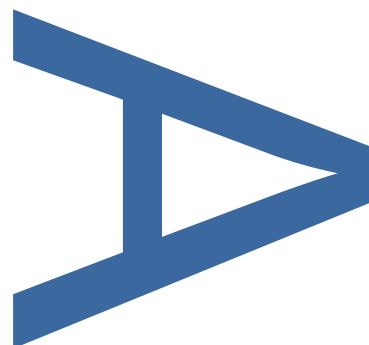
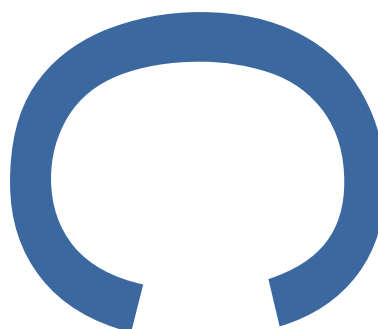


**LAND AT PIPE LANE,
ORTON-ON-THE-HILL,
LEICESTERSHIRE:**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION**

PCA Report Number: R17536

August 2024



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

LAND AT PIPE LANE, ORTON-ON-THE-HILL, LEICESTERSHIRE

Site Code:	PLOL24
Local Planning Authority:	Hinckley & Bosworth District Council
Planning Application:	24/00284/OUT
Museum Accession Number:	X.A66.2024
Central National Grid Reference:	SK 3059 0377
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August 2024



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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Site Name: LAND AT PIPE LANE, ORTON-ON-THE-HILL, Leicestershire

Type of project: Trial Trench Evaluation

Report: R17536

Quality Control

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Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved
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SUMMARY

This report presents the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) on Land at Pipe Lane, Orton-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire (SK 3059 0377). Frampton Town Planning Ltd commissioned the archaeological work which took place on 24th June 2024. The aim of the work was to inform the Local Planning Authority, as advised by the Archaeological Curator, and the client regarding the location, nature, and extent of archaeological remains within the proposed development site as part of the planning application process.

The work revealed two ditches, one Late Saxon and the other undated but possibly of the same period. These were located near the northwestern edge of the site. Probable agricultural soils of post-medieval to modern date overlay the archaeological remains.

*A brief summary of the results will be prepared for relevant period journals and publications and this report (Report No. R17536) will be issued for approval to Hinckley & Bosworth District Council. The archive will be retained by PCA until deposition in due course with a suitable museum or repository. The results of the work and the unpublished grey literature report will be uploaded to OASIS V under the reference number **preconst1-527407**.*

1 Introduction

1.1 General Background

1.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by Frampton Town Planning Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the corner of The Green and Pipe Lane, Orton-On-The-Hill, Leicestershire, hereafter 'the Site' (centred at SK 30569 03746).

1.1.2 The archaeological trial trench evaluation strategy comprised 2 trenches, each 20m X 1.80m, subject to archaeological monitoring during opening by machine, followed by sample excavation and recording of potential archaeological features within the trenches.

1.1.3 This document has been prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2023) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) issued by Historic England (Historic England 2015). PCA is a CIfA registered archaeological organisation and is bound by its code of conduct (CIfA 2022).

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 A planning application, 24/00284/OUT, has been submitted to Hinckley & Bosworth Council for construction of one dwelling at the site.

1.2.2 The archaeological evaluation was required in order to determine the necessity for further mitigation operations on the Site and toward an understanding of the archaeological implications of the proposed development and determining the subsequent treatment of archaeological resources within it. The strategy of evaluation followed the advice of William Kelly, the Archaeological Curator and advisor to Hinckley & Bosworth District Council. As part of this process a Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological work (WSI) was issued and approved (PCA 2024).

1.3 Location, Topography and Geology

1.3.1 Located 9km east of Tamworth and 10km west of Market Bosworth, Orton-on-the-Hill lies within the administration of Hinckley & Bosworth District Council, Leicestershire. The site is near the centre of the village, on the north side of Pipe Lane at its junction with The Green and is located within the Orton-on-the-Hill Conservation Area. Centred on National Grid Reference SK 3059 0377, the parcel of land is approximately trapezoidal in shape and cover a total area of approximately 0.32ha.

1.3.2 The solid geology of the site is mudstone (Gunthorpe Member Mudstone Group) of the Triassic period. This is described as mudstone, red-brown, with subordinate dolomitic siltstone and fine-grained sandstone, greenish grey, common gypsum veins and nodules. No superficial deposits are recorded (British Geological Survey Viewer, www.bgs.ac.uk).

1.3.3 The Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute identifies the soils of the site as slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (Soilscape 8) (<http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscales>).

1.3.4 Located on a gently rising ridge of high ground running southwest to northeast, on the northern side of a shallow valley, the site lies at about 100m aOD (above Ordnance Datum) along its southeastern border with Pipe Lane and slopes noticeably up to its northwest boundary at around 102m aOD.

1.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.4.1 An Archaeological Impact Assessment was undertaken for the site (PCA 2024); this is summarised below. A Heritage Impact Assessment has also been undertaken for the area around the site (HCUK Group 2024).

