



**University of
Leicester**

Archaeological Services

**Archaeological Investigations at
Odstone Barn, Hall Lane, Odstone,
Leicestershire
NGR: SK 3902707716**

James Patrick



ULAS Report No 2015-175

ULAS © 2015

**Archaeological Investigations at Odstone Barn,
Hall Road, Odstone, Leicestershire
(SK 3902707716)**

James Patrick
for
Mr Ben Handford

Checked by

Signed:



Date: 2/12/2015

Name: Vicki Score

University of Leicester
Archaeological Services
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614
ULAS Report No.2015-175

Accession Number: XA.122.2015
ULAS ©2015

CONTENTS

Summary	1
Introduction.....	2
Location and Geology.....	2
Aims and Methods	2
Historical and Archaeological Background – <i>Mathew Morris</i>	2
Methodology	8
Results.....	10
Finds of Pottery, Tile and Prehistoric Flint - <i>Nicholas J. Cooper</i>	15
Conclusion	16
Acknowledgements.....	16
Archive.....	16
Bibliography	17

FIGURES

Figure 1: Location plan of site	3
Figure 2: Map showing location of HER sites within a 1km radius of the site	4
Figure 3: Odstone Tithe Map of 1850 with area of work highlighted. (ROLLR Ti/243/1)	7
Figure 4: Extract from 1st edition 6” Ordnance Survey map (Leicestershire XXIX.NW) with area of work highlighted.	7
Figure 5: Development layout (provided by client).....	8
Figure 6: Trench Location Plan: Yellow marks the proposed position of the trench, black marks the new position of the trench.	9
Figure 7: Trench being excavated.....	9
Figure 8: Plan of trench.....	12
Figure 9: Sections of excavated features	13
Figure 10: Trench pre-excavation & post excavation, looking north-west	14
Figure 11: The Drip Gully [03], looking south and Ditch [05], looking north-east	14

TABLES

Table 1: Gazetteer of HER entries within a 1km radius of the site.	5
---	---

**Archaeological Investigations at Odstone Barn,
Hall Road, Leicestershire (SK 39282 07836)**

James Patrick

Summary

An archaeological field evaluation was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) as part of the planning condition for the conversion of an agricultural barn to an entertainment room, ancillary to the main dwelling and a swimming pool at Odstone Barn, Hall lane, Odstone, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 3902707716).

The work was undertaken on the 10th - 11th November 2015 on a grassed area in use as a lawn by the client. As the Barn conversion and swimming pool had already been completed, a 10m x 1.60m trench was to be positioned along the north-west length of the barn. However, this was not practical due to the services associated with the new swimming pool. The trial trench was therefore positioned 3m away from the south-west side of swimming pool where the ground was undisturbed.

The barn conversion and associated ground-work is just 63m to the north of Odstone Hall. The rear of the Hall backs onto Odstone barn which is around 50m from the boundary. Odstone Hall has origins from the 17th century and there is a possibility that archaeological remains associated with the Hall's origins and contemporary structures exist within the area of the ground-works. The site also lies within the historic Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement core and lies on a high vantage point looking south-west, making it an ideal location for earlier settlement.

Although the evaluation trench was relatively small (10m x 1.6m), it contained archaeological features dating from the Iron Age to the medieval period. This included a possible eaves-drip gully, ditches dating to the Late Iron Age/early Roman period and a heavily truncated medieval pit. Although interpretation within such a small area is difficult they could represent a field system and settlement over several phases. The medieval pit was very shallow and its function remains unknown. The features would probably have extended into the area of the new development.

The archive for the work will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums under the accession number XA.122.2015

Introduction

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Section 12 (conserving and enhancing the historic environment) this document is an evaluation report assessment for land at Odstone Barn, Hall Lane, Odstone, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 3902707716).

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) was commissioned by Ben Handford to undertake trial trenching undertaken post-construction to assess and impact of development (planning reference: 13/00859/FUL).

Location and Geology

The site is located in Odstone, a hamlet of the Shackerstone civil parish in the Hinckley and Bosworth district c.5km north of Market Bosworth, Leicestershire (Figure 1). Odstone Barn is accessed via Hall Lane which lies off an unclassified road between the villages of Newton Burgoland 2.5km to the north-west and Barton in the Beans 1.5km to the south.

The area covers approximately 1.43 ha and lies at a height of c.57 metres OD. It is currently in use as lawned garden with trees and shrubs which slopes down gradually from east to west (Figure 5). Odstone stands on a marked promontory of high ground between two river valleys. The British Geological Survey of Great Britain (sheet 63) indicates that underlying geology consists of Mercia Mudstone, with overlying sands and gravels.

Aims and Methods

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 is 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 existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

Historical and Archaeological Background – *Mathew Morris*

The village of Odstone is first mentioned in the Domesday Book (AD 1086) as *Odestone*, a word probably deriving from the Old Scandinavian male personal name Oddr and ‘tun’ meaning farmstead, village or small estate - therefore ‘the settlement associated with Oddr’. Alternately, ‘oddr’ can also mean a protruding piece of land, often higher than its surroundings – therefore ‘the settlement on a protrusion of land’ (Bourne 2003, 69).

A number of archaeological sites are known within a 1km radius of the site and are listed in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER). These are show in

Figure 2 and listed in Table 1 below.



Figure 1: Location plan of site

Reproduced from Explorer® 1:25 000 scale by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

© Crown copyright 2000. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495.

