ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT:

TRIAL TRENCHING ON LAND AT KNAPTOFT HALL FARM, KNAPTOFT, LEICESTERSHIRE

Planning Reference: 11/01739/OUT NGR: SP 62619 89598 and SP 63090 89547 AAL Site Code: KNHF 11 Museum Accession Number: X.A171.2011 OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-116249



Report prepared for Knaptoft Hall Farm Limited

By Allen Archaeology Limited Report Number 2011085

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Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Knaptoft Hall Farm Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at Knaptoft Hall Farm in Knaptoft, Leicestershire.
- The works were mainly within a proposed new dairy field, where a preceding geophysical survey suggested the site lay within a former agricultural zone, although one trench was also excavated within the farmyard. The farmyard trench was included to investigate the possibility that structural remains associated with the former manor of Knaptoft may be present on the site.
- The proposed dairy field was found to contain a former soil and a number of furrows that are likely to be the remains of a medieval ploughsoil associated with the former medieval settlement. Pottery indicated the field had been manured in the 12th to 13th century.
- The farmyard trench exposed a wall foundation that is a continuation of the Tudor structure evident in the adjacent barn. Pottery of mid/late 15th to late 16th century date from the trench is likely to be contemporary with this structure. Two linear features, a pit and posthole were undated but appear to pre-date the stone wall; these may be associated with an earlier manor that is known to have existed on the site, or may be part of the contemporary medieval settlement.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by Knaptoft Hall Farm Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Knaptoft Hall Farm in Knaptoft, Leicestershire.
- 1.2 The excavating, recording and reporting conforms to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluations*' (IfA 1994, revised 2001 and 2008), and a specification by this company (2011a).
- 1.3 The documentary archive will be submitted to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service within six months of the completion of the project and will be stored under the Museum Accession Number X.A171.2011.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Knaptoft is situated in the administrative district of Harborough, approximately 9.8km westnorth-west of central Market Harborough, and 16.8km south-south-east of central Leicester. The proposed development site is divided into two distinct areas; the existing farmyard at NGR SP 62619 89598, and an open field to the east of the farmyard, at NGR SP 63090 89547.
- 2.2 The bedrock geology is Dyrham Formation interbedded siltstone and mudstone, and the overlying superficial geology for the eastern half of the farmyard and the whole of the dairy field comprises mid Pleistocene Till. The superficial geology for the western half of the farmyard is recorded as mid Pleistocene glaciofluvial sand and gravel (http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 The proposed development comprises the construction of a new dairy unit with associated silage clamp and slurry lagoon on farm land to the east of the farm yard. The proposals for the farmyard entail the demolition of several farm buildings, the conversion of other buildings and the construction of new buildings to form a residential development on the site. At present an outline application has been submitted for the proposed dairy field (Planning Application Number 11/01739/OUT), and an application for the farmyard is awaiting registration.
- 3.2 In order to determine the archaeological potential of the proposed development sites, a deskbased assessment was undertaken as the first stage of investigation (AAL 2011a). This identified a significant archaeological potential for the proposed development areas, and following discussions with the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, it was agreed that a non-intrusive evaluation by geophysical survey should be undertaken within the dairy field to provide further information concerning the archaeological resource in this part of the site. This report was completed and submitted to the planning authority in September 2011 (AAL 2011b).
- 3.3 Following further discussions with the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council it was recommended that a programme of trial trenching be undertaken to further

characterise the archaeological resource in advance of the submission of a planning application for the proposed development, and to provide sufficient information to allow the planning authority to develop any appropriate strategies to mitigate the effects of the development upon the archaeological resource as a condition of planning permission.

3.4 The approach adopted is consistent with the recommendations of Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5), which superseded Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 'Archaeology and Planning' (PPG 16) (Department of the Environment) in 2010.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The preceding archaeological desk-based assessment (AAL 2011b) identified a significant archaeological potential for the proposed development area, and this information is summarised below.
- 4.2 There is some evidence for later prehistoric and Roman activity in the wider landscape, with several find spots of Roman pottery and coins recorded, including small quantities of pottery recovered during groundworks within the farmyard.
- 4.3 Documentary evidence indicates that a settlement was in existence prior to the Norman Conquest of 1066 AD, but the greatest potential is for activity of medieval date. The parish church adjacent to the farmyard was first documented in 1143, and a survey of 1301 records a manor house with garden and fish ponds, which was replaced in the 16th century by the Turpin family who acquired the manor in the late 15th century. It is believed that the Tudor manor and the church were destroyed by Cromwell's troops in 1645. Only a few elements of this Tudor manor survive on site, including a probably re-positioned stone arch, and brick and stone mullioned windows within a later barn, which may represent the in-situ remains of earlier buildings.
- 4.4 The parish church forms part of a Scheduled Monument, which also includes medieval settlement remains to the south and east of the farm, and a probable medieval windmill mound to the south of the dairy field.
- 4.5 Following completion of the desk-based assessment a 3 hectare geophysical survey by magnetometry was undertaken in the dairy field, the principal objective being to determine if the medieval settlement remains extend into the proposed development area (AAL 2011c).
- 4.6 The geophysical survey suggested that the site lay outside the medieval village, as it identified anomalies indicative of medieval ridge and furrow ploughing, running broadly east west and north south. Possible ceramic land drains were also recorded along with anomalies that may represent modern detritus in the topsoil or a natural geological response.

5.0 Methodology

5.1 The fieldwork was carried out by the author and a team of experienced field archaeologists during the week beginning Monday 28th November 2011. All nine trenches were machine

excavated to the natural geology or the first archaeological horizon, using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a 2m wide toothless bucket. All further deposits were investigated by hand.

- 5.2 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard AAL context recording sheets. Archaeological features and deposits were drawn to scale, in plan and section (at scales 1:20, 1:50 or 1:100). Photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy. All photographs incorporated scales, an identification board and directional arrow, and a selection of these images has been included in Appendix 1.
- 5.3 Each deposit, layer or cut was allocated a unique identifier (context number), and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 9. Three digit numbers within square brackets reflect cut features (e.g. furrow [203]).

6.0 Results (Figures 3 – 10)

6.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

6.1.1 Topsoil 100 in Trench 1 consisted of c.0.23m thick moderately firm brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles; it sealed intermittent layer 101 which was c.0.05m – 0.23m thick. 101 was firm light brown silty clay with moderate rounded and sub-rounded pebbles which sealed the natural geology 102, a very firm light orange brown slightly sandy clay with manganese flecks and moderate stone pebbles. Although the excavator recorded layer 101 as an intermittent layer it is very likely that these sporadic deposits reflect the remnants of furrows identified during the geophysical survey (AAL 2011c).

6.2 Trench 2 (Figure 4)

- 6.2.1 The topsoil 200 in Trench 2 was c.0.33m thick and comprised firm dark brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles. The topsoil sealed c.0.17m thick mid brown silty clay with frequent sub-rounded pebbles, 201. The former soil sealed very firm and compact light orange brown silty clay 202 with frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles, identified as the natural geology.
- 6.2.2 The trench also contained one possible irregular furrow, [203], which was c.0.96m wide and 0.05m deep. It was not possible to differentiate between the overlying soil 201 and the furrow fill 204, suggesting they may be contemporary, and represent a component of the medieval ploughsoil.

6.3 Trench 3 (Figure 4)

6.3.1 The uppermost layer in Trench 3 consisted of 0.37m thick topsoil 300, a firm dark brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles. This sealed 0.15m thick deposit 301. Layer 301 was a firm mid brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles, sealing the natural geology 302, a very compact light to mid orange brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles.

6.4 Trench 4 (Figure 5)

- 6.4.1 Topsoil 400 in Trench 4 comprised c.0.2m thick very firm dark brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles. It sealed 401, a c.0.23m thick mid to light brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and flints, and four heavily abraded fragments of 12th to 13th century pottery. This overlay the natural geology 402, a compact light to mid orange brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles.
- 6.4.2 This trench contained three linear anomalies identified as probable furrows; two of which were truncated by later land drains. Possible furrow [403] was 0.08m deep and 1.05m wide and was cut by a trench containing a modern plastic land drain. No distinction could be made between furrow [403] fill 404 and the overlying former soil 401.

