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Archaeological Services

**Archaeological Work
On land at Manor Farm Walk,
Tilton on the Hill,
Leicestershire
NGR SK 7421 0545**

Jennifer Browning



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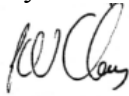
**Archaeological Work
On land at Manor Farm Walk,
Tilton-on-the-Hill,
Leicestershire
(NGR SK 7421 0545)**

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For: Mrs. K. Tordoff

Approved by:

Signed:



Date: 12.07.2013

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Summary

Archaeological work was undertaken prior to groundworks for a manège on land adjacent to Manor Farm Walk, Tilton on the Hill, Leicestershire (NGR SK 7421 0545). The work involved the excavation of four trenches, in which several areas of rubble were identified. Investigation revealed a ceramic land drain below the deposit, suggesting that building rubble was used to infill and consolidate former hollows in the field. Medieval and post-medieval (mid or later 15th century to later 17th century) was recovered during the work, including a sherd with trailed and jewelled slip decoration, comprising part of an inscription. The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under the Accession Number X.A79.2013.

1. Introduction

This report presents the results of archaeological work carried out in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), (DCLG 2012) on land adjacent to Manor Farm Walk, Tilton on the Hill, Leicestershire (SK 7421 0545), within Harborough District. The work took place in June 2013 and was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Mrs. K. Tordoff. The work comprised the excavation of three 40m and one 20m trench excavated within the footprint of the proposed manège (P.A. 12/01599/FUL).

The application site lies within an area of archaeological potential, as indicated by and location within the historic medieval and post-medieval settlement core. The Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council therefore recommended that archaeological work should be undertaken to determine if any buried heritage assets were likely to be affected by the proposed development. A strategy for a programme of archaeological work was set out in the Written Scheme for Investigation (Clay 2013), hereinafter WSI.

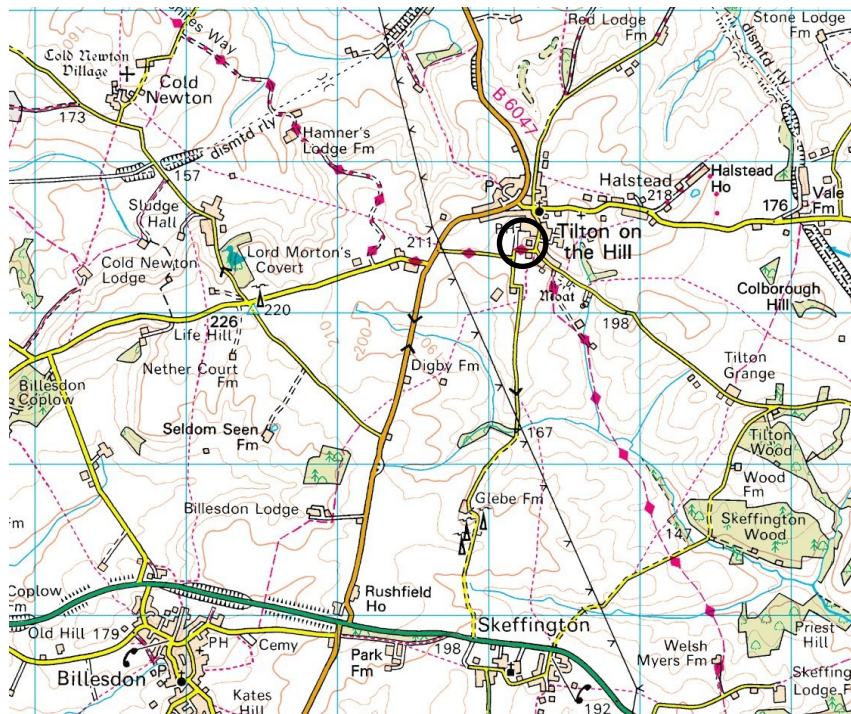


Figure 1: Location plan Scale 1:50000

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2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The development area is located within the historic core of Tilton on the Hill and is part of a paddock, fronting onto Main Street and Back Lane. The land consists of undulating pasture and is directly west of a pond. The site comprises an area of c. 40m x 20m (800 sq. m.).

