Yeoman Park Academy, Mansfield

Archaeological Strip, Map And Record Report

BAM Construction Ltd.

January 2024

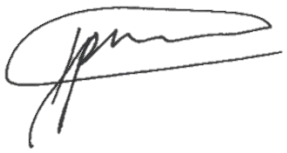
Ecus Ltd

Report to: BAM Construction Ltd.

Report Title: Yeoman Park Academy, Mansfield – Archaeological Strip, Map and Record Report

Version: *0.3*
Issue Date: January 2024
Report Ref: 22540

Originated By:



Joseph Price
Project Supervisor Date: 20/12/2023

Reviewed By:

Zoë Richardson
Archaeology Project Manager Date: 21/12/2023

Approved By:

Andrew Norton
Regional Director Date: 08/01/2024

Prepared by:
Brook Holt, 3 Blackburn Road, Sheffield, S61 2DW
01142 669 292

Version	Author	Description	Date
V0.1	JP	First Draft	20/12/2023
V0.2	ZAR	First QA	21/12/2023
V0.3	APN	Second QA	08/01/2024

Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ..... **IV**

1. INTRODUCTION **1**

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND 1
1.2 SITE LOCATION 1

2. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND **2**

2.1 INTRODUCTION 2
2.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC BASELINE 2

3. METHODOLOGY **4**

3.1 STANDARDS 4
3.2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES 4
3.3 METHODOLOGY AND RECORDING 4
3.4 FINDS 5
3.5 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING 5

4. RESULTS **6**

4.1 INTRODUCTION 6
4.2 EXCAVATION AREA 6

5. ARTEFACTS **8**

6. ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS **9**

7. CONCLUSION **10**

7.1 DISCUSSION 10

8. ARCHIVING **11**

8.1 PHYSICAL ARCHIVE 11
8.2 DIGITAL ARCHIVE 11

9. REFERENCES **12**

FIGURES **14**

PLATES **15**

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS **16**

APPENDIX 2: ARTEFACTS **25**

APPENDIX 3: ASSESSMENT OF THE ARCHAEOBOTANICAL REMAINS **27**

APPENDIX 4: OASIS FORM **30**

Figure 1: Site location
Figure 2: Location of interventions
Figure 3: Site overlay on 1897 Ordnance Survey map (2nd Edition, 25 inch series)
Figure 4: Excavation area plan and sections

Plate 1: North west facing section of ditch 1014
Plate 2: North facing section of ditch terminus 1020
Plate 3: South facing section of ditches 1032 and 1034
Plate 4: South facing section of ditch terminus 1026
Plate 5: South facing section of furrow 1008
Plate 6: North facing section of ditch 1018

Executive Summary

ECUS was commissioned by Orion Heritage on behalf of BAM Construction Ltd. to undertake a strip, map and record exercise on land at Yeoman Park Academy, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire to fulfil a condition of planning consent (planning application reference 2023/0049/FUL) in advance of construction of a new school and associated infrastructure.

Trial trench evaluation by Ecus revealed a series of linear features and, following consultation with the County Archaeologist for the Local Planning Authority, it was agreed that a c. 30 m by 30 m area would need to be investigated further to provide understanding of the archaeology of the area.

The excavation confirmed that the site would have sat in the agricultural hinterland of the settlement of Mansfield during the medieval period. In the western half of site we can see the changing agricultural practices with ridge and furrow being replaced by regimented field boundaries during the post-medieval period. In the east of the excavation area a possible change in use of the land during the medieval period can be seen with the presence of four likely contemporary ditches and a lack of ridge and furrow. However, due to the truncation of remains by modern services, any further associated features may have been lost.

The features support evidence for the medieval development of Mansfield Woodhouse and confirm historical mapping that indicated the site was part of agricultural land on the periphery of the village. The scale of features are limited and unable to answer regional research questions on the development of field systems in relation to the agricultural economy and rural landscape, and as such are of low archaeological significance.

The archive is currently stored at Ecus' Sheffield and Barnard Castle offices under project number 22540, and will be deposited with Mansfield Museum in due course. An OASIS form (OASIS ID: ecusltd1-516358) has been uploaded to the Archaeological Data Service.

1. Introduction

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Ecus was commissioned by Orion Heritage on behalf of BAM Construction Ltd. ('the Client') to undertake an archaeological strip, map and record exercise on land at Yeoman Park Academy, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire (hereafter 'the Site') to fulfil a condition of planning consent (planning application reference 2023/0049/FUL) for the proposed construction of a new school, which comprises the construction of a single and two storey building and associated infrastructure.

1.1.2 Following an archaeological evaluation in May 2023 (Ecus 2023a), the Archaeological Advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) confirmed the requirement for a strip, map, and record exercise to target the potential archaeological features recorded in two of eight trenches. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Ecus 2023b) was produced by Ecus and approved by the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA, identifying how the strip, map and record exercise would be carried out.

1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 The Site is located within Mansfield Woodhouse, a settlement located c. 3 km north of Mansfield centred on National Grid Co-ordinate 454360, 363820 (Figure 1). The Site currently comprises school buildings and playing fields of Yeoman Park Academy and is directly to the south of The Manor Academy, and within residential housing to the east and west.

1.2.2 The Site is located on ground elevated above the surrounding landscape, being c. 69.5 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The bedrock geology of the Site is defined as Cadeby Formation Dolostone; no superficial deposits have been recorded (BGS 2023).

2. Historical and Archaeological Background

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 A summary of an Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (HEDBA) provided by Heritage Planning Services Ltd (HPS 2021) is provided below. This HEDBA was based on Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record (NHER) information and references a 1 km search area around the Site.

2.2 Archaeological and Historic Baseline

Prehistoric and Romano-British

2.2.1 Prehistoric activity is limited to findspots and speculative monuments to the east of the Site. A flint knife of broad prehistoric date was found c. 950 m east of the Site (NCCHER MNT4000), while a Bronze Age spearhead (NCCHER MNT3961) was found c. 735 m to the north east. An Iron Age hill fort located c. 565 m east south east of the Site (NCCHER MNT15025) appears on historic mapping.

2.2.2 There is little evidence of Romano-British activity, although some Roman finds have been reported to the north west and south east of the Site. A second century Roman coin (NCCHER MNT5281) was found c. 795 m north west of the Site, and a Roman brooch was found c. 1 km to the south east (NCCHER MNT10922).

