ENFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVE REPORT

EXCAVATIONS AT ELSYNG PALACE, FORTY HALL, ENFIELD, MAY AND JULY 2024

(SITE CODE FXW24)

(SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT LO 59)

(EXCAVATION CENTRED TQ 338 988)

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ABSTRACT

- Excavation found evidence for a continuation of a known moat, edged by a bank and basic revetting wall, flanking an artificial raised platform (which produced pre mid fourteenth century pottery) at the eastern edge of the inner court of the palace. Three trenches on the platform, contiguous with or west of others cut in 2023, established part of the plan of what now seems clearly to be its inner gatehouse. It began as a c. 8.60 m wide over 12.00 m long structure of at least three rooms, one probably cellared, with evidence for some modifications before a more major phase of extension and elaboration, most probably in the late fifteenth century.
- This probably infilled the cellar and created a well preserved over 24 m long eastern façade to the structure which featured two multi-angular turrets built on substantial foundation rafts, probably flanking a pedestrian entrance; and possibly a partly enclosed veranda/portico. The size and solidity of these later phase constructions is consistent with the multi storey building evidenced by an inventory of 1524. There was some evidence for later modifications before demolition c. 1660.
- Notable finds from overlying demolition rubble and gravel dump re-landscaping included fragments of high quality architectural stonework, some with graffiti.

INTRODUCTION

- On-going research into the site of Elsyng Palace by the Enfield Archaeological Society (EAS) since 2004 (Dearne 2004; 2005a; 2005b; 2006a; 2006b; 2007; 2008; 2009; 2011a; 2011b; 2012a; 2013; 2014; 2015; 2016; 2017c; 2018; 2019; 2021; 2022; 2023) has significantly advanced our understanding of some aspects of the plan and developmental sequence of the palace. With the completion of the excavation of the south west range of the palace in 2019 the next priority appeared to be the location and characterisation of the moat fronted inner gatehouse which would have separated the inner and outer courts of the complex.
- Although leaving some questions about its northern/north western extent, the fronting moat was located in excavations in 2021 and 2022 and further defined in 2023. This focused attention on a fairly prominent, tree encroached raised platform to its west, which excavations in 2023 confirmed held substantial built structures, one probably cellared, that it was hypothesised might include the inner gatehouse of the palace and or a palace building range that included the royal chapel. However, it was clear that this area required further excavation to elucidate the function(s) and date(s) of the structures. In order to achieve these aims in July 2024 the EAS cut three further trenches in this area (see Fig. 1).
- A further outstanding question was how a substantial wall known from earlier test pit work (ENE06 Pit 43 [31]) related to the raised platform and likely extent of the inner court. In order to establish the function and implications of this wall the EAS also cut, in May 2024, one trench immediately south of ENE06 Pit 43 and partially re-excavated that pit (see Fig. 1).
- Scheduled Monument Consent for the work was given by the Dept. of Culture, Media and Sport (Ref.: S00245500) following the submission by the author, acting as agent for the London Borough of Enfield (LBE; the owners), of an application, supported by a project design, for such consent.
- The work was undertaken in the periods 4th – 6th May 2024 and 7th – 21st July 2024 and included a public open day on 13th July. It was allocated site code FXW24 by the Museum of London and was carried out in accordance with the project design produced by, and under the direction of, the author with further trench supervision by Judith Stones. The work was project managed by Martin J. Dearne with the assistance of Neil Pinchbeck of the EAS and the site archive and retained finds generated by the work will be deposited in the LBE Museums Service/EAS archive (see Appendix 1).

OBJECTIVES AND METHODS

The objectives of the excavation were:

- to establish the function and implications of the wall seen previously in ENE06 Pit 43;
- and to try to further define and identify structures partly excavated in 2023 on a raised artificial platform (Dearne 2023, 7ff) including to elucidate their plan(s), date(s), extent(s) and constructional histories.

The methodology of the work was (Figs 1, 2 and 4):

- Trench 1, 8.00 x 2.00 m, was cut 1.20 m south of ENE06 Pit 43 and a self set sapling tree.[1] It aimed to examine the wall seen in that pit and establish whether it bounded a structure or other feature to its west.

[1] This sapling was cut and poisoned by the LBE Parks Department in August 2024.

In order to contextualise its findings ENE06 Pit 43 was also partly re-excavated and expanded a little to the west (overall trench size 1.40 x 0.70 m), but only excavated to the top of the wall.

- Trench 2, initially 8.00 x 4.00 m was cut north of and overlapping FXV23 Trench 6 and overlapping FXV23 Trench 7 to examine the area between two sets of structural features excavated in 2023. An area of 1.50 x 4.00 m at its north end was not excavated as it represented FXV23 Trench 7 backfill plus a small area east of that trench already known to have little archaeological significance (as well as to ensure site safety by avoiding potentially unstable trench backfill collapse) so the effective initial area of Trench 2 was 6.50 x 4.00 m. Trench 2 was subsequently expanded by 1.60 m^2 at its south end and (in two stages) by 9.115 m^2 on its west to investigate built features identified in the initial trench cut.
- Trench 3, initially 4.00 x 1.50 m was cut slightly overlapping and running north from FXV23 Trench 7 to trace a partly removed wall excavated in 2023. Again areas of FXV23 Trench 7 backfill (c. 0.30 x 1.50 m) on its south were not re-excavated, but Trench 3 was expanded to the west by 1.50 x 2.50 m (3.75 m^2) to achieve this aim.
- Trench 4, initially 5.00 x 5.00 m was cut west of FXV23 Trench 7 to further investigate a probable cellar identified in that trench in 2023 and was intended to be excavated as a stepped trench cut to a depth of 1.50 m. As this cellar was not present here though this intention was abandoned and Trench 4 was instead expanded by 1.50 x 3.00 m (4.50 m^2) to the east at its south east corner to identify the limits of this cellar.
- All excavation was by hand and none removed any *in situ* structures. Excavation was only to natural in part of Trench 1, other trenches and areas of trenches being excavated to the maximum permitted depth of 1.00 m, being excavated only sufficiently to characterise the material forming the raised platform or being excavated only (except for small sondages) to expose structural features or what appeared likely to be surfaces associated with them.
- The excavations were single context recorded using EAS context sheets and other pro formas, digital photographs, plans and sections drawn at an appropriate scale and spot heights, all recording being with respect to existing fixed OS grid point markers.
- All non twentieth/twenty first century finds except cbm were collected from all contexts and spoil was metal detected (under a Section 42 licence (Ref. :SL00234628)).
- The trenches were seeded with modern coins and structural remains protected with mounded sieved topsoil before backfilling and immediately returfed where turf had been removed.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- The historical evidence for Elsyng Palace was outlined in several published and unpublished sources (e.g. Jones and Drayton 1984, 8ff; Phillpotts 2002, 11ff; Dearne 2004, 3), but has now been the subject of a major new research initiative by the author and others which has established that many details in these, and other, accounts are highly challengeable. Therefore a definitive new account of the history of the site has recently been published (Dearne *et al* 2022).
- Relevant to the current work is that the estate is believed to have Medieval origins, that the first substantial brick house on the site is now believed to have probably been built by John Tiptoft, Earl of Worcester or his father Lord John Tiptoft in the early to mid fifteenth century and that under Sir Thomas Lovell this was adapted and substantially extended from c. 1486, by the early sixteenth century becoming his 'courtier's palace' with an outer and inner courts. Multiple visits to Lovell at Elsyng by Henry VII and VIII are known and on Lovell's death in 1524 it passed to his heir the Earl of Rutland who used it as a home and continued to entertain the king.
- It was acquired from him by Henry VIII in 1539 as a royal palace, primarily used as a residence for the royal children, and repaired but not rebuilt. Subsequently it may have been little used under Edward VI (except by Princess Elizabeth) and Mary, but was periodically used by Queen Elizabeth as a stop on royal progresses for the first decade of her reign. Despite several recorded phases of repair under these successive monarchs the palace may have been out of favour by the end of the sixteenth century and may partially have been used to accommodate royal favourites. Though there are recorded visits by James I early in his reign, in 1608 a warrant to demolish it and use the materials at Theobalds Palace was issued but not fully carried out. Repairs/remodelling followed in 1609 – 10 and repairs also continued under Philip Herbert (Earl of Montgomery, later Earl of Pembroke), whose family probably lived in the palace from ?c. 1612 to c. 1630, who was keeper of the palace and who subsequently purchased it from Charles I in 1641, but is unlikely to have lived there after 1630.

- The palace was still standing in 1656. Already though, by 1629, the Manor of Worcesters, formerly including parts of the palace estate but not the palace and its immediate environs, had passed to Sir Nicholas Rainton who built the standing Forty Hall at the top of the hill above the palace (Gillam 1997, 54) and by 1656 the palace estate had been acquired by a second Nicholas Rainton, who had inherited Worcesters and Forty Hall, and the palace is presumed to have been demolished shortly afterwards. The only contemporary reference to its site at the presumed time of demolition (in 1656) describes the palace as 'One very ancient Greate House called Endfield House with ye Couryards Gardens Orchards and Courtyarde with ye field adjoining called ye Walks' (London Metropolitan Archives ACC/0016/008) and little more is known from documentary sources about the palace site until the existing double avenue of Lime trees which cross the site were planted sometime before Rocque's map of Middlesex was produced in 1754.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- The only archaeological excavation on the site prior to 2004 was in 1963 - 7 by the EAS. Elements of the work were summarised in Jones and Drayton (1984) and its main focus was an area of c. 25 x 10 m of the inner court where very substantial remains of the palace structure were encountered, often just below turf level; and the recording of a gas main trench across the northern edge of the palace complex. Trenches were also cut further east and what is known of them was summarised by the author in 2004 (Dearne 2004, 3f). However, a re-evaluation of the archive for all this work has recently been published (Dearne 2022b; Dearne and Drury 2022).
- A conservation management plan for the Forty Hall estate was prepared by Broadway Malyan Cultural Heritage in 1999 and a desk top study of the site of Elsyng Palace (Phillpotts 2002) was produced by Compass Archaeology Ltd in 2002 and drew on some of the geophysical and topographical surveys of all or parts of the site which have taken place.
- A resistivity survey in 1968 near the main 1960s excavations is known only from a slide of its results, but magnetometry and resistivity surveys were carried out in 1997 and 1998 and ground penetrating radar and topographical survey in 2000 (Horsley 1997; Bartlett 1989; and see Phillpotts 2002, passim and especially Fig. 28). However, many problems were subsequently identified with the magnetometry and resistivity surveys, including their inexact plotting against the OS grid and especially the fact that re-landscaping with gravel on palace demolition, the outcropping of natural gravel through the predominant brickearth natural and the widespread dumping of brick demolition rubble on palace demolition makes all but a few of their results of little or no value in assessing the plan of the palace.
- Subsequent to the desk top survey smaller magnetometry and resistivity surveys were undertaken for the EAS in 2003, 2004 and 2005 (Dearne 2005a; Black and Black 2004).
- Very extensive excavations and LiDAR/aerial photographic work by the EAS from 2004 to 2019 has recently been fully published (Pinchbeck 2013; Dearne *et al* 2022), established much of the plan of the outer court of the palace, revealed the entirety of the south west range of the palace (where not truncated on demolition) and identified many other features both within and peripheral to the palace complex including a brick clamp and large parterre garden. It also recovered evidence for site activity predating the establishment of the palace beginning as early as the nineth or tenth century.
- As outlined above excavation since 2019 has established the existence of a large moat between the inner and outer courts of the palace and of an artificial raised platform to its west on which substantial brick built structures were constructed, one of which likely represented the inner gatehouse of the palace (Dearne 2021; 2022; 2023).
- Very extensive archaeological excavations and monitoring on the nearby site of Forty Hall were also undertaken by the EAS (and others) in 2009 – 11 (for details see Dearne 2012b) and further extensive excavations and watching briefs at Forty Hall and on the wider estate surrounding it were undertaken in 2013 – 18 (Dearne and Pinchbeck 2015; 2018; Dearne 2017a; 2017b). The latter included examination of areas peripheral to a brick clamp excavated in 2005 and examination of a midden area relating to the palace near to Maidens Brook (where relevant to the palace this work has now been published in Dearne *et al* (2022) and a full publication of other aspects of it is in preparation (Dearne in prep.)).

THE STRATIGRAPHIC SEQUENCE

The Natural

- The earliest deposit contacted (only in Trench 1) was the natural brickearth, [7], a compacted, sterile, strong brown (7.5 YR 5/8) very clayey silt. However, within cut [8] its surface was discoloured to brown/dark brown (7.5 YR 4/4), probably due to mixing with a moat silt.
- The level of the natural in Trench 1 appeared to be at c. +30.700 m OD east of moat cut [8] and the lowest point where it was observed within the cut was at +30.545 m OD.

Brick Morphology

- Bricks were hand made, relatively hard fired to shades of orange or red and unfrogged and many were marginally creased. Space/depth constraints and mortar obscuring limited the data that could be collected on bricks built into surviving structures. For [18], [19] and [51] recorded bricks were up to 24.50 cm long and generally 12.00 cm wide with thicknesses mostly of 6.00 cm but sometimes down to 5.00 cm. The rebuilt upper part of wall [21]/[46] used bricks 23.00 x 12.00 x 5.50 cm while wall [67] used similar bricks but with a range of thicknesses from 5.00 to 5.50 cm.
- Amongst rubble deposits one complete brick from [16] had dimensions of 22.00 x 10.50 x 5.20 cm and had one end drip glazed; and two others from [10] were 24.00 x 10.50 x 5.00 cm and 23.50 x 11.00 x 5.50 cm.
- A substantial number of part bricks, often at least half complete, were recovered from deposits [6] and to a lesser degree [2] and [10] and allowed partial measurement of over 60 examples. Analysis of this data showed a thickness range of 4.50 – 6.50 cm with peaks in thickness at 5.50 and 6.00 cm. Recorded width was also quite variable with a range from 10.00 to 12.50 m (with one extreme outlier at 14.00 m), and the majority of examples had a fairy even distribution between 11.00 and 12.00 cm.
- Cut and non standard bricks are considered in Appendix 3.

Context Numbers

- Note that in Trenches 2 – 4 several identical contexts were given different designations in Trenches 2/3 and Trench 4. This was to facilitate study of the spatial patterning of e.g. floor tile types, but in most instances the deposits are given here as e.g. [13]/[16]/[41] for convenience. Similarly exposures of the same wall in different trenches were separately contexted to aid site recording, but are generally referred to as e.g. [21]/[46].

Site Phasing

- Although a scheme of phasing has been established for the site and been tentatively tied to an absolute chronology (see Dearne 2019; Dearne *et al* 2022, 138; Table 1 below) in terms of archaeology this largely relies on an also tentative differentiation of structures using softer yellow sandy mortars (believed to be of Phase 1b) from those using hard white mortars (believed to be of Phases 2 – 4). Though the following description is structured to reflect this site phasing, it should not therefore be taken as solidly established and in particular it should be stressed that differentiation between Phases 2, 3 and 4 is often impossible.

Phase	Date	Nature of Activity
1a	Pre early/mid fifteenth century	Features likely to pre-date the first brick built house
1b	Early/mid fifteenth century	Features belonging to the first brick built house probably constructed by Lord John Tiptoft and or the Earl of Worcester
2	c. 1486 and later	Features belonging to the major remodelling by Sir Thomas Lovell (and possibly the Earl of Rutland)
3	Sixteenth – early seventeenth century	Modifications to the remodelled house under ?Lovell/Rutland and post 1539 under royal ownership
4	?Early/mid seventeenth century	Deposits and features probably belonging to some ?post Elizabethan decline in the maintenance of the house
5a	c. 1660	Demolition deposits
5b	c. 1660 or a little later	Re-landscaping deposits

Table 1: Tentative Site Phasing (from Dearne *et al* 2022, 138)

- Moreover, in the present work it became clear that the 'hard white mortars' in fact comprised two recognisable variants, one still a lot whiter and harder than the 'soft yellow sandy mortar' which appears to be characteristic of the first structures on the site, but not as hard or white as those mortars that seem to more clearly belong to Phases 2 – 4. This variant may be described as moderately hard buff or off white coloured mortar and there is reason to believe that it represents at least one phase of structural modifications later in Phase 1b or perhaps early in Phase 2 since in one instance at least a wall rebuilt with it was truncated when structures which used the hardest and whitest mortar, and clearly represented a major new construction project, were built and these in turn are argued below to belong mainly to Phase 2.
- Thus, the stratigraphic sequence is described under the following headings:
  Site Phase 1b (early/mid fifteenth century)
  Site Phase 1b/2 Modifications (? mid/late fifteenth century)
  Site Phase 2 (c. 1486 to before 1524), or, where there is no evidence to refine the dating, Site Phase 2 – 4 (c. 1486 – c. 1660)
  Site Phase 5a (c. 1660)
  Site Phase 5b (c. 1660 or a little later)

Trench 1 and ENE06 Pit 43 (Figs 1, 2 and 3)
Site Phases 2 - 4 (c. 1486 – c. 1660)

- The main features evidenced in Trench 1 were a probable moat cut flanked on the east by a brick wall revetted bank.
- Though activity before Phase 2 did not seem to be represented in Trench 1, the only significant dating evidence came from the presence of hard white mortar in wall [4] (and ENE06 [31]) and it should not be assumed that the moat almost certainly represented by cut [8] did not have a predecessor of Phase 1b, especially as only a limited exposure of the moat cut was obtained. However, as excavated it appeared likely that the moat, bank and at least the revetting wall all belonged to one episode of construction in or after Phase 2.
- The moat itself was represented by a cut, [8], into the natural, [7], and which sloped down to the west from wall [4], though it was rather bowled in the centre of the trench. Only a maximum 1.90 m length of the cut was excavated, but a sondage cut to the maximum permitted excavation depth (1.00 m) 4.70 m west of wall [4] showed that a cut over 0.60 m deep had been filled with demolition rubble, which was present throughout most of the trench, in Phase 5a. Given the extent of the rubble there can be little doubt that the cut represented an approximately north south aligned moat which deepened as it ran west and was probably over 6.50 m wide.
- The east edge of the moat was represented by a bank, [3], fronted by a rough retaining wall, [4]. The bank, perhaps of upcast from the digging of the moat, comprised a dump of redeposited brickearth (a compacted strong brown (7.5 YR 5/6) very clayey silt with occasional rounded stones to 0.05 m). Its top was coincident with the top of wall [4] and presumably it directly overlay the natural, though the only inclusions in [3] were rare charcoal smears and pieces of cbm (?deriving from the construction of [4] as they included a quarter brick) so that close deposit differentiation from [7] was impossible. The bank survived to a probable height of c. 0.44 m and ran east from wall [4] for over 1.40 m.
- The wall (Pl. 1), which may well not have been significantly if at all truncated, was clearly poorly and roughly built to do no more than stop slumping or erosion of the bank. At most 0.40 m high, it was often only 0.20 – 0.30 m wide and at most, where a second 'skin' of a few roughly lain part bricks was present on the east, 0.40 m wide. Built of at most four courses of roughly header lain part bricks augmented by horizontally and even vertically inserted part peg tiles with only patches of hard white mortar at least surviving, at two points there were gaps in it (one where it was just replaced with a large peg tile fragment) perhaps intended to allow drainage through it from bank [3].
- In advance of [4], and extending up to its top, the eastern c. 2.30 m of cut [8] was occupied by a gravel dump, [5]. It comprised a fairly loose deposit of 0.01 – 0.05 m rounded pebbles in a brown (7.5 YR 5/4) very gritty, very clayey silt matrix and probably had a sloping/rounded west face, though this was not fully excavated and the boundary with the overlaying rubble [6] was very unclear. [5] was fairly sterile except for a quantity of glass and some animal bone, but produced a clay pipe stem with a stamped heel (Appendix 3 No. 15.1), probably suggesting a date in the seventeenth century, but notably did not include any cbm, strongly suggesting that it was dumped before Phase 5a. Whether it was introduced when bank [3] and wall [4] were established or a little later (as ?silting discolouration of the

surface of [7] where cut by [8] below it might suggest) its function may well have been to further reinforce these (or decrease the width of the moat).

- Wall [4] was on the same alignment as the previously excavated wall ENE06 Pit 43 [31] (Dearne *et al* 2022, 153) and the latter was again flanked on the east by a brickearth deposit (ENE06 [25]; Dearne 2006b, 4) presumably equatable to [3] above. However, ENE06 [31] was a far more carefully built and probably higher, partly demolished wall of English bonded mostly whole bricks using quantities of hard white mortar in regular joints which had been struck on the east face at least (Pl. 2). Partial re-excavation and extension of the 2006 pit showed that ENE06 [31] was in fact 1.00 m wide (Pl. 3) and must suggest that the east side of the moat only 1.20 m or less north of Trench 1 featured either a substantial boundary wall or some other feature requiring a solid base. However, further excavation would be required to clarify why the (presumed) moat edge here was treated differently to the exposure in Trench 1.

Site Phases 5a/b (c. 1660 Demolition and Relandscaping)

- Phase 5a was represented by the filling of the moat, except on the east where [5] had already partly filled the initial cut, with demolition material, [6] (which produced a little, widely dated, pottery, the latest sherd being of Tin Glazed Earthenware (TGW (Delft); mainly post c. 1613)). Two horizons were recognisable in [6]. The lower, mainly seen in the sondage cut towards the west end of the trench, but with a very irregular upper boundary so that it extended to the top of the deposit in some areas (at one point represented by a large section of still mortar bonded brickwork), was of dense and compacted demolition material. This comprised multi-angularly laying half bricks, smaller brick fragments, occasional tile and building stone fragments and dense, compacted areas and blocks of hard white mortar, one retaining a smoothed white washed surface.
- Overlaying this, and largely hand excavated, was a somewhat looser, perhaps broadly 0.10 – 0.15 m thick upper horizon of still fairly dense but often smaller brick, peg tile and hard white mortar rubble in a dark brown (7.5 YR 3/2) gritty, very clayey silt matrix.
- Likely suggesting the dumping of larger demolition material and slightly later of more general site clearance debris, the two horizons of [6] as well as the top of [5], wall [4] and part of bank [3] had subsequently in Phase 5b been overlain and levelled by a c. 0.04 – 0.10 m thick gravel re-landscaping deposit, [2]. It was a fairly loose deposit of 0.005 – 0.07 m, mainly rounded stones in a dark brown (7.5 YR 4/2 to 3/2) matrix of very gritty, very clayey silt.

Later Deposits

- [2] was directly overlain by an 0.18 – 0.20 m thick topsoil, [1] (a loose very dark brown (10 YR 2/2) very clayey silt loam). This gave a current ground surface at c. +31.200 m OD.

<u>The Raised Platform and the Structures on it</u> (Trenches 2 - 4)

Site Phase 1b (early/mid fifteenth century) (Figs 5 and 6)

- Vegetation clearance and excavation on the artificial raised platform demonstrated that, though relatively flat on the south, it had a slight slope down to the west and a more distinct one down to the north. Thus, a ?Phase 1b/2 or 2 - 4 external surface east of the structures excavated, [24], was at c. +31.930 m OD, while another (?external ?Phase 1b) surface, [29], immediately west of [30], which was almost certainly the west external wall of the same building, was at c. +31.833 m OD. Meanwhile, external surface [24] lay 0.214 m below the level of another ?Phase 1b surface ([55]) flanking the east side of structures [17] and [18] around 6.00 m further south, implying a 1 in 28 slope down to the north.
- The earliest deposits contacted appeared to comprise the dumps representing the creation of this artificial raised if partly sloping platform on which the structures encountered in 2023 and 2024 were built. However, some of these deposits had almost certainly been modified (or had in fact been deposited) during Phase 1b/2 and or 2 – 4 construction works.
- On the slightly higher eastern part of the platform in Trench 2, [39], a fairly compacted brown/dark brown (7.5 YR 4/4) very clayey silt (brickearth) with moderately frequent rounded pebbles (0.03 – 0.06 m) and some small cbm fragments, was sample excavated to a depth of 0.42 m along the east face of Phase 1b wall [21]/[46]. It was probably essentially the same deposit as FXV23 [8]/[45]/[33] which was seen in an equivalent stratigraphic position nearby in FXV23 Trench 7 and thought to be part of the platform creating dump, but differences between them in detail likely suggests that the platform dump was not entirely homogeneous. White mortar flecks and a chip of Border Ware (BORDG; 1550 – 1700) suggested that [39] had been disturbed, probably including during the rebuilding of [21]/[46] in Phase 1b/2 (see below).

