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Archaeological Services

An Archaeological Evaluation on Land West of Main Street, Norton Juxta Twycross,
Atherstone, Leicestershire, CV9 3QA

NGR: SK 32340 06916

Andrew McLeish




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**For: Stella Henton
Planning Authority: Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
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Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on Land West of Main Street, Norton Juxta Twycross, Atherstone, Leicestershire, CV9 3QA (SK 32340 06916), on behalf of Stella Henton, in response to redevelopment proposals.

Nine trenches, totalling 401.6m², of the site, were excavated to evaluate the area in advance of a proposed residential development. The archaeological work was carried out from the 6th-15th of November 2018, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework, Section 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment.

The results of the evaluation were largely positive, with evidence for medieval activity recorded in six trenches, and 19th century building remains in a further one.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire Museums under the Accession Number X.A125.2018.

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Stella Henton to carry out an archaeological field evaluation on land west of Main Street, Norton Juxta Twycross, Leicestershire, in advance of a proposed residential development.

The fieldwork was intended to provide preliminary indications of the character and extent of any heritage assets in order that the potential impact of the development on such remains may be assessed by the Planning Authority.

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment, this document forms the report for an archaeological evaluation, with an assessment of the potential impact on buried archaeological remains from groundworks associated with future development.

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological trial trenching, which took place in November 2018. It followed a strategy for the work devised by ULAS, which was set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Land West of Main Street, Norton Juxta Twycross (ULAS 2018).

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA) Code of Conduct and adhered to their Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2014).

