



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Strip,
Plan and Sample at
Evergreen Field Farm,
Pincet Lane, North
Kilworth, Leicestershire.
NGR: SK 61648 83726**

Cathryn Shean



ULAS Report No 2017-036
©2017

**An Archaeological Strip, Plan and Sample at
Evergreen Field Farm, Pincet Lane,
North Kilworth, Leicestershire.
NGR: SK 61648 83726**

Cathryn Shean

For: Mr S.J.Green

P. A 16/00303/FUL

Filename/Version	Checked by	Date
2017/036	Patrick Clay	28/03/2015

University of Leicester
Archaeological Services
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

ULAS Report Number 2017-036
©2017
Accession Number X.A27.2017

CONTENTS

Summary	1
Introduction.....	1
Site Description, Topography and Geology.....	1
Archaeological and Historical Background.....	2
Aims and Objectives	2
Methods	4
Results	4
<i>Ditches and Gullies</i>	4
<i>Pits and Post-holes</i>	7
Early Bronze Age and Mid-Late Iron Age Pottery <i>Nicholas J Cooper</i>	13
The Flint <i>Lynden Cooper</i>	13
The Animal Bones <i>Cathryn Shean</i>	14
The Charred plant remains <i>Rachel Small</i>	15
Discussion and Conclusions	16
Bibliography	16
Archive and Publication.....	17
Acknowledgements.....	17
Bibliography	18
Appendix 1: OASIS Data Entry.....	18

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location.....	2
Figure 2: Development Area Outlined in Red	3
Figure 3 Plan of Excavated Area.	5
Figure 4 Plan of Archaeological deposits.	6
Figure 5 Sections of Ditches.	8
Figure 6 Gully [10] and Ditch [12] Taken Along the Eastern Bulk.	9
Figure 7 Enclosure Ditch Taken at the South Side of Site.	9
Figure 8 Ditch [30].....	10
Figure 9 Gully [20]	10
Figure 10 Sections of Post-holes and Pits.....	11
Figure 11 Pit [26].....	12
Figure 12 Post-hole [4]	12

**An Archaeological Strip, Plan and Sample at Evergreen Field Farm, Pincet Lane, North Kilworth, Leicestershire.
NGR: SK 61648 83726**

Cathryn Shean

Summary

An archaeological strip, plan and sample excavation was undertaken between 9th – 14th March 2017 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Mr. S. J. Green at Evergreen Field Farm, Pincet Lane, North Kilworth, Leicestershire. The archaeological investigation was required as a condition of the planning permission for a new single detached dwelling and garage (P.A 16/00303/FUL). The Historic Environment Record identified that the site lies within the historic core of Kilworth with the potential for a medieval and post medieval settlement.

The archaeological stripped area for the dwelling revealed evidence for Bronze age and Iron Age occupation including an enclosure ditch, gullies, post-holes, and a pit.

The site archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council under the accession number X.A27.2017.

Introduction

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment*, this document forms the report for an archaeological evaluation undertaken between 9th – 14th March 2017 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Mr. S.J.Green at Evergreen Field Farm, Pincet Lane, North Kilworth, Leicestershire.

Harborough District Council had granted planning permission for the construction of a single dwelling an garage subject to planning conditions (P.A 16/00303/FUL). Conditions 8-11 required a scheme of archaeological work in accordance with an agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).

Site Description, Topography and Geology

North Kilworth lies approximately 21km south of Leicester (Fig. 1). The site lies off Pincet Lane on the north side of the village (Fig. 2).

The proposed development site lies within a complex of farm buildings of Evergreen Field Farm and comprises a flat area used for parking and a grassed area to the south west.

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 169 (1994), indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of glacial drift (boulder clay).

The site is relatively flat and lies at a height of c.158m OD.

