup>th</sup> century redesign, a theory supported by the regularity of the associated building plots. It is likely that a number of peasant tenements were destroyed to make way for the manorial extension and the village plots laid out to plan (Page and Jones 2004).

*Wick Hamon*

- 1.3.7 The neighbouring village, referred to as Wick Hamon, also had its origins in Domesday. In 1086 Maino held three virgates in Wick. During Henry I’s reign Mainfelin held two hides at Wick and in 1166-7 the sheriff accounted for half a mark from Hamon, son of Mainfelin, from Wick. A chaplain was presented to the Church of St James in 1218 by William, son of Hamon (Page and Jones 2004). The estate became known as Wick Hamon by at least 1276 when John de Wolverton (a name the heirs of Mainfelin had acquired), held the manor. According to the *Victoria County History*, there appears to have been no capital messuage associated with the medieval manor of Wick Hamon, probably because until 1367 the owners were seated at Wolverton. However, a garden and a dovecote were listed after William’s death in 1248, suggesting some form of manorial complex. In 1367, all five current heirs sold their stakes in the estate to Richard Woodville of Grafton and his son John.

*Wicken: the parishes unified*

- 1.3.8 In 1587, Sir John Spencer, owner of both the Wick estates, became the patron of both churches. Since the churches were ‘not a flight shot asunder’



(VCH), Spencer petitioned for the service to be held alternately in the two churches and the parishes were subsequently unified. This day of unification is still celebrated today, with cakes and ale served to the congregation under an elm tree near the parsonage, on the Thursday of Holy week.

- 1.3.9 In 1620 Lord Robert Spencer rebuilt the manor house, once of Wick Dive. The manor stayed within the family until 1712 when Countess Anne Spencer left all her real estate to trustees. Four years later the manor, manor house and Advowson of Wicken was sold to the London merchant Charles Hosier. The estate passed to Thomas Prowse by marriage in 1750 and his family settled there until 1810, when the manor house was let out once again. After a number of different tenants the manor was eventually bought by the Merchant Venturers in 1944.
- 1.3.10 The current parish church of Wicken, St John the Evangelist, is a later rebuild of the earlier medieval church. The square west tower of Wicken church was erected by Robert, Lord Spencer in 1617, but the remainder of the medieval building was taken down in 1753, after it was found to be unsafe. The cost of rebuilding was met by Thomas Prowse, described as the designer of the church on a tablet in the north aisle. It was completed by 1770, and comprises a nave with aisles of equal height, north and south transepts and a square chancel. The church was restored in 1838, and again by Matthew Holding in 1896-7. In the latter restoration the chancel was lengthened to the east, the south transept was added, and a boiler-room built at the west end of the north aisle. The 12<sup>th</sup> century font may be the sole relic of an earlier structure on the site.
- 1.3.11 The parish church of Wick Hamon, St James, consisted of a nave and chancel about 60 ft long and 20 ft wide, and a west tower 10ft square containing three bells (VCH). The church of St. James reportedly stood from 1263 to 1619. No remains are visible of the church. In 1619, the rectors were granted the right to demolish the church due to its poor condition. The churchyard was subsequently let out as part of the glebe and was still referred to as the old Churchyard or Church Field Close in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 1.3.12 In 1227 Henry son of Robert acquired land and a mill at Wike from Robert de Marisco. In 1383 John de Wikemill and Alice his wife made a lease for nine years at a rent of 66s. 8d. a year to John Cock of Wick Hamon of all his land - a tenement called Wikemill, the water-mill, dovecote, meadows and pasture in Wick Dive and Wick Hamon - and in the early 15<sup>th</sup> century 'Wykemylne' occurs as both a place name and personal name. In 1662 the mill was let with half a yardland for £14 a year, probably to Thomas Ashby, who is listed elsewhere as Lord Sunderland's tenant at about that date. Robert Ashby the younger of Thornton (Buckinghamshire) took a new 21-year lease of the mill and some adjoining land in 1687, when the wheel was noted as undershot. In 1717 the tenant was still Robert Ashby, who had the mill and 17½ acres (i.e. half a yardland). The mill was standing when the canal to Buckingham was projected in 1793 but may have been abandoned when that was built; it had certainly gone by 1827 (VCH Northamptonshire).

- 1.3.13 The pattern of settlement and land usage in Wicken has been considerably influenced by the position of the parish at the southern edge of Whittlewood Forest. Although in 1289 a proposal to reinclose the park at Wick Hamon was investigated by a swainmote court presided over by John de Tingewick, keeper of Whittlewood, implying that the township then lay within the forest, the detailed perambulation made ten years later, which established the boundary of the forest until the 17<sup>th</sup> century, clearly places both Wick Hamon and Wick Dive outside Whittlewood. In 1639, as part of Charles I's attempts to enlarge the forest far beyond the traditional limits, Henry Lord Spencer, the rector and two freeholders were fined for a grant of disafforestation relating to 1,800 acres of land in Wicken and Leckhampstead, and 100 acres of wood in the latter parish. In reality, as an early 17<sup>th</sup> century map of Whittlewood makes clear, no part of either parish was properly within the forest, whose south-western boundary at that date, as in 1299, was marked by Kings Brook (VCH Northamptonshire).
- 1.3.14 A good deal of woodland survived at the northern end of Wicken in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, extending over the border into Leckhampstead, most of which was still in existence a century later. By the early 19<sup>th</sup> century Wicken Wood had been slightly further reduced in size, although there were still 236 acres of woodland in the parish as a whole, including several parcels to the south-west of the village, detached from the main area further north. Even as late as this, Sir Charles Mordaunt, the owner of the Wicken Park estate successfully claimed an 18 foot freeboard along much of the parish boundary with Leckhampstead (including some stretches that were no longer wooded on the Wicken side as well as those that were). The claim was also accepted by the Ordnance Survey in the 1880s, which accounts for the unusual annotation ('18 ft. R.H.') along much of the western boundary of the parish (VCH Northamptonshire).

#### **1.4 Previous Archaeological Work**

- 1.4.1 Richard Jones of the University of Leicester is currently undertaking an excavation and evaluation of Wicken. His excavation began in 2003 with a number of test pits opened in different parts of the village. Eighteen test pits were opened at the 'nucleus' site (The Warren) (NGR 474485 239419), in order to test the nature of the extensive earthworks within the field. In only half the excavated test-pits that contained 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery were later wares also found, seemingly supporting the evidence for a 25% reduction in population between the years of 1334 and 1489.
- 1.4.2 Pottery evidence from test pits throughout the village (both Wick Hamon and Wick Dive) show a number of interesting trends. The Roman period (43-400AD) is strongly represented in the fields south of the brook and an ovoid enclosure in the former Wick Hamon. The period 850 – 950 AD is also well represented by pottery finds in four test pits in The Warren, and the period 850 – 1050AD is represented in a further two test pits here. A peak of activity is seen in the period 1100 – 1250AD, with some of the test pits in The Warren producing over 150 sherds. The focus of activity is still clearly centred on this site, although not exclusively – fieldwalking across the fields south of Wick Hamon also produced a spread of pottery from this period.

The north-western portion of this field has also been very productive of pottery from this period. A decline in activity is evident in the period 1250 – 1400AD, although pottery finds still number 30 – 50 finds in some test pits.

## **2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1.1 A project design for the work was compiled by Videotext Communications Ltd (2006), providing full details of the research aims and methods. A brief summary is provided here.
- 2.1.2 The project provided the opportunity to further evaluate the condition and extent of both the church and early settlement site of Wicken, already under investigation by Richard Jones of Leicester University.
- 2.1.3 The project aimed to confirm the exact location of the lost site of St James Church and provide further information on the manorial complex of Wick Hamon, the southern half of the current village. It also provided the opportunity to continue examination of the early nucleated settlement of Wick Dive, the northern half of the current village, south of the extant church of St John the Evangelist.
- 2.1.4 The project also aimed to provide an important resource for the future management and research of this significant site.

## **3 METHODS**

### **3.1 Geophysical Survey**

- 3.1.1 Prior to the excavation of evaluation trenches, a geophysical survey was carried out across the Site using a combination of resistance and magnetic survey. The survey grid was set out by Dr Henry Chapman and tied in to the Ordnance Survey grid using a Trimble Real Time Differential GPS system.

### **3.2 Earthwork Survey**

- 3.2.1 An earthwork survey was undertaken by Stewart Ainsworth (English Heritage), and the results of this survey are incorporated here. Investigations of the earthworks were concentrated in the field known as the ‘Warren’ immediately to the south of St John’s Church.

### **3.3 Evaluation Trenches and Test Pits**

- 3.3.1 The project design identified four main areas of investigation within the village, later expanded to five. These are shown on **Figure 1** and were:

- Area 1: The Church Site (Wick Hamon)
- Area 2: The early settlement (The Warren, Wick Dive)
- Area 3: The gardens of Leckhamstead Road
- Area 4: The gardens of Cross Tree Road
- Area 5: The Village Green

- 3.3.2 Six evaluation trenches of varying sizes and nine 1m by 1m test pits were excavated. Their precise locations were designed to investigate geophysical

anomalies and earthworks in order to answer the specific aims and objectives of the project design, with some limitations due to space constraints within the gardens of private houses.

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

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

3.3.5 A full photographic record of the investigations and individual features was maintained, utilising colour transparencies, black and white negatives (on 35mm film) and digital images. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and general context of the archaeology revealed and the Site as a whole.

3.3.6 The trenches were positioned within the village as follows:

|        |                                  |                                 |
|--------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Area 1 | The Church Site (Wick Hamon)     | Trench 3                        |
| Area 2 | The Warren (Wick Dive)           | Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6       |
| Area 3 | The gardens of Leckhamstead Road | Test pits 62, 63 and 69         |
| Area 4 | The gardens of Cross Tree Road   | Test pits 64, 65, 66, 67 and 68 |
| Area 5 | The Village Green                | Test pit 70                     |

3.3.7 At the completion of the work, all trenches were reinstated using the excavated soil and turf re-laid.

3.3.8 A unique site code (WP 06) was agreed prior to the commencement of works with Richard Jones of the University of Leicester to facilitate integration of the archive into the ongoing Whittlewood Project records.

3.3.9 All artefacts were transported to the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury where they were processed and assessed for this report. The excavated material and archive, including plans, photographs and written records are currently held at the Wessex Archaeology offices under the project code 62508 and site code WP06. It is intended that the archive will ultimately become amalgamated into the Whittlewood Project.

3.3.10 The work was carried out on the 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> July 2006.

## 4 RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features, a full geophysical report (GSB 2006), and the results of the artefactual and environmental assessments are retained in the archive. Detailed summaries of the excavated sequences can be found in **Appendix 1**, whilst a summary of the results of the geophysical survey are incorporated here.

### 4.2 Geophysical Survey

4.2.1 Magnetic survey was carried out in two areas totalling just under 1ha. Resistance survey was conducted in five areas totalling just over half a hectare.

4.2.2 Conditions for resistance survey were poor as a spell of hot, dry weather made the ground very hard and therefore achieving a good electrical contact between the probes and the ground proved difficult. The dry conditions prevented any clearly interpretable data being recorded. The most coherent response recorded by the geophysical survey was the location of St James Church which was targeted for evaluation as a result.

#### *Gradiometer Survey (Figure 2)*

##### Area 4

4.2.3 A number of pit-type responses (A) are the only evidence for potential archaeology within this area, although whether these relate to early settlement is uncertain.

4.2.4 Bisecting the data on an approximate east – west alignment is a pipe and the response from this will have masked any archaeological remains. The western and northern limits of the data have also produced a ferrous response from the metal fence which was situated along the field boundary.

##### Area 5

4.2.5 This survey block was situated over earthworks and an area of increased magnetic response (B) corresponds with these. Archaeological type response (C) follows the same alignment as the earthworks and is therefore likely to represent the ditch, whereas (B) indicates the bank. The magnetic results, in other words, did not add significantly to what is visible as earthworks.

4.2.6 A few other isolated pit-type responses are evident, and due to the high archaeological potential of the area are likely to have an archaeological potential.

#### *Resistance Survey (Figure 3)*

##### Area 1

4.2.7 Running in a northwest – southeast orientation is a band of high resistance (1) which is likely to be the remains of an old road. It is on the same alignment as the current road to the east and matches a line indicated on early maps (S. Ainsworth pers. comm.).

- 4.2.8 To the south of the purported road (1) are a number of high resistance anomalies which may suggest areas of rubble associated with roadside buildings, although this interpretation must be viewed with care as other causes such as topography can produce the same responses.

#### Area 2

- 4.2.9 This area was situated in a large back garden that had been extensively landscaped. As such, the resistance results reflect this as zones of both high and low resistance. Any archaeology that may be present will have been masked by the landscaping.

#### Area 3

- 4.2.10 An area of high resistance (3) marks the position of St James Church; this was confirmed by excavation. Further high resistance readings probably indicate rubble spread surrounding the former church.

#### Area 4

- 4.2.11 Results from this area consist of responses typical of those of topographical variations, although an archaeological origin cannot be ruled out in the light of the gradiometer survey within this area (see above, 3.2.3), which contains possible pit-type anomalies.

#### Area 6

- 4.2.12 High resistance response (4) was situated near several large trees and therefore a natural interpretation is preferred. Also, within this area a concrete man-hole cover was present which will have added to the elevated resistance. A linear band of high resistance in the north of the data corresponds with a slight bank visible on the ground and has been given a topographical interpretation.

### **4.3 Earthwork Survey**

- 4.3.1 Investigations of the earthworks were concentrated in the field known as the 'Warren' immediately to the south of St John's Church; this field is separated into two parts by a fence and footpath. Earthworks could be observed in both areas either side of the path (**Figure 1**). Earthworks in the eastern part of field have previously been suggested to be evidence of a nucleated settlement, possibly related to pre-Domesday occupation. Earthworks which may indicate patterns of settlement were also noted during investigations elsewhere in the village.

