MERTON BUILDING, OAKHAM SCHOOL, RUTLAND: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
RUTLAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

PCA REPORT NO: R11441

JUNE 2013

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT THE MERTON BUILDING, OAKHAM SCHOOL, RUTLAND

Site Code : OAKRM:2013.4

Central NGR: SK 486019 309044

Local Planning Authority: Rutland Borough Council

Planning Reference: APP/2012/0763 & APP/2012/0805

Written and Researched by Sian O'Neill

Project Manager: Kevin Trott

Commissioning Client: Katherine Coleman

Contractor:

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

PCA Midlands

17-19 Kettering Road

Little Bowden

Market Harborough

Leic's LE16 8AN

Tel: 01858 468333

Email: ktrott@pre-construct.com

Website: www.pre-construct.com

June 2013

CONTENTS

ABSTRACT

This document details the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation at the Merton Building, Oakham School, Rutland. The work was commissioned Katherine Coleman on behalf of Oakham School to assess the archaeological implications of the proposed development of the site.

Four evaluation trenches were excavated to investigate areas of development impact. The most significant archaeological remains identified were located in the central and southwest areas of the site, and include a Saxo-Norman boundary ditch which appears to have been reinstated during the Early Medieval period. Contemporary with the original ditch are the remains of a pond dating to between the 12th to 13th centuries AD.

Other archaeological features recognised on site include subsoil layers and pits that are likely to relate to an 18th- to 19th-century farmhouse known from documentary sources. Although no Roman features were revealed, nearby Roman occupation is considered likely due to the recovery of a large fragment of Tegula (Roman roof tile) in an unabraded condition.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 This document details the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation at the Merton Building, Oakham School, Rutland. The work was commissioned by Katherine Coleman on behalf of Oakham School and was carried out in order to assess the likely archaeological impact of proposed development of the site (Planning Reference: APP/2012/0763 and APP/2012/0805).

1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological trial trenching within the proposed development area was prepared by Kevin Trott of PCA in consultation with the Principal Planning Archaeologist, Richard Clark, of Leicestershire County Council.

1.1.3 The site comprises a roughly rectangular area in the centre of the Market Town of Oakham. It is located to the west of Oakham Castle and the northwest of All Saints Church on the corner of Station Road and Church Street. The land itself is largely flat, at approximately 107m above Ordnance Datum (henceforth aOD), though does slope gently to the west and south. The underlying geology is characterised by bedrock of the Marlstone Rock Formation: a Ferruginous Limestone of the Jurassic period.

1.1.4 The proposed site for development is located within the Oakham Conservation Area and, according to the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (LRHER), lies within a place of significant archaeological potential. There is archaeological evidence of human activity in the town from the Neolithic, Iron Age, Roman, Anglo- Saxon and Medieval periods. Documentary records further suggest that the area was settled by Anglo- Saxon peoples and that it certainly existed as a township before the Norman Conquest. The Market town then developed throughout the Medieval and post-medieval periods, centring on the Castle, its fishponds and Market Place, and defended by a town ditch.

1.1.5 Four trial trenches were excavated and recorded between the 3rd and 8th of April 2013. Trench 1 in the north of the site measured 8.6 x 1.3m (Figure 4). Trench 2 in the south west was 11.7 x 1.3m (Figure 5).

Trench 3 in the south east extended 3.85 x 1.7m (Figure 6) and Trench 4 in the centre of the site measured 10 x 0.9m (Figure 7).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

2.1.1 Four trial trenches were laid out following the trench location plan in the Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Kevin Trott (Fig. 2).

2.1.2 The ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat bladed bucket. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in spits of no more than 100mm down to the level of the undisturbed geological deposits (referred to here as ‘natural’) where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded.

2.1.3 All deposits were recorded using Pre-Construct Limited's recording system: Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2009). Archaeological events recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), whilst events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square brackets [thus]. The record numbers assigned to cuts and deposits are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.

2.1.4 Bulk soil samples were taken from all deposits with the potential to contain preserved organic remains. These samples were assigned unique sample numbers and are referred to here within triangular brackets <thus>.

2.1.5 Trench plans were drawn at a scale of 1:50; representative sections at a scale of 1:20. The locations of the trenches and the heights of deposits compared to Ordnance Survey benchmarks were surveyed using a Global Positioning System (GPS) rover unit and Total Station Theodolite (TST).

2.1.6 A full photographic record was made, including digital, black and white prints and 35mm colour transparencies.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

3.1 Natural Deposits

3.1.1 The natural throughout the site – layers (102), (201) and (303) - consist of compact orangey brown clay, which in Trench 3 (303) contained lenses of yellowish orange sand. The natural ground surface in the Trenches, where it appears, is gently undulating.

3.2 Roman

3.2.1 Although no Roman features were revealed on site, the recovery of a large fragment of Roman Tegula (roof tile) from within an early medieval deposit (406) was an 'fresh' condition, indicating that it had not moved far from its original location of deposition, and suggesting that nearby Roman occupation is likely (Young, this report).

3.3 Saxo-Norman and Early Medieval Periods

3.3.1 The most significant archaeological remains identified by the trial trenching were in Trench 2 and Trench 4. In the south western edge of its extent Trench 2 revealed a 12th-century boundary ditch [211] that was later twice reinstated during the 13th; these later so-called 're-cuts' recorded here as [209] and [214] (Figure 5). The original boundary ditch contained four distinct fills (212), (216), (213) and (217). The lowermost fill of this ditch (212) is dated to the 11th to 12th centuries on the basis of a single sherd of pottery. The uppermost fill (217) is likely of be of 13th- or 14th-century date according to the pottery record. As the fill of the recuts (210) and (215) can be dated to the late 12th or early 13th centuries (albeit with some 11th- and 12th- century pottery also present) it would appear that the ditch was reinstated within the 13th century when the original feature began infill and level out.

3.3.2 It seems that the primary fill (212) of the original ditch [211] would have been quite waterlogged as a number of amphibian remains were recovered along with decayed oak post (Taylor, this report). In fact, the recuts of this ditch [209] and [214] also appear to have been damp at various periods throughout the year. Samples <1>, <2> and <3> from contexts (212), (215) and (210) respectively contained abraded and

freshwater molluscs, indicating that they were overgrown or filled with leaf litter (Fryer, this report).

3.3.3 Contemporary with these ditches are a series of deposits (408), (407), (406) and (405) located within in Trench 4 in the centre of the site (Figure 2). The uppermost of these is dated to between the 12th to 13th century and the lowest (408) to the 9th or 10th century, though very few finds were recovered from within these contexts suggesting that they may have been filled in at a rapid rate.

3.3.4 These deposits appear to seal a layer of water lain clay (423), containing a number of oak and ash timber posts (427), (428), (429), (430), (431), (432) (433) (see Taylor, this report). Taken together, these deposits are interpreted here as the remains of a late Saxo-Norman to early medieval pond (Figure 9); an interpretation that receives support from the depiction of a fish pond at this location an 18th-century map (Figure 9), and from the predominance of ruderal and aquatic plant species alongside an abundance of waterlogged root/stem fragments, freshwater snail shells, and water flea eggs, recovered from sample <4>.

3.3.5 Deposit (409) was considered by the excavator and the Principal Planning Archaeologist to be clay lining of the pond feature, though further investigation to establish its extent would be necessary to confirm this.

3.4 Modern Features

3.4.1 The subsoil in Trenches 1 (101), 2 (200/208) and 3 (302) had a consistent thickness averaging approximately 0.5m (Figures 4, 5, 6) and was formed of a sandy silt in Trenches 2 and 3 at the southern end of the site, but more of a loamy clay in Trench 1 in the north. The subsoil in Trench 1 is dated to the between the 18th and 19th centuries, and in Trench 2 to the 18th- 20th. Topsoil was only present in Trenches 1 and 3, where it consisted of a dark brown, sandy loam.

3.4.2 There was no natural, subsoil or topsoil apparent in Trench 4. As the area on this part of site as being used as a courtyard, there was instead a layer of brick paving (401) constructed over a bedding sand

(402), which in turn was built over a modern layer consisting of dispersed domestic waste (403) including pieces of coal, oyster shell, clay tobacco pipe fragments and a single sherd of modern green window glass (Figure 7). These contexts are related to the use of the land by a farm that is depicted on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map dated to 1885-1886 and can be dated by the recovered pottery and other artefacts.

3.4.3 A similar bedding layer formed of yellow sand (301) can be seen in Trench 3. This was used for a former pathway. There is also a layer of modern overburden in Trench 2 (207) which is dated by the modern pottery to the 19th to 20th century. These contexts are thought to be a result of recent actions by the school.

3.4.4 A number of cut features are also the result of the modern use of the land. In Trench 1 the subsoil (101) and natural (102) are truncated by three modern features. [105] and [107] are service trenches and [103] is a modern pit (Figure 4). In Trench 2, pits [202], [204], [219] and [220] are all modern features that can be dated to between the 18th and 20th centuries (Figure 5). The excavation at the northern edge of Trench 4 revealed a wall [421] and a service trench [420] that cut the modern midden layer (403), and are attributed to works associated with the school (Figure 7).

3.4.5 In the southern half of Trench 4, below (403), are a series of intercutting pits [425], [424], [426], and deposits (413), (417) and (418) which can be dated, by the pottery recovered, to between the 18th and 19th centuries, and may be associated with a former late 18th- to 19th-century farmhouse in the area, as recorded within LRHER reference MLE: 20600 (Figure 7). The timber posts (410) and (412) recovered from within these contexts can also, due to their stratigraphic relationship, be attributed to a similar time period. The animal bone recovered from [426] and contemporary deposits (101) and (207) consist largely of cattle and sheep/goat bone fragments. Though the animal bone assemblage is very limited, the size of the bone is consistent with that of local breeding herds known to exist in the area at that time (Reilly, this report).

4 POTTERY

Jane Young

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 In total, fifty-six sherds of pottery representing fifty vessels were submitted for examination. The pottery recovered ranges in date from the Late Saxon to early modern periods. Where possible the codenames used for the archive of this site have been related to known Leicestershire codes, although the lack of an official printed or digital Leicestershire ware type series with adequate definitions seriously hampers consistency in the ceramic record. The Roman and post-Roman Pottery Type Series held at Leicester University was consulted and every effort was made to parallel the sherds found on this site with examples in it.

4.1.2 The assemblage was quantified by three measures: number of sherds, weight and vessel count within each context. Fabric identification of some of the pottery was undertaken by x20 binocular microscope. The ceramic data was entered on an Access database using Lincolnshire (Young et al.) and Nottingham (Nailor and Young 2001) fabric codenames with a concordance with Leicestershire codenames (see Table 1). Recording of the post-Roman assemblage was in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, et al. (2001).

4.2 Condition

4.2.1 The pottery is mostly in a slightly abraded to fairly fresh condition with sherd size mainly falling into the small to medium size range (below 50grams). Only four vessels are represented by more than one sherd and there are no cross-context joining vessels.

4.3 Overall Chronology and Source

4.3.1 A range of twenty-two identifiable post-Roman pottery ware types was identified; the type and general date range for these fabrics are shown in Table 1. The post-Roman pottery ranges in date from the Late Saxon to the early modern periods (Table 2) and includes local and regionally

imported ceramics. A fairly limited range of vessel types was recovered including a range of bowls, jugs, jars, plates and a chamber pot.

