



University of
Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation
at the Plough Inn, Mancetter
Road, Mancetter,
Warwickshire,
[NGR SP 440 919]**




Roger Kipling

ULAS Report No 2015-042
©2015

**An Archaeological Evaluation at
the Plough Inn, Mancetter Road, Mancetter,
Warwickshire, [NGR SP 440 919]**

Roger Kipling

For: Malvern Homes Ltd

Approved by:	
Signed:	
Date:	09.03.2015
Name:	Patrick Clay

University of Leicester
Archaeological Services
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

ULAS Report Number 2015-042
©2015
Accession Number T1395

CONTENTS

Summary	3
Introduction	3
Site Description, Topography and Geology	4
Archaeological and Historical Background	5
Aims and Objectives	10
Methodology	11
Archaeological Trial Trenches	11
Results	12
Discussion and Conclusions	24
Archive and Publications	24
Publication	24
Acknowledgements	24
Bibliography	25
Oasis Information	25
Appendix 1 The Roman Pottery and Tile <i>Nicholas J. Cooper</i>	27
Appendix 2 The Post-Roman Pottery and Tile <i>Deborah Sawday</i>	29
Appendix 3 The Animal Bones <i>Jennifer Browning</i>	31
Appendix 4 The Charred Plant Remains <i>Rachel Small</i>	35

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location (Scale 1:50 000)	4
Figure 2: Proposed development area (plan supplied by client)	5
Figure 3: Mancetter fort in relation to site (source: http://www.roman-britain.org/places/manduessedum.htm)	7
Figure 4: Trench location plan	12
Figure 5: Site plan showing archaeological features by phase	13
Figure 6: Trench 1: general view south-east (1m scale)	14
Figure 7: Ditch [02]: south-west facing section (1m scale)	15
Figure 8: Features [16] & [18]: view west (1m scale)	15
Figure 9: Wall (01): view west (1m & 0.30m scale scale)	16
Figure 10: Trench 1 plan and feature sections	17
Figure 11: Pit [37]: east-facing section (1m scale)	18
Figure 12: Pit [32]: west-facing section (1m scale)	18
Figure 13: Trench 2 plans and sections	19
Figure 14: Trench 3 plan and sections	20
Figure 15: Ditch [31]: south-east facing section (1m scale)	21
Figure 16: ditches [27] & [29]: east-facing section (1m scale)	21
Figure 17: Trench 5 plan	22
Figure 18: Trench 5: general view north-east (1m scale)	22
Figure 19: Wall (39): view east (1m scale)	23
Figure 20: Trench table	23

**An Archaeological Evaluation at
The Plough Inn, Mancetter Road, Mancetter,
Warwickshire, NGR SP 440 919**

Roger Kipling

Summary

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken in February 2015 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Malvern Homes Ltd in advance of planning proposals for the residential development of land at The Plough Inn, Mancetter Road, Mancetter, Warwickshire.

The archaeological evaluation at the Plough Inn, Mancetter, produced clear evidence of activity and/or occupation on the site ranging from the Romano-British to post-medieval periods. Whilst the nature of this archaeology could not be properly characterised due to the limited size of the evaluation trenches, there are clear indications of archaeological potential which merit further investigation. In particular, the recovery of ceramic material historically associated with Roman military sites in tandem with possible timber structural evidence is of particular interest and may be directly related to the early Roman fortress known to have occupied the site in the first century AD. In addition, the substantial medieval ditch encountered in Trench 1 may pertain to the church and/or nearby manorial site.

The site archive will be deposited with Warwickshire County Council under the accession number T1395.

Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at The Plough Inn, Mancetter, Warwickshire. A desk-based archaeological assessment commissioned for the site established that the proposed development falls within the area of an archaeologically testified Roman military fort and that it lies close to the medieval parish church and the adjacent manorial site. Previous archaeological investigation has demonstrated that the church cemetery may have originally covered a greater area; consequently it was possible that the graveyard once extended north into the inn property and that ancillary manorial remains may also fall within the site boundary.

In consequence Warwickshire County Council, acting in its role as Local Planning Authority, recommended the need for a phase of archaeological investigation comprising a programme of evaluation trenching. The investigation was required in order to provide an adequate sample of the development area and to assess the likely archaeological impact of the development proposals. The agreed scheme was set out

in a Written Scheme of Investigation (ULAS 2015). The fieldwork specified was intended to provide further indications of the character and extent of any buried archaeological remains in order that the potential impact of the development on such remains might be assessed. Fieldwork was carried out in February 2015 and involved the machine excavation of five trial trenches in order to provide a *c.*3% of the area where it was proposed to construct new residential dwellings. The number, size, orientation and distribution of the trenches equated to an area of *c.*650m² of excavation and were positioned in order to provide consistent coverage of the development area.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework Section 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment (DCLG March 2012). All archaeological work was in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct (2014) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014).

Site Description, Topography and Geology

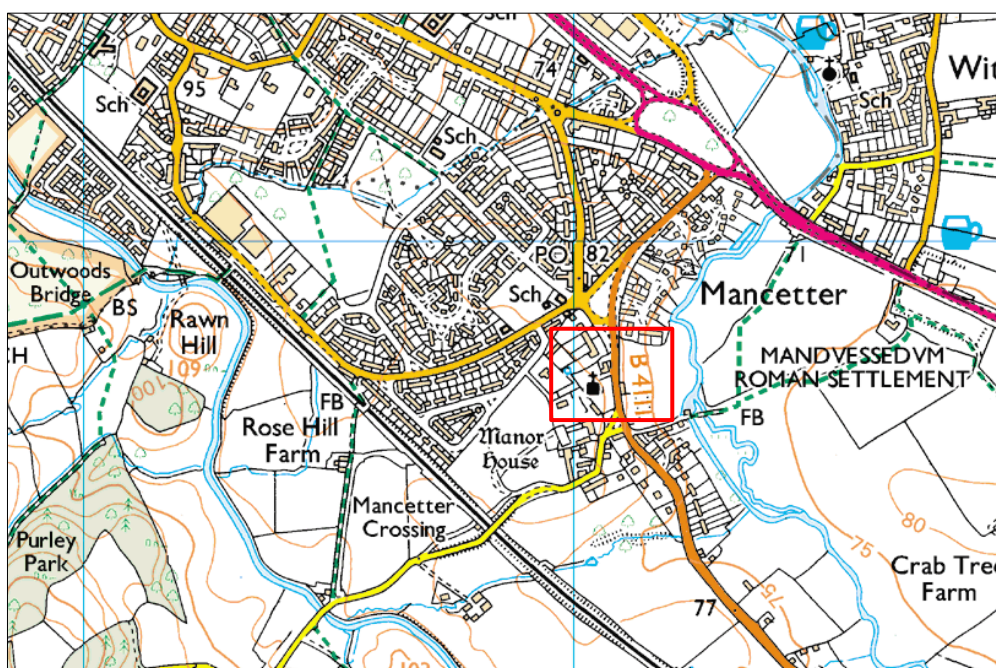


Figure 1: Site Location (Scale 1:50 000)

Reproduced from the Landranger 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 1996. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495

The application area (NGR SP 440 919) lies on the south-eastern edge of Mancetter, within its Conservation Area, now a suburb of Atherstone, to the north-west. The proposed development area is located on the western side of the B4111 Mancetter Road, south of the A5 and west of the River Anker. The parish church of St. Peters and adjacent manorial site lie directly south of the site. There is recent residential development along the northern boundary as well as a short distance to the west. There is agricultural land to the east. The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of

Great Britain Sheet 169 indicates that the underlying geology of the site is likely to consist of Bromsgrove Sandstone Formation. The site is level; the surrounding topography is similar suggesting this is largely unaltered since Enclosure and lies at a height of c.82m OD.



Figure 2: Proposed development area (plan supplied by client)

Archaeological and Historical Background

Archaeological Background

The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Warwickshire (Prefix MLE) indicates that the proposed development site is located within an area of known archaeological

potential at Mancetter. Previous archaeological work has demonstrated that significant archaeological deposits exist in this landscape, notably the presence of Mancetter Roman fort, within which the site lies, and associated pottery industry is of regional significance and remains may survive within the proposed development area. It is also close to the site of a medieval manor house. The proposed development would have a significant negative impact upon any such deposits.

