



34 Windsor Street

Burbage, Hinckley, Leicestershire.

34 Windsor Street

Burbage, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 2EF.

Archaeological Strip, Map & Sample Excavation

NGR: *SP 44196 92315*

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Front cover; View of 34 Windsor St from southwest.

SUMMARY

This document details the results of an archaeological evaluation followed by a strip, map & sample and subsequent watching brief carried out at 34 Windsor Street, Burbage, Hinckley, Leicestershire between April 2021 and March 2022 in advance of and during groundworks for the construction of new dwellings on the site. Two trenches were initially excavated as part of a preliminary investigation of the site. The trench on the west side of the development site revealed partial remains of a cobbled surface directly overlying the natural clay probably associated with earlier out buildings which have since been demolished. The second trench on the west side of the site recorded medieval remains and the area of excavation was subsequently enlarged to enable recording of the deposits within the entire footprint of the new dwelling. The excavation revealed four phases of occupational activity beginning with an early to mid-Saxon ditch, probably a boundary, aligned east-west across the site. A structure, comprising a foundation trench with associated post holes was erected on the west side of the excavation in the C11 with possible alterations being made in the C12, whilst another structure was also built on the west side of the excavation area in the C12. Both structures shared a similar alignment. The latest evidence of activity is represented by a large Late C17 circular pit.



Fig. 1; Site location circled in red.

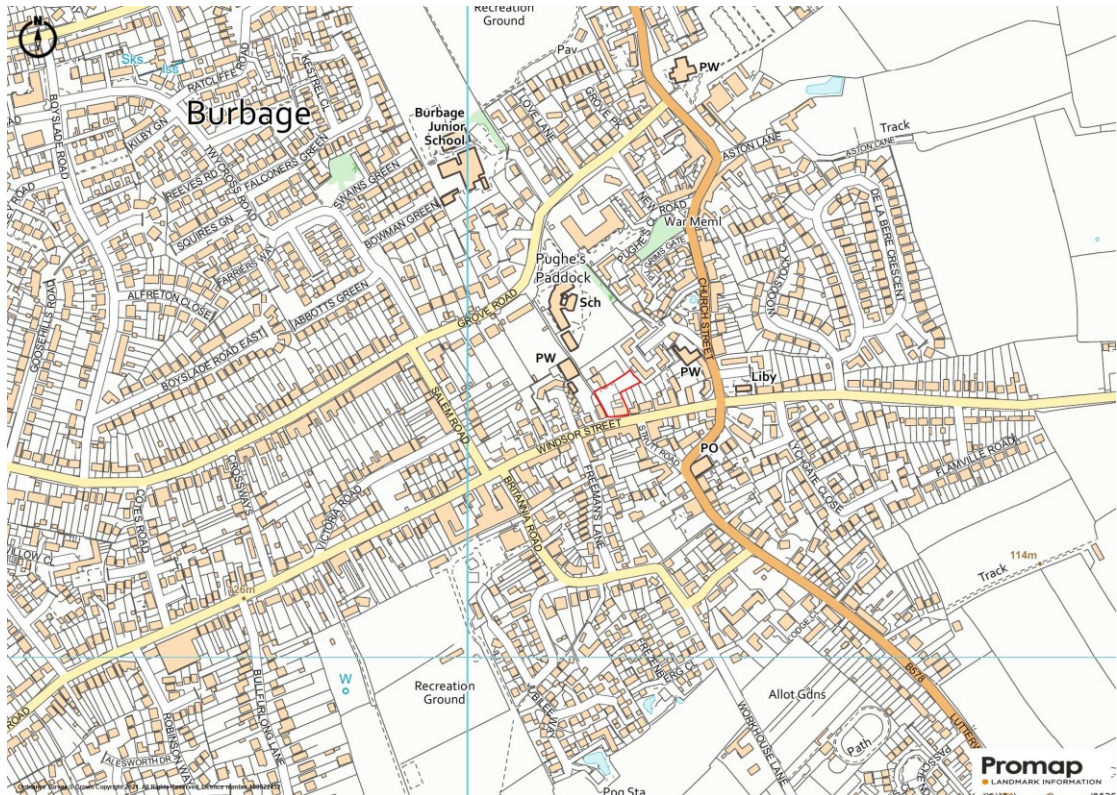


Fig. 2; Study site outlined in red.

INTRODUCTION

Location and scope of work

This document details the results of an archaeological evaluation followed by a strip, map & sample and subsequent watching brief carried out at 34 Windsor Street, Burbage, Hinckley, Leicestershire between April 2021 and March 2022 at the request of H & H Homes. A planning application (Planning ref. No 21/00101/CONDIT) had been approved by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council for the construction of a new detached dwelling and a row of three terraced dwellings, conditional on the completion of an evaluation (trial trenching), the results of which, if necessary, would inform a mitigation strategy for further archaeological work on site prior to the commencement of the development. The evaluation recorded medieval deposits associated with former occupation of the site in the vicinity of the proposed three terraced dwellings to the east of the application site. In consultation with the archaeological advisor, it was agreed that an appropriate mitigation strategy would comprise the record of a strip, map and sample of archaeological deposits within the entire footprint of the proposed plot. It was also agreed that a watching brief would be carried out during the excavation two new drainage inspection chambers.

Burbage is a village and parish within the larger urban area of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough, the old village is now a small part of a large parish which also includes Sketchley and some large and small residential estates, in the southwest part of Leicestershire. The location of Burbage is less than a mile from the M69 (which links that M6 to the M1) and the A5 enabling access to large parts of Leicestershire, Warwickshire and the West Midlands.

Geology and topography

The proposed development site lies at the southern end of Burbage village along the High Street which connects the village on an east-west axis with neighbouring settlements. It currently comprises an area of land amounting to approximately 1,700m² situated at about 125m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), previously used as a rear car park and garden associated with no.34, formerly a public house called the Bulls Head. The Geological Survey of Great Britain indicates that the

underlying geology is Dunsmore Gravel, a yellow and brown, clayey-sand (BGS, 1994).

Archaeological and historical 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 HER data relevant to the site is outlined below.

Prehistoric, Roman finds and settlement features are recorded approx. 300m to the south of the High Street. These include Early Neolithic–Late Bronze Age flint finds ([mle18737](#)), a Bronze Age cremation cemetery ([mle23172](#)), Iron Age enclosure ([mle21696](#)), a Roman site ([mle2846](#)) and contemporary field system ([mle20670](#)). The discovery of a 'Roman mosaic ([mle7936](#)) of some considerable quality' lying about 200m to the east of the site is unconfirmed.

The earliest evidence of human occupation is located at the southern and western areas of the site with finds from the Prehistoric and Roman periods. Multiple finds such as prehistoric flint, bladelets, flakes and Roman pottery ([mle18737](#)) were recovered during metal detecting and trial trenching (Trans. LAHS, 2011). A Middle Bronze Age cremation cemetery consisting of 21 pits, ellipsoid and cylindrical urn cremation. Cremated human bone in 8 other pits were revealed and a small quantity of charred material was found in the remaining 5 pits.

