



University of  
**Leicester**

**Archaeological Services**

**An Archaeological Strip Map & Sample  
on land at Dormer Cottage Main Street,  
Stoke Golding, Leicestershire**

**NGR: SP 397970**

**Nathan Flavell**



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**An archaeological strip map & sample on land at  
Dormer Cottage Main Street, Stoke Golding, Leicestershire**

**NGR: SP 397970**

**Nathan Flavell**

**For: Mr G. Rollins**

**Planning application no. 13/01109/FUL**

Checked by

Signed: 

Date: 28.06.2014

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# **An archaeological strip map & sample on land at Dormer Cottage Main Street, Stoke Golding, Leicestershire (SP 397970)**

*Nathan Flavell*

## **Summary**

*An archaeological strip map and sample was carried out on land at Dormer Cottage Main Street, Stoke Golding, Leicestershire (SP 397970) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 17th June 2014. The work was carried out on behalf of Mr G Rollins in advance of the proposed house extension. A C-shaped foundation trench for a property extension totalling 20.28 square metres was excavated. This revealed a medieval boundary ditch with later recuts. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A86.2014.*

## **1. Introduction**

This document constitutes the final report for an archaeological ‘strip map and sample’ investigation carried out on land at Dormer Cottage Main Street, Stoke Golding, Leicestershire (SP397970). The work was carried out on behalf of Mr G Rollins by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 17th June 2014.

Dormer Cottage lies within the historic core of the medieval village of Stoke Golding (Figure 1) and in close proximity to the earthwork and buried remains of a Saxon burial mound and a medieval farmstead (National Monument 21673).

Planning consent has been granted for a change of use of agricultural land to a residential curtilage and the erection of a boundary fence (retrospective) and extensions and alterations to a dwelling at 10 Main Street. The subject of the investigation was a small extension to the side of the house, covering an area of 20.28 square metres.

The work was requested by the Leicestershire Senior Planning Archaeologist in her capacity as archaeological advisor to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Section 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment. The work followed the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) as laid out in the *Written scheme of investigation for archaeological work* (Kipling 2014).

## **2. Geology and Topography**

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet Loughborough 141 indicates that the underlying geology of the site is likely to consist of Gunthorpe Member Mudstone and drift deposits of Oadby Member – Diamicton. The land is generally flat at a height of *c.*100m OD.



### 3. Historical and Archaeological Background

The site lies within the historic core of the medieval village of Stoke Golding and in close proximity to scheduled earthworks (Figure 3). The latter include the earthwork and buried remains of a Saxon burial mound and a medieval farmstead. The farmstead lay within a rectangular enclosure, bounded to the west and along much of the southern and northern sides by banks and ditches. In the south eastern quarter of the site is a slightly raised, square platform, believed to represent the site of the medieval farmhouse. To the west and north west of the platform are several small closes, whilst to the south are the remains of a pair of linear ponds. The monument represents a well preserved example of a complete manorial site with a house platform, associated fishponds, and closes, located within a defined enclosure. To the north are the earthwork remains of a 2m high and 14m diameter Anglo-Saxon burial mound (a hlaew) surrounded by a ditch. The mound was partly excavated in the 1930s and pottery fragments and the enamelled escutcheons from a 7th century hanging bowl were recovered.

This is a rare example of this type of monument in this area. (information from <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx> accessed 28.6.2014).

