

# The Globe Field 2024

## Trench 1/4: Stratigraphic Narrative (October 2024)

### The Phasing

The phasing developed in 2023 for Trench 1/4 has been revised:

2024	2023 final	2023 working	provisional dating	notes
1	1	1a	Early 7 <sup>th</sup> century	Cereal processing
2			Late 7 <sup>th</sup> (into 8 <sup>th</sup> ?) century	Metalworking
3a	2	1b	8 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> century	Structure at cemetery focus?
3b			Late 8 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> century	Child burials
3c			8 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> century	N-S adult burial
4	3	1c	10 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> century	Erosion and partial fill of gully
5	4	2	11 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> century	Early cultivation
6	5	3	Late 11 <sup>th</sup> – early 12 <sup>th</sup> century	Drystone walls
7a	6a	4a	12 <sup>th</sup> century	Lower upslope cultivation soils
7b	6b	4b	12 <sup>th</sup> – early 13 <sup>th</sup> century	Higher upslope cultivation soils
7c	6c	4c	13 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> century	Downslope cultivation soils
8	7	5	14 <sup>th</sup> century	Collapse of N-S wall
9	8	6	18 <sup>th</sup> century	Earlier post-medieval soils
10	9	7	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Post-medieval drains
11	10	8	20 <sup>th</sup> century	20 <sup>th</sup> century cultivation
12	11	9	20 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> century	Abandonment

*Table 1: comparison of 2023 and 2024 phasing for Trench 1/4*

## Radiocarbon dating

The dating of Trench 1/Trench 4 has now been investigated by a total of 21 radiocarbon determinations:

Phase	nature	material	source	lab no.	date	error	2-sigma
1	in-situ	<i>Triticum aestivum/turgidum</i>	TGF24 - (4074)	Beta-705088	1420	30	591-660 (95.4%)
1	in-situ?	<i>Triticum aestivum/turgidum</i>	TGF23 - (181) <18>	Beta-689607	1410	30	596-664 (95.4%)
2	in-situ	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	TGF23 - (167) <12>	UBA-53272	1329	21	653-690 (59.7%), 696-703 (2.9%), 741-773 (37.4)
3	residual from Phase 2	<i>Acer campestre</i>	TGF23 - (150) <9>	UBA-53270	1333	23	651-690 (62.4%), 696-703 (2.8%), 741-773 (34.8)
5	residual from Phase 2	<i>Prunus</i> sp. ( <i>P. spinosa/domestica</i> type)	TGF23 - (161)	UBA-53271	1345	23	647-688 (78%), 699-701 (0.2%), 742-762 (16.7%), 764-772 (5.1%)
4	residual from Phase 2	cf. <i>Cornus</i>	TGF23 - (169) <14>	UBA-53273	1335	23	651-690 (64.9%), 696-703 (2.3%), 741-773 (32.8%)
4	residual from Phase 2?	cf. Maloideae	TGF23 - (182) <20>	UBA-53274	1233	25	685-742 (31.4%), 762-764 (0.2%), 772-776 (1.8%), 782-881 (66.6)
3b	in-situ	rib from infant burial	TGF23 SK23-1 (164)	Beta-682558	1200	30	706-736 (4.9%), 770-894 (88.3%), 928-944 (2.1%)
3c	residual from Phase 3b	redeposited infant skull, nr left shoulder SK5	TGF24 SK24-1	Beta-703359	1240	30	679-746 (39.6%), 758-880 (55.8%)
3c	residual from Phase 3b	redeposited infant skull, over right upper arm SK5	TGF24 SK24-3	Beta-703360	1210	30	702-740 (9.5%), 770-892 (85.9%)
3b	in-situ	infant skull in grave [4107]/[4108]	TGF24 SK24-6	Beta-703362	1160	30	772-790 (10.2%), 804-810 (1.3%), 820-978 (83.9%)
3b	in-situ	infant skull from grave [4063]	TGF24 SK24-8	Beta-703363	1170	30	772-900 (73.7%), 916-974 (21.7%)
3b	in-situ	infant skull by feet of SK11	TGF24 SK24-12	Beta-705087	1160	30	772-790 (10.2%), 804-810 (1.3%), 820-978 (83.9%)
3c	in-situ	adult skeleton in grave [4060]	TGF24 SK24-5	Beta-703361	1200	30	706-736 (4.9%), 770-894 (88.3%), 928-944 (2.1%)
4	residual from Phase 3	disarticulated femur	TGF23 - (169)	Beta-682559	1210	30	702-740 (9.5%), 770-892 (85.9%)
4	in-situ or intrusive from Phase 5	<i>Triticum aestivum/turgidum</i>	TGF23 - (168) <13>	UBA-53269	991	24	995-1006 (6.8%), 1016-1050 (43.5%), 1080-1153 (49.7%)
5	in-situ or intrusive from Phase 7a	<i>Triticum aestivum/turgidum</i>	TGF23 - (136) <2>	UBA-53267	988	26	995-1006 (5.5%), 1014-1051 (39.2%), 1079-1155 (55.2%)
5	intrusive from Phase 7a/b	<i>Triticum aestivum/turgidum</i>	TGF23 - (124) <01>	Beta-689605	850	30	1054-1059 (1%), 1156-1266 (94.4%)
2	intrusive from Phase 7c	<i>Triticum aestivum/turgidum</i>	TGF23 - (167) <12>	Beta-689606	740	30	1225-1298 (95.4%)
7c	in-situ?	<i>Triticum aestivum/turgidum</i>	TGF23 - (151) <10>	UBA-53268	652	22	1285-1323 (45.3%), 1356-1391 (54.7%)
7c	in-situ	<i>Triticum aestivum/turgidum</i>	TGF23 - (129) <8>	UBA-53266	648	21	1287-1323 (43.7%), 1355-1392 (56.3%)

