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Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation at
Grange Farm, Hose Lane, Hose,
Leicestershire
(NGR SK 73838 29745)**



Richard Huxley

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Archaeological Evaluation at
Grange Farm, Hose Lane,
Hose, Leicestershire
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For: HSSP Architects Ltd on behalf of Stroud & Son

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Summary

This document provides the results of an evaluation undertaken at Grange Farm. In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Section 12 Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment) a programme of archaeological work was undertaken to provide preliminary indications of the character and extent of any heritage assets in order that the potential impact of a development on such remains may be assessed by the Planning Authority and the need for any further archaeological work considered. The results of the evaluation show archaeological remains in at least 11 out of 12 trenches excavated within the proposed development area. The eastern and south-eastern region was found to contain the least amount of archaeology and the survival rate was poor due to the shallowness of the remains and the truncation from ploughing. The focus was established to be the centre of site with activity spreading to the north-western corner of the development area. The archaeology identified within this region include a hollow way, ditches, artificial mounds, cobble surfaces and building remains.

Introduction

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation performed by ULAS in February and March 2018 at Grange Farm, Hose Lane, Hose, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 73838 29745). The work was commissioned by HSSP Architects Ltd on behalf of Stroud & Son, ahead of the planned housing development. Trial trenching is required to determine if there are any archaeological deposits that might be impacted by the proposed scheme, and in particular deposits that are contemporary with medieval occupation in the area in particular the monastic Grange some 110m to the north.

Site Description, Topography and Geology

The site lies in north-east Leicestershire in the civil parish of Clawson, Hose and Harby and under the administration of Melton Borough Council, close to the Nottinghamshire border. The proposed area lies to the north of Hose village, and consists of three fields enclosed by Hose Lane, Grange Lane and footpaths, reached by the track used to access Grange Farm (Fig. 1). The surrounding land

is agricultural. The remains of a monastic Grange – a scheduled monument, is located in the field to the north of Grange Lane. Housing on the north side of Hose lies to the south.

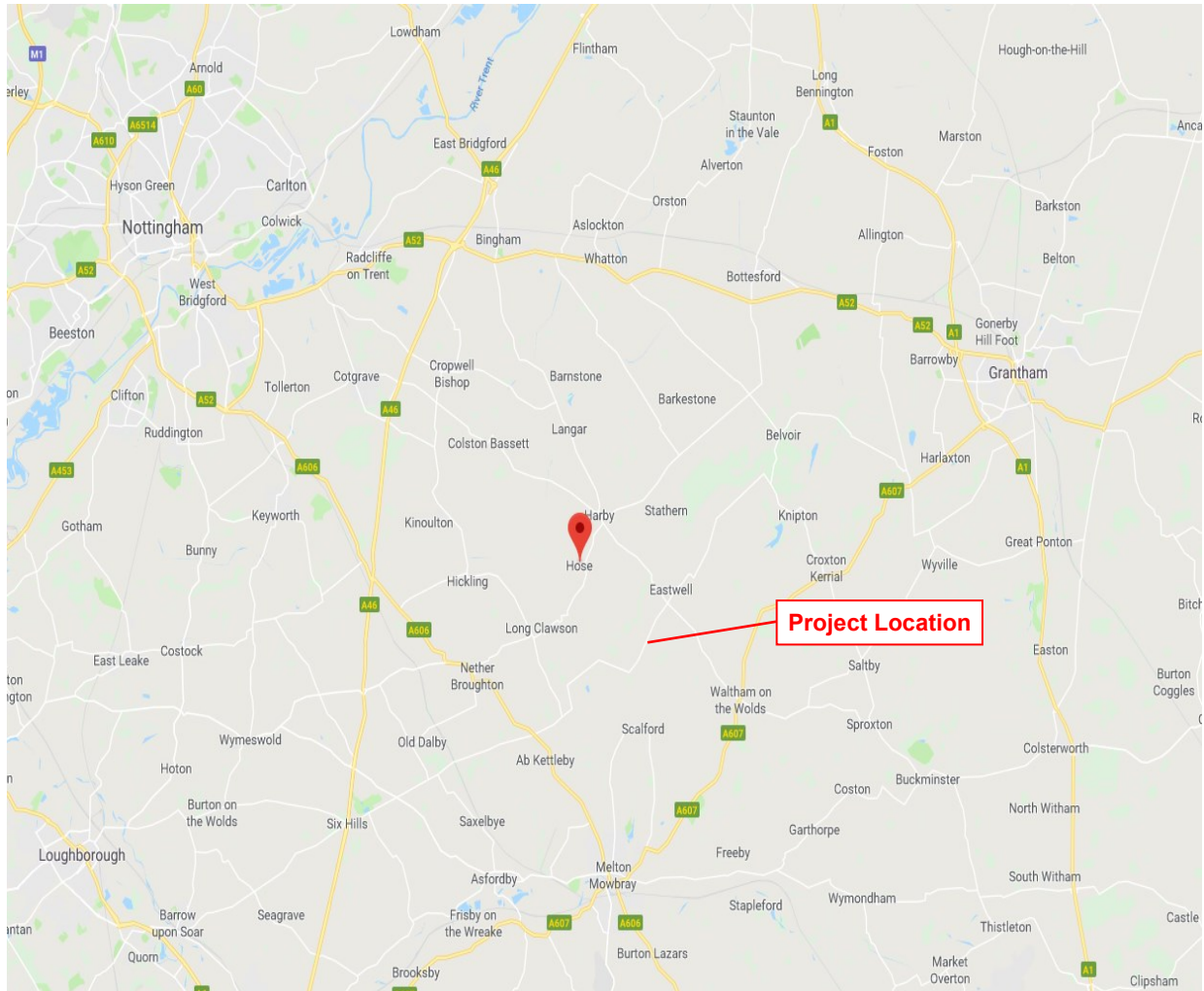


Figure 1: Location of Hose (from Google accessed 09/03/18)

The site lies below the ironstone scarp that forms the southern boundary of the Vale of Belvoir. The assessment area consists of approximately 3.8ha, lies at height of around 53m aOD. The British Geological Survey indicates that the site includes two different bedrocks, Foston Member and a band of Fenton Limestone Bed.



Figure 2: Location of the development area

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Archaeological and Historical Background

Hartley (1987) established that the site contains earthworks associated with the shrunken medieval village, including remains of possible medieval building foundations, a hollow way, and possible 'pillow mounds' (rabbit warrens) or/ building platforms (Figure 3, c).

A Desk Based Assessment (Brook 2017) has demonstrated that the Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland identifies a spread of sites within 1km of the site ranging from prehistoric to the late 19th century. The site itself has low potential from prehistoric or Roman remains and moderate for Saxon and early medieval. As the site lies within a shrunken medieval village and within 112m of the Grange medieval moated site, the potential for medieval archaeological remains is high. Preservation of below ground features is likely to be good as the site has been used for agricultural purposes since the 1700s.

The earthworks recorded in the 1980s are now much reduced. Photogrammetric survey by drone has been undertaken, along with magnetic geophysical survey (Sumo 2017). The trenching programme was based on the combination of results from these surveys and the earlier earthwork survey.

The site lies outside the Hose Conservation Area, separated by 20th century housing. The remains of a nationally important scheduled monument Grange Moated Site (SM 17024; NHLE 1010668) is positioned 110m to the north. The Grange is recorded as being associated with Croxton Abbey in the 16th Century and represents a good example of a medieval grange in Leicestershire (ancientmonuments.uk accessed 09/03/18). The setting of the Scheduled Monument is considered to include contemporary remains between the monument and the village, and this work is designed to demonstrate if any such remains exist, along with their character and extent.

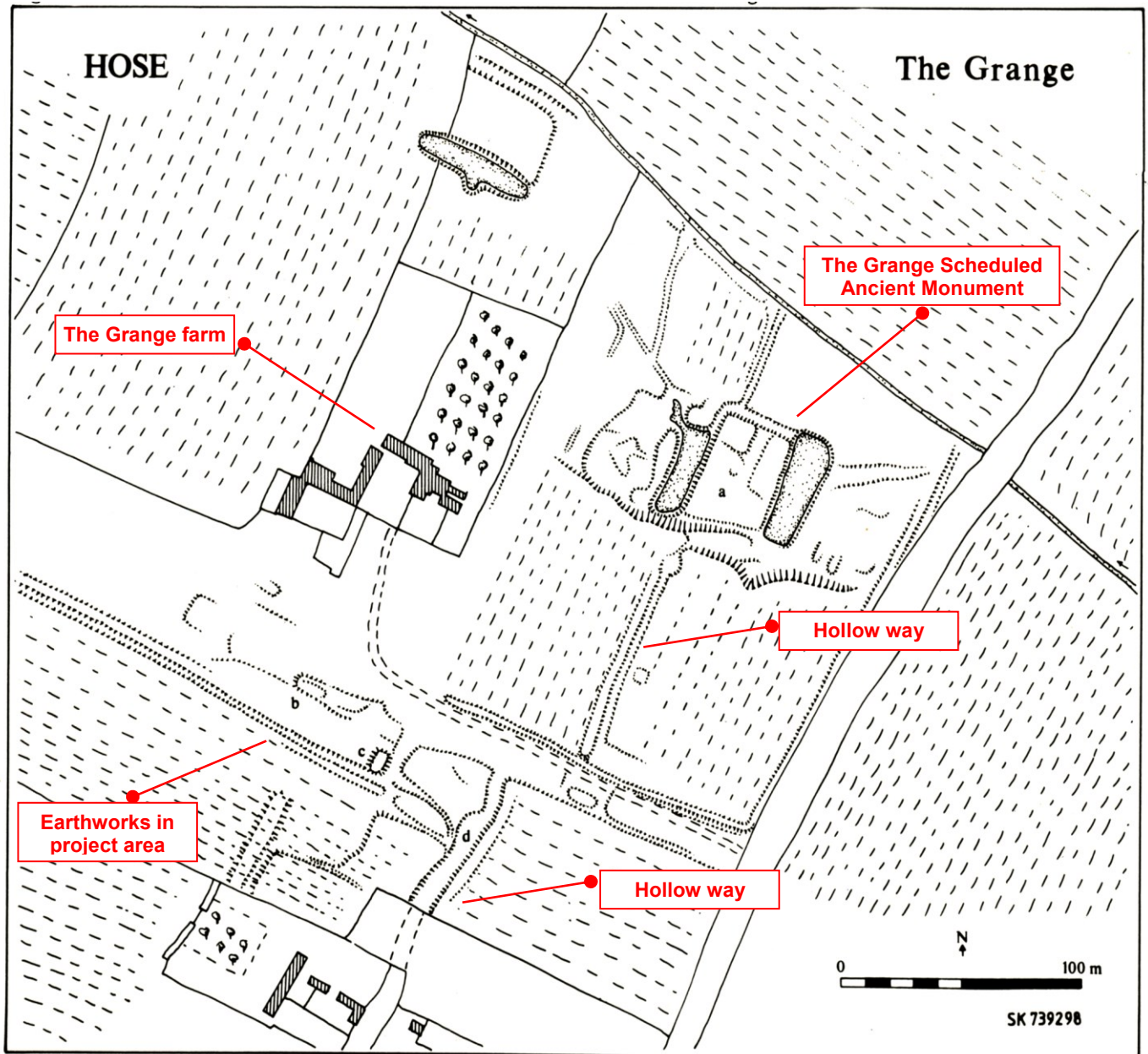


Figure 3: Hartley's survey of the earthworks close to the grange (Hartley. 1987).

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 recover artefacts and ecofacts to compare with other assemblages and results.
- To advance understanding of the heritage assets.
- To produce an archive and report any results.

Within the stated project aims, the principal objective of the recording is 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. While the nature, extent and quality of archaeological remains within the areas of investigation for the project were unknown until archaeological work was undertaken, some initial objectives were derived from East Midlands Heritage research agenda (Knight et al. 2012) accessible online.

(<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/researchframeworks/eastmidlands/wiki/MedievalObjectives>)

Medieval

Research Objective 6C - Review the evidence for developing settlement hierarchies;

Research Objective 7E - Investigate the morphology of rural settlements;

Research Objective 7F - Investigate the development, structure and landholdings of manorial estate centres

Research Objective 7I - Investigate the development of the open-field system and medieval woodland management

Methodology

The work followed the Written Scheme of Investigation (Beamish: 2018) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA) Code of Conduct (2014a) and adhered to their Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations (2014b). An accession number/site code was obtained prior to commencement of the project and used to identify all records and artefacts.

Prior to any machining general photographs of the site areas were taken. The programme of work consisted of the excavation of 12 trenches mostly measuring 30m x2m and targeted at possible archaeological deposits indicated by the previous surveys.

Excavation was carried out with a machine appropriate for the work fitted with a flat-bladed bucket to expose the underlying strata. The machine did not track over any surfaces until the archaeologist had inspected and cleared the area. Topsoil and overburden were removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision. The trenches were excavated down to the top of archaeological deposits or natural undisturbed ground. All excavation by machine and hand were undertaken with a view to avoid damage to archaeological deposits or features which appear worthy of preservation in situ or more detailed investigation than for the purposes of evaluation. Where structures, features or finds appear to merit preservation in situ, they were adequately protected from deterioration.

Trenches were examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located were planned at an appropriate scale. Archaeological deposits were sample-excavated by hand as appropriate in order to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Particular attention was be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

Measured drawings of all archaeological features were prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan. All plans were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Relative spot heights were taken as appropriate. Sections of any excavated archaeological features were drawn at an appropriate scale. At least one longitudinal face of each trench was recorded. All sections were levelled and tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum, or a permanent fixed benchmark. Trench locations

were recorded by an appropriate method and then be tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The trenches were then backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.

The ULAS recording manual was used as a guide for all recording. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed were entered onto pro-forma recording sheets. Any archaeological deposits located were planned at 1:20 scale and sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence. Where possible, modern intrusions will be initially excavated to provide a 'window' through stratified deposits in order to determine their nature, date and depth.

A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a plan at appropriate scale, which will show the location of the areas examined in relationship to the investigation area and OS grid. A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered was made. Sections including the half-sections of individual layers of features will be drawn as necessary. The relative height of all principal strata and features were be recorded. The stratigraphy of all trenches were recorded even where no archaeological features are identified.

A photographic record of the investigations was prepared, illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. Conventional silver halide black and white and digital colour photographs were taken.



Figure 4: Photograph of the site prior to trenching.

Results



Figure 5: Challenging weather conditions encountered during trenching.

A total of 12 trenches were excavated: 10 measured 30m in length, 1 measured 50m and another measured 17m. The trenches were excavated using a machine with a flat-bladed bucket measuring 2.2m wide. One 30m long trench was split in half to allow a direct route through the site for a public footpath and an extra 17m trench was excavated to target a hollow way not visible in the other nearby trenches. Apart from these two adjustments all trenches were excavated in their planned positions as stipulated in the WSI (Beamish: 2018) and the new trench positions were surveyed and incorporated to the site plan.

The topsoil was consistent across the field and was composed of a dark brownish grey coloured silty clay that was often rich in organic matter consistent with compost or manure. The topsoil contained inclusions of sub-rounded pebbles and occasionally larger cobbles. The subsoil was not present across the entire field and was coloured light brownish grey with a hint of yellow. It was composed of silty clay that occasionally contained small sub-rounded stones. In many of the trenches there was found to be archaeology directly beneath the topsoil and layers or remains below either related to medieval or post medieval activity. Artificial mounds dating to the medieval period were located beneath the topsoil and these were often found to consist of a mixture of subsoil and re-deposited natural clay.

All of the trenches were excavated to the top of the natural substratum or the top of the archaeological horizon depending on whichever was encountered first. The natural substratum was found to consist of light brownish yellow silty clay with occasional sandy patches and lenses of blueish grey clay. The subtle variations between the natural substratum, the naturally occurring subsoil and archaeological layers consisting of re-deposited natural mixed with subsoil made excavation challenging due to the similarity between these deposits. The variable weather conditions also hindered the excavation with blizzards making the recording and excavation difficult.

Of the 12 trenches excavated at least 11 contained archaeological features relating to medieval or early post medieval activity. One trench in the north-eastern corner was inconclusive with possibly a ridge (from ridge and furrow activity) or artificial bank being recorded.

