

# Report on Archaeological Investigations

Regarding

Berry Close,  
Chacombe,  
Northamptonshire

HER Event UID: ENN109262

Prepared by Stephen Wass MA, MCifA  
For  
Berry Close Charitable Trust

*Polyolbion*  
**Archaeology**  
3, Chapel Row, Cropredy  
OX17 1NS  
01295 758222  
07776 186087  
old.mettle@btinternet.com



Fig. 1 Trench C looking north west, Saturday August 25<sup>th</sup>.

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## SUMMARY

*Area A. Although some evidence was found for medieval occupation in the vicinity no structures or deposits of special archaeological interest were discovered. The earthwork bank and associated outer ditches are probably medieval and should be respected by any future development.*

*Area B. Similarly although some residual medieval material was found, apart from the ditch, probably associated with the bank, there were no special features.*

*Area C. Remains of walls both post-medieval and medieval were found below the earthworks at quite a shallow depth. Even within the limited area examined there were a number of significant structures suggesting the widespread presence of archaeological remains associated with the main Berry Close earthworks.*

*Area D. Despite the considerable depth of material derived from many years of bonfires there was no evidence of any adverse effect on archaeological remains in this area.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Commissioning

1.1.1 This document comprises the report following on from a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation of a plot of land planned to be an extension to the graveyard attached to St. Peter's Church which was drawn up in accordance with advice provided by Liz Mordue, Assistant Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire C.C.

1.1.2 Polyolbion Archaeology was commissioned by the trustees of the Berry Close Charitable Trust to carry out this investigation in order to facilitate future development of the site as a burial ground. In addition the opportunity was taken to study the effects of the annual village bonfire on the archaeological deposits associated with the likely site of the manor house.

1.1.3 The study area consists of a plot of approximately 400 square metres aligned roughly north south along the north and east side of the churchyard and centred on OS grid reference SP4907 4401, the bonfire site lies around 50m south east of the main study area (Fig. 2).

## 1.2 Background

1.2.1 Topography. Berry Close is a significant parcel of land bequeathed to the residents of the Parish of Chacombe situated between some of the oldest buildings of Chacombe, with the 13<sup>th</sup>. century Church of St Peter and St Paul <sup>1</sup> at its western edge and at least one late medieval building in Silver Street to the east <sup>2</sup>. Prior to bequest it was a tenanted smallholding of sheep grazed pasture containing some small sheds, now demolished. The field contains a complex of earthworks, some well marked with others in a fragmentary state. The landscape is open and the topography consists of Chacombe brook flood plain at the northern end at 115m OD, rising up to 120m above OD at the southern end. On the south side it is bounded by Church Lane and on the south end of the east side by Silver Street. Berry Close is above both roads to a height of nearly 2m in places with the ground partially retained by a dry stone wall of unknown date. Beneath the soil there is likely to be alluvial clay, especially in the valley bottom. The underlying rock belongs to the Lias group and is predominantly an iron-rich limestone containing some shelly bands, though there may also be some mudstone and siltstone<sup>3</sup>.

1.2.2 History. The Manor of Chacombe is of early origin. The Domesday Book records that Bardi, a Saxon lord, owned three mills. Over the years

the name has appeared as Chaucomb, Chaucombe, Cheekham, Chacomb and Chalcombe and prior to World War II both Chalcombe and Chacombe were regularly used. The *Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names* lists early names for Chacombe as:

*Cewcumbe – Domesday Book; Chaucumba 1166; Chaucumbe 1195 – Pipe Rolls; Chacombe 12th. C. Northants Survey) ‘Ceawa’s Cumb or valley’. The Old English personal noun is found in Ceawan Llaew 947*

Godfrey is recorded as holding the Manor of Chacombe in the fee of the Bishop of Lincoln in 1086. The Lord of the Manor in 1109, in the reign of Henry I, was Sir Hugh de Anas who came over with William the Conqueror in 1066. His son, Sir Roger de Chacombe, adopted the local name. Sir Roger de Chacombe’s son, Hugh, was justiciary of Normandy in the second year of the reign of King John, in 1200. He had a wife Hodierna, a daughter of one Amabilia, and he lived at the Manor. In 1209, Hugh de Chacombe entered the Augustinian Priory as a religious, indicating that the Priory was built in the early thirteenth century and it appears that Chacombe Church was rebuilt soon afterwards. The Priory grounds are about 500 metres west of Berry Close.

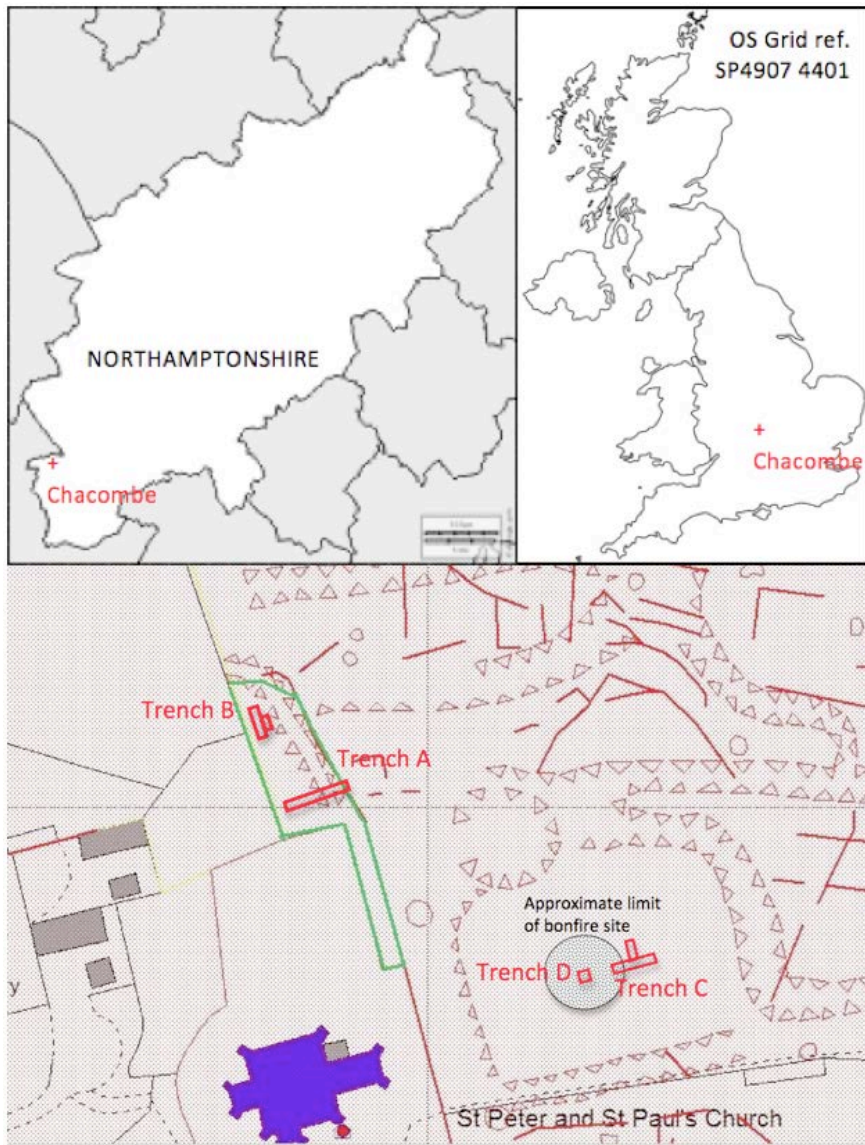


Fig. 2 Location Maps

In 1257 the whole manor was seized for debt by Henry III but eventually possession was restored to the Lord of the Manor at that time, Sir Robert de Chacombe. Robert had no son but one daughter, another Amabilia. She married Gilbert de Segrave, and so, on the death of Robert, the Manor became the property of the de Segraves. In the sixth year of office of Bishop Grotête in 1241, William de Collingham was elected Prior of Chacombe by licence of Gilbert de Segrave, the patron Adam de Appelby succeeded in 1279 and Robert Warden in 1299. Alexander de Kaysthorpe was Prior in 1302 and, on his death in 1326, the Canons having made an irregular election, the Bishop appointed Roger de Silby. Thomas de Saxton, the next Prior, resigned in 1339 and was succeeded by Henry de Keyworth. In 1346 the Prior and Convent received Benefits conferred upon them by John de Lyons, Lord of Warkworth. In March 1371, Edmund de Thorp became Prior of Chacombe and he had been followed by Thomas de Brackley by 1412. John Gerneall was Prior of Chacombe in 1495 and Thomas Saunders was the last Prior <sup>4</sup>. The date at which the manor fell into disuse remains uncertain but it is not shown on a map of the village dating from 1696. <sup>5</sup>

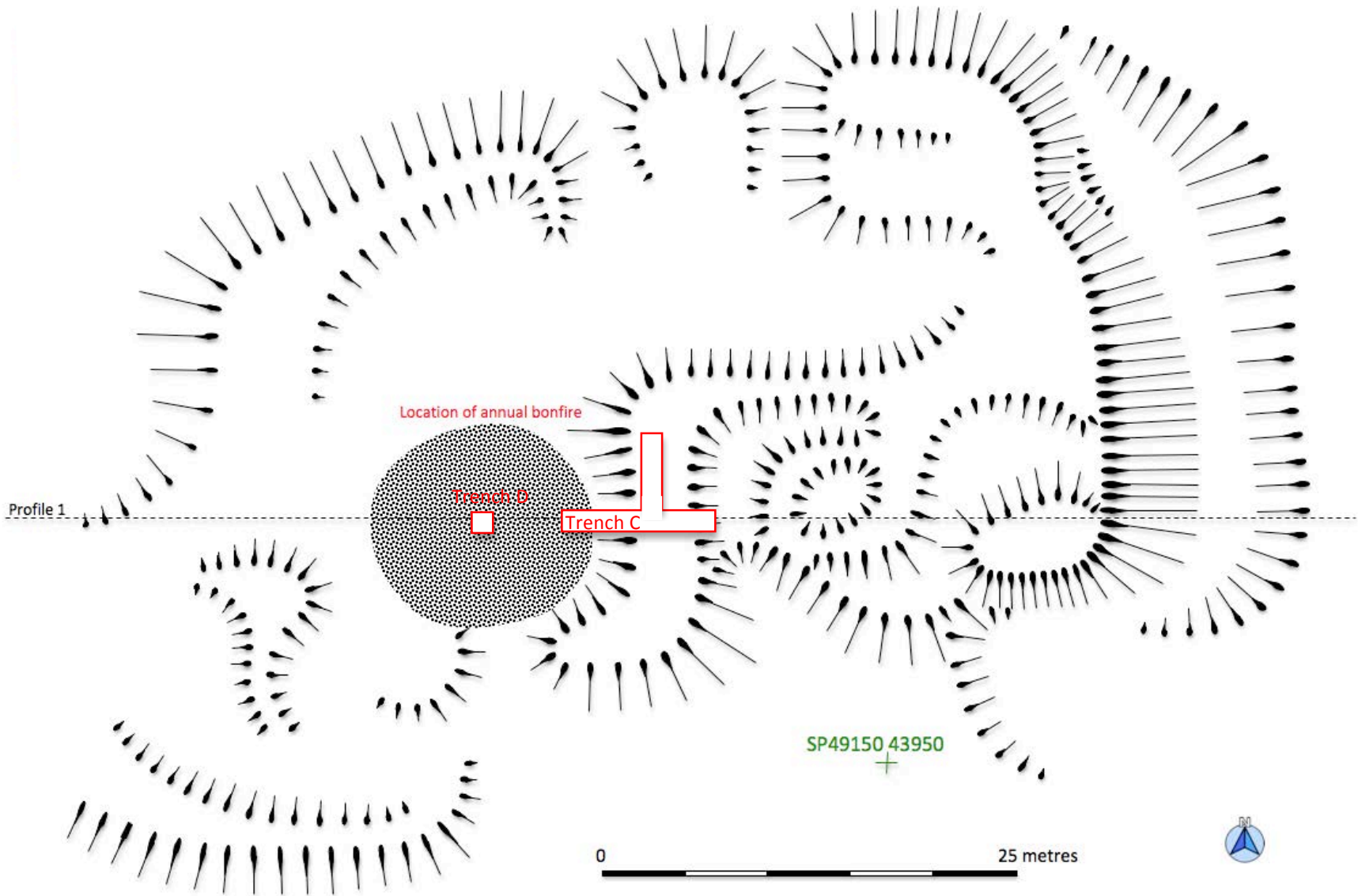


Fig. 3 Berry Close, earthworks east of church

1.2.3 Archaeology. The site of the medieval manor has not been firmly established but is stated by the RCHM as being on the mound forming the most prominent earthwork in Berry Close and at the highest point in it, dominating the older part of Chacombe village<sup>6</sup>. Despite being damaged, it still has a substantial scarp, up to 2 m high, inside a ditch on the west. The proximity of this mound to the Church suggests that it is the site of a high status building and a detailed earthwork survey carried out in 2016 supported this interpretation (Fig. 3). A magnetometry survey of the non-floodplain sections of Berry Close showed that medieval or early post-medieval settlement remains extended across much of the area surveyed<sup>7</sup>. The dense and overlapping nature of the remains indicated that occupation was prolonged and the site went through more than one phase of development. Lidar Coverage (Fig. 4) and air photography of Berry Close shows outlines of banks and terraces, along with later small-scale quarry pits (Northamptonshire SMR 27/3, 27/3/1, MNN14763, 123191). A hollow-way and possible settlement tofts and crofts from the once more extensive medieval village are situated to the north and north-east (SMR 27/0/1, 27/0/26, MNN17831, 1231). A small scale excavation near the south east corner of the field in 2015 uncovered significant traces of early medieval occupation and pottery<sup>8</sup>, however two trenches to the east of the

churchyard by Northamptonshire Archaeology in 2012 found no significant archaeological deposits with natural lying at a depth of less than half a metre<sup>9</sup>.

