



University of
Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological evaluation on land to
the rear of the Red Lion Public House,
23, Main Street, Wolston, Warwickshire.
NGR: SP 417 755**




John Thomas

ULAS Report No. 2013-027
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**An archaeological
evaluation
on land to the rear of
the Red Lion Public House,
23, Main Street, Wolston,
Warwickshire
NGR: SP 412 755**

John Thomas

For: Aplan Architectural Design Ltd.

Approved by
Signed:  ..
Date: ...19.02.2013
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CONTENTS

Summary	1
Introduction.....	1
Background.....	2
Archaeological Objectives	2
Methodology	3
Results.....	3
Trench 1	4
Trench 2	5
Trench 3	6
Trench 4	7
Discussion.....	8
Acknowledgements.....	9
Site Archive and Results.....	10
Bibliography	10
Appendix I: The Finds	11
Appendix II OASIS Information.....	14
Appendix III HER Information	15

FIGURES

Figure 1 Location of Wolston.....	2
Figure 2 Trench location plan.....	4
Figure 3 Trench 1 photograph.....	5
Figure 4 Trench 2 photograph.....	6
Figure 5 Trench 3 photograph.....	7
Figure 6 Trench 4 plan and section drawings	8
Figure 7 Trench 4 photograph.....	9

An Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land to the rear of the Red Lion Public House, 23, Main Street, Wolston, Warwickshire. NGR: SP 412 755.

John Thomas

Summary

An archaeological field investigation was undertaken on land to the rear of the Red Lion Public House, 23, Main Street, Wolston, Warwickshire by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on the 21st of January 2013. Four trial trenches were excavated in response to proposals for residential development, as proposed under Planning Application number R11/2409.

The results of the work were largely negative, with three of the four evaluation trenches containing no archaeological remains. The fourth trench, to the rear (northern end) of the development area contained remains of two ditches; one of which was undated but a second produced datable evidence to indicate it had been backfilled during the 18th or early 19th century.

The archive will be deposited with Warwickshire County Council under Accession Number T/1205.

Introduction

In accordance with PPS5 (Planning and the Historic Environment, 2010), this document presents the results of an archaeological field evaluation (AFE) on land to rear of the Red Lion Public House, 23, Main Street, Wolston, Warwickshire (Figure 1). The evaluation was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services in response to proposals for residential development (Planning Application No. R11/2409).

Following Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) Policy HE6, Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team (LCCHNET), as archaeological advisors to the planning authority, required an evaluation by trial trenching.

The proposed development site comprises part of a builders yard located east of Seaton Road and on the southern edge of the main core of Glaston itself (SK 8697 0030). The site lies on fairly flat ground, with a slight fall to the east, at around 120m OD and covers an area of approximately 2400 square metres (c.0.24ha).

The site was evaluated with four trial trenches (2x 22.5m long & 2x 7.5m long) that were located across the area to provide a c.5% sample of the site.

