



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological investigation at
Staymore, 5 Church End, Nether Broughton,
Leicestershire
X.A45.2010



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Report 10/74

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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Archaeological Investigation at Staymore, 5 Church End, Nether Broughton	
In April 2010, an archaeological investigation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of Mr Martyn Hawkes on land at 5 Church End, Nether Broughton, Leicestershire. The evaluation found the remains of two probable boundary ditches, one dated to the 11th-13th century, together with gullies, pits and an ironstone wall. Medieval pottery, dating from the 13th – 16th century together with animal bone was recovered from a pit and the wall foundation.		
Project type	Archaeological investigation (strip, plan & sample)	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Garden	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/period	Saxon, medieval, post-medieval	
Significant finds	Pottery and animal bone	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Leicestershire	
Site address	Staymore, 5 Church End, Nether Broughton	
Study area	c843 square metres	
OS Easting & Northing	Centred on SK 6948 2602	
Height OD	c80mOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Leicestershire County Council, Senior Planning Archaeologist	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Anne Foard-Colby	
Project Manager	Tony Walsh	
Sponsor or funding body	Mr Martyn Hawkes	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	21 April 2010	
End date	22 April 2010	
ARCHIVES	Location	Content
Physical Accession no. X.A45.2010	Northamptonshire Archaeology	1 archive box of site documents, 1 archive box of pottery and animal bone
Paper	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Digital	Northamptonshire Archaeology	1 CD of digital images, report and mapping files
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION
AT STAYMORE, 5 CHURCH END, NETHER BROUGHTON
LEICESTERSHIRE
APRIL 2010
INTERIM REPORT**

Abstract

In April 2010, an archaeological investigation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of Mr Martyn Hawkes on land at 5 Church End, Nether Broughton, Leicestershire. The evaluation found the remains of two probable boundary ditches, one dated to the 11th - 13th century, together with gullies, pits and an ironstone wall. Medieval pottery dating from the 13th – 16th century, together with animal bone, was recovered from a pit and the wall foundation.

1 INTRODUCTION

A strip, plan and record by the means of trial trenching was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) in April 2010, on land at 5 Church End, Nether Broughton, Leicestershire (Fig 1, NGR centred on SK 6948 2602).

The work was undertaken in order to inform a planning application submitted by Mr Martyn Hawkes for the construction of a single dwelling and separate garage. The evaluation met the requirements of a specification prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2010) based on a brief issued by Leicestershire County Council, Historic & Natural Environment Team (HNET LCC March 2010).

The purpose of the evaluation was to identify and record archaeological deposits present and to characterise any related remains.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and geology

The village of Nether Broughton is approximately 9km to the north-west of Melton Mowbray. The proposed development site is situated at the north end of the village and to the east of the Dalby Brook (Fig 1).

