

**An Archaeological Evaluation at 7 King Street, Sileby, Leicestershire.**

**NGR: SK460107 315242**

**Roger Kipling**



**ULAS Report No: 2021-096**

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**Site Name:** 7 King Street, Sileby, Leicestershire.

**Grid Ref:** SK 460107 315242

**Author:** Roger Kipling

**Client:** UCR Construction & Development Ltd

**Planning Ref.** P/19/0218/2

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## OASIS RECORD

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	<b>Project Name</b>	An Archaeological Evaluation at 7 King Street, Sileby, Leicestershire		
	<b>Start/end dates</b>	14/06/2021 - 16/06/2021		
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	<b>Project Type</b>	Evaluation		
	<b>Site Status</b>	None		
	<b>Current Land Use</b>	Garden		
	<b>Monument Type/Period</b>	Ditch/Roman		
	<b>Significant Finds/Period</b>	Pottery/Roman		
	<b>Reason for Investigation</b>	NPPF		
	<b>Position in the Planning Process</b>	Conditional		
<b>Planning Ref.</b>	P/19/0218/2			
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	<b>County</b>	Leicestershire		
	<b>Site Address/Postcode</b>	7 King Street, Sileby, Leicestershire LE12 7LZ		
	<b>Study Area</b>	0.31 hectares		
	<b>Site Coordinates</b>	SK 460107 315242		
	<b>Height OD</b>	52m aOD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	ULAS		
	<b>Project Brief Originator</b>	Local Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council		
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	<b>Project Manager</b>	Gavin Speed		
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## An Archaeological Evaluation at 7 King Street, Sileby, Leicestershire

**Roger Kipling**

### Summary

*An archaeological evaluation was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on land at 7 King Street, Sileby, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 460107 315242). The work was undertaken as a condition of planning permission for a housing development.*

*Two 15m long evaluation trenches were excavated across the site, with the trenches targeting the two proposed building footprints. Trench 1 featured a single substantial Late Roman ditch, representing the first recorded evidence of Roman activity from Sileby. The remainder of the trench had been heavily disturbed by 19th or 20th pitting. Trench 2 revealed the brick foundations of the now-demolished structure formerly linking two standing 18th/19th century farm buildings, in addition to an undated ditch and two truncated pits or natural scoops.*

*The archive for the work will be deposited with Leicestershire Museum Service under accession number X.A51.2021.*

### Introduction

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 16 *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment and Enhancing the Historic Environment* (MHCLG 2019) this document forms the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on land at 7 King Street, Sileby, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 460107 315242; Fig. 1).

The work was carried out by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of UCR Construction & Development Ltd. Planning permission has been granted for redevelopment of the site as erection of eight dwellings and conversion of the existing farmhouse into two dwellings. (Ref: P/19/0218/2; Fig. 2).

The application site is located within the Sileby Conservation Area and within an Archaeological Alert Area. The DBA assessed that there was low potential for the Site to contain archaeological remains of a late prehistoric, Roman, or early medieval date. Leicestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist as advisor to Charnwood Borough Council required further archaeological work to determine the impact of the proposed scheme on any buried archaeology and provide a mitigation strategy for the site.

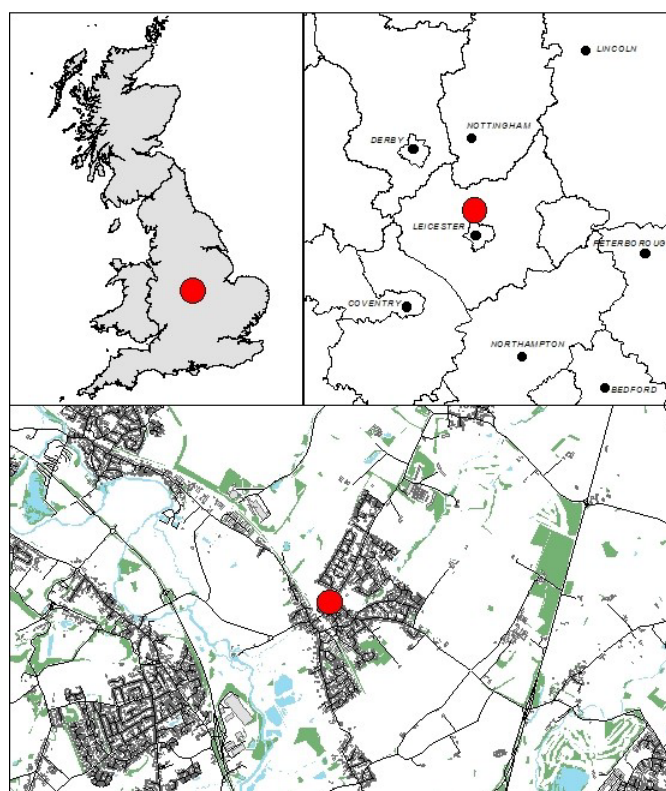


Figure 1: Site Location

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## Site Location, Geology and Topography

The Site comprises an area of approximately 0.31ha on the north-western side of King Street, Sileby, Leicestershire (centred at SK 6013 1527). It is bounded to the south-east by a 20th century garage, to the north-east by a railway line, to the north-west by gardens to the rear of properties on Barrow Road and to the south-west by commercial properties and the car park of the Horse and Trumpet public house. The south-western corner of the study site is occupied by 7 King Street, a Grade II Listed house dating to the 18th century which may have earlier origins (NHLE 1230690), to the rear of which extends its garden, forming the site's western side. To the north-east the site comprises an areas of waste-ground extending towards the railway. A ruinous building range is situated within this area, aligned south-west to north-east to the immediate north of the modern garage building adjacent to the site's southern edge, and a further brick building is situated to its north-east. The site is generally level, situated at a height of approximately 52m above OD. The British Geological Survey website indicates that the superficial geology on the Site consists of mudstone of the Edwalton Member (BGS 2017).

