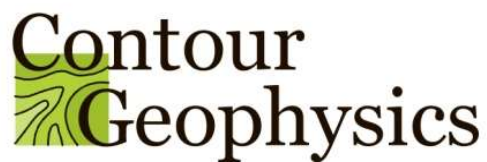




*In Partnership With*



PROGRAMME OF  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION TRENCHING

LAND ADJACENT TO  
20 CHURCH LANE  
FENNY DRAYTON,  
LEICESTERSHIRE

Grid ref: SP 434974 297029  
Planning: 15/00563/FUL

Site Code: FENN17  
Oasia ID: MIDLANDA1-281243

Prepared For: Mr and Mrs Walsh

Neil Jefferson BSc (Hons)

April 2017

Specialist & Independent Buried &  
Built Historic Environment Advisors to  
the Construction & Property Industries

**LAND ADJACENT TO 20 CHURCH LANE, FENNY DRAYTON, LEICESTERSHIRE**

Site Code: FENN17  
Planning Reference: 15/00563/FUL  
NGR: SP 434974 297029  
OASIS ID: 281243

***Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation***

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**APPENDIX A – Context Register**

**APPENDIX B – A Roman sherd from land adjacent to 20 Church Lane, Fenny Drayton, Leicestershire (FENN17)**

## **LAND ADJACENT TO 20 CHURCH LANE, FENNY DRAYTON, LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION**

### **SUMMARY**

*This report presents the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken on land adjacent to 20 Church Lane, Fenny Drayton, Leicestershire. The project was commissioned by Mr Mike Walsh in order to provide information on the archaeological impact of proposed development at the site, in support of planning application 15/00563/FUL submitted to the Local Planning Authority.*

*During this evaluation, two linear features were recorded cutting the natural. The first was a 1m wide ditch containing one piece of roman pottery. The lack of finds and its naturally silted fill would suggest that this may form part of a larger enclosure or field boundary away from the occupation area. The second feature was a 0.4m wide linear gully, which contained no finds. The proximity to the roman ditch to the west and a similar fill would suggest a potential connection; possibly forming a drainage gully into the larger ditch at a time when the area was particularly wet.*

*Five modern irregular pits were also recorded in the evaluation. As the previous owner used the area as storage for his construction business, they are likely to be related e.g. rubbish pits. Other evidence of this modern activity is that most the site has also been previously stripped down to the natural and a crushed CBM layer was imported and levelled on top. This was most likely done to create a firm surface to use as a storage area for the business.*

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This report presents the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken on land adjacent to 20 Church Lane, Fenny Drayton, Leicestershire. The project was commissioned by Mr Mike Walsh in order to provide information on the archaeological impact of proposed development at the site, in support of planning application 15/00563/FUL submitted to Hinkley and Bosworth Borough Council. Fieldwork was carried out between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2017, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Midland Archaeology and approved by the Hinkley and Bosworth Borough Council Planning Archaeologist.

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. Midland Archaeology cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA: 2014).

### **2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (see Figs. 1, 2 and 3)**

Fenny Drayton lies 7.5km north of Nuneaton, in the county of Leicestershire and district of Hinckley and Bosworth (Fig. 2). The village is located just north of the Roman road of Watling St, the current (A5), (Fig. 1 and 2).

The site lies to the immediate east of Church Lane (Fig.3), just before its junction with Rookery Close at a height of approximately 90.00m AOD, centred on SP 434974 297029, and forms an irregular plot measuring 1236sqm. The underlying geology

comprises of superficial deposits of Bosworth clay and silt and a solid geology of Gunthorpe Member-Mudstone. (BGS, 2010).

### **3.0 HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

Fenny Drayton and its surrounding environs has a diverse archaeological record, spanning from the prehistoric to the post-medieval periods and later. Much of this has been recorded over the years by chance discoveries, research projects, stray finds and during or ahead of development.

To the north of the site is the 12th century Church of St. Michael's (MLE13101), which has later medieval alterations/repairs and which was restored during the late 19th century AD. In the vicinity of the church, Roman remains have been recorded throughout the years, with the possibility of a high status building being present, with finds of pottery/tile being recorded. In 2005 an archaeological evaluation by the north aisle of the church recorded postholes, a ditch, along with pottery and tile (MLE8927). Later archaeology is also recorded close by, between Church Lane and Old Forge Road, with the presence of a mediaeval boundary ditch and pottery of 14/15th century date. Traces of the village earthworks which represented old enclosures were also recorded in the 1980's (MLE3286). Further medieval earthworks (MLE3287) comprising of fishponds possibly associated with a lost manorial site west and south of the site are also known.

