

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
On Land at St. Mary's Hospital, Thorpe Road,
Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire.
NGR: SK 75849 19295**

Andrew Hyam
April 2005

*Planning Application: 02/00487/FUL
Client: CPMG Architects*

<p>Checked by Project Manager</p> <p>Signed: Date:.....</p> <p>Name:</p>
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**An Archaeological Watching Brief
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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken for CPMG Architects by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) during the construction of a new hospital extension at the rear of the existing St. Mary's Hospital along with a new access road development. The work was undertaken between 31st of July and the 1st of September 2003; planning application number 02/00487/FUL. There was high potential for buried archaeological remains as the application site lies near to the historic core of Melton Mowbray and close to a possible Anglo-Saxon cemetery and water mill.

A single sunken-featured building containing early (c.AD 450-650) Anglo-Saxon pottery, spindle whorls and a loomweight was discovered on the development site. A small group of animal bone belonging to domesticated animals also formed part of the assemblage. The finds represent part of a settlement of unknown size and extent which appears to have been destroyed by later agricultural activity or hospital buildings.

Finds and records will be deposited with the Heritage Services, Leicestershire County Council, Accession number X.A.90.2003.

1. Introduction

The development site is situated on land off Thorpe Road behind the existing St. Mary's Hospital complex and is approximately half a kilometre north east of the centre of Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 75849 19295 Fig. 1). Prior to this work most of the affected land was undeveloped grassland although a small area in the south western corner of the site had been affected by relatively recent building work. The site lay to the east of the existing hospital buildings. This archaeological watching brief took place during the development works which involved an initial topsoil and subsoil strip across the whole site with selected groundworks where required.

Although no known previous archaeological work, or discoveries, had taken place on the development site a possible Anglo-Saxon cemetery has been identified 350m to the north west (SMR Ref. SK 71NE.D Appendices 1 and 2). A Saxo-Norman watermill 300m to the west (SMR Ref. SK 71NE.BF) also indicated that there was potential for archaeological deposits from the Saxon and early medieval periods. To the south west of Melton the Anglo-Saxon settlement site of Eye Kettleby further reveals the potential for Anglo-Saxon activity on the proposed development site and in the immediate locality. In addition to this, as the site has apparently remained undeveloped, it was thought likely that any archaeological deposits would be reasonably undisturbed.

Due to the archaeological potential of the site the Heritage Services Section, Community Services Department, Leicestershire County Council, as archaeological advisors to the planning authority recommended archaeological attendance and recording during groundworks to ensure that any affected deposits were adequately recorded (Appendix 2).

2. Background and Topography

The proposed works, carried out by CPMG Architects, involved the construction of a new hospital to the rear (east) of the existing St. Mary's Hospital on Thorpe Road, Melton Mowbray, NGR SK 75849 19295. A new access road development linking the new complex with Dee Close and the A607 Thorpe Road was also to be constructed (Figs. 2 and 3). The proposed groundworks involved a topsoil and subsoil strip across the entire area followed by deeper excavations for the building and associated services where necessary. The watching brief was specified to take place during the topsoil strip and any groundworks that were likely to disturb any archaeological deposits or remains.

The development area slopes gently from west to east down towards playing fields bordering the eastern edge of the site. The overall drop between the hospital buildings (at approximately 75m OD) and the playing fields is around four metres (71m OD). A small stream leading to the River Eye runs along the eastern edge of the playing fields. The British Geological Survey map of Great Britain (sheet 142) indicates that the underlying geology of the site consists of sand and gravel.

3. Archaeological Objectives

The aim of the watching brief was:

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

4. Methodology

The work consisted of a topsoil and subsoil strip across the whole of the affected area as discussed in Section 2 above. The site was divided into a number of areas and stripped according to the priorities of the construction work schedule. Spoil was also removed from the line of the new access road in the north east of the site. Foundation trenches and service trenches were then excavated into the exposed natural substratum.

All spoil was initially removed by mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket. Spoil was moved around the site primarily by a dumper truck but also by tracked bulldozer. All archaeological deposits were recorded by notes and photographs. All work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

5. Results

The initial strip revealed a topsoil of mid to dark grey-brown silty clay with some sand above a mid grey-brown silty sandy clay subsoil. The natural substrate consisted of a mid yellow-brown silty sandy clay with frequent small stones. Most of the natural across the site appeared to be undisturbed although an area of modern disturbance was noted in the south west corner of the development site. In this area large fragments of modern brick, drainpipe and sanitary ware were noted but not retained.

A single feature was noted towards the northern end of the site (Fig. 3 and Plates 1 to 4). This was a rectangular sunken-featured building [11] measuring approximately 3m x 2.5m containing a mid brown silty sandy clay fill (1) with the remnants of a plough furrow cutting its eastern side. A number of pottery fragments could be seen on the cleaned surface of this fill whilst a series of postholes, cuts [15] to [20], were located around the eastern and southern sides of the feature (Fig. 4). The plough furrow followed an approximate east to west alignment and contained a very silty yellow-brown clay.

For the purposes of excavation the sunken-featured building (SFB) was divided into four with opposing Quadrants 1 and 2 being dug first followed by the remaining two quadrants (Fig. 4 and Plates 2, 3 and 4). Numerous pottery fragments were recovered from all four quadrants but with the highest sherd count coming from Quadrant 2 (Appendix 4). Most of the sherds showed little abrasion indicating that they formed the primary, or possibly secondary deposit within the SFB. The majority of the pottery fabric was produced from granite tempered clay whilst a small number of sherds used shell as an alternative tempering material (Plate 5). The pottery has been dated to the early Anglo-Saxon period (c.AD 450-650) and is of similar form and fabric to that found on other Anglo-Saxon sites across the county. In addition to the pottery a complete and decorated granite tempered spindle whorl was found in Quadrant 4 (Plate 6). A fragment of a second spindle whorl with similar incised decoration was found in opposing Quadrant 3. A complete doughnut shaped loomweight was also recovered from Quadrant 1 (Plate 7). As with most of the other pottery the nature of the sandy clay and ironstone inclusions within this loomweight indicated that it was a locally manufactured item.