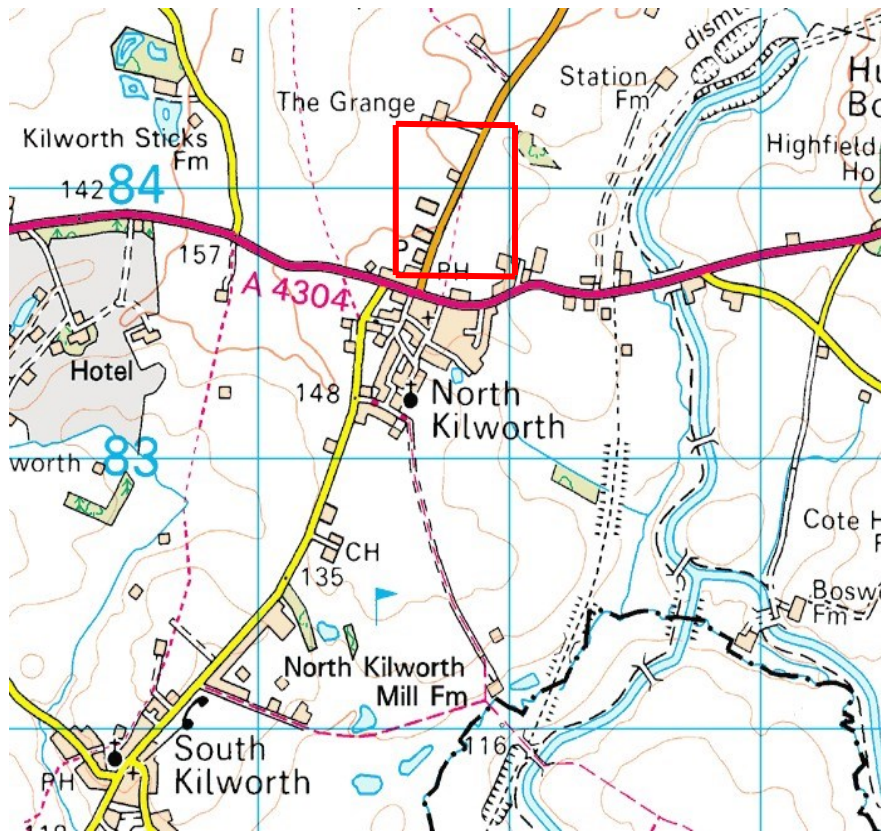


Figure 1: Site Location

Reproduced from 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. ©Crown Copyright 1990. All rights reserved.

Archaeological and Historical Background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates that the site lies within the east edge of the Historic Settlement Core of North Kilworth (MLE9146) and has the potential to contain below-ground deposits relating to the medieval and post-medieval settlement.

Aims and Objectives

The objectives were as set out in the ULAS *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ULAS 2017) approved by the Leicestershire County Council Principal Planning Archaeologist as advisor to the planning authority. Within the stated project aims, the principal objective of the recording is to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, and significance of the heritage assets within their local and regional context.



Figure 2: Development Area Outlined in Red

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 record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscape and to advance understanding of the heritage assets.
- To recover artefacts and ecofacts to compare with other assemblages and results.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014a), and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014b).

All exploratory and mitigation work was considered in light of the East Midlands Research Framework (Cooper ed. 2006) and strategy (Knight *et al.* 2012), along with targeting national research aims.

Methods

The fieldwork was carried out from the 9th – 14th March 2017 and involved the machine excavation of the footprint of the proposed building. The location of the proposed residential building was stripped, in order to determine the presence/absence, character and extent of archaeological remains.

Excavation was undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.9m wide toothless ditching bucket, with topsoil and overburden removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision.

The building plot for the house was stripped to the depth of the natural substratum and archaeological deposits (*c.* 0.7m). The west edge of excavation area was curved to avoid a modern concrete pillar. The garage and access could not be stripped because of live electric cables, sewerage and water pipes that ran through the area.

The natural substratum across site was a mid-yellow glacial drift (boulder clay) and gravels as predicted by the Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 169 (1994). The site is fairly flat and lies at a height of *c.* 158m OD.

Results

Ditches and Gullies

The excavation revealed a corner of an enclosure ditch, 18m long, aligned north-east to south-west and turning to the east. The ditch has been re-cut in the southern extent and two sections were excavated across it. The southernmost section through the corner of the enclosure ditch had two cuts [6] and [8]. The earliest ditch [8] was 0.55m wide and 0.22m deep, filled with (7) orange brown sandy-clay. The second section had three ditch cuts [14], [16] and [18]. The earliest cut [16] was 0.55m wide and 0.25m deep, filled with (15) a red brown sandy-clay while cut [14] was 0.9m wide and 0.37m deep, filled with (13) a red brown sandy-clay. A secondary flake of flint was found in the fill (13) which probably was residual.

There was an unclear relationship between cuts [18] and [16], [18] having probably been truncated entirely in the southern ditch section. The ditch was 0.4m wide and 0.1m deep and filled with (17) an orange red sandy-clay.