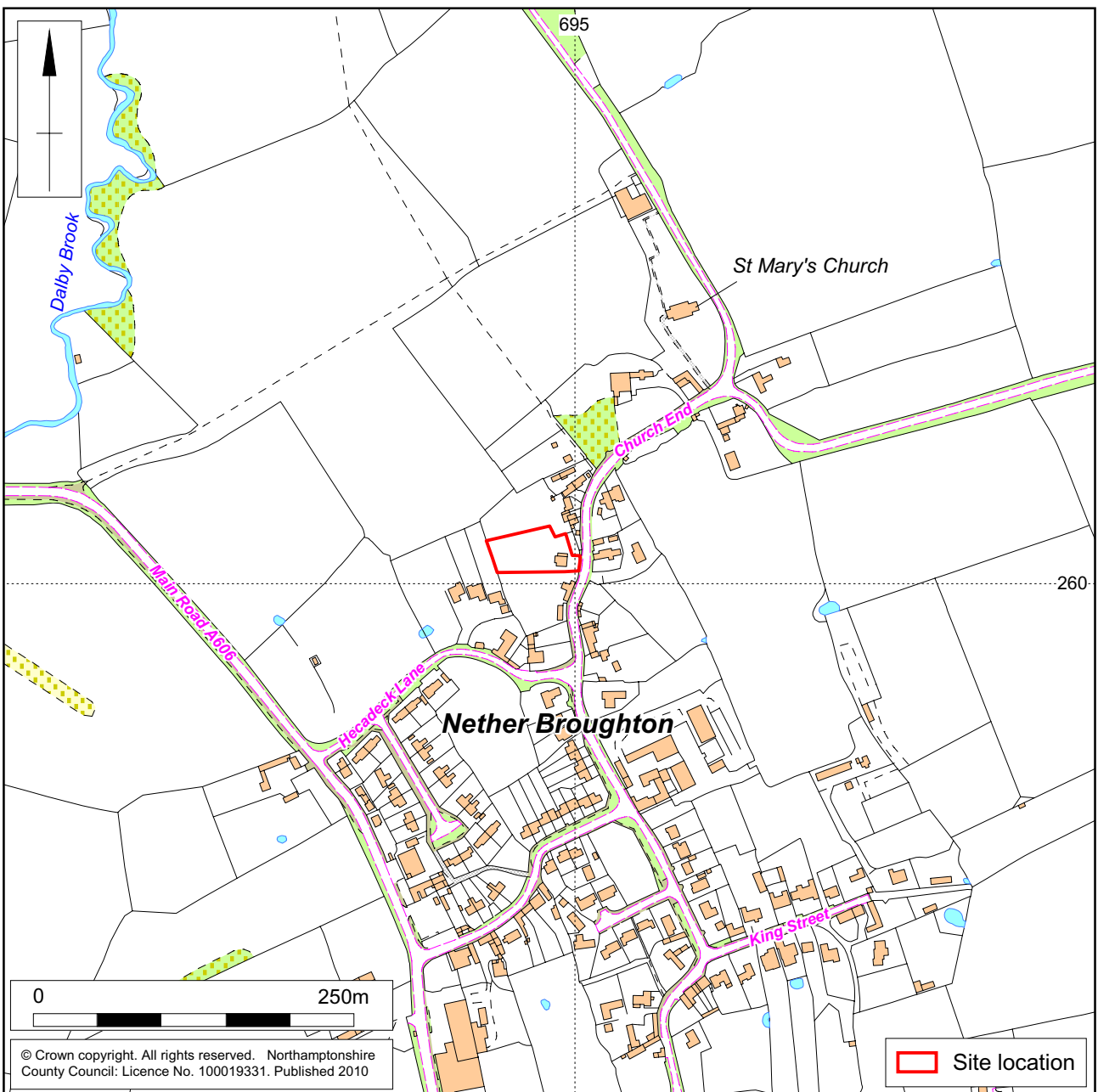
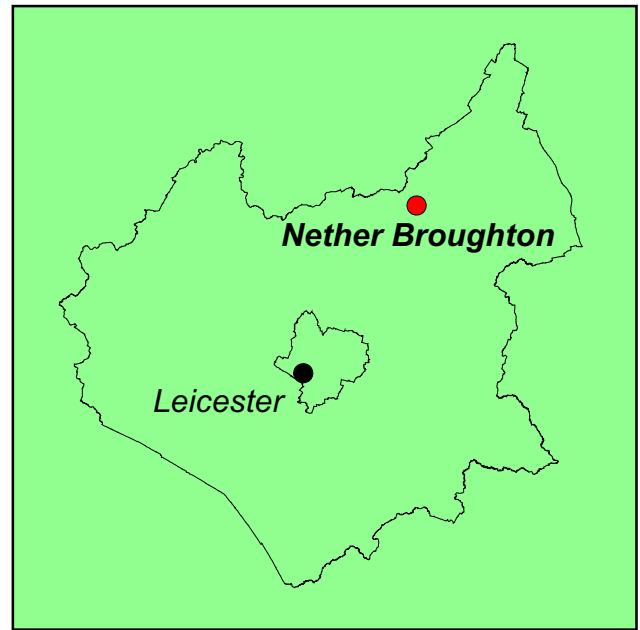
The site occupies a roughly rectangular area of c843 square metres, located on the west side of Church End. Currently the plot is occupied by a house proposed for demolition, with associated gardens. Topographically, the site is located at the top of a low hill overlooking the Dalby Brook, at the head of the Vale of Belvoir, at c80m aOD.

