Wessex Archaeology

Oakham Castle
Oakham, Leicestershire

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

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Oakham Castle
Oakham, Leicestershire

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Summary

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 Oakham Castle, Leicestershire (NGR 486147 308895).

Oakham Castle (National Monument Number 323228) comprises a Great Hall, whose construction dates to the 1180s, replacing a late Saxon hall listed in *Domesday*, and the remains of a motte or mound inside a square inner bailey. To the north of this is a large rectangular outer bailey known as Cutts Close, which contains dry fishponds and garden earthworks. Archaeological work within the Castle in the 1950s by Peter Gathercole and John Barber located the Castle ditch outside the South Gateway, and masonry footings belonging to service buildings at the eastern end of the Great Hall. It was hoped that the current evaluation would be able to supplement these findings and recover further evidence for the layout and chronology of the Castle.

The evaluation comprised six trenches of varying sizes, five lying within the inner bailey around the Great Hall, and one situated across the northern earthwork of the outer bailey. Trench 1, 2, and 3 all contained evidence of medieval stone-built structures. Trench 1 located Barber's trench from the 1950s and confirmed his finding of a passageway leading eastwards from the Great Hall through the service block and towards a free-standing kitchen. In Trench 2 the wall of one of the castle's ancillary buildings was uncovered, which had been re-faced at some point, possibly reflecting a change in function or style of the building. Three successive walls were found in Trench 3, but none probably earlier than the early post-medieval period. No archaeological features were revealed in Trench 4, while Trench 6 contained a single robber cut.

As for the earthwork of the outer bailey, no evidence was found in Trench 5 to determine its date or function. This is unsurprising as the earthwork in its current form almost certainly relates either to the early 19th century enclosure of Oakham, or to the construction of the Melton to Oakham canal.

The evaluation results have not added significantly to the existing archaeological knowledge of Oakham Castle. The accuracy of John Barber's findings was confirmed, but other structural remains found, added with the rather disappointing geophysical results, form too small a sample to enable any significant discussion. Nevertheless, the trenches did reveal that structural remains do survive, and that the site still retains the potential for further investigation. Assemblages of pottery and ceramic building material have usefully contributed to the regional ceramic sequence.

A summary of the results of the evaluation, prior to the finalisation of the geophysical report, has already been published in *Rutland Record*; a slightly more detailed account will be prepared for submission to *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*.

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The geophysical survey was undertaken by John Gater, Jimmy Adcock, Graeme Attwood and James Lawton. The excavation strategy was devised by Neil Holbrook. The on-site recording was co-ordinated by Oliver Good, and on-site finds processing was carried out by Ben Cullen, both of Wessex Archaeology.

The excavations were undertaken by Time Team's retained archaeologists, Phil Harding (Wessex Archaeology), Ian Powlesland, Tracey Smith, Matt Williams, Raksha Dave, Cassie Newland and Rob Hedge, assisted by Neil Finn, Jamie Patrick, Scott Lomax, Jon Coward and Tony Gnanaratam. The metal detector survey was carried out by Phil Harding.

The archive was collated and all post-excavation assessment and analysis undertaken by Wessex Archaeology. This report was written and compiled by Oliver Good and Lorraine Mepham, incorporating specialist reports prepared by Jane Young (freelance specialist, pottery and ceramic building material), Lorrain Higbee (animal bone), Nicholas Cooke (jetons and tokens) and Lorraine Mepham (all other finds), with geological identifications by Kevin Hayward. The illustrations were prepared by S.E. James. The post-excavation project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Lorraine Mepham.

Wessex Archaeology would also like to acknowledge Tim Allen (English Heritage), Nick Hill (English Heritage) and Richard K. Morriss (architectural historian) for help through out the project. Finally thanks are extended to Robert Clayton (Rutland County Council) and Richard White (Oakham Town Council) for allowing access to the Site for the geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation.

Oakham Castle
Oakham, Leicestershire

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 Oakham Castle, Leicestershire, NGR 486147 308895 (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 is situated within the town of Oakham, Leicestershire (but within the pre-1974 county of Rutland) at height of approximately 100m aOD. Oakham, the former county town of Rutland, lies between Stamford (17km to the west) and Melton Mowbray (15km to the north-west).

1.2.2 The castle complex (National Monument Number 323228) consists of a standing Great Hall (a Grade I listed building) and the remains of a motte or mound inside a square inner bailey. To the north of this is a large rectangular outer bailey known as Cutts Close, which contains dry fishponds and garden earthworks. Traces of other buildings within the inner bailey, many of which are known from documentary evidence, are visible as irregularities in the ground surface to the east of the Great Hall.

1.2.3 The castle and the earthworks making up the inner bailey are owned and managed by Rutland County Council. The outer bailey, known as Cutts Close, is owned and managed by Oakham Town Council. This part of the site is currently used as a recreational area.

1.2.4 The underlying geology consists of the Northampton Sand Formation, mostly ooidal ironstones (British Geological Survey).

2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1.1 The following summary is taken from the project design compiled for Videotext Communications by Jim Mower (Videotext Communications 2012).

2.2 Early medieval history of Oakham

2.2.1 The name *Ocheham*, first recorded in the Domesday Book in 1086, is probably a name of Saxon origin with a meaning such as 'Occa's homestead'. In 1994 excavations in the south-west part of the town found a possible *grubenhaus* (or sunken featured building) with 5th-6th century pottery, together with a large ditch, possibly an early town ditch running parallel to South Street, and early medieval pottery (Jones 1996).

2.2.2 Nearer to the castle site, during trenching across the south part of Cutts Close in 1990, a small amount of Middle Saxon pottery was found, with medieval material perhaps surprisingly absent. A coin hoard containing silver pennies found in 1749 was probably deposited in *c*. 980 and indicates a level of prosperity in the town in the late Saxon period. Saxo-Norman pottery (of 11th century date) has also been found close to the High Street.

2.2.3 In 1955 C.A. Ralegh Radford suggested that the town may once have been a *burh*, an enclosed Late Saxon fortified place, with the north bank of Cutts Close originally part of its boundary (Radford 1955). There is no documentary evidence to support this and the town is not situated in what could be called a strategic position such as beside a major river, on high ground or close to a major highway. Its origin and rise to importance within the Vale of Catmose may instead be due to its geographical position within a large estate and proximity to a royal forest.

2.2.4 A royal connection can be traced back to at least the later 10th century when Rutland was the dowry of Aelfthryth, wife of King Edgar (959-75). Unlike the irregular banks enclosing the main castle, those on the north side of Cutts Close are straight and more typical of later garden boundaries.

2.3 Oakham Castle

2.3.1 The historical background to Oakham Castle is well documented elsewhere (e.g. Clough 2008), and a summary only is presented here. The hall of Oakham Castle is listed in *Domesday*, and would have been represented at that time by a wooden building (which may have had pre-Conquest origins). The motte is more likely to relate to the *Domesday* hall than to the inner bailey in its existing form, which probably dates from soon after 1075, when William I acquired the manor of Oakham on the death of Edith, widow of Edward the Confessor. The manor passed to the de Ferrers family; the stone-built aisled hall that survives today was built by Walkelin de Ferrers between 1180 and 1190, a date based on architectural details within the building, considered to be a classic example of Transitional style, and confirmed recently by a programme of dendrochronological dating (Hill 2013, 191). A study of comparable buildings suggests that the defining feature of the Great Hall, its stone-built aisled arcade, was always exceptional, used only in houses of very high status. Its construction contrasts with contemporary English castles, which focused on the construction of impressive and defensive stone towers, and may reflect the fact that the Norman estates of the de Ferrers family took precedence over their English properties – Walkelin de Ferrers constructed Oakham in the latest architectural style, and to act as a high status statement, but as a residential rather than a defensive property (*ibid*., 208-9). De Ferrers was probably also responsible for the stone curtain wall which replaced the earlier timber palisade, although this must have been strengthened or developed later.

2.3.2 The Castle was mentioned in a number of documents from the 12th century onwards, most notably during the turbulent 14th century. The most detailed description of what was physically present was in an inquisition of 1340 which reads:

'There is at Oakham a castle well walled, and in that castle there are one hall, four chambers, one kitchen, two stables, one grange for hay, one house for prisoners, one chamber for the porter, one drawbridge with iron chains, and the castle contains within its walls by estimation two acres of land: the aforesaid houses are worth nothing annually beyond reprises.

And the same house is similarly called the manor of Oakham. There is without the castle one garden, which is worth 8s a year. Stews [fishponds] under the castle, with the fosse,

of the annual value of 3s 4d. … and the presentation of the free chapel placed within the castle amounts to 100/-.' (Hartshorne 1848, 139; Inquis. 14 Edw. III, 2nd Nos., No. 67)

2.3.3 This description paints a picture of a well maintained complex with many buildings for the castle's dual function of retaining the household of the lord of the manor and for the administration of the surrounding area. Castles in most county towns were the seats of the local lord and functionaries, such as the king's officer or sheriff, and were maintained for purposes of local administration and justice; Oakham Castle clearly served this purpose from quite an early period as the hall is known to have held an assize as early as 1229. With a gaol amongst its buildings for prisoners tried by the court, the defences were as much to keep prisoners in as to keep potential trouble-makers out.

2.3.4 Various documents from the later 14th century indicate that buildings were deteriorating and needing repair, despite works being carried out during this period, including pargeting and plastering of 'the king's two great chambers' and the 'great chapel' in 1375-7, the building of a new chamber and chapel in 1378, the construction of a new roasting house in 1380 and the purchase of 5000 roofing slates in 1383 (Hill 2013, 212). Not much is known about the Oakham Castle in the 15th century but castles generally were falling into disrepair as they were proving too costly to maintain by the Crown and were no longer of much relevance. The Hall at Oakham must, however, have been continually maintained to serve its important judicial function with the county. By 1521 when its then owner, the Duke of Buckingham was executed, an inquisition recorded that at Oakham 'there is an old castle; all ruinous … the hall is in the best reparation, and of an old fashion' (Page 1908, 180).

2.3.5 Henry VIII held Oakham until 1536 when he granted the manor to Thomas Cromwell. For the first time in 1592 the property was sold, having previously always been in the overlordship of the Crown. In 1621, when George Villiers acquired the property, other improvements were made to the gateway (it was rebuilt and resembles two gateways at his estate at Burley-on-the-Hill, just to the north-east of Oakham) and possibly to the Hall. Villiers may have had the site cleared of the ruinous buildings, although later views suggest that the outer walling was largely left alone and perhaps repaired in places. An engraving of 1684 shows the Hall freestanding inside the castle enclosure, as it is today (Wright 1684, 104). The moat on the south side of the castle was probably not levelled off until the late 18th century.

2.3.6 During all of the 18th and 19th centuries Oakham Castle was owned by the Finch family, sometimes Earls of Winchelsea and Nottingham. Maps from this period show the site still referred to as the Castle or Castle-Yard. No gardens or fishponds are shown still existing on Cutts Close, although Cullingworth's map of 1787 suggests that the embanked garden area may have extended further to the west (with a partly curving western arm) before Church Street was laid out.

2.3.7 The First Edition Ordnance Survey 25-inch scale map of the 1880s shows the Hall (by then extended further extended on the north side) fenced off from the surrounding grounds which are known to have been used for grazing cattle by a local farmer. The latter may have used a site just outside the south-east corner of the castle as his yard. A breach was made through the bank here to allow cattle through into the grounds, and this is now boarded off. Not far to the north of this a small grotto or shelter was built into the walling at some point in the 19th century. This was built of stone on the outside and brick walling and arched roof within. Its interior is 2.15m x 1.28m in size. There is no evidence for former seating within it.

2.3.8 Tradesmen may also have utilised the area in front of the Hall, as early 20th century photographs of the castle show sheds and workshops. An area east of the hall was also fenced off for a tennis court, possibly using and extending an existing terrace. In 1944 the then owner Major James Robert Hanbury made a gift of the Castle to Rutland County Council.

2.4 Previous Archaeological Work

2.4.1 Current knowledge concerning Oakham Castle derives from a few direct historical references, the clear existence of a motte and a circuit of banks to the main enclosure, the architectural stylistic history of the Hall and some limited sub-surface investigations that have been deliberately instigated, or which have involved monitoring of other interventions. The existing plan of the Castle has been largely based on the work of the Ordnance Survey, a measured survey in 1961 and another in 1983.

2.4.2 Archaeological knowledge of the site is largely drawn from two excavations, and a series of smaller scale archaeological works. In 1953-4 Peter Gathercole, excavating outside the south gateway entrance in advance of the building of the Post Office, found a large castle ditch and pottery that contained early medieval Stamford ware and St. Neot's ware pottery (Gathercole 1958). Then in 1956-7 a series of trenches, excavated by local schoolmaster John Lewis Barber and his students to the east of the Great Hall located masonry walls of medieval date, which Barber believed to belong to service buildings to the Hall, comprising a buttery and pantry attached to the Hall, and a free-standing kitchen to the east (Jones and Ovens 2013).

2.4.3 Since the 1950s little archaeological evidence has been found. In 1989 an archaeological evaluation of Cutts Close suggested that its south-west bank might be pre-Norman in origin (Sharman and Sawday 1990), but amongst the most revealing work has been an extensive geophysical survey carried out by Stratascan and arranged by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) in 2005. This pointed to further structures to the east of the hall, and on a terrace below the motte (Heard 2005). A laser scan and photographic survey of the site in 2011 by Trent & Peak Archaeology aimed to provide the most extensive and accurate data of the site. The survey revealed variations in the construction of the curtain walls, suggesting that these were of below average height and thickness, and found evidence to support Speed's depiction (1610) of a large rectangular tower at the south-west corner of the Castle, and possibly also for the existence of another tower at the south-east corner (Sheppard and Walker 2011, 19-20).

2.4.4 The most recent work at Oakham comprises a re-evaluation of all the archaeological and documentary evidence, together with a careful examination of the fabric of the standing buildings, and a programme of dendrochronological dating (Hill 2013). Amongst other things, this has resulted in confirmation of the initial construction of the Great Hall in the 1180s, and a reinterpretation of the service buildings to the east of the Great Hall located by Barber.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1.1 A project design for the work was compiled (Videotext Communications 2012), providing full details of the research aims and methods. A brief summary is provided here.

3.1.2 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. Three research aims were identified, with a supplementary environmental research objective.

- *Research Aim 1: What are the extent, condition, date range and function of surviving sub-surface archaeological remains representing buildings associated with the 12th century hall within the inner bailey/ward at Oakham Castle?*
- *Research Aim 2: What are the extent, condition, date range and function of surviving sub-surface archaeological remains pre-dating the 12th century complex thought to have been constructed by Walkelin de Ferrers? Do these remains represent a royal Saxon burh?*
- *Research Aim 3: Do the earthwork features comprising Cutts Close represent a relic of the Saxon burh later truncated by 12th century construction? To what extent to late Saxon deposits remain in situ?*
- *Supplementary environmental research objective: Should suitable deposits be encountered in structures where function is clear (ie ovens within a kitchen block), samples will be taken with the aim of understanding aspects of diet, food processing and waste disposal with the aim of elucidating chronological and spatial differences.*

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Geophysical Survey

4.1.1 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.

4.2 Evaluation Trenches

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

4.2.2 The trenches were excavated by machine under constant archaeological supervision and machine excavation 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.

4.2.3 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.

4.2.4 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.

4.2.5 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.

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

4.2.7 The work was carried out between the 26th–29th June 2012. 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.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Geophysical survey (Figure 2)

5.1.1 Ground-penetrating radar (GPR) was chosen for the investigation of Oakham Castle as previous geophysical survey work using magnetometers and earth resistance meters had provided mixed results (Heard 2005). The prospect of survey within an open and relatively undeveloped bailey of a Norman castle resulted in an expectation of very clear results. The reality was somewhat different with the data largely dominated by near-surface deposits, a combination of demolition and potentially imported material, which made the identification of *in-situ* archaeological features very challenging.

5.1.2 Initial survey concentrated around the eastern end of the surviving Great Hall, where previous excavation in the 1950s had uncovered structural remains comprising an extension to the current Hall's footprint and an ancillary building further to the east. The radargrams, and resulting time-slices, revealed a mass of reflectors across the survey area but there were very few coherent responses identified with the exception of a service line [**A**]. Responses began diminishing well within a metre of the ground surface and this rapid dissipation was assumed to be a combination of scattering due to the rubbly overburden and the clay content of the soil (clay soils can cause rapid attenuation of a GPR signal). Anything deeper than 0.75m, at best, appeared to be little more than 'ringing' from shallower responses. Upon excavation the archaeological level was found to be at around 1.0m below the ground surface, beyond the system's limits on this site, and so despite the impressive structural remains uncovered, it was simply not possible to detect them remotely; the variation recorded in the geophysics data was entirely related to the overburden.

5.1.3 The next target area was the western end of the hall, with the intention of mapping the survival and footprint of any chamber blocks which would traditionally be expected to lie in this area. The results looked promising to start, with a shallow broad zone of strong reflections [**B**] running near-parallel to the back to the west wall of the hall. Upon excavation this appeared to be the result of near-surface compacted backfill rather than *in-situ* archaeological remains. To make matters worse a large wall was found to run through the evaluation trench almost at a right-angle to this response very near the surface. It would seem that the GPR was preferentially detecting variation in the shallowest overburden rather than the variation between that overburden and the archaeology, most likely due to the fact there was insufficient contrast between the *in-situ* stonework and the compacted rubble fill surrounding it. There is a hint of this wall line slightly deeper [**C**] but this is appears below the feature's actual upper limit. Further structure was found at depth but, again, this was beyond the limits of radar penetration achievable on this site.

5.1.4 Given the previous results, a large spread of increased response north-west of the hall, with a very sharply defined northern limit, was expected to be more demolition material, within which structural remnants might be identifiable. In this instance the overburden included deposits of clinker and local stone and thus presumed to be relatively modern; an interpretation confirmed by the discovery of a modern soil pipe at depth, the cut for which is discernible as a low amplitude band [**D**] in the deeper slices (details in archive).

5.1.5 This lack of clarity and ineffectual penetration was repeated all around the surviving hall. The only area where responses in the GPR data correlated with archaeological deposits was in the north of the inner bailey. A linear response [**E**], which looks to mirror part of the results from the previous resistance survey (Heard 2005), sat atop a low earthwork identified for investigation. GPR still only appears to be responding to the very shallowest deposits, picking up a narrow course of stonework but not reliably identifying the broader, presumably original, masonry upon which it was built. The broader underlying wall was believed to be part of a substantial ancillary building, the remainder of which is not clear in the GPR data or the previous resistance survey. Given this information it seems that the most reliable responses are those away from the hall and demolition spreads. Consequently, the trends and responses labelled [**F**] may relate to further *in situ* remains of ancillary buildings within the bailey, that is with the exception of [**G**] which is marked on the service plans as a 'catchpit'; the lack of detectable pipe running south of this further highlights the limitations of GPR on this particular site.