## The Site

The pre-excavation topography of Trench 4 rises from 34.2m AOD to the west to 37.0m along the NE edge. The surface at the S corner of the E arm lies at 36.46m, the adjacent corner of Trench 1 (1m to the SW) lay at 36.26m and the S corner of Trench 1 at 35.58m. Thus, the long N section of Trench 4 shows a rise of 2.80m (over 25.75m) and the combined S section of trenches 1 and 4 a rise of 1.42m (over 10.25m).

The 'natural' is represented over most of Trench 4 by an orangey-yellow clay. Only in the SE corner of the site has the weathered Jurassic bedrock been encountered (alternating limestones and shales of the Lower Jurassic Porthkerry Member of the Blue Lias Formation).

## Phase 1: cereal-processing

The earliest identified activity on the site appears to be associated with an as-yet unexcavated cereal drying kiln or kilns. A significant area (approximately 2m x 1m thus far) of deeply heated-affected natural clay was identified below the Phase 3b infant cemetery. It is currently uncertain whether this relates to a single underlying feature. In the southern part of grave [4060] the reddened clay was directly overlain by a pocket of carbonised grain (context (4074); sampled and the source of a radiocarbon date on a grain of cal. AD 591-660). Elsewhere in the infant cemetery, the grave fills contained abundant carbonised grain, suggesting disturbance of a wider layer during the digging of the graves. The nature of the 'gully' [180] is unclear: it might be part of the cereal kiln, or might be another feature cutting it.

**Dating:** The grain deposit (4074) produced a date of (Beta-705087, 1420+/-30 BP, 591-660 (95.4%)).

The only other date from Phase 1 is from sample TGF23 <18> from fill (181), with a radiocarbon determination on a grain of wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum*; Beta – 689607; 1410BP +/- 30) of cal. AD 596-664 (95.4%). Context (181) was recorded as the fill of 'gully' [180] in 2023. The stratigraphy of that area is now known to be more complex than understood in 2023; cut [180] may perhaps be a gully, possibility even the flue of a corn drier, but it cannot be excluded that the sampled material may have derived from the fill of an intersecting grave. The abundance of wheat in sample <18> makes it highly likely the wheat was derived from the cereal kiln, either directly or indirectly.

