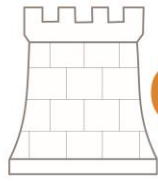


Interim excavation report: Lowther 'Castlestead' and Medieval village 2023 season. PELC22

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1. Introduction

This report covers the provisional results for the 2023 archaeological excavations at Lowther Parks and Garden. The excavations were the initial phase in a wider project to investigate the medieval archaeology of Lowther. The four week long excavation opened trenches within the 'castlestead' ringwork castle and associated medieval village.

The 'castellum de laudre' is mentioned in documents dating to 1174 with the demise of the village being documented as occurring 1682, when it was purchased by Sir John Lowther and pulled down to 'enlarge his demesne and pen the prospect of his house' (Nicholson and Burn 1777). The 'castlestead' is present on the earliest Ordnance Survey map of the area (1860 County Series 1:2500). To date the only known archaeological work on the 'castlestead' and village is a 1997 earthwork survey (LUAU 1997) which noted that 'the site is of considerable importance being a fossilised medieval settlement and it has the potential to significantly inform our understanding of medieval nucleated settlement in Cumbria.'

The overall project was initiated by Dr Sophie Ambler (Lancaster University and Lowther Castle and Gardens Trust), with Dr James Morris (University of Central Lancashire) and Tobin Raynor (Allen Archaeology) managing the excavations. The excavations and geophysical survey (Allen 2023) were supported with a grant from the Castles Studies trust. The excavation was part of a training exercise for University of Central Lancashire students which includes Masters students contributing the production of this report.

2. Site Location and Description

Lowther Castle and Gardens (NY 519 241) is approximately 8km to the south of Penrith, Cumbria, to the west of the M6 motorway. The Lowther estate proper is extensive and covers land totalling 75,000 acres with the medieval 'emparked' area where the site stands, covering 3,000 acres. The 'castlestead' is located to the north of the present-day ruins of the 19th Century Lowther Castle, within an area of woodland

overlooking the river Lowther. The associated medieval village is to the east of the 'castlestead' within an area of grassland.

The British Geological Survey (2023) indicates that the Castlestead site stands on a bedrock of limestone from the Jew Limestone Member rock group. Given that the rock group is typically overlain by mudstones/sandstones of the Alston formation which underlies the village site, some mixing of geology is to be expected. The limestone component is noteworthy as, although nationally fairly abundant (Allen, 2017. 9), it is a valuable resource for building and mortar mixing (*ibid.*), pertinent when building large scale structures. Superficial deposits consisted of glacial till (Allen, 2023).

3. Aims and Objectives

The current project aims are to:

1. Investigate the date and form of the 'castlestead' earthwork
2. Establish the relationship between the 'castlestead' and village
3. Establish a timeline for the establishment, use and demise of the 'castlestead' and village.

To achieve these, a program of archaeological and geophysical works were established. The geophysics results are reported in Allen 2023. After undergrowth clearance of the 'castlestead' three areas of trenching were identified.

Trench 1 – located in the western bank of the 'castlestead' to investigate the makeup of the bank closest to the natural escarpment and possible stone structure identified in the walkover survey after initial clearance.

Trench 2 – located in the northern bank of the 'castlestead'. This 18m long trench was placed to give a section through the 'castlestead' bank and investigate if an outer ditch was present with the bank.

Trench 4 – located in the entrance to the 'castlestead' to evaluate if internal features were present.

Investigation of the medieval village took place after the geophysical survey had been completed and the initial results of the geophysical survey were used in trench placement.

Trench 3 – located to evaluate the nature of the proposed medieval trackway leading to the ‘castlestead’ and investigate a ‘negative’ feature next to the trackway identified in the geophysics.

Trench 5 – Was located on the route of a proposed cycle path by the Lowther Gardens and Park Trust. It was to evaluate the presence of any archaeology along the proposed path including aspects of the medieval village.

4. Methodology

The excavation was supervised by Dr James Morris (MCIFA) (University of Central Lancashire) and Jonathon Milton (Allen Archaeology), and undertaken in accordance with Chartered Institute for Archaeologists guidance (2020) and relevant Allen Archaeology recording manuals.

Trenches 1, 2 and 4 were laid out using hand tapes and later located using Leica Builder 409 total station. Trenches 3 and 5 were laid out and located using a Leica GS08 RTK NetRover GPS unit receiving RTK corrections.

Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4 were de-turfed and fully excavated by hand. For trench 5 a JCB wheeled excavator fitted with a smooth ditching bucket was used to remove topsoil, subsoil and underlying non-archaeological deposits in spits no greater than 10cm in depth. The process was repeated until the first archaeologically significant or natural horizon was exposed. Machine excavation was monitored at all times by an experienced field archaeologist.

A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard Allen Archaeology context recording sheets. Archaeological deposits were drawn in plan

and section at an appropriate scale (1:20). Colour photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy with all photographs incorporating scales, as appropriate. Each deposit or layer was allocated a unique identifier (context number), and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 1. Three-digit numbers within square brackets reflect cut features, e.g. pit [103].

Finds of all classes were collected, other than obviously modern material from modern overburden contexts, and were bagged and labelled with the appropriate deposit context number. All finds were processed (cleaned, marked and labelled as appropriate) at the University of Central Lancashire prior to assessment by approved specialists. As further excavations are planned the finds will be incorporated into a final report on the site.

Following Historic England (2011) guidance, bulk soil samples of 40 litres or 100% of a deposit if less is available, were taken from potentially datable features and layers for flotation for charred plant remains and for the recovery of small bones and artefacts. Bulk soil samples were processed using standard water flotation at the University of Central Lancashire. As with the finds, as further excavations are planned, the environmental remains recovered will be incorporated into a final report on the site.

5. Results

The below discuss the provisional stratigraphic results on a trench-by-trench basis. Trenches 1, 2 and 4 are within the ringwork castle. Trench 1 primarily consists of Victorian/Edwardian additions. Trenches 2 and 4 reveal aspects of the ringwork castles construction and possible interior metaled surface.

Trenches 3 and 5 reveal aspects of the medieval village, primarily the trackway leading to the ringwork castle.

For a summary of each context please see Appendix 1.

As excavations are planned for 2024 and 2025 on the site the finds and environmental material assessment will be included in a final updated project design once all excavations on the site have been completed.

5.1. Trench 1

Trench 1 initially consisted of a 7m x 2m trench running approximately north-south along the bank of the 'castlestead'. This was later extended into a L shape with the extension running east, with a later smaller extension to check the extent of a context (Figure 1). Trench 1 consisted primarily of Victorian/Edwardian intrusion into medieval surfaces, with the only trace of pre19th century archaeology being layer (102), the west rampart of the ringwork.