Of particular relevance to this project, the site lies within the village's historic settlement core (HER ref. MLE3151). Approximately 125m to the south-east lies an area of former village closes with stone scatters marking the sites of possible buildings (MLE3136), whilst c.260m to the south-west lies the site of a possible medieval Chapel (MLE3145).

Evidence of the area's prehistory, an early Bronze Age axe (MLE6363), has been found in the garden of Odstone Hall, c.100m to the south and the area appears to be part of a diverse prehistoric landscape, characterized by an array of Bronze Age and Iron Age features including ring ditches, ditch alignments and pit alignments recorded c.400m to the north, near Walkers Farm, and c.800m to the east, east of Odstone Barn Farm.

More recently, the site's environs have been influenced by the presence of Odstone Hall, c.60m to the south-east. This Grade II Listed building (MLE13048) is a 17th century timber-framed house that has been remodelled in the later 18th century. East of the site, late 19th century maps show a series of ponds (MLE22213) probably associated with the hall, whilst

c.150m to the south-west a raised terrace has been noted as possibly marking the site of a demolished building or garden feature (MLE17266).

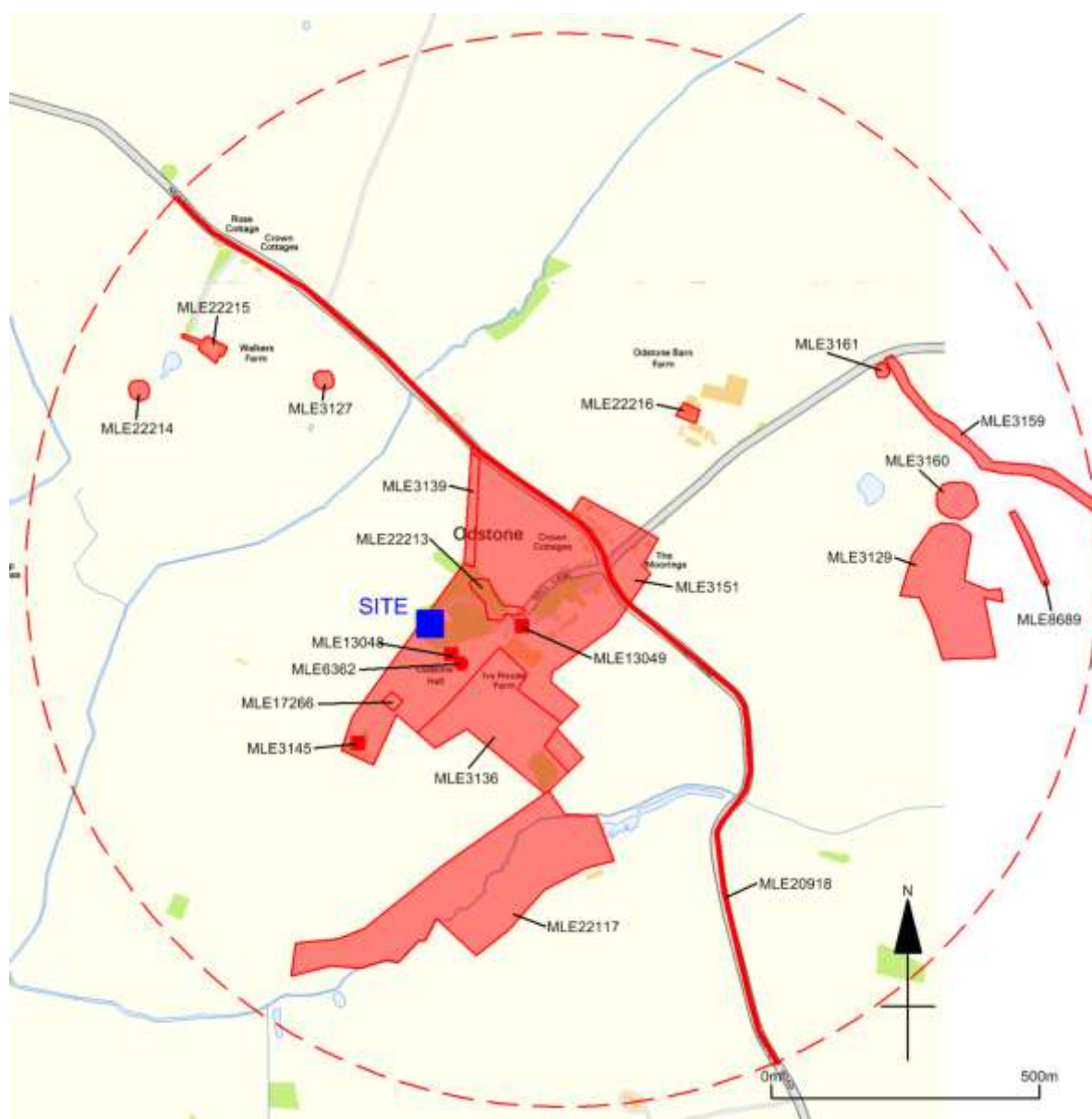


Figure 2: Map showing location of HER sites within a 1km radius of the site.

Contains OS data © Crown copyright [and database right] 2015

Table 1: Gazetteer of HER entries within a 1km radius of the site.

