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**Archaeological Services**

**An Archaeological Watching brief and  
Recording at Top Yard, Silverwood  
Farm, Thistleton, Rutland**

**NGR: SK 9101 1768 centre**

Tim Higgins



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**An Archaeological Watching Brief and Recording at  
Top Yard Silverwood Farm, Thistleton  
Rutland**

**NGR: SK 9101 1768**

**Tim Higgins**

**For: Harry Barclay Farms**

Approved by:

**Signed: ...**



**Date: ...31.08.2011**

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**[OAKRM :2008.52.]**

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## **An Archaeological Watching Brief and Recording at Top Yard, Silverwood Farm, Thistleton, Rutland (NGR: SK 9101 1768)**

**Tim Higgins**

### **1. Summary**

*An Archaeological watching brief of groundworks and subsequent recording on land at Top Yard Silverwood Farm, Thistleton, Rutland was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Harry Barclay Farms. The initial groundworks comprised the removal of topsoil, ground reduction and the excavation of new foundations for a new corn store. Attendance at the site occurred from the 16th to the 22th November 2010.*

*The watching brief revealed a network possible ditches containing 2nd century Roman pottery and is located on edge of the known Roman town at Thistleton. These are similar to cultivation trenches found on other Midlands sites excavated for grapevines.*

*The archive will be deposited with Rutland County Council Museum under Accession No. OAKRM :2008.52.*

### **2. Introduction**

This report presents the results of an extended archaeological watching brief and subsequent recording during the phase of groundworks undertaken before the construction new storage buildings at Top Yard, Silverwood Farm, Thistleton, Rutland (NGR SK 9101 1768). In view of the potential impact of the development this was undertaken as a mitigation strategy following recommendations by the Leicestershire County Council, Principal Planning Archaeologist, as advisor to the planning authority.

The ground-works involved ground clearance and reduction of the ground level and the excavation of foundation trenches.

The archaeological watching brief was carried out in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5, Planning and the Historic environment DCLG 2010). All archaeological work adhered to the Institute for Archaeologist's (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

### **3. Site description, topography and geology**

The development area is located 15km north-east of Oakham and 250m south-west of Thistleton village, close to the junction of Fosse Lane and Market Overton Road. It comprises a rectangular area located to the south-west of the existing farm yard, totalling c.1500m<sup>2</sup> (Figs. 1 and 2). The site is currently undeveloped although there

are spoil heaps and stored telegraph poles present. The area is reasonably flat at a height of 127.5m OD.

The underlying geology, as indicated on the Geological Survey of Great Britain, Drift Geology sheet 143 (Bourne) is diamicton drift deposits, overlying Middle Jurassic Limestone.

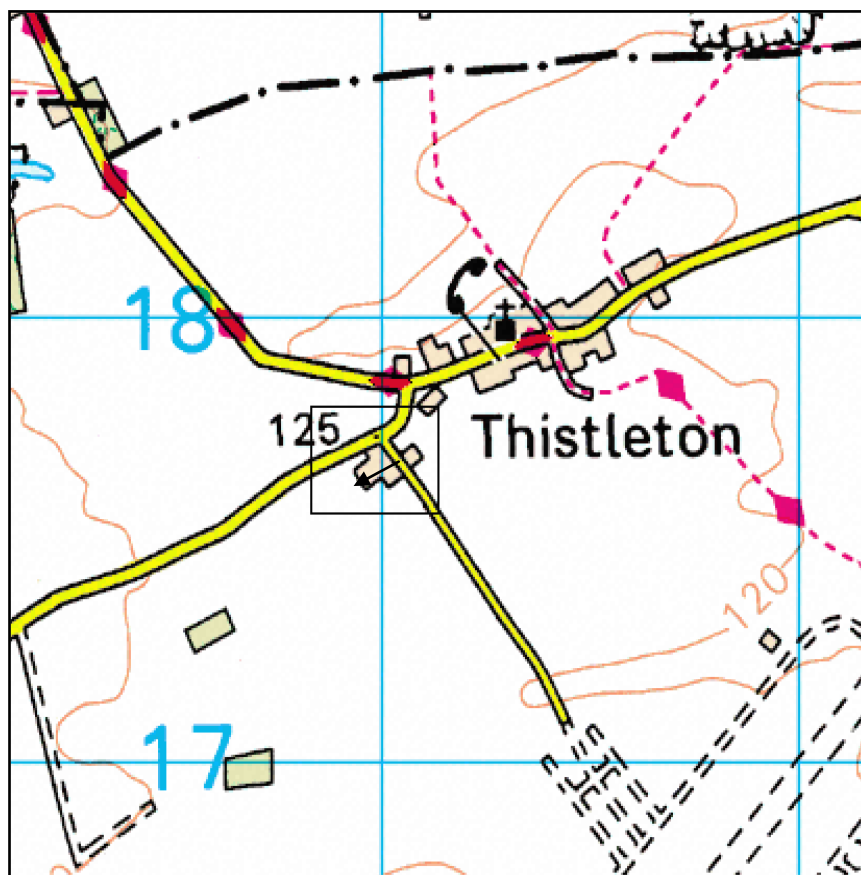


Figure 1: Location of the development at Thistleton, Rutland

#### **4. Archaeological and Historical background**

##### *Historical background*

Thistleton is referred to in the Domesday Book as land owned by Countess Judith. It is recorded that 'Eric had ½ carucate of land taxable. Land for 1 plough. Hugh has from Countess Judith 1 plough and 6 villagers with 1 plough. Value before 1066, 20s; now 40s.' (Morris, 1980).

The town was noted by Camden in 1586 and visited by Stukeley in 1733, who wrote of 'a place called the Holmes where they find vast quantities of Roman coins....No doubt but this was a Roman town.....there is an old well that is never scoured and a

foundation of a wall that enclosed a kind of court. It is near Thistleton.’ (Le Marchant, 1895. vol. III; 34).

### *Archaeological background*

The Roman town of Thistleton (Historic Environment Record Ref: **MLE5765**) is located immediately to the east of the application area. Excavations of the site during the 1950s/60s outlined an area of approximately 30ha as the limits of the Roman town (Greenfield 1958; 1959; 1961; 1962). The excavations suggested occupation of the site from the Iron Age through to the 4th century, with structural remains of timber and stone buildings uncovered, including the site of a temple (**MLE5766**; **MLE5767**). Structural remains and a scatter of coins indicated the location of a market (**MLE5772**). Local industrial practices were attested to by the presence of a pottery kiln (**MLE5771**) and of 62 shaft furnaces (**MLE5773**), indicating metal-working activity. A cemetery was located, containing 19 inhumation burials (**MLE5770**). No grave goods were found in association with the burials. The skeletons of six infants were discovered amongst the foundations of excavated buildings.

Two road systems were found to have serviced Roman Thistleton during the 3rd century, one to the east of the main settlement aligned north-south, on the line of the present Greetham-Thistleton road (**MLE5345**) and the second on an east-west alignment, connecting Thistleton and Market Overton (**MLE5508**), both in the vicinity of the application area.

Quarrying during the 1950s uncovered the site of a Roman villa (**MLE5776**) and bath-house to the north of the application area. Excavations indicated occupation during the Iron Age (**MLE5775**), continuing throughout the Roman period until demolition during the late 4th century (Greenfield, 1961, 175).