- A fairly similar deposit, [32], but with less pebbles, lay to the west of structures [17] and [18] and might also have represented the initial platform dumps. However, it was only shallowly investigated (to a depth of 0.10 m) in a small area and could well have been deposited in Phase 2 as a floor makeup.
- The least likely of the easterly probably platform forming deposits to have been modified or dumped later was [48], a brown (7.5 YR 5/4) mottled reddish yellow (7.5 YR 6/6) very compacted very clayey silt (brickearth) with moderately frequent rounded pebbles (to 0.03 m) which was sample excavated to a depth of 0.22 m in Trench 3 beyond (east of) the footprint of any of the structures.
- On the west of the site the surface at least of the platform was though formed by a widespread and deep layer of clean brickearth, [37]. This strong brown (7.5 YR 5/6 to 5/8) very clayey silt with occasional rounded pebbles (0.01 – 0.04 m) and charcoal flecks/fragments was increasingly compacted with depth and over 0.41 m thick where sample excavated. Probably redeposited natural brickearth, it was present throughout Trench 4 east of wall [30], including to almost the eastern end of an easterly extension of that trench, clearly continued for some distance at least west of wall [30] and was probably present at the western extremity of the western arm of Trench 2. It therefore occupied an area measuring at least 4.00 m east west by 10.50 m north south.
- The implication is that the platform was formed of more than one discrete deposit, [37] perhaps generated by moat excavation and [48] at least more likely deriving from more general stripping of deposits in the area. [37] included securely stratified sherds probably of Coarse London Type Ware (LCOAR; 1080 – 1200) and Coarse Border Ware (CBW; 1270 – 1500) while [39] produced a possible sherd of London Type Ware (LOND; 1080 – 1350). But the clearest dating evidence came from [48] where even a fairly small excavated sample produced Early Medieval Flint Tempered Ware (EMFL; 970 – 1100), again possible London Type Ware, Coarse Border Ware and particularly a group of South Hertfordshire Greyware (SHER; c. 1170 – 1350) (perhaps including Limpsfield-type Ware (LIMP; c. 1150 – 1300)). Together with further South Hertfordshire Greyware from deposits equivalent to [48] in 2023 (Dearne 2023, 7; contexts [8]/[45]/[33]) and both South Hertfordshire Greyware and other fabrics noted above in residual positions, including in [43] (a Phase 2 deposit which may well have represented redeposited [32]), in the present work the finds probably give a *terminus post quem* of 1270 – 1350 for the construction of the raised platform. Whilst this raises the possibility that it belonged in inception to Phase 1a (see further below), this material could of course all have been residual at the time of the formation of the platform.
- Initial construction activity on the platform, presumed to be of Phase 1b and using soft sandy yellow (and sometimes almost orange) mortars, was represented by what currently seems likely to be a single large building with a footprint measuring up to 8.60 m externally east west and probably over 12.00 m north south, at least three rooms of which can be identified, one of them likely cellared.
- Its western presumed external wall, [30] (Pl. 4), had been heavily demolished in Phase 5a and survived in the north of Trench 4 as no more than a basal layer of soft sandy yellow mortar and further south to only a maximum of four courses (c. 0.30 m) of similarly mortared English bond brickwork. The wall, 0.49 m wide including a possible 0.06 m wide external offset, had been built over [37] with no obvious foundations (though a rubble in trench foundation below it cannot be discounted as the surviving wall was too unstable to allow more than limited excavation beside it) and ran south east to north west across Trench 4 for 6.10 m.
- A slightly better preserved partition wall, [36] (Pl. 5), ran north east from [30] and indicated the existence of at least two rooms on the west side of the building (Room 1 to its north and Room 2 to its south). The wall, 0.33 – 0.35 m wide (possibly broadening a little as it ran north east) and 1.90 m of which was within Trench 4, had been built on a 0.41 m deep rubble in trench foundation of roughly coursed brick fragments/part bricks and peg tile fragments in soft yellow sandy mortar no wider than the wall itself, which at most only survived to one header lain course of marginally creased bricks and part bricks.
- No features survived in Rooms 1 or 2 and brickearth dump [37] might have represented their floors or sub-floors, but Phase 5a/b deposits [15] and [16] directly overlaying [37] produced 65 fragments of worn glazed floor tiles with distinctively chamfered edges only six more of which came from other site deposits (see Appendix 3), so a glazed tile floor probably existed in some phase in this part of the building.
- Only a small area of Room 1 was seen, but Room 2 was large if rather asymmetrical. Its exact plan is uncertain as its eastern limit on the north depends on how far north a probable cellar and presumed coincident ground floor room (Room 3) ran. Room 2 then could have been internally 5.35 m east west

at its north end and L-shaped if Room 3 ended roughly coincident with a large pillar excavated in 2023 as suggested below. If not then Room 2 may have been c. 3.80 m wide here and, given that further south, if wall [30] did not change course, internally it was probably about 3.60 m east west, it may then have been somewhat trapezoidal rather than L-shaped in plan. In any event, clearly it was at least c. 7.00 m north south and quite probably at least 9.50 m.

- It was separated from Room 3, or at least from a probable cellar one would presume lay below a separate room, by one or more of three built features that it is difficult to fully interpret and one of which may have belonged to the Phase 1b/2 Modifications (see below). Nevertheless, though there was no opportunity in the present work to excavate more deeply than in 2023 and establish whether the space below Room 3 was indeed a full cellar not just a sunken floored room (or a room with some form of probably 0.40 – 0.50 m deep space below it), these features were substantially enough built to add to the evidence for a full cellar being present.
- That this probable cellar existed from the inception of the building is shown by the soft sandy yellow mortar in use in the lower levels of the external east wall of the building first seen in 2023 Trench 7 (FXV23 [43]) and which clearly revetted the east side of this sunken space. Two further exposures of this wall ([21]/[46]) were obtained in the present work and a sondage cut against the east face of one in Trench 2 provided further confirmation that its header 'bonded' lower courses had been built with a very decayed soft sandy, in this case nearly orange, mortar. As it ran through FXV23 Trench 7 and into FXW24 Trench 2 it was 0.67 m wide, in Trench 3 the exposure was 0.62 m wide, though in the latter case it was difficult to assess as it was in the base of a deep robber trench.
- Part of this wall indeed had been found in 2023 to have been removed, at least to a far lower level than the rest of it (Dearne 2023, 11f), and the current work confirmed that this was a consequence of a Phase 5a robber trench ([26]) having been cut along the wall line. That cut indicated that wall FXV23 [43] = FXW24 [21]/[46] in fact described a dog leg immediately north of FXV23 Trench 7/within FXW24 Trench 3, turning west for 1.90 m before again turning north, where its deeply demolished surviving upper surface was encountered at the limit of permitted excavation in Trench 3 (though it was demolished throughout to a soft sandy yellow mortar surface largely obscuring the wall's brickwork).
- This means that the southern surviving c. 3.90 m of the east façade of the Phase 1b building projected c. 2.00 m further east than more northerly parts of it. It might then be speculated that in plan it could have had a square ?corner ?tower at one (or both) end(s), the increased width of wall [21]/[46] in Trench 2/FXV23 Trench 7 compared to that in Trench 3 maybe suggesting a greater need for structural support.
- Likely roughly in line with the dog legging section of the east wall and 1.20 m west of it part of what may have been a substantial brick built ?octagonal column or pier was previously excavated in FXV23 Trench 7 and evidently stood in or projected into some part of the probable cellar (or conceivably a separate sunken space). The column (FXV23 [52]) was unfortunately demolished to almost the base of permitted excavation in a trench that for safety reasons had to be narrowed at this depth, so that its full form and exact function can only be surmised and it used a harder and less yellow mortar than walls more clearly of the initial Phase 1b build (Dearne 2023, 8). Whilst not a mortar matching that of the Phase 1b/2 Modifications then, it is not impossible that this feature was not part of the initial build of the Phase 1b building.
- The present work showed that immediately to its south the probable cellar's western edge was represented by one or both of two substantial walls, [54] and [67]. However, it seemed most likely that [67] belonged to the later Phase 1b/2 Modifications and is discussed under that phase. Wall [54] had unfortunately been demolished, presumably in Phase 5a, though it is not impossible that this happened during the Phase 1b/2 Modifications, to roughly the same level or slightly lower than the column (that is to the base of permitted excavation) and it lay almost at the section of an easterly extension of Trench 4.[2] Thus, only the upper, partly mortar obscured surface of it was available for study, demolished to 0.37 m below the surface of [37], which ran right up to its line, in the adjoining Room 2, and 0.50 m wide, but it was not parallel to the east wall (FXV23 [43] = FXW24 [21]/[46]) of that presumed cellar/Room 3 so that southern parts of the probable cellar must have been a little wider than the northern ones.
- The mortar used in constructing [54] may not have been typical at least of the soft sandy yellow mortar of other Phase 1b walls and may have been nearer to that used in column FXV23 [52], but their spatial

[2] Thus some doubt could attach to its precise dimensions at least as it is not impossible that it had been demolished to a lower level on the east where further excavation was impossible and had been wider.

relationship was unclear. Excavation depth limits mean that wall [54] could have been present but undetected in FXV23 Trench 7 and so might have run up to the edge of the column's east side; or could have turned north west for a short distance to meet it in the area between the eastern extension to 2024 Trench 4 and the fully excavated part of FXV23 Trench 7. Yet, the column seems to have lain as much in Room 2 as the probable cellared area so its primary function might well have been to support the superstructure of higher floors and may not have directly related to the structure of the probable cellar. Nevertheless, it, even if not wall [54], would appear to have left only a fairly short distance (perhaps as little as 0.80 m) between them and the, here dog legging, east wall of the building (FXV23 [43] = FXW24 [21]/[46]) and it would be very attractive to suggest that wall [54] turned east just in front of the column to meet this wall, forming the north end of the probable cellar. If so though again it had been demolished to below the limit of excavation in FXV23 Trench 7 and it would imply that the column stood outside of the cellar, but in an at least equally sunken space; so no reconstruction of the limits of the probable cellar here seems to be entirely satisfactory.

- In any event, Room 3, or at least the probable cellar below it, seems likely to have been asymmetrical, narrowing from perhaps around 3.50 m east west to ? 2.80 m on the north and at least 4.30 m north south, though its full north south extent cannot be known because later structures on the south truncated at least one of its walls. Indeed, how far south and north the whole Phase 1b building extended must remain uncertain because one or both walls FXV23 [43] = FXW24 [21]/[46] and [67] (argued below to most likely be a Phase 1b/2 Modifications ?replacement for [54]) had later been truncated on the south and because no external walls have been traced on the north. The only slim evidence bearing on this problem on the south may be that within [19], the northern turret built in Phase 2 (for which see below), part of a 'floor'/foundation plinth was absent and here there was a deposit of degraded soft sandy yellow mortar, [69], which may hint that wall [21]/[46] had extended this far at least. To the north that only a small area of Room 1 was seen does imply that the building was more extensive than excavation has revealed, but the existence of a major gas ring main not far north of the limits of the current work means that excavational confirmation of this is unlikely to be possible (see further below).
- The nature of the environs of the Phase 1b building were also difficult to ascertain as east of it Phase 5b relandscaping dumps of pebbles often made the isolation of probable rammed pebble surfaces immediately below them problematic or impossible. Deposit compaction suggested, however, that one such surface of rammed pebbles and small pieces of cbm, [24] (probably broadly = FXV23 [42]), was present in part of Trench 3. It may have lain above a deposit ([34]) probably to be allocated to Phases 1b/2 or 2 – 4 (see below), so that here any surviving surface was probably later than Phase 1b, but it quite possibly just represented the relaying of FXV23 [42] to the south which might well have been of this earlier phase at least in inception.
- Further south a rammed pebble surface, [55], lay to the north of turret [17] and east of wall [18] and was more easily isolated as a demolition deposit, [50] (= FXV23 [14]), intervened between it and the relandscaping dump [12]/[15]. It was a continuation of FXV23 [16] which in 2023 had appeared contemporary with the turret. However, in the present work it appeared to be cut by a construction trench for that turret and wall [18] so that the surface may in fact have been pre-existing and of Phase 1b, again at least in inception. Indeed, the presumption should probably be made that a rammed pebble surface existed over much or all of the raised platform east of any structures from the beginning, even if east of turret [19] and wall [21] in the present work it could not be isolated from the overlying relandscaping dump [12]/[15] and elsewhere it was replaced as necessary when truncated by building work.
- West of the building another pebbled surface, [29] (Pl. 4), formed of a 0.12 m thick layer of compacted 0.02 – 0.08 m rounded pebbles was most likely an external one and here it had been cut by a trench that appears to have been later than Phase 2 (see below). It rested on a bedding, [49], of another 0.12 m of moderately compacted dark yellowish brown (10 YR 4/4) clayey silt with occasional cbm flecks which in turn at least in part overlay the clean brickearth platform dump [37] and here it seems likely that [29] was, again at least in inception, a Phase 1b surface (the only sherd from it was not certainly identified, but may have been, presumably residual, London Type Ware (LOND; 1080 - 1350)).

Site Phase 1b/2 (? mid/late fifteenth century) and Less Phased Modifications

- As in 2023 it was apparent that the Phase 1b structure had been modified and augmented at one or more later points with probable renovations, larger changes and the building of new structures using harder whiter mortars. How far some of these changes represented a single episode of redevelopment or piecemeal modifications it was impossible to be sure, but they seem to have encompassed at least two

significant phases of construction work as well as coincident or separate phase(s) of renovation. Thus, whilst one or two clearly even later changes (perhaps belonging to after Phase 2) were isolatable (see below p 17), it seems most likely that at least two phases of actual alteration to the Phase 1b building were present, one modifying the building (later in Phase 1b or (?early) in Phase 2) and then one represented by some further modifications as well as an extensive new scheme of building work (in Phase 2).

- Certainly many of the constructions excavated in both 2023 and the present work were either of one build or shared the use of rectilinear foundation plinths with the actual structures often placed slightly asymmetrically on, and or partly beyond, them, so that this all appears to have represented one scheme, argued below to most likely belong to Phase 2. However, as noted, small differences in the mortars used in this scheme which were whiter and harder and in earlier modifications to the Phase 1b structure where they were more buff/off white coloured and not as hard, argue for, rather perhaps than certainly demonstrate in all cases, that at least two separate phases of works occurred, one (or more) at some point in Phase 1b or earlier in Phase 2 and the other, much more extensive and belonging more clearly to Phase 2.
- That wall FXV23 [43] = FXW24 [21]/[46] was truncated by the new (Phase 2) scheme *after* it had been modified, being cut angularly by a new structure, appeared to be the clearest evidence for this. But unfortunately not all the changes suspected to pre-date the main Phase 2 construction scheme can be similarly shown to be earlier than it (or contemporary with each other) and in addition there was evidence for what may have been more periodic maintenance of western parts of the structure and which may or may not have been linked to one of these construction phases. It is therefore easiest to discuss the three areas where Phase 1b/2 modifications (or in one case perhaps more likely Phase 2 – 4 modifications) are suspected separately here, but to consider the possible periodic maintenance below under Phases 2 - 4 when at least some of it seems to have occurred.

The Rebuilding of the East Wall of the Structure

- The most clearly isolatable changes made to the existing Phase 1b structure appear to have involved the partial demolition and rebuilding of sections of its east wall (FXV23 [43] = FXW24 [21]/[46]) as first observed in 2023 (Dearne 2023, 11f). In the present work the evidence in Trench 2 (Pls 6 and 7) was for the wall (here [21]) having been demolished and rebuilt for a distance of 1.90 m north of the point where it was then truncated by new builds, so that taking the 2023 and 2024 evidence together an at least 3.15 m length of it had been demolished and then reconstructed using English bond and harder whiter mortar than the soft yellow/orange mortar and header 'bond' of the original construction, but not mortar as hard and white as that used in Phase 2 (i.e. a moderately hard buff/off white mortar).
- In 2023 there was evidence that this rebuilding may also have involved the insertion of something like beams to support the roof of the probable cellar under the presumed Room 3. If so this modification did not extend more than a few centimetres into the present Trench 2 where the four, and in one place five, upper surviving courses of the wall which had been rebuilt (including with a broken brick axe cut and rubbed shaped brick) were all in tact except at the north section where there was indeed evidence for some demolition or modification of only the west face of the wall as seen in 2023. The wall here in FXW24 Trench 2 had been rebuilt slightly wider on the east than the Phase 1b wall, but the upper surviving, largely mortar obscured, course had been stepped back again and both faces had been left very rough.
- That this rebuild occurred before the main structures allocated to Phase 2 were constructed was shown by the turret [19] belonging to the latter scheme cutting diagonally across the rebuilt wall (Pl. 7).

The Possible Remodelling of the South End of the Cellar/Room 3

- Though it was not possible to fully understand the sequence at the west side of the probable Phase 1b cellar and Room 3 (see above), the most likely scenario appears to be that, at least towards its south end, a new west wall, [67], had been built which probably decreased the size of the cellar but made it a more rectangularised space. That this belonged to some point before the wider construction work of Phase 2 and wasn't part of that scheme, and so not directly connected to the probable decommissioning of the cellar but a replacement east wall for Room 2, rests only on the, relatively small, difference in the mortar used compared to e.g. adjacent (Phase 2) wall [51] (Pl. 9); so its allocation to the Phase 1b/2 Modifications must be tentative. Equally whether what seems to have been the original west wall of the probable cellar, [54], was retained, in whole or part, or not it is impossible to say. But in Trench 2, only 0.90 m to the south of the one exposure of [54] obtained, [67] ran on a different alignment to it and one

more nearly parallel to the external wall of the building, FXV23 [43] = FXW24 [21]/[46], so it is difficult to see how they might have been coeval.

- Wall [67] survived to a much higher level (though clearly it had been demolished to a lower level at the north end of the exposure) than the also significantly narrower wall [54], was 0.76 m wide and its top five surviving courses (0.37 m) were excavated, showing an English bonded wall using 0.050 – 0.055 m thick bricks and a moderately hard buff/off white coloured mortar. At least 1.54 m long, it also had a butt joint on the south with the later (Phase 2) wall, [51] (Pl. 9), but whether that represented its truncation when [51] was built or, which seemed a little more likely, the addition of [51] to its original end it was not possible to say with any certainty. The clean brickearth, [37], in Room 2 found to run right up to [54] may also have run up to the west edge of [67], but here excavation in a confined, root encumbered space allowed of less certainty on this point.

Other Possible Changes to the East Wall of the Structure
(?later Phase 1b or sometime in Phases 2 – 4)

- In 2023 it was also hypothesised that the Phase 5a removal of more northerly parts of wall FXV23 [43] = FXW24 [21]/[46] may have occurred because something such as a stone stair into the probable cellar had been inserted through it, making the recovery of the reusable stonework desirable (Dearne 2023, 11f). The fact that the present work demonstrated that the wall in fact described a dog leg where the Phase 5a robber trench [26] had removed it perhaps makes the suggestion of an inserted stair less likely. Moreover the 'ridge of compacted mottled pinkish grey and reddish yellow (7.5 YR 6/2 and 6/8) silty clay with frequent rounded pebbles to 0.05 m and occasional cbm chips which ran parallel with and just in advance of the north side of the exposure of the wall then across the gap [robber trench FXV23 [49] = FXW24 [26]] in it' in 2023 (Dearne 2023, 12) was seen in 2024 Trench 3 (where it was contexted [27]) to be a fill of the phase 5a robber trench, so unrelated to any earlier modification. Nevertheless, it remains the case that the cutting of the robber trench at this specific point (though how far north it continued is unknown) might well imply that something more salvageable than just brickwork had existed here at least later in Phase 1b and or into Phases 2 – 4.
- That whatever robber trench [26] was presumably cut to salvage didn't belong to the original Phase 1b build rests on limited evidence. However, that the butt end of wall FXV23 [43] = FXW24 [21]/[46] appeared in 2023 to have been re-rendered with harder whiter mortar (see Dearne 2023, 11f) did suggest this and there was some further evidence for construction work here belonging to either later Phase 1b or Phases 2 – 4 in the present work.
- Thus, in Trench 3 the Phase 5a robber trench ([26]) was cut through two deposits, [34] and [28], that probably related to building work. The lower, [34], was a compacted mixed deposit of mainly small brick fragments, rounded pebbles (to 0.03 m) and very pale brown (10 YR 7/4), leached, very clayey silt and included patches of square-wood charcoal and further away from the wall line, as well as nearer it in its lower parts, some hard white or buff/off white mortar and larger (to half brick sized) cbm. Its limits could not be fully assessed, but it was present for at least 1.40 m east of the line of wall [21]/[46] (and so the robber trench) and likely filled a deep cut in the raised platform dumps, probably being over 0.50 m thick. The inclusion in it of mortar at least whiter than that of the original Phase 1b build probably suggests that it was of a later phase (?later Phase 1b or sometime in Phases 2 – 4), though the only finds from it were residual sherds of South Hertfordshire Greyware (SHER; c. 1170 – 1350) and very small sherds of an unidentified Medieval glazed greyware.
- Whilst [34] had been capped off at least near to the wall line with up to 0.10 m of [28], a 'clean' light yellowish brown (10 YR 6/4) to reddish yellow (10 YR 6/6) very clayey silt (brickearth), it had also probably been cut to insert a brick built drain, [22] (Pl. 8), which had also been truncated by Phase 5a robber trench [26] and lay at or just below the top of ?relain surface [24], flanked by a patch of rubble, [23] (not illustrated), that may have related to its construction or have in fact been part of [34]. The drain was of unmortared construction using whole bricks lain at right angles to its line for its floor and roof and lain along its line for its sides and giving a brickearth choked internal width of 0.08 m and height of 0.12 m. It seemed to be aligned on the western turn of the dog leg of wall [21]/[46] and almost certainly discharged into moat [8] around 15 m away to the north east. It was perhaps a roof water drain and certainly it was at too high a level to have drained the probable cellar, but it is the only feature that seems to have partly survived Phase 5a truncation here.
- It then remains likely that some modification to the eastern façade of the original Phase 1b building had occurred where it projected further east. However, what form the modification took remains unclear

and whether it belonged to some later part of Phase 1b or to some point in Phases 2 – 4 there is just insufficient evidence to say.

Site Phase 2 (c. 1486 to before 1524), or, where there is no evidence to refine the dating, Site Phases 2 – 4 (c. 1486 – c. 1660) (Figs 7 and 8)

a) Modifications to Room 3

- It is likely that before the main structures of Phase 2 – 4 (specifically argued below (p 21) to probably belong to Phase 2) were constructed Room 3 had been decreased in size (to perhaps 1.46 m north south, ?maybe suggesting that it was now e.g. a stairwell) and at least the northern part of the probable cellar below it seems to have been at least partially infilled. This is suggested in part by a possible dump deposit, [60], infilling at least an area perhaps in the middle of the east side of this probable cellar. The deposit, of compacted brown (7.5 YR 5/4), gritty, very clayey silt with frequent rounded pebbles to 0.02 m and white mortar flecks was near the north end of Trench 2 and abutted the west (internal) side of wall [21]/[46]. It was similar to, but more compacted than FXV23 [44], a suspected infill deposit contacted below Phase 5a rubble deposits in areas of the probable cellar to the north in FXV23 Trench 7, but was encountered at a much higher level; here therefore it may have also been intended to level/raise the area prior to new construction work.
- In any event it had been cut by [62], the construction trench for a new wall ([45]) abutting and running west from [21]/[46] and likely representing the new south wall of Room 3 (Fig. 8 and Pl. 10). The trench was straight sided, at least 0.15 m deep and occupied an up to 0.17 m wide strip along the south face of the wall, but clearly did not exist to its north, from which side the wall had evidently been constructed without the need for a cut, its fair north face contrasting with the rough south face within the cut, the base of which was occupied by mounded mortared brick and peg tile fragments. Indeed, the wall, 0.40 m wide, surviving to 6 courses (0.49 m) high and English bonded using hard white mortar, appeared likely to be resting on material infilling the probable cellar.[3] Moreover, the lower part of the north face of the wall incorporated a 0.58 m long, 0.22 m high void which might well have secured the superstructure of e.g. a staircase or the joisting of a new Room 3 floor (Pl. 11).
- The construction trench itself was backfilled with [61], a loose, very sandy, yellowish brown (7.5 YR 5/6) deposit mottled with mortar smears and with moderately frequent brick fragments to 0.05 m and frequent chips and fragments (to 0.04 m) of white mortar. It had been capped off with a 0.04 m thick layer of [53], a fairly loose deposit of rounded pebbles (0.005 – 0.035 m) and pea shingle in a dark yellowish brown (10 YR 3/4) matrix of gritty, clayey silt that also covered the rest of [60].
- This in turn had been cut by [57], a construction trench for the north side of one of the main structures added to the building in Phase 2, turret [19] (for which see below). A rather neater construction cut, straight sided, up to 0.25 m wide, 0.20 m deep and basally along much of its length containing a raft of hard white mortar, this was backfilled with [56], a light brown (7.5 YR 6/4) to brown (7.5 YR 5/2) very clayey silt with occasional small cbm fragments, rounded and angular pebbles and mortar fragments and rare charcoal smears. Finally this too, and the whole area, had been capped off with a somewhat mounded deposit of [52], a compacted strong brown (7.5 YR 5/6) clayey silt, up to 0.075 m thick.
- Though the exposure of the foregoing sequence was not large (1.00 x 0.96 m), the whole sequence having probably been truncated on the west by a later feature ([70], see p 17), it clearly demonstrated that wall [45] was built before the main structures of Phase 2 and probably implies that some period of time elapsed between their constructions. Equally though there was no reason not to assume that what were represented were just stages in one construction project. Why the area seems to have been left with no more than an uneven brickearth capping ([52]) after construction despite being internal to the building is unclear, but one might suspect that some construction in perishable materials stood here. (The space would be sufficiently wide for a small staircase, but not long enough unless the modifications associated with cut [70] had significantly shortened it; another possibility might be that a staircase in the new 'Room 3' turned to the south at or below first floor level to access turret [19], leaving this area below it of little use.)

b) The Main Structures

- Though the Phase 1b building likely ran at least a little further south than its surviving eastern walls confirm, possible evidence that the artificial platform on which it stood could have been extended to the south in Phases 2 – 4 (see Dearne 2023, 8f) and the evidence for the modifications to Room 3 would

[3] Though it was not possible to confirm this excavationally as the wall was so close to the trench edge and its base near the limit of permitted excavation.

be consistent with the building being extended as well as remodelled at this time. Certainly a complex of walls and features running around 13.50 m south from where one if not two of the walls of the Phase 1b building (the Phase 1b/2 Modifications rebuild of the east external wall and maybe the ?Phase 1b/2 Modifications wall [67] on the west side of the probably cellared Room 3) were truncated had been solidly constructed and indicate the building of a substantial multi storey structure requiring deeply founded and fairly broad walls and with an ornamental façade (Pl. 12).

