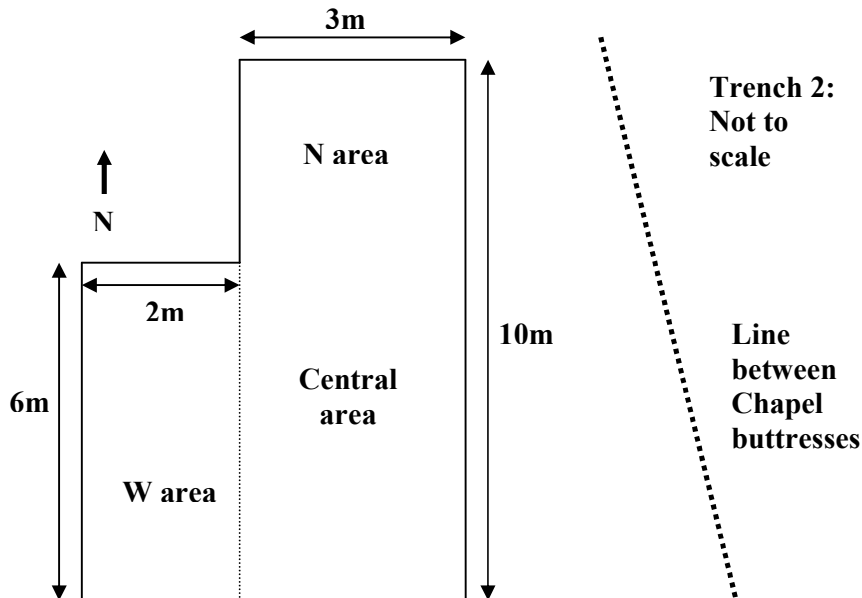


Trench 2: Excavation Report

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Trench 2 lay to the west of the Chapel, with its long axis aligned N-S, c 1.5m east of the Chapel's NW buttress and c 3m east of the SW buttress (the present Chapel lies nearer WSW-ENE than W-E). The trench was 3m wide in the N and 5m wide in the S, the 2m extension being in the west; the trench was 10m long in the east, with the western area being 6m long from south to north. The ground sloped from north to south dropping c 0.5m from c 68.9m to c 68.4m.



The trench was de-turfed by hand and the first 0.15-0.18m removed across the whole area as (2000); after removal of contexts (2001) – (2010) below, the trench was excavated further in two slots. Both slots ran N-S: one 1.25m wide east from the western baulk and the length of the western area; the other was 1m wide and ran from 1m west of the eastern baulk the full 10m length of the trench N-S. Narrower W-E slots enabled stratigraphy in the two long slots to be connected. Two sondages were excavated to test the depth of deposits: one in the NW corner of the main trench, which was then extended east to meet the central N-S slot to allow further examination of in-situ burial SK2; and one in the NW corner of the W area. In most areas natural clay was reached.

Trench 2 Summary

This reverse L-shaped trench to the west of the Chapel, maximum size 10m by 5m, uncovered a sequence of small buildings, outside yards and interior and exterior surfaces, as well as several burials. Of the two earliest buildings, possibly 13th or even 12th to 14th century, the one in the south lay on a completely different alignment to any other on the site, c NW-SE, and had been slightly dug into the natural clay ground, with a roughly paved surface to the north-west. Two west-east laid out burials found in the final days of the dig had been dug through the floor surface of this structure. We saw little more than the skulls of these burials, but one grave had been slightly cut into the other along their long axis. Both of the skulls were turned to one side and other long bones in one of the graves suggested that the arms of the skeleton were tucked under the head. The second earlier building in the north was aligned west-east and appeared to have had well-built stone walls. Both were small, maximum size 6m by 3m.

The burials and the earlier buildings were covered by the gravel-mortar floors and rubble-remains of other, later small buildings and yards. More detailed work now underway will tell us more about these little buildings, but they will have been everything from medieval buildings related to the leper hospital, through temporary structures created during the Civil War, to out-buildings for the 19th century farm. Certainly earlier surfaces were re-used in the nineteenth century and the remains of a substantial boundary-like wall were found running SW-NE across the south of the trench. This wall marked the limit of buildings in the south of Trench 2 and had been dismantled in the nineteenth century.

Another burial was discovered just north of the southern sequence of buildings. This grave was shallow and dug to run north-south, a surprise in a grave-yard where burials were conventionally laid west-east. Some of the skeleton ran into the trench-side to the east, but the pelvis and legs were visible. Again we were slightly surprised that the occupant of this perhaps un-approved grave was a young child. Pottery in the grave-fill and its position in the site stratigraphy suggested the burial might have been fifteenth century. Less than a couple of metres to the north, under another sequence of walls, yards and small buildings, was another child burial, again shallow and lying north-south. This skeleton was also lying on its back but the skull and upper spine had been damaged by the digging of a slot for a line of small upright stones that may have been the kerb support for the internal wall of a later structure. This grave had either been un-marked or forgotten; this burial and the other N-S grave discovered to the south may have followed a non-conformist tradition.

In the north-east corner of the trench we uncovered the legs of another burial, skeleton 2 (SK2): this grave was clearly west of the buildings in that area, west-east aligned, dug well-down and neatly lain out. In layout and stratigraphical position this grave seemed to echo the three in the soak-away trench to the east of the Chapel. All these four graves may have been dug from the same land surface. The sequence of buildings in the north of Trench 2 may have begun a little later than that to the south, but the earliest building was aligned with the pre-14th century Chapel and pottery suggests a date from the 13th century onwards. A later phase of activity in this area was associated with a number of Civil War finds: clay pipes, pottery and un-fired musket balls. There was a considerable amount of Civil War period material across the site suggesting that the occupation may have been for some time and by quite a number of soldiers. Thus Trench 2 not only produced fascinating burial evidence but also evidence for a sequence of small buildings, passage-ways and yards in the vicinity of the chapel: the two earliest buildings may have belonged to the first use of the site as a leper hospital in the 12th – 14th centuries.

Trench 2: Western Area

Summary

The earliest archaeology in this area was the corner of a small building about 6m by 2m with a long axis aligned NW-SE; the main remaining footprint of this building being in the south central trench below (2028)/(2029). Artefacts and pottery suggest the structure may have been in use as early as the 12th century. This building was slightly dug into the ground and lined with pea grit; later this depression had been filled with clay to level the area. Over the structure's infilling were the remains of outside yards or passages, and a wide boundary wall in the south [2010]. These upper layers had been badly disturbed by the work of the 19th century farm and the demolition of the wall and later levelling of the site. Thus earliest activity may have been 12th century with a possible intensifying of activity in the 17th -18th centuries.



