



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological trial trench evaluation at
Scraptoft Hall, Church Hill, Scraptoft, Leicestershire
October 2013



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: 162746	
Project name	Archaeological trial trench evaluation at Scraptoft Hall, Church Hill, Scraptoft, Leicestershire		
Short description	A total of 371 linear metres of trenching was excavated on the site of former gardens associated with the Hall. Ditches and a pit, predominantly localised in the southern part of the site, may pertain to the periphery of the medieval village of Scraptoft, but produced only a few sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery. From the 18th century the proposed development area had been heavily landscaped in conjunction with the construction of a hall and associated buildings, including now vanished woodland to the east, the formation of a still visible sunken parterre garden and two ponds. The trial trenching also indicated that there has been substantial infilling and raising of the ground level to the south and north of the Hall. The gardens and house were used into the mid 20th century, but the construction of a teacher training college in the 1960s radically altered the surrounding landscape, as areas of the southern part of the site were truncated by the construction of buildings, and this has affected the survival of both the medieval and the post-medieval landscape.		
Project type	Evaluation- trial trenching		
Site status	None		
Previous work	Geotechnical survey (Upton 2013)		
Current Land use	Redundant post-medieval building and landscaped gardens		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type	None		
Significant finds	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Leicestershire		
Site address	Scraptoft Hall, Church Hill, Scraptoft, LE7 9ST		
Study area	3ha		
OS co-ords	SK 658 046		
Height OD	109-116m		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology		
Project brief	-		
Project Design	CgMs Consulting		
Director/Supervisor	Paul Clements		
Project Manager	A Yates/ A Maull (NA), Simon Mortimer (CgMs)		
Sponsor	CgMs Consulting		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	October 2013		
End date	October 2013		
ARCHIVES	Location	Content	
Physical	X.A95. 2013	1 archive box pottery, clay pipe and glass	
Paper		1 archive box of site forms and records	
Digital		Digital photographs, pdf of report and dxf data	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation at Scraptoft Hall, Scraptoft, Leicestershire. October 2013		
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION ON LAND AT
SCRAPTOFT HALL, CHURCH HILL, SCRAPTOFT
LEICESTERSHIRE
OCTOBER 2013**

Abstract

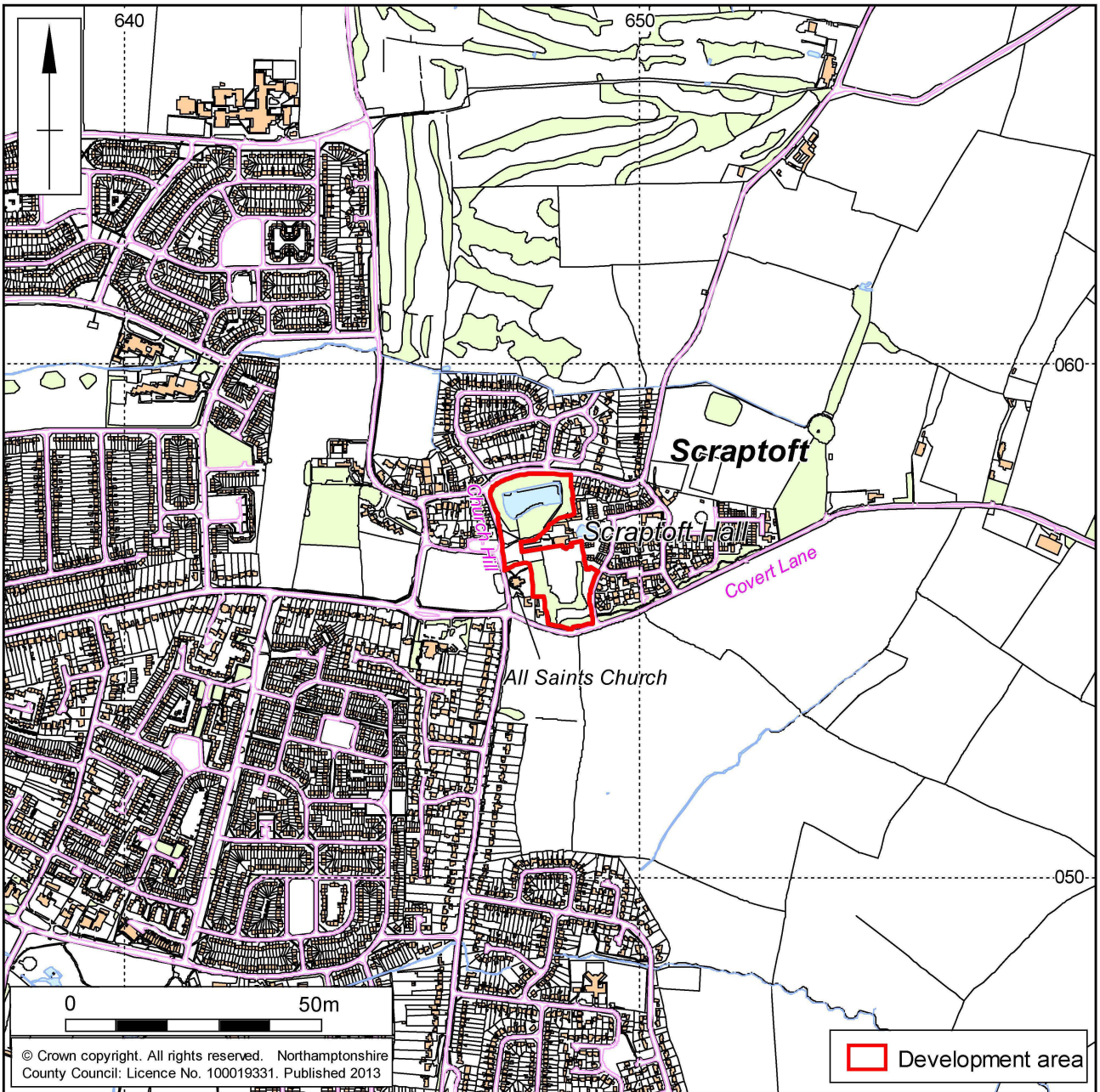
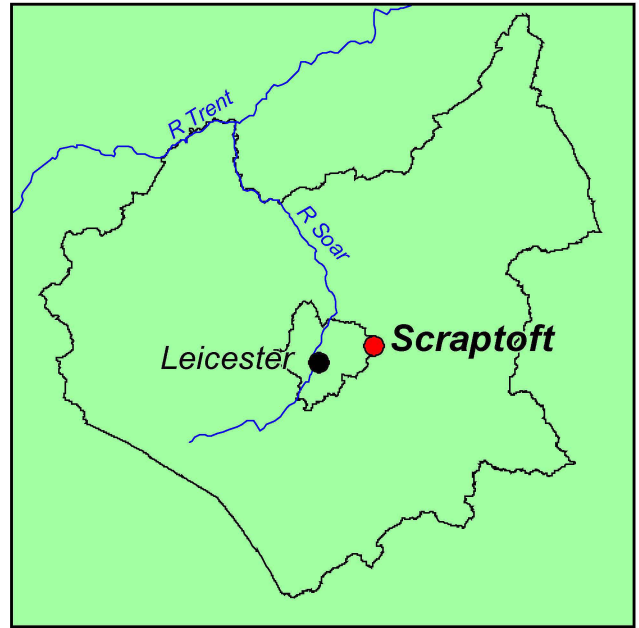
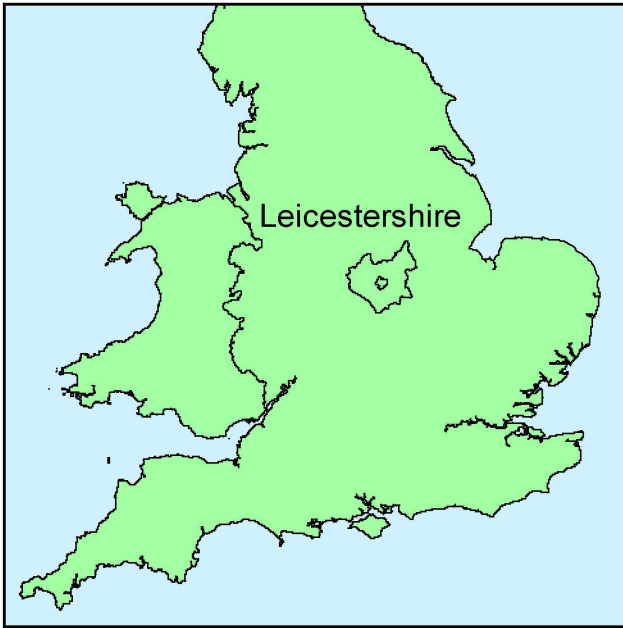
Northamptonshire Archaeology were commissioned by CgMs Consulting, acting on behalf of Davidsons Developments and Scraptoft Hall, to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Scraptoft Hall. A total of 371 linear metres of trenching was excavated on the site of former gardens associated with the Hall. Ditches and a pit, predominantly in the southern part of the site, may pertain to the periphery of the medieval village of Scraptoft, but produced only a few sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery. From the 18th century the proposed development area had been heavily landscaped in conjunction with the construction of a hall and associated buildings, including now vanished woodland to the east, the formation of a still visible sunken parterre garden and two ponds. The trial trenching also indicated that there has been substantial infilling and raising of the ground level to the south and north of the Hall. The gardens and house were used into the mid 20th century, but the construction of a teacher training college in the 1960s radically altered the surrounding landscape, as areas of the southern part of the site were truncated by the construction of buildings, and this has affected the survival of both the medieval and the post-medieval landscape.

