



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

AT

LAND AT VICARAGE LANE,

HARBURY, WARWICKSHIRE

NGR SP 37433 59876

On behalf of

CgMs Consulting

OCTOBER 2017

REPORT FOR CgMs Consulting Ltd
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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation on the west side of Vicarage Lane north of Harbury village Warwickshire (NGR SP 37433 59876) and consisted of six trenches.

Evidence from the evaluation seems to suggest possible nearby activities during the Romano-British period due to the presence of three residual sherds of pottery within later features; a Post-Medieval gully 5/08 and the lower fill of Medieval pit 5/05.

Finds from the various features (ditches and pits) encountered within the trenches seem to suggest a broad date range of between the 11th – 14th and probably 16th centuries. The east – west ditch 4/05 possibly represents part of a former boundary along the southern extent of Harbury village from the Medieval period onwards and the ditches encountered in Trenches 1, 2, 3, and 4 are probably part of a co-axial field system of a similar date. The various pits and postholes within Trench 5 are typical of refuse pits located at the rear of the Medieval plots.

The trenches revealed evidence likely to have related to the former settlement, property division and associated ‘back yard’ activity of local significance during the Medieval and Post-Medieval periods.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

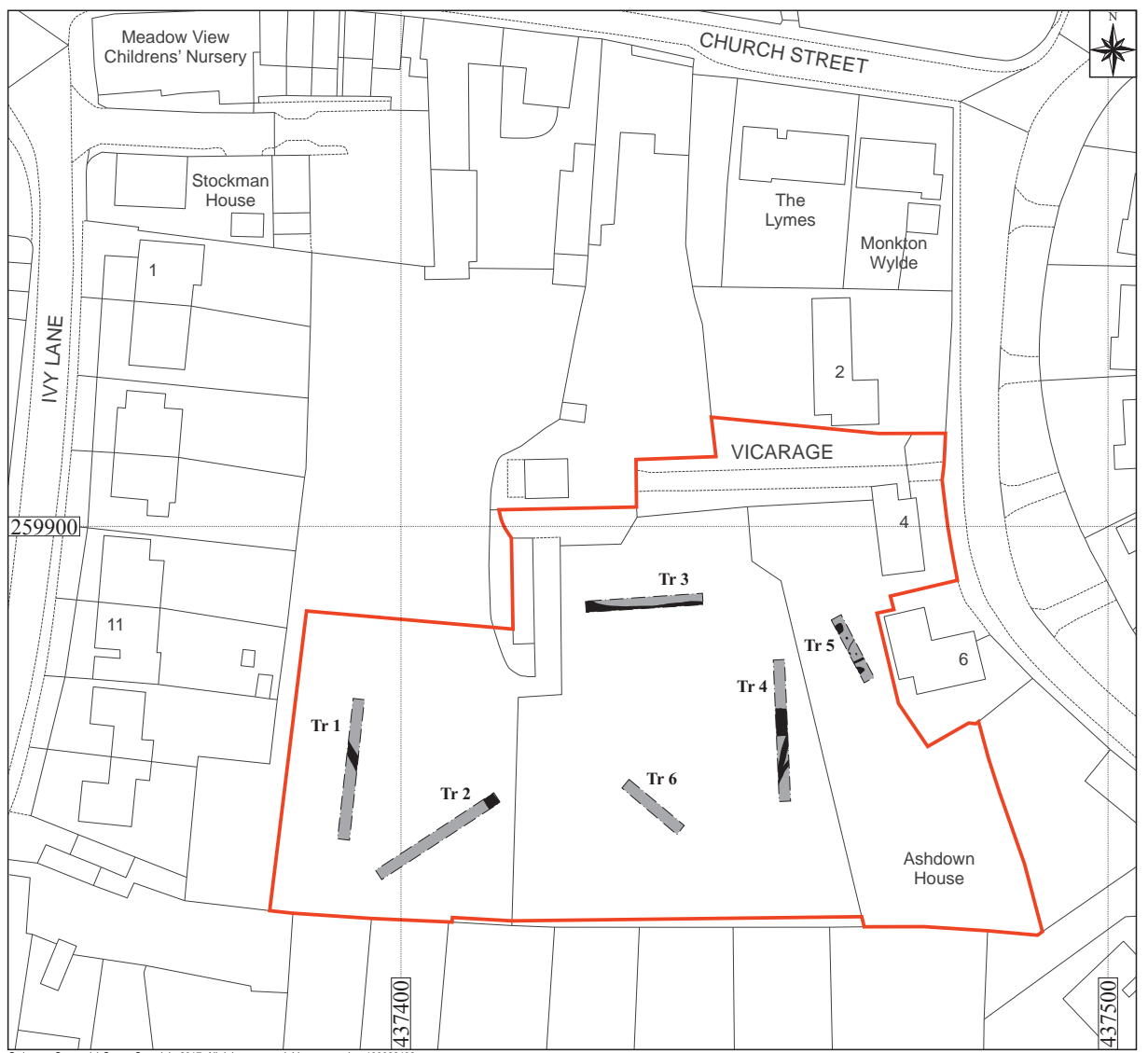
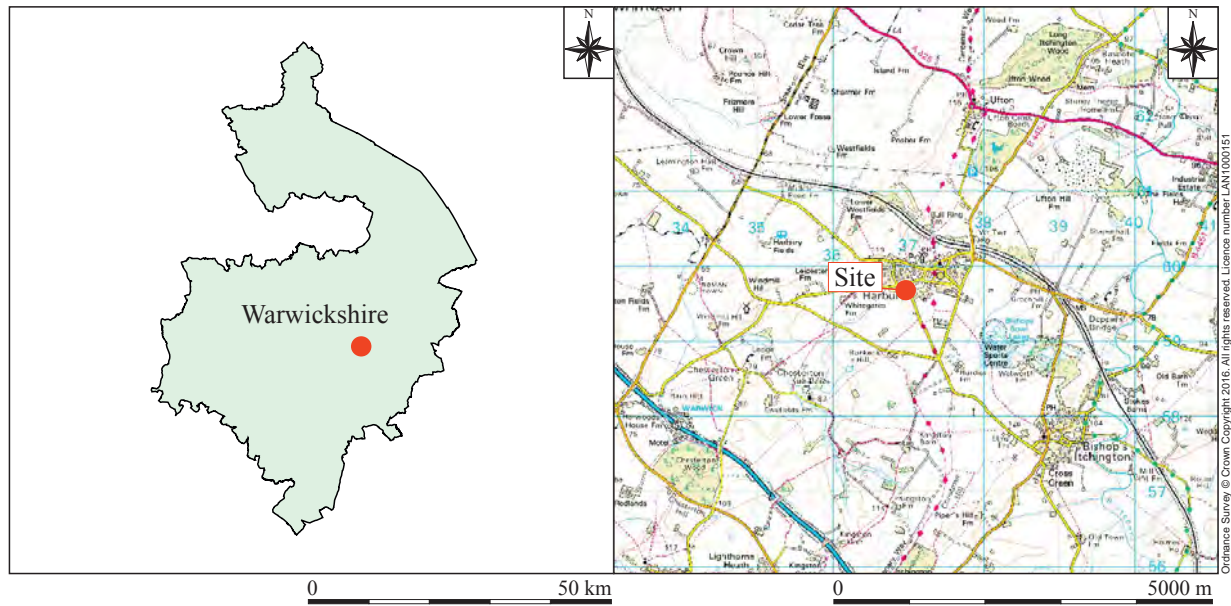
The site lies on the west side of Vicarage Lane north of the village centred on national grid reference SP 37433 59876. The solid geology of the study site comprises Mudstone and Limestone (interbedded) of the Rugby Limestone Member. This is shown to be overlain across its entirety by superficial deposits of Mid Pleistocene Till comprising diamicton sediments (British Geological Survey 1984, Sheet 184). The site lies between c.121m and 122m OD.

