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An Archaeological Strip, Map & Sample Excavation at Manor Farm, Arnesby Lane, Peatling Magna, Leicestershire

NGR: SP 59505 92549

Nathan Flavell

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An Archaeological Strip, Map & Sample at Manor Farm, Arnesby Lane, Peatling Magna, Leicestershire (SP 59505 92549)

Nathan Flavell

For: Sheelagh Shaen Carter

Planning Ref: 17/01165/FUL

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An Archaeological Strip, Map & Sample Excavation at Manor Farm, Arnesby Lane, Peatling Magna, Leicestershire (SP 59505 92549)

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Summary

An Archaeological 'Strip, Map and Sample' excavation was carried out at Manor Farm, Arnesby Lane, Peatling Magna, Leicestershire (SP 59505 92549) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 30 April-14 May 2018. The work was undertaken on behalf of Sheelagh Shaen Carter in advance of a new detached dwelling. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A2.2018. Five ditches (four medieval and one undated) and a small number of post-holes were uncovered.

Introduction

This document constitutes the report for an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation carried out at Manor Farm, Arnesby Lane, Peatling Magna, Leicestershire (SP 59505 92549). The work was undertaken on behalf of Sheelagh Shaen Carter by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 30 April-14 May 2018.

Planning permission has been granted for the construction of a new detached dwelling and separate car port on a pasture field previously used as an orchard. The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) notes that the application area lies within the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of the village of Peatling Magna HER ref. **MLE10554**), adjacent to the Grade II (NHLE ref. **1180150**) listed Manor Farmhouse (and associate farm complex) and a short distance to the north of the Grade I (1061529) listed All Saints parish church. Taken together this implies the site possesses a significant archaeological potential.

In view of the archaeological potential of the site, the Principal Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council initially requested an archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching to assess the nature, extent, date and significant of any archaeological deposits which might be present on the site so that the impact of the proposals upon them could be determined. This work was undertaken early in 2018 (Hunt 2018) and comprised the investigation of two trial trenches, one of which (trench 02) contained three modern linear features.

Since the groundworks for the construction of the house might therefore impact upon buried archaeological remains, the planning archaeologists subsequently required (as a condition of planning permission) a 'Strip, Map and Sample' excavation of the footprint of the proposed dwelling to be undertaken in advance of development. The work followed the approved *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation* (Buckley 2018).

Geology and Topography

The proposed development site is located in the Harborough District of Leicestershire, *c.*9 miles south of Leicester (Fig. 1). The site itself lies in the centre of the village around 80m north of the parish church. It consists of a parcel of pasture land of 0.23ha, lying at a height of *c.*101m aOD, with a slight slope to the east. It lies some 1.5m above the road line to the north (Arnesby Lane) (Fig: 2). The British Geological Survey website indicates that the underlying geology was likely to be Anglian Till, overlying Blue Lias Formation mudstone.

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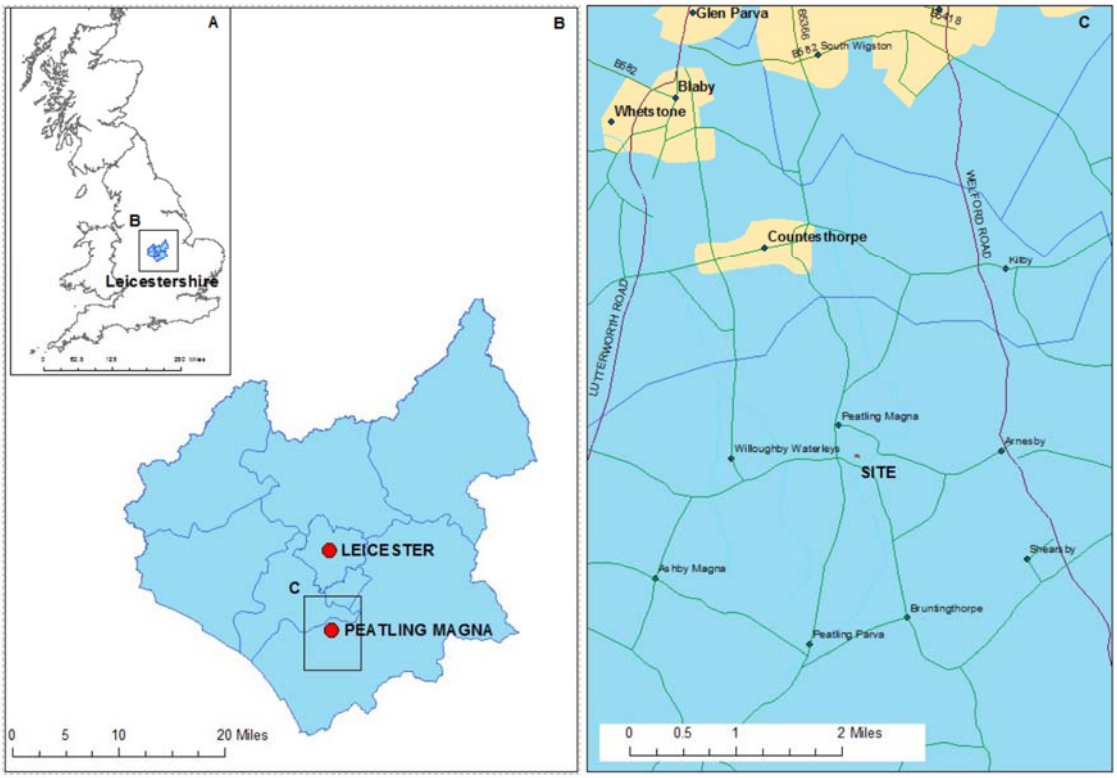

Figure 1: Location of the proposed site

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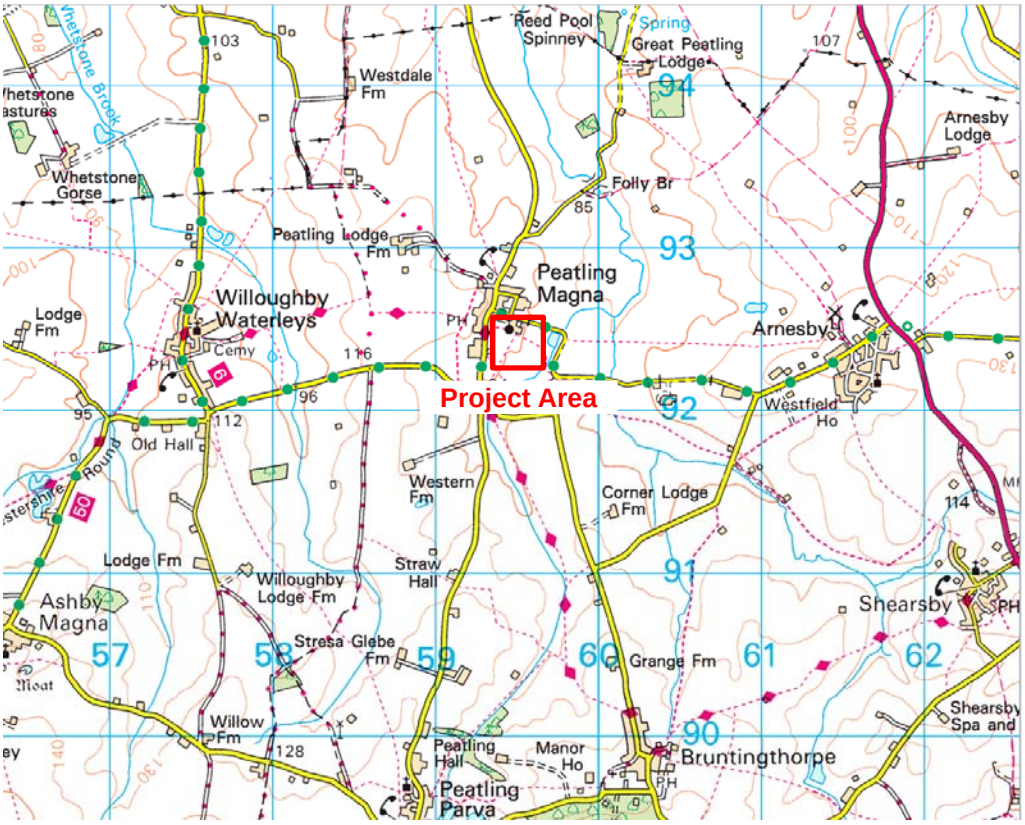

Figure 2: Site Location (Scale 1:50 000)

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Historical and Archaeological Background

The village of Peatling Magna (or Great Peatling) is recorded in 'Petlinge' in the Domesday Survey of 1086. The name is derived from the Old English male personal name of 'Peotla' in the 'ing' suffix is early Anglo-Saxon and means 'followers of'. So the village name means 'the settlement of Peotla's people'. The Latin 'Magna' for 'great' appears for the first time in 1224, to differentiate it from the smaller Peatling Parva. The two Peatlings would once have been one land unit.

