



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation
Laburnum Cottage, High Street, Stoke
Golding, Leicestershire.**

NGR: SP 398 971
By Tim Higgins



ULAS Report No 2017-007

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**An Archaeological Evaluation
Laburnum Cottage, Stoke Golding,
Leicestershire**

NGR: SP 398 971

Tim Higgins

For: A R Cartwright Ltd

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An Archaeological Evaluation Laburnum Cottage, High Street, Stoke Golding, Leicestershire.

Tim Higgins

Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Laburnum Cottage, High Street, Stoke Golding, Leicestershire, (SP 398 971) in December 2016. Trenches were excavated to evaluate an area for a proposed new residential development to the rear of the southern side of the High Street. Two of the trenches located in the south-west corner of the development contained 12th to 14th century archaeological features possibly associated with medieval properties that fronted on to either High Street or Main Street. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under accession number X.A142.2016.

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at Laburnum Cottage, High Street, Stoke Golding, Leicestershire, (SP 398 971) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS). This was undertaken in order to ensure that any archaeological items are investigated and recorded.

This archaeological evaluation was part of a pre planning application inquiry prior to planning permission is sought for sought for a five house residential development to the rear of the southern side of the High Street.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Section 12 Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment). The fieldwork specified below is intended 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.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority to ensure satisfactory archaeological investigation and recording of any possible remains.

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological trial trenching, which took place between 12th and 13th December 2016. It followed a strategy for the work devised by ULAS, which was set out in the *Design Specification for archaeological evaluation on land at Laburnum Cottage, High Street, Stoke Golding, Leicestershire, (SP 398 971)* (Clay 2016, hereinafter WSI). The trial trenching was undertaken to target potential areas of impact within the proposed development area.

