ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT OAKHAM SCHOOL, OAKHAM, RUTLAND

(OSC 05)

Planning Application No: FUL/2005/0374/MS

Listed Building Consent: LBA/2005/0375/MS

Work Undertaken For

Pick Everard

on behalf of

Oakham School

October 2006

Report Compiled by

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National Grid Reference: SK 8605 0880

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES

APS Report No. **173/05**

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological investigation was undertaken during groundworks at Oakham School, Oakham, Rutland. The watching brief monitored the removal of footings and ground reduction of an area previously occupied by the Hodges Building.

Archaeological remains relating to the prehistoric, Romano-British (AD 43-410) and medieval (AD 1066-1540) periods have been discovered throughout Oakham and it's surrounding environs. A majority of this earlier evidence has been in the form of residual finds and scattered remains such as a flaked flint axe and 200m to the north, several Romano-British features and artefacts were discovered. Later archaeological evidence is represented by Saxon (AD 410-1066) features, which have included numerous pits, ditches and residual artefacts, as well as structures. The medieval period (AD 1066-1540) is well represented with still extant buildings such as the Great Hall built in 1180 AD and the 13th-14th century All Saints Church.

The watching brief revealed a sequence of, medieval, post-medieval, Victorian and modern deposits. These include a medieval boundary ditch, which was re-cut during the post-medieval period, medieval and later pits and dumped deposits. Finds retrieved during the investigation included pottery of Roman to post-medieval date along with animal bone, mortar, clay pipe and glass.

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 may be disturbed or destroyed."* (IFA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Pick Everard to undertake archaeological investigations during groundworks associated with the construction of a new boarding block at Oakham School, Oakham, Rutland. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application (FUL/2005/0374/MS). The investigations were carried out between the 17th August and 16th September 2005 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council.

During the investigation it became apparent that, due to the scale and significance of the archaeological remains encountered, further work was needed. This was agreed with the client and an extended programme of works was undertaken.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Oakham is situated 26km east of Leicester and is the county town of Rutland (Fig.1).

The site is located 100m south of the centre of Oakham as defined by the parish church of All Saints at National Grid Reference SK 8605 0880 (Fig. 2). The Hodges Building is located centrally within Oakham School, which is bounded to the south by the High Street, to the east by Market Street and Market Place and to the west by Church Street. It is situated at a height of *c.* 108m OD on land that slopes gently down to the south, towards the River Catmose.

Local soils are of the Banbury Association, typically ferritic brown earths (Hodges *et al.* 1984, 103). These soils are developed upon a solid geology of Jurassic Middle Lias Marlstone and Limestone (BGS 1978).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Oakham lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Iron Age to the present day. To the southeast of the site recent archaeological work has shown evidence of Iron Age and Romano-British settlement activity in the form of enclosures and related occupational features (Nichol 2000). Closer to the site, an evaluation at the Church Hall, Church Street, showed evidence of Romano-British and medieval settlement features. To the south and southeast a number of investigations have shown evidence of Saxon to post-medieval occupation in the form of pits, ditches and structures. The most notable of these was a Saxon sunken floored building, located 200m to the south, adjacent to South Street, where evidence of a possible defensive town ditch was also identified (Jones 1996). At Catmose Street, 300m to the southeast, large quantities of 13th century pottery were recorded (Browning 1998) while just to the south, at Bull Lane, post-medieval pit features were revealed (Jones 1993).

Oakham is first mentioned in charters and rolls of AD1067 as *Ocham* and in the Domesday Survey of AD1086 as *Oceham Cherchesosch*. The name is Old English in origin and means the settlement (*ham*) of Occa's people' with the Old Scandinavian suffix *Cherchesoch* meaning parish (Ekwall 1974, 347). Oakham at the time of Domesday was recorded as having a hall, a church with a priest, 86 acres of meadow and woodland pasture one league long by half a league wide and was held by the King (Thorn 1980). Prior to this it had been part of the dowry of the Anglo-Saxon Queens of England (Pevsner 1992, 492).

In the late 12th century, Oakham was in the possession of Walkelin de Ferrers and in 1207 Henry de Ferrers granted the manor to Roger Mortimer (Pevsner, 1992, 495). By 1252 the manor and castle of Oakham was in the possession of Richard, Earl of Cornwall and brother to Henry III, who was forced to enclose the settlement with a fence during the Baron's War of 1264. The castle was subsequently captured by the King's enemies and its hall was damaged by fire (Page 1975, 171). The town prospered from the mid 13th century, when it was given a grant for a market and two annual fairs and also possessed two mills (*ibid.*). In 1399 on the eastern side of *'Chamberlayn's Close'* the Hospital of St John was established and formed a quadrangle enclosed by a wall. All hospital buildings with the exception of the chapel were demolished during 1845 to make way for the Midland Railway (Pevsner 1992, 492). The oldest domestic building in Oakham is Flore's House (34 and 34a High Street) and was built for either William Flore, Controller of Works to the castle in 1373-80, or his son who was speaker of the House of Commons in 1427.

Oakham School was one of two grammar schools established in Rutland in 1587 by the Venerable Robert Johnson Archdeacon of Leicester (Pevsner 1992, 497, 500).

Cartographic evidence places the Hodges Building on the first edition 1886 Ordnance Survey map and it is subsequently depicted on both the 1904 and 1930 editions of the 25'' Ordnance Surveys but is not shown on the 1836 map of Oakham. A photographic survey of the Hodges Building indicated that it was of mid to late 19th century date and had largely retained its original facades, though interior work had masked or replaced original features (Hall 2005, 4).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), were to locate and record archaeological deposits and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

After the initial clearance of the building structure its footings which were still intact were carefully cleared by machine after they had been recorded. The ground level within the footprint of the former building was then reduced by approximately two metres. Selected deposits were then excavated further to determine their function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

Following excavation finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendices 3 and 4). The records were also checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them and supplemented by artefact dating.

5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis five phases were identified;

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Medieval deposits
Phase 3	Post-Medieval deposits
Phase 4	Victorian deposits
Phase 5	Modern deposits

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

Phase 1 Natural deposits

Natural deposits across the site comprise yellow silty clay (075), (073) a dark brown sandy clay seen sporadically across the site, a Limestone brash natural (007, 041, 070 and 074) and a reddish brown silty clay (006). These ranged in thickness of between 0.2m and in excess of 1m.

Phase 2 Medieval deposits

Located diagonally across the site was a northeast-southwest aligned ditch (048 and 056). This measured 17.5m long, 5.5m wide, was in excess of 1.4m deep (Fig. 6) and contained fills comprising a mid brown silty clay (029, 046, 047 and 071), irregular limestone fragments (030) and greyish brown clayey silt (055). Pottery of mid 15th century date was retrieved from (047).

At the northern limit of the site were two pits. The first pit (052) was 1.70m in width and deeper than 1.00m with irregular sides (Fig. 6, Section 10). A single fill of mid grey/brown clayey silt (051) was identified that contained late 15th century pottery occasional coal, bone and charcoal fragments.

Pit (052) was truncated by the second pit (054) which measured 4.1m wide and over 1.3m deep. A fill of soft dark grey clayey silt (053) was recorded from which residual late 14th century pottery was retrieved. Within the fill were two lenses comprising a firm dark grey silty clay (021), also containing residual 14th century pottery and a mid grey ashy clayey silt with frequent charcoal flecks (022).

Phase 3 Post-Medieval deposits

The medieval ditch was then re-cut (031, 057 and 042) and measured 4.7m wide and

1.4m deep (Fig. 6, Section 8). Three fills were recorded, a basal fill (058) which was a possible re-deposited natural light blue silty clay, a brown clay (016 and 069) containing pottery of 15th century date and a wooden stake (064), and an upper fill of brown/green clayey silt (015, 068 and 076) which contained 17th century pottery. This ditch was less clear in Section 6 where it appeared at an oblique angle. The fills seen in this section (028, 029 and 030) were dissimilar to those associated with the ditch elsewhere, and may have been transformed due to possible past gardening activities or natural processes. Sampling of the fills indicated that the ditch bottom was damp or seasonally water filled and perhaps flanked by cultivated areas.

Located towards the southwest corner of the site was a pit (036). This was 1m wide and in excess of 1.2m deep (Fig. 6, Section 7). Its lowest fill was a brown clayey silt (037) which was overlain by yellow/grey clayey silt (040). The final fill comprised a reddish brown silt (038).

