



**University of
Leicester**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation and Strip, Map and Record Excavation
on Land at Country House, Coleorton, Leicestershire, LE67 8JJ**

NGR: SK 40592 17635



Stephen Baker
with addition from Donald Clark

ULAS Report No 2016-049
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**An Archaeological Evaluation
and Strip, Map and Record Excavation on
Land at Country House, Coleorton, Leicestershire**

(SK 40592 17635)

**Stephen Baker
(with addition from Donald Clark)**

For: Flightpath Ltd.

Approved by:



Signed

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An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Country House, Coleorton, Leicestershire

Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at Country House, Coleorton, Leicestershire (SK 40592 17635) on 16th - 17th June 2015. The work was undertaken as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of a proposed residential development.

The evaluation revealed archaeological deposits consisting of ditches, gullies and pits possible representing the remains of and disturbance from, post-medieval coal mining activity around the village and recent 19th century demolition in the vicinity.

Following the evaluation a strip, map and record excavation took place in the north-east of the site which revealed the foundations of a 19th century cottage. Below these foundations shallow ditches were recorded likely to be connected to earlier coal mining activity identified during the trenching.

The archive will be held by Leicestershire Museum Service under accession number XA66.2015.

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS for Flightpath Ltd in June 2015 on land at Country House, Coleorton, Leicestershire (SK 40592 17635; Fig.1). This was undertaken in advance of a proposed residential development (14/00737/FUL).

The fieldwork is intended to provide preliminary indications of character and extent of any heritage assets in order that the potential impact of the development on such remains may be assessed by the Planning Authority.

The definition of archaeological field evaluation, taken from the Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2010) is a limited programme of non-intrusive and/ or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The site is located in the village of Coleorton east of Ashby de la Zouch in North West Leicestershire (SP 40394 17388; Fig. 1). The site lies on the eastern side of the village

and comprises a flat piece of lawn surrounding the existing building at a height of approximately 121m OD (Fig. 2). The site is currently a landscaped grassed garden area containing a number of trees and shrubs.

Coleorton lies on Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation comprising mudstone, siltstone and sandstone (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>).



Figure 1: Site Location

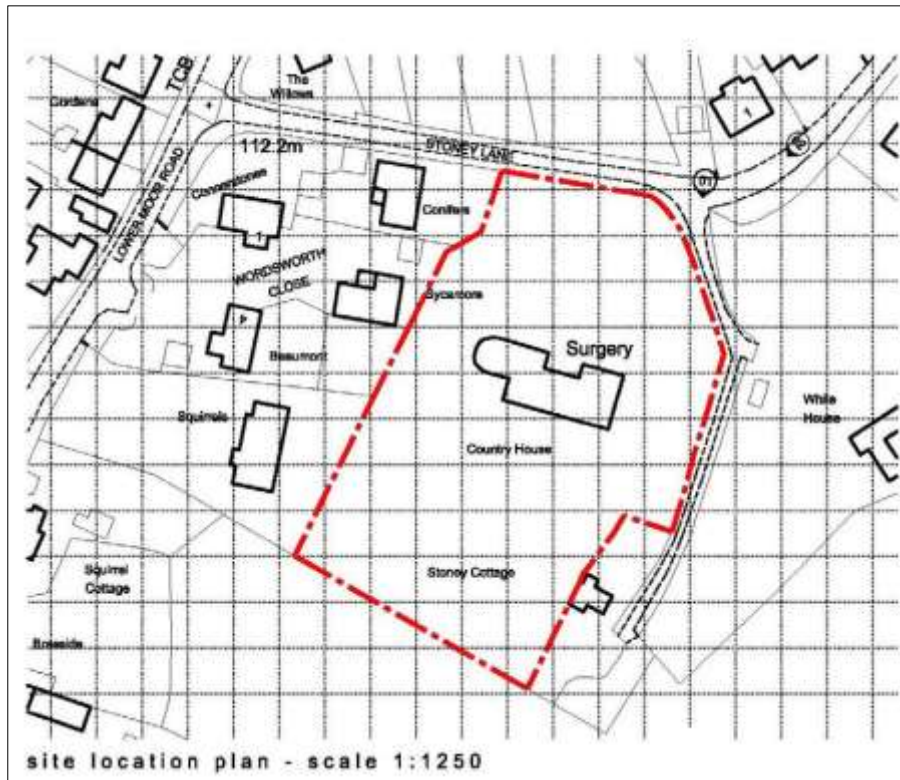


Figure 2: Development Area

The work comprises the demolition of the existing dwelling with associated flat and GP surgery and the erection of four detached dwellings with associated access drives and garages. The development proposals include works (e.g. foundations, services and landscaping) likely to impact upon those remains and Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team (LCCHNET) as archaeological advisors to the planning authority required that an evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken prior to development to assess the location, extent, significance and character of any buried archaeological remains.

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

The site lies within the projected extent of the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement of Coleorton (HER ref: **MLE10367**). There is also evidence for post-medieval coal mining around the village. Historic Ordnance Survey mapping of the early 19th century indicates the presence of structures within the development area, that could be affected by the current proposals.

4. Aims and Objectives

The main objectives of the evaluation were to:

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

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

5. Methodology

General Methodology and Standards

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct (2014) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014). The LCC *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological work Leicestershire and Rutland* (1997) were adhered to.

Internal monitoring procedures were undertaken including provision for external monitoring meetings with the Project Manager, the Planning Authority and the Client, if required.

Unlimited access to monitor the project was to be available to the Client and his representatives, the planning authority, the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council subject to the health and safety requirements of the site. At least one week's notice was given prior to commencement of the recording work in order that

monitoring arrangements can be made. All monitoring was carried out in accordance with the CIfA Standards.

Constraints

The site comprises a grassed garden area containing mature trees and shrubs and care was taken whose roots will have to be avoided. There are overhead cables running across the west and south of the site. No excavations took place within 10m of these cables.

Trial Trenching Methodology

Prior to any machining of trial trenches general photographs of the site areas were taken. Four trenches were located surrounding the existing building, three of these were 15m long with a longer fourth trench to cover the area across the south of the proposed development area (Fig. 3; Table 1). Trench 04 was relocated from the western edge to the northern area due to the proximity of the overhead electricity power cables along the western side of the area.

