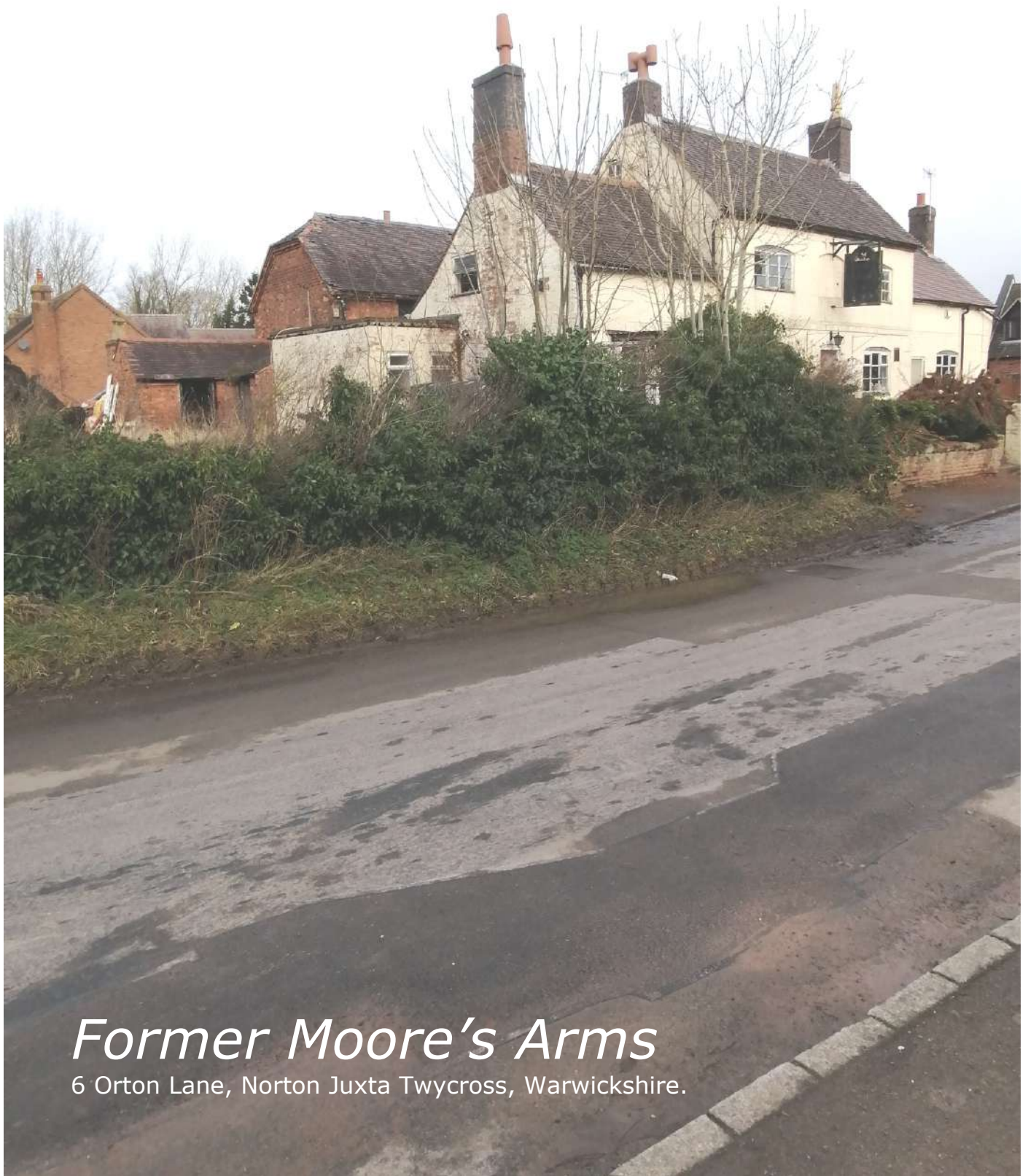




Former Moore's Arms

6 Orton Lane, Norton Juxta Twycross, Warwickshire.

Former Moore's Arms

6 Orton Lane, Norton Juxta Twycross, Warwickshire, CV9 3PU.

Archaeological Strip, Map & Sample Excavation.

NGR: *SK 32225 06994*

Site code: *NJT23*

Museum accession number: *X. A135.2023*

OASIS Id: *110archa1-523803*

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Illustration: Jill Atherton MCIfA

9th May 2024

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SUMMARY

Archaeological Strip, Map & Sample Excavation (ASMSE) was carried out during February and March 2024 at the former Moore's Arms, 6 Orton Lane, Norton Juxta Twycross, Warwickshire in advance of residential development of the site.

The HER shows that the former Moore's Arms lies on the northern edge of the village which based on the current evidence originated as a settlement in the Late Saxon/Early Medieval period. Archaeological interventions within the village so far, including an earlier evaluation at the site itself have recorded C14 activity.