### **4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

The principal objectives of the project, as set out in a Midland Archaeology specification were to:

- Gather information on the archaeology of the site, so that an informed recommendation can be made to the local planning authority regarding the potential impact of development upon any archaeology within the development area.
- Establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation throughout the development area.
- Retrieve artefacts and to assist in the development of a type series within the region.
- Recover palaeo-environmental remains.
- Evaluate the impact of past land uses and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Preserve any archaeological remains by record.
- Provide sufficient information to create a conservation strategy dealing with the preservation, recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost should anything be found.

- Establish if any archaeological deposits have survived within areas monitored, with regard to any which are significantly important enough to merit preservation in situ.

## **5.0 METHODOLOGY**

The project specification provided for the excavation of 6 trenches, 5 measuring 5m x 1.6m and 1 measuring 15m x 1.6m (Fig. 3). Two trenches were extended by c. 1m to fully expose, a feature in Trench 1 and modern disturbance in Trench 5

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

A record of the site was compiled through plans drawn at scale 1:20 or 1:50 and sections at 1:10 or 1:20, colour digital and monochrome (35mm) photographs and individual written context records on *pro forma* recording sheets. Trenches were located by a survey grade GPS.

## **6.0 RESULTS**

Full context descriptions are provided in Appendix A. Fig. 3 depicts an overall plan of the site so that features in separate trenches can be easily related to each other.

### **6.1 All Trenches (Figs 3-5)**

The earliest deposits comprised of orangey-brown clay natural (103) which, in trenches 1 and 2 was overlain by c.0.3m of greyish-brown, sandy clay topsoil (102). This topsoil layer had already been stripped from the area to the east of Trench 2.

In trenches 2, 3, 5 and 6, the natural was cut by 5 areas of modern disturbance; these contained modern plastics, CBM and metals. These and the buried topsoil (103) was covered by 0.12m to 0.3m of crushed CBM (101), which also contained modern plastics and metal. Covering this layer in the western area of the site was a dark greyish-brown, sandy clay topsoil (100).

### **6.2 Trench 1 (Figs 3-5)**

The natural was cut by a c. 1m wide and 0.3m deep NW-SE linear ditch [105] which was filled with a brownish-grey, sandy clay (104). The fill appeared to have naturally silted and contained a single piece of 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> century Roman pottery. It is possible that this could form part of a large enclosure or field system, possibly on the outskirts of a settlement of farmstead.

### **6.2 Trench 3 (Figs 3-5)**

The natural was cut by a c. 0.4m wide and 0.12m deep NE-SW linear gully [107] and was filled by a brownish-grey, clay (106) which appears to have formed naturally. Although no finds were recovered from the feature it most likely dates to the same period as ditch [105]. The feature probably resolves as a drainage gully possibly running into the larger ditch [105].

## **7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION**

During this evaluation, two linear features were recorded cutting the natural. The first was a 1m wide ditch containing one piece of roman pottery. The lack of finds and its naturally silted fill would suggest that this may form part of a larger enclosure or field boundary away from the occupation area. The second feature was a 0.4m wide linear gully, which contained no finds. The proximity to the roman ditch to the west and a similar fill would suggest a potential connection; possibly forming a drainage gully into the larger ditch at a time when the area was particularly wet.

Five modern irregular pits were also recorded in the evaluation. As the previous owner used the area as storage for his construction business, they are likely to be related e.g. rubbish pits. Other evidence of this modern activity is that most the site has also been previously stripped down to the natural and a crushed CBM layer was imported and levelled on top. This was most likely done to create a firm surface to use as a storage area for the business.

## **8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The author of this report would like to thank Mr and Mrs Walsh for their support in ensuring that the project was brought to a successful conclusion.