5.1.6 Very little was recorded across the interior of the western end of the surviving Norman hall, aside from some potential foundation material near the roof pillars and a couple of service runs. The eastern end of the hall revealed much more variation albeit largely originating from the same horizon of reflectors in the radargrams, just below floor level. Aside from further foundation material near to the pillars, there are broad bands of increased response and some rectilinear trends [**H**] but these could be chance alignments in the make-up of the sub-floor rather than genuine archaeological features. In the south-east corner, strong reflections are thought to be a raft of foundation material.

5.1.7 Data collected immediately adjacent to the bank of the outer bailey revealed no anomalies that could be definitively interpreted as archaeological. The amorphous nature of the responses identified in the time-slices [**I**] (which correlate with responses recorded in the previous resistance survey (Heard 2005)) and buried horizons within the radargrams are more likely to relate to former garden features, known to have existed in this region (S. Ainsworth, pers. comm.), than archaic settlement features.

Conclusions

5.1.8 The results of the radar survey at Oakham Castle are disappointing – a combination of the clay and the rubble forming the overburden across site has served to reduce effective penetration depths and diminish the necessary contrast over archaeological deposits to make them detectable almost totally. The only reasonable correlation with the buried archaeology was a faint linear response from a narrow stonework feature sat atop a much larger deposit of undetected masonry. The latter was thought to be part of a large ancillary building but the remaining walls were not detected either.

5.1.9 Internal survey of the hall produced a confusing dataset. A service pipe and some reflections at the base of the pillars was all that could be identified in the western end of the hall, whilst a number of reflections in the eastern half more foundation material was recorded as well as faint rectilinear trends and bands of increased response.

5.1.10 Survey adjacent to the bank of the outer bailey revealed only amorphous features believed to be associated with former gardens.

5.2 Evaluation trenches

5.2.1 Six trenches were excavated, five of which (Trenches 1-4, 6) lay within the inner bailey around the Great Hall. The exception was Trench 5, which was situated across the northern earthwork of the outer bailey. The size and shape of the trenches varied,

according to the targets on which they were sited and the archaeology subsequently uncovered. Any substantial remains were left *in situ*.

5.2.2 The trenches saw the removal of between 0.12m and 0.20m of overlying topsoil. Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 all contained subsoil which either overlaid or built up against walls or demolition material to a depth between 0.23m and 0.46. Natural deposits were encountered in two trenches: in Trench 2 the natural consisted of subangular ironstone and in Trench 5 of reddish-brown sandy clay.

5.2.3 Details of individual excavated contexts and features and the full geophysical report are retained in the archive. Summaries of the excavated sequences can be found in **Appendix 1**.

*Trench 1 (**Figure 3**)*

5.2.4 Trench 1 was located 2m from the east end of the Great Hall, and was positioned to find the western edge of John Barber's 1950s excavation trench (Jones and Ovens 2013, fig. 40). The aim was to determine the accuracy of Barber's findings and to ascertain the presence or absence of any buildings on the east side of the Hall.

5.2.5 Barber's trench was located (**119**), as well as four modern post-holes (**103**, **104**, **106** and **112**) which formed part of a mid-20th century fence line.

5.2.6 Running east-west across the southern end of the trench at a depth of 0.70m was wall **110**, constructed of ironstone blocks and, running parallel to this, 1.70m to the north, was robber trench **123** (**Figure 1, Plates 1 and 3**). Both features had been uncovered during Barber's excavations and were exactly as his diagrams had suggested in form and alignment. These were Barber's walls 14 and 15, found to either side of the (now blocked) central doorway to the Hall's eastern gable, and clearly forming a passageway, running between two service rooms, interpreted as a buttery and pantry, and leading towards the free-standing kitchen (Jones and Ovens 2013, 27-30, fig. 40; Hill 2013, 174-5, figs. 13-14).

5.2.7 Further excavation between wall **110** and robber trench **123**, within the passageway, located a series of charcoal-rich layers (**108**, **118**), probably occupation layers, interleaved with layers of compact clay (**117**, **127**). Charcoal layer **118** contained 16 pottery sherds of 13th to early/mid 14th century date, and part of a horseshoe of early medieval type (Clark 1995, type 2A). Charcoal extracted from environmental samples taken from layers **108** and **118** was identified as probably oak; both layers also produced hazelnut shells, mostly from **118**, and also significant quantities of fish bones.

5.2.8 Below the clay and charcoal layers was a fine yellow sand **122**, probably used as bedding for a flagstone floor (**Figure 3, Plate 2**), perhaps similar to that found by Barber between the service block and the kitchen (Jones and Ovens 2013, fig. 45). The flagstones may have been removed later in the building's life with compacted clay floors (**117**, **127**) preferred as a cheaper alternative..

5.2.9 Beyond robber trench **123**, to the north, one further charcoal layer (**121**) and a clay layer (**128**) were encountered. Layer **121** produced pottery sherds of 13th century date. Both **121** and **128** overlay a clay layer (**130**) that appeared to have resulted from an attempt to level the ground surface around the Hall and its associated buildings. Below this layer was **120**, a bedding/levelling layer containing a chronologically mixed pottery assemblage, ranging from Saxo-Norman to 13th to early/mid 14th century in date.

5.2.10 In the northern edge of the trench was well **115**. It was only partially exposed within the limits of the trench. It had been excavated by Barber in the 1950s (Jones and Ovens 2013, fig. 41) and was therefore left unexcavated.

5.2.11 Upper layers included demolition rubble (**102**) which covered the majority of the archaeological deposits. This layer produced a group of 17th/18th century pottery with sherd links to the subsoil (**101**) and topsoil (**100**), and which may represent a single clearance episode.

*Trench 2 (**Figure 4**)*

5.2.12 Trench 2 was located to the north-east of the Great Hall. The trench was located on an east-west alignment across the western edge of a sub-rectangular earthwork, with the aim of identifying the earthwork's function and date.

5.2.13 Across the centre of the trench, wall (**215**) extended on a north-south alignment; this coincided exactly with the line of the earthwork (**Figure 4, Plate 4**) The wall was constructed of squared ironstone blocks in dry-stone courses. There was evidence that it had been rebuilt on its western face, using larger limestone blocks (**203**) suggesting that perhaps the style or the function of the building had changed sometime after it had been built (**Figure 4, Plate 5**). A single pottery sherd of 13th to early/mid 14th century date was incorporated in wall **203**.

5.2.14 To the east of the wall, the earliest deposit encountered comprised a charcoal-rich, possible occupation layer (**213**), from which no dating evidence was recovered. Charcoal extracted from an environmental sample taken from layer **213** was identified as probably oak. Layer **213** was sealed by rubble layer **211**, representing collapse from wall **215**. Again, no dating evidence was recovered from this layer, but the overlying levelling layer (**210**) contained a single late medieval pottery sherd (14th-15th century).

5.2.15 To the west of wall **215** was a series of levelling layers, the earliest of which was **214**, sealed by **212** and then by **208**. Pottery in these layers was sparse, and is likely to have undergone some reworking – layer **212** contained a ceramic roof tile unlikely to pre-date the 13th century, while the overlying layer **208** contained sherds dating to the mid 12th to early/mid 13th century. A copper alloy binding strip, for which 12th-13th century parallels are known, was found in layer **214**.

5.2.16 Upper levels in the trench comprised further rubble layers from wall collapse (**206**, **205**, **204**). Pottery from layer **205** has a latest date of mid 15th-16th century, and **204** contained a 19th century transfer-printed sherd.

*Trench 3 (**Figure 5**)*

5.2.17 Trench 3 was located just beyond the western end of the Great Hall and was dug to establish whether there were any ancillary buildings in this area of the Castle, and if so whether they were attached to the Great Hall.

5.2.18 The trench yielded evidence of three distinct building phases. The earliest phase comprised wall **309**, on an east-west alignment and truncated at the western end by ditch **316** (**Figure 5, Plate 6**). A sondage excavated beside the wall revealed that it was made up of two courses of ironstone blocks. The backfill of the construction trench (**310**) contained a single pottery sherd, dating to the 15th-16th centuries. Wall **309** was butted by a white sandy mortar layer (**312**), probably bedding material for a flagstone floor. The latter layer produced pottery sherds of mixed date, the latest dating to the 15th-16th centuries.

5.2.19 It seems likely that this wall was deliberately demolished, and was rebuilt again as wall **304**, on a slightly different, north-west to south-east alignment, leaving only the final two courses of **309** and the mortar layer **312**. Wall **304** survived as five regular courses of ironstone blocks with a core of smaller ironstone fragments. Wall **304** was itself rebuilt on the same alignment by wall **307**. Only the southern faces of walls (**304**) and (**307**) were exposed (**Figure 5, Plate 7**), and there was no evidence for any associated floor surface(s). No dating evidence was recovered for the construction of either **304** or **307**.

5.2.20 In the western end of the trench a large north-south aligned ditch **316** appears to have truncated both walls **307** and **309** (**Figure 5, Plate 6**). This may have been a robber trench or possibly part of the post-medieval landscaping of the Site; it was not excavated fully due to time restrictions, and no dating evidence was recovered.

5.2.21 Few other deposits were encountered. Layers **306** and **311** appear to have been levelling layers, possibly pre-dating the construction of, respectively, walls **304** and **309**. Pottery of mixed date was found in layer **311**, the latest dating to the 13th-14th centuries.

5.2.22 Upper layers (demolition layer **302**, subsoil **301** and topsoil **300**) all produced pottery of which the latest date was early modern.

*Trench 4 (**Figure 6, Plate 8**)*

5.2.23 Trench 4 lay to the north-west of the hall and was excavated to investigate anomalies highlighted in the geophysical data. No archaeological features were encountered, but the trench did contain a demolition layer (**403**) and evidence of landscaping (**404** and **405**). Pottery from this trench was mainly medieval in date (13th-14th century).

*Trench 5 (**Figure 6, Plate 9**)*

5.2.24 Trench 5 was excavated through the large earthwork bank to the north of the Castle, thought to be part of the outer bailey. It was excavated to try to ascertain the date and function of the earthwork. The trench cut through the clayey bank material (**501**, **502**), and located a possible original ground surface of silty clay (**503**) below the bank, overlying the natural (**504**). The only artefact recovered from this trench was a halfpenny dating to 1806.

*Trench 6 (**Figure 7**)*

5.2.25 Trench 6 was located between Trench 2 and the Great Hall, and was targeted on geophysical anomalies. It contained robber trench **604** which ran on an east west alignment in the southern end of the trench (**Figure 7, Plate 10**). This feature produced a single sherd of 9th/10th century pottery, almost certainly residual in this context.

6 FINDS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Finds were recovered from all six of the trenches excavated, although quantities from Trenches 5 and 6 are minimal. The assemblage is dominated by pottery, animal bone and building material (ceramic and stone); the date range is medieval to post-medieval.

6.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and this information is summarised by trench in **Table 1**. This section provides basic details of the finds in order to assess their potential to address the aims and objectives of the project, in particular the establishment of a chronology for the various structural components of the Castle, and a consideration of the nature of its occupation and use.

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 In total, 358 sherds of pottery representing a maximum of 203 vessels were submitted for examination. The pottery recovered ranges in date from the Roman to early modern periods. The material was laid out and viewed by trench and extensive searches for cross-joining vessels were made. Where possible the codenames used for the archive of this site have been related to known Leicestershire codes, although the lack of an official printed or digital Leicestershire ware type series with adequate definitions seriously hampers consistency in the ceramic record. The Roman and post-Roman Pottery Type Series held at Leicester University was consulted and every effort was made to parallel the sherds found on this site with examples in it.

6.2.2 The assemblage was quantified by three measures: number of sherds, weight and vessel count within each context. Fabric identification of some of the pottery was undertaken by x20 binocular microscope. The ceramic data was entered on an Access database using Lincolnshire (Young *et al*. 2005) and Nottingham (Nailor and Young 2001) fabric codenames with a concordance with Leicestershire codenames (see **Table 2**). Recording of the post-Roman assemblage was in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al*. (2001). The Roman sherd has been archived according to the guidelines laid down for the minimum archive by the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Darling 2004). Codes used are those established by the City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit (CLAU) with a concordance to the Leicestershire Ceramic Type Series (Pollard 1994).

Condition

6.2.3 The pottery is mostly in a slightly abraded to fairly fresh condition with sherd size mainly falling into the small to medium size range (below 50 grammes). Forty-six vessels, mainly of medieval or later date, are represented by more than one sherd and there are eight cross-context joining vessels.

Overall Chronology and Source

6.2.4 A range of one Roman, 56 identifiable post-Roman pottery ware types and one miscellaneous sherd was identified, and the type and general date range for these fabrics are shown in **Table 2**. The post-Roman pottery ranges in date from the Anglo-Saxon to the early modern periods (**Table 3**) and includes local, regional and imported ceramics. A fairly limited range of vessel types was recovered including a range of bowls, jugs, jars, cups, plates and chamber pots.

Roman

6.2.5 A single abraded greyware sherd was recovered from Trench 2. The sherd has a thin oxidised external surface and a fine sandy matrix. The sherd fits into the Leicester GW5 fabric group. It is likely that the sherd dates from the 2nd to 4th century AD.

Saxon

6.2.6 The small and very abraded sherd found in subsoil deposit **201** in Trench 2 appears to come from a Saxon Oolitic-tempered vessel (LIM). This type is commonly found on sites of Early to mid-Saxon date in South Lincolnshire and has also been found at Coston in Leicestershire (Young and Rowlandson in prep.).

Late Saxon

6.2.7 Four vessels in three different ware types are of Late Saxon type and date between the late 9th and mid 11th centuries. The two shell-tempered vessels comprise a small Lincoln Kiln-type jar (LKT) and Lincoln Shelly ware jar (LSH) of late 9th to late 10th century date.

The two Early Stamford ware (EST) sherds are both from unglazed jars and are likely to be of 10th to mid 11th century date.

Saxo-Norman

6.2.8 A small group of five Saxo-Norman vessels was recovered from the site. Three of the vessels are glazed Stamford ware (ST) jars or pitchers, two of which are at the finer end of Fabric A and belong to the period between the mid 11th and mid 12th centuries. One of these sherds has the edge of what appears to be stamped decoration. The third Stamford ware vessel is a collared jar or pitcher in Fabric C of probable post-mid 12th century date.

6.2.9 The other two Saxo-Norman vessels are both in calcareous fabrics. A single small sherd found in deposit 208 in Trench 2 comes from a Rutland Saxo-Norman Quartz and Shell-tempered jar (RSNQS) of 11th to 12th century date. The second coarseware vessel is represented by four sherds from a South Lincolnshire Saxo-Norman Oolitic-tempered jar (SLSNOL). This fabric is most concentrated in the area around Stamford, but occurs as far north as Lincoln and is also occasionally found in Rutland, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire. In Stamford it first occurs in groups of 11th century date and appears to be falling out of use by the mid 12th century.

Early Medieval

6.2.10 Only three vessels of early medieval type were recovered from the excavation, although many of the medieval-type calcareous-tempered wares first occur in groups of late 12th century date. Two Developed Stamford ware (DST) vessels were recovered from Trench 2. Both sherds have a copper-mottled light green glaze and come from jugs of mid 12th to early/mid 13th century date. A jar rim sherd in South Lincolnshire Early Medieval Oolitic ware (SLEMO) was also found in Trench 2. This vessel appears to have a post-firing hole drilled through the rim. The type is not common but seems to be confined to the period between the 12th and early 13th centuries.

Medieval

6.2.11 Overall, seventy-nine of the pottery vessels recovered from the site can be dated to the medieval period, between the late 12th and 15th centuries, although most are probably of 13th to mid 14th century date. The material includes vessels from the large urban pottery industry at Nottingham (NCSW, NOTGE, NOTGL, and NOTGI) and more rural productions at Bourne (BOUA) and Stanion/Lyveden (STANLY) as well as from a large number of unknown, possibly short-lived workshops in Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland. The most interesting finewares to be recovered from the site are seven vessels in a medium to coarse quartz-tempered fabric that appear to be of local origin. This type has been named Rutland Oakham Area Medieval Glazed ware (ROAMG). Other vessels of this type were noted in the museum collection from previous excavations at the castle. The vessels are all wheel thrown, but are quite thickly potted, have a splashed-type glaze and have decorative techniques not often used by the other regional wheel thrown industries in the area. The use of combing and stabbing as found on two of the vessels from this site and others in the museum collection is however more common in some of the East Midlands handmade industries such as Potters Marston (Davis and Sawday 1999) and Lincolnshire Sparsely Glazed ware (Young *et al.* 2005). The vessels recovered from this site include at least three jugs and two jars.

6.2.12 The assemblage includes 23 vessels from five different Nottingham-types (NCSW, NOTGE, NOTGI, NOTGL and NOTGV) some of which may not be from production centres within the city itself. A single sherd from an Early Glazed ware jug (NOTGE) has an applied iron-rich strip with square roller-stamped decoration. During a period of

experimentation with suspension glazes and light firing fabrics during the first 20-30 years of the 13th century, a variety of decorative techniques including the use of iron-stained strips were employed in the Nottingham industry. Another early jug sherd is in Iron-rich Nottingham Green Glazed ware (NOTGI). This type appears to be a short-lived attempt to produce a suspension glaze on an iron-rich oxidised body at sometime in the early 13th century. Fifteen of the vessels are jugs in Nottingham Light Firing Glazed ware (NOTGL) which was produced throughout the 13th century and into the early part of the 14th century. Most of the jugs have a bright copper-green glaze suggesting that they are of 13th century date. Only one of the jugs is decorated, having an iron-rich painted vertical strip suggesting that it too is of 13th century date. A single jug sherd is in a Nottingham variant fabric (NOTGV). The remaining five Nottingham vessels are all in Nottingham Coarse Sandy ware fabrics (NCSW) and include at least one bowl and possible jars and a small jug. Coarse orange fabrics are produced throughout the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries but the fabrics of the vessels found at the castle suggest a 13th to 14th century date. A jug base in a cream fabric is visually similar to Early Nottingham Glazed ware but microscopic examination revealed a rounded quartz temper more typical of Newark Glazed ware (NEWG). This type is commonly found in early to mid 13th century deposits at Newark and represents a mix between the Nottingham and Lincoln traditions.

