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Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological strip, plan
and sample excavation and watching
brief at The Fernie Hunt Kennels
(Workmans Cottage site), Nether Green,
Great Bowden, Leicestershire (SP 747
891)**

Andrew Hyam and Donald Clark



ULAS Report No. 2012-125
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**An archaeological strip map and sample
excavation and watching brief at The Fernie Hunt Kennels
(Workmans Cottage site), Nether Green, Great Bowden,
Leicestershire**

NGR: SP 747 891

Andrew Hyam and Donald Clark

**For: The Trustees of the Fernie Hunt
Planning Application Number: 09/00035/FUL**

Approved by:

Signed: ...



Date: ...09/08/2012. Updated 19/05/2014

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ULAS Report Number 2012-125

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Accession Number X.A86.2011

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An archaeological strip plan and sample excavation and watching brief at The Fernie Hunt Kennels (Workmans Cottage), Nether Green, Great Bowden, Leicestershire (SP 747 891)

Andrew Hyam

Summary

An archaeological strip, plan and sample excavation was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at the Fernie Hunt Kennels, Nether Green, Great Bowden, Leicestershire (SP 747 891). The work was commissioned by the Trustees of the Fernie Hunt in advance of the construction of new buildings on the site.

The work followed on from an evaluation by trial trenching carried out by ULAS in July 2011 and April 2014, when a number of archaeological features dated to the Late Anglo-Saxon to Early High Medieval period (c.850-1250) were discovered (ULAS Report 2011-099). A subsequent excavation was undertaken in August 2011 to the east (ULAS Report 2012-136).

The strip map and sample excavation has revealed a number of intercutting ditches, gullies and pits. The features contained datable artefacts giving a series of phases and dates ranging from the Late Saxon period to the late medieval period, a similar range to dates and material to that of the previous evaluation and excavation.

Introduction

An archaeological strip, plan and sample excavation was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at the Fernie Hunt Kennels, Nether Green, Great Bowden, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 747 891) between the 14th and 23rd of May 2012 and a watching brief with control and supervision 15th-16th April 2014. The work was commissioned by the Trustees of the Fernie Hunt in advance of the construction of a new workman's cottage, and two garages with and a new access track into the site from Nether Green. An additional area, located to the east of the development work, allocated for a horse lunge was also examined.

The work followed on from an evaluation by trial trenching carried out by ULAS in July 2011, and subsequent excavation in August, when a number of archaeological features dated to the Late Anglo-Saxon to Early High Medieval period (c.850-1250) were discovered (Hunt 2011a and b).

Following National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team (LCCHNET) as archaeological advisors to the planning authority required that an archaeological strip plan and sample excavation is undertaken. The fieldwork was intended to mitigate any damage to buried archaeological remains which will occur from the proposed construction of the new buildings.

Background

Great Bowden lies in the Harborough District of Leicestershire, around 1.5 miles north-east of the centre of Market Harborough.

Nether Green lies at the north-eastern edge of Great Bowden and the site, which covers 0.45 hectares, lies on the northern side of Nether Green, opposite Nether House and the Fernie Hunt stables (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Location of Great Bowden

Area of investigation highlighted. Scale Approximately 1: 2500. Contains Ordnance Survey Data

The site is broadly rectangular and orientated west-north-west to east-south-east. It is surrounded by hedgerows to the east, west and north. The southern edge, along the line of the road is bordered by a metal fence and a number of large mature lime trees, which carry tree preservation orders (TPOs).

The new development is to be located to the south-west of the site (Figure 2). Details of the proposed buildings and their locations are shown in Figure 3.

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 170 (Market Harborough) indicates that the underlying geology consists of Middle Lias clays, overlain by Glacial Till. The site lies at a height of around 77m aOD. Both the development area and the whole kennel site are generally level.



Figure 2. Location of proposed development
Main development area highlighted in red, horse lunge area shown in green



Figure 3. Proposed development

Archaeological Background

The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland indicates that the site lies just outside the medieval core of the village (HER Ref No: MLE9021). There are few known prehistoric and Roman sites in the close vicinity of the site. Great Bowden has its origins in the medieval period and archaeological finds from this period far surpass any other period of antiquity in their abundance.

The village has shrunk in size since the medieval period and the earthworks of demolished buildings from the medieval period can be found on the outskirts of the village to the east and north of the present-day village core. To the south lie the earthworks at Knight's End (MLE1953) and along Dingley Road, east of the Church (MLE1955). Further earthworks lie to the south-west of the site north of The Royal Oak (MLE1950). There are also several findspots for medieval pottery within the village core, including several sherds from The Paddock and Nether Green (MLE6752).

The archaeological evaluation carried out by ULAS (Hunt 2011) consisted of seven trenches placed within the proposed development areas around the site. However, a sewer pipe was in the process of being excavated prior to the archaeological work being undertaken and this presented some constraints to the positioning of the trenches. During the work the proposed development was changed and so one of the trenches was excavated outside the proposed development area.

All the July 2011 evaluation trenches contained archaeological deposits of some kind. Two of the trenches (Trenches 1 and 3) contained modern features, which may have originated during earlier periods; a furrow and a pond respectively. Another trench (Trench 7) contained a Victorian well and some disturbed areas of rubble and appeared to be situated close to where early maps show a cottage once stood.

All the other trenches contained ditches and pits, most of which could be dated to the Late Anglo-Saxon to Early High Medieval period, a period covered around 850 to 1250. A few features contained later medieval material, although many of these contained earlier material also, suggesting continuity into the later period. Most of the features in Trench 5, which at the time of the evaluation lay outside the development area, were not fully excavated. However, a large amount of surface finds from this trench also indicated Late Anglo-Saxon-medieval activity. Modifications to the planning application required the additional work carried out during this current phase of work. Evaluation Trench 6 also encroached on the current proposed development area. In this trench a north to south ditch was observed which contained Late Anglo-Saxon to Early High medieval pottery. The excavation in August further confirmed these results.

The type of archaeological evidence from the evaluation and excavation was indicative of agricultural activity in the area during the Late Anglo-Saxon to Early High Medieval period. However, the amount of pottery collected of fine fabrics, along with artefacts such as a copper alloy ring found within a ditch fill in Trench 4, suggested a settlement somewhere in the close vicinity.

Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives of the archaeological work were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or 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 produce an archive and report of any results.

Methodology

The strip map and sample excavations comprised the control and supervision of overburden removal and other groundworks in the footprints of the three structures by an experienced professional archaeologist to determine the presence/absence of any archaeological remains. An evaluation trench running across the centre of the proposed horse lunge was deemed to be the most suitable initial method as a number of live services were known to be present.

The identification of archaeological deposits was followed by a programme of excavation and recording, using additional personnel as necessary.

A watching brief was undertaken to monitor the depths of the access point and road.

Results

Five areas were stripped under archaeological supervision.

These comprised the footprints of the workman cottage and garage, the adjacent access road and an additional area allocated for the location of a Horse lunge. The footprints of the workman's cottage (Trench I), the two garages (Trenches E and G) and part of the proposed access road (Trenches F and I) were stripped of topsoil and down to archaeological deposits (Fig. 4).

