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Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Excavation  
On Land Next to Starmore Farm,  
Swinford, Leicestershire**

**NGR: SP 56970 79250**

**Claire Brown**



**ULAS Report No. 2018-149  
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**On Land at Starmore Farm,**  
**Swinford,**  
**Leicestershire**  
**NGR: SP 56970 79250**  
**Planning Authority: Harborough District Council**  
**Planning Ref: 16/01804/FUL**

**For: Mr and Mrs Mourant**

Filename/Version	Checked by	Date
2018-149	Vicki Score	17/09/2018

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ULAS Report Number 2018-149  
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Accession Number: XA6 2018

## Contents

Summary.....	2
Introduction.....	2
Site Description, Topography and Geology.....	4
Archaeological and Historical Background.....	5
Aims and Objectives.....	6
Methods.....	6
Results.....	7
East-west ditch.....	1
North-south ditch [11].....	3
The Ceramic Finds - Debbie Sawday.....	5
The Charred Plant Remains - Adam Santer.....	10
Animal Bone Assessment – Thomas Fox.....	12
Discussion.....	14
Bibliography.....	14
Appendix 3: OASIS Data Entry.....	17

## Figures

Figure 1: Location Map of Starmore Farm, Swinford.....	3
Figure 2: Development area (in red), south of the historic settlement core of Swinford. ....	3
Figure 3: Development site, looking west.....	4
Figure 4: Plan of trenches (in blue and area of stripping in green). Trench 5 showing ditches is in black.....	5
Figure 5: Proposed house plans with area to be stripped outlined in blue (provided by client). .....	7
Figure 6: Linear ditch running east to west, looking east.....	7
Figure 7: Linear ditch looking west.....	8
Figure 8: Plan of stripped area showing excavated sections.....	1
Figure 9: Ditches [01] and [13], east-facing sections.....	2
Figure 10: Ditches [05] and [07], west-facing sections.....	2
Figure 11: West facing section of Ditch [03] showing the northern edge of Ditch [16].....	3
Figure 12: Shallow Ditch, [11] north-facing section.....	4

## **An Archaeological Excavation on Land at Starmore Farm, Swinford, Leicestershire**

**Claire Brown**

### **Summary**

*An archaeological excavation was undertaken by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) between 13<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2018 on land at Starmore Farm, Stanford Road, Swinford, Leicestershire. The work took place as a condition of planning permission for the erection of two dwellings with vehicular access and parking. The assessment area lies on the southern edge of the historic settlement core of Swinford.*

*Five previous excavation trenches identified modern pits and landscaping. However, one trench contained two large probable boundary ditches, thought on the basis of pottery finds to be medieval/post medieval.*

*An area encompassing the ditch in the previous trench was stripped. This revealed further evidence of a large ditch. This revealed that the ditch was actually two ditches divided by a ridge of natural orange clay, and slightly intercutting at the western end of the stripped area.*

*Pottery evidence gave both ditches an early to mid-medieval date, 1100-1400, with a few sherds of 9<sup>th</sup> century pottery and roman pottery which is probably residual. A smaller shallow ditch cutting the larger ditch contained later pottery dating from 1300-1500.*

*Bone recovered from the ditches suggests a trend towards predominantly cattle consumption followed by sheep, a common pattern for a medieval settlement. The environmental results suggest a mixture of grain and seeds from food spillage and processing waste from domestic hearths.*

The report will be archived under accession number XA6 2018.

### **Introduction**

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* this document forms the report for an archaeological Strip, Map and Sample excavation (SMS) undertaken on land at Starmore Farm, Stanmore Road, Swinford (Figs 1 and 2). All archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct (2014) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Excavation (2014)*. The fieldwork was intended to provide a record of the archaeological remains in mitigation of the impact of the proposed development. The agreed scheme was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (ULAS 2018; hereinafter WSI).



Figure 1: Location Map of Starmore Farm, Swinford.  
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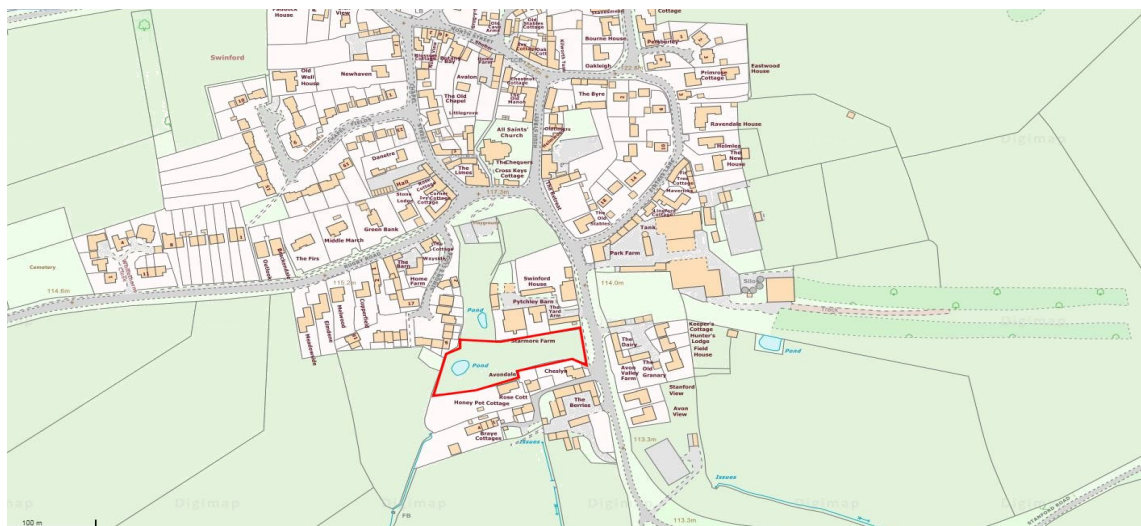


Figure 2: Development area (in red), south of the historic settlement core of Swinford.

The work was undertaken in advance of a proposed residential development comprising two large dwellings and associated access and parking (16/1804/FUL).

The site lies on the southern edge of the historic settlement core and the surrounding fields have evidence of ridge and furrow. An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the site during January 2018. As a result of the findings of the evaluation, a program of archaeological work comprising a Strip, Map and Sample excavation was undertaken by ULAS in order to record any archaeological deposits which would be impacted on by the groundworks and fulfil the planning conditions.

### ***Site Description, Topography and Geology***

The proposed development is located to the south of the historic settlement core of Swinford, a parish to the south-east of Lutterworth, close to the junction of the M1, M6 and A14 (Fig. 1). The farm is located on the western side of Stanford road, one of the main roads leading south out of the village. The land is a vacant pasture field adjacent to the farm on the south side, containing two ponds (Figs 2 and 3).



Figure 3: Development site, looking west

The BGS Survey of Great Britain, indicates that the underlying geology of the site is Charmouth mudstone formation, overlain with Diamicton till deposits and the land lies at approximately 115m aOD. The stripped area was approximately 0.03ha.

