

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, PLAN AND SAMPLE:
56 THE SPITAL, CASTLE DONINGTON, LEICESTERSHIRE**

Planning Application: 07/01389/FUL

NGR: SK 4444 2779

AAL Site Code: CADO 10

Leicestershire Museum Arts and Record Service Accession Number: X.A178.2010

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Report prepared for
Mr Gary Johnson

By
Allen Archaeology Limited
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Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Mr Gary Johnson to undertake an archaeological strip, plan and sample scheme on land off The Spittal in Castle Donington, Leicestershire in advance of the construction of a new dwelling.
- Prehistoric settlement evidence has been identified to the north of the development area, and the site lies within the precinct of the former medieval hospital of St. John the Evangelist, founded in *c.*1190.
- An initial trial trench was excavated within the footprint of the building, exposing features of archaeological interest. The excavation area was subsequently expanded to cover the footprint of the proposed new dwelling.
- The stripped area exposed a phase of medieval activity dated by small amounts of pottery to the 13th to 14th century, and comprising two ditches, a pit, a possible yard surface or path, the base of a truncated stone wall, and a square stone structure containing abundant waste lead suggesting the structure may have been a workshop. This structure had been subject to robbing of stone at a later, unknown date.
- The medieval activity was sealed by a build up of soil, suggesting a prolonged period of abandonment until a further sequence of soil horizons containing 17th to 20th century pottery were recorded.
- A number of undated small pits and postholes were also recorded as well as a ceramic land drain and a modern service.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Mr Gary Johnson to carry out an archaeological strip, plan and sample on land off The Spittal, Castle Donington, Leicestershire in advance of the construction of a new dwelling.
- 1.2 The excavation, 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), English Heritage documents '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (English Heritage 2006) and '*Management of Archaeological Projects*' (English Heritage 1991), a brief prepared by the Leicestershire County Council Historic and Natural Environment Team (HNET 2010), and a specification prepared by this company (AAL 2010).
- 1.3 The documentary and physical archive will be submitted to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Record Service for long-term storage, and will be stored under the museum accession number X.A178.2010

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Castle Donington is located in the administrative district of the North West Leicestershire District Council, approximately 26.5km north-north-west of central Leicester. The proposed development is situated in the historic core of the settlement, on the north side of The Spittal. The site lies at approximately 35m above Ordnance Datum, and is centred on NGR SK 4444 2779.
- 2.2 The local geology comprises a superficial colluvial head deposit of clay, silt, sand and gravel, overlying bedrock geology of Morridge Formation mudstone, siltstone and sandstone (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/home.html?Accordion1=1#maps>).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 Full planning permission was granted for the construction of a single two storey dwelling on land at 56 The Spittal, Castle Donington (Planning Application Reference 07/01389/FUL). The application was granted subject to conditions, including a programme of archaeological investigation and reporting to characterise the nature of the archaeological resource in the development area. This approach is consistent with the guidelines that are set out in Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS 5) (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The proposed development area lies in an area of some archaeological potential. Approximately 800m to the north at Willow Farm excavations identified a single pit containing Grooved Ware pottery and flints of Late Neolithic/Bronze Age date (Knight and Howard 2004a). The site also exposed a burnt mound in an abraded palaeochannel of the River Trent, with radiocarbon dates from the silting of the channels ranging from 1740 – 830 BC. Evidence on the site also suggested settlement activity extending into the Late Bronze Age, with at least one post-built

roundhouse being recorded, as well as numerous others pits and postholes (Knight and Howard 2004b).

- 4.2 A single Roman coin has been found off Bondgate, c.400m to the east-south-east (Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (hereafter LHER) Reference MLE8036).
- 4.3 The excavations at Willow Farm also identified evidence for settlement activity in the Anglo-Saxon period (Elliot et. al. 2004). By the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086, land in Castle Donington was part of an estate owned by Countess Aelfgifu, which included a mill, and was populated by 46 villagers of varying status along with their dependents, and a priest. Earl Hugh also owned land in the parish, which was a jurisdiction of an estate in Barrow upon Soar (Williams and Martin 2002).
- 4.4 Approximately 400m to the east-south-east is the castle that gives the settlement its name. It was built in the 12th century, and was destroyed in 1215 and rebuilt soon after. By 1565 however it was said to be in a ruinous state and in 1595 much of the stone was taken by William Hastings for his house at Donington Park. Only small elements of the castle now survive, built into the boundary walls of surrounding properties (LHER Reference MLE4435).
- 4.5 The site lies within the precinct of the former medieval hospital of St. John the Evangelist, founded by John Baron Haulton c.1190 and dissolved at the time of the Dissolution under Henry VIII. In 1790 the hospital buildings were extant but ruinous, as noted by Throsby “*I visited the old ruined chapel below the hill into which I went for shelter from the rough winds; but was soon glad to absent myself, fearful it might fall on me*” (Hartley 1984).
- 4.6 Structures associated with the hospital have been excavated c.50m to the north (LHER Reference MLE4440). Earthworks of enclosures and fishponds have also been recorded c.100m to the north of the site, cut into earlier medieval ridge and furrow earthworks (LHER Reference MLE4441 and Hartley 1984, Figures 18 and 19). The nearby dwelling of 52 The Spittal still retains a medieval wooden cruck frame within its southern wall, possibly relating to former structures associated with the hospital (LHER Reference MLE11407). Number 60 The Spittal is also a probable medieval structure associated with the former hospital, although altered in the 20th century (LHER Reference MLE17560).