Trench Number	Ground Height (OD)	Topsoil depth (m)	Subsoil depth (m)	Top of Natural (m)	Base of Trench (m)	Natural Substratum	Archaeology
1	51.59	0.3-0.5	0.04-0.23	0.3->0.62	0.36-0.67	light brownish yellow silty clay	A wide ditch or hollow way and re-deposited clay to the north
2	52.31-53.29	0.21-0.4	0.06-0.23	0.3	0.23-0.63	light brownish yellow silty clay	Rubble overlaying building remains and cobble surfaces with a depression or cut feature to the north
3	53.72-54.41	0.23-0.37	0.04-0.16	0.27-0.47	0.29-0.52	light brownish yellow silty clay	Artificial bank in centre of trench, part of a second artificial bank in east of trench, post medieval deposit between the banks, which is overlaying an earlier cut feature
4	53.9	0.14-0.3	0.14-0.33	0.31-0.55	0.35-0.78	light brownish yellow silty clay	At least 4 gullies and a spread
5	54.54-55.04	0.25-0.35	0.05-0.3	0.35-0.57	0.35-0.72	light brownish yellow silty clay	Artificial bank in centre of the trench with a cobble surface to the north, ditches to the south and part of a second artificial bank
6	54.78	0.14-0.33	0.15-0.32	0.34-0.52	0.41-0.66	light brownish yellow silty clay	The eastern edge of the hollow way
7	54.64	0.23-0.33	0.2-0.23	0.43-0.54	0.6-0.68	light brownish yellow silty clay	The eastern edge of the hollow way
8	54.69	0.22-0.34	0.05-0.32	0.43-0.62	0.39-0.66	light brownish yellow silty clay	A spread or layer
9	54.58	Approximately 0.24-0.3	Approximately 0.03-0.18	Approximately 0.31-0.44	0.28-0.44	light brownish yellow silty clay	A ridge or bank and cobble surface in north of trench
10	54.09	0.29-0.33	0.03-0.09	0.33-0.39	0.38-0.45	light brownish yellow silty clay	A shallow disturbed burnt feature
11	54.06	0.24-0.3	0.03-0.18	0.33-0.47	0.38-0.52	light brownish yellow silty clay	A ridge or bank
12	54.9	0.23-0.32	0.09-0.16	0.28-0.48	0.31-0.52	light brownish yellow silty clay	Hollow way with cobbles in base and a layer or part of artificial bank to the west

Figure 6: Trench records

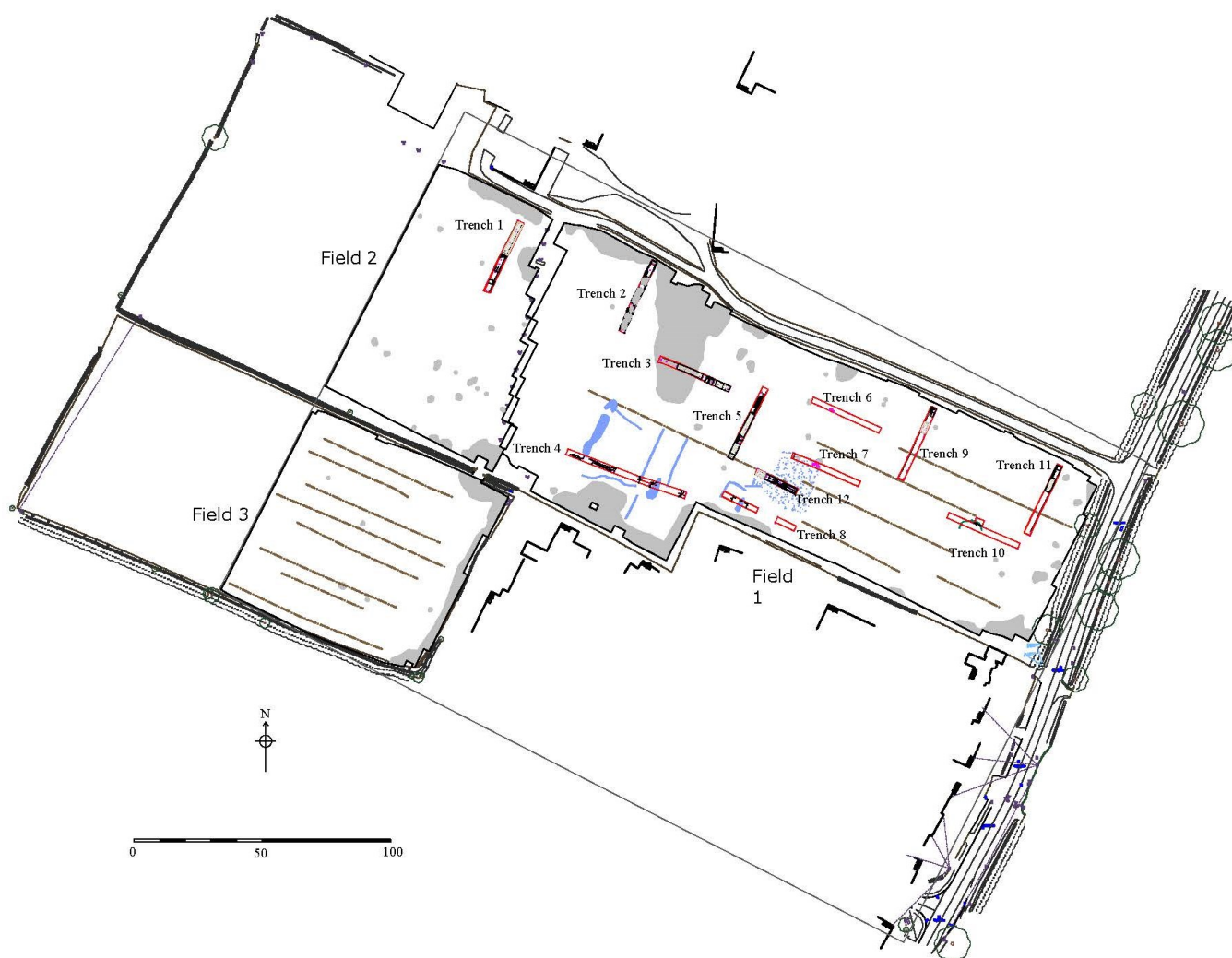


Figure 7: Trench plan over geophysical anomalies. (adapted from Sumo. 2017)

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in the north-western corner of the site and positioned along a north north-east to south south-west orientation. The trench measured 30m long, had a depth ranging from 0.36-0.67m and was found to contain only a thin and discontinuous layer of subsoil. In the centre of the trench a wide linear feature [35] was found, orientated east to west. The feature was filled with a deposit containing modern brick and tile, and so was initially machine excavated with subsequent sample excavation by hand of the northern edge.

Feature [35] measured >2.2m long, by approximately 7.36m wide, by >0.37m deep and had moderately sloping slightly concave sides. It was not fully excavated, but found to be filled with a homogenous mid greenish grey silty clay (36) that contained inclusions of chert. No artefacts were found within the feature, but snail shells were found to be preserved within the fill but were not retained. The feature was sealed by a soil horizon (38) which was overlain by a deposit of clay and rubble which was sealed by topsoil. The earlier soil horizon (38) was a dark greenish brown colour with a hint of grey and composed of a loamy silty clay that was slumping into [35]. Above (38) was a dark yellowish grey coloured deposit (39) that appeared to be mostly re-deposited natural clay with

modern bricks and tile. This was machined out during the initial trench excavation. Above this deposit a roughly horizontal modern topsoil was found.

North of the large central feature a thin <0.12m thick layer (37) was found overlaying the natural clay. This layer was a mid greenish grey colour and was composed of a silty clay that was rich in re-deposited natural clay. It is not clear if feature [35] is truncating deposit (37), or if (37) is the shallow remains of a bank positioned next to it. This layer was seen to continue to the northern extent of the trench where it was recorded in section as (16).

Feature [35] could represent either a series of ditches or a hollow way, possibly with a shallow ditch along the northern edge. Deposit (38) was found to be infilling the slumping in the earlier soil horizon and appears to be a deliberate attempt to level and consolidate the ground. To the north deposit (37) had a similar appearance to the fill of [35] and it is possible they are contemporary, with the deposit being washed into the ditch.

Close to the southern end of the trench a shallow linear [33] orientated east to west was found. Linear [33] measured >2.2m long, by 1.5m wide, by 0.18m deep and had shallow sloping concave sides and an irregular base. It was filled by a greenish grey coloured silty clay (34). This feature was dug in very poor weather conditions with occasional blizzards hindering the excavation. The feature was shallow, irregular and positioned on the same alignment as ridge and furrows. Because of this it was interpreted as being a furrow.

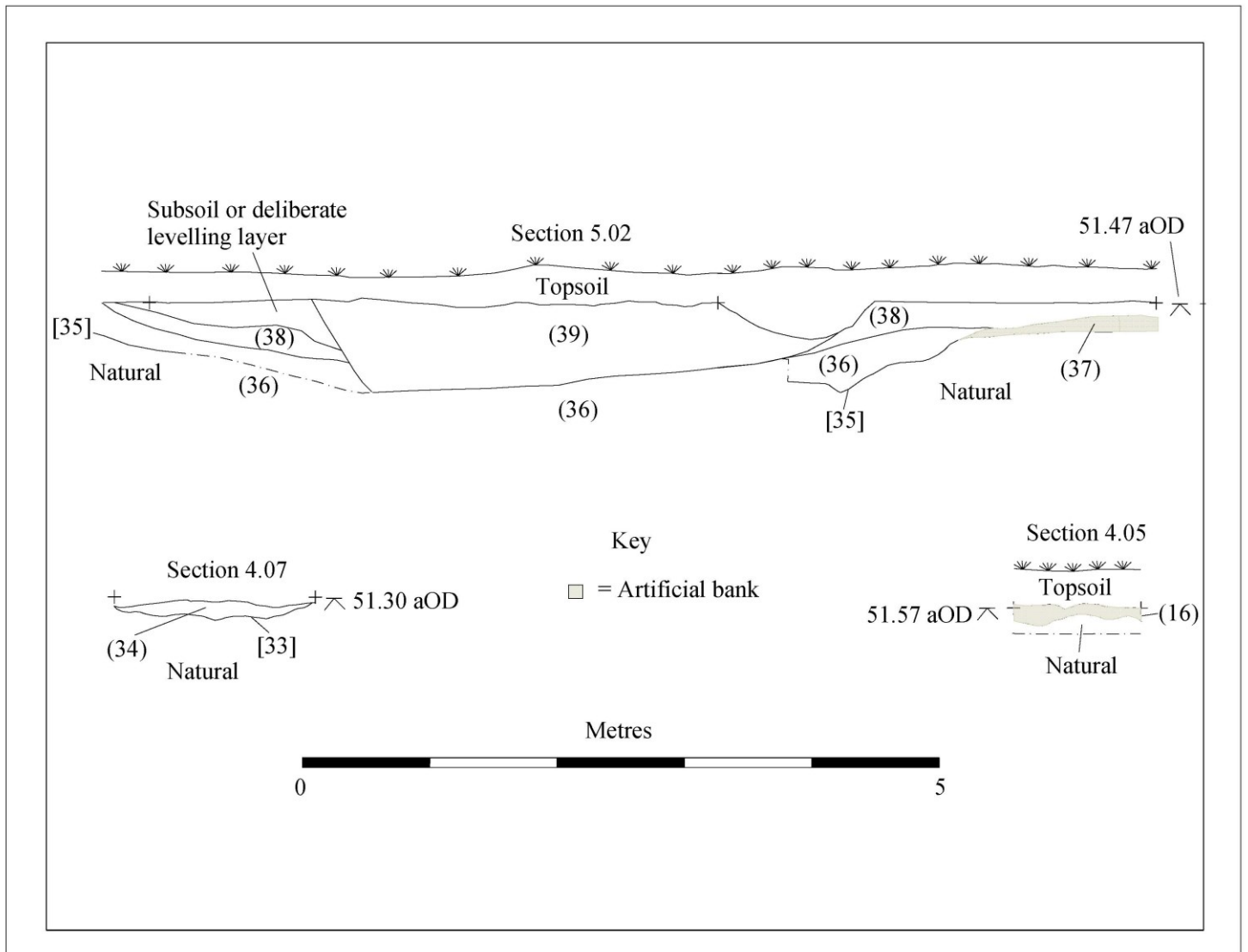


Figure 8: Trench 1 plan.

Figure 9: Trench 1 sections.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was located to the east of trench 1 and was also orientated along a north north-east to south south-west alignment. This trench measured 30m long, had a depth ranging from 0.23-0.63m and similarly to trench 1 was found to contain only a thin layer of subsoil with the majority of the trench consisting of topsoil directly on top of natural substrata cut by archaeological deposits.

Despite the shallowness trench 2 was found to contain the best preserved archaeology in the 12 excavated trenches. The trench was cleaned and recorded with only a limited amount of excavation performed with the aim to sufficiently characterise the deposits whilst preserve as much *in situ* as possible. The topography of the ground changed throughout the trench and this was visible on the surface before machining commenced and is depicted on the plan of the earthworks (Hartley, 1987).

The northern end of the trench was the lowest and deepest part of the trench. This area was found to contain a dark brownish grey with a hint of blue coloured deposit (23) that was composed of clay silt that was probably formed through silting processes. This deposit was only partly excavated due to its large size and was found to contain animal bone (Johnson, Appendix 1, p50). The layer was found to reside in [22], which measured >3m long, by >2.2m wide, by 0.29m deep and had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It is unclear whether this represented a cut feature or a naturally formed depression that had water accumulating in it. Attempts to consolidate the ground appear to have been made with rubble (consisting of cobbles and modern bricks) being found dumped on top of this deposit. The top soil was also noticeably thicker at this point in the trench and this may indicate an attempt to level the ground.

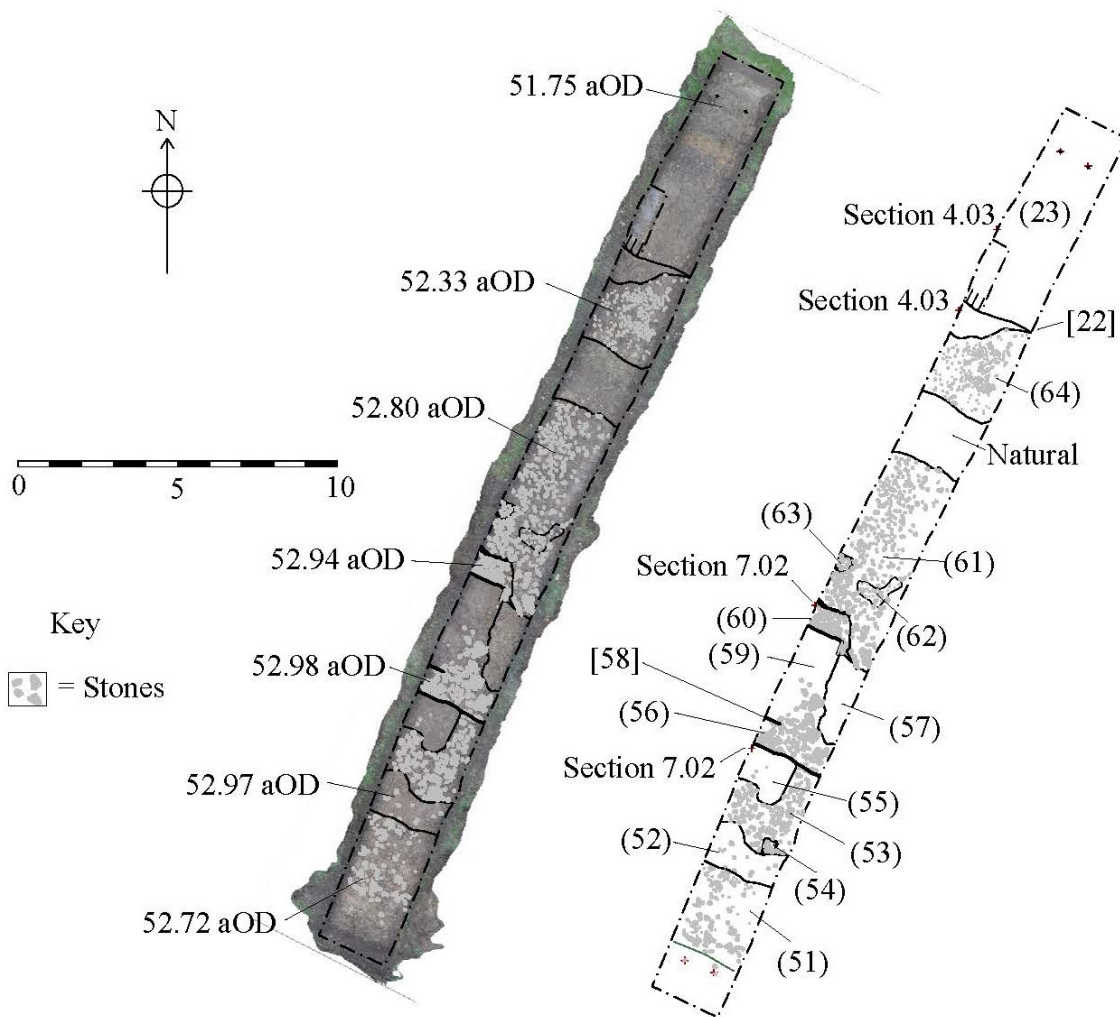


Figure 10: Plans of Trench 2 showing photogrammetry model with (left) and without (right) photo render.

The base of the trench sloped up to the south. Layer (64) was composed of unsorted rubble primarily formed by small cobbles and pebbles mixed with angular pieces of ironstone <0.15m in size within a matrix of blueish grey silty clay. Within (64) a fragment of modern wall tile and post medieval or modern clay pipe was recovered. It is unclear whether these represent intrusive artefacts due to the shallowness of the deposit or if the deposit dates to the post-medieval or modern period. Deposit (64)

had slumped into feature [22] in the northern end of the trench and this suggests a degree of contemporaneity.

Toward the centre of the trench the archaeological horizon became more level and a small plateau contained evidence for a building. At this point the stone rubble became coarser and was formed by larger cobbles and angular ironstone blocks 0.15-0.25m in size (61) in a matrix of dark greyish brown silty clay. A layer of dark blackish grey charcoal rich silty clay (62) was recorded within (61) on the west side of the trench.

There is evidence for activity below (61) with a layer of cobbles (63) that measured 0.05-0.15m in size being partly visible. These cobbles appear to be laid to form a surface and were more compact than those found in the overlaying rubble spread. Rubble (61) has the foundations of wall (60) forming its southerly extent and this suggests that the layer is at least partly formed from the demolition of this feature.

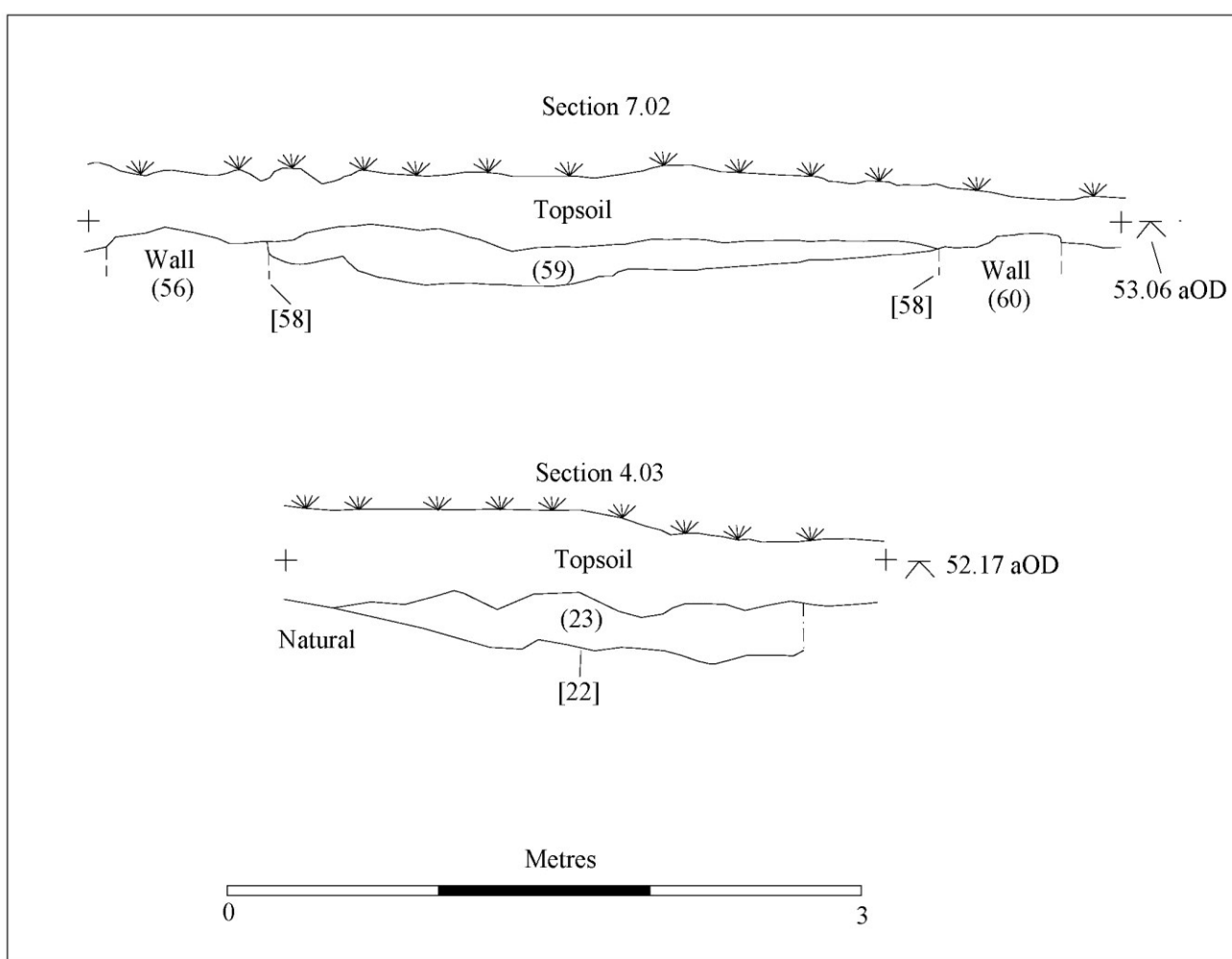


Figure 11: Sections of trench 2.



