

**An Archaeological Evaluation
At Barkby Hall, Leicestershire
NGR: SK 638 098**

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken for Mr J Pochin by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on grassland to the southeast of Barkby Hall. The work, entailing three 30 metre evaluation trenches, was carried out between the 10th of May and the 15th of May 2006. A magnetometer and resistivity survey located a number of anomalies that could relate to earlier garden features and land usage which, combined with the site location within the heart of the village, indicated that there was a high potential for archaeological remains.

A number of Saxon and early medieval features were found including a possible boundary ditch. Saxon and early medieval pottery sherds were recovered from most features and give an insight into the early beginnings of the settlement at Barkby. Little was found relating to the later hall and gardens although a later north to south ditch could indicate the location of the eastern edge of the 17th century formal gardens.

Finds and records will be deposited with the Heritage Services, Leicestershire County Council, Accession number X.A.55.2006.

1. Introduction

The village of Barkby lies approximately 6 km to the northeast of Leicester (NGR: SK 638 098), and 2km southeast of Syston (Figs. 1 and 2). It is centred around the church of St. Mary's and Barkby Hall and effectively cuts the village into two main settlements. The evaluation site forms part of the Pochin estate belonging to Barkby Hall, Leicestershire and is located on grassland to the southeast of the Hall. The evaluation work was carried out at the request of Mr. J. Pochin as a result of his personal interest in the history of the estate.

Although prior to this investigation no known previous archaeological work, or discoveries had taken place within the site, a recent geophysical survey indicated that there were a number of anomalies that could indicate the presence of buried archaeological features. The survey, carried out as part of this programme of archaeological work by Stratascan in October 2005, involved a magnetometry and resistivity survey across the whole site and successfully identified a number of anomalies which were thought to indicate the presence of former garden features, possible demolition rubble, a number of linear features and potential pitting activity.

Because of the positive nature of the geophysical survey results and the key location within the village it was decided that a limited amount of intrusive archaeological investigation would provide useful information concerning the history and development of the village and the Pochin estate. Therefore, on the basis of the information from the geophysical survey the location of the three evaluation trenches was decided (plates 1 and 2).

2. Topography

The site, as mentioned, lies on grassland to the southeast of the Hall (Fig. 2). It is planted with a number of specimen trees at intervals across the site and is often used as grazing for a limited number of cattle. A driveway to the west divides the site from a more formal garden running up to the south face of the Hall whilst the Barkby Brook forms the southern boundary of both the site and the estate. A narrow band of woodland screens the eastern half of Barkby village from the estate grounds which extend northwards as open pasture. Remnants of shallow earthworks in the form of ridge and furrow can be seen in the open pasture. A broad shallow earthwork indicates where Barkby Holt Lane once continued west rather than deviating to the south as it does now. This appears to cut the ridge and furrow but is not very clear.

The road from Beeby, to the east appears to deviate southwards around the southern edge of the estate before turning at right angles northwards towards the church followed by another right angle westwards out through the village.

The site covers approximately 1.3 ha and slopes gently down from approximately 70m OD in the north to 65m OD in the south. The underlying geology for the area is Boulder Clay and Moraine Drift with overlying soils collectively known as Ragdale soils.

3. Historical Background

Little is known of the early history of settlement in Barkby with the only indications so far being from place-name evidence. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle documents that after 877 the Danish army began to change tactics from raiding to settling in the land between the Welland and the Humber. In the context of the Chronicles, the Danes probably included a variety of Scandinavian peoples as little distinction appears to have been made about their country of origin.

In the case of Barkby however it is thought that the ending *by* does in fact relate to a Danish origin which means a village or settlement. As with many local villages whose names end in *by*, the first element of the name Barkby is a possessive element and tells us that it at one stage belonged to a person named Bjork. Whether he was the first Dane to control this village or merely the last one before the place-name became fixed is impossible to tell. What is clear is that he had a secondary outlying farmstead or hamlet based to the south at Barkby Thorpe as *thorp* is also a Scandinavian place-name survival meaning a secondary settlement to a larger village. Unfortunately place-name evidence rarely shows whether the settlement was a new one or if it was a re-naming of an existing one.

The next documentary evidence concerning settlement in Barkby comes from the Domesday Book in 1086, when William held 18 carucates (1 carucate is as much as a team of 8 oxen could plough in a year, nominally 120 acres) of land at Barkby from Robert of Tosny. It contained land for 16 ploughs with 3 ploughs and 3 slaves in lordship. Additionally there were 7 villagers with 3 smallholders, 10 freemen and 4 Frenchmen with 10 ploughs. As well as Robert's property Adelaide, the wife of Hugh de Grandmesnil also owned 1½ carucates of land for 2 ploughs with 1 plough and 1 slave in lordship. Another 6 villagers with 5 smallholders had 2 ploughs. A mill with a value of 12d and a 5 acre meadow is also mentioned. A man named Siward formerly

held Adelaide's land in 1066. Overall this would appear to indicate that Barkby was a relatively prosperous and thriving village at the time of the Conquest.

Over the next two centuries Barkby appears to have continued to prosper and the land remained relatively productive. By the year 1220 evidence of the tithes paid to the Abbot of Leicester in the form of grain, hay, flax, hemp, wood, limestone and fish shows that the population must have been sufficiently large to provide the manpower to supply this range of materials.

Apart from the Black Death in the 14th century and beyond, probably one of the next major changes that occurred in Barkby would have been the Act of Enclosure in 1779. Evidence of the pre-enclosure ridge and furrow can be seen in surrounding fields. By this time however the Hall and immediate surroundings had been established as can be seen in the *c.* 1790 village map (fig. 5). This map shows the Pochin estate sitting in the centre of the village with what appear to be diverted roads passing to the south of the grounds rather than cutting across. The hall, to the east of the church, is shown in its earlier form before it was enlarged and modified in the 19th century. To the southeast of the hall can be seen an area of formal gardens which follow the pattern of late 16th or early 17th century *par terres*, i.e. sunken gardens with decorative geometrical gravel paths and planted areas. By the late 18th century such a garden layout would be a rare survivor as fashions were changing to more natural landscapes. East of this is a more open area shown as grassland with what could be specimen trees and an avenue heading northwards from the hall. This open area may have been designed as a wilderness area which was a common feature of gardens at the time. It would also have had the benefit of screening the view of the village from the east face of the hall.

4. Archaeological Aims and Objectives

The objectives of the evaluation were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits based upon documentary evidence, geophysical survey and intrusive archaeological evaluation.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits discovered.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

The principal aims of the archaeological evaluation were to ascertain whether any significant archaeological remains or deposits were present within the survey area. If any were identified a sufficient sample to establish their extent, date, quality, character, form and potential including environmental data was to be recorded. It was recognised that further archaeological recording may be desired in the light of the results of this evaluation programme which would primarily be dependent upon the level and significance of any archaeological deposits discovered.

The geophysical survey highlighted a number of anomalies which warranted an intrusive archaeological investigation. Of particular interest in the northern part of the site was an area of high resistance along with linear anomalies which was interpreted as possible structural or demolition remains. A number of linear anomalies were identified running from north to south on the western side of the site which could

relate to the edge of the formal gardens or as boundary markers. Towards the southern edge of the site a number of discrete pits were noted which had the potential to contain dateable archaeological material.

5. Methodology

All work followed the *Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhered to their* Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (1999). Topsoil/modern overburden and subsoil were removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision, down to the uppermost archaeological deposits by JCB 3C using a toothless ditching bucket on the back actor. The trenches were excavated to a width of 1.5m down to the top of archaeological deposits or the natural substrate.

Three trial trenches each being 30m in length were proposed in order to provide a representative sample of the site and to target some of the more interesting features noted during the geophysical survey. The initial layout of the trenches however had to be adjusted according to the constraints of the site, principally the presence of a gas pipe running north to south along the western edge of the site. In order to avoid damaging tree roots, and probably disturbed ground, the precise locations of the trenches were again modified (Fig. 3).

All archaeological deposits located were hand cleaned and planned as appropriate in order to achieve the aims and objectives of the evaluation. All archaeological deposits located were then hand excavated. Measured plans of all archaeological features were prepared at a scale of 1:50 and tied into the overall site plan. All excavated sections were recorded and drawn at 1:10 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Digital colour photographs and black and white 35mm prints were taken throughout.