The nearby Priory site is associated with a number of fish ponds, and air photographs show at least one fish pond along Chacombe Brook just past the section of this brook that forms the northern boundary of Berry Close. The earthworks in the valley bottom of Berry Close might be associated with the medieval water management organised by the Priory.

About a 1.6km away from the site but within the Parish a rectangular enclosure and other marks suggest a prehistoric or Roman site. On a separate site there may be a substantial Roman building associated with Castle Farm, which is a little nearer. A Bronze Age scraper and some flints were discovered by a village resident on Chacombe Lodge Farm which is around 2.5km to the east<sup>10</sup>.

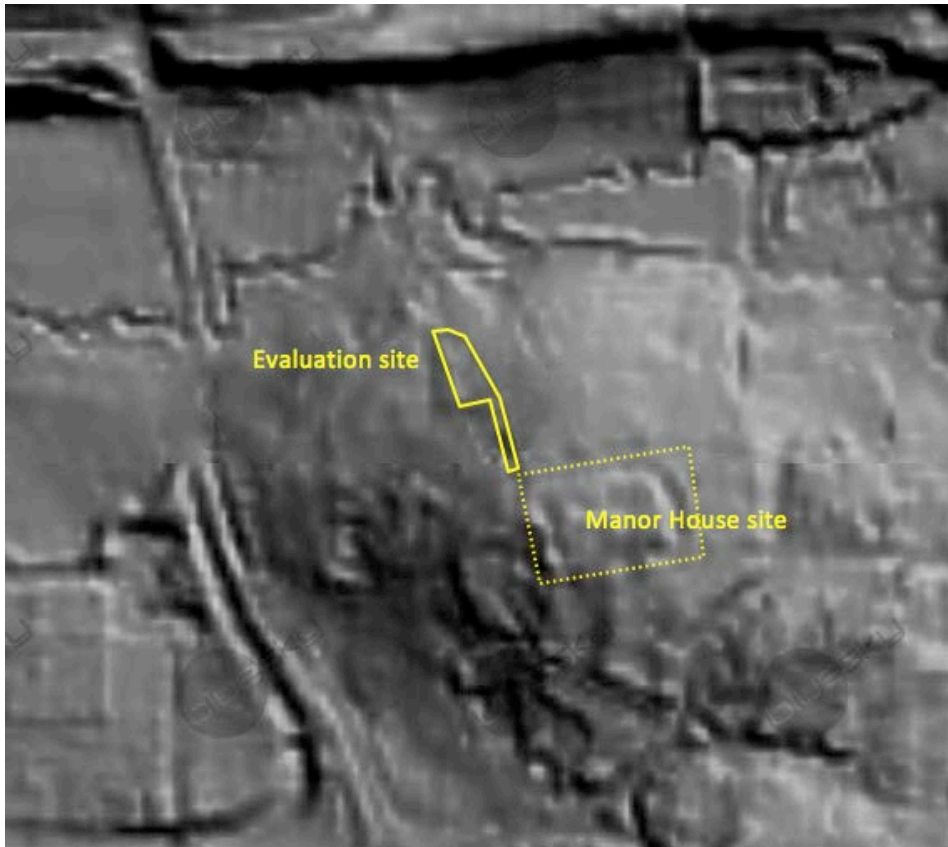


Fig. 4 LIDAR Coverage

## 2. OBJECTIVES

Specific objectives of the investigation are listed below.

2.1 Identify any previously unrecorded archaeological features and deposits of interest including palaeo-environmental remains if present.

2.2 Record identified archaeological features and deposits to a level to enable their extent, nature and significance to be identified and so establish a stratigraphic sequence if appropriate.

2.3 Assess and report on the impact of large scale burning on underlying archaeological materials.

2.4 Undertake sufficient post-excavation analysis to confidently interpret archaeological features identified during field work including dating where possible.

2.5 Undertake sufficient post-excavation analysis of artefacts and samples to support interpretations made of features identified and to assist in regional analysis of type series.

2.6 Report the results of the excavation and place them within their local and regional context and if appropriate identify further objectives based on the East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework and especially Research Objective 7E - Investigate the morphology of rural settlements and Research and Objective 7F - Investigate the development, structure and landholdings of manorial estate centres<sup>11</sup>.



### **3. METHODOLOGY**

3.1 Personnel. The lead archaeologist was Stephen Wass MA MCIfA who has considerable expertise in the field of historic gardens. He was supported by Peter Spackman BA ACIfA who assisted with finds and site supervision, and Sarah Beaujean, intern and second year archaeology undergraduate, Durham University. Paul Blinkhorn was employed to give additional specialist advice on the analysis of medieval pottery. Much of the actual excavation was carried out by a team of local volunteers some of who already had archaeological experience. A timetable was provided and forwarded to the county's Assistant Archaeological Advisor who visited on two occasions.

3.2 Technique. Except for back-filling all excavation work was done by hand. Turf and topsoil was removed and stacked separately but due to the exceptionally dry conditions little of it was available for reuse in Trenches A and B. Subsequent layers were cleaned by hand and recorded before fillings of cut features were taken out. Sections of all exposed faces were drawn as well as plans using a planning frame and drafting film on a gridded background. An optical level was used for all heights related back to a spot height outside the George and Dragon to

the south east. Recoding was done on an iPad using digital pro formas powered by an app – Form Maker. The data was then transferred to an Excel spreadsheet and then tabulated. All finds were retained and collected in labelled finds trays or sealable plastic bags and subsequently washed at a separate session a couple of weeks after the dig had finished. Volunteers were fully involved in all aspects of the work.

### **4. RESULTS**

#### **4.1 Area A**

4.1.1 Site Clearance and earthwork survey. The site had already been cleared of undergrowth (Fig. 5) enabling a detailed contoured earthwork survey to take place whilst the excavation was getting underway (Fig. 6). A metal detector survey was also undertaken across the area. The survey demonstrated the presence of a low broad bank running north north west and curving round slightly further to the west. The ground to the west of the bank was significantly lower by around 0.5m and there were traces of a shallow ditch at the foot of the bank.



Fig. 5 Bank and ditch, view looking north across evaluation area

4.1.2 Excavation. Immediately below the shallow topsoil (001) was the crest of a broad shallow clay bank (Fig. 8). To the east this had been cut into by a shallow 'V' shaped ditch (013) with a darker loamy fill (007) containing a few scattered pieces of rubble (Fig. 9). Further east beyond the ditch was a deposit of clay (003) which lay upon a clayey subsoil (004). The deposit may be upcast from a cut further east beyond the trench end. A shallow flat bottomed ditch (011) lay at the foot of the

bank to the west (Fig. 10). The upper portion of the fill was a darker loam (014) and this lay over a more mixed deposit (005) which combined silting and material eroded down from the bank. There was some difficulty differentiating these features as deposition and erosion had caused considerable intermingling of the layers. Within the ditch a modern treated timber fence post (006) had been inserted into a bored hole (016) and subsequently had been sawn off flush with the ground. Further west was a layer of natural looking mixed clay with some rubble (009) which had been cut into by a second ditch (010) filled with a clayey loam with rubble (008). Excavators made a deep cut into the bank to reveal an underlying layer of clean natural yellowish clay (015)

4.1.3 Finds (Appendix 2). Three significant copper alloy finds were made from the subsoil. A002/1 was the right hand portion of what appears to be a small cast double bow drop handle of post-medieval date. A002/2 was a particularly fine shoe buckle of the seventeenth century with winged cherub's heads, not dissimilar to the motif seen on contemporary gravestones in the churchyard. Although shoe buckles of the period are common the winged head motif is unusual and a parallel has yet to be found. A002/3 found during the metal detector survey was a late medieval strap end with a trefoil termination and incised zig-zag

