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An Archaeological Evaluation at
Easthorpe Lodge, Manor Road,
Easthorpe, Bottesford,
Leicestershire
(SK 81102 38553)



Roger Kipling

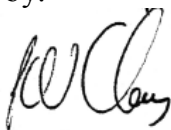
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**An Archaeological Evaluation at Easthorpe Lodge,
Manor Road, Easthorpe, Bottesford,
Leicestershire
(SK 81102 38553)**

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For: Mr Stephen Lee

Approved by:



Signed

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in January 2016 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Mr Stephen Lee, on land at Easthorpe Lodge, Manor Road, Easthorpe, Bottesford, Leicestershire. The fieldwork was undertaken in advance of a proposed residential development.

The archaeological evaluation provided evidence for early medieval archaeological activity in the northern part of the site, possibly associated with the adjacent medieval moated manorial site, whilst plough furrows were encountered in the southern paddock area.

The site archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council under the accession number XA142.2015.

Introduction

An archaeological evaluation excavation was undertaken at Easthorpe Lodge, Manor Road, Easthorpe, Bottesford, Leicestershire, in advance of a proposed residential development of nine dwellings and associated infrastructure. A desk-based assessment previously undertaken for the application (Henderson 2015) indicated that the development area lies within the historic core settlement of Easthorpe and between two conservation areas. The area to the west is centred on the Manor of Easthorpe, scheduled monument (DLE236) (1009195) and shifted medieval village. The northern boundary of the assessment site lies approximately twenty five metres from the southern boundary of this monument. The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) for the area records a relatively large number of known heritage assets in the vicinity. This mainly consists of settlement evidence relating to the development of Bottesford to the north-west, but there is also evidence of prehistoric, Roman and medieval activity 600m south of the assessment area beyond Castlevew Farm.

Early maps suggest that the Manor and deserted village had well defined boundaries, but the village shifted in a linear fashion along the roads out of the village. The assessment area occupies the corner of two established routes and maps suggest the land was used as pasture, orchard, the site of two separate farm buildings and allotments before becoming residential. Preservation was recognized as having the potential to be good in areas towards the centre of the site, and on the boundaries not previously occupied by farm buildings. There was potential of remains from medieval and post-medieval periods to be present.

In consequence the Principal Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council (LCC) recommended the need for a pre-determination scheme of archaeological field evaluation in order to provide preliminary indications of the character and extent of any heritage assets in order that the potential impact of the development on such remains may be assessed by the Planning Authority.

The programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Section 12 Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment) (DCLG March 2012). The fieldwork was intended to provide a record of the archaeological remains in mitigation of the impact of the proposed development. The agreed scheme was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (ULAS 2015; hereinafter WSI). All archaeological work was in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CiFA) Code of Conduct (2014) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014). The *LCC Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological work Leicestershire and Rutland* (1997) was also adhered to.

The fieldwork was undertaken in January 2016 and involved the machine excavation of trial trenches followed by hand cleaning, excavation and recording of archaeological remains.

Site Description, Topography and Geology

The proposed development is located at Easthorpe, a small village lying south-east of the larger village of Bottesford and within Bottesford parish. It is located 20km north of Melton Mowbray and 33km north-east of Loughborough in the administrative district of Melton, Leicestershire. Easthorpe is a somewhat dispersed but linear village and although once a separate settlement, the expansion of Bottesford has all but merged with the village on both the north and west sides. Easthorpe Lodge and the development site itself, lie approximately 600m from Bottesford centre, on the eastern side of the junction between Manor Road and Green Lane.

The River Devon runs to the north-east and the ground is generally flat, the height of the site being 33.0m to 34.0m above O.D. The site covers 1.02 hectares and is bounded by residential properties to the south and east and open pasture to the north and west. The site is currently occupied by a Easthorpe Lodge, separate cottages, garden and outbuildings.

The British Geological Survey website indicates that the underlying geology of the site is likely to be drift geology of fluvial sands and gravels which in turn seal a solid geology of Lower Jurassic limestones of the Beckingham Member (BGS 2015).