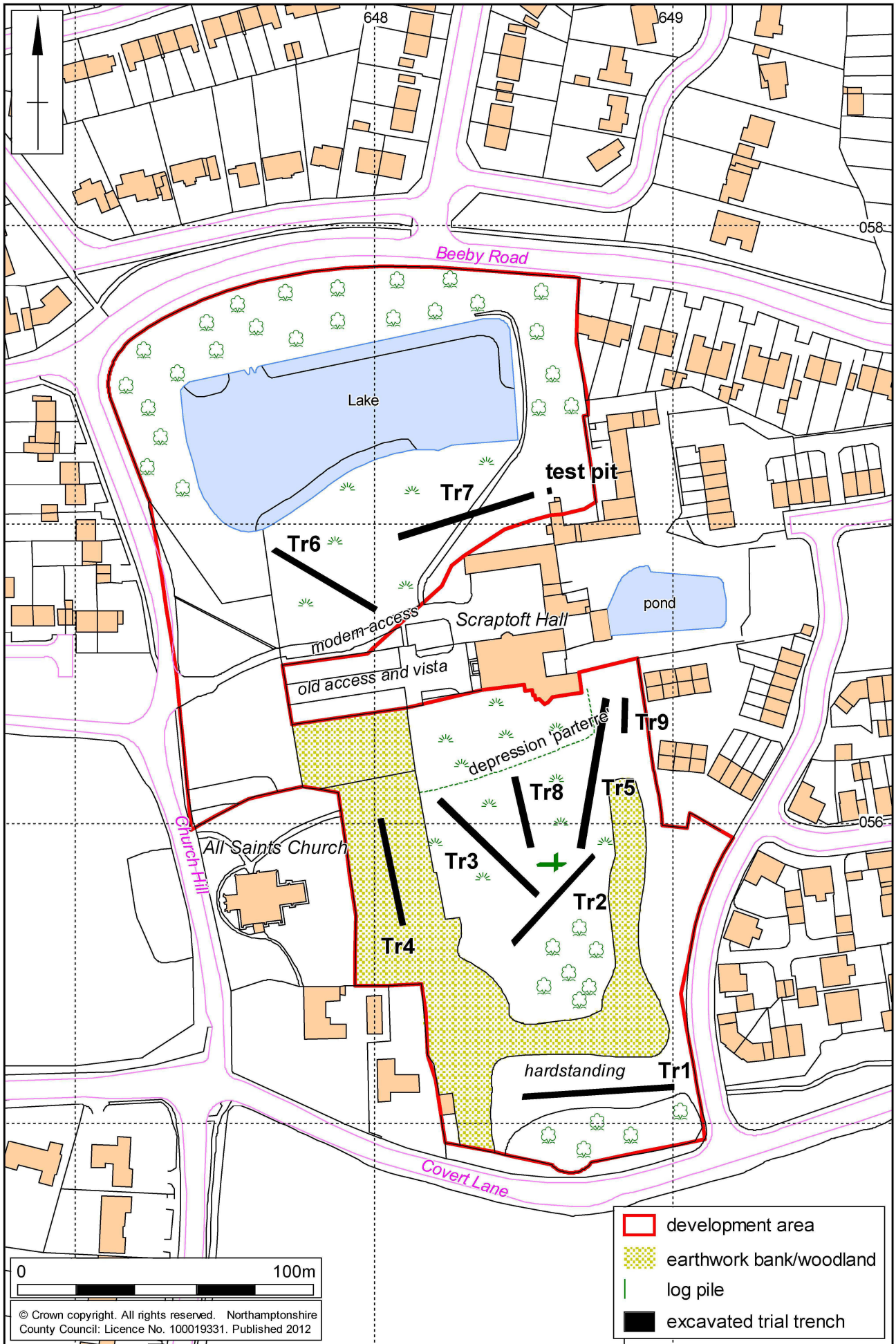
1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, acting on behalf of Davidsons Developments and Scraptoft Hall to undertake archaeological work on the development site on land at Scraptoft Hall, Scraptoft, Leicestershire (NGR SK 658 046, Fig 1). The development comprises the construction of 42 dwellings with associated access, drainage and landscaping. The archaeological works comprised 371 linear metres of trial trenching in the area of the proposed housing where it was practicable to place the trenches.

The works were required as part of the planning approval for residential development (Planning Application: 13/00558/FUL), in line with National Planning Policy Framework NPPF (DCLG 2012). The archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by CgMs Consulting (Mortimer 2013).

At the time of fieldwork (October 2013) the development area comprised the derelict remains of the Hall within *circa* 3ha of former landscaped grounds populated with mature trees. The current development area and zone of works excludes the Hall and outbuildings. This report follows the production of an interim Statement produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Simmonds and Clements 2013).





Scale 1:1,750 (A4)

Topography and land use at Scraftoft Hall Fig 2

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and geology

Scraptoft Hall is situated in the centre of the village of Scraptoft on the eastern edge of the modern urban expanse of the City of Leicester (Fig 1). The western boundary is defined by Church Hill and the parish church dedicated to All Saints situated on high ground to the south-west, the northern boundary by Beeby Road and the southern boundary by Covert Lane and open fields. To the east lies a new housing development on the site of 1960s college buildings.

The derelict remains of the Hall (Front Cover) overlook a large sub-rectangular lake to the north; this body of water was flanked on its northern side by mature trees (Fig 2). To the south of the Hall is a grassed area surrounded on three sides by a low raised earthwork covered with mature trees and other shrubs. Although much of this grass area is flat a portion is considerably deeper forming a rectangular earthwork depression. Adjacent to Covert Lane and south of the wooded earthwork bank, the ground surface is a former tarmac car park.

The grass area to the south of the hall is at an average height of 116m aOD and slopes down to the banks of the lake to the north (109m aOD) and also gradually slopes down to Church Hill to the west.

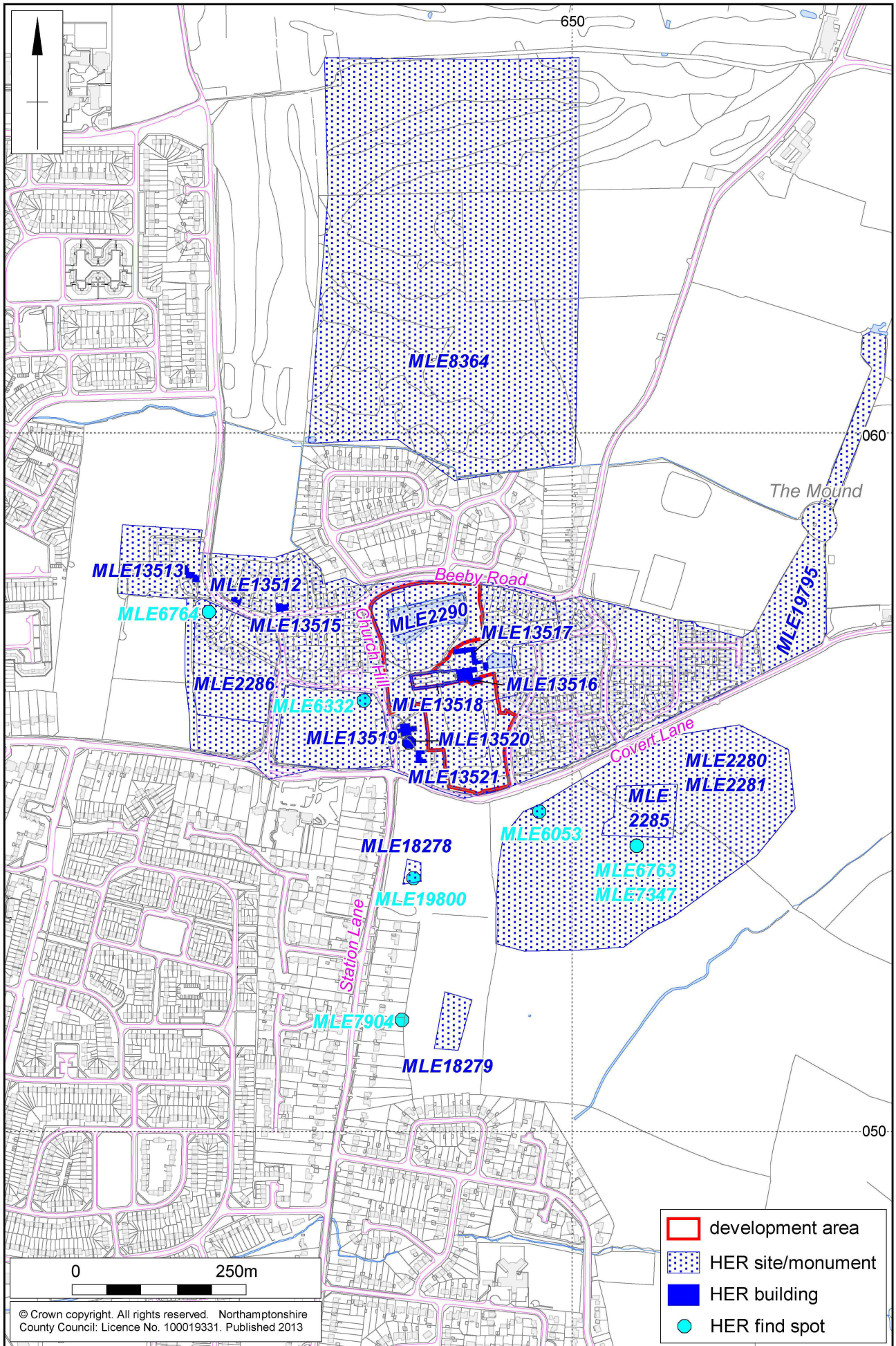
The underlying geology comprises Blue Lias mudstones overlain by Oadby member and Glaciofluvial Deposits. A geotechnical exercise carried out in February 2013 indicated that made ground deposits between 0.4m and 3.1m thick overlay the superficial deposits (Upton 2013).