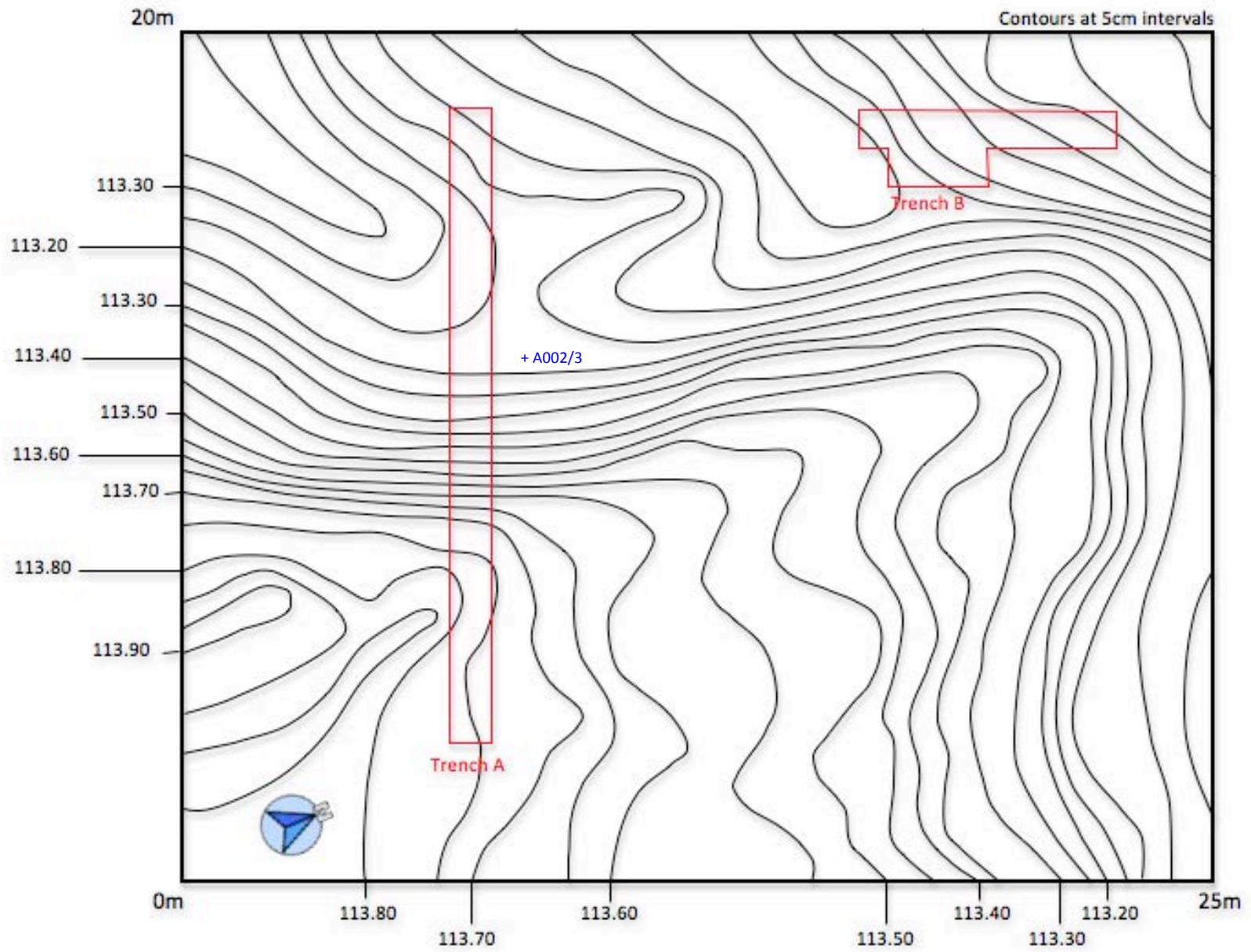


Fig. 6 Graveyard extension contour plan

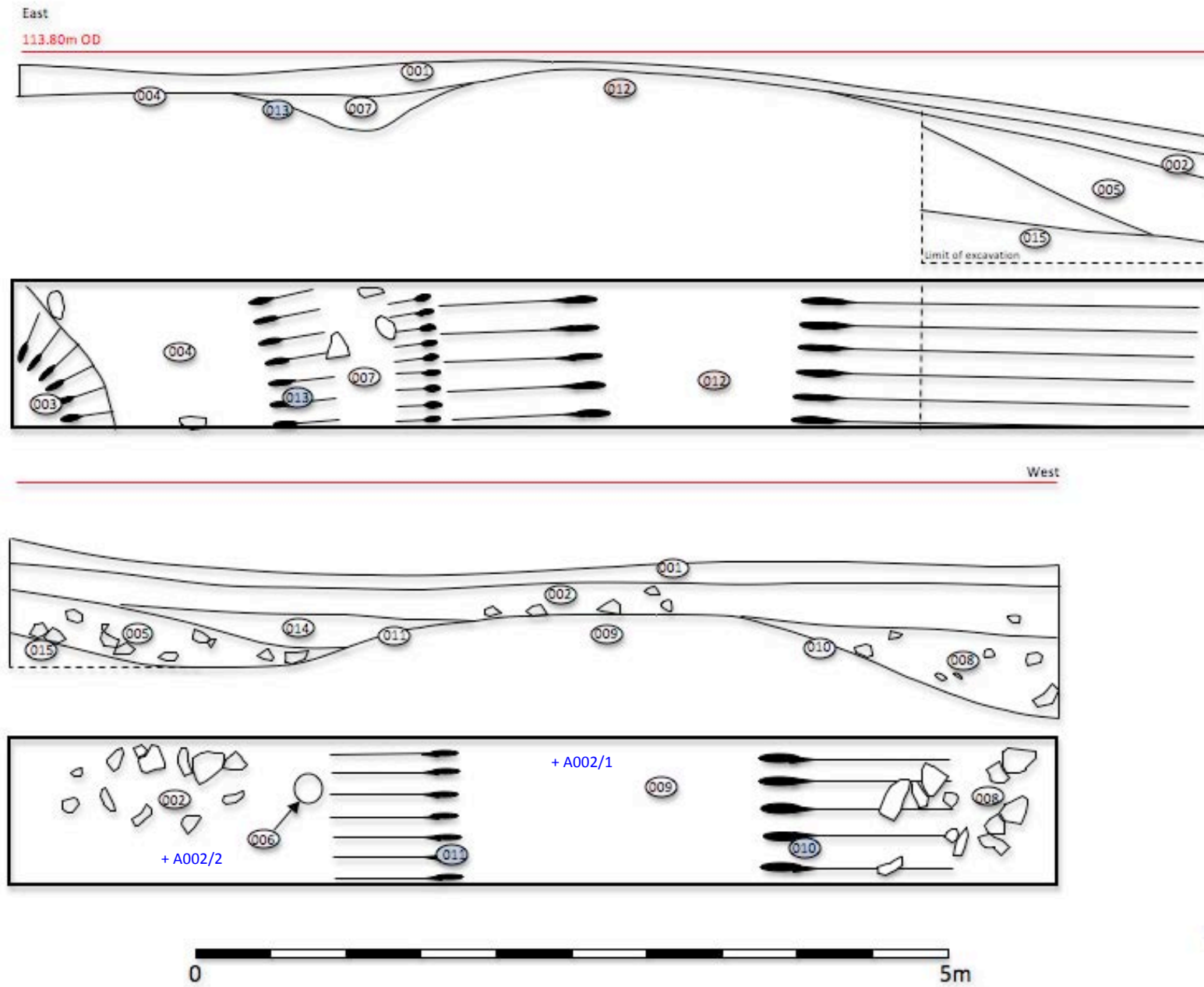


Fig. 7 Area A plan and section



Fig 8 Crest of bank 012 view looking north west.



Fig. 9 Ditch 013 and fill 007 looking south east

decoration forming a saltire cross. These are a common form and virtually identical examples have been found in Lincolnshire (Portable Antiquities Scheme Unique ID: LIN-9E550B and LANCUM-6DD257) and Norfolk (PAS Unique ID: SF-7B9208). Interestingly late and post-medieval pottery was quite thin on the ground however a wide range of medieval pottery types were recovered but all in very fragmentary states and mixed periods. The wares identified (See appendix 2) were by frequency

- F345: Oxford Ware, mid 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> C. ( 14 sherds, 130g)
- F324: Brill/Boarstall Ware, 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> C. ( 11 sherds, 92g)
- F426: Iron-Glazed Coarse Wares, 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> C. (6 sherds, 94g)
- F209: Oolitic Ware, AD975-1350 (6 sherds, 70g)
- F329: Potterspury Ware, AD1250 – 1600 (6 sherds, 50g)
- F403: Midland Purple Ware, AD1450-1600 (3 sherds, 12g)
- F407: Red Earthenwares, AD1450-1600 (2 sherds, 8g)
- F413: Manganese Mottled Ware, AD1680-1750 (2 sherds, 6g)
- F330: Shelly Coarse Ware, AD1100-1400 (2 sherds, 6g)
- F360: Banbury-type Ware, AD1100-1400 (1 sherd, 20g)

Although no detailed analysis was undertaken small quantities of animal bone fragments were recovered from all layers and represented cattle, sheep and pig.

4.1.4 Conclusion. Although no firm dating evidence was recovered from the bank the overwhelming likelihood is that it is medieval. The broad spectrum of worn and fragmentary medieval pottery spread across the



Fig. 10 Ditch 011 after removal of fill 014

site does not contribute towards dating except in confirming occupation in the area from the late Saxon period onwards. The absence of later medieval pottery suggests limited later occupation in the area. The bank and associated ditches almost certainly represent a boundary to the manorial enclosure to the east. There was no evidence of occupation on the lower ground beyond the boundary to the west.

#### 4.2 Area B (See 4.1.1 for site clearance and earthwork survey)

4.2.1 Excavation. This area was opened up to examine the possibility of structures existing beyond the boundary bank which was curving round to the west past the north end of the trench. A thin dry layer of topsoil and parched vegetation lay above a deep deposit of silty loam subsoil. This sealed a cut (003) in the underlying natural clay (006) which was filled with a soft mix of dark clayey silt (004). A deposit of scattered rubble (005) was investigated by extending a section of the trench by a further metre to the east but there was no structure or depth to the feature and it probably represents odd stones cleared during cultivation.

4.2.2 Finds (Appendix 2) consisted almost exclusively of scattered abraded sherds of medieval pottery covering a similar range of types and dates to those found in Area A together with a similar collection of



Fig. 11 Area B under excavation looking north west

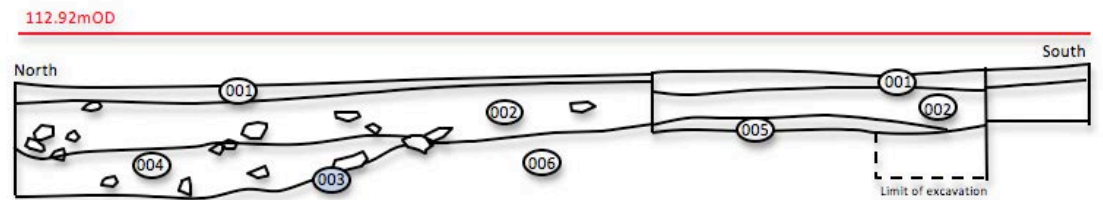
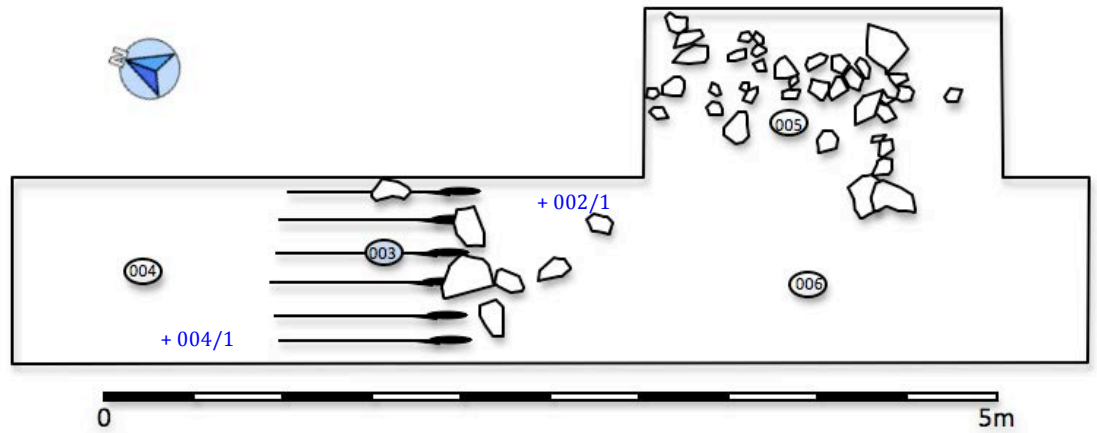


Fig. 12 Area B plan and section

fragmentary animal bone. A curious oblong section of very thin copper alloy bar (B002/1) may be the body of a large pin with the point and head broken away whilst a small single loop asymmetric trapezoidal buckle (B004/1) was probably late medieval, such buckles are unusual with a couple of parallels being noted from Yorkshire ( PAS Unique ID: YORYM-6DD047 and YORYM-660633. The range of wares recovered was a little more restricted than in trench A, by frequency:

F329: Potterspur Ware, AD1250 – 1600 (19 sherds, 121g)

F345: Oxford Ware, mid 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> C. (6 sherds, 38g)

F324: Brill/Boarstall Ware, early 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> C. (5 sherds, 79g)

F360: Banbury-type Ware, AD1100-1400 (2 sherds, 19g)

F330: Shelly Coarse ware, AD1100-1400 (1 sherd, 21g)

**4.2.3 Conclusion.** The inner ditch of the boundary bank clearly follows the line round to the west although the fill was quite distinct compared with the deposits recorded in trench A, perhaps reflecting that fact that being a little further down the slope and partially enclosed by the downhill bank the ground had historically been slightly damper.

### 4.3 Area C.

**4.3.1 Site Clearance and earthwork survey.** This trench was sited to take in the eastern perimeter of the bonfire area and then extend further

east examine some low banks identified in the earthwork survey of 2015 ( Fig. 3) as the potential site of buildings associated with the manor house and ancillary structures. Surrounding vegetation was cleared mechanically. The turf here was in quite good condition and was carefully stacked for re-instatement once the work was completed.

**4.3.2 Excavation.** Initially a trench 4m x 1m running east to west was marked out but this was then extended by a further 5m to the east. A second trench was dug, at right angles to the north side, for 4m and then extended by a further 2m. Below a thin covering of turf and topsoil (001) packed rubble (004/005) spread across almost the whole area (Fig. 13).