Excavation to the west of the development site recorded a single linear C14 ditch aligned north-south, the northern end beginning to curve towards the northeast. The character and alignment of the ditch, perpendicular to Orton Lane, suggests an earlier property boundary, possibly associated with the adjacent cottage which in 1885 formed part of a larger farmstead west of the Moore's Arms and which may have originated in the medieval period. The alignment of the ditch corresponds with a similarly aligned boundary on the eastern edge of the road opposite, evidence perhaps of a medieval settlement pattern based on a series of small holdings perpendicular to either side of the Orton Road frontage.

Excavation to the northwest of the site recorded the foundations of a former structure aligned east-west, possibly the remains of a building related to a C18 or early C19 barn on the site. Truncating these earlier foundation deposits were the now demolished walled remains of the former barn shown on the OS 1885 map, its north-south alignment shows a re-configuration of the site layout during its period of construction.



Fig. 1: site location circled in red.



Fig. 2: site location outlined in red.

INTRODUCTION

Location and scope of work

This document sets out the results of an Archaeological Strip, Map & Sample Excavation (ASMSE) carried out between 24th of February-1st of March 2024 at the former Moore's Arms, 6 Orton Lane, Norton Juxta Twycross, Warwickshire, CV9 3PU on behalf of the owners. Planning applications *(21/01146/FUL & 21/00537/OUT)* had been approved by Hinkley and Bosworth Borough Council for the conversion of the former public house to one dwelling, demolition of outbuilding and the erection of three new dwellings to the west and north, including new access road, garage and parking.

In consequence, the local planning authority required the developers to record and advance the understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance (NPPF Section 16, paragraph 205). To ensure that any archaeological remains present are dealt with appropriately, the applicant was to provide for an appropriate level of archaeological investigation and recording.

In December 2023 and January 2024, a first stage of archaeological evaluation in the form of investigative trenching revealed a C14 ditch, probably a former property boundary surviving in the southwest part of the site and two undated animal pit burials (Cook, 2024). The remains of an earlier brick built structure shown on the OS 1885 map was also recorded to the north of the site. In view of the results the Leicestershire Historic & Natural Environment Team advised that a programme of archaeological work, should be conducted within the mains areas of the proposed development connected with plots 3 and 4. It should include an archaeological soil strip of the development areas; any exposed archaeological remains should then be planned and appropriately investigated and recorded. In addition, all services and other ground works likely to impact upon archaeological remains should be appropriately investigated and recorded. Provision must also be made within the development timetable for archaeologists to be present during these works, to enable the required level of archaeological supervision. A contingency provision for emergency recording and detailed excavation should be made to the satisfaction of the authority in conjunction with the archaeological advisors in the Department's Archaeology Section.

Geology, topography & historical setting

The Norton Juxta Twycross, usually known as simply Norton (*or "Norton-Juxta"*), is a small village in Leicestershire, England. The village is part of the parish of Appleby Magna. The population is included in the civil parish of Twycross. The village ([mle6001](#)) has traditionally, and historically, been known as "Norton": deriving from the Anglo-Saxon, meaning "North-Town"; with variable spellings including "Northton" and "Nortone". The village, however, was also known for a brief period in the C17 "Hoggs Norton". The village's current name was acquired to differentiate the village from the several others in the county named Norton. "Juxta" is Latin for "near", and Twycross is a small village approximately 2 miles southeast of Norton.

The proposed development site is located on the northern side of Norton Juxta Twycross, a predominantly residential settlement. The site consists of the principal Grade II listed building (the former Moore's Arms public house), ([mle12973](#)) which has its principal elevation facing south onto Orton Lane together with a range of red brick. with painted brickwork to the front and gable elevations, with a plain tile roof.

The village is listed in the Domesday Book and the Lord of the Manor was recorded in both 1066 and 1086 as Countess (*Lady*) Godiva, widow of Leofric, Earl of Mercia. The village is listed as a very small settlement, with only four households.

Norton was previously an independent parish, however, by 1839 was recorded as a chapelry within the parish of Orton on the Hill. It is currently within the parish of Appleby Magna.

The site lies on the north of Norton juxta Twycross, it comprises a roughly rectangular area former pub and car park and amounting to approx. 880m² situated at about 108m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD). The Geological Survey of Great Britain indicates that the underlying geology is likely to be red brown mudstone. (BGS, 1994).

HISTORICAL and ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Historical Background

The village has traditionally, and historically, been known as "Norton": deriving from the Anglo-Saxon, meaning "North-Town"; with variable spellings including "Northton" and "Nortone". The village, however, was also known for a brief period

in the C17 "Hoggs Norton". The village's current name was acquired to differentiate the village from the several others in the county named Norton. "juxta" is Latin for "near", and Twycross is a small village approximately 2 miles southeast of Norton.

The village is listed in the Domesday Book as a very small settlement, with only four households and the Lord of the Manor was recorded in both 1066 and 1086 as Countess (*Lady*) Godiva, widow of Leofric, Earl of Mercia although the manor has always been considered as forming part of the manor of Kempsey.