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

In order to inform the historical and archaeological background of the works a variety of source material was accessed. A 500m search radius of the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (LRHER) recorded 27 entries for sites, monuments, notable buildings and find spots (Fig 3) as well as 13 'events' encompassing desk-based assessments, survey and trial trenching (Fig 4).

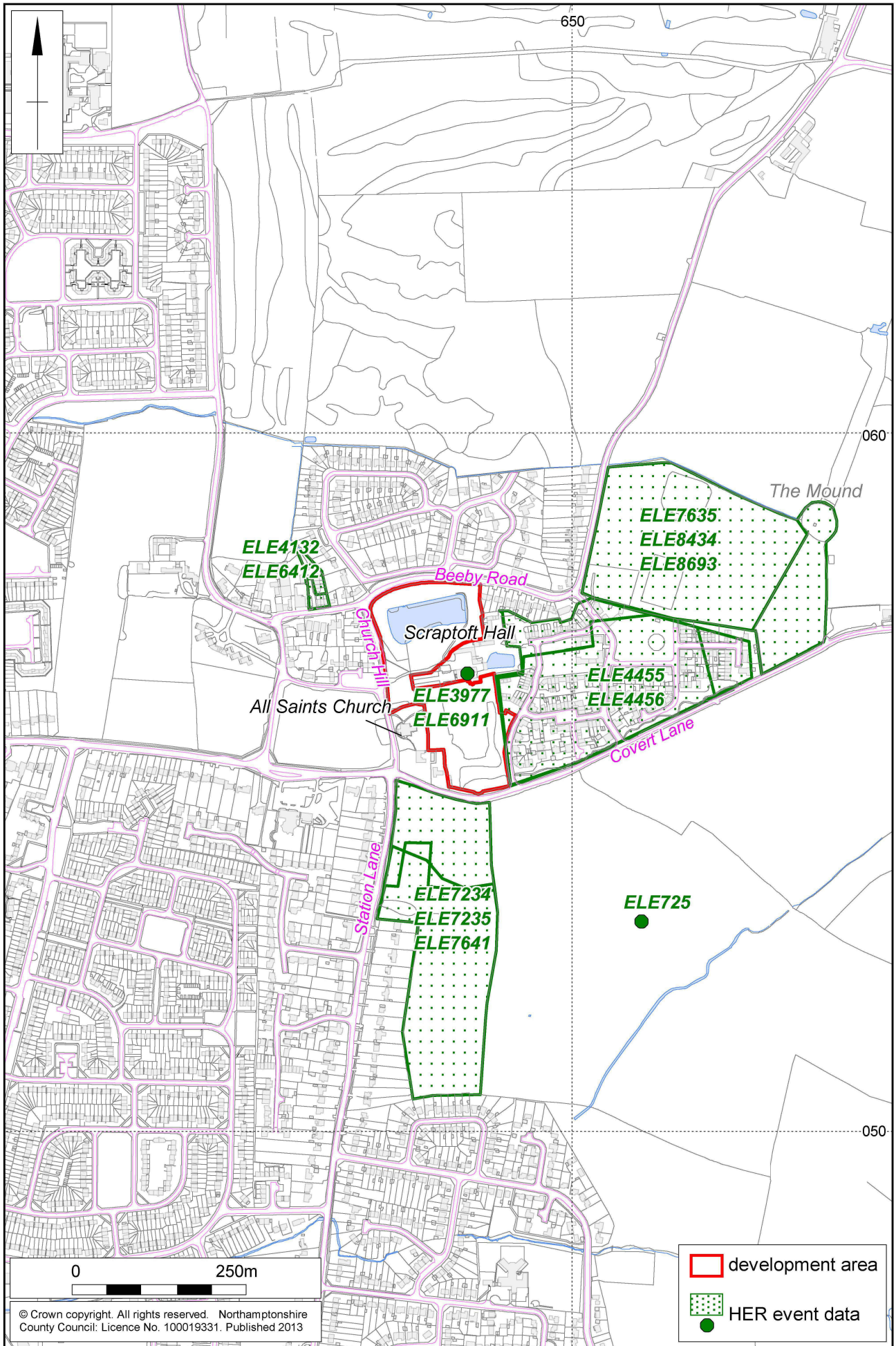
Although one site at Main Street (ELE4132/6412) did not locate any archaeological features the majority of the other interventions have identified archaeological features or artefacts. This historical and archaeological background also includes reference to readily available online historic mapping (Old Maps), the Victoria County History and other online resources.

Although the development area was not the subject of a desk-based assessment (DBA), archaeological work elsewhere in the village included the production of DBAs (ELE4456, Dawson 2010/ELE7234 & Hunt 2010/ELE7635). A brief historical background comprising a regression of historic maps was provided in the environmental and geotechnical survey (Upton 2013).



Scale 1:7,500 (A4)

Historic Environment Record- monument data Fig 3



Scale 1:7,500 (A4)

Historic Environment Record- Event data Fig 4

The landscape

The area around Scraptoft is rich in archaeological remains particularly pertaining to the medieval and later periods (Figs 3 and 4). However, there was very little by way of recorded remains of prehistoric date; the early artefacts included a Palaeolithic flint core (MLE6053) recovered from a gravel pit excavated in 1904 and a Bronze Age adze (MLE6332).

Fieldwalking and trial trenching exercises indicate the potential for finding known or possible Roman settlement to the west and south of the development area. An extensive fieldwalking project (ELE725) took place in 1980s and 1990s on land south of Covert Lane and produced a large quantity of coins, pottery, a gaming piece and metal items including brooches, spoons and rings (MLE2280). Undated rectangular enclosures (MLE2285) were located in this area and it is possible that they relate to prehistoric or Roman occupation. Further to the west more discrete Roman remains comprising residual pottery (MLE19800 & Carlyle 2010/ELE7641) and pottery recovered from a garden (MLE7904) were recovered.

The origins of Saxon Scraptoft are not known but there was almost certainly a Late Saxon settlement owned by Earl Leofric of Mercia. The Anglo-Saxon manor at Scraptoft may have formed part of an endowment dated 1043, when the manor was given by Earl Leofric to the newly founded priory of St Mary at Coventry (Lee and McKinley 1964). It was still the property of the priory in 1086. The fieldwalking on land off Covert Lane (ELE725) also identified evidence of Anglo-Saxon occupation. It is thought that the artefacts (MLE2281) comprising pottery and brooches may indicate a cemetery site. A field evaluation (ELE7641), undertaken in 2010, identified the remains of a pit (MLE18278).

Scraptoft is considered to be a Shrunken Medieval Village (SMV) and earthwork remains of house platforms and a hollow-way west of the Church (MLE2286) supports this. The core of medieval settlement (MLE9024) may have centred on the Church of All Saints (MLE13519) and the preaching cross in the churchyard (MLE13520). A draft open field survey plan reproduced in a DBA on land at Station Lane (Dawson 2010, fig 4) illustrated the orientation of ridge and furrow to the south and west of the site. Geophysical survey to the east of Station Lane also recorded the remains of ridge and furrow (ELE7235/MLE18279; Fisher 2010). Scattered artefacts of medieval date have been found south of Covert Lane (MLE6763) and at Nether Hall Farm on the western edge of Scraptoft (MLE6764).