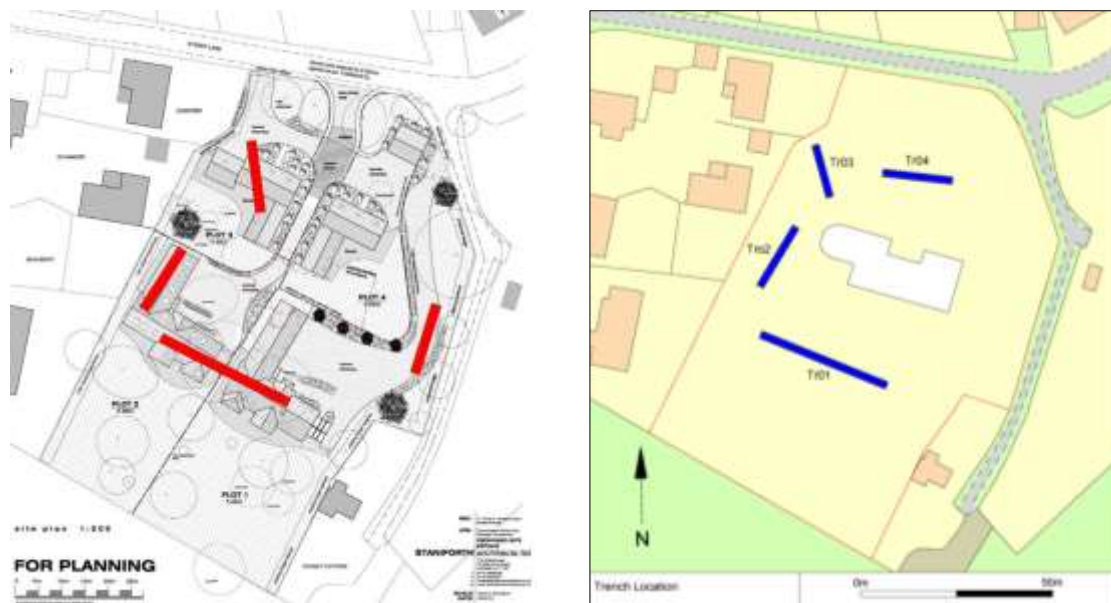


Figure 3: Trench Locations overlying the proposed development (proposed) and in relation to the existing building (actual). Plan provided by client.

Topsoil and overburden were removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket. Trenches were excavated down to the top of archaeological deposits or natural undisturbed ground, whichever was reached first. All excavation by machine and hand was undertaken with a view to avoid damage to archaeological deposits or features which appeared worthy of preservation *in situ*, or more detailed investigation than for the purposes of evaluation.

Trenches were examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits were recorded using standard procedures as per the ULAS recording manual and outlined in the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Score 2015).

Following the results of the trial trenching, a scheme of archaeological work consisting of a 'strip, map and record' excavation was requested to complement the archaeological evaluation carried out in 2015.

6. Results

The topsoil was consistent across the site and was composed of a mid-dark brown sandy-clay loam with occasional/frequent small rounded pebbles. This ranged in thickness from 0.3 – 0.5m deep. Below this was mid-grey-brown silt-clay subsoil, ranging from 0.10-0.50m. Natural substratum was reached in all trenches and consisted of gravels and clay at between 0.5 - 1.20m depth.

Trench 01 contained no archaeological finds or deposits, although there was some evidence recent disturbance from dumping of demolition material and the remains of a modern brick surface/footpath. All of the other trenches contained some features.

Table 1: List of trenches and descriptions.

TRENCH	ORIENTATION	LENGTH AND WIDTH (metres)	TOPSOIL THICKNESS (metres)	SUBSOIL THICKNESS (metres)	DESCRIPTION	TRENCH DEPTH (MIN-MAX metres)
1	WNW -ESE	31.10	0.30 -0.42	0.12 – 0.25	No Archaeological Deposits	0.51/ 0.71
2	NE -SW	16.00	0.48 – 0.50	-	Ditch [01], disturbed, water pipe	0.88/ 0.97
3	N-S	12.30	0.23 – 0.35	0.19 – 0.30	Pit? [08], Gully [10]	0.53/ 1.10
4	E -W	16.00	0.42 – 0.50	0.14 – 0.37	Feature [11], Pit? [16], Gully [13]	0.69/ 0.93

Trench 01

Trench 01 was located in the south of the site and excavated to the level of light yellow-brown silty-clay geology; both the topsoil and mid-yellow-brown silty-clay subsoil were disturbed by roots. A number of services ran across this trench. A brick surface was identified 11.10m from the western end. This was interpreted as being the remains of a modern garden footpath. To the immediate west of this (starting approximately 7.40m from the western end), was an area of dumped modern stone and brick material, possibly relating to the demolition in the 1960's of nearby cottages. No further archaeological deposits or features were identified in the trench.

Trench 02 (Figs 4-6)

Trench 02 was located along the western edge of the site and was excavated to the top of the yellow-brown clay substratum. It contained three linear features, two [01] [03] traversing the trench and [05] running along it (Figs 4-5).