A small quantity of bone was recovered from the SFB fill in all quadrants except Quadrant 2 (Appendix 5). The assemblage represented the three main domesticated animals: cattle, sheep/goat and pigs. Analysis indicated that many of the cattle bones showed signs of butchery mostly in the form of chopping marks. A single

piece of possible cattle bone was found with a smoothed and tapered end which may have been used as a tool.

Within the cut of the SFB three shallow postholes [12] (2), [13] (4) and [14] (5) were observed. Their respective fills were identical to each other and consisted of a mid brown silty sandy clay only slightly darker than the fill of the SFB. No pottery was found in any of these features although a single fused sheep or goat metacarpal was retrieved from posthole [12] (2). Each of these features was half-sectioned for initial recording then fully sectioned in order to retrieve all potential finds.

Four shallow postholes, [16] (10), [17] (9), [18] (8), [19] (7) and [20] (6), were observed running parallel to the eastern edge of the SFB. All the postholes contained the same mid brown silty sandy clay which was seen in [12], [13] and [14]. Despite half-sectioning and then fully excavating each posthole no finds or bones were recovered from any of these features.

A single large posthole [15] (3) was seen beyond the southern end of the SFB. Despite only measuring 0.5m in diameter and 0.26m deep this was the largest and deepest of all the postholes associated with the SFB. As with the other postholes this feature contained a mid brown silty sandy clay fill. A single sherd of granite tempered early Anglo-Saxon pottery was found in the fill.

Elsewhere on the development site no further archaeological deposits were revealed and no pre-modern finds were observed or recovered. The natural substrate appeared to be flat and undisturbed across the site apart from the disturbed area in the south west corner as already mentioned. The shallow plough furrow cutting the edge of the SFB faded out a few metres south east of the feature but continued westwards up the slope towards the existing hospital buildings.

6. Discussion

Although found on its own it is unlikely that only a single SFB occupied the St. Mary's site as these features are usually observed as part of a larger group. However, if there were any other similar associated features nearby it is probable that later agricultural activity has destroyed any remaining evidence. Because of this the SFB and postholes are now so shallow it would appear that we are only looking at the truncated base of these features. It is also feasible that the postholes may originally have been within the confines of the SFB cut which has been reduced in size due to this truncation. The shallow plough furrow, which becomes truncated as it heads down the slope, also points towards truncation and the later removal of the upper layer of natural. Further up the hill, to the north, the plough furrow appears to deepen as it heads towards an unexcavated area of grass and then towards the existing hospital buildings, and as such this area may have the potential for further archaeological activity. The same plough furrow might also have destroyed any postholes that may have been present on the western side of the SFB.

Similar SFB features were discovered at the nearby site of Eye Kettleby, located to the west of Melton, with sizes ranging either side of the St. Mary's example (Finn, report in preparation). The significant difference however is that most SFBs at Eye Kettleby had postholes at each end rather than along the side and at one end as in this case. It is however feasible that a posthole at the north end of the SFB has not survived due to truncation as discussed.

The significant amount of unabraided pottery recovered from the SFB fill (1) and the single sherd from posthole [15] indicate that they form the primary or secondary deposit. This is further reinforced by the fact that a number of sherds can still be fitted together. As such they must represent items originally deposited within the feature. From the twenty individual vessels that were estimated to be present, most were manufactured from locally produced granite tempered clay fired in a reducing atmosphere which is seen across the East Midlands and which was also noted at Eye Kettleby. The pottery, and hence the feature, dates to the early Saxon period of around AD 450 to 650. Unfortunately as this is an isolated feature it is not possible to estimate how long after this period any potential settlement may have continued to exist.

Spinning and weaving activities are in evidence from the two spindle whorls and the doughnut shaped loomweight (Plates 6 and 7). Again the unabraided quality of these artefacts indicates that they were used, or at least disposed of, near to the SFB. Undecorated spindle whorls can be found on many sites within the region although decorated examples are not so common. The rather crude loomweight shows the difference between the visible spindle whorls and the more functional weights (Plate 7). The loomweight found in this instance is complete, although broken in two, it does not appear to have been fired in a reducing atmosphere and still bears the fingerprints from the person who manufactured it. It is likely that this would have been produced on site. Similar loomweights were retrieved during the excavations at Eye Kettleby.

Only thirty five fragments of animal bone were recovered from SFB fill (1) and one fragment from internal posthole [12] (2). Despite this all three domesticated types of animal are represented in this small assemblage (i.e. cattle, sheep/goat and pig). Unlike the pottery the bone fragments were all quite weathered and abraded which may indicate that these have been redeposited from elsewhere. Many of the cattle bones, which formed the most numerous proportion, showed evidence of butchering in the form of chopping marks. Although fragmentary, a number of fused epiphyses and worn permanent teeth were observed which means that many of these animals survived into their adulthood. Evidence of tool manufacture also came from the animal bone assemblage with a small piece of smoothed bone which had been tapered into a rounded tip. It is unclear what this may have been used for.

7. Archive

The archive consists of site notes, photographs and finds to be held by Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services under accession number XA.90.2003.

8. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course.

9. References

Leicestershire County Council heritage Services. Brief for Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at St Mary's Hospital, Thorpe Road, Melton Mowbray.

Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain 142.

ULAS 2003. Design Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief. Land at St Mary's Hospital, Thorpe Road, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire. Report No: 03-370-01

10. Acknowledgements

Fieldwork was undertaken by M Shore and A R Hyam. The project was managed by J Meek.

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Appendices

- 1 ULAS specification
- 2 Leicestershire County Council specification
- 3 Figures and plates
- 4 Pottery report
- 5 Bone report
- 6 Context report
- 7 Site visits

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief

Site: *Land At St. Mary's Hospital, Thorpe Road,
Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire*

NGR: *SK 75849 19295*

Client: *CPMG Architects*

Planning Authority: *Melton Borough District Council*

Summary

In view of the potential of the site to contain buried archaeological remains relating to the historic core of Melton Mowbray, and its location close to a possible Anglo-Saxon cemetery (350m to the north-west) and a Saxon watermill (300m to the west), the archaeological adviser to the planning authority has recommended archaeological attendance and recording during topsoil stripping and groundworks for the proposed development, to ensure that any affected archaeological deposits are adequately recorded. This specification provides details of the methodologies and standards to be adopted by ULAS on behalf of the client during the course of the work.

