



UNIVERSITY OF  
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Archaeological Services

**Archaeological Attendance during  
groundwks at 17 Clements Gate,  
Diseworth, Leicestershire  
(NGR SK 45527 24540)**




Richard Huxley

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**Archaeological Attendance during groundworks at  
17 Clements Gate, Diseworth, Leicestershire  
NGR SK 45531 24552**

**Richard Huxley**

**For: Mr Peter Hughes**

Approved by:	
<b>Signed:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	03/08/2016
<b>Name:</b>	Patrick Clay

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

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**Summary**

*Archaeological attendance was undertaken at 17 Clements Gate, Diseworth, Leicestershire during the ground works associated with the construction of a new dwelling. The site is located within the medieval and post-medieval core and Conservation area of the village (MLE5930). This is within close proximity to the medieval parish church of St. Michael (MLE11188) and other listed buildings. In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) a programme of archaeological work comprising of archaeological attendance and supervision (watching brief) of the ground works was initiated. Several pits and post-holes were recorded during the watching brief and the pottery recovered from them indicates the activity dates to the 12th-16th century. The archive will be held at Leicestershire County Council under the accession number XA67.2016.*

**Introduction**

This report presents the results of archaeological attendance by ULAS in May 2016 at 17 Clements Gate, Diseworth, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 45531 24552). The work was commissioned by Mr Peter Hughes for the construction of a detached dwelling in the land adjacent to 17 Clements Gate. The Principal Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council, has advised North-West Leicestershire District Council that, the applicant should provide professional Archaeological Attendance for inspection and recording during the groundworks for the proposed development. Initially the focus of the work was the access to the new property, where it was proposed to lower the ground level significantly to provide entry from the road. Due to the presence of finds from this area, the site was extended to encompass the entire footprint of the building, which additionally revealed several pits and post-holes dating to the late medieval period.

**Site Description, Topography and Geology**

The proposed development site lies on Clements Gate, Diseworth (NGR SK 45531 24552) at a height of about 65m OD, with the land sloping to the south-east. The development area is more than a metre higher than the current road and retained by a wall on its southern side and a hedge to the west. The site is located on land which originally formed the western half of a garden to 17 Clements Gate. The Geology of Britain Viewer (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>) shows that the underlying geology

consisted of Mercia Mudstone (The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, Solid and Drift Geology, Sheet 144).

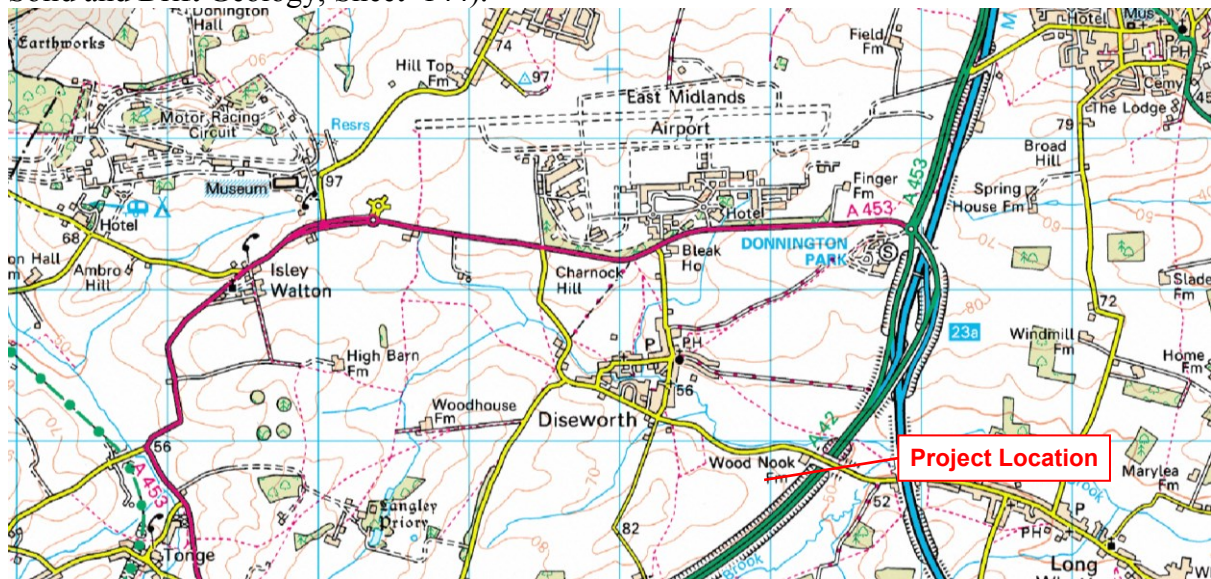


Figure 1: Site Location (from Ordnance Survey Licence number© Crown copyright 2010. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495.)

### Archaeological and Historical Background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. It is within the medieval and post-medieval settlement core and Conservation Area of the village (MLE5930), and close to the medieval parish church of St. Michael (MLE11188) and other Listed buildings. The site is close to surface finds of Iron Age and Roman pottery (MLE6519;MLE8057). Consequently, there was good potential for the presence of below-ground archaeological remains within the application area, which were likely to be affected by the proposed development.

The villages of Leicestershire and the wider English Central Midlands, appear to have evolved alongside their open field systems, during the later 1st millennium AD. Buried archaeological evidence, constituting one or more as yet unidentified heritage asset(s) (National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12, paragraph 128 and Appendix 2), spanning the period from the earliest evolution of the village to its more recent past can be expected within the development area. Consequently, there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains would be affected by the development.

### Aims and Objectives

- The purpose of the archaeological work was:
- 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 record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To advance understanding of the heritage assets.
- To produce an archive and report any results.

