



# University of Leicester

## Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
of Land off Frolesworth Road,  
Broughton Astley, Leicestershire  
(SP 52434 92403)**

**Gerwyn Richards**



ULAS Report No 2011-151  
©2011

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
Of Land off Frolesworth Road,  
Broughton Astley, Leicestershire.  
(NGR SP 52434 92403)**

**Gerwyn Richards**

**Planning Application:** Pre-Planning Enquiry  
**For:** URS Scott Wilson.

Checked by:

**Signed:**



**Date:** 8/11/2011

**Name:** R.J. Buckley

University of Leicester  
Archaeological Services  
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH  
Tel: (0116) 252 2848 Fax: (0116) 252 2614  
[www.le.ac.uk/ulas](http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas)

**An Archaeological Evaluation of Land off Frolesworth Road, Broughton Astley,  
Leicestershire (SP 52434 92403)**

**Contents**

Summary	1
1. Introduction	1
2. Background	2
3. Aims and Methodology	4
4. Results	5
5. Conclusion	15
6. Archive & Publication	16
7. References	17
Appendix 1 The Post Roman Pottery from an Evaluation at Frolesworth Road, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire.	26
Appendix 2 Environmental Report.	30
Appendix 3 OASIS	32

**Figures**

Figure 1 Site Location.	2
Figure 2 Detailed site plan.	4
Figure 3 Proposed trench location plan overlaid on results of geophysical survey.	5
Figure 4 Trench location plan, (grey proposed, black actual, and edge of development in red)	18
Figure 5 Trench locations & archaeological observations.	19
Figure 6 Trench 8, in plan.	20
Figure 7 Trench 10, in plan.	21
Figure 8 Trench 3 in plan.	22

Figure 9	Recorded Sections.	23
Figure 10	Trench 8 (looking north).	24
Figure 11	Trench 2 (looking south east).	24
Figure 12	Trench 18 (looking east-south east).	24
Figure 13	Trench 17 (looking north west).	24
Figure 14	East facing section of [024].	25
Figure 15	West facing section of [030] & [031].	25
Figure 16	South facing section of [012].	26
Figure 17	South-south east facing section of [014].	26

## **An Archaeological Evaluation of Land off Frolesworth Road, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire (SP 52434 92403)**

**Gerwyn Richards**

### **Summary**

*University of Leicester Archaeological Services was commissioned by URS Scott Wilson on behalf of David Wilson Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of proposed residential development on land off Frolesworth Road, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire.*

*The proposed development area had been identified as being of archaeological potential, located within an archaeologically diverse landscape with sites of known archaeological significance nearby. The archaeological evaluation revealed a number of archaeologically significant features including evidence of medieval occupation within the north-easternmost part of the proposed development area dating from the 12th to 15th Century and a prehistoric pit alignment within the southernmost part of the proposed development area. A number of post-medieval features were also recorded including the likely remains of a windmill and the partially standing remains of the farm complex which remains within the north-easternmost part of the proposed development area, originally known as Old Mill Farm which may also represent the evolution of a medievalcroft.*

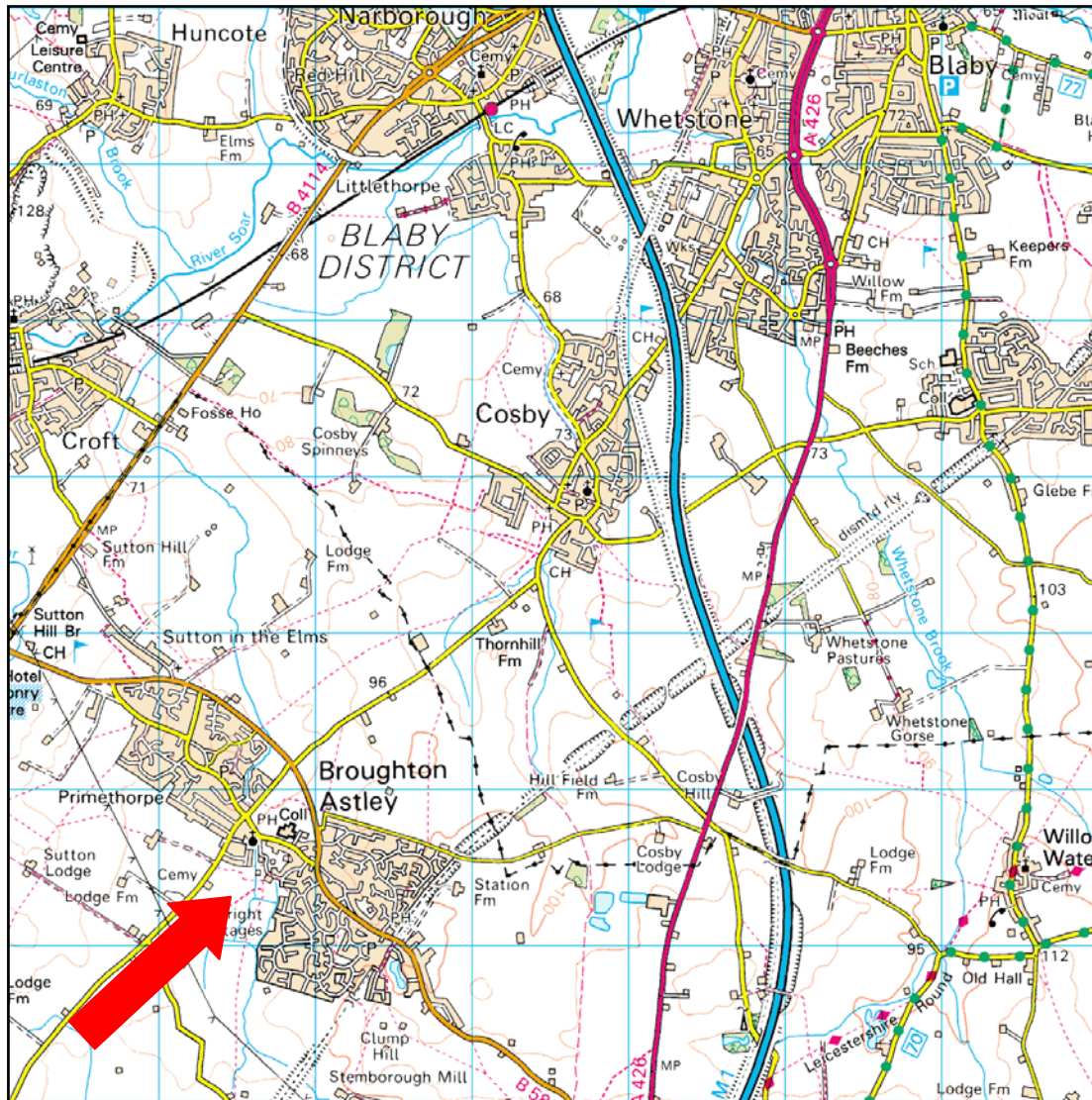
*No evidence of a substantial linear anomaly identified by geophysical survey was observed.*

*The archive for the archaeological work will be held by Leicestershire County Council, under the museums accession number X.A121.2011.*

### **1. Introduction**

University of Leicester Archaeological Services was commissioned by URS Scott Wilson, on behalf of David Wilson Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed residential development on land off Frolesworth Road, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire (SP 52434 92403; *Figures 1 & 2*). The proposed development area was located on the south western outskirts of the village, Frolesworth Road and Mill Farm form the westernmost boundary, to the north are the rear gardens of Old Rectory Close, to the south are open fields and an un-named brook forms the eastern boundary. The archaeological works are intended to provide preliminary indications of the character and extent of any buried archaeological remains in order that the potential impact of the development on such remains may be assessed by the Planning Authority.

Following Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5), Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team (LCCHNET) as archaeological advisors to the planning authority required an evaluation by trial trenching to be undertaken, to follow up the results of a desk-based assessment (URS Scott Wilson 2008) and geophysical survey (Bunn 2008). This document presents the results of that evaluation.



**Figure 1. Site location**  
(1:50, 000)

By permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 1996.  
All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495.

