

# Trial trench evaluation at Manor House Farm, 4 Church Lane, Osgathorpe, Leicestershire.



**Produced for Mr Mark Steel**

Prepared by Kath Bentley and Victoria Owen

Report Number: 090/2018

TPA Project Code: OCL

Accession Number: X.A133.2017

Trent & Peak Archaeology ©  
Unit 1, Holly Lane  
Chilwell  
Nottingham  
NG9 4AB  
0115 8967400 (Tel.)  
tparchaeology.co.uk  
trentpeak@yorkat.co.uk





Trent & Peak Archaeology is a trading name  
of York Archaeological Trust  
A Registered Charity in England & Wales  
(No 509060) and Scotland (No SCO42846)

Registered Office  
47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX

A Company Limited by Guarantee  
Without Share Capital  
Registered in England No 1430801

**Client Name:** Mr Mark Steel  
**Document Title:** Trial trench evaluation at Manor House Farm, 4 Church Lane, Osgathorpe, Leicestershire.  
**Document Type:** Report  
**Issue/Version Number:** V1  
**Grid Reference:** SK 43096 19474  
**Planning Reference:** 16/00135/FUL  
**Accession Number:** X.A133.2017  
**TPA Site Code:** OCL  
**YAT Nominal Code:** 526  
**Report No.** 090/2018

#### QUALITY ASSURANCE

<b>Issue Number</b>	V1
<b>Prepared by</b>	Kath Bentley, Project Officer Victoria Owen, Project Supervisor
<b>Date</b>	9/07/2018
<b>Checked by</b>	Ed Taylor (Project Manager)
<b>Signed</b>	
<b>Approved by</b>	Dr Gareth Davies (Head of Operations)
<b>Signed</b>	
<b>Status</b>	Evaluation Report

#### Disclaimer

This Report has been prepared solely for the person/party which commissioned it and for the specifically titled project or named part thereof referred to in the Report. The Report should not be relied upon or used for any other project by the commissioning person/party without first obtaining independent verification as to its suitability for such other project, and obtaining the prior written approval of York Archaeological Trust for Excavation and Research Limited ("YAT") (trading as Trent & Peak Archaeology) YAT accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this Report being relied upon or used for any purpose other than the purpose for which it was specifically commissioned. Nobody is entitled to rely upon this Report other than the person/party which commissioned it. YAT accepts no responsibility or liability for any use of or reliance upon this Report by anybody other than the commissioning person/party.



Trent & Peak Archaeology ©  
Unit 1, Holly Lane  
Chilwell  
Nottingham  
NG9 4AB  
0115 8967400 (Tel.)  
tparchaeology.co.uk  
[trentpeak@yorkat.co.uk](mailto:trentpeak@yorkat.co.uk)

## Summary

---

- Between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018, Trent & Peak Archaeology, on behalf of Mr. Mark Steel, undertook a trial trench evaluation on land to the rear of 4 Church Lane, Osgathorpe, in advance of planned development (SK 43096 19474).
- The site lies within an area of archaeological interest, which is situated within the historic village core of Osgathorpe, with origins in the later early medieval periods. The Manor House Farm is a Grade II listed yeoman's farmhouse of late 17<sup>th</sup> century construction (MLE12322). The site is bounded by the fourteenth century Church of St. Mary the Virgin and residential development to the north, with agricultural farmland dominating the wider landscape.
- Archaeological investigation was necessitated by a condition of planning permission, which required a trial trench evaluation to rapidly clarify and characterise the archaeological potential of the development area.
- A single trench, measuring 11m x 1.4m and orientated north by south, was excavated by machine to the rear of the property in an area used as a gravel driveway. A moderate density of archaeological remains were encountered dating from the Medieval to Post-Medieval periods.
- Excavation revealed two probable Medieval structures relating to a potentially mid-high status dwelling and a former property boundary.
- Pottery retrieved during the evaluation dates from the 13th-15th centuries. A small assemblage of ceramic roof tiles could indicate the presence of a relatively high status building.
- Remains of a modern brick and mortar wall identified to the north of the trench may belong to a later boundary, although its form and function could not be elucidated by this evaluation. Its narrow width suggests that it would not have been loadbearing.

## Contents

---

Summary .....	4
Contents .....	5
List of Figures.....	5
List of Plates.....	6
Acknowledgements.....	7
1 Introduction.....	8
2 Site Background.....	8
2.1 Topography and Geology.....	8
2.2 Historical Background.....	8
3 Aims and Objectives.....	9
4 Methodology.....	9
<i>Excavation</i> .....	9
5 Results.....	10
6 The Finds.....	12
6.1 The Medieval Pottery <i>by Paul Blinkhorn</i> .....	12
6.2 The Ceramic Building Material <i>by Dr. Phil Mills</i> .....	13
6.3 The Faunal Remains <i>by Dr. Kris Poole</i> .....	15
6.4 The Environmental Remains <i>by Tina Roushannafas</i> .....	15
Methodology.....	15
Results.....	16
7 Discussion and Conclusions.....	17
8 References.....	18
9 Trench Logs.....	19
10 Figures.....	20
11 Plates.....	24
Appendix 1: Index of Archive and Arrangements for Deposition.....	33
Appendix 2: OASIS Data Collection Form.....	34

## List of Figures

---

**Figure 1:** Location Map

**Figure 2:** 1925 Ordnance Survey Historic Map with Site Location: Scale @1:4000

**Figure 3:** Site Plan: Scale @A4 1:60

**Figure 4:** Section Drawings 01-03: Scale @A3 1:20

## List of Plates

---

**Plate 1:** Pre-excavation of area to be stripped, looking south. No scale

**Plate 2:** Trench after initial excavation showing (1004), looking south. Scale 1m x 1m

**Plate 3:** Plan view of sandstone pad [1002]. No scale.

**Plate 4:** Plan view of [1003] north-east to south-west wall. No scale.

**Plate 5:** Plan view of [1001] east to west wall. No scale.

**Plate 6:** East facing section of north to south wall [1008], looking west. Scale 2 x 1m x 0.50m

**Plate 7:** West facing section of [1005] east to west ditch, looking east. Scale 0.50m

**Plate 8:** North facing elevation of [1010] east to west wall, looking south. Scale 1m x 0.50m

**Plate 9:** Plan view of [1010] east to west wall, looking south. Scale 1m x 0.50m

**Plate 10:** Oblique view after partial removal of [1009] mortar flooring, looking south east. Scale 1m x 0.50m

**Plate 11:** Oblique view after partial removal of [1009] mortar flooring, looking south west. Scale 1m x 0.50m

## Acknowledgements

---

Thanks are extended to Mr Mark Steel for commissioning the work, and aiding groundworks. The project was managed by Ed Taylor (TPA) and undertaken in the field by Project Officer Kath Bentley and Project Archaeologist Tristan Cousins. Thanks are also extended to the Principal Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council Richard Clark for his advice and guidance during the evaluation.