Excavation west of Britannia Road ([mle18736](#)), located near a Roman settlement, revealed a network of enclosures and field ditches that contained C1 or C2 Roman pottery. The excavation contained L-shaped ditches possibly corners of enclosures and other ditches/gullies, 33 sherds of Roman pottery, fired clay/daub and 27 pieces of animal bone were found, a trench extension recorded a further gully and two ditches. The features were Roman agricultural ditches/field systems/animal enclosures, (Trans. LAHS, 2013). Trial trenching (see [mle18736](#)) recorded various ditches, a post-hole and a possible roundhouse gully, little dating evidence was recovered except for one sherd of greyware pottery (Trans. LAHS, 2015). Another excavation ([mle21696](#)) recorded an irregular enclosure measuring roughly 50m east/west and 60m north/south, with an entrance on its north-eastern side. Charcoal found in the enclosure ditches was radiocarbon dated as early as C2-C4. Fieldwork ([mle20670](#)) recorded linear features interpreted as part of a Roman field system. Trial trenching (see

[mle18736](#)) uncovered an undated ditch marking the edge of the Roman field systems (Trans. LAHS, 2014). 12 Roman coins and two brooches were recovered from a site ([mle2846](#)) and a pottery scatter was found later (Trans. LAHS, 1995).

A square headed Anglo-Saxon brooch ([mle6181](#)) and a sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery was found in the same field (Trans. LAHS, 1995).

The medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of Burbage village ([mle2848](#)) was a focus for the hosiery industry in the C19, as a satellite to Hinckley. The hosiery factory ([mle24267](#)) on the Hinckley Road, was built in the early C20 and has a separate engine house which was demolished between 2000 and 2006.

The core of the medieval settlement appears to lie to the north of the site where there is a former moated house ([mle19842](#)) and medieval finds ([mle19843](#)) and pits ([mle23506](#)) have been recorded. Trial trenching undertaken at the Moat House ([mle19843](#)) recovered three sherds of a C12 pot/jar. The rectory garden ([mle2832](#)) consisted of an 'L' shaped pond with an island at one end and a bridge with summerhouse. Excavation and trial trenching were undertaken at the Moat House ([mle19842](#)), remnants of a previous building were discovered and revealed a stretch of wall.

The late C13–Early C14 church of St Catherine ([mle13031](#)) was rebuilt in 1842 and incorporates some medieval work. In the C14 there was a windmill and watermill, worth 20s a year (Nichols, 1811). The fishpond at the Manor House ([mle2843](#)) lies closer to Burbage Hall ([mle13024](#)) and may have belonged to it, it is a substantial listed C16 timber-framed red brick clad building, most rooms have C17 panelling (Pevsner, 1984). The Parish Workhouse ([mle21323](#)) was built in the C17 and closed in 1840 (Higginbotham, 2007).

The Primitive Methodist Chapel ([mle25562](#)) was built in 1843 and demolished between 1947 and 1964. The Wesleyan Chapel ([mle18023](#)) was erected in 1815 and renovated in 1903, it closed in 1969 and was demolished soon after. The Wesleyan Day School ([mle18024](#)), opened in 1849, was a single-storey building next to the Wesleyan Chapel, another storey and extensions were added later, the school closed in 1975 and was demolished in 1996. The extant Methodist Church was built in 1867. Numerous timber-framed and historic houses have been updated especially during the C19. The one and a half storey cruck-framed cottage ([mle13028](#)) is probably C16, much altered in the C19, with slate roof and brick end-stacks. Archer Cottage ([mle13030](#)), is a one and a half storey timber framed house built in the late C16, underbuilt in the C19 and restored in the C20 (Pevsner, 1984). The Old Grange and Stables ([mle13027](#)) is a three-bay C16/early C17 timber-framed one and a half storey house, restored in the C19

and C20 (Pevsner,1984). No 66 Church Street ([mle13035](#)) is a timber framed house built in the C17 with a C19 addition to the right. The Burbage Manor house ([mle13029](#)) built in the C17/C18, is a one and a half storey house with C19 red

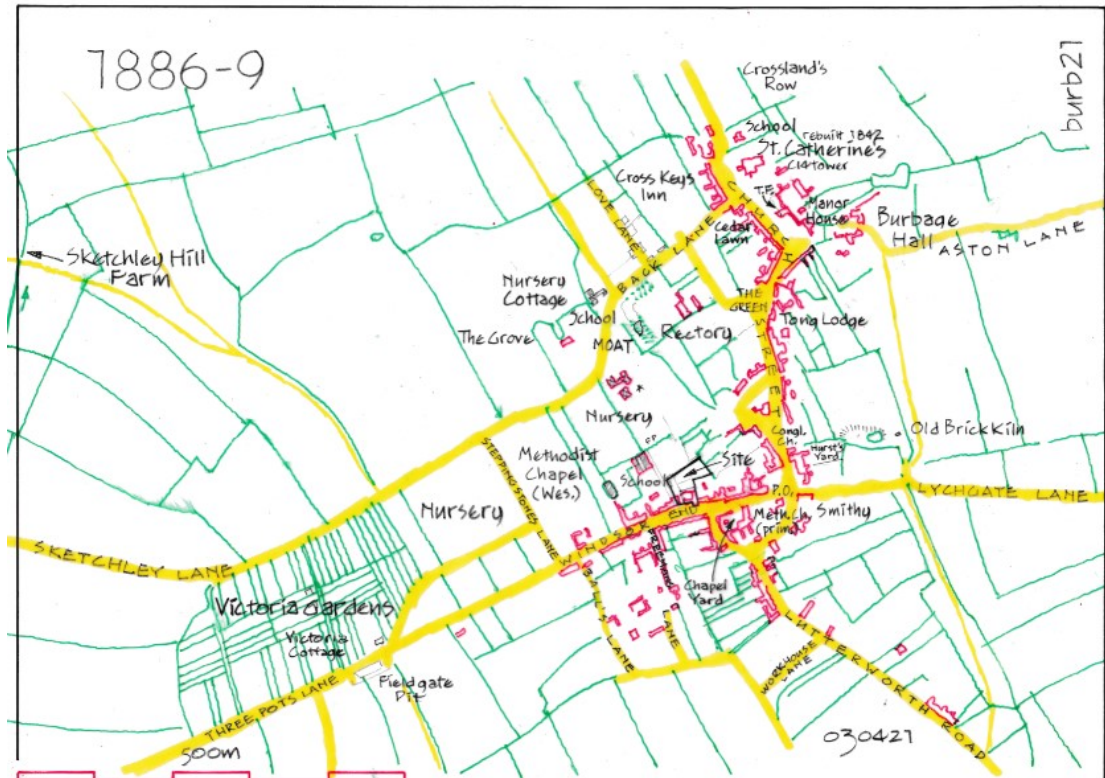


Fig. 3; Historic Environment plan, based on OS 1886-9

brick cladding, a two-storey C19 block projecting forward head of the carriage archway. No's 28 and 30 Church Street ([mle13032](#)) is a pair of late C18 gothic style cottages. No 78 Church Street ([mle13025](#)) is a C19 three-storey red brick house with slate roof and outbuildings ([mle24131](#)). No 70 Church Street ([mle16814](#)) is a C19 terrace house and incorporates a reused C17 door.

