



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
AT THE HEALTH HUB SITE, GRAVEN HILL,
BICESTER**

NGR SP 58885 21267

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SUMMARY

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological excavation at the Health Hub site, Graven Hill, Bicester, Oxfordshire. The majority of the features uncovered during the investigations date to the late post-medieval to modern period. Modern deposits and structures such as car parks, pavements, and floorings truncated large portions of the site, especially in the eastern portion of the excavation area. The northeastern corner of the site comprised disturbed natural and demolition rubble, where the previous Rodney House stood. Due to these factors, there is a high likelihood of the site undergoing multiple phases of truncation in order to level the area prior to these structures. There is added truncation by numerous services running across the site.

The features that were present within the Health Hub site likely correspond to the aforementioned post-medieval and modern structures on the site, or form rubbish dumps. Late post-medieval to modern material was recovered from the majority of the features; one small pit yielded no finds, and therefore remains undated.

There was no evidence for the continuation of the features present in the previous excavation to the south of the site. As the features from this excavation were often shallow in nature, it is likely that the post-medieval and modern levelling of the site has removed any evidence of these features.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The site is located in the northern extent of the wider Graven Hill site, within the area of the former Rodney House, which has been demolished. The approximate centre of the site is located at NGR SP 58885 21267. It is currently bound by fields and field boundaries to the north, east, and west, while its southern boundary is the edge of an attenuation pond. The underlying geology is recorded as Peterborough Member mudstone (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain>). The site lies between c. 67m and c.69m aOD.

1.2 Planning Background

Cherwell District Council has granted outline planning permission for a mixed-use development of up to 1,900 homes, a local centre, a primary school, a community hall and associated shops and facilities on former MOD land known as Land Transfer Area 2 (18/00325/OUT). Due to the potential of the site to contain archaeological remains, the following conditions have been attached:

48. With the exception of Phase 0, Phase 1a and Phase 1b as shown on Drawing No: 19820-AL-573-V, prior to any demolition and the commencement of any development on each phase of development, a professional archaeological organisation acceptable to the Local Planning Authority shall prepare an overarching Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation providing for evaluation of the Graven Hill Site and the principles of any subsequent mitigation and post excavation analysis and publication, which shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason - To safeguard the identification, recording, analysis and archiving of heritage assets before they are lost and to advance understanding of the heritage assets in their wider context through publication and dissemination of the evidence in accordance with Government guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.

49. With the exception of Phase 0, Phase 1a and Phase 1b as shown on Drawing No: 1982-AL-573-V, and following approval of the Written Scheme of Investigation referred to in condition 48, prior to any demolition and the commencement of any development on each phase of development (other than in accordance with the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation), a staged programme of archaeological evaluation and mitigation shall be carried out by the commissioned archaeological organisation in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation.

Reason: To safeguard the identification, recording, analysis and archiving of heritage assets before they are lost and to advance understanding of the heritage assets in their wider context through publication and dissemination of the evidence in accordance with Government guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.

John Moore Heritage Services (JMHS) were commissioned to undertake this work, and a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Waterman Infrastructure & Environment

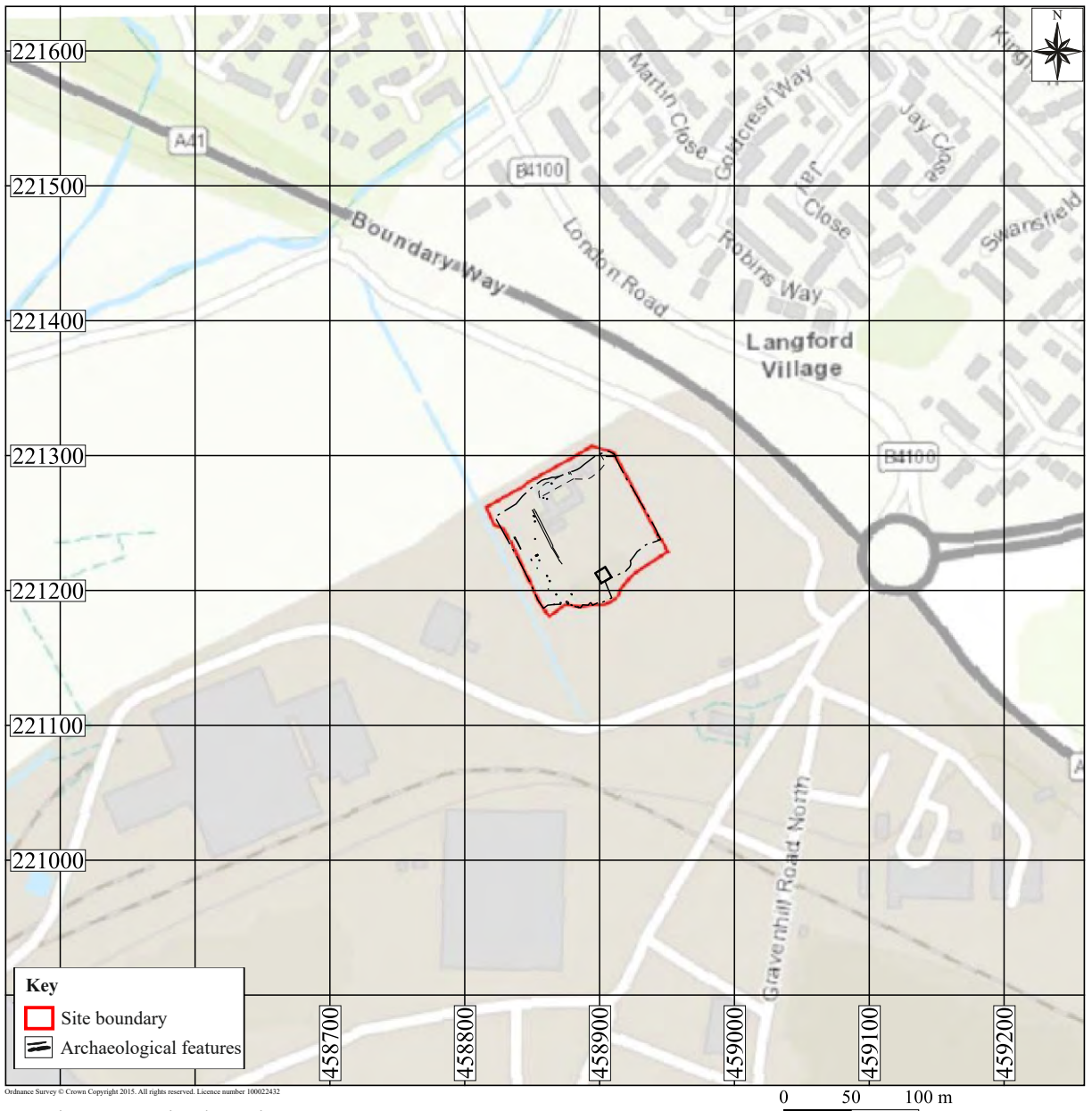
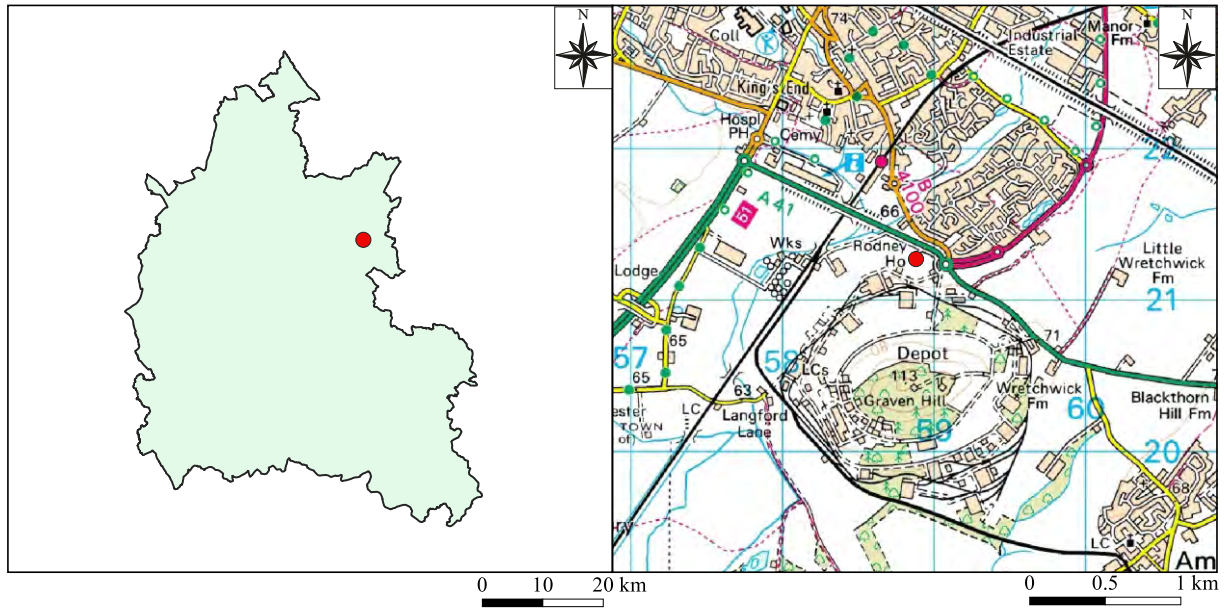


Figure 1: Site location

Limited 2021) for archaeological excavations at the Health Hub site was approved by the Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services (OCAS) and was accepted by the LPA. This *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) and an additional *Method Statement* (JMHS 2021) proposed the methodology by which the archaeological investigations were to be carried out.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The wider Graven Hill Site history presented below summarises that set out in the ES authored by Amec in 2011 and submitted with the planning application.

