



**Post-Excavation Assessment of
land west of Main Street,
Norton Juxta Twycross,
Leicestershire,
March to April 2022**

Report No. 024/056

Author: Sara Farey

Illustrator: Hugh Gatt



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Project Manager: Claire Finn

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Author: Sara Farey

Illustrator: Hugh Gatt

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Kent House
30 Billing Road
Northampton
NN1 5DQ
01604 344355
www.mola.org.uk
business@mola.org.uk

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STAFF

Project Managers: Claire Finn BA MA PhD

Camilla Collins BSc PGDip

Text: Sara Farey MA BA PCIfA

Illustrations: Hugh Gatt BA BDes MSC

Site supervisors: Ana Bordona Foz BSc PCIfA

Katherine Winzer MA

Paul Sharrock BA MA

Fieldwork: William Tamblyn BA

Tess Evern BSc

Anthony Moore PCIfA

Valeria Monno BA MA

Jack McGroaty BA MA

OASIS REPORT FORM

Project: Norton Juxta Twycross		OASIS No: molanort1-525304	
ACTIVITY TYPE			
Project/ Activity type	Mitigation		
Reason for investigation	Planning requirement		
Development type	Residential development		
Planning reference ID	18/00786/FUL	Planning stage	Post-determination
PROJECT LOCATION			
National grid ref	SK 32340 06916		
Site name	Norton Juxta Twycross		
REVIEWERS/ ADMIN			
HER for project	Leicestershire HER		
National organisation	MOLA		
WORK UNDERTAKEN			
Methodological summary	MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) was commissioned by RPS Consulting Ltd acting as consultant to A R Cartwright to undertake archaeological mitigation works at land west of Main Street, Norton Juxta Twycross, Leicestershire. Mechanical excavation of the area, measuring approximately 0.7ha of the total c1.2ha development site, was undertaken in March to April 2022. Archaeological remains were hand-cleaned and accurately measured in and marked out using Leica Viva GPS. Features were then hand excavated sufficiently to characterise the remains and determine their date and function. Excavated sections were targeted to confirm to obtain a representative sample of identified features as determined in the WSI (MOLA 2021). All contexts were recorded as appropriate and finds collected in accordance with archival procedures.		
Previous works?	Geophysical survey	Future works?	Unknown
Dates - Start date:	March 2022	End date:	April 2022
Scientific dating done?	No	Type:	-
Enviro sampling done?	Yes		
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KEYWORDS			
Monuments found/ date	Medieval plot, medieval field system and late medieval ridge and furrow		
Finds types found/ date	Pottery, animal bone, flint, CBM, slag, leather, glass		
RESULTS			
Description of outcomes/ summary of research framework contribution	MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) was commissioned by A R Cartwright Ltd with RPS Consulting Ltd acting as consultant, to undertake archaeological mitigation works at land west of Main Street, Norton Juxta Twycross, Leicestershire. Excavation of a 0.7ha area took place between March and April 2022. The works identified a concentration of medieval activity, starting in the early medieval period and continuing into the post-medieval/ modern period. The earliest identifiable activity was limited to four features dating 10th century. The height of activity included a field system with an enclosure and internal structures, later replaced by a rectangular enclosure forming a plot with a further beam-slot structure. This phase of activity spanned the 12th to		

	14th centuries, during which time the enclosure ditches were reworked to maintain the boundaries. At some point in the late medieval to post-medieval period ridge and furrow was established, as part of an open-field system. Within the central area of site, a 19th-century pond was identified. Several areas of modern disturbance were associated with this area.		
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Contents

1	INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1	Location, geology and topography	2
1.2	Archaeological background.....	4
1.3	Excavation methodology	5
2	RESEARCH OBJECTIVES	7
3	SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS.....	8
3.1	Background activity	8
3.2	Early medieval (10th to 11th centuries).....	11
3.3	Medieval (12th to 13th centuries)	13
3.4	Late medieval (14th to 15th centuries)	18
3.5	Medieval to post-medieval furrows (AD 1350 – 1800).....	18
3.6	Post-medieval to modern ().....	18
4	THE FINDS	20
5	POTENTIAL AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK	25
6	REVIEW OF RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND SIGNIFICANCE OF RESULTS	25
7	RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING	26
7.1	Work completed	26
7.2	Future work	26
7.3	Programme.....	26
8	REPORTING, PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVE	28
	BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	30

Figures

Front cover: Overview of site

Fig 1: Site Location, scale 1:1,500

Fig 2: All feature plan, scale 1:500

Fig 3: All features phased plan, scale 1:500

Fig 4: Early medieval and Medieval, scale 1:500

Fig 5: Oven 1, looking east

Fig 6: Structure 1, postholes [1313]

Fig 7 Late medieval, modern and unphased features, scale 1:500

Fig 8: Site overlay with 1903 OS map, scale 1:1,500

Tables

Table 1: Pottery quantification

Table 2: Animal bone quantification

Table 3: Quantifications of all other finds types

Table 4: Environmental quantification

Table 5: Additional material quantification

Table 6: Small find quantification

Table 7: Post-excavation analysis task list

Table 8: Gantt chart of task list (3 month duration)

Table 9: Site records and archive quantities

Post-excavation Assessment of land west of Main Street, Norton Juxta Twycross, Leicestershire, March to April 2022

ABSTRACT

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) was commissioned by A R Cartwright Ltd with RPS Consulting Ltd acting as consultant, to undertake archaeological mitigation works at land west of Main Street, Norton Juxta Twycross, Leicestershire. Excavation of a 0.7ha area took place between March and April 2022. The works identified a concentration of medieval activity, starting in the early medieval period and continuing into the post-medieval/ modern period. The earliest identifiable activity was limited to four features dating 10th century. The height of activity included a field system with an enclosure and internal structures, later replaced by a rectangular enclosure forming a plot with a further beam-slot structure. This phase of activity spanned the 12th to 14th centuries, during which time the enclosure ditches were reworked to maintain the boundaries. At some point in the late medieval to post-medieval period ridge and furrow was established, as part of an open-field system. Within the central area of site, a 19th-century pond was identified. Several areas of modern disturbance were associated with this area.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) was commissioned by RPS Consulting Ltd, on behalf of their client A R Cartwright Ltd, to undertake archaeological mitigation works at land west of Main Street, Norton Juxta Twycross, Leicestershire (Fig 1). Following the trial trenching evaluation carried out in November 2018 (ULAS 2018), the scope and extent of archaeological mitigation was specified by Richard Clark, Team Manager (Heritage) at Leicestershire County Council. The excavation was monitored by RPS Consulting Ltd, and William Kelly, Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council (LCCSPA). The works ensured an appropriate record of any archaeological resources affected by the proposed development was produced and maintained. In accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (MHCLG 2019) which has since been updated (DLUHC 2023).