- There was no opportunity to excavate to the base of any wall foundation, not least as the top of some lay at the limit of permitted excavation, but it was clear, as noted above, that those features forming the eastern façade had been built on rectilinear foundation plinths with the actual structures often placed slightly asymmetrically on, and or partly projecting beyond, them (it therefore seems possible that the plinths may have been lain before the precise plan and position of some features had been determined).[4] It was also clear that, the slight slope down to the north of the raised platform on which they were built not withstanding, structures north of [18] had been considerably more deeply founded than the ones to the south. Thus, the top of the foundation plinth of turret [17] on the south of the site was at +31.993 m OD while that of turret [19] only about 2.50 m to its north was over 0.40 m lower at +31.584 m OD, perhaps suggesting that turret [19] and the structures running north from it were intended to bear considerably more load than constructions such as the southern turret [17], but also reflecting the fact that they will have overlain the part filled Phase 1b probable cellar below Room 3.
- Several elements of this apparently unified scheme of construction work were excavated in 2023 (see Dearne 2023, 9ff; and Fig. 4 and Pl. 12 herein) and comprised a 6.00 m long freestanding wall incorporating octagonal column bases which ran north to form the back of a multi-angular turret (FXV23 [17]/[18]) with a partly surviving internal brick floor (FXV23 [19]). FXW24 Trench 2 slightly overlapped that excavation site to ensure continuity of recording and traced both the remaining part of that turret (FXW24 [17]), a 'wall' running north from it, [18], a second turret, [19], at its north end (Pl. 13) and a complex of walls or other constructions ([51], [65], [66] and [68]) leading west from the second turret as well as other features.
- The southern turret (FXV23 [17]/[18] = FXW24 [17]) was confirmed as 2.18 m east west by 3.15 m north south with a broader (0.57 m wide) back (west) wall and narrower (0.50 m wide) front/side walls, essentially pentagonal in plan[5] with unequal length sides. In the present exposure its superstructure survived to four courses of English bond brickwork (with occasional irregularities and use of brick fragments in the core, probably to achieve the required distances between the angular turns) using hard white mortar and with the turns executed with double brick axe cut and rubbed king closer bricks. The basal three courses (though only two of them were excavated here) represented a 0.06 m wide offset rectangular foundation only on the west side/north west corner (but with a single brick of the lower course also projecting from the north east face). This foundation and superstructure sat on a well laid, also hard white mortar bonded rectilinear plinth, in line with the north side of the turret, projecting 0.23 m in front of the east side,[6] but continuing for up to 1.00 m east of its north east side. Whether the plinth projected beyond the superstructure on the west could not be established as the instability of another structural feature here made deeper excavation undesirable.
- The plinth fully occupied a construction trench, [59], cut through pebbled surface [55] and which had been backfilled with [58], a moderately compacted brown/dark brown (7.5 YR 4/4) very clayey silt (brickearth) with frequent 0.02 – 0.05 m rounded pebbles and occasional mortar fragments to 0.04 m that only produced a residual sherd of South Hertfordshire Greyware (SHER; c. 1170 – 1350).
- A continuation of the same construction trench held a rectilinear plinth on which 'wall' [18] had been built (Pl. 14). This plinth was 0.87 m wide, 2.33 m long and at least two courses high, its top laying one course higher than the top of the plinth for [17] (? to compensate for the slope to the platform which began here) and built of rather more irregularly lain bricks. The 'wall' itself, 0.60 m wide and 2.33 m long had been built on the west side of the plinth rather than symmetrically on it and slightly out of

[4] It is conceivable that the two multi-angular turrets forming part of the scheme had initially been conceived of as more rectilinear constructions, but more probably the foundation plinths may simply have been easier to construct in this manner.

[5] Though technically a pentagon has five sides and angles whereas the turret had five sides and six angles, two of them right angles, the term seems a convenient one to use. Note that the small exposure of the north eastern side of the turret in FXV23 Trench 6 made assessing its precise line problematic and the present excavation allowed an inaccuracy with respect to it on Dearne (2023) Figs 1, 5 and 8 to be corrected.

[6] Appearing to be only a broadened foundation in equivalent 2023 exposures where it was confirmed as at least two courses high (Dearne 2023, 9f).

alignment with it. Again English bonded using hard white mortar, it survived to two and at the south end possibly part of a third course high, only the top course at its south end built integrally with [17].

- The highest surviving course at the south end, however, may have been the base for an engaged brick column as, though demolition damaged, it used brick fragments and a possible cut brick to pack complete bricks. Indeed, this course extended 0.04 m further west and east than those on which it lay and these lower courses appeared to abut [17] not be engaged with it. Whilst the details of the construction could have been the result of [18] being built after [17] and working from north to south (as [18] also showed a butt joint with the northern turret, [19]) resulting in a difficulty in achieving a neat bond, it was similar to the construction of column bases on FXV23 [10] excavated to the south in 2023. Moreover, brick tumble that could have been almost *in situ* over the north end also included a king closer brick double cut at the same end (as used in column bases on FXV23 [10]) and, if not part of the adjacent turret [19], it might suggest a matching column base at the other end of the wall.
- If so it would be very attractive to regard [18] as a substantial upstanding threshold for a slightly raised column flanked entrance about 1.30 m wide between the two multi-angular turrets, additional support for which interpretation may be provided by the fact that there was no mortar on the upper surface of the bricks of [18] between the heavily mortar obscured north end of the 'wall' and the possible column base at its south end. However, if so, there was no significant wear to the top surface of [18], so it might have functioned as the base for a substantial timber door frame including a base plate.
- To the north of [18] and abutted by it was [19], the most complex construction in the area (Pl. 15). It was essentially a seven sided turret with a broadened 'wedge' of brickwork projecting from its back (west) side which became wall [51]. Excavation on the east and south of [19] was not sufficiently deep to have encountered any plinth here (and even on the west where one was identified only its top surface was seen at the limit of permitted excavation). However, it had clearly again been built on such a rectilinear plinth of hard white mortared brickwork that also formed a partial 'floor' to the turret[7], the plinth projecting 0.56 m from the north west corner of the turret and running to a (rougher) dog leg projecting 0.25 m from the north west face of the 'wedge'. In this instance the north face of the turret had perhaps, at its west end, been built over a rougher addition to the north side of the plinth that projected west of the turret by 0.20 m, but much of it had been built in construction trench [57] (discussed above) with the plinth edge just projecting into the trench (Pl. 10). On the north east there was presumably no plinth as it had been built to abut the angularly truncated east wall of the Phase 1b building ([21]/[46]; Pls 7 and 15).
- The superstructure of [19] was executed in English bond with some irregularities, the angles achieved with brick axe cut and rubbed king closer bricks and bonded with hard white mortar. Its walls other than the west were 0.50 m thick and survived to a maximum of seven courses (0.56 m) high. Internally though the lower levels of some faces were more irregular with projecting bricks and in places their bases only consisted of mortared rubble. The turret was narrower and deeper than [17], overall measuring externally 2.30 m east west by 2.12 m north south and internally 1.25 m east west by 1.10 m north south. Internally it had a squared not angled south west corner and only a partial brick 'floor'.
- Given this, the roughness of the finish of some of its internal faces and the absence of any access point, it is unlikely that the interior below the level to which it was preserved was intended to be seen or used, and Phase 5a demolition rubble directly overlay a fill, [43] (Pl. 16), which it seems likely was introduced immediately after construction of the turret to raise the level of any floor nearer to that of the brick floor within turret [17] and of 'wall' [18].[8] The fill, except for the inclusion of [40], a 0.06 m thick lens of reddish yellow (7.5 YR 6/8) mottled pinkish grey (7.5 YR 6/2) very clayey silt in the middle of it, was identical to, and may have been redeposited, [32] (the deposit which flanked wall [18] and may have represented the Phase 1b or earlier dumps creating the raised platform).
- Running west from the 'wedge' forming part of [19], which itself suggests a need for significant underpinning of a superstructure at this point, was another substantial wall, [51] (Pls 9 and 15), which had been built integrally with the 'wedge'. Once more of hard white mortared English bonded brickwork, it was 0.70 m wide, survived in places to at least eight courses (0.37 m) and ran west for 1.14 m beyond the end of the 'wedge', ending in line with, and forming a butt joint with Phase 1b/2

[7] Where the brickwork was almost without joints and in some areas had probably been abraded during construction so that individual bricks often could not be isolated.

[8] Though it did produce one sherd of Border Ware (BORD; c. 1550 – 1700) which could suggest later deposition or disturbance.

Modifications wall [67] (which had at least formerly it seems marked the western edge of the probable cellar below Room 3, been the eastern wall of Room 2 and could well have been retained at least in part when [51] was built).

- Demonstrably butting against rather than built integrally with [51] was another hard white mortar bonded feature, [59], which ran south from its south face. Little of it was within the area excavated, however, the level of its top surviving course was higher, but less than one brick's thickness higher, than that of [51]'s. It seemed most likely to be another wall, but the exposure was insufficient to rule out its being e.g. a column base and moreover its relationship, if any, to a block of brickwork, [66], that continued the line of wall [51] west for another c. 0.40 m, but was butted to not integral with it and only one (northern) face of which was seen, was uncertain.
- This block of hard white mortar bonded brickwork (Pl. 9) appeared to be far less substantial than [51], perhaps only comprising three rough courses below the level to which it and [51] had been truncated by demolition, but it did appear to link [51] to a small exposure of another similarly bonded ?wall, [68], its north face set further south than that of [51] and [66] and presumably running west. However, not only were the exposures of [59] and [68] especially very small, but they were partly obscured (particularly where [68] likely met [66]) by extremely large tree roots (partly omitted from figures for clarity).
- If [59] was a wall it is possible that, as it would probably be parallel to 'wall' [18], they could have defined a small room or more likely entrance vestibule measuring 1.89 m east west while [66] might have represented the infilling of a gap, be it during construction or after the removal of some feature, between walls [51] and [68] because they lay on slightly different alignments. However, the exposures obtained were too small to do more than speculate about their interpretation and the presence of a very large tree immediately to the south of the trench meant that there was no possibility of expanding it.
- What these features do though imply is that the area west of [18] at least was certainly an internal space. Although no evidence of flooring was present here south of the probable cellar, perhaps having comprised e.g. flagstones removed on demolition, there was further evidence to the west of turret [17] to confirm this. Thus, starting 0.25 m from the north west corner of the turret, and running away at right angles to the west was a dwarf wall, [35] (Pls 13 and 14), constructed of about seven layers of peg tile fragments (typically 0.15 x 0.07 m) and hard white, or at least buff/off white coloured, mortar. As it was relatively fragile no attempt was made to excavate below the surrounding surface of [32], which appeared to be ground level at the time of the deposition of Phase 5a demolition material, but [35] survived to probably its original full height above that of 0.14 m and was 0.23 m wide. It was traced to the west for 1.52 m, but was clearly longer than that and strongly suggests the presence of a timber screen wall here, perhaps with the gap between it and turret [17] having been occupied by a timber post. Indeed, though it might have been coincidental, a large section of fairly unworn black glazed floor tile was found shattered at the base of rubble [13]/[16]/[41] in this gap (Pl. 17) and could have been used as a post pad. There was also a concentration of horizontally laying large, partly *in situ* broken peg tile fragments to the south of [35] in a similar stratigraphic position (Pl. 18).
- This begs the question of where the southern exterior wall of the structures built in Phase 2 lay as no larger west running wall has been found either leading from turret [17] or from the wall (FXV23 [10]) running south from it to the edge of the raised platform. Indeed, this wall appears to have been freestanding (Dearne 2023, 11). An attractive possibility though is that FXV23 [10] represented the front of a partly enclosed roofed and colonnaded portico/veranda, which would also help to explain why structures such as turret [19] were more deeply founded than turret [17] and this wall. That the column bases along the wall were for full columns not engaged half columns as one might expect on a simple screen wall, and that the wall was more strongly founded than appeared necessary for one, would both again be consistent with such a suggestion, the wall itself perhaps rising to only a few courses, if indeed it were not just a dwarf wall/step, and the columns supporting a sloping roof (? of which the peg tiles to the south of [35] were part) springing from a more major north south wall (?? wall [59]) which itself returned west towards the southern end of the raised platform to form the exterior southern wall of the building.[9] Turret [17] would have lain at the north end of this putative portico/veranda and may

[9] Though one would expect some sort of wall running west at the southern end of such a putative portico this would be running along the unexcavated edge of the raised platform which is also encumbered by tree growth and may have been subject to erosion.

have functioned as part of it, its brick floor suggesting that it was an accessible space, presumably entered from the west.

- If these hypotheses are accepted, and presuming that the Phase 1b building was retained as part of the overall scheme, then the Phase 2 – 4 building may have been well over 24 m north south and presumably 8.60 + m east west.
- As with Phase 1b the nature of the surfaces that might be expected to have existed east of the Phase 2 façade were though not always easy to establish. Presumably, to the west of the building, surface [29] largely remained in use (but see below), while on the east side of the complex at the south end of the present work, around turret [17] and flanking 'wall' [18] to its east, a rammed pebble surface, [55] (Pl. 13), which was a continuation of that found in 2023 (FXV23 [16]), and evidently in inception at least of Phase 1b evidently also continued in use and could be isolated because demolition rubble overlay it. Further north though the absence of any such deposit made it impossible to tell if a Phase 5b relandscaping pebble dump, [12]/[15], lay over a pebbled surface or not to the east of turret [19]. The presumption must be that it did, but much of this area was not excavated significantly below Phase 5a rubble [13] as initial work demonstrated that there was little prospect of identifying any surface.

c) Evidence for ?Maintenance Works (Fig. 5)

- Despite the degree of demolition of the Phase 1b west wall, [30], some evidence survived for what may have been no more than a programme of renovation work, but could have involved something more substantial. Thus, the exterior of the wall appeared to have been repointed with hard white mortar and it seems likely that a shallow trench along this exterior face had been cut to facilitate this. The trench, [44], was c. 0.70 m wide and 0.22 m deep, cut parallel to the wall and vertically or with a slight slope through probably external surface [29], which it removed here (Pl. 4). It had only been cut deep enough to expose the lowest course of the wall and the brickearth dump, [37], on which it was founded; and at the point sampled its base showed a spade cut mark in the surface of that dump. It had two fills, a lower, 0.07 m thick moderately compacted dark brown (7.5 YR 3/2) clayey silt with frequent cbm and mortar chips and charcoal smears, [47], which only part filled its western half and a subsequent main fill, [38], of charcoal and mortar flecked, dark reddish brown (5 YR 2.5 2.5/2) very clayey silt with some grit, small cbm fragments, hard white mortar lumps and occasional oyster shell fragments and which also produced a sherd of Post Medieval Black Glazed Ware (PMBL; post c. 1580).
- Less certain traces of hard white mortar on the internal face of the wall probably suggest that it too had been repointed at some date, but at one point where the wall survived slightly higher than elsewhere there did appear to have been a more substantial repair at least to the core of the wall using hard white mortar. Unfortunately too little evidence survived to determine whether this might represent something more than repair work, but that should not be ruled out and might raise the possibility that the original Phase 1b building had been altered more than the surviving evidence demonstrates.

d) (?Later) Alterations to the Phase 2 Structures (Fig. 9)

- At some point after the construction of the Phase 2 additions to the building described above at least one alteration had been made to them when a doorway had been cut through wall [45]. It was represented, though only at most the eastern 0.50 m of the feature was within the excavated area, by the removal of several of the surviving upper courses of the wall, leaving a butt end and a threshold to part of the width of the wall, the butt end then being re-rendered with hard mortar as was the north face of the wall adjacent to it (Pl. 19).
- The cutting of this doorway was probably contemporary with the laying of a brick floor, [63], to its south. Much of an upper layer of bricks in the central area of the anyway small exposure of the floor was missing/dislocated (be it due to Phase 5a demolition damage or not), but it comprised at least two layers of hard white mortar stained part bricks, probably fairly roughly lain and without mortar bonding, butted against both the threshold of the door and, on the south, against the edge of the construction plinth for turret [19] (Pl. 20). They had been lain in a probable cut, [70], in line with the east edge of the new doorway and which had truncated the sequence of deposits including [60], [53] and [52] as well as the filled construction trenches ([62] and [57]) for wall [45] and turret [19], so the floor did not run all the way to the east wall of the building and, as noted above, perhaps respected some upstanding feature in the intervening space. The floor presumably represented a room to the south of the (now much smaller) Room 3, very likely one with its floor at a lower level to that of Room 3's.

Site Phases 5a/b (c. 1660 Demolition and Relandscaping) (Fig. 8)

- Clearly demolition of the building complex had varied in its extent, Phase 2 – 4 structures surviving better, probably because of the solidity and size of their build, and demolition generally being more

complete on the west than the east. As repeatedly observed on the site reusable/resaleable materials had almost certainly been fairly thoroughly salvaged, only three complete bricks (from [10] and [16]) being noted from the very large deposits of rubble present and only shattered pieces of worked stone that would not have been re-usable.

- The only specific feature relating to the demolition process was the robber trench [26] (= FXV23 [49]) which had been somewhat irregularly and angularly cut to a width of from 0.68 m to probably over 1.00 m and depth of at least 0.57 m along the dog legged section of wall [21]/[46] (= FXV23 [43]) and could have continued further north (Fig. 6 and Pl. 8). It had vertical sides and, as discussed above, is presumed to have been cut to remove something more worth the trouble of salvaging than brickwork, though what is unknown.
- The sequence of Phase 5a demolition rubble and infilling deposits though matched, with some localised variations, that observed in 2023. Thus, the probable cellared area below Room 3 (including [26], as far south as turret [19] and wall [51], as far west as walls [54] and [67] and as far east as wall [21]/[46], except where deposits such as [60] remained at a higher level) had initially been filled with [42] (= FXV23 [39]). A layer of loose, overall reddish yellow (7.5 YR 6/8) crushed mortar, it also contained generally at least moderately frequent pieces of brick and sometimes peg tile to 0.15 m (but usually 0.05 – 0.10 m). There was nothing in the present work to alter the conclusion drawn in 2023 (Dearne 2023, 12) that the material was primarily a mix of probably a range of mortars including softer sandy yellow, harder sandy buff/off white coloured and hard white mortars as well as general brick rubble and e.g. mortar/plaster from the rendering of walls and likely the result in large part of the cleaning of bricks salvaged for reuse/resale. However, at times in Trench 2 it did have a lower horizon that contained much denser rubble.
- Above [42] in these areas, as well as all of Trench 4 (where it lay above walls or [37], [29] and [38] (though it was difficult to isolate from topsoil [9] west of [30])) and the rest of Trench 2 as far as towards the eastern margins of [19] and [18] where it petered out (but not significantly over [17] and generally thinning as it ran south) was a layer of denser rubble, [13]/[16]/[41] (= FXV23 [36]) that also just spilt over the line of the eastern edge of the Phase 1b building in Trench 3 on to surface [24]. Its thickness varied a great deal from a few centimetres to around 0.35 m, depending on the level to which structures had been demolished and its exact composition varied from area to area, but, as in 2023, it generally comprised brick fragments to half or three quarters brick size, lesser numbers of peg tile fragments (usually to 0.15 m), fairly frequent hard white mortar lumps and sometimes concentrations of (square wood) charcoal in a brown (7.5 YR 4/4) very clayey silt matrix.[10] At some points in Trench 2 it also included pieces of worked stone, with a concentration of them above the east end of wall [51] and in Trench 4 included significant numbers of glazed floor tile fragments.
- There were though variations in this 'upper' rubble. Thus, above demolished wall [21]/[46] and part of the demolished turret [19] (and perhaps wall [45]) at the north end of Trench 2 [13]/[16]/[41] overlay [20] (not illustrated), a fairly loose brown (7.5 YR 4/4 to 5/4) gritty mix of crushed mortar and brickearth with variable amounts of brick and other cbm fragments; it may have been more *in situ* than dumped and specifically have been generated by the demolition of wall [21]/[46].
- Another variation was a layer of strong brown (7.5 YR 5/6) very clayey silt, [31] (not illustrated), around and spreading out from wall [35] at the south end of Trench 2 which was clearly just a dump of non demolition material made at the same time as [13]/[16]/[41] since the latter lay below and above it. (One patch of [13]/[16]/[41] in a slight hollow in [32] west of [18] was also separately contexted [33] (not illustrated).)
- Stratigraphically equivalent to this 'upper' rubble layer were also [64] (=FXV23 [15]), a brick rubble deposit within turret [17] which was not removed and [50] (not illustrated), an up to 0.14 m thick deposit of compacted and abraded brick fragments and some brick dust (and which included a concentration of animal bone in one discrete area) which was a continuation of FXV23 [14], a demolition deposit relating to turret FXV23 [17]/[18] = FXW24 [17] and which petered out as it ran away from the turret over surface [55].
- All areas of the site except for the part of Trench 4 west of wall [30] were then covered by a dump of pebbles, [12]/[15] (= FXV23 [25]/[34]), rather looser as they ran south in Trench 2, but generally a compacted, 0.04 – 0.18 m thick layer of 0.02 – 0.08 cm rounded pebbles with some large (to 0.14 m)

[10] It also produced one large (11.00 x 8.00 cm; Th 3.00+ cm) section of an unusual, smoothed surfaced, very light weight, bright white render containing frequent charcoal fragments (to 0.050 cm).

flint nodules in its core and (in some areas) occasional up to quarter brick sized pieces of cbm (though as noted above differentiation of possible underlaying pebble surfaces from this almost certainly re-landscaping dump was often impossible).

- As in 2023 it was though evident that even after this re-landscaping it had been felt necessary to spread another thin layer of demolition rubble across much of the site except again for the area west of wall [30] and east of [17]/[18]/[19] and this, [10]/[14] (=FXV23 [30]),was a fairly loose, c. 0.08 m thick deposit of brown (7.5 YR 5/4) clayey silt (brickearth) with moderately frequent part bricks (to three quarter brick size), but the cbm component absent in the lower levels of some areas at the north side of Trench 4 and again in its easterly extension where [10]/[14] was thicker.[11] Once more though at the south end of Trench 2 in the vicinity of wall [35] there was a variation in the material being dumped at this time and [11] (not illustrated), a deposit indistinguishable from topsoil except for the presence of moderately frequent pieces of crushed, hard, buff coloured mortar, was interleaved with [10]/[14].

Later Deposits

- The only later deposits represented topsoil. Across the platform under tree cover it, [9], was a loose, very dusky red (2.5 YR 2.5/2) humic loam, in some cases showing the beginning of developing a basal brown (10 YR 5/3) subsoil horizon and was generally c. 0.15 m thick on the east, thickening to c. 0.24 m thick at the west edge of Trench 2 and thinning again to 0.12 – 0.16 m thick in the main part of Trench 4.
- The topsoil gave a modern ground surface at the east side of Trench 2 at +32.445 m OD, rising a little to the west to be at c.+32.628 m OD, and sloping down to the north to be at c. +32.245 m OD at the north section of Trench 3; while to the west in Trench 4 it lay at +32.385 m OD at the east section of the main trench and sloped down fairly steeply to the west to be at +32.106 m OD at the west section.

DISCUSSION

- The excavation of Trench 1 appears to confirm that the western side of the large moat between the outer and inner courts identified in FXU22 and FXV23 (Dearne 2022a; 2023) probably continued as a narrower moat which ran north around the inner court and so probably bounded the raised platform which represented part of the inner court's eastern side. Although excavation was not extensive enough to fully define this arm of the moat, it is likely to have been in the order of 7.00 – 10.00 m wide and its rubble fill seems very likely to have also been that encountered in ENE06 Pit P41 (Dearne 2006b, 3; Fig. 1 herein) to the south of Trench 1.
- The embankment of this moat around the inner court on its east side in Phase 2 was perhaps just a precaution against its overflowing, but may also have served to make the moat a more impressive boundary and its augmentation from just north of Trench 1, if for an unknown distance, by a 1.00 m wide wall must argue for the construction of some larger structure along its edge. Whether that structure was a high wall or a more isolated e.g. statue base or perhaps bridge pier though excavation has not been extensive enough to establish.
- Though a comparison with LiDAR data from Pinchbeck (2013) (Fig. 10) shows a slight trace of a linear depression (shown as a dotted line on figures) that could be the contrast between the bank and wall and the edge of the moat, similar comparison with the resistivity data from Bartlett (1998, Plan 4; Fig. 10 herein) is more problematic. This data is known to have inaccuracies with respect to the OS grid and therefore the overlay on Fig. 10 is unlikely to be an accurate match to either LiDAR data or excavation trench positions. That said, a coincident line of high resistance readings is apparent here. Whether though they represent the wall flanking the moat is to be doubted. It may be more likely that they represent part of the infill of the moat itself as there is some reason to believe that the inaccuracy with respect to the OS grid has placed features further east than they should be (see further below). If so the resistivity evidence would be consistent with the assumption that the (rubble filled) moat ran north south for some distance, probably to the north as far as the 1967 gas main trench where interpretation of limited records has suggested an east west moat may have existed but been infilled at some point (Dearne and Drury 2022). It may then be suggested that the layout of the moats defining the margins of the palace and separating the outer court from the raised platform at the east side of the inner court was approximately as shown on Fig. 11.

[11] Though hard to establish this may have represented the inwash of brickearth to shallow depressions in the surface of [12]/[15], which might imply a time lapse between its deposition and that of [10]/[14].