The underlying geology consists of Jurassic sandstone bedrock (Brandon Sandstone Bed, part of the Charmouth Mudstone Formation).

2.2 Archaeological and historical background

No previous archaeological work has been carried out within the application area.

Archaeological data held in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates that the site lies in an area of archaeological interest, within the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core (HER ref MLE9700). The



Scale 1:5000

Site Location Fig 1

parish church of St. Mary (MLE12605) is situated 200m to the north-east and an area of medieval earthworks (MLE3437), lies 100m to the east. The earthworks consist of enclosures and building platforms, including a small rectangular enclosure surrounded by a moat. Two closes to the east were known as Hall Closes (Hartley 1987).

The open fields plan of Nether Broughton shows the site of the proposed development laying within medieval village closes and not the open fields (Hartley 1987).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The general aims of the trial trenching were:

- to characterise the date, nature and significance of any archaeological features, deposits and structures identified

Specific aims were:

- To establish whether any archaeological deposits existed on the site with particular regard to any which merited preservation in situ
- To identify the date, form, and function of any archaeological deposits, together with the extent, depth and quality of preservation
- To evaluate the likely impact of past land use and possible presence of masking colluvial or alluvial deposits
- To establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence
- To provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and overheads.

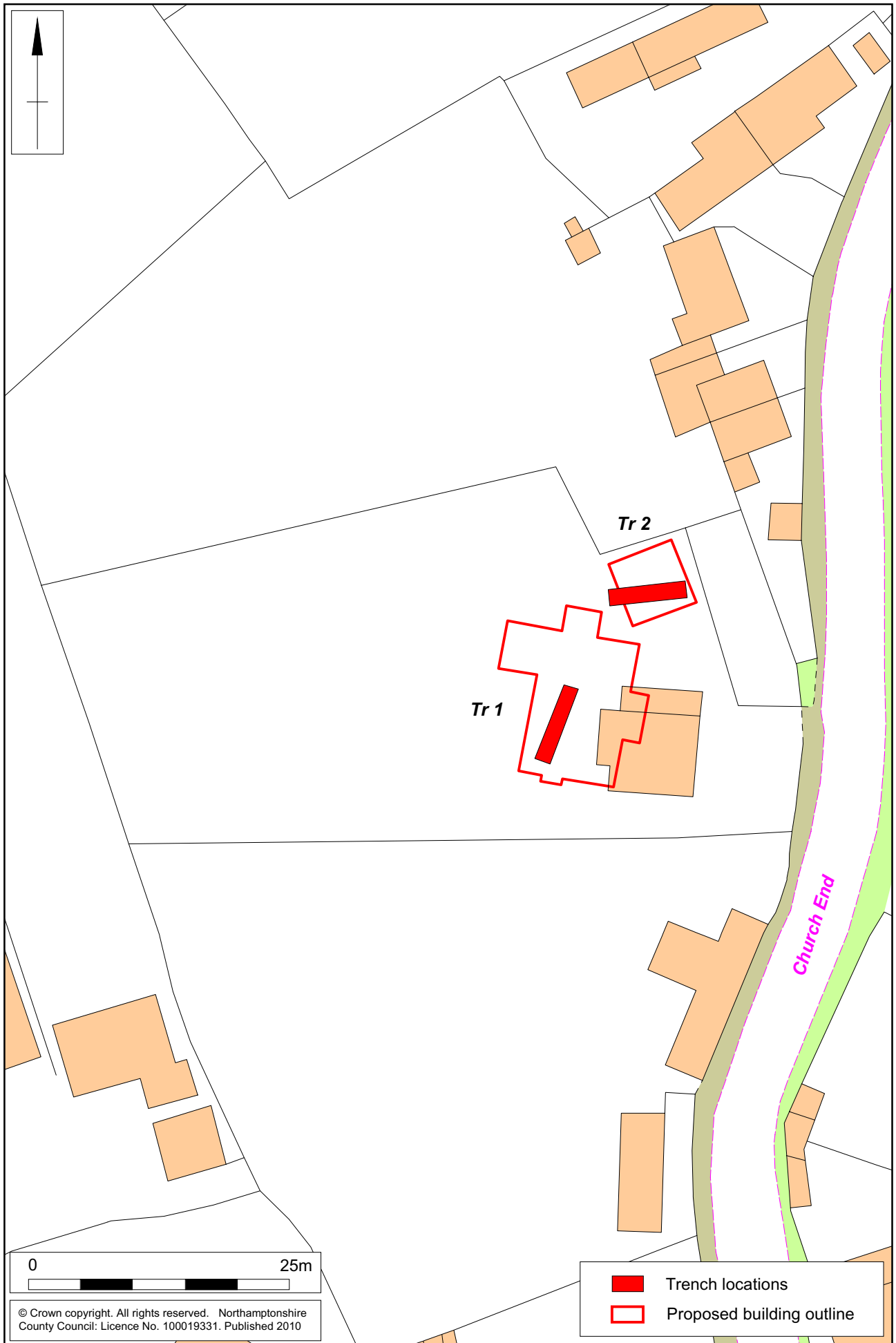
4 METHODOLOGY

Two trenches (1 and 2), each measuring 7.50m long by 1.80m wide were located, within the footprint of the new house and the new garage (Fig 2). They were positioned with approval of the Leicestershire County Council's Senior Planning Archaeologist.

