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Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
11-14 Albert Terrace, r/o 3 High Street,
Loughborough, LE11 2PY**

NGR: SK 53730 19671

Richard Huxley



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An Archaeological Watching Brief at 11-14 Albert Terrace, High Street, Loughborough LE11 2PY

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Summary

The Watching Brief at 11-14 Albert Terrace, consisted of the excavation of one small trench for the underpinning of a 19th century wall and the excavation of footings for the construction of a building. No features were found in the trench but numerous pits and post-holes were found during the excavation of the footings. There appeared to be several different phases of activity with evidence for early and later medieval features and post-medieval pits. The south-eastern half of the site was found to contain a large later medieval cess pit which contained well preserved environmental remains in the base. In addition to this a large pit was found which contained a mixture of pottery dating from 850-1050 and 1250-1400. Numerous plant remains were found in the fill, and the feature appears to post-date a line of post holes which contained pottery dated 1050-1150. These post holes may represent a fence line or boundary extending from Baxter Gate towards the south. Another small group of post holes was found that may represent part of a structure or stockade. A rare find of Saxon pottery dated 400-700 was also recovered from the site. The evidence found during the watching brief appears to suggest early phases of activity prior to Loughborough acquiring its market status in 1221.

The report will be archived under accession number XA.9-2017

Cover photo: Excavation of the footings.

Introduction

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 16 *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* this document forms the report for a Watching Brief undertaken at 11-14 Albert Terrace, r/o High street, Loughborough. It details the programme of archaeological work that was undertaken from January-April 2019 and follows the strategy of work set out in the Written Scheme for Investigation (WSI; ULAS 2016).

The work is related to groundworks associated with the proposed construction of a building containing 7 flats (P/16/0461/2). The site is occupied by a 19th century building, which is included on the HER (**MLE 20795**). The Planning Officer at Charnwood Borough Council has requested mitigation on the form of archaeological attendance and recording to ensure that any archaeological remains are investigated and recorded.



Figure 1: Location of Albert Terrace in Loughborough (in black box).

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Site Description, Topography and Geology

The town of Loughborough lies in the district of Charnwood in north Leicestershire and the proposed development is located centrally, at the junction of the High street and Baxter Gate (see Figure 1 and Figure 2) (SK 53730 19671) . The site is accessed through a covered walkway off the High street and occupies an area of circa 100m² at a height of approximately 42m aOD.

The British Geological Survey website indicates that the underlying geology comprises Edwalton Member Mudstone overlain in places by Birstall Member sand and gravel.

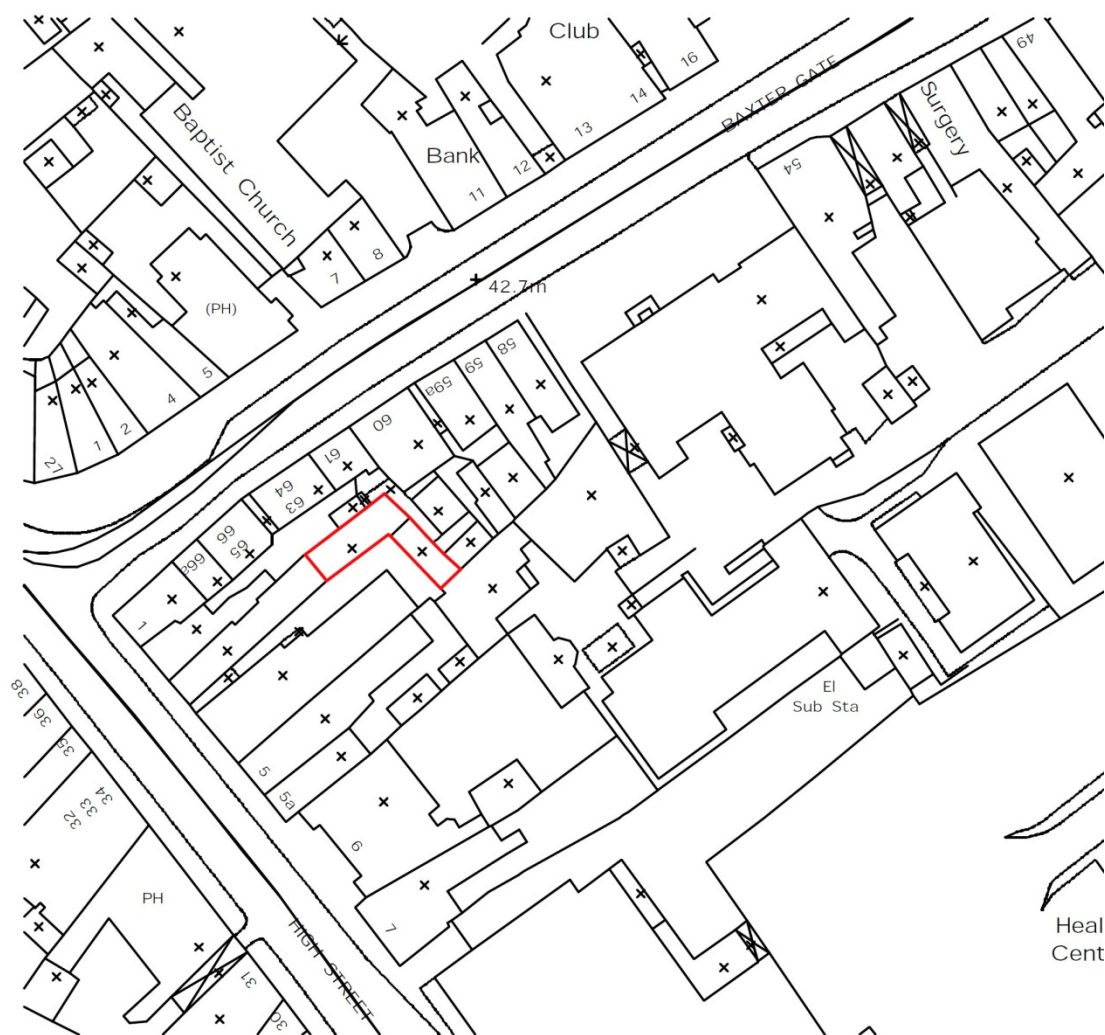


Figure 2: Plan of proposed development area (Highlighted red).
 Provided by developer. Scale approx. 1: 1250

Historical Background

Loughborough is referred to in the Domesday Book (1086) as land owned by Earl Hugh. There were '8 villagers with 15 Freemen and 16 smallholders owning 12 ½ ploughs, two mills at 10 shillings; meadow 45 acres; woodland 7 furlongs long and 3 furlongs wide. Five thane held them freely' (Morgan, 1979). The town is referred to as 'Lucteburne'. Loughborough appears to mean, in Old English, 'fortified house of a man called Luhhede' (Mills 2003).

The earliest settlement at Loughborough was confined on the north and east by the Soar valley flood plain and on the south and west by the slopes leading up to Charnwood Forest. The town had an important position as it lay on the route over the Soar and through the valley itself. It also lies equidistant between Leicester, Derby and Nottingham and so making it an ideal trading and transport route. It originally lay in the West Goscote Hundred, now in Charnwood District.

At the time of Domesday Loughborough probably had a population of about 180-200, making it a fairly large village for the time. By the 13th century Loughborough had become a busy little market town. By the late 16th century the population may have been as high as 2,000 people, although outbreaks of plague throughout the later medieval and post-medieval periods would have reduced this, although the population appeared to have recovered and grew further.

There was a severe fire in the town in October 1666 not long after the Great Fire of London, which destroyed over 200 houses, if the wind had been blowing into the town the whole of Loughborough may have been destroyed. There were several further fires and in 1720, the *Magna Britannica* recorded: "of late years, it has undergone many calamities by fire, insomuch that it hath been almost quite destroyed by this merciless element." (Gibson 2014)

In the early 17th century the town was described as: 'great and large, well situated by reason of the wood and water, adorned with many fair buildings and a large church'. From the late 17th century there were framework knitters in Loughborough. They largely worked in their own homes until the industry became mechanised in the 19th century.

The Loughborough Canal opened in 1778. In 1801 the town had a population of over 4,500 but by 1841 the population of Loughborough was over 10,000. The railway reached Loughborough in 1840. The Brush Works, a key maker of electrical transformers and large electrical machines, is situated close to the current railway station. The company, which initially manufactured lights, moved from London in 1889 and bought out the old Falcon Works that produced locomotives and cars (localhistories.org/loughborough.html). The Town Hall was built in 1855 and clean water improved the often insanitary condition of the burgeoning town. In 1888 Loughborough was made a borough. A key industry in the town at the end of the 19th century was bell manufacture and Robert Taylor's bell foundry is the largest operating bell foundry. Its heritage can be traced back to the 14th century.

The early 19th century buildings at Albert Terrace, Loughborough are listed on the Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland (HER Ref. No. **MLE20795**). The HER also lists a large number of other sites in the vicinity of the assessment area. These are largely post-medieval and modern buildings, some of which are Listed. Medieval and post-medieval remains were found at Sparrow Hill during archaeological work here (**MLE17420 & MLE17421**), 250m north-east of the assessment area. A large amount of medieval remains, including pits, post-holes and cellar, plus ditches and a metalled surface were found at The Rushes, 350m north-west of the assessment area (**MLE8981**).

Archaeological Background

Prehistoric

Prehistoric remains including pits and post-holes were found during archaeological work on land near the Curzon Cinema, 230m south of the assessment area (**MLE15808**). Iron Age pottery was found at Queen's Park, 430m south-west of the site (**MLE10059**).

Roman

A Roman coin was found in Cobden Street, 300m east of the site (**MLE7749**).

Medieval

The assessment area lies within the medieval settlement core of the town. The town has Anglo-Saxon origins (**MLE693**). The town was granted a charter to hold a market in the 13th century. The remains of a medieval manorial complex, comprising manor house, a chapel, rabbit warren and fishponds lies 500m north-east of the assessment area (**MLE10118**). Medieval, and post-medieval remains were found at a site in Woodgate, 300m south-west of the assessment area in 2010 (**MLE19780**). A medieval timber built house lay at Church Gate, 175m north of the site (**MLE629**). There was another further to the south (**MLE627**) and Site of a rich 13th century merchant's house lay nearby (**MLE600**) and another timber framed building lies 130m

north-west of the site (**MLE631**). The shop at 37, Church Gate has a 16th century structure, possibly part of 'a great hall' (**MLE13363**) and there is a further timber framed building at 39-40 Church Gate (**MLE13365**). A medieval wall, now demolished was discovered lying between Baxter Gate and Pinfold Gate on the line of a medieval burgage plot, 100m east of the site (**MLE20738**).

Post-medieval-modern

There are a large number of post-medieval and modern buildings within the vicinity of the assessment area, and the buildings that lie on the site are themselves listed on the HER. A Historic building assessment of these has been prepared for a previous application (Bradwell 2008)

The buildings are part of an early 19th century backland courtyard development. They are L-shaped in plan and consist of a 2-storey building parallel to Baxter gate with a single storey building at right angles to it. The interior has been stripped out, with no floors or ceilings and with the rooms open to the roof. The cross walls have survived. All the original fixtures and fittings have been removed and the only surviving features that might be original are horizontal sliding sash windows in the first floor of the 2-storey building. Externally there is an interesting blocked opening consisting of a broad arch. They are generally in a poor state of repair (**MLE20795**).

Aims and Objectives

The aims of the archaeological observation, attendance were:

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

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the recording was to establish the nature, extent, date, depth and significance of the heritage assets within their local and regional context.

Research Objectives

The initial objectives were 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 research aims were identified based on the current state of knowledge within the development area. The research aims were re-assessed and updated during the course of the fieldwork. The proposed archaeological work could contribute towards:

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

Methodology

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2014). The Leicestershire County Council Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological work Leicestershire and Rutland were also adhered to.