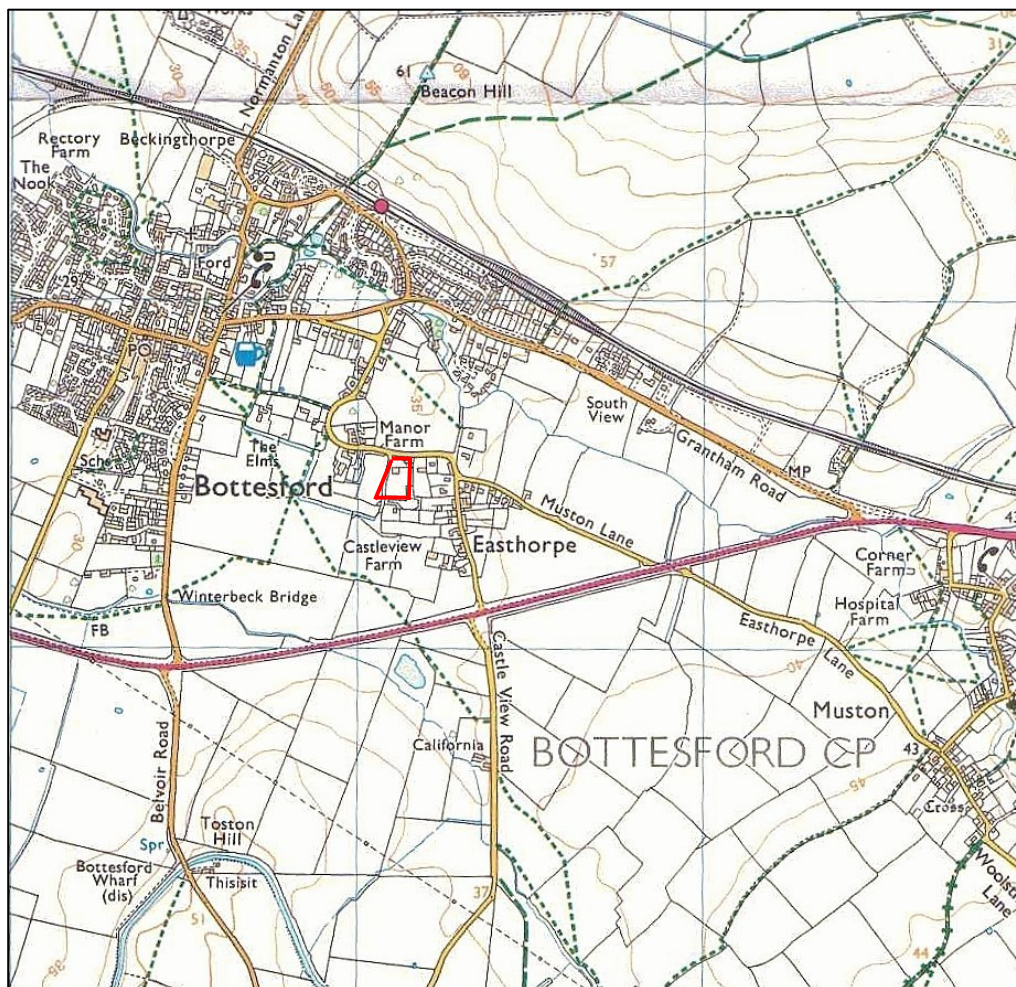


Figure 1: Site Location (Scale 1:50 000)

Reproduced from the Landranger 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 1996. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495

Archaeological and Historical Background

A desk-based assessment has been undertaken for the application (Henderson 2015). The assessment area lies within the historic core settlement of Eastthorpe and between two conservation areas. The area to the west is centred on the Manor of Eastthorpe, scheduled monument (DLE236) (1009195) and shifted medieval village. The northern boundary of the assessment site lies approximately ten metres from the southern boundary of this monument. The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) for the area records a relatively large number of known heritage assets in the vicinity. This mainly consists of settlement evidence relating to the development of Bottesford to the north-west, but there is also evidence of prehistoric, Roman and medieval activity 600m south of the assessment area beyond Castleview Farm.