Early Medieval and Medieval

2.2.3 There is no evidence for early Medieval activity at the Site, and no specific entry for Mansfield Woodhouse in the Domesday Book.

2.2.4 Mansfield Woodhouse was established during the medieval period. The medieval core of the village was centred around Church Street and High Street c. 350 m south of the Site where the 14th century church (NHLE 1251828) was located alongside burgage plots, housing, and the scheduled Standing Cross (NHLE 1012927), all of which are included in the Mansfield Woodhouse Conservation Area. Historic mapping implies that the Site was part of agricultural land on the periphery of the village in the medieval period.

Post-medieval and Modern

2.2.5 The use of the Site remained largely unaltered during the intervening periods up until the 20th century.

2.2.6 The 1844 Tithe Map shows the Site covering three plots of land presumably used for pasture, with little change evident on the 1897 OS map. The Mansfield Woodhouse Conservation Area adjacent

to the Site represents the 19th century expansion of the Village and development of Artisan cottages, which can also be seen on the 1897 OS map.

2.2.7 The Site remained largely unaltered until the 1970s, when the school was constructed on the southern part of the Site, and expanded recently.

3. Methodology

3.1 Standards

3.1.1 The project conformed to the current national guidance as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and guidance for archaeological field excavation (CIfA 2020a); Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA 2020b); and Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (CIfA 2020c).

3.2 Aims and Objectives

3.2.1 The specific aims of the excavation were:

- identify and record any archaeological deposits, structures or built fabric present within the Site;
- determine the extent, condition, character, significance and date of any exposed archaeological remains;
- recover artefacts disturbed by the site works; and
- prepare a comprehensive record of and report on archaeological observations during the site work.

3.2.2 The specific objectives are to:

- preserve through record any archaeological remains impacted by the proposed works;
- identify and record any structural archaeological remains;
- contribute to the understanding of the use and development of the area, as outlined in the East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework (https://researchframeworks.org/emherf).

3.3 Methodology and Recording

3.3.1 All archaeological deposits were recorded using a continuous numbered context system on a digital pro-forma recording system in accordance with industry standards. The written record is hierarchically based and centred on the context record. Each context record fully describes the location, extent, composition and relationship of the subject and is cross-referenced to all other assigned records.

3.3.2 All archaeological features were sampled sufficiently to characterise and date them.

3.3.3 Excavated features were planned using dGPS or hand drawn at 1:20, sections were drawn at 1:10, and all were co-ordinated on to an overall site plan. Drawings were made in pencil on permanent

drafting film.

3.3.4 A full photographic record was maintained, using a digital camera equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images will be subject to managed quality control and curation processes which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set. Output was in TIFF/JPEG format. Digital records created as part of the project comply with specific data standards (Historic England 2015).

3.4 Finds

3.4.1 Finds were treated in accordance with the relevant guidance presented in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation (CIfA 2020a) and Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA 2020b).

3.4.2 All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained and recorded by context, except those from features or deposits of obviously modern date.

3.4.3 All finds and samples were exposed, lifted, processed, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidance presented in Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA 2020b).

3.5 Environmental Sampling

3.5.1 Appropriate sampling strategies were determined by the survival and condition of the deposits identified.

3.5.2 Bulk environmental soil samples for plant macro-fossils, small animal and fish bones and other small artefacts were taken from appropriate well-sealed and dated/datable archaeological deposits. The collection and processing of environmental samples was undertaken in accordance with Historic England guidelines (Historic England 2011).

3.5.3 The residues and sieved fractions of the bulk environmental soil samples were recorded and are retained with the project archive.

4. Results

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following section presents the results of the archaeological excavation. The context descriptions for recorded archaeological deposits are reproduced in Appendix 1.

4.1.2 The excavation area consisted of an irregular c. 30 m by 30 m parcel at the north east of the Site. The area was stripped of overburden using a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat bladed bucket until the first archaeological horizon was encountered (Figures 2 - 4).

4.2 Excavation Area

4.2.1 Natural deposits (1003) comprised of a light blue grey sandy clay becoming a red clayey sand was observed at depth on average 0.70 m. This was overlain by a subsoil (1010) consisting of a mid black brown sandy clay measuring approximately 0.21 m in the east and becoming thinner in the west of the Area to approximately 0.08 m in depth. Overlaying this deposit was a mid orange brown clayey silt relic plough soil (1002) measuring approximately 0.43 m in depth, sealed by a topsoil (1001) was present across the Area and comprised a dark blackish brown clayey silt measuring approximately 0.3 m in depth.

4.2.2 In the east of the Area a section measuring approximately 8 m in width was left partially unexcavated due to the presence of a water pipe in this area of Site, which truncated any archaeological remains.

4.2.3 Two linear features (cuts 1014, 1020; Plates 1 - 2) were recorded in the south of Site running roughly parallel from south east to north west, and both terminated within the excavation area. Ditch 1014 measured more than 9.75 m in length, 0.5 m in width and 0.21 m in depth and ran outside of the limit of excavation to the south. Ditch 1020 measured over 5.5 m in length, 1.04 m in width and 0.56 m in depth and was truncated by a service trench to the south. Both features were filled by a dark grey brown backfill deposit with frequent rounded pebbles (1015, 1021). Two pieces of medieval pottery were recorded within the fill 1020, whilst barley was present in 1015.

4.2.4 In the east of Site, a ditch was recorded running from north east to south west and terminated within the Site. This ditch (cuts 1028 and 1032; Plate 3) ran roughly 17.5 m in length, approximately 0.9 m in depth and 0.33 m in width, and was filled by a natural silting deposit (1029, 1033). It was later recut on its eastern edge (cuts 1030 and 1034), which measured 1.13 m to 1.6 m in width and 0.35 m to 0.47 m in depth. The ditch recut was filled by a natural silting deposit (1031, 1036) with a stony backfill deposit (1035) being recorded in the terminus of the feature.

4.2.5 Running parallel west of 1032, a narrow ditch was recorded running north east to south west

terminating within the Site. The linear feature (cuts 1006, 1026) was 10 m in length, approximately 0.53 m in width and 0.1 m and 0.18 m in depth, containing natural silting fills (1007, 1027; Plate 4).

4.2.6 Three broad, parallel, north west to south east aligned linear features were recorded in the western half of the Site. Two of the features were excavated (cuts 1008, 1024; Plate 5) and measured more than 7.50 m in length, 1.11 m to 0.92 m in width and approximately 0.11 m in depth. All of these features continue beyond the north western limit of excavation. Their common and alignment and similar fills occurring via natural silting (1025, 1009) indicate contemporary features and likely represent ridge and furrow truncated by later ploughing.

