



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological
Evaluation at
Barleythorpe
Road/Huntsmans
Drive, Oakham,
Rutland
NGR: SK 855 092**

Tim Higgins



**An Archaeological Evaluation at
Huntsmans Drive, Oakham
Rutland**

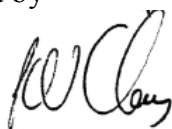
NGR: SK 855 092

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An Archaeological Evaluation at Barleythorpe Road/Huntsmans Drive, Oakham, Rutland NGR SK 855 092

Tim Higgins

Summary

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken on land at Huntsmans Drive, Oakham, Rutland by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) between 29th November and the 6th December 2011. The initial potential of the site was highlighted by information held in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record indicating that the area was close to known Iron Age and Roman remains. This highlighted the potential for archaeological features to be present within the proposed area for a new residential development.

Nine trenches were excavated. Towards the south-west corner two of the excavated trenches contained archaeological remains including ditches, post-holes and pits. Pottery dating to the 11th-13th century was present in one feature. To the north five of the trenches contained ditches, post-holes and pits. One ditch contained pottery dating to the Late Iron Age or Roman Conquest period, slag burnt daub and animal bone.

The site archive under accession number OAKRM:2011.32 will be deposited with Rutland County Museum.

1. Introduction

Planning permission is being sought for a residential development on land at Barleythorpe Road/Huntsmans Drive, Oakham, Rutland (Pre-planning enquiry; NGR SK 855 092, Fig.1).

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological trial trenching that was undertaken between 29th November and 6th December 2011. It addresses the requirements of the Principal Planning archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council (LCC PPA) as advisor to the planning authority for pre-determination evaluation. A strategy for the work was set out in the Written Scheme for Investigation, (Clay 2011, hereinafter 'WSI'; Appendix 4). The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5).

The development area lies to the east of Huntsmans Drive, and the west of Barleythorpe, Road to the west of the centre of Oakham, It is currently pasture with a playing field to the south. The site lies on flat ground, with a slight fall to the east, at height of around 120m OD and covers approximately 1.2ha. The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 157 indicates that the underlying geology was likely to consists of Marlstone Rockbed

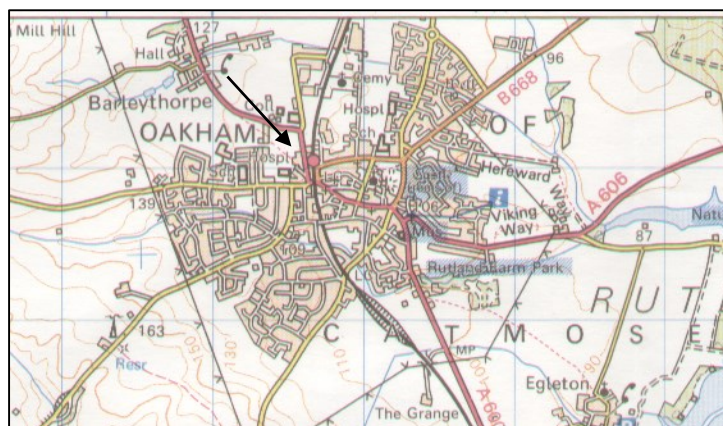


Figure 1: Site location plan

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2. Archaeological and Historical background

A desk-based assessment has been produced for the area (Clarke and Clay 2011). The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application area lies within an area of archaeological interest. It lies west of the historic settlement core of Oakham and close to areas rich in archaeological sites including Bronze Age ring ditches north-west of Lonsdale House (MLE5020-1) and south of Barleythorpe Stud, (MLE 16640) and Iron Age and Roman settlements north-east of Catmose College (MLE16973; MLE17078; MLE16974; MLE 18637).

3. Aims and Objectives

The main aims of the evaluation were:

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

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation was to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits within the southern area of the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

4. Methodology

A c.3% sample of the area, the equivalent of nine 25m x 1.6m trenches totaling c. 360 sq metres, was proposed and agreed with the LCC PPA (WSI Fig 2). The exact location of the trenches was modified in view of the on-site constraints including avoiding mature trees (Figure. 2).

The topsoil and overlying layers were removed under full archaeological supervision until either the top of archaeology or natural undisturbed ground was reached, or to a maximum safe depth given the specific site conditions. Weather conditions were difficult during the evaluation

and the work had to be interrupted due to snow and deeply frozen ground. However this did not have an impact on the identification and interpretation of the deposits.

The bases of the trenches were cleaned in areas where potential archaeology was observed. Archaeological remains were recorded and sample excavation was undertaken in order to determine the character and date of any remains. Bulk soil samples were taken as appropriate in order to evaluate the environmental potential of the site. Archaeological contexts as a cut are indicated by square brackets e.g [09], while those that are fills are indicated by round brackets e.g (07).

The trenches were located using a Topcon Hiper Pro GPS+ RTK System attached to a Topcon FC-100 controller. The data was processed using Topcon Tools GPS+ Post Processing Software and the final plans completed with the aid of TurboCad v.15 design software.

All the work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct (2010) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (2008)*.

5. Results

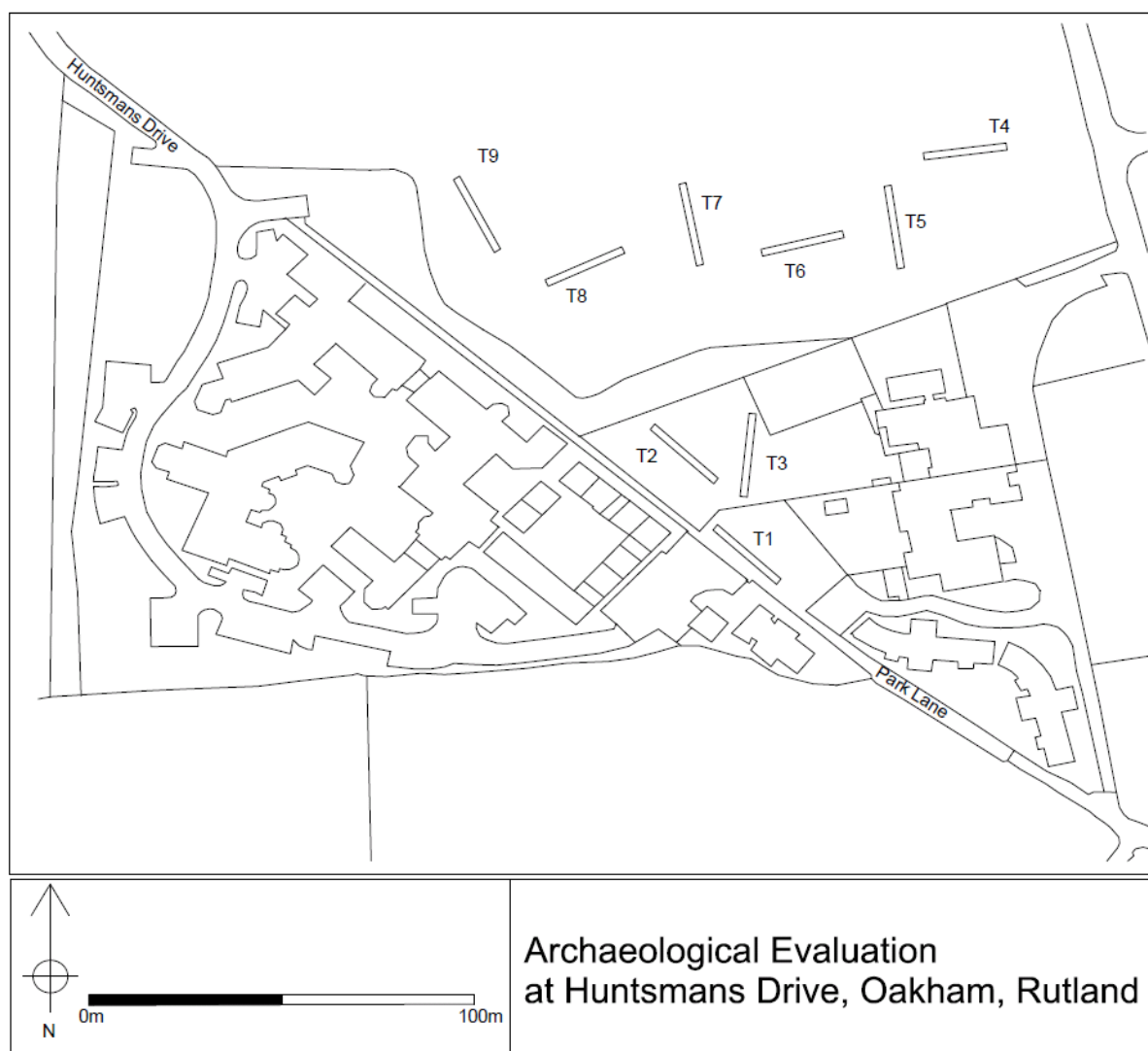


Figure 2: Trench location plan

Trench 1 (Figure 2)

Trench 1 targeted the south-west corner side of the proposed development and was orientated north-west to south-east (Figure 2). Within trench 1 only a modern field drain was observed orientated west to east. The natural substratum was reached after around 0.43m - 0.69m of topsoil and subsoil was removed.