The Plough Inn although not Listed or included on the HER is of potential significance. Although mostly of 19th century date it may have earlier elements (Salzeman ed. 1947).

Prehistoric/Undated

The only evidence from the prehistoric period from the vicinity comes in the form of stray finds, namely two prehistoric flint blades which were found close to Mancetter Bridge (**MWA12232**) and a Neolithic polished stone axe found on Mancetter Road in 1934 (**MWA380**).

Romano-British

According to the *Iter Antonini* the Roman settlement of *Manduessedum* lay 11 miles beyond *Venonae* (High Cross) and 15 miles short of *Letocetum* (Wall) on the Watling Street; situated near the junction of a road from *Ratae Coritanorum* (Leicester) with the Watling Street.

A two phase vexillation fort was established in the pre-Flavian period on the site of the modern village of Mancetter (**MWA8267**). Traces of earlier and later forts or camps have also been found in the same general area, but on different alignments. The structures and finds recovered suggest an extended period of military occupation, with a large and prosperous garrison for part of the time. It is likely that the earliest inhabitants of the civil settlement were attracted by the presence of the garrison.

It is now clear that Mancetter was of front-line strategic importance both during the early years of Roman occupation and consolidation, and during Boudicca's rebellion (AD 60). A number of excavations have located the 1st century fort(s) west of the River Anker and are gradually clarifying its plan(s) and phasing. It has been shown that there were at least three reductions in size of the fort, all within the 1st century, but that at its largest, the fort could have housed half a legion (*c.* 3000 men). Military occupation is not thought to have continued beyond the last quarter of the 1st century AD.

Early Roman (AD 45-70) features were recorded during excavation and observation at Mancetter Manor, The Green, Mancetter, in a central position within the fort. The foundations for at least one timber building, possibly a barrack block, were recorded, together with evidence for internal divisions and features, such as pits and post-holes. A probable latrine pit may be associated with this phase of activity. A later phase comprising a series of two or three ditches aligned north-south was also recorded. These may all be military ditches forming part of a phase of redesign of the fortress. Some finds from the excavation date to the Claudian period, and may reflect the establishment of the fort at Mancetter as part of the advance into the north and

westwards, AD 45-55. The fort was possibly created as part of military action under *Wuintus Veranius* and *Suetonius Paullinus*, and were possibly re-garrisoned or re-established in a period following the Boundican rebellion in AD 60.

A series of archaeological excavations since the 1950s have provided information on the fort(s), details of which are outlined below. The most pertinent HER record is for a ditch feature identified during the construction of a garage on the property adjacent to the development site to the north in 1988 (**MWA8399**) which, although undated, appeared to be on the projected line of one of the northern defensive ditches of the Roman fort.

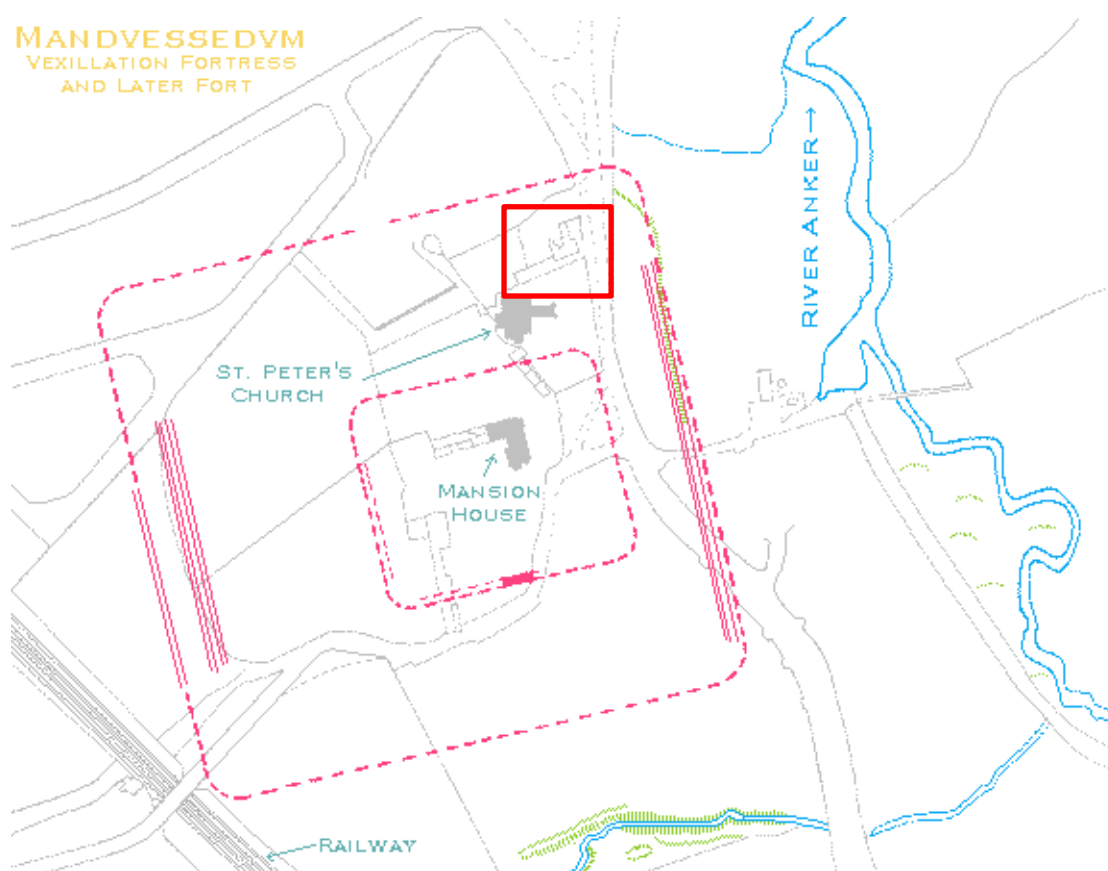


Figure 3: Mancetter fort in relation to site (source: <http://www.roman-britain.org/places/manduessedum.htm>)

The western defences of the fort were excavated 100m west of Mancetter Farm in 1978, and in 1977-8 revealed at least four phases of 1st century military buildings west of Quarry Lane (**MWA3495**; **MWA3496**). The western defences were revealed in the form of three ditches and a possible thorn barrier dating to *c.*AD 50-65 (**MWA3497**). Excavations on the north-west defences in 1996-7 located several components of the north-west corner defences, showing an inner rampart and double ditch with a berm to an outer ditch (**MWA8038**). The alignments of the excavated

segments suggested possible discontinuities in the outer ditch, a feature which has also been observed in the southern defences. Excavations at Mancetter Farm in 1981 revealed a 1st century Roman ditch and possible barracks building west of Quarry Lane (**MWA3498**; **MWA3499**).

A section was excavated across the defensive ditch of the Roman fort in 1968 at the almshouses parallel to and near that examined by Oswald in 1955 (**MWA3850**; **MWA397**). The banks visible on the surface are associated with a 17th century or 18th century hedge line, but by coincidence they coincided with the inner ditch of a three-ditch military system. The outer ditch was steep-sided, of typical profile; the inner one was shallow and possibly contained a thorn barrier. A ditch dating to the Roman period was excavated in 1981 inside the area of the Roman Fort, 20m east of Quarry Lane (**MWA 3852**). Features excavated inside the area of the ditch provide evidence for Roman occupation of the area. A further defensive ditch and associated buildings were excavated in 1984 west of Quarry Lane in 1984 (**MWA4632**). Excavations west of the Manor House revealed a timber Roman building in 1983 (**MWA3853**). The southern defences of the vexillation fort were located by excavation in 1989 and 1990, suggesting a revision of the overall shape as a rectangle (**MWA7960**).