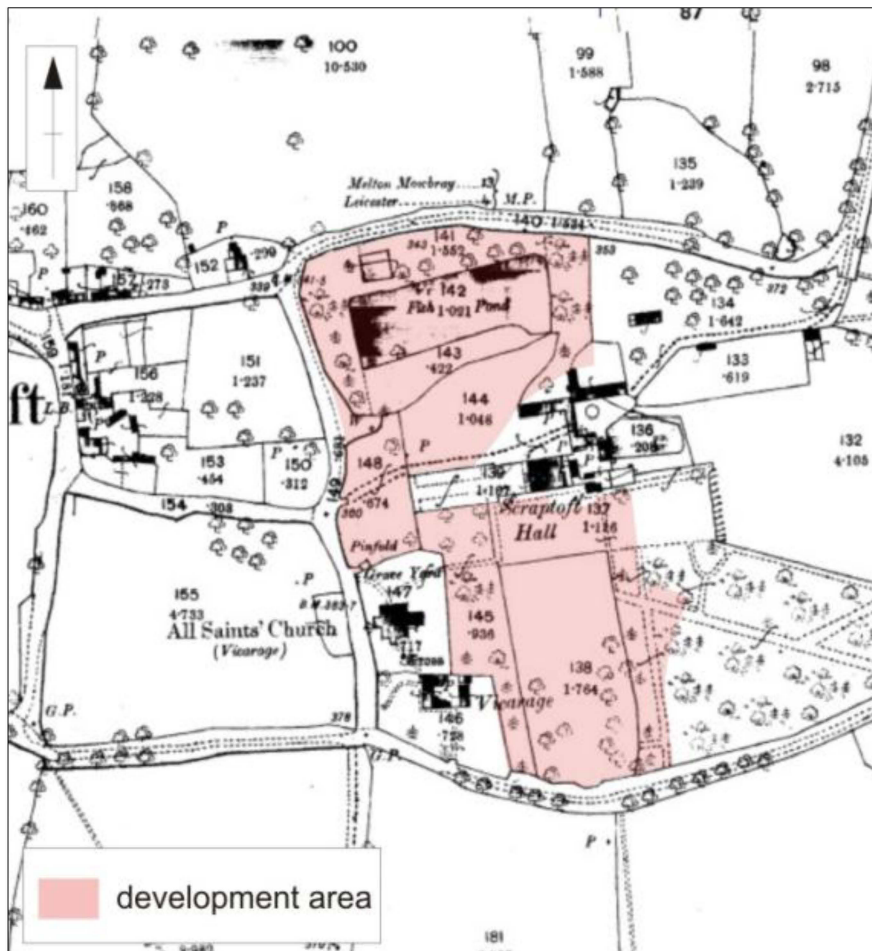
After the Dissolution the manor at Scraptoft was leased to Henry Wigley and, apart from a period in the late 16th century the manor and estate remained in the possession of the Wigley and Hartopp families until *circa* 1918 (Lee and McKinley 1964). The parish was inclosed in the 16th century at which point much of the land around the village was given over to pasture. For the most part the fields were rectangular or square in shape and a similar arrangement continued through into modern times. The 17th and 18th centuries brought change to the village with wealth displayed by the construction of new brick and slate houses. Those notable houses listed in LRHER including The Cottage (MLE13512), Nether Hall (MLE13513), the Vicarage (MLE13521) and Rose Cottage (MLE13515). Scraptoft Hall and its gardens are considered in detail below.

During the early part of the 20th century Scraptoft remained some distance away from the increasing urban sprawl of Leicester. It was not until the mid 20th century that the suburbs of Leicester expanded into the parish (Upton 2013). During the Second World War a Prisoner of War camp (MLE8364) was situated on a rectangular area of ground north of Beeby Road. Part of the site of the camp is now a golf course. During the 1960s the village of Scraptoft began to expand with new housing estates constructed north off Beeby Road and to the west of Station Lane.

Scraptoft Hall and its estate

In its current form Scraptoft Hall (MLE13516) is reputed to have been constructed in the 17th-century at the behest of the Wigley family and probably replaced an earlier manorial site in the village. Much of its current form dates to 1723 with an 1896 addition.

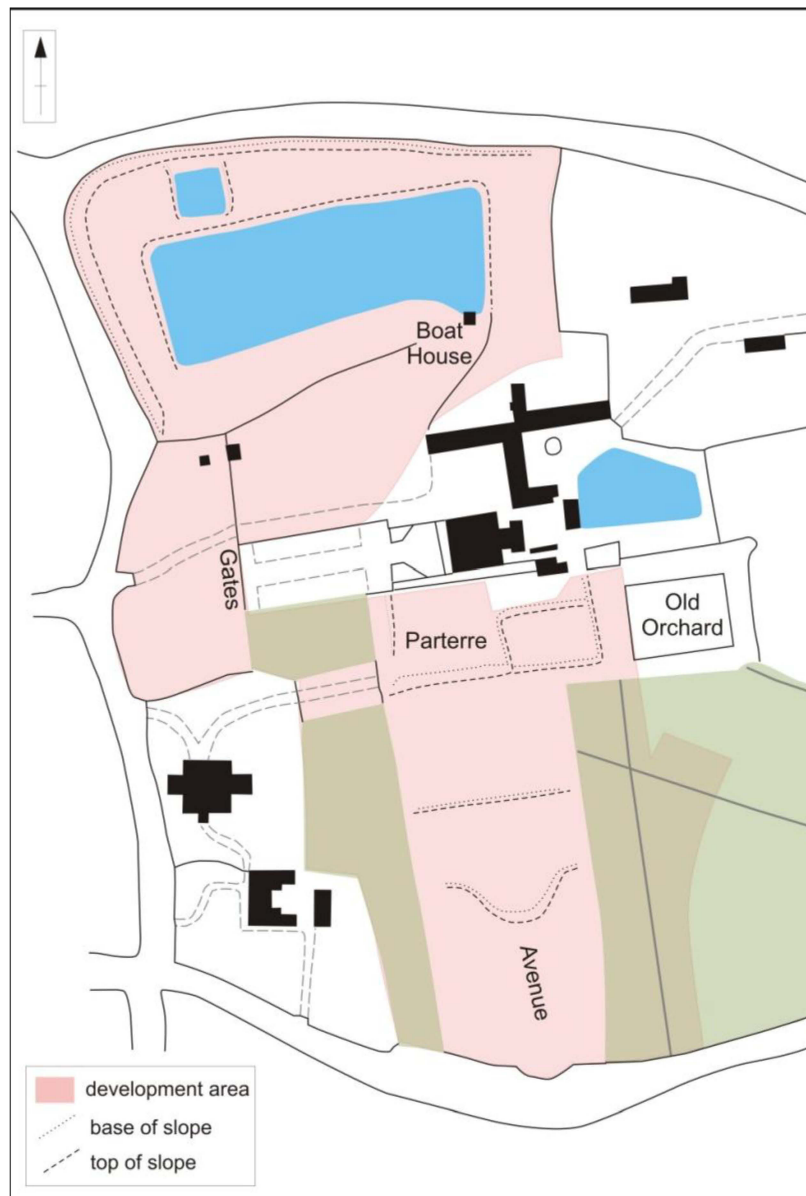
The hall was set within a landscaped 18th-century garden and pleasure ground which were still clearly marked on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig 5). The formal gardens (MLE19795) included a prospect mound at the eastern end of planned woodland 'The Gardens'. A Stable Block (MLE13517) lay to the north of the Hall and an enclosed forecourt defined by a brick wall (MLE13518) formed part of the formal entrance to the Hall.



Extract from the first edition Ordnance Survey (1884/5) Fig 5

The southern vista towards pasture, was defined first by a rectangular parterre garden and then by a terraced piece of ground emphasized by an avenue. Earthworks pertaining to the parterre and avenue were recorded by Hartley in 1988 (Fig 6).

To the north of the hall was a large 'fishpond' (MLE2290) and Hartley's map of the site shows a small square pond immediately to the north of this. Another smaller pond was located immediately east of the Hall and Stable Block.



Excerpt and reproduction of the earthwork survey (after Hartley 1988) Fig 6

In 1954 the Leicester Corporation bought the Hall and land to the east was developed for a new teacher training college (Lee and McKinley 1964). The Ordnance Survey 1953-6- 1:2500 edition shows the Hall and surrounding landscape prior to development of the college (Fig 7).



Excerpt from 1953-6 Ordnance Survey (1:2500 edition) Fig 7

Although the Hall was retained, the main buildings of the college were constructed on what is now the new housing estate to the east of the Hall. Prior to the construction of this housing development a desk-based assessment and trial trenching (ELE4455/4456) identified limited features suggesting that the area east of the Hall was away from occupation. This is reflected in work (ELE8434/8693) undertaken on former sports pitches located to the north. Other buildings were added in the 1960s and the full extent can be seen on aerial photographs as late as 1994 (GoogleEarth). On aerial photographs taken in the 1990s a rectangular building can be seen south-east of the Hall (in the vicinity of trench 5), but by 2004 this had been demolished. The southern portion of Hartley's 'Avenue' adjacent to Covert Lane was covered with tarmac to form a car park (Fig 8). The redevelopment of the Hall is subject to a separate planning application and its condition and history has been detailed elsewhere (ELE3977/6911).



Tarmac surface in the area of Trench 1, looking south-west Fig 8

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Objectives

The generic aims of the evaluation were to:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development site;
- To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains;
- To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to identify heritage assets potentially affected by the development and enable the impact of development on their significance to be assessed;
- To assess the impact of previous land use on the site;
- To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the development on surviving archaeological remains;
- To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Leicestershire HER.

The programme of archaeological investigation was conducted within the general research parameters and objectives defined by *East Midlands Heritage: A research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment* (compiled on behalf of the region's historic environment community (Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012) and the earlier *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda for the East Midlands* (Cooper 2006).

The following detailed research objectives may be applicable to Scraptoft Hall:

- Investigate the morphology of rural settlements (7E);
- Investigate the developments in estate and garden design and their landscape context (8D).

The investigation was implemented to take into account of the national research programmes outlined in English Heritage's 'Strategic Framework for Historic Environment Activities and Programmes in English Heritage (SHAPE)' first published in 2008.

3.2 Methodology

The works were conducted in accordance with the Specification (Mortimer 2013) and the following guidance documents: *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008) and the *Code of Conduct* of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2010).

The Specification included an allowance for the excavation and recording of ten trenches. Following a pre-site meeting on 26th September 2013 trenches north of the lake were considered to be unfeasible due to dense tree cover. After agreement with Teresa Hawtin, Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council (LCC), CgMs Consulting and the client, trenches were repositioned and refined to allow for seven trenches, two were situated to the north of the hall and the remainder to the south of the Hall.

