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Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation on Land
at Longcliff Hill, Old Dalby, Melton
Mowbray, Leicestershire**

NGR: SK 67325 24074

Nathan Flavell



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**An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Longcliff Hill, Old Dalby,
Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire
(SK 67325 24074)**

by

Nathan Flavell

For: Truman Contractors

Planning Ref: 18/01111/FUL

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An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Longcliff Hill, Old Dalby, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire

Nathan Flavell

Summary

Archaeological trial trenching was carried out on land at Longcliff Hill, Old Dalby, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, (SK 67325 24074) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) between 22nd – 25th July 2019. The work was undertaken on behalf of Truman Contractors in advance of a new residential development. The trenches produced two medieval gullies and a series of medieval alluvial layers and continued ploughing. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museums Service under the accession number X.A52.2019.

Introduction

This document reports on an archaeological evaluation carried out on land at Longcliff Hill, Old Dalby, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire (SK 67325 24074). The work was undertaken on behalf of Truman Contractors by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) between the 22nd and 25th of July 2019. In advance of the proposed development of the site for housing (Planning Application 18/01111/FUL), the Planning Archaeologist as advisor to Melton Borough Council requested an archaeological field evaluation. This comprised trial trenching to determine the impact of the proposed scheme on any buried archaeology, and produce a mitigation strategy for the site.

Old Dalby lies in Melton Borough in north-east Leicestershire, around seven miles north-west of Melton Mowbray. The proposed development site is situated at the northern edge of the village on the northern side of Longcliff Hill (Fig. 1). The work followed the approved scheme of work as laid out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Archaeological Evaluation* (Hunt 2019).

Geology and Topography

The site consists of part of an arable field and part of a pasture field, with a hedgerow between the two fields. Both fields are accessed via separate gates that lie in the south-west corner of the fields. The development area is approximately 1.6ha in size, and lies at a height of around 84m aOD close to the south-east corner of the land, rising to 89m aOD to the west (Fig.2).

The British Geological Survey identifies the bedrock geology of the area as Charmouth Mudstone Formation.

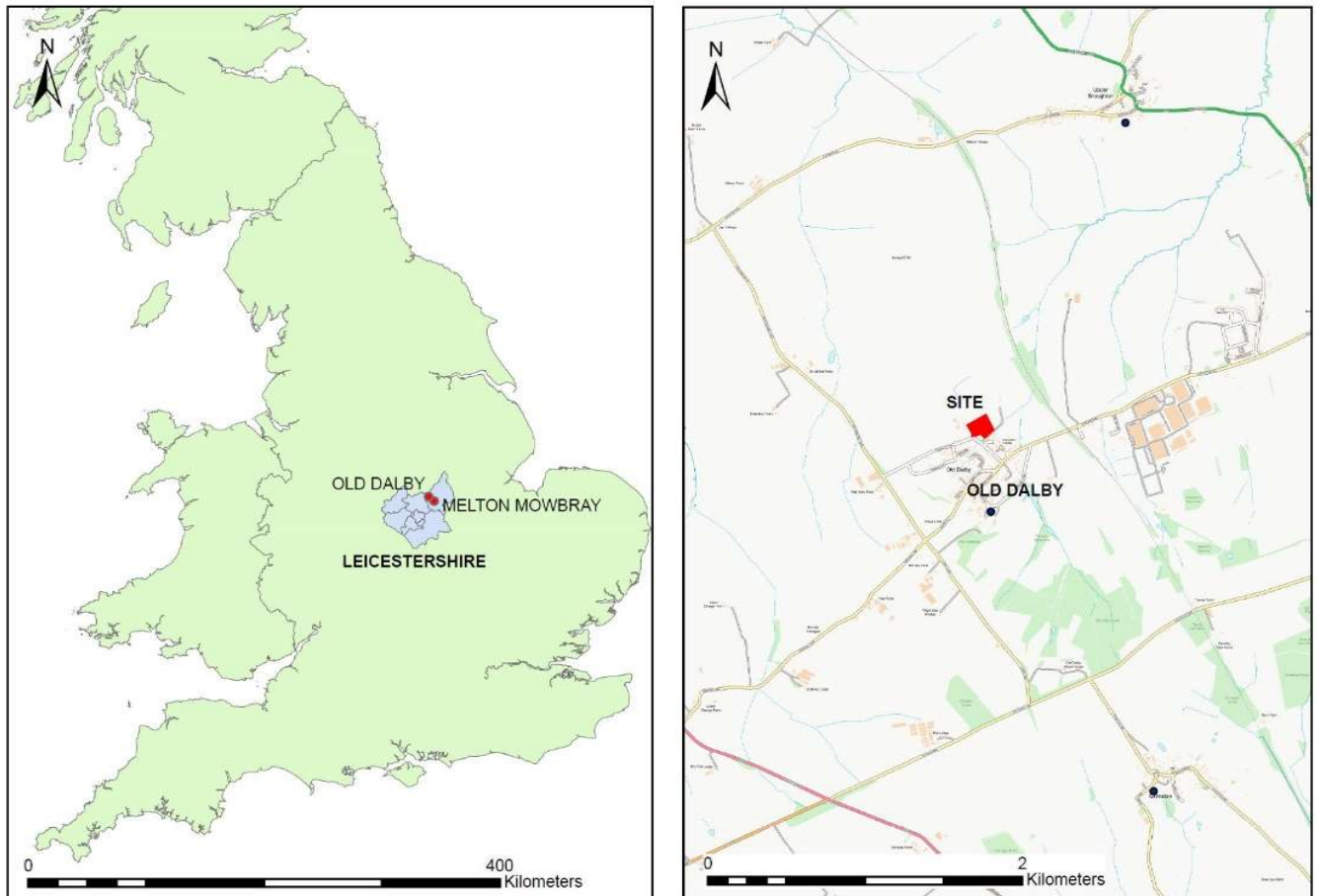


Figure 1: Location of site

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Historical and Archaeological Background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) notes that the site lies on the edge of the historic settlement core of the village of Old Dalby (HER ref. **MLE9269**) and adjacent to a shallow alleviated stream course. Archaeological remains reflecting the early medieval establishment of the village, and/or its subsequent fluctuations in size, may well be present in the vicinity. Medieval settlement remains lie on land to the west of the village (**MLE3451**), with further earthworks to the south of this area (**MLE3444**). There are also Roman metalwork finds recorded nearby (**MLE9388**).

