EXCAVATIONS AT THE DESERTED MEDIEVAL VILLAGE, MICHAELSTON-SUPER-ELY, 2016

An Interim Report

By
O. Davis

CARDIFF STUDIES IN ARCHAEOLOGY
SPECIALIST REPORT NUMBER 37

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with contributions by
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Oliver Davis
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School of History Archaeology and Religion,
Cardiff University,
John Percival Building,
Colum Drive,
Cardiff,
CF10 3EU

Tel: +44 (0)29 208 74470
Fax: +44 (0)29 208 74929

Email: adminshare@cardiff.ac.uk

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1. Introduction

A single four-week season of geophysical survey and excavation was carried out from 08 June to 01 July 2016 to examine the medieval village of Michaelston-super-Ely, Cardiff (ST11607635) (Figure 1). A reassessment of publically accessible 0.5 m resolution LiDAR data was also undertaken. This work was part of Cardiff University's ongoing CAER Heritage Project. This is seeking to engage the occupants of the socially and economically challenged south-western Cardiff suburbs of Caerau and Ely with their heritage, providing educational opportunities and widening access, particularly to further education. The work was a collaboration between heritage professionals and local people (particularly local residents and land owners and school children from Michaelston High School), and formed part of a larger research project exploring the development of the housing estates of Caerau and Ely – the CAER Model Village Project (for further information about this see www1). The work was funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and Cardiff University.

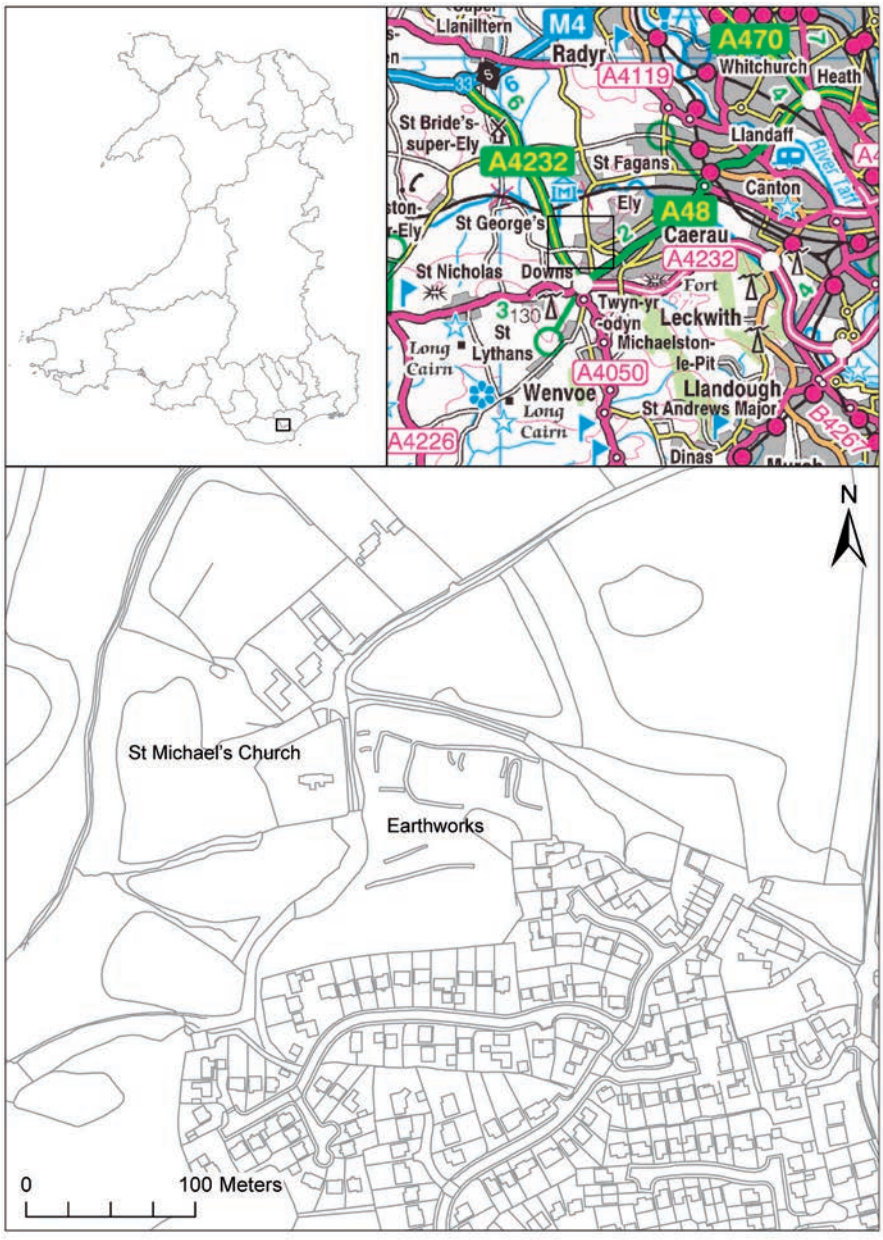

Fig.1. Location map of Michaelston-super-Ely. Crown Copyright/database right 2017. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service

2. Geology & Topography

The site examined by this work lies within a west-facing gently-sloping field located on the south side of the River Ely, immediately north-west of the Ely housing Estate. The solid geology is the Llanishen Conglomerate of Early Devonian age. In most areas this is overlain by Devensian diamicts, but it crops out in a small area within the field where it has been quarried at some point in the relatively recent past. The weathering of the bedrock has formed an overlying deposit of sticky, red clay, unsuitable for the preservation of bone.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

The medieval village of Michaelston-super-Ely survives as a range of earthworks as well as buildings – some ruinous, but others incorporated into modern housing. Several earthwork enclosures and platforms, presumably the remains of crofts and tofts which constituted part of the village, are still visible on the brow of the hill immediately to the east of the now redundant St Michael's Church (NPRN 400098). The earthworks were surveyed in the early 1970s by the RCAHMW for their Glamorgan Inventory (1982), as well as further remains in the areas surrounding the church (Figure 2). Historical research conducted at the same time suggested that the village probably originated as a small mesne manor held of the Chief Lords of Glamorgan – in the 14th century it is recorded as being in the possession of the Fleming family and in the 15th century by the Malefant family (RCHAMW 1982, 116-8). However, St Michael's Church is documented as being in existence in 1254 (RCAHMW 1982, 116) which implies that the village was probably established in the mid-13th century, although an even earlier date is possible. Some depopulation appears to have occurred in the later medieval period. Only seven householders are returned in the Lay Subsidy of 1543 for instance while a map from 1776 (Figure 3) shows just two farms, the 'Green House' and the 'Great House', and three cottages adjacent to a village green (RCHAMW 1982, 116).

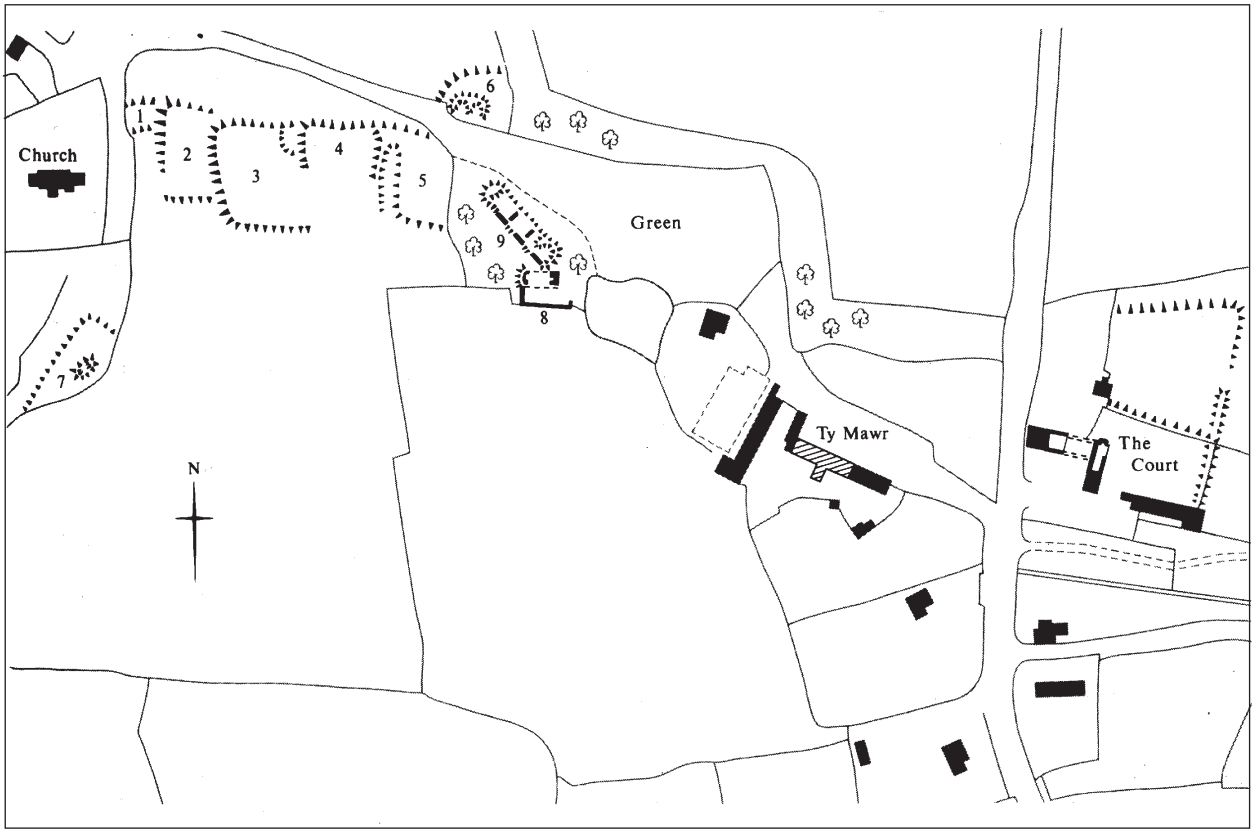

Fig.2. RCAHMW earthwork survey of Michaelston-super-Ely Deserted Medieval Village (RCAHMW 1982, fig. 135)