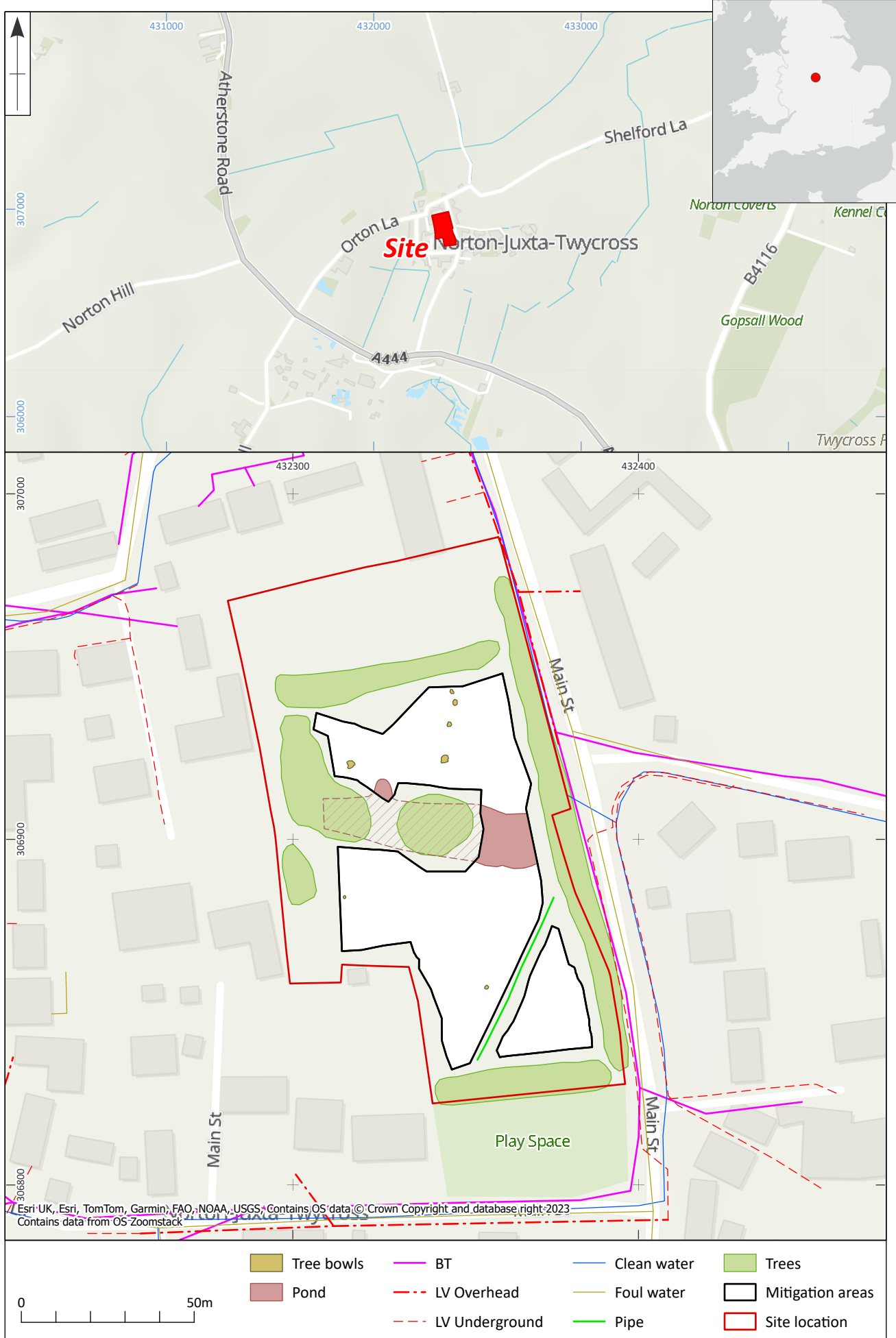
A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by MOLA which set out the proposed methodology to be undertaken for the archaeological mitigation works (MOLA 2021). It was produced in accordance with current best archaeological practice as defined in the *Chartered Institute for Archaeology's Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2020), updated in 2022, and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (CIfA 2020), updated in 2023 (CIfA 2023), as well as the procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (HE 2015a).

1.1 Location, geology and topography

The area of investigation was located within the small village of Norton Juxta Twycross, which is located at the western border of Leicestershire (Fig 1). The total development area spanned 1.2 hectares (ha) and the mitigation area measured approximately 0.7ha. The site is situated at the centre of the village to the west of Main Street.

The British Geological Survey indicates that the local bedrock geology comprises Gunthorpe Member Mudstone. No superficial deposits have been recorded (BGS 2024). The overlying soils are characterised as slightly acid, with loamy and clayey textures and impeded drainage (LandIs 2024).

The topography of the site is gently sloping. It lies at approximately 112m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).



Scale 1:1,500

Site location Fig 1

1.2 Archaeological background

The following archaeological and historical background for the site has been drawn from the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment (Brown and Brown 2018) and the results of a trial trench evaluation (ULAS 2018), updated where relevant with the results of subsequent archaeological investigations. This includes the results of a Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) search conducted at the time of the DBA, and reference to the relevant HER numbers has been included below.

Prehistoric and Roman

There is no prehistoric or Roman activity recorded in the immediate vicinity of the site.

Medieval

Norton, thought to have been founded in the 8th–9th century, was granted a village charter in AD 951, referred to as ‘Northton’. By the time of the Domesday Survey (AD 1086), the name of the village was recorded as ‘Norton’, and it comprised a small settlement of one villager, two small holders and a priest.

The HER included two findspots of medieval pottery adjacent to the site on Orton Lane (MLE10117) and Main Street (MLE9401). Other evidence of medieval activity included domestic rubbish pits containing medieval pottery that were recorded during a watching brief at Cock Lane in 1999 (MLE8377).

There has been a church at Norton Juxta Twycross since at least the time of the Domesday Survey (AD 1086). The Grade II listed Holy Trinity Church (HER 1294757) lies approximately 100m north of the site and has two Grade II listed 13th to 14th-century recumbent stone effigies in its churchyard (HER 1074182). The current church fabric consists of some 14th-century material (comprising the tower) but was largely restored in c1841 (Pevsner 1985). A watching brief in the churchyard recovered two sherds of 12th to 14th-century pottery and a decorated medieval floor tile of c15th-century date (Platt 2012). Medieval earthworks were identified from an aerial photograph in 1969 to the west of the church, c110m north-west of the site. A possible moat was also identified from an aerial photograph.

Post medieval and modern

The Grade II listed Moore’s Arms Public House, a mid-late 18th-century building, is situated c100m north-east of the site (MLE12972). Approximately c300m from the site, on Orton Lane, is a Cold War monitoring post (MLE17210).

Previous archaeological fieldwork

The desk-based assessment established that the site lies within the historic medieval core of the village (Brown and Brown 2018). This was evaluated by trial trench evaluation in 2018, comprising the excavation of nine trenches distributed across the site (ULAS 2018). A total of six trenches contained archaeological features relating to medieval settlement activity, with potential structural remains identified in Trench 4. The archaeological remains largely comprised ditches and gullies relating to enclosures and site drainage. Pottery recovered from these features was dated 11th to 14th centuries AD. In general, the finds and environmental assemblage indicated that there was domestic occupation in or close to the site during the medieval period.

Additionally, the remains of a 19th-century cellared building were identified within Trench 8 and a 19th-century pond, shown on the historic ordnance survey maps (OS maps), was identified in Trenches 5 and 6. Preservation levels were high in the central and southern parts of the development site, with the northern end substantially truncated by modern activity.