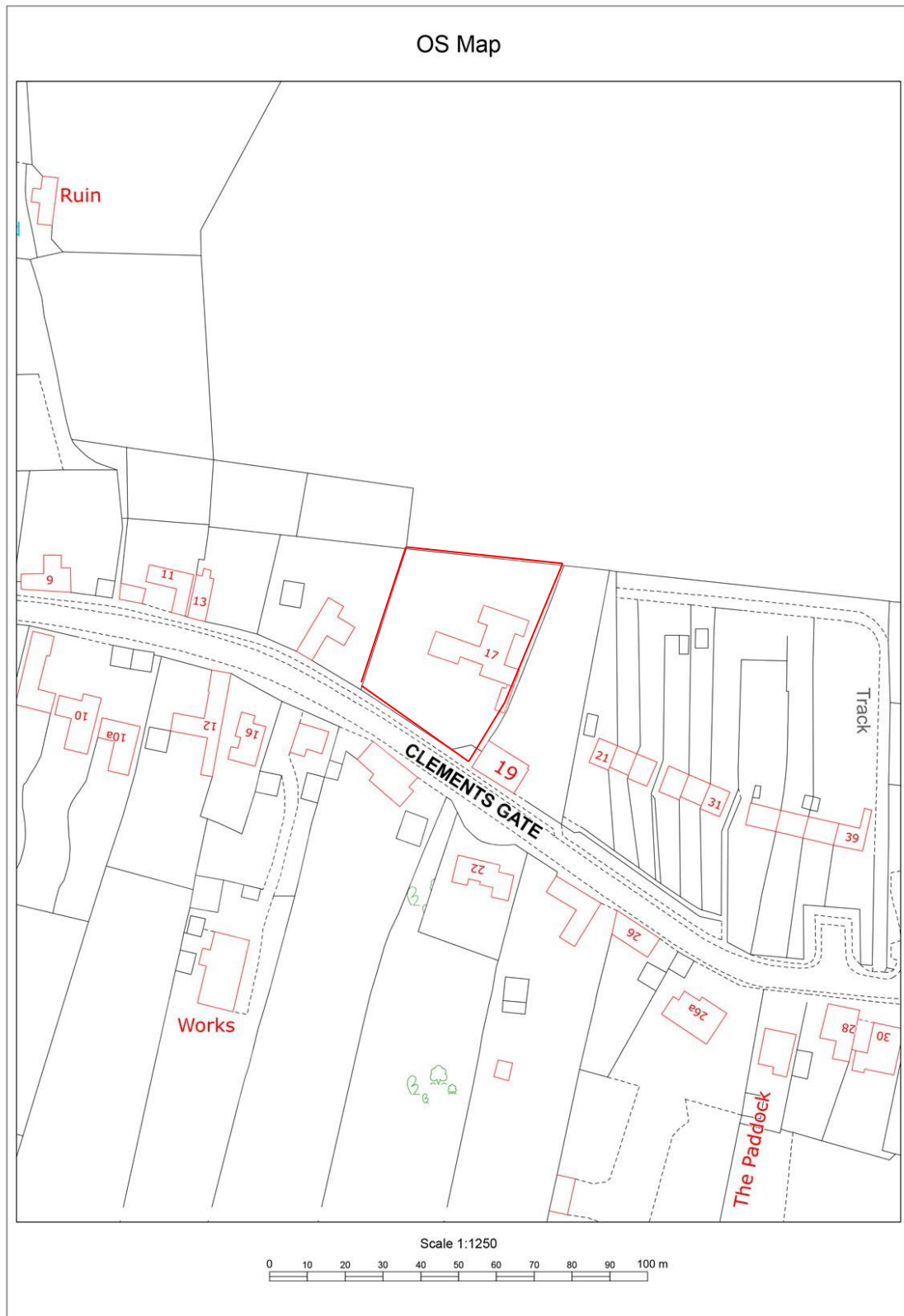


Figure 2. Location of the application area

All work was considered in light of the National research context (English Heritage 1991 and 1997), the East Midlands Research Framework (Cooper ed. 2006) and strategy (Knight et al

2012), along with targeting national research aims. The area lies close to the medieval village core and had the potential to contribute to the study of rural medieval settlement and East Midlands Research Strategy 6.7.7.2 (Knight et al. 2012, 94; Lewis 2006).

## Methodology

The work followed the Written Scheme of Investigation (Clay: 2016) and adhered to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA) *Code and conduct* (2012) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008) as well as to the Churches Conservation Trust *Archaeological Policy*.

The project involved the archaeological control and supervision of groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist. During these groundworks, if any archaeological deposits were seen to be present, the archaeologist recorded the areas of archaeological interest. The initial phase of work involved the southern area closest to the road, where the ground was lowered to provide access to the site and eventually a drive for the proposed residence. First the boundary wall was removed and the site access stripped to a level that would expose any archaeological remains that were present. Due to the presence of archaeological features within this area the Principal Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council advised that the investigation should be extended to encompass the entire footprint of the development.

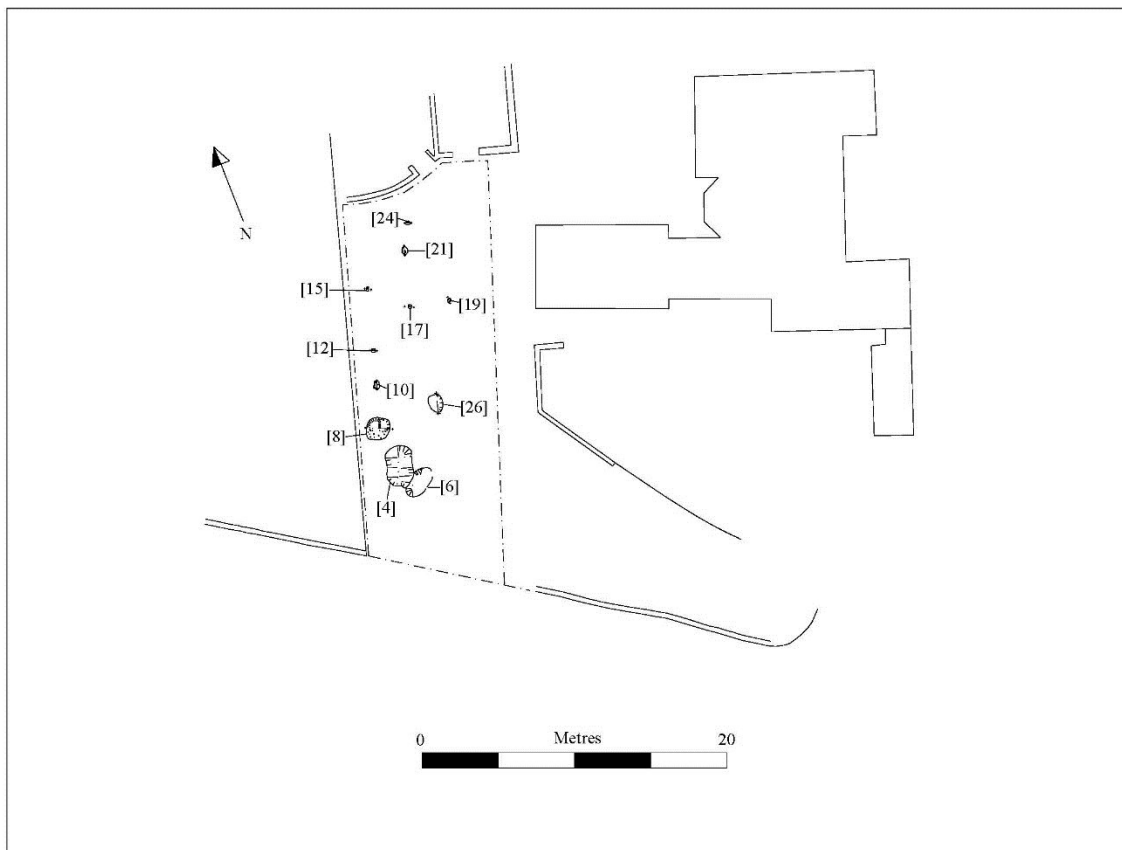


Figure 3: Plan of the application area showing the area subject to archaeological attendance and location of archaeological features



Figure 4: Commencing the removal of the boundary wall and excavation of site access.

## Results

The top soil measured 0.2-0.3m thick and was composed of a dark greyish brown silty-clay with inclusions of small pebbles and flecks of charcoal. Within this deposit Wedgewood style pottery was observed but not retained. Bioturbation was prominent due to the site being used as a garden. Beneath the topsoil a mid orange brown subsoil ranging from 0.1m to 0.2m thick was found. This deposit was composed of silty-clay, which also contained small pebbles and flecks of charcoal. The natural substratum encountered was a mid orangey red glacial drift (boulder clay) that contained inclusions of mudstone and flecks of charcoal. The natural substratum was also disturbed through bioturbation and it was through this deposit that the archaeological features were encountered.

Two intercutting pits were found close to the newly formed access in the south-west corner of the site. The earliest was an oval pit [6], measuring approximately 2.21m long by 1.12m wide and 0.5m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base on an east to west alignment. Filled with a dark brownish grey silty-clay with inclusions of charcoal, it contained pottery dating from the 12th – mid 16th century and a single a rib fragment from a large mammal. The northern edge of pit [6] was found to be truncated by sub oval pit [4], measuring 2.4m long by 1.65m and 0.19m deep. This feature was orientated along a north to south alignment and had moderately sloping sides, with a flat base. Pit [4] was filled with a dark grey silty-clay with inclusions of charcoal and contained a relatively large quantity of finds. A total of 136 sherds of pottery dating from the 13th – mid 16th century was recovered from the feature with a single fragment of post-medieval ‘pancheon ware’ probably representing an intrusive artefact. The pit contained 29 animal bones which were identified as the remains of large and medium sized



mammals, sheep/goat, cattle, pig, domestic fowl and geese. This feature also contained evidence of industrial activity with the residue from secondary smithing.