### ***Archaeological and Historical Background***

The village of Swinford was known as *Suineford* in the Domesday Book (Bourne 2003, 84) and consists of a historic village core with four main roads that lead off this centre, (HER **MLE10318**). The main conservation area in Swinford is made up of cottages and former farm housed and farm land. The farm lies on the south edge of the historic village core and the surrounding fields have evidence for ridge and furrow.

Earlier in 2018 an archaeological evaluation consisting of five trenches within the proposed site was undertaken (Figs 4-5). This revealed archaeology in only one trench - Trench 5, in the form of two large intersecting ditches, thought on the basis of pottery finds to be medieval or post-medieval in date and likely to be boundary ditches marking the southern edge of the village (Cooper 2018).

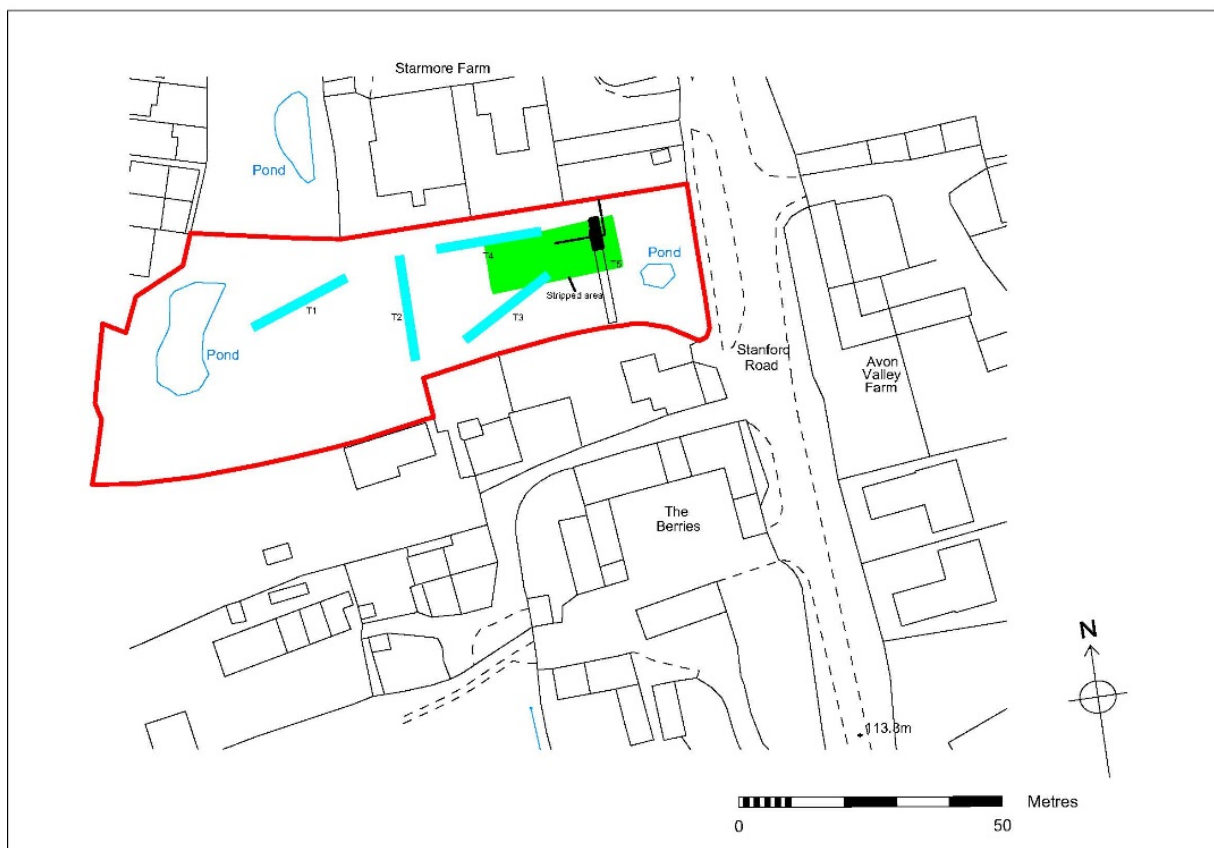


Figure 4: Plan of trenches (in blue and area of stripping in green). Trench 5 showing ditches is in black.

## **Aims and Objectives**

Excavation is an intrusive form of investigation involving the excavation of an area to ascertain the presence, condition and date of any archaeological remains which may be present.

The main objectives of the archaeological work were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscape.
- To recover artefacts and ecofacts to compare with other assemblages and results.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

In addition, the archaeological work was identified to have the potential to contribute to the following research aims, derived from *East Midlands Heritage: An updated research agenda and strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (Knight et al. 2012) and *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda* (Cooper 2006).

*Medieval* (Lewis 2006; Knight et al 2012)

To review the evidence for developing settlement hierarchies (6C)

To investigate the morphology of rural settlements (7E).

## **Methods**

Fieldwork was undertaken from 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> August 2018. The Strip, Map and Sample excavation consisted of a rectangular area, approximately 7m x 25m in the north east corner of the field, targeting the boundary ditches revealed during preliminary evaluation work, which was in the north-eastern quarter of the field (the site of the boundary ditch in Trench 5) (Fig. 4). This partially exposed the footprint of one of the proposed dwellings (Fig. 5).

A mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket (c.1.6m wide) was employed under constant archaeological supervision to remove overburden, with excavation ceasing at undisturbed archaeological deposits. This was followed by hand cleaning, excavation and recording of archaeological remains across the stripped area. Archaeological deposits were recorded at an appropriate scale by measured drawing and photography and were located to Ordnance Survey National Grid.



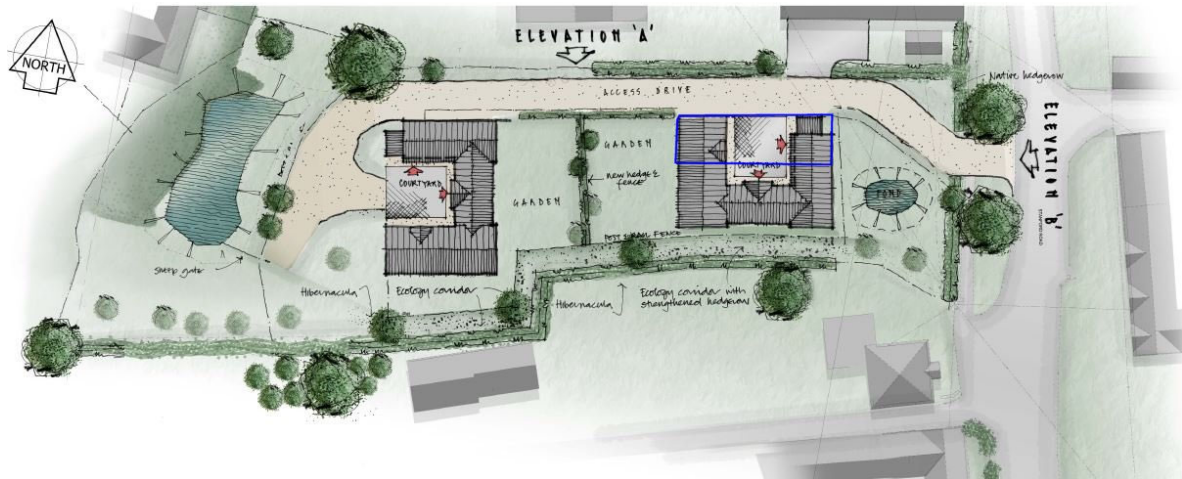


Figure 5: Proposed house plans with area to be stripped outlined in blue (provided by client).