A second pit was located in the southeast corner of the site (014). This was 1.9m wide and 0.6m deep (Fig. 5, Section 3). The uppermost fill comprised a greyish brown clayey silt (025), followed by a grey charcoal silt (024), a greyish brown silty clay (003 and 080), a dark grey charcoal/silt (004 and 081) and finally a greyish brown silty clay (005 and 082).

Sealing the two medieval pits towards the north of the site was a dumped deposit comprising a mid grey/brown clayey silt (020 and 085) that was 0.7m thick (Fig. 6 Sections 5 and 10) from which pottery of mid 16th century date was retrieved. This was overlain by a dumped or levelling layer also of mid grey/brown clayey silt (019 and 049) with a lens of light brown/yellow silty clay (050). The horizon between these two contexts was obscured by a modern water pipe (087).

Phase 4 Victorian deposits

Deposits assigned to this phase are associated with the construction of the Hodges Building. These comprised the concrete footing (012) 1m in width and 0.1m thick. Directly above this was a hard light red mortar layer (009) that had a stone footing (001 and 010) bonded directly onto its surface. The stone foundation layer (001 and 010) comprised irregular shaped limestone blocks, approximately 0.7m wide, between 0.9m-1m thick and bonded together with (008 and 013) a soft mid brown silty clay.

Above the stone foundations were three courses of brick (011) bonded together with a soft light brown sandy mortar (084). A similar sequence was seen in the southeast corner of the site (Fig. 5, Section 2). Context (012) was not present in this corner and the mortar bedding layer associated with it (002 and 009) overlay pit (014).

Phase 5 Modern deposits

Modern deposits and features were identified across the site and comprised surfaces, service trenches, dumped and levelling deposits along with a single pit. Cut into the post-medieval dumped or levelling layer was a service trench and pipe (086 and 087) which had been cut in turn by a modern pit (083) with a fill of grey/brown sandy silt (043).

A service trench (059) was also evident in the southwest corner of the site. Adjacent to the service trench was a pit (060) that was over 0.3m wide and deeper than 0.95m. This contained a single fill of limestone and sand (039). These had been sealed by modern dumping (027 and 032)

The southwest corner contained a service trench (059) and two similar dumped deposits (027) and (032), (Fig. 8 Sections 6 and 7). (Fig. 6, Section 7).

A former topsoil of brown sandy clay (073) was seen sporadically across the site. This and all other archaeological deposits were sealed by a modern tarmac surface (018).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) comprise silty clays and limestone of the underlying solid geology.

Medieval deposits (Phase 2) comprise a ditch and two pits. The ditch is probably a large boundary feature and its location accords well with a boundary shown on John Speed's map of Oakham dating to 1611. Environmental evidence indicated that the ditch was probably also for drainage and that it passed through a cultivated area. The two pits indicate refuse disposal as evidenced by the domestic waste they contained.

Post-medieval deposits (Phase 3) include the re-cutting of the medieval ditch, which was eventually infilled by at least the 18th century. Two pits were also assigned to this period as were episodes of dumping or levelling.

Victorian deposits (Phase 4) were associated with the construction of the Hodges Building. This comprised its concrete and stone foundations and remnants of brick walls.

The earliest finds retrieved during the investigation were two sherds of Romano-British pottery which may indicate evidence of a settlement of the period nearby, but not at the site. Two sherds of Late Saxon Stamford ware were also retrieved. Most of the pottery retrieved was, however, of medieval date and was generally of local origin. Post-medieval pottery was also identified along with glass, mortar, clay pipe and animal bone.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological investigation was undertaken at Oakham School as the site lay towards the centre of the Saxon and medieval town.

No deposits were identified of Saxon date and the earliest remains comprised a medieval boundary ditch and two refuse pits. The ditch was important enough to be re-cut during the post-medieval period and a number of deposits were also assigned a post-medieval date. Later activity includes the construction of the Hodges Building during the 19th century.

Pottery of Romano-British, Late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date was retrieved from the investigations. Other finds include glass, mortar, clay pipe and animal bone.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. M. Goodhart of Pick Everard for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis on behalf of Oakham School. The work was coordinated by Mark Williams who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Mark Williams
Site Staff: Aaron Clements, Mary Nugent, Vicky Mellor and Steve Williams.
Finds processing: Denise Buckley
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Illustration: Steve Williams
Post-excavation analysis: Steve Williams

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS	Archaeological Project Services
BGS	British Geological Survey
BUFAU	Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
ULAS	University of Leicester Archaeological Services