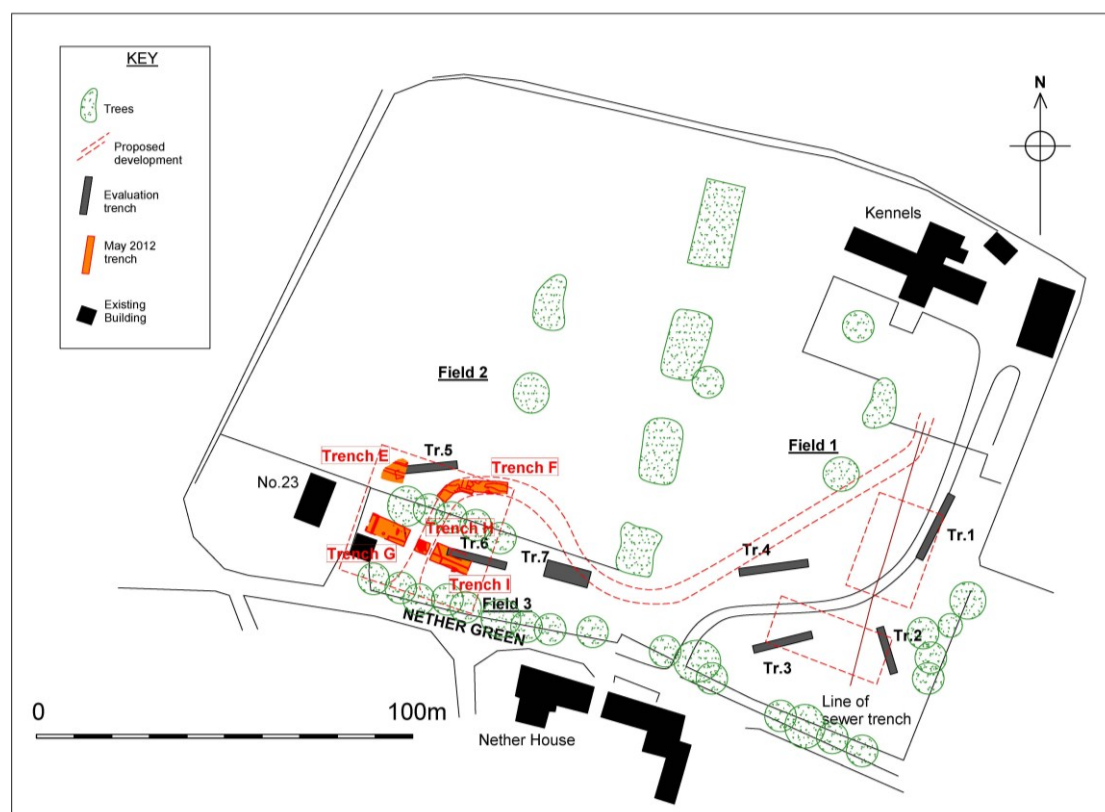


Figure 4. Trench locations
July 2012 excavation Trenches A to D not shown

Trench E

Trench E was located in the north-western corner of the development area over the footprint of a proposed garage. It had an average depth to the natural substratum of 0.55m.

The evaluation Trench 5 encroached into the trench and had identified a 1 metre wide ditch heading westwards into Trench E. Two NE to SW linear features [516] and [518] were observed (Figs 5 and 6). Ditch feature [518] corresponded exactly with the alignment of the ditch seen in evaluation Trench 5.

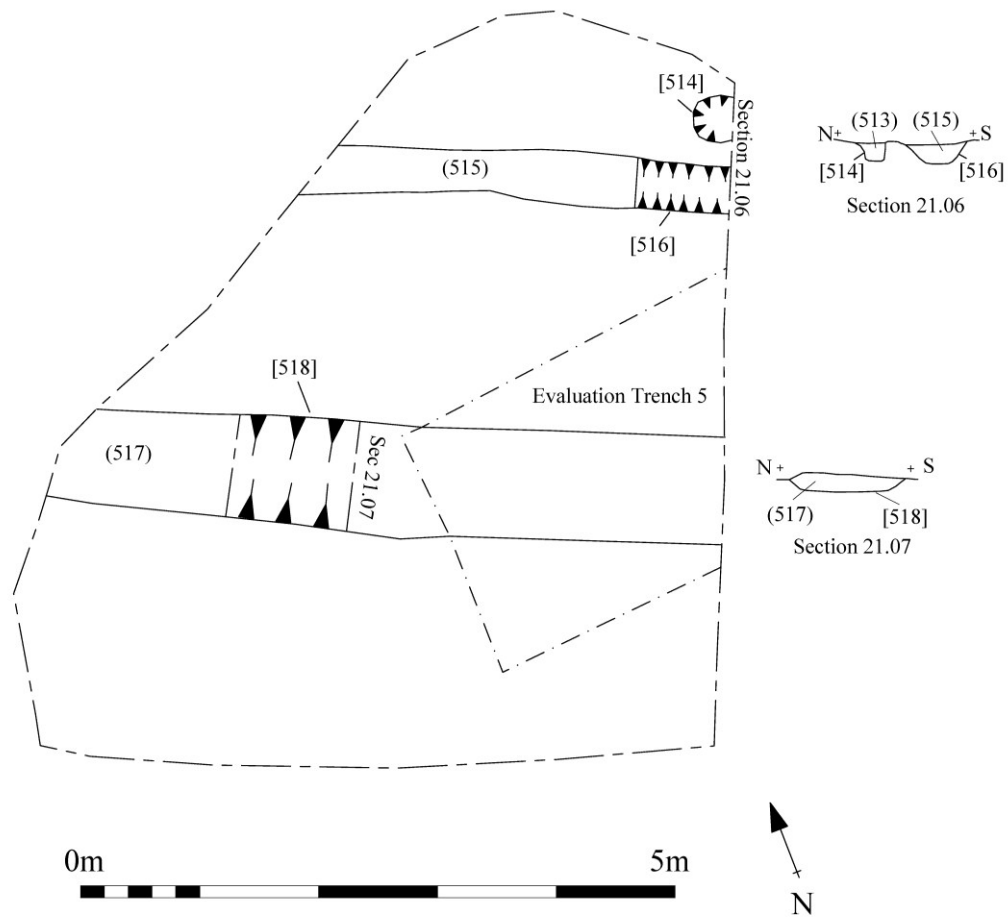


Figure 5. Trench E



Figure 6. Trench E
General view looking north. Flooded area shows location of evaluation trench 5.
Looking north. 1m scales

Ditch [516] (515) was a fairly narrow, 0.6m, and shallow, 0.2m, linear gully heading south-eastwards out of the trench towards the centre of evaluation Trench 5 where a number of intersecting features were noted. One sherd each of Early/High Medieval Lyveden/Stanion B and A ware were recovered from fill (515). Immediately to the north of [516] was a small posthole [514] (513) which was partially obscured by the eastern baulk of the trench. No dateable finds were recovered from this feature. Both fills (513) and (515) consisted of the same mid brownish grey silty clay although (513) also contained some fragments of decayed ironstone.