## **9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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## **10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS**

### **10.1 Project Information**

SITE CODE: FENN17

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: 15/00563/FUL

FIELD OFFICER: N. Jefferson and L. Jefferson

NGR: SP 434974 297029

CIVIL PARISH: Witherley

DATES OF INTERVENTION: 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2017

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Trial Trench Evaluation

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Mr Mike Walsh

### **10.2 Archive Details**

**PRESENT LOCATION:**

Midland Archaeology,  
Old House,  
59 Church Street,  
Digby,  
Lincolnshire,  
LN4 3LZ

**FINAL LOCATION:**

Long Street  
Wigston Magna  
Leicester  
LE18 2AH

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: X.A21.2017

ACCESSION DATE: TBC

***The Site Archive Comprises:***

Context Records	13
Plans at Scale 1:50	1
Section Drawings at Scale 1:20	1
Black and White photographs	20 frames
Digital Photographs	20
Set of Site Notes	3

**COLOUR PLATES**



Plate 1: General view of the site, looking southwest.



*.Plate 2: Trench 1, feature [105], looking east.*



Plate 3: Trench 3, feature [107] looking northeast.



Plate 4: Trench 3, looking north



Plate 5: Trench 3, section 3 looking west.



Plate 6: Trench 5, looking north.



Plate 7: Trench 4, looking west.



Plate 8: Trench 6, section 6, looking northwest.