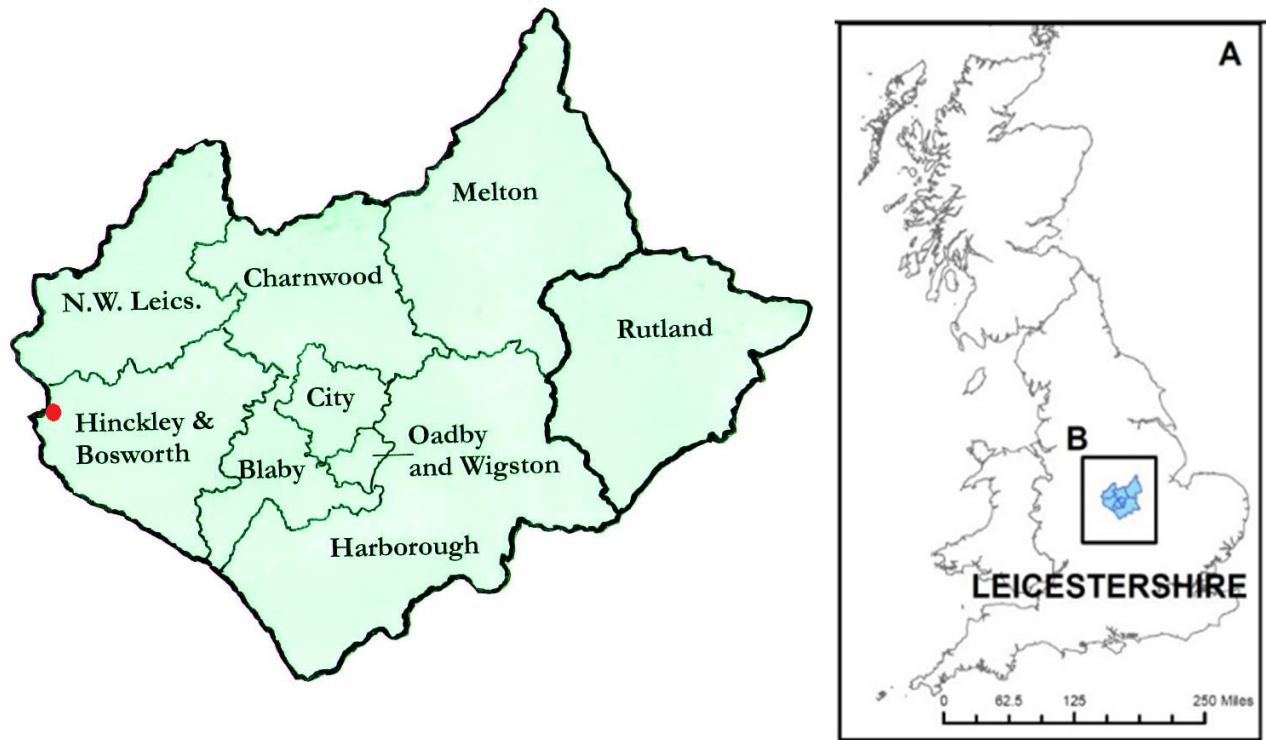


Figure 1: Location of the site within Leicestershire and the UK

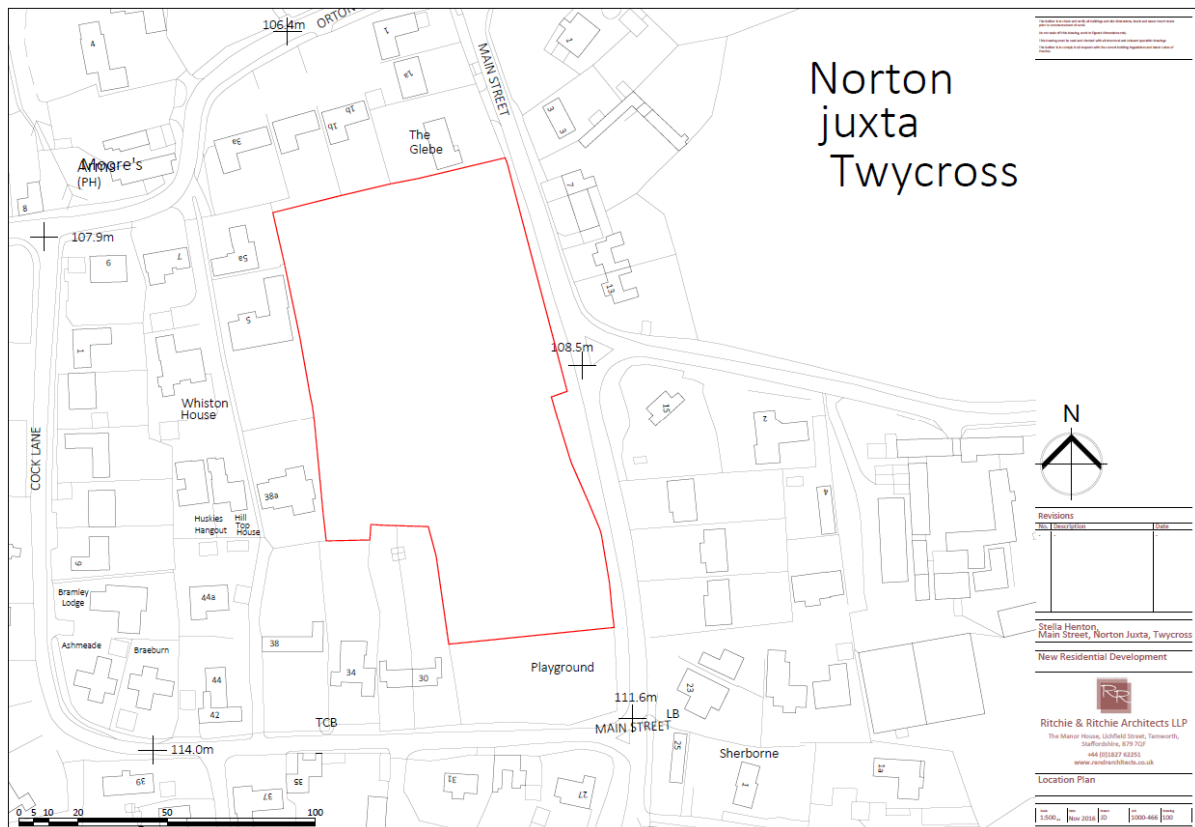


Figure 1: Location of the development site within Norton Juxta Twycross (outlined in red).
Plan provided by client.

Location and Geology

Norton Juxta Twycross is a small village on the western border of Leicestershire, 8km north-west of Market Bosworth. The proposed development site is approximately 1.2 ha in size, and lies at a height of 112m aOD with ground gently dropping to the north. It is situated west of Main Street in the centre of the village at NGR SK 32340 06916.

The British Geological Survey identifies the bedrock geology of the area as Gunthorpe Member - Mudstone. There are no superficial deposits recorded. The site is accessed from Main Street via a gate and is currently a pasture field, although much overgrown by scrub and trees.

Historical and Archaeological Background

The village of Norton is thought to have been founded in the 8th or 9th century by the Anglo-Saxons. The Anglo-Saxon King Æthelred granted the village a charter in 951, referring to it as "Northton"

The village is listed in the Domesday Book as "Norton" In both 1066 and 1086 the village is recorded as worth £0.3. The village is listed as a very small settlement, with only four households, but has a quite large taxable value of 6 geld units. The Domesday Book records the village as home to 1 villager, 2 small holders and a priest, and is recorded as having land for 7 ploughs and 8 acres of meadow

The site lies within the historic medieval core of the village. A desk-based assessment undertaken in 2018 highlighted the archaeological potential of the site, identifying a small number of known archaeological sites in the vicinity of the assessment area (Brown and Brown 2018).

Medieval

The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland indicates that there are no known archaeological remains recorded on the assessment area itself, but adjacent to it there are two find spots of medieval pottery on Orton Lane and Main Street (**MLE10117** and **MLE9401**) and recorded medieval activity in the form of a rubbish pit containing medieval pottery, revealed by a watching brief on 11 Cock Lane in 1999 (**MLE8377**).

