



An Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation on Land at 3-9 Borough Street, Kegworth, Leicestershire, DE74 2FF

NGR: SK 48615 26901

Lucy Brown



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For: Mr & Mrs J Marriott

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Summary

An archaeological Strip, Map and Sample investigation was undertaken in July 2018 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Mr and Mrs J Marriott on land at 3-9 Borough Street, Kegworth, Leicestershire, in advance of proposed residential development.

The investigation was a follow up to a preliminary archaeological evaluation which produced evidence for activity in the form of a series of post holes, gullies and ditches of medieval date. The strip, map and sample investigation uncovered further evidence for medieval occupation as well as producing earlier Saxon pottery from 9th to 10th centuries. A variety of features were found in Area 1 suggestive of multiple-use domestic occupation. Area 2 contained two post holes of late Saxon date as well as a substantial east-west orientated ditch likely to mark the boundary of a medieval burgh plot to the south of the site.

The archaeological evidence found during this investigation has therefore confirmed a late Anglo Saxon presence in Kegworth, potentially as early as the 9th century. The site's connection with the Anglo Saxon 'burgh' and the medieval historic core has contributed to the understanding of the town's early occupation.

The report will be archived under accession number XA54.2018 and will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council.

Introduction

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 16 *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* this document forms the report for an archaeological Strip, Map and Sample excavation (SMS) undertaken on land at 3-9 Borough St, Kegworth. All archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct (2014) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2014)*. The fieldwork was intended to provide a record of the archaeological remains in mitigation of the impact of the proposed development. The agreed scheme was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (ULAS 2018; hereinafter WSI).

The work was undertaken in advance of a proposed residential development comprising three two-storey dwellings and associated access and parking. The site is located near the centre of Kegworth and is immediately to the west of a suspected Anglo-Saxon 'burgh' preserved within the line of Borough St. The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment (HER) for the area shows that the application site is in an area of historic interest, within the historic settlement core of Kegworth. An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the site during May 2018, consisting of two trenches within the footings of the proposed development, which had revealed the presence of several medieval ditches and undated features such as post holes (Brown, ULAS, 2018).

As a result of the findings from the evaluation, a program of archaeological work comprising a Strip, Map and Sample excavation was undertaken by ULAS at the request of the Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire in order to record any archaeological deposits which would be impacted on by the groundworks connected with the outline planning permission 16/01210/OUT.

Fieldwork was undertaken from 10th to 16th July 2018 and involved the control and supervision of overburden removal by mechanical digger, followed by hand cleaning, excavation and recording of archaeological remains across the footprint of the new buildings. The extent of machining was subject to some adjustment within the second area of evaluation due to the difficulty of removing the overburden and the lack of archaeology found in this area. This adjustment was done with agreement from the Planning Archaeologist.

Site Description, Topography and Geology

The proposed development is located in the central area of Kegworth, a parish in North-West Leicestershire, approximately nine miles to the north east of Loughborough (Fig. 1). The land is to the rear of 3-9 Borough Street and comprises areas of gravel parking, vegetation and exposed topsoil (Fig. 2). Several garages had been demolished to the north of Area 1 prior to the arrival of archaeologists. The land is moderately sloping from south to north (*c.*40m O.D to 39m O.D) and is bounded to the south and west by residential gardens and a footpath to the north. A large tree just beyond the property boundary to the south is protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) which extends into the site between Areas 1 and 2.

The British Geological Survey indicates that the underlying bedrock geology throughout the site is likely to consist of Tarporley Siltstone Formation formed approximately 242 to 250 million years ago.

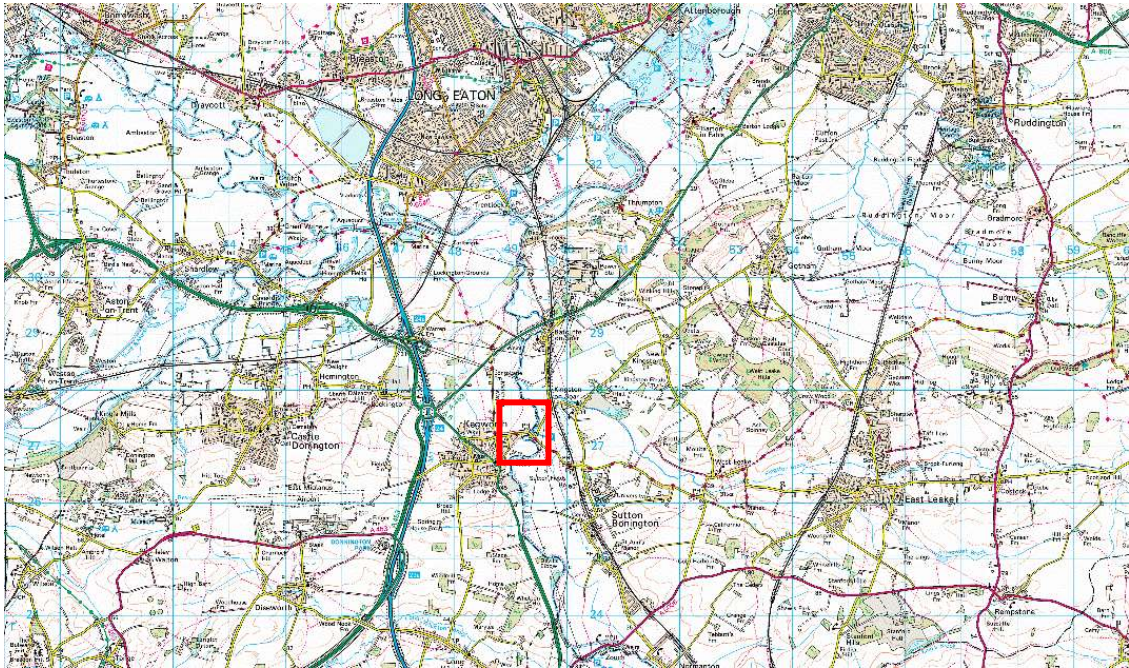


Figure 1: Site location (Shown in red)

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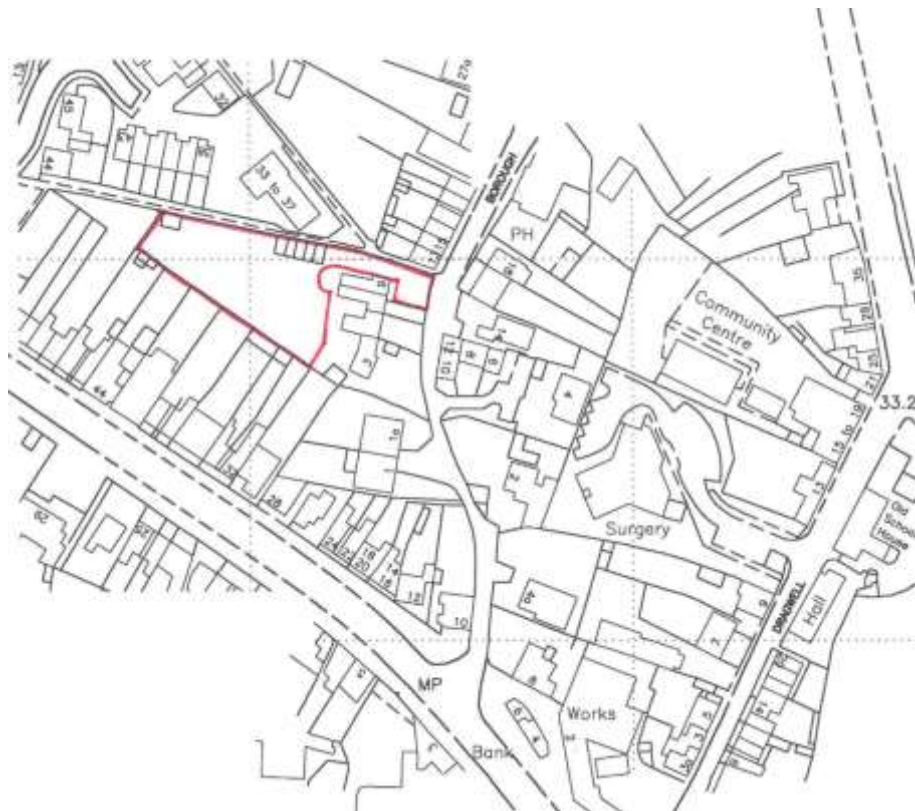


Figure 2: Site location within Kegworth

Archaeological and Historical Background

The place name of Kegworth (or Cacheworde, Caggworth or Cogga) is Anglo-Saxon in origin and is derived from the Old English personal name 'Caegga' or 'Kaggi', twinned with the Old Scandinavian 'worth', meaning enclosure or village. It is, therefore 'the settlement associated with Caegga' (Mills 2003). The name 'Kaggi' is the Danish name for Redbeard.

It was recorded in the Domesday Book that Cacheworde was held by Earl Harold Godwin, who became the last of the Saxon kings. After Harold's defeat at the Battle of Hastings in 1066 the Earl Hugh of Chester was given the land by William the Conqueror.

There is little known about the village after this until 1265 when the Royalists defeated Simon de Montfort and estates gained by the Earl of Gloucester included land in Kegworth. A market charter was granted in 1290 and the market place lies due south of the church.

Roman

The line of a Roman Road running from the Roman Town at Red Hill, may run past the site around 50m to the east on what is now the Nottingham Road (See **Error! Reference source not found.**).

Medieval

The site lies within the medieval settlement core of Kegworth (**MLE4637**) and immediately to the west of a large circular enclosure, defined by property boundaries to the east of the site and by the opposite curve at Borough Street to the west (**MLE16643**). The enclosure is clear on most of the early OS maps of the town. It is undated, but is likely to be the remains of the Anglo-Saxon, 'burh' (fortified town), although there is a possibility that it is prehistoric.