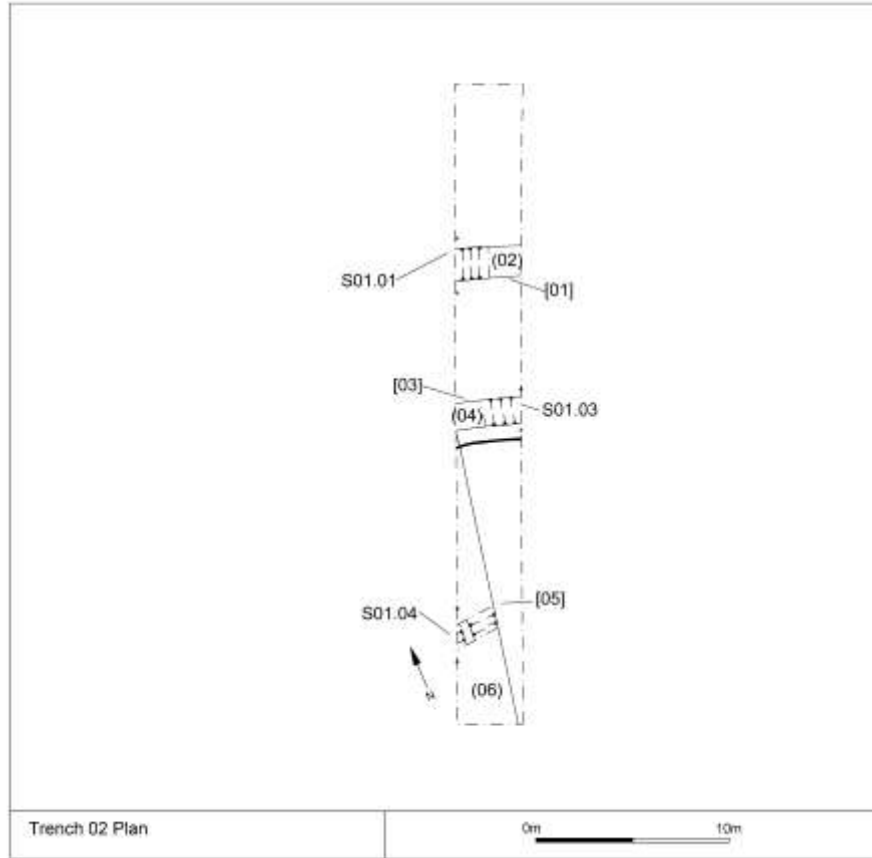


Figure 4: Trench 2 Plan

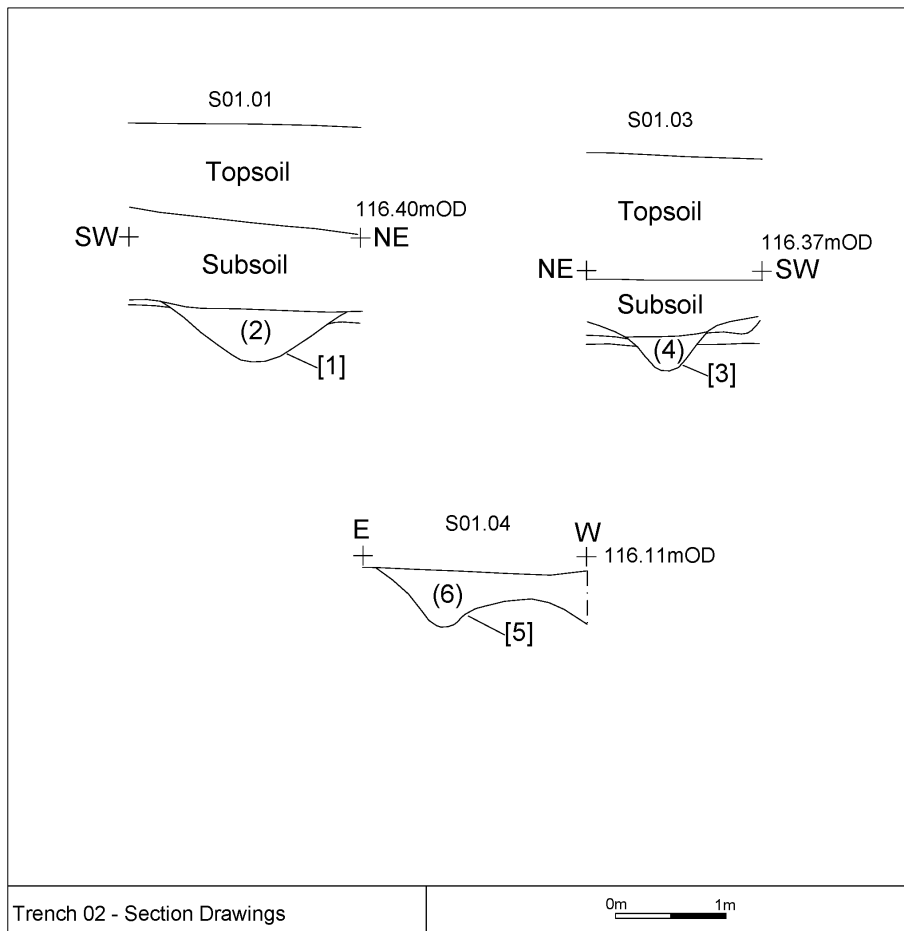


Figure 5: Trench 2 Section Drawings

Linear **[01]** was orientated approximately north-west to south-east, 3.75m from the north end of Trench 02. This represented a ditch 0.96m wide and 0.28m deep. A slot was excavated revealing a ditch with *c.*45° sides and a U-shaped base. It contained a single dark-grey silty-clay fill **(02)** with patches of yellow-brown and was devoid of finds.

Gully **[03]**, orientated on a similar alignment to **[01]** was located 2.75m to the south. This also had *c.*45° sides and a U-shaped base. The gully was investigated in a slot and was 0.44m wide and 0.18m deep. It contained a single light grey silty-clay fill **(04)**, with orange patches contained some charcoal. No finds were recovered from the feature.

One edge of a double linear feature **[05]** ran along Trench 04 at its southern end on a north-south orientation for approximately *c.* 6.50m. It was 1.13m wide, 0.30m deep and had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. There was no obvious relationship between the features and both contained the same dark grey silty-clay with charcoal **(06)**. It was also devoid of finds.



Figure 6: Gully [05], Trench 2, looking south

Trench 03 (Figs 7-9)

Trench 03 located to the north-west of the building was excavated to the clay substratum and contained a possible pit [08] and a gully [10] running southwards from it and containing sandstone blocks.

