

Shootinglee – an update 2016

During the previous season a series of trenches revealed a substantial 1.2M thick clay-bonded stone wall standing to circa 1M which formed the N end of Building 2 at the N end of the row of buildings. The W wall of this was more ruinous: a result of stone robbing and forestry ploughing. At the S end of the site was another building with a 1.1M thick clay-bonded stone wall running E-W. This wall has a curved corner at the E end and overlays a cobbled surface.

At the start of the current season it was decided to extend excavation to all the available area within the buildings where available. The centre of the building bounded by the N and W walls was uncovered down to the occupation surface. A sondage was dug at the NW corner which shows that the sloping site has been levelled off with stones packed on end and clay infill. There is a hearth on two levels in the NE corner and an occupation layer below. The extent of the E wall has yet to be determined.

At the S end of the site, the cobbles on which the S wall was built, extend into the interior and are overlaid by paving slabs on which there is a hearth close by the wall. The paving slabs extend northwards towards an E-W drain-like feature in which an unbraided piece of well-fired late-medieval pottery was found in the upper fill. Between this and the occupation surface of the N building there is evidence of an earlier phase of occupation yet to be fully investigated but which has a N-S drain (pic). The W wall of this building has been badly robbed of stone.

There have been prolific finds of clay pipe pieces, some dating to the early 17th century and green bottle glass of the same era, mainly retrieved from the clay overburden. Some 17 sherds of late-medieval pottery, largely green-glaze, have been recovered most of them associated with the disturbance caused by ploughing

