Archaeological Excavation
Preliminary Report

Season 2: August-September 2016
Swords Castle
Swords
Co. Dublin

Consent no.: C450
Excavation ref: E004619

SWORDS CASTLE
Story of the Stone
FINGAL COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT 2015 - 2016

By
Christine Baker
Community Archaeologist
Fingal County Council

January 2017

Abstract

This report describes the preliminary results of Season 2 of an archaeological excavation, which was carried out under Ministerial Consent C450/E004619 at Swords Castle, Co. Dublin as part of the *Swords Castle: Digging History-Fingal Community Excavation Project 2015/16.* Excavation of Trenches (4-6) took place over 15 days between 19th August and 4th September 2016.

Swords Castle which is a National Monument (No.340), a recorded monument (DU011-034001-) and protected structure (No.351), is located at the northern end of the Main street (ITM 718195/ 747010) at its junction of North Street and Bridge Street within the historic town of Swords (DU011-035----).

The focus of the 2016 season of excavation at Swords Castle was on verifying the nature of the anomalies on the geophysical survey, building on the information attained during Season 1 and engaging the community in archaeology. The presence of stratified early medieval and medieval activity was established and the nature and extent of post-medieval and modern disturbance was recorded.

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1 Introduction

This report describes the preliminary results of the second season of archaeological excavation, which was carried out under Ministerial Consent C450/E004619 at Swords Castle, Co. Dublin as part of the *Swords Castle: Digging History-Fingal Community Excavation Project 2015/16.* Excavation of Trenches (4-6) took place over 15 days between 19th August and 4th September 2016.

Plate 1: Aerial Photograph c.2001

The *Swords Castle: Digging History-Fingal Community Excavation Project 2015/16* was designed to address the research and knowledge gaps identified in the *Swords Castle Conservation Plan* (2014) and to inform the urban identity of the developing *Swords Castle Cultural Quarter Masterplan* (2015). It aimed to;

- Assess the veracity of geophysical survey results undertaken by Target Surveys in 2011
- Enable a conservation and stabilization programme by informing the structural engineering works
- Engage the community with the castle through archaeological excavation and a series of related events.

2 Location, topography & geology

Swords Castle which is a National Monument (No.340), a recorded monument (DU011-034001-) and protected structure (No.351), is located at the northern end of the Main street (ITM 718195/ 747010) at its junction of North Street and Bridge Street within the historic town of Swords (DU011-035----). It is set on high ground above the Ward River which lies to the west and is situated within Swords Town Park. The site consists of curtain walls that form an irregular polygon enclosing over an acre of land that slopes down from east (18m OD) to west (15mOD). This complex of buildings has many phases of reuse and redesign and latterly reconstruction.

A programme of consolidation and enabling works commenced in April 2016. This involved the removal of a set of portakabins that had been in place since the mid-1990s, insertion of paths into the precinct space and consolidation of the gatehouse, east tower and eastern curtain walls.

Fig. 1: Site Location Map 1:1000

There are well established apple trees on the higher ground to the east. The area to the south-west was previously used as an equipment compound and is currently under gravel. The access way and carpark is under compacted asphalt. The remaining open spaces within the site are under grass.

Fig. 2: Swords Castle-current site plan (incl. contours and known services)

The solid geology of the area that forms the parent material is Carboniferous limestone and the soil in the general area is part of the grey/brown podzolic group. Sands and gravels derived from Carboniferous material are mapped along the path of the Ward River and Made Ground is present in Swords town (Fay et al. 2007, 1–12). Local knowledge has it that the Main Street of Swords is stone and the beyond it is gravel (Des Gallagher pers. comm.).

3 Historical and Archaeological Background

The historical background for Swords Castle has been dealt with extensively in Part 2 of the *Swords Castle Conservation Plan*-History and Chronology (2014, 22-41). To summarise;

Pre-Norman:
The focus of settlement in pre-Norman Swords was to the west of the river Ward. The present day street layout reflects the large enclosures centred on the church and round tower of St Colmcilles (the present-day St Columba's Church). One of only two ecclesiastical capitals in Fingal, this site was subject to repeated raiding by Vikings and neighbouring Irish and was famed as one of the churches where Brian Boru and his son were waked after the battle of Clontarf in 1014.

On the high ground to the east of the River Ward was a burial place at Mount Gamble. In use from c.550-1150 AD it appears to represent the burial place of a small local population (O'Donovan 2009, 23). Recent excavations (2014) at the gatehouse, have established the presence of mid-10thto 12th century burial on the site of Swords Castle, preceding its construction. Dalton makes references to three churches at Swords. St Finians was purportedly to the southside of Swords while St Brigids was described as being on north side of the town, not far from the gates of old palace (1838, 140). It is possible that these chapels appropriated earlier burial places.

Fig. 3: View of the North Tower (Constable's Tower), Swords Castle by Daniel Grose, 1792

Anglo-Norman:

Swords Castle was founded by the first Anglo-Norman archbishop of Dublin, John Comyn c.1200 AD. One of nine manorial centres that encircled Dublin, Swords castle was also one of the wealthiest. An administrative centre it had a constable, court of justice it was granted an eight-day market in 1192. John Comyn not only founded the manor house at Swords but keen to expand the income of his estate, he also established a new town. The main street, with its burgage plots are aligned to the castle. In order to attract settlers the same trading and tax privileges as those of the citizens of Dublin were offered. In return the burgesses paid an annual rent of 12 pence and undertook certain labour services such as harvesting the archbishop's hay and repairing the mill pond. Swords grew to become one of Dublin's largest boroughs and became known as the Golden Prebend, such was its wealth.

Medieval:

A description in Archbishops Alen's register depicts Swords Castle in 1326 (MacNeill 1950, 175)

'a hall, a chamber for the archbishop annexed to it, of which the walls are stone and crenellated like a castle and roof with shingles; and there was a kitchen there with a larder whose walls are stone and roof of shingle, a chapel with stone walls and a shingle roof; there was a chamber for friars with a cloister now thrown down; near the gate is a chamber for the constable and four chambers for knights and squires roofed with shingles; under these a stable and bakehouse; there was a house for a deieria and carpenteria, now thrown down. In the haggard a grange of poles (furcae) thatched, a timber granary roofed with 'bords', a byre for housing nags and kine; these easements they extend at no value, for nothing is to be got from them by either letting or otherwise, since they need great repair as they are badly roofed'.

This description was part of a formal Inquisition into the dealings of the archbishop of the time Alexander de Bicknor who was accused of misappropriating finances to his own gain. There is a possibility that the dilapidated state of the castle was a deliberate attempt to downplay de Bicknor's assets, as it was occupied sporadically by the archbishops after this point. Records of Swords Castle the next 300 years are scant.

Dubious leasing practices during the 1500s led to a decline in the value of the archbishop's properties and despite the local Barnewall family having an interest in the tenancy, Swords Castle fell into ruin. In 1583 Sir Henry Sydney, Lord Deputy of Ireland, placed forty Protestant families fleeing from persecution in the Low Countries, into Swords Castle. He wrote that it did his heart good to see how they repaired the 'quite spoiled old castell'. It is not known exactly when the castle passed out of the ownership of the Archbishops of Dublin.

Plate 2: The orchard within Swords Castle in the 1930s
Courtesy of the National Monuments Service

Post Medieval:

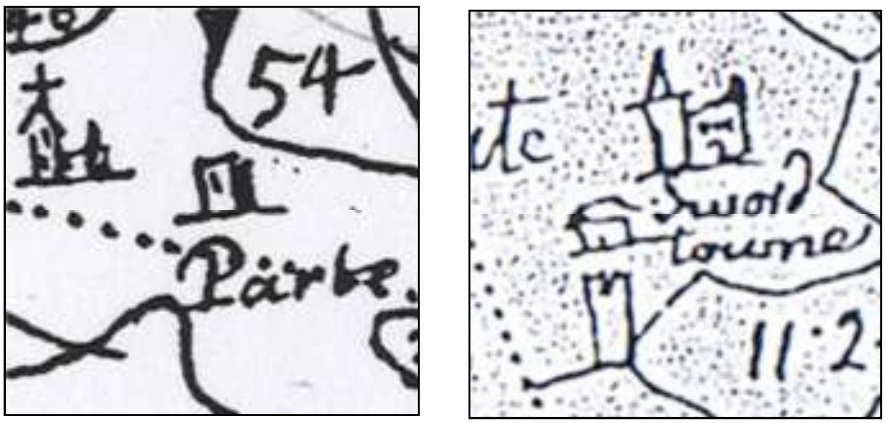
Although there was a garden within the castle in the archbishop's time, it was the 18th century before Swords Castle is first described as possessing an orchard. The Cobbe family of Newbridge House, Donabate who bought Swords Castle after 1830, used the land for farming and planting an orchard. Although details of the type of orchard are unknown, demesnes of the time grew cherries, pears, damsons and plums as well as apples. The oldest surviving apple tree is near the Chapel. It is an Old Bramley dating from the 1890s.

Modern:

Restoration works began here in the 1990s. The curtain walls, the Constable's Tower and the Chapel were reconstructed as part of a FÁS scheme which provided training in masonry and carpentry for local people. In order to protect Swords Castle into the future, a programme of repair and conservation works is also being undertaken now. Repairs to the Gatehouse, which will secure safe access, are a priority. Fingal County Council published Swords Castle Conservation Plan in 2014. This details the history and development of the castle, explains its significance and provides a policy framework for the future care and management of the castle.

3.1 Cartographic Evidence (after Swords Castle Conservation Plan)

The Down Survey map of the Barony of Nethercross, which dates from c. 1656 (Figs.4 & 5) depicts the castle as a simple tower. In the parish map of the same year (Wilson & Weft) the manor is similarly indicated but with the addition of battlements.



Figs. 4 & 5: Down Survey 1656 and corresponding Parish map

John Rocque' s map, 1760 (Fig. 6), indicates the town is shown primarily laid out along a single main street, with what is now known as the Ward River flowing approximately parallel to the west. It is focused and aligned on the castle rather than on the earlier ecclesiastical centre to the west of the river. The castle is indicated, an enclosing element can just be made out and is in an almost a cruciform shape; structures appear to front onto Bridge Street and North Street, there are no structures between the western wall and the river. Several structures or subdivisions can be made out within the ward; however, no specific detail in relation to the plan-form of the internal structures can be distinguished.

Fig. 6: Rocque, 1760

John Taylor records little additional detail on his 1816 map of Swords and environs (Fig. 7). However, the castle is described as an 'old fortification' and is shown erroneously as a rectangular fort with four corner bastions and is aligned incorrectly with the Main Street.

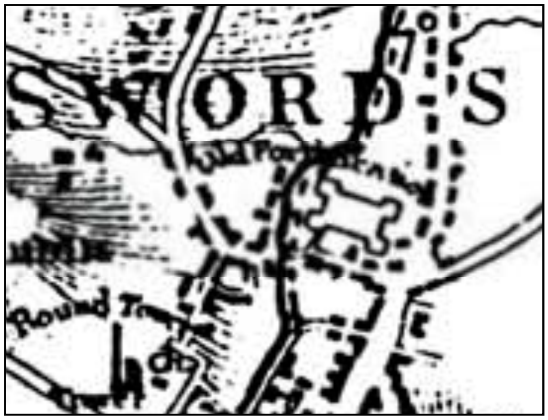


Fig. 7: Taylor 1816

The first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch 1836 map for Swords (Fig.8) shows castle in the townland of Townparks and the familiar irregular pentagon plan form of the precinct is accurately mapped for the first time. By this time the interior of the castle was well established as a garden and this is shown with diagonal hatching which indicates cultivation and subdividing paths.

