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Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation
On Land off Manor Road, Easthorpe,
NG13 0DU, Bottesford, Leicestershire
NGR: SK 81034 38517**

Mireya González Rodríguez



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For: Marrons Planning

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University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH

Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

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An Archaeological Evaluation on Land off Manor Road, Easthorpe, Bottesford, Leicestershire. SK 81034 38517

Mireya González Rodríguez

Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land off Manor Road, Easthorpe on behalf of Marrons Planning. Ten trenches, totalling 450m², a 3% sample of the site, were excavated to evaluate a field currently vacant but formerly used for agricultural purposes. The archaeological work was carried out from the 5th-*16th of December 2017, in accordance to National Planning Policy Framework in advance of a proposed residential development of up to 18 dwelling (Planning Ref: 17/00996/OUT).

The archaeological evaluation recorded features in 8 of the trenches, consisting of pits, gullies and a wall. The pottery recovered indicates a chronological range from the 11th century to the modern period.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire Museums under the Accession Number XA148.2017.

Introduction

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out on land off Manor Road, Easthorpe (Fig. 1), by University of Leicester Archaeological Services following consultation with Leicestershire County Council on behalf of the planning authority. Planning permission is being sought for the erection of up to 18 dwellings with associated access, infrastructures and amenity open space on land off Manor Road, Easthorpe, in its junction with Green Lane (Fig. 3) (Planning Ref: 17/00996/OUT).



Figure 1. Location of site in Easthorpe.

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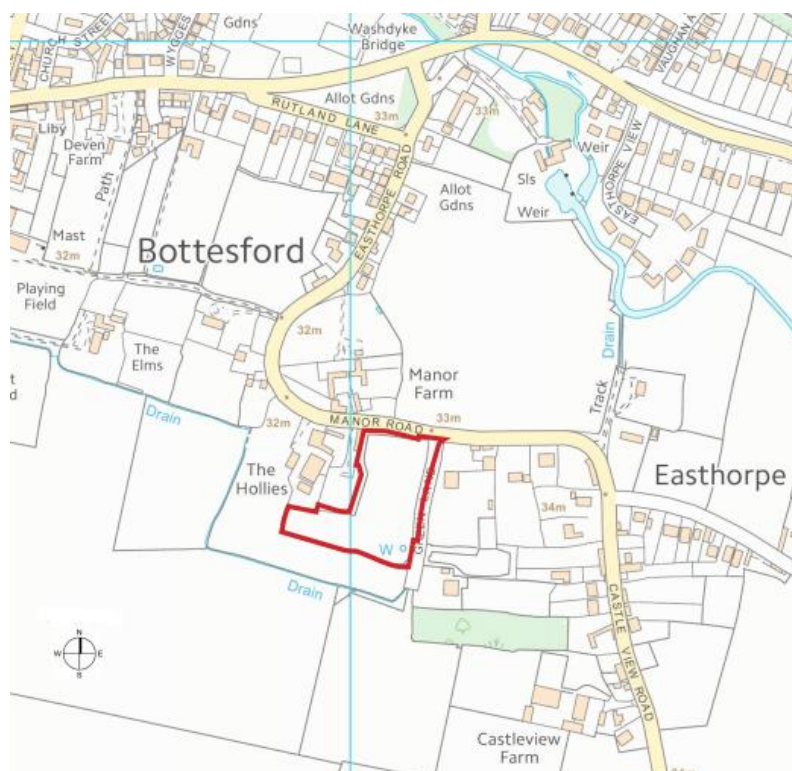


Figure 2. Location of proposed development area (provided by Client)



Figure 3. Proposed residential development (provided by Client)

Previous geophysical survey identified possible archaeological features and the Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire required a programme of archaeological work to assess the site by trial trenching. The evaluation was undertaken in order to determine the presence, character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Section 12 Enhancing and Conserving the Historic

Environment). The evaluation results will enable the Planning Archaeologist to recommend a suitable strategy to the Planning Authority with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014).

Site Description, Topography and Geology

Easthorpe is a small village lying south-east of the larger village of Bottesford, located 20km north of Melton Mowbray and 33km north-east of Loughborough in the administrative district of Melton, Leicestershire (Figs. 1-2). Easthorpe as it exists today has probably shifted from the early medieval core in a linear fashion, following the routeways towards Belvoir.

The assessment site is a small field of arable agricultural land, currently fallow, defined by existing agricultural hedgerow boundaries to the north, east, south and west, lying on the south side of Manor Road Easthorpe (Figs. 2 and 4). There are existing residential dwellings to the east and west, with further development permitted to the east of Green Lane.



a. South facing view from Manor Road



b. East facing view towards Green Lane



c. Southwest facing view of assessment area



d. South facing view towards south boundary

Figure 4. Current use of assessment area

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, indicates that the underlying geology of the site is likely to consist of drift geology of fluvial sands and gravels which in turn seal a solid geology of Lower Jurassic limestones and mudstones of the Beekingham Member (BGS 2015). The soils are of Association 543 Arrow consisting of deep permeable coarse loamy soils (SSEW 1983).

The site has an area of 1.47ha. and lies to the west of Easthorpe lodge. Existing access into the site is provided via Green Lane. The site is generally flat with only a slight incline from 37m on the north to 35m on the southwest aOD.

Historical and Archaeological Background

A desk-based Assessment has already been undertaken for the site (Carroll 2017) and the following information is summarised from there. Bottesford is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 (Morris 1977), referred to as *Botesford*, name derived from the Old English meaning ‘the ford at the *bōtl* or building’ (Bourne 2003). The place-name Easthorpe is not specifically referred to until c.1240. Easthorpe refers to the eastern outlying settlement from the Old Scandinavian ‘thorp’ (Cox 2005). Associated with Easthorpe, the oldest surviving names relate to the rivers and streams. The River Devon, running to the northeast of the site, has Celtic origins meaning ‘black river’. The name of the River Winterbeck derived from the Danish *bekkr* and together with the River Grimmer formed the early boundaries of the parish.

At the time of the Domesday Survey Robert de Todei held the land in Bottesford comprising two manors. Additionally, there is mention of a priest and 6½ mills (Williams and Martin 2002). Robert de Todei built the castle at Belvoir and became the Lord of Belvoir and subsequent Lords of Belvoir, now Dukes of Rutland, maintained the Manor of Bottesford and their manor house at Easthorpe (Honeybone 1989).

Land ownership of Bottesford and Easthorpe remained largely with the Dukes of Rutland and the Church. By the time of the Enclosure Act of 1770, 3,000 of the 5,000 acre parish were owned by the church or the Dukes of Rutland, with much of the land being farmed by tenant farmers. One such farmer, John Hand, moved in to the Manor House in Easthorpe in 1799 and the 273 acres of land were used to develop new prize winning breeds of sheep. In 1799, the farm to the north of the assessment area which can be seen on the early maps was owned by the Duke of Rutland and was tenanted by Richard Chambers (Evans 1989). However, by March 1920, as a consequence of the World War I and the pressure of taxation, the Duke of Rutland had decided to sell 2,066 acres of Bottesford Parish in over 500 lots. The land immediately around Easthorpe Manor was retained by the Duke, but most of the land occupied within the assessment area was sold. The Lodge at this time was owned by the Players family of the Players cigarette company based in Nottingham.



Figure 5. Enclosure map of 1771 (left) and 1887 OS Map (right) (assessment area in blue)

The earliest cartographic evidence for the assessment area is the 1771 Enclosure Map (Fig. 5), which indicates land division into three irregularly shaped fields, probably under the ownership of the Duke of Rutland. Changes to the character of this plot of land is seen in the 1887 edition of the Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 5). Still tripartite, the northernmost field bordering Manor Road is represented as a slightly wooded area, a pond is indicated in the middle field and the southern field contains buildings on the side bordering with Green Lane.

Archaeological Background

The assessment area lies within the historic settlement core of Easthorpe (**MLE9094**) and there are a number of known archaeological sites within the immediate vicinity. The site of a Scheduled Monument (**DLE236**) (**ID: 1009195**) Easthorpe Manor (**MLE3427**), and associated with this a shifted medieval village, earthworks and moat (**MLE3429**) are approximately 25m to the north of the proposed development. Within the surrounding landscape, there are two find spots of Roman pottery 200m to the south (**MLE6812**) and (**MLE3430**). Additionally, c. 500m to the north is the site of a possible earlier medieval watermill mentioned in the Domesday Book and the post-medieval mill that replaced this (**MLE16747**). The remaining sites within the 1km radius are summarised below according to period.

Prehistoric

During works associated with the Bottesford Bypass, approximately 600m south of the assessment area, flint blades from the Mesolithic period (**MLE16467**) and a Neolithic leaf arrowhead (**MLE16155**) were identified along with a number of Iron Age features (**MLE3431**) and pottery finds (**MLE16464**).

A Bronze Age ring ditch (**MLE3405**) and Iron Age enclosure (**MLE3404**) were identified as crop marks 1km south east of the assessment area north of Easthorpe Cottage. Further evidence of prehistoric activity in the area include a late Iron Age quern stone (**MLE3397**) found at St Mary's Church.

Roman

Roman pottery and coins from the first to the third century were found during work on the aforesaid Bypass (**MLE3432**) and a number of features wall foundations and pits cutting earlier Iron Age features (**MLE16464** & **16156**) indicating some continuity of settlement in this area. Other isolated find spots of Roman pottery are recorded at Grantham Lane (**MLE16157**) and on the allotment east of Wyggeston Road (**MLE17367**) in Bottesford, 500m north-west of the assessment area. An early Roman cremation in a calcite-gritted jar was found in ground close to St Mary's Church (**MLE3398**)

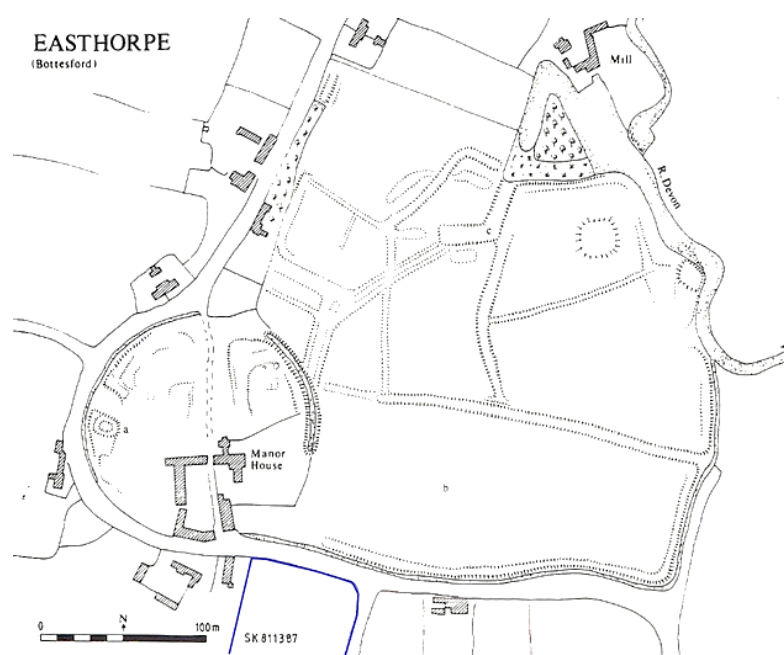


Figure 6. Earthwork Survey of Easthorpe Manor (Hartley 1988) (assessment area marked in blue)

Anglo-Saxon-Medieval

Evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity is limited to individual find spots in Bottesford (**MLE9485**) and the area of the Bypass (**MLE16466**). An inscribed stone was found in a wall of the Rectory (**MLE6811**), possibly relating to one of the earlier Lords of the Manor in 1249.

Evidence of the medieval period in Easthorpe lies largely with the existence of the shifted village earthworks and manor house (**MLE 3427**), located on the east side of the present village of Bottesford within a rectangular parcel of land measuring approximately 275m by 250m. The area designated as a scheduled monument has been very much undisturbed and yielded little in the way of known finds. The earthworks are clearly represented in Hartley's survey of medieval earthworks of Northwest Leicestershire (1987) (Fig. 6). The village remains are identifiable as a series of house plots, gardens and closes subdivided by a network of ditches. The whole monument is bounded on the south side by the Manor Road and on the east side by drainage ditches and the River Devon. On the north-west side the cross-cutting of ditches indicates at least two separate phases of construction. On the west side, the earthworks are preserved as far as the houses which face Easthorpe Road. The circular moat, with a diameter of 130m, is in the south-western corner of the monument partly bounded by the main road which respects the western edge of the moat. The moat ditch is up to 10m wide and 1.5m deep and is infilled on the east side. Two entrances on the north and south sides are considered to be original access points. Manor Farm house occupies the southern area of the moat and, just to the west of this, foundations of an earlier building have been recorded. A prominent house platform with a pronounced hollow, measuring 15m by 12m, is situated to the west of Manor Farm house. There is also evidence of low earthworks in the northern half of the island.

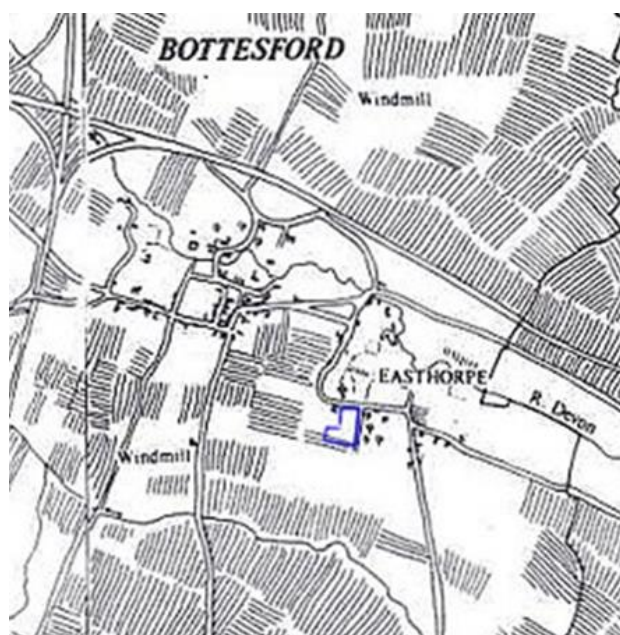


Figure 7. Ridge and Furrow in the vicinity of the assessment area (in blue) (Hartley 1987)

There is evidence of medieval ridge and furrow in much of the landscape around Easthorpe (Figure 7). The area bordering the river was probably meadow land, and the area around the development site was possibly pasture land. Three open fields and two areas of medieval pasture and a pattern of earthworks on a field at Toston may represent a deserted village (**MLE9845**) approximately 1km southeast of the assessment area.

Post-Medieval

The Manor Farmhouse, built of ironstone and brick, has 17th century origins in the south range (**MLE11240**). The building was altered in the 18th and 20th centuries. An early post-medieval frontage, later cleared, was identified on Grantham Road 500m north of the assessment site (**MLE17366**), and the Mill at Easthorpe (**MLE16747**) dated to the post-medieval period.

Previous archaeological work in the vicinity of the assessment area

An archaeological evaluation undertaken in January 2016 at Easthorpe Lodge (Kipling 2016), immediately east of the assessment area, on the opposite side of Green Lane, provided evidence for early medieval of archaeological activity in the northern part of the site, with plough furrows recorded in the southern paddock area.

Aims and Objectives

Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation involving the excavation of exploratory trenches to ascertain the presence, condition and date of any archaeological remains which may be present.

The main objectives of the archaeological work were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscape.
- To recover artefacts and ecofacts to compare with other assemblages and results.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Within the stated project aims, the principal objective was to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, and significance of the heritage assets within their local and regional context in order to formulate a mitigation strategy to address the impacts of the proposed development on cultural heritage.

Draft Research Themes

The evaluation was designed taking into consideration the *East Midlands Research Framework* (Cooper 2006), and the updated *Research Agenda and Strategy* (Knight *et al.* 2012).

