

Witham Archaeology

A Report to Raab Design
on behalf of Mr and Mrs Roche

November 2014



**LAND OFF MACKWORTH DRIVE,
FINEDON HALL, FINEDON,
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

R Trimble

LAND OFF MACKWORTH DRIVE, FINEDON HALL, FINEDON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Site Code: FNFH14
Planning Reference.: N/A
NGR: SP 91155 71805
OASIS ID: withamar1-194605

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

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LAND OFF MACKWORTH DRIVE, FINEDON HALL, FINEDON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

SUMMARY

This report presents the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken on land off Mackworth Drive, Finedon Hall, Finedon, Northamptonshire. The project was commissioned by Raab Design on behalf of Mr and Mrs Roche, to provide information in support a planning application to be submitted to Wellingborough Borough Council, for the construction of a new house and garage.

The site lies within grounds formerly attached to Finedon Hall, c. 300m east of undated settlement remains recorded in the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record. The site lies adjacent to an area containing garden features associated with Finedon Hall, including a grotto, ponds, artificial ruins and a ring of mature yew trees.

Two trenches excavated within the footprint of the proposed house and garage revealed natural clay, overlain by dump deposit, which may have originated from landscaping of the adjacent garden. A third trench, located on the proposed route of a new access road, revealed a substantial depth of makeup material associated with recent construction of a drive and parking area.

Overall, the results of trial trenching indicate a relatively low potential for significant archaeological remains on the site.

Following a site visit, the archaeological adviser to the local planning requested the compilation of a photographic record of the adjacent garden features and the inclusion of relevant images in this report.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken on land off Mackworth Drive, Finedon Hall, Finedon, Northamptonshire. The project was commissioned by Raab Design on behalf of Mr and Mrs Roche, to provide information in support of a planning application to be submitted to Wellingborough Borough Council, for the construction of a new house and garage. Fieldwork was carried out on 27th October 2014, in accordance with a brief supplied by the adviser to the local planning authority (dated 17th September 2014).

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. Witham Archaeology cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Archaeologists.

2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (see Figs. 1 and 2)

The village of Finedon is located in the administrative district of Wellingborough, approximately 15km northeast of Northampton and 8km southeast of Kettering.

The site is located on the western periphery of Finedon, south of Finedon Hall, at National Grid Reference SP 91155 71805. The area is situated within former parkland attached to the Hall, currently forming part of private gardens.

The site is located on a south facing slope, at elevations of between c. 63m and 70m above Ordnance Datum. The local geology is Jurassic period mudstone of the Whitby Mudstone Formation (British

Geological Survey, England & Wales, Solid & Drift, 1:50 000). There are no drift deposits recorded in the area.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The site is located *c.* 600m east of the route of the Roman road linking *Durobrivae* (Water Newton in Cambridgeshire) and Dungee Corner south of Wellingborough. A Romano-British artefact scatter found to the southwest of the current site may be associated with a complex of cropmarks identified from aerial photographs.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor, the Great Soke of Finedon was held by Queen Edith. At the time of the Domesday Survey, in 1086, it was in the hands of the king, forming part of the demesne of the crown (Page 1930).

The Grade I listed church of St Mary the Virgin, *c.* 200 northeast of the site, is mid 14th century with later additions.

Undated settlement remains have been recorded 300m to the west of the site (HER ref. MNN4073) and 500m to the south (HER ref. MNN 4396). A hollow way extends through the park, extending between the end of Regent Street and a point southwest of the Hall (RCHME 1979). The feature may correlate with a linear block of land shown on the First Series Ordnance Survey map of 1835.

Finedon Hall (Listed Grade II), which lies to the north of the site and north of Mackworth Drive, is 17th and 18th century with substantial 19th century alterations (National Heritage List No. 1293682). The park south of the Hall, as seen on the First Series OS map, was more extensive in the early 19th century, extending to the line of Harrowden Lane. A drive to the Hall commenced at the junction of Harrowden Road and Wellingborough Road. The line of the drive is defined by a surviving carriage bridge (Grade II Listed; National Heritage List No. 1040658), which crossed a stream at a point *c.* 80m southeast of the current site.

The area to the west of the site contains a number of garden features including a stone ‘grotto’, ponds, artificial stone ruins, and a ring of yew trees. The features probably relate to ‘The Grove’ indicated on the First Series Ordnance Survey map of 1835. The area is depicted in more detail on the 1:2500 County map of 1884-6. The map depicts a circular feature correlating with the ring of yew trees, and an irregular pond or lake to the northeast.