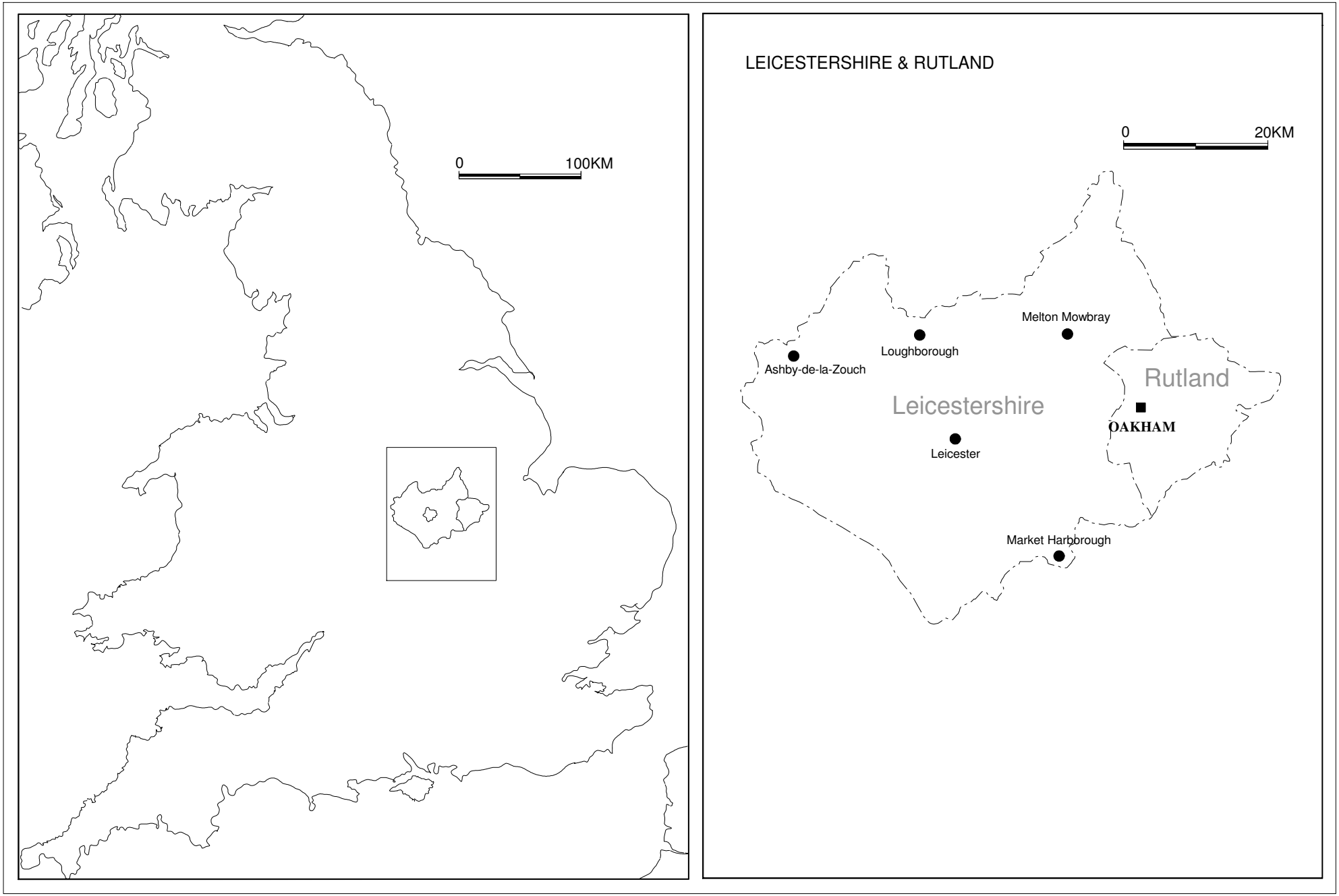


Figure 1 - General location map

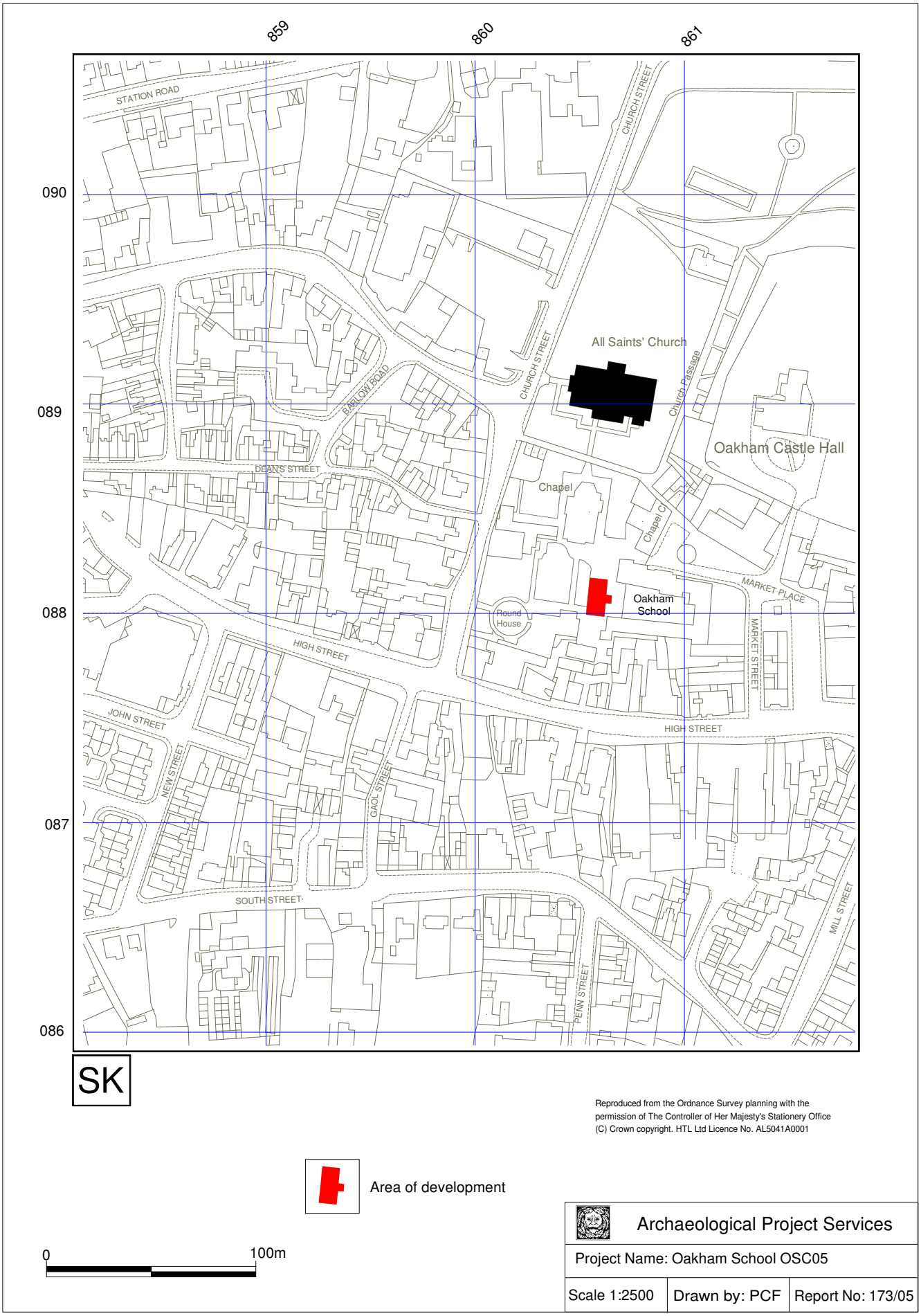
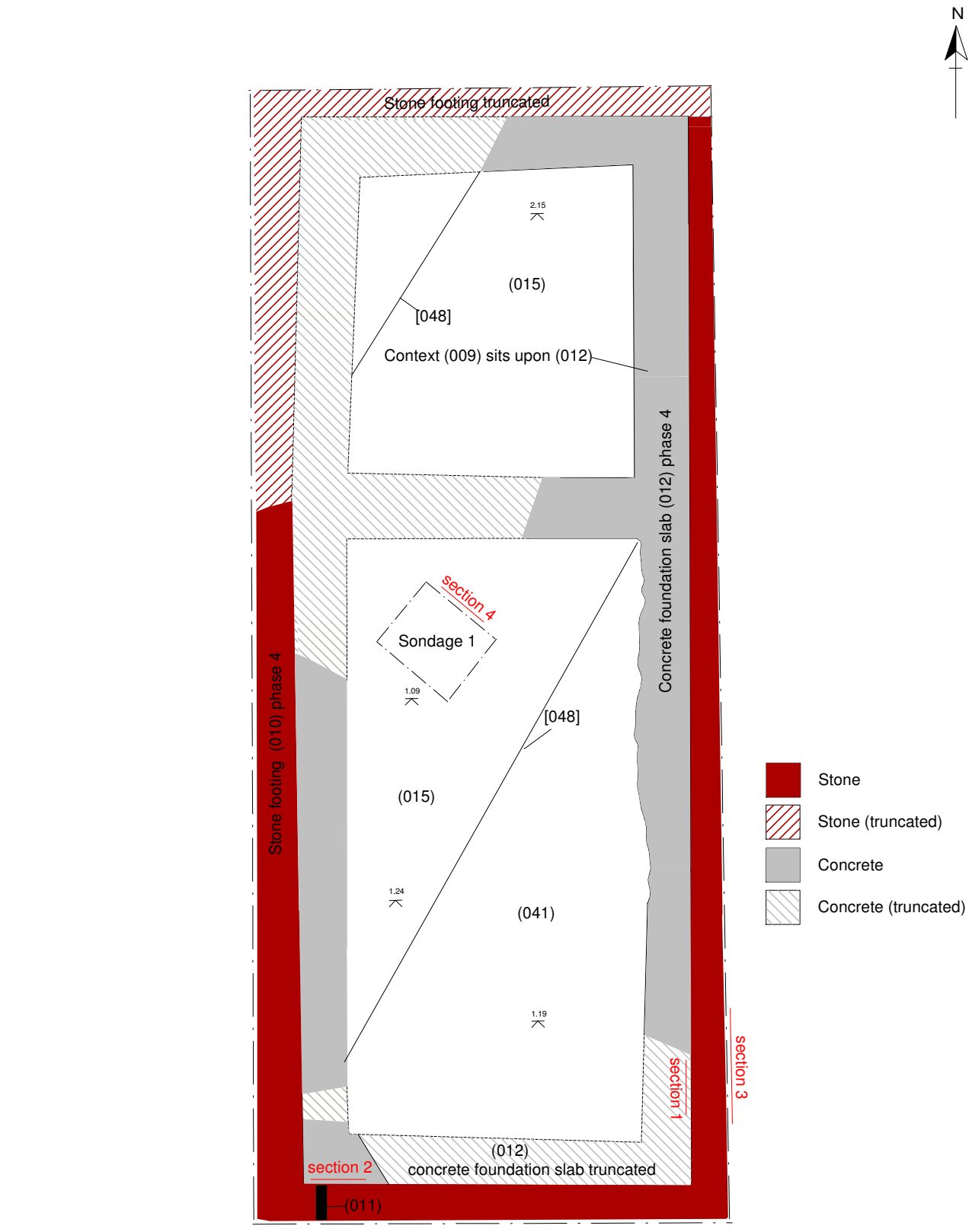


Figure 2 - Site location plan



Plan shows the footprint of the Hodges Building, which is that depicted in red on Figure 2

0 5 m

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Project Name: Oakham School (OSC05)		
Scale 1: 100	Drawn by: SW	Report No: 173/05