The University of Leicester School of Archaeology and Ancient History and University of Leicester Archaeological Services have conducted a large gradiometer survey in the fields directly to the south and south-west of the application area. To the south-west, the previously known temple complex is represented by a series of rectangular enclosures. West and north of this, a probable roadway is present, with building plots coming off it. Heading north is a series of enclosures. Also a very regular enclosure was located to the east in the field corner, with possible buildings on its eastern side. A linear boundary curves up from the south-east to this enclosure, and turns north-east towards the modern road. Near the modern road west of Thistleton further enclosures bear comparison with the anomalies further south-east in alignment and morphology, and probably represents a continuation of the Roman features. An area to the north includes what appears to be an alignment of discrete pit-type anomalies, as well as a strong curvilinear anomaly probably representing a ditch (Coward and Browning 2004). Subsequent evaluation within parts of this area (on land proposed for an access road for a quarry) has revealed an extensive area of Roman occupation. The Roman settlement was confined to the west part of the access road and dated between the 1st and 4th centuries and characterised by a metalled road and surfaces, stone structures, (walls and oven/kilns) ditches and gullies, pits and post-holes, and a single grave. The finds suggest the occupation is on the periphery of a more substantial settlement (Morris 2006a).

A further evaluation has been conducted in fields 400m to the west of the application area. Here dispersed areas of Iron Age and Roman occupation were revealed by

geophysical/fieldwalking surveys and trial trench excavation on land proposed for a quarry development. The few finds suggest the occupation is again on the periphery of the settlement, with the linear features representing part of a field system. There was a widespread pattern of furrows across most of the site, relating to medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. Although fragmented and dispersed across the site, a general south-east to north-west/south-west to north-east pattern of enclosures could be identified (Morris 2006b).

The application area lies 0.3km to the south-west of the medieval core of Thistleton village. The church of St. Nicholas has a tower dating from the 14th century (MLE5782). A series of earthwork features believed to represent medieval Thistleton include three fishponds (MLE5777) located to the north of the village, 0.5km from the proposed quarry. More earthworks located within the village core (MLE5779; MLE5780) are believed to represent the shrunken village of the later medieval period.

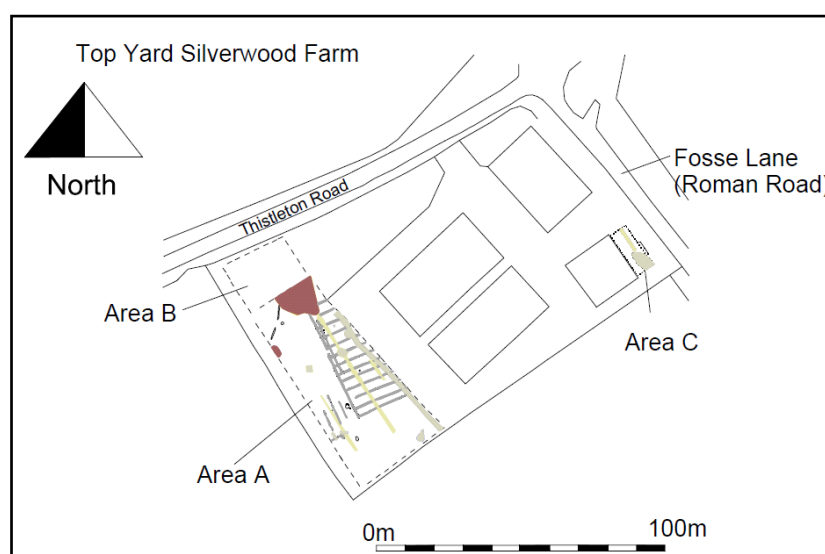


Figure 2: Location of stripped areas

### Previous Archaeological Work

A field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken on the proposed development area at Top Yard, Silverwood Farm, Thistleton by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (Harvey 2008). The trial trench evaluation at Top Yard, Silverwood Farm had demonstrated that a moderate density of archaeological deposits was present within the application area, although their depths suggest they have been subject some degree of plough damage. The archaeological remains consisted of a number of small, shallow gully type features. Only one of these features provided dating material, a single sherd of shell tempered pottery that probably dates to the late Iron Age. The lack of finds and the absence of pit/post-hole type features suggested that the remains were probably not indicative of settlement activity. They may represent evidence of more than one phase of agricultural field system, located on the settlement periphery. Despite the lack of dating evidence, it was thought that the features were a continuation of activity observed to the south and west of the site, probably dating to the Romano-British period.

## 5. Aims and method.

Through archaeological attendance and, as appropriate, controlled stripping and investigation the aim of the watching brief was:

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

All work and archaeological deposits encountered were recorded following the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, the standard policy and practice of ULAS as set out in the design specification (Appendix 4) and adherence to the University's Health and Safety policy.

## 6. Results



Plate 1: Machine stripping and reducing ground levels

### Area A

**Linear features NW-SE alignment:** [123], 124, [125], 126, 146, 111, [116], 115, 141.

**Linear features SW-NE alignment:** [139], 138, [121], 122, 147, 113, [114], 136, 145, [129], 128, 140, [133], 143, 132, 142, 130, [131].

**Stake-hole:** [135], 134.



Initial groundworks involved an area stripped by machine to reduce the ground levels for the new grain store (Figure 2) and site visits were undertaken on the 16th and 19th November 2010. The machine used for the groundworks was a 20 tonne 360 degree excavator fitted with a 1.60 wide ditching bucket.

The removal of the topsoil and subsoil was undertaken under archaeological control and supervision, followed by a visual inspection of the stripped surface (Plate 1).

The natural substratum consisted of pale yellowish clay mixed with frequent chalk pebbles found at depth of 0.30m below the present ground surface. Two areas of parallel trenches between 3m and 4m apart were exposed within the stripped area. These parallel trenches are the same shallow gully type features first revealed in the evaluation and appeared to be laid out in two separate areas of trenches with different orientation. The largest area of parallel ditches was located towards the eastern half of the stripped area and were orientated south-west to north-east. The full extent of this area could not be determined as the parallel ditches did appear to extend eastwards under the farmyard. The parallel ditches covered an area that measured approximately 945 square metres, and their western extents were terminated by adjoining a north-west to south-east aligned trench (Figures 3 and 4).

A smaller area of parallel ditches covering approximately 105 square metres was exposed on the western side and comprised north-west to south-east orientated trenches. This set of parallel ditches appear to be extensively truncated so the full extent was not determined. (Figures 3 and 4)

Several sections were excavated across parallel trenches located at various points (Figures 4 - 10). Initial excavation was conducted using mattock and shovel with additional sections excavated using trowels to characterise subtle variations in infill. The sections across the trenches produced varied profiles with some having steep sides and flat bases with others having more gentle slopes and rounded bases. The trenches varied in size from 0.30m wide, 0.10m deep to 1.00m wide and 0.30m deep. The trowel excavated sections revealed trenches that had near vertical sides 0.30m deep with flat bases between 0.70m and 1.00m wide (Plate 4 and Figures 6, 7, 8 9, 10). The steep sides appear to be sealed by primary infills of very pale yellowish clay silt (140, 145) with inner fills of dark greyish slight humic clay (113, 128) perhaps denoting narrow linear slot features running down the centre of the trench. These had near vertical sides and rounded bases. Only occasional abraded Roman pottery sherds were retrieved from the secondary fills. Other sections excavated across the parallel ditches revealed occasional randomly spaced stake holes (Plates 5 and 6; Figure 5).

The parallel ditches had been subsequently truncated by post-Roman features, initially medieval ridge and furrow and in the modern period by various pits and a service trench.

## **Area B**

A second phase of groundworks involved an area stripped by machine under archaeological control and supervision to reduce the ground levels for an extension of the farmyard (Figure 2) and a site visit was undertaken on the 22nd November 2010. The area stripped was located at the north-west corner of the farmyard and comprised an area plot that measured 25m long and 20m wide (Figure 3 and 4).

This area was stripped to a depth of 0.30m on to the subsoil level and no natural substratum was reached. A visual inspection was conducted across the stripped area and no archaeological features were observed within this area.