1.3 Excavation methodology

All works were carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Conduct* (2020) updated in 2022, and the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Excavation* (ClfA 2020) updated in 2023. All works conformed to Historic England procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (HE 2015a). All site recording procedures are detailed in MOLA's in-house *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual* (MOLA 2014), which is issued to all staff.

In line with MOLA's health and safety policies PAS128 compliant service plans were requested from the Client prior to the commencement of works. All excavation areas and access routes were placed to avoid any utilities with the exception of the HV overhead cable across the site entrance. Western Power Networks (WPN) carried out a GS6 survey to advise on safe working distance and access. During excavation an unknown service was indicated by the CAT scan (Cable and Pipe locator) operated by a trained member of staff. The exact location of the service was determined by three test pits conducted by the client. The water pipe extended north-east to south-west across the south-east corner of the site. An exclusion zone was established to mark the location of the service and Health and Safety were consulted to determine the safe crossing of plant.

The site was visited for a pre-start health and safety inspection in January 2022. A number of existing spoil heaps were present across the site. The client cleared the heaps prior to the commencement of MOLA's works on site.

Suspected asbestos was located in the backfill of the identified 19th-century pond. MOLA is not a HSE licensed Asbestos contractor and consequently work ceased immediately in the area and the necessary environmental incident report was filed. An exclusion zone of 10m was placed and potential asbestos locations were recorded by GPS. Areas of potential contamination were not disturbed, in line with the Risk Assessment Method Statement (RAMS) (MOLA 2021). The material was examined by external contractors who confirmed the material was not asbestos.

The excavation area measured approximately 0.7ha of the total c1.2ha development site. A decision was made by the LCCSPA that the northern end of the development area would not be subject to archaeological mitigation due to the levels of modern disturbance. The mitigation area targeted the high-density archaeological remains in the central and southern aspects of the development site identified by the previous works.

Mechanical excavation was undertaken using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under continuous supervision of a qualified and suitably experienced archaeologist. The stripping process removed the topsoil and subsoil in strips across the area of interest down to the archaeological horizon.

Areas with archaeological remains were hand-cleaned sufficiently to enhance the definition of features, and accurately measured in and marked out using Leica Viva GPS operating to an accuracy of +/- 0.05m to Ordnance Survey National Grid to produce a base plan. An SUA (small, unmanned aircraft) survey was undertaken following the initial site strip to accompany the GPS survey. Combined, these

facilitated site planning and investigation by accurately locating and mapping visible archaeological remains.

Archaeological features were hand excavated sufficiently to characterise the remains and determine their date and function. Excavated sections were targeted to obtain a representative sample of identified features, as determined in the WSI (MOLA 2021).

All archaeological deposits and artefacts encountered during the course of the excavation were fully recorded. Recording followed standard MOLA procedures (MOLA 2014).

Sampling strategy conformed to national guidelines (Campbell *et al* 2011; HE 2015b). Bulk environmental soil samples were taken from appropriately/securely dated sealed archaeological features or deposits for plant macrofossils, small animal bones and small artefacts. The volume of samples was context and sediment specific and 40 litres or 100% of feature fills (whichever is less). All samples were processed at MOLA, using the flotation technique to retrieve seed, charcoal and mollusc remains. Resultant residues were hand sorted to retrieve bones and other finds.

All archaeological features were given a separate context number. Deposits were described on pro-forma context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds. Sections or profiles through features and areas of complex stratigraphy were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate. The heights of all recorded deposits were established relative to Ordnance Datum.

A photographic record was maintained by high resolution digital photography exceeding 12 megapixels. Overall shots of the site were taken prior to excavation. Detailed shots of individual features and feature groups were taken as appropriate. All photographs, except general site shots or specific shots for publication include a north arrow and suitable photographic scale.

An SUA (small, unmanned aircraft) survey was conducted which enabled rapid and effective planning and investigation of mitigation works being carried out. MOLA has a current Permission for Commercial Operations (PfCO) to perform Visual Line of Site UAS operations (VLOS) with aircraft <20kg max take off mass. This is solely granted by the Civil Aviation Authority on examination and approval of a company's Operation Manual for UAS operations and is the legal requirement for any commercial UAS work in the UK. MOLA's PfCO CAA ID is 844m and our CAA operators ID is GBR-OP-9WNT X3V G8T YY.

Finds were collected from the individual deposits and appropriately packed and stored in stable conditions, by context and in accordance with recognised best practise (ClfA 2020a; Watkinson and Neal 2001; Walker 1990). Unstratified animal bones and modern material were not collected.

Additionally, the excavated area and spoil heaps were scanned using a metal detector (not discriminating against iron). The requirements of the Treasure Act (1996), updated in 2023, and the Treasure (Designation) Order (2002) were adhered to.

Post-excavation and archiving

All finds were cleaned, catalogued and prepared for storage in accordance with national (Brown 2011, ClfA 2020a; MGC 1992; SMA 1993; ICON 1993, LCC 2013; LCC 2019).

The archive will be fully catalogued and prepared for deposition in accordance with the local guidance: Transfer of archaeological archives to Leicestershire County Council museum collections document (LCC 2013) and Collections Development

Policy 2019–2024 (LCC 2019), as well as with national guidelines by Walker (1990), Brown (2011), ClfA (2020a and b), and the MGC (1992). Any material requiring special curation will be handled under the recognised guidelines (Watkinson and Neal 2001).

Following completion of the fieldwork and reporting, born-digital data, such as this report, digital photographs, database and GIS data, with appropriate metadata, will be deposited with a CoreTrustSeal Repository, currently the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), making the archive publicly accessible. Each report, once approved, is subsequently made available for inclusion and publication by digital means through the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) via OASIS V. Digital archiving will follow the and guidelines outlined in MOLA's *Digital Data Management Policy and Procedures* (MOLA forthcoming).

2 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the mitigation were to:

- mitigate the impact of the development through preservation by record;
- establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation in the development site;
- establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- provide further insight into the early settlement of Norton juxta Twycross;
- recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions as an intrinsic part of the investigation.

Specific research objectives were drawn from national and regional research frameworks as relevant to the results of the work (HE 2017, EMHERF 2024). Research aims considered during excavation included:

High medieval

- 7B Enhance record of urban secular standing buildings and subterranean structures;
- 7E Investigate the morphology of rural settlements;
- 7I Investigate development of the open-field system and woodland management.

These objectives have been drawn from the WSI (MOLA 2021) and subsequently updated in line with the most up to date version of the *East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework* (EMHERF 2024) in Section 6.

3 SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

At this stage four main phases of archaeological activity have been identified: early medieval (10th to 11th century), high medieval (12th to 13th century), late medieval (14th to 15th century) and post-medieval to modern (Fig 3). Additionally sub-phasing has been applied to the high medieval period. These have been determined by the stratigraphical relationships that were identified on site, supplemented by pottery spot dates. Further definition of the phasing will be possible following full analysis of the find's material, which may result in additional sub-phasing.

Early medieval (10th to 11th century) features were minimal on the site, with only a small quantity being present. These features included an oven, possible associated pits and remnants of a small gully.