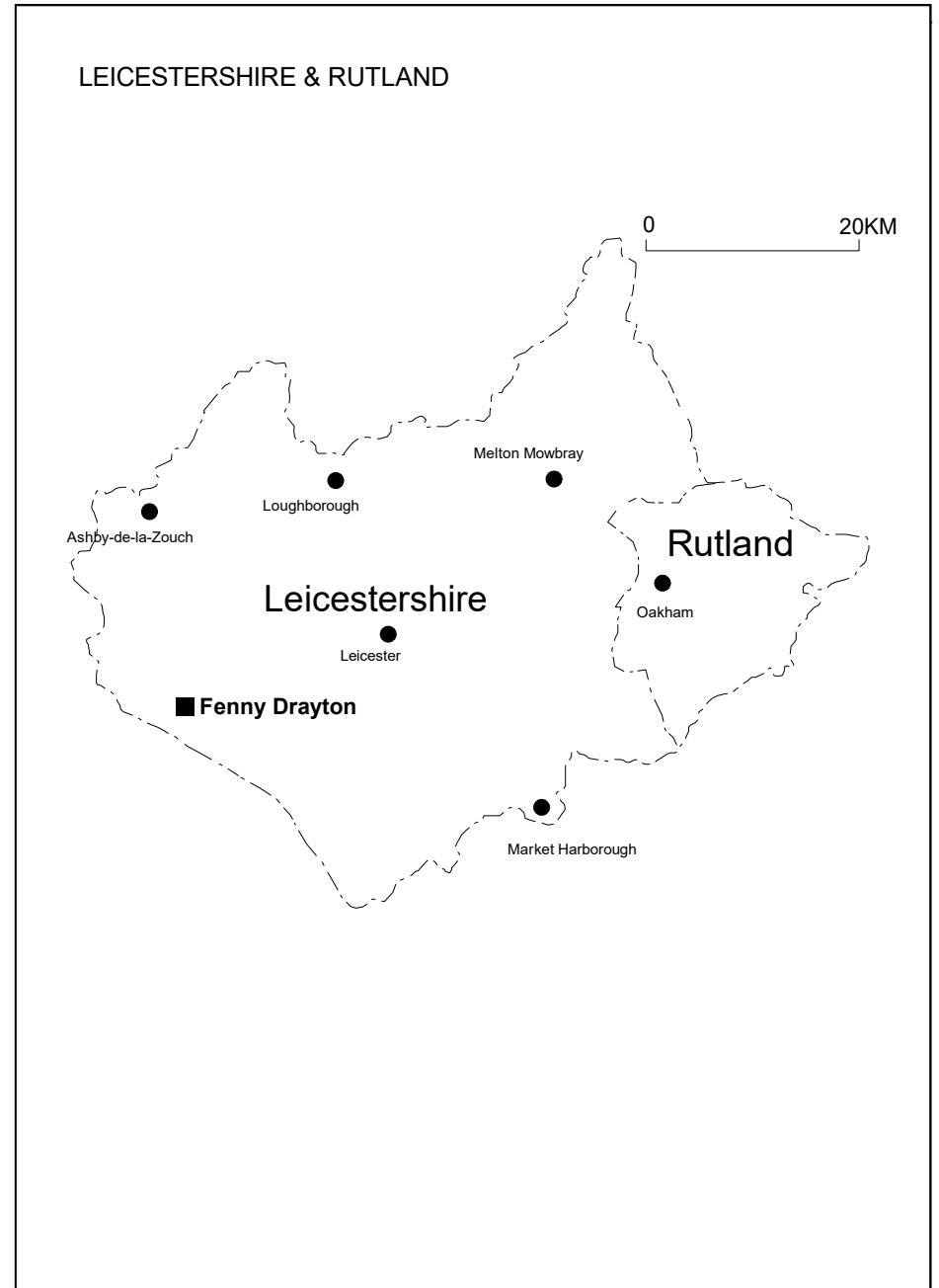
