University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

An archaeological evaluation at the Fernie Hunt Kennels, Nether Green, Great Bowden, Leicestershire (SP 735 883)

Leon Hunt

ULAS Report No 2011-099

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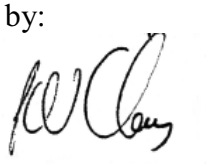
for:
Trustees to the Fernie Hunt

Approved by:

Signed: 

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ULAS Report Number 2011-099

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An archaeological evaluation at the Fernie Hunt Kennels, Nether Green, Great Bowden, Leicestershire (SP 735 883)

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Summary

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land at the Fernie Hunt kennels, Nether Green, Great Bowden, Leicestershire (SP 735 883). The work was carried out in advance of a new development at the site, which consisted of the erection of a stable building, a vehicle storage unit, associated landscaping and a new access road.

The field evaluation consisted of seven trenches placed within the proposed development areas around the site. However, a sewer pipe was in the process of being excavated prior to the archaeological work being undertaken and this presented some constraints to the positioning of the trenches. During the work the proposed development was changed and so one trench (Trench 5) was excavated outside the proposed development.

All the trenches contained features of some kind. Two of the trenches (Trenches 1 and 3) contained modern features, which may have originated during earlier periods; a furrow and a pond respectively. Another trench (Trench 7) contained a Victorian well and some disturbed areas of rubble and appeared to be situated close to where early maps show a cottage once stood.

All the other trenches contained ditches and pits, most of which could be dated to the Late Anglo-Saxon to Early High Medieval period, a period covered around A.D 850 to A.D 1250. A few features contained later medieval material, although many of these contained earlier material also, suggesting continuity into the later period. Most of the features in Trench 5, which now lay outside the development area, were not fully excavated. However, a large amount of surface finds from this trench also indicated Anglo-Saxon-medieval activity.

The type of archaeological evidence from the evaluation is indicative of agricultural activity in the area during the Late Anglo-Saxon to Early High Medieval period. However, the amount of pottery collected of fine fabrics, along with artefacts such as a copper alloy ring found within a ditch fill in Trench 4, suggests a settlement somewhere in the close vicinity.

Introduction

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was carried out on land at the Fernie Hunt kennels, Nether Green, Great Bowden, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 735 883). The Trustees to the Fernie Hunt commissioned the work, which was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) in advance of a new development at the site, which consisted of the erection of a stable building, a vehicle storage unit, associated landscaping and a new access road from Nether Green into the site (Planning Application No. 11/00491/FUL).

The site currently consists of a broadly rectangular field, currently under pasture, with an access track at the southern edge of the site leading to the main kennel building and associated structures, which lie in the north-east corner of the site.

The work was in accordance with PPS 5: Planning for the Historic Environment. The fieldwork was intended to provide preliminary indications of 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. The site lies within the conservation area of Great Bowden, close to many historical buildings and finds and features from the medieval period.

The definition of archaeological field evaluation, taken from the *Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance: for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008) is a limited programme of non intrusive and/ or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

Site Location, Geology and Topography

Great Bowden lies in the Harborough District of Leicestershire, around 1.5 miles north-east of the centre of Market Harborough (Figure 1).

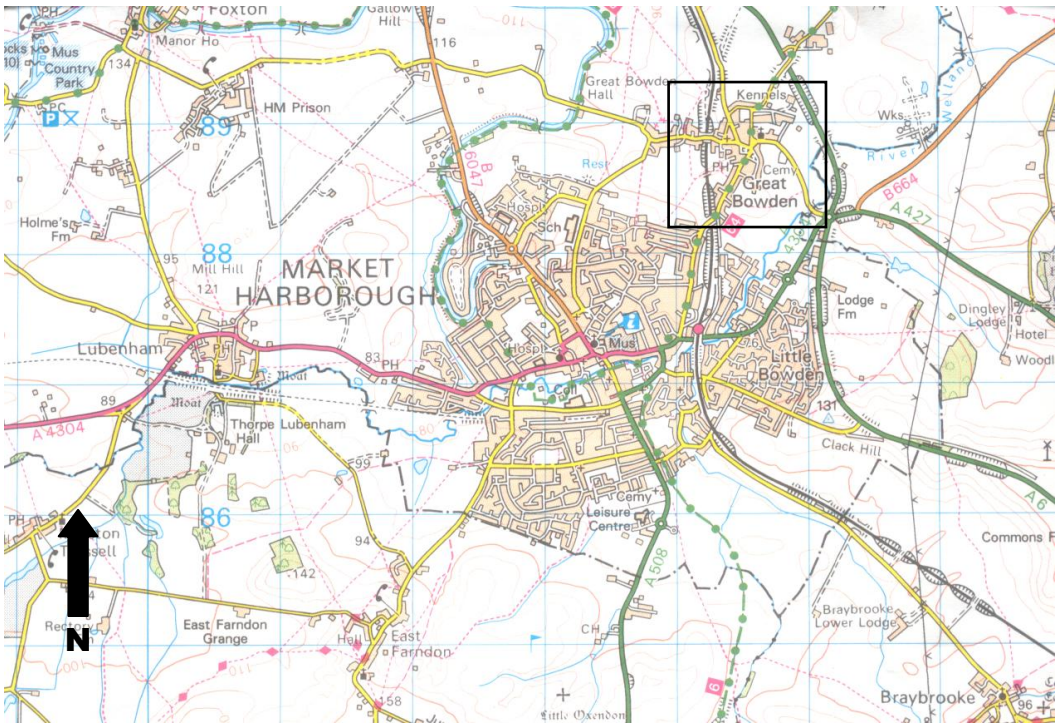

Figure 1: Location of Great Bowden

Nether Green lies at the north-eastern edge of Great Bowden and the site, which covers 0.45 hectares, lies on the northern side of Nether Green, opposite Nether House and the Fernie Hunt stables (Figure 2).

The site is broadly rectangular and oriented west north-west to east south-east. It is surrounded by hedgerows to the east, west and north. The southern edge, along the

line of the road is bordered by a metal fence and a number of large mature lime trees, which carry tree preservation orders (TPOs).

Access to the site during the excavations was via a gap close to the south-west corner of the site, alongside the garage of the adjacent property at 23, Nether Green. The main access track lies along the southern edge of the field, over a cattle grid and leads east and north to the main kennel block, which lies in the north-east corner of the site (Coverplate and Plate 1).

The site is partially divided by a group of 4 groups of tall mature trees encircled by hedges, lying in a line from north to south across the field. The southern part of the western field is further divided by a line of mature lime trees (also with TPOs). There is a further pair of smaller groups of trees to the east and west of the main grouped trees (Plate 2). During the excavations a number of new fences were installed, dividing the field into three areas; for clarity these will be referred to as fields 1-3 in the text (see Figure 3).

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 170 (Market Harborough) indicates that the underlying geology consists of Middle Lias clays, overlain by Glacial Till. The site lies at a height of around 77m aOD. The site appeared largely flat, but undulating with some very well defined ridge and furrow earthworks particularly in the eastern field (Field 1).

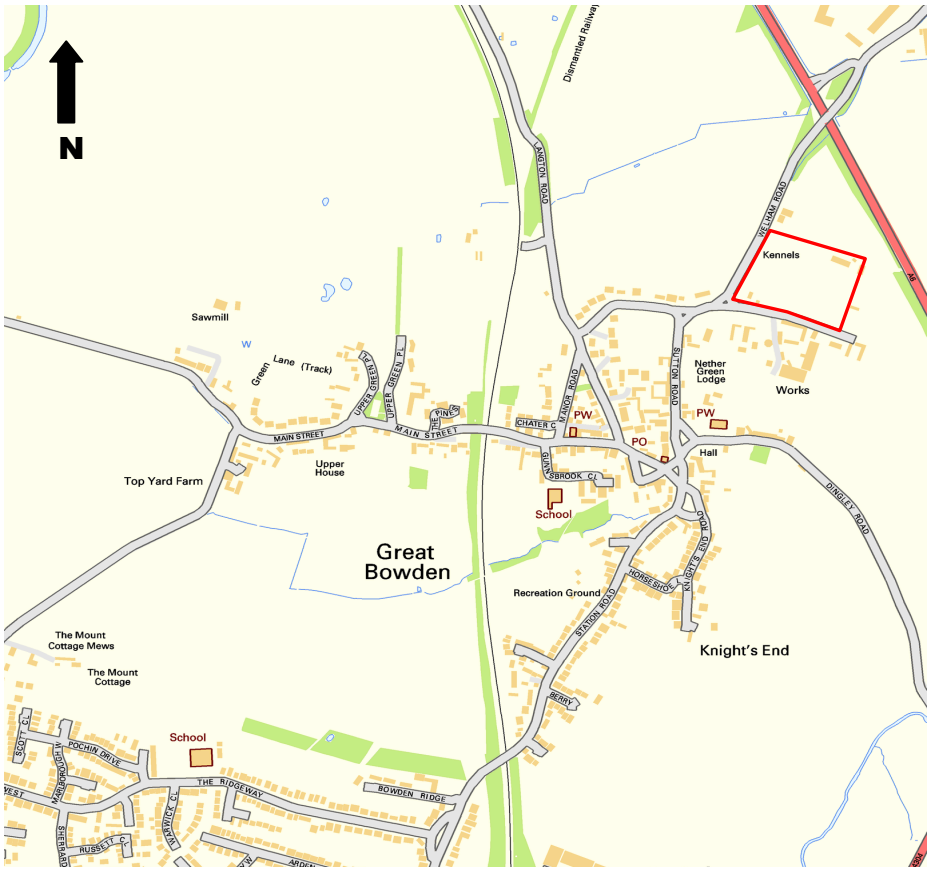

Figure 2: Location of Fernie Hunt Kennels (highlighted).
Scale Approximately 1: 2500
Contains Ordnance Survey Data

Plate 1: Field 1 from the west, looking broadly east, kennels to left. Plate 2: Fields 2 & 3, looking south-west

Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives 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 ground works.
- 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 on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the presence of archaeological deposits that may exist within the area.