## Phase 2: metalworking

No Phase 2 features were excavated during the 2024 season, but a large area was excavated down to the top of what are interpreted as the deposits of this phase, to prepare for the 2025 season.

To the west of the metalworking area, the infant graves were dug through a body of clay-rich sediment with abundant charcoal flecks (context (4114)). This context was not excavated in a way that allowed clear separation of finds, because it was cut by so many subtle grave cuts. To the S of the cemetery, contexts (4079), (4084) and (4092), and within the cemetery context (4088) probably include much from this context, but are mostly cleaning layers and incorporated the tops of the fills of cut features. To the north of the cemetery, context (4077) probably overlay it (but some inclusion is possible).

Context (4114) appears to have accumulated in a slight, broad, hollow downslope of the metalworking area, and may represent hillwash from that area, although a charcoal source associated with the cereal kiln cannot be excluded.

**Dating:** this phase is only currently dated directly through dates from one feature, hearth [186], the fill (167) of which was dated with two radiocarbon determinations, one on a grain of wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum*; Beta – 689606; 740BP +/- 30) of cal. AD 1225-1298 (95.4%) and one on charcoal (*Corylus avellana*, Common Hazel; UBA-53272; 1329BP +/- 21) of cal. AD 653-690 (59.7%), 696-703 (2.9%), 741-773 (37.4). The earlier date is accepted here, with the wheat grain regarded as intrusive. A suite of similar radiocarbon dates has been obtained on three samples from Phase 4 contexts (contexts (150), (169) and (182)) and one from the base of a Phase 5 context (161), which are suggestive of charcoal derived from the Phase 2 activity:

Charcoal of *Acer campestre*, TGF23 context (150) sample <9>: UBA-53270, 1333 +/- 23 BP, calibrates to cal. AD 651-690 (62.4%), 696-703 (2.8%), 741-773 (34.8).

Charcoal of *Prunus* sp. (*P. spinosa/domestica* type), TGF23 context (161): UBA-53271, 1345 +/- 23 BP calibrates to cal. AD 647-688 (78%), 699-701 (0.2%), 742-762 (16.7%), 764-772 (5.1%).

Charcoal of cf. *Cornus*, TGF23 context(169) sample <14>: UBA-53273, 1335 +/- 23 BP, calibrates to cal. AD 651-690 (64.9%), 696-703 (2.3%), 741-773 (32.8%).

Charcoal of cf. Maloideae, TGF23 context (182) sample <20>: UBA-53274, 1233 +/- 25 BP, calibrates to cal. AD 685-742 (31.4%), 762-764 (0.2%), 772-776 (1.8%), 782-881 (66.6).

The remarkable consistency of most of the first three of these determinations indicates that the metalworking area continued to supply charcoal into the surrounding environment long after the end of the activity. It is unclear whether the last of these

dates is also a reworked piece of charcoal from the metalworking Phase 2, or is later, and from the burial Phase 3. Either way, it is likely to be residual within context (182). Bayesian modelling of the dates from this phase suggest that it probably started between AD637 and AD677 and finished between AD656 and AD711. These estimates are likely to change when the Phase 2 deposits are dug during 2025.

## Phase 3: burial

### Phase 3 undivided:

Away from the child cemetery, a conventionally-orientated adult inhumation was found in the SE of the area. This skeleton (SK24-9) lay in an extremely shallow grave, probably truncated by erosion during Phase 4. This grave will be investigated further in 2025. SK24-9 was only partially lifted (and will be completed in 2025). The skeleton was probably that of a male aged 25-50 and was in a poor state of preservation

**Dating:** further indication of erosion of graves in this area during Phase 4 is provided by two femora from context (169) (the basal part of the Phase 4 deposits, but probably derived from a Phase 3 burial, in Trench 1), one of which gave a data of cal. AD 700-740 (9.5%) / 770-900 (85.9%) (Beta-682559; 1210 +/- 30 BP).