## 2. Background

The proposed development area lies within a rich and varied archaeological landscape, nearby is the historic settlement of Broughton Astley. An archaeological desk-based assessment (URS Scott Wilson 2008) indicated that within the proposed development area is the site of a windmill (HER Ref MLE1303). The Historic Environment Record for Leicestershire & Rutland (HER) indicates a number of

known archaeological sites within the vicinity of the proposed development area, including the medieval and post-medieval village core of Broughton Astley (HER Ref MLE9437), which is likely to have Anglo Saxon origins and is referred to in the Domesday Book as 'Brohtone', 'Broctone', and 'Brostone' (Morris 1979). A number of standing earthworks, most likely medieval in date are also recorded. Other medieval remains include a mill to the north east (HER Ref MLE1304) and sherds of medieval pottery have been found at 65, Old Mill Road (HER Ref MLE9447). The church of St Mary, which has medieval origins lies directly north of the proposed development area (HER Ref MLE10982). The remains of a post-medieval hall, later known as Arkwright Cottages (HER Ref MLE 1319) were situated around 200m to the south east of the proposed development area. They were demolished in 1991.

There is very limited evidence of prehistoric and Roman activity within Broughton Astley and the nearest recorded evidence is to the south east where two burials, one disturbed, were found during groundworks in 1926, to the west of Clump Hill, approximately 1km south east of the proposed development area. The intact burial contained a flint dagger dated to the Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age period (3000-1500 B.C) (HER Ref MLE1318). A single Roman coin was found in a field south-west of Hall Farm, approximately 750m south east of the proposed development area (HER Ref MLE7818).

In addition, various other archaeological sites and finds have been recorded within the vicinity of the proposed development area. (<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>):

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Triassic Mercia Mudstone, with deposits of sands and gravels and clays.

An archaeological geophysical survey has also been carried out within the proposed development area (Bunn 2008). The results included two positive linear anomalies as well as vague ridge and furrow lines, remnants of medieval or early post medieval ploughing.



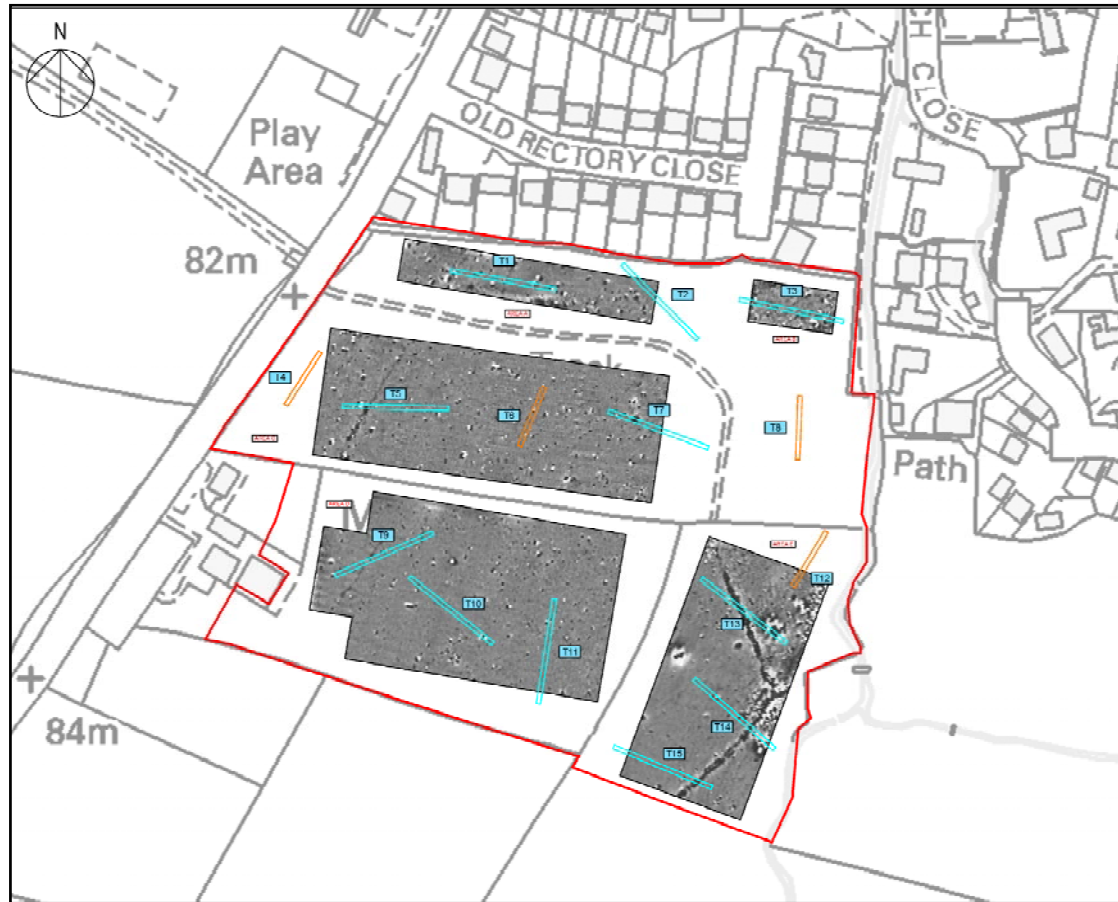
### 3. Aims and Methodology

- To identify the presence/absence of archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results

A 2% sample of the 6.6 ha. proposed development area, totalling *c.* 1280 sq m, the equivalent of 11 50m x 2m trenches and 4 30m x 2m trenches was proposed. The excavations were carried out by a back actor fitted with a ditching bucket under continuous archaeological supervision. The exposed substratum was observed and the spoil searched for finds. The archaeological work took place between September 19th



and 27th 2011. Based upon the results of initial trenching and unknown services, two further 50m x 2m trenches and a single 12m x 2m trench were also excavated.



**Figure 3** Proposed trench location plan overlaid on results of geophysical survey.  
(original drawing from URS Scott Wilson WSI)

## 4. Results

### 4.1 Trench 1

Interval	0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50m
Topsoil Depth in mm	180	200	200	200	220	170
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	300	330	330	330	350	340
Base of Trench	450	500	590	500	600	490

Trench 1 was located adjacent to the northernmost boundary of the proposed development (*Figure 4*). The trench was aligned west-north-west to east-south-east. Approximately 0.17m to 0.22m of topsoil was excavated revealing a shallow layer of sandy clay subsoil, below which was a yellow sand and gravel substratum with lenses of silty clay. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.45m to 0.6m below the current ground level. Two east-west aligned furrows were partially exposed at the eastern and western extremities of the trench.

The trench contained nothing of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

## 4.2 Trench 2

Interval	0m	10m	20m	30	40m	50m
Topsoil Depth in mm	200	190	200	200	200	270
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	290	300	350	330	320	400
Base of Trench	400	430	540	400	500	540

Trench 2 was again located adjacent to the northernmost boundary of the proposed development area, approximately 45metres east of trench 1 (*Figure 4*). The trench was aligned north-west to south-east. Approximately 0.19m to 0.27m of topsoil was excavated revealing the same shallow layer of sandy clay subsoil as was seen in trench 1, below which was the same sand and gravel substrata. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.4m to 0.54m below the current ground level. Again there was limited evidence of east-west aligned furrows.

The trench contained nothing of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

## 4.3 Trench 3

Interval	0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50m
Topsoil Depth in mm	200	200	250	300	300	370
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	300	350	390	Furrow Fill	420	440
Base of Trench	400	500	520	550	550	440

Trench 3 was located in the north-easternmost corner of the proposed development area, approximately 34metres east of trench 2 (*Figures 4 & 5*). The trench was aligned east to west, immediately to the north of the partially standing remains of Old Mill Farm and the associated outbuildings. Approximately 0.2m to 0.37m of topsoil was excavated revealing mixed yellow grey-brown mixed sandy silt and gravel subsoil, below which was a yellow-brown sand and gravel substratum. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.4m to 0.55m below the current ground level.

At the western end of the trench there was a substantial linear feature [022], consisting dark grey-brown sandy silt. Excavation recovered late 18th to 19th-century glazed ceramics and a machine-made brick, of a similar date. Cartographic evidence indicates a field boundary once existed within this area, it is possible, therefore that [022] is this field boundary. Towards the eastern end of the trench a small pit, or linear butt end [020], approximately 0.85m across was exposed abutting the southern edge of the trench (*Figures 7 & 8*). Excavation revealed a steep sided feature with a fill of dark grey-brown silty clay, towards the base a number of larger pebbles appear

to have been placed in order to create a void in the base of the feature, possibly as a drain. A number of ceramic sherds were recovered including some 18th century. A quantity of re-deposited medieval pottery was also recovered. It is likely that both these features relate to the nearby farmhouse.