1. Introduction

1.1 Definition and scope of the specification

In accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning), para.30, and the condition placed on planning permission, this specification constitutes a 'written scheme of archaeological investigation' which ULAS intends to implement on behalf of the Client in mitigation of any damage which may be caused to buried or standing archaeological remains from the development.

1.2 The definition of archaeological watching brief, taken from the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standards and Guidance: for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IFA S&G: AWB) is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.

1.3 The purpose of a watching brief, as laid down in the IFA S&G AWB is:

to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.

to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment.

1.4 This document provides a scheme of works for:

Archaeological attendance and recording during topsoil stripping and groundworks likely to disturb archaeological remains, if present.

2. Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives, within the resources available, are

- 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 excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

3. Background

- 3.1 The site is located on the eastern edge of the historic core of the town of Melton Mowbray. The Leicestershire Sites and Monuments Record contains information on a possible Anglo-Saxon cemetery, located some 350m north-west of the proposed development area (SMR Ref. SK 71NE.D) and a Saxo-Norman Water-mill, located 300m to the west (SMR Ref. SK 71NE.BF). Due to its location the site is seen as having the potential to contain associated archaeological deposits of Saxon and medieval periods.
- 3.2 There is still potential for significant archaeological deposits post-dating the medieval period to survive, although this level of potential has not been assessed.
- 3.3 The groundworks will comprise the removal of topsoil, excavation of footings, associated services and access routes, which would severely damage or destroy any archaeological remains that may be present on the site.
- 3.4 The underlying geology of the site consists of sand and gravel (British Geological Survey map sheet 142). The site lies at a height of approximately 74.90m aOD.

4. Methodology

4.1 *General Methodology and Standards*

- 4.1.1 All work will follow the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.
- 4.1.2 Staffing (as far as is possible), Recording systems, Health and Safety provisions and Insurance details are included below.
- 4.1.3 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site by the project manager. These will ensure that project targets are met and professional standards are maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council's Heritage Services, Melton Borough Council planning authority and the Client, if required.

4.2 *Watching brief methodology*

- 4.2.1 The archaeologist will be present during all groundworks that have the potential to affect any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area. The commencement of groundworks and subsequent timetable of works must be agreed between the Client, the Client's contractor and ULAS.
- 4.2.2 The archaeologist will observe any topsoil stripping and the excavation of foundation trenches and drains, by the Client's contractors, in order to obtain an adequate record of any archaeological deposits or finds disturbed or exposed by groundworks associated with the development.
- 4.2.3 The archaeologist will cooperate at all times with the contractors to ensure that there are no unnecessary delays to the work. However, if any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will have the power to temporarily halt the works in order to define and record areas of archaeological interest. A contingency has been allocated within the costing of the project for the addition of extra archaeologists to the site in the event that archaeological deposits that cannot be satisfactorily be recorded by a single attending archaeologist are encountered.
- 4.2.4 Any archaeological deposits encountered will be recorded and excavated using standard ULAS procedures (see section 5 below).

- 4.2.5 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the development, ULAS shall have the power to halt any ground works and shall inform the site agent/project manager and the Senior Planning Archaeologist, and prepare a written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Senior Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement on behalf of the Client a contingency scheme for salvage excavation of affected archaeological features.

4.3. ***Environmental Sampling***

- 4.3.1 If significant archaeological features are subject to excavation, the sampling strategy will include the following if practicable, within the scope of the project and with the allocated resources:

A range of features to represent all feature types, areas and phases will be selected on a judgmental basis. The criteria for selection will be that deposits are datable, well sealed and with little intrusive or residual material.

Any buried soils or well-sealed deposits with concentrations of carbonised material present will be intensively sampled taking a known proportion of the deposit.

Spot samples will be taken where concentrations of environmental remains are located.

Waterlogged remains, if present, will be sampled for pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and radiocarbon dating provided that they are uncontaminated and datable. Consultation with the specialist will be undertaken.

4.4 ***Recording Systems***

- 4.4.1 The ULAS recording manual will be used as a guide for all recording.
- 4.4.2 Individual descriptions of any observed archaeological strata and features exposed by the works will be entered onto pro-forma recording sheets.
- 4.4.3 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 investigation area in relation to the OS or site grid, as appropriate.
- 4.4.4 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made. Sections including the half-sections of individual layers of features will be drawn as necessary, typically at a scale of 1:10. Relative levels of archaeological deposits will be taken across the site area.
- 4.4.5 A photographic record of the investigations will be prepared illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.
- 4.4.6 As a minimum, the watching archaeologist will record the location and depths of any areas of groundworks, including descriptions and depths of all principal strata disturbed, even if no archaeological features are present.

5. ***Finds and Samples***

- 5.1 The IFA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to.
- 5.2 All antiquities, valuables, objects or remains of archaeological interest, other than articles declared by Coroner's Inquest to be subject to the Treasure Act, discovered in or under the Site during the carrying out of the project by ULAS or during works carried out on the Site by the Client shall be deemed to be the property of ULAS provided that ULAS after due examination of the said Archaeological Discoveries shall transfer ownership of all Archaeological Discoveries unconditionally to Leicestershire County Council's Heritage Services for storage in perpetuity.
- 5.3 An accession number will be obtained for the watching brief which will be used to identify all records and finds from the site.

- 5.4 All identified finds and artefacts are to be retained, although certain classes of building material will, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording with the approval of the Senior Planning Archaeologist. The IFA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to.
- 5.5 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner. Where appropriate they will be cleaned, marked and receive remedial conservation in accordance with recognised best-practice. This will include the site code number, finds number and context number. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self sealing plastic bags, again marked with site code, finds and context numbers and boxed by material in standard storage boxes (340mm x 270mm x 195mm). All materials will be fully labelled, catalogued and stored in appropriate containers.