- (1) Review the evidence for developing settlement hierarchies in order to analyse changes in morphology of settlements in order to establish whether structural agglomeration represents nucleation or successive occupation in the same location (Knight 2012, 86).
- (2) Investigate the morphology of rural settlements within a complex landscape in order to assess the date of origin of the region's many planned villages and the factors underlying observed variations in settlement morphology (Knight 2012, 100).
- (3) Investigate the development, structure and landholdings of manorial estate centres to confirm the identity of features and clarify the chronology of manorial development, which in some cases may be rooted in the pre-Conquest period (Knight 2012, 101).

Methodology

The Design Specification (Score 2017) proposed the examination of ten c.30m by 1.6m trenches (c.450m²) in order to provide a 3% sample of the site. A detailed magnetometer survey was conducted beforehand, which indicate the presence of several linear, sub-rectangular and discrete responses likely to be associated with the shifted medieval village along with evidence of ridge and furrow along with and old field boundary and the remains of further buildings as recorded in the OS Maps. The position of the trenches was established to provide an even spread across the site while targeting features identified in the geophysical survey (Fig. 8-9).



Figure 8. Interpretation of magnetometer survey (Sumo 2017)

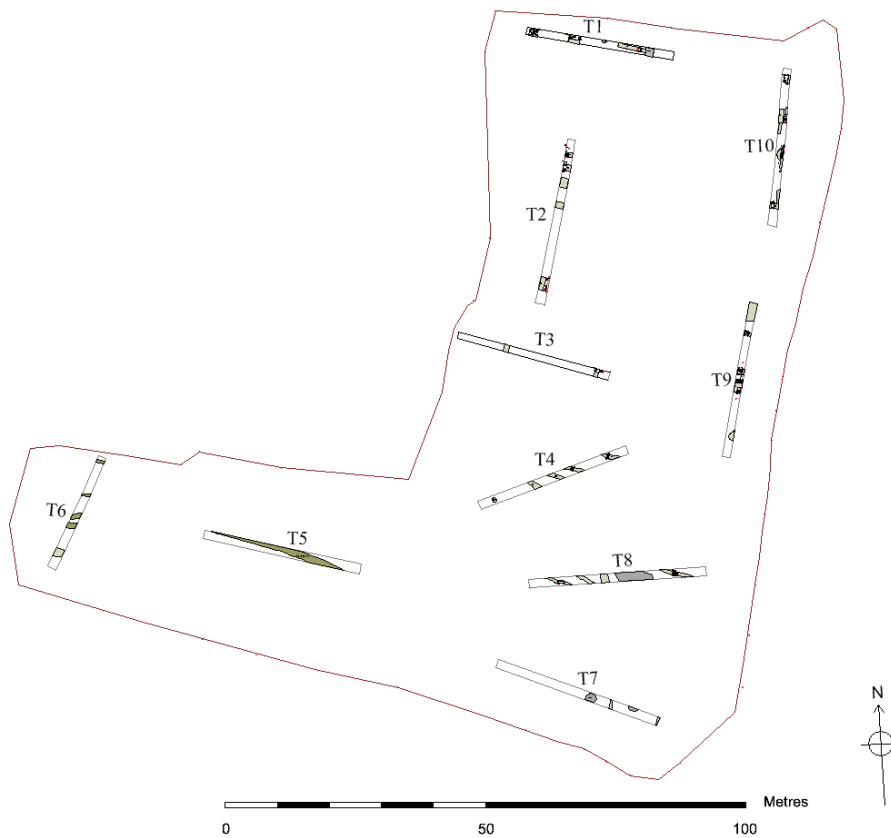


Figure 9. Location of trenches

The topsoil and overlying layer were removed in level spits under continuous archaeological supervision to the uppermost level of significant archaeological deposits, the natural substratum, or to a maximum safe working depth, depending on which was reached first. Trenches were excavated using a tracked 20 tonne 360° mechanical digger using a 1.6m wide ditching bucket. The trenches were recorded and then backfilled at the end of the evaluation. The location of the trenches and features were recorded using a Topcon SR RTK differential GPS.

All trenches, exposed sections and spoil heaps were visually inspected for features and finds. Archaeological features were hand cleaned, photographed and sample excavated as appropriate to address the objectives of the evaluation. Field notes were recorded on pro-forma ULAS trench recording forms whilst all excavated stratigraphic units were given a unique context number and recorded on pro-forma ULAS context sheets. Measured drawings of all archaeological features were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and were attached to the overall site plan, which will be tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

A photographic record of the excavation was prepared, illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. Colour digital photographs were taken throughout the evaluation. The photographic record also included ‘working shots’ to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

Results

Ten 30m trenches were excavated, targeting the anomalies highlighted in the geophysical survey (Fig. 10). Trench 6 was slightly shorter due to space constraints on the south-western corner of the field. Trench 8 was extended on its eastern edge for health and safety reasons in order to sample excavate gully [48]. The results of the evaluation are presented below by trench, followed by specialist reports.



Figure 10. Plan of trenches with archaeological features in black overlain on the geophysical survey.

Trench 1 (T1)

Trench 1 was located on the north-western corner of the assessment area. It was excavated in a right angle to the field boundary and parallel to Manor Road. The topsoil, ranging from 0.18m to 0.38m in depth, consisted of mid brown grey silty sand loamy soil, with a soft and friable consistency, and sparse small sub-angular pebbles. The subsoil was a soft mid grey brown sandy silt with rare sub-angular cobbles, with a variation in depth oscillating between 0.21m and 0.54m. The natural subsoil was light brown yellow sand with patches of gravels, seen at a minimum depth of 0.50m below ground surface.

Trench 1							
Alignment	W-E						
Length (m)	Width (m)		Area (m ²)	Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)	
27m	1.6m		43m ²	0.50m		0.85m	
Interval from W	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	To E end 30m
Topsoil depth	0.25m	0.30m	0.22m	0.18m	0.38m	0.27m	0.29m
Subsoil depth	0.46m	0.51m	0.54m	0.45m	0.23m	0.27m	0.21m
Top of Natural substratum	0.71m	0.81m	-	0.63m	0.61m	-	0.50m
Base of trench	0.75m	0.85m	0.76m	0.63m	0.61m	0.54m	0.50m



Figure 11. West facing view of Trench 1 (Scales: 1.00m)

Six features were recorded in T1: two large pits in the western end of the trench ([3] and [6]), with a smaller one approximately 14m to the east; two north-south ditches (medieval [14] and modern [10]) and an L-shaped linear feature [8] (Fig. 11).

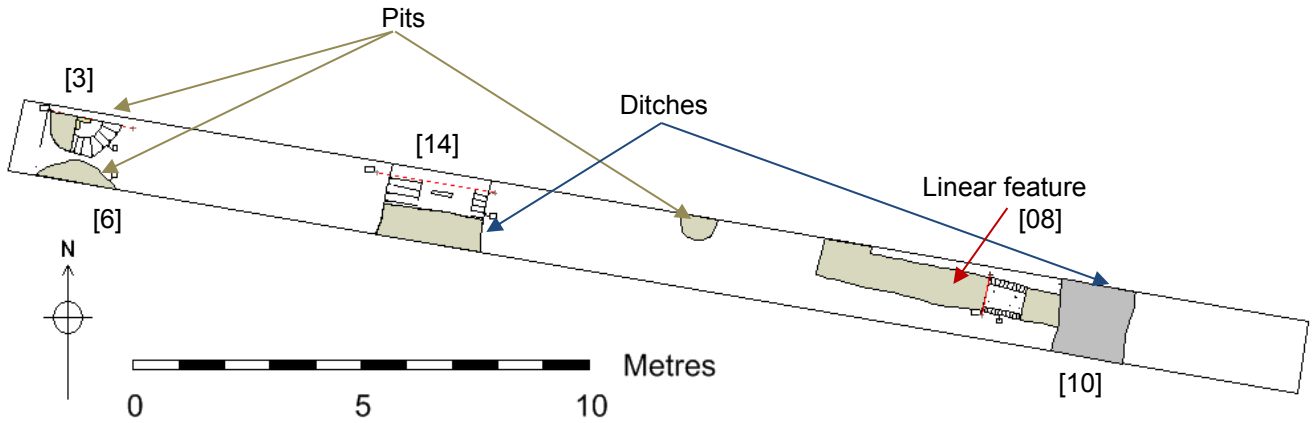


Figure 12. Plan of Trench 1.

Pit [3] was sub-circular in plan, measuring 1.80m on its E-W diameter and a minimum width on 0.80m north-south and 0.50m in depth (Fig. 12). It had moderate sloping concave sides and concave base. This cut contained two fills (4) and (5). Context (4) consisted of dark grey brown silty sand with occasional fragments of charcoal, rare sub-angular pebbles measuring 0.50m in thickness. Below (4) was a thin layer, 0.06m thick, of sand with large amounts of charcoal (5). Two medium sub-angular stones were recovered at the bottom of the pit. A significant amount of medieval pottery was recovered from context (4). This included fragments of light green glazed Stamford ware, Sandy and Shelly wares as well as dark green glazed Nottingham fabrics. The pottery assemblage from this feature ranges from the 12th to the mid-15th centuries.

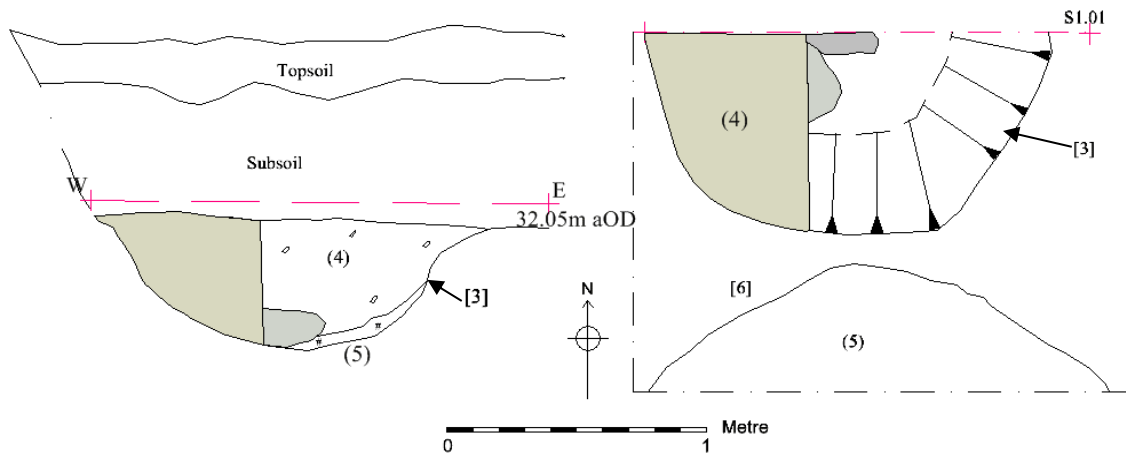


Figure 13. Pit [3] in T1 (Scale 0.50m)

The east-west linear feature [8] was 7m in length and 0.80m in width, was recorded in the eastern end of the trench (Fig.13), turning north on the border with the edge of the trench. The feature was very shallow, 0.11m deep, with concave sides and flat base and contained one single fill (9) a mid dark grey brown silty sand with rare charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-angular pebbles and broken flint. The pottery recovered from this contexts consists of Stamford and Coarse Shelly Wares dating from the mid-11th to the early 15th centuries. This feature was truncated on the east side by a later north-south ditch ([10] (11)). This later ditch was not fully excavated – modern glass was recovered at approximately 0.20m. The ditch was 1.6m wide with moderate concave sides and filled with a dark orange brown loamy sand with charcoal flecks and infrequent flint and sub-angular pebbles.

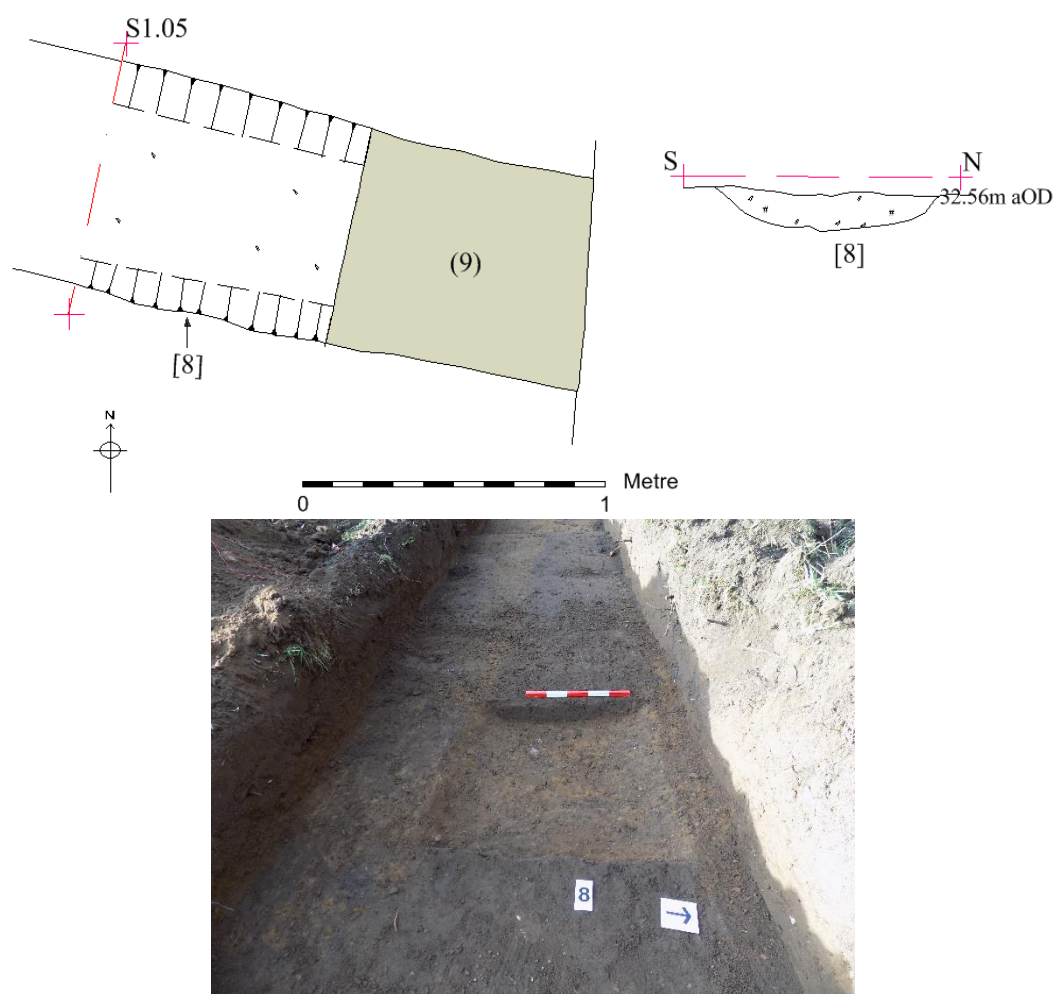
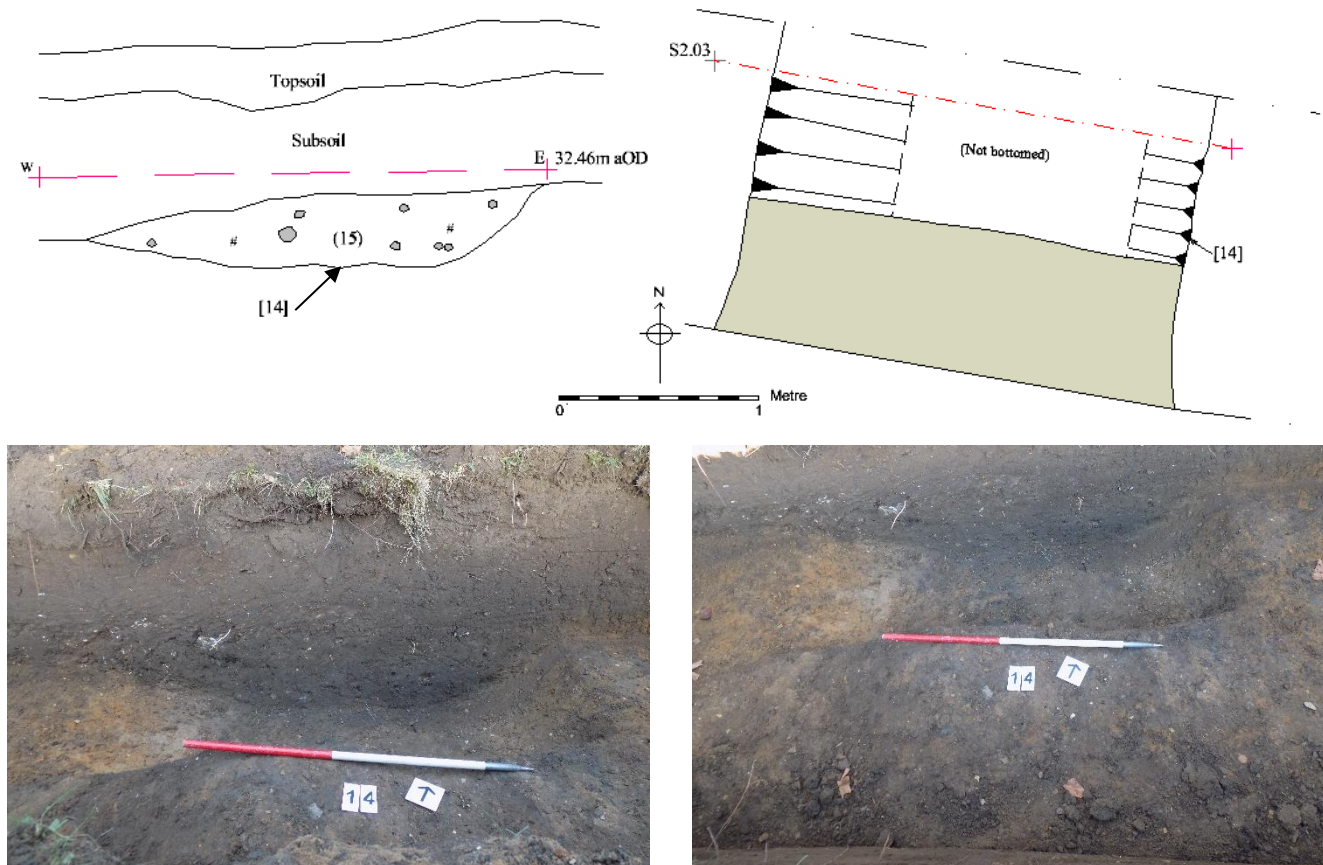