Roman spot finds in the area are an indication of potential Roman activity. Therefore, the evaluation had the potential to contribute to knowledge on Iron Age – Roman transitions in rural settlement, landscape and society. Artefacts may identify trade links and economy.

Medieval (Lewis 2006; Knight et al 2012)

The area lies close to the medieval village core and might also contribute to the study of rural medieval settlement and East Midlands Research Strategy 6.7.7.2 (Knight *et al.* 2012: 94; Lewis 2006).

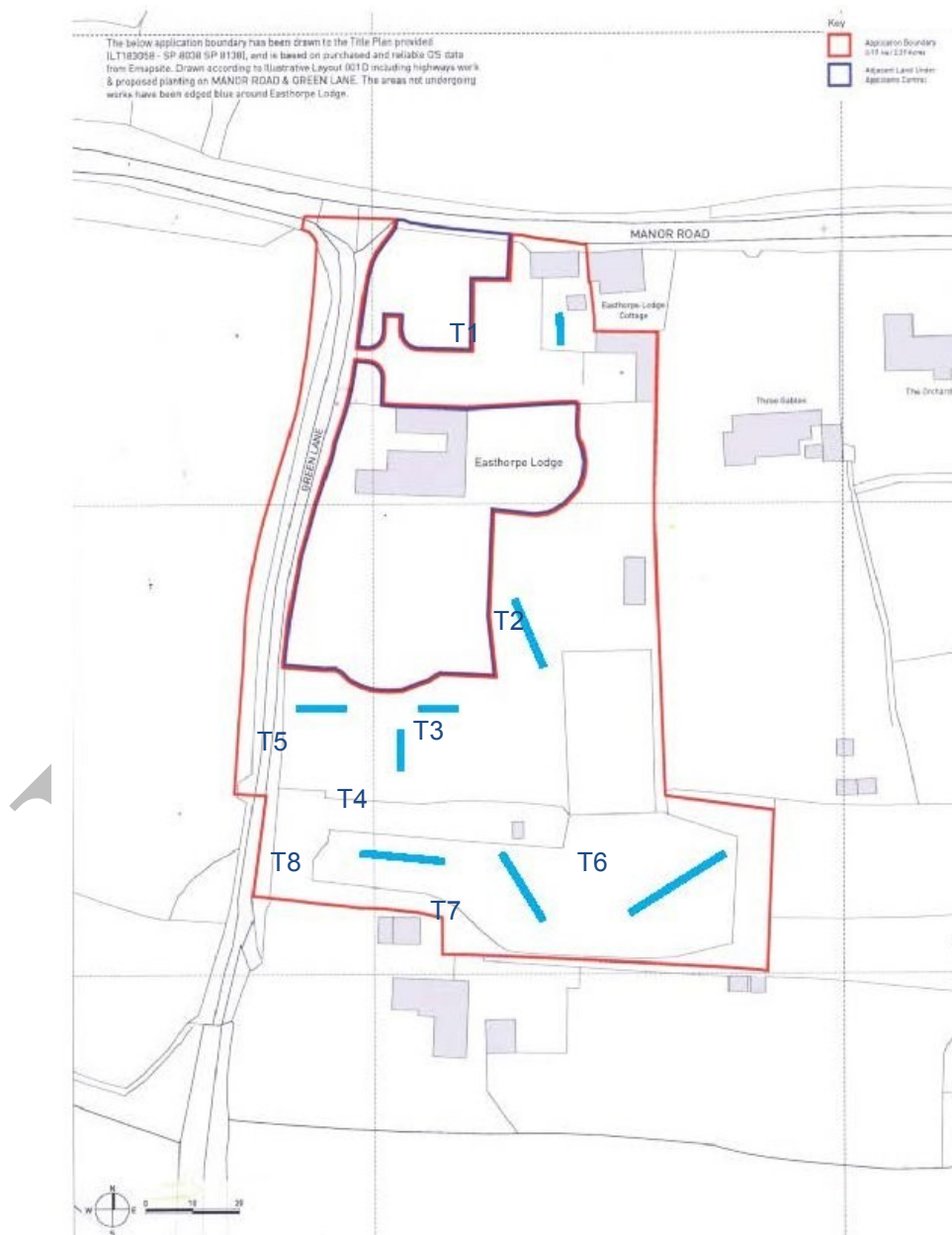


Figure 3: Plan of development area showing trench locations

Methodology

Prior to the commencement of works an Accession Code was obtained and the required archive deposition forms completed. An OASIS online record was initiated and the key fields completed on Details, Location and Creator forms. Following recommendations from the Principal Planning Archaeologist of Leicestershire County Council, a programme of archaeological excavation was undertaken, comprising the opening of trial trenches.