Whilst there are few archaeological remains are noted on the HER, this is likely to be attributable to a lack of previous archaeological investigation in the vicinity. Previous investigation of vacant land within the village has produced evidence of otherwise unknown Anglo-Saxon and medieval remains (**MLE15774** and **15775**).

Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives of the archaeological work were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits.
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological

deposits and features encountered.

- To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to assess the impact of the proposed development on cultural heritage and to help formulate a mitigation strategy
- To record any archaeological deposits and produce an archive and report of any results.

Methodology

The original trench plan, as indicated in the WSI, consisted of nine 30m trenches located to cover the area of 36 new dwellings and access roads (Fig. 3). Due to site constraints, the trenches were moved or shortened (Fig. 4). The trenches were excavated with a toothless bucketed machine down to natural substratum.

The sections and existing spoil heaps were visually inspected for features and finds. All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological field evaluations* (2014).



Figure 2: Site Location (not to scale)
Plan provided by developer.

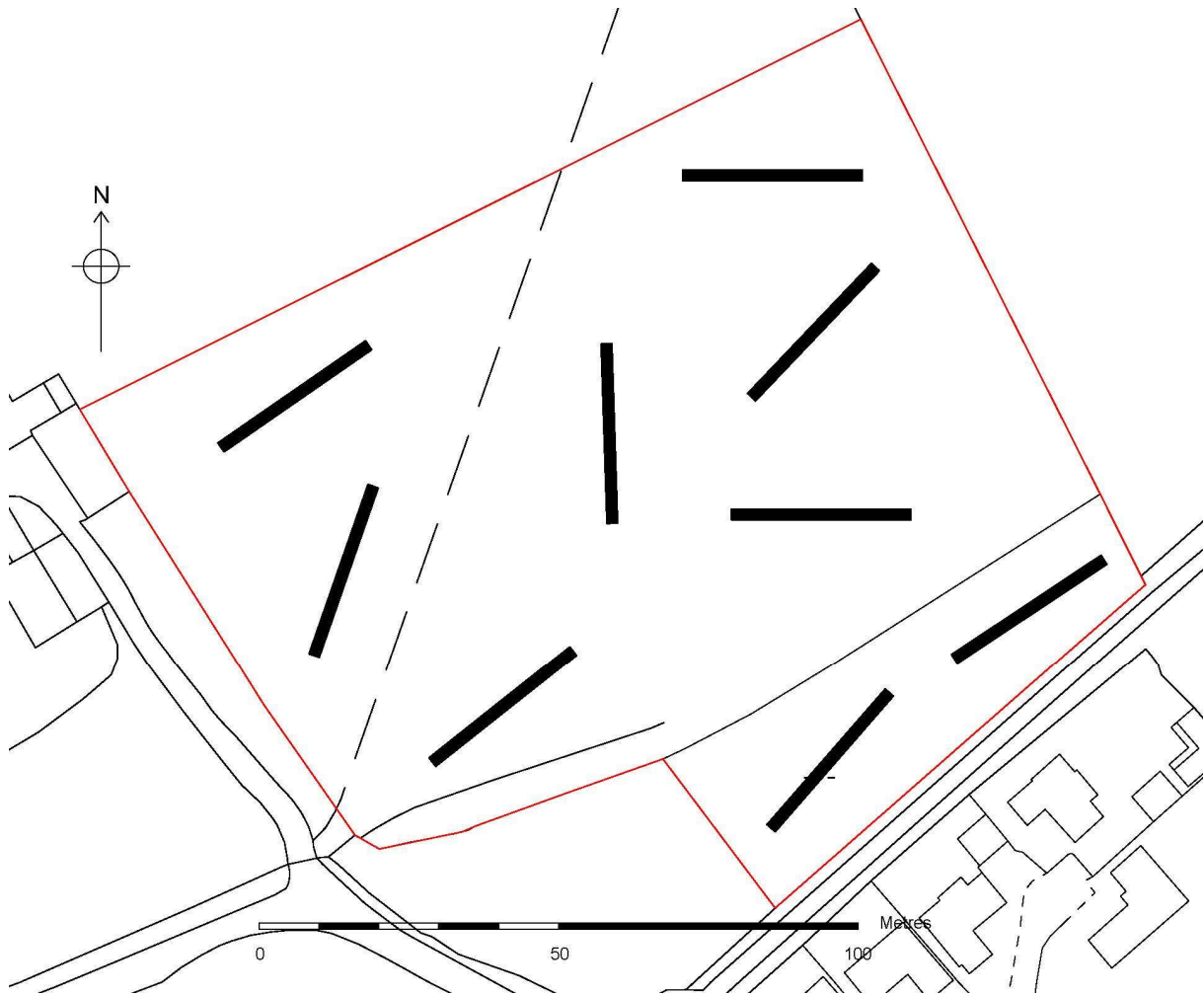


Figure 3: Plan of development proposals showing provisional trench locations

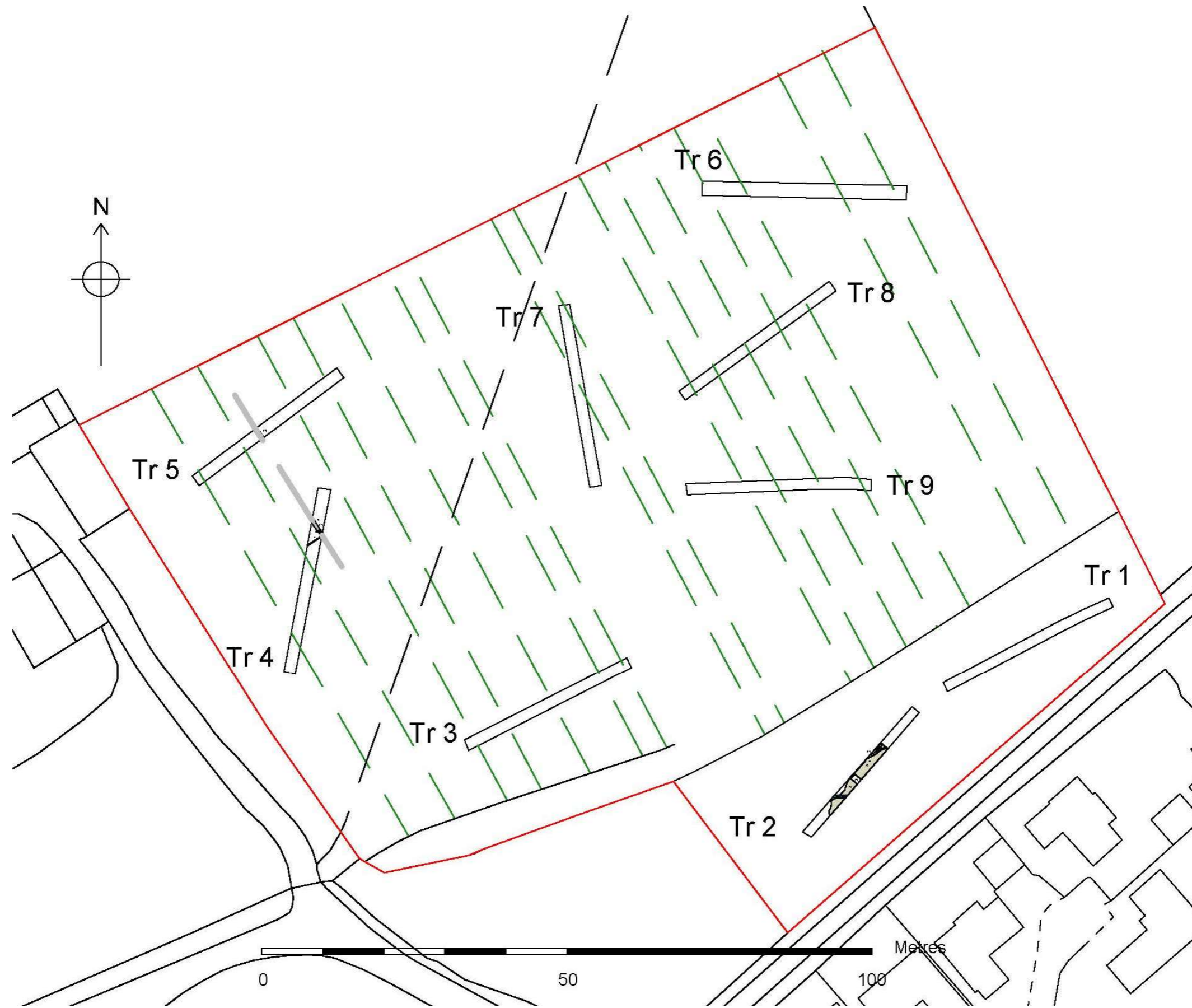


Figure 4: Site plan showing eventual trench locations and archaeological features (in grey tone), and furrows (in green)

Results

Trenches 1, 3 and 6-9 were negative for archaeological remains. Three of the excavated trenches (Trenches 2, 4 and 5) recorded possible drainage gullies; one undated with a second dated to the 13th century. The topsoil, subsoils and natural substratum was similar across trenches 3-9 in the northern field and all of these trenches contained filled in furrows, while the southern two trenches (1 and 2) contained multiple alluvial layers.

Trench 1