Fig. 8: OS 6-inch 1836 edition (colour)

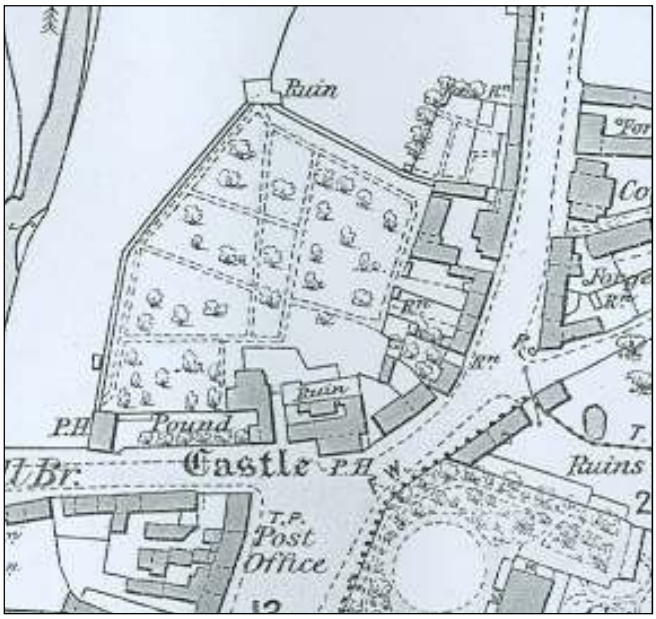


Fig. 9: OS 25-inch 1865 revision

The 1st edition 25-inch map of 1865 (Fig. 9) depicts a more complex layout of paths and plots within the castle walls. The area of ground changes from a simple Georgian layout of four cultivation plots into an eight plot Victorian walled garden. On the east side of the garden there is a distinct gap in the walled enclosure from the rear garden or yard of one of the 19th century terrace of houses.

The OS 25-inch 1906 revision map (Fig. 10) shows a traditional orchard layout but the paths and borders have apparently gone or simply overgrown and not recorded. The open access from the rear garden of one of the houses of the 19th century terrace has been closed off.

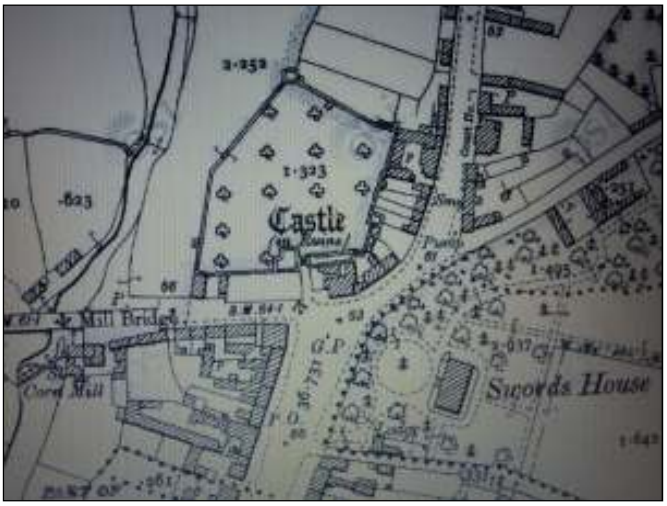


Fig.10 OS 25-inch 1906 revision

3.2 Previous excavations:

Several licensed archaeological investigations both internal external to the castle have been previously undertaken;

1971 (E101) Tom Fanning excavated the Chapel & Chamber Block located in to the south-east of the castle. A medieval tiled floor, a silver denier tournois dated to AD 1310 and skeletal remains were identified.

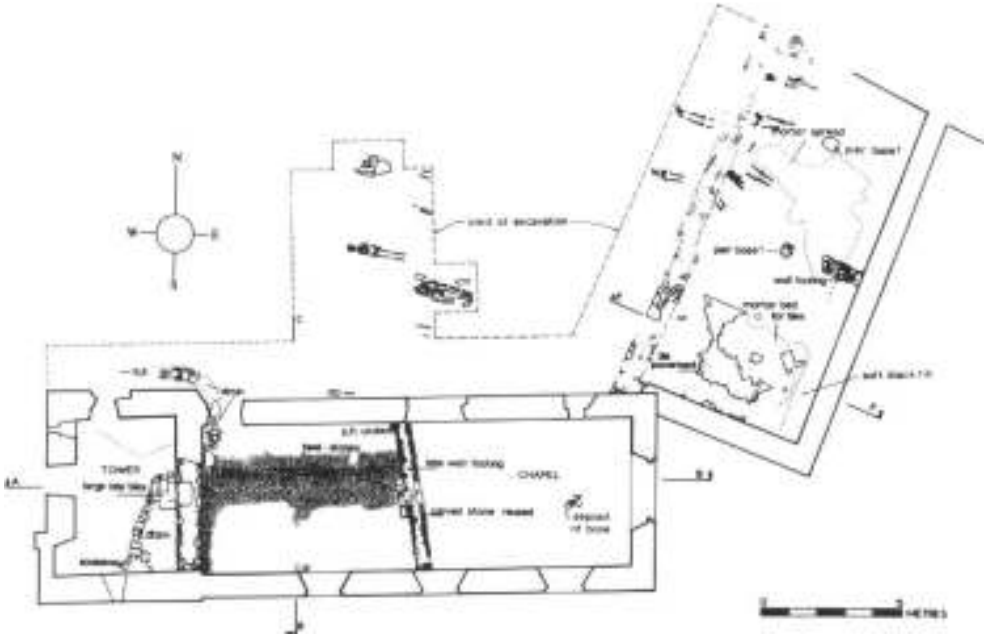


Fig. 11: Fanning's 1971 Excavation, (JRSAI 1975)

2001 (Licence no. 01E002) Eoin Sullivan removed the overburden from an area to the north and west of the Knights & Squires Chamber. The top of wall footings, paths and ground surfaces were exposed and subsequently preserved in situ.

2014 (C450/E4376) Mark Moraghan opened a single trench to enable stabilization works within the gatehouse. A total of seventeen skeletons predating the construction of the gatehouse were identified. Towards the base of the trench a wattle screen, lime render and part of a stone structure were excavated. Report not yet available.

2015 (C450/E4376) Season 1 of the Swords Castle: Digging History project undertook the excavation of three trenches (T1-T3) within the precinct and four pits (A-D) at strategic junctions of buildings and curtain walls. Medieval structural walls reflective of the geophysical survey results and pit activity dating to the 11th century were identified.

In addition unlicensed archaeological monitoring of service insertions took place in 1996/97.

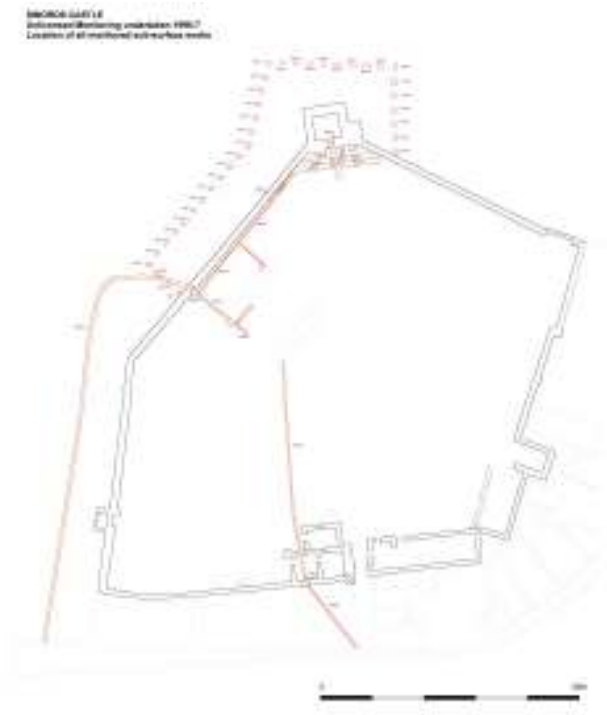


Fig. 12 Map of unlicensed monitoring 1996/7 courtesy of Stephen Johnston

Immediately external to the gatehouse archaeological monitoring (C450/E4376) of services insertions in **2011** revealed two parallel walls running EW across the entrance.

Plate 3: Monitoring undertaken by ADS Ltd., 2011

Monitoring of the foundation trenches at the Pound was undertaken in **1993** by Leo Swan to the south of the castle wall. A medieval ditch was identified.

Test excavation in **1994** to the north of the castle by John Channing (94E0191) did not identify any remains of archaeological significance.

Claire Walsh tested (02E1279) the area external to the chapel wall in **2002** and identified almost a metre of medieval deposits that may be deeper as bedrock not attained.

In June **2016** Christine Baker (C450/E4676) undertook a test excavation along the external walls of the east range. The wall footing of the Archbishop's Apartment was identified as was a ditch predating its construction. The base of the Link wall was identified and junction between it and the Double Gable examined. Trenches within the footprint of the demolished terrace identified natural subsoil into which a drain or medieval date had been cut.

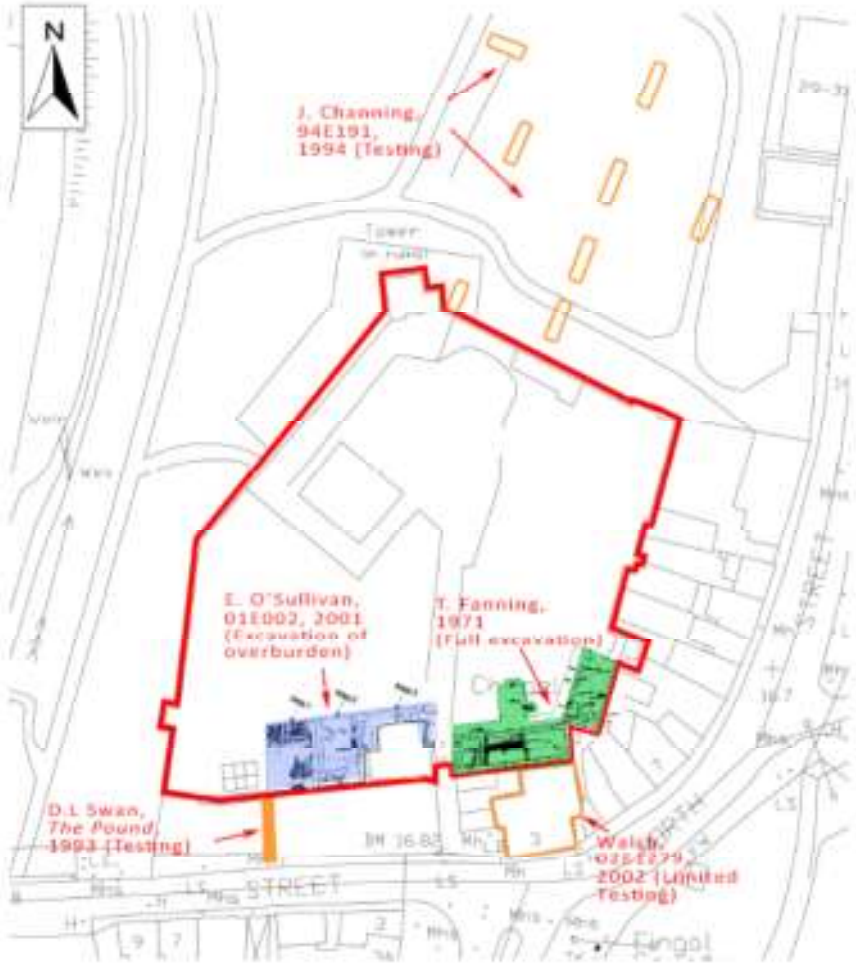


Fig. 13: Composite of previous excavations prior to 2011 (Swords Castle Conservation Plan)

3.3. Geophysical Survey

In addition a geophysical survey was undertaken by Target Survey (Licence no. 11R0038) as part of the Swords Conservation Plan. The survey consisted of resistivity (of an area totalling 0.4ha) internally and external to the west wall of the castle, and GPR (survey totalling 0.14ha.) both internally and for a small section externally south of the Knights and Squires.

