Wessex Archaeology

Groby Old Hall
Groby, Leicestershire

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

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February 2011

GROBY OLD HALL
GROBY, LEICESTERSHIRE

SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT 17066

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

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Summary

In April 2010 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at the site of a Norman motte and bailey castle and medieval manorial site at Groby Old Hall (NGR 452396 307624; Scheduled Ancient Monument 17066). The castle motte incorporates a rare substantial internal Norman stone building. The site was subsequently re-used as the location for a medieval manorial complex, one of the most extensive in Leicestershire. Extant and below-ground ruins of this manor survive to the south of the motte, some incorporated into the buildings of Groby Old Hall. The present Hall, built in stone, was extended in brick in the late 15th century.

An evaluation comprising eight trenches demonstrated a complex sequence of buildings on the Site. Initially, the focus of occupation was likely to have been the defensive motte, keep and bailey ditch in the northern part of the Site. This early castle was built by Hugh de Grantmesnil in the late 11th century, and may have been slighted by Henry II in 1176 after a siege. The evaluation by Time Team, and excavations in the 1960s under the auspices of the Ministry of Works, indicate that the motte was built around the lower part of the stone keep.

The Time Team evaluation demonstrated that by the 14th century the focus of occupation had shifted to the south-west, where a number of buildings were arranged around a central courtyard area. At least two phases of building were identified within these manorial ranges, and the western range may have included a hall. Some evidence of earlier features and possible timber structures were also seen. The courtyard buildings were probably mostly dismantled in the late 15th or early 16th century when a new brick structure (now known as Groby Old Hall) was built to the south-west.

It is recommended that the results of the Time Team evaluation are published as a summary report, with accompanying figures, to be submitted to the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*. The results of the 1962-3 excavation by Brian Davison should also be incorporated into the summary report.

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Acknowledgements

This programme of post-excavation and assessment work was commissioned and funded by Videotext Communications Ltd, and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank the staff at Videotext, and in particular Michael Douglas (Series Editor), Jane Hammond (Production Manager), Carly Hilts (Researcher) and Emily Woodburn (Production Coordinator) for their considerable help during the recording and post-excavation work.

The geophysical survey was undertaken by John Gater, Jimmy Adcock, Emma Wood and Graeme Attwood (of GSB Prospection) and landscape survey and map regression was undertaken by Stewart Ainsworth of English Heritage. The excavation strategy was devised by Mick Aston. The on-site recording was co-ordinated by Naomi Hall, and on-site finds processing was carried out by Hannah Spieler, both of Wessex Archaeology.

The excavations were undertaken by Time Team's retained archaeologists, Phil Harding (Wessex Archaeology), Helen Geake, Tracey Smith, Matt Williams, Ian Powlesland, Raksha Dave and Faye Simpson assisted by Leon Hunt, Matthew Morris, Neil Finn, Jon Coward, John Thomas and Sophie Clarke. The metal detector survey was carried out by John Maloney and Andy Tansley.

The archive was collated and all post-excavation assessment and analysis undertaken by Wessex Archaeology, with the assistance of Paul Blinkhorn (freelance specialist, pottery). This report was written by Naomi Hall with other specialist reports prepared by Nicholas Cooke (coins), Rachael Billson (animal bone), Kevin Hayward (stone identifications), Lorraine Mepham (all other finds) and Ruth Pelling (environmental). The illustrations were prepared by Kenneth Lymer. The post-excavation project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Lorraine Mepham.

Wessex Archaeology would like to acknowledge the help and advice provided by Richard Morriss and Neil Finn concerning the interpretation of some of the architectural and structural detail.

Finally thanks are extended to the owners Paul and Vivienne Dickens and Diana and Jim Crauford for allowing access to the Site for geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation.

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Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological recording and post-excavation work on an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at the site of a Norman Castle and medieval manorial complex at Groby Old Hall, Groby, Leicestershire (hereafter the 'Site') (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 This report documents the results of archaeological survey and evaluation undertaken by Time Team, and presents an assessment of the results of these works.

1.2 The Site, location and geology

1.2.1 The Site consists of an area of approximately 0.8 hectares, centred on NGR 452396 307624, and is located within the parish of Groby in Leicestershire. Groby lies around 6km to the west of the centre of Leicester and approximately 4km to the south-east of Markfield.

1.2.2 The Site is Scheduled Ancient Monument 17066. The area of investigation slightly exceeded the area of scheduling, extending to the boundary with Markfield Road whereas the scheduled area falls slightly short of this. The Scheduled Ancient Monument includes a motte and bailey castle and manorial complex. The castle motte is situated on the north side of the Scheduled area, oval in shape, and with a flattish top. It is large (5-6m high and measuring 38m from east to west and 25m from north to south), and incorporates a rare substantial internal Norman stone building. To the east of the motte is a flat bailey area extending for 20m and enclosed by a ditch. The site was subsequently re-used as the location for a medieval manorial complex; extant and below-ground ruins of this manor survive to the south of the motte, some incorporated into the buildings of Groby Old Hall. The manorial complex is one of the most extensive in Leicestershire. The present Hall, built in stone, was extended in brick in the late 15th century.

1.2.3 The Site is bounded to the north by the A50 duel carriageway, to the west by the boundary with the adjacent churchyard of St. Philip and St. James, to the south by Markfield Road and to the east by the property boundary with the former farmyard and outbuildings and the new housing development of Bailey View.

1.2.4 The south-western part of the Site is an area of fairly level ground at a height of between 95.5 and 96m aOD. In the north-eastern part of the Site is the motte and associated earthworks. The top of the motte is at a height of around 99.75m aOD, and the ground then slopes steeply away to a height of approximately 94m aOD, and then falls away further to a height of around 89.5m aOD.

1.2.5 The underlying geology is boulder clay within a wider area of Mercia Mudstone, although there are outcrops of diorite in the near vicinity (BGS 155).

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.3.1 There are few entries for sites and findspots prior to the medieval period listed in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER). However, a Mesolithic flint scatter was located during fieldwalking to the north of Stone Lodge, by the junction of the A50 and A46, approximately 1.5km to the east of the Site (MLE7054). Some cropmarks lie around 1km to the south-west of the Site (MLE2768), consisting of various linear features and a possible enclosure - they are likely to be of prehistoric date. Additionally, some Roman pottery was found in the garden of 35, Crane Ley Road, Groby, immediately to the south of the Site (HER reference MLE6784) and some possible Romano-British kilns and a skull fragment were also located approximately 1km to the north of the Site, to the south-east of Sheet Hedges Wood. To the south of the village runs the *Via Devana,* a Roman road linking Leicester and Ravenstone (MLE4345).

1.3.2 The full documentary references and succession of medieval owners of the Site were listed by Nichols (1811, 629-32) with further historical detail by Farnham (1928, 196-222); a brief summary follows. In Domesday Book (1086), Groby is recorded as having been granted to Hugh de Grantmesnil. Early in the 12thc enetury the land was granted to Robert de Beaumont, and stayed in the hands of the de Beaumont Earls of Leicester throughout the 12th century. It then passed through several owners before being inherited in 1279 by William Ferrers. The manor was held by the Ferrers family for over 150 years until it passed through Elizabeth Ferrers to her first husband Edward Grey in 1445. Their son's marriage to Elizabeth Woodville, who later married Edward IV, ensured the family's rise to prominence. The family later achieved infamy by attempting to place Lady Jane Grey on the throne, an action which caused both her, her father Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk and her uncle Lord Thomas Grey to be beheaded in 1554. The youngest of the three brothers, Lord John Grey, managed to keep his life, and his son Sir Henry Grey reacquired the estate and was made Baron Grey of Groby in 1603. Groby remained as part of the Grey estate until 1925 when it was sold at action (ULAS 2009a, 3).

1.3.3 The building of the motte and bailey castle is said to have been by Hugh de Grantmesnil towards the end of the 11th century (information from the Scheduled Monument Record for Groby), although other sources attribute its construction to the Early of Leicester in the later 12th century (Allen Brown 1959; Cantor 1978).

1.3.4 Some documentary references can also be found relating to the buildings that stood on the Site. Nichols (1811, 631) suggests that the castle was slighted, along with others, by Henry II in 1176, together with Leicester Castle, after the earl of Leicester had taken part in the rebellion of Henry II's sons. He also states that Thomas, the second marquis of Dorset (presumably Thomas Grey, marquis of Dorset who died in 1530 and whose father had the same name and title) "filled up the ditches with earth, intending to make an *herbere* [planted garden] of it" (Nichols 1811, 631). However, Nichols himself mentions that some of the ditches were still visible

(at the time of his writing). A document in the Calendar of Close Rolls (dated to 1371), concerning the assignment of a dower to Margaret, wife of William de Ferrers of Groby (fully transcribed in Farnham 1928, 211-12), lists a number of buildings and other features. These include the 'whit chambre' with a 'wyn celer' below and several other chambers adjacent. It also mentions the 'oldechapele and cloister', the 'culenhous', the grange called 'heyberne', 'bailies chambre', a dovecot and a long house called the 'shepecote'. A garden called 'Tourhulle' and a forge are also listed.

1.3.5 A map published in 1757 by John Doharty (held in the collection of Enville Hall, Staffordshire; see Ramsey 1982) (**Figure 2, Plate 1**) shows Groby; the buildings of the Old Hall and a structure then standing on the motte are clearly shown. However, the chapel appears to be shown merely as a footprint, in contrast to the three-dimensional rendition of the other buildings, which would suggest that it was already in ruins at this time. An engraving from 1790, reproduced by Nichols (1811, 634, plate 104), seems to confirm this idea (**Figure 2, Plate 2**). A long stretch of wall to the south-west of this is likely to be the wall of which a portion still remains upstanding today (MLE17580).

1.3.6 The visible remains today consist of a 13.75m long stretch of wall aligned north-west – south-east with a small south-west return (**Figure 2, Plate 3**). The wall is of irregular granite blocks upon a sandstone plinth with a large arched doorway and window loop also dressed with sandstone (**back cover, bottom left**). Some way to the north, there are two rectangular fishponds (outside section shown in **Figure 2, Plate 1**). An earthwork survey in 1984 confirmed the presence of these features as well as other rectilinear enclosures thought to be garden earthworks associated with the hall (MLE2763 and MLE17529). A large sub-oval enclosure is shown on the 1757 map passing just to the east of the motte and stretching some way to the west. No other structures are depicted on the Site.

1.3.7 The keep was depicted on maps throughout the late 18th and early 19th century but is not visible on an 1859 estate map (ROLLR reference DG20/Ma/42/2), indicating that it was no longer extant by this time.

1.3.8 In 1840 the Church of St Philip and St James was constructed immediately to the west of the Site. It seems clear that the original manor buildings extended onto the site of the present day church, as Richardson (1978, 1) mentions that the sexton in the 1940s used to have to demolish sections of wall in order to dig the graves and that the bake-houses were also 'reputedly' found in the area of the chancel.

1.4 Previous Archaeological Work

Excavations 1962-3

1.4.1 In 1962-3 some excavation was undertaken on and adjacent to the motte, led by B. K. Davison, on behalf of the Ministry of Works, in advance of the construction of the A50 bypass (for position of trenches see **Figure 1**). The excavation is unpublished, and following information is taken from the site notebook and photographs. A trench was excavated to the north of the motte to provide a cross section of the defences. Directly at the base of the motte a large, wide ditch was uncovered, initially filled in with a series of

secondary deposits but then possibly deliberately backfilled, leaving a terrace at the base of the motte and a much shallower ditch or depression some way beyond the base of the motte. A bank lay on the northern edge of the original ditch and was believed to have been associated with it. A further ditch lay beyond this. On top of the motte two trenches were excavated, locating the south-east corner of a stone building, and a set of steps was discovered on the south-west side of this, leading to a doorway. A higher level doorway was found on the south-east side. Against the steps and the external elevation of the building was a mass of rubble thought to be the stone revetting of the motte. On the interior of the wall was a red clay which appeared to be a deliberate infilling.

1.4.2 The discovery that the motte had been built around this stone building led to suggestions that it could have been of pre-Norman date, perhaps a late Saxon manorial precursor to the castle site (Creighton 1997).

Resistivity survey 1990s

1.4.3 During the late 1990s a resistivity survey was conducted by A. Robinson within the western part of the Site. The results suggested the presence of structural remains (Videotext Communications 2010, 6).

Evaluation trenches 2007

1.4.4 A small archaeological evaluation was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) in 2007 prior to the construction of the housing development of Bailey View, just to the east of Site (ULAS 2007). Five trenches located the possible remains of two fishponds close to the boundary with the Site. Just to the east of these were a series of stone wall foundations on at least three different alignments. One wall located in the southern part of the area appeared to be slightly curving, and a sherd of 13th century pottery was found near this feature. One other sherd of 13th pottery was found, along with a fragment of medieval ridge tile.

Historic Building Assessment 2009

1.4.5 In 2009 after the acquisition of the upstanding hall by Mr and Mrs. Dickens, a Historic Building Assessment was carried out on the hall by ULAS (2009a) (for basic summary of relevant periods see **Figure 1**).

1.4.6 The survey identified the earliest element of the structure as a 15th century timber-framed hall. This hall would have originally been open without any subdivision into floors, and a smoke-blackened roof truss attests to the presence of an open fire. There is evidence that there may have been an additional bay to the north-west and that another structure stood on the south-west side. At the south-west end of the building can be seen the late 15th century brick-built range, the most distinctive feature of which is the three-storied tower at the south-west end. A smaller tower lies to north-east of this, separated by the 17th or 18th century lean-to. Beyond this to the north-east is other possible tower incorporated into the façade of the 16th century cross-range. Although the brickwork here is slightly different, it is considered to be the most likely part of the late 15th century build. Another area of brickwork is incorporated into the south-eastern corner of the 16th century cross-range, and this may be the remains of a further tower. Remnants of a wall linking these elements can be seen in the south-eastern

elevation. Blocked up doorways in the north-western elevation indicate that this building extended further in this direction. The 16th century cross-range is orientated south-east – north-west and is for the most part brick-built but with stonework used on the external elevations; an attic space in south-east corner indicates that at least some blocks of re-used masonry have been used for this. A further part of the 16th century structure can be seen built against the north-east corner of the cross-range, and a blocked up archway on the other side of the cross-range indicates that another structure originally lay to the south-west. The other elements of the hall appear to be 17th century or later and indicate continued additions and modification right up to the present day.

Watching Brief 2009

1.4.7 In November 2009, a small watching brief was carried out by ULAS when a 14.5m long stretch of the boundary wall between the Site and the Church of St Philip and St James was demolished and subsequently reinstated (ULAS 2009b). The church itself was constructed in 1840 and the level of the churchyard is substantially above the level of the Site. Beneath the buried churchyard soil and the overlying deposits was a layer of well sorted building rubble overlying an area of floor tiles. The tiles used in the floor were dated to 1300-1500 AD. A sherd of residual early medieval pottery was obtained from the rubble deposit above. Below the bedding and construction layers underlying the floor was a charcoal-rich deposit, and the natural clay beneath this showed evidence of *in situ* burning. Also sealed beneath the building rubble was a substantial wall footing, similar to the upstanding section of wall seen on Site and on a similar alignment. This section of wall was approximately 5.6m north of the extant wall. There is a suggestion that the floor levels on the southern side were significantly deeper than those to the north, possibly indicating the presence of semi-sunken cellars.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1.1 A project design for the work was compiled (Videotext Communications 2010), providing full details of the research aims and methods. A brief summary is provided here.

2.1.2 The aim of the project was to characterise the nature and date of the Site and place it within its historical, geographical and archaeological context. Of particular interest was the definition of the phasing and chronology of the Site through the early medieval period and into the late medieval period.

2.1.3 Four specific research aims were identified:

- *Research Aim 1:*

To characterise the nature of sub-surface archaeological remains with the specific aim of refining a chronology for the construction of and defining a plan for the ‘southern range’, assumed to be represented by standing stone remains in the western paddock. This work was intended to contribute to an understanding of the phase relations of the ruined stone wall and brick phases of construction.

- *Research Aim 2:*

To characterise the nature of sub-surface archaeological remains with the specific aim of refining a chronology for the construction of and defining a plan for structural remains observed and recorded during excavation work in the 1960s on the motte in the north-west of the Site.

- *Research Aim 3:*

To characterise the nature of sub-surface archaeological remains with the specific aim of refining a chronology for the construction of and defining a plan for earthworks found to the east of the motte.

- *Research Aim 4:*

To characterise the nature of sub-surface archaeological remains with the specific aim of refining a chronology for the construction of and defining a plan for any remnants of the Groby Old Hall under the lawn immediately to the west of the standing building.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Geophysical Survey

3.1.1 Prior to the excavation of evaluation trenches, a geophysical survey was carried out across the Site using a combination of resistance and magnetic survey. The survey grid was tied in to the Ordnance Survey grid using a Trimble real time differential GPS system.

3.2 Landscape and Earthwork Survey

3.2.1 A landscape survey and analysis of the cartographic evidence was undertaken by Stewart Ainsworth, Senior Investigator of the Archaeological Survey and Investigation Team, English Heritage. Where appropriate the findings have been incorporated into the general discussion of the Site.

3.3 Evaluation Trenches

3.3.1 Eight trenches of varying sizes were excavated, their locations determined in order to investigate and to clarify geophysical anomalies and to address specific research objectives (**Figure 1**).

3.3.2 The trenches were excavated using a combination of machine and hand digging. All machine trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision and ceased at the identification of significant archaeological remains, or at natural geology if this was encountered first. When machine excavation had ceased all trenches were cleaned by hand and archaeological deposits investigated.

3.3.3 At various stages during excavation the deposits were scanned by a metal detector and signals marked in order to facilitate investigation. The excavated up-cast was scanned by metal detector.

3.3.4 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Trenches were located using a Trimble Real Time Differential GPS survey system. All archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of

1:20 with sections drawn at 1:10. All principal strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum.

3.3.5 A full photographic record of the investigations and individual features was maintained, utilising digital images. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and general context of the archaeology revealed and the Site as a whole.

3.3.6 At the completion of the work, all trenches were reinstated using the excavated soil.

3.3.7 A unique Site code 74151 was agreed prior to the commencement of works. The work was carried out on the 13th-16th April 2010. The archive and all artefacts were subsequently transported to the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury where they were processed and assessed for this report.

3.4 Copyright

3.4.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features, the full geophysical report (GSB 2010), the summary of the landscape and earthwork survey and details of artefactual and environmental assessments are retained in the archive. Summaries of the excavated sequences can be found in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Geophysical Results

4.2.1 Geophysical survey was carried out over a total area of approximately 1 hectare using a combination of resistance survey and ground penetrating radar (GPR) (**Figures 1 & 3**).

4.2.2 There is a strong correlation between the resistance and GPR datasets; both have clearly defined the three remaining sides of the castle Keep on top of the motte as well as three ranges of buildings surrounding what appears to be a courtyard on the bailey. GPR traverses collected on the motte flanks suggest that it utilises a natural topographic feature whilst the complex nature of the responses recorded across the bailey imply multiple phases of construction. Other details such as buttresses on the northern range, demolition spreads across the southern range and a possible hall within the western range, have also been recorded. The data show that the northern range extends, at least partially, into the walled garden area of

Groby Old Hall, with a tentative suggestion of further medieval remains existing beneath the lawns of the current house.

4.2.3 Conditions for survey varied; the steep slopes of the motte precluded any resistance or detailed GPR survey; however single radar transects were attempted down the eastern and southern flanks. The remainder of the areas were flat and ideal for survey.

4.2.4 Any depths referred to in the interpretation of GPR data *are only ever an approximation*.

Area 1

Ground penetrating radar

4.2.5 The results from the top of the motte are fairly clear-cut; three sides of the castle keep are clearly defined with the northern side having been quarried out in antiquity. The breaks in response around (1) are the result of a flight of stone stairs leading to a gap in the stonework, presumably a former doorway. Revetment stones have caused strong reflections (2) at the break of slope but it is unclear as to what the increased response between this and the keep relate to. It may be a structural feature extending south of the keep, as shown in the 1960s excavation drawings.

4.2.6 Aside from the keep, there are few other strong reflectors atop the motte; a curving linear band of response at the western end may be evidence of further revetments. Two traverses were collected down the flanks of the motte and have been corrected to account for the topography. It can be seen that there are strong reflections coincident with the base of the steepest sections of the mound, especially evident on the south side. These could be from bedrock, suggesting that the motte has taken advantage of a natural geological formation; however, this is far from clear and the interpretation remains somewhat speculative.

Resistance survey

4.2.7 High resistance responses within the eastern section of the survey area relate to the castle Keep as discovered during excavation in the 1960s and also confirmed through the current evaluation. Dimensions of this structure are at least 7.5m by 6m.