- In any event the fact that the moat seems, like that between the inner and outer courts, to have been filled in Phase 5a argues that it was still, at least to some degree, functional when the palace was demolished. Indeed, the evidence to date is that the palace was fully moated except on the east and perhaps north sides of the outer court and one might presume that it had been from Phase 1b, even though opportunities to test that hypothesis have not presented themselves.
- As in 2023 finds during the present work, in the form of further Penn floor tiles, (Appendix 3, Nos 4.1 – 4.3) and an increasing amount of mainly twelfth to mid fourteenth century pottery (see Appendix 3) again emphasise that (probably fairly high status) activity on the site likely occurred prior to the probable construction of the first brick built house that became the palace. How far such evidence should be taken as indicative of the construction date of the raised platform on which major palace structures were built and some of this material derived is, however, less clear. It is possible that the platform belonged to Phase 1a and represented the original core of the site, which one presumes may have been represented by a ?moated timber built manor house. However, it must be equally likely that such material is residual and became incorporated in the platform during what must have been a sizable landscape modification exercise, perhaps sourcing dumped material from moat cutting (especially in the case of deposit [37]) as well as from stripping and or pitting elsewhere on the site.
- Equally, whether any occupation of the site was continuous during the Medieval period is as yet not fully clear, though a hiatus in activity, perhaps from the mid fourteenth century following the Black Death, seems quite possible.
- In so far as the evidence of mortar types can be relied upon, the earliest structures encountered on the platform seem to be consistent with an origin in Phase 1b (presumed to be early/mid fifteenth century) and would appear to represent a large building divided into at least three (and probably more) rooms at ground floor level, with one featuring a (relatively small) probable cellar below it and perhaps with one projecting squared ?corner. Unfortunately though the details of the probable cellar remain less than clear, in part because demolition of structures here was to such a low level that it is difficult to know whether any elements of them lay below the permitted excavation depth and what may be key points for their interpretation lay in the small unexcavated areas between trenches.
- The walls of the building, such as [30], suggest a substantial structure, as does the likely size of the probable column partly excavated in 2023, but there must be some doubt as to whether a wall such as [30], or even the deeper founded FXV23 [43] = FXW24 [21]/[46], would be sufficiently broad and well founded to have supported the four story inner gatehouse known to have existed by 1524 (Dearne *et al* 2022, 291ff). Nevertheless, it is now clear that all the structures so far excavated on the raised platform comprise one continuous, if multi phase, complex (which was not clearly the case in 2023) and the location of the Phase 1b building must argue for it having been the original inner gatehouse, but perhaps a more modest one of ?two storeys than that in existence by 1524.
- Some modification(s) to this original Phase 1b building seem to have occurred before or perhaps at the opening of Phase 2 and have focused on partial rebuilding of its east wall, maybe (now if not later) the insertion of something at the point where it dog legged to the west and a remodelling of the south end of Room 3/the probable cellar beneath it. However, it should be emphasised that, except in the case of the first of these, separation of these works from those allocated to Phases 2 – 4 (and probably mostly at least to be allocated to Phase 2) at best relies on only quite small differences in the mortars in use (in contrast to the considerable differences between both of them and the Phase 1b soft sandy yellow mortars). Thus, one probably cannot rule out wall [67] being of the main Phase 2 scheme, replacing [54] as the east wall of Room 2 when the probable cellar was at least partly decommissioned and just using a slightly different mortar to the rest of the Phase 2 works, while the suggested alteration to the dog legging section of the east wall of the Phase 1b building is based largely only on inference from differential Phase 5a demolition activity.
- Too little is also known about the circumstances of Elsyng prior to c. 1486 to speculate about under whose control it might have been when these possible modifications may have been executed, though if they belonged to after c. 1486 one might envisage a scenario where Sir Thomas Lovell further developed the gatehouse in stages, maybe undertaking repair works (?? the rebuilding of wall FXV23 [43] = FXW24 [21]/[46]) and some initial remodelling before he was ready to initiate a more major redevelopment. Indeed, there is evidence in the form of the excavated sequence to the south of wall [45] that some sort of time lapse occurred between the initiation of that more major redevelopment and its main building phase. Ultimately though small mortar differences just provide too little evidence to

even confidently reconstruct the sequence of changes made to the Phase 1b building, let alone to try and tie them to a historical narrative.

- What is a lot clearer though is that, in contrast to the Phase 1b building, the deeply founded, often foundation plinth based, new constructions that followed at least some of these more limited modifications appear to be far more consistent with the documented four storey structure known to have existed by 1524. The north south orientation, parallel to the line of the major moat to the east, of what seems to have been an expansion as much as augmentation of the earlier building, the size of the complex as excavated so far and the elaboration of its eastern façade must even more strongly argue for an identification as the palace's inner gatehouse. If so, much if not all of the Phase 2 – 4 building work ought likely to belong to Phase 2 and the tenure of Sir Thomas Lovell from c. 1486.
- Though the present excavations did not recover any direct dating evidence for these works, what is known of the tenure of Elsyng from the death of John Tiptoft, Earl of Worcester in 1470 makes a building programme taking place between then and c. 1486 very unlikely. Lovell on the other hand is believed to have made very extensive changes to much of the palace and the inner gatehouse must have been a prime candidate for his attentions. Moreover, the architectural style of the façade would far better fit a Tudor context than anything earlier.
- The very limited pottery evidence that was found in 2023 for the date of south end of the new constructions (FXV23 [10] and [17]/[18] = FXW24 [17]) might seem to be in conflict with this, hinting at a date after c. 1550 (Dearne 2023, 11). However, as emphasised at the time, it comprised only a few sherds from a shallowly excavated deposit, the possible multiple origin(s) of which were unclear, which certainly included Phase 5a material in parts of its upper horizons, which in part had been subject to disturbance and which it could not even be shown clearly pre-dated the construction of these structures. This deposit (FXV23 [24]) was not present in the current excavation and if the interpretation of the southern structures as parts of a partly enclosed roofed and colonnaded portico/veranda advanced above is correct it becomes far more likely that it represented the bedding for a floor (? pebbled surface FXV23 [21], though only a small area of this survived) within that portico/veranda, which might well be expected to have been replaced during the lifetime of the structure.
- At present then the balance of probability must strongly favour at least the main construction work of Phases 2 – 4 belonging to Phase 2 and representing the significant re-development of the building complex by Sir Thomas Lovell in an effort to make it suitable to be visited by the king and to underline his new found status as a senior officer of Henry VII's regime.
- The full plan of the gatehouse in any phase though remains to be traced (in so far as the dense tree growth on the site and presence of a major gas main will allow), but it may be that it was in and after Phase 2 in excess of 24.00 m north south and probably at least around 8.60 m east west, assuming that it incorporated the Phase 1b building. The probable cellar below Room 3 of that building seems to have gone out of use when the new Phase 2 structures were built and been partly infilled, though it seems likely that it was never fully infilled to its roof level in some areas, but there are sufficient indications from the walls traced to date to suggest that further rooms may have been added to the south and south west of this.
- Clearly a prominent feature of this new building work was also the construction of an elaborate façade facing east that featured two multi-angular turrets and perhaps ended on the south in a partly enclosed roofed and colonnaded portico/veranda. The space between the turrets may well have been occupied by a relatively small but probably still impressive column flanked (pedestrian) entrance into the gatehouse with 'wall' [18] being a substantial threshold. Though too short a space to provide for the sort of large carriageway entrance to be expected in a gatehouse (which might well then have lain beyond the currently excavated area to the north and so perhaps have been a feature of the Phase 1b building) the flanking turrets may have risen to the height of the building, providing an impressive point of entry.
- Comparison with LiDAR data from Pinchbeck (2013) does not materially contribute to the further understanding of the gatehouse, but it is possible that resistivity data from Bartlett (1998, Plan 4) may.[12] Again though, it has to be emphasised that this data is known to have inaccuracies with respect to the OS grid and therefore the overlay on Fig. 10 is unlikely to be an accurate match to either LiDAR data or excavation trench positions. However, three roughly parallel bands of strong resistivity responses

[12] There are also possible features to the south of Trench 4 recorded by Ground Penetrating Radar survey (Horsley 1997), but consideration of these is probably best delayed until the gatehouse is more fully explored.

(Fig. 10, A, B and C) running approximately north south are clearly present on the raised platform area[13] and if the more easterly has been displaced around 6.80 m to the east by errors in tying the survey to the OS grid then it would provide a good match for excavated structures/rubble deposits, especially in Trench 2 of the current work. Moreover, its position in relation to site topography as mapped by LiDAR cannot match excavated evidence which indicates that there was nothing to cause such a band of high resistance readings at the eastern edge of (rather than several meters back on to) the raised platform, which is where this band of readings was originally plotted. One might even speculate that turret [19] is causing one particularly prominent high resistance anomaly in this band of responses which die away south of it in an area where excavation has shown far less if any rubble and less massive brick constructions.

- If a c. 6.80 m easterly distortion of the resistivity plot has occurred, a more westerly band of more intermittent high resistance readings (Fig. 10, B), around 8.00 to 9.00 m further west, might be a candidate for the line of the western wall ([30]) of the Phase 1b building. In Trench 4 this was poorly preserved, and there are distinct less strong readings along this band that might reflect sections of a wall line that were more completely demolished than elsewhere.
- It should though be emphasised that the resolution at which survey evidence is available in addition to the problems in accurately plotting it against topography and excavation results mean that that the foregoing analysis of Bartlett's resistivity data has to be fairly speculative and should not be relied on, at least without repeating the survey with the greater spatial precision provided by twenty first century techniques. Indeed, the difficulties of interpreting resistivity data on a site with so much rubble over structures demolished to different degrees should not be minimised in the first place. However, if the analysis were correct the resistivity evidence might imply a gatehouse or maybe more likely a complex of buildings including the gatehouse and perhaps a range including the chapel something like 63.00 m north south, perhaps with an apsidal north end ??or a circular tower at this end.[14]
- Speculatively then, one might consider a scenario where the Phase 1b gatehouse was retained in Phase 2, extended and augmented on the south and maybe on the north, and formed part of a complex of structures along the east side of the inner court that ultimately linked up with those represented by wall lines recorded in the 1967 gas main trench (see Dearne and Drury 2022) at what was probably almost the northern end of the inner court. Meanwhile to the west of the at least Phase 1b gatehouse lay the structures excavated in 1963 – 6 (see Dearne 2022b). Precise plotting of these excavations in relation to later work (and to the 1967 gas main; see Dearne and Drury op cit) is again a little difficult and Fig. 12 should be taken only as an approximation of their location until re-excavation is able to verify their exact position. But what is clear is that the west side of the gatehouse cannot have lain far from some of the structures recorded then. It would be premature at this stage to attempt to hypothesise about how the two sets of structures related to each other and whether a third north south band of high resistance readings (Fig. 10, C) represents some element(s) of the complex partly excavated in the 1960s. However, it may well be that the open space between different elements of the inner court was quite limited.
- There was no further material bearing on the date of the demolition of the palace from the present work that potentially questioned the likely date of c. 1660 as there was in 2023. However, especially taking the 2023 and 2024 work together, it was noticeable that the distribution of demolition deposits was uniform across the majority of the area occupied by structures so far excavated, but changed roughly coincident with turret [17] at the south end of FXW24 Trench 2. Here and to the south there was far less demolition rubble and, excepting [50] which seems to have specifically been generated by the demolition of turret [17] and which was of different character to other demolition deposits, the shallow burial of built features often only under deposits indistinguishable from topsoil may raise the possibility that demolition did not occur all at once. Whilst [17] and FXV23 [10] did lie at the highest point of the raised platform, so that demolition material might not be expected to be as thick here, it was often absent or again of different character to further north and this must, given the recovery of sherds of likely eighteenth century Agate Ware (AGAT; commercially 1730 – 1780) from this area (Dearne 2023,

[13] In trying to reconstruct the plan of the inner court the author speculated that these might represent rubble filled moats defining separate areas of the inner court (Dearne *et al* 2022, 213, Fig. 38 (feature c) and Fig. 82) which now seems unlikely.

[14] There is mention of a round tower in the 1524 inventory taken on Lovell's death (Drury in Dearne *et al* 2022, 294) and it was placed to the south not north of the gatehouse in an analysis of it, but no real evidence bears on its position. Drury (op cit) felt that it would likely be away from the gatehouse itself and not far from a moat and, if say a chapel range lay between the gatehouse and it, the ?apsidal response on the resistivity plot would agree with this.

13), again raise the possibility that some part of the south end of the building had been retained beyond c. 1660, perhaps as a folly-like landscape feature.

CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH IMPLICATIONS

- Unusually for this site, tree root disturbance of the archaeological resource was minimal. Although extremely large tree roots occurred especially in Trench 2 where they belonged to a very large Oak (*Quercus sp.*) tree immediately next to the trench, they had encountered particularly large and solidly built structures which they had been unable to invade. The roots of two Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) bushes/small trees immediately above similar but also less solid features, and which were cut before the excavation, were hand removed to prevent them becoming a conservation threat. A self set sapling likely to be impacting the archaeological resource in Trench 1 and ENE06 Pit 43 was also cut and poisoned by the LBE Parks Department subsequent to the excavations in August 2024.
- Many other features encountered in the work would though have been far more prone to damage from the roots of the many mature trees and uncontrolled spread of sapling growth on the raised platform area especially. That these features were not significantly impacted was only due to the fact that they generally lay in areas reasonably distant from trees; and then in part because areas away from trees were deliberately selected for excavation.
- Thus, the control of new tree and large bush growth across the whole of the raised platform area must continue to be a priority, given the importance of the evidently well preserved remains of major palace structures here. The whole area west of the Lime tree avenue, which has been allowed to become occupied by far more trees than in relatively recent times, should be seen as requiring much more careful management to limit and eventually decrease tree density to protect the archaeological resource and facilitate what archaeological work it would be practical to undertake. For example several young trees coppiced in c. 2009 in the vicinity of areas excavated in the present work have now been allowed to make significant multi trunked growth and are likely to be directly damaging the site's archaeology.
- In a research context, it is now clear that significant elements of the palace's inner gatehouse have been identified and it would clearly be desirable to build on this to recover as much of the plan, and to understand the sequence of development of, this structure as far as possible. Unfortunately a major orbital gas main trench lies around 15 m north of the most northerly point of the present excavation and it means that significant further work in this direction would not be advisable/possible so that future work might concentrate on areas to the west and south of elements of the structure already recorded.
- Whilst the large Oak tree, and a multi-stemmed tree to its west, present obstacles to this, there remains scope to excavate west of FXV23 [10] to the south of the Oak tree and, further west, in areas where structural elements such as wall [30] may be expected to continue to the south and which may also have the scope to contextualise some of the structural elements that clearly ran west from turret [19].
- Unanswered questions about the relationships between walls [67] and [54] and the column FXV23 [52] might also be addressed at some future point by small excavations between Trench 4 and FXV23 Trench 7 and between Trench 2 and the eastern extension of Trench 4.

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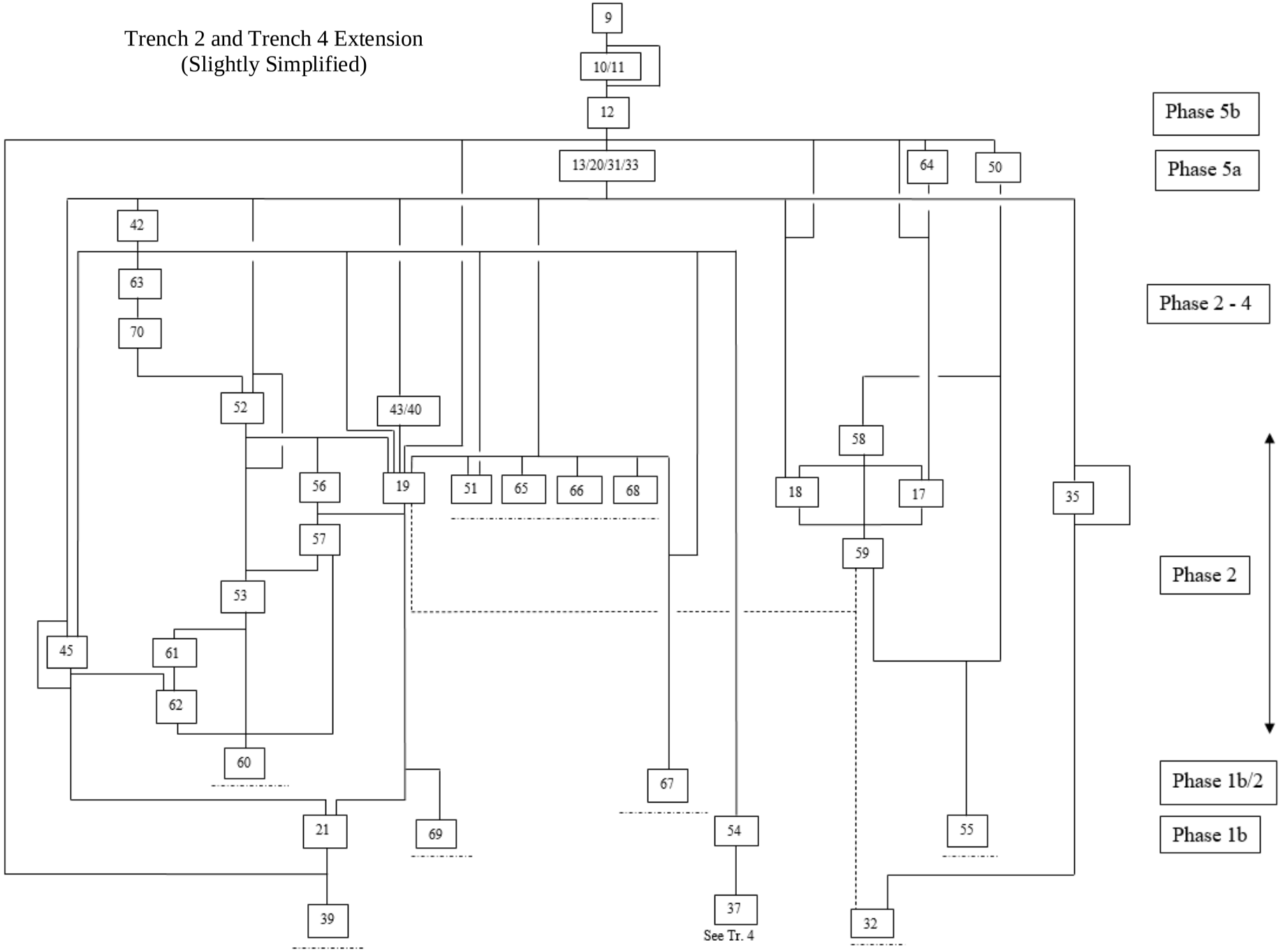
APPENDIX 1: ARCHIVE NOTE

- The archive for FXW24 is held at the London Borough of Enfield Museums Service/EAS archive and includes:
- project design; ancient monument consent letter of grant; inked copies of all plans and sections; context register and original context sheets; section, plan, find and sample registers; photographic image register; digital image archive; site diary; levels register; finds report; this report; and the retained finds and samples.

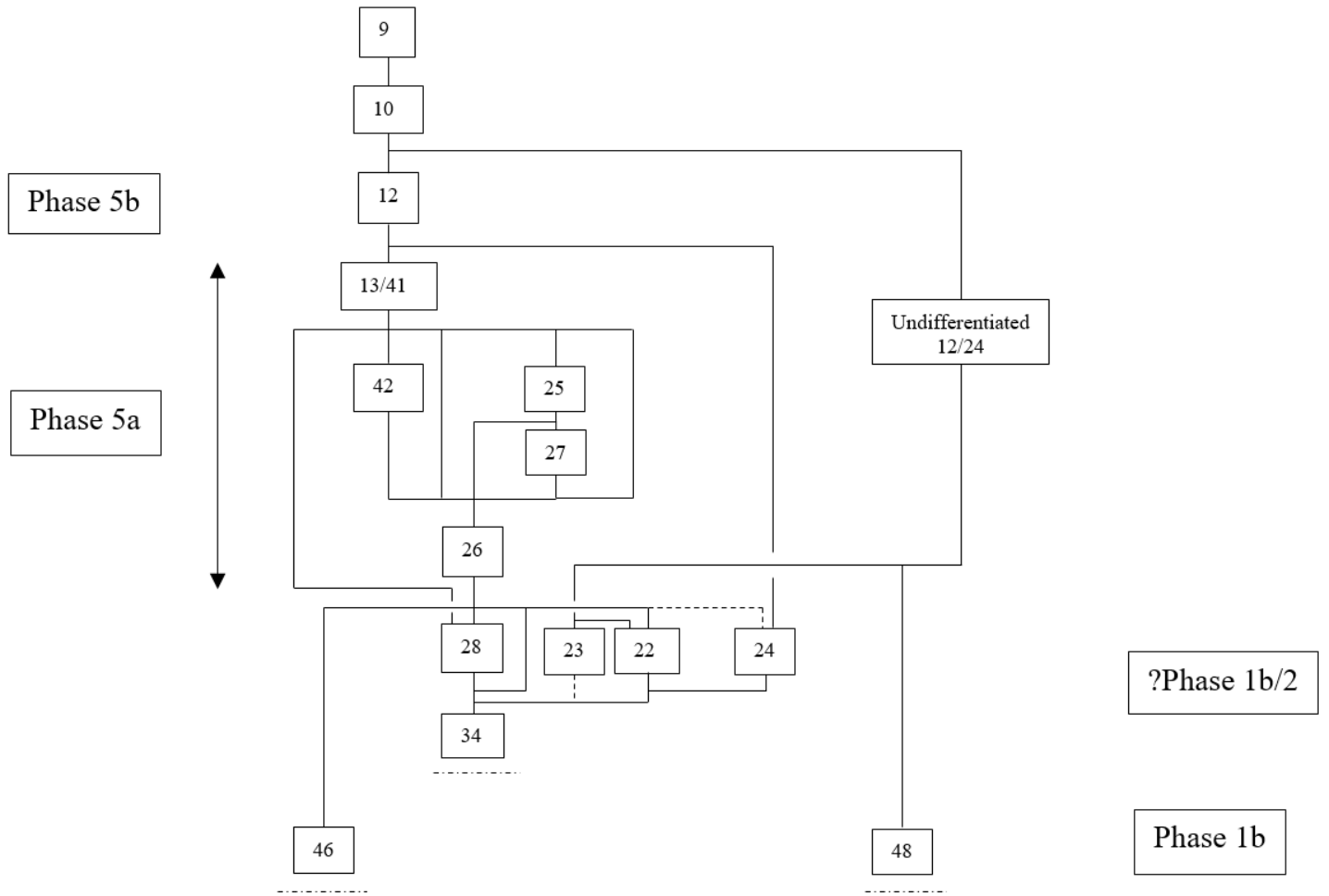
APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX AND SITE MATRICES

Context	Type	Description
1	Layer	Topsoil
2	Layer	Re-landscaping
3	Feature	Bank
4	Feature	Wall
5	Layer	Gravel dump/fill of 8
6	Fill	Of 8
7	Layer	Natural
8	Cut	Moat
9	Layer	Topsoil
10	Layer	Re-Landscaping
11	Layer	Re-Landscaping
12	Layer	Re-Landscaping
13	Layer	Demolition Material
14	Layer	Re-Landscaping
15	Layer	Re-Landscaping
16	Layer	Demolition Material
17	Feature	Turret
18	Feature	Threshold
19	Feature	Turret
20	Layer	Demolition Material
21	Feature	Wall
22	Feature	Drain
23	Layer	?Construction Material
24	Layer	Pebble Surface
25	Fill	Of 26
26	Cut	Robber Trench
27	Fill	Of 26
28	Layer	Levelling
29	Layer	Pebble Surface
30	Feature	Wall
31	Layer	Demolition Dump
32	Layer	?Platform Dump
33	Layer	Part of 32
34	Layer	?Construction Material
35	Feature	Wall
36	Feature	Wall
37	Layer	Platform Dump
38	Fill	Of 44
39	Layer	Platform Dump
40	Fill	Part of 43
41	Layer	Demolition Material
42	Layer	Demolition Material
43	Fill	Of 19
44	Cut	Repair Work Trench
45	Feature	Wall
46	Feature	Wall
47	Fill	Of 44
48	Layer	Platform Dump
49	Layer	Levelling
50	Layer	Demolition Material
51	Feature	Wall
52	Layer	Levelling
53	Layer	Levelling
54	Feature	Wall
55	Layer	Pebble Surface
56	Fill	Of 57
57	Cut	Construction Trench
58	Fill	Of 59
59	Cut	Construction Trench
60	Layer	?Cellar Filling Dump
61	Fill	Of 62
62	Cut	Construction Trench
63	Feature	Brick Floor
64	Layer	Demolition Material
65	Feature	?Wall
66	Feature	?Wall
67	Feature	Wall
68	Feature	?Wall
69	Layer	Mortar
70	Cut	For Floor Insertion

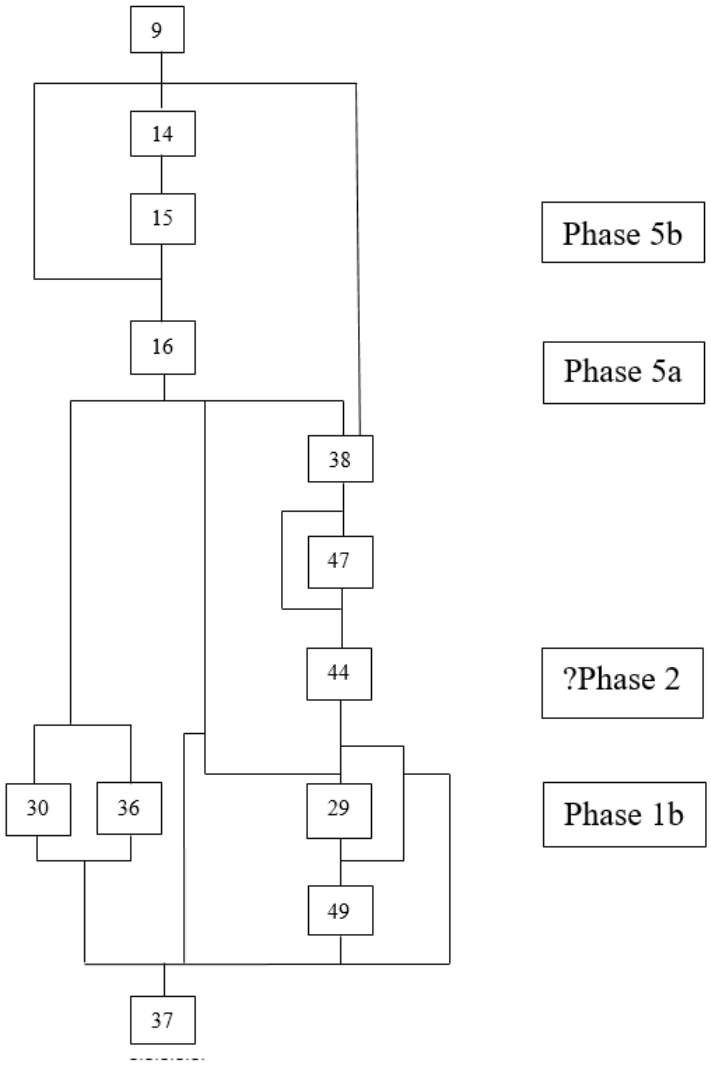
Trench 2 and Trench 4 Extension
(Slightly Simplified)



Trench 3


9
10
12
13/41
42
25
27
26
28
23
22
24
34
46
48
Undifferentiated
12/24
Phase 5b
Phase 5a
?Phase 1b/2
Phase 1b

Trench 4 (Main Part)



APPENDIX 3: FINDS SUMMARY
(MJD with contributions by Ian K. Jones and Neil Pinchbeck)

- The following summarises the main points of a fuller report available in the site archive. * denotes an item illustrated on Figs 13 - 17. Contexts appear at the end of catalogue entries thus: [7], with any small find number.