6.5 Trench 5 (Figure 6)

- 6.5.1 The uppermost deposit comprised loose and friable dark grey brown sandy silt topsoil with occasional small sub-rounded pebbles, 500. This sealed a 0.09m thick layer 501, a firm mid to light brown yellow sandy clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles. The natural geology 502 beneath this consisted of very compact light to mid orange brown silty clay with sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles.
- 6.5.2 A north to south aligned c.1.39m wide and 0.53m deep linear feature [503], with moderately steep sides and a flat base was recorded in this trench. This was cut by two land drain cuts and was filled with a silting deposit of sandy clay 504 similar to the overlying former ploughsoil 501. It may represent an earlier field boundary or drainage ditch.

6.6 Trench 6 (Figure 7)

- 6.6.1 The 0.23m thick topsoil 600 was very firm dark brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles. The layer 601 underneath was c.0.21m thick firm mid to light brown silty clay with frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles. It sealed the natural geology 602, mid grey and orange brown sandy clay with frequent sub-angular and sub-rounded pebbles.
- 6.6.2 A single east to west aligned furrow [603] was recorded in the trench. It was c.2.87m wide and 0.07m deep, and its fill 604 was similar to the overlying former soil 601. Two pieces of heavily abraded 12th to 13th century pottery were recovered from the fill, and a soil sample was found to contain a small number of charred cereal grains, hazelnut shell, charcoal, bone, burnt/fired clay and some coal fragments.

6.7 Trench 7 (Figure 8)

6.7.1 Topsoil 700 in the trench was c.0.26m thick and consisted of firm dark brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles. It sealed 0.13m thick former soil 701, a compact mid brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles. The

natural geology 702 comprised compact mid to light brown orange silty clay with frequent subrounded pebbles.

6.8 Trench 8 (Figure 9)

6.8.1 The 0.18m thick topsoil 800 was firm dark brown silty clay with occasional rounded pebbles. It sealed mid brown silty clay with occasional manganese flecks and frequent sub-rounded pebbles 801. The underlying natural geology 802 comprised very firm and compact light orange yellow brown slightly silty clay with frequent flint fragments and sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles.

6.9 Trench 9 (Figure 10)

- 6.9.1 Trench 9 was located in the farmyard to the west of the dairy field. The surface of the trench comprised tarmac 900, which sealed a former cobbled surface 901, over a hardcore levelling layer of firm mid orange yellow sandy gravel with limestone fragments and demolition material, 902. This sealed dark grey brown sandy clay with moderate charcoal and pebbles 903, identified as a re-worked former topsoil horizon.
- 6.9.2 Soil horizon 903 contained unabraded sherds of 8th to mid 9th century, 13th 14th century and mid 15th to mid 16th century pottery, along with roof tile fragments and animal bone, mainly cattle with some bird bones also noted.
- 6.9.3 At the south end of the trench layer 903 sealed a thin layer of firm dark grey brown silty clay with occasional small rounded pebbles, 915. This probable trample layer sealed the natural geology 904, compact light orange brown sandy clay with frequent manganese flecks, small limestone fragments and occasional pebbles.
- 6.9.4 An east west aligned wall foundation 905 crossed the middle of the trench. The cut for the wall, [906] was approximately 0.31m deep and appeared to have a layer of rounded stone cobbles along its base, mixed with compact light brown orange sandy clay 907. Overlying this were rough cut limestone blocks bonded with patches of mortar. A clear horizontal break between wall 905 and layer 903 with layer 902 above suggested that the wall may have been levelled immediately prior to the formation of layer 902.
- 6.9.5 The former wall overlay a broadly east west aligned linear feature, [912] which was c.0.25m deep with a 45° sloping southern edge and a flat base. This shallow ditch had naturally silted with dark brown/grey silty clay with some rounded pebbles and flints, and rare charcoal flecks, 913. It was noted that the ditch appeared to cut ephemeral trample layer 915 (see Section 6.9.3 above).
- 6.9.6 On the south edge of the ditch, but with an uncertain relationship, was shallow posthole [916]. The feature had steep sloping sides and a flat base, and its primary backfill, 918, comprised mid orange/yellow sandy silt with stone packing. A soil sample from the deposit contained some unidentified cereal grains, charcoal, minute fragments of bone, small coal fragments and mineralised faecal concretions. The secondary backfill 917 was dark grey/brown silty clay with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional fragments of limestone. A further sample was

recovered from this deposit, and this was found to contain similar inclusions, although wheat grains, mortar/plaster and small mammal or amphibian bones were also noted.

- 6.9.7 Immediately to the north of wall 905 and sealed beneath layer 903 was linear feature [908]. This 0.22m deep ditch had a gradually sloping southern edge and flat base and had silted up naturally with compact dark grey/brown sandy clay 909, which contained some charcoal flecks and occasional pebbles, along with four fragments of animal bone. A soil sample from the fill was found to contain charred cereal grains, including possibly rye, hazelnut shell, charcoal, animal, fish and small mammal bones, burnt/fired clay, mortar/plaster and coal fragments
- 6.9.8 Adjacent to the ditch, and possibly truncating it, was sub-rectangular pit [910]. The undated pit had steep sloping sides and a flat base, and had been backfilled with 911, a compact mottled dark brown sandy clay containing a proportion of redeposited natural.

7.0 Discussion

- 7.1 Trench 1 was positioned at the south-west corner of the proposed dairy field to investigate a series of linear anomalies believed to reflect medieval ridge and furrow ploughing. No archaeological deposits were encountered within the trench; however an intermittent soil horizon below the topsoil in the trench is likely to reflect the remnants of furrows.
- 7.2 Further to the north Trench 2 was also positioned to investigate possible ridge and furrow, along with a dipolar response (AAL 2011c, Anomaly [34]). Only a single shallow west-north-west to east-south-east aligned furrow was noted in the northern third of the trench, with others likely to have been confined to the former soil below the existing topsoil. The dipolar response at the southern end of the trench was not identified suggesting it may well have been a geological variation.
- 7.3 Immediately to the east of Trench 2 was Trench 3, which was again located to investigate a number of linear anomalies, including potential ridge and furrow. The trench did not expose any archaeological features, although it was noted that geophysical positive anomalies [31] and [32] were land drains (AAL 2011c).
- 7.4 Trench 4 was located towards the east end of the survey across a series of possible furrows and an area of concentrated dipolar response. A total of four furrows running east west were noted at the base of the former soil horizon, although the dipolar anomaly was not identified. Four sherds of very abraded 12th to 13th century pottery were recovered from the former soil within the trench.
- 7.5 Trench 5 was positioned at the south-east edge of the proposed dairy field, adjacent to the farm track, to investigate a series of alternating positive and negative magnetic anomalies from the geophysical survey. There was no evidence for ridge and furrows within the trench and the linear anomalies appear to reflect ceramic land drains leading downslope from a pond at the north-east corner of the site. The close proximity of the drains and their point of potential origin suggest that they may have been dug as an irrigation measure rather than drainage. In the western third of the trench there was an undated ditch running broadly north-north-east

to south-south-west. This was filled with material similar to the overlying former soil, so it may reflect a former field boundary that was infilled.

- 7.6 Running perpendicular to the farm track and towards the middle of the site was Trench 6, which was positioned to investigate a number of linear anomalies, believed to represent ridge and furrow, and several dipolar responses within the geophysical survey results. The dipolar responses were not identified and only one ephemeral furrow was exposed, suggesting others had most likely disappeared as a result of later ploughing. Several small pieces of abraded 12th to 13th century pottery were found within the furrow fill.
- 7.7 Trench 7 was positioned running broadly parallel with the main general linear trend of likely ridge and furrow running through the proposed dairy field. No archaeological deposits were encountered; although it was noted that anomaly [31] from the geophysical survey (AAL 2011c) was a ceramic land drain.
- 7.8 Running parallel and adjacent to the farm track was Trench 8. This did not identify any archaeological deposits of significance.
- 7.9 Trench 9 was positioned c.300m to the west of the other trenches, within the farmyard of Knaptoft Hall Farm and adjacent to a farm building that included presumed elements of the former Tudor mansion. The trench exposed a stone wall foundation running east west cutting a former soil that contained a small piece of 8th to mid 9th century Saxon pottery, along with an assemblage of mainly 13th to 14th century vessels and also mid/late 15th and mid 16th century material. The medieval soil horizon was found to seal several undated ditches, a pit and posthole that pre-date the stone wall but are likely to be broadly associated with the medieval activities in the area. Both the wall and former soil horizon appeared to have been truncated in the 18th to 19th century when a stone cobble yard surface was laid.