1.4.2 Prehistoric

1.4.3 The Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (LHER) does not record any entries dated to the prehistoric period, although a linear crop mark running roughly southwest to northeast, apparently with a series of smaller linear features running off it to the southeast, are recorded c. 800m to the east. The feature lacks dating evidence but the evidence from broadly similar, embanked enclosures, set on south facing, gently sloping or level ground may support a late prehistoric origin (e.g. Historic England 2011: 9).

1.4.4 The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) records a find of an Iron Age brooch (LEIC-038D43) in the study area, but the exact location is not specified.

1.4.5 Romano-British

1.4.6 The town of Mancetter (Roman Manduessedum), c. 7km to the south, is the nearest Roman settlement to the site. A Roman coin was found under the west end of Orton Hall when the foundations were being dug, c. 40m to the north of the investigation site. The coin appears to have been struck for Constantius II and originate from the Trier mint, dating to the 4th century AD. The PAS records a Roman brooch (LEIC-DAA8B3) found in the study area.

1.4.7 Saxon

1.4.8 The place-name Orton derives from the Old English elements *ufan* ('over' or 'above') and *tun* ('enclosure' or 'settlement') describing a settlement on high ground (EPNS Online). The settlement is recorded in Domesday as 'Wortone' and described as in the possession of Henry the Earl Ferrers, comprising 29 households of 15 villagers, 13 smallholders and 1 slave. It consisted of six ploughlands and had an annual value of 5 pounds in 1086

(Domesday Online). This makes it one of the larger holdings recorded in Leicestershire and suggests there would have been a substantial Saxon settlement at Orton-on-the-Hill predating the Conquest, although no entries in the LHER are recorded for the Saxon period.

1.4.9 Medieval

1.4.10 The site lies within the early medieval core of Orton-on-the-Hill, close to the location of a medieval Manor House known as Orton Hall which was located to the east, on the other side of The Green. It is recorded as being "An old manor house with a walled garden [which] stood here until 1786 when it was replaced. A curiosity of the old house was a covered bellcote on the roof, from which a servant would summon the household to meals" (cited by Hartley 1988: 93). A medieval fishpond originally associated with the earlier Manor House is shown on the 19th and 20th century maps and is still extant today to the northeast of the site.

1.4.11 Aerial photographs taken by the RAF in 1948 show village earthworks dated to the medieval period (Hartley 2008), to the immediate south, close to Lower Farm, and to the west, near Peggs Farm. These features are interpreted as house platforms, suggesting the medieval settlement may have extended further south than the current layout of the village, placing the site nearer the centre of occupation in the medieval period. The medieval church of St Edith is located approximately 200m northwest of the investigation site.

1.4.12 The PAS records 12 individual finds of silver and copper alloy coins of medieval date in the wider study area. Although the coins lack provenance, they support a general view of an active, apparently prosperous settlement in the medieval period.

1.4.13 Post-Medieval

1.4.14 The LHER records several listed buildings of an early post-medieval date, which provide evidence for the village continuing as a substantial settlement. Lord of the Manor, Samuel Steele Parkins, rebuilt his ancestral home, the medieval Orton Hall as a modern Georgian Mansion in 1786. This replacement building is shown as Orton Hall on the 1886 to 1966 maps. Orton Hall was sold in 1918 and demolished in the late 1960s; it is not shown on the 1983 map.

1.4.15 An archaeological evaluation on land immediately west of the site uncovered a couple of animal burials that lacked dating but were thought to be modern. However, no other archaeological remains or artefacts were encountered (Kipling 2010).

1.5 Project Aims and Research Objectives

Project Aims

1.5.1 The site is the subject of a planning application (24/00284/OUT) for development of one dwelling. Leicestershire County Council, as archaeological advisor to the district council, has advised that an archaeological evaluation will be required to provide information to assist the determination of the application.

1.5.2 The project was development - led with potential to disturb or impact important sub-surface archaeological remains, if present. Therefore, the broad aim of the archaeological project was to inform the local planning authority and the client regarding the character, date, extent and degree of survival of archaeological remains at the Site. Trial trenching was selected as the most appropriate investigative tool to test the archaeological potential of the Site.

1.5.3 Additional aims of the project were:

- Clarify the presence/absence and extent of buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be impacted by development;
- Identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth of surviving remains within the Site;
- Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits;
- Produce a report which will present the results of the evaluation in such detail as to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the Site's archaeological potential;
- Facilitate production of a mitigation strategy for the project; and
- To relate (where appropriate) the archaeological results to their local, county and regional context.

Research Objectives

1.5.4 The online *East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework, Interactive Digital Resource* was referenced for specific research criteria. In addition, *The Archaeology of the East Midlands, An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Leicester Archaeology Monograph 13, ed. N Cooper (2006), along with *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*, ed. D. Knight, B. Vyner & C. Allen (2012) was referenced for specific research criteria. The

archaeological evaluation addressed the following objectives:

- To record the nature, extent, date, character, quality, significance and state of preservation of any archaeological remains exposed by the investigation;
- To assess where appropriate any ecofactual and palaeo-environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features from within the Site.