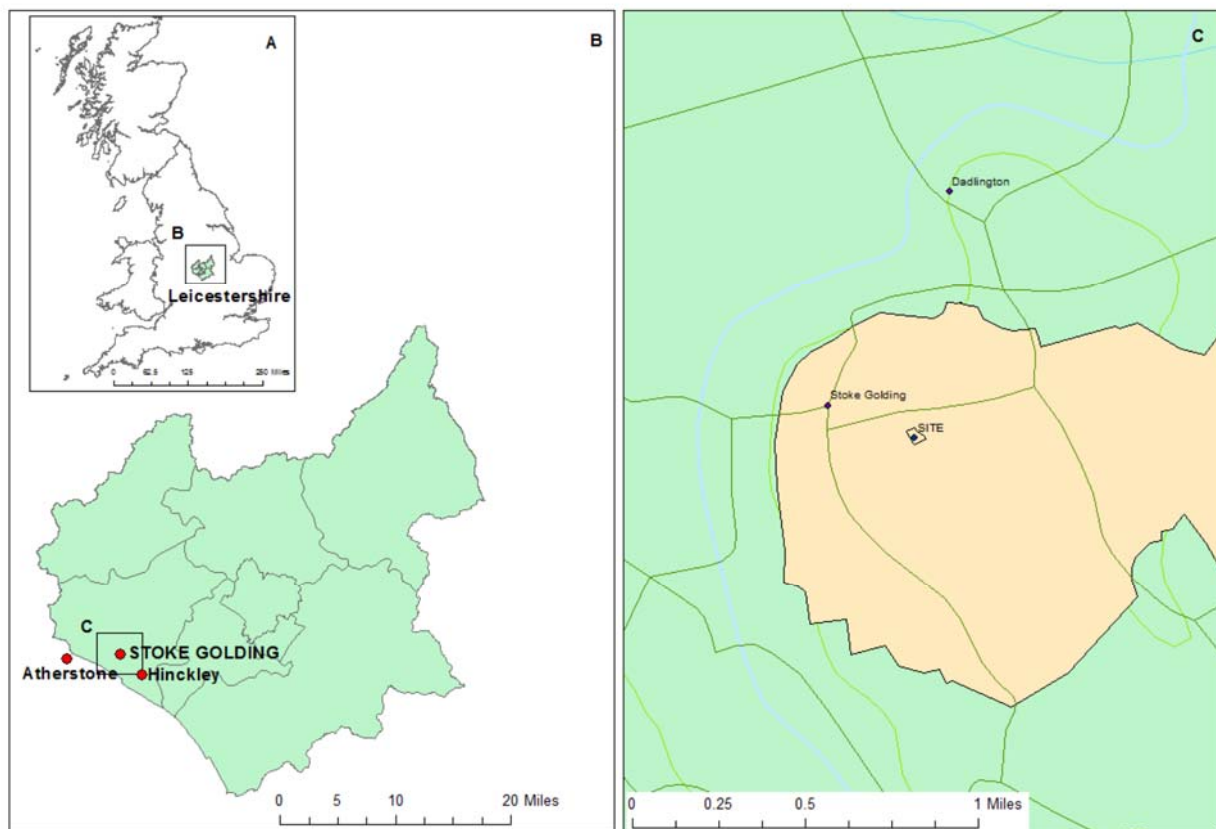


Figure 1: Site location plan within the UK and county of Leicestershire

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

Stoke Golding lies in the Hinckley and Bosworth district of Leicestershire, 3 miles north-west of Hinckley, Leicestershire and 6 miles east of Atherstone, Warwickshire (Figure 1). The assessment area lies on the southern side of the High Street in the centre of Stoke Golding. The site consists of a large garden, consisting of lawns, trees and hedges adjacent and to the rear of Laburnum Cottage and the adjacent outbuildings. The total area of the site, is around 0.3ha (Figure 2). The land is mostly flat but undulating and lies at a height of around 110m aOD.

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain indicates that the underlying geology consists of Diamicton overlying Gunthorpe Member Mudstone.

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

A desk-based assessment has been prepared for the site (Hunt 2016). The site lies within the historic medieval core of the village, within the Conservation Area of Stoke Golding, and adjacent to Woodyard Cottage, a Grade II listed building dating from the early to mid-18th century

Prehistoric and Roman artefacts have been discovered within and in the vicinity of the village and there is a known Anglo-Saxon burial mound within a medieval Scheduled Monument site 100m south-west of the assessment area. There are also known Anglo-Saxon remains within the village close to the assessment area.

Early maps of the site show that until the mid-20th century there was a group of buildings along the street frontage close to the north-eastern edge of the site, where a small lawn now resides, which are likely to be of a similar age to Woodyard Cottage, if not earlier.

4. Aims and Objectives

The broad aims of the archaeological evaluation trenches were:

- To determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains on the site as indicated by the geophysical survey
- To establish the nature and extent of any existing disturbance and intrusion to subsurface deposits and, where the data allows, assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits of archaeological significance
- To enable the clients to establish a schedule for archaeological risks

The detailed objectives of the archaeological evaluation trenches are:

- Insofar as possible within methodological constraints, to explain any temporal, spatial or functional relationships between the structures/remains identified, and any relationships between these and the archaeological and historic elements of the wider landscape.
- Where the data allows, identify the research implications of the site with reference to the regional research agenda and recent work in Leicestershire.

4.1 Research Aims

While the nature, extent and quality of archaeological remains within the areas of investigation for the project remain unknown until archaeological work was undertaken, it is possible to determine some initial objectives derived from *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (Knight *et al.* 2012) and *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda* (Cooper 2006).

The archaeological evaluation had the potential to contribute to the following research aims.

The Roman Period (Taylor 2006; Knight *et al.* 2012; English Heritage 2012)

There are Roman sites suggested by artefacts from the vicinity. The evaluation may contribute to knowledge on Iron Age – Roman and Roman-Saxon transitions in rural settlement, landscape and society. Artefacts may identify trade links and economy.

The Anglo-Saxon and Medieval period (Vince 2006, Lewis 2006, Knight *et al.* 2012; English Heritage 2012)

The evaluation may contribute towards research into the origins and development of Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement, landscape and society. Environmental evidence could

provide information on local environmental conditions as well as settlement activity, craft, industry and land use. Artefacts can assist in the development of a type series within the region and provide evidence for evidence for craft, industry and exchange across broad landscape areas. The evaluation has the potential to contribute to Research Agenda topics 7.1.2, 7.1.4, 7.2.1-7.2.4, 7.3.1-7.3.5, 7.5.4, 7.6.1-2, 7.7.1-7.7.5 and Research Objective 7E - *Investigate the morphology of rural settlements*.

5. Methodology

Prior to any machining of trial trenches, general photographs of the site areas were taken.