An area of well-preserved village earthworks containing hollow ways, building platforms, enclosures, pillow mounds, and a possible ford (**MLE4650**), dating from the medieval period lie at The Wymeshead, 500m south-east of the site (**MLE4649**). The area is a scheduled monument (**SM 1018359**).

The medieval market place for Kegworth lies 300m south east of the site (**MLE4639**). The remains of a burgage plot were discovered here in 2011 (**MLE19794**).

Post-medieval

There are a number of post-medieval buildings in the town, which are of interest, but have little relevance to this assessment as they are obscured by modern development.

The site was probably part of the historic village core and its location close to the Main Street at the centre of the village suggested that the site may have had a high potential for medieval and post-medieval remains. The 1779 enclosure map indicates that the site was part of the gardens behind the high street and subsequent Ordnance Survey maps show no additional structures built upon the assessment area (Fig. 4).

Buried archaeological evidence constituting one or more as yet unidentified heritage asset(s) (National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12, paragraph 128 and Appendix 2) spanning the period from the earliest evolution of the village to its more recent past were expected within the development area. The lack of recent disturbance to the site therefore means that any archaeological remains would be affected by the development.

Aims and Objectives

The general aims of the archaeological works were as follows:

- To identify the presence/absence of 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 revealed in the trenches
- To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Leicestershire HER.

In addition, the archaeological work was identified to have the potential to contribute to the following research aims, derived from *East Midlands Heritage: An updated research agenda and strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (Knight et al. 2012) and *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda* (Cooper 2006).

The Roman Period (Taylor 2006; Knight et al 2012; English Heritage 2012)

To investigate the landscape context of rural settlements (5H).

Medieval (Lewis 2006; Knight et al 2012)

To review the evidence for developing settlement hierarchies (6C) Investigate the morphology of rural settlements (7E).

Methods

Prior to the commencement of works an Accession Code was obtained, an OASIS online record was initiated and the key fields completed on Details, Location and Creator forms. Following recommendations from the Principal Planning Archaeologist of Leicestershire County Council, a programme of archaeological investigation was undertaken, comprising the opening of three trial trenches targeting the locations of the proposed buildings and access road.

The strip map and sample excavation consisted of two areas (Area 1 and Area 2) over the footprint of the proposed dwellings. Area 1 was located to the east and consisted of a rectangular area 11m x 7.5m. Area 2 was to the west and was an irregular shape with a maximum length of 10.5m and width of 6.5m. Both areas were targeting archaeological features identified during preliminary evaluation work (Fig. 3)

A mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket (c.1.6m wide) was employed under constant archaeological supervision to remove overburden, with excavation ceasing at undisturbed archaeological deposits. Archaeological deposits were recorded at an appropriate scale by measured drawing and photography and were located to Ordnance Survey National Grid.

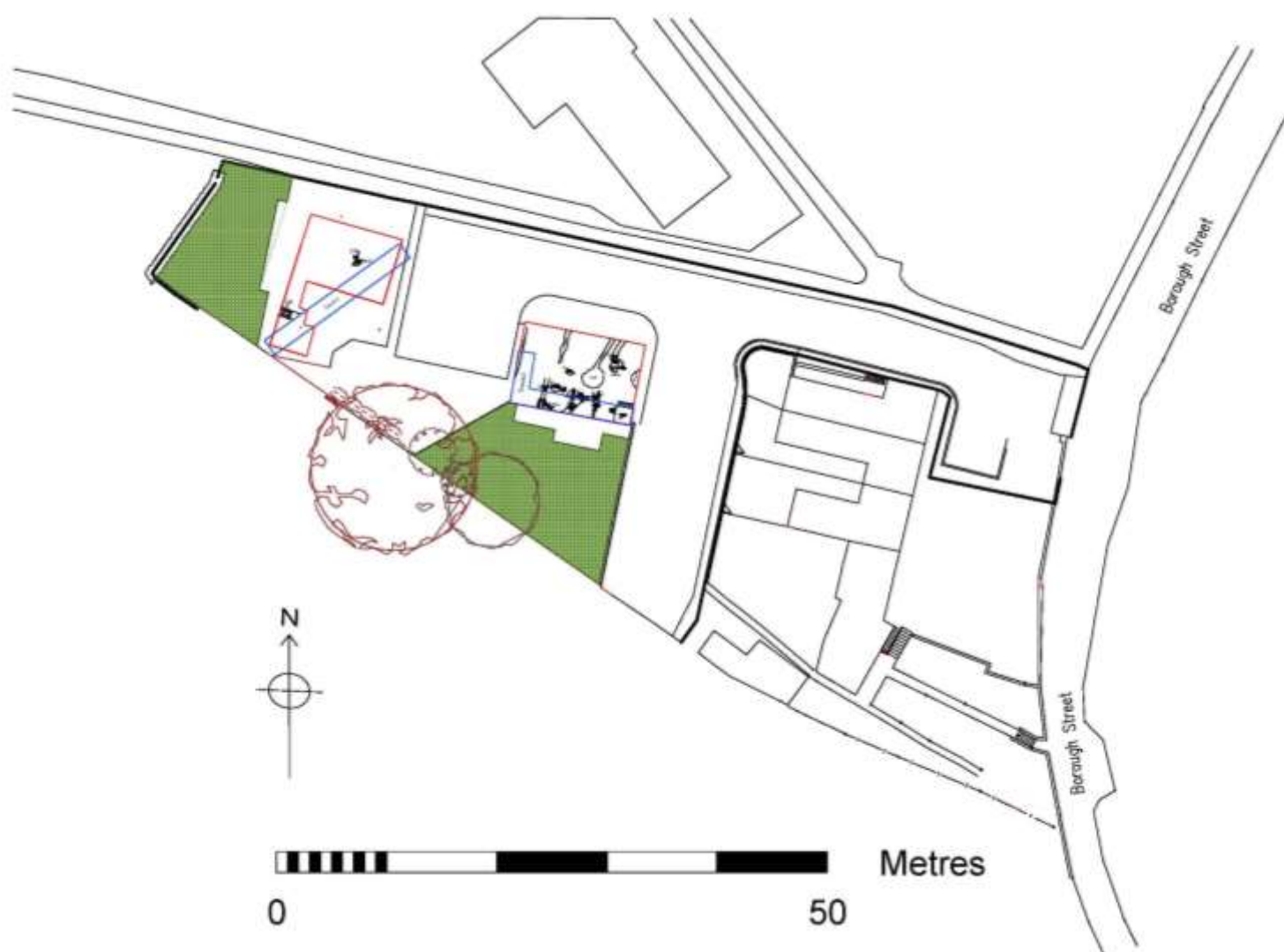


Figure 3: Plan of site showing: Trenches 1 and 2 from the previous archaeological evaluation (Blue) and the stripped evaluation areas (Red)

Results

Area 1

Trench 1 from the previous evaluation had been left open and marked the southern extent of the footings so was incorporated into the stripped area (Figure 4 4). This area contained several shallow and intercutting features with a ditch (contexts [4] and [40]) producing both *c.* 13th-14th pottery sherds and a single Late Saxon to Early Medieval sherd. The features consisted of a combination of linear features, post holes and small pits which appear to represent several phases of site use (Figure 5 5).

The natural substratum consisted of a mid brown-red sandy clay with intermittent mid yellow-brown sandy intervals. Bioturbation was present across the site however Area 1 was particularly affected by root and tree disturbance due to its recent usage as wooded gardens for 3-9 Borough Street. The northern half of the area also contained a large amount of made ground which contained modern building material and is likely to be the result of landscaping in order

to build the driveway and garages against the northern boundary. Although this made ground was 1m deep in places, the preservation of the archaeology underneath was good. A single moderately-sized modern pit was identified at the eastern edge of the excavated area and contained large amounts of modern brick and building rubble.