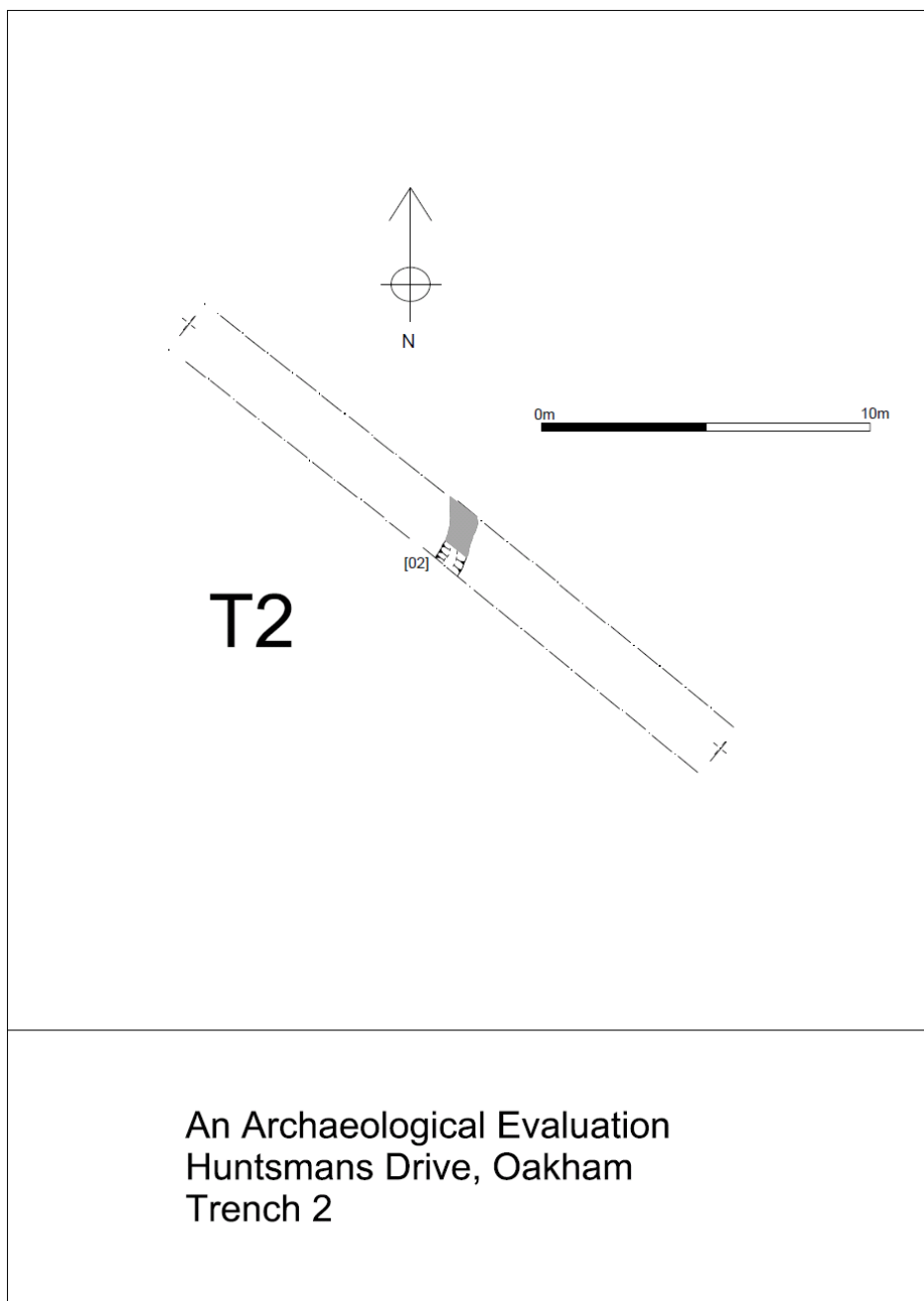


Figure 3: Trench 2

Trench 2 (Figure 2 and 3)

Trench 2 was located towards the south-west corner of the site within the school playing field and was orientated north to south. Towards the centre of the trench a linear feature [02] was observed on an east to west alignment.

The ditch or gully [02] feature was curvilinear and running diagonally across the eastern end of the trench and a section excavated across the feature revealed it had a broad rounded base

with gradually sloping sides and measured 0.90m wide and 0.23m deep (Figure 10 section 1.02 Plate 1). The feature contained a single fill (01) and consisted of mid-grey brown silty-clay mixed with occasional charcoal flecks, animal bone and 13th century pottery sherds (Appendix 2 and 3).



Plate 1 Ditch fill (01) cut [02] Trench 2 looking west

Trench 3 (Figure 2 and 4)

Trench 3 was located within school playing field and orientated north-west to south-east. This trench contained four linear features and two post holes (Figure 4).

A medium size ditch [04] measuring 0.95m wide and 0.20m deep, a linear feature found running diagonally across the south end of the trench and a section excavated across the feature revealed it to have steep sloping north side and more gradual sloping south side. The base was broad and flat (Plate 2). The feature contained a single fill (03) and consisted of mid dark grey brown silty-clay mixed with occasional small to medium size pebbles (Figure 10 Section 01.03 Plate 2). Adjacent to the ditch was another east to west linear feature [12] thought to be possible gully. The feature measured 0.43m wide and contained mid dark grey brown silt clay fill (11). A third linear feature [14] was found 5.00m to the north, orientated east to west and measured 0.60m wide. This feature contained mid grey brown clay silt fill (13) mixed with occasional small rounded pebble. Towards the centre of the trench a fourth linear feature [06] was observed. This possible east to west orientated gully measured 0.50m wide and 0.10m deep and contained mid grey brown silty clay fill (05). A section excavated across the feature revealed shallow gradual sloping sides and a flat base. Approximately 1.00m to the north of this gully a post hole [08] was found which measured 0.51m long and 0.49m wide with a depth 0.14m. The sub circular feature had moderately steep sloping sides and a rounded base. The post hole contained a single fill, which comprised mid dark brown grey silty clay. A second post hole [10] was observed within this trench and was located 4.00m to the north of the gully. This sub circular feature contained mid grey brown silty clay fill (09) mixed small rounded stones. A section excavated across the post hole revealed moderately steep sloping sides and a rounded base and that measured 0.19m deep and had diameter of 0.45m (Figure 10 Section 01.07 Plate 3).