A *c.*2.25% excavated sample of the *c.*0.7 ha. area comprised 30m by 1.6m, three 20 x 1.6m and four 5m x 1.6m trenches (*c.*164m²), targeting the footprints of the proposed buildings (Figure 3). A mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket (*c.*1.6m wide) was employed under constant archaeological supervision, with excavation ceasing 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.



Figure 4: Excavation in progress

Results

Trench 1

Trench 1 (1.6m x 5m and 0.9m-1.06m deep_ was located in a lawned area in the north-east corner of the development area close to the Manor Road frontage and adjacent to Easthorpe Lodge Cottage. Machine removal of 0.4m-0.5m of friable dark grey sandy loam topsoil and 0.4m-0.5m of underlying pale grey-brown sandy silt subsoil revealed archaeological features cut into the dull pale orange natural sand.

Archaeological features consisted of two shallow linear gullies running on a parallel north-north-east to south-south-west alignment. Gully [01] measured 0.3m wide, 0.07m deep and 2.65m+ in length with an open, U-shaped profile and a concave base. The single pale grey-brown sandy-silt fill (03) contained several pottery sherds of Nottingham Early Medieval Coarse Sandy fabric, dated from the late 11th to the early or mid-12th century (Sawday, this volume). The second, partially-exposed linear feature, [02], measured 0.1m deep; its pale grey-brown silty-clay fill (04) produced no finds.



Figure 5: Features [1] & [2], Trench 1; view north (1m scale)

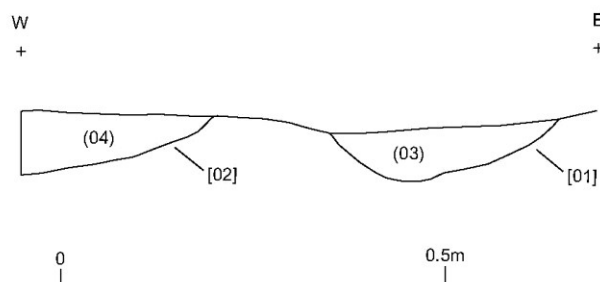
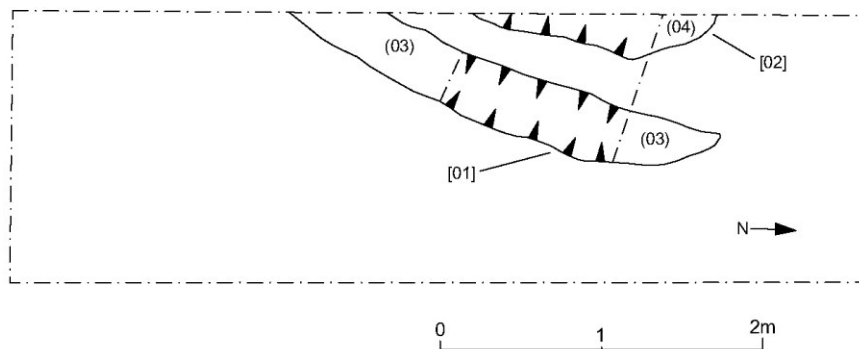


Figure 6: Plan and section of features, Trench 1

Trench 2

Trench 2 (20m x 1.6m x 0.62m-0.65m) was aligned north-northwest to south-south-east and located in the lawned area adjacent to the swimming pool on the eastern site boundary (Figure 7). Machine removal of 0.28m-0.35m of dark grey sandy-loam topsoil and 0.18m-0.4m of pale grey-brown sandy-silt subsoil revealed a mixed dull pale orange and pale grey natural sand. The central section of the trench was occupied a dump of limestone rubble in a loam topsoil matrix which appeared to represent a backfilled modern garden pond and/or ground consolidation. An adjacent vertical cut with pale grey loam backfill located c.9m from the southern end of the trench may represent an east-west hedge line between two orchards or wooded area depicted on the 1919 edition Ordnance Survey map.