Palaeolithic to Iron Age (500,000 BC – AD 43)

There are no recorded assets dating to this period within the Site, however evidence from the surrounding area shows that it was occupied during this period.

There has been some suggestion in the past that the top of Graven Hill was the site of an Iron Age hill fort and that a linear earthwork, which is still visible within the Graven Hill Wood, formed part of the ramparts. However, these earthworks were investigated by the archaeological excavation of a number of trial trenches in 1999, with no clear evidence of Iron Age activity being recovered. There is no other known evidence for Iron Age activity within Graven Hill Wood and an alternative interpretation of the earthworks representing the remains of Post Medieval lynchets of agricultural origin appears to be more likely.

Evidence of Prehistoric settlement and activity within the 1km study area used for the baseline presented in the ES comes from a variety of sources, including those which have been recorded by excavation, sites identified as cropmarks on aerial photographs, and as artefact finds.

Iron Age settlement sites have been identified at Chesterton Lane and Bicester Fields Farm. The Chesterton Lane site was investigated in advance of construction for dualling of the A417 and identified the presence of middle Iron Age gullies, postholes and sub-rectangular enclosures, all being indicative of settlement. An isolated Bronze Age burial was also identified. The Bicester Fields Farm site is north of Graven Hill and excavation identified an Iron Age enclosure of two phases, and surrounded by other domestic features: pits, boundary ditches and both human and animal burials. A late Iron Age date was identified on the basis of the pottery assemblage, and other finds suggested an economy of pastoralism, with unusually large cattle and ironworking, indicating that the farmstead may have been of relatively high status. Evidence for earlier prehistoric (Mesolithic) activity was also identified.

Cropmark evidence from aerial photography includes two possible round barrows of probable Bronze Age date to the north-west of the wider Graven Hill site which are visible as ring ditches. In addition, a banjo-type enclosure, three hut circles and a number of sinuous ditches have been identified on aerial photographs to the immediate south-west of the Alchester Roman town (Oxfordshire HER ref. 13904). These have been interpreted as possible evidence for pre-Roman settlement within this area. Further evidence recorded in the Oxfordshire HER has been found in the form of artefacts, including a Bronze Age palstave (Oxfordshire HER ref. 16086) found in the vicinity of Alchester Roman Town and Bronze Age spearhead

(Oxfordshire HER ref. 13922) from south of Graven Hill. There are also a number of finds of late Iron Age pottery recorded in the HER.

Romano-British (AD 43 – AD 410)

The principal settlement site of Roman date within the area is the town of Alchester, a Scheduled Monument. Together with the associated Roman roads, one of which crosses the Site, Alchester defines the Roman settlement pattern in the immediate surrounds of the wider Graven Hill site.

Other areas of Roman settlement were also present, including a site which has been excavated at London Road in Bicester (Oxfordshire HER ref. 26005). This was within an area of raised ground between two paleo-channels, and comprised a large number of ditches, pits and postholes. The excavation presented a picture of settlement within an area which was generally wet and marshy.

Another Roman period settlement site has been excavated to the north of Graven Hill at Oxford Road. Evaluation revealed extensive survival of late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement within the floodplain of Langford Brook. All identified features were preserved under post-Roman alluvium, and appeared to represent two phases of occupation. The first of these phases was dated to the 1st century AD, and the second to the 2nd century AD. It was interpreted as a low status rural site typical of Upper Thames region for the period, at a time when increasing agricultural intensification required use of previously marginal land.

A feature of interest in the early Ordnance Survey (OS) editions is the course of Langford Lane which ran within the Graven Hill Site boundary. From its current location at Alchester, the lane continued toward Merton, remaining outside of the wider Graven Hill Site boundary. The other branch continued to the east, following a line on the north side of Graven Hill, within the wider Graven Hill Site boundary, joining the line of Akeman Street at Wretchwick Farm. Given its location, it is possible that this may be a survival of the original Roman Road which led east from Alchester to link with Akeman Street. This route appears to have survived the initial construction of the Graven Hill ordnance depot as it can be seen on aerial photographs of 1945 as a double line of trees.

There is also a significant body of evidence of Roman occupation documented in the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) in the form of numerous artefact finds, many of which have been from within and around the Alchester site or along the known routes of Roman roads.

Early medieval to Medieval (AD 410 – AD 1540)

There is relatively little known of the early medieval settlement within the area, though the Roman town at Alchester was abandoned, perhaps from around the 5th century AD. Bicester appears to have been established as a Saxon settlement in the 6th century and was named as Burencestre in the Domesday Book. The name has been described as either meaning ‘fort of Bern’ with ‘Bern’ being derived from the personal name for Beorna, or alternatively being derived from two separate elements – ‘byrgen’ meaning burial mound, and ‘ceaster’ meaning Roman fort. The earliest excavated evidence for settlement within the town is from a site to the rear of the King’s Arms¹⁵, which lies to the north of Graven Hill. Excavated remains included

pits, gullies and evidence for a number of sunken-feature buildings, which may represent former houses.

The first edition OS map of 1885 includes the note site of battle between the Danes and Saxons in 871 AD within Graven Hill Wood. However, there is no other known reference to an early medieval battle at this location and it is not clear on what this is based. Without further evidence, this record should be treated with caution.

The first edition OS also indicates the boundary between the parishes of Ambrosden and Merton cutting across Graven Hill Wood. The division into two halves may be significant since they are divided by a dry ditch starting at the northern 300' contour and rising with the landscape to possibly 370' and down again to the southern 300' contour. The two halves of woodland are approximately 53.333 acres each. It may be that the woodland was equally divided between the parishes of Ambrosden and Merton (Oxfordshire HER ref. 13593).

Ambrosden formed the principal medieval settlement within its parish, though other settlements are also known, such as the one at Arncott. During the medieval period, much of the land around Graven Hill appears to have been in arable use, and the Victoria County History¹⁶ records that the agricultural land of Ambrosden village was organised around three main fields known by the seventeenth century as East, South and West Fields. The extent of arable cultivation is indicated on aerial photographs of the 1940s which show ridge and furrow earthworks (derived from medieval and post-medieval ploughing) on much of the land surrounding the hill, including some of the lower slopes.

In addition to the surviving settlements of medieval origin, there was also a medieval settlement at Wretchwick, to the north of Graven Hill, and possibly extending into its lower slopes. Wretchwick, now a Scheduled Monument, was in the possession of Bicester Priory, before being depopulated by the priory to make way for sheep grazing.

Post-medieval (AD 1540 – AD 1901)

The wider Graven Hill Site is shown in detail on a series of OS Maps dating from 1880 onwards. In 1880, the wider Graven Hill Site is shown comprising a series of enclosed fields arranged around Graven Hill Wood. A single farmstead was present within the wider Graven Hill Site boundary in 1880, located on the southern edge of Graven Hill Wood, and known as Mount Pleasant. A building is shown on this location on the aerial photographs of 1944-45 and it is possible that Mount Pleasant remained until the development of St David's Barracks in the 1950s.

Modern (AD 1901 to Present)

The major development of the 20th century, which has shaped the current form of the wider Graven Hill Site, was the establishment of the Central Ordnance Depot I 1941 during World War Two (WWII). The Bicester site was chosen as being suitable as it was located within southern England, with good road and rail links, and with sufficient space for the creation of a dispersed complex required for protection against air attack. It was also felt that the presence of Graven Hill will provide some additional protection in this regard. The depot was to spread over a wide area,

occupying a number of sites from Graven Hill in the north to Arncott and Piddington in the south, collectively known as MOD Bicester.