1 Building Stone

Edited and Summarised by MJD from reports by Ian K. Jones and with an introduction by MJD

Introduction

- Overall 45 fragments of stone were recovered from five contexts, most showing some form of working, and this is the second largest corpus of architectural stonework to be recovered from Elsyng to date. The vast majority came from the demolition or re-landscaping deposits in Trench 2 ([12], [42] and especially [13]) with a little more material from moat fill [6] and Trench 4 demolition deposit [16]. The majority therefore likely derived from the inner gatehouse, as it now appears material recovered in 2023 had, when numbers of fragments from windows and fireplaces were found (Dearne 2023, 25ff). This emphasises the higher status of this part of the palace compared to other twenty first century excavated areas of it.
- Petrologically the stone was predominantly Greensand with a much smaller number of items in Limestone. Though a few more window elements were represented than in 2023 Greensand fireplace blocks again predominated amongst the more identifiable fragments and in this instance the presence of blocks from at least one fireplace surround (1.9 – 1.12) suggested a fifteenth century date for it, though there was no

evidence from mortar types to assign pieces to phase as there had been in 2023. Of particular interest was a probable fireplace overmantel fragment with graffiti (1.18).

- Only the second Limestone flagstone (1.24) to have come from the site (for the other see Dearne (2022a, 13) No. 2.1) was also present and, as IKJ points out, this could potentially have formed part of a chequerboard light and dark stone floor of a type widely used in the Middle Ages and after, though it could have come from a plain flagged floor.
- A full and more detailed catalogue of the material is available in archive, but the following items are worth separate note or are representative of the range of material recovered.

Window and other structural elements

*1.1 Triangular fragment of fine grained, cream Limestone from a well finished window frame or mullion (L. 8.60; W. 8.40; Th. 3.50 cm). Part of 0.95 cm wide, 6.70 cm deep glazing slot with 4.60 cm wide flanking surface ending in a 40° chamfered surface surviving to a width of 1.10 cm. Possibly matching Dearne (2023, 25f) No. 2.4. [42]

1.2 Small piece of fine grained cream Limestone ?from the same well finished window frame or mullion as 1.1 (L. 6.10; W. 6.10; Th. 1.60 cm). Part of a 4.30 cm long concave moulding flanked by 1.28 cm of surviving worked surface, truncated by a rough cut leaving visible claw chisel marks. [42]

1.3 – 1.5 Three further small pieces of fine grained cream Limestone (up to 9.70 x 7.50 x 3.80 cm) possibly from the same window frame or mullion, retaining parts of one or two worked surfaces (up to 9.70 x 7.50 cm). Two smoothed, but not as finely worked as 1.1. Third with two surfaces, roughly tool marked, but one with an area of finer toolmarks if unsmoothed. [42]

*1.6 Fragment of Greensand from the external side or top of a window frame (L. 15.70; W. 6.70; Th. 5.20 cm). Broken just beyond the top of a reverse ogee (cyma reversa) moulding with some toolmark damage and considerable weather abrasion on the convex element. Concave element and surviving area of flat and smoothed 3.20 cm wide base less weathered. Fairly roughly finished back face. [13].

1.7 Fragment of Greensand from the lower part of a window frame (Ht. 11.00; W. 11.00; Th. 3.70 cm). Part of one end of a badly damaged block, not surviving to its full width. Part of a vertical surface facing the window opening survives with a flat chamfered side angled towards the opening and a flat face at right angles to the wall. The surviving external surfaces are in good condition with the glazing side one being highly polished and the angle with the chamfer being almost fully rounded. The basic form of the chamfer moulding is flat rather than concave, which is commoner. [6]

*1.8 Fragment of Greensand from one end of a lintel from the exterior of a doorway or a large window (L. 12.58; W. 9.39; Th. 9.00 cm). Top of the block lost and upper moulding element(s) badly damaged, leaving only a surface trace of a shallow concave moulding, below which a vertical surface runs down to the beginning of a damaged reverse ogee (cyma reversa) moulding. A further probable moulding below this is entirely broken away, but ended in a short vertical surface running down to the base of the block. The end face has clear claw chisel marks, but the base of the block is generally smoothed. [13]

Fireplace Elements

Fireplace Surrounds

*1.9 Three joining fragments of Greensand forming the top right hand corner of a fireplace surround (Ht. 18.00; W. 20.00 Th. 8.00 cm). Rounded corner from an almost flat arch which would originally have had a horizontal top below a (wood or stone) lintel. The block is broken at the top, bottom and, at the right hand edge, just beyond a vertical line marking the beginning of an uncertain continuation of the mouldings which otherwise comprise three elements. A well finished, flat, 6.27 cm wide face (but with several small holes made by a pointed tool) is flanked to its left by a 3.68 cm wide cavetto moulding, 1.37 cm proud of (at the left hand edge) a smoke stained, slightly asymmetrical, 3.52 cm wide quarter round (ovolo) moulding which runs back to (and whose face is up to 3.80 cm proud of) the faintly smoke stained, roughly finished rear face of the block. The style is typical of late Medieval (fifteenth century) fireplace forms and the high standard of the finish may suggest an origin in a high status room. [13]

1.10 Fragment of Greensand probably from the same fireplace surround as 1.9 (Ht. 8.80; W. 10.15; Th. 4.00 cm). Complete quarter round (ovolo) moulding with part of the crudely worked back and rather better finished base of the block. Considerable smoke staining. [13]

1.11 Two joining fragments of Greensand probably from the same fireplace surround as 1.9 (Ht. 8.58; W. 5.48; Th. 2.18 cm). Part of the flat face, with some graffiti-like scratches, and a part of the cavetto moulding. [13]

1.12 Fragment of Greensand possibly from the same fireplace surround as 1.9 (Ht. 7.48; W. 8.00; Th. 4.04 cm). Part of a flat surface with possible faint smoke stain and part of an adjacent cavetto moulding. Standard of finish as 1.8; some graffiti-like scratches. [13]

1.13 Three joining pieces of Greensand forming part of a probable fireplace surround (L. 12.30; W. 10.40 cm). The block survives to its full height with top and bottom surfaces (both burn marked and with tiny spots of mortar) reasonably well finished and one largely complete vertical face, reasonably well finished but with many angled and vertical toolmarks. At one end a small (2.50 cm wide) part of a 30° angled chamfer survives. [12]

1.14 Badly damaged Greensand block probably from a fireplace surround (L. 8.80; W. 9.00; Th. 7.70 cm). A small part of the front face, worked smooth, survives and, meeting it at c. 45°, is a similarly smoothed but damaged 3.10 cm wide concave moulding. The back retains a heavily tooled surface and a small part of the projecting smoothed base (W. 3.00 cm) survives. [13]

1.15 Small, badly burnt Greensand fragment from a fireplace surround (5.70 x 4.00; Th. 2.20 cm). Retaining an area of highly polished surface. [13]

(?Fireplace) lintels

*1.16 Fragment of Greensand from a possible fireplace (or doorway) lintel (Ht. 19.30; W. 6.58; Th. 9.33 cm). Top of block missing, but the front face had an over 2.70 cm high vertical face, leading to a 2.60 cm high backward sloping cavetto moulding, below which is a 1.00 cm deep near horizontal cut back, followed by a 1.50 cm high vertical face and then a second 5.10 cm high backward sloping cavetto moulding, leading down to a 2.40 cm long surviving section of the basal surface with visible fine tool marks. The back of the block is badly damaged, but, if original, was poorly finished. [13]

1.17 Fragment of Greensand from one end of a possible fireplace lintel (Ht. 5.10; W. 2.70; Th. 6.70 cm). Part of a moulding including a well smoothed ogee (cyma recta). [13]

Fireplace Overmantel

*1.18 Part of a Greensand block with an elaborate moulding suggesting a fireplace overmantel (L. 16.70; Ht. 15.20; Th. 8.54 cm). Ends, top, bottom and back all lost. The top of the front face is a smoothed vertical surface over 5.34 cm high. Below it is a backward sloping, 2.67 cm high ogee (cyma recta) moulding, from the base of which a 2.00 cm wide flat face with a convex edge slopes down at 45° to a second c. 3.70 cm high ogee (cyma recta) moulding, below which a vertical face survives for 2.00 cm. The top of the front face bears graffiti. The most easily recognised are two serifed letter E s and a very angularly formed letter C, all fairly deeply cut. Less certainly one might identify a fairly lightly scratched S and less convincing a W, though there are many scratches across the surface which makes identification of intentional letters problematic and the W especially may well be fortuitous. Traces of white paint/fine plaster survives in the cuts of one E and the C. [13].

Fireplace Interior Lining Block Fragments

1.19 Fragment of a Greensand fireplace lining block (7.00 x 5.60; Th. 7.00 cm). Badly burnt and fractured; two pick marks. [13]

1.20 Ditto (4.60 x 3.70; Th. 1.10 cm). Badly burnt. [12]

1.21 Ditto (5.50 x 3.50; Th. 4.90 cm). Badly burnt worked surface, smoothed, but not polished. [13]

1.22 – 1.23 Ditto (6.00 x 4.30 x 2.70; 4.70 x 4.00 x 3.00 cm). Traces of burning, but no worked surfaces or toolmarks. [13]

Paving Element

1.24 Part of a hard, grey Limestone flagstone (L. 20.90; W. 18.00; Th. 6.10 cm). Top surface smoothly finished but not entirely flat and showing later toolmark damage. Badly damaged underside with no original surface surviving. One original side badly damaged. [13]

Fragments of uncertain function

1.25 Fragment of dense, hard, grey crystalline Limestone (L. 15.50; W. 10.50; Th. 8.70 cm; Weight 2 kg). Irregular but shaped block, one side (10.00 x 8.00 cm) possibly very roughly faced. All sides with spots of hard mortar, suggesting (re-)use as rubble. This type of Limestone is not found in this part of England (unless it is a glacial erratic) and has not otherwise been recorded from this site. [6]

1.26 Fragment of grey shelly Limestone (Max. L. 6.70; Max. W. 4.30; Max. Th 3.80 cm). Damaged worked surface including a convex curve. [13]

1.27 Edge of a Greensand block (L. 8.50; W. 8.00; Th. 3.00 cm). Two worked faces, one with a high quality finish and no visible tool marks, part of it equally polished, but cut 0.30 cm lower than the rest with the step face remaining rough (possible mason's mistake); the other only roughly smoothed with distinctive narrow chisel marks. [13]

1.28 – 1.45

- These 18 further, mainly irregular, Greensand fragments from [12], [13], [16] and [42] each measured under 120.00 cm in any dimension (and generally much less); some showed traces of one or more worked surfaces and two were corner fragments, but none were more identifiable.

Roofing slate (MJD)

- A number of stratified fragments (up to 7.90 x 7.30 and up to 0.90 cm thick) of grey slate came from [2], [6] and [14]. One had a partial nail hole.

2 Bricks

- For standard red bricks see above. There were also three examples of yellowish bricks imported from the Low Countries c. 1350 – 1500 (cf. Dearne *et al* 2022, 231ff). One from [10] was complete, 19.5 cm long, 9.00 cm wide and 4.50 cm thick and with one long side cut and rubbed into a shallow concave (cavetto) moulding. Another partial example from [2] was ?cut on one long face with a 30° chamfer, was 9.00 cm wide, 4.96 cm thick and over 10.13 cm long. The third from [6] was a corner fragment (8.57 x 7.41 cm) from a 4.62 cm thick brick.
- *In situ* red bricks used to achieve angular turns in [17] and [19] were double brick axe cut and rubbed king closers, cut on both sides at the same end (as distinct from the double cut king closers below in Group b)) to produce a symmetrical or asymmetrical brick 'pointed' at that end (as distinct again from Dearne *et al* (2022, 231) Group i) bricks). One complete example also came from probably nearly *in situ* rubble above the north end of [18] and was 23.70 x 11.50 x 6.00 cm in size.
- There were also numbers of loose brick axe cut and rubbed red bricks including a range of forms. Several of the forms represented have previously been noted from the site so the classification in Dearne *et al* (2022, 231) is used here for convenience.

Brick Window Mullions

(For previous almost identical brick window mullion finds from the site see Dearne *et al* (2022) 231 and Fig. 47.)

*2.1 Almost complete (11.60 x 11.60; Th. 5.35 cm) brick axe cut and rubbed mullion element cut at the back to give a 2.88 cm thick (incomplete) keying flange 2.10 cm long. One side beyond the concave surface has a large X scratched into it, probably as a guide for cutting the flange. Traces of hard white mortar including as skims over the nose and concave surfaces. [13]

2.2 Similar, but only one face preserved, nose damaged and back broken away (W. 11.80; L. 10.70; Th. 4.5 cm). One side beyond the concave surface again has a large X scratched into it. [10]

Group b) – King Closers

- There were six double cut king closer fragments comprising bricks cut at an angle at each end on the same side to leave an uncut face between the cut ones as Dearne (2023, 28) Nos 3.1 – 3.2. One was from [9], three came from [10], one from [13] and one from [42]; none were complete. They were brick axe cut and rubbed with brick thickness ranging from 5.50 to 6.40 cm and the cut angles varying from 40° to 50° (?intended to be 45°) leaving uncut faces from 9.00 to 11.50 cm long. That from [42] comprised parts of two courses mortared together by a 1.50 cm thick joint of yellow mortar and retained white mortar rendering on two faces which probably suggests that it was from column FXV23 [52], but the others might more likely be from the multi-angular internal column/pilaster(s), parts of two courses from one of which were recovered in 2023 (op cit No. 3.2).
- A seventh fragment (Th. 6.10 cm) from [25] had two adjacent cut and rubbed surfaces meeting at 40°, but one also meeting a rough hewn surface at right angles, perhaps suggesting a king closer that had been cut down. It retained spots of hard white mortar.
- An eighth fragment from [10] had one cut angle at 50°, but the other at 100° (so might alternatively have been a fragment of a more elaborate shaped brick) while approximately half a brick from [42], suggested a triple cut king closer, perhaps from a smaller multi-angular column/pilaster. It had been brick axe cut and rubbed three times at 50° to give four faces 4.00, 4.00, 4.70+ and 5.00+ cm long and retained yellow mortar on all faces and at least one top/basal surface.

Group e) – Concave bricks

- There were twelve fragments of 4.50 – 6.30 cm thick bricks showing concave mouldings cut on the side of the brick, all with the concave moulding and an adjacent surface (and one with one face) brick axe cut and rubbed. Five came from [10], three from [14] and one each from [13], [16], [34] and [42].
- Two patterns appeared to be represented (though several fragments were indeterminate as to which they belonged) of which one was as Dearne *et al* (2022) Fig. 49 e with straight faces at 90° to the concave (cavetto) moulding. Where assessable most fragments seemed to belong to this pattern and the most complete of these from [13] was part of a 5.50 cm thick brick with a 5.50+ cm long vertical face below, and a 5.00+ cm long horizontal face above the 9.50 cm long concave (cavetto) moulding. However, it was apparent that there was variation in the length of the vertical face below and horizontal face above the mouldings, some fragments having one or the other as short as 2.80 cm. The fragment from [13] retained a patch of yellow mortar, the one from [42] had yellow mortar adhering to three sides and the fragment from [16] retained hard buff coloured mortar on its back (?in turn covered by a harder white mortar ?render), sides and skimmed across the moulding, but also on broken faces so it had probably been re-used as rubble.
- The other pattern was represented by:

*2.3 Fragment (L. 11.30 cm) of a 12.20 cm wide, 6.10 cm thick brick with a 7.90 cm long concave moulding ending at the bottom in a short (2.40 cm long) 40° cut and rubbed face and with the top of the concave moulding continued as a cut and rubbed convex curve so that it was approaching a reverse ogee (cyma reversa) moulding. Hard white mortar adhering to one face. [34]

Group f) - Convex (?plinth) bricks or window/door mouldings

- There were five up to 10.00 cm long fragments of bricks cut with a convex curve, two from [10], two from [16] and one from [12]. None preserved the full width of the brick. The two from [10] showed a smooth half round moulding brick axe cut and rubbed on to the long side of bricks 6.00 and 6.50 cm thick respectively. Two from [12] and [16] appeared to have quarter round mouldings to one edge of a long side of bricks of thicknesses 5.80+ and 5.60 cm respectively. That from [16] was worn but retained patches of hard white mortar; that from [12] was badly eroded, but the brick was drip glazed, the cutting having removed the drip glazed surface where it had taken place.
- The second example from [16] appeared to have been brick axe cut and rubbed at one end and on one side to produce a smooth half round moulding at the end of a 5.70 cm thick brick, reduced to only 8.00 cm wide. Though the fragment was only 6.80 cm long, this may suggest that it was cut to be used in something such as a small ?vertical, rounded moulding/pilaster, e.g. flanking a fireplace.

Group g) - Window Surround Bricks

- A battered Group g) brick fragment (9.30 x 8.30 cm), closely similar in profile to that shown on Dearne *et al* (2022) Fig. 49, bottom left, came from [13] and was brick axe cut and rubbed on a 5.90 cm thick brick.
- There was also:

*2.4 Fragment (L. 11.40; W. 5.70 cm) perhaps from a ?window surround brick like Dearne (2023, 29 and Fig. 12) No. 3.14. A 3.10 cm wide, up to 1.00 cm deep concave groove brick axe cut and rubbed along and 2.10 cm in front of one side of the brick with a trace of an angled cut face beyond it. [25]

2.5 Possibly similar (L. 14.00; Th. 4.70 cm). A badly battered fragment of a brick, brick axe cut and rubbed ?angularly across the ?end to give a face sloping at 70°, with a 1.50 cm wide, 0.80 cm deep concave groove parallel and c. 4.00 cm back from it, cut into an also ?rubbed surface. [13]

Other Shaped Bricks

- The following is not represented in Dearne *et al* 2022:

*2.6 Fragment (11.60 x 9.70; Th. 5.95 cm) of a brick axe cut and rubbed brick with two adjacent, concave, steeply angled surfaces meeting at c. 55°. ?Part of the capital or base of a small ?octagonal column. [10]

3 Roofing Tiles

- Peg tile fragments were reasonably common in demolition material contexts and details are available in archive. A partially complete, but distorted peg tile from [13] (L. 17.60; W. 14.80; Th. 0.90 to 1.30 cm) which retained patches of yellow mortar had hoof prints of which Neil Pinchbeck writes:

> The tile bears one complete artiodactylid mammal forward hoof print with rear hoof following through in normal walking gait (probably left side) and, on the line of breakage of the tile, the forward part of a front hoof mark and trace of rear hoof following through. The complete hoof mark is 1.70 cm wide and 2.20 cm long. The length of stride is approximately 11.00 cm. Even allowing for some shrinkage during the subsequent firing of the tile, these dimensions are too small to represent any adult artiodactylid ungulate likely to be present and probably too small to represent even an infant roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*). The tip of each print, however, shows a claw-like indentation made by the toe of the hoof, which suggests that the prints were made by a kid (infant) goat (*Capra hircus*) as the forward tip of the hoof (toe) grows more rapidly than the remainder of the hoof in goats.

4 Flooring Tiles

*4.1 Lead glazed Penn floor tile fragment. Approximately half of a tile (L. 11.78; surviving W. 7.18; Th. 2.31 cm) with hard white mortar patches adhering to the upper surface. Stylised ?oak leaves between concentric circles design, similar to Eames (1980) No. 13630; Pl. 2839, but the ?leaves vertically divided. AD 1350 – 90. [6] SF3

4.2 Ditto. Corner fragment (6.17 x 5.83; Th. over 1.64 cm). Rather pitted and ?over fired. Fleur-de-lys and cinquefoils pendant from concentric circles design (Eames 1980 No. 792; Pl. 2834; and as Dearne 2023, 28 and Fig. 12 No. 5.1). AD 1350 – 90. [6]

*4.3 Ditto. Edge fragment (4.40 x 3.40 cm). Checkerboard of chevrons pattern as Eames (1980) No. 11063; Pl. 2037. AD 1350 – 90. [13]

4.4 Partial black glazed floor tile (20.00 x 17.00+ cm; Th 3.70 cm), broken *in situ* between [17] and [35] at the base of [13] where it may have formed a post pad (see p 16 and Pl. 17). Faces with small chamfers at their bases; well preserved glossy black glaze on upper surface, just over the edges and with patches on the back.

- Fragments of undecorated flooring tile/brick came overwhelmingly from [16] and [15], the Phase 5a/b deposits in Trench 4 (full catalogue in archive). Of 70 fragments from these contexts 65 were from distinctive tiles with marked edge chamfers restricted to the lower part of their sides. All were heavily worn and mainly 3.50 – 3.70 cm thick (with outliers as thin as 2.80 and as thick as 4.80 cm) and where glaze traces survived they ranged from yellow to brown with occasional spots at least firing to green. Only five other fragments of these chamfer edged tiles were recovered, all from the equivalent Phase 5a context [13] further east and this seems to strongly suggest that they derived from a floor in or near Room 2.
- Other floor tiles, with straight sides lacking chamfers, were much less common finds (full catalogue in archive), but small numbers came from [16] and other Phase 5a rubble dumps [13] and [41] as well as one from the relandscaping [12]. Again generally heavily worn they were mostly thinner than the chamfer sided tiles (mostly 3.40 – 3.00 cm), but yellow to brown glaze again predominated with one or two black.
- One corner of a fired clay flag from [6] was 12.83 x 12.65 and 3.00 cm thick, had most of a polished upper surface broken away and retained traces of hard white mortar on the edges and base.

5 Structural and Possibly Structural Metalwork and Building Fittings

- A majority of the iron finds were not further classifiable nails and nail shanks, virtually all corroded and many very heavily concreated. Most had or appeared to have square sectioned shanks and broadly (sub) square heads, though one or two at least had rectangular heads (c. 1.25 x 0.80 cm). Nail size varied considerably from c. 9.70 cm long down to c. 3.00 cm. One large (L. 8.90 cm) nail from [16] was bent at right angles and retained part of a lead sheet just below the head.
- There were four fragmentary joiner's dogs. One from [16] was over 4.40 cm long with one surviving leg at least 2.70 cm long. The others from [12] were smaller and very concreated.
- There was also:

*5.1 Fe ?catch (L. 3.90 cm). A strip, tapering from 1.30 to 0.93 cm wide and turning at 90° to run a further 1.27 cm. Perhaps from a window or door. [16]

5.2 Pb sheet fragment (9.80 x 5.57; Th. 0.125 cm). Presumed front face with a ridge along it and possibly the edge of a second sheet overlapping. Back with irregular raised patches. ?Roofing lead/sheathing. [12]

6 Window Glass and Glazing Fittings

Window Glass

- Window glass was a relatively common find, but mainly only in sherds under 2.00 cm^2 and more often chips. It was generally degraded with black/iridescent gold coloured surfaces.
- An exception was three large joining fragments making up a 7.20 x 11.60 cm section of a 3.50 mm thick badly eroded greenish glass quarry including one and probably two original edges from [10].
- There was one piece of badly eroded greenish crown glass (6.70 x 5.40 cm; Max. Th. 4.60 mm) including a possible pane edge from [14].

Glazing Fittings

- There were a number of lead came fragments up to 12.00 cm in length, all as far as could be ascertained of Dearne *et al* (2022, 241) Type A, from [12], [13], [16], [41] and [U/S]. Further details of them are available in archive.
- There were also four, often bent/partly rolled up, fragments of lead tie bar, all as Dearne *et al* (2022) Fig. 54. They came from [12]/[13] (estimated straightened length 12.00 cm), [12] (L. 5.00 and 8.90 cm) and [15] (estimated straightened length 3.00 cm).

7 Internal Furnishing Items

*7.1 Ae Suspension ring (Ext. Di. 2.85 cm). Broken circular sectioned ring. Multiple contexts of use are possible, but this could be a curtain ring. Not inherently dateable, but the patina suggests not modern. [1] SF2

*7.2 ?Pb alloy/heavily leaded Ae mount (Di. 3.50; Max. Th. 0.33 cm). A cast circular mount with a scalloped edge formed of slightly asymmetrical paired lobes with raised margins, each holding a boss with traces of raised lines between them; and stylised spatulate, ribbed buds projecting between each lobe pair. A central 1.15 cm Di. hole is framed by a raised, stepped ring, its top slightly recessed and holding a circle of small raised dots. Flat back with central ring recessed. Probably the backplate for a drop handle from a draw (cf. e.g. Margeson 1993, 78, No. 485 of 1450 – 1500; and Egan 2005, 72 No. 313 of c. 1650 – 1700 with further parallels). [16] SF5

8 Items of Personal/Clothing Adornment or Fasteners etc

*8.1 Ae Belt stiffener (L. 5.46; Max. W. 2.02; Max. Th. 0.25 cm). Rectangular plate with a raised, chamfer ended and round topped bar across the centre and the slightly broadened ends, one now asymmetrically bent, openworked into peltas closed by circular pierced lugs, one of which retains a bent 0.64 cm long ?rivet shank. Flat back and extensive traces of gilding on the front face. [6] SF4

8.2 Ae stud head/cover (Di. 0.94; Ht. 0.34 cm). Domed with small central pit. [12]

8.3 Ae ?stud (1.80 x 1.00 cm). Half of a possible domed sheet (Th. 1.5 mm) stud with marginal flange. Possibly modern. [9]

- There were two Ae lace chape (aglet) fragments from [5], one probably complete and 3.60 cm long, the other (L. 3.70 cm) bent and split. Another fragment from [13] was 1.89 cm long. Where identifiable they were of type 2 (tapering with edges turned in on each other), but a 2.50 cm long fragment which was U/S was of type 1 (rolled round the lace to form an overlapping/butt joint). Type 2 chapes are dated by Oakley (1979) to the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, though they appear to have become more common than other types from the late sixteenth century when the use of type 1 seems to have declined (e.g. Strong 2004, 401).

9 Knives and Tools

9.1 Fe knife fragment (L. 8.20; Max. W. 1.80; Th. c. 0.20 cm). Scale tang with a possible securing rivet through it and trace of the back of the blade. [16]

9.2 Ditto (L. 9.40 cm). Extremely corroded and concreated blade fragment probably with a scale tang. [13]

9.3 Possible Fe knife/cleaver (L. c. 17.00 cm). A highly concreated and corroded mass, broken into three pieces. Probably concealing part of a knife/cleaver blade (L. ? c. 10.00 cm) with a large circular sectioned (?c. 1.50 cm Di.) ?tang. [15]

9.4 ?Whetstone/rubbing stone fragment (2.00 x 2.10 x 2.40 cm). Parts of two adjacent surfaces preserved. Very light weight black stone (?pumice). [12]

10 Horse Furniture

- A 13.10 x 11.40 cm very concreated Fe horseshoe with disequal arms came from topsoil [9] and appeared likely to be modern.

