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**Archaeological Services**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
at Manor Farm, Main Street,  
Tugby, Leicestershire (SK 7632 0098)**



Roger Kipling  
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**An Archaeological Evaluation at Manor Farm,  
Main Street, Tugby, Leicestershire  
(SK 7632 0098)**

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**For: Corporate Architecture Ltd.**

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**Signed:**



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**Summary**

*An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken in August 2013 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Corporate Architecture Ltd. The fieldwork was undertaken as a preliminary to the submission of a planning application for residential development at Manor Farm, Main Street, Tugby, Leicestershire and following a desk-based assessment and topographical survey of the medieval earthworks north of the proposed development.*

*The archaeological evaluation at Manor Farm, Main Street, Tugby, produced limited evidence of archaeological activity in the form of probable field ditches of early medieval date.*

*The site archive will be deposited with the Leicestershire County Council under the accession number X.A96. 2013.*

**Introduction**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Manor Farm, Tugby, Leicestershire, following a desk-based assessment (Browning 2013). The site is located within the historic settlement core of the village, opposite the church. The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) lists two sites, which are located within its boundaries. These records refer to earthworks which were surveyed in 1992 and have been interpreted as a possible manor house with associated terraces and gardens. A site visit confirmed that the earthworks still exist. In addition, the HER shows that the surrounding landscape has produced finds belonging to a variety of periods, but particularly relating to the medieval period. The cartographic evidence indicates that the land has belonged to Manor Farm since Enclosure in the late 18th century and it appears to have remained under pasture. Therefore any archaeological deposits are likely to have been relatively undisturbed and should have survived reasonably intact. Further earthwork survey (Harvey 2013) and information from the landowner suggests that there is one area to the south-west and adjacent to the earthworks which may be disturbed and would not impact on medieval deposits. The evaluation was aimed to confirm whether this is the case.

In consequence the Senior Planning Archaeologist (PPA), Historic & Natural Environment Team (HNET), Leicestershire County Council, recommended the need for a further phase of archaeological investigation comprising a programme of evaluation trenching. The investigation was required in order to provide an adequate sample of the development area and to assess the likely archaeological impact of the development proposals. The agreed scheme was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; ULAS 2013).

Fieldwork was carried out in August 2013 and involved the machine excavation of five trial trenches in order to provide the 6% sample of the development area stipulated in the brief.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework Section 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment (DCLG March 2012). All archaeological work was in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct (2010) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008). The LCC *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological work Leicestershire and Rutland* (1997) was also adhered to.

### **Site Description, Topography and Geology**

The proposed development site (SK 7632 0098) is located on the northern edge of Tugby, opposite the church and within the historic settlement core of the village (Fig. 1). The site comprises approximately an area of *c.*1542m<sup>2</sup>, currently under rough pasture.

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey superficial geology consists of diamicton till (Oadby Member). The bedrock geology consists of mudstone of the Whitby Member Formation (<http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer/google/googleviewer.html>). The site lies at a height of *c.*173m O.D. on fairly flat land.