Figure 5: Pits [4] and [6], looking south, located during the initial phase of monitoring.

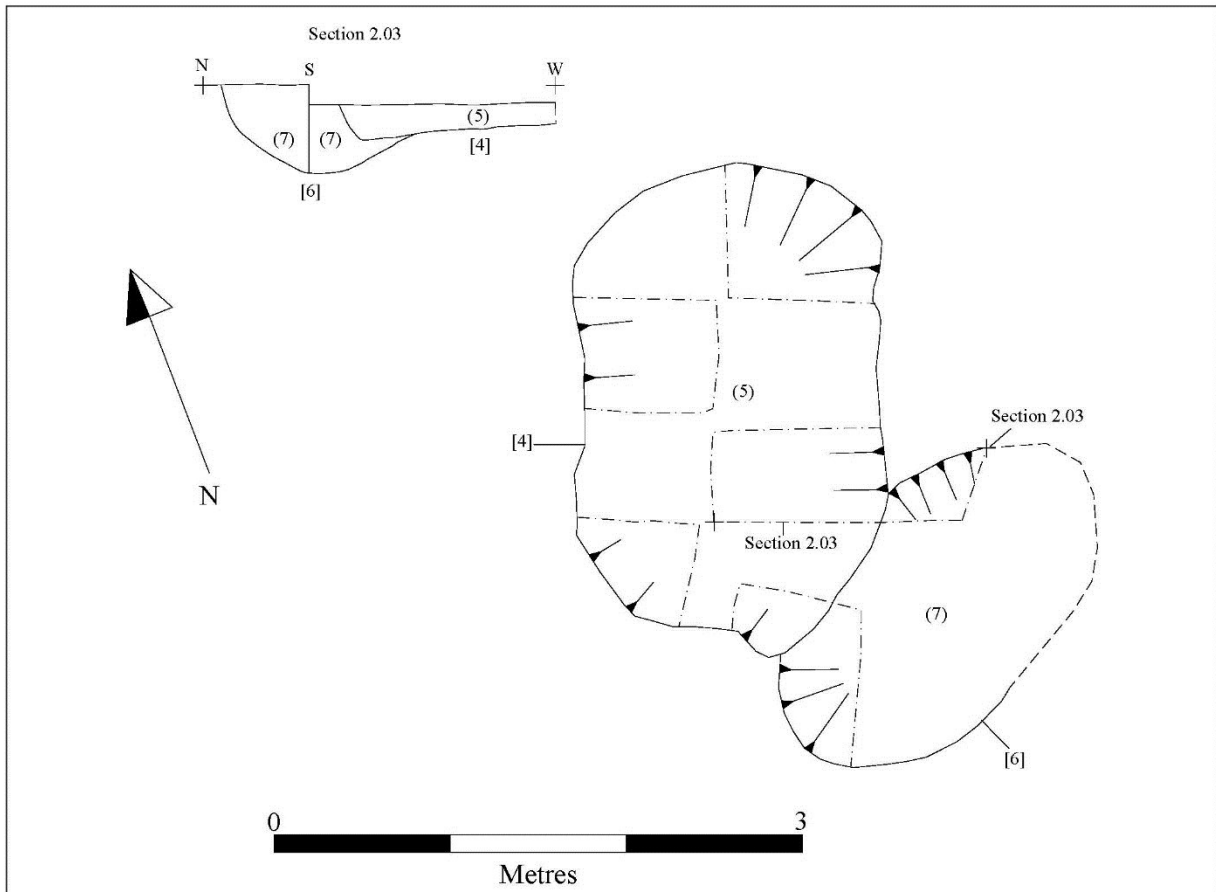


Figure 6: Plan and section of pits [4] and [6]

To the north of [4] a third pit [8] was sub-oval with shallow to moderately sloping concave sides and a concave base. Aligned east to west and measuring 1.55m long, by 1.46m wide and 0.14m deep, it had a mid reddish brown silty-clay fill with inclusions of charcoal and mudstone and contained a fragment of 13th century pottery. To the east of pit [8] a fourth pit [26] was sub-oval measuring 1.4m long, by 1.22m wide and 0.19m deep and orientated north to south with moderately sloping concave sides and a concave base. Its fill was a mid reddish brown silty-clay with inclusions of charcoal and mudstone and had a similar composition to the fill of pit [8]. Pit [26] contained a single fragment of fired clay and a fragment of horse tibia.