The British Geological Survey of Great Britain indicates that the superficial geology consists of Oadby Member-Diamicton, which was formed up to two million years ago in the Quaternary Period. The bedrock geology is mudstone of the Whitby Formation.

(<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed on 8th July 2013).

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

The site is located within the medieval settlement core of Tilton on the Hill (HER reference MLE5980), therefore has the potential to contain medieval and post-medieval remains. In addition, a Roman road is believed to be present in the vicinity so there is some potential for Roman remains.

As it was deemed likely that the proposed development would have a damaging effect on any archaeological deposits, should they exist, archaeological work was required by the planning authority following an approved written scheme of investigation (WSI ULAS 2013).

4. Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the current archaeological work was:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To advance understanding of the heritage assets
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

5. Methodology

The work followed the WSI (Clay 2013) and adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (rev. 2010) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (rev. 2008). In order to effectively determine the presence or absence of any archaeological deposits a series of trial trenches covering *c.* 40% of the area was excavated initially.

The programme of work consisted of the excavation of trenches within the footprint of the manège, using a JCB 3CX with a 1.6m ditching bucket. The trenches were visually inspected, hand-cleaned where appropriate and recorded following standard ULAS methods.

6. Results

The site was visited on the 24th June 2013. An area comprising 40m x 20m was affected by the development. It was decided that the most effective way to gauge the presence or absence of archaeological deposits was to excavate a series of trenches along the length of the manège footprint. The groundworks for the development itself are likely to be shallow and due to the uneven topography the contractor expected that there would be a need to build up the ground in several areas.

Four 1.6m wide trenches were excavated down to the level of the natural substratum (Figure 2; Figure 4;). The topsoil consisted of a dark reddish brown silty-clay loam. This was relatively smooth with few inclusions and was 0.20-0.30m thick. The subsoil consisted of smooth mid-greyish brown silty-clay with red sandy flecks and occasional pebbles, chalk and flint stones. Trench 1 revealed an area of rubble (7m wide), close to the north end of the trench, containing ironstone, tile, slate and brick fragments (Figure 5). Associated pottery and clay pipe fragments were generally of a post-medieval date (See Appendix I). While most of the rubble appeared to be confined to this specific area, there was a thin spread (0.1m thick) running south along the eastern edge of the trench. At the south end of the trench, a further spread of rubble was identified, composed of mixed rubble, slate, brick, tile and ironstone fragments, which seemed more modern in character. Both rubble spreads were noted in Trench 2 but the northern spread was not evident in Trench 3. Trench 4 was excavated between Trenches 2 and 3 to establish where the dump disappeared. The rubble was present

in this trench (6m wide) and a slot was excavated to examine its depth and the character of the underlying deposits. This revealed that the rubble overlay a mid-grey brown silty deposit. Further excavation exposed an east-west aligned ceramic land-drain at a depth of approximately 0.6m below ground level, orientated towards the pond and still in working order (Figure 6). Therefore the rubble is interpreted as consolidation and infilling of a former hollow, which was probably previously relatively wet and boggy. While a number of pottery sherds indicating early post medieval activity were recovered during the work, no evidence for archaeological deposits of an earlier date was observed.