One trench was excavated within the building with the aim of underpinning a wall. The archaeologist inspected the trenches and any deposits were recorded where appropriate. After the demolition of the building the archaeologist monitored the groundworks during the excavation of the footings.

An accession number/site code was obtained prior to commencement of the project and used to identify all records and artefacts. The project involved the observation of groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist. Excavation was carried out with a machine appropriate for the work fitted with a flat-bladed bucket to expose the underlying strata. The machine did not track over any surfaces until the archaeologist has inspected and cleared the area. Any archaeological deposits revealed were investigated and recorded onto prepared proforma recording sheets using standard procedures as outlined in the ULAS recording manual.

Results

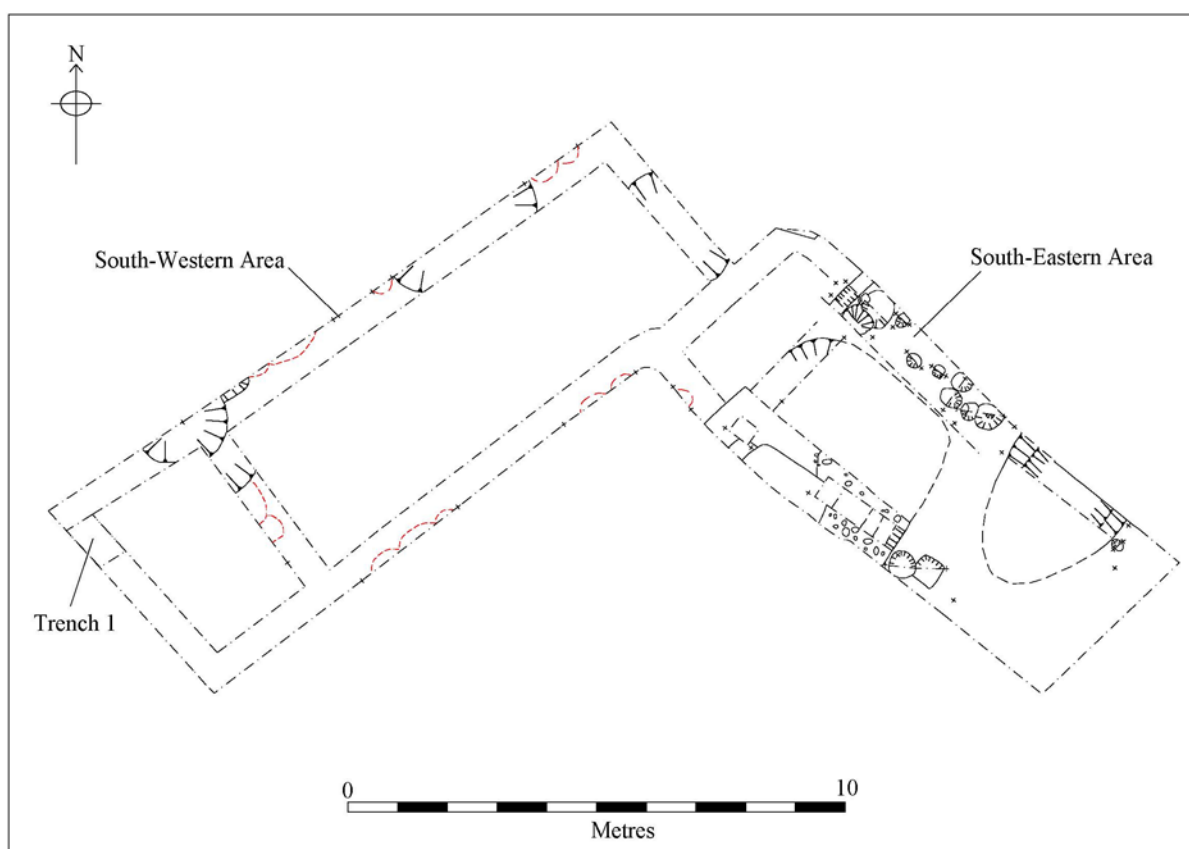


Figure 3: Overall Plan of the areas covered by the archaeological work

Trench 1

Trench 1 was positioned in the north-western corner of the proposed development (Fig. 3), on the eastern side of the wall to be underpinned and was hand-dug to a depth of 1.2m through a brick floor overlying a layer of mortar (Fig. 4). Two construction cuts for the eastern and western walls were visible beneath this layer. The western cut measured more than 0.2m wide, was 0.2m deep and filled with a light blueish-grey mortar overlaying stones. The eastern construction cut measured more than 0.35m wide by 0.2m deep and was filled with moderately sized stones which were bonded with yellow clay. Both the floor surface and the lower part of the wall were composed of relatively thin hand-made bricks.

The construction cuts for the walls were dug into a 0.25m thick layer (01) that was composed of mid brownish green sandy silt. Beneath this layer was a 0.4m thick layer of friable mid brownish yellow sand (02) with a small amount of silt and regular small stones. Below this was a 0.13m thick layer of mid brownish green silty sand (03) containing regular small rounded stones. The base of the trench contained a 0.11m thick layer of friable silty sand (04) that was coloured dark green with black patches and contained regular small stones. The lower layers in the trench may represent variations of the natural substratum.



Figure 4: Trench 1 in the northern end of the building, looking south.

South-Western Area

Once the building was demolished the excavation of the footings in the south-western area revealed several post-holes and pits (Fig. 5). These features were mostly recorded in the sides of the foundation trenches. This area was covered by a 0.46m thick layer of dark brownish grey coloured loamy sandy silt (78). The overburden contained building rubble consisting of large stones, slate and mortar. An undated round bowl spoon made from copper alloy (Sf.1) was found within this layer above pits [74] and [76] in the southern edge of site. The pits measured 0.54-0.6m wide, by 0.18m deep and had moderately sloping concave or convex sides with a concave base. They were both filled with a light brownish grey coloured silty sand (contexts (75) and (77)) that contained a few small pebbles.

To the south-west three more pits ([66], [68] and [70]) were found in the side of the foundation trench (Figs 4 and 8). These features were poorly defined but measured between 0.44-0.9m wide, by 0.34-0.4m deep and had moderately sloping straight or concave sides with concave base. The features were filled with either a light yellowy brown or dark brownish grey coloured sandy silt (contexts (67), (69) and (71)). A thin layer of red clay was partially overlaying the fills of [66] and [68].



Figure 5: Pits [66], [68] and [70] in the south-eastern edge of site.

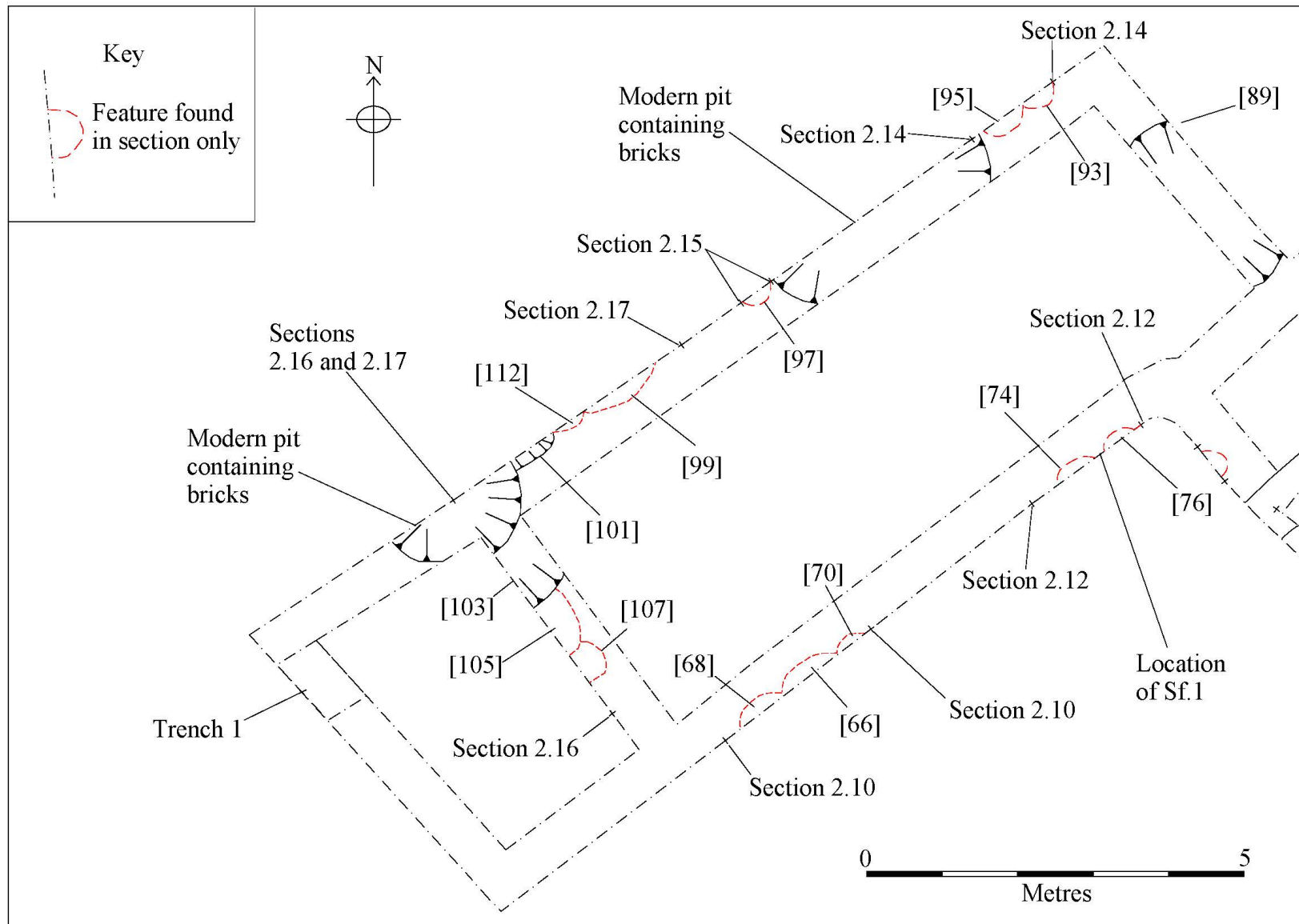


Figure 6: Plan of the features found in the south-western half of site.

To the north-west of these features, in the central area a cluster of intercutting pits was identified (Fig. 8). The earliest was pit [107] which measured 0.56m wide, by 0.2m deep. It was filled with a mid-reddish brown coloured silty sand (108) and was truncated by pit [105] on its northern edge. Pit [105] measured 1.1m wide and 0.2m deep. Its fill was dark reddish brown silty clay (106) and was truncated on its northern edge by pit [103]. Pit [103] measured 1m wide, by 0.4m and was filled with a light blueish grey silty clay (104) with red patches and flecks of charcoal.

These pits were truncated to the north-west by a large modern pit containing fragments of bricks and plastic. Beneath the north-eastern side of these pits were three undated pits (cuts [101], [112] and [99]) which measured 0.6-1.28m wide by 0.24-0.36m deep (Figs 7 and 8). They all had sloping sides and a concave base. Pit [101] was filled with a light blueish grey sandy clay (102) with large stones. Pits [99] and [112] both contained light orangey or greyish brown coloured sandy silt (contexts (100) and (113)).



Figure 7: Pits [101] and [99] in the north-west corner of site.

