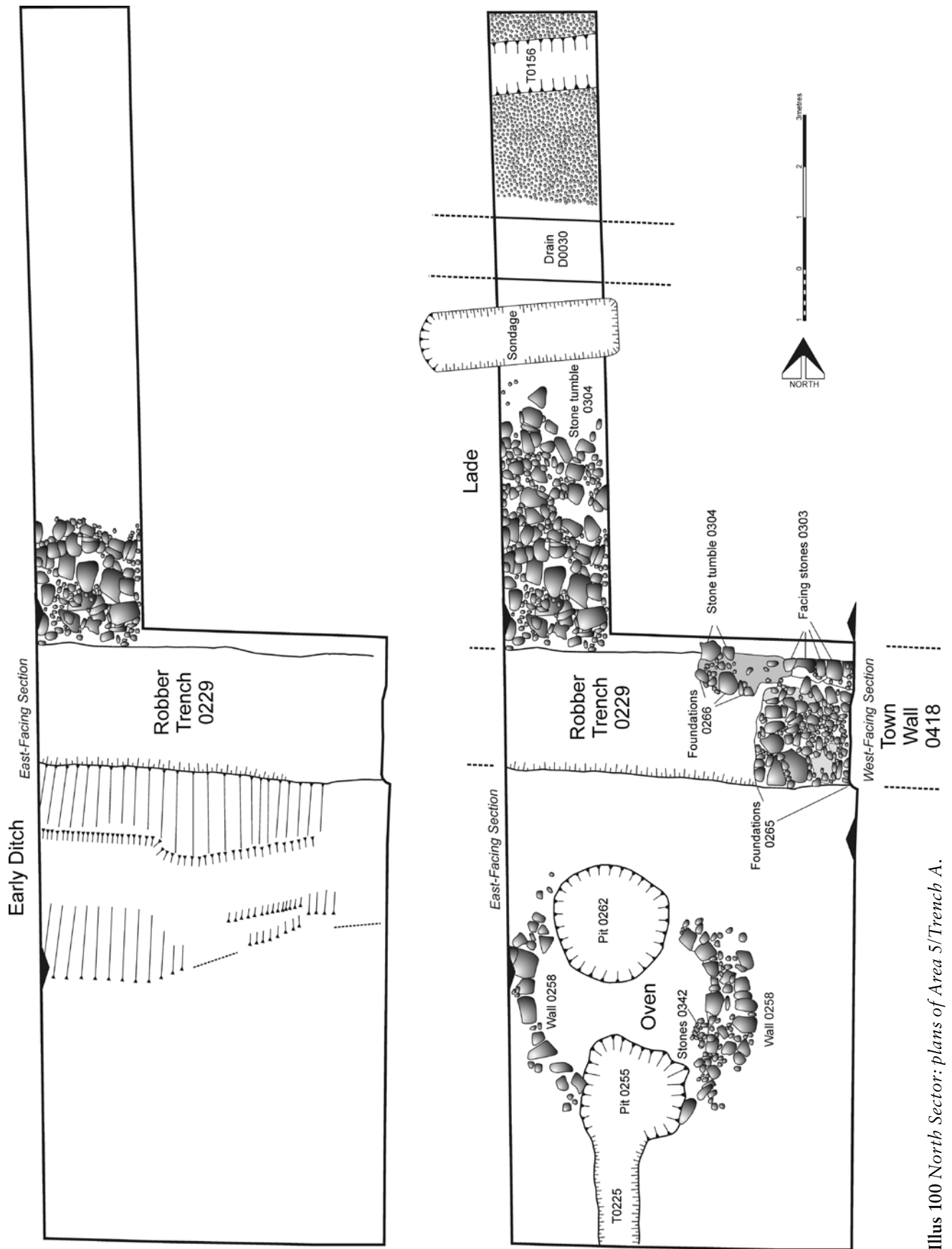




Illus 100 North Sector: plans of Area 5/Trench A.

4 The excavation: the North Sector

David R Perry

The phasing sequence of the two areas in the North Sector of the site (Trench A/Area 5 and Area 6) is independent of the South Sector of the site. Moreover, the phasing sequence in each of the areas in the North Sector is independent of the other. The only correlation between the two areas is provided by the medieval town ditch or Lade and a stone culvert which was found in both trenches cut into the fills of the Lade. Each trench is here described separately. (Trench B was laid out parallel to Trench A to investigate the features that had been found in the original trench but was abandoned as it had a sewer pipe extending along its length.)

Trench A and Area 5 (Illus 100 and 101)

Nineteen stratigraphical phases between natural at the base and modern material at the top were identified, but these have been reduced to nine phases for this report. The phasing sequence for Trench A/Area 5 was based on the main features found within it. At the start of the excavation a machine-dug sondage was excavated at the N end of the site to establish the depth of deposits. These proved to be up to 4m deep below street level, although the upper 2m had been destroyed by the cellar of Building B (Architecture Survey). Subsequent excavation proved that the sondage had been dug into the medieval town ditch or Lade, giving a misleading depth. The actual depth of deposits out-with the Lade proved to be less than 2m.