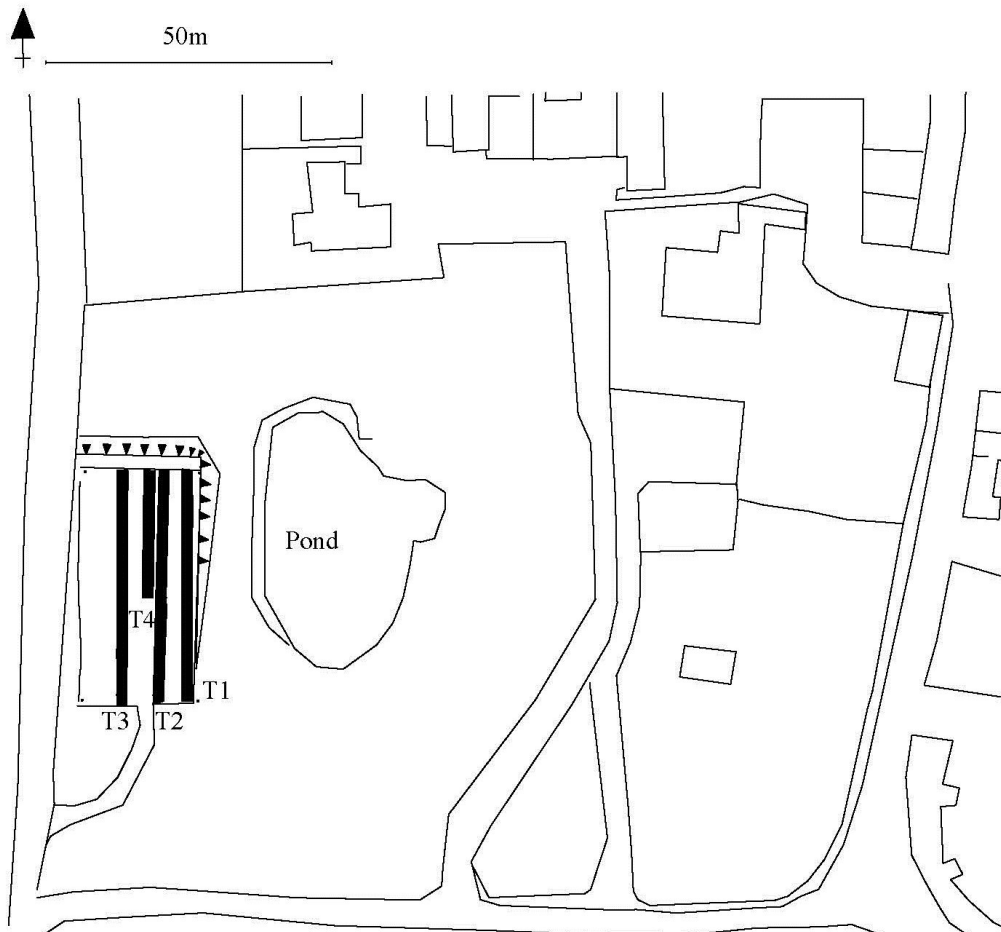


Figure 2: Location of trenches within the application area



Figure 4: Overview of trenches, looking north



Figure 5: Rubble dump in Trench 1.



Figure 6: Cross section through the rubble and silty soils in Trench 4.
The exposed land-drain is visible in the centre of the photograph (arrowed)



Figure 7: View along Trench 4, looking north.

7. Conclusion

Archaeological work undertaken prior to the construction of a new manège on land adjacent to Manor Farm Walk has revealed evidence for the infilling of hollows within the field with rubble, probably in order to provide consolidation for wet ground. Pottery sherds and pipe stems recovered during topsoil stripping indicated activity dating generally from the mid or later 15th century to the later 17th century and including a fragment from a cup, with trailed and jewelled slip decoration comprising part of an inscription and including what may be the letter 'L' (Sawday; this report). Although three pottery sherds dating to the medieval period were recovered (Sawday; this report), no medieval structures or deposits were encountered

during the work. It is likely that the medieval and post-medieval material had been introduced to the area as part of manuring scatters.

8. Archive

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council HNET, with the Accession No. X79 2013

The archive contains site notes (watching brief pro forma sheets), 1 plan on permatrace, digital photographs and photo index.

The report is listed on the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York. Available at: <http://oasis.ac.uk/>

9. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* and *Rutland Record* in due course. The report will be added to the Archaeology Data Service's (ADS) Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the University of York.