4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the project, as set out in a Witham Archaeology specification of 17th October 2014, were to:

- *provide information on the presence/absence, nature, date and quality of survival of archaeological deposits and remains which might be contained within the site, at the depth of proposed construction disturbance, and to assess the importance of such remains in terms of their local, regional and national context.*
- *assess the possible scale of development impact on any remains and provide information which might influence development design so that impact on any remains can be avoided or minimised.*
- *provide information that will allow the local planning authority to reconcile development proposals with their policy for preserving archaeological remains and make an informed and reasoned decision on a planning application.*
- *provide site specific archaeological information which (if necessary) would allow for the design and integration of timing and funding of any further archaeological work (or other mitigating strategy) which might be required in advance of or during any subsequent development programme.*
- *produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum and from which the potential for further study and academic research could be assessed.*

- provide information for accession to the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (HER).

5.0 METHODOLOGY

The project specification provided for the excavation of three trenches, each 10m long by 1.6m wide, at locations agreed with the archaeological adviser to Wellingborough Borough Council. In the event, Trench 1 was extended in length to compensate for areas made inaccessible by the presence of services, while Trenches 2 and 3 (see Fig. 2) were relocated to avoid services. With the agreement of the archaeological adviser to the local authority, excavations in Trenches 2 and 3 were discontinued upon the discovery of deep and extensive deposits of comparatively late dump material.

All excavations were carried out by mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket. Trench bases and sides were then cleaned by hand to allow characterisation and where possible dating of the stratigraphic sequence.

A record of the site was compiled through plans drawn at scale 1:20 and sections at 1:10, colour digital and monochrome (35mm) photographs, and individual written context records on *pro forma* recording sheets. Trenches were located in relation to fixed points on the site.

Following a monitoring visit, the archaeological adviser to the local planning authority requested the compilation of a photographic record of some of the more notable garden features and the inclusion of relevant photographs in this report (see *Plates 8 – 16*).

6.0 RESULTS

For ease of reference, the following account is presented on a trench-by-trench basis. Full context descriptions are provided in Appendix A and a complete catalogue of finds is provided in Appendix B.

6.1 Trench 1 (see Figs. 4 and 5)

Trench 1 (c. 11.5 long x 1.6m wide) was located within the footprint of the proposed house, near the base of the south facing slope and north of the pond (see *Plates 3 and 4*). The trench was extended to the southeast to compensate for an area at the northwest end occupied by a modern service trench.

The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 1 (see *Plate 5*) was bluish brown clay (103). It was sealed by greyish brown silty clay (102) 0.33m thick, interpreted as a probable dump deposit. The layer produced a single sherd of pottery and a fragment of roof tile – both dated 16th to 18th century. The overlying topsoil (101) averaged around 0.18m thick.

6.2 Trench 2 (see Figs. 4 and 5)

Trench 2 (c. 4 x 1.6m) lay to the north of Trench 1, within the footprint of the proposed garage. It was relocated to the west to avoid modern drainage extending north from Trench 1.

Firm clay identical to (103) was exposed at the northwest corner of the trench (see *Plate 6*). It was overlain by probable dump deposits of light blue-brown clay (205) and light brown silt/ mid grey-brown sandy silt (204), possibly originating from landscaping works associated with construction of the adjacent garden. Three fragments of pot were retrieved from (205), dated 16th to 18th century. A fragment of brick from the same deposit was dated 17th/18th century. The deposits were sealed by a mid grey loam (203), interpreted as a soil layer developed over (204). Above (203), a thick deposit (0.5m average depth) of light brown clay and mid grey sandy silt (202) would appear to represent a comparatively late (modern?) phase of dumping or ground makeup. Topsoil (201) in Trench 2 was around 0.2m thick.

6.3 Trench 3 (see Figs. 4 and 5)

Trench 3 (4.10 x 1.6m in area) was located at the top of the south facing slope on the route of a proposed access road to the new house. To avoid the line of a sewer running between the existing house and the eastern boundary of the grounds, the trench was relocated to the north of its intended position.

Recent makeup material (302) containing baling twine, barbed wire and plastic was present in Trench 3 to a depth of at least 0.9m below existing ground level (see *Plate 7*). The material was almost certainly deposited as part of works to form a level platform for the drive and parking area east of Finedon Lodge. Topsoil (301) 0.23m occupied the upper levels of Trench 3.

6.4 Garden Features

A stone feature interpreted as a grotto lay to the west of Trench 1, at the edge of the adjacent pond. The feature has an arched opening and curved roof (see *Plate 9*). An indeterminate fragment of stonework lay to the west of Trench 2 (see *Plate 10*), possibly forming part of more extensive remains yet further to the west (see below).

Areas of pond located further to the west are flanked by artificial stone 'ruins' to the west and north (see *Plates 11, 12 and 13*).