The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland indicates that the site lies within the medieval and post-medieval settlement core of the village (HER Ref. **MLE10554**) and adjacent to the Grade II listed Manor Farmhouse, and associated farm complex and 80m north of the Grade I listed All Saints' Church. It is also close to the remains of the medieval deserted settlement and manorial garden remains.

A trial trench evaluation was carried out in January 2018, revealing three undated linear features (Hunt 2018).

Archaeological Objectives

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 advance understanding of the heritage assets
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Methodology

This strip map and sample area continued the numbering system established previously in the evaluation (Hunt 2018). The area of the house footprint, measuring 179.49 square metres, was stripped of overburden by a machine with a toothless bucket down to the natural substratum revealing archaeological features (Fig. 3).

The sections and existing spoil heaps were visually inspected for features and finds. If present archaeological features were to be hand cleaned, planned, photographed and sample excavated as detailed in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological field evaluations* (2014).

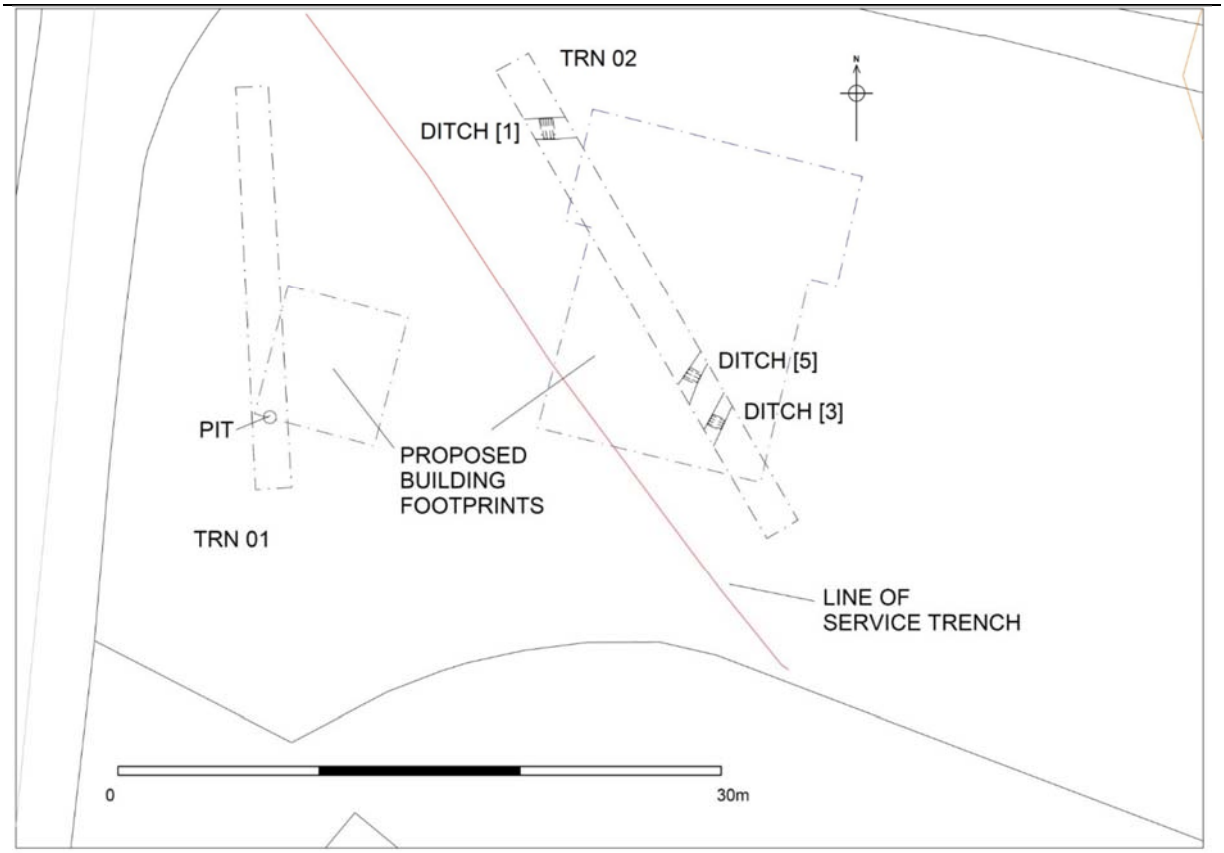

Figure 3: Proposed area plan

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Figure 4: Overall site plan

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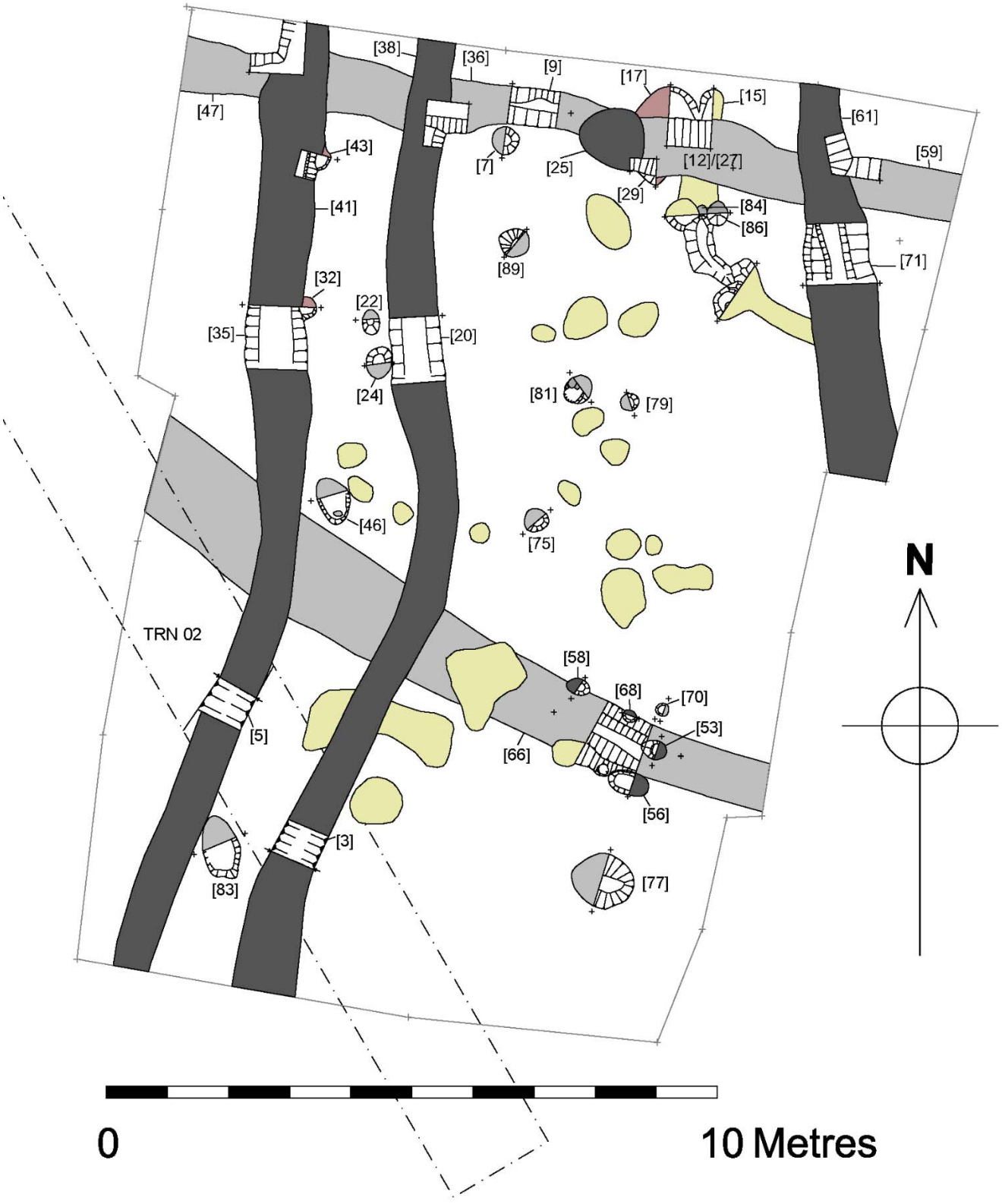