Figure 1 western area under excavation: looking SSW

Western Area

Introduction

Trench 2 was a reversed-L shaped trench immediately west of the chapel with an overall size of 5 m wide at the bottom (south) of the L and a total length 10 m (plan 2.1): the shorter section of the trench to the west was 2m W-E and 6m N-S. This section deals primarily with the western end of the trench, dug mostly as a 1.25 m slot over the total length of trench from the western baulk (plan 2.3). The stratigraphy in this western slot was matched with that in the central slot through two W-E slots joining the western and central excavations.

The Contexts

The upper layers: (2000), (2002), (2003) and (2010)

Layer (2000) immediately under the turf over the whole trench consisted of homogenous and humic topsoil and subsoil with traces of 19th century and later activity. The positioning of the western Chapel door and truncation of the upper archaeological layers suggests that the whole of this area had been levelled in the past with the removal of c 0.25m of top-soil. After removal of (2000) distinctions were apparent in the layers below, (2001 – 2006) at 0.15 – 0.18m depth. In the south a linear feature (2002) was revealed c. 1m wide, running approximately 6m SW to NE across the trench from the SW corner. This contained a large amount of stones and rubble and was interpreted as a robbed-out wall, the remains of the wall-trench having been backfilled with 19th century agricultural material including a dump approximately 1m in diameter of Stonesfield roof tiles. This material may have been the remains of agricultural buildings demolished in the late 19th century. The wall-line itself, however, was not recorded on any 19th century maps.

At the very northern edge of the western trench, the soil was grittier than the rest of the area; this could have been a spread from the structural debris (2005) in the northern section of the trench (Plan 2.3). At the southern end of the area was the linear spread of debris (2002) above the remains of the robbed-out wall-line [2010]: there was more root disturbance in this area than elsewhere. To the north of the wall-line, and up to the grittier northern edge, was a more organic slowly accumulated layer (2003), mixed with occasional debris, mostly of 19th century agricultural activity or demolition debris from the removal of buildings/walls. There were far fewer finds in this spread between the foci of activity to the north, south and east. Below (2002) the line of the robbed-out wall was clearer as feature [2010], containing more rubble, building and domestic debris. It was decided to continue excavation by digging a slot in the western end of the trench, 1.25 m wide from the western baulk, over the 6.0 m length of that section of Trench 2.



Figure 2 Central and western slots under excavation: looking south west

Layers (2019), (2020) and (2021)

Plan 2.3; sections 205, 206, 207

At a depth of c 0.18 m context (2019) appeared below (2003) in the north end of the slot, extending over the width of the slot, and approx. 2.5m south from the northern baulk. This gritty layer contained domestic debris including 18th century pottery and seemed similar to (2016) to the east (plan 2.3). It contained many well-sorted angular stones, perhaps indicating the remains of an outside stone surface, possibly an outside area for buildings to the north or south. The far northern edge of the trench nearer to possible buildings was still grittier and had similarities with outside surface (2008) to the north.

At the southern edge of (2019), a colour change to a lighter yellow indicated a diffuse boundary with more pebbly and grittier, but less stony context (2020). This layer may have indicated an inside floor area, but may also simply have been influenced by the floor layers of the earlier small buildings below and have originally been a later and more disturbed 'outside'. This context was c 2.5m N-S from the edge of (2019) and probably contemporary with (2016), (2018) as well as (2019) and (2021) (Plans 2.3 and 2.4)

The layer under (2010) to the south and contemporary with (2019) and (2020) was (2021), which extended 0.75m south of (2020) to the southern baulk. This layer was heavily contaminated with roots and contained a modern concrete post base as well as remains of demolition. The boundaries overall were very diffuse and the similarities to mixed and heavily disturbed context (2018) persisted.

These layers seemed to belong to the same broad phase as the material overlying cobbled surface (2013) which could indicate that they were in use during the same period, (2013) having survived and re-used from an earlier phase of activity. The remains of outside surfaces and indoor floor areas confirm the former presence of buildings. Although no firm datable evidence has yet been identified, it is thought that these some of these layers may originally have been in use before the 19th century but were re-used, reconfigured and then suffered heavy disturbance during the farming activity of that period and subsequent demolition of the farm buildings.

Sondage in NW corner of slot: layers (2039), (2040) and slot through baulk (2041)

Plans 2.7, 2.11, 2.14, Sections 203, 204, 207

To check the depth of deposits below (2019), and eventually to create a W-E slot to establish relationships with the northern part of the trench, a 0.5 x 0.5m sondage was excavated in the NW corner of this area. In this sondage, upper layer (2039) was clay- and gravel-rich, probably indicating the remains of an exterior surface and very similar to (2034) to the south. Layer (2040) below showed the influence of the buildings to the south and north-east. A collection of stones in the SE corner proved to be tumble, but evidence of mortar and plaster indicated the former proximity of a building - probably the one to the south for which layer (2035) seemed to be the remains of the floor (see below). Natural clay was reached at a depth of c 0.6m in the sondage.

The slot running from the sondage to the east against the baulk to link stratigraphy in the west with the central slot represented a continuation of disturbed exterior surface (2039) but included a row of laid limestone, which could have been a wall-edge disappearing into the north baulk. These wall remains might link with surface and ephemeral wall remains (2046) to the north-east (and linear wall-kerb [2047]), and therefore be part of a near west-east structure first in use in the medieval period. This wall would edge an internal floor to the north and north-east, perhaps strengthening the interpretation of the area to the immediate south as having been at one time a narrow yard or perhaps passage between two buildings.



Figure 3 Sondage under excavation with limestone surface visible to east: looking north

Layers (2034), (2035) and (2036)

Plans 2.5, 2.11; section 207

Although these three contexts covered the whole length of the western slot, the boundaries of the layers were slightly differently located from the contexts above; all horizontal boundaries of the spreads were diffuse and layers difficult to separate. Layer (2035) was the clearest to distinguish. (2034) was a sandy silt layer similar to context (2019) although much less disturbed, more homogenous and organic; like that spread (2034) contained

fragmentary animal bone, floor-tile and pottery sherds. Spot dates on the pottery suggest a 14th -15th century date. (2034) was 2.2m N-S from the northern baulk in the west and 0.4m from that baulk in the east. It was possibly an outside area north of the building/rubble spread (2035) and originally in the same phase as contexts (2028) – (2033): That is earlier than the phase represented by (2019), (2020) and (2021)/ (2013), and (2016).