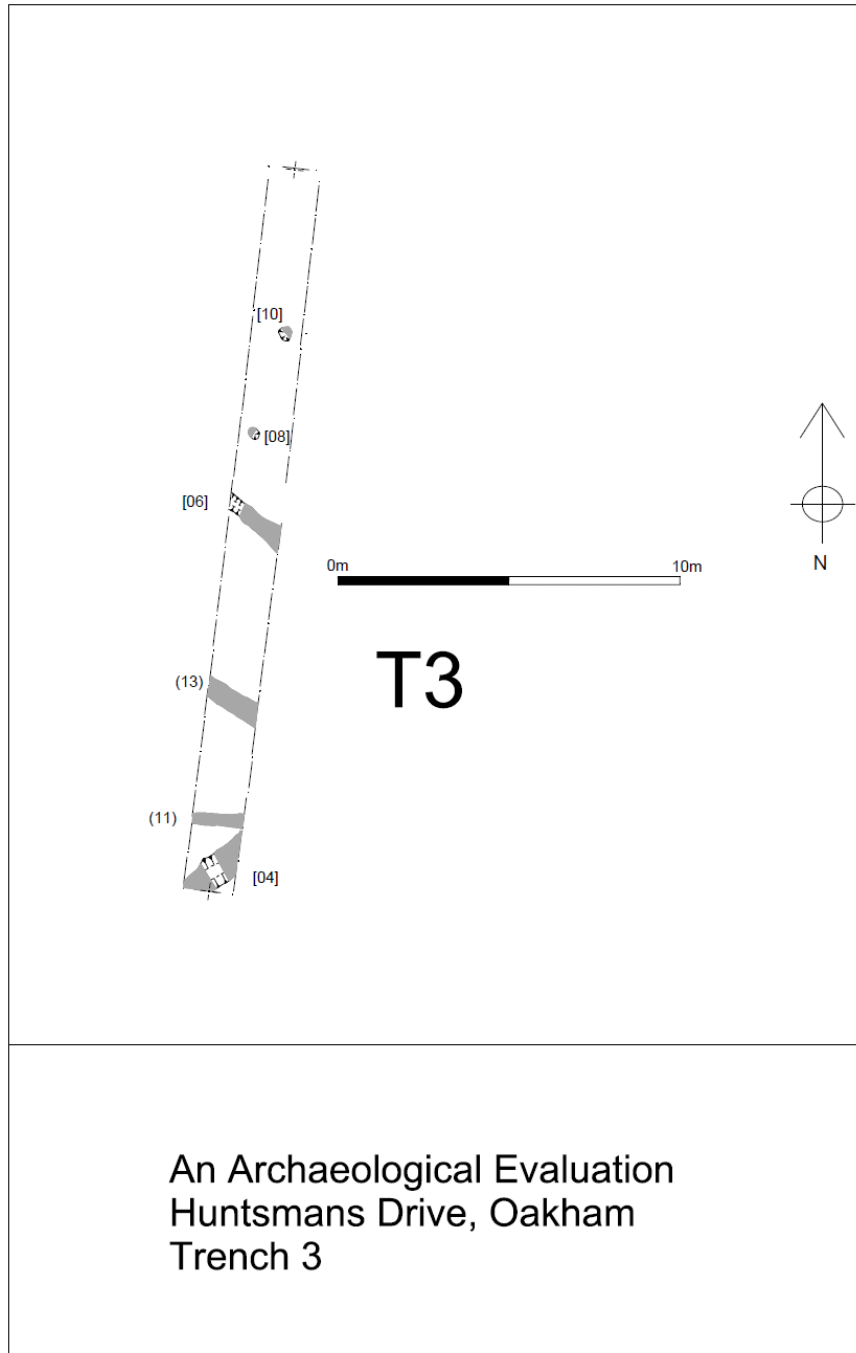


Figure 4 Trench 3



Plate 2 Ditch fill (03) cut [04] Trench 3 looking south-west



Plate 3 Post hole fill (09) cut [10] Trench 3 looking north-east

Trench 4

This trench was located in the northern half of the development area towards the north-east corner of a field and was orientated east to west (Figure 2). The trench contained a total of eight features, which comprised possible ditches and post-holes.

Feature [16] was located towards west end of the trench and was believed to be a small post-hole that was sub-circular with steep sloping sides and flat base. The feature measured 0.26m in diameter 0.10m deep. The post-hole contained a single fill (15), which consisted of dark brown clay mixed with small sub-angular stones and animal bone (Appendix 3), which may have been the remnants of post packing.

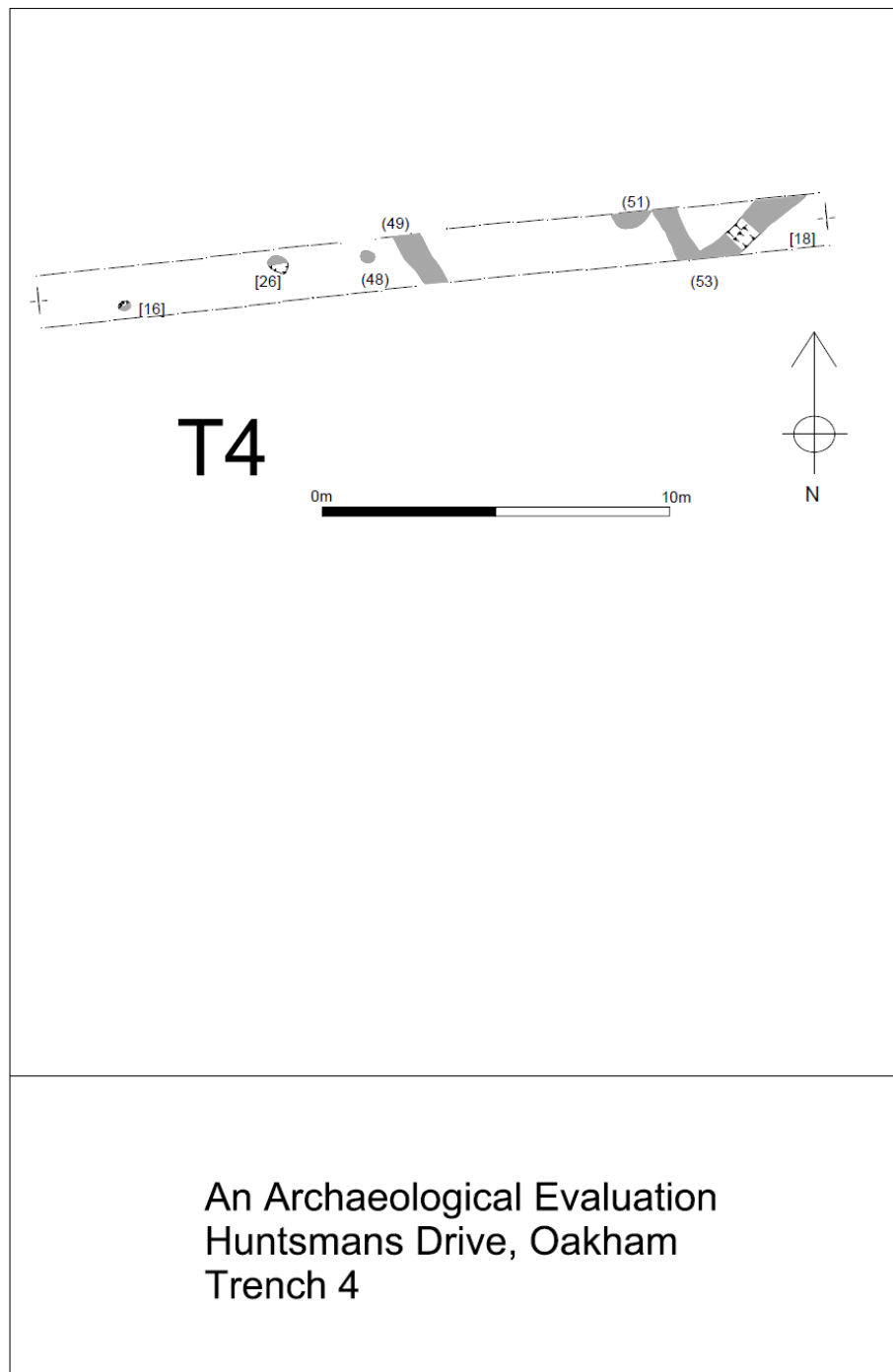


Figure 5 Trench 4

A possible sub-square post-hole [26] was observed 5.00m further east and had a length of 0.44, a width of 0.39m and a depth of 0.08m. A section excavated across the feature revealed truncated steep sloping sides and a flat base. The feature contained a single fill (21), which consisted of dark grey silty-clay mixed with frequent charcoal flecks.

Towards the centre of the trench another further potential post-hole [48] was observed measuring 0.38m long and 0.32m wide and contained a mid-brown silty-clay fill (47). At the

centre of the trench a potential linear feature [50] was located crossing the trench and orientated north to south. The features fill (49) comprised mid- brown silty-clay.



Plate 4 Ditch fill (17) cut [18] Trench 4 looking south west



Plate 5 Post-hole Fill (15) cut [16] Trench 4 looking south-east

At the eastern end of the trench linear ditch feature [18] was observed running north-eastward under the baulk the trench (Figure 4). A section excavated across the feature revealed a very steep slope on the southern side and a stepped slope on the north side, with a rounded base. The ditch feature measured 0.80m wide 0.37m deep, and contained a fill (17) that comprised dark grey brown silty-clay mixed with occasional charcoal flecks, and small angular stones. Adjacent to this feature another possible ditch [54] ran under the trench baulk. This was 0.54m

wide and the fill (53) comprised dark mid- grey clay mixed with sub angular stones and occasional charcoal flecks.