6.2.13 Two jugs are in fabrics common in the Grantham area (GAMG and GFRED). These oxidised Grantham types are not yet fully understood but were probably produced in the Grantham area between the 13th and 15th centuries. They have been found in small numbers at several sites in Rutland and north eastern Leicestershire.

6.2.14 Two vessels are in Bourne-type Medieval ware (BOUA). Neither is particularly typical of Bourne production and the type was produced at several other centres in Lincolnshire between the late 12th and 14th centuries and may also have been made in north Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire.

6.2.15 The 19 Stanion/Lyveden-type vessels found on the site include 11 vessels, mainly glazed jugs, in oolitic-tempered Fabric B. All of the sherds recovered from this site have a similar unusual micaceous fabric that has a high iron-rich content. Four of the jugs are decorated with applied or painted white clay strips. None of these vessels is closely dateable, but they are probably all of 13th to mid 14th century date. Three of the jugs have leached internal surfaces suggesting that they have contained an acidic liquid and one sherd appears to have series small pierced holes c40mm up from basal angle.

6.2.16 Two large sherds from the thumbed base of a jug are in a light firing oolitic fabric (SLLFO). This fabric has been found in the Stamford area, but may be a light firing product from the Stanion kilns. The jug has a copper-coloured glaze and appears to have been handmade.

6.2.17 Two vessels are from unknown production centres (MEDX), probably within the East Midlands area. Both are quartz-tempered wheel thrown glazed jugs of late 12th to 14th century date. The fabric of each vessel is described in detail in the archive.

6.2.18 Thirty vessels, mainly jars, are in a variety of predominantly calcareous-tempered fabrics probably all produced in the East Midlands. Eight vessels are in shell-tempered Stanion/Lyveden-type Fabric A (STANLY). These vessels include two inturned-rim bowls and four jars. In Stamford this type appears to first occur in late 12th century deposits and continues in use until at least the 14th century.

6.2.19 Five different Rutland types occur on the site. Their distribution is centred on Rutland, but they may have been produced in north Cambridgeshire, north Leicestershire, south Lincolnshire or Northamptonshire. The most common type is a coarse shell-tempered

fabric known as Rutland Shell-tempered (RST with 8 examples). Superficially the type is similar to other coarsely tempered shell-gritted handmade wares such as South Lincolnshire-shell tempered and Peterborough Shelly ware, but on microscopic examination the fabric is quite distinctive. At present this type can only be dated to between the late 12th and 14th centuries. Most of the sherds found on the site are undiagnostic, but two of the sherds definitely come from jars. A variant sherd from a jar has common carbonised vegetable inclusions (RSTCV) A more sparsely-tempered fabric (RSS) is similar to SHW 2 as identified at Peterborough (Spoerry and Hinman 1998, 107), but again has a different background matrix. The six vessels in this fabric are probably all medium to large-sized jars, one of which has a pressed rim edge. A single jar is in a Rutland Medieval Shell and Iron fabric (RMSF). This ware appears at present to be confined to Rutland, the Stamford area and north eastern Leicestershire. It is not known where the type was made and current dating is thought to be late 12th to early 14th century. An unusual oolite and iron-tempered jar rim is in a micaceous fabric (RMOFE) similar to that used for the Stanion/Lyveden vessels found on the site. It is interesting to note that some of the fired clay fragments found on the site are in micaceous fabrics and have common iron-rich grains.

6.2.20 The remaining five vessels are in four south Lincolnshire coarseware types (SLOOL, SLSO, SLSOF and SLST). All of these vessels are probably jars of late 12th to 14th century date.

Late Medieval

6.2.21 Twelve vessels are of late medieval to early post-medieval type. Four of these vessels are of Bourne-type. Bourne in south Lincolnshire was the centre of a pottery industry that started in the later part of the 12th century and lasted into the 17th century. During this long period of production a diverse range of fabrics was utilised and the industry can be divided into early medieval, medieval, late medieval and early post-medieval phases. Similar fabrics and forms to those produced at Bourne were utilised at a number of other known sites (Baston and Boston in Lincolnshire, Colne in Cambridgeshire and Glapthorne in Northamptonshire) and were probably also used elsewhere in the region. This has led to difficulty identifying the source of some vessels especially those of the transitional period between the medieval and post-medieval phases. It is not yet known if the late medieval to post-medieval 'Bourne D' type (Healey 1969 and 1975) was first produced at Bourne itself or originated elsewhere. Bourne D has traditionally been dated to the post-medieval period but it has become increasingly apparent that similar vessels with a slightly sandier fabric occur in what otherwise would be considered 14th century groups. These earlier types are referred to as Late Medieval Bourne type (BOULMT) and can at present only be dated to the period between the mid 14th and 15th centuries. All three of the late medieval-type vessels recovered from the castle are jugs. A fourth vessel is also possibly a jug but this sherd is of early post-medieval type (BOU). This vessel is unlikely to pre-date the mid 15th century or post-date the late 16th century.

6.2.22 Five vessels are in Midlands Purple (MP) fabrics. Precursors to Midlands Purple ware occur in several East Midlands areas (Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire) sometime in the second half of the 14th century but true Midlands Purple types are unusual before the mid 15th century. The vessels from this site are in orange to purple coarse fabrics and include vessels likely to be products of kilns at Ticknall in Derbyshire (Spavold and Brown 2005). Vessel types include jugs and jars that are unlikely to post-date the mid 16th century.

6.2.23 Three Cistercian ware cups (CIST) are represented by very small and undecorated sherds. The fabrics are similar to examples recovered from known kiln sites at Ticknall,

Derbyshire, None of the vessels appear to be late types suggesting that the group does not extend into the 17th century.

Post-medieval

6.2.24 Seventy-one of the vessels examined are in ware types that belong to the period between the 17th and 18th centuries. The vessels found on this site include coarsewares (BERTH, BL, GRE, LERTH and MY), slipwares (SLIP, STMO and STSL), tin-glazed ware (TGW) and imported stoneware (FREC).

6.2.25 The 18 brown-glazed earthenwares from the site (BERTH) are mainly in coarse oxidised fabrics that suggest they are of East Midlands origin and are of mid 17th to 18th century date. The group large bowls, cylindrical and curve-sided jars as well as two chamber pots. Most of the vessels are typical of Staffordshire/Derbyshire production but a few vessels may come from kilns in Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire or Leicestershire. A range of 27 vessels in black-glazed earthenwares (BL) includes vessels in coarse and fine fabrics probably also mainly produced in Staffordshire/Derbyshire. Vessel forms include large cylindrical jars, large bowls and cups. These vessels date to between the mid 17th and 18th centuries. A small fragment of undiagnostic late earthenware vessels (LERTH) is probably an example of an unglazed fragment of black or brown-glazed earthenware. Two jars in Midlands Yellow ware (MY) and two Glazed Red Earthenware (GRE) jar or pipkin sherds are of probable 17th century date.

6.2.26 Four undecorated slipware bowls (SLIP and STSL) include two with internal black glazes over a red slip. These vessels are most likely to have been made in Staffordshire, Derbyshire or Nottinghamshire between the mid 17th and 18th centuries. Two drinking vessels including a cup are in Staffordshire-type Mottled-glazed ware (STMO). These vessels are likely to post-date the late 17th century and predate the last quarter of the 18th century.

6.2.27 Nine undecorated Tin-glazed Earthenware (TGW) vessels include at least three chamber pots, a small bowl and a small jar. A tenth vessel of unknown type has traces of blue-painted external decoration. All of these vessels can only be generally dated to the period between the 17th and 18th centuries. Two imported German Frechen stoneware sherds (FREC) were found on the site. Both are from narrow-necked bottle-type vessels and date to the 17th century. Four tiny decorated sherds come from three 18th century Chinese Porcelain (CHPO) vessels. The vessels are probably a tea bowl, a small dish and a mug.

Early modern

6.2.28 Twenty-six vessels are of early modern type and date to between the early/mid 18th and 20th centuries. The group comprises a variety of industrial finewares (CREA, NCBLCB, NCBW, PEARL, SWSG, TPW and WHITE) and two stoneware types (ENGS and NOTS). A single small Staffordshire White Salt-glazed (SWSG) sherd could date anywhere between the introduction of the type towards the end of the first quarter of the 18th century until the demise of the industry in the last quarter of the 18th century. Creamware (CREA) was developed in the mid 1760s and continued to be made until at least the mid 1830s by which time it had mainly been superseded by modern whitewares. The nine vessels found on this site include plates and a chamber pot. Lighter coloured Pearlwares with underglaze blue transfer printing first occur in the 1780s, again diminishing by the 1830s. The five vessels recovered from the castle include transfer-printed plates and a side-handled bowl. Five other transfer printed vessels (TPW), a small plain Whiteware sherd (WHITE), two buff-bodied (NCBW) and one blue-bodied earthenware vessels (NCBLCB), are only generally dateable to between the late 18th and mid 20th centuries.

6.2.29 A single sherd of 18th century Nottingham-type Stoneware (NOTS) probably comes from a mug whilst the other stoneware sherd is from a bottle of late 18th to 19th century date.

The site sequence

Trench 1

6.2.30 A total of 81 vessels was recovered from the excavation of Trench 1. Most of the pottery is of medieval to post-medieval date, but one Saxo-Norman and one late Saxon sherd were also recovered (**Table 4**).

6.2.31 Topsoil layer **100** contained a small mixed group of 140 sherds representing 55 vessels. The group is very mixed and contains a high proportion of late 17th to 18th century pottery with cross-context joins to the subsoil **101** and demolition layer **102**. The latest sherd in the topsoil is of mid 19th to 20th century date. Subsoil deposit **101** contained a very similar group of material to that in the topsoil, again with the latest sherds being of mid 19th to 20th century date. Demolition layer **102** produced little pottery; however, the eight sherds representing seven vessels have cross-joins to large fresh fragments recovered from the topsoil and subsoil deposits. The pottery mainly comprises back and brown-glazed utilitarian wares of probable mid 17th to 18th century date. The composition of the group of post-medieval vessels recovered from these three layers suggests that they might have been part of a clearance episode. Several, almost identical, large and medium-sized cylindrical jars of Staffordshire/Derbyshire type are present in the group and the three Tin-glazed chamber pots also appear to be of identical manufacture. Further sherds of mid 17th to 18th century date were recovered from the fill of the modern post hole **106**.

6.2.32 Charcoal layer **118** contained sixteen sherds of pottery representing only six vessels. This small group comprises a single glazed jug of unknown medieval type, four oolitic-tempered jars or bowls including two of Stanion/Lyveden type and a Rutland Sparsely-shelled ware jar with a pressed rim edge. The group certainly belongs to the 13th or 14th centuries and is most likely to pre-date the mid 14th century.

6.2.33 Levelling layer **120** produced a mixed group of six sherds from five different vessels. The latest three vessels are two medieval jugs and a jar of 13th to early/mid 14th century date. One jug is of Light-bodied Nottingham Green-glazed ware type and one of Stanion/Lyveden type. The other two sherds are both in Stamford ware with the earliest vessel being an unglazed Early Stamford ware jar of pre-mid 11th century date. The other Stamford ware sherd is from a mid 11th to mid 12th century glazed jar or pitcher with stamped decoration.

6.2.34 A small group of eleven sherds representing five jugs was recovered from occupation layer **121**. Two of the jugs are in Light-bodied Nottingham Green-glazed ware of 13th century type. The other three jugs are all in a medium to coarse quartz-tempered fabric that appears to be of local origin. This type has been named Rutland Oakham Area Medieval Glazed ware and other vessels of this type were noted in the museum collection from previous excavations at the castle. The vessels are all wheel thrown, but are quite thickly potted and have a splashed-type glaze. One of these jugs is decorated with wavy combing and stabbing on the external and internal rim and the handle of another jug is stabbed. Typologically these three jugs belong to the period between the early and early/mid 13th century they could date to as late as the mid 13th century.

Trench 2

6.2.35 Fifty-five vessels of very mixed date were recovered from Trench 2 (**Table 5**). The material overall is in a slightly more abraded condition that that recovered from Trench 1

with the average sherd size also being much smaller. An abraded Roman Greyware sherd was recovered from cleaning in this trench.

6.2.36 Topsoil layer **200** and subsoil **201** produced small groups of mixed pottery with the latest sherds dating to between the late 19th and mid 20th centuries. Of note in these layers is a very small sherd from a Saxon oolitic-tempered vessel and a small late 9th to 10th century Lincoln Kiln-type jar.

6.2.37 A single 13th to early/mid 14th century Light-bodied Nottingham Green-glazed ware jug sherd was recovered from within wall **203**. Rubble dump **204** produced two sherds, one of which is from a 19th century Transfer-printed vessel. A second dump (**205**) also produced two sherds, the latest of which is a large Midlands Purple ware jar with a pressed strip around the rim. This vessel is probably a Ticknall product and belongs to the period between the mid 15th and 16th centuries.

6.2.38 Levelling layer **208** contained three sherds of probable mid 12th to early/mid 13th century date, however a fragment of tile from this layer is unlikely to predate the 13th century. A second levelling deposit (**212**) and slump layer **209** both produced small groups of late 12th to 13th century pottery. The twenty-five sherds from layer **212** came from only eight vessels most of which are calcareous-tempered jars or bowls. The single glazed sherd in the group is from a small Rutland Oakham Area Medieval Glazed ware jar. The small group of six sherds found in silty clay layer **209** is of similar composition.

6.2.39 A single sherd of Bourne Late Medieval ware was recovered from levelling layer **210**. The dating of this type is currently between the mid 14th and 15th centuries but it is possible that the type originates in the first half of the 14th century.

Trench 3

6.2.40 This trench produced little pottery. The material is fairly fragmentary and mixed in date (see **Table 6**).

6.2.41 Topsoil layer **300**, subsoil **301** and demolition layer **302** each produced small mixed groups of pottery with the latest sherds being of early modern date. The backfill of the construction trench of wall **309** (**310**) contained a single Midlands Purple ware sherd from a jar of 15th to 16th century date.

6.2.42 Nine sherds were recovered from levelling layer **312**. Most of the sherds are of 13th century date, but the group also includes a residual mid/late 11th to mid 12th century Stamford ware collared jar or pitcher and late medieval to early post-medieval sherds. The later sherds comprise a Midlands Purple ware jar or bowl and a Cistercian ware cup of late 15th to 16th century date.

6.2.43 Levelling layer **311** produced eleven sherds from four vessels. The group is somewhat mixed containing an Early Stamford ware jar of pre-mid 11th century date, two calcareous-tempered jars of 12th to 13th century date and a Rutland Oakham Area Medieval glazed ware jar. The latest sherd is probably of late 13th to mid 14th century date.

Trench 4

6.2.44 The 31 vessels recovered from this trench are mainly of medieval date. Several of the sherds are in a fairly fresh condition and weigh above 10 grammes (see **Table 7**).

6.2.45 Topsoil layer **400** contained ten sherds from nine different vessels. Seven of these vessels are most probably of 13th century date and include five Nottingham Glazed jugs,

one of which is of early 13th century date. Another probably early 13th century jug is in Newark Glazed ware. This type is commonly found in Newark in early to mid 13th century groups, but need not have been manufactured there. The latest two sherds in this topsoil deposit are of Late Medieval Bourne-type and are of probable mid 14th to 15th century date. All of this material must have been re-deposited at some time during, or after the 19th century, as subsoil **402** contains a 19th century Transfer-printed cup.

6.2.46 Redeposited natural layer **404** produced three sherds of 13th to early/mid 14th century date including two Light-bodied Nottingham Glazed ware jugs. The two vessels found in occupation layer **405** are of similar date. The largest group from this trench came from unstratified context **406**. This group of twenty sherds representing fourteen vessels includes jugs, jars and at least one bowl in nine different ware types. The group comprises glazed jugs of Nottingham, Stanion/Lyveden, South Lincolnshire Light Firing Oolitic and unknown types together with a range of jars and a bowl in calcareous-tempered fabrics. This group appears to be cohesive and certainly dates to the 13th century, possibly the first half.

Trench 6

6.2.47 Only six sherds from five vessels were recovered from this Trench (**Table 8**). Subsoil **601** produced two late 17th to 18th century Brown-glazed Earthenware vessels of late 17th to 18th century date as well as a residual medieval Stanion/Lyveden jug. A single sherd from a late 9th to 10th century Lincoln Shelly ware jar was recovered from the backfill of robber trench **604**.

Conclusions

6.2.48 This is a small but important assemblage whose potential is somewhat limited by the nature of the deposits from which much of it was recovered. The material however provides a good ceramic profile of the region and shows that pottery was sourced over a wide area from the late Saxon to early modern periods. Single sherds of Roman and Saxon date indicate occupation of this date in the area before the 10th century. The Late Saxon to early medieval material is dominated by Lincolnshire types, but by the 13th century pottery is also coming from kilns in Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire and more local kilns. Much of the medieval material comprises coarseware jars and bowls and undecorated jugs with a complete absence of what would be classed as 'high status' ceramic vessel or imported material. Little pottery can be attributed to the period between the mid 14th and 16th centuries, but by this period products of kilns at Ticknall in Derbyshire are finding their way on to the site along with late medieval Bourne-type vessels. By the 17th and 18th centuries black and brown-glazed coarsewares from a number of midlands centres and finewares from Staffordshire are dominating the assemblage.

6.2.49 Almost all of the pottery recovered from the castle would have been used for the preparation and storage of food and drink in the kitchen, pantry and buttery. A few of the decorated jugs may have been used at the lower end of the table for serving drink but most of the tableware used at the castle is likely to have been made of metal. The assemblage reflects the availability in the area of a wide range of types, especially calcareous-tempered vessels suitable for cooking.

6.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

6.3.1 One hundred and thirty-nine fragments of ceramic building material weighing 15.844 kg in total were submitted for examination. The material ranges in date from the medieval to early modern periods. The fragments were examined both visually and at x 20 binocular magnification. The resulting archive was then recorded using Lincolnshire codenames in

an Access database and complies with nationally recommended guidelines (Slowikowski *et al.* 2001). Where possible the fabric types used for the archive of this site have been related to known Leicestershire codes. There is however some difficulty in this, due to the visual similarity of many quartz and oolitic-tempered fabrics to the published descriptions of medieval and post-medieval Bourne and Stanion/Lyveden ware. Similar fabrics were utilised at a number of other known sites (Baston in Lincolnshire, Colne in Cambridgeshire and Glapthorne in Northamptonshire) and were probably also used elsewhere in the region. Twenty different tile fabrics have been identified amongst the material examined and descriptions of these based on x20 magnification are given below.