Figure 4 layers (2034), (2035) and (2036) under excavation: looking north

Layer (2035) appeared in the slot as a right angled layer aligned approx NW-SE with a clear corner almost touching the western baulk 2.55m south of the northern baulk. The spread was orangey brown sandy silt with a high proportion of grit and mortar inclusions. The layer may have been the remains of a building floor, similar to (2028) to the SE and of the same phase. Again this layer contained pottery, animal bone and floor tile.

(2036) to the south was a brownish black gritty sandy silt containing some clayey lenses and thought to be an exterior working/activity area south of building/surface (2035); it continued eastwards under the baulk and contained very few finds.

Layers (2042), (2056), (2059) and (2064), and cut [2055]

Plans 2.7, 2.11, 2.12, 2.14; sections 205 and 206

The layers were clearly the oldest, most interesting and most difficult to interpret. Layer (2042) below (2035) and on the same footprint showed similarities with (2035) above, but seemed to cover a slightly larger area, and represented the less disturbed remains of the floor of a building, with traces of its subsequent structural destruction. The majority of finds came from the area near W baulk and could be associated with the corner of the building. The bone found in this area could relate to the underlying layer (2056), as the boundaries between the two layers were so diffuse. This area of the western slot was then dug deeper in a c 2m N-S section under (2042).

Cut [2055] was for the sunken feature lying to the east and filled by (2056) and (2064). The feature was sloping down to SE and cut into natural clay. In size it echoed the floor spreads above e.g. (2042) and sloped to the SE to a depth of nearly 0.2m. Against the W baulk at its highest point, the remains of a laid stone surface were discovered disappearing into the western baulk. The rough, small stone slabs covered an area of 0.85 m N-S x 0.4 m max W-E. This may have been a paved entrance way into the building or an external surface. (2056) seemed to be the lining of the semi-sunken building, cut into the underlying clay, and was organic silty, gritty gravel containing bone fragments and pottery sherds. Spot dates on the pottery from this context suggested a 12th century date with fabrics including Cotswold-type ware (1050-1225). Layer (2064) was a firm greenish grey clay layer with some grit and limestone flecks, spread over (2056). It was a re-deposited natural clay layer, near sterile, spread N-S over a 1.5m length of (2056), deepening towards the east baulk thus infilling above (2056). This may have been done to level the area before the spreading of the later floor layer (2042).



Figure 5 (2056) with building debris and (2042) in section: looking east

Layer (2059) was under (2036) to the south of [2055] extending 2.0 m N of the southern baulk, but extending under eastern baulk and similar to (2060). It was a thick, gravelly layer with a dump of larger stones. This was another outside surface south of the building sequence and may have related to (2042) or the earlier configuration of the building represented by (2056).

Discussion

The earliest phase seems to have been the small, slightly sunken building. This could have been contemporary with the use of the area for a leper hospital from the 12th – 14th centuries. The earliest phase in the northern sector of the trench included the c 14th century west-east aligned building and skeleton 2's burial: could these be at least partly contemporary with the sunken building?

The main 'middle' phase of use of this area was possibly 17th -18th century. Clearest evidence from this phase being the lower of the remaining surfaces found in (2041) and (2042). Later evidence for the occupation of the site comes mainly from agricultural activity, including the back-fill of the robbed-out wall-line running NE – SW in the south of the trench. Although no records of any type of building in this area have been discovered on maps, as it was filled with demolition rubble from the later 19th century, the wall must have been mid 19th century at the latest. The discovery of the modern concrete post holder in (2021) demonstrates the disturbance of this area in the 20th century.

Conclusion

This area shows signs of intensive use over centuries with sequential phases of buildings and their demolition. There was only one small find in this area, but some of the pottery sherds will provide better dating evidence. Many of the layers were disturbed by later reconfiguration, re-use and demolition.

Trench 2: Central Area

Summary

The earliest activity in the south central area of the trench appeared to be the remains of the building seen most clearly in the west; the earliest form of this structure had been disturbed by the inter-cutting west-east burials: skeletons 11 and 13. These may have been the same, or slightly later, phase of burial activity to west-east skeleton 2, found in the far north-west sondage in the corner of the trench. This central area also contained a similar sequence to the west, with south-eastern end of the small sub-rectangular building overlain by surfaces and yards. Other periods of activity were likely to include those of the Civil War, when it is known that the Parliamentarians occupied this site. The final stages of occupation, including the back-filling of the old wall-line, were related to first 18th century activity and then agricultural use in the 19th century.

Central Area

Introduction

The reversed 'L-shape' trench, which covered an area of 42m² was de-turfed by hand, revealing a layer of dark blackish brown sandy silt sub-soil immediately under the turf (2000): this was cleaned by trowelling to a depth of 0.1 – 0.15m. This layer produced material consistent with human activity and included a lead candle holder (SF 20) and a brass pencil along with the normal detritus associated with farming occupation (pottery, CBM, bone, metal working slag and fragments of Stonesfield roofing tile). The other notable inclusions in this layer were three unshaped limestone blocks that may have been kerb stones associated with a path leading W-E up to the west door of Bartlemas Chapel. No conclusive traces of the route of any such path were discovered but the top-soil stripping may have removed this evidence. Contamination in this layer consisted of roots from the rough area of turf across the south-west corner of the trench, worm and ant action across the rest of the area.

The Contexts

The upper contexts: (2001), (2002), (2004) and [2010]



Figure 6 contexts below (2000) looking south

The removal of the sub-soil, which was friable, dark blackish brown slightly sandy silt, revealed a number of contexts (2001 to 2006) across the trench. Excavation of context (2001), dark blackish brown sandy silt was undertaken by trowelling the area in the south-east corner of the trench. The make-up of this context was very similar to (2000) and included detritus connected to human activity perhaps related to the demolition of the wall. Adjacent to (2001) was (2002), a dark brownish black silty sandy with small clay patches, which appeared to be related to the robbing-out of a wall, running on a NE-SW alignment and about 1m in width, which was also excavated by trowelling. The proposed wall line does not appear on any of the 19th or 20th century photos, maps or plans of this area outside the chapel. The bulk finds were the usual detritus, but also included a small Fe scoop (SF12). The make-up of the bulk finds would indicate that this is likely to have been caused by both domestic and agricultural rubbish from the 19th century.