Ditch [518] was slightly more substantial with a width varying between 0.8m and 1m with a depth of 0.2m. It contained a pale greyish brown silty clay fill with some areas of redeposited yellowish redeposited clay natural (517) (Fig. 7). A single sherd of fine Stamford ware with traces of soot on the outside was recovered from fill (517). Although exposed during the earlier evaluation no dating evidence had been recovered from this feature.



Figure 7. Section across ditch [518]
Looking east. 1m scale

Trench F

Trench F was placed along the line of the proposed roadway and extended from the edge of the treeline to the south and north-eastwards towards a new fence (Figs 4, 8 and 9). Traces of north to south ridge and furrow could be seen to the north of Trench F. The trench had a depth of between 0.41m at the eastern end and 0.53m at the western end.

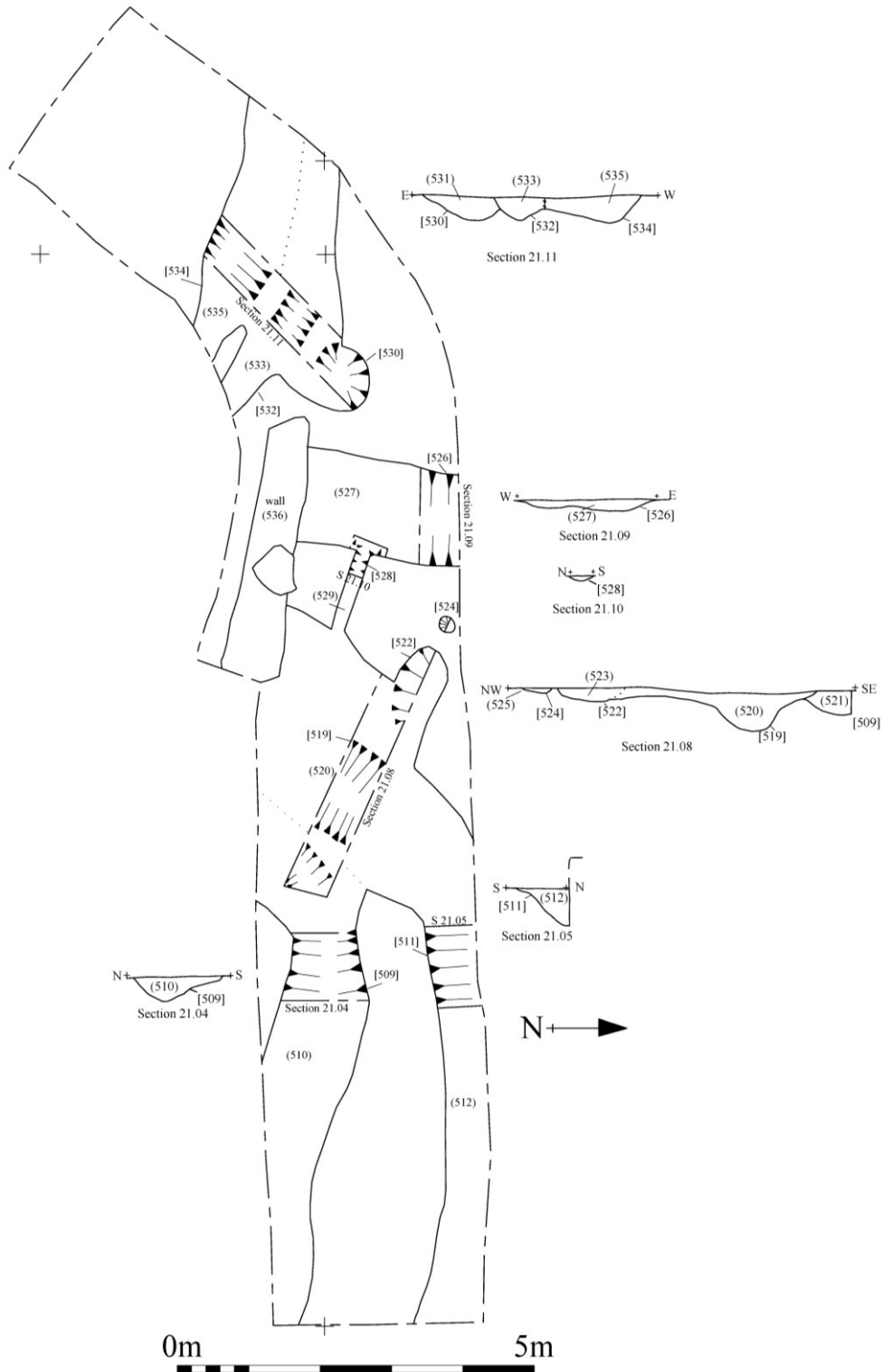


Figure 8. Trench F



Figure 9. Trench F
Looking east. 1m scales

At the western end of the trench was a pair of intercutting gullies with a small pit on the north-eastern side, [534], [532] and [530] respectively. Although the gullies appeared as separate features at their south ends and despite the fill of [532] containing a mid yellow grey silty clay (533) and [534] containing a mid brownish grey clay (535) a band of disturbed and redeposited yellowish clay natural ran along the border between the two features. This effectively destroyed any stratigraphic relationship between the two features. No dateable material was recovered from fill (533) but one sherd each of Early/High medieval Course Shelly ware Oolitic ware were recovered from fill (535). Excavation did however show that gully [532] cut pit [530]. The mid grey silty clay fill (531) of pit [530] a sherd of Saxo Norman St Neots/Lincoln/Lincs/Shelly ware and one sherd of Coarse/fine Stamford ware from the same period.

To the east of these gullies was a 1.10m wide but very shallow, 0.05m, base of a truncated ditch [526] running from north to south across the trench. This contained a mid yellowish grey silty clay fill (527) from which one sherd of Early/High medieval Course Shelly ware was recovered. A small gully [528] (529) ran from the eastern side of [526] and contained a similar fill to (527). A sherd of Late Saxon/Saxo Norman fine Stamford ware was recovered from fill (529). A section excavated between the two features proved inconclusive in terms of visibly identifying the earliest feature. Gully [528] extended to the east for approximately 1m before entering an area covered by a thin 0.1m spread of mid yellowish grey silty clay. This area was to the west of a curving ditch feature [519] (520) and appeared to have the same fill. An excavated slot across this area shows that the spread lies on a slightly depressed area of natural substrate and may in fact be the ploughed-out and spread remains of fill (520) from ditch [519] (Fig. 10). A range of pottery from the Saxo Norman phase

and the Early/High medieval period was recovered from this feature suggesting the possible disturbance of earlier features. A small pit [522] (523) appeared to cut the north-east edge of this spread and contained a sherd of Oolitic ware. The base of a very small isolated post hole [524] (525) was located to the north-west of these features from which a sherd of Saxo Norman Very fine Stamford ware was recovered.



Figure 10. Slot across ditches [510] and [519]
Looking north-east. 1m scales

Ditch [519] curved around to the north-east to run along the northern edge of the trench where it was identified as [511] (512). Despite the fills (512) and (520) having the same mid yellowish grey silty clay, (512) contained a range of Fine Stamford ware up to post medieval earthenware pottery whilst (520) had a range of Saxo Norman and early/High medieval pottery. On the eastern side of [519] was a smaller ditch, [509], which also curved to the north and east to follow a parallel alignment to [511]. It contained a pale yellowish grey silty clay fill (510) from which a sherd of Fine Stamford ware and also a number of Early/High medieval sherds. In section it could be seen that ditch [519] cut [509].