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 In line with the brief prepared by the Leicestershire County Council Historic and Natural Environment Team (HNET 2010), an initial exploratory trial trench measuring approximately 3.5m by 1.6m was excavated within the footprint of the proposed dwelling. This was carried out by the author on Thursday 4th November 2010. The works were then temporarily suspended and the trench backfilled to allow for the demolition of the garage that occupied the site. An area was then stripped that was broadly equivalent to the footprint of the new dwelling, within the constraints of the very limited space available on site. This work was carried out by a team of two experienced field archaeologists over a period of two days; Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th November 2010.
- 5.2 Machine excavation was carried out using a wheeled JCB excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket, excavating the modern overburden layers under close archaeological supervision until the first archaeological horizon was encountered.

- 5.3 All exposed plan and section surfaces within the trench and subsequent excavation area were examined for any archaeological features and deposits in order to determine the stratigraphic sequence. Context information was recorded for each individual deposit on standard Allen Archaeology Limited context record sheets, and sections showing archaeological deposits were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and located on a 1:50 base plan. A photographic record was maintained throughout the fieldwork, with selected shots included as an appendix to this report (see Appendix 1).
- 5.4 Each deposit, layer, cut and structure was allocated a unique identifier (context number) and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 7. Three digit numbers within square brackets reflect cut features (e.g. ditch [112]).

6.0 Results

- 6.1 The uppermost deposit was a 0.40m thick modern overburden of very dark brown sandy silt, 101 containing frequent modern demolition material, probably deposited during construction of the former garage. It sealed a topsoil of very dark greyish-brown silty sand, 102, which was only apparent in the southern half of the trench. Two post-medieval Brown Glazed Earthenware sherds were recovered from this layer along with a single cattle femur. To the north it gradually tapered out and sealed layer 134, dark yellowish-brown silty sandy clay, 134. Layers 102 and 134 were cut by two broadly east – west aligned linear features; modern service trench [115] and ceramic land drain cut [132].
- 6.2 In the north-east corner of the excavated area a large steep sided feature [130] was exposed, and identified as either a pit or a ditch terminus. It was filled with a black clinker rich fill, 131 with occasional melted glass fragments, coal and 19th century transfer printed sherds. Adjacent undated pit [124] was sub-oval in plan with concave sides and flat base and contained very dark brown sandy silt, 125 with gravel inclusions. It was only observed following machining and as such its relationship to the overlying layers was not clear.
- 6.3 Two further undated discrete features, postholes [117] and [120] were sealed by layers 102 and 134. Both post voids were circular in plan and filled with identical deposits of very dark brown silty sand, 118 and 121 respectively.
- 6.4 Beneath deposits 102 and 134 was a 0.4m thick dark grey-brown silty sand layer 106/135. This in turn sealed 122, a spread of mortared limestone rubble extending west from the eastern limit of excavation. The spread was approximately 1m wide and was truncated to the north by land drain cut [132]. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the cleaning of this rubble spread, assigned context number 123. The artefactual material included 18th to 19th century pottery and brick, and is likely to be a result of material disturbed from the machine excavation of the upper layers. The southern edge of spread 122 sealed an east – west aligned ditch cut, [126], containing an undated fill of brown silty clay with inclusions of quartz pebbles, 127.
- 6.5 [126] truncated the northern end of a c.1.4m wide linear spread of brown sandy clay with frequent quartz pebbles, 114, which was approximately 0.1m thick. Another portion of this deposit was noted in the south-east corner of the excavated area, 136, where it was cut by an east – west aligned linear feature, [112], with steep sides and a flat base, measuring approximately 1m wide and 0.3m deep. The primary fill, 113 was dark brown silty sandy clay with frequent quartz pebbles and charcoal inclusions. This was overlain by dark yellowish-

brown silty sandy clay, 107 that produced two 13th to mid 14th century Chilvers Coton ware sherds.

- 6.6 Towards the south-west corner of the site, small pit [128] was recorded below layer 135. It contained a single charcoal rich fill of dark greyish brown silty clay, 129, which produced a single Chilvers Coton ware jug sherd of 13th to mid 14th century date, along with a burnt animal bone. A palaeoenvironmental sample from this fill was cereal rich and dominant in wheat, with little chaff and weeds, suggesting that the presence of these cereal crops were the result of domestic hearth waste or cereal storage refuse, rather than crop processing.
- 6.7 In the south-west corner of the trench was a small stone structure, [111], contained within a sub-rectangular construction cut, [108]. The structure comprised a floor of large flat stone slabs, upon which were placed walls of large rectangular ashlar blocks, surviving on the east, west and south sides. Within the structure was a backfill of dark yellowish-brown silty sandy clay, 110 that contained occasional sandstone fragments and six sherds from a single Chilvers Coton ware jug of 13th to mid 14th century date. A palaeoenvironmental sample recovered from this fill produced few plant or cereal macrofossils, suggesting that this feature was not used as a disposal feature for refuse, and that the presence of a few cereal grains was probably an accidental inclusion. The sample did however contain large quantities of lead waste consisting of off-cuts, amorphous blobs, dribbles, rods and spikes, indicative of industrial activity.
- 6.8 Structure [111] had been subject to robbing, as defined by overlying cut [105]. The primary backfill of pit [105] consisted of very dark grey/brown sandy silt, 104 with stone and quartz pebble inclusions. This was sealed beneath the brown compact sandy silty clay 103 that contained quartz pebbles and small pieces of stone derived from [111].
- 6.9 At the base of the sequence was the natural geology of reddish-brown mottled sandy clay, 119.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusion

- 7.1 The archaeological investigations have exposed a sequence of stratified features, deposits and layers of medieval and later date. The stratigraphically earliest deposit comprised a compacted quartz pebble spread 114 that produced 13th to mid 14th century pottery. This was identified in two areas and may represent either part of a yard surface, or two parallel paths or tracks. It was cut by two east – west aligned linear features, [112] and [126], with only [112] containing dating evidence, again of 13th to 14th century date.
- 7.2 In the south-west corner of the site was a square stone structure, [111], also tentatively dated by a single sherd of 13th to 14th century pottery. The function of the structure remains unclear, although the presence of abundant lead waste suggests an industrial function, associated with the ecclesiastical precinct of the documented hospital of St. John the Evangelist. Although it has been suggested that this may be associated with glazing, the lack of associated glass debris makes this less likely. Instead the lead rods and spikes are perhaps more likely associated with casting waste, and therefore indicative of the casting of other unknown objects within a small workshop.
- 7.3 An adjacent small pit, [128] again contained a single 13th to 14th century pottery sherd, and a palaeoenvironmental assemblage indicative of domestic waste.