A series of linear features, aligned north-south was also observed within the trench, hand excavation of these indicated that they were the base of furrows, some less than 0.1m deep. The furrows recorded in earlier trenches were all aligned east-west, these, north-south aligned furrows, therefore indicate separate ploughing occurred within this part of the proposed development area.

#### 4.4 Trench 4

Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m
Topsoil Depth in mm	300	340	320	360	330	270	240
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	400	480	450	470	450	380	370
Base of Trench	400	460	450	480	450	380	370

Trench 4 was located adjacent to the westernmost boundary of the proposed development area, approximately 30metres north of Mill Farm (*Figure 4*). The trench was aligned north to south. Approximately 0.24m to 0.36m of topsoil was excavated revealing the same shallow layer of sandy clay subsoil seen in trenches 1 and 2, below which was the same sand and gravel substrata seen in previous trenches. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.38m to 0.46m below the current ground level.

The trench contained nothing of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

#### 4.5 Trench 5

Interval	0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50m
Topsoil Depth in mm	220	220	260	200	240	200
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	370	310	400	300	360	330
Base of Trench	500	570	530	400	590	400

Trench 5 was located approximately 30 metres east of trench 4 (*Figure 4*), targeting a linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. The trench was aligned west-south-west to east-south-east. Approximately 0.2m to 0.24m of topsoil was excavated revealing the same shallow layer of sandy clay subsoil seen in trenches 1, 2 and 4, below which was the same sand and gravel substratum. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.4m to 0.59m below the current ground level. The linear anomaly recorded by geophysical survey was located and consisted of linear feature containing 20th rubble and glazed ceramics, most likely a modern field drain.

The trench contained nothing of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

#### 4.6 Trench 6

Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m
Topsoil Depth in mm	200	300	200	320	270	290	220
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	330	410	350	400	360	340	320
Base of Trench	430	600	490	510	500	400	500

Trench 6 was located towards the centre of the proposed development area, approximately 40 metres east of trench 5 (*Figure 4*). The trench was aligned north-north-east to south-south-west. Approximately 0.2m to 0.32m of topsoil was excavated revealing the same shallow layer of sandy clay subsoil observed in previous trenches, below which was the same sand and gravel substratum. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.4m to 0.6m below the current ground level. A number of east-west aligned furrows were recorded crossing the trench, further machine excavation of these did not exposed any potentially concealed archaeological features.

The trench contained nothing of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

#### 4.7 Trench 7

Interval	0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50m
Topsoil Depth in mm	210	210	200	190	200	200
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	330	410	310	Service Backfill	400	320
Base of Trench	490	550	420	350	500	430

Trench 7 was again located towards the centre of the proposed development area, approximately 33metres east of trench 6 (*Figure 4*). The trench was aligned west-north west to east-south east. Approximately 0.19m to 0.21m of topsoil was excavated revealing the same shallow layer of sandy clay subsoil observed in previous trenches, below which was the same sand and gravel substratum. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.43m to 0.55m below the current ground level. A substantial service trench aligned north west to south east was exposed towards the middle of the trench. As with trench one, two east-west aligned furrows were partially exposed at the eastern and western extremities of the trench.

The trench contained nothing of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

#### 4.8 Trench 8

Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m
Topsoil Depth in mm	180	200	230	160	210	400	Standing Brick Wall
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	400	Feature Fill	300		300	Feature Fill	
Base of Trench	500	600	400	300	400	650	Internal Concrete Floor

Trench 8 was located adjacent to the easternmost boundary of the proposed development area, approximately 40metres south of trench 3, south of the partially standing remains of Old Mill Farm and associated outbuildings (*Figures 4 & 5*), part of the southernmost range was still standing and included within the northernmost part of the trench. The trench was aligned north to south. Approximately 0.16m to 0.4m of topsoil, (001) and demolition build up was excavated revealing mixed yellow grey-brown mixed sandy silt and gravel subsoil the same as that recorded within trench 3, below which was the yellow-brown sand and gravel substratum, which became increasingly 'dirty' in appearance nearer the buildings in the north of the trench. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.3m to 0.65m below the current ground level.

At the northern end of the trench, evidence of the farm buildings was uncovered (*Figure 6*), including the remains of the superstructure of two brick-built walls. There were two distinct phases of brickwork, the earliest of which (027) was aligned north to south, probably a gable, or cross wall built of 9 inch x 2 ½ inch x 4 ½ inch (228mm x 64mm x 114mm) handmade red bricks with lime mortar. There was no discernable bond pattern due to a blocked entrance within the surviving wall. The brick dimensions suggest a late 18th- or early 19th-century date for this wall. The east-west aligned wall (026) was clearly the later of the two, being constructed of 8 ¾ inch x 2 ¾ inch x 4 inch (222mm x 70mm x 120mm) machine-made red bricks, with a blue damp proof course with cement mortar, laid in a Flemish Garden Wall bond (three stretchers to one header in each course). The brick dimensions indicate a late 19th- or early 20th-century date for this wall. The floor was poured concrete.

An examination of cartographic sources indicate the recorded building was part of a linear range of buildings forming the southern edge of the farmyard, possibly a cattle shed, open to the north.

Approximately 1metre south of (026) was a east-west aligned linear feature crossing the trench at a right angle, clearly cutting the underlying sands and gravel strata (*Figures 6 & 9*). A 1 metre wide section was excavated against the east-facing trench section. The fill (025) consisted of mid grey-brown sandy clay, approximately 0.22m deep and 1.5metres wide; the cut [024] into the sands and gravel was sharp (*Figure 14*). A number of sherds of 12th-century Potters Marston pottery were recovered (Appendix 1). The linear feature was clearly parallel with the building (026) & (027), suggesting that the latter was built respecting this earlier ditch. It is possible, therefore that [024] was a pre-existing boundary, possibly a medieval croft boundary.

A second east-west aligned linear crossed the southern end of the trench, again clearly cutting the underlying sands and gravel (*Figure 6*). A 1 metre wide section was excavated against west-facing trench section. Excavation revealed a linear feature consisting of two ditches (*Figure 9*). Both fills, (032), to the north and (033), to the south were identical, consisting of a mid grey-brown silty clay, both cuts, [030] and [031] into the sands and gravel were sharp. [030] was the larger of the two, at approximately 0.35m deep and approximately 1.1m wide. Again a number of sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from each ditch. There was no clear evidence of re-cuts so it is impossible to state if the two ditches are contemporary or not (*Figure 15*). Pottery recovered suggests that [031] may be the earlier of the two, dating from the 12th century, including a sherd of 11th-century Stamford ware (Appendix 1).

A single small pit, [028] was also recorded towards the centre of the trench; excavation recovered some medieval pottery, but also a number of fragments of 20th Century brick.

The east-west alignment of both features within trench 8 suggests that they may be related and are likely to represent medieval toft boundaries. If this is the case, then it is likely that the remains of the farmhouse to the north of trench 8 also occupy a medieval toft site. To the south of trench 8 was a roughly rectangular standing earthwork, for which [030] and [031] within trench 8 formed the northernmost boundary. There is a shallow ditch, again surviving as an earthwork to the west and the brook to the east. It is possible that this earthwork represent the remains of a medieval toft.

#### 4.9 Trench 9

Interval	0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50m
Topsoil Depth in mm	160	210	290	340	200	180
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	220	330	410	450	280	300
Base of Trench	380	330	410	450	280	300

Trench 9 was located adjacent to the westernmost boundary of the proposed development area, approximately 40metres east of the boundary with Mill Farm, within an arable field (*Figure 4*). The trench was aligned north-east to south-west. Approximately 0.16m to 0.34m of plough soil was excavated revealing a layer of silty clay subsoil, below which was orange-brown sandy clay with occasional patches of gravel substrata. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.3m to 0.45m below the current ground level. A number of east-west aligned furrows were observed within the trench. Based upon the results from trench 10 (4.10, below) these were later machine excavated, which did not exposed any potentially concealed archaeological features.

The trench contained nothing of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.



#### 4.10 Trench 10

Interval	0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50m
Topsoil Depth in mm	310	330	320	230	260	230
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	490	450	440	350	380	350
Base of Trench	780	780	760	580	660	610

Trench 10 was located approximately 16metres south east of trench 9. The trench was aligned north-west to south-east (*Figures 4 & 5*). Approximately 0.23m to 0.33m of plough soil was excavated revealing the same silty clay subsoil seen in trench 9, below which was an orange-brown sandy clay and gravel substrata. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.58m to 0.78m below the current ground level. At the easternmost end of the trench, substrata in the base of the trench altered, becoming apparently re-deposited weathered mudstone, there was a clear cut for a field drain through this material. Towards the centre of the trench a series of 6 pits, aligned approximately east-south east to west-north west was exposed cut into the underlying substratum (*Figure 7*). Due to the angle at which the trench encountered the pits and a field drain, none of the pits were fully exposed or undisturbed.