Fig. 13 Area C western part showing surface of rubble spread 004 looking east



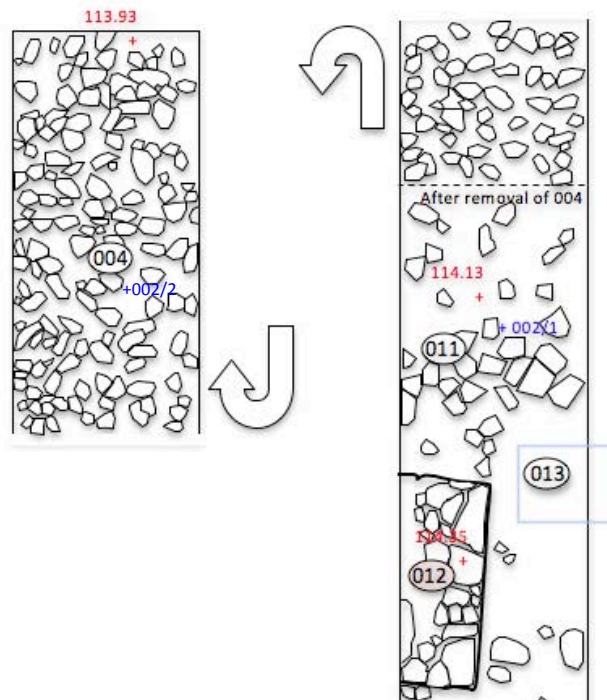


Fig. 14 Wall 009 looking north west

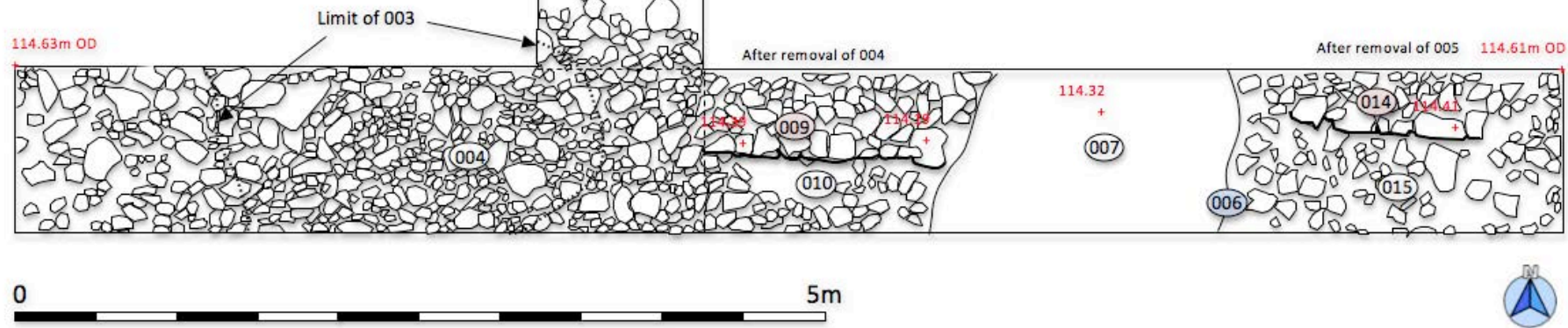


Fig. 15 Area C Plan

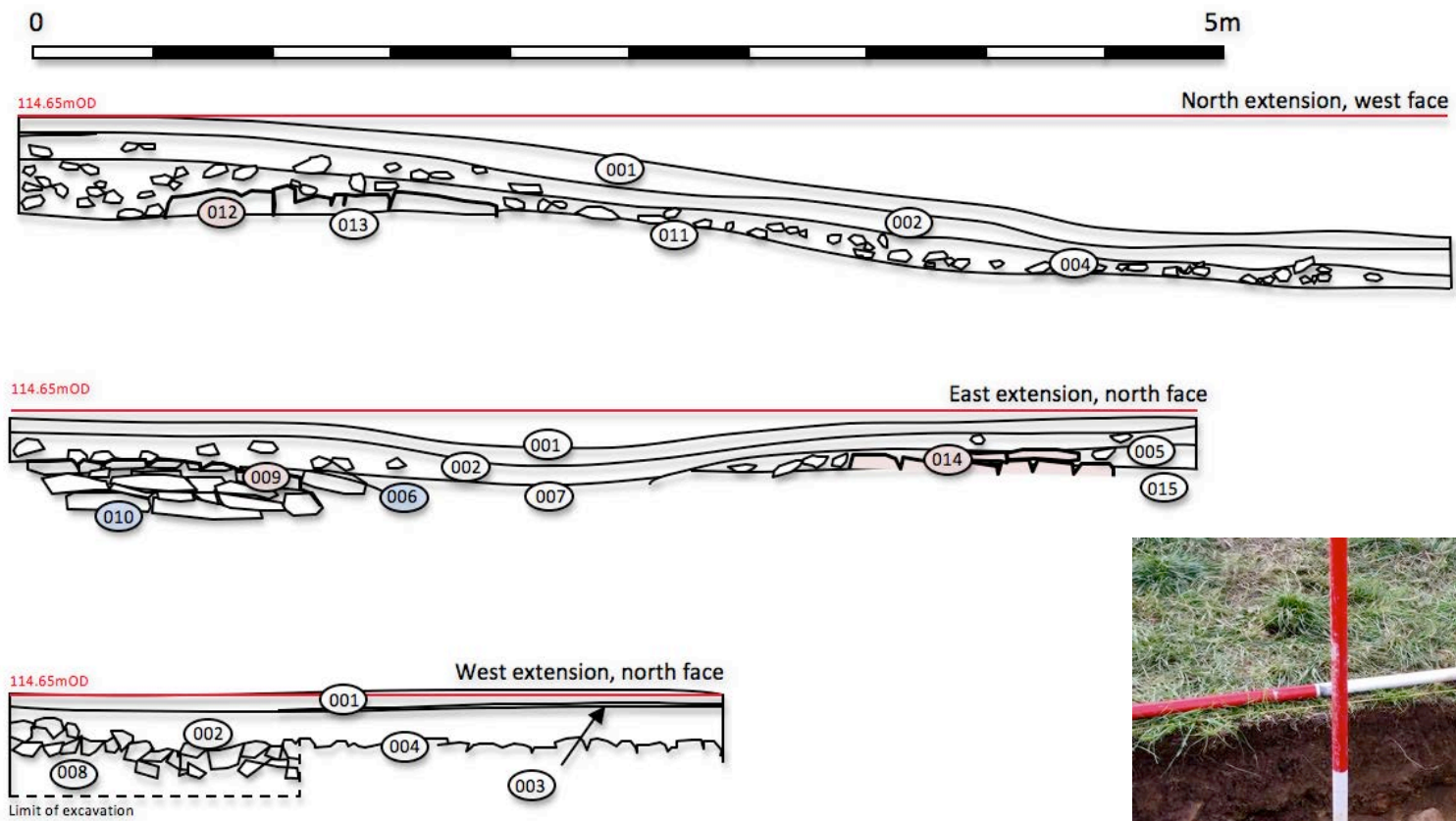


Fig. 16 Area C Sections



Fig. 17 Wall 012 looking west



Fig. 18 Wall 014 looking north

A small area of charcoal and ash (003) lay over the rubble spread and just below the topsoil, evidence for a small bonfire away from the larger area to the west. In the eastern section the heavy concentration of rubble was absent and this proved to be the result of a modern cut (006) for a pit. The upper portions of this pit were filled with a clean silty loam (007) but once fragments of corrugated asbestos started appearing it became clear that this was sealing a dump of builder's waste and at the this point excavation of this feature was abandoned.

The upper layers of the rubble spread 004/005 were removed from the whole area except for the northern most 3m of the northern extension. Close to the centre of the trench this process uncovered the remains of a crudely built stone wall (Fig. 14) of 4 or 5 courses (009) partly founded on lower deposits of destruction material (010) suggesting a post-medieval date for this structure presumably associated with some agricultural use, possibly animal penning. At the east end of the trench a similarly roughly built wall was excavated (Fig. 18) only surviving as a single course (014) founded on compact clay and rubble (015) which may be natural. North of the centre and at a significantly greater depth the remains of a rather well built wall (012) were encountered (Fig. 17). This again was seen primarily as a single course but built of larger more regularly shaped blocks. Although no direct dating evidence was recorded for this structure it seems likely that this could be part of the remains of a building associated with the medieval manorial complex. Given the way it terminates within the trench it was suggested that we might be looking at the eastern side of an opening for a doorway. It is perhaps significant that beyond this opening to the north was what appeared to be the shattered remains of a paved area (011) laid out on a bank of mixed clayey loam (013). Where an area of 004 had been

completely removed at the west end of the trench it was seen to overlay a similar deposit (008).

4.3.3. Finds (Appendix 2) A small collection of mainly medieval pottery was recovered from the subsoil consisting of :

F345: Oxford Ware, mid 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century (9 sherds, 81g)

F407: Red Earthenwares, AD1450-1600 (4 sherds, 37g)

F329: Potterspury Ware, AD1250 – 1600 (3 sherds, 11g)

F324: Brill/Boarstall Ware, early 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century (2 sherds, 9g)

F330: Shelly Coarse Ware, AD1100-1400 (1 sherd, 19g)

F209: Oolitic Ware, AD975-1350 (1sherd, 3g)

A couple of early hand made iron nails were found together with some modern iron nails, overspill from the bonfire. A single piece of clay pipe stem, a wafer thin copper alloy disc, a few fragments of roof tile and some undifferentiated animal bones were also recovered. The key find was a very worn silver farthing of Edward III (002/2) (Fig. 37). In addition another very worn coin, this time a penny of 1921 (002/1) was discovered. This had been clipped to give it a slightly polygonal outline suggesting it had been modified for some other purpose, perhaps as a spacer in something mechanical. Although the vast majority of the stone lifted from 004 was rubble a few pieces of carefully dressed stone were identified again indicating the presence of a high status building (Fig. 33).

4.3.4 Conclusions. The key objective was to establish the presence, depth and state of survival of archaeological remains on top of the platform where it was assumed manorial buildings would be gathered. It seems clear that there was post-medieval occupation of an agricultural nature above and amongst the wide spread rubble which presumably resulted from the demolition of earlier structures. Although no firm date was arrived at for these additions the lack of post-medieval pottery perhaps indicates work being done quite soon after the buildings had been taken down. The short section of well built wall almost certainly belongs to a more substantial building which gives form to the earthworks above. The first significant structure was encountered at no more than 10cm below ground level. As excavation did not extend to occupation or construction layers we have no firm conclusions about the exact date or function of the early building.

#### **4.4 Area D**

4.4.1 Excavation . This 1m square test pit was sited at the centre of the area traditionally used for the village bonfire to assess the degree to which heat had penetrated through to and affected archaeological deposits. The surface was a very dry and dusty mix of ash and charcoal (001). This overlay a strikingly red layer of ash (002) which in turn

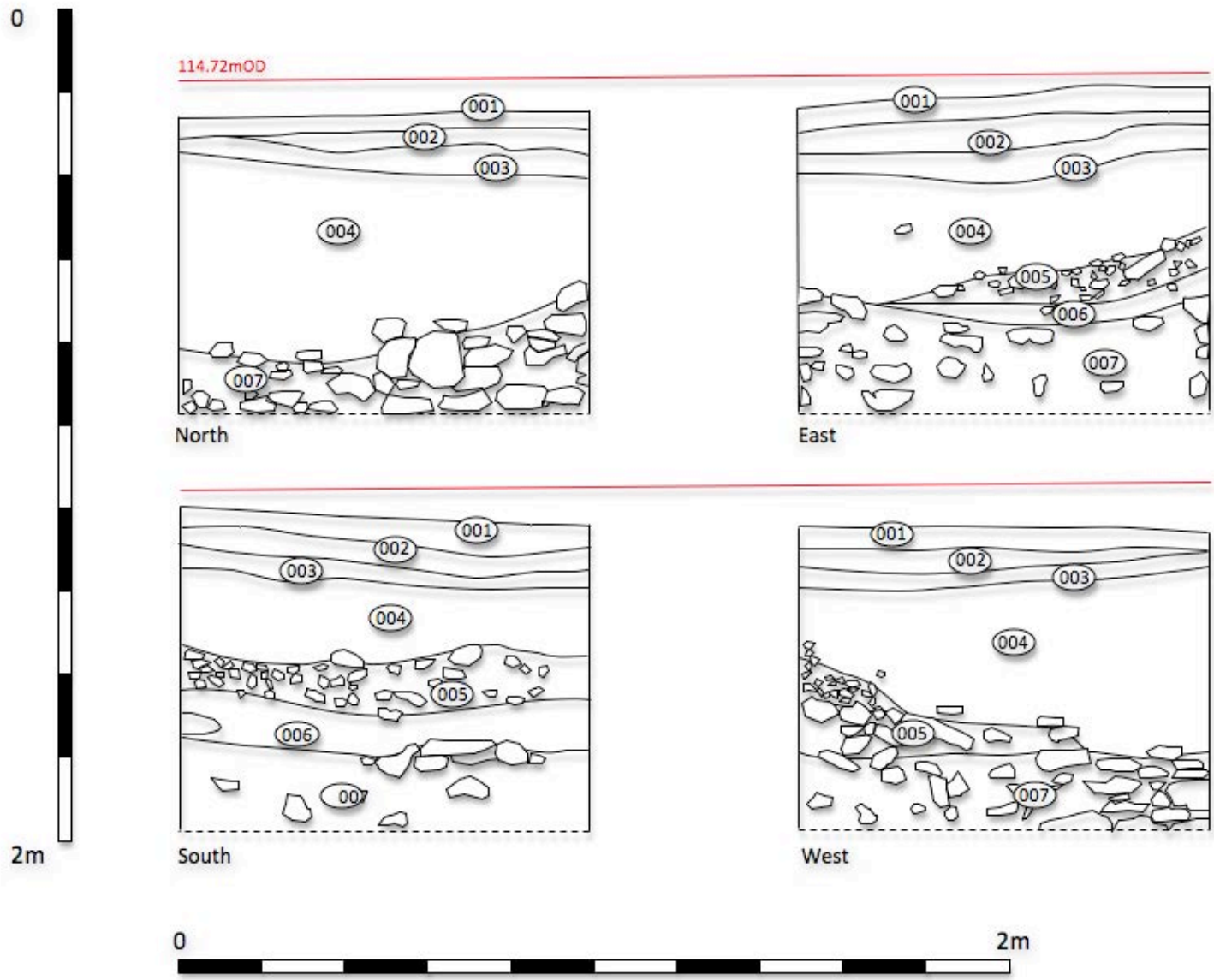


Fig. 19 Area D sections

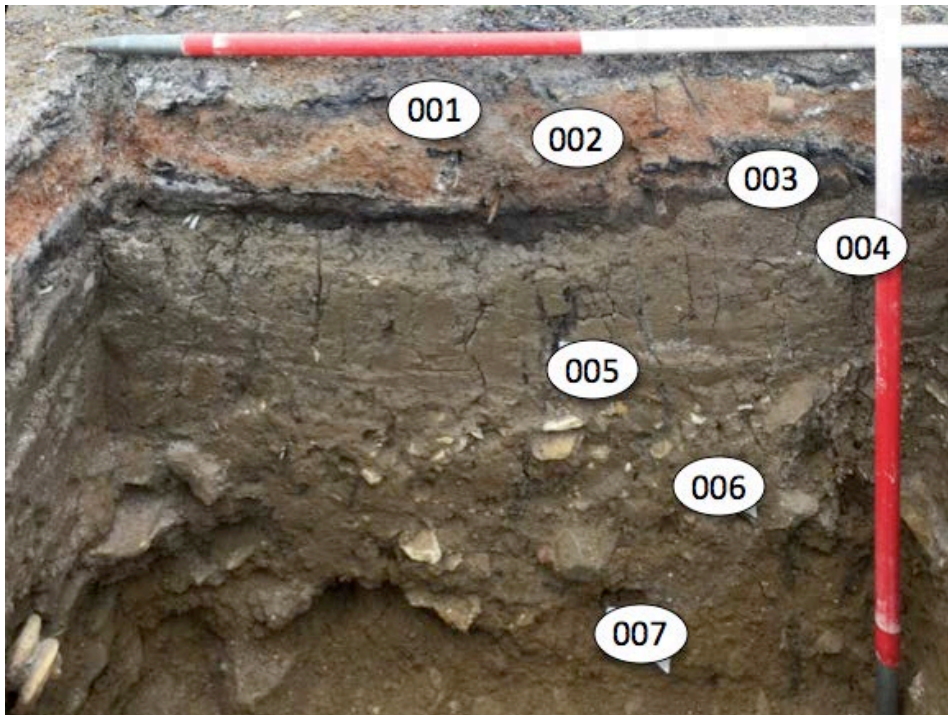


Fig. 20 Area D, east side

sealed a further pronounced band of black charcoal (003). This sequence with its strong differentiation between the three layers associated with the products of combustion is interesting. Over 40 years of annual bonfires on or around November 5<sup>th</sup>. have lead to build up of up to 20cm of ash and charcoal<sup>12</sup>. Another important observation is that under the lower burnt horizon there is a deep layer of undifferentiated clayey loam (004), almost 40cm in places, which is devoid of archaeological features.

There has been some ‘baking’ effect on the upper portions of this layer, down to around a depth of 10cm, but otherwise the repeated fires have had little effect. A spread of small rubble (005) above a deposit of silt (006) has spilled into the area from the south sealing a deeper layer containing larger pieces of rubble more sparsely distributed (007).