The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All overburden was stripped under archaeological supervision, with the topsoil and subsoil stacked separately and adjacent to the trenches. Mechanical excavation proceeded to the top of the archaeological deposits.

Archaeological excavation complied with the specification (NA 2010) and recording followed NA Archaeological Fieldwork Manual (2003) and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 1994, revised 2008).

The trenches contained archaeological remains and were cleaned by hand, sufficient to define the features. Each feature or deposit was given a unique number consisting of the trench number and an individual context number (eg 204, Trench 2, context 4). The details of each context were recorded on pro-forma sheets. The trenches were planned at 1:20 and section drawings at 1:10. Levels, related to Ordnance Datum,



Scale 1:500

Trench location plan showing the proposed building layout Fig 2

were taken on the trenches at appropriate points, and on all major features. Trench locations were related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. A photographic record was made of the excavation, using both 35mm colour transparency and black and white negative films, supplemented by images taken using a digital camera.

Artefacts were collected by hand and retained, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from site (Watkinson and Neal 1998).

All procedures complied with Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety provisions and Northamptonshire Archaeology Health and Safety at Work Guidelines. The guidelines of the Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA 1993) have been followed in the preparation of the archive.

A contexts and features summary is provided in Appendix 1.

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

The natural substrate in both trenches 1 and 2 was pale grey and orange mottled silty clay.

The subsoil, which was between 0.30m and 0.46m thick, consisted of mid to dark grey-brown silty clay with small fragments of ironstone. The topsoil, which was between 0.10m to 0.35m thick, was a dark, humus rich garden soil.

The evaluation recorded two ditches, three gullies, two pits and a wall (Fig 3).

