



9 Harbidges Lane

Long Buckby, Northamptonshire

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Archaeological Evaluation

NGR: SP 62485 67643

HER Event number: ENN109208

Site code: LB18

OASIS ID: 110archa1-329159

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Illustration by Jill Atherton MCIfA

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Front cover; view to the north-east showing the evaluation trench 1 within the proposed development site.

SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was carried out during September 2018 and January 2019 at 9 Harbidges Lane, Long Buckby, Northamptonshire, in advance of proposal for residential development of the site. Although limited in scope, the investigation revealed features dated to the C12 and mid-C13. On the west side of the site they comprised a ditch interpreted as a former boundary enclosing a probable small timber-framed structure seemingly aligned perpendicular to Harbidges Lane and on the southern edge of the site a single right-angled feature, possibly an enclosure ditch, produced C12 and mid-C13 pottery. The evidence, in combination with other discoveries in the area suggests that that site is part of a settlement comprising tenement plots that became established along both sides of Harbidges Lane during the period of occupation associated with the castle site situated immediately to the east. The remains at 9 Harbidges Lane lie immediately north of the castle bailey.

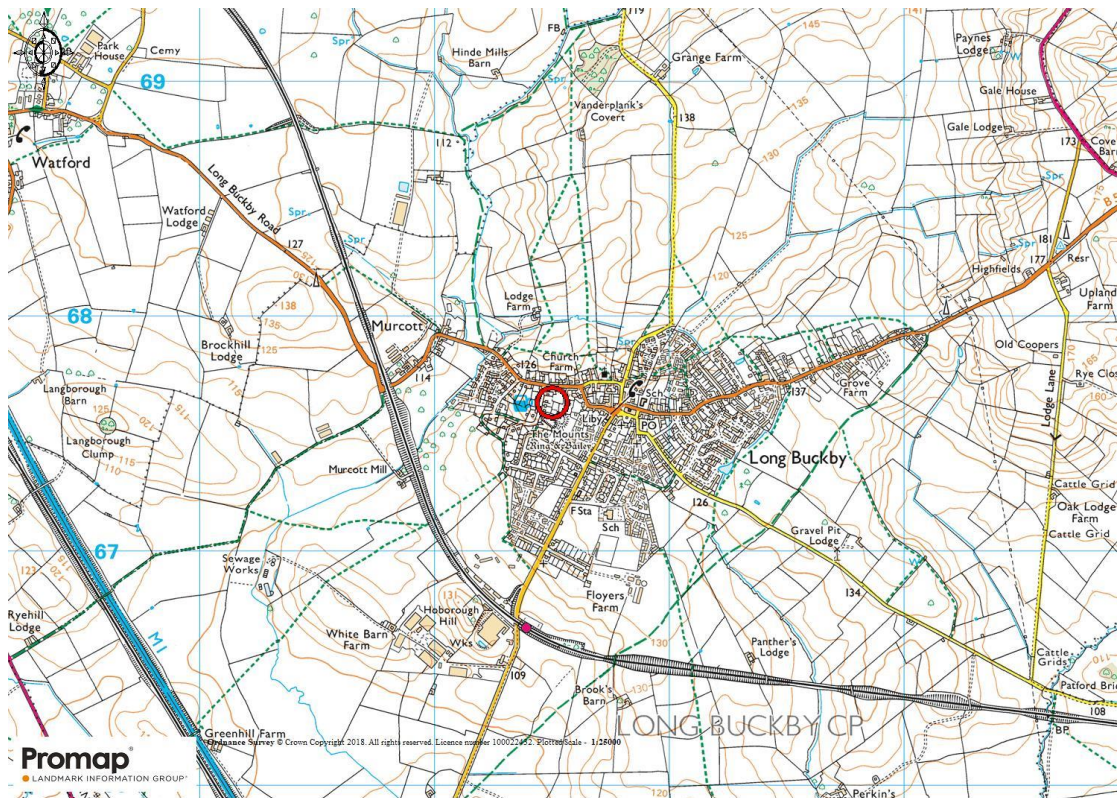


Fig. 1; site location (circled in red)



Fig. 2; study site (outlined in red)

INTRODUCTION

Location and scope of work (Figs. 1 & 2)

This document details the results of an archaeological evaluation during 12th September 2018 and 28-29th January 2019 at 9 Harbidges Lane, Long Buckby, Northamptonshire, NN6 7QL at the request of Mr A McFazdean. A planning application is to be submitted for the erection of three detached dwellings with access. The proposed development lies within an area of archaeological potential and the Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council had requested an evaluation by trial trenching. This should provide sufficient archaeological information in which to assess the impact of the application in line with the guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The results of the evaluation would be used to determine the likely nature, extent, preservation and importance of any archaeological remains, and how these may be affected by development of the site so that appropriate mitigation strategies could be devised. The evaluation represented an initial investigation, should archaeological deposits be encountered during the trial trenching then an approved programme of archaeological work would be required to record the deposits prior to development.