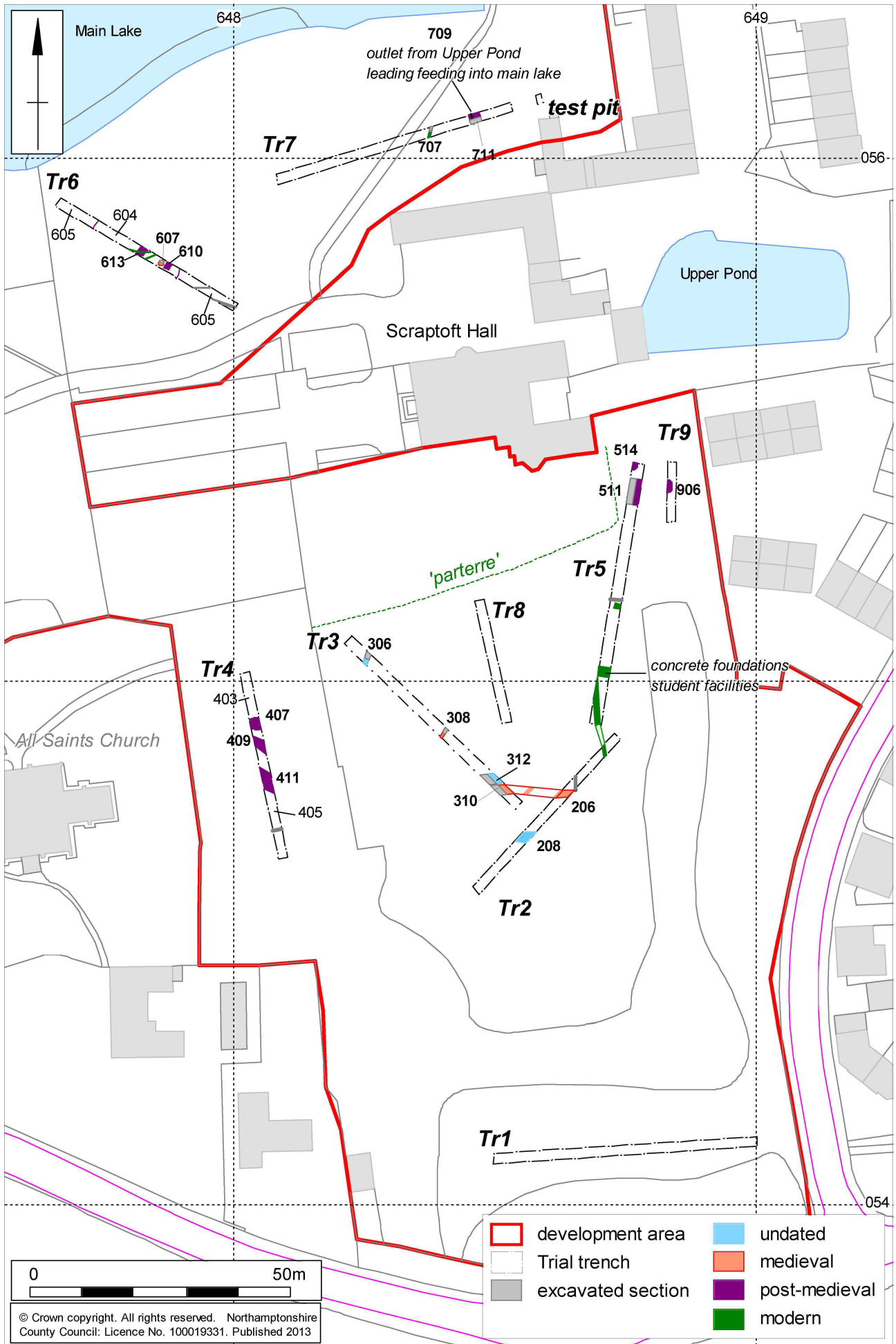
Trial trenching was undertaken between 30th September and 7th October 2013 and comprised the initial excavation of seven trenches, some of which had to be repositioned owing to the presence of mature trees and other obstacles reducing the available space (Fig 2). Trenches 1 to 7 were of varying lengths and in total measured 337 linear metres; Trenches 1-3, 5-7 were 50m long and Trench 4 was 37m long. Following an on-site monitoring meeting (3rd October 2013) between CgMs Consulting, Northamptonshire Archaeology and Teresa Hawtin, it was agreed that two shorter trenches would be excavated south of the Hall; trench 8 (in the area of the proposed access road) 24m long and trench 9, to the east of trench 5, was 10m long. In total the trenches comprised 371 linear metres.

All trenches were located to Ordnance Survey National grid following a survey by 'Urban Contours'. The trenches were machine-excavated using a toothless ditching bucket under continuous archaeological supervision. On completion of archaeological recording the trenches were backfilled with the upcast material (Back Cover).

The non-structural deposits (topsoil, subsoil and made ground) were removed to reveal the natural substrate where safe working depths allowed. Topsoil and subsoil were stacked separately. The trenches were cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification of any features, and the bases of the trenches and spoil were scanned with a metal detector to aid recovery of artefacts.

All deposits encountered during the course of the excavation were given separate context numbers and fully recorded. Recording followed standard Northamptonshire Archaeology procedures (NA 2011). Deposits were described on pro-forma context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships and interpretation.

A full photographic record comprising both 35mm black and white negatives and high resolution digital photographs was maintained. The field data was compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

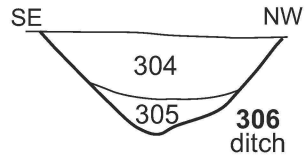


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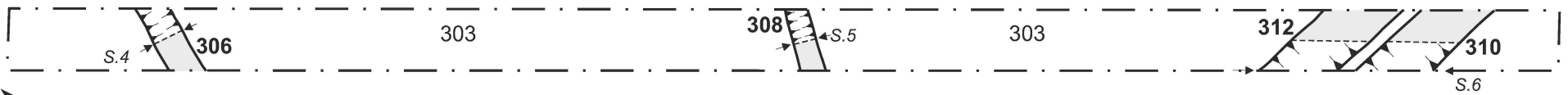
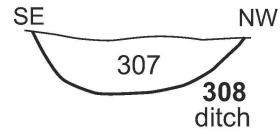
Archaeological features Fig 9

Trench 3

Section 4



Section 5



0 10m



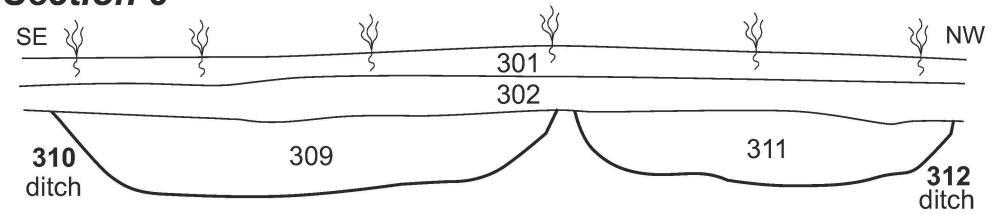
plan

0 1m

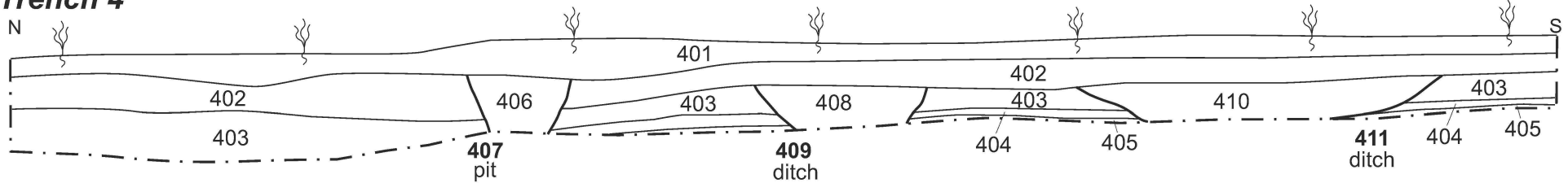


sections 4-6

Section 6



Trench 4



0 5m



4 EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

4.1 General comments

Detailed context descriptions may be found in the Appendix. Unless otherwise stated all fills comprised clean sandy or silty clays. The development area also contained a number of cable services and drainage pipes, particularly in the southern part of Trench 4 and within Trench 6.

The natural substrate comprising mixed orangey-brown sands and clays was encountered in all trenches at between 0.30 and 1.20m below modern ground level. In the central portion of the southern area (Trenches 2, 3 and 8) the natural was overlain with a layer of subsoil which was subsequently overlain by topsoil and turf. In the remainder of the trenches the natural soils and subsoil (where present) was overlain by a sequence of makeup layers (see below).

No archaeological features were present in Trenches 1 or 8.

4.2 South of the Hall (trenches 1-5, 8 & 9)

The archaeological features located south of the Hall (Fig 9) either relate to a period of occupation prior to the construction of the Hall or pertain to the 18th-century landscaping of the gardens. Other features were related to the construction of the 1960s college buildings.

Possible medieval features

The focus of earlier occupation comprised five ditches, all cut into natural substrate, located in trenches 2 and 3. In Trench 2, two parallel ditches aligned east to west were recorded ([206] & [208]). Neither ditch was excavated but the visible remains were recorded in section.

Ditch [206] was 1.70m wide with a fill of firm light brownish-grey sandy clay (205). Approximately 6m to the south of this, ditch [208] was 2.20m wide with a fill of firm yellowish-brown clay (207). No artefacts were recovered from either feature. However, the northernmost ditch [206] is likely to have been the continuation of ditch [310] recorded in adjacent Trench 3.

Ditch [310] 1.60m wide and 0.25m deep, was defined by a wide dish-shaped profile (Fig 10, Section 6 and Fig 11), a fill of firm light brownish-grey sandy clay (309). The fill contained a single sherd of 12th century pottery, found within the upper part of the fill, which may be residual.