Figure 4: Area 1, working shot showing Trench 1 left open, looking east

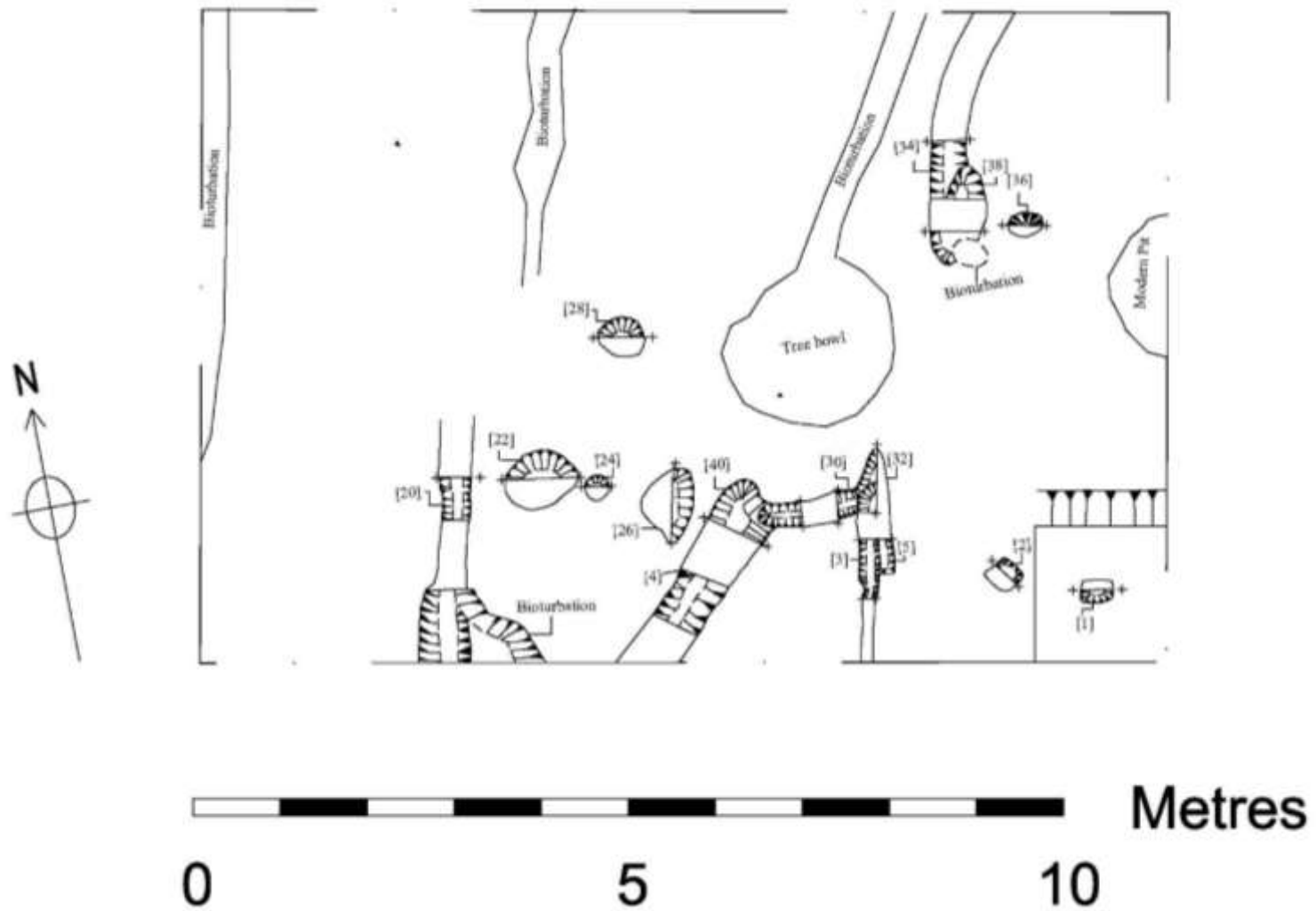


Figure 5: General plan of features found in Area 1

Area 1 – South

During the previous evaluation, two undated post holes ([1] and [2]) were identified in the south east corner of the stripped area (Figs 6 and 7). These features were both rectangular with a similar mid orange-brown silty sand fill with charcoal inclusions. Whilst no other rectangular post holes were identified, the natural substratum immediately to the north of these features was considerably higher (+0.4m) and therefore any features which may have existed in this area have potentially been truncated by modern landscaping.



Figure 6: Post holes [1] and [2] in Area 1, looking east and north west, (photographs from evaluation)

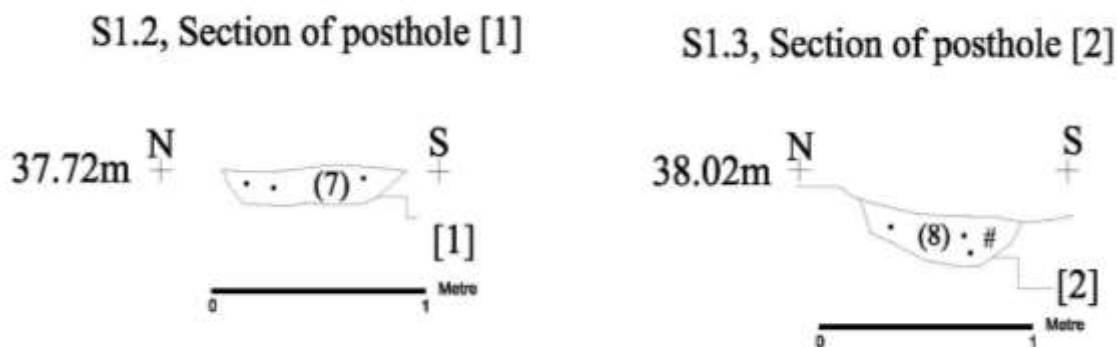


Figure 7 : Trench 1, post holes [1] and [2], plan and sections (From evaluation), Area 1

To the east of these features, a rectangular feature [5] was found in the evaluation and was cut by a gully [3]. During the strip of the area, this rectangular feature was shown to be a truncated linear feature [32] (same as [5]) which extended beyond the end of gully [3] and cut through gully [30] (Figs 8-10). The phasing for these intercutting features therefore suggests that gully [30] was the primary deposit, with linear feature [32] cutting and truncating gully [30] (Figure

10). Gully [3] therefore represents the final phase of usage as it cuts all three features and contained a mid orange-brown silty sand fill. No dating evidence was found for these features however gully [30] appeared to cut the terminus for ditch [40] (same as [4]), which contained several datable sherds the earliest of which was late Saxon to early medieval Reduced Sandyware. Features [32], [3] and [5] therefore at least post-date this period.