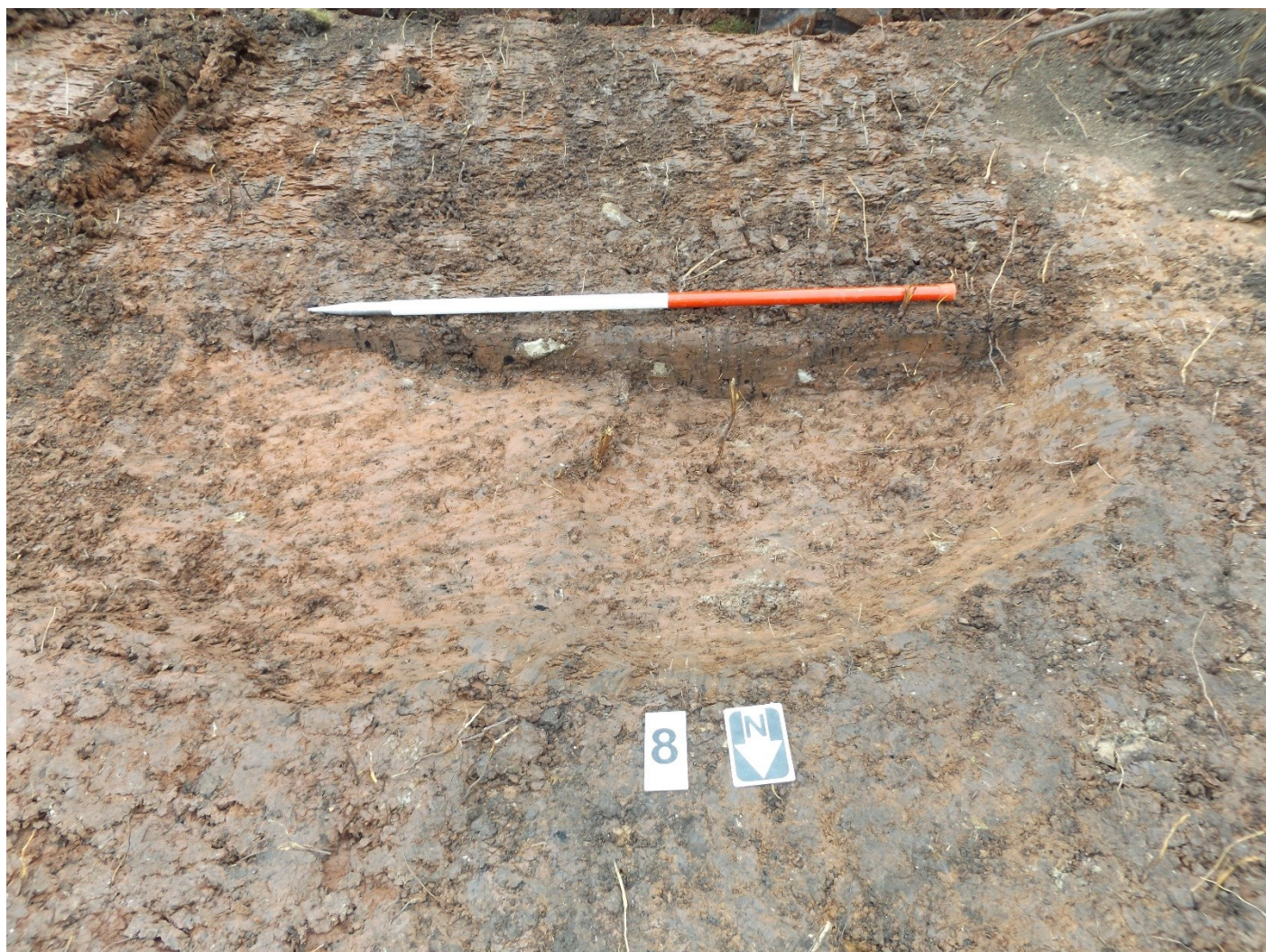


Figure 7: Pit [8] looking south

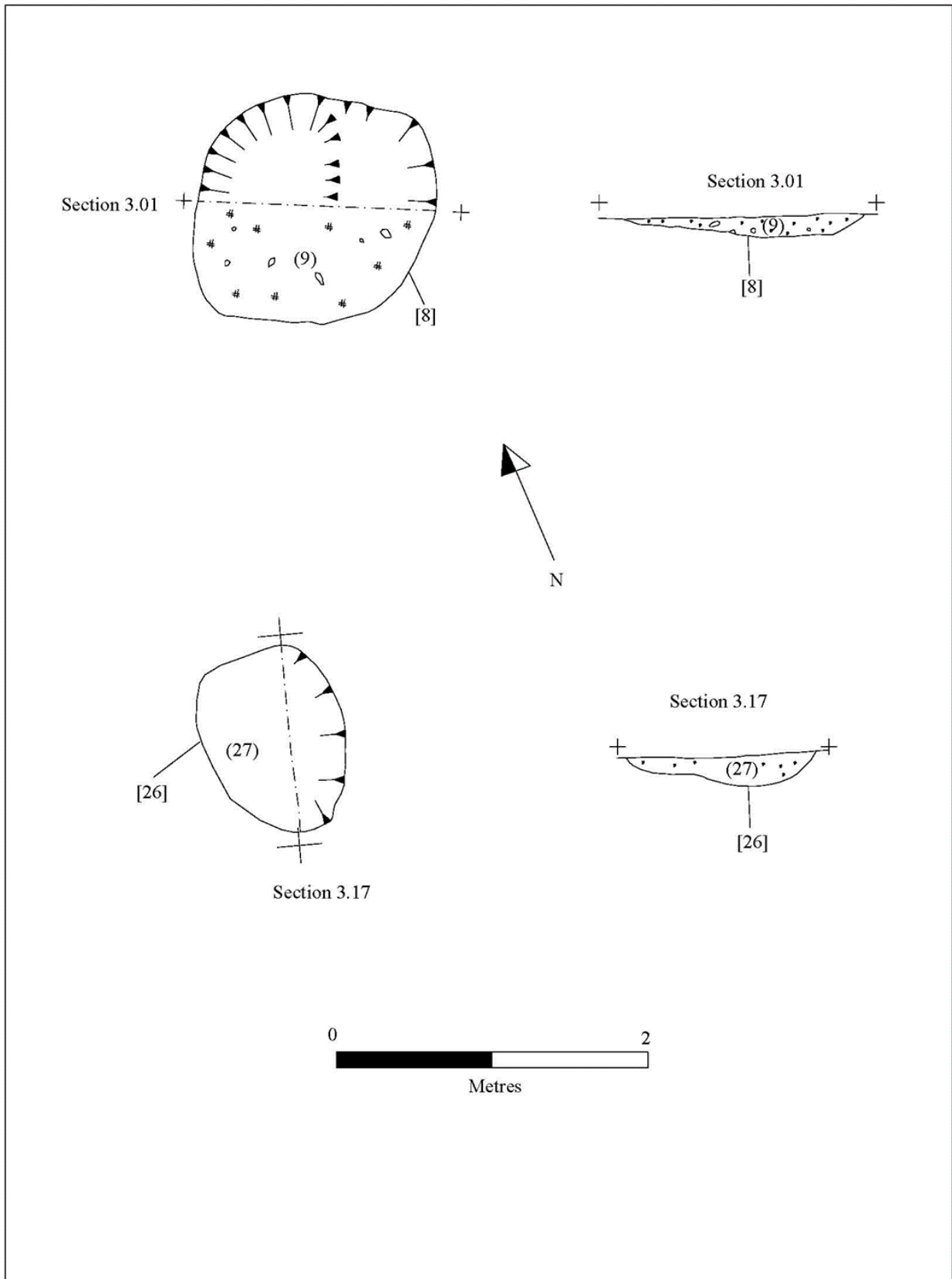


Figure 8 Sections and plans of pits [8] and [26]

In the northern half of the site a group of seven post-holes was located, three of them positioned parallel to the current property boundary to the west. Two metres north-east of pit [8] a sub-rectangular post-hole [10] was orientated north-east to south-west and measured 0.5m long, by 0.14m wide and 0.11m deep. The cut had straight sides that were moderate to steeply sloping with a flat base with two distinct fills, (11) and (14). Located on the southern edge (11) was a mid brown grey silty-clay with occasional flecks of charcoal and (14) was a mid brownish grey silty clay with re-deposited natural clay and flecks of charcoal. It is likely that (11) represents 'post pipe' the post was positioned within the cut and deposit (14) was the backfilled material surrounding it. No artefacts were recovered from this feature.

Approximately 2m north-east from post-hole [10] another rectangular post-hole [12] was orientated north-east to south-west and measured 0.22m long, by 0.16m wide and 0.05m deep. The cut had moderately sloping sides, a flat base and was filled with a mid brown grey silty-clay that contained occasional flecks of charcoal and a single sherd of early to mid 13th century pottery. Positioned 3.75m north-east from post-hole [12] a sub-rectangular post-hole [15] was orientated north-east to south-west and had steeply sloping sides with a flat base measuring 0.28m long, by 0.16m wide and 0.09m deep. The post-hole was filled with a mid brownish grey silty clay that contained inclusions of charcoal, but no artefacts.