4.2.7 A shallow linear ditch running from north to south (cuts 1011, 1018, 1022; Plate 6) was seen in the centre of the Site. The feature's width ranged from 1.11 m to 0.6 m, depth from 0.12 m to 0.16 m and the feature extended beyond the limit of excavation to both the north and south. It was filled by a natural silting deposit (1012, 1019, 1023). In plan this feature was seen to cut one of the furrows.

4.2.8 Two discrete features were also recorded in the excavation area. Within the centre of the Site, pit 8005 was excavated and recorded in the prior archaeological evaluation (Ecus 2023a). In the west of Site pit 1016 measured 0.99 m in length, 0.9 m in width and 0.17 m in depth. The pit contained a single fil, 1017, consisting of a mid-black silt deposit. No dating evidence was observed.

5. Artefacts

5.1.1 Two sherds from a medieval Grimston ware vessel were recovered from the fill of ditch 1020. The sherds were unabraded, suggesting they were recovered from their primary context.

5.1.2 A circular copper alloy object was recovered from the fill of furrow 1024. The object was in very poor condition with heavy corrosion and abrasion. The object showed characteristic features of a button and the obverse was stamped with the number ‘12’.

5.1.3 A small assemblage of animal bone was present within the fill of ditch 1034. The assemblage included 2 fragments of tooth and 2 very small unidentifiable fragments of bone.

6. Environmental Remains

6.1.1 A total of 1.89 g of fragmentary charcoal were extracted from eight bulk soil samples, taken during both the excavation and evaluation. A single possible barley cereal grain and one wild sun spurge seed were present in context 1015, and an indeterminate charred wild grass seed was recorded from context 8008.

6.1.2 Ditch fills 1015 and 8008 contained low abundances of coal and a fragment of industrial material was present in ditch fill 9006. A single fragment of possible bone was also identified from pit fill 9006.

6.1.3 The archaeobotanical material and charcoal recovered is too small of an assemblage to allow for deeper interpretations or further conclusions to be made. However, should they be required, components of the assemblage may have the potential to be radio carbon dated.

7. Conclusion

7.1 Discussion

7.1.1 The excavation revealed a selection of archaeological remains spanning the medieval and post medieval periods.

7.1.2 In the west of the Site, we can see changing agricultural farming practices; the truncated remains of ridge and furrow being cut by a field boundary representing the change in practices post enclosure act. It seems likely that any associated shallower remains have been heavily truncated based on the shallow depth of the ridge and furrow.

7.1.3 In the east of the Site, two sets of parallel ditches were present. The similar nature of the ditches, and their respecting of one another's alignment suggests that these features are contemporary; the pottery recovered from ditch 1020 indicates a medieval date. Due to the lack of occupational material within their fills, the ditches appear agricultural in use. However, any potential further associated remains to the south had been truncated by a modern service trench.

7.1.4 The features support evidence of the medieval development of Mansfield Woodhouse and confirm historical mapping that implied the Site was part of agricultural land on the periphery of the village. The limited medieval remains are unable to answer regional research questions on the development of field systems in relation to the agricultural economy and rural landscape, and as such are of low archaeological significance.

8. Archiving

8.1 Physical Archive

8.1.1 The site archive will be deposited with Mansfield museum within six months of the completion of fieldwork.

8.1.2 A digital, paper and artefactual archive will be prepared, consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data arising from the archaeological monitoring in accordance with industry standards (CIfA 2020c). This will be offered to the relevant archive for deposition.

8.2 Digital Archive

8.2.1 If appropriate a digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) and made publicly accessible. The digital archive will be compiled in accordance with the standards and requirements of the ADS, which may be accessed through the ADS website (2011 and 2020).

The archive is currently held at Ecus' Sheffield and Barnard Castle offices under the project code 22540 and will be deposited with the appropriate museum in due course. An OASIS form (OASIS ID: ecusltd1-516358 has been uploaded to the ADS).

9. References

ALGAO. (2015). *Advice Note for Post-excavation Assessment*. Available at: https://www.algao.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/ALGAO_England_PXA_Advice_Note.pdf.

Archaeology Data Service. (2020). *Guidelines for Depositors: Preparing Datasets (*version 4.0*)*. https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/advice/PreparingDatasets.xhtml#Data%20Management%20Plans%20(DMP).

Archaeology Data Service/Digital Antiquity. (2011). *Guides to Good Practice.* York: Archaeology Data Service, University of York.

British Geological Survey. (2023). *Geology of Britain Viewer.* Available at: https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/bgs-geology-viewer/.

Campbell, G., Moffett, L. and Straker, V. (2011). *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation*.

Cappers, R., Bekker, R. M., and Jans, J. E. A. (2006). *Digitale Zadenatlas van Nederland* (Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands). Groningen: Barkhuis Publishing & Groningen University Library.

Charles, M., Forster, E., Wallace, M. & Jones, G. (2015). *"Nor ever lightning char thy grain": establishing archaeologically relevant charring conditions and their effect on glume wheat grain morphology*. STAR: Science & Technology of Archaeological Research, 1:1, 1-6.

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). (2020a). *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation*. https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS%26GExcavation_2.pdf.

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). (2020b). *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological material*. https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS%26GFinds_2.pdf.

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). (2020c). *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*. https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIFAS%26GArchives_4.pdf.

Dobney, K., Hall, A. R., Kenward, H. K. and Milles, A. (1992). *A working classification of sample types for environmental archaeology*. Circaea, the Journal of the Association for Environmental Archaeology 9 (for 1991), 24-6.

Ecus Ltd. (2023a). *Yeoman Park Academy, Mansfield – Archaeological Evaluation Report*.

Ecus Ltd. (2023b). *Yeoman Park Academy, Mansfield – Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Mitigation*.

English Heritage. (2008). *MoRPHE Project Planning Note 3; Archaeological Excavations. London: English Heritage.*

Ellis, R.H. (2005). *Seed identification handbook: agriculture, horticulture and weeds*. 2nd ed., Steve Jones, Jane Taylor and Felicity Ash (eds), NIAB, Cambridge, UK, 2004, 94.

Hather, J.G. (2016). *The identification of the Northern European Woods: a guide for archaeologists and conservators.* Routledge.