As regards archaeological evidence for the extramural area, a geophysical survey and evaluation in 2012 on a former school playing field to the north of the site of the fortress (**EWA10001**) revealed early Roman ditches and a pit, which are likely to have been associated with either the military occupation of the area or possibly a *vicus*. Further excavations in the extramural area at Mancetter Scout Hut in 1992 (**EWA10194**) produced evidence for timber buildings, post-holes and pits, ovens and wells, suggestive of a structure contemporary with the first phase of the fort; this area was subsequently used for industrial processes. A follow up watching brief identified two ditches of the 1st century heading towards the River Anker and guarding the newly discovered east entrance (**MWA8034**).

Evidence of the civilian settlement was revealed in a series of V-shaped ditches recorded during archaeological work to the immediate north of the Roman fort at Mancetter. It is possible that these represent the periphery of the Roman *vicus*, or civilian settlement attached to the fort at Mancetter (**MWA13493**). Alternatively, they may represent annex ditches of the fort itself.

Evidence for Roman industrial activity is represented by a glass-working furnace identified at Crab Tree Farm (**MWA6244**) and by several 2nd and 3rd century Roman pottery kilns identified southwest of the Bull Inn in the 1960s (**MWA387**).

A Roman villa was discovered during excavations in 1996 250m south-east of Witherley Bridge (**MWA8130**).

Medieval and post-medieval

Archaeological evidence for the medieval period has been comparatively slight, although there is evidence for the existence of a shrunken medieval village excavated in the 1970s at Manor House Farm (**MWA6423**). The Warwickshire HER shows surviving medieval ridge and furrow a short distance to the east of the site, placing it

within medieval open fields which are likely to have been associated within the village.

At least seven graves were recorded during fieldwork at Gramer House, Mancetter in 2005 (**MWA12459**). Pottery from one grave was dated to the medieval period. It is suggested that this represents a shift of the graveyard boundary. A post-medieval watermill was located south of the site east of Mancetter Road (**MWA5019**), whilst an excavation at Manor Farm in 1976 revealed an 11th century to 13th century complex including a row of 13th century post-holes, numerous post-holes for 11th century structures, a possible corner of a stoke pit to a furnace, slag with numerous large heavy pieces and baked clay with timber impressions (**MWA8118**).

Historical Background

Mancetter is not mentioned in Domesday, but by 1235 was among the fees of the Earl of Warwick, and continued as such at least until the 14th century. The Coventry and Fazely Canal, which crosses the old ecclesiastical parish in a north-westerly direction, entering it near the south-eastern corner, was begun in 1768, and the section to Atherstone was completed in 1770.

Medieval Mancetter was probably much larger than its modern successor, with the decline of the village beginning in the 15th century. The early disintegration of the manor would facilitate partial inclosure and tend to be a depopulating factor. Camden describes Mancetter as a poor village containing not more than 14 houses, while Ogilby refers to it as a 'small tho' ancient place'.

The manor of Oldbury appears to have been granted to the Abbey of Polesworth before the Conquest. At about 1130 the second Robert Marmion and Milicent his wife agreed to the removal of the convent from Oldbury to Polesworth, which was confirmed by Roger, Bishop of Chester (1129–49). At the same time Walter de Hastings and Athewise his wife granted to the nuns the estate of Oldbury, which Hugh son of Richard (of Hatton) and Margaret his wife confirmed to them. It remained in the hands of the convent, being valued in 1535 at £6 0s. 10d. until the Dissolution, when it came to the Crown.

The Manor House (**MWA384**), south-west of the parish church, and associated with the martyr Robert Glover, is a timber-framed building dating from about 1330 and preserves a great deal of the original construction despite many later alterations. The original plan consisted of a great hall facing east and west, and a north cross-wing of two stories. There was probably no solar wing, but about 1480 the southern half of the great hall had an upper floor inserted, to serve the same purpose. The existing south wing was added about 1580 and had a smaller wing projecting southwards from its west half. The west end of the 16th-century wing was altered early in the 18th century to provide a larger room which encroached on the smaller wing; at the same time the grounds were embellished with gateways, summer houses, &c. In the 19th century the north half of the main block had a new east wall built out about 1½ yards in front of the old front, and part of the original wall was destroyed, although the doorway to the screens was saved.

Manor Farm, south of the Manor House, was the residence of Mrs. Joyce Lewis, another 16th-century martyr; it is now a tall building of brick of *c.* 1700. The plan is L-shaped with a staircase wing in the angle. It has a 17th-century timber-framed barn.

The row of three, originally six, almshouses (**MWA382**) on the west side of the churchyard have an inscribed tablet recording their erection by James Gramer, esq., Citizen and Goldsmith of London and a native of this place, at a cost of £2,000, AD 1728. They are built of red brick, with sash windows and doorways with head-lights.

The parish church of St. Peter (**MWA383**) is of 12th century origin, with a chancel, nave and aisles, south porch and west tower with a modern vestry to the north. The chancel is 13th century, the nave mostly 15th century, with a 14th century north wall, 13th century north arcade and 15th century embattled tower. There is an early 17th century porch of brick. The church has stained glass from Merevale Abbey and Winchester College Chapel, and later monuments.

The Victoria County History describes the Plough Inn as having a blocked four-centred doorway and a blocked window with a three-centred head and hood-mould, and also traces of a second window, all probably of the early 16th century. The upper part of the wall is of 18th century brickwork (Salzman ed. 1947, 118).

Aims and Objectives

The general aims of the evaluation were as follows:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development site
- To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains
- To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of the proposed development to be assessed
- To assess the impact of previous land use on the site
- To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains
- To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Warwickshire HER.

In addition, the archaeological evaluation was deemed to have the potential to contribute to the following research aims:

The Roman Period (Esmonde Cleary 2011; English Heritage 2012)

The development is known to lie within the area of a Roman vexillation fort, so has the potential to contribute to knowledge of the Roman military archaeological record.

The results of the evaluation will enable reasoned and informed recommendations to be made to the local planning authority and, if appropriate, a suitable mitigation strategy for the proposed development to be formulated.

This specification conforms to the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012). It has been designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice and the appropriate national standards and guidelines including:

- *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991);
- *Model Briefs and Specifications for Archaeological Assessments and Field Evaluations* (Association of County Archaeological Officers, 1994);
- *Code of Conduct* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014);
- *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014);
- *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Association of Local Government Officers, 2003);

Methodology

Archaeological Trial Trenches

Prior to the commencement of works an Accession Code was obtained and the required archive deposition forms completed. An OASIS online record was initiated and the key fields completed on Details, Location and Creator forms. Following recommendations from the Planning Archaeologist of Warwickshire County Council, as advisor to the planning authority, a programme of evaluation trenching was undertaken.

It was proposed that a total of 60 linear metres of 1.6m wide (min) trial trenching was excavated to provide a *c.* 9% sample of the area to the rear of the public house. In the event, a total of 114m² was excavated, comprising a single trench measuring 1.9m x 20m and four further trenches measuring 1.9m by 10m (Figure 4).

Topsoil and overburden was removed by a mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket (*c.* 1.9m wide), under archaeological supervision. The spoil generated during the evaluation was mounded away from the edges of each trench. Topsoil and subsoil was stored separately. Mechanical excavation ceased at undisturbed natural deposits. The trenches were recorded at an appropriate scale by measured drawing and photography and were GPS-located to Ordnance Survey National Grid.

A photographic record, utilising black and white negative film, supplemented by high resolution digital data capture, was maintained during the course of the fieldwork and included:

- the site prior to commencement of fieldwork;
- the site during work, showing specific stages of fieldwork;

Upon completion of the evaluation trenching, the excavated trenches were backfilled and loosely compacted.

