

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EXCAVATION AND WATCHING
BRIEF
AT
GRAMER HOUSE, MANCETTER,
WARWICKSHIRE

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE
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Part 1 Project summary

An archaeological excavation and watching brief was undertaken at Gramer House, Mancetter, Warwickshire (NGR SP 3195 9665). It was undertaken on behalf of North Warwickshire Primary Care Trust, who intend to construct a care bungalow on the site for which a planning application has been submitted. As the site lies within the boundary of the Mancetter 1st century Roman fortress there was a high potential for significant remains to be uncovered. In the main trench Roman archaeological deposits were exposed in the form of ditches, gullies, pits and postholes, almost certainly relating to military activity in the 1st century. In the service trench recorded by watching brief a substantial ditch was recorded, over 7m wide, which is probably one of the northern boundary ditches of the fort. Interestingly evidence of further activity in the 3rd or 4th century has also been recorded in the main excavation trench indicating re-occupation of the fort occurred in the later Roman period.

At least seven graves were also recorded, but had an extremely poor assemblage of human remains, the result of the acidic nature of the soil. Osteoarchaeological analysis of the one substantially recoverable human skeleton, was limited because of the poor quality of the bone. Pottery recovered from one of these graves has been dated to the medieval period and represents a shift of the boundary for graveyard of St Peters Church, which now exists 40m to the east.

Part 2 Detailed report

1. Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological excavation and watching brief was undertaken at Gramer House, Mancetter, Warwickshire (NGR SP 3195 9665; Fig 1), on behalf of North Warwickshire Primary Care Trust and their agent French Thorpe Consultancy. The client intends to construct a new care bungalow for children's respite services on the site for which a planning permission has been granted (reference PMANMV/1312/2004/FAP). The current project was preceded by a field evaluation which demonstrated that Roman deposits existed (Coutts 1997). The proposed development was considered by the archaeological curator (Warwickshire County Council) to pose a threat to deposits of archaeological interest as the site lies within the Mancetter Roman fortress (MWA 3867). The importance of which has been recognised by the statutory protection of other parts of the fort as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM No 124).

1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (IFA 1999) *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IFA 1999).

The exhumation of human remains was conducted in accordance with a Home Office license.

The project also conforms to a brief prepared by Warwickshire County Council Museum Field Services (Warwickshire Museum 2004) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (HEAS 2005).

1.3 Aims

The aim of the excavation and watching brief was to recover archaeological information associated with the Roman fort at Mancetter and subsequent activity of the site that would be disturbed by the construction of the respite bungalow and associated groundworks.

2. Methods

2.1 Documentary search

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Historic Environment Record (HER).

2.2 Fieldwork methodology

2.2.1 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (HEAS 2005).

The excavation was undertaken between 3rd and 16th May 2005. The watching brief was conducted between the 7th and 10th September 2005. The site reference number and site code is EWA 7456.

A controlled excavation trench (trench 1), amounting to just over 273m² in area, was excavated within the footprint of the proposed bungalow, a small 1.7m² extension was later added to the east side of the trench to expose grave cut 197. A service trench 89m in length

was also recorded as a watching brief (trench 2). The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a JCB 3CX excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995).

2.2.2 **Structural analysis**

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was effected through a combination of structural, artefactual and ecofactual evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

2.3 **Artefact methodology, by Alan Jacobs**

2.3.1 **Artefact recovery policy**

All artefacts from the area of salvage recording were retrieved by hand and retained in accordance with the service manual (CAS 1995 as amended).

2.3.2 **Method of analysis**

All hand-retrieved finds were examined and a primary record was made on a Microsoft Access 2000 database. Artefacts were identified, quantified and dated and a *terminus post quem* date produced for each stratified context.

The pottery and ceramic building material was examined under x20 magnification and recorded by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by the service (Hurst and Rees 1992). Where mentioned, all specific forms are referenced to the type series within the report for Deansway, Worcester (Bryant 2004).

2.4 **Environmental archaeology methodology, by Andy Mann**

2.4.1 **Fieldwork and sampling policy**

The environmental sampling policy was as defined in the County Archaeological Service Recording System (1995 as amended). Large animal bone was hand-collected during excavation and samples of between 5-40 litres taken from 14 contexts of Roman-medieval date (Table 1).

2.4.2 **Processing and analysis**

For each of the samples a sub-sample of 5-10 litre was initially processed by flotation using a Siraf tank to assess the potential of the deposits. The 40 litre samples from within the graves (194) and (206) were completely processed to recover human bone and any small finds. The flot from all the samples was collected on a 300µm sieve and the residue retained on a 1mm mesh. This allows for the recovery of items such as small animal bones, molluscs and seeds.

The residues were fully sorted by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. The flots were scanned using a low power EMT stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by the Service, and seed identification manual (Beijerinck 1947). Nomenclature for the plant remains follows the *Flora of the British Isles, 3rd edition* (Clapham *et al* 1989).

2.5 **The methods in retrospect**

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

3. **Topographical and archaeological context**

Both trenches 1 and 2 lie within the known confines of the 1st century AD Roman fortress at Mancetter (WSM No. 3867), which has been partially scheduled to the immediate east and west of the site (County SAM No 124). This is a substantial monument encompassing an area of nine hectares. Settlement and industry in the form of pottery manufacture of later Roman date was centred to the south of the fort with settlement also being identified to the north (Coutts 1997). Archaeological excavation has been conducted within the fort since the 1950's, more recent work encountering evidence for Roman buildings and other features, as well as medieval activity.

The church of St Peter to the north-east of Gramer House, dates back to the 12th century, although much of the existing fabric is 13th-15th century (SMR WA 383). Mancetter Manor House lies immediately south-east of the site. This is a timber-framed building dating back to 1330 (SMR WA 384). In the vicinity of the church and manor an associated shrunken medieval settlement also seems to be present. In 1981 a 1.5m thick medieval occupation layer with evidence suggesting the presence of a 13th century timber building was recorded (Scott 1981; SMR WA 6423). To the immediate south west of the site a pebble surface associated with a 12th century storage pit 2.5m in diameter was recorded (Scott 1983; SMR WA 7962).

Two Almshouses exist to the east of Gramer House, SMR WA 382 and 381 date to 1728 and 1822 respectively.

Evaluation of the site was conducted in 1997. A small number of Roman features were identified and recorded in the area since covered by trench 1 of this project, but nothing was encountered in a small trench to the north of the extant respite bungalow (Coutts 1997).

4. **Results**

4.1 **Structural analysis**

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figures 3 and 4. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

4.1.1 **Phase 1 Natural deposits**

In both trenches geological natural deposits comprised mixed orange and reddish sands with some patches of small-scale gravels (contexts 100 and 300). This was overlain by light orangey brown silty sand subsoil (contexts 102 and 315) between 0.2 and 0.6m in depth, and a moderately compact light brown silty topsoil between 0.25 and 0.5 deep (contexts 101, 314 and 315).

4.1.2 **Trench 1 Phase 2 Roman deposits**

The earliest features recorded in both trenches have been identified with Roman occupation of the site, known to be variable in nature and concentrated in the vicinity.

In the north-east corner of the trench existed a curvilinear gully (169). This was of inconsistent width with unclear edges as it had been affected by root action. It was approximately 0.5m wide with a concave profile 0.22m deep. The fill of this feature yielded no indication of its function but did provide artefacts of Roman date.

In the south-west corner of the trench exists a confusing linear concentration of pits, postholes and short stretches of ditch, some of which were observed during the evaluation of the site in 1997. These are all aligned on a rough north-west to south-east alignment and meet with ditch 183.

Pit 145 is a small oval shaped feature, which is 1.16m long by 0.7m wide with a depth of 0.3m. This has a concave base with 45° sloping sides (Plate 6). Some unidentifiable iron was retrieved from the light-mid brown silty sand fill (146). This feature was cut by the undiagnostic feature 150 (Plates 5 and 6), which is possibly a short stretch of ditch or an elongated pit with a width of 1m and a depth of 0.7m, the fill of which was a light greyish brown sandy silt with frequent fragments of charcoal present. Feature 150 was, in turn cut by pit 152 (Plate 5). This was a substantial feature, 1.2m across by 0.8m deep, and was filled with a main deposit (153) comprising a mid to dark brown sandy silt and successive dumps of charcoal and sand (contexts 165 and 166) and sealed by a layer of redeposited natural clay (164).

To the south of this cluster of features are two short parallel ditches. The earlier of these, feature 141 (Plate 6) has a length of 2.2m a width of 0.7m and a depth of 0.27m. The terminals are squared, the southern of which was recorded in the evaluation trench as 206. This feature has a concave profile with 45° sloping sides and was filled with dark brown silty sand with frequent charcoal fragments. 143, a similar gully recorded in the evaluation trench as 204, cut this. This transpired to be 2.6m long, 0.8m wide and 0.19m deep. This was filled with 144, a silty sand slightly lighter than 142 (Plate 6).

To the south of these gullies and on the same orientation are further undiagnostic features. Both 178 and 179 are ephemeral, only c. 0.02m in depth. These are either truncated or disturbed Roman features or result from root activity in the area.

Feature 110 is circular in plan 0.55m in diameter, with near vertical sides and an uneven base 0.15m deep. This qualifies for either interpretation as a small pit or large posthole. It is in the vicinity of, and may be associated with, 112 which is a similar feature which has been heavily truncated so only exists as a spread of mid brown silty sand to a depth of 0.025m. A further similar shallow feature was recorded in the evaluation trench (203) to the north of 110 and east of 143.

Ditch 183 is parallel sided, between 0.2 and 0.42m deep and 0.7m wide with a flat base and sides, that become steeper along its length from 45° to near vertical at the eastern end. The fill (184) comprised consistent dark brown sandy silt with a small amount of charcoal and a single block of building stone. This could indicate that this feature served a structural function rather than being an intra-fort boundary or drainage ditch. This feature does form a right angle with the short stretches of ditch 130 and 143 but is stratigraphically later in date.

In the centre of the trench on a north-west to south-east orientation are four phases of ditch excavation. Stratigraphically the sequence of the ditch cutting was extremely hard to identify due to the near identical nature of the fills (Plate 1). Careful excavation succeeded in placing, with a moderate degree of confidence cut 115/162, the central and deepest ditch, as being the latest in the sequence. This was approximately 1.45m wide with a depth of 0.4m. In profile the sides were probably 45° with a wide concave base deeper on the west side. The three earlier phases on the other hand were impossible to order. On the east side of 115/162 was a single truncated cut: 119. This had a shallow concave base and a single fill (120). On the west side of 115/162 were two truncated cuts. The closest to 115/162 was 117/163, a relatively small cut with a concave profile approximately 0.45m wide. Instead of being continuous this cut terminated in each of the slots that were placed through this ditch group, the total length being only 4.5m. This may suggest that it had something to do with the undiagnostic short stretches of ditch to the west like 141 and 143. The most westerly cut identified and possibly the earliest was 105. This was much wider than 117/163 at approximately 0.65m but was not as deep as 115/162 at only 0.18m. The fills of all these ditches comprised a homogenous mid grey brown silty clay with slight variations in the concentrations of charcoal and stone.