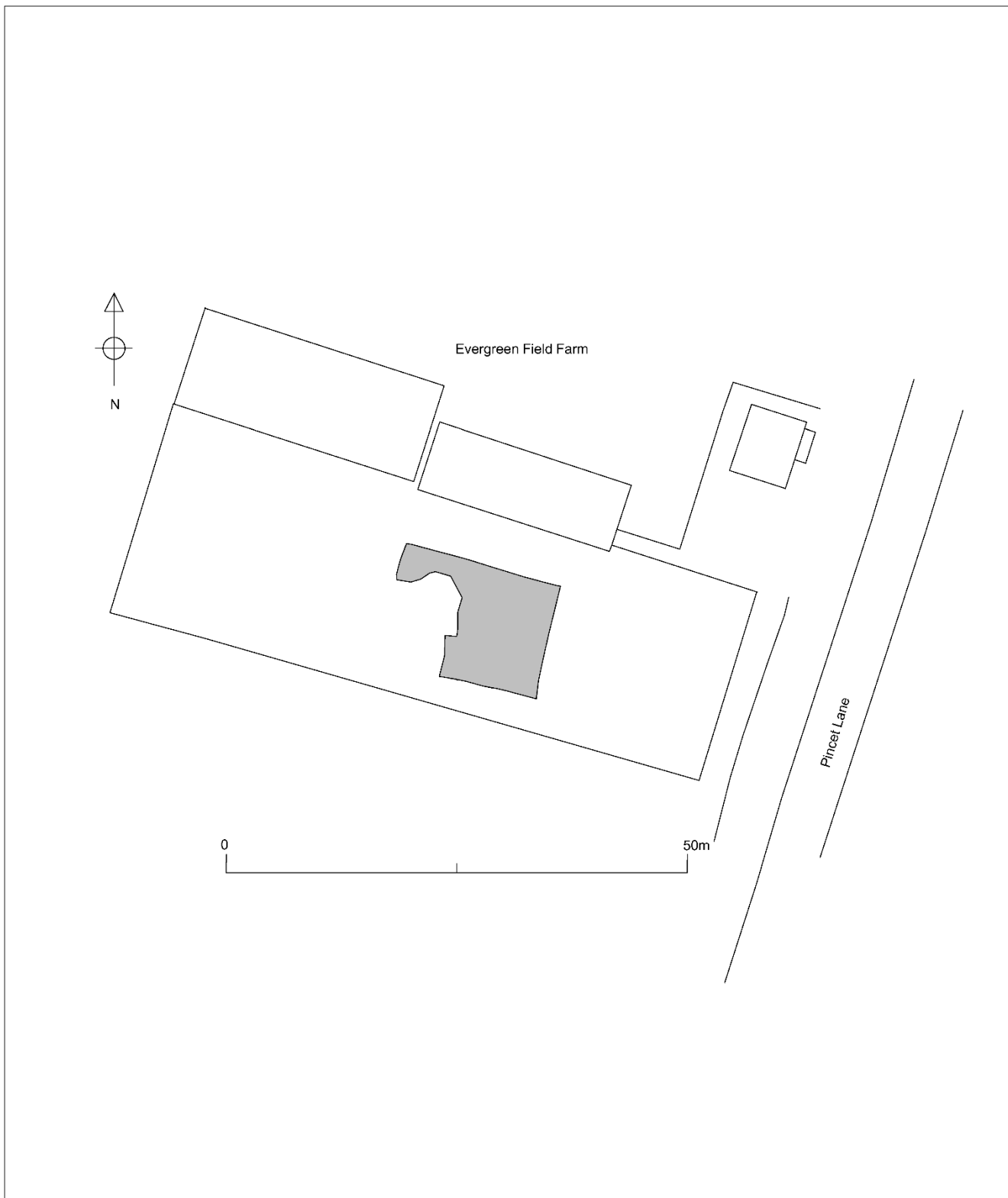


Figure 3 Plan of Excavated Area.