Heritage Planning Services. (2021). *Yeoman Park Academy, Park Hall Road, Mansfield Woodhouse, Mansfield, Nottingham, NG19 8PS, Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment*.

Historic England. (2011). *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation*.

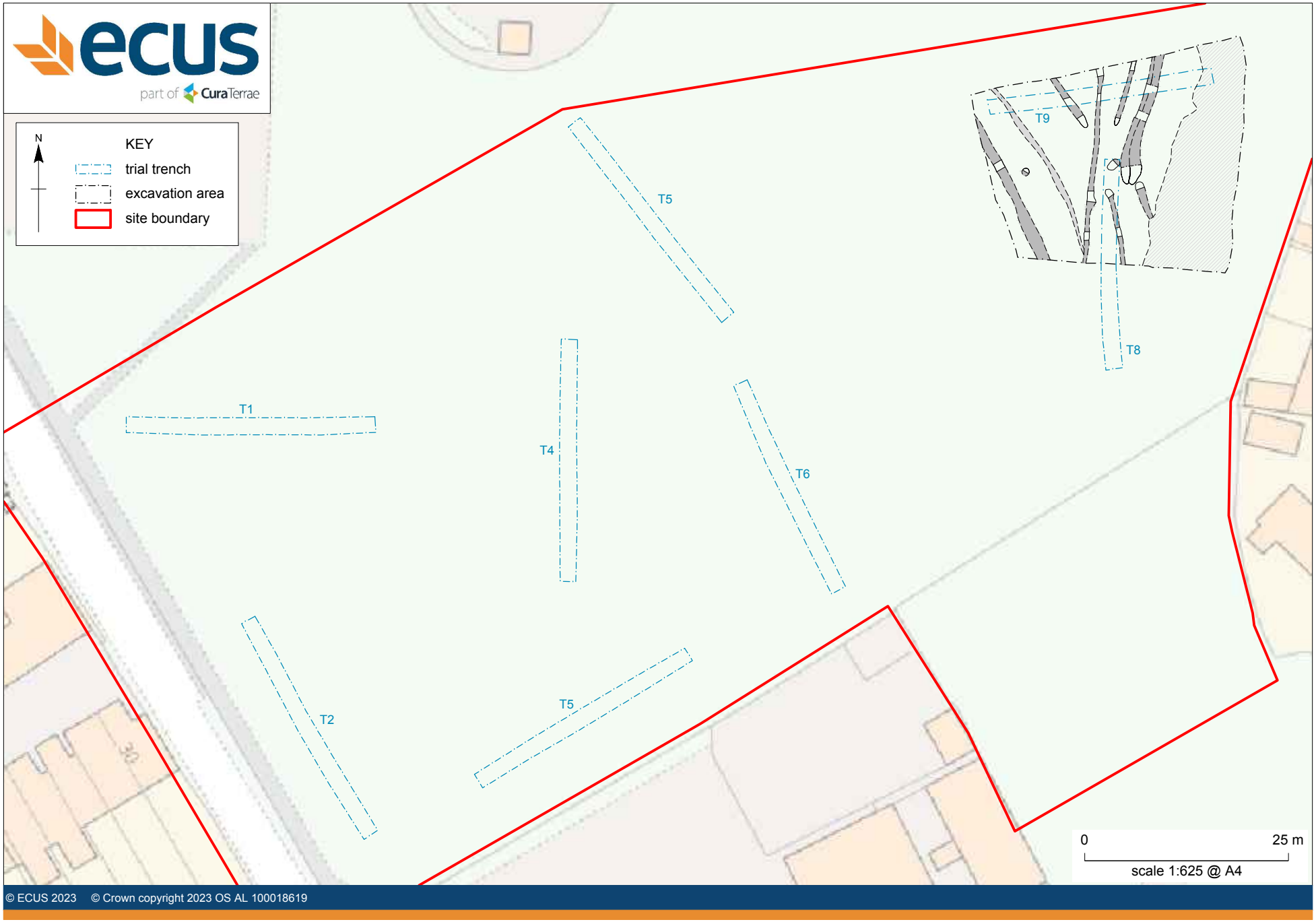
Historic England. (2015). *Digital Image Capture and File Storage: Guidelines for Best Practice*.

Jacomet, S. (2006). *Identification of Cereal Remains from Archaeological Sites.* 2nd ed., trans. by James Greig), Basel, Archaeobotany Laboratory, IPAS, Basel University.

Williams, D. (1973). *Flotation at Siraf*. Antiquity 47 (Issue 188), 288-92.