These were all capped by 103, a compacted mid grey brown silty sand with frequent small pebbles 0.35m deep.

4.1.3 **Trench 2 (gas pipe) Phase 2 Roman deposits**

A substantial ditch was recorded at the north end of the trench (308). This cut layer 310 and had a broad 'V' shaped profile 7.7m wide by c. 1.8m deep and ran on a north-east to south-west orientation. This feature had two fills, the primary (209) consisting of a very dark brown moderately compact sandy silt with occasional fragments of bone and charcoal while the secondary (207) consisting of a dark reddish brown friable sandy silt representing natural back-filling.

Unfortunately no datable evidence was recovered from the fills of this ditch. The character of which, however, does suggest a Roman date. Perhaps this is the north boundary ditch of the Mancetter Roman fort, which has been postulated as existing slightly farther to the north.

4.1.4 **Trench 1 Phase 3 Medieval deposits**

Three grave cuts were present in close proximity to each other towards the east side of the trench (174, 197 and 208; Fig 3). Their contemporaneity verified by a number of common attributes; all containing human remains in exceptionally poor states of preservation. The results of the skeletal analysis are shown in Appendix 2. The grave cuts were all aligned on an east to west orientation with the heads (when present) at the western end.

Grave 174 was sub-rectangular in shape approximately 1.67m in length and 0.54m wide. This feature had been truncated by machining only preserving a depth of 0.9m. The fill of the grave (175) comprised a compact mid greyish brown silty sand and contained the remains of skeleton 173. Although this was the best preserved of the human remains recovered from the site it was still in poor condition (Plate 4). Sufficient bone was present to make possible some observations. Although supine from the waist down the torso and skull of this skeleton appeared to be twisted to the left.

To the east of 174 and adjacent to 197 was a further grave of similar characteristics. Cut 208 was 1.8m in length with a width of 0.7m. The grave fill (206) was a loose dark brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks with a large fragment of cooking pot also present. The human bone present was fragmentary with only parts of the femur identifiable.

Adjacent to 208 existed a further grave, 197. This was >2.5m in length with a width of 0.7m and approximately 1.0m deep from the pre-existing ground surface and 0.6m below the level of the natural (100). Within the cut was two separate fills, a primary fill of light brown sand (194) with a secondary fill of dark grey silty sand with a moderate amount of charcoal lumps and occasional fragments of animal bone. The human remains encountered in this cut were again in a poor state of preservation, the only recognisable skeletal elements surviving *in situ* being part of the pelvis and the top of a femur.

A poorly preserved human skull (198) was retrieved from context 184 at the eastern end of feature 183. This must represent another grave, which existed on an east to west alignment to the east, which was unrecognised and removed during the initial opening of the trench.

The presence of further graves on the site is also highly likely. Four other features (192, 199, 203 and 201) share common attributes with the features, which are quantifiably graves. These are all in the same vicinity, are all of similar dimension and are on the same alignment but no human remains were retrieved from their fills.

Possible grave 193 was aligned east to west, >1.65m in length, parallel sided with a rounded west termination 0.7m wide and 0.21m deep with c.45° sloping sides and a slightly concave profile. The fill (193) was friable mid to dark brown sandy silt with occasional small to large sub-rounded pebbles.

Possible grave 199 mirrors 192, this has a length >1.72m a width of 0.55m and a depth of 0.22m. This is also parallel sided with a rounded west termination. The fill 200 is mid to dark brown friable sandy silt with inclusions of sub-well rounded pebbles.

Possible grave cut 203 is >1.72m long, 0.62m wide by 0.29m deep with near vertical sides and a flat base, parallel sides and a rounded western terminus. The fill, 204 is mid to dark brown sandy silt with occasional small to large pebbles.

Possible grave cut 201 is parallel sided on an east to west alignment. It is >2.1m in length, 0.79m wide and 0.2m deep. The fill comprises compact mid brown sandy silt with some flecks of charcoal.

4.1.5 **Trench 1 Phase 4 Post-medieval deposits**

A single feature can be attributed to the post-medieval period. A large sub-rectangular pit, 191 was 12.7m long by 1.1m wide and existed towards the north-west corner of the trench. This has parallel, near vertical sides and a wide flat base in profile containing two mixed fills, the primary of which (190) comprised dark brownish grey silty sand mixed with an even portion of orangey yellow clay, The secondary fill (189) was essentially the same but with more clay.

4.1.6 **Trench 2 (gas pipe) Phase 4 Post-medieval deposits**

Feature 303 is either a post-medieval pit or ditch with a width of 2.6m and a depth of 1.0m containing two refuse deposits. The primary deposit, 306 comprised a 0.2m deep friable dark brown sandy silt with white china sherds mixed with frequent fragments of charcoal and clinker. The secondary fill of this feature (305) was a 0.37m deep compact and cohesive light yellowish brown sandy silt which probably represents natural silting up of the ditch. This deposit was capped and levelled by 0.45m of compact red silty clay (304).

4.1.7 **Trench 1 Phase 5 Modern deposits**

Contexts 131 consists of the remnants of a wall existing in patches on a rough northwest to southeast orientation across the eastern half of the trench (Plate 2). This was composed of sporadic irregular shaped medium and large sized blocks of limestone with occasional pieces of red brick with lime mortar attached. The construction cut for this wall was visible in section (139) in the edge of the trench with some of the foundation deposit remaining (140). Activity immediately above this may be attributed to the demolition of wall 131. Context 130 is possibly a demolition trench. This was filled with grey limestone fragments mixed with light brownish grey aggregate set in a brown sandy matrix. Above this disturbance a path has been laid, presumably at more or less the same time as the wall was demolished. The concrete paving (125), removed when the trench was excavated was preceded by a tarmac surface (127) laid upon brown lenses of silty sand (128).

The pit 137, present in the southern trench edge which has been cut by the probable posthole 134 yielded no datable evidence between them. Their relative position high up in the sequence, however, suggests they can also be attributed to recent activity.

4.1.8 **Trench 1 Undated deposits**

A curvilinear ditch forming a right angle was present in the south-east corner of the trench to the south of the medieval graves (124). The roughly north to south aligned section of this feature is parallel with the ditch group to the west and many of the other Roman features. The southernmost part of this feature was the widest at 0.9m, the rest of the ditch being a consistent 0.6m. The profile of the feature was concave with a depth of 0.34m. The fill of this feature (125) comprised a light to mid grey loose sand, disturbed by rooting. The posthole or small pit 148 shares a relationship with 124 although it was impossible to ascertain which was the earlier. Feature 148 is circular in plan with straight 40° sides to a slightly concave base 0.5m deep.

East of the curvilinear ditch 124 was a small feature, possibly the terminus of a gully (122) just extending into the trench 0.5m. This feature was only 0.09m deep with concave sides and a flat base in profile. Heavy rooting had affected the fill of this feature (121), which comprised a light brownish grey sand devoid of inclusions. It is highly likely that 122 and 124 are contemporaneous.

Directly off the corner of 124 three inter-related features were recorded. The earliest of these was a small circular pit (161) 0.8m in diameter with steep sides and a flattish base in profile filled with a mid grey-brown silty sand (160). This was then cut by a gully (157) and a posthole (159) the order of which was indiscernible. Posthole 159 was circular in plan 0.28m in diameter and had sharp near vertical sides and a narrow concave base 0.6m deep. The gully 157 which may be a structural beam slot contemporary with posthole 159 is 2.85m long and 0.45m wide with a shallow concave profile. Both were filled with homogenous mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional small to medium sub-rounded stones.

Feature 113, a linear pit of no discernable function existed to the west of and parallel to the ditch cluster in the centre of the trench. This feature was 2.5m long, 1.0m wide and had a depth of 0.2m. Morphologically this feature had a square south end and more rounded north end. In profile the sides were 45° and the base was narrow and flat. The fill of this feature, 114 comprised a compact mid reddish brown silty sand and contained a moderate amount of small rounded stones. The north end of this feature was cut by a small posthole (154). This was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.3m and a shallow concave profile 0.09m deep. Although no datable evidence was retrieved from either of these features their proximity and orientation with Roman archaeology lends toward a Roman date.

Feature 107, gives the appearance of being a grave cut. Aligned on a rough east to west orientation it is an elongated oval in plan, 2.2m in length with a width of 0.65m and a depth of 0.29m. This was vertically sided with an uneven base in profile. It has been suggested that this was an unused grave cut, associated with the medieval graves to the east or possibly an undiagnostic Roman feature as pottery of this era was recovered from the fill. The abundance of this material in the area and surrounding contexts does, however, increase the chance of it being residual in nature.

The close proximity of elongated pit feature 187 to 107 suggests that they are related, although shorter in length at 1.5m they are of similar width, 187 is 0.7m and has a depth of 0.18m. Unfortunately no datable evidence was retrieved from the fill (188), which comprised a mid brown sandy silt undiagnostic of the function of the feature.

Intruding into and truncating the curvilinear gully 169 was feature 172, which was either a large pit or ditch terminus, all but 1.8m of the feature existing beyond the northern trench edge. This had a flat base with steep slightly convex sides. Although a sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the fill of this feature; 171 this deposit was very soft hinting at a comparatively recent deposition, the presence of some modern looking ceramic building material also adds to the confusing date of this feature.

Located to the north of the east terminus of 183 was a small elongated pit feature of no discernable function (185). The length of this feature was 1.32m, the width 0.64m and the depth 0.1m. Suggestive of a grave cut, the fill 186, a light to mid brown silty sand did not, however, yield any bone, or datable artefacts.

4.1.9 **Trench 2 (gas pipe) Undated features**

Feature 317 is a ditch running on a north-east to south-west orientation with near vertical sides and a slightly concave base 3.5m wide by 0.8m deep. Two deposits filled this feature; the primary of which comprised a shallow 0.17m deep deposit of friable light yellow silty sand. The secondary fill being a 0.55m deep compact light brown sandy silt with an abundance of small rounded gravels mixed with occasional flecks of charcoal.

