

**An Archaeological Excavation on Land at  
16 Main Street, Stapleton, Leicestershire.  
NGR: SP 4345 9835**

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June 2004

*Planning Application Ref: 01/078/4  
Client: J Bartlett and Son*

**Checked by Project Manager**

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Leicestershire.**

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**An Archaeological Excavation on Land at 16 Main Street,  
Stapleton, Leicestershire (NGR SP 4345 9835).**

**Summary**

*An archaeological excavation was carried out by ULAS on behalf of J Bartlett and Son Ltd in advance of proposed residential development on land at 16 Main Street, Stapleton, Leicestershire. The work was carried out in January 2004 and comprised the topsoil and subsoil strip across the footprint of two domestic dwellings and adjoining garages. A small range of 20th century outhouses were also demolished during the development work in order to create space for one house.*

*The proposed development site for two houses lies near to the junction of Main Street and Church Lane in the historic core of the medieval village of Stapleton close to the medieval Church of Saint Martin's. Prior to the development work the land was occupied by gardens and an orchard with a small range of 20th century buildings to the rear (south) of Number 16. Evidence of medieval activity in the form of earthworks can be seen to the south and east of the development site. The 1838 Tithe map shows a house built at approximately 90° to the current house with a second smaller dwelling to the east. Previous evaluation work in 2002, consisting of two trial trenches (ULAS report 2002/056), identified surviving archaeological features relating to medieval occupation dating between the 12th and 14th centuries.*

*In the western house plot numerous postholes, gullies and pits dating to the latter stages of the early medieval and medieval periods were recorded. The pottery recovered was mostly of a local and domestic type and was consistent with the dates produced in the earlier evaluation.*

*The eastern house plot had been badly disturbed by earlier occupation with the result that no topsoil or subsoil remained. Foundation trenches were observed being excavated into the natural substratum of yellow-brown silty clay. No archaeological features were recorded in this area.*

*Records and archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services, accession number XA73.2002*

**1. Introduction**

Stapleton lies within the parish of Peckleton in the district of Hinckley and Bosworth (SP 4345 9835) (fig. 1). The proposed development site, covering approximately 0.5 ha, is situated near to the corner of Main Street and Church Lane (NGR SP4345 9835) (fig. 2). The existing house, Number 16, lies along the northern boundary of the site with a range of 20th century outbuildings to the south. University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by J Bartlett and Son to carry

out an archaeological excavation following an application for the proposed development of two domestic houses: Plot 1 lies in the south western corner of the site whilst Plot 2 is in the south eastern corner. A small orchard garden belonging to Number 16 remains in the north eastern corner (fig. 3).

As the site lies within the historic core of Stapleton with a number of well preserved earthworks nearby, it was identified as an area of archaeological potential (Ripper 2002). Consequently Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services, as archaeological advisors to the planning authority, recommended that an archaeological evaluation take place in the form of two trial trenches before planning permission could be granted (Application 01/0781/4). This revealed surviving archaeological features including postholes, gullies and ditches along with pottery from the 12th and 14th centuries (Jarvis 2002). Consequently further conditions were placed on the planning permission such that a full excavation within the area of the dwellings take place (Appendix 1). The archaeological work followed the ULAS Design Specification for Archaeological Works (Appendix 2).

## **2. Geology and Topography**

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 155 indicates that the geology of the area consists of Boulder Clay lying beneath seams of sand and gravel. The site is situated on a gentle south facing slope with an average height of between 115 and 116 metres OD.

The north of the site fronts onto Main Street with Saint Martin's Church situated approximately 100m to the north east. Much of Main Street appears as a hollow way through the centre of the village. Part of the frontage area of Number 16 is up to one metre above current pavement levels although this could be made-up ground from modern activities. Earthworks consisting of a bank and ditch along with medieval ridge and furrow have been recorded in fields to the south and east of the development site.

## **3. Archaeological and Historical Background**

Place name evidence suggests that the origins of Stapleton belong to the Anglo-Saxon era. The first documentary evidence comes from the Domesday Book. From that period until the early 20th century Stapleton has remained as a relatively small hamlet.

The proposed development area is shown on a Tithe map of 1838 and mention is made that it was owned by Lady Noel (Anne Isabella Byron). At this time the house on the site of Number 16 was set at 90° to the present building. Between 1838 and the publishing of the 1903 Ordnance Survey map the site had been divided into two fields

but no changes in the field boundaries or areas affected by construction work can be seen.

Recent archaeological evaluations near to the proposed development site north of St. Martin's churchyard have revealed archaeological evidence in the form of metallised surfaces and charcoal spreads. Pottery finds suggested activity from the 12th to 17th centuries with most activity taking place between the 13th and 14th centuries (ULAS report 2001/7). Prior to the evaluation work in 2002 no previous archaeological work is known to have been undertaken within the proposed development area.

#### **4. Aims and Objectives**

The principal aims of the archaeological excavation phase were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits within the development area.
- To clarify the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological deposits that were affected by the development proposals.
- To establish the nature and extent of any existing disturbance and intrusions in order to assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and surviving structures of archaeological significance.
- The environmental potential of the site will be assessed.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

#### **5. Methodology**

All work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (1999)*.

Both plots formed "L" shapes in each southern corner of the plot. Only the area within the footprint of each house was excavated along with any service trenches. Plot 1, in the south west corner, measured approximately 9m x 17m with a spur measuring 6m x 7m (fig. 4 and plate 2). Plot 2, in the south east corner, was laid out around the edge of the demolished outbuildings (fig. 3 and plate 1).

All topsoil, made ground and any disturbed subsoil was removed in spits using a mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket under full archaeological supervision until undisturbed substrata or archaeological deposits were encountered. Plot 1 required stripping through the topsoil and subsoil in order to reach the natural substrata. Plot 2 however had been badly disturbed leading to the absence of topsoil and subsoil. The remaining disturbed layer was already below the level required for the new house and consisted of building rubble and dark grey brown silty clay. No

stripping took place and only the foundation trenches required excavating. Both plots were examined and recorded by notes, photographs and drawings. All trenches were located and tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Ordnance Survey Datum.

## **6. Results**

### ***Stratigraphy***

#### *Plot 1*

This area was previously laid out as a lawn. The excavated area had to be divided into two parts as a modern, live, service trench ran in a line from Number 16 to a workshop south of the site (fig. 4). The smaller (easternmost) part of the plot slopes from the line of the service trench down a bank towards the east and drops by almost one metre. The westernmost part of the plot was relatively level. Over the entire plot the topsoil consisted of a dark grey-brown silty loam with occasional rounded stones. It also contained many fine roots and a number of larger tree roots extending from the leylandii hedge line forming the western border. The subsoil consisted of a dark brown silty sandy clay and was very dry and compact near to the hedge. The maximum depth to natural was 0.9m below present ground level in the western side of the plot decreasing to 0.4m in the east. The underlying natural substrata across Plot 1 was divided into two distinct halves (fig. 4). The northern half consisted of firm yellow-brown clay whilst the southern half was a red-brown sand and gravel.

#### *Plot 2*

As mentioned, the whole area covering Plot 2 had already seen some quite significant disturbance. No topsoil or subsoil remained and a layer of disturbed dark-grey silty clay with lots of modern brick and building material mixed in. This was directly above the yellow-brown clay natural substratum. Foundation trenches were dug through the disturbed layer and into the natural (plate 3).