OASIS Information

Project Name	Land adjacent to Manor Farm Walk, Tilton on the Hill
Project Type	Archaeological strip, plan and sample (trenches)
Project Manager	P. Clay
Project Supervisor	J. Browning
Previous/Future work	-
Current Land Use	Paddock
Development Type	Manège
Reason for Investigation	As a condition
Position in the Planning Process	Full determination
Site Co ordinates	NGR SK 7421 0545
Start/end dates of field work	24.06.2013
Archive Recipient	LCC
Study Area	800 metres square

10. Bibliography

Brown, D., 2008 *Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives* (Institute for Archaeologists)

Clay, P. 2013 *Written scheme of investigation for archaeological work at Manor Farm Walk, Tilton on the Hill, Leicestershire (SK 7421 0545)*

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), (rev. 2012), *Code of Conduct*

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), (rev. 2008), *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

11. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by Jennifer Browning for ULAS. Deborah Sawday identified the pottery and Patrick Clay managed the project. I would like to thank Kimberley and Alex Tordoff and their contractor for their help and co-operation during the work.

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Appendix I: The Post Roman Pottery

Deborah Sawday

The Finds

The Pottery

The pottery, comprising 29 sherds, weighing 754 grams, and a vessel rim equivalent of 0.24 (calculated by adding together the circumference of the surviving rim sherds, where one vessel equals 1.00), was catalogued with reference to the guidelines set out by the Medieval Pottery Research Group, (MPRG 1998; MPRG, 2001) and the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 1989; Sawday 2009).

The results are shown below (Tables 1 and 2). A thrown hollow ware vessel fragment, probably a cup, with trailed and jewelled slip decoration comprising part of an inscription and including what may be the letter 'L') was of particular note. Thrown dishes with similar decoration have been dated to *c.*1670 to 1710 at Burlsem, Stoke on Trent, (Greaves 1976, 4, fig.6.28), and two more from North Staffordshire are dated 1685 and 1696 respectively (Barker 1993, 17).

The Miscellaneous Finds

The miscellaneous finds included a fragment of bottle glass dating from *c.*1640 (Banks 1997) (table 2).

Conclusions

The assemblage, whilst small included an interesting range of pottery wares and vessel forms, with an above average sherd weight of 26.0 grams. The group as a whole, including the miscellaneous finds dated generally from the mid or later 15th century to the later 17th century, and provides some evidence of activity of this date in the vicinity.

Most of these finds probably originate from sources to the west including the major pottery production centres at Chilvers Coton in Warwickshire (Mayes and Scott 1984) and Ticknall in Derbyshire for the medieval and early post-medieval Cistercian, Midland Black and Midland Yellow (Spavold and Brown 2005), and Staffordshire for much of the post-medieval Earthenware (Barker 2008).

Table 1: The medieval and later pottery by fabric, sherd numbers and weight (grams).

Fabric	Common Name	Sherds	Weight
Medieval			
TG	Surrey White	1	5
CW1	Cistercian	1	13
CW2	Cistercian	2	21
Sub Total		4	39
Medieval/Early Post Medieval			
CW/MB	Cistercian/Midland Black	2	30
MB	Midland Black	2	19
MY	Midland Yellow	7	289
EA1	Earthenware	4	175
EA2	Earthenware	6	155
EA6	Blackware	3	38

EA7	Slipware	1	9
Sub Total		25	715
Site Total		29	754

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Table 2: The medieval and later pottery by fabric, sherd numbers and weight (grams) by context.

Context	Fabric/Ware	No	Gr	Comments
POT				
3 T1	CW1 - Cistercian ware	1	13	Hollow ware, glazed brown internally & externally
3	CW2 - Cistercian ware	1	15	Hollow ware, glazed brown externally
3	MY – Midland Yellow	2	219	Abraded rim and base for an internally glazed wide mouthed bowl/pancheon, form Ns (Woodfield 1984), external rim diameter 400mm, 0.08 EVEs
3	MY – Midland Yellow	1	42	Splayed base fragment, internally glaze, part of a hollow ware, possibly a cup
3	EA1 - Earthenware	2	87	Internally glazed fragments from two hollow ware vessels.
3	EA1 - Earthenware	1	36	Internally glazed and externally thickened jar rim, with circular grooving on rim top, similar At Elbow Lane, Leicester, (Sawday 1989 fig.1.32).