On the south side of the trench, just below the turf, was a short length of iron stone rubble wall (536). Only two courses survive showing to be built using selected, but not worked, blocks of ironstone chosen to create a rough face on both sides. No bonding material was used and the whole structure was set into the subsoil. Below the base of the structure was 0.28m of remaining subsoil which was in turn on top of ditch [526] and the spread to the west of [519] suggesting that the wall is relatively late in date.

Trench G

Trench G was located on the footprint of a proposed garage immediately to the north of the new roadway constructed after the initial evaluation work. It measured approximately 10.9m in length and 5m in width. The average depth to the top of archaeological deposits or to the natural substratum was 0.43m at the western end of the trench and 0.45m at the east end (Figs. 11 and 12).

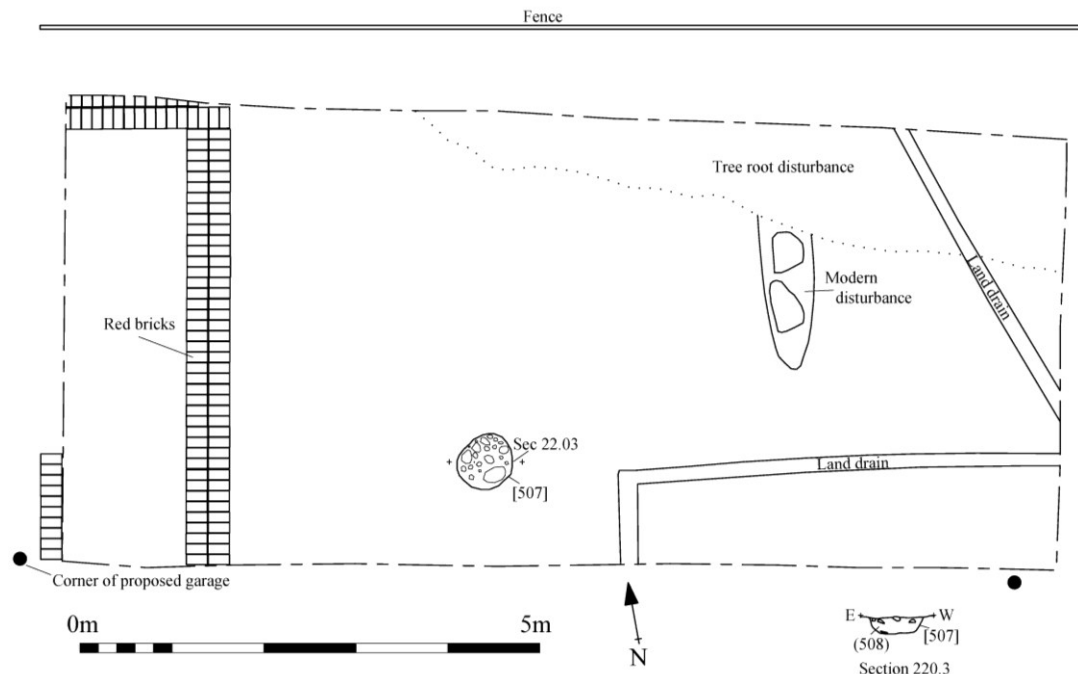


Figure 11. Trench G

At the west end of the trench was the base of a red brick wall foundation made from a double row of red bricks laid directly onto the clay natural without any mortar for bonding. Only a single course survived. There was no evidence of any internal floor surfaces surviving and the bricks appeared to be of early 20th century date. A land drain ran from east to west across the bottom south-eastern corner of the trench and was joined by one running in from the north-west. The whole north-eastern corner of the trench was heavily disturbed by tree roots and a stony area originally thought to be archaeological in origin was found to contain modern glass and pieces of plastic. A single isolated pit in the centre of the trench [507] (508) contained a dark grey brown silty clay fill with a lot of burnt ironstone and large pebbles. The largest quantity of pottery from any of the features was also recovered from fill (508). Nine sherds of late Anglo Saxon/Saxo Norman St Neots ware were recovered along with high medieval Lyveden/Stanion A ware, later medieval Chilvers Coton, Medieval Sandy ware and Bourne ware. The feature was only 0.8m wide at its greatest extent and was only 0.18m deep and appeared to be the base of a truncated rubbish pit.

No other archaeological features or deposits were found within this trench.



Figure 12. Trench G
Looking east. Pit [507] to right of scales. 1m scales

Trench H

Trench H was placed over the line of the proposed new access road beyond the trees and to the southern end of Trench E. It measured 3.5m by 3.4m and had an average depth of 0.49m (Figs 13 and 14).

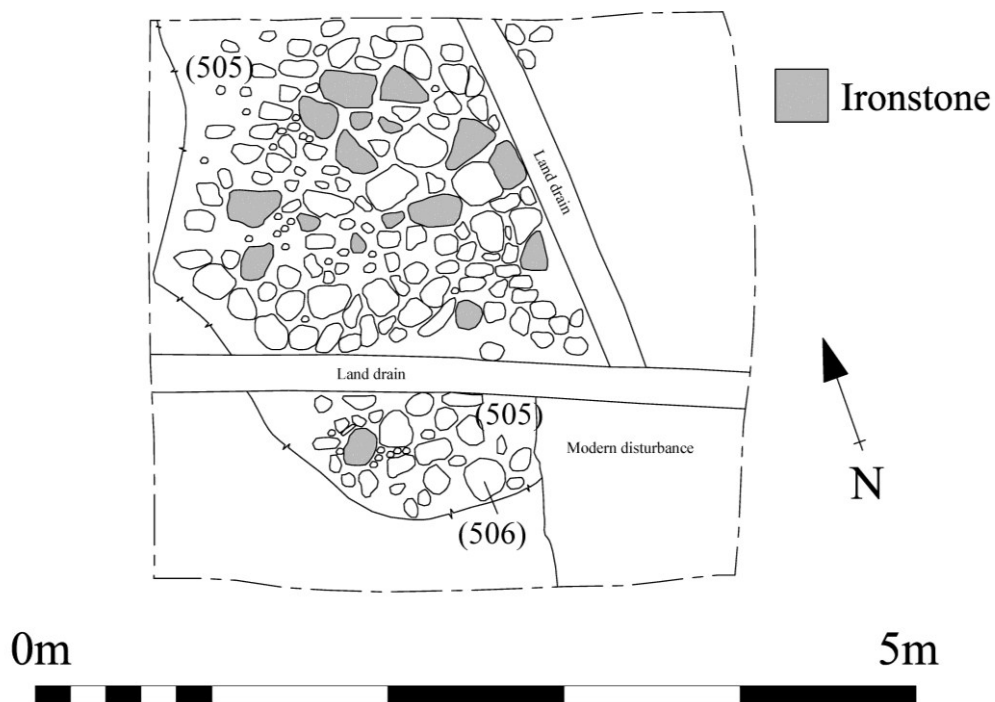


Figure 13. Trench H



Figure 14. Trench H
Looking east. 1m scale

A modern land drain continued eastwards from Trench G across this trench and also had a second land drain joining it from the north-west as seen in Trench G. Much of the eastern half of the trench was disturbed by tree root activity and other apparent modern activity which revealed fragments of broken land drains, screw-top bottles among other things. On the western side of the trench was a mid yellowish brown firm clay silt layer (505) containing many small gravel-like stones. This contained Early/High medieval Chilvers Coton and Lyvedon/Stanion ware pottery. Layer (505) was not contained within a clear cut and appeared to form a firm layer which peeled away quite easily to reveal the top of a stony layer (506). Layer (506) consisted of a single, sometimes double, layer of river-washed cobbles, ironstone and chalky blocks set within a (505)-like matrix. Lifting the cobbles showed them to be laid onto the clean and undisturbed natural substratum. No pottery or other dateable material was found within this matrix. It had a clear limit, or edge, on the south and south-west sides but was disturbed by roots and later activity on the eastern side.