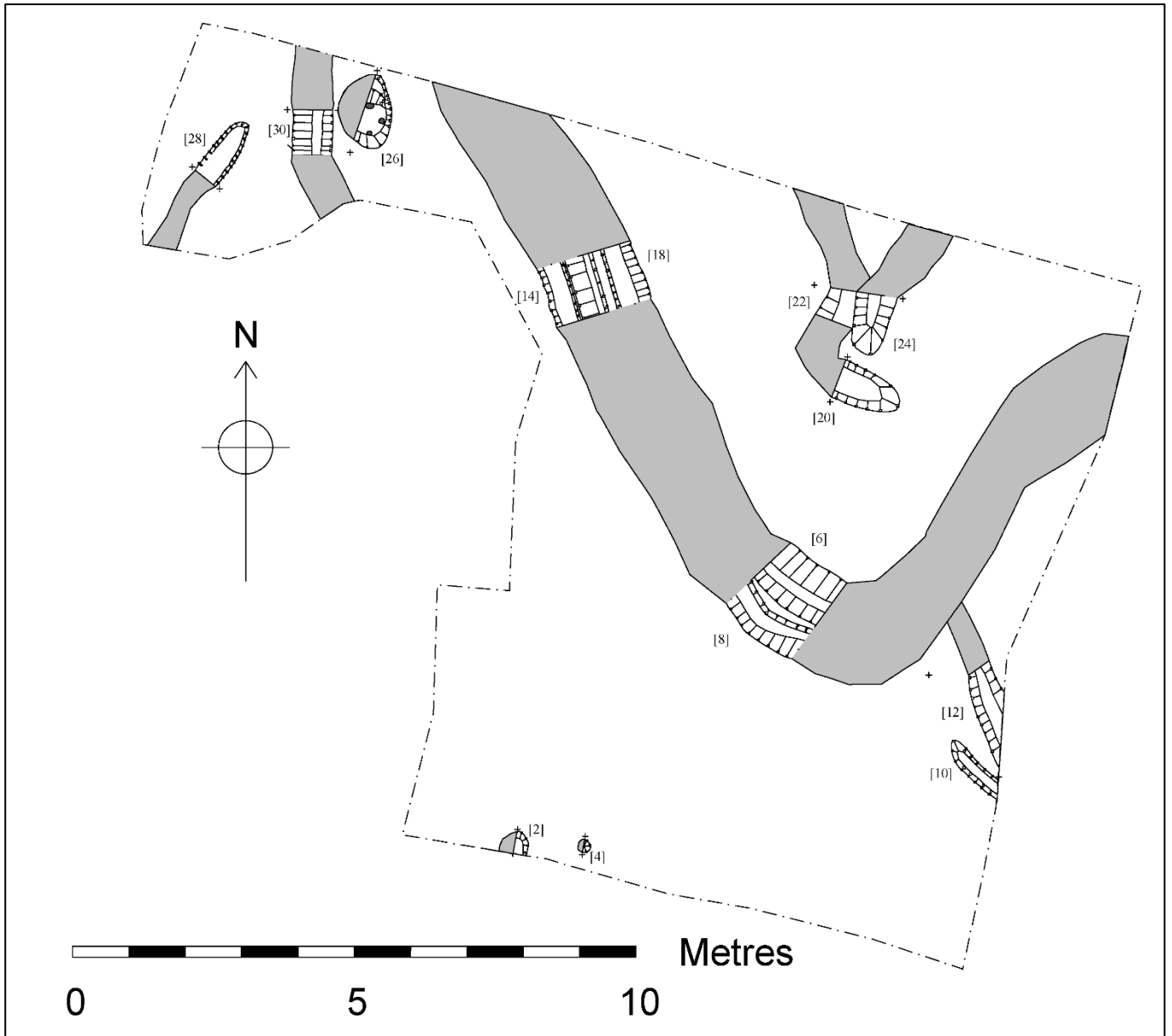


Figure 4 Plan of Archaeological deposits.

Part of a drainage gully [10], was revealed which measured 1.22m x 0.30m x 0.38m and continued beyond the eastern edge of excavation. The gully was aligned north-west to south-east and was possibly a gully for a roundhouse. The fill (11) comprised a mid-brownish sandy-clay. The gully was cut by drainage ditch [12] and this measured 0.6m wide, 2m long and 0.49m deep, filled with (11) a mid-grey brown silty-clay. The sherds of pottery found in the fill (11) were identified as scored ware from the mid to late Iron Age. The ditch was aligned north to south, and continued beyond the edge of excavation. The ditch was cut by enclosure ditch [8] and did not continue to the north.

There was a smaller ditch [20] to the north and inside the main enclosure ditch [6]. Two slots were excavated through the ditch, the southern extent of which was aligned east to west before turning north. Ditch [20] measured 0.7m wide, 4.7m long and 0.14m deep which was filled with (19) mid grey sandy-clay and was cut to the east by a second ditch [24]. Ditch [22] is a continuation of ditch [20] and measured 0.46m wide and 0.16m deep. Aligned north to south its fill (21) was a mid-grey sandy-clay. Ditch [24] was aligned north to south where it terminated, and measured 2.5m long, 0.72m wide and 0.25m deep with a mid-brownish grey sandy-clay (23).

Ditch [30] to the west may have been a small boundary ditch, and was aligned north to south. Measuring 3m long, 0.7m wide and 0.32m deep, it was filled with (29) a red brown sandy-clay.

To the west a gully [28] was aligned north to south and terminated in the excavated area. The gully measured 2.5m long, 0.44m wide, 0.09m deep and was filled with a mid-brownish grey sandy clay (27).

Pits and Post-holes

There were two post-holes located at the southern edge of site. Post-hole [2] was circular with steep vertical sides and had a diameter of 0.52m and was 0.06m deep. It was filled with (1) a dark greyish brown sandy-clay with 1-3% small flecks of charcoal. Post-hole [4] located to the west was circular with steep vertical sides and had a diameter of 0.23m and was 0.14m deep. The post-hole was filled with (3) a mid-greyish brown silty-clay with small flecks of charcoal.

Pit [26] was located on the northern side of the excavation. The fill appeared to be a deliberate dump of possible occupation material. Measuring 1.2m long, 0.9m wide and 0.35m deep, it was sub square with steep concave sides and a concave base. The pit fill was a dark grey brown clay and sand, which also contained heat cracked stones and 1-3% charcoal (25).

The finds from the pit included sherds from three Early Bronze Age Collared Urns, Neolithic/Bronze Age flint flakes, blades and chips, one identifiable unworn cattle maxillary molar and 5 other large mammal teeth. Only teeth and calcified bones survived. Hazelnut shells were identified from the environmental sample.