6. Report and Archive

- 6.1 The full report in A4 format will usually follow within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and copies will be dispatched to the Client (2 copies), Senior Planning Archaeologist/Leicestershire SMR (2 copies) and Melton Borough Council Planning Officer (1 copy).
- 6.2 The report will include:-
- Summary
 - The aims and methods adopted in the course of the watching brief.
 - The nature, location, extent, date, significance and quality of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
 - Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
 - The location and size of the archive.
- 6.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in *The Guidelines For The Preparation Of Excavation Archives For Long-Term Storage* (UKIC 1990), and *Standards In The Museum: Care Of Archaeological Collections* (MGC 1992) and *Guidelines for the Preparation of Site Archives and Assessments for all Finds* (other than fired clay objects) (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993) will usually be presented to within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

7 Publication and Dissemination of Results

- 7.1 A summary of the work will be submitted to the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* for publication. A larger report will be submitted for inclusion if the results of the archaeological works warrant it.

8. Acknowledgement and Publicity

- 8.1 ULAS shall acknowledge the contribution of the Client in any displays, broadcasts or publications relating to the site or in which the report may be included.
- 8.2 ULAS and the Client shall each ensure that a senior employee shall be responsible for dealing with any enquiries received from press, television and any other broadcasting media and members of the public. All enquiries made to ULAS shall be directed to the Client for comment. The Senior Planning Archaeologist will also be consulted when dealing with such enquiries.

9. Copyright

- 9.1 The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

10. Timetable/Staffing

- 10.1 One member of ULAS staff will be present on the site during groundworks. The site works are due to commence on 14th July 2003.
- 10.2 The report will normally be completed within eight weeks of the completion of fieldwork.

11. Health and Safety

- 11.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Archaeological Services Health and Safety Policy and Health and Safety manual with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is attached as Appendix 1. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate. The HSE has determined that archaeological investigations are exempt from CDM regulations.

A Risks assessment form will be completed prior to work commencing on-site, and updated as necessary during the site works.

It is assumed that the locations of all services on the site are already known to the Client, and that this information will be made known to the attending archaeologist.

12. Insurance

- 12.1 All employees, consultants and volunteers are covered by the University of Leicester public liability insurance with Gerling Insurance Service Co. Ltd. and others (leading policy no. 62/99094/D). Professional indemnity insurance is with Sun Alliance, £10m cover, policy no. 03A/SA 001 05978. Employer's Liability Insurance is with Eagle Star, cover £10m.

13. Monitoring arrangements

- 13.1 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and Senior Planning Archaeologist subject to the health and safety requirements of the site. Usually at least one weeks notice will be given to the Senior Planning Archaeologist before the commencement of the archaeological works in order that monitoring arrangements can be made, unfortunately in this case there has been some confusion with planning conditions resulting in the works commencing prior to archaeological.
- 13.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the IFA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.
- 13.3 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

14. Bibliography

- MAP 2, The management of archaeological projects 2nd edition English Heritage 1991
- MGC 1992, Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections 1992 (Museums and Galleries Commission)
- RFG/FRG 1993, Guidelines for the preparation of site archives (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993)
- SMA 1993, Selection, retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland 1993 (Society of Museum Archaeologists)

JEM

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Appendix 2 County council specification.

Appendix 3 Plates and figures

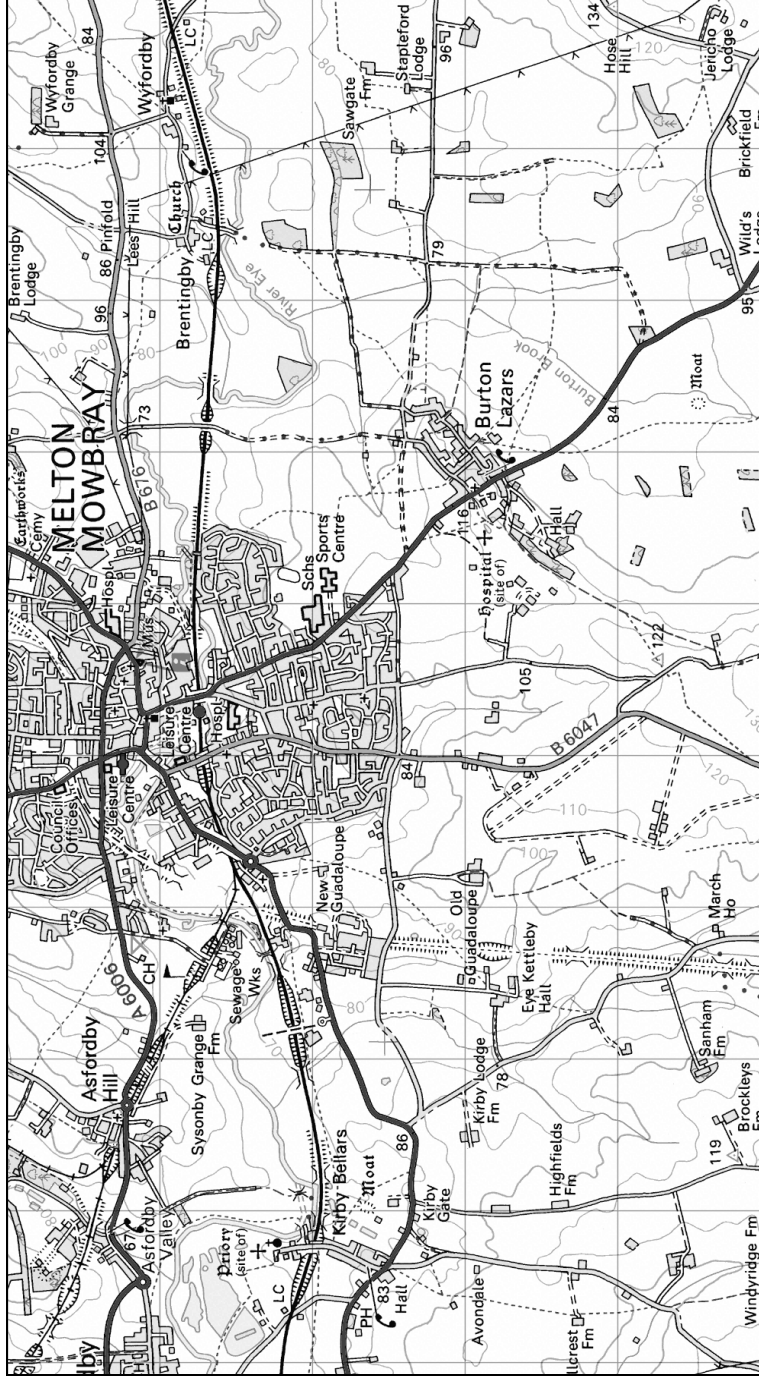


Figure 1. Location of development site.