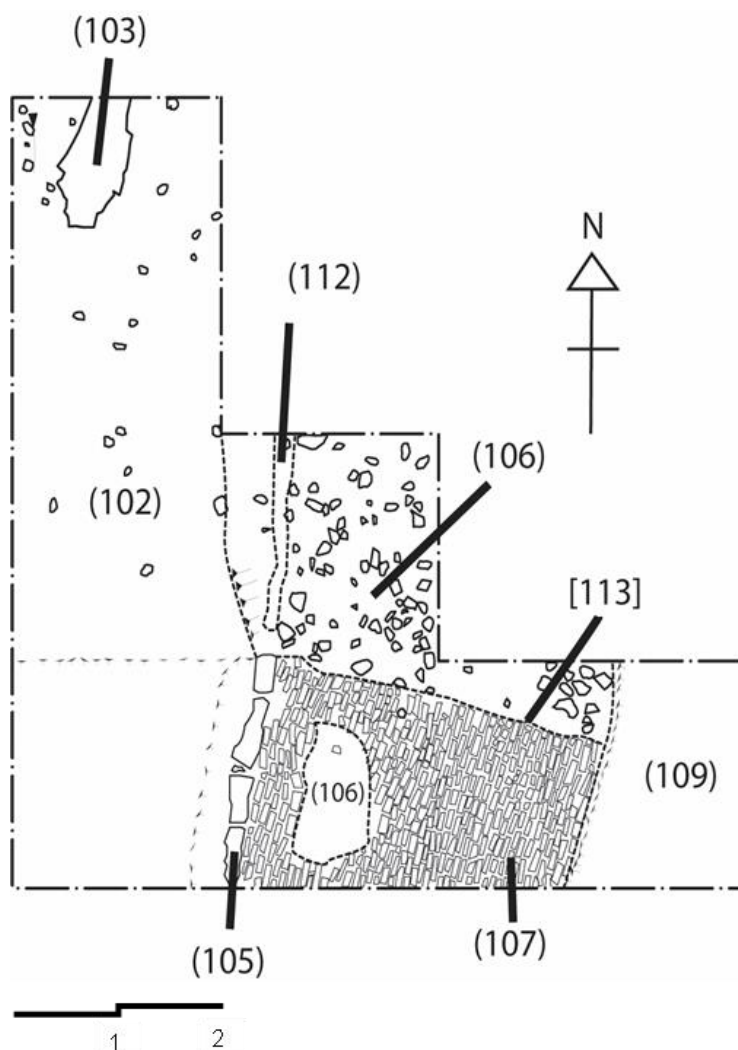


Figure 1 Plan of trench 1

In terms of significant quantities of finds, Trench 1 yielded an excess of glass and ceramic building material (CBM) mostly Victorian in origin. These included a sewer pipe stamped with the date 1893 that was found in (106), securely dating that demolition/rubble deposit. Adjacent to this deposit, a brick floor surface was excavated (Figure 2). The handmade nature of the individual bricks with makers stamps (Figure 3), next to a late Victorian deposit indicates either reuse or use of local materials in brick making as large-scale brick production was occurring during the latter Victorian period.



Figure 2 West facing photo of (107) floor surface, mid excavation.

Initial excavation of trench 1 revealed a simple build up layer (102) which was eventually extended to uncover (107). Context (105), the roughly-hewn stone blocks, were visible above the surface and so initial extension was to determine if a relationship between walls (103) and (105) existed. While some organic material was present, in the form of charcoal, animal bone and shell, there is little deviance from the pattern of high volumes of CBM and glass across the extensions of Trench 1. The weight of glass fragments recovered from Trench 1 totalled 1391g whilst CBM totalled 5667g.



Figure 3 Example of handmade brick from (107) with maker's 'B' mark

The original 7m x 2m area of Trench 1 consisted mainly of (102) which is thought to be a layer of earthen buildup of the 'castlestead' bank. It was very similar to (202) in consistency. As Trench 2 was cutting a section through the earlier bank, a limited sondage was excavated in the south portion of (102), to identify the depth of (105).

Any medieval features were likely destroyed by the intrusion of the construction of floor surface (107). As mentioned before, an extension to the east of trench 1 uncovered the brick floor surface (107) with an abutting demolition layer (106) that is probably later. This is likely the case due to the cut [113] for (106) following the direction of the bricks with no truncated or broken bricks present at the cut interface. Ferrous objects were also uncovered, probably in relation to the structure represented by (107) and (105) i.e., door handle or plate. Both (107) and (105) on further excavation were found to rest on a foundation layer of yellow clay (110).

5.2. Trench 2

Trench 2 was positioned to investigate the construction of the bank associated with the ringwork castles construction. Trench 2 measured 15m north-south, by 1m east-west. To facilitate safe working the trench was stepped in places, reaching a maximum

depth of 1.5m. The trench ran from the interior of the castle across the northern bank to outside. With the exception of slates and animal bone material from (211) the contexts in trench 2 were notably sterile of finds.

Natural subsoil was only encountered in the northern end of the trench, context (213), a dark orangey brown clay layer with no evidence of inclusions, and similar to the natural encountered in Trench 3 (305).

The earliest build up layer of the castle bank encountered appears to be (208), a large block of limestone on top of (213) and (210), a silty clay deposit with flint inclusions (Figure 5). The build-up of the bank appears to consist of deposition of natural silty clay material from the area around the castle. The northern section of the bank consists of at least four separate building deposits, from the base up these are contexts (210), (206), (204) and (202). It was notable that at the interface between some of these deposits, concentrations of limestone and flint inclusions were present, such as the northern interface between (204) and (206). Two specific concentrations of limestones were given individual context numbers. (203), which is likely to be a concentrated lens of stones within (202) on the southern part of the context, was not visible in the west facing section. Whereas (207) was a concentration of limestone encountered in the section between (204) and (206) (Figure 5). The contexts suggest that the bank was built up from a number of earthen layers with some smaller stone layers incorporated into the bank, perhaps for stability.