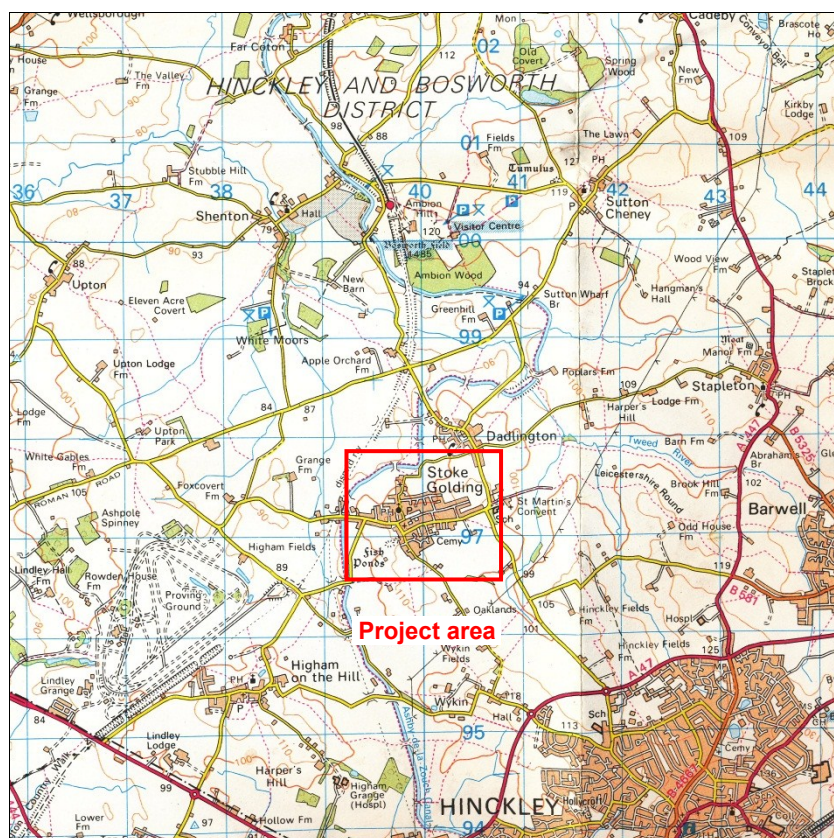


Figure 1: Site Location (Scale 1:50 000)

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## 4. Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives of the archaeological work were:

- 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 excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