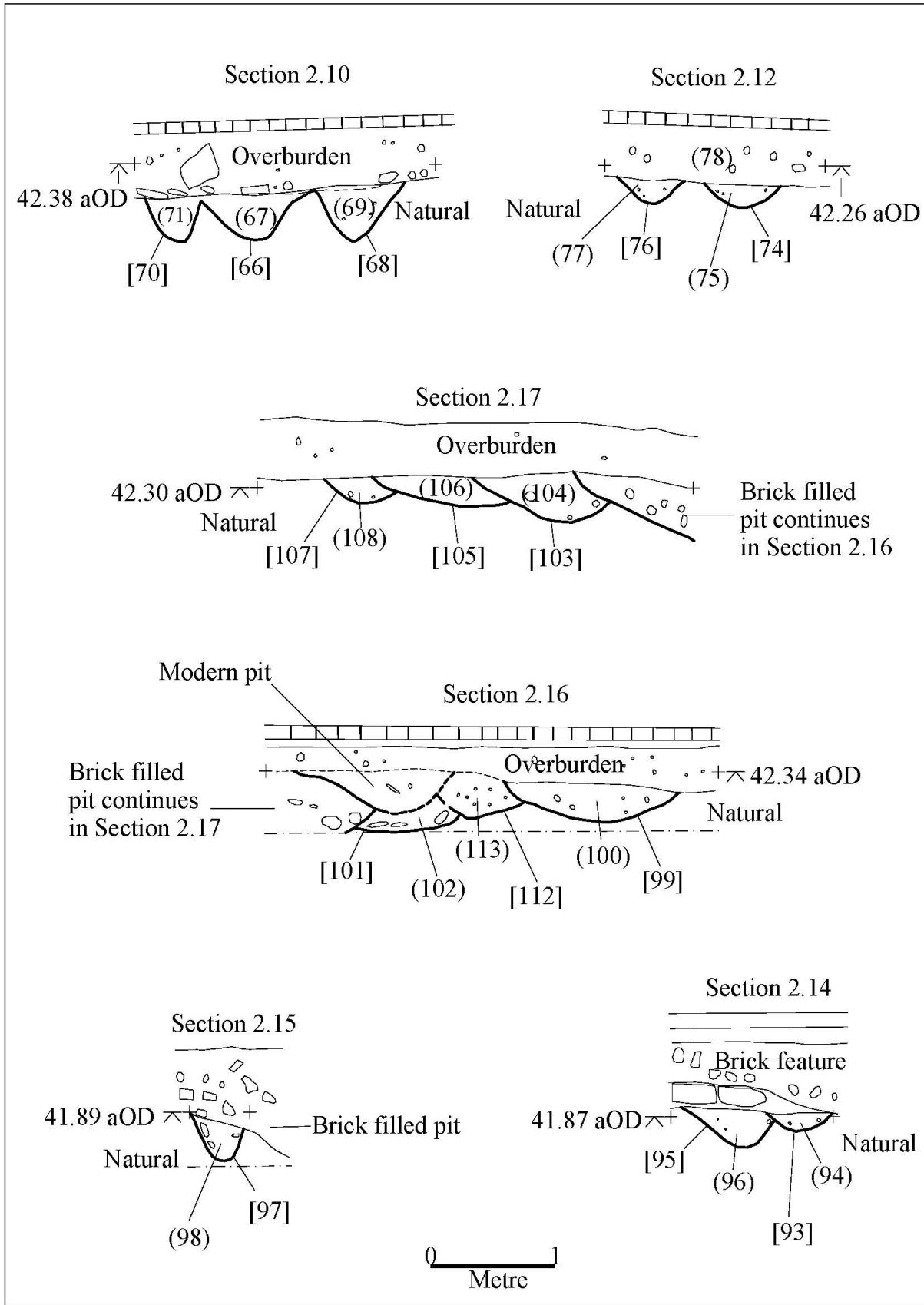


Figure 8: Sections through the features found in the south-western half of site.

A large brick filled modern pit dominated the north-western edge of the area, deeper than the excavated foundation trenches. A shallow post-hole [97] was found beneath the western edge of the pit measuring 0.38m wide by 0.31m deep (Figs 8 and 9). This feature had steep concave sides and was filled with a mid-brownish grey sandy silt (98) with charcoal. Tiny flecks of bone were found within this feature but the fragments were too small and poorly preserved to retain.



Figure 9: Shallow post-hole [97] found beneath a brick filled pit.

To the north-east of the modern pit several shallow features were identified. Pits [93] and [95] lay beneath a 19th century brick feature and measured more than 0.2m long, by 0.5-0.6m wide, by 0.14-0.3m deep (Figs 8 and 10). Pit [93] was filled with a dark brownish grey clay silt (94) and pit [95] was filled with a mid-orangey brown silty sand (96). No artefacts were found in these features, but pit [93] appeared to be truncating pit [95].



Figure 10: Pits [94] and [95] found beneath a 19th century brick feature.

A large pit [89] was found in the north-east corner. This was 2.5m long, more than 1m wide and over 1m deep. The feature was filled with a dark brownish grey coloured sandy silt (90). Large amounts of stones and fragments of factory made brick were found within the feature which continued to the north-east where much less stone and medieval pottery dating 1075-1150 was found. It is not clear whether the pottery is residual or if a medieval pit has been disturbed by the later pit.

To the south-east of pit [89] a shallow wall footing (92) was found which constructed out of a mixture of granodiorite and other stones. These measured 0.3m across and survived in two courses that were bonded with lime mortar. The wall was shallow and appeared to date to the later post-medieval or modern periods.

South-Eastern Area

The south-eastern half of the development area was covered by three layers. The upper layer was a dark brownish grey silty sand, 0.3m thick. Beneath this was a 0.38m thick layer of mid yellowy brown silty sand (110) containing stones, mortar and slate. Beneath this was a 0.15m thick layer of mid greyish brown silty sand (109) which contained a few small pebbles. In the north eastern corner a wooden post was found dug into the top of these layers and the edge of a cellar constructed from hand-made bricks was visible (Fig. 11). These overlaying layers were mostly removed prior to the archaeologist arriving although small patches remained across the site. Several fragments of medieval pottery dated 1050-1550 were recovered from the disturbed ground (10) and several features were visible beneath this layer in the location of the planned footings.



Figure 11: South-eastern corner of site.

Beneath the cellar in the south-eastern corner a large pit [05] was found (Figure 14) this measured 3m wide by more than 2.6m long and was 0.92-0.1m deep. The pit was not fully exposed and continued beneath the eastern edge of site but appeared to be oval in shape. The initial cleaning of the feature (09) produced pottery dated from the late 10th to 12th century with a single sherd of Saxon pottery dated 400-700. The pit had moderately sloping convex sides with a flat base and contained several deposits (Figs 13-14). The initial filling of the pit (deposits (14) and (15)) were both composed of light brownish grey silty sand with patches of redeposited natural and the occasional large stones. These are likely to be formed from material falling back into the feature after its initial excavation.

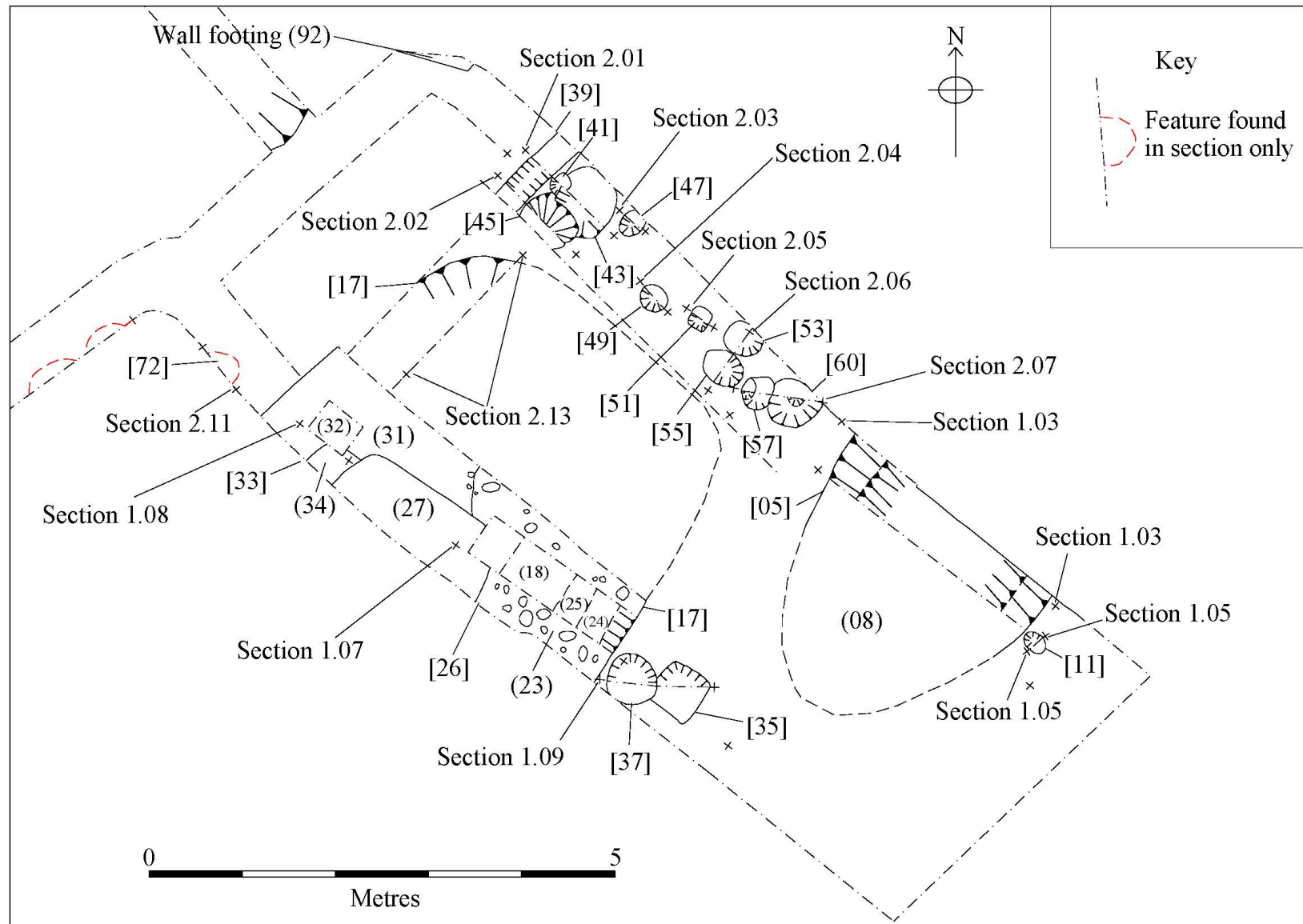


Figure 12: Plan of the features found in the south-eastern half of site.

The base of the pit contained a dark blueish grey silty sand (06) which contained flecks of charcoal and pottery dated to 1250-1400+. The deposit was sampled which found numerous plant remains including grains, peas, broad beans and wild flowers. Overlaying this was a 0.2m thick layer of mid brownish grey silty sand (16) which contained pottery dated 850-1050+. Covering this deposit was a 0.14m thick layer of mid-brownish red clay (07) that contained flecks of charcoal with coal and appeared to represent a deliberate capping of the pit. The upper layer (08) was a mixed deposit of mid greyish brown silty sand with patches of red and yellow clay which appeared to represent a deliberate back filling of the feature.

Close to the southern edge of pit [05] was a shallow sub-oval post-hole [11]. This feature measured 0.26m long by 0.16m wide and 0.1m deep. The lower fill (12) measured 0.12m thick and comprised a mid-brownish grey silty sand. The upper fill (13) which was a dark reddish brown coloured loamy silt, contained medieval pottery dated 1075-1150. This fill measured 0.04m thick and is likely to be formed from a decayed wooden post.