Condition

6.3.2 The material is mainly in a slightly abraded condition with few tiles showing signs of weathering. Few tiles still have mortar adhering, although in two instances this is over broken edges suggesting reuse. All of the material is in a stable condition.

6.3.3 A limited range of ceramic building was examined. The types are shown in **Table 9**.

Medieval to Early Post-medieval tile

6.3.4 One hundred and eighteen fragments from 80 different tiles were examined. One hundred and eight of the tiles are identifiable as glazed ridge tiles (GPNR) and a further six fragments are unglazed (RID) they too probably come from glazed ridge tiles. The tiles were divided into 15 different fabric types (**Table 10**) which suggest a number of sources for the material. Fifteen of the ridge tiles have evidence for crests, although most are fragmentary and at least four types are present.

6.3.5 A range of fifteen different visual fabrics is present (see **Appendix 2**). Individual variations within these fabrics or glazing are described in the archive.

Post-medieval to Early Modern tile

6.3.6 Fourteen fragments from twelve different tiles of post-medieval to early modern date were submitted for examination. A further forty tiles, recovered from deposits **101** and **102** in Trench 1, were not examined by the author. Most of the late fragments recovered from the excavation come from undiagnostic flat roof tiles. The tiles were divided into five different fabric types (**Table 11**) which suggest a limited number of sources for the material.

Brick

6.3.7 Only four identifiable bricks were recovered from the site. Three of these bricks were recovered from subsoil layer **101** in Trench 1. One of these in a fine oxidised fabric has been industrially manufactured and is of mid 19th to 20th century date. A small fragment in an oxidised marl fabric comes from a handmade brick made by the slop-moulding method. This brick is likely to be of 18th century or later date. The third fragment from the subsoil is from a handmade late medieval to early post-medieval brick of Boston-type (Mayes 1965). The brick is in a fine red calcareous fabric and has been bedded on straw. Surviving measurements give a length of 167+mm and width of 120mm. The brick has post-firing shaping giving a chamfered edge both lengthways and widthways. The brick has probably been altered to use around a window. These bricks first occur in 14th century groups in Boston but are most common in 15th to 16th century deposits. The fourth brick was found in subsoil layer **402** in Trench 4. This brick is in a fine orange-red fabric and has been handmade by the sand-moulding method. Surviving measurements give a brick of 140+mm x 119mm x 45mm. The brick is quite thin and has a slightly worn upper surface suggesting that it has been used for flooring. It is unlikely that this brick pre-dates the 18th century.

The site sequence

6.3.8 Fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from five of the six trenches investigated. Tile was recovered from all five trenches but was concentrated in Trenches 1 and 4 (**Table 12**).

Trench 1

6.3.9 A total of 58 fragments of ceramic building material was recovered from the excavation of Trench 1. Most of the pieces come from glazed ridge tiles of medieval to late medieval date, but fragments of brick, flat roof tile and fired clay were also found.

6.3.10 Topsoil layer **100** contained a small mixed group of nine fragments of ceramic building material representing three ridge tiles, three flat roof tiles and a fragment of fired clay that appears to have been pressed against a lath, plank or brick. Two of the flat roof tiles are of early modern date and the ridge tiles are of mixed type. A larger group of 19 fragments were recovered from subsoil deposit **101.** Three of the four bricks found on the site came from this deposit including one machine made example of mid 19th century or later date. Of interest is a handmade late medieval to early post-medieval brick that has post-firing shaping giving a chamfered edge both lengthways and widthways. Brick of this date is most uncommon in Rutland, although it is in fairly common use in eastern Lincolnshire. This brick has probably been altered to use around a window. Five of the glazed ridge tiles from this deposit are of medieval date with four examples being in possibly local Fabric 1. The other tiles are of mixed medieval to late medieval, post-medieval and early modern types. Demolition layer **102** produced 25 fragments from nine different tiles. Two of the tiles are post-medieval flat roof tiles in Fabric 5 otherwise the mixed group includes medieval to late medieval ridge tiles in five different fabrics including five decorated examples.

6.3.11 A medieval ridge tile and an industrially made early modern tile in Fabric 10 were recovered from the fill of the modern post hole **104**. A post-medieval flat roof tile in Fabric 5 came from another modern post hole (**106**).

6.3.12 Occupation layer **108** an abraded flake from a medieval ridge tile in Fabric 11. The fill of robber trench **123** produced a single fragment from a medieval to late medieval glazed Fabric 4 ridge tile.

Trench 2

6.3.13 Trench 2 produced very little ceramic building material. The ten glazed ridge tiles present are all of medieval to late medieval date and with one exception are in Fabric 4. These Fabric 4 tiles are sufficiently similar to suggest that they may have come from the same production batch.

6.3.14 Topsoil layer **200** produced a small group four Fabric 4 glazed ridge tiles, one very abraded piece of fired clay and a flake from a stone roof tile.

6.3.15 Rubble dump **204** produced a single fragment from a medieval to late medieval glazed roof tile in Fabric 18. A second dump (**205**) contained fragments from five medieval to late medieval glazed roof tiles in Fabric 4. Two of these tiles have cross-joins to fragments in topsoil layer **200**, suggesting localised levelling.

6.3.16 Levelling layers **208** and **210** each contained a single fragment of glazed ridge tile in Fabric 4.

Trench 3

6.3.17 This trench produced twenty-two fragments of ridge tile, three unglazed possible flat roof tiles and a piece of fired clay. The presence of nine different fabrics suggests that the material is fairly mixed.

6.3.18 Topsoil layer **300** and subsoil **301** produced small and very mixed groups of tile. The latest piece is from a flat roof tile of post-medieval to early modern date in Fabric 19. The other five tiles are each in a different fabric.

6.3.19 Demolition layer **302** contained three pieces of glazed ridge tile from two tiles in Fabrics 15 and 16 and a fragment of fired clay. One of the ridge tiles has a knife-cut crenellated crest.

6.3.20 Seven fragments from three tiles were recovered from levelling layer **312**. Five of the pieces come from a single glazed medieval ridge tile in Fabric 20. The other two tiles are in Fabrics 1 and 4.

6.3.21 The secondary fill of ditch **316** produced nine fragments from five tiles. Three of these tiles are in medieval to late medieval Fabric 15. The presence of a white slip on two of the Fabric 15 ridge tiles suggests that they may have come from the same roof. Another tile found in this deposit also has a white slip and is of similar general appearance but is in Fabric 2. One unglazed fragment in Fabric 1 could either come from a flat roof tile or from the lower, unglazed part of a ridge tile.

Trench 4

6.3.22 The second largest group of ceramic building material came from this trench. The 41 fragments include an early modern brick, 31 glazed ridge tiles, two unglazed tiles and a possible gutter tile.

6.3.23 Topsoil layer **400** contained a group of 14 medieval to late medieval glazed ridge tiles, most of which are in Fabric 4. One of the Fabric 4 tiles has an inverted triangle or fan-shaped crest set longitudinally along the apex of the tile. The other tiles are in Fabrics 3, 14, 18 and 20.

6.3.24 A single unusual fragment, in post-medieval to early modern Fabric 19, came from subsoil layer **401**. This curved piece could either be from a glazed ridge tile or from a gutter tile. The convex surface has runs of a thick brown glaze whilst the concave surface has a poorly fired amber/light brown glaze. A second subsoil layer (**402**) produced a fragment from a handmade brick of 18th century or later date, together with three glazed ridge tiles. Two of the three examples of medieval to post-medieval Fabric 12 tiles came from this deposit. The other glazed ridge tile is in Fabric 2 and has a crenellated crest set longitudinally along the apex of the tile.

6.3.25 Redeposited natural layer **404** produced three fragments of glazed ridge tile in Fabrics 4, 14 and 20. The Fabric 14 tile has evidence for a coxcomb crest. Occupation layer **405** contains two pieces from a similar tile with an intact crest. Five of the other glazed ridge tiles in this layer are in Fabric 20, two are in Fabric 4 and one is in Fabric 18. Few tiles were recovered from unstratified context **406**. The three medieval to late medieval fragments include glazed ridge tiles in Fabrics 4 and 20 and an unglazed ridge tile in Fabric 3.

Trench 6

6.3.26 A single fragment from a medieval glazed ridge tile in Fabric 20 was recovered from demolition layer **605**.

Conclusions

6.3.27 The group of ceramic building material recovered from the castle suggests that for most of the life of the castle ceramic tile was only used to cap the roof ridge. Five thousand Collyweston stone roof slates are noted as being acquired for Oakham Castle in 1383 (Aslet 2010) and it is this medium that was likely to have been used on all of the substantial buildings in the castle. The presence of fifteen different medieval to post-medieval fabrics and at least four different ridge crests suggests several episodes of roofing and, although the tiles may have been purchased from different production sites at different times, from the ground, only three basic colour schemes would have been visible. Most of the tiles are in a reduced green colour, with or without copper-coloured specks. Some of the tiles were coated with a white slip giving a yellow to light green coloured glaze and a few late medieval to post-medieval examples have a dark brown or purple-coloured glaze. Different buildings may have been tiled with the lighter coloured glazes, or they may have been used interspersed with the darker coloured tiles to form a chequerboard effect on the roof. It is probable that as building works and re-roofing took place redundant tiles were used on less important buildings until finally they ended up as rubble in-fill or levelling. Today at the Vicars' Court in Lincoln the roofs include tiles of 12th, 13th, 14th and 17th century date together with more recent tiles. Flat roof tiles only seemed to occur in any number in Trench 1 and there they were of post-medieval date. Few bricks were recovered from the site, but the presence of an altered early brick in Trench 1 that was possibly used as detailing around a window or door is unusual in the area.

6.4 Fired Clay

6.4.1 Three small fragments of fired clay were recovered from the Site. The piece found in topsoil layer **100** in Trench 1 is in a coarse orange fabric with common iron-rich inclusions. It has flattened impressions at right-angled impression suggesting that it had been pressed against a lath, plank or brick. The small very abraded and formless lump found in topsoil layer **200** in Trench 2 is in a fine micaceous fabric with moderate iron-rich grains. Another formless piece was recovered from subsoil layer **302** in Trench 3. This fragment has no surviving original external surfaces and is in an oxidised micaceous fabric with abundant mixed grains including fragments of micaceous sandstone.

6.5 Mortar

6.5.1 Other building material was recovered in the form of a few fragments of mortar. Four of these carry narrow rod (wattle?) impressions, while one has rectangular (lath?) impressions. Two flat fragments have monochrome white plaster surfaces.

6.6 Clay Tobacco Pipe

6.6.1 The clay tobacco pipe consists largely of plain stem fragments; these are not closely datable, but stem and bore diameters suggest a date range from 17th century onwards. Five bowls from topsoil in Trench 1 are all of the same type, dated *c.* 1660-90 (Oswald 1975, fig. 6M, 5), two with partial milling around the rims. A partial bowl from modern posthole **112** may be of the same type.

6.7 Stone

6.7.1 The stone consists exclusively of building material, primarily roofing slates, with a few architectural fragments.

6.7.2 All of the roofing slates are in the same locally available stone type: Collyweston slate, deriving from Middle Jurassic outcrops at Collyweston, a few kilometres to the south-east of Oakham. Shapes and sizes vary, but are consistent with the use of tiles increasing in

size from roof ridge to eaves. Some are subrectangular, although ranging from wide and squat to long and thin (but generally tapering slightly towards the top), while others have angled upper edges. The tiles were secured by a single peghole, and this may lie centrally or slightly off-centre; pegholes range in size from 6mm to 15mm, although most lie within the range of 9-12mm. A very similar range of shapes and sizes is illustrated from the Austin Friars, Leicester (Allin 1981, figs 19-20). Fifteen tiles preserve complete surviving dimensions (length and width, the length measured from nail hole to lower edge), and three others have measurable widths. **Table 13** presents both lengths and widths as a graded scale, showing that widths vary more widely than lengths (85-295mm), although with a more focused preferred range (120-189mm).

6.7.3 Six architectural fragments were recovered. Five appear to be ashlar blocks, each with at least one angled face. Three came from Trench 1 subsoil and one from demolition layer **302**; all these are in an oolitic limestone identified a Ketton stone, from a Middle Jurassic outcrop in the Kingscliffe area of Rutland. The fifth, from Trench 6 subsoil, is in Barnack stone, a shelly limestone from a Middle Jurassic outcrop in Cambridgeshire. The final piece is a thin voussoir, also in oolitic Ketton stone, from **302**.

6.8 Glass

6.8.1 All of the glass is post-medieval, and includes vessel and window glass, and one object. The glass was confined to Trenches 1-3.

6.8.2 Of the window glass (22 fragments), a few fragments are from modern clear quarries, while the remainder are in glass with a greenish or bluish tinge. All appear to be in lead (rather than potash) glass, and can be broadly dated as post-medieval. No edges survived, and the fragments are all too small to determine quarry shape.

6.8.3 Amongst the vessel glass, fragments of green bottles predominate. The most diagnostic fragments were recovered from the topsoil in Trench 1; these include three bases and four rims/necks (all of the latter are string-rims). All appear to derive from bottles of 'shaft-and-globe' form, dated *c.* 1660-80 (Dumbrell 1983, 50-5). A string-rim from the subsoil in the same trench is also likely to belong to a shaft-and-globe form, while a rim from Trench 3 topsoil is of later form, later 18th or early 19th century, and fragments of cylindrical bottles from Trench 2 topsoil and Trench 3 subsoil are modern.

6.8.4 Five fragments from a thin-walled phial(s) from Trench 1 topsoil include one kicked base; the overall form is uncertain, but the date range is likely to be later 17th or 18th century (Willmott 2002, 89-91). Modern clear vessel glass (all in very small fragments) was recovered from rubble layer **204** and demolition deposit **302**.

6.8.5 The single object is a short length of 'barley twist' rod, in a greenish-yellow glass. Twisted rods, presumably for stirring, were made, for example, at the 17th century glasshouse at Haughton Green near Manchester (Hurst Vose 1994, fig. 14, no. 96; fig. 16, no. 17). This object came from demolition layer **302**.

6.9 Metalwork

6.9.1 The metalwork includes coins as well as objects of copper alloy, lead and iron.

Coins

6.9.2 A medieval copper alloy jeton and two post-medieval tokens were recovered, all unstratified from Trench 1. All three are in good condition and show little sign of post-depositional corrosion, although all display some signs of pre-depositional wear.

6.9.3 The earliest of these is a copper alloy English jeton, struck late in the reign of Edward I. Jetons were reckoning counters used in medieval accounting and mathematical calculations. They were used in conjunction with chequerboards 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. English jetons were first struck under Edward I, using official dies, and can be tied closely to changes in portraiture the different coin issues. To prevent jetons being silvered and used as coins, jetons of Edward I were pierced. This example bears a piercing mark on the reverse, placed centrally, but this does not extend through the full thickness of the flan to the obverse. Jetons are common finds on high status medieval sites, and the presence of one at Oakham Castle probably indicates that some form of accounting or book-keeping was taking place.

6.9.4 The two tokens are later in date. The first is a fairly crude lead token. This bears a simple floreate design on one face and no inscription. Such crude tokens are poorly dated, and may have been used for a number of purposes. It is most likely to be post-medieval in date. The second is a small struck copper alloy token (probably a farthing) of the second half of the 17th century. This was struck by a Richard Muntun, from nearby Uppingham. Tokens such as this were common in the mid to late 17th century, particularly during the period of the Commonwealth when Parliament failed to issue official small coinage. As a result, from 1648 onwards, tradesmen, corporations and even private individuals struck their own tokens, usually in copper alloy, but sometimes in lead. No copper coinage was issued for the duration of the Commonwealth, and tokens effectively acted as the small change for the nation. It was not until 1672 that the crown started minting small coinage once again under Charles II that the use of these tokens became prohibited. A Richard Munton, presumably the same man, is recorded as a yeoman in Uppingham. He died in 1670.

6.9.5 In addition, two modern coins were recovered: a George III halfpenny (1806) from Trench 5 topsoil, and a 1962 shilling (Trench 3 topsoil).

Copper alloy

6.9.6 Apart from coins, the copper alloy objects include five buttons (all plain discs with rear loop attachments, three gilt) and a keyhole plate, all post-medieval; and a modern lapel badge of the NUR (National Union of Railwaymen). All were topsoil finds.

6.9.7 Part of a possible binding came from levelling layer **214**. This comprises a narrow strip (3mm wide) with an expanded, rounded and centrally perforated end. A group of very similar objects was found at Castle Acre, Norfolk, and the type is well known on castle and manorial sites of the 12th and 13th centuries (Goodall 1982, 235, fig. 43-4, nos. 1-23). The strips could have been used to decorate chests or caskets, or perhaps books. The example from Oakham conforms to the general class, being D-shaped in cross-section, and retaining traces of gilding on the upper surface.

6.9.8 A narrow strip, 9mm wide and broken at both ends, carries a double curvilinear row of punched dots, but is of unknown function; this came from subsoil in Trench 4.

6.9.9 A small, rectangular frame with a short (broken) projection on one of the longer sides is a strap loop, designed to hold down the loose part of a strap; comparable examples are known from medieval contexts in London, dating between the late 13th and late 14th centuries (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 230-1, fig. 447, no. 1236).

6.9.10 Other objects comprise two small undiagnostic fragments of sheet (Trench 2 topsoil), and a plain disc (rubble layer **205**).

Lead

6.9.11 An impacted musket shot was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 1 (diameter 13mm). The remaining lead consists of small waste scraps.

Iron

6.9.12 The iron objects are in general in poor condition, suffering from a high level of corrosion. Of the 150 objects recovered, at least 132 can be identified as nails.

6.9.13 Other identifiable objects include a small axehead (Trench 1 topsoil); a blade fragment, probably from a knife (Trench 3 topsoil); a horseshoe fragment (charcoal layer **118**); and a key (Trench 6 topsoil). Of these, the axehead and the blade are not closely datable, but the key is of standard post-medieval type, and the horseshoe is of 'lobate' form, characteristic of the early medieval period (Clark 1995, type 2A).

6.10 Worked Bone

6.10.1 A single bone object was recovered, comprising the small globular finial (diameter 8mm) of a turned, hollow object of uncertain function, fashioned from the shaft of a large-mammal long bone. This object came from cleaning layer **202**.

6.11 Animal bone

6.11.1 A total of 278 fragments (or 4.942kg) of animal bone were recovered from 32 separate contexts of medieval, post-medieval and modern date located in trenches 1 to 4. Most of the bone was recovered by hand during the normal course of excavation, and an additional small quantity of bone was retrieved from the sieved residues of three bulk soil samples (no. 1-3).