Figure 9: Post-holes [10] and [12], looking south

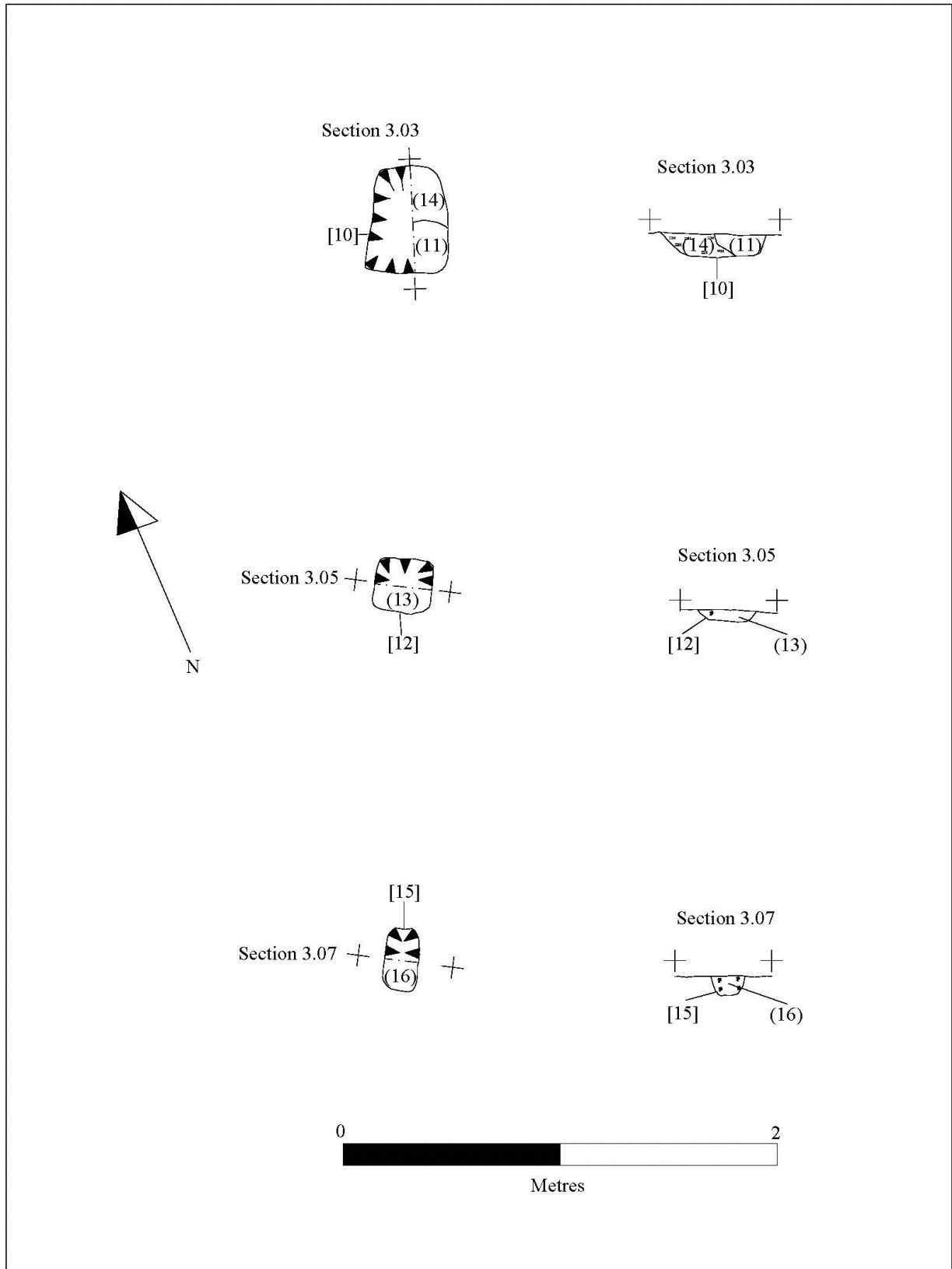


Figure 10: Sections and plans of post-holes [10], [12] and [15]

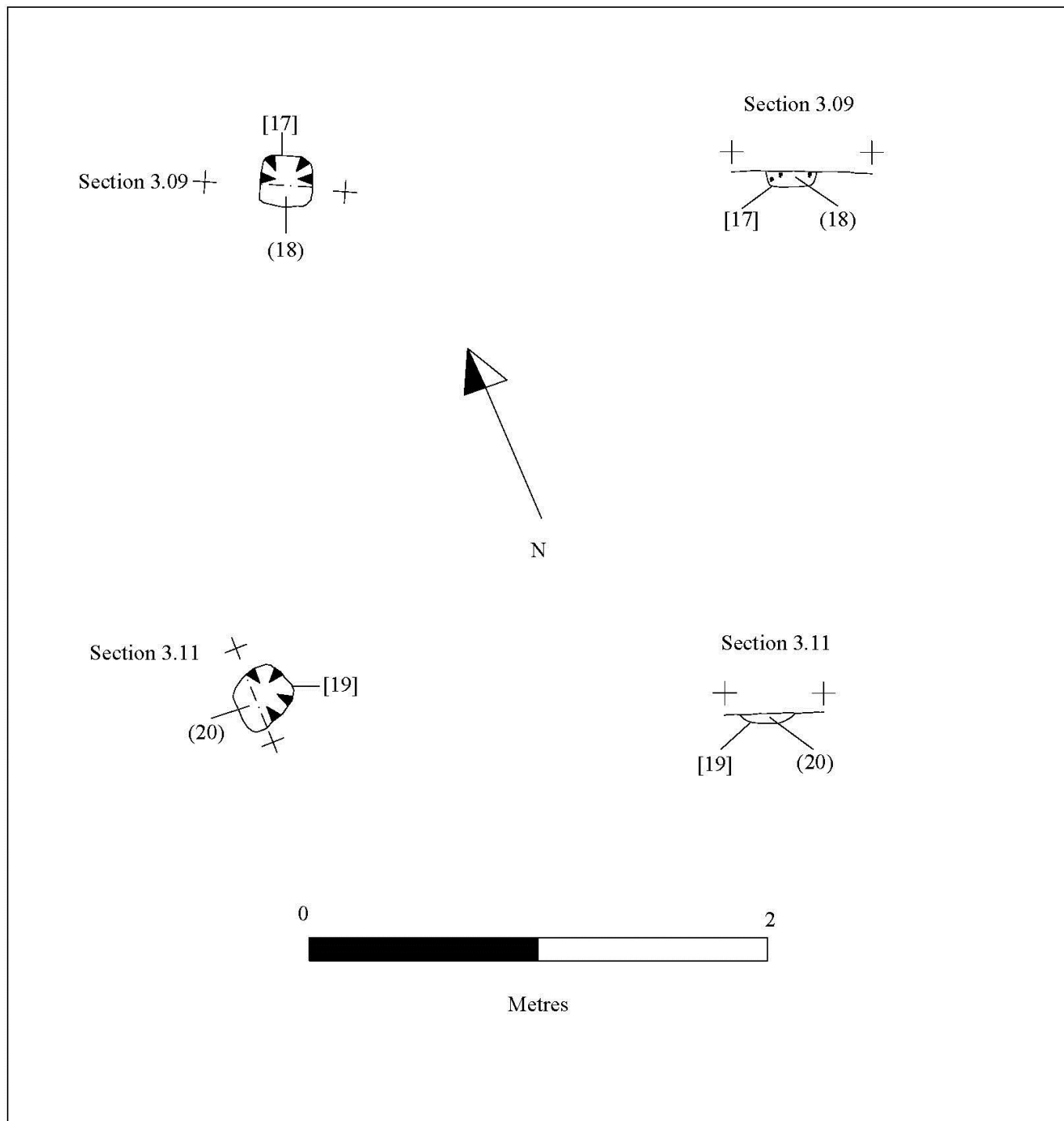


Figure 11: Sections and plans of post-holes [17] and [19]

A further four post-holes were present in the north-eastern part of the site. Post-hole [17] was sub-square 0.22m in diameter with a depth of 0.07m. The cut had straight and steeply sloping edges with a flat base and a mid brown grey silty-clay fill with inclusions of charcoal. To the east post-hole [19] was sub-rectangular and measured 0.22m long, by 0.20m wide and 0.05m deep. It was orientated east to west and had moderately sloping sides with a flat base and a mid brown grey silty-clay fill. Approximately 3.4m east-north-east from post-hole [15] post-hole [21] was sub-oval orientated north to south and measured 0.52m long, by 0.4m wide and 0.1m deep. The cut had moderate to steeply sloping concave sides with a flat base and

contained two distinct fills (22) and (23). Deposit (22) was a mid grey brown silty-clay with inclusions of mudstone and containing the tooth of a sheep or a goat. In the southern half of the post-hole deposit (23) comprised a dark greyish brown silty-clay with much charcoal. It is likely that this feature is similar to posthole [10] with deposit (23) representing the post-pipe and (22) the backfilled material surrounding it. Post hole [24] located 1.5m north-east from [21]. Post-hole [24] was sub-rectangular, measuring 0.24m long, by 0.22m wide and 0.03m deep, with straight, moderately sloping sides with a flat base and was filled with a mid brown grey silty-clay containing flecks of charcoal and mudstone. No artefacts were recovered from this feature.