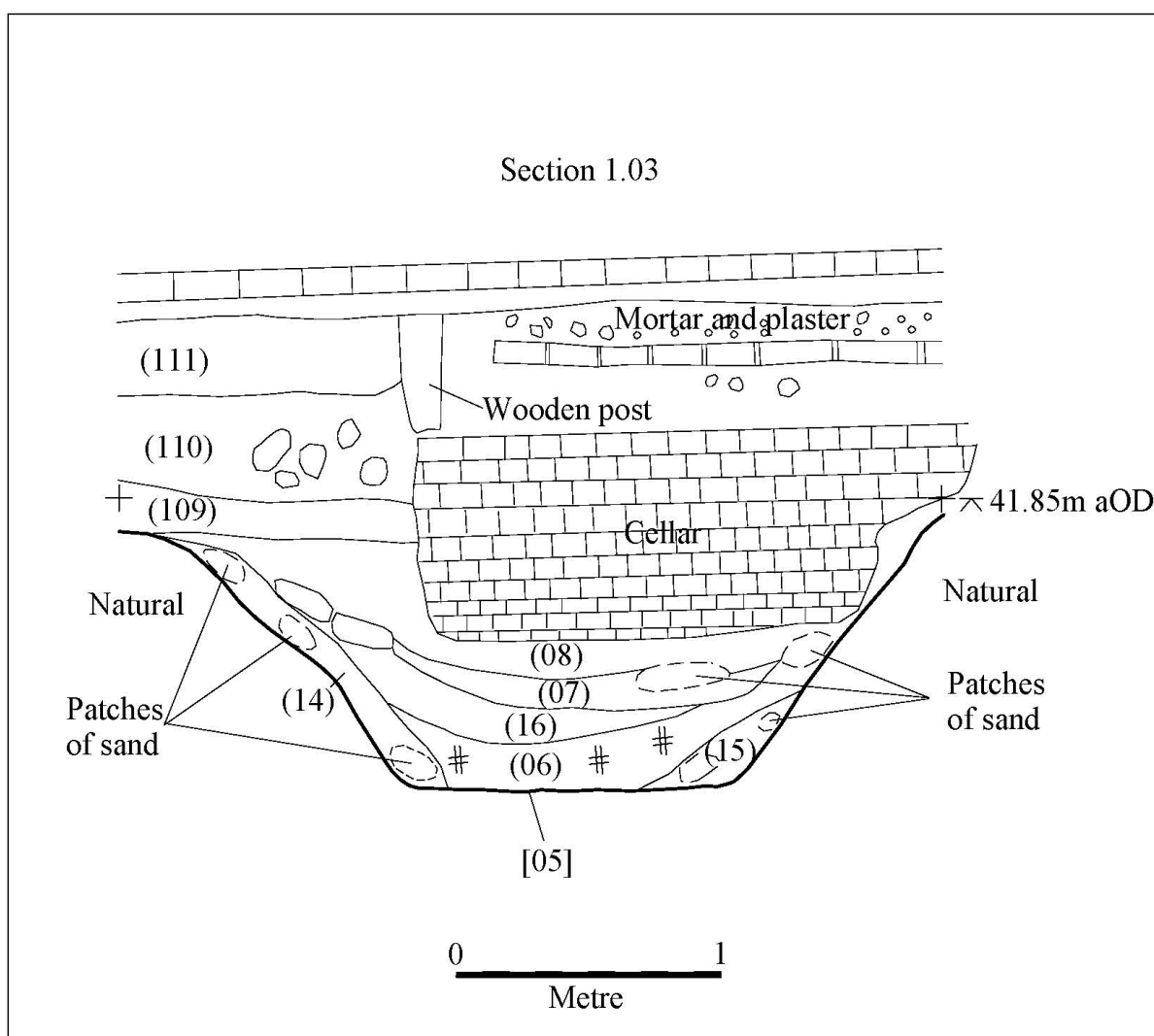


Figure 13: Section through pit [05].



Figure 14: Pit [05] beneath the cellar in the north-eastern corner of site.

A cluster of post-holes and pits were found against the north-eastern edge of the site (Fig. 16). To the east were two intercutting post-holes [57] and [60]. Post-hole [57] was sub-oval in shape and measured 0.34m long, by 0.32m wide and 0.06m deep (Fig. 15). Its primary fill (59) was composed of a 0.06m thick layer of light greyish brown sandy silt with an upper dark blackish brown loamy sandy silt layer (58). The upper fill is likely to be formed from a decayed wooden post and the feature appears similar to post-hole [11]. Against the north-eastern edge of this feature a second poorly defined sub-oval post-hole [60] was found. This measured 0.52m long, by 0.54m wide, by 0.27m deep and had moderate or steeply sloping convex sides with a concave base. The feature was filled with a mid-brownish grey sandy silt (61) which contained medium sized stones.

To the west another sub-oval post-hole [55] was found which measured 0.46m long, by 0.36m wide and 0.14m deep. The feature had moderately sloping concave sides with a concave base and was filled with a dark greyish brown coloured loamy sandy silt (56). This deposit occasionally contained charcoal flecks with small stones and may also have been formed from decayed wooden post similarly to post-holes [11] and [57].

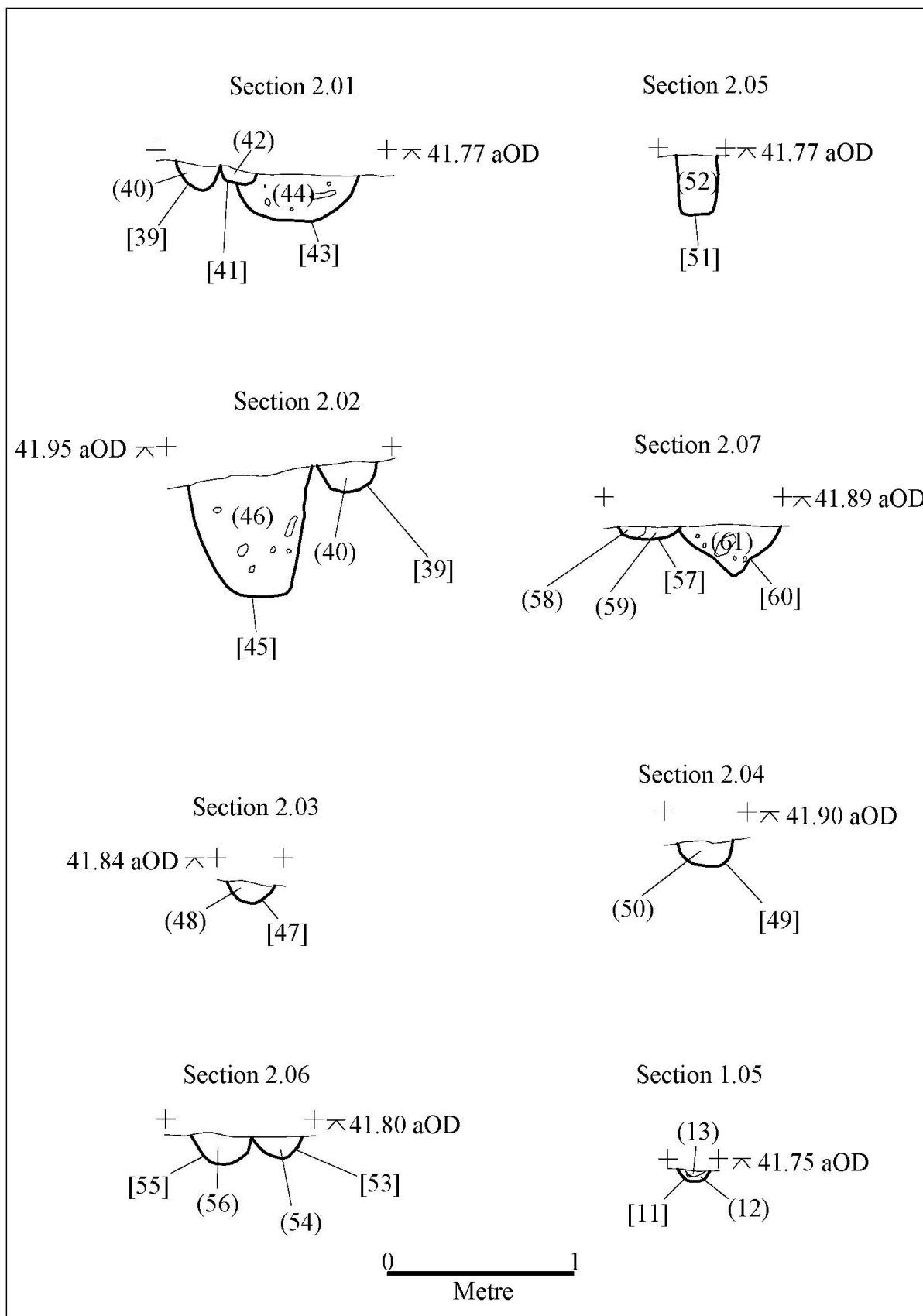


Figure 15: Post-holes found against the north-eastern edge of site.

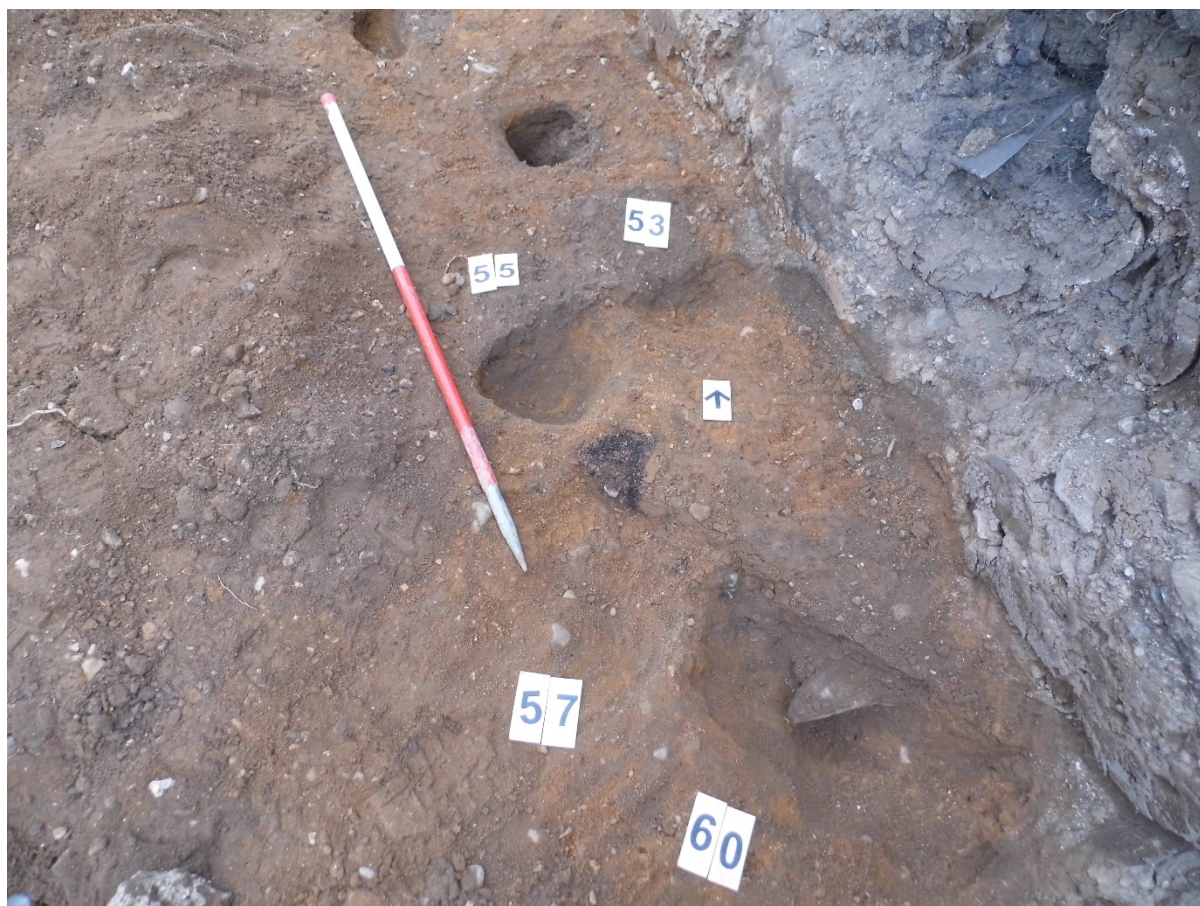


Figure 16: Cluster of post-holes found against the north-eastern edge of site.