The provisional trench plan (Figure 2) show the proposed location of three 30m x1.6m trenches, providing a c. 5% sample of the 0.3ha area. The number, size and position indicated on the provisional trench plan was altered due to unforeseen site constraints on the site. The trenches now totaled five in number and measured between 10m and 22m in length to maintain the c. 5% sample (Figure 3).

The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil and overlying layers were removed under full archaeological supervision until either the top of archaeological deposits or the natural undisturbed substratum was reached. Trenches were examined for archaeological deposits or finds by hand cleaning. The trenches were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid and then were backfilled and leveled at the end of the evaluation.

The work followed the approved design specification (Clay 2016) and adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (2013).

6. Results

The results of all excavated trenches are presented below in Table 1.

Table 1 Trench Summaries

Trench	Length (m)	Height of Trench base (m OD)	Natural Substratum	Notes	Min. depth to archaeology/natural (m)
1	c.12	110.17	Light greyish pink silty clay	Remnant of foundations	0.62m
2	c.20	111.70	Light greyish pink silty clay	Truncated remnants of 12 th to 14 th century ditches or gullies	0.46m
3	c.10	111.27	Light greyish pink silty clay	Truncated remnants of 12 th to 14 th century ditch or gully	0.40
4	c.22	111.20	Light greyish orange brown silty clay	Negative empty trench.	0.70m
5	c.15	110.10	Light greyish silty clay	Negative empty trench	0.60m



Figure 2 Development Area and proposed trench locations

Evaluation Trenches

A total of five trenches was excavated in the north-eastern, south-eastern and south-western parts of the development area in locations targeting the location of the new dwellings and access road.