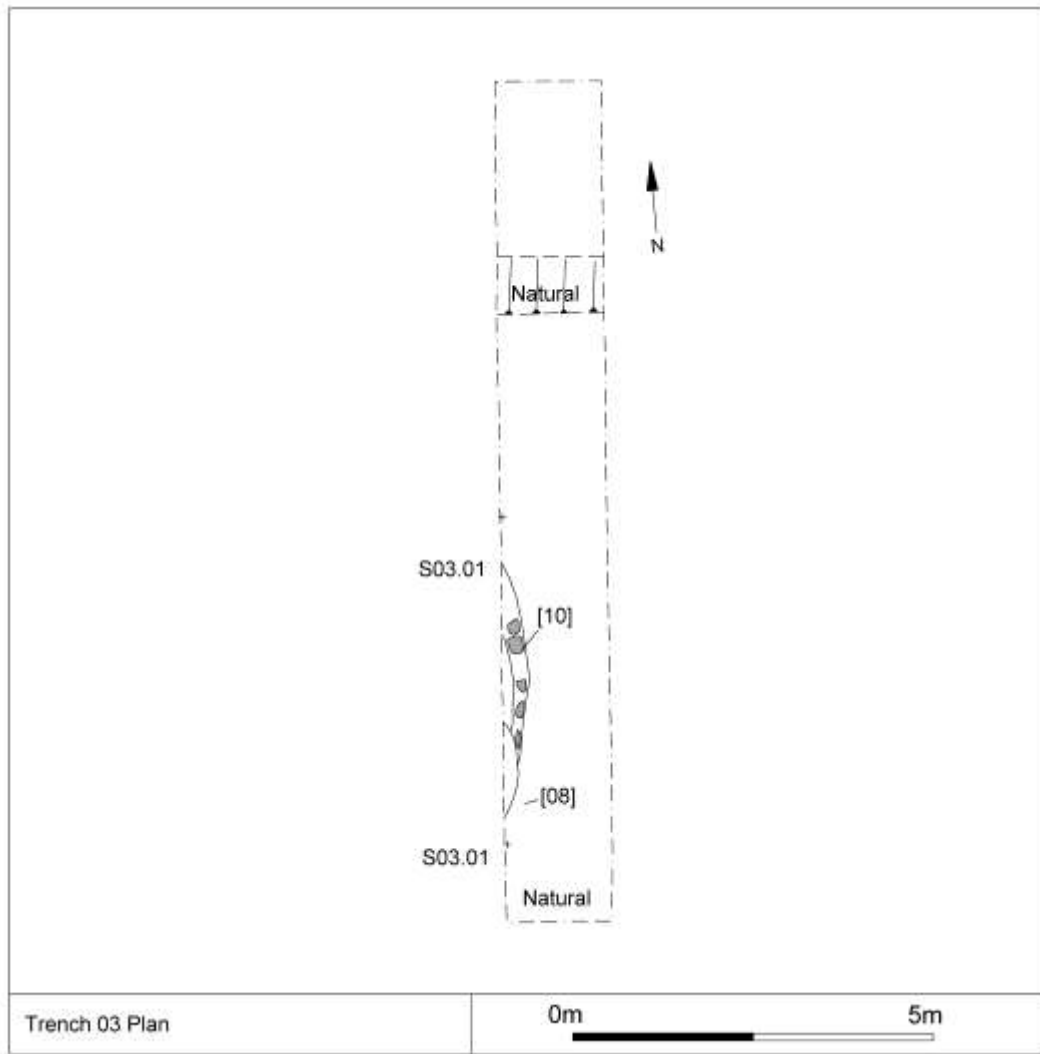


Figure 7: Trench 3 Plan

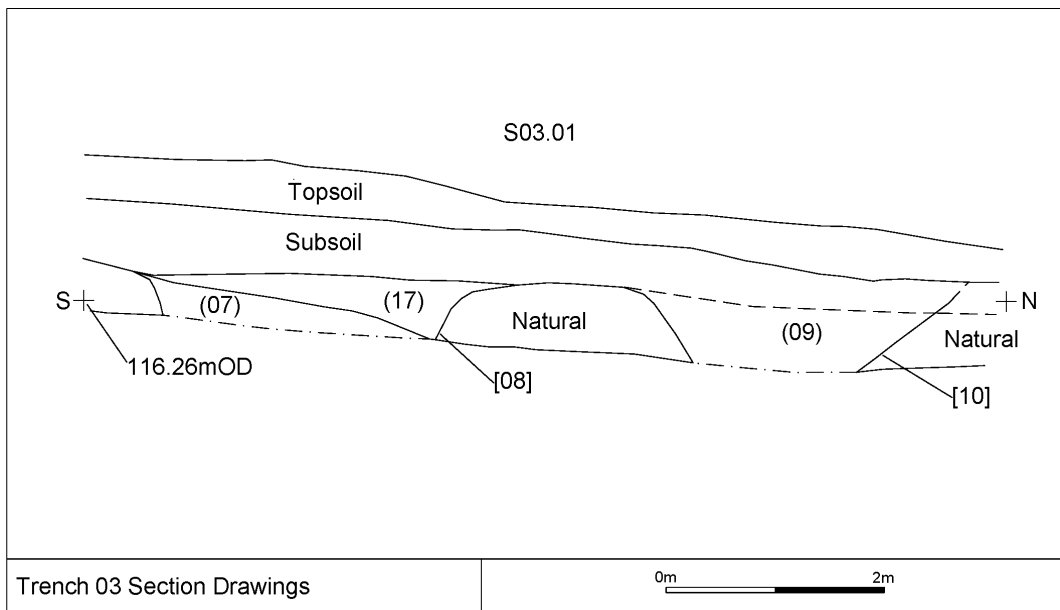


Figure 8: Trench 3 Section Drawings

A possible Pit [08] was located 1.50m from the southern end of the trench running beneath the western baulk. It had a width and diameter exceeding 0.25m and 1.30m respectively and contained a single light-grey silty-clay fill (07) with some charcoal staining but was devoid of finds. Extending from the northern arc of the pit edge and running c.3.0m+ before disappearing beneath the western baulk was a curvilinear gully [10]. This was 0.36m wide and 0.15m deep, had straight sides and a concave base. The single mid-grey-brown silty-clay fill (09), contained 5% charcoal flecks but was devoid of finds.



Figure 9: Trench 3, looking north

Trench 04 (Figs 10-11)

Trench 04 was relocated from within the western perimeter of the proposed development to the northern area due to the overhead cables and was also excavated to the yellow silty-clay substratum. It contained a linear feature [13] and possible pit [16] at its eastern extent and a possible feature [11], obscured by the baulk at its western end.