No other archaeological features or deposits were seen within this trench.

Trench I

Trench I was located over the footprint of the proposed new house (Fig. 15). A bay on the south side of the house encroached onto the new roadway and because of concerns about hitting services this area was not fully excavated. Similarly, approximately 1m along the full extent of the northern edge was left unexcavated due to tree root disturbance and because substantial tree roots were encountered which could cause

damage to the trees if they were removed. The depth to natural varied between 0.5m at the western end and 0.6m at the eastern end of the trench.

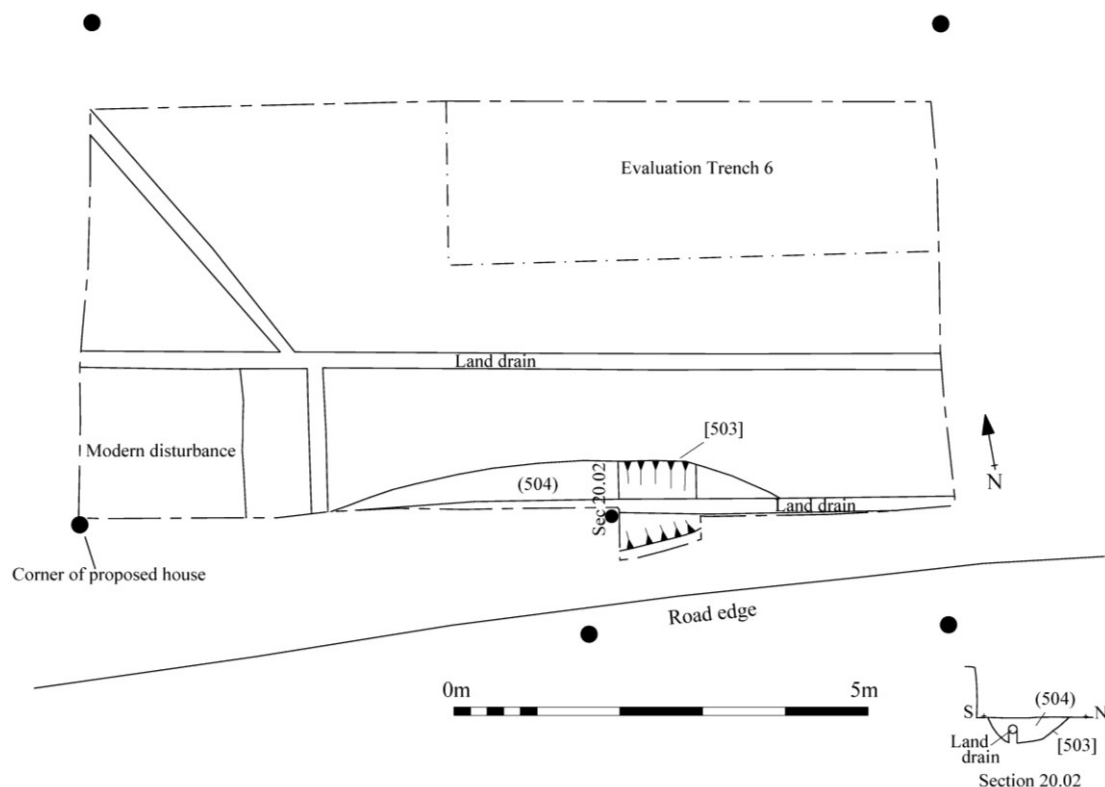


Figure 15. Trench I

A continuation of the east to west land drain running through Trenches G and H was seen as were two drains joining it. The west end of evaluation Trench 6 could also be seen running into the north-east corner of the trench. A north to south ditch running through Trench 6 was just outside the eastern limit of Trench I. An area of modern disturbance was seen in the south-west corner of the trench with a stony area to the north of the land drain. This layer consisted of rounded cobbles and rubble approximately 0.25m to 0.3m from the original ground surface. This layer was seen in Trench 6 and was suspected of being a surface of unknown date. The exposed area in Trench I revealed pieces of probable 20th century brick within the surface indicating no great age. Removal of this 0.2m thick layer showed it to be laid, or deposited, on top of an area of root disturbance suggesting that the layer is of a later date than the adjacent trees.

Running along the southern edge of the trench was a gully [503] (504) which appeared to have a butt-end at its east end (Fig. 16). The fill of this 1m wide and 0.28m deep feature contained a yellowish grey silty clay fill from which eight sherds of late Saxon/Saxo Norman Coarse and Fine Stamford ware were recovered.

No other archaeological features or deposits were seen within this trench.



Figure 16. Trench I
Looking west. 1m scale

Slot cut through gully [503] on left. Edge of evaluation Trench 6 in foreground on right of picture. The northern half of the trench has yet to be fully excavated.

The horse lunge

A number of live services were known to run across the area of the proposed horse lunge although their exact location was not clear. Overhead power lines also encroached on the south-eastern side of the area. The whole area of the proposed lunge appeared to be heavily disturbed. The maximum construction depth of the lunge will be 0.45m around the outside and less than 0.4m in the middle.

A 1.6m wide by 18m long trench was excavated across the centre of the lunge area on a north to south alignment (fig. 17). A disturbed and loose dark grey silty grey clay with lots of modern building material and burnt items was encountered to the base of the trench which had a maximum depth of 0.46m. Two service trenches were encountered at the south end of the trench and the disturbed remains of a small cobbled area were seen in a small 1m patch in the centre of the trench. Modern materials were seen within the matrix containing the cobbles. A small hand-dug slot near to the centre and east ends of the trench indicated that the depth of the natural substrate was at approximately 0.7m below present ground level.



Figure 17. Horse lunge trench
Looking north. 1m scale

The Watching brief – Donald Clark

As the plans for the workman's cottage were altered a watching brief with control and supervision was undertaken on the 15th and 16th of April 2014 during the groundworks for new foundation trenches for a 2-storey house and a separate garage. Two 360 degree machines with 0.60m ditching buckets were observed excavating the trenches. The sides of the trenches were inspected and the spoil checked for artefacts.