Figure 3 - Multiphase plan of site

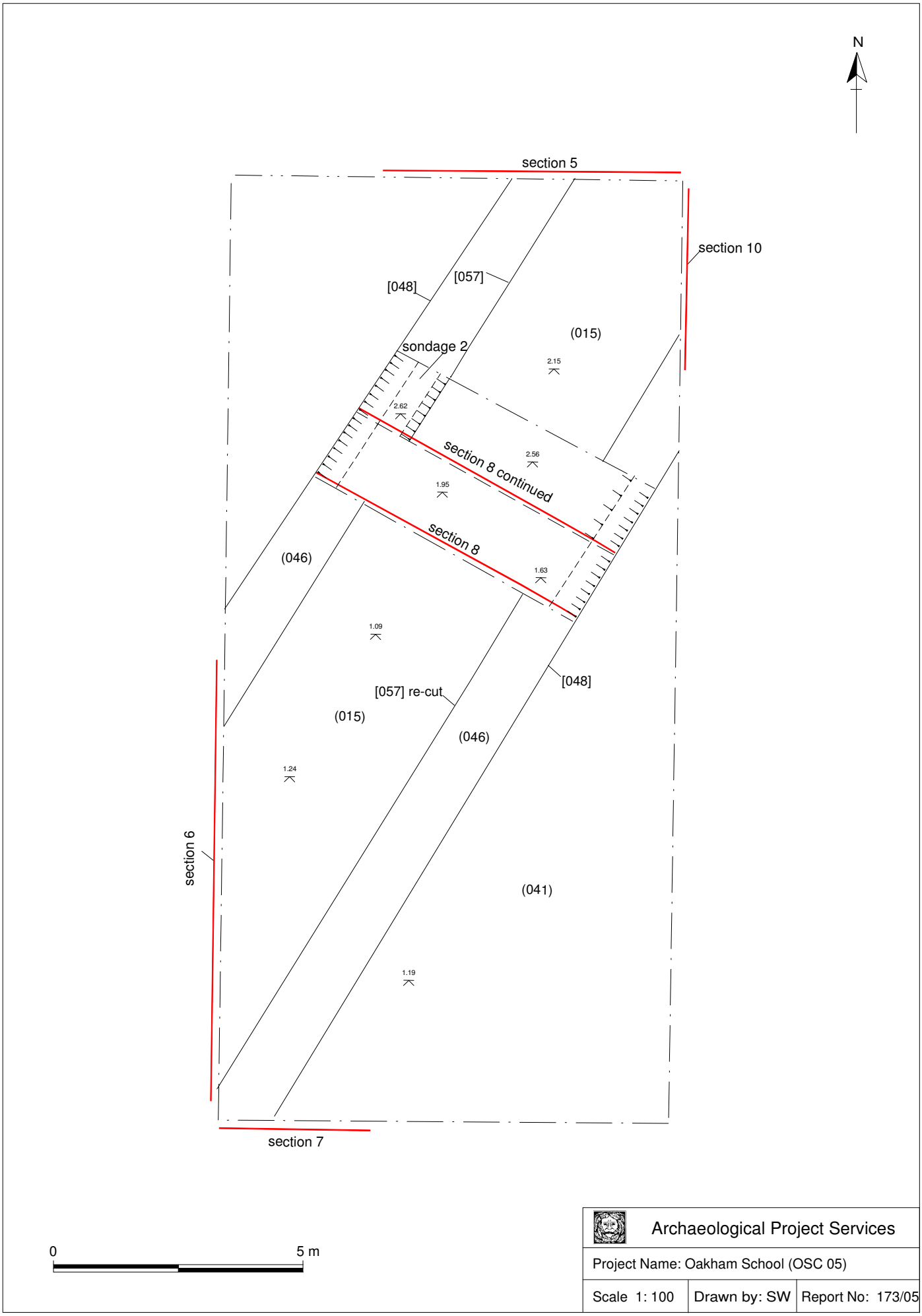

Figure 4 - Medieval ditch plan showing section locations

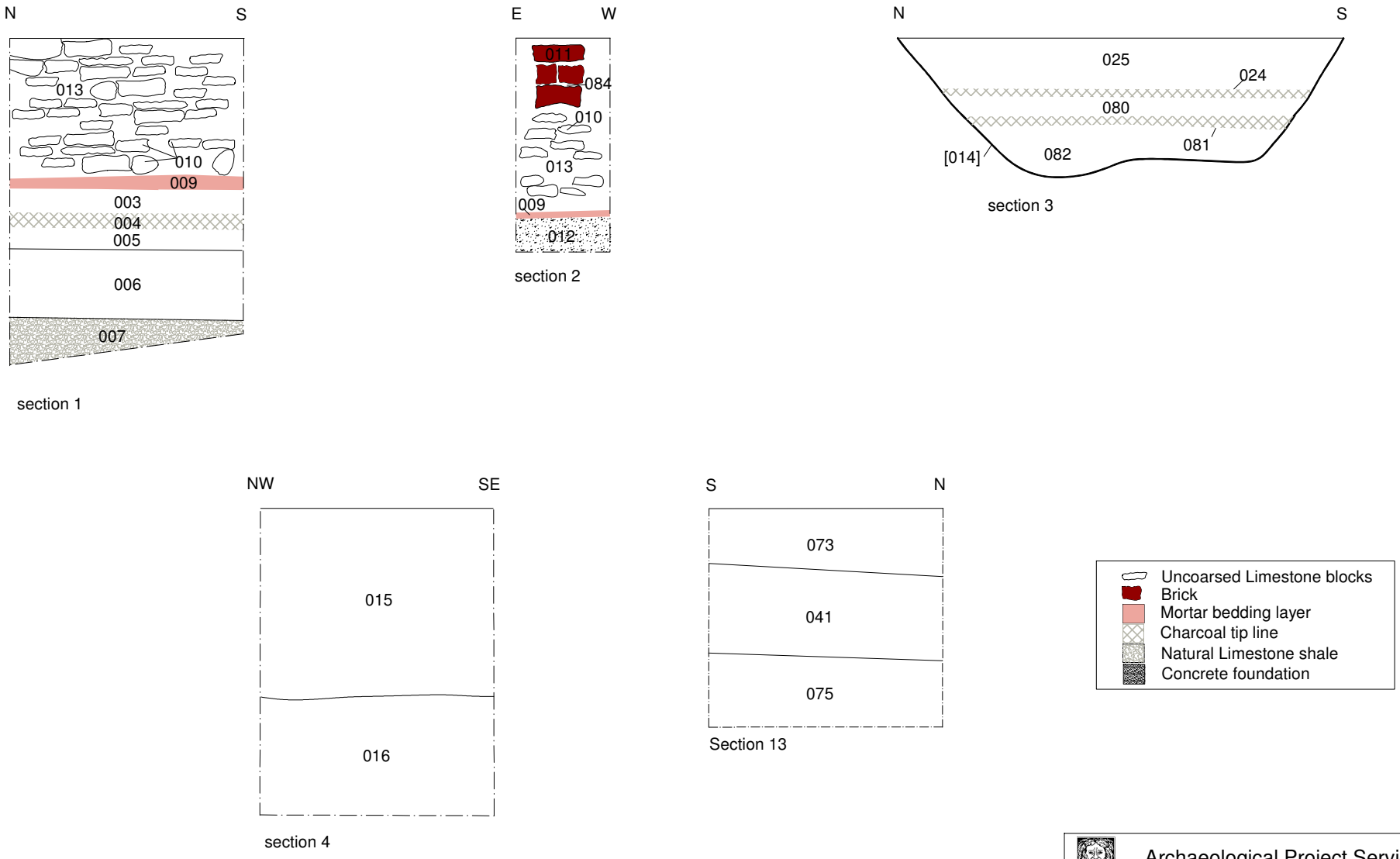

Figure 5 - Sections 1 to 4 and 13

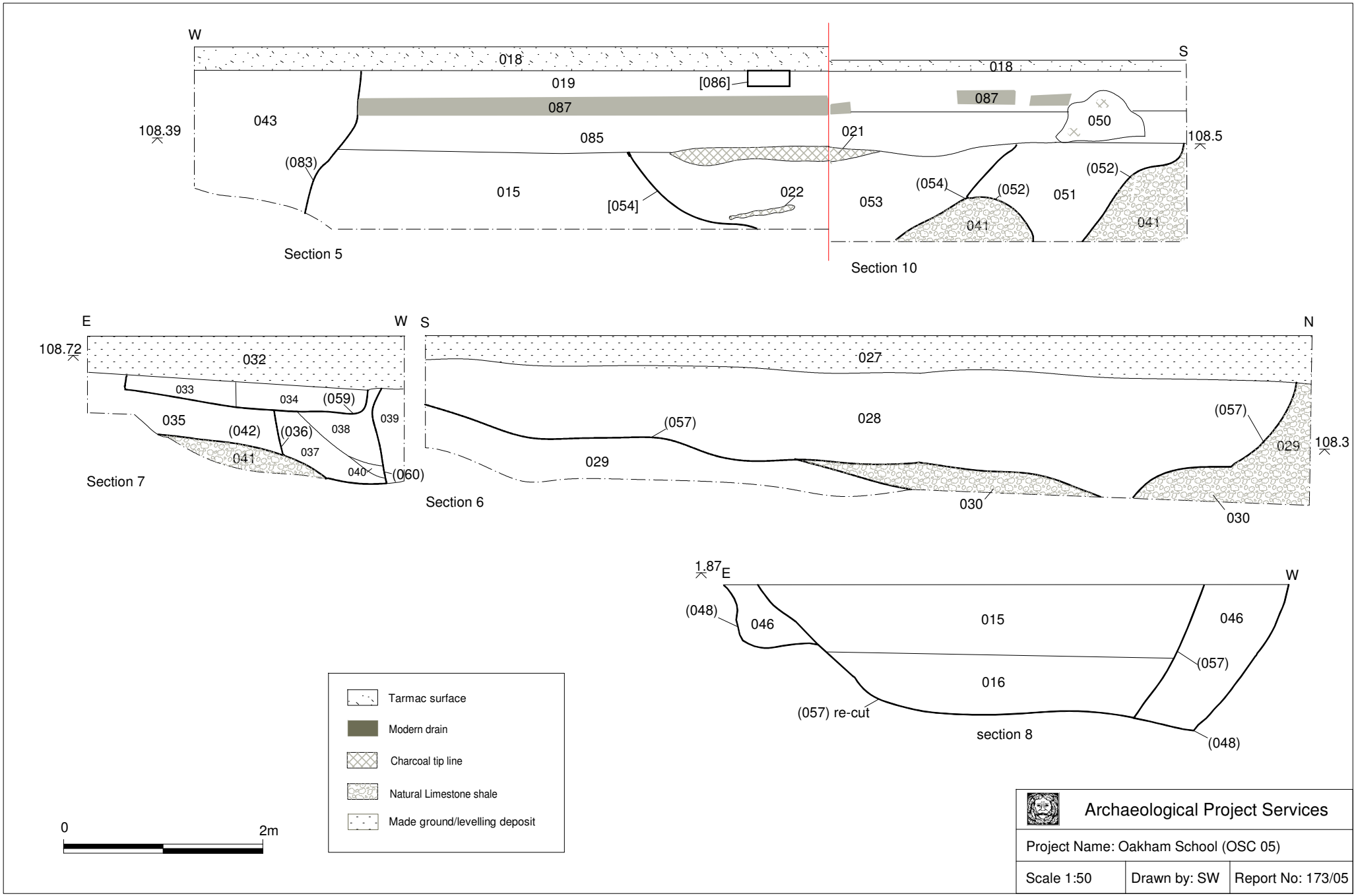

Figure 6 - Sections 5 to 8 and 10

Plate 1 - Large northeast/southwest ditch, looking southwest

Plate 2 - Section 8, looking southwest

Plate 3 - Section 4, looking northeast

Plate 4 - Large northeast-southwest ditch, looking east

Plate 5 - Section 3, looking east

Plate 6 - Section 5, looking north

Plate 7 - Section 10, looking east

Plate 8 - Concrete footing of Hodges Building, northeast corner, looking east

Plate 9 - Concrete footing of Hodges Building, eastern return, looking southeast

Appendix 1

HODGES BUILDING, OAKAHAM SCHOOL, LEICESTERSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

1.1 An archaeological watching brief is required during demolition of the Hodges Building, Oakham School, Leicestershire.

1.2 The site lies within the medieval and post medieval core of the town and the potential for the preserved archaeological remains is relatively high, although development associated with the Hodges building itself possibly caused disturbance to any buried remains.

1.3 The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.

1.4 This document comprises a specification for the watching brief phase of the proposed development.

1.5 On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the work. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief, during a program of works at the Hodges Building, Oakham School, Oakham, Leicestershire (NGR SK 861 088).

2.2 This document contains the following parts:

2.2.1 Overview.

2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.

2.2.3 List of specialists.

2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project.

3 SITE LOCATION

3.1 Oakham, the county town of Rutland is located 26km east of Leicester (Fig. 1) The Hodges Building is situated centrally within a group of school buildings bounded to the south by High Street, to the east by Market Street and the Market Place and to the West by Church Street SK 861 088.

4 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Oakham lies at c. 100m O.D. on a spur of land between two watercourses flowing east into Rutland Water and ultimately the River Gwash Local soils are the Banbury Association ferritic brown earths developed on Cretaceous ironstone (Hodge et al. 1984 103).

5 THE ARCHAEOLOGY

5.1 Oakham was a Royal manor at the time of Domesday. A church and hall, probably within the early castle, are also recorded at that date. The town grew under the patronage of the castle, gaining a market by the mid 13th century and became the chief town of the county.

5.2 The site lies within the medieval and post medieval core of the town and buried archaeological remains may be preserved below the current building although disturbance caused by the

construction of and alterations to the current building may have occurred.

6 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

6.1 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:

6.1.1 Determine the presence of archaeological remains within the

6.1.2 Determine the form and function of the archaeological remains encountered;

6.1.3 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological remains encountered;

6.1.4 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological remains, and

6.1.5 Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

6.1.6 Determine the extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the application area.

6.1.7 Establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

8 WATCHING BRIEF

8.1 General considerations

8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief. A Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the works.

8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists. *Archaeological Project Services* is an IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation (Number 21) managed by a Member (MIFA) of the institute.

8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1997, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

8.2 Methodology

8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the excavation of service trenches and foundations and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement and exposure.