The area immediately outside of the west end of the chapel (2004), a dark blackish brown sandy silt with limestone inclusions, was very compacted, excavated using mattocks and trowels, and appeared to be related to (2003). The compaction indicates that this could be the make-up of a path leading to the west door of the chapel, or a yard related to agricultural activity in the 19th century. A number of small finds Fe objects (SF 17 and 27), Fe knife (SF30), pottery (SF33) and dish rim (SF32) may help to indicate the age of this surface, but again it is most likely to be 19th century.

Underlying (2002) was linear feature [2010], which was dark brownish black gritty sandy silt, with some very compact areas, containing inclusions of limestone (20%), and Stonesfield roof slate (>5%): the feature appeared to be the remains of a wall. A slot was put across the feature (0.75m x 0.5m x 0.4m) to ascertain if any wall structure remained. The slot proved no wall survived and so the remaining length of the feature was cleared. This feature marked the line of both the construction trench and later robber trench running 6m SW-NE by c. 1m wide across the trench, back-filled with agricultural, domestic and demolition rubbish.



Figure 7 Excavation of [2010] just underway: looking SW

Contexts: (2013), (2014), (2015), (2016), (2017) and (2018)

Underlying (2004, 2008 and 2009 – see northern area) in a slot running N-S within the trench was a compact mid brownish slightly sandy silt matrix (2013). This contained 50% (75-80% in the central undisturbed area of the context) rounded river cobbles; these were well sorted, with the majority of them averaging 0.1m, covering an area 2m x 2m. A section of this 1m West-East by 1.6m North-South and was excavated using a mattock proving this was a well laid surface, with fragments of bone and pottery trampled into it. The feature was almost certainly either an outside working surface or yard (see below for more on this surface). To the south of this feature was a more disturbed continuation of this cobbled surface (2014). The soil here was compact light greyish brown, gritty silty sand with considerable limestone and river cobble inclusions.

South of this within the N-S slot was an area (2015) of compact/friable dark yellowish brown sandy silt which contained limestone and river cobbles albeit less than (2014). This layer was most probably part of the disturbed layers in this section of the trench relating to the demolition and reconfiguration of buildings and surfaces to the W and S, and sequential surfaces and a possible wall line to the N. Adjacent to (2015), on the west side, was an area (2016) of friable, mid greyish brown gritty/gravelly slightly sandy silt. This appeared to be an outside gravelly surface which continued under the baulk of the slot to the west. This baulk was later removed and the surface continued up to the baulk that was left in the trench running N-S at the E12 co-ordinate, and appeared to be oval in shape (contexts (2019)/ (2020) – see above).



Figure 8 Contexts (2013), (2014), (2015) and (2018): looking south

At the south end of the trench a 0.5m slot was dug running W-E, below [2010] and was against the baulk of the trench which allowed correlation of stratigraphy. In the SW corner (2017) was an area of friable light greyish

brown gritty clayey silt, with inclusions of gritty pebbles and poorly sorted angular limestone, containing a quarter cut silver penny (SF37). This area was probably a rough working surface. Adjacent to (2017), within the N-S slot at the south end, was layer (2018), friable dark greyish brown gritty slightly sandy silt. This area was a very mixed context of rubble with relatively few finds suggesting that it was dumped and spread very quickly; its location under the remains of a NE-SW wall [2010], suggested (2018) was a make-up layer for the original wall construction. In the NE corner was a dump of tile, which proved, after further excavation, to lie above a grave containing skeleton 11 (SK11), perhaps the ground remained softer in that area.

Contexts: (2027), (2028) and [2029] Plan 2.5



Figure 9 Contexts (2028) and [2029]: looking west

Layer (2027) lay in the N-S slot underneath (2013 and 2014) and was of a compact, light brownish grey sandy silt, with small stones and pea grit inclusions, with some medium sized stones located at the south end of the context. This was probably a surface, with the limestone at the south end relating to a building.

Layer (2028) was also in the N-S slot, underneath (2018) and south of (2027). This layer was of compact light brownish grey sandy silt, containing 10% limestone and 80% gravel. The context was very similar to (2035) located in the N-S slot on the W edge of the trench – see above. The layer of gravel suggests that this was most probably a surface that may have been surrounded by a wall; [2029] may be the remains of the original wall foundation. The pottery associated with this less-disturbed context was a 13th – 14th century assemblage, which had survived along the edge of the wall.

Grave: skeleton 5 (in centre E of trench running into baulk)



Figure 10 Skeleton 5: looking east

The fill (2038) consisted of friable greyish, gritty, slightly sandy silt (85%) with small occasional lenses of greenish brown clay. The fill also included limestone rubble, grit and small river pebbles and charcoal flecks. The cut [2037], 1m N-S by 0.3m W-E, for the grave of skeleton 5 (SK5) contained the remains of a small child, probably female which was orientated NW-SE with the head to the SE (only the leg bones were visible and the knee joints were in a poor condition). The grave continues under the eastern baulk of the trench so was not fully excavated, and the visible bones were not removed. As the bones could not be removed it was not possible exactly to determine the profile of the grave, but the sides appeared to be near vertical. The pottery in the fill included a large rim sherd and base sherd of Tudor Green ware (1375 -1550) along with other medieval wares.

Curving linear ditch

The cut of a narrow (0.4m), shallow, slightly curving ditch [2050] was discovered under (2030) in the N-E slot; the profile was U-shaped with near vertical sides and was cut into the natural. The ditch was truncated by the activity associated with (2030): (2030) was probably a surface associated with buildings to the north. The fill of the ditch (2049) was compact, dark greyish brown gritty sandy silt with clay lenses (20%); it also contained inclusions of limestone, river cobbles, flint, and fragmented bone.