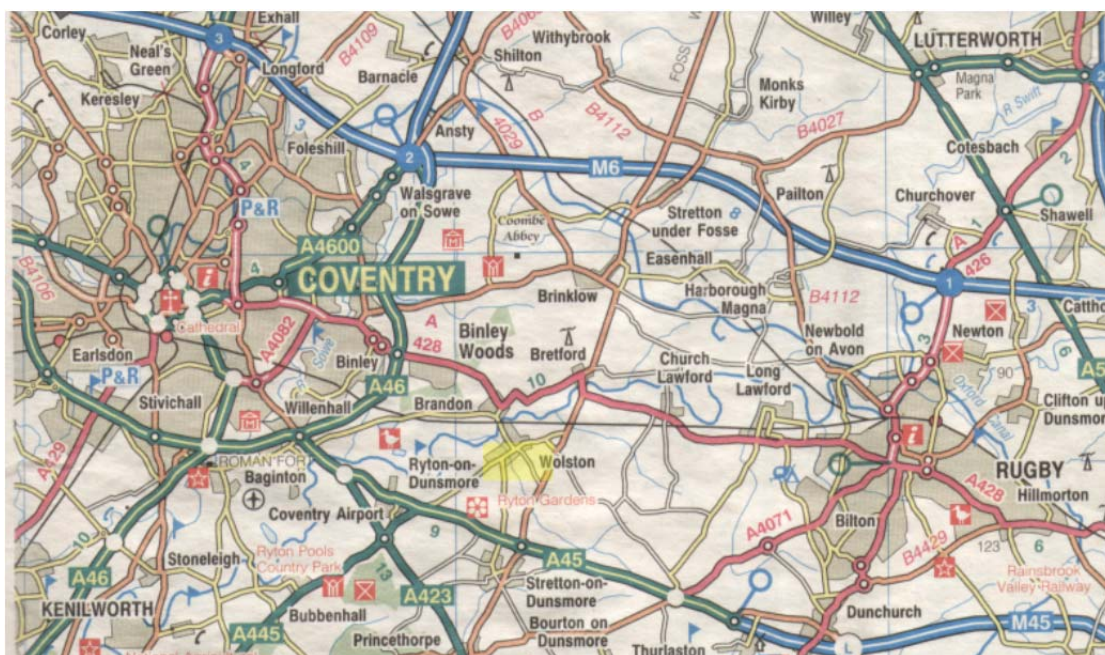


Figure 1 Location of Wolston (highlighted)
All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495.

Background

The Warwickshire Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the site is situated within an area of archaeological interest, with recorded finds and sites indicating a considerable length of human occupation in the vicinity. It lies within the historic core of Wolston (**MWA9541**) which has been estimated through analysis of aerial photographs and representation of the village on the 2nd Edition OS Map 27 NE of 1887. Little archaeological work has been undertaken in the vicinity of the site although two Grade II Listed buildings neighbour the property (17 & 21 Main Street **DWA937**), both of which are mid-late 18th century cottages with 19th century additions. The site of a Post Medieval manor house (**MWA3146**) also lies close to the site, dating to the early 18th century. The site is also situated within the Conservation Area of the village (Rugby Borough Council 2010).

Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives of the evaluation, as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological work (WSI) (ULAS 2013) were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits identified by the geophysical survey.
- To identify the presence or absence of any archaeological deposits and remains not previously identified by geophysical survey.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation was to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development. From this an appropriate method of dealing with any archaeological deposits can be formulated or an appropriate mitigation strategy developed.

Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

Methodology

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct in accordance with their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008).

Topsoil and subsoil was removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision, down to the uppermost archaeological deposits by a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All spoil heaps were inspected for unstratified archaeological material. All trenches were excavated to a width of 1.8m and down to the top of archaeological deposits or the natural substratum in the absence of any archaeological deposits. After recording, the trenches were backfilled and levelled.

Trenches were examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located were planned at an appropriate scale and sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence. All plans were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Spot heights were taken as appropriate.

Each trench was recorded on a standard ULAS pro-forma trench recording sheet noting soil depths and descriptions. One longitudinal face and the base of each trench was recorded in this way. Trench locations were recorded and tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

A photographic record of the investigations was prepared illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. Colour digital and black and white 35mm photographs were taken throughout the evaluation. The photographic record also included 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

Results

The four trenches were laid out to provide the best possible coverage of the application site and to coincide with areas of potential disturbance from the development proposals. Restrictions on available space, due to live drains and buried electrical services, resulted in a slight modification to the original location plan submitted (Figure 2). Trenches 1 & 2 measured c.7.5m in length x 1.8m wide and Trenches 3 & 4 measured c.22.5m x 1.8m wide.