8.2.2 Where safe to do so, the trench sections will be cleaned and observed to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings will be recorded at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.

8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.

8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. This will consist of:

8.2.4.1 general views of the site

8.2.4.2 the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology

across the area

8.2.4.3 groups of features where their relationship is important

8.2.5 Should human remains be located they will be left *in situ* and only removed if absolutely necessary. If removal of human remains proves necessary then this is covered by the Faculty for works and a Home Office licence will not be required. Consideration will be given at all times to ensure that no offence is caused to any interested parties.

8.2.6 All human remains that have to be removed will be passed to the incumbent for re-interment.

10 POST-EXCAVATION

6.1 Stage 1

6.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

6.1.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

6.2 Stage 2

6.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.

6.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

6.3 Stage 3

6.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.

6.3.2 This will consist of:

6.3.2.1 A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.

6.3.2.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the investigation.

6.3.2.3 Description of the topography of the site.

6.3.2.4 Description of the methodologies used during the investigation.

6.3.2.5 A text describing the findings of the investigation, and a consideration of the reliability of the results.

6.3.2.6 A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the investigation findings.

6.3.2.7 Plans of the archaeological features exposed, with appropriate scales. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans

for each phase will be produced.

6.3.2.8 Sections/elevations of the archaeological features and the exposed deposits, with appropriate scales.

6.3.2.9 Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.

6.3.2.10 Complete context list.

6.3.2.11 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.

6.3.2.12 Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

1 REPORT DEPOSITION

1.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the client; the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council; Rutland County Council Planning Department; and to the Leicestershire and Rutland Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

2 ARCHIVE

2.1 The retrieved finds, documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be deposited with Rutland County Museum, sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the Museum. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the documents titled *Acquisition and Disposal Policy*, prepared by Rutland County Museum; and *The Transfer of Archaeological Archives*, produced by LMARS, for long-term storage and curation. In the event that no finds are recovered, the archive will be deposited with LMARS Leicester and Rutland SMR. In the event of any finds being retained in private hands and not made available in the public domain by deposition with Rutland County Museum, a full scientific analysis and publication standard record will form part of the site archive.

3 PUBLICATION

3.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be presented to the editors of the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* and *Rutland Record*. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

4 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

4.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project.

5 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

5.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.

5.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator.

5.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.

5.4 Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

6 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

6.1 The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.

6.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.