Trench 1 measured 30.4m x 1.5m, and was aligned north-east to south-west (Fig. 5). The natural substratum consisted of mixed blue-grey-orange clay at a depth of between 0.67m - 1.29m below ground level. Overlying this was four different layers of alluvium. The lowest one, (6) was mixed grey-orange silky clay, 0.09-0.29m thick. Overlying this was (5), containing flecks of manganese and mottled grey-orange clay, 0.12-0.18m thick. This was covered by (4), russet mottled grey clay, 0.16-0.29m thick. The final alluvial layer (3), was a mottled orange-grey clay with manganese, 0.1-0.31m thick. Above this was a subsoil of mottled grey, yellow-brown silty clay was 0.21-0.3m thick. This was covered by a mid-brown clay loam topsoil, 0.02-0.05m thick - the topsoil from the southern field had been mainly removed (Fig. 5).

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)	Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)		Archaeology?
1	30.4		1.5	45.6		0.8		1.29		No
mOD	82.97							83.74		
Interval (m) from north-east end	0	7	10	15	20	25	30.4			
Topsoil depth	0.05	0.02	0.02	0.02	-	0.05	0.02			
Subsoil depth	0.21	0.13	0.27	0.3	0.28	0.25	0.3			
Alluvium 1 (3)	0.24	0.31	0.27	0.13	0.14	0.1	0.1			
Alluvium 2 (4)	0.26	0.19	0.29	0.23	0.2	0.18	0.16			
Alluvium 3 (5)	0.07	0.18	0.17	0.16	0.12	-	-			
Alluvium 4 (6)	-	0.29	0.2	0.24	0.26	0.27	0.09			
Top of natural substratum	-	1.29	1.22	1.1	1.0	0.85	0.67			
Base of trench	0.83	1.29	1.28	1.1	1.03	0.9	0.8			



Figure 5: Trench 1 looking north-east

Trench 2

Trench 2 measured 27.1m x 1.5m, and was aligned north-east to south-west (Fig. 6). The natural substratum was the same as in Trench 1, encountered between 0.73m and 1.06m. This trench also had the same four alluvial layers as in Trench 1, deeper at the north-east end, rising up toward the south-west. Cut into alluvial layer 1 was gully [11], aligned east to west, with a u-shaped profile (Fig. 7). It was approximately 0.4m wide, 0.1m deep and filled by (12), dark grey-brown silty clay (Figs 8 & 9). This was similar to the final alluvial layer (8) so may be a flooding event filling the gully and surrounding area (Fig.10). This was covered by subsoil, 0.16-0.19m thick.