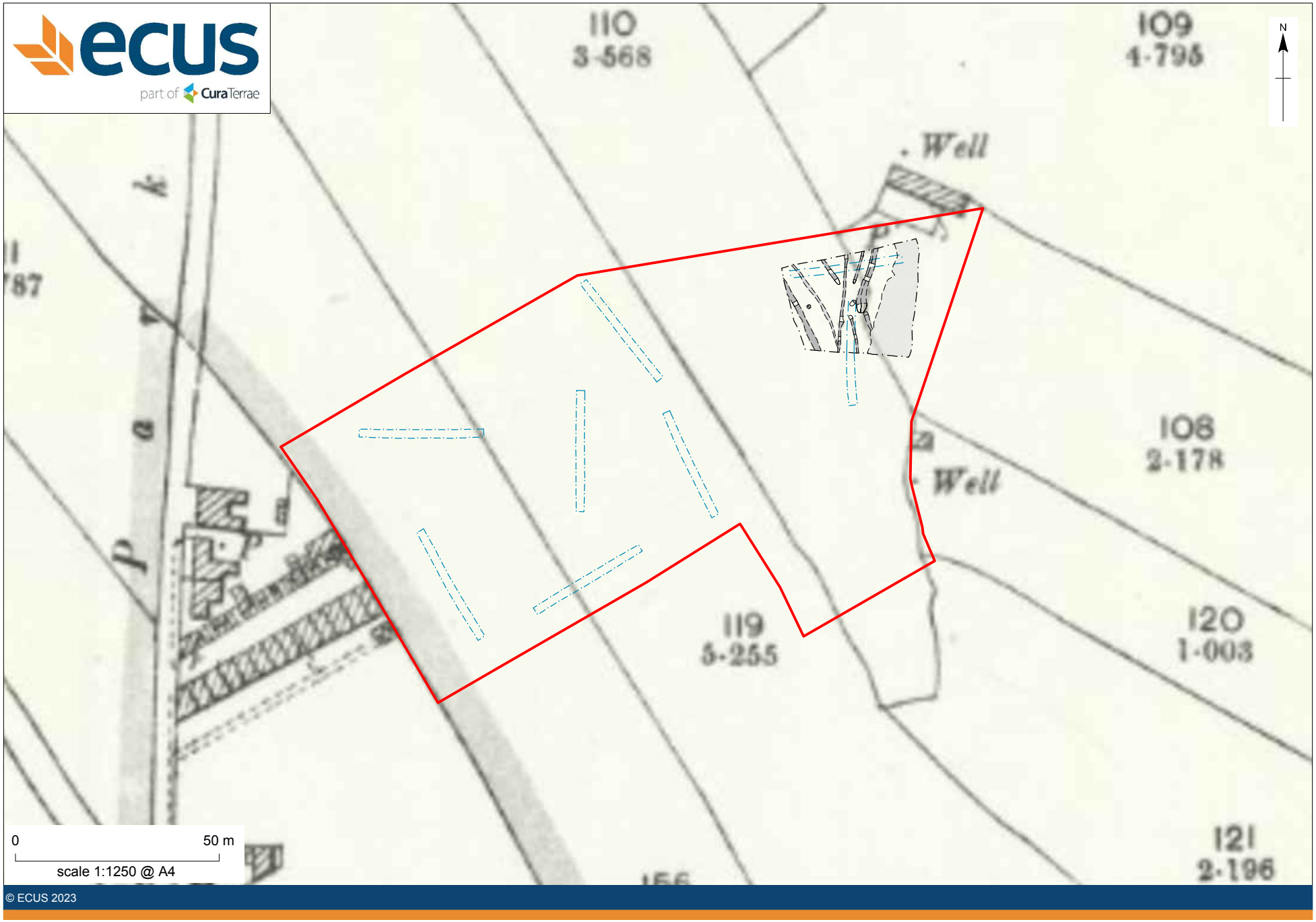
Figures

Yeoman Park Academy, Mansfield: site location Figure 1

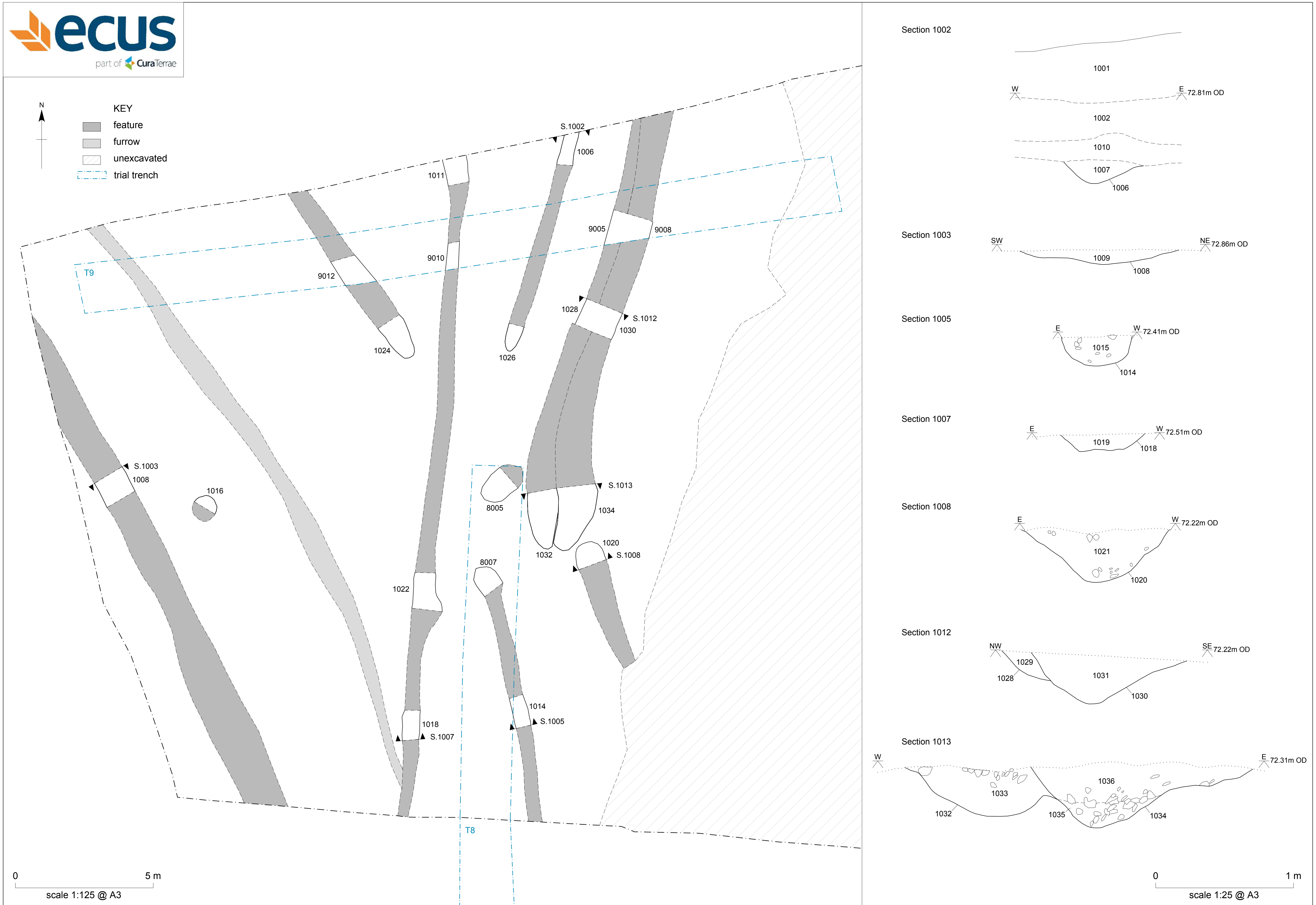


Yeoman Park Mansfield: location of interventions

Figure 2



Yeoman Park Mansfield: site overlay on 1897 Ordnance Survey map (2nd Edition, 25 inch series) Figure 3