Figure 12: Photograph of wall (60), coarse rubble (61), cobbles (63) and burnt area (62).

Wall (60) measured 0.82m wide and was orientated north west-west to south east-east. It was mostly composed of un-bonded roughly squared ironstone blocks 0.15-0.25m in size with some sandstone measuring 0.2-0.25m and the occasional cobble 0.15-0.2m. The eastern edge of wall (60) was partly obscured by deposit (61) and it is uncertain whether it continued along the same alignment or turned to the south. Modern china was recovered from above wall (60) which was only 0.15m below the current ground surface.

Approximately 3.16m to the south of the wall (60) was another deposit of ironstone (56) that probably represents a second wall. Wall (56) measured >2.2m long, by 1.1m wide and was mostly composed of un-bonded roughly squared ironstone blocks. Similarly to wall (60) this feature was being partly obscured along one edge by a layer of coarse rubble (53) that probably relates to the demolition of the feature. Both walls (56) and (60) appear to be forming the edges of a rectangular deposit (59) (feature [58]) located along the western edge of the trench. Feature [58] measured 3.16m wide, by >1m wide, by >0.2m deep and appears to be bounded by walls on at least 2 sides. The feature is filled by (59) a dark greyish brown coloured friable sandy silt that contained artefacts of glass, medieval pottery and mortar. The eastern edge of [58] is formed by deposit (57), which is a light greyish yellow coloured friable silty clay that appears to be primarily composed of re-deposited natural clay. This layer contained few small sub-angular stones, is only found between the two walls and appears to be overlaying a layer of cobbles.

Feature [58] appears to be contemporary with the building since the edges are respecting the walls. It also appears to be an open or at least a partly filled void at the time of the buildings demolition since rubble from wall (56) appears to be have slumped into it from the south. Modern disturbance to the deposit was noted, but the pottery found within it dates from 1450-1550 (Sawday, Appendix 1, p44).



Figure 13: Photograph of [59] and deposit (57).

To the south of wall (56) was a coarse rubble spread (53) that was of a similar composition to spread (61) to the north. This measured >2.2m long by 2.75m wide and was predominantly a mixture of medium to large sub-angular ironstone blocks and sub-rounded cobbles. These stones were found in a matrix of mid greyish brown friable silty clay. This rubble appears to be a demolition spread and may be directly related to adjacent wall (56), or the general demolition of the building. Spread (53) was partly beneath a friable mid greyish green coloured silty clay layer (55), that measured >1.35m long and 1.1m wide and approximately 0.07m deep. This layer had a high clay content and inclusions of small to medium sized sub-angular ironstone fragments. There is evidence for activity beneath rubble spread (53), with a layer of cobbles (54) being partly visible. Deposit (54) measured >0.5m wide and >0.5m long and was composed of mid greyish brown medium sized rounded cobbles, which probably form a cobbled surface beneath demolition rubble (53).

In the far southern end of the trench was a stone rubble consisting of a mixture of cobbles with medium to large sub-angular ironstone fragments (51), in a matrix of friable light greyish brown silty clay. This deposit measured >3.95m long and >2.2m wide and was made distinct from cobble layer (54) by a much reduced coarse ironstone rubble content. Above layer (51) was a soft and friable light yellowish green silty clay that had a high clay content (52). This deposit measured >2.2m long, by 0.8m wide and contained animal bone (Johnson, Appendix 1, p50) along with inclusions of cobbles and ironstone fragments that are probably disturbed from (51) below.



Figure 14: Photograph of wall (56), coarse rubble (53) and deposit (55).



Figure 15: Photograph of coarse rubble (53), cobbles (54), deposit (52) and rubble (51).

Trench 3

Trench 3 was positioned south-east of trench 2 and was orientated on a west north-west to east south-east alignment. The trench measured 30m long, had a depth ranging from 0.29-0.52m with a discontinuous layer of subsoil above archaeological levels. The trench was located to investigate a mound recorded in a previous survey (Figure 3, c)

Toward the centre of the trench a layer of a compact mid yellowish grey silty clay (45) with inclusions of charcoal and small pebbles was recorded. The layer was approximately 11m wide. This is interpreted as a bank of redeposited natural clay (45). This layer was not further excavated.

At the eastern end of the trench the archaeological horizon rose up and a small sondage was excavated into this area which was found to consist of two distinct layers. The upper layer (46) was a charcoal rich dark greyish brown silty clay that had inclusions of small pebbles and fragments of coal. This layer measured approximately 2.4m wide, by > 2.2m long, by 0.2m deep and was found to contain Fe nails, an Fe object probably part of a horseshoe (small find 2, Cooper, N., Appendix 1, p54) and animal bones (Johnson, Appendix 1, p50).

Below (46) was a compact mid yellowy grey silty clay (47) that measured 0.13-0.19m deep visibly getting thicker to the east. It was high in re-deposited natural clay and contained inclusions of small pebbles. A small fragment of medieval pottery dating from 1100-1400 (Sawday, Appendix 1, p44) was found within this deposit and it appears to be the edge of an artificial mound.

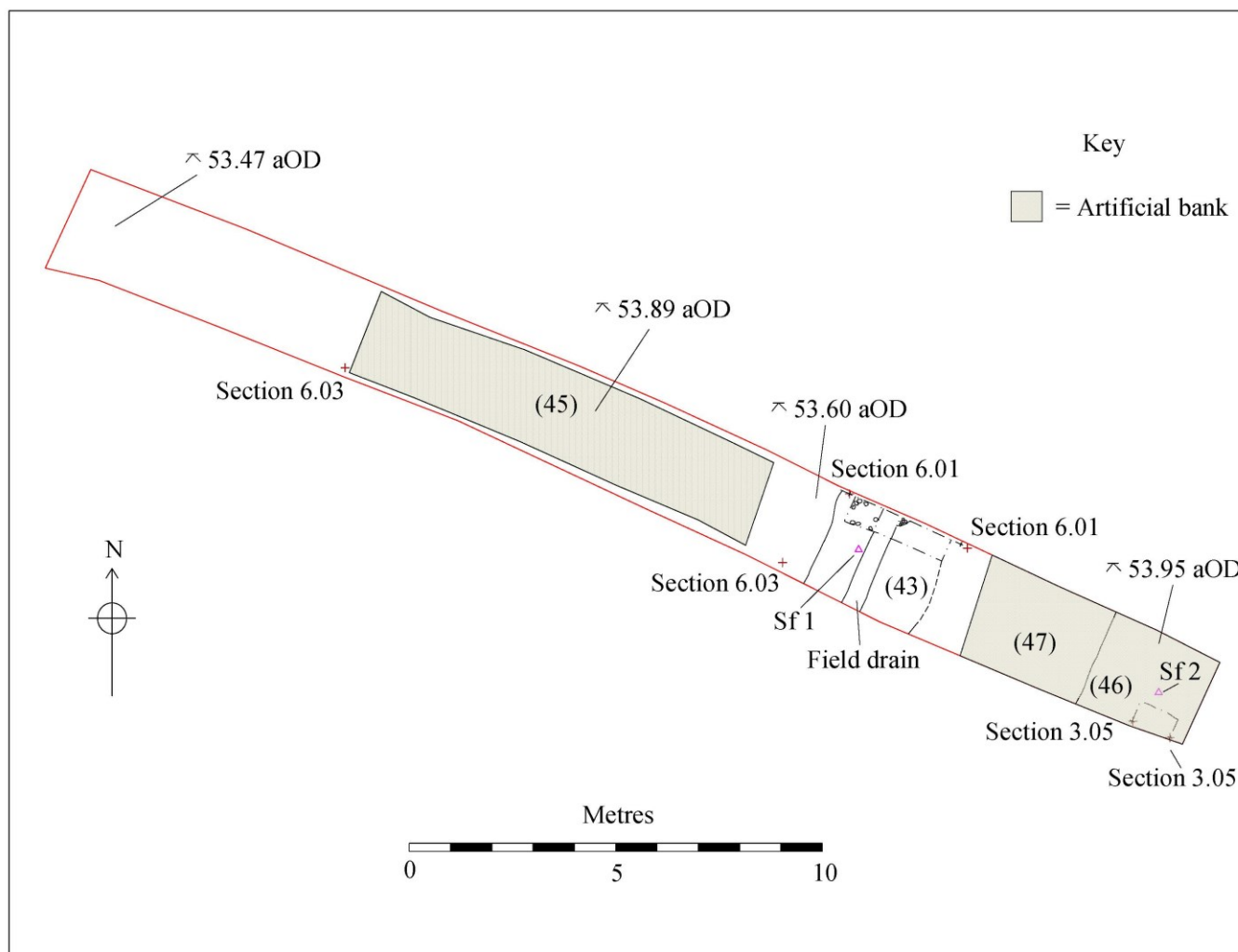


Figure 16: Plan of trench 3.

In the area between (45) and (46) was layer (43). This deposit measured approximately 3m wide, by >2.2 m long, by 0.07m deep and was coloured dark greyish brown. Layer (43) was composed of friable silty clay that had inclusions of small pebbles and regular small angular fragments of ceramic building material (CBM). During the initial machining of the trench a fragment of clay pipe was disturbed from this layer and upon hand cleaning the layer a silver George III sixpence (sf1, Cooper, N., p54) was found. The coin was given a separate context number (44) to the layer (43) as it became apparent that several field drains ran across the feature and the provenance of the coin was insecure. Beneath layer (43) a feature was found that probably represents a ditch or large pit called [41].

Feature [41] measured >2 m wide, by >2 m long and >0.7 m deep. Natural was only found in the base in the eastern half of the feature. The base was deepening to the west and this indicates the excavated slot was positioned close to the eastern edge of the feature. No edges were found within the slot and this was due to the feature not being visible on the surface. It was masked by layer (43) above it and also the two mounds on either side.

Feature [41] was filled by two deposits, the lower (42) was a compact mid yellowy grey coloured silty clay that had a very high clay content and measured >0.5 m deep. Small rounded stones were found throughout the fill and towards the base there was a layer of cobbles that was especially prominent in the western half of the slot. This fill contained small Fe nails, pot and CBM, but

unfortunately the disturbance from the field drains was high and not initially observed, which may have caused later artefacts to become incorporated with the fill. The deposit was also found to contain numerous snail shells and was sampled from an area away from the truncation (Rogers, Appendix 1, p55). The upper (67) was a mid yellowy brown silty clay that appeared to be a similar composition to (42) except was high in re-deposited natural clay. This fill measured 0.2m thick and is likely to represent either the feature continuing beneath the artificial banks on either side, or the artificial banks eroding into the top of the feature.

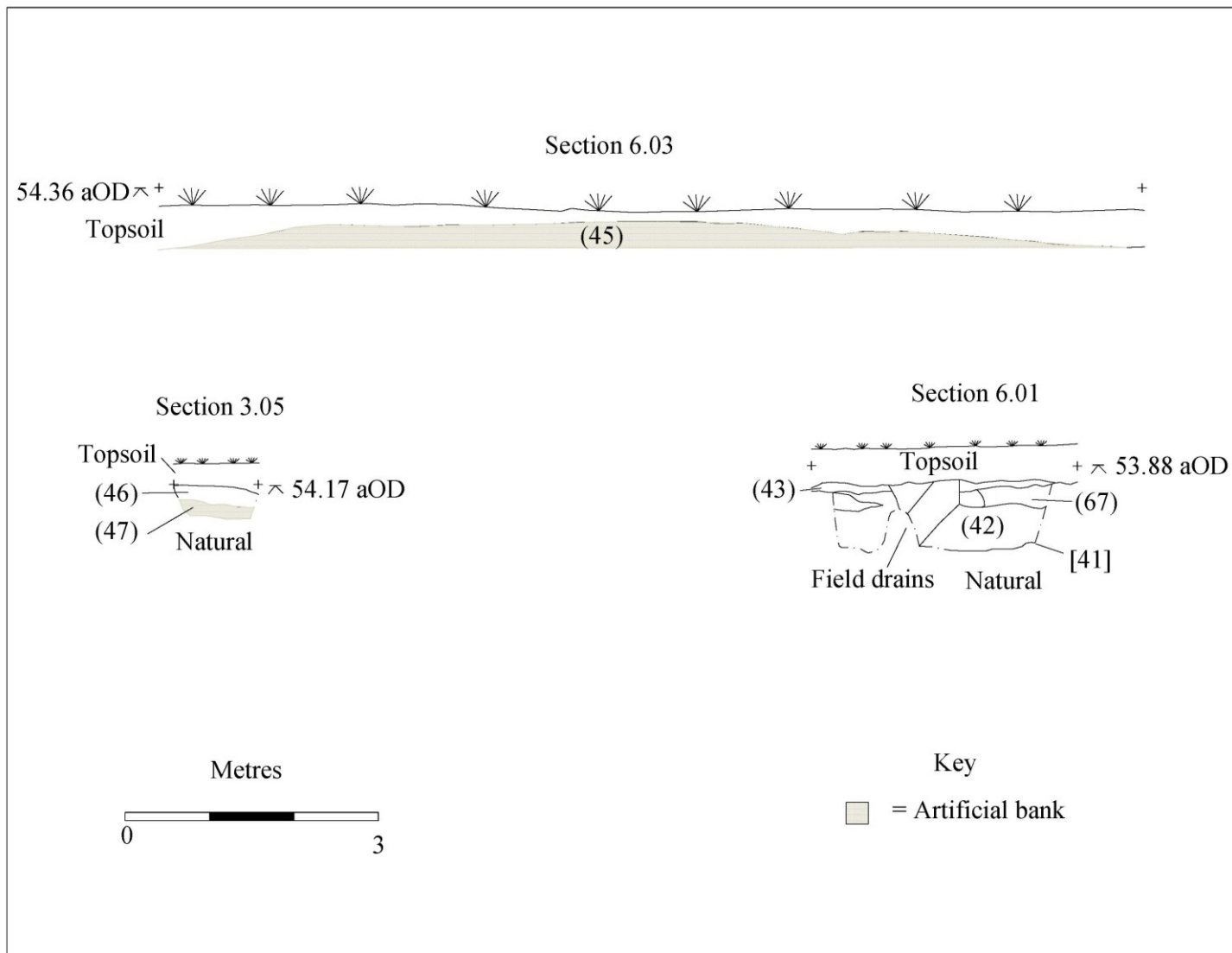


Figure 17: Sections of trench 3.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was located south of trench 3 and was also orientated along a west north-west to east south-east alignment. The trench measured 50m long, had a depth ranging from 0.35-0.78m deep. A subsoil between 0.14-0.33m in depth was found below topsoil.

A number of cut features were recorded within the trench. At the eastern end of the trench a linear feature [02] was found on a north-east to south-west alignment. This feature measured >2.2m long, by 0.6-0.7m wide by 0.24m deep and had both concave and straight sides, with a concave base, and is interpreted as a gully. Gully [02] had edges that were shallow and moderately sloping and the cut appeared to be poorly defined and possibly disturbed. The feature was filled by a mid greyish brown silty clay (01) that had inclusions of medium sized rounded stones, small fragments of ironstone and several fragments of medieval pottery dating between 870-1350 (Sawday, Appendix 1, p44).