Table 1: Pottery codenames and date ranges with total quantities by sherd and vessel count

Lincolnshire Codename	Leicestershire Codename	Full name	Earliest date	Latest date	Total sherds	Total vessels
BERTH	EA2	Brown glazed earthenware	1550	1800	1	1
BL	EA2	Black-glazed wares	1550	1750	2	2
CREA	EA8	Creamware	1770	1830	7	6
EMX	MS	Non-local Early Medieval fabrics	1150	1230	1	1
ENGS	SW	Unspecified English Stoneware	1750	1900	1	1
LERTH	EA	Late earthenwares	1750	1900	1	1
LKT	LI1	Lincoln kiln-type shelly ware	850	1000	1	1
MEDX	MS	Non Local Medieval Fabrics	1150	1450	1	1
NCBLCB	EA	Nineteenth Century Blue Colour-bodied	1800	1950	1	1
NCBW	EA	19th-century Buff ware	1800	1900	3	3
NSP	SP1	Nottingham Splashed ware	1100	1250	1	1
PEARL	EA9	Pearlware	1770	1900	1	1

REST	SW	Red stoneware	1730	1780	1	1
ROAMG	MS	Rutland Oakham Area Medieval Glazed ware	1180	1300	8	4
RSNQS	CG	Rutland Saxo-Norman Quartz and Shell	950	1150	1	1
SLSNOL	CG	South Lincolnshire Saxo-Norman Oolitic	1050	1200	1	1
SNEOT	SN	St Neots-type ware	870	1200	1	1
ST	ST1	Stamford Ware Fabrics B/C	1150	1200	2	2
ST	ST2	Stamford Ware Fabrics G B/A	1050	1200	4	4
ST	ST7	Stamford Ware Fabric A	970	1200	1	1
SWSG	SW4	Staffordshire White Saltglazed stoneware	1700	1770	3	3
THET	RS	Thetford-type ware	880	1150	1	1
TPW	EA10	Transfer printed ware	1770	1900	9	8
WHITE	EA10	Modern whiteware	1850	1900	3	3

Table 2: Vessel counts by ceramic period

Ceramic Period	Total vessels
LKT	1
Late Saxon (mid/late 9th to mid 11th)	1
RSNQS	1
SLSNOL	1
SNEOT	1
ST	7
THET	1
Saxo-Norman (10th to 12th)	11
EMX	1
NSP	1
Early medieval (12th to early/mid 13th)	2
MEDX	1
ROAMG	4
Medieval (late 12th to 14th)	5
BERTH	1
BL	2
CREA	6
ENGS	1
LERTH	1
NCBLCB	1
NCBW	3
PEARL	1
REST	1
SWSG	3

TPW	8
WHITE	3
Early modern (18th to 20th)	31
Total vessels	50

4.4 Late Saxon

4.4.1 A single rim sherd from a small shell-tempered Lincoln Kiln-type jar is the only piece of pottery recovered from the site that can confidently be dated to the period between the late 9th and late 10th centuries.

4.5 Saxo-Norman

4.5.1 A small group of eleven vessels of Saxo-Norman type was recovered from the site. Seven of the vessels are Stamford ware (ST) jars or pitchers of 11th to 12th century date. Unfortunately none of these vessels can be proven to be of pre-conquest date. A small unglazed jar in Fabric A is of general 11th to mid-12th century date and whilst the two vessels in Fabric G could also belong to the pre-conquest 11th century period the use of the fabric similarly extends to the mid-12th century. The two jars or pitchers in Fabric B are currently thought to be of post-conquest date and could date to as late as the final quarter of the 12th century. Two other vessels in Fabric B/C are most likely to be of mid- to late 12th century date.

4.5.2 The pressed strip decorated strap handle from a Thetford ware (THETT) pitcher found in deposit (210) is an unusual occurrence in Rutland. Such handles are unfortunately not chronologically diagnostic and the pitcher could date to anywhere between the late 9th and mid-12th centuries.

4.5.3 The other three Saxo-Norman vessels are in calcareous fabrics. The most interesting of these is a small sherd from a decorated St. Neots ware (SNEOT) jar or jug recovered from deposit (423). The sherd is abraded and it is not possible to determine if the presence of square roller-stamping indicates a 10th-century jar or a 12th-century jug. A

single basal sherd found in deposit (212) comes from a Rutland Saxo-Norman Quartz and Shell-tempered jar or bowl (RSNQS) and is probably of 11th- to 12th-century date, but could date to as early as the second half of the 10th century. The small sherd found in deposit (210) comes from a South Lincolnshire Saxo-Norman Oolitic-tempered jar (SLSNOL). This fabric is most concentrated in the area around Stamford, but occurs as far north as Lincoln and is also occasionally found in Rutland, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire. In Stamford it first occurs in stratified groups of 11th-century date and appears to be falling out of use by the mid-12th century.

4.6 Early Medieval

4.6.1 Only two vessels can confidently be assigned to the period between the mid- to late 12th and mid-13th centuries, although two of the Saxo-Norman calcareous-tempered wares, some of the Stamford sherds and two of the Rutland Oakham Area Medieval Glazed ware (ROAMG) vessels may also belong in this ceramic period. A small sherd from a Nottingham Splashed ware (NSP) jug in a sandy fabric was recovered from deposit (406). This fabric is currently thought to date to between the mid- to late 12th and early to mid-13th centuries. The other jug of this period is in a light-orange fine to medium quartz-tempered fabric and comes from an unknown centre, most probably within the East Midlands (EMX). The jug has a heavily pitted light green splashed-type glaze with copper-green mottling. This jug is highly unlikely to date to before the last quarter of the 12th century and still could have been in production up to the mid-13th century.

4.7 Medieval

4.7.1 Overall, five of the pottery vessels recovered from the site can be dated to the medieval period, between the late 12th and 14th centuries. Four of these vessels are in Rutland Oakham Area Medieval Glazed ware (ROAMG) which was first noted in material recovered from excavations at Oakham castle (Young 2012). This medium to coarse quartz-tempered fabric appears to be of local origin. Vessels are quite thickly

potted and have a splashed-type glaze. Two of the vessels recovered from this site are jugs and two are either jugs or jars. The only other medieval-type sherd is from a jug or jar of probable late 12th- to 14th-century date. This wheel-thrown fine quartz-tempered vessel is from unknown production centres (MEDX), probably within the East Midlands area.

4.8 Early modern

4.8.1 Thirty-one vessels are of early modern type and date to between the early to mid-18th and 20th centuries. The group comprises a variety of industrial finewares (CREA, NCBLCB, NCBW, PEARL, REST, SWSG, TPW and WHITE), coarsewares (BERTH, BL and LERTH) and one late stoneware type (ENGS). The three Staffordshire White Salt-glazed (SWSG) sherds could date anywhere between the introduction of the type towards the end of the first quarter of the 18th century until the demise of the industry in the last quarter of the 18th century. An 18th- to 19th-century Red Stoneware (REST) fragment with moulded decoration is from a small lid, possibly that of a teapot. Creamware (CREA) was developed in the mid 1760s and continued to be made until at least the mid 1830s by which time it had mainly been superseded by modern whitewares. The six vessels found on this site include plates, a saucer and a chamber pot. Lighter coloured Pearlwares with underglaze blue transfer printing first occur in the 1780s, again diminishing by the 1830s. The single sherd recovered from this site has blue transfer-printed decoration and appears to be from an early to mid 19th century tureen. Eight other transfer printed vessels (TPW), two Whiteware sherds (WHITE), three buff-bodied (NCBW) and one blue-bodied earthenware vessels (NCBLCB), are only generally dateable to between the early 19th and mid-20th centuries. Another Whiteware sherd comes from the base of a jar or crucible, possibly intended for containment of chemicals as it bears a British Safety Kitemark 4024 and the marking ‘ ARMORLITE, HEATH, ENGLAND’. This vessel is of 20th, probably post 1920s date.

4.8.2 A single sherd of English Stoneware (ENGS) comes from a jam or lard jar of late 19th to mid-20th century date.

4.8.3 The single brown-glazed earthenware sherd recovered from the site (BERTH) has a very dark brown internal glaze and comes from a large bowl of late 18th- to early to mid-20th century date. The fabric of this vessel suggests an East Midlands source. Two other earthenware bowls have internal black glazes (BL) and are also of East Midlands production. The larger of these two bowls is of 19th- to 20th-century date, whilst the other vessel is of mid-18th- to 19th-century type. A large unglazed earthenware rim fragment (LERTH) comes from a garden pot of late 18th- to 20th-century date.

4.9 The site sequence

4.9.1 The pottery was recovered from three of the trenches under investigation, with Trench 4 producing the largest assemblage.

4.10 Trench 1

4.10.1 A single sherd from an 18th to 19th century Red Stoneware lid, most probably from a small teapot, came from subsoil layer (101).

4.11 Trench 2

4.11.1 Twenty-one vessels of very mixed date were recovered from Trench 2. The latest dateable sherd found in this trench came from tree bowl [218], fill (205). The basal sherd is from a White Earthenware jar or crucible of probable post-1920s date and is marked with a British Standard Kitemark. A 19th- or 20th-century White Earthenware dish was recovered from modern overburden 207. Pit [202] produced a single large sherd from a large unglazed earthenware garden pot of late 18th- to 20th-century date. The subsoil layer (208) contained three sherds of variable type. The smallest sherd is from a tiny vessel in Staffordshire-type White Salt-glaze of early to mid/late 18th-date. A Creamware base sherd could come from a number of vessel types but is of late 18th- to mid-19th-century type. The very large Black-glazed Earthenware bowl sherd is of 19th- to 20th-century date. Four fills of ditch [211] produced small groups of pottery. The primary fill (212) produced a single basal

sherd from a Rutland Saxo-Norman Quartz and Shell-tempered jar or bowl of probable of 11th- to 12th-century date, although the inception of the type may date to as early as the second half of the 10th century. The two Stamford ware vessels recovered from the secondary fill (216) include a small unglazed jar in Fabric A and a glazed jar or pitcher in Fabric B. The Fabric A jar could date to anywhere within the 11th century, but the type also continues into the first half of the 12th century. The Fabric B vessel, however, is usually considered a post-conquest introduction, but this dating needs to be re-assessed in light of recent finds in Pontefract (Cumberpatch 2002). The third fill of the ditch (213) contained three Stamford ware vessels. Two of the vessels are glazed jars or pitchers in Fabric B/C dating to the second half of the 12th century whilst the third vessel is also a jar or pitcher but is in the earlier Fabric G. Sealing layer (217) produced four sherds from two Rutland Oakham Area Medieval Glazed ware vessels. One of these vessels is a jug that is of slightly more competent manufacture than the other vessels in this ware type. This jug is likely to be of 13th- to 14th-century date. Re-cut [209] of the ditch (fill 210) produced a small mixed group of seven vessels, the latest of which probably belong to the late 12th or 13th centuries. The group includes what is probably residual 11th to mid-12th century material from Stamford, Thetford and an unknown South Lincolnshire production centre.

4.12 Trench 4

4.12.1 The twenty-eight vessels recovered from this trench are mainly of early modern date. Dispersed midden layer (403) produced a small group of eighteen sherds representing sixteen vessels. The group is all of early modern date but is mixed with the latest vessel probably being a jam or lard jar of late 19th- to mid-20th-century date. Pit [425] - fill (404) - below this midden contained four early modern sherds of probable mid-19th century deposition. Two sherds of early modern date were recovered from pit [426] - fill (415). Both sherds are probably of early/mid- to mid/late 18th-century date but the large black-glazed earthenware bowl could be a 19th-century product. Clay in-fill layer (418) below this pit

contained the base of a Staffordshire-type White Salt-glazed Stoneware saucer of similar date. A second layer below the pit (413) produced a single sherd from a Creamware plate of late 18th- to mid-19th-century date.

4.12.2 Gravel in-fill (406) contained two sherds, the latest of which is from a Nottingham Slashed ware jug of mid- to late 12th- to early to mid-13th-century date. Layer (408) below this in-fill produced a single sherd from a small late 9th- to 10th-century Lincoln Kiln-type jar, however a medieval roof tile was also found in this deposit. A single roller-stamp decorated St. Neots ware sherd was recovered from the lowest level in the sequence (water-lain blue clay 423). The sherd is abraded and potentially could come from a 10th-century jar or a twelfth century jug.

4.13 Summary and Recommendations

4.13.1 This small assemblage suggests occupation in the area between the 10th and 13th - or less possibly 14th – centuries, and then possible abandonment of the area for rubbish disposal until the early modern period. The ceramic material compliments that from other excavations in Oakham, but lacks the common regional imports from Nottingham, Northamptonshire (Stanion/Lyveden types) and Lincolnshire usually found in 13th- to 14th-century deposits elsewhere in the town. This could be taken to indicate that the sequence finishes early in the 13th century before these types become common, but the assemblage is too small to be certain.

4.14 Retention

4.14.1 The early modern pottery could be discarded otherwise the entire assemblage should be retained for future study, especially as part of any characterisation of fabrics for a future local type series.