- 7.4 In the central portion of the site was stone spread 122, which although undated is stratigraphically related to the medieval phase of activity. Again, the fragmentary nature of 122 makes its original form or function unclear, although it is more substantial than layer 114, and contains larger sub-angular stone fragments, and may be the very truncated remains of a wall rather than a yard surface or pathway.
- 7.5 All the medieval pottery recovered from the site was of a single type, Chilvers Cotonware of 13th to 14th century date. This pottery is very typical for the area, and the broad dating makes it unclear whether the activity represented on the current site represents a brief or extended period of activity.
- 7.6 Following the period of medieval activity on the site, there appears to have been an episode of abandonment, allowing the accumulation of layer 106/135. This layer was cut by a robber pit, [105], excavated to quarry stone from structure [111] for reuse elsewhere. The pit contained a single 13th/14th century pottery sherd, although this is likely to be derived from the underlying structure rather than providing a date for the robbing activity, which therefore remains undated.
- 7.7 No further dated activity is recorded on the site until sealing layers 102 and 134 formed, which contained pottery of 17th to 20th century date. These sealed a number of small undated features, [117], [120] and [124], and were cut by a later feature [130], land drain cut [132], and a modern service, [115].

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 8.1 The methodology chosen was appropriate to the scale and nature of the development, and has identified a significant archaeological resource within the development area. The dating evidence recovered was somewhat limited but clearly indicates a period of industrial and domestic activity associated with the former medieval hospital, followed by a period of abandonment, and further less significant activity in the post-medieval to early modern periods.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Mr Gary Johnson for this commission and for his assistance during the fieldwork.

10.0 References

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Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General view of the development area at the commencement of the works, looking north



Plate 2: Pre-excavation shot of initial trial trench, looking west. Structure [111] is visible in the top left corner of the trench



Plate 3: General view of the excavation area, looking south-south-east, with spread 122 in the foreground and structure [111] in the background



Plate 4: Detail of stone structure [111], looking south



Plate 5: Stone spread 122, with adjacent ditch [126], pit [124], and land drain [132]. Looking east-north-east

Appendix 2: Post-Roman Pottery Report

By Jane Young

Introduction

In total, nineteen sherds of pottery representing thirteen vessels were submitted for examination. The pottery recovered ranges in date from the medieval to early modern periods. The assemblage was quantified by three measures: number of sherds, weight and vessel count within each context. Fabric identification of some of the pottery was undertaken by x20 binocular microscope. Reference has been made to the post-Roman 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 mostly in a slightly abraded to fairly fresh condition with sherd size mainly falling into the small to medium size range (between 4 and 30 grams). Two vessels are represented by more than one sherd and there were no identifiable cross-context joining vessels.

Overall Chronology and Source

A range of six different, identifiable pottery types were identified, the type and general date range for these fabrics are shown in Table 1. The pottery ranges in date from the medieval to early modern periods and includes local and regionally imported wares. A limited range of form types is present with most sherds coming from jars, bowls, or jugs.

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

Lincolnshire Codename	Leicestershire Codename	Full name	Earliest date	Latest date	Total sherds	Total vessels
BERTH	EA2	Brown glazed earthenware	1550	1800	4	4
BL	EA2	Black-glazed wares	1550	1750	1	1
CHCOT1T	CC1	Chilvers Coton ware 1 type	1200	1475	10	5
NCBW	EA	19th-century Buff ware	1800	1900	2	1
PEARL	EA9	Pearlware	1770	1900	1	1
WHITE	EA10	Modern whiteware	1850	1900	1	1

Medieval

Five of the vessels recovered from the site are of medieval type. All five vessels are probably jugs in Chilvers Coton ware, although one unglazed sherd could be from a jar. The vessels are all in light-firing Fabric A (Mayes and Scott 1984) and with one exception have pale to light green pocked glazes. The most likely date for these vessels is between the 13th and mid 14th centuries.

Post-medieval

Five vessels are of post-medieval type. The four Brown-glazed Earthenware sherds (BERTH) are of mixed chronological type, but probably all date to the 18th century. Two of the vessels are identifiable as bowls

and two could either be bowls or jars. The single Black-glazed Earthenware sherd is from an 18th century bowl.

Early Modern

Three vessels are of early modern type and include a Pearlware saucer (PEARL) of late 18th to mid 19th century date, a White Earthenware (WHITE) bowl and a Nineteen Century Buff ware basal sherd, probably from a large bowl (NCBW). The two late earthenwares could be of 19th or 20th century date.

Summary and Recommendations

The pottery recovered from this site suggests that the area under investigation had first been occupied in the high medieval period. A small number of post-medieval vessels attest to further activity, probably in the 18th century, followed by 19th to 20th century disposal.

The medieval and post-medieval assemblage should be kept for future study, but the early modern material could be discarded.

References

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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.