6.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one person-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about four days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

7 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

7.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

Task	Body to be undertaking the work
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust
	Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist; or ULAS
	Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist; or ULAS
	Medieval and later - G Taylor (APS) in consultation with H Healey, Independent Archaeologist; or ULAS
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist; or G Taylor (APS)
Animal Bones	J Rackham, Independent Specialist; or G Taylor (APS)
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham, Independent Specialist
Human Remains Analysis	Dr R Gowland, Independent Specialist

8 INSURANCES

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10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Specification: Version 1, 16-05-05

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No	Section No	Description	Interpretation
001	1	Irregular sized limestone blocks, aligned north-south, 0.26m x 80mm x 0.15m in size *same as (010).*	Foundation wall.
002	1	Hard red mortar layer 50mm in thickness, containing occasional charcoal and crushed brick fragments *same as (009).*	Mortar bedding layer for (001).
003	1	Soft grey/brown silty clay, 0.1m thick	Fill of (014).
004	1	Soft grey charcoal/silt deposit 70mm in thickness and with occasional charcoal fragments.	Fill of (014).
005	1	Soft grey/brown silty clay, 90mm in thickness. *same as (082).*	Fill of (014).
006	1	Soft reddish/brown silty clay 0.3m thick.	Natural deposit.
007	1	Firm brown Limestone fragments, >0.2m thick. *same as (007), (041) and (074).*	Natural geology.
008	1	Soft brown silty clay *same as (013).*	Bonding for (001).
009	2	Hard red mortar layer 30mm in thickness and containing occasional charcoal and crushed brick fragments *same as (002).*	Mortar bedding layer for (010).
010	2	Irregular sized Limestone blocks, aligned east-west *same as (001).*	Stone footing.
011	2	Regular coursed brick (240mm x 80mm x 100m) structure, aligned east-west, 0.1m wide by 0.25m high.	Wall.
012	2	Indurated grey concrete, >0.1m thick.	Concrete footing.
013	2	Soft mid brown silty clay *same as (008).*	Bonding for (010).
014	3	Pit approx 2m in diameter and 0.85m deep, with gradual sides and a concave base.	Post-medieval pit.
015	8	Firm mid/light brown clayey silt, 0.9m thick and 5.5m in extent with occasional limestone and pottery fragments.	Fill of (057).
016	11	Firm mid greenish brown silty clay, 1m thick, 3.3m in extent with occasional, pottery, wood, reed and Limestone fragments.	Fill of (057).
017	Cancelled context.		
018	5	Hard tarmac surface, 0.15m thick.	Modern tarmac surface.
019	5	Soft mid grey/brown clayey silt, 8.30m wide and 0.50m thick with occasional fragments of brick/tile, rounded stones, coal and charcoal *same as (049).*	Levelling/dumped deposit.
020		Firm mid greyish brown clayey silt, 1.25m thick with occasional angular stones, bone, oyster shell and mortar fragments *same as (085).*	Layer.
021	5	Firm dark grey silty clay with frequent mortar, charcoal fragments and occasional angular shale fragments.	Tip line within (020).
022	5	Firm mid grey ashy clayey silt with frequent charcoal flecks.	Tip line within (020).
023	5	Pit 2.05m in width and 1.7m deep, gradual sides and an irregular base.	Pit.
024	3	Loose dark grey charcoal rich silt, 30mm in thickness.	Fill of (014).
025	3	Soft mid greyish brown clayey silt, 0.1m thick.	Fill of (014).
026		Stone footing similar to (001) and (010), 11.5m long.	Foundation wall.
027	6	Hard grey silt with concrete, 0.4m thick *same as (032).*	Made ground.
028	6	Firm friable mid brown sandy silt 1.2m thick with occasional sub-rounded stones and charcoal fragments.	Fill of (057).
029	6	Firm mid brown silty clay with yellow/grey patches 0.6m thick and occasional Limestone fragments *same as (046).*	Fill of (048).

No	Section No	Description	Interpretation
030	6	Irregular Limestone fragments.	Fill of (048).
031		Possible ditch cut, difficult to interpret *same as (057).*	Ditch.
032	7	Firm dark brownish grey clayey silt, 0.78m thick with frequent coal, brick/tile and Limestone fragments *same as (027).*	Modern dumped/levelling deposit.
033	7	Firm mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional limestone fragments, 0.2m thick	Fill of (059).
034	7	Firm mid/dark grey clayey silt with occasional limestone and ceramic drain fragments, 0.46m thick	Fill of (059).
035	7	Firm light brown/grey clayey silt 0.4m thick with occasional limestone fragments	Fill of (042).
036	7	Indeterminate feature, *c*. 1m deep by 1m wide with sharp/gradual sides and an irregular base	Pit.
037	7	Firm mid brown clayey silt, 0.4m thick with occasional charcoal flecks and limestone fragments	Fill of (036).
038	7	Moderate/loose mid red/brown silt, 0.48m thick containing occasional charcoal flecks.	Fill of (036).
039	7	Hard light brown/yellow limestone and sand, 0.94m thick	Fill of (060).
040	7	Soft light yellow/grey clayey silt, 0.1m thick	Fill of (036).
041	7/13	Firm mid brown limestone, >0.28m thick *same as (007), (070) and (074).*	Natural geology.
042	7	Linear feature, *c*. 0.15m wide and 0.5m deep with steep/gradual sides and an irregular base *same as (057)*	Re-cut of (048)
043	5	Loose grey/brown sandy silt, >1.2m thick with moderate limestone and coal fragments .	Fill of (083).
044	Unused context		
045	Unused context		
046	8	Firm mid brown slightly silty clay, 0.6m in thick.	Fill of (048).
047		Firm mid brown silty clay, >0.8m thick *same as (046).*	Fill of (048).
048	8	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, 5.5m wide and >1.6m deep, with gradual sides and an undeterminable base.	Ditch.
049	10	Soft mid grey/brown clayey silt, 0.85m thick with frequent brick/tile, glass, coal and charcoal *same as (019).*	Dumped/levelling deposit.
050	10	Firm light brown/yellow silty clay, 0.74m thick with occasional charcoal and coal fragments.	Dumped deposit.
051	10	Moderate to firm mid grey/brown clayey silt, 1m thick with occasional coal and charcoal fragments	Fill of (052).
052	10	Feature, 1.70m wide and 1m deep with sharp/steep sides and an undetermined base.	Pit.
053	10	Soft dark grey clayey silt, 1.65m extent by 0.9m thick, with frequent glass, charcoal and coal fragments.	Fill of (054).
054	10	Feature, *c*. 4.10m wide and 1.30m deep with steep to gradual sides and an indeterminate base.	Pit.
055		Firm mid grey/brown clayey silt with occasional sub-rounded limestone fragments.	Fill of (056).
056	10	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, 0.4m wide and 0.2m deep with gradual sides, not fully excavated *same as (048).*	Ditch.
057	8	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, *c*. 4.6m wide and 1.60m deep, sharp to gradual sides and an indeterminate base.	Re-cut of (048).
058		Compact/laminated light blue silty clay with occasional lenses of (016) present within its matrix 0.25m in thickness.	Re-deposited natural with the base of (057).
059	7	Not perceptible in plan, 0.24m in width and 0.3m in depth, sharp to vertical sides and a flat base.	Modern trench/pit.
060	7	Feature, 0.3m wide and 0.95m deep with near vertical sides, not fully excavated.	Pit.
061	Cancelled context.		

No	Section No	Description	Interpretation
062	Unstratified finds retrieval *possibly from (015).*		
063	Unstratified finds retrieval *possibly from (016).*		
064		Wooden stake *from (016).*	Stake.
065	Unstratified finds retrieval.		
066	Unstratified finds retrieval.		
067	Cancelled context		
068		*Same as (015).*	Fill of (057).
069		*Same as (016).*	Fill of (057).
070		Limestone Brash *same as (007), (074) and (041).*	Natural geology.
071		Firm mid brown silty clay	Fill of (048).
072	Cancelled context		
073	13	Loose dark brown sandy clay, 1.4m thick and seen sporadically across the site.	Topsoil
074		Limestone Brash *same as (007),(041) and (070).*	Natural geology.
075	13	Light yellow silty clay, 1m thick.	Natural deposit.
076		Firm mid/light brown clayey silt *same as (015).*	Fill of (057).
077	Unused context.		
078	Cancelled context		
079	Cancelled context		
080	3	Soft mid grey/brown silty clay, 0.1m thick *same as (003).*	Fill of (014).
081	3	Soft dark grey charcoal/silt deposit 70mm thick with occasional charcoal fragments *same as (004).*	Fill of (014).
082	3	Soft mid grey/brown silty clay, 90mm thick *same as (005).*	Fill of (014).
083	5	Feature, >1.6m wide and 1.3m deep, with steep/gradual sides, not fully excavated. Visible only in section.	Modern pit.
084	2	Soft light brown sandy mortar.	Mortar bonding for (011).
085	5	Firm mid grey/brown clayey silt, 8.50m wide and 0.70m in thickness, with occasional angular stones, bone, oyster shell and mortar fragments *same as (020).*	Layer.
086	5	Modern service trench.	Modern service trench.
087	5/10	Modern service pipe.	Modern service pipe.