### Area C

A third phase of groundworks was also undertaken on the 22nd November 2010, which involved an area stripped by machine to reduce the ground levels in preparation for an extension to the existing grain store (Figure 2). The area stripped was located at the south-east corner of the farmyard and comprised an area plot that measured 18m long and 6.5m wide (Figure 2). Area C was stripped to a depth of 0.30m on to the natural substratum which comprised a pale yellowish clay mixed with frequent chalk pebbles. A visual inspection was conducted and two features were observed. A medieval furrow was seen on the east side of the stripped area and measured 1.00m wide and had the same north to south orientation as the other medieval furrows observed in the Area A strip. The southern end of the furrow was truncated by a large irregular feature, which measured 4.50m wide and had a minimum length of 8.00m. The feature was filled with abundant crushed limestone and although no artefacts were present, the feature is likely to be modern, associated with the farmyard activity.

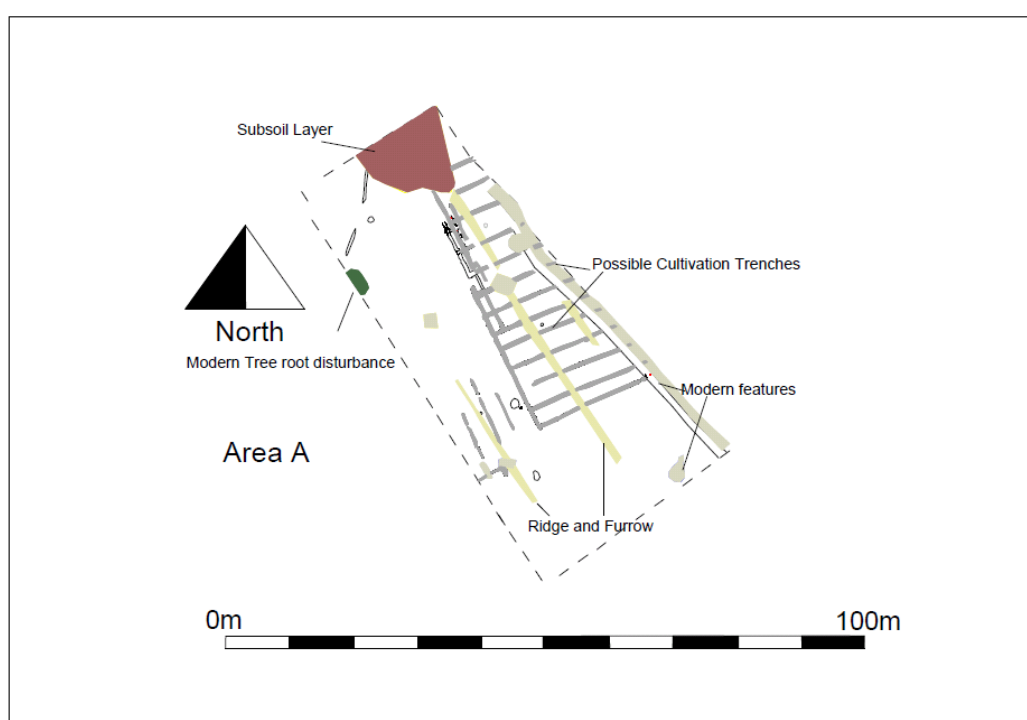


Figure 3: Location of Archaeological features within area A



Plate 2: Linear features in Area A looking north-west



Plate 3: Cultivation ditch cut [129]





Plate 4: Possible cultivation trench cut [102]



Plate 5: Stake hole cut [135]



Plate 6: Possible pit feature [131]

## 8. Conclusion.

The site lies directly to the north of a Roman town site that was excavated in the 1950s/60s which suggested occupation from the Iron Age through to the 4th century, with structural remains of timber and stone buildings uncovered. The full extent of the town was thought to be approximately 30 ha. Quarrying during the 1950s uncovered the site of the Roman villa and Bath House to the north of the development area. The development site is located to the south of the villa close to a Roman Road. The cultivation trenches are perhaps within the periphery of an extensive villa site that spreads to the south towards the Roman town.

The Roman pottery, found within fills of the network of linear features, dating to the mid 2nd century, was fairly abraded and mixed with frequent charcoal flecks, and was probably a deposit of waste associated with manuring or midden deposits (Cooper Appendix 2 below). The general absence of other finds and the abraded nature of the pottery suggests perhaps agricultural activity associated with fields systems, on the periphery of either the town or villa to the north and away from the main settlement activity (Cooper Appendix 2 below).

The parallel trenches found within Area A have various possible interpretations including open drainage or irrigation channels. However the parallel ditches are very similar to those found at Wollaston, Northamptonshire (Brown, et al 2001). The quarry excavations here exposed an area of 7.5 ha filled with parallel trenches spaced 5m apart. The excavations undertaken revealed regular trenches with near vertical sides and flat bases with similar dimensions and various infills, which were penetrated by post- or stake-holes laid out in irregular patterns. The dimensions, vertical sides and flat bases of the trenches were thought to be characteristic of *pastinatio* trenches found in vineyards. Similar trenches had also been identified at Grendon Northamptonshire (Jackson 1995) and recent excavations undertaken by ULAS in 2011 in New Dunston, Northampton have revealed a series Roman parallel ditches

that are very similar to those found at Thistleton and are also thought to be possible cultivation trenches (Speed forthcoming)

The process of creating *pastinatio* trenches is well documented by classical authors such as Columella, who state that trenches should be dug by labours to pre-agreed size that could be checked using a wooden X on wooden handle, a *ciconia* (White 1970). The trenches would need vertical sides and flat base for this type of checking. Once the trench was dug the process of planting and supporting the vines could take place.

Pollen analysis of soil samples taken from Wollaston ditches produced well identifiable pollen of the plants such as *Buxus* (box) and *Vitis* (grapevine), but in rather small amounts compared with crops such as cereals. Although the soil conditions on the Thistleton site were not ideal for pollen preservation and fills within the ditches were not particularly organic, soil samples were taken for a pollen assessment in case any useful evidence might be forthcoming (see Appendix 3 below). Unfortunately the quantities of pollen within the samples were very low and only provided a background of pollen types which are commonly found, but in isolation they provide little data to interpret and no information at all about any potential cultivation or use of the trenches (see Appendix 3 below).

Although not conclusive the remains from Thistleton appear to add to the increasing information on the viticulture practiced in Roman Britain.

## **9. Acknowledgements and publication**

I would like to thank Harry Barclay Farms and the contractors for their help and co-operation on site. The project was managed by Dr Patrick Clay and the fieldwork was carried out by the author, Tim Higgins James Harvey, Dave Parker, Jon Coward, Gerwyn Richards, Leon Hunt all of ULAS. Finds analysis was undertaken by Nick Cooper of ULAS and the pollen was assessed by James Greig.

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in a suitable regional or national archaeological journal within one year of completion of fieldwork. The report has been added to the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) Online Access to the index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the University of York.

## **10. Archive**

A full copy of the archive as defined in Brown (2008) will usually be presented to within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all records directly relating to the investigation undertaken.

The archive consists of 1 copy of this report,  
indices,

Primary context sheets

2 watching brief recording forms,  
1 primary drawing sheets,  
copies of site location plans and synthesised plans,  
1 copy brief for archaeological work,  
1 photo index form, colour digital photo contact sheet,  
and 1 CD containing digital photos and a copy of the report.

Subject to confirmation it will be deposited with Rutland County Council Museum under accession number OAKRM 2008.52.