Reproduced from Landranger 1:50 000 scale by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
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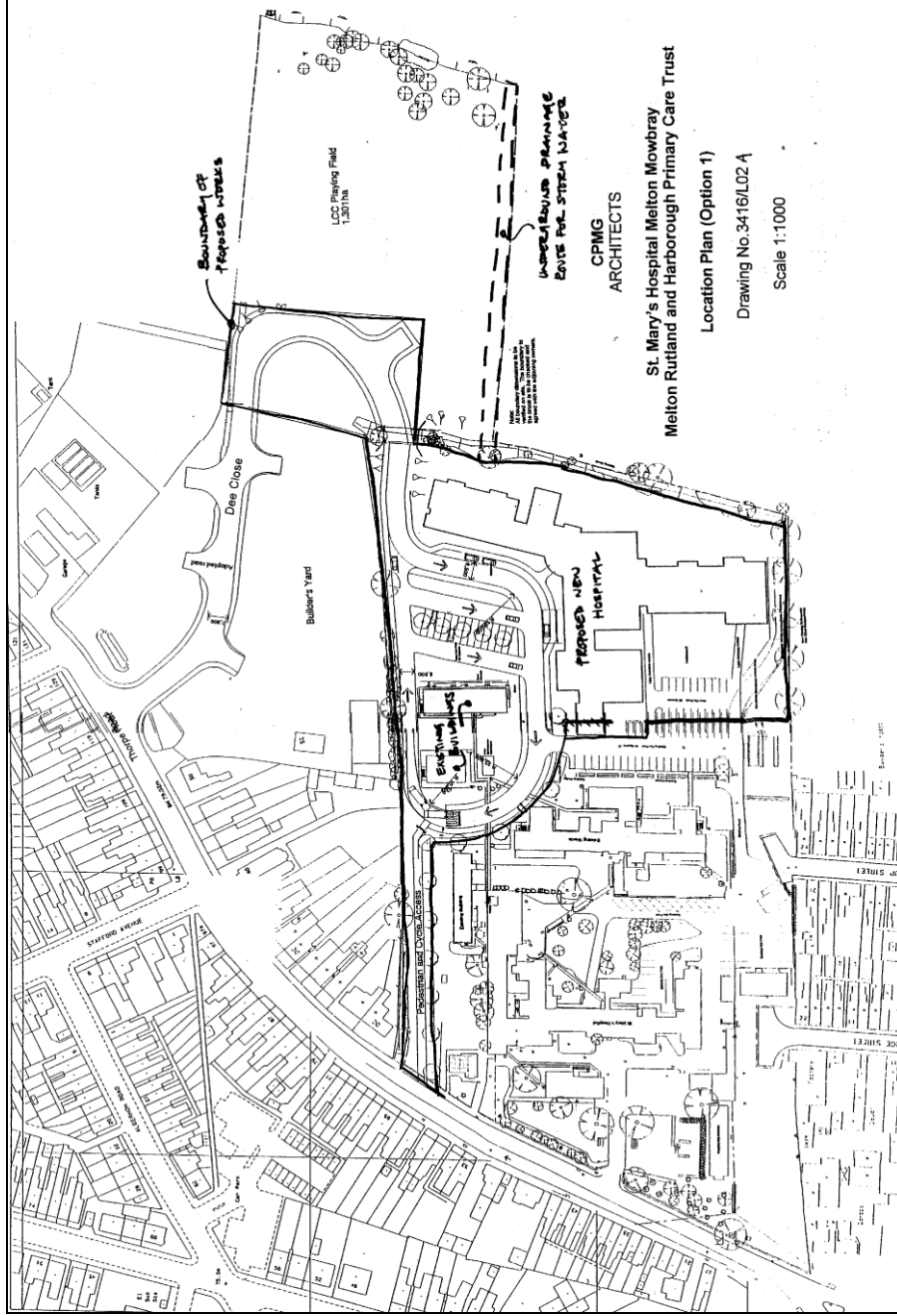


Figure 2. Development site
From CPMG plan.