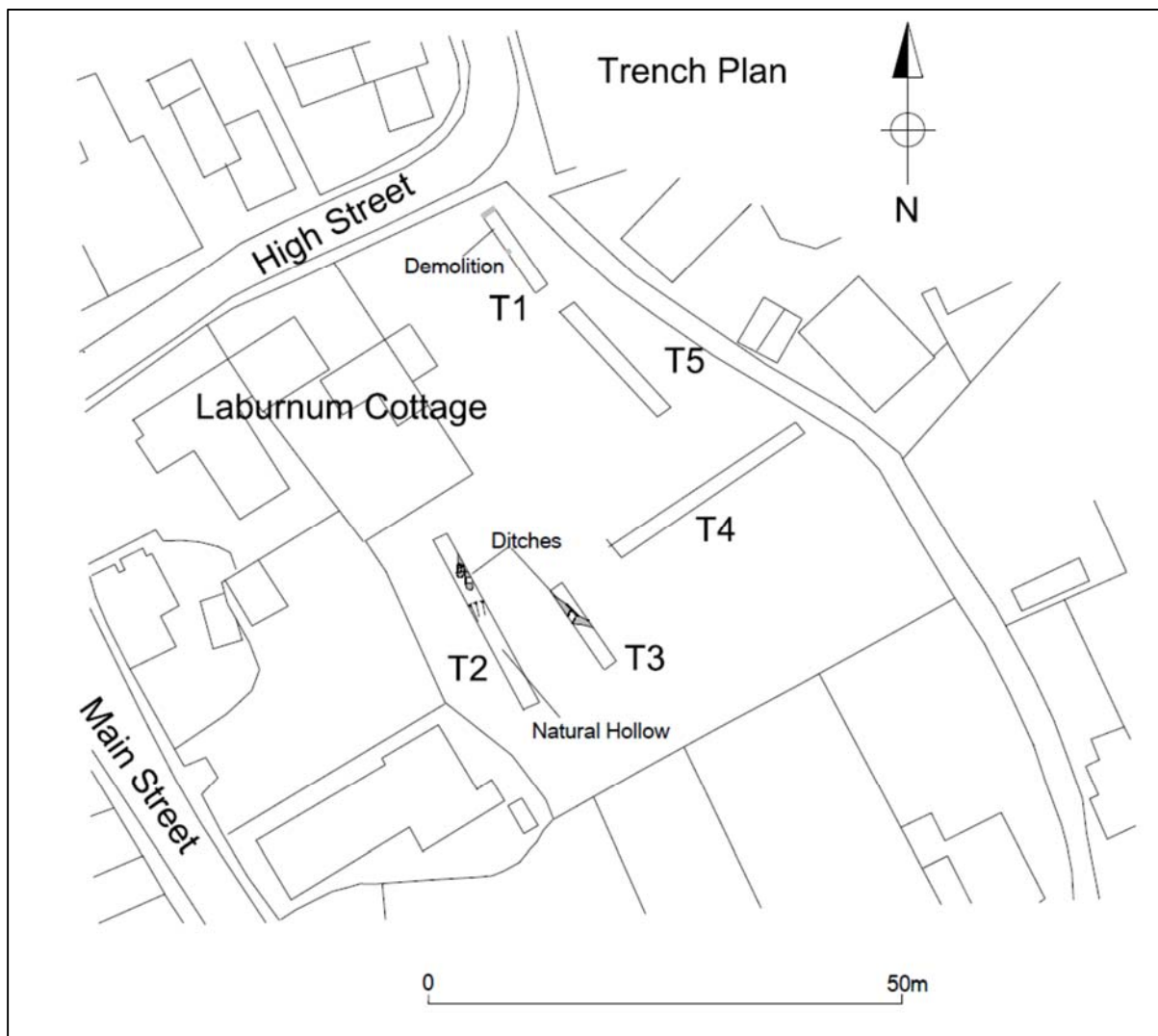


Figure 3 Trench Plan

Trench 1

Trench 1 targeted the north-eastern side of the proposed development and was orientated north to south (Figure 3).

A natural substratum consisting of light greyish pink clay was found at a minimum depth of 0.62m below the surface. Overlying this was a layer of subsoil consisting grey clay mixed with frequent flecks of charcoal and measured 0.40m deep.

Two features were present within this trench and are thought to be the remnant of foundations associated with demolished cottage foundation trench [11] and post-hole [14] and both cut layer (13).

Feature [14] was an irregular rectangular posthole located towards the centre of the trench running under the west baulk (Figure 4 Section 2.02). The post-hole [14] had steep sloping sides and sloping flat base measured 0.60m in diameter and 0.40m deep. It contained large irregular blocks of sandstone (measuring 0.40m x 0.20m x 0.20m) bonded with mid-light yellowish brown sandy fill (15).

Feature [11], located the north end of the trench and continuing into the baulk was a linear feature aligned east to west which may have been a foundation trench (Figure 4 Sections 1.01 and 1.02). The feature, which had steep vertical sides and a flat base, spanned the width of the trench and had minimum 0.60m measured width and 0.42m in depth. The feature contained a single fill (12) which consisted of large irregular blocks of sandstone (measuring 0.40m x 0.20m x 0.20m) within a mid-light yellowish brown sandy fill.

Both the post-hole [14] and foundation trench [11] were sealed by a spread of demolition rubble 0.10m deep (09). The spread consisted of grey brown and reddish brown silty-sand and mortar mixed with occasional bricks (measured 0.24m x 0.12m x 0.05m) and quarry floor tile (measured 0.20m x 0.20m x 0.04m). Overlying (09) was a second spread (08) (16) of demolition rubble that consisted of dark grey sand mixed with abundant fragments of mortar measuring 0.20m deep. The demolition spreads were restricted towards the northern end of the trench and were sealed under topsoil that consisted very dark greyish brown sandy-clay, 0.30m deep.