## Results

The natural substratum consisted of an orange sandy clay with chalk and flint inclusions and was reached at a depth of 0.75m. There was some evidence of made ground in the form of levelling deposits along the southern edge of the strip. A large, slightly curving ditch approximately 3m wide and running roughly west to east was evident along the length of the rectangular area which became very clear at a depth of 0.75m (Figs 6 - 8).



Figure 6: Linear ditch running east to west, looking east.



Figure 7: Linear ditch looking west.

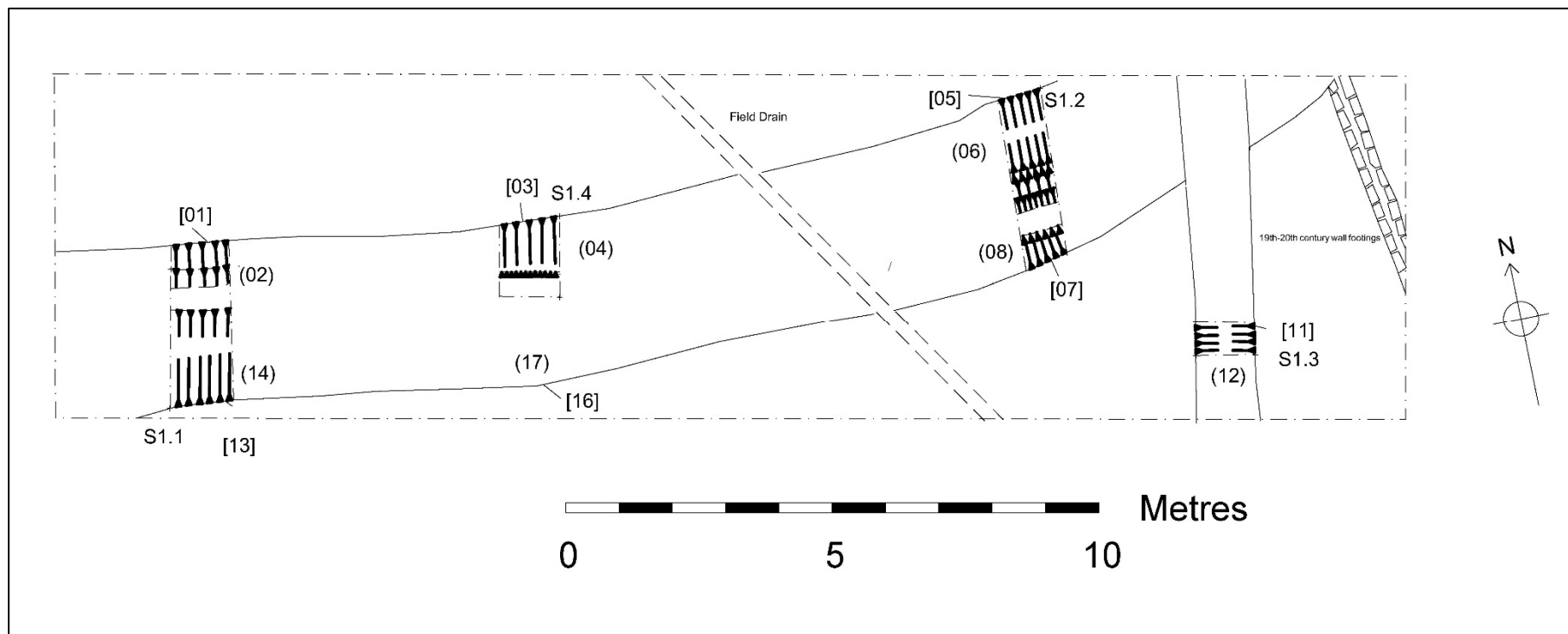


Figure 8: Plan of stripped area showing excavated sections.

### ***East-west ditch***

Excavations across the ditch in two and a half sections along its length, revealing that it was in fact a double ditch, with both ditches being approximately the same dimensions and depth although the southern ditch possibly cuts the northern ditch. (Figs 9 -11).

All excavated sections of the ditch show evidence for the two ditches that are overlapping in the first section (Ditches [01] and [13], Figs 10 and 11) but appear to diverge as they curve round to the north-east corner of the excavated area. The separation between the two ditches is marked by a raised area of natural orange clay that is more pronounced to the east (between ditches [05] and [07], Figs 9 and 10).

All ditches are concave with moderately sloping sides and bottom. The fill in each ditch was mixed in the top third and was dark grey-brown with small stones, rounded pebbles and chalk as inclusions. At the base of [13], [16] and [07] was a thin layer of grey clay which had possibly been used as a lining to the base of the ditches, or which represents a natural silting process as the field is very prone to flooding.

The western section through the ditch [01] was approximately 1.20 in width and 0.37m in depth. It was possibly cut by ditch [13] with a clay ridge forming the southern edge of the ditch and a division with its neighbouring ditch, [13]. Ditch [13] was wider and deeper than [01], being 1.85m wide and 0.50m deep, with a deposit of grey clay forming a base 0.05m deep, and darker grey/brown fill than [01]. Both fills contained pottery with more than 30 sherds of pot ranging in date from 1100 to 1400.

A half section in the centre (ditch [03]) showed it to be approximately 1.5m wide and 0.50m deep with dark grey/brown fill and bordered on its south side by a natural orange clay ridge, as [01]. The pottery has a similar age range of 1100-1400 AD, with the exception of one sherd of rock tempered ware of 9<sup>th</sup> century date. The second ditch [16] cut ditch [03] and was not fully excavated - its northern edge profile is visible only in the section but it appears to be similar in depth to [03], with a grey clay lining its base, as in [13]. The small amount of pottery recovered is also 1100-1400 in date.

The easternmost excavated section (ditch [05]), was 1.50m wide and 0.5m in depth with dark grey/brown silty sandy clay fill, containing pottery sherds of generally 1100-1400 AD date, but also with seven sherds of earlier 9<sup>th</sup> century date. Its southern edge is marked by a clear raised ridge of natural orange clay that separates the ditch [05] from [07].