Norton was previously an independent parish, however, by 1839 was recorded as a chapelry within the parish of Orton on the Hill. It is currently within the parish of Appleby Magna.

The Moore's Arms in the early C19 is situated to the south-west of the church occupying a narrow linear plot with a long frontage to Orton Lane at the bend in the road. The historic evidence therefore suggests that the present building has had a long-established use as a public house and a similar range of buildings is shown on the OS maps throughout the C20. The early OS maps show a detached range of buildings occupying a similar narrow and separate plot to the rear. The former Moore's Arms ([mle12972](#)) is described in the list description as a mid to late C18 public house, with a painted brick exterior, plain tile roofs and brick end stacks. Although the list description does not provide any details of its historic floor plans and circulation routes, it does refer to chamfered ceiling beams and an open fireplace with salt and spice boxes. In addition, the building also derives some historic interest from its name, the Moore's Arms reflects the family name of the one of the principal landowners in the area, the Moore family who had their family seat in Appleby Magna and illustrates the historic social hierarchy in the village.

The Ordnance Survey First Edition County Series plan of 1885 shows the site standing within a cluster of buildings around the former Moore's Arms.

Archaeological Background

The Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) was consulted with a search carried out over a 500m radius centred on the site in order to understand the archaeology of the locality. Significant aspects of the data within the HER that is relevant to the site is outlined below.

The Church of the Holy Trinity ([mle12969](#)) stands to the north-east of the former Moore's Arms and the list description notes that the Church consists of a

four-bay nave, three bay chancel with vestry and a west tower and whilst it has early C14 origins, it was heavily restored in 1841. On the eastern side of the churchyard a pair of C13-C14 recumbent stone effigies ([mle12971](#)) as well as the chest tomb of William Glen who died in 1808 ([mle12970](#)).

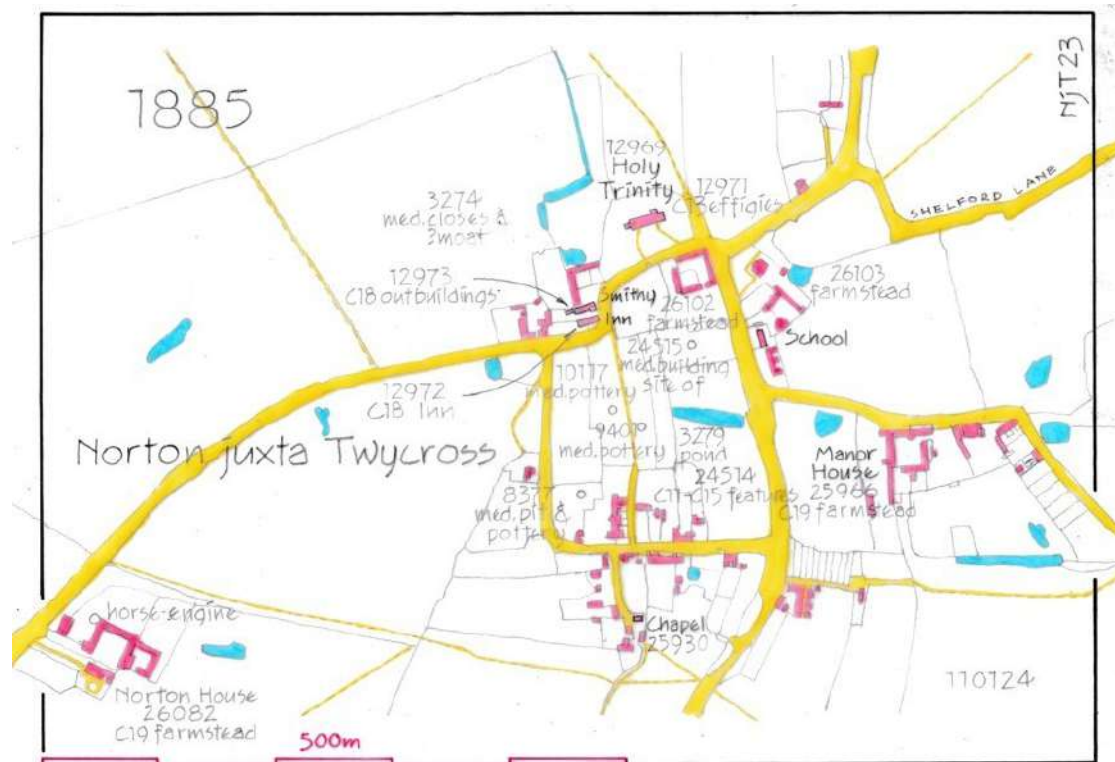


Fig. 3: Sketch plan showing Historic Environment Monument Records.

[mle3274](#) Medieval closes and possible moat west of the church, Norton Juxta Twycross. Cropmarks of closes and what may be a moat can be seen on aerial photographs north-west of the church (clearly visible on the 1969 aerial photos). "Immediately to the west of the churchyard is an "L" shaped pond, possibly the remains of a small moat."