6. Results

Stratigraphy

Conventions used:

Fill = (context number)

Cut = [context number]

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located at the northern end of the site along a northwest to southeast alignment (Figs 4 and 5. Plate 3). The geophysical survey had identified a rectangular area of high resistance which was tentatively identified as possible remains of a structure or a rubble demolition layer. The original location of the trench was designed to run diagonally across this anomaly but the presence of service pipes meant that it had to be moved approximately 5m to the southeast. A number of nearby trees also meant that the trench location needed to be modified slightly both to avoid root damage and disturbance of any archaeological deposits by root action.

The topsoil (context 1), which was the same in all three trenches, was a dark grey-brown sandy silt with occasional small sub rounded stones. Topsoil depths varied

between 0.4m at the western end of the trench down to between 0.18 and 0.2m at the eastern end. This was on top of a mid-brown sandy silt layer of subsoil (context 2) with frequent river-washed rounded stones up to 0.15m diameter. The maximum depth to the natural substratum was 1.0m which appeared to be unusually deep for such a rural location (table 1 in appendix 4). The underlying natural substratum across Trench 1 was divided into two distinct areas: to the west was a clean mid orange-brown sand with very occasional rounded pebbles whilst to the east was a mix of orange-brown sand and a small quantity of gravel.

Trench 2

Trench 2 had been intended to investigate two linear anomalies running north to south on the west of the site. These were thought to indicate the presence of the remains of the formal 17th or 18th century formal gardens shown on the c.1790 map. The map shows the possible existence of sunken gardens and possible gravel paths which can often survive undisturbed under more modern gardens. Unfortunately the presence of live services continuing into this area meant that the trench had to be relocated further west outside the formal area on an east to west alignment. It was still hoped to run across an area of unknown high resistance identified during the survey. For reasons discussed in the archaeology section below a small side extension was also excavated on the south side of this trench.

The topsoil (context 1) was the same as in Trench 1 with a fairly even layer of between 0.2 and 0.28m along the trench. The subsoil was also the same as in Trench 1 but with noticeably less stones and was given the same context number (2). The depth from surface to the natural substrate was between 0.52 and 0.79m which is still relatively deep for such a rural location. The underlying natural consisted of a red orange mix of sand and gravel.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was located to the south of the site towards the bottom of the slope and near to the Barkby Brook. It was set on an east to west alignment in order to investigate possible pitting activity identified in the geophysical survey.

Both topsoil and subsoil were the same as in the other two trenches but were both noticeably more shallow which in this case, being at the bottom of a slope and near to a stream which can flood is rather unusual. One would expect a degree of hill wash and alluvial deposition in such a location. The topsoil depth ranged from 0.13 to 0.22m in depth along the trench with a similar layer of subsoil giving a minimum depth to natural of 0.27m and a maximum of 0.52m. The underlying natural was a yellowish brown slightly sandy clay with occasional patches of sub-angular stones and gravel. At the eastern end of the trench the clay was excavated down to 0.9m below ground level to check that this was not a thin layer of alluvium.

Archaeological deposits

Trench 1

A number of archaeological features could be seen cutting into the natural along the length of this trench (figs 6 and 7). At the northwestern end a reasonably large pit [9] was observed extending into the corner of the trench (plate 4). This contained two fills: the primary, lower fill, (8) being a mid grey-brown slightly clayish silt, and a

thin covering layer of secondary fill (7) of very dark grey charcoal and clayish silt. A rim fragment of Saxon ware 1 granite tempered pottery and a similar body sherd were recovered from (8) along with a number of animal bone fragments from cattle, sheep and pigs. The pottery probably dates from the late 5th or 6th centuries and represents one of the earliest features found during the evaluation. The secondary fill (7) appeared to be an ashy tip layer sealing the pit and did not contain any archaeological material.

Further east was a linear feature [6] running on a roughly north to south alignment. This was a flat bottomed trench 0.5m wide and 0.24m deep filled with a mid grey brown silty sand (5). No pottery or other artefacts were recovered from this feature and only some fragments of badly degraded animal bone were found. The bone was too fragmentary to keep.

At the eastern end of the trench was a small posthole [4] measuring approximately 0.6m in diameter. This appeared to be quite badly truncated as it only had a depth of around 0.2m. The fill was a mid orange brown sandy clay (3) which did not contain any dateable finds.

Among the natural features also noted in the trench was a large area of disturbance caused by tree roots. This was originally treated as an archaeological feature and given context numbers (10) and [11]. However during the course of excavation it was seen that it was in fact two intercutting areas of tree root disturbance with the fill closely resembling loose subsoil. Despite this it had two base sherds of 9th century Saxo Norman or early medieval 10th century Coarse Stamford ware pottery and some bone fragments belonging to cattle and deer.

Running along the eastern side of linear feature [6] was another line of root disturbance. This was filled with a loose silty sand still with a number of roots in situ. It was originally thought that this may represent the hedge line shown on the 18th century estate map but later comparison (fig 5) shows this not to be the case as it is too far to the west.

Trench 2

The main archaeological feature observed in this trench was a linear feature [13] entering the trench from the west and running for nearly 30m before butt ending near to the eastern end (figs 6 and 8). [13] followed an almost straight line on an east to west axis along the centre of the trench with both sides being visible for much of its length. A small side extension to the trench was excavated on the southern edge of the trench to ensure that we had definitely seen the south edge of the feature. The same fill (12) of mid grey brown sandy silt was observed along the length of the feature. A number of poorly preserved, and hence unidentifiable, animal bone fragments were recovered from the fill as were a rim and a body sherd of 5th or 6th century Saxon ware 1 similar to those found in pit fill (8) in Trench 1. A single sherd of internally and externally burnished granite-tempered Saxon ware 2 with evidence of incised horizontal decoration was found within fill (12). Finally, also from fill (12) was another sherd of Saxon ware 2 but with external burnishing only. A slightly different granite and limestone tempered body sherd of Saxon ware 3 was also recovered. A number of sections were excavated along feature [13] which showed it to be relatively

shallow (plate 6). The base varied between being relatively flat bottomed or quite deeply curved.

At the eastern end of feature [13] was a spur [33] joining it from a northeasterly direction. This had a very similar fill (32) to (12) so that the relative stratigraphy between the two features could not be distinguished. From the small section of [33] exposed it appeared as if the spur was a fairly shallow cut and may have been a simple re-cut of the main feature.

At the western end of the trench a 3m wide feature [17] was seen cutting across [13] at right angles. This had a very mixed fill (16) of disturbed layers of mid grey brown clay silt and mid orange brown sandy clay (plate 6). This feature was excavated in part down to a depth of 0.8m below the base of the trench which in effect brought it to nearly 1.4m below ground level. Even at this depth the base of the feature was not seen. A number of very badly degraded and undistinguishable animal bone fragments were recovered along with some early medieval fine Stamford ware which has been dated to between the 10th and 12th centuries. Also from this fill were a number of 12th century Potters Marston ware sherds some still with sooting evidence from cooking fires. This feature was noted as a north to south anomaly in the geophysical survey and possibly aligns with the eastern boundary of the formal gardens shown on the 18th century map.

A natural feature, possibly tree root disturbance, cut across linear [13] just to the east of [17]. For recording purposes it was given the numbers (14) and [15] but it was certainly created by natural causes and did not contain any finds.

Trench 3

This trench was characterised by a limited amount of pitting at its eastern end. At the western end were two bands of disturbed silty fill possibly associated with ploughing activity (figs 6 and 9).

To the east of the disturbed area was a truncated base of a circular pit [23] measuring approximately 1m in diameter. It contained a mid yellowish brown silty clay with a small number of poorly preserved animal bone fragments and a number of small pieces of charcoal. No pottery or other archaeological material was recovered from this feature.