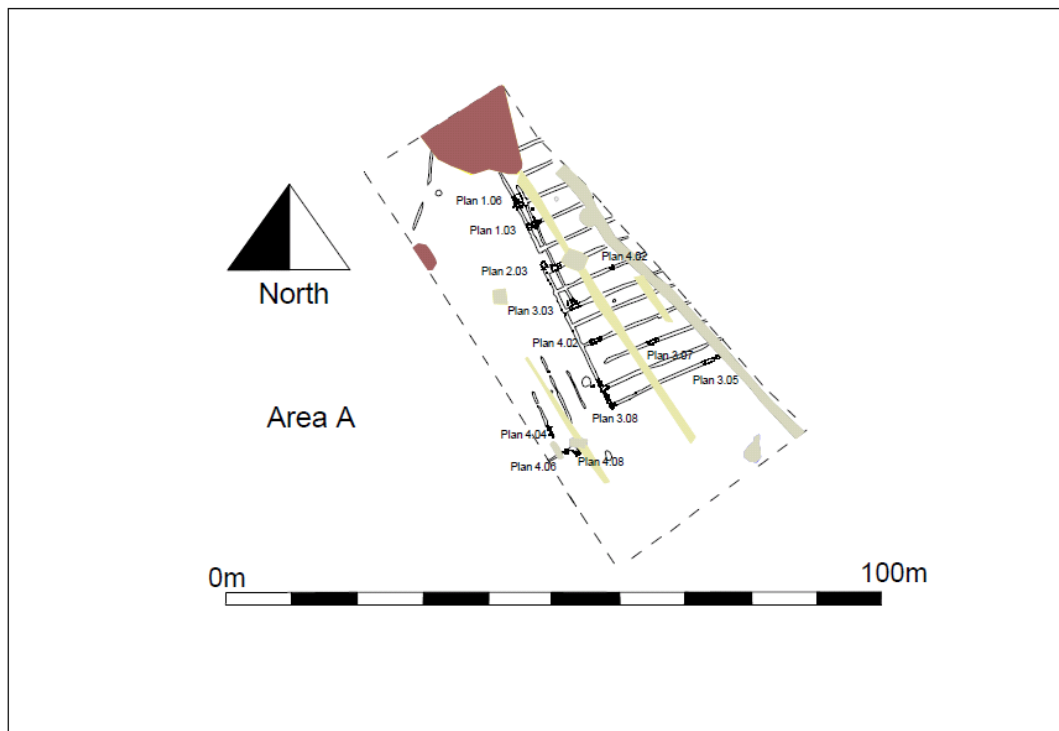


Figure 4: Location of Excavated Sections in Area A



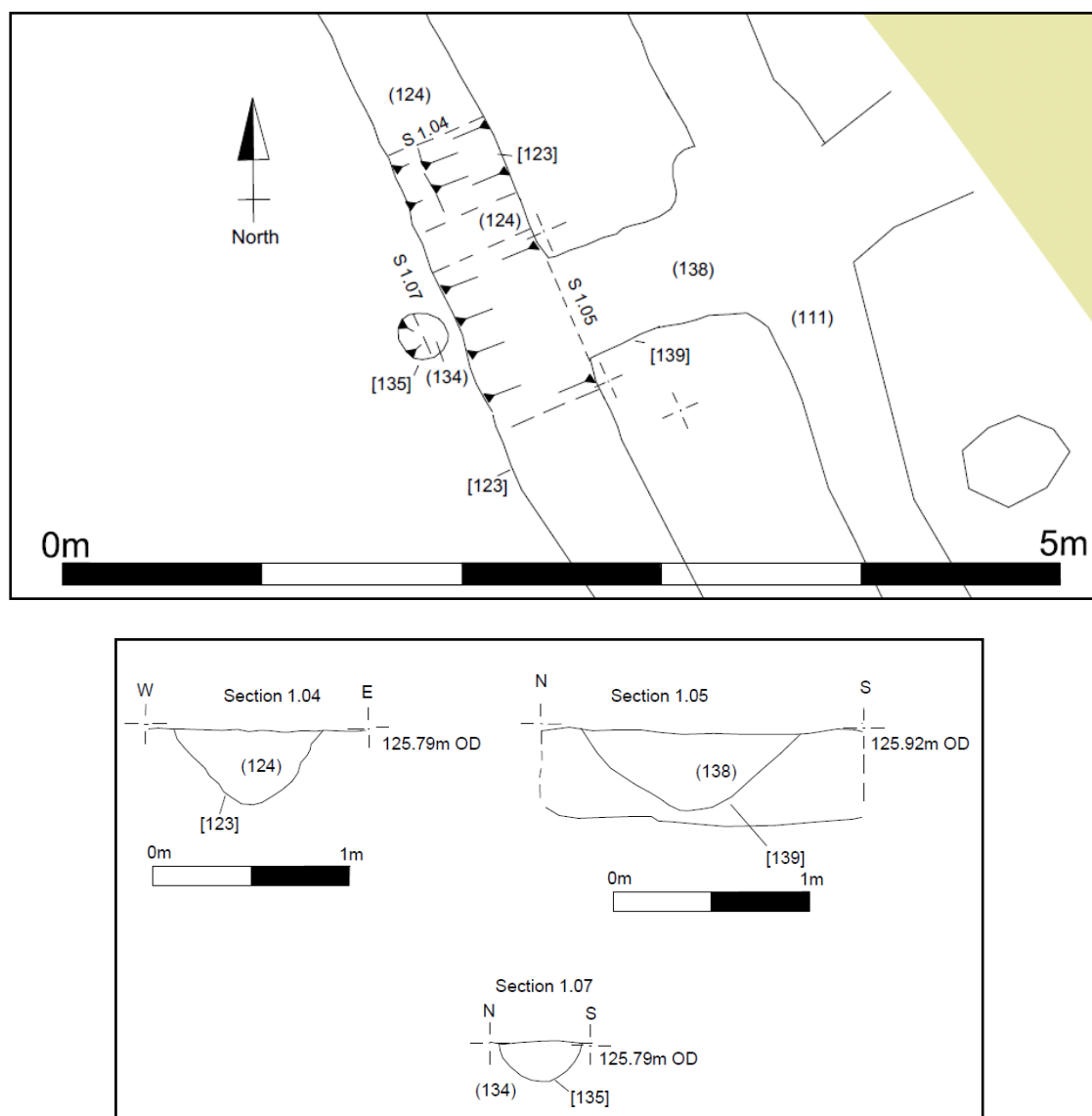


Figure 5: Plan 1.06 and sections 1.04 – 05 and 1.07 (see Fig. 4)