Figure 5: Site plan with features

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Results

The excavation revealed five intercutting ditches and a small number of pits and post-holes (Fig. 5). Natural substrata varied between mixed orange-brown sandy clay to yellow-orange clay to the south. A colluvial material very similar to some of the fills of the later ditches overlay this, and was more prevalent in the east of the site on the natural downhill slope. Subsoil was yellow-brown silty clay with pebble inclusions. This was overlain by topsoil consisting of dark brown clay loam.

The stratigraphically earliest features were two ditches, [66] and [9] (*nb* the latter was given multiple numbers on excavation). Ditch [66] was located toward the south of the area, aligned northwest-southeast with a steep sloping profile and concave base, 0.9m wide, 0.5m deep (Figs. 6 & 7). The primary fill (65) was mixed orange-brown sandy clay with infrequent small stones, 0.27m thick. It was overlain by (64), mixed brown-grey silty clay with some medium-sized pebble inclusions, some of which were burnt, 0.24m thick.

Figure 6: Ditch [66] with post-holes [53] and [68] looking southeast

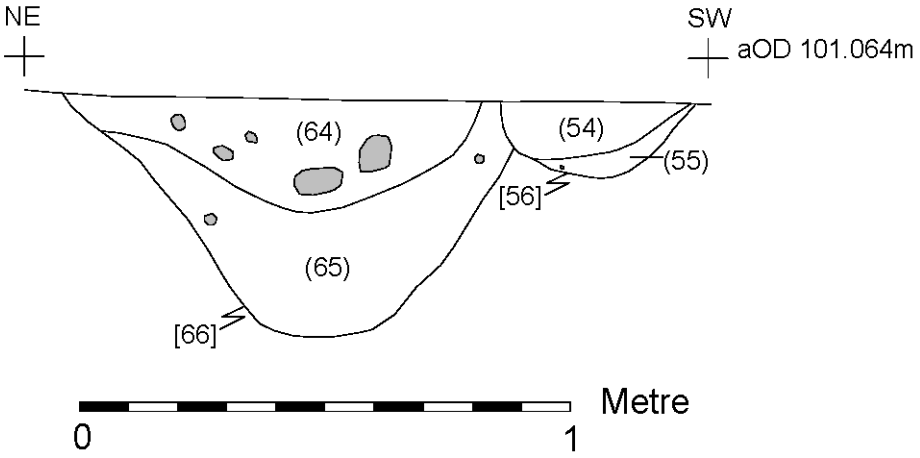

Figure 7: Ditch [66] with post-holes [53] and [68] section

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Ditch [9] was previously found in the trial trenching phase ([1]), aligned northwest-southeast (Figs. 8 & 9). Generally it had a moderate v-shaped profile with slight variations, between 0.6-1m wide, and 0.2-0.38m deep. It also seemed to mostly have a single fill (28)/(37)/(48)/(60), grey-brown and yellow-brown silty clay with infrequent charcoal flecks and occasional burnt stone. Excavated slots [9]/[12] both had two fills. The primary fill (10)/(13) was light orange-grey silty clay 0.2-0.22m thick. This was overlain by (11)/(14), mid grey-brown silty clay 0.2-0.25m thick.

The ditch truncated pit [17] on its north side and post-hole [29] on its north side. Pit [17] was oval with a moderate concave profile, 2x1.5m, 0.1m deep. It was filled by (18), mid grey-brown silty clay with orange clay patches. Post-hole [29] was circular with a moderate concave profile, 0.3x0.2m, 0.1m deep. It was filled by (30) mid orange-brown silty clay.

Figure 8: Ditch [9] and post-hole [7] looking northwest

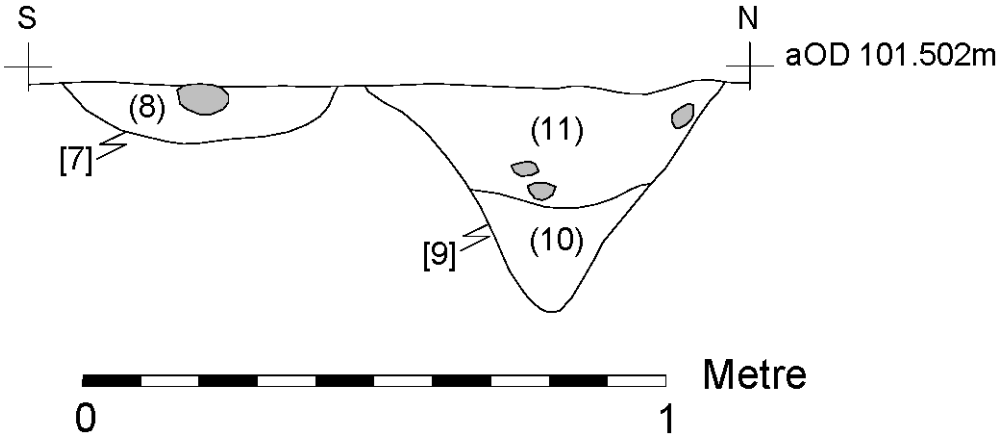

Figure 9: Ditch [9] and post-hole [7] section

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Truncating this ditch were three other ditches, [35]+ (Figs. 10 & 11), [20]+ (Figs. 12 & 13) and [61]+ (Figs. 14 & 15). Ditches [35]+ and [20]+ were parallel with each other, aligned in a general north-south direction, with a slight curve in the middle. They also truncated ditch [66]. Ditch [35]/[41]/[49] had a moderate sloping profile with a wide slightly concave base, 0.76-1m wide, and 0.2-0.32m deep. Generally it had two fills (Figs. 16 & 17). The primary fill (34)/(50) was brown-grey silty clay with occasional pebble inclusions 0.09-0.12m thick occupational silting fill. This was overlain by (33)/(51), mixed brown-grey and yellow-brown silty clay with semi-frequent pebbles, 0.15m thick. It appeared to truncate two post-holes, [32] and [43] on its east side. Post-hole [32] was circular 0.3m diameter with a shallow moderate profile, 0.08m deep. It was filled by (31), orange-brown silty clay. Post-hole [43] was circular with a shallow profile, 0.4x0.3m, 0.03m deep. It was filled by (42) orange-brown silty clay with occasional pebble and flint inclusions.