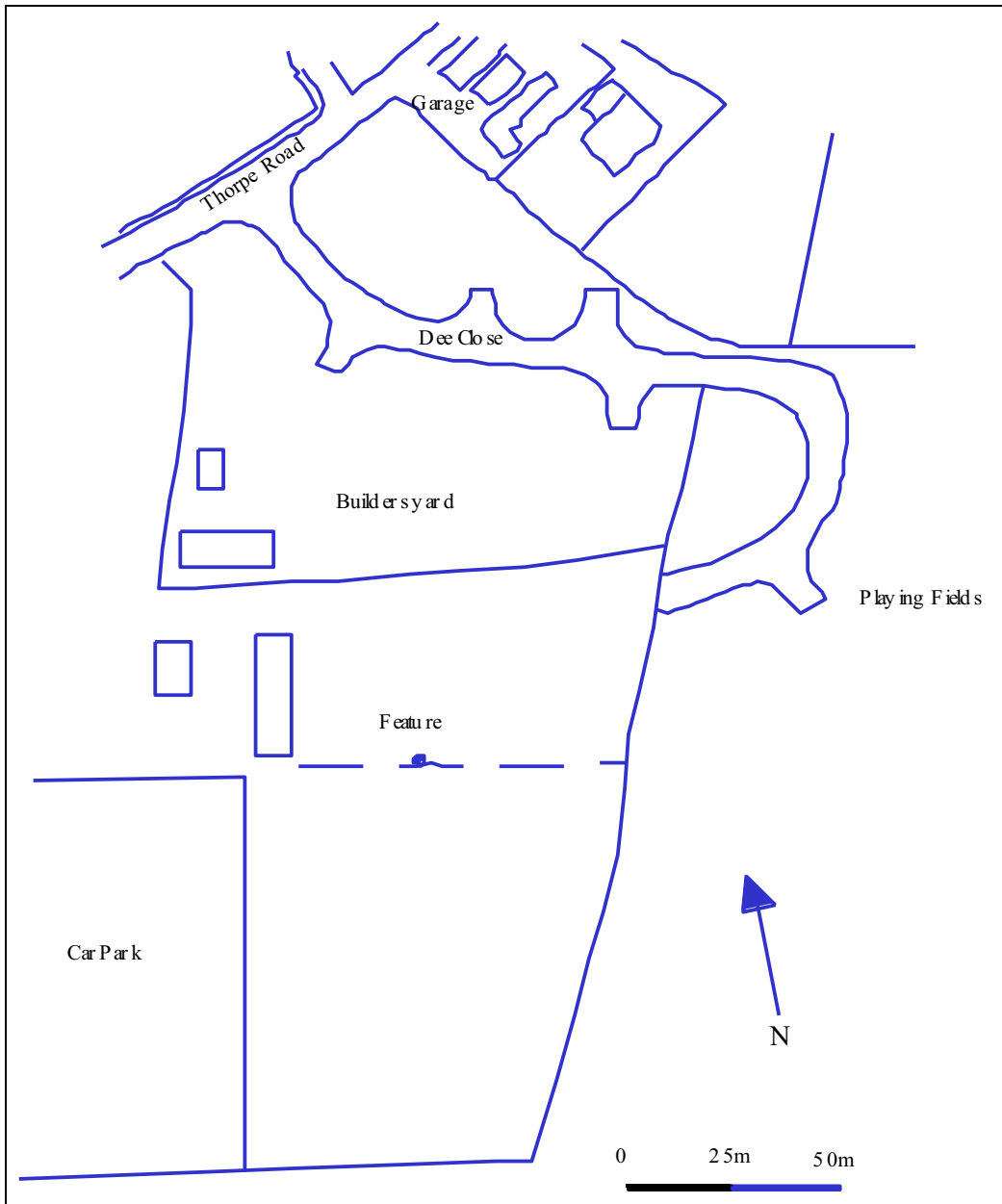


Figure 3. Close up of development site.