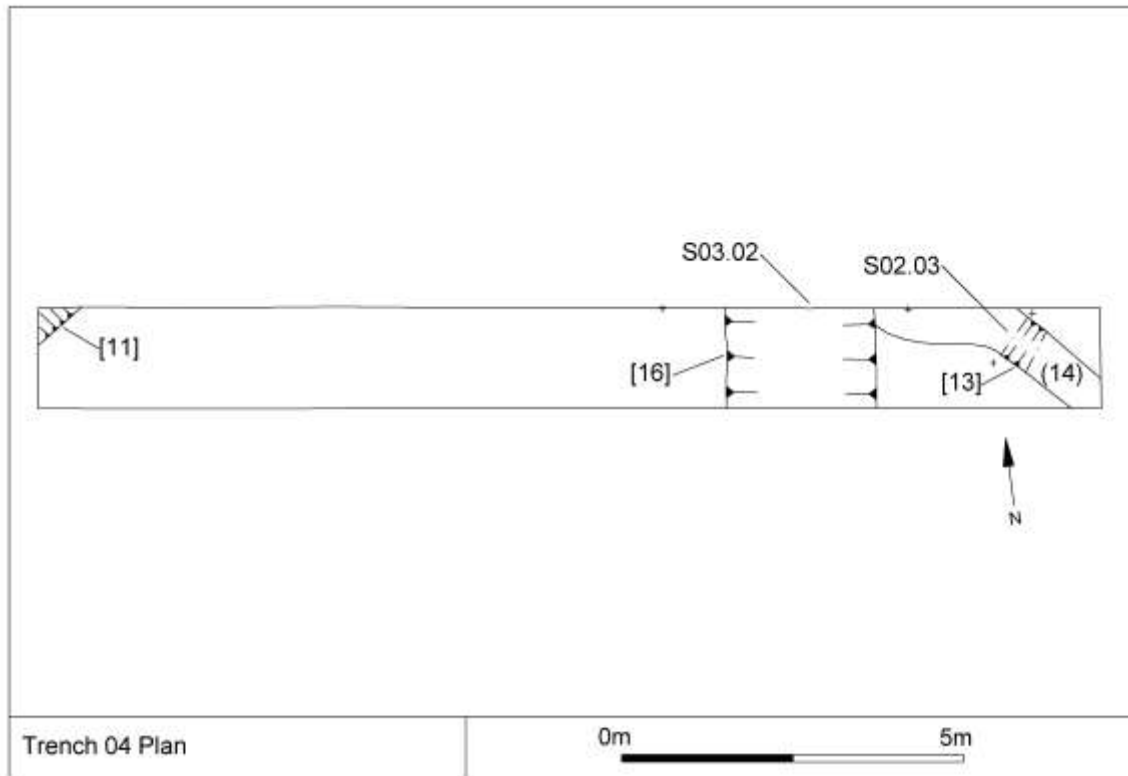


Figure 10: Trench 4 Plan

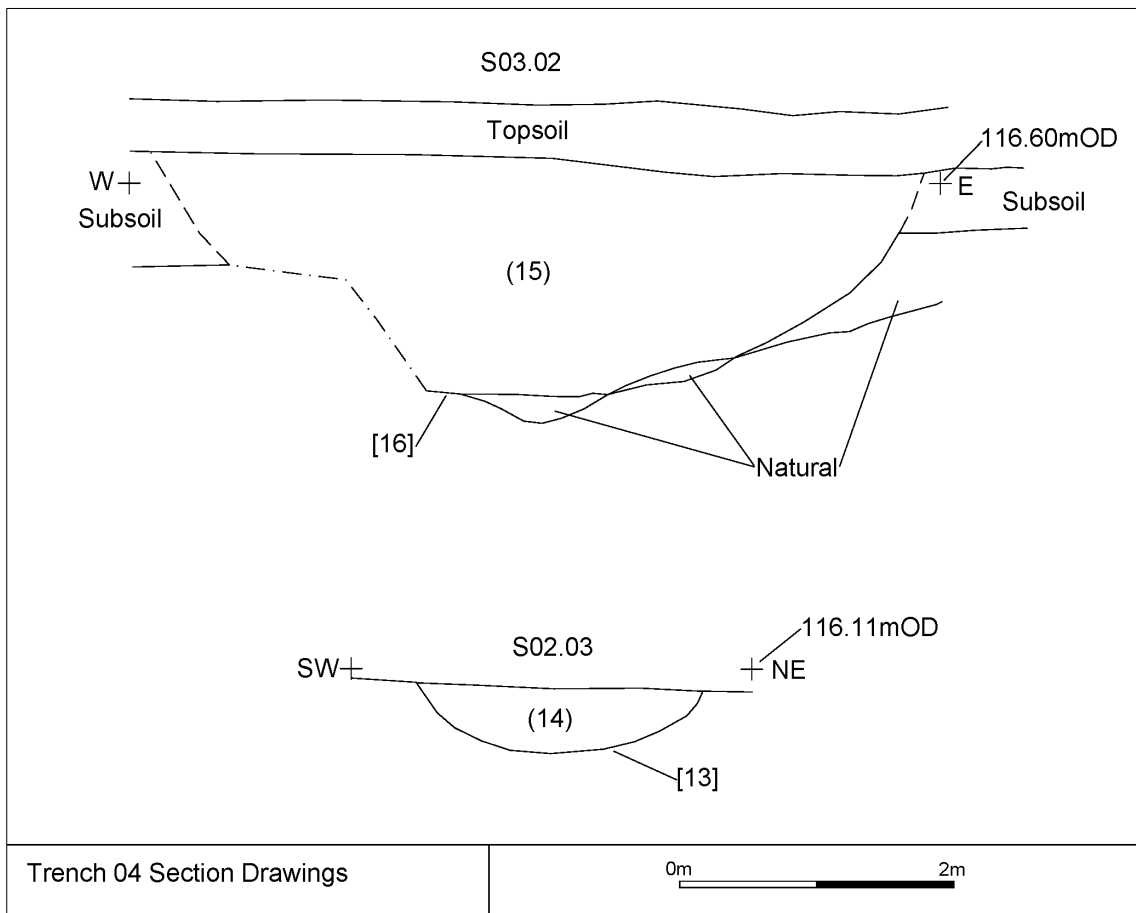


Figure 11: Trench 4 Section Drawings

Pit [16], located *c.*3.50m from the eastern end of the trench, was over 2.0m wide, ran beneath the north and south baulks and filled immediately with water. The base was therefore partially removed by machine to show a *c.*0.80m deep pit with irregular sides and a relatively flat base. The single dark-brown/grey silty clay fill (15) contained post-medieval pottery.

Approximately 1m from the eastern end of the trench gully [13] was investigated. This was a linear feature with concave sides and base, approximately 0.67m wide and 0.25m deep. The single mid-grey silty clay fill (14), contained patches of charcoal and post-medieval pottery.



Figure 12: Trench 4, looking west

Feature [11] was only partially revealed in plan under the north-west baulk and the nature of it was unclear. The one side excavated was straight and contained a light-grey-brown silty-clay (12), devoid of finds.

Strip, map and record excavation (Donald Clark)

The strip, plan and sample took place following the start of the building work. In the north-east area of the site the foundation for a double garage had been built over the remains of an earlier cottage (Fig. 13). The area around the garage was excavated by machine down to a level where the remains of the cottage were visible. The remains consisted of brickwork but the full footprint of the building had been lost due to previous groundworks. Handmade bricks were used in the construction of this cottage and pottery found in the vicinity has been dated to the 18th and 19th centuries.

Below the cottage foundations two ditches were identified and investigated. Both were similar to features recorded during the evaluation and are most likely connected to post-medieval coal mining activity.