The Bull's Head ([mle25729](#)) 34 Windsor Street is a later C19 public house with a modern faux timber-frame at the gabled cross-wing. A 1940s photograph appears to show three terraced dwellings in the west part. Formerly known as the Bull's Head and later as The Butler's House, it has in more recent times as a restaurant been called "34, Windsor Street".

The war memorial ([mle22596](#)) was listed at Grade II, in December 2019, for its design, including the finely-sculpted marble figure of a mourning soldier, as an eloquent witness to the sacrifices made and the tragic impact on the community in the conflicts of the C20. The remainder of the site is occupied by a former

public house, the Bulls Head ([mle25729](#)) with outbuildings and a yard and garden to the rear.

The OS 1886-9 plan shows the application site as formerly two properties, the west side is represented by a long, thin rectangular strip of land formerly occupied by a building fronting the High Street with detached outbuildings at the rear.



Fig. 4; Historic Setting plan showing HER records for buildings and monuments.

RESULTS

Aims and methodology

The objective of the archaeological strip, map & sample was to record the archaeological deposits and finds within the footprint of the new buildings prior to construction. The footprint of the proposed dwelling was mechanically stripped to the level of the natural substrate under archaeological supervision and archaeological features/deposits exposed were sample excavated to determine their date and character. The 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). Trench 1 comprised both the earlier evaluation trench and the larger extended trench for the strip, map & sample.