Figure 11 Ditch [2050] and surface (2030): looking south

Graves in south of trench: (Skeleton 11 and Skeleton 13) Plan 2.15

Towards the south of the central slot compact layer (2051) consisted of a yellowish brown, gritty sandy silt, limestone and pebbles, with otherwise diffuse boundaries roughly defined by larger stones. This appeared to be a disturbed layer over W-E grave [2061]: it is possible that the larger stones in (2051) and (2054) actually belong with the edge of [2061]. These two slightly disturbed layers seemed to be closely related to the inter-cutting burials found under the structural sequence. Layer (2051) contained two small finds: a whetstone (SF48) and a large rim sherd from a pot with rim (SF46). (2054) was a friable layer of yellowish brown silty clay, contained no finds of any kind. This layer, and related layer (2051), both sealed grave [2061]; it was also possible that (2054) formed part of a later graveyard surface (see below). The fill of [2061] was friable, dark greyish brown, gritty sandy silt (2057) with very frequent charcoal flecking; grave [2061] cut layer (2060) and the fill of the grave to the north (2066).

Context (2054) was also located over clay-rich pebbly area (2060) to the south and related to (2058). (2058) and (2060) were the layers into which the two graves had been cut: [2061] into (2060) and [2067] into (2058). (2054) could therefore be part of the surrounding and later graveyard surface. Surface (2058) was friable mid orangey brown gritty sandy silt, with 15% sub-angular and small angular pebbles and was also cut into by [2067] the grave cut for skeleton 13 (SK13). Thus (2058), probably an outside (graveyard) surface pre-dating the structural sequence, was cut by SK13's grave; (2060) then accumulated and skeleton 11's (SK11) grave [2061] was cut into (2060) and through the fill of SK13's grave (2066). W-E grave [2061] disappeared into the baulk and contained human remains SK11; it was filled by (2057), friable dark greyish brown gritty sandy silt, which contained 30% charcoal flecking. This grave [2061] had cut into W-E grave [2067] to the north, which contained human remains SK13. The fill of SK13's grave was (2066): this grave seemed to have been lined with gravel and charcoal which ran under the skull; otherwise the fill was a friable to compact dark greyish/blackish brown, gritty sandy with cobbles (c 10%).

Grave cut [2061] was sub oval in shape and was orientated in a W-E alignment with steeply sloping sides, the base of the grave was not determined as the articulated remains could not be disturbed. Only the head of SK11 was revealed but the skeleton was clearly not supine, rather the skull was turned to the side with the arms raised

and bent to the north side of the head. Earlier grave [2067] was also half revealed with only the sub circular west end seen; the remainder ran under the baulk to the E but was on a W-E orientation. The south edge had been disturbed by the re-cutting [2061] for SK11; as with SK11 only the skull of SK13 was located. Again the burial was not completely supine but the head appeared to be turned to the side. The bottom of the grave could not be reached, but there appeared to be a layer of grit and charcoal running under the skull.



Figure 12 Skeletons 11 (right) and 13: looking west

This area of the trench provided some of the earliest indications of activity in Trench 2 and may represent a phase of graveyard activity slightly later than that of skeleton 2 (SK2) in the NW corner of the trench.



Figure 13 Skeletons 11(left) and 13: looking east

Discussion

Based on the current evidence the earliest phase in this section of the trench might date to the medieval period, perhaps beginning as early as the 12th century. Carbon 14 analysis of the bones is needed to provide dating evidence; it will also provide a date comparison for the other burials on the site.

The second main phase of occupation would appear to have been in the 17th -18th centuries, including the time of the Civil War, when the Parliamentarians are known to have occupied this site. Another phase of activity, almost certainly earlier, might relate to the child burial near the eastern baulk of the trench and a similar burial to the north; only further work and dating evidence will provide an answer. The final period of use was during the 19th century, when the Chapel and its land were incorporated into a farm.

Trench 2: Northern Area

Summary

The northern sector of Trench 2 showed signs of much building activity and repeated demolition and rebuilding throughout the life of the site. The oldest clear wall-line [2044] in the north of the trench seemed to align with the suspected earlier Chapel's northern wall. Pottery associated with this wall and its floors suggest a possible 13th century date. The ephemeral remains of a southern wall (2046) on the same alignment suggest this building may have been about 3m wide and at most 6m long. This small

building seems to have been re-used and eventually demolished, with repeated use being made of hard surfaces associated with the building into the 19th century. Two burials were revealed: a W-E burial in the NW corner, of which only the legs were seen as the rest of the grave ran under the western trench edge; and a child burial aligned north-south and disturbed by the later building of a stone kerb wall-support within the northern building.



Figure 14 Trench 2 under excavation: looking north-east

Northern Area

Introduction

Trench 2 was located immediately west of the chapel and was 5.0 x 10.0m in size at the largest extent (Plan 2.1). This section deals with the northern sector of Trench 2 which, at the beginning of excavation, consisted of a rectangular area measuring 3m W-E by about 5m N-S. In the second week of the campaign, a metre-wide slot was cut running north-south along the trench's length (Plan 2.3), and only the portion within the slot was excavated from this point onwards.

The Contexts

The upper layers: (2000) and (2004)-(2006)

The subsoil and the top layers revealed signs of 19th century site-use and also contained building debris from the demolition of earlier structures. See **Figure 6** above.

The topsoil (2000) extended over the entire trench, already revealing variations in the underlying contexts at a depth of 0.10 to 0.15m. Immediately below the topsoil were layers (2004), (2005) and (2006), which merged into one another in plan and were probably roughly contemporaneous (Plan 2.1). Diffuse boundaries between these three spreads made them difficult to distinguish. Much of the variation consisted of slight differences in composition (level of grittiness) and compaction. These top layers were significantly disturbed. However, all three layers contained noticeable amounts of limestone rubble, indicating the presence and subsequent destruction of earlier structures.

In the far north of the trench was (2006), which contained the remains of agricultural walls and surfaces in use in the 19th century. Measuring 1.4m N-S by 3.0m W-E, it had a maximum depth of 0.20m and was grittier and more gravelly in the north end. Evidence for an ephemeral wall-line consisted of two roughly worked stones, bedded in context (2011) below and probably in situ, located in the centre of (2006) where the building debris

was most concentrated (Plans 2.2, 2.3). The diverse small finds seemed to be dominated by Victorian artefacts: for example a 19th century bottle or jar base.

South of (2006) was layer (2005), a slightly less rubbly subsoil that nonetheless also contained agricultural and building demolition debris. It measured about 3.0 x 3.0 m, including the 1.4m strip of (2006) to the north. The maximum depth of excavation was 0.05m and the context was clearly distinguishable from the contexts below. (2005) consisted of a thin silty layer over the remains of another ephemeral wall base, [2007], and its associated surfaces (2008) and (2009). A pipe bowl dating to the 17th century was also found.