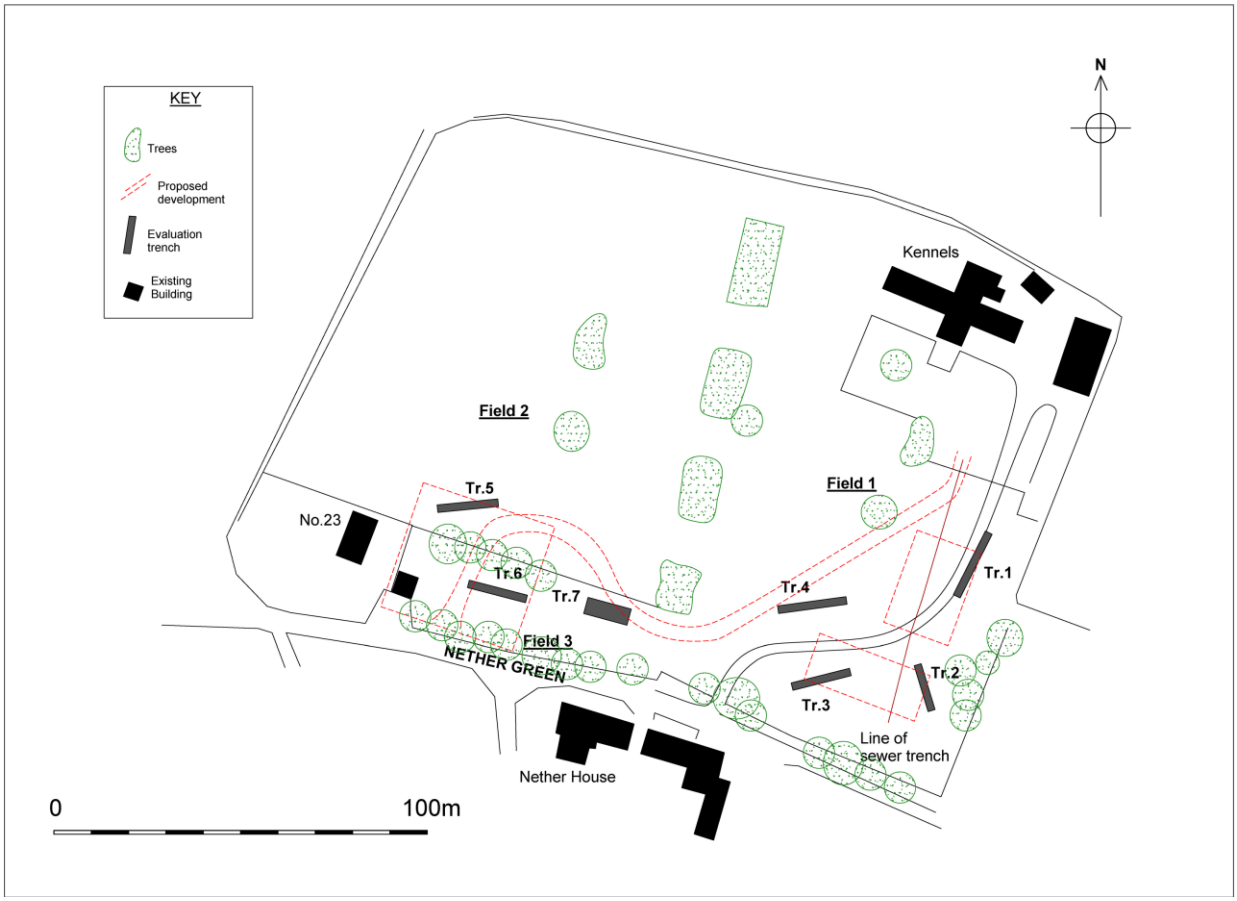

Figure 3: Trench position plan

Methodology

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct in accordance with their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008). The archaeological work followed the *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological work* prepared by ULAS.

The initial methodology was to excavate a 5% sample of the 0.45 hectare site, equating to *c.*225 square metres of trenching; the equivalent of 7 20m x 1.6m trenches. These were to be excavated along the line of the proposed new access leading from the south-west corner of the site (Fields 2 & 3), northwards and then eastwards and within the footprint of the proposed new buildings (Field 1). A sewer pipe, leading from the southern edge of field 1, northwards to the kennel building was in the process of being excavated prior to the archaeological work being undertaken. The presence of the sewer trench, spoil heaps and machinery presented some constraints to the positioning of the trenches. The ditching bucket on the excavator was changed to a 2.1m size, allowing for the trenches to be foreshortened without loss of coverage.

The sewer trench, which measured 0.75m in width and around 2m in depth, was intermittently observed for the presence of archaeological deposits.

Historical and Archaeological Background

The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland indicates that the site lies just outside the medieval core of the village (HER Ref No: MLE9021). There are few known prehistoric and Roman sites in the close vicinity of the site. Great Bowden has its origins in the medieval period and archaeological finds from this period far surpass any other period of antiquity in their abundance.

The village has shrunk in size since the medieval period and the earthworks of demolished buildings from the medieval period can be found on the outskirts of the village to the east and north of the present-day village core. To the south lie the earthworks at Knight's End (MLE1953) and along Dingley Road, east of the Church (MLE1955). Further earthworks lie to the south-west of the site north of The Royal Oak (MLE1950). There are also several findspots for medieval pottery within the village core, including several sherds from The Paddock and Nether Green (MLE6752).

To the south of the application area, at 9, Dingley Road, the owner discovered two medieval encaustic floor tiles and a fragment of marble slab, most likely a coffin cover, with a Latin inscription and Chi-Rho cross (MLE9868). A scatter of medieval pottery, along with evidence for a collapsed wall, were found at 1, Main Street (Hunt 2008).

Nether House, which lies to the direct south of the site was a relatively small residence of the early or mid-19th century but was enlarged later. Around 1900 it was occupied by J. H. Stokes, local farmer and later horse dealer to the British and European nobility. The extensive stabling to the west of the house was built for his horses. After 1923 Nether House became the residence of the master of the Fernie Hunt. It was damaged by fire around 1950 and was later acquired by a firm of brush manufacturers who in 1958 were using part of the outbuildings as a factory. The stables then remained the property of the Fernie Hunt, as did the kennels which were built in 1923-4 (VCH 1964).

The site itself was used as a showing area for horses, with a view across the site from the large viewing window on the northern side of Nether House. The groups of trees that lie across the site provided obstacles for the horses to gallop around. The 1st edition OS map of the area shows a cottage occupying the southern part of the current site; a photograph (*c.* 1880) shows the cottage in front of Nether House (Plates 3 & 4).

This was later removed to provide an uninterrupted view across the horse ground (R. Culkin pers. comm.)