### *Phase 3a: the structure?*

The Phase 3b graves are clustered to the E and SE of a line of large stone blocks. These have yet to be excavated, but are tentatively interpreted as pre-existing feature that provided focus to Phase 3b.

### Phase 3b: infant inhumations

There are 11 or 12 possible graves known from this phase: three unexcavated ([4080], [4091] and [4110]), one certain and two possible excavated but without surviving human remains ([4056], [4102] and [4112]), three excavated with partial survival of an individual ([4063], [4105] and [4108]), one excavated with almost complete survival of an individual ([165]), and one excavated with partial survival of two individuals ([4101]; most likely there was an unrecognised second cut). There were 4 substantial skull fragments (SK2, SK3, SK4 and SK7) in the later adult grave [4060] that were sufficiently out of position that they cannot be related to pre-existing graves, and one (SK1/10) that is probably only slightly displaced, if at all, from its position in grave [4101].

The 'EW' graves are actually oriented towards 060° grid and the NS example towards 330° grid (for comparison, the adjacent stream is oriented 336° grid, the southern side of the churchyard 066° grid, the local contour lines 337° grid and the axis of the medieval church is towards 077° grid). Of the infant graves, 3 are head to the W and 1 (possibly 2) head to the E. Two of the graves ([4107]/[4108] and [4063]) show sub-vertical limestone slabs set both at the foot and head of the grave, whilst one (grave [4056]) shows a slab only at the west, presumably the head).

### **Summary of graves:**

N group (in N to S order):

Grave [4090]: unexcavated, except for removal of upper layer of white limestone pebbles (context (4089)). The pebble deposit was constrained by a series of small slabs of rock, providing a low kerb, It extended over an area of 0.85m by 0.40m. The grave fill appears to extend 0.27m E the E kerb (perhaps as a posthole?).

Grave [4091]: unexcavated. 0.92m x 0.45m with a narrower eastern extension 0.40m long that appears to be associated with a large amount of stone (potentially a posthole).

E row (in N to S order):

Grave [165], excavated in 2023, containing SK23-1 (dated to cal. AD706-736 (4.9%), 770-894 (88.3%), 928-944 (2.1%); Beta-682558, 1200+/-30 BP). The cut was c.0.90m x 0.45m at top of natural, 0.85m long and 0.30m wide near base. The remains (context 164) were head to west, supine and dated to. 1.5 – 2.5 years of age. The feet were overlain in part by posthole [172]. The fill was context (163)

Grave [4056], partially excavated in 2023 as cut [171] with fill (170), excavation was completed in 2024 (fill (4055)). There were no preserved human remains. A vertical slab lay at the W end of grave, The overall cut dimensions were 1.00m x 0.43m, with the floor of the grave approximately 0.71m long.

Grave [4063], excavated in 2024. This contained SK24-8 (dated to cal. AD 772-900 (73.7%), 916-974 (21.7%)), head to the E, represented by a partial skull and bones of one leg. The skull shows evidence for *cribra orbitalia*. The age estimate is 10.5 months - 1.5 years. The grave shows vertical slabs, separate by 0.80m at both feet and head. The cut was 1.0m x 0.33m at the highest level of identification.

Grave [4110] has not been excavated. It measures 0.98m x 0.45m. At the level of excavation there was no indication of stone slabs.

W row (in N to S order):

Grave [4105], containing SK24-13 (represented by leg bones) has only been partially excavated. The margins of the grave have proved hard to locate, possibly because it is within the core of an earlier kiln.