### ***Archaeological deposits***

#### *Plot 1*

Plot 1, located in the south west corner of the site, followed the “L” shape of the proposed house plan. The archaeological deposits consisted of pits, postholes, a large ditch and a gully. The relatively small amount of pottery recovered from the site meant that accurate dating posed a significant problem. Some of the pottery dated to the early medieval period is likely to be of 13th, even 14th century origin. Typically the pottery finds were local and domestic in their nature.

A concentration of shallow postholes could be seen in a north west to south east direction in the centre of the plot. Only three of these postholes, [140] [154] [158], produced any pottery which has all been tentatively dated to the early medieval period

(c.1100 to 1250). Within this area of postholes were the remains of a possible beam slot [144] which was on a similar alignment.

A single posthole in a second, more dispersed grouping of postholes south west of the main group also produced one sherd of early medieval pottery. Three pits, [103] [107] [113], located near the northern boundary of the plot were recorded and contained small amounts of early medieval pottery in a grey-brown silty clay fill. Pits [103] and [107] were situated either side of a narrow north to south gully [105] containing mid grey-brown silty clay which produced a single sherd of abraded medieval pottery (fig. 5) as did pit [111]. The gully cuts a larger pit (128) [129] indicating that this is earlier. A quantity of animal bone fragments, probably sheep/goat and cattle, were in grey-brown silty clay fill (128) but no datable pottery finds were recovered from this feature (fig. 6). The gully depth reduced from north to south until disappearing six metres into the plot.

A substantial pit (116) [117] located in the north west corner of Plot 1 produced a number of medieval pottery sherds including examples of Potters Marsden ware, Coventry ware, Chilvers Coton ware and Stanion Lyvedon ware. A quantity of animal bone fragments, mostly sheep/goat and pig, were found in fill (116). An environmental sample taken from fill (116) produced cereal grains (wheat, oats and rye) plus traces of arable weeds or weeds of settlements and were common to the medieval period (Appendix 5). This mid grey-brown silty clay filled feature cut the early medieval pit [113] and pit [111] (fig. 7).

In the southern half of the plot an east-west oriented ditch [133] was recorded entering the site from the west before terminating after approximately six and a half metres. This feature contained a fill consisting of dark grey-brown clayish sandy silt. One sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from this feature. Ditch [133] cuts pit [186] near to its eastern end. A similar ditch [127] continued one metre further east although the fill of this feature was rather less silty than ditch [133] (fig. 4). Ditch [127] extended east as far as the slope in the small eastern part of Plot 1 at which point the natural appears to have been quarried or removed at some stage. One sherd of medieval Potters Marston ware, three small animal limb bone fragments and a single fragment of burnt bone were recovered from fill (126) in ditch [127].

Five pits and two postholes were spread across the southern boundary of the plot south of ditch [133]. All of these features contained the same dark grey-brown silty sand fill. No finds were recovered from any of these features.

The easternmost part of Plot 1 revealed a continuation of ditch [127] and a shallow elongated pit [168] containing dark grey sandy clay gravel. Beyond this the natural substrate dropped away quite steeply beneath an early modern fill layer of dark grey-brown silty clay (147) containing 17th and 18th century pottery and refuse. Some of this layer was removed to show that some of the natural had been removed to form a sharp step in the ground level. A modern garden pond cut showed this layer to be around 0.4 metres thick on top of undisturbed natural.

### *Plot 2*

As mentioned earlier, the entire area of the proposed house plot had been badly disturbed in the past resulting in the total lack of topsoil and subsoil (plate 3). A layer of disturbed dark-grey silty clay with substantial quantities of modern brick and building material mixed throughout. This disturbed layer was lower than the level of the proposed house so that no stripping of the site was required. Foundation trenches were excavated through the layer into the natural substratum of yellow-brown clay. No archaeological features were observed.

## **7. Discussion**

The features and finds recorded during this excavation are broadly in line with those found in the 2002 evaluation.

Because of the disturbance caused in the area of Plot 2 only a limited area of the affected development site was suitable for archaeological investigation. It would appear that the construction of the outhouses and other modern works around the centre of the development site have destroyed any surviving archaeological deposits that may have existed. The vast majority of activity seen in Plot 1 would seem to represent activity from the end of the early medieval into the medieval period (i.e. from the 12th and 13th centuries). Assigning phases is difficult due to the lack of finds in many of the features. Most of the pottery finds tentatively ascribed to the early medieval are probably from the latter end of this period if not into the medieval period. Much of this suggested earlier pottery comes from the more northerly area of the plot.

It is likely that the east-west ditches [127] and [133] represent the southern limit of a medieval plot boundary fronting onto Main Street. These ditches are on the same alignment as parts of the existing village street plan and as the earthworks to the south of the site. Pits and postholes beyond this ditch line to the south appears to extend beyond the limit of the excavation area and so it is not possible to comment on how far the archaeological deposits continue for.

Two distinct groupings of postholes can be seen both of which are situated to the east of north-south gully [105]. The most northerly group, although not necessarily contemporary with each other, seem to follow a north west to south east alignment seemingly at odds with the potential boundary ditches. Despite this they must represent some sort of structural activity possibly related to agricultural outhouses rather than domestic housing due to the scarcity of finds. The more southerly posthole grouping is set roughly at 90° to ditch [133].

The remaining pits across the area of Plot 1 are likely to represent rubbish disposal and appear to be relatively early as most contain early medieval pottery or are cut by



medieval features. The exception is pit [117] containing comparatively high proportions of medieval pottery and bone.

The environmental sample taken from pit [117] reinforces the picture of domestic activity within the village core. It seems likely that the grain would have been cultivated in the surrounding fields and dumped into the pit as part of the waste from food preparation. Similar results have been found from other villages in this area of Leicestershire (see Appendix 5).

## **8. Conclusion**

Overall the archaeological picture is one of small scale structural activity probably related to outhouses or similar buildings. In all likelihood any domestic buildings which may have occupied the site were located further north fronting onto what is now Main Street. Thus the features revealed during this excavation would be at the rear of a farmyard, toft or similar plot. Perhaps the gap between ditches [127] and [133] was the exit from this plot out onto a croft or other area reserved for cultivation.

The fact that all of the pottery is domestic in its nature and from locally traded sources indicates that Stapleton must have remained a relatively quiet backwater for much of its history.

It is interesting that no finds were recovered from the pre-Norman period despite the documentary and place name evidence. The presence of medieval boundaries matching road and surrounding earthwork alignments indicates that the site may relate to the original formalisation of the village layout which occurred during the latter stages of the early medieval period. Its proximity to the church should mean that it has always been at the core of the village and as such would have been incorporated into any programmes of road and property organisational changes. The excavation evidence however indicates a reasonably short sequence of activity and may mean that although the street frontage might well have been occupied, the southern part might have been used as agricultural land or pasture after the medieval period.

## **9. Archive**

The archive consists of site notes, sketches, photographs and finds to be held by Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services under accession number X.A.73.2002

## **10. Publication**

A summary of the evaluation work will be prepared for publication in the *Transactions of The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course.

## **11. Bibliography**

Jarvis W. 2003. *An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at 16 Main Street, Stapleton, Peckleton, Leicestershire (SP 4345 9835)*. ULAS Report 2003-56

Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services 2003. *Brief for Archaeological Excavation of Land at 16 Main Street, Stapleton*.

Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain. Sheet 155.

Ordnance Survey Landranger map 140 Coventry and Rugby.