1.2 Planning Background

Consideration is being given for a development on land at Vicarage Lane, Harbury. As part of this an archaeological evaluation has been carried out by trenching.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The archaeological and historical background has been covered in an archaeological desk-based assessment (CgMs 2017). It concluded that given the site’s location within the historic core of the village and on the basis of current evidence, there is a moderate to perhaps high potential for it to contain previously unrecorded buried archaeological remains relating to its former occupation and use in the Medieval and Post Medieval/early Modern periods; any evidence of which, where present, is likely to relate to former settlement, property division and associated ‘back yard’ activity of local significance.



Key Site boundary Evaluation trenches Archaeological features

Figure 1: Site location

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits.
- To determine the impact of the proposed development on any remains present.

In particular:

- To determine whether remains associated with the development of the village are present.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with CgMs Consulting.

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

3.2 Methodology

The investigation involved the mechanical excavation of 4No. trenches each 20m x 1.6m and 2No. trenches 10m x 1.6m (Fig. 1) supplemented by limited hand investigation of any archaeological deposits. The integrity of any archaeological features or deposits that might better be excavated in conditions pertaining to full excavation, or might warrant preservation *in situ*, were not to be compromised.

Excavation was undertaken by a 7t excavator equipped with a ditching bucket. Mechanical excavation was taken down to the uppermost archaeological horizon or geological horizon under direct archaeological supervision. The machine excavation was used only for the removal of non-archaeologically significant material.

Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was also produced.

4 RESULTS (Figs. 1 & 2)

4.1 Trenches

All the trenches consisted of a layer of a grey / brown silty clay topsoil overlying a layer of mid-brown silty clay, a subsoil that represents a former ploughsoil. The subsoil overlay the archaeological horizon cut into the natural orange-brown clay with sands and gravels.

Trench 1 (Fig. 2) was 20m long, 1.6m wide and comprised a 0.2m thick layer of topsoil (1/01) that overlay a 0.36m thick layer of subsoil (1/02); this overlay the natural clay and gravels (1/03). One ditch was cut into the natural.

Ditch 1/04 (Fig. 2 S. 1.02) was orientated northwest / southeast, 0.3m deep, 1.1m wide and +2.8m long with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill of a mid-grey / brown silty clay (1/05) that contained one Post-medieval glass vessel fragment. This ditch did not continue into Trench 2.



Plate 1. Trench 1

Trench 2 (Fig. 2) was 20m long, 1.6m wide and comprised a 0.3m thick layer of topsoil (2/01) that overlay a 0.12m thick layer of subsoil (2/02); this overlay the natural clay and gravels (2/03). One ditch was cut into the natural.

Ditch 2/04 (Fig. 2 S. 2.01) was orientated northwest / southeast, 0.58m deep, 1.8m wide and +1.6m long with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a

single fill of a mid-grey / brown silty clay (2/05) that contained 16 fragments of animal bone.



Plate 2. Trench 2

Trench 3 (Fig. 2) was 20m long, 1.6m wide and comprised a 0.32m thick layer of topsoil (3/01) that overlay a 0.26m thick layer of subsoil (3/02); this overlay the natural clay and gravels (3/03). One ditch was cut into the natural.

Ditch 3/05 (Fig. 2 S. 3.02) was orientated east / west, 0.3m deep, 1.6m wide and +16.5m long with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill of a mid-grey / brown silty clay (3/04) that contained one sherd of 12th century pottery and two fragments of 16th century brick and an undated roof tile fragment. It started to curve northwards at the west end of the trench.

Trench 4 (Fig. 2) was 20m long, 1.6m wide and comprised a 0.34m thick layer of topsoil (4/01) that overlay a 0.4m thick layer of subsoil (4/02); this overlay the natural clay and gravels (4/03). Three linear ditches were cut into the natural.

Ditch 4/05 (Fig. 2 S. 4.01) was orientated east / west, 0.86m deep, 3.79m wide and +1.6m long with moderately sloping sides and an undulating base. Its profile implied that this feature contained four cuts meaning that it had been recut three times. It contained two fills. The lower fill which was in all four cuts was a mid-grey / brown silty clay (4/04) that contained two sherds of 11th century pottery (in the westernmost cut) and four fragments of animal bone. The upper fill was a dark grey / brown silty clay (4/10) that contained no finds. Its presence suggests that the latest recut was the

second cut from the east (Fig. 2, S. 4.01). This feature appeared to cut ditch 4/07 on the surface.