Grave [4101], is also poorly known and only partially excavated. The legs of SK24-11 were identified in the centre of the cut. They were in an appropriate position to be associated with redeposited skull fragments SK24-1 and SK24-10. The west end of the grave has been truncated by grave [4060]. On tracing the grave eastwards to locate the feet, skull SK24-12 was located (dated to Cal. AD 772-790 (10.2%), 804-810 (1.3%), 820-978 (83.9%)). The orientation of the grave containing this skull is not known (it could even be the NW trending 'gully' [180]).

Grave [4107]/[4108] was also truncated by grave [4060], but both west (cut [417] and east [4108] ends survived with skeletal remains (SK24-6; dated to cal. AD 772-790 (10.2%), 804-810 (1.3%), 820-978 (83.9%)) and stone blocks (separated by 0.80m). The overall cut measures 1.10m x 0.29m.

Grave? [4103] extends to the E of where it is truncated by grave [4060]. It contained no preserved human remains. Its fill contained a small region (possibly a reworked soil clump) containing a mass of fish bones.

Grave? [4112] extends to the E of where it is truncated by grave [4060]. It contained no preserved human remains. The E part of the cut contained a large, inclined slab of stone.

**Dating:** dating of this phase is provided by six radiocarbon determinations, four of which are on in-situ infant/child burials (SK23-1, SK24-6, SK24-8 and SK24-12) and two on infant/child skulls (SK24-1, SK24-3) that appear to have been redeposited within the Phase 3c adult grave [4060].

SK23-1, Beta-682558, 1200+/-30BP, Cal. AD 706-736 (4.9%), 770-894 (88.3%), 928-944 (2.1%)

SK24-1, Beta-703359, 1240+/-30 BP, Cal. AD 679-746 (39.6%), 758-880 (55.8%)

SK24-3, Beta-703360, 1210+/-30 BP, Cal. AD 702-740 (9.5%), 770-892 (85.9%)

SK24-6, Beta-703362, 1160+/-30 BP, Cal. AD 772-790 (10.2%), 804-810 (1.3%), 820-978 (83.9%)

SK24-8, Beta-703363, 1170+/-30 BP, Cal. AD 772-900 (73.7%), 916-974 (21.7%)

SK24-12, Beta-705087, 1160+/-30 BP, Cal. AD 772-790 (10.2%), 804-810 (1.3%), 820-978 (83.9%)

In addition, the cross-cutting grave (Sk24-5 in [4060] has also been dated, providing a *terminus ante quem* for the western half of the cemetery as it is currently understood (see below). Modelling of these dates suggests that Phase 3b started between AD728 and AD865 and finished between AD778 and AD890 (most likely starting between AD760 and AD830 and that it finished between AD780 and AD860); it was probably immediately followed by Phase 3c, although it cannot be excluded that infant burial in the E row continued after the Phase 3c adult burial.

### Phase 3c: adult inhumation in the area of the former child cemetery

This phase presently includes a single adult burial (orientated NS with head to the N) that post-dates at least the western row of the Phase 3b infant/child burials. The grave not only included adult skeleton SK24-5, but also several large pieces, some possibly complete, of infant/child skulls (SK24-1, SK24-2, SK24-3, SK24-4, SK24-7, SK24-10). Fragments SK24-1 and SK24-10 lay by the left side of the head of SK24-5, fragment SK24-7 by the left shoulder and SK24-3 by the right shoulder, fragments SK SK24-2 and SK SK24-4 lay over the lower torso above the flexed left forearm of SK SK24-5. The grave cut [4060] intersected graves [4101] and [4107]/[4108]. It also cut possible graves [4103] and [4112]. This means that it intersected all the probable graves in the western row of child burials except or the northern example (grave 4105) which is not yet fully excavated. Thus, the grave of SK24-5 contained six substantial skull fragments and cut one infant grave containing a skull, one infant grave without a skull and two possible graves with no preserved bone.