There are two 13th -14th century recumbent stone effigies in the churchyard of Holy Trinity church c.100m north of the site. Medieval earthworks and a possible moat were seen west of the church on a 1969 aerial photograph, c.110m north-west of the assessment area.

Post-Medieval – Modern.

There is one grade II listed building in the village, a mid-late 18th century c.100m north-east of the site (**MLE12972**). There is a cold war monitoring post on Orton lane outside the village, c.300m from the assessment area (**MLE17210**).

Aims and Objectives

The broad aims of the archaeological evaluation were:

- To determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains on the site as indicated by the geophysical survey

- To establish the nature and extent of any existing disturbance and intrusion to subsurface deposits and, where the data allows, assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits of archaeological significance
- To enable the clients to establish a schedule for archaeological risks

The detailed objectives of the archaeological evaluation trenches are:

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

Archaeological Research Objectives

While the nature, extent and quality of archaeological remains within the areas of investigation for the project remain unknown until further archaeological work is undertaken, it is possible to determine some initial objectives derived from *East Midlands Heritage* research agenda (Cooper 2006, Knight *et al.* 2012). The site's location within the historic village core and just south of the church and the known archaeological sites on the HER suggested the potential for archaeological deposits from the medieval period onwards and this has been proven by the evaluation results. The site therefore has the potential to contribute to the following research aims:

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

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

These research aims have been identified based on the current state of knowledge within the area of the scheme.

Methodology

The work followed the Written Scheme of Investigation (ULAS, 2018) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA) Code of Conduct (2014a) and adhered to their Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations (2014b). An accession number/site code was obtained prior to commencement of the project and used to identify all records and artefacts.

The programme of work consisted of the excavation of an initial eight trenches measuring 30m x 1.6m which were distributed to ensure general coverage of the development area in the absence of prior geophysics. An additional trench, measuring 11m x 1.6m trench was excavated

towards the end of the initial machining to verify the direction of medieval features exposed in trenches two and four.

The trenches were excavated using a JCB 3CX mechanical digger fitted with 1.6m wide flat-bladed ditching bucket to expose the underlying strata. Topsoil and overburden were removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision. The trenches were excavated down to the top of natural undisturbed ground. All excavation by machine was undertaken with a view to avoid damage to archaeological deposits or features which appear worthy of preservation *in situ* or more detailed investigation than for the purposes of evaluation.

The ULAS recording manual was used as a guide for all recording. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed were entered onto pro-forma recording sheets. Relative spot heights were taken as appropriate. Trench locations were recorded by an appropriate method and then be tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The trenches were then backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.

Results

A total of nine trenches were excavated between the 5th and the 15th of November 2018. These trenches measured approximately 30m x 1.6m, with the exception of Trench 9 which was 11m in length for a total of 401.6m² of coverage (4% of the development area) across the site (Figure 2).

The weather was generally cold with frequent heavy rain showers. The dry summer and autumn combined with the clay soil meant slow progress in opening the trenches due to the dry and unusually compact nature of the ground. After the trenches had been excavated their locations were recorded using a Topcon GPS unit in order to precisely locate the position of the trenches and any archaeological features within them.

The topsoil was consistent across the site and consisted of a dark grey-brown, silty loamy which contained <10% small rounded pebbles and occasional modern debris such as builders rubble from recent housing developments in places across the site. The subsoil was also consistent across the site and consisted of a mid-grey-brown, silty/loamy-clay which contained <10% small pebbles. The natural substratum was consistent across the site comprising of a dark red clay with occasional blue-grey and greyish-yellow clay patches.

Table 1: Trench Summary (positive trenches highlighted in green)

Trench	Orientation	Min. Depth	Max. Depth	Length of Trench	Width of Trench	Total area of trench	Comments
1	E - W	0.5m	0.82m	30.00m	1.60m	48.00m ²	Series of parallel ditches found
2	NE -SW	0.61m	0.75m	30.00m	1.60m	48.00m ²	Ditches, one single pit and a probable old boundary ditch.
3	NW -SE	0.41m	0.9m	30.00m	1.60m	48.00m ²	Shallow modern features
4	E-W	0.6m	0.8m	30.00m	1.60m	48.00m ²	Furrows and possible pit with posthole.
5	SW - NE	0.42m	0.9m	30.00m	1.60m	48.00m ²	Ditches and gullies under remains of old pond
6	N-S	0.56m	0.9m	30.00m	1.60m	48.00m ²	Modern features and medieval ditches.
7	N-S	0.46m	0.65m	30.00m	1.60m	48.00m ²	Furrow with modern disturbance
8	E-W	0.3m	1.6m	30.00m	1.60m	48.00m ²	Heavy modern disturbance. Evidence of C19th cellar.
9	N-S	0.58m	0.62m	11.00m	1.60m	17.6 m ²	Gullies and ditches – not dug