Figure 14. Linear feature [8] in T1 (Scale: 0.50m).

Approximately 7m east of pits [3] and [6] was a north-south ditch ([14] (15)) (Fig. 14). A slot was excavated to a depth of 0.40m. Due to the unstable sections no further exploration was undertaken. Ditch [14], 2.55m wide with moderate concave sides, contained (15), a dark grey brown silty sand with frequent fragments of charcoal and occasional pebbles and broken flint. This deposit was rich in pottery and animal bone. Amongst the pottery assemblage were sherds of Stamford, Coarse Shelly wares along with red glazed Nottingham fabrics dating from the early 12th to the early 15th century. Bourne and Oxidised Sandy wares from the mid-15th to mid-17th centuries were also recovered. A significant amount of animal bone was encountered in this feature, including the skull of a horse among other indeterminate fragmentary bones.



South facing section of ditch [14]

Slot through (15) – not fully excavated

Figure 15. Ditch [14] in T1 (Scale: 1.00m)

Trench 2 (T2)

Trench 2 was located on the western side of the assessment area, 18m south of Trench 1, on a north-south alignment parallel to the west field boundary. The topsoil, ranging from 0.10m to 0.39m in depth, consisted of mid brown grey silty sand loamy soil, with a soft and friable consistency, and sparse small sub-angular pebbles. The subsoil was a soft mid grey brown sandy silt with rare sub-angular cobbles, with a variation in depth oscillating between 0.26m and 0.43m. The natural subsoil was light brown yellow sand with patches of gravels, seen at a minimum depth of 0.46m below ground surface.

Trench 2							
Alignment	N-S						
Length (m)	Width (m)		Area (m ²)	Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)	
32m	1.6m		51.2m ²	0.46m		0.82m	
Interval from N	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	To S end 30m
Topsoil depth	0.10m	0.20m	0.15m	0.15m	0.25m	0.16m	0.39m
Subsoil depth	0.35m	0.40m	0.31m	0.40m	0.26m	0.37m	0.43m
Top of Natural substratum	0.45m	-	0.46m	0.55m	0.51m	0.53m	0.82m
Base of trench	0.46m	0.60m	0.54m	0.56m	0.59m	0.54m	0.82m



Figure 16. North facing view of Trench 2 (Scales: 1.00m)

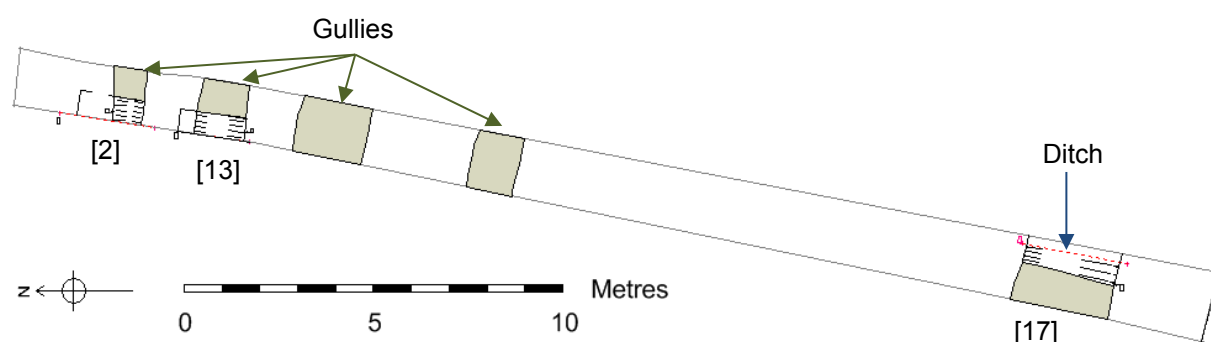


Figure 17. Plan of Trench 2

Four parallel gullies were recorded in the northern half of Trench 2, two of which were sample excavated (Fig. 16). Gully [2], an east-west linear gully, measured 0.80m in width and 0.37m in depth (Figure 17). The fill (1) was a friable mid grey brown silty sand which contained fragments of bovine and caprine bones and a small assemblage of medieval pottery (Fig. 17).

Approximately 1.50m south of gully [2] was gully [13] with moderate sloping sides and a V-shaped base measuring 1.30m in width and 0.39m deep (Fig. 18). It contained a mid grey brown sandy silt with infrequent sub-angular pebbles (12). Three pottery sherds were recovered from this fill, all dating from the 10th to mid-12th centuries, including spotted glazed Nottingham wares and a rim sherd of Stamford ware with evidence for sooting on the outside.

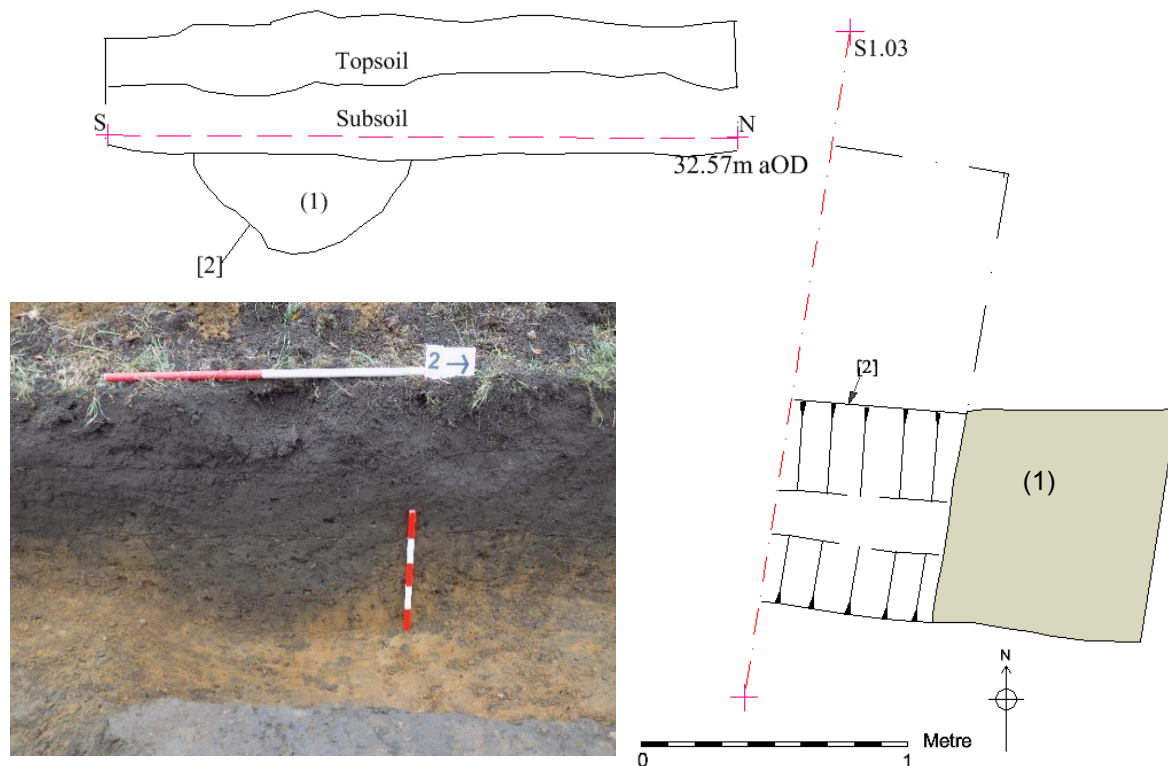


Figure 18. Plan and section of gully [2] in Trench 2 (Scales: 0.50m and 1.00m).

Two further linear features were recorded immediately south of [13], one measuring 1.90m in width and the second 1.30m. The fill of both are similar to (1) and (2). No surface pottery was seen.

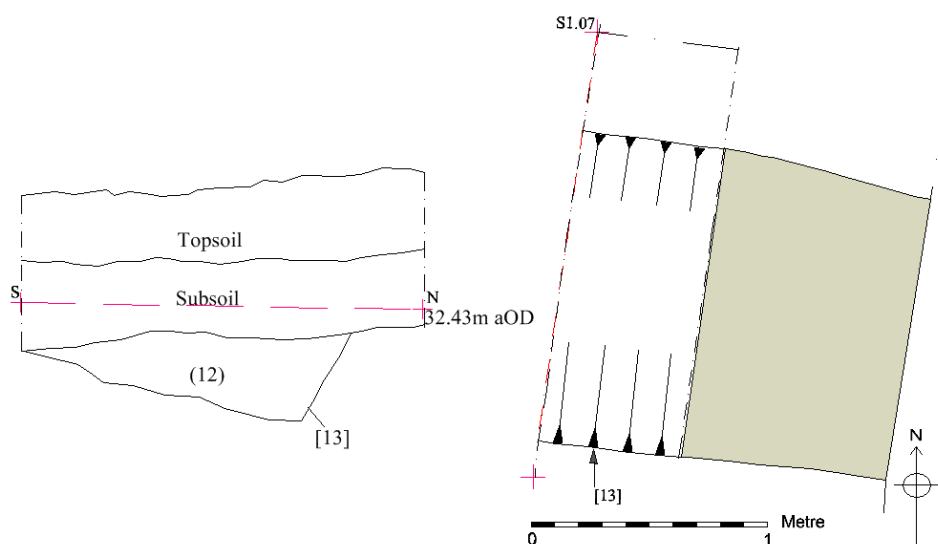


Figure 19. Section and plan of gully [13] in T2.

In the east of Trench 2 was ditch [17], approximately 15m south-east of the s gullies. The southern end the trench was extended to expose the full width of the east-west ditch (Fig. 19). It was 2.60m wide with moderately sloping sides and a relatively flat base. The fill (16) comprised a mid grey brown silty clay, 0.40 in depth, containing a small assemblage of animal bones. A single pottery sherd was recovered from this context, a green glazed base dated from the mid-11th to the early 15th century.

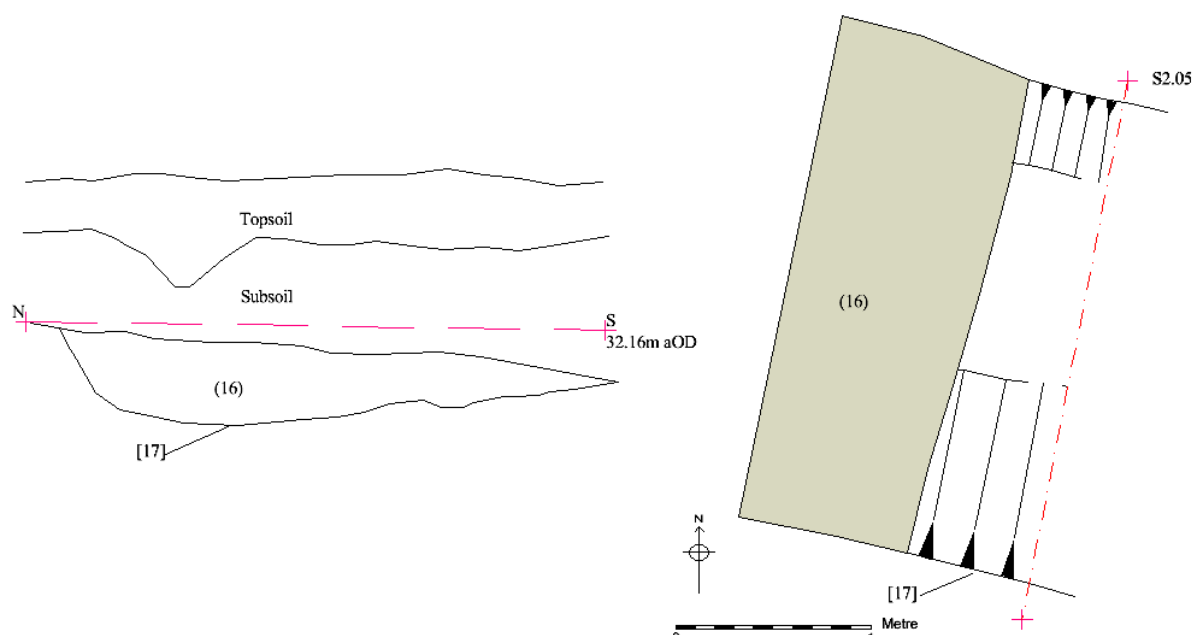


Figure 20. Section and plan of ditch [17] in T2.

Trench 3 (T3)

Trench 3 was located on the west end of the central area of the site, against the west field boundary. It was excavated on a west-east alignment, 10m south of Trench 2. The topsoil fluctuated between 0.28m and 0.32m and consisted of mid brown grey silty sand loamy soil, with a soft and friable consistency, and rare small sub-angular pebbles. The subsoil was a soft mid grey brown sandy silt with rare sub-angular fragments of ironstone. The variation in subsoil depth oscillated between 0.40m on the eastern end of the trench to 0.78m on the west. The natural subsoil was a mid light brown yellow sand seen at a minimum depth of 0.68m below ground surface.