Ditch [07] was also 1.5m in width and 0.45m depth with a similar fill but fewer pottery finds, and of a similar date 1100-1400.

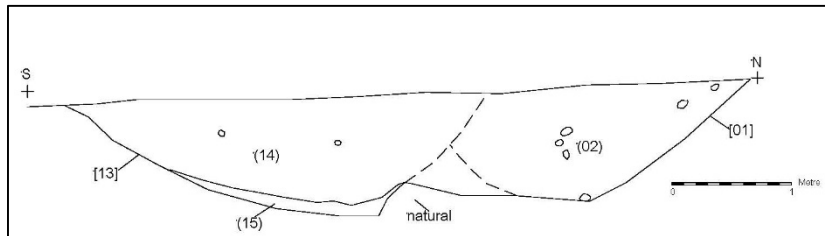


Figure 9: Ditches [01] and [13], east-facing sections.

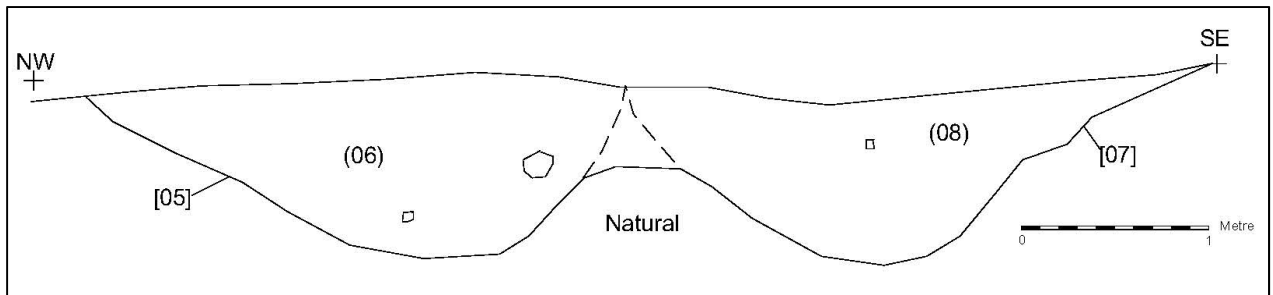


Figure 10: Ditches [05] and [07], west-facing sections.

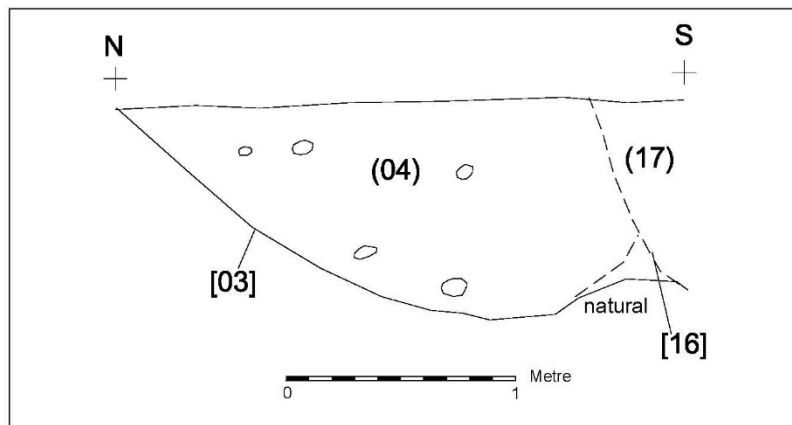


Figure 11: West facing section of Ditch [03] showing the northern edge of Ditch [16]

### *North-south ditch [11]*

Running approximately north-south at the east end of the stripped area was a shallow ditch ([11]) that cut the large boundary ditch. It was 1.2m wide and 0.18m deep. It contained a different fill to the boundary ditch, being mid orange-brown sandy clay with small pebble and stone inclusions and later pottery 1300-1500 in date. Although the earlier trench had truncated the relationship between the two ditches, ditch [11] appeared to cut the larger ditch and given its shallow nature could be the remnants of a furrow.

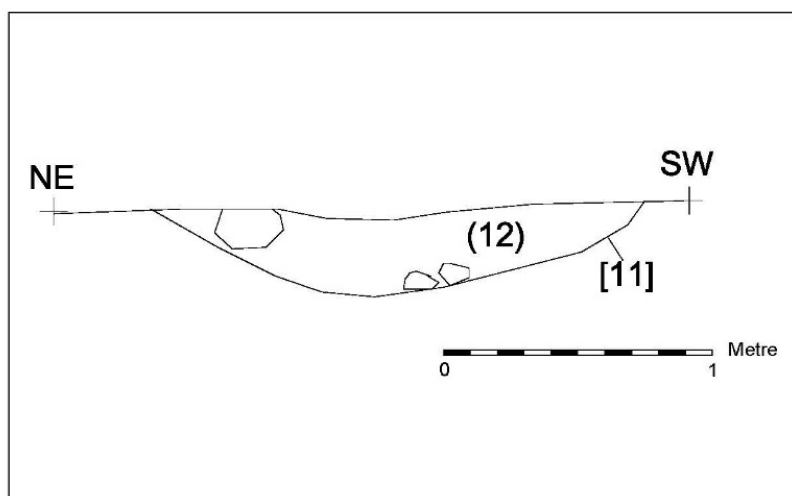


Figure 12: Shallow Ditch, [11] north-facing section

## The Ceramic Finds - Debbie Sawday

### Introduction

The pottery assemblage was made up of two sherds of early Roman Shelly ware, (N. Cooper, pers. comm.) weighing 15 grams which are residual in the back-fill of the medieval ditch [3]. One Hundred and forty nine sherds of medieval pottery, weighing 1.979kg, representing 109 vessels, and a vessel rim equivalent of 2.12, (calculated by adding together the circumference of the surviving rim sherds, where one vessel equals 1.00) and a single fragment of medieval or early post medieval flat roof tile are also present.

### Condition

Much of the medieval pottery is abraded and fragmentary; the average sherd weight for the earliest material is only 10.63g. Due to the acidic soil conditions many of the organic inclusions have leached out, making identification of the fabric, in some instances, problematic.

Table 1: The pottery and tile fabrics.