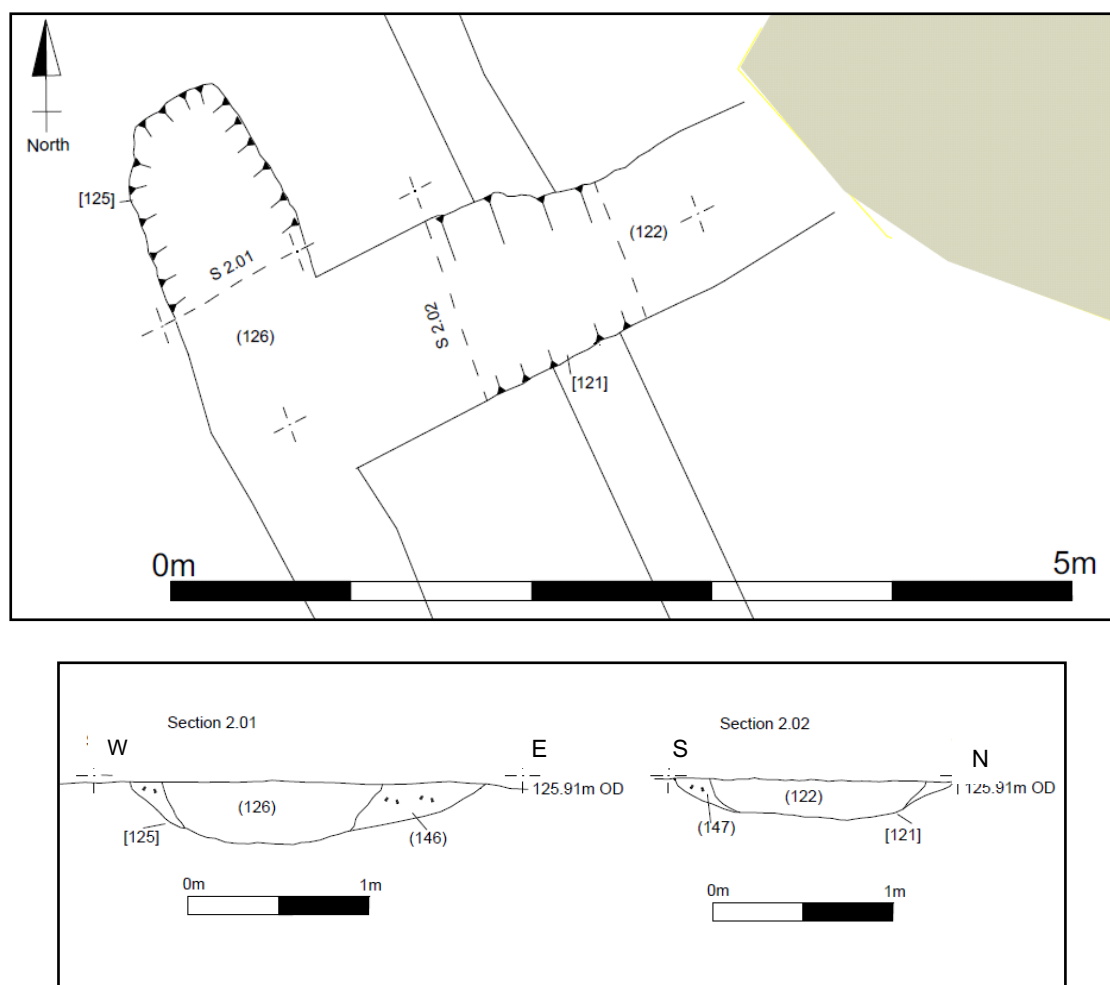


Figure 6: Plan 2.04 and sections 2.01-02 (see Fig. 4)

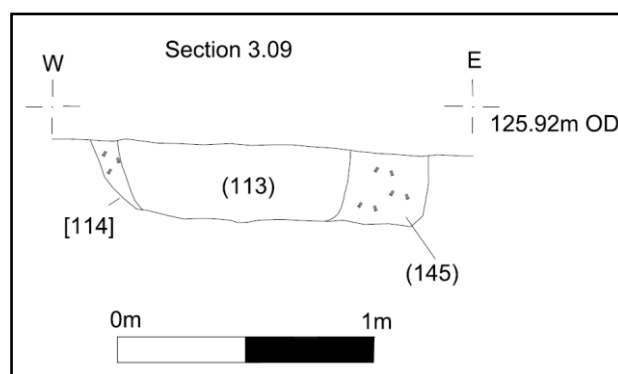
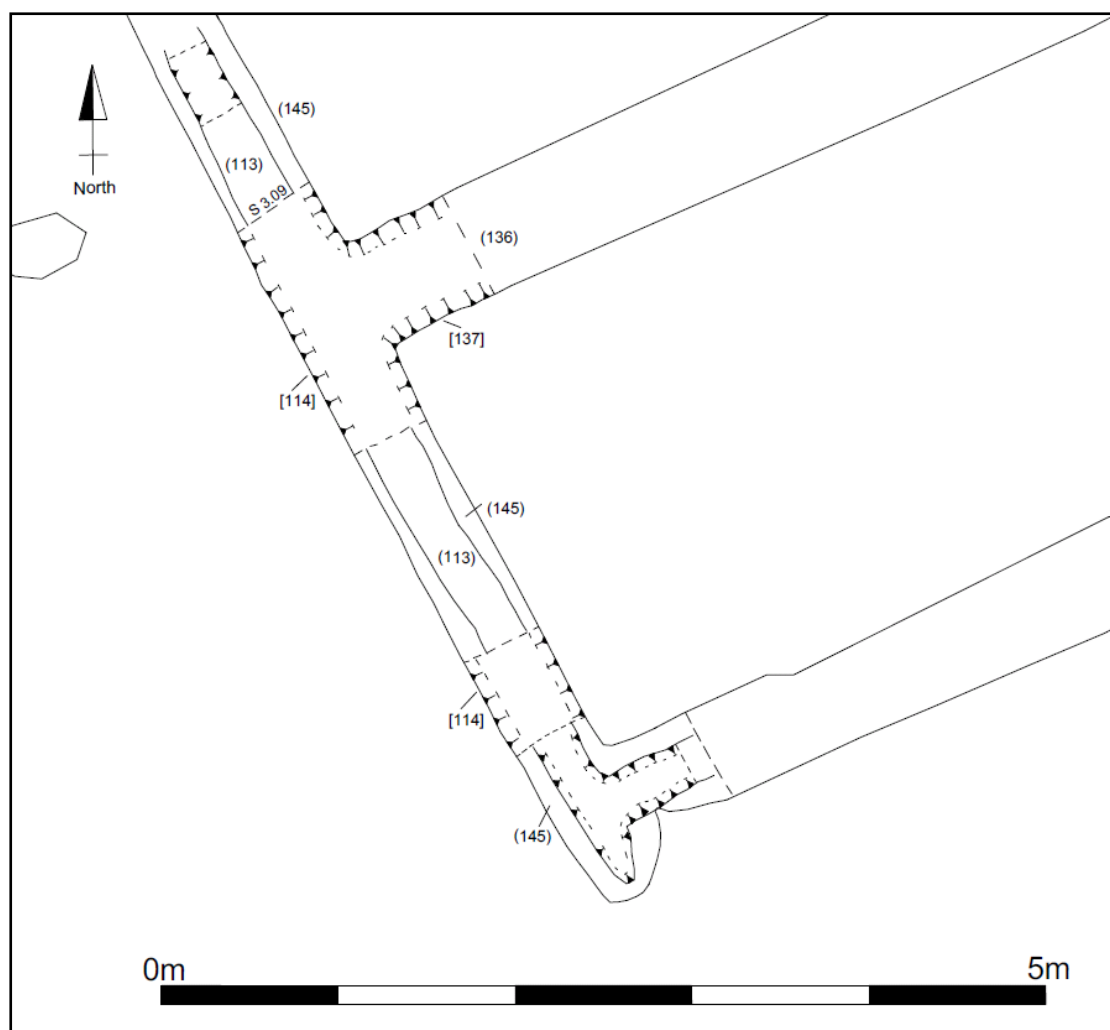


Figure 7: Plan 3.08 and Section 3.09 (See Fig. 4)