4.4.2 Finds. (Appendix 2) Despite periodic efforts to clear the site the bonfires have left behind 3.72 kg of metalwork, primarily nails and screws plus other furnishing fittings. Some burnt sections of modern flower pot were noted together with around 15 friable fired clay cylindrical plugs. Efforts to identify these lead to correspondence with a firework specialist and the information that, ‘these items look exactly like pressed clay bases in what we call “cakes” or Roman candles – most likely from China. These “cakes” are used by both consumers and professionals. Similar European made items would have wood, plastic or card bases’.<sup>13</sup>

4.4.3 Conclusions. The build up of ash and charcoal is an interesting indicator as to how such deposits accumulate. In this case they have developed to such a depth that even if there were sensitive archaeology beneath by now the layers would act almost as an insulating blanket. As

it happened this was not a concern as the lower layers (006 and 007) which presumably reflect the processes of demolition and destruction were buried below the thick layer of clayey loam (005). The earthworks indicate that perhaps the cause of this depth of deposit is that the area may have originally been slightly sunken as in a courtyard or other open space surrounded by buildings.

## **5. CONCLUSIONS**

5.1 Although there was ample evidence of occupation in the area no indications were found of structures important enough to warrant further investigation nor were any human remains discovered, a concern given the proximity to the existing graveyard. Evidence for dating specific features was thin on the ground and the assumption was made that the earthwork bank ( trench A) and associated ditches (trenches A and B) were part of the process of defining the boundary of the manorial enclosure and as such efforts should be made to preserve the changes in relief within the proposed cemetery extension.

5.2 Work on the earthwork initially identified as the location of the key buildings associated with the manor confirmed two important points. Firstly that significant archaeological remains, specifically walling, lay at

a very shallow depth with consequent implications for the future management of the plot in so much as every effort should be made not to further erode or damage in any way the earthworks. The second point was that despite the annual bonfire that takes place there was no evidence that harm had been caused to underlying archaeological layers partly because of the fortuitous positioning of the bonfire which should ideally in future years be confined to its existing position.

## **Acknowledgements**

Liz Mordue ( Northamptonshire County Council) for site visits and advice.  
Peter Spackman and Sarah N.A. Beaujean for assisting with site supervision and recording.

Geoff Jones for local co-ordination and logistic support.

Sam Feeney, Sue Lee, Russel White, Liz Mellings, Mervyn Hancock, Brian Goodey, Sue Varney, Graham Varney, Steve Codd, Sally McGurk, Angela Deary, Diana Knight, Howard Knight, Tricia Rolf, Reg Eayrs, Hugo Eayrs, Ian Williams, Matt Jones and Cat Jones – our dedicated team of volunteers.

## Appendix 1

### Catalogue of Contexts for CHB18

#### Trench A

##### Layers

No.	Name	Dimensions (l x b X h) m	Colour name	Colour value	Soil Structure	Soil Composition	Description / Discussion	Below	Above	Within	Contains	Equals
001	Topsoil	15 x 1 x 0.2	Dark brown	7.5YR4/2	Loose fine crumb	Silty loam	Topsoil below parched vegetation		002 003 004 007 013			
002	Subsoil	8.2 x 1 x 0.4	Dark reddish brown	5YR3/2	Soft fine crumb	Silty loam	Subsoil/hill wash below bank to west	001	005 008 009 010 011 012 014			004
003	Clay deposit	1 x 0.9 x 0.2	Brownish yellow	10YR6/6	Hard medium block	Silty clay	Low spread of clay, upcast from feature further east?	001	004			
004	Subsoil	2.1 x 1 x ?	Brown	7.5YR4/2	Hard medium block	Clayey loam	Clayey subsoil	001 003 007 013				002
005	Face of bank	4.3 x 1 x 0.55	Light brown	7.5YR6/3	Hard fine crumb	Clayey loam	Deposit part eroded from bank part fill of ditch, merges 012	002 014	012 015	011		
007	Ditch fill	1.1 x 1 x 0.35	Pinkish grey	7.5YR6/2	Soft medium crumb	Silty loam	Clean loamy fill of shallow ditch to east of bank	001	004	013		
008	Ditch fill	1.65 x 1 x 0.55	Reddish grey	5YR5/2	Friable medium crumb	Silty loam	Deep deposit of dark silty loam with some medium rubble	002	009	010		
009	Mixed clay	3 x 1 x ?	Reddish brown	7.5YR4/3	Hard medium block	Silty clay	Natural deposit of silty clay	002 008 011 014				
014	Ditch fill	1.6 x 1 x 0.3	Pinkish grey	7.5YR6/2	Soft fine crumb	Silty loam	Upper organic rich fill of ditch	002	005 009	011		
015	Natural clay	3 x 1 x ?	Yellowish brown	10YR5/4	Firm medium block	Clay	Natural clay	005 011 012				

##### Constructs ( Positive Features)

No.	Name	Dimensions (l x b X h) m	Material	Description / Discussion	Below	Above	Within	Contains	Equals
006	Timber post	0.65h x 0.16D	Wood	Modern treated timber post inserted into bore hole	001	002 005 014 015	016		
012	Clay bank	5 x 1 x 0.9	Clay	Compact bank of Brownish yellow (10YR6/6) clay	001 002 005 007 013	015			



### Cuts (Negative Features)

No.	Name	Dimensions ( l x b X h ) m	Description / Discussion	Below	Above	Within	Contains	Equals
010	Ditch	1.65 x 1 x 0.55	East side of ditch	002	009		008	
011	Ditch	2.6 x 1 x 0.4	West side of ditch at base of bank 012	002	009 015		005 014	
013	Ditch	1.1 x 1 x 0.3	Narrow 'V' shaped ditch cut into rear of bank 012	001	004 012		007	
016		0.65h x 0.16D	Bored hole for fence post	001	002 005 014 015		006	

### Trench B

#### Layers

No.	Name	Dimensions ( l x b X h ) m	Colour name	Colour value	Soil Structure	Soil Composition	Description / Discussion	Below	Above	Within	Contains	Equals
001	Topsoil	6 x 2 x 0.15	Very dark grey	7.5YR4/1	Loose fine crumb	Silty loam	Topsoil below parched vegetation		002			
002	Subsoil	6 x 2 x 0.4	Dark reddish brown	5YR3/2	Soft fine crumb	Silty loam	Subsoil/hill wash below bank to north	001	003 004 005 006			004
004	Ditch fill	1.8 x 1 x 0.35	Dark grayish brown	10YR4/2	Very soft fine plate	Clayey silt	Very soft dark silty fill to ditch 003	002	006	003		002
005	Rubble spread	2 x 0.8 x 0.2	Brown	7.5YR4/3	Loose fine crumb	Clayey loam	Deposit of rubble in loamy matrix, non-structural	002	006	011		
006	Natural clay	4 x 2 x ?	Strong brown	7.5YR4/6		Clay	natural	003 004 005 006				

### Cuts (Negative Features)

No.	Name	Dimensions ( l x b X h ) m	Description / Discussion	Below	Above	Within	Contains	Equals
003	Ditch	1.05 x 1 x 0.35	South side of ditch running E - W	002	006		004	

## Trench C

### Layers

No.	Name	Dimensions ( l x b X h ) m	Colour name	Colour value	Soil Structure	Soil Composition	Description / Discussion	Below	Above	Within	Contains	Equals
001	Topsoil	Overall	Dark brown	7.5YR4/2	Loose fine crumb	Silty loam	Topsoil below parched vegetation		002 003			
002	Subsoil	Overall	Dark reddish brown	5YR3/2	Firm fine crumb	Silty loam	Subsoil	001	004 005 009			
003	Charcoal deposit	2.2 x 1 x 0.05	Very dark grey	5YR3/1	Loose fine crumb	Sandy loam	Low spread of dense charcoal, from small bonfire	001	002			
004	Rubble spread	7 x 6 x 0.35	Brown	7.5YR4/2	Hard medium block	Clayey loam	Rubble in matrix of clayey loam	002	008 009 012 013			005
005	Rubble spread (E)	2.1 x 1 x 0.15	Brown	7.5YR4/2	Hard medium block	Clayey loam	Rubble in matrix of clayey loam	002	014 015			004
007	Pit fill	1.1 x 1 x 0.35	Dark brown	7.5YR3/2	Soft medium crumb	Silty loam	Clean loamy upper portion of fill of pit containing pieces of corrugated asbestos	002	010 015	0006		
008	Clayey loam	1 x 1 x ?	Light reddish brown	5YR6/4	Compact medium block	Clayey loam	Rubble in matrix of Light clayey loam	004 009 006				
010	Loose rubble	1.1 x 0.5 x ?	Reddish brown	7.5YR4/3	Loose medium block	Silty clay	Natural deposit of silty clay	002 008 011 014				
013	Clayey loam	2.8 x 1 x ?	Yellowish brown	10YR5/4	Firm medium block	Clayey loam	Deposit of clayey loam with some rubble	004 011 012				015
015	Clayey loam	1.6 x 1 x ?	Yellowish brown	10YR5/4	Firm medium block	Clayey loam	Deposit of clayey loam with some rubble	005 014				013

### Constructs ( Positive Features)

No.	Name	Dimensions ( l x b X h ) m	Material	Description / Discussion	Below	Above	Within	Contains	Equals
009	Wall	1.4 x 0.44 x 0.30	Ironstone	Roughly coursed dry stone wall of 4 irregular courses partially above destruction debris	002 004	010			014
011	Paving	1.3 x 1 x 0.05	Lias	Spread of medium sized irregular angular slabs remains of decayed paving	004	013			
012	Wall	1.15 x 0.5 x 0.1	Ironstone	Single course of well shaped large blocks end of wall site of possible door opening?	004	013			
014	Wall		Ironstone	Roughly coursed dry stone wall of 2 irregular courses partially above destruction debris	005				009

## Cuts (Negative Features)

No.	Name	Dimensions ( l x b X h ) m	Description / Discussion	Below	Above	Within	Contains	Equals
006	Pit	1.4 x 1 x ?	Recent cut for pit for disposal of building waste	002	010 015		008	

## Trench D

### Layers

No.	Name	Dimensions ( l x b X h ) m	Colour name	Colour value	Soil Structure	Soil Composition	Description / Discussion	Below	Above	Within	Contains	Equals
001	Charcoal	1 x 1 x 0.04	Light grey	7.5YR7/1	Loose fine crumb	Charcoal in silty loam	Exposed surface of charcoal and ash		002			
002	Ash	1 x 1 x 0.15	Light red	5R6/6	loose fine crumb	Ash in silty loam	Layers of ash with nails	001	003			004
003	Charcoal	1 x 1 x 0.08	Black	10YR2/1	Loose fine plate	Charcoal in silty clay	Layer of charcoal	002	004			
004	Clayey loam	1 x 1 x 0.50 max	Brown	7.5YR4/2	Hard medium block	Clayey loam	Deep deposit of clayey loam	003	005 007			002
005	Clayey loam and small rubble	1 x 1 x 0.15	Brown	7.5YR4/2	Hard fine crumb	Clayey loam	Dump of small rubble from the south	004	006			
006	Silty clay	1 x 1 x 0.05	Brown	7.5YR5/2	Hard medium crumb	Silty clay	Silty clay at base of dump 005	006	0047			
007	Clay and rubble	1 x 1 x 0.05	Dark brown	7.5YR3/2	Hard medium block	Silty clay	Silty clay and rubble make-up	006				

## Appendix 2 Finds

### Pottery from Chacombe, Northants (Site CBH18)

*Paul Blinkhorn*

The pottery assemblage comprised 109 sherds with a total weight of 979g. It was all of medieval or later date, and was recorded using the conventions of the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type-Series (CTS), as follows:

- F209: Oolitic Ware**, AD975-1350. 7 sherds, 73g.
- F324: Brill/Boarstall Ware**, early 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century. 18 sherds, 180g.
- F329: Potterspury Ware**, AD1250 – 1600. 29 sherds, 185g.
- F330: Shelly Coarse ware**, AD1100-1400. 7 sherds, 97g.
- F345: Oxford Ware**, mid 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century. 30 sherds, 257g.
- F360: Banbury-type Ware**, AD1100-1400. 4 sherds, 94g.
- F403: Midland Purple Ware**, AD1450-1600. 3 sherds, 39g.
- F407: Red Earthenwares**, AD1450-1600. 6 sherds, 46g.
- F413: Manganese Mottled Ware**, AD1680-1750. 2 sherds, 6g.
- F426: Iron-Glazed Coarse wares**, c late 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century. 6 sherds, 94g

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region<sup>14</sup>, and is a mixture of wares common in Oxfordshire and south Northamptonshire, from relatively local sources<sup>15</sup>.

It is mostly of 11<sup>th</sup> – late 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century date, indicating that the site was abandoned after that time, with common late medieval wares all but absent, and post-medieval material somewhat scarce before the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The medieval assemblage consists entirely of fragments of jars and jugs, which is typical of groups of the early medieval period in the region. Most of the Oxford Ware is from unglazed jars, although a few fragments of glazed vessels, probably from tripod pitchers, also occurred. The Brill fragments are all from glazed jugs, with the Potterspury Ware mainly from unglazed jars, although glazed sherds from both jars and jugs were present in that fabric.