- 4.3.2 The earthworks to the east and west of the path are part of the same complex, although for ease of description below the field to the east is described as Area A and that to the west as Area B. Evidence from historical cartography indicates that the footpath which now divides the fields was introduced after 1717 and before 1900. All the earthworks observed are likely to pre-date that division. In summary, the earthworks essentially comprise the remains of a network of garden terraces, enclosures and paddocks around the site of the manor house to the north and are not indicative of settlement. They maintain the north to south – east to west axial arrangement evident in the manor-house and church layout and are typical of the earthworks associated with

manorial curia overlain with successive periods of garden design. No evidence of earthworks associated with settlement could be identified in this area.

*Area A*

- 4.3.3 In addition to the earthworks representing the remains of garden features and manorial enclosures, a pronounced hollow-way can be observed running north to south at the western end of the east field. It is clearly the route to the earlier, now demolished, manor house. At the east, a sub-rectangular mounding appears to indicate the site of a collapsed building. None has been shown here on historic maps available and it appears to be integrated and partially overlying the terraces which form part of the garden layout. Thus, it is likely to be late in date but may pre-date the earliest map of 1717 (Hosier Estate Map). Slighter earthworks, not on the main axial arrangement might indicate a change in layout although none were strongly indicative of settlement features.

*Area B*

- 4.3.4 Most of the earthworks in this area are the remains of formal garden terraces probably associated with the earlier manor house, although severely truncated by the landscaping around the later house. A distinctive square earthen mound at the north-east corner of this field, integrated into the overall layout of the earthworks is suggestive of a detached building such as a dovecote or brewhouse.

*Area C*

- 4.3.5 To the east of the road and running parallel to it, the earthwork remains of four regular tenements and yards typical of medieval toft and croft arrangement were observed. The eastern limits are defined by a back boundary earthwork, beyond which is ridge and furrow ploughing. One property here is still shown as a structure in existence on the 1885 1:2500 OS map. It is likely that these earthworks are the remains of medieval properties mirroring those still in existence to the west of the road, implying a planned village layout south of the stream to the north.

*Area D*

- 4.3.6 Now part of a garden, a series of what appear to be tofts and crofts were observed on aerial photographs north of the stream and are shown on the 1717 map alongside an east to west road. No visible earthworks of these survive.

*Areas E and F*

- 4.3.7 The layout of the properties here on the 1717 map is typical of regular plots within a medieval village plan. Whilst the plots in E are still continued as houses and gardens, a large area of F was removed at some stage after 1717. This may have been to accommodate landscaping associated with the new manor house to the west, although decline in the economic life of the village may have been a factor.

#### 4.4 Archaeological Evaluation

##### *Area 1: The Church Site – Wick Hamon (Trench 3) (Figure 4)*

- 4.4.1 The field called ‘Old Church Yard’ is positioned directly to the north of Glebe Cottage. Trench 3 was machine excavated to investigate the location of St James Church, targeted on the area of high resistance identified from the geophysical survey, and was later widened by machine.
- 4.4.2 The trench revealed the highest level of archaeological features seen in any of the trenches and test pits excavated during the evaluation, namely the multi-phase remains of the medieval church/chapel of Wick Hamon.
- 4.4.3 Given the tight time constraints of the evaluation, it was not possible to excavate or investigate all of the layers and features uncovered in this trench. Therefore, the details and phasing in this section represent a description of what was observed, followed by an interpretation drawn from the information recorded on Site combined with evidence on the structure and development of medieval churches recorded elsewhere.
- 4.4.4 Trench 3 saw the removal of on average 0.30m of topsoil (301) before significant archaeological deposits were identified.
- 4.4.5 Despite residual Romano-British pottery being recovered from the area, no deposits of this date or any evidence of a precursor to the medieval church were revealed during the evaluation.
- 4.4.6 The trench revealed a series of demolition and levelling deposits directly below the topsoil. Deposits (302), (307) and (314) consisted of mid orange brown silty clay, and contained pottery, animal bone and tile as well as fragments and large irregular blocks of limestone. The stone is likely to represent waste material which could not be re-used elsewhere.
- 4.4.7 Whilst documentary evidence indicates that the church was in use from 1263 to 1619 the relatively small pottery assemblage recovered from the Church Site precludes the specific dating of the structural remains. These have been separated into three phases purely on the basis of stratigraphic relationships/sequence.

##### Phase 1

- 4.4.8 The earliest phase of the church comprised two possible external walls, areas of laid dressed slabs and patches of ceramic and stone tile flooring. It is likely that some of the original elements of the church continued to be used (or were re-used) during the Phase 2 development of the structure and are, therefore, difficult to assign to a phase. Evidence of a graveyard surrounding the church was also recorded which appeared to be contemporary with this phase of activity.
- 4.4.9 The remains of north-east south-west wall (320), towards the southern end of the trench, survived as a rubble core of limestone fragments bonded with pale yellow lime mortar. No evidence of facing stones remained within the



construction cut (325) and the wall was overlain by demolition deposit (323). The wall measured 0.60m wide by 3.00m long and appeared to terminate 0.50m from the eastern limit of the trench, although it was unclear if this was a terminus or due to truncation; given the floor plan of the church, the latter seems most likely. The dimensions of the wall do not suggest a particularly substantial structure although, given the lack of facing stones and the disturbed nature of the wall, its original dimensions are unknown. It is possible that this represents the ruined remains of the original southern external wall of the church, which had been demolished to facilitate subsequent expansion in later phases.

- 4.4.10 Approximately 6.50m to the north of wall (320) were the remains of robbed out wall (326). This comprised a rubble core of limestone fragments bonded with pale yellow lime mortar, similar to (320) and parallel to it. Once again, no facing stones remained. In some areas (326) had been almost completely robbed out and the construction cut (357) backfilled with rubble. It is likely that this wall was the base of the north chancel of the original modestly sized early church.
- 4.4.11 Feature (347) situated within the church, towards the west end of the trench, was a rectangular paved area of dressed limestone slabs. The area measured 1.30m by 0.70m and was observed to butt up against tiled surface (342), suggesting a broadly contemporary date. The function of feature (347) is uncertain but may have been a tomb base or a pier support.
- 4.4.12 Tiled floor (342) consisted of a small, rectangular tiled surface thought to lie within the Nave. The exposed portion of the floor measured 0.68m by 0.30m. The floor overlay mortar bedding (343) and was overlain in turn by a layer of demolition material (307).
- 4.4.13 Feature (360) was situated towards the eastern side of the trench and consisted of a large, slightly raised area of flat dressed limestone fragments measuring 1.60m by 1.13m. The feature would have lay towards the east end of the church, within the chancel area, and may have been the base of the earliest altar or pulpit, or alternatively may have been the base of a tomb. It is thought to have belonged to the initial phase of the church and there appears to have been later construction around it, slightly skewed to the alignment of the church, respecting the feature and allowing its continued use.
- 4.4.14 Floor surfaces (339 and 341) were located at the junction of the chancel and nave and were composed of compact, mid orange brown sandy mortar with sparse, small limestone fragments. These surfaces appear to have formed the earliest floors of the church, though the relationship between the two layers was not established.
- 4.4.15 Two graves lay outside the church (356) to the north and (306) to the south, suggesting that the church was surrounded by a graveyard during its earliest phase. These graves were built over during the final phase of construction of the church. Redeposited human remains were also recovered from the demolition layers covering the Site and in the backfill of pit (369), situated to

the south of the church, which may also have been associated with the initial use of the structure.

- 4.4.16 Grave (356) was aligned north-south and contained the disturbed remains of an apparently adult individual. However, this grave was not excavated and consequently further information is not available. No dating evidence was recovered from the surface of the grave.
- 4.4.17 Grave (306) was aligned north-south and contained the disturbed and incomplete remains of several individuals of varying ages, from infant to adult, suggesting that the graveyard housed a normal cross-section of the population.
- 4.4.18 The earliest phase of the church indicates a modest structure with relatively insubstantial external walls and an associated graveyard.

#### Phase 2

- 4.4.19 The second phase in the development of the church is difficult to define due to the overlap in use of various elements throughout the life of the church. However this phase of construction was represented by the addition of internal, probably wooden, altar or communion rails on stone foundations which separated the chancel from the nave. This would have formalised movement and access to particular areas within the church. The size of the church appears to have remained the same during this period and it is likely that the graveyard remained in use. However, given the confines of the trench it was not possible to establish whether there were any additions to the east or west ends of the church.
- 4.4.20 Features (345, 358 and 359), situated towards the centre of the trench, comprised narrow north-south and east-west aligned walls of dressed limestone, bonded in pale pink /yellow lime mortar. These walls were between 0.10m and 0.15m wide and probably formed the foundation upon which altar or communion rails would have sat, separating the nave from the chancel and the altar and pulpit from the congregation. The walls were observed to overlie earlier floor surfaces (339) and (341) and to respect altar/pulpit base (360), placing them within the second phase of church construction.
- 4.4.21 Feature (353), situated towards the centre of the trench consisted of a small rectangular cut lined with pink painted plaster, overlain by backfilled rubble deposits (312 and 313). The feature measured 0.88m by 0.37m with a depth of 0.31m and cut through floor surface (340), associated with the earliest phase of the church, suggesting that this feature was contemporary with the second phase of construction. The function of this feature is uncertain but may have been used as a child's tomb.

#### Phase 3

- 4.4.22 The final phase of development of the church is characterised by the addition of aisles expanding the original structure. The church appears to gain status with dressed stone springers being added, forming the bases of large and

imposing stone archways, and the floor is covered with glazed and decorated ceramic tiles.

- 4.4.23 Tiled area (332) enclosed by limestone edging (363) lay within the north aisle. The majority of the tiles observed were decorated, although none of the patterning was continuous which indicates that floor had been re-laid.
- 4.4.24 Evidence for the southern aisle of the church was more ephemeral. A 0.90m gap was observed between robbed out wall (320), which appeared to be the original external wall of the church, and a more substantial external wall (319). No evidence of tiled flooring remained in this area but wall (319) is likely to have been the south wall of the south aisle.
- 4.4.25 Feature (349), an area of dressed limestone masonry forming an approximate square, was situated towards the northern end of the church. The feature may have been a springer for an arch. No counterpart was observed for the feature, although the extrapolated location of the second springer fell within an area which remained unexcavated. Alternatively, the feature may have been the base of the pulpit. The feature was observed to overlay external wall (326), suggesting that it was part of the final phase of construction of the church.

*Area 2: The Warren (Wick Dive) – Trenches 1,2,4,5 and 6 (Figure 1)*

- 4.4.26 The Warren lies south of the church of St John and west of the junction of Church Lane and Cross Tree Lane. An earthwork survey was carried out on this area and five machine-dug trenches were targeted upon visible earthworks in this location.
- 4.4.27 All five trenches saw the removal of approximately 0.30m of turf and topsoil (101, 201, 401, 501, 601 respectively), and a further 0.15m (on average) of subsoil and demolition rubble (102 and 103, 202, 402, 502 and 602), before significant archaeological deposits were identified. Three of the five trenches (Trenches 1, 2 and 5) revealed archaeological features.
- 4.4.28 Virtually all of the features revealed in the trenches were filled with homogenous mid grey brown silty clay with the majority containing small quantities of medieval pottery.

Trench 1 (Figure 5)

- 4.4.29 Trench 1 was 7.9m by 4.15m, aligned north-west to south-east, and revealed one wall, three postholes, one pit, three spreads and one ditch.
- 4.4.30 Wall (114), in the south-west corner of the trench, was aligned roughly north-south along the line of visible earthworks on the Site. It was not fully exposed but a 3.27m length was recorded, 0.54m wide and 0.07m high. The wall lay within construction cut (115) and survived as a single course of undressed limestone blocks bonded with pale yellow lime mortar. No dating evidence was recovered but, the construction cut was aligned on and truncated earlier ditch (121) and the wall was probably built to affirm an existing boundary.

- 4.4.31 Postholes (107), (109) and (111), in the north-east corner of the trench, were roughly circular, approximately 0.35m in diameter, with a depth of 0.07m; (111) was deeper at 0.41m. Posthole (111) contained a small quantity of medieval pottery and posthole (107) was truncated by spread (105).
- 4.4.32 Spread (105), situated in the north-east corner of the trench and extending beyond the limit of excavation was roughly linear in shape and appeared to terminate to the south. The spread measured approximately 2.14m by 1.07m with a depth of 0.14m. No pottery dating was recovered from the spread but it truncated earlier spread (117) and posthole (109).
- 4.4.33 Spread (113), in the south-west corner of the trench was not fully exposed but was irregular in shape measuring approximately 3m by 1.63m, with a depth of 0.09m. It produced a moderate quantity of medieval pottery. The spread was truncated by ditch (121).
- 4.4.34 Spread (117), towards the centre of the trench was irregular in shape and measured approximately 2.70m by 2.10m with a depth of 0.10m. It extended beyond the confines of the trench and was filled with pale brown silty clay. It contained moderate quantities of medieval pottery and was truncated by later spread (105).
- 4.4.35 Pit (119), towards the centre of the trench, was roughly circular, measuring approximately 1.5m by 1.28m with a depth of 0.25m. It contained a single sherd of Pottersbury Ware which dates from 1250-1600 (the sherd, which was identified on Site, is currently unavailable for further analysis). A soil sample taken from the fill produced hazelnut shells and free threshing wheat (see below).
- 4.4.36 Ditch (121), in the south-west corner of the trench, was not fully exposed but was at least 3.3m long, 0.7m wide and 0.51m deep. The ditch was filled with mid grey silty clay and contained no dating evidence, but was truncated by later wall construction cut (115).

#### Trench 2 (Figure 5)

- 4.4.37 Trench 2 measured 7.5m by 1.45m and was excavated on an east-west alignment. The topsoil and subsoil contained a small quantity of post-medieval pottery and a rather large quantity of medieval pottery. One pit was revealed within the trench.
- 4.4.38 Pit (204), situated towards the west end of the trench, was sub-circular, measuring approximately 0.95m by 0.67m, with a depth of 0.26m and produced a single small sherd of medieval pottery.