[mle3279](#) Pond/moat west of The Manor, Norton Juxta Twycross. A long thin rectangular pond, perhaps once part of a moat, although evidence for this is lacking. Mapped as the pond shown on the late C19/1903/1924/1958 OS maps. A long rectangular pond, perhaps once part of a moat, though there seems no real evidence for this. The pond is c.300' long. (RFH 02/12/86)

[mle6001](#) The medieval and post-medieval historic core of the village, as deduced from landscape maps, etc.

[mle8377](#) Medieval activity, 11, Cock Lane, Norton Juxta Twycross.

A watching brief in 1999 revealed evidence of medieval occupation including a possible medieval waste pit. 14 sherds of medieval pottery were recovered, C11-C14 in date (Clarke, 1999).

[mle9343](#): Undated cobbled road surface showing in several places on Main Street and Wood Lane, recorded during a watching brief on mains renewals in 2000/1 (Smith, 2002).

[mle9401](#): Medieval pottery from 38A, Main Street, Norton Juxta Twycross.

Nine sherds of medieval pottery (C10-C14) were recovered during a watching brief in 2001. A further sherd was found in the vicinity during a watching brief in 2003.

[mle10117](#): Medieval pottery from Plot 2, 7 Orton Lane, Norton Juxta Twycross.

An archaeological watching brief in 2003 revealed a single sherd of possible medieval pottery.

[mle24162](#) Former farmstead at 1 Orton Lane, Norton Juxta Twycross.

Map evidence (and photographic record made during 1989 demolition) of a brick-built courtyard farmstead. Appears to have been single storey on three sides (west, east and south) with a two-storey (?) barn in the south-east corner. The northern range was not photographed and may have included the farmhouse.

[mle24514](#) Medieval activity, Main Street, Norton Juxta Twycross.

Various ditches and gullies were recorded during trenching in 2018 that could relate to enclosures and site drainage. Pottery found in the excavated features dates to between the C11 and C15. Associated animal bone suggests disposal of domestic waste.

[mle24515](#) Site of post-medieval building, Main Street, Norton Juxta Twycross.

The remains of a brick floored (C19?) 1.6m deep cellar backfilled with rubble was encountered during trial trenching in 2018. There is no building shown on the 1814 or 1886 OS maps, so it unclear what these remains relate to.

[mle25966](#) The Manor House, 8 Wood Lane, Norton Juxta Twycross.

A C19 courtyard farmstead with the farmhouse forming most of the northern/street front range. The 1886 & 1903 OS maps show an unwallled horse engine to the west of the western range - suggesting a threshing barn. The farmhouse has been fully renovated but the eastern, southern and much of the western ranges have been demolished (Google Maps 01/07/2021).

[mle26082](#): Norton House Farm, Orton Lane, Norton Juxta Twycross.

A regular multi-courtyard farmstead with detached farmhouse. The 1903 OS shows an unwallled horse engine sited off the north-west corner of the yard.

[mle26102](#): Un-named former farm at 1 Orton Lane, Norton Juxta Twycross.

A C19 loose, four-sided courtyard farmstead, opposite the parish church. Although the farm is clearly extant on the 1969 air photographs, it is not clear which of the buildings was the farmhouse. All the buildings associated with the farm were demolished by 1991, replaced by a housing estate.

[mle26103](#): Un-named former farm at 1 & 5 Main Street, Norton Juxta Twycross.

A C19 loose, L-shaped courtyard farmstead, with detached house to the north (The Firs). The eastern range of farm buildings includes a covered entrance. Both the farmhouse and farm buildings are extant but have been interspersed with modern development.

METHODOLOGY

Aims of the investigation

The aim of the work was to carry out a programme of Archaeological Strip, Map & Sample Excavation (ASMSE) prior to development on the site. ASMSE falls within the category of Archaeological Excavation as defined by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) defines an Archaeological Excavation as 'a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design' (CIfA 2014a).

The CIfA defines the purpose of an Archaeological Excavation thus (ibid): • The purpose of excavation is to examine the archaeological resource within a given area or site within a framework of defined research objectives, to seek a better understanding of and compile a lasting record of that resource, to analyse and interpret the results, and disseminate them.

In general, the aims of the excavation were to include:

- i) establishing the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation on the development site.

- ii) recovering artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region.
- iii) recovering palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

More specifically, the ASMSE investigated the potential for:

- iv) finds and/or deposits of date related to ([HER ref.: mle6001](#)), the medieval and post-medieval historic core of the village, as deduced from landscape maps, etc.