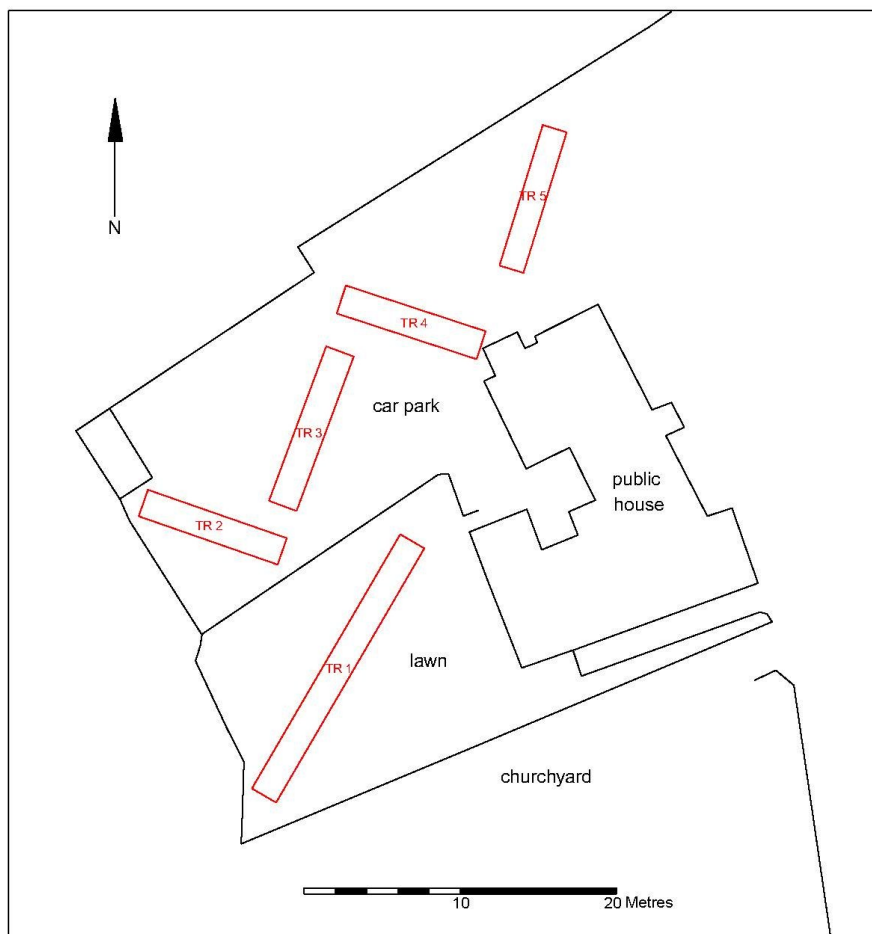


Figure 4: Trench location plan

Results

In slight variance to the Written Scheme of Investigation (ULAS 2014), a total of 114m² of archaeological trial trenches, comprising a single trench measuring 1.9m x 20m and four further trenches measuring 1.9m x 10m, were opened.

Excavation was undertaken using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.9m wide toothless ditching bucket, with topsoil and overburden removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision.



Figure 5: Site plan showing archaeological features by phase

Trench 1, measuring 20m x 1.90m x 0.55-1.10m and aligned south-west to north-east, occupied the grassed area to the rear of the public house in the south-west corner of the development area (Figure 6). The trench revealed several archaeological features, the most substantial of which comprised a shallow ditch [02] (03) with a wide, open profile sloping to a flattish base measuring 3.25m wide and 0.80m deep. The feature was aligned east-west and diagonally traversed the trench *c.*4m from its southern end (Figure 7). The single friable mid grey-brown silty-sand fill contained several sherds of locally-produced Chilvers Coton pottery dating to the mid-13th-15th century.

The northern end of the trench featured a cluster of truncated features comprising three pits [06] (07), [14] (15), [16] (17), a possible beam-slot [18] (19) and three post-holes [08] (09), [10] (11) and [12] (13) (

Figure 8, Figure 10). All were undated, with the exception of pit [16], which produced a single sherd of post-medieval Later Midland Black ware pottery in addition to fish, bird and amphibian bones. Whilst the post-holes hint at the presence of a timber structure or else fence line, the limited working area prevented further investigation.

Around 3m to the west, an undated gully [04] (05) measuring 0.95m wide x 0.38m deep with an open v-shaped profile and a rounded base was overlain by an undated masonry wall (01) which crossed the trench on a south-west to north-east alignment (Figure 9-10). Construction was of roughly-dressed and faced granodiorite blocks loosely bonded with a pale, dull orange mortar set upon a single course of unbonded granodiorite block footings. Whilst undated, the appearance of the wall on Ordnance Survey maps into the 20th century and its survival as a standing garden feature would suggest a modern date.



Figure 6: Trench 1: general view south-east (1m scale)



Figure 7: Ditch [02]: south-west facing section (1m scale)



Figure 8: Features [16] & [18]: view looking west (1m scale)



Figure 9: Wall (01): view looking west (1m & 0.30m scale scale)

Trench 2

Trench 2 (10m x 1.90m x 0.40m), the first of four trenches opened in the car park area, was the most productive trench in terms of Roman occupation, with two (possibly cess) pits producing dateable material. Located at the eastern end of the trench, a 0.5m deep pit [22] (23) contained a single sherd of 1st century Lyon ware pottery, generally associated with military sites, whilst a second pit 5m to the west, [32] (33), measuring 1.04m x 1.19m+ x 0.50m produced an amphora sherd and two flagon sherds, all of 1st century date (

Figure 12). Environmental analysis of the contents of the pit recovered cereal grain, indicative of wheat crop processing.

Further, undated features comprised a sub-circular pit [37] (38, 40) measuring 0.60m x 0.60m+ deep (

Figure 11), the two fills of which appeared to represent deliberately backfilled material, a single post-hole [34] (35) and a north-west to south-east aligned gully [20] (21) (Figure 13).