#### Trench 5 (Figure 1)

- 4.4.39 Trench 5 measured 7.27m by 2.33m and was excavated on a north-south alignment. The topsoil contained varying quantities of modern, post-medieval and medieval pottery. Two pits were revealed towards the centre of the trench.

- 4.4.40 Pit (504) was oval and measured approximately 1.50m by at least 1.97m, with a depth of 0.18m. It was cut by later pit (505) and contained two small sherds of medieval pottery.
- 4.4.41 Pit (505) was only partially exposed within the trench but was sub-rectangular, measuring approximately 0.88m by at least 0.86m, with a depth of 0.38m. No dating evidence was recovered from the pit but it was cut through earlier pit (504).

*Area 3: Gardens of Leckhamstead Road (Test Pits 62, 63 and 69) (Figure 1)*

- 4.4.42 Leckhamstead Road is situated south of the church of St John and forms the continuation of Cross Tree Lane. Three hand excavated test pits, approximately 1 metre square, were excavated in back gardens in this location. Geophysical results (see above) suggested that at least part of this area had been extensively landscaped, which would have masked any archaeological remains.
- 4.4.43 Test pits 62, 63 and 69 saw the removal of on approximately 0.30m of dark grey brown silty loam (the current turf and topsoil of the gardens) and a further 0.10m (on average) of mid orange brown silty clay subsoil, before significant archaeological deposits were identified. Test pits 62 and 69 produced small quantities of modern, post medieval and medieval pottery. One of the three test pits, Test Pit 63, revealed archaeological features.

Test Pit 63: The garden of 'Heriot House'

- 4.4.44 Test pit 63 was excavated in the east of the rear garden. A possible metallised surface (Spit 3) composed of mid brown silty clay with approximately 80% limestone fragments was revealed. This deposit was probably used to create a yard surface or to consolidate the ground surface close to the river. Fifteen sherds of medieval pottery were recovered including three sherds of 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century St Neots ware, one from Spit 3 and two from beneath the metallised surface, suggesting early medieval activity in the area.

*Area 4: Gardens of Cross Tree Road (Test pits 64 - 68) (Figure 1)*

- 4.4.45 Cross Tree Road is situated south of the church of St John and forms the continuation of Leckhamstead Road. Five hand excavated test pits, approximately 1 metre square, were excavated in back gardens in this location.
- 4.4.46 All five test pits saw the removal of on approximately 0.30m of turf and topsoil and a further 0.10m (on average) of subsoil, before significant archaeological deposits were identified. The test pits all contained varying quantities of modern, post-medieval and medieval pottery with sparse residual Romano-British sherds. Test pit 64 contained a single sherd of 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century St Neots ware, possibly suggesting early medieval activity in the vicinity. Two of the five test pits (65 and 66), revealed archaeological features.

#### Test Pit 65: 6 Cross Tree Road

- 4.4.47 Test pit 65 was excavated in the centre of the lawned area of the garden. A change was identified at the level of (Spit 5) represented by a layer of light grey silty clay. This was not fully exposed or characterised due to the confines of the test pit area and was consequently difficult to interpret. The deposit probably indicates a floor surface or former ground surface. A small quantity of medieval pottery was recovered from the deposit, but it overlay Spit 6 which contained small quantities of Late Iron Age / Early Romano-British, post-medieval and modern pottery, indicating that the pottery in the upper deposit was not *in situ*. Consequently, the possible floor surface must have been constructed relatively recently incorporating earlier material.

#### Test Pit 66: 8 Cross Tree Road (Figure 6)

- 4.4.48 Test pit 66 was excavated in the centre of the lawned area of the rear garden, and produced the most substantial and interesting artefact assemblage from the test pitting.
- 4.4.49 Directly below the turf and topsoil was a 0.1m thick deposit of mid brown silty clay, with frequent limestone fragments (6601-2). This deposit, which contained small quantities of modern, post-medieval and medieval pottery, appeared to be a demolition/levelling deposit sealing the remains of a limestone metalled surface.
- 4.4.50 Metalled surface (6603-4), composed of dark brown silty clay with approximately 80% limestone fragments, was probably a yard surface. It sealed a deposit of compact dark brown clay (excavated in four spits) which contained moderate quantities of medieval pottery, including nine sherds of 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century St Neots ware suggesting early medieval activity in the vicinity.

#### *Area 5: The Village Green (Figure 1)*

- 4.4.51 The Village Green is located directly east of the Church of St. John, at Church Close, south of the junction of Church Lane and St John's Lane. Test pit 70 was machine excavated in the north-west of the Village Green.
- 4.4.52 Following the removal of 0.25m, of dark grey brown silty loam topsoil (**Spit 1**) and a further 0.40m of mid orange brown silty clay (**Spit 2**), the natural bedrock was encountered. Small quantities of Romano-British and medieval pottery were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil deposits. No archaeological features were revealed.

## 5 FINDS

### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Finds were recovered from all six of the trenches and all nine of the test pits excavated. The assemblage ranges in date from Romano-British to modern, although Romano-British material occurred only as residual finds in later contexts.
- 5.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and totals by material type and by trench/site area are presented in **Table 1**. Subsequent to quantification, all finds have been at least visually scanned in order to gain an overall idea of the range of types present, their condition, and their potential date range. Spot dates have been recorded for selected material types as appropriate (pottery, ceramic building material). All finds data are currently held on an Access database.
- 5.1.3 This section presents an overview of the finds assemblage, on which is based an assessment of the potential of this assemblage to contribute to an understanding of the site in its local and regional context, with particular reference to the potential Saxon origins of the village.

### 5.2 Pottery

- 5.2.1 The pottery assemblage includes material of Romano-British, post-Roman and post-medieval date. The pottery totals by material type are quantified in **Table 2**. The condition of the assemblage is fair to poor; sherd size is small (mean sherd weight is 5.4g overall) and medieval and earlier sherds are frequently abraded, which is likely to be a reflection of the high degree of residuality; all of the Romano-British sherds, and at least 75% of the medieval assemblage (by number of sherds) occurred in later contexts.

#### *Romano-British*

- 5.2.2 A total of 41 sherds have been identified as Romano-British, although with varying degrees of confidence. Four grog-tempered sherds are likely to belong to the indigenous Late Iron Age ceramic tradition of the area, which continued in use into the early Roman period (test pits 65, 67, 70). Other sherds are in sandy fabrics, either oxidised or reduced, or shelly fabrics, and include no diagnostic sherds; some could in fact be of post-Roman date and, equally, some Romano-British wares could remain unidentified amongst the post-Roman assemblage.

#### *Post-Roman*

- 5.2.3 The post-Roman material falls into three main fabric groups: calcareous, coarse sandy and fine sandy. The calcareous wares include shelly wares (largely of St Neots type) and oolitic wares. The latter are likely to include some Lyveden-Stanion products. Amongst the potential sources for the sandy wares are the nearby production centre at Potterspury, operating from at least the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and the Brill/Boarstall kilns to the south.

- 5.2.4 Identifiable vessel forms are mainly jars, with a few bowls; glazed sherds (mainly amongst the finer sandy wares) are likely to derive from jugs. One glazed and decorated sherd in a fine, pale-firing fabric with an olive-green glaze (trench 1, cleaning layer 103) could even derive from an aquamanile, although the identification from such a small sherd is tentative.
- 5.2.5 Isolating any pre-conquest material amongst the medieval assemblage is hampered by small sherd size, abrasion, a scarcity of diagnostic sherds, and a high degree of residuality. St Neots ware has a potential date range of 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century, the shelly tradition continuing thereafter into the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The majority of this ware type came from the site of the early settlement (trenches 1, 2, 4-6), and there are certainly some pre-conquest rim forms here (e.g. pit 504), but most sherds derived from post-medieval contexts. Other pre-conquest sherds are likely to be identified amongst the coarse sandy and other calcareous wares.
- 5.2.6 A date range continuing into the later medieval period (at least to the 14<sup>th</sup> century) is demonstrated by the presence of probable Potterspury products, including jars with squared and lid-seated rims. Again, the largest groups came from the early settlement, particularly from Trenches 1 and 2.

#### *Post-Medieval*

- 5.2.7 The post-medieval assemblage consists largely of coarse redwares (some black-glazed) and modern refined whitewares, with smaller quantities of stonewares (Raeren, English wares of the later 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> centuries, and modern stonewares), and Staffordshire-type slipwares and mottled wares. The greatest concentration of post-medieval wares was in the test pits at Cross Tree Road.

### **5.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)**

- 5.3.1 At least one piece of Romano-British CBM was identified – a *tegula* fragment from trench 3 (demolition deposit 302). Five further pieces from Cross Tree Road (TPs 64 and 65) could be of similar date on fabric grounds but are undiagnostic.
- 5.3.2 The remainder of the assemblage comprises fragments of roof tile, floor tile, and modern wall tiles and drainpipe. The majority of this came from the church site (trench 3) which, along with a few modern fragments, produced a large group of medieval roof (peg) tiles and floor tiles. The roof tiles are handmade in coarse, irregular fabrics and many are heavily mortared, perhaps reused. The floor tiles include both plain and decorated examples. The plain tiles are of a consistent size, approximately 100mm (4 inches) square; there are two triangular examples and one square tile scored diagonally but not separated into two tiles. Some tiles are white-slipped under the glaze, but most are so heavily worn that there is no trace of either slip or glaze. The decorated tiles are of similar size. Three designs are represented; no parallels have been found at this stage.
- 5.3.3 CBM from other areas includes a few further fragments of plain floor tiles and medieval roof tiles, but consists mainly of fragments of post-



medieval/modern roof tiles, modern bricks and wall tiles, the largest group deriving from test pits at Cross Tree Road.

#### **5.4 Stone**

- 5.4.1 Nine limestone fragments of limestone, two coarse and three fine-grained, from the church site (trench 3) are almost certainly building material; two are probably ashlar fragments. Other worked stone comprises post-medieval roof slate fragments and a modern bottle stopper and slate pencil.

#### **5.5 Glass**

- 5.5.1 The glass includes both vessel and window glass. Most of the window glass (26 fragments) came from the church site (trench 3) and could be of medieval date; all these are in very poor condition, with actively oxidising surfaces; they include 19 painted fragments (demolition deposit 307). Further window glass fragments in similar condition came from the early settlement site, from trenches 1 (four fragments, one painted), 2 (one fragment) and 5 (three fragments).
- 5.5.2 Glass from other contexts is all of later date, and includes some fragments of 'onion' or 'mallet' shaped bottles of later 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century date, as well as more modern vessel and window fragments.

#### **5.6 Coins**

- 5.6.1 Seven coins, tokens and jetons were recovered, ranging in date from the medieval period to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. None of these coins or jetons were recovered *in situ*, but were metal detector finds and recovered from the topsoil or subsoil, and are therefore unstratified. In general, their condition is poor, with some coins badly corroded.
- 5.6.2 One of the coins dates to the medieval period (demolition deposit 302). It is a silver half penny, probably of Henry V, minted in London between AD 1413 and AD 1422. The irregular flan may point to it having been clipped in the past. It is badly worn.
- 5.6.3 The remaining six objects date to the post-medieval and modern periods. Two are copper alloy jetons or reckoning counters struck in Nuremberg (topsoil from trenches 1 and 3 respectively). Reckoning counters (also known as jetons) were aids used in medieval accounting and mathematical calculations. They were used in conjunction with checkerboards or clots in order to record values and sums of money. Specialist tokens were produced from the late 13<sup>th</sup> century onwards, and they were in widespread use from the 14<sup>th</sup> century until the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, when they were made redundant by the increasing spread of Arabic numerals. Nuremberg took over as the main European centre for jeton manufacture in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. One of the jetons can be identified as being struck by Hanns Krauwinckel II, who was a master at Nuremberg between AD 1586 and 1635.

- 5.6.4 One coin is too badly corroded to be identified, whilst another is a farthing of Charles I; both came from trench 1 topsoil. The remaining two objects (again, both from trench 1 topsoil) were both tokens in the form of copied half pennies struck in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, during the reign of George III. Deliberate copies of half pennies, sometimes known as ‘evasion’ coins, were common in the reign of George III, when there was a shortage of copper coinage. These were issued as tokens, but were often collected and also circulated in the same fashion as coinage.

## **5.7 Metalwork**

- 5.7.1 Apart from coins, the metalwork includes objects of copper alloy, iron and lead.
- 5.7.2 The copper alloy includes a possible vessel (candlestick?) fragment, a dressmaking pin, two buckles, two strapends and several fittings. All appear to be of late medieval or post-medieval date.
- 5.7.3 The iron consists largely of nails and other structural items, with one horseshoe and two heel irons. The horseshoe and heel irons are post-medieval in date; the nails are undatable.
- 5.7.4 Lead comprises waste and offcut fragments. Most came from the Church site (Trench 3).

## **5.8 Worked Bone**

- 5.8.1 Of particular interest is the fragment of worked bone found in a demolition deposit (302) in trench 3. This forms part of a pair of spectacle frames. The frame has an internal groove to hold the lens; traces of a carved projection on the exterior edge could be part of a handle, or part of the protrusion opposite the handle where the lens was inserted. These fragments can be paralleled by a more complete pair of frames from Trig Lane, London, dated to the mid/late 15th century (Rhodes 1980; 1982; Egan 1998, 276-7, fig. 213). More recent finds have been reviewed by Stevenson (1995); of the nine listed, five are from London and the others are from religious establishments. The methods of manufacture of these spectacles, their European parallels and the context for their use are discussed by Rhodes (*ibid.*). This type of spectacles, known as ‘riveted spectacles’, are the earliest known European variety, invented in Italy in the 13th century. Dated spectacles of this type in Britain span several centuries from the early 15th century to the mid 16th/mid 17th century, although Rhodes suggests that the type went out of use in this country at the beginning of the 16th century (1982, 59).