Further towards the west a possible pit or spread [52] was located although the full extent of the feature could not be determined as it ran under the trench baulk (Figure 4). This feature was cleaned but not excavated, but what was revealed appeared to be sub-circular in shape and a minimum length of 1.18m. The feature contained a fill (51) of dark brown grey silty-clay mixed with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional small sub round stones.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was located in the northern field on the western side of the development area and was orientated north to south (Figure 2). Seven potential features were located within this trench. At the centre of the trench three potential linear features were observed running west to east. Ditch [21] was located towards centre of the trench and a section was excavated across the feature. This indicated that the ditch had steep sloping sides and rounded base, and measured 1.06m in width, and 0.47m deep. The ditch contained a single fill (22), which consisted of mid grey brown silty-clay mixed with small to large sub-rounded stones. The fill also contained Iron Age pottery and fragments of what was thought to be fuel ash and burnt daub.

To the north of this ditch a possible narrow gully with a width of 0.32m was observed [58] and running under the south baulk of the trench. The feature contained a single fill (57), which consisted of mid-grey brown silty-clay mixed with small sub-angular stones and occasional charcoal flecks. On the south side of the ditch was another possible ditch or gully [62] that measure 0.60m wide and contained mid- dark grey brown silty-clay fill (61).

Towards the northern end of the trench a large pit or spread [56] was located and comprised a sub-circular feature running under the west baulk of the trench. The potential pit or spread feature had a minimum length of 1.35m. The fill (55) comprised mid- grey brown silty-clay mixed with occasional charcoal flecks and small to large rounded pebbles.

At the southern end of the trench a possible pit [26] was located but the full extent of the feature could not be determined as it ran under the baulk. This feature was cleaned but not excavated, but what was revealed appeared to be sub-circular in shape and measured 0.56m long. The potential fill (25) comprised mid- dark brown grey clay mixed with very small sub-angular stones and occasional charcoal flecks.

A small pit [24] was observed adjacent to feature (55), which was 0.44m long, 0.39m wide and 0.08m deep. The fill (23) comprised very dark grey clay mixed with abundant charcoal flecks. A possible post-hole [60] was observed towards the centre of the trench and measured 0.22m in diameter and contained very dark silty-clay fill (59) mixed with occasional charcoal flecks.

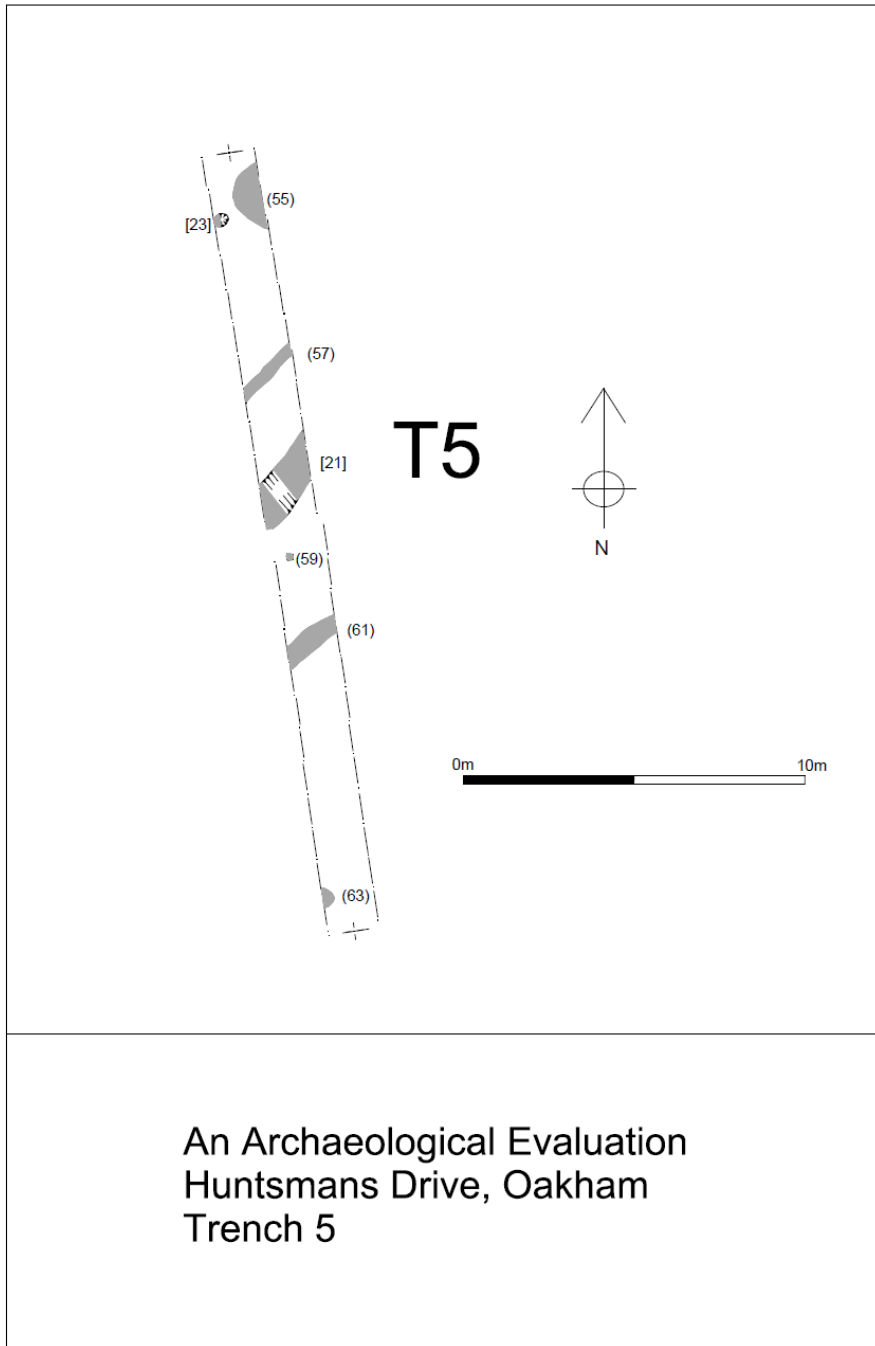


Figure 6 Trench 5



Plate 6 Ditch fill (22) cut [21] Trench 5 looking south-west

Trench 6

This trench was located towards centre of the field on the north side of the development area and was orientated west to east. Five possible features were observed within this trench.

Towards the west end of the trench a large ditch [34] running north-west to south east. A section excavated across the ditch revealed with steep sloping side breaking in to broad sloping base. The feature measured 1.25m in width, and 0.42m deep. The ditch contained a single fill (33), which consisted of pale yellowish grey brown clay mixed with occasional small sub-angular stones large charcoal flecks.

A gully was observed [32] was running south-westwards into the ditch [31] with a minimum width of 0.60m and a depth of 0.15m. A section excavated across the feature revealed steep sloping sides and broad rounded base. The feature contained a single fill (33), which consisted of yellowish grey brown clay mixed with occasional charcoal flecks and very small angular stones. Directly to the east of these features a possible post hole [40] was observed that measured 0.14m in diameter. The fill (39) consisted of pale yellowish clay-silt.

At the centre of the trench a small pit [38] was found and comprised irregular oval shape cut with steep sloping sides breaking sharply into irregular base. The feature measured 0.70m long, 0.60m wide and 0.15m deep. A small circular scoop or stake hole cut 0.08m in diameter was found cutting the base on the west side.

An irregular feature [42] was seen running under the south baulk at the centre of the trench. The potential pit or feature measured 0.22m long and contained pale yellowish brown silty clay fill (41).