				External rim diameter 180mm, 0.15 EVEs
3	EA2 - Earthenware	1	18	Internally slipped and glazed hollow ware.
3	EA6 – Black ware	1	11	Slipped and glazed neck and shoulder of a hollow ware vessel, probably a cup.
6 T3	CW/MB - Cistercian/Midland Black	1	20	Hollow ware, dark brownish black glaze externally.
6	EA2 - Earthenware	1	80	Internally slipped and brown glazed hollow ware base fragment, probably part of a jar.
7 T4	TG - ?Surrey White ware	1	5	Burnt glazed hollow ware with external decorative grooving.
7	CW2 - Cistercian ware	1	6	Brown glazed hollow ware – probably a cup, with external decorative rilling.
7	MY – Midland Yellow	2	10	Internally glazed sherds
7	EA2 - Earthenware	3	50	Miscellaneous internally slipped & glazed body/base fragments.
7	EA6 – Black ware	2	27	Glazed body fragments
7	EA7 - Slipware	1	9	Rim and wall of a thrown hollow ware vessel, probably a cup. The decoration comprises part of an inscription and includes what may be the letter 'L'. Thrown dishes with similar trailed and jewelled decoration are generally dated from c.1670 to 1710 at Burlsem, Stoke on Trent, (Greaves 1976, 4, fig.6.28), and two inscribed posset pots with trailed and jewelled decoration from North Staffordshire are dated 1685 and 1696 respectively (Barker 1993, 17). Rim diameter not available, EVEs estimated at less than 0.01.
8 T2	CW/MB - Cistercian/Midland Black	1	10	Hollow ware, dark brownish black glaze externally.
8	MB – Midland Black	1	16	Glazed strap handle fragment, part of a hollow ware jug or drinking cup/mug.
8	MY – Midland Yellow	2	18	Glazed strap handle and base fragments
8	EA1 - Earthenware	1	52	Hollow ware, probably a jar fragment, slipped and glazed internally.
8	EA2 - Earthenware	1	7	Slipped & glazed internally
U/S T2	MB – Midland Black	1	3	Black glazed hollow ware, part of a small vessel, probably a cup.
MISC.				
3 T1	Ceramic Building Material	1	16	Brick or tile fragment.
3	Fe	3		Nails
3	Animal Bone	6		Tiny fragments only
3	Flint	1		Mechanical fracture.
3	China Clay	4		Tobacco pipe stems, two join
7	Fe	1		Nail
7	China Clay	7		Tobacco pipe stems
U/S T2	Glass	1		Fragment of abraded dark green/black bottle glass, 3.5 – 11mm thick, suggesting a date from c.1640 when heavy durable and consequently thick walled dark green bottles began produced and used in England instead of pottery vessels (Banks 1997, 1).

Site/ Parish: Manor Farm Walk. Tilton on the Hill, Leics. Accession No.: XAQ79 2013 Document Ref: tilton on the hill2.docx Site Type: paddock adjacent to medieval manor house	Submitter: J. Browning Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Identification: Method of Recovery: wb Job Number: 13-649 Material: pot & misc. finds
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Appendix II: Summary List of Contexts

The following table is a list of subsoil and spreads observed during the archaeological work, which were assigned context numbers in order to locate the finds.

Context	Description
1	Rubble spread (modern)
2	Silty clay soil running beneath 1(buried topsoil/silting into former hollow)
3	Thin spread of rubble (linear in shape) no more than 0.1m deep
4	Rubble spread
5	Mid reddish brown sandy silt(subsoil)
6	Dark brown silty clay(buried topsoil/silting into former hollow)
7	Subsoil
8	Subsoil (interface with topsoil)

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