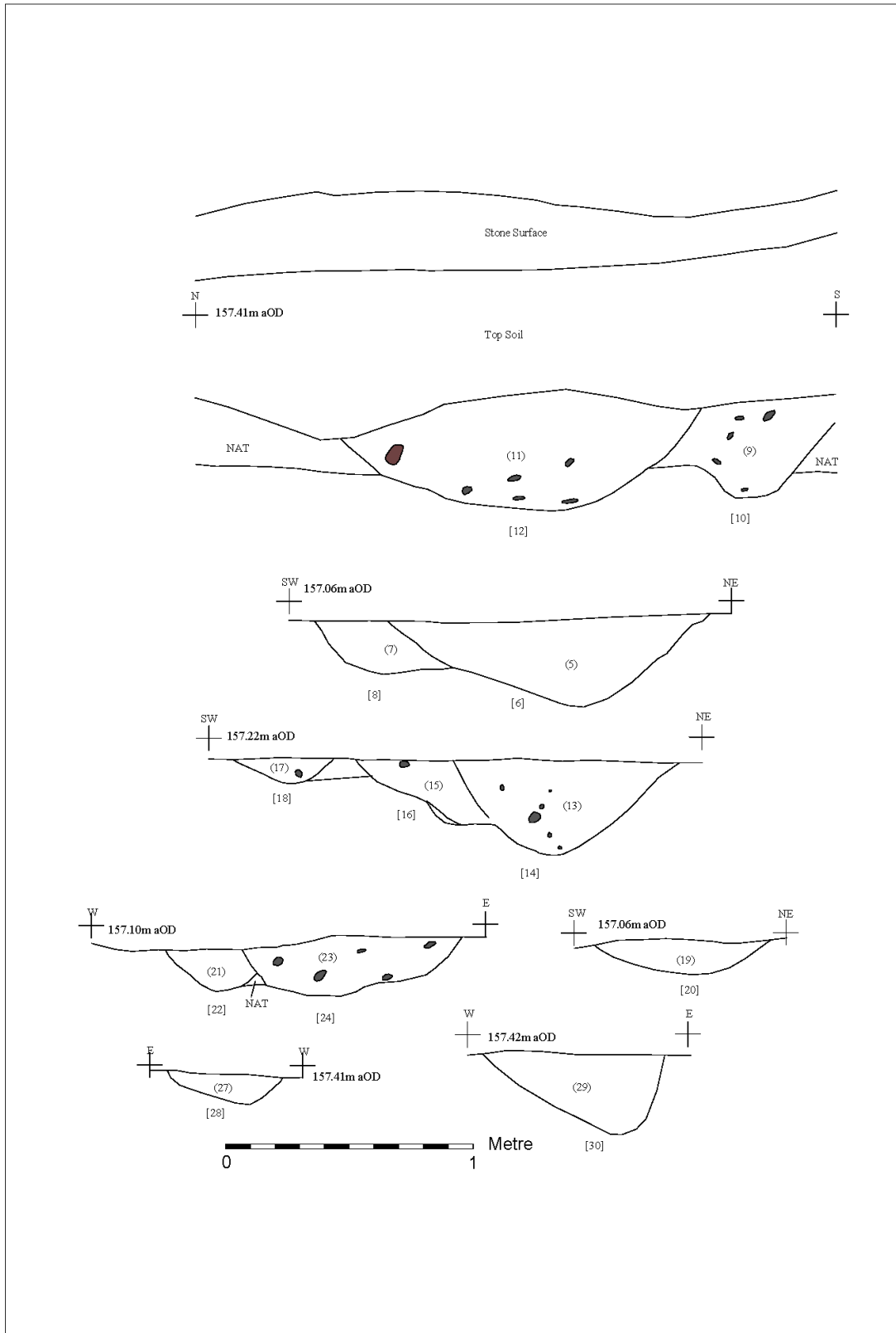


Figure 5 Sections of Ditches.



Figure 7 Enclosure Ditch Taken at the South Side of Site.

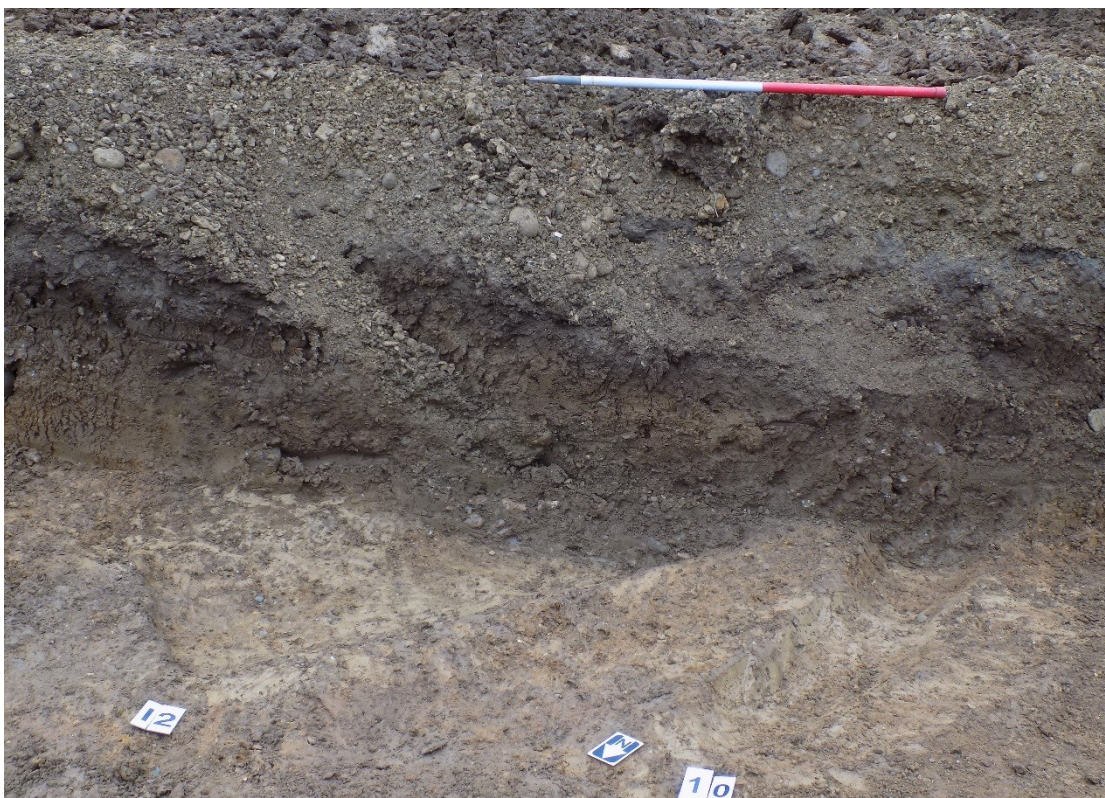


Figure 6 Gully [10] and Ditch [12] Taken Along the Eastern Bulk.