The peak of activity appears to have taken place in the high medieval period, 12th to 13th century, with the establishment of a field system, enclosures, and structures. Features within this period are closely dated; however, there is some clear indication of separate phases of activity with reworking and re-establishment of ditches.

The late medieval phase, 14th to 15th centuries, showed some continuation from the high medieval period as well as the formation of a new ditch group. Later activity included medieval/post-medieval furrows and a 19th-century pond (Figs 2 and 3).

A number of natural features were also identified, and these generally comprised geological anomalies or bioturbation activity (Fig 2).

3.1 Background activity

Background activity was limited to prehistoric lithics retrieved from a pit and ditch section; in both cases material was residual in later medieval and late medieval features. There were no prehistoric features identifiable on the site.



Scale 1:500

All features plan Fig 2



Scale 1:500

All features phased plan Fig 3

3.2 Early medieval (10th to 11th centuries)

The earliest activity on site was dated 10th to 11th century, and this comprised a small gully [1117], Oven 1 and two pits [1088] and [1353] (Fig 4).

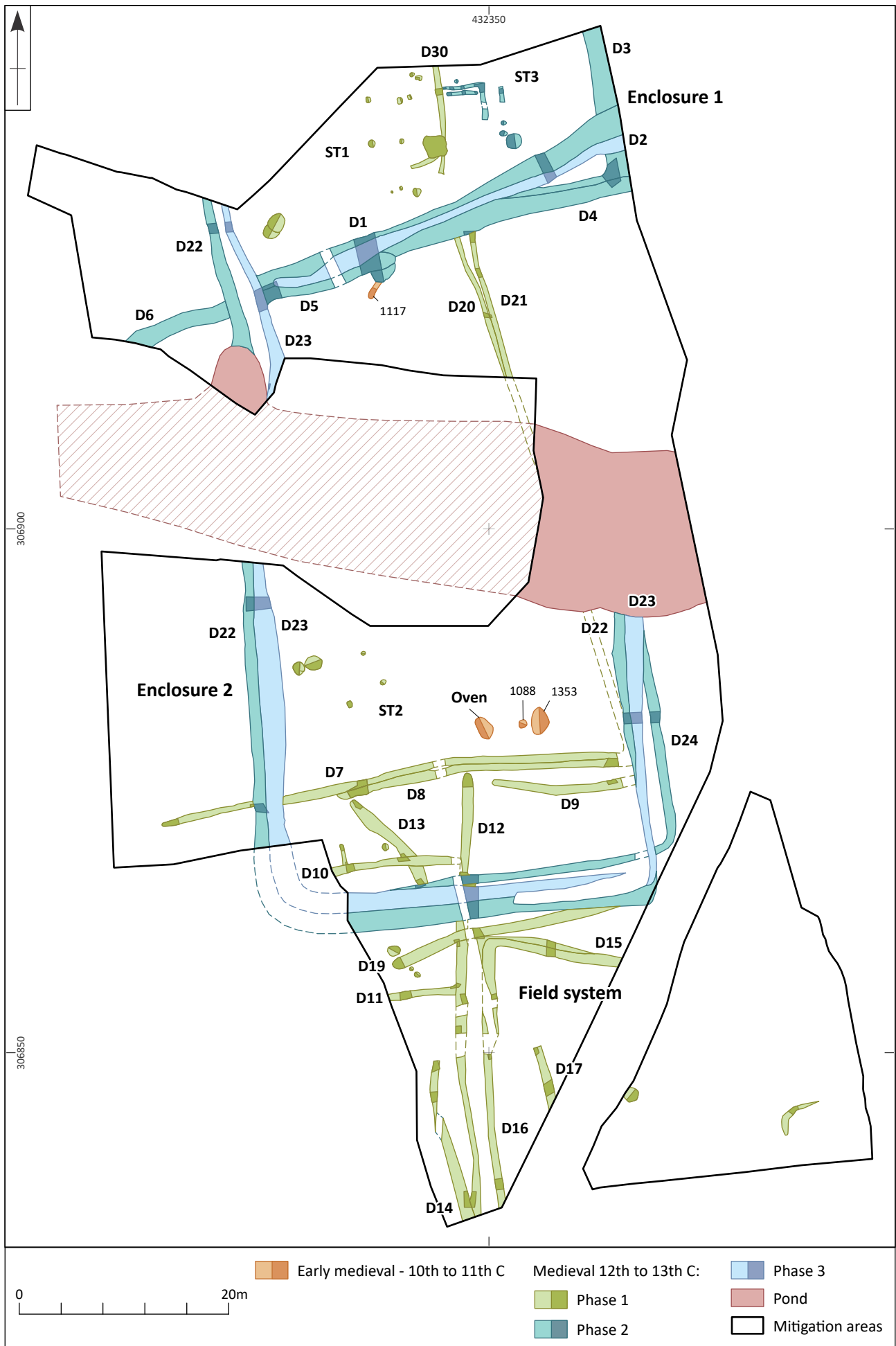
Gully [1117] in the northern part of the site, had been truncated by a later enclosure (Phase 2, E2). It extended 2.8m in length, on a north-east to south-west alignment before it terminated, and it was 0.49m wide by 0.10m deep. A single sherd of early medieval pottery was retrieved.

Located in the central area of site was an oven (Oven 1, Fig 5). The oven was oval in shape, oriented north-west to south-east, and it measured 3.75m in length by 2.27m wide with a depth of 0.33m. A flue was not observed during excavation of Oven 1, suggesting it was possibly above ground or heavily disturbed by rooting visible on the north edge. The main chamber contained at least four fills and there was evidence of a recut, which may indicate maintenance. Large quantities of animal bone were recovered from the fills of the oven, as well as 11th century pottery.



Oven 1, looking east Fig 5

Pits [1088] and [1353] were located c4m east of Oven 1. Circular pit [1088] had a diameter of 0.73m with a depth of 0.27m, and it contained three fills. At least one fill indicated backfilling with clay and charcoal inclusions. The second pit [1353] was oval and it was orientated north to south, it measured 4.14m in length by 2.83m wide with a depth of 0.40m. The pit had a single fill, which was naturally silted.



Early medieval and Medieval features Fig 4

3.3 Medieval (12th to 13th centuries)

The focus of activity on site in the 12th to 13th centuries consisted of field systems, enclosures and structures which were established and maintained over a period of time (Fig 4). There was evidence of re-cutting and remodelling as well as clear deposits indicating a pushed-in bank for one of the enclosures (E2). Three sub-phases have been identified within this period, which may be subject to further division at the full analysis stage.

Phase 1

The initial activity of the medieval period indicated a possible early enclosure, which contained two internal structures, and an external field system.