Area 2

Ground penetrating radar

4.2.8 The very shallowest slices are difficult to interpret, probably reflecting the site's more recent history; multiple phases of garden layout (e.g. a possible path (3)), the use of this area as a compound for work on the church boundary, recent mechanical clearance and bonfires (4) have all left their mark. However, what quickly becomes apparent beneath this is the presence of three ranges of buildings, presumably around a courtyard. The southernmost is an extension of the extant medieval wall but internal detail is hard to determine given the re-use of the site and the spread of masonry over the building's footprint, producing the 'mottled' effect seen at (5). It is

only the deeper time-slices, below this demolition material, that clearly define the original footprint of the ranges.

4.2.9 The western range, lying partially within the current churchyard, has few internal divisions or demolition material. A possible oriel window was found at its northern end coincident with (6). The northern range clearly has a set of buttresses (7) running along its north wall, perhaps suggesting that this side may have had more than a single storey.

4.2.10 The complex nature of the wall lines (8) through and adjacent to the northern range suggests multiple phases of construction. The antiquity of the trends, linear zones of increased response and high amplitude anomalies along the south-eastern limit of the survey area (9) is open to debate. The reflections are not as strong as those recorded over the medieval elements of the site but the radargrams show a mix of buried surfaces, disturbance and what could be reflections from structural elements. For example, some of the shallow anomalies (10) are potentially a continuation of the later wall built along the southern range's footings; how these relate to the anomalies spreading north is unclear, as is whether they represent more buildings, garden features and/or areas of hard standing.

Resistance survey

4.2.11 A high resistance anomaly located in the north-east of this area suggests a length of wall, showing at least three buttresses. The results tie in well with the GPR data.

4.2.12 Linear, high resistance anomalies are related to wall foundations and may be associated with a cloister surrounding a courtyard. Part of the south-west wall is still extant and the remaining ranges are visible in the resistance data.

4.2.13 A zone of high resistance has been interpreted as a rubble spread, which compares well with the shallow GPR time-slices. Unfortunately this rubble spread has masked the deeper walls that are visible in the radar data.

Area 3

4.2.14 GPR survey in this area hoped to find evidence of a chapel shown on an early drawing of the site. However, despite clearing all surface obstructions, modern debris has caused multiple strong reflections, which have largely obscured any genuine archaeological responses. The line of the track can be seen curving through the area but aside from that it is impossible to make any definite interpretations.

Area 4

4.2.15 In the GPR survey, a later wall (11), perhaps part of a building shown on early OS maps, was found to be lying above a continuation of the northern range. Deeper responses on the southern side of the wall seem to relate to the earlier phase of construction. It is unclear as to the significance of reflectors on the northern side of (11) given that the construction of the pergola uprights may have influenced the responses; that said, reflectors (12) align with the north side of the northern range.

Area 5

Ground penetrating radar

4.2.16 Survey over the lawn of Groby Old Hall has produced anomalies that can be loosely categorised into three groups. The first group are shallow linear anomalies (13) which, whilst possibly relating to the courtyard ranges, seem more likely to be later garden features, especially given that the limits of the reflections do not align with the ranges but instead seem to stop at a gate through the garden wall. In addition, the arm running south-east lies in the centre of the current lawn, possibly a path to the Hall. The second group, somewhat deeper, may be the extremity of the southern medieval range, as linear band (14) is on a similar alignment to the extant wall in Area 2. The zone of reflectors (15) may be part of a return, given their similar depth and that they run perpendicular to (14); however, these anomalies may be the shallowest appearance of the final group of anomalies (16). These reflections have a semicircular limit to their distribution which shrinks, with depth, toward Groby Old Hall. The reflections seem to be derived from a buried surface, dipping to the east, which is presumably the original natural ground surface.

Resistance survey

4.2.17 The linear high resistance responses are on the same alignment as those discovered within Area 2 and lie at a similar angle to Groby Old Hall itself. They have been classified as *?Archaeology* as the responses were not investigated further through excavation. However, the continuity of alignment between the current gardens and the archaeological deposits means some ambiguity remains and these anomalies could easily be garden features, as suggested by the GPR data.

Conclusions

4.2.18 Both the GPR and resistance surveys located three sides of the Keep atop the motte, with the radar showing the location of stone stairs and a doorway. The GPR also suggests that the motte was constructed on a natural rise in the landscape.

4.2.19 Results from the bailey area show, again in both techniques, responses that are associated with the medieval manorial complex, including at least three ranges of buildings surrounding a courtyard. The northernmost range exhibits at least three buttresses, potentially suggesting it was more than a single storey. The GPR data show a complex of responses, highlighting the multiple phases of construction, and also show that this range extended into Area 4. It seems as though the westernmost range may contain a hall, whilst the southernmost has a considerable spread of masonry overlying it. There is a suggestion that this latter range, or at least structures associated with the manorial complex, extend beneath the lawns of Groby Old Hall.

4.2.20 A complex of responses down the eastern side of the field containing the manorial ranges has been difficult to classify. It has been assumed that these are born of later features, but whether they are further structures, garden features, hard standing or a combination of all three has been impossible to determine.

4.3 Evaluation Trenches

Introduction

4.3.1 Eight evaluation trenches were excavated, five within the grass paddock in the western part of the Site, where the old manorial complex is thought to be situated, two on top of the motte and one across the earthworks to the east of this. The size and shape of the trenches varied to account for the potential targets that they were sited on and the archaeology subsequently uncovered. Any substantial remains were left *in situ*.

4.3.2 Trenches 1 and 4, situated at the summit of the motte occupied the highest positions at a height of approximately 99.50m aOD. Trenches 3, 5, 6 7 and 8, situated in the relatively level ground to the south of the motte and to the north-west of the present Groby Old Hall occupied heights between 95.32-96.51m aOD. Trench 2, situated across the earthworks surrounding the motte, showed the greatest variation in height from between 86.66-92.02m aOD.

4.3.3 The trenches saw the removal of between 0.13m and 0.46m of overlying topsoil and demolition debris in order to expose the archaeology. Subsoil was only identified in Trenches 1 and 2 where it was intermittent and had a maximum depth of 0.14m. Where encountered the natural geology was a red boulder clay, except in Trench 1 where the bedrock was exposed.

4.3.4 The trenches are described below by area.

Trench 1 (Figure 4)

4.3.5 Trench 1 was positioned on the western part of the summit of the motte and was designed to locate the opposing corner of the keep structure found during the 1960s excavation.

4.3.6 A large, stone-built, north-east – south-west aligned wall (105) was located, 2.6m high and built upon a rubble foundation (109) which directly overlay the natural regolith (108), or weathered bedrock (**Figure 4, Plate 4**). Built up against this was the material for the motte, (103) a mid red clay. Excavation in Trench 2 showed this to be re-deposited natural boulder clay which overlay the bedrock.

4.3.7 The topography of the motte indicates substantial truncation and disturbance of the northern edge. This activity was seen to be a quarrying event (110) which had destroyed the northern edge of the wall (105) right down to the bedrock (**Figure 4, Plate 4**). This quarry cut was filled with a small amount of primary tumble from the wall but was largely filled with a single deliberate backfill of clay. This strongly suggests that the quarrying activity was targeting the stone used in the wall construction.

Trench 4 (Figure 4)

4.3.8 Trench 4 was positioned to re-locate the stairway found in the 1960s excavation and to extend and confirm the 1960s findings.

4.3.9 The original 1960s excavation trench was situated on the eastern part of the summit of the motte (see **Figure 1**). This was located and numbered as (403), and modern material was obtained from its backfill (404).

4.3.10 In addition to the wall and staircase identified in the 1960s, what was originally believed to be rubble composing part of the motte makeup was found to compose a larger outer wall (410), the southern return of that identified in Trench 1 as (105). The staircase (412) was built into the fabric of this outer wall, but only abutting the inner wall (409) (**Figure 4, Plate 5**). There were some differences between the two walls, the blocks used in (409) being generally smaller, the overall width much less and the mortar more flush with the stonework. No stratigraphic relationship between the two walls could be established, they abutted each other at the south-eastern end of the trench.

4.3.11 A doorway was seen within the inner wall (409) which had been subsequently blocked up with rubble deposit (406). This was also exposed during the 1960s excavation. A sherd of pottery from this rubble deposit was dated to the 12th to 13th century. This deposit appeared to have been constructed from inside the tower as it was faced on the northern side. A pair of finely tooled, ashlar door jambs (408) was revealed within the doorway, sealed by the blocking event (406). Partial removal of this deposit showed that the threshold of the doorway (407) was actually the lower part of the wall (409) (**Figure 4, Plate 6**). Threshold (407) appeared to have slumped to the north, suggesting subsidence at this point, and this may account for the blocking of the doorway. Subsequent to this, the interior of the building was filled with a clay rich deposit (405), suggesting that this subsidence may have continued.

4.3.12 Built up around the outer wall (410) was motte material (402), and this was equivalent to deposit (103) in Trench 1. A sherd of modern pottery recovered from this deposit was intrusive in this context.

Trench 2 (Figure 5)

4.3.13 Trench 2 was positioned across the possible bailey ditch and existing earthworks to the east of the motte. This trench was subsequently extended at both the west and east ends to explore the full sequence of landscaping in this area.

4.3.14 The section revealed by this trench showed a series of different phases of landscaping. At the western end of the trench a buried soil horizon (205) was sealed by deposit (204) which was in turn overlain by (203). These two clay rich deposits appear to form a bank or terrace over 10m wide. Although a fragment of modern pottery was obtained from (204), this may well be intrusive from the subsoil context (202) above. A similar bank was seen at the eastern end of the trench formed by deposit (213). This bank was around 11m wide. This also sealed a buried soil horizon (214); pottery from this context suggests that it is medieval (13th century) in date.

4.3.15 Overlying the eastern edge of the bank formed by (203) was another, later buried soil horizon (208); this was in turn overlain by a later bank deposit (207). Both medieval and modern pottery was obtained from the latter context as well as fragments of possible late medieval/early post-medieval brick. It may be that the upper portion of this deposit has been reworked in the modern period, but generally a late medieval date would seem to be more likely for the deposit as a whole.

4.3.16 Environmental samples were taken from buried soil horizons (205) and (208), and despite relating to different phases of landscaping the results were similar; both contained small amounts of charred wheat, hazelnut and charcoal fragments.

4.3.17 Near the centre of the trench, and around 47m from the centre of the motte, was a large ditch (211). The full depth of this feature could not be established but with a width of over 4m it was likely to have been a deep, substantial feature. Only the upper deposit within this feature was observed, and this was a deliberate backfill of stone rubble (210), suggesting that it relates to a later period of demolition. Although the upper deposit overlay the later landscaping layers (207) and (213), it is not clear whether the ditch was originally cut from this point. Given its position and size this is most likely to be the original bailey ditch and therefore to be contemporary with the bank deposits (204) and (203). However, this relationship could not be demonstrated stratigraphically.

4.3.18 The rubble deposit (210) appears to have been predominantly derived from the east, and overlying it on the eastern edge was a fairly mixed deposit with stone and CBM fragments (219). Another deposit (217), a possible upper fill of the ditch appears to have either naturally settled within the hollow left in the top of the ditch, or to have been a deliberate attempt to level the ground.

4.3.19 The final landscaping event appears to have been (209), a levelling deposit which completed the infilling of the hollow left by the ditch.

Trench 3 (Figure 6)

4.3.20 Trench 3 was positioned on the south range of a possible courtyard building identified by the geophysical survey and also seen in the upstanding remains. The geophysical responses were seen to correlate to two phases of north-west – south-east aligned walls, (323) and (325). A further possible south-west – north-east wall (324) and adjacent masonry structure (326) were seen in the southern corner of the trench (**Figure 6, Plate 8**).

4.3.21 Wall (325) was the later of two north-west – south-east aligned walls and appeared to have been built onto the south-eastern end of wall (323). The earlier wall seems to have been considerably wider and incorporated more massive facing stones. There was an area of use wear on one of the facing stones, a possible indication of reuse. Both walls had been heavily robbed on the south-western face. No construction cut for wall (323) could be identified but it was seen to rest upon layer (333), a possible preparation layer or construction cut fill. This overlay (327), a possible ground surface sealing feature (314). The latter feature was not fully seen in plan but was sub-rectangular, and its single secondary fill contained domestic debris. Finds from this suggest a date of 13th to 14th century. This feature cut (330), a possible levelling deposit, and (329), a discrete deposit not fully seen in plan. Along the north-eastern edge of the trench was a slate-rich deposit (328), whose relationship to (330) was not determined.

4.3.22 A sondage was excavated against the south-west face of the wall (325) (**Figure 6, Plate 9**). Overlying the natural geology (322) was a buried soil deposit (316). Medieval (12th to 13th century) pottery was obtained from this deposit. This was cut by (319), but this feature was only seen in the south-

east facing section and its nature and purpose remain unclear, although it appeared to have been deliberately backfilled with (318). This feature was overlain by (317), a deposit with frequent chalk and mortar flecks which may be equivalent to (315), the deposit seen in the opposing section of the sondage overlying (316). Two sherds of 12th to 13th century pottery were recovered from (317). Deposit (317) was cut to the south by (321), a vertical edge which forms a possible construction cut filled with (320), and masonry structure (326).This possible wall remnant was not fully exposed and seems to have been heavily robbed. A relationship to (324) could not be determined but (326) is stratigraphically earlier than (315), which had accumulated against the stonework.

4.3.23 Overlying (326) was layer of granite and slate fragments in a mortar-rich matrix; this was very compact and appears to have been a consolidation layer or possible surface. This was cut by (332), the construction cut for wall (325). This construction trench may also cut (310) a possible layer of trample overlying (315), although the relationship was not clear.

4.3.24 Built up against the north-eastern side of wall (325) was a potential trample or silting layer (312). This lay beneath (305), a seemingly deliberate dump of roof slate. Mostly smaller slates and fragments remained, suggesting that the larger slates may have been selectively reclaimed. Deposit (305) was overlain by (304) which seems to represent a possible trample or silting layer, finally overlain by (302), demolition debris immediately beneath the topsoil.

4.3.25 On the south-western side of wall (325), a consolidation layer (309) was overlain by (308), which seems to indicate a period of silting (**Figure 6, Plate 9**). A 13th century silver coin of Henry III was recovered from (309). It is possible that the construction cut for (325) also cut through (309), and the coin seems to support that possibility. Deposit (308) also overlay (311), a discrete dump of stone and mortar. In the far southern part of the trench, a dump of degraded mortar-rich material overlay masonry structure (324). Both (306) and (308) lay beneath demolition debris (303), which was immediately beneath the topsoil.

Trench 5 (Figure 7)

4.3.26 Trench 5 was targeted on geophysical anomalies indicating the western range of the possible courtyard building. Excavation revealed a series of wall phases, several of which appeared to incorporate earlier structures.

4.3.27 The earliest wall identified was (523), a north-west – south-east aligned wall seen in the extreme north-eastern part of the trench. The construction cut for this wall cut through (518), a sandy layer that seems to have formed a bedding or ground preparation deposit for the structure. Wall (523) was butted and partially overlaid by south-west – north-east aligned wall (524) on its south-west face. Together, (523) and (524) may have formed the north-west corner of a building, but disturbance to the north-west meant it could not be determined whether (523) originally continued further.

4.3.28 Wall (524) was cut by the construction cut for masonry structure (534). This lay directly parallel to (524), and it is unclear whether this was a wall remnant or the foundation for wall (503) which overlay it to the south. Wall

(503) was aligned predominantly south-west – north-east but turned to the south-east, apparently forming a canted bay window (**Figure 7, Plate 10**). This wall was constructed from finely tooled ashlar sandstone with a projecting plinth base and is in sharp contrast to the rougher, granite-built earlier walls. The inside of the building at this time would have been to the north-west whereas the earlier walls suggest internal structures to the south-east. Wall (503) appears to have been constructed on top of construction deposits or rough footing deposits (520) and (533).

4.3.29 Built up against the south-eastern face of wall (503) was (514), which was similar to the earlier construction deposit (518). On and above the level of the plinth had accumulated a loamy deposit (505). This was cut by possible pit (510). This feature was not fully seen in plan as it continued beyond the south-western edge of the trench, but a linear trend in the geophysical data (**Figure 3**, bottom right) may suggest that this is in fact a ditch or robber trench rather than a pit. This feature was not fully excavated but was filled with a rubble-rich deliberate backfill (513), overlain by two secondary deposits (512) and (511), both containing demolition debris.

4.3.30 Built up against the north-west face of wall (503) was area of possible trampled material (532), A sondage at this point showed that it partly overlay (531), a potential levelling layer; however, very little of this deposit was exposed. Above (532) was a demolition deposit (504).

4.3.31 In the eastern part of the trench two discrete dumped deposits of sand and mortar, (515) and (516), overlay an area of bunt material (517). To the south this charcoal-rich deposit overlay (519), a possible bedding layer similar to (518) which could also be seen beneath (517) to the north. Deposit (517) also lay beneath (509), a dump of demolition material with abundant fragments of roof slate.

4.3.32 Just to the north-west of wall (524) was a possible drain (527) running parallel to the wall (**Figure 7, Plates 10 & 11**). This overlay rubble deposits (525) and (526), which seem to represent a period of demolition. Similar or identical deposits (530) and (529) were seen to the west of, and underlying drain (508). This brick-built drain ran south-west – north-east; its construction indicates that the earlier structure(s) had by this time gone out of use.

4.3.33 Across the trench and directly below the topsoil were a number of demolition spreads. Finds from these deposits indicate activity from the 12th to 16th centuries.

Trench 6 (Figure 8)

4.3.34 Trench 6 was targeted on a geophysical anomaly thought to correspond to a buttressed corner of a possible hall structure.

4.3.35 The earliest structure encountered was (606), a stone-built, north-west – south-east aligned wall. Much of the north-east face of this structure had been robbed away by cut (630) (**Figure 8, Plate 12**), and the selectiveness of this implies that it was a deliberate event, possibly undertaken in order to help incorporate later modifications. This idea is substantiated by the insertion of a south-west – north-east aligned wall (607). However, the

facing blocks of (606) are still *in situ* at the junction of (606) and (607), and this could imply that the facing stones were removed only after the construction of (607). The north-west elevation of wall (607) showed fairly irregular facing blocks partly smoothed and concealed by mortar forming a foundation beneath a finely worked, sandstone, chamfered plinth. Similar detailing was seen on the buttress of wall (803) in Trench 8 (see below). A south-east return of wall (607) was visible in the north-eastern corner of the trench. Some plaster could still be seen adhering to the south-east and south-west face at this point, confirming this as the interior.

4.3.36 Immediately adjacent to wall (606) on its north-east side were the remains of a chamfered plinth (605), thought to form a projecting buttress. Several masonry marks were etched into the chamfered edge (**Figure 10, Plate 15**). Curiously, the compact, mortar-rich bedding layer beneath (605), (611), although sharply defined and rectangular in form, was larger than the plinth and the plinth itself was not situated centrally on it. This seems to suggest that the original buttress was larger and that (605) was a later modification.

4.3.37 Built up against wall (606) were two possible levelling layers (616) and (617). A single sherd of 14th to 16th century pottery and a medieval roof tile were obtained from (617). Two possible levelling layers were also seen built up against wall (607), (625) and (626), and these lay beneath a layer of demolition debris (622) incorporating fragments of brick and slate (**Figure 8, Plate 13**). The brick inclusions indicate a *terminus post quem* (i.e. earliest possible date) in the late 15th century. A dump of brick rubble (621) overlay this which was in turn overlain with another demolition deposit (620). Within (620) were a large number of architectural fragments of stone some of which appear to be pieces of window tracery (for examples see **Figure 10, Plate 16**).

4.3.38 Overlying both (620 and (617) was a deliberate deposit of roof slates, (619), concentrated in the northern part of the trench. Above this was a sequence of layers incorporating demolition debris, (624), (623), (618) and (615). Above (615) were deposits (614) and (613) which may represent the results of systematic stone reclamation.

4.3.39 The final layer abutting wall (606) on its north-east side was (610), this was another possible levelling layer that did not extend above the truncated height of the wall. A similar or identical deposit, (629), could be seen against the largely unexcavated south-west elevation. Overlying the truncated top of the wall (606) was layer (612) which lay directly beneath the overburden.

4.3.40 Beneath the general overburden layer and above (629) were two brick-built structures, (608) and (609). Both appeared as discrete areas of brickwork, (608) only a single course high with remains of brick edging on the south-west and south-east edges. These structures appear to represent a later, higher phase of the building. Structure (608) could be the remains of a hearth, although the demolition of wall (606) to below this height means that there was no sign remaining of any attempt to construct a chimney here.

Trench 7 (Figure 9)

4.3.41 Trench 7 was situated within the courtyard area where geophysical survey suggested a north-west – south-east aligned wall. Removal of the overburden (701) confirmed the presence of this wall (717).