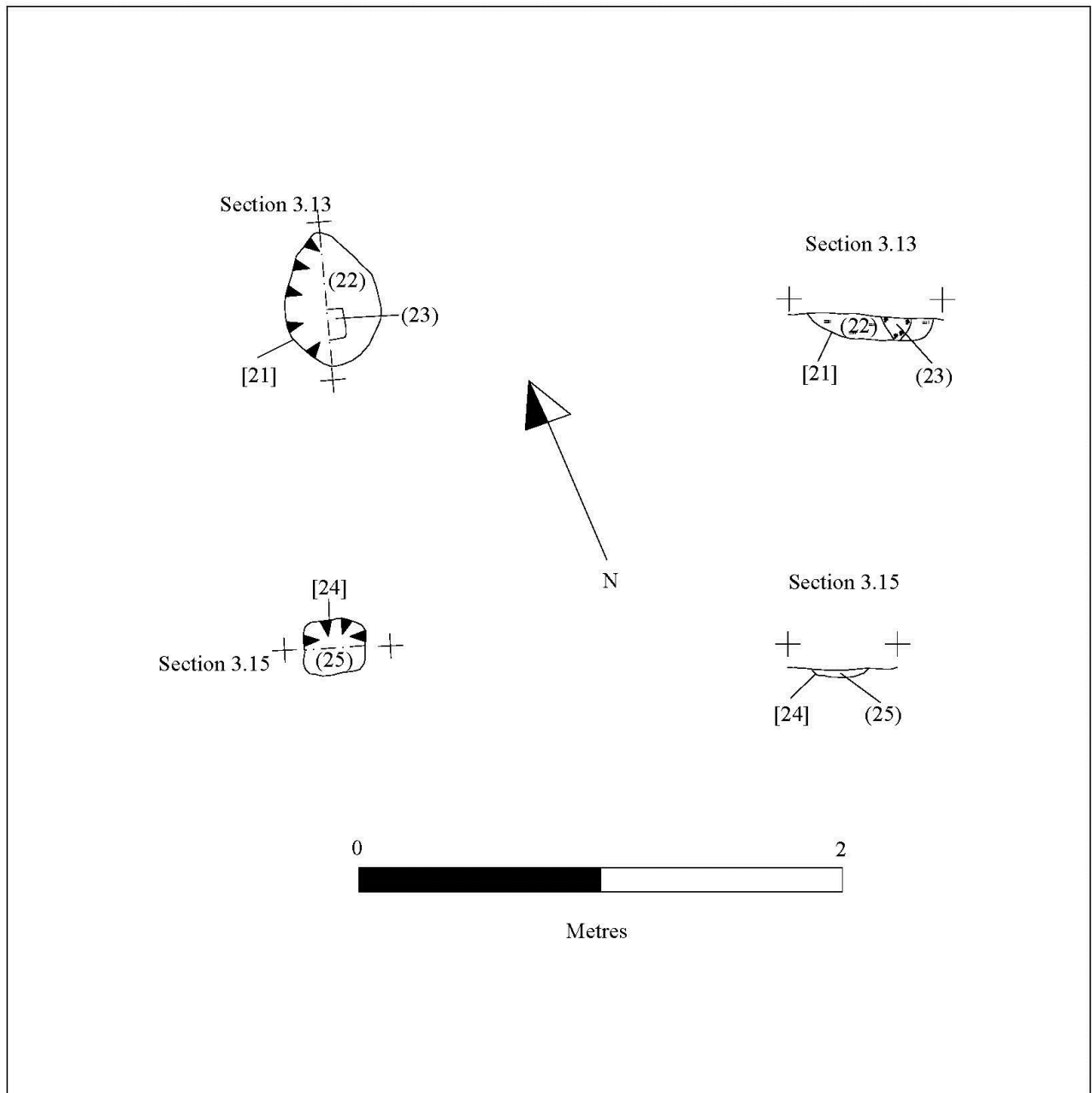


Figure 12: Sections and plans of post-holes [21] and [24]



## The Ceramic Finds *Deborah Sawday*

### *Methodology*

The pottery, 148 sherds, weighing 2.743 kg, and a vessel rim equivalent of 1.7175, (calculated by adding together the circumference of the surviving rim sherds, where one vessel equals 1.00) was examined under a x20 binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to the guidelines set out by the Medieval Pottery Research Group, (MPRG 1998, 2001, 2015) and the ULAS fabric series (Davies and Sawday 1999; Sawday 2009). The results are shown below (Tables 1- 3).

Table 1: The pottery fabrics.

Fabric	Common Name/Kiln & Fabric Equivalent where known	General Approx. Date Range
SP	Splashed ware ()	c.1100-1250
CC1	Chilvers Coton A/Ai, Warwick CTS WW01, ?WW012, ?SQ51, (1)	c.1250-1400
NO1	Nottingham Early Green Glazed ware fabric NOTGE (2)	c.1210-c.1250
NO3	Nottingham Light Bodied/Reduced Green Glazed ware NOTGL/NOTGR (2)	Early/mid 13th c.1350
NO	Nottingham ware - unclassified	13th C.
MS2	Medieval Sandy ware 2– misc. coarse quartz tempered fabrics, including coarse CC1 (1), and ? Nottingham, Burley Hill/Duffield, Derbyshire	Early/mid 13th C.- c.1400
MS3	Medieval Sandy ware 3 – misc. coarse hared fired quartz tempered fabrics -? Burley Hill/Duffield/Ticknall, Derbyshire (3)	Early/mid 13th C.- c.1400-1400/1450
MS7	Medieval Sandy ware - misc. predominantly later medieval coarse red sandy fabrics, possibly from sources similar to the above.	Early/mid 13th C - c.1400-1400/1450
MS8	Medieval Sandy ware – misc. sandy fabrics? including under fired Midland Purple ware (3)	c.1300-1550
MS	Medieval Sandy ware - unclassified	Early/mid 13th C.- c.1400
MP	Midland Purple ware - Chilvers Coton/Ticknall Derbyshire (1)(3)	c.1375-1550
EA2	Earthenware 2 – ‘Pancheon ware’, Chilvers Coton/Ticknall, Derbyshire (4)	17th C-18th C. +
(1) Mayes & Scott 1984, Soden and Ratkai 1998		(3) Coppack 1980, Cumberpatch 2002-2003, Cumberpatch 2004, Soden & Ratkai 1998, Hurst and Wright 2010.
(2) V. Nailor pers. comm./ Nailor & Young 2001, Nailor 2005		(4) Gooder 1984, Sawday 1989

### *Condition*

The pottery was generally in good condition, with an average sherd weight of 18.53 grams (Table 2). Only some of the softer fired sherds showing any evidence of abrasion.

### *The Ceramic Record*

The identifiable vessels comprised the fragments of three jugs in the Nottingham fabric NO3. Fabric MS2 included five jars with simple everted rims, similar to a vessel identified at Derby as a Burley Hill type ware (Coppack 1980, fig.102.210); two bowls also with everted rims and curvilinear decoration and part of a carinated jug rim with a pulled lip were also present.

The everted rims of a jar and bowl were recorded in fabric MS3; the neck of a jug in fabric MS7/8, and a jar and a pipkin, both with everted rims in Midland Purple. A vessel similar to

the latter was illustrated from the Austin Friars, Leicester, in the related fabric pxv (Woodland 1981, fig.38.176).