Ditches (D7 to 9, 20, 21 and 30)

A series of six ditches were identified in the north of the area, which may have formed an enclosure, but several of the ditches had been heavily truncated by later activity. At the north-east end of site D30 extended from the northern limit of excavation for 10m before it terminated. This ditch likely formed an entrance with D20 and D21, but these were truncated by later enclosure E1 (Phase 2). Although the exact measurement of the opening could not be determined due to the truncation by E1, it was approximately c6m in width. D20 and D21 extended south-east but they did not clearly extend beyond the central unexcavated zone of the 19th century pond, but it is plausible that the ditches turn and form the south-eastern end of an enclosure. D7 to D9 were aligned north-east to south-west and they were only present to the west of E2. The longest ditch D7 extended c45m before it terminated and it truncated D8, which was c26m in length. D9 did not directly interact with D7 or D8 but it was present immediately south of these ditches and it may have formed part of the same activity as it followed the same alignment. Two posthole structures (ST1 and ST2, see below) were noted within this possible enclosure.

Structure 1 (ST1)

A series of postholes were observed 3.46m from the western side of the D30 in the north of the area, and they may have formed a roughly rectangular building (Fig 4). The post-built building measured c10m long by 2.59m wide within the excavation area, although it may have continued northwards beyond the limit of excavation. The majority of pottery retrieved from the postholes was dated 12th to 13th century. A small amount of early medieval pottery was also retrieved from the postholes; this maybe residual or suggest the post-built building was in use before its surroundings had been established. Full analysis of the material from this structure may help to determine its purpose.



Structure 1, postholes [1313] Fig 6

Structure 2 (ST2)

A possible four post-built structure was identified in the central area of site, located 7m north of D7. It comprised three postholes spaced 3m apart, no evidence of a fourth posthole had survived. Within this area there were also two pits, north-west of the post-holes and dating to the same phase.

Field system (FS1)

The southern area within Phase 1 comprised a coaxial style field system comprising ditches D10 to D17 and D19, that was 48m in length (north to south) and extended beyond the southern limits of excavation. FS1 appears to extend southwards from the southern edge of the potential early enclosure (D7 to D9) and it was truncated by the southern end of the E2 (Fig 4, Phase 3) and a later medieval ditches D18 and D27 (Phase 4, see Fig 7). The main axis of the field system was north to south aligned, and the field boundaries extended west or south-west, and east or south-east from this axis. The ditches that comprised the field boundaries measured between c0.5m and c1m in width. Pottery spot dates indicate that this field system was in use in the 12th century and phases of maintenance were evident across the system.

Phase 2

The second phase of the medieval period consisted of the establishment of two main rectangular enclosures (E1 and E2), and the latest enclosure may have formed a plot. Additionally, a structure (ST3) was added to ST1.

Enclosure 1 (E1)

The south-eastern corner of E1 was initially formed by D3 and D4. It truncated the earlier D20/21 but it maintained the entrance defined by D30 to the north.

Ditch D3 extended south from the north-east most corner of site and it extended beyond the northern and eastern limit of excavation. It turned west at c13m where it was truncated by the north-east to south-west aligned D4. D4 likely represented the maintenance of the southern boundary of this enclosure. The south-west end of D4, was truncated by the terminus of D5 which extended 12.6m before being truncated by E2 and no evidence of the ditch was identified between the two phases of E2 (D23 and D22). However another ditch D6 was identified to the south-west of E2, which may indicate that D5 continued, but there was a potential entrance to E1 between D5 and D6. Both ditches were c2m wide with a depth between 0.21m and 0.28m. D5 produced pottery dating 13th century as well as 14th century which was like intrusive, located near undated ditch D29.

Two additional ditches (D1 and D2) extended from the north-eastern limit of excavation and they were both aligned north-east to south-west. The latest ditch D2 was likely established in the third phase and is discussed below. The earlier of the two ditches (D1) truncated D4 at the south-west end and both D1 and D2 were truncated by E2 (D23). D1 possibly represented a re-working of the south-east corner of E1.

Structure 3 (ST3)

At the northern end of site was a north to south orientated rectangular structure (ST3), formed by beam slots, which measured 3.56m wide by c7m long (Fig 4). The structure incorporated D30 as its western edge, which may imply this ditch was still in use. It was enclosed in the south-eastern corner of a E1. The southern side of the structure was not present and had been disturbed by rooting. Pottery retrieved dated the structure to the 12th century.

Three pits were identified c1m to the east of the structure, and the largest was 1.5m in diameter and it contained three fills from which 12th-century pottery and animal bone was retrieved. It is probable these represented waste pits associated with the structure.

Enclosure 2 (E2)

A rectangular enclosure, which was orientated north to south, was present in the centre of the site and it measured c66m in length by 44m wide (Fig 4). This enclosure was likely a plot but this will be discussed in the full report. The eastern side of the plot was formed by three parallel ditches (D22–D24), which turned south-west, before two of them (D22 and D23) continued and turned northwards to define the eastern side of the enclosure. The multiple phases may suggest that this possible plot was maintained over time. The eastern ditches were heavily truncated by the 19th-century pond, and it could not be identified if they terminated or continued. Pottery retrieved from these plot boundary ditches indicated the earlier phases were 12th century in date, while the re-cuts dated to the 13th century. At least one stage of remodelling on the eastern side was completed in the late medieval period (D25, see Fig 7).

The initial ditches of E2 formed in Phase 2 are D22 on the western side and D24 on the eastern side. No relationship between the two was visible to determine which came first due to later truncating ditches. Both ditches were cut by D23 which appears to be a re-cut of the D22 formed in Phase 3.