Pits [005], [012], [014], and [018] were hand excavated. All contained the same light grey-brown clay silt fill with occasional small rounded stones, the interface with the underlying substrata was sharp in each pit (*Figures 9, 16 & 17*). No dating evidence was recovered from any of the pits and all appeared to be single phase with no evidence of re-cuts visible. Environmental samples were retained from each fill.

The remainder of the trench contained nothing of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

#### 4.11 Trench 11

Interval	0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50m
Topsoil Depth in mm	260	270	200	260	280	270
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural						
Base of Trench	380	300	330	310	290	350

Trench 11 was located approximately 24metres east of trench 10. The trench was aligned north-north-east to south-south-west (*Figures 4 & 5*). Approximately 0.2m to 0.27m of plough soil was excavated revealing the same apparently re-deposited weathered mudstone seen in the eastern end of trench 10. The deposit continued throughout the length of the trench. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.29m to 0.38m below the current ground level.

The trench was due to cross the projected line of the pit alignment recorded within trench 10 but there was no evidence of the pit alignment. At this point it was decided

to excavate a trial hole in order to determine the likely depth of this deposit and to ensure it did not mask any deeper archaeological remains. The trial hole reached approximately 1.5metres below the current ground level without encountering any undisturbed material. Excavation ceased at this point. It is almost certain that the material represents a backfilled quarry pit.

The trench contained nothing of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

#### 4.12 Trench 12

Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m
Topsoil Depth in mm	230	290	200	210	260	230	230
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	400	500		400	400	370	430
Base of Trench	500	600	380	500	550	480	530

The location of trench 12 was altered as a result of two live services within the proposed location, as a result the trench was moved approximately 25metres to the north, approximately 15metres south of trench 8 (*Figures 4 & 5*). The trench was aligned east-north-east to west-south-west. Approximately 0.2m to 0.29m of topsoil was excavated revealing very dark orange brown sandy clay subsoil, very similar in appearance to the overlying topsoil, below which was a silty sand and gravel substratum. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.38m to 0.6m below the current ground level. Towards the eastern end of the trench a density of medieval pottery was recovered from the very base of the topsoil, it was decided to leave some of this deposit *in-situ* and reduce it by hand (identified as contexts (002), (003) & (004)). No further dating evidence was recovered during the hand dig which also confirmed that the deposit was merely a deeper deposit of topsoil. The remainder was machine excavated to expose the underlying gravels.

As with trench 3, to the north, the furrows within this trench were also aligned north-south, again indicating separate ploughing within this part of the proposed development area.

With the exception of the pottery remains, which ranged in date from *c.*1100 to *c.*1400 (Appendix 1), the trench contained nothing of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

#### 4.13 Trench 13

Interval	0m	10m	20m	30m	40m
Topsoil Depth in mm	220	200	180	200	90
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	420	Service	300	300	300
Base of Trench	500	400	580	560	220

Trench 13 was the first of the trenches to be located within south-easternmost field within the proposed development area, and located to sample a linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey (*Figure 3*). The trench was reduced from 50metres to 40metres in order to avoid the alignment of a live service identified on site (*Figure 4*). The trench was aligned west-north-west to east-south-east. Approximately 0.09m to 0.22m of topsoil was excavated revealing dark orange-brown sandy silt-clay subsoil, the same as that seen in trench 12, below which was a mixed substratum of sandy-silty weathered clay with lenses of sands and gravels. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.22m to 0.58m below the current ground level.

The easternmost end of the trench contained only disturbed ground associated with the live service, a further two service runs were also identified within the trench, one towards the centre and the second at the western end. There was no obvious source for the linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey nor did any of the service runs match the alignment of the anomaly.

The trench contained nothing of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

#### 4.14 Trench 14

Interval	0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50m
Topsoil Depth in mm	260	250	200	200	200	160
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	320	380	300	360	350	310
Base of Trench	600	450	480	530	440	350

Trench 14 was excavated approximately 45metres south of trench 13, again targeting the linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey (*Figure 4*). The trench was aligned west-north-west to east-south-east. Approximately 0.16m to 0.26m of topsoil was excavated revealing the same subsoil seen in trench 13 below which was the same mixed substratum. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.35m to 0.6m below the current ground level. Once again, there was no obvious source for the linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey.

The trench contained nothing of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

#### 4.15 Trench 15

Interval	0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50m
Topsoil Depth in mm	240	220	200	190	200	190
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	360	340	300	320	390	360
Base of Trench	520	410	410	430	500	430

Trench 15 was excavated approximately 36metres south of trench 14, adjacent to the southernmost boundary of the proposed development area, again targeting the linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey (*Figure 4*). The trench was aligned west-north-west to east-south-east. Approximately 0.19m to 0.24m of topsoil was excavated revealing the same subsoil seen in trenches 13 and 14 below which was the same mixed substratum. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.41m to 0.52m below the current ground level. A service run was identified towards the centre of the trench, but once again, there was no obvious source for the linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey.

The trench contained nothing of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

#### 4.16 Trench 16

Interval	0m	2m	4m	6m	8m	10m	12m
Topsoil Depth in mm	260	300	300	280	200	200	200
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	700	700	580	600	570	500	520
Base of Trench	800	800	800	780	730	700	750

As a result of the shortening of trench 13 an additional 12metre trench was excavated with area E. The trench was located in order to sample a potential windmill mound identified on the first edition Ordnance Survey map and identified as a standing earthwork, approximately 8metres north of trench 14 (*Figures 4 & 5*). The trench was aligned north-east to south-west. Approximately 0.2m to 0.3m of topsoil was excavated revealing the same subsoil seen in the adjacent trenches below which was the same mixed substratum. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.7m to 0.8m below the current ground level. There was no evidence of the windmill within the trench, however a brick structure was later identified on the surface approximately 4metres west of the trench, it is almost certain that this represents the remains of the windmill. The location of this brickwork was recorded and plotted on the overall trench plan (*Figures 4 & 5*).

The trench contained nothing of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

#### 4.17 Trench 17

Interval	0m	10mm	20m	30m	40m	50m
Topsoil Depth in mm	320	330	300	280	280	200
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	330	342	345			
Base of Trench	420	450	550	380	480	350

Based upon the results of trench 10, two additional trenches were requested adjacent to trench 10 in order to establish any further archaeological remains associated with the pit alignment. Trench 17 was located approximately 10metres east of trench 10 and 12metres west of trench 11 (*Figures 4 & 5*). The trench was aligned north to south. Approximately 0.2m to 0.32m of plough soil was excavated revealing the same apparently re-deposited weathered mudstone seen in the eastern end of trench 10 and the whole of trench 11. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.35m to 0.55m below the current ground level. Unlike trench 11, there was a clear edge to this re-deposited material; the northernmost end of the trench was clearly undisturbed yellow sand.

The trench was due to cross the projected line of the pit alignment recorded within trench 10 but, once again the pit alignment had been truncated by the quarry pit. Based upon the evidence recorded within trenches 10, 11 and 17 the quarry can be defined as occupying the south-easternmost corner of this part of the proposed development area.

The trench contained nothing of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

#### 4.18 Trench 18

Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m
Topsoil Depth in mm	140	190	190	200	200
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	Furrow Fill	270	Furrow Fill	300	300
Base of Trench	300	360	300	400	400

Like trench 17, trench 18 was an additional trench located to establish any further archaeological remains associated with the pit alignment. Trench 18 was located approximately 20metres south of trench 10 (*Figure 4*). The trench was aligned west-north-west to east-south-east. Approximately 0.2m to 0.28m of plough soil was excavated revealing dark orange-brown silty clay subsoil, below which was yellow sand and gravel substratum (at the western end) and yellow-grey weathered sandy clay (at the eastern end). Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.35m to 0.58m below the current ground level.