All illustrations were compiled by Norma Oldfield.

Specialist finds analysis was undertaken by Paul Blinkhorn (Medieval Pottery) and Dr. Phil Mills (Ceramic Building Material).

## 1 Introduction

---

- 1.1 Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Mark Steel to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land to the rear of Manor House Farm, 4 Church Lane, Osgathorpe, Leicestershire (SK 43096 19474), ahead of planned development. The work was undertaken in May 2018.
- 1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (Taylor 2017) was submitted by TPA and approved by Richard Clark, Principal Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council. All work was undertaken in accordance with professional standards and guidance, as defined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standard & Guidance for archaeological field evaluation (2014c).

## 2 Site Background

---

### 2.1 Topography and Geology

- 2.1.1 The proposed development area (PDA) lies on land to the rear of Manor House Farm, 4 Church Lane in the centre of the village of Osgathorpe, Leicestershire. It is bound by residential housing on three sides. The church of St Mary the Virgin is to the north of the property. Immediately surrounding the PDA are hedges to the south and west, the current workshop/garages to the east and Manor House Farm to the north. The site has been landscaped to allow for the use as a driveway, it lies at approximately c.85m AOD.
- 2.1.2 The underlying bedrock geology of the site consists of Gunthorpe Mudstone. No superficial geological deposits are recorded for the site (British Geological Survey). (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).
- 2.1.3 The overlying soils are lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage ([www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes](http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes)).

### 2.2 Historical Background

- 2.2.1 No previous archaeological mitigation has been undertaken on the proposed development area. The site lies within an area of archaeological interest within the historic core of the village Osgathorpe (MLE10453) and the Manor House Farm is a Grade II listed building of late 17<sup>th</sup> century origin (MLE12322). There are no other designated, non-designated heritage assets or known previous archaeological events within the bounds of the site.



## 3 Aims and Objectives

---

- 3.1 The overall aim of the programme of archaeological works was to obtain sufficient information of the archaeological significance and potential of the site so as to allow reasoned and informed recommendations to be made on the application for the development.
- 3.2 General objectives were:
- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development site
  - To assess the vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains
  - To assess the impact of previous land use on the site
  - To assess the potential for the survival of environmental evidence
  - To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains
- 3.3 Any buried archaeological remains, depending on their nature, could offer an opportunity to address research priorities highlighted in the recent East Midlands Heritage: Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands (Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012).

## 4 Methodology

---

### *Excavation*

- 4.1 All work followed the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014a) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014c) The work also followed the guidelines set out in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Taylor 2017).
- 4.2 A single evaluation trench measuring 11.60 m x 1.40m and orientated north to south was excavated in an area of land currently used as a driveway. It was located on the western limit of the development area close to a hedge which demarks the current property boundary.
- 4.3 The trench was excavated using a small 360° Bobcat tracked excavator with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision.
- 4.4 The location of the trench and any internal features was located using a Leica CS15/GS15 GPS system.
- 4.5 Trenches were excavated to the depth of the first significant archaeological horizon.
- 4.6 Identified features were hand-cleaned and then sample excavated to an extent sufficient to determine their plan and form, and to recover any datable artefacts.
- 4.7 Feature fills were removed by contextual change (the smallest usefully definable unit of stratification) and/or in spits no greater than 100mm.

### *Recording*

- 4.8 The trench was hand cleaned and a minimum of one representative section was photographed, and drawn at 1:20. The position of the trench is located with reference to the OS grid.

- 4.9 Plans of all contexts including features were drawn on drafting film in pencil at a scale of 1:20/1:50, and show: context numbers, principal slopes represented as hachures, levels expressed as O.D. values and sufficient details to locate the subject in relation to OS 1:2500 mapping.
- 4.10 Sections show the same information, but levelling information is given in the form of a datum line with O.D./arbitrary value. The locations of all sections are shown on plan.
- 4.11 Digital images of each context were taken together with general views illustrating the principal features of the excavations.
- 4.12 Written records were maintained as laid down in the T&PA recording manual (T&PA 2015).
- 4.13 All finds were recorded either three dimensionally or by context/spit.
- 4.14 Soil samples were retrieved in order to undertake palaeoenvironmental sampling. The sampling of features followed procedures set out within the English Heritage (now Historic England) guidelines in *Environmental Archaeology* (Campbell, Moffett & Straker 2011).

## 5 Results

---

- 5.1 The trench was aligned north by south along the western boundary of the current property, measuring c.11.6m x1.6m (Plates 1 and 2). Following the removal of a thin gravel spread, which constituted the current driveway access to the Manor Farm property, and c.0.8m of mixed red silty clay and stony demolition rubble, one ditch [1005] and the remains of three structural features [1001, 1008,1010] were observed within the base of the machine excavated trench. Three further demolition deposits (1007, 1012, 1013) were also identified and may relate to different periods of demolition or levelling.

### ***Medieval Ditch [1005] (Figs 03 and 04, Dr#02; Plate 07)***

- 5.2 The earliest identifiable feature within the trench was ditch [1005], which comprised a shallow, slightly rounded ditch base measuring c.0.8m in width and 0.19m in depth. This was identified c.1m south of the northernmost limit of the trench, and followed an approximate east by west alignment. The fill, a firm, charcoal, seed and grain rich red clay (1006), yielded fragments of domestic waste, including animal bone, medieval pottery and glazed roof tile.

### ***Probable Medieval Wall [1010] (Figs 03 and 04, Dr#01, Dr#03; Plate 8)***

- 5.3 To the south of ditch [1005], a stone structure [1010] interpreted as a rubble wall, was identified c.6.9m from the southern limit of the trench. Excavation did not reveal the full depth of the wall or the presence of a construction cut, however, the exposed portion measured c.0.97m in width. The wall was constructed with irregularly coursed sub-angular roughly hewn sandstone with a rubble core, bonded by a strong yellowish brown lime mortar with shell inclusions.

### ***Mortar Spread/Surface (1009) (Fig 03; Plates 10 and 11)***

- 5.4 To the north of wall [1010] there was a thin spread of mortar, (1009). It comprised a patchy layer of loosely compacted crushed pale greyish white mortar, approximately 0.5m thick. Although patchy, it did appear to respect wall [1010] suggesting it may have represented a former floor surface on the inside of the wall.