Close to this pit was a second similar sized feature [19] which cut a small posthole [21]. [19] contained a mid grey-brown silty clay fill (18) from which a single sherd of coarse shelly ware was recovered. This sherd was part of a shouldered vessel and has been dated to around the 12th century. The range of medieval domesticated animals was seen in the recovered bone from (18) in the form of pig, cattle and sheep. The posthole [21] contained a very similar fill (20) but with many more stones which could imply some form of packing for a post. Two joining sherds of Potters Marston ware, again of 12th century date, were recovered from this feature.

Eastwards of the two pits was a small group of one pit [25] (24) and three small postholes [27] (26), [29] (28) and [31] (30). All of the features contained very similar fills of mid brown silty clay. Pit [25] cut posthole [27] but no other stratigraphic relationships could be seen (plate 7). Two sherds of early medieval Stamford ware

with rectangular roller stamped decoration on the exterior were recovered from pit [25] with a similarly dated base sherd of Potters Marston ware from posthole [27]. No finds were recovered from postholes [29] and [31].

7. Discussion

Overall a significant level of archaeological activity was discovered in the three evaluation trenches with each trench giving an insight into potentially different types of activity. The presence of Saxon remains in Trenches 1 and 2 continues the idea of the early Saxon settlers showing a preference for higher ground on what are likely to be lighter, better drained soils. The single pit in Trench 1 is unlikely to be an isolated feature and is probably part of the original village core settlement. The linear feature [13] in Trench 2 could be the truncated remains of some form of southern boundary to the settlement. It may be possible that the butt end represents one side of an entrance into the settlement. It is interesting that if the road from the west, which now turns south at the church, is projected along the track into the Pochin estate and beyond into the gardens this linear feature would run approximately parallel to it. Perhaps this feature formed the original boundary which developed into the road which was then diverted around the Hall grounds.

The north to south feature [6] in Trench 1 is possibly a shallow ditch associated with the base of the exposed hedgeline seen running along a similar course. The silty fill of the hedge did not appear to be very old and is not shown on the 18th century map so little more can be said about this without any dating evidence or further investigatory work. This was initially suspected as being the diagonal hedge shown in the 1790 map but appears to be a separate hedge much further to the west.

The north to south feature [17] at the west end of Trench 2 lies directly over an anomaly noted in the geophysical survey and which was tentatively identified as the eastern edge of the formal gardens. Close inspection of the 18th century map shows what could be a hedgeline although the feature seems far too deep for a simple hedgeline and also contains early medieval pottery. It is also possible that it is either a pathway or bed from the edge of the garden although it does seem excessively deep. It does lie on a line between the existing road coming from the south from Barkby Thorpe and an avenue of trees, shown on the 18th century map and may represent part of a road system predating the Hall and its grounds with the tress following the earlier roadline. The geophysical survey suggests that this feature does run northwards along this course and out of the survey area. At around 3m it is a little too narrow to be a hollow way but seems remarkably deep for a roadside ditch. Its mixed fill also indicates an episode of relatively quick backfilling rather than gradual silting. A similar parallel geophysical anomaly was also noted but the presence of services prevented this from being excavated by machine. A hand excavated slot across both of these features and the intervening space would help in resolving this question.

The medieval pitting and posthole activity at the bottom of the slope in Trench 3 may show an expansion of the village downhill towards the stream. The residual find of Stamford ware in the tree disturbance in Trench 1 shows that at this time there was activity over a considerable area. This settlement movement is typical of many villages which tend to shift around a central focus which is generally the church.

Unfortunately in such a narrow trench and without any dateable finds it is difficult to state what the post holes were for or even how old some were.

No apparent reason can be given for the unusual thickness of topsoil and subsoil at the top of the slope in Trench 1. It is certainly not demolition rubble from an earlier hall as suggested by the geophysical survey. It also appears to be relatively clean and unmixed. One possible reason could be the levelled or landscaped remains of plough headlands which can build up considerable depths of soil.

8. Conclusion

This evaluation was successful in identifying a number of features highlighted in the geophysical survey. Whilst one of the main aims of the work was to investigate parts of the formal garden the presence of services etc prevented this from taking place. However the features discovered give a valuable insight into the early beginnings of settlement at Barkby and help explain life before the arrival of the Hall.

The presence of relatively locally produced forms of pottery from around the East-Midlands in both Saxon and medieval times suggests a typical pattern of small scale trade or exchange or of limited migration of villagers both into and out of the area. Sooting on the outside of some of the pots gives an insight into the way some of these pots were used. It is not possible to state what was being cooked in these pots but the presence of cattle, sheep and pig bones gives an idea of the domesticated animals being farmed at the time. The single deer bone probably came from the surrounding woodland.

Without further excavation it is not possible to state exactly what the pre Hall road system around Barkby was like. However, the evidence so far coupled with map and earthwork evidence indicates that a number of roads were diverted to the south around the Hall grounds as was common in a number of villages.

9. Archive

The archive consists of site notes, sketches and photographs to be held by Leicestershire County Council under accession number X.A.55.2006. A copy of the site archive and the finds will be retained by J. Pochin esq. at Barkby Hall.

10. Publication

A summary of the archaeological evaluation will be prepared for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. A record will also be submitted to the Archaeology Data Service OASIS Project including a digital version of this report.

11. Bibliography

Cameron, K. *Scandinavian Settlement in the Five Boroughs: The Place-Name Evidence*. In: *Place-Name Evidence for the Anglo-Saxon Invasion and Scandinavian Settlements*. K Cameron. English Place-Name Society. 1977.

Morris, J.(ed). *Domesday Book. Volume 22 Leicestershire*. Phillimore: Chichester. 1979.

Stratascan. Geophysical Survey Report. Barkby Hall, Leicestershire. Report No. 2062

Taylor C. *The Archaeology of Gardens*. Shire Archaeology: Princes Risborough.1983.

Toms, M. *A History of Barkby Village*. The Barkby Local History Committee. 1974.

Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain. Sheet 156.

Ordnance Survey *Landranger map 141 Kettering, Corby and surrounding area*.

12. Acknowledgements

With thanks to Mr J Pochin and family for their interest in this project. The fieldwork was carried out by Andrew Hyam and Dan Prior. The project was managed by Richard Buckley.

Andrew Hyam August 2005

University of Leicester Archaeological Services

University of Leicester University Road, Leicester, LE1 7RH

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

Appendix 1 Figures and Plates



Fig. 1 Site location Original scale 1:50000

Reproduced from the OS map Landranger 141 Kettering, Corby and surrounding area 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 1996. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 10002186.

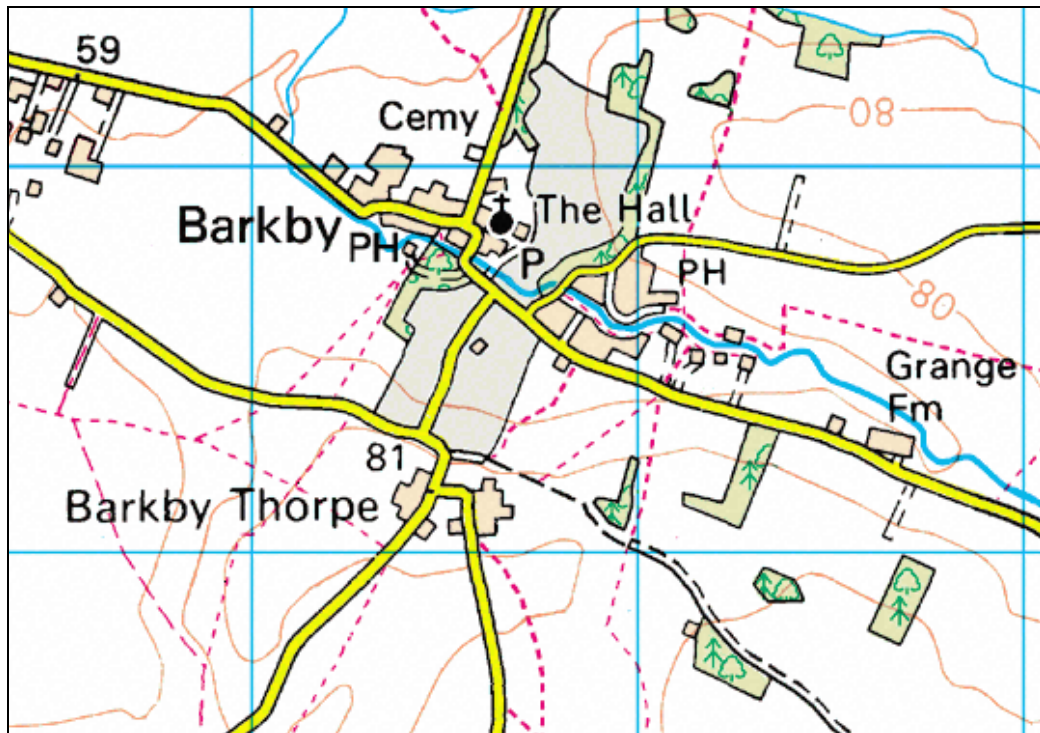


Fig. 2 Close up of site location Original scale 1:50000

Reproduced from the OS map Landranger 141 Kettering, Corby and surrounding area 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 1996. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 10002186.