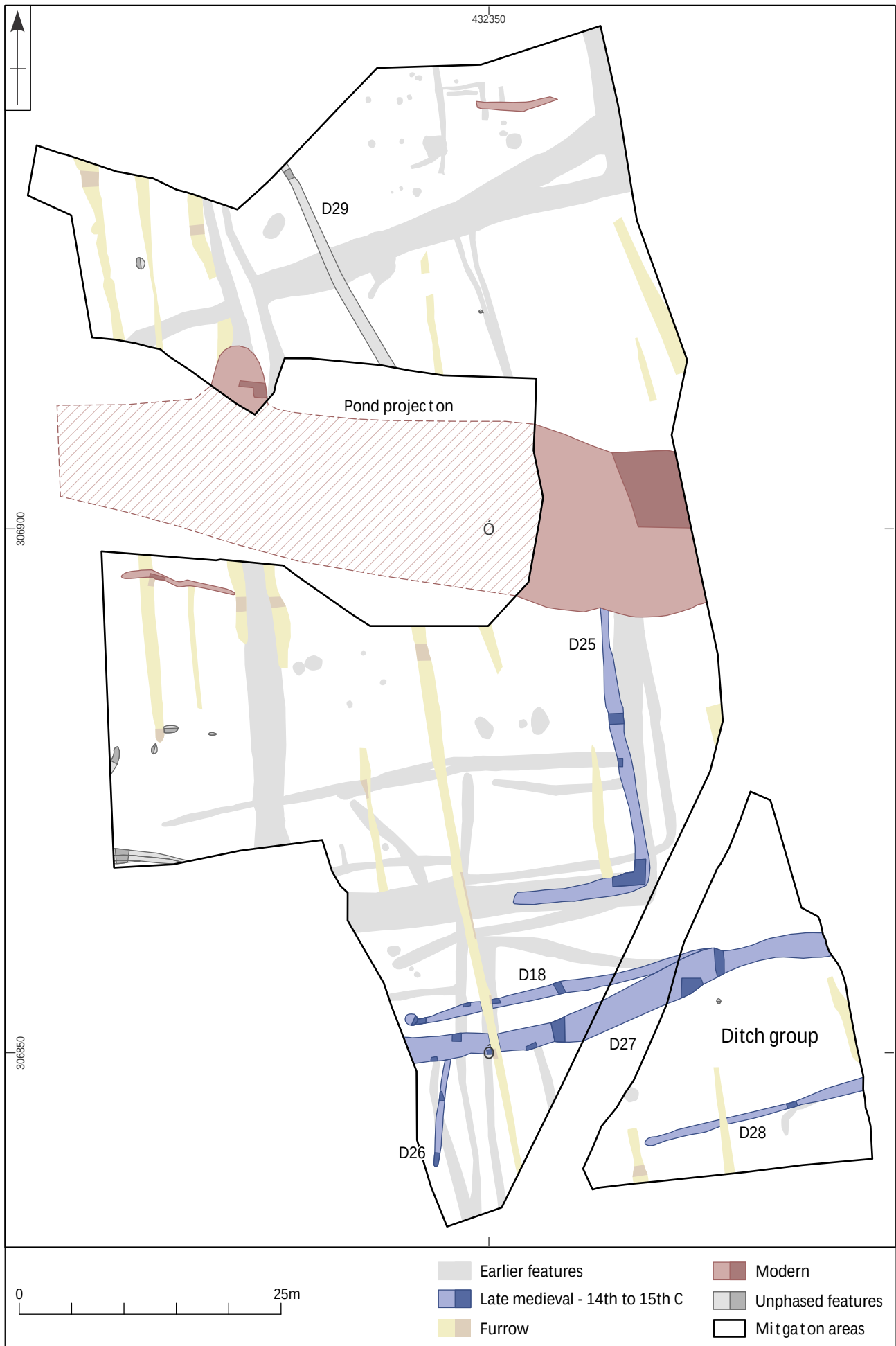
Phase 3

Enclosure 1 and Enclosure 2

Both enclosures demonstrated evidence of recuts.

Ditch D2 was a re-cut of D1 and it truncated the south side of D1. It extended south-west from the north-eastern limits of excavation. Unlike D1 the ditch terminated immediately to the east of E2 (D23), which suggested they were contemporary.

Ditch 22 (E2) was re-cut on the south-west, south and south-east edges by D23. The second ditch D23 was also present in the north-west area of site after the truncation by the 19th century pond, at this point D23 splits from D22. Neither D4 or D6 which were both truncated by E2 were present continuing through where the ditches split, which could suggest that the split was to acknowledge an already established opening.



Scale 1:500

Late medieval, modern and unphased features Fig 7

3.4 Late medieval (14th to 15th centuries)

Later medieval activity dated to the 14th to 15th centuries demonstrated some continued maintenance of the plot boundaries (Fig 7). During this period further ditches were established in the south of the excavation area. The activity all followed the same alignments as the previous phase, suggesting continued use of this plot into the late medieval period.

Enclosure 2 (E2)

The south-east corner of E2 was re-cut by an L-shaped ditch (D25). Deposits recorded in section show clear indication of an external bank that had been utilised to backfill the ditch when it fell out of use, and bank material was represented by a deposit that had been pushed into the ditch from the eastern side of the enclosure. Pottery from the ditch dated 14th to 15th century.

Ditch group (D18, D26–D28)

In the south of the site ditches (D18, D26 to D28) were established that were all aligned north-east to south-west with the exception of D26 which aligned north to south (Fig 7). The largest ditch (D27) extended beyond both limits of excavation and measured 1.7m wide. Toward the west end of D27 and truncated by it, was a smaller gully D26. Both D26 and D27 produced pottery dating 14th to 15th century. D18 was also truncated by D27 at the eastern end. D18 followed the same alignment truncating field system FS1 and terminating shortly before reaching the western limits of excavation.

Likely part of the same ditch group was smaller ditch D28 extending from the eastern boundary for 21m in length with a maximum width of 1m before it terminated. The ditch was also aligned north-east to south-west.

3.5 Medieval to post-medieval furrows (AD 1350 – 1800)

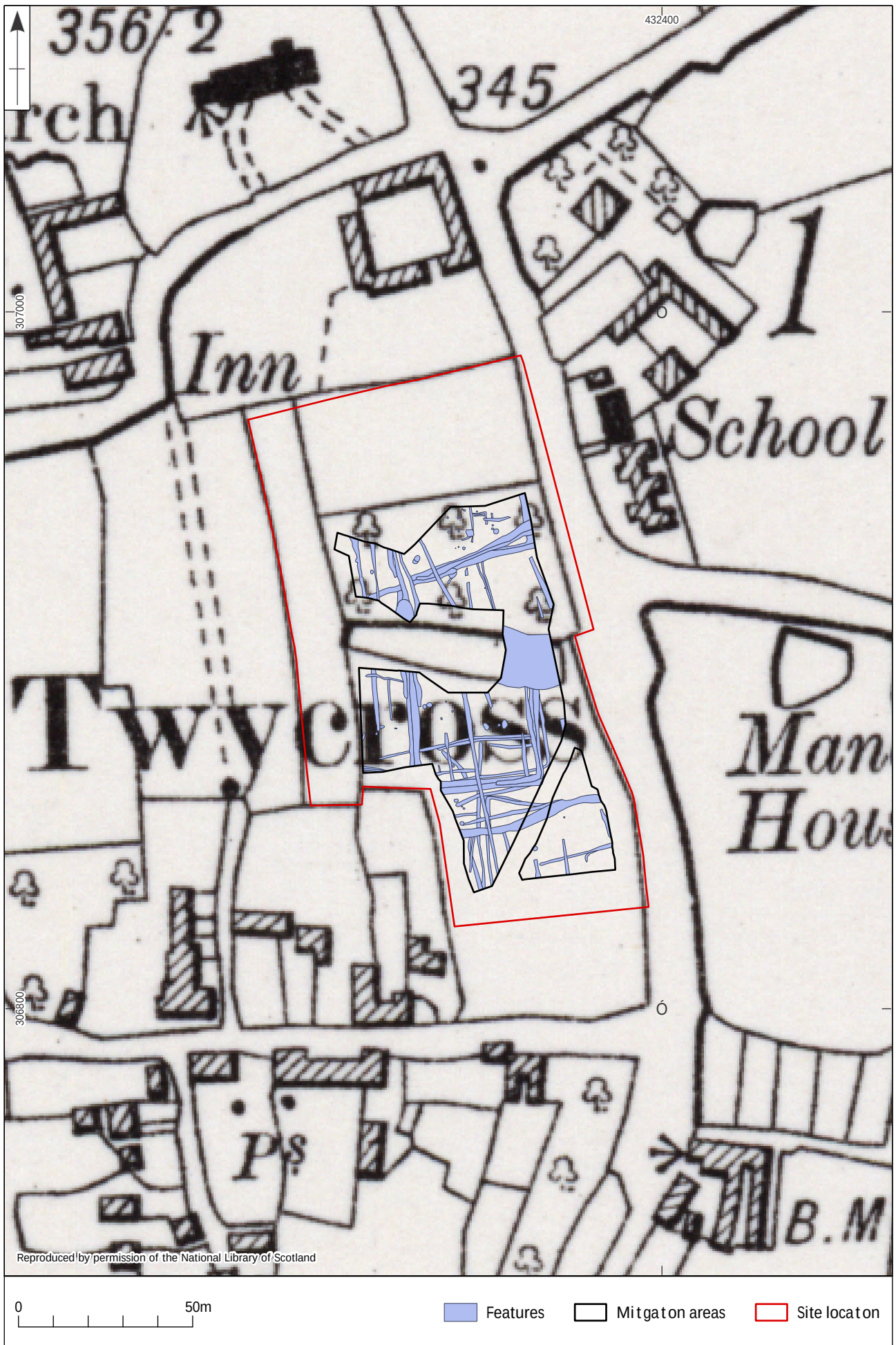
Ridge and furrow

Furrows were visible at regular intervals on a north to south alignment across the site (Figs 2), which suggests that the land was likely incorporated into the open field system around Norton Juxta Twycross between the late medieval to post-medieval periods.