11 Bell

*11.1 Ae Pellet bell (Max. Di. 2.30; Ht. 1.53 cm). Cast. Upper hemisphere only with a basal flange for soldering to the missing lower hemisphere and a small, strip like suspension loop cast on to the top. Contexts of use probably included on toys and clothing, but particularly on animals (e.g. on horse harness), perhaps including pets. Post Medieval. [1] SF1

12 Miscellaneous

12.1 Fe rod. (L. 11.04; W. 1.06; Th. ?0.78 cm). Probable triangular sectioned curved rod largely encased in concretion. [2]

13 Metalworking Residues

- Metalworking was mainly represented by Pb solidified splashes (up to 6.50 x 6.40 cm, but generally under 3.00 cm) and sheet offcuts/trimmings from [12], [13], [16], [20] and [U/S].
- Larger Pb items included a piece (L. 4.90 cm) of approximately square sectioned (0.85 x 0.88 cm) bar from [12], which also produced an 8.38 cm long roughly circular (1.68/1.75 cm) sectioned bar-like item with two smooth surfaced grooves along it, but elsewhere showing a pitted surface. A second piece of tapering lead 'bar' (L. 8.50; Max. Di. 1.60 cm) had an amorphous expansion at one end and a blunt point at the other and was [U/S]. Whether any or all derived from e.g. sealing in structural ironwork/stonework was unclear.
- There was one small (2.60 x 1.90 cm) piece of light weight, vesicular slag from [12] with a glassy green/black surface incorporating patches of ?mortar which might alternatively have been brick clamp waste.

14 Vessel Glass

14.1 Base, goblet. Edge of base folded under to form foot ring. Clear glass. [6]
*14.2 Base (Di. 4.10 cm), phial/small flask. Greenish glass now with iridescent surfaces [9]/[16]
14.3 Base, goblet. Clear glass. [15]

- There were also a number of less identifiable body sherds and chips of vessel glass; details in archive.
- Olive green wine bottles were represented only by three body sherds from topsoil [9].

15 Clay Tobacco Pipes

*15.1 Stem retaining stamped heel. Poor impression, probably of a six pointed star. Probably seventeenth century. [5]
*15.2 Ditto. Heart shaped heel with two stamps, a partial impression of what was probably intended as a rosette and a smaller cross. ?c. 1640 – 70. [9]/[16]

- A stem from [1] also retained part of what may have been a heart shaped heel. A part bowl from [6] was of a size consistent with a date in the range c. 1660 – 80. Stem fragments came from: [2], [5], [9] and [12]/[13].

16 Pottery (by fabric)

- Only 213 sherds over 1 x 1 cm were recovered which, given the area excavated, is a low figure compared to other excavations on the site (except for work in 2023). Moreover 40 sherds represented only one vessel. As in 2023 the scarcity of pottery in demolition deposits is especially notable as most other demolition material deposits produce significant amounts of pottery. This may well reflect functional differences across the site, with outer court and most moat deposits, which have been those encountered before 2023, deriving from clearance of service buildings whereas deposits encountered in FXW24 represented the demolition of high status accommodation and structures other than buildings (and the one moat deposit encountered was not extensively excavated).

- Again as in 2023, the profile of the majority of the corpus was similar to that from earlier excavations, but there was an even more marked lesser dominance of **London Area Early Post Medieval Red Earthenware** (PMRE/PMR) and **London Area Post Medieval Red Earthenware** (PMR) than in 2023.[15] Few PMRE/PMR sherds were present and this is likely to reflect an absence here of the large flagons, which generally account for a high proportion of PMRE/PMR on the site. PMR, predominantly used for large kitchen vessels, was even less common and the only significant items came from moat fill [6]. A little **Late Medieval/Transitional Sandy Redware** (LMSR; 1480 – 1600) was also present, though not all identifications of it were certain.
- **Surrey/Hampshire Border Ware** (BORD; c. 1550 – 1700) vessels, also common components of corpora from the Elsyng site, were present, though only three, a costrel and two slender rounded jugs, one of some inherent interest, were well represented.
- Numbers of **Frechen Bartmann Ware** (FREC; imported c. 1550 – 1700) liquid storage/serving vessels (with one or two in **Post Medieval Black Glazed ('Metropolitan') Ware** (PMBL; Post c. 1580)) were, as usual in Elsyng groups, fairly well represented and on this occasion comprised the commonest fabric recorded. Generally from demolition deposits, drinking jugs predominated, with one or two serving jugs including part of a medallion from one.
- There was also a very light scatter of **Tin Glazed Earthenware** (TGW (Delft); Mainly post c. 1613).
- However, the notable component of the corpus, both from deposits making up the raised platform and residual in later contexts, was the amount of early Medieval pottery. Not all sherds, which were almost all small and often rather abraded, were certainly identified to fabric, but **Early Medieval Flint Tempered Ware** (EMFL; 970 – 1100), **London Type Ware** (LOND; 1080 – 1350) and **Coarse London Type Ware** (LCOAR; 1080 – 1200) were probably all present and there were 28 sherds of **South Hertfordshire Greyware** (SHER; c. 1170 – 1350), including from jars, a bowl and a jug, and three less certainly specifically identified as **Limpsfield-type Ware** (LIMP; c. 1150 – 1300).
- Other possibly than two records of **Coarse Border Ware** (CBW; 1270 – 1500) though little material seemed to represent the later Medieval period from c. 1350 – 1480. Though there were seven unidentified body sherds, this possible hiatus in site activity may also be observed in previous corpora from the site and should be noted.
- The following vessels are worth separate note:

*16.1 Rim, jar. SHER. Thickened, everted rim; Blackmore and Pearce (2010, 139ff) type B. [13]
*16.2 Rim, jar (or bowl). SHER. Broadly Blackmore and Pearce (2010, 139ff) type F rim. [13]
*16.3 Rim, jar. SHER. Blackmore and Pearce (2010, 139ff) type D4 rim (c. 1170 – 1300/20). [34]
*16.4 Rim, jar. SHER. Blackmore and Pearce (2010, 139ff) type B1 rim (c. 1172 – early C14th). [48]
*16.5 Rim, bowl. SHER. Blackmore and Pearce (2010, 159f) type C6 rim (c. 1203/15 - early C14th). [43]
*16.6 Rim, ?jug. SHER. Blackmore and Pearce (2010, 167f) class B rim. [48]
*16.7 Body (6, join/match), jug. FREC. Partial armorial medallion of shield including two top register cells, both with a lion rampant dexter. Mottled brown glaze ext. For a discussion of lions rampant dexter on such medallions see Dearne *et al* (2022, 277) No. 5.9.54. [13] SF6
*16.8 Rim/body/handle/base (40 and 4 chips, majority joining in four or five large sections and all recovered in close association), slender rounded jug. BORDG, glazed to upper body ext. and just over the rim with runs down the lower body/base. Rim Di. 120 mm; base Di. 100 mm. Slightly kicked base, flat topped rim with internal flange so that it must have had a (pulled and pinched) lip to pour. Whilst the form is well recognised both from the London (where it was termed a rounded drinking jug) and Farnborough Hill material (Pearce 1992, 24ff; 2007, 73f) this is a larger jug than any even from the latter production site. Those from Farnborough showed that the form was made in larger sizes than the London material had suggested, but even there rim diameters were only up to 100 mm, bases up to 80 mm and heights up to

[15] As outlined in Dearne *et al* (2022, 263) in terms of fabric late sixteenth/seventeenth century PMRE and PMR cannot usually be differentiated (pers. comm. Jacqui Pearce) and at this date at least the separation between PMR and PMRE is therefore at best only a reflection of the evolving kiln technology and to a degree consistency of glazing in use at a given production centre at a given time. It therefore seems potentially misleading to try and differentiate PMRE (usually given a terminal date of c. 1600) from PMR (usually dated c. 1580 – 1900) at least on the Elsyng Palace site as much of the 'PMRE' may represent redwares produced well into the seventeenth century, but just at centres not yet at this date producing the more consistently oxidised and glazed products one might term 'PMR'. All London Area Redwares characterisable as 'PMRE' from the site may then be better listed as PMRE/PMR and be dated very broadly to the later sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, not to before c. 1600.

240 mm. The present vessel's height cannot be certain, but it could have been around 340 mm and must have been a serving not drinking jug. [13]

*16.9 Rim/body (7, joining in two sections), slender rounded jug. BORDG, glazed to upper body ext. and just over the internally flanged, externally slightly grooved rim, which has a pulled and pinched pouring lip. Rim Di. 80 mm. A more normally sized example, but sharing the distinctive internally flanged rim. [31]

*16.10 Rim, ? wide shallow dish. PMR. Thumbed edge to horizontal rim. Brown glaze spots ext. [6]

*16.11 Rim, panchion. PMR. Wipes of brown glaze int. and ext. [2]

17 Struck Lithics by Neil Pinchbeck

*17.1 A single platform conical bladelet core of opaque grey flint (L. 4.50; W. 4.20; Ht. 2.20 cm). ?Mesolithic. [1]

*17.2 An edge/end scraper on a core reduction flake of dark grey opaque flint with light yellowish grey cortex (L. 4.00; W. 3.60; Th. 1.20 cm). [1]

17.3 A struck flake of opaque light grey flint with pale yellow cortex (L. 5.00; W. 4.50; Th. 1.00 cm). ?Debitage from dressing a walling flint. [1]

18 WWII Finds by Ian K. Jones

18.1 Lea Enfield .303 (live round) cartridge case. 1895 – 1912 pattern, most of the headstamp corroded away except for RL (Royal Laboratory) and C (Cordite). [9]

18.2 Fragment from the copper driving band from a small, probably 3 inch, anti-aircraft shell. [9]

19 The Faunal and Environmental Evidence

by Neil Pinchbeck

(edited and with comments on the distribution by context by Martin J. Dearne)

- A total of 7.108 kg of animal bone and dentition were recovered, comprising 321 items from 24 contexts. Concentrations of material occurred in [6], the Phase 5a fill of the moat in Trench 1 (2.178 kg; 69 items); [16], the Phase 5a rubble in Trench 4, (39 items); and [50], a more discrete Phase 5a rubble deposit at the south end of Trench 2, (46 items).
- The distribution clearly reflects mainly Phase 5a site clearance activities redistributing material e.g. from middens, but equally a relative paucity of faunal material on the raised platform compared to in filled moats and previously excavated rubble deposits in other areas of the palace, which have frequently produced far larger assemblages from far smaller volumes of deposits. This almost certainly reflects the higher status of the structures on the platform, more assiduous rubbish clearance here and the fact that this area did not have kitchen/food storage functions.
- The most numerous species present were domestic sheep/goats *(Ovis aeries/Capra hircus*) with 159 items, followed by domestic cattle (*Bos taurus*) with 122 items. Pigs *(Sus scrofa*) accounted for 19 items and rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) 14 items. Birds were represented by chicken (*Gallus gallus*) with three items and three small *passerine* birds were not identified to species. There was one example of fox (*Vulpes vulpes*).
- The sheep/goat, cattle and pig bones were from the non-meat bearing parts of the carcass removed by butchery in the preparation of joints of meat for the kitchen. Most had been broken or split for the extraction of bone marrow. The rabbit and chicken bones were similarly from non-meat bearing parts of the carcass, but were snapped off by hand rather than by butchery.
- Frequent oyster *(Ostrea edulis*) shell valves were present and came from [2], [5], [8], [9]/[16], [12], [13], [16], [20], [31] and [38]. There were also occasional scallop (*Pecten maximus*) shell valves. Other marine bivalves occasionally represented were common mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) shell valves from [12], [16] and [20] and cockle (*Cerastoderma edule*) shell valves from [9]/[16], [12] and [16]. There was a common whelk (*Buccinum undatum*) shell from [38].

OASIS Summary for enfielda1-527825

OASIS ID (UID)	enfielda1-527825
Project Name	Open Area Excavation at Elsyng Palace
Sitename	Elsyng Palace
Sitecode	FXW24
Project Identifier(s)	Elsyng Palace
Activity type	Open Area Excavation
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Academic research
Organisation Responsible for work	Enfield Archaeological Society
Project Dates	04-May-2024 - 21-Jul-2024
Location	Elsyng Palace NGR : TQ 33800 98800 LL : 51.67204583230351, -0.06647679702795 12 Fig : 533800,198800
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Enfield Local Authority District : Enfield Parish : Enfield, unparished area
Project Methodology	Hand excavation of four trenches
Project Results	•Excavation found evidence for a continuation of a known moat, edged by a bank and basic revetting wall, flanking an artificial raised platform (which produced pre mid fourteenth century pottery) at the eastern edge of the inner court of the palace. Three trenches on the platform, contiguous with or west of others cut in 2023, established part of the plan of what now seems clearly to be its inner gatehouse. It began as a c. 8.60 m wide over 12.00 m long structure of at least three rooms, one probably cellared, with evidence for some modifications before a more major phase of extension and elaboration, most probably in the late fifteenth century. •This probably infilled the cellar and created a well preserved over 24 m long eastern façade to the structure which featured two multi-angular turrets built on substantial foundation rafts, probably flanking a pedestrian entrance; and possibly a partly enclosed veranda/portico. The size and solidity of these later phase constructions is consistent with the multi storey building evidenced by an inventory of 1524. There was some evidence for later modifications before demolition c. 1660. •Notable finds from overlying demolition rubble and gravel dump re-landscaping included fragments of high quality architectural stonework, some with graffiti.
Keywords	Royal Palace - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Local society or group Enfield Archaeological Society
HER	Greater London HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Martin Dearne
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with London Borough of Enfield Museum Service;

Fig. 1: FXW24 Trenches in Relation to Earlier Work and LiDAR Recorded Topography

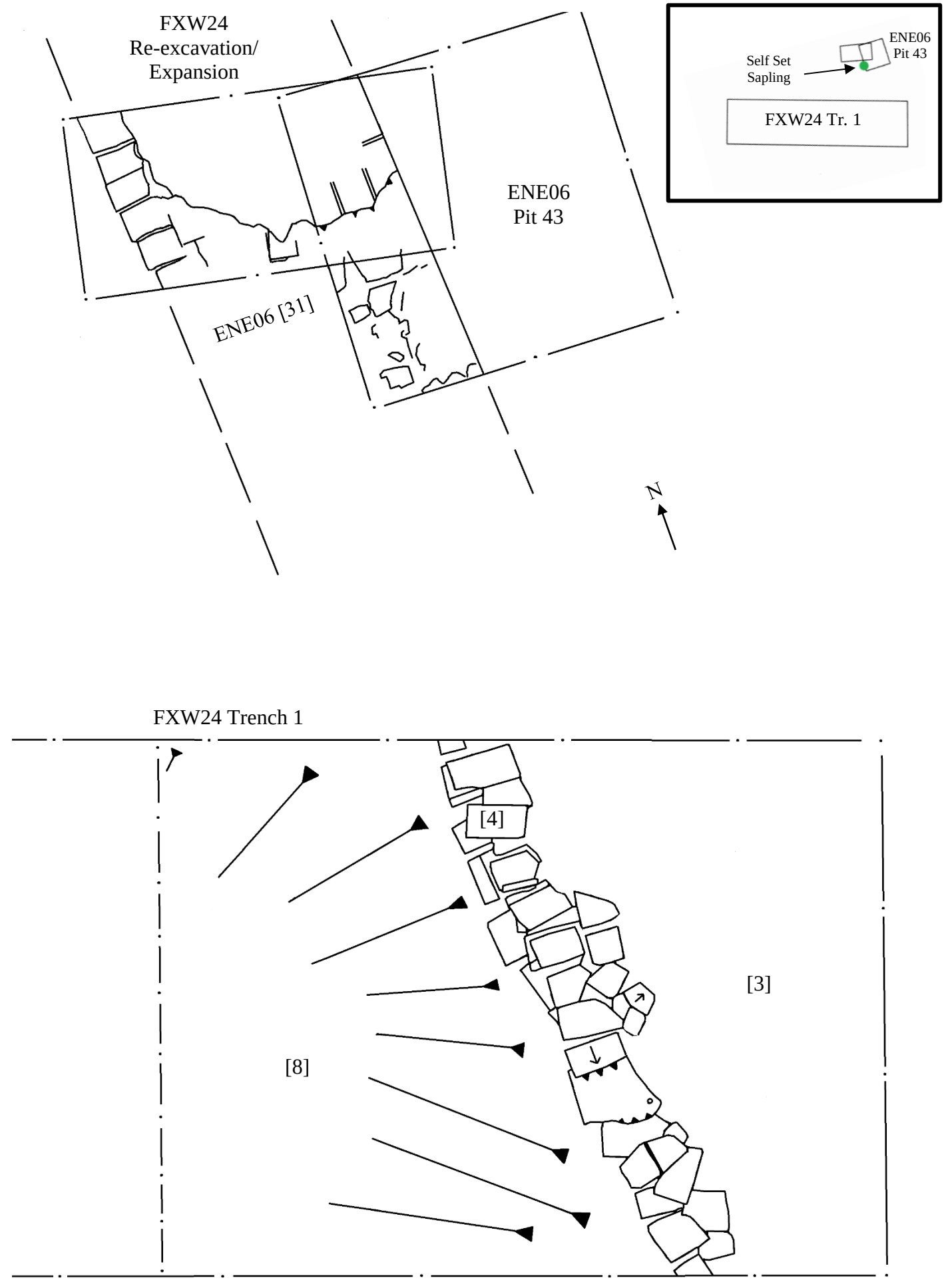


Fig. 2: East End of Trench 1 and ENE06 Pit 43 (1:20)

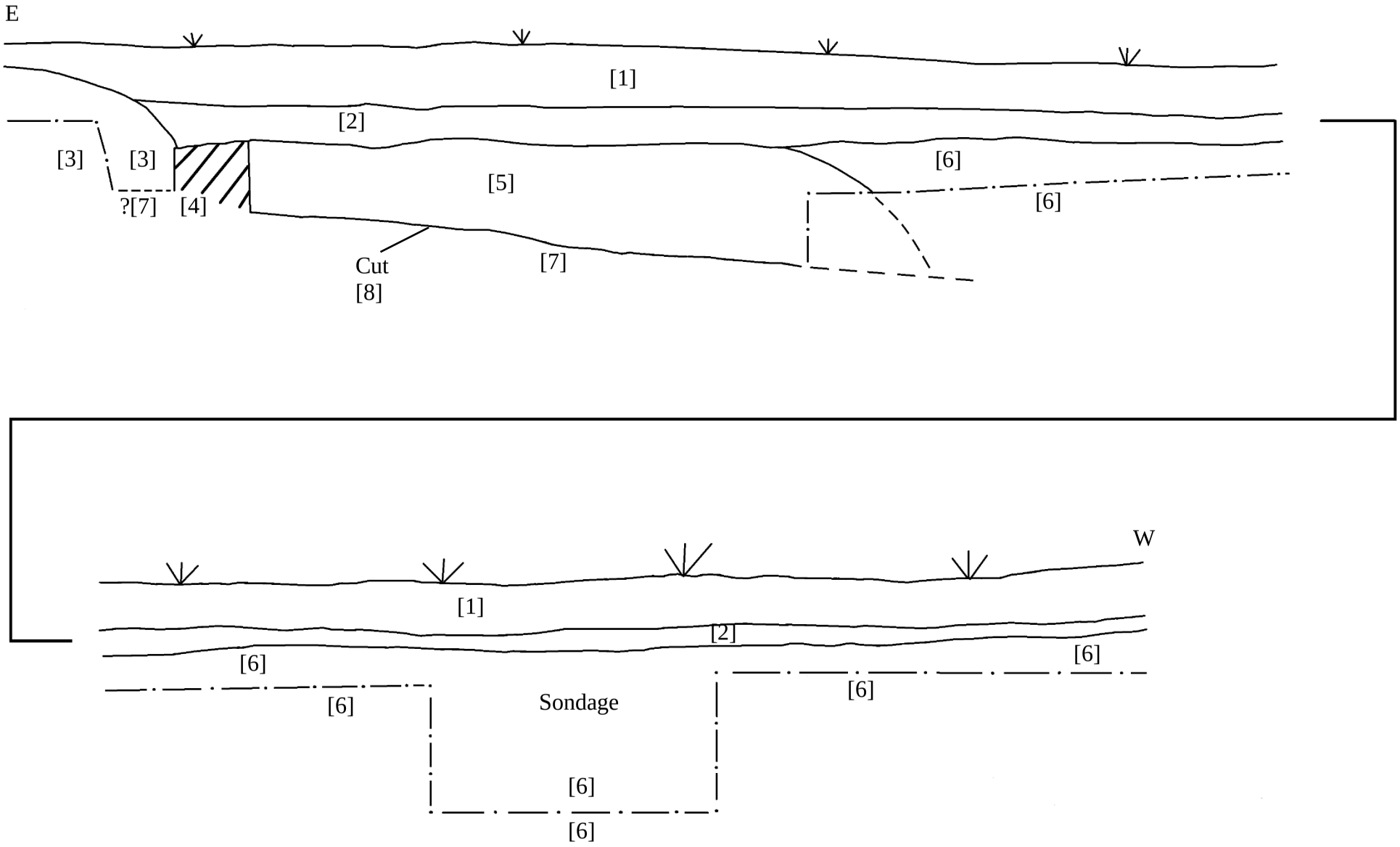


Fig. 3: Trench 1, South Section (1:20)

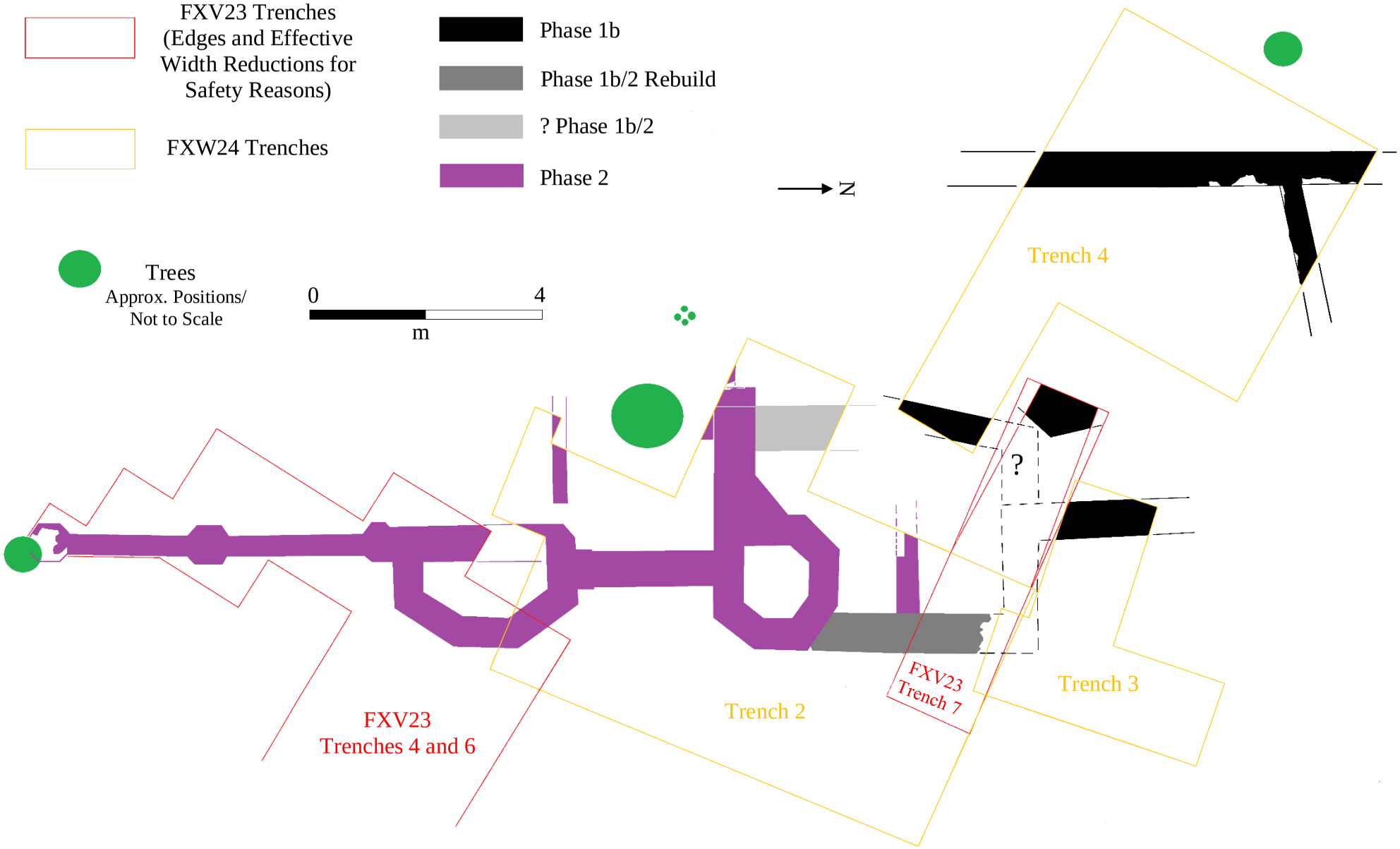


Fig. 4: The Raised Platform: 2023 and 2024 Trenches and Phased Structural Features