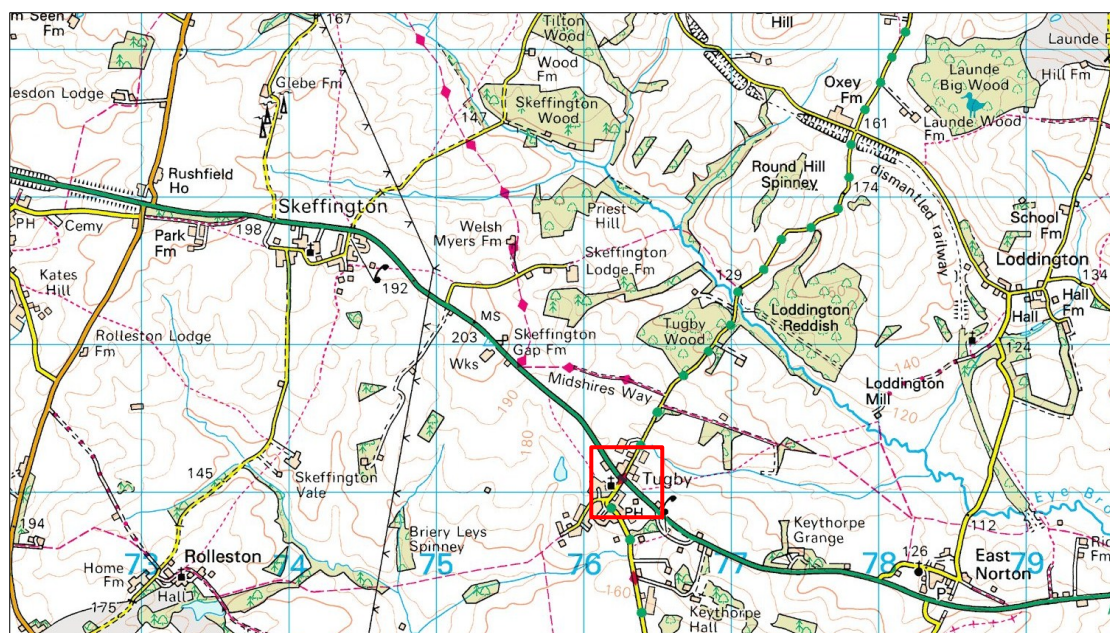


Figure 1: Site Location (Scale 1:50 000)

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## Archaeological and Historical Background

An investigation of the Historic Environment Record for Leicestershire and Rutland for the desk-based assessment (Browning 2012) indicated that the site lies within the historic settlement core of the village and that a number of archaeological finds from a range of periods have been discovered in the vicinity of the study site. HER records from the vicinity, as defined by a 1km radius of the site, are as follows:

### *Prehistoric*

A stone with a smooth surface bearing several cup shaped marks lies west of the church **MLE6339** (SK 760 010). A fragment was detached in 1962 and is in the museum collections. It is considered possible that it dates from the Bronze Age.

### *Anglo-Saxon*

Approximately 900m south-east of the site, an Anglo-Saxon burial was discovered at Keythorpe Hall in May 1859 'whilst removing earth in a new flower garden' **MLE2568** (SK 768 002). The individual was accompanied by a number of grave-goods, including an elaborately-decorated hanging bowl, a pair of bone dice, 46 bone gaming pieces and some possible brooches. In 1863 the gaming pieces, dice and comb were displayed by Lord and Lady Berners at Keythorpe Hall.

### *Medieval*

The site is within medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of the village, as deduced using historic maps, landscape maps, **MLE10345** (SK 761 008). The proposed development area contains two sets of earthworks which are listed on the HER. A site survey in 1992 revealed earthworks indicating a complex of substantial

buildings, **MLE2572** (SK 762 010). There are further earthworks located directly south-east, north of Fishpool Spinney, which possibly represent a terraced garden, a fishpond and other boundary features (**MLE20620** SK 763 009). Observations made during the site visit indicate that these earthworks are still extant. The appearance of the earthworks, with apparent building platforms and indications of formal gardens, as well as their close proximity to the church, suggests that they could represent the site of an old Manor House and its associated grounds.

Further earthwork survey (Harvey 2013) and information from the landowner suggests that there is one area to the south-west and adjacent to the earthworks which may be disturbed and would not impact on medieval deposits. The evaluation was aimed to confirm whether this is the case.

Faint village earthworks were photographed from the air in 1981 south-east of Wellfield Close, Tugby **MLE2565** (SK 761 007), 220m south of the site. The northern part was developed in the 1990s but the southern section is still visible on 2011 aerial photographs. A watching brief was carried out on Well Field, 200m south-west of the site, in 1978 during levelling operations recorded some medieval remains **MLE2566**, including patches of cobbling and the recovery of 12th-13th century pottery. Further faint village earthworks, including a pond and a hollow way, were photographed on the western edge of the village in 1981 **MLE2573** (SK 759 008), 300m south-west of the application area.

A watching brief in 1998 at Spinney Nook, Main Street, 310m south-west of the proposed development site, recorded several gullies thought to be boundary ditches for medieval plots and recovered 101 sherds of medieval pottery **MLE2564** (SK 760 007). These included Saxo-Norman sherds, providing supportive evidence for the pre-Conquest origins of the village (Browning and Warren 1998). The site appeared to have fallen out of use after the 14th century, possibly suggesting settlement shift or shrinkage.