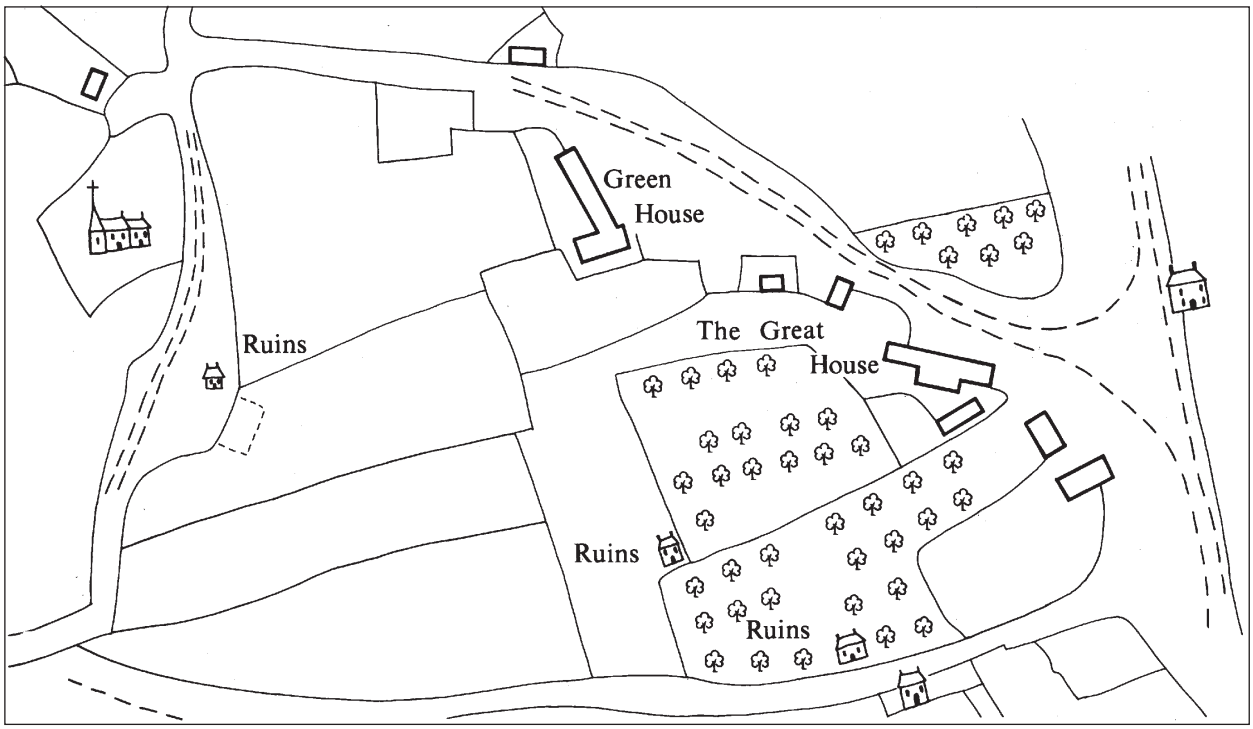

Fig.3. A map made for Edward Thomas in 1776 showing existing remains at that time (RCAHMW 1982, fig. 135)

Other than the RCAHMW's survey there has been up till now no other archaeological attention directed at earthworks adjacent to the church. However, as the housing estate of northern Ely has begun to encroach ever closer a number of archaeological interventions prior to development have recorded archaeological features, although mostly post-medieval in character (see Figure 4 – numbers in the following text refer to those on this image). The remains of a corn drier and part of a stone-built wall (1), considered to be 18th century in date were identified during an evaluation to the south of St Michael's church (Yates 2001) while a section of earthwork (2), possibly related to a moated manor house was revealed during a watching brief at Cwrt-y-Cadno (CPM 2002). An evaluation at Great House Farm only revealed evidence of a stone-built leat (3) (Robic 2010), but further excavation on land adjacent to Green Farm identified the poorly preserved remains of a stone building (4) thought to date to the early 17th century (Robic 2013). A geophysical survey by Tim Young (2012; 2013) had also previously been undertaken on two fields adjacent to Great House Farm, but it produced little evidence for intensive activity or occupation (6).

The RCAHMW argued that Michaelston-super-Ely was a linear village with settlement arranged along a trackway bounded on the west by St Michael's Church and on the east by a probable moated manor house (NPRN 91996). They classified the site for their Inventory as a deserted medieval village (DMV) and argued that the shrinkage and eventual abandonment of the settlement was due to the amalgamation of smaller farms into larger units in the 19th century (1982, 116). However, each of these points is open to question and forms the basis of this research. A date for the establishment of the village has not been confirmed archaeologically, and while there has clearly been settlement desertion, it is not clear whether tenurial consolidation was the sole factor and even if it resulted in the departure of all of the inhabitants. The structural organisation of the village is also not as clear-cut as previously implied. Young (2013) has previously challenged the model of a linear village when no certain medieval house sites were located during geophysical survey around Great House Farm. Ruins of buildings to the south of the church on the map of 1776 also suggest that any linear arrangement, if it existed, may only have been a rather late feature.

Fig.4. Map showing archaeological interventions in the area surrounding Michaelston-super-Ely. Note – stars depict interventions where no archaeological features were identified

4. Research Aims of this Work

The geophysical survey, LiDAR analysis and excavation of Michaelston-super-Ely provided an opportunity to better understand the development of a rural settlement in Glamorgan and its socio-economic context. Its proximity to the medieval town of Cardiff also allowed for the exploration of rural-urban interaction. The overall aims of this research then were:

- To assess the condition and survival of the remains
- To confirm, if possible, the date of the establishment and abandonment of the village and any changes in intensity of occupation over time
- To better understand the development and spatial organisation of a rural settlement
- To gain an insight into the social and economic life of a medieval rural settlement in Glamorgan

4. The Geophysical Survey
by Tim Young

Geophysical survey using ground resistivity and magnetic gradiometry formed the first part of the investigations (Figure 5). The ground resistivity survey was completed using a Geoscan RM15 resistivity meter, operating two pairs of mobile electrodes on a PA5 frame, via an MPX15 multiplexer. The mobile electrode pairs typically have a 0.5 m spacing, with 1 m between centres, giving a 1 m effective traverse interval. The magnetic gradiometer survey was completed using a Bartington Grad 601 dual. The survey was conducted on 20 m grids with a 2 m walked traverse interval (1 m traverse interval on the combined dataset), walked in zigzag and with a 0.125 m sample interval.

The surveys were conducted under hot and dry weather conditions. Ground conditions however were poor, with extremely long vegetation over much of the site, particularly in the south. The magnetic survey in particular was impeded by the vegetation, and the survey of the southern part of the field was undertaken with little hope of the generation of useful data. The limits of the survey area were restricted by the extent of substantial undergrowth derived from the spreading of hedges that had reduced the effective size of the field compared with its apparent limits on the OS mapping. It should be noted that much of the area mapped as earthworks by the RCAHMW in the north-east corner of the field is now covered by dense scrub, which extends 30 m south of the margins of the track that bounds the site to the north.

The magnetic gradiometric results were extremely poor. The tall vegetation impeded walking and knocked the magnetometer out of alignment. Only in the north-western corner of the survey area where the vegetation had been cut back was the data even of a moderate standard. Accordingly, the magnetic dataset produced little useful information. Two parallel linear banks in the southern area of the survey area were apparent and likely to be lynchets (although these had been previously mapped by the OS). Other earthworks in the field were not imaged by the dataset, possibly because the background noise of the data was so high. Minor east-west magnetic linear anomalies were visible in the north-west corner. These were not parallel to the probable medieval earthworks or likely geological structure and so probably result from a direction of ploughing in the field, most likely of relatively modern date.

Conversely, the data quality of the ground resistivity was good although time allowed for the collection of this data only in the very north-west corner of the survey area. Unfortunately the data showed very strong influence from the bedrock which must be very close to the surface across this area. Some of the earthworks appeared as subtle linear negative anomalies and other lesser and narrower anomalies could also be seen. The significance of the narrower anomalies is uncertain and while they superficially appear to run in a similar direction to the obvious earthworks, their restricted width suggests they are more likely to represent jointing in the bedrock. In the extreme north-west of the field was a small complex of mainly positive anomalies and elevated resistivity. They were not individually interpretable, but lay on a possible house platform.

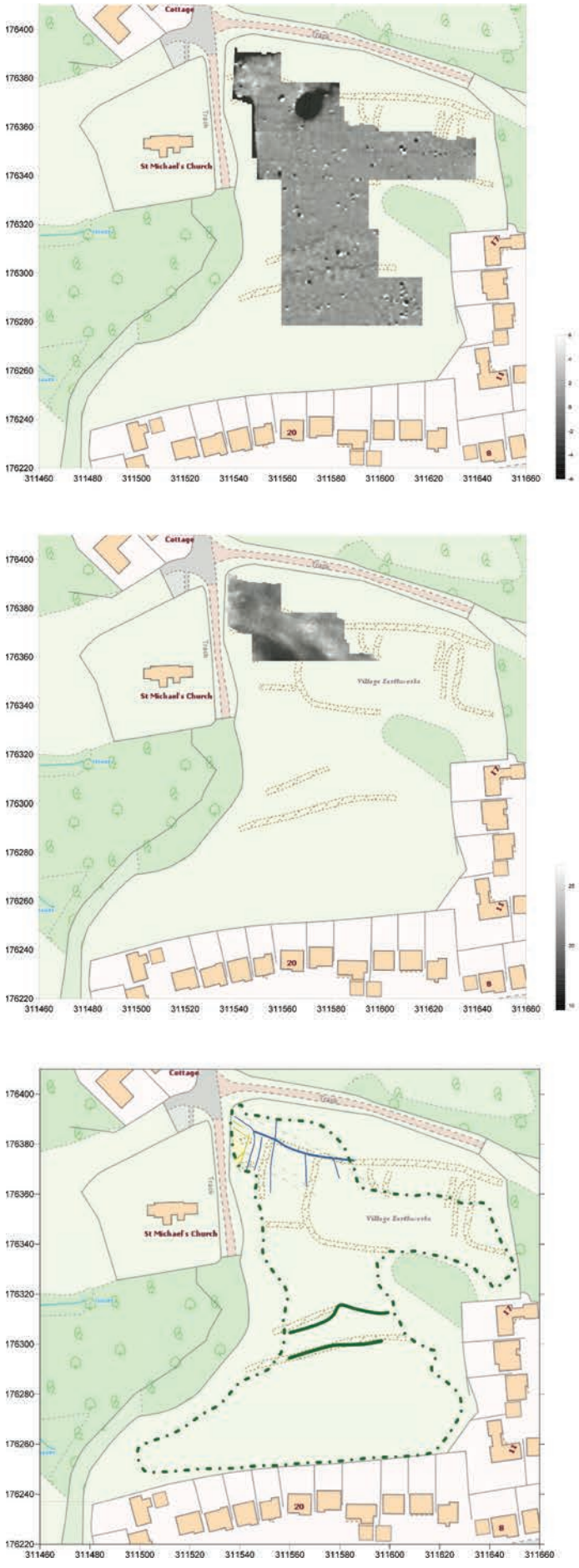

Fig.5. Geophysical survey results. Top: Magnetics; Middle: Resistivity; Bottom: Interpretation

6. The Lidar Survey
by Tim Young & Oliver Davis

A 0.5 m LiDAR dataset for the site was available from the publically accessible, free, online portal 'Lle' hosted by Natural Resources Wales. The DTM and DSM data were downloaded as ASCII files and imported into ArcGIS for imaging and analysis (Figure 6).

The LiDAR data shows many of the features surveyed by the RCAHMW, but there are a number of discrepancies. In particular the area around the west of the quarry suggests a slightly sunken trackway funnelling north-west from the quarry mouth. This seems to cross-cut the north-south aligned bank which was apparently incorrectly mapped as swinging eastwards by the RCAHMW. In fact, the north-south bank reappears south of the sunken trackway before swinging south-west parallel to the two lynchets further to the south. To the south of the lynchets there are also subtle indications of east-west ridges running parallel with the lynchets that may be relict ridge and furrow cultivation.