**Dating:** dating of this phase is provided by a radiocarbon determination on a skull fragment from SK24-5 (Beta-703361, 1200+/-30BP, cal. AD706-736 (4.9%), 770-894 (88.3%), 928-944 (2.1%)). Infant remains (see above) also provide a series of radiocarbon dates that act as a *terminus post quem* for this burial. Bayesian modelling of Phase 3c, on the assumption that it postdates all the graves of Phase 3b, has a long range, but the most likely date would be approximately between AD845 and AD890.

#### **Summary of grave:**

Grave [4060] contained a more-or-less complete skeleton of a possible male with an age range of 17-35 (probably 20-30). The burial was NS, head to the N. The grave was slightly irregular (perhaps because of the gravedigger avoiding at least some of the earlier child burials). The body is in a position suggestive of having been shrouded, legs bent lightly to the right, right arm extended but left arm flexed across the pelvis, and the skull tilted forwards towards the chest.

### Phase 4: abandonment

Phase 4 apparently comprises two distinct events: the incision of a 'palaeochannel' across the southern end of the site and then its subsequent infilling. The nature of the palaeochannel is very poorly understood at present. It is not possible to exclude that it might have evolved through erosion on the margins of a pre-existing ditch.

Only a very limited examination of phase 4 contexts was made in 2024. The southern part of Trench 4 showed a stone deposit (4085) extending over the expected location of the 'palaeochannel' identified in 2023. This stone deposit is tentatively correlated with the stone fills found in 2023 in Trench 1 (156) and (182) which were complementary in



their distribution and possibly represent a single deposit that accumulated on the eastern slope of the palaeochannel. Their absence in the western part of the Trench 1 could either be as a result of erosion during Phase 7, or a result of an original dump of stone focussed on the area of Trench 4, that did not extend so far west.

**Dating:** dating of Phase 4 remains imprecise. There are no certainly in-situ dated materials. The erosion of the palaeochannel must post-date the Phase 3 graves, including that which must have originally contained the dated femur described above (Beta-682559; 1210 +/- 30 BP, cal. AD 700-740 (9.5%) / 770-900 (85.9%)).

The date on a grain from context (168) (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum*; UBA-53269; 991BP +/- 24) of cal. AD 995-1006 (6.8%), 1016-1050 (43.5%), 1080-1153 (49.7%) might be relevant, but this grain is similar in age to a grain from context (136) of Phase 5 (cal. AD 995-1006 (5.5%), 1014-1051 (39.2%), 1079-1155 (55.2%); UBA-53267, 988BP +/-26) and so it may be intrusive.

Phase 4 deposits commonly contain charcoal, two samples of which (from contexts (150) and (169)) gave dates very close to those of samples from the Phase 2 metalworking. A third, from context (182), produced a radiocarbon date on charcoal (cf. *Maloideae*; Hawthorn/Apple/Rowan; UBA-53274; 1233BP +/- 25) of cal. AD 685-742 (31.4%), 762-764 (0.2%), 772-776 (1.8%), 782-881 (66.6), that is later than the other Phase 2 dates. This date could just possibly be contemporary with Phase 4, but is more likely to be derived, since it is likely to be older than that of the redeposited femur.

## Phase 5: cultivation?

Certain correlation of Phase 5 deposits became more difficult in 2024 as excavation moved further from the locations of the Phase 6 walls. New evidence from 2024 includes an assemblage of pottery from context (4059) below wall (131)/(4031).

Uphill and downslope of wall (113)/(114) (=4013)/(4014) the lateral drystone walls, (112)/(4012) and (131)/(4031) respectively, passed rapidly into shallow spreads of small stone; no large stone footings were present more than 4.7m downslope or 2.0m upslope.