HER no.	Name	Grid Ref. (centre)	Summary	Period
MLE3127	Possible circular enclosure east of Walkers Farm	SK 388 081	Cropmark of a possible circular enclosure, noted from a 1976 aerial photograph.	Undated
MLE3129	Possible Iron Age site south-east of Odstone Barn Farm	SK 400 078	Cropmarks of a possible rectilinear field system along with cropmarks of a large sub-rectangular enclosure were photographed in the 1970s and 80s. They are clearly visible on the 2006 aerial photos.	Iron Age? (800 BC – AD 42)
MLE3136	Medieval village remains south-east of Odstone Hall	SK 391 075	An area of former village closes with stone scatters marking the sites of possible buildings. Various pieces of pottery were recovered after ploughing in 1972 and iron slag was noted.	Early Medieval – Early Post-medieval (AD 1067 – AD1699)
MLE3139	Earthwork bank north-east of Odstone Hall	SK 391 079	An aerial photograph taken in 1979 shows a low bank here. It is visible as a cropmark in 2006 aerial photograph.	Medieval? (AD 1067 – 1539)
MLE3145	Site of medieval chapel, Church Field	SK 389 075	Odstone was a chapelry of Shackerstone in 1220. The chapel had decayed by 1630. The name 'Church Field' is noted south-west of Odstone Hall; a small tree-filled enclosure at SK 389 075 may be the site of the church.	Medieval (AD 1067 – 1539)
MLE3151	Historic settlement core of Odstone	SK 391 077	Known as Odestone in 1086 (Domesday). Oddr (OScand. Male personal name) + tun 'farmstead, village, small estate'. 'The settlement associated with Oddr'. This Viking personal name compounded with OE tun indicates that there was a prior Anglo-Saxon settlement here.	Late Anglo-Saxon – Modern (AD 850 – 2050)
MLE3159	Prehistoric multiple ditch system east of Odstone Barn Farm	SK 400 080	A possible Bronze Age double ditch around 400m in length can be seen on aerial photos, associated with circular features (MLE3160 & MLE3161).	Bronze Age (2500 BC – 801 BC)
MLE3160	Possible prehistoric circular enclosure east of Odstone Barn Farm	SK 400 079	Circular feature, possible an enclosure, noted on aerial photographs. It may join onto the multiple ditch system (MLE3159) via a small length of ditch.	Bronze Age – Late Iron Age? (2500 BC – AD 42)
MLE3161	Prehistoric ring ditch east of Odstone Barn Farm	SK 398 082	A ring ditch in association with a double ditch (MLE3159) and larger ring ditch/possible enclosure, noted via aerial photographs.	Bronze Age? (2500 BC – 801 BC)
MLE6362	Bronze Age battle axe from Odstone Hall	SK 390 076	A battle axe was found in the garden of Odstone Hall in July 1949. It was sectioned as Le 19 and is made from coarse tuff.	Early Bronze Age (2350 BC – 1501 BC)
MLE8689	Possible prehistoric pit alignment east of Odstone Barn Farm	SK 40157 07875	A possible pit alignment was noted on aerial photographs (76m by 141m).	Bronze Age – Late Iron Age? (2500 BC – AD 42)
MLE13048	Ostone Hall, Hall Lane	SK 390 076	C17th timber framed house remodelled in the later C18th. Grade II Listed Building	Early Post-medieval – Modern (AD 1601 – 2050)
MLE13049	Ivy House Farm, Hall Lane	SK 392 077	Early to mid C18th brick farmhouse. Grade II Listed Building	Late Post-medieval – Modern (AD 1701 – 2050)
MLE17266	Earthwork south-west of Odstone Hall	SK389 075	A raised terrace has been noted south-west of the Hall. It may mark the site of a demolished building or garden feature.	Early medieval to Early Post-medieval? (AD 1067 – 1699)

HER no.	Name	Grid Ref. (centre)	Summary	Period
MLE20918	Turnpike Road	SK 3619 0320	Turnpike road running from the bridge at Burton on Trent to Market Bosworth; Measham to Fieldon Bridge; Tamworth to Market Bosworth; Polesworth to Pinwall Lane; Market Bosworth to Hinckley, via Sutton Cheney and Dadlington; Belchiers to Hoop Hall, Market Bosworth.	Late Post-medieval (AD 1759 – 1872)
MLE22117	Post-medieval water meadows south of Odstone	SK 3906 0725	Watermeadow channels are visible on the 1969 aerial photos. Sluices are present on the late C19th OS map. The 2011 aerial photos only show earthworks surviving on the south side of the watercourse (602m by 349m).	Late Post-medieval (AD 1801 – 1899)
MLE22213	Post-medieval ponds north-east of Odstone Hall	SK 3916 0777	The late C19th OS mapping shows two ponds here - one large and one small (104m by 82m).	Post-medieval (AD 1540 – 1899)
MLE22214	Possible ring ditch south-west of Walkers Farm	SK 3849 0817	A very circular ring ditch was noted on aerial photographs taken in 1976.	Undated
MLE22215	Walkers Farm, Newton Lane	SK 3861 0825	Courtyard farm complex shown on the early C19th OS map. Most of the original buildings appear to still be present on the 2011 aerial photo.	Late Post-medieval – Modern? (AD 1750 – 2050)
MLE22216	Odstone Barn Farm, Ibstock Road	SK 3952 0813	Farm complex shown on the early C19th OS map, though little of the original complex survives on the 2011 aerial photographs.	Late Post-medieval – Modern? (AD 1750 – 2050)

Cartographic evidence dating back to a tithe map dated 1850 (ROLLR Ti/243/1) shows the development area to be part of a complex of farm buildings and yard areas (Figure 3). Odstone Barn lies along the north-eastern side of the building group whilst the area of new build lies over the north-western end of the complex (Figure 4). The tight complex of buildings is present on Ordnance Survey maps until much of it was demolished in the early 2000s.