## **5.9 Jet**

- 5.9.1 A jet bead was recovered from the topsoil in test pit 64 (Cross Tree Road) which is probably modern in date.

## 5.10 Human Bone

### *Introduction*

- 5.10.1 Human bone was recovered from six contexts lying below or cut by foundation trenches for the early medieval church of St. James in Wick Hamon. The only *in situ* human bone from the site represented the remains of a burial of a neonate (318) in grave 369, which was not excavated. Redeposited bone from another immature individual was recovered from the grave fill (365); a sample of this (right distal femur) was sent for radiocarbon dating. None of the bone in cut 306, believed to represent the remains of a grave cut by the south wall of the church and a large post hole, was *in situ*.

### *Methods*

- 5.10.2 The condition of the bone was recorded following McKinley (2004, fig. 6). Age was assessed from the stage of skeletal development (Beek 1983; Scheuer and Black 2000), and the patterns and degree of age-related changes to the bone (Brothwell 1972; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994). The former includes measurements of the length of immature long bone diaphyses, which the writer has noted tends to underestimate the age of archaeological material in comparison with the more reliable method of tooth development, probably due to nutritional deficiencies in comparison with modern populations.

### *Results*

- 5.10.3 A summary of the results is presented in **Table 3**; details are held in the archive. The bone is in variable condition, generally showing mild abrasion and erosion, indicative of potentially several episodes of disturbance and redeposition. All the excavated material represented bone fragments; no complete skeletal elements were recovered.
- 5.10.4 A minimum of four individuals are represented within the excavated assemblage including one young infant (*c.* 1-2 yr.), one infant/juvenile (*c.* 4-5 yr.), one juvenile *c.* 9-11 yr. and one adult >45 yr.
- 5.10.5 With the exception of the unexcavated neonate, none of these remains were from *in situ* burials. All appear to have derived from graves which were disturbed by the insertion of one or more of the southern walls of the church; the *in situ* grave also appeared to be stratigraphically below the foundations. The interpretation of the supposed grave cut 306 is debatable; it contained no *in situ* bone and although cut by two features there were areas of the feature which would have been unaffected by the disturbance. Although the bone it contained was predominantly that of one individual (only *c.* 7% skeletal recovery), fragments from two other individuals were also recovered. It is likely that a number of graves, potentially predating the church or at least the southern part of it, existed in the area and others may be present external to the excavated area. The identified remains were mainly those of children, and it has been noted that the graves of such young individuals were sometimes clustered together in pre-conquest cemeteries, though generally towards either the east or west ends of the church (Daniell 1997, 128). The recovery of some adult bone within the Wicken assemblage, however, suggests the presence of graves of older individuals in the general area.

## 5.11 Animal Bone

### *Introduction*

5.11.1 The faunal assemblage recovered amounts to 279 bones. Conjoining fragments that were demonstrably from the same bone were counted as one bone in order to minimise distortion, and therefore specimen counts (NISP) given here may differ from the absolute raw fragment counts in **Table 1**. No fragments were recorded as 'medium mammal' or 'large mammal'; these were instead consigned to the unidentified category.

### *Condition and preservation*

5.11.2 Most animal bone was in fair to good condition; only 12% was in poor condition. Approximately 2% of the bones showed signs of gnawing, so canid scavenging was not a major biasing factor. It shows that a small part of the bones was exposed before final deposition. A pig fibula fragment showed gnawing traces of a canid and a rodent (context 302).

5.11.3 A total of 12% loose teeth show that probably large parts of the material were re-deposited. However, the presence of a cattle femur with a distal loose but matching epiphysis in trench 6 topsoil shows that some bone was disposed off and covered immediately. Two bone fragments showed signs of contact with fire.

5.11.4 As can be seen in **Table 4**, the faunal list is dominated by sheep/goat and followed by cattle and a small proportion of pig and horse.

### *Material characteristics*

5.11.5 Only 4% of the bones could inform us about the phenotype of the animals on the site and 8% of the bones can provide an age at death. Three bones showed signs of professional butchery and possibly bone working. For instance, trench 4 (topsoil) contained the tibia of a large young pig of which the shaft was sawn-off horizontally in the middle. Trench 6 (topsoil) contained the femur of a subadult large cattle of which the distal end was sawn-off.

5.11.6 The overall impression of the assemblage is that it represents butchery waste and kitchen refuse typical for a medieval site.

## 6 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

### 6.1 Introduction and methods

6.1.1 A single bulk sample of 20 litres was taken from a Saxon pit (119) to evaluate the presence, preservation and diversity of biological remains. The potential of the remains to contribute to the understanding of the excavated features and the activity they represent on the site was assessed.

6.1.2 The sample was processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals.

- 6.1.3 Categories of palaeo-environmental evidence recovered comprise charred wheat, oats, hazelnut shells and pea or bean, this assemblage is typical of settlement activity.
- 6.1.4 The bulk sample was processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh and the residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereobinocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified (**Table 5**) in order to present data to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and charcoal remains and assess their potential to address the project and subsidiary aims.
- 6.1.5 Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).
- 6.1.6 The flot was of reasonable size, with moderate amounts of roots that may be indicative of stratigraphic movement, reworking or the degree of contamination by later intrusive elements.

## **6.2 Charred Plant Remains**

- 6.2.1 The sample contained reasonable quantities of charred grains, 23 grains of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum*), 10 unidentifiable cereal grains and 5 oat grains (*Avena* sp.). Whilst the latter may also be of a wild type they were large in size which is often indicative of the cultivated variety. The sample also contained two fragments of hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana*). No seeds of any wild species were seen, although a single probable fragment of pea (*Pisum sativum*) or bean (*Vicia faba*) was also present.

## **6.3 Charcoal**

- 6.3.1 A reasonable quantity of well preserved wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 5**. A small amount of twig charcoal was recorded as well as a single unidentified bud.

## **6.4 Land Snails**

- 6.4.1 A small number of land snails were noted comprising of shells. These were identified where possible following the nomenclature of (Kerney 1999) and comprised of a mixture of catholic and open country species, *Cochlicopa* sp., *Helicella* sp., *Vallonia* sp. and *Pupilla muscorum*, the latter commonly associated with grassland and bare soils.

## **6.5 Summary and Potential**

- 6.5.1 The remains are in keeping with Saxon to Medieval sites in general in which free-threshing wheat usually predominates (Greig 1991). The lack of weed seeds and chaff would seem to indicate that the grains arrived on the site in a clean condition where assumingly they were processed and/or stored prior to being taken to the miller or further prepared.

- 6.5.2 The charred plant remains have the potential to examine agricultural practices upon the site. However, such potential is limited by the range of material available from a single sample.
- 6.5.3 The charcoal has the potential to examine the use of woodland resources for fuel. However, such potential is limited by the number of samples and that the sample is not associated with a specific activity.
- 6.5.4 The land snails have the potential to examine the general environment on the site and the sample demonstrates that such remains survive on the site. Such potential is limited by the nature of context and that a single sample is present.

## **7 RADIOCARBON DATING**

- 7.1.1 A right distal femur fragment from inhumation 366 was submitted to determine whether this burial was contemporary with the Early Medieval (AD 1000-1400) chapel or was significantly earlier and associated with disturbed inhumation 318 of the Late Saxon - Early Medieval cemetery (i.e. pre AD800 or pre AD 500). A single AMS results was obtained (**Table 6**) and has been calibrated with the atmospheric data presented by Stuiver *et al.* (1998) and performed on OxCal ver 3.9 (Bronk Ramsey 1995; 2001) and are expressed at the 95% confidence level with the end points rounded outwards to 10 years following the form recommended by Mook (1986).
- 7.1.2 The result of 705±35 BP (NZA-26568) clearly indicates that this individual is Early Medieval cal AD 1240-1400 and not Late Saxon. However, the probability curve is distinctly bimodal indicating that the individual is most likely to have died between the mid 13<sup>th</sup> and mid 14<sup>th</sup> century.

## **8 DISCUSSION**

### **8.1 Introduction**

- 8.1.1 Prior to the Time Team investigations, previous understanding of Wicken's history had come from documentary evidence, research excavations and topographical survey. The archaeological evaluation therefore offered an opportunity to expand on this previous work, in particular to investigate the hypothesis that the village had originally been two separate parishes in the early medieval period with an accompanying church in each, subsequently joined together.
- 8.1.2 Taking into account the background historical context and the investigations during the Time Team evaluation, analysis of the evidence points toward two focal points of settlement, one to the north of the stream (Wick Dive) and one to the south (Wick Hamon), each with its church, manorial complex and associated settlement. This might indicate that the stream was the former boundary of the two. The focus of Wick Hamon would be close to the present junction of three roads at the south of the village, with the plots noted at Field C being part of a planned settlement associated with this focus. The focus of Wick Dive would have been at the former road junction (now a right-angled

corner) where the Gospel Elm is situated. All the plots to the north of the stream are likely to have been associated with this settlement.

## **8.2 Wick Hamon**

8.2.1 The evaluation at Wick Hamon identified the location of the previously lost St James Church. The church survives only as a basic floor plan covered with a layer of demolition rubble which confirms documentary sources indicating that the church was demolished in 1619. The original church of 1263 would have been a simple structure constructed of thin external walls. Internally the floor would have been covered with areas of dressed stone slabs in conjunction with patches of ceramic and stone tile flooring. Only small quantities of finds were recovered from the church trench however, these included fragments of medieval painted window glass within the demolition rubble. However it remains unclear at what stage the painted windows would have been added to the structure. Evidence of a graveyard contemporary with the initial phase of the church was also uncovered during the evaluation. The graveyard appeared to continue to be used throughout the second phase of the development of the church, characterised by the addition of internal altar or communion rails on stone foundations. These rails would have facilitated the more formalised movement of the congregation and separated the chancel from the nave. The final phase of the church consisted of its expansion by means of side aisles and the addition of stone arches and glazed and decorated tile floors. These final additions may indicate an increase in the status of the church until it fell into disrepair and was subsequently demolished.

## **8.3 Wick Dive**

8.3.1 The evaluation at Wick Dive uncovered a sparse scattering of medieval features including postholes, pits, a ditch and a wall, most notably concentrated on the area of The Warren. None of these features were particularly substantial and do not seem to indicate settlement activity on the field itself as previously thought. The results of the earthwork survey support this interpretation and suggest that the area was part of the manorial complex and would have been the location of garden features associated with the manor building. The recovery of medieval pottery from the field does indicate activity of this date in the area and the earthwork survey in the east of the Site suggests that the centre of the settlement activity may have been there, as indicated by the arrangement of the plots and gardens which survive to the present day.

8.3.2 The evaluation trench on the Village Green revealed no archaeological features however, pottery recovered from the subsoil within the trench, dating to the Late Saxon – early medieval period hints at the earlier origins of the village in this area.

## **8.4 Test Pitting**

- 8.4.1 The investigations in Leckhamstead Road revealed sparse archaeological remains, most notably a metalled surface in Test Pit 63 which sealed a layer containing 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century medieval pottery.
- 8.4.2 The test pit investigations carried out on Cross Tree Road revealed a higher density of medieval pottery, in this part of the village, in conjunction with a further metalled surface in Test Pit 66.
- 8.4.3 All of the test pits excavated will supplement the information previously recorded by the University of Leicester and will add to the understanding of the spatial distribution of pottery throughout the village.

## **8.5 Conclusions**

- 8.5.1 The archaeological evaluation provided a small but significant contribution to the story of Wicken which, when taken in conjunction with the work of Leicester University, will help to provide further insight into the beginnings and subsequent expansion of the village.
- 8.5.2 It was successful in achieving its aim of pinpointing the lost location of the Church of St James and of piecing together a basic floorplan of the structure from the archaeological remains.
- 8.5.3 However little evidence for early medieval settlement was revealed during the evaluation.

## **9 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1.1 It is anticipated that the results of the Time Team evaluation at Wicken will be incorporated into the ongoing work of the Whittlewood Project, conducted by Richard Jones of the University of Leicester. No further analysis of this material alone is therefore proposed. A copy of this report will be deposited with the Northamptonshire Sites and Monuments Record.

## **10 ARCHIVE**

- 10.1.1 The archive, which includes all artefacts, written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigation undertaken, is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology under the site code WP 06 and Wessex Archaeology project number 62508. The whole archive will be transferred to Richard Jones to form part of the Whittlewood Project archive, which is ultimately destined for the Northamptonshire Museums Service.