Figure 9 Gully [20]



Figure 8 Ditch [30]

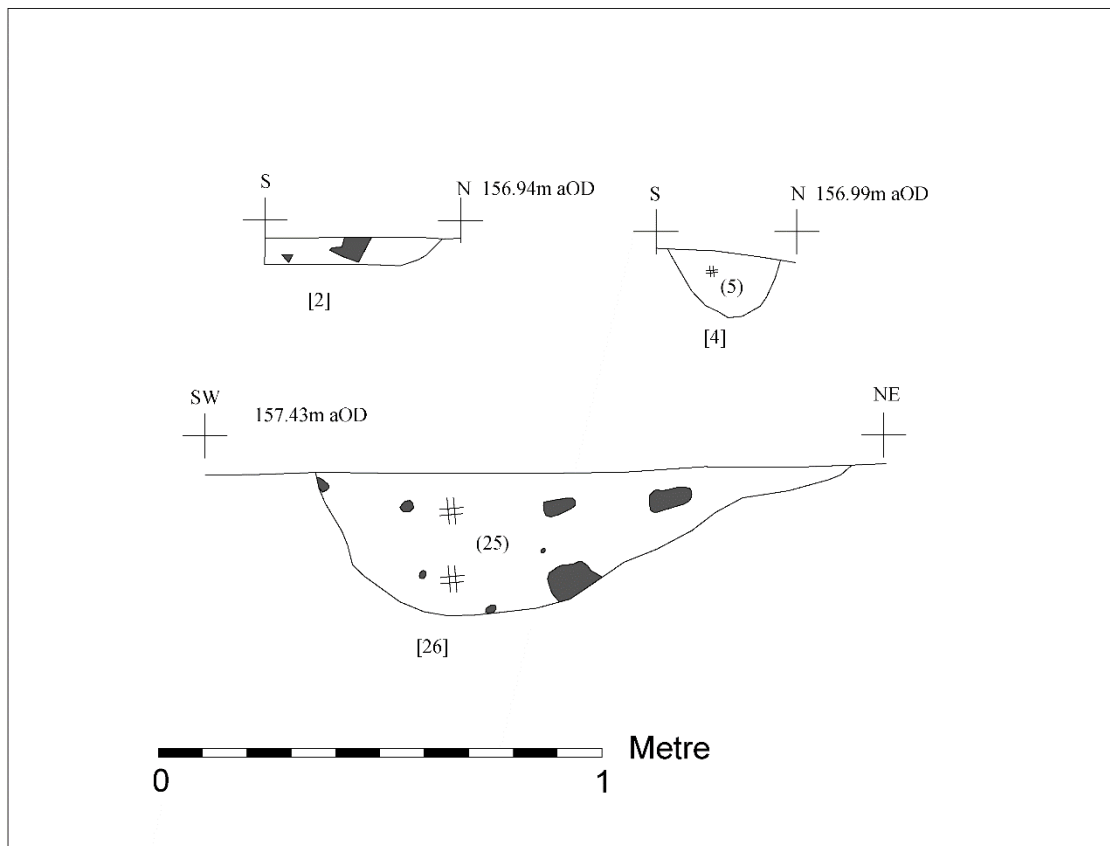


Figure 10 Sections of Post-holes and Pits.



Figure 12 Post-hole [4]



Figure 11 Pit [26]

Early Bronze Age and Mid-Late Iron Age Pottery

Nicholas J. Cooper

Introduction

A total of ten sherds considered to be of Early Bronze Age Collared Urn was recovered from (25) together with a single fragment (15g) of fired clay (burnt daub) with a wattle impression. Additionally 15 sherds from a single East Midlands scored ware jar (Elsdon 1992a) of mid-late Iron Age date were recovered from (11).

Methodology

The assemblage has been analysed by fabric and form according to the Leicestershire Prehistoric Fabric Series (Marsden 2011) and quantified by sherd count and weight (g) and EVEs.

Early Bronze Age Collared Urn

Ten sherds (100g) thought to belong to Collared Urns, based on fabric and incised herring bone and stabbed decoration, were recovered from (25), together with fragments of struck flint. At least three separate vessels are represented (three sherds each) along with one miscellaneous undecorated grog-tempered sherd in Fabric G1 (10g). The first comprises a base sherd (diameter 180mm) and two body sherds (35g), one decorated with incised herring bone, manufactured in a fine shell-tempered clay fabric (Fabric S1), which is oxidised and slightly micaceous with a body thickness of 8-10mm. The second comprises three decorated body sherds (20g), two with herring bone and one with oblique stab marks impressed with the pointed end of a round stick. The fine slightly micaceous clay is tempered with fine grog and shell (Fabric G1) and the vessel is oxidised externally and has a body thickness of 7mm. The third vessel comprises three base sherds (35g) in Fabric G1 (one with diameter of 120mm) which are not conclusively from the same vessel or necessarily of Collared Urn, as one has carbonised residue internally. The identification as Collared Urn of early Bronze Age date is tentative for this assemblage but seems most likely attribution in the absence of anything more diagnostic.