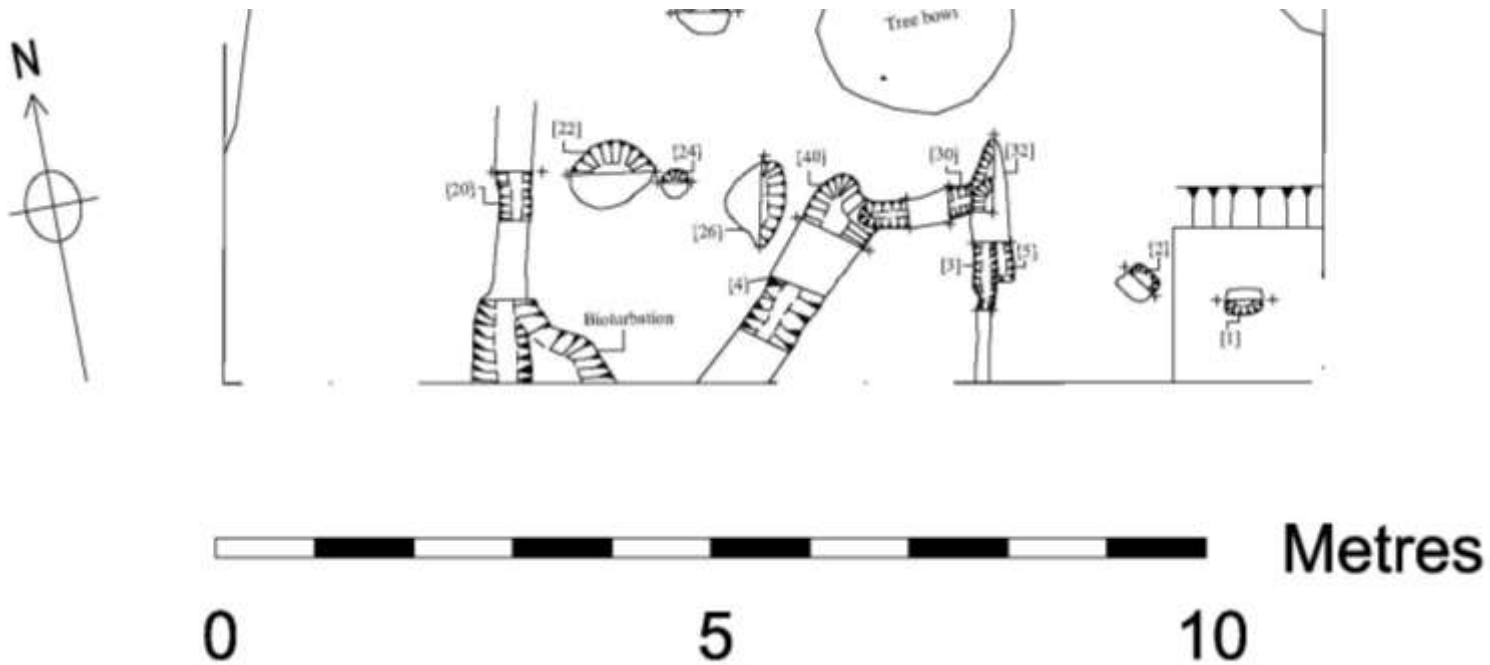


Figure 8: Detail view of Area 1 (south) feature plans



Figure 9: Section of gully [30] cut by linear [32], looking south west

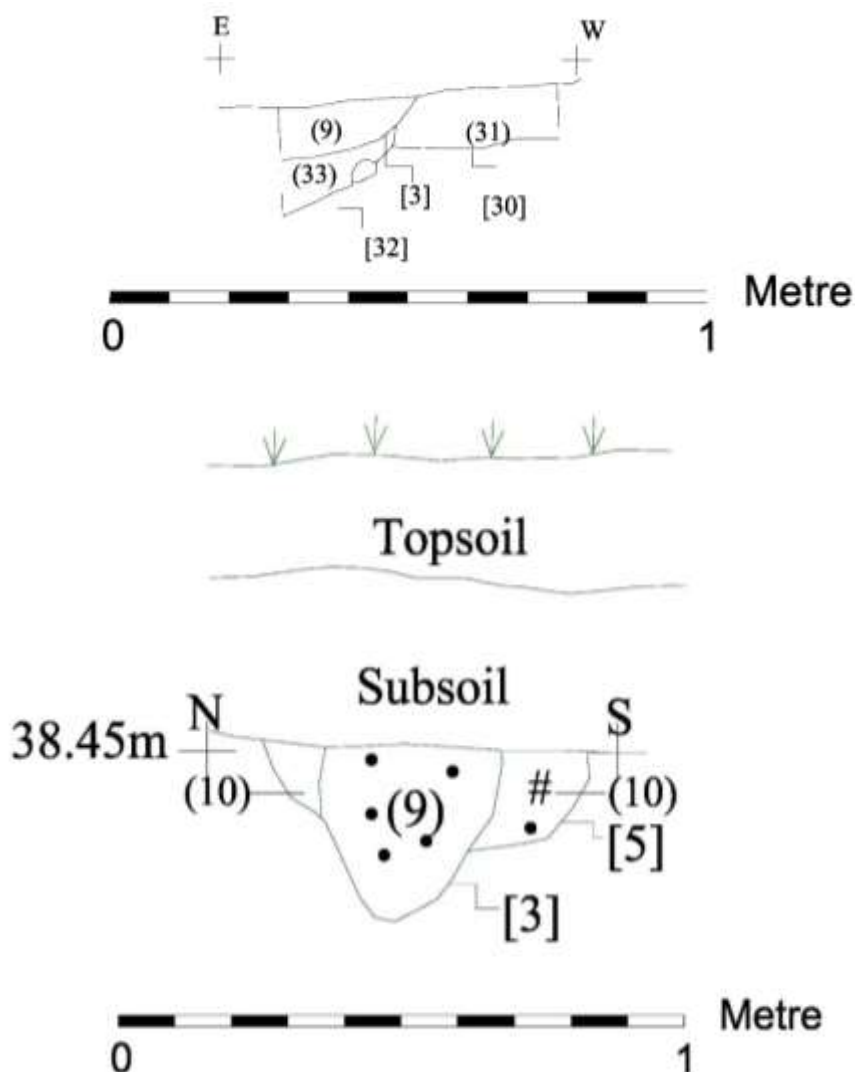


Figure 10: Section (S1.4) of feature [5] and gully [3] (from evaluation) and section (S2.8) of gully [3], linear [32] and gully [30] (from strip), Area 1

Ditch [40] (same as ditch [4]) was a shallow late Saxon/early medieval feature identified in the previous evaluation. The stripped area revealed the terminus for this ditch (cut by gully [30]) and contained a typically domestic assemblage of pottery (Figs 11-12). Samples of the fill of this feature were taken during the previous evaluation and indicated the presence of burnt cereal grains for consumption likely to be from a nearby hearth.



Figure 11: Section of ditch terminus [40] and gully [30] (incorrectly numbered in photo), looking east

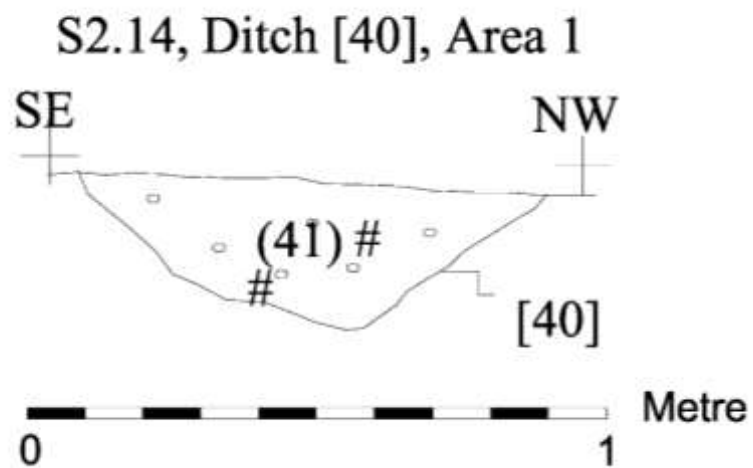


Figure 12: Section of ditch [40], Area 1

Immediately west of ditch [40] was a moderately sized and undated shallow pit [26] which contained a single mid grey-brown silty clay fill (27) (Figs 13-14) . This feature was sub-oval in shape with steep sides and a concave base.



Figure 13: Section of pit [26], Area 1, looking north west

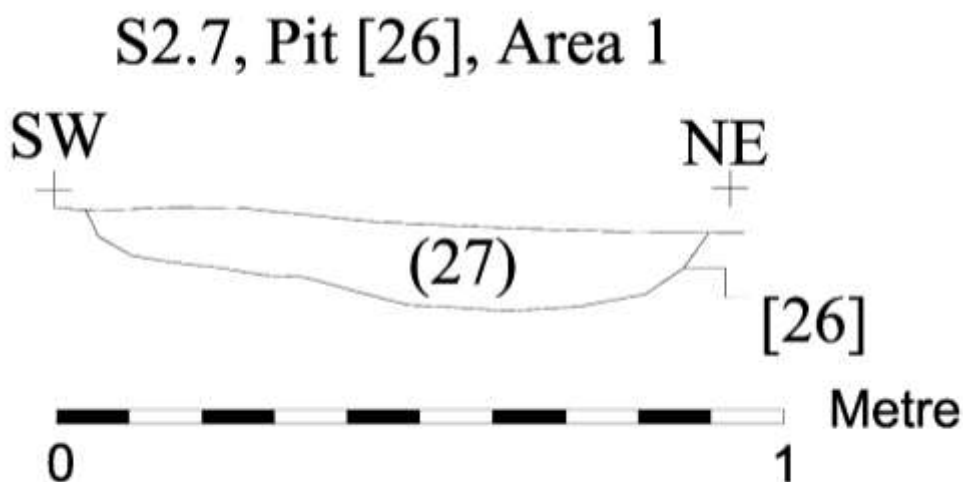


Figure 14: Section of pit [26], Area 1

West of pit [26] was a pit of a similar size [22] and a stake hole [24] which were immediately adjacent to each other (Figs 15-16). Stake hole [24] was steeply-sloping and u-shaped containing a single dark grey charcoal-silt fill (25). Environmental sampling of (25) found a variety of grains as well as a low density of burnt hearth material. The fill of pit [22] was also

sampled (23) and revealed both grain and field beans with some additional hazelnut shell fragments. Fill (23) was a mid-brown silty-clay with small stone inclusions.



Figure 15: Section of pit [22] and post hole [24], Area 1, looking south west

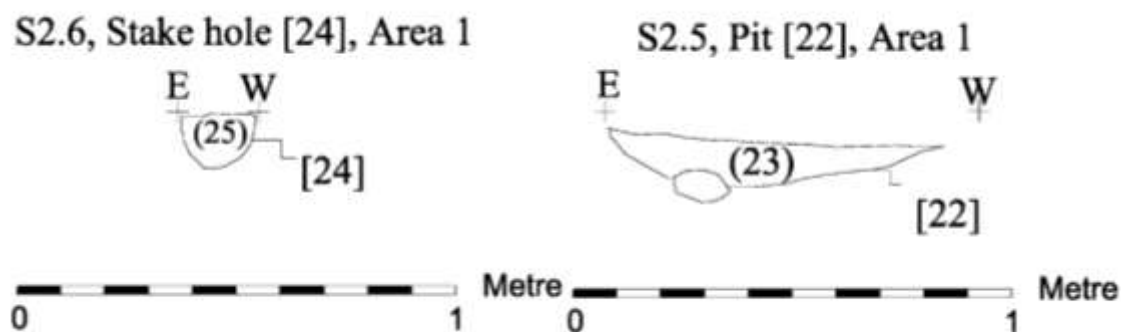


Figure 16: Sections of stake hole [24] and pit [22], Area 1

Gully [20] was identified during the evaluation however, due to the presence of a tree bole cutting this feature at the southern edge of the excavation, it was dismissed as evidence of bioturbation. During the strip of the site this proved not to be the case and therefore a section of this feature was excavated to reveal a steep-sided U-shaped gully with a single mid-brown sandy-clay fill (21) with charcoal inclusions (Figure 17). This gully appears to have been truncated towards the middle of Area 1 and was not found in the northern half.