5 CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

Jane Young

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Five fragments of ceramic building material weighing 384 grams in total were submitted for examination. The material ranges in date from the Roman to early modern periods. The fragments were examined both visually and at x 20 binocular magnification. The resulting archive was then recorded using Lincolnshire codenames in an Access database and complies with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, et al. (2001). The medieval tile fabric types used for the archive of this site have been related to those found at Oakham Castle (Young 2012).

5.2 Condition

5.2.1 The material is mainly in a slightly abraded but stable condition.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material

5.3.1 A limited range of ceramic building was examined. The types are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Ceramic Building material codenames and total quantities by fragment count and weight

Codename	Full name	Total	Total weight in
BRK	Brick	2	33
GRID	Glazed ridge tile	1	20
PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1	40
TEG	Tegula	1	291

5.4 The Roman tile

5.4.1 A single large fragment from a Roman Tegula was recovered from gravel in-fill (406). The fragment is in a fairly fresh condition and suggests nearby Roman occupation.

5.5 The Medieval tile

5.5.1 Two fragments of medieval tile were recovered from the site. The fragment recovered from in-fill 408 is from a medieval flat roof tile in a quartz-tempered fabric designated Fabric 1 at Oakham Castle (Young 2012). This fabric has abundant medium to coarse (0.4-0.6mm) round to subround quartz grains with sparse coarse sized up to 1.5mm, together with moderate iron-rich grains up to 4.0mm and sparse rounded calcareous inclusions, probably limestone. Most of the tiles have a reduced body with oxidised external surfaces. This type although superficially similar to Bourne and Baston products is more likely a local type as very similar to pottery ROAMG ware. The glazed fragment recovered from in-fill 406 is in Oakham Castle Fabric 4. This fabric contains common ooliths and common often angular, iron-rich grains, up to 8.0mmm in a micaceous matrix. The fabric is reduced to between a light and medium grey colour with thin orange surfaces. The tile as most in this fabric are is regularly pierced throughout the body. This type is similar to tiles produced at Stanion and Lyveden in Northamptonshire. Both of these tiles can only be dated to the period between the late 12th and 14th centuries.

5.6 The Brick

5.6.1 Two flakes in an oxidised marl fabric come from handmade bricks made by the slop-moulding method. The fragments were recovered from pit [425] and in-fill (413). These bricks are likely to be of 18th-century or later date.

5.7 Summary and Recommendations

5.7.1 The group of ceramic building material recovered from this site is too small to be of use in site interpretation but does inform the chronological sequence. The presence of a large fresh fragment from a Tegula suggests nearby Roman occupation despite the lack of Roman pottery from the site.

5.8 Retention

5.8.1 The two brick fragments could be discarded but as little is known about the Roman or medieval ceramic building material sequence in this area the remaining tiles should be retained for future analysis or use in a local type series.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

Val Fryer

6.1 Introduction and method statement

6.1.1 Excavations at Oakham School, undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA), recorded a limited number of features of probable Late Saxon to early medieval date including ditches and a possible fish pond. Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from fills within ditches [211] (sample 1), [214] (sample 2) and [209] (sample 3) and from clay layer (423) at the base of the pond.

6.1.2 The samples were floated by PCA and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. Although waterlogged macrofossils were present within the assemblage from sample <4>, the flot was air dried to facilitate transport. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils, mollusc shells and other remains noted are listed in Table 4. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997) for the plant macrofossils and Kerney and Cameron (1979) and Macan (1977) for the mollusc shells. Both charred and waterlogged plant remains were recorded, with the latter being denoted within the table by a lower case 'w' suffix. Modern roots and seeds were also recorded within the ditch assemblages.

6.2 Results

6.2.1 Charred grains of oat (Avena sp.), barley (Hordeum sp.) and wheat (Triticum sp.) are recorded at a very low density within all three of the ditch assemblages. Preservation is moderately good, although some grains are puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures. However, other charred plant macrofossils are exceedingly scarce, comprising a possible brome (Bromus sp.) fruit, an individual cotyledon from an indeterminate small legume (Fabaceae) and a small grass (Poaceae) seed. Charcoal/charred wood fragments are also present but rare, along with two small pieces of black porous material, both of which are probably derived from the high temperature

combustion of organic remains. Shells of both terrestrial and freshwater molluscs are present within the ditch assemblages, but most are moderately well preserved, possibly indicating they are intrusive within the features. However, other specimens are abraded and fragmented, suggesting that they may be contemporary. Interpretation of such a small, mixed assemblage is very difficult, but it would appear that at some point during their existence, the ditches were at least seasonally wet/water filled and were possibly either overgrown or filled with leaf litter.

6.2.2 The waterlogged assemblage from layer (423) is of interest, as it is almost certainly predominantly composed of the remains of plants which were growing in or adjacent to the pond. Ruderal and aquatic species are predominant, with taxa noted including cow parsley (Anthriscus sylvestris), hemp nettle (Galeopsis sp.), dead nettle (Lamium sp.), dock (Rumex sp.), sow thistle (Sonchus asper) stinging nettle (Urtica dioica), pondweed (Potamogeton sp.), celery-leaved crowfoot (Ranunculus sceleratus), arrowhead (Saggitaria sp.) and horned pondweed (Zannichellia palustris). Waterlogged root/stem fragments are also abundant, along with indeterminate buds, moss, water flea eggs (Cladoceran ephippia) and arthropod remains. Shells of the freshwater snail Gyraulus albus are also common.

6.3 Conclusions and recommendations for further work

6.3.1 In summary, the very few remains recorded within the ditch assemblages are almost certainly derived from scattered or wind-dispersed detritus, much of which was probably accidentally incorporated within the feature fills. The ditches appear to have been damp and poorly maintained, and the paucity of anthropogenic remains probably indicates that they were peripheral to any focus of domestic and/or agricultural activity. The assemblage from layer (423) indicates that at some stage during its use, the banks and immediate environs of the pond were colonised by a range of ruderal weeds and pernicious plants including hogweed (Heracleum sphondylium), hemlock (Conium maculatum), henbane (Hyoscyamus niger) and nettles. These may

suggest that the feature was at least intermittently poorly maintained or little used. The aquatic plant assemblage indicates that the water was relatively clean and fresh, but shallow over a muddy bottom.

6.3.2 Although the waterlogged assemblage from context (423) does contain a sufficient density of material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), analysis of a single sample in isolation would probably add little to the data already contained within this assessment. Therefore, no further work is recommended. However, a summary of this assessment should be included within any publication of data from the site.

Table 4: Environmental data by Sample number

Sample No.	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**
Context No.	**212**	**215**	**210**	**423**
Feature No.	**211**	**214**	**209**	
Feature type	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**Layer**
Cereals				
Avena sp. (grains)	xcf			
Hordeum sp. (grains)	x	x		
Triticum sp. (grains)	x	x		
Cereal indet. (grains)	x	x	x	
Herbs				
Aethusa cynapium L.				xw
Anthriscus sylvestris L.				xw
Apiaceae indet.				xxw
Atriplex sp.				xw
Bromus sp.		xcf		
Chenopodiaceae indet.				xw
Cirsium sp.				xcfw
Conium maculatum L.				xw
Euphorbia sp.				xw
Fabaceae indet.	x			
Fumaria officinalis L.				xw
Galeopsis sp.				xw
Heracleum sphondylium L.				xw
Hyoscyamus niger L.				xw
Lamium sp.				xxw
Rumex sp.				xxw
Small Poaceae indet.			x	
Solanum sp.				xw
Sonchus asper (L.)Hill				xw
S. oleraceus L.				xw

Stellaria media (L.)Vill				xw
Urtica dioica L.				xxw
Wetland/aquatic plants				
Potamogeton sp.				xxw
Ranunculus sceleratus L.				xw
Sagittaria sp.				xw
Zannichellia palustris L.				xxw
Other plant macrofossils				
Charcoal <2mm	x	x	x	
Charcoal >2mm	x		x	
Charcoal >5mm		x		
Waterlogged root/stem				xxxx
Indet.buds				xw
Indet.moss				xw
Indet.seeds		x		xw
Other remains				
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x		
Burnt/fired clay				x
Cladoceran ephippia				xxw
Ostracods				x
Small coal frag.				x
Small mammal/amphibian bone				x
Waterlogged arthropod remains				xx
Molluscs				
Woodland/shade loving species				
Aegopinella sp.	xcf	x		
Carychium sp.		x	x	
Discus rotundatus				x
Oxychilus sp.		xcf		x
Vitrea sp.				x
Zonitidae indet.		xcf		
Open country species				
Vertigo pygmaea	x			
Catholic species				
Cochlicopa sp.	x	x	x	
Trichia hispida group	x	x	x	x
Freshwater obligate species				
Anisus leucostoma	x	x	x	
Gyraulus albus				xx
Lymnaea peregra				x
Succinea sp.		x		
Sample volume (litres)				
Volume of flot (litres)	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

7 ANIMAL BONE

Kevin Rielly

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The site is located within the central part of the village of Oakham flanking Station Road to the north and Church Street to the east, placing it at the core of the historic medieval and post-medieval settlement. There were four trenches, Trench 1 to the north of the excavation area, Trenches 2 and 3 to the south-west and south-east and then Trench 4 in the centre. All provided some evidence of previous occupation. The earliest levels include a 12th-century boundary ditch at the western side of the site (Trench 2) and a contemporary fishpond in the central area (Trench 4). Further medieval boundary alignments were discovered in Trench 2. The medieval components were covered by later post-medieval soils and layers, these forming the basal parts of Trenches 1 and 3. 19th-century ditches and pits were found in Trench 4, these associated with a former late 18th/19th-century farmhouse. Finally there are a series of modern cuts described as service trenches for the school.

7.1.2 Animal bones were found throughout the site sequence and within three out of the four trenches. This collection, amounting to 70 hand recovered fragments, is in a good state of preservation and showing a minimal level of fragmentation.

7.2 Methodology

7.2.1 The bone was recorded to species/taxonomic category where possible and to size class in the case of unidentifiable bones such as ribs, fragments of longbone shaft and the majority of vertebra fragments. Recording follows the established techniques whereby details of the element, species, bone portion, state of fusion, wear of the dentition, anatomical measurements and taphonomic including natural and anthropogenic modifications to the bone were registered.

7.3 Description of faunal assemblage by phase

Medieval

7.3.1 Most of the site assemblage was taken from medieval deposits, essentially provided by the fills of the boundary ditch [211], the recut of this ditch [209], all in Trench 2; and the lowest fill (423) of the pond discovered in Trench 4. The earliest bones were recovered from the pond, dated between the 10th and 12th centuries, while the lower ditch fills were dated between the 11th and 12th centuries rising to the 13th and 14th centuries within the recut fill [210] and uppermost fill (217) of the original ditch respectively (see Table 5). The pond collection was taken from an obvious alluvial deposit at the base of this feature and not surprisingly contained some amphibian bones as well as some small rodents which no doubt entered and failed to exit this feature. It is perhaps more surprising that no bones were recovered from any of the deposits used to infill the pond, although it is possible that this occurred at too rapid a rate to allow for any or much waste disposal. A larger, though also rather small, collection was taken from the series of ditch fills in Trench 2. It is of interest that the lowest fill contained amphibians, no doubt related to the period of use of this feature, clearly suggesting that the bottom of the ditch held some water. The upper fills provided a mixture of cattle, sheep/goat and dog remains with one equid thoracic vertebra (complete) from the third fill (213). Both cattle and sheep/goat were represented by a wide variety of skeletal parts, all of which most probably belonged to adult individuals. The dog bones clearly form the remains of at least two large adult animals (taking the ditch fills as a single unit), comprising a metapodial from (212), a pair of pelvis and a separate left pelvis, as well as a femur and calcaneus from (213); and finally a radius and a femur from the recut ditch fill (210). While there were no complete limb bones, it is possible to extrapolate the approximate height of these dogs by comparing certain measurements with a dog skeleton in the PCA reference collection. A calcaneus from (213) measured 41.2mm in length, compared to the

reference exhibit at 41.2mm. This dog has a height of 520.2mm (using the femur and based on the factors described in Harcourt 1974). Assuming a similar ratio between calcaneus length and shoulder height, it follows that the Oakham dog would have been about 760mm in height. This would compare with the size of a male mastiff (modern breed measurements).