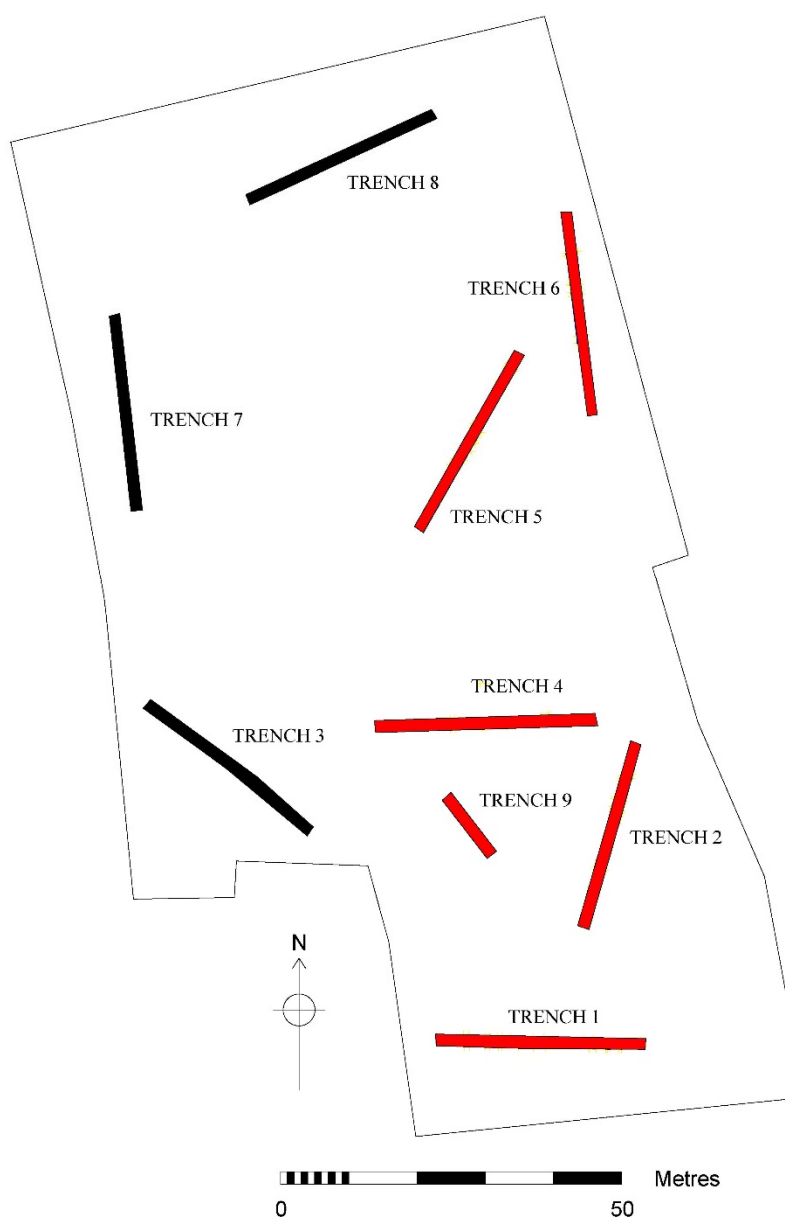


Figure 2: Location of trenches within the evaluation area. Negative trenches in black, positive trenches in red.

Trench 1

Trench 1 (Plate 1) was located on the southern end of the site and was aligned E –W. Nine archaeological features were revealed in the trench, of which five were investigated by hand and one by machine (Figure 4). Two features were not investigated and one was a tree bowl. From west to east in the trench the investigated features were:

Feature [5], (Plate 2, Figure 5) a small linear feature on a NE-SW alignment, measuring 0.6m wide by 0.23m deep, interpreted as a drainage or boundary gully which was naturally silted up by deposit (6) a light greyish red silty clay.

Feature [18], (Plate 3) a v-shaped linear feature on an N-S alignment, measuring 1m wide by 0.38m deep, which could be the cut of a possible drainage ditch containing two fills (19) & (20). Fill (19) is a primary fill and was comprised of a dark red brown sandy clay and would have been deposited shortly after initial excavation of the feature. Fill (20) was a dark grey brown silty clay and represents natural silting up of the feature.

Feature [16], (Plate 4) a v-shaped linear feature on an N-S alignment, measuring 0.7m wide by 0.3m deep, which could be a drainage ditch. It contains one fill (17) which is a dark reddish grey sandy/silty clay and appears to be natural silting.

Feature [13], (Plate 5) a linear feature on an N-S alignment, measuring 1.04m wide by at least 0.22m deep (although this feature was not fully excavated), and containing a single observed fill in the upper part of the feature, fill (14). The fill consisted of dark grey brown silty clay with occasional rounded pebbles, again representing natural silting up of the ditch.