Trench 3							
Alignment	E-W						
Length (m)	Width (m)		Area (m ²)	Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)	
29m	1.6m		46.4m ²	0.68m		1.08m	
Interval from W	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	To E end 30m
Topsoil depth	0.30m	0.28m	0.32m	0.32m	0.29m	0.31m	0.28m
Subsoil depth	0.78m	0.66m	0.70m	0.58m	0.57m	0.51m	0.40m
Top of Natural substratum	1.08m	0.94m	1.04m	0.92m	0.86m	0.82m	0.68m
Base of trench	1.08m	1.03m	1.06m	0.94m	0.88m	0.82m	0.68m



Figure 21. West facing view of Trench 3 (Scales: 1.00m)

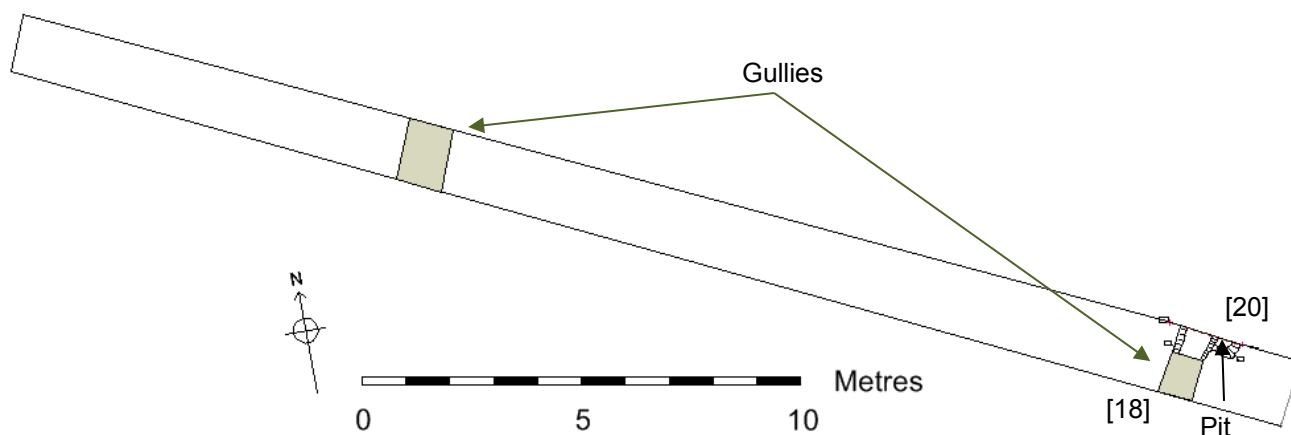
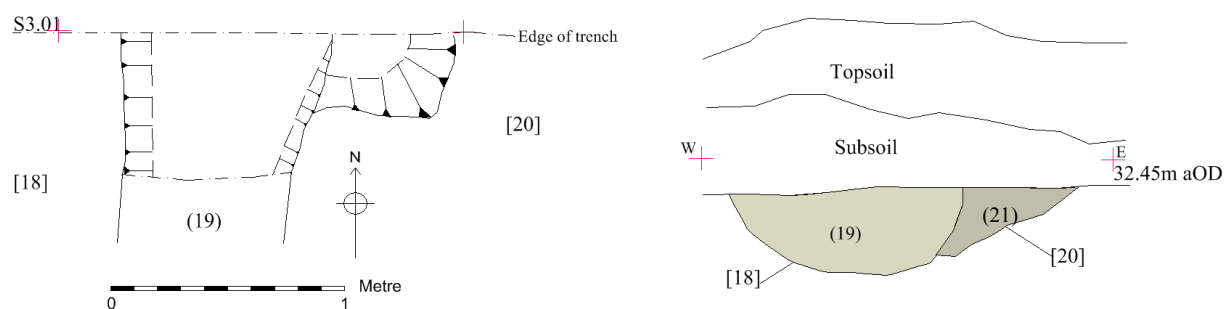


Figure 22. Plan of Trench 3

Two gullies were uncovered in T3 along with a small pit (Fig.21). One of the gullies was sample excavated in order to establish a relative chronology. Gully [18] lay on a north-south alignment, 17m east of the second gully. It was approximately 1.00m in width and had U-shaped sides sloping onto a flat base (Fig. 22). The fill (19) was a mid orange brown silty sand with infrequent flecks of charcoal and rare sub-angular pebbles. It contained one single sherd of fine Stamford ware giving us a relative date ranging from the mid-11th to the early 13th century.

Small pit [20] was truncated by [18] on the west side (Fig. 22). The sub-oval cut measured 0.52m on its east-west axis and 0.35m north-south. It had concave shallow sides sloping to a U-shaped base. No finds were recovered from this feature.



Gully [18] and pit [20] (Scales: 0.50m and 0.30m)

Figure 23. Plan and section of excavated features in Trench 3

Trench 4 (T4)

Trench 4 was located on the centre of the assessment area, running on a southwest-northeast alignment 20m south of T3 and 18m north of Trench 8. The topsoil oscillated between 0.29m and 0.34m and consisted of mid brown grey silty sand loamy soil, with a friable consistency, and infrequent small sub-angular pebbles. The subsoil was a soft mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional sub-angular pebbles and broken flint. The variation in subsoil depth fluctuated between 0.30m to 0.40m. The natural subsoil was a mid light brown yellow sand seen at a minimum depth of 0.63m below ground surface. In the deepest sections of the trench, patches of a lighter and finer yellow sand were observed.

Trench 4							
Alignment	SW-NE						
Length (m)	Width (m)		Area (m ²)	Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)	
29.30m	1.6m		46.88m ²	0.63m		0.84m	
Interval from SW	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	To NE end 30m
Topsoil depth	0.30m	0.29m	0.30m	0.30m	0.29m	0.34m	0.30m
Subsoil depth	0.32m	0.40m	0.38m	0.40m	0.40m	0.30m	0.43m
Top of Natural substratum	0.62m	0.69m	0.68m	0.70m	0.69m	0.64m	0.63m
Base of trench	0.64m	0.84m	0.71m	0.70m	0.69m	0.64m	0.63m



Figure 24. East facing view of Trench 4 (Scales: 1.00m)

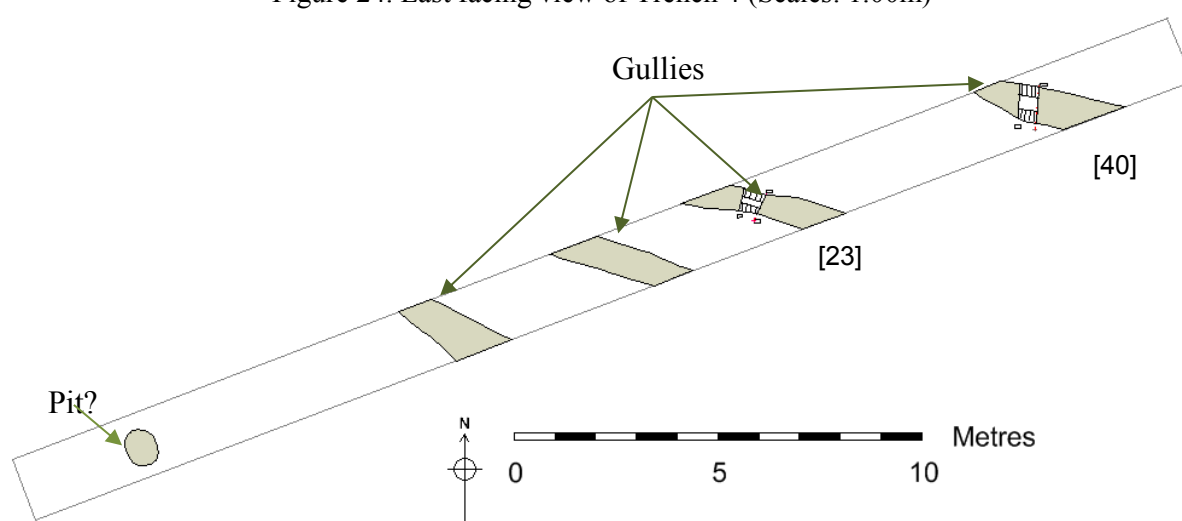


Figure 25. Plan of Trench 4

Four parallel gullies were recorded in T4 on and northwest-southeast alignment (Fig. 24). Two 0.50m slots were excavated through gullies [23] and [40], on the east end of the trench. Gully [23] (Fig. 25) was located 10m west of the east end of Trench 4, measuring 3.00m on the north-south axis and 0.70m width. It had U-shaped sides with sloping steeply into a concave base. The fill (22) was a mid orange brown silty sand with rare sub-rounded pebbles. No finds were recovered from this context.

To the east of [23], 3m west of the edge of excavation, gully [40], slightly irregular in plan, was approximately 0.80m wide on the north end of the trench and 0.96 on the south end (Fig. 25). The sides of the gully were U-shaped sides sloping steeply into an irregular concave base. It was filled by (3) a firm mid orange brown silty sand) 0.40m thick, with occasional medium sized pebbles. No finds were recovered from this fill.

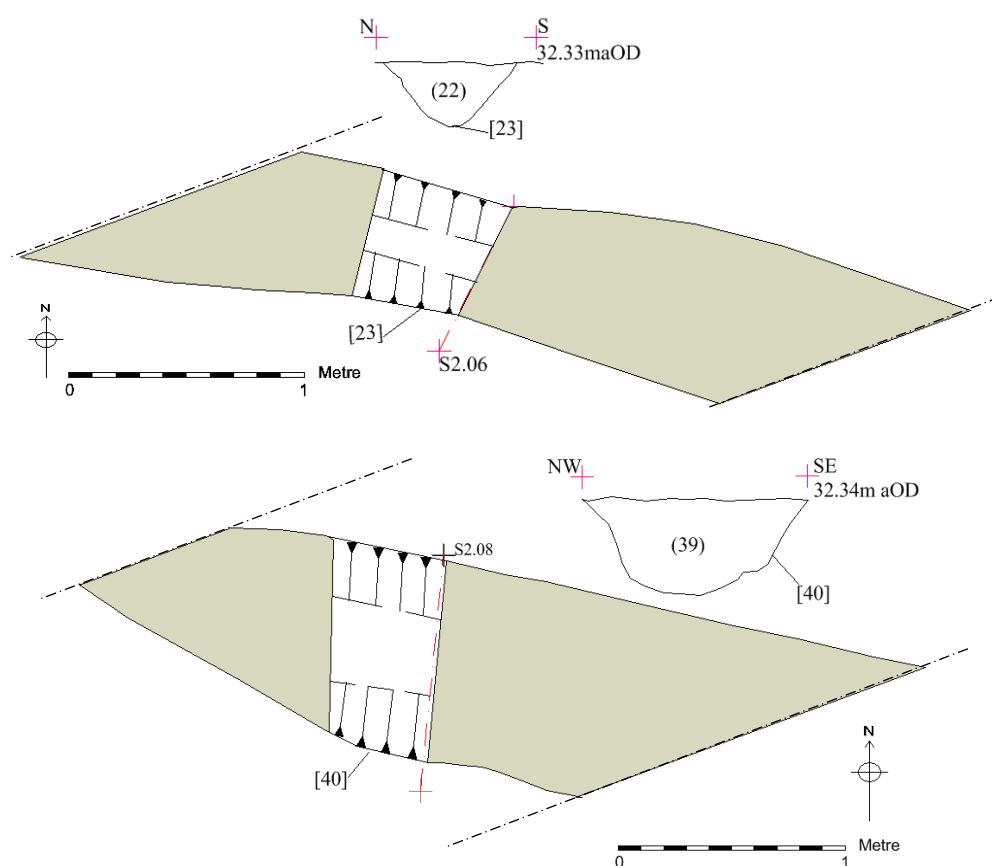


Figure 26. Section and plan of gully [23] (above) and gully [40] (below)

Trench 5 (T5)

Trench 5 was located parallel to the field boundary on the southwest of the assessment area. It was excavated on a west-east alignment, 24m east of T6 and approximately 30m west of T8. The topsoil fluctuated between 0.28m and 0.32m and consisted of mid brown grey silty sand loamy soil, with a soft and friable consistency, and rare small sub-angular pebbles. The subsoil was a soft mid grey brown sandy silt with rare sub-angular fragments of ironstone. The variation in subsoil depth oscillates between 0.40m on the eastern end of the trench to 0.78m on the west. The natural subsoil was a mid light brown yellow sand seen at a minimum depth of 0.68m below ground surface.

A furrow was recorded running longitudinally along the trench on a slight northwest-southeast alignment. No other features or archaeological deposits were revealed in this trench.

Trench 5							
Alignment	E-W						
Length (m)	Width (m)		Area (m ²)	Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)	
30m	1.6m		48m ²	0.50m		0.68m	
Interval from W	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	To E end 30m
Topsoil depth	0.26m	0.32m	0.35m	0.28m	0.32m	0.32m	0.31m
Subsoil depth	0.50m	0.50m	0.54m	0.60m	0.73m	0.76m	0.29m
Top of Natural substratum	0.76m	0.82m	0.89m	0.88m	1.05m	1.08m	-
Base of trench	0.76m	0.82m	0.89m	0.88m	1.06m	1.10m	0.60m



Figure 27. East facing view of Trench 5 (Scales: 1.00m)

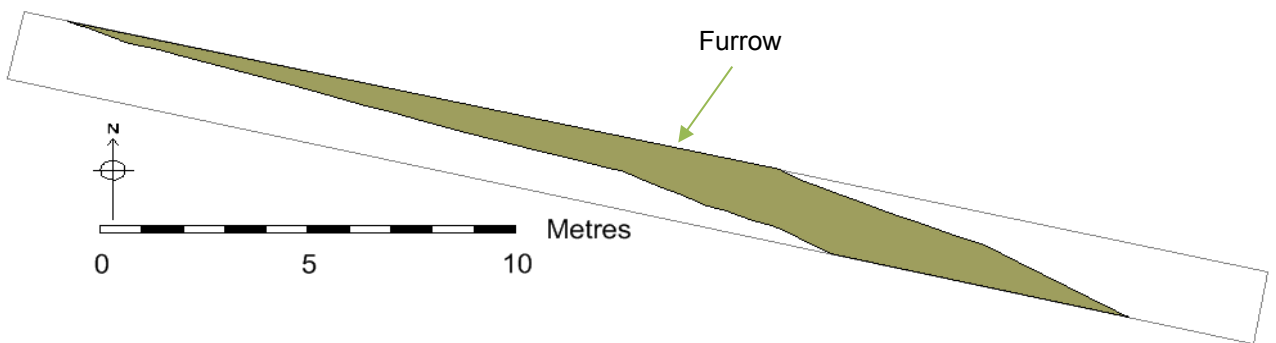


Figure 28. Plan of Trench 5

Trench 6 (T6)

Trench 6 ran parallel to the westernmost field boundary on the south-west corner of the assessment area. Due to space constraints, Trench 6 was 22.50m long and was excavated on a north-east to south-west alignment, 24m west of Trench 5. The topsoil varied between 0.28m and 0.32m and consisted of mid brown grey silty sand loamy soil, with a soft and friable consistency, and rare small sub-angular pebbles. The subsoil was a soft mid grey brown sandy silt with rare sub-angular fragments of ironstone. The variation in subsoil depth oscillated between 0.40m on the eastern end of the trench to 0.78m on the west. The natural subsoil was a mid light brown yellow sand seen at a minimum depth of 0.68m below ground surface.

Four furrows and a modern ditch at the south end were recorded in Trench 6 (Figs. 28-29).