Pottery Archive

context	cname	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	Leicester codename	description	date
101	WHITE		bowl	1	1	95		base	EA10	footring base	19th to 20th
101	NCBW		large bowl ?	2	1	19		base	EA	base impressed --RANTED	19th to 20th
102	BERTH	coarse orange fabric	large inturned bowl	1	1	40		base	EA2	inturned base	18th to 19th
102	BERTH	coarse orange fabric	large bowl	1	1	30		rim	EA2	everted eim;spalling int glaze	late 17th to 18th
107	CHCOT1T	light firing;Fabric A	jug	1	1	6		BS	CC1	light green pocked glaze	13th to 14th
107	CHCOT1T	light firing;Fabric A	jug/jar	1	1	6		BS	CC1	no glaze	13th to 14th
110	CHCOT1T	light firing;Fabric A	jug	6	1	40		BS	CC1	pale green glaze with cu specks	13th to 14th
114	CHCOT1T	light firing;Fabric A	jug	1	1	53		handle	CC1	rod handle;heavily pocked light green glaze with occ cu specks	13th to 14th
123	BERTH	coarse orange fabric	large jar/bowl	1	1	23		BS	EA2	int glaze;comm white clay inclusions	18th
123	BERTH	hard orange fabric	bowl/jar	1	1	11		BS	EA2	int glaze;some coarse inclusions	18th
123	BL	hard orange fabric	bowl	1	1	33		rim	EA2	flanged hammerhead rim;int glaze;some coarse inclusions	18th
123	PEARL		saucer	1	1	4	blue transfer print	rim	EA9		late 18th to mid
129	CHCOT1T	light firing;Fabric A	jug	1	1	33		BS	CC1	thin pocked pale yellow/green glaze	13th to 14th

Appendix 3: Ceramic Building Material Archive

By Jane Young

context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	description	date
123	BRK	Brick	fine red sandy	1	79	handmade;corner	19th to mid 20th

Appendix 4: Animal Bone Report

By Jennifer Wood

Introduction

A total of 2 (307g) fragments of animal bone were recovered during archaeological works undertaken by Allen Archaeology Ltd at 56, The Spital, Castle Donnington, Leicestershire. The animal bone assemblage was recovered from a buried topsoil deposit (102) and Pit [128]

Results

The remains were a moderate overall condition, averaging grade 3 on the Lyman criteria (1996).

A single fragment of bone recovered from pit [128] displayed evidence of burning; the fragment had been totally calcined suggesting high temperature or prolonged burning.

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

Table 1, Summary of Identified Bone

Cut	Context	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	Weight	Comments
N/A	102	Cattle	Femur	L	1	304	Distal articulation, BD=84mm
128	129	Medium Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	1	3	Shaft fragment, burnt white

As can be seen from Table 1, a fragment of cattle bone and a fragment only identifiable as medium mammal size were identified. The assemblage is too small to provide meaningful information on animal husbandry and utilisation on site.

References

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Appendix 5: Palaeoenvironmental Report

By Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

Evaluation excavations at Castle Donington, undertaken by Allen Archaeology Ltd, recorded a limited number of features of medieval (thirteenth to mid-fourteenth century) date. Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from the fill of structure [111] (context 110, sample 1) and a fill within pit [128] (context 129, sample 2).

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 and seeds were present within both assemblages.

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

Results

Cereal grains/chaff and seeds of common weeds were recorded within both assemblages, although most occurred within sample 2. Preservation was poor to moderate, with a high density of the macrofossils being 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, with wheat occurring most frequently. Rachis nodes of bread wheat (*T. aestivum/compactum*) type were recorded at a very low density within the assemblage from sample 2. Large legumes were also noted within sample 2, although none retained an intact testa or hilum. However, on form alone, it would appear that both pea (*Pisum sativum*) and field bean (*Vicia faba*) seeds were present. Weed seeds were particularly scarce, only occurring within the assemblage from sample 2. With the exception of a single large grass (Poaceae) fruit (possibly an immature or tertiary oat grain), all were of vetch/vetchling (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) type or other indeterminate small legumes (Fabaceae). Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present within both assemblages, although the density of material within sample 1 was somewhat low.

Black porous and tarry residues were noted within both assemblages. However, although the pieces within sample 2 were probable residues of the combustion of organic remains (including cereal grains) at very high temperatures, the fragments within sample 1 were harder and more brittle, possibly indicating that they were derivatives of the combustion of coal, pieces of which were also common within the assemblage. Other remains were scarce, but did include pieces of bone (some of which were burnt) and minute pellets of burnt or fired clay. The assemblage from sample 1 contained a very high density of mineralised soil concretions, although the reason for this is currently unknown.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, sample 1 is from the fill of a pit, which contained little other than lead waste. The nature of this material has yet to be fully researched, but plant macrofossils (including charcoal/charred wood fragments) are so scarce within the fill, that it would appear unlikely that the pit was ever used as a general-purpose refuse dump. Therefore, the few remains recorded are, perhaps, most likely to be accidental inclusions within the pit fill. In contrast, the assemblage from sample 2 is particularly cereal rich. As chaff elements and weed

seeds are so scarce, it is tentatively suggested that the grains are partly or wholly derived from either domestic hearth waste or cereal storage refuse. Wheat appears to have been the predominant crop, with the oats, barley, rye and pulses being contaminants or relicts of earlier cropping regimes. The abundance of legumes within the assemblage has close parallels at a number of other medieval sites, where it is presumed to be an indication of the improvement of depleted soils by the rotational cropping of cereals and nitrogen fixing plants.