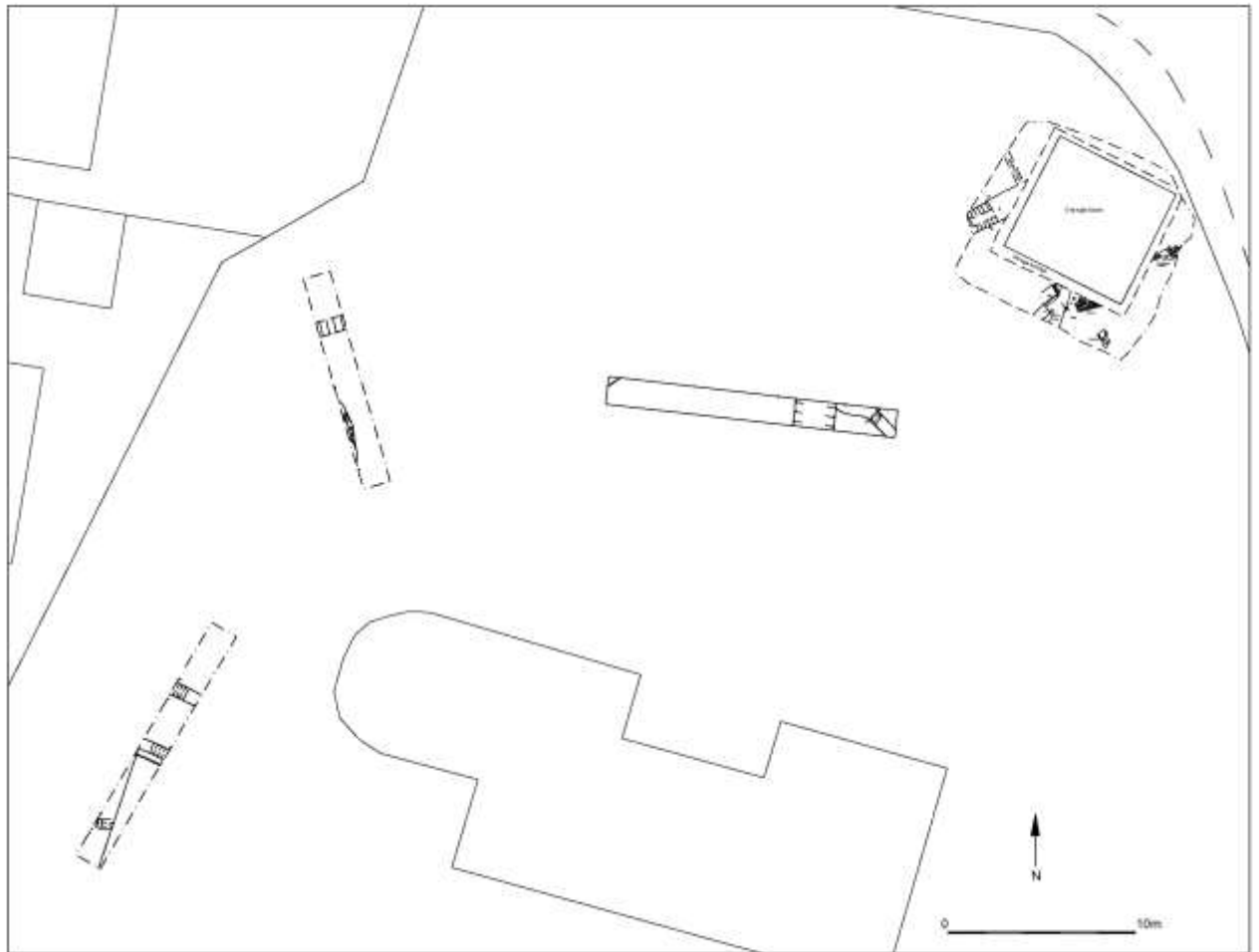


Figure 13: Site plan with footprint of demolished house and evaluation trenches

The earliest features recorded on site were two linear ditches, both running south-west to north-east (Fig. 14, [3] and [5]).

Ditch [3] had a broad flat base with steep sides and was recorded as 0.75m wide and 0.21m deep (Fig. 15, Section 3.02). A length of 1.60m was visible during the excavation but the ditch was seen to continue beneath the sections to the south-west and north-east (Fig. 16) and was clearly visible running beneath the cottage walls. Within ditch [3] the fill (4) was recorded as very dark grey silty clay with small amounts of yellow clay included and a large amount of charcoal or coal residue was observed. Pottery was found within fill (4) and this has been identified as 17th or 18th century pancheon ware (Appendix 1).

Ditch [5], although narrower than the base of ditch [3], also had a flat base with sides of approximately 45 degrees. It was 1.18m wide and 0.40m deep (Fig. 15, Section 3.01). A length of 2.80m was visible during the excavation and the ditch continued beneath the sections to the south-west and the north-east (Fig. 17). Within ditch [5] the fill (6) comprised a light grey, silty clay with small amounts of yellow clay mottles and contained large amounts of charcoal or coal residue. Pottery was found within fill (6) and this has been identified as 17th or 18th century pancheon ware (Appendix 1).

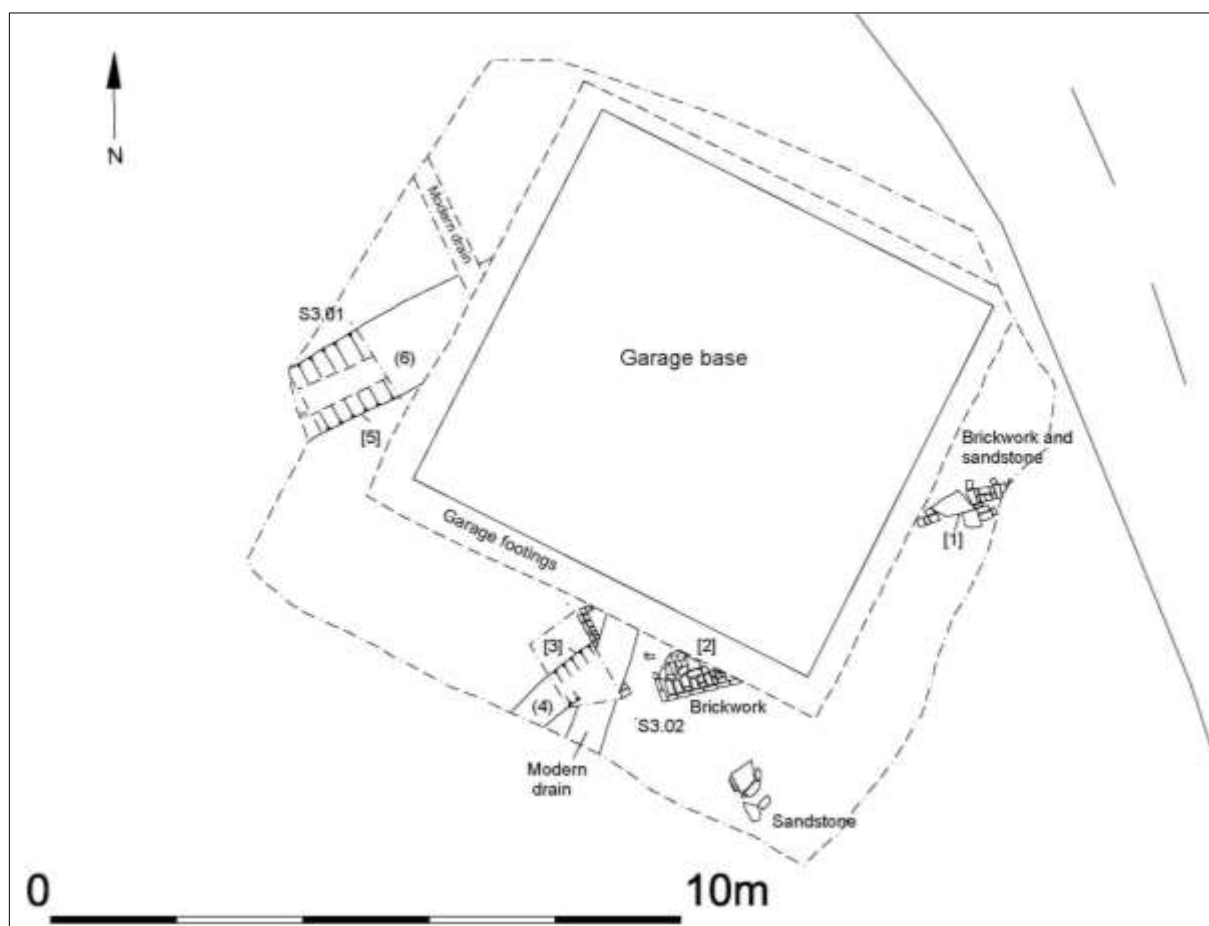


Figure 14: Footprint of garage, remains of cottage and ditches [3] and [5]