Trench 6						
Alignment	NE-SW					
Length (m)	Width (m)		Area (m ²)	Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)
22.50m	1.6m		36m ²	0.40m		0.65m
Interval from S	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	To N end 22.50m
Topsoil depth	0.20m	0.24m	0.25m	0.29m	0.22m	0.20m
Subsoil depth	0.40m	0.53m	0.45m	0.55m	0.37m	0.20m
Top of Natural substratum	0.60m	0.77m	0.70m	0.84m	0.59m	0.40m
Base of trench	0.60m	0.80m	0.70m	0.84m	0.59m	0.40m



Figure 29. North facing view of Trench 6 (Scales: 1.00m)

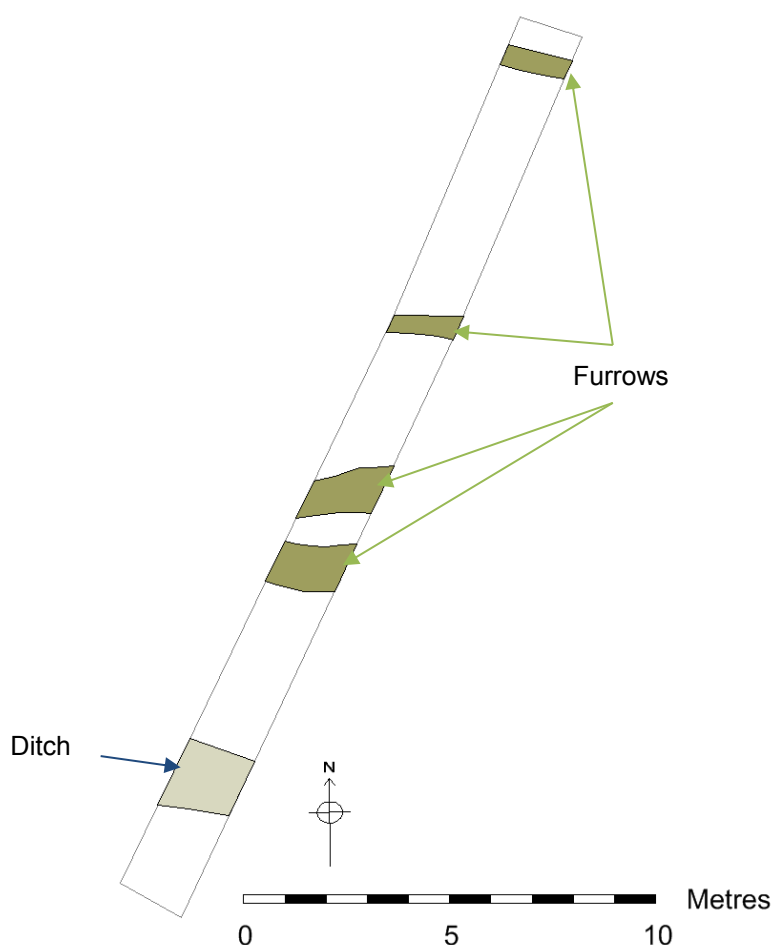


Figure 30. Plan of Trench 6.

Trench 7 (T7)

Trench 7 was located on the south-eastern corner of the assessment area, parallel to the southern field boundary. It is situated 20 metre south of Trench 8, on an east-west alignment. The topsoil, varying between 0.28m and 0.37m, consisted of a mid brown grey sandy silt, loamy soil with rare inclusions of small angular pebbles. The subsoil oscillated between 0.40m and 0.59m in depth, consisted of friable mid grey brown silty sand. The subsoil is significantly disturbed due to modern pitting, particularly in the eastern side of the trench. The natural soil was mid yellow brown sand seen at a minimum depth of 0.70m.

Trench 7							
Alignment	W-E						
Length (m)	Width (m)		Area (m ²)	Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)	
30.20m	1.6m		48.32m ²	0.50m		0.70m	
Interval from W	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	To E end 30m
Topsoil depth	0.28m	0.32m	0.33m	0.30m	0.32m	0.31	0.30m
Subsoil depth	0.50m	0.59m	0.57m	0.52m	0.58m	-	0.40m
Top of Natural substratum	0.78m	0.91m	0.90m	0.82m	0.90m	-	0.70m
Base of trench	0.78m	0.91m	0.90m	0.82m	0.90m	-	0.70m



Figure 31. South facing view of Trench 7 (Scales: 1.00m)

Two small gullies were recorded on the eastern end of Trench 7 on a north-south alignment. In addition, two large refuse pits were unearthed, filled with garden utensils, pottery and glass. These are likely to be associated with the buildings recorded in the 1887 Ordnance survey map (Fig. 5). Cartographic sources from the 1970s indicate the buildings have been demolished - as per request by the Player's family¹, the new owners of Easthorpe Lodge - and a pump was present on the south-east corner of the field (Carroll 2017).

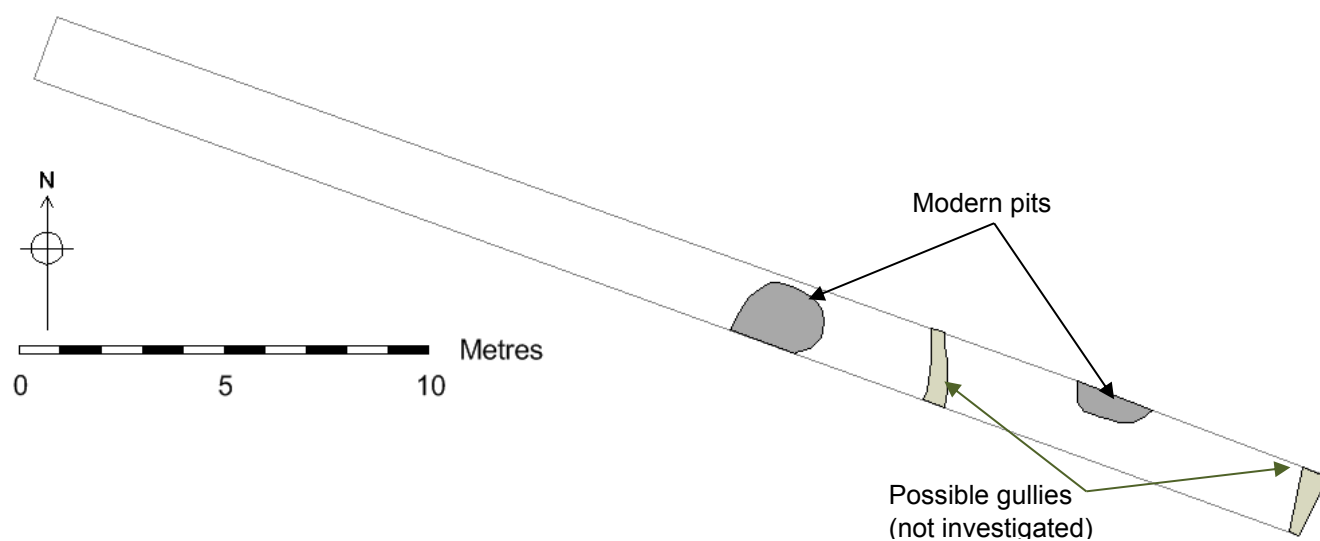


Figure 32. Plan of Trench 7

¹ Personal communication with current owner of the lodge and village neighbours (December 2017)



Figure 33. Modern pitting in central area of Trench 8 -similar modern deposits to those in Trench 7
(Scales: 1.00m)

Trench 8 (T8)

Trench 8 was located on the south-eastern edge of the assessment area, 20m north of T7 and 20m south of T4. The trench was excavated on a slight south-west to north-east alignment. The topsoil, varied between 0.29m and 0.39m and consisted of mid brown grey sandy silt loamy soil, with friable consistence, and infrequent inclusions of small angular pebbles. The subsoil consisted of a mid brown loamy silty sand with occasional sub-angular pebbles and oscillates between 0.38m and 0.92m deep. The natural soils were a mid light yellow brown sand (seen on the western end of the trench at a minimum depth of 0.70m) and a light yellow orange brown sand on the deeper eastern side, seen at a minimum depth of 1.34m.

Trench 8							
Alignment	N-S						
Length (m)	Width (m)		Area (m ²)	Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)	
30.40m	1.6m		48.64m ²	0.70m		1.42m	
Interval from SW	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	To NE end 30m
Topsoil depth	0.29m	0.32m	0.30m	0.32m	0.33m	0.39m	0.32m
Subsoil depth	0.46m	0.58m	0.50m	0.38m	-	0.95m	0.92m
Top of Natural substratum	0.75m	0.90m	0.80m	0.70m	-	1.34m	-
Base of trench	0.75m	0.90m	0.80m	0.70m	1.00m	1.34m	1.42m



Figure 34. Northwest facing view of Trench 8 (Scales: 1.00m)

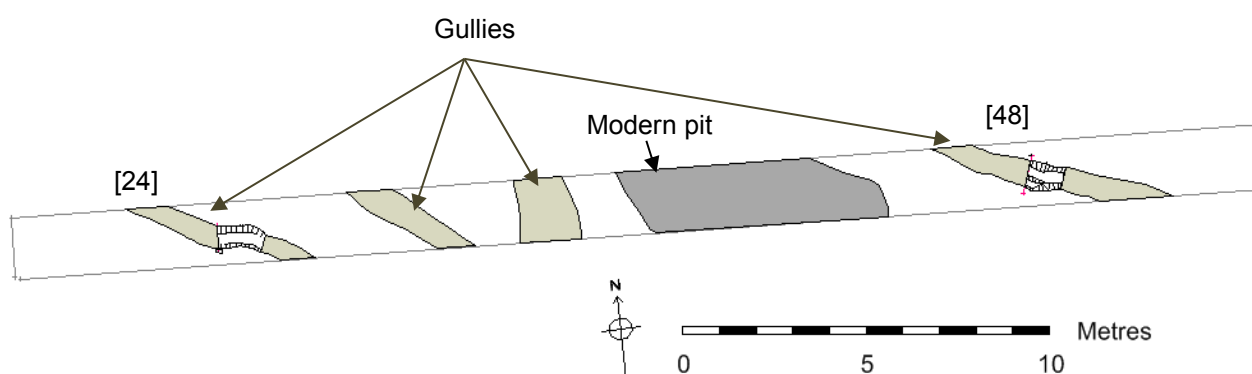


Figure 35. Plan of Trench 8

Four gullies were recorded in Trench 8, two of which were sample-excavated, [24] on the west end of the trench and [48] on the east. The trench was disturbed by a large modern deposit (approximately 7.00m across) of garden and domestic waste similar in nature to those in T7. The eastern side of the trench was stepped down to establish the depth of the modern pitting and to ascertain whether or not archaeological features survived below this truncation. Gully [48] was seen at a depth of 1.34m below ground level.

Gully [24] was an irregular linear gully on a north-west to south-east alignment, located 4m east of the edge of excavation (Fig. 34). It measured a minimum of 4.2m (seen across the trench) and an average of 0.60m wide. A one metre slot was dug, revealing a shallow cut with sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 35). The fill (25) was a mid-reddish brown silty sand with rare small sub-angular pebbles, 0.17m in thickness. No finds were recovered from this feature.

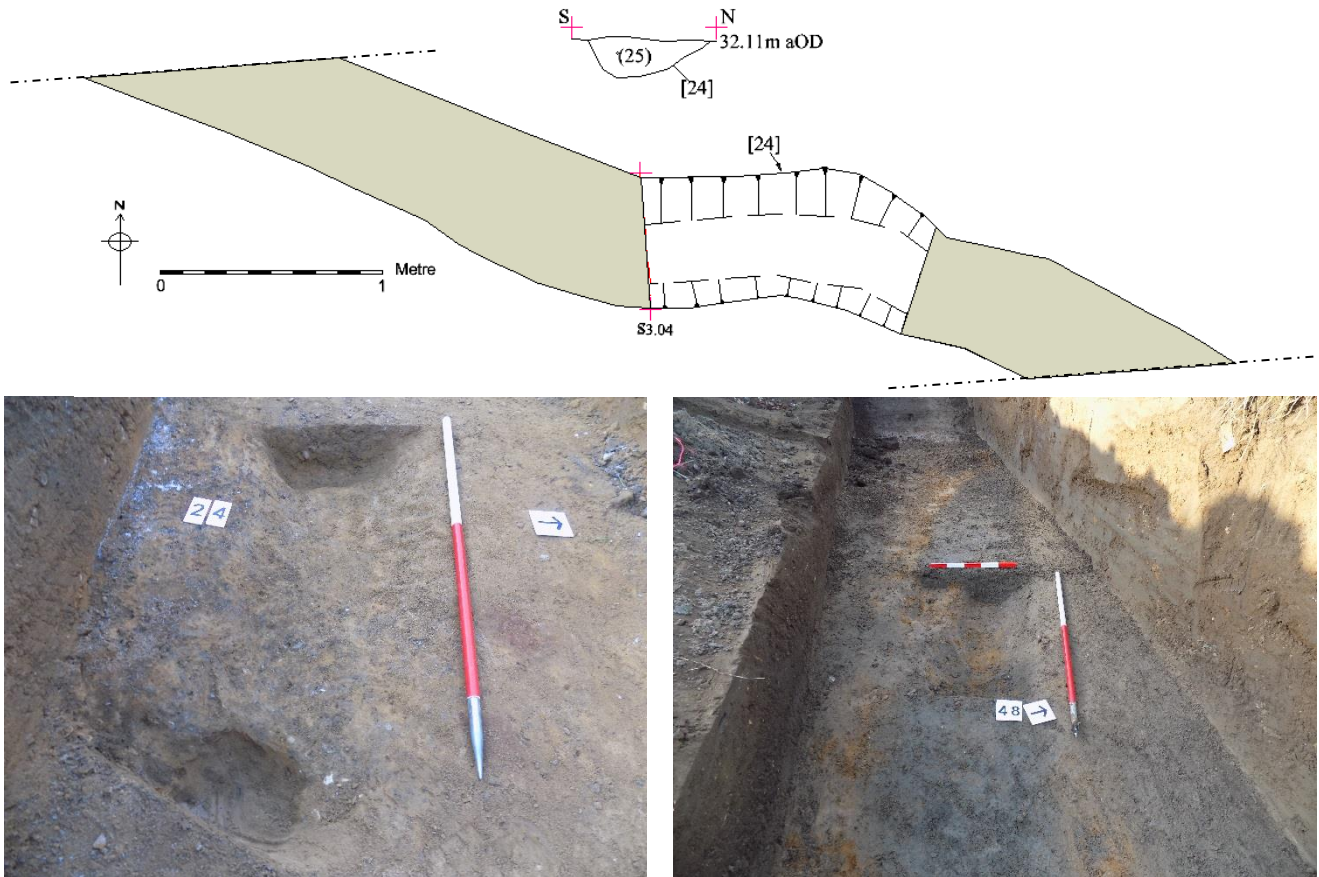


Figure 36. Excavated features [24] and [48] in Trench 8 (Scales: 0.50m and 1.00m)

Parallel to [24], were two further gullies, one 3.4m east, on the same alignment and similar dimensions, and 7m from [24] a second gully (or ditch) on a north-south alignment and 1.60m wide. These features were not investigated.

On the eastern side of the trench was feature [48], a linear gully on a north-west to south-east alignment, measuring a minimum of 5m (Figs 35 and 36). It had moderately sloping sides and a V-shaped cut into a slightly U-shaped base. The fill (47) was a loose mid light yellow grey sand with occasional fragments of charcoal and ironstone and rare sub-rounded pebbles. One base sherd of Nottingham Ware dated from the mid-13th to mid-15th century was recovered from this fill.

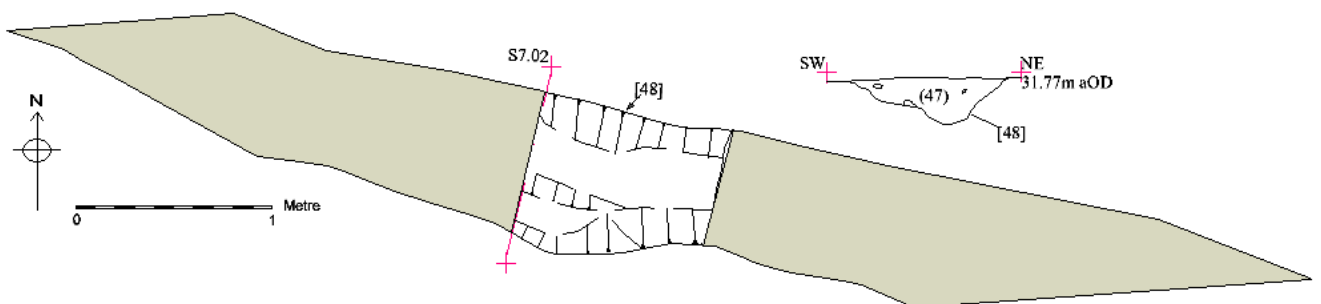


Figure 37. Plan and section of gully [48]

Trench 9 (T9)

Trench 9 was located on the centre of the assessment area, 22m north of Trench 8 and 15m south of T10. The trench was excavated on a north-south alignment parallel to the field boundary with Green Lane. The topsoil, ranging from 0.22m to 0.30m in depth, consisted of mid brown grey silty sand loamy soil, with a soft and friable consistency, and sparse small sub-angular pebbles. The subsoil was a soft mid grey brown sandy silt with rare sub-angular cobbles, with a variation in depth oscillating between 0.22m and 0.45m. The natural subsoil was mid light brown yellow sand, seen at a minimum depth of 0.50m below ground surface.