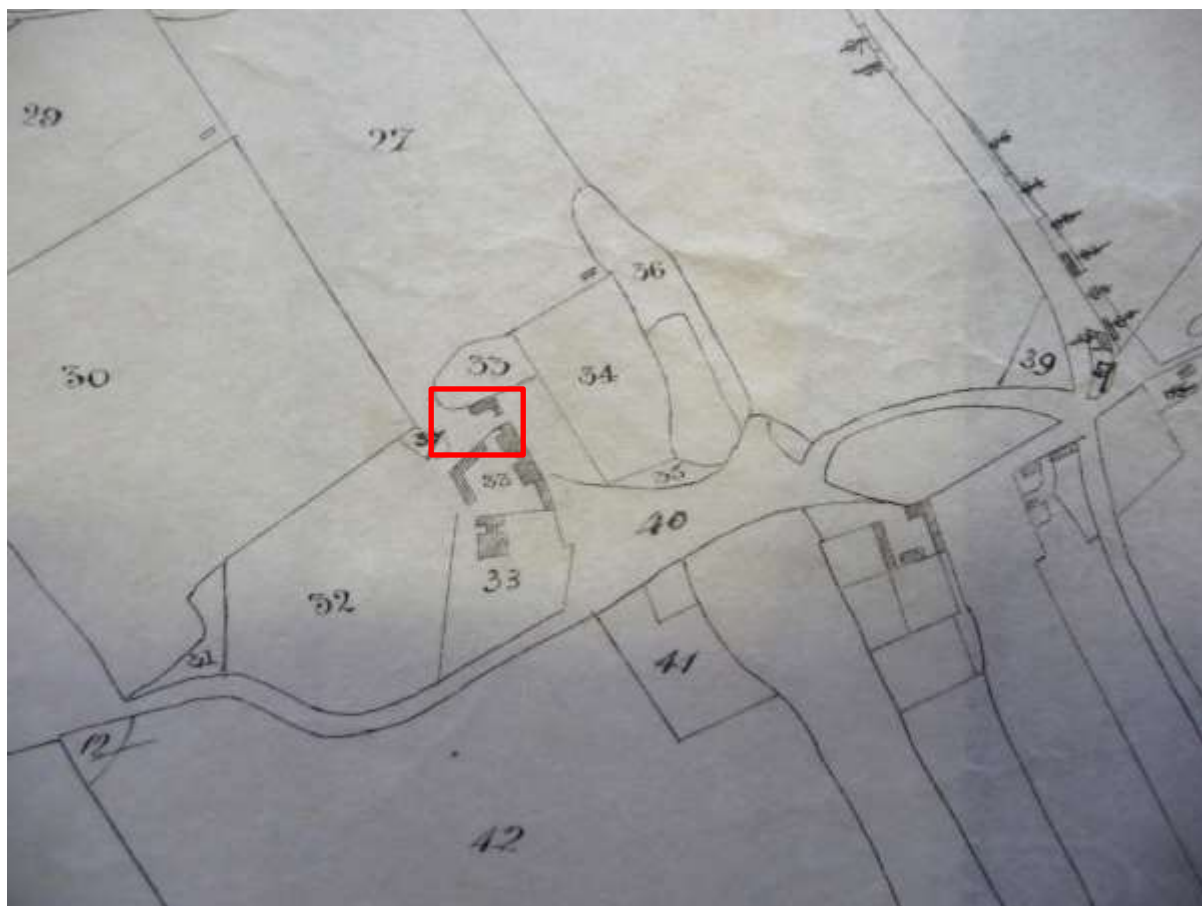


Figure 3: Odstone Tithe Map of 1850 with area of work highlighted. (ROLLR Ti/243/1)