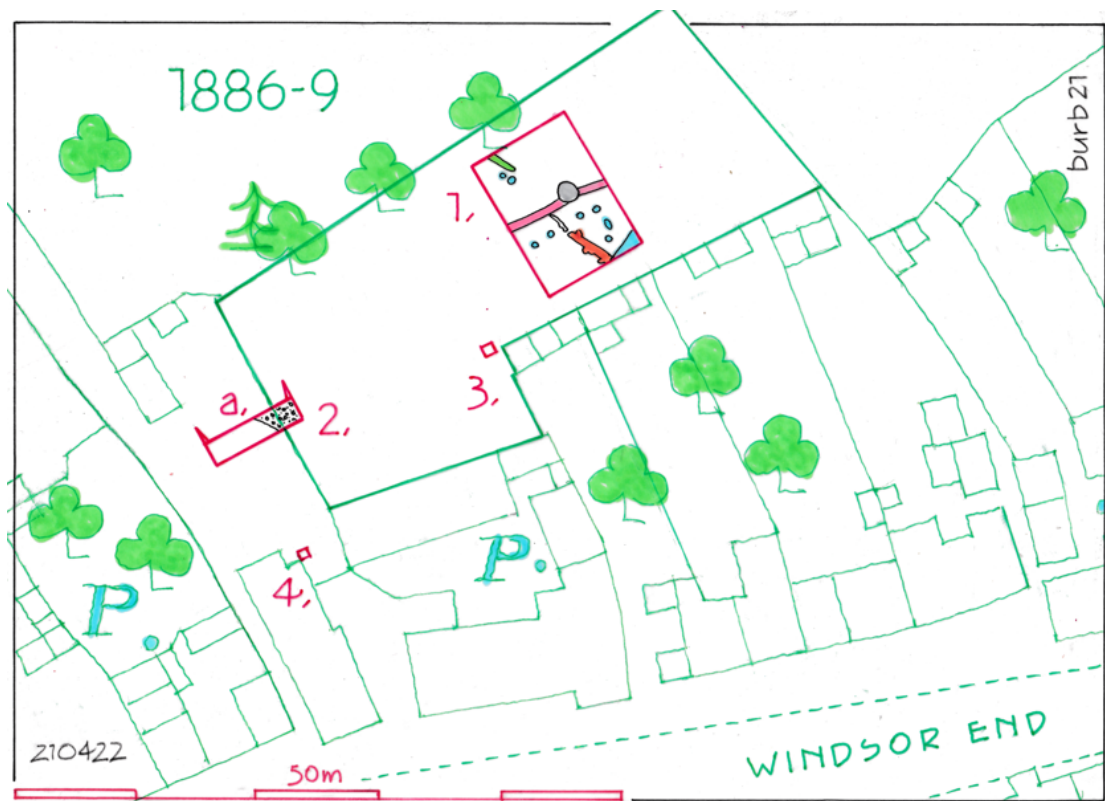


Fig. 5; Site plan with trench locations

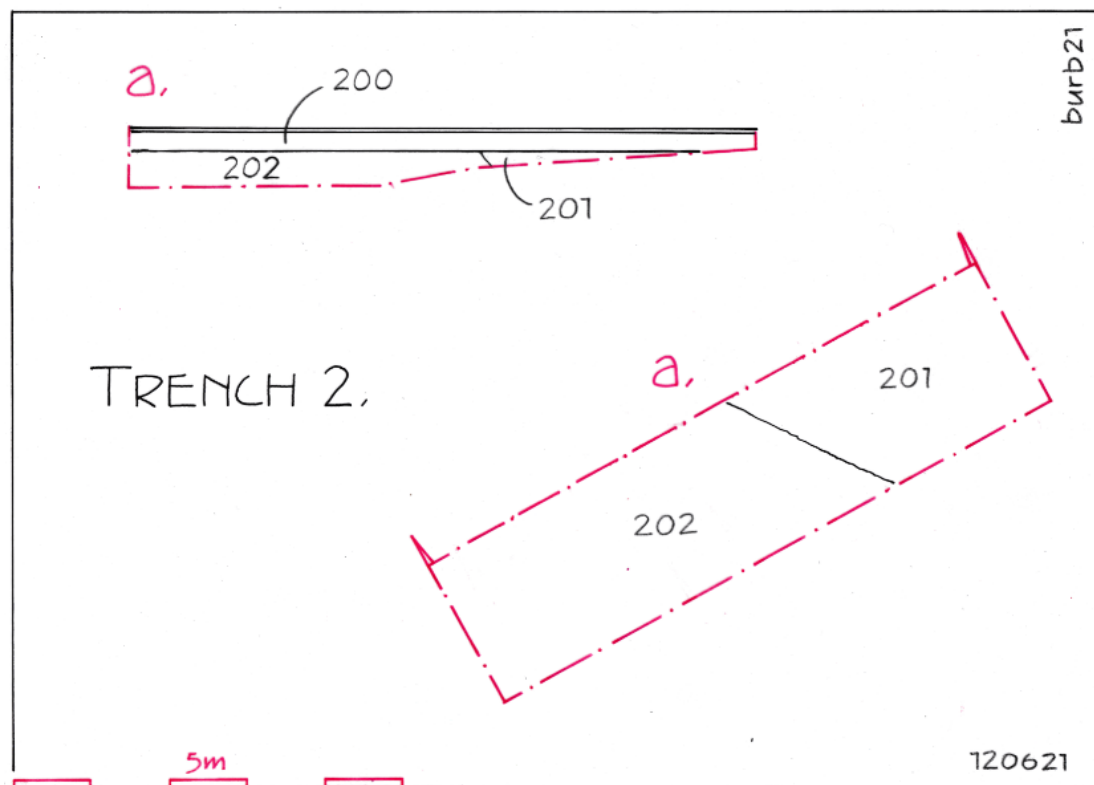


Fig. 6; Trench 2; plan & section

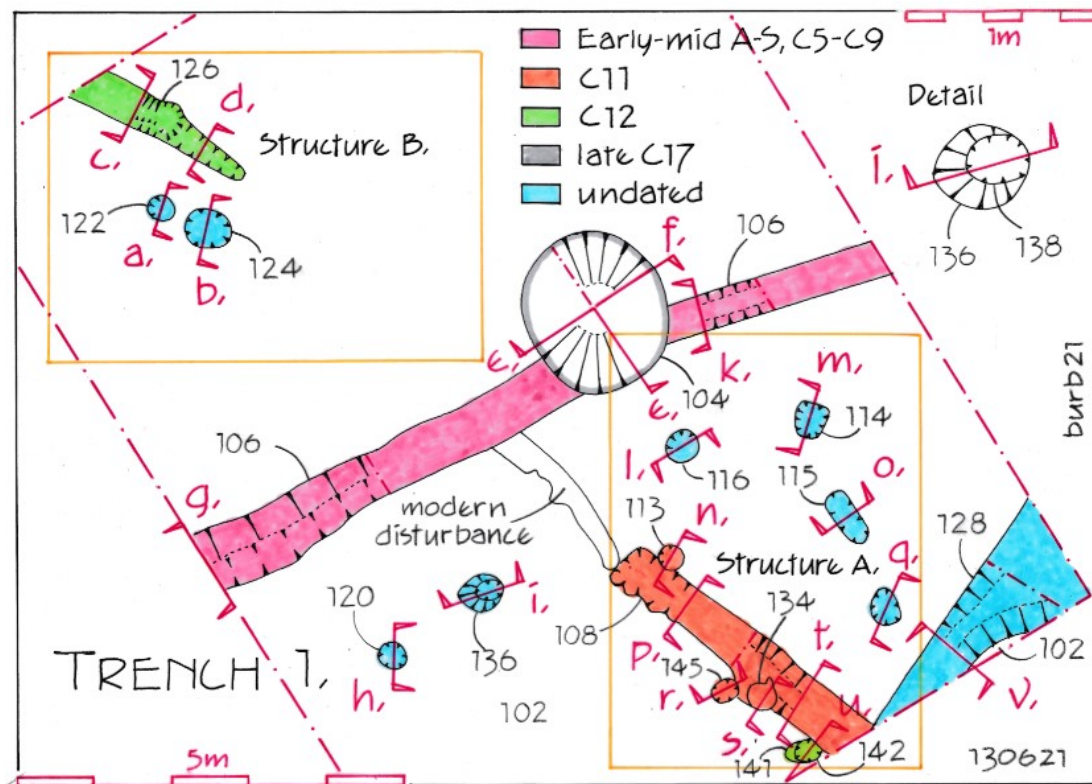


Fig. 7; Trench 1 plan & sections.

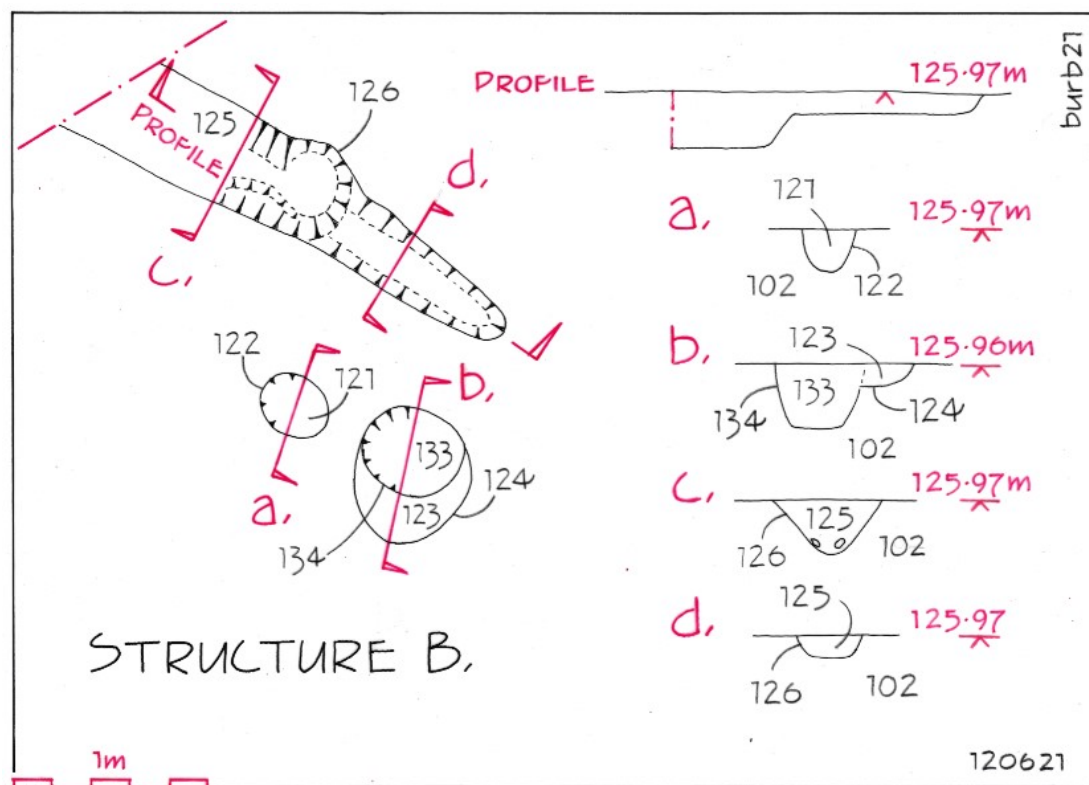


Fig. 8; Trench 1: Detailed plan and sections/profile of Structure B.