Figure 4 Trench 1 looking south-east showing demolition spreads

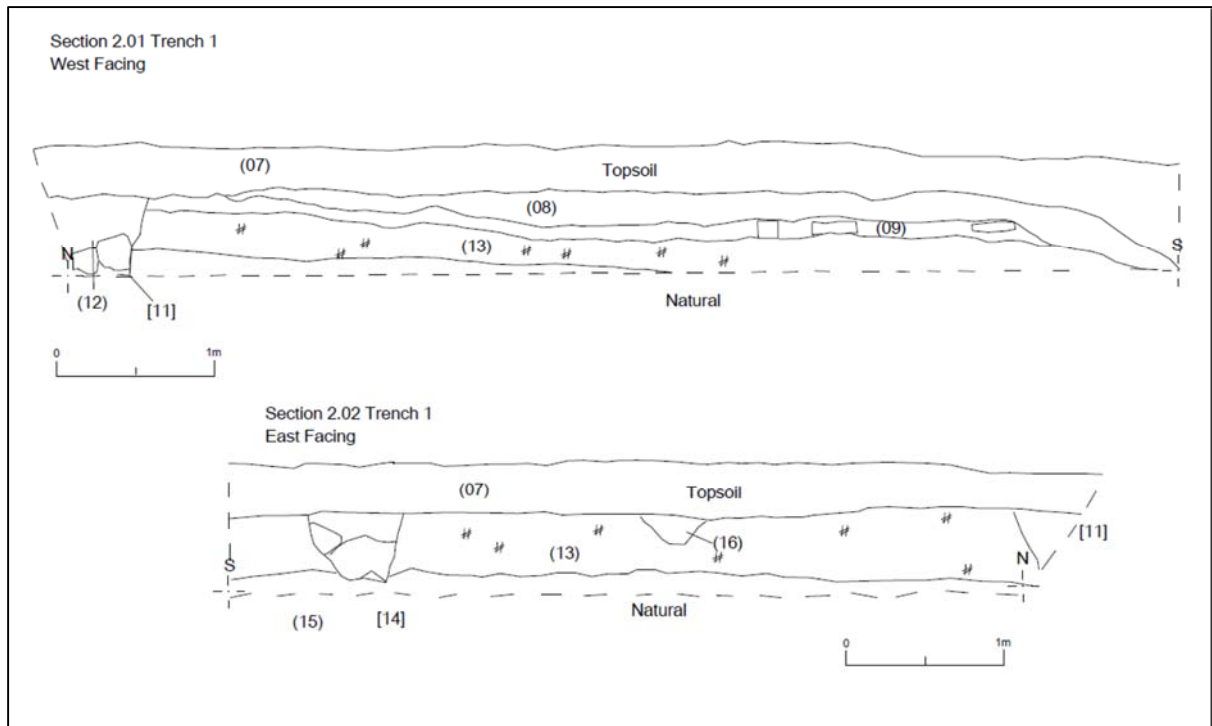


Figure 5 Trench 1 Sections 2.01 and 2.02



Figure 6 Trench 1 Plan showing foundation trench [11] and post-hole [14]

Trench 2

Trench 2 was located towards the south-west corner of the development area and was orientated north to south (Figure 3). A natural substratum consisting of grey pink clay was located at a minimum depth 0.46m below the surface at the northern end of the trench. Towards the southern end of the trench the natural substratum sloped downwards into a natural hollow and was reached at depth 1.30m below the surface.

At the northern end of the trench two intercutting parallel linear features or ditches [01] and [03] were observed on a south-west to north-east alignment (Figures 6 - 7).

The parallel ditches [01] [03] ran diagonally across the northern end of the trench and appear to have terminated towards the centre of the trench before reaching the natural hollow. A section excavated across feature [01] revealed a shallow profile with steep regular sloping sides and a broad flat base and measured 0.68m wide and 0.17m deep (Figure 5). The western end of the feature was rounded and appeared to suggest a possible butt end of the ditch. The single fill (02) consisted of grey pink silty-clay mixed with occasional charcoal flecks, and contained 12th to 14th century pottery sherds. Excavations of the second parallel ditch [03] revealed a moderate 'V' shaped profile with rounded base that measured 0.62m wide 0.19m deep. This ditch did not extend as far as ditch [01] and ended with rounded butt end. The fill (04) comprised pink grey silty-clay mixed with 12th to 14th century pottery sherds. The ditches were sealed under a layer of subsoil that consisted mid greyish brown silty-clay that measured 0.23m deep. At the southern end of the trench attempts have been made backfill the natural hollow feature with a layer of grey brown silty-clay mixed with brick rubble and post-medieval pottery. The layer measured 0.90m deep was sealed by layer of topsoil, 0.46m thick.



Figure 7 Trench 2 Ditches [01] and [03]