On the upslope side, wall (112)/(4012) became replaced in its course by spread (4032) which overlay soil (4030). Close to the line of the wall there was a significant accumulation of both pottery and bone in this context. Deposit (4030) overlay visually similar deposit (4037), which in turn lay on the heavy stone deposit (4085), the upper fill of the palaeochannel. Thus, it would appear that (4037) or (4037) plus (4030) should be considered the Phase 5 deposits in the SE of Trench 4.

To the N of this area, contexts (4047) and (4035) occupied a similar part of the stratigraphy but overlying the dark slaggy deposits of the Phase 2 smithy, rather than the

palaeochannel. In the area of the Phase 6 soakaway, the dark soil between the stone surface of the soakaway and the adjacent walls was designated as (4044) and may thus be a Phase 5 deposit. However, it is possible that this area, presumably not cultivated in Phase 7, was also left uncultivated in Phase 5.

## Phase 6: drystone walls and enclosure

The 2024 season added no new information about the main drystone wall enclosure system, except for the extension of wall (113)/(4013) to the northern margin of trench 4.

Additional features were, however, added to this phase, suggesting the presence of

In the NE of the trench, two additional features were located: wall (4046) and oval stone surface (4045). Wall (4046) appears to extend 2.2m E of wall (4013) and was seen turning north for 0.9m. It is likely that this represents the southern end of a narrow structure, running northwards out of the excavated area. A gap of 1.3m separates this return from a stone spread (4041) to the east, that might, perhaps, be another degraded wall line. To the south of wall (4046) was an oval stone feature, with a coarse stone fill (4045) in a basin-like cut [4058]. This is interpreted as a soakaway.

On the downslope side of the NS wall, wall (131)/(4031) survived for around 4.75m. In this area, the upper surface of a square stone soakaway (cut [4050], with fills (4053) and (4038)) was preserved at the same level as the base of the adjacent walls, suggesting it too had been constructed at the same time.

The two soakaways may represent small areas of hardstanding for tethered animals.

In the western of the trench, wall (131)/(4031) ceased to be a solid structure on the margin of the former Trench 1, perhaps where it passes west of the hollow associated with the earlier (Phase 1 and 3) cut features. In the western arm of the trench, a rubble spread (4069) passed northwards perpendicular to the line of wall (131)/(4031). This had sharp margins, but at depth only continued downwards as stone on its western side. These stone overlay deposits with well-preserved 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century pottery. Whilst they may indicate a now lost Phase 6 wall, equally they could just represent stone dumped between cultivation plots in Phase 7c.

A second, and just possibly a third, parallel line of stone was found to the west, but was not fully investigated in 2024.

## Phase 7: arable farming

### *Phase 7a/7b*

The absence of a lateral stone wall to the E of the main N-S wall should be related to later erosion. The details will be examined through investigation of the pottery contained in the adjoining contexts, but the stone spread (4032) was visible immediately below the thin later post-medieval deposits (at the same depth as drain [4008] became visible).

This suggests that contexts 4029, 4028, 4027 (and possibly 4030) should be Phase 7a, with 4025, 4021, 4010, 4007, 4020 probably of Phase 7b.

To the NE of the site, deposit (4061) lay within the presumed building. Otherwise, stony deposit (4011) was recorded as overlying the certain medieval contexts. It is unclear to what extent (4011) includes medieval deposits (Phase 7b) and to what extent post-medieval deposits (Phase 9 or later).

**Dating:** all the contexts mentioned above yielded 11-13<sup>th</sup> century pottery. Context (4025) produced a halfpenny of Henry III (1216-1247), context (4026) a possibly early medieval strap-end and context (4029) a socketed iron arrowhead

### *Phase 7c*

In the western of the trench, wall (131)/(4031) ceased to be a solid structure on the line of the margin of the former Trench 1, perhaps where it passes west of the hollow associated with the earlier (Phase 1 and 3) cut features. In the western arm of the trench, a rubble spread (4069) passed northwards perpendicular to the line of wall (131)/(4031). This had sharp margins, but at depth only continued downwards as stone on its western side. These stone overlay deposit (4071) with well-reserved 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century pottery. Whilst they may indicate a now lost Phase 6 wall, equally they could just represent stone dumped between cultivation plots in Phase 7c.