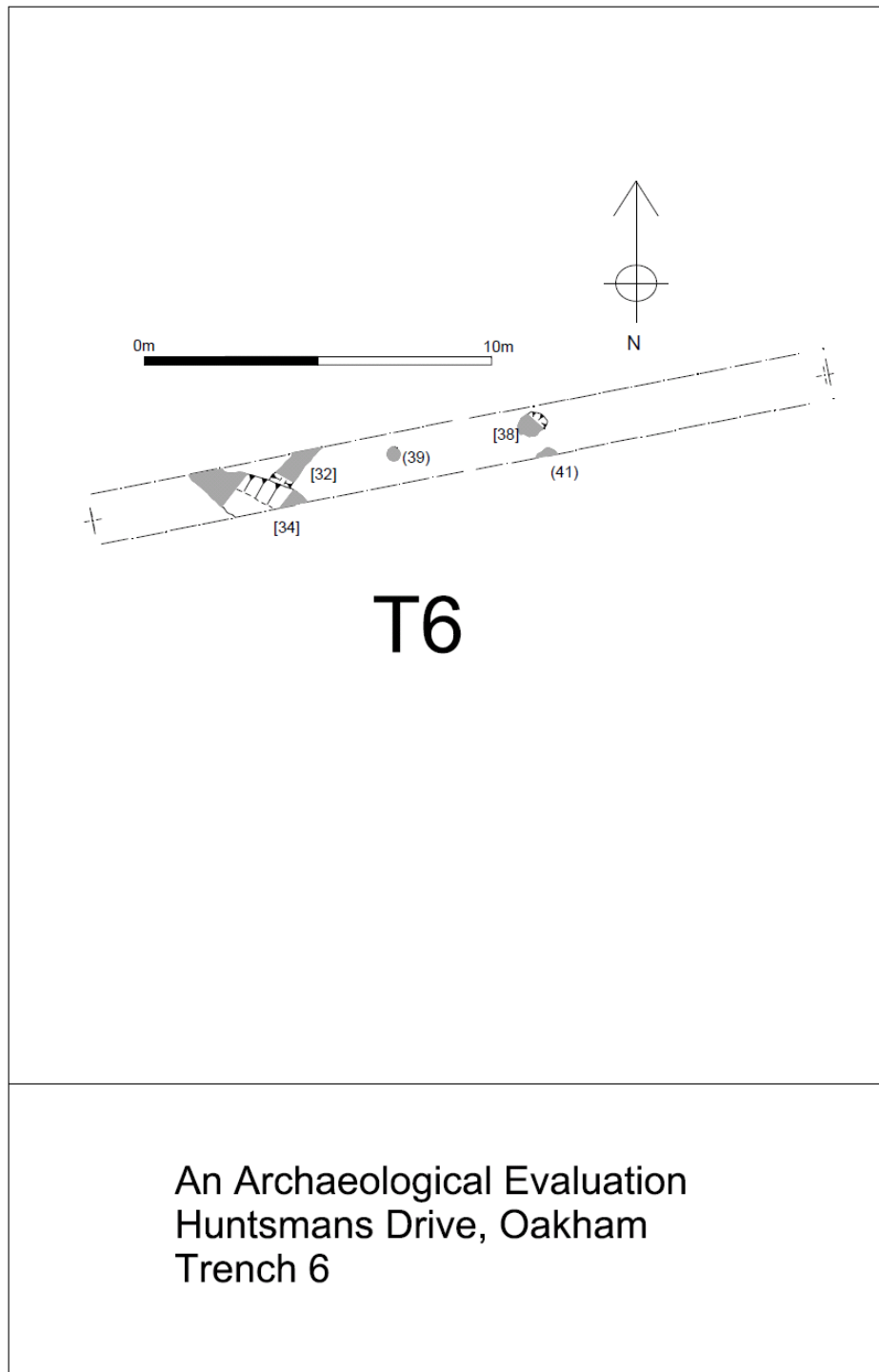


Figure 7 Trench 6



Plate 7 Ditch fill (33) cut [34] and gully fill (31) cut (32) Trench 6 looking south west

Trench 7

This trench was located in the northern half of the development area towards the north-west corner of a field and was orientated east to west (Figure 2). The trench contained a total of four features, which comprised possible ditches post-holes.

A linear feature [27] towards the north end of the trench was thought to be possible gully with steep sloping sides and flat base. The feature measured 0.48m wide and 0.10m deep, and contained a single fill (28), which consisted of mid- yellowish brown silty-clay mixed with occasional small round pebbles.

At the centre of the trench the base of possible post-hole [29] was located that a measured 0.60m in diameter 0.08deep. A section excavated across the feature revealed truncated gradual sloping sides and a flat base. The feature contained a single fill (30), which consisted of yellowish brown clay-silt. Also towards the centre of the trench a potential pit [46] was observed running under the west baulk. This irregular shaped feature measured 1.50m long with a minimum width of 0.40m, and contained a mid- yellowish brown silty-clay fill (45). A butt ended linear feature [35] was located, running under the east baulk, orientated north-west to south-east. The fill (36) comprised mid- yellow brown silty-clay mixed with occasional small rounded pebbles. A section excavated across the feature revealed gradual sloping sides breaking into a broad flat base, that measured 0.60m wide and 0.11m deep.

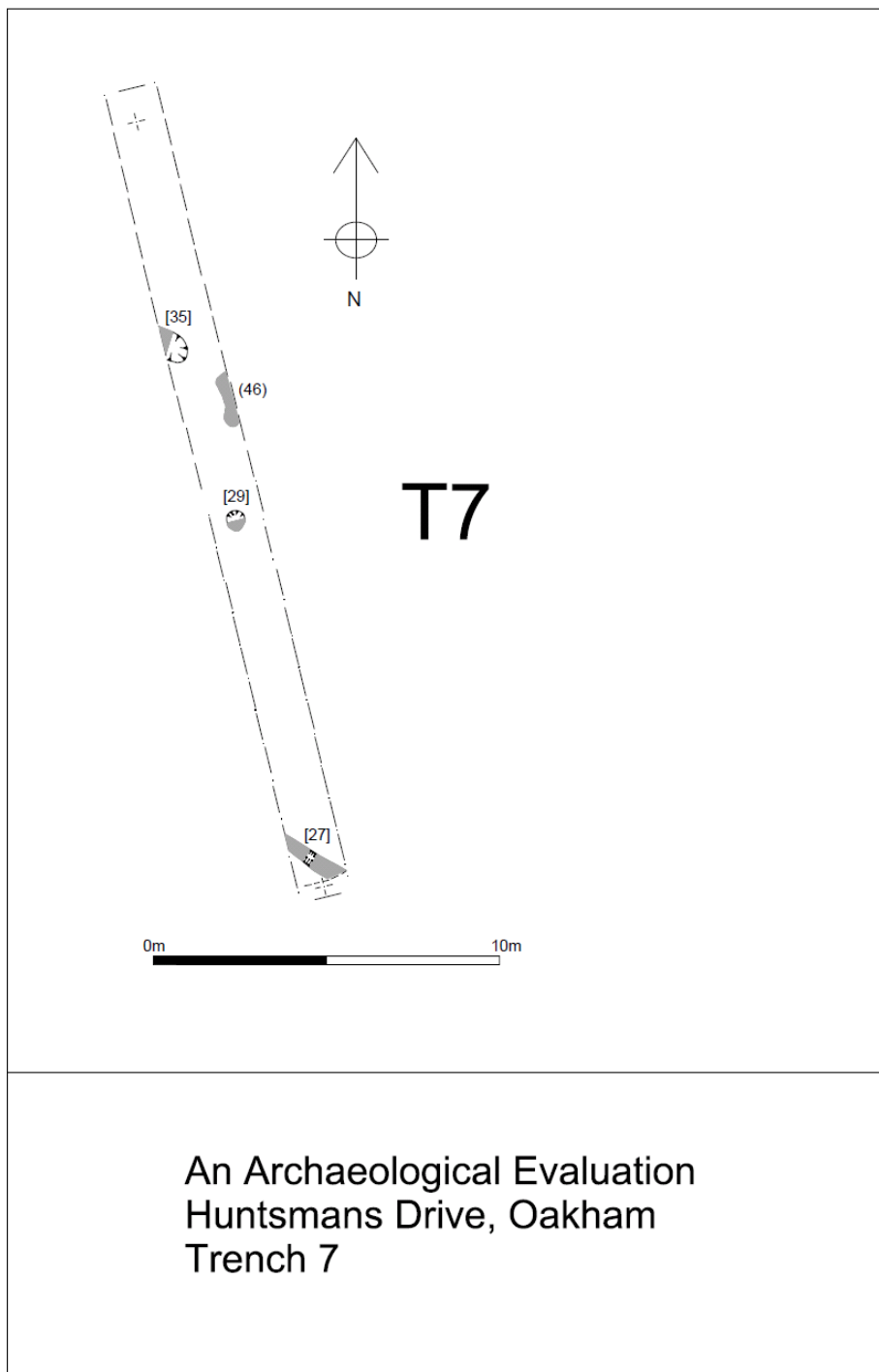


Figure 8 Trench 7

Trench 8

Trench 8 was located towards the western side of the proposed development and was orientated north-west to south-east (Figure 2). Only small modern pits were observed within the western half of this trench. The natural substratum was reached after *c.* 0.45m - 0.56m of topsoil and subsoil was removed.