Figure 17: Section of gully [20], Area 1, looking north east

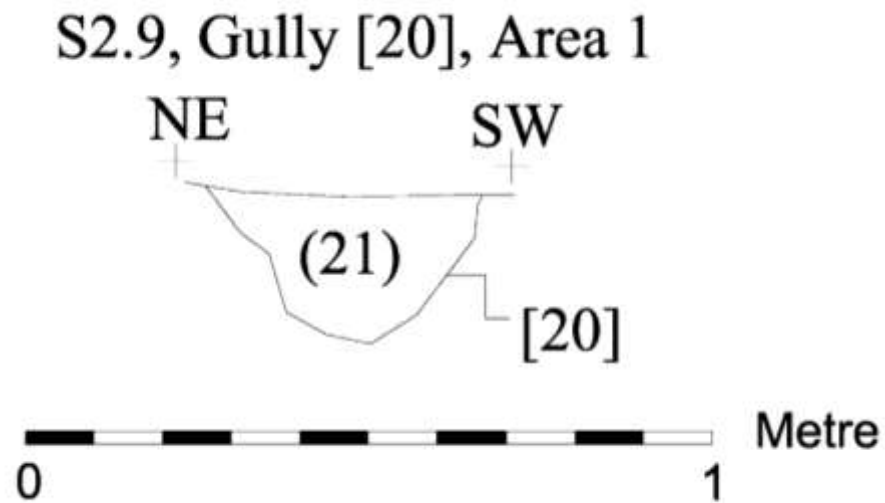


Figure 18: Section of gully [20], Area 1

Area 1 – North

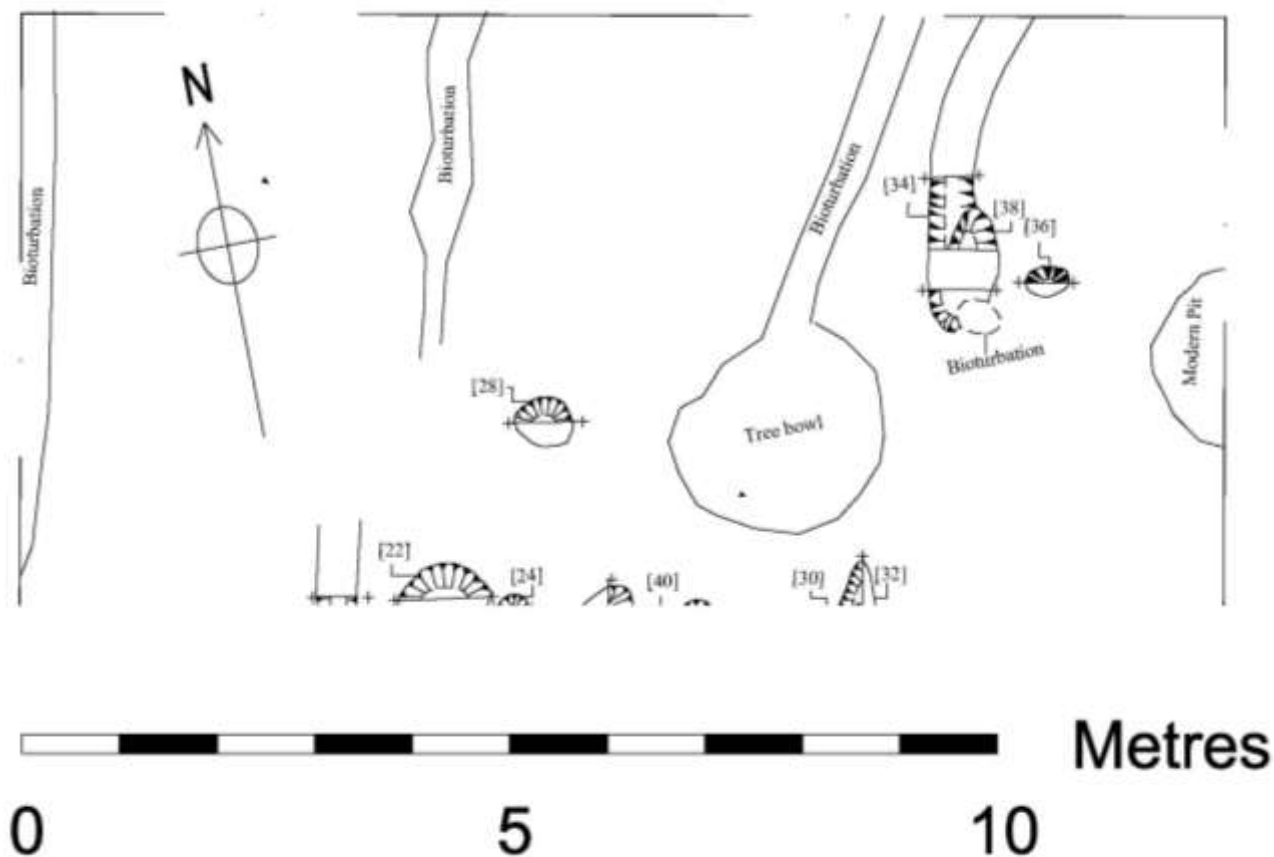


Figure 19: Close view of Area 1 (north) feature plans

In the centre of the stripped area was a single large post hole [28] containing a mid grey-brown silty-clay fill (29) with charcoal inclusions (Fig. 19). A sample taken for this fill revealed it contained a moderate density of grains including free threshing wheat as well as a single fragment of hazelnut shell. This feature was V-shaped with moderately sloping sides and given the size of this post hole there is potential for it to be structural-related (Figs 20-21). This is supported by the proximity of stake hole [24] and pits [22] and [26].



Figure 20: Section of large post hole [28], Area 1, looking south west

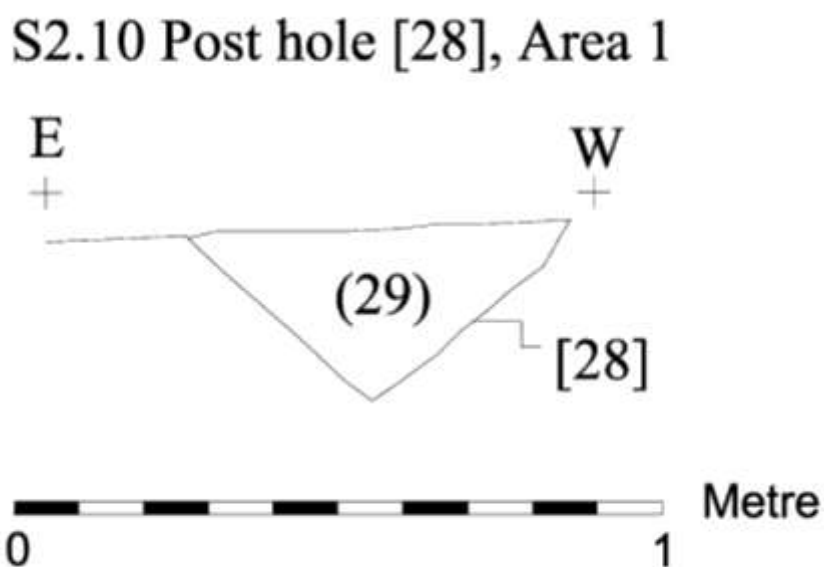


Figure 21: Section of large post hole [28], Area 1

In the north east area of the site were several features of interest. Post hole [36] was a moderately sloping U-shaped feature with a dark grey-brown silty-sand fill (37) containing pebble and charcoal inclusions (Figs 22-23). A sample of this fill indicated the presence of a variety of wild seeds as well as various grains including barley.



Figure 22: Section of post hole [36], Area 1, looking east

S2.13, Post hole [36], Area 1

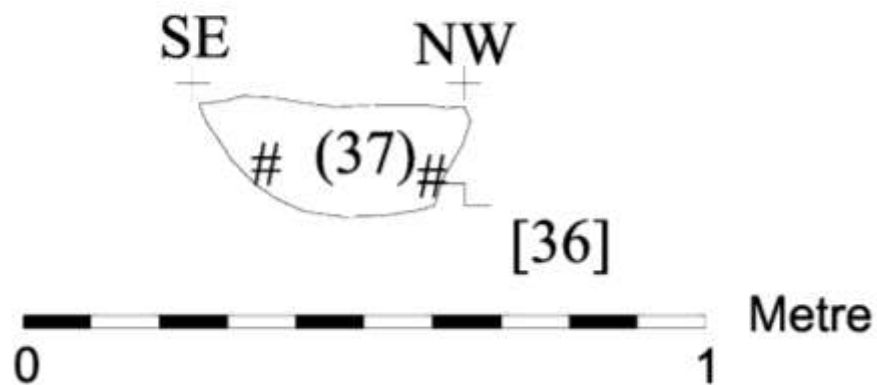


Figure 23: Section of Post hole [36], Area 1

Immediately to the west of post hole [36] was a north-south orientated linear cut by pit [38]. Two sections were excavated for these features in order to determine their relationship (Figs 24-26). Pit [38] was shallow containing a mid orange-brown sandy-clay fill (39) with charcoal and ceramic building material fragments. This fill also contained a rusted Fe nail which was identified to be modern and provides the only dating evidence for this feature. Linear [34] was a moderately sloping U-shaped gully containing a mid red-brown silty-sand fill (35) with charcoal inclusions. No dating evidence was found for this feature and a sample of the fill revealed a variety of grains and wild seeds at a low density.