(2004) was a roughly triangular area south of (2005), measuring a maximum of 2.5m N-S and 3.0 E-W. Given its extent, only the far northern portion is relevant to this discussion (Plan 2.2). The context varied across the entire spread, with compact clay to the east, medium-sized stones in the centre, and loose gravel to the west. This area immediately due west of the chapel was also extremely compacted and gritty, suggesting a possible path or yard. However, the compaction was localised, and there was no discoverable path course despite the west door in the Chapel end, supporting other evidence that the area of Trench 2 had been top-soil stripped or levelled. A large stone was revealed near the eastern trench edge and may be related to the two stones in (2009).

Feature [2007] and contexts (2008) and (2009)

These three contexts consisted of fragmentary structural remains [2007] and associated surfaces (2008) and (2009). They may have been older surfaces reused in the erection of fairly temporary agricultural buildings in the 19th century. Feature [2007] contained stones ranging from 0.05 to 0.20m in size and a little mortar. Located about 1.8m south of the northern baulk, [2007] appears to be the remains of an ENE-WSW aligned wall that was possibly originally L-shaped (Plan 2.2). The N-S segment measured 0.6m long, and the ENE-WSW section was 2.4m long, measured from the eastern baulk. A possible posthole, truncated and lined with stones, was also found at the western end of the wall (Plan 2.3). It had an external diameter of c 0.5m and was c 0.08m deep. Feature [2007] runs parallel to feature [2024], suggesting the two walls may have been part of the same structure, with [2007] erected to make use of an existing wall-line [2024] to the north (See below for more on [2024]).



Figure 15 [2007] and surrounding surfaces: looking east

(2008) and (2009) were associated surfaces flanking feature [2007]. Both contexts were heavily disturbed by the intrusion of tree roots. (2008) was located west of the L-shaped wall, and was a compact spread measuring 2.5m N-S by 0.8m W-E. With its mix of subsoil and agricultural debris, (2008) could have been an exterior surface. (2009) was more compact than (2008) and contained a higher percentage of small limestone rubble and grit. This spread was located south of the L-shaped wall and was probably an interior surface or floor of feature [2007]. Its extent was c 0.5m N-S by 2.3m E-W. With the exception of the strips running alongside the wall, the rest of (2009) was very compact and well-trodden, suggesting heavy foot traffic. Most of the finds came from the stonier areas close to the wall. Small finds included an unfired musket ball.

Possible 17th century structures and use of structures

This phase of contexts indicated a sequence of building activity, perhaps beginning in the seventeenth century, with a focus around the 17th/ 18th centuries. Although disturbed by robbing and demolition and 19th century

agricultural activity, the orientation of wall foundations in line with the chapel and the quality of the surfaces suggests the re-use of fairly high-status structures in this area.

Surfaces (2011) and (2013)



Figure 16 surface (2013): looking west

Evidence for high-status structures was found in contexts (2011) and in particular (2013), which consisted of a surface with disturbed wall remains and a well-laid cobbled surface respectively (Plan 2.3). (2011) was a stony, compact surface, containing demolition rubble associated with an ephemeral wall in this northern part of the context that was later identified as feature [2024]/ [2045]. Dimensions, before the slot was put in, were 3.0m W-E, with N-S extent ranging from 0.5m in the E to 1.0m in the W. Total depth attained (within the slot) was 0.10m. The remains of (2011) are clearly distinct from (2005) and wall [2007] to the south. Plentiful rubble was evident in the form of medium-sized, mixed stones. A lot of fragmented bones was also found (70% of finds), as well as some pottery sherds (25%), most of which were localized in the northern end of (2011). This area had suffered considerable disturbance.

Two large stones in the south of (2011) constituted the clearest remains of a robbed E-W wall running into the eastern baulk (See also the discussion of [2024] below). The discernible remains of the wall measured roughly 2.0m long and 0.31m wide. If extended eastwards, the wall would meet the NW corner of the chapel. The orientation of the wall foundations and quality of the stonework suggested the structure was related to the chapel and probably of fairly high status.

(2013) was a high-quality, cobblestone surface located south of wall [2007]. The dimensions were about 2.0 by 2.0m square in the centre of the trench, with the surviving, well-laid area measuring about 1.0m by 1.6m. The central area of the context was undisturbed. (2013) may have been a yard or track way, but the shape is too indistinct for secure identification. Nonetheless, the quality of the surface is evident from the dense compaction of the small, well-chosen, round cobbles; with pottery sherds and bone fragments had been trampled in. Spot dates on the pottery suggest the first use of the surface may have been in the 14th century.

Wall [2024] and associated surfaces (2023) and (2025)

The wall remains discussed in (2011) above were subsequently identified as [2024]. Contexts (2023) and (2025) were surrounding surfaces that had been affected by the dismantling of wall [2024].

Feature [2024] was the robbed foundation trench of a wall oriented WSW-ENE. Located close to the northern baulk between surfaces (2023) and (2025) in the slot, [2024] reached a maximum extent of 1m N-S but the feature continued to the east (Plans 2.4, 2.5). Due to disturbance, the foundation cut was difficult to identify. However, two courses survived in the east, including two substantial stones around 0.25m to 0.30m in size. The orientation of the remaining stones indicates an alignment similar to the 14th century chapel. Also interesting is the parallel alignment of wall [2007] despite its later phasing. Given that the remains of [2024] were discernible during the excavation of surface (2011), it is possible that wall [2024] may have survived for subsequent reuse in the structure that included [2007]. Pottery associated with [2024] and the continuation of the feature below as [2044] and with (2023) suggested a possible 13th – early 14th century date range.

(2023) was a disturbed layer, consisting mainly of limestone building material and debris associated with the dismantling of [2024]. North of [2024] against the trench wall, (2023) extended about 0.75m south from the northern baulk (Plan 2.4). The spread of pebbly material mixed with the limestone indicated that this may have originally been some kind of exterior surface into which the trench for wall [2024] was cut. The robbing of [2024] subsequently disturbed the original surface. Immediately underneath (2023) was (2033), which marked

the limit of excavation in this area. Like (2023), it may have been an exterior surface. (2033) was north of wall [2024] in the slot and ran 0.6m N-S (Plan 2.5).