Although the assemblage from sample 1 is somewhat sparse, the material within sample 2 clearly illustrates that plant macrofossils are preserved within the archaeological horizon at Castle Donington. Therefore, if further interventions are planned, it is strongly recommended that additional plant macrofossil samples of approximately 20 litres in volume are taken from all dated and well-sealed contexts recorded during excavation. Of the current assemblages, that from sample 2 does contain a sufficient density of remains for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens). However, analysis of a single sample in isolation would provide little additional data at this stage, but such work will be required if further samples are taken.

Reference

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New Flora of the British Isles. Second edition. Cambridge University Press

Palaeoenvironmental Table of Results

Sample No.	1	2
Context No.	110	129
Feature No.	111	128
Feature type	Structure	Pit
Cereals and other food plants		
<i>Avena</i> sp. (grains)		xcf
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)		x
<i>Secale cereale</i> L. (grains)		xcf
(rachis nodes)		x
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)		xx
<i>T. aestivum/compactum</i> type (rachis nodes)		x
Cereal indet. (grains)	xfg	xxxx
<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.		xcf
<i>Vicia faba</i> L.		xcf
Large Fabaceae indet.		xcoty
Herbs		
Fabaceae indet.		x
Large Poaceae indet.		x
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp.		xx
Other plant macrofossils		
Charcoal <2mm	xx	xxxx
Charcoal >2mm		xxx
Charcoal >5mm		x
Indet.culm nodes		x
Other remains		
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	xxx
Black tarry material	x	x
Bone	x	xb
Burnt/fired clay	xx	x
?Glass frag.	x	
Mineralised soil concretions	xxxx	
Mineralised/faecal concretion	x	
Small coal frags.	xxx	x
Small mammal/amphibian bones	x	x xb
Sample volume (litres)	14	14
Volume of flot (litres)	0.1	0.3
% flot sorted	100%	50%

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens

cf = compare coty = cotyledon fragment b = burnt

Appendix 6: Lead Objects Report

By Val Fryer

The lead from sample 1 (Context 110 Structure [111])

Introduction

Although the sample was primarily taken for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblage, the non-floating residue, which was collected in a 1mm mesh sieve, was seen to contain a large quantity of lead fragments weighing approximately 508g. The following summarises the composition of the assemblage:

Catalogue

14 off-cut strips of lead sheet, most of which are rolled or curled (Total weight 11g). Approximate thickness of sheet from 0.5mm to 1.5mm.

44 amorphous 'blobs', all of which appear to have been melted (Total weight 70g.)

85 probable waste fragments with the appearance of small nails or tacks, that is rounded or flattened at one end and tapering to a sharp point at the other. Range in length from 10mm to 25mm. (Total weight 54g)

198 rods or spikes, all tapering towards both ends and each with a circular or sub-circular section. Maximum diameter at centre appears relatively uniform (approximately 3mm) regardless of length. Range in length from 13mm to approximately 35mm. (Total weight 208g.)

89 'dribbles' of waste lead, most of which taper to a point at one end. (Total weight 165g.)

Discussion

The lead assemblage recovered from within Structure [111] consisted of the off-cuts, blobs and dribbles that are common finds on most sites, the rods/spikes are unusual in this assemblage and appear to have been formed for a specific purpose. What this purpose may have been is currently unknown, although given the proximity of an ecclesiastical precinct; it is possible that the lead material is derived from glaziers waste or some similar structural activity.

Appendix 7: Context Summary List

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
101	Layer	Very dark brown sandy silt with frequent modern inclusions. Seals 102 and 134	Modern overburden
102	Layer	Very dark greyish brown silty sand with quartz pebble inclusions. Sealed by 101, seals 134	Buried topsoil
103	Fill	Brown sandy silty clay with quartz pebble inclusions and worked sandstone fragments. Sealed by 134, seals 104	Upper fill of [105]. Probable natural silting
104	Fill	Very dark brown sandy silt with sandstone and quartz pebble inclusions. Sealed by 103	Primary backfill of [105]
105	Cut	Large concave steep sided cut with sloping base orientated north-south. Contains 103 and 104	Robber pit
106	Layer	Dark brown-yellowish brown sandy silty clay with occasional quartz pebbles and sandstone fragments. Same as 135?	Natural accumulation/soil build-up
107	Fill	Dark yellowish brown silty sandy clay. Seals 113	Secondary fill of [112]. Probable natural silting
108	Cut	Steep sided/near vertical sided cut (base not excavated). Contains 109 and [111]	Foundation trench for structure [111]
109	Fill	Dark yellowish brown silty sandy clay with quartz pebble and sandstone inclusions	Backfill of [108]
110	Fill	Dark yellowish brown silty sandy clay with occasional sandstone fragments and lead waste	Fill within structure [111]
111	Structure	Sandstone square structure (c.1m x 1m) slab floor surrounded with dressed ashlar blocks up to three courses in height. Contains 110	Square stone structure
112	Cut	Steep sided with rounded basal corners, flat base orientated east-west. Contains 113	Linear boundary feature
113	Fill	Dark brown silty sandy clay with quartz pebbles. Sealed by 107	Primary fill of [112]. Natural silting?
114	Layer	Brown silty sandy clay with frequent quartz pebbles. Cut by [108], [112], [115] and [116]	Quartz pebble spread – yard surface or path. Same as 136?
115	Cut	Steep sided E – W aligned cut. Contains 116	Modern service trench
116	Fill	Very dark brown sandy silt with quartz pebbles. Sealed by 101	Backfill of [115]
117	Cut	Circular steep sided posthole. Contains 118	Posthole cut
118	Fill	Very dark brown silty sand with occasional quartz pebbles	Natural silting of [117]
119	Deposit	Reddish brown sandy clay	Natural drift geology
120	Cut	Circular steep sided, stepped base with concave northern edge, flat base. Contains 121	Post hole
121	Fill	Very dark brown silty sand with occasional quartz pebbles	Natural silting of [120]
122	Layer	Sand and limestone spread with mortar in a pale cream matrix. Sealed by 106/135, seals 127	Rubble spread
123	Layer	Dark yellowish brown silty sandy clay	Finds allocation number for cleaning over 122
124	Cut	Sub-circular in plan with concave sides, flat base. Contains 125	Pit