A ring of mature yew trees lies to the southwest of the stone ruin, aligned with stone steps cut into the south facing slope (see *Plates 14, 15 and 16*). The ring appears to correlate with a circular feature shown on the 1884 -86 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map.

7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

Trial trenching within the footprints of the proposed house and garage revealed thick layers – context (102) in Trench 1 and contexts (104) and (105) in Trench 2 – interpreted as dump deposits. The dating of the deposits (16th to 18th century) is consistent with interpretation as dump material associated with construction of the adjacent garden features.

Layer (203) in Trench 2 appears to represent a phase of soil development prior to further dumping in the form of layer (202).

Excavations in Trench 3 at the top of the slope revealed thick layers of modern makeup associated with the formation of a level platform for the hard surface east of the existing house at Finedon Lodge.

Garden features west of the site may have been associated with the 'grove' designated on historic maps from at least 1817 (William Hyett's draft for the First Edition OS); grottoes and artificial ruins were typical features of 18th century garden design. Originally, the ring of yew trees might have been clipped into a hedge.

In conclusion, the trial trenches indicate a low potential for archaeological deposits on the site.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this report would like to thank Raab Design and Mr and Mrs Roche for their support in ensuring that the project was brought to successful conclusion. Thanks are also due to Alex Beeby for production of the finds report.

9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Page, W (ed) 1930 *A History of the County of Northampton: Volume 3*, Victoria County History

RCHME 1979 *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the County of Northamptonshire, Volume II – Archaeological Sites in Central Northamptonshire*. London HMSO

10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

10.1 Project Information

SITE CODE: FNFH14

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: N/A

FIELD OFFICER: R Trimble

NGR: SP 91155 71805

CIVIL PARISH: Finedon

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 27th October 2014

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Trial Trench Evaluation

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Raab Design on behalf of Mr and Mrs Roche

10.2 Archive Details

PRESENT LOCATION: Witham Archaeology, Unit 6, Sleaford Station Business Centre, Station Road, Sleaford Lincolnshire, NG34 7RG

FINAL LOCATION: TBC

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: TBC

ACCESSION DATE: TBC

The Site Archive Comprises:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Context Records | * |
| Plans at Scale 1:50 | 3 |
| Section Drawings at Scale 1:20 | 3 |
| Black and White photographs | 15 frames |
| Digital Photographs | 85 |
| Set of Site Notes | 1 |

It is intended that transfer of the archive in accordance with current published requirements will be undertaken following completion of this project.