In 1989, a cut half long cross penny of Henry III was found south of Brown's Wood (900m north-west of the site) **MLE6775** (SK 760 018).

### ***Post-medieval***

Approximately 640m south-east of the site, a windmill was shown on maps from 1779 to the 1840s north of Keythorpe Hall **MLE2567**. It was presumably dismantled when Keythorpe Hall was built.

### **Listed Buildings**

Ten listed buildings are present in the vicinity of the site, dating from the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods. Full details can be found in Appendix 1.

The most prominent of these is the Church of St. Thomas a Becket, Main Street **MLE13658** (SK 761 010), located 140m west of the site. This is reputedly an Anglo-Saxon church but according to Pevsner the earliest architectural feature is the early

Norman west tower. The rest of the church seems to be 13th century or later. The HER states that it was restored, extended and chancel was rebuilt in 1858.

## **Aims and Objectives**

The general aims of the evaluation were as follows:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development site
- To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains
- To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of the proposed development to be assessed
- To assess the impact of previous land use on the site
- To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains
- To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Leicestershire HER.

Specific evaluation aims are to:-

- Seek to establish the nature of the geophysical anomalies and to determine if they are of archaeological significance

The results of the evaluation will enable reasoned and informed recommendations to be made to the local planning authority and, if appropriate, a suitable mitigation strategy for the proposed development to be formulated.

This specification conforms to the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012). It has been designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice and the appropriate national standards and guidelines including:

- *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991);
- *Model Briefs and Specifications for Archaeological Assessments and Field Evaluations* (Association of County Archaeological Officers, 1994);
- *Code of Conduct* (Institute for Archaeologists, 2010);
- *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (Institute for Archaeologists, 2010);
- *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Association of Local Government Officers, 2003);
- *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (Leicestershire County Council 1997)

## **Methodology**

### ***Archaeological Trial Trenches***

Prior to the commencement of works an Accession Code was obtained and the required archive deposition forms completed while an OASIS online record was



initiated. Following recommendations from the Senior Planning Archaeologist (PPA), Historic & Natural Environment Team (HNET), Leicestershire County Council, a programme of evaluation trenching was undertaken.

It was proposed that *c.*216m<sup>2</sup> of trenching, the equivalent of four trial trenches, each measuring approximately 30m x 1.8m long, be excavated. Topsoil and overburden was removed by a mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket (*c.*1.6m wide), under archaeological supervision. The spoil generated during the evaluation was mounded away from the edges of each trench. Topsoil and subsoil was stored separately. Mechanical excavation ceased at undisturbed natural deposits.

The trenches were recorded at an appropriate scale by measured drawing and photography and were located to Ordnance Survey National Grid. A photographic record, utilising black and white negative film, supplemented by high resolution digital data capture, was maintained during the course of the fieldwork and included:

- the site prior to commencement of fieldwork;
- the site during work, showing specific stages of fieldwork;

Upon completion of the evaluation trenching, the excavated trenches were backfilled and loosely compacted.



Figure 2: Site location plan (100m grid) Reproduced from Landranger 1:50 000 by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495.

## Results

Circa 196m<sup>2</sup> of archaeological trial trenches, comprising three trenches each 30 m in length, a fourth 12m in length and a fifth at 20.5m, all c.1.60 wide, were excavated following consultation with the Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council. This represented a slight variation on the methodology set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation, with the inclusion of an additional (fifth) trial trench in order to evaluate the south-eastern area of the site. Excavation was undertaken using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket, with topsoil and overburden removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision.