The selection of MOD Bicester was approved in May 1941 and construction began soon after. Initial construction involved the laying of a 42 mile military rail network within and linking the various sites, followed by construction of the warehouse buildings. Graven Hill comprised D Site (armaments stores) to the south and E Site (small arms) to the north. Stores began to be issued from the MOD Bicester depot in August 1942, and it remained a key supply point for the army for the remainder of the war.

The entry of the United States into the war led to the arrival of large numbers of American troops into Britain, and it was necessary to provide depot facilities for their equipment. This operation was codenamed Bolero and at Bicester it involved the construction of temporary warehouse in the form of groups of Romney huts served by rail spurs and roads. The completed depot at MOD Bicester served as a key facility in supplying equipment for the Normandy landings in June 1944 and subsequent European campaign. It was also necessary to provide accommodation within the depot for a workforce which during construction reached 24,000, and this was provided by Nissen huts organised into nine self-contained camps. Three of these, Camp nos. 5, 6 and 7 were located on the slopes around Graven Hill Wood. This is depicted in the earliest aerial photography available for the wider Graven Hill Site. In 1944 much of the agricultural land surrounding the depot was occupied by ridge and furrow and areas of ridge and furrow also survived within the depot.

Changes visible on aerial photographs within the wider Graven Hill Site are:

- Construction of St David's Barracks by 1954;
- Hutted accommodation north of Graven Hill Wood had been removed by 1959;
- More of the hutted accommodation had been removed by 1966 and trees within the Graven Hill Wood had been felled;
- Only a small number of accommodation huts were still present by 1975. Graven Hill Wood had been replanted and no ridge and furrow earthworks are shown to survive within the Site; and
- All accommodation huts had been removed by 1989.

In addition, the sequence of aerial photographs show the gradual removal by ploughing of ridge and furrow from the surrounding agricultural land, and this was largely absent by 1975.

MOD Bicester continued to operate as a Central Ordnance Depot in the post-war period, though the military workforce was gradually replaced by an increasing number of civilian workers. This meant the need for civilian workers to move into the area and some new housing to be built in Bicester to accommodate them. The temporary hutted accommodation camps were gradually removed and in 1956 new barracks had been completed to the west of Graven Hill Wood on the current St David's Barracks site. Other changes include the removal of the Bolero warehouses in the period after WWII.

In 2006, two trial trenches were excavated within a former tennis court at St David's Barracks in advance of the construction of an accommodation block, though no archaeological features were identified.

Archaeological Discoveries within the Site

In preparation for pond excavations to the south of the Site, an archaeological excavation was undertaken to the south of the former Rodney House area which included a small proportion of the Site's most southeastern corner. This area was referred to as 'Area B' in the post-excavation report produced by Oxford Archaeology¹⁸. Area B was previously identified as having potential for Roman activity following evaluations 2016-2017.

Overall, the excavation within Area B revealed various cuts (e.g. for ditches, gullies, pits and postholes), a road surface, fills, floors and various layers (surface layers, levelling layers etc.).

Late Iron Age/Roman activity in Area B included pits and/or postholes within the approximate centre of Area B and a ditch containing pottery.

Other features in Area B dated to the medieval period and are related to a field system. Subtle changes to the layout of the field system or noted in the form of addition or removal of other boundaries. In addition to these, a series of plough furrows were also identified and were interpreted as likely being associated with the ditches.

Post-medieval evidence was also recovered in the form of 2 wall foundations enclosing an area 3.6m wide and at least 5.1m long, a metalled surface and a trampled floor (which was found in the foundation cuts of the walls). The walls were on the same north-east/south-west to northwest/ south-east alignment as the medieval field system.

The walls were cut by a long ditch, which extended perpendicular to the medieval field boundary to the north. This feature likely originated in the late 18th or 19th century and is visible on later 19th and 20th century maps. A stone surface was laid over the ditch within the southwestern part of Area B.

In addition to the above, 8 undated pits and 3 undated postholes were also found. These were tentatively dated to the late Iron Age/Early Roman to medieval period based on the presence of pits of such date within Area B.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the WSI were to:

- Record all buried archaeological remains within the defined area of archaeological excavation;
- Make full record of archaeological features and deposits to current CIfA standards;
- Determine the extent, condition, state of preservation and depth of discovered archaeology;

- Confirm the approximate date or range of dates of the remains;
- Sample deposits to assess potential paleoenvironmental evidence;
- Produce a report on the results of the excavation;
- Assess the potential and significance of the data for analysis and publication;
- Ensure adequate provision for archival deposition of the archaeological record.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

JMHS carried out the archaeological investigation of the development area in accordance with the WSI (Waterman Infrastructure & Environment Limited 2021) and Method Statement (JMHS 2021) approved by OCAS.

3.2 Methodology

The archaeological investigation at the Health Hub, Graven Hill, Bicester, comprised an area of approximately 0.99ha, and was stripped using a mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket.

Heavy rainfall and a high water table meant that the site repeatedly flooded. In these instances, the water was pumped off-site, and the affected area left to dry, before stripping recommenced.

Where archaeological horizons were encountered, they were cleaned by hand and excavated appropriately. Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was produced, and GPS survey was conducted. All spoil was visually scanned and metal-detected for the purpose of finds retrieval.

4 RESULTS (Figures 2-4)

All features were assigned with individual context numbers. Context numbers with no brackets indicate feature cuts, numbers in the round brackets () show feature fills or deposits of material, and numbers in bold indicate any form of masonry.

During the archaeological investigations, the lowest deposit encountered was the natural geological deposit (2003). Natural deposit (2003) was a compact mid orangish yellow sandy clay, with occasional sub-angular pebble inclusions, 10-40mm in size. Towards the northern and eastern parts of the site – specifically beneath the demolished building and tarmacked area – the natural clay was heavily discoloured to a dark blue, due to compression.

Where the site did not have modern structures, subsoil (2002) overlaid natural deposit (2003). Subsoil deposit (2002) was a friable to compact mid greyish brown silty clay, with occasional sub-angular pebble inclusions, 10-60mm in size.

Friable dark blackish brown silty clay topsoil and vegetation layer (2001) overlay the subsoil and modern surfaces, across large portions of the site. Topsoil