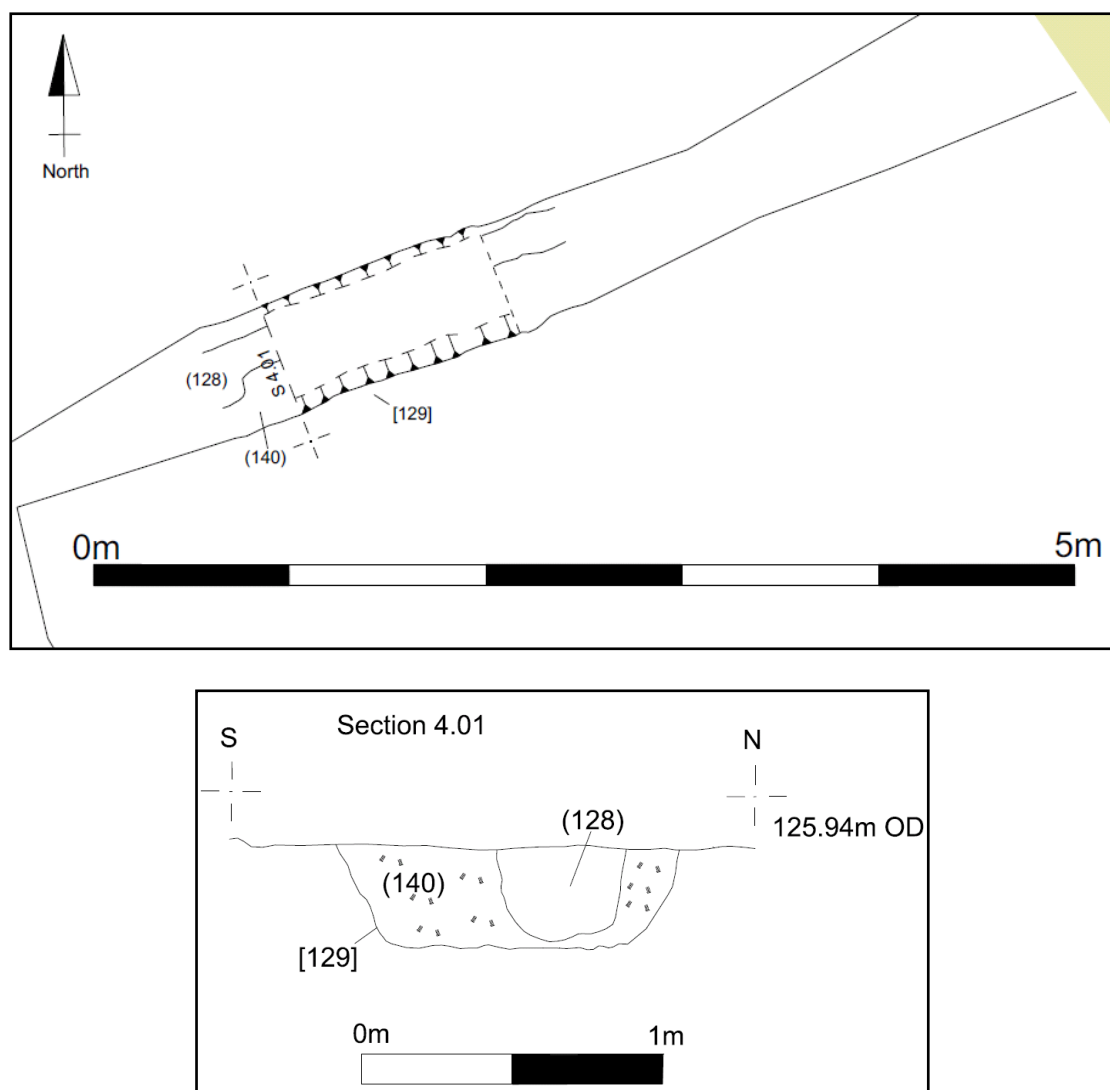


Figure 8: Plan 4.02 and Section 4.01 (See Fig. 4)

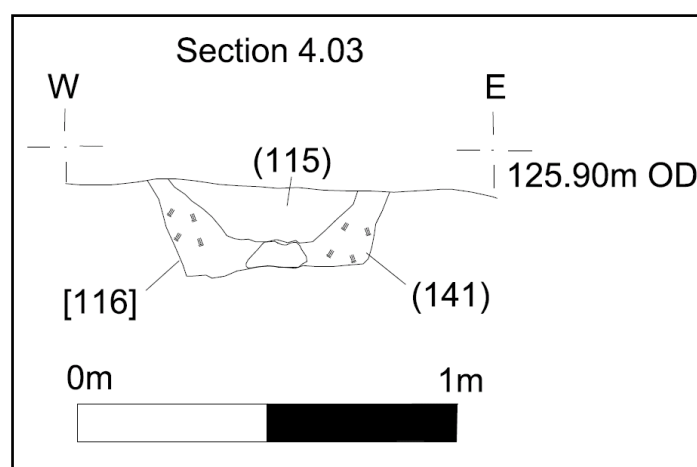
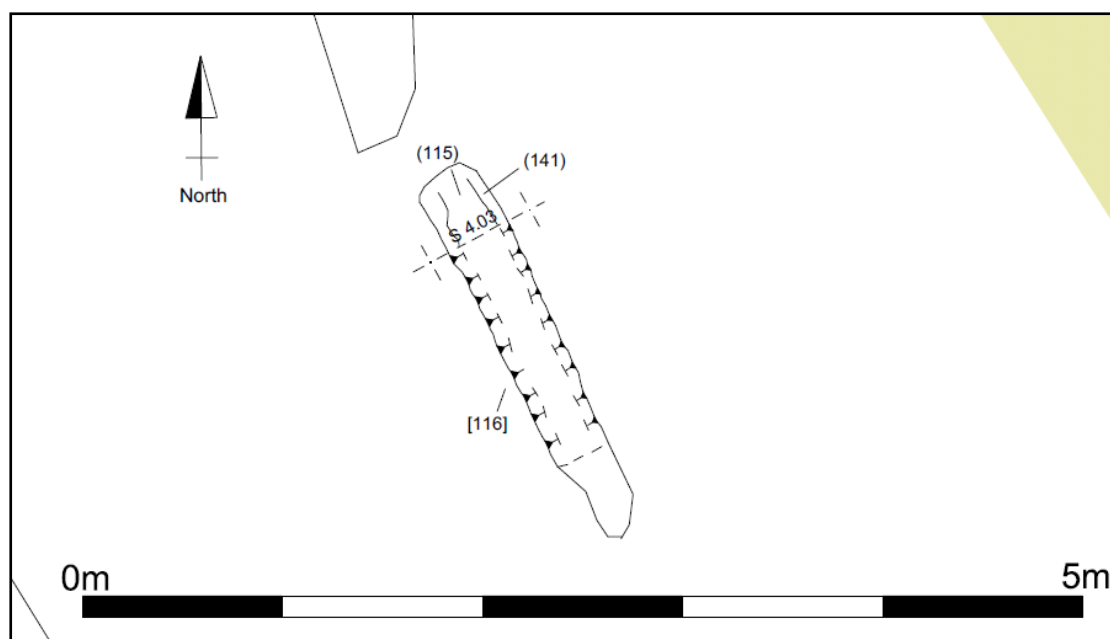


Figure 9: Plan 4.04 and Section 4.03 (see Fig.4)

