
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON FOUNDATION TRENCHES
AT CHAPTER FARM,
WOOD LANE,
BRAUNSTON,
RUTLAND
(BRWL11)**

**Work Undertaken For
Robert Weighton Partnership
On behalf of
Mr & Mrs M Hammond**

July 2011

Report Compiled by
Liz Murray BA (Hons)

Planning Application No: (APP/2010/1280)
National Grid Reference: SK 8325 0655
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APS Report No. **85/11**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



Quality Control
Chapter Farm, Wood Lane,
Braunston, Rutland
(BRWL11)

Project Coordinator	Gary Taylor
Supervisor	Chris Moulis
Illustration	Liz Murray
Photographic Reproduction	Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst	Liz Murray

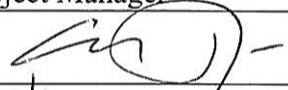

Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
Gary Taylor 	 Tom Lane
Date: 29/7/11	Date: 29-7-11

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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at Chapter Farm, Wood Lane, Braunston, Rutland. The watching brief monitored the excavation of footing trenches for a new 'garden room'.

The site is archaeologically sensitive with Chapter Farm being a Grade II listed property of c.1600. The building may be on the site of a medieval hall and manor.*

The ground had already been reduced in height prior to the excavation of the footing trenches. Only one deposit was noted and this was extant across the site and within the trench sections. No archaeological features were observed and no finds were retrieved.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as “*a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits maybe disturbed or destroyed.*” (IfA 2008).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Robert Weighton Partnership, on behalf of Mr and Mrs M Hammond, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with new foundation trenching for a 'garden room' at Chapter Farm, Wood Lane, Braunston, Rutland (Plate 1). Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning

application APP/2010/1280. The watching brief was carried out on the 25th July.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Braunston is located 3km southwest of Oakham in the county of Rutland (Fig. 1). Chapter Farm is in the southern part of the village, 50m south of the church on the west side of Wood Lane, at national grid reference SK 8325 0655. (Fig. 2).

The investigation site is on a north-facing slope of the valley of the River Gwash at c. 110m OD. The site is at the boundary of Denchworth Association pelo-stagnogleys on Jurassic and Cretaceous clays on the south, with Hanslope Association calcareous pelosols on chalky till to the north (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 155; 209).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Chapter Farm is a Grade II* Listed Building described as being of late 16th century date and lies within the Braunston Conservation Area. It is located within the historic core of the village, close to the medieval parish church. The farm may be the site of a medieval hall and manor at Braunston (Hammond 2010).

3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Trenches for the new footing were excavated by mini digger fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Most of the site had already been landscaped and reduced, between 0.3m and 0.5m, prior to the excavation of the trenches.

Two trenches were dug, one 6.2m x 0.45m and the other 4m x 0.45m, both to a depth of 0.2m (Fig 3). Each deposit encountered was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis only one phase was identified:

Phase 1 Undated deposits

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

5.1 Undated deposits

The site had already been significantly reduced prior to the excavation of the footings trenches. Only one deposit was recorded on the site and in the sections of the trench (Plate 2). A firm mixed deposit of mid grey and orange stained clay with frequent iron stone was extant across the trench area, at least 0.2m in depth (Fig 4).

6. DISCUSSION

Only a single deposit was recorded during the monitoring of groundworks for a new 'garden room' at Chapter Farm, Wood Lane, Braunston, Rutland. The layer appears to be a natural deposit of clay.

7. CONCLUSION

The watching brief was undertaken because the development site was in an archaeologically sensitive area. Chapter

Farm is a Grade II* Listed Building of c. 1600 that is thought to be located on the site of a medieval hall and manor. However, only a single deposit was recorded and this was extant across the development site. No archaeological features were observed and no finds were retrieved (Plate 3).

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Robert Weighton Partnership who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis on behalf of Mr and Mrs Hammond. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Site Supervisors: Bryn Leadbetter
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Liz Murray
 Post-excavation analysis: Liz Murray

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hammond, C, *2010 notes on the History of Chapter Farm and its Surroundings*

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13*

IfA, 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services
 IfA Institute for Archaeology