COLOUR PLATES



Plate 1: General view of the site prior to excavation, looking southwest



Plate 2: General view of Trenches 2 and 3, looking south



Plate 3: Trench 1, looking southeast; 2 x 1m scales



Plate 4: Trench 1, looking northwest; 2 x 1m scales



Plate 5: Section 1, looking northeast; 2 x 1m scales



Plate 6: Section 2, looking east; 2m and 1m scales



Plate 7: Section 3, looking south; 2m and 1m scales



Plate 8: Stone 'grotto' (centre of view), looking c. northwest



Plate 9: Stone 'grotto', looking c. northwest; 1m scale



Plate 10: Stone structure west of Trench 2; looking west



Plate 11: Stone 'ruins' forming part of gardens west Trench 1, looking west



Plate 12: West side of stone 'ruins' in garden west of Trench 1; looking north



Plate 13: Northwest element of stone 'ruins' west of Trench 1, looking east



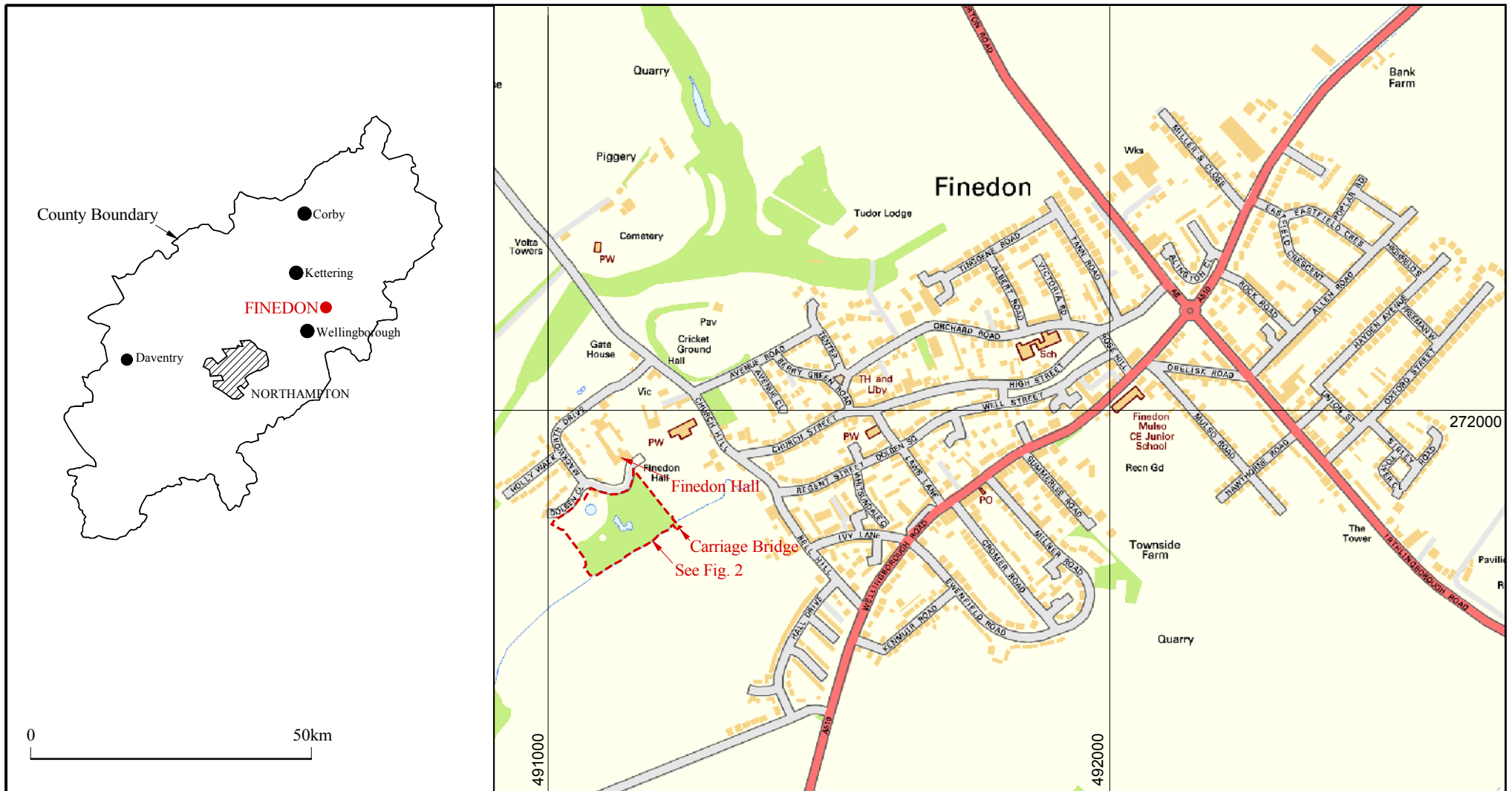
Plate 14: Ring of yew trees from stone steps; looking southeast