Feature 316 is either a ditch with very diffuse sides or an area of disturbance, possibly by root action from trees pre-existing the development of the area. This is very wide at 5m but only

has a depth of 0.8m. The fill of this feature (313) appears to be a mixture between top and subsoil layers 314 and 315 with occasional charcoal inclusions but an absence of any form of datable artefact.

4.2 Artefact analysis, by Alan Jacobs

The pottery assemblage retrieved from the excavated area consisted of 55 sherds of pottery weighing 2.455kg, in addition fragments of tile, brick, burnt clay, stone, plaster, mammal bone, human bone, slag, iron objects and a single coin were recovered. The group came from 26 stratified contexts and could be dated from the Roman period onwards (see Table 1). Level of preservation was generally fair with the majority of sherds displaying only moderate levels of abrasion.

Material	Total	Weight (g)
Roman pottery	31	1397
Medieval pottery	1	57
Post-medieval pottery	8	901
Modern pottery	5	100
Burnt clay	12	317
Brick	4	1.269
Tile	19	1363
Stone	1	4000
Lime plaster	3	10
Mammal bone	101	443
Human bone	208	249
Metal object	6	151
Slag	4	1338
Coin	1	2
	404	11597

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

4.2.1 Discussion of the pottery

All sherds have been grouped and quantified according to fabric type (see Table 2). A total of three diagnostic form sherds were present and could be dated accordingly, the remaining sherds were datable by fabric type to their general period or production span.

The discussion below is a summary of the finds and associated location or contexts by period. Where possible, *terminus post quem* dates have been allocated and the importance of individual finds commented upon.

Fabric number	Fabric name	Total sherds	Weight (g)
14	Fine greyware	1	4
29	Oxfordshire red/brown colour coat	2	30
32	Mancetter mortaria	2	361
37.4	Probably south-west mortaria	1	58
42.1	Dressel 20	4	665
43.1	Samian, south Gaulish	4	45
98	Fine oxidised ware	6	55
98	Medium oxidised ware	12	186
Total		31	1397

Table 2: Quantification of the Romano-British pottery by fabric

The Roman material formed the largest part of the ceramic assemblage, comprising 59% by sherd count and 57% by weight. Much of the Roman material was residual in later medieval contexts, but eight contexts, (108, 116, 120, 146, 151, 168, 171 and 184) contained just Roman pottery. A single clearly datable early Roman context contained fragments of a decorated Dragendorf 29 form, (fabric 43.1) indicating a distinct 50-85 AD date (Fig 6, nos

1-3; context 151) for the ditch. Most contexts were broadly datable to the 1st-4th century by the presence of local fine and medium quartz oxidised ware body sherds. This fabric is a distinct local oxidised ware with a broad date range. A single unusual form (Fig 6, no 4) of a ringed base, usually an indication of early production, was recovered (context 116). Three distinct 3rd-4th century contexts contained examples a coarse Mancetter mortaria (context 120), a south-west mortaria (context 116) and a more complete form lacking only its rim (context 167; Fig 6; no 5). In addition small fragments of Dressel 20 amohora and Oxfordshire red brown colour coat were recovered from context 116). There is clear indication of both invasion period and later activity at Mancetter, although, the small number of sherds recovered, and the very limited range of fabrics and forms make any conclusions on this material difficult.

Fabric number	Fabric name	Total sherds	Weight (g)
99	Oxidised medieval	1	7
Total		1	7

Table 4: Quantification of the medieval pottery by fabric

The medieval material formed the smallest part of the ceramic assemblage, comprising just 2% by sherd count and 1% by weight. Only a single oxidised sherd was present (context 206), most likely dating to the 13th-14th centuries, but possibly slightly later. There is not enough material present for secure dating but other artefacts, particularly tile, would indicate that the burials are of medieval date. There is not enough material for any meaningful discussion to be contemplated.

Fabric number	Fabric name	Total sherds	Weight (g)
90	Post-medieval orange ware	7	772
91	Post-medieval buff ware	1	129
Total		8	901

Table 5: Quantification of the post-medieval pottery by fabric

The post-medieval material formed the second largest part of the ceramic assemblage, comprising 25% by sherd count and 37% by weight. Pottery was recovered from only two contexts of 18th century date, (contexts 167) A large pancheon, and the form of the base of a small hollow ware bowl with green slip (context 189; Fig 6, no 6). There is too little material for any meaningful discussion to be contemplated.

Fabric number	Fabric name	Total sherds	Weight (g)
85	Modern stone china	5	100
Total		5	100

Table 6: Quantification of the modern pottery by fabric

The modern material formed the second to smallest part of the ceramic assemblage, comprising 14% by sherd count and 5% by weight. All of the modern material came from a single context (306) and was broadly dateable to the 19th-20th century. The only forms represented consisted of a hexagonal candlestick base, and fragments of a willow pattern plate. This material represents modern rubbish disposal.

4.2.2 Other finds

A number of modern brick fragments were recovered, dating to the 17th-20th centuries (contexts 103), and three larger fragments with modern cement attached that could be dated from 1850-2000 (context 131). Also of modern date, fragments of plaster were recovered (132) dating from the 17th-20th centuries. A number of fragments of flat roof tile of a broad medieval to post-medieval date (13th-18th century) and could be used to date a number of contexts (5, 100, 132, 135, 147, 173 and 194). A single block of shaped building stone of Roman date was recovered (context 184). Only a few fragments of Roman tile were recovered (contexts 116 and 184), these had very distinct red sand/silt stone inclusions and

fragments of coal, a feature of the geology in this region. Fragments of burnt clay were recovered from two contexts, one (116) contained fragments of a Roman loom weight dating to the 3rd-4th century, the other (194) consisted of fragments of daub of medieval-post-medieval date. A number of fragments of iron slag were recovered from post-medieval context (190). A single unidentifiable copper alloy coin was recovered from early roman context (151). Finally a number of metal objects were recovered, a nail (context 106), and a number of unidentifiable fragments (contexts 116, 146 and 168) of Roman date.

4.2.3 **Significance**

This site has displayed significant evidence of both invasion period, Roman activity relating to the fort and later-post military activity within the same area. Not enough material has been recovered to successfully categorise the area although evidence of significant survival of archaeological remains can be inferred.

4.3 **Environmental analysis, by Andy Mann**

The environmental evidence recovered is summarised in Tables 8 and 9.

5. **Results**

Generally environmental remains were poorly preserved across the site probably as a result of the sandy acid soils present (Tables 8 and 9). Due to the low numbers of plant remains being retrieved it was decided that further processing was unnecessary, as it would have contributed little to the information already gained. Plant macrofossils were preserved either through charring or through anoxic (oxygen reduced) conditions.

Roman pit deposits (108) (111) (114) (146)

Environmental remains were completely absent from context (114) and very poor in the other pits sampled. Few cultivars were recovered from these samples although wheat (*Triticum* sp grain), barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and oat (*Avena* sp grain) grains were recovered in low numbers. The lack of any associated chaff means that the oat could have been wild or cultivated. Other wild edible species present in these pits include raspberry (*Rubus* cf *ideaus*) and blackberry/bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), these were not cultivated until the post-medieval period.

Roman ditch deposits (116) (118) (142) (144) (151) (184)

Plant macrofossils were absent from ditch deposits (118) and (151). Again charred examples of wheat (*Triticum* sp grain), barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and oat (*Avena* sp grain) grains were present in low numbers. Other wild edible species present in these features include uncharred examples of raspberry (*Rubus* cf *ideaus*) and blackberry/bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*). Single uncharred examples of common vetch (*Vicia sativa*) and buttercup (*Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus*) were also preserved, these species are commonly found on disturbed or cultivated ground.

Roman posthole (155)

This lone posthole only contained a single charred oat (*Avena* sp) grain, and due to the absence of chaff it could either be wild or cultivated.

Medieval ditch deposit (193)

The lone medieval ditch sampled only contained one cultivar, a single charred wheat grain (*Triticum* sp free-threshing). Other wild seed species included grass (*Gramineae* sp indet grain), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*), whose berries can also be eaten.

Medieval graves (194 and 206)

Both deposits from the burials have similar plant macrofossil assemblages, although (194) has a larger quantity of remains. Both contain charred cereal grain either identified as wheat (*Triticum* sp/free threshing), oat (*Avena* sp) or cereal fragments. Wild uncharred edible species are also present including raspberry (*Rubus* cf *ideaus*), blackberry/bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*). A kernel from a plum/cheery stone was also recovered from burial (206). Wild weed species present, vetch/vetchling/pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp), goosefoot/cleavers (*Galium aparine*) again indicate an environment of disturbed or cultivated ground surrounded the features. The high numbers of holly seed within the samples may indicate hedgerow or scrub was also present although this could also have been deliberately placed within the grave during burial.

Context	Sample	Context type	Period	Sample volume Litres	Volume processed Litres	Residue assessed Litres	Flot assessed Mlitres
108	1	Pit	Roman	30	10	1.5	5
111	2	Pit	Roman	10	10	2	1
114	3	Pit	Roman	40	10	1.5	1
118	4	Gully	Roman	5	5	1.5	1
116	5	Ditch	Roman	40	10	2	8
155	6	Posthole	Roman	5	5	2	5
142	7	Ditch	Roman	30	10	2	80
144	8	Ditch	Roman	30	10	1.5	10
146	9	Pit	Roman	30	10	1.5	10
151	10	Ditch	Roman	40	10	2	10
184	11	Ditch	Roman	40	10	2.5	5
194	12	Grave	Medieval	40	40	2	300
193	13	Ditch	Medieval	40	10	1	20
206	14	Grave	Medieval	40	40	5	100

Table 8: Sample information

Context	Sample	Large mammal	Small mammal	Charcoal	Charred plant preservation	Anoxic plant preservation
108	1			++	+	+
111	2			++	+	+
114	3					
118	4			++		
116	5			+++	+	+
155	6			+	+	
142	7	++	++	+++	+	+
144	8				+	+
146	9			+	+	+
151	10	+		+		
184	11	+		+	+	+
194	12	++		+++	++	++
193	13			+	+	+
206	14	++			+	+

Table 9: Environmental summary

6. Discussion

Very little can be said about the economic processes or environment at this site due to the poor recovery of environmental remains. There is very little evidence to provide a function to

the features analysed and it would appear that domestic activities might not have been common within this area of the site. Although, the lack of domestic debris such as charred plant remains and animal bone may have also resulted from the acidic sandy conditions on site. The presence of the plant remains within the Roman samples suggests that wheat, barley and oat were available alongside other wild edible species such as raspberry and blackberry. This differs little to the assemblages produced from the medieval features, however, these assemblages may have incorporated residual plant remains from earlier periods.