Geology and topography

The proposed development area lies on the western edge of the village of Long Buckby near the remains of the medieval castle (The Mounts). Topographically the development site which comprises approx. 600m² is reasonably level and lies at approximately 135m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD). The geology maps indicate that the site contains glacial boulder clay (BGS, 1985).

Archaeological and historical background

The Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (HER) was consulted with a search carried out over a 250m radius centred on the site. A total of 63 monument records and 27 event records are identified. The earliest evidence of occupation within the search area is a possible Romano-British ditch (MNN142736) from which a small assemblage of Romano-British pottery was recovered (Chapman, 1996-7).

The settlement at Long Buckby is likely to have been established during the Danish invasions. The village name of Long Buckby is of Nordic origin, with 'by' meaning settlement or village while 'Buck' is derived from 'Bec' (pronounced 'becker' in old Norse) for 'stream' or 'brook'. The village is recorded in the Domesday Book as *Buchebei*, its affix possibly coming at a later date in reference to the length of the village.

There were two manors in 1086 and this may explain the two discrete foci: one based on the castle (MNN11597) with the shrunken village of Salem and the other a new addition with church on a parallel road to the north. The seigneurial importance of the settlement at Long Buckby in the early medieval period is demonstrated by the establishment of the castle in the later C11 or early C12. This may relate to the existence of a major medieval road running through Buckby, from Northampton to Coventry (MNN14165) which is likely to have been a significant factor in the siting of the castle. The exact alignment of the road is difficult to recover but appears to run along the wide and deep hollow way (MNN1308) immediately south of the castle site.

In 1955 a small excavation was carried out, across the north ditch of the west bailey before destruction. The conclusions from this were that a shallow ditch, perhaps of an enclosure and possibly of pre-conquest or early post-conquest date, was superseded first by a wall and subsequently by a bank with a deep external ditch. Behind the wall stood a small stone building of C12 date. A curtain wall was later constructed around the bailey (Thompson, 1956).

The foundation of the market and fair at Long Buckby can be securely dated to 1280. It was a seigneurial foundation following the acquisition of the manor by the Earl of Lincoln. This was towards the end of the major phase of market creation in Northamptonshire in the C13, which rapidly slowed thereafter. It has not been possible to reconstruct the manorial structure in relation to the topography of the settlement, but this may prove to be the key to the understanding of the plan form and evolution of Long Buckby.

The maximum possible extent of the medieval settlement (MNN3803) at Long Buckby has been determined from the extent of old enclosures recorded in 1766, but the earliest map to give consistent and extensive evidence on individual tenements and buildings is the First Edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey.

For much of the medieval period the manor was held by the Earls of Winchester and Lincoln who were not resident there. As a result, Long Buckby became an 'open' village and over time families were able to move into the village. This probably explains how the road from the main village to the nearby

hamlet of Coten became settled and the reason for the during the Tudor period the village of Buckby became Long Buckby and Coten became Coten End.

The presence of a large population in the village with little or no land created the ideal location for industrial investment in the C17 when Long Buckby became associated with Wool manufacture. A decline after 1800 eventually led to the introduction of the boot and shoe trade which had already become established in the nearby industrial centres at Northampton and Daventry. The village also became a busy canal wharf after the Grand Junction Canal and the Leicester arm were opened during the first quarter of the C19.

EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

Aims of the work

The objectives of the evaluation were to determine the date, character, quality, survival and extent of the archaeological deposits within the application area likely to be threatened by the proposed development in order that an informed decision on their importance in a local, regional and national context can be made. This information would clarify whether any remains should be considered for preservation *in situ* or form the basis of a mitigation strategy.

Research framework: The national research context is provided by English Heritage (1991 and 1997) and regionally by the continually updated by the online-wiki which includes the East Midlands.