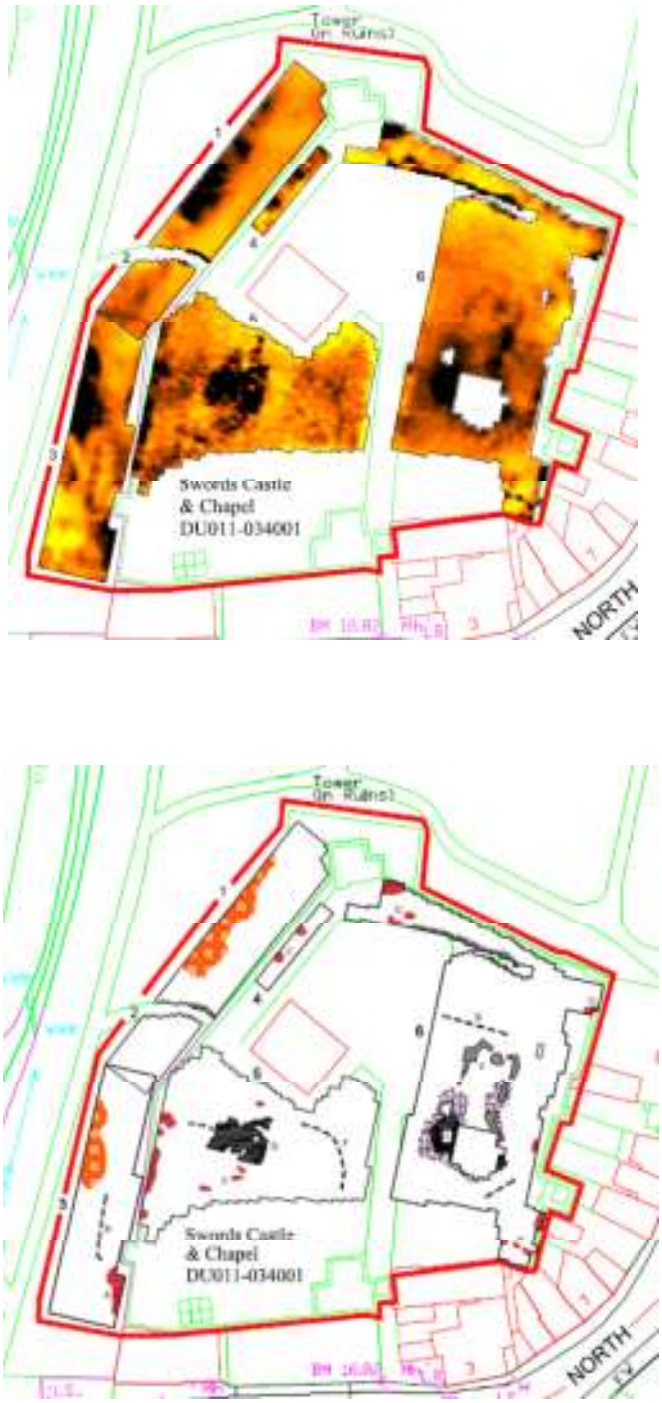


Fig. 14: Resistivity results and interpretation (Nicholls 2011)

Resistivity results indicated no evidence for a moat west of the wall of Swords Castle, although there is a suggestion of underlying material associated with the perimeter wall to the south-east. On the lower ground south of the portakabins a sub-rectangular response c.6m x 10m was identified. High resistance responses on the higher ground to the east indicate a grouping extending c.22m NS x 10m EW which may represent foundations associated with buildings (Nicholls 2011, 10-11).

4 Archaeological Excavation

Based on the results from Season 1 and an analysis of previous archaeological investigations it was anticipated that the archaeological excavation could recover structural remains, possibly human skeletal remains and a high number of artefacts particularly medieval and post-medieval pottery, roof and floor tile. It had previously been established that the use of the castle precinct for gardens, agriculture and as an orchard had resulted in extensive disturbance.

Fig. 15: Trench layout over geophysical resistance survey

Three trenches were opened within the precinct of Swords Castle. Trench 4 was located over geophysical anomalies on high ground, 0.5m west of Trench 1, Season 1 in order to investigate if the walls identified in Trench 1 continued westwards and to assess what appeared to be a significant structural anomaly on the geophysical survey. Trench 4 measured 6m NS x 3.5m EW and was excavated to natural subsoil and bedrock, a maximum depth of 1m.

Trench 5 measured 4m x 4m and natural subsoil was identified at a maximum depth of 0.80m. Trench 5 was located in an area that had not produced significant geophysical results. It was situated to investigate to determine the accuracy of the geophysical survey and the level of activity between the structural remains in Trench 1 and the yard surface in Trench 3 identified in Season 1.

Trench 6 was located at a right-angle to the previous season's Trench 3 in order to investigate if the yard surface extended southwards and if there was any boundary present that may define the burials identified by Fanning further south towards the Chapel. Trench 6 was aligned NNE-SSW, measured 6m x 2m and natural subsoil was identified at a depth of 1m.

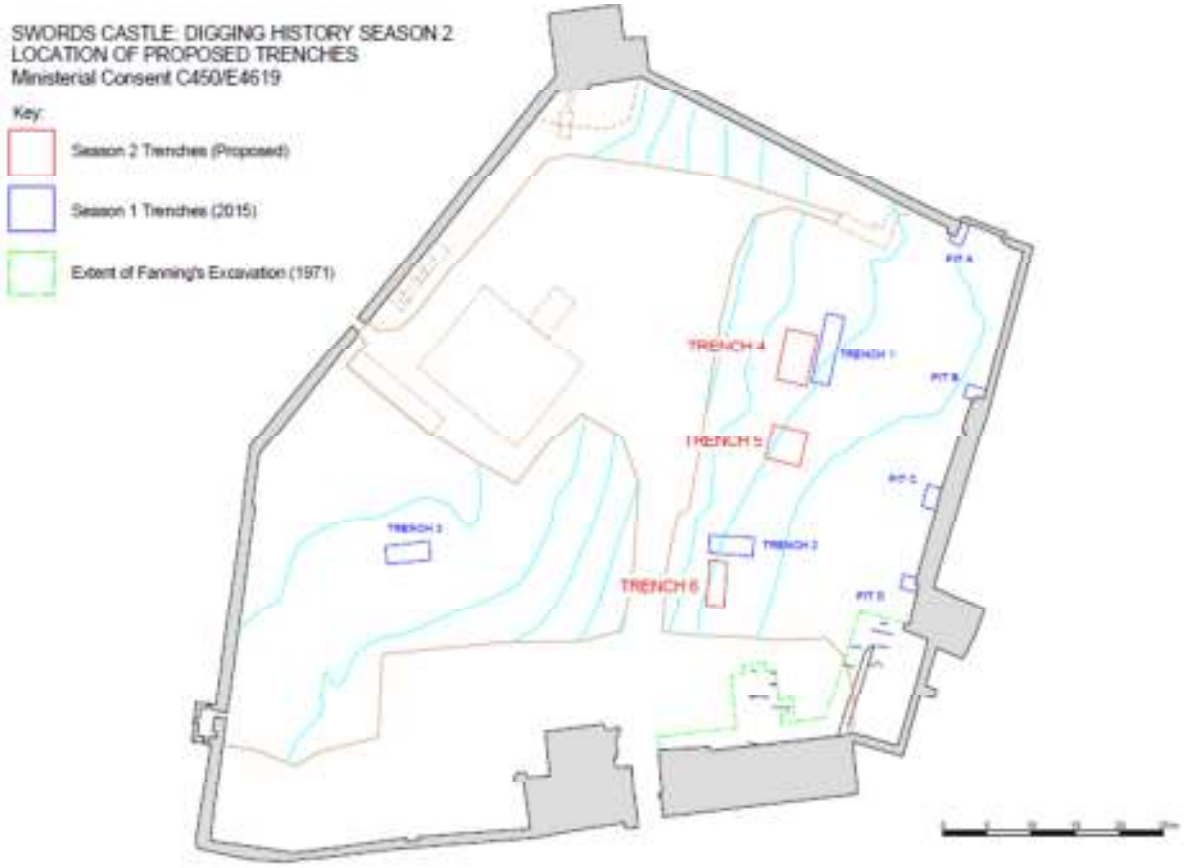


Fig.16 Layout of Trenches 4-6 in conjunction with Season 1 Trenches 1-3

4.1 Excavation Stratigraphy

The overall stratigraphy consisted of grey-yellow stony natural subsoil overlain by medieval layers and features truncated by post-medieval and modern disturbance. The depth of topsoil in all trenches was substantial and highly disturbed due to the presence of orchards and previous cultivation.

Trench 4

Natural subsoil was attained at 1m below ground level. Structural elements were identified within this trench. Large postholes within a foundation trench (F101) and a fire pit (F103) were cut into natural subsoil. A series of metalled surfaces (F100, F 86) were overlain by stone (F84) and bone-rich (F80) layers. This activity was truncated along the northern baulk by the insertion of a nineteenth century stone drain, trench and modern pit insertions. All of this activity was overlain by a transitional layer (F65), topsoil (F1) and sod.

Plate 4: Trench 4, post-excavation, facing south east

Trench 4-Postholes and pits:

Features F101, F101A, F101B

Aligned ESE/WSW this feature consisted of two large stone packed postholes within a shared trench which was exposed for 1.8m in overall length and 0.65m in maximum width. The trench fill consisted of loose mid-dark grey silt with frequent shell inclusions. A tiny fragment

of pottery and a very corroded iron object were retrieved from this fill. The spacing between the post centres was 1m (0.75m between closest edges). Voiding within both postpipes suggest the timbers rotted *in situ*. The fills of both postholes consisted of a mixture of mid-dark grey silt, firm mottled yellowish grey packing clay and sub/angular packing stones, 200-350mm in diameter. Cut into natural subsoil, the western postpipe (F101A) measured 0.25m x 0.15m x 0.4m in depth. Cut down to bedrock the eastern postpipe (F101B) measured 0.35m x 0.17m x 0.6 m in depth. A fragment of human cranium was retrieved from the base of the eastern posthole. The presence of a suture line with some obliteration indicates an older adult of 45+ years (Linda Lynch pers. comm.). The profile of the packing stones and bases suggests the timber posts were squared-off. This feature was sealed by metalled surface F86.