The presence of numerous holly seeds within both burials is interesting in that they are likely to have resulted from wreaths being placed into the grave during burial. The possibility of contamination from nearby holy bushes is unlikely as other deposits, specifically those closer to the hedge, did not contain seeds. The copper staining on some of the seeds also indicates that perhaps they were deposited on metallic grave goods within the burial that has since decayed. The use of evergreen species within burials is not uncommon and has been recorded from numerous graves all over the country from various periods (Pearson 2005). The use of evergreen species, specifically box, within burial rituals “is not difficult to explain; particularly in the winter months in northern latitudes the evergreen quality of such plants obviously lends itself to the use in a ritual where immortality (in some form) of the deceased is anticipated” (Hall in press).

7. Synthesis

7.1 Roman

Both trenches are within the boundaries of the 1st century Mancetter fortress so features of military nature were expected. As recognised elsewhere the Roman features do tend to respect the orientation of the outer defences reflecting an organised internal layout with buildings either parallel to or at right angles to the boundary of the fort. Features identified during this excavation are consistent with this layout. Roman pottery was recovered from a number of features, which can be attributed to the Romano-British period, a number of other features, however, which yielded no datable evidence may also be from this period. The undated ditch (124), for example respects the internal layout and may be associated with ditch 183 to form some kind of enclosure. Other undated features have been assigned a Roman date due to their nature or association with identified Roman features.

Roman ditch 183 could be a boundary ditch representing some form of segmentation within the fort. The block of masonry recovered from the fill hints at the limited use of stone as a building material within the fort. This find could, however, be residual or may imply a different interpretation of the feature as a robbed-out building foundation.

Other features were clustered to the south of ditch 183. These varied in character and may also represent structural elements. These comprise shallow pits and gullies, which could have accommodated structural timbers like posts or cill beams and are roughly aligned north to south. These features together do not lend towards a cohesive building plan so probably relate to more than one phase of activity, a poverty of datable evidence, however, does not allow for phasing only that some are probably earlier than pit 150 which has a *terminus post quem* date of 50-85 AD thanks to the presence of accurately datable Dragondorf 29 form fragments. The rest of these features can be broadly dated to the 1st – 4th century. Pit 152 appears to be filled with successive dumps of natural clay altered by heat and charcoal suggesting small-scale industrial activity was occurring in the vicinity, the nature of which was not clear.

The ditch cluster in the centre of the gas pipe trench represents successive re-instatement of a boundary in this position up until the 3rd or 4th centuries. The date of the initial cut, however, was not clear. As the Roman archaeology associated with the fort dates predominantly to the 1st century, this activity suggests a previously unknown phase of small-scale re-occupation of the fort (or the area of the fort) in the later Roman period possibly by farmers or a small military garrison.

At the north end of the gas pipe trench a substantial ditch was identified (308; Plate 3). Although no datable evidence was recovered from this feature, its nature and character suggest that it is Roman meaning it is probably the outer of the northern defensive boundary ditches of the Mancetter fortress known from elsewhere to date to the 1st century. This is on the correct orientation and was recorded just slightly to the south of its estimated position.

7.2 Medieval

Excavation proved that the site falls within the old boundaries of a medieval cemetery. Severn features interpreted as being graves were excavated in trench 1 (contexts 174, 192, 197, 199, 201, 203 & 208) with a disarticulated skull suggesting further graves were present. These were dated to the medieval period on the grounds of a 13th to 16th century date provided by a single sherd of cooking pot retrieved from the fill of grave 174. The graves were aligned east to west with the head at the west end, typical of Christian medieval burials. The absence of grave goods also corroborates a medieval date rather than a Roman one. The majority of the graves with the exception of one lie outside and respect the alignment of an undated boundary ditch (124) suggesting they are either contemporary with or post-date this feature, which could be associated with the site of Mancetter manor house dating from the 14th century.

Osteoarchaeological analysis was conducted on the skeletal material from grave 174 but was severely restricted due to the poor preservation conditions of the site. Assessment revealed that the skeleton was of a young adult (20-34) of undetermined sex. Analysis also confirmed that no joint disease was present in any of the few zygapophyseal joints of the lower spine and that of those tooth crowns present, none exhibited any serious dental diseases. The lack of enamel hypoplastic defects on the canine crown may suggest that the individual did not suffer any major disturbances to development during childhood (For further detail see Appendix 2).

The retrieval of holly seeds from environmental samples taken from the fills of the graves has been suggested to represent the placing of wreaths of holly upon the bodies during internment, a ritual now recognised as being common from around the country from various periods (Pearson 2005).

The presence of human remains on the site dating from the medieval period suggests that the western boundary of the cemetery associated with St Peters church included some or all of the area excavated (trench 1). The wall 131 may actually have been the cemetery boundary for some time during the late 19th century.

7.3 Post-medieval and modern

The large pit (191, trench 1) contained pottery and industrial waste from the 18th century. This was probably originally excavated as a rubbish pit. In the gas pipe trench a further refuse pit, probably slightly later in date was identified. This was substantial in size containing a main deposit followed by evidence of natural silting indicating the feature was left open for a period before being capped by natural clay. Material retrieved from the fills of these features indicates that both industrial and domestic activity occurred in the vicinity of the site in this period.

The remnants of a 19th century wall (131) in trench have been suggested as being earlier boundary of the cemetery of St Mary's church which now lies 40m to the east. This wall was later nearly completely demolished, probably during landscaping of the grounds associated with the original respite bungalow.

8. Publication summary

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service intends to use this summary as

the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

An excavation and watching brief was undertaken on behalf of North Warwickshire Primary Care Trust at Gramer House, Mancetter, Warwickshire (NGR SP 3195 9665; SWA 7456). The site is within the boundaries of the substantial 1st century Roman fortress at Mancetter. A main trench was excavated at the rear of the property in the position proposed for the construction of a new respite bungalow. A service trench was also monitored, which ran along the length of the drive of the property. The archaeological deposits observed fell into two main periods; Roman and Medieval with a small amount of post-medieval and modern activity also represented.

A number of shallow pits and gullies were Roman in date, possibly relating to military structures. These were associated with a large pit possibly containing industrial waste and other more substantial ditches. A piece of worked stone was recovered from one of these ditches, which may have come from a stone building demolished in the vicinity. A ditch cluster of at least four phases was also identified, the later cuts dating to the 3rd of 4th century which is considerably later than other known predominantly 1st century activity in the area associated with the fort. In the gas pipe trench a substantial ditch, over 7m wide was recorded which is probably part of the northern defences of the fort.

Also recorded were at least seven graves containing a poor assemblage of human remains, the result of the acidic nature of the soil. Osteoarchaeological analysis of the one human skeleton to be sufficiently recovered for assessment, was limited because of the poor quality of the bone. Pottery recovered from one of these graves has been dated to the medieval period and represents a shift of the boundary for graveyard of St Peters church, which now exists 40m to the east. The remains of a wall bisecting the trench could have been this boundary in the 19th century.

9. **The archive**

The archive consists of:

54	Abbreviated context records AS40
3	Context number catalogues AS5
2	Drawing Number Catalogue
10	Fieldwork progress records AS2
4	Levels Record AS19
3	Photographic records AS3
4	Skeleton records AS6
1	Sample records AS17
64	Scale drawings
1	Box of finds
1	CD of digital photographs

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Warwickshire Museum

Market Hall

Market Place

Warwick

Tel: 01926 412500 or 412501

10. Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Graham Marriott (NHS Hospital Trust), Jonathan Parkhouse and Anna Stocks (Warwickshire County Council).

11. Personnel

The excavation was led by James Goad. The watching brief was led by Andy Mann. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Simon Woodiwiss. Fieldwork was undertaken by James Goad, Andy Mann, Angus Crawford and Jon Milward with finds analysis by Alan Jacobs, environmental analysis by Andy Mann and illustration by Craolyn Hunt. Osteoarchaeological analysis was conducted by Gaynor Western from Mercian Archaeology.

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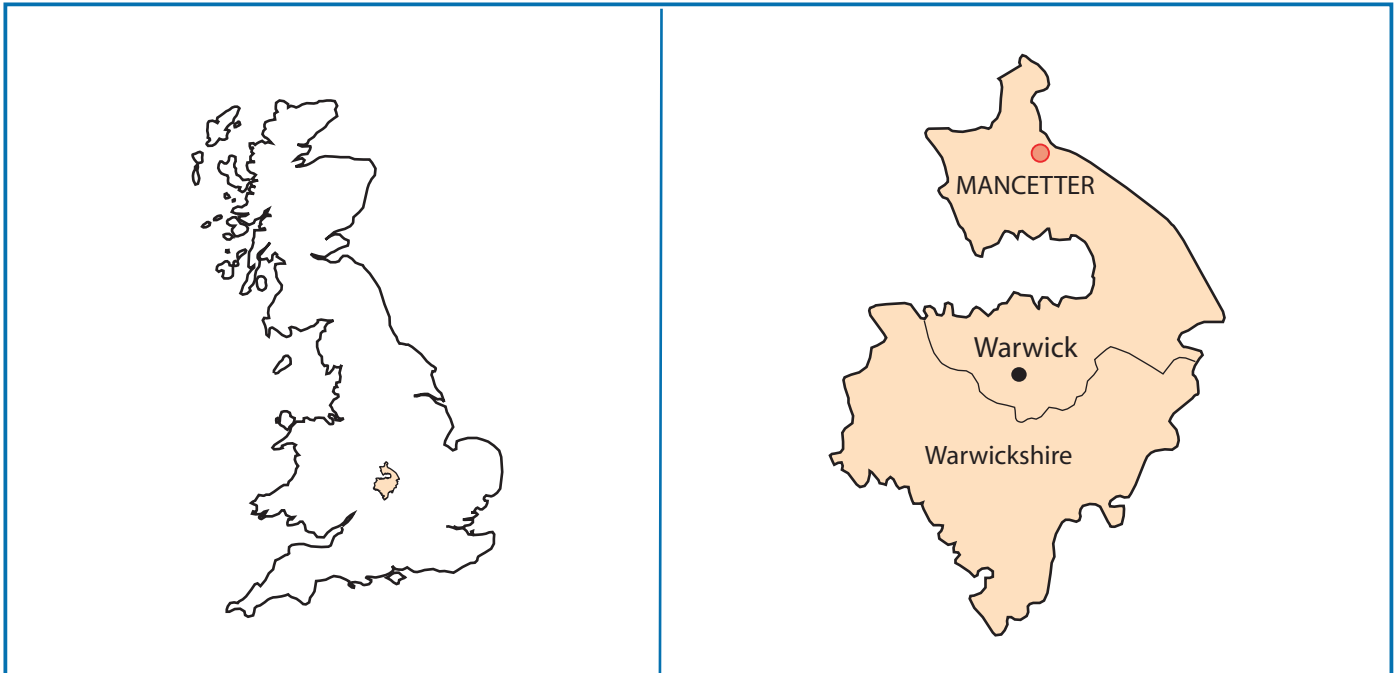
Warwickshire Museum, 2005 *Brief for an archaeological excavation at Gramer House, Old Farm Road, Mancetter, Warwickshire* Warwickshire Museum Field Services, unpublished document dated January 2004