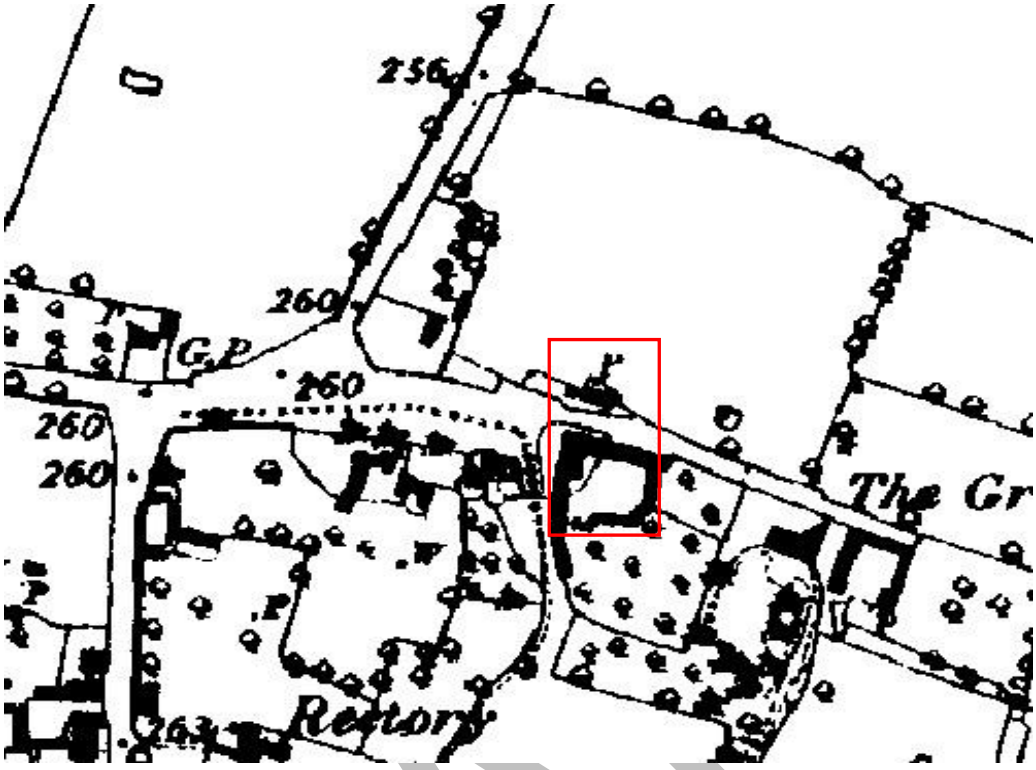

Plate 3: Detail of OS map, 1891. Nether House and cottage highlighted. North to top. Original Scale 1: 10 000

Plate 4: Photograph of Nether House and cottage to north. From the south-west, looking north-east. Photograph courtesy Michael Jack

Results

The trenches were initially excavated using a JCB 3CX backactor fitted with a 1.6m bucket, but due to the resilience of the underlying clays to the machine this was changed to a large tracked excavator, fitted with a 2.1m wide ditching bucket.

Trenches 1-4 were positioned within the footprints of the new buildings and along the line of the access road in the eastern field (Field 1). Trench 5 was positioned in the footprint of new garages in Field 2 and Trenches 6 and 7 were excavated in Field 3, along the line of the proposed access road.

Trenches were excavated to the top of archaeological layers or to the natural sub-stratum, whichever was encountered first. Archaeological features were then excavated by hand. Archaeological features have been allocated fill numbers (1) and cut numbers [2] in the text; if no excavation was undertaken, only fill numbers are utilised.

In all the trenches the natural substratum was observed as greyish or brownish yellow clay (Glacial Till), with occasional patches of gravel or degraded stone.

Trench 1

Orientation: NNE-SSW

Length: 19m

Width: 2.1m

Depth: Between 0.85m and 1.05m, later extended down to 1.7m at southern end

Topsoil: Mid to dark grey silty clay with occasional rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Mid-light greyish brown silty clay with few coarse components

Archaeological Contexts: Linear/drain (1), [2]

Interval NNE	**0m**	**5m**	**10m**	**15m**	**19m SSW**
Topsoil Depth	0.19m	0.2m	0.22m	0.12m	0.2m
Subsoil Depth	0.68m	0.71m	0.44m	0.49m	0.6m
Top of natural	0.87m	0.91m	0.66m	0.61m	0.8m
Base of trench	1.05m	1.04m	1.04m	1.04m	0.85m

The sequence revealed consisted of 0.12m-0.22m of topsoil overlying 0.44m-0.71m of subsoil over natural clay at a depth of between 0.61m and 0.91m. Two land drains crossed the trench from east to west and a feature [2] was observed running for 11m north to south within the trench. Excavation revealed a further field drain within the fill (1) a mid-brown silty-clay (Figure 4A). The make-up layer for the trackway was

visible in the east facing section for part of the length of the trench. The southernmost land drain appeared to lie within a darker area. This was further excavated by machine to a depth of around 1.7m, revealing dark grey clay beneath the yellow/grey Till (Plate 5).

A sherd of earthenware pottery possibly dating from the 18th century was recovered from fill (1)

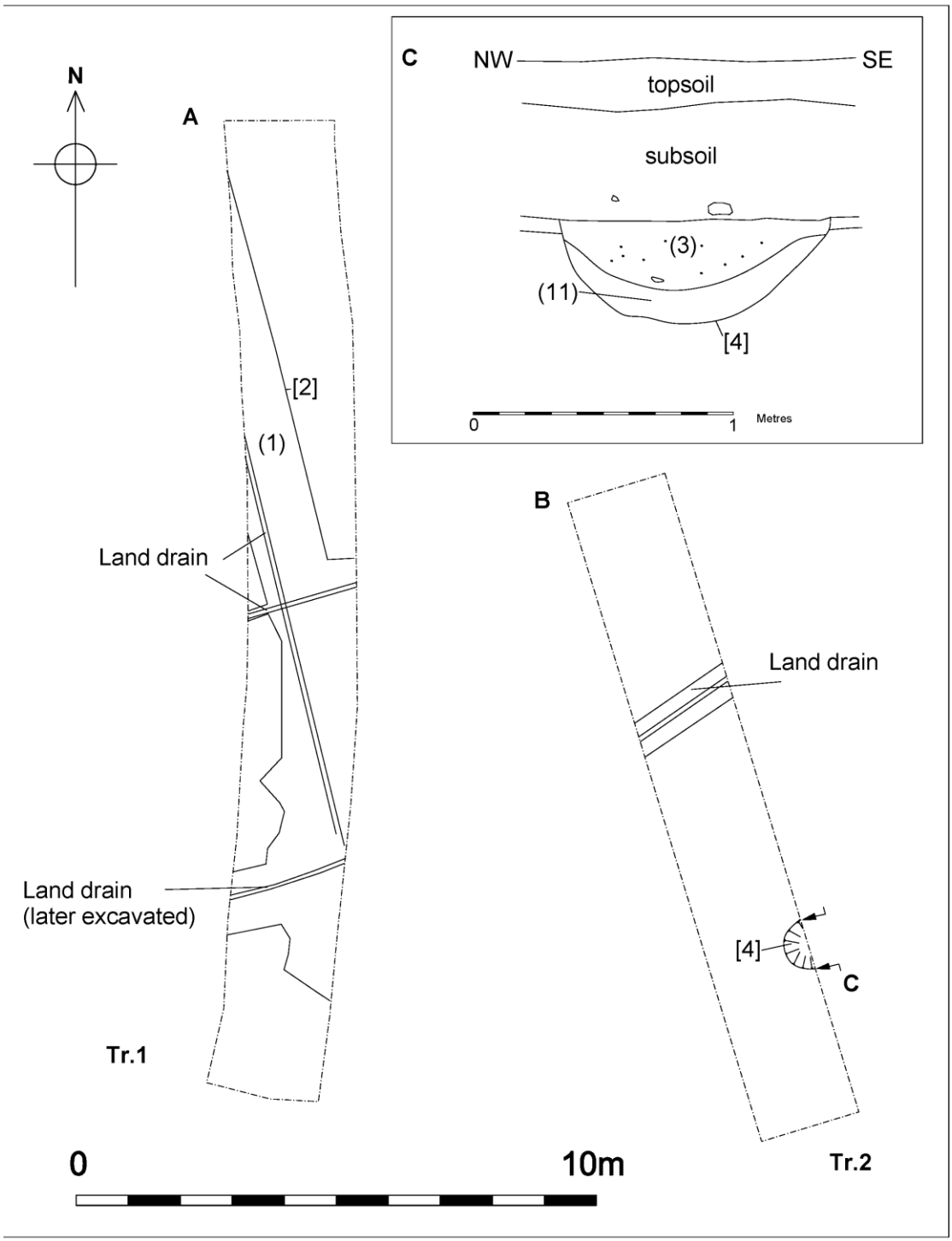

Figure 4: A. Plan of Trench 1. B. Plan of Trench 2. C. South-east facing section of [4]

Plate 5: Trench 1, southern land drain excavated revealing grey sub-stratum, looking south-west

Trench 2

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Length: 13m

Width: 2.1m

Depth: Between 0.64m and 0.78m

Topsoil: Mid to dark grey silty clay with occasional rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Mid-light greyish brown silty clay with few coarse components

Archaeological Contexts: Pit: (3), [4], (11)

Interval NNW	**0m**	**5m**	**10m**	**13m SSE**
Topsoil Depth	0.34m	0.46m	0.28m	0.28m
Subsoil Depth	0.22m	disturbed	0.34m	0.26m
Top of natural	0.56m	0.46m	0.62m	0.54m
Base of trench	0.7m	0.72m	0.78m	0.64m

The trench was foreshortened to avoid the existing sewer pipe and the branches and roots of a nearby tree.