Trench 9

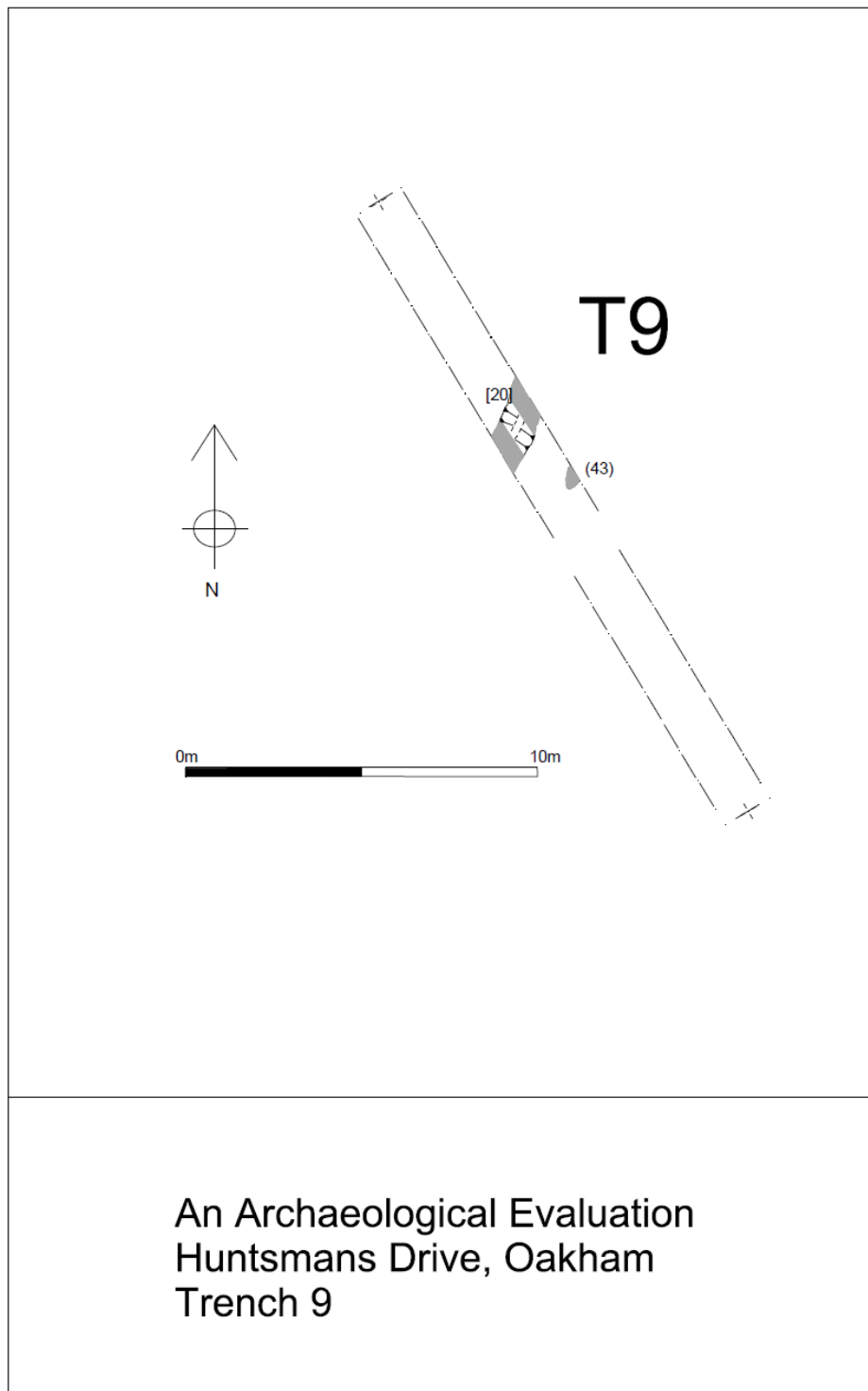


Figure 9 Trench 9

This trench was located towards the north-west corner of the site in the northern field and was orientated north to south. Towards the centre of the trench a linear feature [20] was observed running north-east to south-west. A section excavated across the feature revealed that the ditch cut measured 0.90m in width and 0.23m in depth. This ditch had a steep sloping north side and stepped sloping south side, with both sides breaking gradually into narrow base. The feature

contained a single fill (19) and consisted of pale yellowish brown silty-clay mixed with occasional charcoal flecks and very small rounded pebbles. Directly to the south a possible butt end of a gully [44] was observed running under the east baulk of the trench. The feature contained pale yellowish brown clay-silt fill (43) and measured 0.20m long by 0.16m wide.



Plate 8 Ditch fill (19) cut [20] Trench 9 looking east

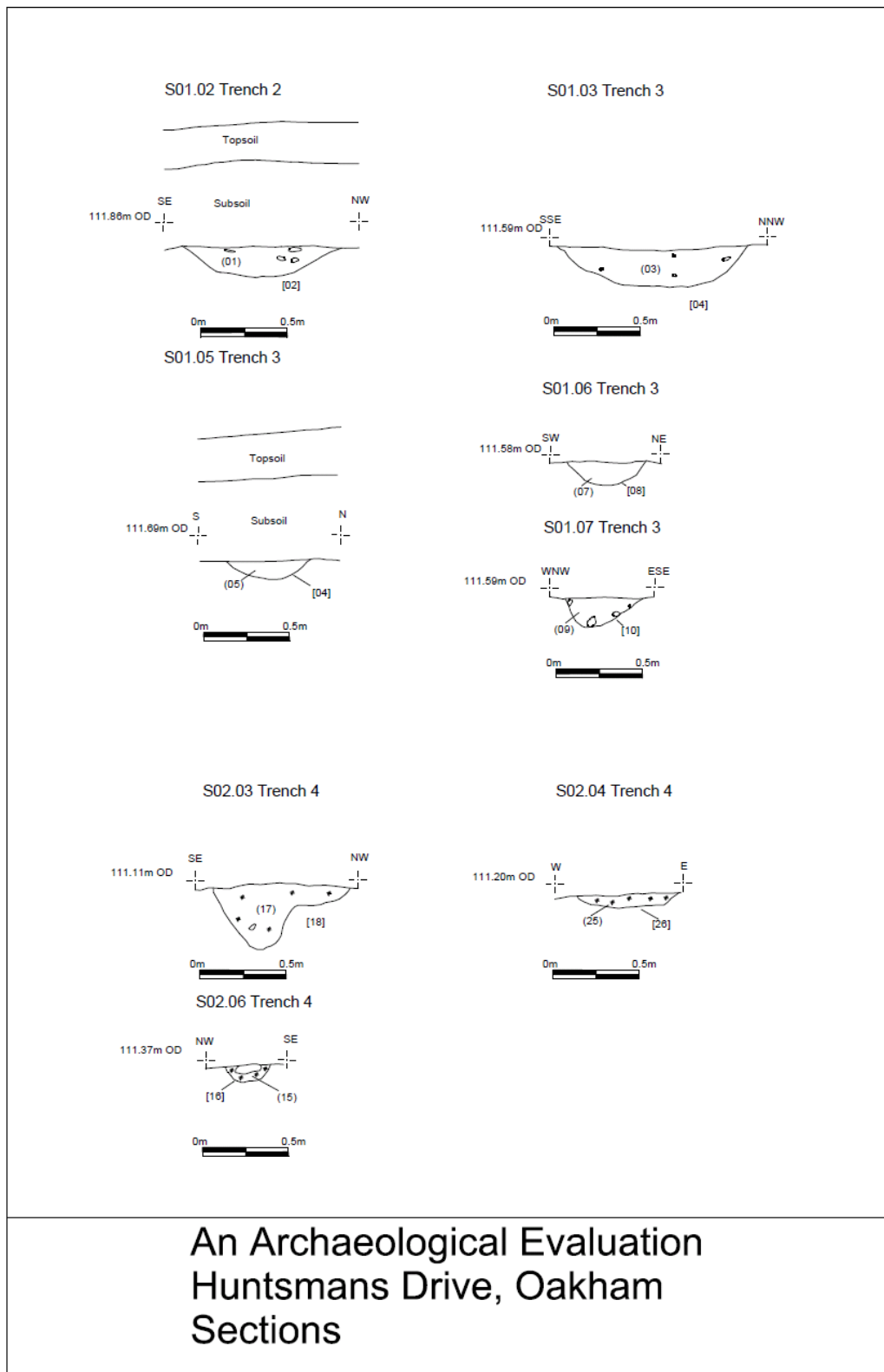


Figure 10: Sections of features: Trenches 2-4.