The aims of the ASMSE were guided by the relevant research framework for the east of England Regional Research Framework (Medlycott, 2011) in which elements of the Saxon and medieval (rural) research agenda specific to the site include:

Saxon rural landscapes and settlements: The region would benefit from a detailed study of the changes in settlement types and forms over time during the early, middle and late Anglo-Saxon periods, highlighting some of the distinctive changes which take place. This also needs to be considered on a broader scale, particularly with reference to the way that Anglo-Saxon settlements and organisation of the landscape influenced the medieval landscape:

Medieval rural settlement: The origins and development of the different rural settlement types need further research, also the dynamics of medieval settlement. Much of the region has primarily a dispersed pattern, not nucleated, and more small hamlets are being discovered all the time. More data will add to our understanding of the way places appear, grow, shift and disappear.

Dependent on results, research aims from earlier and later periods will be explored prior to the preparation of the report.

Field methodology

The archaeological field work and post-excavation assessment was carried out in accordance with the code of conduct (CIfA, 2019) and the standards and guidance for archaeological excavations produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA, 2014).

Two ASMSE areas were mechanically stripped using a toothless bucket, under archaeological supervision, Area 1 included the footprint of the proposed plot 3 to the west of the site, the associated new parking area and access road

from Orton Lane. The proposed new garage/carport connected with the plot was not excavated as a sufficient buffer of overburden could be maintained between the development and the surface level of any underlying archaeological deposits in this area. Area 2 included the footprint of the proposed plot 4, the new parking area was not excavated as the existing hardcore layer within this part of the site would be left in situ as a sub-base for the new parking surface providing a sufficient buffer between any buried archaeological remains and the development. Excavation of these areas was also subject to the limitation of the site, exiting boundaries and services.

RESULTS

AREA 1

The surface of the natural substrate (103), consisting of a stiff light grey/brown clay (103) with the occasional component of small stones, was recorded at a roughly level height of about 107.80m AOD throughout the excavated area. There were the occasional small lenses of reddish-brown gravel intermittent throughout the area. Constructed within the substrate and crossing the excavation from north-south was the ditch [113], previously recorded during the evaluation. Sample excavation showed this to be similarly sized, measuring up to 1.30m wide and 0.30m deep and similarly filled by the deposit (104) although in this instance no finds were recovered during the process. Interestingly, at the northern end of its alignment the feature begins to curve northeast. It is noted that originally the ditch feature is likely to have larger, the current truncated form of the ditch can be attributed to later cultivation associated with the overlying relict subsoil layer (101). The thickness of this deposit ranged from between 0.30-40m across the area, equivalent to that recorded during the earlier evaluation and a single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the deposit during the excavation. The evidence would suggest that prior to its truncation the ditch would have probably been in the region of about 2.1-20m wide and 0.70-80m deep, being created from the surface of the contemporary ground level. overlying relict subsoil layer at a time when the ditch had become in-filled and abandoned.

Overlying the relict subsoil later throughout the excavation was the same re-deposited brown, silty-clay (101) recorded during the evaluation. This was in turn sealed by the modern garden topsoil (100) amounting to a thickness of about 0.30m.