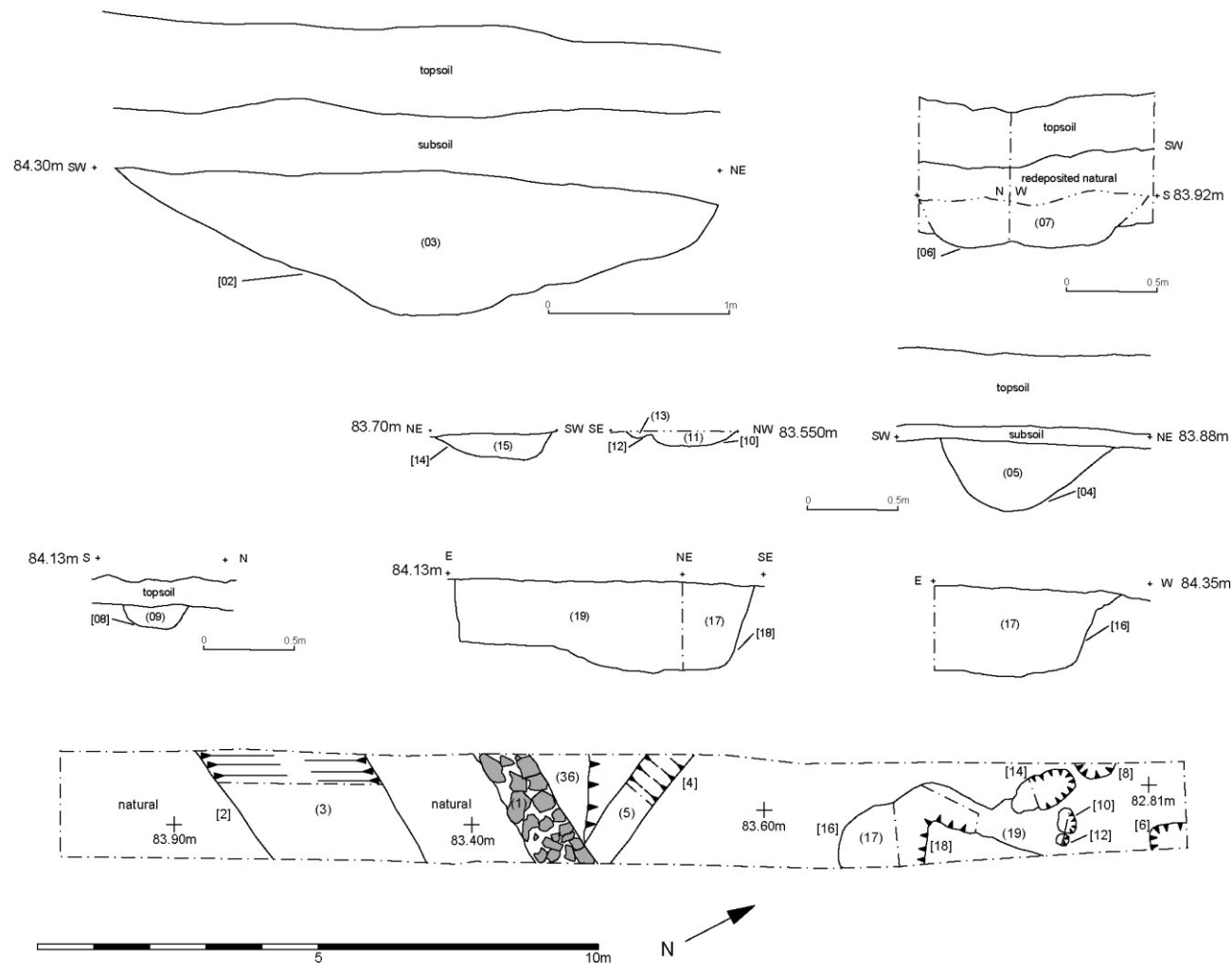


Figure 10: Trench 1 plan and feature sections



Figure 11: Pit [37]: east-facing section (1m scale)



Figure 12: Pit [32]: west-facing section (1m scale)

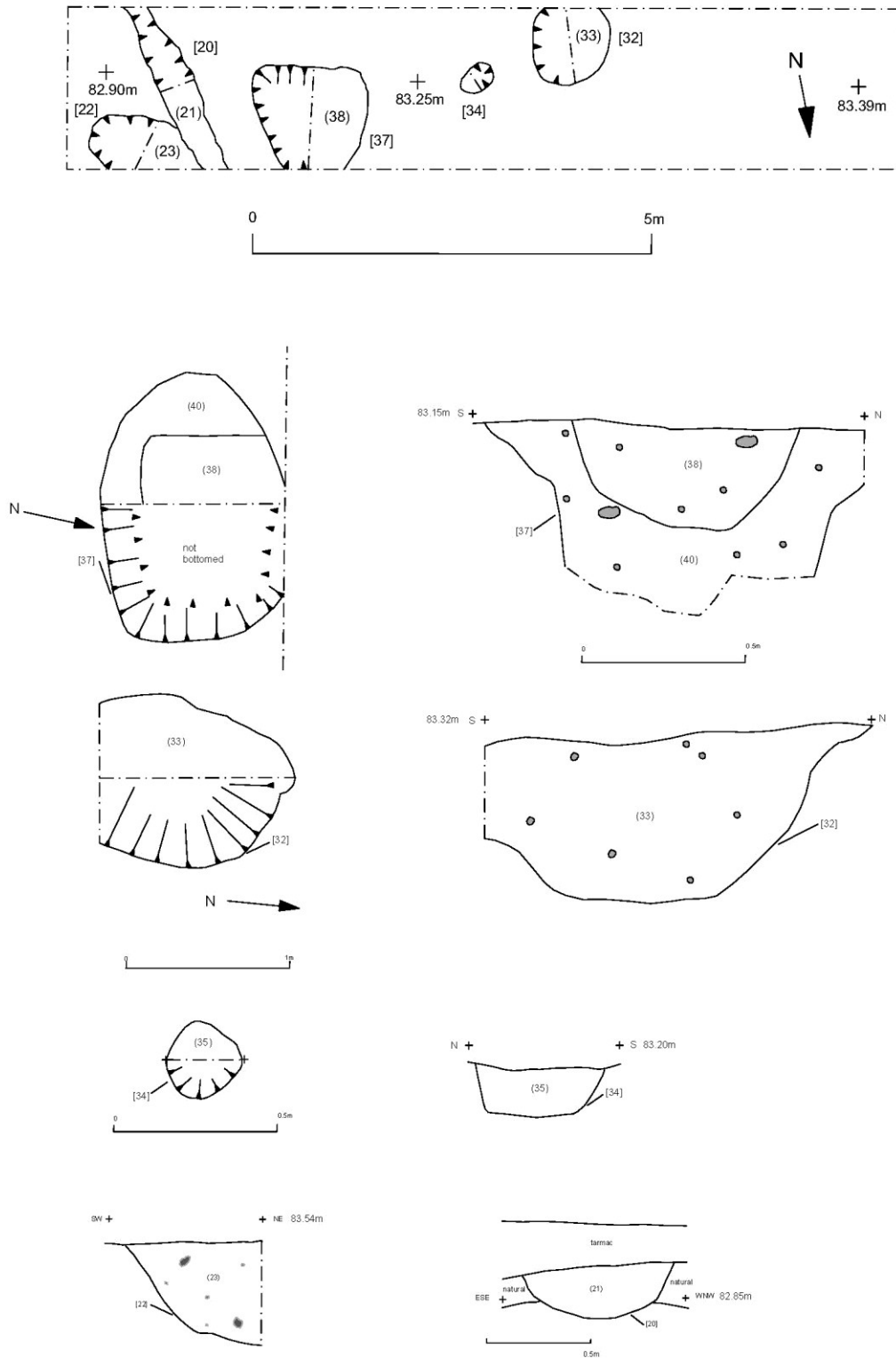


Figure 13: Trench 2 plans and sections

Trench 3

Broadly aligned north-east to south-west and measuring 2.0m x 11m x 0.38m-0.53m, Trench 3 provided further evidence of Roman activity in the form of a truncated ditch

[31] (30) measuring 0.90m wide by 0.39m deep and running on a broadly east-west alignment. Its single mid-red-grey sandy clay fill (30) produce a single samian ware pottery sherd (Figure 14-15).

Around 2m north, the trench was traversed by two undated intercutting ditches [27] (24) and [29] (28), measuring c.3.30m wide overall and 0.47-0.55m deep (Figure 14, Figure 16). Both had very open v-shaped profiles with 45° sides and flattish and rounded bases respectively. Ditch [27] appeared to be the later feature, and shared the same alignment as gully [31].