The trench soil sequence consisted of 0.28m-0.34m of topsoil over 0.22m-0.34m of subsoil overlying natural yellow clay. Between the 5m-10m mark the west facing section of the trench showed some modern disturbance with the soils containing large amounts of modern building rubble. A field drain crossed the trench from north-east to south-west towards the northern end of the trench.

Close to the southern end of the trench, and partially obscured by the west facing baulk was a medium sized pit [4], measuring 1.06m wide along the baulk and projecting into the trench by 0.56m. It had 45 degree sides and a concave base at a depth of 0.4m.

The lower fill (11) consisted of a mid greenish brown/grey silty clay with no stones and the upper fill (3) was a mid-dark brownish grey silty clay with less than 1% small sub-rounded stones (Figures 4B & 4C)..

The upper fill (3) contained 12 sherds of Stamford ware pottery and two sherds of St Neots type pottery, dating from the Late Anglo-Saxon to Early High Medieval period. The fill also contained fragments of animal bone.

Trench 3

Orientation: ENE-WSW

Length: 16m

Width: 2.1m

Depth: Between 0.58m and 0.65m, 1.1m deep at the pond, later extended down to 1.7m

Topsoil: Mid to dark grey silty clay with occasional rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Mid-light greyish brown silty clay with few coarse components

Archaeological Contexts: None. Modern features

Interval WSW	**0m**	**5m**	**10m**	**15m ENE**
Topsoil Depth	0.2m	0.4m	0.21m	0.3m
Subsoil Depth	0.35m	-pond	0.26m	0.32m
Top of natural	0.55m	-pond	0.47m	0.62m
Base of trench	0.58m	1.1m	0.65m	0.64m

The sequence consisted of between 0.2m-0.4m of topsoil over 0.26m-0.35m of subsoil lying over natural yellow clay. A large dark modern feature, around 7m by 2.1m was revealed partially within the south facing section. It was mainly filled with grey clay and large amounts of modern debris including building rubble, the remains of a bicycle, a wheelbarrow and a cold water tank. The feature started to flood the

trench and during a later investigation into its depth the water gushed in with some force, completely flooding the trench. The trench was then back-filled to stem the flooding.

This feature corresponds with the pond featured on early maps (see Figure 4 above).

A further modern feature containing topsoil was observed towards the eastern end of the trench (Plate 6 & Figure 5A).

Plate 6: Post excavation shot of trench 3, looking west.
Pond in middle distance

Trench 4

Orientation: ENE-WSW

Length: 18.5m

Width: 2.1m

Depth: Between 0.4m and 0.5m

Topsoil: Dark yellowish grey silty clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Yellowish brown silty clay. No stones

Archaeological Contexts: Ditch [5], (6); Ditch [7], (8); Ditch [9], (10); Pit (12), [13]

Interval ENE	**0m**	**5m**	**10m**	**15m**	**19m WSW**
Topsoil Depth	0.25m	0.4m	0.3m	0.25m	0.4m
Subsoil Depth	0.2m	0.1m	0.1m	0.19m	0.1m
Top of natural	0.45m	0.5m	0.4m	0.44m	0.5m
Base of trench	0.45m	0.5m	0.4m	0.44m	0.5m

The sequence consisted of 0.25m-0.4m of topsoil over 0.1m-0.2m of subsoil over the natural sub-stratum of yellow clay (Figure 5B & Plate 7).

Close to the eastern end of the trench were two large ditches. Ditch [9] ran north-west to south-east across the trench and appeared to join ditch [7], which ran north-east to south-west, close to the baulk (Figures 6A & 6B and Plate 8).

Ditch [9] had a visible length of 4m and was 1.79m wide. The sides were quite steep, with the western side steeper, leading to a concave base at 0.54m depth. The fill (10) consisted of mid to dark brownish grey silty clay with orange and brown mottles and less than 1% small sub-rounded pebbles. The fill contained several sherds of pottery including Coarse Shelly ware, Oxidised Sandy ware, and St. Neots type, dating from the Late Anglo-Saxon Early High Medieval period. There were also 2 sherds of later medieval pottery, some burnt clay and large mammal bones, including sheep or goat bones. A small copper alloy ring was retrieved from the very top of the fill. This had an external length of 37mm and a width of 33mm and was 2mm thick. The function of the ring is uncertain.

Ditch [7] had a visible length of 2.2m and was 1.81m wide. The sides were quite steep leading to a slightly wavy base at 0.61m depth. The fill (8) was a brownish grey silty clay with orange-brown mottles and less than 1% small sub-rounded pebbles. This fill also contained Late Saxon to Early High Medieval pottery, including Stamford ware and Coarse Shelly ware and 11 pieces of burnt clay, possibly daub. There was also a fair amount of animal bone, mainly cattle with gnaw marks upon them.

The junction of the two ditches could be observed, obliquely in the north facing section, but the fills were so similar, it was impossible to tell whether there was any relationship between them.

Towards the western end of the trench was a linear feature running north-east to south-west across the trench, with a visible length of 2.65m and 0.8m width. The cut [5] was shallow sided leading to a gently concave base at 0.16m depth. The fill (6) was a grey slightly silty clay, becoming more yellowish grey towards the base of the

feature (Figure 6C). The matrix contained very few pieces of sub-angular stones and small pebbles, Late Anglo-Saxon to Early High Medieval pottery, including Fine Stamford ware, Potter Marston and St. Neots type pottery.

At the western end of the trench was a sub-circular pit [13], of diameter 0.54m with steep sides leading to a flat base at 0.14m depth. The fill (12) was a greyish yellow silty clay with very few medium sized sub-rounded pebbles (one visible in section). The fill contained no artefacts (Figure 6D).

Plate 7: Work in progress in Trench 4, looking east

Plate 8: North facing section of Trench 4, features [7] and [9]