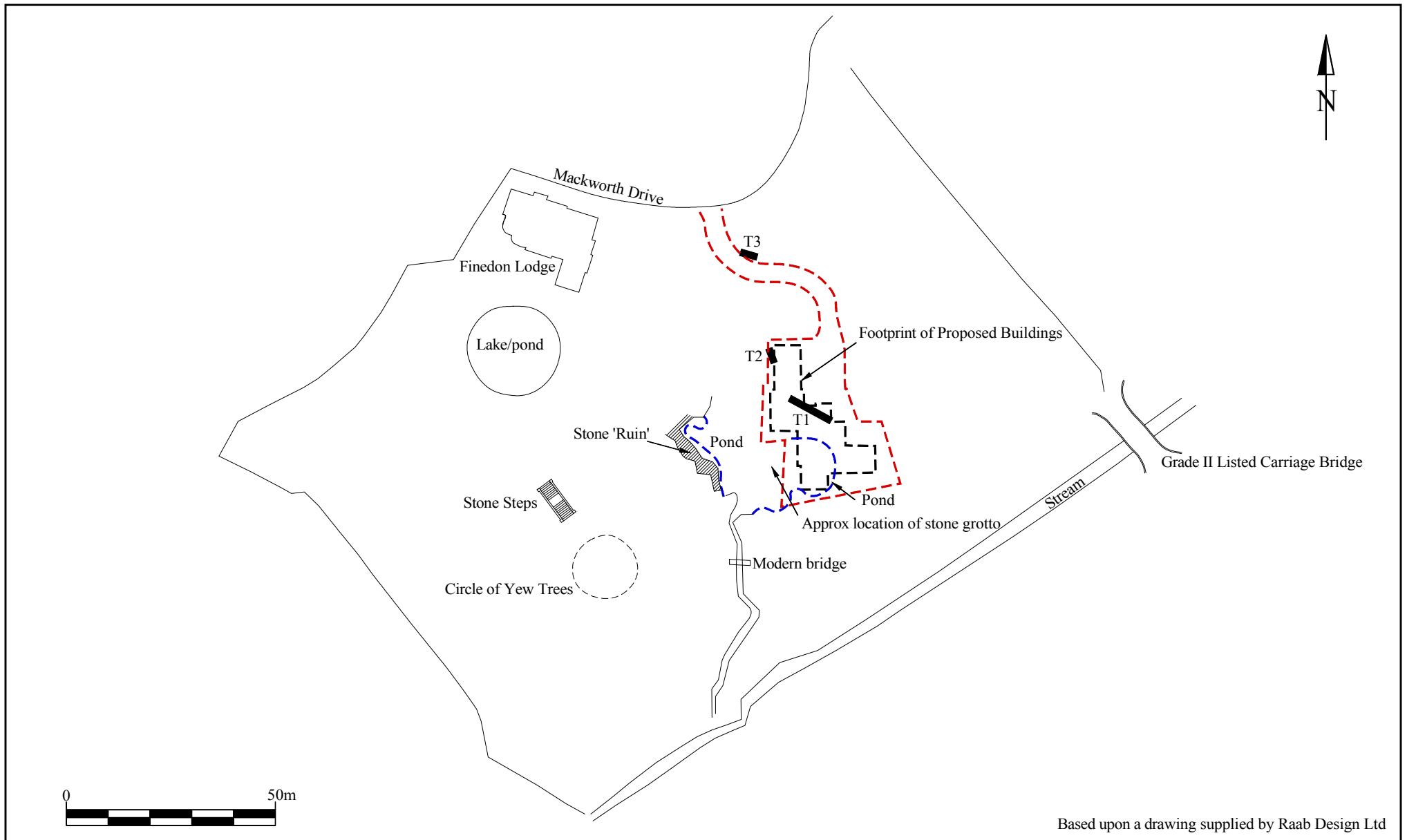
Plate 15: Ring of yew trees; looking southwest



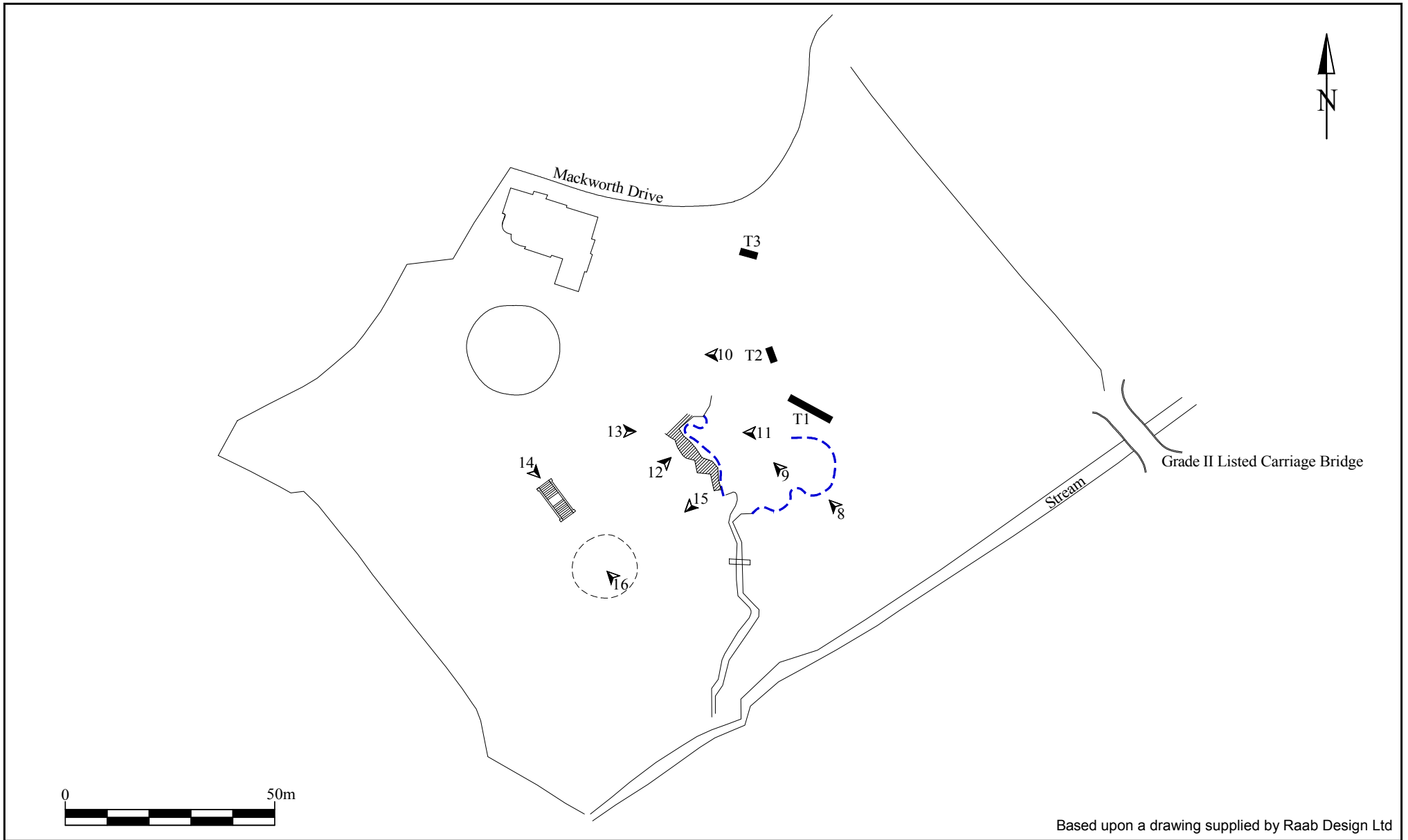
Plate 16: Interior of ring of yew trees, looking southeast