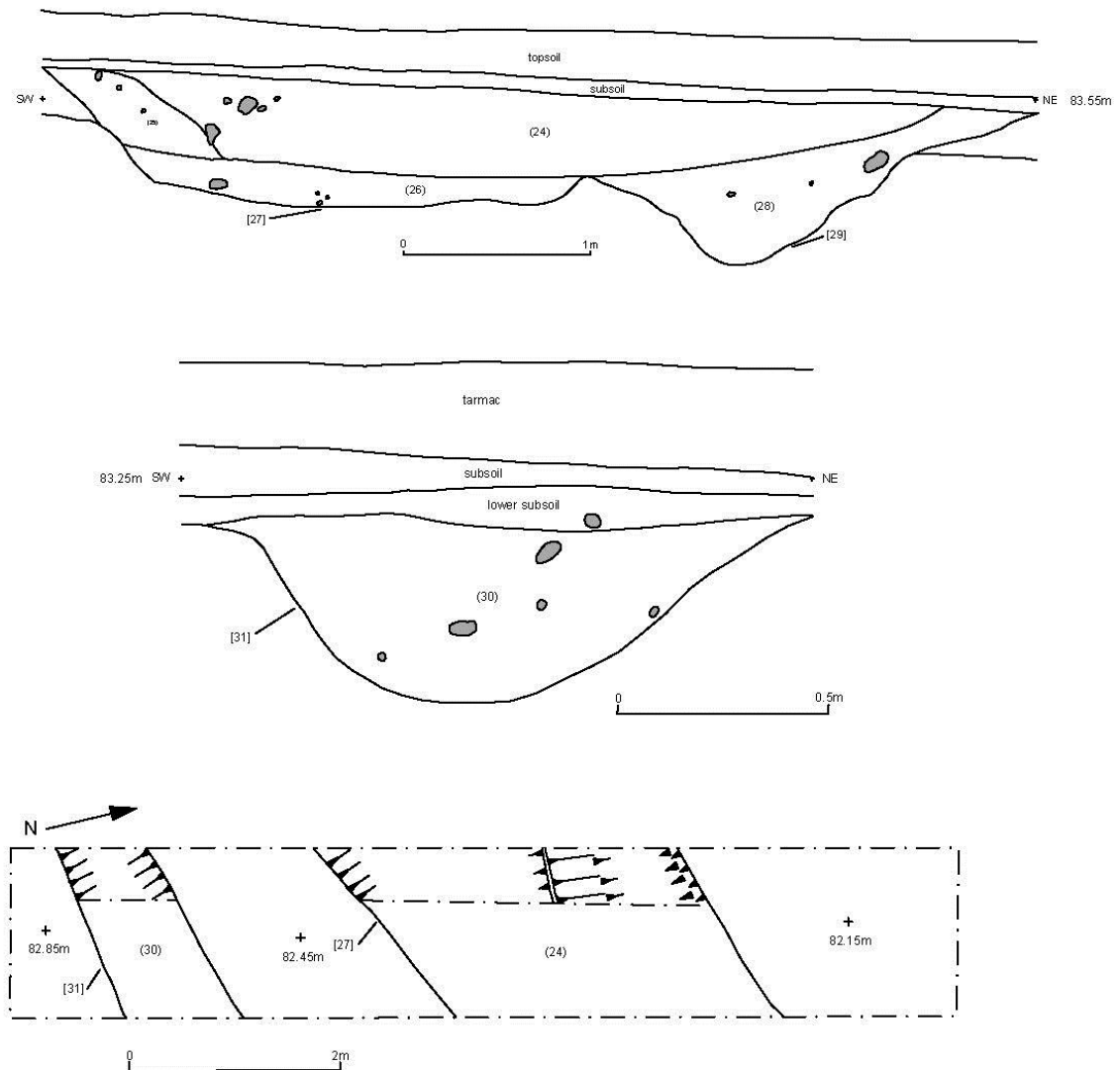


Figure 14: Trench 3 plan and sections



Figure 15: Ditch [31]: south-east facing section (1m scale)



Figure 16: ditches [27] & [29]: east-facing section (1m scale)

Trench 4

Trench 4, located at the north-west corner of the public house, was archaeologically negative and characterised by likely 19th or 20th century disturbance associated with services to the public house.

Trench 5

The final trench (5) was located at the northern end of the car park, north of the public house, and was also archaeologically blank (Figure 17-19). The only features revealed comprised two brick- and granodiorite-built walls running parallel to one another on a north-east to south-west alignment. The more substantial of the two (01) was of roughly-faced granodiorite blocks and red brick with buff-coloured sandy

mortar bonding. The apparent modernity of the walls coupled with their proximity to the public house suggest that the present building originally extended further north.

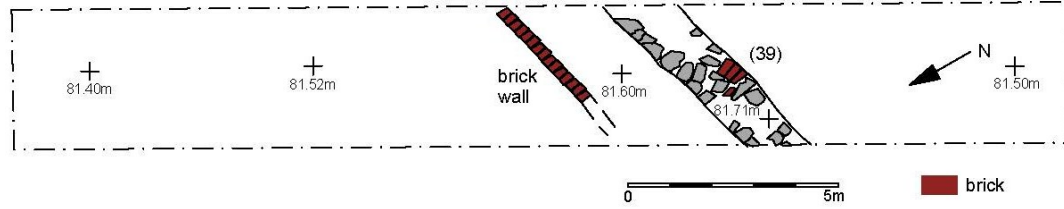


Figure 17: Trench 5 plan



Figure 18: Trench 5: general view north-east (1m scale)



Figure 19: Wall (39): view east (1m scale)

TRENCH	ORIENTATION	LENGTH AND WIDTH (metres)	DESCRIPTION	DEPTH (MIN-MAX metres)
1	N-S	20 x 1.90	Topsoil 0.34-0.44m, subsoil 0.10-0.58m. Wall (01), ditch [02], gully [04], pits [06], [14], [16], post holes [08, 10], stake hole [12], beam slot [18].	0.55-1.10
2	ESE-WNW	10 x 1.90	Subsoil 0.20-0.30m. Gully [20], pits [22], [32], [37], post hole [34].	0.25-0.40
3	NE-SW	11 x 2.0	Topsoil 0.19-0.29m, subsoil 0.10-0.15m. Pits [27], [29]	0.38-0.53
4	NW-SE	10 x 2.0	Topsoil 0.20-0.24m, subsoil 0.27-0.40m. No archaeological finds or features.	0.52-0.64
5	NE-SW	12 x 2.0	Topsoil 0.20-0.26m, subsoil 0.19-0.34m. Wall (39)	0.35-0.50

Figure 20: Trench table

Discussion and Conclusions

The archaeological evaluation at the Plough Inn, Mancetter, produced clear evidence of activity and/or occupation on the site ranging from the Romano-British to post-medieval periods. Whilst the nature of these archaeological deposits could not be clearly characterised due to the limited size of the evaluation trenches, there are clear indications of archaeological potential which merit further investigation, were planning permission granted. In particular, the recovery of 1st century ceramic material associated with Roman military sites, in tandem with possible timber structural evidence, is of particular interest, and appears to tally with timber structural evidence, possibly representing a barrack block dating to *c.* AD 45-70, excavated at the nearby Mancetter Manor.

In addition, the substantial medieval ditch encountered in Trench 1 may pertain to the church and/or nearby manorial site.

The evaluation also indicated good preservation of faunal and charred plant remains indicating that the area has potential to provide information on the Roman, medieval and post-medieval diet and economy of the former inhabitants of Mancetter.

Archive and Publications

The site archive (T1395), consisting of paper and photographic records in addition to ceramic and animal bone finds, will be deposited with Warwickshire Museums Service.

The paper archive consists of:

- Trench records sheets
- Photographic record indices
- Digital photographs
- Monochrome photographs
- A risk assessment form

Publication

A version of the excavation summary (see above) will appear in due course in the *Transactions of the Warwickshire Archaeological and Historical Society*.

Acknowledgements

Roger Kipling, Nathan Flavell, Adam Clapton, Andrew McLeish and James Patrick of ULAS undertook the archaeological evaluation on behalf of Malvern Homes Ltd. The project was managed by Patrick Clay and monitored on behalf of the planning authority by John Robinson of Warwickshire County Council.

Bibliography

- Brown, D., 2008 *Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives* (Institute for Archaeologists)
- CIfA, 2014 *Codes of Conduct and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.
- Cooper, N.J., (ed) 2006 *The Archaeology of the East Midlands An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*. Leicester Archaeology Monograph 13.
- English Heritage 2012, *Research Strategy for the Roman-Period Historic Environment*. Feb 2012.
<http://www.roman-britain.org/places/manduessedum.htm>
- Esmonde Cleary, S., 2011 'The Romano-British period: an assessment' in S. Watts (ed) *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for Research*. Oxford: Oxbow Books.
- Kipling, R, 2014 *An Archaeological Desk-Based Heritage Statement for land at The Plough Inn, Mancetter Road, Mancetter, Warwickshire (SP 32042 96747)* ULAS Report 2014-209
- Salzman, L. F., 1947 (editor). 'Parishes: Mancetter', *Victoria County History: A History of the County of Warwick: Volume 4: Hemlingford Hundred (1947)*, pp. 116-126.

Oasis Information

Project Name	Plough Inn, Mancetter Road, Mancetter, Warwickshire
Project Type	Archaeological evaluation
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Roger Kipling
Previous/Future work	Development
Current Land Use	Derelict land
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Post-determination
Site Co ordinates	NGR SP 32042 96747
Start/end dates of field work	February 2015
Archive Recipient	Warwickshire County Council
Study Area	unknown

Roger Kipling
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH
Tel:0116 252 2836
Fax: 0116 252 2614

Email: rwk1@le.ac.uk

© ULAS 04/03/2015

Appendix 1 The Roman Pottery and Tile

Nicholas J. Cooper

Introduction

A total of six sherds (49g) of Roman pottery was recovered. The material has been analysed with reference to the ULAS Roman pottery form and Fabric series (Pollard 1994, 110-114) and the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998), examined under low power microscopy (x10) and quantified by sherd count and weight. The quantified record is presented below.