8.0 Conclusions

8.1 The Proposed Dairy Field

- 8.1.1 The trenching in the proposed dairy field broadly mirrored the results of the preceding geophysical survey (AAL 2011c). Below the topsoil was an intermittent former soil which is likely to be the remnants of a medieval ploughsoil associated with a number of ephemeral furrows.
- 8.1.2 Small quantities of abraded pottery recovered from the former ploughsoil and furrows suggests these fields were being manured in the 12th to 13th century, and they would have been part of the strip fields associated with the medieval settlement of Knaptoft to the west and south-west of the proposed development area.
- 8.1.3 A single ditch running north-north-east to south-south-west at the south-east corner of the site is likely to be a former field boundary. Although undated it is likely to be associated with the medieval field system and may have been allowed to silt up following enclosure in the 16th century.

8.2 The Farmyard

- 8.2.1 The earliest archaeological deposits identified within the trench positioned in the farmyard were several shallow ditches, a sub-rectangular pit and a posthole. Although undated it is deemed likely that they are associated with the Saxon and medieval village of Knaptoft, due to the location of the trench and because their fills were similar to overlying former soil (context 903). This former soil contained fresh pottery of 13th to 14th century and mid/late 15th to mid 16th century date, along with a small sherd from an 8th to mid 9th century vessel. The deposit is likely to have formed through the re-working of material and dumping of refuse within the boundaries of the former settlement; this was confirmed by the environmental samples that suggested the material may have included kitchen and hearth waste, mixed with animal and/or human waste, possibly from a midden.
- 8.2.2 Cutting this former soil was a stone wall foundation running east west that clearly follows the line of the Tudor wall that has been retained within an existing barn to the west. This wall is almost certainly an element of the manor built to replace an earlier complex by the Turpin family in the 16th century. Although this structure was believed to have been destroyed along with the parish church, by Cromwell's troops during the Civil War it would appear that elements of the structure survived.
- 8.2.3 In the 19th century parts of the ruinous structure were probably demolished to create the farm complex shown on contemporary mapping, with several walls incorporated into the farm buildings (AAL 2011a). The former is reflected in the truncation horizon shown between layers 902 and 903 in the trench. A cobbled surface was then created before tarmac was laid in the recent past.

9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

9.1 The archaeological evaluation methodology was appropriate to the nature and extent of the proposed development. It has demonstrated that the proposed dairy field lay within the agricultural zone of the former settlement. Later ploughing has largely truncated the former ridge and furrow however and as such the site is of limited archaeological interest. The trench within the farmyard has proven that elements of the Tudor manor did extend further eastwards beyond the existing wall, and earlier remains may be associated with the earlier manor and or settlement.

10.0 Acknowledgements

10.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Knaptoft Hall Farm Ltd for this commission and Landmark Planning for their assistance throughout the works.

11.0 References

AAL, 2011a, Specification for an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching: Knaptoft Hall Farm, Knaptoft, Leicestershire, Allen Archaeology Limited unpublished project document

AAL, 2011b, Archaeological desk-based assessment: Land at Knaptoft Hall Farm, Knaptoft, Leicestershire, Allen Archaeology Limited, report number 2011035

AAL, 2011c, Archaeological evaluation report: Geophysical survey by magnetometry on land at Knaptoft Hall Farm, Knaptoft, Leicestershire, Allen Archaeology Limited, report number 2011063

IfA, 1999 (revised 2001 and 2008), *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs*. Reading, Institute for Archaeologists

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General view of the site taken from the east side of the proposed dairy field, looking west

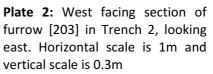


Plate 3: Trench 4 prior to excavation, looking south-south-west. Scales are 1m

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Plate 4: North-north-east facing section of ditch [503] in Trench 5, looking south-south-west. Horizontal scale is 2m and vertical scale is 0.3m



Plate 5: West-north-west facing section of furrow [603] in Trench 6, looking east-south-east. Horizontal scale is 2m and vertical scale is 0.3m



Plate 6: Trench 9 following excavation of deposit 903 in north half of the trench, looking south. Note stone foundation for wall in centre of trench. Horizontal T-scales are 1m and vertical scale is 0.3m



Plate 7: East facing section through ditch [912] in Trench 9, looking west. Scales are 1m

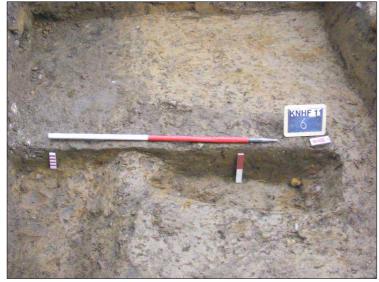


Plate 8: West facing section through ditch [908] and pit [910] in Trench 9, looking west. Horizontal scale is 1m, left vertical scale is 0.1m and right vertical scale is 0.2m

Appendix 2: Post-Roman Pottery Assessment

By Jane Young

Introduction

In total, twenty-four sherds of pottery representing nineteen vessels were submitted for examination. The pottery recovered probably ranges in date from the middle Saxon to late medieval to early post-medieval periods. The assemblage was quantified by three measures: number of sherds, weight and vessel count within each context. Fabric identification of the medieval pottery was undertaken by x20 binocular microscope. Reference has been made to the Leicestershire Pottery Type Series held at Leicester University. The ceramic data was entered on an Access database using Lincolnshire (Young *et al.*) fabric codenames with a concordance with Leicestershire codenames (see Table 1). Recording of the assemblage was in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, *et al.* (2001).

Condition

The pottery is in a very variable condition with highly abraded sherds coming from Trenches 4 and 6 whilst most of the pottery found in layer 903 in Trench 9 is in an exceptionally fresh condition. Several of the vessels recovered from layer 903 are freshly broken but were recovered without the joining fragments suggesting that although the presented sherds are of fairly large size they were even larger on deposition. Three vessels are represented by more than one sherd. No cross-context joins were noted.

Overall Chronology and Source

A range of nine different, identifiable pottery types were identified, the type and general date range for these fabrics are shown in Table 1. The pottery probably ranges in date from the middle Saxon to late medieval/early post-medieval periods. A limited range of form types is present, with most sherds coming from jugs, jars or bowls.

Lincolnshire codename	Leicestershire codename	Full name	Earliest date	Latest date	Total sherds	Total vessels
BRILL	MS	Brill/Boarstall- type wares	1250	1500	2	2
CHCOT1T	CC1	Chilvers Coton ware 1 type (Fabric A/Ai)	1200	1475	4	4
CIST	CW	Cistercian-type ware	1480	1650	6	2
LEILBGW	RS	Leicester Light-bodied Gritty ware	1200	1500	1	1
MP	MP1	Midlands Purple ware – Chilvers Coton type	1380	1600	1	1
PMAR	PM	Potters Marston	1100	1300	6	6
RMAX	SX	Southern Maxey-type ware	700	950	1	1
STANLY	LY1	Stanion/Lyveden ware – oolitic tempered	1150	1250	1	1
STANLY	LY2	Stanion/Lyveden ware – shell and quartz tempered	1150	1250	2	1

Table 1: Ceramic codenames and date ranges with total quantities by sherd count

The pottery was recovered from five different contexts within in three trenches on the site. The largest group was recovered from layer 903 in Trench 9. The pottery from this deposit forms a complex group of material. The composition suggests that it incorporates primary deposition of at least two periods. With two exceptions, all of the vessels in this deposit are represented by large fragments in a fresh condition. A

single small shell-tempered sherd in the group is probably a middle Saxon Southern Maxey-type jar or bowl (RMAX) of 8th to mid 9th century date. Seven of the vessels are medieval products of 13th to 14th century date. These include Chilvers Coton jugs, a jar and an internally glazed jar or bowl; an oolitic-tempered Stanion/Lyveden decorated jug (STANLY); a shell-tempered Stanion/Lyveden bowl (STANLY) and a reduced sand-tempered jar (LEILBGW). Two Brill/Boarstall jars (BRILL) can only be generally dated to between the 13th and 15th centuries and could belong either with the medieval group or the three late medieval to early post-medieval vessels. The three later vessels comprise a large Midlands Purple ware (MP) bowl and two Cistercian ware (CIST) vessels, probably dating to between the mid/late 15th and mid 16th centuries.