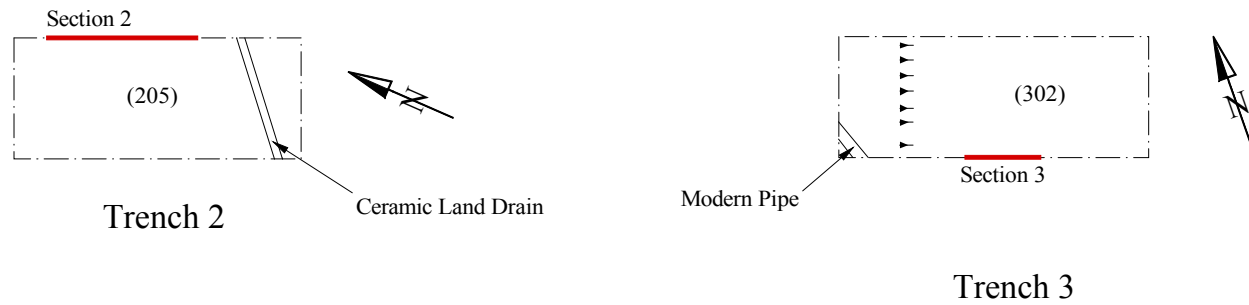
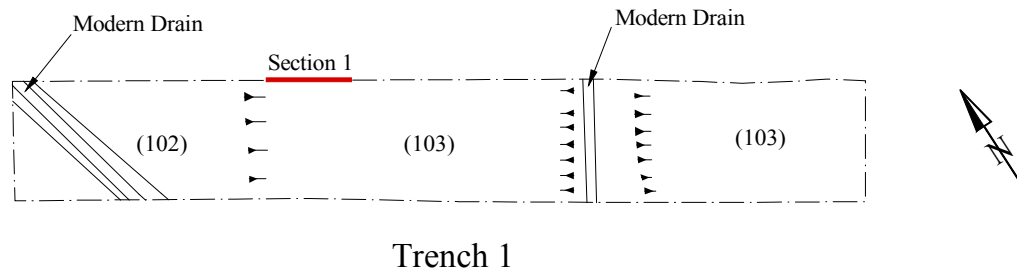
Based upon the Street View 1:10 000 Ordnance Survey map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright
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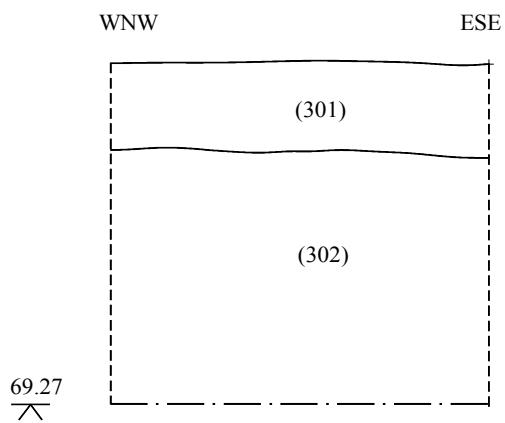
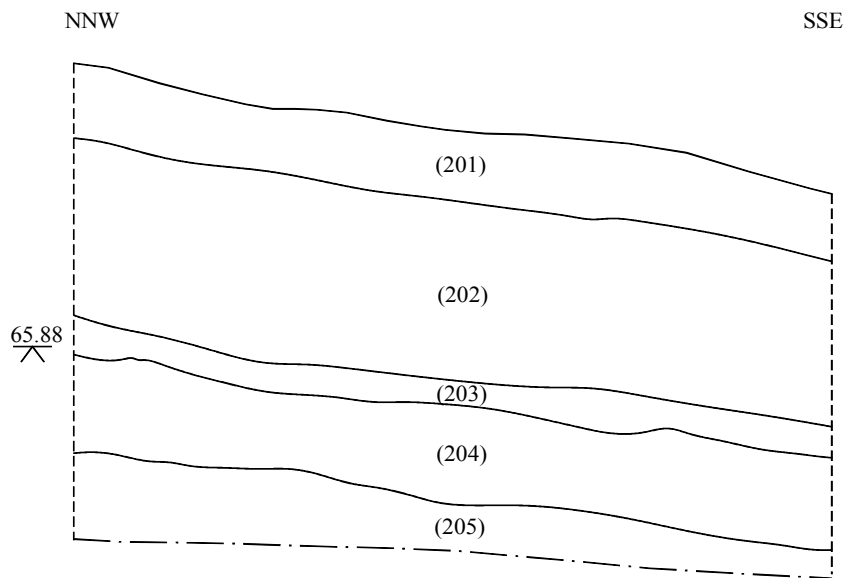
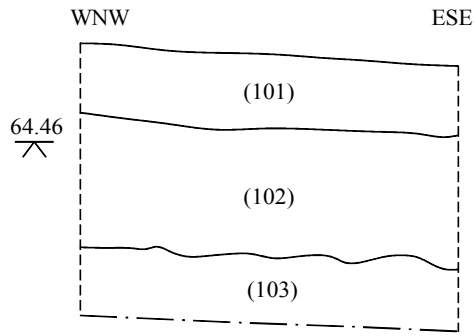