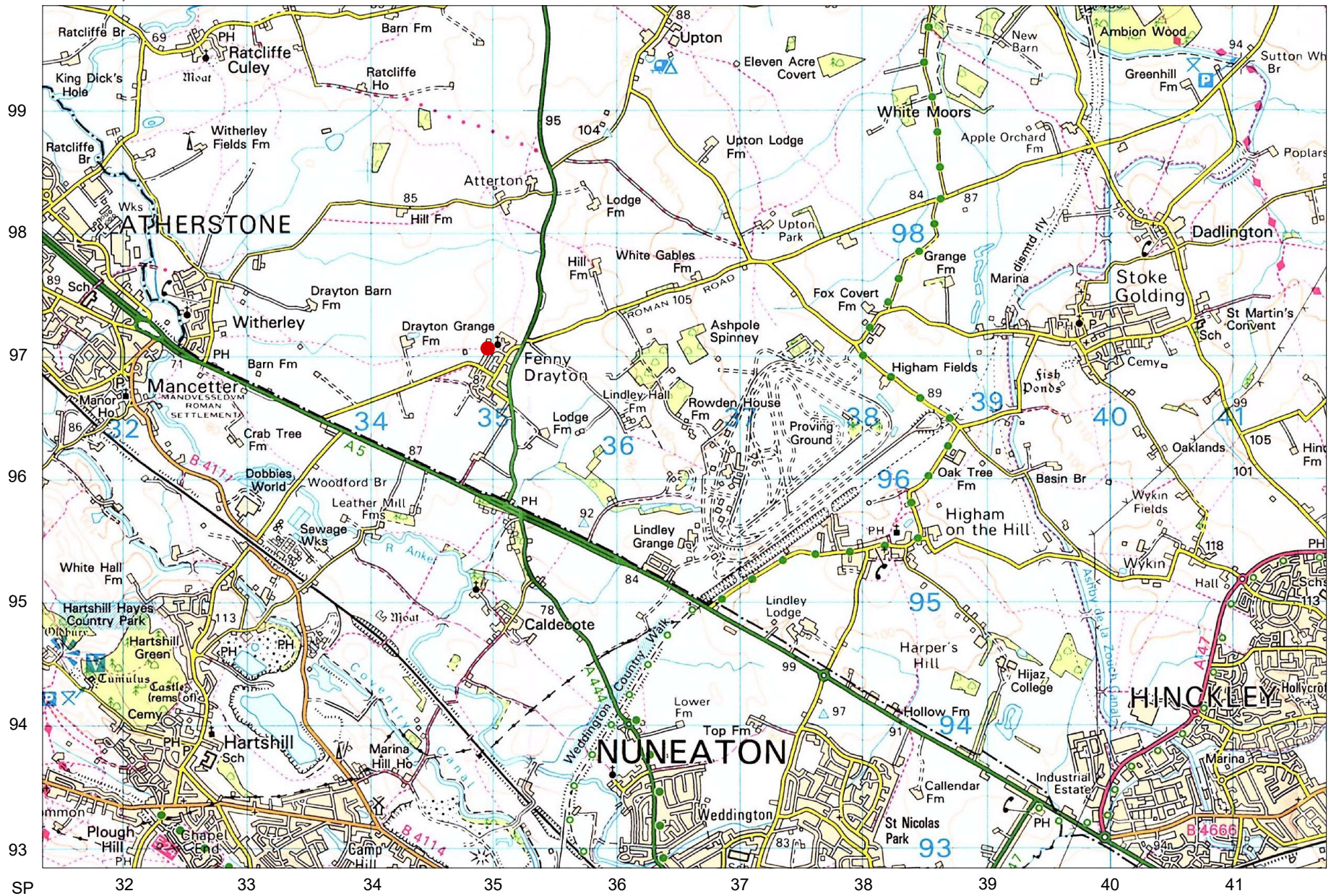