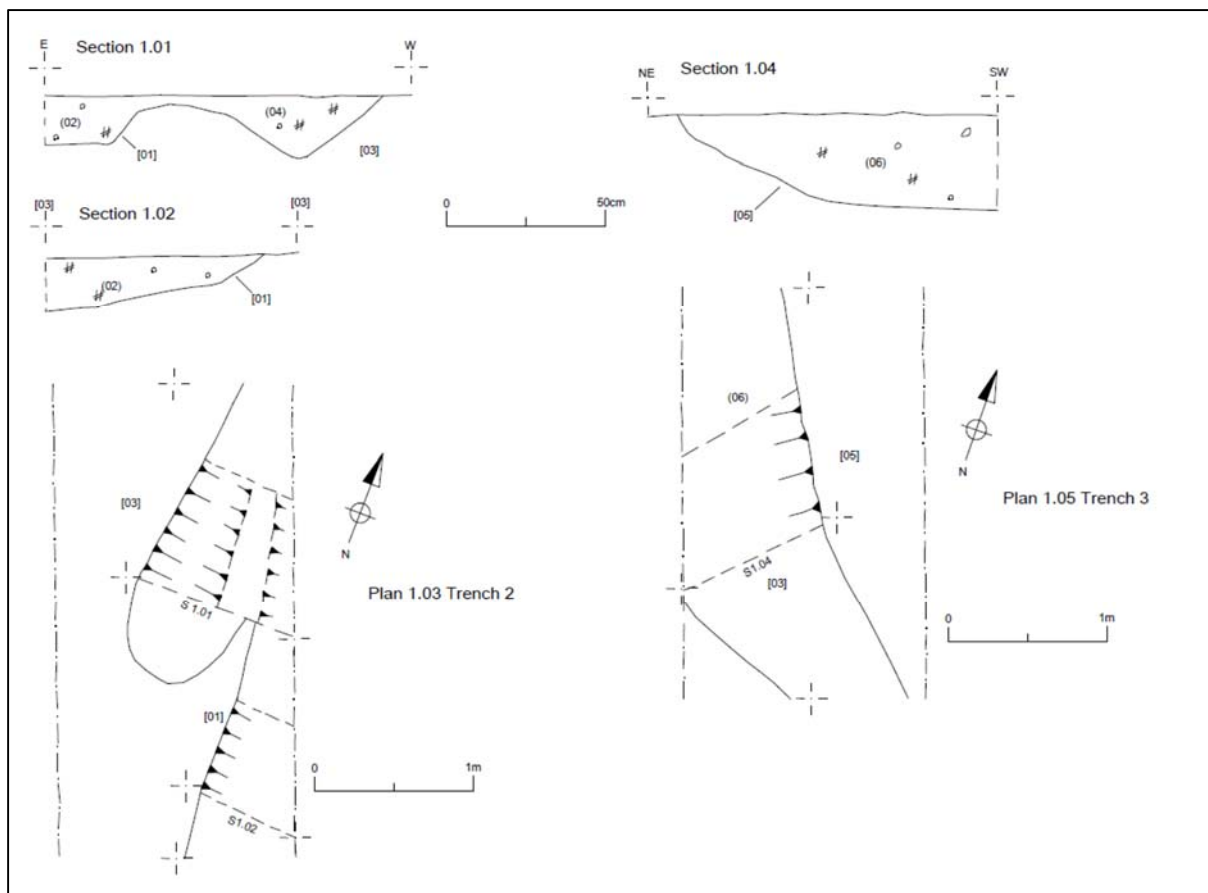


Figure 8 Plan and sections of ditches in Trenches 2 and 3

Trench 3

Trench 3 was located directly to the east of Trench 2 and was also orientated north to south direction (Figure 3). A natural substratum that consisted greyish pink clay was reached at depth 0.40m below the surface. The natural substratum appeared to slope down towards the southern end of trench and was found at a depth 0.70m.

A single linear feature [05] located towards the north end of the trench was aligned north-west to south-east and appeared to be a ditch with a broad 'U' shaped profile, moderate sloping sides and a flat base (Figure 7-8). The feature spanned the width of the trench and measured 1.00m in width, and 0.30m in depth. The ditch contained a single fill (06), which consisted of mid-grey brown silty clay mixed with occasional charcoal flecks, a few pebbles and animal bone.

Sealing of the ditches was layer subsoil that measured between 0.11m and 0.38m deep and comprised mid grey brown silty-clay. Overlying was a topsoil that measured up to 0.33m deep.



Figure 9 Trench 3 Ditch [05] looking south-east

Trench 4

Trench 4 was located towards the south-east corner of the development site orientated east to west (Figure 3). A natural substratum was reached at depth of 0.70m deep after the removal topsoil and subsoil. Within trench 4 no features were present.

Trench 5

This trench was located on the east side of the development and was orientated north to south. A natural substratum was reached at depth of 0.60m deep after the removal topsoil and subsoil. Within trench 5 only single modern ceramic pipe field drain was present orientated north-east to south-west.

7 Finds

Pottery and animal bone were recovered from stratified deposits. The six fragments of unidentifiable bone occurred in context (06) from Trench 3. Environmental samples were not taken, following consultation with the ULAS Environmental Officer, as the datable fills were very sterile.