All of the sherds recovered from Trenches 4 (subsoil 401) and 6 (possible furrow 603) are in a poor condition. The five vessels are all of 12th to 13th century Potters Marston-type and appear to have been heavily plough damaged.

Saxon

A small sherd in a dense fine-shelled fabric including punctate brachiopod is most probably from a Southern Maxey-type ware jar or bowl (RMAX). This handmade type probably spans the period between the 8th and mid 9th centuries and is an uncommon find in Leicestershire.

Medieval

Fifteen vessels are of medieval type. Three of the six Potters Marston vessels (PMAR) can be identified as jars; the other two sherds could come from jars or bows. All six sherds are heavily abraded and none of the vessels are chronologically significant. Such vessels can only be generally dated to within the 12th or 13th centuries. Potters Marston is the dominant ceramic type to be used in the Leicester area from the later 12th to the mid/late 13th centuries, although it may have originated in the latter part of the 11th century and has been discussed in detail elsewhere (Sawday 1991 and Davies and Sawday 1999, 169-174).

Four sherds are of Chilvers Coton type (CHCOT1T) and include two plain medium-sized jugs, an unglazed jar and a jar or bowl with an internal glaze. The sherds are in three different fabrics but all fall within the type classified as Fabric CC1 in the Leicester Type Series, which is discussed as Fabrics A and Ai by Mayes and Scott (1984, 41). This type is the main wheel thrown sandy ware found in Leicester in 13th century deposits (Davies and Sawday 1999, 177-8) but continues in use into the 14th century.

A single handmade Oolitic-tempered Stanion/Lyveden-type jug sherd has a thick light green glaze over a white slip (STANLY). The jug is decorated with applied vertical strips and can only be dated to between the 13th and 14th centuries. Two sherds from a single bowl with an upright rim are in a Stanion/Lyveden shelly-sandy fabric (STANLY). The vessel probably dates to between the 12th and 14th centuries.

A single handmade sherd in a coarse reduced light firing quartz-tempered fabric (LEILBGW) is from a jar of probable 13th to 14th century date.

A rim and a body sherd from layer 903 are in a Brill/Boarstall-type fabric (BRILL). Both vessels are unglazed and can only be generally dated to between the 13th and 15th centuries.

Late Medieval to Early Post-Medieval

Three vessels are of late medieval to early post-medieval date.

A large bowl in Midlands Purple ware (MP) is probably a Chilvers Coton product but is also similar to some vessels produced at Ticknall. It is only possible to suggest a 15th to 16th century date for this vessel. Six sherds are from two Cistercian ware vessels (CIST). A rim sherd is from a small posset pot whilst the other five body sherds are from a single small cup decorated with white clay pads. Similar vessels were produced at several centres in the east Midlands between the mid/late 15th and 16th centuries. The most likely sources for these vessels are Chilvers Coton or Ticknall.

Summary and Recommendations

The ceramic material recovered from this site suggests that there had possibly been activity in the area during the middle Saxon, medieval and late medieval to early post-medieval periods. The medieval sherds recovered from Trenches 4 and 6 probably represent medieval manuring during the 12th or 13th centuries. The later pottery in an exceptionally fresh condition found in layer 903, is harder to interpret. There is no doubt that it represents disturbed primary deposits of at lest two periods as well as including a small middle Saxon sherd. The composition of the very small medieval group from layer 903 hints at a relatively affluent household.

The assemblage is in a stable condition and should be kept for future study.

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Post-Roman Pottery Archive List

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903 CIST CW small cup 5 1 25 applied white BS fresh condition,fresh breaks with no mid/late 15th to 16th clay pads in joining sherds										•	
clay pads in joining sherds				-		1				soot;leached int surface;poss ? ID	
	903	CIST	CW	small cup 5	1		25		BS	-	mid/late 15th to 16th
sets of 4 (+)										joining sherds	
								sets of 4 (+)			

Appendix 3: Ceramic Building Material Archive

By Jane Young

Context	Cname	Full name	Fabric	Frags	Weight	Description	Date	
902	PANT	Pantile	light OX/light R/light OX fine	1	156	mortar incl broken edges	19th to 20th	
902	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	light oxid fine sandy	1	377	flat roofer;mortar incl broken edges	19th to 20th	
902	BRK	Brick	coarse oxid	1	413	69mm thick;mortar;	early modern	19th to 20th
903	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	bright oxid fine sandy	1	50	flat roofer;mortar incl over broken edges	post-medieval to ear	rly modern
903	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	dull oxid/R/dull oxid fine sandy	1	43	flat roofer;mortar	late medieval to earl	y modern
903	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	dull oxid/R/dull oxid fine sandy	1	13	flat roofer ?	late medieval to earl	y modern
903	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	dull oxid fine sandy	1	10	flake	medieval to early mo	odern
903	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	oxid fine sandy	1	153	flat roofer;corner;mortar incl over broken edges;micaceous fabric	post medieval to ear	ly modern
903	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	oxid fine sandy	1	66	flat roofer;flake	post medieval to ear	ly modern
903	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	oxid fine sandy	1	50	flat roofer;mortar	post medieval to ear	ly modern

Appendix 4: Animal Bone Assessment

By Jennifer Wood

Introduction

A total of 25 (607g) refitted fragments of animal bone were recovered during archaeological works undertaken by Allen Archaeology Ltd at Knaptoft Hall Farm, Knaptoft, Leicestershire. The animal bone assemblage was recovered from a series of features within Trench 9; made ground layer 903, possible ditch [908] and pit [916].

Results

The remains were of a good overall condition, averaging at grade 2 on the Lyman criteria (1996).

A total of two fragments of bone recovered from 909 and 917 displayed evidence of carnivore gnawing. The lack of gnawing on the rest of the remains may suggest that they were rapidly buried, reducing the access for scavengers.

No evidence of butchery, pathology or burning was noted on any of the remains.

Cut	Context	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	Weight	Comments
		Cattle	Mandible	L	1	24	Diastama fragment
		Cattle	Mandible	R	1	54	Diastama fragment, with incisors
		Large Mammal Size	Rib	Х	1	3	Blade fragment
		Cattle	Carpal/Tarsal	Х	1	6	Fragment
		Large Mammal Size	Scapula	L	1	10	Blade fragment with spinous process
		Cattle	Ulna	R	1	14	Shaft fragment
		Large Mammal Size	Long Bone	Х	6	44	Shaft fragment
N/A	903	Cattle	Tibia	L	1	82	Lateral side of the shaft
		Domestic Fowl	Humerus	L	1	3	Juvenile, unfused
		Bird	Long Bone	Х	2	1	Shaft fragments
		Domestic Fowl	Tibio-tarsus	L	1	1	Female, medullary bone, distal shaft fragment
		Bird	Tarso- metatarsus	R	1	1	Shaft fragment
		Unidentified	Unidentified	Х	2	1	
		Cattle	Humerus	R	1	172	Midshaft fragment, carnivore gnawing on the distal shaft
908	908 909	Pig	Mandible	R	1	84	Male, M3=a, M2=e
		Large Mammal Size	Innominate	L	1	86	Illium, broken into 6 fragments
		Large Mammal Size	Long Bone	Х	1	5	Shaft fragment
916	917	Sheep/Goat	Radius	L	1	16	In two pieces, Bp=29mm, Carnivore tooth mark on the proximal end.