Figure 7: Trench 2: view north (1m scale)

Trenches 3-5

Trenches 3-5 targeted the lawned area located between the principal garden to Easthorpe Lodge and the rough paddock and former vegetable garden area at the southern end of the property (Figure 8 & Figure 9). Each trench measured 5m x 1.6m and varied in depth between 0.6m and 0.85m in depth. All three trenches were archaeologically negative, with Trenches 3 & 4 featuring loam-filled modern circular tree planting pockets.



Figure 8: Trench 5 machining; view south-east



Figure 9: Trench 5: general view east (1m scales)

Trenches 6-8

The final three trenches were located in the rough paddock and former vegetable garden area at the southern end of the property. Trenches 6 (30m x 1.6m x 0.89m-0.35m) and 7 (20m x 1.6m x 0.58m-0.9m) featured medieval plough furrows, shallow open U-shaped 1.5m-3m-wide cuts aligned north-east to south-west. No other archaeological deposits were encountered.



Figure 10: Trench 7: general; view north-west (1m scales)

The Medieval Pottery

Deborah Sawday

Methodology

The medieval pottery, nine sherds, weighing 138 grams, with an average sherd weight of 15.33 grams, and a vessel rim equivalent of 0.125 (calculated by adding together the circumference of the surviving rim sherds, where one vessel equals 1.00) was initially examined under a x20 binocular microscope. The finds were then catalogued with reference to the guidelines set out by the Medieval Pottery Research Group, (MPRG 1998; MPRG, 2001) and the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 2009) and, given the proximity to Nottingham, to the Nottingham fabric series also (Nailor and Young 2001). The results are shown below, (Table 1).

Conclusions

All of the material, which has been provisionally dated from the late 11th to the early or mid-12th century, was recovered from the back-fill of the gully or ditch context [1]. The

condition of the finds was good, with several joining sherds and a relatively large average sherd weight, suggesting the presence of further archaeological activity in the vicinity.

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

Context	Fabric /Leicester/Nottingham	Nos	Grams	Comments
POTTERY				
3 [1] ditch/ gully	Reduced ware/? Nottingham Early Medieval Coarse Sandy ware - NEMCS	8	111	Jar rim and body, some joining sherds. Hand-made thick walled body reduced grey core, buff/reddish surfaces. Sandy plus iron temper. Diameter c.200mm, 0.125 EVEs.?Late 11th – to early mid 12th C
3 [1]	Reduced ware/? Nottingham early medieval Coarse Sandy ware - NEMCS	1	27	Body – fabric & date range similar to the above. Traces of external sooting

Discussion and Conclusions

The archaeological evaluation at Easthorpe Lodge provided evidence for early medieval archaeological activity in the northern part of the site, whilst plough furrows were encountered in the southern paddock area. The medieval features, comprising two gullies, were associated with 11th - mid 12th century pottery, and may represent medieval activity fronting on to Manor Road.

Archive and Publications

The site archive (X.A119.2015), consisting of paper and photographic records, will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service.

The paper archive consists of:

- 1 x A3 drawing sheet
- 4 x context record sheets
- Photographic record indices
- 34 digital photographs
- A risk assessment form

Publication

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

Acknowledgements

Roger Kipling and Andrew McLeish of ULAS undertook the archaeological excavation and watching brief on behalf of Mr Stephen Lee. The project was managed by Patrick Clay.

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Oasis Information

Project Name	Easthorpe Lodge, Manor Lodge, Easthorpe, Leicestershire
Project Type	Archaeological evaluation
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Roger Kipling & Andrew McLeish
Previous/Future work	Development
Current Land Use	Garden/paddock
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Pre-determination
Site Co ordinates	NGR SK 81102 38553
Start/end dates of field work	January 2016
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council
Study Area	0.7ha.

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