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)		Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)		Archaeology?
2	27.1		1.5		40.65		0.38		1.14		Yes
mOD	84.05								84.44		
Interval (m) from north-east end	0	5	10	15	20	25	27				
Subsoil depth	0.19	0.16	0.16	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.19				
Alluvium 1 (7)	0.39	0.17	0.18	0.2	0.23	0.17	0.28				
Alluvium 2 (8)	0.12	0.13	-	0.14	-	-	-				
Alluvium 3 (9)	0.29	0.19	-	0.09	-	-	-				
Alluvium 4 (10)	0.1	0.12	-	0.1	-	-	-				
Top of natural substratum	1.06	0.83	-	0.73	-	-	-				
Base of trench	1.14	0.9	0.39	0.75	0.49	0.38	0.45				



Figure 6: Trench 2 looking north-east

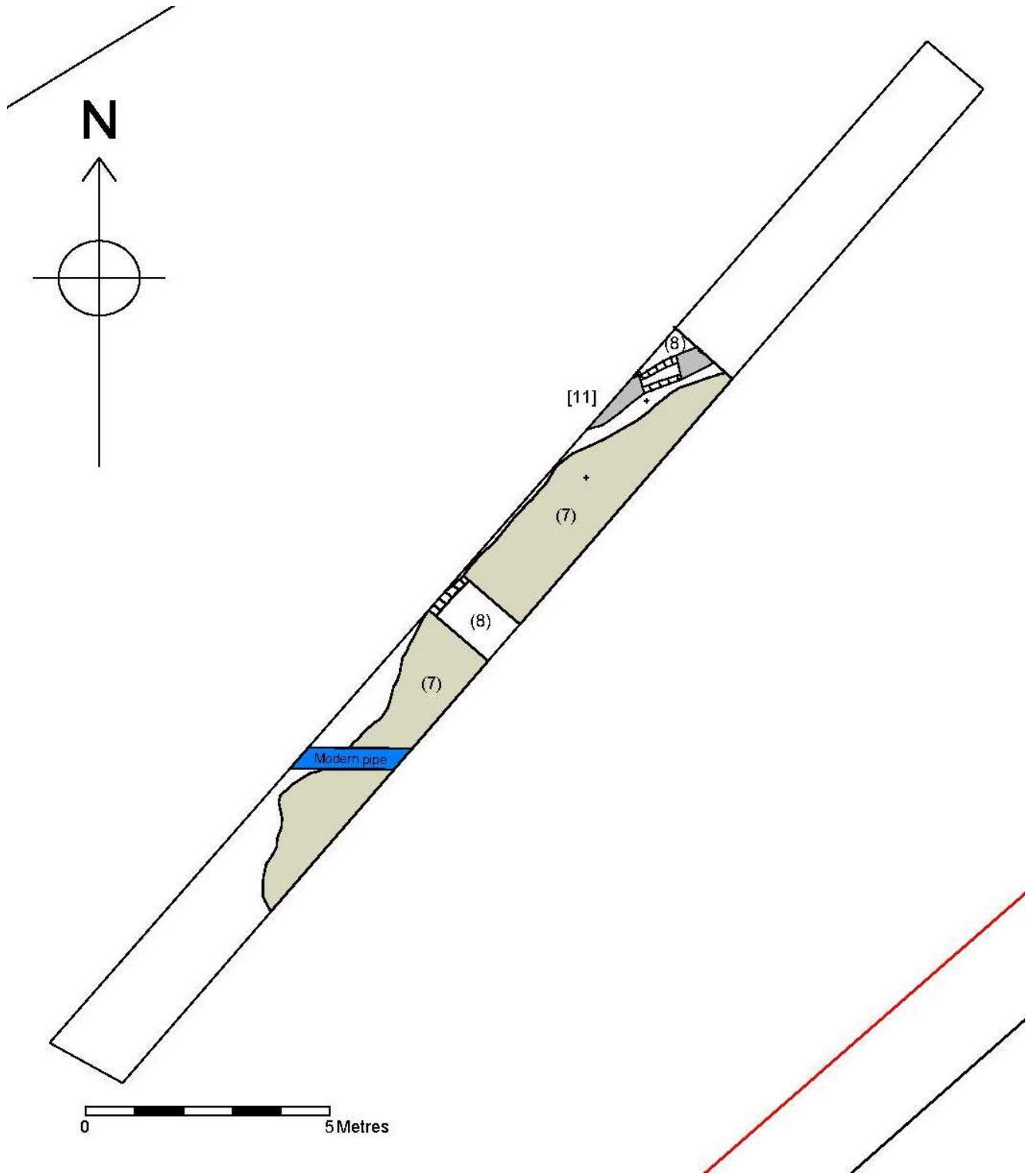


Figure 7: Trench 2 plan



Figure 8: Gully [11] looking west

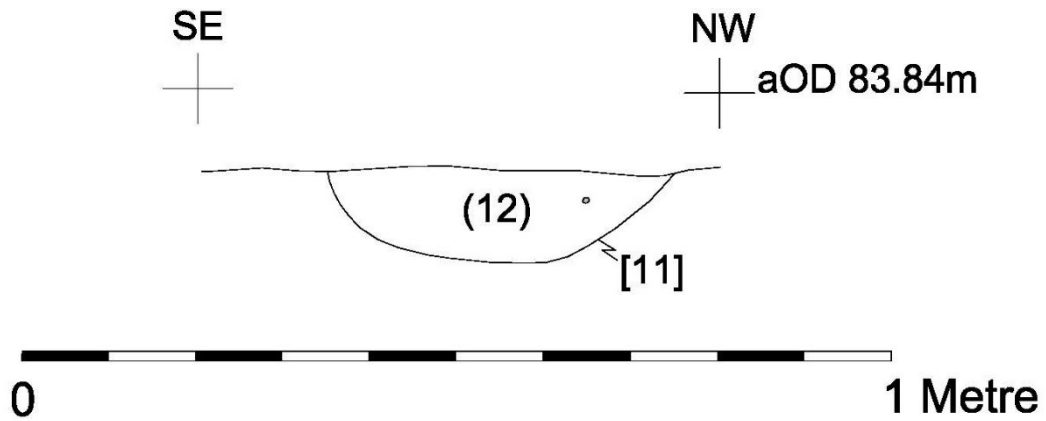


Figure 9: Gully [11] section



Figure 10: Alluvial layer (7) looking north-east

Trench 3

Trench 3 measured 30.5m x 1.9m, and was aligned north-east-south-west (Fig. 11). The natural substratum consisted of mixed blue-grey and yellow clay, encountered between 0.27m and 0.36m. Subsoil was a mixed ploughing horizon comprising a mixed brown-yellow silty clay 0.08-0.13m thick, with a large number of furrow and plough scars. Topsoil was a mid-dark brown clay loam, 0.13-0.22m thick.