Context:	423	212	216	213	217	210	415	101	207
Parent context:	423	211	211	211	211	209	426		
Type/Feature:	Pond	D	D	D	D	D	P	S	S
Date:	10-12	11-13	11-12	11-12	12-14	13	18	18	19-20
Species									
Cattle			2	5		2		1	
Cattle-size			5	6		4		1	
Sheep/Goat			2	3	2	1	1	1	1
Sheep-size	1		4	1		1		1	
Equid				1					
Dog		1		6		2			
Mouse/Vole	2								
Amphibian	6	7							
Grand Total	9	8	13	22	2	10	1	4	1

Table 5: Counts of animal bone in context sorted by parent context, type of deposit or feature and date, where D is ditch, P is pit and S is subsoil, with dates given in centuries AD.

Post-medieval

7.3.2 This collection was taken from the 18th-century fill of pit [426] in Trench 4 and two subsoil layers, one in Trench 1 and the other in Trench 2 dated to the 18th and 19th/20th centuries respectively. These provided a few cattle and sheep/goat fragments, representing a variety of skeletal parts. The single sheep/goat femur from the later subsoil was

clearly from a large animal, possibly one of the larger breeds developed and used in this country from the late 18th century. The Leicestershire sheep flocks were specifically used by one of the great instigators of herd improvement, Robert Bakewell, who selected certain individuals from these flocks to establish the Dishley or New Leicester breed of sheep (Rixson 2000, 215-6).

7.4 Conclusion and recommendations for further work

7.4.1 While in good condition, the potential value of this collection is severely hampered by the quantity of bones recovered. The available information clearly suggests the use of cattle and sheep with a probable bias towards work/dairy and wool/dairy animals respectively based on the plethora of adult individuals. However there is insufficient information to make any certain conclusions with absences of either certain age groups or species (where are the pigs?) perhaps related more to the quantity of bones recovered rather than specific exploitation strategies.

7.4.2 The dog bones are interesting, demonstrating the presence of notably large animals perhaps denoting a particular usage. It was suggested that these two animals could be mastiffs, a type of dog associated with medieval hunting although more often used for guarding purposes, either in the home or protecting flocks from wolves (see Cummins 2003, 14-15). Either purpose would have been appropriate in Oakham at this time. Wolves were eradicated during the medieval era but where still in evidence in the southern half of England up to about the later 13th century (Pluskowski 2010, 72-3). It can also be mentioned that these Oakham dogs favourably compare to the mastiffs used for bear baiting purposes in then 16th and 17th century bear baiting arenas in London, as demonstrated by the dog remains found at sites such as Benbow house and the Rose Theatre (Mackinder and Blatherwick 2000, 32 and Rielly 2009, 249).

7.4.3 In conclusion, the medieval and perhaps the post-medieval collections can provide some basic information concerning animal usage within the historic village of Oakham. However a greater quantity of bones will be required to produce a better and more thorough understanding of this usage. If this assemblage is typical of the quantities to be expected, then a much larger excavation is recommended with the inclusion of a sampling strategy incorporated into the excavation design. This will enable, in particular, the recovery of the amphibians and small rodents already known to be present and will of course aid the recovery of other small fragments, as fish bones. It can further be suggested that excavation should be prioritised in the area of the boundary ditch and the fishpond.

8 WATERLOGGED WOOD

Maisie Taylor

8.1 Quantity of Material

8.1.1 Three pieces of wood were examined and recorded in detail.

8.2 Range and Variation

8.2.1 Of the three pieces of wood, one is a small timber and the other two are timber debris (off-cuts). The piece labelled (216) is a piece of timber debris, possibly a quarter split from a small oak tree trunk. The bark and sapwood has been trimmed off and both ends are pointed, but it is not clear whether this is intentional shaping or whether the wood is weathered or decayed. (428) is a half split timber taken from a small oak tree trunk. The bark has been removed but some of the sapwood is still in place. It is trimmed at one end to a blunt point whilst the other end is curved with a hole and an oak wooden pin or tree nail. There are also signs that it has been used (or re-used) as a post or stake with one end slightly compressed, as if hammered into hard ground. The final piece (429) is timber debris which has been tangentially split from the outside of a small oak tree. The bark has been removed and one end has been trimmed in two directions whilst the other end is broken.

8.3 Condition of Material

8.3.1 The individual pieces can be condition scored using the scale developed by the Humber Wetlands Project (Van de Noort, Ellis, Taylor and Weir 1995 Table 15.1). The pieces vary greatly in their quality of preservation. This condition scale is based, primarily, on examination of the surface of the wood and the data which was recorded from that examination. The condition score reflects whether each type of analysis might be profitably applied, it is not intended as a recommendation for various analyses or treatment. A score of 5 would mean that all or any of the processes detailed from museum conservation to species identification might be worth applying to the material. A score of 0, on

the other hand would mean that the material was probably not suitable for any of the listed analysis. (216) is very badly preserved, scoring 2, with signs that it was seriously weathered in the past. (428) is better preserved, although splintered, scoring 4; whilst (429), although weathered and broken, is slightly better preserved, scoring 3. Although not preserved at the highest level, these scores still mean that the material could stand up to most forms of analysis.

Table 6: Waterlogged wood by Sample number

	MUSEUM CONSERVATION	TECHNLOGY ANALYSIS	WOODLAND MANAGEMENT	DENDRO-CHRONOLOGY	SPECIES IDENTIFICATION
5	+	+	+	+	+
4	-	+	+	+	+
3	-	+/-	+	+	+
2	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+
1	-	-	-	-	+/-
0	-	-	-	-	-

8.4 Statement of Potential

8.4.1 The individual pieces have the potential to be used for various kinds of analysis. All the pieces have interesting growth ring patterns, for example, which might indicate coppicing. The two pieces of oak should, in due course, be shown to a tree-ring specialist as they may be suitable for tree-ring dating.

8.5 New Research Questions and Potential of Data

8.5.1 This wood is of particular interest because of its rarity. Waterlogged wood from a context such as this is very unusual in the Midlands and it is important to derive as much data as possible from the material.

8.6 Recommendations

8.6.1 Although the wood is interesting, its potential importance is limited by the small number of pieces. As there is to be further work in the area, it is suggested that (216) and (429) are photographed (they have already been recorded in detail for this assessment) and sampled for possible dating, thus decreasing storage problems. A slice approximately 90-

100mm thick should be sawn through the thickness of both pieces. These samples should be stored, as wet as possible, double bagged with as much air as possible excluded. They should be clearly labelled on the outside with a second label between the two bags, and the wrapped wood should be kept somewhere cool and dark. The wood cannot be stored in this way for very long, although may keep for a year or two if kept in a refrigerator. After storage it will only be suitable for tree-ring studies or dating.

8.6.2 Given the rarity of waterlogged wood from the area, enquiries should be made as to whether a local museum would like the third piece, (428), for display. If they do then the matter of conservation will need to be explored, always remembering that any dating samples must be taken before conservation. If it is not likely to be conserved then it too can be stored as above but the hole and tree-nail should be photographed and drawn.

8.6.3 The value of this small assemblage will be greatly enhanced if more waterlogged wood is excavated in the area. Excavators need to be alert to the possible presence of more waterlogged material if/when further work is planned.

9 THE CLAY TOBACCO PIPES

Kevin Trott

9.1 Summary

9.1.1 A total of 4 tobacco pipe fragments (7 grams) from four contexts (101), (208), (403) and (415) were recovered during the hand excavation. The small collection of pipe fragments consisted of polished plain stem fragments that exhibited soil staining. The diameter of the stem and internal bore indicate a 19th-century date for this assemblage.

9.2 Conclusion and recommendations for further work

9.2.1 While in very good condition, the potential value of this assemblage is severely hampered by the quantity of fragments recovered and the lack of diagnostic bowls or moulded stems. This being the case, there is no need to retain this small and undiagnostic assemblage once all archaeological work has been completed on the site.

10 CONCLUSIONS

10.1.1 The most significant results of the programme of archaeological fieldwork report upon here concern the early occupation of Oakham during the Saxo- Norman period. The remains of a pond that was filled in, probably during the 12th century, can be referenced against a map drawn in the late 18th-century. Contemporary with this pond and to the south west was a ditch just over 2m in depth. This substantial earthwork which would have been in use between the 11th to 12th and 13th centuries, before being re-established in the 13th century, and would have acted to mark a boundary distinguishing ownership of land. Both of these features show evidence for the well established occupation of Oakham during the Saxo- Norman and Early Medieval periods.

10.1.2 Evidence suggesting earlier occupation during the Romano-British period comes in the form of a fresh Tegula from within an Early Medieval context.

10.1.3 In addition, 18th- to 19th-century pottery discovered in a number of pits and subsoil layers in may be related to the Tithe Barn, first recognised on a map dated 1610. Though the date of the disuse of the farm is unknown, it and the associated path - Tithe Barn Lane - had gone out of use by 1890.

10.2 Research Aims

8.2.1 The preliminary research questions for this study were to:

- Assess whether evidence relating to Saxo-Norman and medieval activity known within the immediate vicinity extends across the current site.

10.2.1 The definition and recording of 10th- to 14th-century features, deposits and ceramics serve to fulfil this research aim.

8.3 Archive Destination

8.3.1 Upon completion of all phases of the archaeological work the archive will be deposited with the Leicestershire Museum Service under the unique site code: OAKRM: 2013.4.

10.3 Confidence

10.3.1 The archaeological watching brief was completed in accordance with all relevant guidelines, best-practice documents, and the approved Written Scheme of Investigation.

10.3.2 The work was undertaken in very good weather conditions.

10.3.3 The results detailed in this report are considered reliable, allowed good identification of the archaeological and natural deposits contained within the excavated trenches, and are considered to be representative of the depositional sequence within the bounds of the site.

11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PCA would like to thank Katherine Coleman for commissioning the project on behalf of Oakham School and Richard Clark for monitoring the project on behalf of Leicestershire County council. Thanks to Josephine Brown of the PCA CAD Department for preparing the figures.

12 REFERENCES

Connor, A. And Buckley, R 1999, *Roman and Medieval Occupation in Causeway Lane, Leicester*. Leicester Archaeology Monograph **5**

Cumberpatch, C., 2002 'The Medieval and Later Pottery' In Roberts, I., Pontefract Castle, Archaeological Excavations 1982-86. *Yorkshire Archaeology* **8**.

Cummins, J, 2003 *The Art of Medieval Hunting: The Hound and the Hawk*. London

Harcourt, R A, 1974 The dog in prehistoric and early historic Britain, *Journal of Archaeological Science* **1**, 151-75

Kerney, M.P. and Cameron, R.A.D., 1979. *A Field Guide to the Land Snails of Britain and North-west Europe*. Collins

Macan, T.T., 1977 *British Fresh- and Brackish-Water Gastropods: A Key*. Freshwater Biological Association Scientific Publication No. **13**

Mackinder, A, and Blatherwick, S, 2000 Bankside: Excavations at Benbow House, Southwark, London SE1, MoLAS Archaeology Studies Series **3**

Nailor, V. And Young, J. 2001. *A Fabric Type Series for Post-Roman Pottery in Nottingham (5th To 16th Centuries)*. Unpublished.

Pluskowski, A. 2010 The Wolf, in T, O'Connor and N, Sykes (eds.), *Extinctions and Invasions: A Social History of British Fauna*, Oxford: Windgather Press, 68-74.

Rielly, K, 2009 Animal bones, in Bowsher, J and Miller, P, *The Rose and the Globe – playhouses of Shakespeare's Bankside, Southwark. Excavations 1988-90*. MOLA Monograph **48**, 248-252

Rixson, D, 2000 *The History of Meat Trading*, Nottingham University Press

Slowikowski, A. 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**.

Stace, C., 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*. 2nd edition. Cambridge University Press

Trott, K. 2013. *Merton Building, Oakham School, Chapel Close, Market Place, Oakham, Leicestershire, LE15 6DT. Written scheme of investigation for an archaeological evaluation*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

Young, J. 2012 *The Pottery From Oakham Castle, Rutland*. Unpublished Report for Wessex Archaeology.