### ***Medieval Levelling Layers (1007) & (1012) (Fig 04, Dr#01)***

- 5.5 North of structure [1010], two probable levelling deposits were identified as (1007) and (1012). The earliest of these, (1007) comprised a c.0.23m thick deposit of firm red brown clay that yielded fragments of degraded stone, slate, pottery, green glazed roofing tile and animal bone, similar to ditch fill (1006). The proximity of the deposit and concentration of building material within the layer suggests it forms part of the demolition debris of the earlier wall [1010].

- 5.6 Sealing this was a c.0.4m thick deposit (1012) formed of yellow-red clay, yielding fragments of slate and animal bone, which was interpreted as a secondary levelling layer. The sharp edge of the deposit in section may indicate that it represents a possible construction cut for the later wall [1001]; however interpretation is hazardous at this evaluation stage and this remains unconfirmed.

***Probable Medieval Wall [1008] (Fig 04, Dr#01, Plate 6)***

- 5.7 A second stone wall [1008] was observed in section within the northern third of the trench (Plate 6). The wall did not appear damaged by machine excavation, which extended west and south-west beyond the limit of the trench. Excavation revealed at least 5 courses of squared rubble laid in regular courses, measuring c.0.8 in width. The full depth of the wall was not ascertained by excavation, however the size and construction of the feature suggest a structural function, possibly associated with the foundations of an earlier unknown building. It is notable that wall [1008] utilises the same building material and mortar as the earlier medieval wall [1010], possibly indicating a contemporary construction date, though [1008] yielded no datable material.

***Probable Medieval Demolition Deposit (1013) (Figs 03 and 04, Dr#01)***

- 5.8 Abutting [1008] was a c.0.9m thick deposit of demolition rubble (1013), comprising large fragments of probable corner stones formed of ferruginous sandstone within a firm charcoal rich red-yellow clay. The rubble deposit was not investigated, and no datable material was retrieved.

***Post-Medieval Wall [1001] (Fig 04, Dr#01)***

- 5.9 Medieval wall [1010] appeared to have been overlain by wall [1001], which followed the same east by west alignment. The structure appears to have been constructed with smaller, roughly hewn sandstone, measuring c.0.3m x 0.2m x 0.15m, which were bonded by a light yellow-white lime mortar consistent with a later construction date for the feature.

- 5.10 A number of pot sherds and a clay pipe stem dating to the later post-medieval period were associated with this structure. Ordnance Survey mapping shows a wall in place around c.1925 (Figure 02), which followed the line of the former county boundary. The construction date is unknown, and map regression was unable to elucidate this further.

***Modern Wall [1003] and sandstone pad [1002] (Figs 03 and 04 Dr#01; Plates 03 and 04)***

- 5.11 A small modern brick and mortar wall was identified in plan in the southern most end of the trench on an approximate north-east by south-west alignment. The base of the wall comprised 2 courses of brick within a lime mortar bedding c.0.55m in width. A large sandstone pad [1002] was identified c.0.6m to the north-east, along the same alignment, and may form part of the same feature as [1003]. Its presence suggests a small later structure or boundary, with the narrow width suggesting that the wall was unlikely to have been load bearing.

- 5.12 All features and deposits were sealed by a c.0.8m thick modern ground levelling layer (1004) and gravel (1000), that forms the current ground surface.

## 6 The Finds

### 6.1 The Medieval Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

6.1.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 25 sherds with a total weight of 703g. It was mostly post-medieval, although a small assemblage of medieval material was also noted. It was recorded using the conventions of the Leicestershire County type-series (Sawday 1994), as follows;

**CC1: Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware**, AD1200-1400. 2 sherds, 27g.

**CC2: Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware**, AD1300-1475. 2 sherds, 28g.

**EA2: Iron-Glazed Earthenware**, 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century. 10 sherds, 268g.

**EA3: Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware**, 1680-1750. 1 sherd, 5g.

**EA8: Creamware**, mid 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century. 1 sherd, 12g.

**EA10: Modern Earthenwares**, 1800+. 1 sherd, 6g.

**MP: Midland Purple Ware**, 1350-1550. 5 sherds, 213g.

**MP1: Late Chilvers Coton**, 1400-1650. 1 sherd, 138g.

**MS1: Medieval Sandy Ware 1**, 1200-1400. 2 sherds, 6g.

6.1.2 The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of contemporary sites in the region. A small fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem (weight = 3g) also occurred in context 1001.

6.1.3 Most of the medieval material consisted of bodysherds from unglazed jars and glazed jugs, other than a CC2 jug rim from context 1004, and the large fragment of MP1 from 1007, which is the near-complete wall of a bowl, a typical product of that phase of the Chilvers Coton industry (Mayes and Scott 1984, fig. 55). The post-medieval material is mainly utilitarian earthenwares, such as large, internally-glazed bowls. This is again typical. The assemblage is generally in good condition, with the sherds showing little sign of abrasion, and all appear reliably stratified.

**Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type**

Cntxt	CC1		CC2		MS1		MP1		MP		EA2		EA3		EA8		EA10		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
1001									5	213	10	268	1	5	1	12	1	6	MOD
1004	2	27	1	22															14thC
1006					2	6													13thC
1007			1	6			1	138											15thC
Total	2	27	2	28	2	6	1	138	5	213	10	268	1	5	1	12	1	6	

## 6.2 The Ceramic Building Material *by Dr. Phil Mills*

### Introduction

- 6.2.1 There were 21 fragments weighing 1116g presented for study. This included 3 fragments, 157g of mortar and the rest of ceramic building material. The material was studied by context and grouped into fabrics and quantified by number of fragments, No, weight in grams, Wt, and no of corners, Cnr. The material was mostly medieval in date, probably 14th century, with two examples of post medieval material from (1001).

### The catalogue

#### (1001)

- 6.2.2 Fabric TZ01 Brick. No = 1, Wt = 72g, Cnr = 1, Post-Medieval
- 6.2.3 Fabric TZ01 Tile. No = 1, Wt = 56g, 14 mm thick, Post Medieval

#### (1004)

- 6.2.4 Fabric TZ21 Ridge Tile Dark green glaze. No = 1, Wt = 59g, Thickness = 11 mm, C13 – C14

#### (1006)

- 6.2.5 Fabric TZ21 Crested Ridge Tile. with crests broken off with green glaze No = 1, Wt = 76g, C13-C14

#### (1007)

- 6.2.6 Mortar M01. No = 1, Wt = 23g,
- 6.2.7 Fabric TZ21 fragment. No = 1, Wt = 19g,
- 6.2.8 Fabric TZ21 Tile with peg hole, perhaps as Mayes and Scott 1984 Fig 114 Site 2 Kiln 12a No = 1, Wt = 62g, C14
- 6.2.9 Fabric TZ21 Ridge Tile splashes of green glaze. No = 8, Wt = 418g, LC13-C14
- 6.2.10 Fabric TZ21 Ridge Tile. No = 2, Wt = 40g, LC13-C14
- 6.2.11 Fabric TZ21 Ridge Tile green glaze very flat for the edge of a ridge tile as Mayes and Scott 1984 Fig 115 Site 4 Kiln 23. No = 2, Wt = 157g, C14

#### (1009)

- 6.2.12 Sample: Fabric M01 roofing mortar. No = 1, Wt = 88g,

#### (1012)

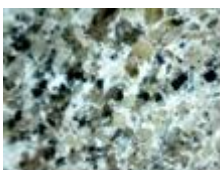
- 6.2.13 Fabric M01 very hard. No = 1, Wt = 46g

### Discussion

- 6.2.14 This is a small group of mainly C13-C14, probably C14 ridge tiles The material is probably from the Chilvers Coton industry which supplied a number of high status, usually ecclesiastical structures in the county at this time.