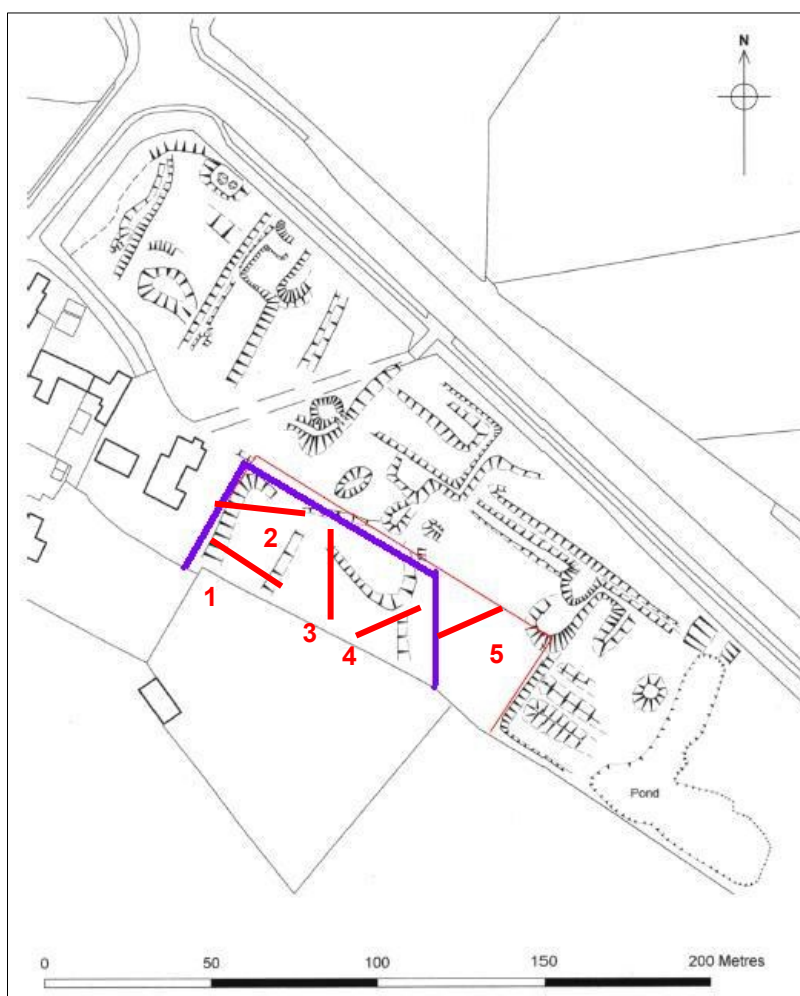


Figure 3: Location of the proposed development site showing trench locations

**Trenches 1 to 4** targeted the lawned area to the rear of the farmhouse at the foot of a grassed terrace. In the case of **Trench 1** (Figure 4), machine removal of 0.30m-0.60m of mid-brown silty clay topsoil and 0.10-0.25m of yellow-brown silty clay subsoil revealed diagonal bands of natural pale orange-brown sandy clay and pale yellowish-white sand. Traces of the modern stone- and brick-built terrace wall were exposed at the western end of the trench, but there were no indications of any archaeological survival. **Trench 2** (Figure 5) presented a comparable sequence of topsoil and subsoil

but here overlaying an orange-grey sandy natural clay rather than the sands observed in Trench 1.



Figure 4: Trench 1: view looking north-west; 1m scale



Figure 5: Trench 2: view looking north-east; 1m scale

**Trench 3** (Figures 6, 7 & 10) aligned north-south, was the first of two trenches containing archaeology, in this case a single truncated ditch located *c.*8m from the northern end of the trench. The open V-shaped profile feature [01], measuring 0.90m wide and 0.78m deep, crossed the trench on a southwest-northeast alignment. The single mid orange-brown silty clay fill (02) produced two pottery sherds of early medieval Potters Marston or Coarse Shelly ware, dating to *c.*1100 to *c.*1250 (see Appendix) and a horse metatarsal (pers. comm. J. Browning).



Figure 6: Trench 3: view looking north; 1m scale



Figure 7: Trench 3, ditch [01]: view looking north-east; 1m scale

A further truncated linear feature, [03], was identified in **Trench 4**, traversing the trench on a north-east to south-west alignment. The shallow, open V-shaped feature measured 0.83m wide and 0.10m deep, its single pale brown clay silt fill, (04) producing three pottery sherds of the same early medieval date and fabric type as those from Trench 3.