4.3.42 Built up against the wall on the south-west side were a series of possible levelling deposits (704), (703) and (702). While the later two deposits, (703) and (702), incorporated demolition debris, (704) was much more humic and contained only rare mortar flecks and could represent occupation debris. An equivalent or identical deposit to (703) was seen on the north-east side of (717), (708). This overlay a similar deposit to (704), (719), but a thin layer of mortar could be seen beneath this, (724), dividing it from the almost identical material (725) beneath. This sequence was not seen on the south-west side, suggesting that the north-east side was internal and (724) may be a floor remnant, although (725) beneath would have been an unlikely bedding material. Up against the south-west face of the wall and slumping to the south-west was a mortar-rich, slightly stony deposit (718) which is likely to represent collapsed or tumbled material from the wall.

4.3.43 The construction cut (716) for the wall (717) was only visible on the south-west side where it cut through stony deposit (705). A sherd of early 13th to late 15th century pottery was obtained from (715), the backfill of the construction cut. Medieval (13th to 14th century) pottery was also obtained from deposit (705). A similar deposit (720) was observed on the north-east side, but a construction cut could not be distinguished.

4.3.44 Beneath (705), earlier phases of building could be seen, the earliest of which (707) was only partially revealed. Its exact nature could not be determined but it consisted of an area of granite slabs. This was overlain by (710), a possible levelling layer or surface. This in turn was cut by posthole (709) which was only partially visible as the north-east part lay directly beneath wall (717). Posthole (709) was sealed by beaten floor surface (706) (**Figure 9**, **Plate 14 & section**). Seen in the section of (706) were a number of lenses of charcoal suggesting a sequence of use and resurfacing, and cut into this were postholes (714) and (712). These lay directly beneath (705).

4.3.45 The south-eastern end of wall (717) could be seen in the south-western face to overlie a distinctly different portion of masonry (723). This incorporated green sandstone and a possible fragment of brick; the inclusion of brick would suggest a late 15th century date at the earliest.

Trench 8 (Figure 10, Plate 17)

4.3.46 Trench 8 was a small testpit located adjacent to an upstanding wall currently forming the north-east wall of a courtyard area. Although this wall showed later modifications it was thought to have been part of the medieval or early post-medieval building complex. This is also the area thought to be the possible location of a chapel marked on the 1757 map (HER record MLE2762; **Figure 2, Plate 1**).

4.3.47 The visible upstanding wall (803) was north-west – south-east aligned. Exposure of the lower part of the wall revealed a north-east projecting buttress with a stepped plinth. The chamfered edge of this shared a similar

profile to that seen on wall (607) suggesting that they be from the same phase of building.

5 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Finds were recovered from all eight of the trenches excavated, although the distribution was uneven, and few finds were recovered from Trenches 1, 4, 7 or 8. The date range of the assemblage is predominantly of medieval to post-medieval date, with a very few residual prehistoric and Romano-British items.

5.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and totals by material type and by trench are presented in **Table 1**. Following quantification, all finds have been at least visually scanned, in order to ascertain their nature, probable date range, and condition. Spot dates have been recorded for datable material (pottery; coins, metalwork). This information provides the basis for an assessment of the potential of the finds assemblage to contribute to an understanding of the Site, with particular reference to the construction and use of the motte and keep, and later manorial complex.

5.2 Pottery

Introduction

5.2.1 The pottery assemblage comprises 222 sherds with a total weight of 5,276g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rim sherd circumference, is 2.63. The assemblage was recorded using the conventions of the Leicestershire County type-series (Sawday 1994); all data are included in the project archive. Totals by ware type are given in **Table 2**.

5.2.2 One ware type, not included in the Leicestershire type-series, was also noted; this is Bourne 'D' Ware, of late 15th to mid 17th century date (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 409), manufactured in the eponymous south Lincolnshire village. It is a fairly hard, smooth, brick-red fabric, often with a grey core and sparse calcitic inclusions up to 2mm. A full range of late medieval to early post-medieval vessel forms, jugs, pancheons, cisterns etc, was produced in this ware. Vessels often have a thin, patchy exterior white slip, over which a clear glaze had been applied. A single residual sherd of Romano-British greyware was also noted.

5.2.3 The range of fabric types is generally typical of contemporary sites in the region, being dominated by Potters Marston and Chilvers Coton wares, although Martincamp Ware is an unusual find in this area of the midlands, especially in a rural context. Such pottery, an import from France and invariably in the form of mammiform flasks, is mainly found in the ports and major towns of eastern England. When it does occur inland, it is usually at high-status sites such as castles or abbeys (Ickowitz 1993, 57). It is known from Leicester, where it is nonetheless extremely rare (Davis and Sawday 2004, 96), and at Coventry, which was a major international trade centre in the medieval period and which produces a wide range of imported pottery. Even there, Martincamp Ware only tends to occur at sites of the highest

status. For example, it was present at St. Mary's Cathedral and Priory (Blinkhorn 2003; Clarke and Soden 2003) and St. Anne's Charterhouse (Soden 1995), but was not seen in the tenements excavated at Broadgate East (Perry 1996) or in the late medieval suburbs (Blinkhorn in press). All the Martincamp sherds from Groby are from the same vessel, in the pale buff fabric traditionally classified as 'Fabric I', and dated 1475-1550 (Hurst *et al*. 1986, 103-4). The presence of the ware at this site only serves to underline the wealth and prestige of the place in the late medieval period. The flasks were not particularly high-status in themselves, but are indicators of access to trade networks which were not open to the lower orders in the area at the time.

5.2.4 The Bourne 'D' ware is also a very unusual find in this area of the country. It is well-known in the south of Lincolnshire and in what is now the A1 corridor. It has no status above the ordinary, but perhaps demonstrates once again that the site was attracting trade from areas that were not typical.

Chronology

5.2.5 Each context-specific assemblage was given a ceramic phase-date (CP) based on the range of ware-types present. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The scheme, and the pottery occurrence per phase, is shown in **Table 3**. The range of pottery types present show that there was activity at the site from the 12th to late 15th/early 16th centuries, then again in the late 17th or early 18th century. The pottery occurrence by fabric type per ceramic phase is shown in **Table 4**. The data show a fairly typical pattern for the area, with Potters Marston Ware being the dominant early medieval fabric, then the products of the Chilvers Coton kilns becoming the main pottery type in the later part of the medieval period. Residuality is fairly low other than in the post-medieval (PMED) ceramic phase, where redeposited medieval pottery comprised around two-thirds of the assemblage.

Cross-Fits

5.2.6 Cross-fits were noted between demolition debris layers (502) and (504) in Trench 5 (Cistercian ware vessel).

The Assemblages

Ceramic Phase CP1 (12th century)

5.2.7 The pottery from this phase is dominated by Potters Marston Ware (92.9% by weight), along with small quantities of Stamford Ware and Shelly Coarsewares. Two rim sherds are present, one a jar and the other a jug, both Potters Marston. The jug has a slightly unusual decorated handle. The rest of the assemblage consists of plain bodysherds. This pattern of pottery consumption is entirely typical of sites in the region at this time, such as at Huncote, *c*. 10km to the south of Groby (Sawday 1991, 21), and in Leicester itself (eg. Sawday 2004, table 12).

Ceramic Phase CP2 (13th – late 14th century)

5.2.8 This period sees Potters Marston continuing to be the major ware at the Site (82.8%), although the products of the Chilvers Coton kilns are also present, albeit in relatively small quantities. This is again fairly typical of the region. At this time at the deserted medieval village at nearby Anstey, Nottingham

Wares were very common, although they are usually rare at rural sites in the area (Sawday 2007, 77), and are absent here. Once again, the pattern at Huncote was generally the same as at Groby (Sawday 1991, 21). Here, the only rim sherds are from jars, although the Chilvers Coton wares are all from glazed jugs.

5.2.9 The relative paucity of Chilvers Coton Wares suggests that there may have been a fairly dramatic drop in activity at the Site in the 14th century, as Potters Marston had ceased production around 1300. At most places, Chilvers Coton Wares and local sandy wares become very common from then on. This was certainly the case at Bonners Lane in Leicester (Sawday 2004, table 12). The lack of sandy wares at Groby perhaps reinforces this argument.

Ceramic Phase CP3 (late 14th–late 15th century)

5.2.10 This Ceramic Phase is dominated by Chilvers Coton Wares (77.6%), along with residual Potters Marston Ware. All the contemporary pottery is in the form of plain body sherds, although the residual assemblage included three rims from Potters Marston jars and another from a CC2 jug.

Ceramic Phase CP4 (late 15th–mid 16th century)

5.2.11 This is by far the largest Ceramic Phase assemblage, although much of the pottery comprises two handled jars (72 sherds, 2482, 1.21) in Chilvers Coton 'D' ware (MP1) from demolition debris (502). A large (369g) sherd from the base from another, similar vessel occurred in demolition debris (504), and there were joining sherds from a Cistercian ware cup in the two contexts, an indication that they are both part of the same deposit. Consequently, MP1 is by far the commonest pottery type (88.3%), with the rest of the assemblage consisting of Cistercian Ware, Bourne 'D' Ware and Martincamp Ware, along with a small amount (1.0%) of residual medieval material

5.2.12 All the contemporary pottery is from vessels associated with the storage, transportation and consumption of drink. The two partially reconstructable MP1 vessels are double-handled jars, the Cistercian Ware is all from cups, the Martincamp ware, a flask and the Bourne 'D' ware vessel, a jug. This is a distinctive pattern for late medieval sites, and is one associated with industrial activity rather than high-status dining. For example, cups dominated the late medieval tannery at The Green, Northampton (Shaw 1996), and a similar picture was noted at late medieval industrial site at King Stable Street at Eton in Buckinghamshire (Blinkhorn 2000).

5.2.13 Furthermore, in the late medieval period, a wide range of new vessel types were introduced, with a number being designed for cooking, such as dripping dishes (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, fig. 49). These tend to occur in the urban contexts, or high-status rural sites, and given the nature of this site in the late 15th and early 16th century, their absence is noteworthy. It is suggested therefore that this pottery is not contemporary with the occupation of the manorial ranges, but was instead used by workers who were dismantling the building. Given that the Grey family moved to Bradgate House in 1510, and that activity at the site appears to have ended before 1550, it would seem very likely that the excavated structure was abandoned and dismantled soon after they moved.

Ceramic Phase PMED (late 17th century+)

5.2.14 Around two-thirds of the pottery from this phase is residual medieval wares. The rest of the assemblage comprises Staffordshire Wares, local Blackwares and Stonewares from Nottingham or Derby. These all date to the late 17th – 18th century, and given the lack of fairly common mid 18th century wares here, the assemblage suggests a short period of activity at the site at sometime between *c*. 1680-1730. The large quantity of residual material suggests considerable disturbance of the site, so it seems likely that the buildings were being quarried for stone at that time.

Ceramic Phase MOD (18th Century+)

5.2.15 Nearly all the pottery from this ceramic phase came from topsoil contexts, and most (92%) is post-medieval or modern, with the rest residual medieval material. The post-medieval material reflects the pattern from the preceding phase, and consists of late 17th – early 18th century wares in the form of blackwares (EA6) and salt-glazed stoneware (SW5). The residual medieval material is also similar to the commoner elements of the stratified assemblage. This therefore suggests that the pattern demonstrated by the stratified pottery in the earlier phases is fairly reliable, and there is no reason to suspect that the data has been greatly skewed by later disturbance.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material

5.3.1 This category includes fragments of brick, roof tile and floor tile, with one field drain.

Bricks

5.3.2 All bricks (62 fragments) were in coarse fabrics with prominent iron inclusions and occasional pebbles; most appeared to have been fired at a relatively low temperature, resulting in fairly soft, friable bricks. No complete bricks were recovered, and fragments with surviving dimensions were scarce (five examples. No lengths survived, but widths ranged from 110mm to 135mm, and thicknesses from 50mm to 65mm. All bricks were unfrogged. Brick fragments were found in most trenches, with a concentration in Trenches 2 and 3. Without complete examples these bricks are difficult to date, but their appearance would be consistent with a very late medieval or early post-medieval date (15th/16th century).

5.3.3 One example of a brick 'special' was noted. This came from demolition debris (302), and comprises one end of a moulded brick, perhaps from a window mullion. The similar in fabric to the other brick fragments suggests a similar 15th/16th century date range.

Floor tiles

5.3.4 Both plain (4 complete and 27 fragments) and decorated floor tiles (2 fragments) were recovered. All but one of the plain tiles appear to be of similar type and dimensions: square tiles (110mm x 110mm x 20mm), white-slipped and glazed on the upper surface, the glaze extending over the sides and partly over the underside. In every case the glaze has almost entirely worn off the upper surface, as well as most of the underlying white slip. One example (found unstratified by the original wall in the vicinity of the manorial complex) is slightly larger (115mm x 115mm x 25mm), and has no traces of glaze or slip surviving. Most floor tiles came from Trench 5 (with six

complete or near complete examples from demolition debris 502); two came from Trench 3, and two more complete examples were found unstratified.

5.3.5 Two fragments of decorated floor tiles were identified. Both are inlaid tiles. One small fragment from demolition debris (502) is too small and abraded to discern the design, but a larger fragment from levelling/demolition layer (627) forms part of a four-tile circular design which can be paralleled within the Nottinghamshire tile group of *c.* 1325-1365, although not by any well provenanced examples (Stopford 2005, fig. 18.2, no. 97).

Roof tiles

5.3.6 Both flat tiles (33 fragments) and ridge tiles (10 fragments) were identified. Most examples are medieval, and occur in sandy, gritty fabrics – variations in colour and texture suggest that more than one source is represented. Several flat tiles and all of the ridge tiles are at least partly glazed. Ridge tiles include crested examples – one from demolition debris (509) appears to have had a pinched up crest (broken off), while one from demolition debris (302) has a tall, circular-sectioned, pointed crest.

Other CBM

5.3.7 Two modern wall tiles were found in levelling layer (708); and a fragment from a field drain was found unstratified.

5.4 Stone

5.4.1 With the exception of one whetstone, the stone consists entirely of building material, mostly slate roof tiles, with some architectural fragments.

Roofing slates

5.4.2 Many fragments of slates were encountered on the site, but only the more complete examples were collected (for examples see **Figure 10, Plate 16**). All were in the same stone type, a very hard, grey-green chloritic metavolcanic slate (local Swithland slate; see Edmunds and Oakley 1947; Herbert 1942; McWhirr 1988). Surviving complete dimensions were recorded for each tile, as well as the presence and position of the peg holes.

5.4.3 Most of the slates were rectangular, although a few (generally smaller tiles) tapered slightly towards the top, and two slates had pointed top edges. Peg holes were mainly centrally placed at the top, although 11 examples were observed with peg holes off centre; these were of varying sizes. Two slates had two peg holes, although in each case the size and shape is unknown; this could have resulted from the correction of an initial mistake.

5.4.4 Of the 112 slates collected, 75 had at least one complete original dimension (usually width). All appear to have been top-hung slates, and many had broken across the peg hole at the top. There is a substantial variation in slate size – widths range from 80mm to 215mm, and lengths from 185mm to 400mm. Within this range, and for those slates that have both surviving dimensions, there do appear to be certain discrete sizes, for example a small, narrow slate (width 80-105mm; length 185-200mm), and a long, narrow slate (one example, 120mm x 400mm), but between these extremes lies a continuum (see **Figure 11**), with lengths concentrated between

190mm and 250mm, while widths range from 80mm to 170mm, with one outlier.

5.4.5 Mortar was observed on some slates, but was not sufficiently well preserved to distinguish surfaces that had been mortared together when the slates were set in place, which would have enabled the measurement of the margin (the clean upper surface of the slate between the tail and the lower edge of the bedding mortar). The margin relates to the distance between supporting laths, and thus the gauge of the slates (Thorp 1996, 291).

5.4.6 Most slates came from Trench 5 (75 examples), with smaller groups from Trench 3 (22 examples) and Trench 6 (13 examples).

5.4.7 This group of roofing slates shows similarities with others of medieval date (e.g. Allan 1984, 300-2; Thorp 1996), with a range of sizes, but with no indication of uniform graded sizes. The size range indicates the use of varying gauges across the roof, with smaller slates used near the roof ridge, becoming gradually larger moving downwards towards the eaves. The ridges are likely to have been capped by ceramic ridge tiles (see above).

Architectural fragments

5.4.8 Fragments of architectural mouldings came from three contexts. All these fragments are in the same stone type, an open-textured, medium-grained, quartz-rich sandstone, most probably a Triassic Dane Hills Sandstone (Mercia Mudstone Group), outcrops of which are accessible within 5km of the Site (Lott 2001, 109). Four fragments from 620 are all probably from window tracery (for examples see **Figure 10, Plate 16**), although two could equally be from doorways, or even from a free-standing arch. Two pieces from, respectively, demolition debris (302) and machining layer (604) are smaller, simpler mouldings. In style these seem to be of 13th or, more probably, 14th century date. Eight other fragments of the same sandstone from machining layer (604) almost certainly represent further building material, but have no surviving surfaces.

5.4.9 Two further fragments of building stone were recovered, both from (303) – a small, triangular floor tile and a piece of igneous rock with no surviving worked surfaces. The latter is a granodiorite from the Lower Palaeozoic Mountsorrel Granodiorite; the nearest outcrop is located approximately 10km to the north-east of Groby. The floor tile is in a fine-grained, laminated calcareous mudstone, from the Lower Lias (Lower Jurassic) Barnstone Member quarries worked near Barrow on Soar, 10-15km to the north of Leicester (Lott 2001, 112).

5.4.10 In addition, one large architectural fragment was recorded in Trench 6 (context 620), but not removed. This was of very similar appearance to the smaller, retained fragments from (620).

Whetstone

5.4.11 The whetstone, found in buried soil (214), is in a soft, banded, quartz mica schist, perhaps from the local pre-Cambrian rocks of the Charnwood Forest (Edmunds and Oakley 1947, 6).

5.5 Glass

5.5.1 The glass includes both vessel and window glass. There are also two small green chippings (of the sort used to decorate modern graves) from the topsoil in Trench 5.

5.5.2 Five fragments of glass from demolition debris (504) join to form part of a fairly small, convex vessel with a slight neck constriction (the rim is missing). The fragments are heavily degraded and devitrified, very friable, and are completely opaque. This is likely to be a rare occurrence of a medieval vessel, probably a utilitarian form, such as a small flask or phial, lamp, or a distilling vessel (see, for example, Tyson 2000, fig. 22, g281; fig. 28, g371; fig. 36, g1088, g1089).

5.5.3 One other vessel fragment was recovered, a thick-walled, oxidised and almost opaque piece from demolition debris (502), probably from a 17th/18th century green wine bottle.

5.5.4 Seventeen fragments are of window glass. Most of these are degraded and oxidised, and are likely to be of late medieval or early post-medieval date; the exception is a fragment of modern clear window glass from Trench 3 topsoil. Small fragments from demolition debris (504) and (506) and Trench 7 topsoil are in very bad condition, almost entirely devitrified and laminating. Eight fragments from machining layer (604) are slightly less degraded; this small group includes at least two pieces with grozed (chipped) edges; one piece represents part of a small rectangular quarry. Two fragments from Trench 5 topsoil are in similar condition; one of these fragments has grozed edges and red painted decoration (the design is unknown).

5.6 Metalwork

Coins and jetons

5.6.1 Four coins and two jetons were recovered from the Site. Five of the six date to the medieval or post-medieval periods, with the single exception being late Roman in date. In general the coins and jetons are in good condition, and show little sign of post-depositional corrosion, although all six show evidence for some pre-depositional wear. Despite this, five of the six could be assigned dates.

5.6.2 The earliest coin from the Site (machining layer 604) is a copper alloy antoninianus of the late 3rd century AD. Although this could not be identified to an emperor, the quality of the engraving suggests an official issue rather than one of the numerous irregular radiate copies of this period.

5.6.3 Two hammered silver medieval coins were recovered. The first of these (possible consolidation layer 309) is a quartered type V penny of Henry III, minted between AD 1251 and 1272. The second (machining layer 604) is a silver farthing. Although it is too worn to be identified to a particular ruler, farthings such as these were struck from the reigns of Edward I to Edward VI.

5.6.4 Two copper alloy jetons were recovered. The earlier of these (demolition debris 620) is an extremely well preserved medieval ‘paschal lamb’ jeton struck in Bourges in central France, probably between AD 1373 and 1415.