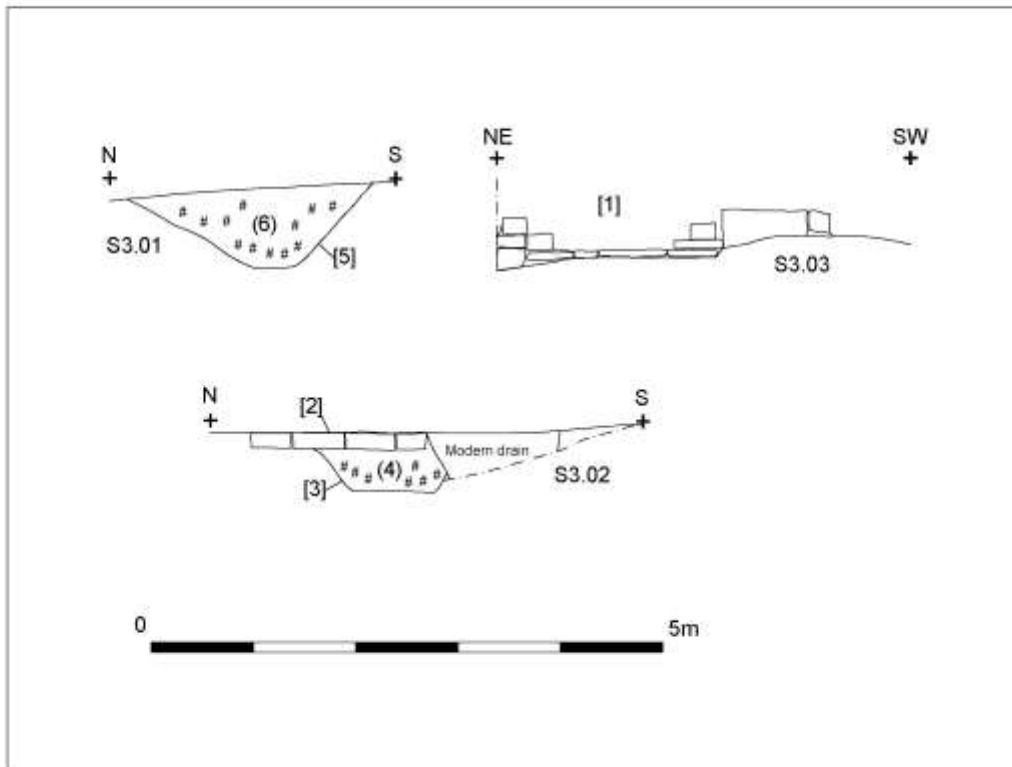


Figure 15: Section drawings

The cottage

The 1888 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map (1:10560) shows a building visible in the north-east corner of the site in the approximate location of the new garage (Fig. 20). However, the area was very disturbed and the fragmented remains of the 18th-19th century cottage were only visible in two areas of the excavation [1] and [2]. In both of these areas the cottage was represented by a small amount of brickwork, in area [1] by a wall and in area [2] by a small portion of flooring (Figs 14, 18-19).

The portion of wall [1] measured 1.70m in length and 0.30m wide, the height was irregular ranging from 0.24m to 0.52m., the highest measurement was recorded where three courses of brick remained (Figs 15, S3.03, 18). Pottery fragments associated with the remains of the cottage have been described as 17th/18th century mottled ware (Appendix 1).



Figure 16: Ditch [3] continuing beneath cottage remains, looking east



Figure 17: Ditch [5] continuing beneath garage footings, looking north-east



Figure 18: Cottage wall [1] looking north-east



Figure 19: Cottage floor looking south-west

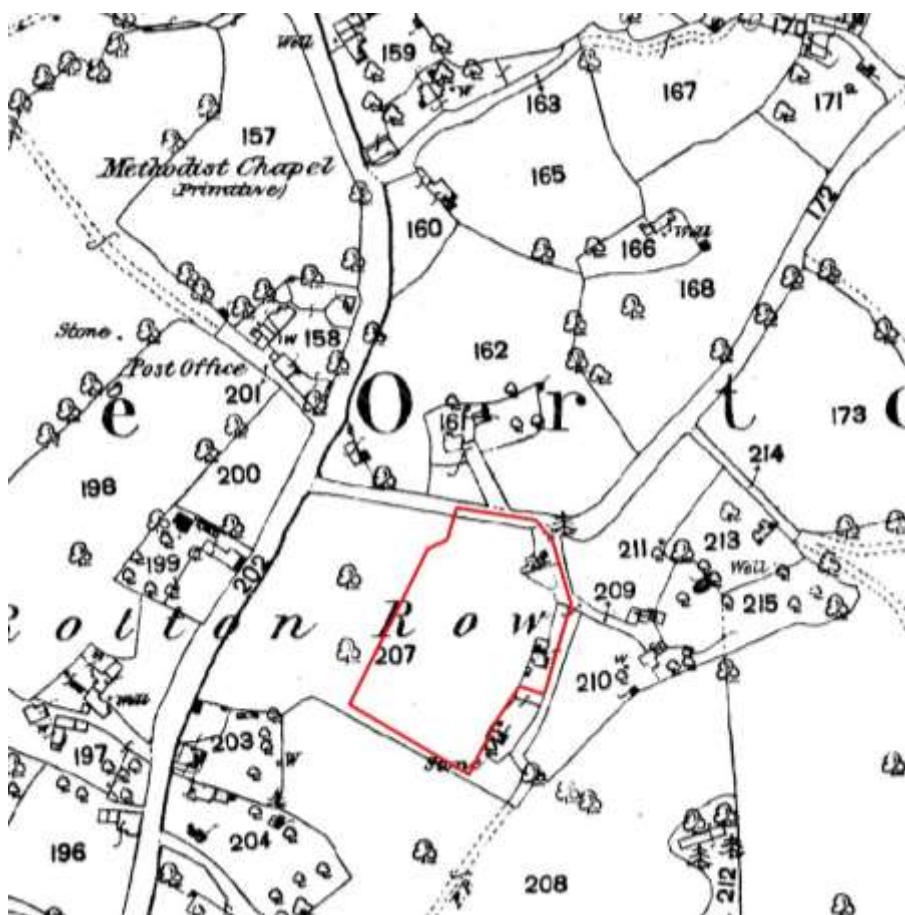


Figure 20: 1888 1st edition OS plan showing the building in the north-east corner of the site.