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
125	Fill	Very dark brown sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions	Natural silting of [124]
126	Cut	Steep sides, rounded base orientated west-north-west to east-south-east	Linear boundary feature
127	Fill	Brown sandy silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions. Sealed by 122	Natural silting of [126]
128	Cut	Steep sided with tapered rounded base. Contains 129. Sealed by 135	Pit
129	Fill	Very dark greyish-brown silty sandy clay with frequent charcoal inclusions	Backfill of [128]
130	Cut	Feature with steep N – S aligned western edge. Contains 131. Cuts 134	Pit or ditch cut
131	Fill	Black sandy silt with abundant clinker. Sealed by 101	Backfill of [130]
132	Cut	Steep sided, flat base, orientated east-west. Contains 133	Land drain cut
133	Fill	Dark greyish brown sandy silty clay with ceramic horseshoe drain and tile base. Sealed by 101	Backfill of [132]
134	Layer	Dark yellowish brown silty sandy clay. Sealed by 101 and 102	Subsoil
135	Layer	Yellowish-brown silty sandy clay with gravel and sandstone inclusions. Same as 135?	Natural accumulation/soil build-up
136	Layer	Brown silty sandy clay with frequent quartz pebbles. Cut by [112], [115] and [116]	Quartz pebble spread – yard surface or path. Same as 114?

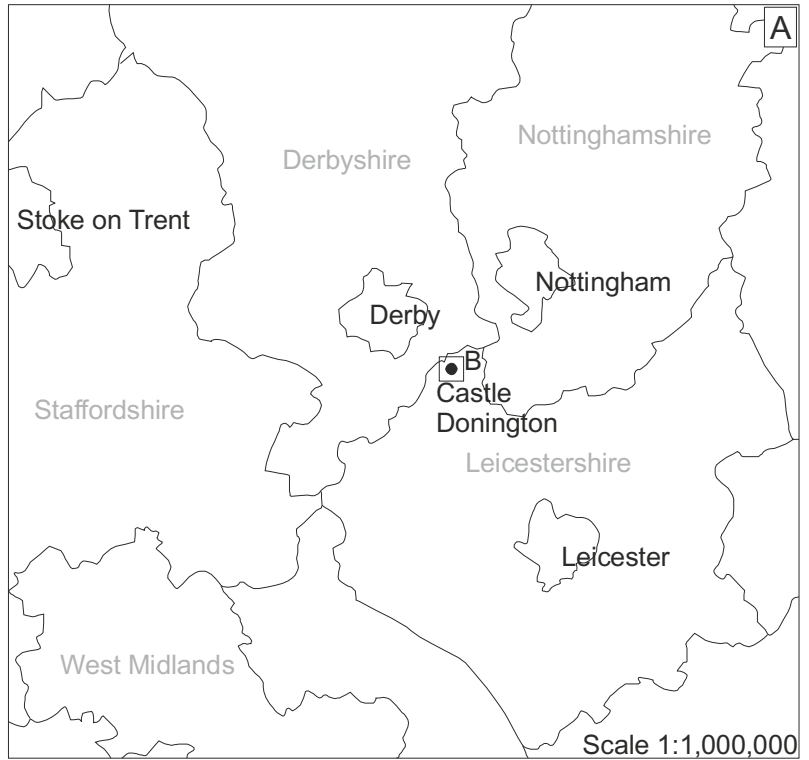
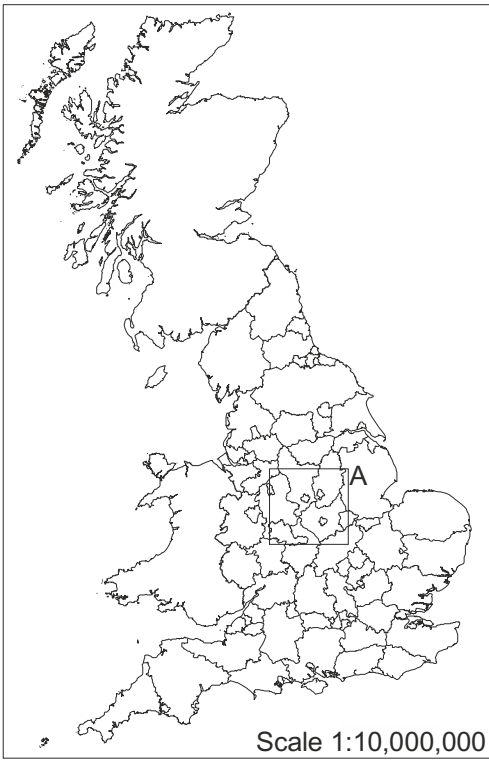


Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25,000, with site in red

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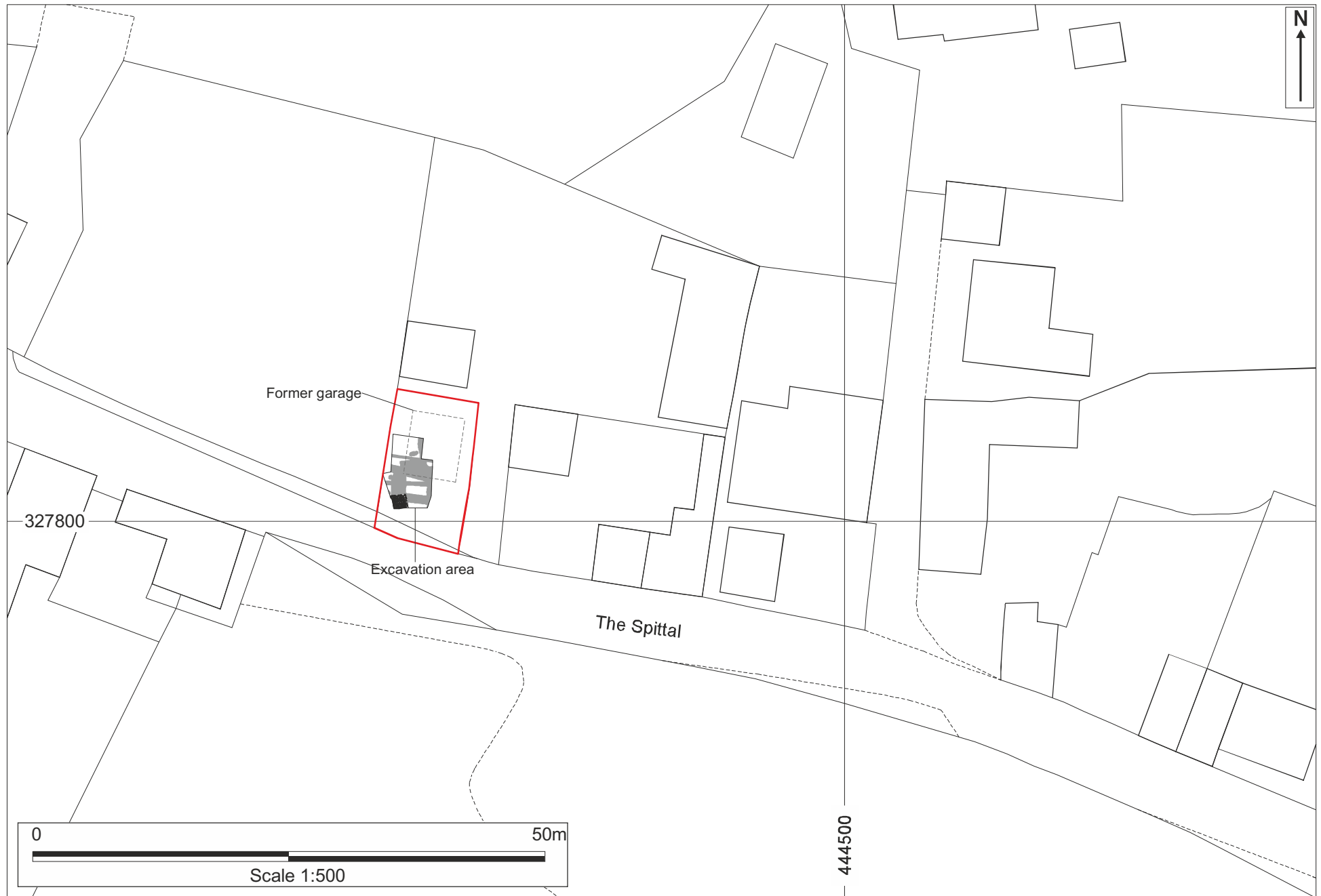


Figure 2: Site location at scale 1:500 with development area outlined in red. Stone structure in black and all other archaeological features in grey