The second (demolition debris 507) is a stock 'rose/orb' struck in Nuremburg in the first half of the 16th century. Jetons were reckoning counters used in medieval accounting and mathematical calculations. They were used in conjunction with checkerboards or cloths in order to record values and sums of money. Specialist tokens for this purpose were produced from the late 13th century onwards, and they were in widespread use from the 14th century until the late 17th century, when they were made redundant by the increasing spread of Arabic numerals. Nuremberg took over from Tournai as the main European centre for jeton manufacture in the 16th century. Prior to this, designs on jetons usually reflected those on contemporary coins, and jetons were often minted under government authority. The only controls on the minting at Nuremburg were those imposed by the Guild organisation, and new designs flourished. Jetons are common finds on high status medieval sites, and the presence of two at Groby probably indicates that some form of accounting or book-keeping was taking place.

5.6.5 The latest coin recovered from the site was a corroded half penny of George IV (Trench 5 topsoil), struck between 1820 and 1830.

5.6.6 The small mixed assemblage from the Site can tell us little other than that both coins and jetons were in use on the Site throughout the medieval and into the post-medieval periods, as might be expected on a site of this nature. The recovery of a single anomalous Roman coin (along with the single Roman pottery sherd, see above) also hints at Roman activity in the vicinity.

Copper Alloy

5.6.7 The copper alloy objects include three buttons, two of them modern (demolition debris 302, Trench 5 topsoil), and one crudely made with two off-centre perforations, probably of earlier post-medieval date (occupation/abandonment deposit 719). Other objects comprise part of a small hooked clasp or mount (machining layer 604); a small strip fragment, possibly part of a strapend or belt fitting (Trench 5 topsoil); and a small ring with biconical cross-section, of unknown function (Trench 5 topsoil). None of these objects are chronologically distinctive.

Iron

5.6.8 The ironwork consists largely of nails (nine examples). Other identifiable objects comprise a large hinge, and a fork handle, probably from a two-tined fork. A large, flat ring (diameter 65mm, with a large central perforation) is of unknown function. None of the iron objects are chronologically distinctive, although the fork is unlikely to be earlier than late 17th century (Moore 1999, 187).

Lead

5.6.9 The lead consists largely of waste fragments (some molten) and offcuts. There are also small groups of discarded window cames, some twisted; one small section from machining layer (604) includes a small triangular glass quarry still *in situ*. Most are of the same form, with a simple H-profile; these appear to be of milled manufacture rather than cast (Knight 1985, type D), although one definite example of cast came was identified (Knight 1985, type A). The lead mill is thought to have been introduced in the mid 16th

century, although one example of a milled came was identified in a 15th century context at Battle Abbey, Sussex (Knight 1985, 156).

5.6.10 A few objects and possible objects were identified. This includes two complete shot (diameters 12mm and 14mm); both examples came from topsoil, in Trenches 2 and 3 respectively. One other piece, from machining layer (604), may be an impacted shot. A crude disc from Trench 6 topsoil may be a token; some faint detail is visible, including a possible off-centre cross on one face. A small, circular object from machining layer (604) could be a cloth seal. Two pieces may have some structural function; these are rectangular pieces that could have formed collars or plugs (topsoil in Trenches 5 and 6 respectively).

5.7 Animal Bone

Introduction

5.7.1 The assemblage comprises 568 fragments of animal bones; once refits are taken into account the total falls to 488 fragments. Approximately 80% of fragments were recovered by hand during the normal course of excavation; the rest, 119 fragments, were recovered from soil samples, but these were mainly small, undiagnostic fragments. In addition, small animal and fish bone fragments (unquantified) were noted in the flots from processed soil samples (see below, **6.2.3**).

5.7.2 Animal bone was recovered from 32 separate contexts, mostly (*c*. 67%) of medieval date, although the post-medieval period produced the most bone (249 fragments).

Methodology

5.7.3 The following information was recorded, were applicable/possible: species, skeletal element, preservation, fusion, ageing data, butchery marks, gnawing, burning, pathology as well as any non-metric traits. This information was recorded directly into a relational database, in MS Access and cross-referenced with contextual information.

Results

Preservation and condition

5.7.4 Bone preservation was recorded on a 1 (good) to 4 (poor) scale; bone from fewer than half the contexts was recorded as being in category 2 (fair). Bone preservation is consistent within single contexts, which suggests that there is little residual animal bone present.

5.7.5 In total 31 burnt bone fragments were identified from three contexts (302, 502 and 706), and most (28 fragments) were recovered from floor surface (706), but the fragments are very small (<20mm) and unidentifiable. It is likely that the burnt material is the result of normal cooking and/or the deliberate disposal of waste onto an open fire.

5.7.6 Gnawing was noted on nine bones, and this indicates that the majority of bones were buried relatively quickly after being deposited, making them inaccessible to scavengers. Butchery marks were noted on 20 fragments.

Species representation

5.7.7 Just under half (*c*. 46%) of the fragments are identifiable to species level, a reflection of the generally good preservation condition and low degree of fragmentation. The following list shows the species identified and their relative frequencies: cattle (<38%), sheep/goat (8%), pig (*c*.38%), horse (*c*.1%), dog (<1%), deer (<3%), bird (*c*.10%), fish (<1%) and cat (<1%).

5.7.8 The assemblage is quantified in **Table 5** by the number of identified specimens present (NISP) by period. In addition the number of unidentified fragments is also listed.

Animal bone from selected contexts

5.7.9 Context (604) (an unstratified machining layer) produced the remains of a calf (27 fragments). The bones are mostly from the extremities of the animal (i.e. head and feet). The following elements are present: metacarpals and metatarsals, radius, carpals, scapulae, and skull fragments). It is unclear whether or not these remains represent the burial of a complete animal that was only partly recovered during the excavation or if the bones represent waste material from the skinning of a calf.

5.7.10 Demolition debris 623 produced the remains of a large immature pig aged 1½ to *c.*2 years. In total 78 fragments of the animal were recovered, mostly bones from forelimbs and the torso. The large size of the pig is likely to reflect a number of factors in the development of pig breeds in the post-medieval period, during the 'Agricultural Revolution'. The increase in size during this period is a reflection of the introduction of much larger stock to improve the breeds for meat production (Albarella *et al* 2009, 72-3). This size increase also meant that pigs could be culled at a younger age (Albarella 1997, 26).

5.8 Marine Shell

5.8.1 The marine shell consists entirely of oyster, and includes both left and right valves, i.e. both preparation and consumption waste.

5.9 Potential and further recommendations

5.9.1 The finds assemblage recovered from the Site is relatively small, and is dominated by pottery, animal bone and building material (both ceramic and stone). Other material types occurred in insignificant quantities. A high proportion of the assemblage derived from demolition debris layers (this included most of the structural material), and can therefore be regarded as redeposited; very little can be regarded as being found *in situ*, and this largely comprises pottery and animal bone. The archaeological potential of the assemblage is correspondingly limited.

5.9.2 Chronological information has been gained from the pottery; this has demonstrated activity within four medieval and early post-medieval phases (12th to mid 16th century), with the suggestion that the latest of these phases (late 15th to mid 16th century) relates to demolition activity rather than inhabitation. The pottery has also served to demonstrate that the medieval inhabitants of the Site had wide-ranging contacts; their status is less easy to ascertain from their portable material culture since, apart from the pottery (which includes glazed tablewares but only one imported vessel)

the only other datable medieval and early post-medieval artefacts are two coins and two jetons, and a glass vessel. The latter object is a rare and interesting survival. The building materials, however, provide an indication of a substantial building with decorative stonework and floor tiles, roofed in stone.

5.9.3 A limited amount of economic information has been obtained from the faunal assemblage, but most contexts produced only small quantities of bone, and this means that the assemblage has limited potential for intra-site comparison. The most interesting aspect of the assemblage is the large size of the partial pig skeleton from Trench 6, but the fact that it is an isolated example means that there is little potential for further analysis.

5.9.4 Further analysis of the finds assemblage is not proposed; the various material types have already been recorded in some detail, and all data are included in the project archive. The information presented here could be incorporated in the proposed summary publication; this should include quantified pottery data to support the site phasing. The glass vessel should be illustrated.

5.10 Discard policy

5.10.1 Given the large quantity of building material recovered, both ceramic and stone, and the largely repetitive nature of certain categories (ceramic bricks, roofing slates), a discard policy has been formulated, with the agreement of both English Heritage and the recipient museum.

5.10.2 A few selected ceramic bricks will be retained; these will comprise the single example of a rubbed brick, as well as those fragments with surviving measurable dimensions. All other bricks have been discarded.

5.10.3 A small selection of roofing slates has been made for retention, giving a representative sample of the gradation of sizes. All other slates have been discarded.

5.10.4 The discard policy is fully documented within the archive records.

6 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Six bulk samples were taken from features encountered during excavation and were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals. Deposits sampled included possible buried soils sealed beneath a bank (205, 208, 214), a charcoal rich floor layer (706), and the fill of two small features (314) and (709).

6.1.2 Bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified (**Table 6**) to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood

charcoal remains. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).

6.2 Charred Plant Remains and Charcoal

6.2.1 The flots were variable in size and content. There were few intrusive elements such as recent seeds or roots and it is likely that the deposits were fairly well sealed. A small number of charred cereal remains were identified. Occasional wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grain tended to be short and rounded, typical of free-threshing varieties. The presence of free-threshing wheat is confirmed by two rachis segments, including one sufficiently well preserved to be identified as bread wheat type (*Triticum aestivum* type). Barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) was also identified on the basis of grain. A single pea or fodder vetch (*Pisum sativum/Vicia sativa*) was present within feature (314). Fragments of hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana*) are likely to derive from food waste. Hazelnut shell was more numerous in a sample taken from floor surface (706). A small weed flora was recovered which included most commonly seeds of vetches/tares (*Vicia/Lathyrus*), brome grass (*Bromus* sp.). Also noted were seeds of corn cockle (*Agrostemma githago*), fat hen/goosegrass (Chenopodiaceae). While most samples produced no, or only occasional weed seeds, a collection of more than 30 such seeds were recovered from the fill of feature (314). It is possible that this deposit contains fire debris which included small amounts of cereal processing waste.

6.2.2 Charcoal was present in most samples in small quantities, of which oak (*Quercus* sp.) was clearly dominant. In contrast a large amount of charcoal (>550ml) was recovered from possible buried soil (214). This well preserved deposit appeared to consist largely of oak charcoal and included occasional roundwood fragments. Useful amounts of charcoal (>80ml) were also recovered from floor surface (706), again mostly oak.

6.2.3 Occasional fish bone and small animal bone were noted in samples from features (314) and (709), and from surface (706). The fish bone is likely to represent food waste.

6.3 Discussion

6.3.1 The samples examined appear to contain evidence for both routine refuse disposal and burning events, as well as at least one more significant episode of burning. Free-threshing bread type wheat and barley are typical of the medieval and post-medieval periods. The small number of grains recovered are likely to derive from accidental losses of grain. Grain might be burnt with chaff and weed seeds as waste following cereal processing if removed from the prime grain either by accident or deliberately if damage or immature. Occasional grains might also be burnt during roasting prior to milling, or in bread ovens if used to facilitate the movement of bread loaves in and out of the ovens. The small number of chaff items and weed seeds would suggest that most cereal processing had taken place prior to grain entering the Site, although in the absence of large grain deposits this is not possible to demonstrate. A slightly larger deposit of weed seeds was recovered from feature (314) which may represent cereal cleaning waste, although the number of items is still limited. The weed flora was limited but did include corn cockle (*Agrostemma githago*) a troublesome weed of medieval arable

fields, the seed of which is highly toxic if consumed in quantity, but was a common contaminant of processed cereal grain. All the weed seeds are large types (brome grass, vetches, corn cockle) which are typical contaminants of processed grain, remaining with the grain due to the similarity of size. Fish bone, where present in the samples, is likely to derive from food waste.

6.3.2 Two deposits produced more substantial flots, largely composed of charcoal. The sample from buried soil (214) consisted almost entirely of charcoal with 550ml of charcoal greater than 2mm (total flot volume was 700ml). The assemblage included large pieces of oak (*Quercus* sp.) and occasional round wood. No other charred material was noticed in this sample. The context from which this sample was taken consisted of a buried soil, within which flecks of charcoal were dispersed with one area of concentrated charcoal. The sample was taken from this concentrated area. The soil layer was sealed by bank material (213). Presumably this concentration of charcoal was derived from a single burning event or deposit. The preservation of the material was good and clean, while large pieces remained intact, which would be consistent with a single *in situ* burning event rather than the scooped out contents of a hearth. It is not possible to speculate on the nature of this event, although it could have involved a wooden structure of some sort or simply odd pieces burnt as a fire. A second deposit from a floor surface (context 706) also contained a good sized charcoal deposit (80ml of >2mm charcoal), again mostly of oak (*Quercus* sp.). This deposit also contained in excess of 60 fragments of hazelnut shell and occasional cereal grains and fish bone. Again the charcoal was observed on site to be concentrated in certain areas which would be consistent with separate burning events or burnt objects. The abundance of oak within the charcoal assemblage as a whole would indicate the ready availability of oak on the site, possibly derived from structural timbers or furniture as well as collected for firewood.

6.4 Potential and further recommendations

6.4.1 No further work is recommended for these samples, although the nature of the flots is of use in terms of the interpretation of the deposits from which they were recovered.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The geophysical survey seems to show a series of ranges around a courtyard just to the north-east of the existing buildings of Groby Old Hall. However, the archaeology uncovered in the trenches reveals a much more complex series of structures. Indeed, some of the variation in depth to which structures are visible on the ground penetrating radar survey may be a reflection of this.

7.2 Pre-conquest activity

7.2.1 Apart from one sherd of residual Roman pottery and a late Roman coin, no other traces of any pre-medieval activity on the Site were encountered during this evaluation. Despite being mentioned in Domesday (1086), and speculation by Creighton (1997, 24-5) that the stone tower within the motte

may be Late Saxon, no evidence of any pre-conquest manor or defences was found.

7.3 11th-13th century activity

7.3.1 Nichols (1811, 631) cites references to the castle being slighted and overthrown by Henry II in 1176. Later authors have taken the obvious disturbance to the northern edge of the motte to be the result of this activity, (see for example Creighton 1997, 22), but this was clearly identified in Trench 1 as the result of post-medieval quarrying activity. The evidence for the destruction of the keep in the late 12th century is at best ambiguous. There is a reference to 'Tourhulle', presumably Tower Hill, in a 1343 document (Creighton 1997, 22) and the 1371 document in the Calendar of Close Rolls (for transcript see Farnham 1928, 211-12) also mentions a garden by this name, and this does suggest the survival of a structure on the motte into the late 14th century. John Leland writing in the mid 16th century describes the motte with 'no stone work apon it' indicating its demolition by this time (Smith 1907, 17-18).

7.3.2 The construction of the keep structure as seen in the evaluation trenches (and in the 1960s excavation) was an ambitious project. The ground appears to have been carefully chosen to correspond with an outcrop of bedrock, and the structure constructed directly on this foundation. What was not clear in the 1960s was the presence of the outer wall (410); although the north-eastern face was exposed by the staircase, the original excavation trench did not extend far enough to the south-west to locate the other face. Consequently, the walls of the keep were seen as being insubstantial, the outer wall was identified as a later rubble revetment and the motte was therefore concluded to be later than the keep. The picture which now emerges is of a larger outer wall around a thinner inner wall. Though there is no clear stratigraphic relationship between the two walls, they abut each other and the steps keyed into the outer wall lead to the doorway in the inner wall. The simplest explanation is that they are part of the same construction. The walls would most probably have been constructed up to the height of the first storey before the motte was constructed around the lower storey, making this then a basement (R. Morriss *pers. comm.*). It is not clear how high the outer wall extended, as both walls appear to have been demolished to a similar level, but the presence of a ground floor doorway identified in the 1960s in the south-east face of the inner wall could suggest that the outer wall did not ever extend beyond the basement level.

7.3.3 There is no real reason to suppose that this is a 12th century building, and it could just as well be a 13th century construction, intended to replace a structure destroyed by Henry II in the late 12th century with a bold symbol of prestige and status.

7.3.4 The 1960s excavators believed that they had identified a large ditch immediately at the base of the motte on the northern side with a bank on its outer edge, although this is the side with the quarrying disturbance and a depression can be seen skirting the base of the motte on the eastern side as well. The 1960s trench also identified later terracing at the base of the motte and a possible later, slighter ditch in the partially filled hollow of the motte ditch. The outer ditch in the 1960s excavation trench is likely to be the continuation of ditch (211) in Trench 2, and this feature is likely to form part

of the sub-oval enclosure indicated on the 1757 map (**Figure 2, Plate 1**). No direct dating was obtained for this feature, but the upper levels cut through a buried soil containing 12th to 14th century pottery. Its relationship to the motte cannot be proved, but it may well have been the original bailey ditch later re-used and possibly modified.

7.3.5 The majority of the 12th to 14th century pottery from the Site came from Trench 3. Feature (319) cut through a buried soil (316) which contained 12th/13th century material while the fill of small feature (314) contained 13th/14th century pottery. Neither of these features was fully seen in plan but both clearly pre-dated walls (326) and (323). This gives a *terminus post quem* for the earlier walls in this trench. Much of the lower deposits within Trenches 5 and 6 remained unexcavated, although some residual 12th century pottery was obtained from Trench 5.

7.3.6 Indications of earlier features pre-dating masonry structures were also found in Trench 7, in the form of three postholes suggestive of timber structures. Two of these cut through a beaten earth floor and one pre-dated it; although no direct dating evidence was obtained from any of these features, the layer directly above the second phase of postholes contained 13th/14th century pottery, thus providing a *terminus ante quem* for the floor. This all suggests that a building stood in this area prior to the masonry structure, and a sequence of occupation and activity is suggested by the presence of charcoal within the floor layer.

7.4 13th to late 15th century activity (early phase)

7.4.1 The focus of the Site at this period seems to have been a series of ranges around a central courtyard, forming a manorial complex. However, there are different responses at different depths within the GPR dataset and, except within Trench 8, at least two phases of masonry walls were uncovered within all the other trenches within the manorial complex (Trenches 3, 5, 6 and 7). None of these trenches were fully excavated to the earliest deposits due to a desire to leave structures *in situ*, but the evidence from Trench 3 does suggest a *terminus post quem* of the 13th/14th century for the earliest phase of walling. It must noted, however, that the earliest structural phases within each trench may not all be contemporaneous, as there is no stratigraphic evidence to relate them to each other.

7.4.2 A dower document of 1371 clearly indicates that there were a large number of buildings on the Site by the late 14th century (Farnham 1928, 211-12). It is not possible to pinpoint exactly the location of the structures mentioned in the dower document, but some inferences can be made. Listed first is the great chamber called the ‘whit chambre’ - this has a cellar beneath and two chambers abutting it to the north. The document also refers to chambers above the door to the wine cellar. The results of the watching brief undertaken along the churchyard wall (ULAS 2009b) suggested that the south-western range had a lower level or undercroft, and this idea is supported by the architectural elements still visible in the upstanding remains (R. Morriss *pers. comm.).* The fieldwork also confirmed that the keep had a basement level, although the document does suggest a building with a larger footprint. ‘Whit’ (?white) may indicate that this structure was externally rendered. What the dower document does make clear is the

presence of outbuildings such as a forge and dovecot in addition to the main structures.

7.4.3 The description of the chapel as 'old' in this document implies it had been standing sometime prior to 1371 and perhaps before the some of the other structures listed. The reference to a 'cloister' to the south of the chapel accords well with the courtyard structure seen, and it is possible that the alignment and layout of the buildings was originally defined by the alignment of the chapel.

7.4.4 The earliest structural phases identified in Trenches 5 and 6 (walls 523 and 606) correspond to the north-eastern and south-western walls of a postulated north-east range. A sherd of 14th to 16th century pottery in a later levelling later against (606) provides a *terminus ante quem.* The GPR data shows a buttressed wall line to the north-east wall at a depth of around 1.2-1.6m, and the south-west wall line is poorly defined at this depth. The buttressing may suggest a two-storey structure. Also at this depth are some responses to the immediate south-east where the chapel is thought to lie. No definite responses for a north-western range can be seen at this depth but a north-east – south-west wall line can be seen at a depth of 0.80-1.2m. Wall (524) butts against (523) which continues on this alignment before being truncated by later walling.

7.4.5 Also within this earlier phase is the north-west wall of the south-east range. Wall (323) has only one course remaining with no suggestion of an undercroft, and this does not equate with the results from the watching brief (ULAS 2009b) or with the appearance of the remaining upstanding wall. Masonry structures (326) and (324) did, however, continue deeper although no relationship between these three contexts could be established. Given the distance of 5.6m between the two walls established in the watching brief, it seems most likely that either (326) or (324) marks the continuation of this wall. Wall (323) seems therefore to relate to a structure just to the north of the south-west range. It is not clear whether the wall line established by the watching brief and (326)/(324) is related to the upstanding wall since the latter wall turns to the south-east. Alternatively, it could be a buttress or porch, and either (326) or (324) could represent a corresponding feature on the other side. The window and door mouldings confirm the north-east elevation as the interior of the building.