The trench contained nothing of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

## **5. Conclusion**

The proposed development area occupied a promising location within a rich archaeological landscape. The archaeological evaluation recorded a number of archaeologically significant deposits as well as identifying areas without any archaeological remains. The evaluation did not; however locate the large linear anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey in the southernmost part of the development area. Trenches 3 and 8 recorded medieval and post medieval archaeological remains, trench 3 included a small pit, or butt end which contained late 18th-century ceramics, no doubt related to the adjacent Old Mill Farm and outbuildings, while trench 8 recorded standing remains associated with the farm yard as well as earthfast archaeological remains from the 11th to 12th Centuries related to what appears to be a medieval house platform. Trench 10 located 5 pits, most likely part of a prehistoric pit alignment, the eastern end of which had been truncated by recent quarrying. There was also no evidence of the western extent of the pit alignment, despite trench 9 crossing the projected alignment. It is possible that this trench only encountered undisturbed ground between two pits.

## **6. Archive & Publication**

The site archive consists of:

- 2 A2 permagraph sheets of plans & sections
- 1 A3 permagraph overlay showing trench ID
- 1 A3 paper final trench location plan
- 1 A3 paper plan showing trench locations overlaid on geophysical survey
- 1 A3 paper copy of 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS showing proposed development area
- 96 Black & White negatives and contact prints
- CD containing 96 digital images
- 3 A4 contact sheets
- 1 A4 photo index sheet
- 18 A4 trench recording sheets
- 2 A4 context summary sheets
- 23 A4 context sheets
- 1 A4 sample index sheet
- 1 box of finds
- Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report Number 2011-151)

The archive will be held at Leicestershire County Council Museums under the Accession Number X.A121.2011

A version of the summary (above) will be submitted to the editor of the local journal *Transactions of Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* for inclusion in the next edition.



## 7. References

Hunt, L. 2011 *An archaeological desk-based assessment for land to the east of Broughton Way, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire (SP 531 930)*. ULAS Report No 2011-055

IfA, 2010 *Code of Conduct*

IfA, 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

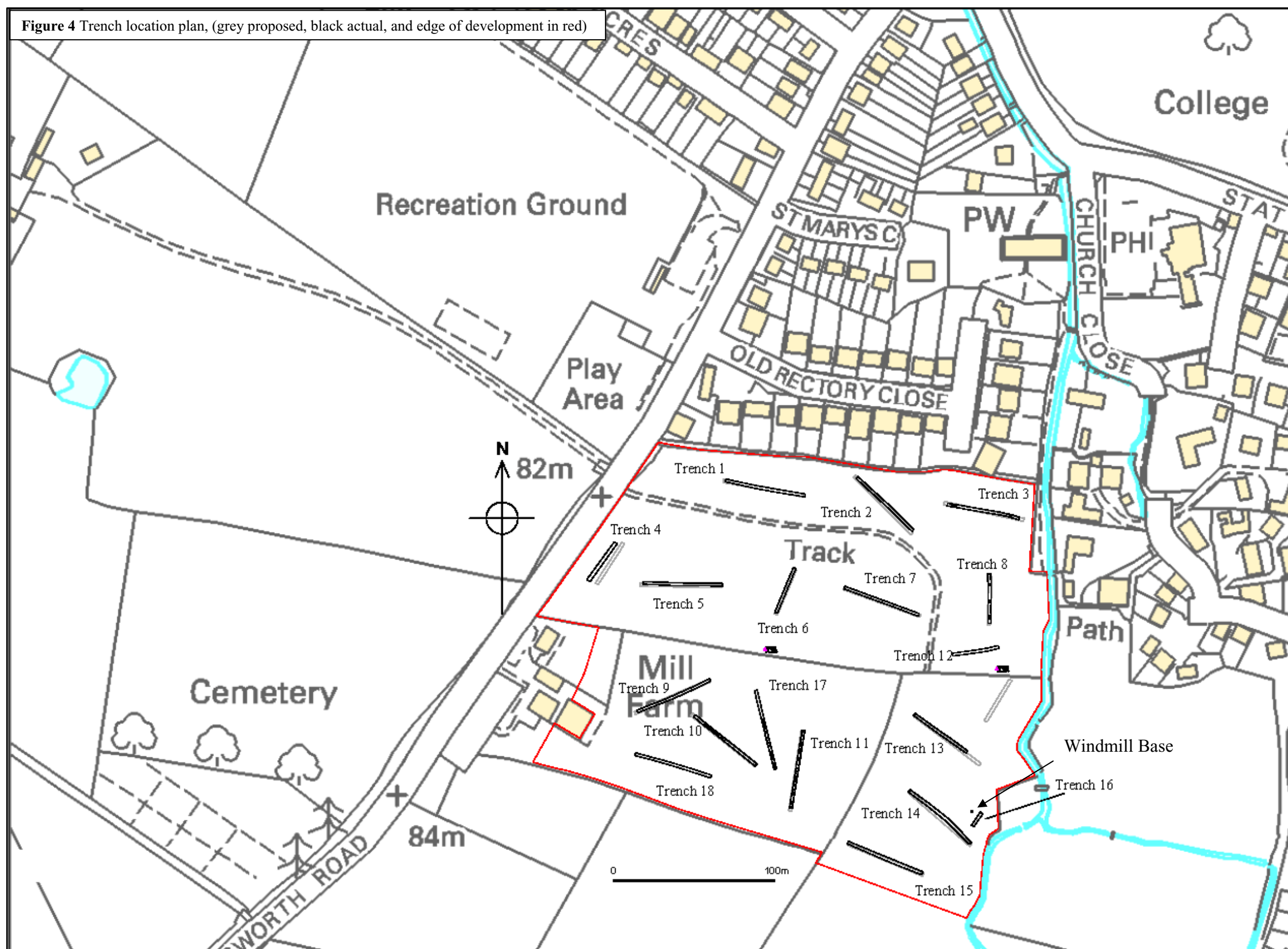
URS Scott Wilson, 2011 *Frolesworth Road, Broughton Astley-Specification for Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation*.

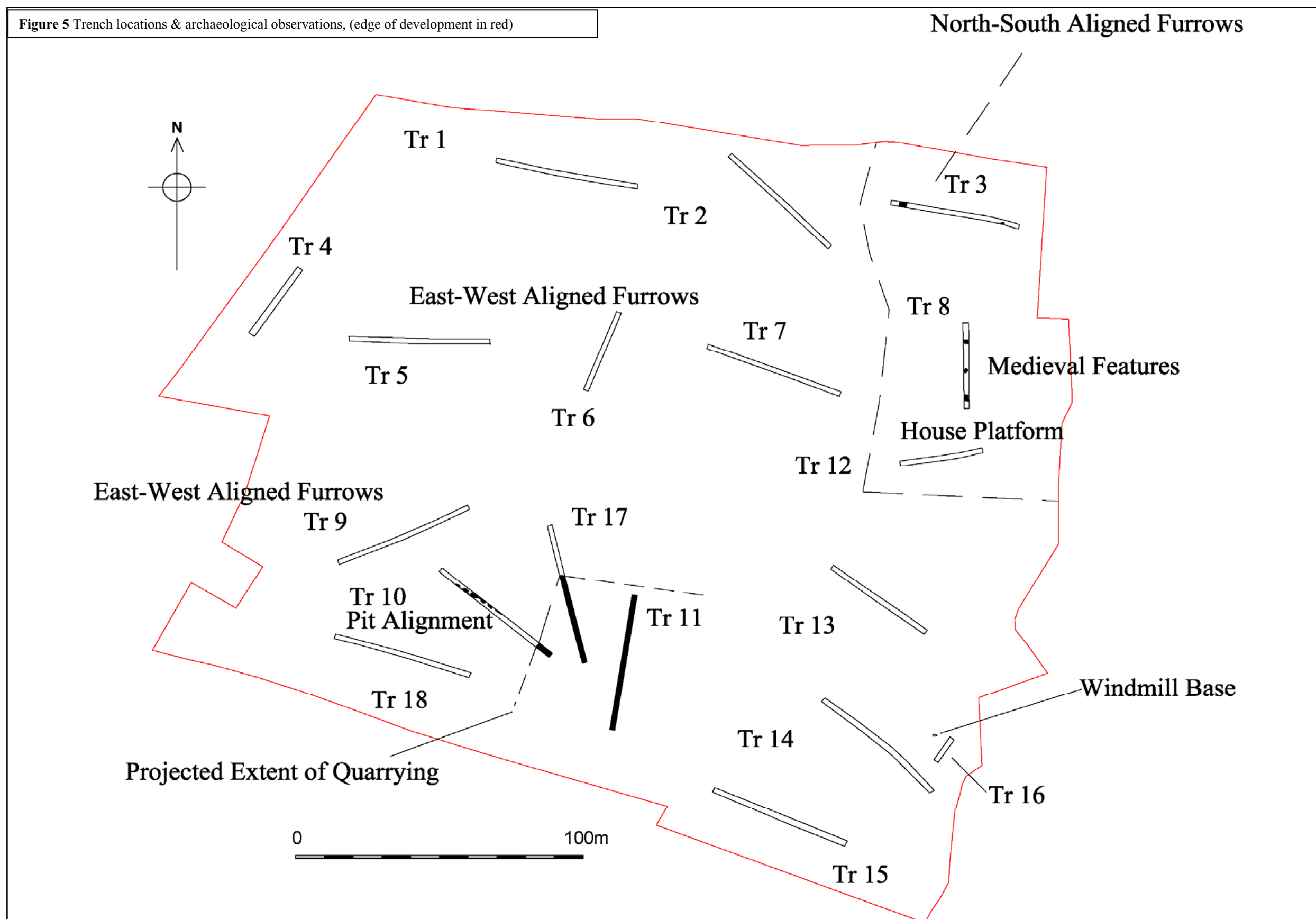
Gerwyn Richards  
ULAS  
University of Leicester  
University Road  
Leicester LE1 7RH