Figure 17 feature [2024] looking south

Pebbled walking surface (2025) lay south of wall [2024]. It covered an area of 1.0m E-W in the slot by 0.35m N-S, and extended over (2023) and (2026), and possibly over [2024] as well (Plan 2.4). The exact relationship between surface (2025) and wall [2024] is unclear. Regardless, it was definitely disturbed by the demolition and subsequent robbing of [2024].

Working surfaces (2026) and (2027)

South of contexts (2023) to (2025) in the slot were two adjacent surfaces, (2026) and (2027) (Plan 2.4). They probably functioned as working surfaces, based on the compactness of the two layers.

(2026) displayed an even distribution of small stones and pebbles throughout its N-S extent of 2.45m. The distribution pattern and compaction of the layer suggests a possible floor or path, and may be linked to wall [2024]. However, due to the uneven boundary with (2027), (2026) may have suffered some disturbance. (2027) was also compact, but rich in mortar. Located due south of (2026), it ran 2.1m N-S, with limestone inclusions concentrated in the southern end of the context. The spread was fairly diffuse and difficult to distinguish from (2026) to the north and (2015) to the south. Spot dates on pottery in (2026) suggested a 13th century date.

Possible surfaces (2031) and (2032)

Two additional surfaces of indeterminate function were found beneath walking surface (2026). Contexts (2031) and (2032) may have been related to the structures to the north, but were quite disturbed. As seen in Plan 2.5, (2032) lies north of a line of large stones running NW-SE across the slot, while (2031) lies south of the stones. (2032) consisted of a gritty, clay surface running 2.0 N-S from the limestone rubble. (2032) might have been a disturbed interior floor or an accumulation above such a surface, with (2031) to the south as an associated exterior surface. As such, it might be associated with wall [2024]. Another possible explanation is that (2032) resulted from leveling prior to some kind of reconfiguration or rebuilding activity. Again pottery was consistent with a 13th century date

(2031) to the south extended 0.8m N-S within the slot, with its northern limit delineated by the limestone rubble running NW-SE. Comprising mostly of building remains or debris, it might have been an outside surface linked with the structural activity to the north, as discussed above.

Skeleton 2 and contexts (2012), (2022) and [2065]

Skeleton 2 (SK2) was found when a sondage was excavated in the far NW corner of the trench. Upper layer sandy silt (2012) in that sondage was the disturbed, slowly accumulated medieval – post-medieval land surface west of structure-related (2011). Below that layer was a clear change to a more clay-rich deposit (2022) which proved to be the grave-fill above SK 2. All the pottery in this context suggested a 13th century assemblage.



Figure 18 *Skeleton 2 half-excavated in sondage: looking north*

The sondage was extended to the east to reveal the full-length of the skeleton's legs. The burial was supine, extended and west-east aligned. The earlier structural layers respected the burial with only the later layers linked to wall [2007] spreading over the area above the lower legs. The cut [2065] for the burial was impossible to distinguish in all but a small corner of the excavation.



Figure 19 *Skeleton 2 fully excavated: looking south*

Features [2044] and [2047] and related contexts

The following contexts can be roughly divided into two sets of associated activity. Feature [2044] and surfaces (2045) and (2046) appear to be related and perhaps link with [2044] to form a single, and originally 13th/ 14th century structure that was re-used and perhaps dismantled during the 17th/ 18th century. A second group, consisted of linear feature [2047] and layer (2048), which may have been contemporaneous due to their close relation with underlying burial skeleton 6/7 (SK 6/7. See below for more on the burial).

Wall [2044] and surfaces (2045) and (2046)

Feature [2044] was a foundation trench containing the robbed remains of a wall running W-E (Plans 2.7, 2.14). Located within the slot close to the northern baulk of Trench 2, it was 0.4m wide and over 0.1m deep. Limestone blocks survived in the east. Of these, the foundations and the first course were visible, as was the bedding trench. A later phase of use of this wall – feature [2024] – was associated with wall [2007] to form a single structure. Wall [2044] may relate to (2046) and ditch [2050] to the south (See below).

(2045) was a clay layer above contexts (2046) to (2048) and contained the remains of building rubble and mortar (Plans 2.7, 2.8). Located within the slot, it ran 1.5m N-S between features [2044] and [2047], and showed signs of natural contamination and much disturbance from human destruction. This surface could have been the floor of a building with [2044] as a northern wall. (2045) may have been over the grave of SK 6/7 or have been part of some sort of leveling activity that led to the disturbance of the burial.

(2046) was the remains of a stone surface south of linear feature [2047] (Plan 2.13). The northeastern area closest to [2047] showed remnants of a well-sorted limestone surface about 0.1 to 0.2m in extent. The matrix containing the stone surface also had building rubble, some of which was burnt, possibly due to the same event that led to the singeing of some of the stones on the SW side of [2047] (Plan 2.8). The alignment of the limestone surface in (2046) with the larger rocks running into western baulk to the north seems to suggest the remains of a structure oriented W-E, of which wall [2044] may be the northern wall (Plan 2.7).

Feature [2047] and context (2048)

Of all the remains in the northern sector of Trench 2, feature [2047] was the most perplexing in terms of its location and function. It comprised a line of vertically-placed limestone rocks on a WNW-ESE orientation (Plans 2.7, 2.8). The feature ran approximately 1.2m long along its axis and was 0.2m wide and 0.2m deep. The stones were unbound by mortar – which could have leached out over time – but the stones were supported by firm clay packing. Also notable was the singeing of some of the vertical stones on their SW side and the finding of some human long bones in the clay fill.

[2047] is rather puzzling as it was placed without regard for the underlying burial, unlike the earliest structure to the north which respected the pre-existing burial of SK2 to the west. It is unclear whether the placement of [2047] was deliberate or accidental. Two stones were directly above the spinal crown of SK 7, isolating the skull to the south and shattering it and parts of the spinal column in the process. The shallowness of the grave is probably due to the leveling of the area in front of the chapel door, which brought the burials and the later surfaces closer to the ground-level. Graves were not routinely marked until relatively recently and the N-S alignment suggests a burial tradition different to the predominant W-E burials.



Figure 20 feature [2057] and skeleton5/6: looking south

The function of [2047] is also unclear. Possible explanations include use as a drainage ditch, a divider or kerb, or a wall support. Feature [2047] may have been a drain running diagonally through a structure of some sort. However, the central placement of the stones in a vertical position, along with the lack of a second row of stones lining the facing side of the ditch, makes this idea difficult to sustain. Feature [2047] may well have been an internal room divider or a kerb. Likewise, it is equally possible that [2047] provided vertical support for a wall or structure. More evidence is needed before the exact function can be defined.