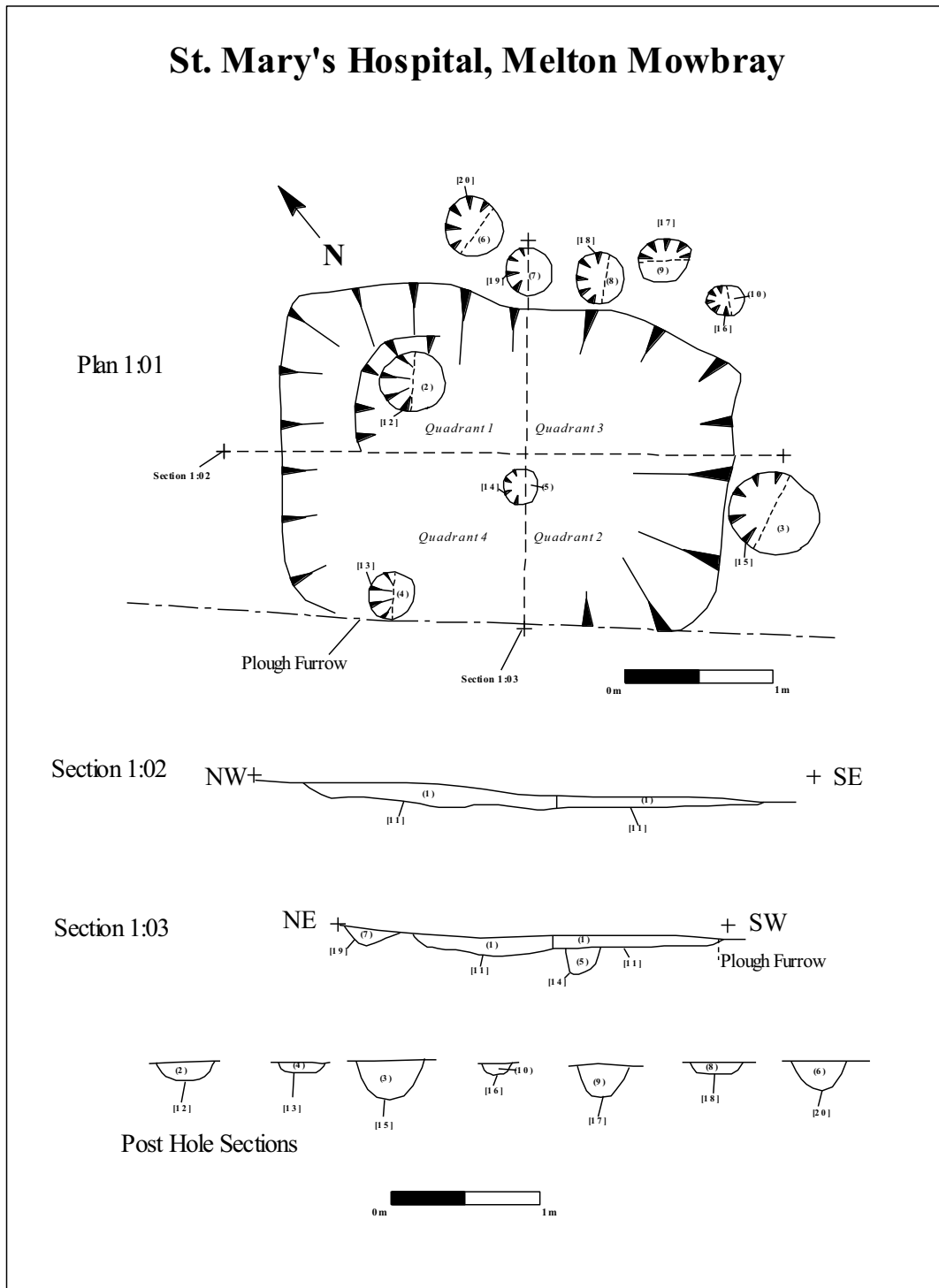


Figure 4. Sunken featured building

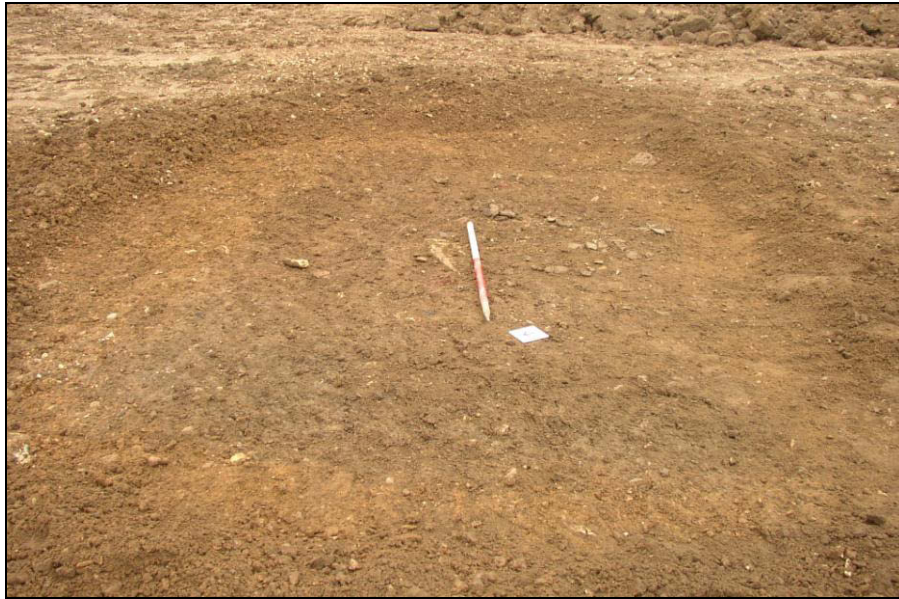


Plate 1 Sunken featured building before excavation looking south. 1m scale.



Plate 2. Sunken featured building during excavation. Looking north east.



*Plate 3. Sunken featured building with associated post holes.
Plough furrow on left of picture. 1m scale*



*Plate 4. Sunken featured building. Quadrants 1 and 2 excavated.
Plough furrow on right of picture.*

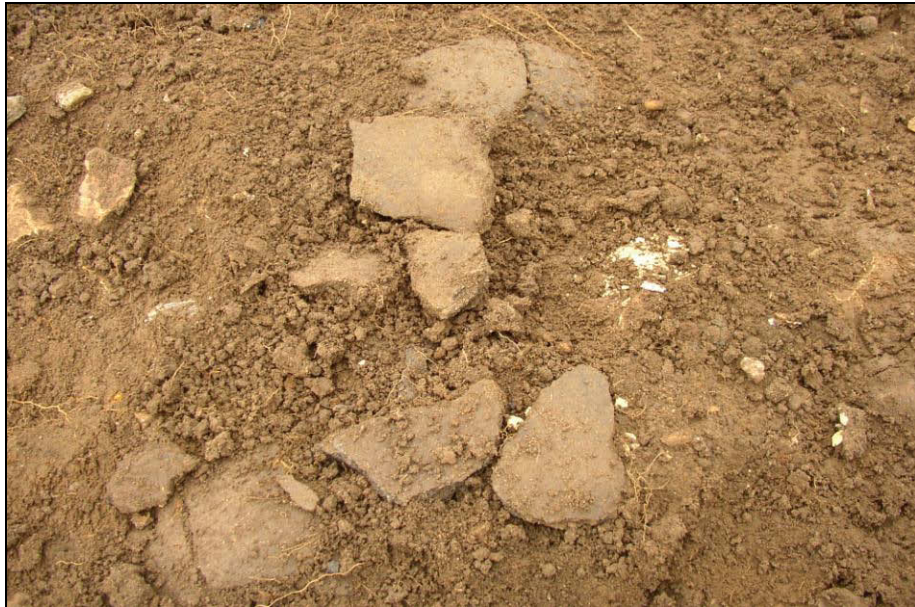


Plate 5. Pottery in Quadrant 1 during excavation.



Plate 6. Spindle whorl.



Plate 7. Spindle whorl and loomweight

Appendix 4 Pottery report

XA90 2003 St Mary's Hospital, Melton

Early Anglo-Saxon pottery and other ceramic finds of Anglo-Saxon date *c.* AD 450-650.

Nicholas J. Cooper

Pottery

One hundred and sixty three sherds of early Anglo-Saxon pottery weighing 3.058 kg (average sherd weight 19g) were retrieved from the fill of the sunken-feature building (1) and associated posthole (3). The group is in good condition with many joining sherds and about 20 vessels represented, and the lack of abrasion indicates short exposure before burial as a primary or secondary deposit. The vast majority of the pottery is manufactured in a granite-tempered clay which is consistent with assemblages across the county and the East Midlands generally (Williams and Vince 1997; Blinkhorn 1999 fabrics 4 and 6; Blinkhorn 2000 fabrics EM3 and 4 and TK2, Cooper in prep report on pottery from Eye Kettleby), with only seven sherds made in a shell tempered fabric.