7.4.6 It is not clear whether there was a south-eastern range. Although some responses were obtained during the GPR survey it was not clear whether these were archaeological or related to more modern garden features. A range of buildings here would be very close to the later upstanding building, and although the reference to a 'cloister' does imply an enclosed area this was not necessarily enclosed by buildings on all sides.

7.4.7 Although direct dating was not available for any of these structures, later deposits provide a *terminus ante quem* of late 15th/16th century for the later phase of walling.

7.5 13th to late 15th century activity (later phase)

7.5.1 In Trench 5 a third phase of building can be seen, in the construction of a large canted bay window, suggesting that the north-west range had a more

prestigious than utilitarian function. The section of floor seen in the watching brief (2009b) supports this idea, although floor and window may relate to different phases. The presence of such a window suggests that this is the high end of the hall, leading to the private chambers of the north-east range, and leading from there to the manorial chapel (R. Morriss *pers. comm.)*. The chapel is known to have been still standing and in use in 1446, as a dispensation was applied for at that time to have a child christened there rather than in the parish church at Ratby (ULAS 2009a).

7.5.2 Wall (607) extends to the north-east as a later addition to wall (606) before turning to the south-east. The GPR data suggests that this wall line may also continue to the south-west of (606), forming a much wider structure than the earlier building. The similar detailing of the profiles of the chamfered plinths of both walls (607) and (803) seems to suggest that they are of the same phase. It is not possible to be sure whether (803) is part of the 'oldechapele' mentioned in the 1371 dower document, but it does seem to fit better with a later phase of building than this. Trench 6 did include a number of pieces of architectural mouldings of fine sandstone, similar to that used in the upstanding wall but generally more elaborate in detail, and although not closely datable these would be consistent with a 14th century date (R, Morriss *pers. comm.).*

7.5.3 Although two phases of walling were seen in Trench 7, the earliest (723) contains a fragment of brick, indicating that this and the main north-west – south-east wall (717) are later than late 15th century. This may also indicate modification or rebuilding in the area of the 'oldechapele'.

7.5.4 The later wall (335) added to the south-eastern end of wall (323) is much narrower but does seem to imply the continued use of at least the north-east face of this wall. There are no defined trends in the GPR data to suggest where this wall leads or what it relates to.

7.6 Late 15th to 16th century activity

7.6.1 The building assessment assigns a late 15th century date to the existing Grade II* listed brick house, based on a reference by John Leland attributing the construction to the first Marquis of Dorset and his son (ULAS 2009b, 5). However, Leland also indicates that these buildings were not yet finished in the mid 16th century. The passage also makes reference to some of the 'older works' there constructed by the Ferrars family but implies that much had been demolished or superseded. Clearly the focus of the buildings and activity shifted to the south-east at this point in time. Reuse of green sandstone blocks was noted in the 16th century cross-range (ULAS 2009b), and the systematic robbing of the facing of wall (606) may be a possible source of these.

7.6.2 In general the evidence suggests that the courtyard complex was predominantly demolished in the late 15th or 16th century. Dumps of roofing slate in Trenches 3 and 6 suggest reclamation and controlled demolition of the buildings rather than mere abandonment. This would accord well with an ambitious planned construction of a new set of buildings in brick and therefore the demolition of the old-fashioned and soon to be redundant stone buildings.

7.6.3 A reference cited by Nichols (1811, 631) suggests the ditches around the motte were infilled in the early 16th century in order for a garden to be constructed, and this seems to have been part of the general rebuilding work. The evidence from Trench 2 certainly shows that ditch (211) was deliberately backfilled with stone rubble which could well be the unwanted stone waste from demolition. The western part of the trench shows four possible phases of landscaping in this area. Earthworks to the north of the motte may well also relate to garden features.

7.7 16th to 18th century activity

7.7.1 Despite the Leland reference (Smith 1907, 17) to the demolition of the keep, a tall building with a pitched roof is clearly shown on the 1757 map on the summit of the motte (**Figure 2, Plate 1**). An engraving in Nichols (1811, 634) dated to 1790 shows a squat and substantial structure on top of the motte, although in contrast to the map no pitched roof is visible (**Figure 2, Plate 2**). Neither Trenches 1 and 4, nor the earlier excavation, found any evidence of a later structure, although Davison in the 1960s did suggest that the apparently flat and level top to the inner wall could provide a base for a timber superstructure. The 1790 engraving also shows the ruined chapel with the south-west corner largely surviving. Apart from the known upstanding remains, no other structures are visible, although the mid-ground shows a number of suggestive lumps in the field. At the far right of the picture is the boundary wall shown on the 1757 map, confirming that the south-eastern extent of this was a low wall. The upstanding part today is likely to be the portion visible just beyond the gate. It is not clear whether the south-eastern part of the wall was ever more than a boundary feature. However, the incorporation of sandstone quoins into the brick tower to the south-east implies that this feature pre-dates the late 15th century building phase (ULAS 2009b, 7).

7.7.2 In the background of the engraving the house is shown, confirming that the brick towers and cross-range are largely as they appear today.

7.8 Conclusions

7.8.1 Although limited in its extent, this evaluation has demonstrated the complexity of the sequence of buildings that has stood on this Site, and confirmed its significance as one of the most extensive manorial complexes in the county. Initially the focus of occupation was the defensive motte and bailey ditch, but by the 14th century the focus had shifted to the south-west where a number of buildings were arranged around a central courtyard area. These were probably largely dismantled in the late 15th or early 16th century when a grand new brick structure began to be built to the south-west.

7.8.2 This project particularly highlighted the value and use of GPR survey in conjunction with excavation.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1.1 An online OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) entry will be created for this evaluation and its findings and submitted to the website.

8.1.2 Given the relatively small scale of the Time Team evaluation, and the level of information already recorded for stratigraphic, artefactual and environmental data, no further analysis of the results is proposed, although specialist comment on the possible medieval glass vessel will be sought, and this vessel should be illustrated.

8.1.3 The results of the Time Team evaluation are, however, of local significance, and it is recommended that they are published as a summary report, with accompanying figures, to be submitted to the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*. The results of the 1962-3 excavation by Brian Davison would also be incorporated into the summary report, subject to separate funds being made available.

8.1.4 The summary report, which would be based on the information presented in the current report, would be in the region of 3000 words of narrative text, with two or three accompanying plans. Artefactual and environmental information would be integrated into the narrative text as appropriate.

9 ARCHIVE

9.1.1 The project archive, which includes plans, photographs and written records, artefacts and ecofacts, and digital data, is currently held at the Wessex Archaeology offices under the project code 74151. It is intended that the archive should ultimately be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museums Service (under the accession code **X.A43.2010**), and the archive will be prepared following guidelines for 'The transfer of archaeological archives to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service' (3rd ed., 2007).

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Table 1: Finds totals by material type and by trench (number / weight in grammes)

Material	Tr 1	Tr 2	Tr 3	Tr 4	Tr 5	Tr 6	Tr 7	Tr 8	unstrat	Total
Pottery	3/65	40/605	28/421	3/62	123/3686	12/153	7/126	6/158	-	222/5276
Ceramic Building Material	-	23/8544	65/10725	1/27	71/17295	6/2270	9/270	2/125	3/1603	180/40,859
Mortar	-	-	28/595	-	13/247	7/67	-	-	-	48/909
Stone	-	2/541	25/11,162	-	75/50,974	27/51,820	1/70	-	-	130/114,567
Flint	1/11	2/15	-	-	-	1/5	-	-	-	4/31
Glass	-	1/4	-	-	15/59	8/30	1/3	-	-	25/96
Metalwork	1	10	10	-	57	79	2	-	-	159
Coins	-	-	*1*	-	*2*	*3*	-	-	-	*6*
Copper Alloy	-	-	*2*	-	*3*	*1*	*1*	-	-	*7*
Lead	-	*6*	*2*	-	*49*	*74*	*1*	-	-	*132*
Iron	*1*	*4*	*5*	-	*3*	*1*	-	-	-	*14*
Animal Bone	9/91	54/514	129/265	2/86	146/2371	160/1883	68/584	-	-	568/5794
Shell	-	-	1/3	-	35/238	5/39	-	-	-	41/280

Table 2: Pottery totals by fabric type

Fab Code	Leics fabric	Description	Date	No. sherds	Wt. (g)	EVE
F1000	EA10	Modern earthenwares, 1800+	1800+	11	261	-
F1001	-	Residual Romano-British greyware	RB	1	12	-
F205	ST	Stamford ware, 900-1150	900-1150	2	6	0
F299	CC1	Nuneaton 'A' ware, AD1200-1400	1200-1400	3	23	0
F300	CC2	Chilvers Coton 'C' ware, 1200-1475	1200-1475	12	145	0.10
F301	PM	Potter's Marston ware, 1100-1300	1100-1300	56	793	0.82
F330	LY4	Shelly wares, 1100-1400	1100-1400	1	9	0
F401	MP1	Chilvers Coton 'D' Ware. late 14th – 16th C	L14th – 16th C	92	3349	1.38
F402	-	Bourne D ware	*c.*1450-1637	6	75	0
F404	CW2	Cistercian ware, 1475-1550	1475-1550	20	280	0.33
F406	MA2	Martincamp Stoneware, L15th – 17th C	L15th – 17th C	5	34	0
F414	EA3	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled ware, 1680-1750	1680-1750	1	5	-
F426	EA6	Post-medieval Blackwares, late 17th century +	17th C +	9	269	-
F438	SW5	English Brown Salt-Glazed Stoneware, 1700+	1700+	3	15	-
		TOTALS		222	5276	2.63

Table 3: Ceramic phase-dating scheme and pottery occurrence per phase

CP	Date Range	Defining Wares	No Sherds	Wt	EVE
CP1	12th C	LY4, PM	9	154	0.27
CP2	13th – L 14th C	CC1, CC2	48	696	0.14
CP3	L 14th – L 15th C	MP1	12	263	0.47
CP4	L 15th – M 16th C	CW2, MA2	106	3348	1.71
PMED	L 17th – M 18th C	EA3, EA6, SW5	21	298	0
MOD	M 18th C +	EA10	25	486	0

Table 4: Pottery occurrence per phase by fabric type, expressed as a percentage of the phase assemblage

CP	ST	PM	LY4	CC1	CC2	MP1	F402	MA2	CW2	PMED	Total Wt
CP1	1.3	92.9	5.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	154
CP2	0	82.8	0	3.3	13.9	-	-	-	-	-	696
CP3	0	18.6	0	0	3.8	77.6	-	-	-	-	263
CP4	0.1	0	0.6	0	0.3	88.3	2.2	1.0	7.5	-	3348
PMED	0	0	0	0	4.4	53.3	0	0	7.7	34.6	298
MOD	0	1.0	0	0	3.1	0	0	0	1.4	92.0	486

Shaded cells = residual

Table 5: Number of identified specimens present (NISP) by period

Species	Medieval	Post Medieval	Undated
Cattle	16	67	2
Sheep/goat	6	11	1
Pig	1	83	2
Horse	1	1	1
Dog	1		
Deer	1	5	
Bird	9	15	
Fish	1		
Cat			1
Unidentified	120	81	62
Total	**156**	**263**	**69**

Table 6: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Samples				Flot							
Feature	**Context**	**Sample**	**Litres**	**Flot (ml)**	**% roots**	**Grain**	**Chaff**	**Charred other**	**Seeds**	**Charcoal >4/2mm**	**Other**
Buried soil	205	1000	18	50	30	2x *Triticum*	-	5xHazel	-	8/4 oak	-
Buried soil	208	1001	14	20	10	1xindet	1x*Triticum*	3xHazel	1x*Chenop*	2/1 mixed	Coal
314 posthole/pit?	313	1002	9	60	-	2x*Triticum* 1xindet	1x*T.aestivum*	1xHazel 1xVicia/Pisum	30+ *Vic/Lath*, *Bromus*, *Agrostemma*	5/2 oak	Fish sab
Buried soil	214	1003	16	700	-	-	-	-	-	350/200 Large frags oak, roundwood	
Floor surface	706	1004	7	260	-	4x*Triticum*	-	60+xHazel	-	20/60 mostly oak	Fish
709 posthole	722	1005	2.5	60	-	1x*Hordeum* 2xindet	-	5xHazel	1x*Bromus* 1x*Malva* min	5/15	Fish sab egg

Key:
Hazel= hazelnut shell fragments; min = mineralised seed
sab = small animal/fish bones, egg = eggshell fragments

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

bgl = below ground level

TRENCH 1			**Type:** Machine excavated	
Dimensions: 6.36x3.56m		**Max. depth:** 1.95m	**Ground level:** 96.31-99.56m aOD	
Context	**Description**			**Depth (m)**
101	*Topsoil*	Modern topsoil. Mid brown sandy silty clay. Homogenous; moderately compact; bioturbated. Humic; 1% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Under turf; fairly clean interface with (102) and (104). Overlies (102).		0.00-0.13 bgl
102	*Subsoil*	Modern subsoil, poorly developed. Mid red-brown clay. Homogenous; moderately compact; bioturbated. 2% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-4cm. Slightly diffuse interface with (103) and (106). Seen only at top of motte. Overlies (106) and (107).		0.13-0.27 bgl
103	*Layer*	Deliberate deposit, motte constructed around wall (105). Mid red clay. 8% stone, sub-angular – angular, <1-8cm. Frequent mortar flecks. Compact; some bioturbation. Butts wall (105). Cut by **(110)**.		2.00+ high
104	*Layer*	Weathered and tumbled material overlying wall (105), derived from wall (105). Mid brown sandy silty clay. 60% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, 6-28cm. Moderately compact; some bioturbation. Overlies wall (105).		0.18 deep
105	*Masonry*	Stone built north-east – south-west aligned wall. Outer wall of keep. Roughly squared granite blocks, in courses. Pale pink-orange lime mortar, 15% chalk, <1-2cm. Irregular jointing; granite rubble core. Overlies (109).		2.60 high
106	*Deposit*	Deliberate backfill of quarry cut **(110)**. Mid red brown silty clay. 5% stone, sub-angular – angular, <1-10cm. Compact; fairly homogeneous; bioturbated. Overlies (111).		1.85+ deep
107	*Layer*	Accumulation of material in void of demolished wall (105). Mid brown-grey sandy silty clay. 8% stone, sub-angular, <1-6cm. Rare mortar flecks. Some bioturbation. Moderately loose and friable. Overlies (104).		0.19 deep
108	*Natural*	Natural regolith overlying granite bedrock. Pale yellow-brown sandy loam. 80% granite, sub-angular, 8-28cm.		2.06+ bgl
109	*Layer*	Rubble foundation of wall (105). Mid red clay. 80% granite, sub-angular – angular, 10-25cm.		0.25+ deep
110	***Cut***	**Crescent-shaped cut into north side of mottle. Filled with (106) and (111). Steep, virtually straight sides; base not reached. At least 3.5m long and over 3.92m wide. Cuts (103).**		**2.00+ deep**
111	*Deposit*	Primary fill of quarry cut **(110)**, tumbled loose material down edges of quarry cut. Mid red silt clay. 8% stone, sub-angular, 2-12cm. Occasional mortar flecks. Fairly compact; slightly mixed. Overlies **(110)**.		0.35 deep

TRENCH 2			**Type:** Machine excavated	
Dimensions: 30.10x1.10m		**Max. depth**: 1.42m	**Ground level:** 89.66-92.02m aOD	
Context	**Description**			**Depth (m)**
201	*Topsoil*	Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown sandy clay. 1% stone, sub-angular –sub-rounded, <1-5cm. Moderately compact; bioturbated; homogeneous. Under turf; slightly diffuse interface with (202).		0.00-0.20 bgl
202	*Subsoil*	Modern subsoil; undeveloped. Discontinuous, not seen across whole trench. Mid red clay. 1% stone sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Compact; fairly homogeneous; bioturbated. Overlies (209).		0.18-0.28 bgl
203	*Layer*	Bank/terrace deposit. Mid red clay. Includes occasional degraded green sandstone mottles and rare green sandstone fragments.		0.68 deep

		Compact; no visible bioturbation. Overlies (204).	
204	*Layer*	Possible bank deposit. Mid yellow-grey clay. 20% stone, sub-angular, 2-18cm. Some bioturbation; moderately compact. Overlies (205).	0.43 deep
205	*Layer*	Buried soil. Pale brown clay. 8% stone, sub-angular, 2-6cm. Occasional charcoal flecks. Compact; fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation. Sample 1000. Clear interface with (212). Overlies (212).	0.37 deep
206	-	VOID	-
207	*Layer*	Possible bank deposit. Mid red clay. 1% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Very occasional mid yellow green mottling. Some bioturbation; compact. Clean interface with (208). Overlies (208).	0.53 deep
208	*Layer*	Buried soil. Mid brown clay. 6% stone, sub-angular, 5-15cm. Occasional charcoal flecks. Compact; fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation. Sample 1001. Fairly clear interface with (203). Overlies (203) and (216).	0.36 deep
209	*Layer*	Possible levelling material which has settled into top of ditch. Mid red-brown clay. 20% greenstone fragments and mottles, <1-20cm. Fairly homogeneous but with some possible tiplines indicated by sandstone mottling. Compact; some bioturbation. Overlies (217).	0.60 deep
210	*Deposit*	Deliberate backfill of ditch **(211)**. Mid grey clay. 80% stone, sub-angular – angular, 2-25cm, slate slabs and granite blocks. Slightly mixed, very rubble rich deposit. Frequent small voids. Moderately compact; bioturbated. Not fully excavated.	0.42+ deep
211	***Cut***	**Cut of bailey ditch, filled with (210). North – south aligned. Very slightly convex sides, base not seen. Not fully excavated. 4.18m wide.**	**0.62+ deep**
212	*Natural*	Natural geology. Pale yellow grey sandy clay. Fairly homogeneous, some slight mottling. Compact. No visible inclusions.	0.58+ bgl
213	*Layer*	Bank material. Mid red brown clay. 15% stone, sub-angular, 3-8cm. Occasional charcoal flecks. Homogenous; some bioturbation; fairly compact. Clear interface with (214). Overlies (214).	0.44 deep
214	*Layer*	Buried soil. Mid brown silty clay. 8% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, 4-8cm. Occasional charcoal flecks, including concentrated area (sampled as 1003). Compact; fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation. Slightly diffuse interface with (215). Overlies (215).	0.33 deep
215	*Layer*	Remnant buried subsoil. Mid red-brown clay. 2% green sandstone, sub-angular, 4-5cm. Rare charcoal flecks. Some bioturbation; compact; fairly homogenous. Slightly diffuse interface with (216). Overlies (216).	0.09 deep
216	*Natural*	Natural geology. Mid red clay. Fairly homogeneous, some slight mottling. Compact. No visible inclusions.	0.70+ bgl
217	*Layer*	Possible upper secondary fill of **(211)** but may be levelling material which has later settled. Mid brown silty clay 10% stone, sub-angular, 4-10cm. Occasional charcoal flecks. Moderately compact; some bioturbation; fairly homogeneous. Clear interface with (210). Overlies (218).	0.36 deep
218	*Layer*	Mixed rubble layer on east edge of ditch **(211)**. Mid brown-red silty clay. 15% stone, sub-angular, 2-8cm. rare CBM fragments. Bioturbated; moderately compact. Overlies (210) and (213).	0.22 deep

TRENCH 3			**Type:**	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 3.20x3.04m		**Max. depth:** 0.99m	**Ground level:** 95.87-96.18m aOD	
Context	**Description**			**Depth**
301	*Topsoil*	Modern topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt loam. 1% stone, sub-angular		0.00-0.34