Plate 5: F101, mid-excavation, facing north

Feature 103

Cut into natural subsoil, this oval pit, was aligned north-south and measured 1.1m NS x 0.46-0.6m EW. With a sharp break of slope at top, gradual edges, slightly concave base, the pit was 0.1m in maximum depth. The base was heat-affected yellow/red clay, indicating *in situ* burning. The basal fill consisted of charcoal, 0.03m in depth. The upper fill was compact gritty silty clay with occasional stone (<0.05m diam.) inclusions, 0.04-0.07m in depth. A sample (#41) was wet-sieved and is currently undergoing analysis.

Feature 81

This pit feature was cut through rubble layer F74. The oval concave cut that measured 1.8m NS x 0.6m EW, was filled to a depth of 0.3m, with loose dark stony clayey silt with small stone inclusions, becoming increasingly stony to the northern limit. Sherds of medieval pottery, iron nails, animal bone and seashells were recovered from this feature.

Feature 69

This post medieval waste pit containing articulated pig skeleton was cut into trench F77 and overlain by consolidation layer F65. The shallow irregular pit with an uneven flat base and gradual concave sides measured 0.85m NS x 1.4m EW and contained friable mid brown clayey silt with occasional small angular and sub angular stones to a depth of 0.2m. Post-medieval and medieval pottery, seashell and slate were recovered from this feature.

Feature 76

Extending into the western baulk this post-medieval pit cut through at least six other features (F65; F71; F79; F81; F84; F77) and was overlain by topsoil (F1). The sub-rectangular concave pit was exposed for 1.85m NS x 1m EW and was filled up to a depth of 0.35m with friable mid brown clayey silt. Post-medieval and medieval pottery, frequent slate, animal bone, and seashell were recovered from this feature.

Trench 4-Surfaces, Layers & Deposits:

There was a distinct differentiation between the layers and deposits towards the northern limits of the trench, although the intercutting of trenches and pits made definition difficult.

Feature 100

This irregular metalled surface was set into natural subsoil where bedrock wasn't exposed. It extended from the southern baulk for 2.8m NS and across the EW extent of Trench 4 (3.5m). The surface consisted of small rounded and sub angular stones (30mm-40mm diam.) set firmly into natural subsoil. It was overlain by ashy deposit F99.

Plate 6: F98, pre-excavation, facing north

Feature 98

Located in the south-east corner of the trench this irregular deposit was exposed for 1.8m EW x 0.7m NS. Consisting of deep red-brown heat-affected clay, 0.03m in depth, this was extremely compact, almost pure clay, overlying natural subsoil. A single circular stakehole (0.04m diam. x 0.06m depth) was cut into the clay and filled with charcoal ash and possibly burnt in situ. A copper alloy buckle (E4619:98:4) was retrieved from this feature which was overlain by ashy deposit F99 and metalled surface F86.

Feature 99

This layer consisted of a mid-grey silt, rich in charcoal and ash with occasional stone and animal bone inclusions. Irregular in plan it extended from the south-western corner of the trench for 3m NS x 2.3m EW and measured 0.02m-0.08m in depth. Twenty sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from this feature. It partially covers the burnt clay F98 and fully extends over fire pit F103.

Plate 7: Metalled surface F86, drain F73, facing south

Feature 86

This was an extensive compact surface of small stones (10mm-50mm diam.) with occasional larger stones (250-300mm) in brown compact silty clay that extended throughout Trench 4. An area of larger sub-angular stone (200mm-400mm) in a reddish brown matrix in the south-east corner of the trench appeared to define and overlay heat-affected area F98. A similar concentration towards the south of the trench overlay ashy deposit F99 respectively. F86 overlay natural towards the northern quadrant of the trench incorporating areas of

bedrock where it was exposed. Animal bone and medieval pottery was retrieved from this surface.

Feature 84

Located towards the north of the trench, this linear deposit of reddish brown clayey silt, extended east-west across the trench and measured from 0.8-1.6m in width (NS). Truncated to the north by the insertion of 19th century drain F94, the deposit F84, appeared to slope down from north to south onto the metalled surface F86, and measured a maximum of 0.15m in depth. Medieval pottery including Saintonge, animal bone including bird and fish remains and iron nails were recovered from this deposit.

Feature 80

Located above both F84 and F86, Feature 80 was distinguished by large quantities of animal bone. This untrammelled ground surface covered the east-west extent of Trench 4 and extended for approximately 4.5m north from the southern limit. Apparently rapidly sealed by rubble layer (F74), this surface, Feature 80 consisted of loose mid-brown silt with occasional small stones, frequent animal bone and charcoal inclusions, and averaged 0.1m in depth. A range of animal bone including bird and small mammals, seashell, slate fragments, iron objects, and medieval pottery were recovered from this layer. A number of samples (#23, #24, #25) were wet sieved and are currently undergoing analysis.

Feature 79

Also overlaying F84 to the north of F80 was this very compact clay surface. Extending across the trench Feature 79 measured 0.75-1m in width and 0.05m in thickness. It consisted of very compact almost indurated pale orange brown clay with animal bones, seashell, pottery and a single iron object. This may have been a deliberately laid surface, truncated by later pits and gully features.

Feature 71

Directly overlaying the clay surface (F79) was a stone layer consisting of compact medium stones in a brown sandy silt matrix with frequent mortar inclusions. Extending beyond the line of the cutting east-west, the layer measured 0.4-0.8m in width and 0.1m-0.3m in depth. Animal bone, seashell, medieval pottery and tile was recovered as were building materials, including possible plaster, slate, and possible dressed sandstone. This layer was truncated by the insertion of the later drain (F94).

Feature 74

This rubble layer appeared to be the result of a rapid episode of demolition, maximum 0.25m in thickness. It consisted of angular and sub-angular medium stones (0.1-0.4m diam; average 0.25m) in coarse sand/mortar matrix. This layer covered the full east-west extent of Trench 4 and for 4.5m northwards from the southern limit. Animal bone, seashell, medieval pottery and tile were recovered, as was building materials including chunks of mortar, wall plaster and slate.

Feature 87

Located above rubble layer (F74), Feature 87 consisted of compact mottled brown coarse sand with mortar and small stone inclusions. Extending east-west beyond the limits of the trench this layer measured 1.4m north-south and up to 0.04m in thickness. Animal bones, seashells, and medieval pottery were recovered from this layer.

Plate 8: Architectural fragment, within trench F77, facing west

Feature 77

Located above compacted surface F87, this shallow linear trench also cut into rubble layer F74. Extending across the width of Trench 4, Feature 77 measured 1.4m north-south and had a maximum depth of 0.3m. The fill consisted of friable mid brown coarse sandy silt with medium sub angular stone (<5mm) and frequent purple and blue slate inclusions. Animal bone, seashell, medieval pottery and tiles were recovered from this feature. Building materials including mortar, plaster and architectural fragments including a roll-and-fillet window moulding were also present. This feature was truncated to the west by pits F76 and F81 where clay pipe and modern glazed pottery were recovered.

Feature 65

This layer constituted an interface between the underlying rubble (F74) and the improved topsoil above. A gritty compact horizon it extended across the full extent of Trench 4 and measured 0.05m to 0.35m in depth. The mid-brown mottled stony silty clay contained mortar inclusions, animal bone and seashell. Medieval pottery, tile, clay pipes, modern metal work and building materials were recovered from this layer.

Feature 70

Extending across the width of Trench 4, this modern trench or gully measured 0.6m in width and up to 0.35m in depth. The linear U-shaped sharp-sided cut with an uneven base contained friable mid-brown clayey silt. A mix of post-medieval, modern and medieval pottery, mortar and slate were recovered from this feature.

Modern truncation

Dominating the norther baulk was a 19th century shore and associated drain. This coincided with an area of modern disturbance further east within Trench 1 of Season 1.

Feature 73

Partially exposed in the northern baulk this L-shaped, mortared stone wall (0.8m SE/NW x 0.6m NS) formed the shore of modern/post medieval drain leading to a slate floored lintel roofed drain (F94). The shore and drain were set into a trench backfilled within compact clayey silt matrix with sub-angular stones. The structure was constructed of random rubble, 2-3 courses (0.4m) high, set with a white coarse sand lime mortar. It appears to have been dug down to the surface of F86 which is directly over subsoil.

Feature 94

Extending westwards from the shore F73, this post-medieval/modern lintel drain was exposed for 2.3m EW and to a maximum of 0.7m NS. The lintels which consisted of undressed limestone slabs appear to have rested in at least two unmortared courses of stone, with large blue slates forming the base where visible. The top of the lintels sloped down by an almost imperceptible amount from east to west, generally appearing level against the fall of the ground. The drain was within a steep-sided cut at least 0.7m in width and widened to accommodate masonry shore F73 at east end to at least 1.8m. It was 0.5m in depth and appeared to terminate on the surface of F86. The drain was left in situ.

Plate 9: Lintel drain (F94) and shore (F73), facing north

Feature 1

Topsoil in Trench 4 consisted of a light-brown friable sandy silty clay with small stone inclusions that measured from 0.34 to 0.5m in depth. A range of artefacts were recovered with medieval pot and tile alongside modern glass and brick, due to the cultivated nature of the topsoil. Bone buttons, clay pipes, iron nails, glass bottles, white wear as well as animal bone and sea shell were recovered from topsoil in this trench.

Trench 5

Natural subsoil was attained at 0.8m below ground level within two sondages excavated through the centre and along the northern boundary of this trench. Cut into natural was a large ditch (F85) and the possible terminus of a small gully (F104). The majority of deposits within the trench consisted of extremely compact stone layers and deposits.

Plate 10: Trench 5 post-excavation, facing east

Trench 5-Ditch, Pits & Gullies:

Feature 85

Aligned east-west, the north edge of this linear ditch was exposed for 2.04m north of the southern baulk and 1.98m east of the western baulk. A sondage 0.5m in width was excavated to determine the depth and composition of the feature. Rock-cut with a sharp break of slope at the top and relatively sharp sides, the base could not be fully determined within the excavated areas, but the feature is at least 1.2m in depth. The presumed basal fill (F85e) was a minimum of .0.25m in depth and consisted of friable mid-brown silt with charcoal, shell and stone inclusions. Above this was F85d, a friable greenish-yellow mottled silt with angular small stone inclusions, charcoal and shell, 0.32m in depth; above this was F85c a dark grey brown gritty silt with occasional animal bone, shell and charcoal, 0.3m in depth; Above this was F89b, friable greenish yellow mottled silt with charcoal, shell and occasional bone, 0.24m in depth. The upper fill consisted of a loose greyish brown stony silt fill topped with sharp angular limestone, 0.28m in depth. Medieval pottery was recovered from the upper fill and a fragment of lead from the lower fill F85d. A sample (#40) from the basal fill (F85e) and another sample (#35) from the lower fill (F85d) were wet-sieved and are

currently undergoing analysis. This feature appears to be a substantial ditch (a projected 4m in width) that may constitute a previously unknown enclosure or boundary ditch.

Plate 11: Ditch section F85, facing east

Feature 104

Exposed within the north-south sondage, this feature comprised the rounded terminal of a possible linear gully. Cut in to natural subsoil it measured 0.46m NS x 0.46m EW and was concave in profile. A maximum of 0.12m in depth it was filled with friable mid-greyish brown gritty silt. No artefacts were retrieved.