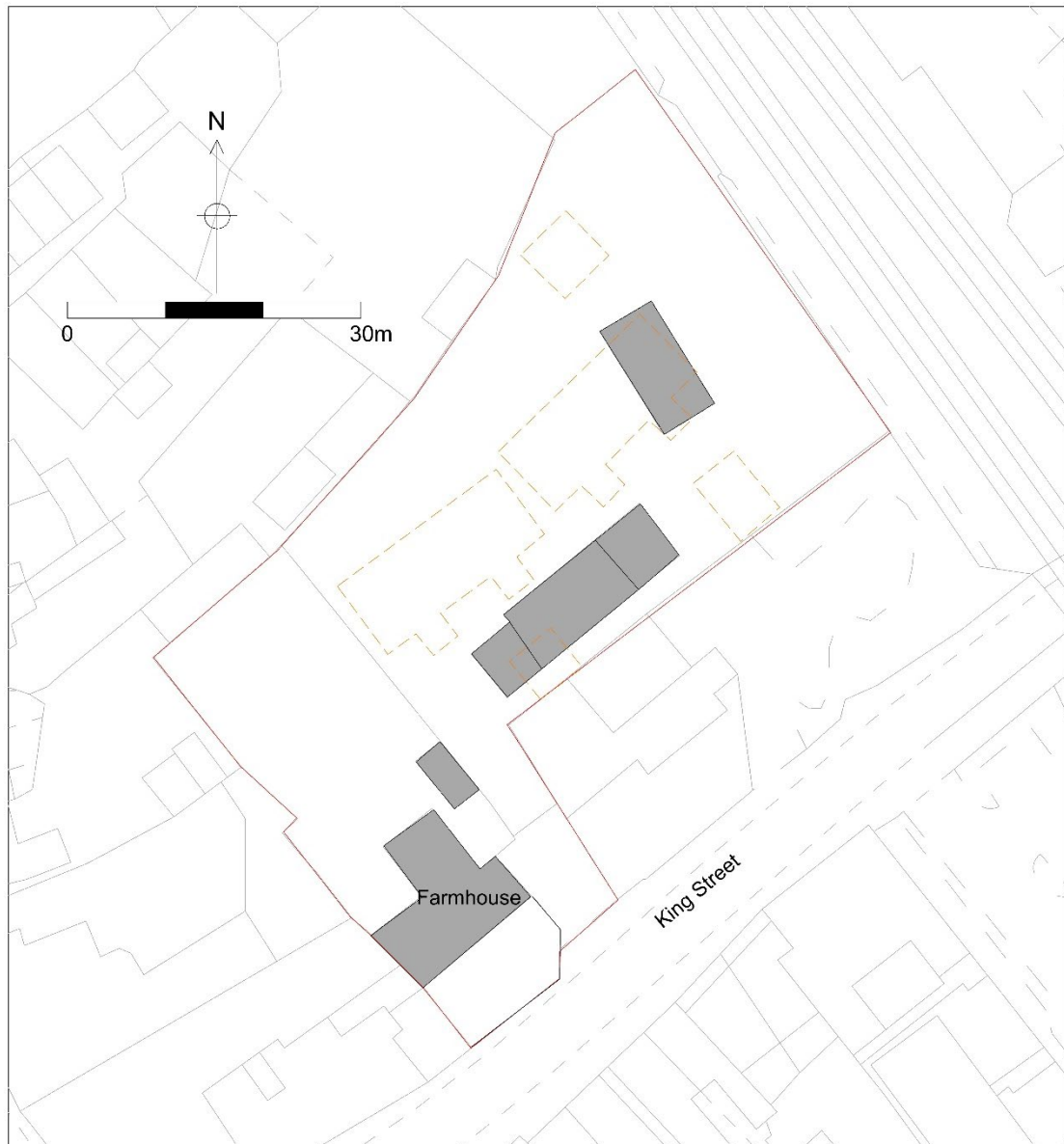


Figure 2: Detailed site plan, showing current upstanding buildings (shaded grey) and area of proposed development (dashed orange lines)



Figure 3: Proposed development plan (provided by client)

### Historical and Archaeological Background

A desk-based assessment undertaken in 2017 established that the Site lies within the Sileby Conservation Area, and there is one listed building within the study site, the Grade II Listed 18th century house at 7 King Street, which will be retained as part of the development plans. The DBA assessed that there is low potential for the Site to contain archaeological remains of a late prehistoric, Roman or early medieval date, and that any such remains are likely to have been disturbed by the existing buildings on the site and other post-medieval or modern activity. Any surviving remains of a late medieval or early post-medieval date within the parts of the site not disturbed by the present buildings are likely to represent former agricultural or horticultural activity and be of negligible significance. There is potential for the survival of buried foundations and wall structures relating to the now demolished eastern end of the 18th and 19th century building range, but any such remains would be considered of negligible significance (Lanpro 2017).