Figure 1 General location map



● Site Location

0 1000m

Figure 2 Site location map

Scale 1:50,000

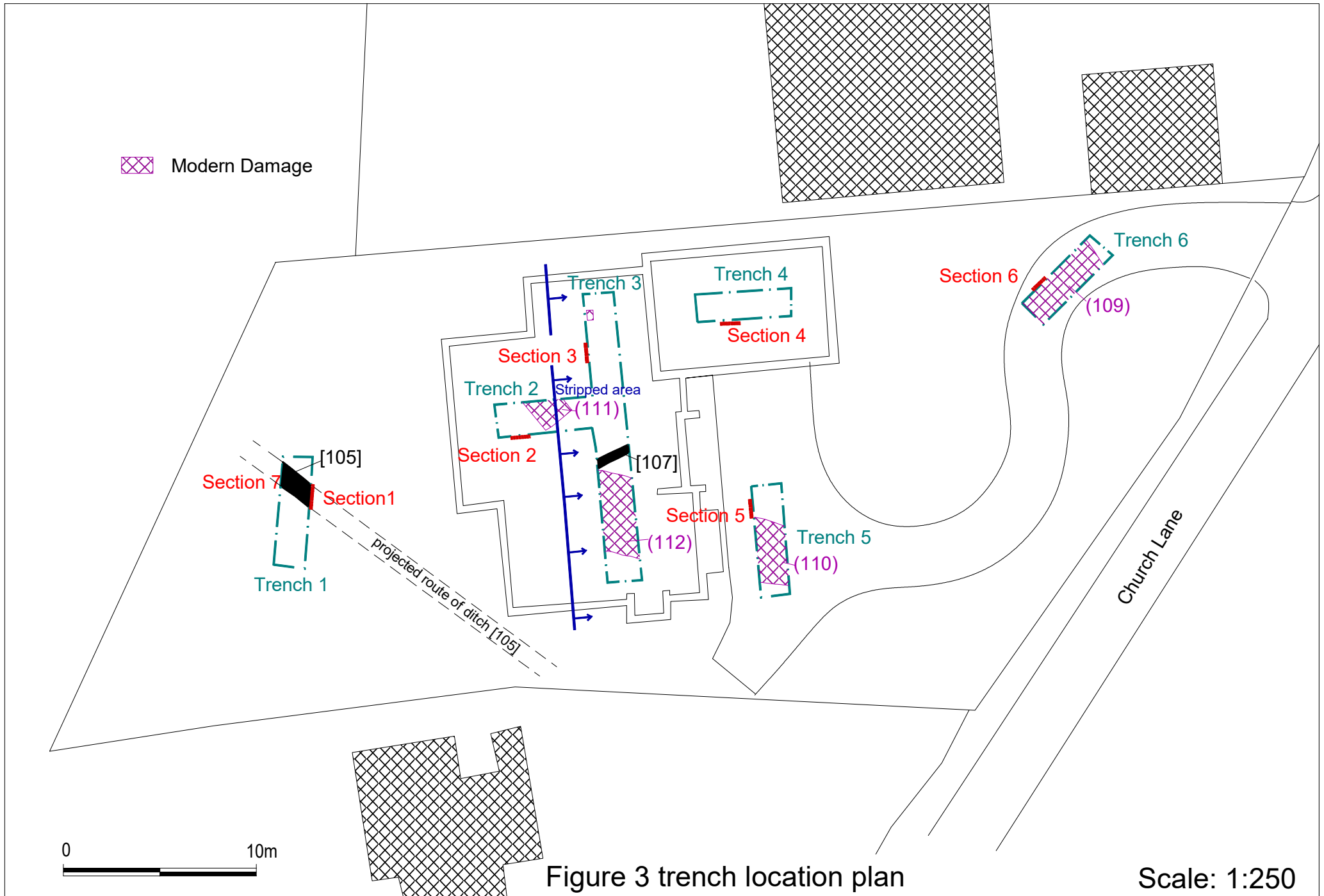


Figure 3 trench location plan

Scale: 1:250



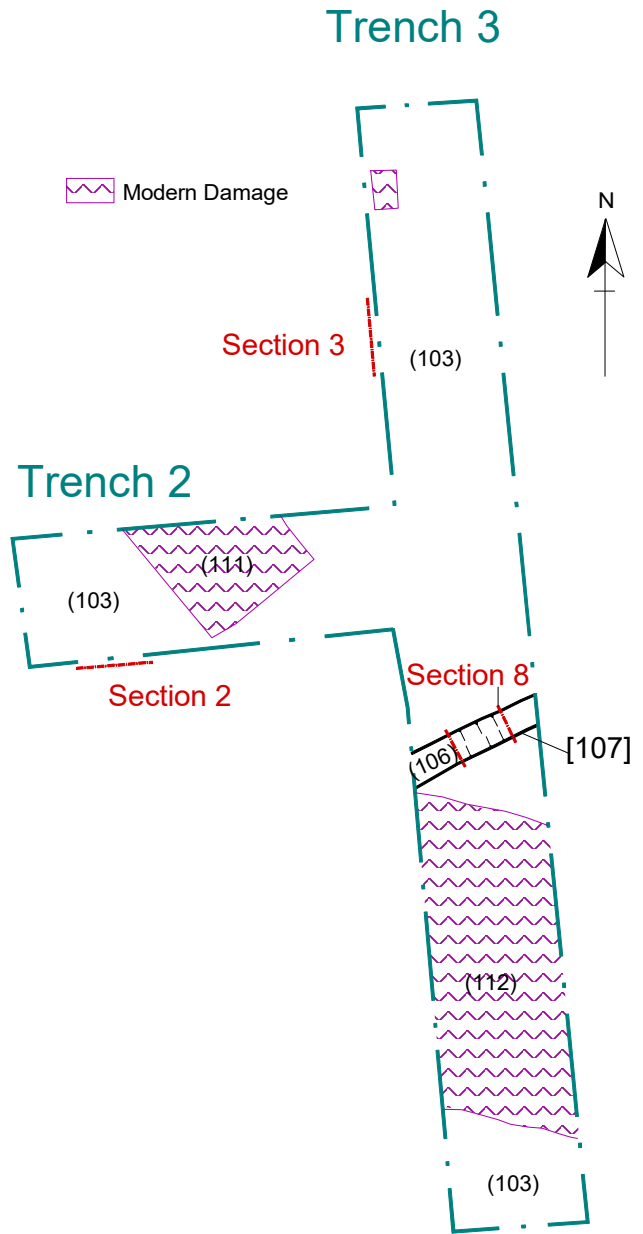
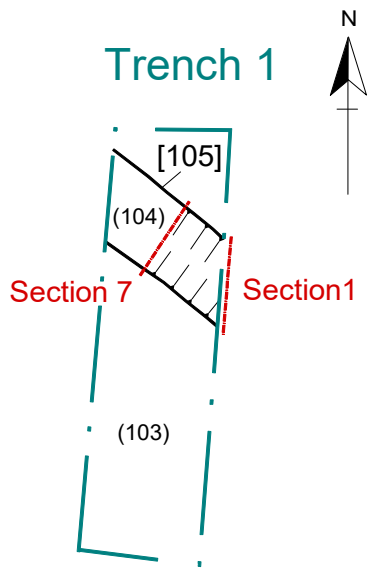