Figure 10: Ditch [49] truncating ditch [47] looking south

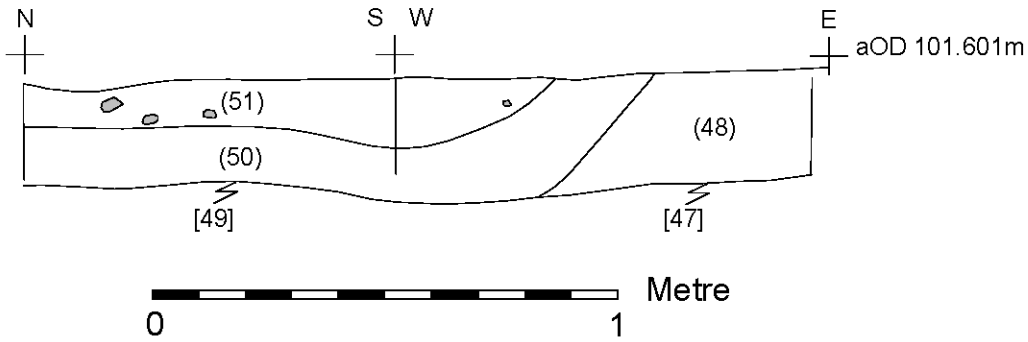

Figure 11: Ditch [49] truncating ditch [47] section

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Figure 12: Ditch [38} truncating ditch [36] looking northwest

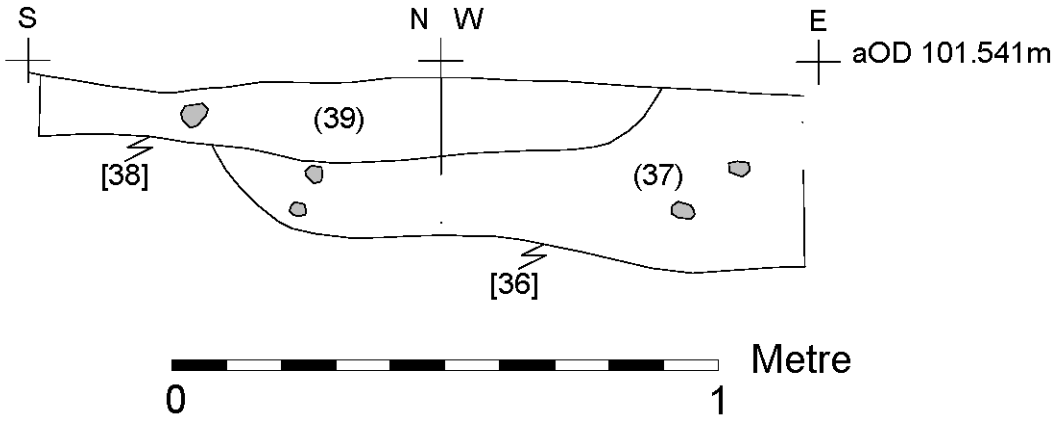

Figure 13: Ditch [38} truncating ditch [36] section

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Figure 14: Ditch [61] truncating ditch [59] looking south

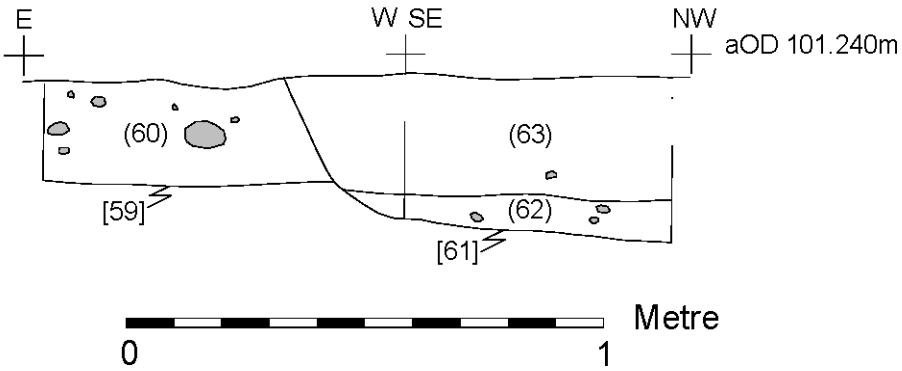

Figure 15: Ditch [61] truncating ditch [59] section

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Figure 16: Ditch [35] truncating post-hole [32] looking north

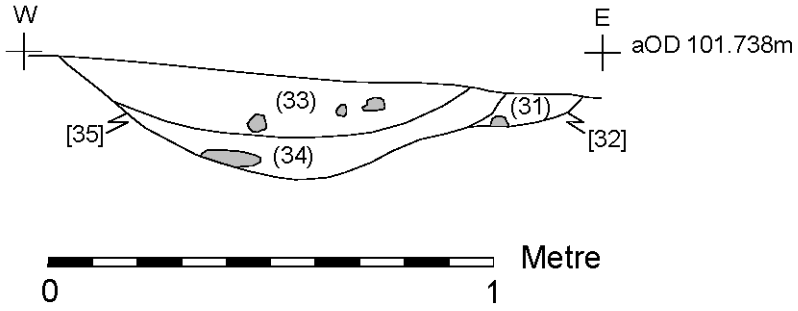

Figure 17: Ditch [35] truncating post-hole [32] section

Ditch [20]/[38] had a moderately sloping concave profile with a flattish base, 0.68-0.8m wide, 0.14m deep (Figs. 18 & 19). It was filled by (13)/(39), dark grey-brown silty clay with infrequent pebble inclusions.

Figure 18: Ditch [20] and post-hole [22] looking north

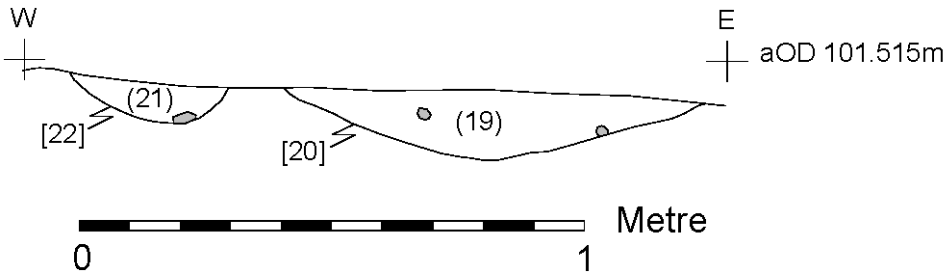

Figure 19: Ditch [20] and post-hole [22] section

A relatively small section of ditch [59]/[61] was located at the very eastern edge of the site (Figs. 20 & 21). It had a variable sloped profile with a concave base, 1.16m wide, 0.48m deep. The primary fill (72) was mid grey-brown silty clay some pebble and charcoal inclusions, 0.32m thick. It was overlain by (73), mid yellow-brown silty clay, also with some pebble inclusions, 0.16m thick.

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Figure 20: Ditch [71] looking southeast

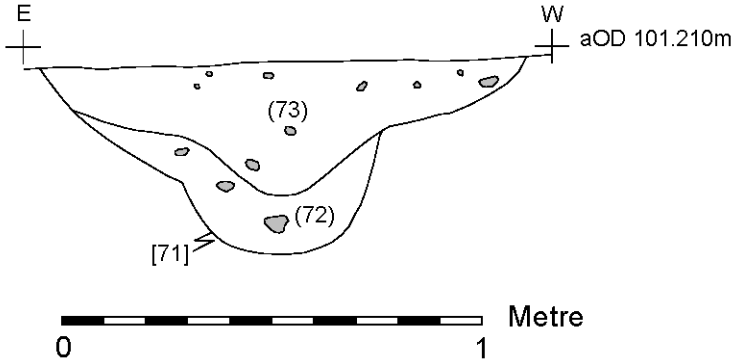

Figure 21: Ditch [71] section

There were a number of pos-tholes scattered about the site, some in clusters, and some truncating the ditches. In the southeast of the site, pit (?) [56], and post-holes [53], [58] and [68] truncated the backfill (64) of ditch [66]. Post-hole [70] was also located in this area on the north side of the ditch.

Post-hole [53] was circular with a steep concave profile, 0.3m diameter, 0.16m deep. It was filled by (52), dark grey silty clay with occasional pebbles. Post-hole [58] was also circular in plan with a similar profile, 0.35x0.25m, 0.12m deep (Figs. 22 & 23). It was filled by (57) dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional pebble inclusions. Post-hole [68] again had a similar profile, 0.25mn diameter, 0.11m deep. It was filled by (67) russet mottled dark grey silty clay. Post-hole [70] had a moderately concave profile, 0.2m diameter, 0.04m deep. It was filled by (69), dark grey-brown silty clay with some pebble and charcoal inclusions.