General view of Ditch [310], looking west Fig 11

An undated ditch [312] (Fig 10, Section 6) with a dish-shaped profile, was cut parallel to ditch [310] but had no direct stratigraphic relationship. This was 1.30m wide and 0.20m deep with a fill of firm orange-brown sandy clay (311).

In the north-western end of Trench 3 were two smaller ditches aligned north-east to south-west ([306] and [308]) with U and V-shaped profiles (Fig 9 and Fig 10, Sections 4 & 5). The northern ditch [306] was 0.80m wide and up to 0.33m deep with a primary fill of orange-brown sandy clay (305), overlain with a light greyish-brown sandy silt (304). Ditch [308] was 19m to the south-east of ditch [306] and was 0.70m wide and 0.18m deep with a fill (307) of light mottled brownish-grey and orange clayey sand, containing a single sherd of 12th-century pottery.

18th & 19th century landscaping

The construction of the Hall and associated landscaping in the 18th century left clearly defined earthwork remains. For example the 'parterre' was still visible as a depression at the time of the works. The parterre reduced the ground level by up to 1m and probably removed any early features and subsequent overburden as observed in trench 2. By contrast, the ground level within trenches 4, 5 and 9 appears to have been built up forming an earthwork bank. The sequence of deposition can be clearly seen in Trench 4 where made ground deposits were at least 1.20m at the northern end (Fig 10, Section 10 & Fig 12).



General view of Trench 4, looking south Fig 12

In Trench 4 the earliest identifiable feature was an extensive layer of re-deposited soil incorporating 18th-century brick building rubble, fragments of late 17th-century clay tobacco pipe and other debris (403). This layer was cut by two ditches aligned north-west to south-east ([409] & [411]) thought to be the continuation of the ditches in Trenches 2 and 3, 30m to the east. Neither was excavated due to the health and safety restrictions, but they demonstrably post date the layer and therefore date to the 18th century or later. Ditch [409], aligned north-west to south-east, was 2.0m wide and at least 0.50m deep filled with a firm greyish-brown silty sandy clay (408). Ditch [411], 2.5m south of and parallel to ditch [409], was 3m wide and at least 0.50m deep. It was filled with a firm greyish-brown silty clay (410). Both ditches were sealed by subsoil (402); this layer was cut by a pit [407] containing 18th-century pottery.

In Trenches 5 and 9 were the remains of features which may predate the landscaping associated with the 'parterre' to the west. A broad, flat bottomed, post-medieval ditch [511] present in Trench 5 (Figs 9 & 13) and terminating in trench 9 [906] may be a garden feature, aligned parallel to the southern side of the Hall. The ditch cut the subsoil (503) and had a wide U-shaped profile filled with firm orange-brown, bluish-grey or greyish-brown silty clays (510), (509) & (508). In Trench 9, ditch [906] terminal had a blunt rounded end. It was not fully excavated but its upper surviving fill comprised a firm bluish-grey silty clay similar to (509). A sherd of Staffordshire Slipware (1680-1750) was recovered from the upper fill (508). Fragments of post-medieval bottle glass were from the subsoil (904) in trench 9 and, given the disturbance within the trench, may be intrusive.



Ditch [511] and Pit [514], looking south-west Fig 13

To the north of the ditch a large circular pit [514] cut into the subsoil, was at least 1.50m in diameter and over 0.80m deep, with a fill of black ash and charcoal (513) overlain by firm dark brown silty clay (512) (Figs 9 & 13. No artefacts were recovered from the pit.

The 1960s College

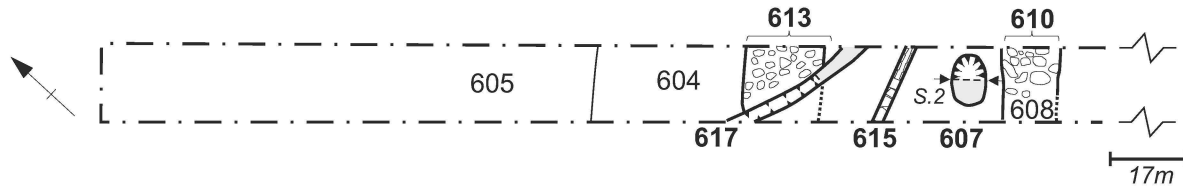
Modern features were recorded in Trenches 2, 4 and 5; these included the concrete foundations for mid 20th-century buildings associated with a teacher training college that had occupied part of the site (Trenches 2 and 5). At the north-eastern end of Trench 2 were two parallel north to south, narrow concrete footings averaging 0.40m wide. The northernmost footing was on the same line as a footing to the north in Trench 5. Also within Trench 5 were two parallel east to west aligned concrete and brick footings between 0.50m and 2m wide.

In the southern part of the site, Trench 1 was excavated to natural substrate at a total depth of 1.31m below ground level. Although no archaeological remains were identified, there was a sequence of modern made ground clay deposits (Fig 14). The deposits were sealed by a tarmac surface belonging to a former car park.

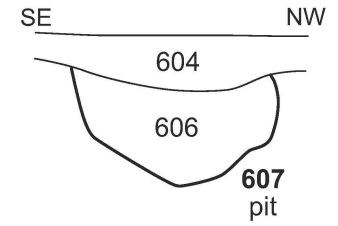


General view of Trench 1, looking east Fig 14

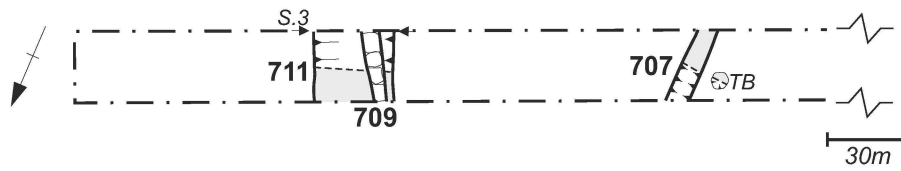
Trench 6



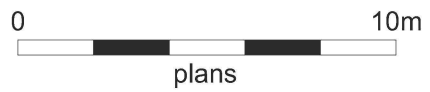
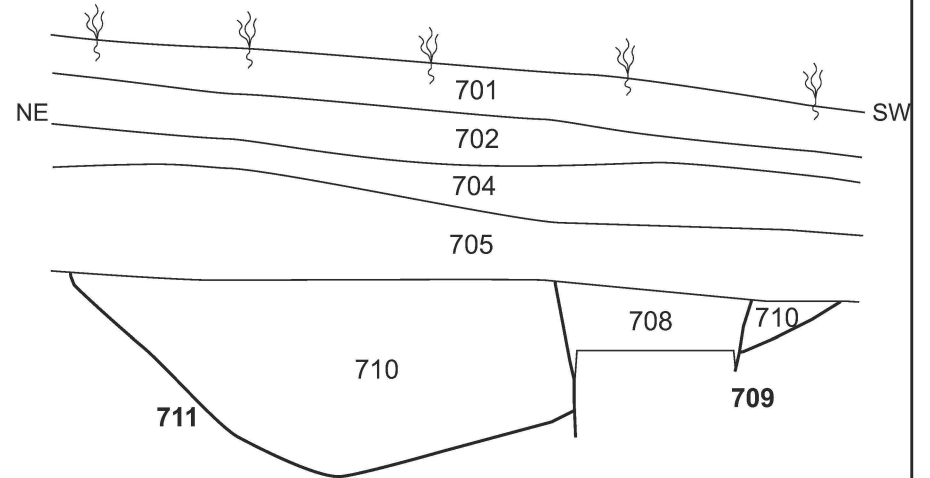
Section 2



Trench 7



Section 3



Trenches 6 and 7, pit and ditch sections Fig 15

4.3 North of the Hall (trenches 6 and 7)

Early pit

A small circular pit [607] with a U-shaped profile (Figs 9 and 11, Section 2), in the centre of Trench 6 measured 0.60m in diameter and 0.55m deep. It was filled with loose brownish-grey silty clay (606). It has been dated to the medieval period based on a single sherd of mid 14th century Midland Purple ware. A quantity of animal bone, mainly comprising horse, was also recovered.

18th & 19th century landscaping

To the north of the Hall evidence for former landscaping was found within the central part of Trench 6, where the ground level would seem to have been infilled (Fig 9). At either end of Trench 6, the natural soils were identified at a consistent depth and also within Trench 7 (*circa* 0.60m deep).

Cutting the deposits in Trench 6 were two steep-sided ditches or pits [613] and [610], 4.40m apart, the bases of both were covered in stone and overlain with dark greyish-brown silty clay (Fig 16). It is possible that they represent either planting trenches or drainage ditches/pits. Two land drains ([615] & [617]) were also present and to the south-east end of the trench were three cables/pipes.



General view of (left to right) drain [615], pit [607] and [610], looking north-east Fig 16

At the north-eastern end of Trench 7 were two ditches [711] and [707] spaced 7m apart and a tree hole adjacent to ditch [707] (Figs 9 & 15). Ditch [711] cut the natural substrate (703), aligned north to south, 2m wide and 0.50m deep, with a fill (710) of firm orange-brown and dark brown silty sand/clay. Three sherds of modern earthenwares were recovered from the ditch. An overflow outlet pipe [709] cut the western edge of the ditch. This culvert drained water from a small pond located to the east of the main house to the large lake to the north.