Fabric	Common Name/Kiln & Fabric Equivalent where known	Approx. General Date Range
RS	Reduced Sandy wares-(includes possible Torksey type (1) ( 2) & ?grog-tempered wares ? Local	c.850-c.1400
RT	Rock tempered? local - Warwicks Group STR (3)	?c.850-1100
CS	Coarse Shelly ware - (includes possible late Saint Neots type ware Northants CTS100 (4), Northampton fabric T1/2, T2, (5) Northants CTS 330 (4)	c.1100-1400
OL	Oolitic ware - ?includes Warwicks Group CO (3), Northants CTS 209 (4)	11th C- 1300
OS	Misc. Oxidised Sandy wares - Northants CTS 302-305 (4), Warwicks Group SQ (3)	c.12th-13th C.
PM	Potters Marston ware - Potters Marston, Leicestershire (6)	c.1100-c.1300/50+
LY4	Lyveden/Stanion type - Northampton fabric T2 (5), Lyveden/Stanion 'A' ware, Northants CTS 319 (4)	c.1150-1400
LY1	Lyveden/Stanion type - Northampton fabric T2 (5), Lyveden/Stanion 'B' ware, Northants CTS 320 (4)	c.1200-1500
CC5	Chilvers Coton fabric B/Bi (7) – Warwicks Group STR20 (8)	c.1250-1300
CC1	Chilvers Coton A/Ai (7) - Warwicks , WW01 (8)	c.1250-1325/1400
CC2	Chilvers Coton C(7) - Warwicks , SQ30 (8)	c.1300-1500
MS	Medieval Sandy ware – misc. fine quartz tempered fabrics, including possible Deritend ware Warwicks Group SG12 (8)	c.1200-1400

(1) Barley 1964, 1981	(5) McCarthy 1979
(2) Davies and Sawday 1999	(6) Haynes 1952, Sawday 1991
(3) Soden & Ratkai 1998	(7) Mayes & Scott 1984
(4) Northants CTS, Blinkhorn 2008, 2009, 2010	(8) Soden & Ratkai 1998.

### Methodology

The medieval pottery 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 fabric codes and sources – where known – are shown in table 1. The fabric totals are given in table 2, and the identifiable vessel forms and fabrics in table 3. Table 4 is a catalogue of the pottery and roof tile by context, fabric, number, weight (grams), EVES, vessel count and



vessel form. Co-joining sherds are noted, whilst single sherds are generally counted as one vessel

### ***The Ceramic Record***

A wide range of fabrics are present often represented by single fragments, including both hand-made and turn-table finished or wheel thrown sherds of possibly late Saxon or early medieval date, as well as wheel thrown glazed wares, typical of the high medieval period. Jars in Coarse Shelly wares predominate (table 2), Two from context 8 are similar to 12th century vessels from Raunds, and include a ‘top hat’ type associated with both St Neots type ware and Coarse Shelly ware (Blinkhorn 2009, fig.6.13.10). The remainder, from the back-fill (4) of the ditch [3], are comparable to shelly coarse ware vessels from Northampton (McCarthy 1979); primarily with everted or upright thickened rims which are dated at Northampton from c.1100 to c.1250 or, less commonly, squared rims which, are thought to date from c.1200 to c.1350 (*ibid.* 1979). Two jars from back-fill (2) of the ditches [1] and [3] in LY4, are also found at Raunds in Lyveden/Stanion A ware (Audouy & Chapman 2009, fig.6.6.59 and 60), whilst a glazed jug neck and shoulder in LY1 with white slip is typical of decorated vessels in this fabric dating from c.1200 at Raunds and elsewhere (Blinkhorn 2010, fig.10.26.). Causeway Lane, Leicester produced jars with moulded rims in Potters Marston ware similar to a vessel from the back-fill (6) of the ditch [5] (Davies and Sawday 1999, fig.89.60) and shouldered forms with moulded rims are also found at the 13th century kiln site (Haynes 1952, fig.1). Another Potters Marston vessel had the untrimmed basal angle also recorded at the kiln site (*ibid.* 1952). Two of the bowls in the Chilvers Coton fabric CC1 have been identified by the presence of glaze on the interior surfaces, and are, typically, heavily sooted on the exterior. It is likely that many of the externally glazed vessels, notably in CC1, are probably from jugs, but only one jug rim survives in this fabric, from the fill of the ditch [5], which can be paralleled at Chilvers Coton, from site 12, kiln 30, fig.80 536, (Mayes & Scott 1984) where it is dated from the mid-13th century.

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

Fabric	No.	Gr	EVE	V. No.	% of total by sherd	Average Sherds weight
Earlier Medieval						
RS (TO)	8	94	0.09	7		
RT	1	8		1		
CS (SN)	63	683	1.475	44		
OS	2	15		2		
OL	5	40		3		
Sub Total	79	840	1.565	57	53.02	10.63
Medieval						
PM	19	323	0.15	16		
LY4	9	96	0.225	6		
LY1	1	19		1		
CC5	7	85	0.075	7		
CC1	32	608	0.105	20		
MS	2	8		2		
Sub Total	70	1139	0.555	52	46.97	16.27
Site Totals	149	1979	2.12	109	99.99	13.28

## Discussion

The Coarse Shelly wares, which make up the bulk of the assemblage, are thought to be a continuation of the late Saxon St Neots type ware tradition, but the fabric can vary both in terms of the amount of inclusions present and the fabric colour, making it extremely difficult to differentiate between the wares by fabric analysis alone (Blinkhorn 2010, 271). Similarly some of the Reduced Sandy wares may lie within the late Saxon Torksey type ware tradition. Hence the division of the wares into late Saxon/early medieval and medieval (table 2) must be treated with some caution, although typologically most of the Coarse Selly wares, which are generally dated from *c.*1100 to *c.*1400, do appear to be fairly early in the sequence.

Both the hand-made or turn-table finished Lyveden Stanion A ware and Potters Marston also have a date range from *c.*1100. However the best dating evidence is provided by the Lyveden Stanion B ware, fabric LY1, and Chilvers Coton A ware, fabric CC1, which are dated from *c.*1200 and *c.*1250 respectively.

Table 3: The medieval pottery: the identifiable vessels by fabric and vessel count.

Fabric	Vessel no			Totals
	jar	bowl	jug	
RS	1	1		2
CS	8			8
OL	2			2
PM	1		1	2
LY4	3			3
LY1			1	1
CC5	1			1
CC1		4	2	6
Site Totals	16	5	4	25

## Conclusion

Many of the late Saxon or early medieval fabrics are represented by undiagnostic body or rim sherds in a range of mineral and organic tempered fabrics which are probably local in origin. The Coarse Shelly wares are typical of the Jurassic strata, whilst those fabrics from identifiable sources are typical of the region; Potters Marston, Chilvers Coton, and Lyveden Stanion were all major centres of pottery production at this time; the single Medieval Sandy ware sherd of what may be Deritend ware in context [3] points to an origin in the Birmingham area.

The pottery is representative of a domestic assemblage with jars, bowls and jugs all present. The high incidence of external sooting on many of the body sherds indicates that many of the vessels especially in the earlier period, were used for cooking. Similarly the high incidence of glazed sherds suggest that many of the later wares may well have been jugs.

The earliest assemblage, which is possibly in Saxo Norman St. Neots type ware, occurs in context 8, but with only two sherds, the evidence is extremely limited, as is the dating evidence from the back fill of the ditch, context 17, which also contained two sherds in Coarse Shelly ware.