A small group of post-holes (cuts [47], [49], [51] and [53]) were all sub-oval or sub-rectangular shapes. The post-holes were 0.11-0.32m deep and contained similar fills of light brownish grey sandy silt (contexts (48), (50), (52) and (54)). The fills were soft, friable light brownish grey sandy silt that occasionally contained small stones. No pottery was recovered from these features but animal bone from a large mammal was found in post hole [47]. The group was truncated by a modern feature [65] containing a wooden beam (63) in the base with a metal rod attached and the light brownish yellow silty sand (64) contained fragments of engineering bricks.

Two intercutting pits to the north ([43] and [45]) measured 0.62-0.7m long, by 0.66m wide and 0.24-0.64m deep. The southerly pit [45] was the deepest and filled with a light yellowish brown silty sand (46). The northern pit contained a mixed mid brownish grey clayey silt with sand (44). A small sub-oval post-hole [41] was dug into the top of the pit filled with a dark greyish brown loamy sandy silt (42) similar to the fill of features [11], [55] and [57]. To the north of post hole [41] lay gully [39] which was orientated north-east to south-west. The feature measured over 0.9m long, by 0.3m wide, by 0.17m deep and was filled with a light greenish grey sandy silt (40) that contained small stones.

A large rectangular cess pit [17] dominated the western side. Due to its size and the rate of machining different sides of the feature were visible on different days. The cess pit measured 4.5m wide by more than 3m long and was more than 0.82m deep (the base was not exposed). The eastern edge was cleaned and a mixture of later medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered (context (29) along with animal bone. A slot excavated into the top identified a series of fills (Figs 19 and 20). The lowest deposit excavated was more than 0.3m thick and consisted

of a dark reddish brown, loamy humic silt (18) which resembled peat. It contained animal bone, cattle teeth and small fragments of preserved wood. It was sampled and contained numerous preserved seeds in addition to charred plant remains.



Figure 17: Layers found in the eastern edge of cess pit [17].

Overlaying (18) was a 0.08m thick layer of dark greyish brown humic sandy silt (19), containing slate fragments. This layer contained medieval pottery dating 1375-1550 as well as mortar and cattle bones. A thin 0.06m layer of light brownish grey clay silt (28) overlay this which contained medieval pottery dated 1450-1550. Above this a 0.12m thick layer of light reddish pink sandy silt (20) contained medieval pottery dating from the 12th to 16th centuries and a thin layer of mid brownish grey coloured silty sand (21) contained cattle bones. Above this a light yellowy green and red coloured silty clay (22), measuring 0.22m thick contained flecks of charcoal and was sampled but did not produce any plant remains. The sides of the cess pit appear to have collapsed during its use and two different deposits were found slumped against the edge. The lowest was (24) which consisted of light yellowish grey silty probably redeposited natural sand. On top of this was a 0.2m thick layer of mid-brownish grey coloured silty clay (30). A vertical deposit of light greyish yellow silty sand (25) was found close to the

edge and this is may have been formed by the collapse of a re-cut. Medieval pottery dating from the early 13th to 15th centuries was found in this layer.



Figure 18: Slots excavated into [17] and the later pits dug into the top.

The top of the cess pit was covered with a 0.2m thick layer of mid-yellowish grey clay silt (23) that frequently contained large stones. This deposit appeared to represent an attempt to consolidate the feature and medieval pottery dating 1375-1550 along with equid bone was found within it. Dug into the top of the cess pit was a later pit [26] which measured 2m long, by more than 0.7m wide and 0.18m deep. The feature appeared to be sub-rectangular in shape with straight steeply sloping sides and a flat base and was filled with a dark brownish grey sandy silt (27) containing stone and slate with clay pipe fragments dated 1680-1710. The western edge of this pit appeared to be truncating a shallow sub-oval pit [33] which measured more than 0.36m long, by 0.4m wide and 0.09m deep. The pit had straight steeply sloping sides with a flat base and was filled with a dark brownish grey silty clay (34) which contained flecks of charcoal. The western edge of this pit was dug into a 0.2m thick layer of light reddish pink sandy silt (31) which resembled cess pit layer (20). Beneath (31) was a mid-brownish grey sandy silt (32) which contained flecks of coal, charcoal, slate and mortar. Medieval pottery dated from the early 13th to 15th centuries was also found in this deposit and it appeared to be a continuation of cess pit [17].

The western edge of [17] contained a layer of light brownish yellow redeposited sand (79) which appeared to be formed from excavated material falling back into the cut. This was overlain by a 0.44m thick layer of mid-greyish green coloured clay silt (87) which contained stones, slate, cattle bone and an iron nail. Above this was a 0.3m thick layer of mid brownish grey coloured silty clay (88) that contained animal bone and oyster shell. This deposit appeared

to be the same as layer (30) on the eastern edge of the feature. A series of layers (contexts (80), (81), (82), (83), (84), (85) and (86)) were found in this area which appeared to correspond to layers ((19), (20), (21), (22), (23) and (28)) found along the eastern edge. The shape of these fills suggested the cess pit had been recut (see Section 2.13 in Figure 20).



Figure 19: The north-western corner of cess pit [17].

Two intercutting pits or large post-holes were found on the eastern edge of [17] (Fig. 21). The earliest was [35] a sub-square pit that measured 0.54m long by 0.54m wide and 0.24m deep. The pit had straight steeply sloping sides with a fairly flat base and it was filled with a dark greyish brown loamy sandy silt (36) containing medieval pottery dated 1200-1550 and a large iron nail. The feature was sampled for industrial residue which produced an iron spheroid and fragments of a ceramic lining probably from secondary smithing. In addition to the industrial remains a small quantity of barley and grass seeds were also found. Truncating the western edge of [35] was a deep post-hole [37], which measured 0.5m long and 0.62m deep. The feature had straight sides with a concave base and was filled with a mid-greyish brown coloured sandy silt (38). A mixture of medieval and post-medieval pottery was found within the feature. Another post-hole [72] on the north-western side of [17] measured 0.4m wide by 0.32m deep. It was filled with a light brownish grey coloured silty sand (73) which contained cobbles.

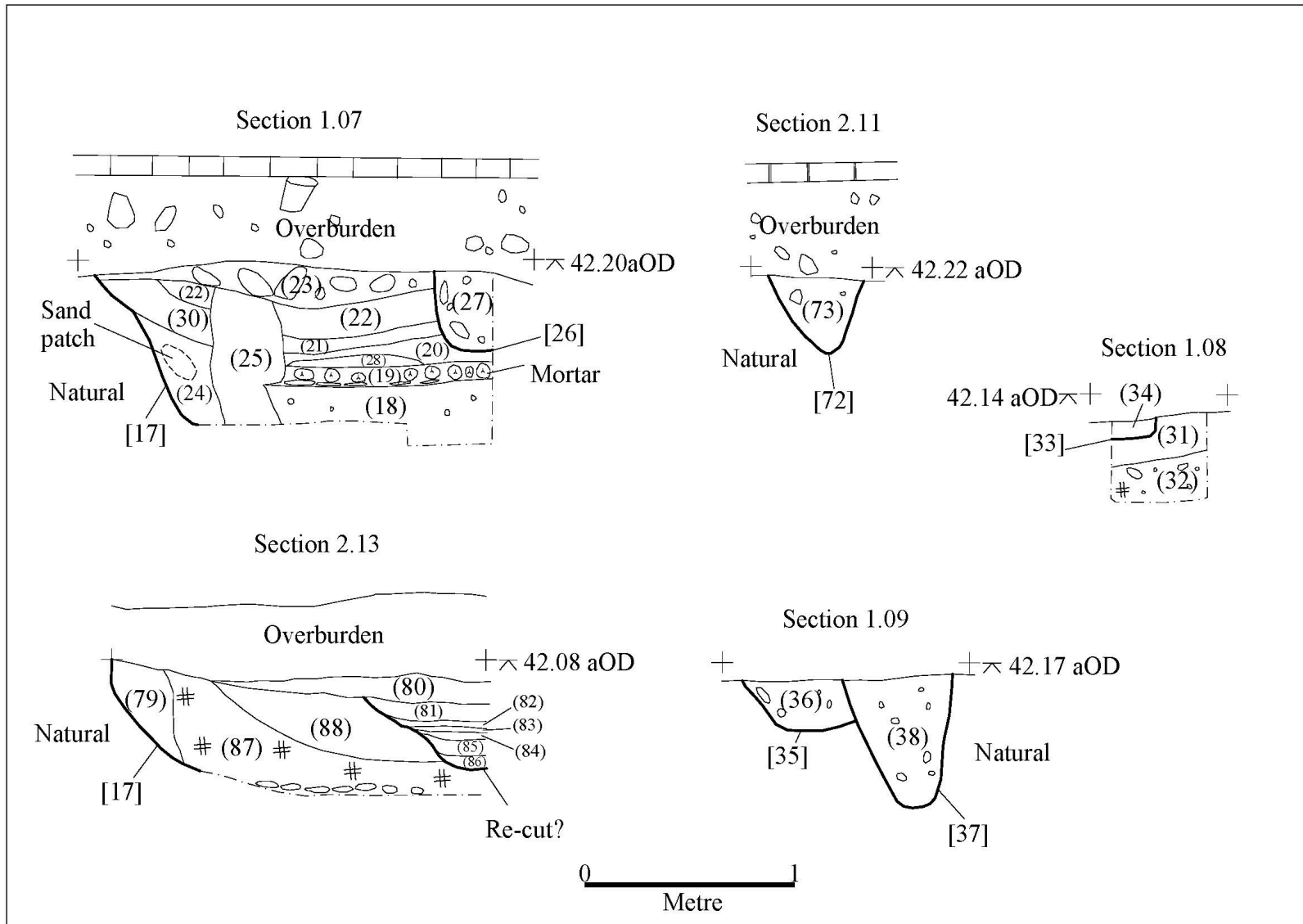


Figure 20: Sections through cess pit [17] and the post-holes on found either side.



Figure 21: Features [35] and [37] on the western edge of cess pit [17].

The Post Roman Ceramic and Miscellaneous Finds - Deborah Sawday

The Ceramic and Miscellaneous Finds

The pottery assemblage was made up of 32 sherds, weighing 622 grams, with a vessel rim equivalent of 0.135, (calculated by adding together the circumference of the surviving rim sherds, where one vessel equals 1.00). A fragment of bottle glass, and three pieces of clay tobacco pipe were also recorded.

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 (Sawday 2009). The results are shown below (tables 1 - 3). Table 1 lists the pottery fabric, table 2 gives the site totals by period and fabric, and table 3 catalogues the pottery and miscellaneous finds by context.

Condition

Much of the pottery was abraded, the 25 earlier medieval and later medieval sherds, in particular, having an average sherd weight of only 12.20 grams (table 2).

Table 1: The medieval and later pottery fabrics.