(<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/researchframeworks/eastmidlands/wiki/>)

Research Objective 7E: Investigate the morphology of rural settlements. The East Midlands preserves evidence of a complex landscape, including zones dominated by a hierarchy of nucleated villages, hamlets and farmsteads. This was previously outlined regionally by Cooper (2006), supplemented by Knight, Vyner & Allen (2012).

In particular, the aims of the investigation will include:

- i) establishing the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation on the development site;
- ii) recovering artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;

iii) recovering palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

Sample size and scope of fieldwork

The evaluation comprised three trenches located within each of the proposed building plots. Trench 1 was 15m long and located in the north-west area of the site approximating to the position of plot 3. Trench 2 was located in the south-east corner of the site to investigate the impact of plot 1 whilst trench 3 was excavated in the north-east corner of the site in the footprint of the proposed plot 2. All the trenches were excavated at a width of approx. 1.50m.

Fieldwork methods and recording

The archaeological field work and post-excavation was carried out in accordance with standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluations produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA, 2014). All deposits were excavated removing the overburden under close archaeological supervision and investigated for archaeological features. Plans and sample sections of the trenches were made and recorded during excavation.

RESULTS: GENERAL (Fig. 3)

Soil and ground conditions

Conditions were generally dry during the excavation, the soil showing little moisture retention. The ditch fill (103) proved difficult to identify due to the mottled nature of the fill which closely resembled the natural clay. The effects of root penetration towards the north-east end of the trench resulted in disturbance of fill deposits associated with the cut features leading to difficulties in with understanding the relationships between the various contexts. The dry nature of the ground conditions further inhibited identification of the various features and their relationships.

Reliability of field investigation

There was little evidence of truncation of the underlying deposits resulting from modern activities and the underlying deposits appear to have remained relatively

intact, although some small areas root penetration were recorded, particularly at the north-east end of trench 1.

Distribution of archaeological deposits

Excavation revealed archaeological remains in the area of plots 1 & 3. The results from trench 1 (plot 3) revealed a ditch and features suggesting the partial outline of a probable building dated to the C12. The deposits, which were generally sealed by approx. 0.50m of overburden, continued beyond the trench indicating that further remains associated with the building are present within this area. The evidence suggests that the remains are concentrated in the area between plots 2 & 3 and extending into the eastern half of plot 3. Trench 2 recorded a right-angled ditch feature, also dated from the mid-C13. The evidence from the trench suggests that these remains are concentrated within the southern half of plot 1. The results from trench 3 (plot 2) suggest that no archaeological remains are present within this area.

Presentation of results

The results of the excavation (below) are described from the earliest to the latest deposits. Trenches were attributed context numbers with a numerical value equivalent to the number of the trench.

RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS (Figs. 4-6)

TRENCH 1

The natural substrate (102), which was exposed throughout the length of the trench, comprised a light yellowish-brown clay with a component of small to large rounded pebbles. Truncating the surface of this deposit which is situated at a level height of 134.76m AOD are a series of natural and man-made features. Aligned north-west to south-east within the south-west end of the trench is a single ditch feature (104). It is 0.60m wide and about 0.30m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base 0.16m wide. The ditch is filled by a single deposit (103) consisting of a mid-greyish-brown, clayey-silt mottled with a component of natural clay and containing some charcoal flecking. Sample hand excavation produced a few fragments of animal bone and two sherds of C12 pottery.



Fig. 4; site plan with trench locations showing main archaeological features

Truncating the natural clay within the north-east end of the trench were two probable man-made features (106 & 108). Although different in form they are seemingly related, but their relationship at this point in the trench has been affected by tree root disturbance. Feature 106 is aligned north-west to south-east at approx. 0.90m wide. Sample excavation revealed a complex profile, it had a steeply sloping edge on the one side of the feature, but more gently sloping along the opposite side. It appeared initially to be 0.18m deep and filled by a single undated fill deposit (105) consisting of a mid-dark greyish-brown, clayey-silt with a small inclusion of charcoal flecking. Within the second more easterly half of the excavated sondage the feature dropped sharply with a vertical edge, further truncating the clay. This was then filled by another undated deposit (109), similar in colour as the overlying fill deposit 106, although noticeably more-silty in composition and with greater moisture retention. Deposit 109 was not fully excavated and was recorded at a depth of about 0.20m. It did produce two fragments of animal bone.