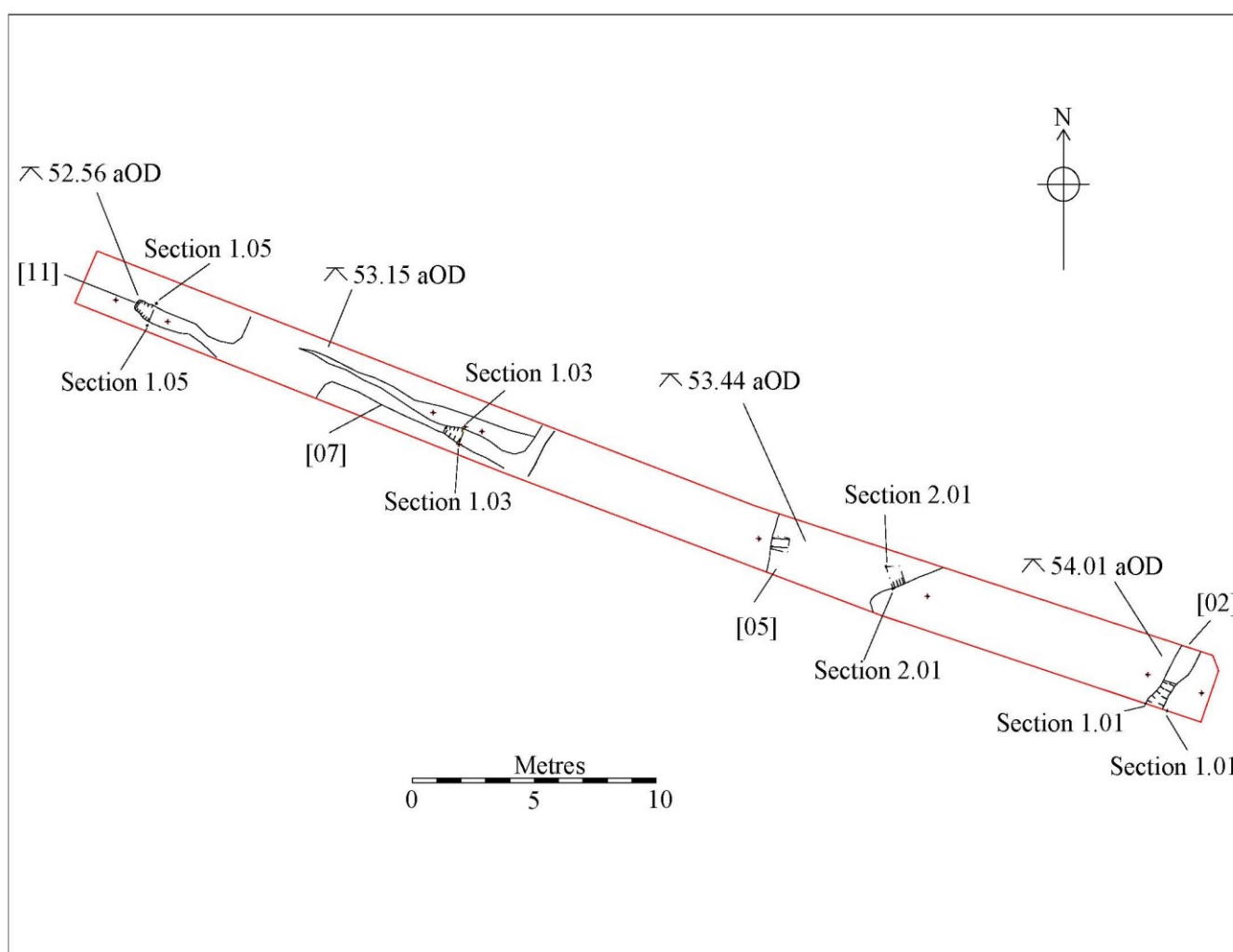


Figure 18: Plan of trench 4.

To the west of gully [02] another feature [05] was found that measured 6.5m wide. This feature has an unusual shape, with the western edge being consistently orientated north-east to south-west and the eastern edge starting off on the same alignment, but dramatically turning to the east.

This irregularity may indicate that [05] is potentially more than one feature. Two small sondages were excavated which revealed a steep cut on the east side, and a more shallow cut in the west. The base of the feature was not found and the depth in the eastern slot indicated it was >0.35m deep. The feature was filled by a homogenous soft friable mid brownish grey silty clay (04) that contained inclusions of small rounded pebbles and medieval pottery dating between 900-1250 (Sawday, Appendix 1, p44).

The western end of trench 4 was found to contain at least 3 gullies orientated north-east to south-west and west north-west to east south-east. Gully [07] was orientated west north-west to east south-east and measured >2m long, by 0.5m wide and 0.16m deep. It was filled by a soft friable mid greyish brown silty clay (6) that occasionally contained small rounded pebbles and medieval pottery dating 1150-1250 (Sawday, Appendix 1, p44).

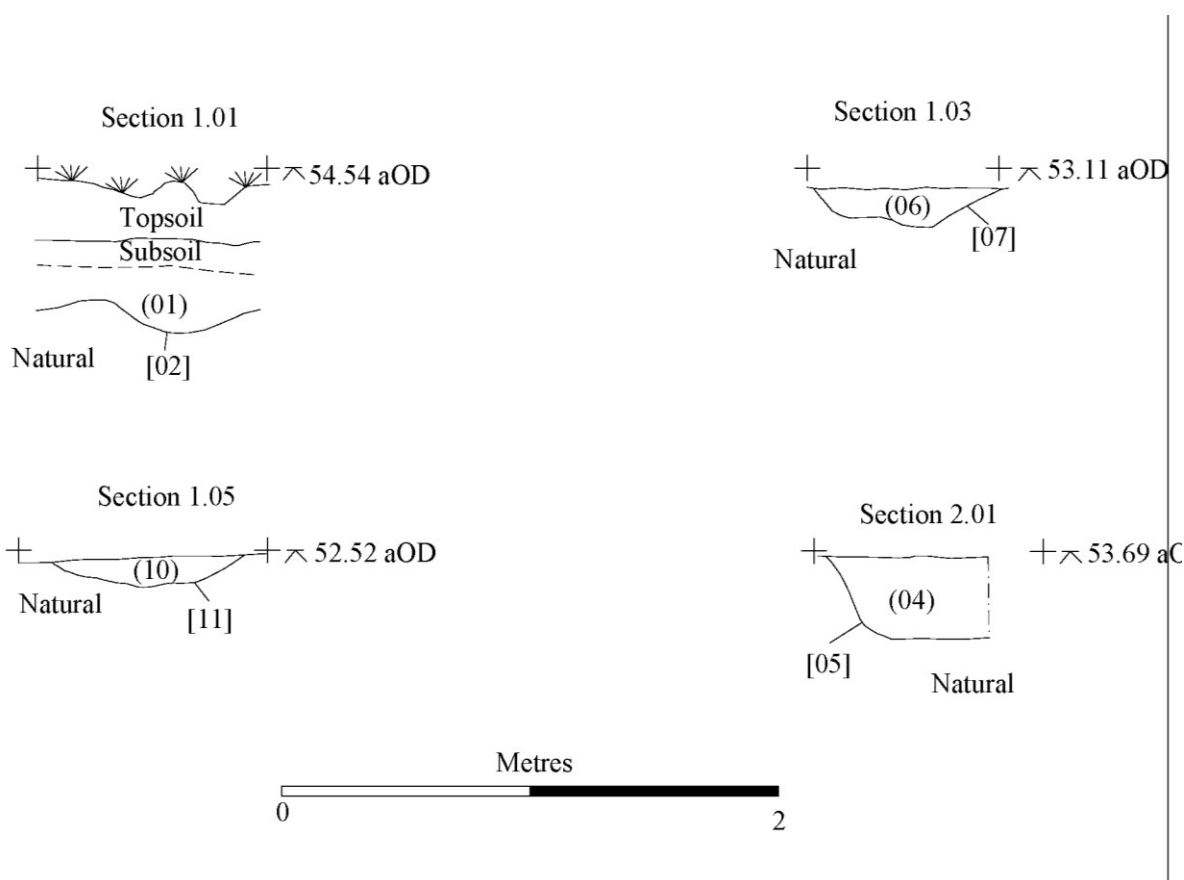


Figure 19: Sections of trench 4.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was positioned to the east of trench 3 and was orientated on a north north-east to south south-west alignment. This trench measured 30m long and contained little to no subsoil. The trench was machined to a depth of 0.35-0.72m: changes in topography were visible in the current ground surface.

In the centre of the trench was a deposit (48) composed of silty clay (interpreted as a mixture of re-deposited natural clay and subsoil) that measured 9m long, by >2.2m wide and was coloured mid brownish yellow. This deposit contained inclusions of charcoal with small stones, animal bone (Johnson, Appendix 1, p50) and medieval pottery dating to the later 13th century (Sawday, Appendix 1, p44). This deposit is interpreted as part of a medieval earthwork.

To the north of (48) an area of cobbles was found (40) that probably represents a deliberate surface. Cobble layer (40) measured approximately 7m long, by >2.2m wide and was mostly formed by rounded cobbles <0.25m in size with a few fragments of sandstone and ironstone. The cobbles had been pressed into the natural ground and were surrounded by a matrix of mid greyish brown silty clay. The layer had inclusions of charcoal, chert, flint (Cooper, L, Appendix 1, p55) and finds of animal bone (Johnson, Appendix 1, p50) and green glazed medieval pottery dating to the first half of the 13th century (Sawday, Appendix 1, p44).

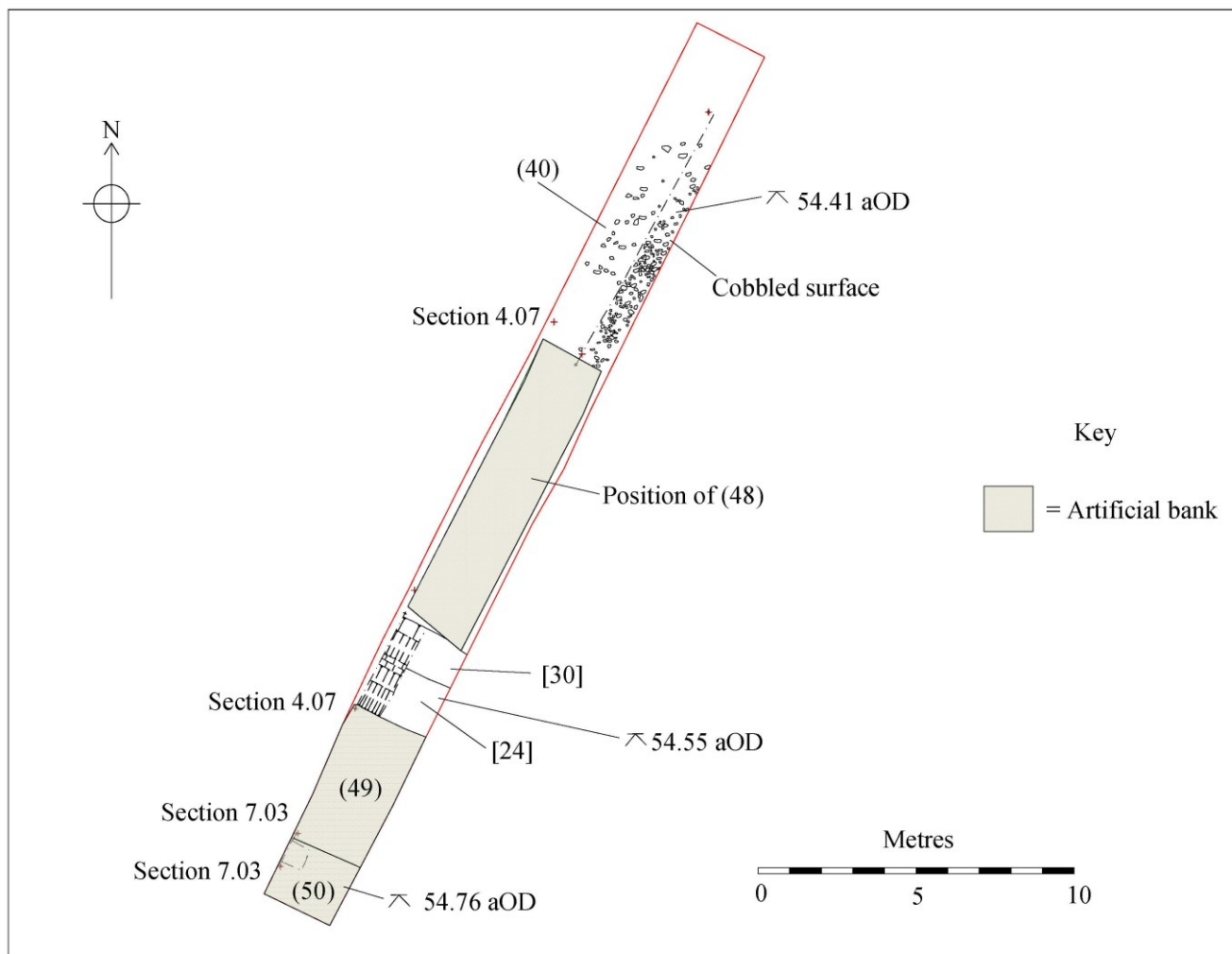


Figure 20: Plan of trench 5.

On the southern edge of (48) two east to west orientated ditches were found. The northerly ditch [30] measured >2.2m long, by 1.36m wide, by 0.19m deep and had shallow to moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by a soft friable mid greyish brown silty clay (29), that had inclusions of charcoal and fragments of animal bone (Johnson, Appendix 1, p50). The top of the feature was disturbed through the topsoil and this is probably the result of modern interference. Post medieval pottery was found within (29) and it is unclear whether the feature represents a shallow ditch or a furrow.

The more southerly ditch [24] was parallel with [30]. Ditch [24] measured >2.2m long, by 1.7m wide, by 0.75m deep and was orientated east to west. The southern edge of the feature was nearly vertical, whereas the northern edge was steep at the base with a break of slope half way above which

became more shallow and concave. The ditch had a primary fill (25) that measured 0.18m deep and was composed of a compact mid greenish grey coloured silty clay that contained a high proportion of clay and was found to have a layer of cobbles within it at the base of the cut. This fill contained animal bones (Johnson, Appendix 1, p50) and well preserved snail shells (Rogers, Appendix 1, p55), which were sampled. Above deposit (25) a secondary fill (26) was found, which measured 0.28m deep and was composed of a compact mid yellowy grey silty clay that contained a high proportion of clay. The deposit contained flecks of charcoal, medieval pottery dating 1375-1550 (Sawday, Appendix 1, p44), animal bone (Johnson, Appendix 1, p50) and a fragment of CBM (the later of which may have resulted from modern disturbance). Above fill (26) was deposit (28), which could either represent a tertiary fill of [24] or the fill of a recut [27]. The possible recut [27] measured 1.6m wide, by 0.3m deep and had shallow to moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a soft mid greyish brown clay silt (28) that contained inclusions of charcoal.

To the south of ditches [24] to [30] the archaeological horizon sloped up and at the far southern end of the trench a small sondage was excavated. Two distinct layers were found the upper of which (49) was a light yellowish grey silty clay that contained fragments of animal bone and pottery dating from 1150-1250 (Sawday, Appendix 1, p44). This deposit measured >2m long, by >2.2m wide, by 0.32m deep. Below layer (49) another deposit was identified (50), which measured >2m long (possibly even >6.6m long), by >2.2m wide, by 0.18-0.3m deep visibly getting thicker to the south. The northern edge of this layer was not clear and it is possible that it continues as far as ditch [24]. This layer contained medieval pottery dating from 1150-1250 (Sawday, Appendix 1, p44) with animal bone (Johnson, Appendix 1, p50) and appears to be the edge of an artificial mound.



Figure 21: Photograph of ditches [24] and [30].

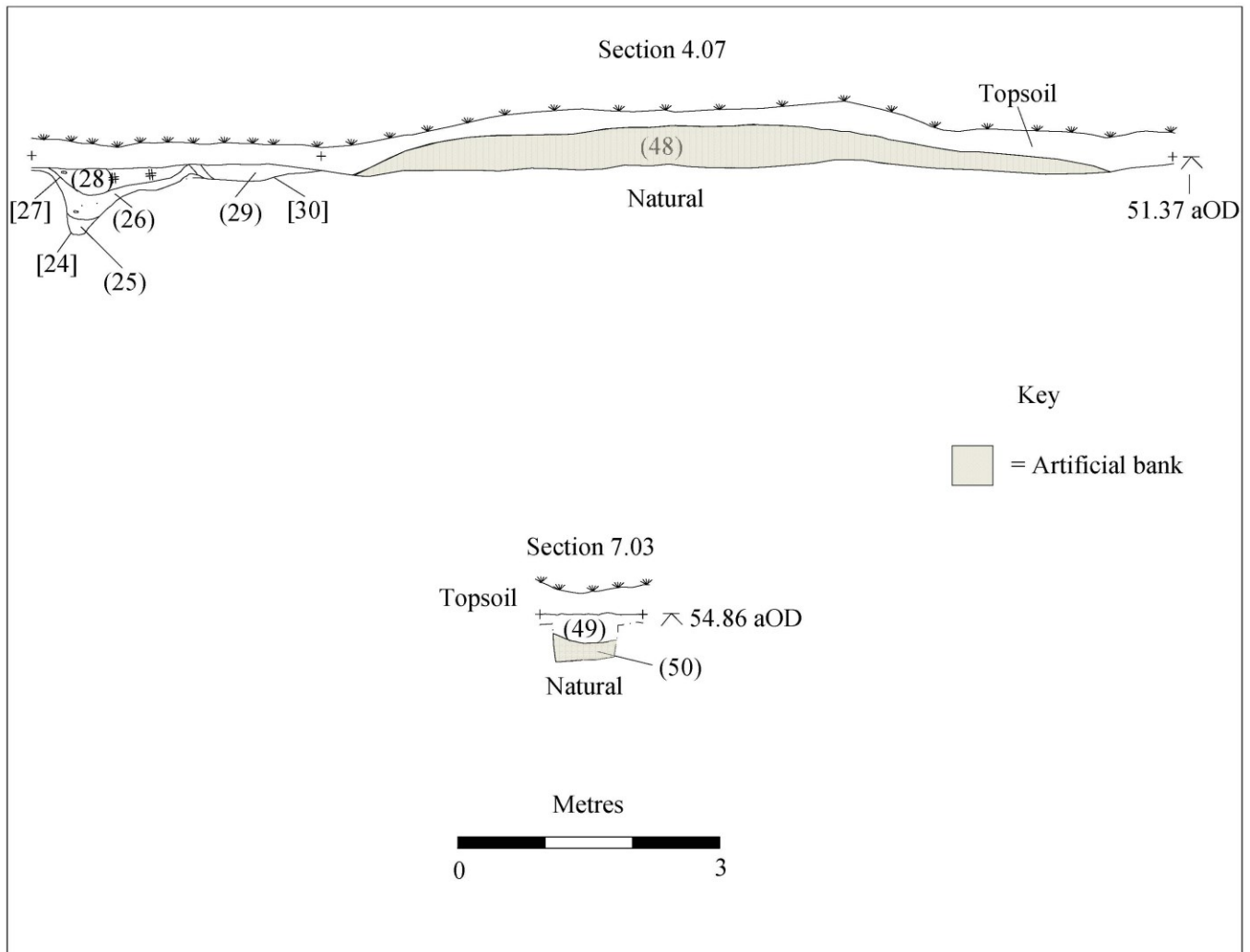


Figure 22: Sections of trench 5.



Figure 23: Photograph of cobbles in trench 5.



Figure 24: Photograph of artificial mound in trench 5.

Trench 6

Trench 6 was positioned to the north-east of trench 5 and was orientated along a west north-west to east south-east alignment. The trench measured 30m long, had a depth ranging from 0.41-0.66m.