## Fabrics

### 6.2.15 M01



6mm cross section of fresh break of M01

This is a hard white mortar with a sandy feel and inclusions of common sub rounded quartz and black grits.

### 6.2.16 TZ01



6mm cross section of fresh break of TZ01

This is a pale yellowish red fabric which is hard and with a sandy feel it is relatively clean with some fine sand. Post Medieval

### 6.2.17 TZ21 Chilvers Coton



6mm cross section of fresh break of TZ21

This is a pale reddish yellow fabric with a grey core. It is hard with a sandy feel with inclusions of common coarse quartz, Probably Chilvers Coton C13-C14.

### 6.3 The Faunal Remains *by Dr. Kris Poole*

- 6.3.1 A small number of animal bone fragments were recovered from the site and recorded for this report. The majority of these came from features dating to the medieval period (see Table 2). The condition of the bone ranged from very good to good. Only three of the fifteen fragments could be identified to species and all came from cattle, consisting of a fragment of mandible from (1007), a hyoid from (1001) and a metacarpal from (1005). Given the very small size of the assemblage, it can contribute little to the understanding of the site on its own. However, the bone condition suggests that further excavation would likely lead to the recover from further bone fragments in very good to good condition. Most animal bone assemblages from medieval Leicestershire are from urban contexts, so it would have potential to further our understanding of the rural economy of the region during the medieval period.

**Table 2: Number of Identified Specimens**

Context	Species				TOTAL
	Cattle	Large mammal	Medium mammal	Unidentified	
1001	1				1
1006	1			9	10
1007	1				1
1009			1		1
1012		1	1		2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>

### 6.4 The Environmental Remains *by Tina Roushannafas*

#### Methodology

- 6.4.1 A single sample from fill (1005) of medieval ditch [1006] was rapidly assessed for palaeoenvironmental remains.
- 6.2.2 Forty litres of soil from context (1005) were machine-floated through a 0.5mm mesh and the flots collected in a 0.25mm mesh, with residues also retained for hand-sorting. The flots were separated into fractions using graded sieves of 2mm, 1mm and 0.25mm to aid the sorting process. The residues were similarly divided into fractions of >1cm, >2mm and >0.25mm and were also fully sorted.
- 6.4.3 The analysis was semi-quantitative to a degree compatible with rapid working. Due to the scale of recovered material and time constraints, cereal grains and large-seeded grass seeds (*Poaceae*) have been quantified collectively, although notes were made on the different cereal types present and are discussed below. All grass/cereal seeds were extracted which would be quantifiable at a later date i.e. complete or almost complete grains, apical ends and embryo ends, and a figure subsequently estimated based on rapid counting of extracted remains. This methodology does not comprise full quantification, which would require all apical/embryo ends to be counted and the highest figure to be added to the number of whole grains. However, it is suggested that given the sheer scale of partial fragments of grass/cereal seeds in the assemblage, the estimated figure of 500+ is unlikely to be exaggerated. The following scale of abundance is employed in the results in Table 1, below:

**x= 1–10**

**xx=11–50**

**xxx=51–150**

**xxxx= 151-250**

**xxxxx= 251-500**

**xxxxxx= 500+**

6.4.4 The rapid assessment did not comprise detailed identification work. Where made, identifications are based on personal reference material, Jacomet (2006) and Cappers, Bekker & Jans (2012). Nomenclature is based on Jacomet (2006) for cereals and Stace (2010) for other plant types.

### Results

6.4.5 The sample from context (1005) was exceptionally rich, and was predominantly composed of >500 charred seeds of the *Poaceae* (grass) family, including free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum*), barley (*Hordeum*) and probable oat (*Avena*).

6.4.6 The number of charcoal fragments measuring >2mm recovered from both the residue and flot was approximately 300-400, of which a substantial proportion measured >4mm.

6.4.7 The sample also contained >150 weed seeds, which included Stinking Chamomile (*Anthemis Cotula*), Scentless Mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*), Dock (*Rumex*), Goosefoot (*Chenopodium*), Plantain (*Plantago*) and small-seeded grasses (*Poaceae*). Also identified within the sample was a single fragment of acorn shell (*Quercus robur*) and a small number of mollusc shells.

### Discussion

6.4.8 The work here has comprised a very basic assessment which merely highlights the richness and potential of the sample, both in archaeobotanical and anthracological terms. The quality of preservation of charred seeds and grains varied considerably and may well reflect multiple depositional events. That domestic waste was deposited in the ditch is suggested by the artefactual evidence recovered, however the quantities of charred cereal grains and large grass-seeds are suggestive of agricultural by-product/accidental charring of material whilst in storage or during parching. Despite the variation in preservation, the sheer volume of charred plant material, and the presence of a number of relatively well-preserved specimens, indicate the suitability of the material for further identification work which would give greater insight into the ecology and food economy of the site. Examination of the charcoal, of which the >2mm and >4mm component was abundant, would also suggest potential for further analysis such as species identification.

6.4.9 On the basis of these results it is highly recommended that further work be undertaken, and that any further archaeological mitigation should include sampling and provision for palaeoenvironmental analysis.

		(1006) Ditch [1005]
		40 litres
Cereals/large-seeded grasses	Seeds/Grains	xxxxxx
	Culm node	x
Weed/Wild	Seeds	xxxx
Nutshell	<i>Quercus robur</i>	x
Charcoal	Fragments >2mm	xxxxx
	Fragments >4mm	xxx
<i>Mollusca</i>	Intact/partially intact shells	x

**Table 3: Results x= 1-10, xx=11-50, xxx= 51-150, xxxx= 151-250, xxxxx= 251-500, xxxxxx=500+**



## 7 Discussion and Conclusions

7.1 Trial trenching on land to the rear of Manor House Farm, Osgathorpe revealed a moderate density of archaeological activity. Potentially significant archaeological deposits and structural remains were identified within the trench relating to a period of mid-high status medieval occupation, possibly affiliated with the nearby medieval church.