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## 12 APPENDIX 1: TRENCH AND TEST PIT DESCRIPTIONS

### Trench 1 – The Warren

| Max Depth: 0.45m |                   | Length: 7.9m   | Width: 4.15m |
|------------------|-------------------|--|--------------|
| Context No.      | Type              | Description  |              |
| 101              | <i>Topsoil</i>    | Current turf and topsoil of pasture field  |              |
| 102              | <i>Subsoil</i>    | Subsoil / rubble interface below (101), mid grey brown silty clay with moderate limestone fragments.     |              |
| 103              | <i>Layer</i>      | Cleaning layer, mid grey silty clay with sparse limestone fragments                                      |              |
| 104              | <i>Deposit</i>    | Fill of (105), mixed mid grey brown silty clay deposit with frequent limestone fragments                 |              |
| <b>105</b>       | <b><i>Cut</i></b> | <b>Cut of roughly linear feature / spread, cuts (108)</b>  |              |
| 106              | <i>Deposit</i>    | Fill of (107), well sorted mid grey brown silty clay with sparse limestone fragments                     |              |
| <b>107</b>       | <b><i>Cut</i></b> | <b>Cut of posthole</b>   |              |
| 108              | <i>Deposit</i>    | Fill of (109), mixed mid grey brown silty clay with sparse limestone fragments, truncated by (105)       |              |
| <b>109</b>       | <b><i>Cut</i></b> | <b>Cut of posthole</b>   |              |
| 110              | <i>Deposit</i>    | Fill of (111), mixed mid grey brown silty clay with sparse limestone fragments                           |              |
| <b>111</b>       | <b><i>Cut</i></b> | <b>Cut of posthole</b>   |              |
| 112              | <i>Deposit</i>    | Fill of (113), well sorted mid grey brown silty clay with sparse limestone fragments, truncated by (121) |              |
| <b>113</b>       | <b><i>Cut</i></b> | <b>Cut of shallow irregular spread</b>   |              |
| 114              | <i>Structure</i>  | Single course of NE-SW wall, limestone bonded with pale yellow lime mortar within construction cut (115) |              |
| <b>115</b>       | <b><i>Cut</i></b> | <b>Construction cut of (114)</b>   |              |
| 116              | <i>Deposit</i>    | Fill of (117), mixed pale brown silty clay with sparse limestone fragments, truncated by (105)           |              |
| <b>117</b>       | <b><i>Cut</i></b> | <b>Cut of shallow irregular spread</b>   |              |
| 118              | <i>Deposit</i>    | Fill of (119), well sorted mid grey brown silty clay with moderate limestone fragments                   |              |
| <b>119</b>       | <b><i>Cut</i></b> | <b>Cut of sub circular pit</b>   |              |
| 120              | <i>Deposit</i>    | Fill of (121), mixed mid grey brown silty clay with frequent limestone fragments, truncated by (115)     |              |
| <b>121</b>       | <b><i>Cut</i></b> | <b>Cut of ditch</b>  |              |
| 122              | <i>Natural</i>    | Great Oolitic Limestone  |              |

### Trench 2 – The Warren

| Max Depth: 0.72m |                   | Length: 7.0m  | Width: 1.8m |
|------------------|-------------------|---|-------------|
| Context No.      | Type              | Description   |             |
| 201              | <i>Topsoil</i>    | Current turf and topsoil of pasture field   |             |
| 202              | <i>Subsoil</i>    | Topsoil / Natural geology interface below (201), mid grey brown silty clay with moderate limestone fragments.               |             |
| 203              | <i>Deposit</i>    | Fill of (204), mixed mid grey brown silty clay with moderate limestone fragments  |             |
| <b>204</b>       | <b><i>Cut</i></b> | <b>Cut of shallow pit</b>   |             |
| 205              | <i>Layer</i>      | Subsoil / natural interface, mid reddish brown silty clay, layer of eroded material derived from the upper and lower layers |             |
| 206              | <i>Natural</i>    | Natural geology - Great Oolitic Limestone   |             |

### Trench 3 – The Churchfield

| Max Depth 0.45m |                   | Length: 17.26m  | Width: 8.72m |
|-----------------|-------------------|---|--------------|
| Context No.     | Type              | Description   |              |
| 301             | <i>Topsoil</i>    | Current turf and topsoil of arable field  |              |
| 302             | <i>Layer</i>      | Mixed mid orange brown silty clay with frequent limestone rubble at south end of the trench, demolition deposit = (307)   |              |
| 303             | <i>Structure</i>  | Single course of NE-SW wall, dressed limestone blocks bonded with grey gritty mortar = (319), overlies grave deposit (304)  |              |
| 304             | <i>Deposit</i>    | Fill of (306), mixed mid grey brown silty clay with occasional limestone fragments, overlain by (303)   |              |
| 305             | <i>Inhumation</i> | Fill of (306), skeleton, poorly preserved and incomplete  |              |
| <b>306</b>      | <b><i>Cut</i></b> | <b>Cut of grave, cuts (367)</b>   |              |
| 307             | <i>Layer</i>      | Mixed mid orange brown silty clay with frequent limestone rubble at north end of the trench, demolition deposit = (302)   |              |
| 312             | <i>Deposit</i>    | Fill of (313), mixed mid orange brown silty clay with frequent limestone blocks, deliberate backfill, overlain by (339)   |              |
| 313             | <i>Structure</i>  | Fill of (353), pale pink yellow plaster lining of sub rectangular feature, overlain by (312)  |              |
| 314             | <i>Layer</i>      | Mixed mid orange brown silty clay with frequent limestone rubble at north end of the trench, demolition deposit   |              |
| <b>315</b>      | <b><i>Cut</i></b> | <b>Cut of robber trench of wall (331)</b>   |              |
| 316             | <i>Deposit</i>    | Fill of (315), mixed mid grey brown silty clay with moderate limestone fragments and demolition rubble,   |              |
| 318             | <i>Inhumation</i> | Lower half of neonate skeleton exposed in exploratory sondage, not lifted, overlain by (322).   |              |
| 319             | <i>Structure</i>  | Single course pitched limestone wall footing = (303), overlies grave deposit (304)  |              |
| 320             | <i>Structure</i>  | Rubble core of NE-SW wall, limestone fragments bonded with pale yellow lime mortar no facing stones extant within construction cut (325), overlain by demolition deposit (323)                    |              |
| 321             | <i>Layer</i>      | Mixed mid grey brown silty clay with sparse limestone fragments, infill visible between (319) and (320), appears to be overlain by wall (319)   |              |
| 322             | <i>Layer</i>      | Mixed mid grey brown silty clay with sparse limestone fragments, infill below (321)   |              |
| 323             | <i>Layer</i>      | Mixed mid brown grey silty clay with frequent limestone fragments, deposit derived from wall demolition, overlies (328) and (324)   |              |
| 324             | <i>Layer</i>      | Mixed mid grey brown silty clay with sparse limestone fragments, partially excavated  |              |
| <b>325</b>      | <b><i>Cut</i></b> | <b>Construction cut of NE – SW wall (320)</b>   |              |
| 326             | <i>Structure</i>  | Rubble core of NE-SW wall, limestone fragments bonded with pale yellow lime mortar no facing stones extant, within construction cut (357), base of the north chancel wall truncated by (351)      |              |
| 327             | <i>Inhumation</i> | Skull exposed in exploratory sondage, not lifted, within (328).   |              |
| 328             | <i>Deposit</i>    | Fill of (325), mixed mid grey brown silty clay with sparse limestone fragments, contains (327), not fully excavated, overlies wall (320), overlain by (323)                                       |              |
| <b>329</b>      | <b><i>Cut</i></b> | <b>Construction cut for wall (331), NE – SW aligned</b>   |              |
| 330             | <i>Deposit</i>    | Fill of (329), well sorted mid grey brown silty clay with sparse limestone fragments, fill of construction cut truncated by (315)   |              |
| 331             | <i>Structure</i>  | E-W aligned wall, limestone dressed blocks with no obvious bonding, within construction cut (329), possible side chapel wall attached to the chancel, overlain by (330)                           |              |
| 332             | <i>Surface</i>    | E-W aligned tile floor, bedded into (333) butts possible edging stones (363), floor of a possible north aisle, overlain by demolition deposit (314).  |              |
| 333             | <i>Layer</i>      | Mid orange brown mortar, bedding layer for tiled surface (332)  |              |
| 337             | <i>Structure</i>  | NW-SE aligned wall, limestone dressed blocks with no obvious bonding, within construction cut (368), Possible extension of dividing wall between the Chancel and the Nave, associated with (332)? |              |
| 338             | <i>Layer</i>      | Well sorted, compact mid grey brown silty clay with sparse limestone fragments, possible former ground surface truncated by robber cut (315)?   |              |
| 339             | <i>Surface</i>    | Well sorted, compact mid grey brown / black silty clay with sparse small limestone fragments, latest floor surface in the chancel area, overlain by wall (358), overlies (340)                    |              |
| 340             | <i>Surface</i>    | Well sorted, compact mid orange brown silty clay with sparse small limestone fragments,   |              |

|            |                   |  |
|------------|-------------------|--|
|            |                   | floor surface to the chancel area, overlain by wall (359) and later floor surface (339), truncated by (353)  |
| 341        | <i>Surface</i>    | Well sorted, compact mid orange brown sandy mortar with sparse small limestone fragments, internal floor surface to the south of the north chancel wall, overlain by walls (358) and (345) and possible pier base (361)  |
| 342        | <i>Surface</i>    | Small rectangular tiled area within the knave, butts decorative stone plinth (347), overlies mortar bedding (343) and is overlain by demolition layer (307).   |
| 343        | <i>Layer</i>      | Mid orange brown mortar, bedding layer for tiled surface (342)   |
| 345        | <i>Structure</i>  | N-S aligned single width faced limestone block wall bonded in fragmented pink/yellow brown mortar, contemporary with (358), overlies (341) and (339). Dividing wall of the Chancel and Nave.   |
| 347        | <i>Structure</i>  | Rectangular area paved with dressed limestone slabs, butts tiled surface (342)   |
| 348        | <i>Structure</i>  | Square area of dressed limestone blocks to the west of tiled surface (342), possible pier base / plinth may be contemporary with (362).  |
| 349        | <i>Structure</i>  | Square area of dressed limestone blocks bonded in fragmented light yellow brown mortar, butted by walls (337) and (345), probable Springer   |
| 350        | <i>Layer</i>      | Well sorted, compact mid grey brown silty clay with sparse small limestone fragments, possible floor surface within side chapel, overlain by wall (337) and Springer (349), truncated by grave cut (356).  |
| <b>351</b> | <b><i>Cut</i></b> | <b>Cut of robber trench of wall (326)</b>  |
| 352        | <i>Inhumation</i> | Disarticulated skeleton exposed in cleaning, not lifted, fill of (356).  |
| <b>353</b> | <b><i>Cut</i></b> | <b>Construction cut of plaster lined feature, cuts (340), filled with (313) and (312)</b>  |
| 354        | <i>Deposit</i>    | Mixed mid grey brown silty clay with frequent limestone fragments, fill of robber trench (351)   |
| 355        | <i>Deposit</i>    | Unexcavated mid brown silty clay with medium limestone fragments, fill of probable grave (356)   |
| <b>356</b> | <b><i>Cut</i></b> | <b>Cut of probable grave containing inhumation (352) and filled with (355), possibly cuts wall (331)</b>   |
| <b>357</b> | <b><i>Cut</i></b> | <b>Construction cut of north Chancel wall</b>  |
| 358        | <i>Structure</i>  | NE-SW single block wall of dressed limestone bonded in pale pink /yellow lime mortar which meanders to the east of the excavation area, overlies (339) and (341), possibly contemporary with (345) and (359), internal partition of the chancel? Butts northern side of possible tomb base (360) |
| 359        | <i>Structure</i>  | NE-SW single block wall of dressed limestone bonded in pale pink /yellow lime mortar, overlies (340), possibly contemporary with (345) and (358), internal partition of the chancel? Butts southern side of possible tomb base (360)   |
| 360        | <i>Structure</i>  | Sub rectangular platform of limestone slabs bonded in pink/yellow lime mortar, possible tomb / altar base. Butted by (359) and (358)   |
| 361        | <i>Structure</i>  | Single limestone block set within robber trench (354), possible column base?   |
| 362        | <i>Structure</i>  | Sub rectangular dressed limestone platform, may be contemporary with (348), possible Springer / column base.   |
| 363        | <i>Structure</i>  | Three dressed limestone blocks aligned NE-SW which may form the southern edging to tiled surface (332).  |
| 364        | <i>Layer</i>      | Mixed mid grey brown silty clay with frequent limestone fragments, demolition deposit = (302) and (307).   |
| 365        | <i>Inhumation</i> | Disarticulated leg bone removed for C14 dating within deposit (322), found in association with inhumation (318)  |
| 366        | <i>Inhumation</i> | Disarticulated leg bone removed for C14 dating within deposit (322), found in association with inhumation (318)  |
| 367        | <i>Layer</i>      | Mid orange brown silty clay at southern end of trench external to the church, Boulder Clay?  |
| <b>368</b> | <b><i>Cut</i></b> | <b>Construction cut of wall (337), cuts (316)</b>  |
| <b>369</b> | <b><i>Cut</i></b> | <b>Cut of pit, cuts (367)</b>  |
| 370        | <i>Deposit</i>    | Fill of (369), well sorted mid orange brown silty clay with sparse limestone fragments, truncated by (306)   |

### Trench 4 – The Warren

| Max Depth: 0.66m |                | Length: 6.8m  | Width: 1.8m |
|------------------|----------------|---|-------------|
| Context No.      | Type           | Description   |             |
| 401              | <i>Topsoil</i> | Current turf and topsoil of pasture field   |             |
| 402              | <i>Subsoil</i> | Topsoil / Natural geology interface below (401), mid grey brown silty clay with moderate limestone fragments. |             |
| 403              | <i>Natural</i> | Natural geology - Great Oolitic Limestone   |             |

### Trench 5 – The Warren

| Max Depth: 0.47m |                   | Length: 7.3m  | Width: 2.2m |
|------------------|-------------------|---|-------------|
| Context No.      | Type              | Description   |             |
| 501              | <i>Topsoil</i>    | Current turf and topsoil of pasture field   |             |
| 502              | <i>Subsoil</i>    | Topsoil / Natural geology interface below (401), mid grey brown silty clay with moderate limestone fragments. |             |
| 503              | <i>Deposit</i>    | Fill of (504), mixed mid grey brown silty clay with moderate limestone inclusions, truncated by (505)         |             |
| <b>504</b>       | <b><i>Cut</i></b> | <b>Cut of rectangular pit , cuts (511)</b>  |             |
| <b>505</b>       | <b><i>Cut</i></b> | <b>Cut of sub oval pit, truncates (503)</b>   |             |
| 506              | <i>Deposit</i>    | Fill of (505), mixed pale yellow grey clay with sparse limestone fragments, clay lining of pit                |             |
| 507              | <i>Deposit</i>    | Fill of (505), mixed mid grey brown silty clay with occasional limestone fragments, overlain by (502)         |             |
| <b>508</b>       | <b><i>Cut</i></b> | <b>Cut of geological feature</b>  |             |
| 509              | <i>Deposit</i>    | Fill of (508), dark orange brown silty clay with occasional limestone fragments                               |             |
| 510              | <i>Natural</i>    | Natural geology, Oolitic Limestone  |             |
| 511              | <i>Natural</i>    | Natural geology, Boulder Clay   |             |