Feature [11], (Plate 6) a partially exposed linear feature measuring 0.6m+ wide by 0.24m deep in the western end of trench 1. This was most likely another gully or ditch and appears to be part of a terminus and is filled by fill (12) a dark grey brown (with orange flecks) silty clay and occasional small rounded pebbles. The fill is very mixed and mottled and this was suggestive of deliberate backfill of this particular feature.

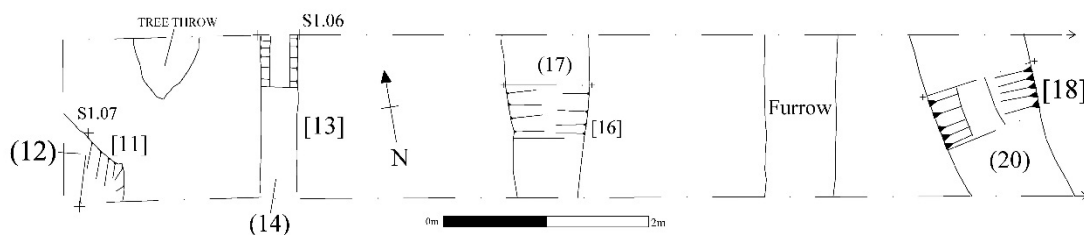


Figure 3: Plan of investigated features at west end of Trench 1.

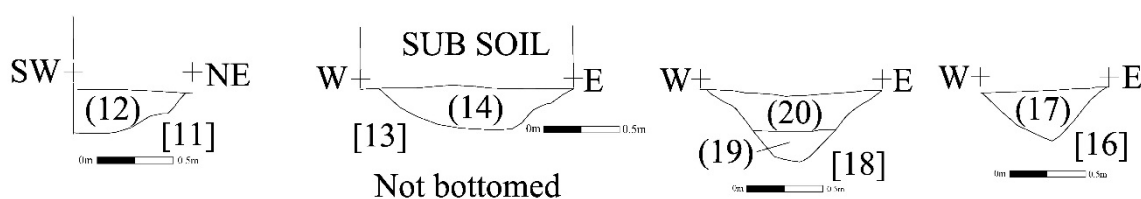


Figure 4: Sections of features [11], [13], [18] & [16] investigated in Trench 1.

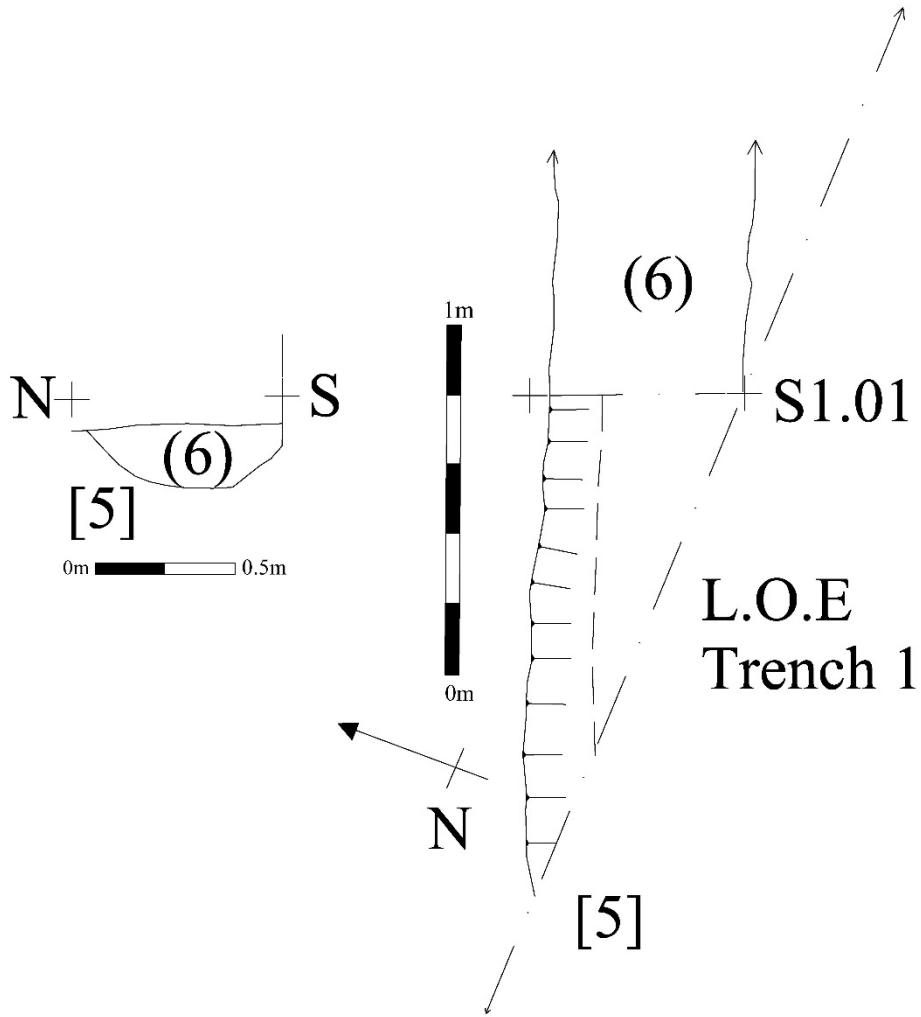


Figure 5: Plan and section of gully [5]