13. **Abbreviations**

NGR National Grid Reference

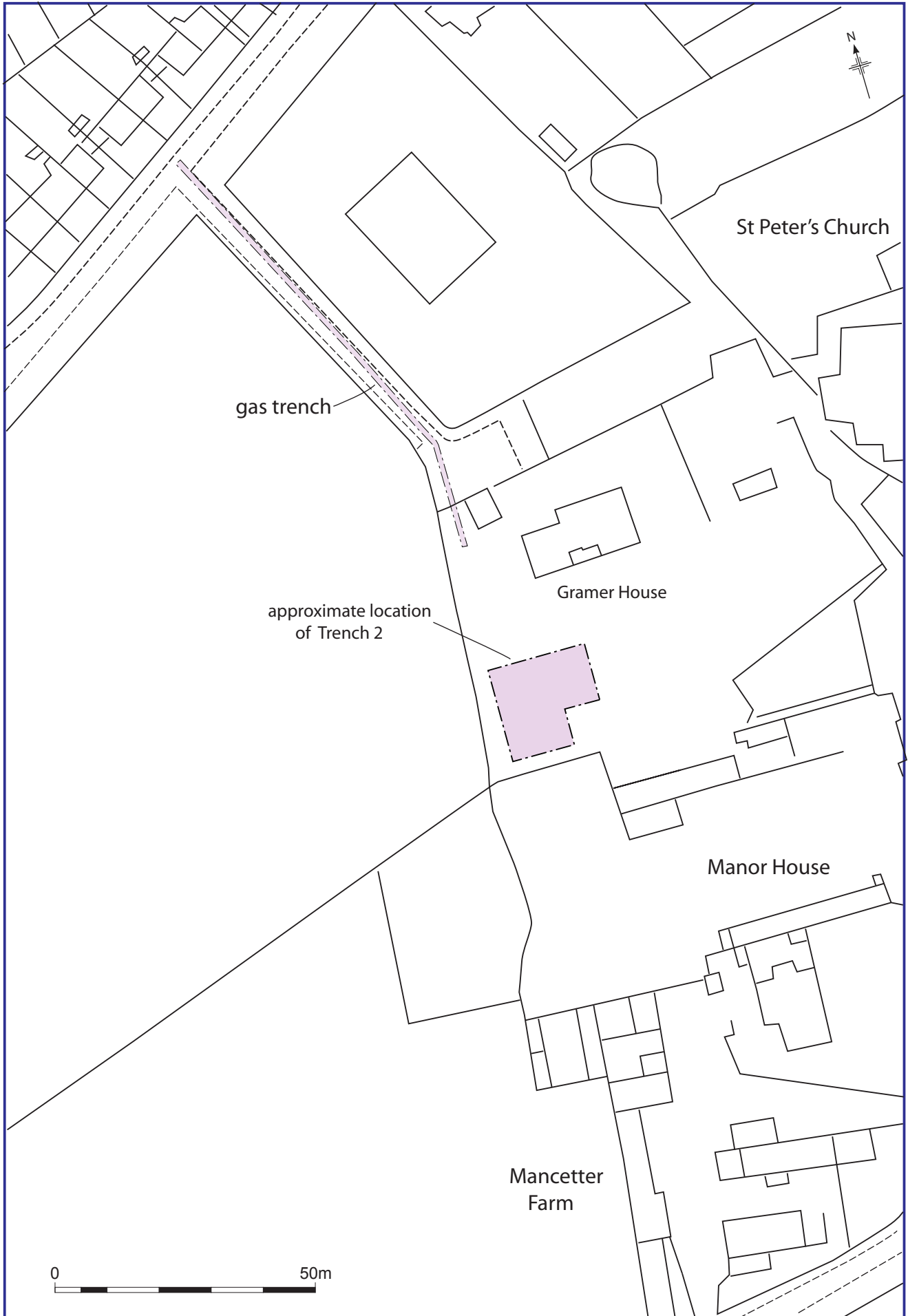
SMR Sites and Monuments Record.

SWA Numbers prefixed with 'SWA' are the primary reference numbers used by the Warwickshire County Historic Environment Record.



Location of the site.

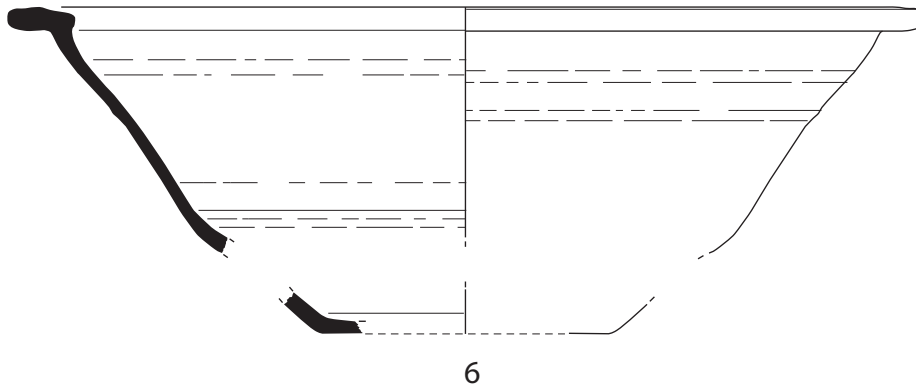
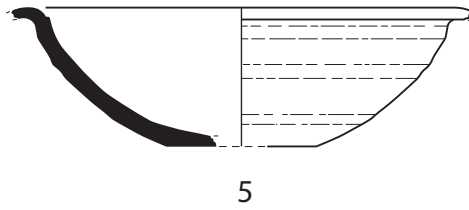
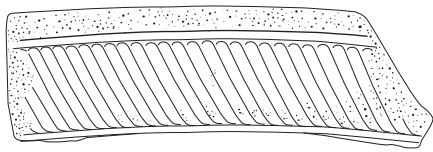
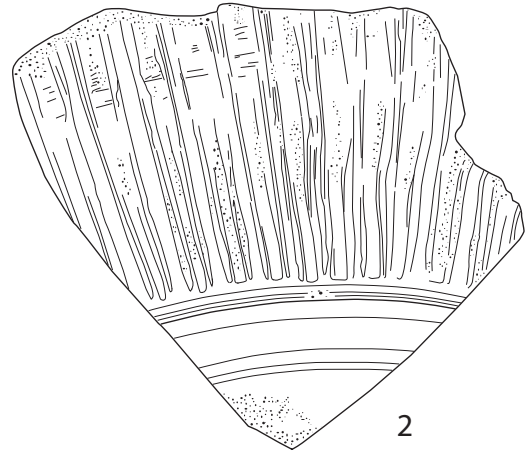
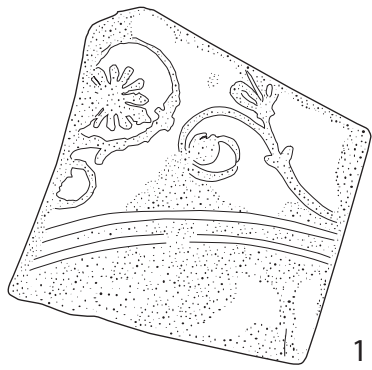
Figure 1



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Trench location plan

Figure 2



Plates



Plate 1 From left, ditch cuts 105, 117, 115 and 119, facing north.



Plate 2 Remains of cemetery wall 131, facing south.



Plate 3 South side of ditch 308, facing east.



Plate 4 Skeleton 173, facing west.



Plate 5 South facing section through 150 and 152, facing north.



Plate 6 North facing sections through 150 (foreground), 141 and 143 with 145 present in between.



plate 7 Western half of site, facing south.



Plate 8 Eastern half of site, facing north-east.

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Excavation trench

Maximum dimensions: Length: 18m Width: 17.5m Depth: 0.6-1.1m

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description
100	Natural	Re-Brown sandy geological natural.
101	Topsoil	Friable dark grey-brown sandy loam.
102	Subsoil	Friable grey-brown sandy loam with occasional small rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks.
103	Deposit	Truncated ditch fill, as 167. Comprises mid grey-brown silty sand with frequent small-large rounded and sub-rounded stones present. Occasional charcoal flecks also present.
104	Deposit	Fill of 105. Comprises mid grey mixed silty sand and clay.
105	Feature	Ditch cut. Parallel side, running on a N-S orientation. This has a approximately 45° sloping west side and a relatively flat base in profile. East edge has been truncated by gully 117. It is unclear whether 105 is earlier or later than 117.
106	Deposit	Single fill of ditch 105. Comprises mid grey-brown silty-clay with abundant small sub-rounded pebbles. Charcoal present as frequent small-large frags.
107	Feature	Linear pit feature. Bears resemblance to grave cut. Vertically sided with and undulating base, 2.2m in length, 0.65m wide by 0.29m deep.
108	Deposit	Single fill of pit 107. Comprises moderately compact and cohesive mid-brown sandy silt with occasional small rounded stones (5%), charcoal (2%) and pot (<1%).
109	Modern Deposit	Rubble deposit, part of path make-up.
110	Feature	Pit feature. Small and circular in plan with steep, near vertical sides and uneven base.
111	Deposit	Single fill of pit 110. Comprises moderately compact mid brown silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded stones (5%), and occasional charcoal flecks (<2%).
112	?Feature	Spread of material, circular in plan with uneven base 0.6m wide by 0.025m deep. No visible cut present. Feature probably heavily truncated pit or large post-hole.
113	Feature	Linear pit feature. Running on a N-S orientation with post-hole 154 situated at northern edge. 'V'-shaped in profile with c. 45° sloping sides and a narrow slightly concave base 2.6m in length, 1.0m wide and 0.4m deep.
114	Deposit	Single fill of pit 113. Comprises very compact mid slightly reddish brown silty sand with a moderate amount of small-medium rounded stones (15%).
115	Feature	Ditch feature on a N-S orientation. This has a c. 45° sloping west side with a c. 30° sloping east side, becoming steeper towards the top of the slope.