		– sub-rounded, <1-4cm. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation. Overlies (302) and (303).	bgl
302	*Layer*	Demolition debris. Dark brown slightly sandy silt loam. 15% stone, sub-angular –sub-rounded, <1-20cm. Occasional slate fragments and mortar flecks and fragments. Overlies (304).	0.20 deep
303	*Layer*	Demolition debris. Mid brown sandy silt. 5% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-8cm. Frequent mortar flecks and fragments, often in concentrations. Occasional slate fragments. Overlies (306) and (308).	0.27 deep
304	*Layer*	Possible trample or silting. Mid yellow-brown sandy silt. Abundant mortar flecks and fragments, matrix includes degraded mortar. Rare small slate fragments. Overlies (305).	0.12 deep
305	*Layer*	Possible deliberate deposit of roof slates. Up to 25cm in length, possibly the larger slates have been selectively removed. Possible rough surface. Built up against walls (323) and (325). Overlies (312).	0.03 deep
306	*Layer*	Discrete layer of pale pink-brown silt loam, matrix includes abundant degraded mortar. Similar to part of levelling event (307), possibly the same as (311). Overlies (331).	0.21 deep
307	*Layer*	Levelling or consolidation deposit, possible surface. Very compact. Pale pink-yellow mortar with granite and slate fragments, sub-angular – angular, 10-20cm. Overlies (325) and (320).	0.22+ deep
308	*Layer*	Silting/accumulated deposit. Mid brown sandy silt loam. 5% stone, sub-angular – angular, 2-6cm, mainly at upper context boundary. Occasional mortar flecks. Fairly compact. Overlies (311).	0.11 deep
309	*Layer*	Possible consolidation layer. Mid brown silty clay. 40% stone/flint, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-7cm. Fairly compact; fairly homogeneous. Possibly built up against (325).	0.16 deep
310	*Layer*	Possible trample layer. Mid brown sandy silty clay. 25% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-7cm. Compact; fairly homogeneous. Overlies (315).	0.10 deep
311	*Layer*	Discrete layer of pale pink-brown silt loam, matrix includes abundant degraded mortar. 25% stone, sub-angular, 6-10cm. Deliberate dump. Similar to levelling event (307), possibly the same as (306). Overlies (309).	0.05 deep
312	*Layer*	Possible trample or silting layer. Mid yellow-brown silty clay. 25% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-10cm. Compact; fairly homogeneous. Overlies (331).	0.17 deep
313	*Deposit*	Secondary fill of **(314)**. Mid yellow-brown sandy silt loam. <1% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Moderately loose and friable. Occasional charcoal flecks; contained domestic debris. Overlies **(314)**.	0.13 deep
314	***Cut***	**Cut of small feature pre-dating wall (323). Not fully seen in plan, sub-rectangular. Moderate, concave sides, flat base. Filled with (313). Cuts (329) and (330).**	**0.13 deep**
315	*Layer*	Mid pink-brown silty clay. 2% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Frequent chalky/mortar flecks. Moderately compact. Possibly equivalent to (317). Overlies (324).	0.07 deep
316	*Layer*	Buried soil. Mid yellow-brown silty clay. <1% stone, sub-angular, <1-3cm. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous. Cut by **(319)**. Overlies (322).	0.07 deep
317	*Layer*	Mid pink-brown silty clay. 2% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Frequent chalky/mortar flecks. Moderately compact. Possibly equivalent to (315). Cut by **(321)**. Overlies (318).	0.26 deep
318	*Deposit*	Deliberate backfill of **(319)**, possible levelling. Mid red-brown silty clay. 10% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-6cm. Compact. Overlies **(319)**.	0.15 deep

319	***Cut***	**Cut of feature pre-dating wall (325) and (326). Not fully seen in plan. Filled with (318). Cuts (316).**	**0.15 deep**
320	*Deposit*	Deliberate backfill of construction cut **(321)**. Dark brown silty clay. 5% stone, sub-angular, <1-5cm. Moderately loose. Overlies (326).	0.41 deep
321	***Cut***	**Possible construction cut for wall/masonry (326). Straight vertical sides. Only exposed on northern side. Base not seen. Filled with (320) and (326). Cuts (317).**	**0.41 deep**
322	*Natural*	Natural geology. Pale red-brown silty clay. Compact. Occasional manganese flecks.	0.96+ bgl
323	*Masonry*	Stone built north-west – south-east aligned wall. Green-sandstone faced, better faced on north-east side. Rubble core. Pale yellow-brown lime mortar. 1.2m wide. Only one course remaining. Overlies (333).	0.24 high
324	*Masonry*	Stone foundation, unclear whether wall or buttress; uncoursed and unfaced; heavily robbed. Granite rubble; mid pink-orange lime mortar. Overlies (316).	0.43 high
325	*Masonry*	Stone built north-west – south-east aligned wall. Granite faced blocks; rubble core; pale white-yellow lime mortar. Widely slobbered mortar, possible rendering. 0.70m wide. Overlies construction cut **(332)**.	0.33 high
326	*Masonry*	Possible wall remnant within construction cut **(321)**. Heavily robbed, very few facing stones seen. Not clear whether related to (323) or (324). Pale pink-orange mortar. Sub-angular granite cobbles. Overlies **(321)**.	0.41 high
327	*Layer*	Possible ground surface. Mid brown sandy silt clay. 10% stone, sub-angular, <1-8cm. Moderately compact. Overlies (313).	0.23 deep
328	*Layer*	Mid pink-brown sandy silt loam. Very compact. Abundant slate fragments. Possibly overlies (330) but relationship unclear. Unexcavated.	-
329	*Layer*	Discrete patch of pale red-brown silty clay. 2% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Occasional chalky/mortar flecks. Compact. Unexcavated. Cut by **(314)**.	-
330	*Layer*	Possible levelling or soil horizon. Mid red sandy silty clay. 5% stone and green-sandstone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, 2-8cm. Compact; fairly homogeneous. Unexcavated.	-
331	*Deposit*	Deliberate backfill of construction cut **(332)**. Mid yellow-brown sandy silty clay. 10% stone, sub-angular, <1-6cm. Overlies (325).	0.26 deep
332	***Cut***	**Construction cut for wall (325). Steep to moderate, uneven sides. Only seen on south-west side of wall and only in north-west part of sondage. Base not seen. Filled with (331) and (325). Cuts (307) and possibly (310).**	**0.33 deep**
333	*Layer*	Possible construction cut fill or ground preparation for wall (323). Mid brown sandy clay silt. 10% stone, sub-angular – angular, 2-8cm. Moderately compact. Overlies (327).	0.16 deep
334	*Layer*	Mortar and stone rubble. 60% granite fragments, sub-angular, 4-18cm. Pale yellow lime mortar. Moderately compact. Includes one large faced slab – probably architectural fragment. Deposit in western part of trench.	-

TRENCH 4			**Type:**	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 4.40x4.26m		**Max. depth:** 1.45m	**Ground level:** 99.09-99.40m aOD	
Context	**Description**			**Depth**
401	*Topsoil*	Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown silty clay. 1% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-6cm. Homogeneous; moderately compact; bioturbated. Directly under turf. Overlies (404).		0.00-0.19 bgl
402	*Layer*	Deliberate deposit, motte constructed around wall (410). Mid red		0.67+ deep

		clay. 15% stone, sub-angular – angular, <1-14cm. Occasional mortar flecks. Compact; some bioturbation. Butts wall (410). Cut by **(403)**.	
403	***Cut***	**Cut of 1960s excavation trench. Filled with (404). Straight, near vertical sides. Exposed (410). Cuts (402) and (405).**	**0.30 deep**
404	*Deposit*	Deliberate backfill of excavation trench **(403)**. Dark red-brown sandy clay. 5% stone, angular – sub-rounded, <1-40cm. Bioturbated. Composed of re-deposited topsoil and mound material. Moderately loose; slightly mixed. Overlies **(403)**.	0.30 deep
405	*Layer*	Backfilled material within interior of tower/keep. Mid red-brown sandy clay. 1% stone, angular – sub-angular, <1-2cm. Some bioturbation. Rare charcoal flecks. Compact; fairly homogeneous. Overlies (405).	1.50 deep
406	*Masonry*	Large irregular granite blocks in a sandy clay matrix used to block doorway. Faced on northern side. Partly removed in 1960s excavation. Overlies (408) and (411).	1.34 high
407	*Masonry*	Lower portion of inner wall of tower/keep. Visible at base of doorway. North-west – south-east aligned. Angular granite blocks in a pale yellow-orange sandy lime mortar. Sub-angular rubble core. 0.70m wide. Not fully exposed.	-
408	*Masonry*	Fined tooled, ashlar sandstone door jambs, associated with wall (409). Overlies (409).	0.20 high
409	*Masonry*	Upper portion of inner wall of tower/keep. North-west – south-east aligned. Angular granite blocks in a pale yellow-orange sandy lime mortar. Sub-angular rubble core. 0.70m wide. Overlies (407).	1.50+ high
410	*Masonry*	Stone built north-west – south-east aligned wall. Outer wall of tower/keep. Roughly squared granite blocks, in courses. Pale pink-orange lime mortar; 10% chalk flecks. Irregular jointing; granite rubble core.1.65m wide.	1.44+ high
411	*Layer*	Possible trample layer or accumulated deposit. Dark brown silty clay. 2% stone, sub-angular, 2-8cm. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous.	0.19 deep
412	*Masonry*	Staircase associated with/built into south-west face of wall (410). Made of large rectangular granite blocks in a pale pink-orange lime mortar. 0.70m wide.	1.44 high

TRENCH 5			**Type:**	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 6.04x5.54m	**Max. depth:** 0.85m		**Ground level:** 96.33-96.51m aOD	
Context	**Description**			**Depth**
501	*Topsoil*	Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown silty clay. <1% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Moderately compact; bioturbated. Under turf. Overlies (502), (506) (507) and (528).		0.00-0.20 bgl
502	*Layer*	Demolition debris. Mid grey-brown silty clay. <1% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Occasional slate, mortar and CBM fragments. Slightly mixed; fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation. Overlies (504).		0.25 deep
503	*Masonry*	South-west – north-east aligned wall, turns to the south-east apparently to form a canted bay window. Fine sandstone ashlar blocks, some fine tool-marks apparent. Pale pink-white lime mortar. Fine, regular jointing; granite rubble core. One course remaining built on slightly projecting plinth. 0.72m wide. Overlies (520), (533) and (534).		0.46 high
504	*Layer*	Demolition debris. Mid brown silty clay. <1% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Occasional slate, mortar and CBM fragments. More mortar towards base of deposit. Slightly mixed; fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation. Overlies (532).		0.35 deep

505	*Layer*	Material accumulated above level of plinth for (503) and against its south-east face. Mid brown-grey sandy silt loam. 5% stone, sub-angular, <1-2cm. Fairly homogeneous; moderately compact. Overlies (514).	0.23 deep
506	*Layer*	Demolition debris. Mid brown-grey silty clay. 2% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-6cm. Occasional slate and mortar fragments. Fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation. Overlies (509), (511), (515) and (516).	0.18 deep
507	*Layer*	Likely equal to (530). Number assigned to upper, excavated material. Demolition debris. Mid orange-brown silty clay. 8% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-12cm. Occasional mortar fragments. Slightly mixed with mid red-brown clay mottles. Some bioturbation. Overlies (530) and (508).	0.18 deep
508	*Masonry*	South-west – north-east aligned brick built drain. Constructed from re-used unfrogged bricks traces of pale pink lime mortar but mostly bonded with silty clay. Filled with (528). 0.80m wide. Overlies (527) and (530).	-
509	*Layer*	Demolition debris. Mid grey sandy silt loam. 10% stone, sub-angular, 5-10cm. Abundant roof slate fragments. Occasional CBM fragments. Fairly loose and slightly mixed. Overlies (519).	0.22 deep
510	***Cut***	**Possible pit. Apparently sub-oval, though full extent in plan not seen. Concave, moderate sides, not fully excavated. Length 1.7m+, width 1.2m+. Filled with (511), (512) and (513). Cuts (505).**	**0.46+ deep**
511	*Deposit*	Secondary fill of pit **(510)**. Mid orange-brown sandy silt loam. 2% stone, sub-angular - sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Common mortar flecks. Occasional CBM fragments. Fairly homogeneous; moderately compact. Overlies (512).	0.25 deep
512	*Deposit*	Secondary fill of pit **(510)**. Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam. 5% stone, sub-angular - sub-rounded, <1-8cm. Common mortar flecks. Rare CBM fragments. Slightly mixed; moderately compact. Overlies (513).	0.25+ deep
513	*Deposit*	Deliberate backfill of pit **(510)**. Mid orange-brown sandy silt loam. 40% stone, sub-angular - sub-rounded, <1-18cm. Occasional mortar flecks. Fairly homogeneous; moderately compact. Overlies **(510)**.	0.27+ deep
514	*Layer*	Possible levelling deposit. Mid grey-orange silty sand. Occasional small mortar fragments. Fairly compact; moderately homogeneous. Similar to (518). Apparently accumulated against footing of (503). Unexcavated.	-
515	*Layer*	Discrete deposit, likely dumped deposit. Mid yellow sand with degraded/crushed mortar, sandstone and CBM. Compact; very slightly mixed. Unexcavated. Overlies (517).	-
516	*Layer*	Discrete deposit, likely dumped deposit. Mid orange-brown sand with occasional degraded/crushed mortar. Mixed with mid brown mottling. Unexcavated. Overlies (517).	-
517	*Layer*	Area of burning/fire debris. Dark grey-black sandy silt loam. Very abundant charcoal. Moderately compact. Overlies (518) and (519).	-
518	*Layer*	Possible bedding/levelling deposit. Mid grey-orange silty sand. 2% stone, angular, <1-2cm. Occasional small mortar fragments, coarse. Fairly compact; moderately homogeneous. Similar to (514). Unexcavated.	-
519	*Layer*	Possible bedding/levelling deposit. Mid grey-brown silty sand. 2% stone, angular, <1-2cm. Occasional small mortar fragments and charcoal flecks. Fairly compact; moderately homogeneous. Unexcavated.	-
520	*Layer*	Possible bedding or construction layer for wall (503). Crushed	-

		sandstone, sand and mortar. Rare slate fragments. Compact. Unexcavated.	
521	***Cut***	**Construction cut for wall footing (534). Vertical straight sides. Only partly excavated. 0.68m wide. Cuts (524).**	**-**
522	***Cut***	**Construction cut for wall footing (523). Only south-west edge exposed. Not excavated. Cuts (518).**	**-**
523	*Masonry*	North-west – south-east aligned wall. Sub-angular granite facing blocks. Pale pink-white lime mortar; irregular jointing; granite rubble core. Width unknown. Overlies **(522)**.	0.30 high
524	*Masonry*	South-west – north-east possible wall. Sub-angular granite facing blocks. Pale yellow-white sandy lime mortar; irregular jointing; granite rubble core. Width unknown. Cut by **(521)**.	0.25 high
525	*Layer*	Rubble layer, demolition debris. Mid brown silty clay. 30% granite rubble, sub-angular – angular, 8-15cm. Occasional orange-brown mottles. Moderately compact. Probably same deposit as (526). Unexcavated. Overlies (524).	-
526	*Layer*	Rubble layer, demolition debris. Mid brown silty clay. 70% granite rubble, sub-angular – angular, 10-15cm. Occasional orange-brown mottles. Moderately compact. Probably same deposit as (525). Unexcavated.	-
527	*Masonry*	Possible slate built drain. North-east – south-east aligned. Pale yellow sandy mortar bedding. 0.40m wide. Unexcavated. Overlies (525) and (526).	0.07 high
528	*Deposit*	Fill of brick-lined drain (508). Unexcavated. Mid brown sandy silt loam. 3% stone, sub-rounded, 3-5cm. Occasional mortar fragments. Moderate compact; fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation. Overlies (508).	-
529	*Layer*	Rubble layer, demolition debris. Mid brown sandy silt loam. 80% granite rubble, sub-angular – angular, 20-50cm. Occasional red-brown mottles. Moderately compact. Possibly identical to (525) and (526). Unexcavated.	-
530	*Layer*	Demolition debris. Mid orange-brown silty clay. 10% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-20cm. Occasional mortar fragments, rare brick fragments. Slightly mixed with mid red-brown clay mottles. Some bioturbation. Unexcavated.	-
531	*Layer*	Possible levelling/deliberate deposit. Mid red brown silty clay. 1% granite, sub-angular, 10-15cm. <1% green sandstone, sub-angular, 5-6cm. rare slate fragments. Primarily composed of re-deposited natural. Compact. Diffuse interface with (532). Slightly mixed. Not fully excavated or exposed.	0.17+ deep
532	*Layer*	Area of possible trampled material. Mid red-brown silty clay. 3% granite, sub-angular, <1-105cm. 5% green sandstone, sub-angular, <1-4cm. Occasional slate fragments. Occasional charcoal flecks. Compact. Overlies (531). Not fully excavated.	0.02+ deep
533	*Layer*	Possible construction layer/footing for wall (503). 80% granite, sub-angular – angular, 8-20cm. Some crushed sandstone and sand. Compact. Unexcavated.	-
534	*Masonry*	Possible foundation for wall (503) or earlier wall. South-west – north-east aligned wall footing. Roughly squared granite facing blocks, only south-east face seen. Mid orange-grey sandy lime mortar; irregular jointing; granite rubble core. One course remaining exposed. 0.68m wide. Overlies **(521)**.	0.10+ high

TRENCH 6			**Type:**	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 6.60x5.10m		**Max. depth:** 1.20m	**Ground level:** 96.12-96.22m aOD	
Context	**Description**			**Depth**
601	*Topsoil*	Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown silty clay. 2% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Occasional CBM and slate fragments. Moderately compact; bioturbated. Under turf. Overlies (608), (609) and (612).		0.00-0.46 bgl
602	-	VOID		-
603	-	VOID		-
604	*Layer*	Machining layer – assigned for finds retrieval.		-
605	*Masonry*	Chamfered plinth for buttress. Finely worked sandstone. Relationship to (606) lost through robbing event **(630)**. 0.82m wide. Overlies (611).		0.20 high
606	*Masonry*	North-west – south-east aligned stone built wall. Much of north-east face has been robbed away. Pale orange sandy clay matrix. Irregular jointing; rubble core. Width 1.5m.		0.50 high
607	*Masonry*	South-west – north-east aligned stone built wall with south-east return. Roughly shaped granite facing blocks; mid orange-pink lime mortar. Random coursed; irregular jointing. Foundation level beneath finely worked sandstone chamfered plinth; plaster still adhering to south-east and south-west face. Later than (606).		0.82 high
608	*Masonry*	Brick built structure, exact nature unclear. Composed of red bricks (20x10x6cm), mostly laid horizontally. Single course. Pale grey white lime mortar. 1.6m+ long, 0.65m wide. Similar to (609). Overlies (629).		0.06 high
609	*Masonry*	Brick built structure, exact nature unclear. Composed of red bricks and granite blocks (some variation in size). Single course exposed. Pale grey-white lime mortar. 1.06m+ long, 0.74m wide. Similar to (609). Overlies (629).		-
610	*Layer*	Possible levelling layer. Mid red-brown silt loam. 5% stone, sub-angular, <1-6cm. Occasional CBM and mortar fragments. Moderately compact; slightly mixed. Overlies (613).		0.22 deep
611	*Layer*	Mortar rich layer beneath plinth (605), deliberate deposit/bedding layer. Rectangular in plan. Pale yellow-grey silt. Compact; homogeneous. No visible coarse components. Dimensions greater than (605) above. 1.36x1.42m. Unexcavated.		-
612	*Layer*	Mid orange-brown silty clay. 2% stone, sub-angular, <1-4cm. Occasional mortar flecks and small slate fragments. Moderately compact. Similar to (610).		0.20 deep
613	*Layer*	Possible debris from stone reclamation. Mid red-brown silty clay. 60% stone, sub-angular, <1-3cm. Compact. Overlies (614).		0.08 deep
614	*Layer*	Demolition or reclamation debris. Mid yellow-brown sandy silt, includes abundant degraded mortar. 2% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Occasional charcoal flecks. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous. Overlies (615).		0.08 deep
615	*Layer*	Demolition debris. Dark red-brown sandy silty clay. 5% stone, sub-angular, <1-4cm. Occasional mortar, charcoal and slate fragments. Slightly mixed; moderately compact. Overlies (618) and **(630)**.		0.16 deep
616	*Layer*	Possible levelling layer. Mid red-brown silty clay. 1% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Fairly compact; fairly homogeneous. Overlies (or built up against) foundation level of (606).		0.16+ deep
617	*Layer*	Possible levelling layer. Dark grey brown silty clay. 1% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-4cm. Frequent mortar flecks and fragments. Occasional charcoal flecks. Fairly compact; fairly homogeneous. Overlies (616).		0.26+ deep