In the north-west of the field there are suggestions of further subdivisions within the enclosures mapped by the RCAHMW indicating the presence of a series of crofts fronting onto the north-south road running to the east of St. Michael's Church. Deep woodland to the south and west of the church meant that the data was smoothed here and features are not easily distinguished. However, a platform and ruined building was mapped to the south of the church by the RCAHMW and an earthwork is still apparent here, while the LiDAR data indicates the presence of a roughly square platform conjoined to the south-western corner of the churchyard.

In summary, the LiDAR data suggests more intensive occupation concentrated around the church than previously realised. This seems to undermine the conclusion that the medieval village of Michaelston-super-Ely was a linear settlement arranged between the church and moated manor house. It is perhaps more likely that the settlement was originally a nucleated village focussed on St. Michaels', which became more dispersed over time.

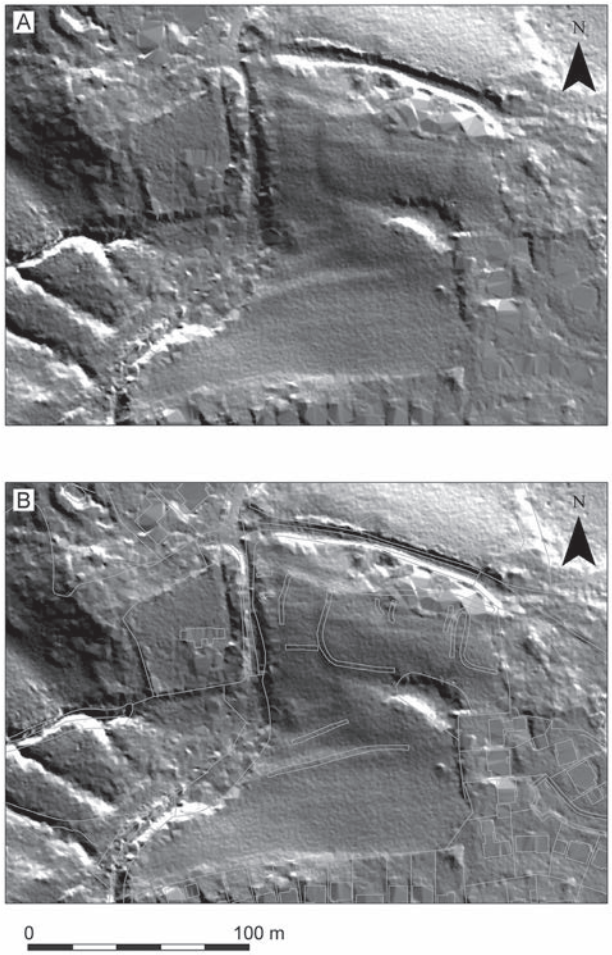

Fig.6. LiDAR DTM of earthworks with light-source set from north-east. Image 'B' shows LiDAR with OS mapping draped over the surface.

7. The Excavation

The excavation was designed to evaluate some of the identified geophysical anomalies in order to elucidate the character of the surviving remains and to recover material derived from occupation and associated activity. Two areas (Trenches 1 and 2) were selected for trenching in the north-western area of the field (Figure 7). Trench 1 was positioned on a presumed building platform. This was set around 25 m north-east of the church where the ground resistivity had indicated a complex of positive anomalies, possibly the remains of a building. Trench 2 was located on another relatively level area further up the slope approximately 35 m east of Trench 1. It was positioned to evaluate whether an area of high resistivity was derived from archaeological or geological features.

In order to better understand the nature and chronology of activity over a much larger area a different strategy was required. The method used was to excavate a series of 1 m square test pits set out 20 m apart in a grid pattern over the principal area of surviving earthworks in the northern half of the field. These were excavated to natural and meticulously recorded, providing a useful sample of pottery and other finds as well as testing the depth and nature of stratification.

Excavation conditions were generally mixed with hot weather interspersed by very heavy rainfall which made site working conditions at times very difficult. All excavations were conducted by hand. Archaeological deposits were sieved on site for the recovery of artefacts. Bulk soil samples of 20 litres (or 100% of smaller contexts) were taken from appropriate well sealed and datable archaeological contexts or features associated with clearly defined structures. These were processed by standard flotation methods at St Fagans National History Museum in August 2016 and a specialist report is in preparation. The standard Cardiff University recording systems were used: all contexts and features were recorded using standard pro-forma context record sheets; a record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered were made (1:20); appropriate sections were drawn (1:10); the OD of all principal strata and features were indicated on appropriate plans and sections. A full photographic record was maintained.

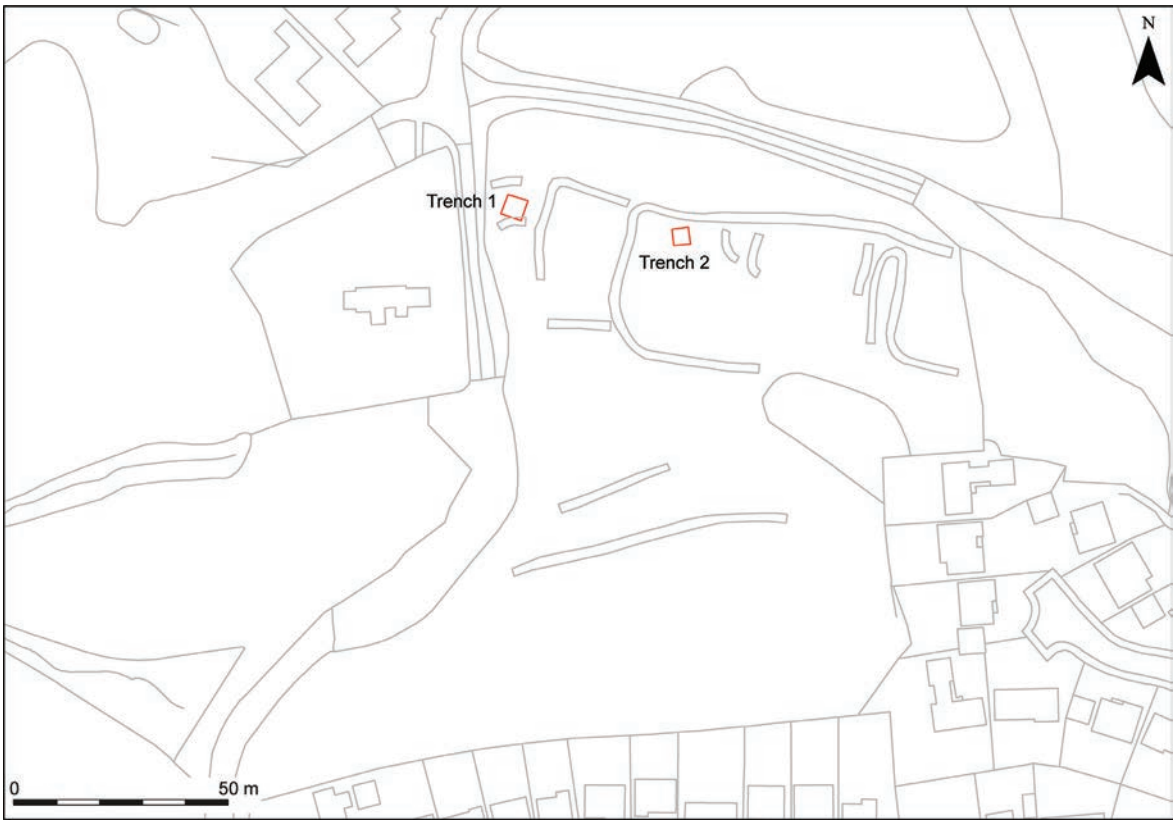

Fig.7. Location of the trenches

Trench 1

101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141

An area 5 m by 5 m, with a small 2 m by 1 m extension on its southern side, was opened up in the very north-western corner of the field (Figure 8). It was located at the northern end of a levelled area, presumably a building platform, to investigate a small complex of geophysical anomalies identified by the resistivity survey.

The key objectives were:

- To confirm if the features were archaeological
- To evaluate the character and condition of any surviving remains
- To obtain dating evidence and understand the development of any surviving remains

The trench varied in depth from 0.90 m in the east to 0.50 m in the west. There was considerable root penetration to a depth of around 0.40 m across the entire trench which had clearly caused some disturbance of deposits. The earliest