Ripper S. 2002. *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for Land at 16 Main Street, Stapleton, Peckleton, Leicestershire (SP 4345 9835)*. ULAS Report 2002-032

## **12. Acknowledgements**

The fieldwork was carried out by Andrew Hyam, Steve Baker, Matt Parker and Eric Thurston. The project was managed by Dr. P Clay.

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7th June 2004

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Archaeological Excavation on Land at 16 Main Street, Stapleton, Leicestershire.

## **Appendix 1**

Leicestershire County Council Brief for Archaeological Excavation of Land at 16 Main Street, Peckleton.

## **Appendix 2**

University of Leicester Archaeological Services Design Specification for Archaeological Excavation.

### **UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES**

#### **Design Specification for Archaeological excavation and watching brief**

*Proposed development of land adjacent to 16, Main Street, Stapleton, Peckleton  
Leicestershire NGR SK 728 274*

**Client: J Bartlett and Son Ltd**

**Planning Authority: Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council**

**Planning Application: 2001/0781/4**

#### ***1. Definition and scope of the specification***

1.1 This specification is for archaeological work in advance of proposed residential development at 16, Main Street, Stapleton, Peckleton, Hinckley and Bosworth District, Leicestershire for J Bartlett and Son Ltd (P.A.2001/0781/4; SK 728 274).

1.2 It addresses the *Brief for archaeological excavation of land at 16, Main Street, Stapleton* (12.6.2003 hereinafter the 'brief') prepared by Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services as advisors to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council following Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning), para.30.

1.3 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's (IFA) *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* and the *Guidelines and procedures for archaeological work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services).

#### ***2. Background***

2.1 The proposed development site lies in the historic core of Stapleton, Peckleton, Leicestershire.

2.2 Archaeological remains including postholes, gullies and a spread of occupation debris of 12<sup>th</sup> - 14th century date have been located during an evaluation by ULAS (Report No. 2002/056). A programme of archaeological work comprising an excavation and intensive watching brief is now required as a mitigation strategy.

#### ***3 Requirements of the work***

3.1 The requirements of the work are as detailed in the 'brief' and involves a targeted programme of archaeological excavation and recording. The remainder of the area will be subject to intensive watching brief. The purpose of this work will be to further examine the archaeological resource to ensure a better understanding of these features and to ensure that an adequate record is compiled prior to their disturbance ('Brief' 9.1).

#### ***4 Objectives***

4.1 The objectives of the fieldwork are as detailed in the 'brief' (9.1). The excavation and watching brief will aim to:

- accurately date and phase occupation within the site
- Locate and/or identify any specific activities taking place on or near the site
- Establish the form and function of medieval activity on the site.

4.2 The site has the potential to contribute towards the following research included within the English Heritage (1997) and East Midlands Archaeological Research Framework agendas

4.2.1 *The evolution of Medieval villages* (Lewis 2001). Undeveloped village core areas are scarce and of vital importance in understanding the development of villages. Medieval evidence (11th-15th centuries) may be significant in understanding the evolution of the village.

## **5 Methodology**

### *5.1 General Methodology*

5.1.1 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's (IFA) *Code of Conduct, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological excavations, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological watching briefs* and the *Guidelines and procedures for archaeological work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services Service).

5.1.2 Staffing, recording systems, Health and Safety provisions and insurance details are provided (below 6, 10, 11, 13).

5.1.3 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the sites from the project manager. These will ensure that project targets are being met and professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with representatives of the developer and Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services ('Brief' 19). The strategy will be reviewed in the light of the quality of the archaeological resource as revealed at different stages of the fieldwork.

5.1.4 Any adjustments to the agreed specification will only be made following discussion with the Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services ('Brief' 18).

### *5.2 Open area excavation*

5.2.1 The proposed areas for excavation will cover the footprints of the three proposed houses. The topsoil will be removed in spits by hymax 360 (or similar) with a toothless ditching bucket under full supervision, until archaeological deposits or undisturbed substrata are encountered ('brief' 9.1). All topsoil and subsoil will be kept separate.

5.2.2 All archaeological deposits located will be hand-cleaned and planned (brief 7.2.3). Samples of all archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated appropriate to the aims and objectives of the excavation ('brief' 9; 4.1-2 above). Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared and tied into an overall site plan. All plans will be tied into the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM).

5.2.3. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and/or palaeo-environmental data in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer ('Brief' 12). Deposits which may provide radiocarbon dating evidence will be sampled.

5.2.4 All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

5.2.5 Any human remains encountered will only be under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations ('Brief' 13). The developers, Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and the coroner will be informed immediately on their discovery.

5.2.6 Any finds of gold and silver will be archaeologically removed and reported to the local coroner in accordance with the procedures of the 1997 Treasure Act and code of Practice ('Brief' 13).

### *5.3 Intensive Watching brief*

5.3.1 The project will involve the examination of groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above ('Brief' 9.2). During these groundworks, if any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest.

5.3.2 The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with the contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work.

5.3.3 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) where appropriate.

5.3.4 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

5.3.5 All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

5.3.6 Any human remains encountered will be initially left in situ and only be removed under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The owner, Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services and the coroner will be informed immediately on their discovery.

## **6 Recording Systems**

6.1 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets.

6.2 A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map, enlarged to 1:500 (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be

supplemented by a plan at 1:200 (or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated.

6.3 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made on drawing film, related to the OS grid and at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Elevations and sections of individual layers of features should be drawn where possible. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans.

6.4 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared. This will include black and white prints and colour transparencies illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation undertaken.

6.5 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the excavation.

6.6 All site records and finds will be kept securely.

### **7 Environmental Sampling ('Brief' 12)**

7.1 The sampling strategy will include the following:

i). A range of features to represent all feature types, areas and phases will be selected on a judgemental basis. The criteria for selection will be that deposits are datable, well sealed and with little intrusive or residual material.

ii) Any buried soils or well sealed deposits with concentrations of carbonised material present will be intensively sampled taking a known proportion of the deposit.

iii) Spot samples will be taken where concentrations of environmental remains are located.

iv) Waterlogged remains, if present, will be sampled for pollen, plant macrofossils and insect remains provided that they are uncontaminated and datable. Consultation with the specialist will be undertaken.

7.2 Wet sieving with flotation will be carried out using a York Archaeological Trust sieving tank with a 0.5mm mesh and a 0.3mm flotation sieve. The small size mesh will be used initially as flotation of plant remains may be incomplete and some may remain in the residue.

7.3 The residue > 0.5mm from the tank will be separated into coarse fractions of over 4mm and fine fractions of > 0.5-4mm. The coarse fractions will be sorted for finds. The fine fractions and flots will be evaluated and prioritised; only those with remains apparent will be sorted. The prioritised flots will not be sorted until the analysis stage when phasing information is available.

7.4 Flots will be scanned and plant remains from selected contexts will be identified and further sampling, sieving and sorting targeted towards higher potential deposits.

### **8 Finds and Samples ('Brief' 13)**

8.1 The IFA *Guidelines for Finds Work* will be adhered to.

8.2 All items of archaeological significance from the excavation will be examined and recorded to form part of the site archive to be eventually deposited with Leicestershire County

Council, Heritage Services. All identified finds and artefacts are to be retained, although certain classes of building material may, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording.

8.3 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner. Where appropriate they will be cleaned, marked and receive remedial conservation in accordance with recognised best-practice. This will include the Site code number, finds number and context number. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self sealing plastic bags, again marked with Site code, finds and context numbers and boxed by material in standard storage boxes (340mm x 270mm x 195mm). All metal objects will be x-rayed and then selected for conservation. All materials will be fully labelled, catalogued and stored in appropriate containers.