6.11.2 The following information was recorded where applicable: species, skeletal element, preservation condition, fusion and tooth ageing data, butchery marks, metrical data, gnawing, burning, surface condition, pathology and non-metric traits. This information was directly recorded into a relational database (in MS Access) and cross-referenced with relevant contextual information.

6.11.3 Bone preservation is good and only a small number of fragments were recorded with gnaw marks, and most of these are from medieval contexts.

The assemblage

6.11.4 A little under half (48%) of fragments can be identified to species and element, and the majority are from medieval and post-medieval contexts. The assemblage is briefly described by period in the following sections:

<u>Medieval</u>

6.11.5 Bone was recovered from 16 contexts of medieval date. Cattle bones are common and account for 30% of identified bones. Sheep is the second most common species, followed by pig and then domestic fowl. Most of the domestic fowl bones are from adult birds however there are also a few from immature birds, and this suggests that although the emphasis was probably on egg production, some birds were fattened up for the table before they had fully matured. The bird bone assemblage also includes a few adult goose bones. Other identified species include horse, deer and fish.

6.11.6 The left tibia of a red deer was recovered from unstratified context **406**. It is widely known that deer hunting was an elite pursuit during the medieval period, and that deer carcasses were butchered and dismembered in a ritualised way, generally referred to as 'the unmaking' (see for example Sykes 2006). The forequarters were then gifted to a member of the hunting party of low social status, such the forester or parker, while the hindquarters were retained by the landowner.

6.11.7 Fish bones were recovered from two bulk soil samples (from charcoal-rich layers **108** and **118**); identified species include cod and eel.

Post-medieval

6.11.8 A little under half (44%) of bone fragments recovered from post-medieval contexts are identifiable to species. Cattle and sheep bones are present in near equal amounts. Less common species include pig, horse, dog, domestic fowl and goose. A few of the cattle bones are from a young calf and this suggests that veal was readily available, probably due to a general intensification in cattle husbandry during this period.

Modern

6.11.9 The animal bone assemblage recovered from modern contexts is relatively small but includes 16 identifiable bones. The majority belong to livestock species, in particular cattle. Less common species include roe/fallow deer and goose.

6.12 Marine Shell

6.12.1 The shell consists entirely of oyster, and includes both right and left valves, ie. both preparation and consumption waste. The shells are in relatively good condition, with the majority preserving measurable original dimensions.

6.13 Further Recommendations

Pottery

6.13.1 All of the pottery has been recorded to archive level to comply with current guidelines for acceptance to the Leicestershire museums collection and with standards laid down by the relevant pottery groups (Darling 2004; Slowikowski 2001). This level of recording is considered sufficient for the assemblage. The material does however merit further investigative work on a number of ceramic fabrics, although this is not necessarily within the remit of the current project. The presence on the site of a possible local production (ROAMG) is important for the understanding of the ceramic sequence in Rutland. This could be investigated by characterising the fabric both chemically and by thin section analysis. The unusual micaceous fabric used for the Stanion/Lyveden vessels found on the site could also suggest a more local production especially given the similarity of the fabric to that used for some of the fired clay found on the site. Any future fabric type series for the area should incorporate the sherds from this site as a wide range of types was recovered. Seven vessels are suitable for drawing. The early modern pottery could be discarded. Otherwise, the entire assemblage should be retained for future study, especially as part of any characterisation of fabrics for a future local type series.

Ceramic Building Material

6.13.2 All of the ceramic building material has been recorded to archive level to comply with current guidelines for acceptance to the Leicestershire museums collection and with standards laid down by the relevant pottery groups (Slowikowski 2001). This level of recording is considered sufficient for the assemblage. This material should be integrated with the material previously reported on by Debbie Sawday. Four tiles and the early brick are suitable for drawing. Little is known about the ceramic building material sequence in

this area and therefore all of the material except for the un-archived Fabric 5 tile should be retained for future analysis or use in a local type series.

Animal Bone

6.13.3 The faunal assemblage is extremely small and this severely limits its potential for further more detailed study. The assessment results indicate that the castles residence ate a fairly rich and varied meat diet that included beef, mutton, pork, veal, venison, poultry and fish. No further analysis is proposed, but the results of the assessment should be incorporated in any publication report.

Other Finds

6.13.4 Other finds occurred in small quantities, and the majority are of post-medieval date, or are undated. Some medieval items of intrinsic interest were identified (such as the metal binding strip from Trench 2), but all finds have been recorded to an appropriate archive level, and no further analysis is proposed. details of any medieval finds will be incorporated into the publication report.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1.1 Two bulk samples were taken from charcoal-rich deposits in Trench 1 (**108** and **118**). A third sample came from charcoal-rich layer **213** in Trench 2. The samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals, as well as other environmental material.

7.1.2 The three bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains recorded in **Table 14**. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, tables 3 and 5), for cereals.

7.2 Charred Plant Remains

7.2.1 The flots were relatively large, particularly that from layer **108** which contained quite high quantities of wood charcoal. There were no roots or modern seeds recorded, and the deposits as such seem well sealed with a low chance of the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. The charcoal and other charred material, where present, was well preserved.

7.2.2 Despite the relatively large amounts of wood charcoal present, see below, the flots produced very little in the way of cereals remains or charred plant remains in general.

7.2.3 Only a few fragments of hazelnut shell were recovered from **108**, whereas the underlying layer produced a number of fragments of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell, as well as a few grains of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum* type) and a few seeds of vetch/wild pea (*Vicia Lathyrus* sp.). The deposit from Trench 2, layer **213**, produced only a single grain of wheat (*Triticum* sp.).

7.2.4 Given the presence of other food waste, including charred hazelnut shells, the absence of cereal grains might suggest that they were both stored, and processed elsewhere possibly even away from the castle grounds. In some of the earlier accounts a horse mill is

recorded, along with a mill held by Walkelin der Ferrers who granted tithes from it to the Priory of Brooke (Page 1935).

7.2.5 While cereal remains were scarce from this site, rachis fragments of free-threshing wheat were recovered from South Street, Oakham, but were the only cereal remains recovered from the site (Monckton 2006).

7.3 Wood Charcoal

7.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 14**. Large amounts of wood charcoal, including a number of quite large fragments, were recovered within two of the samples, from layers **108** and **213**. In both cases the charcoal could frequently be seen to be ring-porous and therefore most probably of oak. In the case of the charcoal from layer **213**, several pieces could be seen to come from roundwood, at least 40 to 50mm in diameter. The sample from **118** was less rich in charcoal, but still contained moderate quantities.

7.4 Land and fresh/brackish water molluscs

7.4.1 During the processing of bulk soil samples for the recovery of charred remains, snails were noted, and recorded (**Table 14**). Key identifications are given below following the nomenclature is according to Kerney (1999). The largest number of molluscs came from layer **213**, which contained shells of *Discus rotundatus*, *Helix aspersa*, and probably *Candidula/Cernuella*. The other two samples from **108** produced mainly snails of shaded and intermediate conditions, *Oxychilus, Trichia, Cochlicopa*, along a single shell of the open grassland species, *Vallonia* sp. The sample from **118** produced just a few shells of *Trichia* sp.

7.5 Small animal and fish bones

7.5.1 During the processing of bulk soil samples for the recovery of charred plant remains and charcoals, small animal bones were noted, and recorded (**Table 14**), in the flots. Most notably the sample from **108** produced high numbers of fish bone, including one very large fish vertebra (*c.* 15-20mm across), there were also a number of scales, eel vertebrae, and otoliths (fish ear bones) also of medium size, 4-7mm in diameter. This sample also contained a number of mammal bones including a single claw, and some probable bird bones. The sample from **118** was similar although there were less mammal and bird bones. That from **213** had no notable remains of mammals, fish or bird bones. It is worth noting that while conditions would appear suited to the survival of egg shell that no egg shell was recovered or recorded within the samples.

7.6 Further recommendations

Charred plant remains

7.6.1 Charred plant remains have the potential to inform on diet, cereal agriculture and processing. However, given the small number of remains present such potential is very limited; no further work is proposed.

Wood charcoal

7.6.2 Wood charcoal can inform on the selection of wood for fuel as well as on woodland management and composition. However, while the samples were very rich the diversity of material was very low and given that such material was not associated with any particular activity such potential is very low; no further work is proposed.

Land snails and fresh/brackish water molluscs

7.6.3 Land snails can inform on local landscape and vegetation, however, given the low numbers present such potential is limited; no further work is proposed.

Small animal and fish bones

7.6.4 The remains of mammals, fish and bone bones can contribute to information on diet, especially as such remains are not always present within hand excavated material. Given the relatively high numbers of remains present within layer **108** and **118** these samples have the potential to contribute information over the range of other animals exploited and brought into the Castle, particularly fish and bird that are likely to be under-represented elsewhere. The assemblage should be added to the bulk faunal assemblage and recorded in the same way.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1.1 The Time Team investigations have not added greatly to the existing archaeological knowledge of the castle itself. The accuracy of John Barber's findings was confirmed in Trench 1, but the other structural remains found form too small a sample to enable any significant discussion, and the results of the geophysical survey proved disappointing. No trace of any other free-standing buildings surrounding the Hall were located, despite clear documentary references to various 'chambers', and the probable re-use, in the large window in the east gable of the Hall, of 12th century masonry from nearby, presumably substantial, building (Hill 2013, 197-9).

8.1.2 Evidence for Saxon activity on the Site is limited to a small quantity of pottery (sherds from one early to mid-Saxon and four Late Saxon vessels); no features or deposits of this date were identified, either in the inner bailey, or within the earthworks of the outer bailey. These sherds augment Saxon finds already recovered from Oakham, but do not enable any further comment on the nature of activity at this date. The same is true of the small amount of Saxo-Norman pottery recovered.

8.1.3 The structural remains in Trench 1 can be correlated with John Barber's recovery of the service building attached to the east wall of the Great Hall, the passageway connected to the Hall by the now blocked doorway. A recent re-evaluation of Barber's results interprets these walls as belonging to a phase 2 cross wing rather than to a smaller phase 1 lean-to construction, and dating perhaps to the late 13th century (Hill 2013, 210, fig. 39).

8.1.4 The remains from Trenches 2 and 3 are more difficult to interpret due to the limited amount of evidence recovered. In Trench 2, wall **203** produced a single medieval sherd (13th/14th century), while the walls in Trench 3 appear to be considerably later, a 15th/16th century sherd occurring in the construction trench for the earliest wall in the trench.

8.1.5 Trenching across the earthwork of the outer bailey in Cutts Close produced no evidence for its date or function, but this is unsurprising as the earthwork in its current form almost certainly relates either to the early 19th century enclosure of Oakham, or to the construction of the Melton to Oakham canal (T. Clough, pers. comm.).

8.1.6 Nevertheless, the trenches did reveal that medieval structural remains do survive, and that the site still retains the potential for further investigation. Some further comment is possible on the basis of the building materials recovered. Fragments of glazed ceramic roof tiles suggest that for most of the life of the Castle ceramic tile was only used to cap the roof ridge. Five thousand Collyweston stone roof slates are noted as being acquired

for Oakham Castle in 1383 (Aslet 2010) and it is this medium that was likely to have been used on all of the substantial buildings in the castle. Variation in the ridge tiles, some of which have elaborate crests, suggests several episodes of roofing and sourcing from different production sites at different times. The crests and different coloured glazes would have created an eye-catching effect from below – see, for example, the elaborately carved finials surviving on the Great Hall today (Hill 2013, figs 5 and 9).

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1.1 An online OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) entry has been created for this evaluation and its findings and submitted to the website; this report will be uploaded to the website when complete.

9.1.2 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.

9.1.3 The results of this 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*. An report of approximately 3000 words is proposed, with 3-4 accompanying figures, and finds and environmental data tabulated as appropriate.

10 ARCHIVE

10.1 Museum

10.1.1 The excavated material and archive, including plans, photographs and written records, are currently held at the Wessex Archaeology offices under the project code 85206. It is intended that the archive should ultimately be deposited with the Rutland County Museum, Oakham, under the accession code **OAKRM:2012.15.**

10.2 Preparation of archive

10.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared in accordance with guidelines for *The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Rutland County Museum* (2nd ed, 2012), and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

10.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- 12 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts & ecofacts, ordered by material type, plus 12 unboxed architectural fragments
- 1 document cases of paper records & A3/A4 graphics
- 4 A1 graphics

10.3 Discard policy

10.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. In this instance, recommendations have been proposed for the selective retention of certain

material types (pottery and ceramic building material: see above). Any dispersal of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.

10.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002).

10.4 Security Copy

10.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

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Table 1: All finds by material type and by trench

Material	Tr 1	Tr 2	Tr 3	Tr 4	Tr 5	Tr 6	Total
Pottery	200/6590	85/717	34/266	40/1246	-	6/175	365/8994
Ceramic Building Material	95/17487	12/884	26/2157	43/4507	-	1/28	177/25,063
Mortar	3/285	-	-	3/192	-	-	6/477
Clay Pipe	57/325	20/36	2/6	-	-	-	79/367
Slate	2/51	-	-	-	-	-	2
Stone	33/27,916	6/2603	12/12,935	24/10440	-	1/13000	76/66,894
Glass	44/1501	8/46	15/87	-	-	-	67/1634
Metalwork (no. objects)	86	28	45	14	1	11	185
Coins	*3*	*-*	*1*	*-*	*1*	*-*	*5*
Copper Alloy	*-*	*7*	*5*	*2*	*-*	*-*	*14*
Lead	*6*	*2*	*5*	*1*	*-*	*2*	*16*
Iron	*77*	*19*	*34*	*11*	*-*	*9*	*150*
Worked Bone (no. objects)	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Animal Bone	113/1715	80/1348	30/239	52/1639	-	-	275/4941
Shell	15/210	1/9	3/21	15/180	-	-	34/420

Table 2: Pottery codenames and date ranges with total quantities by sherd and vessel count

Lincolnshire Codename	Leicestershire Codename	Full name	Earliest date	Latest date	Total sherds	Total vessels
BERTH	EA2	Brown glazed earthenware	1550	1950	59	17
BERTH	MB	Brown glazed earthenware	1650	1750	2	1
BL	EA2	Black-glazed wares	1550	1950	53	21
BL	MB	Black-glazed wares	1650	1750	10	6
BOU	BO1	Bourne Post-medieval ware	1350	1650	1	1
BOUA	BO2	Bourne-type medieval ware (Fabrics A to G)	1150	1400	3	2
BOULMT	BO1	Bourne Late Medieval ware	1350	1450	3	3
CHPO	PO	Chinese Export Porcelain	1640	1850	4	3
CIST	CW2	Cistercian-type ware	1480	1650	4	3
CREA	EA8	Creamware	1770	1830	13	9
DST	ST1	Developed Stamford ware	1150	1230	2	2
ENGS	SW	Unspecified English Stoneware	1750	1900	1	1
EST	ST3	Early Stamford ware	870	1010	2	2
FREC	FR	Frechen stoneware	1530	1680	2	2
GAMG	MS	Grantham Area Medieval Glazed ware	1200	1450	1	1
GFRED	MS	Grantham Area Fine Redware	1200	1450	1	1
GRE	EA	Glazed Red Earthenware	1500	1650	2	2
LERTH	EA	Late Earthenwares	1750	1900	1	1
LIM	SX	Saxon Oolitic limestone-tempered fabrics	400	850	1	1
LKT	LI1	Lincoln kiln-type shelly ware	850	1000	1	1
LSH	LI2	Lincoln Shelly ware	850	1000	1	1
MEDX	MS	Non Local Medieval Fabrics	1150	1450	2	2
MISC	MS	Unidentified types	400	1900	1	1
MP	MP	Midlands Purple ware	1380	1600	1	1
MP	MP2	Midlands Purple ware	1380	1600	4	4
MY	MY	Midlands Yellow ware	1550	1650	2	2
NCBLCB	EA	Nineteenth Century Blue Colour-bodied	1800	1950	2	1
NCBW	EA	19th-century Buff ware	1800	1900	5	2
NCSW	NO2	Nottingham Coarse Sandy ware	1200	1500	5	5
NEWG	MS	Newark Glazed ware	1200	1230	1	1
NOTGE	NO1	Early Nottingham Green Glazed ware	1200	1230	1	1
NOTGI	NO	Iron-rich Nottingham Green Glazed ware	1200	1230	1	1
NOTGL	NO3	Light Bodied Nottingham Green Glazed ware	1220	1320	20	15
NOTGV	NO3	Nottingham Glazed ware Variant	1200	1350	1	1
NOTS	SW5	Nottingham stoneware	1690	1900	1	1
PEARL	EA9	Pearlware	1770	1900	8	5
R	GW5	Roman pottery	40	400	1	1
RMOFE	CG	Rutland Medieval Oolite and Iron	1180	1400	1	1
RMSF	CG	Rutland Medieval Shell and Iron	1180	1300	1	1
ROAMG	MS	Rutland Oakham Area Medieval Glazed ware	1180	1300	9	7

RSNQS	CG	Rutland Saxo-Norman Quartz and Shell	950	1150	1	1
RSS	CG	Rutland Medieval Sparsely Shell-tempered	1180	1400	12	6
RST	CG	Rutland Medieval Shell-tempered	1180	1400	10	8
RSTCV	CG	Rutland Medieval Shell and Organic-tempered	1180	1400	8	1
SLEMO	CG	South Lincolnshire Early Medieval Oolitic	1100	1220	1	1
SLIP	EA7	Unidentified slipware	1650	1750	5	2
SLLFO	MS	South Lincolnshire Medieval Light Firing Oolitic	1200	1350	2	1
SLOOL	CG	South Lincs Oolitic (generic)	1050	1500	1	1
SLSNOL	CG	South Lincolnshire Saxo-Norman Oolitic	1050	1200	4	1
SLSO	CG	South Lincolnshire Shell & Oolite	1000	1230	8	2
SLSOF	CG	South Lincolnshire Shell Oolitie & Iron	1000	1230	1	1
SLST	CS	South Lincolnshire Shell Tempered ware	1150	1250	1	1
ST	ST1	Stamford Ware	970	1200	1	1
ST	ST2	Stamford Ware	970	1200	2	1
ST	ST3	Stamford Ware	970	1200	1	1
STANLY	LY1	Stanion/Lyveden ware	1150	1250	12	11
STANLY	LY4	Stanion/Lyveden ware	1150	1250	23	8
STMO	EA3	Staffordshire/Bristol mottled-glazed	1690	1800	2	2
STSL	EA7	Staffordshire/Bristol slipware	1680	1800	3	2
SWSG	SW4	Staffordshire White Saltglazed stoneware	1700	1770	1	1
TGW	EA11	Tin-glazed ware	1640	1770	18	10
TPW	EA10	Transfer printed ware	1770	1900	5	5
WHITE	EA10	Modern whiteware	1850	1900	1	1