Perpendicular with the relatively shallow, ditch-like feature 106 is the smaller north-east and south-west aligned feature 108. This varies between 0.16-0.18m wide and is about 0.10m deep. The profile is one of gently sloping sides

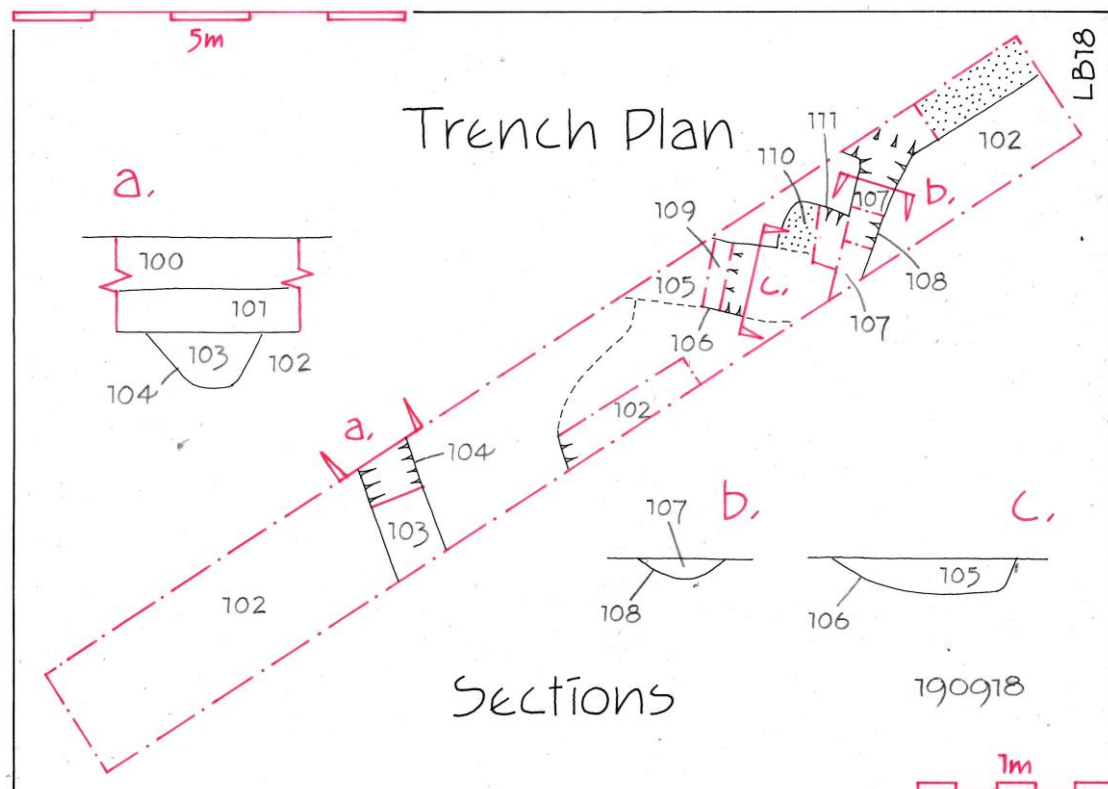


Fig. 5; trench 1, plan & sections

and a rounded base. At the north-east end of the feature there is evidence to indicate a right-angled turn towards the north-west. The opposing corner has been disturbed by subsequent tree-root activity. Overlying the natural clay throughout the length of the trench and the sealing features 104, 106 & 108 is a thick homogenous layer of undated relict subsoil (101) consisting of a mid-yellowish-brown, clayey-silt about 0.25m deep. This was in turn sealed by a 0.30m deep deposit comprising the existing modern topsoil (100) also representing the current ground level.

TRENCH 2

The light yellowish-brown natural clay (202) was again exposed throughout the length of the trench at a height of about 135.40m AOD at the south end with a very slight sloping downwards from south to north. Truncating the surface of this deposit were two cut features, one of these (204) was aligned east-west. It was about 1.10m wide and 0.26m deep with sloping sides and a reasonably flat base. It was filled by a single deposit comprising a dark-greyish clayey-silt (203) which produced a sherd of C12 pottery. The other ditch-like feature (208) was aligned

north-south, but only partially exposed, the remainder of the feature continued beyond the trench edge. It was at least 0.94m wide and 0.30m deep with a sloping west edge and a flat base and was filled by a similar deposit (207) which