3.6 Modern (1800 onwards)

The continued north to south alignment of later fields was evident both in the alignment of the medieval to post-medieval furrows and the modern field boundaries, evident on the 1903 OS map of the site (Fig 8).

The central area of site contained disturbance from post-medieval/ modern activity (Fig 5), which was investigated in the evaluation (ULAS 2018). An area of modern disturbance, that was east to west aligned, corresponded to a 19th-century pond illustrated on the 1903 OS map (Fig 8).



Scale 1:1,500

Site overlay with 1903 OS map Fig 8

4 THE FINDS

The following tables quantify the finds assemblage and environmental material recovered from the site, all of which has been processed.

Table 1: Pottery quantification

Material	Context	Bag count	Weight (g)
Pottery	410	1	25
Pottery	1016	1	2
Pottery	1019	1	33
Pottery	1023	1	107
Pottery	1042	1	22
Pottery	1073	1	2
Pottery	1077	1	19
Pottery	1089	1	2
Pottery	1091	1	13
Pottery	1094	1	25
Pottery	1105	1	31
Pottery	1112	1	247
Pottery	1116	1	12
Pottery	1141	1	11
Pottery	1149	1	53
Pottery	1157	1	11
Pottery	1177	1	25
Pottery	1179	1	9
Pottery	1182	1	51
Pottery	1184	1	35
Pottery	1200	1	662
Pottery	1203	1	95
Pottery	1216	1	101
Pottery	1218	1	4
Pottery	1226	1	6
Pottery	1247	1	551
Pottery	1251	1	83
Pottery	1253	1	55
Pottery	1259	1	57
Pottery	1267	1	35
Pottery	1269	1	77
Pottery	1271	1	12
Pottery	1277	1	9
Pottery	1286	1	443
Pottery	1287	1	113
Pottery	1288	1	4
Pottery	1289	1	898

Material	Context	Bag count	Weight (g)
Animal Bone	1016	1	3
Animal Bone	1019	1	457
Animal Bone	1023	1	93
Animal Bone	1077	1	252
Animal Bone	1089	1	19
Animal Bone	1091	1	71
Animal Bone	1093	1	81
Animal Bone	1094	1	337
Animal Bone	1103	1	621
Animal Bone	1105	1	25
Animal Bone	1112	1	919
Animal Bone	1120	1	14
Animal Bone	1126	1	10
Animal Bone	1129	1	72
Animal Bone	1130	1	533
Animal Bone	1159	1	6
Animal Bone	1161	1	14
Animal Bone	1165	1	12
Animal Bone	1169	1	18
Animal Bone	1177	1	57
Animal Bone	1179	1	297
Animal Bone	1184	1	233
Animal Bone	1216	1	39
Animal Bone	1253	1	20
Animal Bone	1265	1	<1
Animal Bone	1267	1	4
Animal Bone	1286	1	215
Animal Bone	1287	1	258
Animal Bone	1288	1	2301
Animal Bone	1289	1	261
Animal Bone	1290	1	65
Animal Bone	1293	1	12
Animal Bone	1302	1	26
Animal Bone	1305	1	79
Animal Bone	1327	1	8
Animal Bone	1333	1	2
Animal Bone	1335	1	12
Animal Bone	1339	1	39
Animal Bone	1345	1	16
Animal Bone	1347	1	7
Animal Bone from samples	1168	1	14
Animal Bone from samples	1169	1	16
Animal Bone from samples	1166	1	6
Animal Bone from samples	1171	1	<1
Animal Bone	1126	1	<1

from samples			
Animal Bone	1305	1	73
from samples			
Animal Bone	1323	1	19
from samples			
Animal Bone	1288	1	15
from samples			
Animal Bone	1333	1	<1
from samples			
Animal Bone	1339	1	<1
from samples			
Animal Bone	1120	1	2
from samples			
Animal Bone	1290	1	19
from samples			

Table 2: Animal bone quantification

Table 3: Quantifications of all other finds types

Material	Context	Sample	Bag count	Weight (g)
CBM	1089	-	1	653
CBM	1218	-	-	39
CBM	-	-	-	-
Flint	1019	-	1	17
Flint	-	-	-	-
Flint from samples	1339	30	1	20
Flint from samples	-	-	-	-
Slag	1023	-	1	6
Slag	1182	-	1	875
Slag	-	-	-	-
Leather from samples	1055	1	1	<1
Leather from samples	-	-	-	-
Coal from samples	1255	13	1	21
Coal from samples	-	-	-	-
Glass from samples	1055	1	1	18
Glass from samples	1051	2	1	<1

Table 4: Environmental quantifications

Material	Context	Sample	Bag count	Weight (g)	Notes
Flots	1290	34	1		1 tube, charred macrofossils
Flots	-	-	-	-	-
Charcoal	1305	24	1	8	-
Charcoal	1288	26	1	2	-
Charcoal	1308	27	1	<1	-
Charcoal	-	-	-	-	-
Hazelnut shell	1124	20	1	<1	1 tube
Hazelnut shell	1339	30	1	<1	1 tube
Hazelnut shell	-	-	-	-	-
Charred macrofossils	1165	7	1	<1	1 tube
Charred macrofossils	1169	9	1	<1	1 tube
Charred macrofossils	1171	11	1	<1	1 tube
Charred macrofossils	1170	12	1	<1	1 tube
Charred macrofossils	1255	13	1	<1	1 tube
Charred macrofossils	1124	20	1	<1	1 tube
Charred macrofossils	1122	21	1	<1	1 tube
Charred macrofossils	1305	24	1	<1	1 tube
Charred macrofossils	1323	25	1	<1	1 tube
Charred macrofossils	1288	26	1	<1	1 tube
Charred macrofossils	1308	27	1	<1	1 tube
Charred macrofossils	1333	28	1	<1	1 tube
Charred macrofossils	1325	29	1	<1	1 tube
Charred macrofossils	1339	30	1	<1	1 tube
Charred macrofossils	1120	31	1	<1	1 tube
Charred macrofossils	1343	33	1	<1	1 tube
Charred macrofossils	1290	34	1	<1	1 tube
Charred macrofossils	-	-	-	-	-
Macrofossils, untransformed	1055	1	1	<1	2 tubes
Macrofossils, untransformed	-	-	-	-	-
Wood	1055	1	1	15	-