The first trench excavated in PHSAE, Trench A, was laid out at the NE part of the site (the first area to be cleared of buildings), extending S from the Mill Street frontage. It measured 20m long and 2m wide. It uncovered the S edge of a broad, deep ditch (the medieval town ditch or Lade) into which a stone culvert had been set, stone rubble which had fallen into the ditch (demolition from the medieval town wall), the robber trench of the town wall, and a V-shaped ditch earlier than and S of the town wall. Various pits and postholes were also found that, owing to a change in publication design, are not illustrated; they are recorded on feature phase sketch plans that now form part of the excavation archive. Subsequently the S end of this trench was extended S by 5m and E by 4m as Area 5, which covered an area 12m by 6m.

Natural

Natural deposits comprised grey, light orange and light olive-brown sand. A sondage through these deposits showed that the sand was about 0.8m thick and overlay

Table 5 Stratigraphical sequence of Trench A/Area 5

Phase	Bogdan single-phase feature	this report
0	natural	natural
1	CG001	Ditch
2		
3	CG003	post-ditch, pre-town wall
4	Well 0400 (construction)	town wall and Lade
5	Well 0400 (fill)	
6		
7	cobbles	
8	CG012	
9	Wall 0337	
10	CG015	
11	Oven CG019	
12	CG020, CG021	'garden' and pits
13	Robber Trench	robber trench
14	CG023	'gardens'
15	garden	
16	CG025	
17	Garden 2	
18	Buildings A, B, C/CI, CI/E CG029	19th-century buildings
19	unstratified	U/S

a thin (0.04m) lens of gravel which overlay thin (0.01–0.04m) alternating layers of clay and sand.

The Ditch (Phases 1 and 2) (Illus 100 and 101)

Cut into the natural was the Ditch (C0164=C0526) on a roughly E/W alignment. It was over 5.7m long, 3.2–4m wide and 0.82–1.08m deep at the S side and 0.66–0.9m deep at the N side; its E end was truncated by later pits. It was filled with many thin layers and lenses of sand and clay, both burnt and unburnt, and ash. It is possible that the lowest deposits were the result of natural silting, although the upper deposits were probably deliberate infilling. The southern edge of the Ditch had been cut through a layer of orange sand with lenses of ash (C0125B), in which were ten postholes of 0.04–0.06m diameter. These postholes appeared to be random and not evidence for a palisade on the S edge of the Ditch, which was presumably part of a defensive ditch around the earliest burgh settlement. No datable finds were recovered from the fills of the Ditch, although pieces of daub and chalk were found as well as animal bone.

To the S of the Ditch various features were cut into the natural sand. The most notable of these was

a semicircle of five circular stakeholes (PH0523), 0.025–0.05m diameter and 0.14–0.28m apart. Nearby were three larger circular postholes forming no pattern but containing organic or reddish-brown material, possible remains of the rotted posts (PH0553, PH0554 and PH0555), 0.25m diameter and 0.15m deep, 0.1m diameter and 0.18m deep and 0.085m diameter and 0.1m deep respectively. Sealing these features were various deposits of sand, loam, ash, charcoal.

Cut through these deposits were three pits. Extending into the S limit of excavation were the semicircular edges of two pits. The earlier pit (Pit 0480) was not fully excavated. It was 1.87m long and 0.92m wide and at least 1.1m deep and contained two fills, the upper being black dung. The later pit (Pit 0462) was 3.05m long, 1.6m wide and 0.85m deep. It contained three layers: charcoal; mixed loam, sand, charcoal and clay; and dark brown sand. At the SW corner of Area 5 was the rectangular edge of Pit 0457, 2m long, 0.75m wide and 1.6m deep; it contained three organic deposits, the upper one also containing wood chips, and a layer of sand. As none of the pits produced many finds (none produced datable finds), they are unlikely to be rubbish pits. Pits 0480 and 0457 were probably cess pits.

Above these pits was another series of deposits of sand, loam and charcoal. Within them were nine circular postholes (PW0449A and B, PW0466, PW0467, PW0468A and B, PW0469A and B, PW0470), 0.05–0.1m diameter, some filled with rotted wood fragments. No pattern was discernible for these features. There were also six sloping voids (PH0443), 0.25m diameter, probably twigs which had rotted.

Phase 3

Once the Ditch had been infilled, it would appear that no immediate successor town boundary or defence was constructed (unless it was further N and was removed

when the later Lade was constructed). Cut through the S edge of the topmost fill of the Ditch was an oval pit (Pit 0528), 1.17m deep, filled with layers of sand, loam and ash, but containing no finds. Cut through the N edge of the Ditch was the remains of a stone-lined pit (Pit 0127), possibly an oven, 0.29m deep. This pit extended into the W section of the excavation and was truncated to the E by a later pit (Pit 0276), but remains of a lining of red and yellow sandstone blocks survived on its N and S sides; the fill was brown clay with charcoal and dark brown loam. Animal bones, but no other datable finds, were recovered from the fill.