Table 2: The pottery by fabric, sherd numbers, weight (grams), ASW (average sherd weight) and EVEs.

Fabric	Common Name	Sherds	weight	ASW	EVEs
SP	Splashed ware	2	50	25.0	
CC1	Chilvers Coton	1	10	10.0	
NO1	Nottingham	1	11	11.0	
NO3	Nottingham	19	424	22.31	
NO	Nottingham	1	11	11.0	
MS2	Medieval Sandy 2	56	821	14.66	1.4675
MS3	Medieval Sandy 3	13	242	18.61	0.05
MS7/8	Medieval Sandy 7/8	14	422	30.14	
MS	Medieval Sandy	1	24	24.0	
MP	Midland Purple	39	726	18.61	0.20
EA2	Earthenware1	1	2	2.0	
Site Totals		148	2743	18.53	1.7175

### Discussion

The bulk of the pottery assemblage occurred in the two pits, contexts [4] and [6]; the former cutting the latter. The earliest material on the site; two sherds of Splashed ware dating from the 12th or early to mid-13th century, was recovered from the pit [6]. However, both pits contained Nottingham ware, which dated from the mid to later 13th or earlier 14th centuries, and the later medieval Medieval Sandy wares, fabrics 7/8, with a co-joining sherd from each context, and Midland Purple with a terminal date in the mid-16th century – suggesting that the two pits had been backfilled in quick succession. The fragment of post-medieval Earthenware, fabric EA2, weighed only 2 grams and is assumed to be intrusive in the pit [6].

### Conclusion

The small group of identifiable Nottingham and Chilvers Coton wares accounted for less than 15% of the whole assemblage by sherd numbers and less than 17% by weight.

The remaining pottery, apart from the two sherds of Splashed ware, the Midland Purple, and the sherd of post-medieval Earthenware, have been listed under the general category of Medieval Sandy wares, and probably originate from several sources (Table 1). Fabrics MS2, MS3 and MS7 are thought to lie within the Cream Sandy ware, Grey Gritty ware and Orange Gritty ware tradition found in south Derbyshire, where they are dated from the 13th and 14th centuries. Possible sources for these two latter fabrics include the pottery production centres based just north of Derby at King Street and Burley Hill, Duffield (Cumberpatch 2002 – 2003). However, typologically this assemblage could not be paralleled with illustrated examples from the two sites (*ibid* 2002-2003, figs. 2, figs 4-9). Furthermore, the particular characteristics of the sherds which are generally hard fired and wheel thrown and contain moderate to abundant quartz, (up to c. 0.4 mm), suggest that they may be the have products of as yet unknown pottery manufacturing site in southern Derbyshire (Cumberpatch 2004, 88).

The later medieval fabrics MS8 and the Midland Purple may be the products of the nearby Ticknall kilns. The current evidence suggests that production at this site, which lies only 12 km to the west of Diseworth, did not start until the later 15th century (Boyle 2002 – 2003, 116). However, more recently, petrological analysis has suggested alternative sources for some of the Midland Purple ware in the region; at the Austin Friars, Leicester for example, possible

sources are now thought to include not only as yet unknown pottery kilns based on similar geology to Chilvers Coton/Nuneaton but also Burslem in Stoke on Trent. This in turn indicates that distributions may not be readily predictable based simply on distance from markets or particular production centres (Hurst and Wright 2010).

Table 3: The medieval and later pottery by fabric, sherd numbers, weight (grams) and context and miscellaneous finds by number and context.

Context	Fabric/ware	No.	Gr	EVE	Comments
5 [4]	NO1 – Nottingham ware 1	1	11		Body , light ext. sooting
5	NO3 – Nottingham ware 3	10	179		Green glazed jug neck & body with inscribed horizontal line decoration
5	NO3	4	224		Green glazed jug neck, body & base with inscribed horizontal line decoration
5	NO3	3	15		Misc. green glazed body – one vessel
5	CC1 – Chilvers Coton A	1	10		Sandy white body, green/glaze
5	MS2- Medieval Sandy 2 pos. Notts. white bodied gritty ware f18 F19 more Fe?	1	18		Sandy coarse white body – jar fragment.
5	MS2	2	20	0.225	Jug rim, pink bodied, with pulled lip, orange glaze on exterior below ribbing, est. diam .90mm
5	MS2	6	103		Pink body, pale cream interior surfaces- traces of yellowish glaze & sooting on exterior
5	MS2	12	138		Misc. body, traces if yellow/orange /green glaze on some sherds, min 8 pots
5	MS2 // Coppack N180p?	7	73	0.14	Everted jar rim & misc. body, abraded some external sooting, diam. 160mm
5	MS2	2	26	0.075	Everted jar rim diam. 190 mm, join
5	MS2	1	55	0.0225	Everted, hard fired example of a jar rim diam. 160 mm
5	MS2	2	66	0.965	Everted bowl rim, join, with wavy line decoration & slight external sooting, est. dim 320mm, core of this & following sherds gen pink 5YR 7/4 , surfaces light reddish yellow (5YR 7/6)
5	MS2	23	322		Misc. light reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) base & body, some with orange glaze/sooted, max 10 pots.
5	MS3	2	34	0.04	Everted bowl rim, join, with wavy line decoration & external sooting, est. diam. 310mm
5	MS3	1	27	0.05	Everted jar rim diam. 230 0mm
5	MS3	10	181		Misc. internally light brown glazed body/base, ext. sooted max 5 pots
5	MS7/8 Medieval Sandy	10	362		Transitional into Midland Purple – misc. body/base, max 5 pots. One sherd joins with (7)
5	MP – Midland Purple	1	43	0.075	Everted thin walled jar rim, diam. 230mm

5	MP	1	13	0.125	Everted thin walled pipkin jar rim, diam. 110mm, sooted externally.
5	MP	17	357		Thin walled body with curvilinear decoration & external sooting – one pot
5	MP	18	269		Misc. body base sherds, some with internal glaze & external sooting max. 6 pots.
5	EA2 – Earthenware 2	1	2		intrusive
7 [6]	SP – Splashed ware	2	50		Join coarse sandy reduced grey interior & core with a white margin and pale buff surfaces, thick walled, possibly wheel thrown with, glaze - ?Derby
7	MS – Medieval Sandy	1	24		Coarse white bodied fabric, traces of green yellow lead glaze on exterior – convex trimmed basal angles
7	NO3	1	2		glazed
7	MS7/8	4	60		Includes abraded jug neck, 3 sooted externally, 2 glazed One sherd joins with (5).
7	MP	2	42		Fine walled, both internally glazed & sooted
9 [8]	NO (Notts fabric 18??)	1	11		Fine wheel thrown body.
13 [12]	NO3	1	4		Fine abraded white bodied sherd - unglazed
MISC					
5 [4]	Industrial residue	1			Secondary smithing hearth residue (H. Addison pers. comm.)
5 [4]	Animal bone	33			
6 [7]	Animal bone	1			
22 [22]	Animal bone	1			
27 [26]	Animal bone	2			
26 [27]	Fired clay	1			

Site/ Parish: 17 St Clement's Gate, Diseworth, Leics Accession No.: XA67 2016 Document Ref: diseworth1.docx Material: pottery Site Type: village core	Submitter: R. Huxley Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Identification: 20.06.2016 Method of Recovery: wb Job Number: 16-657
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## The Animal Bones *Jennifer Browning*

### *Introduction*

This report presents the analysis of the faunal remains which were recovered during archaeological work at Clement's Drive, Diseworth, Leicestershire. A total of 44 animal bone fragments were recovered during hand excavation. The majority of the bone assemblage was recovered from a single pit, [4], with small quantities of material from a second pit [6], as well as [21] and [26]. Pit [6] contained the earliest pottery on the site, dating from the 12th or early to mid-13th century, however both pits contained pottery dating between the 13th and 16th

centuries and appear to have been backfilled within a short space of time (D. Sawday, this report).