One of the aims of trench 2 was to investigate if a ditch was present outside the bank of the castle. A small feature, [217], was encountered in the northern most part of the trench. This contained a single silty fill (218) and appears to have been cut into the natural subsoil (213). The feature ran east to west across the trench with a north-south width of 1.52m, and a maximum depth of 0.42m, it has sloping sides and a concave irregular bottom. It is possible that this represented a boundary or drainage ditch associated with the castle. The silty nature of the fill would suggest the ditch gradually filled up over time rather than deliberate infilling.



Figure 4 Trench 2 looking north, context (215) present in the southern end of the trench.

In the southern part of the trench, the bank layer (204) ended on top of context (209). This context, like the bank layers, consisted of a silty clay material with notable charcoal inclusions, and slightly darker hue compared to the bank contexts. It is speculated given the level difference between the interior and northern exterior of the castle that (209) represents the building of the interior mound of the castle. The stratigraphy suggests that this was undertaken first with the bank layers then built up around the mound, to create the ringwork castle.

Within the southern part of the trench context (215) was excavated (Figure 4). This consisted of a 0.19m deep concentration of small river pebbles creating a metallated surface, very similar to (404) in trench 4. It is speculated that this may represent a metallated interior surface of the castle. The layer measured 1.97m north to south and continued into the southern section of the trench. It was notable that the stone pebbles were more concentrated in the southern part of the context and became more dispersed in the northern part. This could represent where the interior of the castle

used to cease and the earthen bank start. Currently the bank starts approximately 1m to the north of (215), suggesting the bank may have been eroded and weathered over time. Contexts (201) and the topsoil (200) may represent bank material that has been eroded and washed into the interior and down the northern slope of the bank.

Discovered on top of the metalled surface (215), were contexts (212) and (211), visible in the eastern facing section of the trench. Context (212) consisted of a clay layer on top of (215) approximately 0.2m deep. On top of (212) was (211), a concentration of burnt material including burnt roof slates and animal bone, with a very high frequency of large pieces of charcoal. The presence on top of the clay surface could suggest this represents a building that was burnt down. Initially, the presence just below the topsoil and Victorian activity in Trench 1 meant that this material was assumed to be Victorian as well. But its position just above (215) could suggest an older structure. This will be investigated further in the 2024 excavations.



Figure 5 West facing section of trench 2.

5.3. Trench 3

The primary aim of the trench was to evaluate the nature and preservation of archaeology associated with the medieval village. A previous survey suggested the presence of a track leading to the ringwork castle (LUAU 1997). The trench was therefore placed to cut across the track and investigate a negative geophysical anomaly identified close to the track (Evershed 2023).

In total the trench was 18m long, north to south and 2m wide east-west. The trench was further extended in the northern area, making it 4m wide to reveal the full extent of the geophysical anomaly (Figure 6).



Figure 6 photo of trench 3 in excavation Photo by A, Rumsey

The possible trackway feature was soon encountered after the removal of the topsoil (301) and subsoil (302 and 304). The trackway (303) consisted of a linear of tightly grouped stones, 2.1m wide and running east to west through the trench. The trackway varied in depth from 0.24m in the middle to 0.08m at the outer edges, creating a curve to the feature, assumably to allow for drainage. The track was relatively simple in construction consisting of tightly packed river worn stones (Figure 7), presumably from

the nearby Lowther river. The stones showed a great variance in size, ranging from 0.05m to 0.46m in diameter. During excavation of (303), nine pieces of pottery were discovered, spot dated to be possibly later medieval to Tudor period pottery. This could suggest the track remained in use and repair during this period. A cut for the trackway [312] was later identified in excavation, suggesting the feature was cut into the natural reddish clay subsoil (305). The trackway (303) can be seen to continue in trench 5 as context (503).



Figure 7 Trackway (303) looking south

To the south of the trackway a possible feature (308) was found to be superficial in nature following excavation and interpreted as a lens within (305), showing some slight sandy variation in the natural subsoil.