KEY
feature
furrow
unexcavated
trial trench
N
T9
T8
S.1002
S.1003
S.1005
S.1007
S.1008
S.1012
S.1013
1006
1008
1011
1014
1016
1018
1020
1022
1024
1026
1028
1030
1032
1034
8005
8007
9005
9008
9010
9012
0
5 m
scale 1:125 @ A3
Section 1002
1001
W
E 72.81m OD
1002
1010
1007
1006
Section 1003
SW
NE 72.86m OD
1009
1008
Section 1005
E
W 72.41m OD
1015
1014
Section 1007
E
W 72.51m OD
1019
1018
Section 1008
E
W 72.22m OD
1021
1020
Section 1012
NW
SE 72.22m OD
1029
1028
1031
1030
Section 1013
W
E 72.31m OD
1036
1033
1032
1035
1034
0
1 m
scale 1:25 @ A3

Yeoman Park Academy, Mansfield: excavation area plan and sections

Figure 4

Plates

North west facing section of ditch 1014

Plate 1

North facing section of ditch terminus 1020

Plate 2

South facing section of ditches 1032 and 1034

Plate 3

South facing section of ditch terminus 1026

Plate 4

South facing section of furrow 1008

Plate 5

North facing section of ditch 1018

Plate 6

Appendix 1: Context Descriptions

Context no.	Type	Fill of	Description	Interpretation	Finds	Provisional periods	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1001	Layer		Topsoil. Colour: dark blackish brown. Composition: sandy silt. Compaction: moist, friable.	Topsoil	-	Modern (1901 to present)	> 30.00	> 30.00	0.27
1002	Layer		Buried ploughsoil. Colour: mid orangey brown. Composition: clayey silt. Compaction: moist, friable. Inclusions: occasional small well-rounded pebbles, evenly distributed.	Buried ploughsoil	-	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)	> 30.00	> 30.00	0.43
1003	Layer		Natural. Colour: light bluish grey. Composition: sandy clay. Compaction: moist, firm. Inclusions: occasional small to medium well-rounded pebbles, evenly distributed.	Natural substrate	-	-	> 30.00	> 30.00	> 0.50
1006	Cut		Cut of ditch. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Break at top: gradual. Sides: moderate, concave. Break at base:	Cut of linear	-	-	> 1.00	0.55	0.15

			gradual. Base: rounded.						
1007	Fill	1006	Fill of ditch [1006]. Colour: mid greyish brown. Composition: silt. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: occasional small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal stones, evenly distributed.	Fill of linear	-	-	> 1.00	0.55	0.15
1008	Cut		Cut of N-S furrow. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Break at top: sharp. Sides: shallow, concave. Break at base: imperceptible. Base: rounded.	Cut of furrow	-	-	1	1.28	0.11
1009	Fill	1008	Fill of furrow [1008]. Colour: mid greyish brown. Composition: sandy silt. Compaction: moist, friable. Inclusions: rare flecks of charcoal, evenly distributed.	Fill of furrow	-	-	1	1.28	0.11

1010	Fill		Subsoil. Colour: mid blackish brown. Composition: clayey silt. Compaction: moist, friable. Inclusions: rare small well-rounded pebbles, evenly distributed.	Subsoil	-	-	> 30.00	> 30.00	0.21 to 0.08
1011	Cut		Cut of N-S ditch. Shape in plan: linear. Break at top: gradual. Sides: moderate, concave. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded.	Cut of boundary ditch	-	-	> 20.00	1.02	0.15
1013	Fill	1011	Fill of ditch [1011]. Colour: greyish brown. Composition: sandy clay. Compaction: moist.	Fill of ditch	-	-	1	0.87	0.15
1014	Cut		Cut of E-W ditch. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Break at top: gradual. Sides: steep, concave. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded.	Cut of ditch	-	-	> 9.30	0.57	0.25
1015	Fill	1014	Fill of ditch [1014]. Colour: dark greyish brown. Composition: medium silty sand. Compaction: dry, loose. Inclusions: 1) rare flecks of sub-	Fill of ditch	-	-	> 9.30	0.57	0.25

			angular platy charcoal, evenly distributed 2) moderate small rounded spheroidal stones, evenly distributed.						
1016	Cut		Cut of pit. Shape in plan: sub-circular. Break at top: gradual. Sides: shallow, concave. Break at base: gradual. Base: uneven.	Cut of pit	-	-	0.99	0.9	0.17
1017	Fill		Fill of pit. Colour: mid black. Composition: silt. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: rare sub-rounded spheroidal stones, evenly distributed.	Fill of pit	-	-	0.99	0.9	0.17
1018	Cut		Cut of ditch. Shape in plan: regular, linear.	Cut of ditch	-	-	1	0.57	0.1
1019	Fill	1018	Fill of ditch [1018]. Colour: dark brownish grey. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: wet, plastic. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal riverine	Fill of ditch	-	-	1	0.57	0.1

			pebbles, evenly distributed.						
1020	Cut		Cut of E-W ditch. Break at top: gradual. Sides: moderate, concave. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded.	Cut of ditch	-	Medieval	> 4.10	1.1	0.38
1021	Fill	1020	Fill of ditch [1020]. Colour: dark brownish grey. Composition: medium clayey sand. Compaction: moist, loose. Inclusions: large rounded spheroidal pebble stones, concentrated towards base.	Fill of ditch	Pottery	Medieval	> 4.10	1.1	0.38
1022	Cut		Cut of ditch. Shape in plan: irregular, linear.	Cut of ditch	-	-	1.3	0.80 to 1.03	0.14
1023	Fill	1022	Fill of ditch [1022]. Colour: dark brownish grey. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: wet, plastic. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal riverine	Fill of ditch	-	-	1.3	0.80 to 1.03	0.14

			pebbles, evenly distributed.						
1024	Cut		Cut of furrow. Shape in plan: regular, linear.	Cut of furrow	-	-	1	0.9	0.12
1025	Fill	1024	Fill of furrow [1024]. Colour: light reddish grey. Composition: sandy clay. Compaction: moist, friable. Inclusions: occasional small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal river pebbles, evenly distributed.	Fill of furrow	Cu alloy button	-	1	0.9	0.12
1026	Cut		Cut of ditch. Break at top: sharp. Sides: shallow, concave. Break at base: imperceptible. Base: rounded.	Cut of ditch terminus	-	-	> 10.00	0.51	0.1
1027	Fill	1026	Fill of ditch [1026]. Colour: mid greyish brown. Composition: clayey silt. Compaction: moist, friable. Inclusions: occasional small to medium well-rounded spheroidal	Fill of ditch	-	-	> 10.00	0.51	0.1