The trench was excavated with the aim of investigating a hollow way orientated north-east to south-west. Unfortunately the trench position was shifted to avoid the public footpath and only the very edge of the hollow way was seen. The edge of the hollow way was identified by a thickening of the topsoil, which was becoming thicker at the western end of the trench. The base of the hollow way was not found and no cobbles were found.

Trench 7

Trench 7 was parallel with and to the south of trench 6. This was also placed to investigate the hollow way but also failed to characterise the feature due the public footpath.

Trench 7 measured 30m long and had a depth ranging from 0.6-0.68m. The far western end of the trench contained evidence for the eastern edge of the hollow way [09] and this too was typified by the thickening of the topsoil which was infilling the feature.

The top of the hollow way cut [09] was straight and shallow sloping sides and have a depth $>0.4\text{m}$. It was filled by (08) a dark greyish brown silty clay that was rich in loam. The cut was found to be truncating a mid greyish brown silty clay deposit that was interpreted as being the subsoil.

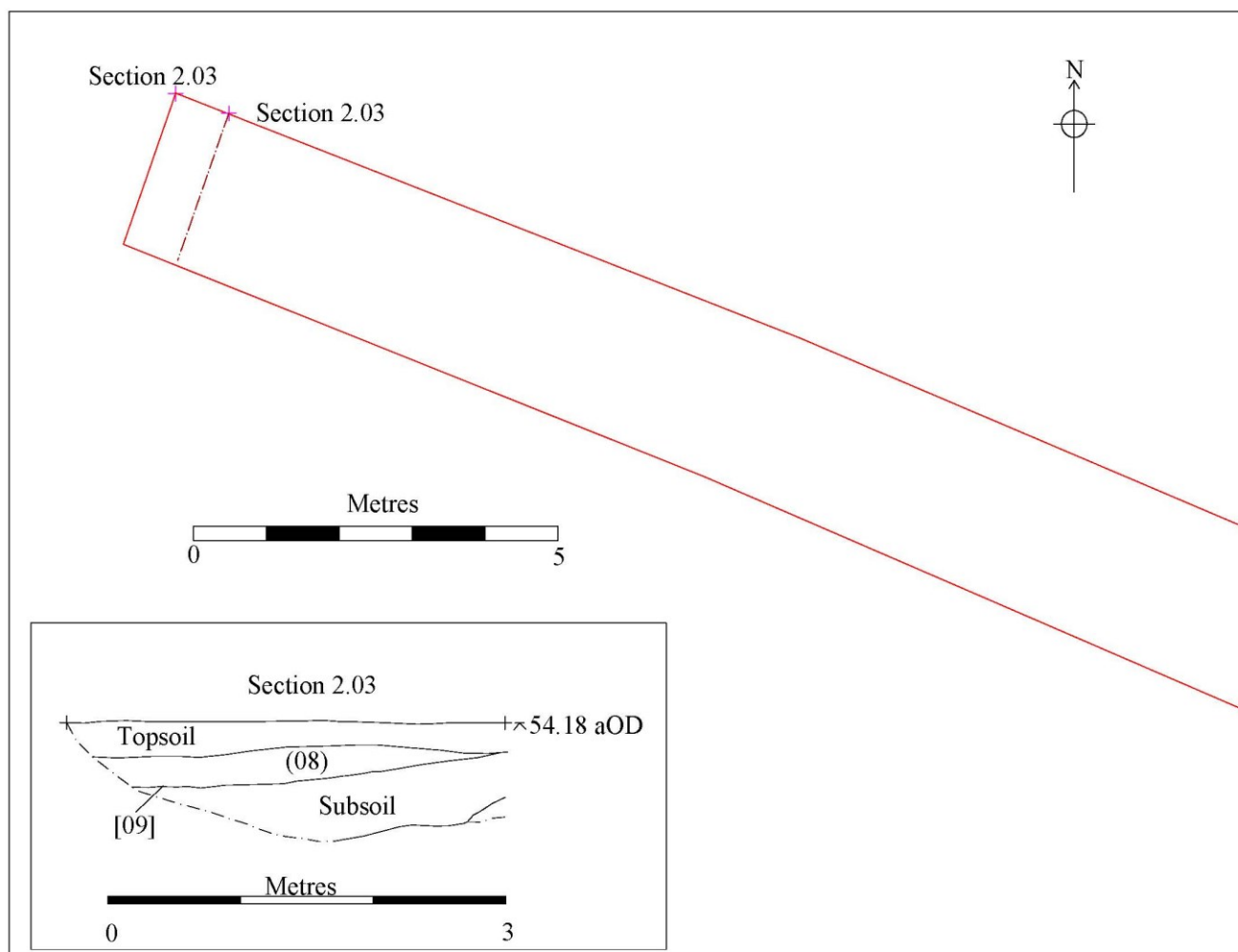


Figure 25: Plan and section from trench 7.

Trench 8

Trench 8 was positioned south-east of trench 7 close to the southern boundary and was also orientated along a west north-west to east south-east alignment with the aim of investigating the hollow way. This trench was excavated in two separate sections as a public footpath crossed the trench.

The trench was excavated to a depth ranging between 0.47-0.67m. The western end of the trench was found to contain a dark brownish grey silty clay layer (03) that measured 6m wide, by > 2.2m long and 0.24m deep. This deposit contained medieval pottery dating from the early 12th to mid-14th century, and a possible fragment of ridge tile (Sawday, Appendix 1, p44). The layer was sampled, which showed the presence of cereals, broad beans and various wild plants existing in the local medieval environment (Santer and Small, Appendix 1, p58). The eastern end of the trench was negative.

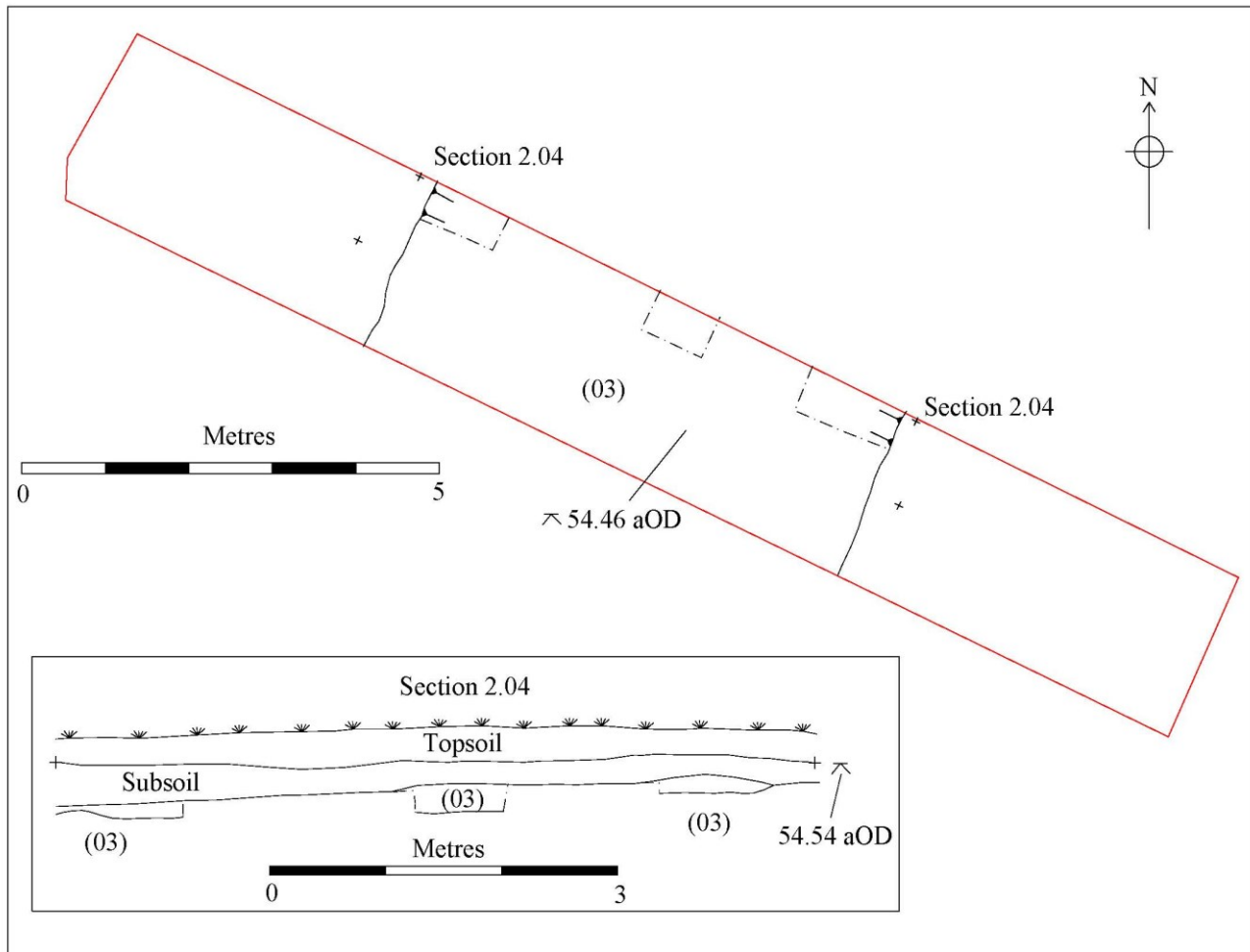


Figure 26: Plan and section from the west end of trench 8

Trench 9

Trench 9 was positioned to the east of trench 6 and orientated on a north north-east to south south-west alignment with the aim of investigating an earthwork recorded by Hartley (1987) in the northern end of the trench.

The trench measured 30m long and was machined to a depth ranging from 0.24-0.44m. No earthwork was observed but a layer of cobbles (32) was found.

Cobble layer (32) measured >2.4m long, by >2.2m wide and had a depth of approximately 0.1m. The deposit appeared to be orientated east to west and consisted of mid brownish grey rounded cobbles. These were generally 0.1m in size with the addition of a few small rounded pebbles and were pressed into the natural clay. The deposit had been disturbed by ploughing and modern activity occurring close to the farm driveway. The cobbled layer was covered by (31) a dark yellowy brown silty clay that appeared to be a mixture of topsoil and re-deposited natural clay that contained Fe nails, glass and pottery dating from the medieval and early post-medieval periods. The positioning of cobbled surface (32) suggests it may be a continuation of the hollow way leading to the Grange Scheduled Monument to the north.

To the south of the cobbled surface a bank (21) was found which joins with the north-eastern corner of the hollow way (in the development area). This deposit consisted of dark yellowy brown silty clay with small rounded pebbles.

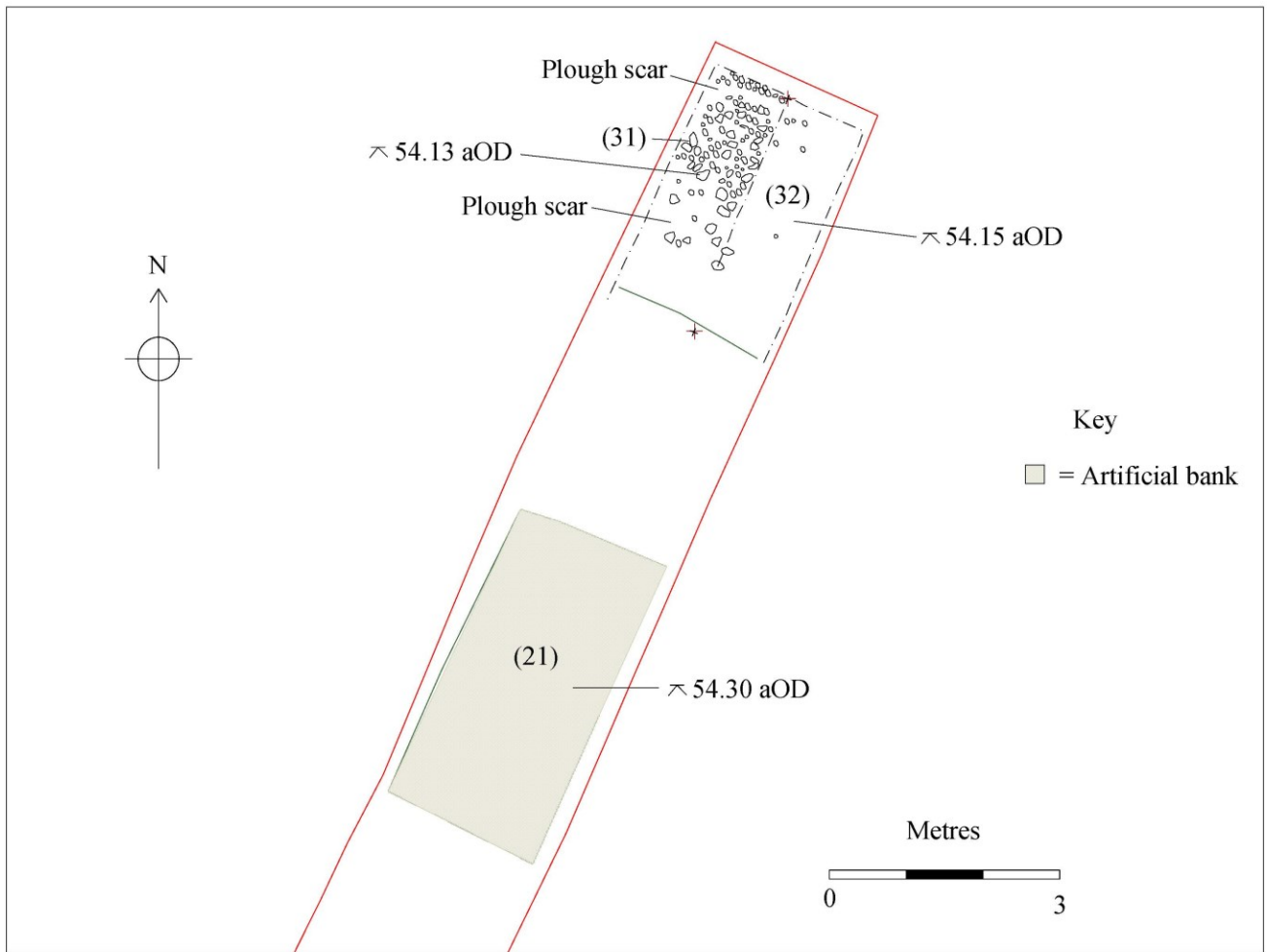


Figure 27: Plan of the north end of trench 9.



Figure 28: Photograph of the cobbles in trench 9.

Trench 10

Trench 10 was positioned to the south-east of trench 9 and orientated along a west north-west to east south-east alignment with the aim of investigating a possible curving gully interpreted from the geophysics.

The trench measured 30m in length and was excavated to a depth ranging from 0.37-0.45m. There was very little subsoil found in this trench and plough scars running down the length of it. No gully was found, but approximately halfway along a shallow feature containing burnt clay was seen on the northern side of the trench. In order to expose this deposit, the trench was extended. The deposit was very shallow being directly beneath the topsoil and very poorly preserved. The burnt clay filled a shallow 0.06m deep cut [13] that measured 2m long, by 0.5m wide. The feature was sub-oval in shape orientated east to west and had a mixture of straight and concave sides that ranged from moderate to steeply sloping with a flat base. The feature was filled by (12) a mid brownish grey silty clay that had bright orangey red patches consistent with burning. The fill contained inclusions of small rounded pebbles, small flecks of charcoal and tiny flecks of fired clay. The deposit was sampled but was too poorly preserved to yield any information. The burnt feature was being truncated by a plough scar [14] and any artefacts found close to this was given the fill number (15) in case they had been disturbed. Artefacts that were given this new number include fired clay and a later prehistoric secondary flint flake (Cooper, L, Appendix 1, p55). Burnt feature [13] corresponds to the position of the geophysics anomaly and it appears likely this is what is being detected.

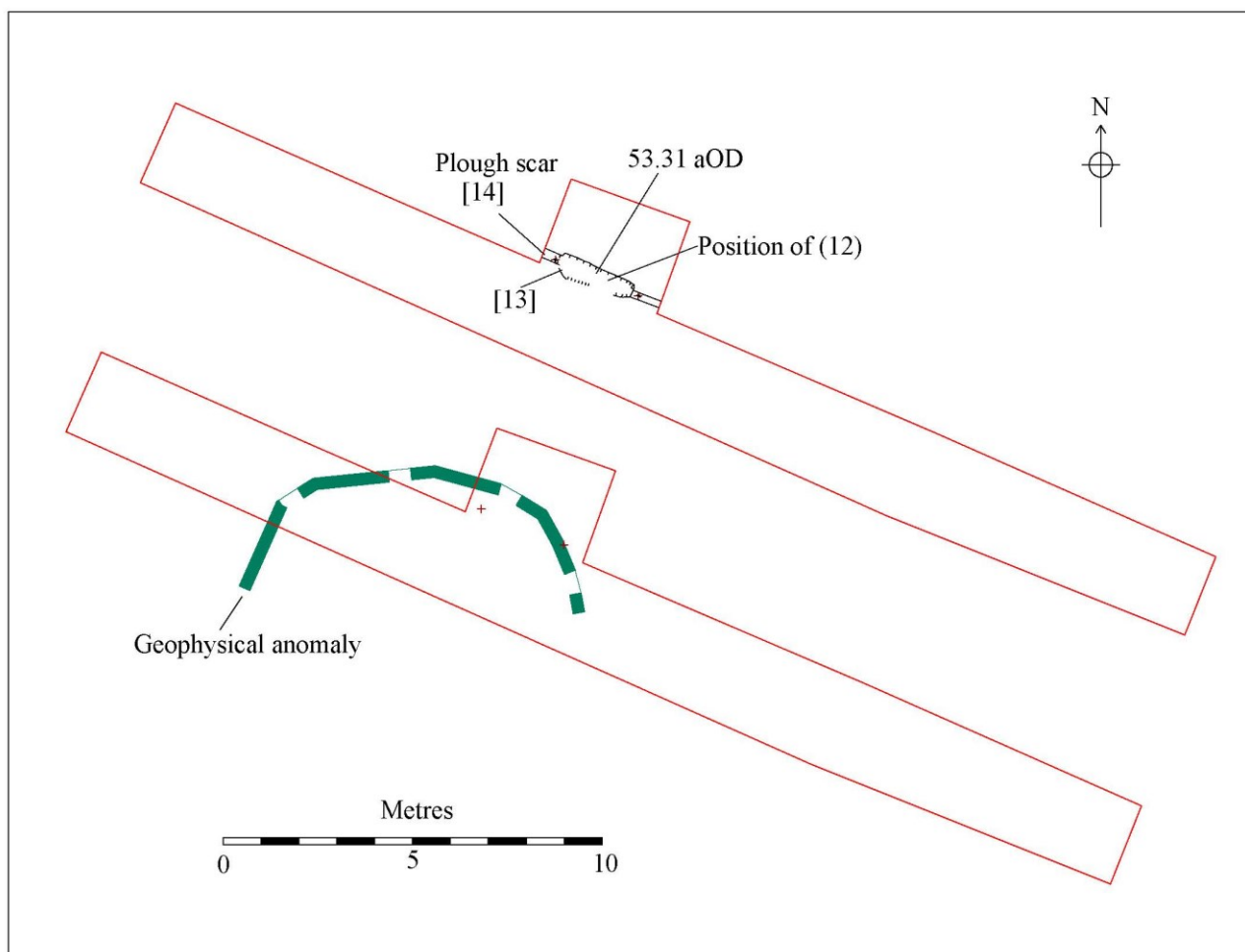


Figure 29: Plan of trench 10 showing the position of burnt feature [13] (above) and geophysical anomaly interpretation (below).