Trench 9							
Alignment	SW-NE						
Length (m)	Width (m)		Area (m ²)	Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)	
29m	1.6m		46.4m ²	0.50m		0.70m	
Interval from S	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	To N end 30m
Topsoil depth	0.30m	0.27m	0.23m	0.24m	0.22m	0.27m	0.28m
Subsoil depth	0.37m	0.43m	0.22m	0.45m	0.33m	0.43m	0.32m
Top of Natural substratum	-	0.70m	0.55m	0.69m	0.55m	0.70m	0.50m
Base of trench	0.67m	0.70m	0.55m	0.69m	0.55m	0.70m	0.50m



Figure 38. North facing view of facing view of Trench 9 (Scales: 1.00m)

A ditch, at least 3.5m wide, was seen on the north end of Trench 9. Based on the geophysical survey results, it can be suggested that this is the same boundary ditch as [17] (in Trench 2), and no further investigation was carried out during the evaluation phase.

Two metres south of the ditch, a very shallow gully [26] (Fig. 38) was excavated. It was on an east-west alignment, measuring 0.75m in width and 0.08m deep, with a single fill (27), a light grey sandy loamy soil. No finds were recovered from this feature.

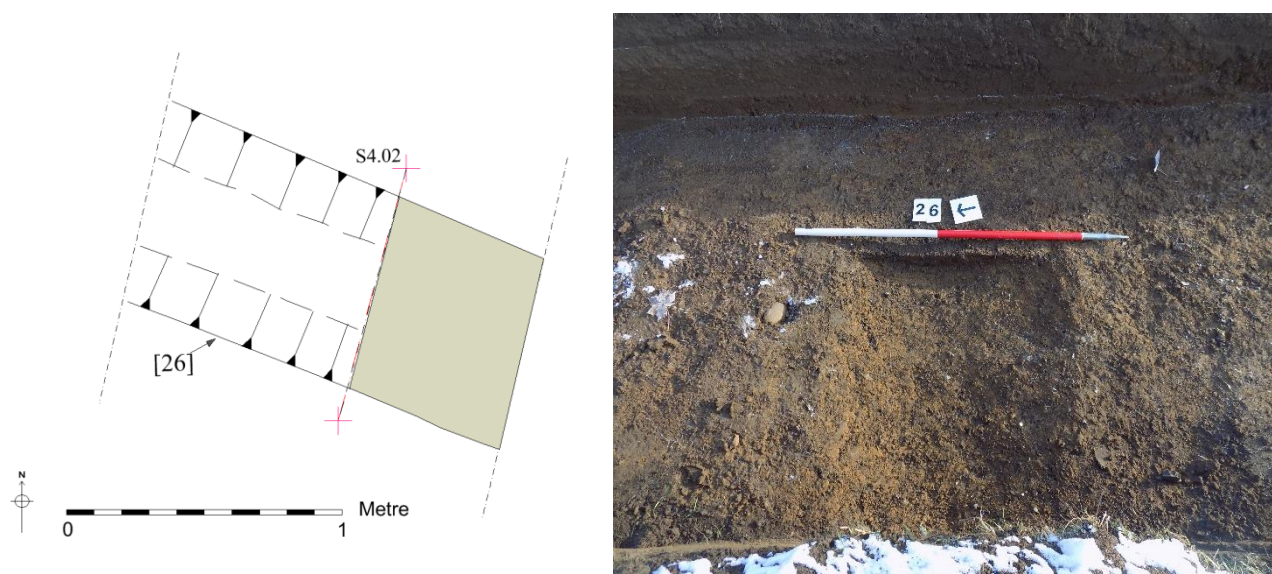
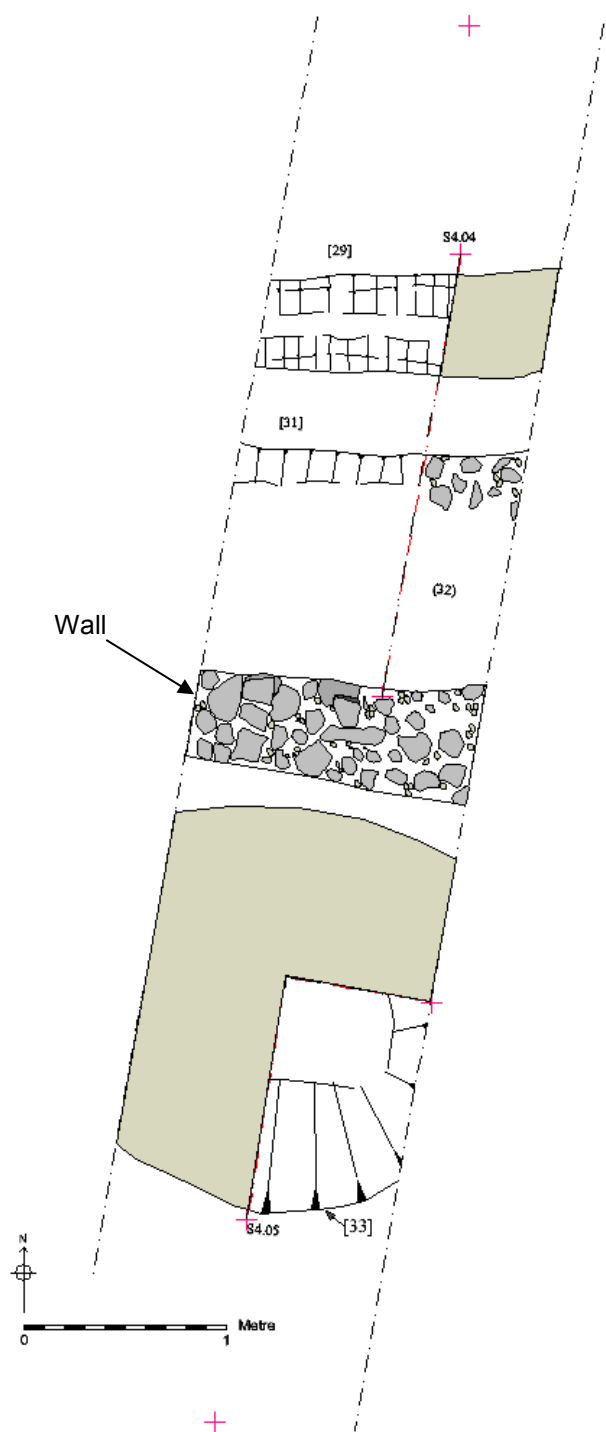


Figure 39. Plan and east facing photograph of slot through gully [26] (1.00m scale)

A second gully, [29], was recorded and sample-excavated 6.5m south of [26]. This feature was also on an east-west alignment, and measured 0.40m in width and 0.25m deep. The linear gully had moderately sloping sides and a V-Shaped base. The fill (30) was a pale grey sandy loamy soil with very rare rounded gravel. Coarse Shelly ware and spotted green glazed Stamford ware were recovered from this feature. Adjacent to [29] was a very shallow feature ([31] – see Fig. 39), filled with a sandy clay with very rare rounded gravel and charcoal flecks. The cut was linear in plan with moderate sloping sides and a flat base, measuring 1.20m on its north-south axis and 0.17m deep. A base and rim sherds of Stamford ware with a light green/yellow glaze were recovered from this fill, dating from the mid-11th to the mid-13th century.

Immediately south from this feature were the remnants of a wall (Fig. 39). The wall footings (28) were crossing midway along T9 on a west-east alignment. The wall comprised earthfast, unmortared and unbonded sandstone and limestone rubble, with each piece measuring a maximum of 200mm x 200mm. The wall measured 0.40m wide and was adjacent to feature [31] to the north and seemingly set into the upper fills of pit [33] to the south.

To the south of the wall was [33], a circular pit with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. The pit was quarter-sectioned (see Fig. 39). Medieval Sandy and Coarse Shelly wares were recovered from the single fill (34), a mid grey sandy silt 0.40m in thickness. The pottery provides a relative chronological range between the early 13th century to the mid-15th.



Gully [29]; linear [31] and wall (28)



Wall (28)



Slot through pit [33]

Figure 40. Plan of central area of Trench 9 and excavated features (1.00m scale).

Trench 10 (T10)

Trench 10 was located on the northeast corner of the assessment area, parallel to the east field boundary with Green Lane. It was excavated on a north-south alignment, 15m north of Trench 9 and 20m east of T1. The topsoil fluctuated between 0.27m and 0.38m and consisted of mid brown grey silty sand loamy soil, with a soft and friable consistency, and infrequent small sub-angular pebbles. The subsoil was a soft mid grey brown sandy silt with rare sub-angular fragments of ironstone. The variation in subsoil depth oscillated between 0.33m on the southern end of the trench to 0.55m. The natural subsoil was a mid light brown yellow sand and occasional gravels seen at a minimum depth of 0.60m below ground surface.

Trench 10							
Alignment	NW-SE						
Length (m)	Width (m)		Area (m ²)	Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)	
29.50m	1.6m		47.2m ²	0.60m		0.91m	
Interval from S	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	To N end 30m
Topsoil depth	0.27m	0.34m	0.38m	0.35m	0.32m	0.30m	0.27m
Subsoil depth	0.33m	0.33m	0.53m	0.55m	0.42m	0.40m	0.42m
Top of Natural substratum	-	0.67m	0.91m	0.90m	0.74m	0.70m	-
Base of trench	0.60m	0.67m	0.91m	0.90m	0.74m	0.75m	0.69m



Figure 41. North facing view of Trench 10 (Scales: 1.00m)

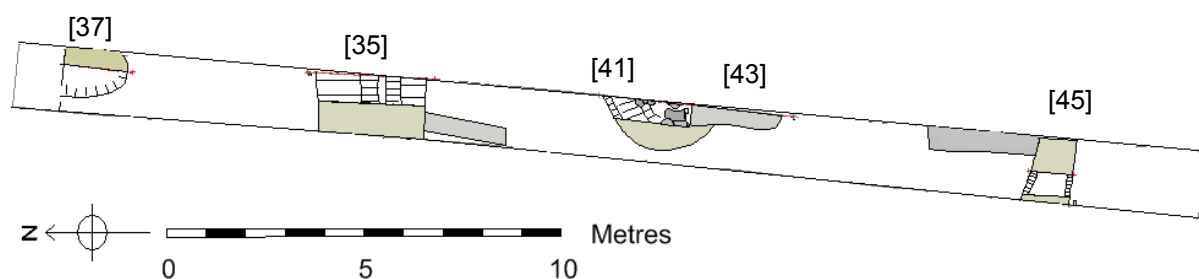


Figure 421. Plan of Trench 10.

On the northern edge of Trench 10, was a large refuse pit, [37] (Fig. 42). This pit was a minimum of 1.60m in diameter and 1.12m deep. It was partially excavated and not bottomed. Late medieval to modern pottery was recovered from the fill (38), comprising dark grey brown silty sand with occasional small angular stones.

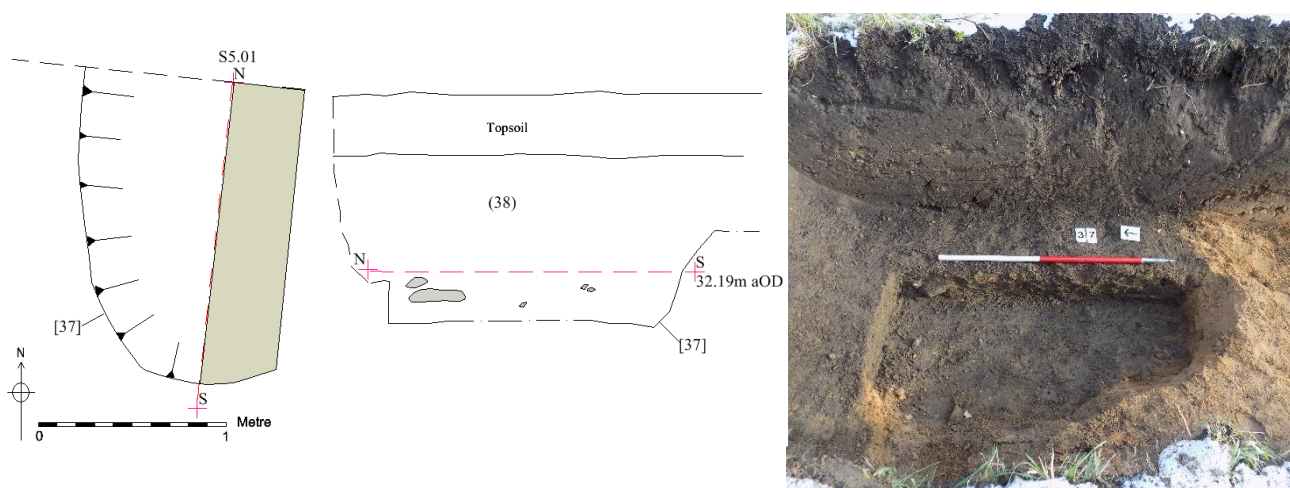


Figure 43. Plan and section of pit [37] (Scale; 1.00m)

Five metres south from [37], was ditch feature [35], a 1.02m wide ditch that crossed the trench on a west-east alignment (Fig. 43). It had a linear cut with straight shallow sides sloping into a concave base. The fill (36) was a mid grey brown silty sand with occasional medium angular stones, 0.23m in thick and contained fragments of Stamford Ware, Midland Purple and Pancheon wares.

To the southeast of [35] a linear feature was recorded but not excavated, and its relationship with [35] was therefore not established. The linear measured a minimum of 2.10m north-south and 0.45m east-west.

Five metres south of the ditch was a circular feature heavily disturbed by bioturbation. A 0.50m slot was excavated on the northeast side of pit [41]. The cut was circular in plan, with steep sloping sides and a flat base (Figure 44). The north-south axis measured a minimum of 3.10m and the west-east 1.30m. This contained a dark bluish grey sandy silt fill (42), approximately 0.45m in thickness with dressed limestone. The stone was placed in horizontal courses across the feature, with the largest stone measuring 563mmx271mm, and the smallest 178mmx83mm. A soil sample was taken <3> in order to analyse possible preserved organic material.

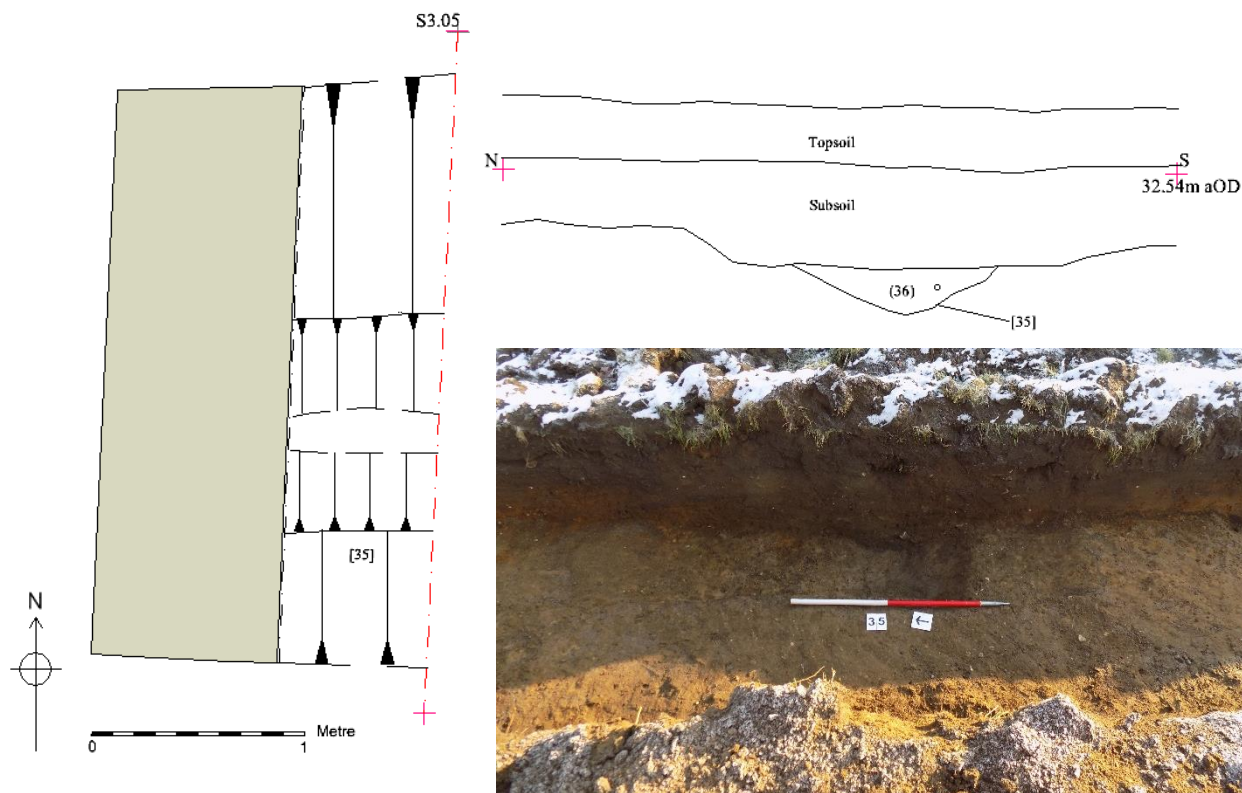


Figure 44. Plan and section of ditch [35] (Scale: 1.00m).