Mid-Late Iron Age scored ware

Fifteen sherds (160g) from a single small jar with scored decoration and a stubby upright rim was recovered from (11). The handmade vessel is manufactured in a shell-tempered fabric (Leics. Fabric S1) and the in-sloping flat rim is decorated with oblique stabbed impressions. The form is a slack-shouldered jar similar to Elsdon's Enderby Form 1 (Elsdon 1992b, illus 24.1) with a rim diameter of 110mm, a girth of 130mm, and a base diameter of 80mm. Reconstruction of the profile gives a height of 130mm. The vessel was used for cooking as it has carbonised residue on the external shoulder. Scored ware is current between the 4th or 3rd century BC and the mid-1st century AD in Leicestershire. This vessel form is most common in the earlier phases at Enderby and a date between 175BC and AD20 is probably appropriate (Eldon 1992b, 38 and 52).

The Flint *Lynden Cooper*

Table 1

Context	Sample	Identification
(13)		Secondary flake
(25)	1	2 x chips Secondary flake Flake fragment 3x Tertiary flake 3x Chips
(25)		Secondary Flake 3x Tertiary flake Secondary blade

The raw material is grey brown semi- translucent flint from local till deposits. The collection is all debitage and is of hard hammer technology, likely to date to the Neolithic/ Bronze Age.

The animal bones *Cathryn Shean*

Introduction

A small animal bone assemblage (32 fragments) was collected by hand during excavation at North Kilworth, Leicestershire. The animal bones were collected from one context (25), a pit fill. There were fragments of bone also recovered from an environmental sample.

Method

The bones were identified by comparison to reference material held at the University of Leicester. A catalogue was made for hand-collected bones (Table 3) and for the bones recovered from samples (Table 1).

Results

The preservation was poor due to the acidic sandy soils, the only bones to survive were the teeth and calcined bone. There were two cattle maxillary molars (M1/M2) identified. It was possible to score the wear of one teeth as A (unworn). The other was too damaged but appeared to be more worn. Another molar fragment was recovered and some large mammal teeth frags these are probably associated.

The bones collected from the sample are all calcined, they have been burnt at very high temperatures, one of the bones has a blue tinged and crazing is seen on 2 of the fragments. Only one of the 28 was identifiable as a medium mammal rib, this is because the bones were very small and fragmented.

Discussion

Very little bone has survived due to the sandy acidic soils, only the teeth and the calcined bones.

Table 2 Animal Bone

Table 3: bone present in the $\geq 4\text{mm}$ fraction of sample residues.

Sample	Context	Feature Description	Feature No.	No. Frag	Date	Species	Number of fragments	Notes	Note
25	26	Pit fill		1		Cattle		26 very small indeterminate fragments, 1 Tooth	Fragment maxillary m1/m2
25	26	Pit Fill		2		Cattle		medium mammal rib frag, all calcined of Tooth	Molar fragment
25	26	Pit fill	26	Pit fill	3	Large mammal	27	which 1 has a blue tinge and 2 have crazing. Tooth	Probably associated
6									

The charred plant remains *Rachel Small*

Introduction

During excavation at North Kilworth, Leicestershire one bulk sample was taken from a pit fill (25)[26] which was associated with Bronze age pottery and flint.

Methodology

The sample was a dark grey brown sandy clay *circa* 20 litres in volume and was processed in a York tank using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation into a 0.3mm mesh sieve. The flotation fraction (flot) was transferred into a plastic box and left to air dry before being sorted for plant remains and other artefacts under a x10-40 stereo microscope. The heavy residue was air dried and the fraction over 4mm sorted in its entirety and the fraction under 4mm was only scanned (artefacts were passed on to the relevant specialists and are discussed in their reports). Plant remains were identified by comparison to modern reference material available at ULAS and names follow Stace (1991).

Results for sample 1 (25)[26]

It seems likely the context was disturbed as a lot of modern rootlets were present and a fragment of tin foil and plastic were found in the flot. However, a large number of well-preserved hazelnut (*Corylus avellana* L.) shell fragments were found, *circa* 220 fragments were present in the flot and heavy residue combined. The largest fragment was 15mm in length but most were very small (3mm in length) and therefore probably only equate to a few hazelnuts (*circa* 5). No other charred plant remains were present in the sample.

Charcoal fragments greater than 2mm in length were abundant (over 50 fragments) but identifications were not carried out.

Discussion

In the Bronze Age, hazelnuts were a 'wild' resource and it is likely they were collected from the surrounding environment of the site (woodland, scrub and hedgerow) and eaten as a snack food or as a staple. The hazelnut shell fragments may have been discarded into a fire after eating the kernel or the whole hazelnut may have accidentally

carbonized and subsequently fragmented whilst roasting. Either is possible, both are representative of domestic waste. Hazelnut shells are a relatively common find on Bronze Age sites in the East Midlands, especially in pits (Monckton 2006, 266).

Discussion and Conclusions

The strip, plan, and sample revealed archaeological activity under the proposed building plot. The garage and access area were not stripped due to modern disturbance.