Young, J. 2012. *The Ceramic Building Material from Oakham Castle*, Rutland. Unpublished Report for Wessex Archaeology.

Young, J., Vince A.G. And Nailor V *2005 A Corpus of Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Pottery From Lincoln*, Lincoln Archaeology Studies **7**, Oxbow, Oxford

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

TRENCH 1

Context	Type	Description	Detailed description
100	Layer	Topsoil	Friable dark brown/black sandy loam with occasional pebble inclusions
101	Layer	Subsoil	Firm dark brown loamy clay with occasional charcoal and coal flecks
102	Deposit	Natural	Compact orange/brown clay
103	Cut	Pit	Steep vertical sides, flat base 0.50m wide x 0.38m deep
104	Fill	Fill of [103]	Friable dark brown sandy loam with occasional charcoal flecks
105	Cut	Service trench	Linear in plan with vertical sides 0.20m wide x 0.64m deep
106	Fill	Fill of [105]	Loose dark brown sandy silt with gas pipe
107	Cut	Service trench	Linear in plan with vertical sides 0.20m wide x 0.64m deep
108	Fill	Fill of [107]	Loose dark brown sandy silt with gas pipe

TRENCH 2

Context	Type	Description	Detailed description
200	Layer	Subsoil=(208)	Moderately compact sandy silt with frequent pebble inclusions
201	Deposit	Natural	Compact orange/brown clay
202	Cut	Pit	Square in plan? with steep vertical sides and flat base 1.30m deep
203	Fill	Fill of [202]	Moderately compact medium brown sandy clay with some rootlets
204	Fill	Re-deposited natural in [218]	Compact orange/brown clay with occasional pebble inclusions
205	Fill	Fill of [218]	Moderately loose dark brown sandy clay with frequent rotted wood and rootlets
206	Fill	Re-deposited natural in [219]	Compact orange/brown clay with yellowish-orange sand lenses
207	Layer	Modern overburden	Friable light brown sandy loam with frequent CBM and concrete inclusions

208	Layer	Subsoil (same as 200)	Moderately compact sandy silt with frequent pebble inclusions
209	Cut	Re-cut ditch	Linear in plan with tapering sides and concave base 2.30m wide x 0.80m deep
210	Fill	Fill of [209]	Firm-compact yellowish-brown sandy clay with frequent small flint and limestone inclusions
211	Cut	Ditch	Linear in plan with tapering side (heavily truncated)
212	Fill	Primary fill of [211]	Compact waterlogged light grey silty clay with waterlogged wood fragments (oak post retained)
213	Fill	Third fill of [211]	Compact dark brown sandy clay with burnt stone inclusions
214	Cut	Re-cut ditch	Linear in plan with steep tapering sides and concave base 1m wide x 0.40m deep
215	Fill	Fill of [214]	Very compact dark brown sandy clay with occasional gravel flint inclusions
216	Fill	Secondary fill of [211]	Moderately compact dark brownish-grey sandy silty clay with occasional decayed wood fragments
217	Fill	Sealing fill of [211]	Compact dark brown silty sandy-clay with occasional flint and stone inclusions
218	Cut	Tree-bowl	Sub-circular in plan with concave sides and base 2.10m diameter x 0.80m deep
219	Cut	Pit	Sub-circular in plan with concave sides and base 1.80m diameter x 0.40m deep
220	Cut	Pit	Square in plan with vertical sides and flat base 1.30m wide x 1.30m deep
221	Fill	Fill of [220]	Compact brown sandy clay with yellowish-orange sand lenses
222	Cut	Service trench	Linear in plan with steep sides 0.60m wide
223	Fill	Fill of [222]	Compact dark brown sandy clay with inclusions of CBM and plastic fragments (gas pipe)

TRENCH 3

Context	Type	Description	Detailed description
300	Layer	Topsoil	Moderately compact dark brown sandy loam
301	Layer	Modern sand bedding	Friable yellow sand (former bedding layer for path)

		layer	
302	Layer	Subsoil	Friable dark brown sandy silt with frequent root disturbance
303	Deposit	Natural	Compact orange/brown clay with yellowish-orange sand lenses
304	Cut	Service trench	Linear in plan with vertical sides 0.43m wide
305	Fill	Fill of [304]	Yellow sand with dark brown clayey silt inclusions and CBM
306	Cut	Service trench	Linear in plan with vertical sides 0.40m wide
307	Fill	Fill of [306]	Yellow sand with dark brown clayey silt inclusions and CBM

TRENCH 4

Context	Type	Description	Detailed description
401	Layer	Brick paving	Compact brick courtyard surface
402	Layer	Bedding sand	Friable white sand
403	Layer	Dispersed midden	Compact dark grey sandy clayey silt with frequent charcoal, CBM and pebbles
404	Fill	Fill of [425]	Compact medium brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles, charcoal and Charnwood slate
405	Deposit	Clay lens	Compact light brown clay
406	Deposit	Gravel in-fill	Friable light brown gravel
407	Deposit	Gravelly-clay infill	Moderately compact light brown silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions
408	Deposit	Gravelly-clay infill	Moderately compact gravel rich medium brown silty clay
409	Deposit	Clay lining?	Compact dark brown clayey silt with gravel inclusions
410	Structure	Timber post	Friable medium brown loam with decayed wood fragments
411	Fill	Fill of [424]	Compact light brown clay with few gravel fragments
412	Structure	Timber post	Friable medium brown loam with decayed wood fragments
413	Deposit	Gravelly-clay infill	Compact medium brown gravel rich silty clay with moderate quantities of oyster fragments
414	Fill	Charcoal rich clay	Compact medium brown clay with burnt wood and charcoal fragments

415	Fill	Secondary fill in [426]	Moderately compact light brown sandy silt with large limestone pieces and gravel fragments
416	Fill	Sealing fill in [426]	Moderately compact medium grey gravel rich clay
417	Deposit	Burnt red sand infill	Friable burnt (red) sand
418	Deposit	Clay infill	Compact medium light brown clay
419	Cut	Service trench	Linear in plan with vertical sides 0.45m wide
420	Fill	Fill of [419]	Loose medium brown sandy clay with CBM inclusions
421	Structure	Brick wall	Compact Flemish bond wall with off white mortar
422	Deposit	White sand	Friable white sand
423	Deposit	Water-lain blue clay	Compact sticky blue clay with occasional gravel fragments
424	Cut	Ditch	Linear in plan with steep undulating sides and tight concave base 1.50m wide x 0.98m deep
425	Cut	Pit	Steep sided, tapering base cut 0.40m deep
426	Cut	Pit	Shallow tapering concave sided/based pit 0.40m deep
427	Structure	Timber post	Ash post
428	Structure	Timber perforated beam	Oak timber
429	Structure	Timber post	Ash post
430	Structure	Timber post	Oak post
431	Structure	Timber post	Oak post
432	Structure	Timber post	Oak post
433	Structure	Timber beam	Oak timber

APPENDIX 2: PLATES

PLATE1: Trench 4. Fully excavated. 1x2m scale, 1x0.5m scale. View: South.

PLATE 2: Trench 4. Fully excavated. 2m scale. View: north- west

PLATE 3: Trench 4. Silt (423) and wooden structures. 2m scale. View: west

APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-152500

Project details

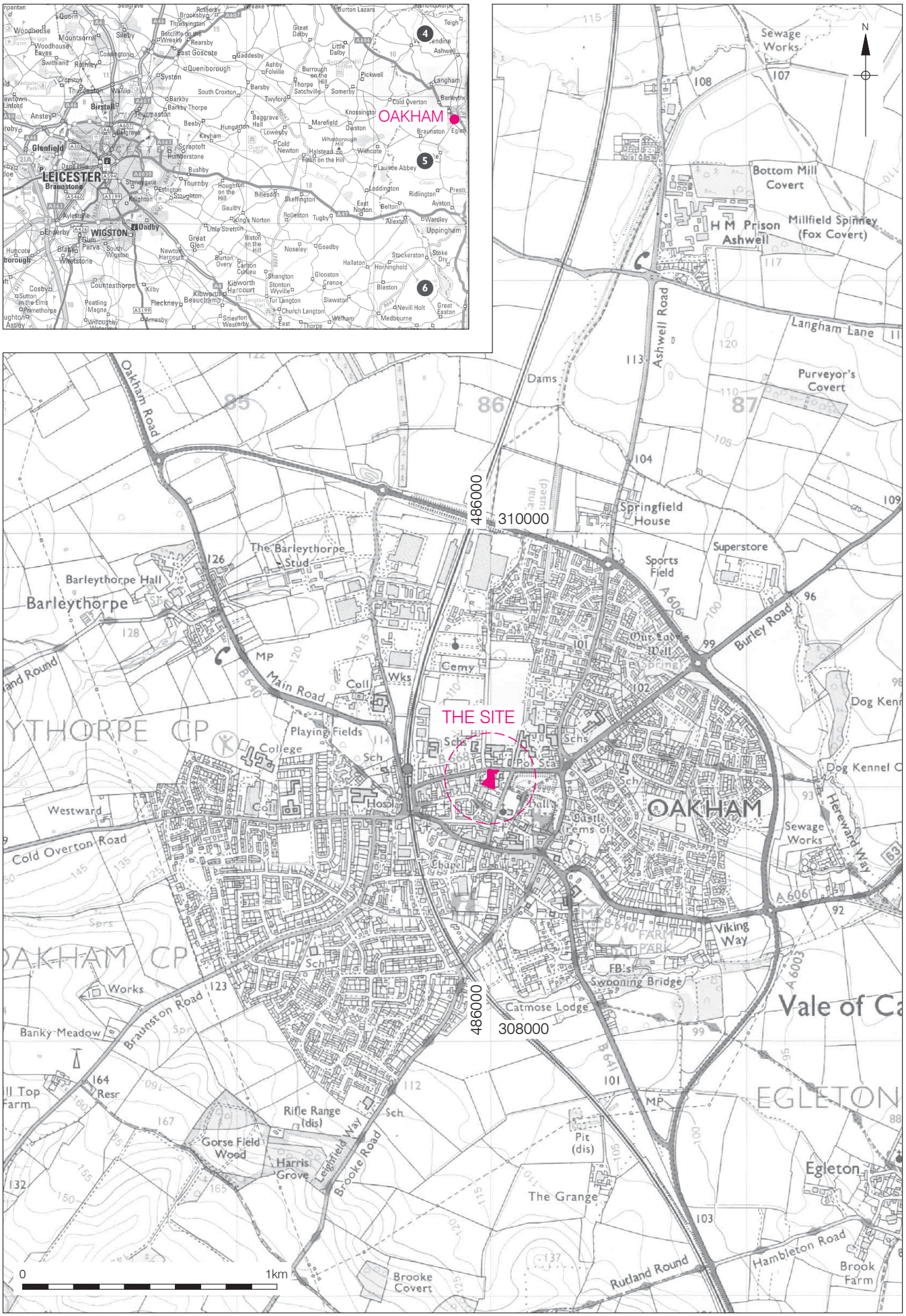
Project name	Oakham School, Rutland
Short description of the project	Four evaluation trenches were excavated to investigate areas of development impact. The most significant archaeological remains identified were located in the central and southwest areas of the site, and includes a Saxo-Norman boundary ditch which appears to have been reinstated during the Early Medieval period. Contemporary with the original ditch are the remains of a pond dating to between the 12th to 13th centuries AD.
Project dates	Start: 03-04-2013 End: 08-04-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	OAKRM:2013.4 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	DITCH Early Medieval
Monument type	POND Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location	
Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE RUTLAND OAKHAM Oakham School
Postcode	LE15 6QX
Study area	100.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 486010 309015 52 -1 52 52 23 N 001 16 40 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 106.00m Max: 107.00m

Project creators	
Name of Organisation	PCA Midlands
Project brief originator	Leicestershire County Archaeology Office
Project design originator	Kevin Trott
Project director/manager	Kevin Trott
Project supervisor	Kevin Trott
Type of sponsor/funding body	School
Name of sponsor/funding body	Not disclosed