			pebbles, evenly distributed.						
1028	Cut		Cut of NE-SW ditch. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Break at top: sharp. Sides: shallow, concave.	Cut of ditch	-	-	1	0.47	0.2
1029	Fill	1028	Fill of ditch [1028]. Colour: dark greyish brown. Composition: sandy clay. Compaction: moist, friable. Inclusions: rare small to medium sub-angular spheroidal river pebbles, evenly distributed.	Fill of ditch	-	-	1	0.47	0.2
1030	Cut		Cut of ditch. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Break at top: sharp. Sides: moderate, straight. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded.	Ditch recut	-	-	1	0.97	0.35
1031	Fill	1030	Fill of ditch [1030]. Colour: dark greyish brown. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: moist, friable. Inclusions: occasional small to	Fill of ditch	-	-	1	0.97	0.35

			medium sub-rounded spheroidal river pebbles, evenly distributed.						
1032	Cut		Cut of N-S ditch. Break at top: sharp. Sides: moderate, concave. Break at base: imperceptible. Base: rounded.	Cut of ditch	-	-	> 1.00	1.04	0.33
1033	Fill	1032	Fill of ditch [1032]. Colour: mid brownish black. Composition: clayey silt. Compaction: moist, friable. Inclusions: moderate small to medium well-rounded spheroidal pebbles, concentrated towards top of feature.	Fill of ditch	-	-	> 1.00	1.04	0.33
1034	Cut		Cut of N-S ditch. Break at top: sharp. Sides: 1) E: dipping, straight 2) W: moderate, straight. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded.	Ditch recut	-	-	> 1.00	1.6	0.47
1035	Fill	1034	Fill of ditch [1034]. Colour: dark brownish black. Composition: moderately sorted pebble. Compaction: moist, firm.	Fill of ditch	-	-	> 1.00	0.74	0.18

1036	Fill	1034	Fill of ditch [1034]. Colour: mid yellowish brown. Composition: clayey silt. Compaction: moist. Inclusions: occasional small to medium well-rounded pebbles, evenly distributed.	Fill of ditch	Animal bone	-	> 1.00	1.6	0.29

Appendix 2: Artefacts

Jasmine Tomys

Introduction

The finds were recovered during archaeological strip, map and sample excavation on land at Yeoman Park Academy, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.

Methodology

Finds were examined, recorded and reported upon in compliance with appropriate national guidance (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) (2020b); English Heritage (2008); ALGAO (2015)) and with reference to published comparators where possible.

Outline of the assemblage

The finds assemblage consists of seven objects that were recovered from three individual contexts. The objects included pottery, animal bone and copper alloy.

Table 2.1: Data table

Context	Type	Description	Part	Count	Weight (g)	Period	Date range
1021	Pottery	Grimston ware	Body	2	1.9	Medieval	11th – 15th centuries
1025	Copper Alloy	Possible button		1	0.4	Post-medieval/modern	18th – 20th centuries
1036	Animal Bone	Fragments	Cow/Horse Tooth	4	3.7	Unknown	

Two small body sherds from a medieval Grimston ware vessel (1.9 g) were recovered from context 1021. The sherds were unabraded, suggesting it had been recovered from its primary context.

A circular copper alloy object was recovered from context 1025. The object was in very poor condition with heavy corrosion and abrasion; most of the surface was worn away. There was evidence of possible damage at the centre of the reverse, which may suggest a missing shank, characteristic of a post-medieval button. The obverse is stamped with the number ‘12’.

A small assemblage of animal bone (four fragments, weighing 3.7 g) was present in context 1036. The assemblage included two fragments of tooth, which made up a single example derived from a large mammal, most likely a horse or cow, and two very small, unidentifiable fragments of bone.

Conclusions and recommendations

The assemblage ranges in date from the medieval to the modern period, with the Grimston ware sherds demonstrating activity during the medieval period.

The material has limited potential for further analysis as a collection of items, and will be retained by ECUS Ltd at their Barnard Castle offices. The object may be discarded during deposition of the site archive.

Appendix 3: Assessment of the archaeobotanical remains

Mai Walker

Introduction

This report presents an assessment of the environmental remains recovered during archaeological excavations at Yeoman Park Academy, Mansfield.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of the environmental sampling programme and resulting assessment reflected those of the project. The project aims and objectives are focused on providing a detailed record of the archaeological remains prior to their loss through the proposed development, and the recovery and assessment of associated environmental evidence to determine the potential of the material to address specific research themes.

Methodology

During excavations, eight 10 litre bulk paleoenvironmental samples were recovered and submitted for assessment of its environmental potential, which included processing to recover charcoal, small bones, cereal grains and macro-environmental material. Sediment from the samples was described as a light to mid-brown, firm, silty clay, with some charcoal flecks.

Samples were processed using standard 'Siraf'-style flotation tanks (Williams 1973) at Ecus facilities in Barnard Castle. The processing of environmental samples was undertaken in accordance with Historic England guidelines (Dobney *et al.* 1992; Historic England 2011). Light fractions (flots) were collected using a 500 µm (micron) mesh, and sieved to 1 mm. Sample fractions were dried, and light fractions were sieved using 2 mm and 1 mm Endecott sieves and sorted under a low-powered Microtec stereo zoom microscope. Dry heavy fractions were sieved at 4 mm and 2 mm, with the >4 mm fraction sorted and the <4 mm scanned for any artefacts or ecofacts. Each heavy fraction was scanned with a magnet to retrieve magnetic material/hammerscale.

Plant macrofossils were identified to the lowest taxon, where possible, using a reference collection of modern specimens and published identification guides (Ellis 2005; Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006; Hather 2016). During the assessment selected grains were identified to genus or species to provide a broad understanding of the plant remains from the Site and assess the potential for further work on the assemblage. A taphonomic assessment of each fragment was undertaken, recording evidence of charring, surface deposits and surface condition. Any other surface modifications of note were also recorded. Fragments of grains that could be identified as cultivated were grouped as far as possible using size and class or order categories. Fragments representing >50 % of a complete grain were counted as one, while those smaller were counted as a grain fragment. All material has been counted and assigned an abundance score, listed as; a (1-10), b (11-50), c (51 – 100), d (101-200), e (201-500), f (501 – 1000), g

(>1000). Results were recorded in an electronic proforma in Microsoft Excel.

Outline of the assemblage

A total of 1.89 g of fragmentary charcoal was extracted from eight bulk soil samples, approximately 58 fragments of charcoal measured >2 mm in size and over 262 fragments measured <2 mm in size (Table 3.1). It was noted that moderate sediment concretion was present throughout charcoal fragments.