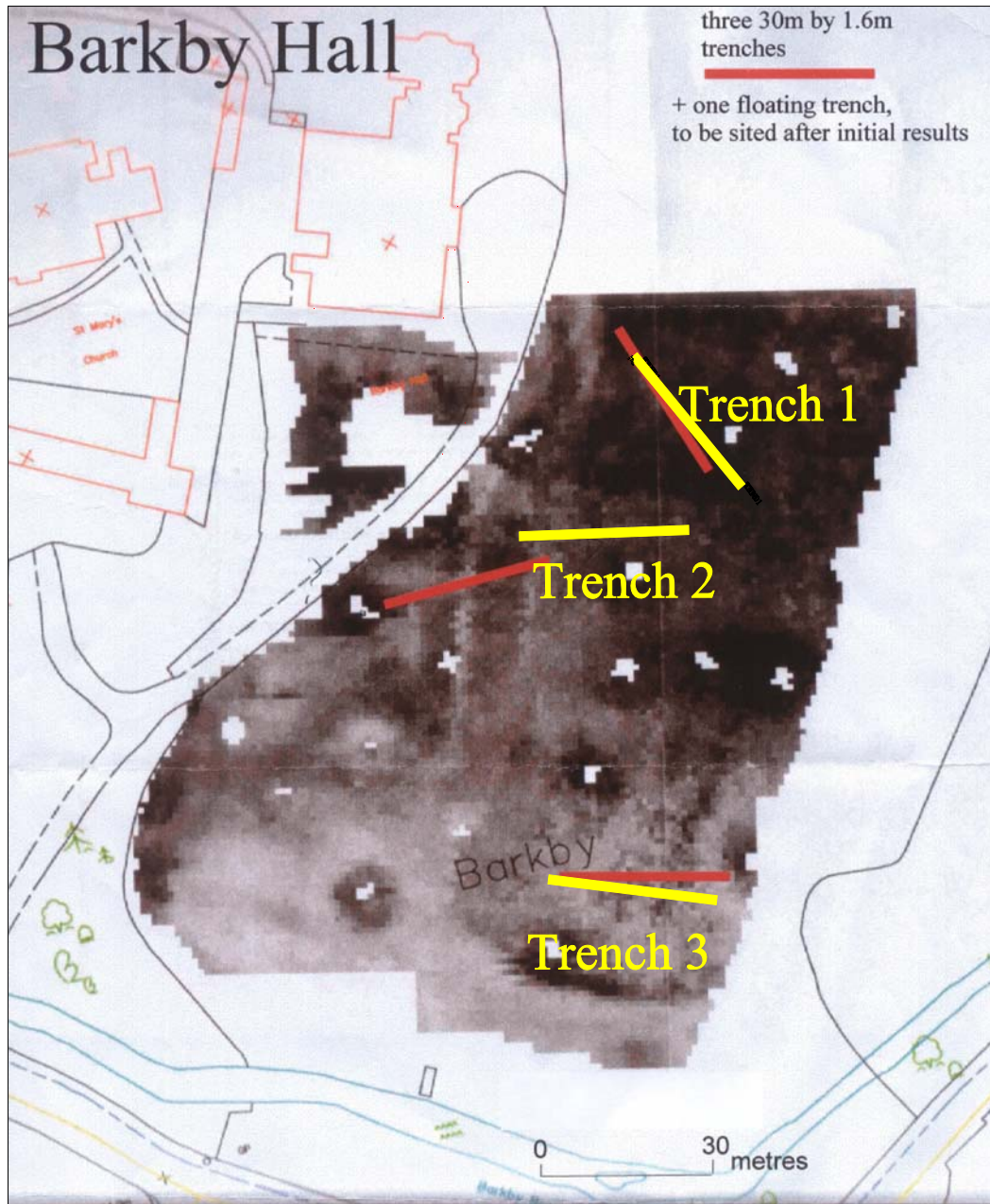


Fig 3. Geophysical results with original trench locations shown in red. Modified trench locations shown in yellow.

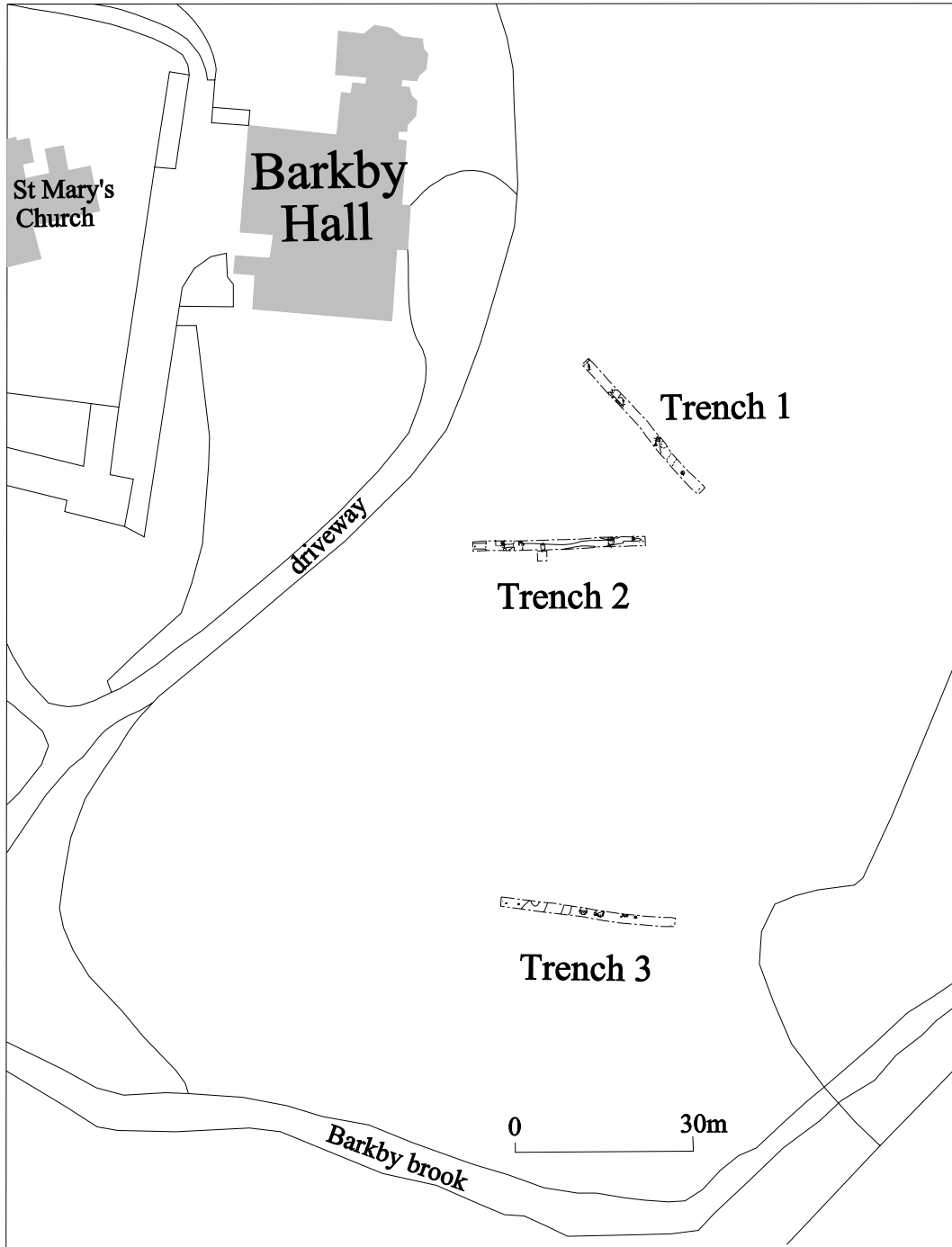


Fig 4. Trench location and detail.