#### *Prehistoric and Roman*

There is no recorded evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity in the Site, evidence for prehistoric activity within the wider area is limited to a single archaeological watching brief



undertaken at Moir Close (150m east), in 2003 from which two prehistoric flint blades, three struck flints and a burnt nodule were recovered (ELE6851; MLE 10021). The only evidence for Roman activity in the area was recorded 800m to the east, to the north of Highgate Road in the 1970s, where 13 or 14 sherds of Roman pottery were discovered, including greyware and Derbyshire ware (MLE 949).

### *Medieval*

Sileby is recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086 as *Siglebi*, although the Old Scandinavian origin of this name, meaning the ‘Farmstead or village of a man called Sigulfr’ (Williams and Martin 2003, 627; Mills 2011, 420; may suggest an earlier origin in the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> centuries (MLE959). An Anglo-Saxon brooch was discovered c.700m north-west (MLE6115), and Late Saxon pottery was discovered at Herrick Close on the western edge of Sileby. The Site is situated within or close to the probable medieval core of Sileby, centred around the Church of St Mary to the south-west. Two medieval pits were located at Mountsorrel Lane (100m south-west) (MLE 16160; ELE4540), elsewhere medieval pottery was recovered at Moir Close, (150m) (MLE 10022; ELE6851).

### *Post-Medieval and Modern*

A map of 1760 shows the house at 7 King Street, to the north-east of which appears to have been a rectangular yard opening towards the house. This was surrounded on three sides by agricultural building ranges, the northern range of which corresponds with the location of the existing ruinous building within the south-eastern edge of the study site. Apart from the agricultural buildings, the majority of the site to the north-east of 7 King Street, appears to have been open ground through the later post-medieval period, based on the cartographic evidence, perhaps in use as small fields or paddocks (Lanpro 2017). Map evidence indicates that the site remained largely unchanged through the first half of the 20th century. In the 1960s the area of the site to north-east of 7 King Street was in use as a garage, with numerous small sheds aligned along the external side of the garden wall and along the site’s northern boundary.

## **Aims and Objectives**

The main objectives of the archaeological work were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To characterise the extent, date range, character, condition and significance of any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To excavate and record archaeological deposits uncovered during the work.
- To recover artefacts and ecofacts to aid in the dating and interpretation of any archaeological deposits and features encountered.
- To advance understanding of the heritage assets and establish the relationship of any remains within the wider landscape.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

The results of the evaluation will provide information for the local planning authority to make informed recommendations and to identify an appropriate mitigation strategy for the proposed development.

## **Research Objectives**

The project had the potential to add to objectives derived from *East Midlands Heritage* research agenda (Cooper 2006, Knight *et al.* 2012, <https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/researchframeworks/eastmidlands/wiki/>).

The development area lies within the historic medieval core of Sileby, with known Roman archaeology to the east.

### **Methodology**

The work followed the methodological statement set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the project (ULAS 2021). All work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (2020) and adhered to their Code of Conduct (2019). The fieldwork was carried out between the 14th to 16th June 2021. The project involved the excavation of two 15m long trenches across the development area using a JCB excavator with a 1.60m ditching bucket. On arrival at the site the position of the trenches were marked out across the area and positioned over the footprints of each of two new dwellings (Fig. 4). The Site Accession Number (XA51.2021) was used to identify all records and artefacts.

### **Monitoring**

Following consultation with the relevant parties, the results from the exposed trenches did not necessitate a monitoring visit from the Team Leader Natural & Built Environment at Charnwood Borough Council, and consultant on behalf the client. All trenches were backfilled after recording.

### **Results**

Any original topsoil across the site, which survived from the past landscaping, consisted of a dark brownish -grey silty loam. This either overlay a mid- yellowish brown clayey silt sub-soil or came directly onto a light orangish-brown soft silty clay natural with frequent rounded stones.

Despite the modern landscaping, there was no obvious impact into the natural geology although there was re-deposited natural in the trench sides. Archaeological features were identified within Trench 1 and 2.