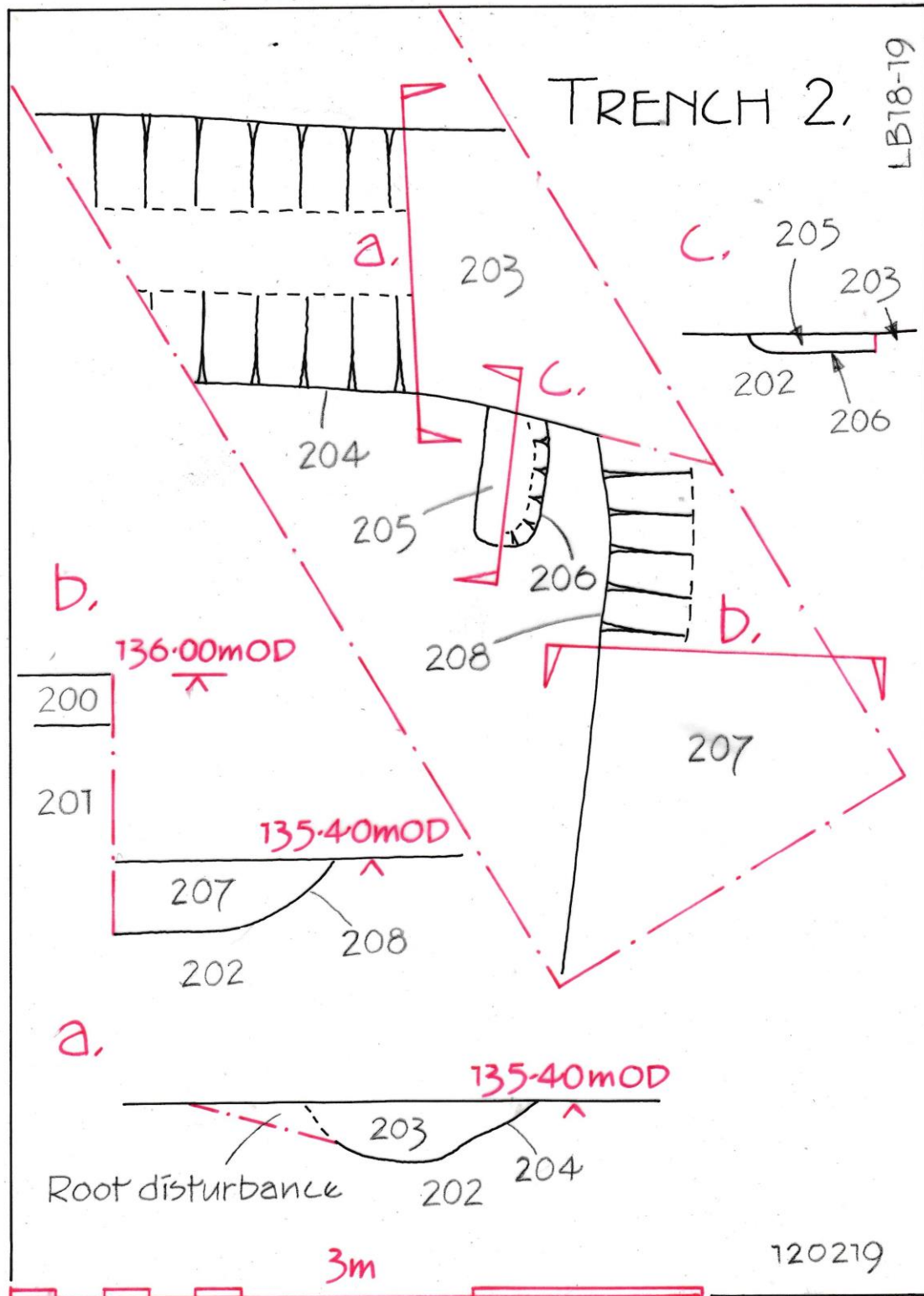


Fig. 6; south end of trench 2, plan & sections

also produced three sherds of mid-C13 pottery and a small fragment of unidentifiable animal bone. Both cut features (204 & 208) appear to form part of a right-angled ditch or trench, possibly the remains of a corner or a T-shaped configuration.

Extending from the southern edge of feature 204 was a small, shallow sub-rectangular feature 205, approx. 0.50m long on the north-south axis, 0.30m wide and about 0.08m deep. It was filled by a single undated deposit (205) similar in composition with the fill deposits 203 & 207. It is unclear whether the feature is structural, possibly the remains of a post-hole or natural and associated with root penetration. Sealing these features and overlying the clay to a depth of about 0.60m was the relict subsoil layer (201), equivalent with layers 101 and 201 in trenches 1 and 2 respectively. This was in turn overlain by a 0.20m thick layer of existing topsoil (200).