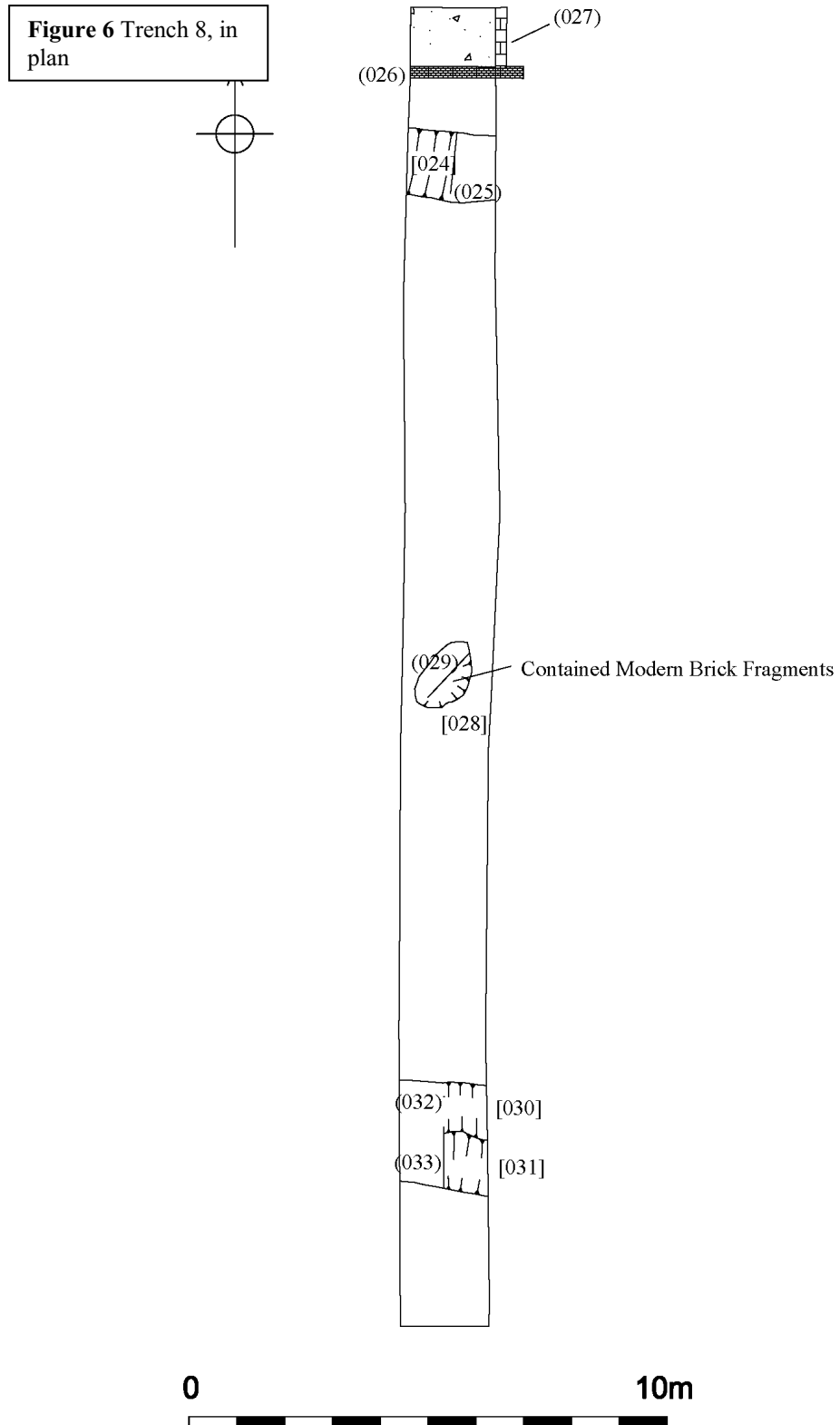
Tel:0116 252 2848

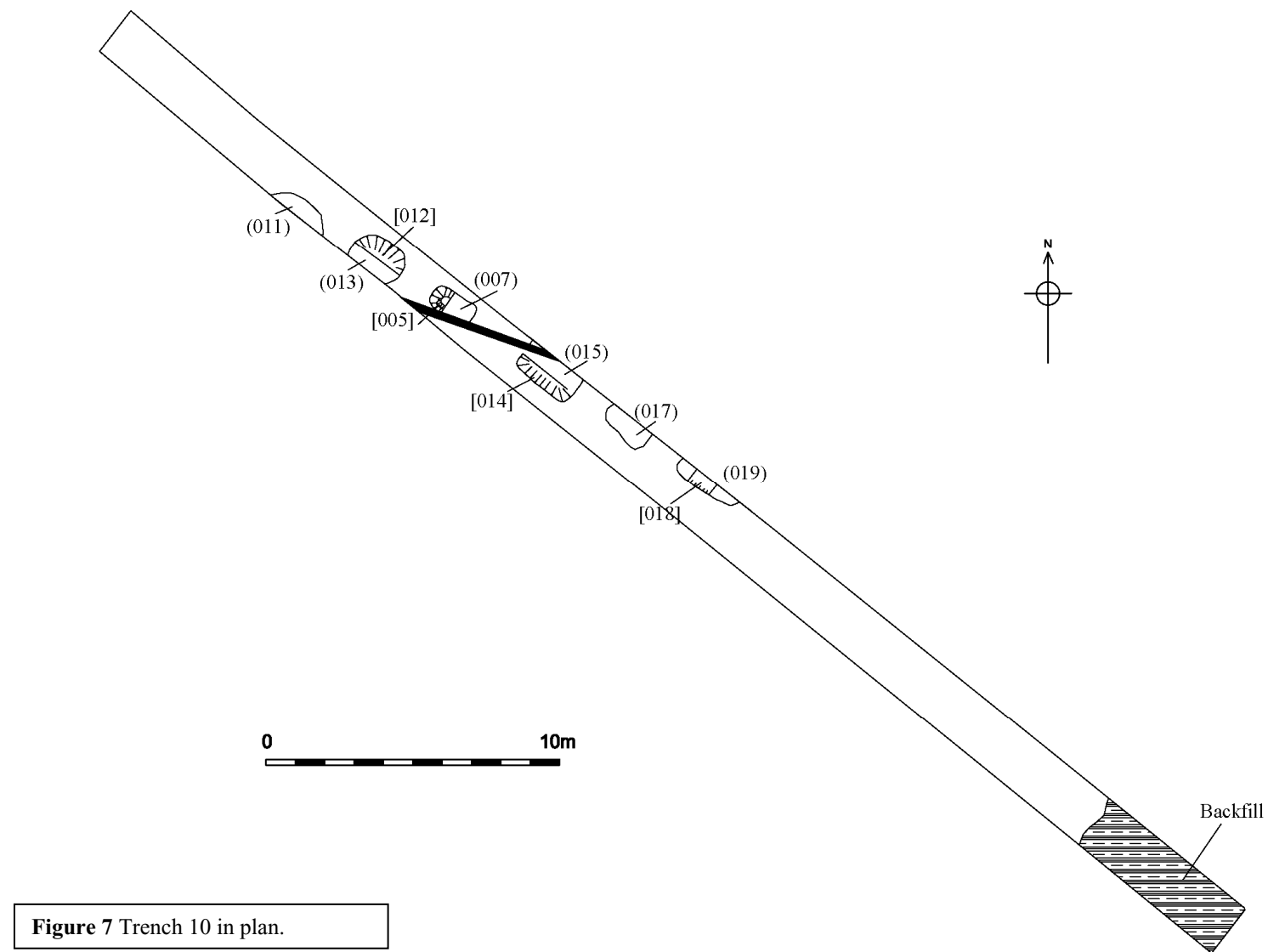
[www.le.ac.uk/ulas](http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas)