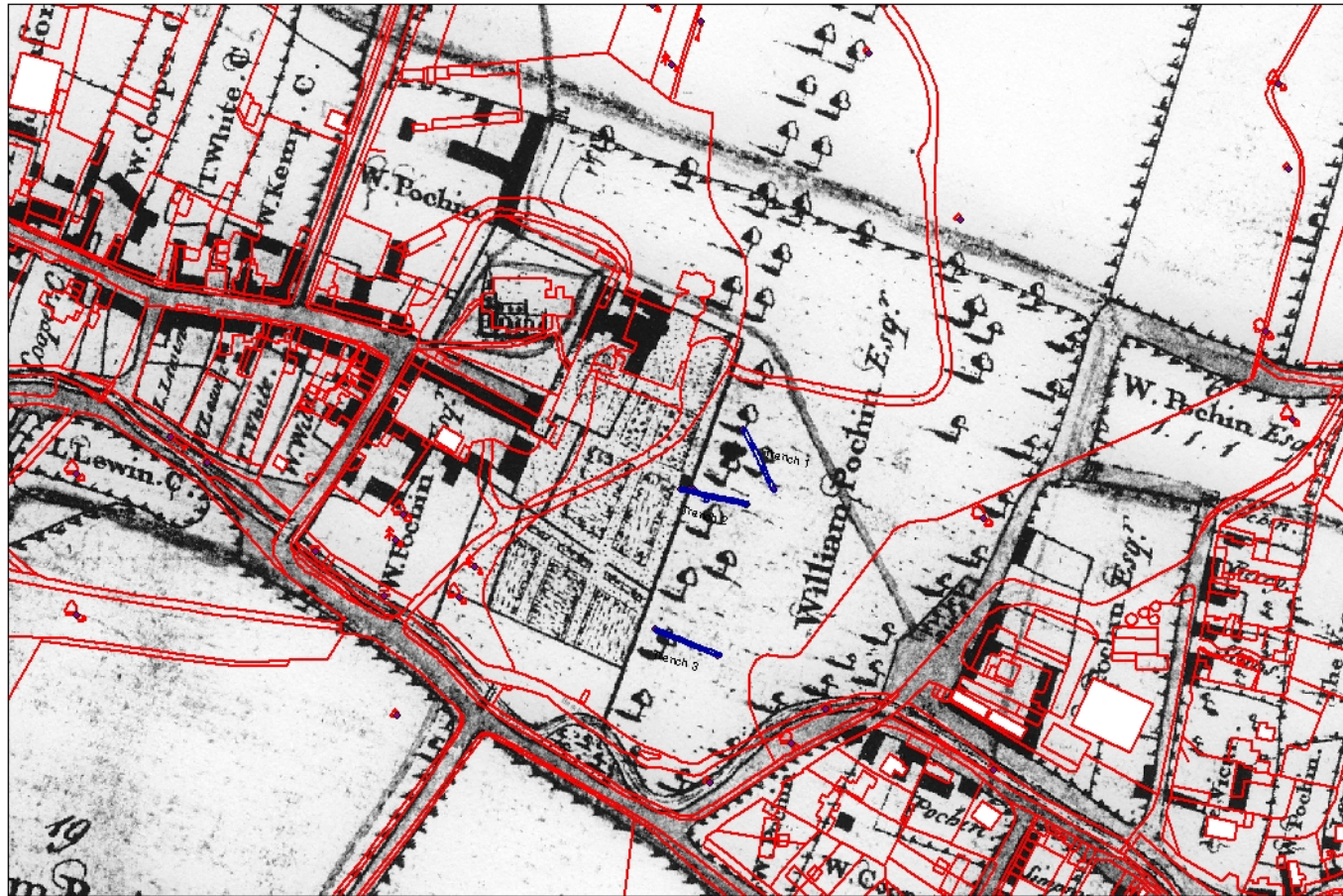


Fig 5. Overlay of modern road system and 1790 map with trenches shown in blue.

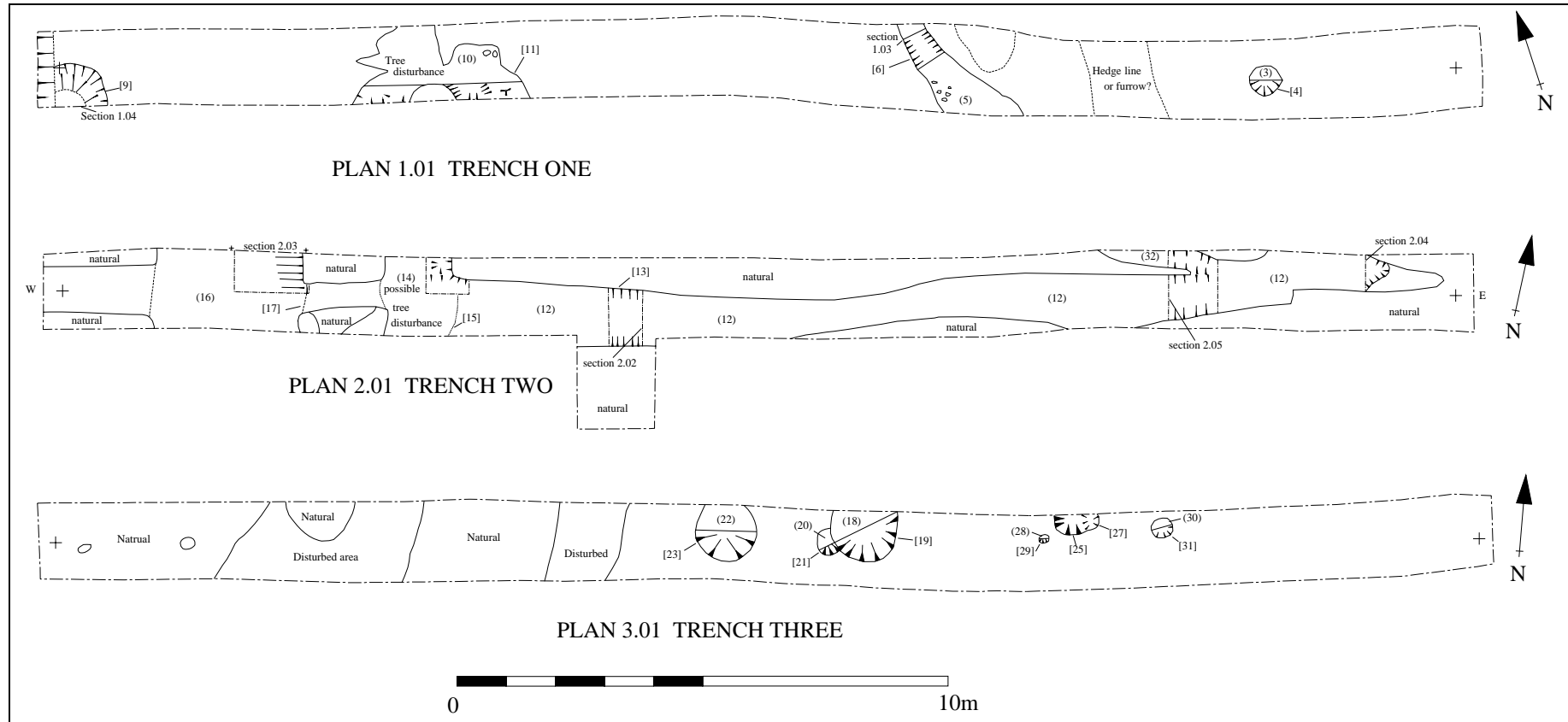
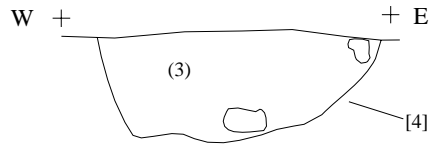
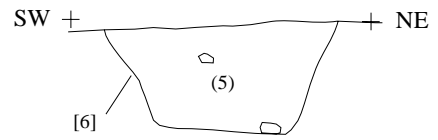


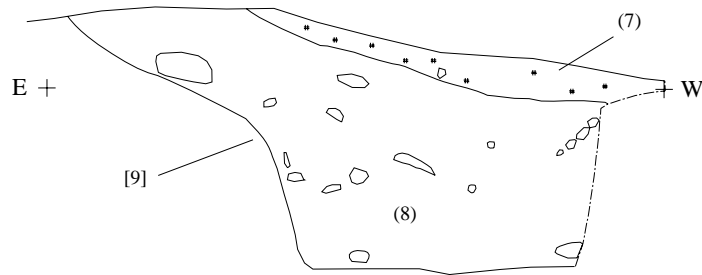
Fig 6. Trench plans.