Figure 8: Trench 4: general view looking north-east (1m scale)



Figure 9: Trench 4, ditch [03]: view looking south; 1m scale

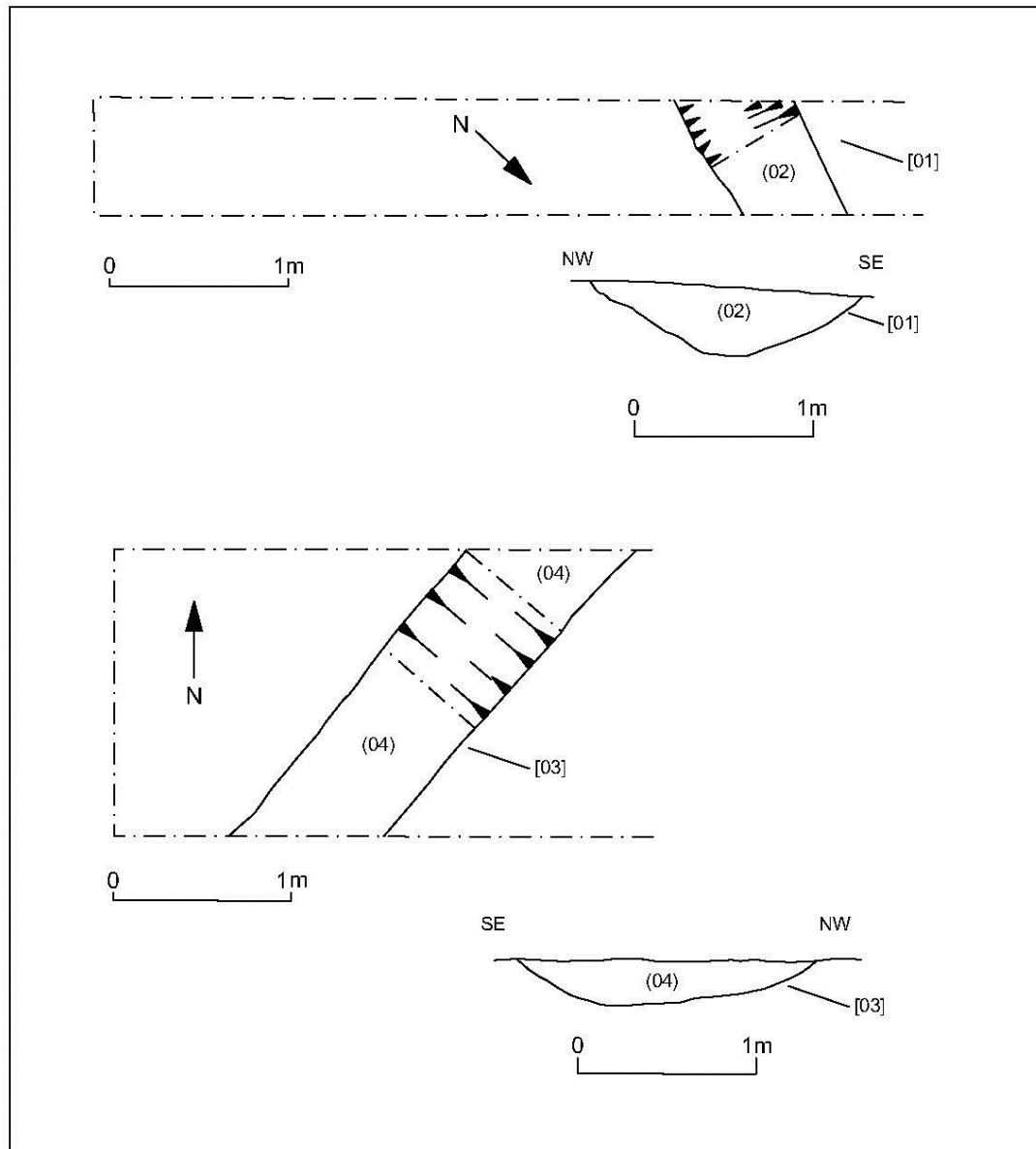


Figure 10: Excavated features from Trench 3 (top) and Trench 4

A fifth and final trench (5) was opened at the eastern end of the site in order to evaluate the flat, open area adjacent to standing earthworks associated with the fishpond (Figure 11). *Circa* 0.16m-0.25m of sandy clay topsoil and 0.37m-0.50m of sandy clay silt subsoil overlay a dull orange-brown natural sandy clay. No archaeological deposits were present.