Appendix 3

THE MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY
By Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 65 sherds with a total weight of 3,266g. It comprised a range of late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval wares, as well as two sherds of Romano-British material

Fabric

The pottery was recorded using the conventions of the Leicestershire County type-series (eg Davies and Sawday 2004), as follows

ST2: Stamford Ware, mid 11th – 12th C. 1 sherd, 5g.
ST3: Stamford Ware 3, AD900 – 1050+. 2 sherds, 12g.
LY1: Lyveden/Stanion ware 1. AD1200 – 1400. 5 sherds, 307g.
LY4: Stanion/Lyveden ware 4. AD1150 – 1400*. 20 sherds, 759g.
CC2: Chilvers Coton C ware, 1200 – 1475. 14 sherds, 1,641g.
MP2: Midland Purple ware, 1375 – 1550. 8 sherds, 144g.
MY: Midland Yellow ware, *c*. 1500-1725. 1 sherd, 8g.
RA: Raeren Stoneware, 1475 – 16th C. 1 sherd, 1g.
EA3: Staffordshire Mottle Ware, 1650 – 1770. 1 sherd, 42g.
EA6: Blackware, 1550+. 1 sherd, 57g
EA7: Staffordshire slipware, 17th-18th C. 1 sherd, 16g.
EA11: English Tin-Glazed Earthenware, AD1650-1800. 1 sherd, 17g.
SW5: English Brown Salt-Glazed Stoneware. 1 sherd, 2g.

*This ware is dated AD1100 – 1400 in the Leicestershire type-series, but should be dated AD1150 – 1400, as it is in the Northamptonshire type-series.

The following, not covered by the Leicestershire County Type-Series, was also noted:

LMox: Late Medieval Oxidised ware. AD1450 – 1600. Orange to red sandy earthenware, in a range of utilitarian forms, sometimes with a dark green glaze. Manufactured at a large number of centres in the south-east Midlands, such as Glapthorne in north Northamptonshire (Johnston 1997). 7 sherds, 160g.

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*. All the fabrics are well-known in the region.

Generally, this assemblage is of very high quality in terms of the level of preservation, the mean sherd weight, 50.2g, is very large, and generally the sherds are in good condition, with little sign of abrasion, indicating that they are largely the result of primary deposition. All the late Saxon and Saxo-Norman pottery is redeposited in later contexts, but much of the medieval pottery is securely stratified. The medieval assemblage comprises mainly jars in Lyveden/Stanion 'a' ware, along with large sherds from glazed jugs from predominantly fairly local sources such as Lyveden/Stanion and Chilvers Coton, including two complete bases from large vessels. The range of vessels is entirely limited to jars and jugs, which is perhaps to be expected from a medieval assemblage of this size.

The post-medieval pottery is also generally in good condition, and comprises a mixture of utilitarian and table wares, such as, in the case of the latter, a Slip-Trailed Earthenware plate and a Tin-Glazed Earthenware bowl.

Bibliography

Johnston, G, 1997, The Excavation of two Late Medieval Kilns with Associated Buildings at Glapthorn, near Oundle, Northamptonshire *Medieval Ceramics* **21**, 13-42

Davies, S and Sawday, D, 2004, The medieval and later pottery and tile, in N Finn, *Origins of a Leicester Suburb. Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval occupation on Bonners Lane* British Archaeology Reports **372**, 87-99

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

	RB		ST2		ST3		LY4		LY1		CC2		MP2		MY		LMox		RA		EA3		EA6		EA11		SW5		EA7		
Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
015							4	180	4	160	8	251					2	79													M15thC
016					2	12	12	501	1	147							3	35							1	17			1	16	M17thC
020													4	71	1	8							1	57							M16thC
021													2	32																	L14thC
047																	1	39													M15thC
051																			1	1											L15thC
053													1	27																	L14thC
062											1	664																			13thC
063											1	41																			13thC
065							1	28			3	650																			13thC
066	2	95	1	5			3	50			1	35	1	14			1	7			1	42					1	2			L17thC
Total	2	95	1	5	2	12	20	759	5	307	14	1641	8	144	1	8	7	160	1	1	1	42	1	57	1	17	1	2	1	16	

Appendix 4

THE OTHER FINDS

by Rachael Hall, Jen Kitch and Gary Taylor

One fragment of pottery weighing 47g was omitted from the ceramic assemblage sent to P. Blinkhorn (see Appendix 3) and is reported here. Recording of the pottery was undertaken with reference to guidelines prepared by the Medieval Pottery Research Group (Slowikowski *et al.* 2001) and the pottery was quantified using the chronology and coding system of the Leicestershire and Rutland ceramic type series (Davies and Sawday 1999).

In addition to the pottery, a quantity of other artefacts, mostly glass but also clay pipe and mortar, comprising 19 items weighing a total of 32g, was retrieved. Faunal remains were also recovered.

The excavated faunal remains assemblage comprises 28 stratified fragments of bone weighing 899g. The animal bone was identified by reference to published catalogues. No attempt is made to sex or age animals represented within the assemblage, although where this is readily apparent is noted in the comments column.

Range
The range of material is detailed in the tables.

Table 1: Pottery

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
015	LY4	Stanion Lyveden type 4 ware jar/cooking pot, slight sooting on rim	1	47	1150-1400

Table 2: Other Artefacts

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
016	Glass	Colourless window glass, grozing on one corner, heavy iridescence	1	4	Early-Mid post-medieval
020	Mortar	Mortar, off-white	1	16	
049	Glass	Small fragments window glass, iridescence, shadow where lead cames positioned, early-mid post-medieval	5	1	Early-Mid post-medieval
	Glass	Pale green, window glass	3	1	
053	Glass	Window glass, heavy iridescence, early-mid post-medieval	1	1	Early-Mid post-medieval
	Glass	Colourless window glass, shadow where lead cames, undated	2	1	
	Glass	Light green window glass, undated	4	2	
	Glass	Colourless, thick triangular quarry of window glass, grozed edges, iridescence	1	3	
066	Clay pipe	Stem, bore 5/64”	1	3	18th century

Table 3: The Faunal Remains

Context	Species	Bone	No.	Wt (g)	Comments
015	Cattle	Astragalus	1	32	
	Dog/Fox	Tibia	1	20	
	Medium Mammal	Rib	1	1	
016	Cattle	Rib	1	60	Two chop marks on the lateral rib blade
	Cattle	Tooth	1	19	Upper Molar

Context	Species	Bone	No.	Wt (g)	Comments
	Large Mammal	Radius	1	36	
	Domestic Fowl	Tibio-tarsus	1	2	Juv
	Domestic Fowl	Coracoid	1	0	Infant/Juv
020	Large Mammal	Rib	1	10	Two cuts on the medial side of the rib
051	Sheep/Goat	Scapula	1	12	
	Unidentified	Unidentified	2	4	
062	Cattle	Tibia	1	128	
063	Medium Mammal	Rib	1	5	
	Oyster	Shell	1	55	
065	Large Mammal	Long Bone	1	3	
	Medium Mammal	Rib	1	1	
	Oyster	Shell	1	30	
066	Equid	Radius	1	135	In two fragments
	Pig	Femur	1	23	
	Sheep/Goat	Radius	1	19	
	Cattle	Metacarpal	1	75	Two chops on the medial side of the shaft
	Cattle	Axis	1	62	Two fragments
	Medium Mammal	Rib	1	1	
	Sheep/Goat	Tibia	1	23	
	Large Mammal	Mandible	1	15	
	Sheep	Horncore	1	74	Chopped through the base of the horncore
	Cattle	Radius	1	54	

The assemblage is too small to provide a true representation of animal husbandry and utilisation practices, the main domestic species are all represented within the assemblage. The assemblage appears to represent a mixture of food and butchery waste, with some incorporation of small scale craft industry in the form of horn working. The presence of young domestic fowl within the assemblage may suggest that these birds were raised on site or that pullet (young chicken) was occasionally consumed.

Condition

All the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. Archive storage of the collection is by material class.

Documentation

There have been previous archaeological investigations at Oakham that are the subjects of reports. Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the Leicestershire and Rutland Sites and Monuments Record.