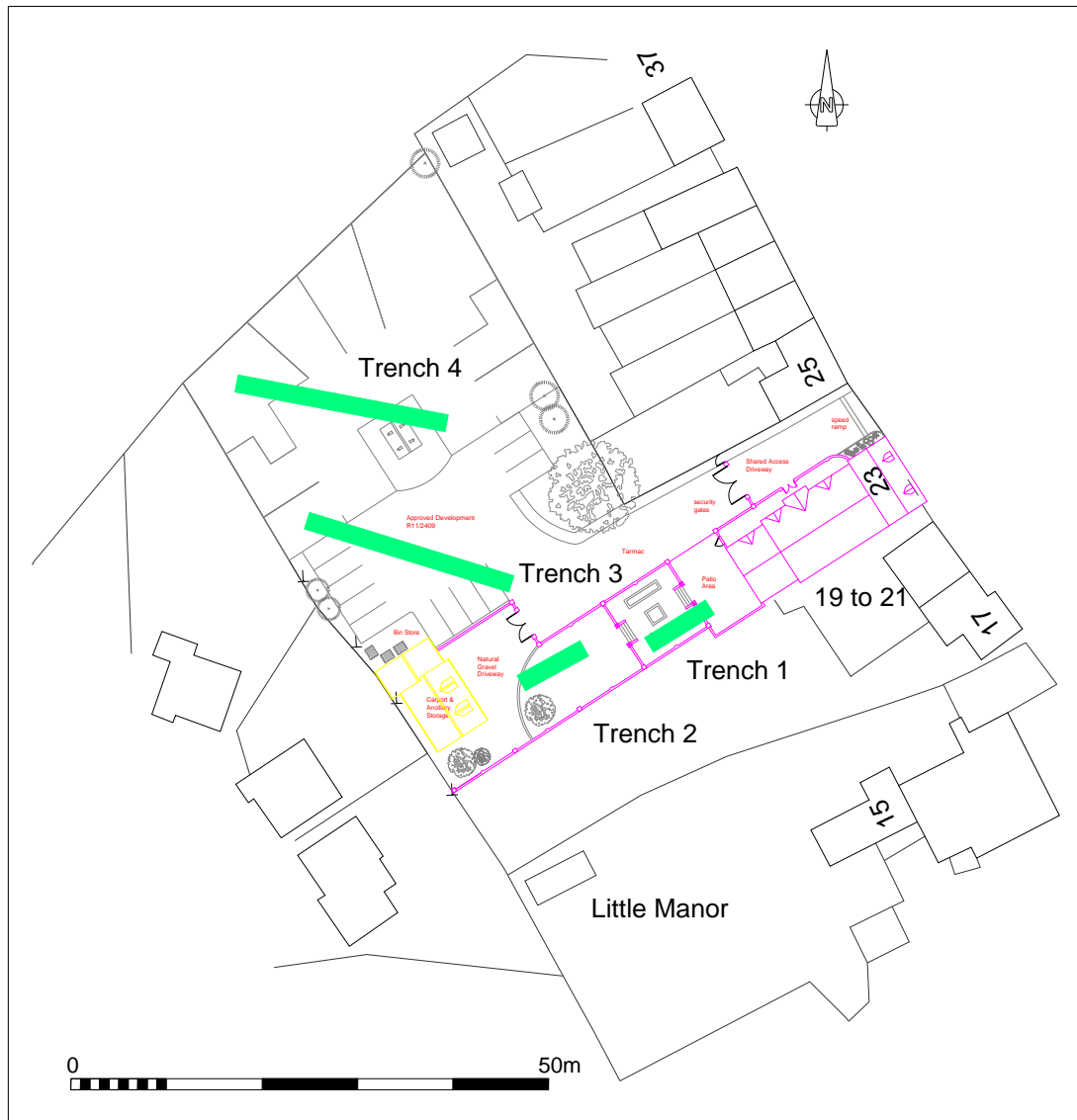


Figure 2 Trench Location plan (adapted from mapping supplied by Aplan Architectural Design Ltd.).