Figure 22: Post-hole [58] looking northwest

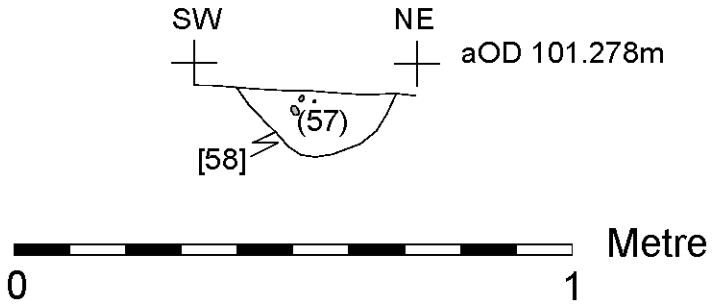

Figure 23: Post-hole [58]

Located to the south of these was pit [77] (Figs. 24 & 25). It was circular in plan with a shallow sloping profile, 0.86m diameter, 0.12m deep, probably truncated by later activity. It was filled by (76) mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional small pebbles. Another pit [83] was located to the west in-between the two ditches. It was oval in shape with steep sides, but shallow in depth, 1.06x0.6m, 0.1m deep. It was filled by (82), mid grey-brown clay-silt with infrequent pebbles. To the north of this, still between the two ditches on the north side of ditch [66] was a single post-hole [46]. It was oval in shape with a straight steep profile, 0.8x0.5m, 0.2m deep. The lowest fill (45) was yellow-orange clay, which may have been some natural packing backfill, 0.06m thick. This was overlain by (44), orange-brown silty clay with some medium sized stones, probably acting as post packing, 0.14m thick.

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Figure 24: Pit [77] looking northwest

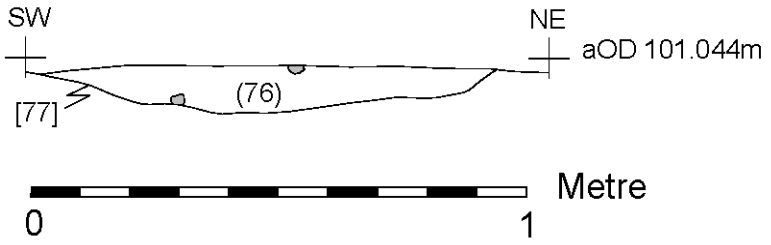

Figure 25: Pit [77] section

There was a small cluster of post-holes to the north, [22], [24] and [32]. Post-hole [22] was circular with a moderate concave profile, 0.3m diameter, 0.06m deep. It was filled by (21), dark grey-brown silty clay with infrequent charcoal flecking. Post-hole [24] was sub-circular with a moderate concave profile, 0.5x0.4m, 0.11m deep. It was filled by (23), dark grey-brown silty clay with frequent charcoal inclusions. Post-hole [32] (cut by ditch [35]) had a similar profile, 0.3m diameter, 0.08m deep. It was filled by (31) orange-brown silty clay.

To the east of these was another small cluster of post-holes, [75], [79] and [81]. Post-hole [75] was circular with a steep concave profile, 0.4m diameter, 0.13m deep. It was filled by (74) brown-grey silty clay with occasional pebbles. Post-hole [79] had a similar profile, 0.3m diameter, 0.17m deep. It was filled by (78), grey-brown silty clay with occasional pebbles. Post-hole [81] again had a similar profile, 0.4m diameter, 0.22m deep (Figs.26 & 27). It was filled by (80), mixed orange-brown silty clay withy occasional pebbles and charcoal, and with a large burnt stone at the baser probably acting as packing. A further post-hole [89] was located slightly to the north. It was circular with a moderate sloping profile, 0.48m diameter, 0.16m deep. It was filled by (88) orange-brown sandy clay with infrequent small pebbles.

Post-holes [7], [84] and [86] and pit [29] were located slightly further north. Post-hole [7] was on the south side of ditch [9], circular with a moderate concave profile, 0.44x0.46m, 0.1m deep. It was filled by (8), orange-grey silty clay. Post-hole [84] was oval with a moderate concave profile, 0.24x0.16m, 0.12m deep. It was filled by (85), mid grey-brown silty clay. Post-hole [86] was also oval with a similar profile, 0.4x0.32m, 0.12m deep. It was filled by (87), mid grey-brown silty clay with some pebble inclusions. Pit [29] truncated ditch [25], oval with a similar profile, 1.1x1m, 0.18m deep. It was filled by light orange-grey silty clay.

Figure 26: Post-hole [81] looking northeast

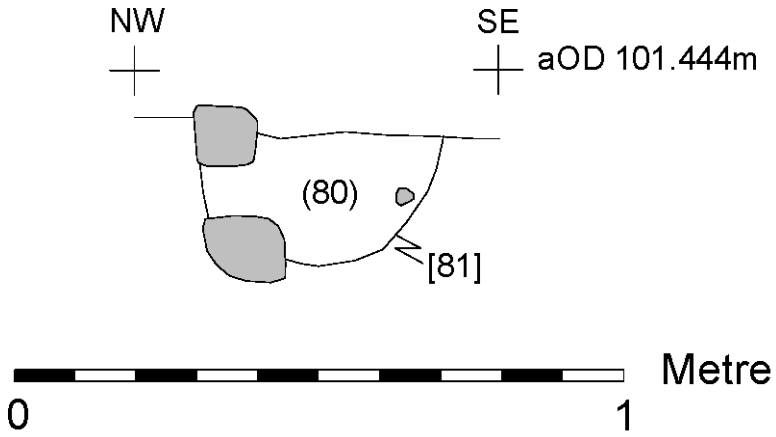

Figure 27: Post-hole [81] section

Discussion

The phasing of the site clearly indicates that pit [17] is one of the earliest datable features with late Anglo-Saxon pottery. This is cut by ditch [9]/[12]/[27]/[36]/[47]/[59], with the pot dating it to *c.*11th Century.

Unfortunately there was no dating from ditch [66] although it was wider and deeper than the other ditches on sites, and its fills were also different. There is the possibility it may also be of Anglo-Saxon origin, or may even pre-date this period.

However both these ditches were cut by a set of three ditches aligned approx. north-south. The dates for the pottery recovered range from 9th-13th Centuries, which is quite broad, but given the probable 11th-Century date of the earlier ditch, it would suggest the latter end of the range. Of course some pieces may be residual, especially given the slope of the site and colluvial layer. Within the area there is no relationship between parallel ditches [20] and [35], so it is difficult to say if they are contemporary. However, as they both have the same kink in them, it would suggest the western one is avoiding an obstacle, and so this is reflected in the parallel one on the eastern side.

This could then form part of a trackway with an enclosure, (possibly for livestock) on the eastern side, bounded by ditch [61]/[71].

The small assemblage of pottery suggests this area is outside of the domesticity of dwellings, but that there are some nearby, and this is an area that was frequently used. With the inclusion of the Potters Marston dripping dish this is suggestive of part of a manorial site. This is further exemplified by the site itself called Manor Farm. While this could be interpreted as the farm belonging to the manor, it is suggested that it has an earlier core (Historic England **1180150**), and the building is labelled as 'Manor House' on the 1885 OS map. Manorial gardens in the form of earthworks are recorded in the field next to the farmhouse (Historic England **1017209)**. It is also interesting to note that the village is supposed to have two manor houses.

Google earth satellite photo of 9/28/2011 clearly shows many earthworks in and around the village. There is a rectangular enclosure within the field directly east of Manor Farm, also with ridge and furrow and what appears to be a hollow-way, that would appear to line-up with Church Lane that runs of Main Street, parallel with Arnesby Lane, a lane itself which is narrow and has high sided hedges and higher level fields on each side, much like a medieval hollow-way. There also appear to be toft and croft enclosures on the south side of Church Lane.

On the north side of the village there are more earthworks, the remains of Petlinge medieval settlement (Historic England **1017214)**, that show more house platforms and hollow-ways. The village itself with this sort of long plan, or a cluster of houses, could be a composite or polyvocal layout of the village

The Finds

Worked Flint

Lynden Cooper
A total of two flint fragments were recovered from the backfill of ditches [38] and [66].
Ditch [38], (39) broken blade fragment
Ditch [66], (64) a secondary flake

Post Roman Pottery

Deborah Sawday
The pottery assemblage was made up of 35 sherds, weighing 620 grams, representing fifteen vessels and a vessel rim equivalent of 0.1975 (calculated by adding together the circumference of the surviving rim sherds, where one vessel equals 1.00).