Ditch 4/07 (Fig. 2 S. 4.02) was orientated northeast / southwest, 0.26m deep, 0.82m wide and +3.6m long with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill of a mid-grey / brown silty clay (4/06) that contained one sherd of 14th century pottery and two fragments of animal bone. This ditch appeared cut by ditch 4/05 on the surface (see Discussion below).

Ditch 4/09 (Fig. 2 S. 4.02) was orientated northeast / southwest, 0.08m deep, 0.8m wide and +3m long with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill of a mid-grey / brown silty clay (4/08) that contained three sherds of 11th century pottery.



Plate 3. Ditch 4/05

Trench 5 (Fig. 2) was 10m long, 1.6m wide and comprised a 0.35m thick layer of topsoil (5/01) that overlay a 0.12m thick layer of subsoil (5/02); this overlay the natural clay and gravels (5/03) and (5/04). One linear gully, two pits and three postholes were cut into the natural.

Gully 5/08 (Fig. 2 S. 5.03) was orientated northeast / southwest, 0.16m deep, 0.35m wide and +1.6m long with steep sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill of a mid-brown silty clay (5/09) that contained one sherd of Romano-British pottery and one Post-Medieval clay tobacco pipe fragment.

Pit 5/05 (Fig. 2 S. 5.02) was oval in shape, 0.48m deep, 1.3m wide and +1.1m long with steep sloping sides and a flatish base. It contained two fills; the lower fill, a dark brown silty clay (5/07) that contained two sherds of Romano-British pottery, and the upper fill, a dark grey / brown silty clay (5/06) that contained 23 sherds of pottery

dating from the 11th – 13th / 14th century and five fragments of animal bone. The profile seems to indicate that the feature was two intercutting pits.

Pit 5/12 (Fig. 2) was oval in shape, 1.2m wide and +0.9m long and was filled by a mid-brown silty clay (5/13) that contained no surface finds. This feature was recorded in plan only.

Posthole 5/10 (Fig. 2 S. 5.04) was oval in shape, 0.22m deep, 0.35m wide and 0.45m long with steep sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill of a mid-brown silty clay (5/11) that contained five sherds of Mid-18th century pottery, one fragment of window glass and one fragment of animal bone.

Posthole 5/14 (Fig. 2) was sub-circular in shape, 0.25m wide and 0.35m long and was filled by a mid-brown silty clay (5/15) that contained no finds. This feature was recorded in plan only.

Posthole 5/16 (Fig. 2) was sub-oval in shape, 0.3m wide and 0.5m long and was filled by a mid-brown silty clay (5/17) that contained no finds. This feature was recorded in plan only.