Trench 1 (Figure3)

Trench 1 was located towards the south-eastern corner of the site on a NE-SW alignment and measured *c.*7.5m x 1.8m wide. Natural subsoil, consisting of orange/brown sands and gravels was revealed between 0.62m (eastern end) and 0.72m (western end) below the present ground level. A layer of truncated subsoil consisting of dark greyish brown silty sandy clay (*c.*0.30m thick) lay above the natural sands, and this was in turn overlain by a *c.*0.20m thick layer of brick rubble. Above this was layer of mill waste (*c.*0.25m thick) and finally a layer of tarmac (*c.*0.07m thick) forming the surface of the current car parking area. No archaeological features or finds were revealed in this trench.



Figure 3 Trench 1 viewed from the east.

Trench 2 (Figure 4)

The second trench was located approximately 6m west of Trench 1. It had similar dimensions and lay on a similar alignment. Natural subsoil in this trench was revealed c.0.78m below the present ground surface and consisted of orange/brown sands and gravels. A similar sequence of layers to that encountered in Trench 1 was recorded, the only

difference being a slightly greater depth of brick rubble (c.0.32m thick). No archaeological features or finds were revealed in this trench.



Figure 4 Trench 2 viewed from the east.

Trench 3 (Figure 5)

Trench 3 was situated near the centre of the development area to the north of Trench 2 and lay on a NW to SE alignment, measuring c.22.5m x 1.8m wide. The westerly end of the trench lay within a garden area and was c.0.77m deep at this point. Much of the trench length

lay within a car parking area where the general depth was c.0.60m below modern ground level. The natural subsoil in this trench consisted of orange/light yellowish brown sands and gravels. Directly above this was a layer of buried subsoil (c.0.32m thick) consisting of dark greyish brown silty sandy clay. Above this was a layer of mill waste (c.0.17m thick) and finally a layer of tarmac (c.0.06m thick). No archaeological features or finds were revealed.



Figure 5 Trench 3 viewed from the south east.

Trench 4 (Figures 6 & 7)

Trench 4 was located in the northern part of the development area and lay on a NW to SE alignment, measuring *c.*22.5m x 1.8m wide. Natural subsoil in this trench consisted of orange/light yellowish brown sand and gravels which lay at a depth of between 0.70m and 0.80m below the present ground level. A subsoil layer (*c.*0.40m thick) and a topsoil layer (*c.*0.36m thick) overlay the natural substrate. Two archaeological features were revealed in the trench. At the eastern end a large ditch [404] ran across the trench on an E-W alignment. It measured *c.*2.23m wide x 0.68m deep and had a broad U-shaped profile with steep sloping sides and a flat base. It contained two fills, the earliest of which (403) consisted of sticky, very dark greyish brown sandy silty clay. Above this a secondary fill (402) consisted of loose dark greyish brown sandy silt. Both fills contained quantities of Post Medieval pottery, glass, brick and tile; the majority coming from (402) and indicating an 18th or early 19th century date for the ditches infilling. A shallower linear feature [406] was partially revealed at the western end of the trench. This lay on a N-S alignment and was only *c.*0.25m deep. It contained a single fill of greyish brown silty sandy clay but was undated.