Feature 83

Located at the south-eastern corner of Trench 5 this modern pit was cut into the compact stony layer F78. The pit measured 0.8m EW x 0.84m NS. Sharp-sided with a flat base it was 0.79m in depth and filled with friable, mid-greyish brown gritty silt with animal bone and seashell inclusions. A mix of modern and medieval pottery, iron nails and large complete slates were recovered from this pit. It was overlain by topsoil.

Feature 67

Extending west for 3.2m from the eastern baulk this feature measured 0.6m in width and from 0.04 to 0.16m in depth. Filled with friable, mid-darkish brown silt with small pebble inclusions, iron nails and a single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered. Interpreted as a modern furrow it underlay topsoil.

Trench 5-Surfaces, layers and deposits

Feature 105

Exposed within the north-south sondage (1.88m EW x 0.2m NS) located along the norther baulk, this feature comprised a compact metalled surface consisting of small stones (0.01m-0.1m diam.) set into natural subsoil. Stratigraphically this is similar to the basal surface (F100) within nearby Trench 4.

Feature F102

Also within the north-south sondage overlying metalled surface (F105), Feature 102 was a deposit of pea-gravel within a loose dark brown silt matrix, with a maximum depth of 0.07m.

Feature F96

Exposed within the north-west quadrant of Trench 5, this layer of friable, blackish grey ashy silt extended for 2.04m NS x 1.6m EW. Not fully excavated it constituted a thin band within the north-south sondage and appeared to abutt ditch F85. It contained frequent shell and animal bone inclusions and medieval pottery was retrieved.

Feature 78

Consolidation deposit originally interpreted as a sloping yard surface, Feature 78 extended over the entirety of Trench 5 and measured from 0.04m to 0.4m in depth, where excavated. It consisted of small rounded stones in a thick extremely compact yellow brown sandy clay matrix which followed the topography of the site downwards to the west and also sloping steeply to the south, where it overlays ditch F85. The uneven mix of stone and clay indicates several deposits rather than a single deposition event. Building materials including mortar and slate, medieval pottery including a sherd of Saintonge, and animal bone were recovered from this deposit.

Feature 68

Above consolidation deposit F78, was an extremely compact stone deposit in a mid-grey matrix with sand and mortar inclusions. Extending over the majority of Trench 5 it consisted of sharp shaley limestone becoming larger and more rounded in the south-western corner of the trench. This area (1.7m EW x 1.4m NS) may constitute a separate deposit not recognised as such during excavation. As with F78, this layer Feature 68, followed the topography of the site downwards to the west and may have been deposited in several episodes to a maximum depth of 0.4m. Slate and architectural fragments, animal bone, whiteware and medieval pottery were recovered from this feature.

Features F64

Located over compact deposit F68 and below topsoil this layer was cut by furrow F67. Extending across almost the entirety of Trench 5, Feature 64 consisted of moderately compact light brown stony silty clay with large stone, mortar and gravel inclusions that measured from 0.22m to 0.3m in depth. Animal, seashell and building materials were recovered as were iron objects, lead fragments, glass, medieval and modern pottery, clay pipes and a single human remain, an adult hand phalanx (Linda Lynch pers. comm.).

Plate 12: Features F64, F66, F68, F78 mid-excavation, facing north-west

Feature F66

Located centrally this irregular deposit extended 2.54m from the eastern baulk and defined the high point of the topography within the trench, directly below topsoil, measuring 1m in width. Cut by furrow F67. Feature F66 appeared contemporary with Feature 64 and consisted of mid-reddish brown clayey silt with concentration of small stone. Whiteware, animal bone and mortar fragments were recovered from this feature.

Feature 1

Topsoil in Trench 5 consisted of a light-brown friable sandy silty clay with small stone inclusions that measured from 0.24 to 0.3m in depth. A range of artefacts were recovered with medieval pot and tile alongside modern glass, pottery, clay pipes, iron nails as well as animal bone and sea shell. Root growth was particularly evident due to the proximity the trench to the surviving orchard trees.

Trench 6

Natural subsoil was attained at an average of 1.1m below ground level. Cut into were natural two intercutting pits (F95, F92) and another (F97) identified in the northern section of the trench. These pits had been sealed beneath two metalled surfaces (F72, F82), above which was a consolidation layer (F63), topsoil (F1) and sod.

Plate 13: Trench 6, Post-excavation, facing south

Trench 3-Pits:

Three pits were identified within Trench 6 cut into natural subsoil. Two (F95 and F92) were inter-related, the third (F97) only identified in baulk section.

Feature 95

This pit extended for 0.92m east of the western baulk. Exposed for 1.72m north-south it was cut into natural subsoil to a maximum depth of 0.3m. The sub-circular concave pit had a sharp break of slope at top, gradual sides and concave base. It was filled with F93.

Feature 93

This was the primary fill of pit F95 and consisted of mottled dark brown-orange clay rich silt with occasional large stone (0.4m-0.6m), frequent animal bone and seashell inclusions. A human tooth, and a fragment of copper alloy wire were recovered from this fill. A sample (#34) was wet-sieved and is currently undergoing analysis.

Feature 92

Extending 0.94m east of the western baulk this pit truncated the southern limit of pit F95. Feature 92 measured 0.8m north-south and from 0.1m to 0.3m in depth. The sub-circular, concave pit with sharp break of slope at top, vertical sides had a slightly concave base and was filled with F88.

Feature 88

This was the primary fill of pit F92 and constituted a partial upper fill of inter-related pit F95. It consisted of dark brown-black organic rich silt with animal bone, charcoal and shell inclusions.

Plate 14: Pit F92 and Pit F95, post-excavation, facing west

Feature 97

This pit was identified in the northern section, only 0.05m exposed within the trench. Cut into the natural subsoil, the pit has vertical edge with steep breaks of slope at top and base with a flat base. It measured 0.86m east west and 0.48m in depth. The fill consisted of dark brown silty clay with occasional charcoal, small stone and animal bone inclusions. Two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered.

Trench 6-Surfaces, Layers & Deposits:

Feature 91

This was a stony relatively sterile layer across the extent of the trench averaging 0.12m in depth. The orange brown silty clay was defined by large stone inclusions and was immediately above natural subsoil. Occasional animal bone and shell from the upper surface was recovered.

Feature 89

Located towards the north of the trench this irregular shell-rich deposit measured 0.8m NS x 1.32m EW and from 0.05m to 0.1m in depth. It overlay the sterile layer F91 and consisted of shell in a dark brown clayey silt matrix. Animal bone was recovered and a sample (#30) wet-sieved.

Feature 82

Sealing the pits (F95, F92) and overlying the relatively sterile layer (F91) was the metalled surface Feature 92. Extending for the entirety of Trench 6, this surface was composed of small pebbles (0.02m diam.) and some rubble type stones (0.15m max diam.) in a loose light brown sandy silt. Iron nails and seashell were recovered from this layer.

Feature 90

Located in the north-west quadrant of the trench, this was a mortar deposit overlying metalled surface F82. Feature 90 was exposed for 2.74m NS x 0.4m EW and measured from 0.02m to 0.12m in depth. Medieval pottery and occasional animal bone was recovered from this feature.

Plate 15: Yard surface F72 and deposit F75, facing north

Feature 72

A yard surface extended across the majority of Trench 6 (6m NS x 1.5m EW) overlying both mortar deposit (F90) and the lower metalled surface (F82). Feature 72 was composed of small stones (0.02m) and bigger stones (0.20m) in loose light brown sandy silt, which measured 0.14m in depth. It sloped slightly to the west where it abutted surface F75. Medieval pottery and tile, iron nails and fragments of a bone comb were retrieved from this feature.

Feature 75

Located along the length of the western baulk, this deposit extended eastwards for 0.5m to where it abuts yard surface F72. It comprised loose dark brown gravelly slate filled silt 0.12m in depth. Animal bone, seashell, tile, medieval pottery and complete slates were recovered from this feature.

Feature 63

A consolidation layer below topsoil and above medieval yard surface, Feature 63 extended across the entirety of Trench 6 and measured from 0.2mm to 0.3m in depth. It consisted of light brown stony silty clay. It was moderately compact with large stone, mortar and gravel inclusions. Iron objects, lead fragments, medieval pottery, and clay pipe bowls were recovered from this feature.

Feature 1

Topsoil in Trench 6 consisted of a mid-brown friable silty clay with small stone inclusions that measured from 0.24 to 0.3m in depth. A range of artefacts were recovered with medieval pot and tile, a bone die alongside modern glass, brick, pottery, clay pipes, iron nails as well as animal bone and sea shell.

4.2. Samples & Finds

The environmental sampling strategy was overseen by Dr Meriel McClatchie who undertook a training day on site. Soil samples were retrieved from possible flooring layers, pits, features, ditch and posthole fills and stratigraphically early layers. Wet sieving took place on site. Animal bone and shell were retrieved from all features and layers. All layers and features of all trenches and a significant proportion of topsoil were dry-sieved. Artefacts from all layers and features were retrieved. Those from stratified layers and features and of medieval date from topsoil were processed, labelled and registered on site (refer Appendix 2).

Plate 16: Dr Meriel McClatchie demonstrating wet-sieving of soil samples on site

Soil Samples

A total of twelve soil samples were sieved for environmental analysis. These samples, the majority of which were 20litres in volume were specifically targeted. A total of eight samples (#24 i-viii) were taken from different areas of a single layer (F80) that extended over the majority of Trench 4 to investigate if differential uses were being undertaken. Two samples (#35, #40) were taken from different layers within the ditch F85. One sample was taken from a stratigraphically early pit (#34) and another from a later shell rich deposit (#30) within Trench 6. Samples were also taken from the stratigraphically earliest features within Trench 4, a large posthole (#39) and a charcoal-rich pit (#41). Dr Meriel McClatchie is currently undertaking analysis of the archaeobotanical remains.

Bone Samples

The sampling methodology for bone was to hand-retrieve all bone from all features and layers. Additional retrieval was from dry sieving of the layers and wet sieving of samples. A total of 37 samples were registered from layers and features including small mammal and bird bones incorporating a small number of bird bills and a skull. Extensive samples of fish bones were recovered including a small number of fish scales and otoliths. Margaret McCarthy is currently undertaking analysis of the animal bone remains.

Human Bone

Fragments of disarticulated human remains were recovered from each trench, a single cranium fragment from Trench 4, a single fragment from Trench 5 and another thirty-three fragments from Trench 6. Dr Linda Lynch is currently examining the disarticulated human remains.

Sea shell Samples

A total of thirty-seven samples of seashell were recovered. The majority of the samples are oyster shell but there were also crustacean shells identified.

Building material

A total of 13 slate fragments and twenty-three samples of stone, mortar, worked stone and plaster were retrieved. These will combined with the samples of building materials to be examined as part of the *Story of the Stone* element of the project. Dr Steve Mandal undertook a 'Geology Day' with participants and Dr Rachel Moss visited the site to examine the dressed stone that had been stockpiled within the precinct during the years since the restoration works in the 1990s.

Plate 17: Dr Rachel Moss examining stockpiled stone at Swords Castle

Artefacts

A total of 1259 artefacts were registered. This can be divided into pottery (400), tile (270), clay pipe (308), stone (3) and bone (5) artefacts including a bone comb. Metal finds were divided into iron (256) (mostly nails), copper alloy (10) and lead (8).