**Table 1**

Context	F209		F345		F330		F360		F324		F329		F403		F407		F413		F426		DATE
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
A001											1	23									M13thC
A002	1	8	1	7			1	20	5	39	1	5			1	4			1	55	18thC
A003					1	4							1	12	1	4	2	6			18thC
A005									1	6											13thC
A007			1	7							1	3							2	11	18thC
A008	2	10	10	64	1	2			2	4											13thC
A014	3	52	2	42					3	43	3	19							3	28	18thC
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>94</b>	
B002			4	16					1	5	3	10									M13thC
B004									1	10	6	54									M13thC
B005			2	22	1	21	2	19	3	64	10	57									M13thC
<b>Total</b>			<b>6</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>121</b>									
C002			7	71	1	19			2	9	3	11			4	38					16thC
C005	1	3	2	10																	L11thC
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>19</b>			<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>			<b>4</b>	<b>38</b>					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>94</b>	

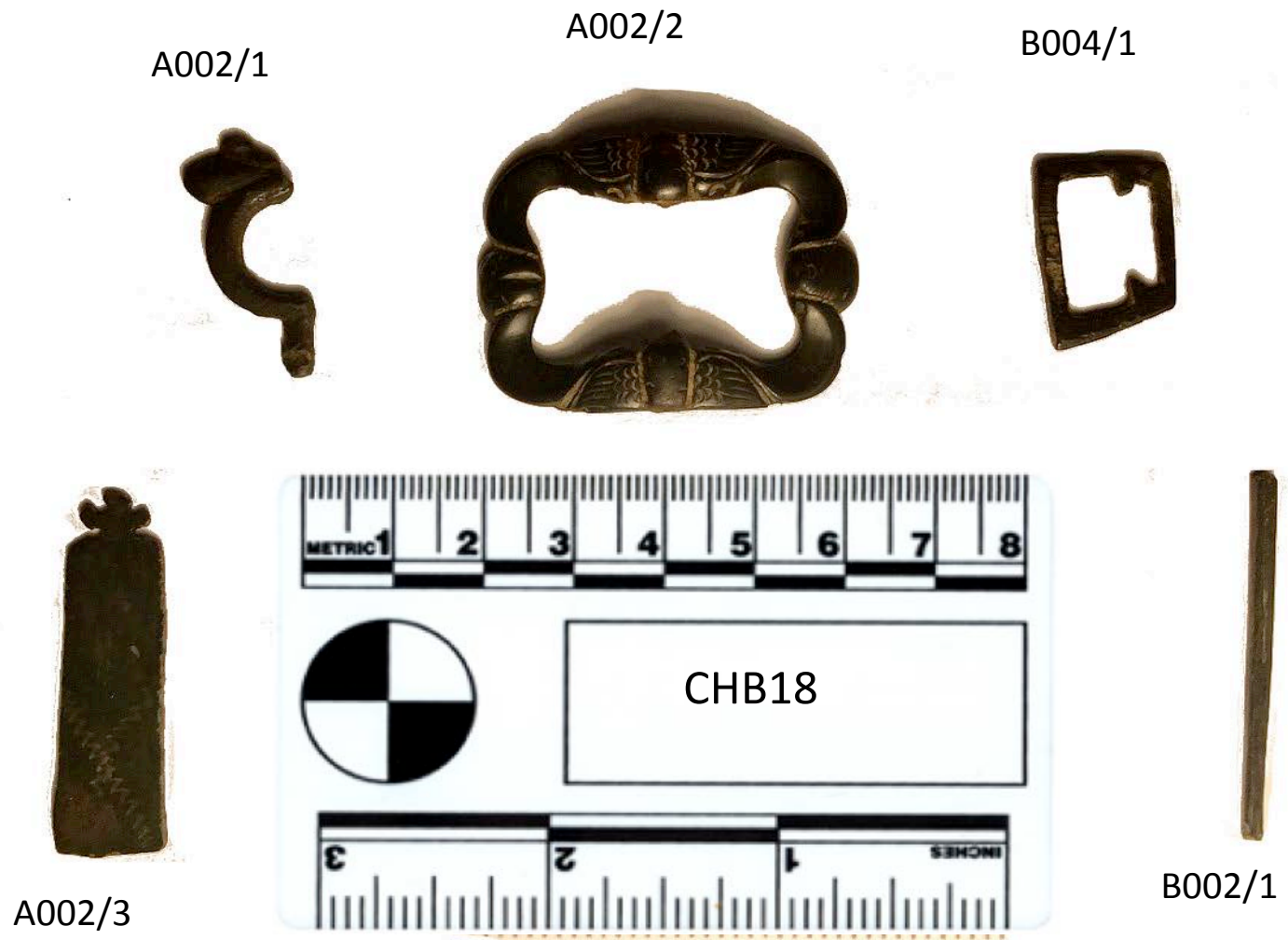


Fig. 21 Metal finds from Areas A and B



Fig. 22 Finds from A001

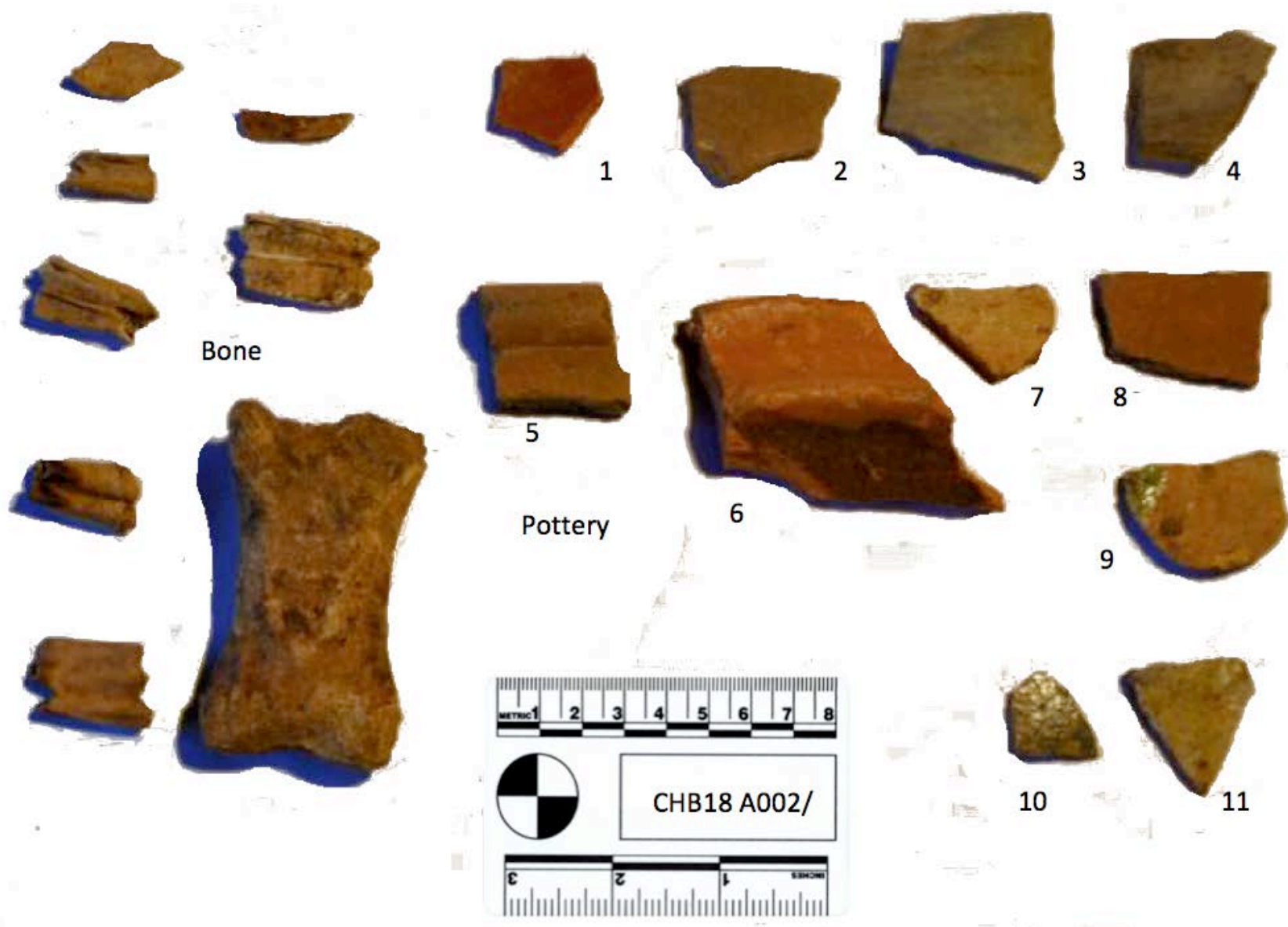


Fig. 23 Finds from A002



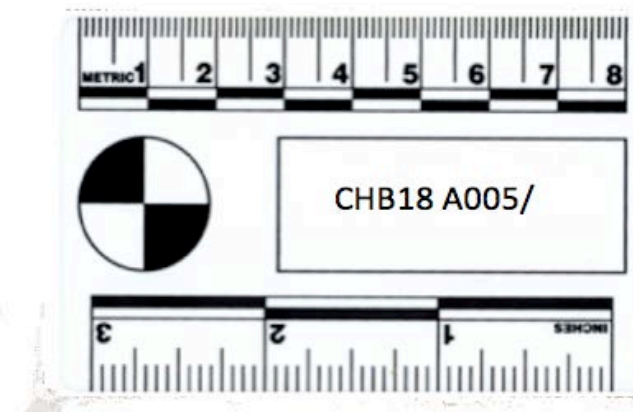
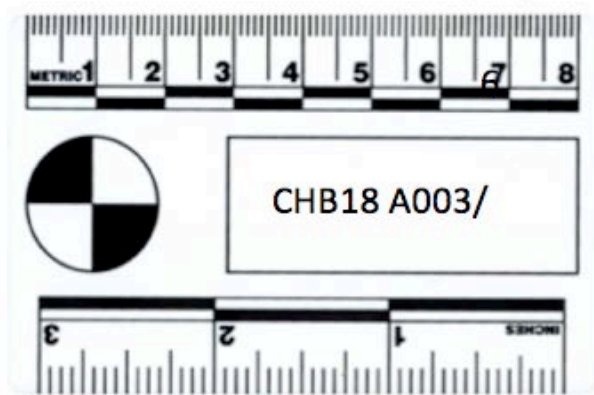
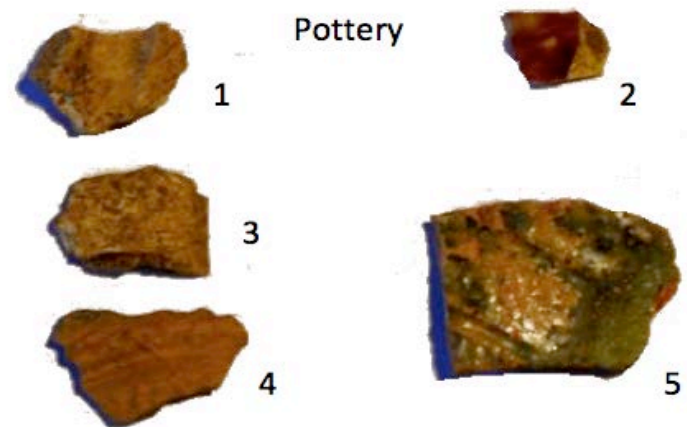
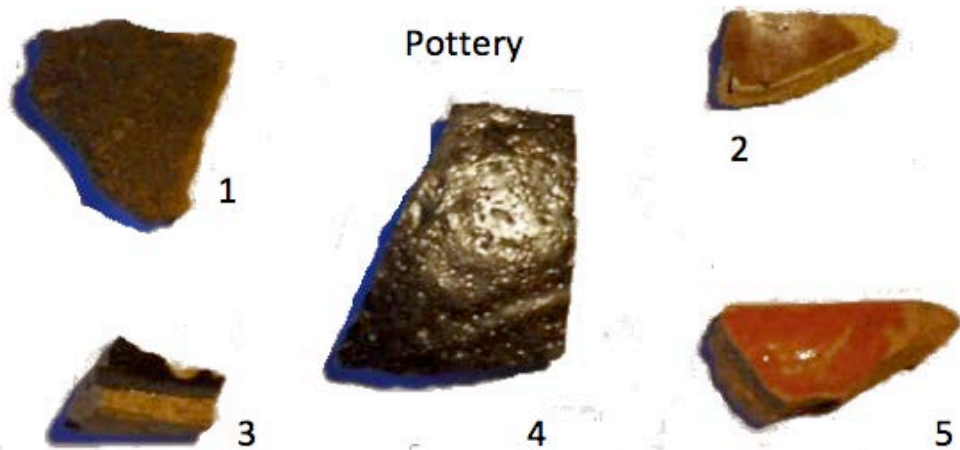