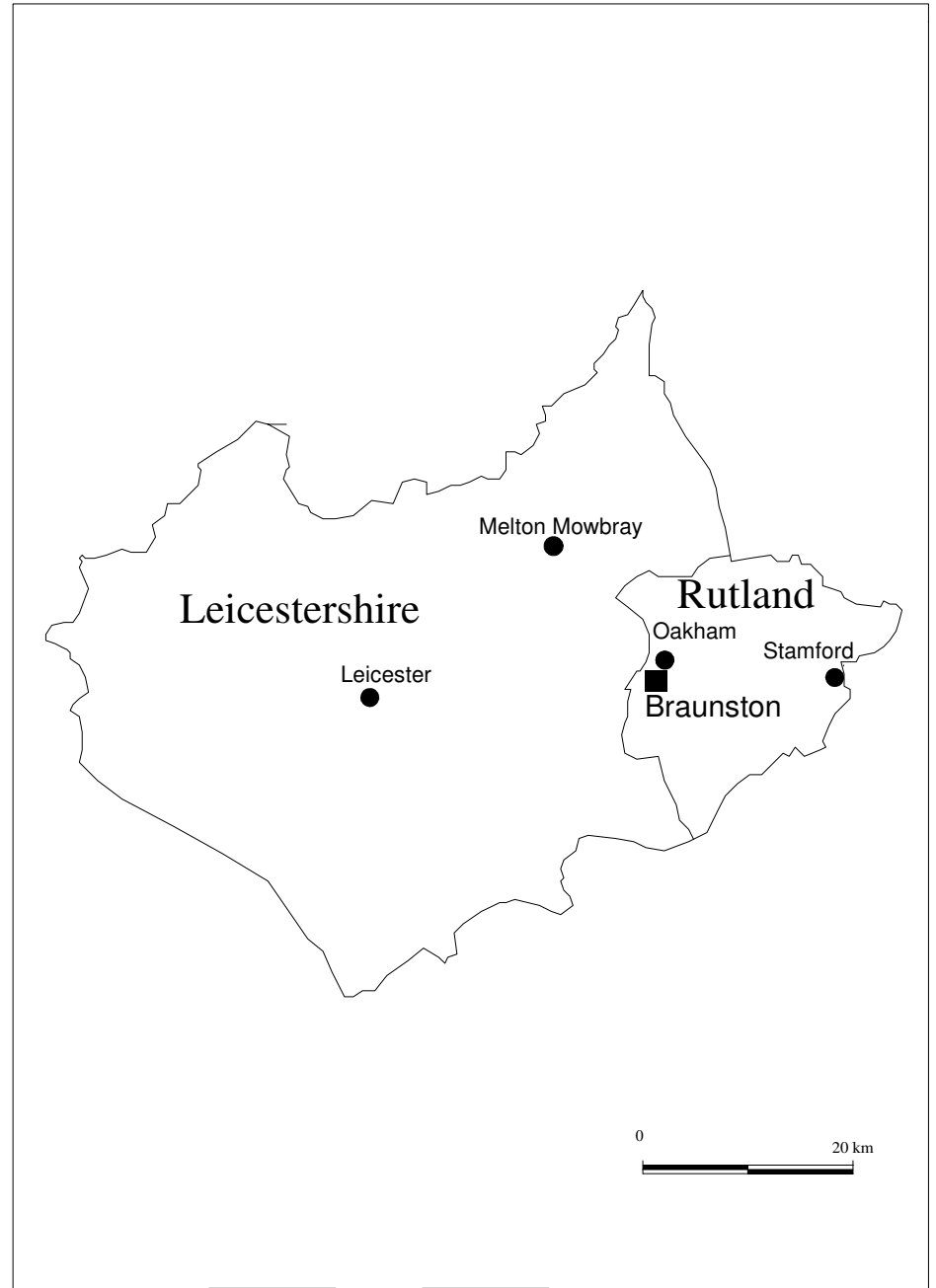
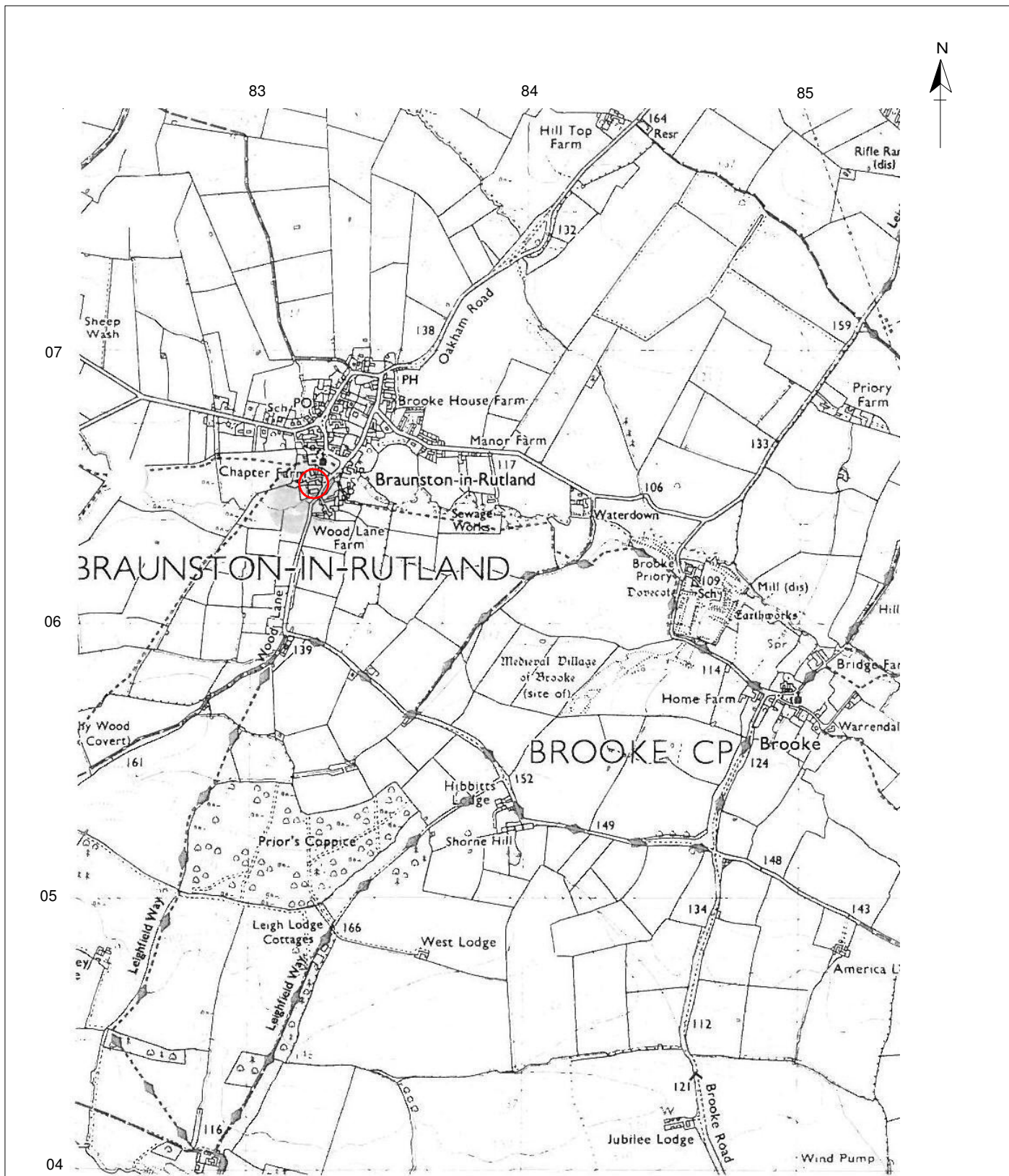
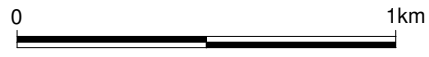