The back-fills of the ditches [1], [3] and [5] all produced significant assemblages, and all three included late Saxon or early medieval pottery possibly dating from the 11th century if not earlier. These three ditches also contained fabric CC1, Chilvers Coton A ware, which is dated from *c.*1250 to the later 13th or early 14th century; whilst two sherds of fabric CC5, Chilvers

Coton B ware, dating from *c.* 1250 to *c.* 1300, occurred in the ditches [1] and [3]. The absence of later wares such as Chilvers Coton C ware and of Lyveden Stanion D ware, which date from later 13th or early 14th century and from *c.* 1350/1400 respectively, suggests a terminal date in the later 13th or perhaps the early 14th century for the assemblage.

The backfill (12) of the ditch [11] produced a fragment of medieval or early post medieval flat roof tile, the fine red sandy fabric, *c.* 15mm thick, possibly a sandy version of CC2, Chilvers Coton C ware. Flat roof tiles were made in this fabric at the Chilvers Coton kilns from *c.* 1300 (Mayes & Scott 1984).

## Miscellaneous

A fragment of iron smithing slag with iron corrosion products was recovered from context (12) (H. Addison pers. comm.).

Table 4: The pottery by context, fabric, sherd number, weight (grams), EVES and vessel number.

Context	Fabric	No	Gr	EVEs	V No	Comments
ROMAN POT						
4 [3]	SW	1	12		1	Jar rim - transitional
4	SW	1	3		1	Body sherd - transitional
MEDIEVAL POT						
2 [1] ditch	OL	1	21		1	Soft fired, hand-made, inclusions - oolite and limestone and possibly grog. Similar in Warwickshire dated to the 11 <sup>th</sup> C (Soden and Ratkai 1998, fabric CO01). Convex jar base, heavily sooted on the exterior, burnt interior.
2	CS	1	3		1	Smooth, soapy, soft fired body sherd, leached out inclusions – possibly St Neots type.
2	CS	6	84		1	Hard fired wheel thrown convex base, heavily sooted exterior base only, possibly stood on charcoal. Some joining sherds
2	LY4	1	22	0.10	1	Jar with everted externally thickened rim with pinching and thumbing on upper edge, rim diameter 190mm. Paralleled at Raunds in Lyveden/Stanion A ware (Audouy & Chapman 2009, fig.6.6.60).
2	LY4	1	15	0.05	1	Jar with everted externally thickened rim, rim diameter 220mm
2	CS	3	13		3	Misc. body
2	OS	1	10		1	Hand-made. Concave basal angle thick walled, dark grey core, reddish interior, sooted grey exterior. Ill-sorted angular/sub angular quartz + red inclusions. Probably a Warwickshire fabric. ?12 <sup>th</sup> century.
2	OS	1	5		1	Abraded, sparse quartz and red and black inclusions.
2	PM	3	67		2	Body sherds.
2	PM	1	34		1	Flattish base, with untrimmed basal angle, similar at 13th C Potters Matson kiln (Haynes 1952), partial sooting under base. Abraded.
2	PM	2	10		2	Abraded body, sooted burnt.
2	CC5	1	10	0.075		Flat topped jar rim, diameter <i>c.</i> 170mm.
2	CC5	1	41		1	Convex base, sooted externally.
2	CC1	5	51		1	Body, mottled greenish yellow glaze, quartz + rare black Fe.
2	CC1	1	8		1	Yellowish brown glaze inscribed horizontal lines, quartz.
2	CC1	4	142		1	Hard fired, quartz tempered, brownish glaze.
4 [3] ditch	CS	2	13		2	Soapy feel with leached out inclusions, soft fired? Hand-made. One externally sooted. Possibly St Neots type.
4	CS	1	3		1	Reduced black, leached out fabric, possibly St Neots type.
4	CS	1	5	0.05	1	Jar rim fragment, estimated EVEs leached out fabric, possibly St Neots type.
4	RT	1	8		1	Thick walled body, grey throughout with large rounded mineral/rock inclusions.
4	PM	1	14	0.07	1	Everted, externally thickened jug rim, estimated diameter <i>c.</i> 160mm.
4	PM	3	23		1	Joining thick walled body.
4	PM	4	42		4	Misc. body/base, 3 sooted ext, 1 int.