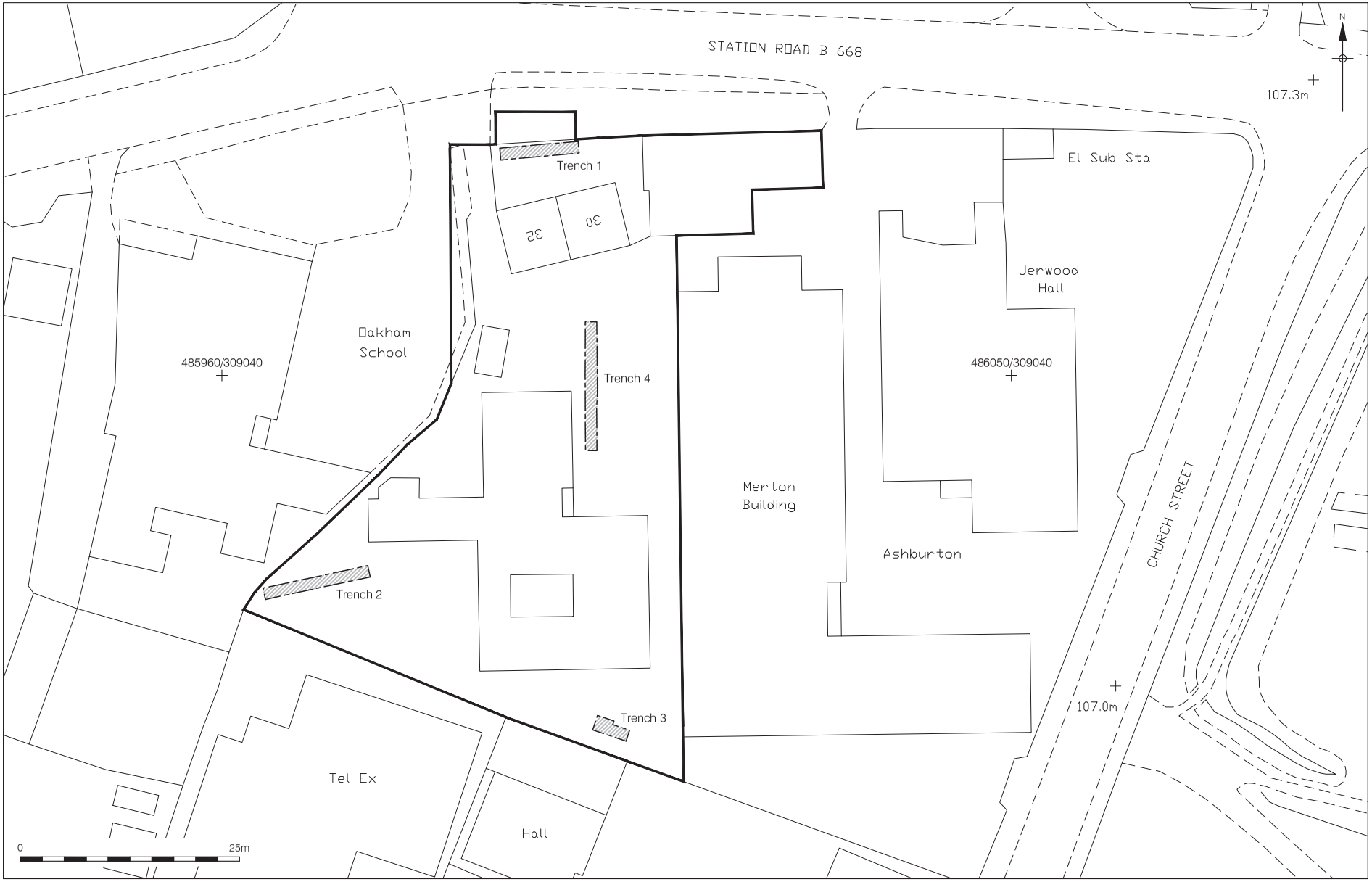
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Physical	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental". “Worked Wood”.

Contents	
Digital Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Map","Matrices","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey ","Unpublished Text"
Entered by	Kevin Trott (ktrott@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	10 June 2013