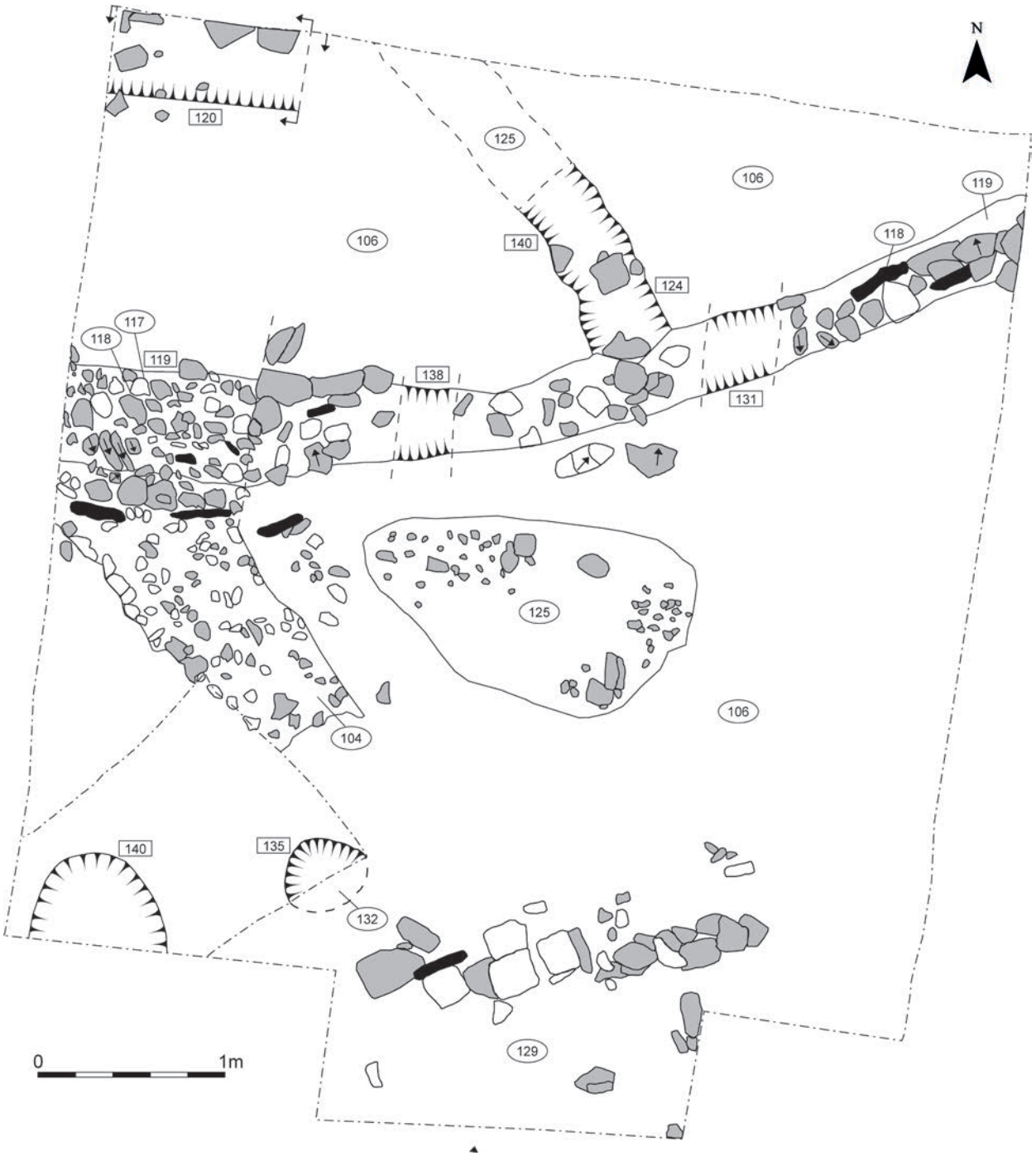

Fig.8. Post-excavation plan of Trench 1. Limestone stones shaded grey

Fig.9. Photo of Trench 1 after excavation, looking west

feature which could be identified was a short, narrow and shallow linear gully (124) curving south to north in the northern half of the trench. A 1 m wide section was excavated across this feature which showed it to be 0.30 m in width and 0.20 m in depth with a shallow-sloping U-shaped profile. It was filled by a dark reddish-brown clayey silt (123) that contained occasional charcoal flecks and small-sized rounded pebbles. On its western side it was cut by a small posthole (127). This was circular in plan, 0.18 m in diameter and 0.15 m deep, with steeply sloping sides and an undulating base. It was filled by a reddy-brown silty clay (126) with occasional charcoal flecks and small packing stones. The northern extent of gully 124 was extremely difficult to trace in plan, but it possibly continued in an arc to the very north-western corner of the trench where another short length of gully was identified (121). This was 0.5 m in width and 0.40 m in depth, but also had a shallow-sloping U-shaped profile. It was filled by a reddish-brown clayey silt that contained flecks of charcoal and small rounded pebbles (120) as well as few medium to large stones 0.12 by 0.30 m in size (122). Both 120 and 123 contained several sherds of unglazed pottery possibly dating to the 13th century. The simplest interpretation of this feature is that it is a drain.

The eastern extent of gully 124 was cut by a sinuous stone-defined linear gully running broadly east to west through the trench (138/119/131). This feature was sectioned in three places which showed that it was 0.50 m in width and 0.40 m in depth, with near vertical sides and flat base. It was filled by a friable brownish-grey clayey silt (130) which contained occasional flecks of charcoal and several flat, sub-angular, stones that had been placed on their sides to define the edges of the cut. Clearly this feature was intended to hold water and it most likely also a drain. At some point after it had gone out of use it was in-filled by a deposit of sub-rounded and sub-angular stones up to 0.20 m by 0.30 m in size (118/104).

At its western extent it was overlain by line of small to medium limestone and sandstone stones (up to 0.20 m in size) running almost exactly east to west through the trench (128). This feature was 0.80 m in width and ran from the western trench edge eastwards for 2.20 m where it terminated abruptly. Almost certainly this feature represents the foundations of a wall, presumably part of a structure. It was not possible to define the dimensions and extent of any structure however, which must lie beyond the trench edge. A circular posthole (134) was recorded around 0.50 m to the east of the wall along the same alignment. This was 0.40 m in diameter with shallow-sloping sides and a concave base and was filled by a dark greyish-brown clayey silt (132) which contained frequent charcoal flecks and the remains of a clay pipe. There was no stratigraphic relationship between the wall and posthole so it is not clear which is earlier.

The abrupt termination of the wall (128) is possibly the result of robbing, but it could also be interpreted as an entrance into a structure (Figure 9). Set immediately to the north was a roughly oval hollow (134), 1.60 m in length, 1.00 m in width and 0.10 m in depth. This was filled with a brownish-orange sandy silt with tightly packed small stones (125). This is clearly an attempt to consolidate a heavily used surface suggesting erosion possibly caused by animals. No obvious floor surface was identified beyond this deposit so it is most likely that wall 128 represents the southern definition of a yard or annexe rather than a house. Metalled surface 125 was sealed by a brownish red silty clay (106/139) which was observed

Fig.10. Photo of wall 136/108 under excavation, looking south-west

right across the northern half of the trench. This was up to 0.30 m thick in places and contained a large amount of medieval and post-medieval pottery suggesting it had built up over a considerable period of time through both colluvial action and the dumping of waste.

In the south-eastern area of the trench was a compact light browny red silty clay (129) which was faced on its northern side by a line of medium to large coursed stones (136/108) (Figure 10). It is possible that this represents a revetment to a deliberately levelled area extending to the south of the trench, and formed the southern limit of the yard. In the south-western corner of the trench 129 was sealed by a thick dump of orangey-red silty clay (111). An Elizabethan silver coin was recovered from within this deposit. Cutting 111 was a circular pit (140). This was 1.00 m in diameter and 0.30 m in depth with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. It was filled by a browny red clayey silt (141).

Overlying 106 and abutting the eastern section edge was an isolated deposit of reddish brown silty clay (113/107). Contained within this was a pear-shaped deposit of medium sized (up to 0.20 m) stones (114). There was no obvious structure to this deposit and its function is difficult to determine as it extended beyond the trench edge, but it may be an area of tumble from a wall or consolidation of a surface.

These deposits were sealed by a mid greyish-brown clayey silt (102/105) which entirely covered the area of the trench. In the north-eastern corner of the trench this deposit was cut by a curving gully (116), 0.40 m wide and 0.31 m deep. It was U-shaped with a flat base and was filled with a dark brown sandy clay (115) which contained very frequent charcoal flecks. It presumably represents a relatively recent drainage feature. In the centre of the trench 102 was also cut by an oval posthole (110). This was 0.34 m by 0.26 m and 0.07 m in depth, and was filled by a dark brown clayey silt (109). In the southern area of the trench 102 was sealed by a dark browny red silty clay (133) which is presumably derived from hillwash. Overlying all of these deposits was the browny red silty clay topsoil (101).

Trench 2

201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206

An area 4 m by 4 m was opened up over an area of elevated resistivity 35 m east of Trench 1, about half-way up the western-facing slope of the field (Figure 11). The key objective was to:

- Evaluate the nature of the anomalies identified by the ground resistivity

Below the modern turf and topsoil (201) was a moderately compacted reddish-brown, clayey, sandy, silt deposit containing frequent charcoal flecks and common sub-rounded and sub-angular stones up to 0.2 m in size (202/204). This was up to 0.25 m in thickness and contained only a very small number of fragments of pottery, glass and slate. Presumably it represents a mixed ploughsoil and hillwash. No features or structures were obviously identifiable so it was decided to divide the trench into four quadrants and fully excavate to natural the north-east (QA) and south-west (QB) quads.

In QA, 202 sealed a compacted mid red-brown sandy,

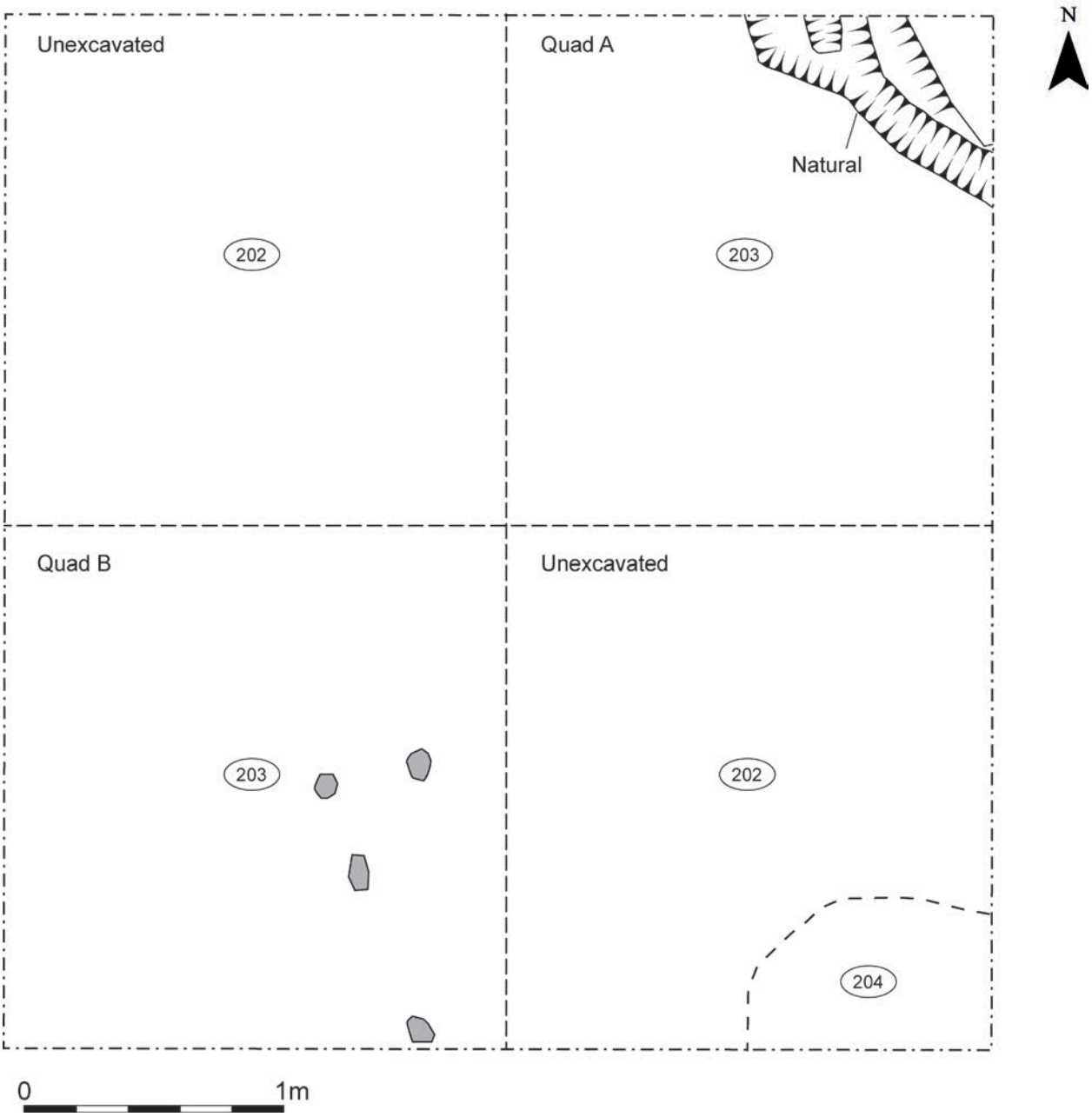

Fig.11. Post-excavation plan of Trench 2

clayey, silt (205) which contained frequent small sub-angular stones and occasional charcoal flecks, but no artefacts. It varied in thickness from 0.2 m in the south to 0.15 m in the north. In QB, 202 sealed an equivalent compacted mid red-brown sandy, clayey, silt (206) which also contained frequent small sub-angular stones and occasional charcoal flecks, and was 0.2 m in depth. Thirteen sherds of unglazed pottery, 6 fragments of slate and 1 fragment of iron slag were recovered from this layer. Deposit 205/206 is presumably also derived from hillwash and directly overlay the very compacted natural red clay (203).