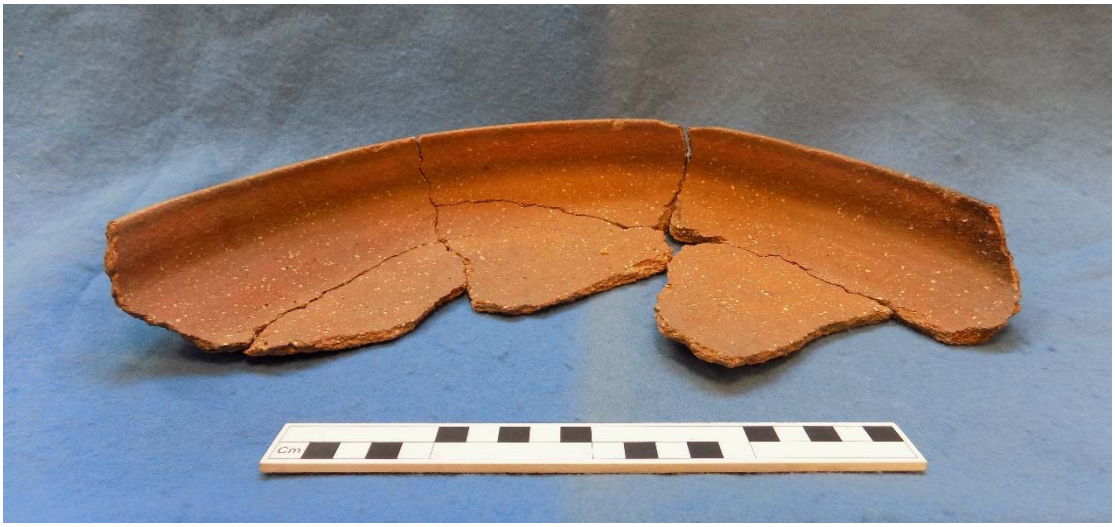

Figure 28: The Coarse Shelly ware bowl.

Condition

The condition of the pottery was good, with the calcareous inclusions readily visible, and not, as so often occurs in more acidic conditions, leached out making identification of the fossil shell bryozoa – which are indicative of the St Neots type wares – difficult if not impossible to identify. The sherds showed relatively little abrasion and had an average sherd weight of 17.71 grams. A Coarse Shelly ware bowl from context (51) was made up of a number of joining sherds (figs. 28 & 29).

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 – where known – are shown in the fabric list, table 1. Table 2 lists the medieval pottery by fabric, sherd number, weight (grams), vessel number, EVES and average sherd weight (ASW). Table 3 catalogues the material as above but also by context, and vessel class. Co-joining sherds are noted, whilst single sherds are generally counted as one vessel

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Table 1: The medieval pottery fabrics.

Fabric	Common Name/Kiln & Fabric Equivalent where known	Approx. Date Range
ST3	Stamford ware – coarse, fabrics E/F, H A/D (1)	*c*.850/900-1050+
LI	Lincoln Kiln type/Lincoln late Saxon Shelly ware (2)	*c*.870–early 12th C.
SN	St Neots/St Neots type ware (3), Northants CTS fabric 100 (4)	*c*.850-1100+
PM	Potters Marston ware - Potters Marston, Leicestershire (5)	*c*.1100-*c*.1300/50+
CS	Coarse Shelly ware - Northants CTS 330 (4)	*c*.1100-1400

(1) Kilmurry 1980, Leach 1987	(4) Northants CTS, Blinkhorn 2009, 2010
(2) Young *et al* 2005	(5) Haynes 1952, Sawday 1991, Sawday 2009
(3) Hunter in McCarthy 1979	

Figure 29: Profile of the Coarse Shelly ware bowl. Scale: approximately 3:2.

Two of the identifiable SN vessels, a bowl and a jar, could both be paralleled at Raunds in Northamptonshire (Blinkhorn 2009), where they were dated from the mid or late 9th to the 10th or 11th centuries. Whilst no identifiable vessels were found in LI, which is dated from the later 9th to the early 12th century at York (Young *et al* 2005), the three sherds of ST3, included two 11th century pots; one a jar, the other a jar or, perhaps as the fragment was glazed; a spouted pitcher.

The later material in the Coarse Shelly, fabric CS, and Potters Marston, fabric, PM dated from the 12th century. The three CS bowls included the profile of a shallow carinated vessel (figs. 29 & 30), both this and another CS bowl were paralleled at Raunds (*ibid* 2009). Another shallow vessel in Potters Marston which is both internally and externally sooted is a dripping dish. Similar vessels are known in this fabric at Leicester, (Davies and Sawday 1999) and vessels identified as shallow dishes, but clearly dripping dishes, were also manufactured at the 13th century kiln site in the village of that name (Haynes 1952).

Table 2: The medieval pottery site totals by fabric, sherd number, weight (grams), vessel count, EVEs and average sherd weight (ASW).

Fabric	No.	Gr	Vessel	EVE	ASW
Late Saxon/Early Medieval					
ST3	3	19	3	0.1725	
LI	2	17	2		
SN	6	37	4	0.1	
Sub Total	11	73	9	0.275	6.63
Medieval					
PM	2	58	2	0.475	29.0
CS	22	489	4	0.45	22.22
Sub Total	24	547	6	0.925	22.79
Site Totals	35	620	15	1.1975	17.71

The Stratigraphic Record

Coarse Shelly wares dating from the 12th century were found in two of the stratigraphically early features, the back fills of the ditch [12]/[47]. However, this ditch cut the pit [17], perhaps the earliest feature on the site, which contained a fragment, weighing 4 grams, of late Saxon or early medieval Saint Neots type ware.

The remaining pottery appears to have been recovered from stratigraphically later features; the ditches [20], [35], [49], [61] and [71]; the possible pit [46] and the pit [83] and the post hole [89].

Discussion

The late Saxon/early medieval coarse Stamford ware, fabric ST3, Lincoln or Lincolnshire Shelly ware, LI, and Saint Neots type ware, SN made up a not insignificant part of the assemblage. However the medieval Coarse Shelly wares, fabric CS, and Potters Marston, PM, accounted for over half of the assemblage by both sherds count and weight (table 2). This was partly due to the eleven CS sherds, which weighed 446 grams, which made up the carinated bowl.

Conclusion

The range of pottery vessels and fabrics present is typical of the period and of the locality and provides evidence of activity in the vicinity from the late Saxon/early medieval periods. The variation in the average sherd weights also suggests many episodes of the deposition and re-deposition of rubbish over a long period of time, the earlier material having an average weight of less than 7 grams, that from the later group, averaging almost 23 grams (table 2).

It has been argued that Saint Neots type ware was not normally found in the east midlands until around the 11th century (Young et al 2005, 92). However, the presence of a medieval manor nearby may suggest that this was part of a high status site and perhaps indicate the possibility of a relatively early date for the pottery.

Status may also be suggested by the presence of a Potters Marston dripping dish, an uncommon find, indicative of the spit-roasting of meat or game and usually associated with a relatively wealthy household. The pattern of external sooting on the fragment of a base also in Potters Marston (Moorhouse 1986, fig.16) suggested that the vessel had been placed on a stand or a trivet whilst being used for cooking over a fire; another relatively unusual find.

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Table 3: The pottery by context, fabric/ware, sherd number, weight (grams), EVES and vessel number.