The Pottery Deborah Sawday

Condition

The condition of the pottery was good with relatively little abrasion and an average sherd weight of 35.8 grams and several conjoining fragments. The material dated from the mid or later 13th century.

The assemblage was made up of eleven sherds, weighing 394 grams; representing a maximum count of two vessels with a vessel rim equivalent of 0.35, (calculated by adding together the circumference of the surviving rim sherds, where one vessel equals 1.00).

Methodology

The material was examined under an x20 binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to current guidelines (MPRG 1998; MPRG 2016) and the ULAS fabric series (Davies and Sawday 1999; Sawday 2009).

The Ceramic Record

The fabric codes and sources are shown in the fabric list, table 2. Table 3 catalogues the pottery by context, fabric, number, weight (grams), EVES and maximum vessel count and vessel class. Conjoining sherds are also noted.

Discussion

Typically the pottery is local to the region; the now deserted village of Potters Marston, the site of an important pottery industry in the medieval period, and the Chilvers Coton kilns at Nuneaton, lie only some 10 km to the east and south west respectively of Stoke Golding.

Conclusion

The condition and dating evidence provided by this, albeit small sample of pottery, nevertheless provides a convincing indication of medieval occupation in the vicinity within the historic core of the village. These finds also suggest the survival of stratified archaeological deposits within the development area.

Table 2 The medieval pottery fabrics

Fabric	Common Name/Kiln & Fabric Equivalent where known	Approx. Date Range
PM	Potters Marston ware - Potters Marston, Leicestershire (1)	c.1100- c.1300/50+
CC5	Chilvers Coton fabric B, Bi Warwick CTS STR20 (2)	c.1250/1300+
(1) Haynes 1952, Vince 1984, Sawday 1991, Davies and Sawday 1999		(2) Mayes & Scott 1984, Soden & Ratkai 1998

Table 3 The pottery by context, fabric, sherd number, weight (grams), EVES and maximum vessel count.

Context	Fabric	No	Gr	EVEs	Max Vessel No	Comments
3	PM	9	326	0.225	1	Seven joining sherds, profile flared bowl with convex base and

						thumbed rim with internal bevel, sooted externally. Spots of industrial residue on interior. Exterior diameter c.360mm . Mid – later 13th century.
4	CC5	2	68	0.125	1	Two sherds join, upper part of a shouldered jar with an everted and squared rim and curvilinear decoration on upper rim flange. Exterior diameter c.260mm. Similar at Chilvers Coton, site 13 k32a-b, where dated to the later 13th C, (Mayes and Scott 1984, table 1, fig.83. 605).

8 Discussion

Two out of the five evaluation trenches (Trenches 2 and 3 Figure 3) contained sufficient archaeological evidence to suggest light spread of activity confined to the south-western corner of the development area. The archaeological evidence recorded from the evaluation reflects early medieval activity in the form of three relatively medium size ditches ([01] [03] (Trench 2), [05] (Trench 3), [17]). Presumably the ditches may relate to some form of boundary activity for fields or plots owing to their location at rear of potential properties that may have fronted on to either the Main Street or High Street. Some pottery and animal bone were found associated within their fills and the pottery was dated to the 12th to 14th century suggesting perhaps domestic occupation from this period nearby.

The south western corner of the development area appears to be on a natural incline down towards the south-west and two trenches (Trenches 2 and 3) located within this area contained layers made ground that were used to back fill the natural hollow.

The trenches located on the south and east sides of the development contained no archaeological features which suggests perhaps a general absence of archaeological activity in these areas.

Trench 1 located in north-east contained the remnant of foundations sealed under a demolition spreads containing brick and tile. These foundations are probably the remnant of structures that once fronted on to the High Street. It is likely that these are demolished remnants of buildings depicted in the earliest available map of Stoke Golding the 1845 tithe map running along the north east edge of the site. These structures continue to be depicted by the various following Ordnance Survey maps but by 1963 edition of the metric Ordnance Survey map the structures have gone (Hunt 2016).

9. Conclusion

The archaeological deposits located in Trenches 1, 2 and 3 indicate the presence of medieval deposits probably associated with the medieval settlement of Stoke Golding. Remains of this date are comparatively rare within village contexts and are potentially significant heritage

assets in being able to contribute to the understanding of the medieval development of the settlement (Lewis 2006, 211; Knight et al 2012, 94). However in view of their degraded form they are not of such significance that they would prevent development. A programme of further archaeological work secured by condition is likely to be required by the planning authority if planning permission is granted.