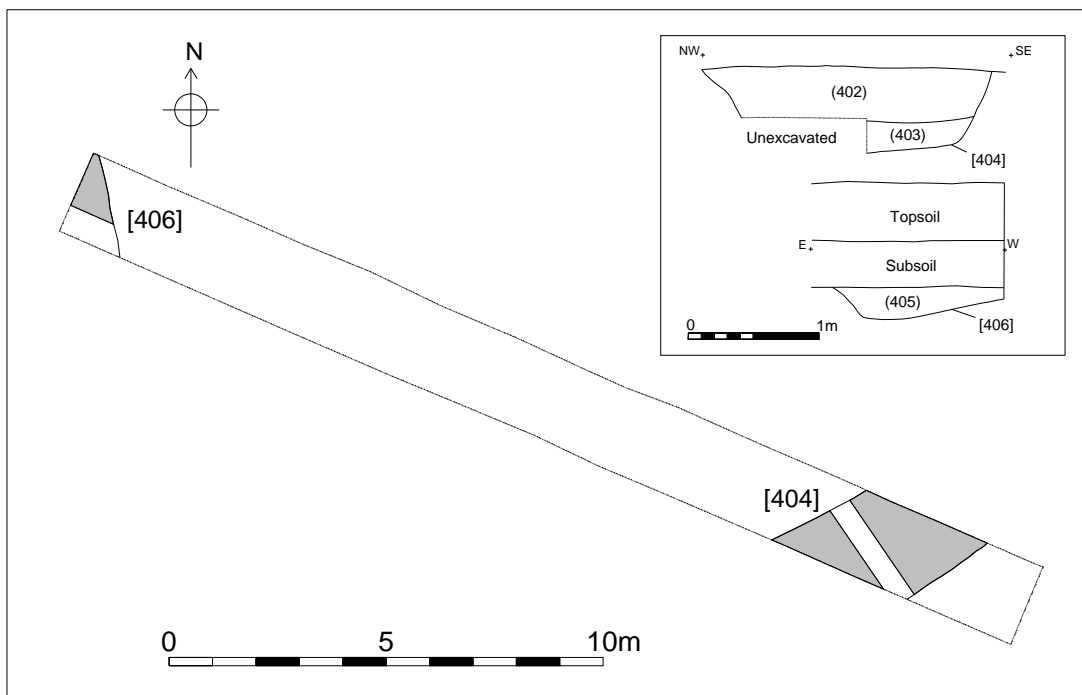


Figure 6 plan & section drawings of Trench 4



Figure 7 Trench 4 viewed from the east.

Discussion

The evaluation trenches were located across the application area in order to provide a reasonable coverage of the site and assess the potential for archaeological survival.

In general the evaluation results did not indicate a concentration of past activity on the site, with only two features revealed and no background scatter of material from across the site. The two archaeological features revealed in Trench 4 appear to be linear in character and are

most likely representative of ditches. Their orientation, at a right angle ([404]) and parallel ([406]) to the main road through the village suggests that both may have functioned as plot boundaries in the past, although only [404] is datable. The quantity and range of the assemblage from this ditch, including as it does pottery and building debris, indicates its location near to an area of domestic activity which probably lay to the east of the development area, fronting onto Main Street. It is unclear if the two ditches functioned together or if one succeeded the other.

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by the author. The pottery and other artefacts from Ditch [404] was identified by Deborah Sawday. ULAS would like to thank Mick Thompson of Alan Robinson Properties Ltd. for his co-operation and assistance during the work. The project was managed by Richard Buckley.

Site Archive and Results

The archive consists of:

This report,

4 pro-forma trench recording sheets,

1x 35mm black and white negative film and corresponding contact sheet,

27 colour digital photographs,

Photographic record sheets,

1 bag containing Ditch [404] artefacts

1 compact disc of this report and the digital photographs.

The site archive will be deposited with The Warwickshire Museum under the archaeological accession number T/1205. A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in an appropriate regional journal in due course. An OASIS record will also be produced and this report will be uploaded on to the Archaeology Data Service website.

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Appendix I: The Finds

Deborah Sawday

The Finds

The pottery, thirteen sherds, weighing 549 grams, was catalogued with reference the guidelines set out by the Medieval Pottery Research Group, (MPRG 1998), (MPRG, 2001) and the Warwickshire fabric series (Soden and Ratkai 1998). Also present were ten fragments, 1.041kg of roof tile, nine brick fragments weighing 3.184kg, and a small quantity of animal bone, glass and clay pipe. The finds, which were all recovered from contexts 402 and 403 in the backfill of the boundary ditch [404] are listed below (table 1).