Plate 1: Trench 1 after machining looking west.



Plate 2: Feature [5] in Trench 1



Plate 3: Feature [18] in Trench 1



Plate 4: Feature [16] in Trench 1.



Plate 5: Feature [13] in Trench 1



Plate 6: Feature [11] in Trench 1

Trench 2

Trench 2 (Plate 7) lay on a NE-SW alignment and was located towards the South Eastern edge of site. Five archaeological features were located in the trench, all of which were investigated. From the northern to the southern ends of the trench these were;

Feature [9], (Plate 9, Figure 6) a linear feature on an E-W alignment measuring 0.6m wide by 0.2m deep. This has been interpreted as a shallow drainage ditch and was filled by (10) which was mid brown grey silty clay with occasional charcoal fragments and small river cobbles. The ditch appears to have been deliberately backfilled and Coventry fabric pottery dating to between the 12th and 14th centuries was recovered from its fill.

Feature [3], (Plate 9, Figure 6) an undated linear feature on a NE-SW alignment measuring 1.12m wide by 0.23m deep which has been interpreted as a boundary or drainage ditch and was filled by (4) a mid-grey brown silty sandy clay with some charcoal and small rounded pebbles.

Feature [7], (Plate 10, Figure 6) a small sub-circular pit measuring 0.6m in diameter and 0.12m deep cut into ditch [1] and filled by (8) a dark grey ashy fill with small rounded stones and charcoal. Deposit (8) also contained a large amount of medieval pottery fragments identified as a type in use between the 12th and 14th centuries.

Feature [1], (Plate 10, Figure 6) a small linear ditch measuring 0.6m in width and 0.25m deep on an N-S alignment, filled by (2) a mid-grey brown silty sandy clay with small rounded stones which appears to be deliberate backfilling after a small amount of primary silting. This feature also contained 12th to 14th century pottery in the fill.

Feature [21], (Plate 21, Figure 7) a large v-shaped ditch measuring 3.5m wide and 0.6m + deep in the south eastern end of the trench. This could be a large boundary ditch or hollow way and was discernible as a slight depression in the ground running across the site in an east-west direction. Three fills were recorded, (22) a mid-grey brown silty clay with small to mid-sized well rounded pebbles at the base. Medieval pottery was recovered from this deposit. Overlying this was deposit (23) a silty sandy clay with small rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal fragments. Sealing these was deposit (24) a mid-blue grey silty clay which appears to have formed in very wet standing water conditions which would infer that the feature has fallen out of use by this point.



Plate 7: Trench 2 looking NE.



Plate 8: Linear feature [9] in Trench 2 looking NW.



Plate 9: Linear feature [3] in Trench 2 looking NW.



Plate 10: Features [7] & [1] in Trench 2 looking S.



Plate 11: Feature [21] looking west.

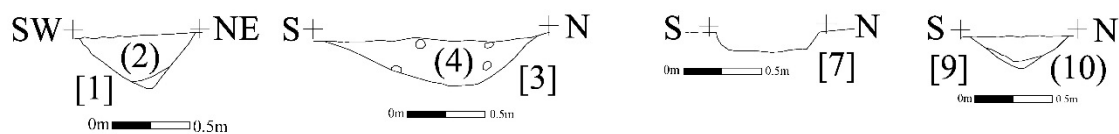


Figure 6: Sections of features [1], [3], [7] & [9]

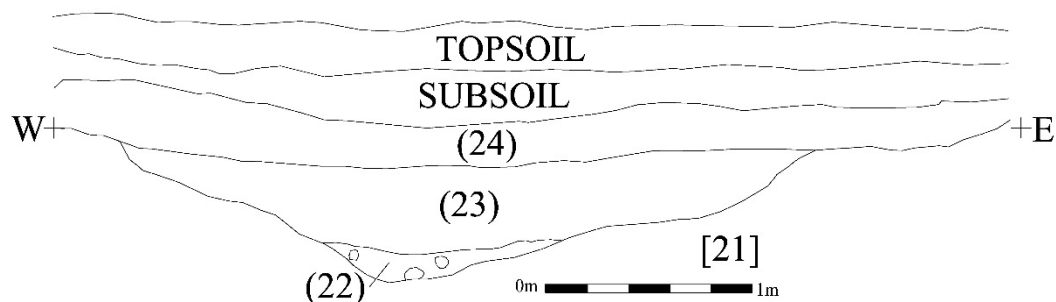


Figure 7: South facing section of feature [21]

Trench 3

Trench 3 (Plate 12) lay on a NW-SE alignment and was located towards the south eastern corner of the site. Three small potential features at the south western end of the trench were investigated and found to be modern disturbance with a very loose fill. The south western end

of the trench was subjected to further cleaning to verify that there were no additional features, but ultimately no archaeological deposits were recorded in this trench.