Figure 4 Trench 1, 2 and 3

Scale: 1:100

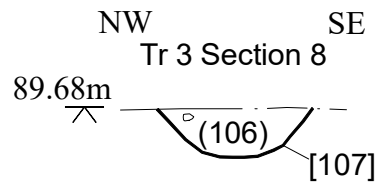
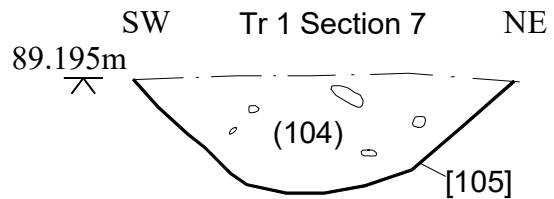
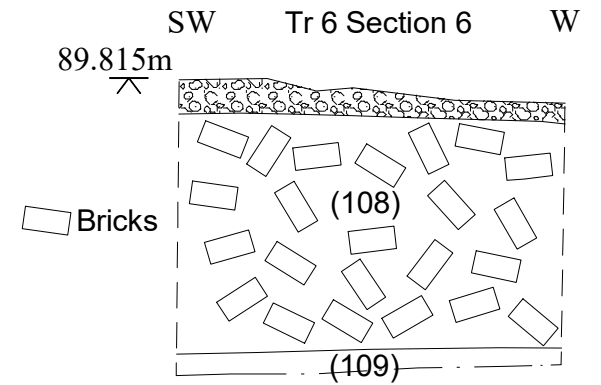
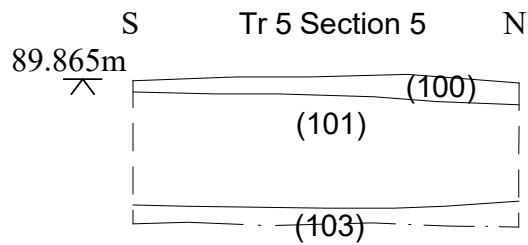
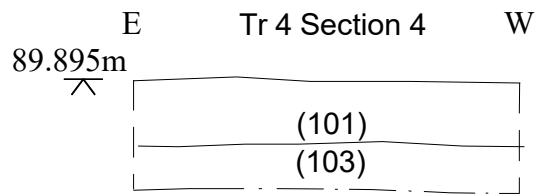
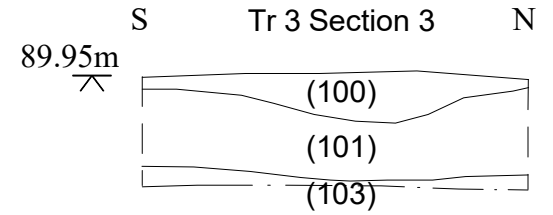
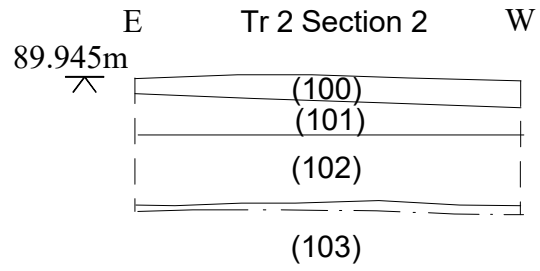
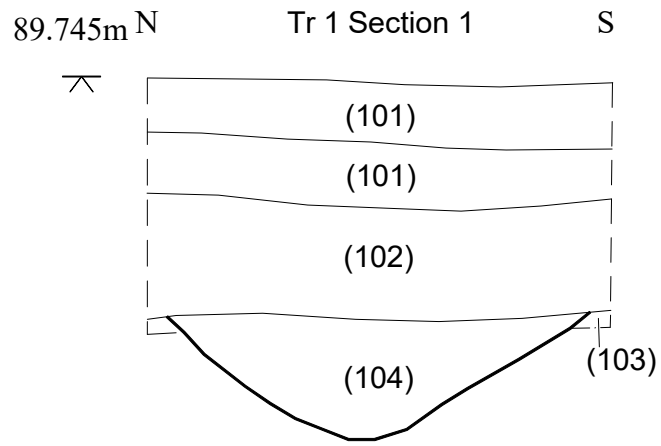