Context	fabric	no. sherds	weight	Comment
1 Q1	Granite	38	536	Five rims one bossed fragment
1 Q1	Shell	2	66	joining from large vessel base
1 Q2	Granite	61	1450	one massive vessel 28cms diam, one plain rim one upright
1 Q3	Granite	16	190	two rims, one large vessel, one bossed fragment
1 Q3	Shell	2	2	joining rim narrow mouthed vessel 6cms
1 Q4	Granite	40	770	one profile, one bossed, one joining base, one rim
1 Q4	Shell	3	14	joining, chaff impressions
3	Granite	1	30	
Total		163	3058	Av Sherd Wt 19g

Spindlewhorls and loomweight

The fill of the sunken-feature building (1) produced three object related to the craft activities of spinning and weaving which may have taken place within the building or nearby. Two examples of spindle whorls were retrieved; one, a complete example from quadrant 4 and a fragment from quadrant 3. Both were manufactured in a granite tempered fabric similar to that used in the pottery, and likewise fired in a reducing atmosphere to produce a dark brown to black colour. Both have a plano-convex shape with a diameter of 45mm with the circumference decorated transversely with vertically incised lines, which, in the complete example, extend over the upper surface to the central perforation. The perforation of the complete example is straight-sided but tapering from bottom (13mm diameter) to top (10mm), presumable to stop it sliding down the wooden spindle shaft. Similar undecorated examples are relatively common site finds locally, for example from sunken feature buildings at Empingham (Fraser 2000, 113, fig 54.36) and Eye Kettleby (Finn report in prep) and more widely from West Stow, Suffolk (West 1985, 27, fig 91.14) but decorated examples are rarer.

A complete doughnut-shaped loomweight was recovered in two pieces from quadrant 1 (recent break). The fired clay ring is manufactured from a sandy clay with abundant ironstone inclusions and occasional pebbles, unlike that used for the spindlewhorls, and probably of local origin. It is fired to a light pink-orange. The ring is plano-convex in section, with an overall diameter of 110mm and internal diameter of 35mm. A range of similar examples were retrieved from Eye Kettleby, Melton (Hawkes in Finn in prep).

References

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Appendix 5 Bone report

The Animal Bone identified by Jennifer Browning

Context	Species	Bone	Notes
1 Quad 4	ox	radius	distal fused 2 frags, fresh breaks,
1 Quad 4	*c-size	limb bone	4 fragments, 2 with butchery-chop marks,
1 Quad 4	c-size	rib	4 fragments, 2 joining
1 Quad 4	c-size	thoracic vertebra	neural spine
1 Quad 4	pig	incisor	incomplete
1 Quad 4	ox	mandible	fragment
1 Quad 3	ox	scapula	butchery
1 Quad 3	pig	ulna	2 joining fragments
1 Quad 3	ox	mandible	condyle fragment
1 Quad 3	c-size	tibia	fragment
1 Quad 3	c-size	limb bone	shaft fragment
1 Quad 3	pig	radius	proximal fused, modern break,
1 Quad 1	ox	metatarsal	butchered: chopped midshaft. also fresh breaks
1 Quad 1	ox	mandible	5 fragments. All permanent teeth in wear.
1 Quad 1	ox	tibia	shaft. 2 fragments. Butchered: chopped.
1 Quad 1	c-size	rib	cut mark
1 Quad 1	ox	horncore	fragment
1 Quad 1	sheep/goat	mandible	all permanent teeth in wear.
1 Quad 1	c-size	fragments	2 fragments
1 Quad 1	c-size	limb bone	shaft fragment, butchery: chopped
2	sheep/goat	metacarpal	proximal fused, distal unfused
1 Quad 4	unidentified (c-size)		worked bone, smoothed surface, tapered into a rounded tip at one end.

* cattle-size fragment

A small group of animal bone (36 fragments) was recovered from a single pit. The bone surface has a weathered degraded appearance. The assemblage includes the remains of the three main domesticates, cattle, sheep and pig. The bone has suffered from breakage, some recent. Cattle bones are the most common and several have been butchered: mostly heavy butchery such as chopping. An unidentified fragment appears to have been worked. One end is very smooth and appears to have been tapered to a rounded tip.

Appendix 6 Context descriptions

Context	Cut	Type	Description
1	11	Fill of feature	Mid to dk brown silty sandy clay. Some coarse stones. Friable.
2	12	Fill of p/hole	Mid brown silty sandy clay. Rare stones. Friable/firm.
3	15	Fill of p/hole	Mid brown silty sandy clay. Rare stones. Friable/firm.
4	13	Fill of p/hole	Mid brown silty sandy clay. Rare stones. Friable/firm.
5	14	Fill of p/hole	Mid brown silty sandy clay. Rare stones. Friable/firm.
6	20	Fill of p/hole	Mid brown silty sandy clay. Rare stones. Friable/firm.
7	19	Fill of p/hole	Mid brown silty sandy clay. Rare stones. Friable/firm.
8	18	Fill of p/hole	Mid brown silty sandy clay. Rare stones. Friable/firm.
9	17	Fill of p/hole	Mid brown silty sandy clay. Rare stones. Friable/firm.
10	16	Fill of p/hole	Mid brown silty sandy clay. Rare stones. Friable/firm.
11	11	Cut of feature	Cut.
12	12	Cut of p/hole	Cut.
13	13	Cut of p/hole	Cut.
14	14	Cut of p/hole	Cut.
15	15	Cut of p/hole	Cut.
16	16	Cut of p/hole	Cut.
17	17	Cut of p/hole	Cut.
18	18	Cut of p/hole	Cut.
19	19	Cut of p/hole	Cut.
20	20	Cut of p/hole	Cut.
		Topsoil	Dk grey-brown silty sandy clay. Freq coarse stones. Loose.
		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silty sandy clay. Freq angular stones. Friable.

Appendix 7 Site Visits

Date	Duration
31.7.2003	1 person: 1 day
1.8.2003	1 person: 1 day
4.8.2003	2 people: 1 day each
5.8.2003	1 person: 1 day, 1 person: half day
6.8.2003	1 person: half day
7.8.2003	1 person: 1 day, 1 person: half day
8.8.2003	1 person: 1 day, 1 person: half day
11.8.2003	1 person: half day
27.8.2003	1 person: half day
28.8.2003	1 person: half day
29.8.2003	1 person: half day
1.9.2003	1 person: half day
Total	11 ½ days