Plate 4. Trench 5

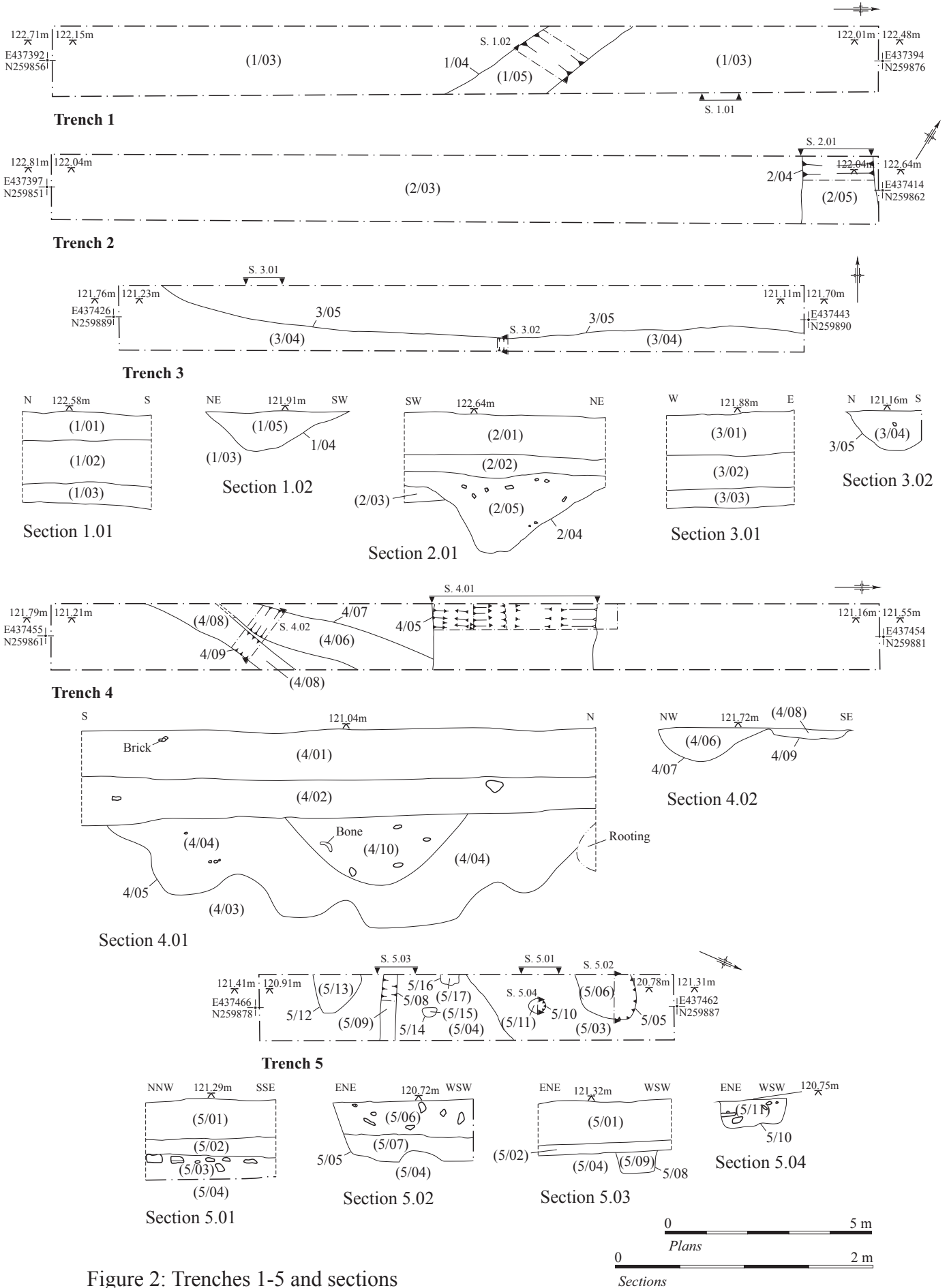


Figure 2: Trenches 1-5 and sections

Trench 6 (Fig. 2) was 10m long, 1.6m wide and comprised a 0.5m thick layer of topsoil (6/01) that overlay a 0.35m thick layer of subsoil (6/02); this overlay the natural clay and gravels (6/03). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.

4.2 Reliability of results

The evaluation was carried out in fine weather conditions and the archaeological features were clearly defined from the natural, thus the results of the evaluation are considered to be good.

5 FINDS

5.1 Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 38 sherds with a total weight of 327g. It is largely medieval, and was recorded using the codes and chronology of the Warwickshire Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery Type-Series (Ratkai and Soden, in archive), as follows:

CO01: Calcareous Oolitic Ware, 11th – 12th century. 11 sherds, 93g.

CRW: Creamware, 1740-90. 5 sherds, 106g.

CS02: Calcareous Shelly Ware, 12th – 13th century. 1 sherd, 4g.

CS05: Northants Shelly Ware, 12th – 14th century. 1 sherd, 3g.

RS01: Warwickshire Black Ware, 13th – 14th century. 2 sherds, 11g.

RS02: Warwickshire Grey Ware, 13th–14th century. 3 sherds, 15g.