2 Methodology

2.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 2.1.1 The evaluation took place in accordance with the relevant guidance document of the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists (CIfA 2023). PCA is a CIfA registered organisation (number 23) and operates within the Institute's 'Code of Conduct' (CIfA 2022). The evaluation trenches were laid out in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* for the evaluation (PCA 2024), as approved by Hinckley & Bosworth District Council.
- 2.1.2 The two Trenches were excavated under constant supervision from an experienced archaeologist familiar with the ground conditions, using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Figure 2). Trenches were excavated to a length of 20m and width of 1.5m. The trench layout was designed to provide sample coverage of the whole site.
- 2.1.3 Deposits were removed in 'spits' of no more than 100mm each, to the level of the first significant archaeological horizon or the clearly defined top of the natural sub-stratum, whichever was reached first. All potential archaeological features were identified and marked at the time of machine clearance of overburden.
- 2.1.4 Machine-excavated deposits and the exposed surface were regularly scanned visually for the presence and collection of artefacts. Exposed surfaces and excavated spoil were scanned by metal detector.
- 2.1.5 All exposed deposits were cleaned using hand tools to define any archaeological features or deposits and each trench recorded as set out in the PCA fieldwork manual (Taylor and Brown 2009). Context units (see below) were recorded as set out in the PCA fieldwork manual approved for use in Leicestershire, including written, photographic and drawn records.
- 2.1.6 Archaeological features were sample excavated sufficiently to characterise them and recover datable material.

- 2.1.7 PCA allowed the site records to be inspected and examined at any reasonable time, during or after the evaluation fieldwork, by the client/developer, the Archaeological Curator or any designated representative of the Local Planning Authority. PCA also liaised closely with the Archaeological Curator throughout the course of the evaluation to arrange for on-site meetings at key decision points and determine if further evaluation work at this stage was necessary.
- 2.1.8 Trenches were backfilled with agreement from the Archaeological Curator from Hinckley & Bosworth District Council on completion of the fieldwork.

2.2 Recording Methodology

- 2.2.1 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded utilising PCA's printed *pro forma*.
- 2.2.2 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m aOD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Geomax Zenith 15 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better. Manual section drawings of archaeological features and deposits were drawn at scales of 1:10 or 1:20. High-resolution digital photographs were taken of all trenches and archaeological features and of the Site in general.

2.3 Post-Fieldwork Methodology

- 2.3.1 Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide* (HE 2015) was used as the framework for post-excavation work.
- 2.3.2 The stratigraphic data for the project comprises written, drawn and photographic records. A total of 12 individual context units (Context Numbers) were assigned within the two excavated trenches. Post-excavation work involved checking these, collating site records and phasing the stratigraphic data.
- 2.3.3 The complete site archive will be packaged for long-term storage and curation. In preparing the site archive for deposition, all relevant standards and guidelines documents were referenced including the *Archaeological Archives Forum guidelines* document (Brown 2011), the *United Kingdom Institute for Conservation* (UKIC) document (Walker 1990). The relevant ClfA publication (ClfA 2020) will also be adhered to. The depositional requirements of the body to which the site archive will be ultimately transferred will be met in full. The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museum Collections under accession number X.A66.2024.

- 2.3.4 Upon completion of the fieldwork, the online OASIS form <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/> was completed. Once the report has become a public document, following incorporation into the HER, it will be uploaded to the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) web site where it may be freely consulted. Digital archiving will be with the ADS.

3 Results

3.1 Negative Trenches

- 3.1.1 Trench 2 was devoid of archaeological deposits, containing only a few small patches of rooting disturbance.

3.2 Positive Trenches

- 3.2.1 Of the two trial trenches excavated, only Trench 1 contained surviving features with archaeological potential or suspected agricultural features requiring further characterisation by sample excavation.

3.3 Phase 1: Natural Geological Deposits

- 3.3.1 The natural geological substratum within Trenches 1 and 2 was represented by a mid-red/brown silt clay with frequent small, rounded stones and occasionally with darker blue/grey clay patches and diffuse interface with the overlying subsoils (Plates 1-4).

3.4 Phase 2: Saxon

Phase 2.1

Trench 1: Linear [104]

- 3.4.1 A roughly northeast-southwest orientated linear feature interpreted as Ditch [104] (Figure 3; Plate 5) was revealed northwest of the centre of Trench 1. Ditch [104] was over 1.5m in length, c.0.6m in width and up to c.0.22m deep, with clear sides merging with a concave base (Figure 4, Section 3). Feature [104] contained a single compact mid greyish brown silty clay (105) yielding sherds of Late Saxon pottery and animal bone, including cattle.