Table 3: Vessel counts by ceramic period

Ceramic period	Trench 1	Trench 2	Trench 3	Trench 4	Trench 6	Totals
R	0	1	0	0	0	1
Roman	*0*	*1*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*1*
LIM	0	1	0	0	0	1
Saxon (5th to mid 9th C)	*0*	*1*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*1*
EST	1	0	1	0	0	2
LKT	0	1	0	0	0	1
LSH	0	0	0	0	1	1
Late Saxon (mid/late 9th to mid 11th C)	*1*	*1*	*1*	*0*	*1*	*4*
RSNQS	0	1	0	0	0	1
SLSNOL	0	1	0	0	0	1
ST	1	1	1	0	0	3
Saxo-Norman (10th to 12th C)	*1*	*3*	*1*	*0*	*0*	*5*
DST	0	2	0	0	0	2
SLEMO	0	1	0	0	0	1
Early medieval (12th to early/mid 13th C)	*0*	*3*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*3*
BOUA	0	1	1	0	0	2
GAMG	0	0	1	0	0	1
GFRED	0	1	0	0	0	1
MEDX	1	0	0	1	0	2
NCSW	0	2	0	3	0	5
NEWG	0	0	0	1	0	1
NOTGE	0	0	1	0	0	1
NOTGI	0	0	0	1	0	1
NOTGL	4	3	0	8	0	15
NOTGV	0	0	0	1	0	1
RMOFE	1	0	0	0	0	1
RMSF	0	0	0	1	0	1
ROAMG	3	2	2	0	0	7
RSS	1	1	0	4	0	6
RST	1	7	0	0	0	8
RSTCV	0	0	1	0	0	1
SLLFO	0	0	0	1	0	1
SLOOL	0	0	1	0	0	1
SLSO	1	0	1	0	0	2
SLSOF	1	0	0	0	0	1
SLST	0	0	0	1	0	1
STANLY	5	5	3	4	2	19
Medieval (late 12th to 14th C)	*18*	*22*	*11*	*26*	*2*	*79*

BOU	0	1	0	0	0	1
BOULMT	0	1	0	2	0	3
CIST	0	1	1	1	0	3
MP	0	1	4	0	0	5
Late Medieval to Early post-medieval (mid 14th to 16th C)	*0*	*4*	*5*	*3*	*0*	*12*
BERTH	15	0	1	0	2	18
BL	24	1	2	0	0	27
CHPO	0	3	0	0	0	3
FREC	2	0	0	0	0	2
GRE	2	0	0	0	0	2
LERTH	0	0	1	0	0	1
MY	2	0	0	0	0	2
SLIP	1	0	1	0	0	2
STMO	1	1	0	0	0	2
STSL	1	1	0	0	0	2
TGW	9	1	0	0	0	10
Post-medieval (16th to 18th C)	*57*	*7*	*5*	*0*	*2*	*71*
CREA	6	3	0	0	0	9
ENGS	0	1	0	0	0	1
NCBLCB	0	0	1	0	0	1
NCBW	0	1	0	1	0	2
NOTS	0	1	0	0	0	1
PEARL	1	4	0	0	0	5
SWSG	0	1	0	0	0	1
TPW	2	1	1	1	0	5
WHITE	1	0	0	0	0	1
Early modern (18th to 19th C)	*10*	*12*	*2*	*2*	*0*	*26*
MISC	0	1	0	0	0	1
Unknown	*0*	*1*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*1*
Totals						

Table 4: Trench 1 pottery vessel counts by ceramic period

Ceramic period	Trench 1
EST	1
Late Saxon (mid/late 9th to mid 11th C)	*1*
ST	1
Saxo-Norman (10th to 12th C)	*1*
MEDX	1
NOTGL	4
RMOFE	1
ROAMG	3
RSS	1
RST	1
SLSO	1
SLSOF	1
STANLY	5
Medieval (late 12th to 14th C)	*18*
BERTH	15
BL	24
FREC	2
GRE	2
MY	2
SLIP	1
STMO	1
STSL	1
TGW	9
Post-medieval (16th to 18th C)	*57*
CREA	6
PEARL	1
TPW	2
WHITE	1
Early modern (18th to 19th C)	*10*
Total vessels	**87**

Table 5: Trench 2 pottery vessel counts by ceramic period

Ceramic period	Trench 2
R	1
Roman	*1*
LIM	1
Saxon (5th to mid 9th C)	*1*
LKT	1
Late Saxon (mid/late 9th to mid 11th C)	*1*
RSNQS	1
SLSNOL	1
ST	1
Saxo-Norman (10th to 12th C)	*3*
DST	2
SLEMO	1
Early medieval (12th to early/mid 13th C)	*3*
BOUA	1
GFRED	1
NCSW	2
NOTGL	3
ROAMG	2
RSS	1
RST	7
STANLY	5
Medieval (late 12th to 14th C)	*22*
BOU	1
BOULMT	1
CIST	1
MP	1
Late Medieval to Early post-medieval (mid 14th to 16th C)	*4*
BL	1
CHPO	3
STMO	1
STSL	1
TGW	1
Post-medieval (16th to 18th C)	*7*
CREA	3
ENGS	1
NCBW	1
NOTS	1
PEARL	4
SWSG	1
TPW	1
Early modern (18th to 19th C)	*12*
MISC	1
Unknown	*1*
Total vessels	**55**

Table 6: Trench 3 pottery vessel counts by ceramic period

Ceramic period	Trench 3
EST	1
Late Saxon (mid/late 9th to mid 11th C)	*1*
ST	1
Saxo-Norman (10th to 12th C)	*1*
BOUA	1
GAMG	1
NOTGE	1
ROAMG	2
RSTCV	1
SLOOL	1
SLSO	1
STANLY	3
Medieval (late 12th to 14th C)	*11*
CIST	1
MP	4
Late Medieval to Early post-medieval (mid 14th to 16th C)	*5*
BERTH	1
BL	2
LERTH	1
SLIP	1
Post-medieval (16th to 18th C)	*5*
NCBLCB	1
TPW	1
Early modern (18th to 19th C)	*2*
Total vessels	**25**

Table 7: Trench 4 pottery vessel counts by ceramic period

Ceramic period	Trench 4
MEDX	1
NCSW	3
NEWG	1
NOTGI	1
NOTGL	8
NOTGV	1
RMSF	1
RSS	4
SLLFO	1
SLST	1
STANLY	4
Medieval (late 12th to 14th C)	*26*
BOULMT	2
CIST	1
Late Medieval to Early post-medieval (mid 14th to 16th C)	*3*
NCBW	1
TPW	1
Early modern (18th to 19th)	*2*
Total vessels	**31**

Table 8: Trench 6 pottery vessel counts by ceramic period

Ceramic period	Trench 6
LSH	1
Late Saxon (mid/late 9th to mid 11th C)	*1*
STANLY	2
Medieval (late 12th to 14th C)	*2*
BERTH	2
Post-medieval (16th to 18th C)	*2*
Total vessels	**5**

Table 9: Ceramic building material codenames and total quantities by fragment count and weight

Codename	Full name	Total fragments	Total weight in grams
BRK	Brick	4	2673
FIRED CLAY	Fired clay	3	88
GPNR	Glazed peg, nib or ridge	1	11
GRID	Glazed ridge tile	108	10047
MISC	Unidentified types	1	69
NIB	Nibbed tile	2	391
PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	13	2273
RID	Unidentified ridge tile	7	287
STILE	Stone tile	1	5

Table 10: Medieval to early post-medieval tile fabrics and total quantities by fragment count and weight

Site Fabric	Leicester Fabric	*Ceramic date*	Total fragments	Total weight in grams
Site Fabric 1	BO3	Medieval	11	1389
Site Fabric 2	BO2/3	Medieval	7	341
Site Fabric 3	BO	Medieval to late medieval	4	630
Site Fabric 4	LY1	Medieval to late medieval	52	5053
Site Fabric 8	MP/MS	Late medieval to post medieval	1	73
Site Fabric 9	MS	Medieval to late medieval	1	58
Site Fabric 11	MS	Medieval	2	67
Site Fabric 12	MS	Medieval to post-medieval	3	120
Site Fabric 13 + 3	MS ?	Medieval to late medieval	2	112
Site Fabric 14	LY1	Medieval to late medieval	7	446
Site Fabric 15	LY1	Medieval to late medieval	7	1034
Site Fabric 16	MS	Late medieval to post-medieval	2	167
Site Fabric 17	MS /CG	Medieval to late medieval	1	25
Site Fabric 18	MS /CG	Medieval to late medieval	4	324
Site Fabric 20	BO2	Medieval	14	877
Totals			*118*	*10716*

Table 11: Post-medieval to early modern tile fabrics and total quantities by fragment count and weight

Site fabric	Leicestershire Fabric	*Ceramic date*	Total fragments	Total weight in grams
Site Fabric 5	MS	Post-medieval	5	1776
Site Fabric 6	EA ?	Early modern	4	275
Site Fabric 7	EA ?	Early modern	2	175
Site Fabric 10	EA ?	Early modern	1	25
Site Fabric 19	MS/EA ?	Post-medieval to early modern	2	111
Totals			*14*	*2362*

Table 12: Tile fabrics by trench with total quantities by fragment count

Site Fabric	*Ceramic date*	Trench 1	Trench 2	Trench 3	Trench 4	Trench 6	Total frags
Site Fabric 1	Medieval	9	0	2	0	0	11
Site Fabric 2	Medieval	2	0	4	1	0	7
Site Fabric 3	Medieval to late medieval	2	0	0	2	0	4
Site Fabric 4	Medieval to late medieval	19	11	2	20	0	52
Site Fabric 5	Post-medieval	5	0	0	0	0	5
Site Fabric 6	Early modern	4	0	0	0	0	4
Site Fabric 7	Early modern	2	0	0	0	0	2
Site Fabric 8	Late medieval to post-	1	0	0	0	0	1
Site Fabric 9	Medieval to late medieval	1	0	0	0	0	1
Site Fabric 10	Early modern	1	0	0	0	0	1
Site Fabric 11	Medieval	2	0	0	0	0	2
Site Fabric 12	Medieval to post-medieval	1	0	0	2	0	3
Site Fabric 13	Medieval to late medieval	2	0	0	0	0	2
Site Fabric 14	Medieval to late medieval	3	0	0	4	0	7
Site Fabric 15	Medieval to late medieval	0	0	7	0	0	7
Site Fabric 16	Late medieval to post-	0	0	2	0	0	2
Site Fabric 17	Medieval to late medieval	0	0	1	0	0	1
Site Fabric 18	Medieval to late medieval	0	1	1	2	0	4
Site Fabric 19	Post-medieval to early	0	0	1	1	0	2
Site Fabric 20	Medieval	0	0	5	8	1	14
Totals		*54*	*12*	*25*	*40*	*1*	*132*

Table 13: Stone tile measurements

Length (mm)	No. slates	Width (mm)	No. slates
190-199	1	80-89	1
200-209	1	90-99	
210-219	1	100-109	
220-229	1	110-119	
230-239	1	120-129	4
240-249	2	130-139	1
250-259	2	140-149	2
260-269	2	150-159	1
270-279		160-169	1
280-289	1	170-179	2
290-299		180-189	2
300-309	2	190-199	
310-319		200-209	1
320-329		210-219	
330-339	1	220-229	
		230-239	1
		240-249	
		250-259	
		260-269	
		270-279	
		280-289	1
		290-299	1

Table 14: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Samples				Flot								
Feature	Context	Sample	Vol. Ltrs	Flot (ml)	% roots	Charred Plant Remains				Charcoal >4/2mm	Other	Analysis
						Grain	Chaff	Other	Comments			
Trench 1												
Layer	108	1	20	750	-	-	-	C	Oak charcoal. Hazelnut shell Large fish bone Uncharred elder	40ml/100ml	LMB-(B) Bird (B) Fish - (A) Moll-(C) Eel – (B)	-
layer	118	2	20	275	-	C	-	A	25+ frgs Charred hazelnut x8. Free-threshing wheat grain x2, Vicia x3	10ml/15ml	Lmb-(C) Fish-(A) Moll-(C)	-
Trench 2												
Layer at foot of wall 215	213	32	20	350	-	C	-	-	Large charcoal fragments of oak. Some round wood. Triticum sp. x1	30ml/	Moll-(B)	-

Key:
A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Charcoal volumes are given in ml for material greater than 4mm and 2mm. sab/f = small animal/fish bones, Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs, Moll-f = freshwater molluscs; Analysis: C = charcoal, P = plant, M = molluscs, C14 = radiocarbon

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

bgl = below ground level

TRENCH 1			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 5.80 x 2.8m		Max. depth: 1.20m	Ground level: OD	
Co-ordinates: E N				
Context	**Description**			**Depth (m)**
100	Layer	Topsoil: dark greyish-brown silty clay loam with common root disturbance (fine) and subangular ironstone (<0.05m).		0 – 0.21 bgl
101	Layer	Subsoil: mid greyish-brown silty clay with a orangey hue with moderate fine rooting, very common subangular ironstone blocks (<0.10m).		0.21 - 0.33 bgl
102	Layer	Levelling / demolition layer: mid to light yellowish-grey-brown silty clay, moderate to common subangular ironstone (<0.25m), moderate stone roof tile fragments.		0.33 – 0.74 bgl
103	Cut	Modern posthole: filled with 109.		0.21
104	Cut	Modern posthole: filled with 105.		0.21
105	Fill	Fill of modern posthole: fill of 104.		
106	Cut	Modern posthole: filled with 107.		0.21
107	Fill	Fill of modern posthole: fill of 106.		
108	Layer	Occupation layer: dark brownish-grey silty clay, charcoal-rich layer which lies about clay levelling layer 117. Environmental sample 1.		0.58
109	Fill	Fill of modern posthole: fill of 103.		
110	Structure	Wall: east-west aligned wall, predominantly made out of squared ironstone blocks. Width 0.59m, surviving height 1.04m. Would have formed a corridor with a wall to the north robbed out by robber trench 123.		0.70
111	Fill	Fill of robber trench 123.		
112	Cut	Cut of modern posthole: filled with 113.		0.21
113	Fill	Fill of modern posthole 112.		
114	Cut	Cut for construction of well, filled with 115 and 116, unexcavated.		0.70
115	Structure	Well: fill of 114, unexcavated.		
116	Fill	Backfill around well 114, unexcavated.		
117	Layer	Levelling layer: appears have been deposited as a levelling layer for a floor surface within the medieval corridor; lies directly below occupation layer 108.		0.62
118	Layer	Occupation layer: very similar to 108; appears to be an earlier phase of occupation. Lies below 117 and above levelling layer 127. Environmental sample 2.		0.74
119	Cut	Cut of 1950s archaeological trench, backfilled with 126.		0.21
120	Layer	Possibly early bedding/levelling layer prior to the construction of the building, but no direct stratigraphic evidence for this.		0.89
121	Layer	Occupation layer: small spread of charcoal, found in the north of the trench, away from occupation layers 108 and 118.		0.77
122	Layer	Bedding/levelling layer: light yellowish-brown sandy silt, bedding for what may have been a flagstone floor surface.		1.11
123	Cut	Cut of robber trench, which has robbed out what would have been the parallel wall to 110; filled with 111. Width 0.70m, depth 1.08m.		0.33
124	Cut	Construction cut for wall 110, filled with 124.		1.14
125	Fill	Backfill of construction cut124, around wall 110.		
126	Fill	Backfill of 1950s excavation trench 119.		
127	Layer	Levelling layer: deliberate dump of material to create hard		0.78

		packed clay surface.	
128	Layer	Occupation layer: thin layer of redeposited clay, possibly deposited by trample, or perhaps deliberately laid down as some sort of temporary surface.	0.78
129	Layer	Occupation layer: possibly a trample layer deposited shortly after the removal of a floor surface (possibly flagstones) from above bedding layer 122.	0.98
130	Layer	Levelling layer: very similar in colour and texture to 102; possibly part of a levelling layer for a floor surface.	0.78
131	Layer	Unexcavated layer directly south of wall 110.	0.74

TRENCH 2			**Type: Evaluation**	**Machine excavated**
Dimensions: 6 x 2.2m		**Max. depth: 0.95m**	**Ground level: OD**	
Co-ordinates: E N				
Context	**Description**			**Depth (m)**
200	Layer	Topsoil: dark greyish-brown silty clay loam with common root disturbance (fine).		0 – 0.13 bgl
201	Layer	Subsoil: dark to mid-greyish-brown silty clay, quite compact with moderate fine rooting.		0.13 - 0.23 bgl
202	Layer	Number assigned to the initial cleaning of the trench.		0.23 bgl
203	Structure	North-south aligned wall, fill of 218.		0.18
204	Layer	Rubble dump, possibly caused by the collapse of wall 203.		0.21
205	Layer	Rubble dump, possibly part of deliberate attempt to landscape the area once wall collapsed.		0.23
206	Layer	Small slump of material mixed with a build up of topsoil and clay against the face of wall 203.		0.24
207	-	NUMBER VOID		
208	Layer	Levelling layer: build-up of material shortly after the construction of 203, possibly as deliberate attempt to level ground surface.		0.58
209	Layer	Build-up of silty clay.		0.24
210	Layer	Levelling layer: appears to be on the inside of wall 203; might be deliberate build-up of material to create level ground surface.		0.35
211	Layer	Wall collapse: looks like collapse of wall material from either wall 203 or 215.		0.42
212	Layer	Levelling layer: deliberate attempt to level ground surface around wall 215.		0.50
213	Layer	Possible occupation layer containing moderate amounts of charcoal. Environmental sample 3.		0.74
214	Layer	Levelling layer: compact clay layer, possibly another phase of ground levelling around walls 215 and 203.		0.70
215	Structure	Wall, probably part of rectangular building visible as earthworks targeted by Trench 2, function unknown. Width 1.02m, height 0.70m.		0.20
216	Cut	Construction cut for wall 203, filled with 217.		0.18
217	Fill	Backfill around wall 203 and filling cut 216.		
218	Cut	Construction cut for wall 215, filled with 219		0.20
219	Fill	Backfill around wall 215, in construction cut 218.		
220	Layer	Natural: blue-greyish-brown clay with subangular stone fragments (<0.20m).		0.95