A single possible barley cereal grain (cf. *Hordeum vulgare*) was present in context 1015. The cereal grain had notable high distortion and very poor preservation.

One wild charred sun spurge seed (*Euphorbia Helioscopia*) was recorded within context 1015, and an indeterminate charred wild grass seed was recorded from context 8008.

A low abundance of uncharred modern plant remains were recorded within contexts 8006 and 8008. Low abundances of modern plant remains included Goosefoot (*Chenopodium a.*) (abundance a) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) (abundance a - b).

A low frequency of modern roots, Fungal Sclerotia and worm eggs were recorded in the samples, which may suggest evidence of some bioturbation within the deposits. Indeterminate insect pupae fragments were found within context 9006. Contexts 1015 and 8008 contained low abundances of coal, and a fragment of industrial material was present in context 9006. A single fragment of possible bone was also identified from context 9006.

Statement of potential

The archaeobotanical material recovered from bulk samples at Yeoman Park Academy, Mansfield is too small an assemblage to allow for deeper interpretations or to determine archaeological importance; however, a very poorly preserved charred barley cereal grain was present within fill 1015 of ditch 1014. A single fragment of industrial material and a low abundance of coal were also identified within fill 1015 of ditch 1014, and contexts 8008 and 9006.

The assessment recorded low frequencies of charcoal, with occasional fragments recorded as being vitrified. However, the assemblage is small and does not allow conclusions to be drawn on how fuel was used on the Site. The moderate distortion to some of the charred remains may indicate that the cereals may have been exposed to moderate to high temperatures or reoccurring fires (see Charles *et al.* 2015).

A low frequency of modern roots, Fungal Sclerotia and worm eggs were recorded within context 9006, which may suggest evidence of some bioturbation within the sample. The remains of an indeterminate insect pupae were fragmented and unfortunately did not allow for further identification.

Conclusions and recommendations

Components of the assemblage may have the potential to provide sufficient material for radiocarbon dating should this be desirable, such as the cereal grain within ditch fill 1014. The charcoal assemblage would

require species identification and sample selection in advance of submission for C14 dating. The charred plant remains should be retained for the duration of the project and may be discarded at project archiving.

Table 3.2: Data table

Context		**1017**	**1015**	**1021**	**1031**	**1007**	**9006**	**8008**	**8006**
Sample		**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**1**	**2**	**3**
Flot Vol (ml)		1.6	3.2	0.9	1	2.5	-	-	-
Sufficient for AMS?		Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Further analysis?		No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Sediment concretion		Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Unidentified mineralised nodules		No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Preservation / Distortion of CPR		-	Very poor / Very distorted	-	-	-	-	Very poor / Very distorted	-
Cereal									
cf. Hordeum vulgare	Hulled Barley	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charred seeds									
"Euphorbia									
helioscopia (1-2mm)"	Sun spurge	-	a	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indet wild	Indet	-	-	-	-	-	-	a	-
Uncharred plant remains									
Chenopodium a.	Goosefoot	a	a	-	a	-	-	a	a
Sambucus nigra	Elder	-	-	b	b	-	-	a	a
Charcoal									
Weight (g) RT	-	0.1	0.58	0.05	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.34	0.32
Charcoal >2mm	Qty	4	13		3	2	4	14	18
Charcoal <2mm (approx.)	Qty	30	70	12	15	45	20	25	45
Roundwood	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Notes	-	-	-	-	Some vitrification	-	-	-	-
Coal	Qty	-	10	-	-	-	-	13	-
Finds									
Bone	Qty						1		
Industrial waste / Fuel	Qty	-	1	-	-	-			
Other Modern									
Modern roots	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Insects	-		Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Worm eggs	-	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No

Appendix 4: OASIS form

OASIS Summary for ecusltd1-516358

OASIS ID (UID)	ecusltd1-516358
Project Name	Excavation at Yeoman Park Academy, Mansfield
Sitename	Yeoman Park Academy, Mansfield
Sitecode	21242
Project Identifier(s)	21242, 22540
Activity type	Evaluation, Strip Map And Sample
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	ECUS ltd
Project Dates	03-Jul-2023 - 05-Jul-2023
Location	Yeoman Park Academy, Mansfield NGR : SK 54360 63820 LL : 53.168728410978055, -1.188289361585529 12 Fig : 454360,363820
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Nottinghamshire Local Authority District : Mansfield Parish : Mansfield, unparished area
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of eight trenches, representing approximately 4% of the total of the evaluation area. The location of a ninth trench could not be accessed, and so was not dug. Despite this, the trenches provided a good representation of archaeological potential across the Site Strip, Map, and Sample Following the evaluation, the area around Trenches 8 and 9 was comissioned for further works, with a 30 m by 30 m area opened. The excavation area revealed a series of ditches ranging from Medieval, to Post Medieval ridge and furrow. 10% sample of the ditches were excavated.

Project Results	The trenches were strategically targeted to maximise the retrieval of archaeological information and as such they were able to provide a good assessment of the archaeological potential of the Site. The only features of potential archaeological interest were those found in the east of the site within trenches 8 and 9 which likely correlate with field boundaries recorded on historic mapping from 1844. Construction of the school in the 1970s and creation of school grounds is evident in levelling deposits observed in trenches 3 and 4 and suggests any archaeological features are unlikely to have survived. Excavation: 7.1.1The excavation revealed a selection of archaeological remains spanning the medieval and post medieval periods. 7.1.2In the west of the Area ,we can see the changing agricultural farming practices, with the truncated remains of ridge and furrow being cut by a field boundary representing the change in practices post enclosure act. Due to the depth of the field boundary, it seems likely that any remains have been heavily truncated. 7.1.3In the east of the Area, two sets of parallel ditches are present. The similar nature of the ditches, and their respect of one another's alignment suggests that these features are contemporary, whilst the pottery recovered from ditch 1020 indicate a medieval date. Due to the lack of occupational material within their fills, the ditches appear agricultural in use, representing a change in use of land to the east. However, any further associated remain have been truncated by the modern service trench.
Keywords	Ditch - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	County Council Nottinghamshire County Council
HER	Nottinghamshire HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Zoe Richardson
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Mansfield Museum;

Report generated on: 09 Jan 2024, 09:55

ecus

part of CuraTerrae

www.ecusltd.co.uk