TRENCH 3

The natural clay (302) was also exposed throughout the length of the trench at a height of about 135.45m AOD. Truncating the surface of this clay and representing the only recorded feature within the trench was the remains of a single small, shallow, sub-circular root bowl. Sealing this and overlying the clay to a depth of about 0.30m was the relict subsoil layer (301), equivalent with layers 101 and 201 in trenches 1 and 2 respectively. This was in turn overlain by the modern topsoil layer (300) at 0.35m deep.

FINDS

Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 8 sherds with a total weight of 70g. It was all of medieval date, and was recorded using the conventions of the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type-Series (CTS), as follows:

F200: T1 (2) type St. Neots Ware, AD1000-1200. 2 sherds, 14g.

F329: Potterspury Ware, AD1250 – 1600. 2 sherds, 13g.

F330: Shelly Coarseware, AD1100-1400. 3 sherds, 38g.

F360: Miscellaneous Sandy Coarsewares, AD1100-1400. 1 sherd, 5g.

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 sites in the region (eg. Blinkhorn 2010).

The sherd of F330 from context 103 is from a jar rim, while the fragment of F200 from the same deposit is part of an inturned-rim bowl. Both are very typical products of their respective traditions. The sherd of F330 from context 203 is from the rim of a large bowl, a very common form in this fabric. They are all in good condition and appear reliably stratified. The two sherds from context 110 are both small, but they are unabraded and are probably the product of secondary deposition rather than residual. Similar comments apply to the sherds of Potterspurpy Ware from context 207.

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

	F200		F330		F360		F329		
Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
103	1	13	1	18					12thC
110	1	1	1	2					12thC
203			1	18					12thC
207					1	5	2	13	M13thC
Total	2	14	3	38	1	5	2	13	

Animal bone

A total of six fragments of animal bone weighing 46g were recovered from three contexts, each representing the fill deposits of three cut features. One of these (103) is dated to the C12, the other (207) to the mid-C13

103 x4 unidentifiable fragments from same bone weighing 20g

109 x2 unidentifiable fragments weighing 25g

207 x1 unidentifiable fragment weighing 1g

Environmental data

Ditch fills 103, 203 & 207 revealed little organic content and fill 103 also contained a large component of natural clay resulting in significant mottling within the deposit. Fill deposits 105, 107 & 205 were also low in organic content and the volume of material for examination was insufficient or affected by tree root

activity. Fill deposits 109 & 207 were not fully excavated. Further excavation may provide greater opportunities for targeted sampling.

DISCUSSION (Figs. 7 & 8)