618	*Layer*	Demolition debris. Dark grey brown sandy silt loam. 5% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-6cm. Occasional CBM, slate and mortar fragments. Fairly compact; fairly homogeneous. Overlies (623).	0.49 deep
619	*Layer*	Deliberate dump of roof slates. Mid brown silty clay. Abundant roof slate tiles and fragments. Overlies (617) and (620).	0.16 deep
620	*Layer*	Demolition debris. Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam. 40% stone, sub-angular – angular, 2-16cm. Includes large architectural fragments. Occasional mortar fragments. Fairly compact; slightly mixed. Overlies (621).	0.18 deep
621	*Layer*	Deliberate dump of brick rubble. Mid red-brown sandy silt loam. 40% brick rubble. Slightly mixed; fairly compact. Overlies (622).	0.28 deep
622	*Layer*	Demolition debris. Pale grey-brown silty sand. 10% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-6cm. Rare CBM and slate; abundant mortar fragments. Fairly compact; slightly mixed. Overlies (625).	0.24 deep
623	*Layer*	Demolition debris. Mid red-brown silty clay. 2% stone, sub-angular, <1-6cm. Very compact; slightly mixed. Overlies (624).	0.23 deep
624	*Layer*	Demolition debris. Mid grey-brown silty sand. 10% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-10cm. Occasional mortar flecks. Fairly compact; slightly mixed. Overlies (619).	0.18 deep
625	*Layer*	Mid yellow-brown silty clay loam. 2% stone, sub-angular, <1-4cm Frequent mortar flecks and fragments. Moderately compact. Overlies (626).	0.12 deep
626	*Layer*	Dark yellow-brown silty clay loam. 2% stone, sub-angular, <1-4cm Frequent mortar flecks and fragments. Moderately compact. Overlies (607).	0.15 deep
627	*Layer*	Possible levelling layer or demolition debris. Mid red-brown silty clay loam. 10% stone, sub-angular, <1-12cm Occasional mortar and charcoal flecks. Rare CBM and slate fragments. Moderately compact; mixed. Overlies (628). Seen in plan only, unexcavated.	-
628	*Layer*	Possible levelling layer. Mid red silty clay. 1% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Fairly compact; fairly homogeneous. Overlies (628). Seen in plan only, unexcavated.	-
629	*Layer*	Equal/identical to (610) south-west side of wall (606). Possible levelling layer. Mid red-brown silt loam. 5% stone, sub-angular, <1-6cm. Moderately compact; slightly mixed. Unexcavated.	-
630	***Cut***	**Robbing event removing facing stones from north-east face of wall (606).**	**0.20+ deep**

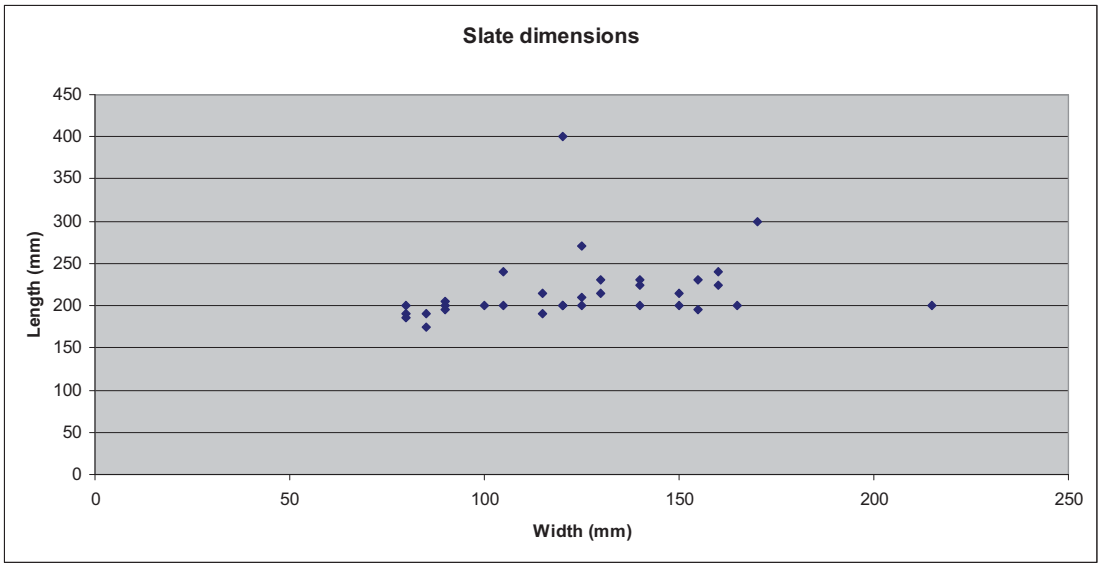
TRENCH 7			**Type:** Machine excavated
Dimensions: 3.54x1.92m		**Max. depth:** 0.87m	**Ground level:** 95.32-95.39m aOD
Context	**Description**		**Depth (m)**
701	*Overburden*	Modern gravel and chippings.	0.00-0.27 bgl
702	*Layer*	Later levelling/ground surface, includes demolition debris. Dark grey silty clay. 4% granite and green sandstone, sub-angular, <1-5cm. Occasional CBM, mortar and charcoal flecks. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous. Overlies (703).	0.25 deep
703	*Layer*	Later levelling, includes demolition debris. Mid brown sandy silty clay. 4% green sandstone, 2% granite sub-angular, <1-5cm. Occasional CBM, slate and charcoal flecks. Fairly frequent mortar flecks. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous. Similar to (708). Overlies (704).	0.27 deep
704	*Layer*	Levelling/occupation? Mid brown silty clay. 1% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-4cm. Very rare mortar flecks. Homogenous; moderately compact. Slightly humic. Similar to (719). Overlies (718).	0.19 deep

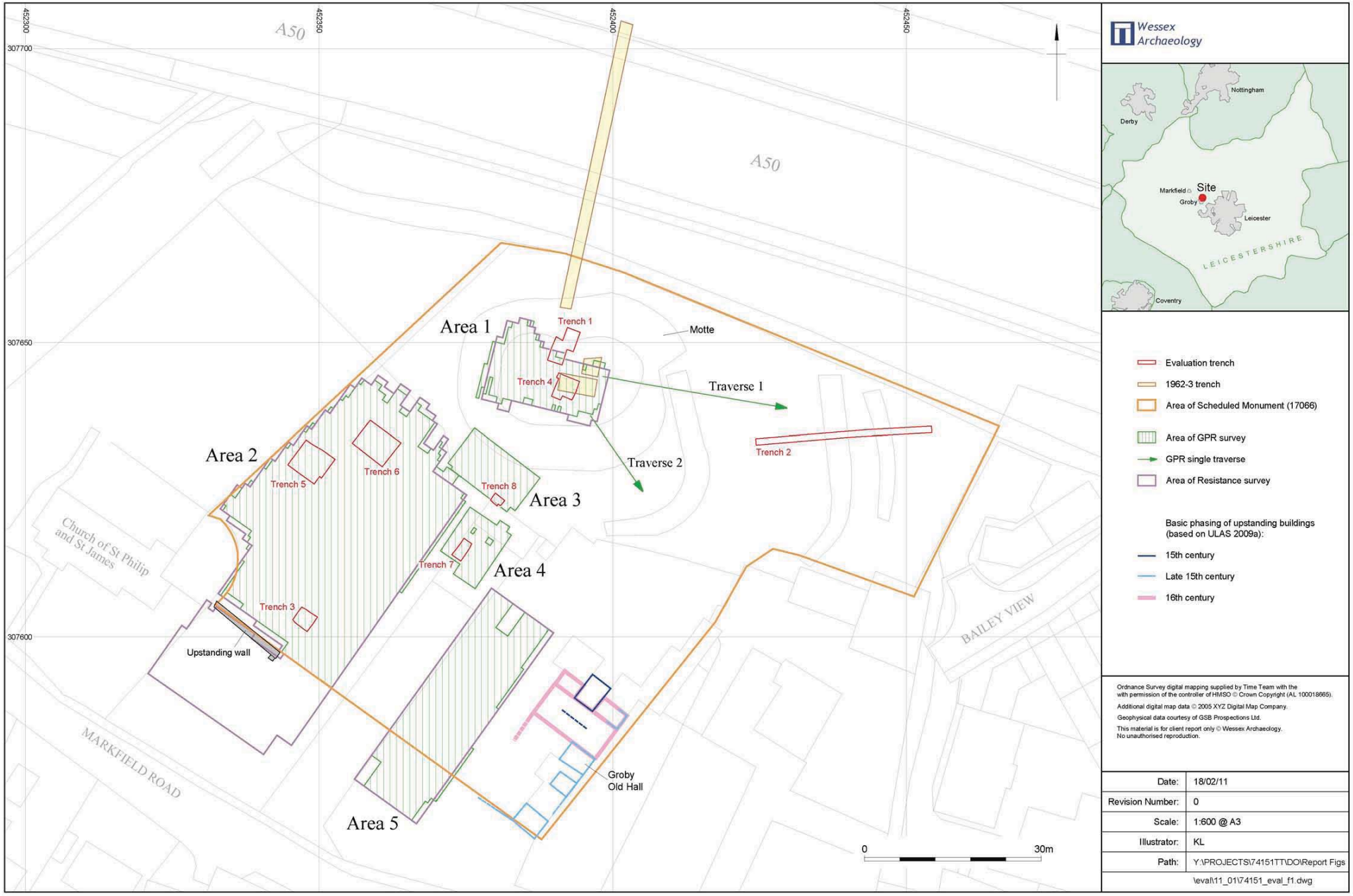
705	*Layer*	Deliberate deposit, levelling? Mid grey-brown silty clay. 15% stone, sub-angular, 5-15cm. Granite and slate fragments occur in areas of concentration. Moderately compact; some bioturbation; fairly homogenous. Overlies (718).	0.17 deep
706	*Surface*	Very compact beaten floor surface, composed of a number of fine lenses. Pale grey to black clay. No inclusions. Upper surface includes heavily sooted/charcoal rich patches, charcoal lenses also present within deposit. Very compact. Level indicates relates to earlier structure than (717). Sample number (1004). Overlies (722).	0.02 deep
707	*Structure*	Possible wall or floor; seen in plan only; full extent not seen. Flat area of predominantly granite slabs overlain by (706) and apparently bedded into material similar to (710).	-
708	*Layer*	Later levelling, includes demolition debris. Mid grey-brown sandy silty clay. 6% green sandstone, 2% granite sub-angular, <1-5cm. Sandstone concentrated at base of deposit. Occasional CBM, mortar and charcoal flecks. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous. Similar to (703). Overlies (719).	0.26 deep
709	***Cut***	**Cut of posthole. Filled with (722). Probably circular but not fully seen in plan. Moderate concave sides, Very slightly concave base. 0.40m wide. Cuts (710).**	**0.10 deep**
710	*Layer*	Possible levelling or surface beneath (706). Mid red brown clay. No visible inclusions. Very occasional mortar flecks. Rare fired clay flecks. Occasional charcoal flecks. Very compact; fairly homogeneous. Overlies (707).	-
711	*Deposit*	Secondary fill of posthole **(712)**, post-dates removal of post. Mid grey-brown silty clay. One large sandstone blocks rests in top of deposit. Unexcavated.	-
712	***Cut***	**Cut of posthole, unexcavated. Filled with (711). Probably circular but not fully seen in plan. 0.30m wide. Cuts (706).**	**-**
713	*Deposit*	Secondary fill of posthole **(714)**, post-dates removal of post. Mid grey-brown sandy silty clay. No visible inclusions. A concentration of mortar flecks occurs on the north-western edge. Moderately compact; some bioturbation. Overlies **(714)**.	0.20 deep
714	***Cut***	**Cut of posthole. Filled with (713). Probably circular but not fully seen in plan. Moderate concave sides, Very slightly concave base. 0.29m wide. Cuts (706).**	**0.20 deep**
715	*Deposit*	Deliberate backfill of construction cut **(716)**. Dark brown sandy clay. No visible inclusions. Rare charcoal flecks. Fairly homogeneous; moderately compact. Overlies (717).	0.19 deep
716	***Cut***	**Construction cut for wall (717). Filled with (715) and (717). Only really seen on south-west side of (717). North-west – south-east aligned. Straight, vertical sides, base not seen. Cuts (705).**	**0.19 deep**
717	*Masonry*	North-west – south-east aligned stone built wall. Straight, vertical sides, base not seen. Composed of granite sub-angular – angular blocks, bonded with pale yellow-orange lime mortar with occasional pale yellow-white flecks. Random coursed, irregular jointing. Poorly faced, widely slobbered mortar; rubble core. Stepped out foundation course - this foundation is not seen the full exposed length; to the south-east is overlies/replaced by (723). Also overlies **(716)**.	0.65 high
718	*Layer*	Seen on south-west side of (717) only. Mid pink-brown sandy silty clay. 3% stone, sub-angular, 3-10cm. Occasional charcoal flecks, frequent mortar. Moderately compact. Possible collapse, tumbled material. Overlies (715).	0.23 deep
719	*Layer*	Occupation/abandonment deposit. Mid brown sandy clay. 3% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-4cm. Very rare mortar flecks. Homogenous; moderately compact. Similar to (704). Overlies	0.15 deep

		(724).	
720	*Layer*	Deliberate deposit, levelling? Mid grey-brown silty clay. 30% stone, sub-angular, 5-40cm, granite and slate fragments. Moderately compact; fairly homogenous. Similar to (705) but as construction cut (716) not visible/clear on this side of the wall it is included at later point in the matrix. Apparently built up against (717). Overlies (721).	0.15 deep
721	*Layer*	Possible levelling. Mid red brown clay. 5% stone, sub-angular, 5-8cm. Compact. Some darker mottling. Not fully excavated.	-
722	*Deposit*	Secondary fill of posthole **(709)**. Dark grey-black clay. No visible inclusions. Abundant charcoal. Moderately compact. Basically (706) which has fallen in and infilled posthole. Sample number (1005). Overlies **(709)**.	0.10 deep
723	*?Structure*	Stepped area, mimics form of foundation course of (717). Composed of degraded green sandstone and includes one fragment of brick. Possibly reused material. Apparently earlier than (717). Overlies (706).	0.18 high
724	*Layer*	Thin line/lens of mortar dividing the apparently identical deposits (719) and (725). Possible floor remnant. Pale yellow-orange lime mortar. Overlies (725).	0.01 deep
725	*Layer*	Occupation/levelling deposit. Mid brown sandy clay. 3% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-4cm. Very rare mortar flecks. Homogenous. Moderately compact. Similar to (704). Overlies (720).	0.09 deep

TRENCH 8			**Type:** Hand dug	
Dimensions: 2.04x1.54m		**Max. depth:** 0.96m	**Ground level:** 95.40m aOD	
Context	**Description**			**Depth (m)**
801	*Topsoil*	Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown silty clay. 15% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-5cm. Fairly homogenous; bioturbated; fairly loose and friable. Area of disturbed ground. Fairly clear interface with (802). Overlies (802).		0.00-0.25 bgl
802	*Layer*	Later landscaping. Mid red-brown silt clay. 15% stone, sub-angular, 2-8cm. Frequent mortar flecks. Fairly compact; fairly homogeneous. Built up against (803).		0.70+ deep
803	*Masonry*	Granite built north-west – south-east aligned wall. Over 2m still visible above ground level, has been later consolidated and modified. Incorporates buttress on north-east side. Both wall and buttress include stepped plinth with chamfered detail similar to that seen on wall (607). Faced with granite blocks and slabs, rubble core. Pale pink –yellow lime mortar. Random coursed; irregular jointing. Width not possible to determine.		3.0+ high

Figure 11: Chart showing stone roofing slate dimensions





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	\eval\11_01\74151_eval_f1.dwg

Location of Site and evaluation trenches and basic phasing of upstanding buildings (based on ULAS 2009a)

Figure 1

Plate 1: Detail of 1757 map by John Doharty (Enville Hall, Staffordshire Collection)

Plate 2: View of Groby Old Hall from the north-west, dated 1790 (from Nichols 1811, 634, plate 104)

Plate 3: Upstanding stretch of wall, from the south

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Figure 2

Summary of GPR results

Figure 3

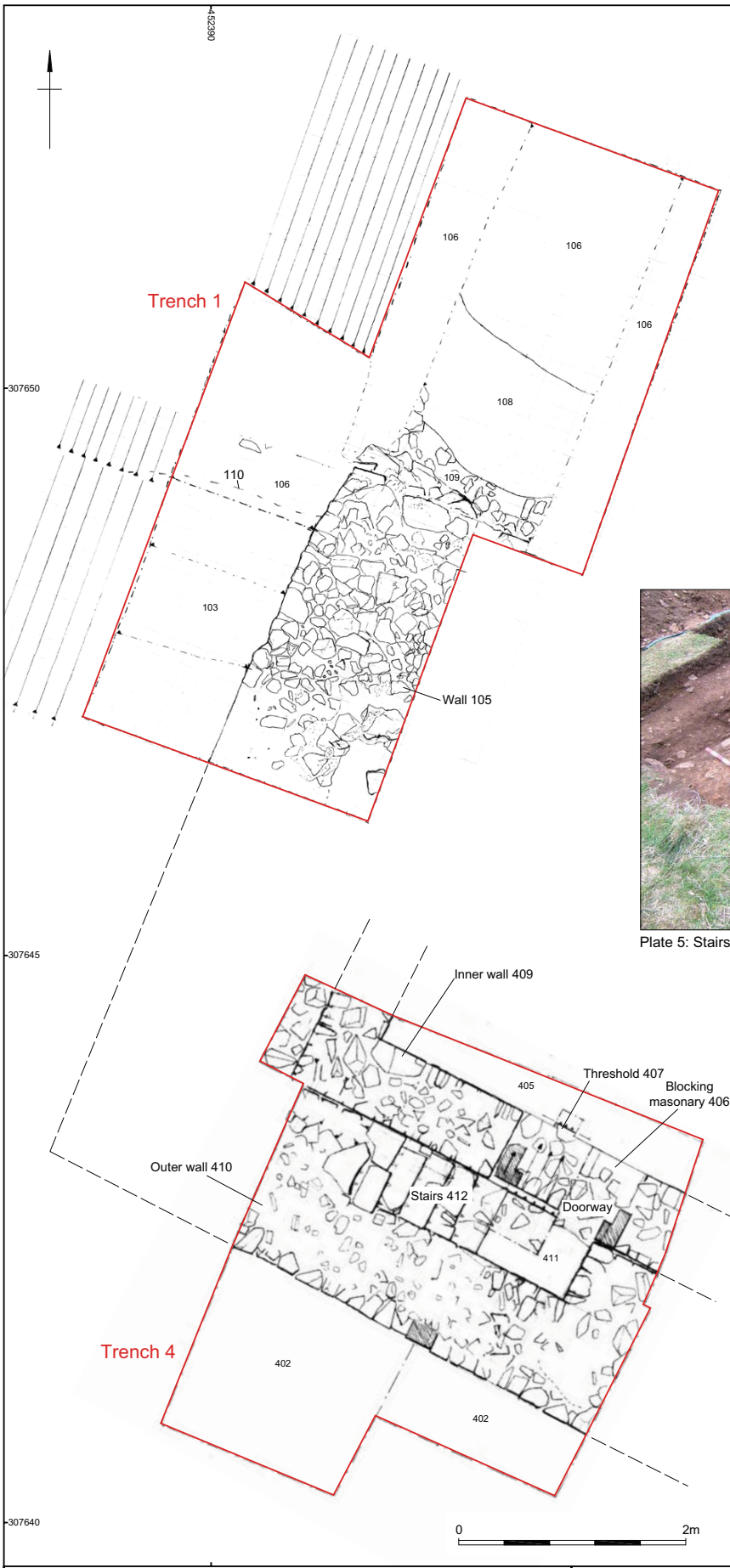

Plate 4: Wall 105, disturbed by quarry cut 110, from the north-east

Plate 5: Stairs 412, outer wall 410 and inner wall 409, from the east

Plate 6: Doorway within 409 after removal of 406

Evaluation trench

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Trenches 1 and 4: plan and photographs