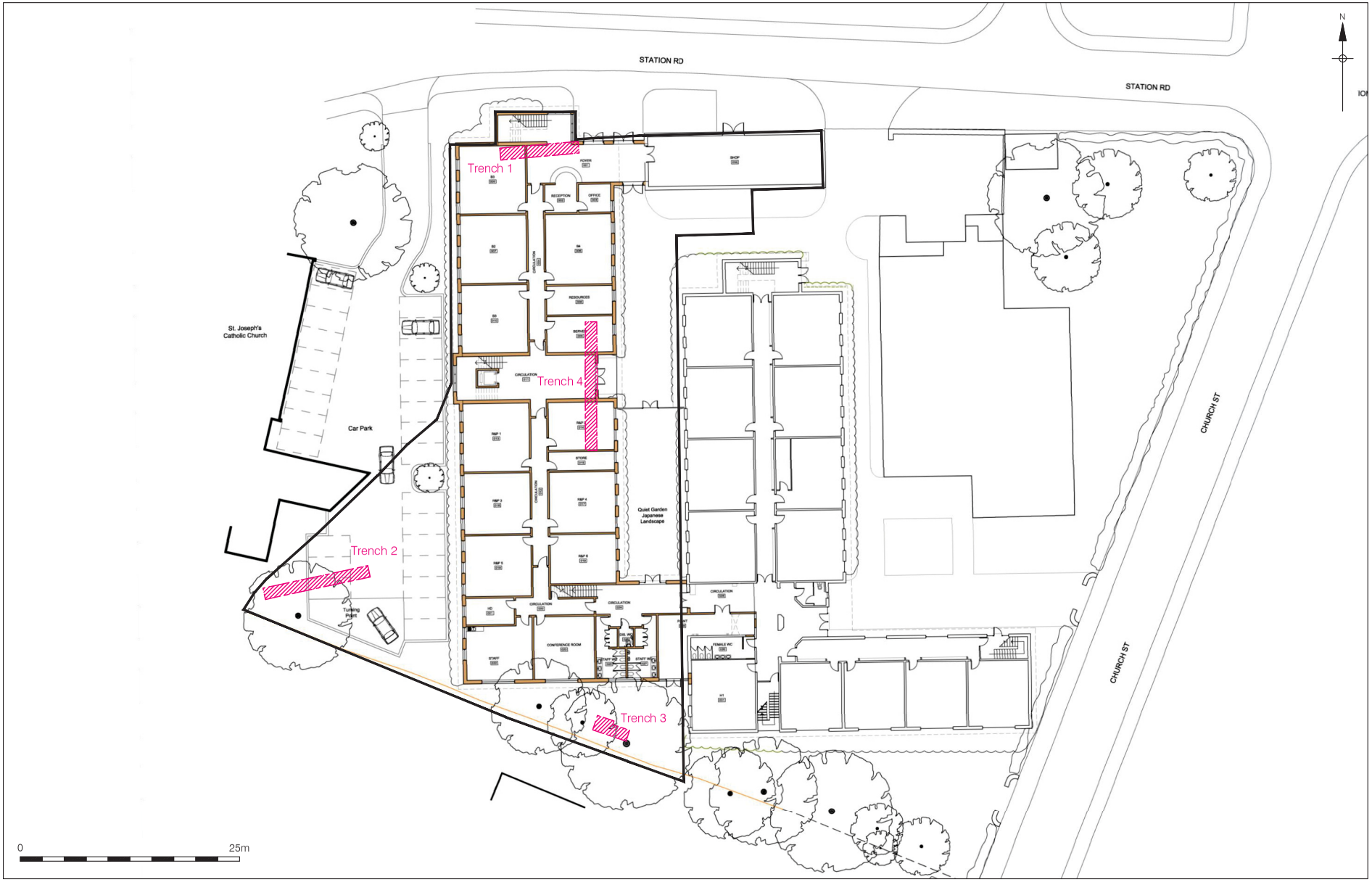
23/04/13 HB

Figure 1
Site Location
1:400,000 & 20,000 at A4



23/04/13 HB

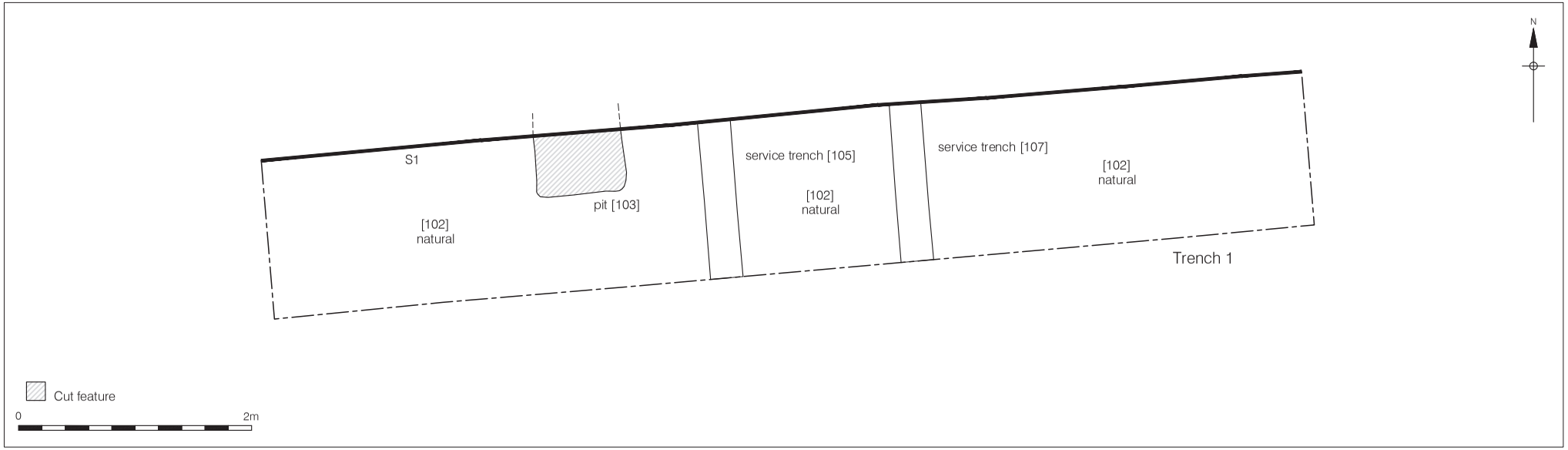
Figure 2
Trench Location
1:625 at A4

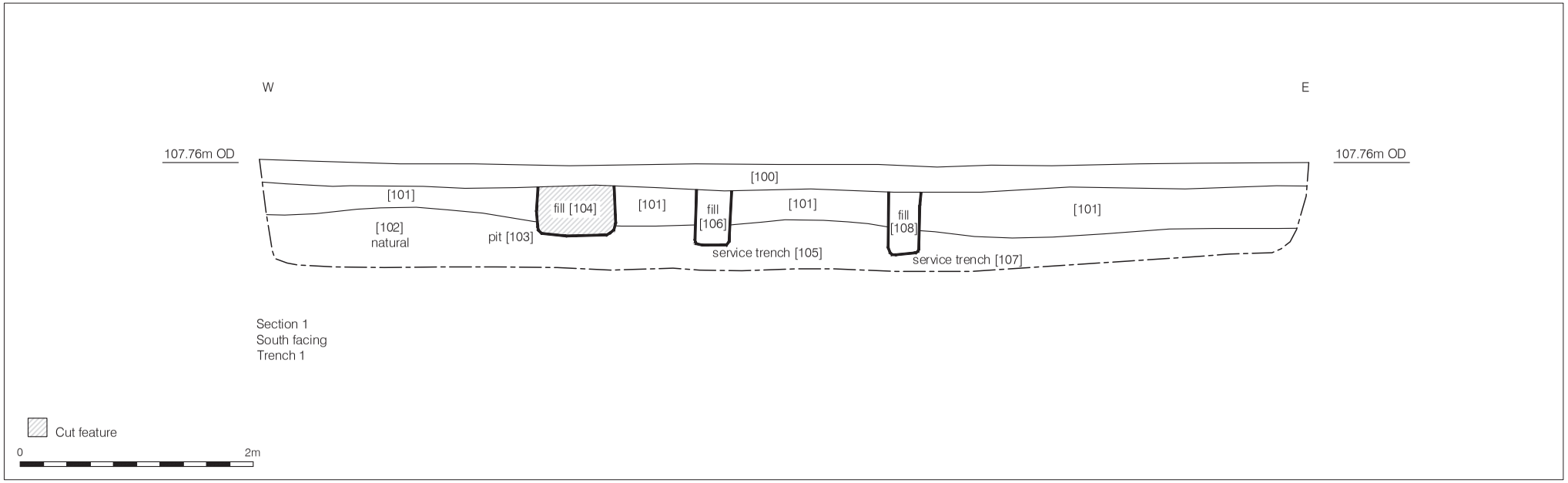


Drawing supplied by GSSArchitecture, July 2012

23/04/13 HB

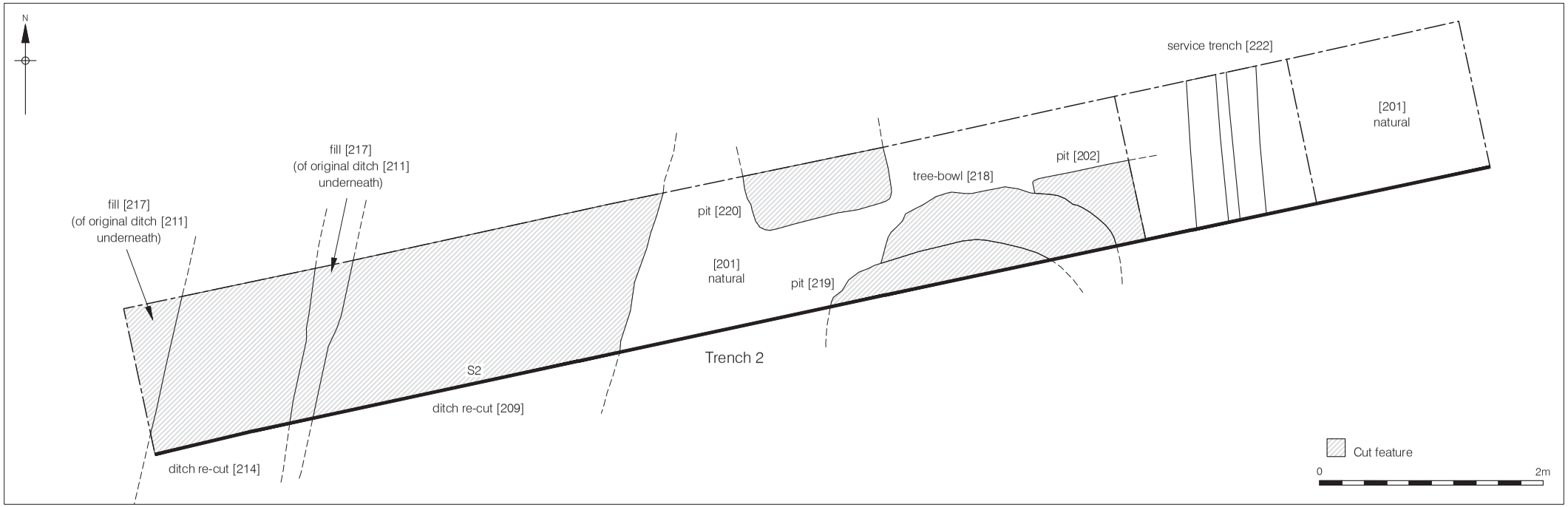
Figure 3
Trench Location overlain onto the Proposed Development
1:625 at A4

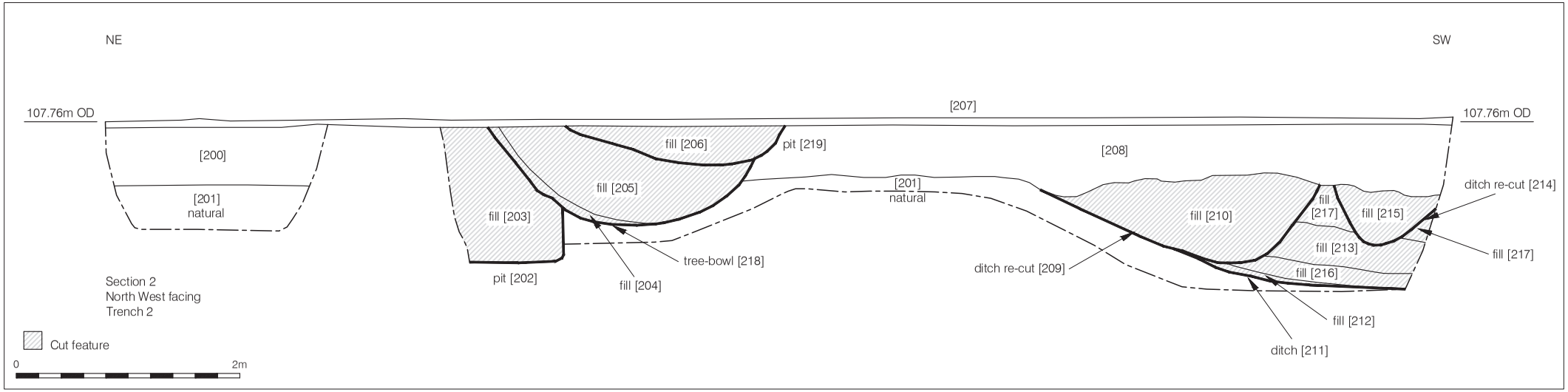




23/04/13 HB

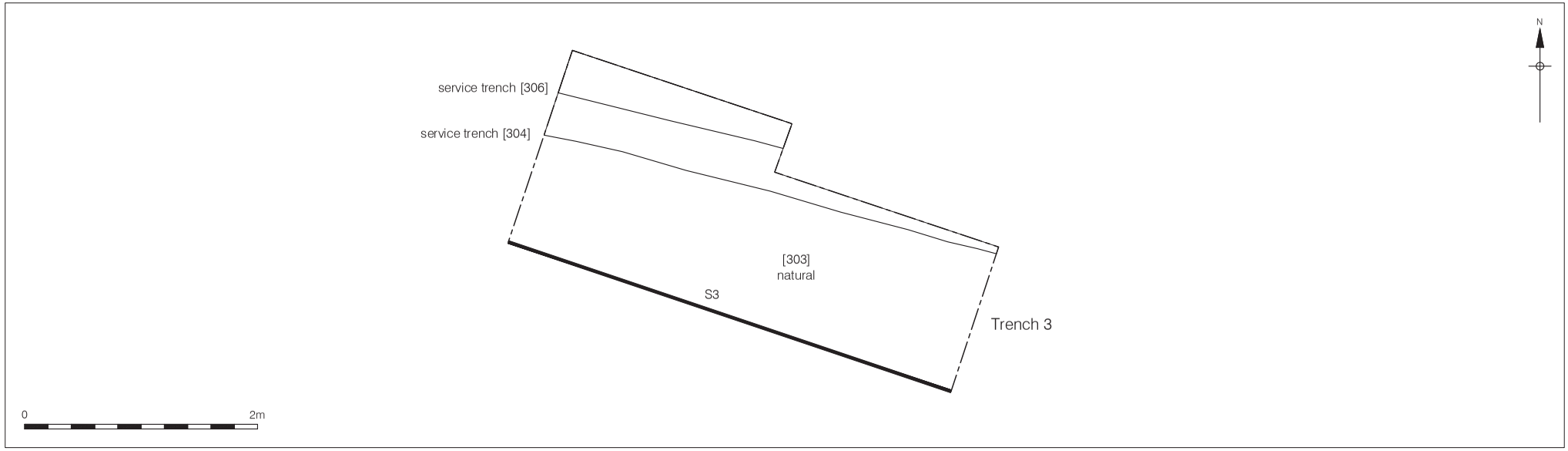
Figure 4
Plan of Trench 1 & Section 1
1:50 at A4

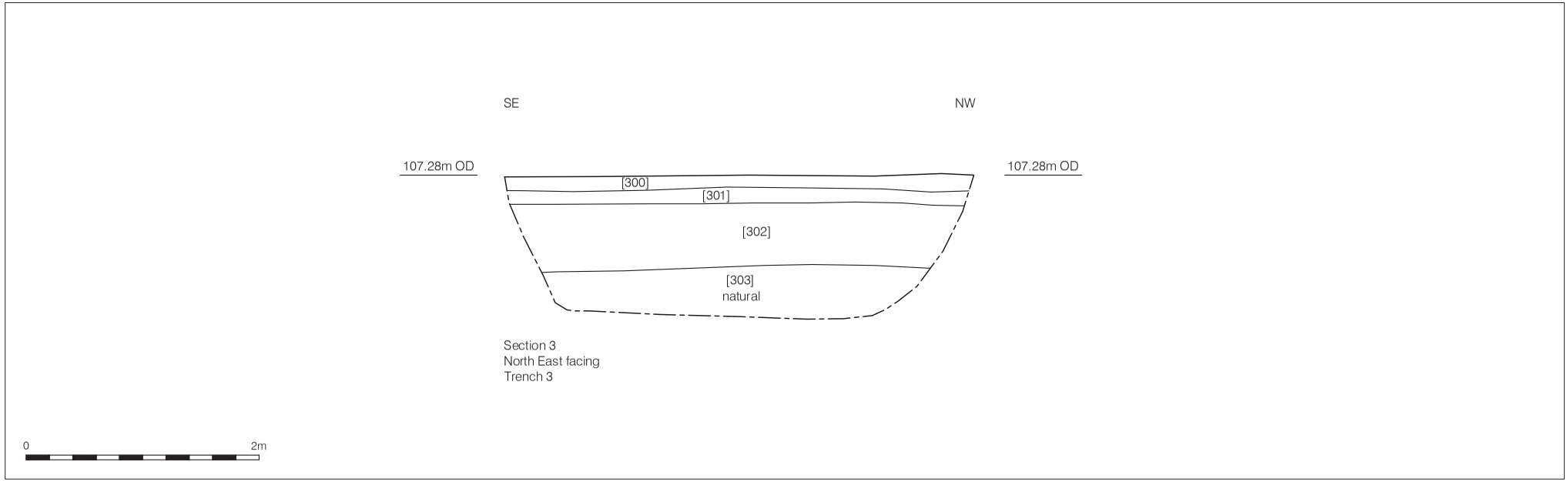




23/04/13 HB: updated 07/06/13 HB

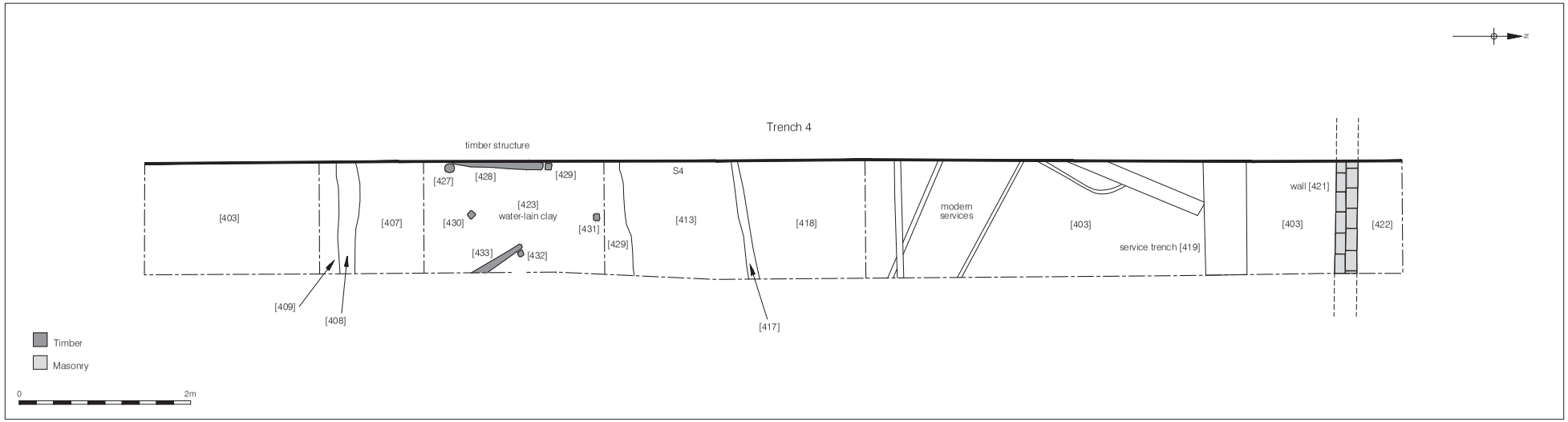
Figure 5
Plan of Trench 2 & Section 2
1:50 at A4