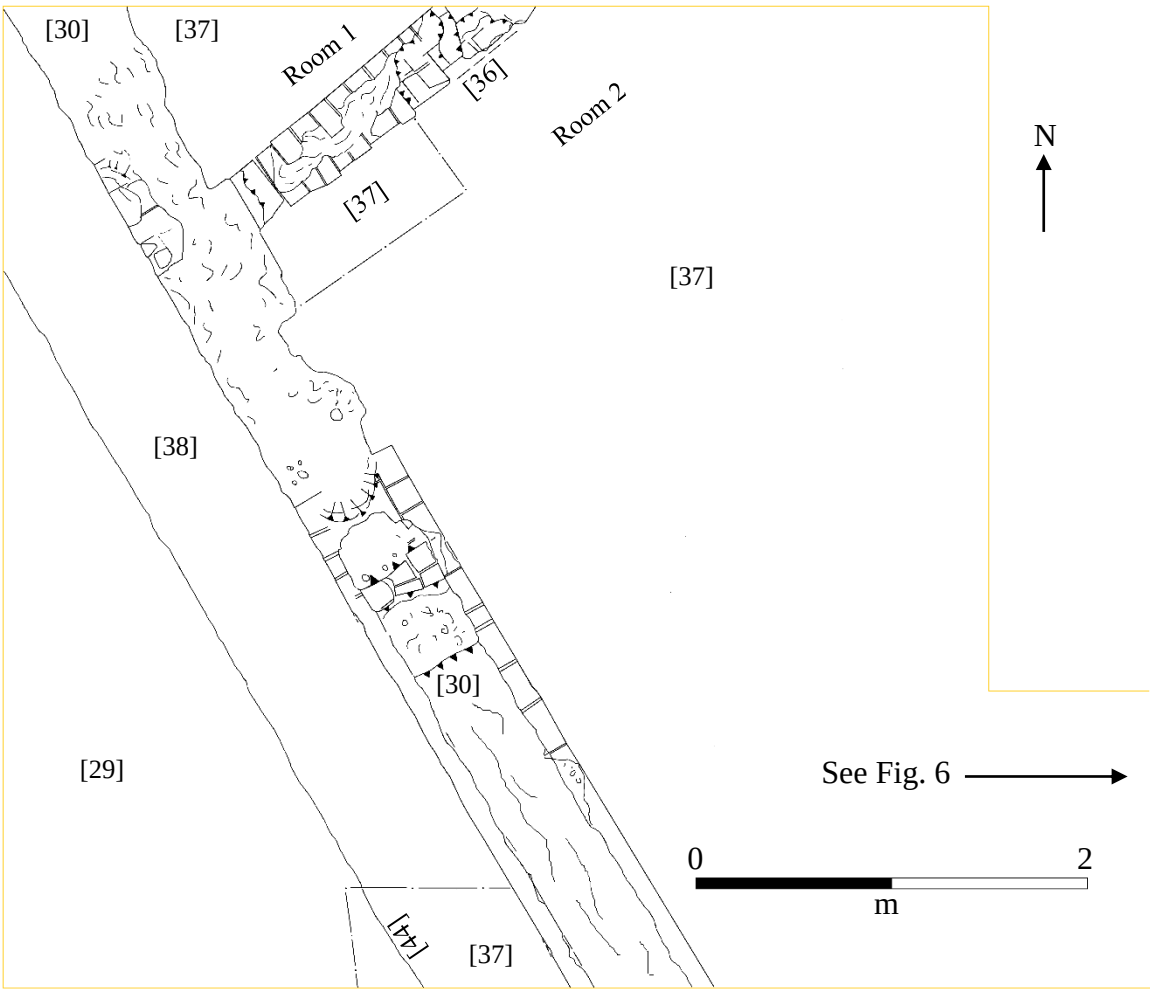


Fig. 5: Trench 4

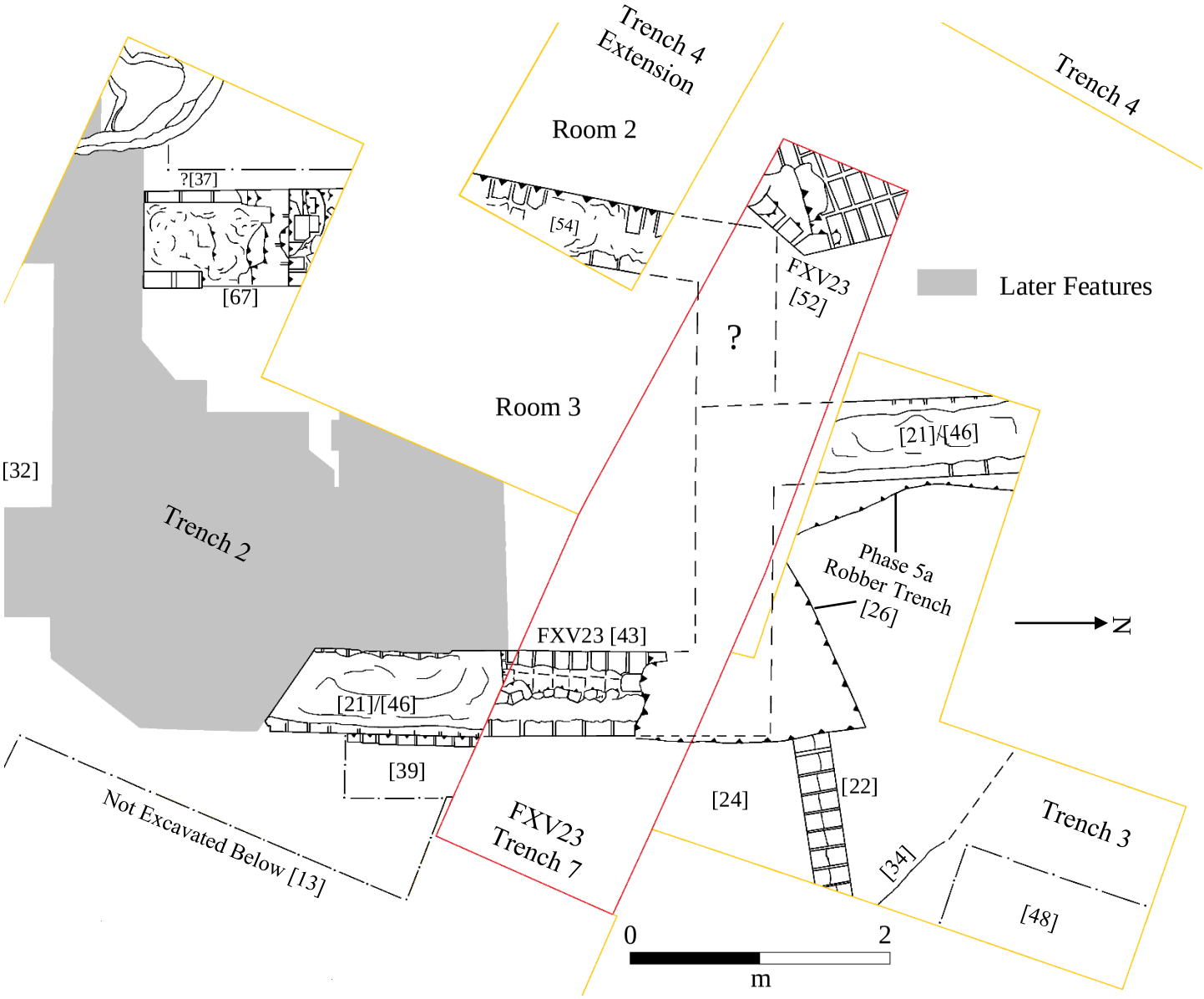


Fig. 6: Phase 1b and Phase 1b/2 Features in Trenches 2, 3, Trench 4 Extension and Fully Excavated Parts of FXV23 Trench 7

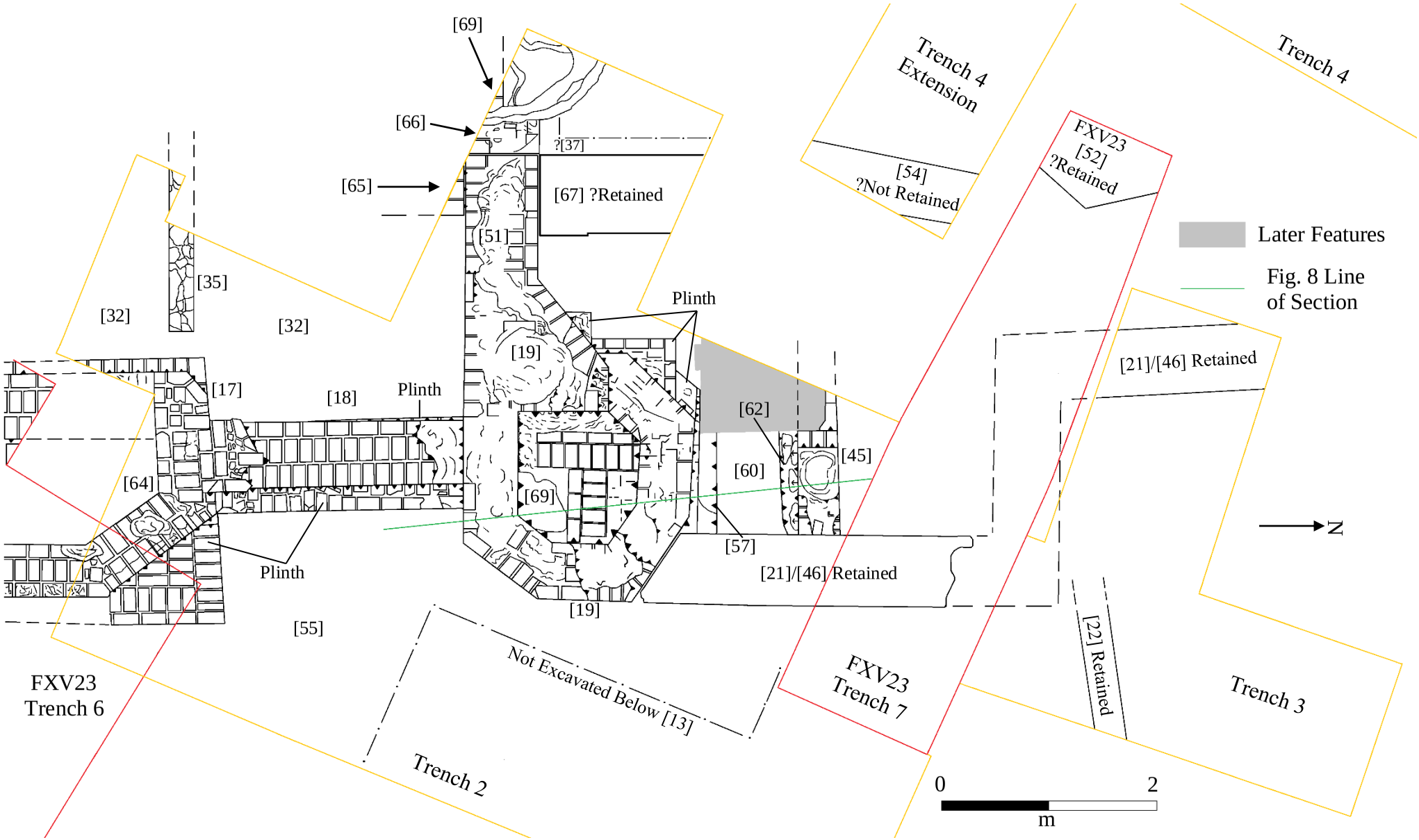


Fig. 7: Phase 2 Features in Trenches 2, 3, Trench 4 Extension and Fully Excavated Parts of FXV23 Trench 7

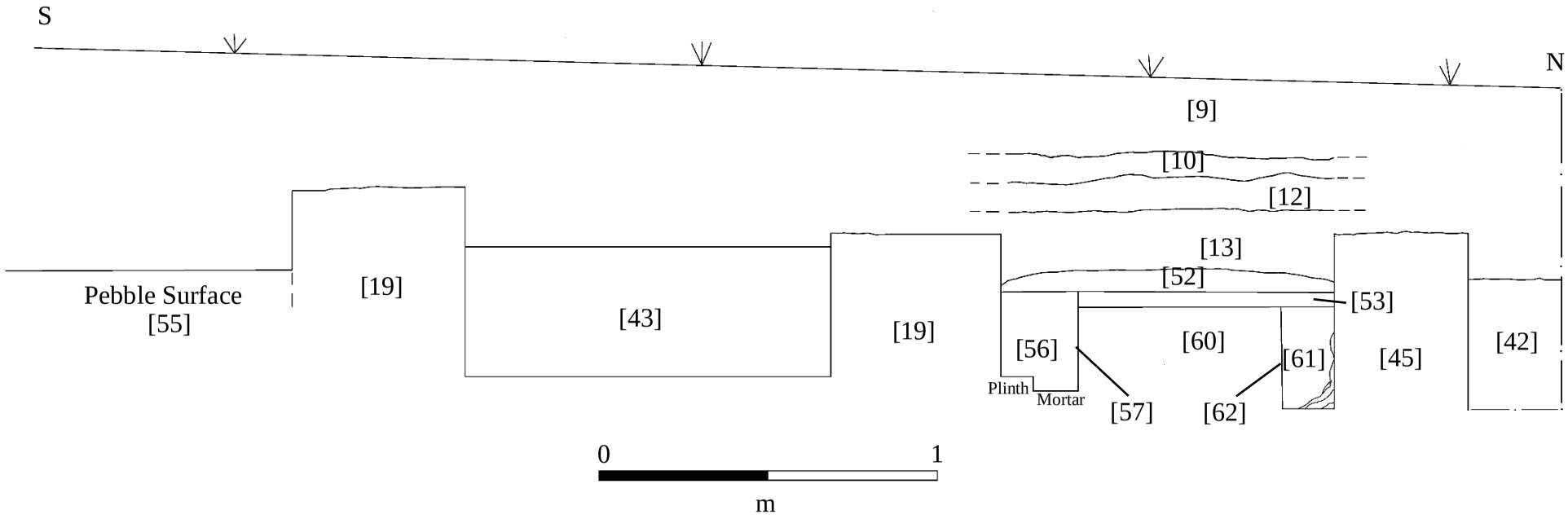


Fig. 8: Composite Schematic Section Across the North End of Trench 2 (for Location see Fig. 7)

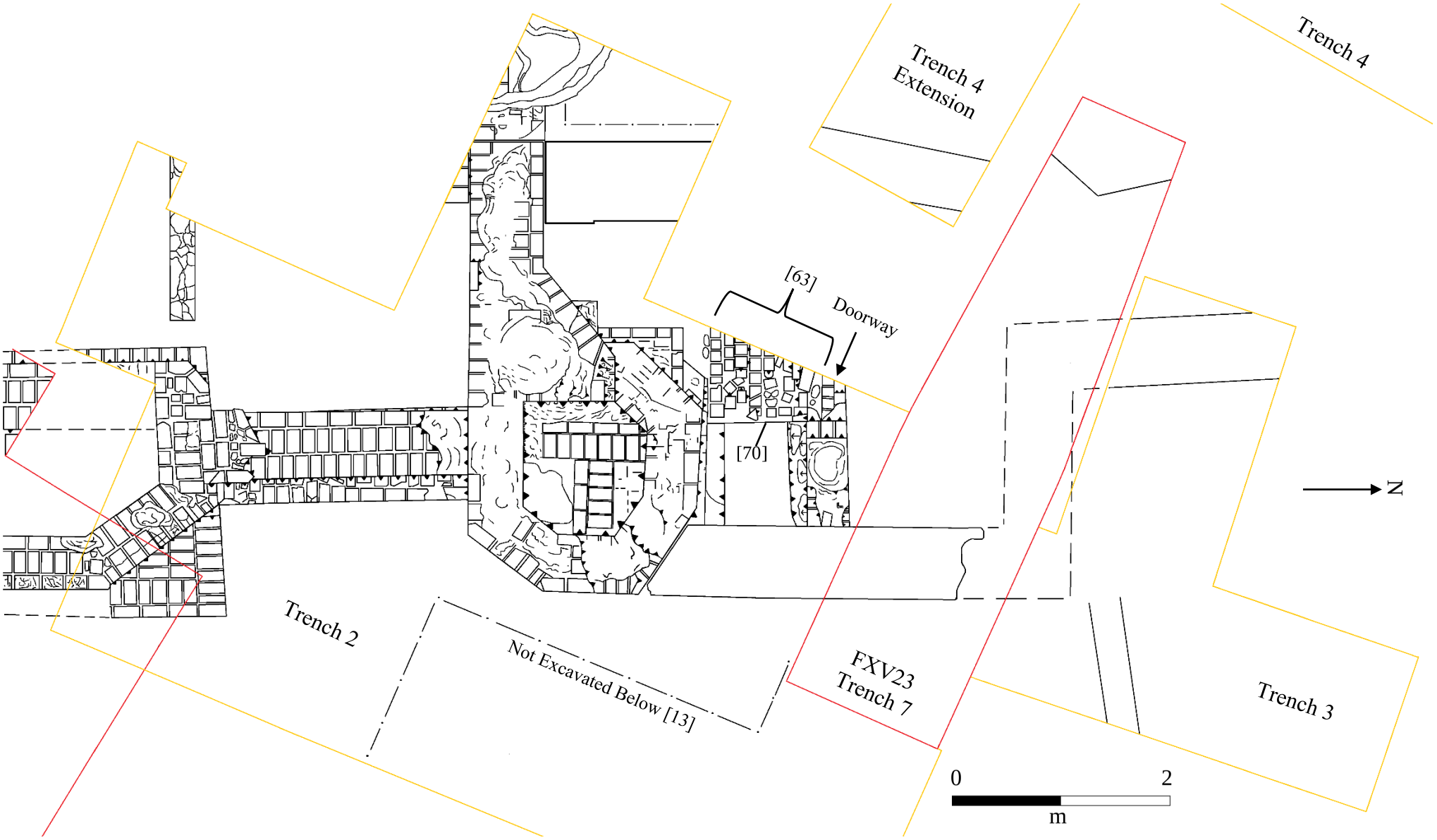


Fig. 9: Later Phase 2 – 4 Features in Trenches 2, 3, Trench 4 Extension and Fully Excavated Parts of FXV23 Trench 7

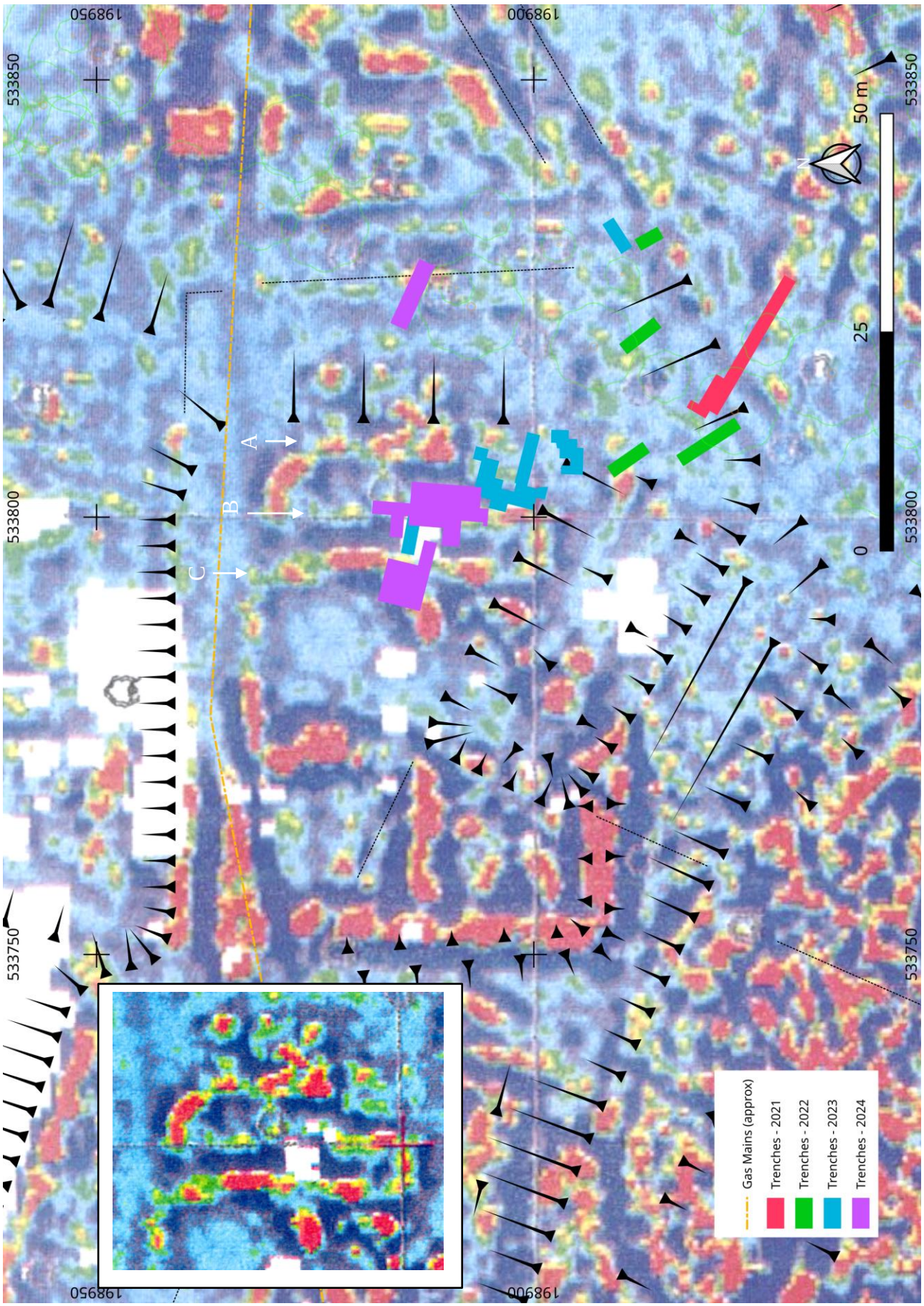


Fig. 10: Extract from Bartlett (1998) Plan 4 (Inset) and Superimposed on LiDAR Evidence (from Pinchbeck 2013) and 2021 – 2024 Trench Locations

N.B. Superimposition has been Achieved by use of the OS Grid on Bartlett Plan 4 Which is Believed to be Imprecisely Positioned

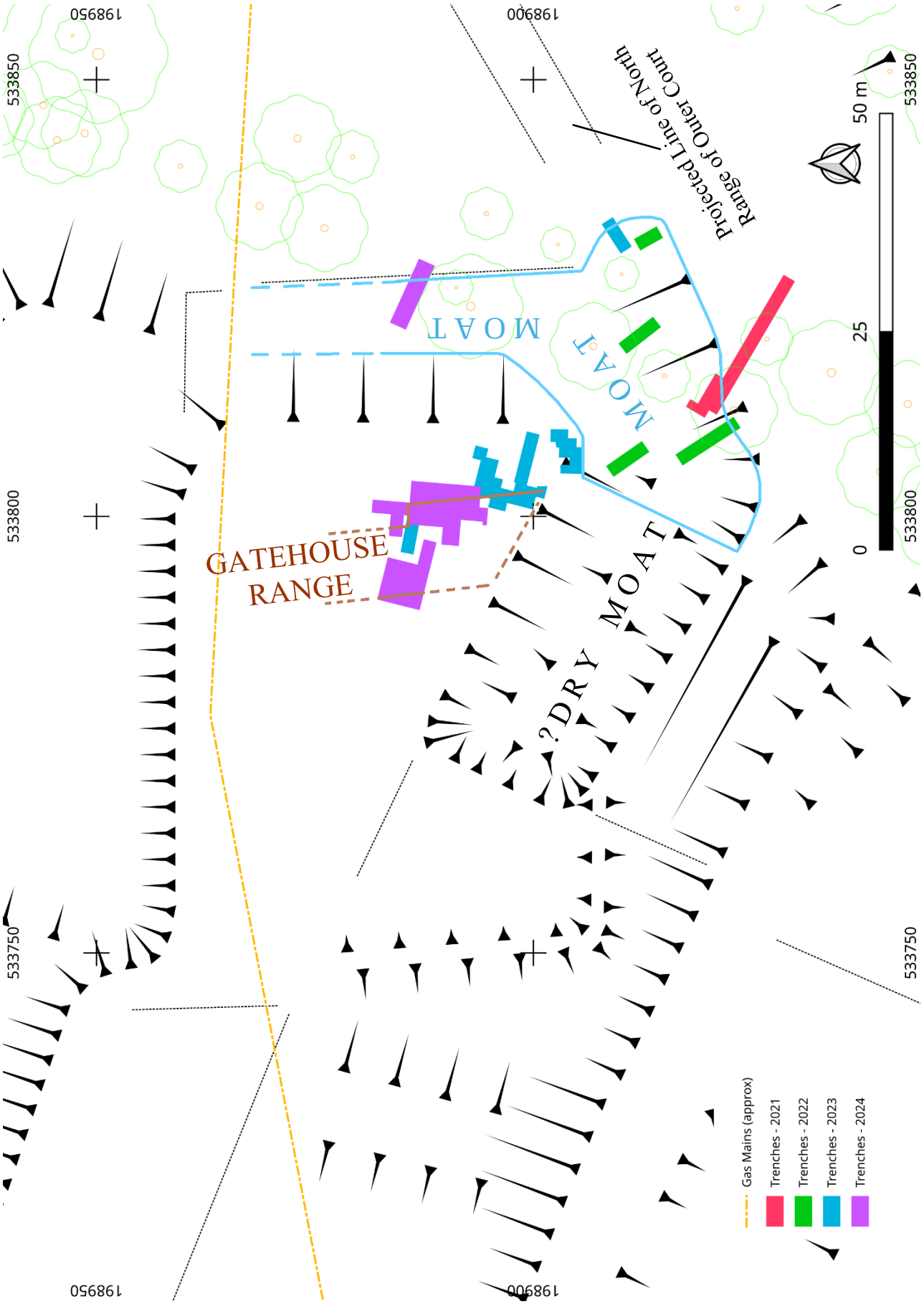


Fig. 11: Suggested General Site Plan

Fig. 12: FXW24 Trenches in Relation to Earlier Work, LiDAR Recorded Topography and Best Fit Locations for 1963 – 7 Excavations; and the Features Recorded in the 1967 Gas Main Trench (from Dearne and Drury 2022, Fig. 1)