Fabric	Common Name/Kiln & Fabric Equivalent where known	Approx. Date Range
SX1	Saxon ware (1)	450-700AD
ST3	Stamford ware – coarse, fabrics E/F, H A/D (2)	c.850/900-1050+
CS	Coarse Shelly ware - ?Lincolnshire (3)	Late 10 th – late 12 th
RS	Reduced Sandy ware - ?Nottingham Early Medieval Coarse Sandy ware (4)	Late 11 th -early/mid 12 th
OS	Oxidised Sandy ware – Local (5)	c.12 th -13 th C.
CC2	Chilvers Coton fabric C (6), Warwick CTS SQ30 (7)	Later 13 th -1475
MS	Medieval Sandy ware – misc. coarse hard fired quartz tempered fabrics -? Burley Hill/Allestree/Ticknall, Derbyshire (8)	1250-1400+
MS3	Medieval Sandy ware 3 – misc. coarse hard fired quartz tempered fabrics -? Burley Hill/Allestree/Ticknall, Derbyshire (8)	Early/mid 13 th C.-1450
MP2	Midland Purple ware 2 -? Ticknall, Derbyshire (8)	c.1375-1550
MP3	Midland Purple ware 3 –vitrified MS3, -? Ticknall, Derbyshire (8)	c.1375-1550
MP4	Midland Purple ware 4 –transitional into EA1 (8).	c.1375-1550
CW2	Cistercian ware 2 -? Ticknall, Derbyshire (9)	c.1450/1475-1550
MY	Midland Yellow ware - ?Ticknall, Derbyshire (10)	c.1500-1725
EA2	Earthenware 2 – ‘Pancheon ware’, Chilvers Coton/Ticknall, Derbyshire (11)	17 th C-18 th C. +
EA5	Imitation Mottled ware	1680-1780
EA	Brown Glazed Earthenware/China	modern
(1) Blinkhorn 1999	(7) Soden & Ratkai 1998,	
(2) Kilmurry 1980, Leach 1987	(8) Coppack 1980, Boyle and Rowlandson 2009	
(3) Young, Vince and Nailor 2005	(9) Woodland 1981, Spavold and Brown 2005	
(4) Nailor and Young 2001	(10) Spavold and Brown 2005, Woodfield 1984	
(5) Sawday 2009	(11) Gooder 1984, Sawday 1989	
(6) Mayes & Scott 1984		

The Stratigraphic Record

The back-fill of the pit [5] produced single fragments of Saxo-Norman Stamford ware, fabric ST3, and Medieval Sandy ware, fabric MS, in contexts (6) and (16). An abraded and reduced light grey sherd of Anglo Saxon pottery dated c.450-700AD, c.3mm thick and weighing only three grams, with no surviving evidence of any surface treatment, occurred in the cleaning layer, context (9) above, together with an early medieval hand-made Coarse Shelly ware, CS. A layer of disturbed material, context (10) also above the pit, produced three more sherds, including a hand-made base in a coarse Reduced Sandy ware, possibly an early medieval Nottingham ware, a body sherd in the late medieval Midland Purple fabric MP4, and part of a cup rim, with an unusual double cordon on the exterior, in a late medieval Cistercian ware, fabric CW2. Context (10) also contained a fragment of bottle glass, probably dating from the later 17th or 18th centuries

A cleaning layer, context (29) above the cess pit [17], produced single fragments in the later medieval Chilvers Coton ware, fabric CC2 with a brown glaze on the exterior, fabric MP2, and the externally thickened rim of a jar in the post medieval Midland Yellow ware, fabric MY, as well as two post medieval clay tobacco pipe stems. Three more pottery sherds were recovered from context (20), a layer which capped the back-fill of the cess pit. One, a possibly hand-made fragment weighing only four grams, was in an unclassified early medieval Oxidised Sandy ware; two other joining sherds with spots of purple glaze on the exterior, were in MP2. Context (23) the upper fill of [17] contained a sherd of MP2, with a purple glaze on the interior, and below this context (28) produced another find of a similar date, part of the splayed base of a cup in CW2. Another fragment of MP2, with thick dark brownish black glaze runs on the exterior, was found in context (19), whilst two sherds of late Medieval Sandy ware, fabric MS3, one externally sooted, occurred in contexts (25) and (32) on the edges of the pit. The only find from context (27), feature [26], which cut the cess pit, was the bowl of a Midlands spur type clay tobacco pipe with a half milled and bottered (smoothed) rim, dated c.1680-1710 (Higgins 2009, fig.39.15).

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

Fabric	No.	Gr	Average sherd weight	EVE	% of total by sherd
Anglo Saxon					
SX3	1	3			
Sub Total	1	3	3.0		3.12
Earlier Medieval					
ST3	1	2			
CS	1	5			
RS	3	39	13.0		
OS	1	4			
Sub Total	6	50	8.33		18.75
High/Later Medieval					
CC2	1	19			
MS	1	1			
MS3	4	15			
MP2	8	147			
MP3	1	38			
MP4	1	17			
CW2	3	19		0.075	

Sub Total	19	255	13.42	0.075	59.37
Medieval Sub-total	(25)	(305)	(12.20)	(0.075)	(78.12)
Post Medieval					
MY	1	59		0.06	
EA2	3	235			
EA5	1	8			
EA	1	11			
Sub Total	6	313	52.16	0.06	18.75
Site Totals	32	622	19.43	0.135	99.99

Part of the base of a vessel in the early medieval fabric RS occurred in context (13), the backfill of the post hole [11]. Two sherds of late medieval MS3 and MP2 were found in the backfill, context (36), of the pit or post-hole [35]. Another pit or post hole [37] which cut this feature, contained three sherds; two in in the late medieval fabrics MS3 and MP2, and the post medieval Earthenware, EA2, in context (38). The latter had been covered in an iron rich slip and glaze on the interior, and appeared to be early in a sequence which dates this fabric generally from the 17th to the 20th centuries.

A single sherd in the early fabric RS, occurred in the context (90), the backfill of the pit [89], which is either modern, or a disturbed earlier feature (R. Huxley, pers. comm.).

The unstratified material included later medieval Midland Purple and Cistercian ware, slipped post medieval Imitation Mottled ware and modern Brown China.

Discussion

The fragment of Anglo Saxon pottery, albeit in a residual context, hints at post Roman activity in the area. The six sherds, 50 grams, (table 2) of Saxon Norman and early medieval Stamford, Coarse Shelly and Oxidised and Reduced Sandy wares are indicative of the early medieval origins of the town. Most of these finds are residual in later medieval contexts, save the post hole [11] and the pit [89], where the assemblage was limited to single sherds of early medieval Reduced Sandy ware.

Here also, for the first time, finds dating from the 13th or 14th centuries in Chilvers Coton and Medieval Sandy ware have been recorded by the author in the town, although as with the Anglo Saxon find, these were all apparently residual in later contexts. On the other hand, late medieval pottery in Midland Purple and Cistercian ware has been found on several previous excavations in Loughborough.

Indeed although most of the features on the site only produced a limited number of finds, the cess pit [17], and the pit [35] are possibly late medieval in date. Of course the possible dating of [17] in particular probably simply reflects the phase of dis-use of a feature which may have had a relatively long period of use, with several episodes of emptying out, and indeed the archaeological record does seem to suggest this (R. Huxley, pers. comm.). Late medieval and post medieval finds were recovered from the post hole [37], and the cleaning layer (29) above [17]. The only find from feature [26], which cut [17], was a clay tobacco pipe bowl dated c.1680-1710 (Higgins 2009, fig.39.15).

Clearly, in all cases the limited size of each of the pottery assemblages and the small number of other finds, means that the dating evidence must be treated with some caution.

Few vessel forms were identifiable, but what evidence there was suggested that the medieval assemblage was typically domestic, several sherds were sooted externally and had evidently been used for cooking. The two Cistercian ware cups are also typical, as the ware was generally used as a liquid container for serving at table

Conclusion

The watching brief has provided some, albeit limited, evidence of an Anglo Saxon presence in the vicinity. Indeed, a cremation cemetery has previously been recorded in the Loughborough area (Rollings 1998), but not apparently within the historic core of the town, although even the written evidence is not altogether clear as to the exact location of the site (Meaney 1964).

The range of later medieval and post medieval fabrics found here accords well with the ceramic material previously recorded by the author following archaeological investigations in or close to the town centre. However this watching brief in the core of the medieval town has produced the first ceramic evidence of possible early phases of activity pre-dating Loughborough's market status which it acquired in 1221.

Much of the early medieval material is probably local in origin with sources including Nottingham and Lincolnshire. Stamford, was a major centre of Saxo Norman pottery production, followed by the medieval industries based at Chilvers Coton in Warwickshire and Ticknall in Derbyshire.

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

Context	Fabric/ware	No	Gr	EVEs	Diam.	Comments
6 [5] pit	MS	1	1			Fragment of wheel thrown orange sandy ware.
9 cleaning top of pit [5]	SX1	1	3			Abraded body – sub- angular white quartzite inclusions, wall c.3mm thick. Abraded, reduced light grey, no evidence of surface treatment has survived, dated c.450-700AD.
9	CS	1	5			Body – ?hand built, external sooting
10 disturbance	RS	1	18			Convex base, reduced dark grey core, & exterior, reddish interior, sandy fabric, plus Fe, ?hand built, sooted eternally. Abraded.
10	MP4	1	17			Hard fired body
10	CW2	1	3	0.075	100	?cup with unusual double cordon on upright rim.
13 post hole [11]	RS	1	18			Flat base, reduced dark grey core, reddish surfaces, sandy fabric, plus Fe ?hand built as 10 above., possibly wheel finished, sooted eternally. Abraded

16 [5] pit	ST3	1	2			Body – reduced black.
19 cess pit [17]	MP2	1	6			Body with thick dark brownish black glaze run on exterior wall.
20 ?cap of [17]	OS	1	4			Body, sandy fabric, pale buff core, pinkish surfaces, abraded, ?hand built.
20	MP2	2	56			Body, hard fired, spots of purple glaze on exterior, join
23 upper fill [17]	MP2	1	32			Body – hard fired, purple glaze on interior.
25 edge [17]	MS3	1	3			Body, sooted externally
28 [17] above 19	CW2	1	10			Cup with splayed base, glazed internally.
29 cleaning above [17]	CC2	1	19			Body, hard fired, oxidised, sparse inclusions. Brownish glaze on exterior.
29]	MP2	1	12			body
29	MY	1	59	0.060	170	Jar rim, externally thickened, yellow glaze on interior, abraded.
32 edge [17]	MS3	1	4			Hard fired body – traces of glaze on exterior - transitional into MP.
36 pit [35]	MS3	1	7			Hard fired body – transitional into MP.
36	MP2	1	21			Body – hard fired.
38 p. hole [37]	MS3	1	1			Body - abraded
38	MP2	1	12			Body – hard fired
38	MP2	1	8			Body – hard fired, glazed
38	EA2	1	9			Body, oxidised, interior slipped and glazed, early in sequence
90 pit [89]	RS	1	3			Body, thin walled, reduced dark grey core, & exterior, reddish interior, & exterior, sandy fabric, plus Fe ?hand built, sooted eternally. Abraded.
U/S	MP3	1	38			Body - hard fired, traces of glaze on exterior.
U/S	CW2	1	6			Brown glazed hollow ware body
U/S	EA2	2	226			Flat base & body, same vessel, slipped & glazed brown on interior, early in sequence..
U/S	EA5	1	8			Body, slipped and glazed.
U/S	EA	1	11			Brown china – possibly part of a lid.
MISC						
10 disturbance	glass	1				Bottle glass – later 17 th – 18 th C.

27 [26] cutting [17]	China clay	1				Midlands spur type, half milled and possibly bottered rim (smoothed with a bottering tool to give a rounded profile), 1680-1710 (Higgins 2009, fig.39.15).
29 cleaning above [17].	China clay	2				Tobacco pipe stems

The Animal Bones from Albert Terrace – Rachel Small

Introduction

A small hand-collected animal bone assemblage was recovered during excavations at Albert Terrace, Loughborough. A total of 15 fragments were found from 10 contexts which dated from the late medieval to post-medieval periods. No additional animal bones were recovered from the four environmental samples that were taken. This report will present the results of the assessment of the animal bone and discuss what this can potentially tell us about diet and animal husbandry strategies at the site.

Methodology

The animal bones were identified by comparison to the reference collection held at the University of Leicester bone laboratory. A basic record was made noting element, side, taxon, completeness and preservation, and butchery, gnawing and pathology if present (see Table 4). Preservation was scored based on Harland et al's (2003) scale.