The Pottery

The pottery all occurred in 402; the wheel thrown Coarseware bowls, including pancheons, dating from the 17th to the 19th centuries were the most common vessel type. However, the two fragments of Midland Blackware and one reduced Coarseware bowl were possibly slightly earlier; perhaps dating from c.1600 to c.1800. Two press moulded Trailed Slipware bowls or dishes, one with a notched rim, dated from the mid or later 17th century, and the mid 18th century respectively. An 18th or early 19th century date may be given to a moulded handle fragment in Tin Glazed Earthenware.

The Ceramic Building Material

Fragments of eight moulded flat roof tiles, in a red sandy fabric and between c.13 mm to 19 mm in thickness, representing a minimum of seven tiles were also recovered from contexts 402 and 403. An assemblage of ceramic roof tile at Astleys, Far Gosford, Coventry was made up predominantly of flat tile and included, as is suggested here, material in Chilvers Coton fabric C, (Mayes and Scott 1984), Warwickshire fabric SQ30, which is dated from c.1300-1500 (Chapman 2006). However, similar roof tiles continued to be made well into the post medieval period and with no dimensions save for the thickness noted above, these flat tiles and the pantile from the same context, are not easy to date. Another fragment of flat tile in a more refined clay body with traces of white clay or marl from the same context is more obviously post medieval. All of these finds were in context 402.

Five brick fragments in a red sandy fabric from 402 and another in context 403 between 48 and 63mm thick may be early in the sequence, whilst the other three bricks from the same two contexts in a pale buff or pale pink coloured clay with white clay/marl inclusions are more obviously later. Both the roof tile and bricks are clearly moulded with sanded sides and a smoothed or fettled upper surface – suggesting a post medieval terminal date for the group.

The Miscellaneous Finds

The cylindrical wine bottle in context 402 had a base with a pronounced kick-up. The presence of the kick-up, the thickness of the blown dark green glass and the slightly bulbous profile of the base, suggests a date from c.1770-1830 for the bottle. Other finds from the backfill of the ditch included post medieval or modern clay pipe, modern glass and a few fragments of animal bone.

Conclusion

Whilst the evaluation has produced an interesting group of domestic post medieval and modern pottery and glass, but these finds failed, unlike perhaps some of the roof tile which is discussed below, to produce any evidence of the medieval history of the site, which lies within the core of the village. Most of the pottery is probably local in origin; possible sources including the kilns at Chilvers Coton, Nuneaton, which were in production into the 17th century at least (Gooder 1984, 13). The regional imports are made up of two fragments of what is thought to be Staffordshire Trailed Slipware and the sherd of Tin Glazed Earthenware.

The source of much if not all of the ceramic building material could well be Chilvers Coton, and it is quite possible that here as was suggested at Far Gosford Street, Coventry, some of the possibly medieval roof tile at least could have been-reused at a later date before being discarded (Chapman 2008). The documentary evidence at Chilvers Coton suggests that the production of both brick and roof tiles continued into the 18th century (Gooder 1984, 13). However, whilst the area has the resources of both coal and clay, the archaeological evidence for brick production in the early post-medieval period is lacking (Barker 2003).

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Table 1: The pottery and other finds by fabric, fragment/sherd numbers and weight (grams) by context.