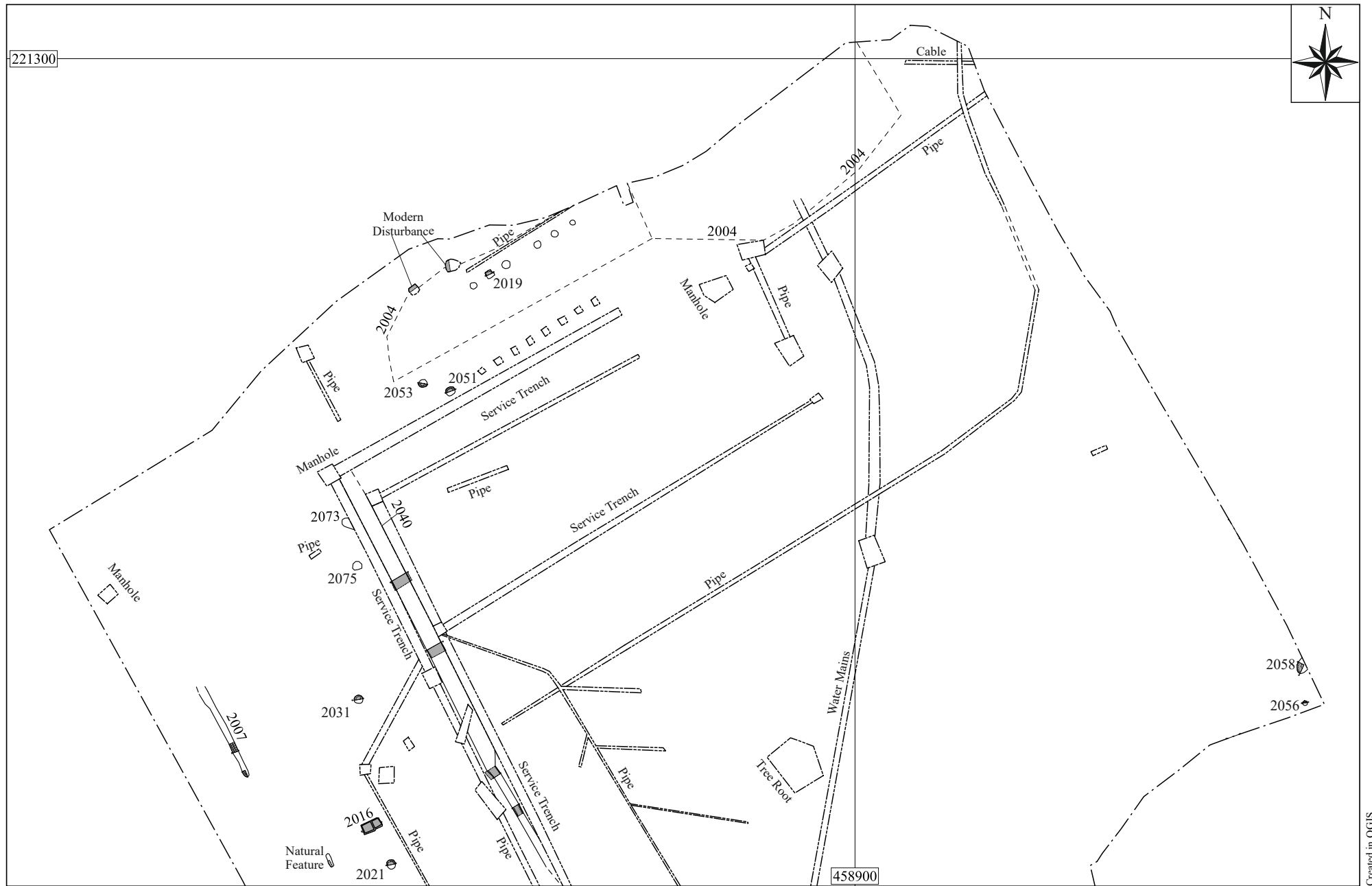


Figure 2: Health Hub Site Plan (North)

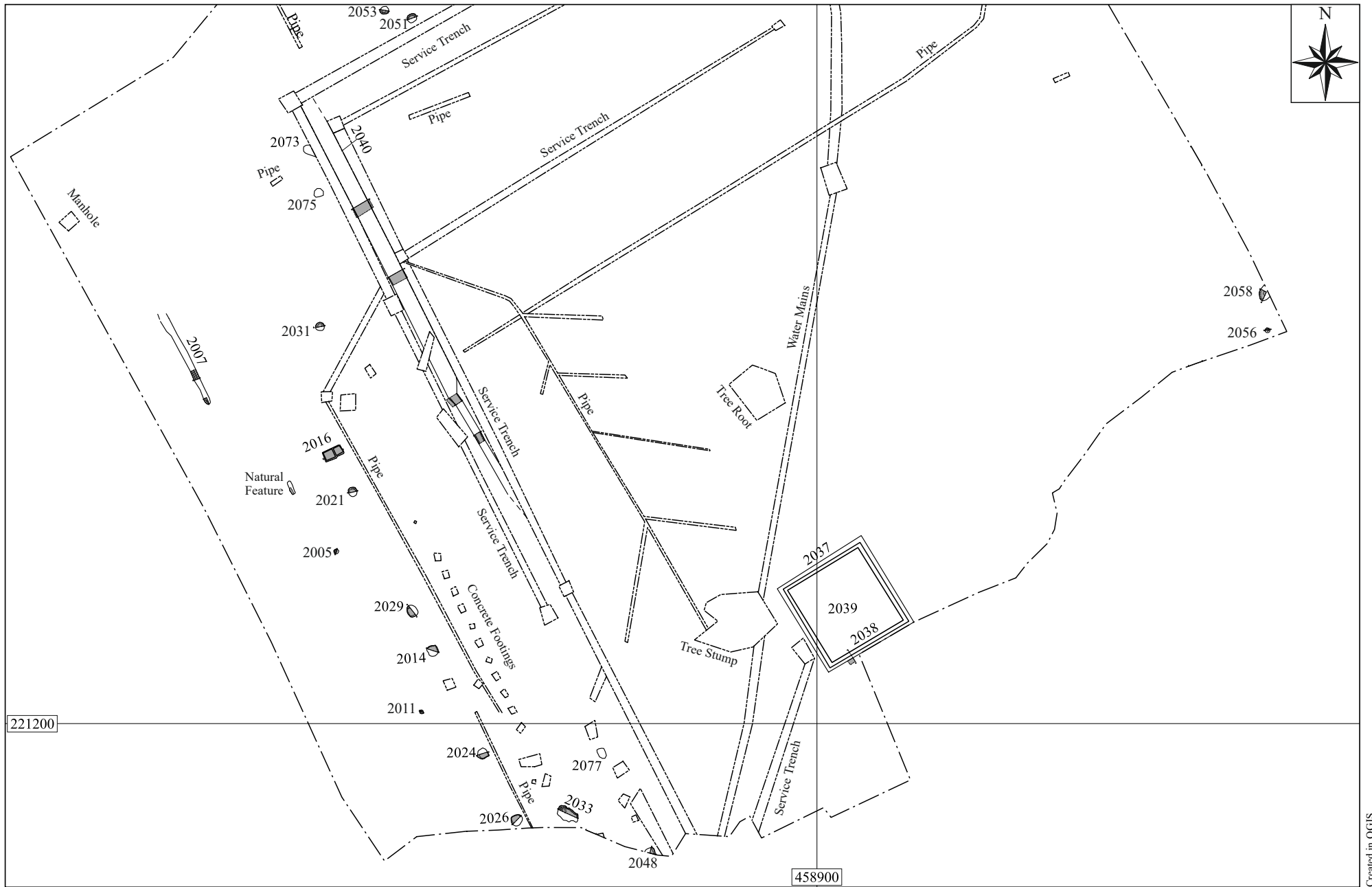


Figure 3: Health Hub Site Plan (South)

(2001) contained frequent roots, demolition rubble, and other modern debris. Beneath several of the modern structures across the site, a redeposited natural layer, such as (2065), overlaid natural deposit (2003). These redeposited natural layers were friable to compact mid bluish grey silty clays, containing degraded grass; building rubble; hardcore inclusions; and concrete foundations. Additional made-ground layers often overlaid the redeposited natural layers, comprising crush, concrete, and tarmac.



Plate 1: Representative section showing modern layers and compression

The majority of the features were uncovered within the western area of the site, with only two features uncovered in the southeastern corner. The features are discussed below by date.

Post-medieval to Modern

Ditch 2007/2009 was a short, narrow, ditch with a NW-SE orientation (Figure 3). Intervention 2007 investigated the southern terminus; the northern terminus was unclear in plan. Ditch 2007/2009 had a gradual break of slope at top and base, with a concave base and sides (Figure 4, S.2003). Ditch 2007/2009 had a single fill of (2008)/(2010), which was a 0.10m thick dark greyish brown silty clay containing pottery and glass.