Sq02: Warwick Sandy Ware, 12th – 13th century. 11 sherds, 86g.

Sq30: Chilvers Coton ‘C’ Ware, 1300-1500. 1 sherd, 4g.

In addition, three sherds (5g) of Romano-British grey ware were also noted. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

The range of fabric types is fairly typical of sites in the region, and indicates that activity at the site was largely limited to the earlier (11th – 13th century) part of the medieval period. All the sherds were from unglazed jars, including a few rims, which is typical of the period. The assemblage is generally in fairly good condition, and appears reliably stratified, albeit as a product of secondary deposition.

Tr	Cntxt	RB		CO01		CS02		CS05		Sq02		RS01		RS02		Sq30		CRW		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
3	4							1	3											12thC
4	4			2	27															11thC
4	6															1	4			14thC
4	8			3	25															11thC
5	6			6	41	1	4			11	86	2	11	3	15					13thC
5	7	2	4																	RB
5	9	1	1																	RB
5	11																	5	106	M18thC
	Total	3	5	11	93	1	4	1	3	11	86	2	11	3	15	1	4	5	106	

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

5.2 Other finds by Simona Denis

1. Ceramics

Clay Tobacco Pipe

A single fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem, weighing 2.7g and measuring 33mm in length, was collected from context (5/09), the lower fill of pit 5/05. The item, although largely incomplete, was in a good state of preservation.

No marks or decorations were observed; unmarked stem fragments without diagnostic features or decorations have very little dating value, and can only generally be assigned to the Post-Medieval period.

It is not recommended to retain the plain, unmarked and undiagnostic clay tobacco pipe stem fragment due to its very limited potential for further analysis.

Ceramic Building Material

Three fragments of ceramic building materials, of a combined weight of 478g, were recovered from context (3/04), fill of ditch 3/05. The items were positively identified as brick (455g) and roof tile (23g), and dated to the Post-Medieval period.

The brick fragments measure 60mm in thickness, which suggests a dating to the 16th century (Hammond 1990:30), period in which brick makes its first significant appearance in the area (Pickford 2016:32).

The smaller fragment (23g) of ceramic building material was tentatively identified as roof tile, although no peg holes or nibs were preserved. Roof tiles were produced from the late 12th century onwards.

2. Faunal Remains

Animal Bone

A small assemblage of 21 animal bone fragments, weighing 369.9g in total, was recovered during the excavations. The state of preservation of the items is generally fair, although extremely fragmentary; the ovine *astragalus* from context (5/06) and the six teeth from context (2/05) being the only complete examples. Conjoining fragments, although quantified in the table below, were considered as a single item.

The lack of *taxa*-specific features on 9 fragments, constituting over 42% of the collection, prevented from the identification of the specific genus. However, the size range of the items allowed to attribute most of these fragments to small mammals, the single exception being the undetermined fragment recovered from context (5/11).

The only identified *taxa* was sheep/goat, positively recognized in 52% of the examples (11 items). Due to the variable sizes and robustness of animal bones though, taphonomic factors may favour preservation of certain species, resulting in the under-representation of other, smaller animals (Kasumally 2002).

Context	Identification	Type	No. of Fragments	Weight (g)	Marks	Comments
2/05	Sheep/Goat	Radius-Ulna	5, conjoining	168.7		Fresh breaks
		Horn core	1	9.4		
		Molar	4	33.1		Complete
		Premolar	2	7.3		Complete
		Mandible	1	0.9		
	Small mammal	Cranium	1	0.9		
		Rib	2	3.1		
4/04	Sheep/Goat	Horn core	4, conjoining	17.7		Fresh breaks
4/06	Small mammal	?Vertebrae	1	4.5		
		Undetermined	1	1.5		
5/06	Sheep/Goat	Astragalus	1	38.2		Complete
	Small mammal	Tibia cortex	1	74.5	Multiple fine slices	
		?Rib	1	4.1		
		Long bone cortex	2	4.4		
5/11	Mammal	Undetermined	1	1.6		

Table 2: Animal bone occurrence by context and taxa

Butchering marks were observed on a single example, the tibia cortex recovered from context (5/06). The item showed several small, parallel cuts perpendicular to the bone shaft, produced by a small implement.