Ditch [707] (Figs 9 & 17) was aligned north-east to south-west, measured 0.50m wide and 0.20m deep, filled with compact greyish-brown sandy silt. A total of eight sherds of modern earthenwares were recovered from the ditch.



General view of tree hole and ditch [707], looking north Fig 17

5 ARTEFACTUAL AND FAUNAL EVIDENCE

5.1 The Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprises 32 sherds with a total weight of 1,406g. It was recorded using the conventions of the Leicestershire County type-series (Sawday 1994), as follows

PM: Potter's Marston ware (1100-1300), 2 sherds, 87g
 MP1: Midland Purple ware (1350-1550), 2 sherds, 124g
 MY: Midland Yellow ware (1500-1725), 3 sherds, 75g
 EA3: Staffordshire Slipware (1650-1780), 1 sherd, 32g
 EA6: Post-medieval Blackwares (late 17th century +), 13 sherds, 1,023g
 EA10: Modern Earthenwares (1800+), 11 sherds, 65g

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a terminus post quem. The range of fabric types is typical of contemporary sites in the region.

The two sherds of Potters Marston Ware are both rim-sherds from fairly large jars. One is decorated with an incised wavy line on the rim-top, the other is thumbed. They are both typical products of the tradition, are in good condition and appear reliably stratified. The assemblage is generally in good condition, and the mean sherd size quite large, with a number of vessels represented by several sherds, suggesting that they are essentially primary deposits.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Fabric (date range)	PM (1100- 1300)		MP1 (1350- 1550)		MY (1500- 1725)		EA3 (1650- 1780)		EA6 (late 17th century+)		EA10 (1800+)		
	Fill/ Cut	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)
307/308	1	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
309/ 310	1	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
406/ 407	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	1023	-	-	-
508/ 511	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	32	-	-	-	-	-
606/ 607	-	-	1	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
706/ 707	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	48	-
710/ 711	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	17	-
802	-	-	1	115	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
904	-	-	-	-	3	75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	87	2	124	3	75	1	32	13	1023	11	65	

5.2 Tile and brick by Pat Chapman

One sherd of glazed medieval ceramic floor tile, weighing 155g, comes from fill (508) ditch [511]. It comprises about a quarter of a standard floor tile, 63mm surviving lengths on both sides and 22mm thick with chamfered edges. It is made from fine hard sandy dark red-brown clay with a yellow glaze, worn in patches to the white slip underneath, and remnants of yellow lime mortar on the base.

Ceramic roof ridge tile, comprising two green-glazed sherds weighing 43g, are also from fill (508) ditch [511]. The sherds are 12mm thick, curved, and made from sandy clay with a pale grey core and buff to orange surface. These are most likely Lyveden/Stanion roof tiles from Northamptonshire, datable to the mid 14th to early 16th centuries (Chapman *et al* 2008, 255-257).

The remains of one brick, weighing 730g, comes from layer (403). It is made from fine dense slightly soft dark red-brown sandy clay, with some angular gravel up to 8mm long. It is 48mm (1 $\frac{7}{8}$ inches) thick. It is probably late 15th to late 17th century in date.

The tiles are datable to the 14th to 16th centuries, while the brick could be contemporary or a little later.

5.3 Bottles and clay tobacco pipes by Tim Upson-Smith

Two fragments of bottles glass and a clay tobacco pipe bowl were recovered from features excavated at Scraptoft Hall.

The two fragments of bottle glass, recovered from subsoil layer (904), are in green glass which is flaking quite heavily. One is part of the base of a wine bottle, with a deep bunt and the other a body sherd. The date range could be as early as the mid 17th century through to the late 18th century.

The clay tobacco pipe bowl, from layer (403), is broadly comparable to an Oswald (1975) G17, the bowl has a small spur and incomplete rouletting around the rim, there has been an attempt to burnish the bowl, although this has not been done very evenly. This type of pipe dates to c1640-1680.

The finds together suggest a mid to late 17th century date through to the late 18th century date for the features, although they may be residual in a later layer.

5.4 The animal bone by Stephanie Vann

An assemblage of 14 fragments was recovered from a pit ([607]/ (606)) of mid-14th century date, and consisted of horse and large mammal.

Method

The assemblage was subjected to macroscopic examination. Species identification was undertaken at a context level. Fragments of mammal bone that could not be attributed to a taxonomic group equal or lower than genus were categorised as ‘large mammal’. A summary of the results is presented in Table 2. Fused and unfused elements were recorded. There were no bones suitable to be measured. There were no mandibles suitable for recording eruption and tooth wear.

Results

Preservation of the animal bone at this site was generally good. Fragmentation was moderate and surface abrasion was low. Fragmentation was the result of both old and fresh breaks. There was one example of butchery. There was no evidence of gnawing, burning or pathology.

The total number of fragments was 14, all identifiable. The species present were horse and large mammal (most likely horse).

Table 2: Total number of bone fragments per species per context

Fill/cut	Horse	Large Mammal
606/ 607	7	7
Total	7	7

Discussion

Whilst it is true that the small size of the assemblage makes it difficult to draw any significant conclusions, there is nothing about it that is in any way extraordinary for a domestic assemblage of the medieval period as can be seen by comparison with the assemblage from Dudley Castle (Thomas 2005), where equids are present in all phases (c1100 – 1750 AD) and are the fourth most frequent domestic animal after cattle, sheep/goat and pig. A similar pattern can also be seen at Launceston Castle (Albarella and Davis 1996) and Wigmore Castle (Thomas and Vann in press). The dominance of such remains within the assemblage from Scraptoft Hall is therefore not unusual. The good survivability of large, strong bones such as those of horse does also need to be taken into consideration, however, as this dominance may be a reflection of preservation rather than husbandry practices at this site.

All of the skeletal elements for which bone fusion was able to be recorded were fused, indicating a skeletally mature animal.

The skeletal elements represent a variety of parts of the body, including the axial skeleton (pelvis), the feet (phalanges) and the limbs (humerus, radius), potentially from the same individual. This distribution pattern, combined with the presence of several chop marks on the humerus, may indicate that this is normal butchery waste, rather than the result of some other industrial process. The humerus was chopped through midshaft. This would suggest dismemberment and butchery (Binford 1981). The absence of cranial fragments and vertebrae may suggest the head was removed before deposition.

6 DISCUSSION

The evaluation at Scraptoft Hall revealed features which probably date prior to and during the construction and development of the Hall and its landscape. What is clear is that the probable medieval features were peripheral to settlement. It is suggested that the core of the medieval village is likely to have been on the lower ground to the west of the church where there are extant earthwork house platforms and a hollow-way (MNN2286).

Three features identified during the evaluation each contained a single sherd of medieval pottery (ditches [310] and [306] and pit [607]). The features had sterile fills and the amount of pottery is not sufficient to be confident about the dating. The volume of cultural material recovered and the lack of charcoal or other typically domestic waste from the feature fills indicates that the activities taking place on the site in the medieval period were not settlement related and are likely to have been agricultural in nature. Two other undated ditches in Trenches 2 and 3 may be contemporary but no dating evidence was recovered. The ditches found in Trenches 2-4 all have approximate east-north-east to west-south-west alignment and may represent a recut boundary feature or field ditch.

The 17th-century construction of Scraptoft Hall and its subsequent 18th-century remodelling, redefined the landscape of the village. In the 18th century the estate was locally notable and comprised “*over 100 acres*” of gardens including “*temple forms, grottos, caves and water scenery*” (Hartley 1988). Hartley’s map, illustrating a large fishpond as well as an Avenue and Parterre south of the Hall, indicate that the landscape was extensively remodelled. Other extensive post-medieval modifications of the ground surface comprised the raising of the ground surface to the south-west and south of the Hall (Trenches 1 and 4) and the possible infilling or cutting of a large hollow to the north of the Hall (Trench 6).

Much of the landscaped gardens were removed in the 1960s when the buildings forming teacher training college were constructed. Although the bulk of the modern college was located to the east of the Hall, the original ground surface within the southern part of the site (Trench 1) and the eastern part of the site (southern part of Trench 5 and eastern part of Trench 2) had evidence for the now demolished buildings associated with the former student facilities including concrete footings, service runs and a tarmac car park surface.