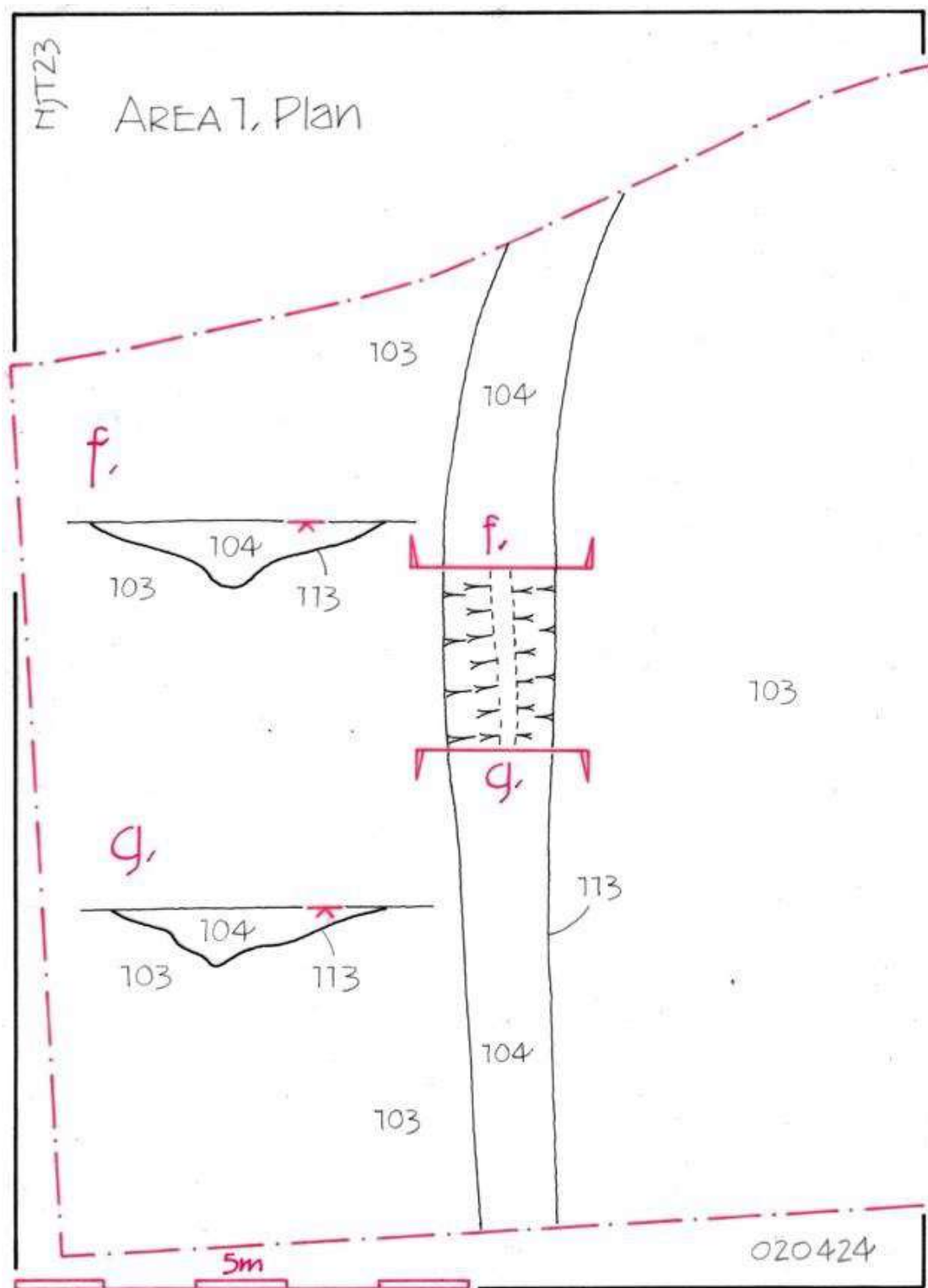


Fig. 5: Area 1, plan of ditch [113] and sections.

AREA 2

The surface of the natural substrate (202), consisting of a stiff red clay mottled throughout with light grey clay and containing a component of occasional small stones, was recorded at a roughly level height of about 107.25m AOD throughout the area. The earliest deposits recorded within the surface of this clay comprised the foundation remains (208) and (210), of what appears to be two or possibly three former walls each aligned east-west across short lengths of the area, with deposit (208) seemingly abutting (210), although the relationship between the two deposits is lost through the later intrusion caused by the construction of brick wall (207) which in this part of the area is associated with east side of the former C19 barn.

The foundation deposit (208) survives for about 5.50m, albeit truncated at various points and to varying degrees along its length. Sample excavation through an undisturbed area of this deposit revealed a shallow flat-bottomed trench [209], 1.15m wide and about 0.15m deep filled mostly along its length by compacted pebbles and fragments of brick of various sizes within a silty-clay matrix, although at the east end where it appears to have been abutted by wall deposit (210), the foundation trench is filled by stone and half-bricks. No other finds were recovered from this foundation deposit. Although the west end of deposit (208) was truncated by the west wall of the C19 barn, there was no evidence within the section at the west end of Area 1 to indicate that deposit (208) continued westwards beyond the edge of the excavation.

The foundation deposit (210) also survives for about 5.50m, about half-way along its length on the south side and perpendicular to it is a short narrow length of foundation deposit 0.40m wide indicating a possible extension south although this part of the feature was truncated by a large modern pit. Sample excavation through deposit (210) revealed a narrower, shallower and slightly more rounded bottomed trench [211], 0.55m wide and about 0.15m deep similarly filled at various points along its length by either compacted pebbles and fragments of brick of various sizes within a silty-clay matrix or intermittent deposits of stone or whole and half-bricks. No finds were recovered from deposit (210) other than the brick. The relationship between this and deposit (208) is disturbed by the construction of the later brick wall (207) associated with the east side of the 1885 barn, however, its form, slightly offset to the north and noticeably narrower along its length suggests its construction was a separate event. Interestingly, the alignment of the feature can be observed curving slightly northeast towards the eastern edge of the excavation. Another short length of

brick wall aligned north-south adjoining the north side suggests an earlier building, this was also truncated by a modern trench connecting with the large drainage soak-away recorded in the evaluation.