Sealing these pits and the course of the ditch were various deposits of sand, and loam, within which were two circular postholes (PH0452A and B), 0.04m and 0.05m diameter, and the remains of a burnt post (PP 0318), 0.1m diameter. Also found was a shallow pit (Pit 0441), 0.45m diameter and 0.4m deep, filled with sand and burnt material – a possible hearth. This feature was sealed by hard-packed sandy loam (C0295), from which was recovered a worked bone casket mount (The worked bone: Worked bone Cat No 79).

Cut through these deposits, to the N of the line of the ditch, two pits were located extending into the E section. The earlier pit (Pit 0557) was 3.96m long, 1.1m wide and over 1.13m deep (it was not fully excavated). It was filled with two layers of sand and contained a void, 0.86m long, 0.82m wide and 0.48m high, presumably caused by the settling of the fills. Cut into that pit was another pit (Pit 0263), some 3.8m long, 2.34m wide and 0.6m deep. The pits produced few finds and are unlikely to have been rubbish pits. Pottery was recovered from Pit 0263 and slag was found in Pit 0557.

W of these pits was a semicircular stone-lined pit (Pit 0276), 4.26m long and 1.8m wide (2.34m and 1.16m respectively within the lining) and 0.91m deep (Illus 102 and 103). Up to five courses of stones survived of the lining. The fills were black and red burnt clay and



Illus 102 North Sector: stone-lined oven Pit 0276 in Trench A, looking south. (© Courtesy of RCAHMS. Licensor www.rcahms.gov.uk)



Illus 103 North Sector: stone-lined oven Pit 1040276 in Area 5, looking south-east. (© Courtesy of RCAHMS. Licensor www.rcahms.gov.uk)

sand, sandy loam with lenses of ash, and dark brown loam. The feature was probably a kiln or oven and had been truncated by the course of the Town Wall. After it had gone out of use, it was presumably used as a rubbish pit, as it produced more finds than the other pits already mentioned.

To the S of Pit 0276 two smaller pits were located. Pit 0511, 0.37m deep, had two stones on edge lining its E side but its N and W edges were unclear. It measured some 0.94m long and 0.9m wide. The fills were brown ash under very hard-packed orange burnt sand and clay, under yellowish-brown sandy loam with thin lenses of black ash, under dark yellowish-brown loam. Only some daub was recovered from the pit. The pit may have been a hearth.

Further S was an oval pit (Pit 0165), 1.2m long, 0.6m wide and 0.51m deep. It was filled with mixed green clay and charcoal, under charcoal and large pieces of burnt daub, under brown sand. Apart from the daub, some pottery was found in the fill.

The town wall and Lade (Phases 4–11) (Illus 100 and 101)

A new defence was built in the form of a masonry wall on E/W alignment, with a broad, deep ditch on its N side. The wall had been substantially robbed out, the only surviving remains being near the E edge of Area 5, where the course of the wall cut through two earlier pits (Pits 0557 and 0263). Here the wall had slightly deeper foundations, which had not been robbed. The wall was constructed in a foundation trench (T0418), some 2.9m wide and 1.69m deep on its S side, where there was a lining or revetting of seven courses of large blocks of rubble (Illus 104). At the base of the

trench were carefully laid large flat slabs, under and mixed with mortar (Illus 105). These foundations were then covered by large blocks of stone rubble, under and mixed with grey gravel and mortar. All that survived of the N face of the wall were three large blocks of stone, dressed on their N edge to form a regular face; these facing stones rested on a bed of clay and mortar. Between the facing stones at the N side and the revetting stones at the S side was a filling of sand, mortar and small angular stones, presumably the remains of a rubble core. The foundation trench, generally some 0.85m deep on its S side, had been cut down to the natural sand, except where it crossed the site of the two earlier pits. Here the surviving foundations, 0.4m deep, were level with the natural. Slightly to the W of these pits were two irregular depressions (MF0366, MF0367), 0.36m and 0.23m deep, on the S edge of the Lade. They were filled with silt, mortar and stones, probably levelling for the wall foundation.

On the N side of the wall was a very wide (over 12.5m) and deep (2.22m) ditch (T0166), the former course of the Lade. Only the sloping S edge of the ditch was located within the excavation, where it was cut into the natural sand, the N edge lying under the course of, or beyond, Mill Street. Because of the sondage cut through the fills of the Lade at the start of the excavation, the fills of the Lade to the N of the sondage could not be linked stratigraphically to the fills to the S of the sondage. At the base of the N end of the Lade was a layer of gravel, possibly natural, into which was cut a shallow gully (T0156), 0.22m deep and 1.04m wide, filled with clay and sand (Illus 106). Above the gully were various deposits of clay, silt, sand, gravel and loam, some of which contained twigs, wood chips,



Illus 104 North Sector: Robber Trench 0229 and Town Wall 0418 in E section of Area 5, looking east. © Courtesy of RCAHMS. Licensor www.rcahms.gov.uk



Illus 105 North Sector: detail of foundations of Town Wall 0418 in Area 5, looking north-west. (© Courtesy of RCAHMS. Licensor www.rcahms.gov.uk)



Illus 106 North Sector: gully T0156 at the base of the north end of the Lade in Trench A, looking south. (© Courtesy of RCAHMS. Licensor www.rcahms.gov.uk)



Illus 107 North Sector: stone tumble at south end of Lade in Trench A, looking north. (© Courtesy of RCAHMS. Licensor www.rcahms.gov.uk)

grass and lenses of peat. These deposits were probably natural deposits washed into the ditch rather than deliberate infilling of the Lade.