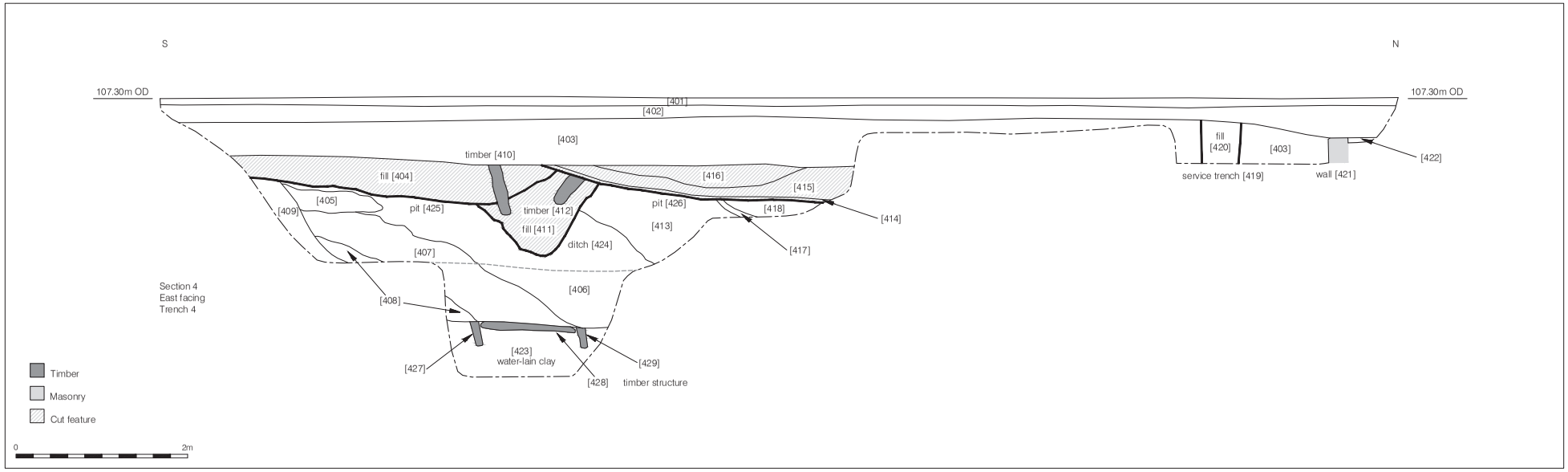




23/04/13 HB

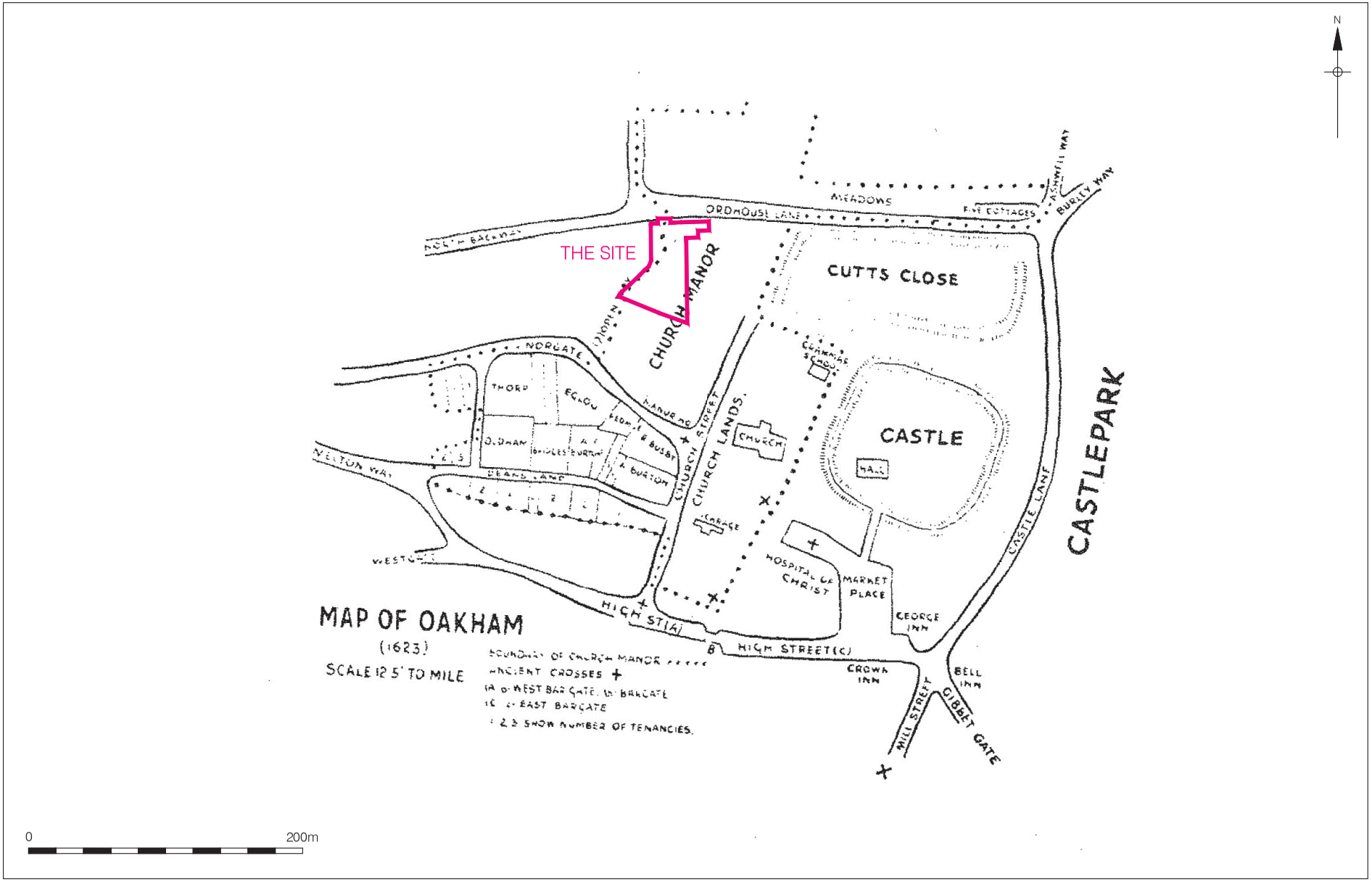
Figure 6
Plan of Trench 3 & Section 3
1:50 at A4





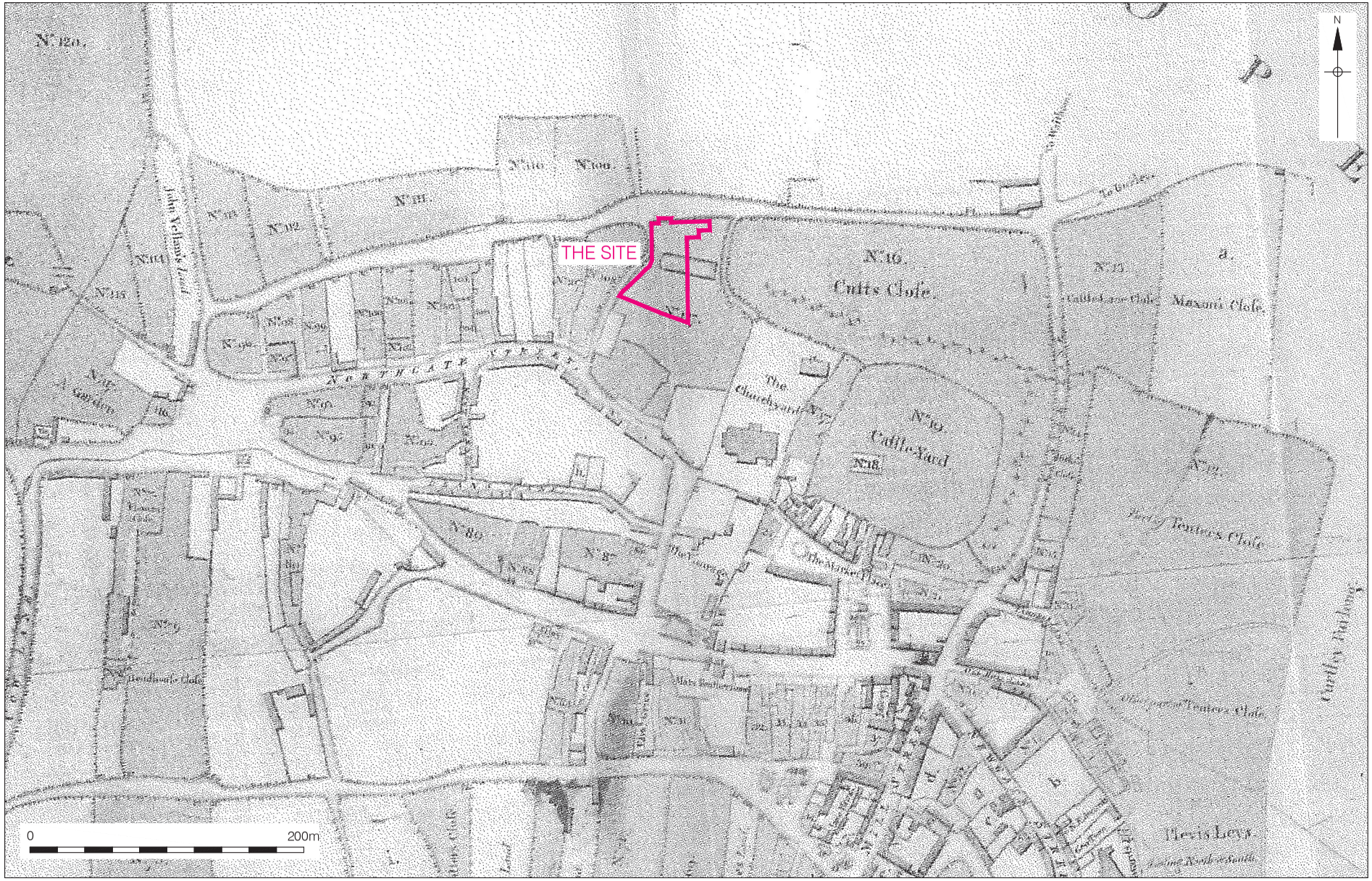
23/04/13 HB: updated 07/06/13 HB

Figure 7
Plan of Trench 4 & Section 4
1:50 at A3



23/04/13 HB

Figure 8
Composite map of Oakham in 1623
1:4,000 at A4



© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2013
23/04/13 HB

Figure 9
1787 Survey of Oakham
conducted for the Earl of Winchilsea,
depicting a pond running east-west across the site
1:4,000 at A4

P C A

PCA SOUTH
UNIT 54
BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE
96 ENDWELL ROAD
BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD
TEL: 020 7732 3925 / 020 7639 9091
FAX: 020 7639 9588
EMAIL: info@pre-construct.com

PCA NORTH
UNIT 19A
TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK
DURHAM DH6 5PG
TEL: 0191 377 1111
FAX: 0191 377 0101
EMAIL: info.north@pre-construct.com

PCA CENTRAL
7 GRANTA TERRACE
STAPLEFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 5DL
TEL: 01223 845 522
FAX: 01223 845 522
EMAIL: info.central@pre-construct.com

PCA WEST
BLOCK 4
CHILCOMB HOUSE
CHILCOMB LANE
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO23 8RB
TEL: 01962 826 761
EMAIL: info.west@pre-construct.com

PCA MIDLANDS
17-19 KETTERING RD
LITTLE BOWDEN
MARKET HARBOROUGH
LEICESTERSHIRE LE16 8AN
TEL: 01858 468333
EMAIL: info.midlands@pre-construct.com

REGISTERED · ORGANISATION · IfA