7.2 The evaluation met the key objectives as set out in the WSI (Taylor 2017), which sought to rapidly clarify and characterise the archaeological potential of the area. The majority of features had been subject to high levels of truncation through demolition and possible later stone robbing events. The ceramic material recovered from the features place the site within two distinct phases of site use; Medieval (c.13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>) and Post-Medieval/Modern (c.15<sup>th</sup> - Present).

### *Medieval*

7.3 Evidence of Medieval activity (c.13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>) was identified in the form of structural and ditched remains located to the north and south of the trench. The presence of ceramic material, in this case both pottery and ceramic building material (glazed roofing tiles) linked with the Chilvers Coton industry, indicate that the site was most likely being provisioned from Warwickshire in the south.

7.4 Its presence is more typical of an ecclesiastical assemblage within the county (Mills *Pers. Comms.* 2018), and it may suggest that the previous structure had some affiliation with the nearby Grade II listed Church of St. Mary, established in the fourteenth century (Historic England 2018). It is generally accepted that the economic influence of the Church in local agriculture beyond the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries was severely diminished; and the assemblage of semi-locally imported building material and pottery may either suggest the reuse of building material from the adjacent church (heavily restored in the c.19<sup>th</sup>), or burgeoning local affluence associated with higher wages for agricultural labourers (Hodgett 2006).

7.5 It is possible that wall [1008], with more regular coursing and defined corner stones, may relate to a previous residential dwelling which extends westwards beyond the current property boundary. It appears to be on a different alignment to other surrounding properties, and underlies the current back access route to the Manor Farm House property. Finds within the abutting demolition deposits suggest that the material dates to the 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries, and comprise a number of Chilvers Coton ceramic tiles.

7.6 Ditch [1005], identified adjacent to wall [1008] may be the remains of a shallow or truncated midden relating to the medieval occupation of the site, probably situated to the rear of the structure seen extending westwards beyond the limits of the trench. The abundance of grass and seeds relating to agricultural by-products suggests a continuity of arable farming seen in the current dwelling name "Manor Farm House".

7.7 The northern wall, [1010], exhibiting roughly hewn, irregular rubble coursing may delineate an earlier property boundary, though undated, the similarities in stone and bonding suggest that it is likely to be contemporary with [1008]. The reuse of this wall as a later county boundary further suggests that it survived above ground for a considerable period of time after the medieval occupation ended and the current (c.17<sup>th</sup> century) Farm House was constructed.

### *Post-Medieval*

7.8 The eventual reconstruction of wall [1010], as [1001] probably occurred towards the later Post-Medieval period, however, the construction date is unknown. The wall is visible in the Ordnance Survey map of c.1925, and suggests a tentative *terminus post quem* for the demolition of the reconstructed wall, which possibly occurred as a result of the special reorganisation of the house and rear access. Datable material indicate that the status of the site had somewhat diminished, with assemblages mainly comprising utilitarian earthenwares, Midland Purple wares, and fragments of clay pipe, again diagnostic of localised domestic refuse. No further evidence for agricultural waste was identified, and it is possible that the function of the house had changed towards the later Post-Medieval and Modern periods.