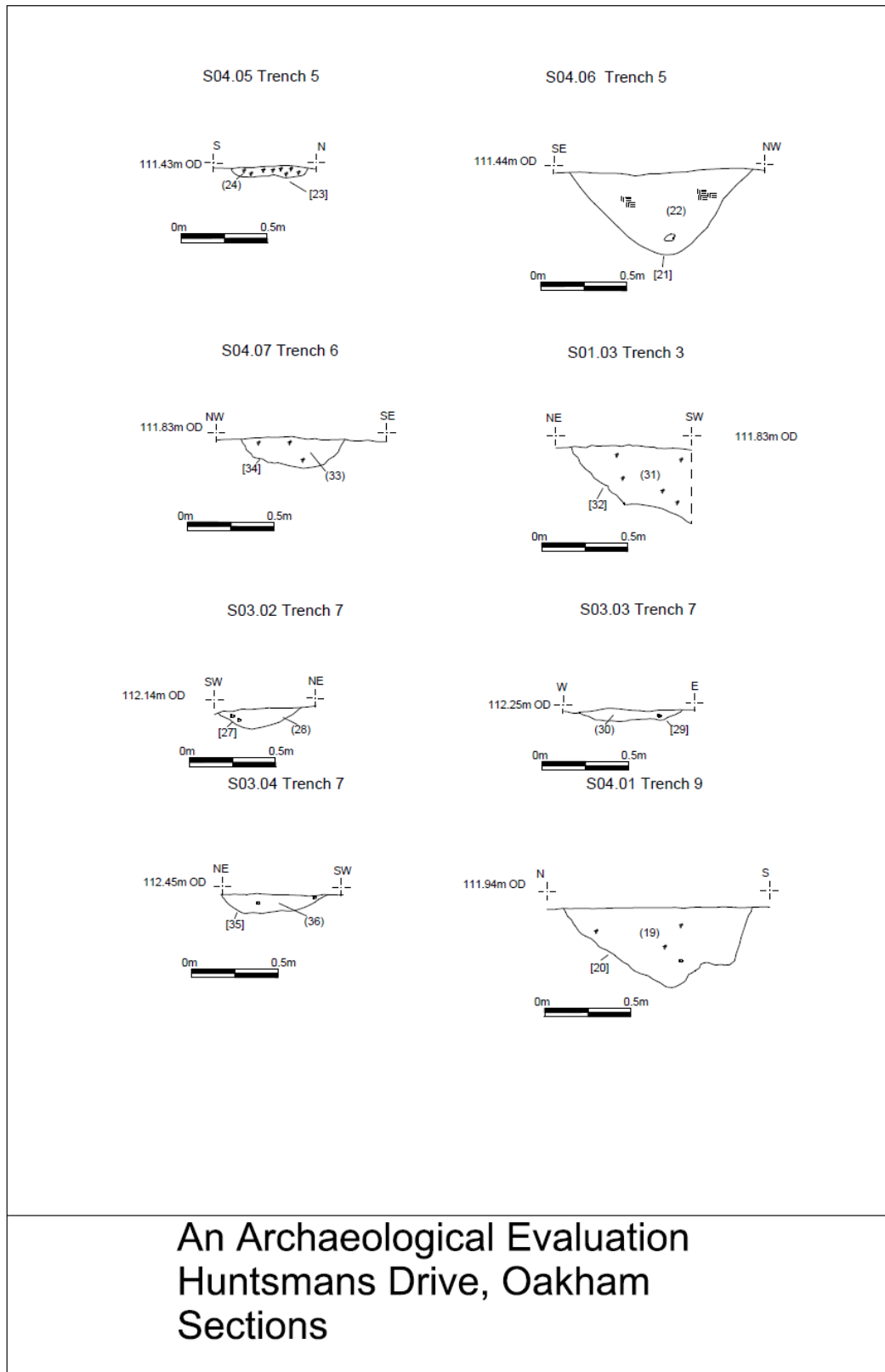


Figure 11 Sections of features: Trenches 3, 5, 6, 7 and 9

Trench Descriptions

Trench	Orientation	Length(m)	Average depth (m)	Notes description	Minimum depth to archaeology or natural substratum
1	north-west to south-east	25.00m	0.65m	Negative modern field drain orientated west to east	0.43m natural
2	north-west to south-east	25.00m	0.66m	One linear feature or ditch [02]	0.51m natural
3	north-south	25.00m	0.79m	Four linear features or ditches [04], [06], [12] and [14]. Two post-holes [08] and [10]	0.67m natural
4	west to east	23.00m	0.64m	Three linear features or ditches [18], [50], and [54]. Three post-holes [16], [26] and [48] and possible pit [52]	0.55m natural
5	north to south	23.40m	0.64m	Three linear features or ditches [21], [58], and [62]. Three possible post-holes [24], [60] and [64] and possible pit [56]	0.52 natural
6	west to east	24.00m	0.67m	Two linear features or ditches [32] and [34]. A pit [37] and possible post-holes [40] and [42]	0.60m natural
7	north to south	22.00m	0.71m	One linear features or ditch [27] Possible post-hole [29]. A gully butt end [35] and possible pit [46]	0.56m natural
8	west to east	25.00m	0.62m	Negative	0.45m natural
9	north to south	25.00m	0.67m	One linear feature or ditch [20] and a gully with butt end [44]	0.49m natural

6. Discussion

Seven out of the nine evaluation trenches (trenches, 2, 3 4 5 6, 7and 9; Figure 2) contained sufficient archaeological evidence to suggest the spread of activity was confined to the north eastern and south-west corners of the development area. Iron Age and Roman pottery was present in ditch [21]. A scatter of undated post-holes, pits and smaller gully features may be

associated with this feature. The presence of slag, burnt daub and some animal bone from [21] (Appendix 3) suggests some nearby domestic occupation from this period.

Evidence of medieval activity again in the form of gullies, ditches and pits was located in the south-west corner of the development. Two medium size ditches were found within the trenches, [02] (Trench 2) and [04] (Trench 3) which may relate to some form of boundary activity for fields or enclosures. A scatter of post-holes, pits and smaller gully features suggest fences or possible buildings. Small quantities of pottery, of 11th to 13th century date in [02], while animal bone (Appendix 2 and 3) and possible charred plant remains were present in undated features (below Appendix 4).

The north-west corner of the development area appears to have few archaeological features apart from the ditch [20] in trench 9. Trench 1 appeared to be in an area that may have been previously stripped and contained spreads construction debris rather than the topsoil, suggesting probable modern disturbance within this area of the development.

7. Conclusion

While many of the features could not be dated the archaeological evaluation has revealed evidence of Iron Age-Roman activity in the north-eastern and medieval activity in the south-western parts of the proposed development area. There is likely to be extensive modern disturbance in the western half of the development.

The Iron Age and Roman remains may be associated with other deposits of that date located to the west (MLE16973; MLE17078; MLE16974; MLE18637). The medieval remains of 11th-13th century date are potentially of more significance as they may indicate that the historic core of Oakham extended further to the north and west than had previously been thought.

8. Archive and Publication

The site archive will be held by ULAS under the temporary accession number NHWD 2011 until a suitable storage space is allocated for its deposition in Northamptonshire.

The content of the paper archive consists of:

1 Unbound A4 copy of this report

9 A4 Trench recording sheets

1 A4 Context summary sheet

64 A5 Context Sheets

1 A4 Photo record sheets

1 A4 Drawing Record

1 A4 Sample Index

5 A2 Plan and section drawing sheets

Black and white contact print & 55 Black and white picture negatives

A4 Colour digital contact print & 1 CD of 51 digital photos

A record of the project will be submitted to the Oasis project under the code universi1-91275. Oasis is an online index to grey literature reports.