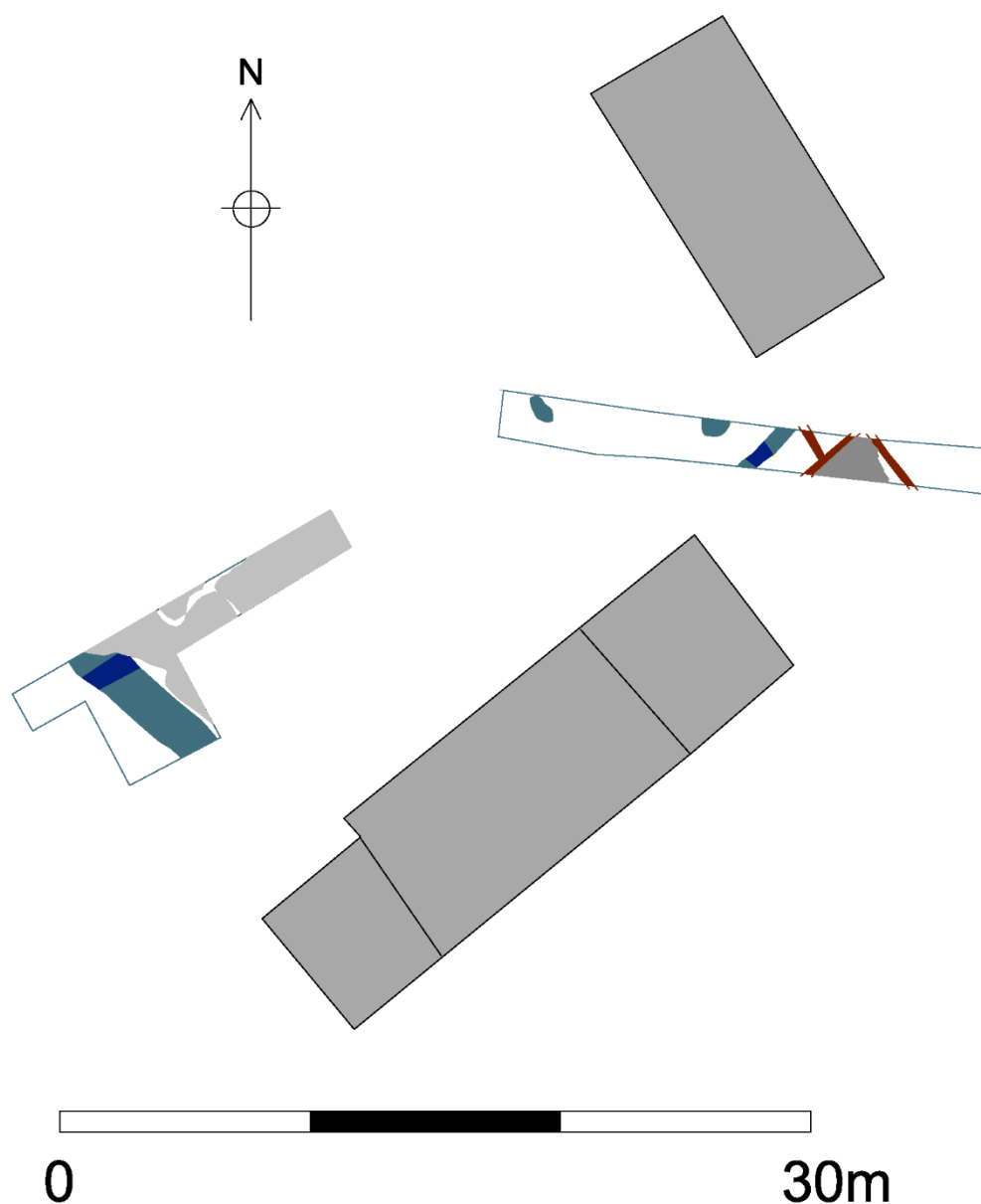


Figure 4: Trenches showing archaeology (T1 on left, T2 on right)

### *Trench 1*

Trench 1 measured 15m x 1.60m and was aligned northeast to southwest and positioned in the open area west of the ruinous farm building in order to target the footprint of the western of the two proposed terraced residential blocks (Figure 6, Figure 7).

Machine removal of 0.30m-0.40m of mixed pale grey sandy clay loam and brick and masonry rubble overburden revealed, at the western end of the trench, dull reddish brown sandy natural clay. A single substantial ditch **[01]** traversed the trench on a northwest-southeast alignment *c.*2m from the west end of the trench (Figure 8, Figure 9). Its single mixed mid-grey and mid-brown clay silt fill **(02)** produced a single bead and flanged bowl rim pottery sherd dating to the later Roman period (AD 250 to 400) as well as several Roman roof tile fragments. The feature had moderately sloping sides to a narrow concave base. The ditch appeared to have been a recut of an earlier linear **[03]**, the mid orange-grey clay silt fill **(04)** of which produced

no dating evidence. The extension of the trench southeast in order to incorporate the full footprint of the proposed building enabled the ditch to be traced for a further 5m (Figure 10).

The eastern side of the ditch was clipped by modern disturbance, possibly representing sand or gravel quarrying, which extended east for the remainder of the trench.

Interval	(NE) 0m	2m	4m	6m	8m	10m	12m	15m (SW)
Garden soil/rubble	0.18m	0.40m	0.30m	0.35m	0.35m	0.35m	0.40m	0.30m
Subsoil Depth	0m	0.10m	0.30m	0.45m	0.45m	-	-	0.35m
Top of natural	0.18m	0.50m	0.60m	0.80m	-	0.35m	-	-
Base of trench	0.18m	0.50m	0.60m	0.85m	0.80m	0.80m	0.80m	0.65m