Plate 18: Volunteers Monica and Caoimhe labelling and registering finds

Pottery:

A total of 400 sherds of medieval pottery were recovered during the excavation. A significant proportion appears to be local ware or Leinster Cooking ware. The pottery is currently being examined by Clare McCutcheon.

Tile:

A total of 270 tile fragments were recovered the majority of which from topsoil. Decorated floor tile fragments and roof tiles and decorated ridge tiles were identified from topsoil and stratified layers. The tile is currently being examined by Joanna Wren.

Clay Pipe:

A total of 58 bowls and 247 stem fragments, which were identified as being decorated or forming a mouthpiece or bowl-end of a stem. The majority of bowl fragments (40) were recovered from the extensive topsoil layer (F1), with the remaining 10 retrieved from layers immediately below this (F63; F64; F65). Fragments were recorded from the three excavated trenches. The clay pipes are currently being examined by Siobhan Duffy.

Metal finds:

A total of 274 metal finds were recovered the vast majority being iron nails form the topsoil layers. Stratified metal artefacts were x-rayed by Susannah Kelly and on her advice ten copper alloy artefacts, and three identifiable iron artefacts were selected for conservation. The metal finds are currently being examined by Siobhan Duffy.

Bone finds:

A total of five artefacts, made from skeletal materials, including a bone comb (E4619:72:15), a possible needle case or bobbin (E4619:86:22) and a bone die and four buttons recovered from topsoil. The bone finds are currently being examined by Siobhan Duffy.

Plate 19: A busy finds washing tent

5 Discussion

The focus of the 2016 season of excavation at Swords Castle was to build on the results of Season 1, further verify the nature of the anomalies on the geophysical survey, and continue to engage the community in archaeology. The level of natural subsoil across the site was attained; the presence of a hitherto unknown ditch was discovered, stratified medieval activity was established and the nature and extent of post-medieval and modern disturbance was recorded.

Trench 4

The location of Trench 4 just 0.5m west of Season 1's Trench 1 was designed to build on the results from the latter trench where structural remains were confirmed. Geophysical survey suggested the presence of a square area of possible structural remains within Trench 4 but excavation established that instead this anomaly probably represented a significant layer of stone tumble, which may represent the levelling of a structure.

Like Trench 1, the basal layer of Trench 4 consisted of metalling set into the natural subsoil. In Trench 1 a medieval wall (F14) formed a boundary between distinct areas of activity with thin fishbone rich organic layers to the north and burnt material to the south of the wall. The radiocarbon dates returned on samples from these features, indicated the probable fish gutting activity (F43) dated to AD 1298-1373 (UBA-32454, 2 sigma) whereas the in situ burning (F8) to the south dated to AD 1011-1187 (UBA-32453, 2 sigma). It is possible the in situ burning (F98) in the south-east corner of Trench 4 may relate to that in Trench 1, given their stratigraphically similar positions.

A consistent difference in activity was also evident in Trench 4, where the northern quadrant was characterised by a series of compact layers, which were interpreted by the trench director as surfaces, potentially representing part of floors or paths. This activity was truncated by the insertion of a layer drain and shore which may relate to the modern pit disturbance towards the northern end of Trench 1.

Two large postholes -which may relate to a relatively large posthole (F40) in Trench 1-, indicate the presence of a timber building at an early stage in the site history. Could these relate to the 'grange of poles (*furcae*) thatched' or the 'timber granary roofed with 'bords'' described by the 1326 Inquisition? The postholes were sealed by a metalled surface (F86) over which was a bone rich layer possibly indicating a food preparation or butchery area. Analysis of animal bone from Season 1 showed than small scale domestic butchery of whole animals had been undertaken at Swords Castle (Mags McCarthy pers. comm.). Was this the site for kitchen preparation?

Trench 5

Geophysical survey had identified an amorphous anomaly surrounding extant orchard trees but little else. This trench was sited to investigate what was happening between the structural elements to the north and the yard surface to the south, discovered in Season 1.

The archaeological layers within Trench 5 sloped down from east to west and from north to south. They were characterised by their extreme compaction, making complete removal

within the excavation timetable impossible. Strategic sondages identified a large rock-cut ditch (F85) which was not reflected in the geophysical survey, doubtless obscured by the thick stone-rich deposits that overlie it. The northern edge of the presumed ditch was identified and it has a projected maximum width of 4m. Samples taken from the lower layers will hopefully yield material for dating which will indicate if it could be an enclosure ditch associated with the 11th century activity or perhaps a later boundary definition of the medieval manor.

Trench 6

This trench was set at a right-angle to Trench 2, season 1 which was the nearest to Fanning's burials, in the hope of perhaps identifying an enclosure or the limit of those burials.

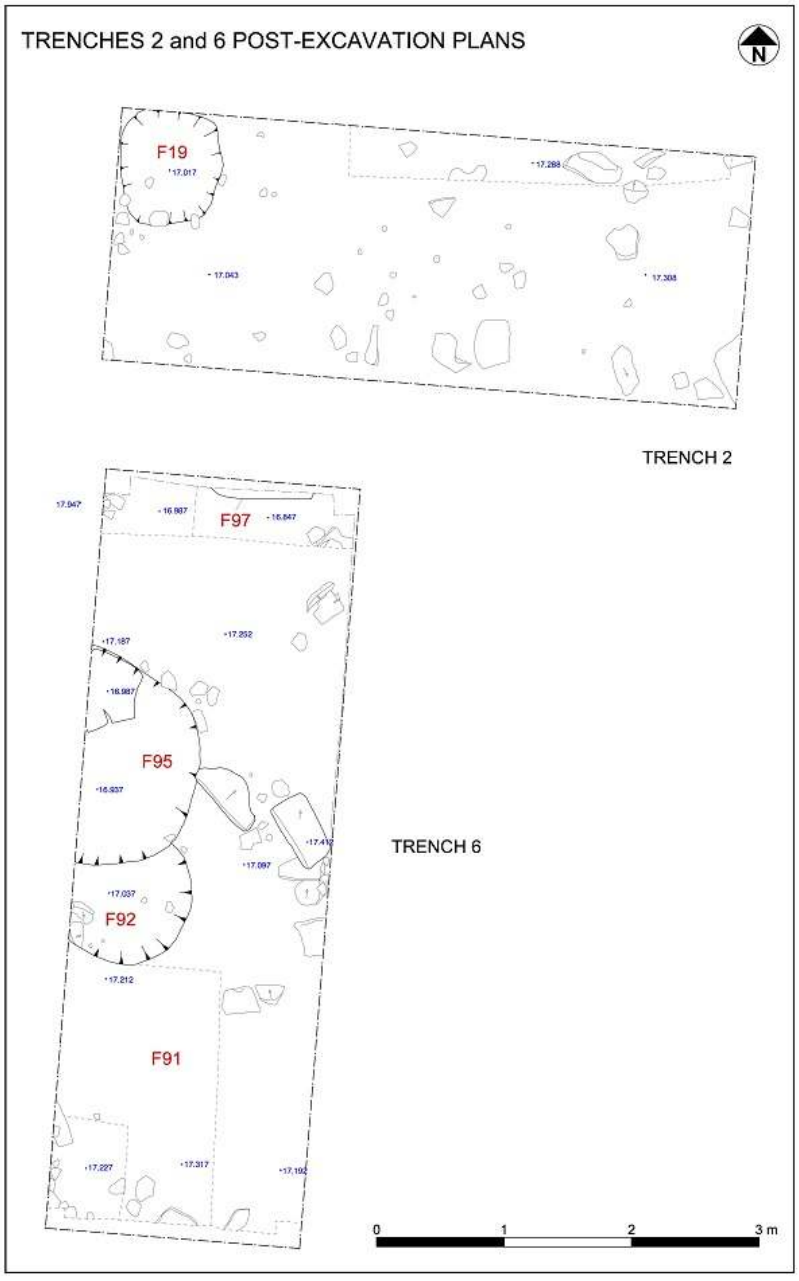


Figure 17 Trench2, Season 1 and Trench 6, Season 2, post-excavation

Instead the stratigraphy was remarkably similar to that of Trench 2. Three more pits were identified cut into natural subsoil. These were sealed by a yard surface, and a post-medieval consolidation layer. A radiocarbon date from a pit (F19) in the same stratigraphic position (i.e. cut into natural and sealed by a medieval yard surface) in Trench 2, Season 1, returned a date range of AD 937-1019 (UBA-32456 2 sigma) so it is likely that the pits are the result of associated activity.

6 Conclusions

The 2016 season of excavation continued to establish the presence of previously unknown structures and medieval activity within the precinct of Swords Castle and confirmed the potential for surviving *in situ* archaeology as identified on the geophysical survey. In uncovering an extensive ditch obscured by overlying compact stony deposits it also confirmed the potential for *in situ* archaeology that was not indicated by the geophysical survey. Further post-excavation analysis will allow for the development of a definitive chronology for the activity uncovered.

An important aim of the *Swords Castle: Digging History* was to engage the wider public with the national monument in their midst. The participation of 105 volunteers in this year's excavation was matched by countless visitors to the site and the ongoing participation in events such as the First Findings Seminar in February 2016 and the first Culture Night in October 2016. Local artist, Andrew Carson was also commissioned to interview the participants, currently available for viewing in You-Tube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1id9diAgPIM

An over-arching final report encompassing specialist contributions and an analysis of the excavation results in conjunction with the historical and architectural evidence will be produced in due course for submission to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and the National Museum of Ireland.

Christine Baker MA MIAI
4th January 2016

Acknowledgements:
Many thanks are due to my archaeological colleagues -Stephen Johnston, Ian Kinch, Laura Corrway and Siobhan Duffy-and all those who volunteered; Brigit Berkenkoff, Brendan Black, Jacqui Brennan, Simon Brennan, Elaine Brennan, Breege Casey, Catriona Chuinneagain, Geraldine Clarke, Pauline Collins, Richard Coplen, Philip Costello, Robert Cox, Ross Creed, Glenn delves, Colm Diamond, Aileen Donnelly, Lesley Donohoe, Kate Drinane, John Drinane, Frank Duffy, Ailish Durney, Mick Farrell, Etain Feeley, Paul Feeley, Austin Fennessy, Mary Finch, Judith Finlay, Joseph Fletcher, Christien Flood, Aoife Foley, Joe Foley, Therese Foster, Patricia Graham, Margareta Grunenwald, Alesksei Haidurov, Alex Haidurov, Mark Henry, Aoife Higgins, Katelyn Hoffart, Tony Howley, Linda Jago, Aaron Jennings, Audrea Juinfare, Eileen Keelan, Marian Kelly, Paul Kennedy, Treasa Kerrigan, Nicholas Keyes, Mark Kilmartin, Ann Kilmeade, Margaret Kirwan, Hilary Klompenhouwer, Tracy Lanigan, James Lindsay, Monica Lindsay, Sean MacDomhnaill, Antoinette Madden, Tom McErlean, Fionnuala McGinley, Nicholas McGrattan, Tara McLoughlin, Reamonn McLoughlin, Roisin Mead, Janine Merry, Grace Monaghan, Mick Mongey, Loraine Morgan, Olwyn Moyne, Nicholas Mulloooly, Brendan Murphy, Seamus Murray, Anthony Neville, Derek O'Brien, George O'Carroll, Brian O'Connor, Ciaran O'Connor, Len O'Donnell, Ciara O'Leary, Alan O'Malley, Deirdre O'Neill, Pauline O'Riordan, Karen O'Toole, Irina Pavlivkova, Nina Peier, Stephen Phillips, Rivolta Pierlivio, Pat Quinlan, Antje Renner, Anne Reumann, Mary Scanlon, Michael Scanlon, Cormac Smith, Caoimhe Smith, Grainne Smith, Vlad Vasildov, Hans Visser, Martin Walsh, Helen Weldon, Noel Young

Thanks to the post-excavation team for their ongoing input and expertise-Dr Meriel McClathcie, Dr Linda Lynch, Mags McCarthy, Clare McCutcheon, Joanna Wren, Siobhan Duffy, and Susannah Kelly.