Table 5: Additional material quantification

Material	Context	Sample	Quantity	Weight (g)	Notes
Wood	1055	-	1	-	-
Wood	1055	-	1	-	-
Wood	1055	-	1	-	-
Wood	1055	1	1	-	-
Wood	1055	-	1	-	1 bucket
Wood	-	-	-	-	-
Tin sample	1057	4	1	-	-
Tin sample	1056, 1057	5	1	-	-
Tin sample	1051, 1055, 1056, 1057	6	1	-	-
Tin sample	-	-	-	-	-
Flot	1055	1	1	-	Flot from <1>
Flot	1297	22	1	-	0.5mm flot from <22> retained due to presence of wood
Flot	-	-	-	-	-
Sample	1057	3	1	-	1 master bag containing 4mm, 2mm, 1mm, and 0.5mm residues
Sample	1051	2	1	-	1 master bag containing 4mm, 2mm, 1mm, and 0.5mm residues

Table 6: Small find quantification

Material	Context	SF	Sample	Bag count	Weight (g)	Notes
Ag	U/S	7	-	1	-	Coin; X01

5 POTENTIAL AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK

Overview of the potential of the site

The overall character of the site demonstrates a focus of activity in the 12th century that continued and developed into the late medieval period. The most prominent features on site were those relating to the rectangular plot and its occupation, which was established in the 12th century, but had evidence of maintenance into the 14th century. In the late medieval to post-medieval period the plot was abandoned, and the site was incorporated into the open field system, as evidenced by the furrows present across the excavation area. The site was further modified in the 19th century with the inclusion of a pond and further modern disturbance.

At full report stage, research into early historic mapping may further illuminate phasing and layout of the plots into the post-medieval period, particular where the positions and alignments of earlier boundaries may be shown to be long lived.

Artefact and ecofact potential

Finds

At this stage of work finds have been quantified but not fully analysed or reported on. Pottery spot dates have been acquired for phasing of the site, but it is recommended that full analysis be undertaken of all material types. All finds material should be retained for further work to be completed.

Environmental

Five samples are to be analysed with the remainder requiring no further work and disposal advised due to over-sampling on site. The flint and charred plant remains from the retained samples will be analysed in full, and artefactual material recovered from sampling will be integrated into the finds assemblages for full reporting.

6 REVIEW OF RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND SIGNIFICANCE OF RESULTS

The research objectives have been considered in accordance with the national and regional research frameworks as relevant to the results of the work (HE 2017, EMHERF 2024). The research aims originally set out in the WSI have been considered and these have been updated in line with the most recent version of the research framework (EMHERF 2024). No additional research questions beyond those identified in the WSI are recommended.

High medieval

7.2.3: How can we improve our understanding of the form, evolution and functions of buildings within rural settlements and establish the extent of surviving medieval fabrics? – (7E- Investigate the morphology of rural settlements)

The site provided an insight into the development of plots within 12th century and the continued maintenance of these into the later medieval period. At least two structures, one beam-slot built and one post-built, were recorded. Further analysis of the form and character of these structures may allow for this research objective to be explored in more detail. In order to address the extent of surviving medieval fabrics, full analysis will need to be completed on the recovered material.

7.6.4: Can we develop a typological classification of buildings associated with medieval industrial and commercial activities and can we identify sub-regional and chronological patterning? – (7B- Enhance the record of urban and suburban secular standing building and associated subterranean structures)

The specific activities associated with the excavated buildings could not be identified and it is unlikely that further analysis will provide enough data to address this research objective.

7.7.1: Can we shed further light upon the origins and development of the open-field system and its impact upon agricultural practices? – (7I- Investigate the development of open-field systems and medieval woodland management)

The site shows clear evidence of an open field system being adopted in the late medieval to post-medieval period, through the presence of furrows, which truncated the medieval plot and field system. The furrows follow the same north to south alignment as the previous activity, suggesting the plot boundaries may have been maintained and continued as field boundaries. Further analysis may allow for a more detailed discussion on the development of medieval agricultural activity on site.

7 RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

7.1 Work completed

At assessment stage work has been completed in order to quantify and define the necessary work for full analysis.

7.2 Future work

In order to address the updated research aims identified in Section 6 and bring the project to final reporting, a programme of future works to be undertaken is outlined in Table 7 and Section 8.

7.3 Programme

The programme of works for the completion of the analysis reporting will commence once the PXA has been approved. The full site report will be submitted within three months of the approval unless otherwise agreed. A further stage of publication, and subsequent archiving will follow (see below).

Table 7: Full report post-excavation analysis task list

Tasks	Personnel
1. Report introduction and background	Sara Farey
2. Report structural site narrative	Sara Farey
3. Flint	Yvonne Wolfram-Murray
4. Leather	Quita Mould
5. The post-Roman pottery	Paul Blinkhorn
6. Ceramic Building Material	Rob Atkins
7. Small finds	Chris Faine

Tasks	Personnel
8. Slag	TBC
9. Glass	Claire Finn
10. Animal bone	Chris Faine
11. Archaeobotany + charcoal	Andrés Teira Brión
12. Wood	Matt Law
13. Pollen	Tom Hill (PERCS)
14. Illustrations, including historic mapping research	Hugh Gatt
15. Integration of specialist reports	Sara Farey
16. Report digest and discussion	Sara Farey
17. Editing	TBC

Table 8: Gantt chart of task list (3 month duration)

	Weeks											
Tasks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.												
2.												
3.												
4.												
5.												
6.												
7.												
8.												
9.												
10.												
11.												
12.												
13.												
14.												
15.												
16.												
17.												

8 REPORTING, PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVE

Reporting

A full site report will be prepared by MOLA. The proposed structure of the report is as follows:

1	INTRODUCTION
2	BACKGROUND
2.1	Location, geology and topography
2.2	Historical and archaeological background
3	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
3.1	Project aims
3.2	Research framework
4	METHODOLOGY
5	EXCAVATION RESULTS
5.1	Early medieval
5.2	Medieval
5.3	Late medieval
5.4	Post-medieval and modern
5.5	Undated features
6	FINDS
7	FAUNAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE
8	DISCUSSION
	BIBLIOGRAPHY
	APPENDIX

Publication

In addition to the full analysis report, two different forms of publication are proposed for the site, comprising:

- A summary note in *Transactions of Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*
- The design of an interpretation board/s to be displayed on or near the site for the benefit of local residents

These outputs will be produced in discussion with the client and consultant, once the scope and cost for these outputs is agreed.

Archives

The records generated by the excavation have all been cross-referenced and checked for consistency. The context records and finds catalogues have been entered on to a database (Access 2024 and Excel 2024).

Table 9: Site records and archive quantities

Type	Quantification
Plans	43
Sections	105
Contexts	1397
Photographs	556

The finds assemblages for the site are quantified above in Section 4 and archiving methodology is discussed in Section 1.3.

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MOLA

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MOLA
Kent House
30 Billing Road
Northampton
NN1 5DQ
01604 344355
www.mola.org.uk
business@mola.org.uk