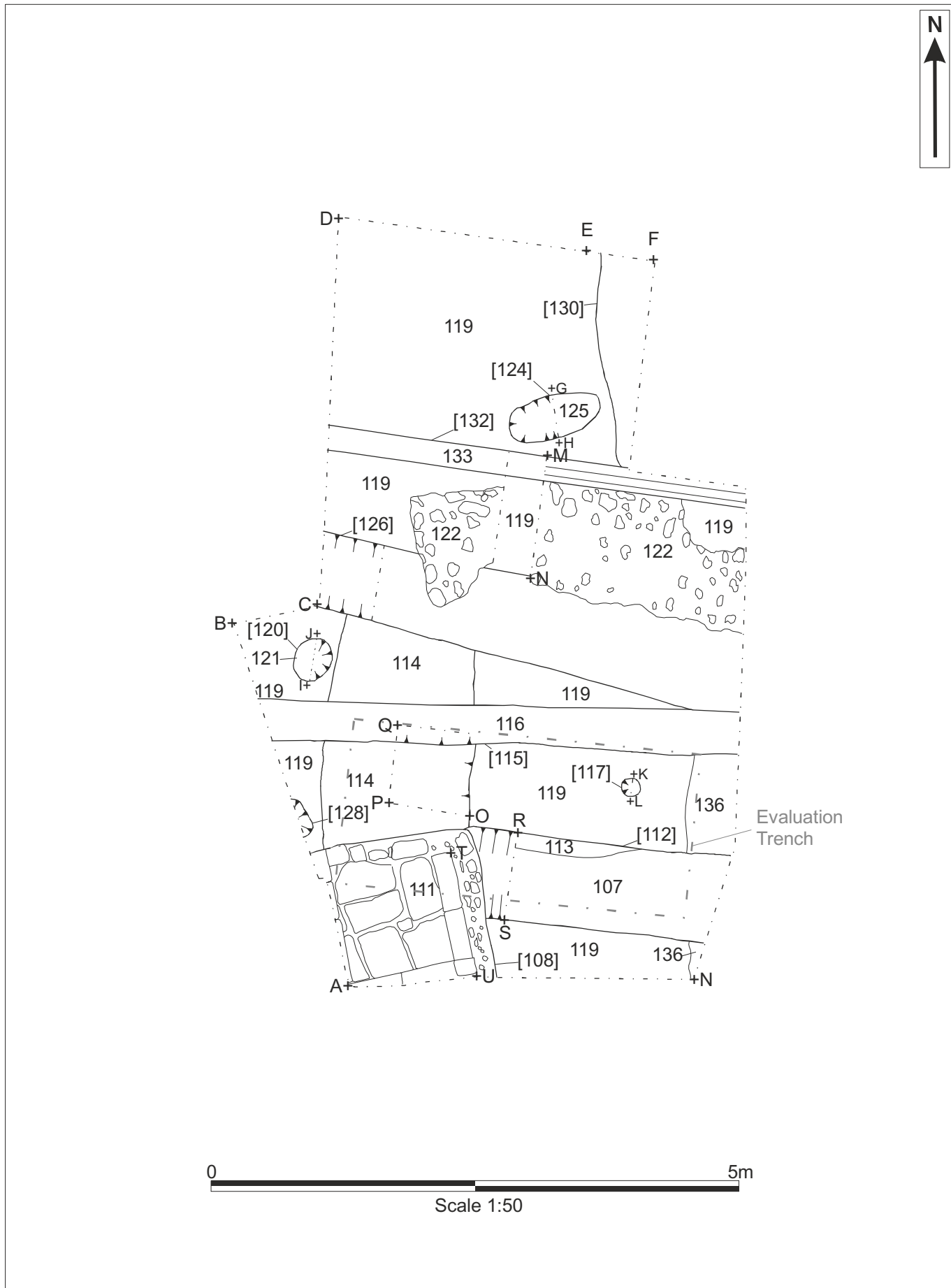


Figure 3: Plan of excavated area at scale 1:50. Sections located on Figure 4

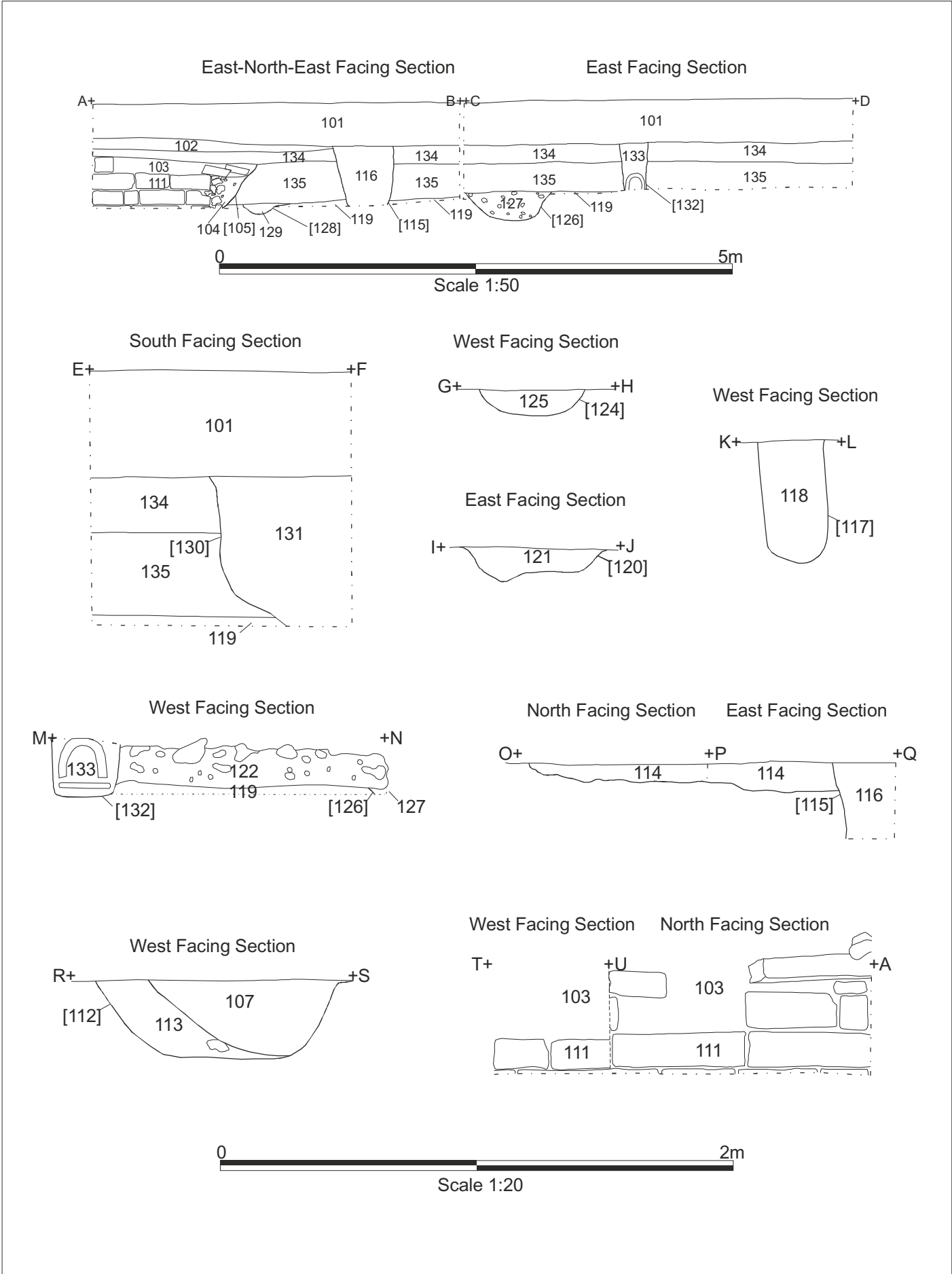


Figure 4: Section A-D at scale 1:50 and all other sections at scale 1:20. Sections located on Figure 3



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