Trench 11

Trench 11 was located in the far north-eastern corner of site and orientated on a north north-east to south south-west alignment. The trench measured 30m long and was machined to a depth of 0.38-0.52m.

A layer of dark yellowy brown silty clay (21) with small rounded pebbles that appeared to be a mixture of subsoil and re-deposited natural clay was recorded above natural toward the northern end of the trench. The feature is similar to the layers of silty clay interpreted as artificial mounds dating from the medieval period elsewhere on site. However this might also be consistent with a ridge formed from ridge and furrow ploughing.

To the north of (21) two east to west orientated features were found. One of the two features [19] was positioned against the northern edge of (21) and measured >2.2m long, by 2.75m wide by 0.2m deep. It had shallow sloping sides that were concave to the south and slightly convex to the north with a flat base. It was filled by a mid yellowy grey silty clay (20) that contained a layer of pebbles and ironstone. Feature [19] was found to be cutting an earlier feature to the north [17]. This feature measured >2.2m long, by >1.5m wide, by 0.25m deep and had shallow sloping concave sides and a convex base. The cut was poorly defined and filled by a mid greenish yellow silty clay (18) that had

a high clay content and inclusions of medium sized rounded pebbles. Later prehistoric worked flint consisting of 1 primary flake and 2 secondary flakes (Cooper, L, Appendix 1, p55) were found within the feature. Both features may represent furrows with [17] possibly being an earlier furrow that is being truncated by [19].

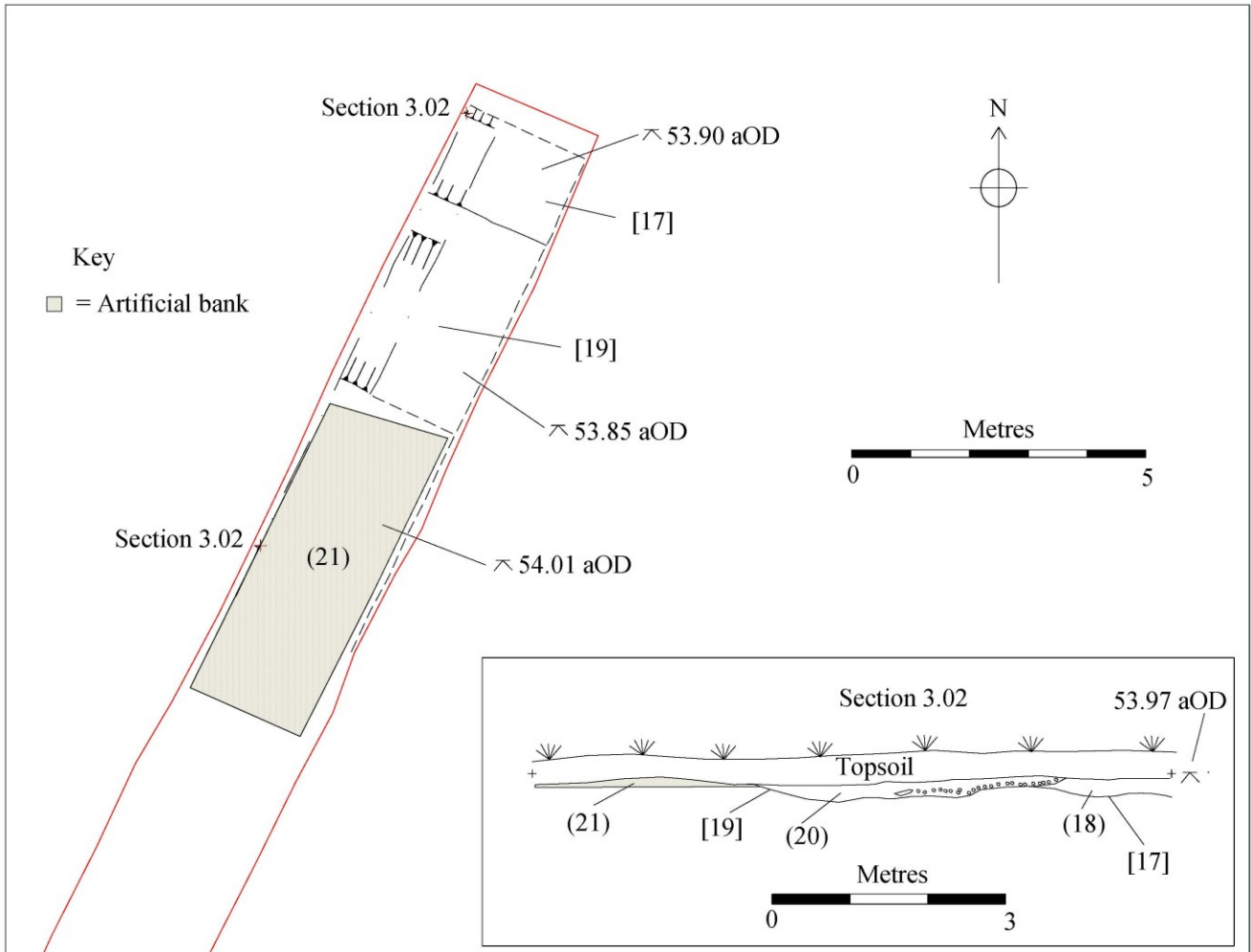


Figure 30: Plan and section of the north end of trench 11.



Figure 31: Photograph of trench 12 showing the dark area of cobbles in the centre.

Trench 12

Trench 12 was located to investigate the hollow way since previous attempts had only managed to identify the eastern edge of it. Trench 12 was positioned between trenches 7 and 8 and was orientated on a west north-west to east south-east alignment. The trench measured 17m long and was machined to a depth between 0.31-0.52m. It contained a thin and discontinuous layer of subsoil with the majority of the trench consisting of topsoil directly on to archaeological levels.

The hollow way was defined by a clear thickening of topsoil and was orientated north-east to south-west. It measured 8.5m wide and had a straight moderately sloping eastern edge and a slightly convex western edge that was shallow to moderately sloping. The base was flat, 0.65m deep and contained the remains of cobbled surface (66). Cobbled surface (66) measured approximately 5m wide and was composed of medium to large sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles pressed into the natural clay. These were surrounded by a matrix of friable mid greyish yellow silty clay that contained animal bone (Johnson, Appendix 1, p50). The cobbled surface was relatively poorly preserved with at least 3 field drains truncating the surface.

Overall the hollow way appeared fairly angular with straight sides and a flat base, which gave it the appearance of a cut feature. In the far western end of trench 12 deposit (65) was found, which was coloured mid greyish brown with a hint of orange and composed of soft friable silty clay with inclusions of charcoal.

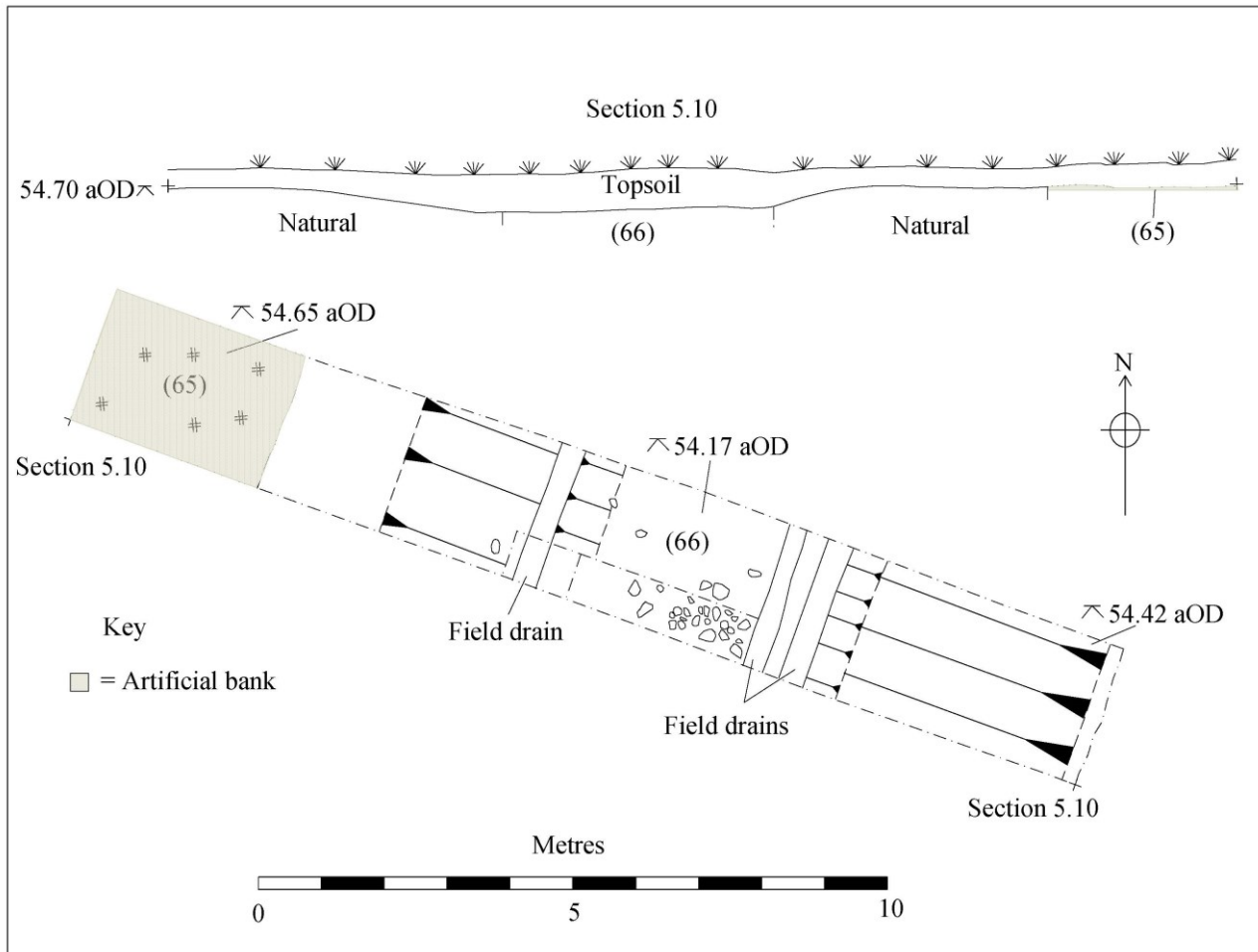


Figure 32: Plan and section of trench 12.



Figure 33: Photograph of the cobbles in trench 12.

Discussion and Conclusions

The results of the evaluation show that archaeologically significant remains were present on the site, with the focus of the activity from the trenches opened being the central and north-western regions. The trenches excavated were targeted at geophysical anomalies and earthwork features, and the archaeology recorded has been predominantly of medieval or post-medieval date and relates to the nucleated village of Hose. Fieldwalking surveys elsewhere in the Vale of Belvoir have been interpreted as indicating that most of the villages had nucleated by the medieval period (Lewis et al. 2001).

Probable house platforms of varying quality were identified within these trenches. The re-deposited natural in the northern end of trench 1 may represent the base of a very poorly preserved house platform, whereas several platforms were still extant mounds visible in the field (such as those seen in trenches 3 and 5). Some of the artificial mounds were found to have an additional layer on top of them and these may relate to any associated occupation. The pottery recovered from the excavated mounds in trenches 3 and 5 suggest construction of the house platforms were between the early 12th to later 13th centuries, however activity may be present from the 9th century onwards (Sawday, Appendix 1, p44). The archaeology was found to continue south into trenches 8 and 4 with multiple gullies and layers being identified. This suggests that the archaeological deposits extend to the site boundary in the south.

Trench 2 was the best preserved and was found to contain stone walls, cobbled surfaces and demolition rubble. The parallel walls defined an internal area 3.15m wide, and overall were 4.82m

wide and this may be too narrow for a permanently occupied building. A dark silty deposit between the walls may indicate that a deeper feature was located within the structure. A single fragment of Cistercian ware (1450-1550) was recovered from this layer.

It is probable that the raised ground where these remains were situated was also formed by an artificial mound although this could not be verified. Trench 5 was found to contain a cobbled surface along one edge of a mound and this is probably a contemporary surface such as a yard or path.

The least amount of archaeology was found in the east and south-eastern part of the site and it is possible this may have been predominantly used for agriculture in the medieval and post-medieval periods. Any remains encountered in this area were shallow and very poorly preserved as shown in trench 10. It was not clear whether bank (21) in trenches 9 and 11 was part of the ridge and furrow visible across this area since it appeared to be more prominent. Bank (21) continued for 100m in the present ground surface and was found to range from 3-4m in width in the two trenches. The ground to the east and south-east was relatively flat and had been used as a local football pitch (pers. comm Ben Stroud). Any deliberate levelling or flattening of this ground may explain why bank (21) is relatively more prominent. Ridge and furrow could explain the formation of bank (21), however this is not a certainty since the western end of this bank appears to join with the end of the medieval hollow way.

Cobble layer (32) found in trench 9 indicates the hollow way that leads to the Grange Scheduled Monument and the hollow way in the development area are probably connected by an unrecorded east to west orientated part. It is possible these hollow ways join forming a staggered line, or are possibly connected by a larger east to west orientated stretch. Cobble layer (32) may have been disturbed and had early post-medieval pottery in the layer above it, but the cobbles themselves are probably of medieval origin and it is possible the surface was still being utilised into the early post-medieval period. The latest pottery recovered from the layer above the cobbles (31) dates from 1650-1750 and the approximate construction date of the grade 2 listed Grange farmhouse is 1750. This may show that access to the Grange Scheduled monument fell into disuse around this period.

The preservation of features across the site was variable with many of the positive features (artificial mounds) being disturbed. One of the sampled features yielded useful plant remains which indicated the preparation and consumption of primarily bread wheat from the presence of partially cleaned grain with the pottery from this deposits suggesting a date in the 12th and 13th Centuries. Two samples were found to contain snail shells which could yield environmental evidence if present in significant quantities (Rogers, Appendix 1, p55). Worked flint in small quantities was noted across the area (Cooper, L., Appendix 1, p55). Many of the medieval features (especially the building in trench 2) were found to contain ironstone.

The results of the evaluation combined with the plan of the earthworks (Hartley. 1987) indicates that artificial mounds probably representing medieval house platforms were present on the site. A slight shift between Hartley's plan and the GPS plan was noted with several features, however a lot of the plan appears consistent. The artificial mounds found in the centre of site appear to be positioned along one edge of the hollow way and the mounds that were found within the north-western region appear to have a north-west to south-east alignment.

Although preservation of the bases of walls and cobbled surfaces has been demonstrated in some of the trenches, structural evidence was not identified in all the trenches. The photogrammetry survey recorded the earthworks as relatively slight features and it is likely that they have been reduced by some ploughing at stages of re-seeding the pasture and since Hartley's survey in the 1980s. There is

therefore an implication that ephemeral structural remains on the surface of any of the platforms has previously been lost, and it is only the deeper and more substantial deposits that have survived.

Medieval structures on similar rural sites show a huge variety of construction methods and materials including, stone, timber, cob and turf, with roofing likely to be of thatch, stone, slate, tile or turf (Lewis, 2006). Some structures may be indicated by light gravel foundations, or the presence of cobbled surfaces around or at the entrance to a building only (Browning and Higgins, 2003, p76). One possible fragment of ridge tile has recovered from a stratified deposits in the south of the site. The potential for the identification of structures within areas where structural evidence in the form of walls or post-holes were not observed remains.

It has not been possible in this phase of work to develop any further Hartley's initial identifications of house platforms or pillow mounds (rabbit warrens), and it may in any case not be possible to do so in most cases. The development of rural settlement morphology between 1066 and 1485 remains a research objective within the East Midlands (Research Objective 7E), and further work at Hose would represent an opportunity to contribute to this theme.