Section 1.02 posthole [4]



Section 1.03 Linear feature



Section 1.04
Partial section of pit [9]



Fig 7. Trench 1 sections.

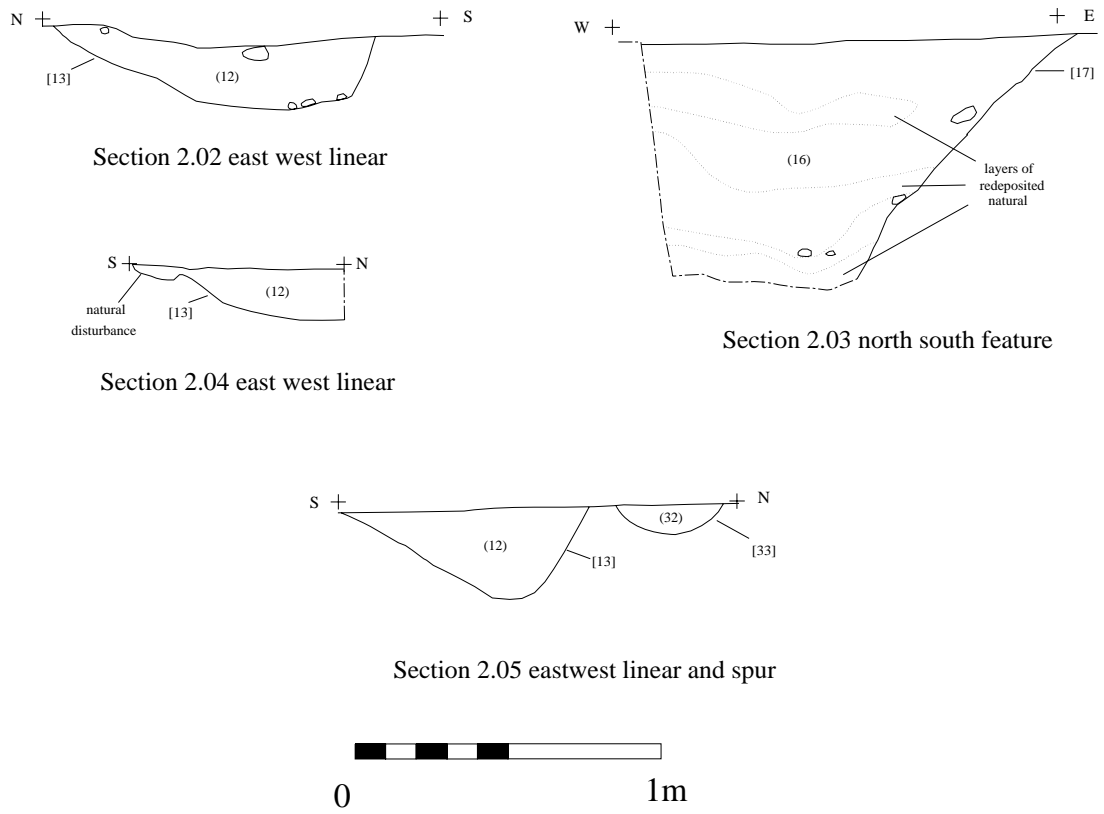


Fig 8. Trench 2 sections.

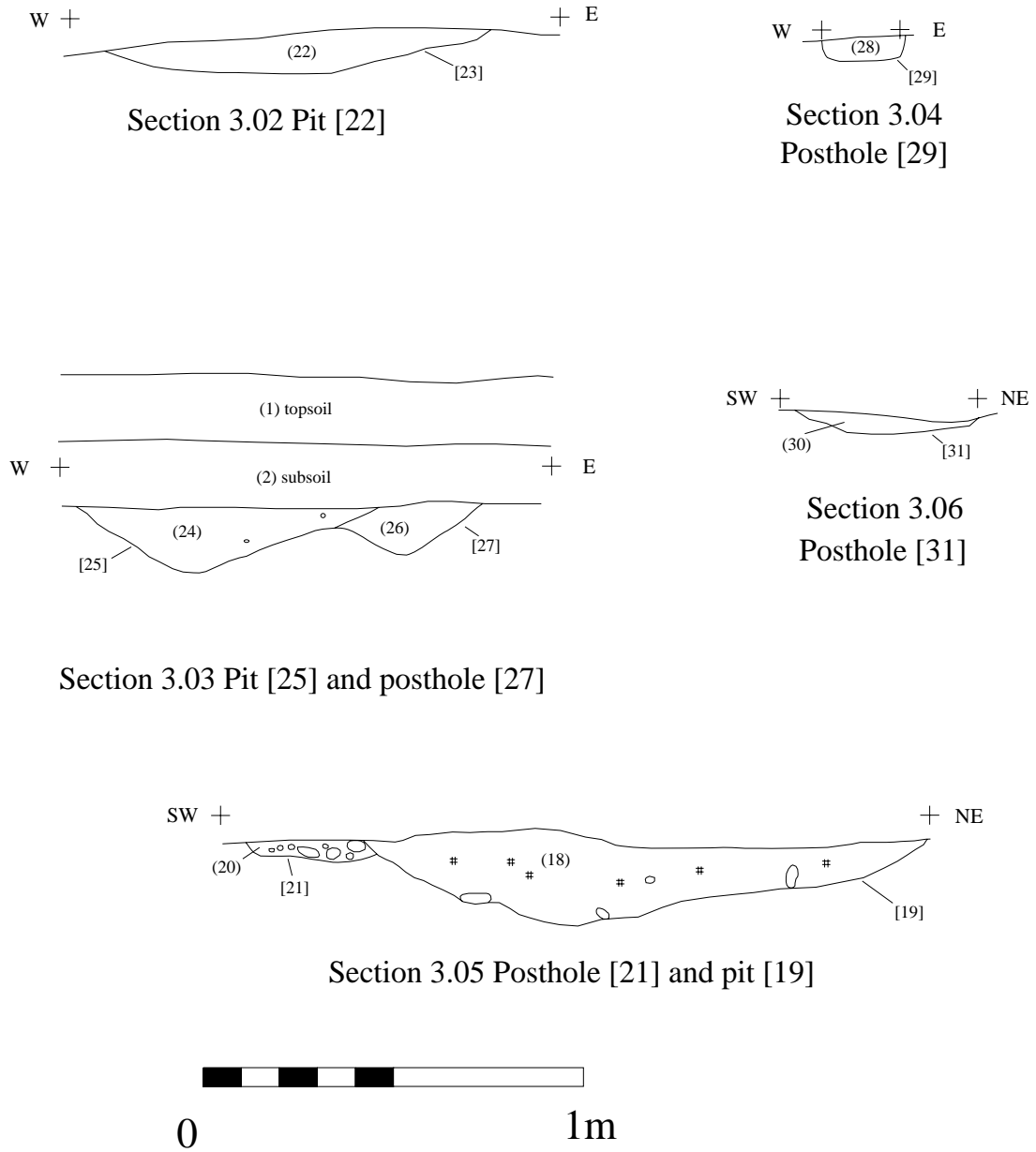


Fig 9. Trench 3 sections.



Plate 1. Looking northeastwards over trenches towards Hall and church.