Based upon a drawing supplied by Raab Design Ltd



Based upon a drawing supplied by Raab Design Ltd





APPENDIX A - CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| <i>Context</i> | <i>Interpretation</i> | <i>Description</i> |
|----------------|-----------------------|--|
| 101 | Topsoil | Mid brown sandy silt/clay containing moderate small stones; 0.18m thick |
| 102 | Layer | Mid to dark greyish brown silty clay moderate charcoal, frequent irregular stone/ironstone and occasional limestone; average 0.33m thick |
| 103 | Natural | Blue-brown clay containing frequent ironstone fragments to 0.1m diameter |
| 201 | Topsoil | As (101); c. 0.2m thick, extending throughout |
| 202 | Layer | Light brown clay mixed with mid grey sandy silt, containing frequent stone and occasional charcoal; average 0.5m thick |
| 203 | Layer | Mid grey loam containing occasional charcoal; average 0.1m thick, extending throughout |
| 204 | Layer | Mixed light brown silt and mid greyish brown sandy silt containing moderate charcoal and shell fragments; average 0.25m thick |
| 205 | Layer | Light blue-brown clay containing frequent small and medium stones; 0.2m+ thick |
| 301 | Recent makeup | Mid brown silt/sand; 0.23m thick, extending throughout |
| 302 | Recent makeup | Light brown silty sand (very gritty), 0.65m+ thick |

APPENDIX B – CERAMIC ARCHIVE

FINDS REPORT – FINEDON, FINEDON HALL (FNFH14)

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001). The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005), which can also be used to record material from surrounding counties. A total of four sherds from four vessels, weighing 150 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below. The pottery dates to the Post Medieval period.

Condition

The pottery is relatively fragmentary, but not overly abraded.

Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

| Tr | Cxt | Cname | Full Name | Northants Cname | Sub Fabric | Form | Part | Comment | Date | NoS | NoV | W(g) |
|--------------|-----|-------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------|------|---------------------|-------------|----------|----------|------------|
| 1 | 102 | MP | Midlands Purple ware | F403 | Streaked; as Ticknall | Jar | BS | Probably Butter pot | 16th-18th | 1 | 1 | 39 |
| 2 | 205 | TGE | Tin Glazed Earthenware | F410 | | Hollow | BS | | M16th-M18th | 1 | 1 | 9 |
| 3 | 205 | BERTH | Brown Glazed Earthenware | F426 | Pale orange; Ca | Bowl | Rim | Fe slip | 16th-M18th | 1 | 1 | 90 |
| 3 | 205 | BERTH | Brown Glazed Earthenware | F426 | Pale orange; Ca | ? | BS | | 16th-M18th | 1 | 1 | 12 |
| Total | | | | | | | | | | 4 | 4 | 150 |

Provenance

Pottery came from dump layers (102) in Trench 1 and (205) in Trench 2.