The richest deposit was (2/05), fill of ditch 2/04, containing 12 fragments, or 57% of the assemblage; 5 additional items, constituting 24% of the collection, were recovered from the fill of pit 5/05, context (5/06).

It is not recommended to retain the unmarked, undiagnostic animal bone fragments due to their very limited potential for further analysis unless further work on the site is to be carried out.

3. Miscellaneous

Glass

Two small fragments of glass, of a combined weight of 1.2g, were recovered from two individual contexts. The items were extremely fragmentary, measuring 15mm in length; therefore, only limited observations were possible.

The item found in context (1/05), the fill of ditch 1/04, was tentatively identified as a vessel fragment, due to its curved profile and surface. The flat example from context (5/11), identified as window glass, showed traces of superficial degradation.

Context	Type	Weight (g)	Colour	Comments	Date Range
1/05	Vessel	0.4	Aqua	Curved, with S-shaped profile	Post-Medieval
5/11	Window	0.8	Yellowish olive green	Iridescence	Post-Medieval

Table 3: Glass occurrence by context and type

It is not recommended to retain the glass fragments due to their very limited potential for further analysis.

6 DISCUSSION

Evidence from the evaluation seems to suggest possible nearby activities during the Romano-British period due to the presence of three residual sherds of pottery within later features: a Post-medieval gully 5/08 and the lower fill of medieval pit 5/05.

Finds from the various features (ditches and pits) encountered within the trenches seem to suggest a broad date range between the 11th – 14th centuries and again in the 16th century. The east – west recut ditch 4/05 possibly represents part of a former boundary along the southern extent of Harbury village from the medieval period onwards. The 11th century onwards date for the westernmost cut that cuts an apparent later ditch can be explained. Ditch 4/07 contained a sherd of pottery that was of 14th - 15th century date. The pottery was probably in a later ploughmark that was not visible as such.

The apparent 11th century onwards ditch 4/09 is at an oblique angle to, and south of the possible extent of the village. This suggests that the recut ditch 4/05 was not a village boundary. The various pits and postholes within Trench 5 are typical features located at the rear of medieval and Post-medieval plots.

The ditch encountered in Trench 1 was Post-medieval in date as was probably that in Trench 2 and would have been later than the large recut ditch 4/05.

The trenches revealed evidence likely to have related to the former settlement, property division and associated ‘back yard’ activity of local significance during the medieval and Post-Medieval periods.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

Paper record

The project brief
Written scheme of investigation
The project report
The primary site record