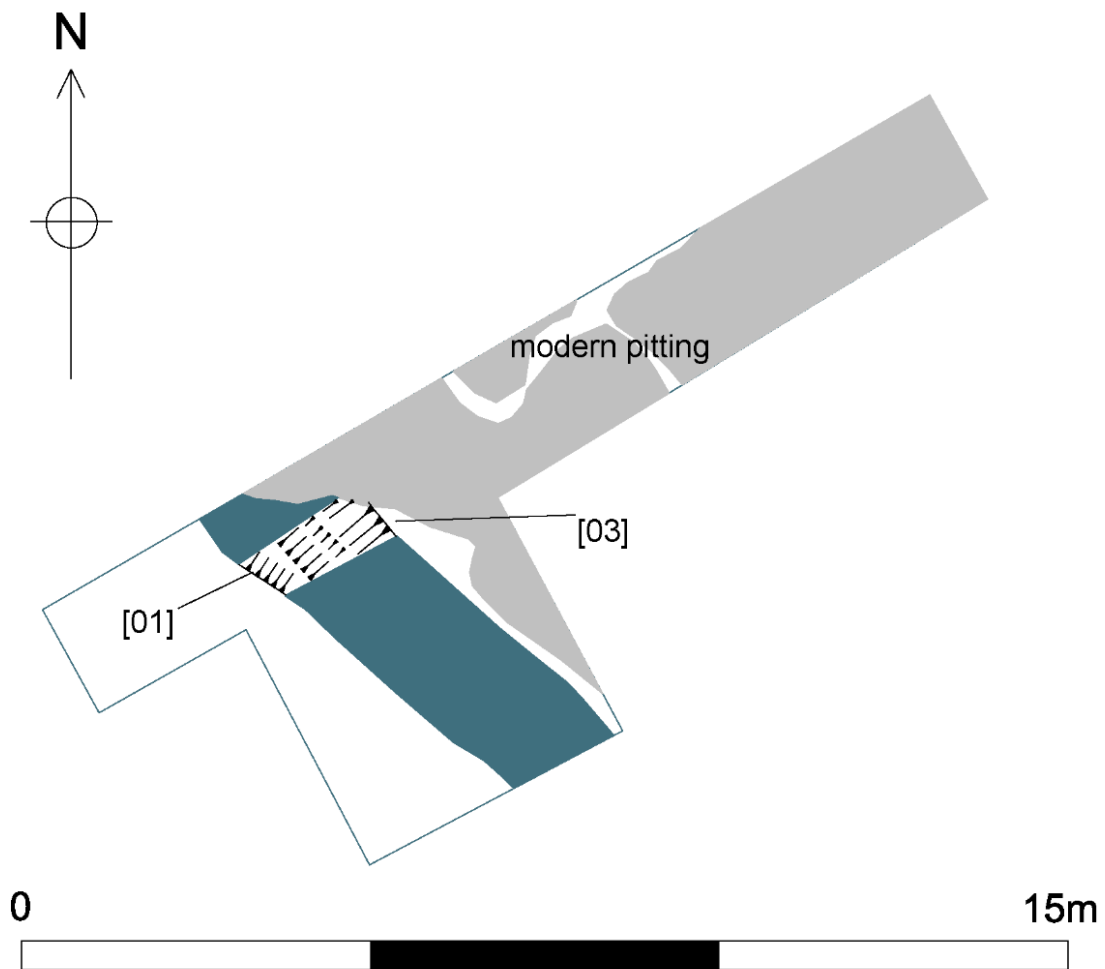


Figure 5: Trench 1 archaeology



Figure 6: Trench 1: general view west (1m scale)



Figure 7: Trench 1: general view southeast (1m scale)



Figure 8: Ditch [01]/[03]; 1m scale

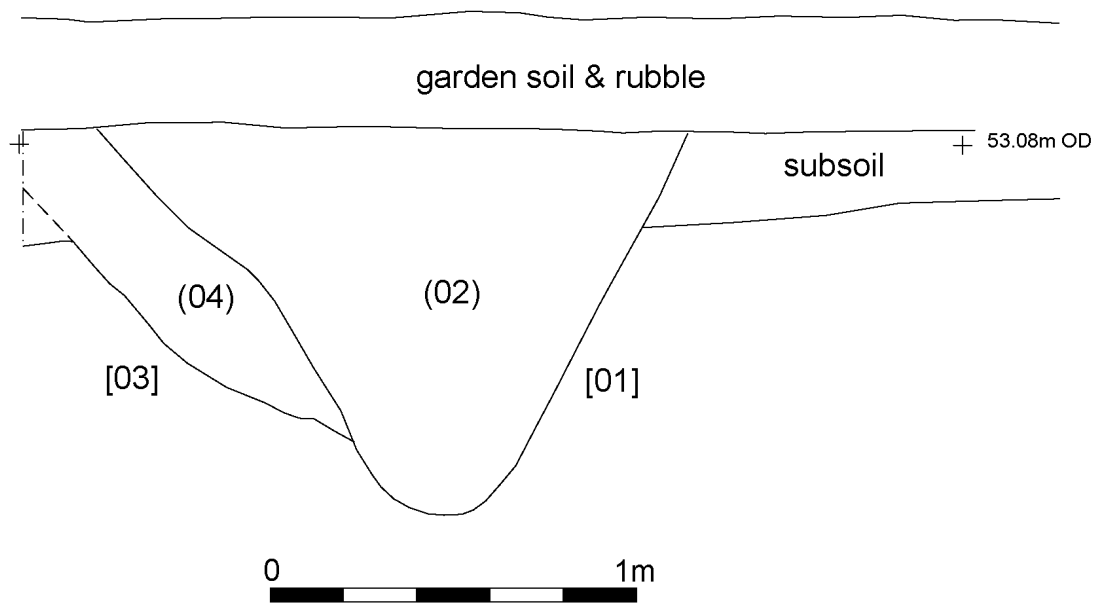


Figure 9: Ditch [01]/[03] section



Figure 10: Trench 1 extension, looking south (1m scale)