Cntxt	Fabric/ware	No	Gr	EVEs	V No	Comments
14 [12] ditch	CS – Coarse Shelly	1	28	0.05	1	Simple, internally thickened bowl rim, possibly with a carinated or flared profile. Estimated diameter 240mm, sooted externally.
18 [17] pit	SN – Saint Neots type	1	4		1	Body, sooted externally
19 [20] ditch	SN – Saint Neots type	2	22	0.05	1	Inturned bowl rim fragments. Similar at Raunds (Blinkhorn 2009, fig.6.445), mid-late 9th century into the 11th century if not later. Estimated diameter c.300mm.
34 [35] ditch	SN – Saint Neots type	1	10	0.05	1	Jar rim, everted slightly rolled, similar at Raunds, (*ibid.* 2009, fig.6.13;10), where dated from the 9th to the 10th centuries. Estimated diameter 170mm, sooted externally, abraded
34	PM – Potters Marston	1	44	0.0475	1	Rim of rounded shallow vessel, possibly a dripping dish. Estimated diameter 280 mm, sooted externally and internally. Both this and shallow bowl forms paralleled in Potters Marston in Leicester (Davies and Sawday 1999, fig., 93.103 – 4). Vessels identified as shallow dishes, but clearly dripping dishes, also known at the 13th C. kiln site (Haynes 1952, fig.3.K-M).
44 [46] ?pit	SN – Saint Neots type	2	1		1	Externally sooted body fragments
48 [47] ditch	CS – Coarse Shelly	9	8		1	Joining frags - body
51 [49] ditch	CS – Coarse Shelly	11	446	0.40	1	Profile, shallow carinated bowl, rim diameter c.330mm. Similar at West Coton, Raunds (Blinkhorn 2010, fig. 10.13.77). Dated c.1100+ Figs. 1 and 2.
51	CS – Coarse Shelly	1	7		1	Base, sooted externally.
63 [61] ditch	LI – Lincoln/Lincs Late Saxon Shelly	1	6		1	
72 [71] ditch	ST3 – Coarse Stamford	1	6	0.075	1	Abraded/broken pink-bodied jar/spouted pitcher rim, thick orange glaze. Diameter 170mm. Glaze 6 dated early –

						late 11th C at Stamford (Kilmurry 1980).
82 [83] pit	ST3 – Coarse Stamford	1	5		1	body
88 [89] post hole	ST3 – Coarse Stamford	1	8	0.0975	1	Jar rim, diameter c.120mm, form 3-13, 11th C. (ibid. 1980).
U/S	LI – Lincoln/Lincs Late Saxon Shelly	1	11		1	Flat base fragment.
U/S	PM – Potters Marston	1	14		1	Concave base, sooted externally save at basal angle, indicating pot placed on a trivet over fire.

The Animal Bones

William Johnson

Introduction

A small bone assemblage (38 fragments) was collected by hand during a strip, map and sample at Manor Farm, Arnesby Lane, Peatling magna, Leicestershire. Animal bones were recovered from 12 contexts which included several feature types. The majority of the bone (27 fragments - 71%) derived from nine ditch fills whilst three fragments (7.9%) came from two post-holes and eight fragments (21%) came from a pit. All contexts were dated to the medieval period.

Methods

The bones were identified through comparison to reference material held at the University of Leicester and recorded in a catalogue (table 1). Condition was scored using Harland et al.'s (2003) scale. Identification of tooth wear stages for cattle and sheep/goat followed Grant (1982).

Results

The majority of the bone (76%) was described as being in 'good' condition with a solid appearance and only localised areas of flaking. The rest of the bone (24%) was in 'fair' condition with patches of flaking covering up to 50% of the surface of the bone. Some minor splitting and cracking was noted on the surface of a few bones but no significant weathering was observed. No differences in preservation were observed between bones from different feature types.

The assemblage was fairly fragmentary although much of this was as a result of modern damage with many of the breaks being fresh in appearance. Reassembly of joining fragments was possible in a number of instances reducing the assemblage from 38 fragments to 29 specimens. The rest of the report will refer to the number of *specimens*.

Under half of the specimens (41.3%) could be identified to species. Cattle and sheep/goat were the only species identified within the assemblage. These were equally well represented, each contributing 50% to the NISP (number of identified specimens). Due to the fragmentary nature of the material no positive identification to sheep or goat could be made. A range of elements was present for each species including long bones and flat bones such as pelvis and scapula.

The presence of a relatively high number of loose teeth (25% of NISP) including three cattle molars and one sheep/goat is characteristic of poorly preserved assemblage and may indicate some disturbance has occurred.

Butchery was noted on a single specimen, a sheep/goat radius from a post-hole (87). A small chop has been made into the medial surface of the shaft.

No pathologies were noted on any of the specimens.

Discussion

This assemblage is most likely comprised of general domestic refuse including food waste. The presence of non-meat bearing elements including metapodials, phalanges and cranial fragments indicate that the deposits are not purely food waste and are likely to be the result of general waste disposal from multiple domestic activities within the surrounding ditches. The poor preservation, slight weathering and the presence of gnawing on one specimen indicates the bones had some exposure and were not immediately buried, further supporting an interpretation of waste discard. It is also probable that many specimens underwent re-deposition as a result of later medieval activity.

Statement of potential

No further work is required on the assemblage under study. Should further excavation work be carried out in the area analysis of recovered bone is recommended as, although the preservation and bone quality is relatively poor, further environmental evidence from rural sites is highlighted as an area of particular interest in the East Midlands regional research framework (see Monckton 2006) and a larger assemblage may be able to answer question about diet and animal husbandry in more detail.

Table 1. Catalogue of hand-collected bone by specimen

Context	Cut	Feature	Date	Element	Taxon	Fragments	Comment
14	12	Ditch	Med	Pelvis	Sheep/goat	1	Fragment
14	12	Ditch	Med	Rib	Medium mammal	1	Fragment
19	20	Ditch	Med	M1/M2	Sheep/goat	1	Maxilliary
30	29	Post-hole	Med	Tibia	Sheep/goat	1	Shaft fragment
33	35	Ditch	Med	M1/M2	Cattle	1	Maxilliary
33	35	Ditch	Med	Indet		2	
34	35	Ditch	Med	Metatarsal	Sheep/goat	1	Fragment
39	38	Ditch	Med	Long bone	Large mammal	1	Shaft fragment
48	47	Ditch	Med	Long bone	Medium mammal	1	Shaft fragment
63			Med	M1/M2	Cattle	1	Mandibular, wear stage C
63			Med	M1/M2	Cattle	1	Maxilliary
65	61	Ditch	Med	Scapula	Sheep/goat	4	Fragment
65	61	Ditch	Med	Long bone	Large mammal	2	Shaft fragment
65	61	Ditch	Med	Long bone	Medium mammal	1	Shaft fragment
65	61	Ditch	Med	Indet		7	
72	71	Ditch	Med	Metatarsal	Cattle	2	Proximal frag
82	83	Pit	Med	Humerus	Cattle	4	Shaft fragment
82	83	Pit	Med	Phalanx 1	Cattle	2	Complete
82	83	Pit	Med	Indet		2	
87	86	Post-hole	Med	Radius	Sheep/goat	1	Distal ulna attached, chop mark, gnawed
87	86	Post-hole	Med	Skull	Medium mammal	1	Fragment
Total						**38**	

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The Charred Plant Remains

Adam Santer and Rachel Small

Introduction

During an archaeological strip, map and sample Excavation at Arnesby Lane, Peatling Magna eight bulk soil samples (numbered 1 to 8) from a series of medieval features were taken and processed for the analysis of charred plant remains. Samples 1 and 5 were from the fills (23) and (80) of post-holes [24] and [81], samples 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8 were from the fills (34), (72), (37), (64) and (39) of ditches [35], [71], [36], [66] and [38]. Sample 4 was taken from the fill (76) of pit [77]. The analysis of the charred plant remains recovered from the samples is presented here, together with a discussion of what this can potentially tell us about past diet, crop husbandry strategies and environment at the site.

Methodology

The samples consisted of a mostly dark orange/brown silty clay and were processed in a York tank using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation into a 0.3mm sieve. The flotation fractions (flots) were sorted for plant remains and other artefacts under an x10-40 stereo microscope. The residues were air dried and the fractions over 4mm were sorted in their entirety whilst the fraction under 4mm was only scanned for remains. Plant remains were identified by comparison to modern reference material available at ULAS and their names follow Stace (1991). Each whole grain or those representing over 60% of the specimen was counted as one.

Results

Composition

All of the samples contained charred plant remains. Six of the samples had a low density of remains (under 5 items per litre) and the other two had a medium density (over 5 items per litre). Sample 2 contained the highest density of remains at 5.2 items per litre and it was from the fill (34) of ditch [35] located at the northern end of the excavation area. The charred plant remains were very fragmentary and distorted from burning at high temperatures. While this hindered the identification of specimens to species it was still possible to identify 62.19% of the remains to families/genus/species. All of the samples contained modern rootlets while some contained small animal bone, insect remains and modern seeds. This strongly suggests that the contexts have been subjected to disturbance.

The samples contained mixed proportions of cereal grains and wild seeds. In samples 1 and 6 only a very few cereal grains no wild seeds were found. Samples 5 and 7 contained few cereal grains and few wild seeds. Samples 2, 3 4 and 8 contained relatively equal proportions of cereal grains to wild seeds.