Table 1, Summary of Identified Bone

As can be seen from Table 1, Cattle remains are predominant within the assemblage, followed by domestic fowl (*Gallus sp.*) sheep/goat and pig.

The assemblage is too small to provide meaningful information on animal husbandry and utilisation on site, save the presence of the animals/remains on site. The skeletal element representation would suggest that the remains represent a mixture of domestic food waste and butchery discard. Due to the general abundance of remains, the main focus of activity on site is centred on Trench 9.

In the event of future works, the site is liable to produce further remains of a similar condition with a good to moderate potential to provide further information of the animal husbandry and utilisation for the site.

References

Lyman, R L, 1996 *Vertebrate Taphonomy*, Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge

Appendix 5: Other Finds Assessment

By Kevin Trott

The Iron Objects

Three iron nails and a plate fragment were recovered from former soil 903 in Trench 9, overlying the natural geology 904 and abutting wall foundation 905.

The artefacts included a square heavily corroded shank of one nail that was 4.5cm long and a slightly corroded square headed and shank iron nail (5.5cm in length). The third nail and plate fragment were heavily corroded and no measurements were possible.

The ironwork is currently in a stable condition and requires no immediate conservation.

The Glass Objects

A large base and smaller body fragment from a dark green wine bottle of late 17th or early 18th century date, weighing 33g combined, was recovered from subsoil 501 in Trench 5.

The glass shows signs of iridescence and slight marbling characteristic of glass containing potash. Currently the glass is in a stable condition and requires no immediate conservation.

Worked Stone

A single fragment of stone was recovered from made ground 903 in Trench 9. This fragment of stone weighed 781g derives from a Millstone Grit quern or mill stone that has been slightly burnt.

The iron objects, glass and worked stone are generally of little further interest so it is not recommended they are retained within the archive.

Appendix 6: Palaeoenvironmental Assessment

By Val Fryer

Introduction and Method Statement

Evaluation excavations at Knaptoft, undertaken by Allen Archaeology Ltd, recorded the foundation trench and other discrete features associated with a manorial building of Tudor date. Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossils assemblages were taken, and four were submitted for assessment.

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots, leaf fragments, seeds and arthropod remains were also recorded.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and sorted when dry. Artefacts were scarce, but fragments of pottery and some ferrous residues were retained for further specialist analysis.

Results

Cereal grains were present at a low to moderate density within all four samples. Preservation was generally quite poor, with a high proportion of the grains being puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures. Wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were predominant, but a single possible specimen of rye (*Secale cereale*) was noted within the assemblage from sample 1 (context [909]), and the same sample also contained what appeared to be a cotyledon fragment of an indeterminate large pulse (Fabaceae). Individual bread wheat (*T. aestivum/compactum*) type rachis nodes were present with samples 1 and 4 (context [604]). Weed seeds were absent, but samples 1 and 4 did contain single fragments of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell. Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present throughout. However, it was noted that most were rounded and abraded, possibly indicating that they had been exposed for some time prior to burial.

All four assemblages contained moderate densities of coal fragments along with pieces of black porous and tarry material. Bone fragments were also recorded along with small pieces of mineralised faecal material.

Conclusions and Recommendations for Further Work

Although the assemblages are small (all <0.1 litres in volume), their composition is consistent with their being derived from small quantities of mixed refuse including hearth waste, possible kitchen detritus and either animal dung or human ordure. As some remains appear weathered, it is assumed that this refuse was dumped on a midden prior to either systematic deposition or accidental inclusion within any surrounding features.

Although the current assemblages are somewhat limited, they clearly illustrate that plant macrofossils, some of which are reasonably well preserved, are present within the archaeological horizon at Knaptoft. Therefore, if further interventions are planned, it is strongly recommended that additional plant macrofossil samples of approximately 20 – 40 litres in volume are taken from all dated features which are

recorded during excavation. Analysis of these samples would provide a rare opportunity to study the plant macrofossil assemblages from features within a Tudor manorial setting.

Reference

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

Key to Table

x = 1 - 10 specimens xx = 11 - 50 specimens xxx = 51 - 100 specimens xxx = 100+ specimens cf = compare fg = fragment b = burnt ss = sub-sample

Sample No.	1	2	3	4
Context No.	909	917	918	604
Cereals and other food plants				
Secale cereale L. (grain)	xcf			
Triticum sp. (grains)	ХХ	х		х
T. aestivum/compactum type (rachis nodes)	х			х
Cereal indet. (grains)	XX	х	х	х
Large Fabaceae indet.	xcffg			
Tree/shrub macrofossils				
Corylus avellana L.	х			х
Other plant macrofossils				
Charcoal <2mm	XXXX	ХХХ	xx	ХХ
Charcoal >2mm	XXX	XX	х	
Charcoal >5mm	х			
Charred root/stem	х		х	х
Indet.bud	х			
Indet.seeds	х			х
Other remains				
Black porous 'cokey' material	XX	х		х
Black tarry material	х			х
Bone	х	хх	x xb	х
Burnt/fired clay	х			х
Fish bone	х			
Mineralised faecal concretions		х	х	
Mortar/plaster	х	х		
Small coal frags.	ХХ	xx	xx	хх
Small mammal/amphibian bones	х	х		
Vitreous material	х			
Sample volume (litres)	28ss	16	14	28ss
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%

Appendix 7: Context Summary List

CBM = Ceramic Building Material (e.g. brick and tile)

Trench 1

Context	Туре	Description	Interpretation
100	Layer	Moderately firm and slight friable brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and rare modern glass, seals 101	Topsoil
101	Layer	Firm light brown silty clay with moderate rounded and sub-rounded pebbles, sealed by 100, seals 102	Former ploughsoil
102	Layer	Very firm light orange brown slight sandy clay with manganese flecks and moderate stone pebbles, sealed by 101	Natural geology

Trench 2

Context	Туре	Description	Interpretation
200	Layer	Very firm and friable dark brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles, seals 201	Topsoil
201	Layer	Firm mid brown silty clay with frequent sub-rounded pebbles, sealed by 200, seals 202	Former ploughsoil
202	Layer	Very firm and compact light orange brown silty clay with frequent natural sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles, sealed by 201	Natural geology
203	Cut?	Irregular, very shallow E-W aligned truncated linear with flat base, contains 204	Furrow
204	Fill?	Firm mid brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles	Natural silting of [203]

Trench 3

Context	Туре	Description	Interpretation
300	Layer	Very firm and friable dark brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles, seals 301	Topsoil
301	Layer	Firm mid brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles, sealed by 300, seals 302	Former ploughsoil
302	Layer	Very compact light to mid orange brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles	Natural geology

Trench 4

Context	Туре	Description	Interpretation
400	Layer	Very firm and friable dark brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles, seals 401	Topsoil
401	Layer	Firm mid to light brown silty clay with occasional sub- rounded pebbles and natural flint fragments, sealed by 400, seals 402	Former ploughsoil
402	Layer	Very compact light to mid orange brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles	Natural geology
403	Cut	Very shallow E-W aligned linear with flat base, contains 404	Furrow
404	Fill	Firm mid to light brown silty clay with occasional sub- rounded pebbles and natural flint fragments	Natural silted fill of [403]

Trench 5

Context	Туре	Description	Interpretation
500	Layer	Loose and friable dark grey brown sandy silt with rare	Topsoil
		small sub rounded pebbles, seals 501	
501	Layer	Firm mid to light brown yellow sandy clay with occasional sub rounded pebbles, sealed by 500, seals 502	Former ploughsoil
502	Layer	Very compact light to mid orange brown silty clay with sub rounded and sub angular pebbles, sealed by 501	Natural geology
503	Cut	N-S aligned linear with steep sloping sides and flat base, contains 504	Possible boundary ditch
504	Fill	Dark friable clay with occasional rounded pebbles	Natural silted fill of ditch [503]