3.5 Phase 3: Post-medieval / Modern

Phase 3.1

Agricultural soils – all trenches

- 3.5.1 The mid reddish brown silty clay subsoil, with occasional sub-rounded small stone inclusions, was observed across the Site in both Trenches.
- 3.5.2 The topsoil across the Site comprised a friable mid grey/brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stones. Towards the northwest end of Trench 1, the topsoil had been machined into for the placement of a loose stone surface (108) which has since been overlain with turf (109). This surface continues towards the field access.
- 3.5.3 The agricultural subsoils and soils were mechanically removed and recorded in representative sections in each trench. Both of these have been illustrated (Figure 4,

Sections 1 and 2 & Plate 3 T1, Plate 4 T2).

Other undated features: Curvilinear [106]

- 3.5.4 In Trench 1, Ditch [106], revealed at an archaeological horizon c.0.60m below the top of the trench, was represented by a cut c.1.3m wide containing a single dark brown fill (107) yielding no finds. The line of the ditch reflected that of the trench, extending for c.2.4m from the northwest end, before it appeared to turn northeast, into the baulk of the trench (Figure 3; Figure 4, Section 4) (Plate 6).

4 Discussion

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 The archaeological sequence was generated by placing stratigraphic sequences within broad phases as indicated by chronological relationship between deposits and archaeological events. Only one trench revealed archaeological remains, these of Late Saxon date.

4.2 Phase 1 Geological

- 4.2.1 A natural geological substratum horizon was revealed in both trial trenches. The substratum horizon lay directly beneath the later agricultural soils and was invariably cut by the agricultural features.

4.3 Phase 2 Saxon

- 4.3.1 The remains dated to the Saxon phase comprise of a Ditch [104] toward the northwest corner of the Site, heading northeast-southwest in Trench 1. This probably represents a boundary ditch, or perhaps a drainage feature running down the natural slope, and indicates management of the landscape and the likelihood of nearby domestic settlement. Ditch [106], whilst undated could also reflect occupation during this period, due to the relatively deep stratum of the trench and its proximity to the Saxon ditch.

4.4 Phase 3 Post-medieval – modern

- 4.4.1 The post-medieval / modern features revealed at Pipe Lane represent only modern usage of the land. The evidence did not produce indications of any settlement or other uses.

5 Conclusion / Statement of Potential

5.1 Conclusion

5.1.1 The main aim of the evaluation and this report was to inform the Local Planning Authority, as advised by the Archaeological Curator, and the client regarding the location, nature and extent of archaeological remains within the proposed development site.

5.1.2 Two ditches, one Late Saxon the other undated, were revealed adjacent to each other toward the northwest edge of the Site. The Late Saxon ditch probably represents land parcelling and perhaps suggests occupation of the period nearby. Occurring at a similar stratigraphic level, the undated ditch may be related to the Saxon feature. Agricultural soils of probable post-medieval to modern date, and recent made-ground, sealed the archaeological remains.

6 Personnel

- 6.1.1 The evaluation was managed by Rebecca Nichols (PCA Newark) and was carried out by the fieldwork team at PCA Newark. The report was written by Jonathan Landless (PCA Newark) and the Post-Excavation work managed by Alex Beeby (PCA Newark). The illustrations accompanying this report were prepared by Diana Valk (PCA London).

7 Acknowledgements

- 7.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Frampton Town Planning Ltd for commissioning the work.

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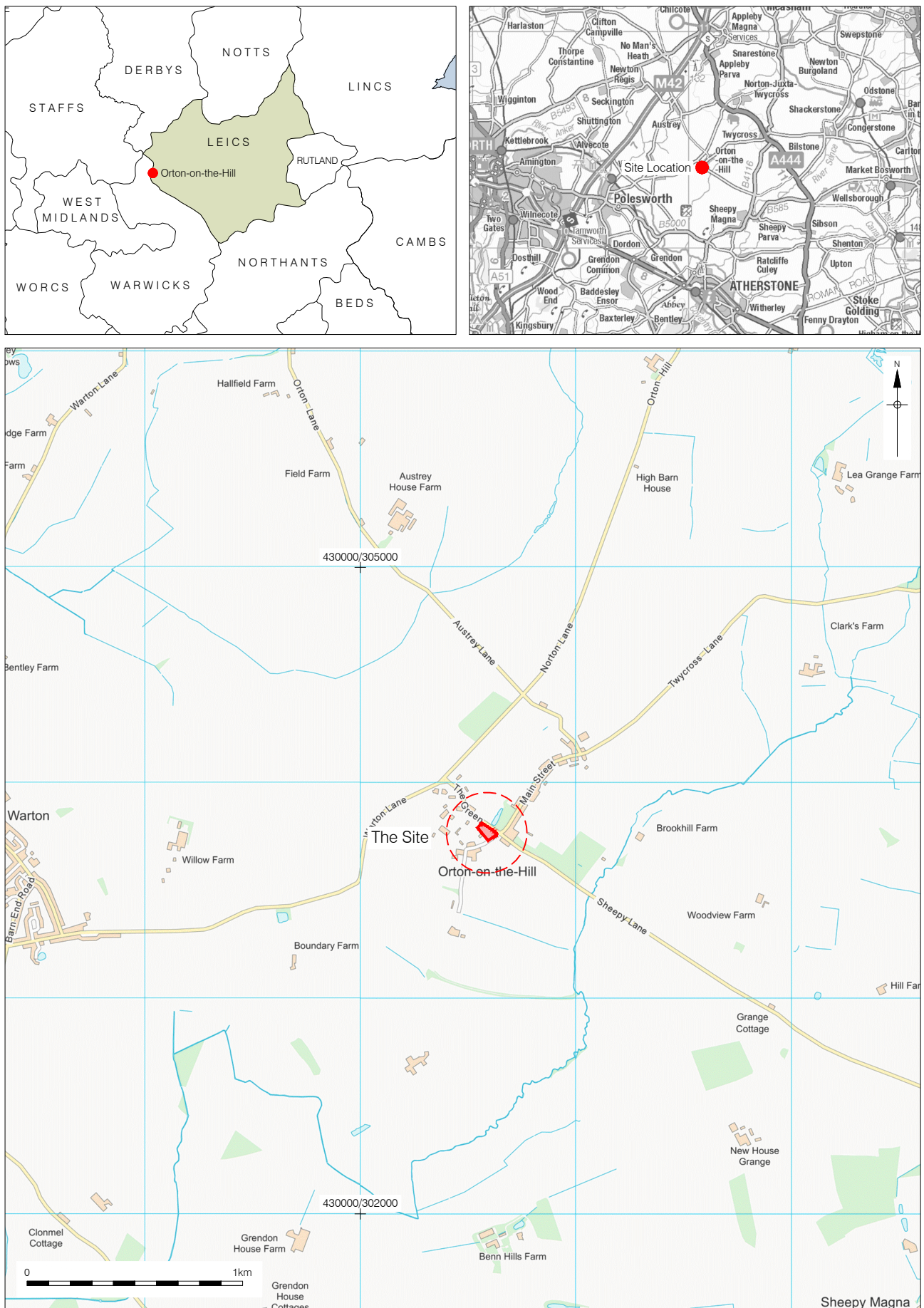
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Websites (accessed on 25/07/2024)