Plate 2: Ditch 2009

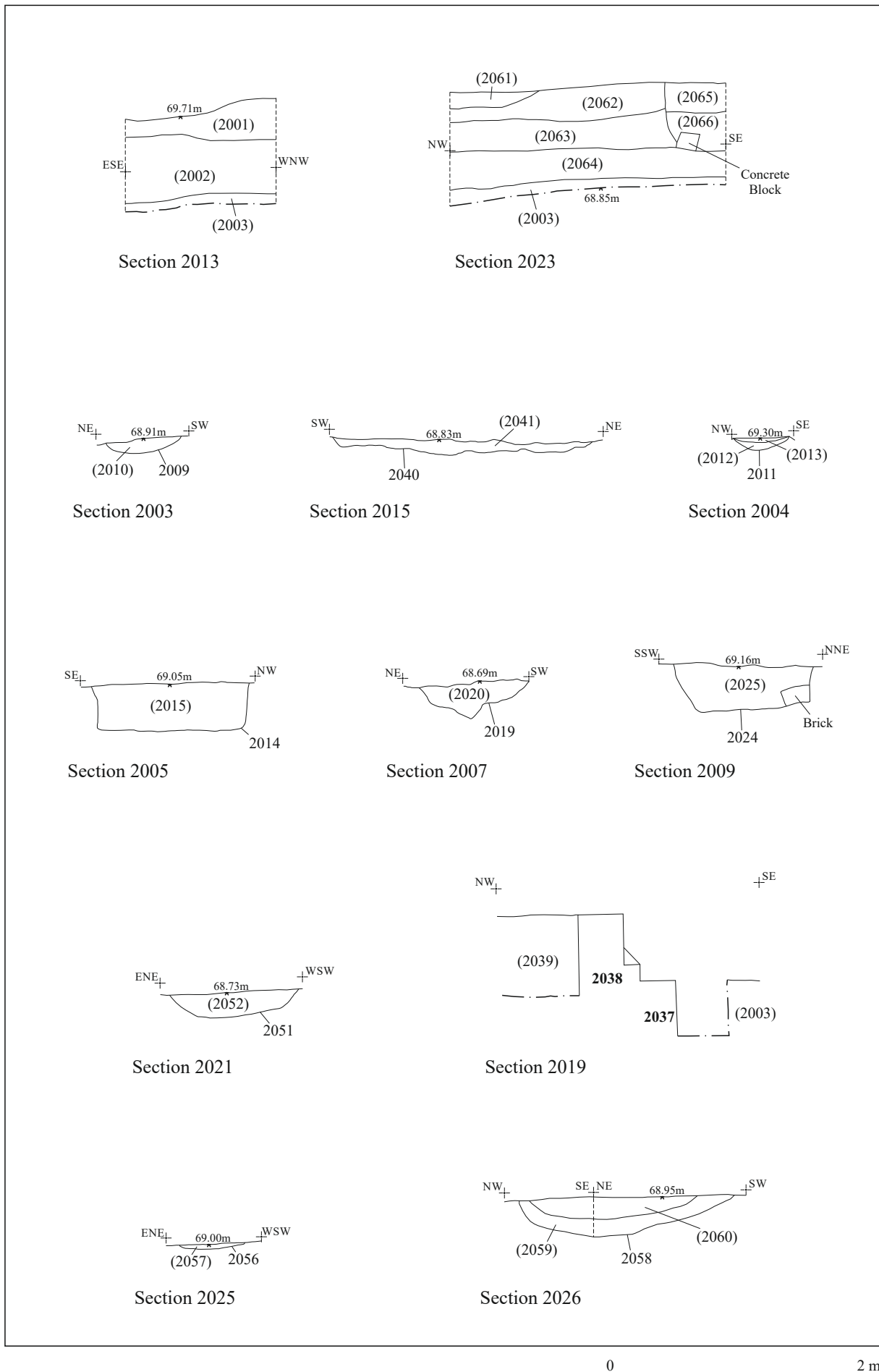


Figure 4: Sections of representative features from the excavation

Posthole 2011 was circular, with a gradual break of slope at the top and base, and a concave base and sides (Figure 4, S.2004). Posthole 2011 had two fills: (2012) and (2013). Lower fill (2012) was a compact light greyish orange silty clay, with patches of dark brownish black. This deposit was 0.04m thick, and was likely redeposited natural. A piece of ceramic building material was recovered from fill (2012). Upper fill (2013) was a 0.03m thick, compact dark brownish black silty clay. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Pit 2014 was circular, with a sharp break of slope at the top and base; straight, vertical sides, and a flat base (Figures 3 and 4, S.2005). Pit 2014 had a single fill of (2015), which was a 0.30m thick friable to compact mid bluish grey silty clay, with reddish orange staining. This staining was potentially the result of naturally-occurring degraded manganese within the fill. Rare, sub-angular pebbles, 20-40mm in size, were included in fill (2015). Pottery, metal, and ceramic building material were recovered.



Plate 3: Pit 2014

Construction cut 2016 (Figure 3) was rectangular, with a N-S orientation; sharp break of slope at top and base; straight, vertical sides, and a flat base, 0.16m deep. At the base of construction cut 2016 were two concrete slabs: **2018**. Slab A (east) was the smaller of the two, and was a light yellowish white with a damaged corner; Slab B (west) was a mid yellowish white with a raised edge. The two slabs were positioned at the same level, side by side, within the construction cut, with very little space surrounding the slabs. Surrounding and overlying the slabs was a friable dark blackish grey silty clay, (2017), which had red manganese staining, and frequent sub-rounded pebble inclusions, 5-20mm in size. Metal and ceramic building material were recovered from this fill. After recording, the slabs were lifted and found to be at the base of the construction cut. Upon removal, it was evident that the concrete had been poured onto demolition rubble, which had solidified into the underside of the concrete. The function of this feature is unclear.



Plate 4: Concrete slabs 2018, within construction cut 2016

Sub-square pit 2019 (Figures 2 and 4, S.2007) had rounded corners; a sharp break of slope at top and base; concave sides, and a flat base. Pit 2019 had a single fill, (2020), which was a 0.26m thick friable mid brown silt loam. This fill was probably a deliberate deposit, which contained a large quantity of modern ‘rubbish’ including glass, ceramic building material, and plastic. This pit was one of an alignment of pits at the northern edge of site, where the demolished building once stood. It is likely that these pits formed concrete foundations for the building and/or surrounding structures. The other pits in the alignment were not excavated or numbered, but were surveyed (see Figure 2).

Circular pit 2021 (Figure 2) had a sharp break of slope at the top and base, straight sides, and a flat base. Pit 2021 had two fills: (2022) and (2023). Lower fill (2023) was a friable dark yellowish brown silt loam, 0.22m thick, with rare sub-rounded pebbles, 5-10mm in size. No finds were recovered from this fill. Upper fill (2022) was a 0.16m thick friable light brownish grey silty clay, with frequent rooting disturbance. Pottery, metal, plastic, and the remains of a leather shoe were recovered from this fill.

Pit 2024 (Figures 3 and 4, S.2009) was sub-circular, with a sharp break of slope at top and base; concave sides; and a flat base. Pit 2024 had a single fill of (2025), which was a 0.36m thick friable mid greyish brown silt loam with rare sub-rounded pebbles inclusions, 5mm in size. Pottery and metal finds were recovered from this fill.

Sub-circular pit 2026 (Figure 3) had a NE-SW orientation; sharp break of slope at top and base; straight sides, and a flat base. Pit 2026 had two fills: (2027), and (2028). Lower fill (2028) was a friable to compact mid blue silty clay, 0.12m thick. No finds were recovered from this fill. Upper fill (2027) was a 0.38m thick friable dark brownish grey silt loam, with red manganese staining and occasional sub-rounded pebble inclusions, 5-10mm in size. Ceramic building material was recovered from this fill.

Pit 2029 (Figure 3) was oval in shape, with a NW-SE orientation; sharp break of slope at top and base; straight, near-vertical sides; and a flat base. Pit 2029 had a single fill of (2030), which was a friable to compact mid bluish grey silty clay, 0.42m thick, with rare sub-angular pebble inclusions, 20-80mm in size. Ceramic building material and metal were recovered from this fill.

Sub-circular pit 2031 (Figure 3) had a sharp break of slope at top and base, concave sides and a flat base. Pit 2031 had a single fill of (2032), which was a friable mid bluish brown clay loam, 0.42m thick, with occasional sub-angular pebbles, 20-100mm in size. Pottery, animal bone, and metal were recovered from this fill.

Pit 2033 (Figure 3) was oval, with a NE-SW orientation, a sharp break of slope at the top, and a gradual break of slope at the base. Pit 2033 had concave sides; an irregular base; and two fills: (2034) and (2035). Lower fill (2035) was a friable mid yellowish orange silty clay, 0.14m thick, with frequent rounded pebble inclusions, 5-10mm in size. No finds were recovered from this fill. Upper fill (2034) was a friable dark blackish grey silt loam, 0.24m thick, with frequent rounded pebble inclusions, 5-10mm in size. Ceramic building material and glass were recovered from this fill.

Concrete footing **2037** (Figures 3 and 4, S.2019), for building **2038**, were both within construction cut 2036. The footing extended around the perimeter of the building by 0.26m, and was more than 0.40m thick. At the excavated depth within the interior of building **2038**, footing **2037** was not visible. Building **2038** measured 9.20m x 8.93m in size, and was formed from frogged red bricks, stamped with 'LBC PHORPRES' bonded using a bluish grey cement. No internal walls, floors, or partitions were present within the internal area of the building; rather the interior was filled with a friable to compact dark blackish grey silty clay, (2039), which contained large quantities of rubble, and modern rubbish. This fill most likely resulted from the disuse and subsequent demolition of the building.



Plate 5: Building footprint 2038, and concrete foundation 2037

Ditch 2040/2043/2044/2047 (Figure 3) had a NW-SE orientation, and was cut on both sides by modern service ditches, meaning that the true width of the ditch could not be ascertained. The ditch had concave sides and a flat base, and was very shallow; a

maximum depth of 0.12m was recorded. The ditch had a single fill of (2041)/(2042)/(2043)/(2046), which was a friable to compact mid reddish brown clay loam, with rare sub-rounded pebble inclusions, 20-60mm in size. Ceramic building materials, glass, and metal were recovered from the feature.