Results

A total of 15 fragments which equated to 14 specimens were recovered. The specimens were generally of 'good' preservation; however, a sheep/goat metatarsal from (38) was noted as 'fair', with flaking on up to 50 percent of the specimen, and a fragment of large mammal radius from (48) as 'poor', with flaking on over 50% of the specimen. The latter specimen also had longitudinal cracking associated with weathering. Cattle remains were most commonly identified and included fragments of adult molars and maxilla, fragments of scapula, sacrum, metacarpal and metatarsal. The shaft fragment of the metacarpal was from a calf and interestingly, the sacrum fragment was chopped through the centre and this likely relates to splitting of the carcass. Two specimens of sheep/goat were also present including a horn core and metatarsal. A fragment of pig scapula was also present which showed signs of canine gnawing and the proximal articulation of an equid femur (this comprised two articulating fragments).

Discussion and recommendations for further work

Despite the small assemblage size, a range of domestic species were identified including cattle, equid, sheep/goat and pig. There was evidence for both older individuals and potentially breeding of cattle on site due to the presence of a calf bone. Butchery marks indicative of processing cattle carcasses for consumption were noted and gnawing marks which are indicative of rubbish being accessible to carnivores before burial. As this was an assessment, fusion data was not recorded or measurements taken, however, there is the potential for this to be done (but it is not recommended for the small assemblage thus far). However, if further excavation is carried out at the site, or in the near vicinity, collection of animal bone is highly recommended. A larger assemblage size would potentially reveal greater insight into diet and husbandry strategies at the site including age and sex preferences. Material from samples was unproductive, however, this should be reviewed if a larger number of samples are taken in the future.

Table 4: Catalogue of hand-collected animal bones

Context	Cut	Feature	Date	Element	Taxon	Side	Notes
18	17	Cess pit	Late med	Molar	Cattle		Fragment
				Indeterminate	Indeterminate		
19	17	Cess pit	Late med	Metacarpal	Cattle	Left	Proximal end and shaft
21	17	Cess pit	Late med	Maxilla	Cattle		M1/M2 in situ
				Metatarsal	Cattle	Left	Proximal end
				Horn	Sheep/goat		Complete
				Metatarsal	Cattle		Shaft from a calf
23	17	Cess pit	Late med	Femur	Equid	Left	2 articulating fragments of proximal articulation
29	17	Cess pit	Late med	Scapula	Pig	Right	Large fragment of blade, gnawed
38	37	Post-hole	Med/post-med	Metatarsal	Sheep/goat		Proximal articulation and shaft (preservation 3)
48	47	Post-hole	N/A	Radius	Large mammal		Shaft fragment, very weathered (preservation 4)
62	N/A	N/A	N/A	Sacrum	Cattle		S1, chopped through the centre
87	17	Cess pit	Late med	Scapula	Cattle	Right	Largely complete
88	17	Cess pit	Late med	Rib	Large mammal		Shaft fragment

The Metal Finds – Heidi Addison

Copper alloy

Sf1 (78) Ground surface above pits [74] and [76]. Fig.1. A large spoon, of round bowl form (77mm x 75mm), with an incomplete flattened lozenge stem, 15mm in length. No comparable examples have been found.



Figure 22: Large copper alloy round bowl spoon.

Iron nails

(36) [35] A square head (*c.*55x55mm) with a broken tapering shaft of square section (*c.*25mm) was recovered with pottery dating from the 13th -16th centuries.

(87) [17] A round flat head (*c.*dia.30mm) nail with an incomplete tapering circular shaft (total length *c.*53mm). There were no datable finds from (87), though pottery from nearby contexts in [17] dates to the 12th-16th centuries.

(18) [17] Two small fragments of nail shafts were recovered from the <4mm fraction.

Industrial residue – Heidi Addison

No industrial material was hand-collected during excavation. However, an iron spheroid, small iron fragment and fragments of ceramic lining were recovered from the <4mm fraction of the heavy residue of sample 4 (36) [35], when a magnet was run over the material. This is suggestive of iron working and most probably that of secondary smithing, which is the making and repair of iron objects over a hearth. If further excavation is carried out at the site, it is suggested that bulk samples are taken for further investigation.

The plant remains from Albert Terrace - Rachel Small and Adam Santer

Introduction

During a watching brief at Albert Terrace, Loughborough, four bulk soil samples were taken for the recovery of plant remains, animal bones and industrial residues. All of the samples dated to the medieval period and were taken from fills (6), (22), (18) and (36) of pits [5], [17] and [35]. The results from the assessment of the plant remains are 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 were processed in a York tank by William Johnson and Georgina Clipstone using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation into a 0.3mm sieve. A 100ml of sample 3 was bucket floated in addition to collect uncharred seeds. The flotation fractions (flots) were left to air dry and then sorted for plant remains and other artefacts under an x10-40 stereo microscope. The heavy residues were also air dried, then passed through a 4mm sieve. The over 4mm fraction was sorted in its entirety and the under 4mm fraction was scanned. Adam Santer identified the plant remains by comparison to modern reference material available at ULAS and plant names follow Stace (1991). Quantification was carried out as follows: each whole grain or specimen which represented over 60% of the grain was counted as one (small fragments were not extracted); each rachis internode and culm was counted as one; and, each fragment of legume and wild seed (including grass) was counted as one.

Results

Samples 1, 3 and 4 contained charred plant remains but no material was recovered from sample 2, which was taken from the upper fill (22) of pit [17]. Sample 1, which was taken from the fill (6) of pit [5], contained the highest concentration of charred plant remains at 22.92 items per litre. Sample 3 and 4 contained lower densities at 4.67 and 0.44 items per litre respectively. Sample 3 also contained a large number of uncharred seeds, 220 items per litre, thought to have been preserved through the anaerobic conditions of the pit. The plant remains were of a good preservation and there was little evidence for bioturbation. The remains described were recovered from the flots, no additional plant remains were present in the heavy residues. The charred plant remains present in each sample are listed in Table 6, and the uncharred seeds from sample 3 in Table 5. The results for each sample are discussed in more detail below. Other artefacts were recovered from the heavy residues, including industrial residues and iron artefacts and these have been reported on in a separate section.

Sample 1 – lower pit fill (6) [5], AD 1250-1400+

Grain was most abundant in the assemblage, representing 40% (Fig. 23). A variety of species were identified including barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.), free-threshing wheat (*Triticum* spp.), rye (*Secale cereale* L.) and oat (*Avena* spp.). The oat grains could represent wild or cultivated species; lemma bases were not present to distinguish this. No clear examples of twisted barley grains were present, which are indicative of the presence of the six-row variety, but fragmentation hindered identification of this characteristic. A single barley rachis internode was present and seven straw culm nodes.

Leguminous wild seeds were common, representing circa 25% of the assemblage. It was possible to identify a broad bean seed (*Vicia faba* L.). Larger legume fragments which could

represent further beans or peas were also common (27 were identified). Smaller vetch (*Vicia* spp.) seeds were numerous, these could represent cultivated varieties or weed seeds.

Other wild seeds were numerous and represented circa 32% of the assemblage. This included weeds of cultivated fields such as stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula* L.), wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum* L.), goosefoot (*Chenopodium* spp.) and scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum* L.); the latter two species also grow in areas of disturbed land. Common chickweed (*Stellaria media* L.), a weed typical of hoed fields and gardens, was also present. Species typical of grassland vegetation were found including common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* L.) and ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata* L.). The other seeds identified in the assemblage, wild cabbage (*Brassica* spp.), flax (*Linum* spp.), grasses (Poaceae), knotgrass (*Polygonum* spp.), buttercup (*Ranunculus* spp.) and dock (*Rumex* spp.), grow in various environments. It is possible that the wild cabbage and flax were utilised.

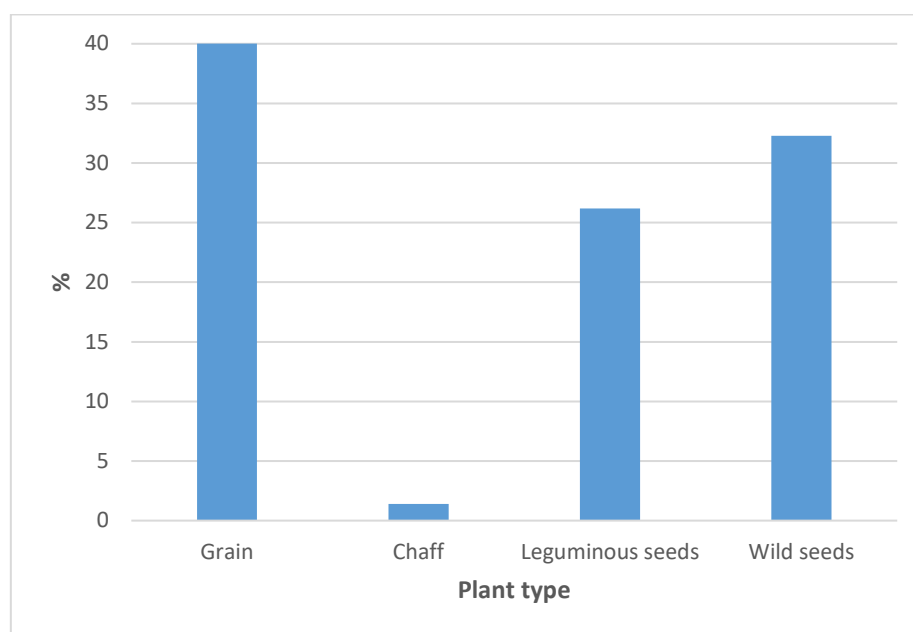


Figure 23: Proportion of grain, chaff, leguminous and wild seeds in sample 1 (6) [5].

Sample 3 – lower pit fill (18) [17], 12th-16th C.

This sample had a smaller number of remains than sample 1, a total of 42 items charred plant remains, equating to 4.67 items per litre. The sample was dominated by cereal grains (74%) and the variety was similar to sample 1 with oat, barley, rye and free-threshing wheat being identified. Two culm nodes were also present and larger leguminous fragments and vetch seeds. A small number of charred wild seeds were identified and included stinking chamomile, goosefoot and buttercup.

It was noted during excavation that this pit contained cess and ancient wood. No cess concretions were found in the flot or heavy residue. No clear examples of mineralised remains were found, however, a large number of uncharred seeds, 220 items per litre, were found which included stinking chamomile, wild carrot (cf. *Daucus carota* L.), goosefoot, knotgrass, buttercup, dock, elder (*Sambucus nigra* L.), common chickweed, and vetch (Table 5). Some of which, as discussed above, are typical agricultural weeds. These are likely to have preserved through the anaerobic conditions of the pit, the clay capping makes it unlikely that they are modern intrusions (pers. comm. Huxley 2019).

Table 5: The uncharred seeds recovered from sample 3 during bucket flotation.

Sample	3	
Context	18	
Cut	17	
Feature type	Pit	
Date		
Uncharred wild seeds		
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	2	Stinking chamomile
<i>Cf. Daucus carota</i> L.	1	Cf. Wild carrot
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.	5	Goosefoots
<i>Polygonum</i> sp.	7	Knotgrass
<i>Ranunculus</i> sp.	2	Buttercup
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	2	Docks
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L.	1	Elder
<i>Stellaria media</i> (L.) Villars.	1	Common chickweed
<i>Vicia</i> sp.	1	Vetch
Total	22	
Soil volume (L)	10	
Percentage assessed	0.1	
Items per litre	220	

Sample 4 – ashy pit fill (36)[35], 13th-16th C.

From the fill of this pit, only two charred barley grains and two ribwort plantain seeds were identified in this sample. The sample was taken primarily for the investigation of industrial residue (addressed in a separate report).

Discussion and recommendations for further work

The samples likely represent mixed deposits, accumulations of waste from processing wheat, barley, oats and rye grains and leguminous crops, for consumption. The uncharred seeds from sample 3 may reflect windblown accumulations from the surrounding agricultural environment. There are no clear changes in the species represented or their proportions over time, however, this could be due to the small sample size. The assemblage is similar to other rural East midlands sites (see Monckton 2003, p 24). If further excavation as carried out at the site or in the vicinity, it is suggested that a suitable sampling strategy is implemented. From this evaluation pit fills, particularly from the lowest layers, contained plant remains and should be targeted amongst other features. Analysis of a larger assemblage may reveal dietary changes over time and differences in spatial distribution of crop processing activities at the site.