Many thanks to the staff of the National Museum of Ireland especially Judith Finlay and her colleagues in the Collections Resource Centre for their support and participation in the project.

Thanks are due to Fingal County Council, not least for funding the project, specifically to my colleagues who helped in a myriad of ways;-Gerry Clabby, Niall McCoitir, Anne Marie Farrelly, Martin Daly, Deirdre Sinclair, Duncan Henderson, Mary Dwyer, Valeries Geddes, Ciara Monhan, Fionnuala May, Brian O'Connor, Shay Barker, Darragh Sheppard , Alex Graham, Niall Nevin, Maeve Egan, Fergal Duignan, Sean Healy; Swords Castle caretaker Paddy Duffy;

Thanks you to L&M Keating, the contractor who shared the site and accommodated the excavation, especially Richard Browne, Blake Burke and Daniel Williams

Thanks are also due to The Heritage Council who funded the Community Archaeologist position and to Ian Doyle and Professor Gabriel Cooney, for their support.

7 Post-Excavation Programme

All soil and animal bone samples were processed on site. All artefacts were cleaned and labelled on site. Specialist analysis is ongoing (see below). Dating material will be forwarded for AMS dating once selected in conjunction with the recommendations of the appropriate specialist.

Task	**Specialist**	**Status**
Archaeobotantical analysis	Dr Meriel McClathcie	Ongoing
Charcoal analysis	TBC	TBC
Animal Bone analysis	Mags McCarthy	Ongoing
Pottery	Clare McCutcheon	Ongoing
Tile	Joanna Wren	Ongoing
Small Finds (metal, bone, stone, clay pipe)	Siobhan Duffy	Ongoing
X-Ray & Conservation	Susannah Kelly	Completed
C14 Dating-macrofossil plant remains; human bone; charcoal	Chrono Lab, QUB	Selection of datable material to be undertaken

7.1 Archiving

All digital photographs are indexed. A total of twenty-four plans and section drawings have been scanned. Both have been saved to the Heritage file on the Fingal County Council mainframe. The paper archive is currently with the director and will be scanned and copied for deposition in the both the Fingal Local Studies Archive, Swords and the Collections Resource Centre.

7.2 Dissemination

During 2016 presentations were made at Space & Settlement Conference, Trinity College Dublin; Irish Conference of Medievalists, NUI Maynooth; Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, Fingal Rotary Club and the National Monuments Service Annual Conference. A summary account has been submitted to Excavations.ie. The form of further publication will be decided on completion of the entirety of the project.

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Appendix 1-Feature Register

Feature #	Trench	Description	Dimensions	Over	Under	Artefacts	Animal Bone	Shell	Human Bone	Samples	Building Materials
1	T4 - T6	Topsoil. T5- friable mid brown clayey silt, small rounded pebbles; T6-mid brown loose crumbly silty clay with small stone inclusions, 0.24-0.3m in depth.	T4-0.34-0.5m; T5-0.3-0.5m in depth T6-0.40-0.46m in depth;	T4-65; T5-F64/F66; T6-F63	T4-T6-sod	Glass; plastic; iron nails and objects; Clay pipe; Whiteware; blackware; Medieval Pot T4 (54 sherds); T5 (17 sherds); T6 (23 sherds); Tile-T4 (5); T5 (1); T6 (2); Bone-1 die -T6; ; Cu alloy mount (T6); 2 copper alloy and 1 shell button (T5); 1 cu alloy button#1039, musket shot#1042, bone bead #1044-T4;	T5 & T6-animal bone, small mammal and bird and fish x4; T4 x 6	T4 & T5 & T6-Bag assorted seashells	E4619:1:400 T1, E4619:1:1063 T5 and E4619:1:1064 T6		T4 & T6-Brick
63	T6	Consolidation layer below topsoil and above medieval surface; Light brown stony silty clay. Moderately compact with large stone, mortar and gravel inclusions	0.22m-0.3m in depth	F72 & F75	F1	Iron objects x 50; Cu alloy brooch pin#51; Lead shot#52; Lead fragments x 2; glass; Human Dar #55; Medieval pot (16); Tile (7); clay pipe bowls (2), decorated stem (1) undecorated stems (8)	animal bone, small mammal and bird, fish bone x3	Bag assorted seashells	E4619:63:55		Slate with hole; mortar

64	T5	Mid-yellow brown clayey silt with small stone inclusions, overburden of yard surface; contemporary with F66	4m x 4m; 0.16m-0.24m in depth	F68	F1; cut by F67 and F83	iron nails and objects; tile (16), medieval pot (4), granny ware	animal bone, fish bone, bird and small mammal x3	Bag assorted seashells			Brick, architectural stone, mortar fragments
65	T4	Base of cultivated topsoil, an interface between the underlying rubble and improved soil above; a compact gritty/stony silty clay with mortar inclusions; mid brown mottled.	6m x 3.5m; 0.05m-0.35m in depth	F69; F73; F81; F94	F1; cut by F76 and F70	Cu alloy mount #31; Window lead #32; Human DAR #33; medieval pot (63); Tile (11); clay pipe stem and bowls	animal bone, fish bone, bird and small mammal x10	Bag assorted seashells			Large complete slates; brick and mortar fragments
66	T5	Overburden contemporary with F64; mid reddish brown clayey silt with concentration of small stone.	1m NS x 2.54m EW; 0.1m-0.27m in depth	F68	F1; cut by F67	Granny ware	animal bone	Bag assorted seashells			Architectural stone, mortar fragments
67	T5	Dark brown silty fill of modern gully /furrow; a linear cut with a concave profile filled with a friable, mid-darkish brown silt with small pebble inclusions.	3.23m EW by 0.6m in width; 0.04-0.16m in width	Cuts F64 and F66	F1	Nails and med pot (1)	animal bone	Bag assorted seashells			
68	T5	Metalled surface; Consists of small rounded stones in a thick extremely compact mid grey orange matrix with sand and mortar inclusions. Followed topography of the site down westwards, and also sloped steeply to the south where underlying ditch F85 is.	3.7mNS x 4m EW; 0.04m-0.40m in depth	F78	F64/F66	Whiteware; medieval pot (22)	animal bone x 4	Bag assorted seashells			Slate fragments; Mortar, architectural fragments, stone

69	T4	Post medieval waste pit containing articulated pig skeleton; Shallow irregular pit with an uneven flat base and gradual concave sides; contained friable mid brown clayey silt with occasional small angular and sub angular stones.	0.85mNS x 1.4mEw; 0.2m in depth	F77	F65	Post med pot; med pot 94); tile/brick	animal bone, pig bone x3	Bag assorted seashells			Slate fragment #18
70	T4	Modern trench or gully; EW linear U-shaped, sharp sided cut, uneven base, 3m EW x 0.6m in width; Contained friable mid brown clayey silt, relatively stone free	3mEW and 0.6m in width; 0.35m in depth	Cuts F65	F1	Post med pot; med pot (11); iron nails; Cu alloy ring with knob#4	Animal bone, bird and small mammal, fish bone X6 bags	Bag assorted seashells			Building material
71	T4	Rubble layer overlying clay surface F79; Compact medium stones in a sandy silt matrix; frequent mortar; Slopes slightly from east to west	Extends beyond line of cutting EW x 0.4-0.8m NS; 0.1m-0.3m	F79	F65; cut by F70 and F94	Medieval pot (7); Tile (4)	Animal bone, small mammal and bird, fishbone, x7 bags.	Bag assorted seashells			Large and fragments x2 bags slate; Building material, mortar, architectural stone.
72	T6	Metalled surface-yard surface; Composed of small stones (0.02m) and bigger stones (0.20m) in a loose light brown sandy silt; slopes to south and west; Bone comb retrieved from base.	6m x 2m; 0.06m-014m in depth	F90/F82	F63	Medieval pot (3); Tile (8); bone comb fragments, iron nails	Animal bone, bone with tooth x3 bags	Bag assorted seashells			Slate fragments

73	T4	L-shaped, mortared stone wall forming shore of modern/post medieval drain; The SW corner of a sub-square mortared stone shore leading to a slate floored lintel roofed drain. The shore and drain (F94) are set in a trench backfilled with sub angular stones. The fill to the north and east of the mortared wall is stone tumble in a pretty compact clayey silt matrix; Constructed of random rubble set with a white coarse sand lime mortar; appears to have been dug down to the surface of F86 which is directly over subsoil	0.8m SE-NW, 0.6m NS; 0.4m high	Cuts F71; F86; abutts F94	F65	medieval pot (1)		Bag of two shells			
74	T4	Rubble from rapid episode of demolition consisting of angular and sub-angular medium stones (0.1-0.4m diam; average 0.25m) in coarse sand/mortar matrix.	4.5m NS x 3.5m EW; 0.25m max	F80	F65; F77; F87; Cut by F81	Medieval pot (26) and tile (2);	Animal bone, crustacean shell, small mammal and bird, fishbone, x16 bags	Bag assorted seashells and coral x2bags			Fragments x2bags Slate; Building material, mortar x4 bags, stone x2
75	T6	Dark brown gravelly slate filled silt; loose compaction, located along western limit of roughly metalled surface F72 as it slopes downwards	4.3mNS x 0.5m EW and 0.12m in depth	F82; F90	F63 W of F72	Tile (8); medieval pot (1); iron nail	Animal bone.	Bag assorted seashells			Large complete slates #22
76	T4	Post-medieval pit; Sub-rectangular concave pit with friable mid brown clayey silt	1.85m NS x 1m EW, truncated by W baulk	Cuts F65; F71; F79; F81; F84; F77	F1	Post med pot; Medieval pot (5) tile (1)	Animal bone	Bag assorted seashells			

77	T4	Shallow linear cut into the surface of F74; Base of feature very clear with a compact surface of dark brown mottled silt with frequent mortar fragments; Fill a friable mid brown coarse sandy silt with medium sub angular stones (<5mm); Frequent purple and moderate blue slate	3.5m EW extends beyond cutting; 1.4m in width, max. 0.30m in depth	F87	F65; Cut by F70/F69/F81/F76	Dressed window moulding-1 roll and fillet; Med pot (22); Tile (8); Iron nails and objects; Clay pipe intrusive	Animal bone, teeth, fishbone, small mammal and bird x6 bags	Bag assorted seashells			Architectural fragments, large fragments of slate, mortar x2 bags
78	T5	Consolidation deposit originally interpreted as a sloping yard surface; Consists of small rounded stones in a thick extremely compact yellow brown sandy clay matrix. Followed topography of the site down westwards, and also sloped steeply to the south where underlying ditch F85 is.	4m NS x 4m EW; max. 0.4m	F85/F95	F68; Cut by pit F83	Med pot incl. one Saintonge (3); Tile (1); iron	animal bone X2 bags	Bag assorted seashells x2			Building material x2 bags
79	T4	Compact clay layer laid over F84; very compact almost indurated pale orange brown clay. Truncated to North and south. Deliberate surface to level up and consolidate? Floor or path? NOTE: F79 has no direct physical relationship with F80 but both directly overlie F84. Maybe have been truncated by F70 an dF76	0.75m-1m NS x 3.6m EW; 0.05m in depth	F84	F71; cut by F70/F76/F94	Med pot (2); flint flake (1); iron nail (1)	Animal bone, small mammal and fish bone x4 bags	Bag assorted seashells			