Pit 2048 (Figure 3) was oval, with a NE-SW orientation. The true shape and dimensions of this feature could not be determined as it extended beyond the limit of excavation. The pit had a sharp break of slope at top and base; steep, straight sides; a flat base, and two fills: (2049), and (2050). Lower fill (2049) was a compact dark greyish brown silty clay, 0.24m thick, with occasional sub-rounded pebbles, 10-20mm in size. Upper fill (2050) was a friable to compact light yellowish grey silty clay, 0.34m thick, which had patches of redeposited natural, and occasional sub-rounded pebble inclusions, 10-30mm in size. Both fills contained glass shards.

Pit 2051 (Figures 2 and 4, S.2021) was oval, with a NNE-SSW orientation; sharp break of slope at top and base; straight, steep sides, and a flat base. The pit had a single fill of (2052), which was a 0.16m thick friable to compact dark greyish brown silty clay, with occasional sub-rounded pebbles, 5-30mm in size. Glass and metal finds were recovered from this fill.

Pit 2053 (Figure 2) was oval, with an ESE-WNW orientation; sharp break of slope at the top; gradual break of slope at the base; concave sides, and a flat base. Pit 2053 had two fills: (2054), and (2055). Lower fill (2054) was a friable to compact light yellowish brown silty clay, 0.18m thick, with occasional sub-rounded pebble inclusions, 5-30mm in size. No finds were recovered from this fill. Upper fill (2055) was a friable to compact mid reddish grey silty clay, 0.22m thick, with frequent sub-angular stones, 5-70mm in size, as well as modern crush inclusions. Pottery and glass were recovered from this fill.



Plate 6: Pit 2056

Circular pit 2056 (Figures 3 and 4, S.2025) had a sharp break of slope at the top; gradual break of slope at the base; and a concave base and sides. Pit 2056 had a single fill of (2057), which was a friable mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.04m thick. A metal nail was recovered from this fill.

Pit 2058 (Figures 3 and 4, S.2026) was oval in shape, with a NE-SW orientation; sharp break of slope at the top; gradual break of slope at the base; and a concave base and sides. Pit 2058 had two fills: (2059), and (2060). Lower fill (2059) was a 0.16m thick friable dark blackish brown silt matrix containing large quantities of modern wooden boarding. No finds were recovered from this fill. Upper fill (2060) was a friable to compact mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.16m thick. Pottery and ceramic building materials were recovered from this fill.

Three additional post-medieval to modern pits were unexcavated and recorded in plan only: 2073, 2075, and 2077 (Figure 3). Pit 2073 measured >1.01m in length, and 0.90m in width, and was truncated on the eastern side by a modern service trench. The top fill was friable to compact dark blackish brown silty clay (2074), with rare sub-rounded pebble inclusions, 20-50mm in size. Pottery and ceramic building material were recovered from this fill.

Pit 2075 measured 0.97m in length by 0.89m in width. The top fill was friable to compact dark blackish brown silty clay (2076), with rare sub-rounded pebble inclusions, 20-50mm in size. Metal and ceramic building material were recovered from this fill.

Pit 2077 measured 1.10m in length by 0.75m in width. The top fill was friable to compact dark blackish brown silty clay (2078), with rare sub-rounded pebble inclusions, 20-40mm in size. Pottery and ceramic building material were recovered from this fill.

Undated



Plate 7: Pit 2005

Circular pit 2005 (Figure 3) had a gradual break of slope at the top and base, concave sides, and a flat base. Pit 2005 had a single fill, (2006), which was a friable mid greyish brown silty clay with no inclusions, 0.08m thick. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Reliability of Results

The reliability of results is considered good. The archaeological investigations took place in generally clement conditions with good light and visibility. Towards the end of the project, heavy rain meant a large portion of the site flooded, which subsequently required pumping. Overall, there was good cooperation from the ground workers during the archaeological fieldwork.

5 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

5.1 Post-Roman Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The post-Roman pottery assemblage comprised 43 sherds with a total weight of 499g. It was all medieval or later, and mostly modern. The medieval material was recorded using the conventions of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1994), as follows:

OXAM: Brill/Boarstall Ware, AD1200 – 1600. 3 sherds, 7g.

The post-medieval wares were recorded using the conventions of the Museum of London Type-Series (e.g. Vince 1985), as follows:

PMBL: Post-medieval Black-glazed Redware, late 16th–17th century. 1 sherd, 2g.

PMR: Post-medieval Redware, 1550+. 1 sherd, 38g.

REFW :Refined Whiteware, 1800-1900. 37 sherds, 449g.

STSL: Staffordshire Slipware, 1650 – 1800. 1 sherd, 4g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region.

The sherd of PMR from context (2063) is from an internally-glazed bowl, a typical product of the tradition, and is very abraded and likely to be residual. The sherd of PMBL has a refined glaze and fabric, and is of relatively recent date.

The REFW appears to be all modern, and consists entirely of white table-wares such as plates, saucers, cups and coffee-cans, some of which are closely dateable. One of the sherds from context (2060) is part of the base of a coffee can printed with the mark of the Newhall Pottery of Hanley, Staffordshire, and “G. VI R. 1944”. A saucer from context (2015) has a somewhat faded marker’s stamp of “Bridgwood” of Longton, Staffordshire along with an MOD arrow mark and the date “1951”. A fragment of a tea-cup from context (2055) has part of a green transfer print of the monogram of King George VI “GVIR”.

Cntxt	OXAM		PMR		PMBL		STSL		REFW		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
U/S									1	3	U/S
2002									1	39	MOD
2010	1	3							10	201	MOD
2015	1	3			1	2			5	105	1951
2022							1	4			M17thC
2025									5	30	MOD
2030	1	1							1	2	MOD
2032									4	10	MOD
2041									1	1	MOD
2055									3	11	1936-52
2060									3	24	1944
2063			1	38							M16thC
2074									1	13	MOD
2078									2	10	MOD
Total	3	7	1	38	1	2	1	4	37	449	

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

5.2 Miscellaneous finds by Simona Denis

5.2.1 Animal Bone

Two fragments of animal bone were recovered. One unstratified example, weighing 10.38g, was positively identified as a radius diaphysis, while the item from deposit (2032), the fill of modern pit 2031, was identified as a fragment of pelvis weighing 7.08g. Both items originated from young sheep/goat individuals. No obvious butchering marks were observed.

It is not recommended to retain the animal bone due to its very limited potential for further analysis.

5.2.2 Leather

Four fragments of a modern leather shoe, weighing 65g in total, were recovered from deposit (2022), the upper fill of pit 2021. The conjoining items were identified as a partial heel, insole and outsole of a size 6 shoe. The outsole was marked with the letters N S.

The modern leather shoe fragments are not recommended for retention due to their very limited potential for further analysis.

5.2.3 Coke

Two coke fragments, weighing 6g, were found in deposit (2020), the fill of modern pit 2019. Derived from coal, coke is a fuel with high carbon content used in Britain from the late medieval period.

The coke fragments are not recommended for retention due to the very limited potential for further analysis.

5.2.4 Glass

An assemblage of 103 glass fragments, of a combined weight of 3663g, was recovered during the archaeological works. The items were in a good state of preservation, although extremely fragmentary; only 13 of the objects (11 bottles, one jar and one vial) were found to be complete.

Modern, flat glass window panes were the most represented type (65 fragments, or 63% of the assemblage), while bottle fragments represented 24% of the material. The 8 vessels recovered composed 7% of the assemblage. A single jar and a single vial were also recorded.

The vast majority of the material was dated to the modern period; however, the unstratified beer bottle, the liquor bottle found in hardcore layer (2063), and the prescription bottle from deposit (2076), the fill of pit 2075, were identified as bottle types introduced in the late 19th century.