Fig. 24 Finds from A003

Fig. 25 Finds from A005

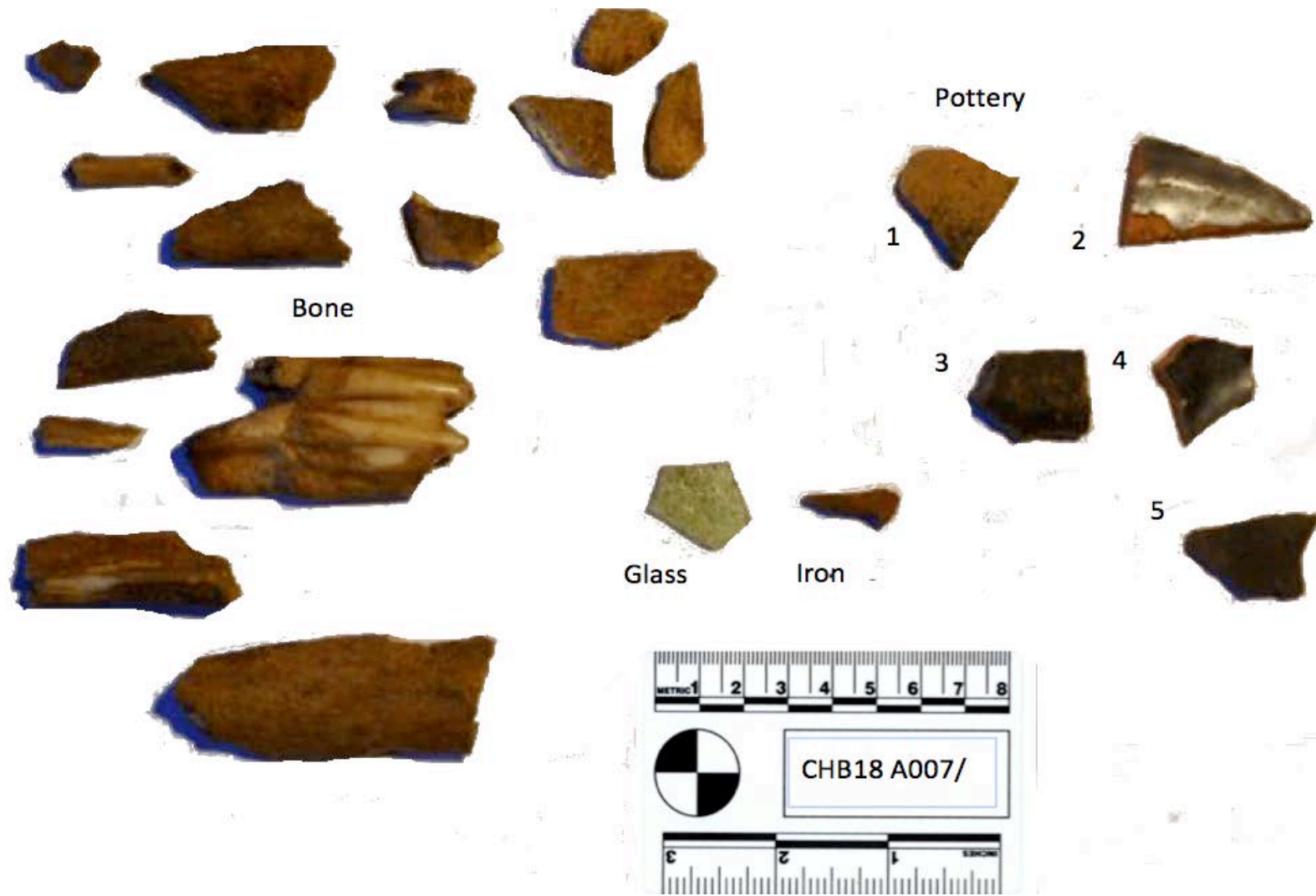


Fig. 26 Finds from A007

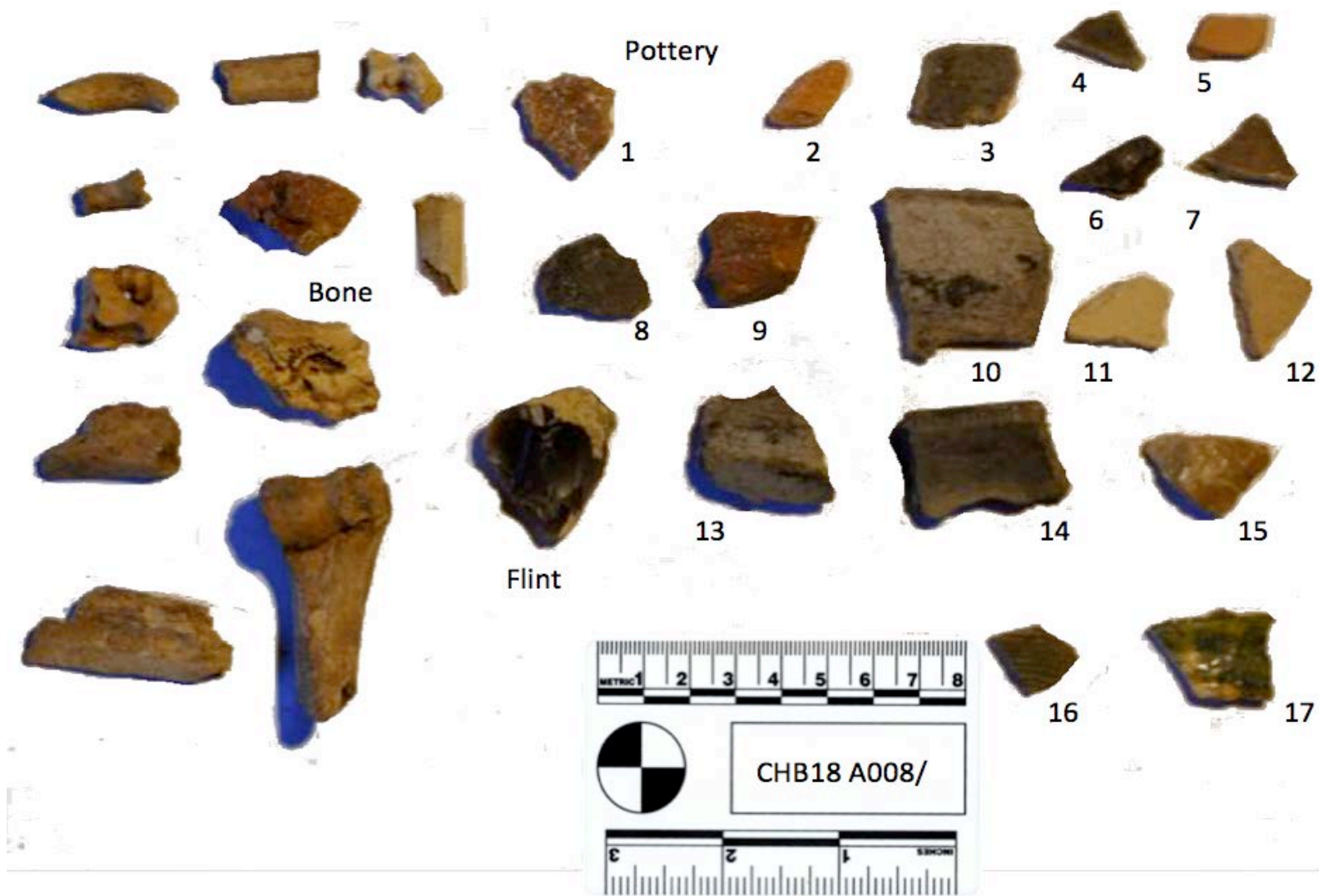


Fig. 27 Finds from A008



Fig. 28 Finds from A014

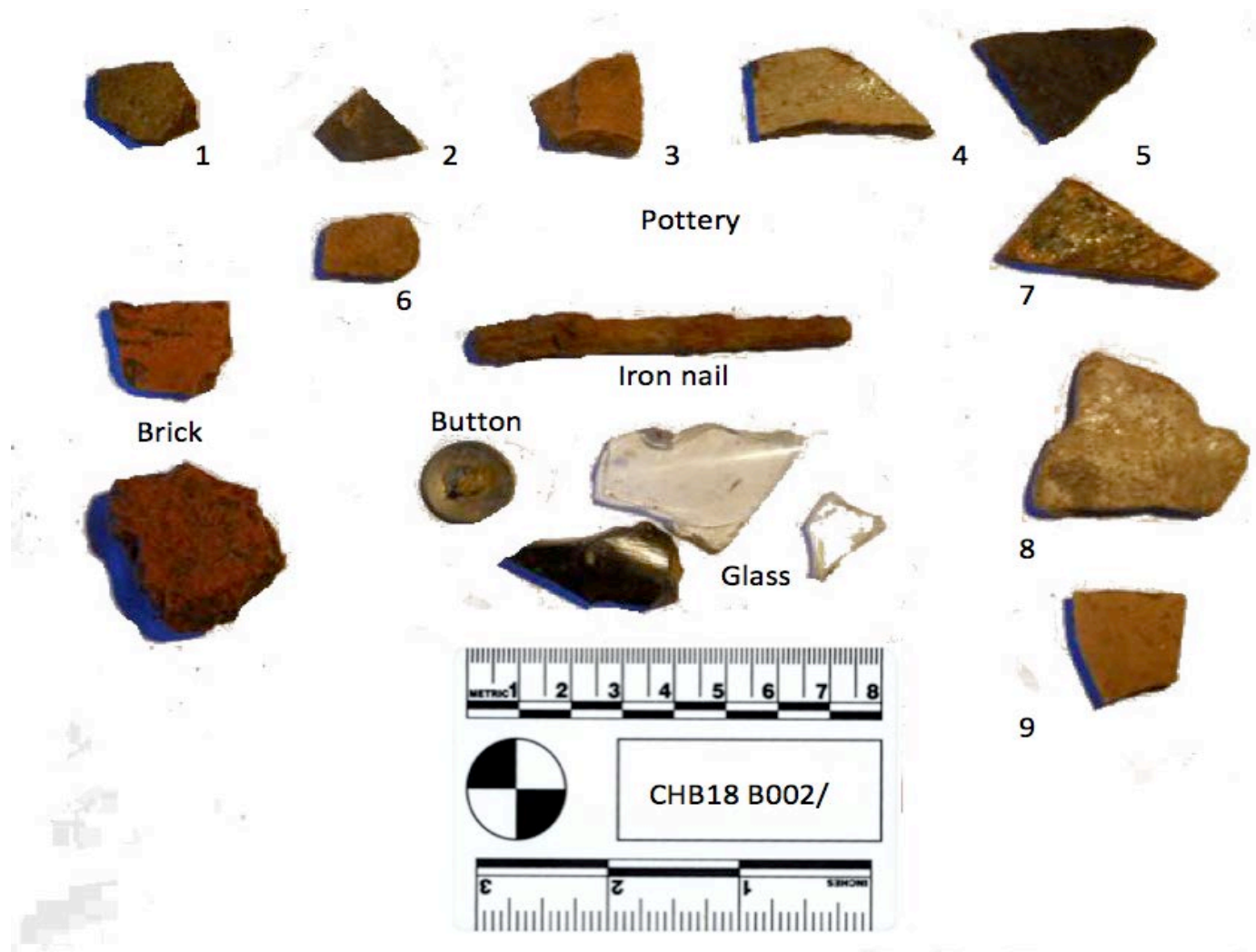


Fig. 29 Finds from B002

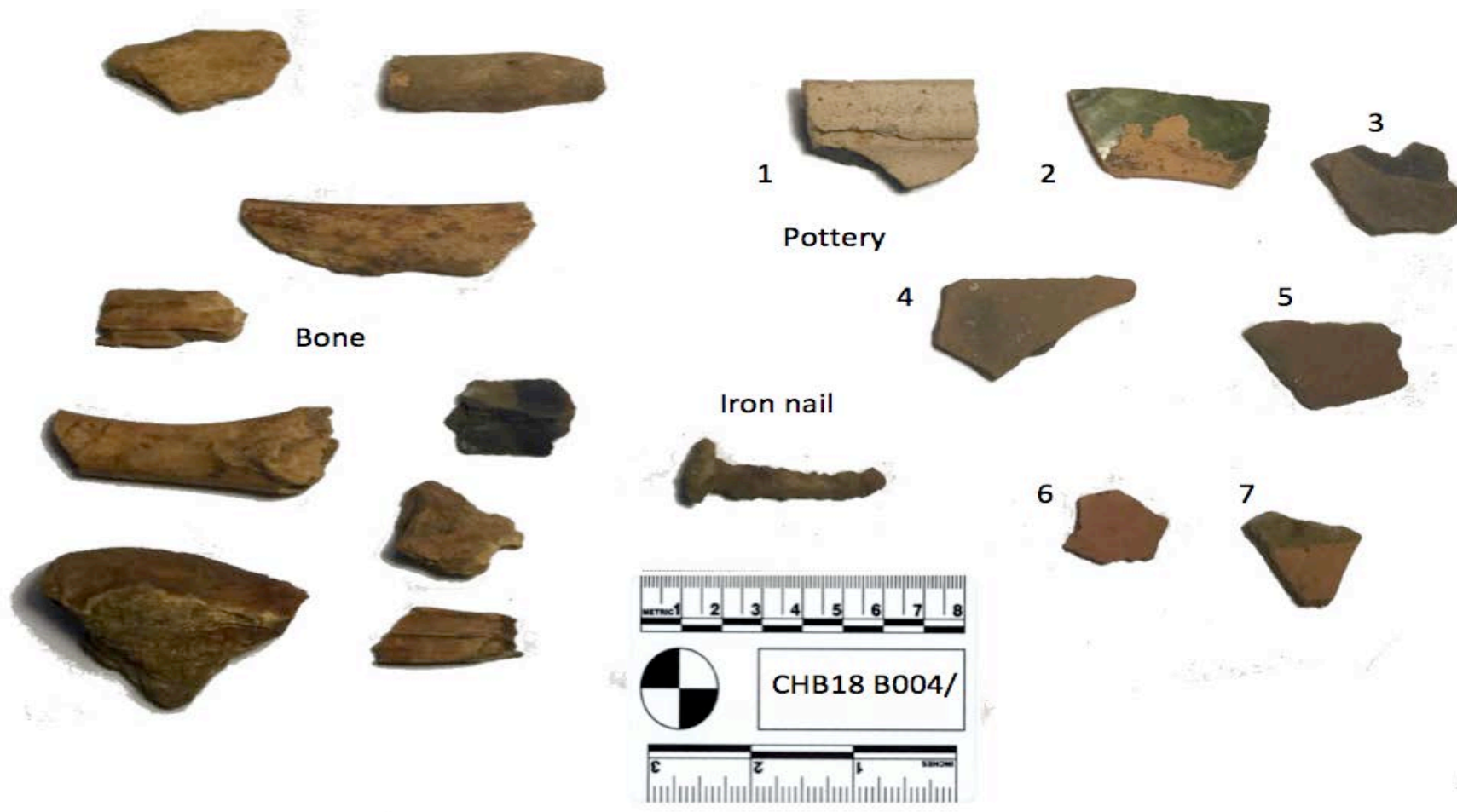


Fig. 30 Finds from B004



Fig. 31 Finds from B005

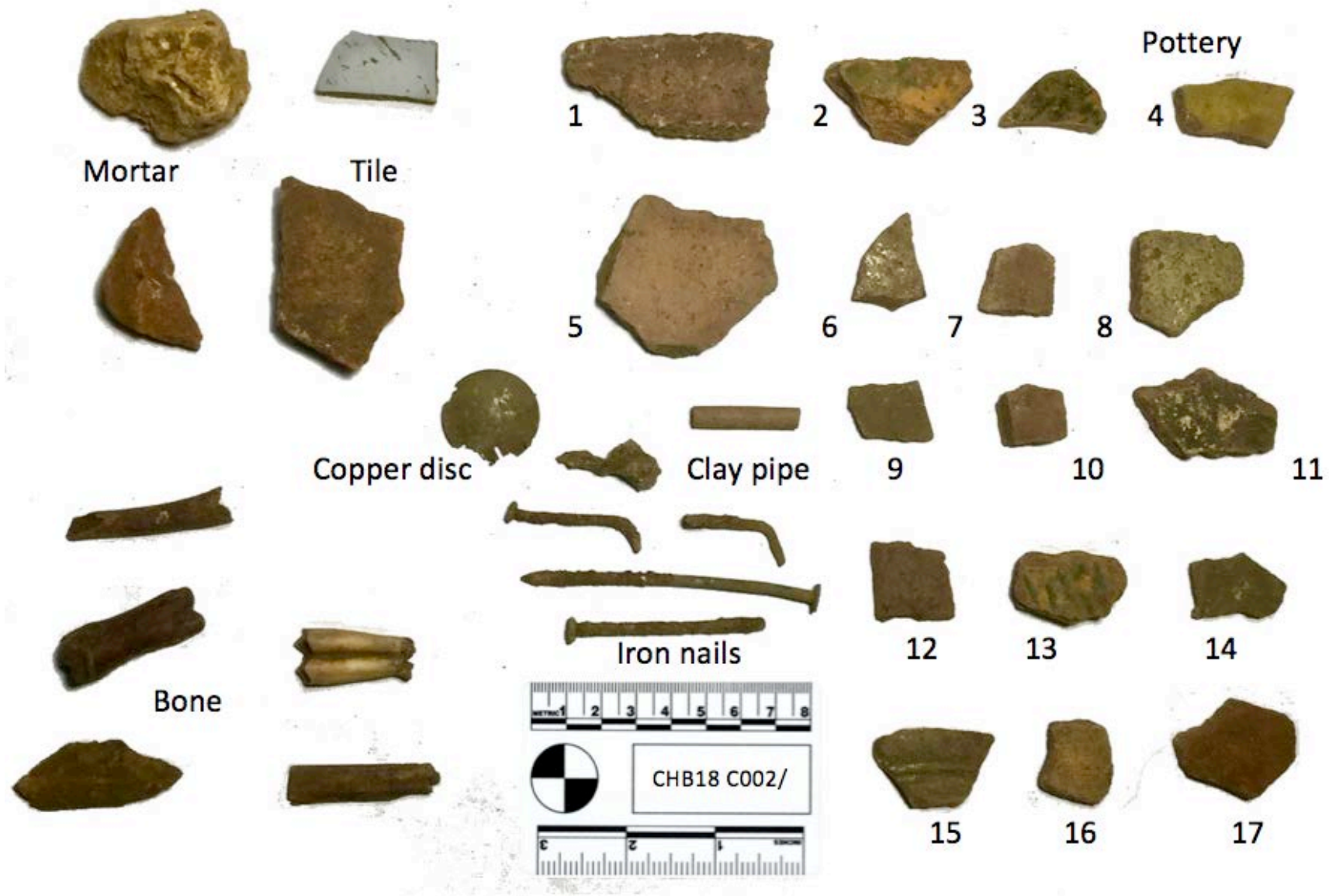


Fig. 32 Finds from C002



Sample of dressed stone



Fig. 33 C004 Dressed stone

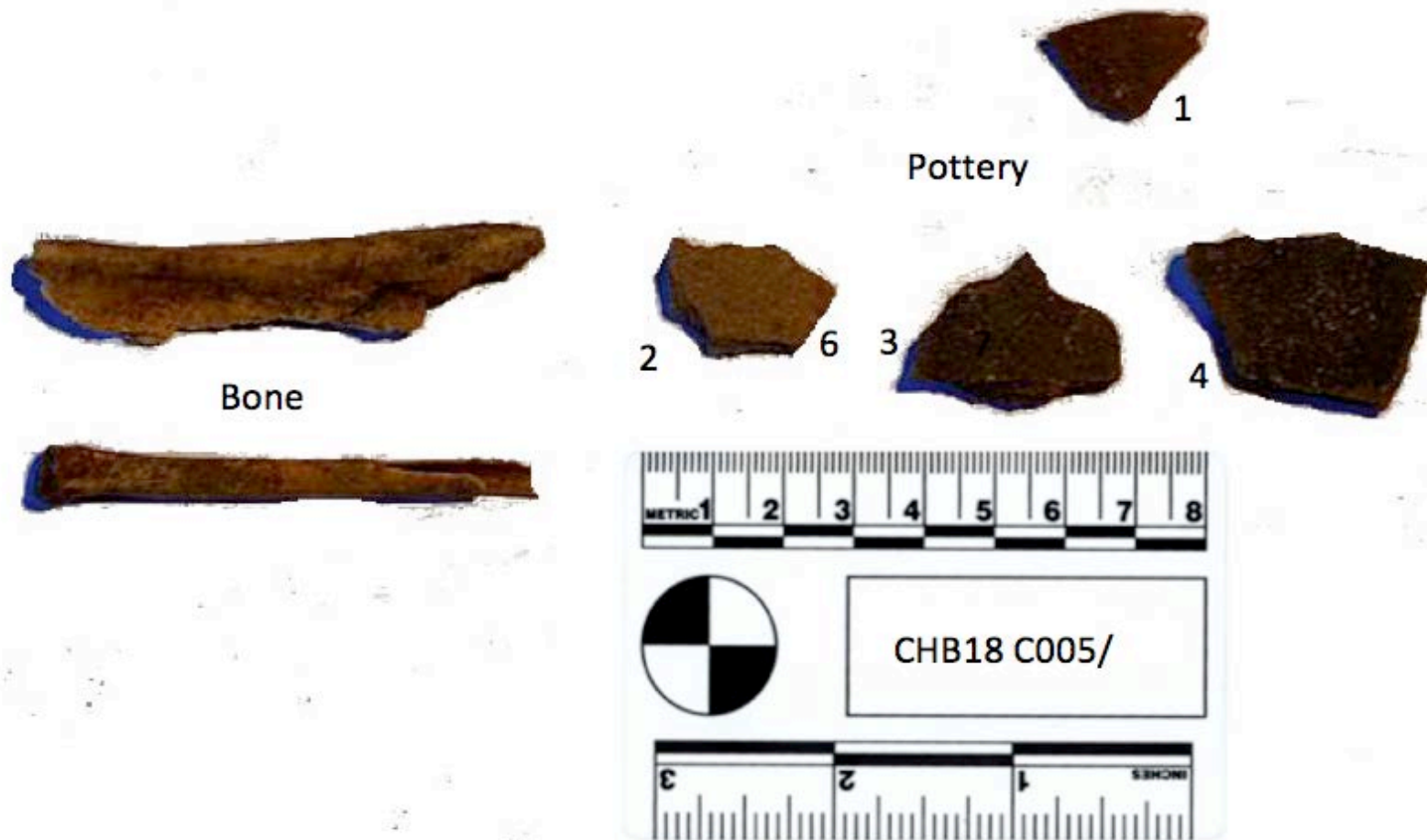


Fig. 34 Finds from C005

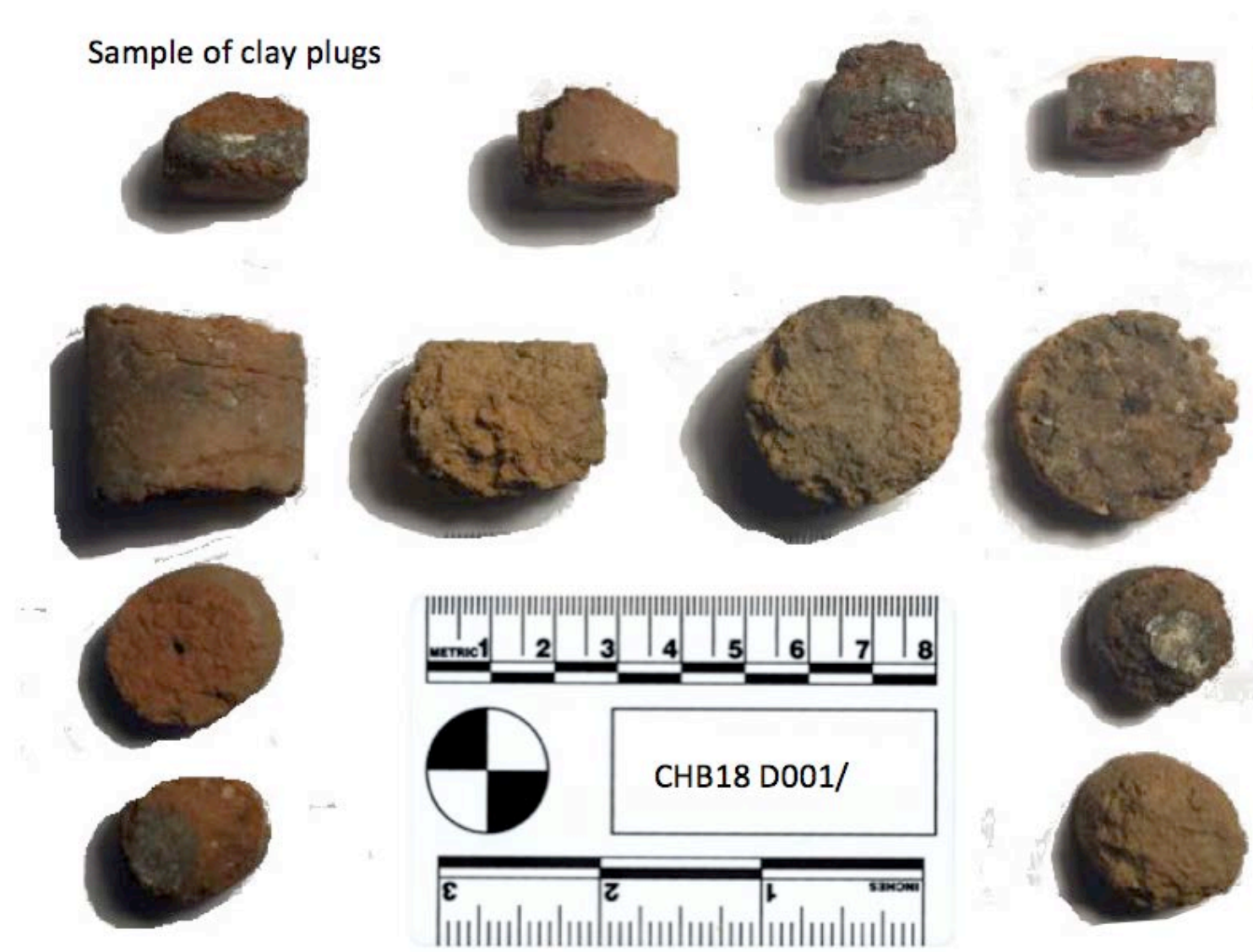
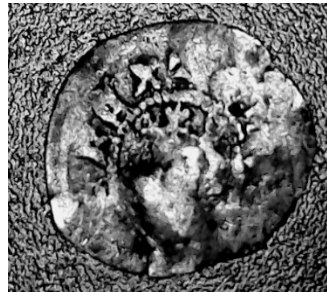


Fig. 35 D001 samples of clay plugs



Fig. 36 D002 Ironwork plus fittings



CHB10 C002/2 Notes by Peter Spackman

Type: farthing,  
Metal: silver,  
Circa: 1344 – 51,  
Weight: >0.2g  
Max length: 13.28mm.  
Max width: 10.49mm.  
Thickness: >0.25mm.  
Obverse: crowned portrait facing EDWARDVS REX after which there can be seen an edge of a mintmark; cross 3 (class g).  
Reverse: long cross with three pellets in each angle surrounded by the mint name CIVI TAS LON DON an indication that the coin was made by Tower Mint London.

Fig. 37 C002/2 Silver farthing

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