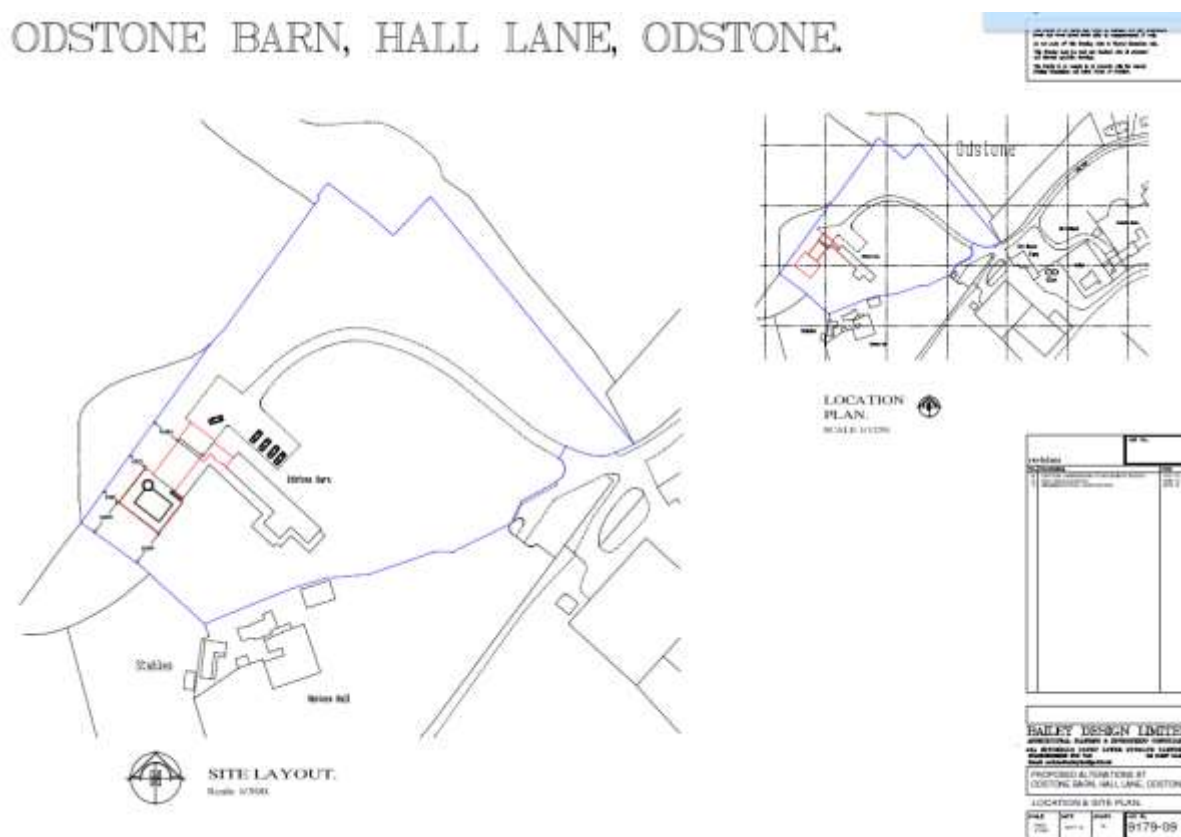
Figure 4: Extract from 1st edition 6" Ordnance Survey map (Leicestershire XXIX.NW) with area of work highlighted.

Methodology

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014) in accordance with their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014). The archaeological work followed the *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Work* (WSI) prepared by ULAS (2015) and approved prior to work starting.

Due to the constraints of the present development (services for the swimming pool), the single trench was re-positioned alongside the south-west side of the development. This was orientated north-west to south-east 3m away from the pool construction. (Figure 6).

The trench was excavated using a tracked mini digger with an 800mm ditching bucket (Figure 7). Because the required trench width was 1.60m, the trench was progressively excavated in two 800mm bucket wide strips a under archaeological supervision.



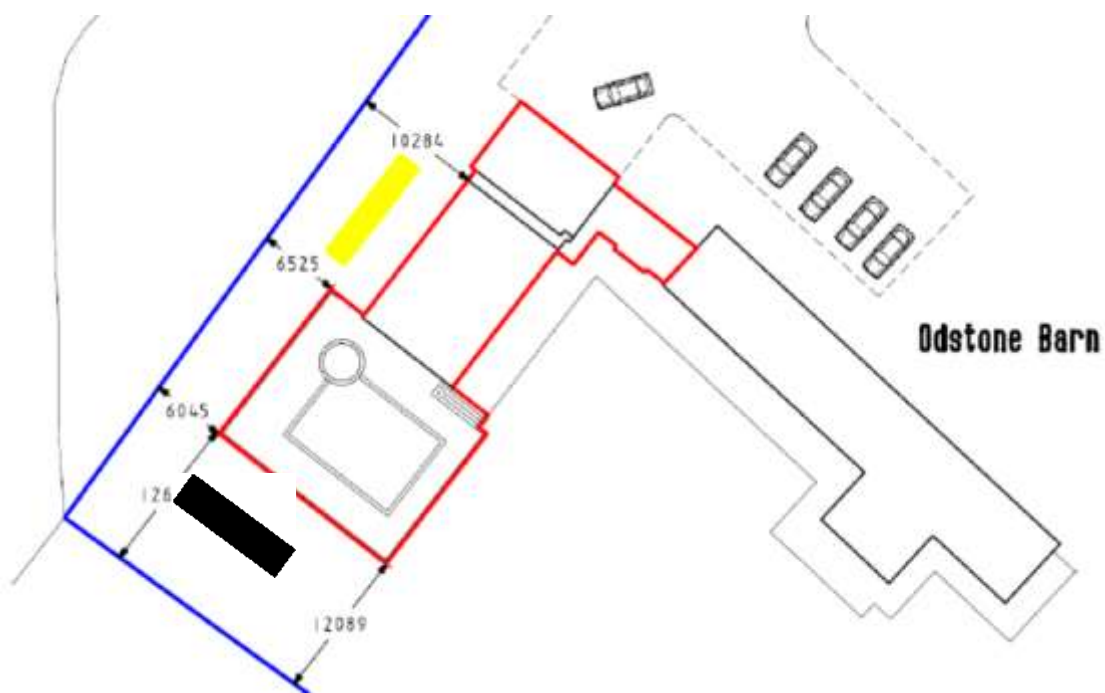


Figure 6: Trench Location Plan: Yellow marks the proposed position of the trench, black marks the new position of the trench.



Figure 7: Trench being excavated

Results

Trench 01

Orientation: north-west to south-east

Length: 10m

Width: 1.6m

Topsoil: Dark yellowish brown, clayey silt with occasional brick flecks/ frags and small rounded stones

Subsoil: Mid yellow brown, friable clayey silt with occasional small rounded

Natural: Light yellow brown silty fine sand with orange silty-clay patches.