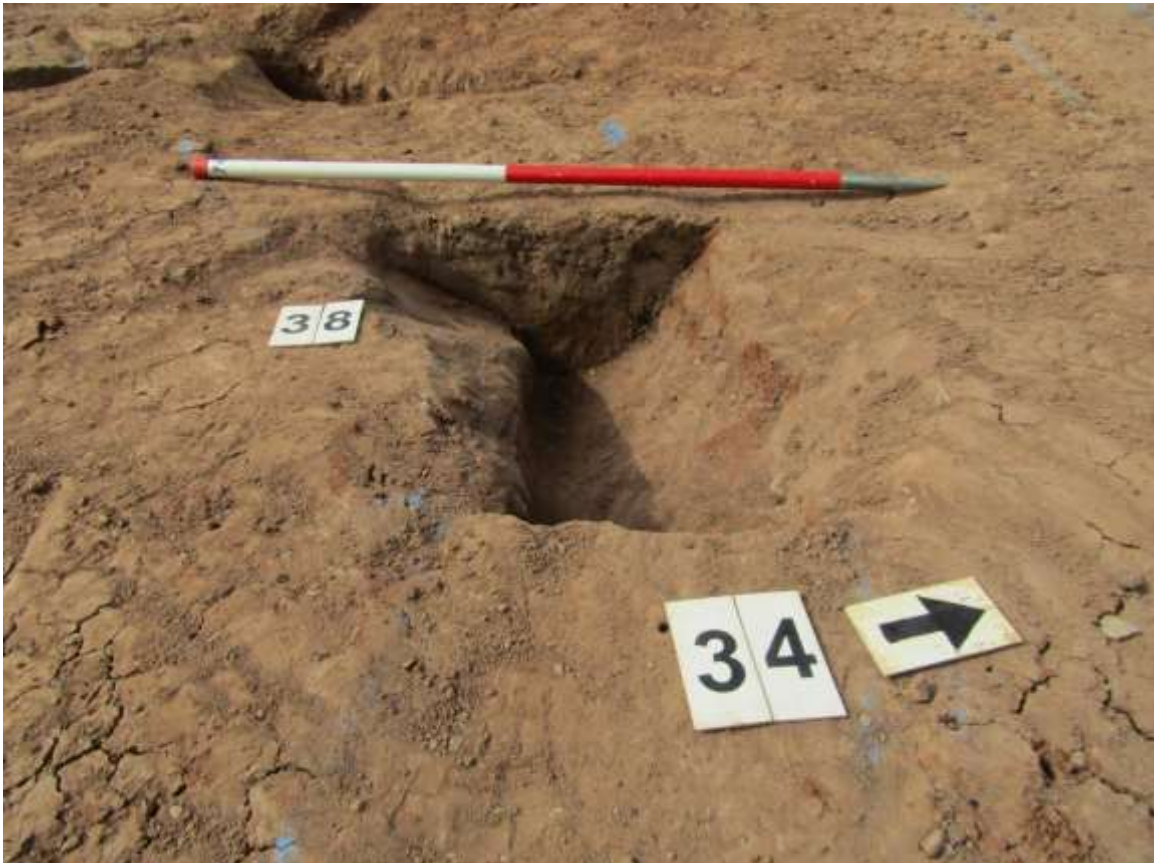


Figure 24: Section of gully [34] cut by modern pit [38], Area 1, looking west



Figure 25: Section of gully [34] cut by modern pit [38], Area 1, looking east

S2.12, Gully [34] cut by shallow pit [38], Area 1

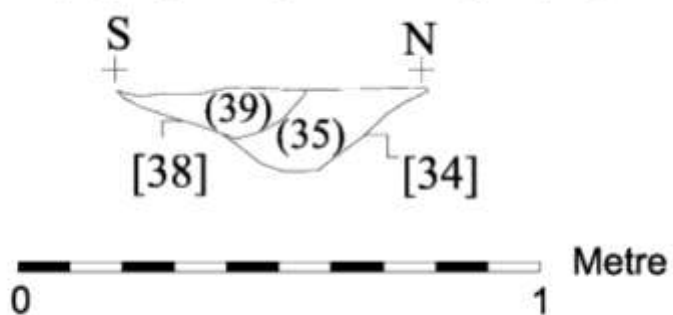


Figure 26: Section of gully [34] cut by modern pit [38], Area 1

Area 2

This area was to the western end of the site and represented the footings for the two proposed residential buildings. The previous evaluation trench had been orientated north east to south west across the development area and had identified a single medieval ditch [6] which ran approximately east to west across the trench. The natural substratum in this area of the site consisted of a mid brown-red sandy clay which was steeply sloping from south to north. (Fig. 27) The full area of the footings could not be fully exposed due to difficulties with disposing of the overburden however the area contained much less material than Area 1.



Figure 27: Stripped Area 2 (north), looking north

Stripping the area revealed the location of the previous excavated trench (Figs 28-30) as well as the continuation of ditch [6] (same as [14]) found in the previous evaluation (Figs 31-32). This ditch contained a single fill (12) of dark red-brown silty clay with charcoal inclusions and rare daub fragments. A variety of late Saxon to medieval pottery sherds were contained within this fill ranging from c.850 to c.1300+ and consistent with a domestic assemblage. There were also two sherds of Potters Marston found which is notable due to its rarity this far north in the county. During the strip, map and sample this feature produced more late Saxon to early medieval pottery all of which reinforce the original interpretation of a domestic assemblage. A single sherd of 3rd century Roman Nene Valley Colour Coat was also recovered although given the majority of finds are late Saxon to early Medieval this is likely to be residual.



Figure 28: Stripped Area 2 (south), looking south



Figure 29: Stripped Area 2 (centre), looking north

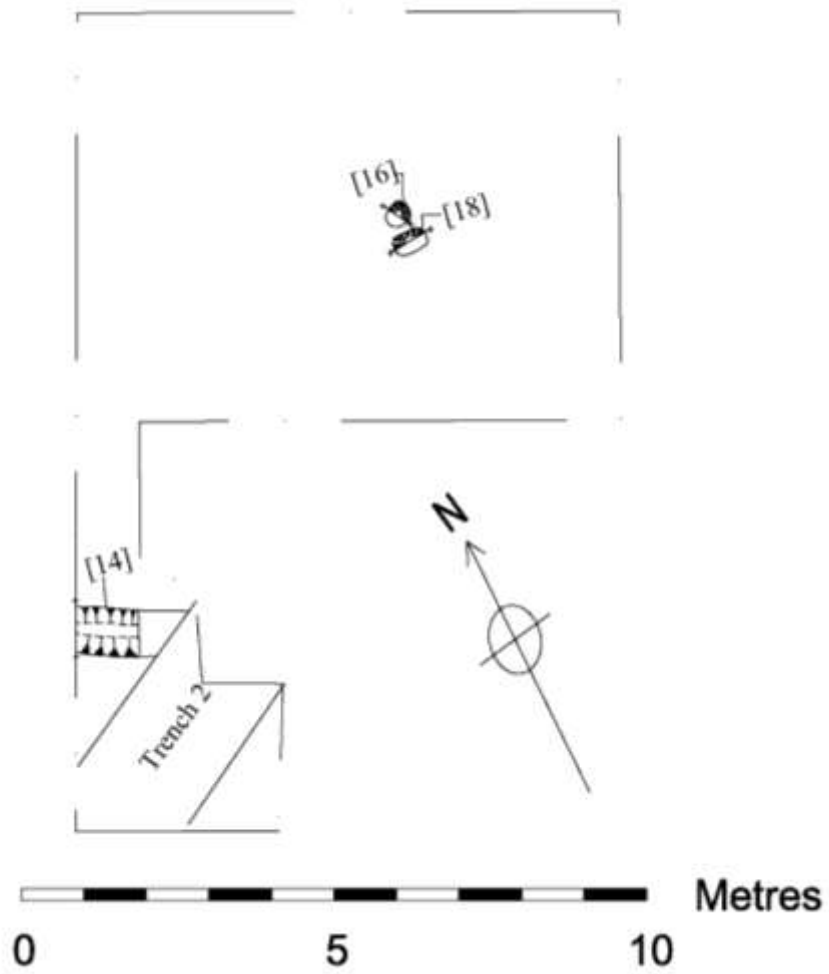


Figure 30: Plan of Area 2



Figure 31: Section of medieval ditch [15] (same as [6]), Area 2, looking north west

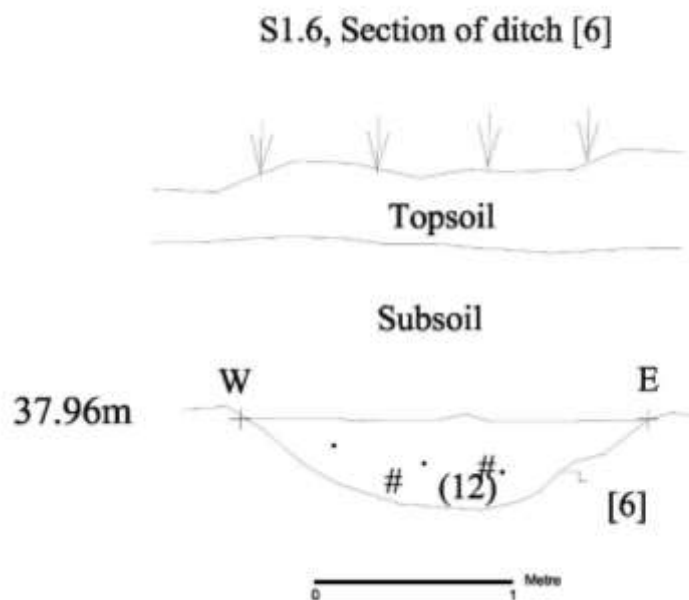


Figure 32: Ditch [6], Area 2, section

The other two features identified during the strip were two adjacent and truncated post holes [16] [18], one of which [16] contained a piece of late Saxon or early medieval Torksey type ware. [16] was oval-shaped with concave, moderately sloping sides and a flat base (Figs 33-35). The single fill (17) was a mid grey-brown silty-clay fill with charcoal inclusions. The adjacent post hole [18] was rectangular in shape and had similar sides to [16]. The single fill (19) was a mid grey-brown silty-clay.



Figure 33: Section of post hole [16], Area 2, looking west



Figure 34: Section of post hole [18], Area 2, looking south

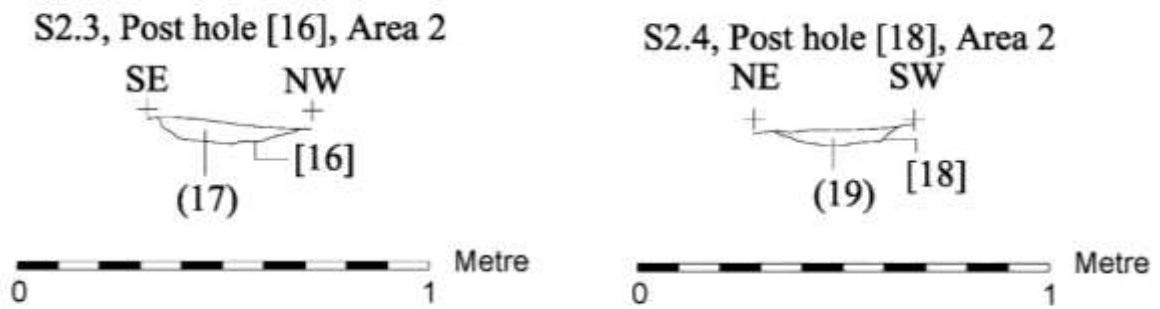


Figure 35: Sections of post holes [16] and [18]

The Pottery and Miscellaneous Finds - Deborah Sawday

The Pottery

A single sherd of Roman Nene Valley Colour Coat, fabric C3, weighing 3 grams, was recovered from context 15. The sherd dated to the later 3rd century AD (N. Cooper, pers. comm.).