No features or structures were identified within the trench and the elevated resistivity reading is therefore almost certainly geological in origin. The very limited finds assemblage does not suggest occupation immediately adjacent and the abraded nature of the pottery sherds from both 202/204 and 205/206 suggests the soils mainly derive from colluvial action.

The Test Pits

In total 12 1 m by 1 m test pits were opened up over the area of surviving earthworks in the northern half of the field (Figure 12). These were positioned 20 m apart onto the OS National Grid. The encroachment of undergrowth in the north-eastern corner of the field prevented the excavation of test pits in this area. The key objective was to:

- Evaluate the nature and intensity of activity over the area of surviving earthworks by obtaining a sample of finds and stratification

All of the test pits were excavated to natural (316). The overlying deposits varied in depth across the site from 0.30 m to 0.75 m, being generally shallower on the more steeply-sloping ground and deeper at the very top and bottom of the slope. This presumably reflects the erosion, movement and deposition of material by aeolian and colluival action, as well as human agencies such as ploughing and deliberate levelling.

Fig.12. Test pit under excavation

Test Pit 1

301, 302

The natural was sealed by a 0.20 m thick deposit of compact reddy-brown silty-clay (302) which contained small sub-angular and sub-rounded stones and occasional charcoal flecks. Overlying 302 was the modern topsoil (301).

Test Pit 2

303, 304

Sitting on top of the natural was a spread of small stones up to 0.2 m by 0.09 m in size (304). There did not appear to be any structure to this deposit, so it may have derived from an attempt to consolidate a surface, or from field clearance (Figure 13). The stones were sealed by a 0.30 m thick deposit of compact mid red-brown silty-clay (303) which contained small sub-angular and sub-rounded stones and occasional charcoal flecks. Overlying 303 was the modern turf and topsoil.

Test Pit 3

305, 306, 315

Immediately above the natural was a light browny-red clay (315) which contained occasional small sub-rounded pebbles. This was sealed by a mid browny-red silty clay (306) with frequent small pebbles and charcoal flecks. Overlying 306 was the modern topsoil (305).

Test Pit 4

309, 310, 312, 314

All of the deposits in this test pit were very wet and the base continuously filled with water suggesting a springhead may be close by. Sealing the natural was a mid reddy-brown clayey, silty, sand (314). Immediately

Fig.13. Stone feature in Test Pit 2, looking east

Fig.14. Stone feature in Test Pit 4, looking west

above this layer was a mid browny-red clayey, sandy, silt (312) in which a number of large, flat stones (up to 0.30 m by 0.20 m in size) had been placed (Figure 14). This presumably represents a laid surface and a worked flint was found placed amongst the stones. This was sealed by s mid browny-red silty sand (310) that contained frequent charcoal inclusions. Overlying 310 was the modern topsoil (309).

Test Pit 5

307, 308, 313

Immediately above the natural was a compact mid red-brown clayey silt (313) containing frequent charcoal flecks and small sub-angular and sub-rounded pebbles. Sitting on top of this layer was a deposit of medium-sized (up to 0.20 m by 0.15 m) sub-angular stones in a sandy clay matrix (308) (Figure 15). This could be collapse from a wall, but it was evenly distributed throughout the test pit suggesting it is more likely derived from the deliberate metalling of a surface. No finds were identified within this layer. It was sealed by the modern topsoil (307).

Fig.15. Stone feature in Test Pit 5, looking south

Test Pit 6

317, 318

The deposits in this test pit, positioned at the top of the hillslope, were much deeper than expected (up to 0.58 m). The basal deposit was a mid red-brown silty clay (318), 0.47 m thick, with frequent charcoal flecks and small pebbles. This was sealed by the dark brown topsoil (317).

Test Pit 7

319, 320

Test pits 7, 10 and 12 were positioned immediately to the north of the visible earthworks in the north-western corner of the field. The deposits above the natural in Test Pit 7 were deep (0.59 m). Immediately sealing the natural was a mid red-brown silty clay (320), 0.39 m thick, with frequent charcoal flecks and small rounded pebbles. This was sealed by the dark brown topsoil (319).

Test Pit 8

321, 322

Sealing the natural was a mid red-brown sandy clay (322) which contained only a very small number of finds. Immediately above this deposit was the dark brown topsoil (321).

Test Pit 9

323, 324, 325

This test pit was located at the base of the slope to the south of the principal earthworks. The deposits here above the natural were very deep (0.75 m). The basal layer was a compacted mid grey-brown silty sand (325) which contained occasional small rounded pebbles. This contained no finds. It was sealed by a mid red-brown silty clay (324) in which were frequent charcoal flecks. Overlying this was the topsoil (323).

Test Pit 10

326, 327

The deposits in this test pit were shallow (0.32 m). Immediately above the natural was a mid orangey-brown silty clay (327), 0.24 m thick, containing frequent charcoal flecks. This was sealed by the modern topsoil (326).

Test Pit 11

328, 329, 333, 334, 335

Sitting on top of the natural was a mid reddy-brown silty clay (335). Cutting through 335 at its southern extent was a shallow ditch or gully running east to west through the test pit (334). Its complete profile was not elucidated as it ran beyond the southern edge of the test pit. It was filled by a light browny-grey sandy silt (333) which contained charcoal flecks. It was not clear what this feature was, but it should be noted that it is running broadly in the same direction as the lynchets identified in the southern area of the field by the geophysical and LiDAR surveys and it may represent a shallow field boundary. It was sealed by

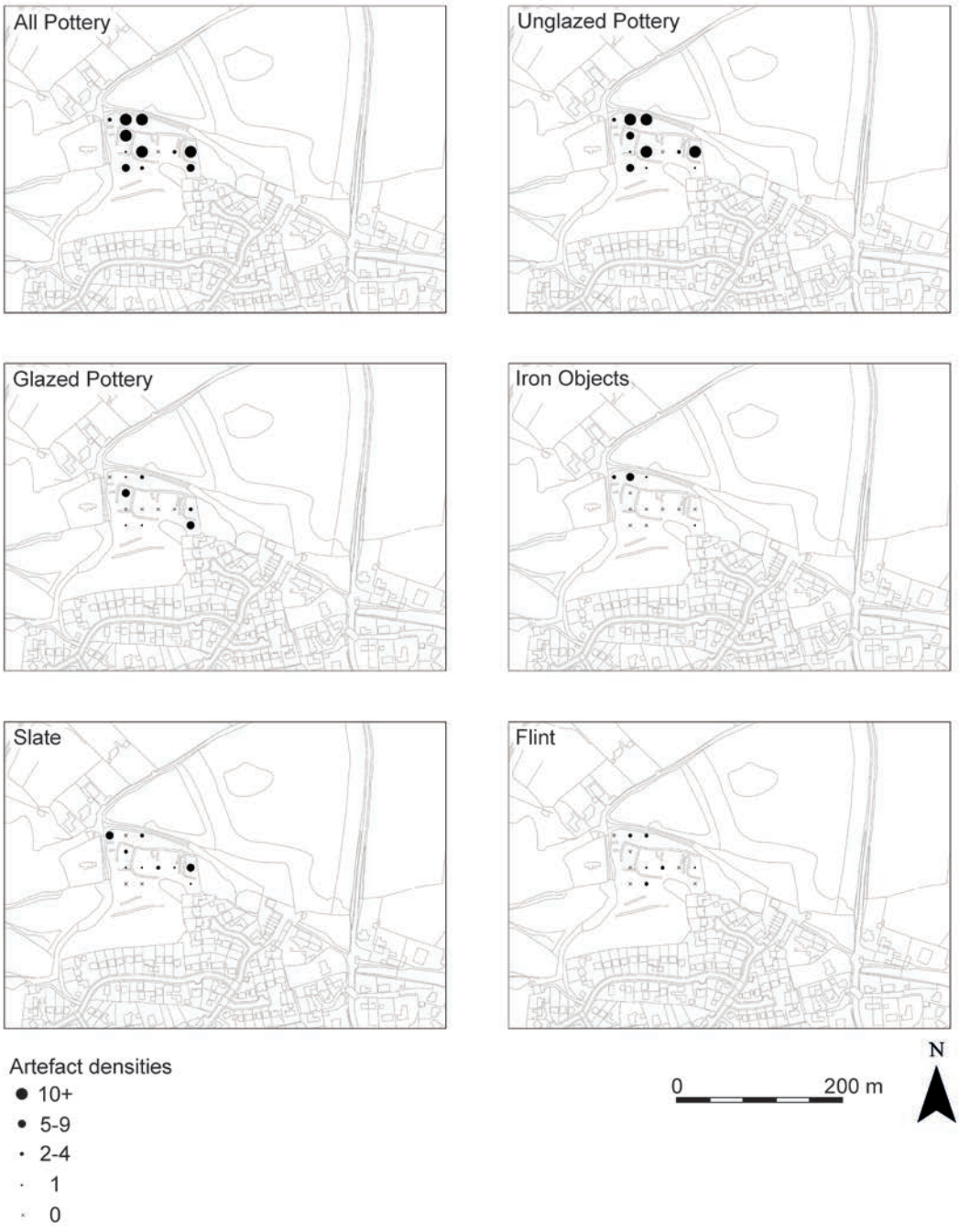

Fig.16. The density of artefacts recovered from the test pits

a yellowy-red clayey silt (329) which contained frequent charcoal inclusions. Overlying this was the grey-brown topsoil (328).

Test Pit 12

330, 331, 332

Immediately above the natural was a mid red-brown silty clay (332), 0.23 m in thickness, and containing occasional charcoal flecks and small rounded pebbles. This was sealed by a light orangey-brown clayey sandy silt (331) which was in turn sealed by the dark brown topsoil (330).

Distribution of finds

The poor bone preservation across the site meant that only more durable non-organic artefacts were recovered from the test pits: pottery, iron objects, slate and flint (Figure 16). The most prolific find was pottery (134 sherds). The ceramic assemblage was dominated by unglazed sherds (113 sherds) predominantly dating to the 13th to 15th century. Pottery was concentrated in the western and north-eastern parts of the field with little

recovered in between. Interestingly, unglazed, earlier, pottery was recovered in much greater concentrations in the western half of the field, while glazed, later, pottery was found in small quantities right across the survey area, although with a concentration in the north-west and east. Only nine iron objects were recovered and these were concentrated in the northwest corner. The assemblage was predominantly nails and presumably derive from the structural elements of buildings. Fourteen flints were found across the survey area and probably reflect low-level prehistoric activity, although four were associated with a stone-built feature recorded in Test Pit 4.