Interval	W 0m	2.50m	5m	7.5m	10m
Topsoil Depth	0.18m	0.16m	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m
Subsoil Depth	0.10m	0.17m	0.28m	0.27m	0.24m
Top of natural	0.28m	0.33m	-	0.37m	0.34m
Base of Trench	0.30m	0.33m	0.28m	0.40m	0.38m

Contexts: [01] (02), [03] (04), [05] (06), [07] (08), [09] (10), [11] (12), [13] (14)

The topsoil was barely more than thick turf and was generally shallow, averaging 0.13m deep. It seemed disturbed due to possible past landscaping of the garden area. This overlay mid yellow-brown subsoil which averaged c.0.21m deep. The natural substrata consisted of a light yellow fine silty-sand which gave all the features a sharp clarity regarding their shape and depth.

A number of archaeological features were identified within the trench (Figure 8). At the north-west end of the trench was gully / ditch [01] (02). This was orientated north-east to south-west, running across the width of the trench. It was a shallow linear with a width of 0.60m with shallow sides and a depth of 0.12m onto a concaved base (Figure 9: S.2.01) The fill consisted of a light to mid-orange brown friable clayey-silt with occasional charcoal flecks and small rounded pebbles. The only find was part of blade-like flint flake of Neolithic or Bronze Age date.

On a similar orientation to this and just a couple of metres to the south-east was a wide linear. This was formed of two ditch phases although the relationship could not be defined (Figure 9: S.2.02). Ditch [05] (06) was linear with a width of 0.94m with steep sides. It was 0.32m deep onto a flat base (Figure 11). The fill comprised a dark reddish-brown, friable silty-clay with charcoal flecks and rounded pebbles and contained pottery of Iron Age date. Adjacent to [05] and running parallel was [07] (08), slightly shallower than the [05] (06). It had a width of 0.80m with shallow sides and a depth of 0.22m onto a concaved base. The fill (08) was the same as (06) with less charcoal.

The characteristic remains of a drip gully was seen orientated north-south to the east of ditch [07] (Figure 8; [03]). The relationship between the two was not visible due to the trench excavation limit but it could confidently be assumed that the arc of the drip gully would run undisturbed between the trench limit and the swimming pool. The gully was 0.30m wide and curvilinear in shape (Figure 11). It was very shallow - just 0.12m deep with a concave base (Figure 9; S.2.03). The fill (04) was a similar dark reddish-brown friable silty-clay as ditch

fills (06) and (08). Unfortunately there were no finds recovered from the drip gully and it was cut at the southern end by pit [09]. This was a well-defined circular feature yet disappointingly very shallow (Figure 9; S.2.04). It was probably of medieval date as it contained a fragment of green glazed ridge tile dating to the 14th century within the dark yellow-brown silty-clay fill. It had very shallow sides with a diameter of 1.10m north-west to south-east but was just 0.10m in depth onto a flat base. The pit base was clearly seen to cut the top of the drip gully in section as well as in plan. Although the pit was not seen cutting through the sub-soil the shallow depth suggests it may have originally cut the subsoil.