© ULAS 10/10/2011

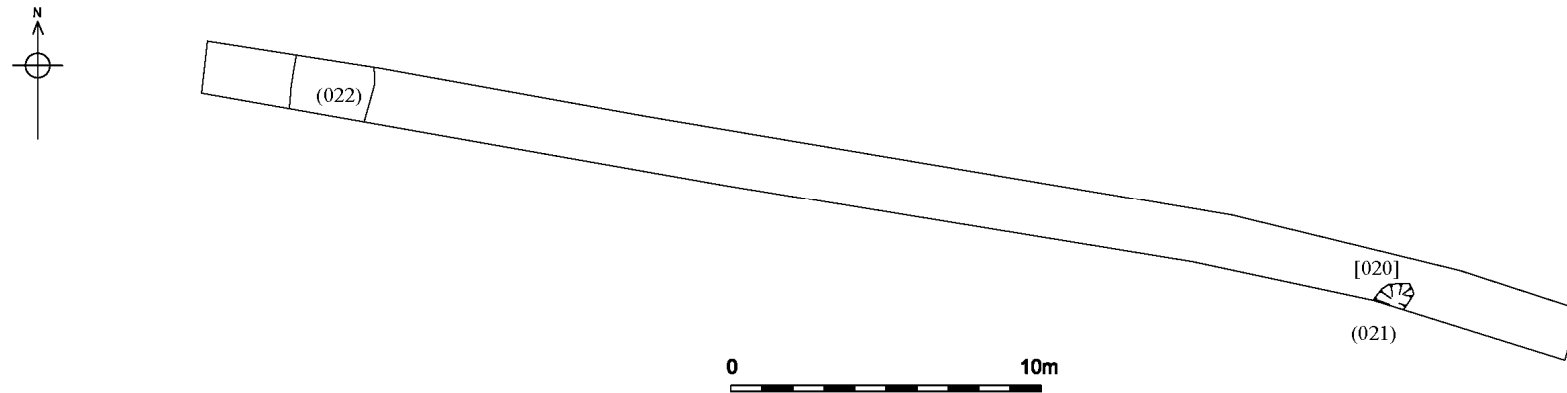




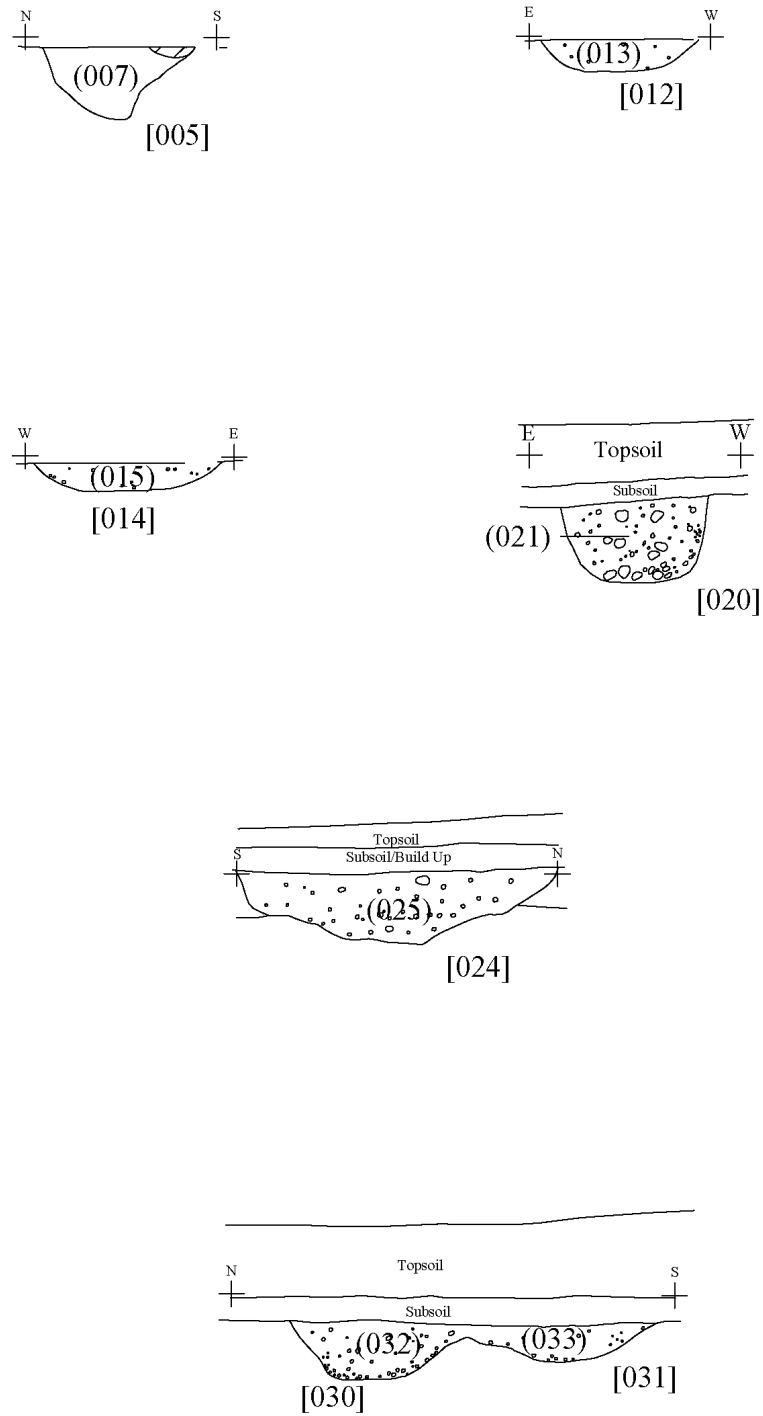




**Figure 8** Trench 3 in plan.







**Figure 9** Recorded Sections



**Figure 10** Trench 8 (looking north).



**Figure 11** Trench 2 (looking south east).



**Figure 12** Trench 18 (looking east-south east).



**Figure 13** Trench 17 (looking north west).





**Figure 14** East facing section of [024].



**Figure 15** West facing section of [030] & [031].





**Figure 16** South facing section of [012].



**Figure 17** South-south east facing section of [014].

## APPENDIX 1

### THE POST ROMAN POTTERY FROM AN EVALUATION AT FROLESWORTH ROAD, BROUGHTON ASTLEY, LEICS.

*Deborah Sawday*

#### The Finds

#### *The Pottery and Ceramic Building Material.*

#### The Pottery

The pottery, 87 sherds, weighing 665 grams, was catalogued with reference to the to the guidelines set out by the Medieval Pottery Research group, (MPRG 1998, 2001) and the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 1989), (Davies and Sawday 1999), (Sawday forthcoming). The results are shown below (tables 1 and 2).

Table 1: The medieval and later pottery by fabric, sherd numbers and weight (grams).

Fabric	Common Name	Sherds	%	Weight	%	ASW*
Saxo Norman						
ST2	Fine Stamford ware	1		3		
Sub-Total		1		3		
Early/Later High Medieval						
PM	Potters Marston	61		430		
CS	Coarse Shelly	1		9		
CC1	Chilvers Coton ware	2		58		
CC5	Chilvers Coton ware	2		24		
MS1	Medieval Sandy ware 1	10		69		
Sub-Total		76	87.3	590	88.7	7.7
Late Medieval/Early Post Medieval						
MP	Midland Purple	1		10		
MP1	Midland Purple 1	1		10		
MB	Midland Blackware	1		1		
Sub-Total		3	3.4	21	3.1	7.0
Post Medieval/Modern						
EA	Earthenware	1		28		
EA2	Earthenware 2	1		2		
EA7	Slipware	1		8		
EA8	Cream ware	2		10		
EA10	White Earthenware/China	1		2		
SW4	White Stoneware	1		1		
Sub-Total		7	8.0	51	7.6	7.2
Site Totals		87	98.7	665	99.4	

\*Average sherd weight

The bulk of the assemblage, over 87% by sherd numbers and over 88% by weight, was made up of medieval pottery dating from c.1100 to c.1350/1400. One sherd of Saxo Norman pottery, dating from c.1050-1200, and three sherds of later medieval or early post medieval pottery were also recovered.