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)		Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)		Archaeology?
3	30.5		1.9		57.95		0.33		0.49		No
mOD	87.47								86.41		
Interval (m) from south-west end	0	5	10	15	20	25	30.5				
Topsoil depth	0.18	0.24	0.16	0.14	0.18	0.18	0.15				
Subsoil depth	0.1	0.13	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.14	0.18				
Top of natural substratum	0.28	0.37	0.34	0.32	0.36	0.32	0.33				
Base of trench	0.49	0.42	0.46	0.45	0.43	0.4	0.33				



Figure 11: Trench 3 looking north-east

Trench 4

Trench 4 measured 30.6m x 1.9m, and was aligned north to south (Figs 12-13). The natural substratum was encountered between 0.27m and 0.36m. Cut into the natural was ditch [17], aligned north-west to south-east with a steep v-shaped profile, measuring 0.45m wide and 0.38m deep (Figs 14 & 15). The lower fill (16), was grey mottled yellow silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, 0.22m thick. This was overlain by (15), a russet mottled brown – grey silty clay, 0.16m thick. These fills contained sherds of Nottingham ware fabrics probably dating to the 13th century. An environmental sample found only charcoal flecks and modern seeds. The gully was sealed by subsoil between 0.08-0.13m thick and overlain with topsoil was 0.13-0.22m thick.

Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (sq. m)	Min. depth (m)	Max. depth (m)	Archaeology?			
4	30.6	1.9	58.14	0.3	0.41	Yes			
mOD	89.19				89.26				
Interval (m) from south end	0	5	10	15	20	25	30.6		
Topsoil depth	0.13	0.22	0.2	0.19	0.26	0.2	0.2		
Subsoil depth	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.1	0.1	0.13		
Top of natural substratum	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.27	0.36	0.3	0.33		
Base of trench	0.3	0.38	0.31	0.33	0.41	0.36	0.38		