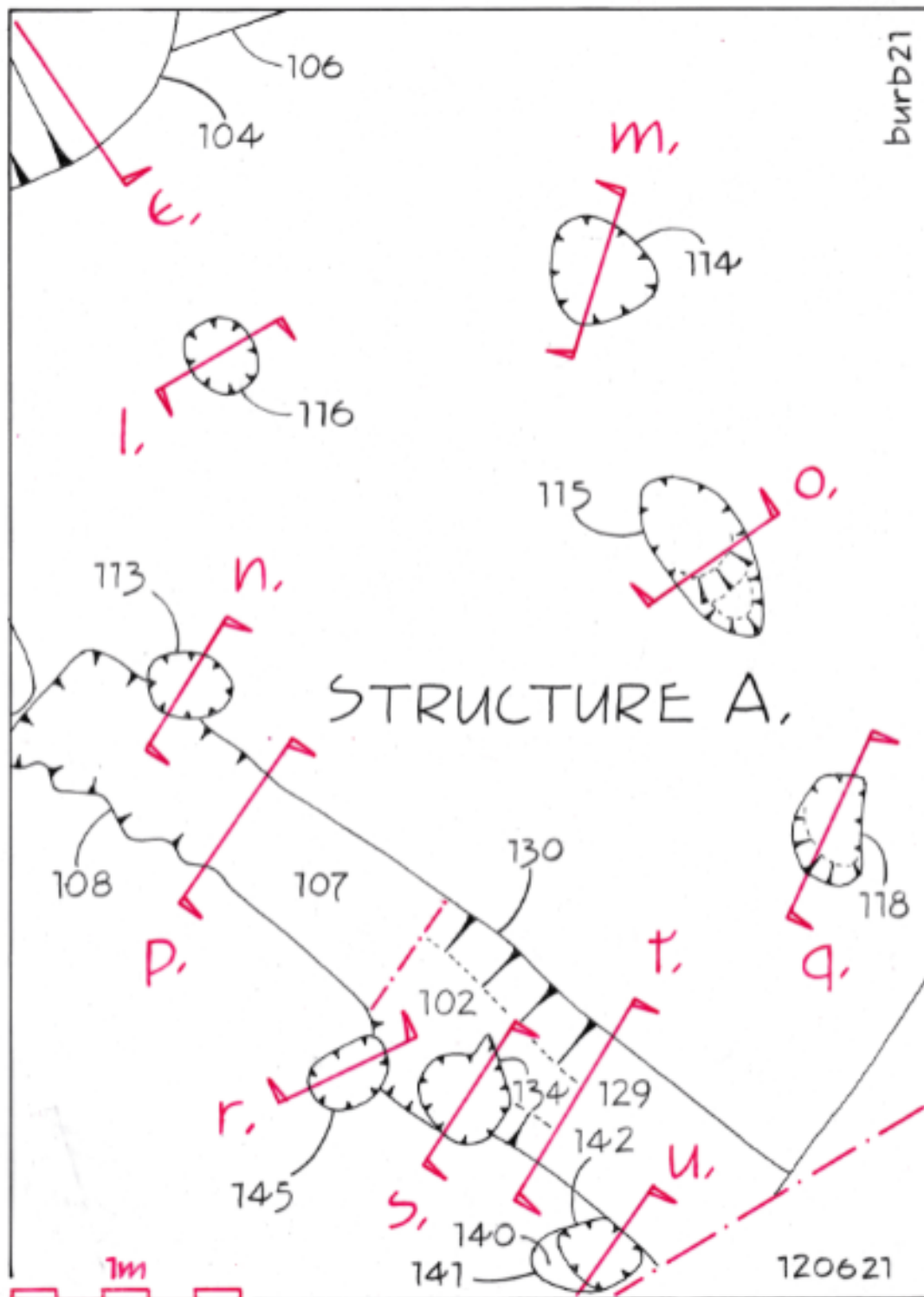


Fig. 9; Trench 1: Detailed plan of Structure A and post holes

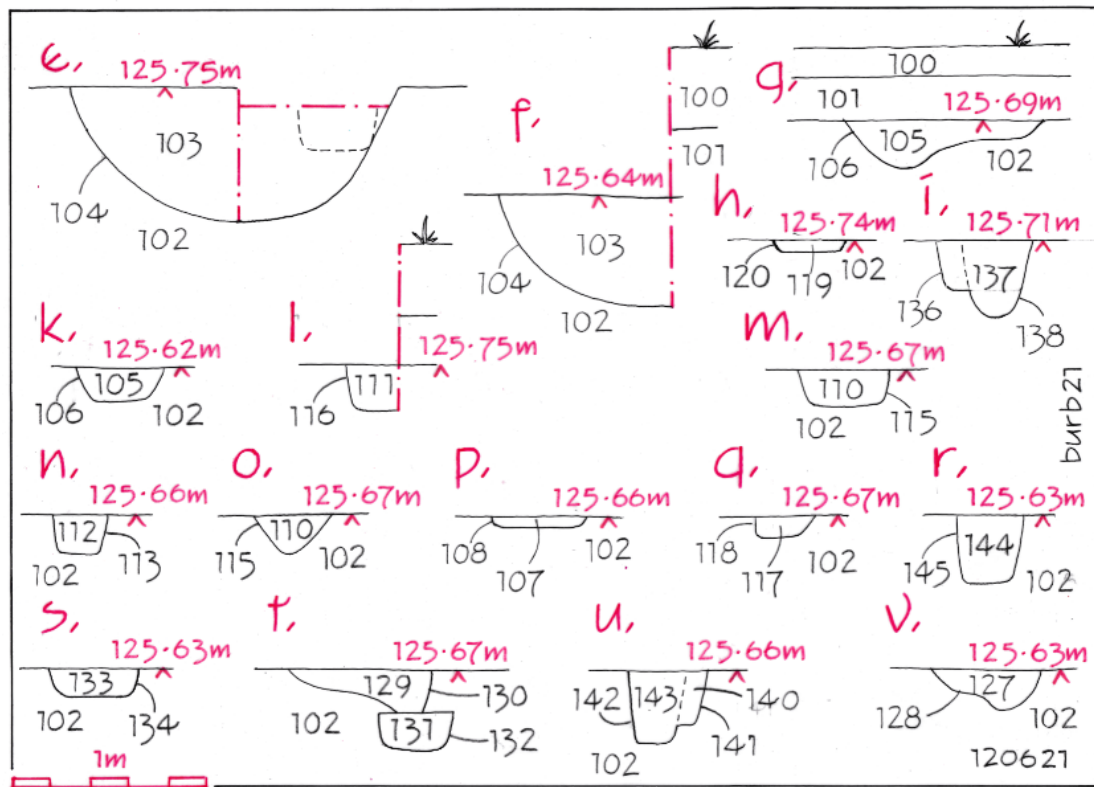


Fig. 10; Trench 1: Sections.

Description of deposits

TRENCH 1

The surface of the natural substrate (102) comprising a light yellowish-brown, sandy-clay with a large component of small to large, rounded pebbles was exposed through the excavation area at a height of about 125.67m AOD in the southeast corner of the excavation rising to 125.97m AOD in the northwest corner. This was in turn sealed by a 0.35m thick layer of relict subsoil (101) consisting of a greyish-brown clayey-silt with a component of rounded pebbles presumably redeposited from the underlying substrate. Overlying the subsoil layer to a depth of 0.42m was the modern topsoil layer consisting of a dark greyish-brown loam. A series of partially truncated features comprising a ditch, two foundation trenches associated with separate structures; a quantity of post holes and a single pit were recorded within the surface of the natural substrate.