7. Conclusion

Three of the trenches excavated on the proposed development area revealed deposits that may be of archaeological interest. These consisted of possible pits, ditches and drainage gullies. Modern disturbance was also observed across the development area, notably in the vicinity of Trench 01. Analysis of the material remains indicate a post-medieval and modern date for the activity in this trench. The remaining features, although undated had a similar fill to the post-medieval/modern features in Trench 01. These and the disturbance may have some association with past coal mining activities around the village.

The ditches [3] and [5] found during the stripping of the area around the new garage are probably contemporary with similar features revealed in the evaluation trenches. The fills were very similar to the features from the trenching and although not directly associated, they could be part of the same group of features identified in trenches 02-04. The pottery recovered from the ditches dates from the 17th and 18th centuries.

The remains of the cottage most likely represent the remnants of the building on the 1888 1st edition OS map, comprising an outer wall and an area of floor containing handmade brick. Pottery found in association with the floor dates from the 17th to the 18th century and at least one part of the building post-dates ditch [3] which contains 17th – 18th century pottery.

The remains of the cottage are fragmented, having been truncated by modern drains and the new garage footings but it would be plausible to suggest that the cottage could have

been occupied in the late 17th century/early 18th century until its demolition sometime in the late 19th century (it has gone by the time of the 1903 OS map).

8. Archive

The completed archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council under the accession no. XA66.2015 and contains:

- 4 trench recording sheets
- Context summary records
- 17 context sheets
- 3 Primary Drawing Sheets
- 1 photographic recording sheet
- CD containing digital photographs and report
- Unbound copy of this report
- Thumbnail print of digital photographs

The report is listed on the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York, under ID: universi1-144988. Available at: <http://oasis.ac.uk/>

ID	OASIS entry summary: universi1-245250
Project Name	An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Country House, Coleorton, Leicestershire
Summary	<p>University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at Country House, Coleorton, Leicestershire (SK 40592 17635). The work was undertaken as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of a proposed residential development.</p> <p>The evaluation revealed archaeological deposits consisting of ditches, gullies and pits representing the remains of post-medieval coal mining activity around the village and recent 19th century demolition in the vicinity.</p>
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	Vicki Score
Project Supervisor	Stephen Baker
Previous/Future work	Previous: none / Future: unknown
Current Land Use	Residential Gardens
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	NPPF, Section 12
Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition
Site Co ordinates	SP 40394 17388
Height OD	117mOD
Start/end dates of field work	16/06/15 – 17/06/15
Archive Recipient	LMARS
Study Area	0.62 hectares
Associated project reference codes	Museum accession ID: XA66.2015 OASIS form ID: universi1- 245250

Appendix 1: The Pottery from Country House, Coleorton, Leics.

Deborah Sawday

The Finds

The pottery, fourteen sherds, weighing 550 grams, was examined under a x20 binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to the guidelines set out by the Medieval Pottery Research Group, (MPRG 1998; MPRG, 2001) and the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 2009).

The results are shown below (Tables 1 and 2).

Discussion

Coleorton lies some 8km to the south –east of Ticknall in Derbyshire. The latter was the site of a major pottery industry dating from the later medieval into the early modern period and whose products included both pancheon wares and Black Glazed Earthenwares, (Gooder 1984). However Chilvers Coton in Warwickshire is perhaps a more likely source for the hard fired, fired fine sandy Black ware fabric found here (Mayes and Scott 1984). Mottled wares were made at a range of production centres; EA3 is probably a Staffordshire product, whilst the so-called Imitation Mottled ware, EA4, was probably made at Ticknall.

The finds in context 4 and 6, which pre-date the cottage, consisted exclusively of pottery in fabric EA2 which is generally not closely dated. However, the remaining finds in structure 1 – which lies above - relate to the cottage, and date generally from the later 17th or mid to later 18th centuries. This in turn suggests a slightly earlier, but possibly almost contemporaneous, date for the two contexts lying below the structure.

Table 1: The Post Medieval or Modern Pottery fabrics.

Fabric Code	Common Name/Kiln & Fabric Equivalent where known	Approx. Date Range
EA2	Earthenware 2 – ‘Pancheon ware’, Chilvers Coton/Ticknall, Derbyshire	17th C-18th C. +
EA3	Mottled ware	1680-1780
EA4	Imitation Mottled ware	1680-1780
EA6	Earthenware 6 - Black Glazed Earthenware	16th C.-18th C.

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

context	Fabric/ware	no	gr	comments
POT				
4	EA2 – Earthenware 2	4	246	Jar bases & body, wheel thrown, slipped & glazed internally.
4	EA2	1	65	Wide mouthed bowl or pancheon, wheel thrown, slipped & glazed internally. Similar pancheons were recorded at Temple Balsall, where they were thought to be Ticknall products (Gooder 1984, fig.35)
6	EA2	1	70	Abraded, wide mouthed bowl or pancheon rim, slipped & glazed internally. Similar at Temple Balsall, as noted above.
U/S assoc. with structure 1	EA6 – Black ware	1	30	Cup base, glazed internally & on outer wall, sooted under base. Possibly a Chilvers Coton product.
U/S str 1	EA2	1	9	Jar – slipped & glazed
U/S str 1	EA2	1	38	Base – – slipped & glazed
U/S str 1	EA3 – Mottled ware	1	9	Rilled tankard fragment, probably a Staffordshire product.
U/S str 1	EA4 – Imitation Mottled ware	4	83	Cup base & body frags, slipped & glazed,
MISC				
U/S str 1	EA - Earthenware	1	8	Wall tile
U/S str 1	China clay	2		Clay tobacco pipe stems

Site/ Parish: Stoney Cottage, Coleorton, Leics. Accession No.: XA66 2015 Document Ref: coleorton1.docx Site Type: assoc. with post med coalmine & cottage	Submitter: D. Clark Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Identification: 7/3/16 Method of Recovery: strip & search Job Number: 16-349 Material: pottery/tile/clay pipe
--	--

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10. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was undertaken on behalf of Flightpath Ltd and was carried out by Stephen Baker and Donald Clark. Vicki Score managed the project.

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