Context	Type	Colour	No. of Items	Weight (g)	Marks	Comments	Date Range
U/S	Beer bottle	Amber	1	374		Crown finish	AD 1892+
	Poison bottle	Aqua	1	160	Along side: NOT TO BE TAKEN	Paregoric Elixir 'poison' bottle	
	Homeopathic Vial	Clear	1	44	Base: (symbol) C 31		
2002	Bottle base	Clear	1	112	Along base: 70cl E94 (symbol) 3 71mm A 17	Bulging toward the base	
	Beer bottle	Clear	1	264	Along base: 330ml 58mm (symbol) P5 BA779	Foster's Ice beer bottle with plastic labels	
	Liquor miniature bottle	Amber	1	136		Aluminium screw cap MACKINLAY LEITH SCOTLAND SCOTCH WHISKEY	
2004	Window pane	Clear	2	11		Float glass	AD 1950+
	Bottle body	Clear	1	21			
2010	Window pane	Clear	11	73		Float glass	AD 1950+
	Bottle body	Amber	1	10			
2017	Bottle body with base	Clear	1	110	Base: 2		
2020	Window	Clear	43	148		Float glass	AD

	pane						1950+
	Vessel body	Amber	1	<1			
	Vessel rim	Clear	1	3			
	Vessel body	Lavender	4	5		Trapezoidal body with rectangular base	
	Liquor miniature bottle	Clear	1	7		Aluminium screw cap TEACHER'S SCOTCH	
2030	Window pane	Clear	1	7		Float glass	AD 1950+
	Drinking glass base	Clear	1	31		Octagonal stem	
	Drinking glass bowl with stem	Clear	2	25		Octagonal stem	
	Vessel body	Clear	1	8		Moulded decoration with sea shell and fish	
	Vessel rim	Clear	1	3			
2034	Bottle body	Bright green	3	18			20th C
	Bottle finish	Bright green	1	22		Double cordon finish	20th C
2049	Window pane	Clear	2	17		Float glass	AD 1950+
2050	Window pane	Clear	2	14		Float glass	AD 1950+
2052	Window pane	Clear	1	5		Float glass	AD 1950+
	Bottle body	Bright green	4	13			20 th C
	Bottle/vessel body	Clear	1	4		Octagonal cross-section with rounded sides	
2055	Window pane	Clear	2	17		Float glass	AD 1950+
2063	Liquor/spirit bottle	Amber	1	650	Base: illegible	Straight brandy finish	AD 1850+
	Food jar	Clear	1	133	Base: key symbol, B or 8		
	?Soda bottle	Clear	1	278	Along base: N 16 (symbol) 78 A		
	Soda bottle	Clear	1	168	Along base: SCHWEPPE S		
	Liquor bottle	Olive green	1	422	Base: DEPOSE 3	Aluminium screw cap	

					(symbol) 13 Back: ?coat of arms	MARTELL COGNAC	
2076	Bottle base	Clear	1	9			
	Prescription bottle	Aqua	1	110		French square	AD 1880+
2078	Liquor bottle	Clear	1	220	Along shoulder: PIERRE SMIRNOFF Along base: A 4 Base: 275ml (symbol) 3 45mm		
	Window pane	Clear	1	10			
Total			103	3663			

Table 2. Glass objects occurrence by context and type

The glass assemblage is not recommended for retention, due to its fragmentary state and extremely limited potential for further analysis.

5.2.5 Ceramic Building Material

A sample of 109 fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 16054g in total, was hand-collected from 11 different features: 7 pits (2019, 2026, 2029, 2031, 2033, 2073 and 2077), one pit 2058, two postholes (2011 and 2014) and the backfill of construction cut 2016. A small quantity of material was also recovered from subsoil (2002) and modern disturbance deposit (2004).

The state of preservation of the items is fair, although fragmentary. However, the vast majority of the material preserved diagnostic features allowing the identification of the type; only 31 fragments, constituting 28% of the assemblage, were too small (with an average weight of 4.5g per fragment) to be identified.

The material included various types of bricks (52 items, or 47% of the assemblage) and floor tiles (21 items, representing 19% of the group), and sewer pipes (5 fragments, or 4% of the material). All of the items were dated between the late 19th and the 20th century, based on observable technological details.

Context	Type	No. of Items	Weight (g)	Comments	Date Range
2002	Quarry tile	1	138	Red	20 th C
2004	Brick	2	28		
2012	Undetermined	1	1		
2015	Undetermined	1	5		
2017	Hollow brick	2	5836		Mid-19 th C-Early 20 th C
	Sewer pipe	2	678	Salt-glazed	Mid-19 th C-Early 20 th C
2020	Hollow brick	4	472		
	Perforated brick	2	352		
	Brick	7	232		

	Floor tile	1	12		
	Quarry tile	11	448	Black	Mid-19 th C-Early 20 th C
	Kitchen tile	1	24	White glaze	20 th C
	Undetermined	29	134		
2027	Hollow brick	10	1510		Mid-19 th C-Early 20 th C
2030	Hollow brick	10	738		Mid-19 th C-Early 20 th C
2032	Frogged brick	1	1120	Maker's Mark: SOL (partial)	20 th C
	Quarry tile	1	30	Red	20 th C
	Sewer pipe	3	428	Salt-glazed	Mid-19 th C-Early 20 th C
2034	Hollow brick	7	928		Mid-19 th C-Early 20 th C
	?Roof tile	1	66		
2045	Brick	1	20		
2060	Frogged brick	1	894	Maker's Mark: LBC	20 th C
	Quarry tile	2	204	Red	20 th C
2074	Frogged brick	1	658	Maker's Mark: C (partial)	20 th C
	Frogged brick	1	676		20 th C
	Quarry tile	3	156	Red	20 th C
2078	Hollow brick	1	96		Mid-19 th C-Early 20 th C
	Brick	2	170		20 th C
Total		109	16054		

Table 3. Ceramic Building Material occurrence by context and type

Brick

All of the 34 fragments of hollow bricks recorded originated from identical objects, made of an off-white, sandy fabric with no inclusions, with a light red slip. Only a single example of this type of brick was completely preserved, measuring 115 x 215 x 100mm and weighing 3340g. Hollow bricks were introduced in Britain in the 1820s but became commonly available after the 1850s (Watt 1990).

Four fragments of frogged brick were also observed; this type of brick was introduced in the mid-19th century (McComish 2015). Three of the examples found at Graven Hill preserved maker's marks; the item from pit 2058 was marked with the letters 'LBC', identifying it as a product of the London Brick Company, a manufacturer established in 1900.

Two fragments of perforated brick was collected from deposit (2020); the preserved holes showed a round cross-section. Such bricks were patented in Britain in 1845 (Watt 1990).

The remaining 12 fragment in this group were positively identified as originating from bricks, although the specific type was not identified due to the absence of diagnostic features.

Tile

21 fragments of tiles were identified; only one of the items, found in deposit (2034), was tentatively identified as a roof tile; the remaining items all originated from floor

tiles. With the exception of the modern, white glazed kitchen tile from deposit (2020) and the undetermined floor tile from the same deposit, all of the items were positively identified as quarry tiles. The examples recovered at Graven Hill include red as well as black types; the dark coloured fragments from deposit (2020) appear to be earlier in date, possibly produced in the late 19th century, while the red tile fragments were modern.

Sewer Pipe

Five fragments of salt-glazed earthenware pipes were found in deposits (2017) and (2032). This impervious type of pipe was introduced in 1846, and its use rapidly spread across Britain during the 19th century (McComish 2015).

It is not recommended to retain the ceramic building material due to their very limited potential for further analysis.

5.2.6 Metalwork

A small collection of 38 items made of various metals was recovered during the archaeological monitoring. The material, weighing 3605g in total, included iron fasteners, pipes and pipe fittings and tins; all of it was found to be modern in date.

Context	Material	Type	Weight (g)	Dimensions (mm)	Comments	Date Range
2002	Tin	Cigar tin	30	85x85	Henri Wintermans Cafe Creme Blue Cigar Tin	AD 1978+
	Tin	Bottle cap	17	Diameter 38	N°7 printed on top	
2015	Iron	Pipe fitting	1410	Diameter 100	2 items. One with washer	
2017	Iron	Pipe	144	Length 160		
	Lead	Pipe	176	Length 76		
2020	?Lead	Object	100			
	Iron	Screw	40	Length 85mm		
2022	Aluminium	V tent peg	18	Length 171	2 items	
	Iron	Wire tent peg	49	Length 180		
		?Bolt	14	Length 30		
2025	Iron	Flat strip	60		4 fragments. Possible fitting	
2030	Iron	Pipe	50	Length 115		
			74	Length 137		
			124	Length 210		
2032	Iron	Nail	32	Length 117	2 items. Sharp point, round cross-shank and head	AD 1880+
			22	Length 75	2 items. Round cross-shank and head, point missing	AD 1880+
			9	Length 53	Round cross-shank and head, point missing	AD 1880+
			6	Length 67	Round cross-shank and head, point missing	AD 1880+
			11	Length 65	Square shank, flat	?Pre-

					head	AD 1800
2052	Iron	Screw	50	Length 120	With washer	
2055	Iron	Curved wire	1	Length 38	Curved. Rectangular shank, flat head	AD 1800- 1880
2057	Iron	Nail	5	Length 50		
2060	Iron	Fastener	9	Length 80		
2063	Iron	?Twisted-in wire brush	125	Length 200	Original function undetermined	
2076	Iron	Flat bar	880	Length 4400	Rectangular section, curved or bent at one end	
		Object	106	650x650	Possible decorative element	
	Tin	Drinking can	30		Bass beer can with stay-tab	AD 1980+
2078	Iron	Nail	13	Length 130	Round cross-shank and head, point missing	Modern
Total				3605		

Table 4. Metal objects occurrence by context and type

The metalwork is not recommended for retention due to its poor state of preservation, unstable conditions and extremely limited potential for further analysis.