Context	Fabric/Ware	N o.	Gr.	Comments
POTTERY				
402 [404] boundary ditch	MBO2 - Midlands Blackware - later tradition	1	22	Hollow ware body, fine sandy fabric, externally slipped and glazed – c.1600-1800.
402	MBO2- Midlands Blackware - later tradition	1	73	Flat base fragment, internally glazed dark brown over red body with sparse ?grog inclusions & streaks of buff clay. c.1600-1800
402	CW- Coarseware	1	24	Simple everted bowl rim, internally slipped & glazed, estimated external rim diameter 260mm, 0.05 EVE. Reduced fabric suggest early, 17th C?
402	CW - Coarseware	1	122	Abraded - moulded wide mouthed

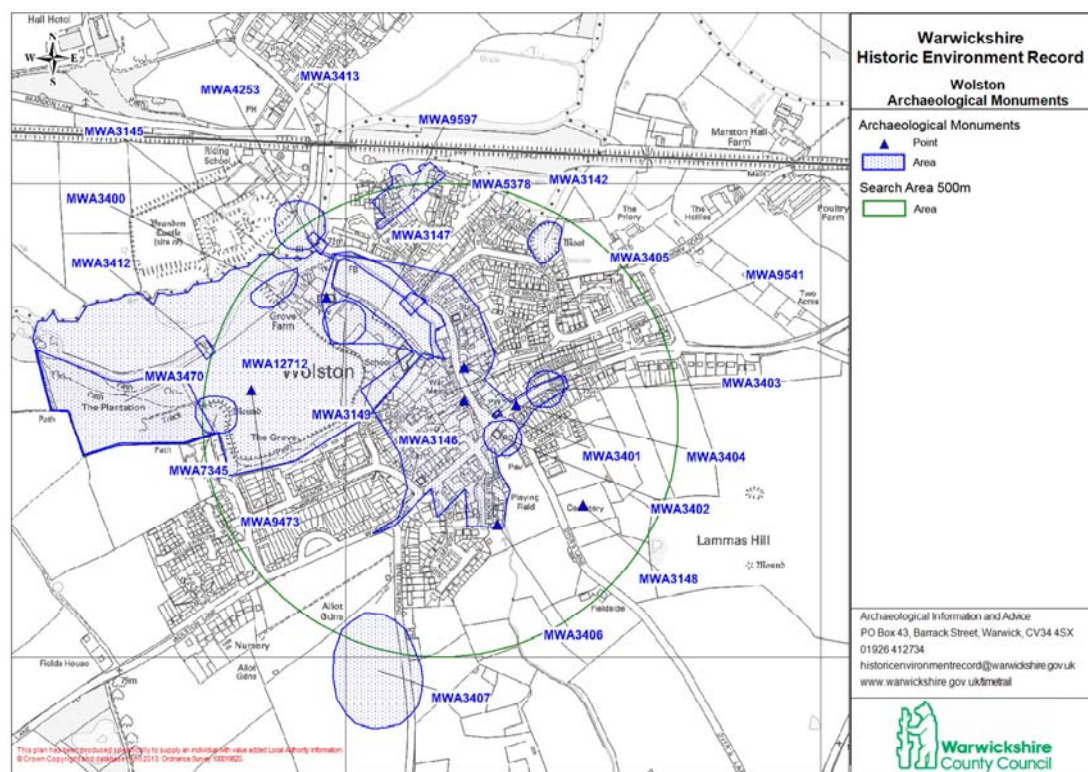
				bowl/pancheon rim, slipped and glazed internally below rim, external rim diameter c.480mm, 0.085 EVEs. Pale buff body, 17th – 19th C.
402	CW - Coarseware	1	59	Moulded wide mouthed bowl/pancheon rim slipped and glazed internally, and slipped externally also, abraded no diameter. Pale buff body, grey core, 17th – 19th C.
402	CW - Coarseware	3	164	Joining fragments – hollow ware vessel, possibly a flared bowl, pale buff body, slipped & glazed internally, 17th – 19th C.
402	SLPW02 – Trailed Slipware	2	50	Press moulded bowl/dish with pinkish buff body, with red slip and super-imposed white slip decoration under the glaze, c.1640-1700, external rim diameter c.320mm, 0.0.045 EVEs.
402	SLP – Trailed Slipware	2	26	Press moulded bowl/dish rim and body with pale buff body, with red slip and super-imposed white slip decoration under the glaze, c.1640-1700. The rim is notched. Possibly a Staffordshire product, where similar pottery is dated from c.1750 (D. Barker, pers. com. 1993). Rim diameter not observable.
402	TGE – English Tin Glazed Earthenware	1	9	Moulded handle fragment with pale blue tin glaze, fine white body, 18th or possibly early 19th C.
ROOF TILE				
402 [404]	?SQ30 – Chilvers Coton C ware	8	852	Flat roof tile, red or light red (2.5YR 6/6 and 5/6) sandy fabric, between c.13 mm to 19 mm in thick
402	?SQ30 – Chilvers Coton C ware	1	86	Moulded pantile – 13-15mm thick, red sandy fabric.
402	CW - Coarseware	1	103	Flat roof tile, 14-15mm thick, refined red clay body with white clay/marl inclusions.
BRICK				
402 [404]	Coarseware	5	911	One fragment c.63mm (2 ½ inches) thick – red sandy fabric
402	Coarseware	2	683	Between c.52mm – 60mm (2 – 2 3/8 inches) thick. Clean pale buff coloured clay with white clay/marl inclusions
403 [404]	Coarseware	1	1125	Approximately 110 x 48mm (4 ¼ x 1 ¾ inches) thick – red sandy fabric
403	Coarseware	1	465	Approximately 110 x 60 mm (4 ¼ x 2 ½ inches) wide. Clean pale pink coloured clay with white clay/marl inclusions