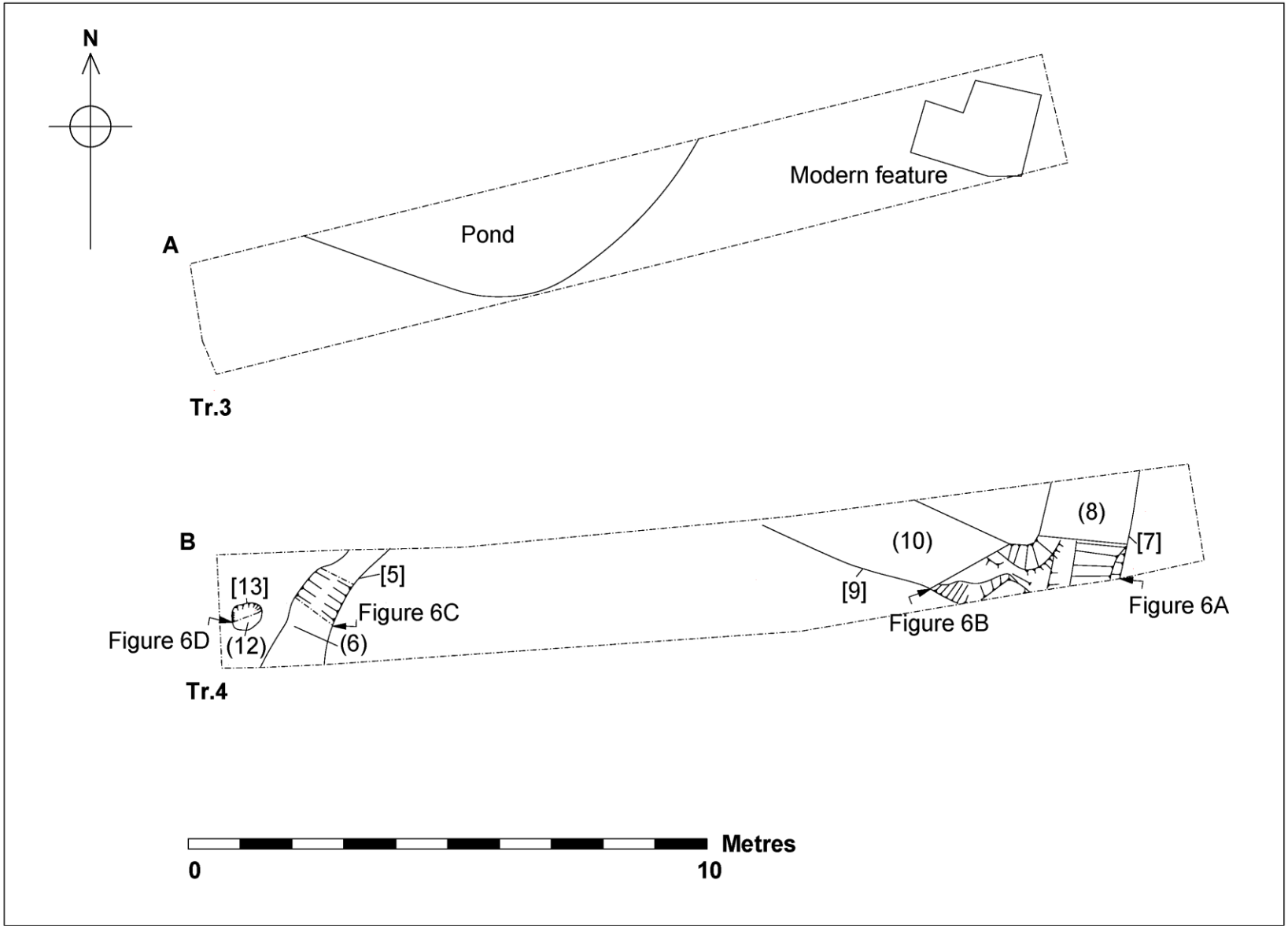

Figure 5: Post excavation plan of A. Trench 3 and B. Trench 4

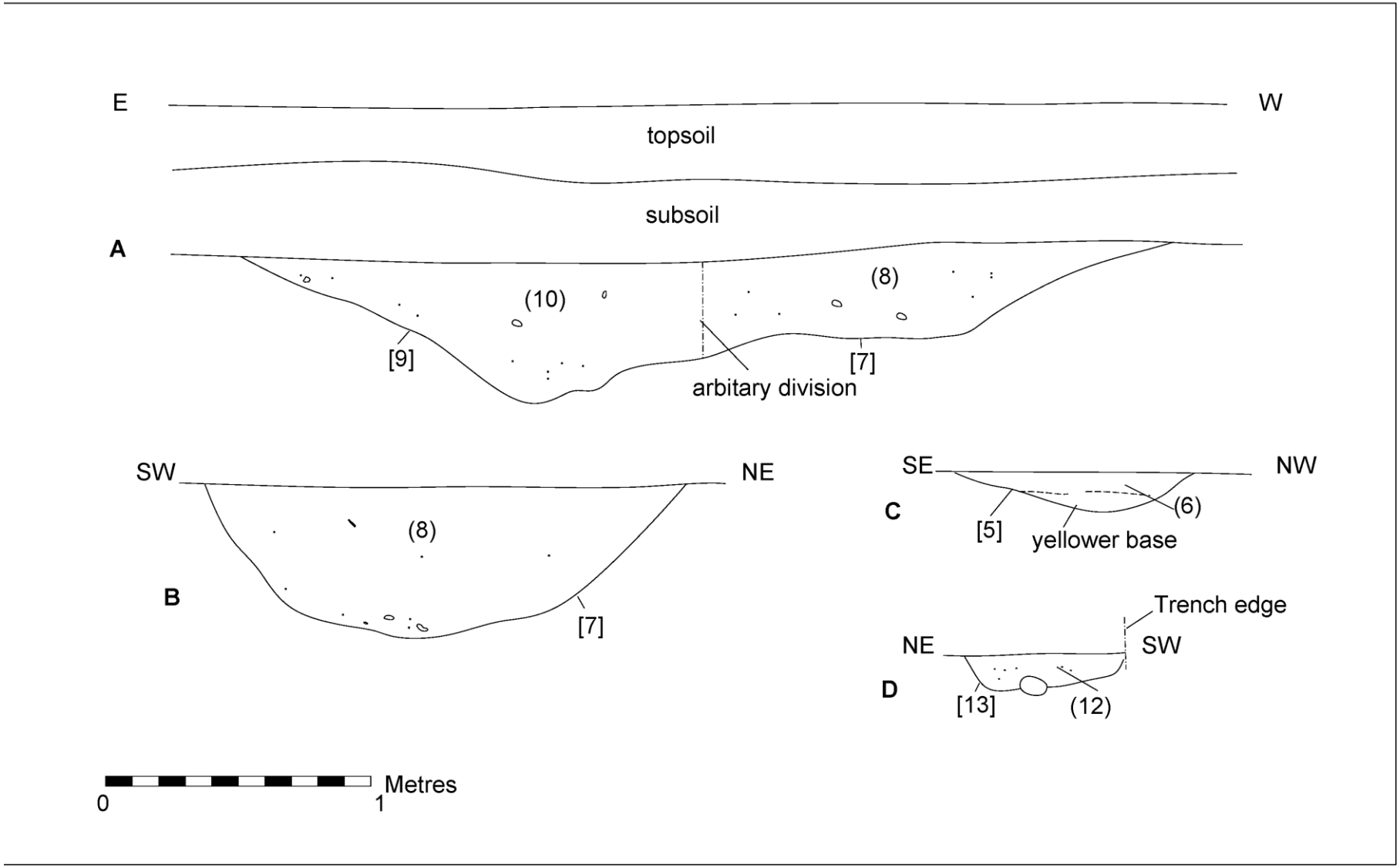

Figure 6: Sections from Trench 4

Trench 5

Orientation: E-W

Length: 16.4m

Width: 2.1m

Depth: Between 0.59m and 0.88m

Topsoil: Dark yellowish grey silty clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Yellowish brown silty clay. No stones

Archaeological Contexts: Ditch (24); Ditch (25); Post-hole (?) (26); Pit (?) (27); Linear/Ditch (?) (28); Pit (29)

Interval E	**0m**	**5m**	**10m**	**15m W**
Topsoil Depth	0.21m	0.15m	0.2m	0.27m
Subsoil Depth	0.5m	0.41m	0.46m	0.61m
Top of natural	0.71m	-feature	0.66m	0.88m
Base of trench	0.71m	0.69m	0.68m	0.88m

The sequence consisted of 0.15m-0.27m of topsoil over 0.41m-0.61m of subsoil, over the natural sub-stratum of yellow clay. There was a large amount of archaeological deposits within the trench and little of the natural substratum could be seen between the features (Figure 7 & Plate 9).

During the evaluation new information came to light that the developer had changed the proposed development plan and this area in Field 2 was no longer under threat from the new development, although neither ULAS nor the Planning Authority were privy to this information prior to the trench being excavated.

As the archaeology in this trench would therefore not be under threat a basic system of recording was employed. Only two features were partially excavated and the rest were planned and very basically recorded. However, a large amount of dating evidence was recovered from the features within the trench, mainly through surface finds.

At the western end of the trench was a ditch (24), running broadly north-west to south-east across the trench for around 4.5m. It was 1.2m wide and contained a fill of mid greyish brown silty clay, mottled with orange and yellow. No dating evidence was recovered.

Close to this ditch and possibly meeting it was feature (25), which was difficult to fully identify but may have been two ditches, one running north-south for 2.5 m the other north-west to south-east for 4.5m. It was 2.5m wide and contained an identical fill to (24). Sherds of pottery, including 11 sherds of St Neots type pottery were found within the fill, along with a sherd of later medieval pottery. There were also several pieces of large mammal bones, including sheep or goat bones.