Context	Classification	Description
116	Deposit	Single fill of ditch 115. Comprises compact mid grey-brown silty sand with frequent small and large sub-rounded stones and frequent charcoal flecks with a moderate amount of bone and pot present. This context is indistinguishable from 106,118 and 120.
117	Feature	Gully feature on a N-S orientation. This has a bowl-shaped profile. Relationship with 105 is unclear.
118	Deposit	Single fill of gully 117. Comprises friable mid-grey brown silty sand. This is exactly the same as 106.
119	Feature	Ditch feature. Running on a N-S orientation. This has a shallow flat base with the west edge truncated by 115. The east edge exists beyond the trench boundary.
120	Deposit	Single fill of ditch 119. Comprises mid-grey brown silty sand with frequent small-medium sized stones and frequent charcoal flecks.
121	Deposit	Fill of gully 122. Comprises loose to friable greyish brown mixed sand with occasional small-medium sized sub-rounded stones present.
122	Feature	Butt end of gully feature. Gradual sloping concave sides with flat base.
123	Deposit	Fill of ditch 124. Comprises mixed light to mid grey loose sand with moderate sub-rounded small to medium sized sub-rounded stones.
124	Feature	Ditch feature. Concave east side with straight west side and slightly concave base, 0.86m wide by 0.34m deep.
125	Modern layer	Concrete block paving representing path across the site.
126	Modern layer	Make-up for path below 125. Comprises light grey granular sandy deposit.
127	Modern layer	Tarmac surface, precursor to 125.
128	Modern layer	Make-up for tarmac path 127. Comprises thin brown layer of silty sand.
129	Deposit	Fill of 130. Comprises grey limestone chunks re-deposited from wall 131 mixed with a light greyish brown aggregate. This is within a brown sandy matrix.
130	Feature	Cut of ditch, concave east side and irregular west edge, base unknown.
131	Wall	Length of wall existing in patches across the length of the site on rough N-S orientation. Composed of irregular -shaped medium to large blocks of limestone with occasional pieces of red brick with lime mortar adhering.
132	Layer	Friable mid grey-brown silty sand layer .
133	Deposit	Fill of ?pit 134. Comprises friable brownish grey silty sand.
134	Feature	Possible pit cut into 132, 135 and 137. Steep, slightly concave sides, base unknown.
135	Layer	Comprises mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional to moderate amount of medium sized sub-rounded stones with occasional inclusions of CBM. Cut by pit 134.
136	Deposit	Fill of 137. Comprises mixed orange sandy clay brownish grey silty sand.

Context	Classification	Description
137	Feature	Possible pit feature, cuts ditch fill 138.
138	Deposit	Fill of ditch 119, cut by 137.
139	Feature	Cut for wall 131. Truncated by 130.
140	Deposit	Fill of wall cut 139. Comprises mixed grey-brown sandy clay.
141	Feature	Terminus of linear feature running on a N-S orientation.
142	Deposit	Fill of 141. Comprises moderately compact dark brown silty sand with frequent flecks of charcoal (15%), burnt clay (20%) and small rounded stones (<2%).
143	Feature	Terminus of linear feature on a N-S orientation. Slightly rounded termination with 45° concave and uneven sides with uneven concave base.
144	Deposit	Fill of ditch 143. Comprises moderately compact light to mid brown silty sand with frequent small rounded stones (10%
145	Feature	Small linear pit on an approximately E-W orientation located at the end of 141 and 143. Fairly steep 45° concave sides with a concave base.
146	Deposit	Moderately compact light-mid brown silty sand with rare (2%) small rounded stones present.
147	Deposit	Fill of pit 148. Comprises loose mid brown silty-sand with occasional small rounded stones.
148	Feature	Pit feature. Slightly concave sides with concave base. Uncertain relationship with 124 but probably earlier.
149	Deposit	Fill of ditch 124, as 123.
150	Feature	Ditch feature on a N-S orientation and partially on a NW-SE orientation. Sides are near vertical with a flat base.
151	Deposit	Fill of ditch 150. Comprises friable light grey-brown sandy silt. Upper 0.2m contains frequent charcoal frags (15-20%) and burnt clay. Small-medium sized rounded stones present (5-10%).
152	Feature	Terminus of ditch running on a NE-SW orientation. Sides are flat and c. 45° with a concave base. Cuts 150. Filled by 1 main fill and subsequent tips of charcoal and sand and sealed by a layer of redeposited natural clay.
153	Deposit	Fill of ditch 152. Comprises moderately compact mid-dark brown sandy silt with occasional rounded stones (2%) and charcoal flecks (5%).
154	Feature	Post-hole, circular in plan with 60° sloping sides and a concave base.
155	Deposit	Fill of post-hole 154. Comprises very compact dark brown sandy silt with occasional small rounded stones (2%) and charcoal (2%).
156	Deposit	Fill of gully/ditch 157. Comprises mixed brown and grey silty sand with occasional medium to large sub-rounded stones.

Context	Classification	Description
157	Feature	Gully/Ditch on a E-W orientation with concave sides and base. Cut by or possibly contemporary with post-hole 159.
158	Deposit	Fill of post-hole 159. Comprises friable mid grey-brown silty sand with an occasional to moderate amount of small-medium sized stones.
159	Feature	Post-hole, circular in plan with near vertical sides, convex on north side, concave on south side. Located within gully 157.
160	Deposit	Fill of post-hole 161. Comprises mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional to moderate amount of medium sized stones.
161	Feature	Pit feature. Straight sides with flat base. Possibly cut by post-hole 159.
162	Feature	Ditch cut, as 115.
163	Feature	Gully cut, as 117.
164	Deposit	Fill of 152. Redeposited natural clay. Very compact and orangey-red in colour.
165	Deposit	Fill of 152. Tips of very friable light brown and orange sand, appear sandwiched between layers of charcoal.
166	Deposit	As 165.
167	Deposit	Single fill of ditch 162 and gully 163. Comprises compact mid grey-brown silty sand with frequent round and sub-rounded stones with frequent charcoal inclusions.
168	Deposit	Fill of gully 169. Comprises loose mid greyish brown sand with occasional small to medium sized sub-rounded stones. Heavily disturbed by root action.
169	Feature	Curvilinear gully cut, roughly aligned E-W, concave sides and base.
170	Missing	
171	Deposit	Fill of feature 172. Comprises loose dark-brown sand with occasional medium to large sized sub-rounded stones and occasional CBM. Context heavily affected by rooting.
172	Feature	Either a ditch terminus or pit. Feature has steep convex sides and a flat base.
173	Skeleton	Adult burial; Supine from pelvis down, torso and skull twisted to the left. Skeleton is in extremely poor condition.
174	Feature	Grave cut for burial 173. Oval shaped in plan on an E-W orientation. Gently sloping sides with flat base in profile 1.67m in length, 0.54m wide by 0.09m deep. Feature has been mostly truncated by machining.
175	Deposit	Fill of grave cut 174. Comprises mid greyish brown compacted silty sand with occasional small rounded to sub-angular stones present.
176		CANCELLED
177	Feature	Terminus of ditch 143. East side is c. 60°, west side is 45°. Gentle break of slope to a flat base.

Context	Classification	Description
178	Feature	Very shallow and ephemeral ground channel.
179	Feature	Very shallow and ephemeral ground channel.
180	Deposit	Fill of 177. Comprises friable dark brown silty sand with poorly sorted inclusions of rounded and sub-rounded gravel.
181	Deposit	Fill of 178. Comprises compact dark brown poorly sorted gravel in a silty sand matrix.
182	Deposit	Fill of 179. Comprises compacted dark brown soil with poorly sorted gravels.
183	Feature	Ditch cut, running on an E-W orientation.
184	Deposit	Fill of ditch 183. Comprises moderately compact and cohesive dark brown sandy silt with inclusions of small to large rounded stones.
185	Feature	Elongated pit feature, on a E-W orientation. This has 60° sloping sides and an uneven concave base.
186	Deposit	Fill of pit 186. Comprises compacted light-mid brown compacted silty sand with abundant small rounded stones (50%).
187	Feature	Elongated pit feature with 45° sloping sides and a near flat base.
188	Deposit	Fill of 187. Comprises compact mid brown sandy silt with small-medium rounded stones (<5%).
189	Deposit	Secondary fill of pit 191. Comprises mixed backfill with dark greyish brown silty sand mixed with an even proportion of yellowish orangey clay. Occasional to moderate amount of small to large sub-rounded stones.
190	Deposit	Primary fill of pit 191. Comprises mixed backfill very similar to 189 with less yellow clay. Sandy fill progressively damp towards base with occasional small-medium sized sub-rounded stones present throughout.
191	Feature	Pit feature. Sub-rectangular-shaped in plan, steep slightly convex sides and flat base in profile.
192	Feature	Terminus of E-W aligned ditch. Straight parallel sides with semi-circle end. Approximately 45-60° sloping sides with a slightly concave base.
193	Deposit	Fill of ditch 192. Comprises friable mid to dark brown sandy silt with inclusions of occasional rounded and sub-rounded pebbles (15%).
194	Deposit	Secondary fill of grave 197. Comprises dark-grey silty sand with moderate charcoal lumps and occasional small rounded stones present.
195	Deposit	Primary fill of grave cut 197. Comprises light brown sand with occasional small sub-rounded stones present.
196	Skeleton	Skeleton in extremely poor condition, represented by chunk of pelvis and top of femur, rest absent or fragmentary and was retrieved in environmental sample.
197	Feature	Grave cut for skeleton 196. Aligned on an E-W orientation with gradual sloping sides with a flat base. Truncated at west end by a large tree bole.

Context	Classification	Description
198	Human skull	Recovered from Deposit 184 in cut 183. Grave cut not visible, probably truncated by machine during stripping. Would have been on E-W orientation with head at the west end.
199	Feature	Ditch terminus. Parallel sided with semi-circular sided terminus at west end. North side is vertical south and west sides have slopes of 30-45° with a flat base.
200	Deposit	Fill of ditch 199. Comprises friable mid to dark brown sandy silt with occasional inclusions of small to large rounded and sub-rounded pebbles (15%).
201	Feature	Ditch terminus. Parallel sided running on a E-W orientation. Sides are 45°, 70° at terminus end with a flat base in profile.
202	Deposit	Fill of ditch 201. Comprises very compact mid brown sandy silt with occasional small rounded stones (<10%) and charcoal flecks (<2%).
203	Feature	Ditch terminus, E-W aligned; parallel sided with a semicircular terminus at the west end. Sides are near vertical with a flat base.
204	Deposit	Fill of ditch 203. Comprises friable mid to dark brown sandy silt with 10% poorly sorted small-large rounded pebbles.
205	----	Cancelled
206	Deposit	Fill of grave 208. Comprises loose dark brown silty sand with occasional small rounded stones and charcoal.
207	Skeleton	Skeleton in poor state of preservation. Represented by a few chunks of femur and small fragments, retrieved as an environmental sample.
208	Feature	Grave cut for skeleton 207. E-W orientated grave 1.8m long by 0.7m wide and 0.25m deep.
209	Disturbance	Area of post-med disturbance in centre and north part of the site.