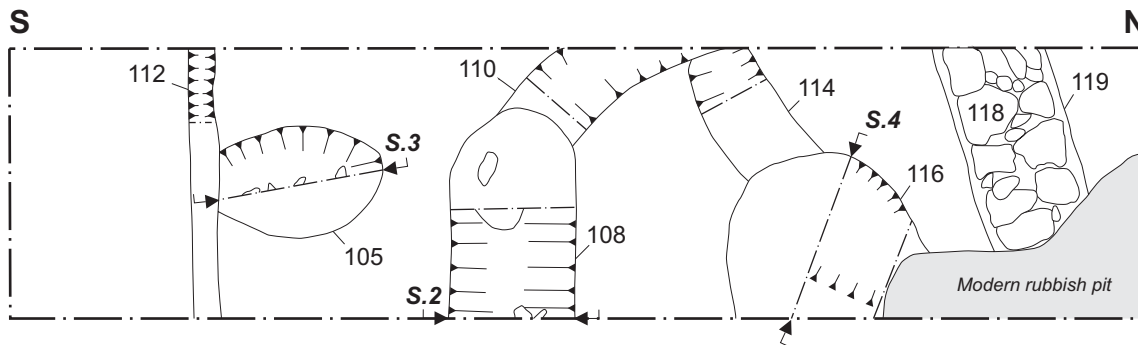
5.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was orientated north to south. (Figs 2 and 3). Within the trench were three gullies [110], [112] and [114], one ditch [108], two pits [105] and [116], and a wall (118).

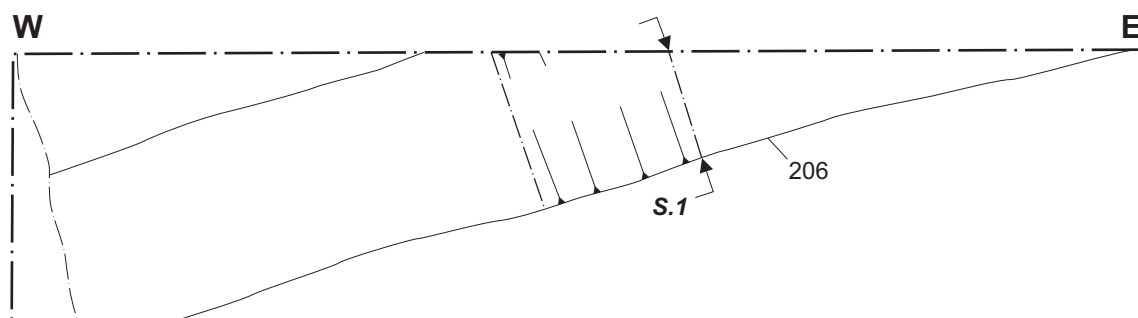
The earliest feature found was a north-east to south-west aligned gully [114]. It was shallow, with a U-shaped profile, 0.50m wide 0.13m deep. The dark, silty clay fill (113) contained a small fragment of animal bone. The gully was cut at the west by a comparable sized gully [110], aligned north-west to south-east, curving to the east, and containing a similar dark fill (109). Its north-east end was cut by a pit or ditch terminal [116], the remainder of which was beyond the limit of the trench. The pit/ditch was steep-sided with a flattish base, approximately 1.30m wide and 0.25m deep. The mid grey clay fill (115) contained two residual sherds of early to mid Saxon pottery, a sherd of medieval sandy ware and animal bone (Fig 3, Section 4).

Approximately 1.00m to the south of the pit was the terminal of a ditch [108] aligned east to west with a V-shaped profile, 1.17m wide and 0.50m deep, which cut the earlier gully [110] (Fig 4). The lower fill (107) of the ditch was mid grey and orange clay which contained cattle bones and large lumps of ironstone. The upper fill (106) was dark silty clay with ironstone fragments and charcoal.