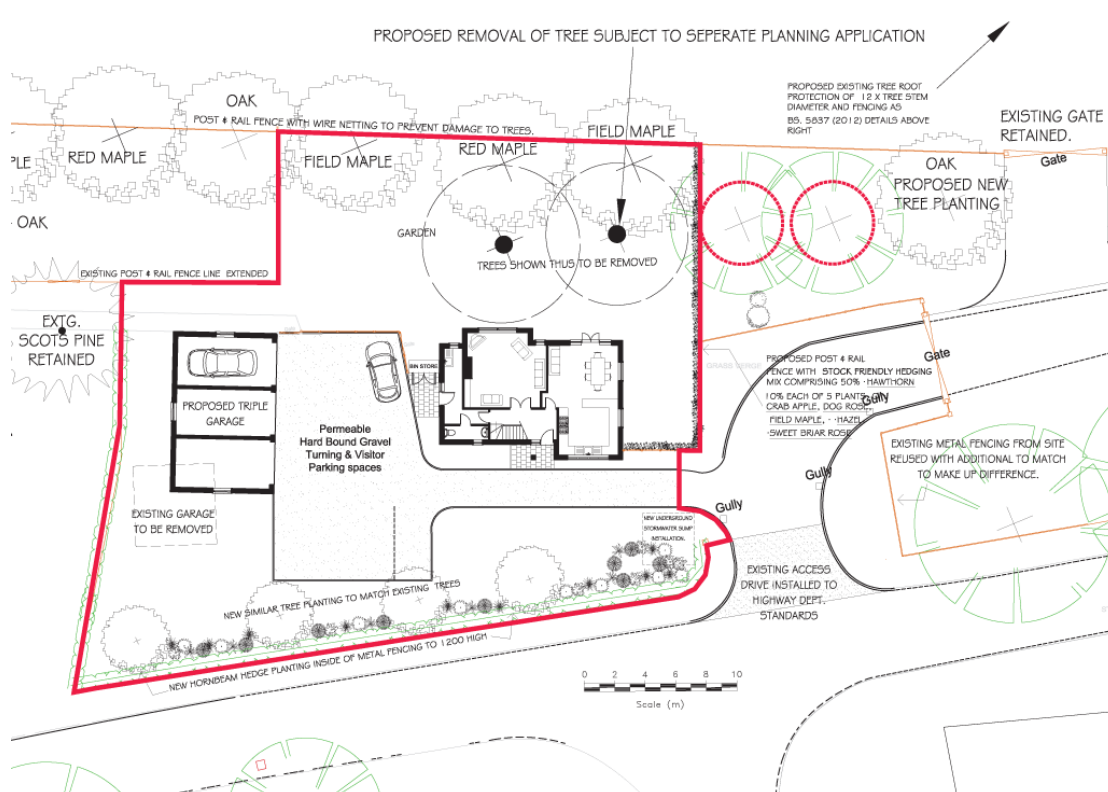


Figure 18. Revised plans for the Workmans Cottage and garage

Garage Foundations

In accordance with building regulations for new foundations excavated in an area heavily disturbed by root activity, the north side trench was dug to a depth of 1.75m, the S side trench dug to 1.55m, and the E and W sides both ranging from 1.55m to 1.75m. A modern building had existed on the SW corner of the area which had recently been demolished and the area was covered in rubble/ hardcore from the demolition. The topsoil, a dark grey silty clay, ranged in depth from 0.25m to 0.35m and was in places completely replaced by hardcore. The topsoil overlay a narrow band of subsoil, a yellowish grey silty clay, ranged in depth from 0.15m to 0.10 and was in places completely replaced by hardcore. The subsoil overlay a brownish pink clay which was interpreted as natural substrate.

The south side trench was dug through a heavily disturbed area, and field drains also disturbed all four sides of the trenches.

There were no archaeological, features, deposits or finds present.



Figure 19. South-east section of garage foundation looking south

House Foundations

In accordance with building regulations for new foundations excavated in an area heavily disturbed by root activity the foundation trenches of the two storey house were dug to a depth of 1.85m. The area had already been levelled and between 0.20m and 0.30m of topsoil had already been removed. A thin layer of topsoil, a dark grey silty clay, remained, 0.10m to 0.15m in depth and this overlay a similar depth of subsoil, a yellowish grey silty clay. The subsoil overlay a brownish pink clay which was interpreted as natural substrate. The entire area was heavily disturbed by root damage and was criss crossed by field drains. The spoil that came from the south side trench contained a lot of modern building material, possibly from the remodelling of Nether House.

On the north-east corner of the footprint a possible linear feature [1] was observed on both north and south facing sides of the trench. Only the eastern side of the feature was exposed. A shallow cut of 0.40m in depth was filled by a greyish brown silty sand [2], which contained animal bone.

On the south-west corner of the footprint at a depth of 0.15m from the surface a stone/cobbled layer [3] was visible. This layer was 0.18m in depth and 1.04m in width consisting of small and medium light grey rounded cobbles, and is probably an extension of a layer found in Trench 6 of an evaluation carried out by ULAS in 2011 (Hunt 2011a). No dateable finds were recovered from this context.



Figure 20. Foundations for the Workmans Cottage looking north-west

Discussion

Together with the previous work to the east (Hunt 2011b) this strip plan and sample excavation contributes to the growing picture of medieval occupation in the area. These small scale excavations have given a tantalising glimpse of the very earliest origins of the Anglo-Saxon and early medieval settlement of Great Bowden and future work in the area can only serve to illuminate this further. The remains suggest rear of plot activity over several centuries and the associated structures may have been to the south fronting Nether Green. The evidence contributes to a growing corpus of data relating to medieval village core development in the East Midlands (Lewis 2006; Thomas 2009).

Most of the stratified pottery assemblages are relatively small but offer evidence of occupation or activity throughout the late Saxon and Saxo-Norman periods with a peak from the 12th to the later 13 or 14th centuries and a subsequent decline thereafter. This is supported by the fact that only two features (ditch [511] and pit [507]) were early post medieval in date. The relative dearth of pottery dating from the later medieval period onwards may simply be a reflection of a shift in the focus of activity in this part of the village during the later Middle Ages.

The range of fabrics is typical of the region, and the vessel types are also characteristically domestic in nature.

Archive

The archive for this phase of archaeological work consists of:

This report,

23 single context recording sheets,

1 masonry recording sheet,

1 trench recording sheet,

1 context index sheet,

3 A3 drawing sheets,

1 drawing sheet index,

4 photographic index sheets (2 digital, 2 35mm black and white),

1 contact sheet of 65 digital photographs,

2 contact sheets of 35mm black and white photographs + negatives.

Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. A record of the project will also be submitted to the OASIS project. OASIS is an online index to archaeological grey literature.

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08.08.2012

Revised 10.05.2014

Appendix 1. The Pottery Report by D Sawday

The pottery, 183 sherds, weighing 2.522kg, and a vessel rim equivalent of 1.3375 (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), (Davies and Sawday 1999). The results are shown below (tables 1 and 2).

The Ceramic Finds

The inclusions in many of the calcareous sherds had degraded making some of the fabric identification between the Lincoln/Lincolnshire or Saint Neots type Shelly wares and the early Coarse Shelly wares in some instances somewhat subjective.