10. Archive

The site archive will be held by *Leicestershire Museums Service*, under accession no. X.142.2016.

The site archive consists of:

- 1 Unbound A4 copy of this report
- 5 A4 Trench recording sheets
- 16 context sheets
- 2 Drawing sheets
- 1 A4 Photo record sheet
- A4 Colour digital contact print 1 CD of 36 digital photos

The archive will be held by Leicestershire Museum Service under the accession number X.A142.2016.

11. Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work to the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York (Appendix 1). A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal, the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*, in due course

12. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. The report has been added to the Archaeology Data Service's (ADS) Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the University of York.

13. Bibliography

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14. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by the author and Donald Clark both of ULAS. Patrick Clay managed the project. Sophie Clark of LCC HNET monitored the work on behalf of the planning authority.

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18/01/2017

Trench Photos



Figure 10 Trench 1 looking south-east



Figure 11 Trench 2 looking south-east



Figure 12 Trench 3 looking north-west



Figure 13 Trench 4 looking east



Figure 14 Trench 5 looking south-west

Appendix 1 Trench Descriptions

Trench No	Orient		Length		Width	
1	N-S		12.70m		1.60m	
Interval	0m	5m	10m	12m		
Topsoil	0.32m	0.31m	0.33m	0.33m		
Subsoil	0.44m	0.31	0.35m	0.43m		
Top of Natural	0.76m	0.62m	0.68m	0.76m		
Base of Trench	0.82m	0.69m	0.75m	0.83m		

Trench No	Orient		Length		Width	
2	N-S		20.30m		1.60m	
Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	19m	
Topsoil	0.28m	0.30m	0.42m	0.42m	0.46m	
Subsoil/Made Ground	0.22m	0.16m	0.23m	0.80m	0.84m	
Top of Natural	0.50m	0.46m	0.65m	1.22m	1.30m	
Base of Trench	0.59m	0.60m	0.80m	1.22m	1.30m	

Trench No	Orient		Length		Width	
3	N-S		10m		1.60m	
Interval	0m	5m	10m			
Topsoil	0.29m	0.33m	0.32m			
Subsoil/Made Ground	0.11m	0.33m	0.38m			
Top of Natural	0.40m	0.66m	0.70			
Base of Trench	0.48m	0.73m	0.73m			

Trench No	Orient		Length		Width	
4	E-W		22m		1.60m	
Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	22m
Topsoil	0.30m	0.30m	0.40m	0.30m	0.30m	0.40m
Subsoil	0.50m	0.50m	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m
Top of Natural	0.80m	0.80m	0.80m	0.70m	0.80m	0.80m
Base of Trench	0.80m	0.80m	0.80m	0.70m	0.80m	0.80m

Trench No	Orient		Length		Width		
5	N-S		15m		1.60m		
Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m			
Topsoil	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m			
Subsoil	0.40m	0.50m	0.50m	0.30m			
Top of Natural	0.70m	0.80m	0.80m	0.60m			
Base of Trench	0.80m	0.90m	0.90m	0.70m			

Appendix 2 OASIS data entry

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	tba		
	Project Name	An Archaeological Evaluation Laburnum Cottage, High Street, Stoke Golding, Leicestershire.		
	Start/end dates of field work	12-12-2016 13-12-2016		
	Previous/Future Work	No / Not known		
	Project Type	Evaluation		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Gardens		
	Monument Type/Period	None		
	Significant Finds/Period	None		
	Development Type	Residential		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Pre Planning Enquiry		
	Planning Ref.			
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	High Street, Stoke Golding, Leicestershire. LE16 7TG		
	Study Area	0.3 ha		
	Site Coordinates	SP 398 971		
	Height OD	110m AOD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority (LCC)		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Patrick Clay		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Tim Higgins		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	A R Cartwright Ltd		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	LCC Mus Service	LCC Mus Service	LCC Mus Service
	ID (Acc. No.)	X.142.2016	X.A142.2016	X.A142.2016
	Contents	None	Photos	Evaluation

				records Field Notes
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Title	An Archaeological Evaluation		
	Author	Higgins, T.		
	Other bibliographic details	ULAS Report No 2017-0071		
	Date	12/12/2016 13/12/2016		
	Publisher/Place	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester		
	Description	Developer Report A4 pdf		



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