80	T4	Surface; untrammelled ground surface rapidly sealed by F74; Loose compacted mid-brown silt with occasional small stones, frequent animal bone inclusions and charcoal rich. NOTE: due to loose nature if both layers it seems that animal bone may have been bagged as F74 when more properly from the surface of F80- both layers should be closely contemporary	$.5mNS x 3.5mEW; 0.1m in depth	F84 and F86	F74	Iron objects x 30; Medieval pot (28) including LCW	animal bone, fish bone, bird and small mammal x21 bags	Bag assorted seashells x2		#24 #25 #28 wet sieved	Slate fragments
81	T4	Later pit feature cutting through rubble layer F74; Oval concave cut filled with loose dark stony clayey silt with small stone inclusions, increasingly stony to the northern limit.	1.8mNS x 0.6m EW, 0.3m in depth	F80; Cutting F77	F65	iron nails, Medieval pot (7); post medieval pot	animal bone	Bag assorted seashells			
82	T6	Metalled surface earlier than F72; composed of small pebble like stone (2mc diam.) and some rubble type stones (15cm max diam.) in a loose light brown sandy silt.	6m x 4m	F91, F88, F89	F72	Iron nails, Human DAR		Bag assorted seashells	Human DAR#3		
83	T5	Pit; Located in the SE corner of Trench 5, this was a sharp sided, flat based pit cut through F64, F68 and F78; It was filled with friable, mid-greyish brown gritty silt with modern inclusions.	0.8m EW x 0.84m NS; 0.79m in depth	Cuts F64 and F78	F1	White ware? Medieval pot (5), iron nails	animal bone, fish bone, small mammal and bird, teeth	Bag assorted seashells			Large complete slates

84	T4	Mixed deposit to south of F73; Firm mottled reddish brown stony clayey silt. Underlying F79 and overlying F86, sloping down from N to S. possible delineate raising or ground level or gradual accumulation.	0.8-1.6mNS x trench width EW; 0.15m in depth	F86	F79/F80	Medieval pot (15) incl Saintonge; Tile (3); Iron nails x 30	animal bones, small mammal and bird, fish, teeth x8 bags	Bag assorted seashells			Large and fragments and stone
85	T5	EW linear ditch; Exposed for 2.04m NS and 1.98m EW it was sondanged to determine depth. Rock Cut with a sharp break of slope at top and relatively sharp sides. Base not determined. Appears to be a substantial ditch (possibly 4m in width) that may constitute an enclosure or boundary ditch. Presumed basal fill (F85:E) was not fully excavated but c.0.25m in depth. It consisted of friable mid brown silt with charcoal, shell and stone inclusions. Above this was F85D, a friable greenish-yellow mottled silt with angular small stone inclusions, charcoal and shell, 0.32m in depth; above this was F85c a dark grey brown gritty silt with occasional animal bone, shell and charcoal, 0.3m in depth; Above this was F89B friable greenish yellow mottled silt with charcoal, shell and occasional bone,	c.2.4m NS x 1.98mEw; 1.2m in depth	Cuts bedrock	F78	Med pot (8) mostly F85A; iron nails (F85D); Lead fragment	animal bone x4 bags	Bag assorted seashells		#40 F85E #35 F85D wet sieved	

		0.24m in depth. The upper fill consisted of a loose greyish brown stony silt fill topped with sharp angular limestone, 0.28m in depth									
86	T4	Compact stony layer; a range of small stones (10-50mm diam.) with occasional larger stones (250-300mm) in a brown compact silty clay forming a very compact surface. Area of larger sub angular stone in a reddish brown matrix-1.4m in diameter (stones 200-400mm) in SE corner of the trench and a similar concentration mid trench overlying F98 and F101 respectively. F86 was continuous across the Trench	6m x 3.5m	F101; F99; F98	F80	Medieval pot (20)	animal bone x4 bags	Bag assorted seashells			Building material
87	T4	Compact surface; Located at the base of F77 and top of F74, interpreted as compaction from foot traffic on surface of rubble. Consisted of compact mottled brown coarse sand with mortar and small stone inclusions.	3.5m EW x 1.4m NS; 0.02-0.04m in depth	F74	F77; Cut by F76/F69/F70/F81	Medieval pot (14); iron nails	animal bones, small mammal and bird, fish x2	Bag assorted seashells			
88	T6	Upper fill of pit F92; dark brown-black organic rich silt with animal bone, charcoal and shell inclusions.	2.2NS x 0.7EW; 0.02-0.3m in depth	F92/F95	F82	Iron nail	animal bones, small mammals and birds, fish	Bag assorted seashells x2			

89	T6	Shell rich deposit north end of trench; loose dark brown clayey silt matrix; Lies below metalled surface F82 and above sterile layer F91. Deposit also contained a lot of stone similar to metalling.	0.8m NS; 1.32m EW; 0.05-0.1m in depth	F91	F82		Animal bone	Bag assorted seashells		#30 wet sieved	
90	T6	Mortar chunk with stone-NW of trench; Lies over metalled surface F82.	2.74mNS x 0.4m EW; 0.02-0.12m in depth	F8	F75	Medieval pot (2)	animal bone				
91	T6	Stony relatively sterile layer at south half of trench; orange brown silty clay with stone tumble which extends across most of Trench 6, below metalling and above natural.	6m x 2m; 0.15m depth	Natural	F82; Cut by F92/F95		animal bone	Bag assorted seashells			
92	T6	Cut of pit-upper fill F88; sub circular, concave pit with sharp break of slope at top, vertical sides and flat base. Cut into natural.	0.8m NS x 0.94mEW; 0.1-0.3m in depth	Natural	F88						
93	T6	Fill of Pit F95; dark brown orange clay rich silt with inclusions of animal bone, shell and charcoal; 3-4 large stones	1.72mNS x 0.92mEW; 0.04-0.26m in depth	F95	F88	unglazed santoinge #1; Cu alloy wire #2 and Human Dar #3	animal bone x4	Bag assorted seashells	Human Dar E4619:93:3	#34 wet sieved	

94	T4	Post-medieval/Modern lintel drain; a stone lintel drain was identified along the N baulk at a slight angle. Lintel appears to rest in at least two unmortared courses with large blue slate floor where visible. Dimensions of lintel (not fully exposed) 0.3m x 0.2m high and up to 0.4m in length, undressed limestone slabs. Top of lintel sloped down by an imperceptible amount from E to W generally appearing level against the fall of the ground. Continued with a steep sided cut at least 0.7m in width and widened to accommodate masonry shore F73 at E end to at least 1.8m. It was 0.5m in depth and appeared to terminate on the surface of F86.	2.3m EW exposed and 0.7mNS; 0.3-0.5m in height	Cutting F71, F69, F84	F65						
95	T6	Cut of pit F93; Sub-circular concave pit with sharp break of slope at top, gradual sides and concave base. Cut into natural and filled with F93 and overlain by fill F88.	1.72Ns x 0.92m EW; 0.3-0.4m in depth	Natural	F93/F88						
96	T5	Deposit-friable, blackish grey silty deposit with very small stone and occasional angular small/medium stone and frequent shell and animal bone inclusions.	2.04mNS x 1.59mEW	F102	F78	Medieval pot (20)		Bag assorted seashells			

97	T6	Pit cut and fill along N baulk; Caught mainly in section-only 0.05m exposed; Cut into natural the pit has vertical edge with a steep break of slope at top and base and flat base. It contains dark brown silty clay with occasional charcoal, small stone and animal bone inclusions.	).86m EW; 0.05m exposed NS; 0.48m in depth	Natural	F82	Medieval pot (2)	animal bone	Bag assorted seashells			
98	T4	SE corner-heat affected clay-possible metalworking/hearth area with a stakehole cut into the surface. Extremely compact, deep reddish brown almost pure clay with a lens of small stones. Single stakehole in E corner 0.04m diam-filled with charcoal and sash only 60mmm deep-burnt in situ? While visible in and around metalling F86 it was not over it and within a visible arc of stones.	1.8m EW x 0.7m NS; 25mmm depth		F86	Buckle	animal bone	Bag assorted seashells x2bags			
99	T4	Silt layer deriving charcoal and ashy content from fire at F98; Soft mid-grey almost pure silt, rich in charcoal and ash with occasional stones	3mNs x 2.3mEW; 0.02-0.06m in depth	F100/F98/F103	F86	Medieval pot (20)	Animal bone	Bag assorted seashells x2			
100	T4	Mettled surface-consisting of small rounded and sub angular stones (0.034m diam.) set in a natural subsoil	3.5mEW x 2.8mNS	Natural	F99						

101	T4	Two large squared off timber and stone packed postholes in a shared trench. Upper fill loose mid-dark grey with frequent shell inclusions. Spacing between the e post centres in 1m (0.75m between closest edges) and long axis align.	1.8mWNW x 0.6mESE; 0.65m maximum depth	Natural	F86	iron object; tiny fragment of possible med pot	Animal bone	Bag assorted seashells		#39 wet sieved	Building material (mortar and a small stone)
101A	T4	Western posthole. Postpipe fill mottled yellowish grey; packing stones 200-350mm diam. firmly set. Voiding suggests postpipe rotted in situ	0.25m x 0.15m x 0.4m	Natural	F101						
101B	T4	Squared rectangular post suggested by packing stones; post pipe fill gritty silt-mottled yellowish grey; packing stones 200-350mm diam. firmly set. Voiding suggests postpipe rotted in situ	0.35m x 0.17m x 0.6m	Natural	F101	Human DAR			Human DAR E4619:101:3		
102	T5	Levelling material-pea gravel in silt-very loose blackish brown silt pebbles in a stony gritty silt	2.2mNS x 1.18m EW; 0.02-0.7m in depth	F105	F95						
103	T4	Oval pit, aligned NS cut into natural subsoil. Sharp break of slope at top, gradual edges, slightly concave base. Base is heat affected yellow/red indicating in situ burning. Basal fill is charcoal 0.03m in depth. Upper fill is compact gritty silty clay with occasional stone (<0.05m diam.) inclusions, 0.04-0.07m in depth	1.1mNS x 0.46-0.6m EW; 0.1m in max depth	Natural	F86					#41 wet sieved	

104	T5	Terminus of possible gully? Excavated within sondage. EW possibly linear cut, concave in profile. Filled with a friable mid-greyish brown gritty silt	0.4m EW x 0.46mNS; 0.12m in depth	F96	F78						
105	T5	Metalled surface-pressed into subsoil only partially excavated in Trench 5. small and medium stones compacted into natural	1.88mEW x 0.20NS; 0.1m in depth	Natural	F96						