## 8 References

---

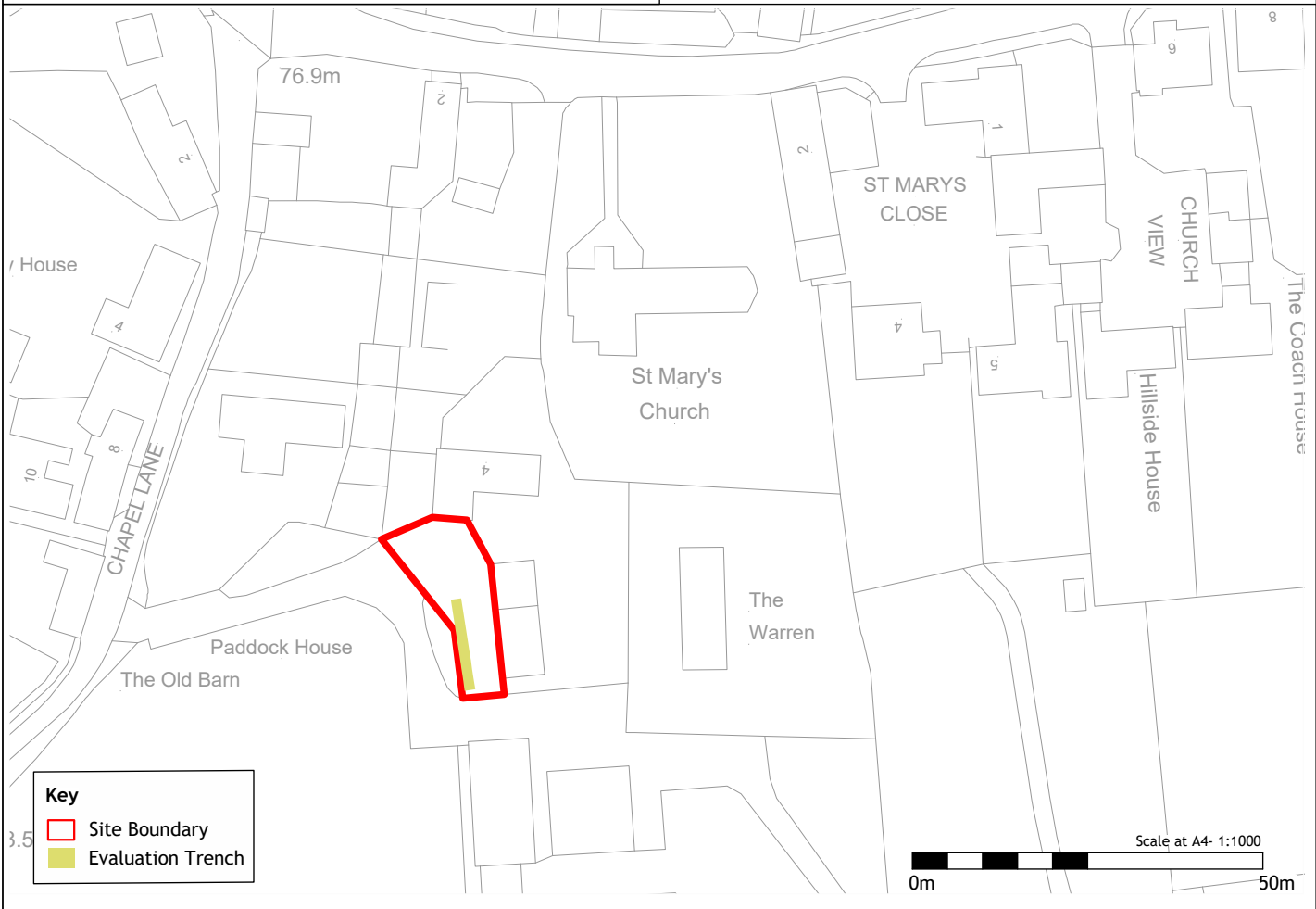
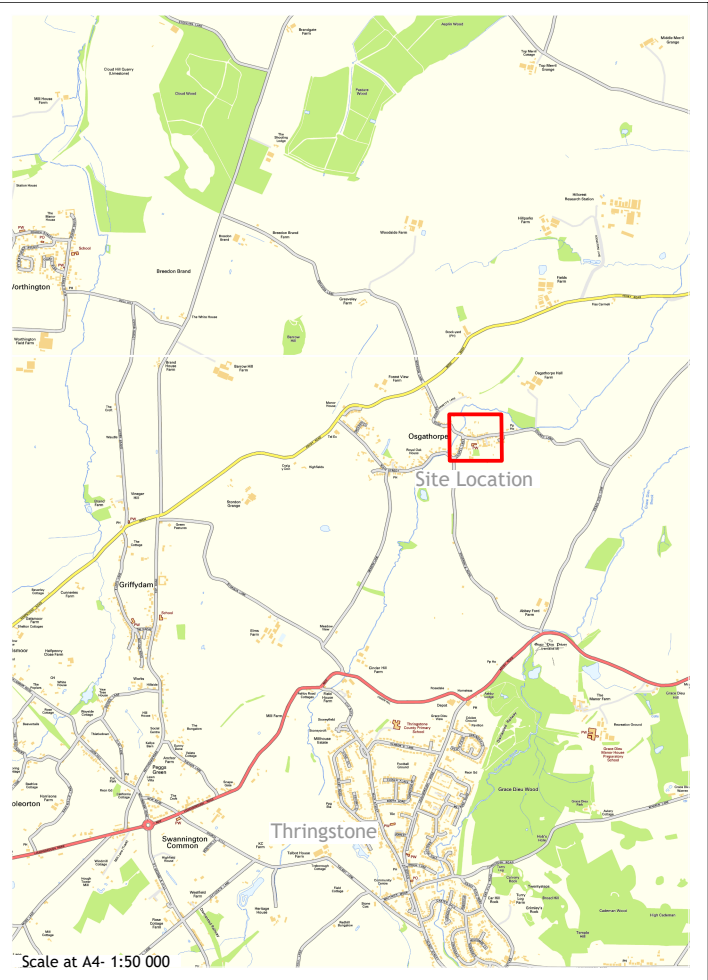
- British Geological Survey Map Viewer; <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.htm>. [Accessed 18 May 2018].
- Cappers, R. T. J., Bekker, R. M. and Jans, J. E. A. 2012. *Digitale Zadenatlas van Nederland*. 2nd edn. Groningen Archaeological Studies Volume 4. Groningen: Barkhuis and Groningen University Library.
- Campbell, G., Moffett, L. & Straker, V. 2011. *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods from Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed). Portsmouth: English Heritage.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014a. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014b. *Code of Conduct*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) 2012. National Planning Policy Framework. London; Department for Communities and Local Government
- Hodgett, Gerald. 2006. *A Social and Economic History of Medieval Europe*. Abingdon, UK: Routledge
- Jacomet, S. 2006. 'Identification of cereal remains from archaeological sites'. 2nd edn. Basel University, unpublished guide.
- Knight, D., Vyner, B. & Allen, C. 2012. *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (Nottingham Archaeological Monographs 6). University of Nottingham and York Archaeological Trust.
- Land Information System (LandIS). Soilscales; <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscales/>. [Accessed 18 May 2018].
- Mayes, P, and Scott, K. 1984. *Pottery Kilns at Chilvers Coton*, Nuneaton Soc Medieval Archaeology Monograph Series 10
- Taylor, E. 2017. 4 Church Lane, Osgathorpe: Project design and Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation. Trent & Peak Archaeology, unpublished report.
- Sawday, D, 1994 "The post-Roman pottery" in., eds. P Clay and R Pollard. *Iron Age and Roman Occupation in the West Bridge Area* Leicester: Excavations 1962-71. Leics. Museums
- Stace, C. 2010. *New Flora of the British Isles*. 3rd edn. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Historic England Listed Buildings (And Online Resource) <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>

## 9 Trench Logs

Trench 01					
Trench Dimens (LxW)	11.60 x 1.40 m	Trench Alignm	N-S	Trench Depth	1.00m
Context	Type	Description			Thickness
(1000)	Layer	Driveway Very compacted gravels <b>Modern</b>			0.02
1001	Structure	Wall East to West alignment <b>Post-Medieval</b>			N/A
1002	Structure	Sandstone pad <b>Post-Medieval</b>			N/A
1003	Structure	Wall North-east to south-west alignment <b>Modern</b>			N/A
(1004)	Layer	Demolition spread Firm, brownish red, silty clay <b>Modern</b>			0.80m
[1005]	Ditch	Ditch terminus Linear aligned E-W <b>Medieval</b>			N/A
(1006)	Fill	Fill of [1005] Firm, dark red, clay <b>Medieval</b>			0.18m
(1007)	Layer	Demolition spread Firm, reddish brown clay <b>Medieval</b>			0.40m
1008	Structure	Wall North to south alignment <b>Medieval?</b>			N/A
(1009)	Layer	Remains of mortar floor bedding <b>Medieval</b>			-
1010	Structure	Wall East to west alignment <b>Medieval</b>			N/A
1011	VOID	VOID			N/A
(1012)	Layer	Demolition spread/ rubble Firm, yellowish red clay <b>Medieval/Post-Medieval?</b>			0.23m
(1013)	Layer	Natural Firm, red clay			N/A