Two different deposits of rubble were found overlying these washed in deposits. At the N end of the ditch were blocks of sandstone, including some ashlar blocks (C0110; Illus 108), while at the S end, on the sloping edge of the ditch were similar sandstone blocks including ashlar blocks (C0091=C0115=C0304) embedded in a mixed layer of sand, ash and mortar (Illus 107). The ashlar blocks are discussed elsewhere (Márkus 2008, Inventory Nos PHSE/j/7, 15, 18; PHSE/pl/1). It is unlikely that the rubble deposits are the same, but they probably represent different episodes in the demolition of the Town Wall. Cut into the sand which covered the southern rubble was a small pit (Pit 0075), 0.52m long and 0.58m deep, filled with black humus and loam and sandstone fragments. No finds were recovered from the pit. Above the southern rubble were various lenses of gravel, probably washed in, above which were various loamy deposits, probably deliberate infilling of the ditch. The southern deposits were sealed by a deposit of sand and decomposed sandstone (C0027=C0228=C0274). At the N end of the ditch, the deposits above the rubble were more organic and peaty, although the organic preservation was not as good as in the South Sector. The ditch fills at the N end of the ditch were also truncated by a 19th-century cellar.

Behind the Town Wall various features were encountered.

Well (Phases 4–5) (not illustrated)

The earliest was a vertical-sided oval pit, presumably a well (Well 0400), over 1.93m deep (it was not fully



Illus 108 North Sector: stone tumble at north end of Lade in Trench A, looking south (the two stones at the top on the edge of the Sondage are displaced). (© Courtesy of RCAHMS. Licensor www.rcahms.gov.uk)

excavated). It was cut through the S edge of Pit 0528, and was filled with various deposits of loam, silt, sand, gravel, ash and stones. Within the fills was a void, some 1.02m long, 0.8m wide and 0.92m deep, probably caused by settlement of the underlying fills. The fills above the void may represent levelling for a cobble surface (C0015=C0300=C0346) (see below) or slumping over the pit from outside, as some of them extended beyond the edges of the pit. Because of this and because of slumping around the edges of the pit, it is not certain from what level the well was actually cut.

Two other pits were found near the well. A rectangular pit (Pit 0556), 1.52m long, 1.1m wide and 0.63m deep, was filled with layers of loam and mixed loam and ash with charcoal. The scarcity of finds (one potsherd and one animal bone) suggests that it was not a rubbish pit. Pit 0552 extended into the E section and was not fully excavated; only its W edge was found. The pit was 2.56m long, at least 0.38m wide and over 1.6m deep. Its fill was clayey loam with charcoal and wood fragments. It contained few finds, none datable.

Beside the 'well', but of uncertain relationship to it because of the slumping, were various layers and lenses of sand, ash, clay (some burnt) and charcoal, within which were some large stones and seven postholes (PH0405A–F), 0.05–0.085m diameter and 0.05–0.13m deep. Four of these postholes appeared to form a roughly N/S alignment with a burnt stake (PP0382), 0.06m diameter. Two other postholes (PH0424A and B), 0.06m and 0.08m diameter respectively, may have also formed part of the alignment, although they were recorded as being earlier than postholes PH0405A–F. Two more postholes, PH0260 (0.07m diameter and 0.4m deep) and PW0371 (diameter 0.2m and 0.2m deep) lay much further N and may have been part of the alignment. Posthole PW0371 contained rotted wood fragments.

In the SW corner of Area 5 there was a roughly semicircular edge (MF0420), some 2m across and 0.15m deep. At the base of the edge were two curvilinear alignments of postholes. Along the edge were seven postholes (PH0419A–G), with a second line of five postholes further E (PH0419H–I, PH0434A–C). The postholes were 0.05–0.08m diameter. At the top of the edge there were five other postholes (PH0406A–E), 0.03–0.1m diameter. Two other postholes (PW0449A and B), 0.05–0.06m diameter, recorded as earlier than the others, may have been associated with these features. It is possible that the whole group of postholes and curvilinear edge form a small shelter or windbreak.

Cobbles (Phase 7) (not illustrated)

Above the well and its adjacent deposits was a surface of cobbles (C0015=C0300=C0346), much disturbed by later intrusions. The cobbles were of different coloured stones, presumably gathered from a variety of sources. They covered an overall area of approximately 4m E/W by 2.1m N/S. Above the cobbles were various burnt deposits, including burnt stones.