Plate 12: Trench 3 looking SE.



Plate 13: South-western end of Trench 3 after further cleaning.

Trench 4

Trench four (Plate 14) was located roughly in the central area of the site, towards the eastern side, and was aligned east – west. It contained a number of medieval furrows and two archaeological features at its eastern end which were investigated due to their proximity to the features in Trench two.

Feature [29] (Plate 15, Figure 8) was only partially exposed in the trench with dimensions of at least 2m long and c.0.65m wide with a 0.25m depth. It appears to be a corner or a return of some kind and could be either part of a boundary or a structure as it also contained posthole [31]. It was filled by (30) a red brown silty clay with charcoal flecks and small rounded pebbles and appears to be deliberate backfilling. A single sherd of pot dating from the middle C11th to the C12th was recovered from this deposit.

Feature [31] (Plate 15, Figure 8) was a posthole measuring 0.25m in diameter and 0.33m deep, cutting into the NW side of ditch [29]. The posthole has several large rounded river cobbles used as packing stones and appears to have been deliberately backfilled by deposit (32), a dark red brown silty clay. The similarity of this material to the underlying natural would suggest that the post was removed before the hole was backfilled.



Plate 14: Trench 4 looking west.

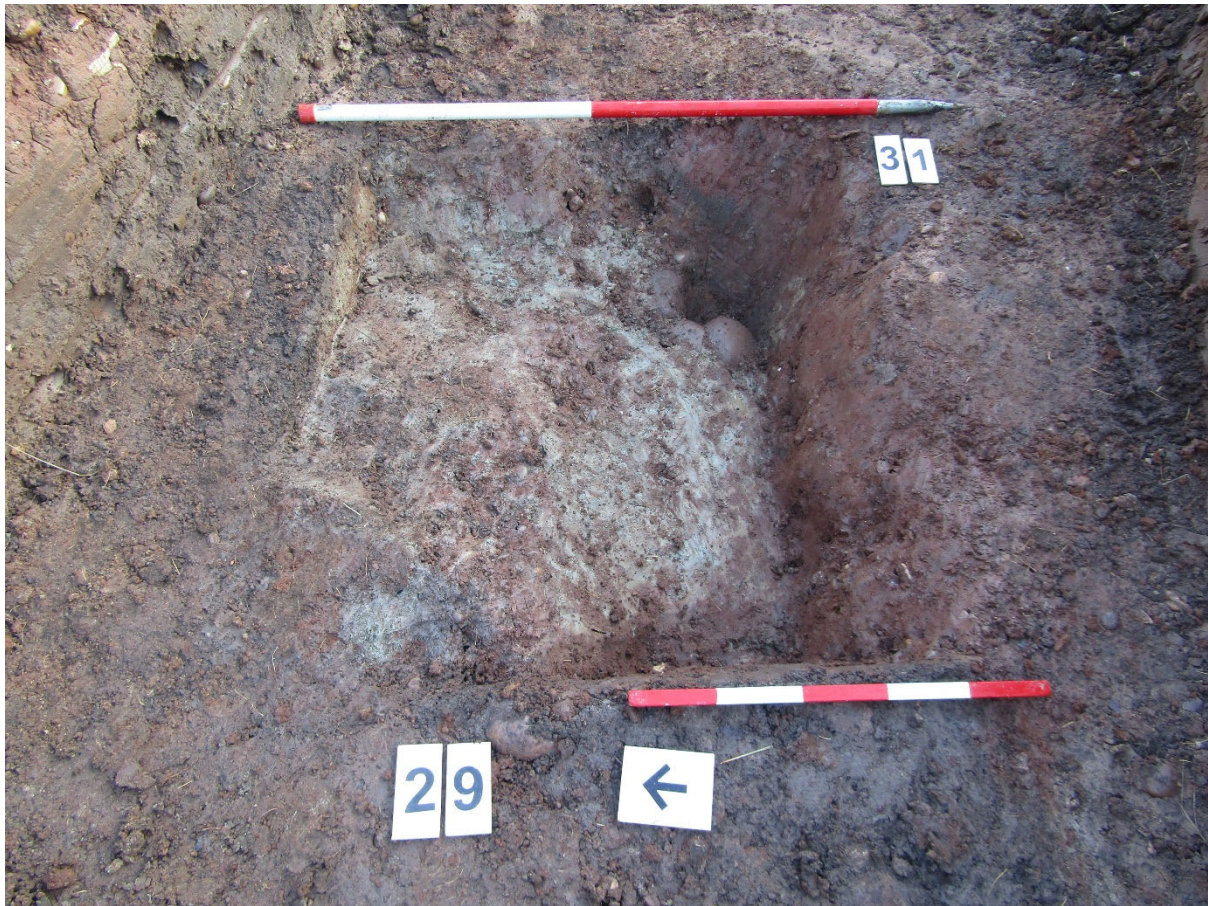


Plate 15: Feature [29] with posthole [31] looking East.

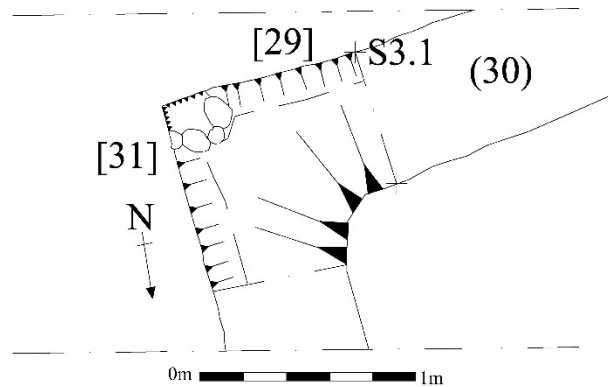
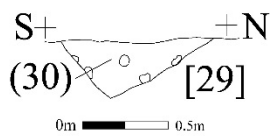


Figure 8: East facing section of [29]. Figure 9: Plan of features [29] & [31]

Trench 5

Trench 5 (Plate 16, Figure 10) was located roughly in the centre of the evaluation area on a SW- NE alignment and contained the remains of a pond shown on the historic ordnance survey maps as well as several linear features to the side of and underneath the pond deposits. Four of these features were investigated.