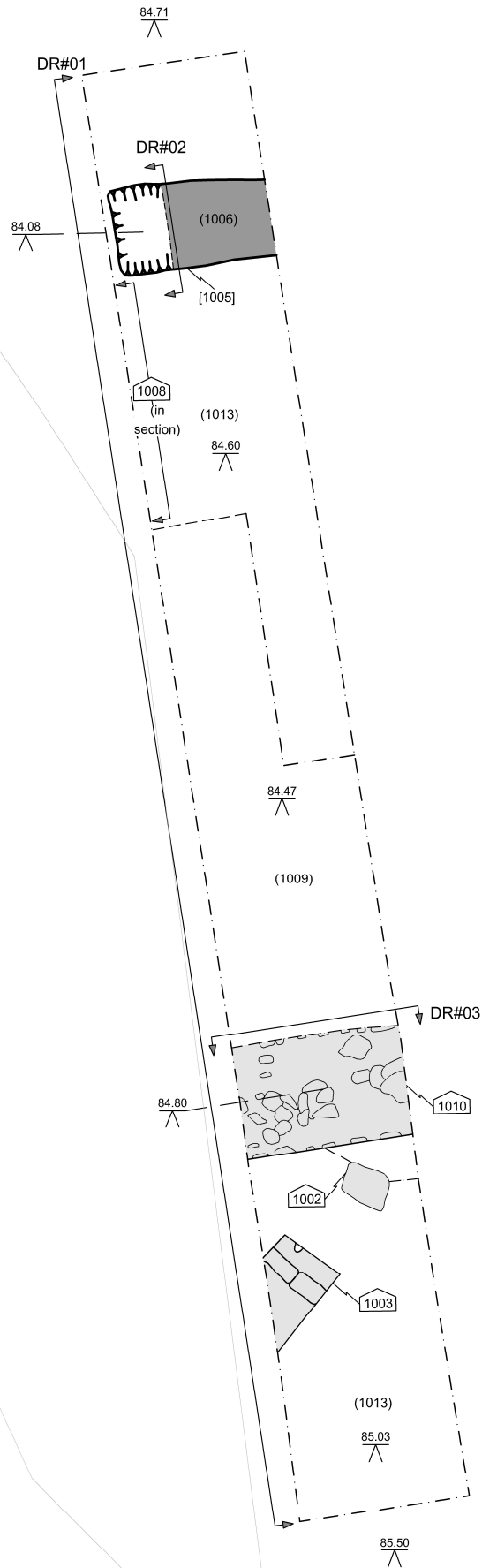
## 10 Figures

---

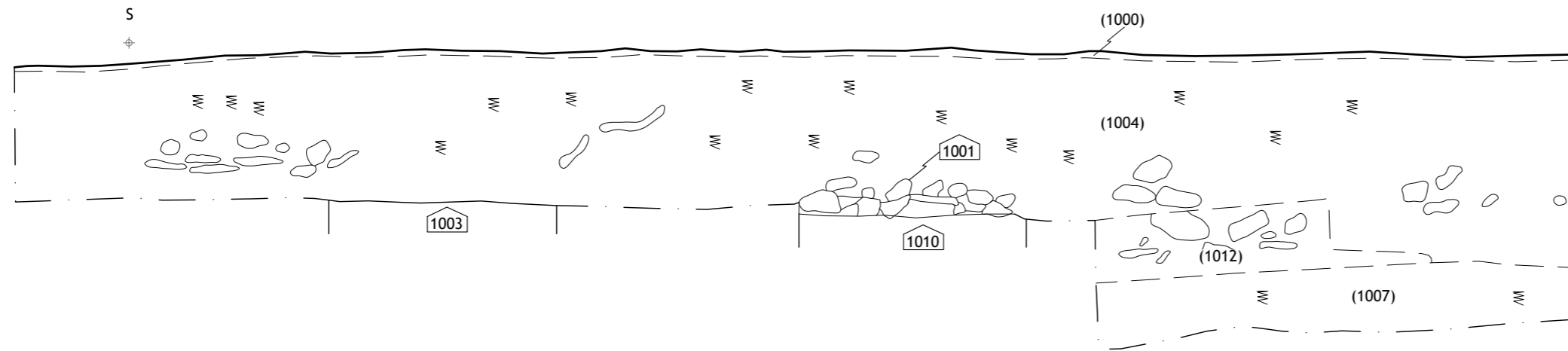




Not to Scale



Dr#01  
East Facing Section of Trench



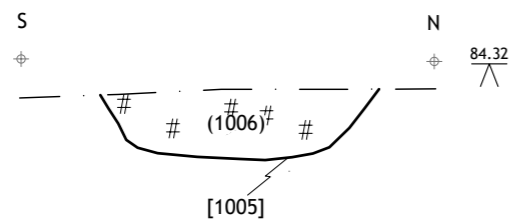
continued below

continued from above

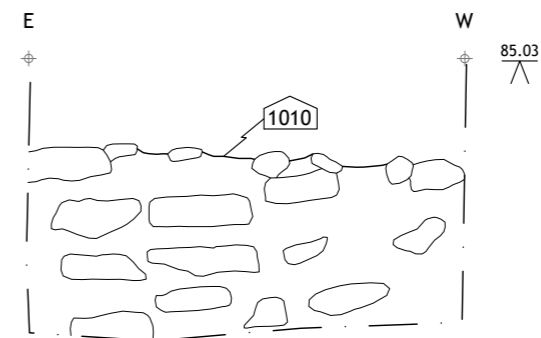


N  
85.33

Dr#02  
East Facing Section of [1005]