ID	OASIS entry summary
Project Name	Huntsmans Drive, Oakham, Rutland
Summary	An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken on land at Huntsmans Drive, Oakham, Rutland by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) between 29th November and the 6th December 2011. The initial potential of the site was highlighted by information held in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record indicating that the area was close to known Iron Age and Roman remains. This highlighted the potential for archaeological features to be present within the proposed area for a new residential development. Nine trenches were excavated. Towards the south-west corner two of the excavated trenches contained archaeological remains including ditches, post-holes and pits. Pottery dating to the 11th-13th century was present in one feature. To the north five of the trenches contained ditches, post-holes and pits. One ditch contained pottery dating to the Late Iron Age or Roman Conquest period, slag burnt daub and animal bone. The site archive under accession number OAKRM:2011.32 will be deposited with Rutland County Museums
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Tim Higgins
Previous/Future work	Previous: DBA, / Future: likely
Current Land Use	Field
Development Type	Residential development
Reason for Investigation	PPS5
Position in the Planning Process	Pre-planning
Site Co ordinates	SK 434920 311715
Start/end dates of field work	29/11/2011-06/12/2011
Archive Recipient	Rutland County Museum
Study Area	1.2ha
Associated project reference codes	Museum accession ID: OAKRM:2011.32

9. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by the author, assisted by Steve Baker. Mathew morris prepared the plans and Dr. Patrick Clay managed the project. The pottery and miscellaneous finds were identified by Nicholas Cooper, Jennifer Browning identified the animal bone and Anita Radini analysed the environmental material, all of ULAS.

10. Bibliography

Clarke, S., and Clay, P., 2011 *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for land at Barleythorpe Road, Oakham, Rutland (SK 855 091)*. ULAS Report 2011-194

Clay, P., 2010, *Written scheme of investigation for archaeological work Job title: Land east of Huntsmans Drive, Oakham, Rutland NGR: SK 855 091* ULAS Specification 11-535 (Appendix 4 of this report).

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), 2008, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*.

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Appendix 1 Late Iron Age or Early Roman pottery and other finds

Nicholas Cooper

Late Iron Age or Early Roman Pottery

Two small sherds of handmade pottery weighing 5g were recovered from ditch fill (22) [21]. They are both from a thin-bodied vessel manufactured in a grog-tempered fabric with additional quartz sand inclusions, similar to Fabric GT2 in the Leicestershire Museums Roman Pottery Fabric Series (Pollard 1994, 112-114) and would normally be found in 'Belgic'-style forms. The sherds in this case are too small to judge the shape but the dating is likely to fall in the middle decades of the 1st century either side of the Conquest.

Possible metal working activity

Fragments of vesicular (vitrified) fuel ash weighing 400g were retrieved from ditch fill (22) [21]. They may relate to a high temperature industrial activity such as metal working, but no other trace of metals was found.

Waterlogged wood

A fragment of wood was recovered from enclosure ditch fill (22) [21] appears to be a chip from from the outside surface of a branch approximately 40mm in diameter.

Fired Clay (burnt daub)

Two small amorphous fragments of fired clay weighing 2g came from ditch fill (22) [21] and (17) [18]. They are likely to be fragments of burnt daub from wattle and daub structures in the vicinity.

Prehistoric Flint

Lynden Cooper

Two pieces of worked flint were recovered, residually, in fill (1) [2] in Trench 2, comprising a primary flake or fragment of shatter with pebble cortex and a tertiary flake in a fine orange flint. The pieces are not very diagnostic and a broad Later Prehistoric (Neolithic to Bronze Age) date is applicable.

References

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Appendix 2 The Medieval Pottery

Deborah Sawday

The pottery, 23 sherds, weighing 148 grams, was catalogued with reference to the guidelines set out by the Medieval Pottery Research Group, (MPRG 2001) and the ULAS fabric series (Davies and Sawday 1999). The results are shown below (Table 1).

This small assemblage was recovered from the back fill of the ditch, context (01) [2] in trench 2, and was predominantly 11th or 12th century in date, the latest material, two sherds of Bourne ware, dated from the 13th century. Much of the earlier pottery was abraded and all of these

finds were probably associated with the manuring of the fields from the medieval settlement nearby.

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

Context Trench 2	Fabric/Ware	Nos	Grams	Comments
1 [2]	ST – Stamford type ware	9	45	Wheel thrown buff bodied fine sandy sherds with mica, some sooting externally, 11th – 12th C. The presence of mica may suggest that this is a type ware, (Kilmurry 1980, 200). However, under petrological analysis it was the high caesium content of a comparably micaceous fabric found in Leicester (ibid 1980, 213) which distinguished it from Stamford fabric A and which Kilmurry referred to as a Leicester Stamford type ware.
1 [2]	OL – Oolitic ware	12	66	Misc. body/base sherds, generally reduced, but some with oxidised surfaces, South Lincolnshire, (Young et al 2005, 123), 11th -12th C.
1 [2]	BO2 – Bourne A/B ware	2	37	Join, everted bowl rim with internal bevel and light sooting externally, 13th C.

Site/ Parish: Huntsman Dr., Oakham, Rutland Accession No.: OAKRM 2011.32 Document Ref: oakham3.docx Material: pot Site Type: ?pasture/outer village	Submitter: T. Higgins Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Identification: 4.1.12 Method of Recovery: evaluation Job Number: 12-533
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Appendix 3 Animal Bones

Jennifer Browning

Introduction

The animal bone recovered by hand during the evaluation was rapidly scanned to assess preservation and variety and therefore provide an indication of the faunal potential should the site progress to excavation. Bones were recovered from features dating to the Late Iron Age/early Roman and medieval periods (table 1).

Comments

A small quantity of animal bone was recovered during the evaluation. Sheep/goat were the only identified bones; the remainder could not be positively attributed to species. Three of the 17 excavated features produced bones and these were from both late Iron Age/early Roman and medieval contexts. The material was fragmented and the preservation was variable; only that from ditch [21] could be described as being in good condition, perhaps better preserved by the greater depth of the feature. While the evidence suggests that bones do survive at the site, a much larger sample will be needed in order to draw any conclusions from the data.

If further material was recovered it could have archaeological significance. Although larger urban centres such as Leicester have produced large groups of animal bone, the importance of rural Roman assemblages from the region should be emphasised, as these are currently rare and when they exist, are often small and poorly preserved. Study of the rural economy has been identified as a particular gap in current knowledge (Monckton 2006, 277), which further excavation at this site could potentially help to address. In the wider rural landscape, Roman settlement at Whitwell produced an assemblage with 65 identified specimens (Harman 1981) and excavations at Rutland Water (Morrison 2000) could provide further comparative material. Similarly, urban medieval sites have produced good material, but rural excavations have typically produced smaller and less well-preserved faunal assemblages (Thomas, forthcoming). The relationship between the town and the countryside is not yet well understood and further evidence is needed (Monckton 2006, 283).

Table 2: Summary of assemblage

Context	Feature type	Provisional Date	No frags.	Brief Description
(1) [2]	ditch	13th century AD	17	3 x large mammal skull fragments, 14 x medium mammal shaft fragments (with recent breaks)

(15) [16]	post hole	Mid 1st century AD	3	2 x large mammal and 1 x indeterminate fragment, abraded surfaces and mineralised condition
(22) [21]	ditch	Mid 1st century AD	7	6 x sheep/goat skull fragments including occipital condyle, 1 x sheep/goat tibia shaft fragment. Good condition.

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Morrison, A. 2000 'The Animal Bone' in N. J. Cooper (ed.) *The Archaeology of Rutland Water* Leicester Archaeology Monographs No. 6 Leicester: University of Leicester Archaeological Services

Thomas, J. forthcoming *Infilling the Blanks: Modern Development and the Archaeology of Currently Occupied Medieval Rural Settlement in Leicestershire and Rutland*

Appendix 4 Potential for environmental analysis

Anita Radini

An evaluation was conducted by the University of Leicester Archaeological services at Huntsmans Drive, Oakham. During the evaluation, three samples, from small pits, were taken.

Sample 1 (24)[23], from Trench 5

Sample 2 (25)[26], from Trench 4

Sample 3 (37)[38], from Trench 6

All samples were then brought to the ULAS laboratory and assessed for potential of environmental analysis. The samples appeared to be dark brown in colour and consisted of fine clay and charcoal fragments, often very small. The 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. The samples consisted mainly of charcoal fragments and flecks in a bad status of preservation, and therefore no further work was carried out. Despite this assessment being negative, it needs to be taken in to account that both soil conditions and human activity can affect preservation across the same area. Therefore, an appropriate sampling strategy should be adopted if any future work should take place on site.

The survival of a small fragment of waterlogged wood in [21], (22) may indicate potential for the survival of organic material in this feature.

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