East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework, Interactive Digital Resource

The British Geological Survey (BGS) website: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>





0 50m

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Figure 2
Detailed Site Location
1:1,000 at A4

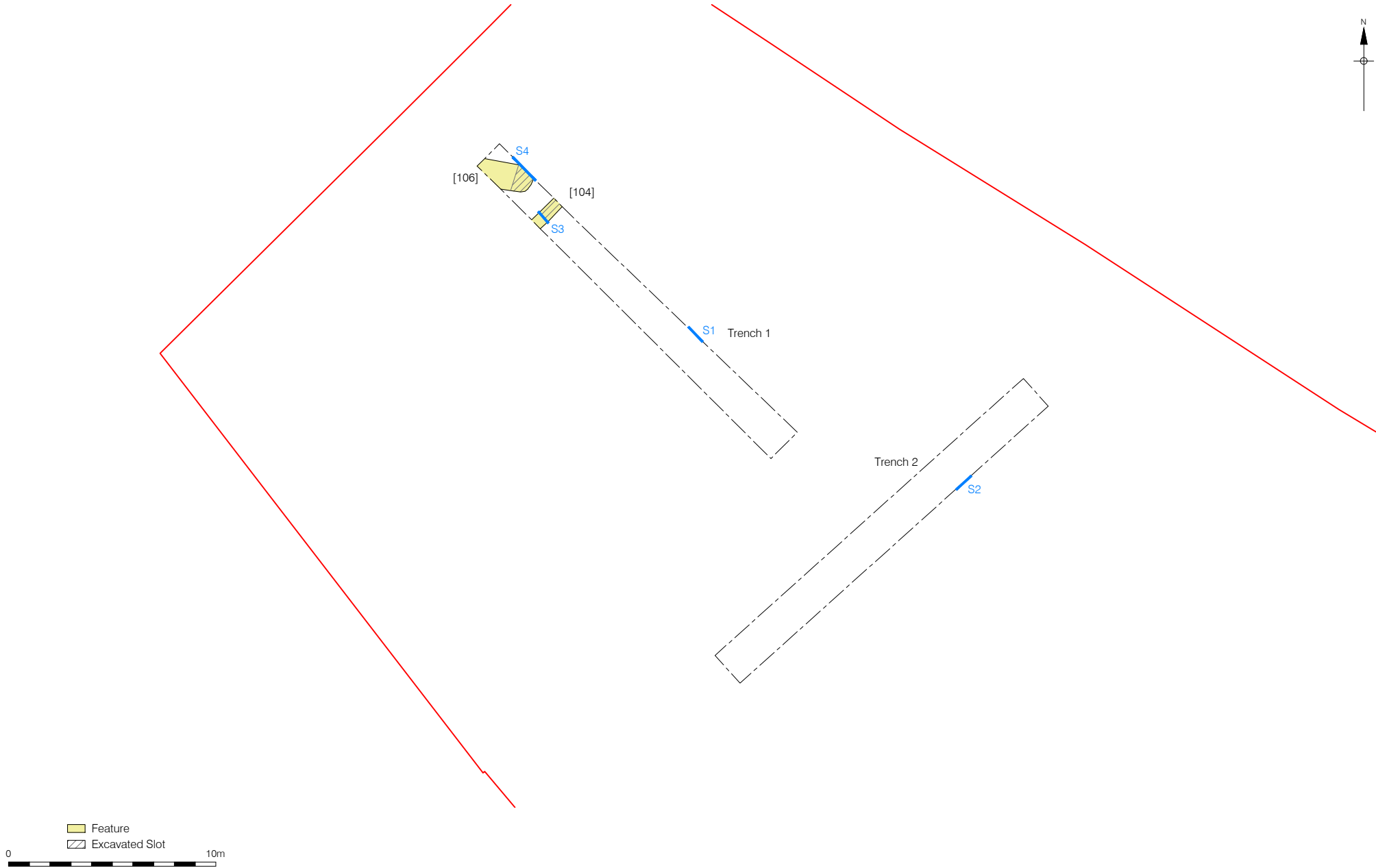
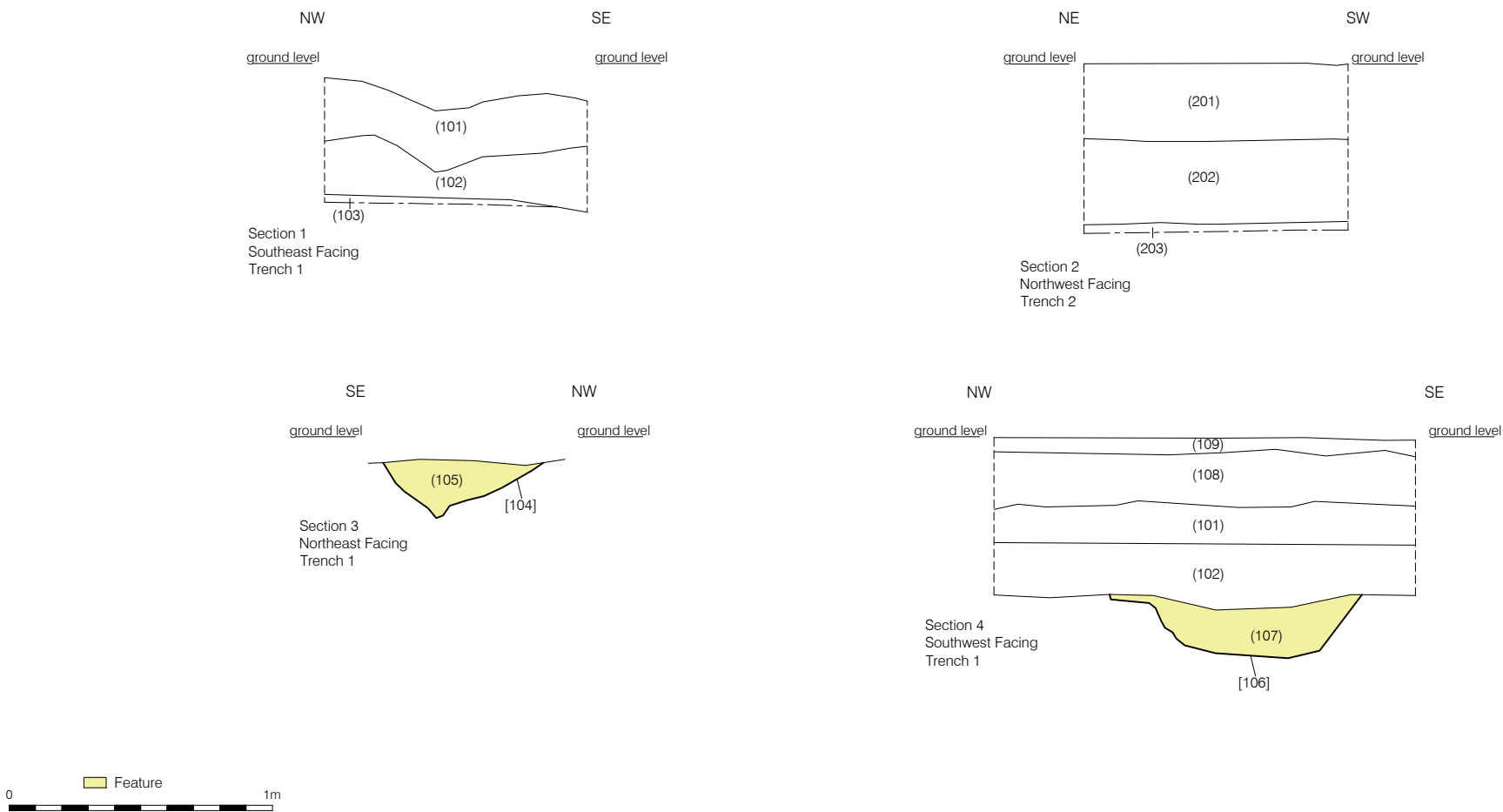


Figure 3
Plan of Trenches
1:250 at A4



10 Plates



Plate 1: Trench 1, General shot, 1m and 2m scale, looking northwest.