TRENCH 3			**Type: Evaluation**	**Machine excavated**
Dimensions: 6.7 x 4m		**Max. depth: 0.89m**	**Ground level: OD**	
Co-ordinates: E N				
Context	**Description**			**Depth (m)**
300	Layer	Topsoil: dark greyish-brown silty clay loam with common root		0 – 0.14 bgl

		disturbance (fine).	
301	Layer	Subsoil: dark to mid-yellowish-grey silty clay with a brownish hue, containing common subangular stone blocks (<0.20m).	0.14 - 0.35 bgl
302	Layer	Demolition layer: mid-greyish-brown silty clay with yellow hue, containing very common subangular stone blocks (<0.20m). A widespread demolition layer found across trench; probably result of post-medieval landscape and ground clearance.	0.35 – 0.74 bgl
303	Cut	Construction cut for wall 304. Filled with 304 and 305.	0.18
304	Wall	East west aligned wall; fills cut 303.	0.04
305	Fill	Backfill around 304, filling cut 303.	0.18
306	Layer	Possibly an early phase of levelling prior to the construction of wall 304.	0.24
307	Structure	Wall on same alignment as 304; possibly rebuild of the same wall or realignment of the same structure.	
308	Cut	Construction cut for wall 309, filled with 310.	0.75
309	Structure	East-west aligned wall, part of cut 308.	0.75
310	Fill	Backfill of construction cut 308.	0.75
311	Layer	Possibly a levelling layer prior to the construction of wall 309.	0.72
312	Layer	Mid to light greyish-yellow silty clay; possibly used as bedding/foundation layer for earlier floor surface (possibly stone).	0.65
313	-	NUMBER VOID	-
314	-	NUMBER VOID	-
315	-	NUMBER VOID	-
316	Cut	Ditch: large north-south ditch at eastern end of trench; possible robber trench, truncates most features in Trench 3. Not fully excavated; filled with 317 and 318.	0.17
317	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch 316.	
318	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch 318.	
319	Cut	Modern posthole, filled with 320.	0.20
320	Fill	Secondary fill of posthole 319.	
321	Cut	Construction cut for wall 307; filled with 322.	0.04
322	Fill	Backfill of construction cut 321.	0.04

TRENCH 4			**Type: Evaluation**	**Machine excavated**
Dimensions: 6.5 x 3.5m		**Max. depth: 0.50m**	**Ground level: OD**	
Co-ordinates: E N				
Context	**Description**			**Depth (m)**
400	Layer	Topsoil: dark greyish-brown silty clay loam with common root disturbance (fine).		0 – 0.12 bgl
401	Layer	Subsoil: mid brownish-grey silty clay, very dry and friable. Contains sparse sub angular stone (<0.05m) and sparse root disturbance (fine)		0.12 - 0.32 bgl
402	Layer	Possibly a buried topsoil layer, very few inclusions. Mid greyish-brown silty clay; probably result of post-medieval landscaping.		0.32 – 0.48 bgl
403	Layer	Demolition layer: mid brownish-grey silty clay containing very common building rubble, subangular stone blocks (<0.15m) and roof tile.		0.48 – 0.67 bgl
404	Layer	Redeposited natural: patches of orangey-brown clay found throughout the trench at this depth, possibly related to the post-medieval landscaping.		0.67 – 0.70 bgl
405	Layer	Dark greyish-brown silty clay containing moderate charcoal flecks. The charcoal might represent an occupation layer.		0.70 – 0.76 bgl
406	Void	Voided Context.		
407	Cut	Modern pipe trench: filled with 408.		0.13

408	Fill	Fill of modern pipe trench: fill of 407.	

TRENCH 5			**Type: Evaluation**	**Machine excavated**
Dimensions: 3x1.4m		**Max. depth: 1.16m**	**Ground level: OD**	
Co-ordinates: E N				
Context	**Description**			**Depth (m)**
500	Layer	Topsoil: dark greyish-brown silty clay loam with common grass root disturbance (fine) and sparse/rare sub angular stone (<0.05m).		0 – 0.20 bgl
501	Layer	Mid greyish-brown silty clay loam, possibly the original surface of the bank which has suffered from heavy weathering.		0.20 – 0.45 bgl
502	Layer	Bank material: mid grey clay with yellow-grey mottles, used for the construction of the bank.		0.45 – 0.66 bgl
503	Layer	Mid reddish-brown silty clay, possibly the original ground surface prior to the construction of the bank.		0.66 bgl
504	Layer	Natural: reddish-brown sandy silty clay with small subangular stones (<0.06m).		0.49 – 0.1.16 bgl
505	Layer	Subsoil: mid dark greyish-brown silty clay with sparse/ moderate root disturbance (fine) and sparse sub angular stone (<0.06m).		0.25 – 0.46 bgl

TRENCH 4			**Type: Evaluation**	**Machine excavated**
Dimensions: 3 x 1.70m		**Max. depth: 0.76m**	**Ground level: OD**	
Co-ordinates: E N				
Context	**Description**			**Depth (m)**
600	Layer	Topsoil: very dark greyish-brown silty clay loam with common root disturbance (fine).		0 – 0.13 bgl
601	Layer	Subsoil: mid brownish-grey sandy silty clay rubble layer, contains sparse/moderate sub angular demolition material subangular stone blocks and roof tile (<0.30m).		0.13 - 0.33 bgl
602	Layer	Demolition layer: mid greyish-brown silty clay, quite loose, containing sparse subangular stone blocks (<0.20m).		0.33 – 0.50 bgl
603	Fill	Secondary fill: backfill of robber trench 605.		
604	Cut	Robber trench (excavated length 1.7m, width 0.68m, depth 0.60m): filled with 603 and 606.		0.33
605	Layer	Demolition layer: compact mid-yellowish-brown sandy clay containing rare mortar and shell flecks and very rare bone fragments and pottery.		0.70 – 0.76 bgl
606	Fill	Primary fill of robber trench 604.		
607	Layer	Mid reddish-brown silty clay, very compact containing rare charcoal flecks, possibly early phase of site levelling /landscaping.		0.13

APPENDIX 2: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL FABRICS

Medieval to early post-medieval

Fabric 1
This fabric has abundant medium to coarse (0.4-0.6mm) round to subround quartz grains with sparse coarse sized up to 1.5mm, together with moderate iron-rich grains up to 4.0mm and sparse rounded calcareous inclusions, probably limestone. Most of the tiles have a reduced body with oxidised external surfaces. Eleven fragments from five different glazed tiles were recovered from the site. Four of the tiles are definitely ridge tiles whilst the other fragment could either be from the lower part of a ridge tile or from a flat roof tile. All of the tiles have a thick reduced green or oxidised brown glaze and vary between 15mm and 18mm in thickness. One tile has the scar of a crest set longitudinally across the apex of the tile.
Medieval: Superficially looks like a Bourne or Baston product but more likely a local type as very similar to pottery ROAMG ware.

Fabric 2
This fabric has abundant fine round to subround quartz below 0.2mm with moderate to common quartz grains of 0.2 to 0.4mm and occasional grains up to 0.8mm. The fabric also contains moderate iron-rich grains and sparse ooliths. What is unusual about this fabric is that the outer margins of most of the tiles have moderate to common ooliths, often in a slightly lighter firing clay matrix. Seven fragments from four different ridge tiles were found on the site. All of the fragments from this site are low-fired and have a light grey fabric with light orange to orange external surfaces. Thickness varies between 14mm and 15mm. Three of the tiles have traces of a white slip under a yellow to pale green glaze containing some copper-coloured specks. One tile has part of a knife-cut crenellated crest longitudinally along the apex.
Medieval: possibly a Bourne or Baston product.

Fabric 3
This fabric has common fine to medium-sized (mostly of 0.2-0.4mm but occasionally up to 0.6mm) round to subround quartz grains, together with common, mainly rounded, iron-rich grains and sparse calcareous inclusions, probably limestone. The four fragments in this fabric are in a reduced fabric with oxidised surfaces. Three of the pieces come from ridge tiles whilst the fourth could be from a ridge or flat roofer. Tile thickness is variable between 13mm and 15mm at the edges and thins to 11mm at the apex. Glazing appears to be confined to towards the upper part of the tile and is variable on the two glazed examples found on the site. One tile has an iron-flecked thick reduced green glaze whilst the other tile has an uneven white slip under a smeared yellow to brown glaze. The slipped tile has the scar of a crest running longitudinally along the apex of the tile. An occasional thin piercing occurs on one tile.
Medieval to late medieval: visually similar to Bourne and Baston but fabric wrong, possibly a Glapthorn product.

Fabric 4
This fabric contains common ooliths and common often angular, iron-rich grains, up to 8.0mmm in a micaceous matrix. This is the most common fabric to be recovered from the site with 52 fragments from 33 different ridge tiles. The fabric is reduced to between a light and medium grey colour with thin orange surfaces. Most tiles are regularly pierced throughout the body. Glazes are mainly a thick dark reduced green colour with rare to common copper-coloured mottling, but three examples have a yellow to light green glaze over a white slip. Tile thickness is variable from between 8mm and 15mm, with tiles often thinning at the apex. Four of the ridge tiles have evidence for longitudinal crests. Two of these tiles have knife-cut crenellated crests and one has an inverted triangular or fan-shaped crest.
Medieval to late medieval: a Stanion/Lyveden oolitic-type.

Fabric 8
This fabric has abundant mixed polycrystalline quartz of between 0.3mm and 0.8mm with occasional grains of up to 1.0mm, together with common iron-rich grains including slag and moderate fine aggregated sandstone up to 5.0mm. There are also lenses of mixed clean red and cream clay in the fabric. A single near-vitrified ridge tile in this fabric was recovered from the site. The fragment has purple external surfaces with a purple glaze and is 14mm thick.
Late medieval to post-medieval: possibly a Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire or Chilvers Coton product.

Fabric 9
This fabric has abundant fine quartz grains below 0.1mm, common fine iron-rich grains and common carbonised vegetable matter in a micaceous clay matrix. A single glazed ridge tile fragment in this fine quartz-tempered fabric has a thin patchy light green glaze bleeding to orange at the edges. The tile is 13mm thick and is in a reduced fabric with thin external oxidised surfaces.
Medieval to late medieval: unknown source.

Fabric 11
This fabric has common grains of round to subround quartz of between 0.2mm and 0.4mm, together with moderate iron-rich grains. The two small ridge tile flakes in this fabric are low-fired and only one piece has traces of a glaze. A similar reduced fabric with light-firing oxidised surfaces is in use in Lincoln from the mid 12th to 14th centuries (Fabric LSWA), although it is most commonly found in late 12th to mid 13th century deposits.
Medieval: possibly a Lincoln product.

Fabric 12
This fabric contains abundant fine polycrystalline quartz of between 0.1mm and 0.2mm with occasional grains of up to 0.3mm, together with moderate iron-rich grains, sparse carbonised vegetable matter and rare calcareous grains. All three examples of this glazed ridge tile type are reduced with thin oxidised external surfaces. Glaze colour varies between a dark iron-flecked reduced green through to a purple colour on one highly fired example. Tile thickness is between 13mm and 17mm. One fragment has part of what appears to be a knife-cut crenellated crest
Medieval to post- medieval: possibly a Nottingham, Derbyshire or Chilvers Coton product.

Fabric 13
This micaceous fabric has common mixed round to subround quartz grains of 0.2mm to 0.5mm with occasional grains up to 0.8mm, together with moderate iron-rich grains. A single example of this light-firing quartz-tempered fabric was recovered from Trench 1. This ridge tile has fired to a cream colour except beneath the crest where it is pale grey and is fairly thick at 16mm. The applied knife-cut crenellated crest is in Fabric 3. A thick cream-coloured slip covers both the tile and crest giving a patchy yellow to light green glaze. A similar fabric is occasionally found in the Stamford area used for late post-medieval to early modern flat roof tiles.
Medieval to late medieval: unknown centre but see Fabric 3

Fabric 14
This fabric contains common, mainly rounded, calcareous grains including ooliths together with abundant iron-rich grains including slag up to 2.0mm and moderate round to subround quartz grains of 0.4mm to 0.8mm. Seven fragments from four different ridge tiles of 10mm to 12mm thicknesses are in this fabric. The reduced fabric has thin oxidised external surfaces and a thick reduced green glaze. One fragment is pierced. Three of these tiles have an elaborate coxcomb crest. This crest is slashed at the join to the body of the tile.
Medieval to late medieval: possibly a Stanion/Lyveden, Bourne or Baston product

Fabric 15
This fabric has abundant ooliths, sparse rounded quartz grains of 0.6mm to 0.8mm and sparse iron-rich grains. The seven fragments in this fabric come from four different ridge tiles of 14mm to 16mm thicknesses. The reduced fabric has thick dull oxidised external surfaces and three of the tiles have an external white slip with a thin copper-mottled yellow to light green glaze over. One tile has a knife cut crenellated crest.
Medieval to late medieval: Similar to a Baston pottery fabric (SLBTOL).

Fabric 16
This fabric has abundant mixed polycrystalline quartz of 0.3mm to 0.8mm with occasional grains up to 1.0mm, sparse iron-rich grains and sparse calcareous grains. The fabric also has occasional streaks of clean light firing clay and light firing fine quartz-tempered pellets. Only two examples of this fabric were recovered. The tiles are high-fired and have a near vitrified purple fabric with traces of a purple-brown to very dark green glaze. Both tiles are ridges with impressed marks towards the apex, either from the application of a crest or from stamped decoration. These tiles are quite thin at between 11mm and 12mm.
Late medieval to post-medieval: possibly a Nottingham, Derbyshire or Chilvers Coton product

Fabric 17
This fairly light-firing calcareous fabric has a fine calcareous background with addition moderate calcareous grains above 0.2mm including occasional fossil shell, together with common mixed quartz grains mainly of 0.2mm to 0.5mm but up to 1.0mm and moderate iron-rich grains. Some of the quartz grains are red-tinged. This fabric is represented by a single flake from the upper surface of a glazed ridge tile. The tile has a thin white slip with spots of yellow glaze.
Medieval to late medieval: unknown source.

Fabric 18
This calcareous fabric is similar to Fabric 17 but is not light-firing and has more common calcareous grains and less common quartz. The fabric has a fine calcareous background with common calcareous grains up to 1.0mm including some fossil shell, moderate mixed quartz grains and moderate iron-rich grains including slag. Four ridge tiles in Fabric 18 were recovered from the site. The tiles are reduced with thin external oxidised surfaces and two examples have a patchy yellow to light green glaze over a white slip whilst one has a reduced green glaze. The tiles vary between 12mm and 15mm and two pieces are pierced.
Medieval to late medieval: unknown source

Fabric 20
This fabric has abundant mixed quartz of mainly 0.3mm to 0.6mm but up to 0.8mm together with moderate to common calcareous grains including occasional ooliths up to 3.0mm and moderate iron-rich grains up to 2.5mm. The fourteen fragments in this fabric come from nine different glazed ridge tiles. Firing is uneven with some examples being fully oxidised whereas some have a reduced core. The thick reduced green glaze is distinctive as the surface is roughened due to being applied over a coarse quartz and oolith surface. The tiles vary between 6mm and 13mm in thickness.
Medieval: possibly a Bourne or Baston product.

Post-medieval to early modern

Fabric 5
This oxidised fabric contains abundant subround to round quartz, mainly of between 0.2mm and 0.4mm, but with occasional grains of up to 0.6mm, together with moderate iron-rich grains and sparse calcareous grains. The five examples examined in this fabric all come from unglazed flat roof tiles of between 10mm and 19mm thickness. Two of the fragments have single applied and folded bar nibs set centrally on the smooth side of the tile. A further forty tiles, recovered from deposits 101 and 102 in Trench 1 are in this Fabric. The fabric is quite similar to, but slightly finer than the medieval Fabric 1.
Post- medieval: possibly a local product.

Fabric 6
This oxidised fabric has a background of abundant fine quartz grains below 0.1mm, together with moderate mixed iron-rich grains and sparse white clay pellets. Three of the four fragments in this fabric are from two flat roof tiles. The only measurable fragment gives a thickness of 19mm. The fourth piece is from an unglazed ridge tile of 17mm thickness. These tiles are of 18th century or later date.
Early modern: unknown centre

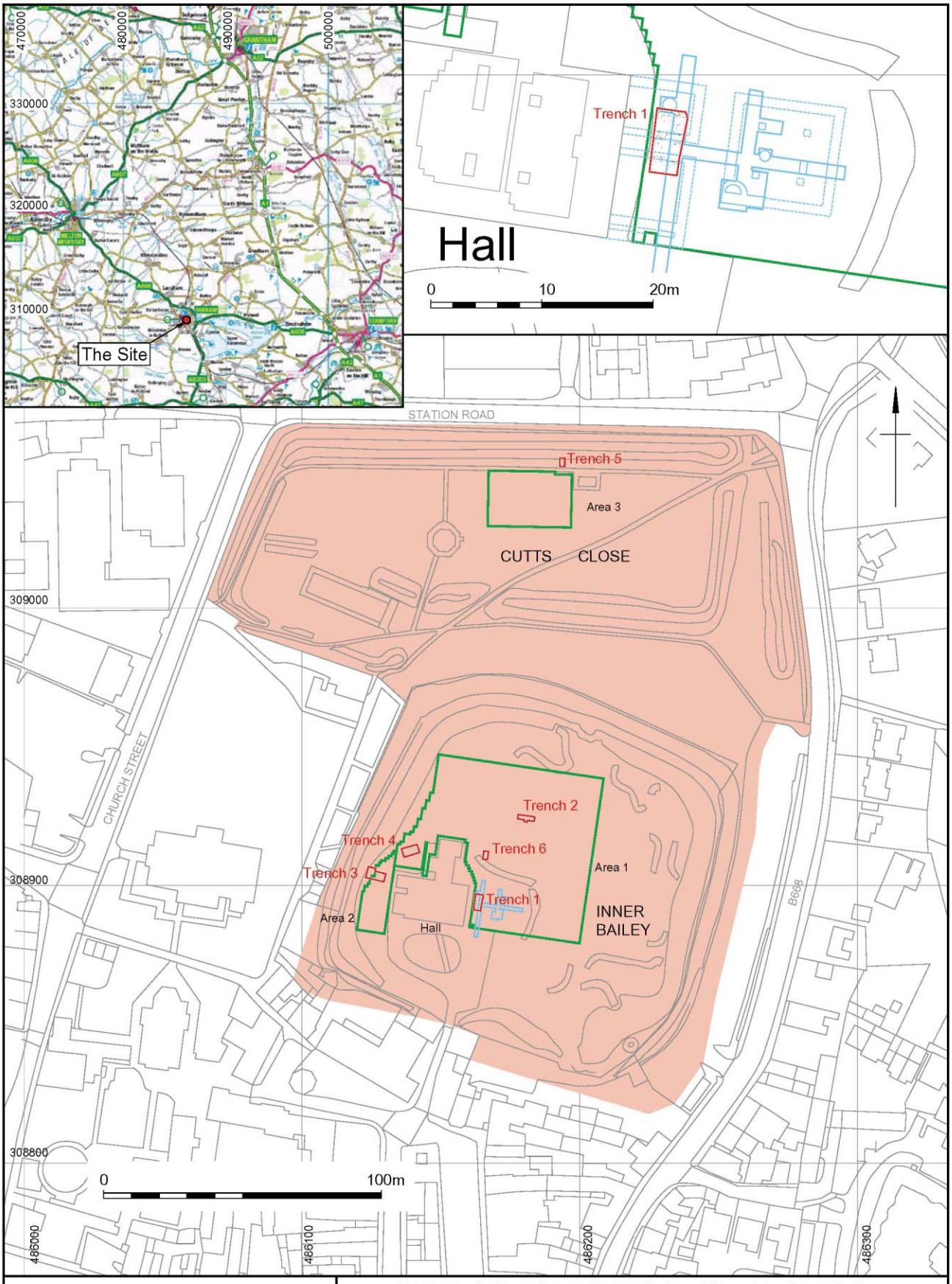
Fabric 7
This oxidised fabric has abundant medium to coarse (0.4-0.6mm) round to subround quartz grains, together with moderate iron-rich grains up to 4.0mm, sparse clay pellets and sparse rounded calcareous inclusions, probably limestone. A single flat roof tile fragment of 13mm thickness was recovered from the site. The fabric is quite similar to, but slightly more refined than the medieval Fabric 1.
This tile is of 18th century or later date.
Early modern: possibly a local product.