Physical record

Finds

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to Warwickshire Museum.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Context	Type	Description	Depth	Width	Length	Findings	Interpretation	Date
Trench 1								
1/01	Deposit	Grey / brown silty clay loam	0.2m	1.6m	20m		Topsoil	-
1/02	Deposit	Mid-brown silty clay	0.36m	1.6m	20m		Subsoil	-
1/03	Deposit	Orange-brown clay with sand and gravel	-	1.6m	20m		Natural	-
1/04	Cut	NW-SE linear	0.3m	1.1m	+2.8m		Ditch	Post-Medieval?
1/05	Deposit	Mid-grey / brown silty clay	0.3m	1.1m	+2.8m	Glass	Ditch fill	Post-Medieval?
Trench 2								
2/01	Deposit	Grey / brown silty clay loam	0.3m	1.6m	20m		Topsoil	-
2/02	Deposit	Mid-brown silty clay	0.12m	1.6m	20m		Subsoil	-
2/03	Deposit	Orange-brown clay with sand and gravel	-	1.6m	20m		Natural	-
2/04	Cut	NW-SE linear	0.58m	1.8m	+1.6m		Ditch	-
2/05	Deposit	Mid-grey / brown silty clay	0.58m	1.8m	+1.6m	Animal bone	Ditch fill	-
Trench 3								
3/01	Deposit	Grey / brown silty clay loam	0.32m	1.6m	20m		Topsoil	-
3/02	Deposit	Mid-brown silty clay	0.26m	1.6m	20m		Subsoil	-
3/03	Deposit	Orange-brown clay with sand and gravel	-	1.6m	20m		Natural	-
3/04	Deposit	Mid-grey / brown silty clay	0.3m	1.6m	+16.5m	Pottery	Ditch fill	12 th - 16 th century
3/05	Cut	E-W linear	0.3m	1.6m	+16.5m		Ditch	12 th - 16 th century
Trench 4								
4/01	Deposit	Grey / brown silty clay loam	0.34m	1.6m	20m		Topsoil	-
4/02	Deposit	Mid-brown silty clay	0.4m	1.6m	20m		Subsoil	-
4/03	Deposit	Orange-brown clay with sand and gravel	-	1.6m	20m		Natural	-
4/04	Deposit	Mid-brown / grey silty clay	0.86m	3.79m	+1.6m	Pottery	Lower ditch fill of 4/05	11 th century – residual?
4/05	Cut	E-W linear	0.86m	3.79m	+1.6m		Ditch	11 th century – residual?
4/06	Deposit	Mid-brown / grey silty clay	0.26m	0.82m	+3.6m	Pottery	Ditch fill of 4/07	14 th century
4/07	Cut	NE /SW linear	0.26m	0.82m	+3.6m		Ditch	14 th century
4/08	Deposit	Mid-brown / grey silty clay	0.08m	0.8m	+3m	Pottery	Ditch fill 4/09	11 th century
4/09	Cut	NE /SW linear	0.08m	0.8m	+3m		Ditch	11 th century
4/10	Deposit	Dark grey / brown silty clay	0.53m	1.42m	+1.6m		Upper ditch fill of 4/05	-

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Width	Length	Finds	Interpretation	Date
Trench 5								
5/01	Deposit	Grey / brown silty clay loam	0.35m	1.6m	10m		Topsoil	-
5/02	Deposit	Mid-brown silty clay	0.12m	1.6m	10m		Subsoil	-
5/03	Deposit	Orange-brown clay with sand and gravel	-	1.6m	10m		Natural	-
5/04	Deposit	Orange sand and gravels	-	1.6m	10m		Natural	-
5/05	Cut	Sub-oval pit	0.48m	1.3m	+1.1m		Pit	11 th – 14 th centuries
5/06	Deposit	Orange / brown silty clay	0.28m	1.3m	+1.1m	Pottery, bone, glass	Upper fill of pit 5/05	11 th – 14 th centuries
5/07	Deposit	Dark brown silty clay	0.2m	1.2m	+1.1m	Pottery	Lower fill of pit 5/05	Romano-British residual
5/08	Cut	NE /SW linear	0.16m	0.35m	+1.6m		Gully	
5/09	Deposit	Mid-brown silty clay	0.16m	0.35m	+1.6m	Clay pottery pipe	Gully fill	Romano-British residual / Post-Medieval
5/10	Cut	Oval posthole	0.22m	0.35m	0.45m		Posthole	Post-Medieval
5/11	Deposit	Mid-brown silty clay	0.22m	0.35m	0.45m	Pottery, bone, glass	Posthole fill	Post-Medieval
5/12	Cut	Sub-oval pit	-	1.2m	+0.9m		Pit	-
5/13	Deposit	Mid-brown silty clay	-	1.2m	+0.9m		Pit fill	-
5/14	Cut	Sub-circular posthole	-	0.25m	0.35m		Posthole	-
5/15	Deposit	Mid-brown silty clay	-	0.25m	0.35m		Posthole fill	-
5/16	Cut	Oval posthole	-	0.3m	0.5m		Posthole	-
5/17	Deposit	Mid-brown silty clay	-	0.3m	0.5m	Animal bone	Posthole fill	-
Trench 6								
6/01	Deposit	Grey / brown silty clay loam	0.5m	1.6m	10m		Topsoil	-
6/02	Deposit	Mid-brown silty clay	0.35m	1.6m	10m		Subsoil	-
6/03	Deposit	Orange-brown clay with sand and gravel	-	1.6m	10m		Natural	-