4	LY4	4	48	0.075	1	Jar with everted externally thickened rim with pinching and thumbing on upped edge, rim diameter 170mm. Paralleled at Raunds in Lyveden/Stanion A ware (Audouy & Chapman 2009, fig.6.6.59).
4	LY4	2	6		2	Sooted externally.
4	CC5	1	10		1	Body.
4	CC1	1	17		1	Bowl base, glazed internally, sooted externally.
4	CC1	2	28		2	Glazed yellowish green externally
4	LY1	1	19		1	Jug neck/shoulder, applied white slip cones and strips the whole firing yellow and olive green under glaze, typical decoration similar at Raunds and elsewhere, c.1200+ (Blinkhorn 2010, fig.10.26.)
4	LY4	1	5		1	Shoulder.
4	OL	3	16		1	Concave base/body, similar calcareous oolitic ware dated later 11 <sup>th</sup> to the 12 <sup>th</sup> or possibly the 13 <sup>th</sup> C., fabric CO03 in Warwickshire, (Soden & Ratkai 1998, 12).
4	MS	1	4		1	Relatively fine sandy wheel thrown orange ware with traces of orange/olive green glaze and sooting on the exterior. Possibly Deritend ware, Warwickshire fabric SG121 (Soden & Ratkai 1998, 119), c.1200-1400.
6 [5] ditch	OL	1	3		1	Abraded rim of externally thickened small jar, black throughout, early in sequence.
6	RS	1	1		1	Thin walled, grey bodied with reddish core, ill-sorted quartz, possibly a Saxo Norman Torksey type.
6	CS	1	5		1	Reduced grey body sooted ext, abundant shell, early?
6	CS	5	27		1	Small wheel thrown vessel, bright orange interior, heavily sooted externally, soft soapy feel 12 <sup>th</sup> C.
6	CS	1	2		1	Fragment, soapy feel. ? Early.
6	CS	1	5	0.05	1	Small jar, simple everted rim estimated diam. 110mm.
6	CS	2	49	0.125	2	Upright externally thickened jar rim diam. 260mm, externally sooted. Joins, similar at Northampton (McCarthy 1979, fig.90.325) c.1250-1400
6	CS	2	59	0.24	1	Everted externally thickened jar rim, diam. 230mm. joins, similar at Northampton (McCarthy 1979, fig.86.221), c.1100-1250.
6	CS	1	19	0.10	1	Upright externally thickened jar. Rim diam. 210mm, similar at Northampton (McCarthy 1979, fig.86.228).
6	CS	7	48		1	Externally sooted body.
6	CS	4	26		1	Externally sooted body.
6	CS	2	36	0.11	2	Squared shouldered jar rim, joins. Diam. 190mm similar at Northampton (McCarthy 1979, fig.92.93), 13 <sup>th</sup> – 14th C.
6	CS	1	19	0.8	1	Upright jar rim. Diam. 210mm. Similar at Northampton (McCarthy 1979, fig.92.528).
6	CS	1	107		1	Flat base, early cylindrical vessel externally sooted.
6	CS	15	100		15	Misc. base/body sherds, all externally sooted.
6	CS	6	60		6	Misc. base/body sherds.
6	PM	1	36	0.08	1	Upright shouldered jar rim, sooted externally, rim diameter c.110mm, similar at Causeway Lane, Leicester (Davies and Sawday 1999, fig.89.60) and similar shouldered forms at the kilns at the 13 <sup>th</sup> C. kiln site (Haynes 1952, fig.1).
6	PM	1	68		1	Body with inscribed wavy line decoration, abraded.
6	PM	3	29		3	Misc. body.
6	RS	1	34	0.04	1	Flared wheel thrown bowl, right angled rim, diam. 190mm. Hard fired grey sandy fabric, abraded.
6	RS	2	33	0.05	1	Collared jar rim, fabric similar to the above, plus possible grog, buff surfaces, grey core, externally sooted. Estimated rim diam. (misshapen) 210mm.
6	RS	2	17		2	Sandy fabric + mica and possible grog inclusions – base (externally sooted) and body frags. Buff surfaces. ? Hand-made.
6	RS	2	9		2	Misc. sandy sherds, possible grog inclusions.
6	CC5	4	24		4	Body/base one sooted and abraded.
6	CC1	6	60		1	Joining sherds, olive green glazed jug neck/shoulder.
6	CC1	5	45		5	Internally glazed convex ?bowl base, heavily sooted externally mottled yellow copper glaze on interior, joins
6	CC1	1	62		1	Convex base, mottled glaze on interior, stacking evidence of jug on exterior base.
6	CC1	2	32		2	Internally glazed yellowish green bowls, sooted externally.
6	CC1	4	60		4	Externally glazed body & one concave base. All mottled greenish yellow glaze.
6	CC1	1	103	0.105	1	Upright jug rim, with external collar, yellowish brown glaze. Paralleled at Chilvers Cotton site 12, kiln 30, fig.80 536, (Mayes & Scott 1984) dating from the mid-13 <sup>th</sup> C. rim diameter 100mm.
6	MS	1	4		1	Wheel thrown, coarse buff coloured sandy fabric, abraded, burnt.
8 [7] ditch	CS	1	16	0.05	1	Everted jar rim, rim diameter, a 'top hat' type associated with St Neots type and Coarse Shelly ware at Raunds, where a similar but not identical rim

						occurred (Blinkhorn 2009, fig.6.1310). Corky fabric calcareous inclusions not identifiable. Sooted/burnt externally.
8	CS	1	6		1	Abraded.
17	CS	3	6		1	Joining body, sooted/burnt externally.
17	CS	1	7	0.07	1	Everted jar rim, diameter 190mm, similar in Coase Shelly ware at Raunds (Blinkhorn 2010, fig.10.7.60).
CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL						
12 [11] ditch	CC2	1	209			Medieval or early post medieval flat roof tile – red fine sandy fabric, c.15mm thick, possibly a sandy version of CC2, Chilvers Coton C ware. Flat roof tiles were made at the Chilvers Coton kilns from c.1300, (Mayes & Scott 1984).
MISC.						
12	Fe	1	40			Iron smithing slag, with iron corrosion products.

## The Charred Plant Remains - Adam Santer

### Introduction

During an archaeological excavation at Starmore Farm, Swinford, Leicestershire, three samples (numbered 1, 2 and 3) were taken for the analysis of charred plant remains. Sample 1 was taken from the fills (2)/(14) of ditch cuts [1]/[13], sample 2 was from the fill (6) of ditch [5] and sample 3 was taken from the fill (4) of ditch [3]. The analysis of the environmental remains are 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 dark-brownish grey 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).

### Results

Low densities (less than five items per litre) of charred plant remains were found in samples 1 and 3, whilst a moderate density (more than five items per litre) was found in sample 2. The samples contained cereal grains and wild seeds and. Each category of plant remains will now be discussed in more detail:

#### *Grains and chaff*

All of the samples contained free threshing wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and indeterminate cereal grains which were either too fragmentary or abraded to be identified to species. Most of the cereal grain was found in sample 2. Sample 3 contained a single barley grain (*Hordeum vulgare* L.). The grain had visible signs of germination (i.e. grooved channels on the dorsal side; see Larsson *et al* 2018). A single free threshing wheat rachis internode was found in sample 2 but no other chaff items were found in the assemblage.

*Cultivated*

Likely beans (cf. *Vicia faba* L.) were found in sample due to their large ovoid shape. Their poorly preserved nature however, did not allow for a more accurate identification.

*Wild seeds*

Wild seeds were only found in samples 2 and 3; the majority of which were found in sample 2. Sample 2 contained four stinking chamomile seeds (*Anthemis cotula* L.); a weed which is found in harder clayey soils (and therefore improved ploughing equipment), ten large grass seeds (Poaceae), two docks (*Rumex* sp.), five vetches (*Vicia* spp.), and two indeterminate seed fragments. Two large grass seeds and one vetch was found in sample 3.

Table 4: The charred plant remains found in samples 1-3.

Sample	1	2	3	
Context	2/14	6	4	
Cut	1/13	5	3	
Feature type	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	
Date	Medieval	Medieval	Medieval	
Grain				
Triticum sp.	2	19	6	Free threshing wheat
Hordeum vulgare L.			1	Barley
Cereal	1	22	18	Indeterminate cereal grain
Chaff				
Triticum sp. rachis internode		1		Free threshing wheat rachis internode
Legumes				
Cf. <i>Vicia faba</i> sp.		2		Cf. Bean
Wild seeds				
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.		4		Stinking chamomile
Poaceae (large)		10	2	Large grass
<i>Rumex</i> sp.		2		Docks
<i>Vicia</i> spp.		5	1	Vetch
Indeterminate seed		2		Indeterminate seed
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>28</b>	
<b>Soil volume (L)</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	
<b>% Analysed</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	
<b>Items per litre</b>	<b>0.16</b>	<b>8.37</b>	<b>3.5</b>	

*Conclusion and statement of potential*

The weed seeds found in sample 2 are associated with cereal fields. The fragment of rachis is suggestive of crop processing but not enough chaff was found in order to bolster this interpretation. Free threshing wheat chaff is brittle and susceptible to destruction in high firing temperatures. Any chaff which may have been present could have been destroyed. The germinated barley grain found in sample 3 could be indicative of malting for beer brewing but more specimens would be necessary in order to determine whether or not germination had occurred on site and deliberately or otherwise.