Trench 6

Context	Туре	Description	Interpretation
600	Layer	Very firm and friable dark brown sity clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles, seals 601	Topsoil
601	Layer	Firm mid to light brown silty clay with sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles, sealed by 600, seals 602	Former ploughsoil
602	Layer	Very compact mid grey and orange brown sandy clay with frequent sub-angular and sub-rounded pebbles, sealed by 601	Natural geology
603	Cut	Very shallow possible E-W linear with flat base, contains 604	Possible furrow
604	Fill	Very compact mid brown silty clay with frequent sub- rounded and sub-angular pebbles, rare occurrence of pot	Fill of [603]

Trench 7

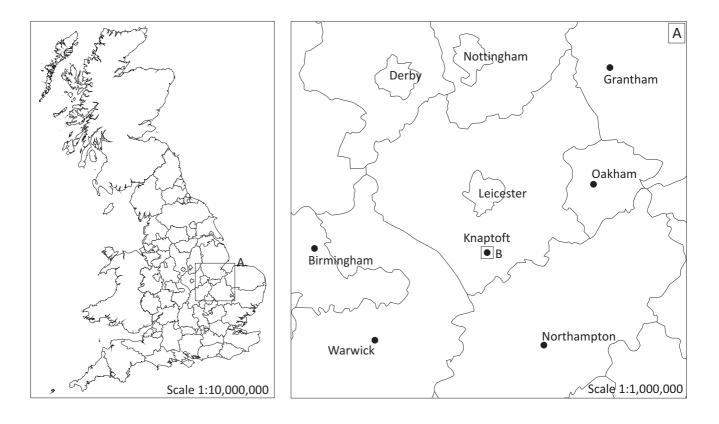
Context	Туре	Description	Interpretation
700	Layer	Very firm and friable dark brown silty clay with occasional sub rounded and sub angular stone pebbles, seals 701	Topsoil
701	Layer	Very compact and friable mid brown silty clay with occasional sub rounded and sub angular pebbles, sealed by 700, seals 702	Former ploughsoil
702	Layer	Very compact mid to light brown orange silty clay with frequent sub rounded and sub angular pebbles, sealed by 701	Natural geology

Trench 8

Context	Туре	Description	Interpretation
800	Layer	Firm dark brown silty clay with occasional rounded pebbles, seals 801	Topsoil
801	Layer	Firm mid brown silty clay with occasional manganese flecks and frequent sub-rounded pebbles, sealed by 800, seals 802	Former ploughsoil
802	Layer	Very firm and compact light orange yellow brown slight silty clay with frequent natural flint fragments and sub- rounded and sub-angular pebbles	Natural geology

Trench 9

Context	Туре	Description	Interpretation
900	Layer	Tarmac, seals 901	Yard surface
901	Layer	Firm dark brown sandy silt with unsorted rounded cobbles, sealed by 901, seals 902	Former yard surface
902	Layer	Firm to friable mid orange yellow sandy gravel with limestone fragments and demolition material, sealed by 901, seals 903	Hardcore levelling layer
903	Layer	Dark grey brown sandy clay with moderate charcoal, stone pebbles, sealed by 902, seals 915	Soil build up
904	Layer	Firm light orange brown sandy clay with frequent manganese like flecks, small limestone fragments and occasional pebbles, sealed by 915	Natural geology
905	Structure	2m wide lime bonded limestone wall foundation, one course	Wall foundation within cut [906]
906	Cut	E-W linear with steep sides and flat base, contains 907 and 905	Construction cut for wall foundation 905
907	Fill	Firm light brown orange sandy clay with rounded stone pebbles or small cobbles	Infill of construction cut [906]
908	Cut	E-W linear with moderate steep sides and round tapered base, contains 909	Cut of ditch
909	Fill	Firm dark grey brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks and fragments, occasional rounded pebbles, flint fragments, bone and pot	Silting of ditch [908]
910	Cut	Sub-rectangular feature with steep sloping sides and flat base, contains 911	Cut of pit
911	Fill	Firm mottled dark brown sandy clay with re-deposited natural and occasional charcoal	Backfill of pit
912	Cut	E-W linear with steep sloping sides and concave base, contains 913	Cut of ditch
913	Fill	Dark brown grey sandy silty clay with rare charcoal flecks, moderate water worn pebbles and natural flint fragments	Natural silted fill of ditch [912]
914	Void		
915	Layer	Firm dark grey brown silty clay with occasional small rounded pebbles, sealed by 903, seals 904	Trampled ground
916	Cut	Sub circular feature with moderately sharp sides and slight undulating base, contains 917	Cut of pit
917	Fill	Firm dark grey brown silty clay with moderate charcoal flecks and rare small angular limestone fragments	Backfill of pit
918	Fill	Firm mid orange yellow sandy silt with frequent sub- angular limestone fragments occasional pebbles	Infill of pit [916]



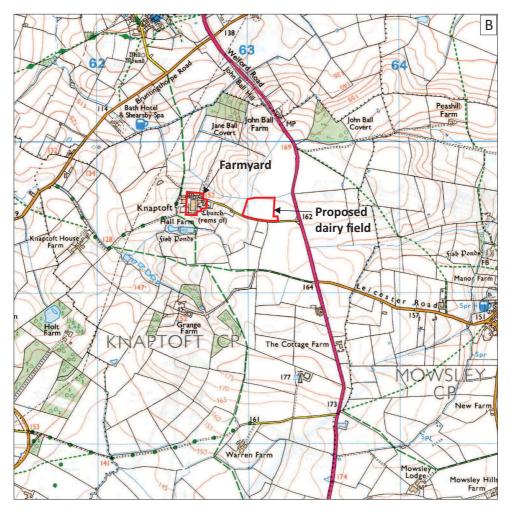


Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25,000, with the investigation areas outlined in red ©Crown Copyright 2006. All rights reserved. License Number 100047330

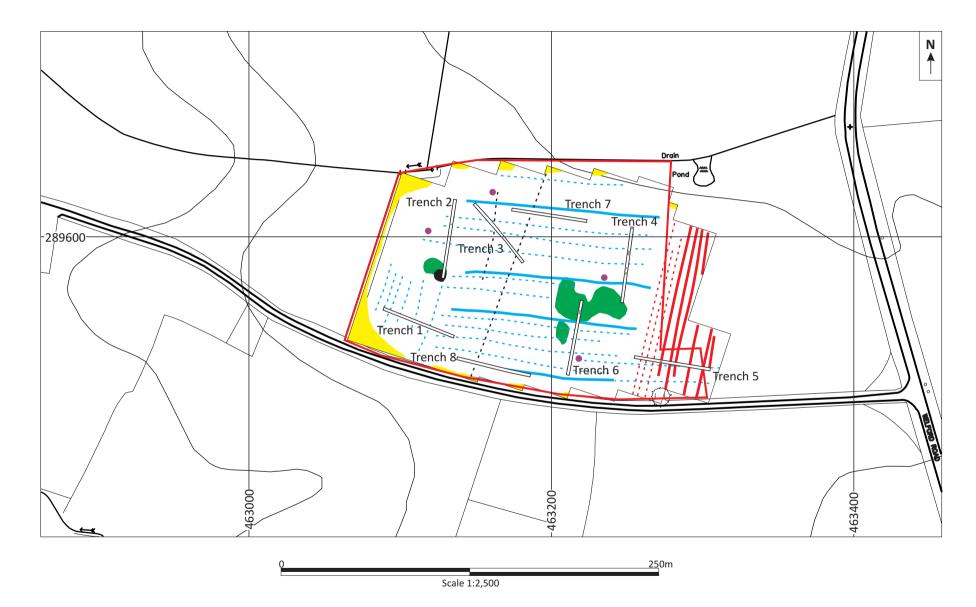
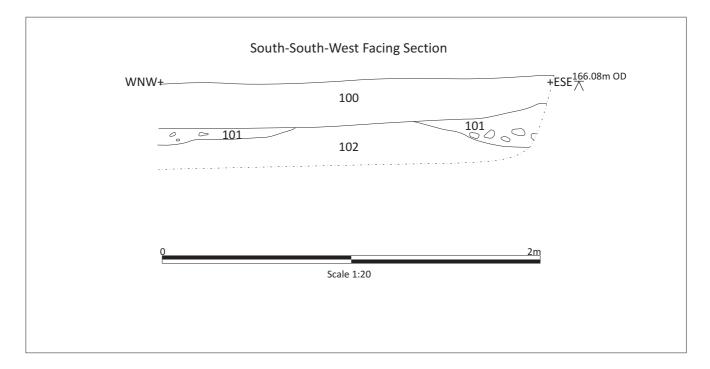