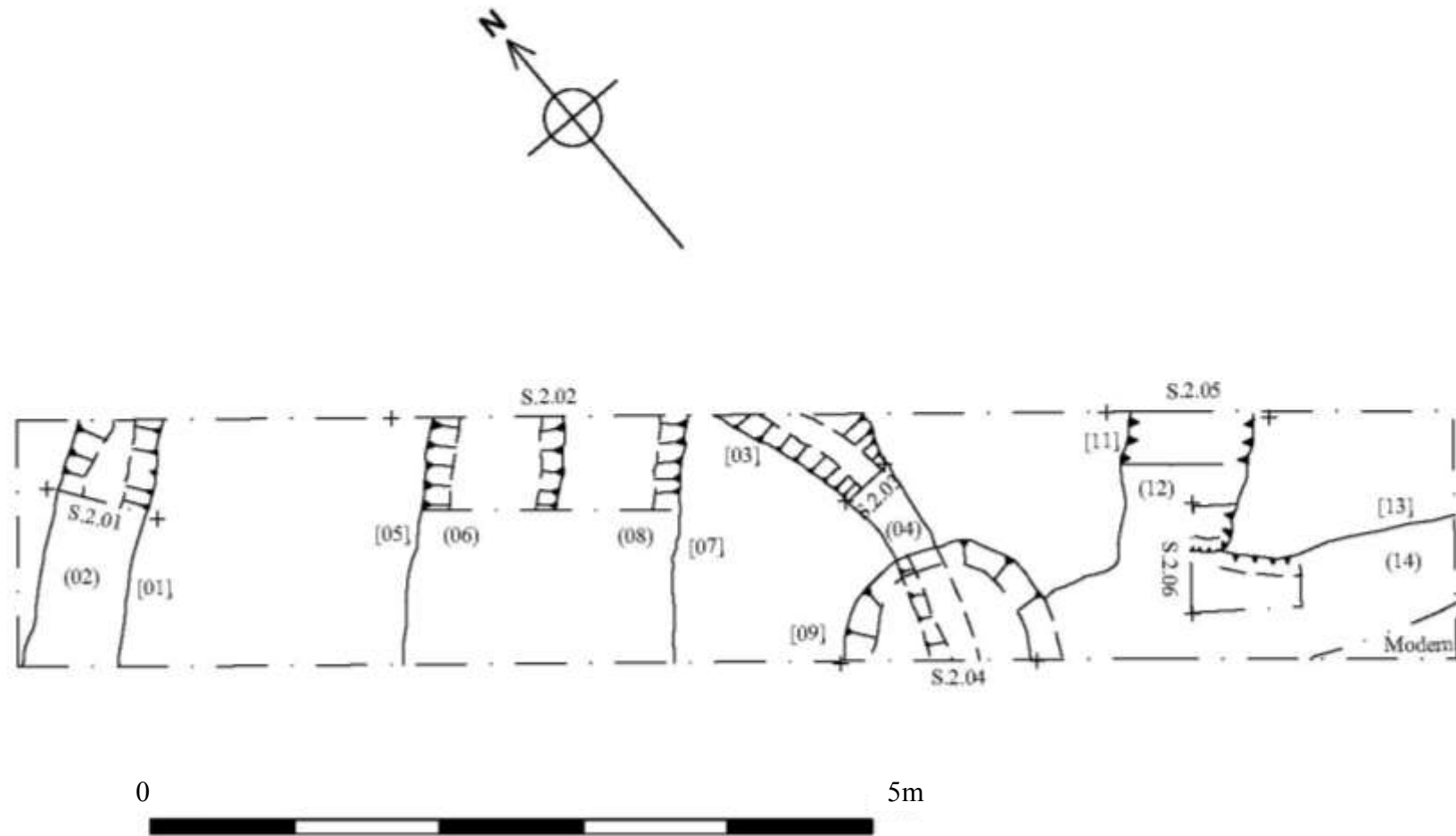


Figure 8: Plan of trench

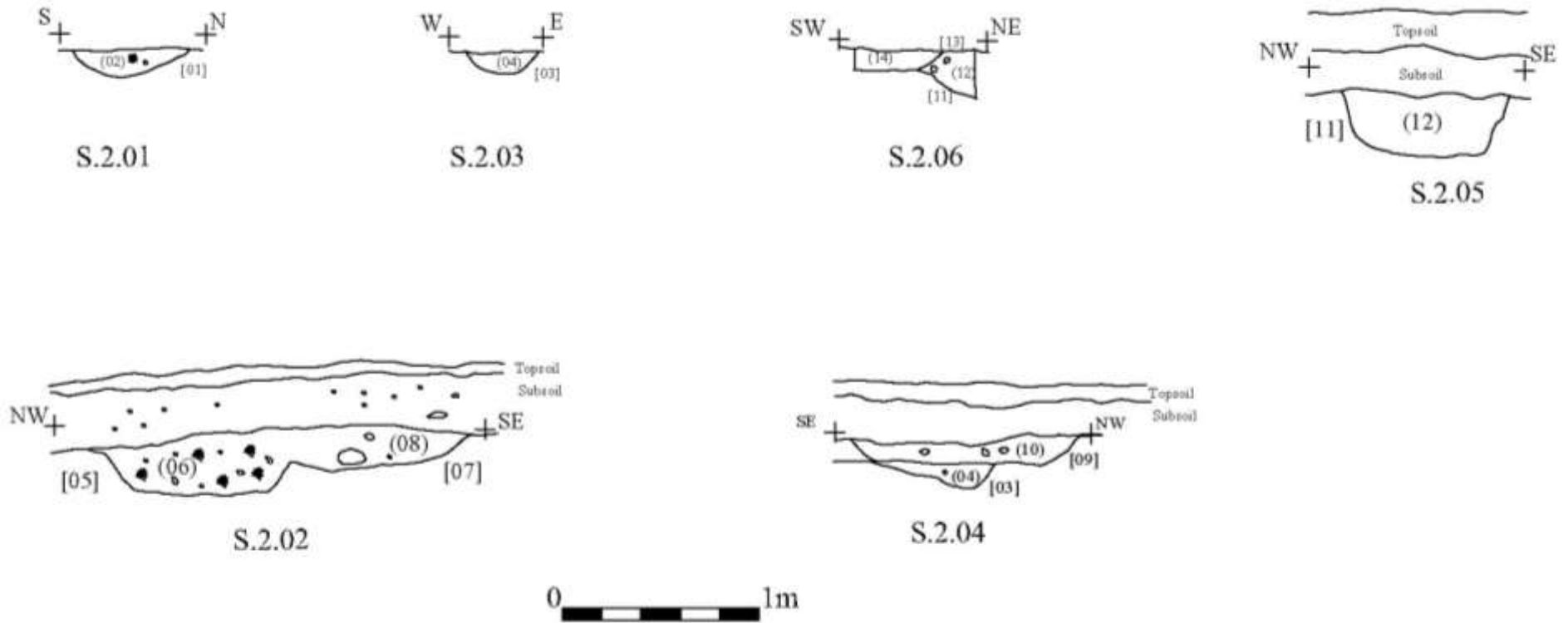


Figure 9: Sections of excavated features



Figure 10: Trench pre-excitation & post excavation, looking north-west



Figure 11: The Drip Gully [03], looking south and Ditch [05], looking north-east

At the far south-east end of the trench, were two further ditches [011] and [13] which formed an approximate 'T' shape. The excavated section showed [13] to be the latter phase with a fill consisting of a light orangish-brown friable sandy-clay. This contained a single sherd of Roman pottery of 2nd to 4th-century date. Truncated into this ditch was a modern intrusion containing a fragment of asbestos sheet. The later ditch was 0.40m wide and very shallow compared to [11] with a depth of just 0.10m. It had sloping sides onto a flat base and was orientated north-east to south-west (Fig. 6; S.2.05-2.06). By contrast ditch [11] was 0.84m wide and three times deeper, at 0.30m, onto a flat base. The fill (12) consisted of a similar mid-orange brown sandy-clay with occasional small rounded pebbles but contained no finds.