CLAY PIPE				
402 [404]	China Clay	1		Part of the stem of a tobacco pipe, post medieval/modern
BONE				
402 [404]	Animal Bone	1		Large mammal long bone shaft fragment in poor condition.
403 [404]	Animal Bone	3		Part of the same animal as the above.
GLASS				
402 [404]	Glass	8		Cylindrical wine bottle, with pronounced kick-up. Thick blown dark green glass and slightly bulbous base suggests a date from c.1770-1830
403 [404]	Glass	1		Brown glass c.3mm thick – the blown glass has been cut into an asymmetrical shape, probably 19th C.

Appendix II OASIS Information

OASIS INFORMATION	
Project Name	Seaton Road, Glaston, Rutland
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	P Clay
Project Supervisor	J Thomas
Previous/Future work	none, unknown future work
Current Land Use	Builders yard/rough pasture
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	Pre-determination evaluation
Position in the Planning Process	Preliminary
Site Co ordinates	SK 8697 0030
Start/end dates of field work	19.10.2011
Archive Recipient	LCCHNET
Study Area	0.24ha

Appendix III HER Information



KEY

MWA12712	Wolston Manor garden, Wolston, Rugby
MWA3142	Moat 200m W of Wolston Priory
MWA3145	Church of St Margaret, Wolston
MWA3146	The Manor House, Wolston
MWA3147	Shrunken Post Medieval Settlement
MWA3148	Chapel at Wolston Cemetery
MWA3149	Site of Wolston Manor House
MWA3400	Moat 100m NW of Church
MWA3401	Baptist Church, Main Street, Wolston
MWA3402	Baptist Cemetery at Wolston
MWA3403	Site of Pound on School Street
MWA3404	Smithy on School Street, Wolston
MWA3405	Smithy 300m SE of Church, Wolston
MWA3406	Brewery 600m SE of Church, Wolston
MWA3407	Bronze Age Cemetery by Stretton Lane
MWA3412	Site of Post Medieval Bridge 300m SW of Church, Wolston
MWA3413	Wolston Bridge
MWA3470	The Plantation, possible Quarry to W of Wolston
MWA4253	Site of Medieval Watermill to E of Brandon Castle
MWA5378	Post Medieval Bridge, 200m E of Church
MWA7345	Wolston Mound
MWA9473	Find of a Possible Bronze Age Bracelet and Flint Scatter
MWA9541	Wolston Medieval Settlement
MWA9597	Wolston Celluloid Factory

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