Medieval pottery was recovered from contexts (1), (2), (3), (4), (25) [24], (29) [28], (32) [30], and (33) [31], whilst residual medieval and post medieval pottery occurred in context (21) [20] and exclusively modern material in context (23) [22].

## The Ceramic Building Material

Twelve fragments of ceramic building material weighing 336 grams were recorded in contexts (21) [20], (29) [28] and (32) [30]. This material was fragmentary, but the fabrics suggests that some of that from [20] and [28] was possibly post medieval in date.

## Miscellaneous Finds

Animal bone was found in contexts [20], [22], [24], [30] and [31] and industrial residue in context (3) and [22].

## Conclusions

The pottery generally has a fairly low average sherd weight (table 1) but both this material and the ceramic building material are clear evidence of Saxo Norman and medieval activity in the area. The relatively smaller proportions of the later material suggest that there was an apparent decline in the intensity of that activity in the later medieval and post medieval periods.

## Bibliography

- Connor, A., and Buckley, R., 1999 *Roman and Medieval Occupation in Causeway Lane, Leicester*, Leicester Archaeology Mon. **5**.  
 Davies, S., and Sawday, D., 1999 'The Post Roman Pottery and Tile' in A. Connor and R. Buckley, 1999, 165-213.  
 MPRG, 1998 *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms*. Medieval Pottery Research Group, London.  
 MPRG, 2001. *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Saxon and Medieval Ceramics*

Table 2: The medieval and later pottery by fabric, sherd numbers and weight (grams) by context.

Context	Fabric/Ware	Nos	Grams	Comments
POT				
1	MS1 – Medieval Sandy ware 1	10	69	Pale green glaze externally – all one pot, c.1200/1250+.
2	PM – Potters Marston	11	93	Misc base/body sherds, c.1100-c.1300
2	CS – Coarse Shelly	1	9	c.1100-c.1400
2	CC5 – Chilvers Coton B ware	1	11	c.1250-1300.
3	PM	11	101	Misc sherds c.1100-c.1300
4	PM	1	9	12th C.



21 [20]	PM	4	25	Misc base/body sherds
21 [20]	CC1 – Chilvers Coton A ware	2	58	Upright jar rim, internally green glazed body sherd, 1250-1300+.
21 [20]	CC5	1	13	With ?organic inclusions, c.1250-1300.
21 [20]	MP1 – Midland Purple	1	10	c.1375-1550.
21 [20]	MB – Midland Blackware	1	1	c.1550-1750.
21 [20]	EA2 – Earthenware 2	1	2	18th-19th C+
21 [20]	EA7 - Slipware	1	8	Press moulded dish with brown and yellow trailed slip decoration, 17th – 18th C..
23 [22]	SW4 – White Stoneware	1	1	Hollow ware base fragment, 1730-1770.
23 [22]	EA8 – Cream ware	2	10	Join, mocha decoration, c.1820+
23 [22]	EA10 – White Earthenware/China	1	2	Hollow ware base, transfer printed blue under glaze, modern.
23 [22]	EA - Earthenware	1	28	Abraded wide mouthed bowl/pancheon rim, modern.
25 [24]	PM	18	62	Misc base/body sherds, possibly all 12th rather than 13th C.
29 [28]	PM	2	8	Join, jar rim with combed wavy line decoration, c.1100-c.1300.
32 [30]	ST2	1	3	Traces of yellow lead glaze, c.1050-1200.
32 [30]	PM	1	18	Shouldered jar with upright squared rim
32 [30]	PM	6	41	Misc base/body sherds
32 [30]	MP	1	10	Thin purplish lead glaze, c.1375-1550.
33 [31]	PM	2	9	Join, everted jar rim, c.1100-c.1300.
33 [31]	PM	3	22	Misc sherds, c.1100-c.1300.
U/S T7	PM	1	6	Body
U/S T15	PM	1	36	Jar rim, sooted ext, abraded (Davies and Sawday 1999, fig.90.76)
CBM				
21 [20]	CC2 – Chilvers Coton C ware	2	121	Flat roof tile, c.13-17mm thick, c.1300-1475.
21 [20]	EA - Earthenware	1	31	Flat roof tile, c.15-17mm thick, fabric suggests post

				medieval.
29 [28]	EA	8	100	Thickness suggest possibly post medieval brick fragments
32 [30]	CC2	1	83	Curved roof tile, but thickness, c.16mm, suggests possibly a chimney fragment, c.1300-1475.
ANIMAL BONE		Nos		
21 [20]		16		
23 [22]		4		
25 [24]		9		
32 [30]		8		
33 [31]		14		
MISC.				
3	Industrial residue	1		slag
21 [20]	Slate	1	3	discarded
23 [22]	Industrial residue	3		coke

Site/ Parish: Frolesworth Rd, Broughton Astley, Leics. Accession No.: XA121 2011 Document Ref: broughton astley2.docx Material: pot/cbm/animal bone/misc Site Type: SMV – near church	Submitter: G. Richards Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Identification: 10.10.11 Method of Recovery: evaluation Job Number: 12-307
---	---

## Appendix 2

### **An Archaeological Evaluation at Frolesworth Road, Broughton Astley (X.A121.2011): Assessment of Potential for Environmental Analysis.**

*By Anita Radini*

#### **Introduction**

A site evaluation was carried out by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services at Frolesworth Road, Broughton Astley (X.A121.2011). Three soil samples were taken for the recovery of archaeobiological evidence from two pits and one linear feature, with a total of between 10 and 20 litres. All the samples were assessed for potential of environmental analysis. One feature dated to the medieval period, the other two did not provide dating evidence, but are likely to be prehistoric. The volume of soil sampled, together with feature type, dating and results of this assessment is given in table 1.

#### **Materials and Methods**

The samples appeared to be greenish-brown in color and consisted of clay and low amounts of fine gravels. All samples were scanned for visible presence of charred plant remains (such as charcoal fragments and flecks), animal bone fragments, and any other biological remains such as insects or snails.

Table 1

Sample	Context	Feature	Date	V (L)	Ch Re	MdRoot
1	25	Linear feature	Medieval	10	x	x
2	13	Pit fill	Possibly pre-historic	20	flecks	xx
3	15	Pit fill	Possibly pre-historic	20	flecks	x

V (L)=volume in litres

Ch Re= charred plant remains

MdRoot=modern root fragments

#### **Results and Discussion**

All samples appeared greenish-brown in colour and were mainly sandy clay with very little organic matter. All samples had a variable amount of very small gravels and modern root fragments suggesting a degree of soil disturbance. Only one sample, 1

(25) had visible fragments of charcoal while the other samples showed a low number of possible charcoal flecks (see table 1 above). No animal bones or land snails were noted. In its overall the environmental evidence was therefore very poor.

## **Conclusion**

Considering the nature of the soil and the presence of low amount of charcoal and charcoal flecks, the samples scanned have very low potential for any environmental analysis and no further work is required on the samples.

Despite the assemblage being very poor, soil conditions can vary largely across site and it is important that in any future excavation an appropriate sampling strategy is adopted.

**Appendix 3 OASIS**

<b>INFORMATION REQUIRED</b>	<b>EXAMPLE</b>
Project Name	Frolesworth Road, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	Richard Buckley
Project Supervisor	Gerwyn Richards
Previous/Future work	Previous: Desk-based assessment; Geophysical survey. Future: Unknown
Current Land Use	Agriculture
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	PPS5
Position in the Planning Process	Pre Planning
Site Co ordinates	SP 52434 92403
Start/end dates of field work	Sept 2011
Archive Recipient	LMARS
Height min/max	83mOD
Study Area	6.6 ha
Finds	Yes

## Contact Details

Richard Buckley or Patrick Clay  
University of Leicester Archaeological  
Services (ULAS)  
University of Leicester,  
University Road,  
Leicester LE1 7RH

**T:** +44 (0)116 252 2848

**F:** +44 (0)116 252 2614

**E:** [ulas@le.ac.uk](mailto:ulas@le.ac.uk)

**w:** [www.le.ac.uk/ulas](http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas)