## **9 Report and Archive**

9.1 A report on the fieldwork will be provided following analysis of the records and materials ('Brief' 14;15).

9.2. The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

9.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in the 'Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage' (UKIC 1990), and Standards in the Museum care of archaeological collections (MGC 1992) and 'Guidelines for the preparation of site archives and assessments for all finds (other than fired clay objects) (RFG/FRG 1993) will be presented to an appropriate registered museum within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all written, disk-based, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken ('Brief' 16; 17).

## **10. Timetable and staffing**

10.1. The excavation and recording phase is to be arranged. The watching brief will take place at the inception of the contractor's groundworks

## **11. Health and Safety**

11.1. ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (2001) with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate. All ULAS staff will follow the site contractors' Health and Safety policy ('Brief' 10).

## **12. Insurance**

12.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with Gerling Insurance Services Policy No. 62/99094/D, Risk Reference LT 35101 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Sun Alliance Insurance Policy No. 03A/5A 001 05978, Risk Reference LT 27229.

## **13. Bibliography**

MAP 2, *The management of archaeological projects* 2nd edition English Heritage 1991

MGC 1992, *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (County Council, Heritage Services and Galleries Commission)



Archaeological Excavation on Land at 16 Main Street, Stapleton, Leicestershire.

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SMA 1993, *Selection, retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* (Society of Museum Archaeologists)

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### Appendix 3

Figures and plates.



*Plate 1. General shot of development site looking north west. Plot 1 being excavated, Plot 2 in foreground under bricks. Outhouses being demolished.*



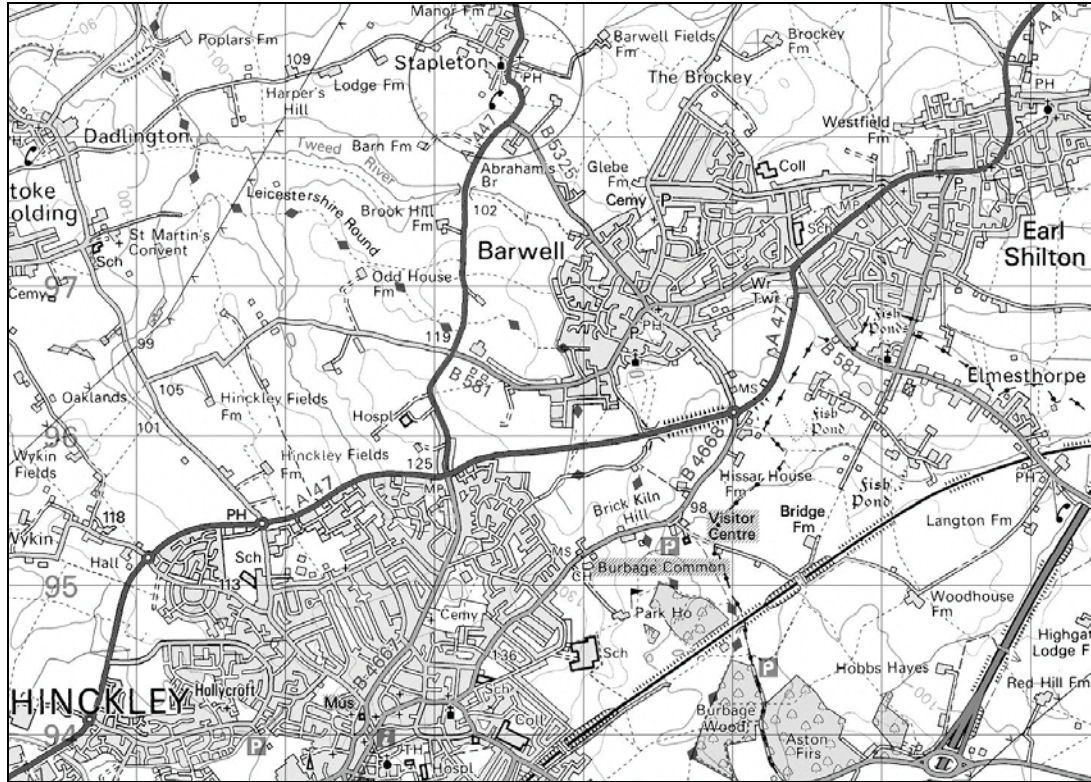
*Plate 2. Plot 1 looking south. Gully [105] and pit [129] on left, Pit [117] in foreground. Ditch [133] beyond ranging poles.*



*Plate 3. Foundations being excavated on Plot 2.*



*Plate 4. Plot 1. Butt ends of ditches [133] and [127]*



*Figure 1. Location of Stapleton (circled)*

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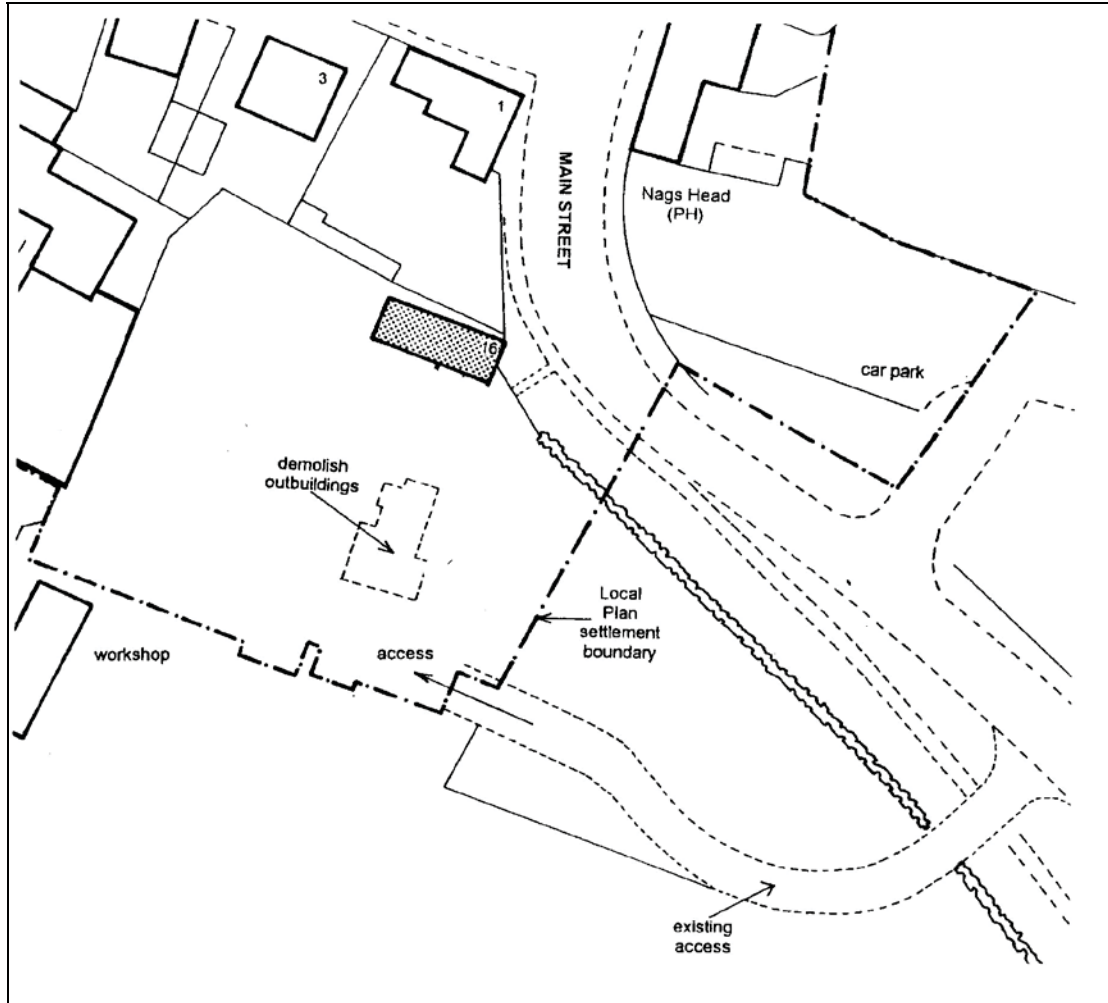


Figure 2. Site location map.