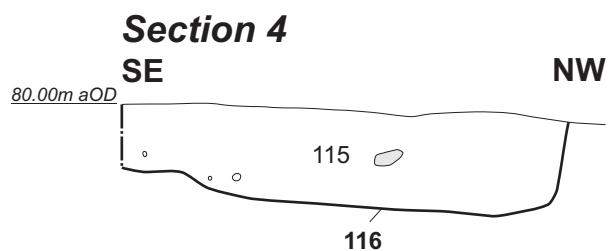
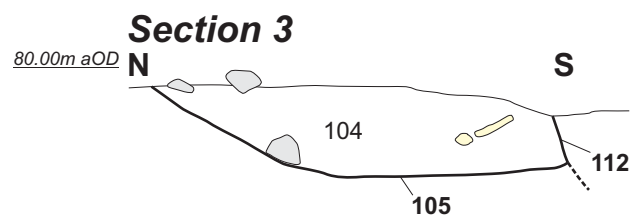
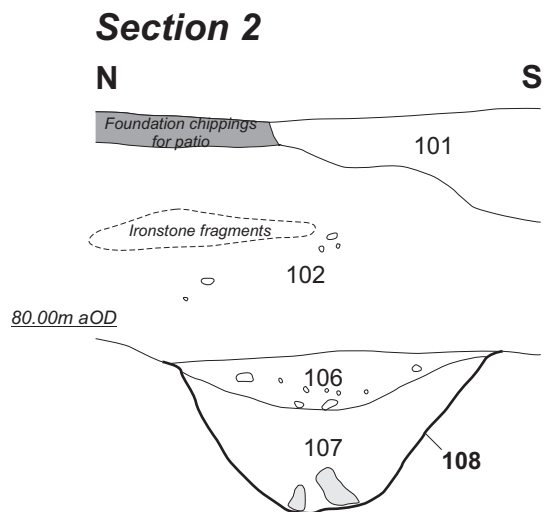
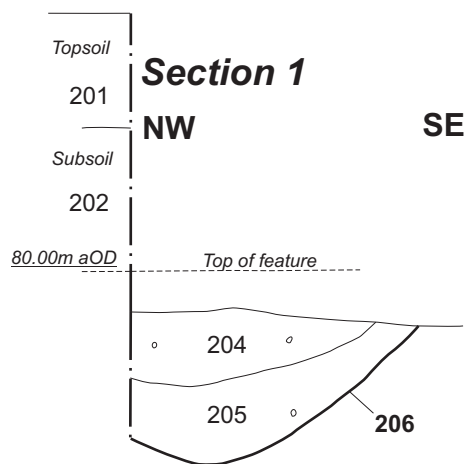
Trench 1



Trench 2



0 2m



Ironstone
Bone

0 1m



Trench 1, ditch [108], looking east

Fig 4

At the south end of the trench was an oval-shaped pit [105], 1.17m long, 0.79m wide, and 0.25m deep (Fig 5). The dark silty clay fill (104) was similar to that of the gullies, and contained fragments of animal bone (Figs 3 and 4, Section 3). It was cut by a narrow, V-shaped gully [112], aligned east to west, 0.32m wide 0.25m deep. It contained a smooth, dark grey silty clay fill (111).



Trench 1, pit [105] and gully [112], looking east

Fig 5

At the north end of the trench was a wall (118), aligned north-north-east to south-south-west (Fig 6). It was constructed within a foundation trench [119] which was 0.80m wide and 0.40m deep and which cut the subsoil (102). The wall was 0.64m wide and 0.30m deep and was built from large, rough-hewn ironstone blocks; the largest measured 0.33m long 0.27m wide and 0.21m deep. They were laid with a flat surface to each face of the wall. There was no apparent bonding material. One course of the stone wall remained and was overlain by topsoil (102). At the north-east end the wall was cut by a modern rubbish pit.



Trench 1, Wall (118), looking south, south-west

Fig 6

5.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was orientated east to west (Figs 2 and 3). A single ditch [206], aligned north-east to south-west with a U-shaped profile, cut the natural clay (Figs 3 and 7, Section 1). It was 1.20m wide and 0.60m deep. Its lower fill (205) was pale grey and orange mottled silty clay, with ironstone fragments and charcoal lumps, 0.22m thick. It contained seven sherds of Stamford-ware pottery and several parts of a sheep/goat skull, which may show evidence of poleaxing. The upper fill (204), contained no finds. It consisted of pale to mid yellow-brown, with grey-brown and orange mottled, silty clay, with charcoal lumps and was 0.32m deep.