### Trench 6 – The Warren

| Max Depth: 0.64m |                | Length: 4.0m  | Width: 4.0m |
|------------------|----------------|---|-------------|
| Context No.      | Type           | Description   |             |
| 601              | <i>Topsoil</i> | Current turf and topsoil of pasture field   |             |
| 602              | <i>Subsoil</i> | Topsoil / Natural geology interface below (601), mid grey brown silty clay with moderate limestone fragments. |             |
| 603              | <i>Natural</i> | Natural geology - Great Oolitic Limestone and Boulder Clay  |             |

### Test Pit 62 – Heriot House

| Max Depth: 0.45m |                | Length: 1.0m  | Width: 1.0m |
|------------------|----------------|---|-------------|
| Context No.      | Type           | Description   |             |
| Spit 1           | <i>Topsoil</i> | Current turf and topsoil of garden                            |             |
| Spit 2           | <i>Topsoil</i> | Silty clay with sparse charcoal                               |             |
| Spit 3           | <i>Topsoil</i> | Silty clay with sparse limestone fragments                    |             |
| Spit 4           | <i>Subsoil</i> | Compact mid orange brown clay with sparse limestone fragments |             |

### Test Pit 63 – Heriot House

| Max Depth: 0.50m |                | Length: 1.0m   | Width: 1.0m |
|------------------|----------------|--|-------------|
| Context No.      | Type           | Description  |             |
| Spit 1           | <i>Topsoil</i> | Current turf and topsoil of garden   |             |
| Spit 2           | <i>Topsoil</i> | Hard and compact mid brown silty loam with sparse charcoal and limestone fragments   |             |
| Spit 3           | <i>Surface</i> | Mid brown silty clay with frequent limestone fragments, possible mettling or stabilisation layer given close proximity to stream |             |
| Spit 4           | <i>Subsoil</i> | Compact mid brown silty clay with sparse limestone fragments   |             |
| Spit 5           | <i>Subsoil</i> | Compact mid brown silty clay with occasional limestone fragments   |             |

### Test Pit 64 – 4 Cross Tree Road

| Max Depth: 0.35m |                | Length: 1.0m  | Width: 1.0m |
|------------------|----------------|---|-------------|
| Context No.      | Type           | Description   |             |
| Spit 1           | <i>Topsoil</i> | Current turf and topsoil of garden                            |             |
| Spit 2           | <i>Topsoil</i> | Current topsoil of garden                                     |             |
| Spit 3           | <i>Topsoil</i> | Current topsoil of garden                                     |             |
| Spit 4           | <i>Subsoil</i> | Compact mid orange brown clay with sparse limestone fragments |             |

### Test Pit 65 – 6 Cross Tree Road

| Max Depth: 0.63m |                | Length: 1.0m  | Width: 1.0m |
|------------------|----------------|---|-------------|
| Context No.      | Type           | Description   |             |
| Spit 1           | <i>Topsoil</i> | Current turf and topsoil of garden  |             |
| Spit 2           | <i>Topsoil</i> | Current topsoil of garden   |             |
| Spit 3           | <i>Topsoil</i> | Current topsoil of garden   |             |
| Spit 4           | <i>Subsoil</i> | Compact mid orange brown clay with sparse limestone fragments                         |             |
| Spit 5           | <i>Layer</i>   | Mixed light grey clay with moderate limestone inclusions, possible demolition deposit |             |
| Feature 1        | <i>Deposit</i> | Mid orange brown silty clay with sparse limestone inclusions at Spit 5 level          |             |
| Spit 6           | <i>Natural</i> | Boulder Clay  |             |

### Test Pit 66 – 8 Cross Tree Road

| Max Depth: 0.63m |                | Length: 1.0m   | Width: 1.0m |
|------------------|----------------|--|-------------|
| Context No.      | Type           | Description  |             |
| Spit 1           | <i>Topsoil</i> | Current turf and topsoil of garden   |             |
| Spit 2           | <i>Topsoil</i> | Current topsoil of garden  |             |
| Feature 1        | <i>Layer</i>   | Uneven scatter of small limestone slabs  |             |
| Feature 2        | <i>Layer</i>   | Large limestone slabs laid into dark brown clay, forming an uneven surface or demolition deposit |             |
| Spit 3           | <i>Layer</i>   | Compact dark brown clay with sparse limestone fragments  |             |
| Spit 4           | <i>Layer</i>   | Compact dark brown clay with sparse limestone fragments  |             |
| Spit 5           | <i>Layer</i>   | Compact dark brown clay with yellow mottling and sparse limestone fragments                      |             |
| Spit 6           | <i>Layer</i>   | Compact dark brown clay with yellow mottling and sparse limestone fragments                      |             |
| Feature 3        | <i>Deposit</i> | Limestone fragments forming a possible surface   |             |
| Spit 7           | <i>Natural</i> | Boulder Clay   |             |

### Test Pit 67 – 10 Cross Tree Road

| Max Depth: 0.70m |                | Length: 1.0m  | Width: 1.0m |
|------------------|----------------|---|-------------|
| Context No.      | Type           | Description   |             |
| Spit 1           | <i>Topsoil</i> | Current turf and topsoil of garden  |             |
| Spit 2           | <i>Topsoil</i> | Current topsoil of garden   |             |
| Spit 3           | <i>Layer</i>   | Mid yellow brown silty clay with moderate limestone fragments   |             |
| Spit 4           | <i>Layer</i>   | Dark yellow brown silty clay with moderate limestone inclusions   |             |
| Spit 5           | <i>Layer</i>   | Dark yellow brown silty clay with moderate limestone inclusions   |             |
| Spit 6           | <i>Layer</i>   | Dark grey brown silty clay with moderate limestone inclusions   |             |
| Spit 7           | <i>Layer</i>   | Dark grey brown silty clay with moderate limestone inclusions in conjunction with building materials i.e. slate |             |

### Test Pit 68 – 12 Cross Tree Road

| Max Depth: 0.70m |                | Length: 1.0m  | Width: 1.0m |
|------------------|----------------|---|-------------|
| Context No.      | Type           | Description   |             |
| Spit 1           | <i>Topsoil</i> | Current turf and topsoil of garden  |             |
| Spit 2           | <i>Topsoil</i> | Current topsoil of garden   |             |
| Spit 3           | <i>Layer</i>   | Mid brown silty clay with moderate limestone fragments  |             |
| Spit 4           | <i>Layer</i>   | Mid orange brown silty clay with moderate limestone inclusions and charcoal                     |             |
| Spit 5           | <i>Layer</i>   | Very compact mid orange brown silty clay with moderate limestone inclusions and domestic debris |             |
| Spit 6           | <i>Layer</i>   | Very compact mid orange brown silty clay with moderate limestone inclusions and sparse pottery  |             |

### Test Pit 69 – Rectory Garden

| Max Depth: 0.40m |                   | Length: 1.0m  | Width: 1.0m |
|------------------|-------------------|---|-------------|
| Context No.      | Type              | Description   |             |
| Spit 1           | <i>Topsoil</i>    | Current turf and topsoil of garden  |             |
| Spit 2           | <i>Layer</i>      | Dark brown silty clay loam with moderate limestone fragments                  |             |
| Spit 3           | <i>Layer</i>      | Dark brown silty clay with moderate limestone fragments                       |             |
| <b>Feature 1</b> | <b><i>Cut</i></b> | <b>Cut of plastic pipe</b>  |             |
| Feature 2        | <i>Layer</i>      | Limestone fragments bedded into dark brown clay, possible demolition deposit. |             |

### Test Pit 70 – Village Green

| Max Depth: 0.65m |                | Length: 2.6m   | Width: 1.3m |
|------------------|----------------|--|-------------|
| Context No.      | Type           | Description  |             |
| Spit 1           | <i>Topsoil</i> | Current turf and topsoil of village green                      |             |
| Spit 2           | <i>Subsoil</i> | Compact mid orange brown silty clay, moderate root disturbance |             |
| Spit 3           | <i>Natural</i> | Mid orange brown boulder clay with limestone brash             |             |



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

| Material                  | Church Site |          | Early Settlement |        |        |       |        | L'hamstead Road<br>TPs | Cross Tree Road<br>TPs | Village Green<br>TP 70 | TOTAL |
|---------------------------|-------------|----------|------------------|--------|--------|-------|--------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------|
|                           | Tr 3        | Tr 1     | Tr 2             | Tr 4   | Tr 5   | Tr 6  |        |                        |                        |                        |       |
| Pottery                   | 37/414      | 218/1668 | 249/1113         | 50/237 | 51/280 | 6/65  | 40/188 | 195/652                | 47/185                 | 893/4802               |       |
|                           | 5/26        | -        | -                | -      | -      | -     | 1/7    | 13/41                  | 22/61                  | 41/135                 |       |
|                           | 19/186      | 163/1131 | 244/1082         | 48/210 | 23/155 | 5/56  | 16/68  | 70/321                 | 25/124                 | 613/3333               |       |
|                           | 11/190      | 54/525   | 5/31             | 2/27   | 28/125 | 1/9   | 23/113 | 112/290                | -                      | 236/1310               |       |
|                           | 2/12        | 1/12     | -                | -      | -      | -     | -      | -                      | -                      | 3/24                   |       |
| Ceramic Building Material | 175/23,299  | 5/470    | 5/353            | -      | -      | -     | 11/487 | 113/3003               | -                      | 309/27,612             |       |
| Wall Plaster              | 1/42        | -        | -                | -      | -      | -     | -      | -                      | -                      | 1/42                   |       |
| Fired Clay                | 1/13        | -        | -                | -      | -      | -     | 1/4    | 1/11                   | -                      | 3/28                   |       |
| Clay Pipe                 | -           | 1/2      | 1/2              | -      | -      | -     | 1/1    | 7/9                    | -                      | 10/14                  |       |
| Stone                     | 8/1790      | -        | -                | -      | 1/3    | -     | 2/23   | 3/16                   | -                      | 14/1832                |       |
| Worked Flint              | -           | -        | -                | -      | 1/13   | -     | 1/3    | 1/1                    | 1/3                    | 4/20                   |       |
| Glass                     | 34/33       | 8/91     | 1/1              | -      | 14/102 | -     | 13/22  | 27/126                 | -                      | 97/375                 |       |
| Slag                      | -           | 1/4      | -                | 2/20   | -      | -     | 14/79  | 1/18                   | -                      | 18/121                 |       |
| Metalwork (no. objects)   | 35          | 12       | 4                | 4      | 6      | 1     | 16     | 18                     | -                      | 96                     |       |
|                           | 2           | 5        | -                | -      | -      | -     | -      | -                      | -                      | 7                      |       |
|                           | 7           | 3        | 1                | -      | -      | -     | -      | 1                      | -                      | 12                     |       |
|                           | 6           | 3        | 3                | 1      | 6      | 1     | 16     | 17                     | -                      | 53                     |       |
|                           | 20          | 1        | -                | 3      | -      | -     | -      | -                      | -                      | 24                     |       |
| Worked Bone (no. objects) | 1           | -        | -                | -      | -      | -     | -      | -                      | -                      | 1                      |       |
| Jet (no. objects)         | -           | -        | -                | -      | -      | -     | -      | 1                      | -                      | 1                      |       |
| Human Bone                | 34/52       | -        | -                | -      | -      | -     | -      | -                      | -                      | 34/52                  |       |
| Animal Bone               | 8/112       | 36/762   | 44/241           | 24/111 | 39/213 | 2/196 | 60/186 | 56/234                 | -                      | 269/2055               |       |
| Marine Shell              | -           | 4/23     | 1/4              | -      | -      | -     | -      | -                      | -                      | 5/27                   |       |

**Table 2: Pottery totals by ware type**

| <b>Date Range</b>          | <b>Ware Type</b>                     | <b>No. sherds</b> | <b>Weight (g)</b> |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| ROMANO-BRITISH             | Coarse greyware                      | 27                | 108               |
|                            | Coarse oxidized ware                 | 3                 | 7                 |
|                            | Coarse grog-tempered ware            | 4                 | 7                 |
|                            | Coarse shelly ware                   | 7                 | 13                |
|                            | <i>Sub-total Romano-British</i>      | <i>41</i>         | <i>135</i>        |
| LATE SAXON and<br>MEDIEVAL | St Neot's type ware                  | 134               | 636               |
|                            | Coarse sandy ware                    | 196               | 924               |
|                            | Fine sandy ware                      | 198               | 1328              |
|                            | Calcareous ware                      | 85                | 445               |
|                            | <i>sub-total late Saxon/medieval</i> | <i>613</i>        | <i>3333</i>       |
| POST-MEDIEVAL              | Redware                              | 89                | 768               |
|                            | Staffordshire-type slipware          | 6                 | 49                |
|                            | Staffordshire-type mottled ware      | 3                 | 6                 |
|                            | German stonewares                    | 1                 | 12                |
|                            | English stonewares                   | 11                | 139               |
|                            | White saltglaze                      | 1                 | 1                 |
|                            | Bone china                           | 6                 | 13                |
|                            | Modern refined wares                 | 119               | 322               |
|                            | <i>sub-total post-medieval</i>       | <i>236</i>        | <i>1310</i>       |
| UNDATED                    | Calcareous ware                      | 3                 | 24                |
|                            | <b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>                 | <b>893</b>        | <b>4802</b>       |

**Table 3: Human Bone - Summary of results**

| <b>context</b> | <b>cut</b> | <b>deposit type</b> | <b>quantification</b>             | <b>age/sex</b>  |
|----------------|------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 302            |            | redep.              | 1 frag. s.<br>4 frags. u.l.       | 1) ?juvenile/subadult<br>2) adult >45 yr.                         |
| 304/5          | 306        | redep.              | c. 7%<br>1 frag. u.<br>1 frag. u. | 1) juvenile c. 9-11 yr.<br>2) adult >18 yr.<br>3) infant/juvenile |
| 321            |            | redep.              | 2 frags. s.a.                     | infant c. 1-4 yr.   |
| 365            | 369        | redep.              | 1 frag. l.                        | infant c. 1-2 yr.   |
| 366            | ?          | redep.              | 1 frag. l.                        | infant/juvenile c. 4-5 yr.  |