Additionally a fragment of Roman *tegula* roof tile (300g) and a miscellaneous fragment of probably Roman tile (2g) was recovered from (24), and another, also probably Roman, came from (5) (20g). All were in a typical orange sandy fabric.

Results

Roman Pottery from Evaluation at Mancetter T1395								
Context	Cut	Fabric	Form	Type	Decoration	Sherds	Weight	Date
23	22	C14 LYO CC	beaker	Globular	Quartz R'cast	1	5	43-70
30	31	SGaulSamian	misc	misc		1	1	43-100
30	31	OW2	jar	misc		1	4	L1st-2nd
33	32	AM	amphora			1	20	43-70
33	32	WW4	flagon			2	19	M-L1st
Total						6	49	

Discussion

Although a small group, the assemblage contained sherds from four vessels dating to the Roman Conquest period and characteristic of early military installations. The most distinctive of these was the rim of a globular beaker with quartz roughcast decoration in Lyon colour-coated ware (Fabric C14/ LYO CC; Greene 1979, 24, fig.8.20.2), from (23) dating to the pre-Flavian period (*c.*AD 43-70) and a diagnostic military import which rarely, if ever, occurs on other types of site. Lyon Ware has been previously excavated from the fortress, from the upper fill of the latrine pit (Webster 1984, 11, Fig.13.37).

The second was an abraded sherd of South Gaulish samian tableware from (30) which again, is likely to date to the pre-Flavian period. Also from (30) was part of an oxidised jar which is not closely datable but is broadly contemporary. The sherds from (33) are also characteristic of the pre-Flavian period and comprise part of a Mediterranean amphora of an unusual type (Fabric AM) found alongside white ware sherds (ULAS Fabric WW4) from the neck of a flagon in Verulamium region white ware (NRF code VER WH). The amphora is in a coarse, sand-tempered fabric with a light orange body and buff external surface, similar to coarser examples of CAM 186 (AM7 /BAT AM 1) from Baetica in Southern Spain, although further research is required to confirm this. The flagon form has two grooves below the handle scar and is similar to one in the latrine pit 'flagon group', discovered during excavations at the fortress on Quarry Lane, and considered to date between AD 45 and 65 (Webster 1984, 11, Fig.14.45).

The pottery demonstrates that features dating to the Roman Conquest period, belonging to the pre-Flavian fortress, are present within the application area.

References

- Greene, K., 1979 *Excavations at Usk 1965-76: The Pre-Flavian Fine Wares*. Cardiff: University of Wales Press.
- 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.
- Tomber, R. and Dore, J. 1998 *The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection: a Handbook*. MoLAS Monograph 2. London: Museum of London Archaeology Service
- Webster, G. 1984 'The coarse pottery' in K. Scott 'Mancetter village: a first century fort' *Trans. Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society*, **91** (for 1981), 1-24 (9-14).

Appendix 2 The Post-Roman Pottery and Tile

Deborah Sawday

The ceramic finds: four sherds, weighing 86 grams of pottery and two ridge and two flat roof tile fragments, were catalogued with reference to the guidelines set out by the Medieval Pottery Research Group, (MPRG 1998; MPRG, 2001) and the Warwickshire fabric series (Soden and Ratkai 1998). The results are shown below (Tables 1 and 2).

The finds were all recovered from the ditch 3 [2] or the pit 17. The medieval material could be sourced to the nearby kilns at Chilvers Coton (Mayes and Scott 1984), whilst the origins of the post-medieval Midland Black ware may include Wednesbury or Staffordshire.

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

Fabric/Group	Common Name	Sherds	Weight	Approx. Date Range
POTTERY				
Medieval				
WW01	Chilvers Coton A ware	2	28	c.1250-1300/1375+
SQ30	Chilvers Coton C ware	1	12	13th-15th C.
MBO2	Later Midland Black ware	1	46	c.1600-1800
Site Total		4	86	
ROOF TILE				
WW01	Chilvers Coton A ware	2	47	c.1250-1300/1375+
SQ30	Chilvers Coton C ware	2	269	13th-15th C.
Tile Site Total		4	316	

Bibliography

Mayes, P., and Scott, K., 1984. *Pottery kilns at Chilvers Coton, Nuneaton*. Soc. Medieval Archaeol. Mon. Ser. 10

MPRG, 1998 *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms*. Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 1, London.

MPRG, 2001. *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Saxon and Medieval Ceramics*

Soden, I. and Ratkai, S., 1998. *Warwickshire Medieval and Post-Medieval Ceramic Type Series*. Unpublished manuscript held by Warwickshire Museum Archaeological Field Services.

Table 2: The post Roman pottery and roof tile by fabric, sherd/fragment numbers and weight (grams) by context.

Context	Fabric/Ware	No	Gra	Comments
POT				
3 [2]	WW01– Chilvers Coton A ware	2	28	Wheel thrown body sherds from the same vessel with pale yellow and speckled green glaze.
3 [2]	SQ30 – Chilvers Coton C ware	1	12	Abraded wheel thrown body
17 pit	MB02 – Later Midland Black ware	1	46	Jar with double cordons at rim, black glazed both internally & externally.
TILE				
3 [2] ditch	WW01	2	47	Two moulded fragments probably from one ridge tile with traces of glaze on upper surfaces, and sanded lower surfaces.
3 [2]	SQ30 – Chilvers Coton C ware	2	269	One fragment abraded, between 12-17mm thick, no evidence for nibs or peg holes.

Appendix 3 The Animal Bones

Jennifer Browning

Introduction and Methods

Animal bones recovered during the evaluation were rapidly scanned to assess preservation and variety, to provide an indication of the faunal potential, should the site progress to excavation. The assemblage was recovered from features in Trench 1 and Trench 3. The dated features ranged from the Roman to the post-medieval periods, but the majority of faunal remains were recovered from features that are currently undated. The features in Trench 1 consisted of an undated gully (fill 5 cut 4), medieval ditch (fill 3 cut 2) and post-medieval pit (fill 17, cut 16). In addition, a layer (context 36) located below an undated stone wall (context 1) produced bones. In Trench 3, bones were produced by two undated ditches (fill 24, cut 27 and fill 28, cut 29) and a Roman gully (fill 30, cut 31). In addition to the hand-recovered material, bulk environmental samples were also taken; the Roman gully (context 30 sample 2) and medieval/post medieval pit (context 17, sample 4) produced bones.

The bones were briefly examined macroscopically and their preservation was assessed using criteria defined by Harland et al (2003).

The Assemblage

An assemblage numbering 79 specimens were hand-recovered during sample excavation (table 1). All the faunal evidence was recovered from features in Trenches 1 and 3. Fragmentation was extensive, resulting in an assemblage with few complete bones. The surface condition of the fragments ranged from good to poor (following Harland et al 2003), but was predominantly fair. In general, surface abrasion was quite significant, with some contexts (eg. Roman gully 30) particularly affected. Post-medieval pit 16 appears to possess the most well-preserved bones. No butchery marks or pathologies were observed, which may be partly attributable to poorly preserved surfaces, however a small number of bones were gnawed.

Taxa from the hand-recovered assemblage included cattle (the most common taxa), sheep/goat, pig, horse and domestic fowl (table 1). A range of elements were recovered, including teeth, limb bones and vertebrae (table 4). The sieved samples, particularly those from post-medieval pit 16, contained numerous preserved small bones, including fish bones and scales, (table 2). Burnt fragments were also seen but were not considered identifiable.