Trench 2, ditch [206], looking east

Fig 7

6 THE FINDS

6.1 The pottery by Iain Soden

A total of nineteen sherds were recovered, in nine fabrics or types, dating between the early-middle Saxon period (400-800AD) and the 18th century. Together they weigh 262g. These have been counted and weighed by fabric and context, the fabrics correlated, as far as possible with those published from Causeway Lane, Leicester (Connor and Buckley 1999, 166). These were as follows:

Table 1: Pottery type by context, sherd count/weight (n/g)

Type	CTS	Product range	101 n/g	102 n/g	115 n/g	117 n/g	205 n/g
Early-middle Saxon	SX	400-800			2/12		
Stamford Ware	ST2	1050-1200					7/34
Chilvers Coton A ware	CC1	1250-1500	1/11				
Chilvers Coton C ware	CC2	1250-1300		2/120			
Leicester splashed ware	SP	1200-1500				2/20	
Medieval shelly ware	LY?	1200-1400				1/5	
Medieval sandy ware	MS	1200-1400			1/28		
Midland Black	MB	1600-1800		2/25			
Tin glazed earthenware	EA11	18th century		1/7			
Total			1/11	5/152	3/40	3/25	7/34

The pottery derives from a long period of on-site or nearby occupation, but the quantity does not suggest deliberate refuse disposal nearby at any particular date. The hand-made early-middle Saxon sherds are very abraded (and residual) and may suggest no more than an unknown level of occupation somewhere in the vicinity. One is heavily encrusted with limescale deposits suggestive of the context in which it was residual (116) containing toilet-related material. Neither sherd is considered good for detailed fabric analysis.

The pottery suggests that occupation features in Trench 1 may date to the period c1250-1500, but some 50% of the pottery recovered from that trench derives from the overlying soils, raising the caveat that it may be agricultural or other accidental import, and not actually disturbed from parent-contexts below.

However, that in Trench 2 is entirely consistent with the ditch [206] fill (205) being of late-Saxon or Saxo-Norman origin. The seven sherds of Stamford Ware suggests that related occupation remains may lie close by.

6.2 The bone by Karen Deighton

A total of 1.06kg of animal bone was collected by hand from seven contexts during the course of evaluation. This material was scanned to determine the species present, state of preservation and to assess the potential for future work and to inform on future collection strategies.

Identifiable bones were noted. Ageable and measurable bones (after Von Den Driesch 1976) were also noted. Ageable elements included cheek tooth rows, bones where the state of fusion is apparent and neonatal bones.

Fragmentation was low to moderate, as was surface abrasion.

Three instances of canid gnawing were recorded. Evidence for butchery was noted on three bone elements. A hole (20mm in length, 10mm in width) which pierced the cranium between the bases of the sheep/goat horncores, could possibly be an example of poleaxing.

Table 2: Taxonomic distribution of animal bone

Cut/fill	Feature	Date	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Pig	Horse	Large ungulate
101	Topsoil				1		
104	Pit					2	
108/107	Ditch		2				
115	Pit		2			1	1
206/205	Ditch			1			
Totals			4	1	1	3	1

Contexts 106 and 113 produced indeterminate bone fragments only.

Little can be said of the animal economy of the site due to the paucity of material, beyond the fact that the assemblage consists solely of common domesticates.

Table 3: Ageing and metrical data

Taxa	Cattle	Horse
Fusion	2	1
Tooth eruption and wear		1

Approximately 70-80% of the animal bone could be identified to taxa and a small amount of ageing data is available from the state of tooth wear and the presence of adult dentition. This suggests that collection and analysis of further material should future excavation take place, would provide a clearer idea of the taxa associated with the site. If subsequent excavations take place bone should be collected from suitable contexts.