Table 6: The charred plant remains present in samples.

Sample	1	3	4	
Context	6	18	36	
Cut	5	17	35	
Feature type	Primary pit fill	Lower fill of cess pit	Ashy pit fill	
Date	AD 1250-1400	12-16th C.	13th-16th C.	
Grain				
<i>Avena</i> spp.	19	4		Oat
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.	39	5	2	Barley
<i>Secale cereale</i> L.	12	1		Rye
<i>Triticum</i> sp. Free threshing	28	2		Free threshing wheat
Indeterminate cereal	132	19		Indeterminate cereal
Chaff				
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. rachis	1			Barley rachis
Straw culm node	7	2		Straw culm node
Legumes				
<i>Pisum/Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	27	2		Pea/Bean
<i>Vicia faba</i> L.	1			Broad bean
<i>Vicia</i> sp.	122	4		Vetch
Wild seeds				
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	59	1		Stinking chamomile
<i>Brassica</i> sp.	15			Wild cabbage
<i>Centaurea nigra</i> L.	3			Common knapweed
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.	20	1		Goosefoot
<i>Linum</i> sp.	1			Flax
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> L.	1			Ribwort plantain
Poaceae (large)	45		2	Large grass
Poaceae (small)	3			Small grass
<i>Polygonum</i> sp.	15			Knotgrass
<i>Ranunculus</i> sp.		1		Buttercup
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> L.	1			Wild radish
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	18			Dock
<i>Stellaria media</i> (L.) Villars	1			Common chickweed
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i> (L.) Schultz-Bip	3			Scentless mayweed
Total	573	42	4	
Soil volume (L)	25	9	9	
Items per litre	22.92	4.67	0.44	

Discussion and Conclusions

The work undertaken at Albert Terrace recorded a number of pits and post-holes across the site. The features in the south-western half were mostly undated and occasionally truncated by large brick filled pits. The pits and post-holes in the south-eastern half contained less modern disturbance and the majority of artefacts. However, the ground in the south-eastern half had been reduced which allowed the features to be seen in plan across a wider area, while in the south-western area the footings were dug straight through the overburden.

There are different phases of activity at Albert Terrace and hints of earlier activity with the find of a single sherd of Saxon pottery dated 450-700. This pottery was found whilst cleaning pit [05] along with pottery dated from the late 10th to late 12th centuries. Only a few fragments of Saxon cremation urn have ever been found in the Loughborough area and this artefact represents the first to be found from the historic core of the town.

Several phases of activity were found in the south-western half of site with modern brick filled pits truncating earlier undated features. During the machining of pit [89] a large proportion of stone rubble with fragments of bricks was found. The north-eastern edge of this feature contained none of the modern rubble found during the machining and a fragment of medieval pottery. This may represent a medieval pit that was disturbed during the modern period. A round bowl spoon (Sf.1) was also found in the overburden overlaying pits [74] and [76] but this was undated.

Different phases of activity were found in the south-eastern half of the site and this was evident from the features found along the north-eastern edge. A group of post-holes ([11], [41], [55] and [57]) were all filled with similar dark reddish or blackish brown coloured loamy silt possibly the remnants of decayed wooden posts. Pottery was found in (13) from post hole [11] which dated to the late 11th to early/mid-12th century. These features may be contemporary and form a north-west to south-east orientated line that is parallel with the edge of the site (Fig. 24). To the east of the site, other boundaries are found along a similar orientation and this line of post holes may represent an early boundary or fence line possibly extending from Baxter Gate.

Several features were found which do not respect this line of post-holes could be indicative of different phases. The northernmost post-hole from this line truncates a pit which relates to an earlier phase of activity. A small group of post-holes ([47], [49], [51] and [53]) were found by the north-eastern edge which were all filled with a similar light brownish grey coloured sandy silt. The southern post-holes from this group formed a line orientated east north-east to west south-west, while the northern post-hole lay on a different alignment. Although it is difficult to determine a pattern from such a small sample, the group could represent the corner of a small structure or stockade (Fig. 24). No pottery was found in the features but animal bone was found in (48) from post-hole [47].

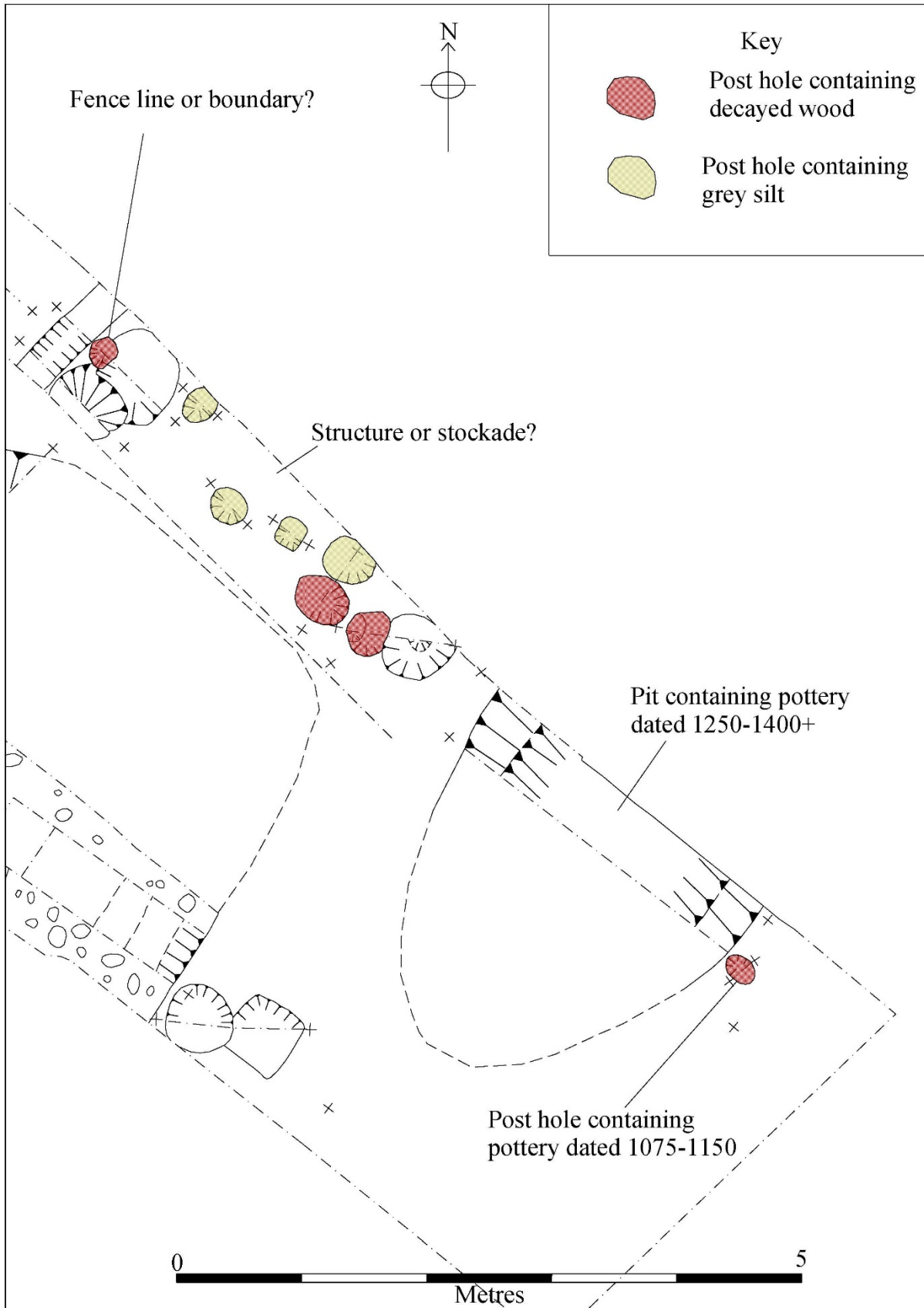


Figure 24: Post holes along the north-eastern edge containing similar deposits.

Another feature which does not respect the line of post-holes is pit [05], which contained a mixture of pottery dating 850-1050+ and 1250-1400+. This feature relates to medieval activity

slightly later than the line of post holes and the primary fill (06) was found to contain a large proportion of environmental remains. The feature contained many grains (including oats, barley, rye and wheat) with various legumes which are likely to be the waste products from crop processing for consumption. Flax and wild cabbage were found within the assemblage and these may also have been utilised. A number of wild seeds found within the pit are weeds in cultivated fields or disturbed land whilst some are typical grassland vegetation.

The south-eastern area was dominated by a large cess pit [17] which was filled with numerous deposits. The edges of the feature contained patches of sand and may have collapsed during its use. There is some evidence that the pit was re-cut and this may relate to the feature being periodically cleaned out. The lower layer in the cess pit (18) was a very humic, deposit that resembled peat and contained well preserved uncharred wild seeds. Above (18) was a layer of mortar and stones and overlaying this were several clay rich layers. These deposits are potentially attempts to consolidate the ground or cap the feature. The uppermost layer (23) contained numerous large stones which may also be an attempt to consolidate the ground. The later medieval pottery found within the feature are all from these upper layers and this reflects the period the cess pit went into disuse.

Cess pit [17] appears to relate to a later medieval phase of activity with the upper layers containing pottery dating between the 12th-16th centuries. Truncating the top of the cess pit was pit [26] which contained clay pipe dated 1680-1710 and to the south-east was a deep post-hole [37] containing 17th-18th century pottery. These features represent a phase of post-medieval activity on the site. The latest phase of activity was evidenced by the 19th century brick structures and possibly wall footing (92). This feature was orientated on the same alignment as the alley to the west and may represent a property boundary.

Overall the watching brief has recorded several phases of activity across the area probably associated with back-yard activity during the medieval period, with hints of early occupation (Fig. 25).



Figure 25: Proposed phasing of the features at Albert Terrace.

Archive

The site archive consists of:

- X3 Watching Brief recording sheets.
- X3 Context index
- X1 Photograph index
- X1 Drawing sheet index
- X1 Drawing Index
- X2 Drawing sheet
- X93 Context sheets
- X122 Digital photographs

The archive will be held by Leicestershire Museum Service under the accession number XA.9.2019.

Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work to the *Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) at the University of York.

A summary of the work will also been submitted for publication in an appropriate local archaeological journal in due course.

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Oasis Information

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	Universil-356343		
	Project Name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at 11-14 Albert Terrace, r/o High Street, Loughborough LE11 2PY		
	Start/end dates of field work	31-01-2019 to 17-04-2019		
	Previous/Future Work	Yes/ No		
	Project Type	Watching Brief		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Other 3 built over		
	Monument Type/Period	Pits-Medieval Post holes-Medieval Pit-Early Medieval Pit-Post Medieval		
	Significant Finds/Period	Pottery-Early Medieval Pottery-Medieval Pottery-Post Medieval Spoon or ladle-Post Medieval Iron object-Medieval Animal bone-Medieval		
	Development Type	Watching Brief		
	Reason for Investigation	Planning condition		
	Position in the Planning Process			
	Planning Ref.	P/16/0461/2		
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	LE11 2PY		
	Study Area	100m ²		
	Site Coordinates	SK 53730 19671		
	Height OD	42m OD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	University of Leicester		
	Project Brief Originator	Local planning Authority		
	Project Design Originator	Patrick Clay		
	Project Manager	Vicki Score and John Thomas		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Richard Huxley		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Developer		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	LCCMS	LCCMS	LCCMS
	ID (Acc. No.)	XA.9.2019	XA.9.2019	XA.9.2019
	Contents	'Animal Bones', 'Ceramics', 'Glass', 'Metal'	'Images raster digital photography'	'Context sheet', 'Drawing', 'Notebook – Excavation, Research, General Notes', 'Photograph', 'Plan' 'Report', 'Section'
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey literature		
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