Discussion

Unfortunately, most of the features from which bones were recovered were undated. However, small numbers of bones survived in Roman, medieval and post-medieval features. The limited nature of the current excavations have resulted in a sample that is not sufficiently large or necessarily representative enough to permit comments on proportions of taxa, ageing, or possible activities at the site. However, despite poor

surface preservation, a range of species has been identified and there are surviving epiphyses and tooth fragments. No butchery marks were noted during this brief examination and it is possible that evidence for fine knife cuts has been lost due to abrasion and flaking of bone surfaces. This brief examination confirms the presence of the most common domestic mammals, cattle, sheep/goat and pig, as well as horse and dog. Domestic fowl bones are present among the hand-recovered material and the sieved samples, particularly from medieval/post-medieval pit 17, have produced fish bones and scales. These are of small size and have not been subject to a full examination however eel and cyprinid bones were observed, suggesting freshwater fishing.

If the site progresses to full excavation, it would be desirable to recover a larger, dated, assemblage to provide useful information on the exploitation of animal resources at the site in both the Roman and medieval/post-medieval periods. It would clearly be worthwhile to take and process bulk soil samples for the recovery of small taxa, which survive at the site and would not be observed during hand- excavation. While several excavations have been carried out in the vicinity, it is not clear how much faunal evidence has been recovered; for example, no animal bone assemblages from the fort are listed on the Zooarchaeology of Central England database (Albarella and Pirnie 2008). Comparisons with other forts such as Alcester (eg Hamilton 1996) would therefore be key. Faunal evidence could also contribute to the understanding of the development of Mancetter in the medieval and post-medieval periods.

Table 1: Basic catalogue of hand-recovered material. Key: lge mml=large mammal (ie undiagnostic to species but of cattle, horse, red deer size); med mml= medium mammal (ie undiagnostic to species but of sheep/goat, pig, roe deer size); indet= indeterminate. Tr=trench.

	cattle	sheep /goat	pig	horse	domestic fowl	lge mml	med mml	Indet	Total
TR 1									
Medieval ditch (3)	1						2		3
Med/post-med pit (17)						1			1
Undated gully (5)			1		1		3	6	11
Undated layer (36)	9	1	2			14			26
TR 3									
Roman gully (30)	11								11
Undated ditch (28)	2	1	1			4			8
Undated later ditch (24)	3		1	5	1	8	1		19
Total	26	2	5	5	2	26	6	6	79

Table 2: Brief description of sieved remains

Feature	Sample No	Brief description
Med/post-med pit (17)	4	Dog scapula. Numerous small bones including fish scales and vertebrae.
Roman gully (30)	2	Medium mammal and indeterminate shaft fragments

Table 3: Assessment of preservation by context (hand-recovered only). Categories after Harland et al (2003)

Context	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
3	1%	3%	0%	4%
5	5%	9%	0%	14%
17	1%	0%	0%	0%
24	0%	24%	0%	24%
28	5%	5%	0%	10%
30	0%	0%	14%	14%
36	23%	10%	0%	33%
Total	35%	51%	14%	100%

Table 4: Elements recovered by taxa and context

Context	cattle	sheep/ goat	pig	horse	domestic fowl	lge mml	med mml	indet	Total
3									
radius	1								1
skull fragment							2		2
5									
canine			1						1
humerus					1				1
rib fragment							1		1
shaft fragment							2	6	8
17									
shaft fragment						1			1
24									
skull fragment						1			1
cheek teeth				4					4
mandible			1						1
coracoid					1				1
radius				1					1
tibia	3						1		4
rib fragment						1			1
shaft fragment						6			6
28									
incisor			1						1
molar		1							1
radius	2								2
tibia						1			1
shaft fragment						3			3

Context	cattle	sheep/ goat	pig	horse	domestic fowl	lge mml	med mml	indet	Total
30									
skull fragment	10								10
tibia	1								1
36									
molar	4								4
scapula	1								1
humerus	2		1						3
radius	1								1
ulna			1						1
tibia		1							1
metacarpal	1								1
shaft fragment						14			14
Total	26	2	5	5	2	27	6	6	79

References

Albarella, U. and Pirnie, T. 2008 *A Review of Animal Bone Evidence from Central England* Url: http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/animalbone_eh_2007 (Accessed 06.03.2015)

Harland, J. F., Barrett, J. H., Carrott, J., Dobney, K. and Jaques, D. (2003) *The York System: an integrated zooarchaeological database for research and teaching. Internet Archaeology 13*: (http://intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue13/harland_toc.html).

Hamilton J., 1996 'Animal bone' in Cracknell S (ed.). *Roman Alcester: defences and defended area*. Volume 2. Gateway Supermarket and Gas House Lane, 111-112

Appendix 4 The Charred Plant Remains

Rachel Small

Introduction

Trenches were dug in the carpark of the Plough Inn, Mancetter; the building lies within a known Roman fort. Five soil samples were taken and they were assessed to see if they contained charred plant remains which are a useful indicator of past environment, food procurement and diet.

Provenance and dating

The samples came from pits, a gully and a ditch. Sample 4 was of post-medieval date as both medieval ridge tile and post-medieval pot were present. It was possible to date sample 1 and 2 to the Roman period and sample 3 to the medieval period. No dateable material was present in sample 5.

Method

One part of each sample was wet sieved in a York tank using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation into a 0.3mm mesh sieve. The flotation fractions (flots) were transferred into plastic boxes; they were left to air dry and were then sorted using an x10-40 stereo microscope. The plant remains were semi-quantitatively tabulated (table 1). The residues were transferred to plastic trays; they were left to air dry and the fractions over 4mm sorted for all finds.

Results

Taphonomy: all samples contained low numbers of uncharred seeds; including elder (*Sambucus nigra* L.) and bramble (*Rubus* sp.). These are known to survive in archaeological samples but are most likely modern intrusions. Modern rootlets were present in samples 3, 4 and 5; a possible indicator of bio-disturbance.

Charred plant remains were found in all samples. The remains were low in number except for in sample 1 which contained roughly 50 items, a quantity considered suitable for detailed analysis.

Table 5: Charred plant remains present in flots. Key: + rare, 0 – 10; ++ common, 10 – 50; abundant, 50 +.

Sample	Context	Context Description	Date	Litres	Charred grain	Charred chaff	Charred seeds	Charcoal	Notes
1	33	Pit	Roman	8	+	+	++	++	Approx. 40 large grass seeds. 10 cereal grains inc. <i>Triticum</i> spp. <i>Chenopodium</i> sp. present.
2	30	Gully	Roman	6	+			+++	Grain inc. cereal and large grass seeds.
3	3	Ditch	Medieval	8	+		+	+	<i>Chenopodium</i> spp. present.
4	17	Pit	Medieval / Post-medieval	8	+			++	Fish remains abundant.
5	38	Pit		7	+			+	Grains inc. large grass seeds.

Sample 1 (Roman pit): approximately 10 cereal grains were present and a small number of the latter could be identified as glume wheat (*Triticum* spp.). A fragment of glume wheat chaff was also present. Wild seeds were present including approximately 40 fragments of large grass seed (Poaceae); and a goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.) seed was also identified.

Large grass seeds were most common and therefore characterise this sample. Jones (1984) classifies them as big, free, heavy seeds; they are generally removed in the final stage of crop processing, they are contaminates handpicked out from the grain. The waste would have been burnt and deposited in the pit.

Other finds

Fish remains, scales and vertebrae, were abundant in the flot of sample 4. Animal bone was also present in this sample and in sample 2. The faunal remains are discussed in more detail in the bone report. Fragments of ceramic building material were common in sample 4.

Conclusion

To summarise, all samples assessed in this report contained charred plant remains; sample 1, from a Roman pit, had roughly 50 items in 8 litres, a sufficient amount for detailed analysis. Therefore, if further excavation is carried out at the site and an appropriate sampling strategy is adopted the potential for the recovery of charred plant remains is high. Analysis of samples containing 50 items or more would allow for the consideration of temporal and spatial variation of activity within the Roman fort which would be archaeological significance.

Bibliography

Jones, G. E. M. 1984. Interpretation of archaeological plant remains: ethnographic models from Greece. In W. Van Ziest and W. A. Casparie (eds.), *Plants and Ancient Man - Studies in Paleoethnobotany*, 42 - 61. Rotterdam: A.A. Balkema.

ULAS 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



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



2013
THE AWARDS
AWARD WINNER
RESEARCH PROJECT OF THE YEAR