Associated with feature [2047] was (2048), a disturbed layer of mixed clay and grit north of [2047]. It extended across the slot and had a maximum extent of 2.0m N-S. The composition varied across the context, with more clay on the western side and more grit and sand on the eastern side. (2048) was the layer above the grave of SK 6/7, which explains the variation in composition. The grave may also originally have been cut through this layer: it was impossible to distinguish because of later disturbance. The western half seems to be disturbed natural, whereas the grittier eastern half could be disturbed grave fill created by the construction and subsequent demolition of [2047]. This would place (2048) as possibly contemporary with the activity related to [2047] that

resulted in the truncation and damaging of the burial beneath. (2048) could also be a demolition layer, related to the dismantling of structures associated with [2044] to the north.

Medieval burials: Skeletons 5 and 6/7 and associated contexts

A child's burial was also found in conjunction with feature [2047] and its associated contexts (Plan 2.14). Due to the truncation by [2047], Skeletons 6 and 7 were originally assigned separate contexts for the fill – (2052) and (2053) – and grave cuts – [2062] and [2063] respectively. However, on excavation they clearly related to a single burial and will be discussed as such.

The grave was oriented N-S and divided in two by linear feature [2047]. Cut [2062] for the skull SK 7 was to the south, and cut [2063] for the rest of the skeleton SK 6 was north of the stone-line (Plans 2.10, 2.13). The maximum depth attained was 0.20m as the remains were left in situ. The burial consisted of a shallow inhumation of a supine child showing signs of much disturbance from the truncation and later construction activity. Despite a lack of identifying finds, the burial's sequence in the matrix below feature [2047] and surfaces (2031) and (2032) – where medieval pottery was found – would seem to suggest medieval date, as with Skeleton 5 below. The pottery found in the grave fill suggested a TPQ of the 13th century.

The shallow depth of the grave remains problematic. One possible interpretation posits the skeleton as a “secret” burial hastily interred at an unusually shallow depth. However, the location in front of the chapel door is unusual, as is the truncation by [2047]. Although not much is known about the exact function of [2047], it is more probable that the grave was originally deeper, but both construction activity during the post-medieval phases and later levelling of the area is highly likely.

In addition to skeleton 6/7, another burial was found against the eastern trench edge (also see above in central area discussion). Grave [2037] and associated fill (2038) contained skeleton 5, a small child burial oriented NW-SE with the head to the SE (Plans 2.7, 2.9). Only the legs and half the pelvis were visible, as the grave ran into the eastern baulk. The extent of the burial was 1.0m N-S by 0.3m E-W. The grave's position in the stratigraphy above (2030) and the inclusion of Tudor Green ware pottery fragments in the grave-fill implies a possible medieval date, which would place it in the same broad phase as the other child burial to the north. The pottery assemblage suggested a 15th century TPQ.

Ditch [2050] and associated contexts: see figure 11 above

The two child burials were cut into (2030), a compact clay layer in the slot running approximately 1.5m N-S and about 0.11m deep (Plans 2.7, 2.14). The topmost portion of (2030) contained gravel lenses and a small amount of limestone rubble pushed into the clay surface. Otherwise, the homogeneity of the context, lack of finds and contamination indicated a layer of surface-disturbed natural clay. The pottery from the upper layer was all 13th/14th century.

A narrow ditch running W-E marked the southern limit of the northern sector in Trench 2. [2050] was a narrow, truncated linear ditch curving slightly to the south, cut into the natural clay beneath (Plan 2.14). It ran 0.4m N-S by 1.0m W-E across the slot, and had a maximum depth of 0.25m. Fill (2049) associated with ditch [2050] contained some pottery and fragmented bone; all the bone related to (2030) was found in conjunction with the ditch and may in fact belong to this fill. Despite minimal root contamination, [2050] and (2049) were truncated by activity associated with the layers just above (2030). The exact function of this ditch is unclear. However, there may be a possible relationship with wall [2044] to the north, which runs on a similar W-E orientation.

Discussion and Broad Phasing

The broad phasing for the structures and sequence of occupation can perhaps be grouped broadly into a 13th- 14th century phase, disruption and activity during the 17th- 18th centuries, some associated with the Civil War, and rebuilding during the 18th and, particularly, 19th centuries.

Medieval/Pre-Civil War period

The earliest phases seemed to consist of the two small northern and southern buildings building and the burials, of which three (SKS 2, 5 and 6/7) were discovered in the northern sector of Trench 2 and two in the central area (SKS 11 and 13). Although the graves have been disturbed by later building activity, their location and presence within the vicinity of the chapel is to be expected. Medieval structures of quite high status were suggested by wall remains in the north and the surface in the south.

Later disruption

At least two phases of activity are discernible during this phase, in which earlier structures and surfaces were demolished or re-used and new buildings were erected, perhaps without respect for earlier functions. Feature [2047], for example, appears to have been put in with little regard for the burial beneath. There is clear evidence for a period of demolition represented by all the limestone and mortar rubble found. Another phase of reconstruction after the disruption is also likely. During this period, the building activity appears to have consisted of fairly high status structures given the quality of the working surfaces associated with the foundation trenches. Of particular note are wall [2024] and surfaces (2011) and (2013).

18th and 19th century occupation

Signs of occupation are evident in the post-Civil War period mostly in the form of ephemeral 18th - 19th century buildings. Most of this evidence consists of agricultural activity and related structures, of which wall [2007] is the most substantial. Given its location and alignment, wall [2007] possibly formed a structure that reused a pre-existing structure and included wall [2024]. Despite a change in site-use towards a predominantly agricultural function, the area immediately west of Bartlemas Chapel remained in active use during the 19th century.

Conclusion

The northern sector of Trench 2 displays signs of fairly intense use, with successive periods of building and demolition. Three skeletons were uncovered, and these burials seem to belong to the medieval phase. C-14 dating could confirm this conjecture. In general, the remains were structural, providing evidence of walls and inside and outside surfaces. The very compact, pebbled surfaces and walls in the north of the trench also suggest the re-use of higher-status buildings in the later. Unfortunately, loss of evidence due to the removal of building material over the centuries and subsequent rebuilding renders some detailed interpretation difficult.



Roelie recording



Steve watching Joe work



Paul at work



Swii drawing with Caroline