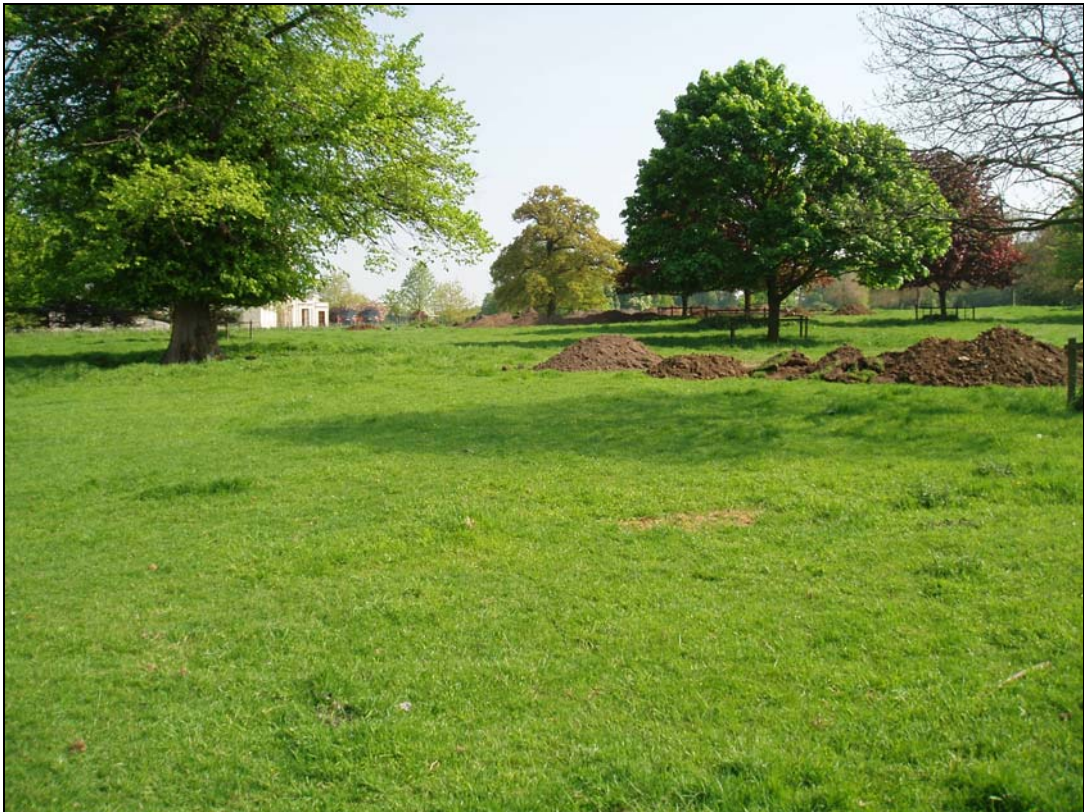


Plate 2. Looking north across the site.



Plate 3. Trench 1 looking east.



Plate 4. Pit [9]



Plate 5. Section 2.02 through linear feature [13]



Plate 6. Section 2.03 through linear feature [17]



Plate 7. Section 3.05 through posthole [21] and pit [19]

APPENDIX 2: The early Saxon and later pottery from an archaeological evaluation in the grounds of Barkby Hall, Barkby, Leicestershire.

3rd Draft

D. Sawday

The Pottery

The twenty sherds, weighing one hundred and sixty two grams, were examined under a binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabric series (Blinkhorn 1999), (Davies and Sawday 1999), and to comparative material from Empingham, Rutland, (Blinkhorn 200). The results are shown below (Table 1).

The Fabrics

All the Saxon sherds were hand made and reduced black, save for two sherds with oxidized buff exterior surfaces in fabric SX1. All were tempered with sub rounded or sub angular granite up to 3mm in size. Two rim fragments in SX1 are probably similar to the globular vessels with flared rims found at Empingham, Rutland and elsewhere in the region (Blinkhorn 2000, fig.47.22). The two sherds in fabric SX2 also contained sub angular quartz/quartzite inclusions up 2mm, and both were finely made and relatively thin walled and burnished, one externally and the other internally and externally. The latter was also decorated with two incised horizontal lines. The single sherd in SX3 was characterized by granitic inclusions and platey and rounded shell up to 1.5 mm in size.

The Saxo Norman and medieval pottery comprised six sherds of wheel thrown, quartz tempered, Stamford ware, six sherds of hand made Potters Marston ware, tempered with syenite (Sawday 1991) and a fragment of hand made shelly ware.

Fabric/Ware	Sherd Nos.	Weight Grams	Av. Sherd Weight
Early/Middle Saxon			
SX1 – Granite Temper	4	54	
SX2 – Granite & Quartz/Quartzite Temper	2	13	
SX3 – Granite & Calcareous Temper	1	4	
Sub Total	7	71	10.1
Saxo Norman/Early Medieval			
ST3 – Coarse Stamford ware	5	49	
ST2 – Fine Stamford ware	1	1	
PM – Potters Marston ware	6	30	
CS – Coarse Shelly ware	1	11	
Sub Total	13	91	7.0
Totals	20	162	

Table 1: The Saxon and later pottery totals by fabric, sherd numbers and weight (grams).

The Stratigraphic Record

Seven sherds of early Saxon pottery, dating from the late fifth or sixth centuries, were the only datable finds recovered from the primary fill of the pit, context [9] in trench 1, and the linear feature [13] in trench 2. Four sherds of coarse Saxo Norman Stamford ware, dating from the late ninth or tenth centuries were found in the tree throw, trench 1, [11], and in the back fill of the pit, trench 3, [25]. The two sherds from the latter context were decorated with rectangular rouletting or roller stamping, a motif typically found on Stamford ware from the tenth century onwards (Kilmurry 1980, 131).

Fine Stamford ware, dating from the tenth to the twelfth centuries, was found in the north south linear feature [17] together with the three sherds of twelfth century Potters Marston ware. This context cut the east west linear feature [13] in trench 2. The fills of the pit [19] and post holes [21] and [27] in trench 3, also produced sherds of twelfth century Potters Marston ware and a piece of Coarse Shelly ware of a similar date range.

Discussion

The granite temper present in all the Saxon sherds is probably Charnwood Forest granodiorite, which is found throughout the eastern Midlands, notably at Orton Hall Farm near Peterborough (Mackreth 1978), Leicester (Blinkhorn 1999) and Empingham, Rutland; Pennyland, Buckinghamshire, and Raunds, Northamptonshire (Blinkhorn 2004, 84). Whether the distribution of this pottery type is the result of trade or of the movement of people and their possessions from the Charnwood Forest area is unclear. This granite tempered pottery has been dated generally to the later fifth and early sixth century, although Blinkhorn has recently suggested a date range of between *circa* AD450-850 may be more appropriate (*ibid*, 2004).

All of the Saxon pottery was recovered from the two trenches lying on the higher ground on the northern side of what was to become the medieval village of Barkby. The Anglo Saxon preference for the defensive benefits and the lighter soils associated with promontories or upland sites has been noted elsewhere (Knox 2004, 103). The presence of both Saxon and Saxo Norman pottery close to the core of what was to become the medieval village is also of interest. The village itself was first described, as are most English villages, in Domesday Book, compiled in 1086.

Saxon pottery has also been recovered from the nearby villages of Barkby Thorpe, (Liddle 1981-2, 87), (Cooper 1997, 128.) and, possibly, Beeby, (Buckley 1991, 106). The increasing number of excavations within medieval settlements has also led to a concomitant increase in the amount of Saxo Norman Stamford ware being found within the historic core of many of the villages, both in Leicestershire and Rutland.