The medieval pottery assemblage from both the evaluation and excavation was made up of 33 sherds, weighing just under 467g and representing eighteen vessels and a vessel rim equivalent of 0.235, (calculated by adding together the circumference of the surviving rim sherds, where one vessel equals 1.00).

Condition

The condition of the medieval pottery was good with relatively little abrasion and an average sherd weight of 14.15 grams; several joining sherds were present.

Methodology

The pottery 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 Ceramic Record

The results are shown below (tables 1 -3). The medieval fabric codes and sources – where known – are shown in the fabric list, table 1. Table 2 gives the medieval pottery totals by period and average sherd weight (ASW), and table 3 (See Appendix 1) catalogues the medieval pottery by context, fabric, sherd number, weight (grams), EVES, and vessel number and vessel class where known. Co-joining sherds are noted, whilst single sherds are generally counted as one vessel

Table 1: The medieval pottery fabrics.

Fabric	Common Name/Kiln & Fabric Equivalent where known	Approx. Date Range
ST2	Stamford - fine, fabrics G B/(A) (1)	c.1050-12th C.
TO	Torksey ware/type ?local (2)	c.850-c.1200
RS	Reduced Sandy wares-? Local /Nottingham (3)	c.850-c.1200+
SP2	Nottingham fine, early, Splashed ware (3)	1100-1150
PM	Potters Marston ware - Potters Marston, Leicestershire (4)	c.1100-c.1400
NO3	Nottingham Light Bodied Green Glazed ware NOTGL (3)	1230 – 1300+
MS3	Medieval Sandy ware 3 – misc. coarse hared fired quartz tempered fabrics -? Burley Hill/Allestree/Ticknall, Derbyshire or Staffs (5)	Early/mid 13th C.-1450
EA	Earthenware – Unclassified	Medieval
(1) Kilmurry 1980, Leach 1987		(3) Coppack 1980, Nailor and Young 2001, Nailor <i>et al</i> 2005
(2) Barley 1964, 1981		(4) Sawday 1991
		(5) Cumberpatch 2004

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

Fabric	No.	Gr	Vessel no.	EVEs	ASW
Late Saxon/ Earlier Medieval					
ST2	2	5	2	0.05	
TO	6	<91	3	0.11	
RS	4	104	2		
SP2	13	218	4	0.075	
Sub Total	25	<418	11	0.235	16.72
Medieval					
PM	2	17	1		
NO3	4	24	4		
MS3	2	8	2		
Sub Total	8	49	7		6.125
Site Totals	33	<467	18	0.235	14.15

The Site Record

Two of pottery assemblages were recovered during the evaluation from the back-fill of the ditches, contexts (11) [4] and (12) [6] in trenches 1 and 2 respectively. That from the former was made up of three sherds of Nottingham Light Bodied Green Glazed ware in fabric NO3, including the neck of a jug, probably dating from between the first half of the 13th to the earlier 14th century. The ten sherds from context [6] were in late Saxon or early medieval fabrics, the only identifiable vessel being part of a 12th century Stamford ware jar, and a jug in fine Nottingham Splashed ware (Coppack 1980, fig.62.16), which dates from *c.*1100 to *c.*1150. The two sherds of Potters Marston from the latter context may also date from *c.* 1100.

During the more recent excavations, sixteen additional sherds were found in context (15) [14], thought to be a boundary ditch marking the edge of the medieval burgrave plots. The assemblage was made up of late Saxon or early medieval Torksey ware/type ware, including, a jar rim and neck (Barkley 1981, fig.13.7), Stamford ware, fine Nottingham Splashed ware, probably from a jug, and a fragment of Nottingham Light Bodied Green Glazed ware, dating from *c.*1230. Two sherds of late Saxon or early medieval Torksey type and Reduced Sandy ware occurred in the back fill of the post hole (17) [16] and context (41) [40] respectively. Two fragments of later Medieval Sandy ware were recovered from an unstratified context.

Discussion

The identifiable vessels comprised two jars and two, if not three, jugs. Many of the other sherds were externally sooted and these vessels had evidently been used for cooking.

Not surprisingly, given the proximity of the village to Nottingham and the local nature of much of the medieval trade in ceramics, Nottingham wares predominated, with Nottingham Splashed and Green Glazed wares making up half of the assemblage by sherd count. The three sherds of Reduced Sandy ware and the Torksey ware/type wares may also originate from Nottingham or the county, whilst Stamford ware was widely traded throughout the region. The presence of Potters Marston is of interest as this pottery is more commonly found to the south and west of the county and has not previously been identified by the author in Kegworth. The sources for

the later medieval sandy ware, MS3, are not so certain but appear to originate to the west in Derbyshire.

Conclusion

The relatively large sherd size and the number of joining sherds suggests occupation in the vicinity and is evidently associated with various phases of activity, including the digging of ditches, post holes and boundary markers, within the medieval village. The group is typical of domestic assemblages of this date.

The Torksey ware/type ware and Reduced Sandy wares are typical of the locality in the late Saxon and early medieval period and Torksey ware has been found in rural sites in Nottinghamshire, especially in the lower Trent valley (Barley 1981, 289). Stamford was a major centre of pottery production at the same time, with a wide distribution network in east England and the east Midlands and beyond. Pottery manufactured in Nottingham and Potters Marston was equally important in the local markets from at least the 12th century.

The pottery could date from as early as the late 9th century, or 10th centuries and points to the historic associations of the origins of the medieval settlement within what may be an Anglo Saxon burh, but the bulk of the finds appear to lie within a 12th to 14th century date range.

Miscellaneous

Two fragments of fired clay were recovered from contexts (12) [6] and (15) [14]; the latter also produced four tiny fragments of animal bone. A modern iron nail was found in the pit, context (39) [38].

The Charred Plant Remains - *Adam Santer*

Introduction

During an archaeological excavation at Kegworth, Leicestershire five bulk soil samples (numbered 4-8) were taken and processed for the analysis of charred plant remains. Sample 4 came from the fill (35) of ditch [34], samples 5 and 6 were from the fills (37) and (29) of post-holes [36] and [28], sample 7 was from the fill (25) of stake hole [24] and sample 8 was from the fill (23) of pit [22]. The features are undated but are presumed to be Medieval based on the research conducted in an assessment in May 2018. The analysis of the charred plant remains recovered from the samples is presented here, together with a discussion of what this can potentially tell us about past diet, crop husbandry strategies and environment at the site.

Methodology

The samples consisted of a mostly dark to mid-brown 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 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 whilst the fraction under 4mm was only scanned for remains. Plant remains were identified by comparison to modern reference material available at ULAS and their names follow Stace (1991). Each whole grain or those representing over 60% of the specimen was counted as one, each nut shell fragment was counted as one and each fragment of wild seed.

Results

Composition

All samples contained charred plant remains: samples 6 and 8 contained medium densities (over 5 items per litre) whereas samples 4, 5 and 7 contained low densities (under 5 items per litre). Sample 5 contained the highest density of plant remains (7.33 items per litre) whereas sample 8 contained the lowest density (2.25 items per litre). Pieces of tin foil were found in sample seven which is an indicator of modern disturbance and contamination to the context.

The samples contained cereal grains and wild seeds but no chaff was found. Each category of plant remains will now be discussed in more detail:

Grains

All samples contained indeterminate cereal grains which were either too fragmentary or abraded to be identified to species. However, it was possible to identify free threshing wheat grains (*Triticum* spp.) in samples 4, 6 and 7 and a possible barley grain (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) in sample 5.

Cultivated

Likely beans (cf. *Vicia faba* L.) were found in samples 4, 5, 7 and 8 due to their large ovoid shape. Their poorly preserved nature however, did not allow for a more accurate identification.

Wild seeds and nut shell

All samples except sample 6 contained wild seeds. A stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula* L.) seed was found in sample 5; a plant which commonly grows in heavier/clay soils. Two goosefoots (*Chenopodium* spp.) were also found in sample 5; a genus of weed which commonly grows in both in ruderal and segetal environments. Other wild seeds identified included: large grass seeds which were found in samples 4, 5 and 8; bramble seeds (*Rubus* spp.) in samples 7 and 8; and, a possible common knapweed seed (*Centaurea nigra* L.) in sample 1; a weed found amongst grassland vegetation. Fragments of hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana* L.) were found in samples 6 and 8.

Table 1: The charred plant remains found in samples 4-8.

Sample	4	5	6	7	8	
Context	35	37	29	25	23	
Cut	34	36	28	24	22	
Feature type	Ditch	Post-hole	Post-hole	Stake hole	Pit	
Gran						
cf. <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.		1				cf. Barley
<i>Triticum</i> sp.	10		3	1		Free threshing wheat
Cereal	5	13	6	1	1	Indeterminate cereal grain
Cultivated						
cf. <i>Vicia faba</i> L.	1				3	cf. field bean
Nuts						
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L. nut shell fragments			1		2	Hazelnut shell fragments
Wild seeds						
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.		1				Stinking chamomile
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.		2				Goosefoots
<i>Vicia</i> sp.	2	2		2	1	Vetch
Poaceae (large)	3	3			1	Large grass
<i>Rubus</i> sp.				2	1	Bramble
cf. <i>Centaurea nigra</i> L.	1					cf. Common knapweed
Total	22	22	10	6	9	
Soil volume (L)	4	3	4	1	4	
% Analysed	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
Items per litre	5.5	7.33	2.5	6	2.25	

A note on charcoal

A small amount of charcoal was found in all of the samples but very few pieces measured over 2mm in diameter, and are therefore would not be deemed suitable for radiocarbon analysis.