Plate 9: Post excavation view of Trench 5, looking east

Plate 10: Pottery in section of feature (27), looking north

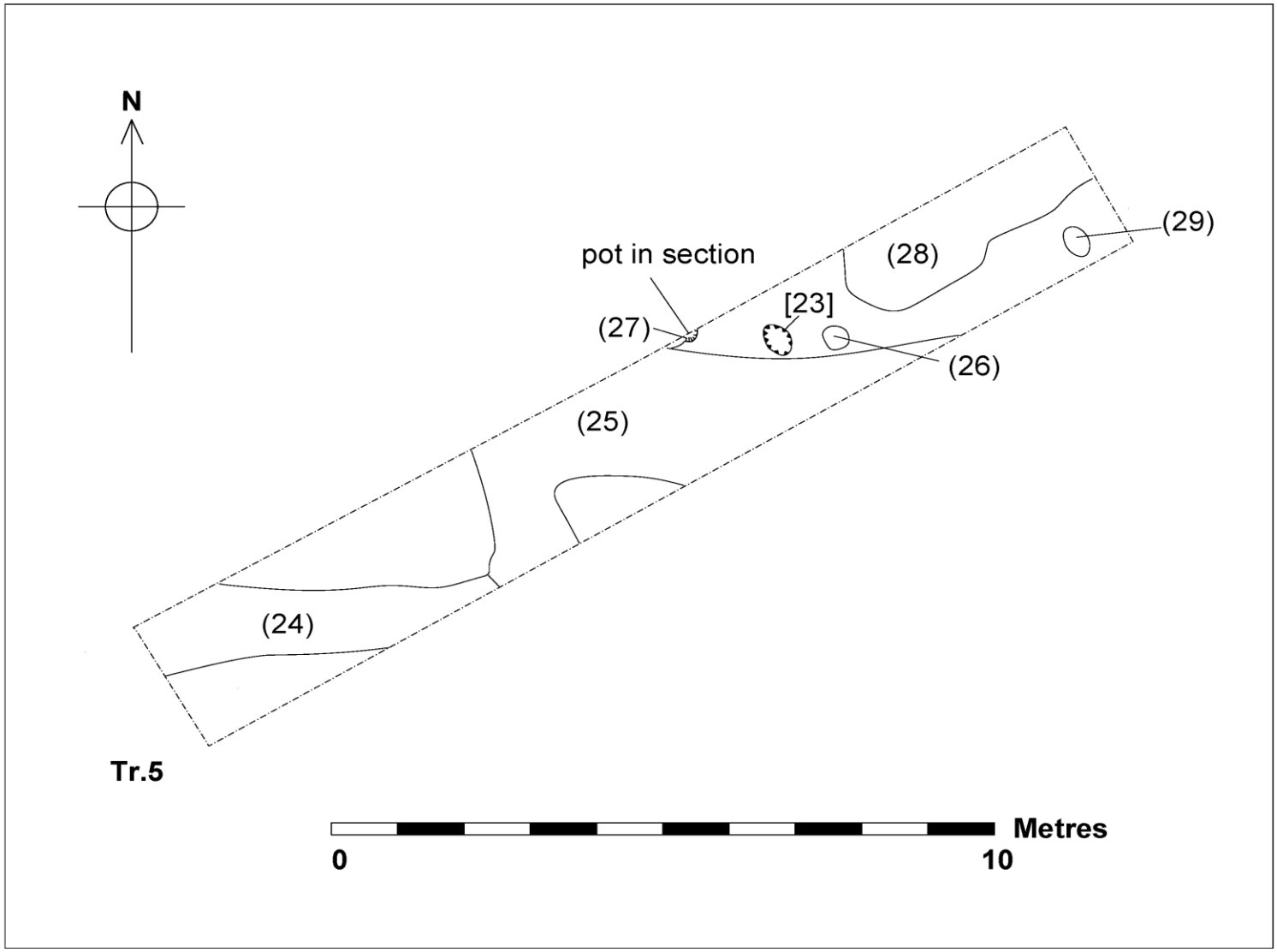

Figure 7: Post-excavation plan of Trench 5

Close to the northern edge of feature (25) was a poorly defined feature (27), which may have been a large pit, just visible in the south facing section of the trench. Its visible area was 1.74m in length and 0.4m in width. The fill was a mid grey silty clay with yellowish orange mottles and flecks of degraded sandstone. An almost complete Lyvedon/Stanion ware pot, consisting of 79 sherds was recovered from the baulk (Plate 10).

To the south-east of this feature were two apparent post-holes [23] and (26). Pit [23] was excavated and appeared to be a sub-circular pit or burrow, measuring 0.55m by 0.36m with straight but very irregular sides. The fill (22) was a mid to dark brownish grey silty clay with less than 1% small sub-rounded pebbles. The southern part of the feature was very irregular and at only 0.22m depth the feature was generally unconvincing as a post-hole. Feature (26) was not excavated but on the surface appeared very similar to [23]. No finds were recovered from either feature.

At the southern end of the trench was the butt-end and 4.75m section of ditch, running from east to west and disappearing into the eastern end of the trench. This feature (28) was 1.32m wide and contained a fill of mid greyish brown silty clay with yellow mottles. A sherd of Bourne ware pottery dating to the later medieval period was recovered from the top of the feature, along with sherds of Late Anglo-Saxon to Early High medieval pottery.

Just to the south of (28) was a further small pit or post-hole (29), this was sub-circular measuring 0.45m by 0.35m with identical fill to that of (28). There were no surface finds.

Trench 6

Orientation: E-W

Length: 16m

Width: 2.1m

Depth: Between 0.59m and 0.88m

Topsoil: Dark grey silty clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and large amounts of ceramic building material and medium rounded cobbles.

Subsoil: Yellowish grey silty clay. More CBM than topsoil and quite disturbed.

Archaeological Contexts: Ditch [18], (19); Linear (drain) [20], (21)

Interval W	**0m**	**5m**	**10m**	**15m E**
Topsoil Depth	0.25m	0.39m	0.4m	0.2m
Subsoil Depth	0.15m	0.16m	0.1m	0.2m
Top of natural	0.4m	0.55m	0.5m	0.4m
Base of trench	0.6m	0.7m	0.55m	0.45m

This trench was excavated slightly further north than intended as the construction engineers excavating the sewer pipe still need to use Field 3 as access. This meant that trenches 6 and 7 were dug close to the trees, which constrained their length somewhat due to a need to alleviate damage to the roots of the trees (Figure 6).

The upper soils in this trench were quite disturbed but broadly consisted of 0.2m to 0.4m of dark topsoil (generally darker and more humic that the soil in the other trenches), overlying 0.1m to 0.2m of subsoil. This overlay the natural sub-stratum of yellow clay.

A layer of medium rounded cobbles laid as a rough surface at around 0.25m depth for were visible for around 6m from the western end of the trench. From then on, on the same level, building rubble was visible along the length of the trench.

Close to the eastern end of the trench was a ditch [18] running north-west to south-east for a visible length of 2.6m. It was 1.6m wide and had fairly shallow sides leading to a concave base. The fill (19) was a yellowish grey silty clay with one or two medium cobbles (Figure 8C). The fill contained Stamford ware, St Neots type and Potters Marston pottery dating to the Late Anglo-Saxon to Early High medieval period, along with a cattle tooth.

A further linear feature [20] appeared to run along the southern side of the trench and was partially obscured by the north facing section. This ran for the whole lengthy of the trench. The fill (21) was a mixture of grey silty clay and dark grey topsoil and excavation showed it to be a field drain. The fill contained modern glass, pottery and brick.

Trench 7

Orientation: E-W

Length: 12m

Width: 4m

Depth: Between 0.32m and 0.45m

Topsoil: Dark grey silty clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and large amounts of ceramic building material

Subsoil: Light yellowish grey silty clay with many medium rounded cobbles

Archaeological Contexts: Linear (16); Linear (17); Pit [14], (15)

Interval W	**0m**	**2m**	**4m**	**6m**	**8m**	**10m**	**12m E**
Topsoil Depth	0.2m	0.24m	0.2m	0.24m	0.32m	0.3m	0.32m
Subsoil Depth	0.12m	0.1m	0.2m	0.15m	disturbed	disturbed	disturbed
Top of natural	0.32m	0.34m	0.4m	0.39m	disturbed	disturbed	disturbed
Base of trench	0.32m	0.34m	0.42m	0.4m	0.45m	0.45m	0.45m

This trench was foreshortened and widened to avoid the roots of a nearby tree and also to allow access to vehicles through field 3 (see above).

The area was generally very disturbed, with a large amount of building rubble within the upper soils.

At the south-west corner of the trench was a brick well, with a cut of around 4.5m diameter. This was filled in straight away as there was little room to dump the spoil for the trench. Close to the well was a sub-oval pit, measuring 1.5m by 1.15m, partially truncated by the cut of the well to the west and disturbed at its southern edge. The cut [14] was very shallow, leading down to a flat base at 90mm depth. The fill (15) was a yellowish grey silty clay with no stones (Figure 8D). The fill contained Lyvedon/Stanion ware pottery dating from the Late Anglo-Saxon to Early High medieval period.

Running across the trench from north-east to south-west were two narrow parallel linear features (16) and (17). Feature (16), which was 4m long and 0.3m wide was excavated but was found to be very insubstantial; less than 50mm deep and little more than a grey stain within the yellow clay. Feature (17) appeared wider at 0.35m but was even less substantial.

Sewer Trench

An intermittent watching brief was carried out on the sewer pipe trench that was excavated during the evaluation. The manhole at the southern end and much of the trench had been excavated prior to the archaeological work being undertaken. The empty trench was observed before the pipe was installed and a length of around 15m-20m was observed during the excavation. The turf was stripped off with a 2.1m ditching bucket and then the trench was excavated with a smaller bucket. The trench was 0.75m wide and around 2m deep. The technique was badly suited to archaeological observation and unsurprisingly no archaeological features were observed (Plates 11 & 12).