Trench 2

Watching brief on the gas pipe trench

Maximum dimensions: Length: 89m Width: 1m Depth: 1.8-2.0m

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description
300	Natural geology	Very compact silty sand. Dark red in colour with some yellow patches.
301	Modern layer	Tarmac road surface.
302	Modern layer	Make-up for extant road surface. Comprises friable red sand mixed with road stone.
303	Feature	Ditch feature. Aligned NE-SW. Sides are c. 45° and slightly concave with a concave base.
304	Deposit	Clay capping layer of 303. Comprises very compact and cohesive red silty clay.
305	Deposit	Secondary fill of ditch 303. Comprises compact light yellowish-brown sandy silt representing natural silting up of ditch.
306	Deposit	Primary fill of ditch 303. Comprises friable dark brown sandy silt frequent charcoal flecks and refuse present.
307	Deposit	Fill of ditch 308. Comprises friable dark reddish brown slightly sandy silt.
308	Feature	Large ditch feature, running on a NE-SW orientation. Only eastern edge of feature visible. Side is slightly stepped with a gradual break of slope (c. 30°).
309	Deposit	Primary fill of ditch 308. Comprises moderately compact and cohesive dark brown/black sandy silt with occasional charcoal fragments and occasional fragments of bone.
310	Deposit	Friable light yellow/red silty sand. Sterile.
311	Feature	Ditch running on a NE-SW orientation. Appeared to be a service cut but no service was identified.
312	Deposit	Fill of 311. Comprised very loose mixed blu/grey material with abundant large angular stones.
313	Deposit or Layer	Mixed top and sub-soil (314 and 310 respectively). Comprises moderately compact and friable mixed dark brown silty sand and light yellowish brown silty sand with occasional charcoal and small rounded stone inclusions.
314	Deposit	Moderately compact but friable in places with occasional small and medium sized rounded stones and occasional charcoal inclusions.
315	Deposit	Extention of 310, although transition not evident. Comprises compact light orangey brown silty sand.
316	Feature	Very wide ditch running on a NE-SW orientation. Very shallow with gradual sloping sides and a concave base. This could be a layer as sides are diffuse.
317	Feature	Ditch feature running on a NE-SW orientation. Sides are near vertical. Eastern edge has

		slight step with a nearly flat slightly concave base.
318	Deposit	Primary fill of ditch 317. Comprises very friable light yellow silty sand.
319	Deposit	Secondary fill of ditch 318. Comprises very compact and cohesive light brown sandy silt with frequent small to medium rounded stones and occasional charcoal fragments.
320	Layer	Compact and cohesive light yellow silty sand with some red patches of the same material. Contains frequent small to medium rounded stones.
321	Natural geology	Extremely compact and cohesive dark red sand with frequent small to medium rounded stones.

Appendix 2 Human and faunal remains from Gramer House Mancetter by Gaynor Western

Introduction

This report contains the results of the osteological analysis of human remains recovered during the excavations carried out at Gramer House, Mancetter, Warwickshire (Site Code: EWA 7456). The excavation was carried out by Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service during May 2005, for which a report is under construction.

A total of seven graves were excavated, (contexts [174], [192], [197], [199], [201], [203] & [208], although the majority of these yielded no human bone preserved well enough to allow osteological analysis. One articulated inhumated human skeleton, however, referred to as context [173] was recovered from the site. All the graves were thought to be late Saxon or early medieval in date from the associated pottery recovered from the features. The graves were orientated in an east to west alignment with the head to the west end of the grave, which is typical of Christian burials from this period. The analysis of the human remains from context [173] can be found in Part 1 of this report.

Animal bone was recovered from a number of features (contexts [102], [109], [196], [207]). The results of this analysis are presented separately in Part 2.

The osteological analysis of the human remains aims to provide a detailed inventory of the skeletal and dental material recovered, the condition of the bone present, completeness of the skeletons and to provide, where possible, the age, sex and stature of the individuals recovered. Any evidence of pathological changes is also noted.

Methods and process

The skeletal material was analysed according to the standards laid out in the guidelines recommended by the British Association of Biological Anthropologists and Osteologists in conjunction with the IFA (Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains, Brickley and McKinley (eds) 2004) as well as by English Heritage (Human Bones from Archaeological Sites: Guidelines for producing assessment documents and analytical reports, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines, 2002).

- Recording of the material was carried out using the recognised descriptions contained in Standards for Data Collection from Human Skeletal Remains by Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994). Copies of the recording forms used are contained in Appendix A of the report.
- The material was analysed macroscopically and where necessary with the aid of a magnifying glass for identification purposes. Where relevant, digital photographs have been used for illustration.

The material was analysed without prior knowledge of associated artefacts so that the assessment remained as objective as possible.

Reasons for the analysis

Osteological analysis was carried out to ascertain:

- Condition of bone present
- Completeness of the skeleton
- Inventory of the skeletal material
- Sex Determination
- Age Assessment
- Non-metric Traits
- Stature
- Skeletal Pathology
- Dental Pathology

Part 1: Human remains from Gramer House, Mancetter, Context 173

Condition of the bone present

Introduction

The condition of the bone was assessed macroscopically and recorded according to the categories and descriptions referred to by Brickley and McKinley (2004).

Observations

The preservation of the human bone contained in context [173] was found to be varied, being graded from 2-5 (Brickley and McKinley 2004) although overall, the surface of the bones were thought to be in 'fair' condition (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994). Whilst some of the bone cortex had surfaces that were reasonably intact, others were abraded by water and root action, rendering the surfaced unobservable. All the bone recovered was, however, extremely fragmented.

Results

The bone recovered from Skeleton [173] was found on the whole to be in fair condition, although condition of the bone was very varied and the remains were extremely fragmentary.

Completeness of skeletons

Introduction

This is a guide to the overall completeness of the individual's skeletal remains and is calculated according to the percentage of the bones present in relation the total number of bones in a complete human skeleton. This is gauged through an assessment of the amount of material representing different areas of the body. A complete skeleton comprises of:

Skull = 20%
Torso = 40%
Arms = 20%
Legs = 20%

Observations

Only a small proportion of skeleton [173] was recovered due to preservation conditions. Only a few fragments from each area of the body survived. The total weight of the fragments was 130g.

Results

Skeleton [173] was estimated to consist of less than 10% of its original skeletal content and falls into the <25%+ category (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994) of completeness.

Inventory of skeletal material

Introduction

An inventory of the skeletal material was recorded in tabular form on Sheet B (contained in the appendix). Each bone has been recorded as being absent or present. The long bones are recorded according to the presence or absence of the proximal, middle and distal sections and also the proximal and distal joint surfaces. The percentage of completeness of the bones of the axial skeleton (with the exception of the spine) is recorded in categories of > 75%, 75-50%, 50-25% and <25%. This detailed recording is necessary to understand the nature of the preservation of the skeletal material and any constraints that the condition of material may put on the ensuing analysis. From the perspective of future research, a detailed inventory also allows an accurate calculation of prevalence rates of pathological conditions such as fractures and joint diseases and should prove more fruitful for future reassessment should the skeletal material be reinterred.

Observations

Observations of material present were noted on recording sheet B contained in the appendix.

Results

The inventory of skeleton [173] reveals how little bone was recovered. The lack of completeness of this skeleton severely restricted the results of the osteoarchaeological analysis, especially assessment of any pathological changes. Only seven zyapophyseal lower thoracic/lumbar joint surfaces, a small fragment of one acetabular surface and two distal joint surfaces of two hand phalanges were observable, making it impossible to assess the presence of many joint diseases.

Age assessment

Introduction

There are a number of techniques available for assessing the age of both adult and juvenile remains. The age of juveniles can be accurately assessed by observing the stage of development of skeletal growth, dental eruption and tooth formation. The assessment of adult remains is based on the changes observed in particular joints in the body, namely the auricular surface, pubic symphysis and costal rib ends. These changes are consistent with the ageing of the skeleton but fall into broad age ranges. These categories are Young Adult (20-34 years), Middle Adult (35-49 years) and Old Adult (50+ years) (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994). Cranial suture closure and dental attrition are generally not considered reliable techniques for age estimation. However, due to the limited amount of bone recovered from this skeleton and the presence of one observable molar tooth surface, dental attrition using methods from Miles (1962) and Brothwell (1981) were employed in order to gain a tentative insight into the age at death of this individual.

Observations

The remains of skeleton [173] were severely depleted of skeletal material and it was not possible to apply any of the morphological techniques to assess the age at death of the individual represented. None of the epiphyses of the long bones survived intact and, therefore, it was not possible to make any observations regarding epiphyseal fusion. However, three teeth crowns did survive and the wear of these crown surfaces was observed in order to make a limited assessment of the age of this individual. Dental attrition can only be used as a rough guide as to the age of death due to cultural factors, such as the amount of grit in the diet of the individual and also biomechanical factors such as whether an individual chews on one particular side of the mouth or if certain teeth are absent, forcing an individual to chew on the only teeth present.

The two tooth crowns observed were that of a lower second premolar and a lower 1st molar. The canine was identified as being from the right side and the 1st molar from the left. The premolar was observed to have only a little wear, with moderate cusp removal and was graded as category 2 (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994). The 1st molar was observed to have been worn flat with complete removal of all cusps and small areas of dentine exposure were present. This wear was graded as category 4 (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994).

Results

Analysis of the surviving tooth crowns revealed that this individual was unlikely to be a juvenile or an older adult. The tooth crowns were worn, indicating not only that the teeth had erupted but also had been used to a significant degree. The age of eruption for a lower second premolar is generally between 10 and 11 years of age and 6 years of age for a 1st lower molar (Smith 1991). However, the wear was generally slight on both teeth, and was estimated to fall into the young adult (20-34 years) age group using the Miles (1962) and Brothwell (1981) dental attrition charts (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994). This analysis is, however, extremely limited and should only be considered as a tentatively suggested age assessment.