To the north of the trackway was the geophysical anomaly. This consisted of pit [310], which was oval in shape and measured 3.8m north-south and 3.1m east to west (Figure 6). Half sectioning of the pit showed it to have near vertical sides down to an irregular flat bottomed base, 0.45m deep. The pit had two fills, the bottom fill (309),

was notably silty compared to the top fill (307), however the interface between the two was not distinct. The pit did have a particular large stone, 1.3m long 0.32m wide and 0.44m deep, in the eastern part, which was within both fills (309) and (307) suggesting that the pit may have been filled in in one episode. The top fill (307) was approximately 0.38m deep and contained a large concentration of river stones, very similar to the trackway. The nature of this feature is unclear. It has been suggested that it could represent infill from the demolition of the village, however, finds from the feature are scant, with only a small amount of animal bone and some late-medieval green glazed pottery. Another possibility, given the proximity of the trackway is that it was built as a drying area for haystacks. Across Europe haystacks were built on platforms, sometimes stone in nature (Špulerová 2019). The stone foundations may have created a dry area, next to the trackway for the haystack to be built.

5.4. Trench 4

Trench 4 was placed across the entrance to the ringwork castle to evaluate the preservation of archaeology in this area. The trench was 5m long north-south and 2m wide east-west.



Figure 8 Trench 4 under excavation Photo by A, Rumsey

After removal of the topsoil (401) and subsoil (402), the main feature encountered was the metallated surface (404) (Figure 8). This layer was approximately 3.5m north-south and 2m east-west. The southwestern corner of the context had been disturbed by tree root activity. The context was a compacted greyish-brown silty-clay with frequent river stone inclusions. These stones range from 0.04 – 0.11m and were very similar to those found in (215). It is speculated that this context represents a metallated interior surface of the castle. If this is the case, this shows that the surface starts in the entranceway to the castle. Half-sectioning of (404) showed it to be between 0.20 and 0.15m deep. Under (404) was (406) a silty clay layer which was not excavated but appeared to be similar to the castle buildup layer (209).

To the north of (404) was (403), a clay buildup of the northern bank of the castle. This was very similar to context (202) and included a number of stone inclusions, perhaps as part of the bank buildup (Figure 9).



Figure 9 Trench 4 facing north.

5.5. Trench 5

Trench 5 was located on the route of a proposed cycle path by Lowther Gardens and Park Trust. It was to evaluate the presence of any archaeology along the proposed path including aspects of the medieval village. Unlike the other trenches, topsoil from trench 5 was removed by machine under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

The trench was 37m long and 2.4m wide, it was cut in a curve running north to south to match the path of the proposed cycle path. The majority of the trench was sterile of archaeology, revealing (505) a natural clay layer, similar to (305).



Figure 10 Trench 5 under excavation. Photo by A, Rumsey

Archaeology was present in the southern part of the trench with (502) and [503] representing a continuation of trackway (303). This measured 5.6m long and was 1.1m wide, north to south. It consisted of a large grouping of water worn stones, but these were less densely packed and contained gaps. The stones ranged from 0.06m to 0.25m in diameter and were predominantly made from limestone with traces of

sandstone and chalk. It was noticeable that the trackway in this trench was less well preserved compared to (303) (Figure 10). This part of the field is slightly higher and more exposed compared to trench 3, so it could be the trackway has become damaged over time.

In the northern most end of the trench, context (504) was revealed (Figure 11). This context consists of similar small sub-angular stones embedded in a mid-orange-brown silty clay. This layer is 3.7m north to south, 2.3m east to west and 0.05m deep. The stones are not as dense as the metallated surface identified in the castle, (215) and (404), but are of a similar size. It may be that this layer represents a slight metallated surface, perhaps a yard area. Or it may represent the remnants of an earlier path associated with the post-medieval landscaping of the Lowther grounds. Unfortunately, no finds were recovered from the context.



Figure 11 Trench 5 Context (504), facing west, scale longest 2m

6. Provisional conclusions

The trenches excavated in the 2023 season highlight the preservation of archaeology associated with the medieval ringwork castle and village. The archaeology will be investigated further in 2024 and 2025 with additional finds and environmental analysis to take place. They highlight;

- The ringwork castle is constructed from an interior mound of soil, with later layers of clay and local stones used to construct the banks. This is similar to the construction of ring work castles in Ireland (Arbuthnot 2011)
- The interior appears to have a metalled surface using river pebbles from the near by river Lowther.
- Later activity has taken place within the castle. There is evidence of a burnt structure in trench 2 on top of the metalled surface. There is the Victorian brick structure in trench 1, perhaps associated with later landscaping of the Lowther grounds.
- Trench 3 and 5 showed that the linear trackway identified in the previous surfaces is present, although preservation is variable. The trackway is a relevantly simple linear of stones and cobbles.
- Activity was taking place next the trackway with the presence of a negative feature on the geophysics confirmed through excavation. The current favoured interpretation of the feature is for drying a haystack.