Figure 4

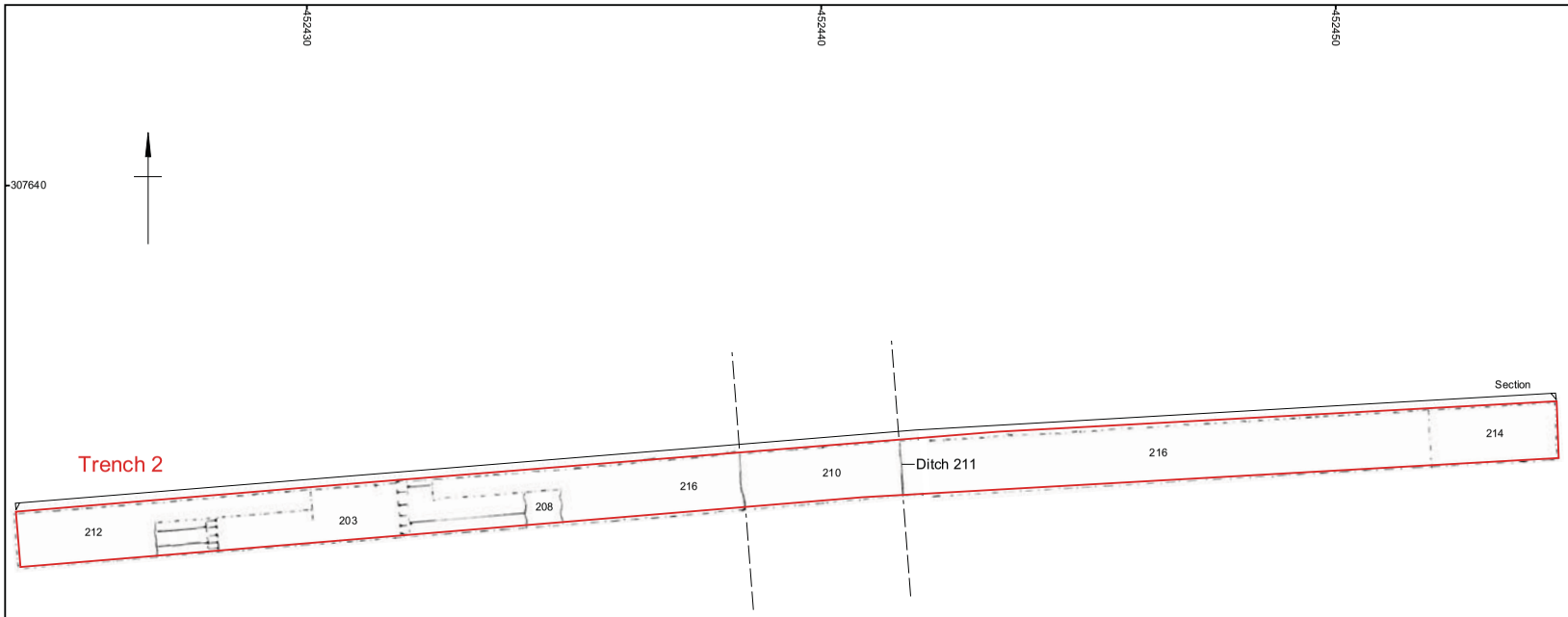
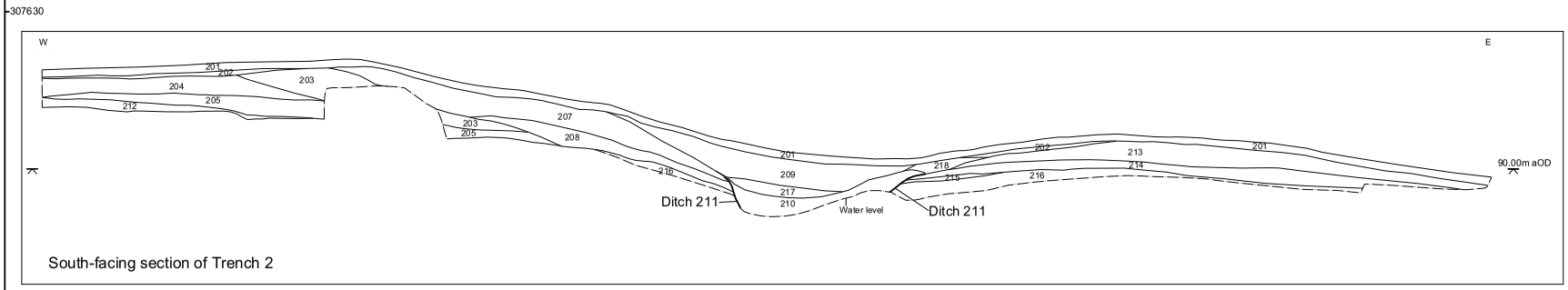


Plate 7: Post-excavation view Trench 2, from south-west



0 5m

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Evaluation trench

Date:	18/02/11	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Plan & Section 1:100 @ A3	Illustrator:	KL
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\74151TT\Drawing Office\Report Figs\eval\11_01\74151_eval_f4.dwg		

Trench 2: plan, section and photograph

Figure 5

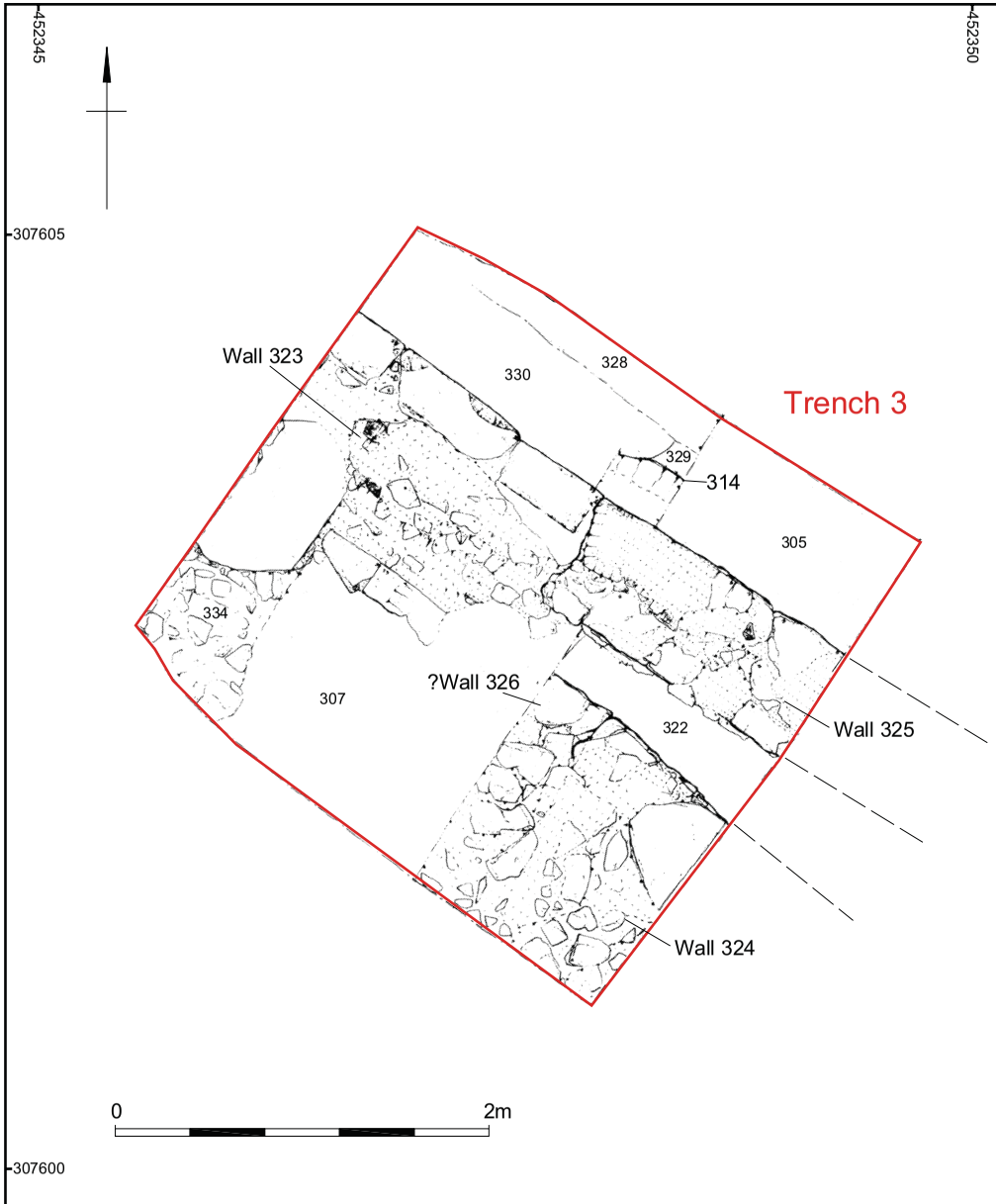

Plate 8: Post-excavation view of Trench 3, from the south-east

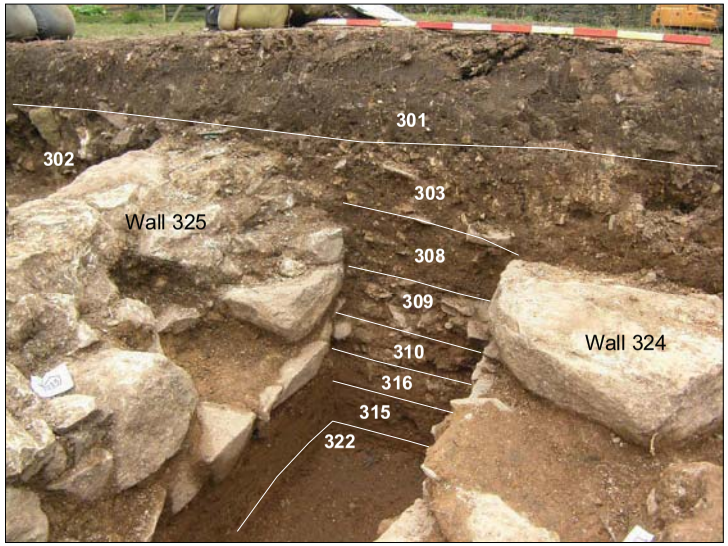

Plate 9: North-west facing section Trench 3, oblique view

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Evaluation trench

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Scale:	1:40 @ A4	Illustrator:	KL
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Trench 3: plan and photographs

Figure 6

Plate 10: Pre-excavation view Trench 5, from the south-east

Plate 11: North-east facing section Trench 5

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Evaluation trench

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Trench 5: plan and photographs

Figure 7

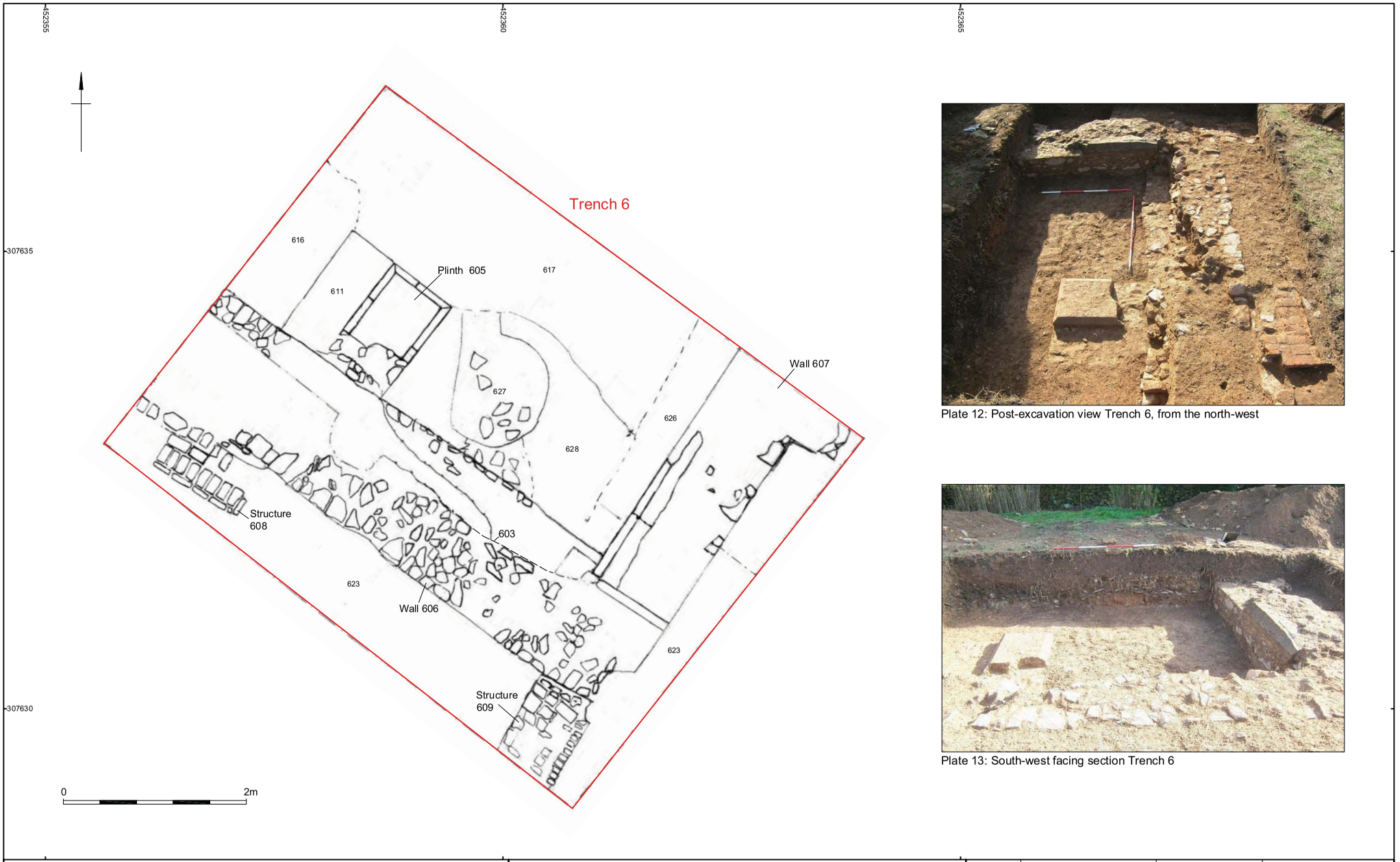

Plate 12: Post-excavation view Trench 6, from the north-west

Plate 13: South-west facing section Trench 6

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Evaluation trench

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Scale:	1:40 @ A3	Illustrator:	KL
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Trench 6: plan and photographs

Figure 8

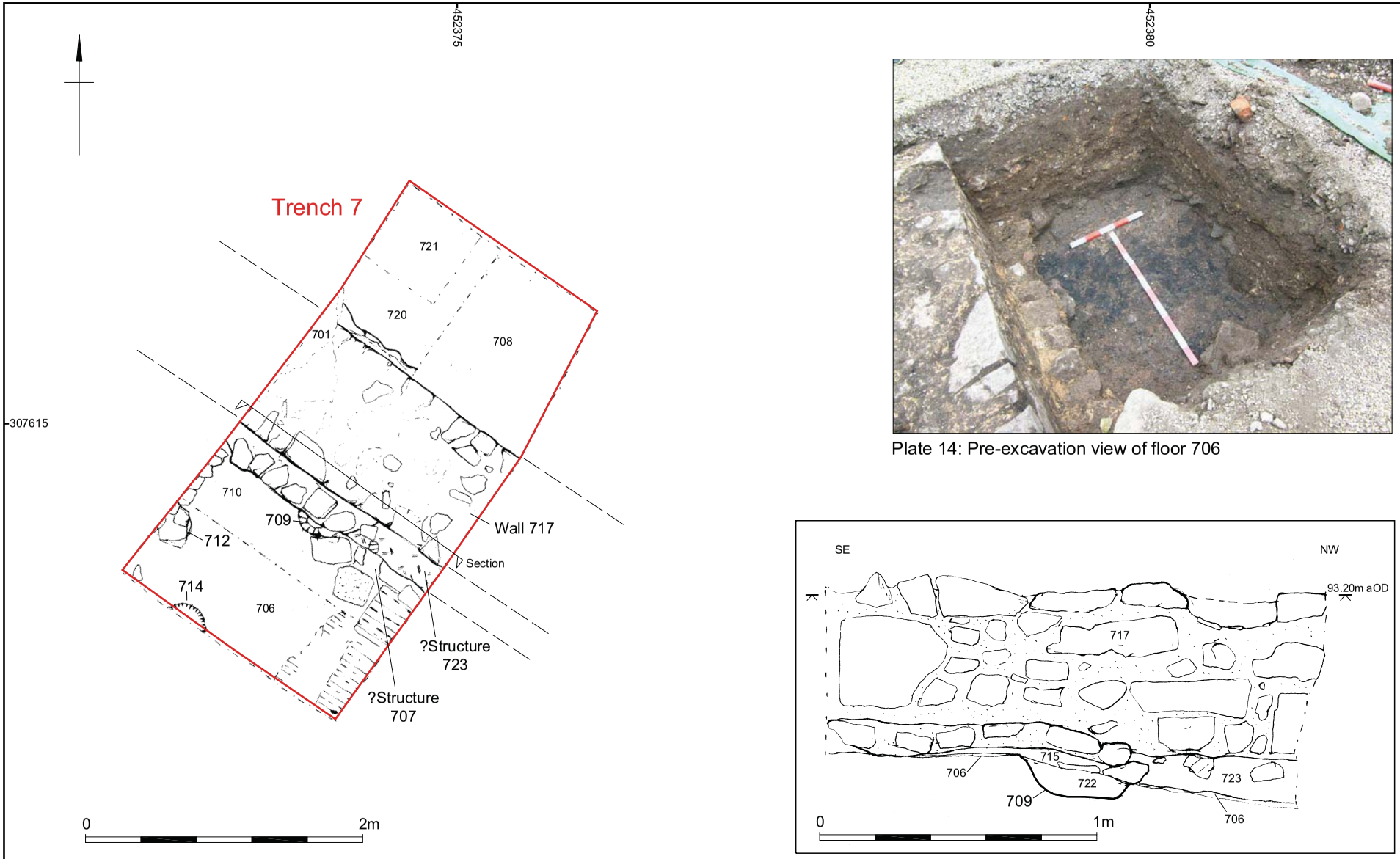

Plate 14: Pre-excavation view of floor 706

South-west facing elevation of 717 and 723

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Date:	18/02/11	Revision Number:	0
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Trench 7: plan, section and photograph

Figure 9

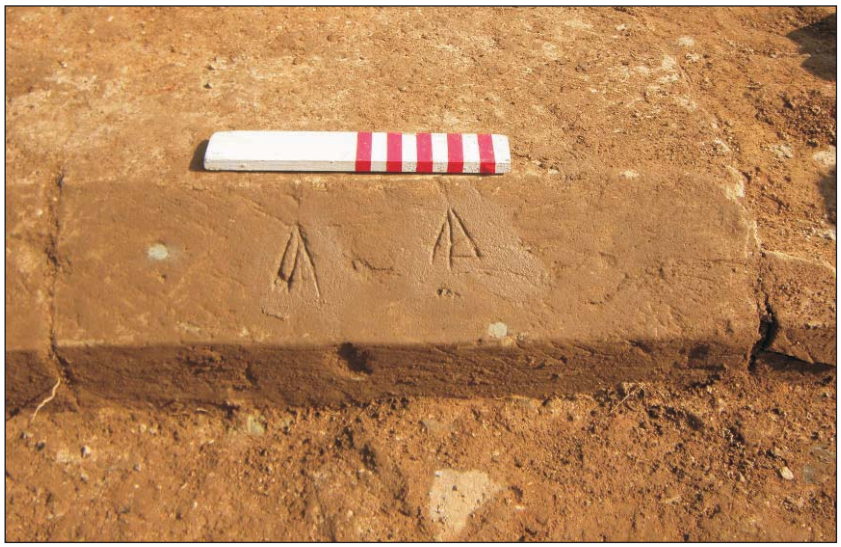

Plate 15: Two of the masonry marks on plinth 605

Plate 16: Fragments of architectural mouldings from 620, roof slates from 604

Plate 17: Trench 8 and surrounding upstanding wall

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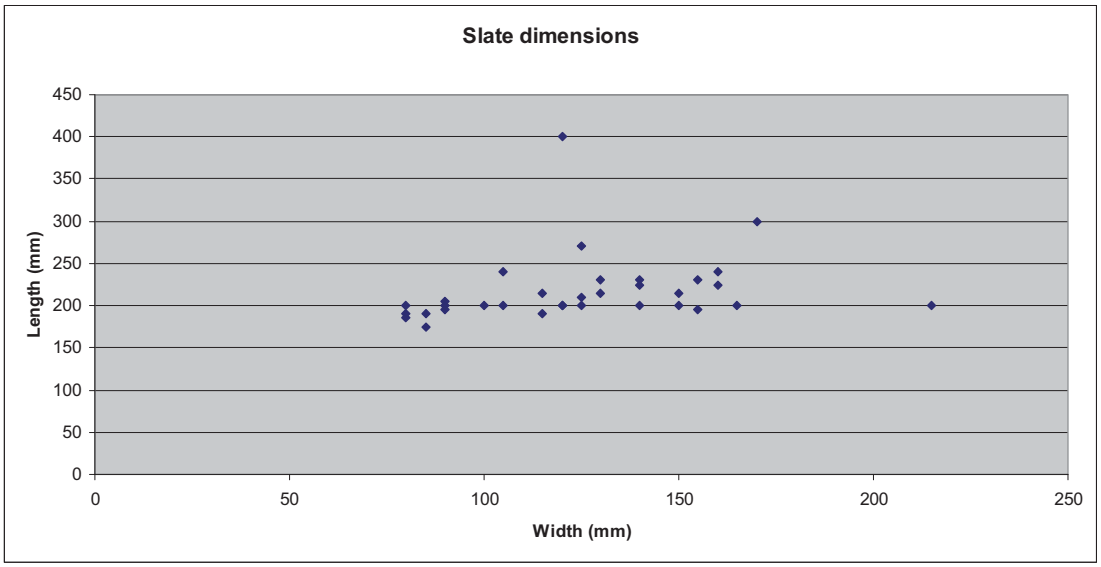
Figure 11: Chart showing stone roofing slate dimensions



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