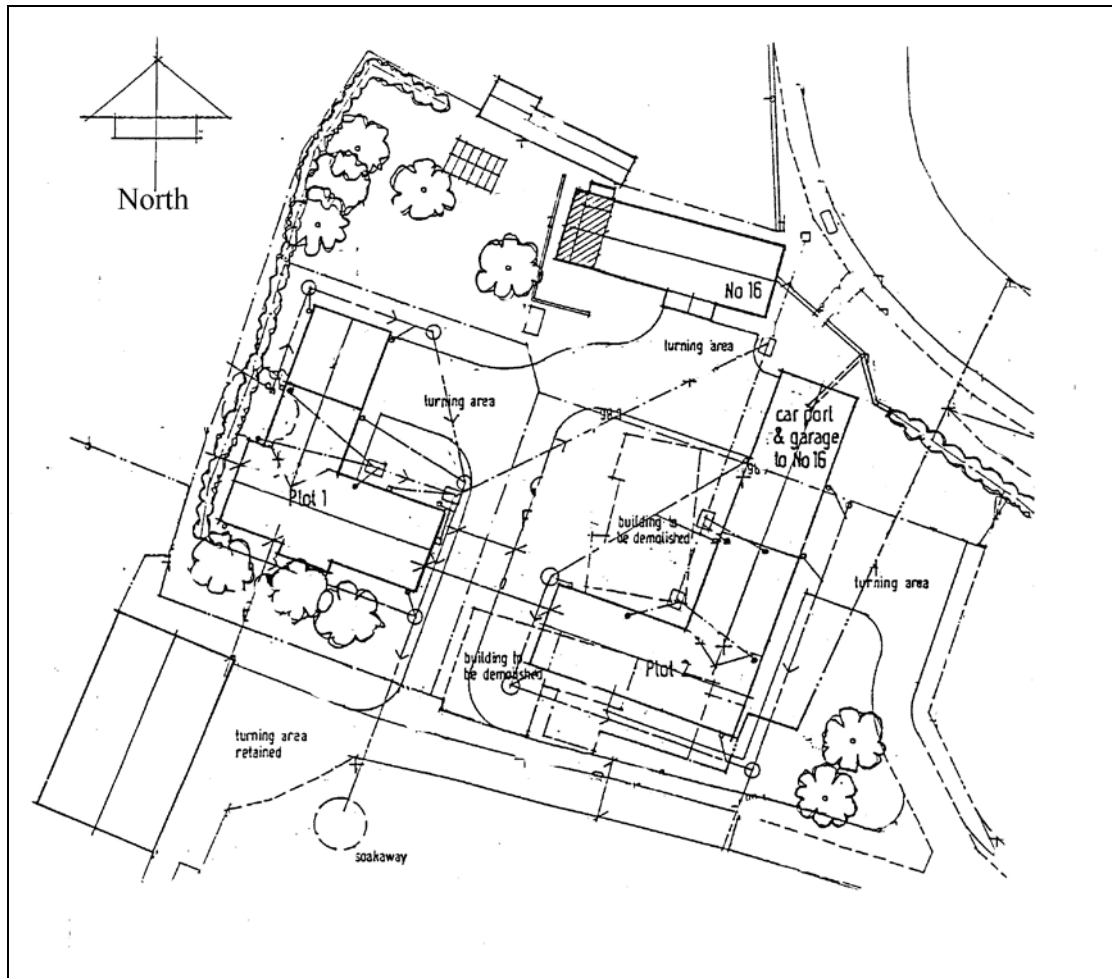


Figure 3. Proposed house locations. Drains and services also shown.

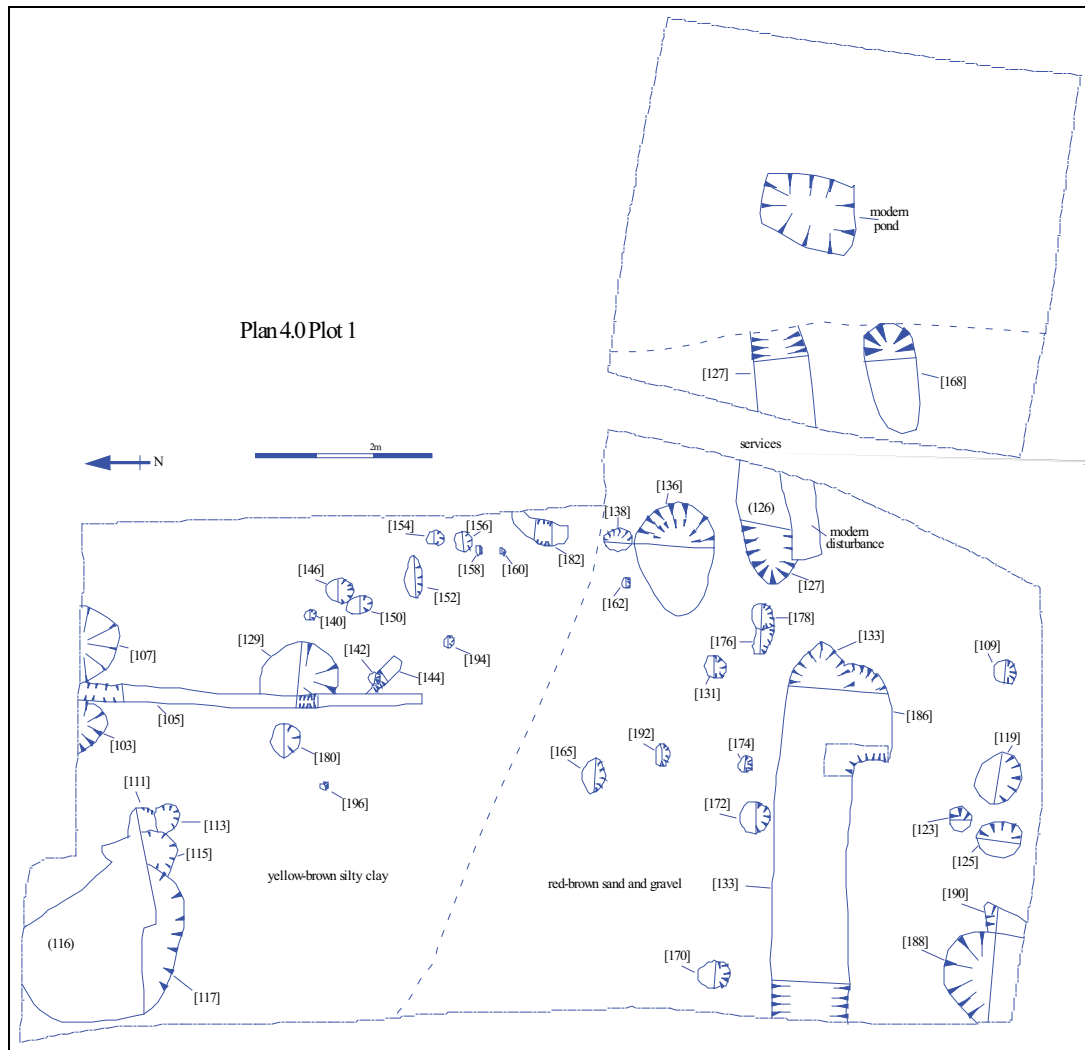


Figure 4. Plan of Plot 1.