5.2.7 Plastic

A number of plastic objects, of a combined weight of 2163.4g, were recovered from seven individual deposits. The items included one Boots' talc bottle, part of an opening times sign, Dymo labels, fragments of a measuring cup and various fittings, and were found in deposits (2002), (2004) and (2063), and in pits 2021, 2029 and 2033.

It is not recommended to retain the modern plastic items due to their extremely low potential for further analysis.

6 DISCUSSION

The majority of the features on-site can be securely dated to the late post-medieval to modern periods. Due to the presence of numerous modern structures, and the evidence of crush and hardcore deposits directly overlying the natural geology, there is a high probability that the site was subject to multiple phases of truncation. In addition to this, there is further truncation in the form of numerous services and pipes running across the site.

There was no evidence for the continuation of the features present in the previous excavation to the south of the site. As these were often shallow in nature, it is likely that the post-medieval and modern levelling of the site has removed any evidence of these features.

Several of the features likely correspond to the aforementioned modern structures. For example, ditch 2007/2009 was at the edge of a concrete floor, and was directly overlaid by a crush layer, which may indicate that the ditch was a footings trench or other structural aid in the construction of the concrete floor. Similarly, pit 2019 was one of an alignment of pits to the north of the site. Several of these pits contained circular concrete footings; therefore, it is likely that all of the pits held a similar function. The resulting fill in pit 2019 may have been a deliberate rubbish dump, or natural infill of rubbish upon the removal of the footing.

Many of the pits on-site contained similar artefacts and fill deposits, which likely resulted from the deposition of rubbish, in some instances following the removal of structures or footings.

The eastern half of the site was largely sparse of features, which is likely due to the presence of the tarmacked car park, and the levelling actions that would have been undertaken prior to its construction. Within the eastern and northern areas of site, much of the natural geology also showed evidence of compression and disturbance, for example the large area of demolition rubble where the previous Rodney House stood.

7 ARCHIVE

Digitised copies of all the primary records and drawings, as well as a selection of digital photographs, will be made publicly available as an appendix to the Final Report submitted to information-gathering tool OASIS (ID johnmoor1-507634), for public release in the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) Library.

Additionally, the most recent version of all digital files is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services (ID 4623) and will be made available to the public upon request (to admin@jmheritageservices.co.uk). Security copies of all primary records will be made in digital format and stored on the Company's server, together with final versions of all born-digital files.

The archive includes:

- Digitised primary records
- Digitised versions of primary drawings
- GPS raw data
- QGIS files
- Digital photographs
- Report text files

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APPENDIX 1: TABLE OF FINDS

Material	Context No.	No. of Items
Glass	2002	3
Metal - Tin	2002	2
Pottery	2002	1
CBM - Tile	2002	1
Plastic	2002	1
CBM - Brick	2004	2
Plastic	2004	4
Glass	2004	3
Glass	2010	12
Pottery	2010	11
CBM – Undetermined	2012	1
CBM – Undetermined	2015	1
Metal –Object	2015	1
Pottery	2015	7
CBM – Brick	2017	2
Metal –Objects	2017	2
CBM –Pipe	2017	2
Glass	2017	1
CBM – Pipe	2017	2
CBM – Tile	2020	11
CBM - Undetermined	2020	2
CBM –Brick	2020	7
CBM – Undetermined	2020	29
Coke	2020	2
Plastic	2020	11
Glass	2020	50
Metal –Objects	2020	3
Plastic	2022	1
Metal –Objects	2022	4
Pottery	2022	1
Leather	2022	4
Pottery	2025	5
Metal – Objects	2025	4
CBM – Brick	2027	10
CBM – Brick	2030	10
Plastic	2030	4
Glass	2030	6
Pottery	2030	2
Metal – Objects	2030	3
CBM –Tile	2032	1
CBM – Brick	2032	1
CBM – Pipe	2032	3
Metal –Objects	2032	7

Animal Bone	2032	1
Pottery	2032	4
Glass	2034	4
Plastic	2034	2
CBM – Brick	2034	7
CBM – Tile	2034	1
Pottery	2041	1
CBM – Brick	2045	1
Glass	2049	2
Glass	2050	2
Metal –Object	2052	1
Glass	2052	6
Glass	2055	2
Pottery	2055	3
Metal – Object	2055	1
Metal –Object	2057	1
CBM – Brick	2060	2
CBM – Tile	2060	1
Pottery	2060	3
Metal –Object	2060	1
Glass	2063	5
Metal –Object	2063	1
Plastic	2063	1
Pottery	2063	1
CBM – Brick	2074	2
CBM – Tile	2074	3
Pottery	2074	1
Metal – Objects	2076	3
Glass	2076	2
Glass	2078	2
Pottery	2078	2
Metal – Object	2078	1
CBM – Brick	2078	3
Glass	U/S	3
Pottery	U/S	1
Animal Bone	U/S	1

APPENDIX 2: OASIS REPORT

Summary for johnmoor1-507634

OASIS ID (UID)	johnmoor1-507634
Project Name	Health Hub, Graven Hill
Sitename	Health Hub, Graven Hill
Activity type	Excavation
Project Identifier(s)	4623, AMGH 21
Planning Id	18/00325/OUT
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	John Moore Heritage Services
Project Dates	10-Jan-2022 - 29-Mar-2022
Location	Health Hub, Graven Hill NGR : SP 58885 21267 LL : 51.8868595675539, -1.14582928148034 12 Fig : 458885,221267
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Oxfordshire District : Cherwell Parish : Ambrosden
Project Methodology	<p>The archaeological investigation at the Health Hub, Graven Hill, Bicester, comprised an area of approximately 0.99ha, and was stripped using a mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket.</p> <p>Heavy rainfall and a high water table meant that the site repeatedly flooded. In these instances, the water was pumped off-site, and the affected area left to dry, before stripping recommenced.</p> <p>Where archaeological horizons were encountered, they were cleaned by hand and excavated appropriately.</p>

Project Results	<p>The majority of the features on-site can be securely dated to the late post-medieval to modern periods. Due to the presence of numerous modern structures, and the evidence of crush and hardcore deposits directly overlying the natural geology, there is a high probability that the site was subject to multiple phases of truncation. In addition to this, there is further truncation in the form of numerous services and pipes running across the site.</p> <p>There was no evidence for the continuation of the features present in the previous excavation to the south of the site. As these were often shallow in nature, it is likely that the post-medieval and modern levelling of the site has removed any evidence of these features.</p> <p>Several of the features likely correspond to the aforementioned modern structures. For example, ditch 2007/2009 was at the edge of a concrete floor, and was directly overlaid by a crush layer, which may indicate that the ditch was a footings trench or other structural aid in the construction of the concrete floor. Similarly, pit 2019 was one of an alignment of pits to the north of the site. Several of these pits contained circular concrete footings; therefore, it is likely that all of the pits held a similar function. The resulting fill in pit 2019 may have been a deliberate rubbish dump, or natural infill of rubbish upon the removal of the footing.</p> <p>Many of the pits on-site contained similar artefacts and fill deposits, which likely resulted from the deposition of rubbish, in some instances following the removal of structures or footings.</p> <p>The eastern half of the site was largely sparse of features, which is likely due to the presence of the tarmacked car park, and the levelling actions that would have been undertaken prior to its construction. Within the eastern and northern areas of site, much of the natural geology also showed evidence of compression and disturbance, for example the large area of demolition rubble where the previous Rodney House stood.</p>
Keywords	<p>Ditch - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Floor - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Sherd - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Bottle - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Brick - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p>
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