Plate 11: Work in progress on sewer trench, looking south south-west

Plate 12: Sewer trench, looking west

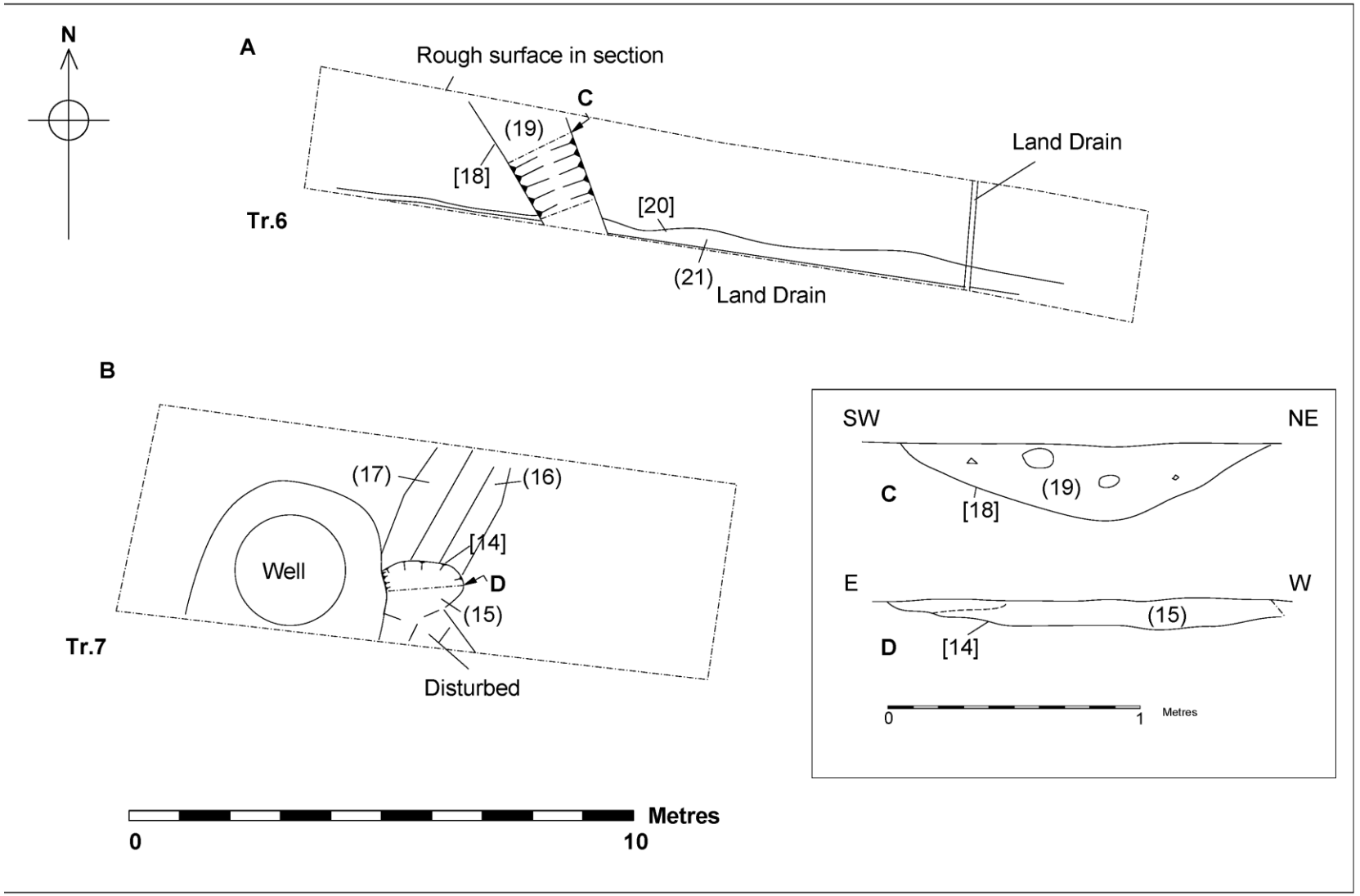

Figure 8: Post-excavation plans and sections: A Trench 6, B Trench 7. C & D Sections features [14] & [18]

Conclusion

It was planned to place evaluation trenches within the footprint of the proposed new buildings and within the line of the new access road. Due to the new sewer pipe, which was already under excavation prior to the evaluation taking place, the trenches had to be placed in some cases close, or just within the line of the proposed development. Trench 5 was placed within the footprint of proposed new buildings, but during the work the developers informed ULAS that the plans had been updated. Therefore, this trench, which contained a large amount of archaeology, was not fully excavated, although clear dating evidence was found for many of the features.

Features of various dates were discovered within every one of the 7 trenches placed across the site. Two (Trenches 1 and 3) contained features, which were modern or may have been medieval or post-medieval in origin and survived into the later periods. The large feature in Trench 1, feature [2], was most likely a furrow or former boundary ditch reused for a modern field drain. The pond in Trench 3 is located on the early maps of the village but contained a large amount of modern debris. Other trenches also had modern disturbances within them particularly Trench 2, which contained building debris, Trench 7, which contained a well, with possible tracks leading up to it (features (16) and (17)) and other areas of disturbance and Trench 6, which also contained a large field drain [20].

Documentary and photographic evidence has shown that a cottage once stood close to the area where Trench 7 was situated. This may explain much of the disturbance within this trench and the proximity of the well.

Trenches 3, 4, 5 and 6 contained pits or enclosure ditches, which have been positively dated, via a large amount of pottery evidence, to the Late Anglo-Saxon to Early High medieval periods. This period corresponds to a date of between A.D 850 to around A.D 1250, covering the period of Anglo-Saxon England to the Norman Conquest into the reign of Henry III. Pottery of a later date, from the Later Medieval Periods (A.D 1350-1550) may suggest continuity into the later medieval period, or that those contexts are later and contain residual earlier material.

The type of archaeological evidence from the evaluation, such as pits and linear features (most likely enclosure ditches) are indicative of agricultural activity in the area during this period. However, the amount of pottery collected of fine fabrics, along with artefacts such as the copper alloy ring suggests a settlement somewhere in the close vicinity. The presence of pieces of burnt clay, tentatively identified as daub may also point to structural remains in the area.

The evaluation has given a tantalising insight into the early origins of Great Bowden; the early date of some of these features may be evidence of a site of some importance. Further work in the area may elucidate the findings of this evaluation further.

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Acknowledgements

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The work was carried out by Leon Hunt and Steve Baker for ULAS and the project was managed by Patrick Clay of ULAS.

Leon Hunt would like to extend his thanks to Rosemary Culkin, who provided local knowledge and Michael Jack who provided the photographs of Nether House. Thanks are also due to the specialists of ULAS who helped with the finds, including Nicholas Cooper, Deborah Sawday, Anita Radini, Jennifer Browning and Patrick Clay.

Archive

The archive for this work will be lodged with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A86.2011. The archive consists of the following:

1 Unbound copy of this report

6 Trench recording sheets

1 Context record

29 Context sheets

1 Drawing record

6 sheets of A3 permagraph containing drawings

1 Photographic record

1 CD of digital photographs

1 Contact sheet of digital photographs

1 Set B & W contact sheets

1 Set B & W Negatives

1 Environmental Sample record

6 Miscellaneous sheets of plans and correspondences

2 Boxes of finds

The report will be listed on the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York. Available at: http://oasis.ac.uk/ (see Appendix II).

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Appendix I: Context summary

Trench	Cut	Fill	Description	Finds	Comments
1	[2]	(1)	Linear	None	Poss. Furrow and drain
2	[4]	(3)upper (11) lower	Pit	Pottery	Pit
3	-	-	-	-	Modern features
4	[5]	(6)	Linear	Pottery	Ditch
4	[7]	(8)	Linear	Pottery, burnt clay & bone	Ditch
4	[9]	(10)	Linear	Pottery, burnt clay & bone	Ditch
4	[13]	(12)	Pit	None	Pit
5	[23]	(22)	Post-hole/pit	None	Possibly not real
5	-	(24)	Linear	None	unexcavated
5	-	(25)	Linear (s)	Pottery	unexcavated
5	-	(26)	Post-hole/pit	None	unexcavated
5	-	(27)	Pit?	Pottery	Partially excavated
5	-	(28)	Linear	Pottery	unexcavated
5	-	(29)	Pit?	None	unexcavated
6	[18]	(19)	Linear	Pottery	Ditch
6	[20]	(21)	Linear	Modern finds	Cut for land drain
7	[14]	(15)	Pit	Pottery	Pit
7	-	(16)	Linear	None	Track mark? Modern
7	-	(17)	Linear	None	Track mark? Modern

Appendix II: OASIS Record

INFORMATION REQUIRED	EXAMPLE
Project Name	Fernie Hunt Kennels, Great Bowden
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Leon Hunt
Previous/Future work	None
Current Land Use	Pasture
Development Type	New stables, housing, access
Reason for Investigation	PPS 5
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	SP 735 883
Start/end dates of field work	16th- 17th, 20th- 21st June 2011
Archive Recipient	LMARS
Height min/max	77m aOD
Study Area	0.42ha
Finds	Pottery, bone, metalwork

Appendix III: The flint, metalwork and post-Roman pottery

1. The Flint

Patrick Clay

A flake core on a flint pebble, still retaining some of its cortex, was recovered from an unstratified context. The raw material is a fine grey black flint, probably derived locally from the glacial drift (boulder clay). There is evidence of the core being struck from two different (but not opposing) directions (Clark Class C; Clark et la 1960). It is likely to date from the Neolithic - Bronze Age.

2. The metalwork

Nicholas Cooper

Ring: Copper Alloy. Complete plain, oval ring of circular section. External length 37mm, width 33mm, section thickness 2mm. The function of this ring is uncertain. It is too small to be a bracelet, even for an infant, and in any case, such jewellery was not worn during the medieval period.