Early – Middle Saxon

Ditch [106]

The ditch was aligned east-west across the centre of trench 1, sample excavation of this feature at the east end showed that it was 0.46m wide and 0.18m deep, with steep sides and flat base 0.24m wide. Excavation at the west end of the ditch revealed the feature increasing to a width of 1.0m although the profile suggests that it may have originally been as narrow as the length excavated to the east. The ditch was subsequently made wider at the west end, possibly a result of re-cutting, with construction occurring along the northern edge. It was filled by a single deposit (105) consisting of a greyish-brown clayey-silt which produced a sherd of early-mid Saxon pottery.

Early Medieval (C11-12)

STRUCTURE A (C11-C12)

On the south side of the excavation was the remains of Structure A, this consisted of a linear foundation trench [108 & 130] aligned northwest-southeast and exposed for a length of 4.0m. In association with the trench and the structure were the remains of four post holes [113, 132, 142 & 145]. All the features were filled by a similar deposit consisting of a greyish-brown, clayey-silt. The foundation trench varied slightly in width, measuring about 0.65m at the south end where it continues beyond the edge of the excavation, whilst at the north end it narrowed to about 0.50m wide ending with a sub-square terminus. The trench here is shallow, being only 0.04m deep and was filled by a single deposit (107) which produced a sherd of C11 pottery. Situated within the east side of this trench near to the terminus is a post hole [113] which was 0.30m in diameter and 0.20m deep with steep sides and a flat base. It was filled by a single deposit (112) interpreted as the remains of the former post.

At the southern end of Structure A, the foundation trench [130] was 0.76m wide and 0.22m deep, the north side sloped gradually whilst the south side was almost vertical. Sample excavation recorded three further post holes [132, 142 & 145] associated with the construction of the structure. One of these post holes [132] was cut into the south side of the base of the trench [130], it was irregular in shape, 0.20m deep with a flat base and a diameter of 0.40m. The post hole was filled by an undated deposit (131) and was in turn sealed by the trench fill deposit (129) which is equivalent with fill deposit (107). Two further

post holes [142 & 145] were positioned along the southern edge of the trench forming structure A, separated by a length of 1.0m.

The remains of post hole [142] showed it was roughly circular, about 0.20m in diameter, 0.10m deep with an almost vertical side and a flat base. The feature was filled a single undated deposit (143). The post hole was cut into the base of an ovoid-shaped construction pit [141] itself filled by the deposit (140) which produced a single sherd of C12 pottery.

Post hole [145] was 0.34m in diameter and 0.34m deep with an almost vertical side and a flat base. The fill deposit (144) was undated.

STRUCTURE B (C12)

Feature [126] is interpreted as a narrow foundation trench aligned southeast-northwest for a length of 2.56m. The base profile and shape of the trench was irregular showing a shallow length of the feature at the southeast end and a deeper, wider length at the northwest end. The north-western half comprised a small trench 0.54m wide and 0.26m deep with steep side and sub-rounded base. A slight widening at the base of the trench towards the south-east end where the feature becomes bowl-shaped measuring roughly 0.25 and 0.30m wide respectively, this appears to be the location of a former post setting. The feature continues south-east for a further 1.0m; along this stretch it is 0.16m deep, 0.35m wide, narrowing to a rounded terminus 0.18m wide. The differences between the two parts of the trench could be associated with the erection of the structure, the shallower, narrower part of the feature is possibly associated with the erection rather than the structure itself, although this remains uncertain. The trench feature was filled by a single deposit (125) consisting of a greyish-brown, clayey-silt with a few small fragments of stone and produced two sherds of C12 pottery.

Two post holes [122 & 134] situated close to the foundation trench forming Structure B, although undated, were attributed to its construction (see below).

Post pit [124] & post hole [134]

Post pit [124] consisted of an ovoid-shaped pit aligned northeast-southwest, 0.72m long and 0.58m wide, excavated to a depth of 0.07m. At the northeast end, the edge was vertical, whilst the southeast end was more sloping indicating construction was likely made on this side of the pit. Constructed within the base of pit [124] was a smaller sub-circular post hole [134] measuring 0.46m wide on the north-south axis and 0.52m wide on the east-west axis. The post hole was

0.14m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled by a single undated deposit (133), a greyish-brown, sandy-silt interpreted as the remains of the former timber post. The construction pit was filled by a single deposit (123), also consisting of a greyish-brown sandy-silt.

Post hole [122]

Also situated close to this feature was another similarly large post hole [122], measuring 0.28m in diameter and 0.22m deep with steep almost vertical sides and a more rounded base. It was filled by a single undated deposit (121) which was equivalent with (133) in colour and texture.

Post-Medieval (Late C17)

Pit [104]

This pit was sub-circular measuring 2.0m wide on the north-south axis and 1.75m wide on the east-west axis. The pit was 0.68m deep with a curved bowl-shaped profile with a flat base approx. 0.40m wide. The feature was filled by a single deposit (103) consisting of a dark greyish-brown, clayey-silt with no obvious inclusions, which produced a single small sherd of late C17 pottery.

Undated

?Ditch [128]

A ditch-like feature [128] was recorded in the northeast corner of the trench aligned northeast-southwest. it was clearly positioned at a right-angle to structure A suggesting a possible relationship between the two features, although the evidence for this, currently lies outside the excavation. Sample excavation showed a narrow trench 0.54 wide and 0.20m deep with steep sides and an irregular shaped based. As the feature extends northeast, one edge continues in straight line, but the southern edge widens, increasing to at least 0.40m continuing beyond the edge of the excavation. The feature was filled by a single undated deposit (127) consisting of a brown clayey-silt, this was noticeably lighter than the fill deposit associated with remains of structure A.

Post holes [114, 115, 116, 118, 120 & 138]

A series of isolated, undated probable post holes were located within the southern half of the excavation near the position of Structure A. All were identified by their roughly comparable form and greyish-brown, clayey-silt fill deposits.

Of this grouping four of the post holes features were recorded close to the east side of structure A and could be attributed to its construction. Post hole [114] was sub-square, measuring about 0.46m wide and 0.20m deep with steep, almost vertical sides and a flat base. The fill deposit filled (109) which produced a small fragment of unidentifiable animal bone. A possible post hole [115] was elongated, measuring 0.75m long, 0.35m wide and 0.20m deep with a V-shaped profile. The slightly darker fill deposit (110) differed from the other post hole features. Post hole [116] was 0.32m in diameter, 0.24m deep with steep, almost vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled by a single deposit (111). The fourth post hole [118] was roughly ovoid measuring, 0.18m wide on the north-south axis and 0.34m wide on the east-west axis and 0.13m deep with one steep side and the other more sloping, filled by a single deposit (117).

Two of the post holes [120 & 138] were recorded about 1.0m west of structure A, separated from each other by a length of about 1.0m and may also be attributed to its construction. Post-hole [120] was only about 0.03m deep with a diameter of 0.30m and was filled by a single deposit (119). The other post hole [138] was recorded within the base of a larger post construction pit [136] which was itself sub-square shaped, measuring about 0.50m wide and 0.26m deep with steep, almost vertical sides. Post hole [138] was constructed within the northeast side of the post pit and was 0.28m in diameter and 0.16m deep with steep sides and an undulating base. The single fill deposit (137) is interpreted as the remains of the former post. Sealing the post hole and filling the post pit was the deposit (135) which includes the remains of the former post and the surrounding backfill of the post-pit itself.