It is possible that these distributions result from a clustering of early settlement around the church. By the 18th century, this area may have been largely cleared of houses, while the area around the village green was developed further to the east. Caution is required though – the site is on a south-west facing slope and the greater concentration of pottery in the western areas may have resulted from post-depositional movement through hillwash. However, small pieces of highly fragmented slate, presumably derived from roof tiles, were found in low concentrations right across the survey area with little indication of concentrations at the bottom of the slope. This may indicate that the horizontal post-depositional movement of artefacts may not be significant.

8. Finds

The various specialist reports are currently in preparation and are not presented here, but a basic overview of the finds is given. Finds were recovered from all of the trenches and test pits excavated, although the quantities varied significantly across the site. Pottery was by far the most prolific find. Very little animal bone was identified, but objects of metal, glass, stone and clay survived to be recovered. Condition of the material is generally good although mostly highly fragmented. Ironwork in particular is heavily corroded.

8.1 Pottery

The pottery assemblage is currently being analysed by Alice Forward. The overall yield of pottery was relatively modest, made up of 779 sherds with the vast majority recovered from Trench 1. The assemblage is a mixture of both glazed and unglazed sherds ranging in date from the 13th to 19th century.

8.2 Metalwork

The metalwork includes objects of iron, copper alloy, silver and lead. Conservation of the metalwork is currently being undertaken by Cardiff University, but an overview is provided here.

8.2.1 Objects of iron

A total of 18 iron objects were recovered. They are mostly heavily corroded, but after x-raying a number of objects can be recognised. Most from secure archaeological deposits are nails (7), but a variety of other unrecognisable objects and clearly modern artefacts (e.g. a padlock) were recovered mainly from the topsoil and hillwash.

8.2.2 Objects of copper alloy

Only 4 copper alloy objects was recovered, all from Trench 1. Three were contained within hillwash (context 102) and included a button (SF02), a cylinder (SF12) (Figure 17) and a small unrecognisable fragment (SF14). A fragment of a belt buckle (SF15) was recovered from context 107 (Figure 18).

8.2.3 Objects of lead

Two lead objects were recovered both from Trench 1. One was a lead washer (SF09) probably of quite recent origin, but the other was possibly part of a brooch or seal (SF17).

Fig.17. Copper alloy cylinder

Fig.18. Copper alloy belt buckle

Fig.19. Silver coin, dated 1600 (left:obverse, right:reverse)

8.2.4 Coins

Two coins were recovered, again both from Trench 1. One, from context 102 was a copper alloy penny dated 1860 (SF01), but the other was an Elizabethan silver groat (SF11) (Figure 19).

8.3 Glass

In total 23 fragments of glass were recovered. This was highly fragmented. The majority was green or brown glass most likely derived from a variety of bottles and other vessels.

8.4 Objects of stone

A range of stone objects were recovered during the excavations.

8.4.1 Gaming pieces

Three stones were recovered that are likely to have been gaming pieces. Two were identified in Trench 1 and are roofing slates which have been worked into circular discs approximately 5 cm in diameter. The other is a very smooth, flat, circular sandstone disc recovered from Test Pit 4.

8.4.2 Slate

In total 161 fragments of slate were recovered from across the site, but mostly from Trench 1. Slate is not a local geology and so they must represent the importation of slates from west or north Wales or south-western Britain. The fragments all most likely derive from roofing slates and several have small, circular, perforations through them where they have been nailed in place.

8.4.3 Flint

A total of 18 pieces of flint were recovered from across the site. The majority are poor quality, unworked, flint pebbles, but 1 piece from Trench 1 was burnt. A possible blade fragment was identified in Test Pit 12 and a worked core was recovered from Test Pit 4.

8.5 Animal bone

Animal bone did not survive well in the acidic clay rich soils. However, 6 small pieces of highly fragmented, burnt, calcined, bone were recovered from Trench 1.

9. Summary

Michaelston-super-Ely was defined by the RCAHMW as a medieval 'linear village' which became deserted by the 19th century (1982). This work, focussing on the earthworks surviving adjacent to St Michael's, has challenged that position and added significantly to our understanding of the development and spatial organisation of the village.

While geophysical survey did not prove to be an effective tool for identifying medieval features on this site, the detailed LiDAR analysis undertaken here has provided significant new information. A number of subtle earthworks, not surveyed by the RCAHMW, appear to indicate the presence of a series of enclosures (crofts) crowding around the eastern and southern sides of the church (Figure 20). This suggests that the village may have originally been nucleated around the church rather than arranged along the east to west trackway as argued by the RCAHMW.

The excavation was too limited to convincingly confirm the date for the establishment of the village, but the pottery assemblage is consistent with a date in the 13th century. The abandonment of settlement adjacent to the church is harder to define. Unglazed pottery dominated the ceramic assemblage recovered from the test pits which suggests most intensive occupation in the 13th to 16th centuries. The Elizabethan silver groat recovered from Trench 1 indicates that occupation in the field was still prosperous in the 16th century, but the map of 1776 does not show any buildings still extant and so a date of abandonment in the late 17th or early 18th century seems plausible. It is possible that thereafter settlement was largely dispersed with some concentration around the village green to the east.

No certain houses were identified. The walls identified in Trench 1 could be the remains of the structural elements of a house, but it is more likely that they define part of a yard or annexe with any associated house located further to the south beyond the extent of the excavations. The yard or annexe may have served as a stable, cattle byre or pig sty and was certainly used for the dumping of rubbish as evidenced by the considerable assemblage of pottery recovered from the deposits infilling this area. Drainage was also clearly an issue on this site, particularly in the location of Trench 1. Situated at the bottom of the slope this would have been an area prone to receive considerable run-off after any rainfall.

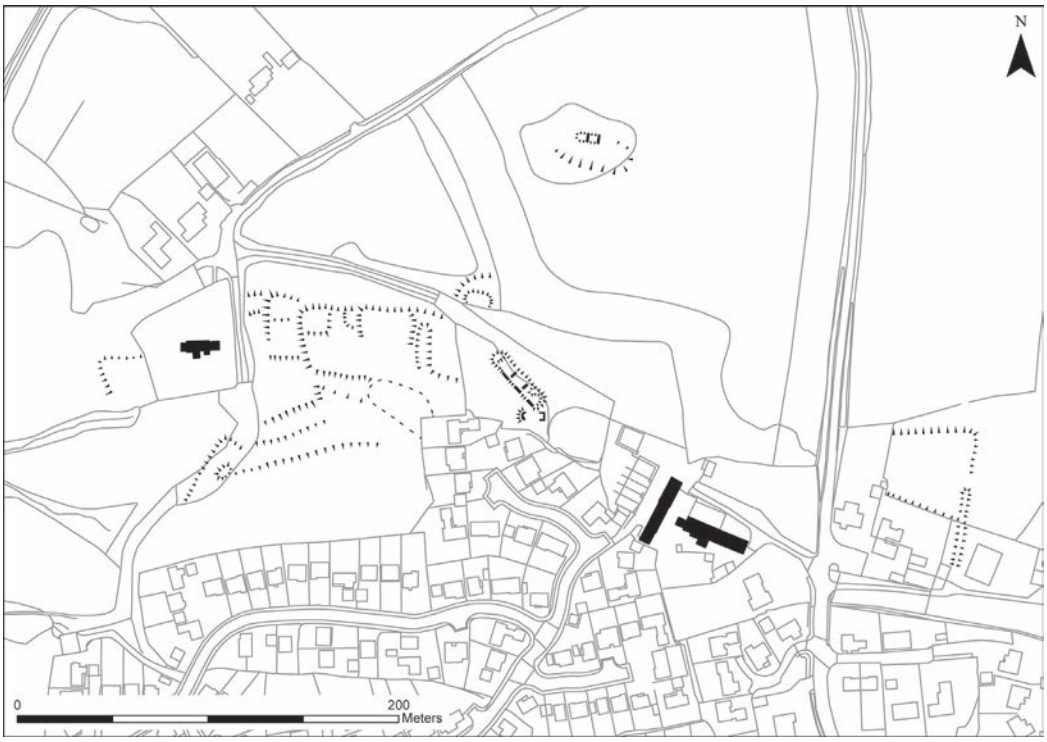

Fig.20. New plan of all earthworks and features at Michaelston-super-Ely

10. Acknowledgements

The earthworks adjacent to St Michaels's Church are privately owned and we are extremely grateful to the owners for allowing these excavations to take place and for their enthusiasm throughout. Particular thanks are extended to Dean Jones and Ian Gay. Funding for the excavations was provided by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and Cardiff University. Numerous individuals provided logistical, creative or archaeological support including Dave Wyatt, Ben Jervis, Alan Lane, Tom Allen, James Skelton, Emily Gal, Kelly Davies, Susan Virgo, Tim Young, Vicky Rees, Paul Evans and Jon Harrison, as well as all the students of Cardiff University involved in the excavations – none of this work would have been possible without them. Finally, we owe considerable thanks to the residents and communities of Ely including Dave Horton and Action in Caerau and Ely, Viv Thomas, Paul Kemble, Michaelston Community College, Woodlands High School, and all the other volunteers.

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www1 http://www.utopia500.org.uk/caer-model-village-project/

12. Appendix

Trench 1 Context List

SITE	CONTEXT NO.	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
mich16	101	topsoil	topsoil
mich16	102	subsoil	subsoil
mich16	103	natural	natural
mich16	104	stone	possible rubble deposit below (102) possible wall?
mich16	105	deposit	dark, heavily rooted deposit with frequent charcoal to SW of Trench 1
mich16	106	deposit	mid brownish red clayey silt, occasional charcoal overlying (104)
mich16	107	deposit	mid brown red clay-silt/ collunum over 'wall' (108) to SE of trench
mich16	108	structure	wall? To SE of trench
mich16	109	fill	fill of post hole [110]
mich16	110	cut	cut of posthole to S of trench 1
mich16	111	deposit	red silty clay deposit at SW of Tr. 1 {11}
mich16	113	deposit	mid red-bm deposit overlying/under stones (114) poss = (107)
mich16	114	deposit	stones to S of trench, to N of (108)
mich16	115	fill	fill of drainage gully [116]
mich16	116	cut	cut of drainage gully (115)
mich16	117	fill	fill of possible drain [119]
mich16	118	fill/deposit	stones in drain [119]
mich16	119	cut	cut of possible drain running E - W
mich16	120	fill/deposit	dark possible fill of a linear [121] to north trench?
mich16	121	cut	cut of possible linear (120)
mich16	122	deposit	stone deposit, possible lining of linear feature [121]
mich16	123	fill	fill of linear [124]
mich16	124	cut	cut of linear
mich16	125	deposit	tightly-packed possible 'consolidation' layer
mich16	126	fill	fill of possible posthole [127] cutting [124]
mich16	127	cut	cut of possible posthole/cutting [124]
mich16	128	masonry/dep.	limestone wall foundation (NW-SE) to W of Trench 1
mich16	129	deposit	red 'bank' material in SE corner
mich16	130	deposit	fill of drain [131]
mich16	131	cut	cut of drain
mich16	132	fill	fill of posthole [135]
mich16	133	deposit	hillwash deposit observed in N facing section over (129)
mich16	134	cut	cut of small area of packed stones
mich16	135	cut	cut of posthole
mich16	136	deposit	stones in extension S
mich16	137	fill	fill of [138] = (117) = (130)
mich16	138	cut	cut of drain, slot 2 = [119] , [131]
mich16	139	deposit	red clay bank observed south facing section of trench 1
mich16	140	cut	cut of pit in sondage A
mich16	141	fill	fill of pit in sondage A