Figure 2: The proposed dairy field with geophysical survey interpretation at scale 1:2500. Trenches are shown outlined in black and archaeological deposits in grey





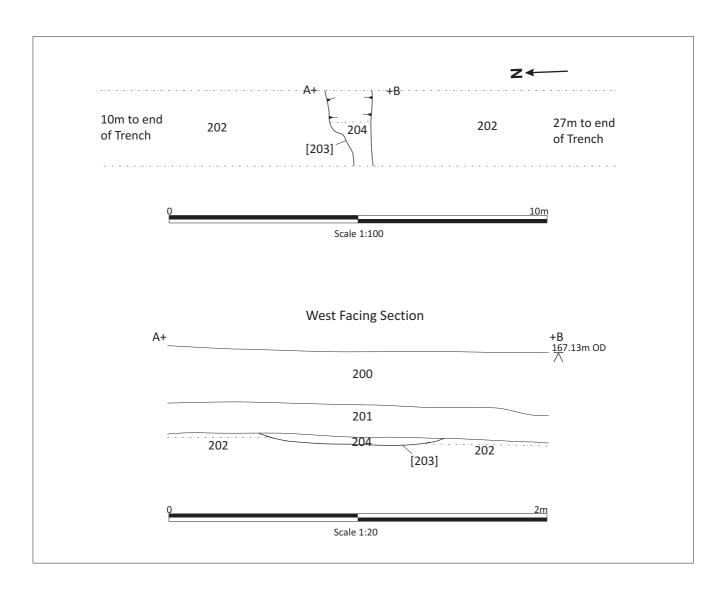


Figure 4: Trench 2 plan at scale 1:100 and representative section at scale 1:20

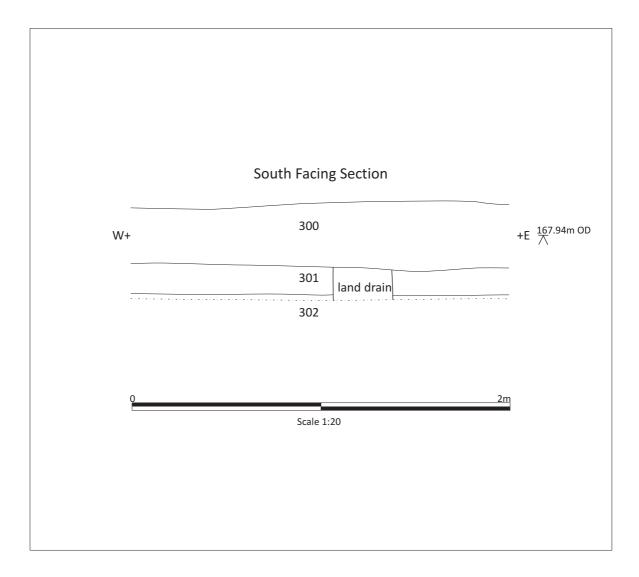
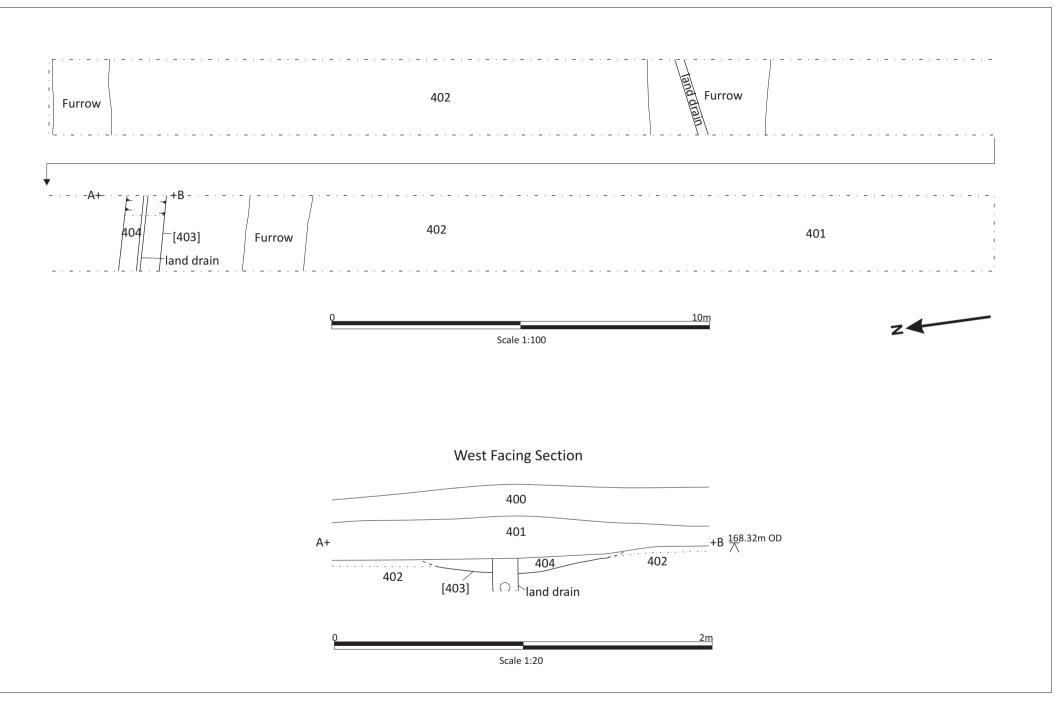
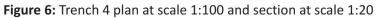