KEY: where all skeletal areas are not represented: s. – skull; a – axial skeleton; u. – upper limb; l – lower limb; T - thoracic

**Table 4: Animal bone species list and percentage of identified specimens**

|     | <b>Horse</b> | <b>Cattle</b> | <b>Sheep/Goat</b> | <b>Pig</b> | <b>Deer</b> | <b>Rabbit</b> | <b>Bird</b> | <b>Unidentified</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|-----|--------------|---------------|-------------------|------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------|
| No. | 2            | 36            | 31                | 23         | 10          | 4             | 15          | 158                 | 279          |
| %   | 2            | 30            | 26                | 19         | 8           | 3             | 12          |                     |              |

**Table 5: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal**

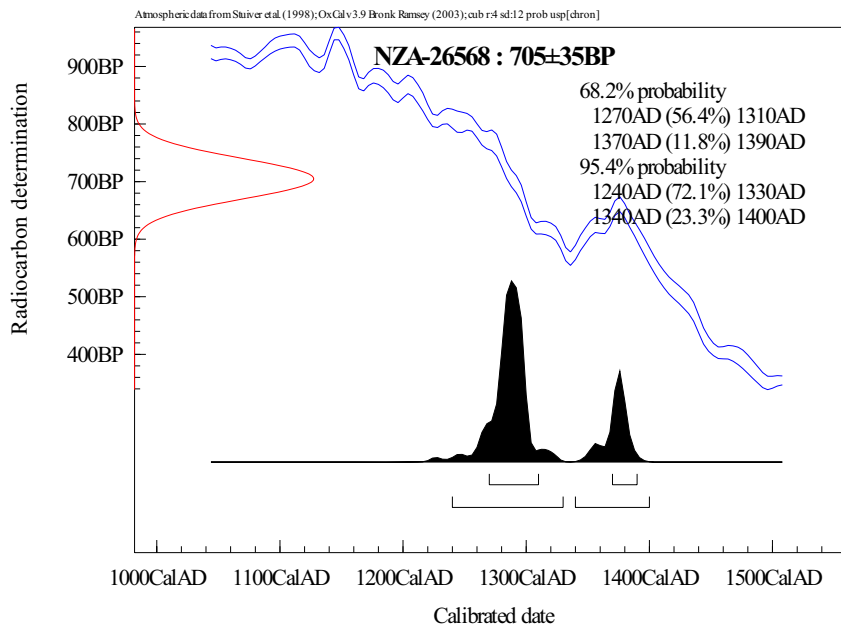
| Feature type/no | Context | Sample | size litres | flot size ml      | Grain | Chaff | Flot                 |               |                 | Other    | Residue         |
|-----------------|---------|--------|-------------|-------------------|-------|-------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|
|                 |         |        |             |                   |       |       | Weed seeds uncharred | seeds charred | Charcoal >4/2mm |          | Charcoal >5.6mm |
| Trench 1. Saxon |         |        |             |                   |       |       |                      |               |                 |          |                 |
| Pit 119         | 118     | 10     | 17          | 130 <sup>15</sup> | A*    | -     | -                    | C(h)          | 50/20ml         | moll-(A) | 15ml            |

KEY: A\*\* = exceptional, A\* = 30+ items, A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items, (h) = hazelnuts, smb = small mammal bones; Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs; Moll-f = freshwater molluscs

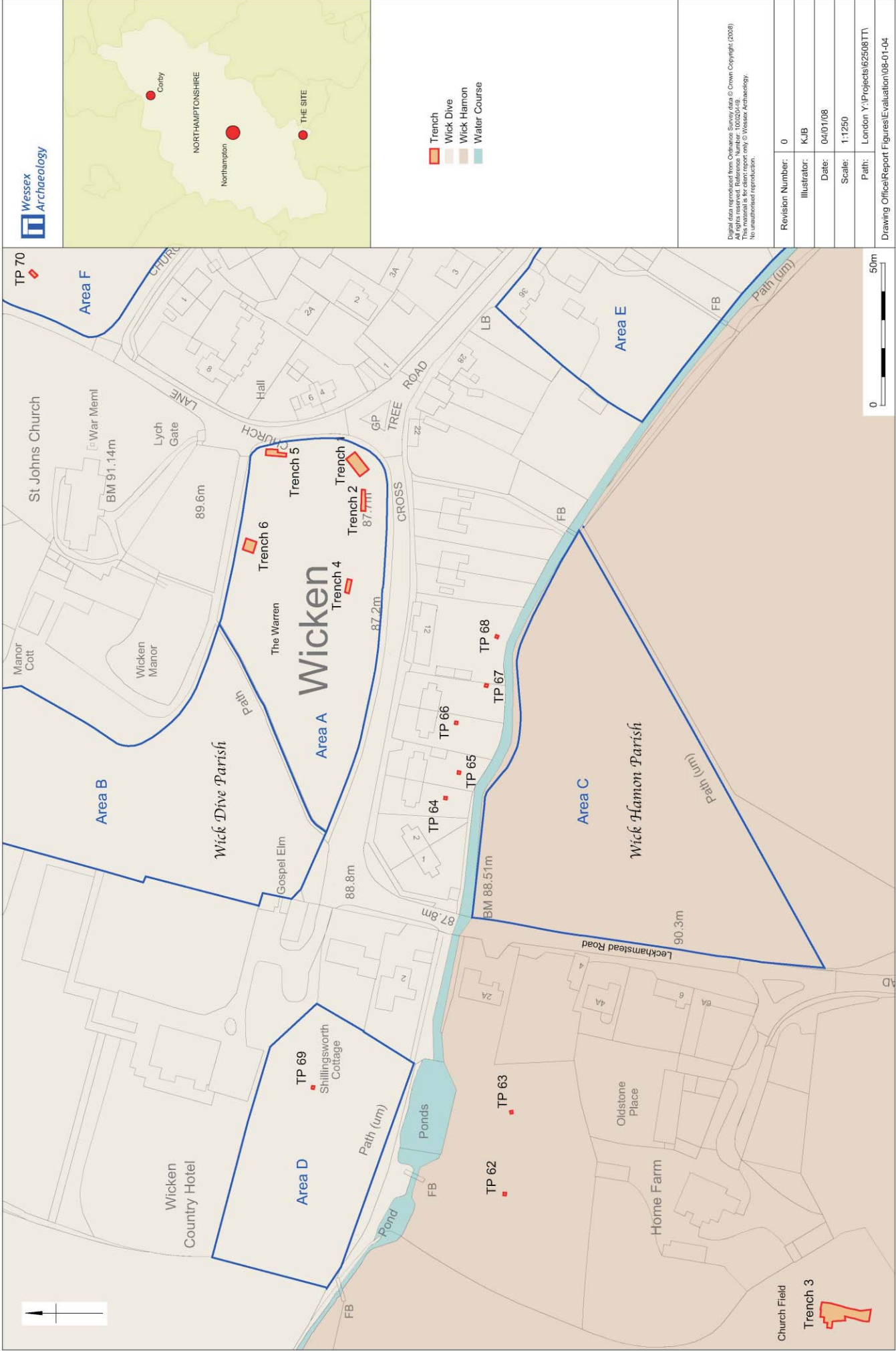
NOTE: <sup>1</sup>flot is total, but flot in superscript = % of rooty material. <sup>2</sup>Unburnt seed is in lower case to distinguish it from charred remains

**Table 6: Radiocarbon result from Wicken**

| Feat type | Context | Material                 | result no | δC-13 ‰ | result BP | Cal date    |
|-----------|---------|--------------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|-------------|
| grave     | 322     | Human R distal femur 366 | NZA-26568 | -19.9   | 705±35    | AD1240-1400 |



**Bi-modal probability distribution of the radiocarbon result**



- Trench
- Wick Dive
- Wick Hamon
- Water Course

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Figure 1 Site, earthwork survey, test pit and trench location plan