Table 1: The medieval and later pottery site totals by fabric, sherd numbers and weight (grams) in approximate chronological order.

Fabric	Common Name	Sherds	Weight	EVEs	% Sherds
Late Saxon/Saxo Norman Ceramic Phase A, A/B					
ST2/3	Coarse/Fine Stamford ware	13	84	0.075	
SN/LI	St Neots type	9	77	0.08	
SN/LI	St Neots type/Lincoln/Lincs Shelly	1	5		
TO	Torksey type	1	2		
Sub Total		24	168	0.155	13.11
Early/High Medieval Ceramic Phase B/C					
ST2/1	Fine/Very Fine Stamford ware	7	37		
PM	Potters Marston	1	16	0.075	
OL	Oolitic ware	4	30	0.075	
CS	Coarse Shelly ware	63	517	0.2495	
LY1	Lyveden/Stanion B ware	17	527	0.178	
LY4	Lyveden/Stanion A ware	50	979	0.575	
BO3	Bourne	1	10		
CC1	Chilvers Coton	8	75		
MS	Medieval Sandy	2	23		
Sub Total		153	2214	1.1525	83.60
Late Medieval Ceramic Phase D					
CC2	Chilvers Coton	2			
MS7	Medieval Sandy 7	1	7	0.03	
BO1	Bourne D ware	1	15		
Sub Total		4	37	0.03	2.18
Post Medieval/Modern					
EA1/2	Earthenware 1/2	2	103		
Sub Total		2	103		1.10
Site Total		183	2522	1.3375	99.99

The Stratigraphic Record

The stratified pottery has been divided into ceramic phases based on the range of pottery fabrics and vessel forms present.

Late Saxon/Saxo Norman Ceramic Phase A, A/B, c.850-1150

Assemblage: 12 sherds, 84 grams, 0.075 EVEs, 7.0 grams ASW (Average sherd weight)

Contexts: [503], [530] and 517 and 529

The earliest stratified pottery; a sherd weighing eight grams, in Saint Neots type/Lincoln/Lines Shelly ware fabric SN/LI in [530] could date from as early as the late 9th or 10th centuries. However both this context and all the others in this group also contained ten sherds in the coarse and fine Stamford fabrics ST3, ST2 and ST2/3. The bowl, Kilmurry form 1.63 (Kilmurry 1980), and the thin lead glaze on the Stamford ware, ST2, in [503] and ST3 in 529, are dated from the 11th century at Stamford. These and the generally oxidised bodies of the Stamford ware sherds in 517 suggest a possible terminal date from the 12th century for the backfill of all these contexts.

Saxo Norman/ Early High Medieval Ceramic Phase A/B, B, c.1100-1250

Assemblage: 26 sherds, 194 grams, 0.1995 EVEs, 7.46 grams ASW

Contexts: 527, [509], [522], [524] and [534]

This assemblage included an externally sooted and trimmed base fragment in the very fine Stamford ware ST1, in fabric C at Stamford dating from *circa* 1150 in [524], (Kilmurry 1980, 133), whilst the thin walled and possibly wheel thrown jar fragments in the Coarse Shelly ware, fabric CS, [509], may be Saxo Norman or early medieval in date.

Other early medieval sherds in this fabric; which dates from the 12th and early to mid 13th centuries, were made up of predominantly externally sooted body and base fragments, which were found in 527 and [534]. Context [522] produced an early medieval bowl with an everted rim, decorated with an inscribed wavy line on the upper surface in Potters Marston, paralleled at excavation at Vaughan Way, Leicester (Sawday 2009, fig.14.33). The three sherds in Oolitic ware, fabric OL, included an early medieval everted and externally thickened jar rim, probably a South Lincolnshire product in [509], (Young *et al* 2005).

Early and High Medieval Ceramic Phases B and C, c.1100/1150-1350/1400

Assemblage: 28 sherds, 283 grams, 0.2755 EVEs, 10.10 grams ASW

Contexts: 505, 515 and 520.

Parts of two jars with everted and upright rims respectively (Blinkhorn 2001, fig.10.7.61 and fig.10.7.65) were recorded in context 520 in the Coarse Shelly ware, fabric CS. This fabric and the Stanion Lyveden fabric, LY4, both dating from c.1100/1150m, dominated this assemblage, which is also characterised by the presence of sherds in the glazed Stanion Lyveden fabric LY1, which dates from the early or mid 13th century, in all three contexts in the group. Part of a glazed jug in LY1 occurred in 515, and another fragment, probably also a jug in the same ware from 520, was both glazed and embellished with an applied strip in white clay. These highly decorated vessels continue in production until the later 14th century. The sherd of glazed and wheel thrown Chilvers Coton, fabric CC1, in 505 dates from the mid 13th, or possibly into the early or mid 14th century.

High and Late Medieval, Ceramic Phases C and D, c.1250-1500/1550.

Assemblage: 113 sherds, 1850 grams, 0.7875 EVEs, 16.3 grams ASW

Context: [507]

This context produced the largest pottery assemblage on the site. Only nine sherds of late Anglo Saxon/Saxo Norman pottery were present, but they represented the bulk of the Saint Neots type ware from the excavations, and included two jars. Similar vessels were recorded at Raunds (Blinkhorn 2001, fig.10.23, Audouy & Chapman 2007, fig.6.4.41). The most common pottery types present were jars and bowls in the Coarse Shelly wares and the Stanion Lyveden fabric LY4 (Bellamy 1983, fig.4.40). Fragments of glazed jugs, and sooted jars and bowls (*ibid* 1983, fig.4.34) also occurred in LY1 together with miscellaneous body and base sherds from unknown vessel types in CC1 and BO3, Bourne B ware ore type ware, which dates from c.1250. The two sherds of unclassified Medieval Sandy ware possibly represented variants on the Stanion Lyveden and Chilvers Coton fabrics. The latest pottery comprised a fragment from a brown glazed jar with an everted rim in the Medieval Sandy ware MS7, and a highly fired sherd in Bourne D ware, fabric BO1, which is dated from c.1450 with a possible terminal date in the 16th or possibly the early 17th century.

Post-medieval, c.1500-1750

Assemblage: 4 sherds, 111 grams, 0.00 EVEs, 37.75 grams ASW

Context: [511]

The medieval pottery comprised fragments of Saxo Norman and high medieval wares in fabrics ST2 and CC1. The two sherds of post medieval Earthenware, fabrics EA1 and EA2 which are also present, date from the 16th to the 18th centuries if not later in the case of EA2. Both are wheel thrown and internally glazed, and are probably from jars or bowls.

Conclusions

The stratified pottery has been placed into a chronological sequence, but the assemblages are small, in some instances, just one or two sherds from a particular context, so the dating evidence must be treated with some caution. The assemblage is similar to that recovered during previous archaeological work in the vicinity (Hunt 2011), and looking at the assemblage as a whole, the changes in the relative proportions of the various pottery types over time, (table 1), offers further evidence of occupation or activity from possibly as early as the late 9th or 10th centuries. Over 83 per cent of the pottery dates from the 12th to the later 13 and 14th centuries suggesting that the activity in the area might have been at its most intense at this time, with a subsequent decline thereafter. The absence of much pottery dating from the later medieval period and later may be the results of a change focus of activity in the village from the later Middle Ages.