Wall 0337 (Phase 9) (not illustrated)

Among the deposits above the cobbles, and to the S of the cobbles was a stone wall composed of large stones, dressed on their W side to form a straight edge. The wall measured 1.78m N/S and had a westward return at its N end, 1.34m long. The width of the wall varied from 0.12m to 0.5m. The purpose of the wall is not clear. The small thickness of the wall suggests that either these are only facing stones of one side of a thicker wall or

that they formed a ground sill for a timber wall, such as Building 1 in the South Sector. Alternatively, they may be the remains of the lining or revetting of a pit, which was otherwise unrecorded, similar to the linings of Pit 0127 and Pit 0276 already mentioned. The stones were revealed at the base of later features (Pit 0255 and T0225). The N/S wall bounded various extensive layers to the E: ash with a group of large stones (C0350), gravel (C0328), loam with pebbles (C0335) and ash and clay with a small area of burning (C0308). (If the wall formed a lining to a pit, then these layers may actually have been cut by the lining.)

Oven (Phase 11) (Illus 100)

Built over these deposits was an 'oven'. This comprised a circular stone wall (Wall 0258), disturbed by later intrusions, composed of blocks of stone dressed on their external faces (Illus 109). The wall was some 0.9m wide and enclosed an area of 3.2m diameter. The possible remains of a floor of sandstone fragments survived in the form of a group of angular red burnt stones (C0342) against the E side of the Oven. It is possible that the burnt deposits above the cobbles were caused by the 'Oven'.

Some other features were contemporary with the Oven. To the E of the Oven was an irregular pit (Pit 0305) extending into the E section, some 2.7m long, at least 1.9m wide and 0.44m deep. It contained mixed clay, sand, ash and loam with boulders and pebbles. This pit contained much pottery and bone and may have been a rubbish pit. It contained a probable void (MF0340), 0.32m long and 0.32m wide, probably caused by the settlement of the fills. Near the E section were two burnt stakes (PP0411) on N/S alignment, 0.06m diameter and 0.42m apart. There was also



Illus 109 North Sector: the Oven in Area 5 looking east.
(© Courtesy of RCAHMS. Licensor www.rcahms.gov.uk)

an oval hearth (H0339), 0.5m long by 0.35m wide, containing white ash under black ash.

‘Garden’ and pits (Phase 12) (not illustrated)

Cut through the N side of the Oven was an oval pit (Pit 0262), 2.26m long, 2.1m wide and 0.65m deep. The fills were charcoal and loam, producing much pottery and animal bone. As the soils beneath the pit were heat-affected, the pit must have been a hearth, before being used as a rubbish pit.

Sealing the E part of Area 5 to the S of the Town Wall, including the revetting stones on the S side of the Wall, was a thick layer of dark greyish-brown loam (C0239). To the W of C0239 was clayey loam (C0016=C0251). These deposits represent a period of abandonment of this area between the construction and use of the Town Wall and the Robber Trench.

Robber Trench (Phase 13) (Illus 100 and 101)

Cut through these soils and through sandstone fragments which sealed the ditch fills of the Lade was a trench on E/W alignment (T0229), some 6.8m long, 2.4m wide and 1.27m deep. It was filled with various deposits of sand, sandstone fragments, mortar, clay and loam. The edges were not vertical but undercut the adjacent layers by up to 0.3m in places, possibly through slumping. The trench represents the robbing of the Town Wall (Illus 110).

Gardens and miscellaneous features (Phases 14–17) (not illustrated)

Above the Robber Trench were various small deposits of loam, silt, peat and sandstone fragments. Through



Illus 110 North Sector: Robber Trench 0229 in Area 5, looking east. (© Courtesy of RCAHMS. Licensor www.rcahms.gov.uk)

them were cut two pits. A subrectangular pit (Pit 0014), some 2.74m long, 0.88m wide and 0.48m deep, was filled with loam. An oval pit (Pit 0232), 1.28m long, 1m wide and 0.18m deep, was filled with loam. Pottery and animal bone were recovered from both pits.

Three other pits were found: an amorphous pit (Pit 0227), 0.92m deep, 0.68m wide and 0.48m deep; an oval pit (Pit 0243), some 0.95m long and 0.9m wide; and an amorphous pit (Pit 0255), 2.12m long, 2.02m wide and 0.78m deep. No finds were recovered from Pit 0243, but Pit 0227 and Pit 0255 contained pottery and animal bone, but not enough to suggest that they were rubbish pits. Two random postholes (PH0226 and PH0240) were also found. Extending into the S section was a trench on a N/S alignment (T0225), 1.94m long, 1m wide and 0.31m deep; its purpose is unknown.

Garden 1 (Phases 15–16) (not illustrated)

Sealing most of Area 5 was a thick layer of ‘garden’ soil (C0218=C0220). Cut into it was a shallow (0.09m deep) oval pit (Pit 0207), 0.66m long and 0.54m wide, of no obvious purpose. Some pottery and animal bone were recovered from the fill.