Figure 5 Section Drawings 1-8

Scale: 1:20

## APPENDIX A - CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

<i>Context</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>
(100)	Layer – Ground surface (topsoil and debris)	Irregular current ground surface – mixture of new topsoil (dark greyish-brown, clayey silt) with some small angular and rounded stones and copious building debris – some lawn and scattered vegetation. All site – up to c 0.2m deep. Present in Trs 1, 2, 3 & 5.
(101)	Layer – Crushed CBM and rubble	Dark greyish-brown, sandy clay, where present. Mainly layer of crushed building debris/modern CBM. Lens of blackish material to base. C. 0.12m – 0.3m deep. Present in Trs 1, 3, 4 & 5.
(102)	Layer – Buried topsoil	Mid greyish-brown, sandy clay. Common stones and charcoal flecks. Buried topsoil in western part of site. C. 0.3m deep. Present in Trs 1 & 2.
(103)	Layer - Natural	Mid orangey-brown clay with some rounded stones. Present in all trenches though disturbed in places.
(104)	Fill of ditch [105]	Mid brownish-grey, slightly sandy clay. Contains small rounded stones and charcoal flecks. Sole fill of linear [107] – natural silting. Contained 1 x pot sherd. Extends beyond limits of trench > 1.6m long x c. 1m x c. 0.3m deep.
[105]	Cut of ditch	Cut of NW-SE linear ditch in Tr 1. Gradual breaks of slope to concave base - ‘u’ shaped in profile. Extends beyond limits of trench > 1.6m long x c. 1m x c. 0.3m deep.
(106)	Fill of gully [107]	Mid brownish-grey, clay. Contains small stones and charcoal flecks. Sole fill of gully [109] – natural silting. Extends beyond limits of trench > 1.6m long x c. 0.4m x c. 0.12m deep.
[107]	Cut of ditch	Cut of NE-SW linear gully in Tr 3. Gradual breaks of slope to concave base - ‘u’ shaped in profile. Extends beyond limits of trench > 1.6m long x c. 0.4m x c. 0.12m deep.
(108)	Layer – Brick and building rubble	Mid brown, sandy clay (where present). Substantial deposit of building and building CBM. Also contains modern debris. Present in area of Tr 6 just below the modern stone drive surface. > 1.6m long x > 5m x C. 0.6m deep.
(109)	Layer – Modern disturbance	Modern disturbance of natural containing building material and debris. Seen in plan at base of Tr 6. Augered to c. 0.2m deep.
(110)	Layer – Modern disturbance	Modern disturbance of natural containing building material and debris. Seen in plan at base of Tr 5. Augered to c. 0.46m deep.
(111)	Layer – Modern disturbance	Modern disturbance of natural containing building material and debris. Very ashy. Seen in plan at base of Tr 2. Augered to c. 0.4m deep.
(112)	Layer – Modern disturbance	Modern disturbance of natural containing building material and debris. Seen in plan at base of Tr 3. Augered to c. 0.72m deep.

**Appendix B - A Roman sherd from land adjacent to 20 Church Lane, Fenny Drayton, Leicestershire (FENN17)**

*I.M. Rowlandson*  
*March 28<sup>th</sup> 2017*

A single sherd in the grog and sand-gritted GT5 fabric from a necked jar or large bowl was retrieved from a linear feature (cut 105, fill 104). The sherd probably dates from the late 1st to 2nd century AD. The sherd shows signs of abrasion.

**Methodology**

The pottery has been recorded using count and weight as measures according to the guidelines laid down for the minimum archive by *The Study Group for Roman Pottery* (Darling 2004) using the Leicestershire Museum codes commonly in use (see Pollard 1999, Clark 1999 etc.). The date provided represent the pottery recorded here: the main text of the report and other specialist contributions should be consulted to ascertain the overall date attributed to each context.

**Bibliography**

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## OASIS ID: midlanda1-281243

### Project details

Project name	Land adjacent to 20 Church Lane Fenny Drayton.
Short description of the project	Programme of archaeological trial trenching prior to development.
Project dates	Start: 16-03-2017 End: 18-03-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	X.A21.2017 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	FENN 17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Significant Finds	POT SHERD Roman
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH HINCKLEY Land adjacent to 20 Church Lane, Fenny Drayton, N2 8DT.
Postcode	N2 8DT
Study area	1236 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 434974 297029 51.963671895077 -1.366842352519 51 57 49 N 001 22 00 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 89m Max: 90m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Midland Archaeological Services
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Midland Archaeological Services
Project director/manager	S.L.W Williams
Project supervisor	Neil Jefferson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

---

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Leicestershire
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Leicestershire
Digital Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Media available	"Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Leicestershire
Paper Contents	"Ceramics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

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### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Programme of archaeological evaluation trenching
Author(s)/Editor(s)	N.jefferson
Other bibliographic details	MAS/455/17
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	MAS
Place of issue or publication	MAS
Description	Trenched field evaluation prior to residential development. One Roman feature dated to the 2-3rd century recorded.

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Entered by	Steve Williams (info@midarch.co.uk)
Entered on	3 April 2017