Site/Parish: Barkby Hall, Barkby, Leicestershire	Submitter: A. Hyam
Accession No/ Doc Ref: 2006/barkby1.doc	Identifier: D. Sawday
Material: pottery	Date of Id: 19.5.06
Site Type: medieval village core	Method of Recovery: evaluation

Context	Fabric/ware	No	Grams	Comments
POT				
Early Saxon				
8 [9] Trench 1	SX1 – Saxon ware 1	1	6	Granite tempered simple everted rim fragment, externally thickened, similar globular form with flared rim found at Empingham, Rutland and elsewhere in the region (Blinkhorn 2000, fig.47.22).
8 [9]	SX1	1	20	Granite tempered body sherd
12 [13] Trench 2	SX1	1	4	Granite tempered simple everted rim fragment, similar to the above.
12 [13]	SX2 - Saxon ware 2	1	6	Granite & quartz/quartzite tempered body sherd, burnished internally and externally, with incised horizontal lines on exterior, similar at Empingham and elsewhere (Blinkhorn 2000, fig.47.10).
12 [13]	SX2	1	7	Granite & quartz/quartzite tempered body sherd burnished externally
12 [13]	SX1	1	24	Granite tempered body sherd
12 [13]	SX3 - Saxon ware 3	1	4	Granite and limestone tempered body sherd
Saxo Norman/Early Medieval				
10 [11]	ST3 – Coarse Stamford ware	2	36	Two flat base sherds
16 [17]	ST3	1	7	Body sherd
16 [17]	ST2 – Fine Stamford ware	1	1	Body sherd
16 [17]	PM - Potters Marston	3	14	Body and base sherds, abraded but with some evidence of external sooting
18 [19]	CS – Coarse Shelly ware	1	11	Shoulder of vessel below rim & neck
20 [21]	PM	2	10	Two joining sherds from basal angle with convex base, sooted externally
24 [25]	ST3	2	6	Body sherds, both decorated with rectangular roller stamping (rouletting) on the exterior
26 [27]	PM	1	6	Base sherd, sooted externally

Bibliography

- Blinkhorn, P., 1999. 'The Saxon Pottery' in S. Davies and D. Sawday 1999, 165.
- Blinkhorn, P., 2000. 'The Early-Anglo Saxon Pottery' in N. J. Cooper, *The Archaeology of Rutland Water*, Leicester Archaeology Monograph 6, 98-104.
- Blinkhorn, P., 2004. 'The Early/Middle Anglo-Saxon Pottery' in N. Finn 2004, 84-85.
- Connor, A., and Buckley, R.. *Roman and Medieval Occupation in Causeway Lane, Leicester*, Leicester Archaeology Mon. **5**.
- Buckley, R, 1991. 'Beeby' in Archaeology in Leicestershire and Rutland Reports of Fieldwork 1990, *Trans. Leicestershire Archaeol. and Hist. Soc.* **65**, 85-108 (106).
- Cooper, N, J., 1997. 'Barky Thorpe' in Archaeology in Leicestershire and Rutland Fieldwalking in Leicestershire 1996, *Trans. Leicestershire Archaeol. and Hist. Soc.* **71**, 86-129 (129)
- Davies, S., and Sawday, D., 1999. 'The Post Roman Pottery and Tile' in A. Connor and R. Buckley, 1999, 165-213.
- Finn, N., 2004. *The Origins of a Leicester Suburb*. British Archaeological Reports (British Series) **372**.
- Kilmurry, K., 1980. *The Pottery Industry of Stamford, Lincolnshire, AD 850-1250*. Oxford: Brit. Archaeol. Rep. (Brit. Ser.) **84**.
- Knox, R., 2004. 'The Anglo-Saxons in Leicestershire' in P. Bowman and P. Liddle (eds) 2004, *Leicestershire Landscapes*, Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Fieldwork Group Mon. **1**, 95-104.
- Liddle, P, 1981-2 'Barky Thorpe' in Archaeology in Leicestershire and Rutland Reports of Fieldwork 1982, *Trans. Leicestershire Archaeol. and Hist. Soc.* **57**, 79-93 (87)
- Mackreth, D., 1978. 'Orton Hall Farm, Peterborough: A Roman and Saxon Settlement' in M. Todd (ed) 1978. *Studies in the Romano British Villa Leicester*, Leicester University Pres. 148-155
- Sawday, D., 1991. 'Potters Marston Ware', *Trans. Leicestershire Archaeol. and Hist. Soc.* **65**, 34-37.

APPENDIX 3: The animal bone from an archaeological evaluation in the grounds of Barkby Hall, Barkby, Leicestershire

J. Browning

Animal Bone Fragments		
Context	Frag. No	Comments
8 [9]	7	1 x cattle maxilla, 3 x cattle size shaft, 1x cattle size skull, 1 x pig ulna shaft, 1 x sheep size metatarsal
10 [11]	5	1 x cattle phalanx, 1 x deer metatarsal, 1 x deer metacarpal, 1 x cattle size rib, 1 x cattle size skull
18 [19] Trench 3	5	1 x pig humerus, 1 x cattle tooth, 2 x sheep size shaft, 1 sheep size radius shaft

Appendix 4 Tables

Barkby Hall trench depths

Trench 1							
Orientation: NE-SW							
Length: 30m							
Interval from NE end	0	5	10	15	20	25	30
Topsoil depth (m)	0.40	0.45	0.30	0.23	0.18	0.20	0.20
Subsoil depth (m)	0.60	0.55	0.45	0.36	0.43	0.42	0.50
Top of natural (m)	1.00	1.00	0.75	0.59	0.61	0.62	0.70
Base of trench (m)	1.08	1.04	0.87	0.66	0.64	0.65	0.72

Trench 2							
Orientation: E-W							
Length: 29m							
Interval from W end	0	5	10	15	20	25	29
Topsoil depth (m)	0.20	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.26	0.27	0.28
Subsoil depth (m)	0.32	0.48	0.35	0.51	0.45	0.46	0.51
Top of natural (m)	0.52	0.72	0.60	0.75	0.71	0.73	0.79
Base of trench (m)	0.60	0.84	0.70	0.80	0.75	0.79	0.86

Trench 3							
Orientation: E-W							
Length: 30m							
Interval from W end	0	5	10	15	20	25	30
Topsoil depth (m)	0.15	0.21	0.22	0.13	0.16	0.15	0.21
Subsoil depth (m)	0.18	0.21	0.30	0.14	0.30	0.33	0.46
Top of natural (m)	0.33	0.42	0.52	0.27	0.30	0.33	0.46
Base of trench (m)	0.39	0.58	0.60	0.29	0.31	0.42	0.90

Table 1 Evaluation trench depths.

Barkby Hall context descriptions

No.	Cut No.	Above	Below	Nature of deposit	Notes
1		2		Topsoil	Grey brown sandy silt topsoil
2		natural	1	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy silt subsoil
3	4	4	2	Posthole fill	Mid orange brown sandy clay
4	4	natural	3	Posthole cut	
5	6	6	2	Linear feature fill	Mid grey brown silty sand
6	6	natural	5	Linear feature cut	
7	9	8	2	Pit fill (secondary)	Burnt dark grey clay silt and charcoal
8	9	9	7	Pit fill (primary)	Mid grey brown clay silt
9	9	natural	8	Pit cut	
10	11	11	2	Tree disturbance	Disturbed subsoil
11	11	natural	10	Tree disturbance	Very irregular cut
12	13	13	2	Linear feature fill	Mid grey brown sandy silt
13	13	natural	12	Linear feature cut	
14	15	15	2	Tree disturbance	Mid grey brown sandy silt
15	15	natural	14	Tree disturbance	
16	17	17	2	Fill of pos' ditch	Mix of grey brown clay silt & mid brown orange sandy clay
17	17	natural	16	Cut of pos' ditch	
18	19	19	2	Pit fill	Mid grey brown silty clay
19	19	20	18	Pit cut	
20	21	21	19	Posthole fill	Mid grey brown silty clay
21	21	natural	20	Posthole cut	
22	23	23	2	Pit fill	Mid yellowish brown silty clay
23	23	natural	22	Pit cut	
24	25	25	2	Pit fill	Mid brown silty clay
25	25	26	24	Pit cut	
26	27	27	25	Posthole fill	Mid brown silty clay
27	27	natural	26	Posthole cut	
28	29	29	2	Posthole fill	Mid grey brown silty clay
29	29	natural	28	Posthole cut	
30	31	31	2	Posthole fill	Mid grey brown silty clay
31	31	natural	30	Posthole cut	
32	33	33	2	Spur of linear fill	Mid grey brown sandy silt
33	33	natural	32	Spur cut	

Table 2. Context descriptions