Trench 1 Drawing Register

SITE	DRAWING NO.	SEC/PLAN	DESCRIPTION
mich16	1	sec	west facing section of posthole/ [110] / 1:10
mich16	2	plan	mid ex plan of posthole [110] / 1:10 / sheet no.1
mich16	3	plan	post ex plan of posthole [110] / 1:10 / sheet no. 1
mich16	4	plan	mid ex plan of tr. 1 showing various structures
mich16	5	section	section of [116] gully facing SE
mich16	6	section	section of [116] gully facing N
mich16	7	section	section of linear [124] facing E
mich16	8	section	S facing long section through linear [121]
mich16	9	section	W facing section through linear [121]
mich16	10	plan	overlay of trench 1 / showing linears [124] - [121]
mich16	11	section	W facing section through drain [131]
mich16	12	section	S facing section of trench 1 (pt. 1)
mich16	13	section	S facing section of trench 1 (pt. 2)
mich16	14	section	W facing section of trench 1 (pt.1)
mich16	15	section	W facing section of trench 1 (pt.2)
mich16	16	section	W facing section of trench 1 (pt. 3)
mich16	17	section	N facing section of trench 1, pt 1, to E of S extension
mich16	18	section	W facing section of trench 1, S extension
mich16	19	section	N facing section of trench 1, S extension, pt 1

Trench 1 Sample Register

Sample no.	Context no.	Cut no.	Feature type	Number of bags/ boxes	Volume (l)	% of deposit	clay? Y/N	Reason for sample	Comments
<1001>	109	[110]	posthole	1	5	100	N	high charcoal content	fill of posthole [110] > 50% charcoal inclusion
<1002>	115	[116]	gully/drain	2	20	25	N	high charcoal content, no finds	charcoal inclusions, no artefacts, dark silts
<1003>	120	[121]	linear	2	20	25	N	charcoal feature	dark fill, small amount of charcoal, pottery found
<1004>	106	/	deposit/ overlying trench	2	20	10	Y	determing nature of deposit	post collunum/ hillwash or bank material. Moderate charcoal
<1005>	126	[127]	posthole	1	10	50	N	fill of posthole	fill of posthole cutting linear
<1006>	117	[119]	drain	1	10	10	N	fill of drain	large amount of large stones, sterile, no charcoal
<1007>	137	[138]	drain	1	10	10	N	fill of drain	small charcoal, 1x pot, large stones
<1008>	139	/	deposit	1	8	20	Y	bulk	occasional charcoal flecks
<1009>	102	/	deposit	1	10	>1	N	bulk	occupation layer
<1010>	106								
<1011>	132	[135]	PH	1	20	50	N		
<1012>	111	/	levelling deposit	1	10	20	Y		bulk

Trench 2 Context List

SITE	CONTEXT NO.	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
mich16	201	D	top soil
mich16	202	D	sub soil
mich16	203	D	natural
mich16	204	D	hill wash S.W corner of trench
mich16	205	D	subsoil in sondage A
mich16	206	D	sub-soil in sondage B

Trench 2 Drawing Register

SITE	DRAWING NO.	TRENCH	SEC/PLAN	DESCRIPTION
mich16	201	2	plan	full excavation plan

Finds Register

SMALL FIND NO.	TRENCH	CONTEXT	FIND TYPE	EAST	NRTH	HGHT	DESCRIPTION
1	1	102	Cu coin	311544.215	176375.881	37.876	coin, dated 1860
2	1	102	Cu button	311544.228	176376.931	37.969	button, possible Cu.
3	1	102	Fe nail	311542.726	176373.72	37.959	Fe. Nail
4	1	102	Fe Bolt				Fe. Bolt
5	1	102	Fe Nail	311541.034	176377.001	37.679	Fe. Nail
6	1	106	clay pipe bowl				clay pipe bowl/ foot fragment
7	1	107	clay pipe bowl				clay pipe bowl / foot
8	1	102	Fe. Object	311541.497	176376.145	37.591	Fe. Object
9	1	102	washer				lead metal washer
10	1	102	clay pipe	311544.61	176375.161	37.888	decorated clay pipe - initials I.P
11	1	111	silver coin	311541.408	176373.527	37.638	silver coin
12	1	102	Cu	311541.94	176374.928	37.672	copper alloy cylinder
13	1	102	clay pipe	311544.055	176374.383	37.862	clay pipe bowl - initials OT or 07?
14	1	102	Cu	311543.361	176374.152	38.107	fragment of copper
15	1	107	Cu				fragment of buckle
16	1	106	Fe				Iron nail
17	1	113	Pb				lead seal?
18	TP7	320	Fe				iron nail?
19	1	102	Fe				iron slag?
20	2	206					slag?
21	TP8	322	Fe				iron padlock
22	TP7	320	Fe				Iron nails x3
23	TP10	327	Fe				iron object x2 frags
24	1	123	Fe				iron objects x2
25	1	102	Fe				iron?
26	1		Fe	311540.496	176374.385	37.446	iron nail

Photo Register (Camera 2)

SITE	PHOTO NO.	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION
mich16	502	1	pre excavation shot facing east
mich16	503	1	pre excavation shot facing east
mich16	504	1	pre excavation shot facing west
mich16	505	1	pre excavation shot facing west
mich16	506	1	pre excavation shot facing west
mich16	507	1	pre excavation shot facing west
mich16	508	1	pre excavation shot facing north west
mich16	509	1	pre excavation shot facing north west
mich16	510	1	pre excavation shot facing north west
mich16	511	1	pre excavation shot facing north west
mich16	512	1	pre excavation shot facing north west
mich16	513	1	pre excavation shot facing north west
mich16	514	1	pre excavation shot facing north west
mich16	515	1	pre excavation shot no scale facing south
mich16	516	1	pre excavation shot no scale facing south
mich16	517	1	pre excavation shot no scale facing south
mich16	518	1	(104) - facing north / (104) = wall
mich16	519	1	(104) - facing north / (104) = wall
mich16	520	1	(104) - facing north / (104) = wall
mich16	521	1	(104) - facing north / (104) = wall
mich16	522	1	(104) - facing north / (104) = wall
mich16	523	1	(104) - facing north / (104) = wall
mich16	524	1	(104) - facing north / (104) = wall
mich16	525	1	Wall (108) - facing south east
mich16	526	1	Wall (108) - facing south east
mich16	527	1	Wall (108) - facing south east
mich16	528	1	Wall (108) - facing south east
mich16	529	1	pre ex tr 1 shot - east
mich16	530	1	pre ex tr 1 shot - east
mich16	531	1	pre ex tr 1 shot - east
mich16	532	1	pre ex tr 1 shot - east
mich16	533	1	w facing section of posthole [110] showing fill (109) - E
mich16	534	1	w facing section through posthole [110] - E
mich16	535	1	w facing section through posthole [110] - E
mich16	536	1	w facing section through posthole [110] - E
mich16	537	1	w facing section through posthole [110] - E
mich16	538	1	w facing section through posthole [110] - E
mich16	539	1	w facing section through posthole [110] - E
mich16	540	1	w facing section through posthole [110] - E
mich16	541	1	w facing section through posthole [110] - E
mich16	542	1	w facing section through posthole [110] - E
mich16	543	1	w facing section through posthole [110] - E
mich16	544	1	post ex shot of posthole [110] - E
mich16	545	1	post ex shot of posthole [110] - E

mich16	546	1	east facing shot of gully section [116]
mich16	547	1	north west facing shot of gully section [116]
mich16	548	1	north west facing shot of gully section [116]
mich16	549	1	north west facing shot of gully section [116]
mich16	550	1	north west facing shot of gully section [116]
mich16	551	1	south east facing shot of gully section [116]
mich16	552	1	south east facing shot of gully section [116]
mich16	553	1	south east facing shot of gully section [116]
mich16	554	1	south east facing shot of gully section [116]
mich16	555	1	south east facing shot of gully section [116]
mich16	556	1	south east facing shot of gully section [116]
mich16	557	1	north west facing shot of gully section [116]
mich16	558	1	north west facing shot of gully section [116]
mich16	559	1	north west facing shot of gully section [116]
mich16	560	1	north west facing shot of gully section [116]
mich16	561	1	mid ex shot of cut (121) showing deposit (122) - W
mich16	562	1	mid ex shot of cut (121) showing deposit (122) - W
mich16	563	1	mid ex shot of cut (121) showing deposit (122) - N
mich16	564	1	mid ex shot of cut (121) showing deposit (122) lower to ground - N
mich16	565	1	mid ex shot of cut (121) showing deposit (122) lower to ground - N
mich16	566	1	mid ex shot of cut (121) showing dposit (122) - W
mich16	567	1	working shots general
mich16	568	1	working shots general
mich16	569	1	working shots general
mich16	570	1	working shots general
mich16	571	1	working shots general
mich16	572	1	working shots general
mich16	573	1	mid ex shot of stone feature (likely collapse) (114)
mich16	574	1	mid ex shot of stone feature (likely collapse) (114) - E
mich16	575	1	mid ex shot of stone feature (likely collapse) (114) - E
mich16	576	1	mid ex shot of stone feature (likely collapse) (114) - E
mich16	577	1	
mich16	578	1	
mich16	579	1	post ex shot of linear cut [121] showing (120) - W
mich16	580	1	post ex shot of linear cut [121] showing (120) - N/NW
mich16	581	1	post ex shot of linear cut [121] showing (120) - N/NW
mich16	582	1	post ex shot of linear cut [121] showing (120) - N/NW
mich16	583	1	post ex shot of linear cut [121] showing (120) - N/NW
mich16	584	1	post ex shot of linear cut [121] showing (120) - N/NW
mich16	585	1	post ex shot of linear cut [121] showing (120) - E
mich16	586	1	post ex shot of linear cut [121] showing (120) - N/NW
mich16	587	1	post ex shot of linear cut [121] showing (120) - N/NW
mich16	588	1	post ex shot of linear cut [121] showing (120) - N/NW
mich16	589	1	E facing section section through [124] linear - W
mich16	590	1	E facing section section through [124] linear - W