Finds of Pottery, Tile and Prehistoric Flint - *Nicholas J. Cooper*

A small assemblage of finds was recovered from four contexts, comprising four sherds of pottery of Iron Age and Roman date, a fragment of medieval glazed ridge tile and a piece of flint. The ceramic material has been identified respectively, according to the Leicestershire Museums Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval pottery form and fabric type series (Marsden 2011; Pollard 1994; Davies and Sawday 1999) and quantified by sherd count and weight.

Flint

A single blade-like flake, with cortex preserved along one edge and broken transversely, was recovered from (2) [1], and dates to the Neolithic or Bronze Age.

Iron Age Pottery

Two joining body sherds (10g) from a jar manufactured in a quartz sand-tempered fabric Q1, were recovered from (6) [5] alongside another body sherd (6g) from a much finer and thinner-bodied handmade vessel, with an oxidised surface, also in Fabric Q1, possibly of Late Iron Age or perhaps 'transitional' Roman date.

Roman Pottery

A single sherd (29g) from the base of a wheel-thrown jar manufactured in a medium-coarse grey ware (Fabric GW5) was recovered from (14) [13], and dates between the 2nd and the 4th century.

Medieval Ridge Tile

A fragment of ridge tile (94g), with freshly broken edges and a patchy green glaze, was recovered from (10) [9]. The tile was manufactured in a medieval sandy ware fabric (MS4) which may be a Chilvers Coton (Nuneaton, Warks.) product (?Fabric CC2) and will be of 14th century date. It points to the existence of a property of some pretension in the vicinity.

Conclusion

Although only a single 10m x 1.60m trench was excavated, a significant amount of archaeology was recorded. The barn conversion and swimming pool had already been completed at the time of the excavation but it seems very likely that the identified archaeology extended into this area. A concentrated area of archaeological remains in the form of a drip gully, ditches, and a later pit were identified. Although the small amount exposed makes interpretation difficult the remains look to be Late Iron Age / Roman in date and suggests the remains of a field system with a possible round house in use over several phases.

Given the abraded nature of the Iron Age pottery found in ditch [05] the ditches probably represent different phases of an Iron-age / Romano-British field system. Although the drip gully produced no finds in the section exposed, the characteristic, curvilinear shape and the Iron Age pottery found in [05] may also suggest an iron-age date for the drip gully.

The two ditches excavated at the south-east end of the trench produced just one sherd of Romano-British pottery again suggesting it is part of a Romano-British field system on a different north-east to south-west orientation, although the near vertical sides and flat base of ditch [11] might suggest a foundation trench rather than a ditch.

The only definite Medieval feature is the heavily truncated pit with the green glaze tile which could possibly be associated with an earlier phase of the Hall.

In view of only a limited area of archaeological remains revealed within the short trench, the archaeology remaining in the undeveloped area could be extensive. The possible Iron-age settlement along with field system would appear quite plausible given the site's vantage point on the high promontory.

In the light of what has been found in the evaluation trench, it is likely that during the barn conversion and swimming pool development, archaeological remains have gone unrecorded.

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Ben Handford for his co-operation during the evaluation and John Grewcock of Snapdragon landscapes for operating his machine during trench excavation. The evaluation was undertaken by Jamie Patrick and managed by Vicki Score.

Archive

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number XA.122.2015

The archive consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report (2015-175)
- 1 Trench recording sheet
- 6 Context recording Sheets
- 1 Context Index
- 1 Drawing Index

2 Sheets of A3 Plan and Section Drawing Film

1 Contact sheet of digital photographs

1 Photograph Index

Bibliography

Davies, S. and Sawday, D., 1999 'The Post-Roman pottery and tile' in A. Connor and R. Buckley *Roman and Medieval Occupation in Causeway Lane, Leicester*. Leicester Archaeology Monograph 5, 165-213. Leicester: University of Leicester School of Archaeological Studies.

Marsden, P., 2011 'The Prehistoric pottery and briquetage' in J. Thomas, *Two Iron Age Aggregated Settlements in the Environs of Leicester: Excavations at Beaumont Leys and Humberstone*, Leicester Archaeology Monograph 19, 61-80. Leicester: University of Leicester, School of Archaeology and Ancient History.

Pollard, R., 1994 The Iron Age and Roman Pottery in P. Clay and R. Pollard *Iron Age and Roman Occupation in the West Bridge Area, Leicester; Excavations 1962-71*, 51-114. Leicester: Leicestershire County Council, Museums, Arts and Records Service.

ULAS 2015, *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Work (WSI)*.

James Patrick
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH
Tel: 0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614
Email: jrp28@le.ac.uk
24-11-2015

v2 revisions 15-12-2015

Contact Details

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

T: +44 (0)116 252 2848

F: +44 (0)116 252 2614

E: ulas@le.ac.uk

W: www.le.ac.uk/ulas