TRENCH 2

Trench 2 was 8.0m long and 2.0m wide and excavated as part of the earlier evaluation on the west side of the application site to investigate the footprint of the proposed new dwelling in this area. The natural brown clay (202) was observed through most of the trench at a level height of 125.13m AOD. At the northeast end of the trench, embedded within the clay was the remains of a cobbled surface (201) comprising a 0.10m thick layer of small to large, rounded pebbles. Overlying this deposit and the clay along the southeast end of the trench was a thick layer of brick rubble and soil (200), which was probably related to the demolition of the former C19 buildings.

TRENCHES 3 & 4

Archaeological recording (watching brief) was carried out during the excavation of two small drainage trenches (inspection chambers) each approx. 1m² and ranging in depth from a maximum of 0.70m deep in trench 3 and 1.10m deep in trench 4. The natural clay was exposed in both trenches at a height of about 126.10m AOD and 126m AOD respectively. No archaeological features or deposits were observed cut into or overlying the clay which was sealed by a thick layer of mixed building material comprising mostly brick and soil in both trenches which was in turn sealed by a thin layer of modern asphalt.

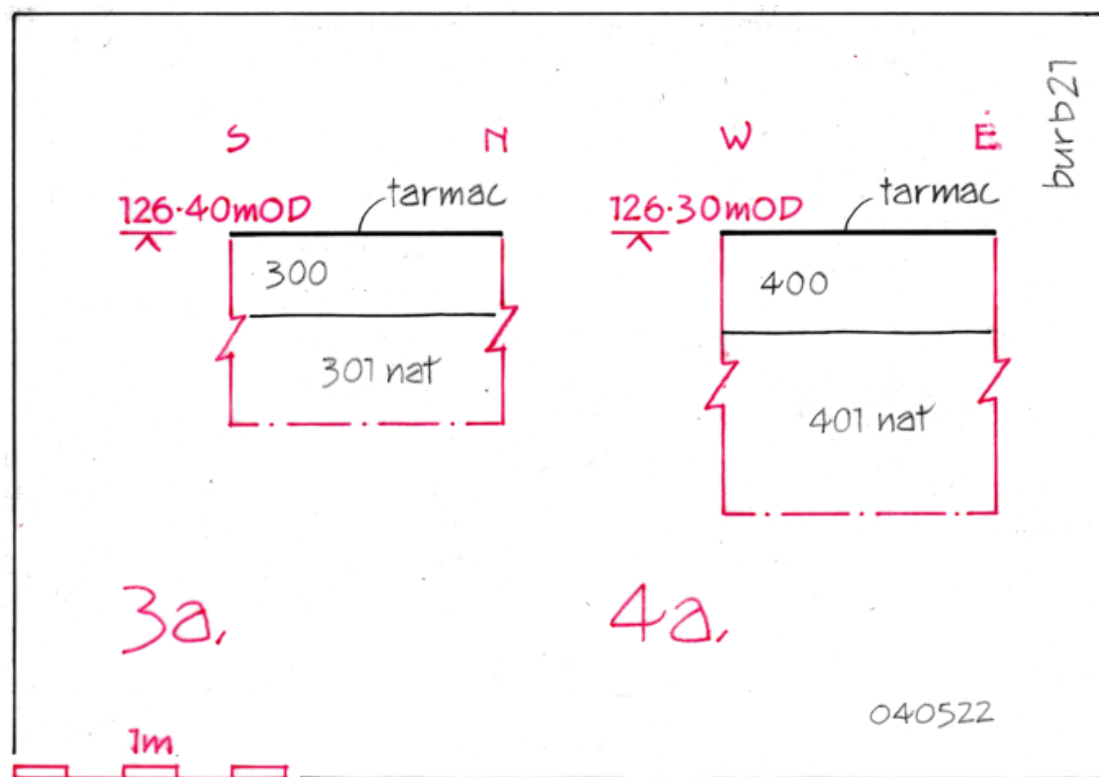


Fig. 11; Trenches 3 & 4: sections.

FINDS

The medieval Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised ten sherds with a total weight of 159g. It was all early/middle Anglo-Saxon or later, and was recorded using the conventions of the Leicestershire County type-series (Sawday 1994) as follows;

- EA: Post-medieval Red Earthenware, mid C16. 1 sherd, 5g.
 EA2: Iron-Glazed Earthenware, late C17–C19. 4 sherds, 83g
 PM: Potter's Marston Ware, 1100-1300. 3 sherds, 36g.
 SN: St Neots Ware, 900 – 1150. 1 sherd, 19g.
 SX: Early/middle Anglo-Saxon Hand-built Wares, C5–C9. 1 sherd, 16g.

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 typical of contemporary sites in the region.

The early/middle Anglo-Saxon sherd is from the rim of a jar. It is in a granitic fabric typical of the region (eg. Vince and Williams 1997), although it is undecorated and thus cannot be dated other than to within the broad early/middle Anglo-Saxon period (C5–C9). It is in good condition and appears well-stratified. The sherd of SN is somewhat abraded and may be residual, but is from the rim of a large, in-turned bowl which is typical of the later, C11–C12 products of the tradition (Denham 1985). The sherd of PM from context 140 is from a glazed jug, the rest of the pottery of this type is from unglazed jars. The sherd of EA from context 103 has a manganese glaze, indicating a date of the late C17 or later. The rest of the post-medieval material is from internally-glazed large bowls, a common type of the period.

	E/MSAX		SN		PM		EA		EA2		
Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
101									4	83	L17thC
103							1	5			L17thC
105	1	16									E/MSAX
107			1	19							11thC
125					2	18					12thC
140					1	18					12thC
Total	1	16	1	19	3	36	1	5	4	83	

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

Animal Bone

A total of seven fragments of animal bone weighing 68g were recovered from three contexts. A single tooth, probably sheep, was recovered from the C5-C9

ditch fill (105) whilst 5 small fragments were from the late C17 pit fill (103). A small unidentifiable fragment was found in the undated post hole fill deposit (109).

An assessment of the charred plant microfossils & other remains by Val Fryer.

Introduction and method statement

A single 20L sample was bulk floated and the flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblage was taken from the ditch fill (105) which the pottery evidence indicates is of probable Saxon (C5-C9 AD) date. The dried flot from the sample was scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed below in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (2010). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots, seeds and arthropod remains were also recorded but are not listed in the table.

Results

The flot is small (i.e. <0.1 litres in volume) but does contain cereals and seeds of common segetal weeds/grassland herbs. Preservation is poor, with many of the macrofossils being puffed and distorted, probably as a result, of high temperature combustion.

Individual oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains are recorded along with a small number of cereals which are too poorly preserved for close identification. Chaff is entirely absent. Seeds are exceedingly scarce, but individual specimens of greater plantain (*Plantago major*) and an indeterminate small grass (Poaceae) are noted along with a charred bramble (*Rubus* sect. *Glandulosus*) 'pip'. Small charcoal/charred wood fragments are also present along with an indeterminate seed and bud fragment.