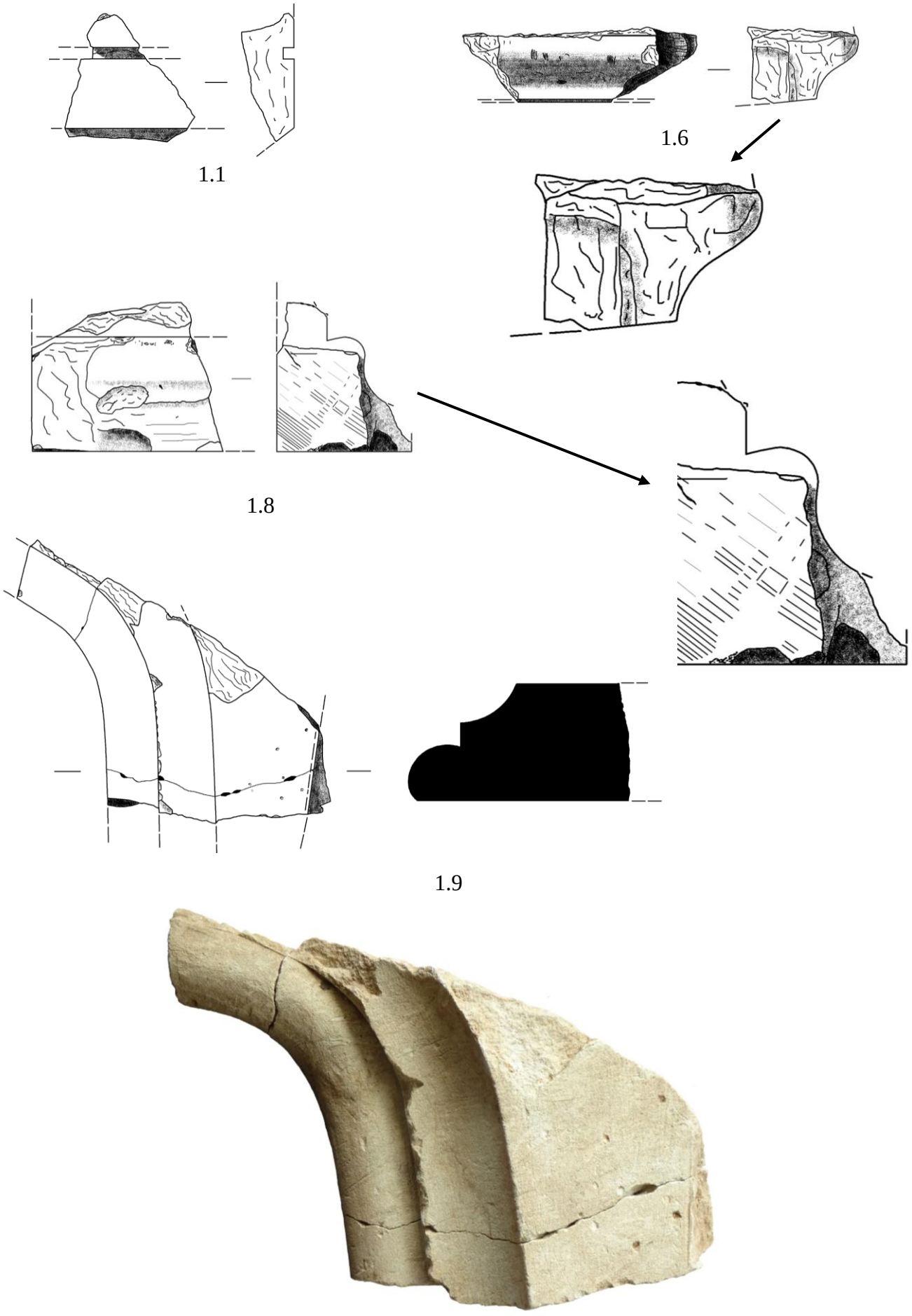


Fig. 13: Building Stone (Main Drawings 1:4, Enlargements Not to Scale), Photo Ian K. Jones

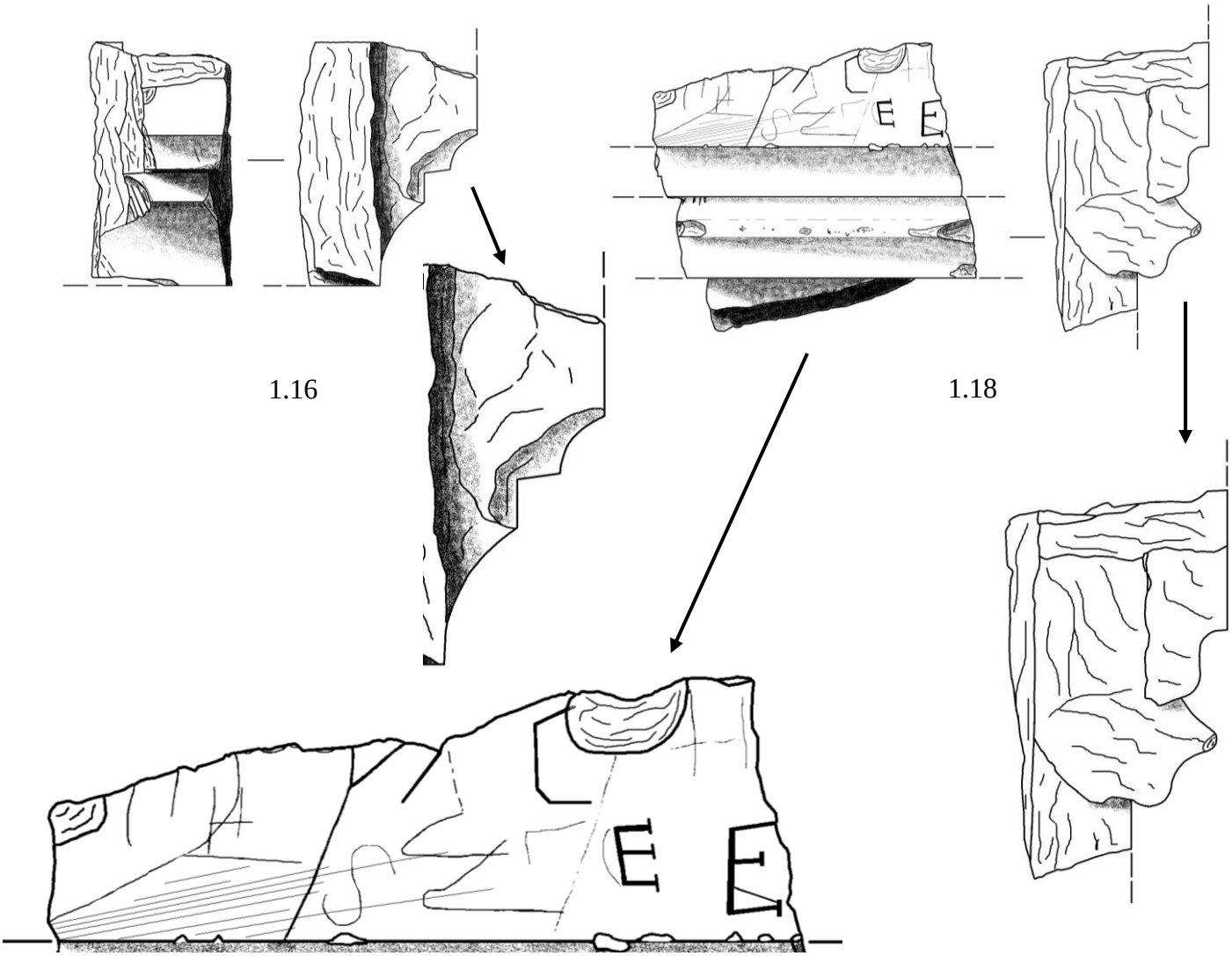


Fig. 14: Building Stone (Main Drawings 1:4, Enlargements Not to Scale), Photo John Pinchbeck

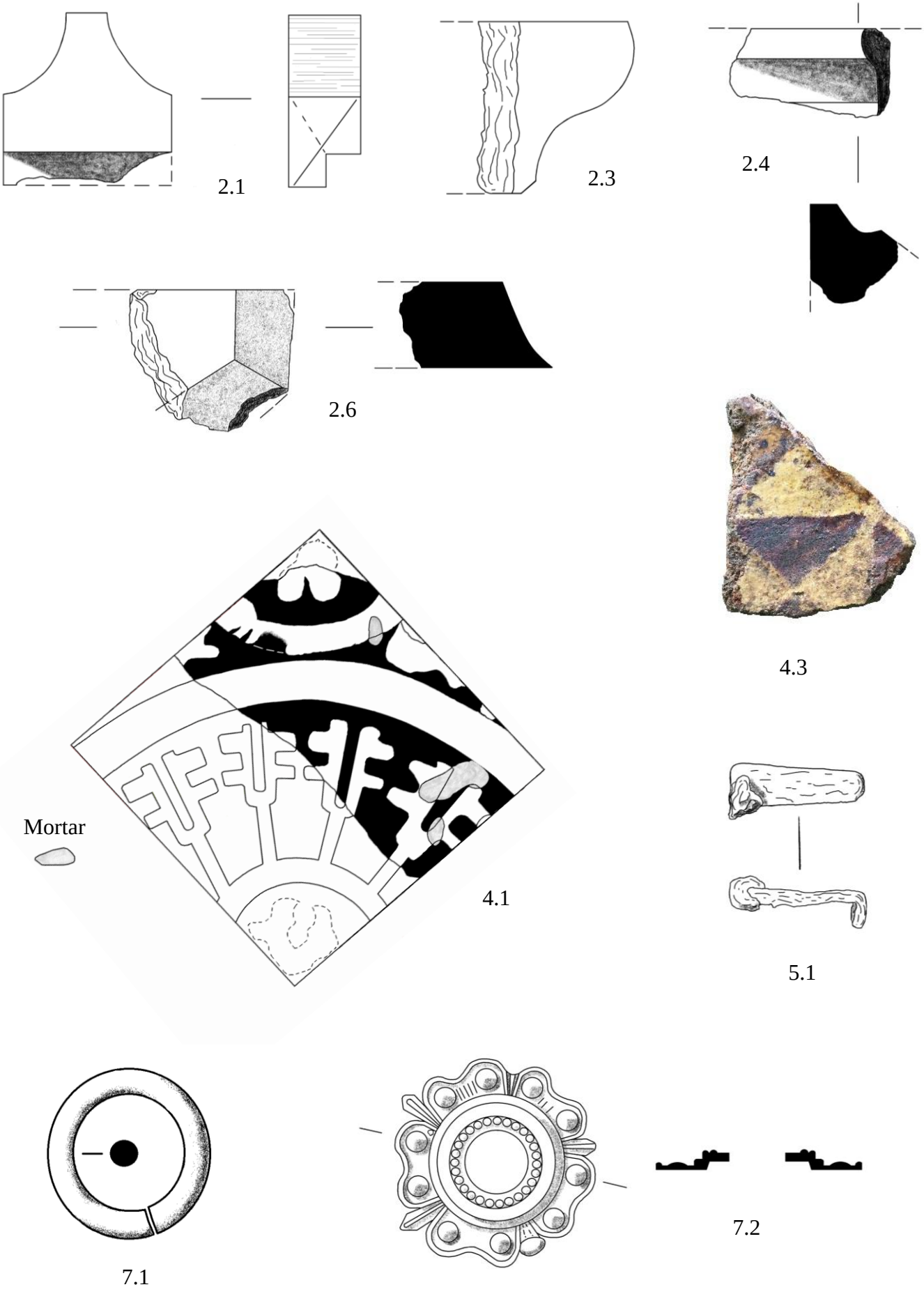


Fig. 15: Shaped Brick (1:4), Floor Tiles (Not to Scale), Fe Catch (1:2) and Internal Furnishing Items (1:1), Photo John Pinchbeck

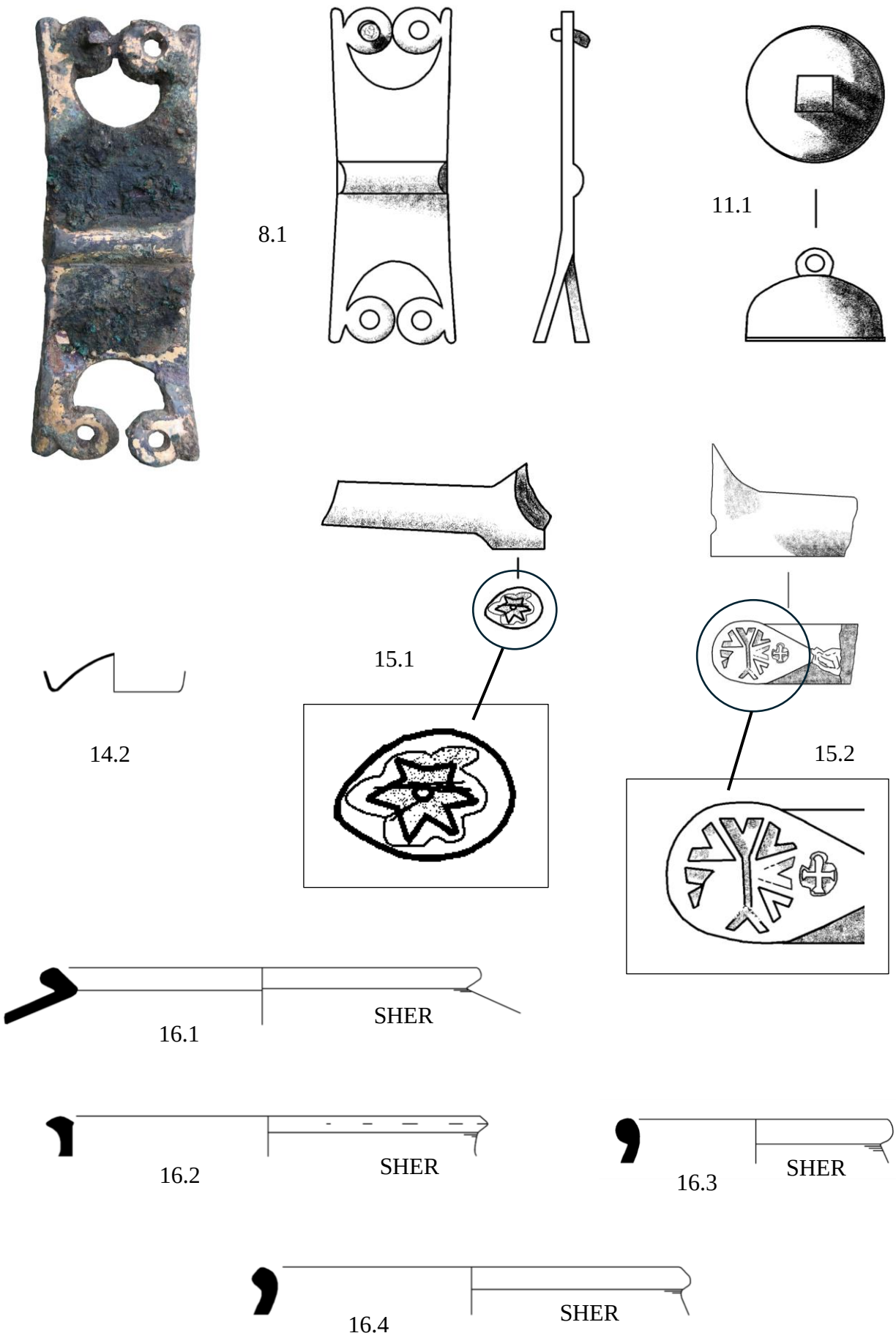


Fig. 16: Dress Items, Bell and Clay Pipes (1:1, Enlargements Not to Scale), Glass Base (1:2) and Pottery (1:4), Photo John Pinchbeck

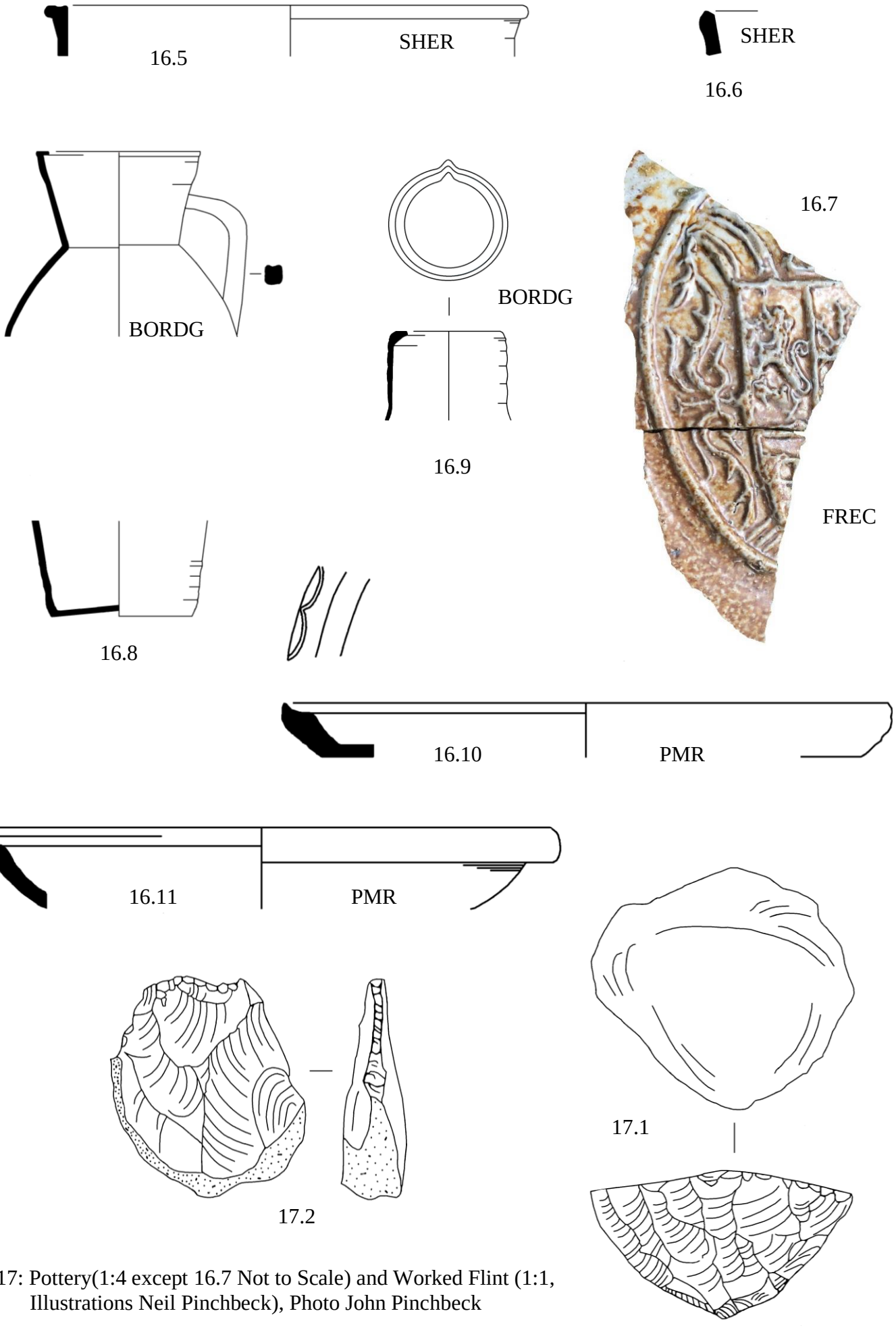


Fig. 17: Pottery(1:4 except 16.7 Not to Scale) and Worked Flint (1:1, Illustrations Neil Pinchbeck), Photo John Pinchbeck

Pl. 1: Wall [4], Looking East (photo MJD)

Pl. 2: ENE06 Pit 43, Wall [31], Looking West (Photo MJD)

Pl. 3: Re-excavtion of Wall ENE06 [31] (photo MJD)

Pl. 4: Wall [30], Surface [29] Beyond it and (Bottom Right) Wall [36] with the Fill of Cut [44] Partly Excavated, Looking South West (photo John Pinchbeck)

Pl. 5: Wall [36], Looking North (photo John Pinchbeck)

Pl. 6: East Face of Wall [21]/[46] in Trench 2 Showing the Rebuilding of the Upper Courses with Harder Whiter Mortar (photo MJD)

Pl. 7: Phase 2 Turret [19] Truncating Phase 1b/2 Rebuilt Wall [21]/[46] (Note Mortar Colour Difference), Looking North (photo John Pinchbeck)

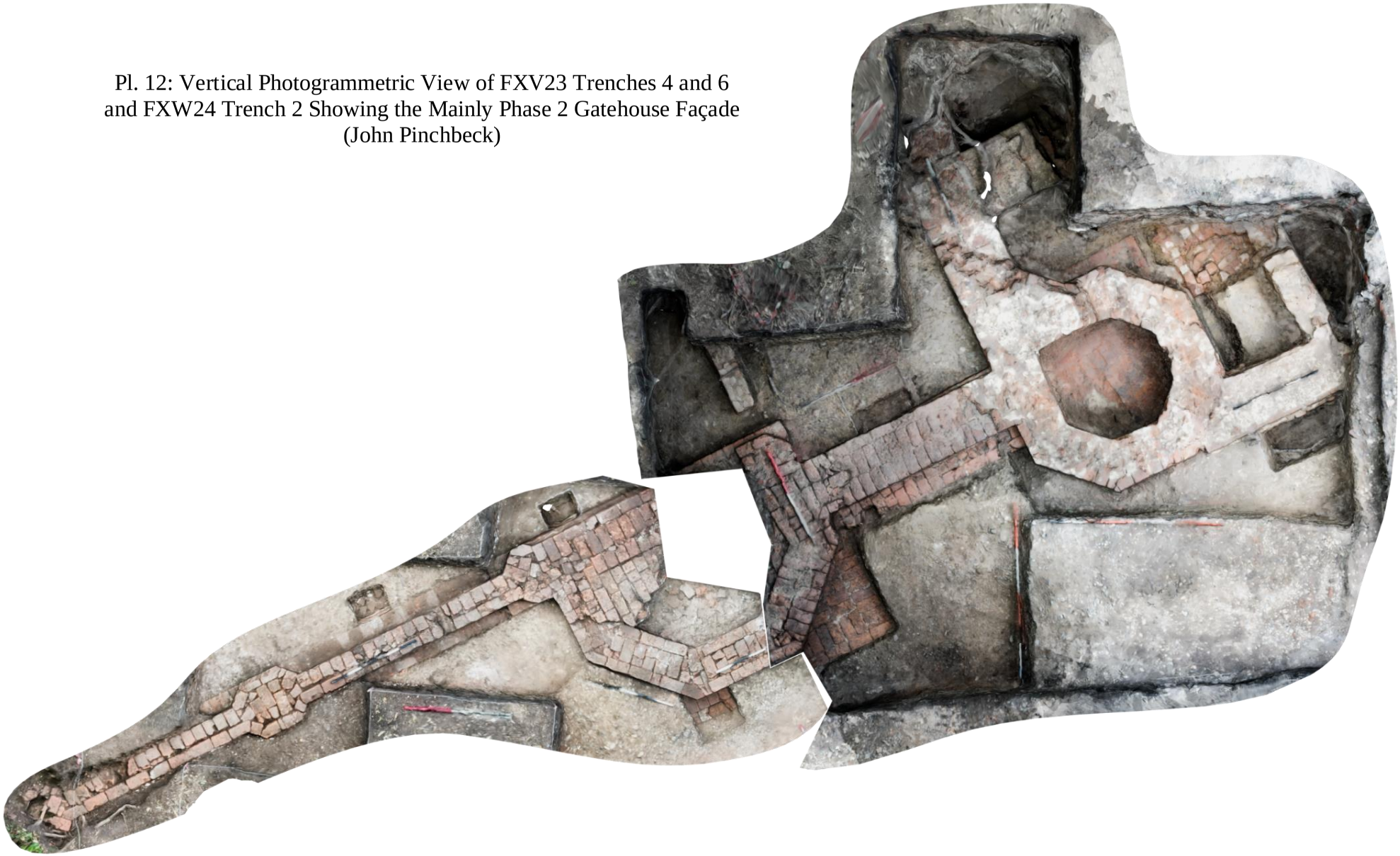
Pl. 8: Part Excavated Phase 5a Robber Trench [26] Truncating ?Phase 1b/2 Drain [22] (with Part of its Roof Removed) and Surface [24] to its Right, Looking East (photo John Pinchbeck)

Pl. 9: Wall [67] (Foreground) Meeting Wall [51] with [66] to the Right of [51] (Note Mortar Colour Difference), Looking South (photo John Pinchbeck)

Pl. 10: Construction Trench [57] (to Right beside turret [19] with its Foundation Raft Projecting) Fully Excavated, Cutting Dump Deposit [60] and with the Unexcavated Fill ([61]) of Construction Trench [62] to the Left against Wall [45] with Wall [21]/[46] at Top Truncated by [19], Looking East (photo MJD)

Pl. 11: The North Face of Phase 2 Wall [45] Showing the Void in its Lower Courses (Loose Bricks Within Phase 5a Rubble [42]) with Wall [21]/[46] to Left (photo John Pinchbeck)

Pl. 12: Vertical Photogrammetric View of FXV23 Trenches 4 and 6 and FXW24 Trench 2 Showing the Mainly Phase 2 Gatehouse Façade (John Pinchbeck)



Pl. 13: Phase 2 Turret [17] (to Left with Wall [35] Beyond), 'Wall' [18] (with Surface [55] in Foreground) and Turret [19], Looking West (photo John Pinchbeck)

Pl. 14: 'Wall' [18] (with Turrets [17] to Left and [19] to Right), Looking West (photo John Pinchbeck)

Pl. 15: Turret [19] (With ‘Wall’ [18] to Left and Wall [21]/[46] to Right) Becoming Wall [51] (with Wall [67] to Right), Looking West (photo John Pinchbeck)

Pl. 16: Half Section of [43], the Pre-Phase 5a Fill of Turret [19], Looking North (photo MJD)

Pl. 17: Possible Glazed Tile Post Pad Between Dwarf Wall [35] (to Left) and Turret [17], Looking North (photo John Pinchbeck)

Pl. 18: Horizontally laying ?*in situ* Broken Peg Tiles beside Wall [35], Looking North (photo MJD)

Pl. 19: West End of North Face of Wall [45] Showing Re-rendering of the Doorway and Threshold Inserted Later in Phases 2 – 4, Looking South (photo John Pinchbeck)

Pl. 20: Floor [63] with the Inserted Doorway Through Wall [45] to Right and Turret [19] to Left (Foreground Dump Depost [60] Cut on Left by Construction Trench [57]), Looking West (photo John Pinchbeck)