Dr#03  
North Facing Section of Structure 1010





## 11 Plates

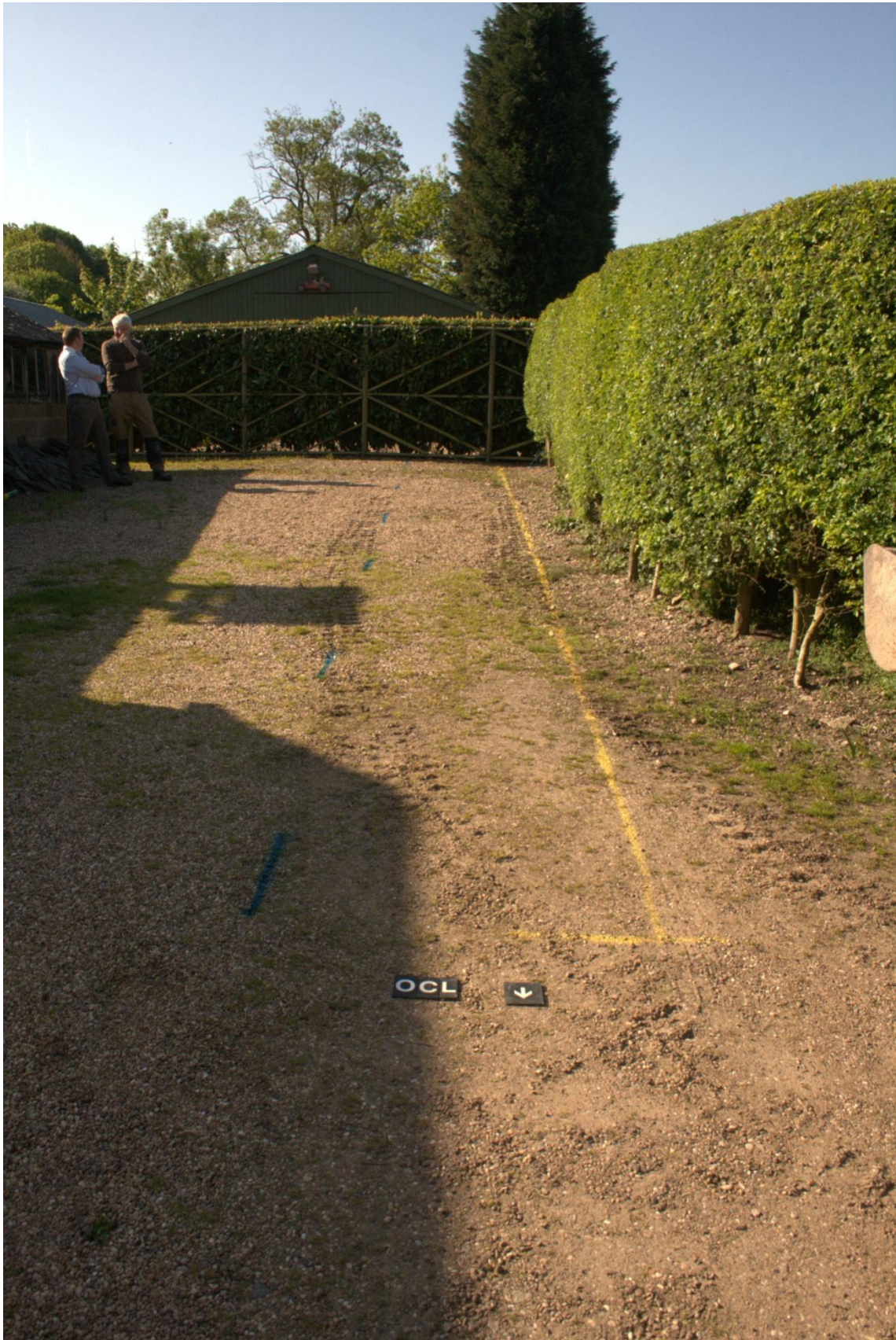


Plate 1: Pre-excitation of area to be stripped, looking south. No scale



Plate 2: Trench after initial excavation showing (1004), looking south. Scale 1m x 1m



Plate 3: Plan view of sandstone pad [1002], no scale.



Plate 4: Plan view of [1003] north-east to south-west wall, no scale.



Plate 5: Plan view of [1001] east to west wall. No scale.



Plate 6: East facing section of north to south wall [1008], looking west. Scale 2 x 1m x 0.50m



Plate 7: West facing section of [1005] east to west ditch, looking east. Scale 0.50m



Plate 8: North facing elevation of [1010] east to west wall, looking south. Scale 1m x 0.50m



Plate 9: Plan view of [1010] east to west wall. Scale 1m x 0.50m





Plate 10: Oblique view after partial removal of [1009] mortar flooring, looking south east. Scale 1m x 0.50m



Plate 11: Oblique view after partial removal of [1009] mortar flooring, looking south west. Scale 1m x 0.50m

## Appendix 1: Index of Archive and Arrangements for Deposition

---

<i>Field Records</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Number</i>
Trench record sheets	Register of context numbers and descriptions	1
Context sheets	Record of features and deposits	14
Photo record sheet	Record of photographs taken	1
Digital photographs	All views	107
Site drawings	Plans or sections of site	7
<b>Documents</b>		
<i>Documents</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Number</i>
Written scheme of investigation	Statement of the aims, objectives and methodology for the project.	1
Health & Safety	Safe working statement & risk assessment	1
Report to client	Report of findings of the watching brief.	1
<b>Find</b>		
<i>Find</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Number</i>
Artefact	Pottery, tile, clay pipe, faunal	68
Ecofact	Residues	4

The site archive is currently held at the offices of Trent & Peak Archaeology, Unit 1, Holly Lane, Chilwell, Nottingham, NG9 4AB.

## Appendix 2: OASIS Data Collection 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: trentpea1-321870**

### Project details

Project name	MANOR HOUSE FARM, CHURCH LANE, OSGATHORPE
Short description of the project	The site lies within an area of archaeological interest, which is situated within the historic village core of Osgathorpe, with origins in the later early medieval periods. The Manor House Farm is a Grade II listed yeomans farmhouse of late 17th century construction (MLE12322). The site is bounded by a fourteenth century Church of St. Mary the Virgin and residential development to the north, with agricultural farmland dominating the wider landscape. Excavation revealed two probable Medieval structures relating to a potentially mid-high status dwelling and an earlier property boundary, replaced in the later Post-Medieval period by a secondary wall which functioned as a county boundary until at least 1925. Excavation revealed the presence of at least three stone walls of archaeological significance, and later 15th century earthenwares mixed with later Post-Medieval material identified within demolition deposits. These deposits most likely relate to the construction of the current farmhouse, dated to the later c.17th century. Datable ceramic material puts the site into two distinct phases of occupation, with the concentration of Medieval domestic waste dated to the 13th and 14th centuries. Chilvers Coton wares identified within the pottery assemblage indicate that the site was partially provisioned from the south and indicates a higher status of occupation, although they may represent by-products of the nearby Church of St. Mary the Virgin. Remains of a modern brick and mortar wall identified to the north of the trench may belong to a later boundary, although its form and function could not be elucidated by this evaluation. Its narrow width suggests that it would not have been loadbearing.
Project dates	Start: 15-05-2018 End: 18-05-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	OCL - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	BUILDING Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Building refurbishment/repairs/restoration
Prompt	Area of Archaeological Importance
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH MANOR HOUSE FARM, CHURCH LANE, OSGATHORPE
Postcode	LE12 8SX
Study area	50 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 43096 19474 52.770801948025 -1.361146530836 62 46 14 N 001 21 40 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0m Max: 85m

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Trent and Peak Archaeology
Project brief originator	Trent and Peak Archaeology
Project design originator	Edmund Taylor
Project director/manager	Edmund Taylor
Project supervisor	Kath Bentley
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner

#### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental"
Digital Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Miscellaneous Material", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey", "Unpublished Text"

#### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Trial trench evaluation at Manor House Farm, 4 Church Lane, Osgathorpe, Leicestershire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Owen, V., Bentley, K.
Other bibliographic details	Report number: 090/2018
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	Trent and Peak Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Trent and Peak Archaeology

Description	Grey Literature- PDF.
Entered by	E. Taylor (etaylor@yorkat.co.uk)
Entered on	9 July 2018

## OASIS:

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice  
© ADS 1996-2012 Created by Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012  
cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page

[Cookies](#) [Privacy Policy](#)