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9. Appendix 1. Context summary

9.1. Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/Depth (m)	Interpretation
101	Layer	Mid greyish brown clayey silt. Stone and root inclusions	>7	>5	0.1 to 0.05	Topsoil
102	Layer	Light brownish red silty clay. Root inclusions	>7	2	0.6	Build-up of clay rampart
103	M	Dressed stone blocks with low grade mortar	1	0.5	0.5	Garden wall
104	Layer	Mid grey sandy silty gravel	1.5	1	0.15	Infill/levelling gravel
105	M	Roughly-hewn stone blocks with minimal mortar	0.2	2	0.4	Post-med reuse of wall blocks
106	Fill	Dark greyish brown gravelly clayey silt. Fill of [113].	>3	5	0.1	demolition rubble
107	Layer	Regular stretcher coursed brick floor surface	>2	3	0.1	19th Century floor of patio or summer house
108	Layer	Mid reddish brown clayey silt. Stone and root inclusions	>1	0.5	0.05	build up related to (102)
109	Layer	Dark reddish brown gravelly silty clay. Charcoal and mortar inclusions	>2	1	0.1	Possible post-med intrusion into medieval surface
110	Layer	Light greyish yellow fine sandy clay	>2	3	0.5	Foundation layer for (105) and (107)
111	Layer	Light greyish brown silty clay. Stone and root inclusions	>7	2	0.03	Subsoil
112	Layer	Very light brownish red clay	>2	0.2	No excavated	Possible levelling infill relating to (105)
113	Cut	Semi-circular cut that follows line of (107). Shallow.	1	5	0.2	Cut for (106)

9.2. Trench 2

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/Depth (m)	Interpretation
200	Layer	Dark grayish brown, silty topsoil	>15	>1	0.21	Natural topsoil
201	Layer	Mid-reddish brown silty clay	13.6	>1	0.12	Natural silting deposit from erosion of the bank
202	Layer	Mid Orngy brown silty clay, with small stone inclusions	3.46	>1	0.56	Topmost build-up layer of the bank
203	Layer	Deposit of irregular limestones	0.4	>1	0.25	Likely to be an inclusion lens in (202), one of the stone deposits as part of the bank build up
204	Layer	Mid Orngy brown sandy clay with occasional stones	7.78	>1	0.52	Layer in the bank build-up, below (202)
205	Layer	Dark Orngy brown clay layer with stone inclusions	4	>1	0.2	Bank build up layer below 201 and above 209
206	Layer	Mid reddish brown clay layer abutts a band of stones (207)	2.3	>1	1	Bank build-up layer against stones (207), below (204) and above (210).
207	Layer	Stone packing layer. Limestone, Largest stones 0.45x0.20m, smallest 0.1x0.1m	0.4	>1	0.45	Stone packing layer for bank build-up
208	Layer	Stone packing layer, Limestone.	1.2	>1	>0.38	Below layer 206 and above clay layer 210. Stone layer in bank build-up
209	Layer	Mid reddish clay with charcoal inclusions. In the southern part of the trench	4.7	>1	>0.2	Possibly the build-up layer for the interior of the 'castlestead'.
210	Layer	Mid reddish-brown, silty clay, with flint inclusions	2.6	>1	0.6	One of the initial bank build-up layers, below (206)
211	Layer	Burnt gravel and clay layer in southern end of the trench	0.9	>1	0.2	Burnt layer just below topsoil, possible remains of a Victorian structure
212	Layer	Mid-reddish brown compact clay layer in southern end of trench	1.5	>1	0.2	Possible surface just below the burnt layer (211)
213	Layer	Dark orangish brown clay layer, in the northern end of trench	1.8	>1	>0.15	Natural clay layer outside of the 'Castlestead' cut by [217], and same as (216)
214	Cancelled	Same as 218				
215	Layer	Dark Grayish brown gravelly deposit, mostly small rounded stones	1.97	>1	0.19	Possible medieval metallated surface, very similar to (404)