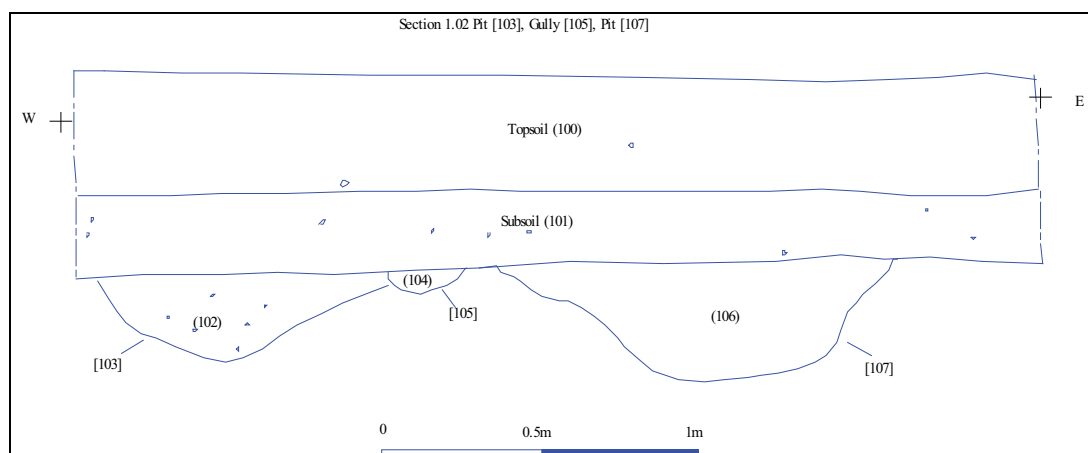


Figure 5. Early medieval pits [103] and [107] with medieval gully [105]

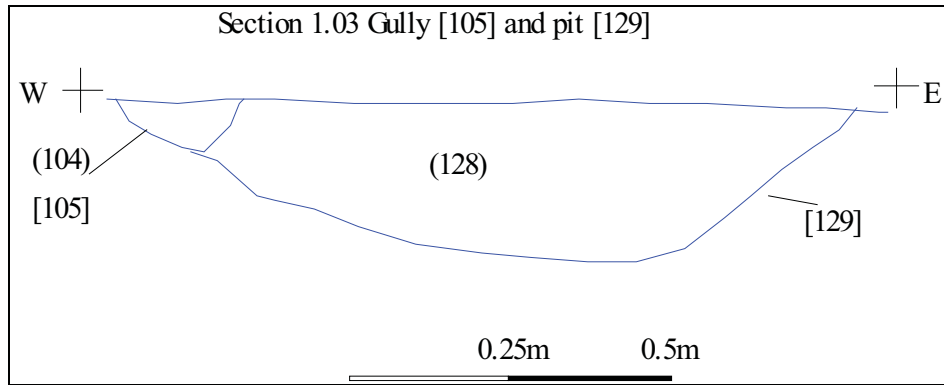


Figure 6. Gully [105] cutting pit [129]

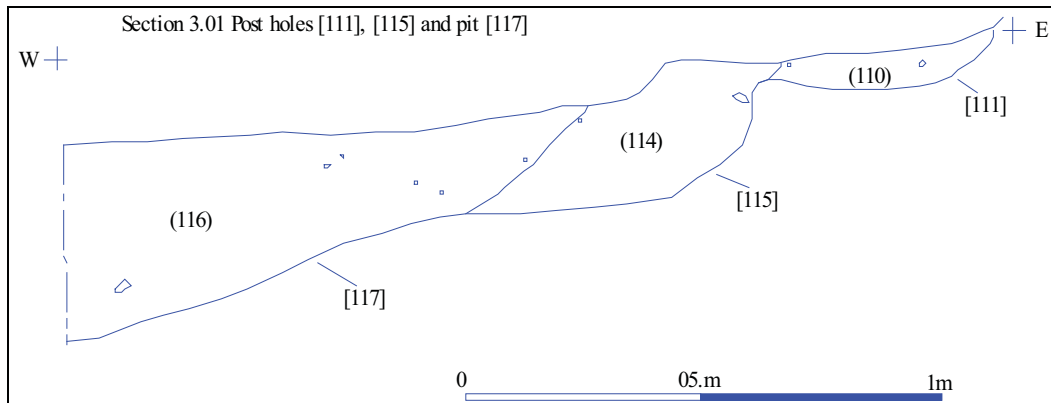


Figure 7. Pit group [111], [115], [117].



## Appendix 4

The pottery and miscellaneous finds from an excavation at Stapleton, Leicestershire.

D. Sawday

The pottery, ninety-four sherds, weighing 1251grams, was examined under a binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to the ULAS and Coventry fabric series (Davies and Sawday 1999), (Redknap and Perry 1996).

Two sherds of late Saxon Stamford ware were present, as well as early medieval and medieval pottery dating from the twelfth to the fourteenth centuries and nine sherds of post medieval or modern pottery. Most of the features contained few, if any, finds and could not be closely dated. Only one context, the back fill of the pit [117], contained a significant amount of pottery - sixty-six sherds - over seventy per cent of the total. These included thirteen sherds from a cooking pot in fabric CO2, Coventry A ware. A similar vessel from Phase 3 at Broadgate East, Coventry, is dated from *circa* 1250 to 1350 (Redknap and Perry, fig.16.123, 95).

The relative proportions and the range of wares present are very similar to those previously recorded from the site, save for a number of Medieval Sandy wares of uncertain origin which were found during the evaluation (Jarvis 2003), and two sherds in a calcite gritted ware, also of uncertain origin, from the excavation. Typically, the pottery is essentially domestic in nature, and locally traded. Stamford, Coventry, Potters Marston, Stanion and Lyveden, and Chilvers Coton, were all major centres of pottery production during this period.