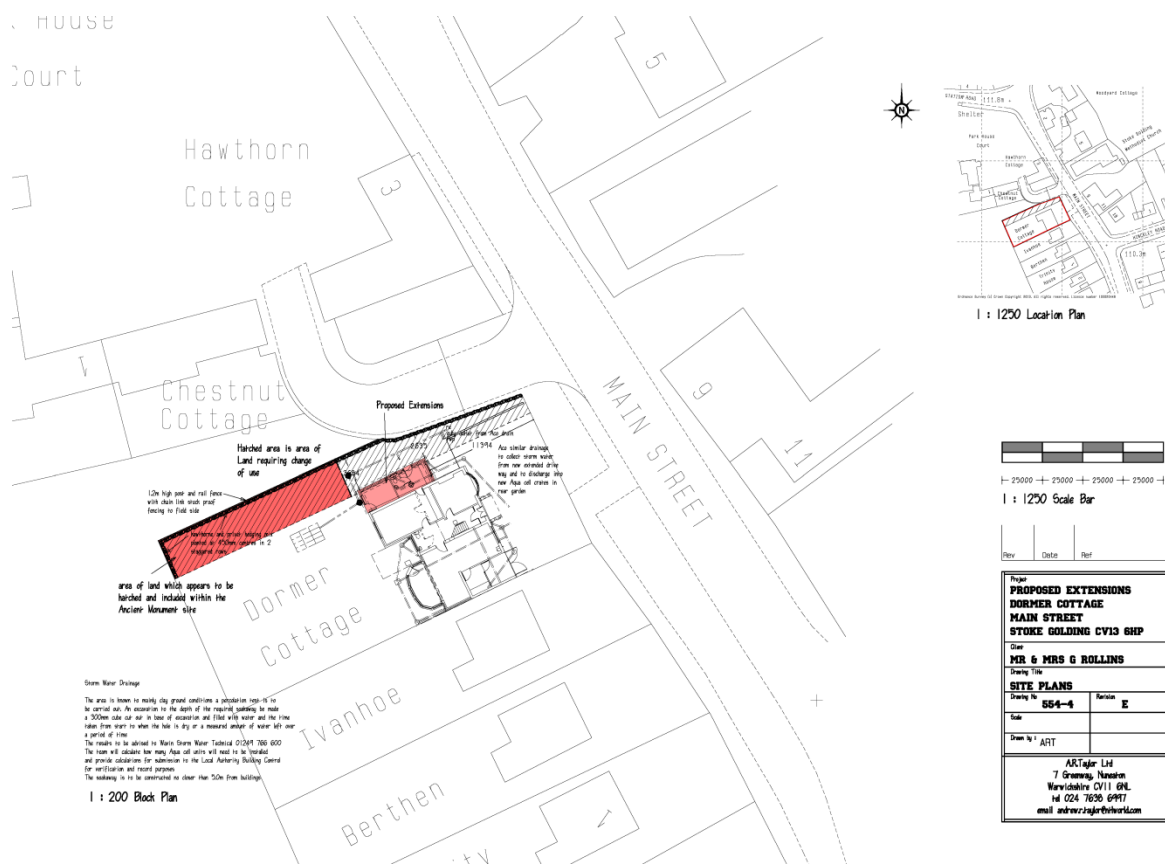


Figure 2 Site location showing proposed extension.

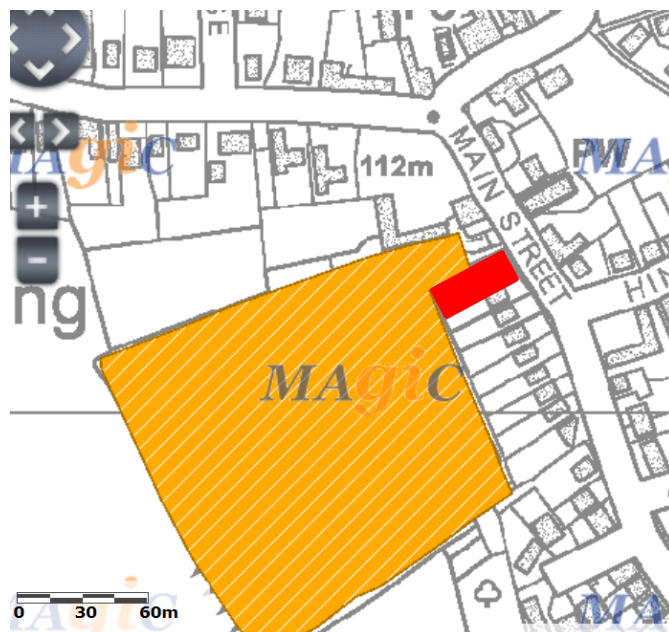


Figure 3 Location of Scheduled Monument 21673 in relation to site

## 5. Methodology

The foundation trench was excavated under continuous archaeological control and supervision using a 3-tonne tracked mini digger with a *c.*0.6m wide, toothed bucket. The trench was c-shaped on the north-west of the existing dwelling, 2.6m wide and 7.8m long to a depth of approximately 1.2m below ground level. The central area was not stripped to the top of archaeology or natural ground as this would exceed the proposed formation level for the floor.

The trench, other exposed areas, sections and existing spoil heaps were visually inspected for features and finds. Archaeological features, if present, were hand cleaned, planned, photographed and sample excavated as appropriate to addressing the objectives of the evaluation. Field notes were recorded on pro-forma ULAS trench recording forms whilst all stratigraphic units would be given a unique context number and recorded on pro-forma ULAS context sheets if deemed appropriate. Archaeological features if present would be drawn to a scale of 1:20, trench plans to a scale of 1:50 and sections to a scale of 1:10. The trench was located in relation to prominent features within the property and tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

All work followed the *Institute for Archaeologists' (IFA) Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological field evaluations*.