Garden 2 (Phase 17) (not illustrated)

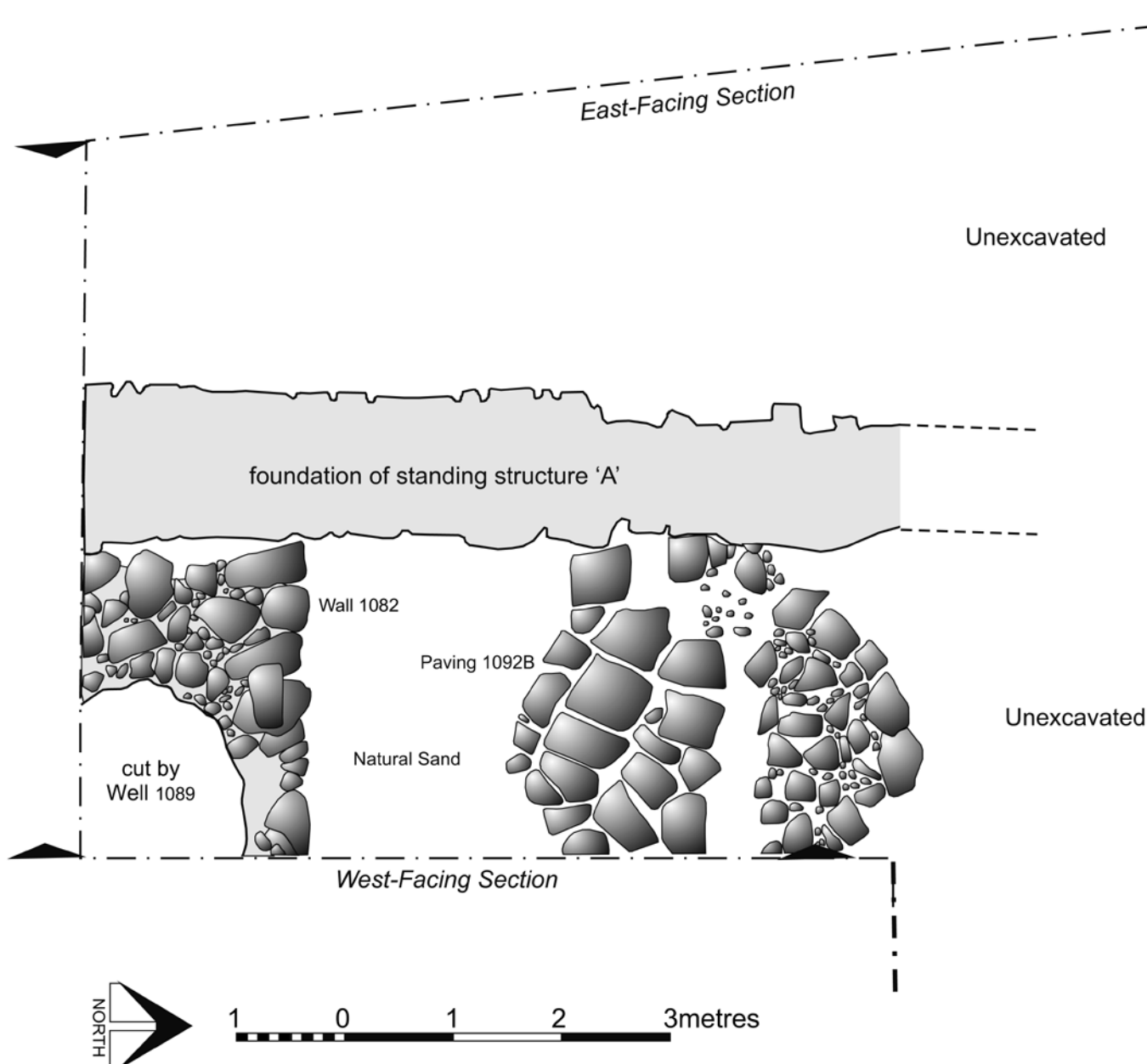
Sealing the earlier ‘garden’ soil was another ‘garden’ soil (C0206=C0270).

Drain (Phases 13–17) (Illus 100)

Cut through the fills of the Lade was the foundation trench (T0044) for a stone culvert (D0030) on E/W alignment, the continuation of D1067 from Area 6. The drain lay beneath the cellar of Building B (Architecture Survey), which had destroyed the drain’s stratigraphical relationships. The culvert comprised sandstone slabs for the base, sides and capping. The drain was filled with mud (C0037). The slabs forming the S wall were laid horizontally, those forming the N wall being set on edge.

19th-century buildings (Phase 18)

The foundations of the cellar walls of Building B were cut into the fills of the Lade. These comprised the S wall (Wall 0007) and the W wall (Wall 0002) of the building. Wall 0002 also served as the E wall of the building that stood on the site of Building A (Architecture Survey), before the construction of the Independent Chapel in 1824, and Wall 0007 was the continuation of Wall 1034 from Area 6 (see below). Parallel to the W wall was a thinner wall (Wall 0004), which formed the W wall of the cellar, the space between Walls 0002 and 0004 being a pend providing access from Mill Street to the rear of the building. The cellar, which had been filled with rubble before the demolition of the building, was divided into two rooms by a partition (Wall 0034). Access to the cellar



Illus 111 North Sector: plan of Area 6

was by a stone stair (Wall 0035). Extending S from Wall 0007 was Wall 0005, part of the E wall of Building A, the Independent Chapel, built in 1824, which also served as the W wall of Building B1 (Architecture Survey), when that building was erected in 1914.

Part of the S wall (Wall 0202) of Building C (later used as the N wall of Building C1) (Architecture Survey) was found at the SE corner of Area 5. On its S side was part of the E wall (Wall 0203) of Building E (later used as the W wall of Building C1) (Architecture Survey).