Plate 2: Trench 2, General shot, 1m and 2m scale, looking southwest,



Plate 3: Trench 1, Representative section, 1m scale, looking northeast.



Plate 4: Trench 2, Representative section, 1m scale, looking southeast.



Plate 5: Ditch [104], Trench 2, 0.3m scale, looking southeast.



Plate 6: Ditch [106], Trench 1, 1m scale, looking northeast.

Appendix 1: Trench Index

Trench	Length (m)	Orientation	depth min - max (m)	Archaeological features/deposits
1	20	SE-NW	0.55 – 0.68	2 Linears
2	20	SW-NE	0.6	Rooting

Appendix 2: Context Index

Context Number	Trench	Fill of	Filled by	Type	Description	Interpretation	Thickness / dimensions	Max Width/ Diameter
101	1			Layer	Mid Greyish Brown silty clay with uncommon small, rounded stones	Topsoil	0.26	
102	1			Layer	Dark Orangish brown, Silty clay with no inclusions	Subsoil	0.25	
103	1			Layer	Light brownish red clay with uncommon rounded pebbles and yellow sandy patches	Natural		
104	1		105	Cut	Linear with Moderate (31° to 60°) sides, and a concave base	Ditch	0.21	0.49
105	1	104		Fill	Compact, Mid Greyish Brown, Silty clay with frequent charcoal and occasional rounded stones	Natural infilling	0.21	0.49
106	1		107	Cut	Curvilinear with Moderate (31° to 60°) sides, and a concave base	Ditch	0.23	1.2
107	1	106		Fill	Compact, mid brownish grey sandy clay with Infrequent small angular stones - part of natural	Natural infilling	0.23	1.2
108	1			Layer	Sub angular stones overlaying a cloth terram	Made ground Surface	0.16	
109	1			Layer	Friable dark greyish brown silty clay	Turf	0.05	
201	2			Layer	Mid Greyish Brown silty clay with uncommon small, rounded stones	Topsoil	0.48	
202	2			Layer	Dark reddish brown, Silty clay with infrequent	Subsoil	0.14	
203	2			Layer	Light brownish red clay with uncommon rounded pebbles and yellow sandy patches	Natural		

Appendix 3: The Post Roman Pottery

By Stephanie Ratkai

Summary

Two pot sherds, one substantial, were found in a ditch fill (see Table 1). Both appeared to be the same fabric, which was quite soft (could be scratched with the thumbnail) with a smooth 'soapy' surface feel. There was hardly any observable sand in the clay under x20 magnification. A series of voids, c. 1-4mm in size, were visible on the surfaces and within the clay body. These appear to have been left by burnt out organic matter and less commonly by (perhaps) fragments of limestone. However, on the application of hydrochloric acid no fizzing was observed within the voids or elsewhere on the sherds. It is suggested that the limestone inclusions may be Palaeozoic / Carboniferous limestone that has a weaker reaction with HCl than the Jurassic limestones encountered further to the east and seen as inclusions, for example, in the Late Anglo-Saxon pottery of Northamptonshire.

The larger sherd came from a bowl with an in-turned rim. This is a typical late Anglo-Saxon form (see for example Ford 1995 fig.8, 18; Kilmurry 1980, fig. 4, 14). It was heavily sooted on the exterior as was the smaller sherd; the latter appeared to have some external burnish. As such this is an extremely interesting find. The pottery needs of Tamworth and Orton would have been usually met by the potters in Stafford. Do the sherds from Orton represent a thus far unrecorded industry, perhaps copying Stafford ware or continuing once potting had ceased in Stafford, perhaps established to supply Tamworth? Secondly, could the pottery be associated with the documented nunnery at Orton on the Hill, which was founded at the beginning of the 11th century, with St Edith of Polesworth as its first abbess?

Potential

These two sherds suggest that the area under evaluation has good potential for late Anglo-Saxon archaeology and further work in the area is recommended. Should further analysis work be undertaken as part of a programme of post-excavation mitigation, petrological examination or ICP analysis of the larger sherd might be helpful in determining its source.

Catalogue

Table 1, the pottery catalogue

Context	Fabric	qty	wght	Rim	RD	R%	Form	Date	Comment
105	CG	1	47	1	29	8	bowl with in-turned rim	Late Saxon	External soot
105	CG	1	2				?	Late Saxon	Trace of external burnish? External soot

References

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Appendix 4: The Animal Bone

Dr Hannah Russ FSA MCIfA

Introduction

Mammal remains (14 fragments weighing 79.0g) were recovered via hand collection during archaeological trial trench evaluation at Land at Pipe Lane, Orton-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire (PLOL24; centered NGR: SK 30569 03746) ahead of site development. The excavation of two trenches was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited in 2024. Animal bone was recovered from one of the two trenches, from the fill of Ditch [104]. This assessment includes quantification of the animal bone assemblage, identification at species level where possible, an assessment of significance and recommendation(s) for any further work.