A second, and just possibly a third, parallel line of stone was found to the west, but was not fully investigated in 2024.

Between the first and second areas of stone, the soft soil (4071) overlay features ([4064] with fill (4065) and [4066] with fill (4067)) initially thought to be pits, but probably just minor shallow patches of a darker soil near or at the base of the medieval deposits.

East of the stone line, deposit (4048), overlying (4077) formed the basal medieval deposits. (4077) overlay possible furrow [4083] with darker fill (4082). (4077) also overlay some darker deposits noticeably rich in bone (4087). These lay on the probable natural and appeared in small pockets (perhaps like (4065) and (4067) to the west which were initially thought to be pits but resolved into very shallow patches of darker soil).

This area was challenging, because the base of the medieval cultivation rested directly on truncated natural, potentially with much earlier cut features.

Interpretation of this area is complicated. It cannot be excluded that the 'furrow' is actually an early medieval feature, but if medieval then it is not quite parallel to the downslope wall. Nonetheless it is possible that it indicates ploughing, or plots, running E-W. However, even the immediately overlying deposits show the N-S accumulations of stone – suggesting stone picking from NS plots. It is possible that the switch in orientation is associated with loss of the main wall in the 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century, Phase 8, but it requires further dating evidence.

**Dating:** these contexts contained a rich assemblage of medieval pottery.

### Phase 8: collapse of the drystone walls

The major spread of stone recognised in 2023 was represented by two deposits in 2024. To the south of wall (131)/(4031) the major prism of stone was designated (4024). This heavy stone deposits overlay (4033), which in turn overlay (4036), a very dark soil. It is unclear if (4036) genuinely post-dates the soakaway or is part of the substrate the soakaway was cut into.

To the north of wall (131)/(4031) rubble spread (4043) was not as substantial as (4024), but is likely to have been of similar origin.

### Phase 9: post-med pastoral land-use

The post-medieval drain [4017]/[4019] was cut into dark soils (4020) and (4042). These appear to have overlain rubble spread (4043), but it is possible the lower part (context (4042)) may be an underlying medieval deposit.

### Phase 10: drainage

Two drains were excavated: drain [4017]/[4019] running N-S in the central part of the area and drain [4008] in the SE with an E-W orientation.

Drain [4008] was 800-900mm in width, narrowing to just 60mm at the western margin of the trench. Its base was at 36.70m AOD near the eastern edge of the trench and 36.46m AOD near the western edge. It was approximately 250mm deep and had a stony fill, with very large blocks present (to over 400mm) in the western side of the trench. The sides were steep (particularly to the north) and the base flat to slightly concave. This drain did not appear in Trench 1 and comparison of the height data suggest that it was

probably truncated by the base of the topsoil in the unexcavated section between the trenches.

**Dating:** the drains appear related to subdivision of the Globe Field as shown on the tithe Map of c. 1840: drain [4017]/[4019] corresponds approximately to the boundary between plots 670 to the east and 671 to the west, while to the S the boundary between those two plots and 697 is approximately parallel to drain [4008] but 23m to its S. By the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS of 1878. The line of drain [4017]/[4019] was no longer a boundary, and plot 697 became a garden attached to the Hayes (presumably under lease). Associated pottery appears to date no earlier than the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, thus the drains are likely to have been constructed before 1840, and probably in the period 1750-1800.

### Phase 11: recent land-use

Cultivation in the 20<sup>th</sup> century is well documented through aerial and other imagery, and is also recognisable within the geophysical data, but has not yet been identified within the stratigraphy of the site, except as a contributing factor to the development of the deep topsoil.

### Phase 12: abandonment

The modern topsoil (4000) represents an almost stone-free layer that has probably developed since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century in the absence of cultivation.