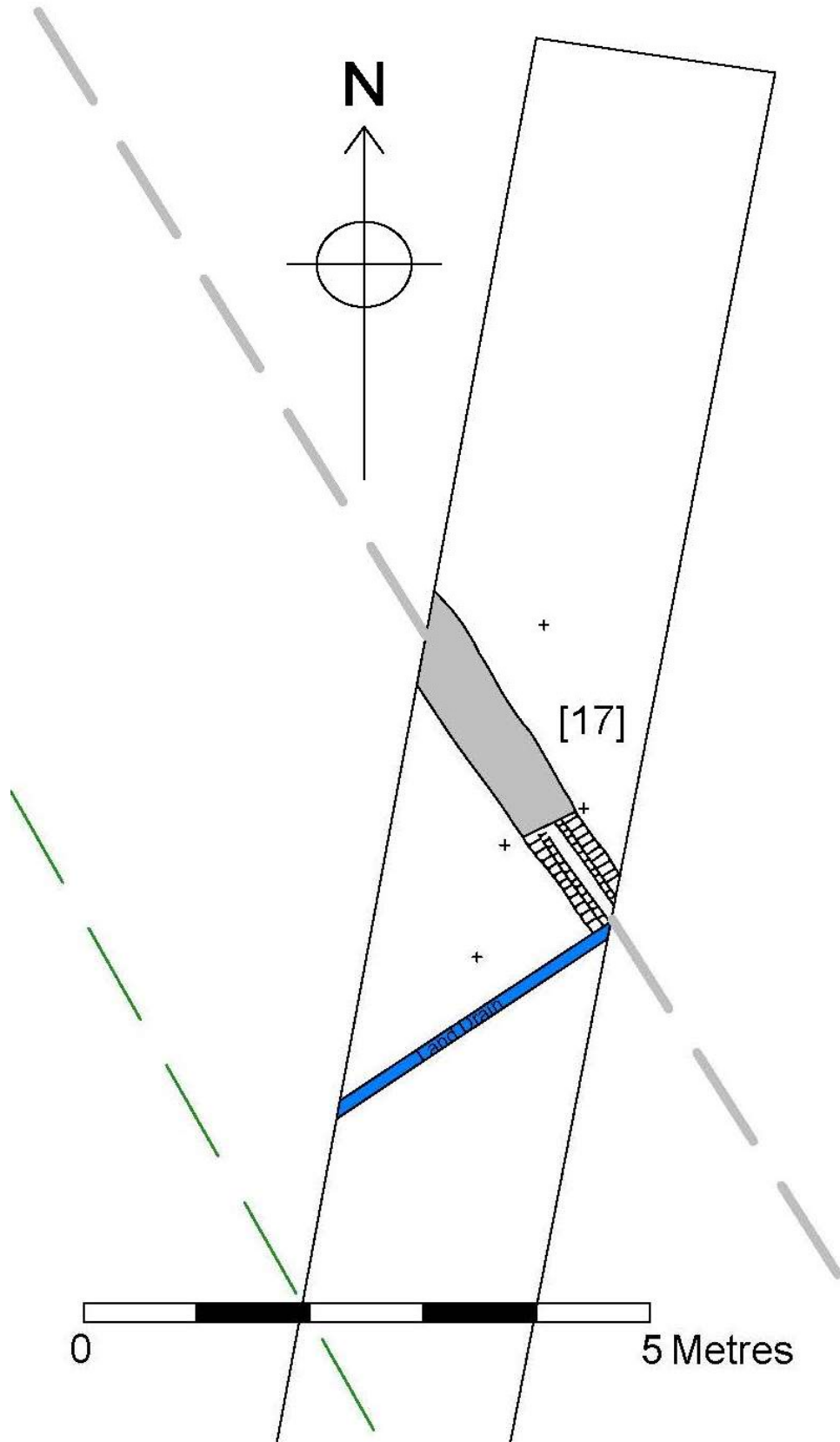


Figure 12: Trench 4 plan



Figure 13: Trench 4 looking south



Figure 14: Gully [17] looking north-west

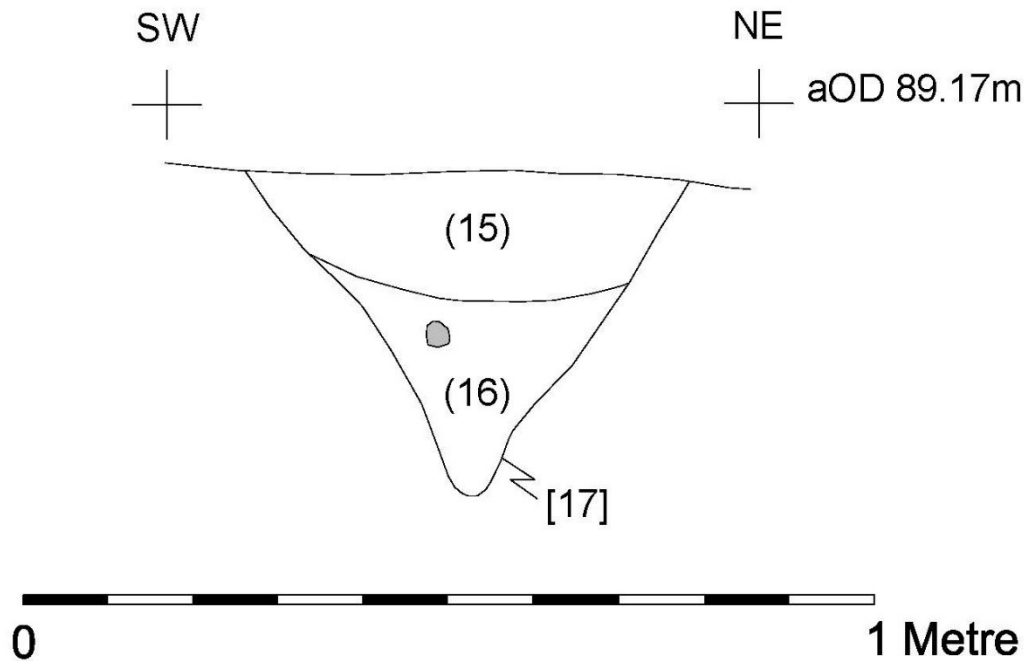


Figure 15: Gully [17] section

Trench 5

Trench 5 measured 30m x 1.9m, and was aligned north-east-south-west (Fig. 16). The natural substratum was encountered between 0.22m and 0.35m. Cut into the subsoil was gully [19], on the same alignment as [17], 0.45m wide and most like the same gully. It was sealed by subsoil 0.11-0.19m thick. Topsoil was 0.03-0.19m thick.

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)	Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)		Archaeology?
5	30		1.9	57		0.36		0.49		Yes
mOD	90.33							89.06		
Interval (m) from south-west end	0	5	10	15	20	25	30			
Topsoil depth	0.19	0.03	0.17	0.2	0.17	0.17	0.11			
Subsoil depth	0.14	0.19	0.16	0.11	0.18	0.11	0.16			
Top of natural substratum	0.33	0.22	0.33	0.31	0.35	0.28	0.27			
Base of trench	0.41	0.45	0.4	0.36	0.41	0.41	0.49			



Figure 16: Trench 5 looking south-west

Trench 6

Trench 6 measured 33.5m x 1.9m, and was aligned east to west (Fig. 17). The natural substratum was encountered between 0.21m and 0.34m. Subsoil was 0.12-0.19m thick and the topsoil was 0.09-0.18m thick.

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)	Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)		Archaeology?
6	33.5		1.9	63.65		0.31		0.41		No
mOD	85.86							84.13		
Interval (m) from west end	0	5	10	15	20	25	33.5			
Topsoil depth	0.09	0.1	0.1	0.14	0.14	0.11	0.18			
Subsoil depth	0.12	0.14	0.19	0.15	0.14	0.18	0.16			
Top of natural substratum	0.21	0.24	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.29	0.34			
Base of trench	0.41	0.42	0.44	0.31	0.31	0.32	0.4			



Figure 17: Trench 6 looking east

Trench 7

Trench 7 measured 30m x 1.9m, and was aligned north to south (Fig. 18). The natural substratum was encountered between 0.25m and 0.36m. Subsoil was 0.09-0.16m thick and the topsoil was 0.15-0.25m thick.

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)	Area (sq. m)	Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)	Archaeology?	
7	30		1.9	57	0.32		0.51	No	
mOD	86.79						86.93		
Interval (m) from south end	0	5	10	15	20	25	30		
Topsoil depth	0.15	0.16	0.2	0.25	0.18	0.16	0.18		
Subsoil depth	0.13	0.12	0.16	0.11	0.12	0.09	0.1		
Top of natural substratum	0.28	0.28	0.36	0.36	0.3	0.25	0.28		
Base of trench	0.41	0.44	0.51	0.49	0.43	0.34	0.32		



Figure 18: Trench 7 looking north

Trench 8

Trench 8 measured 21.8m x 1.9m, and was aligned north-east-south-west (Fig. 19). The natural substratum was encountered between 0.28m and 0.35m. Subsoil was 0.09-0.2m thick and the topsoil was 0.09-0.22m thick.

Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (sq. m)	Min. depth (m)	Max. depth (m)	Archaeology?			
8	30.8	1.9	58.52	0.31	0.52	No			
mOD	85.83				84.78				
Interval (m) from south-west end	0	5	10	15	20	25	30.8		
Topsoil depth	0.15	0.15	0.12	0.09	0.16	0.13	0.22		
Subsoil depth	0.15	0.2	0.17	0.12	0.13	0.15	0.09		
Top of natural substratum	0.3	0.35	0.29	0.21	0.29	0.28	0.31		
Base of trench	0.45	0.52	0.46	0.46	0.43	0.39	0.31		



Figure 19: Trench 8 looking north-east

Trench 9

Trench 9 measured 30.5m x 1.9m, and was aligned east-west (Fig. 20). The natural substratum was encountered between 0.24m and 0.39m. Subsoil was 0.12-0.17m thick and the topsoil was 0.12-0.18m thick.