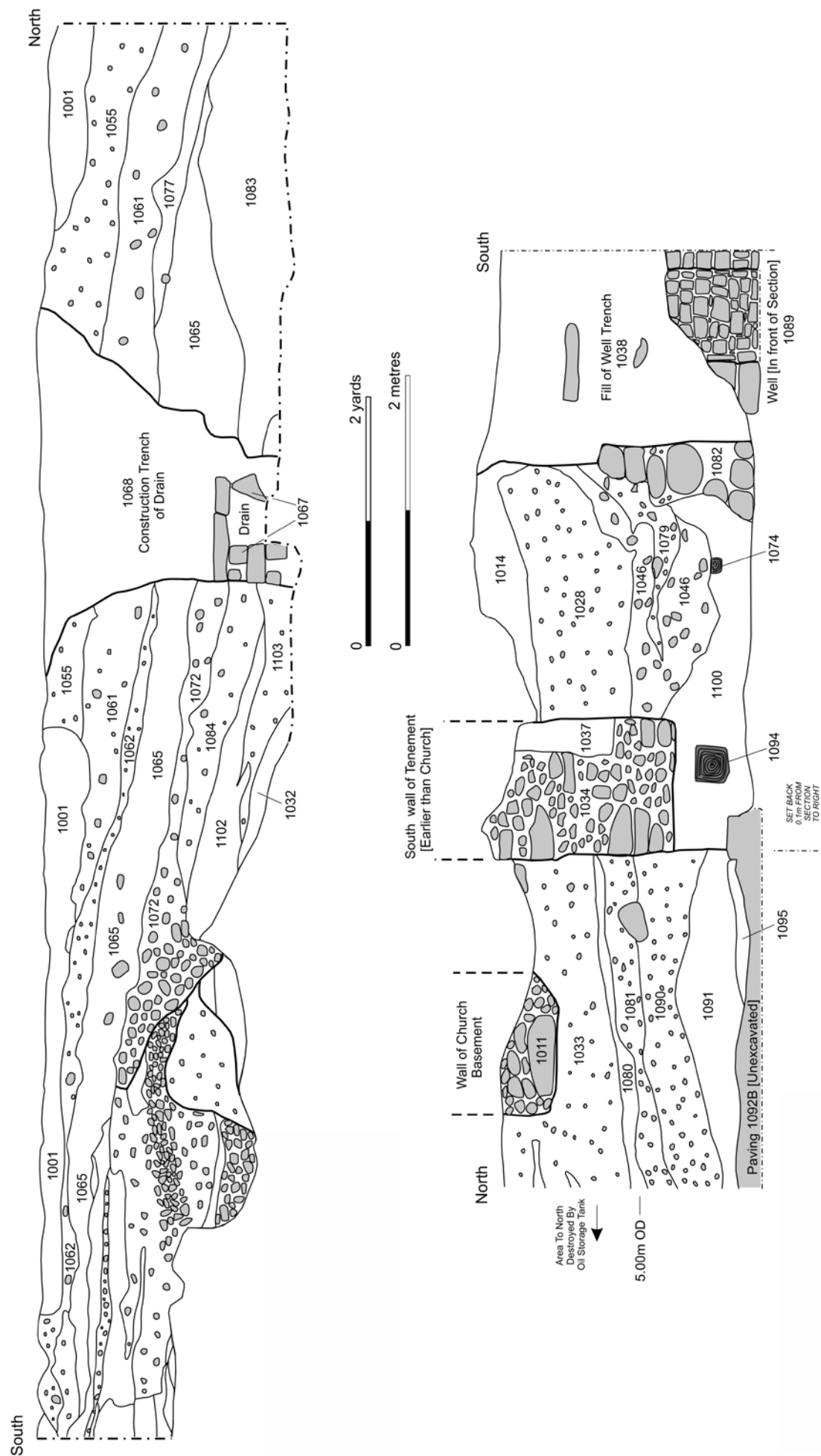
20th century (Phase 19)

This was unstratified material from the demolition and clearance of the buildings.

Area 6 (Illus 111 and 112)

Table 6 *Stratigraphical sequence of Area 6.*

Phase	single-phase feature
A	natural
B	CG030
C	town wall, Lade (construction)
D	Lade (fill)
E	paving
F	CG033
G	garden
H	Drain
I	Building A(a)
J	Building A(b)
K	unstratified



Illus 112 North Sector: east-facing section (upper) and west-facing section (lower) of Area 6.

This trench was opened to the W of Trench A/Area 5 to further investigate the town defences that had been uncovered in Trench A. It measured some 12m N/S by 8m E/W and was divided into two parts by the W wall of the former Independent Chapel (Building A) (Architecture Survey). Unfortunately, it proved to be less informative than expected and more confusing. The N end of the trench was not examined as it was contaminated by a former petrol/diesel tank for the Road Services depot that had latterly occupied this part of the site and the SW corner of the trench had contained a large concrete block, 1m deep and 1.1m across, that had filled a pit. Only the E half of the trench was excavated by hand, the W part being excavated by machine and recorded in the sections. Confusingly, there was a completely different stratigraphical sequence of deposits in each part, apart from the Drain. This difference reflects the boundary between Rigs IV and V that was marked by the W wall of the former Independent Chapel (Building A). In this report the two sides of Area 6 are described separately.