Methods

The animal remains were identified to element, side and to as low a taxonomic level as possible using the archaeology.biz reference collection and published and online identification guides (Hillson 2003; 2005). Quantification for mammal remains used the diagnostic zone method as presented by Dobney and Rielly (1988). A taphonomic assessment of each fragment was undertaken, recording the presence and absence of cut and chop marks, burning and calcination, any evidence for animal activity (canid or rodent gnawing), and surface preservation; any other surface modifications of note were also recorded.

At this stage, no attempt was made to sex any of the remains, or to measure any elements. Fragments of bones that could be identified to element but not any specific species were grouped as far as possible using size and class or order categories.

Results were recorded in an electronic proforma in Microsoft Excel.

This assessment has been undertaken in line with published standards and guidelines (Baker and Worley 2019; ClfA 2014; 2021), a written scheme of investigation for the site (Koumplis 2024), and with reference to the East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework (Accessed July 2024).

Results

Mammal remains (n=14) were recovered via hand collection from Trench 1, context 105, undated fill of Ditch [104], during archaeological evaluation at Orton-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire, Table 1.

Identified remains included cattle (*Bos taurus*). Other mammal remains were identified at high taxonomic level (e.g. mammal) within size categories. Remains identified at high taxonomic level formed 85.7% of the assemblage (by count, n=12).

Table 1, summary of animal bone from Orton-on-the-Hill (PLOL24), count.

Context	Cattle	Large mammal	Medium/large mammal	Total
105	2	4	8	14
Total	2	4	8	14

Taphonomic assessment

Bone surface preservation and fragmentation

Bone surface preservation varied throughout the assemblage from 'good' to 'poor' (categories 2-4 on a scale of 1 to 5 from 'very good' (1) to 'very poor' (5)). Most specimens had 'moderate' surface preservation (3), 85.7% of the total assemblage by count (n=12). Fragmentation was high throughout the assemblage with only partial bones recovered and some re-fitting fragments of single specimens.

Butchery

No evidence for carcass processing in the form of chop-, cut-, or saw-marks was observed.

Animal interaction

No evidence for carnivore or rodent gnawing activity was observed within the assemblage.

Pathology

No skeletal abnormalities possibly resulting from disease, injury or age were recorded.

Burning and calcination

No burnt or calcined bone was recovered.

Potential for measurements

None of the bones were suitably complete to allow measurement for size estimation.

Potential for ageing and sexing

Bone fusion data for estimation of age at death was recorded for the distal epiphysis of a cattle humerus. No mandibles or teeth suitable for undertaking age at death estimation were recovered. None of the animal remains were suitable for estimating sex.

Discussion

The remains of domestic cattle are common finds on British archaeological sites from the Neolithic period onwards, being one of the main domestic livestock animals kept for their meat (e.g. Baker and Worley 2019, 3). Cattle were also kept for their milk, leather and for traction as well as providing many raw materials (such as horn and bone) and other secondary resources.

The small size of the assemblage, alongside high levels of fragmentation and variable bone surface preservation, limits any further comment on the role of cattle at the site. The assemblage is of very low local significance with no future research potential beyond the information contained within this report and the associated data spreadsheet.

Recommendations for future analysis and dissemination

No further work is recommended for the animal remains from Orton-on-the-Hill. The material may be discarded on completion of the project.

This report and associated data should be integrated into any site-wide grey literature or publication reporting and retained within the site archive.

References

Baker, P. and Worley, F. 2019. *Animal Bones and Archaeology - Recovery to archive*. Historic England Handbooks for Archaeology.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014. *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*.

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Dobney, K. and Rielly, K. 1988. A method for recording archaeological animal bones: the use of diagnostic zones. *Circaea* 5: 79–96.

East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework. Accessed July 2024.

<https://researchframeworks.org/emherf>

Hillson, S. 2003. *Mammal Bones and Teeth. An introductory guide to methods of identification*. London: Institute of Archaeology, University College London.

Hillson, S. 2005. *Teeth*. Second Edition. Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Koumplis, M. 2024. *Land at Pipe Lane, Orton-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire, CV9 3NF: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Document.

Appendix 5: OASIS V SUMMARY

OASIS Summary for preconst1-527407

OASIS ID (UID)	preconst1-527407
Project Name	Evaluation at Pipe Lane, Orton-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire
Sitename	Pipe Lane, Orton-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire
Sitecode	PLOL24
Project Identifier(s)	K9080
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	24/00284/OUT
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Between application and determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project Dates	24-Jun-2024 - 24-Jun-2024
Location	Pipe Lane, Orton-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire NGR : SK 30590 03770 LL : 52.63082828932333, -1.549475895674256 12 Fig : 430590,303770
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Leicestershire Local Authority District : Hinckley and Bosworth Parish : Twycross
Project Methodology	Standard ClfA evaluation methodology
Project Results	Two ditches identified, one containing Late Saxon pottery and animal bone, including cattle. Second ditch was adjacent to the first and at the same stratigraphic level; undated but though possibly contemporary with the first ditch.
Keywords	Ditch - EARLY MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pot - EARLY MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Funder	Private or public corporation Frampton Town Planning Ltd
HER	Leicestershire HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Rebecca Nichols
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museums;



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