Correction from the the previous evaluation

It was recorded that wheat glume bases were present in samples 1-3 in the evaluation report (Santer 2018). However, this was a typographical error and they were in actual fact wheat rachis internodes. However, this does not change the original interpretation.

Discussion/Conclusion

Five bulk soil samples were taken from Borough Street, Kegworth and analysed. The samples contained low to medium densities of charred plant remains; the highest density being present in sample 5 which was taken from the presumed Medieval post-hole.

Free-threshing wheat was the dominant crop found. Rivet wheat would have been a favoured crop for the production of biscuit in this period whereas bread wheat would have been used to produce wheat flour (Monckton 2003: 24). Due to the lack of chaff found in the samples it is impossible to differentiate between the two.

Chaff is generally removed during the earlier stages of processing the grain for consumption (e.g. threshing). The lack of chaff may either be indicative that crop processing was not carried out at the site or it could be down to high firing temperatures, as free-threshing wheat chaff is typically the first part of the crop to be destroyed once it is burnt (Boardman and Jones 1990).

The low to medium densities of charred plant remains found in the samples likely represents residue from the preparation and consumption of cereal grains that was burnt on a hearth. The ash from the hearth would have formed a general scatter across the site collecting in the open features such as the post-holes and been formally deposited in features such as ditches and pits.

Overall, the assemblage does not significantly alter the interpretation which was made during the March 2018 evaluation. Both studies have yielded very similar results in terms of the types of plant remains found and the densities of plant remains in their contexts. As discussed in the evaluation (see Santer 2018). Environmental research undertaken on samples from medieval and post-medieval contexts found during excavations at Oundle Road, Woodston, Peterborough (Monckton 2006) still stands as is a similar study.

Statement of potential

Further sampling at Kegworth could be beneficial to the broader understanding of Medieval diet and crop husbandry strategies of rural East Midlands proposed by the environmental research framework put forward by Monckton (2003). For example, more data recovered from Kegworth in terms of food items could help to expand upon the current understanding of the supply of food to nearby towns. If chaff can be recovered and identified to species, then it would be possible to gain better understanding into the use and spread of rivet wheat and oats as newly introduced crops. Wild plant seeds from heavier/clayey soils were found in this assemblage and further finds from future work would be an indicative of the practice of crop rotation (see *ibid*: 36). If further work is carried out a suitable sample strategy should be implemented.

Discussion

The archaeological strip, map and sample investigation provided further evidence of multiple phases of pre-modern land use to the rear of 3-9 Borough St. The features found indicate occupation in the form of post holes and gullies and pits, some of which are late Saxon to early medieval in date. There is evidence of charred plant remains within suspected hearth ash that are related to the preparation and consumption of grains across the site. This environmental evidence therefore suggests a domestic setting which is supported by the presence of post holes and small pits likely to be related to buildings in the immediate vicinity. Whilst there are no obviously structural patterns within the evaluation areas, the features found were ephemeral and therefore more superficial evidence related to a raised-frame building may have been lost. In Area 1, the earthfast post holes [1] [2] and rectangular shallow gully [5] might be suggestive of an interrupted sill framed building (Alcock et al., 1996) in the south-eastern part of the area however more evidence would be required to confirm this.

The concentration of activity in Area 1 is consistent with the proximity of the Anglo Saxon 'burgh' the latter suggested in part by the street pattern of Borough St. The earliest date for the pottery on this site is 9th to 10th century across both evaluation areas, indicating the site is potentially part of an early phase of Kegworth's settlement occupation. The re-cutting of gully features in Area 1 suggests the site had been in re-use for some period following the initial phase of Anglo Saxon use. Other undated features on the site appear to be pits and gullies associated with a domestic setting.

There are two modern features identified in the north east of Area 1 which include building material and rubble likely to be the result of recent landscaping.

The most substantial pre-modern feature on the site was ditch [6]/[14] found in Area 2. This feature contained range of medieval pottery with a variety of vessels found, including jugs and jars, some of which were sooted. The east-west orientation of this feature made it parallel with the line of the medieval high street to the south of the site and therefore this feature is likely to be a boundary marker for medieval burghage plots. The single sherd of residual 3rd century Roman pottery is likely to relate to the proximity of the Roman road 50m to the east of the site.

The archaeological evidence found during this investigation has therefore confirmed an Anglo Saxon presence in Kegworth, potentially as early as the 9th century. The site's connection with the Anglo Saxon 'burgh' and the medieval historic core has contributed to the understanding of the putative Anglo Saxon 'burgh'.

Archive and Publications

The site archive (XA54.2018), consisting of paper, drawing and photographic records in addition to pottery sherds, will be housed with Leicestershire County Council.

The archive consists of:

2 x trench record sheets
3 x A1 plan sheets
Context record sheets
Photographic record indices
Digital photograph contact sheet
Risk assessment form

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Lucy Brown and Claire Brown of ULAS undertook the archaeological evaluation on behalf of Mr and Mrs J Marriott. The specialists consulted for finds and environmental analysis were Deborah Sawday and Adam Santer. The project was managed by John Thomas.

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Appendix 1 - The medieval pottery by context, fabric, sherd number, weight (grams), and EVES.

Context	Fabric/ware	No	Gr	Vessel No.	EVEs	Comments
11 [4] T1	NO3	1	11	1	1	Fine pale pink/buff fabric, sooted externally.
11	NO3	1	2	1	1	Coarser than the above, spots of lead glaze and sooting on the exterior.
11	N03	1	7	1	1	Jug neck, apple green glaze,
12 [6] T2	ST2	1	4	1	0.05	Jar rim fragment, sooted/burnt externally and on interior of rim. Estimated diameter c.160mm.
12	TO	1	<1	1	1	Body
12	RS	3	85	1	1	Hand built, concave base, sooted burnt ext. base, joining fragments,
12	SP2	1	20	1	0.075	Wheel thrown jug with evidence of handle base attached to the top of the rim, patchy lead glaze. Simple squared rim, similar at Nottingham in splashed ware (Coppack 1980, fig.62.16). Estimated EVES, diameter not measurable.
12	SP2	1	30	1		Wheel thrown. Traces of lead glaze on exterior, abraded.
12	SP2	1	2	1		Body
12	PM	2	17	1		Hand built. Sooted externally, limescale on interior.
15 [14]	TO	4	87	1	0.11	Shouldered jar rim and neck, similar rim from a handled jar at Torksey kiln 6, (Barley 1981, fig.13.7), but no evidence here of handles. Diameter 270mm.
15	ST2	1	1	1		sooted
15	SP2	10	166	1		Joining sherds, concave base, and lower wall. Traces of glaze on exterior. Probably part of a jug.
15	NO3	1	4	1		Mottled glaze, light buff interior.
17[16]	TO	1	3	1		Body, externally sooted
41 [40]	RS	1	19	1		Thick walled basal angle, with flat base, sooted externally. ?Hand-built, ill-sorted quartz inclusions.
U/S	MS3	2	8	2		Body sherds
MISC.						
12	EA	1	2			Fired clay
15	EA	1	3			Fired clay
15	Bone	4				Tiny fragments – animal bone
39	Fe	1				Iron nail - modern

Appendix 2 – Oasis Data record

Project details	
Project name	An Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation on Land at 3-9 Borough Street, Kegworth, Leicestershire, DE74 2FF
Short description of the project	An archaeological Strip, Map and Sample investigation was undertaken in July 2018 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Mr and Mrs J Marriott on land at 3-9 Borough Street, Kegworth, Leicestershire, in advance of proposed residential development. The investigation represented a follow up to a preliminary archaeological evaluation which produced evidence for archaeological activity in the form of a series of post holes, gullies and ditches of medieval provenance. The strip, map and sample investigation uncovered further evidence for medieval occupation as well as producing earlier Saxon pottery from 9th to 10th centuries. A variety of features were found in Area 1 and are suggestive of multiple-use domestic occupation. Area 2 contained two post holes of late Saxon date as well as a substantial east-west orientated ditch likely to mark the boundary of a medieval burgage plot to the south of the site. The archaeological evidence found during this investigation has therefore confirmed an Anglo Saxon presence in Kegworth, potentially as early as the 9th century. The site's connection with the Anglo Saxon 'burgh' and the medieval historic core has contributed to the understanding of the town's early occupation.
Project dates	Start: 10-07-2018 End: 16-07-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	2018-093 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	DOMESTIC Early Medieval
Monument type	DOMESTIC Medieval
Monument type	DOMESTIC Modern
Significant Finds	FOOD PREPARATION AND CONSUMPTION Early Medieval
Significant Finds	FOOD PREPARATION AND CONSUMPTION Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE KEGWORTH 3-9 Borough St
Postcode	DE74 2FF
Study area	811 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 448615 326901 52.889469096152 -1.333159820181 52 53 22 N 001 19 59 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 38m Max: 39m

Project creators	
Name of Organisation	University of Leicester Archaeological Services
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	John Thomas
Project director/manager	John Thomas
Project supervisor	Lucy Brown
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr and Mrs J Marriott
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Leicestershire County Council Museums Service
Physical Archive ID	XA54.2018
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Leicestershire County Council Museums Service
Digital Archive ID	XA54.2018
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Leicestershire County Council Museums Service
Paper Archive ID	XA54.2018
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Photograph", "Report", "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation on Land at 3-9 Borough Street, Kegworth, Leicestershire, DE74 2FF
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Description	43 page report including colour photographs and plans



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