### ***Trench 2***

Trench 2 (15m x 1.60m) was orientated approximately east to west and located in the eastern part of the site, targeting the area between the former farm buildings. The eastern end of the trench was occupied by the brickwork footings and foundations to the demolished building formerly connecting the two extant adjacent 19th century farm structures in a courtyard arrangement. The structure comprised brick-built wall footings (09), (10) and (11) in a corner angle arrangement with an associated unmortared brick floor (12) (Figure 11, Figure 12, Figure 13, Figure 14). Machine removal of the building following recording revealed no archaeology.

<b>Interval</b>	<b>(N) 0m</b>	<b>3m</b>	<b>6m</b>	<b>9m</b>	<b>12m</b>	<b>15m (S)</b>
<b>Garden soil/rubble</b>	0.30m	0.32m	0.30m	0.10m	0.25m	0.25m
<b>Subsoil Depth</b>	0.10m	0.08m	0.10m	-	-	0.10m
<b>Top of natural</b>	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m	0.10m	0.25m	0.35m
<b>Base of trench</b>	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m	0.10m	0.25m	0.35m

The western half of the trench was occupied by shallow undated features cutting the sandy clay natural, sealed by a 0.08m-0.10m accumulation of grey-brown sandy silt clay subsoil (Figure 15). Ditch [13] measured 0.60m wide, 0.28m deep and with 45° sides to a concave base. The linear ran on a northeast-southwest alignment, parallel to wall (10). Its single mid grey clay silt fill (14) produced no finds (Figure 16). Two additional small scoops or pits [15] and [17]

(1m x 0.50m+ x 0.18m and 1.15m x 0.60m x 0.25m respectively) produced no finds (Figure 17 & Figure 18).

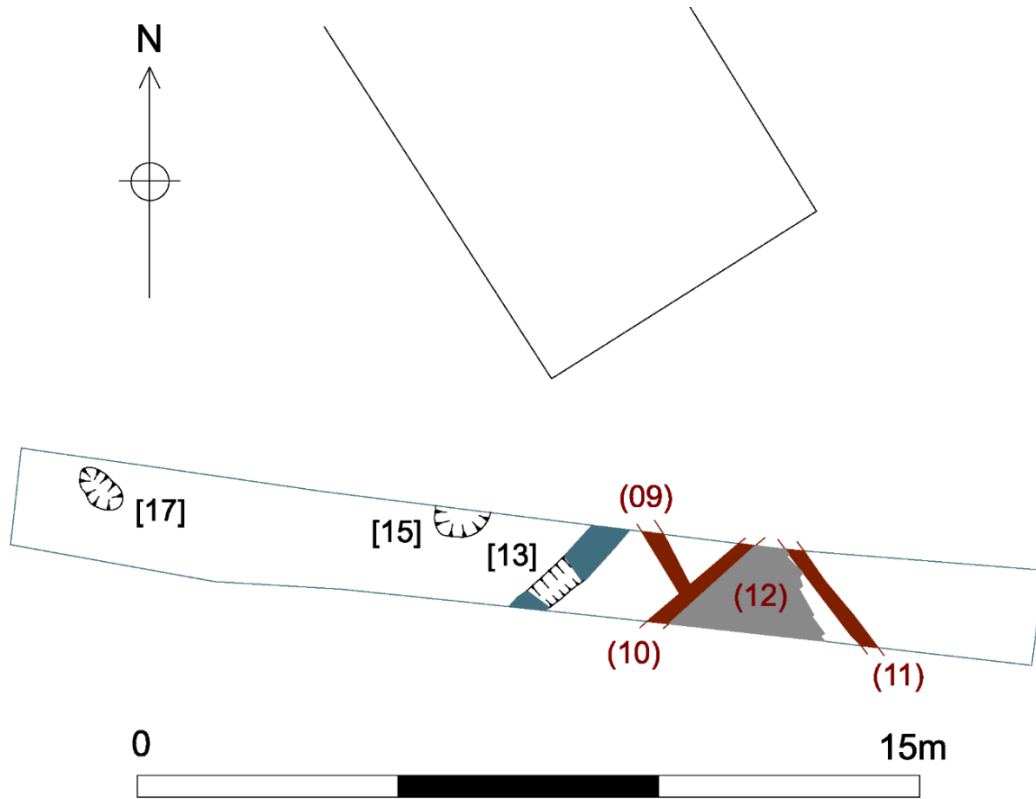


Figure 11: Trench 2 archaeology





Figure 12: Trench 2: general view east (1m scale)



Figure 13: Trench 2: east end of trench; view west (1m scale)