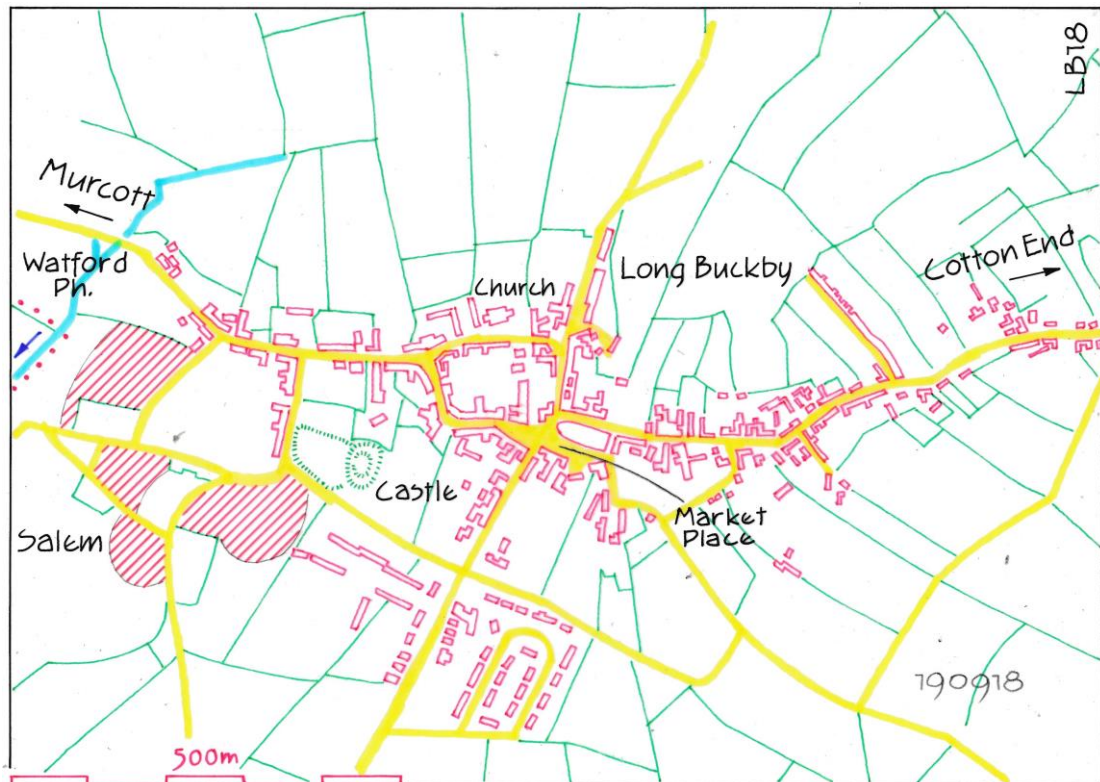


Fig. 7; Long Buckby historic environment

Domesday shows two manors in existence at the time, one to the north near the church and the other to the south where the castle is strategically placed and the possible shrunken village at Salem is located. Both manors appear to be topographically focussed on the convergence of two important route-ways.

Recent studies have demonstrated the complex history of Long Buckby identifying four major phases of development (Ballinger, 1999). The siting of the castle and the settlement that grew around it can be attributed to the earliest of these phases - the origin and growth of the village up to 1280. The castle bailey extended as far as the east side of Harbidges Lane. Recent archaeological work suggests that medieval tenements were established along the lane during this period a development probably attributed due to its location near the castle and its importance in connecting on a north-south axis the two east-west route-ways at the west end of the village. Excavation across the bailey defences (Thompson, 1956) to the south of the site produced evidence indicating the presence of an

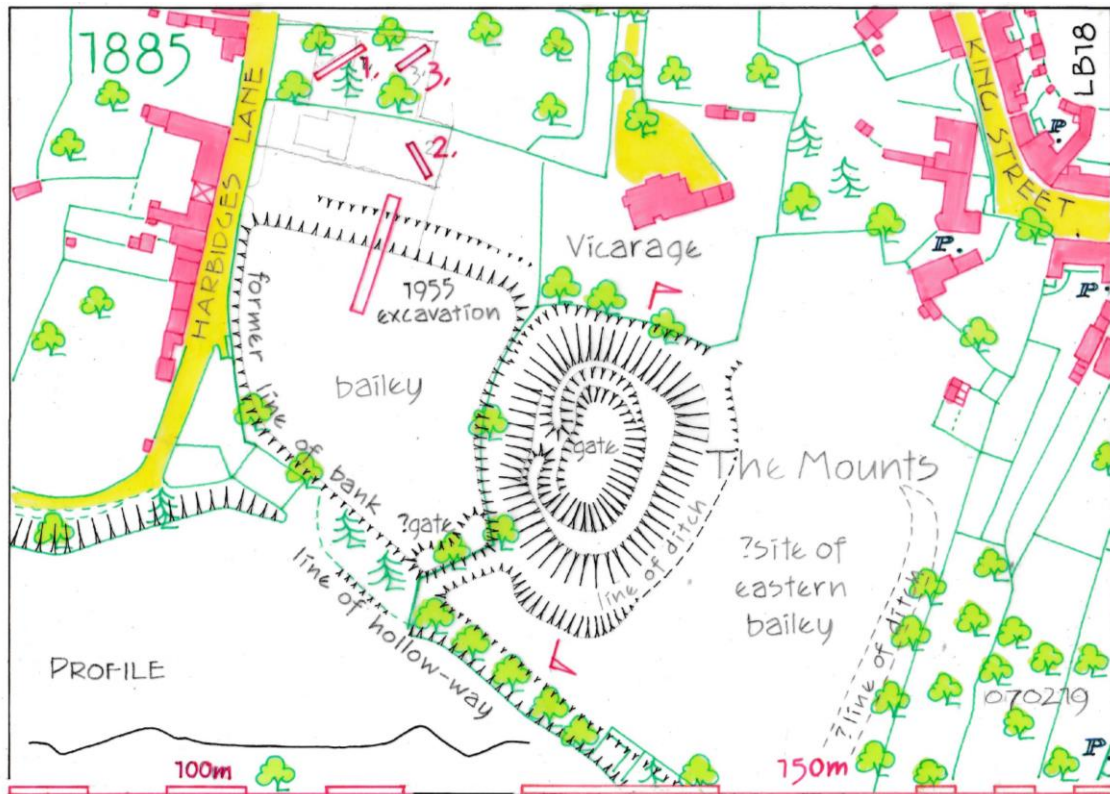


Fig. 8; Long Buckby Castle, based on OS 1885

enclosure possibly of pre-conquest or early post-conquest date which was superseded first by a wall and subsequently by a bank with a deep external ditch. Behind the wall stood a small stone building of C12 date. A curtain wall was later constructed around the bailey.