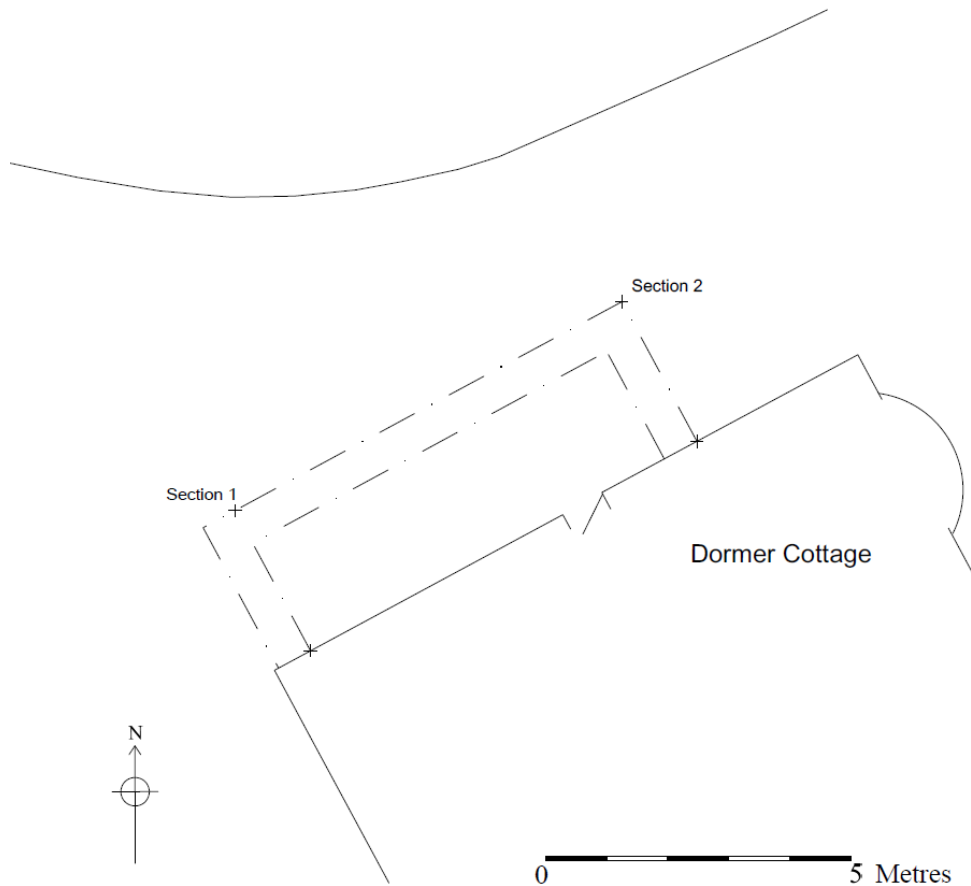


Figure 4: Site plan showing trench location.  
*Plan adapted from architects plan provided by client.*

## 6. Results

The trench revealed a series of re-cut ditches. Natural geology of red-orange sand was encountered at a depth of 0.5m. A layer of yellow-orange clay, approximately 0.35m thick was overlying the sand at the north-east end of the trench, it was only visible at either end of the section in the south-west trench. Cut into this in the south-west section was what appeared to be a truncated ditch [11], 0.7m wide. It had two small depressions in the base that were either ankle breakers or post holes. It was filled by (10), grey-green mottled sandy clay with occasional stones, 0.22m thick.

This was truncated by ditch [09] aligned north-east to south-west (the same ditch [19] in the north-east section, however [11] was absent from that section), at least 2m wide, with moderately steep sides and a concave base, with a slight eroded channel at the base. It was filled with (08) mottled grey sandy clay with occasional stones, 0.3m thick. Ditch [19] was similar in shape but with a sloping base toward the south-east. It was filled with (18), mixed brown with grey mottled sandy clay with occasional stones, 0.33m thick. A single sherd of medieval pottery from the 12th-13th Centuries was recovered.

This was cut by ditch [07] ([17] in north-east section), aligned north-east to south-west, at least 1.6m wide with moderately steep sides and a concave base (more of a flat base in north-



east section). It was filled with (06) mixed brown-grey silty clay with some pebble and charcoal inclusions, 0.44m thick. A fragment of 17th-century globe wine bottle and two fragments of undiagnostic animal bone in poor preservation were recovered. The fill (16) in the north-east section was orange-brown silty clay with similar inclusions, 0.3m thick.

Ditch [07] was cut by ditch [05] (possibly a pit as it did not appear in the north-east section), 0.62m wide, with shallow sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with (04), grey sandy clay.

Both [05] and [07]/[17] were truncated by another ditch [20]/[15], aligned north-east to south-west, at least 1.25m wide, the a steep slope and flat base, filled with (14), grey sandy clay between 0.2 and 0.25m thick. This was truncated by a ceramic land drain suggesting it was a furrow. It was overlain by subsoil (02), mid brown sandy clay with pebble and charcoal inclusions.