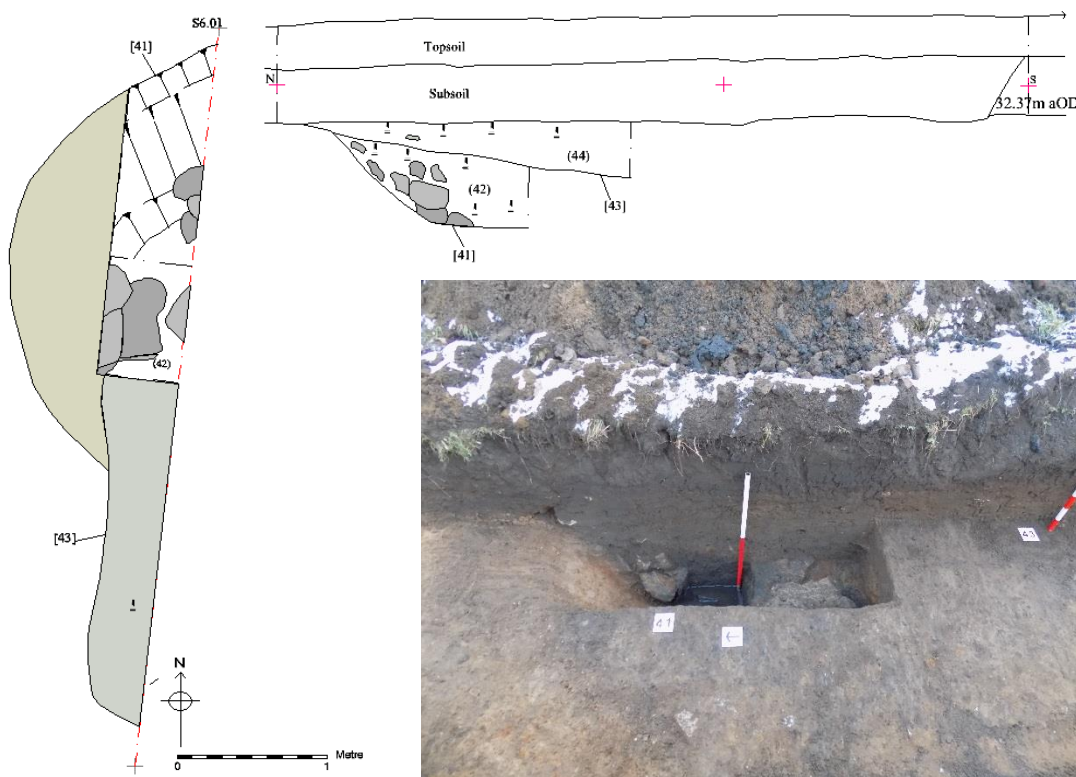


Figure 45. Plan and section of [41] and [43] (scales 0.50m and 1.00m)

This feature was truncated to the south by a later linear recut [43] (Fig. 44). This linear features ran parallel – and going beyond – the eastern edge of excavation. It measured approximately 5m on its north-south axis and 0.40m width. The cut, 0.37m deep, had shallow straight sides sloping into a flat base containing a mid grey brown sandy silt (44) with inclusions of charcoal and small sub-angular fragments of limestone. This deposit contained sherds of Stamford and Coarse Shelly wares as well as Cistercian and Midland Purple, providing a relative chronological range from the 12th to the mid-18th centuries.

Around 4m south of [43] was a similar linear feature in the edge of the trench, which measured in plan 2.80m north-south and 0.48m west-east. This linear was truncated to the south by ditch [45], which crossed the trench on an east-west alignment (Figure 45). It measured 1.20m in width and 0.26m deep. The cut had steep sloping sides and a flat base and contained fill (46), a dark grey brown silty sand with rare sub-rounded pebbles. Pottery fragments of Nottingham fabrics were recovered from this feature, including green and orange glazed wares from the early 13th century.

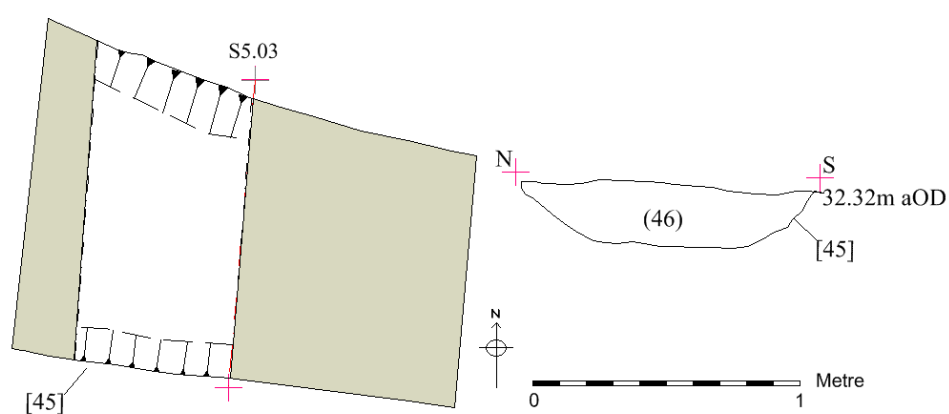


Figure 46. Plan and section of ditch [45]

The Post-Roman Finds from an Evaluation at Manor Road, Easthorpe, Leicestershire.

Jennifer R. McNulty

Pottery

A total of 118 sherds of post-Roman pottery weighing 2,217g was recovered from 15 contexts. The guidelines set by the Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG 1998; MPRG 2001) and the University of Leicester Archaeological Services fabric series (Davies and Sawday 1999) were used for the cataloguing of the pottery.

Catalogue

The results of the analysis are detailed in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1. Medieval and later pottery by fabric, sherd numbers and weight (grams)

Fabric	Common Name	Count	Weight (g)	Average Sherd Weight (g)
Medieval				
ST	Stamford ware- crucible	1	3	
ST1	Stamford ware (very fine)	4	33	
ST2	Stamford ware (fine)	6	48	
ST3	Stamford ware (coarse)	1	12	
SP2	Nottingham splashed ware (fine, early)	1	6	
CS	Coarse shelly ware	47	826	
MP	Midland Purple	4	293	
CW	Cistercian ware	4	136	
NO1	Nottingham fabric W7	1	6	
NO2	Nottingham fabrics transitional W10/W13	7	38	
NO3	Nottingham fabrics W13/W14	25	544	
OS	Oxidised Sandy ware	3	14	
BO1	Bourne ware D	4	55	
MS	Medieval Sandy ware	3	84	
Subtotal		111	2098	18.9
Post-Medieval/Modern				
EA1	Jar/butter pot	1	32	
EA2	Pancheon ware	1	14	
EA6	Black ware	3	66	
EA7	Slip ware	1	3	
SW	Stoneware modern	1	4	
Subtotal		7	119	17
Site Total		118	2217	

Table 2. Medieval and later pottery by context, fabric, sherd numbers and weight (grams)

Context	Trench	Fabric/Ware	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Comments
(1), [2]	T2	NO2 Nottingham fabrics transitional W10/W13	1	5	Early-mid 13 th century.
(1), [2]	T2	CS Coarse Shelly	4	64	Evidence for sooting and possible decoration on outside of sherd, 1100CE-1400CE.
(4), [3]	T1	NO2 Nottingham fabrics transitional W10/W13	3	12	Rim sherd, light sooting and dark green glaze on outside, early-mid 13 th century.
(4), [3]	T1	NO3 Nottingham fabrics W13/W14	12	330	1 base sherd, occasional green glaze on outside, late 13 th -early 15 th century.
(4), [3]	T1	CS Coarse Shelly	20	332	5 rim sherds, 2 base sherds, light sooting on outside, 1100CE-1400CE.
(4), [3]	T1	MS Medieval Sandy ware	1	38	Base sherd, sooting and possible residue on outside, 1200CE-1450CE.
(4), [3]	T1	NO1 Nottingham fabric W7	1	6	Green glaze on outside, early-mid 13 th century.
(4), [3]	T1	ST1 Stamford ware (very fine)	1	4	Light green spotted glaze on outside, 1100CE-1250CE.
(9), [8]	T1	ST2 Stamford ware (fine)	1	3	Yellow glaze on outside, 1050CE-1200CE.
(9), [8]	T1	CS Coarse Shelly	1	2	1100CE-1400CE.
(12), [13]	T2	NO2 Nottingham fabrics transitional W10/W13	1	8	Base sherd, spotted glazing on outside, early-mid 13 th century.
(12), [13]	T2	SP2 Nottingham splashed ware (fine)	1	6	Spotted glazing on outside, 1100CE-1150CE.
(12), [13]	T2	ST3 Stamford ware (coarse)	1	12	Rim sherd, evidence for sooting on outside, 900CE-1050CE.
(15), [14]	T1	ST1 Stamford ware (very fine)	1	6	Rim sherd, light green/yellow on outside, 1100CE-1250CE.
(15), [14]	T1	BO1 Bourne ware D	3	38	1 rim sherd, 1450CE-1650CE.
(15), [14]	T1	NO3 Nottingham fabrics W13/W14	11	97	Reddish glaze, spotted light green glaze, green glaze on outside, evidence for kiln adhering, late 13 th -early 15 th century.
(15), [14]	T1	OS Oxidised Sandy	3	14	Sooting on outside, 1450CE-1650CE.
(15), [14]	T1	CS Coarse Shelly	16	363	1 base sherd, 2 rim sherds, sooting on outside, 1100CE-1400CE.
(16), [17]	T1	NO3 Nottingham fabrics W13/W14	1	80	Base sherd, green glaze on outside, late 13 th -early 15 th century.
(19), [18]	T3	ST2 Stamford ware (fine)	1	3	1050CE-1200CE.
(30), [29]	T9	CS Coarse Shelly	1	3	1100CE-1400CE.
(30), [29]	T9	ST2 Stamford ware (fine)	1	5	Spotted green glaze on outside, 1050CE-1200CE.
(32), [31]	T9	ST1 Stamford ware (very fine)	1	17	Base sherd, light green/yellow glaze, 1100CE-1250CE.
(32), [31]	T9	ST2 Stamford ware (fine)	2	32	1 body sherd sooted on inside, 1 rim sherd, sooted on outside, 1050CE-1200CE.
(34), [33]	T9	MS Medieval Sandy ware	1	6	1200CE-1450CE.
(34), [33]	T9	CS Coarse Shelly	4	34	3 rim sherds, 1 body sherd with sooting on inside, 1100CE-1400CE.
(34), [33]	T9	MS Medieval Sandy ware (late)	1	40	Base sherd, 1200CE-1450CE.
(36), [35]	T10	ST2 Stamford ware (fine)	1	5	Light yellowish glaze on outside, 1050CE-1200CE.

Context	Trench	Fabric/Ware	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Comments
(36), [35]	T10	MP Midland Purple	3	246	1 rim sherd, purple glaze on outside, 1 handle sherd, purple glaze on outside, 1 body sherd, 1375CE-1550CE.
(36), [35]	T10	EA2 Pancheon ware	1	14	Dark brown/black glaze on inside, 1600CE-2000CE.
(38), [37]	T10	SW Stoneware modern	1	4	White glaze on inside, yellow glaze on outside, 1680CE-2000CE.
(38), [37]	T10	EA6 Black ware	3	66	Rim sherd, black glaze inside and outside, 1650CE-1750CE.
(38), [37]	T10	EA7 Slip ware	1	3	Yellow and brown glaze on inside, 1600CE-1850CE.
(38), [37]	T10	BO1 Bourne ware D	1	17	Rim sherd, black glaze on inside, 1450CE-1650CE.
(44), [43]	T10	ST1 Stamford ware (very fine)	1	6	Spotted green glaze on outside, 1100CE-1250CE.
(44), [43]	T10	ST Stamford ware crucible	1	3	Rim sherd, 1100CE-1250CE.
(44), [43]	T10	CW Cistercian ware	4	136	2 base sherds (diff vessels), black glaze on inside and outside of all sherds, 1450/75CE-1550CE.
(44), [43]	T10	CS Coarse Shelly	1	28	Sooting on outside, 1100CE-1400CE.
(44), [43]	T10	EA1 Jar/butter pot	1	32	Black glaze on inside, 1500CE-1750CE.
(44), [43]	T10	MP Midland Purple	1	47	1375CE-1550CE.
(46), [45]	T10	NO2 Nottingham fabrics transitional W10/W13	2	13	Spotted green glaze on outside of one, spotted orange glaze on outside of other, early-mid 13 th century.
(47), [48]	T10	NO3 Nottingham fabrics W13/W14	1	37	Base sherd, late 13 th -early 15 th century.

Ceramic Building Materials

Table 3. Building materials by context, fabric, number and weight (grams)

Context	Fabric/Ware	Count	Weight (g)	Comment
38	Earthenware	1	560	Tile, fragmented, sanded underneath, c.20mm thick, slightly curved in profile, undiagnostic, likely later medieval or post-medieval in date.

Clay Pipe

Table 4. Clay pipe by context, stem/bowl, number and weight (grams)

Context	Stem/Bowl	Count	Weight (g)	Comment
42	Stem	1	3	Undiagnostic stem; post-medieval/modern.

Glass

A total of seven fragments of vessel glass were recovered from three contexts. The results are detailed in the table below. Shopland 2005 (146-150) was used for cataloguing.

Table 5. Glass by context, form, number and weight (grams)

Context	Form	Count	Weight (g)	Comment
11 [10]	Base (2 vessels)	5	364	Four adjoining fragments, the kick-up is cone-shaped, the walls are straight, possibly a 'true cylinder' glass wine bottle, other base fragment is wider, possibly a 'squat cylinder' c.1740CE-1830CE.
38	Body	1	34	Bottle glass, undiagnostic, likely post-medieval in date.
44	Rim and neck	1	60	Short, fat neck, string rim, likely an 'onion' glass wine bottle, c.1680CE-1730CE.

Discussion

The assemblage was mostly made up of medieval pottery as post-medieval/modern pottery only counted for just less than 6% of the assemblage (5.93%). The medieval pottery ranges in date from the 10th century to the 16th century while the post-medieval/modern pottery dates from the 17th century through to the modern period. The most common fabric present in this assemblage were coarse shelly wares, accounting for nearly 40% of the sherd count (39.83%) and 37.25% of the sherd weight. The recurring presence of Nottingham and Bourne wares is indicative of the location of the site in the north-east of the county. The lower average sherd weight (18.9% and 17% for medieval and post-medieval/modern pottery respectively) suggests some disturbance of the archaeology. The seven fragments of post-medieval bottle glass recovered give further weight to the pottery dating, or provide a date where pottery is absent. Also present was one piece of undiagnostic tile likely later medieval or post-medieval in date due to the date of the pottery recovered from the same context and an undiagnostic clay pipe stem, likely post-medieval or modern in date.