Chaff was found in samples 2, 3, 7 and 8 but they had only survived in fragments and in very small numbers.

Each category of plant remains will now be discussed in more detail:

Grains

Free-threshing wheat (Triticum spp.) was the only type of grain which could be identified with any degree of confidence. A total of four possible barley (C.f Hordeum vulgare L.) grains were found in samples 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8 but the specimens were very poorly preserved. It was therefore, impossible to tell whether or not these grains were ‘twisted’ which would be indicative of six-rowed barley. No signs of germination on any of the cereal grains were noted.

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Chaff

Few glume base fragments were found in samples 2, 3, 7 and 8. Due to their fragmentary and poorly preserved nature it was not possible to differentiate the specimens between rivet (Triticum turgidum L.) and bread wheat (Triticum aestivum L.).

Legume and Nut shell

One possible bean fragment (Cf. Vicia sp.) was found in sample 4. Three fragments of hazelnut shell (Corylus avellana L.) were recovered from sample 2.

Wild seeds

The most commonly occurring species of wild seed found in the assemblage was stinking chamomile (Anthemis cotula L.) which typically grows as a weed of cultivated cereal fields and is tolerant of heavy soils (typically clay). This has been taken to be suggestive of the cultivation of marginal lands and the use of improved agricultural equipment (Monckton 2003: 18). Some large grass seeds (Poaceae) were present in samples 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8. These could represent poorly preserved oat grans (wild or cultivated). Small grass seeds were also present in samples 3 and 4. Other species of wild seeds present in lower numbers included goosefoot (Chenopodium sp.) which grows amongst wasteland vegetation, ribwort plantain (Plantago lanceolota L.) which grows in grassland vegetation. Other seeds which grow in a variety of environments; such as vetch (Lathyrus spp.), dock (Rumex sp.), Knotgrass (Polygonum aviculare L.) and buttercup (Ranunculus sp.) were also present.

Sample	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	
Context	**23**	**34**	**72**	**76**	**80**	**37**	**64**	**39**	
Cut	**24**	**35**	**71**	**77**	**81**	**36**	**66**	**38**	
Feature type	**Posthole**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**Pit**	**Posthole**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	
Date	**Medieval**	**Medieval**	**Medieval**	**Medieval**	**Medieval**	**Medieval**	**Medieval**	**Medieval**	
Grain									
Cf. *Hordeum vulgare* L.		1	1	1	1			1	Cf. Barley
Triticum spp.	1	28	16	1	3	2	4	14	Free-threshing wheat
Cereal		6	35	30		2	3	17	Indeterminate cereal
Chaff									
Glume base fragments		1	1				2	2	Glume base fragments
Nuts									
Corylus avellana L. nut shell fragments		3							Hazelnut shell
Legumes									
Cf. Vicia sp.				1					Cf. Bean
Wild seeds									
Asteraceae				1					Daisy family
Anthemis cotula L.		6	11	5					Stinking chamomile
Chenopodium sp.			1	1			3		Goosefoots
Lathyrus spp.		2	2	3	1			4	Cf. Vetch
Cf. Vicia/Lathyrus			1						Cf. Bean/Vetch
Poaceae (large)		25	13	2			1	11	Large grass family
Poaceae (small)			2	1				1	Small grass family
Plantago lanceolota L.								1	Ribword plantain
Ranunculus sp.			1						Buttercups
Rumex sp.		1	1						Docks
Polygonum aviculare L.		4	1						Knotgrass
Indeterminate seed		1						1	Indeterminate seed
Total	**1**	**78**	**86**	**46**	**5**	**4**	**13**	**52**	
Soil volume (L)	**7**	**15**	**17**	**16**	**9**	**17**	**20**	**19**	
% Analysed	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	
Items per litre	**0.14**	**5.2**	**5.05**	**2.87**	**0.55**	**0.23**	**0.65**	**2.73**	

Table 1: The charred plant remains found in samples 1-8.

A note on charcoal

Some charcoal was found in the samples but very few pieces measured over 2mm in diameter, and are therefore would not be deemed suitable for radiocarbon analysis.

Discussion/Conclusion

Eight bulk soil samples were taken from Arnesby Lane, Peatling Magna and analysed. All of the samples contained low to medium densities of charred plant remains; the highest density being present in sample 2. The specimens were heavily distorted and fragmentary from burning at high temperatures which hindered the identification process.

Free-threshing wheat was the dominant crop found. Rivet wheat would have been a favoured crop for the production of biscuit whereas bread wheat would have been used to produce wheat flour (ibid: 24). Due to the small amount and fragmentary nature of the chaff found in the sample it is impossible to differentiate between the two. Chaff is generally removed during the earlier stages of processing the grain for consumption (e.g. threshing). The lack of chaff may either be indicative that crop processing was not carried out at the site or it could be down to high firing temperatures. Free-threshing wheat chaff is typically the first part of the crop to be destroyed once it is burnt.

It is possible that the presence of cereal grains, the small amounts of chaff and the abundance of stinking chamomile seeds in samples 2, 3 and 4 represents residual waste from cereal grain processing. The lack of chaff however, limits this interpretation. It is probable that the hazelnut shells, legumes and possible barley grains represent food spillage and preparation waste that had become burnt on a hearth. The ash from the hearth would have formed a general scatter across the site collecting in the open features.

A similar assemblage was found in the medieval and post medieval contexts during excavations at Oundle Road, Woodston, Peterborough (Monckton 2006) and more recently at an evaluation at Kegworth, Leicestershire (Santer 2018), where at both sites little chaff was found but legumes and hazelnut shell were present along with wheat grains and stinking chamomile seeds.

Statement of potential

Although the majority of the samples yielded few charred plant remains, the presence of cereal grain and other food items in the assemblage (in sample 3 in particular) suggests that further sampling at Peatling Magna could be beneficial to the broader understanding of Medieval diet and crop husbandry strategies of rural East Midlands proposed by the environmental research framework put forward by Monckton (2003). For example, more data recovered from Peatling Magna in terms of food items could help to expand upon the current understanding of the supply of food to nearby towns. If more chaff can be recovered and identified to species, then it would be possible to gain better understanding into the use and spread of rivet wheat and oats as newly introduced crops. Wild plant seeds from heavier/clayey soils were found in this assemblage and further finds from future work would be an indicative of the practice of crop rotation (see ibid: 36).

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Archive

The site archive for this phase consists of: 2 A4 context index sheets, 74 A5 context sheets, 1 A4 drawing index, 1 A4 drawing record sheet, 1 A4 sample index, 1 A4 photo index sheet, 95 digital photographs and 2 A2 permatrace sheets. It will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A2.2018.

Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work through the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York. A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in a suitable regional archaeological journal in due course.

PROJECT DETAILS	**Oasis No**	universi1- 326732		
	Project Name	Manor Farm, Arnesby Lane, Peatling Magna		
	Start/end dates of field work	30-04-18 – 14-05-18		
	Previous/Future Work	Evaluation 2018-001		
	Project Type	Strip, map and sample		
	Site Status			
	Current Land Use	Pasture		
	Monument Type/Period	Medieval		
	Significant Finds/Period	Pottery, tile, flint, bone		
	Development Type	Residential		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition		
	Planning Ref.	17/01165/FUL		
PROJECT LOCATION	**Site Address/Postcode**	Manor Farm, Arnesby Lane, Peatling Magna, Leicestershire, LE8 5UN		
	Study Area	0.23ha		
	Site Coordinates	SP 59505 92549		
	Height OD	101m		
PROJECT CREATORS	**Organisation**	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority (CCC)		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	John Thomas/Richard Buckley		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Nathan Flavell		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Sheelagh Shaen Carter		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		**Physical**	**Digital**	**Paper**
	Recipient	Leics MusService	Leics MusService	Leics MusService
	ID (Acc. No.)	X.A2.2018	X.A2.2018	X.A2.2018
	Contents	Pottery, bone, flint,	Photos	Context index, context sheets, photo records, sample record, contact sheet, permatrace
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	**Type**	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Title	Archaeological Strip, Map & Sample at Manor Farm, Arnesby Lane, Peatling Magna, Leicestershire		
	Author	Flavell, N.		
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