Figure 14: Trench 2: farm building foundations

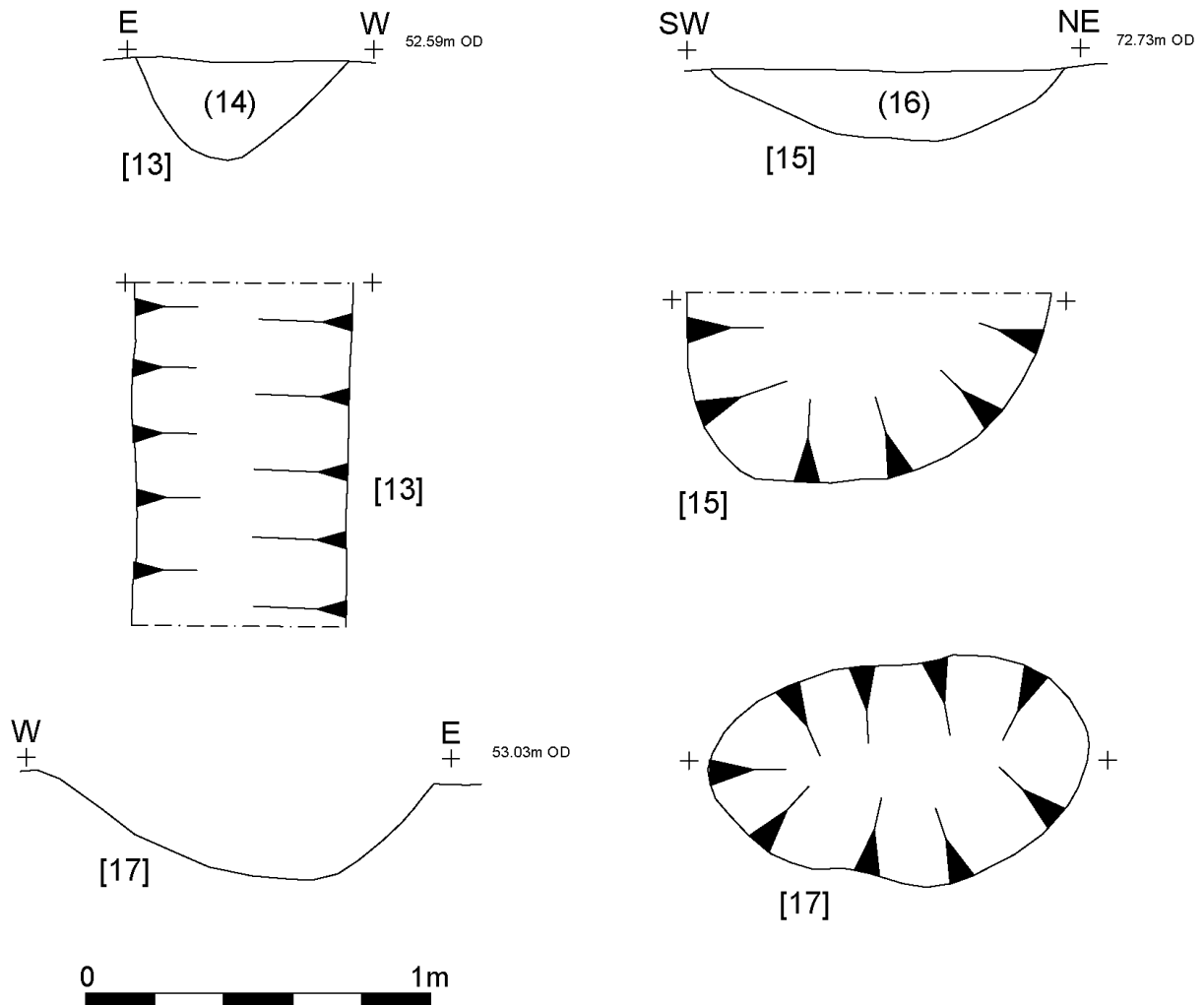


Figure 15: Trench 2 section drawings



Figure 16: Ditch [13]; view west (15cm scale)