The range of fabrics is generally typical of the region, and the vessel types are also characteristically domestic in nature. Domestic vessels, jars, bowl and jugs were recorded, and many of the unidentified body sherds had external sooting, evidence that they had been used for cooking over a wood fire.

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

Context	Fabric/Ware	No	Gr	Rim diam mm	EVEs %	Comments
POTTERY						
504 [503]	ST3 – Coarse Stamford	2	24	280	0.075	Bowl rim, Kilmurry form 1.63 with thin lead glaze dating from the 11th century (Kilmurry 1980, 138),.
504	ST2 – Fine Stamford	1	6			Traces of thin lead glaze
504	ST2/3	5	39			Convex trimmed basal angle, thin lead glaze, some sooting. Joining sherds. Knife trimming standard by 11th century at Stamford (ibid 1980,131).
505	CC1 – Chilvers Coton 1	1	9			Base, sparse inclusions, sooted/burnt traces of thin lead glaze ext.
505	LY4 – Stanion Lyveden 4	5	69			Body sherds, minimum 2 vessels, one with applied strip.
505	LY1 – Stanion Lyveden 1	1	73			Hand -made wall & trimmed basal angle, very micaceous fabric, externally sooted.
508 [507]	SN – Saint Neots type	1	10	180	0.030	Jar rim, sooted externally, form suggest late SN type, (Blinkhorn 2007, fig.6.4.41)
508	SN	2	13			Misc. body sherds, sooted externally.
508	SN	6	54	240	0.05	Jar rim & base fragments, sooted externally, (Blinkhorn 2001, fig.10.23) estimated rd.
508	CS – Coarse Shelly	32	307			Misc. body & base sherds, at least 21 externally sooted any evidence on others removed by post depositional abrasion.
508	CS	2	18			Everted rim from two externally sooted jars, too fragmentary to measure.
508	CS	1	12			Everted & squared bowl rim, no rim diameter, externally sooted.
508	LY1	1	4	190	0.047 5	Bowl/jar rim, glazed internally
508	LY1	2	34			?Jug body with rouletting under a pale green lead glaze, joins.
508	LY1	1	197			Base of rod handle from a jug, minimum of three finger smears at handle base, some stab marks on handle surface, stick pushed in inner wall to lute handle base to body.
508	LY1	1	12			Internally glazed - ?bowl
508	LY1	2	48			One with traces of external glaze, probably jugs.
508	LY1	5	70			Externally sooted body fragments
508	LY1	1	50	400	0.055	Everted flat-topped & externally

						sooted bowl rim, form paralleled at Stanion, (Bellamy 1983, fig.4.34)
508	LY4	9	200	180	0.37	Upright moulded jar rim & rounded shoulder, (Bellamy 1983, fig.4.40), sooted lower body exterior, some joins.
508	LY4	1	16	180	0.075	Abraded jar rim, similar to the above
508	LY4	1	31	180	0.130	Jar rim, similar to the above
508	LY4	14	226			Convex base, sooted ext, some joins.
508	LY4	18	418			Body sherds, 15 sooted externally, some abrasion
508	CC1 - Chilvers Coton	6	60			Body & base sherds, 2 glazed, one with white slip, 3 externally sooted.
508	CC2 – Chilvers Coton 2	2	15			One abraded, with traces of external orange/brown glaze, the other externally sooted with internal glaze, possibly a bowl.
508	MS– Medieval Sandy	1	11			Fine sandy fabric with red iron ore, sparse mica and moderate ooliths, bright green glaze with horizontal incised lines on exterior, probably a jug. Possibly a variant on a Stanion/Lyveden fabric.
508	MS	1	12			White bodied, green glaze, some mica – pos. CC1, abraded.
508	MS7 – Medieval Sandy 7	1	7	210	0.030	Everted jar rim, spots of brown glaze
508	BO3 – Bourne B ware	1	10			Abraded, traces of white slip & copper green glaze
508	BO1 – Bourne D ware	1	15			Highly fired, ?warped, glazed internally & sooted externally.
510 [509]	ST3	1	3			Thin lead glaze
510	OL	1	15	180	0.075	Jar rim, everted, externally thickened. Buff outer surface, grey core and interior, possibly a South Lincolnshire product.
510	CS – Coarse Shelly	3	14			Body & base fragments, leached/abraded.
512 [511]	ST2	1	2			Lead glaze
512	CC1 – Chilvers Coton 1	1	6			Abraded, pale white body, yellow lead glaze
512	EA1 – Earthenware 1	1	25			Glazed internally
512	EA2 – Earthenware 2	1	78			Slipped & brown glaze internally
515	LY1 - B ware	1	6	120	0.075 5	Jug lip, traces of glaze on exterior. Estimated rd.
515	LY4 – A ware	1	3			
517	ST2/3	1	6			White interior & core, reduced black & sooted externally
520 [519]	ST2/1 – Fine/very Fine Stamford	6	29			4 with thin lead glaze

520	TO – Torksey type	1	2			Oxidised exterior & margin
520	CS	1	17	150	0.125	Jar rim, upright (Blinkhorn 2001, fig.10.7.65)
520	CS	3	5			Misc. body.
520	CS	5	21	280	0.075	Everted jar rim – joining sherds (Blinkhorn 2001, fig.10.7.61)
520	LY4	1	16			
520	LY1	1	17			Decorated with white clay strip & green glaze – ?jug body
520	LY1	1	16			Traces of light external sooting
521 [509]	OL	1	8			Basal angle- flat – grey exterior/core, buff interior, some external sooting/reduction
521	CS	6	39			Slightly convex base sooted/burnt ext. , thin walled, ?wheel thrown. ?Saxo Norman
521	CS	3	16	300	0.049 5	Jar, simple everted with internal bevel, thin walled, sooted ext. ?Saxo Norman
521	CS	5	31			Thin walled body sherds, ?same vessel as jar with everted rim in 520? Traces of external sooting.
523 [522]	OL	1	5			Body, grey core, buff surfaces, external sooting.
523	PM – Potters Marston	1	16	180	0.075	Bowl with everted rim & inscribed wavy line on rim top (Sawday 2009, fig.14.33) Vaughan way
525 [524]	ST1 – Very fine Stamford	1	8			Trimmed &sooted externally, fabric C, c.1150+
527	CS	1	32			Basal angle, convex.
529	ST3	1	1			Yellow glaze, slight sooting
531 [530]	ST2/3	1	3			Sooted ext
531	SN/LI – St Neots/Lincoln/Lincs Shelly	1	5			Fine reduced black fabric
535 [534]	OL	1	2			Buff surfaces, grey core, sooted ext.
535	CS	1	5			Hard fired, grey surfaces, red core, possibly Roman

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Site/ Parish: Fernie Hunt Kennels, Nether Green Great Bowden, Leics. Accession No.: XA86 2011 Document Ref: great bowden7.docx Material: pottery Site Type: rear of village core	Submitter: A. Hyam Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Identification: 9.07.12 Method of Recovery: partial exc. Job Number: 12-505
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