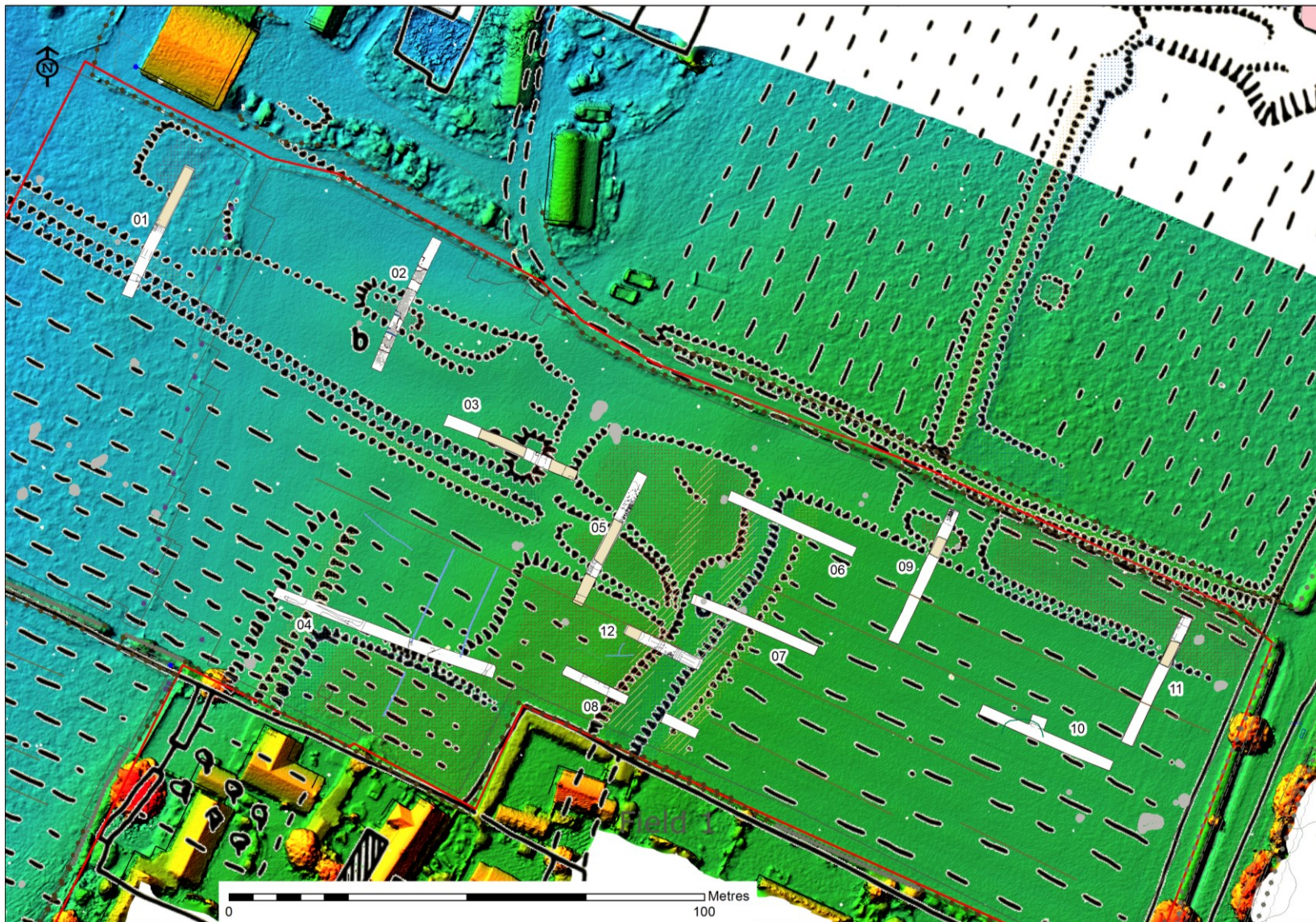


Figure 34: Trench locations with excavated deposits along with drone photogrammetry and Hartley's survey.

Archive and Publications

The paper archive consists of:

- 2 x A3 drawing sheets
- 5 x A2 drawing sheets
- 1 x Drawing index
- 1 x Drawing record
- 11 x Evaluation Recording forms
- 1 x Trench summary sheets
- 3 x Photographic record indices
- 465 digital photographs
- A risk assessment form
- 1 x Sample Register
- 63 x Context recording sheets
- 2 x Context record indices
- 1 x Small finds record

Publication

A summary of this work will be included in a future volume of ‘Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society’.

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Oasis Information

Project Name	Grange Farm, Hose
Project Number	universil-315117
Project Type	Recording
Project Manager	M.Beamish
Project Supervisor	R.Huxley
Previous/Future work	Yes/unknown
Current Land Use	Improved Pasture
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	Advice from Historic England as Scheduled Monument impact
Position in the Planning Process	Pre planning
Site Co ordinates	SK 73838 29745
Start/end dates of field work	1/2/18-30/3/18
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museums
Study Area	

Appendix 1

The Post Roman Finds

Deborah Sawday

The Pottery

The pottery assemblage was made up of 44 sherds, weighing approximately 378g representing 31 vessels and a vessel rim equivalent of 0.21 (calculated by adding together the circumference of the surviving rim sherds, where one vessel equals 1.00). The **material** ranged in date from the late Saxon to modern.

Condition

The condition of the pottery was poor; many of the sherds were abraded and the assemblage had an average sherd weight of just under 8.6 grams. Few co-joining sherds were recorded.

Methodology

The material was examined under an x20 binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to current guidelines (MPRG 1998, MPRG 2016) and the ULAS fabric series (Davies and Sawday 1999, Sawday 2009).

The fabric codes and sources – where known – are shown in the fabric list, table 1. Table 2 lists the medieval and later pottery totals by fabric, number, weight (grams), vessel number, EVES and average sherd weight (ASW). Table 3 catalogues the pottery and miscellaneous finds by context. Co-joining sherds are noted, whilst single sherds are generally counted as one vessel

The Ceramic Record

The only identifiable medieval vessels comprised a collared rim from a shouldered jar in Potters Marston, the upright and externally thickened rim of a glazed jug in CC1, Chilvers Coton A ware, and the necks of two more glazed jugs in the Nottingham fabric NO1 and in Midland Purple ware, fabric MP2. Also present was part of a press moulded dish with trailed slip decoration in the Slipware, EA7.

The Stratigraphic Record

(table 1)

Many of the contexts produced a range of finds dating from the late Saxon and/or early medieval to the medieval periods. The backfill of the gully context (1) in trench 4, for example, contained fragments of Lincoln/Lincolnshire Shelly ware possibly dating from as early as the late 9th or 10th centuries; the 11th or 12th century Oolitic, fabric OL and Coarse Shelly ware, fabric CS, the Nottingham Splashed ware, SP2, dating from c.1100 to 1150, as well as the Chilvers Coton fabric CC1, which dates from the mid- 13th century.

Table 1: The medieval pottery and ridge tile fabrics.

Fabric	Common Name/Kiln & Fabric Equivalent where known	Approx. Date Range
ST3	Stamford ware – coarse, fabrics E/F, H A/D (1)	c. 900-1050+
ST1	Stamford – very fine, fabrics B/C (1)	c.1100-1250.
LI	Lincoln/Lincs Shelly ware (2)	c.870–early 12 th C.
OL	South Lincs Oolitic ware (2)	11 th -12 th C
SP1	Nottingham Coarse Splashed ware (3)	c.1150-1250
SP2	Nottingham Fine Splashed ware (3)	c.1100-50
CS	Northampton fabric T1/2, T2, (11) Northants CTS 330 (4)	c.1100-1400
PM	Potters Marston ware - Potters Marston, Leicestershire (5)	c.1100-c.1300/50+
NO1	Nottingham Early Green Glazed ware fabric NOTGE (3)	c.1210-c.1250
NO2	Nottingham Transitional Coarse Sandy Ware NCSW (3)	c.1230-c.1280
NO3	Nottingham Reduced Green Glazed ware NOTGR (3)	Later 13 th
CC1	Chilvers Coton A/Ai (6), Warwick CTS WW01, ?WW012, ?SQ51, (7)	c.1250-1350
MP2	Midland Purple ware 2 -? Ticknall, Derbyshire (8)	c.1375-1550
CW	Cistercian ware -? Ticknall, Derbyshire (8) ?Nottingham (4)	c.1450-1550
EA6	Earthenware 6 - Black Glazed Earthenware	16th C. - 1750
EA7	Earthenware 7 - Slipware - Staffs etc	Later 17 th – 18 th .
EA10	Modern Fine White Earthenware/China	Modern

(1) Kilmurry 1980, Leach 1987	(5) Haynes 1952, Vince 1984, Sawday 1991, Davies and Sawday 1999
(2) Young <i>et al</i> 2005	(6) Mayes & Scott 1984
(3) Nailor & Young 2001, Nailor 2005	(7) Soden & Ratkai 1998.
(4) Northants CTS, Blinkhorn 2008, 2009	(8) Coppack 1980, Spavold and Brown 2005

Similarly, the possible layer, context (4) [5] in the same trench contained the early Stamford fabric ST3, dating from the 10th or 11th centuries, the early medieval fabrics OL and CS and Potters Marston, which is generally dated from c.1100 to c.1400. A single sherd of the fine Stamford ware, dating from c.1100 was found in the gully, context (6), also in trench 4.

Six sherds, weighing 33 grams, were recovered from the house platforms in trench 5, contexts (47), (48), (49) and (50). The pottery comprised Nottingham Splashed wares, fabrics SP1 and SP2, dating from the mid-12th to the early or mid-13th century, mid-13th century or later Nottingham green glazed ware, fabric NO3, and 12th or 13th century Potters Marston. A fragment of NO2, early green glazed Nottingham ware, dating from the early or mid-13th century was recovered from the cobbled surface or patch, context (40) in the same trench.

The backfill of the ditch or drain, context (26) in trench 5 produced six sherds from a brown glazed jug in the late medieval Midland Purple ware, fabric MP2, dating from c.1375-1550. Trench 5 also produced a single fragment of later 17th or early 18th century Slipware, EA7, from the backfill of the ditch or furrow, context (29).

The seven sherds, weighing 33 grams in the spread or layer context (3) in trench 8, were made up of the fine 12th century Stamford ware, ST1, and Coarse Shelly ware and Nottingham Splashed and Glazed wares dating from the 12th and 13th centuries.

A fragment of late medieval Cistercian ware, dating from c.1450 to 1550 was found within the demolition rubble, context [58] (59), of a building in trench 2.

The post-medieval or modern pottery, wall tile, and clay pipe in Contexts (60) and (64) in trench 2, may well be intrusive, or in the case of the latter context, represent later disturbances to a building on top of the bank (R. Huxley, pers. comm.). A fragment of clay pipe was also found in a post medieval layer, context (43) in trench 3.

Table 2: The medieval and later pottery site totals by fabric, sherd number, weight (grams), minimum vessel count, EVEs and average sherd weight (ASW).

Fabric	No.	Gr	Vessel No.	EVEs	ASW	% of total by sherd
Late Saxon/Earlier Medieval						
ST3	1	<1	1			
ST1	4	11	4			
LI	2	5	2			
OL	2	<4	2			
SP1	3	23	2			
SP2	3	23	3			
CS	6	22	3			
Sub Total	21	<89	17		<4.23	47.72
Medieval						
PM	6	88	4	0.135		
NO1	1	3	1			
NO2	1	2	1			
NO3	2	8	2			
CC1	1	14	1	0.075		
Sub Total	11	115	9	0.21	10.45	25.00

Later Medieval						
MP2	6	96	1			
CW	1	1	1			
Sub Total	7	97	2		13.85	15.9
Post Medieval/Modern						
EA6	1	45	1			
EA7	1	7	1			
EA10	3	27	1			
Sub Total	5	79	3		15.8	11.36
Site Total	44	<380	31	0.21	<8.6	99.98

Discussion

(table 2)

The relative proportions of the various pottery fabrics present over time as reflected in the sherd numbers, give some indication of the longevity of the activity on the site. Almost half of the pottery assemblage dated to the late Saxon and early medieval periods, although most of this early material had evidently eventually been redeposited in contexts with medieval or later finds.

The average sherd weights of the different fabrics are also indicative of many episodes of deposition and re-deposition over time. The earlier pottery sherds are notably more fragmentary and smaller in size than that the later finds.

Conclusion

In spite of the fragmentary nature of the assemblage as a whole, and the relatively small sizes of the assemblages from specific contexts, enough evidence survives to give some indication of the history of the site from at least the late Saxon period and later.

The pottery from the house platforms in trench 5 suggests occupation on this part of the site from the 12th century or later, whilst the late medieval Cistercian ware in the demolition rubble in trench 2 may indicate that occupation here continued until at least the later Middle Ages.

The range of pottery fabrics present reflect the essentially local nature of most of the medieval trade in pottery. Lincoln, Stamford and Nottingham were all important centres of pottery production during the late Saxon and medieval periods. The later medieval Midland Purple and Cistercian wares may well be products of the Ticknall kilns in Derbyshire, although there is some evidence that Nottingham was also manufacturing Cistercian ware at this time.

The Miscellaneous Finds

Of note was a piece of what may be dark green medieval window glass from the demolition rubble, context (59), in trench 2. This find suggests a building of some status in the vicinity and is perhaps associated with the medieval grange nearby.

Two shards of modern bottle glass, a modern wall tile and twenty four pieces of post medieval or modern tile or brick, weighing 223 grams in total, together with a fragment of fired clay, weighing 3 grams, were recorded. Also present were two post medieval or modern clay tobacco pipe stems. The majority, if not all, of these finds are thought to represent contamination from the topsoil layer above, as most of the medieval features were just below the modern plough-soil, with little or no surviving subsoils. Disturbance and truncation from modern field drains, plough scars and adverse weather conditions did not help! (R. Huxley, pers. comm.).

Table 3: The pottery and miscellaneous finds by context, fabric/ware, sherd number, weight (grams), and EVES where appropriate..

Context	Fabric/ware	No	Gr	EVEs	Comments
POT					
1 T4 gully	LI – Lincoln/Lines Shelly	2	5		Tiny fragments, 2 vessels, c.870-1200
1	CS - Coarse Shelly	2	15		2 vessels, c.1100-1400
1	OL - Oolitic	1	<1		Reduced – 11 th – 12 th C.
1	SP2 - Nottingham Splashed	1	1		Early c.1100-50
1	CC1 – Chilvers Coton A ware	1	14	0.075	Upright externally thickened jug rim, 170 diameter, 1250-1350.
3 T8 spread/layer	SP2 –Nottingham Splashed	1	20		Early c.1100-50., thick walled, patchy lead glaze, possibly a ridge tile.
3	CS - Coarse Shelly	3	5		Joins, c.1100-1400
3	ST1 –Stamford	1	4		Horizontal rilling, light green lead glaze, 1100-1250.
3	NO3- Nottingham	1	1		Pink bodied, traces of thin lead glaze, 1230-1350.
3	NO1- Nottingham	1	3		Jug neck. Dark green copper glaze, early mid-13 th
4 [5] T4	ST3 – Stamford	1	<1		Very thin walled, c.900-1050+
4 ?layer/cut f	ST1 –Stamford	1	3		Thin lead glaze, traces of incised diagonal lines, 1100-1250
4	OL - Oolitic	1	3		Reduced – 11 th – 12 th C.
4	CS - Coarse Shelly	1	2		c.1100-1400
4	PM – Potters Marston	1	54	0.135	Everted collared jar rim, shouldered vessel, diam. 210mm, c.1100-1400
4	PM	3	28		Convex base, sooted, wheel finished, joins, c.1100-1400
4	PM	1	5		c.1100-1400
6 T4 gully	ST1 – Stamford	1	3		Sooted, incised horizontal lines, 1100-1250
26 T5 linear	MP2 – Midland Purple	6	96		Glazed blackish brown jug neck, one vessel. 1375-1550.
29 T5 Ditch/furrow	EA7 - Slipware	1	7		Press moulded dish, mid later 17 th – 18 th C.
31 T9	ST1 – Stamford	1	1		Thin lead glaze, 1100-1250
31 hollow way layer above cobbles	EA6 – Black ware	1	45		Hollow ware, dark brown glaze on interior, 16 th C+
40 T5 cobbles	NO2 – Nottingham	1	2		Thin lead glaze, early-mid 13 th C.
47 T5 house platform	PM – Potters Marston	1	1		c.1100-1400
48 T5 house p	NO3 – Reduced Green Glazed	1	7		Later 13 th C +

49 T5 house p	SP1 –Nottingham Splashed	1	2		c.1150-1250
50 T5 house p	SP1	2	21		Join, flat base, lead glazed underneath, 1 vessel, c.1150-1250
50	SP2	1	2		Sooted, c.1100-50
59 T2 in demolition rubble	CW - Cistercian	1	1		c.1450-1550
60 T2	EA10 - China	3	27		Modern – 1 vessel
CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL – TILE/BRICK					
15	EA - Earthenware	1	4		
23	EA	2	9		
26	EA	1	22		
31	EA	1	16		
40	EA	1	49		
42	EA	1	4		
43	EA	2	52		
56	EA	7	31		
59	EA	5	26		
60	EA	2	3		
64 T2	EA	1	7		Modern wall tile
FIRED CLAY					
42	EA	1	3		
CLAY PIPE					
43 T3	China clay	1			Post med/modern
64 T2	China clay	1			Post med/modern
GLASS					
26	Bottle glass	1			Modern intrusion
59	Window glass	1			?Medieval
60	Bottle Glass	1			

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Site/ Parish: Grange farm, Hose Lane, Hose	Submitter: R. Huxley
Accession No.: XA13 2018	Identifier: D. Sawday
Document Ref: hose1.docx	Date of Identification: 23.03.2018
Material: pot and misc. finds.	Method of Recovery: evaluation
Site Type: SMV	Job Number: 18-919

The Animal Bones

William Johnson

Introduction

A small animal bone assemblage (79 fragments) was collected by hand during an evaluation at the site. Animal bones were recovered from 16 contexts which included a range of feature types: four ditch and gully fills provided 24 fragments (30.4% of assemblage); three cobbled surfaces contained 19 fragments (24.1%); five layers contained 19 fragments (24.1%); a rubble layer contained seven

fragments (8.9%); a layer making up the platform of a medieval house contained six fragments (7.6%); and, two potential pit fills contained four fragments (5.1%). All contexts were dated to the medieval period with the exception of (29), a ditch fill dated to the post-medieval.

Method

The bones were identified by comparison to reference material held at the University of Leicester and recorded in a catalogue (table 1). Condition was scored using Harland et al.'s (2003) scale. Identification of equid teeth was carried out following Davis (1980). Bones recovered from environmental sample were recorded in a separate catalogue (table 2).

Results

The condition of the bones was variable across the site with the majority (65%) being described as 'good' with a solid appearance and only localised patches of flaking. Roughly a third (30%), of the bones were described as 'fair' showing areas of flaking covering up to 50% of the bone surface. A single corvid bone from (26) was in 'excellent' condition whilst a single specimen from (48) was 'poor', with over 50% of the surface showing signs of flaking.

Fragmentation was relatively high but the majority of this was identified as modern damage and many of the fragments could be reassembled. This resulted in the reduction of the assemblage from 79 fragments to 43 specimens.

Over half of the specimens (51.2%) could be identified to species. Of these sheep/goat bones were best represented, making up 30.4% of the identified assemblage although this number was inflated by the presence of loose teeth including three maxillary molars from (26) which may have derived from a single individual.

Cattle and equid bones were the next best represented, each making up 27.1% of the identified assemblage. These bones were widely distributed across the site with only a single context (23) containing two cattle bones and no contexts containing more than one equid bone. There was also no overlap between the contexts containing cattle bones and equid bones. An equid maxillary molar from (66) was determined to be horse based on the presence of an asymmetric protocone as described by Davis (1980).

Other species represented included pig (8.7%) comprising a maxilla and incisor from (25), and dog (13.0%) comprising a mandible and canine from (26) and small maxillary canine from (42). A corvid ulna fragment was identified from (26) belonging to a rook/crow sized bird. The only other bird bone was a juvenile coracoid from a medium sized bird from (56).