Fabric 10
This oxidised fabric has abundant fine background quartz below 0.1mm, together with common rounded calcareous grains and common fine iron-rich grains. The single flat tile in this fabric is 10mm thick and is of industrial manufacture. It is unlikely that this tile pre-dates the mid 19th century.
Early modern: unknown centre.

Fabric 19

This oxidised fabric has abundant background quartz below 0.1mm, together with abundant very mixed iron-rich grains up to 5.0mm. The fabric also has occasional lenses of clean light firing clay. One of the two fragments recovered in this fabric is from a flat roof tile of 18mm thickness. The other curved piece is unusual and could either be from a glazed ridge tile or from a gutter tile. The convex surface has runs of a thick brown glaze whilst the concave surface has a poorly fired amber/light brown glaze. This fragment is also of 18mm thickness.

Post-medieval to early modern: possibly local



Geophysical survey boundary
Time Team trench
Barber's 1950s trench
Putative building outline (after Barber)
Scheduled Monument (NMN 323228)

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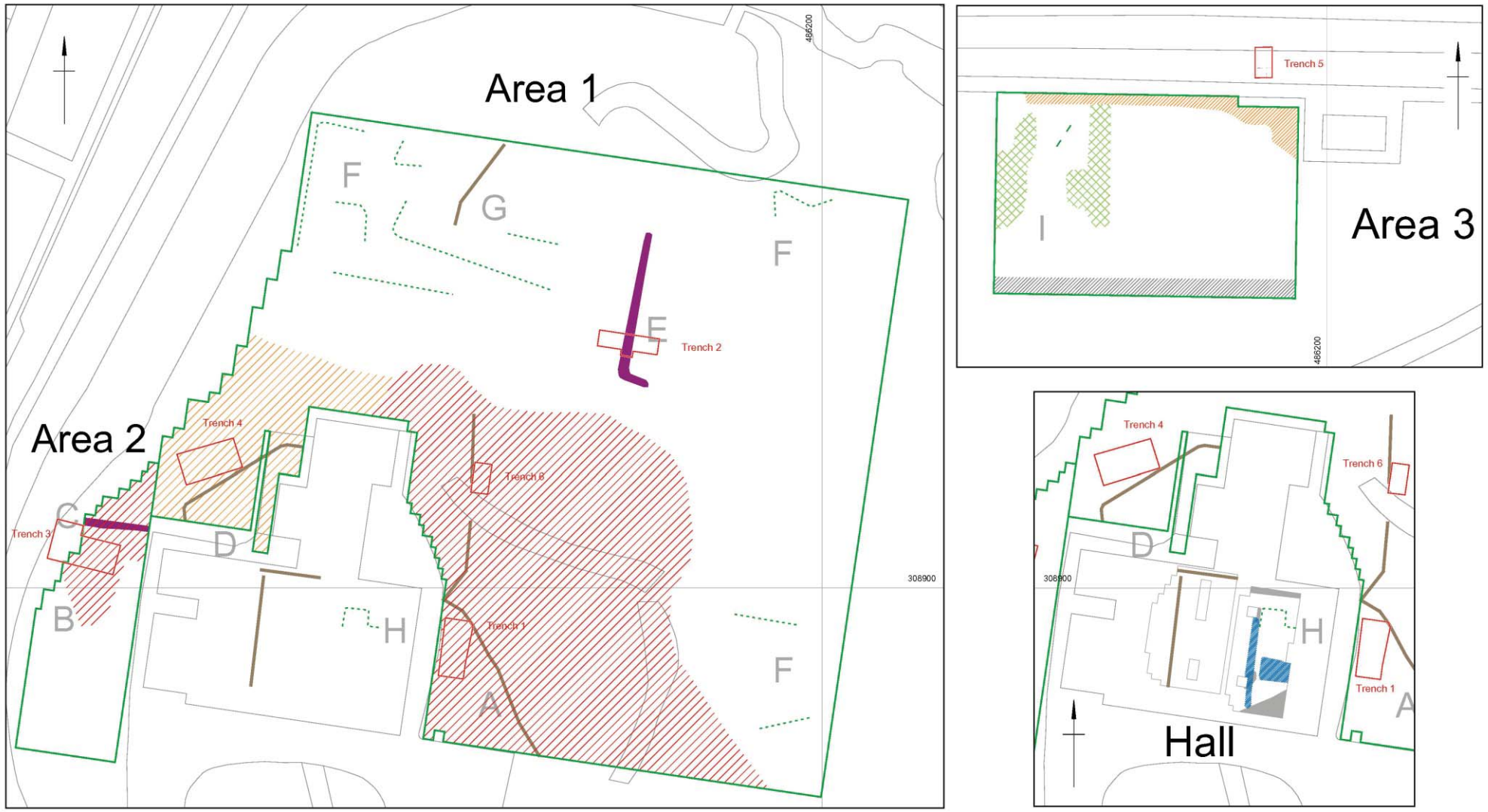
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\85206\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Eval_assess\2014_07_16\85206-eval-assess.dwg		

Site and trench locations

Figure 1



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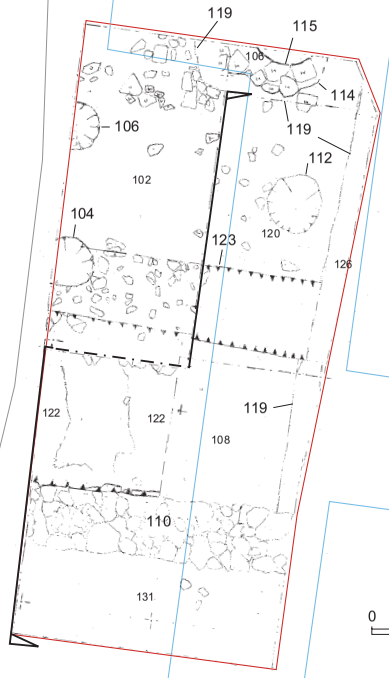
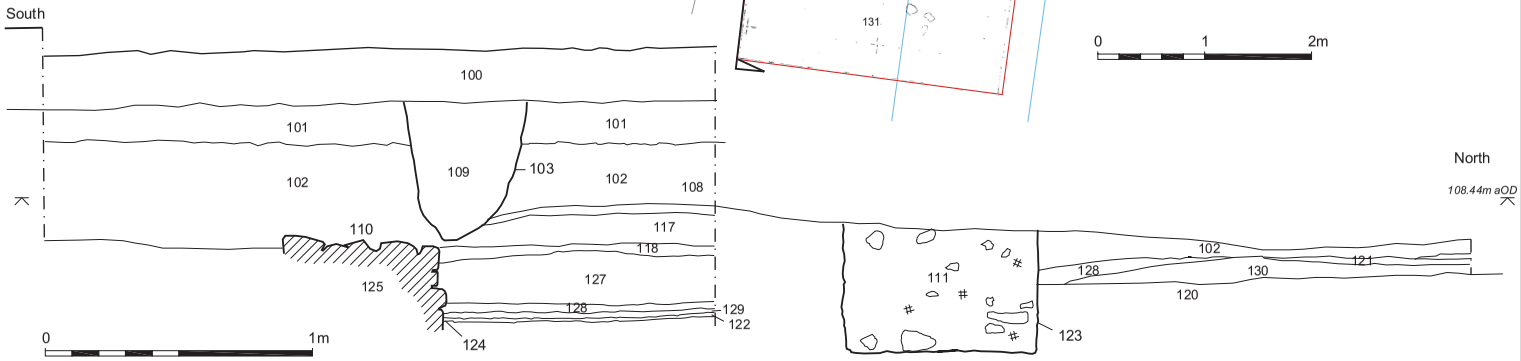
Geophysical interpretation

Figure 2

Plate 1: Trench 1, mid-excavation, view from south

Plate 2: East-facing section, showing charcoal and clay layers over yellow sand 122





Trench 1, east facing section

Plate 3: Trench 1, post-excavation, view from south

Time Team trench
Barber's 1950s trench
Wall material
Stone
Charcoal
Section line

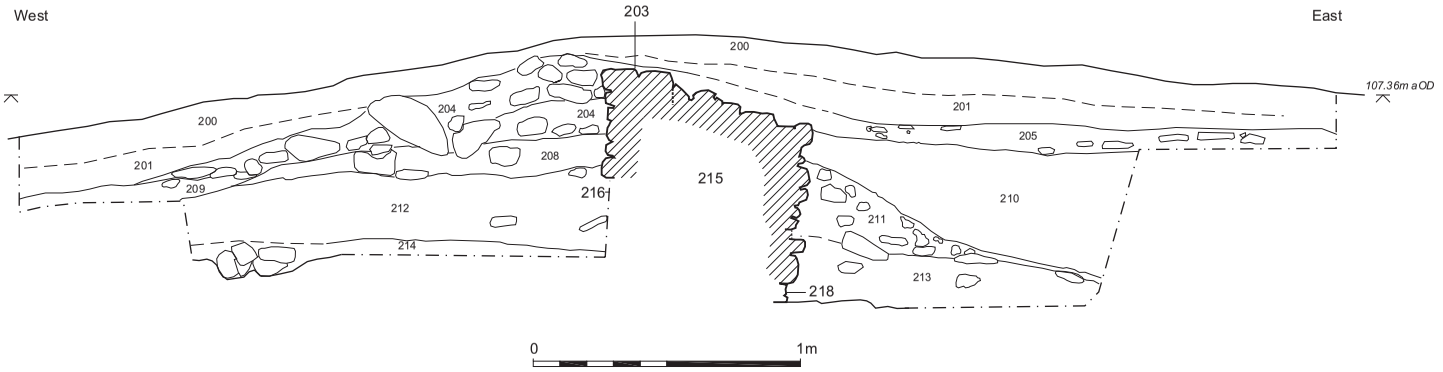
Date:	16/07/2014	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:50, section 1:20 @ A3	Illustrator:	SEJ
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\85206\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Eval_assess\2014_07_16\85206-eval-assess.dwg		

Trench 1: plan, section and photographs

Figure 3

Plate 4: Trench 2, mid-excavation, view from north

Plate 5: Trench 2, post-excavation, view from west, limestone blocks of wall 203 to left



Trench 2, south facing section

Time Team trench

Wall material

Stone

Date:	16/07/2014	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:50, section 1:20 @ A3	Illustrator:	SEJ
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\85206\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Eval_assess\2014_07_16\85206-eval-assess.dwg		

Trench 2: plan, section and photographs

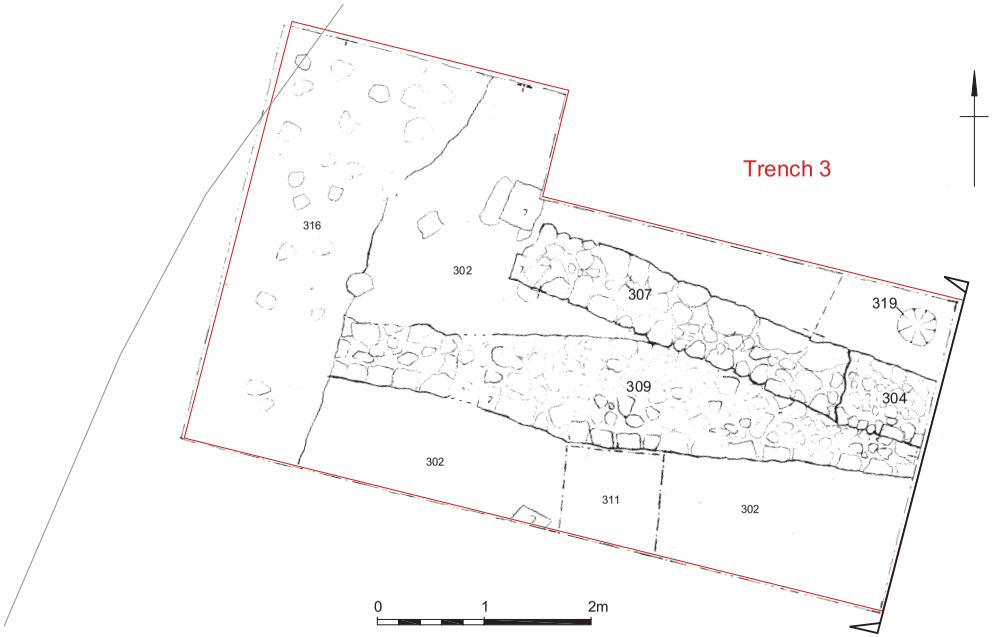
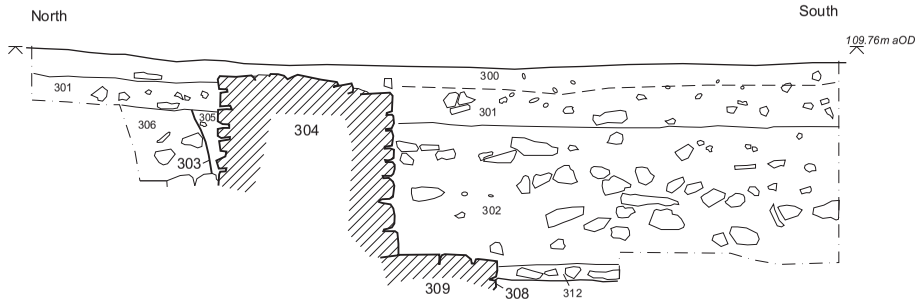


Plate 6: Trench 3, mid-excavation, view from east, wall 304/307 to right, wall 309 to left



Trench 3: west facing section

0 1m

Plate 7: Trench 3, post-excavation, view from west

Time Team trench

Wall material

Stone

Date:	16/07/2014	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:50, section 1:20 @ A3	Illustrator:	SEJ
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\85206\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Eval_assess\2014_07_16\85206-eval-assess.dwg		

Trench 3: plan, section and photographs

Figure 5

Plate 8: Trench 4, view from north-east

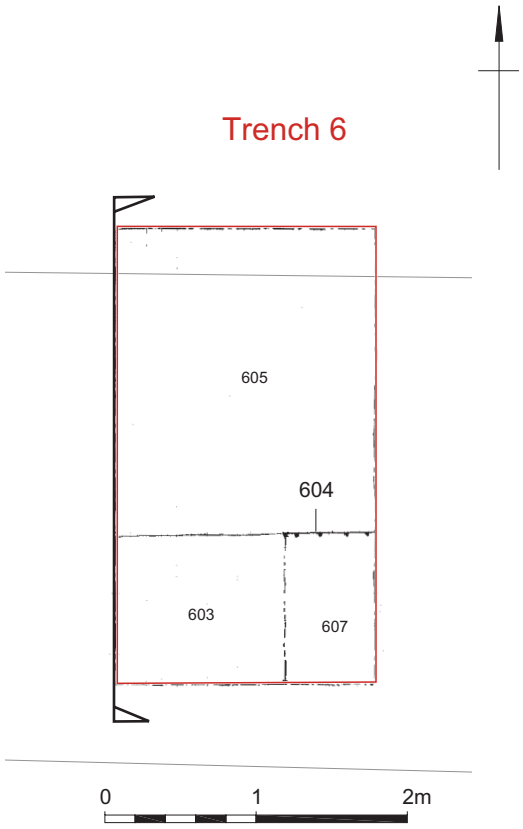
Plate 9: Trench 5, south-facing section

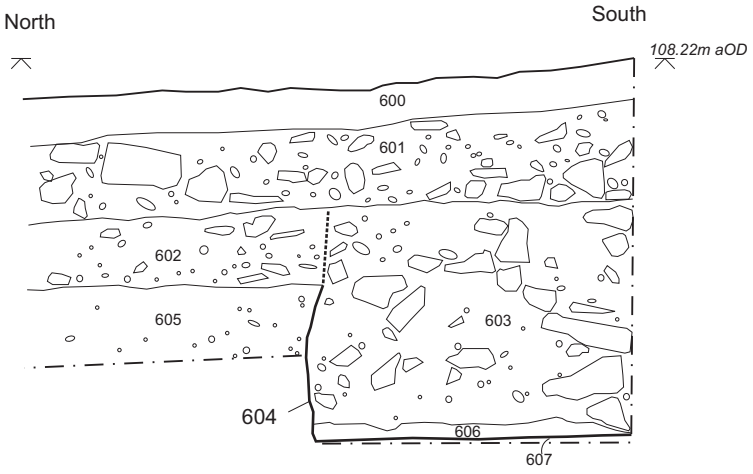
Date:	17/07/2014	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	N/A	Illustrator:	SEJ
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\85206\Graphics Office\Rept figs\Eval_assess\2014_07_16\85206_eval-assess_fig06.cdr		

Trenches 4 and 5: photographs

Figure 6

Trench 6, post-excavation, view from north





Trench 6: east facing section

0 1m

Time Team trench

Stone

Date:	16/07/2014	Revision Number:	0
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Path:	X:\PROJECTS\85206\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Eval_assess\2014_07_16\85206-eval-assess.dwg		

Trench 6: plan, section and photograph

Figure 7

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