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)	Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)		Archaeology?
9	30.5		1.9	57.95		0.38		0.51		No
mOD	85.78							84.16		
Interval (m) from west end	0	5	10	15	20	25	30.5			
Topsoil depth	0.16	0.18	0.12	0.17	0.18	0.12	0.15			
Subsoil depth	0.15	0.21	0.13	0.12	0.17	0.12	0.16			
Top of natural substratum	0.31	0.39	0.25	0.29	0.34	0.24	0.31			
Base of trench	0.41	0.41	0.44	0.38	0.51	0.44	0.38			



Figure 20: Trench 9 looking east

The Post Roman Ceramic Finds - Deborah Sawday

The Ceramic Finds

The pottery assemblage was made up of one sherd of Roman Grey ware, weighing 3 grams, and 25 sherds of medieval and later pottery, weighing 321 grams and representing a maximum count of 24 vessels.

Condition

The Roman sherd was abraded and the condition of the relatively softer fired medieval pottery was also poor with a high degree of abrasion, the more highly fired later medieval and post medieval material less so. Overall the earlier medieval and later pottery had an average sherd weight of 9.62 grams for the former and 18.55 grams for the latter.

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: The pottery fabrics.

Fabric	Common Name/Kiln & Fabric Equivalent where known	Approx. Date Range
GW	Grey ware	Roman
ST	Stamford – fine/very fine (1)	c.1050-12th C.
PM	Potters Marston ware - Potters Marston, Leicestershire (2)	c.1100- c.1300/50+
LY1	Lyveden/Stanion type - Lyveden/Stanion 'B' ware, Northants CTS fabric 320 (3)	c.1200-1350
NO2	NOTGE Nottingham- Early Green Glazed ware (4)	c.1230-c.1280
NO3	Nottingham- Light Bodied/Reduced Green Glazed ware NOTGL/NOTGR (4)	Early/mid 13th c.1350
NO6	Nottingham - Coarse Sandy Ware NCSW (4)	13 th -15 th C
MS3	Medieval Sandy ware 3 – misc. coarse hared fired quartz tempered fabrics -? Burley Hill/Allestree/Ticknall, Derbyshire	Early/mid 13th C.-1450
MP	Midland Purple ware - ? Nottingham (4), Ticknall, Derbyshire (5)	c.1375-1550
CW2	Cistercian ware 2 -? Ticknall, Derbyshire (5)	c.1450/1475- 1550
MB	Midland Blackware - ?Ticknall, Derbyshire (5)	c.1550-1750
MY	Midland Yellow ware - ?Ticknall, Derbyshire (5) (8) (9)	c.1500-1725
EA1	Earthenware 1 – Coarse Post Medieval Earthenware – (5)	c.1500-1750
EA2	Earthenware 2 – ‘Pancheon ware’, ?Ticknall, Derbyshire (5)	17th C-18th C. +
EA6	Earthenware 6 - Black Glazed Earthenware , ?Ticknall, Derbyshire (5)	16th C.-18th C.
(1) Kilmurry 1980	(4) V. Nailor pers. comm./ Nailor & Young 2001, Nailor 2005	
(2) Haynes 1952	(5) Spavold and Brown 2005	
(3) Blinkhorn, P., 2015 Northants CTS		

The Ceramic Record

The bulk of the finds, dating from the later 11th or 12th centuries to the 17th or 18th centuries were recovered from the topsoil, context (13), with a range of Stamford, Nottingham, Medieval Sandy, Midland Purple, Cistercian/Blackwares and Earthenwares all present. Layer context (4) produced three sherds, of medieval Potters Marston, Lyveden/Stanion and Nottingham ware,

dating from the 12th or 13th to the early or mid-14th centuries. The abraded jug in the Lyveden/Stanion fabric LY1, was slipped and glazed and decorated with an applied grid-stamped oval clay pad and is dated generally from c. 1200-1350 (Blinkhorn 2015). Layer (8) produced exclusively Nottingham wares, and the layer (5) contained two tiny fragments, part of a spouted bowl, cooking pot or pitcher, Kilmurry forms 5, 8 or 13 (Kilmurry 1980). The extremely white and fine fabric, fabric C is dated from the second quarter of the 12th century at Stamford, but is relatively more common outside Stamford, especially in the late 12th century (*ibid.* 1980, 133). The back fill of the gully [17], contexts (15) and (16), contained the Nottingham ware fabrics NO2 and NO3, which could both date to the 13th century.

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

Fabric	No.	Gr	Min.. Vessel	ASW	% of total by sherd
Medieval					
ST	3	13	2		
PM	1	4	1		
LY1	1	3	1		
NO2	2	9	2		
NO3	7	104	7	14.85	
NO6	2	21	2	10.05	
Sub-total	16	154	15	9.62	64.00
Later Medieval/Post Medieval					
MS3	1	44	1		
MP	1	16	1		
CW/MB	1	17	1		
MY	1	18	1		
EA1	3	51	3		
EA2	1	7	1		
EA6	1	14	1		
Sub-total	9	167	9	18.55	36.00
Site Totals	25	321	24		100.00

Discussion

The assemblage reflects the essentially local nature of pottery trade and distribution patterns at this time; typically Nottingham wares, dating from the 13th to the 14th or 15th centuries dominate this small assemblage, and Nottingham lies less than 20km to the north-west. Stamford c.40km to the south-east, Lyveden/Stanion approximately 50km to the south-south east and Potters Marston some 35 km to the south west appear to represent the limit of the local traded wares in the high medieval period. The sources for the later medieval Midland Purple, and Cistercian wares include both Nottingham and/or Ticknall approximately 32km to the west.