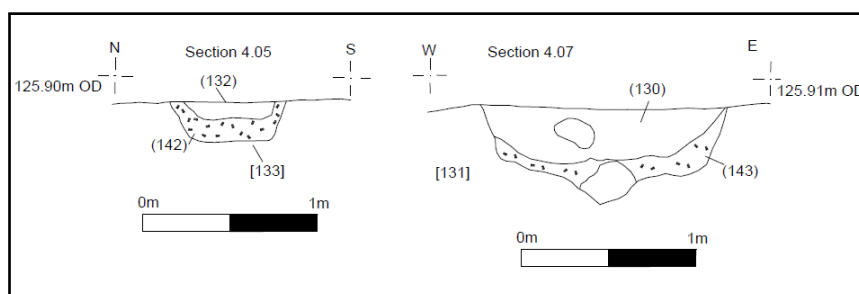
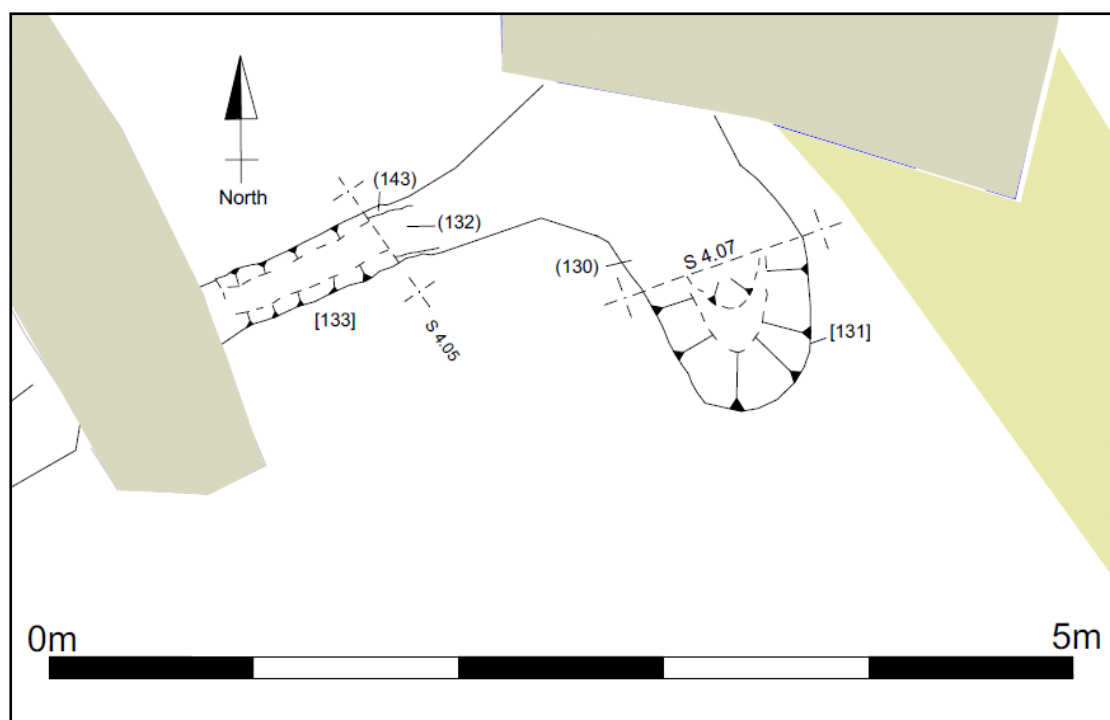


Figure 10: Plan 4.08 and Sections 4.05 and 4.07 (see Fig.4)

## 11. Bibliography

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Speed, G., forthcoming *Excavations at South Meadow Road, New Dunston, Northampton, Northamptonshire* ULAS Archaeological Report (forthcoming)

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## Appendix 1 Oasis Summary

INFORMATION REQUIRED	EXAMPLE
Project Name	An archaeological watching brief at Top Yard Silverwood Farm, Thistleton, Rutland (SK 9101 1768).
Project Type	Archaeological watching brief
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Tim Higgins
Previous/Future work	Evaluation
Current Land Use	Pasture
Development Type	Agricultural buildings
Reason for Investigation	PPS5
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	NGR: SK 9101 1768
Start/end dates of field work	16/11/2010 to 22/10/2010
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council
<b>Study Area *</b>	Approx 350 sq m

## Appendix 2 The Finds

### Roman Pottery and other finds from Excavations at Thistleton OAKRM2008.52

*Nicholas J. Cooper*

#### Roman Pottery

A total of 19 sherds weighing 57g and with an average sherd weight of 2.5g were retrieved from nine contexts, with three sherds unstratified, as detailed in the following table. The material was classified using the Leicestershire Museums Fabric Series (Pollard 1994, 112-114) summarised below (Table 1) and with reference to local Rutland assemblages excavated at Empingham (Cooper 2000) and quantified by sherd count and weight as detailed in Table 2.

Table 1: Summary of Leicestershire Roman Pottery Fabric Series (Pollard 1994, 112-114).

Fabric Code:	Fabric Type:	Fabric Code:	Fabric Type:
Samian	Samian ware	MO	Mortaria
C	Colour-coated wares	WW	White wares
AM	Amphorae	OW	Oxidised wares
GW	Grey wares	BB1	Black Burnished ware
CG	Calcite gritted (shelly)	SW	Transitional sandy wares
GT	Grog-tempered wares		

Table 2: Roman Pottery by Context

Cut	Context	Fabric	Form	Sherds	Weight	Dating
	100	CG1A	jar	1	5	M1st-2nd
102	101	WW2	misc	1	4	M1st-2nd
	109	GW5	misc	1	1	L1st-2nd
114	113	GW5	base	2	4	L1st-2nd

114	113	GW5	jar	1	4	L1st-2nd
116	115	GW4	jar	1	6	E-M2nd-3rd
118	117	GW5	misc	4	7	L1st-2nd
	122	GW5	misc	2	1	L1st-2nd
	124	GW5	jar	2	6	L1st-2nd
	138	GW4	misc	1	2	E-M2nd-3rd
	US	GW5	misc	1	15	L1st-2nd
	US	CG1A	jar	2	2	M1st-2nd
<b>Total</b>				<b>19</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>ASW 2.5g</b>

This small and abraded group is rather undiagnostic as there are no rims present but the fabrics are distinctive enough to allow broad dating of the contexts, as indicated in the above table. The majority of the material occurs in a medium sandy grey ware (GW5), often with a dark surface which, by comparison with similarly-dated material from Empingham (Cooper 2000) has a later 1st or 2nd century date. A couple of grey ware sherds have a lighter fabric and darker grey mottled surface and are probably from the Lower Nene Valley (GW4) and are most likely to date the second century as well. The occurrence of sherds in early Roman shelly wares (CG1A) and white ware (WW2) would also support an early Roman date. The very low average sherd weight and the abraded nature of the group would suggest it derives from manuring or middening activity at the edge of settlement rather than primary refuse deposition.

### Other Finds

A single fragment of abraded cattle-sized animal bone and two possibly struck flint chunks came from (107). Whilst a single fragment of probably modern brick was found unstratified.

### References

Cooper, N. J., 2000 'The Roman Pottery' in N.J. Cooper *The Archaeology of Rutland Water*, 72-97. Leicester Archaeology Monograph 6. University of Leicester, School of Archaeology and Ancient History.

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### Appendix 3 Pollen Assessment

*James Greig*

### Summary

The samples contained very little pollen, so further analysis would not be worthwhile.

### Objectives



Plant remains were investigated to obtain further evidence for the interpretation of the site and its surroundings at the time of its occupation, particularly the Roman cultivation trenches which were excavated.

### **The Site**

The excavations at Silverwood Farm, Thistleton, Rutland revealed some features which were thought to be cultivation trenches. These were sampled for pollen analysis, in case anything could be discovered about possible crops which had been grown there.

### **Samples**

A number of features were sampled by the excavators. The samples which were assessed are given in Table 1.

Table 1

sample	context	location
6.2	126	section 2.01
8.2	128	section 4.01
10.2	132	section 4.05
11.2	130	section 4.07

### **Laboratory work**

#### *Pollen analysis*

The material in all the samples was similar, a yellowish clayey sediment with not much sign of organic content.

Pollen samples were processed using the standard method; larger than usual subsamples of about 2.5 cm<sup>3</sup> material each were dispersed in dilute NaOH and filtered through a 70µm mesh to remove coarser material. The larger than usual subsample size was intended to provide enough organic material from mainly minerogenic sediment. The finer organic part of the sample was concentrated by swirl separation on a shallow dish. Very fine material was removed by filtration through a 10µm mesh. The remaining material was acetolysed to remove cellulose, re-filtered, then stained with safranin and mounted on microscope slides in glycerol jelly. Counting was done with a Leitz Dialux microscope.

The pollen types have been listed in taxonomic order according to Kent (1992), in Table 2.