Figure 1 General Location Plan



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SK




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Chapel Farm, Braunston, Rutland		
Scale 1:20000	Drawn by:LM	Report No: 85/11

Figure 2: Site Location

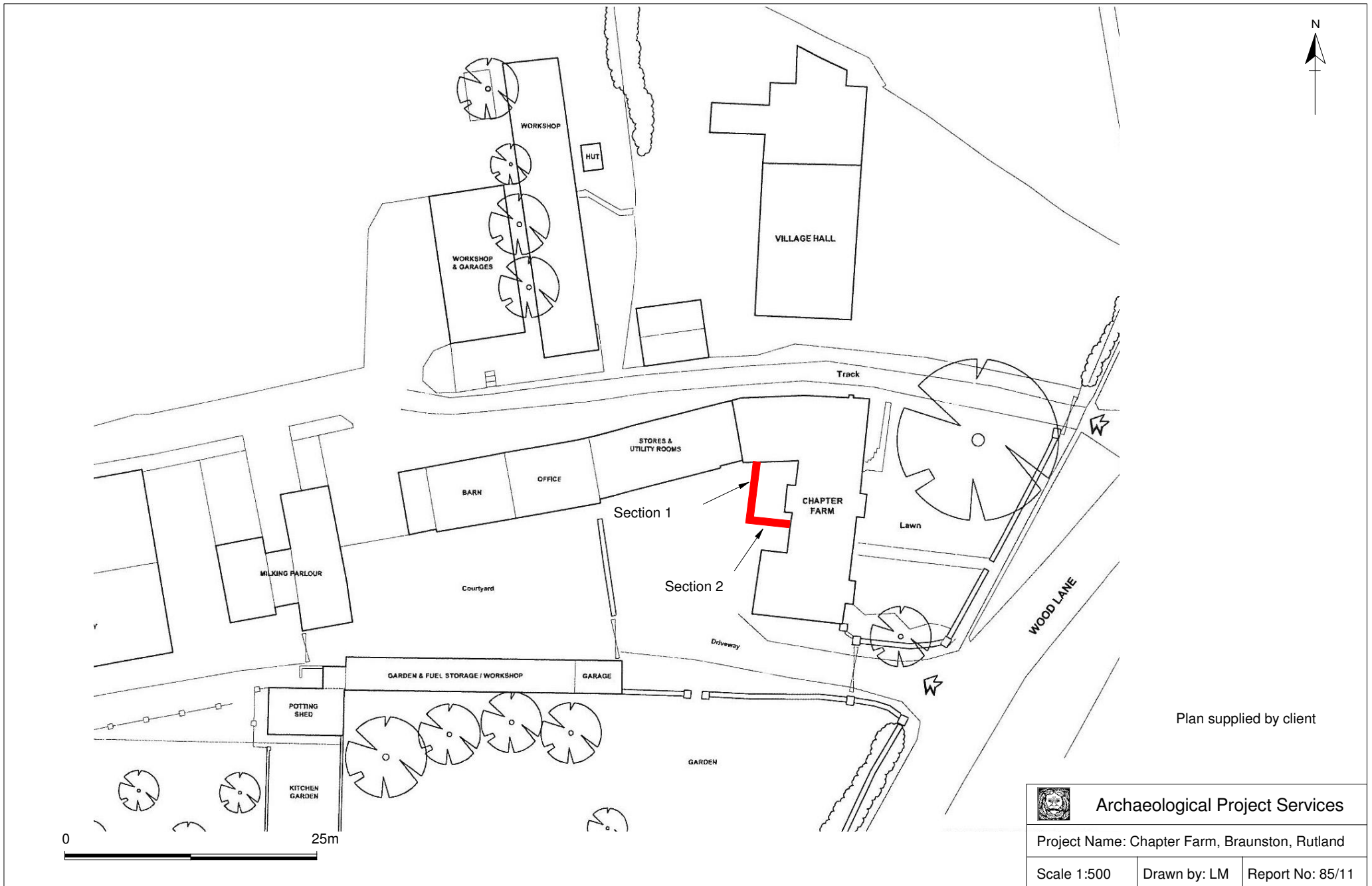
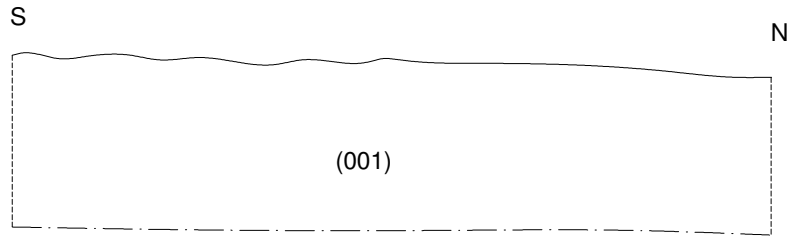
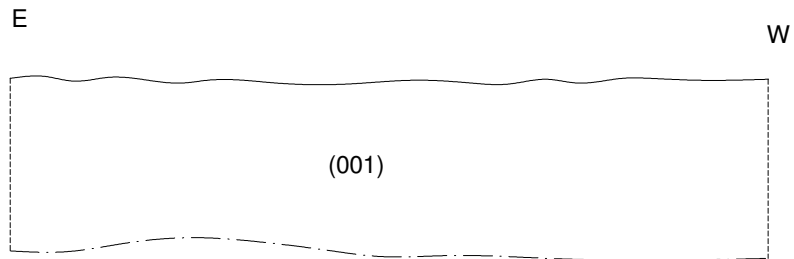


Figure 3: Detailed Site Plan



Section 1
East facing



Section 2
North facing



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Chapter Farm, Braunston, Rutland

Scale 1:10

Drawn by: LM

Report No: 85/11

Figure 4: Sections 1 and 2

Plates



Plate 1: Intended location of 'garden room'



Plate 2: Representative section of foundation trenches, showing deposit (001)



Plate 3: Finished trenches

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation
001	Garden room	Firm, mottled mid-grey and orange clay, frequent iron-staining and occasional iron-stone, at least 0.2m in depth	Natural clay

Appendix 2

GLOSSARY

Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> [004].
Layer	A layer is an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

1	Context Record
1	Context register sheet
1	Plan record sheet
1	Section record sheet
2	Sheets containing scale drawings
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Daily record sheet

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Rutland County Museum
Catmose Street
Oakham
Rutland
LE15 6HW

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

BRWL11

Accession Number:

OAKRM: 2011.20

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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