Conclusion

Most of the assemblage is effectively unstratified, and indeed the average sherd weight and degree of abrasion suggests that the medieval and possibly the post medieval finds may have been deposited as a result of the manuring of the fields in the medieval and later periods. However, the later pottery does have a relatively higher average sherd weight, but this may simply reflect the fact that it is harder fired, and hence more likely to suffer from less abrasion and a lower breakage rate. Overall the evidence suggests that, whilst the finds are typically domestic in nature, this site is on the edge of the settlement, unlike previous archaeological

work at 16-30 Main Road, Old Dalby, which indicated possible 12th and 13th century occupation in the vicinity.

Table 3: The pottery by context, fabric/ware, sherd number, weight (grams), and maximum vessel number.

Context	Fabric/ware	No	Gr	Max Vessel No	Comments
4 layer	PM	1	4	1	Abraded body
4	NO6	1	6	1	Body
4	LY1	1	3	1	Abraded jug body, slipped and glazed and decorated with applied grid-stamped oval clay pad, dated c. 1200-1350, (Blinkhorn 2015).
5 layer	ST	2	6	1	Two joining fragments from an abraded spout in very fine Stamford ware, with traces of lead glaze on the exterior. Part of a spouted bowl, cooking pot or pitcher, Kilmurry forms 5, 8 or 13 (Kilmurry 1980). The extremely white and fine fabric, fabric C at Stamford, is dated from the second quarter of the 12th century at Stamford, but is relatively more common outside Stamford, especially in the late 12th century (<i>ibid.</i> 1980, 133).
8 layer	NO3	1	51	1	Abraded glazed jug strap handle
8	NO3	1	5	1	Abraded body.
13 topsoil	GW	1	3	1	Abraded body – Roman.
13	ST	1	7	1	Abraded body
13	N02	1	8	1	Jar rim
13	NO3	1	31	1	Abraded flat untrimmed base, apple green glaze on exterior, grey interior, late 13 th .
13	NO3	2	9	2	Abraded, one with traces of external glaze, light grey interior, later 13 th .
13	NO6	1	15	1	Abraded body, traces of brownish glaze on exterior.
13	MS3	1	44	1	Abraded flat trimmed base, traces of green glaze on exterior base.
13	MP	1	16	1	Dark brown glaze on exterior.
13	CW/MB	1	17	1	Body, Purplish black glaze on the exterior.
13	MY	1	18	1	Pale buff body, yellow glaze on both surfaces.
13	EA1	2	23	2	Purplish black interior glaze.
13	EA1	1	28	1	Jar rim
13	EA2	1	7	1	Body, slipped and glazed on interior.
13	EA6	1	14	1	Cup base.
15 [17] gully	NO3	1	7	1	Abraded, light bodied, jug neck
16 [17]	NO2	1	1	1	Abraded, pink bodied
16	NO3	1	1	1	Abraded, light bodied
MISC.					
5	clay	1			
13	flint	1			Secondary flake – W. Jarvis, pers. comm.

The Environmental Results – Adam Santer

Animal Bone

A single fragment of animal bone was recovered from layer (3). The fragment was poorly preserved with extensive damage covering the entirety of the surface characteristic of burial within an acidic environment. The fragment was identified as part of the radius of a large mammal, most likely cattle.

Introduction

An environmental sample was taken for the analysis of charred plant remains. The sample was from the top fill (15) of an gully [17]. The results are presented here along with a statement of potential for future environmental sampling at the site.

Methodology

The sample consisted of a light orange-grey clay and was processed in a York tank using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation into a 0.3mm sieve. The flotation fractions (flots) were sorted for plant remains and other artefacts under an x10-40 stereo microscope. The heavy residues were scanned for remains.

Results

Some flecks of charcoal were found in the sample. The sample was abundant in modern rootlets and contained some modern weed seeds; indicating modern disturbance to the context through bioturbation. No other environmental remains were found.

Conclusion and statement of potential

Due to the small sample size and lack of plant remains found in the sample it was not possible to learn anything about diet, crop husbandry strategies or environment at the site. However, if further work is to be carried out then a suitable sampling strategy should be implemented.

Discussion

Although a fairly good pottery assemblage was recovered (mostly from the topsoil of the ploughed field), the evaluation produced very little actual archaeology. The top ploughed field had evidence for continuous agriculture with furrows, plough scarring and a variety of pottery within the plough soil ranging from the 12th to 18th Centuries. This presumably represents manuring of the fields in the medieval and later periods. Gully [17]/[19] dating to the 13th Century was on the same alignment as the furrows, and may have formed part of a drainage system running down the slope of the hill south-eastwards.

This would appear to fit in with the alluvial layers uncovered in Trenches 1 and 2 containing pottery dating from the 12th – 14th centuries. Gully [11] cut into alluvial layer (8), contains similar alluvial material and presumably dates from the same period. Given the presence of the Dalby Brook bounding the site to the east, this could be evidence of flooding and attempts at draining during the mediaeval period, possibly associated with the lesser known wet period in the 13th century.

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Archive

The site archive for this phase consists of: 9 A4 trial trench sheets, 18 A5 context sheets 1 A4 drawing index, 1 A4 drawing record sheet, 1 A4 photo index sheet, 44 digital photographs and 1 A3 permatrace sheet. It will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A52.2019.

Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work through the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York. A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in a suitable regional archaeological journal in due course.

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	universi1-362307
	Project Name	Longcliff Hill, Old Dalby, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire
	Start/end dates of field work	22-07-2019 – 25-07-2019
	Previous/Future Work	None
	Project Type	Evaluation
	Site Status	
	Current Land Use	Arable
	Monument Type/Period	medieval
	Significant Finds/Period	pottery
	Development Type	Residential
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition
	Planning Ref.	18/01111/FUL
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	Longcliff Hill, Old Dalby, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE14 3JY
	Study Area	1.6 ha
	Site Coordinates	SK 67325 24074
	Height OD	84-89m
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS
	Project Originator Brief	Local Planning Authority (CCC)
	Project Originator Design	ULAS
	Project Manager	John Thomas

	Project Director/Supervisor	Nathan Flavell		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Truman Contractors		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	Leics Mus Service	Leics Mus Service	Leics Mus Service
	ID (Acc. No.)	X.A52.2019	X.A52.2019	X.A52.2019
	Contents	Pottery,	Photographs	Trial trench sheets, photo records, contact sheet, context sheets, drawings
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