Butchery was noted on a single specimen, a large mammal sacral vertebrae from (54) which had multiple parallel cut marks on the ventral surface possibly related to dismemberment and the separation of the pelvis from the sacrum.

Pathologies were noted on two teeth, a cattle mandibular P2 from (23) and an equid maxillary P2 from (48). For both specimens the pathology took the form of an unusual wear pattern. The cattle tooth had not worn on the mesial portion of the cusp, creating a steep, smooth slope at approximately 60° to the horizontal towards the distal portion of the cusp which ends 1.4cm below the height of the mesial part. This may be the result of loss/absence or damage to the corresponding maxillary premolar resulting in abnormal wear.

The equid tooth has a small unworn enamel ‘spike’ on the most mesial part of the occlusal surface, rising 0.5cm above the line of the cusp and slopes smoothly into at approximately 35° to the horizontal. In addition the lingual side is more worn than the buccal side resulting in a slope downwards towards the buccal side at approximately 40° to the horizontal and also the distal side is more worn than the mesial side resulting in an upwards slope from distal to mesial at approximately 20° to the horizontal. This means that the distal, buccal portion of the tooth is the least worn. This is unlikely to have been caused by the loss/absence of the lower tooth as the tooth is still wearing albeit unevenly. This may be the result of the malocclusion of either the upper or lower tooth row, possibly due to overcrowding or a congenital overbite. Another possibility is the condition of *wave mouth* although this cannot be definitively diagnosed due to the absence of other teeth (pers. comm. Thomas 2018).

Sample material

In addition to the hand-collected specimens bone was recovered from two environmental samples; 1 (3) and 3 (25). Two large mammal ribs could be identified from sample 3, all the other fragments were of indeterminate nature.

Statement of potential

This assemblage most likely represents general domestic refuse including both food and the remains of working animals. The latter have not had a formal a burial but instead been incorporated within general waste discard within ditches.

No further work is required on the assemblage under study. Should further excavation work be carried out at the site analysis of the bone is recommended as the preservation posed no issues to species identification and fragile remains including juvenile bird bone was recovered. A larger assemblage would provide the potential to examine animal husbandry strategies and diet of a rural medieval setting in greater detail, identified as areas of interest for the East Midlands in the regional research framework (see Monckton 2006). Environmental sampling for the recovery of smaller bones is not deemed necessary based on the material recovered from the sample studied. In addition, the presence of multiple pathologies, potentially associated with congenital conditions, within a small sample size is of interest and could provide information on animal breeding and health in this period.

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Table 1. Catalogue of hand-collected bone by specimen

Context	Cut	Feature	Date	Element	Taxon	Fragments	Comment
4	5	Gully fill?	900-1250	Indet		1	Fragment
23	22	Pit fill?		Metatarsal	Cattle	1	Proximal + shaft
23	22	Pit fill?		P2	Cattle	1	Unusual wear
25	24	Ditch fill	Medieval	Maxilla	Pig	1	P3, P4, M1, M2 in situ
25	24	Ditch fill	Medieval	Incisor	Pig	1	Complete
25	24	Ditch fill	Medieval	Indet		3	Fragments
26	24	Ditch fill	1375-1550	Mandible	Dog	1	M1, M2 in situ
26	24	Ditch fill	1375-1550	Canine	Dog	1	Complete
26	24	Ditch fill	1375-1550	M1	Sheep/goat	1	Maxillary
26	24	Ditch fill	1375-1550	M2	Sheep/goat	1	Maxillary
26	24	Ditch fill	1375-1550	M3	Sheep/goat	1	Maxillary
26	24	Ditch fill	1375-1550	Ulna	cf. Corvid	1	Shaft
26	24	Ditch fill	1375-1550	Cuboid	Equid	1	Fragment
26	24	Ditch fill	1375-1550	Indet		2	Fragments
29	30	Ditch fill	Post-medieval	Long bone	Large Mammal	9	Shaft fragments
40		Cobble surface	1200-1250	Astragalus	Equid	1	Complete
40		Cobble surface	1200-1250	Calcaneum	Large Mammal	1	Fragment, distal unfused
40		Cobble surface	1200-1250	Indet		3	Fragments
42	41	Ditch fill/pit	Disturbed	Canine	Dog	1	Maxillary, small
42	41	Ditch fill/pit	Disturbed	Long bone	Medium mammal	1	Shaft fragment
46		Layer	Medieval	Long bone	Medium mammal	2	Shaft fragments
48		Artificial mound	Later 13th	P2	Equid	1	Maxillary, unusual wear
48		Artificial mound	Later 13th	Metatarsal	Large Mammal	5	Shaft fragments
49		Layer	1150-1250	Scapula	Cattle	7	
49		Layer	1150-1250	M1	Cattle	4	Maxillary
50		Layer	1150-1250	Radius	Sheep/goat	1	Shaft, carnivore gnawing
54		Cobble Layer	Medieval?	Radius	Cattle	1	Proximal fused
54		Cobble Layer	Medieval?	Radius	Sheep/goat	3	Shaft fragments
54		Cobble Layer	Medieval?	Skull	Medium mammal	7	Fragments
54		Cobble Layer	Medieval?	Sacrum	Large Mammal	1	S1, unfused, multiple cut marks

54		Cobble Layer	Medieval?	Indet		1	Fragment
55		Layer	Medieval?	P3	Sheep/goat	1	Maxillary
55		Layer	Medieval?	Long bone	Medium mammal	1	Shaft fragment
56		Wall rubble	Medieval	Metatarsal	Equid	6	Almost complete
56		Wall rubble	Medieval	Coracoid	Medium bird	1	Juvenile
59	58	Silt layer	1450-1550	Tibia	Sheep/goat	1	Shaft fragment
59		Silt layer	1450-1550	Long bone	Medium mammal	2	Shaft fragments
66		Cobble surface	Medieval?	M1/M2	Equid	1	Maxillary
Total						79	

Table 2. Catalogue of wet-sieved bone by sample

Sample	Context	Cut	Feature	Notes
1	3			2 indet fragments
3	25	24	Ditch fill	2 large mammal ribs, 15 indet fragments

Lime and Mortar

Heidi Addison

A small (34g) amorphous piece of quicklime (heated calcium carbonate) was found from context (23), mixed in with clay soil. This is feasibly the product used in agriculture to breakdown clay soils while also creating less acidity. Alternatively, it is quicklime, before the addition of water and binding agents used in the preparation of mortar. A small charcoal fragment (3g) was also present in (23), as well as fragments weighing (7g) from context (64).

There were four fragments of a very fine lime mortar or plaster weighing a total of 45g from (59) and (64), suggesting its use as a facing rather than a bonding material in building construction. Additionally two fragments of coke from contexts (31) and (56) totalling just 5g were also retrieved, signifying a modern period date.

Small-finds

Nicholas J. Cooper

Coin

Sf1 (44). Silver sixpence of George III 1816-1818. Very worn. Obverse: head facing right. DG only part of legend visible. Reverse: illegible.

Horseshoe

Sf2 (46). Curved and tapering length of iron of flat rectangular section. Probably heel fragment from a horseshoe. Not diagnostic enough to be dated closely. Not retained in the finds archive.

Iron nails

Ten highly corroded fragments of handmade iron nails with square-sectioned shafts were recovered from contexts (42), (46), (54), (59) and (64) and a modern round-sectioned nail came from (31). The head and upper shaft of the nail from (59) was from one of four inch length, whilst the others were likely to be from two inch nails. Not retained in the finds archive.

Flint Report

Lynden Cooper

Context	Flint type	Amount	Age
18	Secondary flake	2	Later Prehistoric
18	Primary flake	1	Later Prehistoric
15	Secondary flake	1	Later Prehistoric
40	Secondary flake	2	Later Prehistoric
u/s	Concave Scraper	1	Bronze Age?

A total of 7 flint flakes were recovered from the evaluation at Grange farm, Hose. They all appear to date to the later prehistoric period and are all probably locally sourced.

Snail Shell

Ffion Rogers

Introduction

Snail analysis is primarily used for reconstructing localised environments including the structure of vegetation or soil in a given area. Individual snail species have differing habitat requirements, and as such different micro-environments can be identified within a site (Allen 2017, 9). Analysis is useful where little to no other environmental evidence is available archaeologically. Snail shells were recovered in contexts (18) and (25) at Hose, Leicestershire, both contexts were ditch fills dating to the Medieval period. Snail shells were also found in sample [4], a bulk sample of context (42) which was also a ditch fill dating to this period.

Methodology

See the charred plant remains report for the methodology regarding the processing of soil samples. Land snails were identified primarily following Cameron and Redfern's (1976) "*British Land Snails*". Macan (1969) was used for the identification of freshwater shells, with additional support from plates in Ellis (1969).

Results

(18)

One complete shell was recovered from (18) and was identified as *Helicella* sp. .

(25)

Two complete shells were recovered from this context. One was identified as *Helicella* sp., the other as *Helix* sp.. Four shells were approximately 50-75% complete; two of these were probable *Helicella* sp., the remaining two probably *Helix* sp.. Over 50 other fragments were recovered, but these lacked sufficient identifying features or were less than 50% complete. These were therefore too fragmentary to identify as anything more specific than snail shell.

Sample 4 (42)

Forty-six shells were recovered from sample 4. Forty-five of these specimens came from the flot, with the remaining shell found in the <4mm fine fraction. Within the flot, 26 were 75-100% complete; 25 of these were identified to *Planorbis* sp., with the one other shell being *Amnicola* sp.. The other 19 shells were 50-75% complete, all probable *Planorbis* sp.. The shell from the fine fraction residue was also *Planorbis* sp., approximately 75% complete.

Discussion

The species of snail recovered from (18) and (25), *Helicella* sp. and *Helix* sp., are both land snails commonly found across the UK. *Helicella* sp. are found on rocks or plants in open habitats such as calcareous grasslands and dunes or rocky hillsides (Cameron and Redfern 1976, 58; Kerney and Cameron 1979, 175-179). *Helix* sp. are found in a greater variety of habitats but tend to prefer more shaded environments such as gardens, hedges or woods alongside dunes (Cameron and Redfern 1976, 52; Kerney and Cameron 1979, 176, 204-205). These most likely represent a natural accumulation of shells – possibly a group of hibernating snails. Larger snail species hibernate in groups to avoid drying out or freezing in winter months and are subsequently noted by excavators in ditch features (Allen 2017, 21).

Both the *Helix* sp. and *Helicella* sp. land snails are large, robust varieties that survive taphonomic factors affecting preservation (such as soil type and deposit formation) more frequently than smaller, more delicate species. As a result, these species are likely to be over-represented in the archaeological record, especially in this case as they were hand-collected (Allen 2017, 31).

The snails recovered from sample 4, *Planorbis* sp. and *Amnicola* sp., are found in freshwater, more commonly found in still water such as ponds, lakes and open ditches (Ellis 1969, 81-82, 118-129). *Planorbis* sp. are found in both soft- and hard-water areas, and the size of their habitat is widely variable within the genus (Macan 1969, 40-43). This indicates that the ditch may have been open for a period of time.

The clay soil type found throughout the site is not conducive to the consistent preservation of complete and identifiable snail shells, as the excavation and processing of this sediment causes movement and subsequent disintegration of the shells. The weather on site during excavation was also not ideal as there was repeated snow and rainfall; the ground was therefore subject to recurrent wetting and drying. This causes the soil to become compacted as it is worked, which likely

contributed to the overall fragmentary nature of the molluscs (Royal Horticultural Society 2018). More complete specimens may have been present if weather conditions were drier.

Statement of Potential

The variety of habitats for the species found onsite are wide ranging and non-specific. As a result of this, the conclusions drawn above are broad and ultimately contribute little to the archaeological interpretation of the site. No further work is recommended on the snail shells referred to in this report.

If future excavation is undertaken at this site, it is only recommended that snail-specific samples are taken if there is little or no other environmental evidence available. If this is the case, contexts with over 100 shells should be recovered in order to reach conclusions of value (see Allen 2017, 31). An appropriate sampling strategy must be adopted separate to the strategy employed for the plant remains. The samples taken here were bulk samples, whereas Allen suggests that column sampling is the most appropriate method where sample are specifically taken for snail analysis (Allen 2017, 31-33). Column samples may better preserve the snail shells that are present and also provide a better dating sequence for any molluscs found.

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The charred plant remains

Adam Santer and Rachel Small

Introduction

During an archaeological evaluation at Hose, Leicestershire four bulk soil samples were taken and processed for the analysis of charred plant remains. All of the samples were taken from features dating to the medieval period: sample 1 was from a layer (3); sample 2 from the fill (12) of a shallow feature [13]; and, samples 3 and 4 from fills (25) and (42) of ditches [24] and [41]. The analysis of the charred plant remains recovered from the samples are presented here, together with a discussion of what this can potentially tell us about past diet and crop husbandry strategies at the site.

Methodology

The samples consisted of a mostly dark grey silty clay and were processed in a York tank using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation into a 0.3mm sieve. The flotation fractions (flots) were air dried and sorted for plant remains and other artefacts under an x10-40 stereo microscope. The residues were air dried and the fractions over 4mm were sorted in their entirety for artefacts whilst the fractions under 4mm were only scanned for remains. The charred plant remains extracted were identified by comparison to modern reference material available at ULAS and their names and details of their preferred habitats follow Stace (1991). The plant remains were quantified as follows (see table 1): each whole grain or those representing over 60% of the specimen was counted as one; for chaff, each rachis internode was counted as one; and for seeds each fragment was counted as one

Results

Table 1: The charred plant remains found in sample 1.

Sample	1	
Context	3	
Feature type	Layer	
Grain		
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.	2	Barley
<i>Triticum</i> sp.	32	Free threshing wheat
Cereal	19	Cereal
Legumes		
cf. <i>Vicia faba</i> L.	1	Broad bean
Wild seeds		
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	12	Stinking chamomile
Poaceae (large)	8	Large grass
<i>Polygonum</i> sp.	1	Knotweed

<i>Rumex</i> sp.	1	Dock
Vicia/Pisum/Lathyrus	8	Bean/Pea/Vetchling
Total	84	
Sample volume (L)	7	
% Analysed	33.3	
Items per litre	12	

Samples 2, 3 and 4 did not contain any charred plant remains; however, this is not surprising because samples 3 and 4 were taken for the recovery of molluscs (the remains of which are discussed in a separate report). Sample 1, however, contained charred plant remains in a moderate density, at twelve items per litre.

Cereal grains dominated sample 1 representing 63% of the specimens; the majority (60%) were identified as free-threshing wheat (*Triticum* spp.), and only a small number as barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.). No chaff was present. Another likely food item present in the sample was broad bean (cf. *Vicia faba* L.). Wild seeds were common and included stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula* L.), knotgrass (*Polygonum* spp.), dock (*Rumex* spp.) and large grass (*Poaceae*). Stinking chamomile and dock typically grow in arable lands, waste places and rough grounds. The former plant is also indicative of the intensive cultivation of heavier soils.

Other finds present in the samples included charcoal. Fragments under 2mm were common in the flots, however, these fragments were too small to be easily identified to species. A small amount of animal bone was recovered from the coarse fraction residues of samples 1 and 3 and this is discussed in more detail in the 'animal bone' specialist report. Under ten very small fragments of pottery were also recovered from sample 1, however, due to their fragmentary nature they were not deemed to be of value to the pottery analysis.

Discussion

Only one out of the four samples from Hose, Leicestershire contained charred plant remains. This was sample 1 (3) and they were present in a moderate density, twelve items per litre. The assemblage was dominated by grains, particularly free-threshing wheat, but wild seeds were also common, and it is therefore likely that sample 1 represents a partially cleaned grain product (food) that was burnt and formed a spread. The latter may have occurred during parching which aids storage and milling or during food preparation/cooking. These activities would have likely taken place over a hearth possibly in/near-to the house platform structures on a day to day basis.

The lack of chaff (rachis internodes and straw, for example) may be due to preservation, as it has been proven that that chaff more readily burns than the cereal grains (Boardman and Jones 1990). Another possibility is that the chaff may have been used for purposes, other than tinder, such as fodder, which made it not archaeologically visible. It could however suggest that the initial stages of processing the crop were not carried out at the site.

Free-threshing wheat appears to have been the principle crop at the site: it could represent bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) or rivet wheat (*Triticum turgidum* L.), as the two species can only be

differentiated based on the chaff (see Jacomet 2006). It is generally considered that bread wheat was favoured for bread flour, whilst rivet wheat was more suited for biscuits and pottage. The straw also had different uses, bread wheat straw being more suited to fodder whilst rivet wheat was better for thatching (Campbell 1994). Rivet wheat is known from an increasing number of sites in the midlands which date from the early medieval period onwards, the earliest evidence was from West Cotton, Northamptonshire circa 850 AD (Campbell 1994). Understanding the introduction and spread of Rivet wheat is a current research agenda.

Barley grains were also present in the sample but in smaller numbers and therefore the crop seems to have played lesser dietary importance. It is also possible that broad beans were cultivated for human or animal consumption at/near to the site and they may have, along with other leguminous plants, formed part of a crop rotation strategy. It appears that the soils cultivated were heavy clay due to the presence of stinking chamomile which is specific to this habitat. This is perhaps suggestive of the expanding cultivation of marginal land. Understanding crop rotation and field management are also research interests (see Monckton 2006, 283).

The composition of the plant remains is typical of assemblages from other medieval settlements in the East Midlands such as Church Lane, South Witham, Lincolnshire (see Monckton 2003). However, the density of items per litre at Hose, Leicestershire is low in comparison. However, the number of remains is still adequate for consideration of the crop processing stage represented (see van der Veen 2007).

Conclusion

In conclusion, there is evidence for partially cleaned grain at the site that likely became burnt during food preparation/consumption. It appears bread wheat was the primary crop consumed, marginal soils were cultivated and rotation strategies were utilised. This is similar to other sites in the region including Church Lane, South Witham, Lincolnshire. These conclusions help to further consolidate understandings of medieval diet and farming strategies at the site and regional level.

Recommendations for further works

If further excavation is undertaken at the site it is highly recommended that more sampling is undertaken for charred plant remains, following a suitable strategy. In this report, it has been possible to reveal information on diet and crop husbandry; further material would allow for statistical analysis and consideration of spatial distribution which would allow for better insight into these matters. This would help to further understand the site as a whole and help to answer regional research aims such as understanding the introduction and spread of rivet wheat.

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