Range

There are a range of pieces from vessels in three different domestic Post Medieval pottery types, including Midlands Purple ware (a late type) (MP), Brown Glazed Earthenware (BERTH) and Tin Glazed Earthenware (TGE).

Potential

There is no potential for further work. The pottery is suitable for discard, assuming appropriate permissions have been obtained. Should the material be archived, it will pose no problems for long term storage.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (2002). A total of two fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 822 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 2 below.

Condition

The pieces are large, fresh, and unabraded. One piece has sooting over a broken edge, which is suggestive reuse or post depositional damage.

Results

Table 2, Ceramic Building Material Archive

| Cxt | Cname | Full Name | Fabric | Description | Date | NoF | W(g) |
|--------------|-------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---|-----------|----------|------------|
| 102 | GPNR | Glazed Peg, Nib or Ridge Tile | Oxidised; medium sandy; mica | Flat roofing tile; thick dark brown glaze | 16th-18th | 1 | 322 |
| 205 | BRK | Brick | Oxidised; fine sandy; mica | Sand moulded; sooted over break; 59mm thick | 17th-18th | 1 | 500 |
| Total | | | | | | 2 | 822 |

Provenance

Material came from dump layer (102) in Trench 1 and (205) in Trench 2.

Range

There are two fragments of post Medieval dated ceramic building material. These include a brick of 17th-18th century date and a glazed plain roof tile of the 16th to 18th century.

Potential

There is no potential for further work. The ceramic building material is suitable for discard, assuming appropriate permissions have been obtained. Should the material be archived, it will pose no problems for long term storage.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 3 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 3, Spot dates

| Cxt | Date | Comments |
|-----|-------------|----------|
| 102 | 16th-18th | |
| 205 | M16th-M18th | |

ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|-------|---|
| ACBMG | Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group |
| BS | Body sherd |
| CBM | Ceramic Building Material |
| CXT | Context |
| NoF | Number of Fragments |
| NoS | Number of sherds |

NoV Number of vessels
TR Trench
W (g) Weight (grams)

REFERENCES

- ~ 2002, *Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, version 3.2 [internet]. Available at <<http://www.tegula.freereserve.co.uk/acbmg/CBMGDE3.htm> >
- Slowikowski, A. M., Nenk, B., and Pearce, J., 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2
- Young, J., Vince, A.G. and Nailor, V., 2005, *A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

APPENDIX C – OASIS FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: withamar1-194605

Project details

| | |
|--|---|
| Project name | Trial Trench Evaluation on land off Mackworth Drive, Finedon Hall, Finedon, Northamptonshire |
| Short description of the project | A trial trench evaluation was carried out on land formerly attached to Finedon Hall, Finedon, Northamptonshire. The site lies on a south facing slope to the south of Finedon Hall, east of an irregular pond and a series of garden features including a stone grotto, artificial ruins and a ring of mature yew trees. Information contained in the county HER indicated a potential for Saxon and medieval settlement remains. A Romano-British artefact scatter has been recorded on land to the south of the development. Three trenches were excavated. Two trenches in the vicinity of the garden features revealed thick dump layers, possibly originating from landscaping of the gardens. Small quantities of 16th to 18th century pottery were consistent with this interpretation. The third trench on higher ground to the north revealed a substantial depth of makeup material associated with a recently constructed drive. |
| Project dates | Start: 27-10-2014 End: 27-10-2014 |
| Previous/future work | No / Not known |
| Any associated project reference codes | FNFH14 - Sitecode |
| Type of project | Field evaluation |
| Current Land use | Other 5 - Garden |
| Monument type | NONE None |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Post Medieval |
| Methods & techniques | "Sample Trenches" |
| Development type | Rural residential |
| Prompt | National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF |
| Position in the planning process | Pre-application |

Project location

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Country | England |
| Site location | NORTHAMPTONSHIRE WELLINGBOROUGH FINEDON Land off Mackworth |

Drive, Finedon Hall, Finedon, Northamptonshire

Postcode NN9 5NL
 Study area 1100.00 Square metres
 Site coordinates SP 71805 71805 52.3392324731 -0.945948879006 52 20 21 N 000 56 45 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Witham Archaeology
 Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
 Project design originator Dale Trimble
 Project director/manager Russell Trimble
 Project supervisor Russell Trimble
 Type of sponsor/funding body Landowner
 Name of sponsor/funding body Mr and Mrs Roche

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient No facility currently available
 Physical Contents "Ceramics"
 Digital Archive recipient No facility currently available
 Digital Contents "Ceramics", "Stratigraphic"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
 Paper Archive recipient No repository currently available
 Paper Contents "Ceramics", "Stratigraphic"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey"

Project bibliography 1

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