Recent work at 8 Harbidges Lane identified a single east-west ditch producing medieval pottery, possibly a former property boundary (Burke, 2014) whilst excavation in 2016 at Hillgay, Harbidges Lane confirmed that occupation was present on at least part of the area between the C11 and late C14 (Reid, 2017). Early medieval features (MNN104248) were also found during trial trenching to the rear of 33 Grasscroft (Atkins & Soden, 2002). Although limited in scope, the investigation at 9 Harbidges Lane revealed features indicating a probable small timber-framed structure seemingly aligned perpendicular to the lane and an associated contemporary ditch interpreted as a former boundary. Dating evidence shows that these features were constructed during the C12.

The collective archaeological evidence suggests that settlement comprising tenement plots became established along both sides of Harbidges Lane during the period of occupation associated with the castle site situated immediately to the east.

The results of the evaluation show that medieval remains associated with this settlement are present within the site at 9 Harbidges Lane. These remains appear to be concentrated along the southern edge of the site in the area of plot 1 (north of the bailey defences) and in the north-west area of the site in the location of plot 3.

Summary of results

Although limited in scope, the investigation revealed features dated to the C12 on the west side of the site consisting of a ditch interpreted as a former boundary enclosing a probable small timber-framed structure seemingly aligned perpendicular to Harbidges Lane. On the southern edge of the site a single right-angled feature, possibly an enclosure ditch, produced C12 and mid-C13 pottery. Excavation to the south of the site in 1955 across the castle bailey ditch shows that the features identified at 9 Harbidges Lane represent medieval settlement activity immediately north of the castle bailey

Significance

The evaluation has shown that there are some significant archaeological deposits surviving within the study site that can be attributed to the earliest phase of development within Long Buckby, the origin and growth of the village around the castle up to 1280. The deposits are the remains of settlement in the form of tenements which probably became established along both sides of Harbidges Lane during the occupation of the castle site in the C12.

Impact of development

The results of the investigation show C12-C13 settlement deposits associated with the occupation of the area immediately north of the castle bailey are present within the site. These appear to be concentrated within the area of the proposed plot 1 and plot 3 (trenches 1 and 2). The results from plot 2 (trench 3) suggests that settlement deposits are not located within this area. The impact of the development on these deposits is likely to result from the excavation of foundation and drainage trenches.

Archive Location

The digital archive arising from the work will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The physical archive will be held by the contractor until deposition can be arranged with the Northamptonshire Museum Service.

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Plate 1; ditch 104, view to the NW



Plate 2; section 1a, detail



Plate 3; features 204, 206 & 208, view to the north



Plate 4; features 204, 206 & 208, view to the south



Plate 5; features 206 & 208, view to the south



Plate 6; section 2a showing feature 204



Plate 7; feature 206, view to the west



Plate 8; section 3a

APPENDIX 1; OASIS

Project details

Project name	9 Harbidges Lane Long Buckby, Northamptonshire, archaeological evaluation
Project dates	Start: 12-09-2018 End: 29-01-2019
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	ENN109208 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	LB18 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	BUILDING? Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE DAVENTRY LONG BUCKBY 9 Harbidges Lane
Postcode	NN6 7QL
Study area	600 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 62485 67643 52.302957495393 -1.083513487055 52 18 10 N 001 05 00 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 134.76m Max: 134.76m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	one ten archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	one ten archaeology
Project director/manager	sean cook
Project supervisor	sean cook
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner

Project archives

Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient OASIS
Paper Archive recipient county museum
Paper Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics"
Paper Media available "Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title 9 Harbidges Lane Long Buckby, Northamptonshire,
archaeological evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s) Cook, S
Date 2018
Issuer or publisher one ten archaeology
Place of issue or
publication Warwickshire
URL <http://www.oasis.ac.uk>
Entered by sean cook (sean@onetenarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on 22 September 2018