Figure 11: Trench 5: view looking east; 1m scale

TRENCH	ORIENTATION	LENGTH AND WIDTH (metres)	DESCRIPTION	DEPTH (MIN-MAX metres)
1	E-W	30 x 1.60	Topsoil 0.30 -0.60m, subsoil 0.10-0.30m. No archaeological finds or features.	0.60-0.80
2	E-W	30 x 1.60	Topsoil 0.35-0.70m, subsoil 0.40-0.65m. No archaeological finds or features.	0.55-1.10
3	N-S	30 x 1.60	Topsoil 0.16-0.35m, subsoil 0.15-0.20m. Ditch [01].	0.40-0.60
4	NE-SW	12 x 1.60	Topsoil 0.18-0.20m, subsoil 0.30-0.60m. Ditch [03].	0.50-0.80
5	E-W	20.5 x 1.60	Topsoil 0.16-0.25m, subsoil 0.37-0.50m. No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.62-0.90

Figure 12: Trench table

## Conclusions

The archaeological evaluation at Manor Farm, Tugby, produced limited evidence of archaeological activity in the form of two truncated ditches of early medieval date, probably defining fields or stock enclosures. These were located to the south-west of the main earthwork complex and suggest that this area was not occupied but maintained for agricultural purposes during the 12th-13th centuries. This was to continue to be the land use until the present day.



## Archive and Publications

The site archive (X.A96.2013), consisting of paper and photographic records and finds will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service.

The archive consists of:

- 5 trench recording sheets
- Photographic record indices
- 14 digital photographs
- 5 pottery sherds
- A risk assessment form

## Publication

A version of the excavation summary (see above) will appear in due course in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire and Rutland Archaeological and Historical Society*.

## Acknowledgements

Roger Kipling and Steve Baker of ULAS undertook the archaeological evaluation on behalf of Corporate Architecture Ltd. Teresa Hawtin of Leicestershire County Council monitored the work on behalf of the planning authority. The project was managed by Patrick Clay.

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## Oasis Information

<b>Project Name</b>	Land at Manor Farm, Main Street, Tugby, Leicestershire
<b>Project Type</b>	Archaeological evaluation
<b>Project Manager</b>	Patrick Clay
<b>Project Supervisor</b>	Roger Kipling
<b>Previous/Future work</b>	Development
<b>Current Land Use</b>	Garden
<b>Development Type</b>	Housing
<b>Reason for Investigation</b>	NPPF
<b>Position in the Planning Process</b>	Pre-application
<b>Site Co ordinates</b>	NGR SK 7632 0098
<b>Start/end dates of field work</b>	August 2013
<b>Archive Recipient</b>	Leicestershire County Council
<b>Study Area</b>	1542m <sup>2</sup>

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## Appendix: The Medieval Pottery

Deborah Sawday

The pottery, five sherds, weighing 32 grams, was catalogued with reference to the guidelines set out by the Medieval Pottery Research Group, (MPRG 1998; 2001) and the ULAS fabric series (Davies and Sawday 1999; Sawday 2009).

The material was recovered from the back-fill of two field ditches, contexts [1] and [3], and is possibly associated with the adjacent manorial earthworks which are located to the north of the site (R. Kipling, pers. comm.). The absence of any glazed wares such as Stanion/Lyveden and Chilvers Coton, which date from c.1225-1250 and later, suggests that the sherds in Potters Marston and Coarse Shelly ware may all be early medieval, that is dated from c.1100 to c.1250, but the small size of the assemblage means that the dating evidence must be treated with some caution.

This is only the second time that the author has examined pottery from the core of the village, the earlier site, an archaeological watching brief carried out in 1998, lay to the south of the present evaluation and produced and late Saxon Stamford and high medieval Stanion/Lyveden, Chilvers Coton and Medieval Sandy wares, the latter dating from c.1225/50 as noted above. The finds from the current evaluation provide an additional insight in to the evolution and topographical development of the village through time and space.

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