Other remains are also very scarce. However, fragments of black porous and tarry material are noted, all of which are probable residues of the high temperature combustion of organic remains (including cereal grains). Small pieces of coal are also noted along with a small fragment of lead.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, the assemblage is small and very limited in composition. However, it would appear most likely that the remains are derived from scattered hearth or midden waste, all of which was probably accidentally incorporated within the ditch fill. As the assemblage does not contain a sufficient density of material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), no further analysis is recommended.

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens cf = compare

Context No.	105	
<i>Avena</i> sp. (grain)		x
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grain)	x	
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grain)	x	
Cereal indet. (grains)	x	
Chenopodiaceae indet.		x
<i>Plantago major</i> L.	x	
Small Poaceae indet.	x	
Charcoal <2mm		xx
Indet. bud	x	
Indet. seed	x	
Black porous/tarry material	xx	
Lead fragment		x
Small coal frags.		x
Sample volume (20 litres)		
Volume of flot (litres)		<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	

Table 1. Charred plant macrofossils and other remains

Metalwork

A single iron metal object (SF1) weighing 10g was retrieved from context (129), representing the fill of the foundation trench [130], the equivalent of trench [108], both of which form part of Structure A (C11-C12). It was 44mm long, 17mm wide and 11mm deep. The object was highly corroded and largely unidentifiable although its location, within the fill of the foundation trench forming the structure, suggests that it may have been a fitting associated with its construction, possibly part of a large nail or strap. The object was not retained.

DISCUSSION

The HER informs us that although limited, the archaeological work that has been carried out in Burbage shows there is potential for all periods of occupation to be recorded including prehistoric, Roman and medieval with the latter also being represented in the built environment. Evidence uncovered to the south of Windsor Street has revealed prehistoric and Roman settlement activity.

The archaeological work at 34 Windsor Street was limited in scope, trench 2 was excavated during the earlier investigation and was positioned in what is now a car park, the results were mostly negative and showed that the area had previously been subjected to substantial truncation. Overlying the natural clay at the west end of the trench was a cobbled surface seemingly aligned northwest to southeast. This part of the application site was historically (OS 1886-9) occupied by former outbuildings lying to the rear of a dwelling fronting Windsor Street, which itself was demolished when the new access road to the car park at the rear of the Bulls Head was created. Overlying the cobbles and the remainder of the clay in Trench 2 was a thick layer of soil, stone and bricks which was interpreted as the demolition debris associated with these former buildings.

Trench 1 comprised both the results of the earlier evaluation and the subsequent larger strip, map & sample area to the northeast of the application site where four phases of occupational activity were recorded. These comprised a series of features including a Saxon ditch [106]; a total of twelve post holes; two narrow structural foundation trenches each representing the remains of a probable structure (Structures A & B) and a large single pit [104]. The pottery evidence, although sparse, comprising only a handful of sherds, was reliably stratified with at least one sherd being retrieved from the ditch, structural and pit features.

The earliest feature recorded within Trench 1 was a single linear ditch [106] which was dated from the early to middle Saxon period (C5-C9 AD) and appears to represent a boundary, perhaps also acting as drainage. There was no evidence of other activity related to this period. The alignment of this ditch is more to the northeast-southwest than structures A & B, and interestingly this orientation aligns well with the existing properties along the north-eastern edge of the site and the rear boundaries of the properties fronting Windsor Street. This suggests consistency in the form of the tenements dating back to the early Saxon period.

Structure A was dated from the C11 and comprised a single partially exposed foundation trench (108 & 130]. Of the twelve post holes recorded, at least four were stratigraphically associated with the foundation trench for structure A. Three of these post holes [113, 141 & 145] were positioned within the sides of the trench whilst the fourth [132] was integral with the trench itself. Presumably, these former posts represented the vertical elements in the walled timber-framing. A single sherd of C12 pottery from one of the post-pit fills (140) associated with the structure may be related to later repair work or a modification and suggests that the structure is likely to have continued in use from the C11 to the C12. A further four post holes located closely to the east side of the structure were undated but may have represented internally related supports. The two post holes [120 & 138] located to the west of the structure may also have had a relationship with the structure, possibly as an external arrangement, but this remains unclear.

Structure B, which was located to the west of Trench 1 consisted of a single partially exposed foundation trench, the pottery evidence indicating a construction date during the C12. The two closely positioned post holes [122 & 134], although undated, appear to have been associated in some form with this structure.

The results show that this part of Burbage was settled during the early Saxon period as evidenced by the ditch [106]. The two structures (A & B) were likely to have been timber-framed buildings and the lack of any stone within the construction trenches or the remains of robbed out masonry suggests that they were entirely timber built. The pottery evidence, albeit sparse, indicates that these structures are broadly contemporary in date and their shared northeast-southwest alignment is perhaps an indication of the pattern of medieval settlement in this part of Burbage at that time.

Archive Location

The digital archive arising from the work will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The physical archive will be deposited with the Leicestershire Museum Service.

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PLATES



Plate 1: trench 1, overall view east



Plate 2: trench 1, north side, view east



Plate 3: trench 1, south side, view northeast.



Plate 4: trench 2, view northwest

Appendix 1: OASIS

Project details

Project name	34 Windsor Street Burbage, Hinckley, Leicestershire; Strip Map and Sample
Short description of the project	This document details of the results of an archaeological evaluation and subsequent strip, map and sample carried out at 34 Windsor Street, Burbage, Hinckley, Leicestershire during May 2021 in advance of during groundworks for construction of new dwellings. Two trenches were initially excavated as part of an investigation of the site. The trench on the west side of the development site revealed the partial remains of a cobbled surface directly overlying the natural clay which was probably associated with earlier out buildings which have since been demolished. The second trench on the west side of the site recorded medieval remains and the area of excavation was subsequently enlarged to enable recording of the remains within the entire footprint of the new dwelling. The excavation revealed four phases of occupational activity beginning with an early to mid-Saxon ditch, probably a boundary, aligned east-west across the site. A structure, comprising a foundation trench with associated post holes was constructed on the west side of the excavation in the C11 with possible alterations being made in the C12 whilst another structure was also constructed on the west side of the excavation area in the C12. Both structures shared a similar alignment. The latest evidence of activity is represented by a large Late C17 circular pit.
Project dates	Start: 06-04-2021 End: 06-05-2021
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	burb21 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	X.A40.2021 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	DITCH Early Medieval
Monument type	STRUCTURES Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	METALWORK Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Early Medieval

Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BURBAGE 34 Windsor Street Burbage, Hinckley, Leicestershire,
Postcode	LE10 2EF
Study area	1700 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 44196 92315 52.526549096708 -1.348480458811 52 31 35 N 001 20 54 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 125.67m Max: 125.97m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	one ten archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	one ten archaeology
Project director/manager	sean cook
Project supervisor	sean cook
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	county museum
Physical Archive ID	X.A40.2021
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	OASIS
Digital Archive ID	110archa1-423940

Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	county museum
Paper Media available	"Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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