In the stripped area, there was evidence for Early Bronze Age and Iron Age activity. From the ceramic and flint finds the pit dated to the Early Bronze Age (c 2000-1500 BC). Sherds from three Collared Urn vessels were present. Collared urns are often associated with Bronze Age cremation burials but in this context may be evidence for domestic occupation, a relatively rare occurrence in the East Midlands (Clay 2006, 77). Charred hazelnut remains and calcined bone may indicate domestic activity

There was evidence of mid to late Iron Age activity dated from the pottery found in gully (11) (c 400-100BC). A corner of an enclosure ditch, post-holes, ditches and gullies were probably also associated with the Iron Age settlement. Middle to late Iron Age settlements, usually in the form of small farmsteads are known from this part of Leicestershire including examples from Lutterworth and Market Harborough (Morris 2014; Browning 2015).

Bibliography

- Browning, J., C., 2015 An Archaeological Excavation on Land off Waterfield Close, Market Harborough, Leicestershire NGR: SP 7358 8834. ULAS Reprot 2015-146.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014a. *Codes of Conduct*
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014b *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations.*
- Clay, P., 2006 'The Neolithic and Early to Middle Bronze Age' in N Cooper ed 2006, 69-89.
- Cooper, N.J., (ed.),2006 *The Archaeology of the East Midlands. An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Resource Agenda.* Leicester Archaeology Monographs No. 13, Leicester: University of Leicester
- Eldson, S. M., 1992a 'East Midlands Scored Ware' *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* **66**: 83-91.
- Eldson, S. M., 1992b 'The Iron Age pottery', 38-52 in P. Clay, An Iron Age Farmstead at Grove Farm, Enderby, Leicestershire. *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* **66**, 1-82.

- Grant, A., 1982 'The use of tooth wear as a guide to the ageing of domestic ungulates' in B. Wilson, C. Grigson, and S. Payne (eds.), *Ageing and Sexing Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites*, British Archaeological Reports, British Series 109, 91 - 108. Oxford: Archaeopress.
- Knight, D., Blaise, V. and Allen C. 2012. *East Midlands Heritage. An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*.
- Marsden, P., 2011 'The Prehistoric pottery and briquetage' in J. Thomas, *Two Iron Age Aggregated Settlements in the Environs of Leicester: Excavations at Beaumont Leys and Humberstone*, Leicester Archaeology Monograph 19, 61-80. Leicester: University of Leicester, School of Archaeology and Ancient History.
- Monckton, A. 2006. Environmental archaeology in East Midlands. In N. J. Cooper (ed.), 2006, 259- 286.
- Morris, M., 2014 *An Archaeological Excavation on land at Leaders Farm, Coventry Road, Lutterworth, Leicestershire (SP 5302 8423)*. ULAS Report 2014-200
- Stace, C. 1991. *New Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- ULAS 2017, *Written Scheme of Investigation for Strip, plan and sample Location: Evergreen Field Farm, Pincet Lane, North Kilworth, Leicestershire*. 17-590

Archive and Publication

The site archive (X.A27.2017), consisting of paper, physical and photographic records, that will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council.

The archive consists of:

- 30x Context sheets
- 2x A3 Drawings
- 33x Photographs
- Context, sample, photographic record indices and digital photographs
- Finds, including, pot, bone and flint
- Risk assessment form

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

Acknowledgements

Cathryn Shean of ULAS undertook the archaeological strip, plan and sample with assistance from Nathan Flavell and Timothy Higgins, and carried out on behalf of Mr S. Green. The project was managed by Patrick Clay.

Bibliography

Cathryn Shean
 ULAS
 University of Leicester
 University Road
 Leicester LE1 7RH
 Tel:0116 252 2836
 Fax: 0116 252 2614

Email: ulas@le.ac.uk

Appendix 1: OASIS Data Entry

PROJECT DETAILS	OASIS No	universal_279530		
	Project Name	Evergreen Field Farm, Pincet Lane, North Kilworth, Leicestershire		
	Start/end dates of field work	9 th - 14 th March		
	Previous/Future Work	No		
	Project Type	Strip, Plan and Sample		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Car park		
	Monument Type/Period	Iron Age ditches, pits and postholes.		
	Significant Finds/Period	Pot, bone and flint. Iron Age		
	Development Type	Single dwelling		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning Condition		
Planning Ref.	16/00303/FUL			
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	Evergreen Field Farm, Pincet Lane, North Kilworth, Leicestershire, LE17 6EL		
	Study Area	162.5 m ²		
	Site Coordinates	Sk 61648 83726		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority (NWLDC)		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Patrick Clay		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Cathryn Shean		
Sponsor/Funding Body	Mr Simon Green			
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	ULAS	ULAS	ULAS
	ID (Acc. No.)	X.A27.2017	X.A27.2017	X.A27.2017
	Contents	Pot, Bone, Flint	Photos	Site records Context Sheets

				Drawings Field notes
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Title	<i>An Archaeological Strip, Plan and Sample at Evergreen Field Farm, Pincet Lane, North Kilworth, Leicestershire. NGR: SK 61648 83726</i>		
	Author	Shean, C.		
	Other bibliographic details	ULAS Report No 2017-036		
	Date	2017		
	Publisher/Place	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester		
	Description	Developer Report A4 pdf		



Contact Details

Richard Buckley or Patrick Clay
University of Leicester Archaeological
Services (ULAS)
University of Leicester,
University Road,
Leicester LE1 7RH

T: +44 (0)116 252 2848

F: +44 (0)116 252 2614

E: ulas@le.ac.uk

w: www.le.ac.uk/ulas



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