3. The Pottery

Deborah Sawday

The stratified pottery, 153 sherds, weighing 2422 grams, was catalogued with reference to the guidelines set out by the Medieval Pottery Research group, (MPRG,

2001) and the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 1989), (Davies and Sawday 1999). 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	Average sherd weight
Late Anglo Saxon/Early High Medieval.				
ST1-3	Stamford ware	25	283	
SN	Saint Neots type	17	78	
CS	Coarse Shelly	12	46	
OL	Oolitic	2	13	
OS/OS2	Oxidised Sandy	5	139	
LY4	Lyveden/Stanion	81	1605	
PM	Potters Marston	6	20	
Sub- Total		148	2184	14.75
Later Medieval				
BO/type	Bourne	4	216	
Later Post Medieval				
EA2	Earthenware	1	22	
Totals		153	2422	

Whilst the abrasion and leaching on some of the shelly pottery, particularly the Saint Neots type wares, made the identifications sometimes somewhat difficult, the pottery is clear evidence of activity from the late Anglo Saxon and early High Medieval periods, with only a few sherds of late medieval or post medieval date present. The relatively high average sherd weight for the earlier pottery, particularly the Lyveden Stanion A ware, which dates generally from c.1100-1400, and which occurs predominantly in context (27), suggests that relatively undisturbed archaeological levels may survive in the vicinity

Miscellaneous

Fragments of burnt clay or daub were recovered from contexts [7] and [9].

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

Context	Fabric/Ware	Part	Nos	Gm	Comments
POT					
1 [2]	EA2 – Earthenware 2	body	1	22	Red body, brown glaze internally.
1 [2]	General date		Post Med/Modern – possibly 18th C.		
3 [4]	ST3 - Coarse Stamford	Body/base	12	155	1 pot, base convex, kt & sooted externally.
3 [4]	SN – St Neots type	body	2	18	1 pot, abraded, sooted ext.
3 [4]	General date				Late Anglo Saxon
6 [5]	ST2 - Fine Stamford	body	1	1	

6 [5]	SN	basal angle	1	10	Leached fabric, abraded.
6 [5]	PM – Potters Marston	body	5	13	Min. 2 pots.
6 [5]	OS - Oxidised Sandy	basal angle	1	1	Leached fabric.
6 [5]	General date		Earlier High Medieval		
8 [7]	ST2 - Fine Stamford	body	4	25	Lead glaze, trace of thumbing at handle base, table ware, spouted bowl/pitcher or jug.
8 [7]	ST2	body	1	1	Sooted int & ext.
8 [7]	CS – Coarse Shelly	body	3	6	Min 1 pot, some abrasion
8 [7]	CS	body	1	1	abraded
8 [7]	General date		Earlier High Medieval		
10 [9]	CS	body	6	25	Min 1 pot, sooted ext
10 [9]	SN	body	1	2	Leached, sooted int & ext
10 [9]	OS	Base/body	3	134	?Coil built, convex base, thick walled. Similar to OS2 + ooliths
10 [9]	OS2 - Oxidised Sandy 2	body	1	4	Abraded, sooted ext
10 [9]	CS	basal angle	1	4	
10 [9]	BO1 – Bourne D	body	2	9	Join, sooted ext
10 [9]	General date		Earlier High Medieval, 2 sherds of possibly intrusive BO1 Later Medieval		
14 [15]	SN	body	1	2	
14 [15]	LY4 – Lyveden/Stanion A	body	2	5	
14 [15]	General date		Earlier High Medieval		
19 [18]	ST1 – Very Fine Stamford	Spout/body	3	10	?Pitcher/bowl, yellow lead glaze, min 1 pot
19 [18]	ST1	body	1	21	Green/yellow lead glaze
19 [18]	SN	rim	1	3	Tiny chip, abraded
19 [18]	PM	body	1	7	Thin walled, possibly 12th C.
19 [18]	OL - Oolitic	body	1	1	frag
19 [18]	General date		Earlier High Medieval		
25	SN	Rim/body/ base	11	43	Paralleled at Raunds, (Blinkhorn 2007, fig.6.12, nos. 28 and 29), and at West Coton (Blinkhorn 2007) leached fabric.
25	ST1	basal angle	1	14	Convex, kt/sooted ext
25	ST2	Rim/body	1	45	jar
25	?BO type	Rim/upper body	1	204	Half profile, coil built jug, stabbed strap handle, vertical stabbing at shoulder. Dense grey fabric, calcareous & ?fe inclusions.
25	General date		?BO - Later Medieval		
27	CS	body	1	10	
27	LY4	?Profile	79	1600	Almost complete similar at West Coton

					(Blinkhorn 2007, fig.10.20 no. 132).
27	General date		Earlier/High Medieval		
28	OL	body	1	12	
28	ST2/3	Rim	1	11	Jar, burnt/sooted post dep.
28	BO1	body	1	3	Traces of white slip under green glaze on ext. Residue int.
28	General date		Earlier Medieval/Later Medieval		
MISC.					
8 [7]	Burnt Clay		11	22	?daub
10 [9]	Burnt Clay		5	24	?daub

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Site/ Parish: Fernie Hunt Stables, Great Bowden, Leics. Accession No.:XA86 2011 Document Ref: great bowden3.docx Material: pottery/burnt clay/worked flint Site Type: edge of village core	Submitter: L. Hunt Identifier: D. Sawday/P. Clay Date of Identification: 18.7.11 Method of Recovery: evaluation Job Number: 11-677

Appendix IV: The Animal Bones

Jennifer Browning

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 (table 1). The contexts date predominantly from the Saxo-Norman and medieval periods.

Animal bones were recovered from the fills of ditches and a pit. The remains of cattle and sheep/goat were identified in the assemblage and ditch [7] produced the largest number of fragments. The material was very fragmented and both old and new breaks were observed. The surface condition was also frequently poor, which may inhibit the identification of modifications such as butchery marks and pathologies. Gnawing was noted on some of the bones, suggesting that dogs had access to the bones prior to their final deposition. Despite these limitations, a larger sample may have the potential to contribute to local and regional knowledge of animal husbandry. While urban sites in the county have produced good material, rural medieval sites have tended to produce smaller and less well-preserved faunal assemblages (Thomas, forthcoming). The relationship between the town and the countryside is still fairly poorly understood and evidence from rural sites is needed (Monckton 2006, 283). Material from any future work could also be compared with that from excavated rural settlements in the wider area, such as West Cotton (Albarella and Davis 2010) and Burystead and Langham Road (Davis 2009).

Context	Cut	Feature	No.	Description
3	4	pit	3	Unidentified shaft fragments (tiny)
8	7	ditch	66	Cattle incisor, Large mammal fragments some positively identified as cattle including a molar, phalanx, skull and metatarsal, 2 sheep/goat humerus fragments, Gnawing observed.
10	9	ditch	13	9 large mammal shaft fragments, 3 medium mammal shaft fragments, 1sheep/goat mandible fragment,
19	18	ditch	1	Cattle 3rd molar
25		ditch	7	Cattle humerus, femur and mandible fragments, sheep/goat metacarpal fragment, large mammal fragments,
Total			90	

Table 1: Summary of faunal remains from the evaluation

References

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Appendix V: Assessment of Potential for Environmental Analysis.

By Anita Radini

Introduction

A site evaluation was carried out by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services at Fernie Hunt Kennels, Nether Green, Great Bowden. Soil samples were taken for the recovery of archaeobiological evidence from two pits and four ditches, for a total of six samples between 10 and 30 litres. All the samples were assessed for potential of environmental analysis. The features dated the Late Saxon/Early High Medieval periods, but one of the pits did not provide dating evidence. Volume of soil sampled, together with feature type, dating and results of this assessment is given in table 1.

Materials and Methods

All samples were assessed for potential of environmental analysis despite one of them having no dating evidence. The samples appeared to be greenish brown in color and consisted of clay and low amount of small 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	6	ditch	Late Saxon Early High Medieval	30	xx	x
2	12	pit	Un-dated	20	xx	xx
3	10	ditch	Late Saxon Early High Medieval	20	xx	x
4	15	pit	Late Saxon Early High Medieval	20	xx	x
5	8	ditch	Late Saxon Early High Medieval	20	xx	xx
6	19	ditch	Late Saxon Early High Medieval	30	xx	x

V (L)=volume in litres

Ch Re= charred plant remains

MdRoot=modern root fragments

Results and Discussion

All samples had a variable amount of small gravels and a few modern root fragments suggesting a degree of soil disturbance. All samples had visible charred plant remains, especially small fragments of charcoal, and potentially charred seeds. No animal bones were noted but it is possible that they were covered in clay and not visible.

Conclusion

Considering the nature of the soil, the possibility that the samples could belong to the Late Saxon period, the presence of charcoal and possibly other charred remains in all samples, it is possible to state that the samples have medium to high potential for the retrieving of charred plant remains. If further excavation is carried out an appropriate sampling strategy should be adopted in consultation with an Environmental Archaeologist. If no further work is to be undertaken it is suggested that further analysis is undertaken of the samples taken during the evaluation.

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