### **Results**

#### **Pollen (Table 2)**

The four pollen slides each had quite a good concentration of organic material, but most of this was in the form of amorphous debris and among this there was very little pollen to be seen with low power magnification. A single traverse of each slide was made to look for anything identifiable and count it.

The amounts of pollen are very low, and even in sample 6.2 with the most, the pollen only amounted to a background of pollen types which are commonly found, but in isolation they provide little data to interpret and no information at all about any potential cultivation or use of the trenches.

Because the amounts of identifiable pollen and spores are so low, it was not thought worthwhile to either count more traverses or to scan the slides at low power to look for rare pollen types, as would normally be the case with productive pollen slides.

The reason for the poor pollen content could be that in cultivated ground there is usually enough biological activity from worms and other organisms which tends to destroy organic matter, including pollen. Cultivated soil also tends not to be acidic enough to preserve pollen well. Another reason could be that the soil may not have the chance to accumulate pollen from the surroundings, unless it happened to be a soil surface which was subsequently preserved by becoming buried.

### **Correlation with other sites**

There have been a number of attempts to study evidence of Roman agriculture or gardening which has been suspected by excavation of cultivation trenches, as at the palace at Fishbourne (Greig 1971) and Wollaston (Brown and Meadows 2000, Brown et al 2001). Some of the plants concerned such as *Buxus* (box) and *Vitis* (grapevine) produce well identifiable pollen, but in rather small amounts compared with crops such as cereals. Turner and Brown (2004) also studied modern pollen dispersal in grapevine, which may be detectable in the right circumstances. This was the justification for preparing some pollen samples from Thistleton, in case any useful evidence might be forthcoming.

### **Acknowledgements**

Thanks to Angela Monckton for asking me to do this pollen analysis.

### **References**

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- Kent, D.H. (1992) *List of vascular plants of the British Isles*. Botanical Society of the British Isles, London.
- Turner, S.D. and Brown, A.G. (2004) *Vitis* pollen dispersal in and from organic vineyards, 1. Soil trap data. *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology* 129(3): 117-132

**Table 2** pollen and spores, results of a single traverse counted

sample	6.2	8.2	10.2	11.2	
spores					
<i>Pteridium</i>	1	-	-	-	bracken
<i>Polypodium</i>	1	-	-	-	polypody
<i>Sphagnum</i>	1	-	-	-	Sphagnum moss
unidentified spores	4	1	-	1	
pollen			-	-	
<i>Pinus</i>	1	-	-	-	pine
<i>Quercus</i>	1	-	-	-	oak
<i>Betula</i>	1	-	-	-	birch
Ericales	2	-	-	-	heathers
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	1	-	-	-	ribwort plantain
Lactuceae	2	1	1	-	a group of composites
Poaceae	-	-	-	1	grasses
unidentified pollen	-	-	1	-	

## **Appendix 4 Design Specification**

### **UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES**

#### **Design Specification for archaeological work**

***Job title: Top Yard, Silverwood Farm, Market Overton Road, Thistleton, Rutland***

***NGR: SK 9101 1768***

***Client: Harry Barclay Farms***

***Planning Authority: Rutland County Council***

***P.A.2008/0174/9; 10/00338/9***

#### ***1 Definition and scope of the specification***

1.1 In accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5, Planning and the Historic environment DCLG 2010), this specification provides a written scheme for archaeological attendance for inspection and recording (a watching brief), as required by the Planning Authority, of any groundworks on the site which may disturb areas of archaeological potential in connection with a planning application for two new agricultural buildings at Top Yard, Silverwood Farm, Market Overton Road, Thistleton, Rutland for Harry Barclay Farms.

1.2 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute for Archaeologist's (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LCC 1997).

#### ***2 Background***

##### ***2.1 Requirement for archaeological work***

2.1.1 The archaeological work involves attendance (an intensive watching brief) within the development area to identify any deposits of archaeological importance. It addresses the requirements of Rutland County Council to fulfil planning condition 2 as detailed in *A Brief for Archaeological Attendance for Inspection & Recording (An Intensive Watching Brief) at Top Farm Yard, Market Overton Road, Thistleton, Rutland (Ful/2010/0338) NGR SK 9100 1768* (Leicestershire County Council 21.06.2010 hereinafter 'The Brief')

2.2.2 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. An archaeological field evaluation of a proposed grain store to the west of the site demonstrated the presence of below ground archaeological remains comprising evidence of a probable Iron Age enclosure/field system, possibly associated with the adjacent, but later Thistleton Roman small town (Harvey 2008). The development site itself lies to the east adjacent to the line of a Roman road forming a continuation SSE of Fosse Lane, originally linked to Ermine Street/Great North Road (now the A1). The road is likely to be associated with the adjacent Roman small town, mentioned above and, in that context, cemeteries are typically located outside the limits of Roman town often aligned on the approaching roads.

2.2.3 The proposal are likely to include the excavation of footings, landscaping and the introduction of services, etc., that may damage or destroy buried archaeological remains within the development area.

#### ***3 Aims***

3.1 Through archaeological attendance and, as appropriate, investigation:

1. To identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or archaeological deposits.

2. To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
3. To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
4. To produce an archive and report of any results.

#### **4 Methods**

4.1 The project will involve the supervision of overburden removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above.

4.2 Should significant archaeological remains be identified a programme of excavation and recording may be necessary, using additional personnel as necessary.

4.3 The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with the contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work.

4.4 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) where appropriate.

4.5 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

4.6 All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

4.7 Any human remains encountered will be initially left in situ and only be removed under a Ministry of Justice Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The developer and Leicestershire County Council will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.8 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site from the project manager. These will ensure that professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for monitoring visits with representatives of the owners and Leicestershire County Council.

4.9 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located during the watching brief there may be the need for contingency time and finance to be provided to ensure adequate recording is undertaken. On the discovery of potentially significant remains the archaeologist will inform the developer, the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, and the planning authority. If the archaeological remains are identified to be of significance additional contingent archaeological works will be required.

#### **5 Recording Systems**

5.1 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets.

5.2 A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map, (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a plan at 1:200 (or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated.

5.3 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made on drawing film, related to the OS grid and at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Elevations and sections of individual layers of features should be drawn where possible. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans.

5.4 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared. This will include black and white prints and colour transparencies illustrating in both detail and general context the principal

features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

5.5 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the watching brief.

5.6 All site records and finds will be kept securely.

## **6 Report and Archive**

6.1 An accession number will be drawn prior to the commencement of the project (Brief 8.1). Following the fieldwork the on-line OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis> will be completed. A report on the investigation will be provided following the groundworks.

6.2 Copies will be provided for the client, Historic Environment Record and planning Authority. The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

6.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in Brown (2008) will be presented to Leicestershire County Council, normally within six months of the completion of analysis. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

## **7 Publication**

7.1 A summary report will be submitted to a suitable regional or national archaeological journal within one year of completion of fieldwork. A full report will be submitted if the results are of significance.

## **8 Timetable and Staffing**

8.1 The investigation is scheduled to commence at the start of the contractors groundworks. An experienced archaeologist will be present during this work.

## **9 Health and Safety**

9.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (revised 2007) with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is in the Appendix. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate.

## **10 Insurance**

10.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with St Pauls Travellers Policy No. UCPOP3651237 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters (50%) and Brit Insurances (50%) Policy No. FUNK3605.

## **11. Bibliography**

Brown, D., 2008 *Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives* (Institute for Archaeologists).

DCLG 2010 *Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5), Planning and the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010),

Harvey, J., 2008 *An archaeological evaluation at Top Yard, Silverwood Farm, Thistleton, Rutland (SK 910 183)*. ULAS Report 2008-101

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