Fabric/Ware	Sherd Nos.	%	Weight Grams	%	Av. Sherd Weight
<b>Late Saxon/Early Medieval</b>					
ST2 – Fine Stamford ware	2		5		2.5
PM – Potters Marston ware	22		261		11.8
CG – Calcite Gritted ware	2		12		6.0
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27.6</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>10.6</b>
<b>Medieval</b>					
CO1 – Coventry ware 1	1		2		2.0
CO2 – Coventry ware 2	15		348		23.2
CC1 – Chilvers Coton ware 1	1		10		10.0
CC5 – Chilvers Coton ware 5	7		21		3.0
LY – Stanion Lyveden type ware	40		412		10.3
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>63.3</b>	<b>12.3</b>
<b>Post Medieval/Modern</b>					
EA2 – Earthenware 2	3		140		46.6
EA7 - Slipware	1		40		40
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>99.8</b>	<b>1251</b>	<b>99.8</b>	

*Table 1: The late Saxon and medieval pottery totals from the excavation by fabric, sherd numbers, and weight (grams).*

Site/Parish: Stapleton, Leics. Accession No/ Doc Ref: XA73 2002/stapleton4 Material: pottery & misc. finds Site Type: village core	Submitter: A. Hyam Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Id: 25.05.04 Method of Recovery: excavation
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Approx. Date Range: EM – Early Medieval c.1100-1250, MED – Medieval – c.1250+, PM – Post Medieval – 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> C.+

Context	Fabric/ware	Sherd nos.	Weight grams	Comments	Latest Approx. date
Pot					
102 [103] pit	ST2 – Fine Stamford ware	1	2	Glazed	EM
102	PM – Potters Marston	2	16	Abraded	
104 [105] gully	PM	1	1	Abraded	MED
104	CC5 – Chilvers Coton ware 5	1	3		
106 [107] pit	CG – Calcite Gritted ware	1	8	Reduced black - ?early	EM
110 [111] pit	ST2	1	3		MED
110	?CO1 - ?Coventry ware 1	1	2	Unglazed, gen oxidised.	
112 [113] ph	PM	4	25		?EM
114 [115] ph	PM	1	22	Everted bowl rim, bevelled int.	MED
114	?CO2 – Coventry ware 2	1	32	Upright, squared rim	
116 [117] pit	PM	6	68	?wide mouthed bowl rim	MED
116	CC1 – Chilvers Coton ware 1	1	2		
116	CC5	6	18	Abraded	
116	CO2	13	300	Cp rim, everted with ext. bevel, similar, but smaller version at Coventry, (Redknap and Perry 1996, fig.16.123), sooted/burnt ext., min 1 vessel	
116	LY – Stanion Lyveden type ware	40	412	Sooted ext, cp	
126 [127] ditch ? = [133]	PM	1	44	Upright clubbed bowl rim, sooted ext (Davies and Sawday, fig 92.98) – 12/13 <sup>th</sup> C.	?MED
132 [133] ditch	PM	3	65	Sooted ext	
132	CC1	1	10		MED
132	EA2 – Earthenware 2	1	10		PM? intrusive
139 [140] ph	CG	1	4	Sand & shell,	?EM

				?early	
139	PM	1	3		
147 spread	EA2	2	130	Pancheon rim, 17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> C+	PM
147	EA7 - Slipware	1	40	White slip & yellow gl int.	
153 [154] ph	PM	1	10		?EM
157 [158] ph	PM	1	3		?EM
191 [192] ph	PM	1	4		?EM
U/S	?CO2	1	16		
<b>MISC</b>					
106	Slag	2	42		
116	CBM	4	12		
116	mortar	1	2		
132 [133] ditch	CBM	1	4		
147	Mortar	1	14		

*Table 2. Pottery totals by context.*

### Bibliography

Davies, S., and Sawday, D., 1999. 'The Post Roman Pottery and Tile' in A. Connor and R. Buckley, *Roman and Medieval Occupation in Causeway Lane, Leicester*, Leicester Archaeology Mon. **5**, 165-213.

Redknap, M., and Perry, J.G., 1996. 'Medieval and later pottery' in M. Rylatt, and M.A. Stokes, *The Excavations at Broadgate East, Coventry 1974-5*. Coventry Mus. Mon **5**, 37-99.

## Appendix 5

Charred plant remains from Stapleton, Leicestershire xA73.2002

Angela Monckton (June 18th 2004)

### Introduction

Excavations were carried out by ULAS directed by Andrew Hyam and samples were taken for the recovery of charred plant remains which can give evidence of diet and agriculture in the past. A medieval pit of 12-14th century date was sampled in an area of village earthworks. Considering the number of medieval villages in Leicestershire and Rutland it is surprising that only around a dozen have been sampled, mainly because they are still inhabited. Therefore it is important to excavate and take samples for crop remains when the opportunity arises because the main livelihood of the medieval villages was agriculture and such samples build up a picture about life in different areas and changes over the medieval period. The sample here adds to this information for the region.

### Methods

The sample of 15 litres in size was wet sieved in a York tank using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation into a 0.5mm mesh sieve by Dave Parker at ULAS. The residues were air-dried and the fraction over 4mm sorted for all finds which are included in the relevant sections of this report. The fraction below 4mm was reserved for sorting if required. The flotation fraction (flot) was air dried and packed carefully in self-seal polythene bags. The flot was examined with a low power stereo microscope and the plant remains were removed to glass specimen tubes. The plant remains were identified by comparison with modern reference material at the University of Leicester Archaeological Services. The remains were noted with an estimate of quantity and tabulated below (table E1). Residues were also examined to determine if they contained charred remains or small bones but none were seen.

### Results

The sample produced a flot of 35 ml in size which contained a moderate number of plant remains including 26 charred cereal grains, and 12 weed seeds. The grains were mainly of wheat (*Triticum* sp) of free-threshing type such as bread wheat, but there was no chaff present so the wheat could not be identified further. A few oat grains (*Avena* sp.) and a grain probably of rye (*Secale cereale*) show the use of these additional cereals. The weeds included large grasses (Poaceae), stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), black-bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), docks (*Rumex* sp), fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*) and vetches (*Vicia/Lathyrus*) all of which grow as arable weeds or as weeds of settlements and are common in the medieval period. Other food remains included a couple of legume fragments, possibly of peas, while other remains found were a fragment of straw and a thorn of hawthorn or blackthorn amongst the fragments of charcoal. The residue of the sample contained a few pottery fragments, charcoal, bone and tooth fragments, fired clay fragments and a fragment possibly of slag.

## Discussion

The sample contained more cereal grains than weed seeds and there was no chaff found which suggests that this may be waste from the final cleaning of cereals for consumption including spilled grains, possibly burnt in a domestic hearth. The legumes may also be included as food waste burnt in the hearth which was then raked out and dumped in the pit. Such remains may also originate from thatch but this seems more likely to be domestic rubbish from food preparation showing the consumption of wheat, oats and possibly rye. Such domestic waste has been found in samples from a few other villages including Anstey, Freeby, Barrowden, Claybrook Magna as well as in samples from Leicester (summarised in Monckton 2004). Some of the villages have also produced different samples indicating agricultural processing of cereals such as have been found at Saxby, Anstey and Wyfordby; the former including rivet wheat as an additional type of the cereal, the latter two with bread wheat only identified (Monckton 2004, Jarvis forthcoming). The samples from those sites were typified by the presence of chaff and numerous weed seeds as cereal processing waste. It is possible that such remains may be found in other parts of this village should further investigations occur.

## Conclusions

The sample here indicates domestic activity in this part of the village and shows the consumption of wheat, oats, possibly rye and peas which were probably cultivated in the surrounding fields.

## Bibliography

Jarvis, W., forthcoming Charred plant remains from excavations at Wyfordby, Leicestershire. ULAS Archive Report.

Monckton, A., 2004 Investigating past environments, farming and food in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland: the evidence from plant and animal remains. in P. Bowman (ed) Leicestershire Landscapes. Leicestershire County Council Monograph.

**Table E1: Assessment of sample for charred plant remains (XA73.2002).**

Samp No.	Cont No.	Feat type	Samp Vol. litres	Flot Vol. mls	Gr ch	Chf ch	Se ch	Se un	Leg ch	Oth ch	Char	Comments
1	116	117 Pit	15	Flot 35 mls	26	-	12	+	2	2	++	Wheat, Oats, cf. Rye, weed seeds, frags cf peas, a frag of straw, a thorn.
1	..	..	..	CF 1.75 kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	Pot, bone, tooth, fired clay, ?slag fragment, flint fragment.