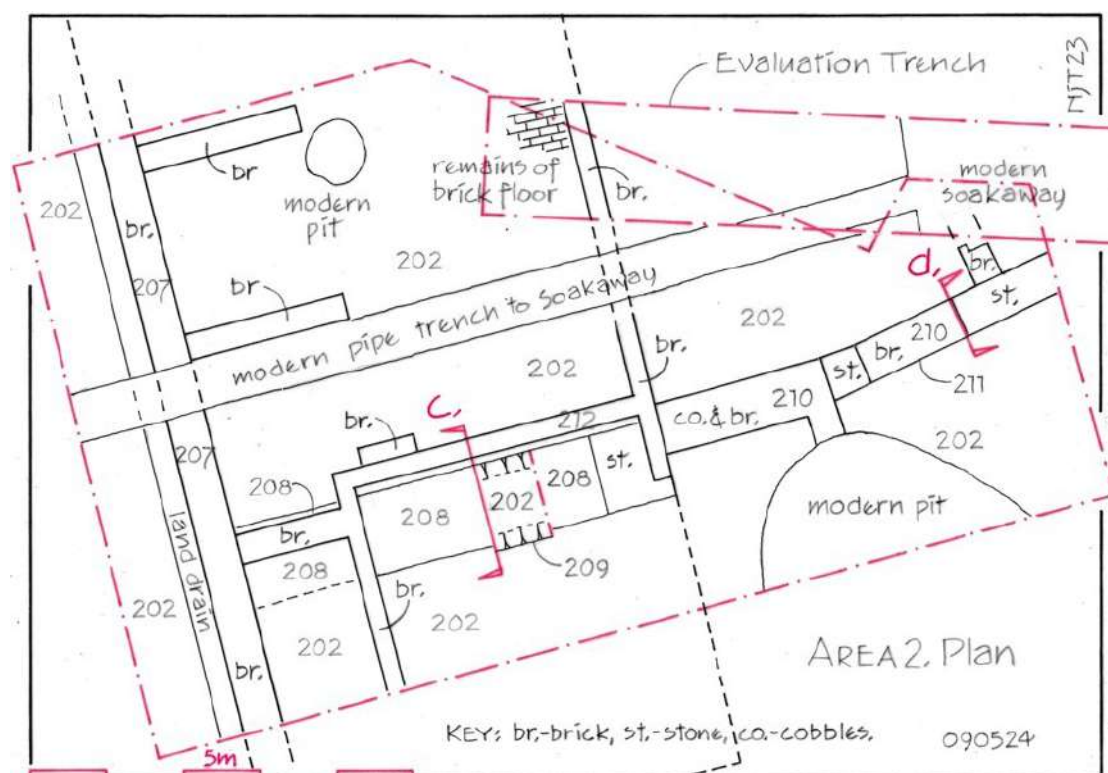


Fig. 6: Area 2, plan showing remains of earlier buildings and features uncovered in Evaluation Trench.

The earlier results from the adjacent evaluation trench suggest deposit (210) terminates between Area 2 and the position of the former trench.

The series of brick walls (207) ~~relate to~~ ~~are connected with~~ the large barn shown on the OS 1885, the larger wall aligned north-south along the western edge of the excavation representing the west side of the former barn, the eastern side marked by a slightly narrower brick wall situated roughly within the central part of Area 1 and was recorded, with part of the internal brick floor in the evaluation trench. Internal divisions comprising bays/stalls are evident in the floor pattern of surviving walling within the former barn.

A modern pipe trench aligned east-west across the excavation and connecting to a large drainage soakaway recorded in the evaluation trench truncates this barn. Constructed along the entire west edge of the barn wall was a large land drain, consisting of a series of short lengths of u-shaped ceramic piping with clay beneath.

Overlying the clay substrate and walled deposits was within Area 2 was a 0.30m thick deposit (206) of modern hardcore acting as a sub-base for the existing carpark.

FINDS

Finds from the excavation of the two area were sparse, a single sherd of medieval pottery was retrieved from the subsoil deposit in Area 1, but this was residual and cannot be usefully interpreted.

Area 2 produced a few sherds of residual C19 pottery which can be attributed to the use of the C19 buildings which formerly occupied the area.