Figure 5: Trench 3 representative section at scale 1:20





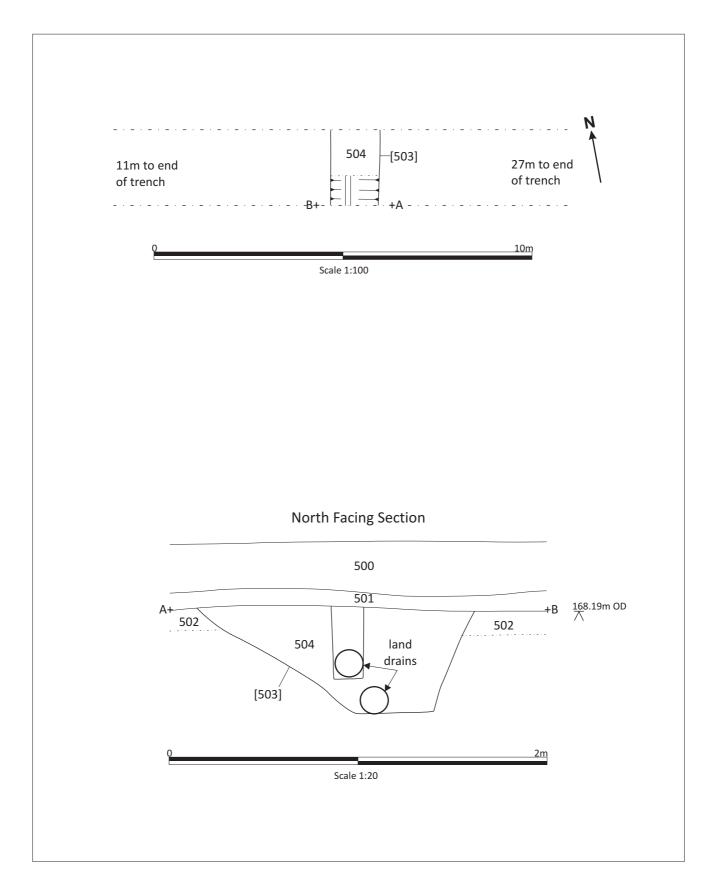


Figure 7: Plan of Trench 5 at scale 1:100 and section at scale 1:20

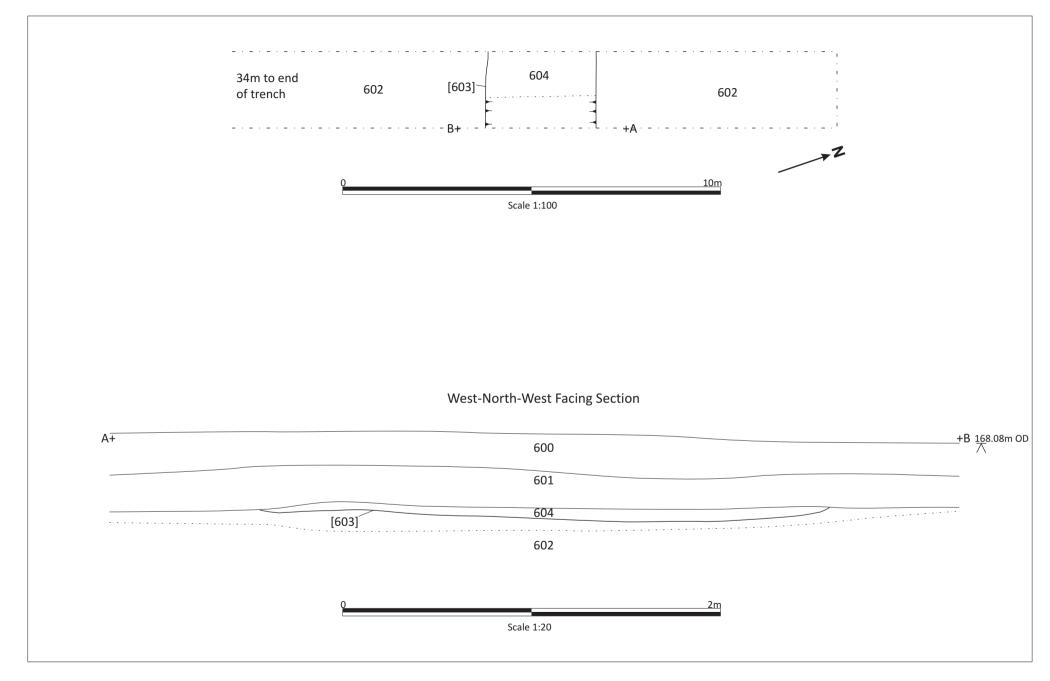


Figure 8: Plan of Trench 6 at scale 1:100 and section at scale 1:20

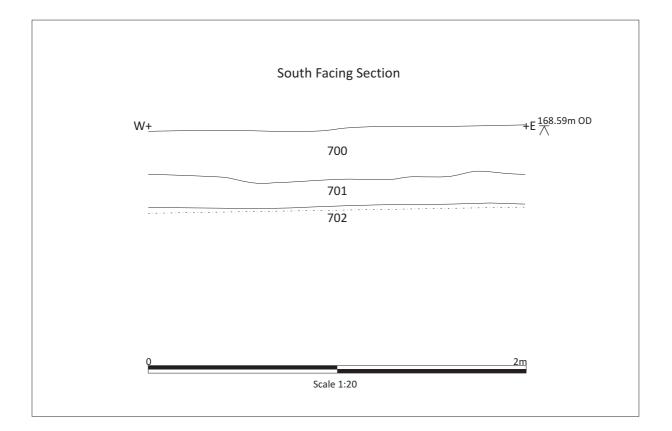


Figure 9: Trench 7 representative section at scale 1:20

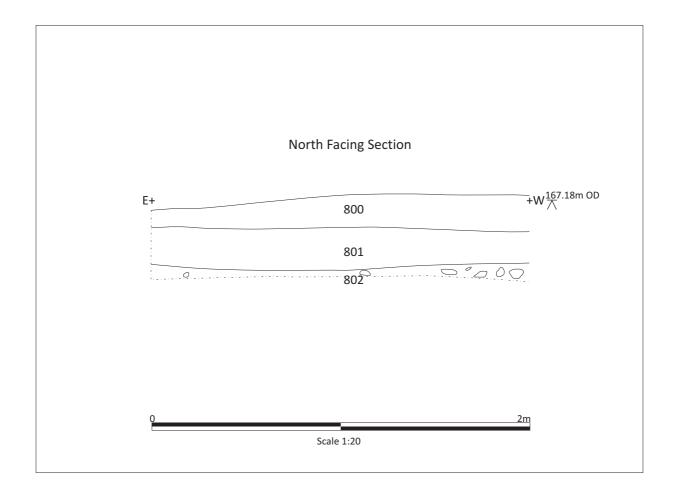


Figure 10: Trench 8 representative section at scale 1:20



Figure 11: The Farmyard with trench outlined in red at scale 1:500. Former wall foundation shown in grey and archaeological features in black

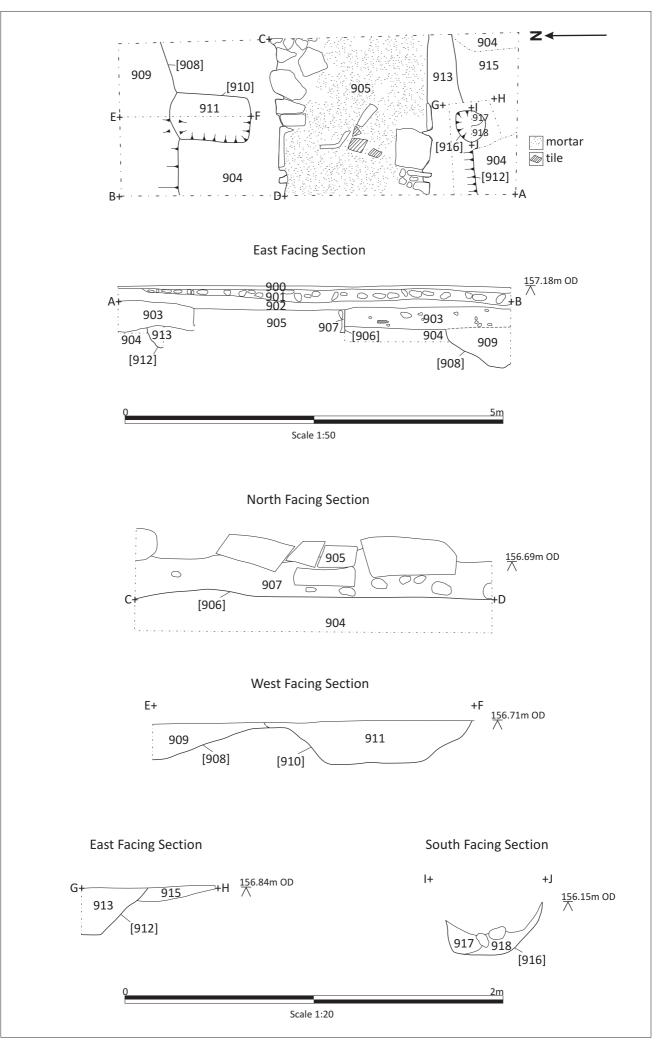


Figure 12: Trench 9 plan and section A-B at scale 1:50 and sections C-D to I-J at scale 1:20



Allen Archaeology Limited Website: www.allenarchaeology.co.uk

Company Registered in England and Wales No: 6935529

Lincoln Unit 1C Branston Business Park Lincoln Road Branston Lincolnshire LN4 1NT Birmingham Arion Business Centre Harriet House 118 High Street Birmingham B23 6BG

Tel/Fax: +44 (0) 800 610 2545 Email: birmingham@allenarchaeology.co.uk **Cambridge** Wellington House East Road

Cambridge

CB1 1BH

Tel/Fax: +44 (0) 800 610 2550 Email: cambridge@allenarchaeology.co.uk Southampton

International House Southampton International Business Park George Curl Way Southampton SO18 2RZ

Tel: +44 (0) 800 610 2555 Email: southampton@allenarchaeology.co.uk

Tel/Fax: +44 (0) 1522 794400 Email: info@allenarchaeology.co.uk