### ***Methodology***

Specimens were identified with reference to comparative modern and ancient skeletal material held at the School of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Leicester. A *pro forma* spreadsheet was used for recording data on preservation, taxa, bone element, state of epiphyseal fusion and completeness to elicit information on species proportions, skeletal representation, age and taphonomy. Where possible, the anatomical parts present for each skeletal element were recorded using the 'zones' defined by Serjeantson (1996), with additional zones ascribed to mandibles based on Dobney and Reilly (1988). Surface preservation was assessed after Harland et al (2003). The occurrence of burning, gnawing and pathologies was noted and described. Butchery was recorded using simple coding and description. Joining fragments were re-assembled and the resulting specimen counted as a single fragment, although a record of the original number of fragments was retained.

Identifiable fragments were considered to be those that could be confidently assigned to element and taxon. Undiagnostic shaft and skull fragments were categorised as large or medium mammal, as were incomplete vertebrae and ribs.

### ***Preservation and Taphonomy***

The bones exhibited both old and modern breakage; noting the presence of conjoining fragments reduced the total from 44 to 32 specimens. The surface condition was assessed following Harland et al (2003). In all but one specimens, it was regarded as good, permitting examination for butchery marks and other modifications, with the remaining bone considered fair. Gnawing was observed on 22% of bones in the assemblage (n=7) and indicates that dogs and other scavengers had access to the bones prior to their deposition. A fragment of skull had a charred patch- no other specimens were burnt. It was possible to identify 69% of fragments to taxon.

### ***Taxa and Carcass Representation***

Cattle, sheep/goat, pig, horse, domestic fowl and goose were represented in the assemblage. Sheep/goat were most common, followed by cattle. No fish or small mammal bones were identified. The domestic fowl bones consisted of a pair of scapulae and a coracoid and are likely to belong to the same individual. Analysis of carcass representation was not carried out due to the small sample size; however the range of elements recovered from each phase is listed in Table 4. The recovered elements tend to be the more robust parts of the skeleton.

### ***Age Structure***

Analysis of age at death is usually carried out using tooth eruption and wear, supplemented by the state of epiphyseal fusion of post-cranial bones. The small sample size here precludes analysis but porosity of juvenile bones means that they are more easily destroyed than those of adults and they are therefore likely to be under-represented in the assemblage.

A tooth wear stage was recorded for a sheep/goat lower 3rd molar (after Grant 1982) and indicated a mature adult. There were no age-able teeth for cattle or pig. Only a small number of post-cranial bones with epiphyses were present; all of the cattle and sheep/goat bones were fused and the pig bones were unfused but approaching adult size.

### ***Butchery***

Butchery was noted on three bones from pit [4] and included a cattle humerus chopped through the proximal shaft and a large mammal rib fragment also chopped transversely. Another large rib fragment was sawn; a butchery practice normally associated with the post-medieval period and bones used for manufacture.

### **Discussion**

The assemblage of animal bones was associated with late medieval activity. The identified assemblage was largely recovered from a single pit, [4] and included a range of taxa; cattle, sheep/goat, pig, horse, domestic fowl and goose. These comprise the usual range of domestic animals for a late medieval site. Preservation was generally good. No remains from small mammals, amphibians or fish were recovered from the site, however the assemblage was hand-recovered and such remains are normally found in sieved assemblages. Although the small size of the group makes it difficult to interpret, it represents general settlement waste rather than waste denoting a specific activity.

Table 4: List of bone taxon and element arranged by context

<b>Context</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>sheep/goat (Ovis/Capra)</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>8</b>
lower 3rd molar			1		1
ulna	1				1
tibia	2				2
metacarpal	1				1
metatarsal	3				3
<b>Cattle (Bos taurus)</b>	<b>5</b>				<b>5</b>
2nd phalanx	1				1
humerus	1				1
metatarsal	1				1
pelvis	1				1
<b>Domestic fowl (gallus sp)</b>	<b>3</b>				<b>3</b>
coracoid	1				1
scapula	2				2
<b>Goose (Anser sp.)</b>	<b>1</b>				<b>1</b>

sternum	1				1
<b>Horse (Equid sp)</b>				<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
tibia				1	1
<b>Pig (Sus scrofa)</b>	<b>4</b>				<b>4</b>
mandible	1				1
tibia	3				3
<b>large mammal</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>7</b>
rib fragment	1	1			2
shaft fragment	5				5
<b>med mammal</b>	<b>3</b>				<b>3</b>
rib shaft	1				1
rib fragment	2				2
skull fragment	1				1
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>32</b>

### Charred plant remains

Samples from [4] and [6] were assessed for potential for the survival of environmental evidence but were found to be sterile with only modern rootles present.

### Discussion and Conclusions

The archaeological work showed that medieval activity was evident on the site with the post-holes and pits found to contain both artefacts and animal bone from this period. The majority of finds were located in pits [4] and [6], which appear to be primarily formed by domestic waste typical of the late medieval period (specifically pottery and animal bone). Both of these pits appear to have been backfilled in quick succession and probably had a function relating to the formal disposal of waste.

The group of seven post-holes do not form any distinct shape, but the features were found to become increasingly shallower to the north-east and it is probable that some have been lost through truncation. Three post-holes in the western part of site were found to be parallel to the current property boundary and one of them was found to contain pottery dating to 13th century. The small amounts of artefacts and animal bones found within the post-holes are consistent with the domestic waste recovered from the pits in the south. The majority of the post-holes were a similar size and shape and could be contemporary with the pits.

There was a clear division on the site between the types of features, which could be respecting each other. The entirety of the post-holes were confined to the northern half and the pits were

found only in the south. The post-holes are probably the remains of a medieval timber structure and the pits are representative of activity occurring outside this area such as waste disposal. The large proportion of domestic waste found within the pits indicates that the structure could have had a domestic function. The earliest pottery found within the features dated to the 12th century and the latest was the mid 16th century. The archaeology was being covered by a post-medieval subsoil and this is probably where the intrusive artefact found in pit [4] had originated.

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## Archive and Publications

The site archive (X.A67.2016), consisting of paper and photographic records, will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service.

The archive consists of:

- 1 Watching Brief Recording form.
- 3 Sheets of Permatrace Graph paper
- 25 Context Sheets
- 1 ULAS Context Summary Record
- 1 ULAS Drawing Index
- 1 ULAS Drawing Records Form
- 1 Copy of the WSI
- 1 CD of Report copy and Photographs

### **Publication**

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

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Richard Huxley and James Earley of ULAS undertook the archaeological watching brief on behalf of Mr Peter Hughes. The project was managed by Patrick Clay.

### **Oasis Information**

Oasis Number. univers1-259358

Project Name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at 17 Clements Gate, Diseworth
Project Type	Watching Brief
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Richard Huxley
Previous/Future work	N/A
Current Land Use	Garden
Development Type	Private Residential
Reason for Investigation	As condition
Position in the Planning Process	Awaiting consent
Site Co ordinates	SK 45527 24540
Start/end dates of field work	24-05-2016 to 25-05-2016
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Study Area	231 square metres

Richard Huxley  
ULAS  
University of Leicester  
University Road  
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel:0116 252 2836  
Fax: 0116 252 2614

Email: [ulas@le.ac.uk](mailto:ulas@le.ac.uk)

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## 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](mailto:ulas@le.ac.uk)

**w:** [www.le.ac.uk/ulas](http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas)



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