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/Depth (m)	Interpretation
216	Cancelled	Same as (213)				
217	Cut	Concave linear cut in the northern end of trench, filled with (218), cuts (216) and (213)	>1	1.52	0.42	Possible drainage gully at the bottom of the 'Castlestead' bank, cut into the natural clay
218	Fill	Light Reddish brown, with some stone inclusions. Fills [217]	>1	1.52	0.42	Fill of possible drainage gully [217]

9.3. Trench 3

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
301	Layer	Soft, Dark Brown, Clayey Silt, Very Occasional Stones with Charcoal and Coal Present – thickness varies across trench length	18	2	0.2	Topsoil
302	Layer	Friable Soft, Mid Reddish Brown Silty Clay, Very Occasional Stones – Covers Full length of trench, during excavation discovered (302) = (304)	10.31	2	0.06	Subsoil = (304)
303	Layer	Friable, Dark reddish brown silty clay, very frequent stones, medieval trackway made up of various stones and stone types	2.1	2	0.24	Medieval Trackway
304	Cut	Friable Soft, Mid Reddish Brown Silty Clay, Very Occasional Stones – Covers Full length of trench, during excavation discovered (304) = (302)	5.2	2	0.06	Sub Soil = (302)
305	Layer	Compact firm light reddish brown silty clay with moderate stones and occasional charcoal	18	2	No excavated	Primary Layer of Trench Below Sub Soil

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/ depth (m)	Interpretation
306	Fill	Compact firm light reddish brown sandy silty clay with frequent charcoal and moderate yellow sandy patches – Later described as a lens within (305)	1.8	0.63	0.1	Primary Fill of Possible Feature
307	Fill	Soft Friable mid reddish brown silty sandy clay with very frequent large to medium stones – came up as geophysical anomaly	2.5	2.88	0.38	Primary Fill of Geophysical Anomaly
308	Layer	Firm friable light greenish yellow clayey silt with moderate stones and occasional green patches – possible layer created up of natural layer due to similarities	1.58	1.88	0.03	Possible Feature
309	Fill	Compact Firm reddish brown silty clay with frequent stones and occasional coal and charcoal	2.3	2.7	0.16	Fill Below (307) Of Geo. Anomaly
310	Cut	Circular (only a quarter excavated), East to west orientation, vertical straight profile, poor clarity of edge.	3.8	3.1	0.45	Cut Of Geo. Phys. Anomaly
311	Cut	Rectangular, parallel to trench edge, North to South orientation, vertical profile, diffuse clarity of edge	1.88	1.01	0.11	Cut Of Possible Feature (308)
312	Cut	Linear cut, parallel to trench edge north south orientation, vertical profile with diffuse clarity of edge	3.25	1	0.24	Cut Of Feature (303)
313	Fill	Compact yellow brown sandy clay with gravel and occasional small stones, believed natural layer	1.5	2.8	No excavated	Fill Of Feature (307), Below (309)

9.4. Trench 4

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/ depth (m)	Interpretation
401	Layer	Friable light greyish brown clayey silt. Some stone inclusions.	>5	>2	0.18	Topsoil.
402	Layer	Friable orangey brown clay silt. Some stone inclusions.	>5	>2	0.18	Subsoil.
403	Layer	Compact orangey brown clay. Stone and charcoal inclusions.	>2.1	2	No excavated	Build up of earthen bank.
404	Layer	Compact greyish brown silty clay. Frequent river stone inclusions.	>5	>2	0.19	Cobbled metalled surface.
405		Cancelled				
406	Layer	Firm mid orange brown silty clay. Some subangular stone inclusions.	>5	>1	No excavated	Made ground beneath metalled surface.

9.5. Trench 5

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/ depth (m)	Interpretation
500	Layer	Friable greyish brown clayey silt. No inclusions.	37	2.4	0.2	Topsoil.
501	Layer	Friable dark orangey clay. Some small stone inclusions,	37	2.4	0.14	Subsoil.
502	Fill	Friable dark orangey brown silty clay. 90% subangular stone inclusions.	5.6	1.1	No excavated	Fill of road cut.
503	Cut	Irregular curving shallow cobbled road.	5.6	1.1	No excavated	Cobbled Road.
504	Layer	Firm mid orange brown silty clay. Some small and rounded subangular stone inclusions.	3.7	2.3	0.05	Possible surface/ trackway.
505	Layer	Firm/ friable browney orange silty clay. Occasional rounded subangular stone inclusions.	37	2.3	No excavated	Natural clay layer.