East side

At the S part of the E side of the trench, natural sand was located at a depth of 2.2m (4.3m above OD). It had been levelled off to form a surface with Paving 1092B. The latter comprised large paving slabs (0.2–0.72m across), covering an area some 4m N/S by 3m E/W (Illus 113). The area to the N of the Paving was cut by the Drain, beyond which was the contaminated area of the petrol/diesel tank. As there was no further excavation in this area, neither the relationship of the Paving to the fills of the Lade nor its function were determined, although it is likely that the Paving was cut down into the fills of the Lade.

To the S of the levelled natural was Wall 1082, which appeared to have been built upon the natural sand; between the wall and natural was a deposit of brown loam with pebbles and flecks of charcoal (C1086), possibly a construction deposit. Wall 1082, which was not excavated, was aligned E/W with a southward return at its W end. The wall was of mortared stones, comprising a foundation of large (0.2–0.76m long) rubble stones, on top of which were five stones laid in three courses (0.4–0.5m long), the N face of which was dressed like ashlar, and an L-shaped, squared stone (C1063), either a wall block or roof ridge (Márkus 2008, Inventory No PHSE/wb/33) (Illus 114). The wall was 3m long and 2m wide and stood to an overall height of about 1.2m, the ashlar blocks being about 0.7m in height. Unfortunately, the core of the wall had largely been destroyed by Well 1089 and its W edge was cut by the foundation trench for the W wall of the Independent Chapel (Building A), but it was evident from comparison of the E and S sections of Area 6 that the N face of Wall 1082 was up to 1.06m deeper than the southward return.



Illus 113 North Sector: paving 1092B in Area 6, looking south. (© Courtesy of RCAHMS. Licensor www.rcahms.gov.uk)



Illus 114 North Sector: L-shaped stone C1063 in Wall 1082 in Area 6, looking north-west (scale in centimetres). (© Courtesy of RCAHMS. Licensor www.rcahms.gov.uk)

Above the paving were several layers, up to 1.2m thick overall, of loam, clay and organic material (CG033). To the S of these deposits, above the natural sand and to the N of Wall 1082, was a layer of brown peaty loam with lenses of sand, dark loam, some wood fragments and pebbles (C1100). Within it was a horizontal, roughly squared timber (MW1094), at least 1.26m long (it extended into the E section), 0.22m wide, and varying in thickness from 0.05m at one end and 0.09m at the other end to 0.16m in the middle. The timber contained a peg hole, 0.05m long, 0.03m wide and 0.05m deep. Set into the surface of C1100 was another horizontal timber (D1074), 0.11m wide and 0.08m thick. This timber, presumably grooved on its upper surface, was interpreted as a drain, although it may have been a sill-beam, the first such found in the excavation, hence its possible misidentification; the groove was filled with black loam. Above C1100 was a sequence of deposits, some 0.7m thick, containing sandstone rubble and mortar (C1039, C1064, C1071, C1078), which may represent tumble or demolition from Wall 1082.

Sealing these deposits was a thick (up to 1m) 'garden' deposit of dark reddish-brown loam with pebbles and flecks of charcoal, red burnt clay and white clay (C1028, C1033). Cut through it were a number of 19th-century features: Well 1089, Wall 1034 of the tenement which stood here before the Independent Chapel was constructed, and Wall 1011, an internal wall of the basement of the chapel. Built over the well was Wall 1010, another internal wall of the basement of the Chapel.

West side

The sequence in the W side of Area 6 was quite different and only recorded in the W section (Illus 112). Natural sand lay at a general depth of 1.1m (at 5.4m above OD) and was only reached at the S end of Area 6. The N end of Area 6 contained the fills of the Lade and was not fully excavated for safety reasons. Cut into the natural was a sequence of three pits; the earliest pit was filled with sand, the two later ones with rubble. The rubble of the latest pit was itself cut by a V-shaped ditch, also filled with rubble (C1072). The rubble from this ditch extended N over the earlier fills of the Lade (T1031) as far as the construction trench for the Drain (D1067). The S sloping edge of the Lade was overlain by fine sand and grey clay (C1032), above which were dark clayey loam (C1103), sandy loam (C1102), dark brown peaty loam (C1084) and sandstone rubble (C1085). On the N side of the Drain was black clayey loam (C1083). Rubble C1072 and loam C1083 were sealed by more layers of loam, sand and clay. All these layers sloped down towards the N.

Above these fills of the Lade was a thick 'garden' soil similar to that on the E side of Area 6, but containing small sandstone rubble as well. The construction trench for the Drain was cut through the garden soil and filled with clay, sand and pebbles (C1068). The Drain comprised two parallel rows of stone blocks on an almost E/W alignment, faced internally, capped by large capstones; it extended into the E side of Area 6. Its fill was not recorded.

The latest features on the W side of Area 6 were two parallel ceramic drains on N/S alignment.

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