Key: Gr = cereal grain, Chf = chaff, Se = seed, ch = charred, un = uncharred, Leg = legume, Char = charcoal, Oth = other charred item, fl = flecks, fr = fragments, + = present, ++ = moderate amount, +++ = abundant. CF = coarse fraction residue.

**Appendix 6**

## Context descriptions.

Context	Cut	Below	Section	Type	Description
100				Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty loam, many roots. Loose/friable.
101				Subsoil	Dark brown sandy clay, some stones. Friable.
102	103		1.02	Fill of pit	Light grey brown silty clay. Many small pebbles. Friable.
103		102	1.02	Cut of pit	
104	105		1.02/3	Fill of gully	Mid grey brown silty clay. Some stones. Friable.
105		104	1.02/3	Cut of gully	
106	107		1.02	Fill of pit	Mid grey brown silty clay. Some stones. Friable.
107		106	1.02	Cut of pit	
108	109		2.01	Fill of p/hole	Dark grey brown silty sand. Many small pebbles. Friable.
109		108	2.01	Cut of p/hole	
110	111		3.01	Fill of pit	Grey brown silty clay. Occasional stones. Friable
111		110	3.01	Cut of pit	
112	113		3.02	Fill of p/hole	Grey brown silty clay. Occasional stones. Friable
113		112	3.02	Cut of p/hole	
114	115		3.01	Fill of p/hole	Greyish brown silty clay. Occasional med/large stones. Friable
115		114	3.01	Cut of p/hole	
116	117		3.01	Fill of pit	Mid grey brown silty clay. Some stones. Friable.
117		116	3.01	Cut of pit	
118	119		2.02	Fill of p/hole	Dark grey brown silty sand. Many small pebbles. Friable.
119		118	2.02	Cut of p/hole	
120	121		2.02	Fill of p/hole	Dark grey brown silty sand. Many small pebbles. Friable.
121		120	2.02	Cut of p/hole	
122	123		2.03	Fill of p/hole	Dark grey brown silty sand. Many small pebbles. Friable.
123		122	2.03	Cut of p/hole	
124	125		2.04	Fill of pit	Dark grey brown silty sand. Many small pebbles. Friable.
125		124	2.04	Cut of pit	
126	127		1.01	Fill of ditch	Grey brown silty clay with orange brown mottles of sand. Frequent small pebbles.
127		126	1.01	Cut of ditch	
128	129		1.03	Fill of pit	Mid grey brown silty clay. Some stones. Friable.
129		128	1.03	Cut of pit	
130	131		2.21	Fill of p/hole	Mid to dark grey sandy gravel and clay. Some pebbles. Loose.
131		130	2.21	Cut of p/hole	
132	133		2.06	Fill of ditch	Mid brown grey clayish sandy silt. Some stones. Friable.
133		132	2.06/2.23/ 3.07	Cut of ditch	
134	136		2.05	Upper pit fill	Dark grey brown clayey sand with pebbles. Friable.
135		134	2.05	Lower pit fill	Mottled mid red brown sand with some clay. Some pebbles. Friable.
136		135	2.05	Cut of pit	
137	138		2.05	Fill of p/hole	Dark grey sandy clay. Some stones. Friable.

138		137	2.05	Cut of p/hole	
139	140		1.04	Fill of p/hole	Light grey brown silty clay. Many small pebbles. Friable.
141	142		2.07	Fill of p/hole	Grey brown silty sand. Rare pebbles. Friable.
142		141	2.07	Cut of p/hole	
143	144		2.08	Fill of gully	Grey brown silty sand. Rare pebbles. Friable.
144		143	2.08	Cut of gully	
145	146		2.09	Fill of pit	Grey brown silty sand. Rare pebbles. Friable.
146		145	2.09	Cut of pit	
147				Spread	Dark grey brown silty clay. Occasional pebbles.
148	117		3.03	Upper fill of pit	Mid to dark grey silty clay with occasional medium and large stones.
149	150		2.10	Fill of pit	Mixed light grey and grey brown silty sand and sand. Occasional stones. Friable.
150		149	2.10	Cut of pit	
151	152		2.11	Fill of pit	Dark grey brown silty sand. Rare small pebbles. Friable.
152		151	2.11	Cut of pit	
153	154		2.12	Fill of p/hole	Dark grey brown silty sand. Rare small pebbles. Friable.
154		153	2.12	Cut of p/hole	
155	156		2.13	Fill of p/hole	Dark grey brown silty sand. Rare small pebbles. Friable.
156		155	2.13	Cut of p/hole	
157	158		2.14	Fill of p/hole	Grey brown silty sand. Rare small pebbles. Friable.
158		157	2.14	Cut of p/hole	
159	160		2.15	Fill of p/hole	Grey brown silty sand. Rare small pebbles. Friable.
160		159	2.15	Cut of p/hole	
161	162		2.16	Fill of p/hole	Grey brown silty sand. Rare small pebbles. Friable.
162		161	2.16	Cut of p/hole	
163	133		2.23	Butt end	Same as 132
164	165		3.04	Fill of p/hole	Mid to light grey clayish sand. Many stones of all sizes. Friable.
165		164	3.04	Cut of p/hole	
166	127		1.05	Fill of ditch	Same as 126
167	168		1.06	Fill of pit	Mid grey brown silty clay. Some stones. Friable.
168		167	1.06	Cut of pit	
169	170		2.18	Fill of p/hole	Dark grey with orange mottling. Sand/clay gravel. Some pebbles. Loose.
170		169	2.18	Cut of p/hole	
171	172		2.19	Fill of p/hole	Mid grey. Sandy gravel and clay. Occasional pebbles. Loose.
172		171	2.19	Cut of p/hole	
173	174		2.20	Fill of p/hole	Mid grey silty clay with occasional pebbles. Friable.
174		173	2.20	Cut of p/hole	
175	176		2.22	Fill of p/hole	Mid grey silty clay with occasional pebbles. Friable.
176		175	2.22	Cut of p/hole	
177	178		2.22	Fill of p/hole	Light grey brown sandy silt. Occasional pebbles. Friable.
178		177	2.22	Cut of p/hole	
179	180		3.05	Fill of p/hole	Mid grey brown silty clay. Some stones. Friable.
180		179	3.05	Cut of p/hole	

Archaeological Excavation on Land at 16 Main Street, Stapleton, Leicestershire.

181	182		2.17	Fill of gully	Mid to light grey brown silty sand. Occasional small pebbles. Friable
182		181	2.17	Cut of gully	
183	184		3.06	Fill of ditch	Same as 132
184		183	3.06	Cut of ditch	Same as 133
185	186		3.06	Fill of pit	Mid brownish grey silty clay. Occasional stones of all sizes. Friable.
186		185	3.06	Cut of pit	
187	188		3.07	Fill of pit	Dark grey brown silty sand. Occasional pebbles. Friable.
188		187	3.07	Cut of pit	
189	190		3.07	Fill of pit	Dark grey brown silty sand. Occasional pebbles. Friable.
190		189	3.07	Cut of pit	
191	192		1.07	Fill of p/hole	Dark grey brown sandy clay. Lots of gravel. Loose.
192		191	1.07	Cut of p/hole	
193	194		1.08	Fill of p/hole	Mid brown silty clay. Friable.
194		193	1.08	Cut of p/hole	
195	196		1.09	Fill of p/hole	Mid brown silty clay. Occasional stones. Friable.
196		195	1.09	Cut of p/hole	