Sex determination

Introduction

Techniques employed to determine of the biological sex of adult skeletal remains are well established and are largely based upon an assessment of the morphological features exhibited by the skull and the pelvis. These features reflect the sexual dimorphism displayed between males and females and develop as the individual matures. These features are, therefore, not observably marked during adolescence and there are no reliable techniques for determining the sex of juvenile remains, except for DNA analysis. Sex determination is relatively accurate, some researchers reporting a success rate of 95% of known in tests on known sex samples (Phenice 1969). Techniques generally used include descriptive methods, metric analysis and discriminant functions depending on the completeness of the skeletal material.

Observations

There were no morphological features surviving that may have indicated the sex of skeleton [173] and the fragmentary nature of the skeletal material prevented any metric analysis being undertaken.

Results

The sex of this individual was recorded as 'unobservable' due to the lack of skeletal evidence present.

Non-metric traits

Introduction

Non-metric traits are morphological features that occur both in bone and dentition. These features have no functional purpose and occur in some individuals and not in others. The origins of non-metric traits have now been shown to be highly complex, each having its own aetiology and each being influenced to differing extents by genetics, the environment, age and sex of the individual and by physical activity. Generally, the analysis of these traits requires a large sample size. Non-metric traits have been recorded for these skeletons in order to allow future comparisons with findings from other late medieval assemblages in the Worcestershire area.

Observations

Observations were noted on recording sheet I (contained in the archive). The potential analysis of the presence or absence of non-metric traits was dictated by the state of preservation of the skeletal remains.

Results

Unfortunately, none of the anatomical locations of the non-metric traits assessed were present and, therefore, all non-metric traits were marked as 'unobservable'.

Stature and metric analysis

Introduction

Stature of adult individuals can be reconstructed from measurements of long bones of the skeleton. Since the long bones of adolescents have not yet fully developed it is not possible to provide an estimate of stature for juveniles. Stature is the result of many factors including genetics and environmental influences, such as malnutrition and poor health. Height can be used as an indicator of health status and there is a wide range of literature on the relationships between height, health and social status.

Observations

None of the long bones of skeleton [173] were complete and no measurements could be taken.

Results

Due to the lack of data, no estimation of stature could be made.

Skeletal pathology

Introduction

Palaeopathology is the study of diseases of past peoples and can be used to infer the health status of groups of individuals within a population as well as indicate the overall success of the adaptation of a population to its surrounding environment. Pathologies are categorised according to their aetiologies; e.g. congenital, metabolic, infectious, traumatic, neoplastic etc. Any pathological modifications to the bone are described. The size and location of any lesion is also noted. Distribution of lesions about the skeleton should be noted to allow diagnosis. A differential diagnosis for any pathological lesions should be provided.

Observations

Only a seven zyapophyseal lower thoracic/lumbar joint surfaces, a small fragment of one acetabular surface and two distal joint surfaces of two hand phalanges were observable from the skeletal material. None of these joint surfaces exhibited any pathological changes associated with any joint diseases. No pathological changes were observed on any of the other bone fragments.

Results

The palaeopathological analysis was very limited due to the under-representation of the bones recovered from skeleton [173]. However, it was observed that no joint disease was present on the very few joint surfaces that were present, which may corroborate the potential age of death of this individual. It may have been expected that an older individual would have exhibited some form of degenerative joint disease or osteoarthritis in this area of the spine; however, this inference, again, is very subjective and not conclusive.

Dental pathology

Introduction

Dental pathologies recorded can provide a wide range of information. For example, calculus, caries, abscesses and periodontal disease may be indicative of poor oral hygiene, infection or high sugar intake. Enamel hypoplasia is the product of defective enamel growth and is linked to poor nutrition and health status during childhood. Congenital abnormalities can also noted such as those that are genetic in origin or those that are the result of pathologies such as syphilis.

Observations

Skeleton [173] had a total of three observable tooth crowns present. These had no roots. No alveolar bone, either belonging to the maxilla or the mandible, was present. Only a very limited analysis of dental health could be undertaken and only the presence or absence of caries, calculus and enamel hypoplasia could be assessed.

Results

Skeleton [173] exhibited no caries or enamel hypoplasia in the teeth present. The canine is thought to be one of the teeth that is most susceptible to any cessation of development (Goodman & Armelagos 1985). Since there were no hypoplastic defects on this canine, it is unlikely that there were any serious defects in any of the other teeth. This could indicate that the individual did not suffer any sustained periods of malnutrition, serious febrile diseases or any other pathological conditions (Hillson 1986). No caries were present, indicating that at least during childhood, the individual's diet was low in sugar (Roberts and Manchester 1997). A small amount of calculus was observed on the lingual surfaces of the canine and the premolar resulting from failure to remove the build up of plaque on the teeth (Roberts and Manchester 1997). The amount of calculus observed was very slight and it would appear that,

generally, from the limited evidence available for scrutiny, that the individual's oral hygiene was good.

Conclusion

The table below summarises the findings of the osteological analysis of skeleton [173] :-

	Skeleton [173]
Condition	Varied (2-5); on the whole fair but heavily fragmented.
Completeness	<10% (<25%)
Age	20-34? (Young Adult?)
Sex	Unobservable
Stature	Unobservable
Skeletal Pathology	None
Dental Pathology	Slight Supragingival Calculus.

The results of the osteoarchaeological analysis indicate that the remains of skeleton [173] were those of an adult, whose age at death was possibly between 20-34 years. The results of the analysis were severely impeded by the lack of skeletal material recovered due to the preservation conditions present on site. It is possible to say that no joint disease was present in any of the few zygapophyseal joint of the lower spine and that of those tooth crowns present, none exhibited any serious dental diseases. The lack of enamel hypoplastic defects on the canine crown may suggest that this individual did not suffer any major disturbances to development during childhood.

Part 2: Faunal remains from Gramer House, Mancetter.

Introduction

A limited number of faunal remains were uncovered in association with the excavation of a burial site at Gramer House in Mancetter, undertaken by Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service during May 2005. The contexts analysed were [102], [109], [196], [207]. Contexts [196] and [207] are the fills of two graves [197] and [208] whilst context [102] was the layer of subsoil. Context [109] is believed to represent an area of post-medieval disturbance to the site.

Method

The remains were identified using reference materials and identification guidelines by Schmid (1972) and Hillson (1996). Age estimations were determined from Silver (1969) and Grant (1982).

Preservation

The preservation of the remains was very poor and extremely friable with a yellowish white colour. The bones did not display any evidence of weathering, such as cracking or warping and were probably buried shortly after disposal.

Results

The results of the analysis have been summarised in table 1 below, showing the presence of domesticated species including cattle and a medium sized dog. The fusion of the long bones and the wear on the molar suggested that the cattle were at least 6 months [196] and 3.5 years of age [102] whilst the dog was at least 1 year at death [102]. None of the remains displayed any cut marks or other signs of butchering though the poor preservation may have obscured any such findings.

Discussion

The remains uncovered from the excavation of Christian burials [197] and [208] are likely to be intrusive to the burials. It is unclear whether they were incorporated into the soil prior or post to the burials, but are likely represent remains of residual domestic refuse rather than deliberately deposited funerary goods. It is also likely that the faunal remains recovered from subsoil layer [102] and from the deposit resulting from post-medieval material disturbance [109] also represent domestic refuse.

Site/context	Latin name	Common name	Element	Age	Side	Comments	
EWA 7456-102	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Cattle	Prox	Tibia	>3,5-4 yrs	Left	-
EWA 7456-102	<i>Canis familiaris</i>	Dog	Compl.	Radius	>1 yrs	Left	ML=166mm
EWA 7456-109	Large mammal	-	Fragm.	Rib	-	-	-
EWA 7456-109	Large mammal	-	Fragm.	Mandible	-	-	-
EWA 7456-109	Large mammal	-	Fragm.	Mandible	-	-	-
EWA 7456-109	Med. mammal	-	Fragm.	Long bone	-	-	-
EWA 7456-196	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Cattle	Compl.	Maxillary M1	Stage C*	Right	Minimal wear
EWA 7456-196	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Cattle	Fragm.	Premolar (p2)	-	-	-
EWA 7456-196	Large mammal	-	Fragm.	Maxillary	-	-	-
EWA 7456-207	Mammal	-	Fragm.	Fragments	-	-	-

Table 1: Identification of faunal remains from Gramer House, Mancetter (Grant 1982).

Part 3: Discussion and conclusion

Seven features interpreted as being graves were excavated at the site of Gramer House. Unfortunately, the preservation conditions on site did not allow the recovery of much human skeletal material and, thus, the potential of the osteoarchaeological analysis was severely restricted. However, the nature and layout of the features suggest very strongly that these features were indeed graves. The majority of the graves were located outside a post-Roman boundary ditch running on a similar alignment, which itself is thought likely to be associated with the site of Mancetter Manor House, dating to around 1330AD. One grave lies within the area enclosed by the boundary ditch, respecting its alignment. The burials, therefore, may well be contemporary with or predate the ditch. They are likely to be associated with the site of the nearby Church of St. Peter. The present building dates to the 12th century, although it is possible that an earlier building may have existed.

The nature of the burials, being aligned east to west and being unfurnished with grave goods of any kind would suggest that they were christian burials. Christian burials dating to the Roman period tend to be found with some form of grave goods or personal items, represented by hobnails or articulated animal remains, though this is not necessarily true in all cases. Rural Roman burial sites of this scale tend to be located alongside contemporary roads, outside an area of local settlement. The animal bone found associated with these features was disarticulated and minimal, leading to the conclusion that these were not deposited as part of a burial rite but were possibly specimens that have become incorporated into the grave fill through post-depositional taphonomic factors, such as soil movement (through tree root disturbance or animal and worm burrowing etc.) or were residual from prior domestic activity on site. The funerary evidence gathered here suggests a date more likely to be of the late Saxon period at the earliest and has parallels to other sites from this date, such as the cemetery at Whitby Headland. Here, graves were aligned east-west, contained very few finds and were associated with the nearby Abbey (<http://www.eng-h.gov.uk/projects/whitby/wahpsae/update01/update01.htm#a3>). Unfortunately, no conclusive evidence has yet been recovered from Gramer House to give a clearer idea of the date of the burials.

Analysis of the one human skeleton to be sufficiently recovered for assessment revealed that the individual was most probably a young adult. The sex of this individual could not be determined due to a lack of physical evidence. No skeletal pathology was observed although slight supragingival calculus was found to be present on the few tooth crowns that had survived. The preservation of the skeletal material was on the whole fair and it may be

possible that a radiocarbon date could be obtained from some of the better preserved bone to confirm the date of the deposition.

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