## Animal Bone Assessment – Thomas Fox

### Summary

The assemblage of animal bone from this site, while being well preserved was highly fragmentary, comprising of 78 fragments from 5 contexts. The assemblage is predominantly cattle with a small proportion of sheep, pig and horse. Four contexts are dated to the mid 13<sup>th</sup> - early 14<sup>th</sup> century while one could occupy a range from 1100-1400. In addition all the material was recovered from a series of ditches. As such all these results have been presented and discussed together

### Preservation

The surface preservation of the bone was very good overall coming out universally as grade 2 on O'Connor's (2000) 5 point scale. Fragmentation however was high, 50% of the material being unidentifiable, there being a large number of both ancient and modern breaks and no elements being found whole or reconstructable from fragments.

### Methodology

The animal bone underwent a rapid assessment to gain counts of; the taxa present, the number of bones that could be analysed for; ageing, sex and biometric data, and to record the surface preservation to O'Connor's (ibid) 5 point scale

### Results

#### Taxa

A general overview of the results of the assessment are presented in the table below.

Table 5: Count & Percentages of Taxa

	<i>Count</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>Unidentified</i>	39	50.6%
<i>Cattle</i>	27	35.1%
<i>Sheep/Goat</i>	7	9.1%
<i>Pig</i>	1	1.3%
<i>Horse</i>	1	1.3%
<i>Deer</i>	0	0.0%
<i>Dog</i>	1	1.3%
<i>Domestic Fowl</i>	0	0.0%
<i>Lagomorph</i>		0.0%
<i>Other Bird</i>	0	0.0%
<i>Fish</i>	0	0.0%
<i>Other</i>	1	1.3%
<i>Total</i>	77	100.0%

The assemblage is predominantly cattle with a smaller number of sheep and pig, horse, dog and lagomorph represented by only a single fragment of bone.

### *Sex, Age and Biometrics*

The table below displays the occurrence of ageable and sexable traits and bone which could be measured for biometric data.

Table 6: Count and percentage of identified fragments that show ageable traits

	<i>Count</i>	<i>% of Taxa</i>
<i>Cattle: Fusion</i>	4	15%
<i>Cattle: Dental Age</i>	1	4%
<i>Sheep/Goat: Fusion</i>	1	14%
<i>Sheep/Goat: Dental Age</i>	2	29%

Of the identifiable bones only eight specimens showed ageable traits (21% of ID) consisting mainly of fused or unfused epiphyses on long bones. Only 3 fragments, all of cattle, were complete enough to allow limited biometric measurement. None of the specimens were sexable though there are 4 fragments of enamel which may be from a pig canine in context (02). Only one fragment displayed a cut mark that could be definite.

### *Conclusion*

Given that the assemblage only consisted of 78 fragments of bone it is very difficult to draw any solid conclusions on the nature of the site based upon this assessment. However the general trend of cattle being predominant followed by sheep is not abnormal for a medieval settlement. The fragmentation of the assemblage, due to both modern and ancient breakage, obscures much of the data in such a small assemblage preventing further discussion. While fish and birds are absent from the assemblage, the good preservation of the bone may suggest that they would occur in a larger assemblage particularly in any samples taken for palaeoenvironmental analysis, if fish or birds are present on the site.

### *Requirements and Considerations for further analysis*

As this assemblage does not meet the minimum 300 identifiable fragments required for meaningful analysis of an assemblage. Should this site be excavated further and this minimum limit be met, the site may provide a useful assemblage for analysis given its good preservation of bone.



## Discussion

The archaeological strip, map and sample investigation provided further evidence of the ditch seen in the first trench evaluation, which on excavation appeared to be two ditches of similar date and dimension, appearing to run approximately parallel to each other but diverging slightly as they curved to the west. These ditches are cut to the east of the stripped area by a shallower ditch containing later pottery.

The ditches together form a boundary of considerable size and this and its position relative to the church and historic settlement core make it is likely that they formed a boundary bank and ditches that delineated the medieval settlement core of the village. That they curve round towards the north-east might suggest that they may have eventually merged with the Stanford road that forms the eastern boundary of the historic core. The later shallow ditch might represent a medieval field or property boundary or even the remains of a furrow.

The pottery is representative of a domestic assemblage with jars, bowls and jugs many of which were sooted indicating that they were used for cooking. The bulk of the pottery suggests a date from the 11<sup>th</sup> century for the filling of the ditches with the absence of later wares indicating a terminal date in the later 13th or perhaps the early 14th century. Earlier pottery is likely to be residual, although it does indicate early activity in the vicinity.

The animal bone and environmental results are also indicative of a medieval domestic assemblage with a mixture of food spillage and processing waste which had become burnt on a hearth and collected in the ditches.

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## Appendix 3: OASIS Data Entry

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>	<b>OASIS ID</b>	<b>universi1-347970</b>		
	<b>Project Name</b>	An Archaeological Excavation on Land at Starmore Farm, Swinford, Leicestershire		
	<b>Start/end dates of field work</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> August		
	<b>Previous/Future Work</b>	Yes – previous trenching		
	<b>Project Type</b>	Strip, Map and Sample		
	<b>Site Status</b>	None		
	<b>Current Land Use</b>	Pasture		
	<b>Monument Type/Period</b>	Medieval Ditches		
	<b>Significant Finds/Period</b>	Medieval Pottery and bone		
	<b>Development Type</b>	Residential development		
	<b>Reason for Investigation</b>	NPPF		
	<b>Position in the Planning Process</b>	Post-determination		
	<b>Planning Ref.</b>	16/1804/FUL		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	<b>Site Address/Postcode</b>	Starmore Farm, Stanford Road, Swinford,		
	<b>Study Area</b>	0.03ha		
	<b>Site Coordinates</b>	SP 56970 79250		
	<b>Height OD</b>	115m OD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	ULAS		
	<b>Project Brief Originator</b>	Local Planning Authority Hinckley and Bosworth District Council		
	<b>Project Design Originator</b>	ULAS		
	<b>Project Manager</b>	Vicki Score		
	<b>Project Director/Supervisor</b>	Claire Brown		
	<b>Sponsor/Funding Body</b>	Mr and Mrs Mourant		
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVE</b>		<b>Physical</b>	<b>Digital</b>	<b>Paper</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	ULAS	ULAS	ULAS
	<b>ID (Acc. No.)</b>	XA62018	XA62018	XA62018
	<b>Contents</b>	Medieval Pottery and bone Environmental samples	Photos	Site records Field notes
<b>PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>Type</b>	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	<b>Title</b>	<i>An Archaeological Excavation at Starmore Farm, Swinford</i>		
	<b>Author</b>	Brown, C.		
	<b>Other bibliographic details</b>	ULAS Report No 2018-149		
	<b>Date</b>	06/09/2018		
	<b>Publisher/Place</b>	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester		
	<b>Description</b>	Developer Report A4 pdf		



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