DISCUSSION

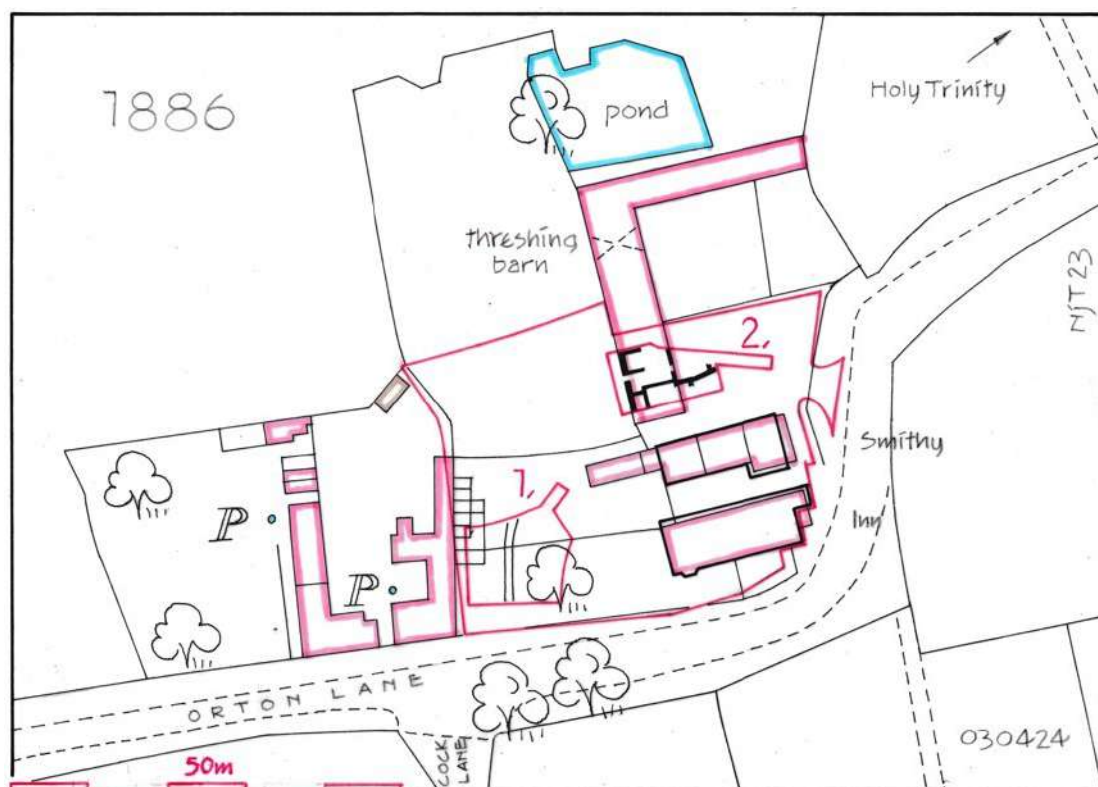


Fig. 7: Site plan with Areas 1 and 2 shown in red and the 1886 setting.

The HER shows that the former Moore's Arms lies on the northern edge of the village which based on the current evidence originated as a settlement in the Late

Saxon/Early Medieval period. Archaeological interventions so far, including the earlier evaluation, have recorded C14 activity within the village.

Area 1, placed to the west of the development site, recorded a single linear ditch [113], within the natural clay substrate although it is likely that it was constructed at the surface level of the earlier relict subsoil layer (102) representing the earliest occupation horizon, later truncation to the upper part of the feature is probably linked to subsequent cultivation when the ditch was abandoned. The excavation produced a single sherd of residual medieval pottery from the relict subsoil layer, but no further finds were recovered from the C14 ditch during sample excavation.

The character and alignment of the ditch, perpendicular to Orton Lane, suggests an earlier property boundary, possibly associated with the adjacent cottage which in 1885 formed part of a larger farmstead west of the Moore's Arms and which may have originated in the medieval period. A brook marks the current boundary between the two properties and remains a significant watercourse in the village facilitating the flow of water from the higher ground to the north, however, it may be that the ditch recorded in trench 1 marked an earlier location for the boundary. Interestingly, the alignment of the ditch corresponds with a similarly aligned boundary on the eastern edge of the road opposite, evidence perhaps of a medieval settlement pattern based on a series of small holdings perpendicular to either side of the Orton Road frontage.

The earliest deposits recorded in Area 2, were the foundations remains of two connected walls (108) & (110), each aligned east-west, the narrower more easterly one curving slightly northeast. It remains unclear what type of structure these deposits were related to, perhaps an earlier barn or outbuildings, the presence of brick within its construction indicates a post-medieval date, possibly C18 or early C19.

Truncating these earlier foundation deposits were the walled remains of the former barn shown on the OS 1885 map, its north-south alignment appears to show a re-configuration of the site layout during the period of construction.

More recent disturbance is evidenced by an east-west aligned modern trench connecting with a drainage soakaway pit recorded during the previous evaluation and a large modern pit partially exposed along the southern edge of the excavated area.

Archive Location

The archaeological documentary archive arising from the work will be appropriately conserved and deposited with the Leicestershire Museum Service. The digital archive arising from the work will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) via the online portal OASIS.

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PLATES



Plate 1; Area 1, view south.



Plate 2; Area 1, view west.



Plate 3; Area 1, eastern extension, view southeast.



Plate 4; Ditch 113, view northwest.



Plate 5; Ditch 113, view southeast.



Plate 6; section 1f.



Plate 7; section 1g.



Plate 8; Area 2, overall view southeast.



Plate 9; Area 2, view west.



Plate 10; Area 2, northern half, view east.



Plate 11; Area 2, southern half, view east.



Plate 12; deposits 208, 210 & 211, view east.



Plate 13; Deposit 208, view northwest.



Plate 14; Deposits 210 & 211, view north.



Plate 15; foundation trench 209 & fill deposit 208, view northwest.



Plate 16; Deposit 210, section 2d, view northwest.



Plate 17; east-wing of re-used timber recorded in the former Moore's Arms showing possible re-used cruck.





Plate 18; west-wing of re-used timber recorded in the former Moore's Arms showing re-used C17 wall-frame beam with mortices for square-panel framing.



Plate 19; ~~former Moore's Arms,~~ 1970s aerial view showing former Moore's Arms
and C19 farm buildings beyond~~barns~~ prior to demolition.