In the north-east section was another ditch or pit [13] truncating the subsoil, 1.15m wide, with moderately steep sides and a concave base. It was filled with (12), dark grey sandy clay with occasional stone and brick inclusions, 0.21m thick. This was overlain by topsoil.



Figure 5: Ditches [05], [07], [09], [11] looking north-east





Figure 6 Ditches [13], [15], [17], [19], looking north-east

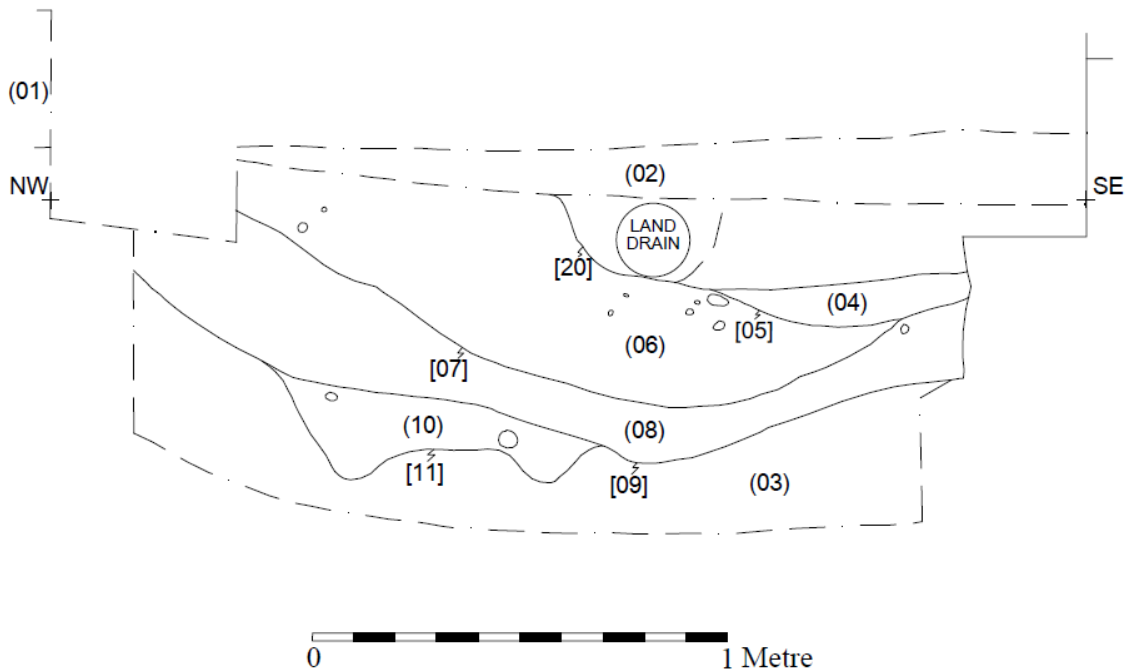


Figure 7 Section 1, ditches [05], [07], [09], [11]