Conclusion

Assessment has shown a small assemblage, consisting largely of taxa common for the period and suggested that further analysis would be viable if further bone were collected.

7 DISCUSSION

The evaluation has demonstrated the survival of archaeological remains dating to the late Saxon to medieval periods, consistent with the position of the site within the village at Church End.

The open field survey plan of Nether Broughton shows the proposed development site lies in an area of old enclosures within the medieval settlement core of the village and not in the open fields (Hartley 1987). The Church of St. Mary is situated to the north-east of the site and to the west a pasture field contains earthworks, consisting of closes and platforms and a raised, rectangular moated platform. Adjacent paddocks were known as Hall Closes.

The earliest dated feature identified was a single ditch in Trench 2, which contained seven sherds of Stamford-ware pottery recovered from the lower fill. Pieces of sheep or goat skull with a hole between the horns, (possibly an example of poleaxing) were also recovered from the same ditch fill.

In Trench 1, residual Saxon pottery, along with a single sherd of medieval sandy ware was recovered from the fill of a pit or ditch terminal which cut an earlier undated gully.

The low number of artefacts recovered may indicate either a general low level of activity consistent with the ditches bounding a working field system or that these features lie on the periphery of more extensive settlement beyond the trench boundaries.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Dimensions /thickness (m)	Artefact type
1	101	Topsoil	Dark humus rich garden soil	0.12 - 0.30m thick	1 sherd med pot, animal bone
	102	Subsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	0.10 - 0.30m thick	2 sherds med pot, 3 sherds post-med pot
	103	Natural	Natural pale grey and orange mottled silty clay		
	104	Fill of [105]	Dark grey-brown with orange mottled silty clay with ironstone fragments, charcoal lumps		Animal bone
	105	Cut	Cut of pit	1.17m long, 0.79m wide, 0.25m deep	
	106	Fill of [108]	Dark grey-black silty clay with ironstone frags	1.17m wide, 0.25m thick	Animal bone
	107	Fill of [108]	Mid grey and orange-yellow mottled silty clay with ironstone frags, charcoal	0.74m wide, 0.30m thick	Pottery, animal bone
	108	Cut	Cut of ditch	1.17m wide, 0.50m deep	
	109	Fill of [110]	Dark grey-brown silty clay with charcoal		
	110	Cut	Cut of gully	0.47m wide 0.19m deep	
	111	Fill of [112]	Dark grey smooth silty clay with occasional stone		
	112	Cut	Cut of gully	0.32m wide 0.25m deep	
	113	Fill of [114]	Mid to dark grey and orange silty clay with ironstone frags and charcoal		Animal bone
	114	Cut	Cut of gully	0.50m wide 0.13m deep	
	115	Fill of [116]	Mid grey and orange mottled silty clay with ironstone frags		2 sherds early-mid Saxon pot, 1 sherd med pot, bone
	116	Cut	Cut of pit	1.30m long 1.15m wide 0.25m deep	
	117	Fill of [119]	Dark grey silty clay with ironstone frags, charcoal	0.80m wide 0.40m thick	3 sherds med pot
	118	Wall	Large ironstone rough hewn blocks	0.64m wide 0.30m deep	
	119	Cut	Cut of foundation trench	0.80m wide 0.40m deep	
2	201	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown loam with gravel	0.15 - 0.25m thick	
	202	Subsoil	Mid orange grey-brown mottled clayey loam with gravel	0.10 - 0.15m thick	
	203	Natural	Natural mid orange-light yellow and blue clay with gravel		
	204	Fill of [206]	Light-mid yellow-brown with grey-brown & orange, mottled silty clay with charcoal frags	Wider than 0.88m 0.32m thick	
	205	Fill of [206]	Pale grey with orange, mottled silty clay with ironstone frags, charcoal lumps	Wider than 1.10m, 0.22m thick	7 sherds Stamford-ware pot, animal bone
	206	Cut	Cut of ditch	1.20m wide, 0.60m deep	



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