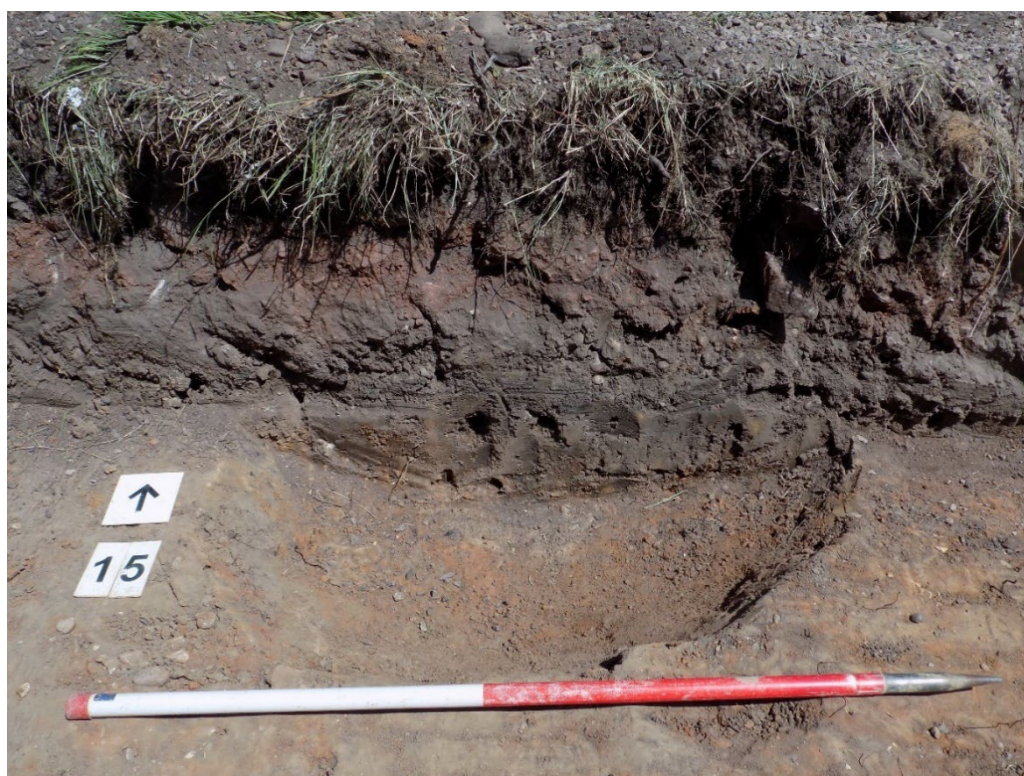


Figure 17: Feature [15]; view north (1m scale)



Figure 18: Feature [17]; view northeast (1m scale)

### Discussion and Conclusion

Trench 1 provided evidence of the western part of the site having been subject to extensive disturbance during the 18th and 19th centuries in the form of dense pitting, possibly associated with sand or gravel quarrying linked with the farm. Despite this truncation, the western section of the trench was undisturbed, enabling the survival of a substantial late Roman ditch. The recovery of CBM from the feature hints at the presence in the locality of a substantial structure, possibly a farm or villa building. Significantly, this feature represents the first archaeological evidence of activity from the Roman period within Sileby.

Analysis of historic maps of the site in the desk-based assessment indicated that the farm buildings had originally been linked in a courtyard arrangement (Pollington 2017). Trench 2 provided physical evidence of this, in the form of the brick foundations of the now-demolished structure formerly linking the two standing 18th/19th century farm buildings (see also Hyam 2021). There were few indications of the existence of archaeology, with the exception of an undated ditch and two truncated pits or scoops.

### Archive and Publication

The archive for the project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A51.2021 and consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report (2021-096)
- 18 Context sheets
- 2 Trench recording sheets
- 1 Drawing Sheet
- 1 Photographic record
- 3 Indices
- 1 CD of digital photographs

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.

### **Acknowledgements**

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## Appendix 1: Context List

Context	Cut	Below	Trench	Description
01	01	02	1	Shallow sloping sides and concave base
02	01	-	1	Mid grey and mid brown clay silt
03	03	04	1	Moderate sloping sides; base not observed
04	03	-	1	Mid orange-grey clay silt
05	05	06	1	Same as [01]
06	05	-	1	Same as (02)
07	07	08	1	Same as [03]
08	07	-	1	Same as (05)
09	-	-	2	Brick wall
10	-	-	2	Brick wall
11	-	-	2	Brick wall
12	-	-	2	Brick wall
13	13	14	2	Moderate sloping sides to concave base
14	13	-	2	Mid grey clay silt fill
15	15	16	2	Oval feature with shallow sides and flattish base
16	15	16	2	Mid grey clay silt fill
17	17	18	2	Oval scoop with shallow sides and flattish base
18	17	-	2	Mid grey clay silt

## Appendix 2: Roman pottery and tile report

### Roman pottery and tile from Kings St., Sileby, Leicestershire *Nicholas J. Cooper*

#### Introduction

One rim sherd of Roman pottery and five fragments of Roman tile were recovered from late Roman ditch fill (2) [1].

#### Methodology

The pottery was analysed by form and fabric in accordance with national guidelines (Barclay *et al.* 2016), using the Leicestershire County Museums Roman pottery fabric series (Pollard 1994, 110-114) and quantified by sherd count and weight (g).

#### Analysis

The pottery and tile were identified as detailed in Table 1.

Table 1 Quantified record of Roman pottery and tile

#### Kings Street Sileby

Context	Fabric	Type	sherds	Weight	Dating
(2) [1]	Grey ware GW5	Bead & flanged bowl	1	243	AD 250-400
(2) [1]	oxidised	Imbrex tile	3	893	Roman
(2) [1]	oxidised	Tegula tile	1	403	Roman
(2) [1]	oxidised	Wall tile	1	268	Roman

The rim of a bead and flanged bowl (243g) manufactured in a grey ware fabric (Leics. code GW5) dates to the later Roman period (c.AD 250-400) (Fig.1). From the same context came

five fragments of Roman tile (1564g), manufactured in a typical sandy oxidised fabric, and comprising examples of curved (*imbrex*) and flanged (*tegula*) roof tiles and a wall tile. This suggests the existence of stone-founded buildings capable of supporting tiled roofs. The lack of flue tile might suggest any buildings did not possess underfloor heating systems, although the sample is too small to be certain.



Fig.1 bead and flanged bowl from late Roman ditch (2) [1]

### Statement of potential

The work has confirmed the existence of stratified deposits of later Roman date on the site, and further field work will potentially uncover a larger assemblage with research potential regarding the chronology of the structures therein and their wider economic and social connections.

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