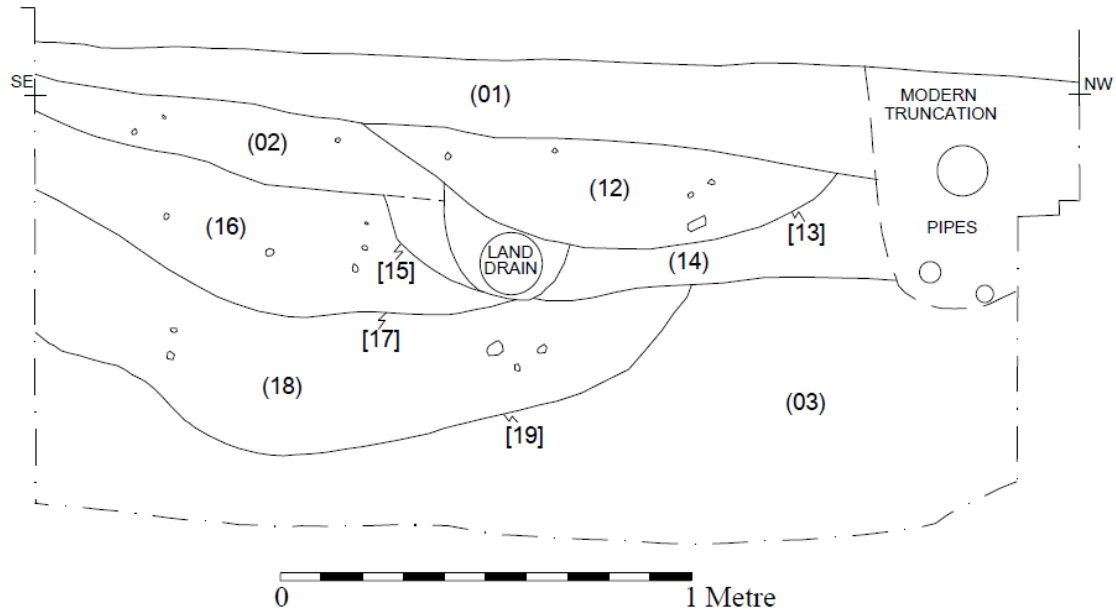


Figure 8 Section 2, ditches [13], [15], [17], [19]

## 7. Discussion

Due to the small area it is difficult to say much about a single ditch. However it would appear to be medieval in date (a single sherd from the 12-13th Centuries recovered) and has been recut many times on the same alignment before the land usage changed to housing development in the 1930's. It would mostly likely be a boundary/drainage ditch adjacent to the current gated access to the field at the rear of the property. The first edition OS map shows a small square plot of land adjacent to the site. In all likelihood, one of the later recut ditches corresponds to this.

## 8. Bibliography

B.G.S., 2008, *England and Wales Sheet 141 Loughborough: Bedrock and Superficial Deposits*. 1:50,000 scale geology series

Kipling, R., 2014, *Written Scheme of investigation for archaeological work: land at 10 Main Street, Stoke Golding, Nuneaton, Leicestershire*. Leicester, unpublished ULAS WSI ref. 14-072

## 9. Archive

The site archive consists of: 1 A4 watching brief recording form, 1 A4 context index sheet 1 A4 photo index, 1 A4 drawing index, 1 A3 permatrace drawing sheet and digital photographs.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A86.2014.

## 10. Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work through the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York. A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in a suitable regional archaeological journal in due course.

OASIS no.	195899
Project Name	Land at Dormer Cottage, Main Street, Stoke Golding, Leicestershire
Project Type	Strip map and sample
Project Manager	Richard Buckley
Project Supervisor	Nathan Flavell
Previous/Future work	No
Current Land Use	Residential
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Condition
Site Co ordinates	SP 397 970
Start/end dates of field work	17/6/2014
Archive recipient	Leicestershire
Study Area	c. 20.28 square metres

## 11. Acknowledgements

Thanks are extended to the client and contractors for their co-operation and assistance on site. Fieldwork was undertaken by Nathan Flavell; the report was written by Nathan Flavell and the project was managed for ULAS by Richard Buckley.

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10/6/2014

## **Appendix I: Finds Report**

*Nicholas J. Cooper*

### **Medieval pottery**

A single small body sherd (1g) in a medieval oxidised sandy ware fabric (Fabric OS1 in the Leicestershire Medieval Pottery Fabric Series: Davies and Sawday 1999, Table 30) dating to the late 12th or early 13th century was recovered from context (18).

### **Post medieval glass and fired clay**

A single fragment (10g) from the neck of a 17th-century wine bottle of shaft and globe type was recovered from context (6). The string rim is at least 12mm below the lip suggesting it comes from the earlier type dating *c.*1630-50 rather than the later type dating 1660-80 (Shopland 2005, 146-7).

Additionally an amorphous lump (12g) of sandy fired clay, probably burnt daub was also recovered from (06).

### **References**

Davies, S. and Sawday, D., 1999 'The Post-Roman pottery and tile' in A. Connor and R. Buckley, *Roman and Medieval Occupation at Causeway Lane, Leicester*. Archaeology Monograph 5. Leicester: University of Leicester School of Archaeological Studies, 165-213.

Shopland, N. 2005 *Archaeological Finds: A Guide to Identification*. Stroud: Tempus



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