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APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural
1	50m x 1.8m & W-E	464874 305510	116.80m	1.31m & 115.49m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
101	Surface	Tarmac surface	0.10m thick	-
102	Layer	Coarse brown-orange sand with many brick fragments	0.15m - 0.40m thick	-
103	Layer	Compact blue clay	0.26m thick	-
104	Layer	Yellow-brown clay	0.30m thick	-
105	Layer	Dark brown clay	0.50m thick	-
106	Natural	Yellow-orange clay	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
2	50m x 1.8m & SW-NE	464859 305574	116.56m	0.40m & 116.16m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
201	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy clay	0.21m thick	-
202	Subsoil	Medium grey-brown sandy clay	0.10- 0.20m thick	-
203	Natural	Light yellow-orange with blue mottling clay	-	-
204	Concrete footing	N-S aligned at NE end of the trench	-	-
205	Fill of Ditch 206 unexcavated	Firm light brown-grey sandy clay Same as 309?	1.70m wide	-
206	Ditch Filled with 205 unexcavated	E-W aligned, linear Same as 310?	1.70m wide	-
207	Fill of Ditch 208 unexcavated	Firm brown-yellow clay	2.20m wide	-
208	Ditch Filled with 207 unexcavated	E-W aligned, linear	2.20m wide	-

SCRAPTOFT HALL

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
3	50m, 1.8m & NW-SE	464838 305592	115.97m	0.41m & 115.56m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
301	Topsoil	Dark brownish-grey sandy clay	0.15m - 0.18m thick	
302	Subsoil	Medium brownish-grey sandy clay	0.25m thick	
303	Natural	Orangey-brown clay	-	
304	Fill of Ditch 306	Firm light grey-brown sandy silt	0.80m wide 0.21m thick	
305	Fill of Ditch 306	Firm orange-brown sandy clay, few small stones	0.50m wide 0.11m thick	
306	Ditch Filled with 304, 305	NW- SE aligned wide U-shaped profile	0.80m wide 0.33m deep	
307	Fill of Ditch 308	Firm light brown-grey, orange mottling, clayey sand	0.70m wide 0.18m thick	Pottery
308	Ditch Filled with 307	NW- SE aligned, U-shaped profile	0.70m wide 0.18m deep	
309	Fill of Ditch 310	Firm light brownish-grey sandy clay, few small stones	1.60m wide 0.25m thick	Pottery
310	Ditch Filled with 309	E-W aligned, dish-shaped profile, flat uneven base and gradual sloping sides Same as 206?	1.60m wide 0.25m deep	
311	Fill of Ditch 312	Firm orange-brown sandy clay, few small stones	1.30m wide 0.20m thick	
312	Ditch Filled with 311	E-W aligned, dish-shaped profile, flat uneven base and gradual sloping sides	1.30m wide 0.20m deep	

SCRAPTOFT HALL

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
4	37m, 1.8m & N-S	4648052 305583	115.91m	0.97m & 114.94m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
401	Topsoil	Very dark brownish-black sandy clay	0.25m-0.40m thick	-
402	Layer	Very dark brown silty sand with charcoal	0.20m – 0.55m thick	-
403	Layer	Medium brown silty sand with frequent post-medieval brick fragments	0.50m – 0.80m thick	Clay tobacco pipe stem circa 1680 Brick
404	Subsoil	Light brown sandy clay	0.05m – 0.10m thick	-
405	Natural	Orange-yellow clay	-	-
406	Fill of Pit 407	Firm, dark greyish-brown silty clay, occasional charcoal	1.50m wide 0.70m thick	Pottery- post medieval Black wares
407	Pit Filled with 406	Circular, steep sides. Not bottomed due to depth of trench	1.50m wide 0.70m deep	-
408	Fill of Ditch 409	Firm mid greyish-brown silty sandy clay, rare charcoal flecks	2.60m wide At least 0.50m thick	-
409	Ditch Filled with 408	NW-SE aligned, U-shaped profile, full depth not obtained due to depth of trench	2.60m wide At least 0.50m deep	-
410	Fill of Ditch 411	Firm mid greyish-brown silty clay, frequent charcoal flecking	3m wide At least 0.50m thick	-
411	Ditch Filled with 410	NW-SE aligned, wide U-shaped profile, full depth not obtained	3m wide At least 0.50m deep	-

SCRAPTOFT HALL

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
5	50m, 1.8m & SW-NE	464873 305616	115.84m	1m & 114.84m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
501	Topsoil	Medium brown-grey silty sand	0.10m-0.20m thick	-
502	Layer	Brown-grey sandy clay with frequent coarse grit	0.10m – 0.40m thick	-
503	Subsoil	Medium brown-orange sandy clay	0.36m thick	-
504	Natural	Light brown-orange clay	-	-
505	Wall	Footings of a modern brick wall, single brick width.	0.22m wide	-
506	Concrete footing	Concrete footing for a wall. N-S aligned	6.5m long 0.80m wide	-
507	Natural	Blue clay	-	-
508	Fill of Ditch 511	Firm dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks	4.2m wide 0.60m thick	Pottery- post medieval Staffordshire Slipware Roof and floor tile
509	Fill of Ditch 511	Firm blue-grey silty clay, rare charcoal flecks	3.8m wide 0.45m thick	-
510	Fill of Ditch 511	Firm, orange-brown silty clay, rare charcoal flecks	0.60m wide 0.50m thick	-
511	Ditch Filled with 507, 508 & 509	E-W aligned, wide U-shaped profile Same as 906	4.80m wide 1m deep	-
512	Fill of Pit 514	Firm dark brown and orange-brown mottling silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks	1.20m wide Minimum 0.80m thick	-
513	Fill of Pit 514	Firm, black silty clay with ash and charcoal, rare small angular stones	0.40m wide 0.60m thick	-
514	Pit Filled with 511, 512 & 513	Circular, not fully excavated due to depth of trench. Steep concave sides	1.50m diameter Minimum 0.80m deep	-
515	Layer	North of wall 506. Mix of modern brick fragments & wood	2m wide	-

SCRAPTOFT HALL

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
6	50m, 1.8m & NW-SE	464783 305681	109.40m	0.80m & 108.60m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
601	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy silt	0.10m thick	-
602	Layer	Brown clayey silt, brick and mortar fragments, charcoal flecking	0.20m thick	Glass- not retained
603	Layer	Orange-brown silty clay	0.10m thick	-
604	Layer	Brown silty clay	0.45m thick	-
605	Natural	Firm orange-yellow clay, flint and chalk	-	-
606	Fill of Pit 607	Soft/loose brown-grey silty clay, occasional charcoal flecking, some rounded cobbles	0.60m diameter 0.55m thick	Animal bone Pottery
607	Pit Filled with 606	Circular, U shaped profile comprising steep sides and rounded base	0.60m diameter 0.55m deep	-
608	Fill of Pit/ditch 610	Firm dark grey-brown silty clay, rare small rounded stones, rare charcoal flecking	1.25m wide 0.70m thick	-
609	Fill of Pit/ditch 610	Large sub-rounded cobbles at base of 610. Cobbles average size 0.20m x 0.15m size	0.85m wide 0.20m thick	-
610	Pit/ditch Filled 608 & 609	NE-SW aligned linear?, flattish base, steep near vertical sides	1.25m wide 0.75m deep	-
611	Fill of Pit/ditch 613	Firm dark greyish-brown silty clay, rare small rounded stones and charcoal	1.25m wide 0.75m thick	-
612	Fill of Pit/ditch 613	Small rounded cobbles at the base of 613 Cobble average size 0.10m x 0.10m	0.50m wide 0.20m thick	-
613	Pit/ditch Filled 611 & 612	NE-SW aligned Linear?, flattish base and steep near vertical sides	1.25m wide 0.95m deep	-
614	Fill of Drain 615	Brick-lined and covered with local slate Sealed by greyish-brown clay	0.50m wide 0.70m thick	-
615	Drain Filled with 614	Linear, aligned SW-NE, vertical sides, flat base	0.50m wide 0.70m thick	-
616	Fill of Drain 617	Mix of greyish-brown and grey silty clay	0.50m wide 0.80m wide	-

SCRAPTOFT HALL

617	Drain Filled with 616	Sinuuous cut aligned roughly E-W, flat base steep sided	0.50m wide 0.80m deep	-
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SCRAPTOFT HALL

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
7	50m, 1.8m wide & SW-NE	464830 305702	112.10m (NE)	0.60m (NE) & 111.50m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
701	Topsoil	Mid brownish-grey sandy silt	0.10m thick	-
702	Layer	Mid brownish-grey sandy silt with coarse grit and frequent modern waste material (glass, pottery)	0.18m – 0.60m thick	-
703	Natural	Orange sandy clay	-	-
704	Layer	Pinkish-red sandy clay	0.16m – 0.20m thick	-
705	Subsoil	Light brown sandy silt	0.30m thick	-
706	Fill of Ditch 707	Compact, mid brownish-grey sandy silt, occasional mortar & rubble	0.50m wide 0.20m thick	Pottery
707	Ditch Filled with 706	Aligned NNE-SSW, square-shaped profile (flat base, steep near vertical sides)	0.50m wide 0.20m deep	-
708	Fill/lining of culvert 709	Brick-lined and brick covered, sealed with dark grey silty clay	0.30m wide 0.40m thick	
709	Culvert to lake	Aligned N-S, not fully bottomed, steep sloping sides	0.30m wide 0.40m deep	-
710	Fill of Ditch 711	Firm, orange-brown & dark brown silty sand/clay, rare small stones	2.0m wide 0.50m thick	Pottery
711	Ditch Filled with 710	Aligned N-S, broad U-shaped profile	2.0m wide 0.50m deep	-

SCRAPTOFT HALL

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
8	24m, 1.8m & N-S	464838 305592	115.83m	0.30m & 115.53m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
801	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay	0.20m thick	-
802	Subsoil	Light orange-brown sandy clay	0.10m thick	Pottery- single sherd of Midland Purple (medieval)
803	Natural	Orange sands and clays	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
9	10m, 1.8m & N-S	464883 305636	116.50m	0.84m & 115.66m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
901	Topsoil	Firm dark brown silty clay	0.24m thick	-
902	Layer	Firm light orange-brown sand	0.06- 0.12m thick	-
903	Layer	Dark grey ash and sand mix	0.10m thick	-
904	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay	0.21m thick	Pottery- midland yellow ware (mid 16 th century) Bottle glass
905	Fill of 906 Ditch terminal unexcavated	Same as 509	1.80m wide At least 0.30m thick	-
906	Ditch terminal Filled with 905 unexcavated	Blunt rounded terminal of ditch Same as 511	1.80m wide At least 0.30m deep	-
907	Natural	Orange sand and clay mix	-	-



Northamptonshire County Council

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