Potential

The assemblage demonstrates the presence of closely-dated stratified deposits across the site containing coherent groups of medieval and post-medieval ceramics that contribute to an understanding of the chronology of the settlement and its economic and social context. Further work will undoubtedly build on this potential.

Annular Brooch from Easthorpe XA148.2017

Nicholas J. Cooper

Description

The complete frame (with pin missing) of a medieval annular brooch, cast in copper alloy, was recovered by metal detector from the spoil heap of Trench 1 (Fig. 46). The frame is of plano-convex section with the upper surface decorated with angular mouldings mirrored on either side of the circumference divided by the constriction or recess for the pin loop at the bottom and the simple pin rest groove at the top. Around each side of the circumference there is a raised and swollen setting for a small circular glass stone (missing on one side due to damage), flanked by a band of three transverse ridges, with a grooved zone between the inner and middle ridges. External diameter 31mm.

Discussion

Annular brooches were used as dress fasteners during the 13th to 15th centuries, worn at the neck to close the top of a tunic or on the shoulder or neck to fasten a cloak, but are relatively unusual finds even in London (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 248), so to find one on a village site is interesting. The

combination of swollen segments flanked by transverse mouldings is found on an example from the Jewry Wall site in Leicester, though it lacks the glass settings (Kenyon 1948, 252, no. 13), whilst another from the Austin Friars has raised glass or paste settings (Clay 1981, 137 no.39).



Figure 47. Medieval annular brooch from T1 (scale in cm). Frame with pin recess at the bottom, pin rest at the top, and glass setting to the right (photo Heidi Addison).

The Animal Bones from an Archaeological Evaluation at Manor Road, Easthorpe, Leicestershire XA148.2017

Emily Banfield

Introduction and methods

This report presents the results of an assessment of faunal remains recovered during archaeological excavation undertaken at Manor Road, Easthorpe, Leicestershire. Activity at the site has been provisionally divided into two phases; medieval (11th – 14th centuries), and post-medieval/modern (17th century onward), on the basis of pottery recovered (see McNulty above). Species representation was assessed, with counts of numbers of individual fragments (NSP) and numbers of individual specimens (NISP) recorded. Surface preservation and completeness of individual elements together with evidence for butchery, burning, gnawing, and pathologies were noted to assess preservation and diagnostic potential. Records were made of measurable bones, mandibles, loose third molars, and deciduous fourth molars that would provide useful ageing data. Numbers of fused and unfused bones were also noted for their potential to inform on ageing, in order to assess the potential of the assemblage to provide ageing and biometrical information.

The assemblage

The assemblage comprises 80 bone fragments (NISP) recovered from eight contexts, predominantly pertaining to the medieval phase (Table 6). Of these, 18% are identifiable to taxon and 38% identifiable to taxon and broad size class, although fragmentation ratios have been impacted by the presence of a

fragmented horse cranium, which likely accounts for the specimens classified as ‘indeterminate’ given their exclusive occurrence in context (15).

Table 6. Animal bone representation per phase (NISP)

<i>Phase</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>No. contexts</i>	<i>NISP</i>	<i>% of assemblage</i>
<i>M</i>	Medieval (11th-14th centuries)	7	74	93
<i>PM/Mod</i>	Post-medieval/modern (17th century-onwards)	1	3	3.5
<i>U/S</i>	Unknown	1	3	3.5

Preservation was predominantly good, although a significant proportion fell under the poor category. Bone modification was nonetheless identifiable in material classified as poorly preserved, suggesting minimal impact upon diagnostic potential.

Table 7. Animal bone preservation per phase (NISP)

<i>Preservation</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>PM/M</i>	<i>U/S</i>	<i>All phases</i>
<i>Excellent</i>				
<i>Good</i>	34		3	37
<i>Fair</i>	12	2		14
<i>Poor</i>	28	1		29

Taxonomic diversity

Horse, cattle, pig and sheep/goat were represented alongside remains identified to large and medium mammal, and medium bird categories (Table 8). These taxa were all represented in the medieval phase, with the exception of pig, which was identified in the post-medieval/modern phase by a single specimen. Cattle remains were dominant in the medieval phase by a small margin.

Table 8. Taxonomic representation per phase

<i>Species/Phase</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>PM/M</i>	<i>U/S</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Horse</i>	3		1	4
<i>Cattle</i>	6			6
<i>Pig</i>		1		1
<i>Sheep/Goat</i>	5			5
<i>Bird</i>	1			1
<i>Large Mml</i>	16	1	2	19
<i>Medium Mml</i>	2	1		3
<i>Indeterminate</i>	41			41
<i>Total</i>	74	3	3	80

Age at death and biometric information

Fusion data were recorded for six percent of the assemblage, and just two mandibles were available for analysis of dental eruption and wear (Table 9). These numbers are too low to permit full analysis and interpretation of husbandry practices beyond that regarding age at death of the individuals represented. The presence of an erupting maxillary M3 in the horse cranium does, however, add to the dataset. Just one specimen was complete to enable a full suite of standard measurements (Driesch 1976), but included in the counts detailed (Table 9) are bones sufficiently complete to allow limited recording, thereby increasing the available dataset. The small size of the assemblage represents the most significant limiting factor regarding interpretation of mortality profiles and biometrical data.

Table 9. Potential for obtaining mortality profiles and biometric data

Taxa		M	PM/Mod	U/S	Total
Horse	Mandible	0	0	0	0
	Loose 3rd molar/deciduous 4th molar	0	0	0	0
	Fused epiphyses	1	0	0	1
	Fusing epiphysis	0	0	0	0
	Unfused epiphyses	0	0	0	0
	Measurable bones	1	0	0	1
Cattle	Mandible	1	0	0	1
	Loose 3rd molar/deciduous 4th molar		0	0	0
	Fused epiphyses	0	0	0	0
	Fusing epiphysis	1	0	0	1
	Unfused epiphyses	0	0	0	0
	Measurable bones	1	0	0	1
Pig	Mandible		0	0	0
	Loose 3rd molar/deciduous 4th molar	0	0	0	0
	Fused epiphyses	0	1	0	1
	Fusing epiphysis	0	0	0	0
	Unfused epiphyses	0	0	0	0
	Measurable bones	0	1	0	1
Sheep/goat	Mandible	1	0	0	1
	Loose 3rd molar/deciduous 4th molar		0	0	0
	Fused epiphyses	2	0	0	2
	Fusing epiphysis	0	0	0	0
	Unfused epiphyses	0	0	0	0
	Measurable bones	2	0	0	2

Modification

Evidence for butchery was present in 12% of specimens despite high fragmentation, which can serve to obscure evidence (Table 10). Gnawing was identified in 5% of specimens. No evidence for burning or pathological conditions was observed.

Table 10. Evidence for bone modification

Modification	M		PM/Mod		U/S	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<i>Butchery</i>	9	11	1	1	0	0
<i>Burnt Bones</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Gnawing</i>	4	5	0	0	0	0
<i>Pathology</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0

Analytical potential

The faunal assemblage from the assessment excavation at Manor Road, Easthorpe, Leicestershire is small, comprising 80 specimens (NISP), with 18% identifiable to taxon. At present, its size is insufficient to permit meaningful analysis of husbandry practices and mortality profiles that reach beyond the scale of the individual animal. Further excavation, however, holds potential to recover a greater volume of evidence enabling the development a more refined understanding of the site; despite high fragmentation, the survival of evidence for modification suggests that information regarding the use of the site could be gleaned, should the site proceed to excavation.

The plant remains from Easthorpe, Leicestershire

Adam Santer and Rachel Small

Introduction

During an archaeological evaluation at the site three samples were processed for the analysis of charred plant remains. These dated to the medieval/post-medieval periods: sample 1 (15) was from the fill of a north-south ditch [14]; sample 2 (4) and sample 3 (42) were fills of pits [3] and [41] respectively. Sample 1 was a dry bulk, whilst 2 and 3 were waterlogged. These samples dated to the medieval and post-medieval periods. The analysis of the plant remains recovered from these samples are presented here, together with a discussion of what this can potentially tell us about the diet, crop husbandry strategies/processing and environment at the site through-out time.

Methodology

Sample 1 was seven litres in volume and consisted a dark greyish brown silty clay. It was processed in a York tank using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation into a 0.3mm mesh sieve. The flotation fraction (flot) was sorted for plant remains and other artefacts under a x10-40 stereo microscope. The residue was air dried and the fraction over 4mm sorted in its entirety, whilst the fraction under 4mm was scanned for remains.

Sample 2 and 3 consisted of a dark greyish brown sandy organic waterlogged loam. One-hundred millilitres was processed using the wash-over method, a 100 millilitres of each. A small amount of soil was put into a bucket, a stream of water applied and the bucket then swirled. The water was then drained off into a 0.3mm sieve to catch the floating organic material and the process continued until nothing further was carried off. The flots and residues were kept wet and scanned under an x10-40 stereo microscope for plant remains (and other finds) and the material was retained.

Both charred and waterlogged plant remains were identified using reference material held by the University of Leicester and naming conventions follow Stace (1991). The remains were counted semi-quantitatively using the following scale: rare (0 – 10 items); common (10 – 50 items); and, abundant (50+ items).

Results

- *Sample 1 (15) [14] (A.D. 1100-1650)*

Sample 1 contained thirty-six free-threshing wheat grains (*Triticum* spp.), one probable barley grain (*Hordeum vulgare* L.), two whole indeterminate cereal grains, and twenty-eight indeterminate grain fragments. A small number of wild seeds were present including; three vetch (*Vicia* sp.), one dock (*Rumex* sp.), one goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), and one cat's-tail (*Phleum* sp.). Vetch dock and goosefoots are typical agricultural weeds whilst cat's-tails are indicative of grasslands. There was also small number of molluscs, small mammal bones, modern seeds, insect remains and an abundance of modern rootlets. This is an indication of bioturbation in the context.

- *Sample 2 (4) [3] (A.D. 1100-1500)*

In terms of identifiable plant remains sample 2 only contained a single bramble seed (*Rubus* sp.), which is indicative of hedgerow/disturbed land. The sample contained a small number of wood fragments and rootlets were abundant.

- *Sample 3* (Post-Medieval/modern).

Sample 3 contained nine weed seeds including; three knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare* L.), one sedge (*Carex* sp.), one knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* L.), one bramble (*Rubus* sp.), one poppy (*Papaver* sp.), and one seed of the daisy family (*Asteracea* sp.). Knotgrass is an agricultural weed, sedge is a typical wetland species, whilst knapweed is typical of grasslands/disturbed areas. A small number of rootlets were also present in the sample.

Discussion and statement of further potential

Sample 1 is most likely representative of food spillage which become burnt on a hearth as it is dominated by cereal grains. These were of good preservation and of moderate density. Therefore, if further excavation is to be carried out it is recommended that further bulk samples are to be taken as they have the potential to reveal special patterning of activity including areas of food consumption and crop processing.

The wild seeds from samples 2 and 3 are indicative of the surrounding environment/agricultural lands possibly with poor drainage surrounded by grassland/disturbed land. These were of good preservation but too few in number compared to other waterlogged sites in Leicestershire and therefore it would be difficult to justify a meaningful analysis of the contexts based on these samples.

Conclusion

Ten trenches were excavated in the assessment area, located immediately south of the scheduled monument of the shifted medieval village and moat in Easthorpe, to identify the nature of the anomalies recorded by the magnetometer survey. The evaluation has provided an insight into the backyard activity of the shifted village and field boundaries. In general the archaeological results were consistent with the geophysical survey, although there were more features in the trenches than identified within the survey (Figs. 9-10).

The archaeological activity is concentrated on the north side of the site. Ditches, gullies and a series of pits were recorded, representing field boundaries and middens dating from the early 11th century up to the modern period – concentrations of modern deposits were particularly focused on the southeast corner. Approximately half of the features were sample-excavated in order to establish their character and chronology. The foci of the majority of the features were trenches 1, 9 and 10. A series of boundary ditches, gullies and pits were excavated, containing pottery and animal bone. The chronological range of the ceramic material clusters around the early 11th to the early 15.

The southern part of the assessment area had evidence of ridge and furrow. Ridge and furrow are the earthwork remains of open field strip farming, which was widespread in the medieval period. Ploughing was carried out with a coulter, mouldboard and share, which required the use of a team of oxen or horses. The coulter and the share sliced the earth and the mouldboard turned the sod. On the return up the field, the sod removed from the furrow rested against the first. This process was repeated, round and round the ridge, creating an area suitable for planting with drainage either side. A new furrow would then be cut at a distance from the first. Subsequent ploughing in the same way eventually formed the earthworks (Astill 1988, 70), which became fossilized in the landscape following Enclosure, when tracts of land were turned over to pasture. Although still not uncommon, especially in the Midlands, they are a diminishing resource.

Archive

The site archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service under Accession No. XA148.2017.

The archive consists of:

- PAPER** 48 x ULAS pro forma Context sheets
10x ULAS pro forma Trench Recording Sheets
2x ULAS Context Summary Record sheets
2x ULAS Digital Photography Record sheets
1x ULAS Drawing Index Sheet
1x ULAS Drawing Records sheet
1x ULAS Sample Records sheet
7x permetrace sheets
1x bound copy of this report
- DIGITAL** 1 CD-R with 98 digital photographs; excel file with copies of the site indices; a PDF_A copy of this report
- PHYSICAL** 3 boxes of finds (pottery; animal bone; metal)

Publication

A summary report will be submitted to the regional journal *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*.

University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York. The online OASIS form (Appendix 1) shall be completed detailing the results of the evaluation and once the report has become a public document following is incorporation into the Historic Environment Record it shall be placed on the website.

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Dr Mireya González Rodríguez

University of Leicester Archaeological Services
University of Leicester University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 5665

Mob: 07568 469 805

Fax: 0116 252 2614

Email: mgr8@le.ac.uk

Appendix 1: OASIS data entry

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	Universi1-308698		
	Project Name	Archaeological Evaluation on Land off Manor Road, Easthorpe		
	Start/end dates of field work	05-12-2017 / 16-12-2017		
	Previous/Future Work	No/Yes		
	Project Type	Field Evaluation – targeted trenches		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Vacant arable land		
	Monument Type/Period	None		
	Significant Finds/Period	Ceramics: Early Medieval Ceramics: Medieval Ceramics: Post-Medieval Metal: Annular brooch, medieval		
	Development Type	Rural Residential		
	Reason for Investigation	National Planning Policy Framework		
	Position in the Planning Process	After determination		
	Planning Ref.	17/00996/OUT		
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	Land off Manor Road, Easthorpe, Bottesford NG13 0DU		
	Study Area	1.47ha.		
	Site Coordinates	SK 81034 38517		
	Height OD	Min: 35m - Max: 37m		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	University of Leicester Archaeological Services		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Authority Archaeologist		
	Project Design Originator	Vicki Score		
	Project Manager	Vicki Score		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Mireya González Rodríguez		
Sponsor/Funding Body	Developer: Marrons Planning			
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	Leicestershire County Council Museums	Leicestershire County Council Museums	Leicestershire County Council Museums
	ID (Acc. No.)	XA148.2017	XA148.2017	XA148.2017
	Contents	Animal bone Ceramics Environmental Glass Metal	Digital photography Spreadsheets Survey Text Images Raster (TurboCAD)	Context sheets Drawings Miscellaneous Report
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature		
	Title	An Archaeological Evaluation on Land off Manor Road, Easthorpe		
	Author	Mireya González Rodríguez		
	Other bibliographic details	University of Leicester Archaeological Services Report No. 2018-013		
	Date	2018		
	Publisher/Place	University of Leicester, Leicester		
	Description	Pdf_A		



UNIVERSITY OF
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Archaeological Services

Contact Details

Richard Buckley
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



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