mich16	591	1	E facing section section through [124] linear - W
mich16	592	1	E facing section section through [124] linear - N
mich16	593	1	E facing section section through [124] linear - N
mich16	594	1	general shot of lime stone foundation - w
mich16	595	1	general shot of lime stone foundation - w
mich16	596	1	general shot of lime stone foundation - nw
mich16	597	1	general shot of lime stone foundation - ne
mich16	598	1	general shot of lime stone foundation - nw
mich16	599	1	post ex shot of linear [124] - N
mich16	600	1	post ex shot of linear [124] - N
mich16	601	1	post ex shot of linear [124] - N
mich16	602	1	post ex shot of linear [124] - N
mich16	603	1	post ex shot of linear [124] - N
mich16	604	1	post ex shot of linear [124] - N
mich16	605	1	post ex shot of linear [124] - N
mich16	606	1	post ex shot of linear [124] - N
mich16	607	1	mid ex shot of trench 1 - W
mich16	608	1	mid ex shot of trench 1 - W
mich16	609	1	mid ex shot of trench 1 - W
mich16	610	1	mid ex shot of trench 1 - N
mich16	611	1	mid ex shot of trench 1 - N
mich16	612	1	mid ex shot of trench 1 - E
mich16	613	1	mid ex shot of trench 1 - E
mich16	614	1	mid ex shot of trench 1 - S
mich16	615	1	mid ex shot of trench 1 - S
mich16	616	1	mid ex shot of trench 1 - SW
mich16	617	1	mid ex shot of trench 1 - SW
mich16	618	1	mid ex shot of trench 1 - S
mich16	619	1	trench 1 drain - sw facing
mich16	620	1	trench 1 drain - sw facing
mich16	621	1	metalled surface of trench 1 (125) w facing
mich16	622	1	metalled surface of trench 1 (125) w facing
mich16	623	1	metalled surface of trench 1 (125) w facing
mich16	624	1	trench 1 mid ex W facing
mich16	625	1	foundation wall (128) NW facing
mich16	626	1	foundation wall (128) NW facing
mich16	627	1	foundation wall (128) NW facing
mich16	628	1	working shot
mich16	629	1	working shot
mich16	630	1	working shot
mich16	631	1	overhead shot of drain (117) [119] S facing
mich16	632	1	east facing section of drain (117) [119]
mich16	633	1	east facing section of drain (117) [119]
mich16	634	1	east facing section of drain (117) [119]
mich16	635	1	west facing section of drain (117) [119]
mich16	636	1	west facing section of drain (117) [119]
mich16	637	1	west facing section of drain (117) [119]
mich16	638	1	overhead shot of drain (117) [119]

mich16	639	1	overhead shot of drain (117) [119]
mich16	640	1	overhead shot of drain (117) [119]
mich16	641	1	section through drain + (128) showing (128/5?) - S
mich16	642	1	section through drain + (128) showing (128) - E
mich16	643	1	section through drain + (128) showing (128) - E
mich16	644	1	section through drain + (128) showing (128) - S
mich16	645	1	section through drain + (128) showing (128) - S
mich16	646	1	section through drain + (128) showing (128) - S
mich16	647	1	section through (125) - E
mich16	648	1	section through (125) - E
mich16	649	1	section through (125) - E
mich16	650	1	section through (125) - E
mich16	651	1	N facing section of trench 1 S extension
mich16	652	1	N facing section of trench 1 S extension
mich16	653	1	N facing section of trench 1 S extension
mich16	654	1	N facing section of trench 1 S extension
mich16	655	1	N facing section of trench 1 to east of trench 1 S extension
mich16	656	1	N facing section of trench 1 to east of trench 1 S extension
mich16	657	1	N facing section of trench 1 to east of trench 1 S extension
mich16	658	1	east facing section of trench 1 south extension
mich16	659	1	east facing section of trench 1 south extension
mich16	660	1	west facing section of trench 1 south extension
mich16	661	1	west facing section of trench 1 south extension
mich16	662	1	trench 1 west facing section part 1
mich16	663	1	trench 1 west facing section part 1
mich16	664	1	trench 1 west facing section part 2
mich16	665	1	trench 1 west facing section part 2
mich16	666	1	trench 1 west facing section part 2
mich16	667	1	trench 1 west facing section part 3
mich16	668	1	trench 1 west facing section part 3
mich16	669	1	trench 1 N facing section to east of S extension
mich16	670	1	trench 1 N facing section to east of S extension
mich16	671	1	trench 1 N facing section to east of S extension
mich16	672	1	trench 1 S facing section part 1
mich16	673	1	trench 1 S facing section part 1
mich16	674	1	trench 1 S facing section part 2
mich16	675	1	trench 1 S facing section part 2
mich16	676	1	trench 1 S facing section part 2
mich16	677	1	trench 1 S facing section part 3
mich16	678	1	trench 1 S facing section part 3
mich16	679	1	trench 1 S facing section part 3
mich16	680	1	trench 1 S facing section part 3
mich16	681	1	trench 1 S facing section part 3
mich16	682	1	working shot
mich16	683	1	post ex shot of N section through wall (128) S facing (128) over [119]
mich16	684	1	post ex shot of N section through wall (128) E facing (128) over [119]
mich16	685	1	post ex shot of N section through wall (128) E facing (128) over [119]

mich16	686	1	E facing section of gully [138]
mich16	687	1	E facing section of gully [138]
mich16	688	1	sondage A post ex shot - east facing
mich16	689	1	sondage A post ex shot - east facing
mich16	690	1	sondage A post ex shot - east facing
mich16	691	1	sondage A post ex shot - south facing
mich16	692	1	
mich16	693	1	sondage A post ex shot - south facing
mich16	694	1	sondage A post ex shot - south facing
mich16	695	1	sondage A post ex shot - SW facing
mich16	696	1	sondage A post ex shot - SW facing
mich16	697	1	sondage A post ex shot south section
mich16	698	1	sondage A post ex shot south section
mich16	699	1	sondage A post ex shot south section
mich16	700	1	drain [119] shot south facing
mich16	701	1	drain [119] shot south facing
mich16	702	1	drain [119] shot west facing
mich16	703	1	drain [119] shot west facing
mich16	704	1	working picture
mich16	705	1	working picture
mich16	706	1	working picture
mich16	707	1	working picture
mich16	708	1	working picture

Photo Register (Camera 3)

SITE	PHOTO NO.	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION
mich16	6455	TP1	context (302) in TP1 - south facing
mich16	6456	TP1	accidental photo - poor - discard
mich16	6457	TP1	context (302) in TP1 - south facing
mich16	6458	TP1	context (302) in TP1 - south facing
mich16	6459	TP1	TP1 fully excavated - south facing
mich16	6460	TP1	TP1 fully excavated - south facing
mich16	6461	TP2	mid exavation - possible stone feature (304) - E
mich16	6462	TP2	mid exavation - possible stone feature (304) - E
mich16	6463	TP2	mid exavation - possible stone feature (304) - E
mich16	6464	TP2	mid exavation - possible stone feature (304) - E
mich16	6465	TP2	mid exavation - possible stone feature (304) - E
mich16	6466	TP2	mid exavation - possible stone feature (304) - E
mich16	6467	TP2	post ex shot - base of TP2 - E
mich16	6468	TP2	post ex shot - base of TP2 - E
mich16	6469	TP2	post ex shot - base of TP2 - E
mich16	6470	TP2	post ex shot - base of TP2 - E
mich16	6471	TP2	post ex shot - base of TP2 - E
mich16	6472	TP5	S facing photo of TP5 (308)
mich16	6473	TP5	S facing photo of TP5 (308)
mich16	6474	TP5	S facing photo of TP5 (308)

mich16	6475	TP5	S facing photo of TP5 (308)
mich16	6476	TP5	S facing photo of TP5 (308)
mich16	6477	TP4	east facing photo of TP4 (312)
mich16	6478	TP4	west facing photo of TP4 (312)
mich16	6479	TP4	west facing photo of TP4 (312)
mich16	6480	TP4	north facing photo of TP4 (312)
mich16	6481	TP4	north facing photo of TP4 (312)
mich16	6482	TP4	east facing photo of TP4 (312)
mich16	6483	TP4	east facing photo of TP4 (312)
mich16	6484	TP4?	working shot
mich16	6485	TP4	working shot
mich16	6486	TP4	working shot
mich16	6487		
mich16	6488		
mich16	6489		
mich16	6490		
mich16	6491		
mich16	6492	TP5	east facing context (313)
mich16	6493	TP5	east facing context (313)
mich16	6494	TP3	south facing full excavation TP3
mich16	6495		
mich16	6496		
mich16	6497		
mich16	6498	TP3	south facing full excavation TP3
mich16	6499	TP5	west facing full excavation TP5
mich16	6500	TP5	north facing full excavation TP5
mich16	6501	TP4	west facing full excavation - natural (316)
mich16	6502	TP4	east facing full excavation - natural (316)
mich16	6503	TP4	south facing full excavation - natural (316)
mich16	6504	TP4	north facing full excavation - natural (316)
mich16	6505	TP4	
mich16	6506	TP4	east facing full excavation - natural (316)
mich16	6507	TP4	north facing full excavation - natural (316)
mich16	6508	2	east facing full excavation sondage A
mich16	6509	2	east facing full excavation sondage A
mich16	6510	2	south facing full excavation sondage A
mich16	6511	2	south facing full excavation sondage A
mich16	6512	2	south facing full excavation trench 2
mich16	6513	2	south facing full excavation trench 2
mich16	6514	2	east facing full excavation trench 2
mich16	6515	2	east facing full excavation trench 2
mich16	6516	2	east facing full excavation trench 2
mich16	6517	2	east facing full excavation trench 2
mich16	6518	2	east facing full excavation trench 2
mich16	6519	2	east facing full excavation trench 2
mich16	6520	2	east facing full excavation trench 2
mich16	6521	TP6	north facing
mich16	6522	TP6	north facing

mich16	6523	TP6	north facing full excavation
mich16	6524	TP6	north facing full excavation
mich16	6525	TP6	north facing full excavation
mich16	6526	TP8	final excavation - red clay
mich16	6527	TP8	final excavation - red clay
mich16	6528		
mich16	6529	TP9	full excavation - south facing
mich16	6530	TP9	
mich16	6531	TP7	shot of TP7?
mich16	6532		
mich16	5633		
mich16	6534		
mich16	6535	TP7	shot of TP7?
mich16	6536	TP10	context (327) full excavation
mich16	6537	TP10	context (327) full excavation
mich16	6538	TP12	from ?? Charcoal S.W corner
mich16	6539	TG12	from ?? Charcoal S.W corner
mich16	6540	TP11	view of test pit 11 facing east with [334] plan
mich16	6541	TP11	view of test pit 11 facing east with [334]
mich16	6542	TP11	view of test pit 11 facing south of [334]
mich16	6543	TP11	view of test pit 11 facing east of [334]

The excavations at Michaelston-super-Ely in the summer of 2016 explored a series of earthworks within a field immediately east of St Michael's Church first surveyed by the RCAHMW in the 1980s and characterised as a linear Deserted Medieval Village. This report summarises the results of these recent investigations including geophysical and LiDAR surveys and excavations. The detailed stratigraphic sequences recorded in each of the two trenches and 12 test pits are included here as well as summaries of the finds. The investigations suggest that rather than a linear village the Medieval occupation at Michaelston-super-Ely was more likely to have been concentrated around the church.

Dr Oliver Davis is the co-director of the CAER Heritage Project and Lecturer of Archaeology at Cardiff University

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