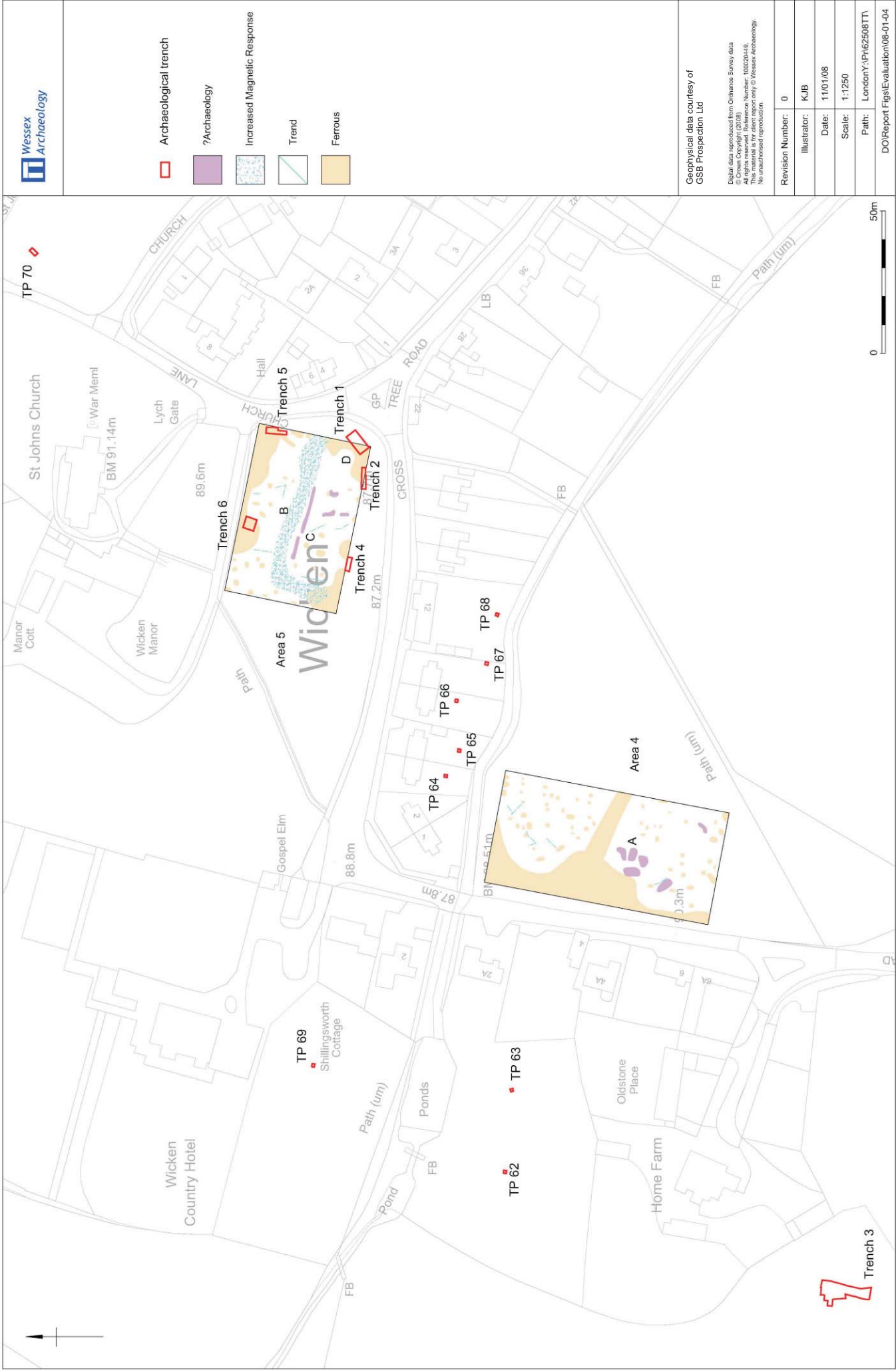


Figure 2 Interpretation of geophysical survey results: gradiometer survey

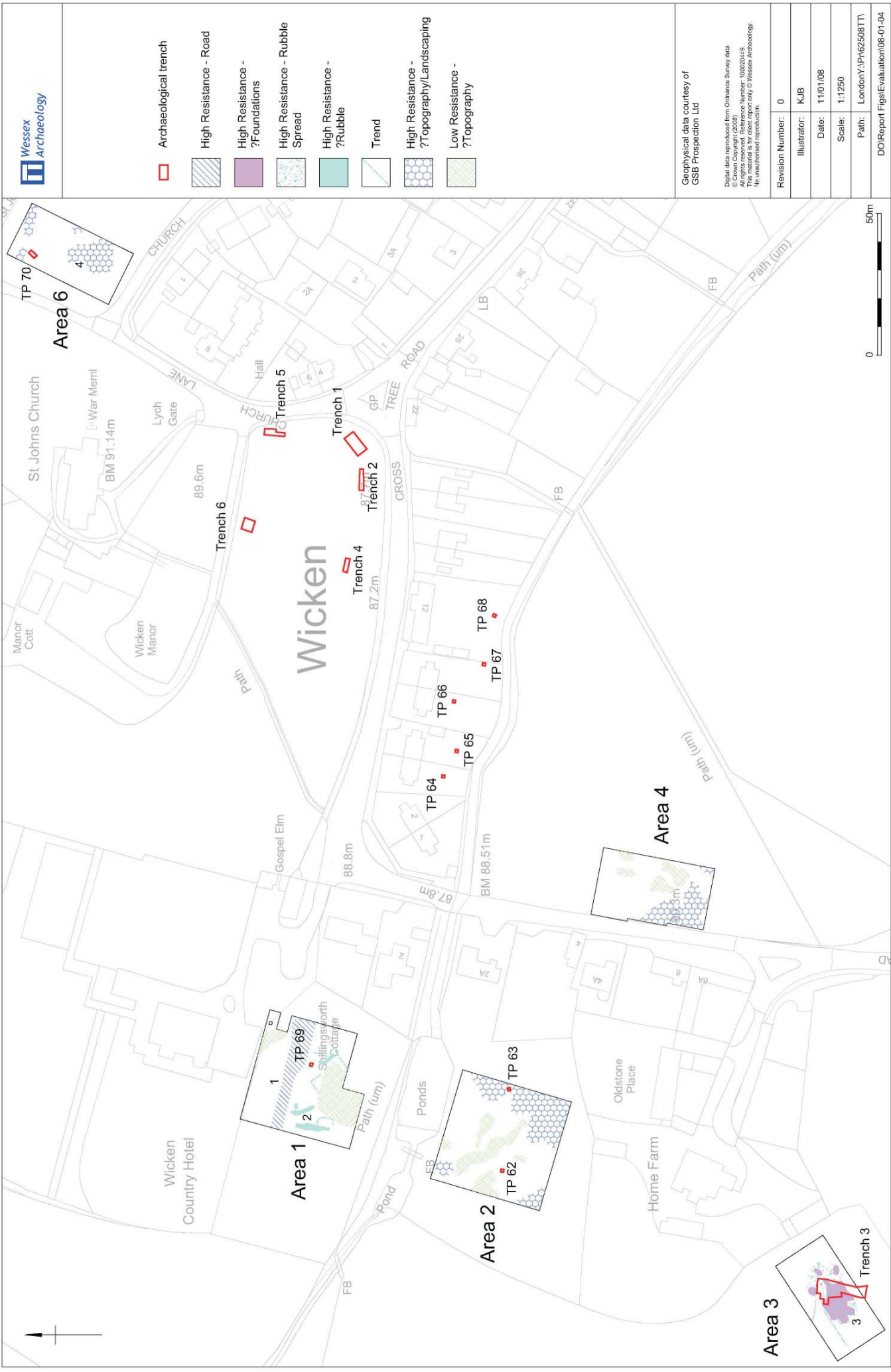
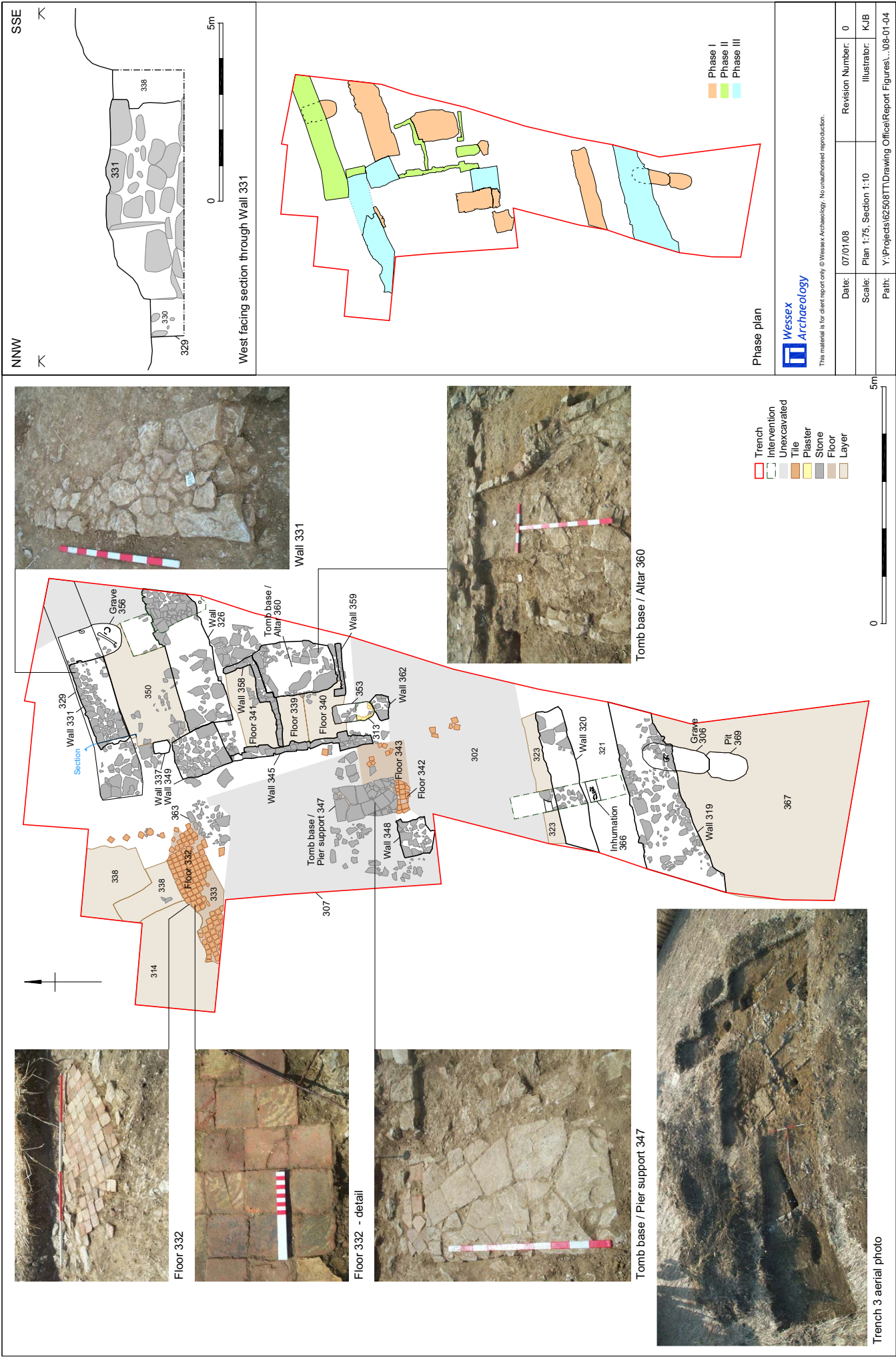


Figure 3 Interpretation of geophysical survey results: resistance survey



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Figure 4





Feature 204



Wall 114



Trench 1



Trench 1 from north-east

- Trench
- Stone
- Saxon
- Medieval
- Undated

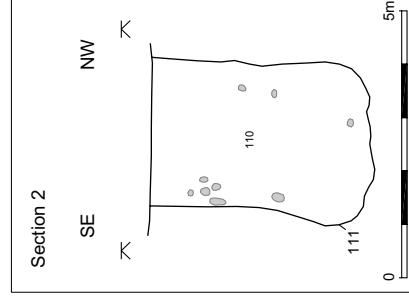


Trench 2



Section 1

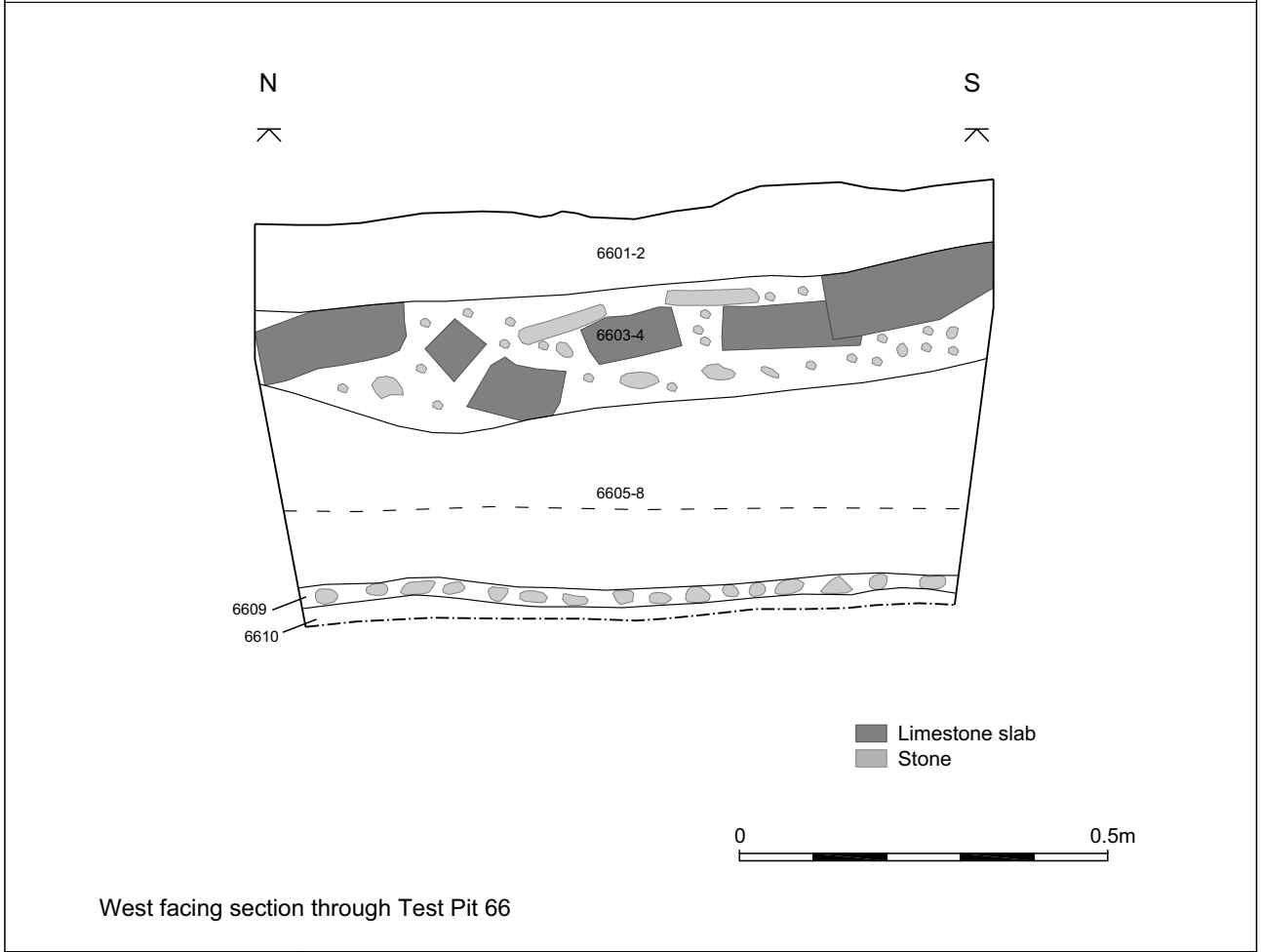
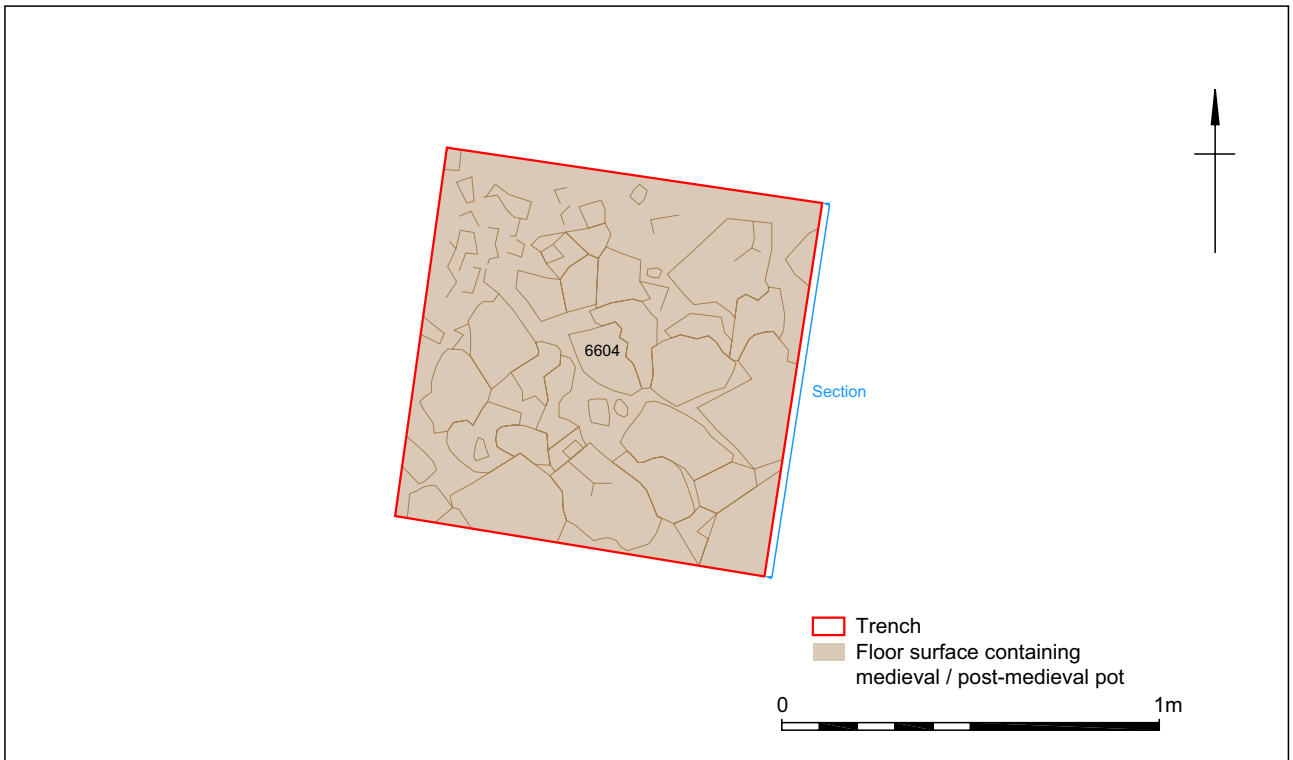
East facing section through feature 105 and post hole 107



Section 2

North-east facing section through post hole 111

|        |   |                  |     |
|--------|---|------------------|-----|
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West facing section through Test Pit 66

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Plan of Test Pit 66 with corresponding section

Figure 6



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