References

Davies, S. and Sawday, D., 1999 'The Post Roman Pottery and Tile', in A. Connor and R. Buckley, *Roman and Medieval Occupation in Causeway Lane, Leicester*, Leicester Archaeology Monographs **5**

Slowikowski, A., Nenk, B. and Pearce, J., 2001 *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper **2**

Appendix 5

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS

By Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

Excavations at Oakham School, undertaken by Archaeological Project Services, revealed a large re-cut ditch (context [057]) containing fills of post-medieval date. Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from the ditch in the form of a column, with material being taken at 10cm intervals. Bulk samples were also taken from the basal ditch fill (sample 1 from context [016]) and from the clay into which the ditch had been dug (sample 4 from context [058]).

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 500 micron mesh sieve. Some flots were seen to contain waterlogged assemblages, and these were stored in water prior to sorting. The remaining flots were air-dried. All flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16. The plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed on Tables 1 – 3. Nomenclature within the tables follows Stace (1997). Whilst most of the plant remains were waterlogged, a small number of charred remains were also recorded. These are denoted within the table by a 'c' suffix.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and sorted when dry. All artefacts/ecofacts were retained for further specialist analysis.

Results

Plant macrofossils

Cereal remains and/or seeds of common weeds were noted at varying densities in all but four samples. The waterlogged remains were mostly well preserved, although some fragmentation and distortion of the macrofossils was evident. A large proportion of the charred remains (mostly cereal grains and chaff) were severely puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures.

Oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.), rye (*Secale cereale*) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were recorded, mostly as single specimens within an assemblage. Chaff was rare, although both bread wheat (*T. aestivum/compactum*) and rivet wheat (*T. turgidum*) type nodes were recovered along with a single barley node.

Weed seeds were relatively rare in the upper ditch fill, although they occurred more frequently in the lower deposit. Most were of common ruderal species including cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), musk thistle (*Carduus* sp.), dead-nettle (*Lamium* sp.), sow thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*) and stinging nettles (*Urtica dioica*). However, some seeds of field weeds were also recorded, including corn cockle (*Agrostemma githago*), stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), poppy (*Papaver* sp.) and dock (*Rumex* sp.). Seeds of wetland/aquatic plants and tree/shrub species including sedge (*Carex* sp.), reedmace (*Typha* sp.), willow (*Salix* sp.) and elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) occurred more frequently in the lower ditch fills.

Charcoal fragments were present throughout, although mostly at a very low density. Pieces of waterlogged root/stem and wood/twig fragments were more common within the lower ditch fill. Other plant macrofossils occurred infrequently, but did include indeterminate buds, culm nodes, leaf fragments, moss fronds and thorns.

Other remains

The upper ditch fill ([015]) contained some fragments of black porous or tarry material, possibly derived from the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures. With the exception of waterlogged arthropod remains and Cledoceran ephippia, other remains were virtually absent from the lower ditch fill.

Discussion

Upper ditch layer [015] (Table 1)
With the exception of sample 2C, upper ditch layer [015] appears to have been largely dry. The assemblages are very homogenous, possibly indicating that layer [015] accumulated over a considerable period, and there is certainly little sign of any deliberate in-filling. Although charred cereals are present in some samples, these were almost certainly accidental inclusions within the assemblages, possibly in the form of either scattered or wind-blown refuse. Sample 2C is atypical as it contains a moderate density of de-watered plant remains. As this assemblage is paralleled by material lower in the ditch sequence, it is tentatively suggested that sample 2C may be derived from either up-cast or soil disturbed by animal activity. At the [015]/[016] interface (samples 2I and 2J), small waterlogged/de-watered assemblages are recorded, indicating a change in soil water state approximately 90cm below the modern ground surface.

Lower ditch layer [016] (Tables 2 and 3)
The assemblages from the lower ditch fill are all waterlogged and, as a result, are more diverse in their composition. Ruderal weed seeds are particularly common in the assemblages from the base of the column sequence, possibly indicating that the sides of the ditch supported a range of colonising weeds, whilst the ditch bottom was damp or possibly seasonally water-filled. Parts of the ditch may have been overgrown by shrub plants, whilst the presence of segetal weed seeds may also suggest that the ditch was flanked by areas of cultivated ground. Two of the assemblages (2L and 2P) contain a moderate to high density of wood chips and twig fragments, possibly indicating that the shrubs overgrowing the ditch were periodically cleared. Small charcoal fragments and charred cereal remains are present throughout, but at an insufficient density to be indicative of anything other than scattered refuse.

Clay layer [058] (Table 3)
Ditch [057] had been cut into a layer of compacted laminated light blue silty clay (context [058]). As is to be expected, the assemblage from sample 4 is essentially similar to those from the lower ditch fill, although segetal weed seeds occur less frequently, possibly indicating that the ditch was originally dug to facilitate land drainage prior to agricultural usage. Three charred cereal grains are recorded, but these may be intrusive from the later ditch deposits.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, ditch [057] originally appears to have been dug through an area of damp rough grassland, and was probably intended as a drainage ditch. Land adjacent to the ditch may have been cultivated, possibly for the production of cereals, but the ditch itself was damp or seasonally wet at the base, with sides covered by colonising weeds and some bushy shrubs. The ditch sides appear to have been periodically trimmed. The upper fill probably accumulated during a prolonged period of natural silting and in-filling.

One particular point of note is the occurrence of charred and waterlogged rivet type wheat rachis nodes within samples 2C and 2U. To date, rivet wheat has not been noted within any pre-Conquest deposits, which may possibly indicate that the ditch was first excavated during the earlier medieval period when land was increasingly coming into agricultural production for the first time.

Although the list of species recovered from the ditch fills is reasonably comprehensive, further quantification would probably contribute little additional data to the interpretation given above. Therefore no further analysis is currently recommended. However, a written summary of this report should be included within any publication of data from the site.

Reference

Stace, C., 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*. Second edition. Cambridge University Press

Key to Tables

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 10 – 50 specimens xxx = 50+ specimens
c = charred fg = fragment tf = testa fragment ss = sub-sample

Sample No.	**1**	**4**
Context No.	**O16**	**O58**
Cereals		
Avena sp. (grain)		xc
Triticum sp. (grains)		xc
Cereal indet. (grains)		xc
Herbs		
Aethusa cynapium L.		x
Agrostemma githago L.		xtf
Anthriscus sylvestris L.	xcf	x
Atriplex sp.		x
Carduus sp.		x
Chenopodium album L.		x
Chenopodiaceae indet.		x
Cirsium sp.		x
Conium maculatum L.		x
Hyoscyamus niger L.		x
Lamium amplexicaule L.	x	x
Persicaria maculosa L.		xcf
Small Poaceae indet.		x
Polygonum aviculare L.		x
Prunella vulgaris L.		x
R. parviflorus L.		x
Ranunculus sp.		x
R. acris/repens/bulbosus		x
Rumex sp.		x
Solanum nigraum L.		x
Sonchus asper (L.)Hill	x	
S. oleraceus L.		x
Stellaria media (L.)Vill		x
Thlaspi arvense L.		x
Urtica dioica L.	xx	x
U. urens L.		x
Wetland plants		
Apium graveolens L.		x
Carex sp.		x
Tree/shrub macrofossils		
Salix sp. (fruits)	xcf	
Sambucus nigra L.	x	xx
Other plant macrofossils		
Charcoal <2mm	x	x
Charcoal >2mm		xx
Waterlogged root/stem	xxx	xx
Wood frags >5mm	x	xx
Indet.moss		x
Indet.seeds	x	x
Indet.thorns *(Prunus* type)	x	x
(Rosa type)		
Indet.twigs	x	x
Other remains		
Cledoceran ephippia	x	
Marine mollusc shell frags.		x
Waterlogged arthropod remains	x	x
Sample volume (litres)	**4ss**	**20ss**
Volume of flot (litres)	**0.2**	**0.2**
% flot sorted	**50%**	**50%**

Table 3. Plant macrofossils and other remains from the other samples, Oakham School.

Appendix 6

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, e.g. [004].
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Layer	A layer is a term used to describe 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
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany
Transformed	Soil deposits that have been changed. The agencies of such changes include natural processes, such as fluctuating water tables, worm or root action, and human activities such as gardening or agriculture. This transformation process serves to homogenise soil, erasing evidence of layering or features.

Appendix 7

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

87	Context records
2	Photographic record sheets
14	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Box of finds

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:

Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services
Room 500
County Hall
Leicester Road
Glenfield
Leicester
LE3 8TE

Accession Number: Awaiting

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: OSC 05

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.