Feature [33] (Plate 17, Figure 13) was a ditch at the NE end of the trench measuring 0.65m wide by 0.24m deep. It contained two fills - (34) a mottled red brown & dark brown sandy silty clay as its primary fill, and (35) a dark grey brown silty clay as its secondary fill which also contained sherds of C12th to C13th pottery.

Feature [36] (Plate 18, Figure 12) was next to feature [33] and was a 1.6m wide by 0.65m deep ditch which could have marked a boundary. It contained two fills (37) a red brown silty clay interpreted as primary silting and (38) a mid-red brown sandy silty clay with medieval pottery dating to between 1100 and 1400 as its secondary backfill.

Feature [39] (Plate 19, Figure 13) was a small ditch or gully measuring 0.5m wide by 0.32M deep and contained two fills (40) a red brown silty clay as its primary fill and (41) a mid-red brown sandy silty clay as its secondary backfill from which was recovered pottery sherds dating from the mid-13th century to the late 14th century.

Feature [42] (Plate 20, Figure 11) was a mid-sized ditch measuring 0.67m wide by 0.45m+ deep (this was not fully excavated due to the depth of trench at this point). This feature could have formed part of a boundary ditch and was located directly underneath the 19th century pond. It was filled by (43) a mottled red/red brown sandy silty clay as its primary back fill, this deposit also contained animal bone and medieval pottery dated to the 12th to 14th centuries. Fill (44) was the secondary backfill and was a dark brown grey silty clay and is most likely a natural silting up of the feature. No finds were recovered from this deposit.



Plate 16: Trench 5 looking north east.



Plate 17: Ditch [33] looking east.



Plate 18: Ditch [36] looking South-east.



Plate 19: Ditch [39] looking south.



Plate 20: Ditch [42] looking North-West.

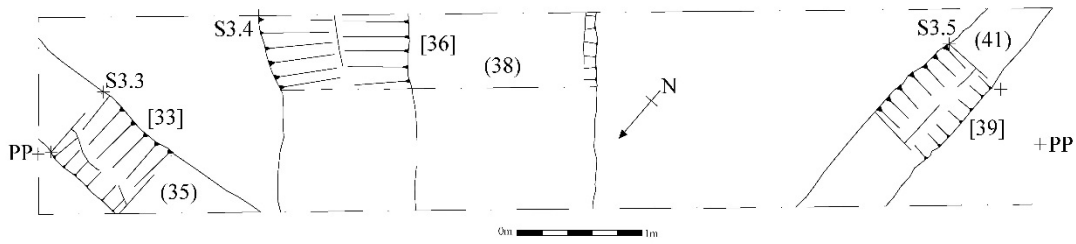


Figure 10: Plan of investigated features in Trench 5.

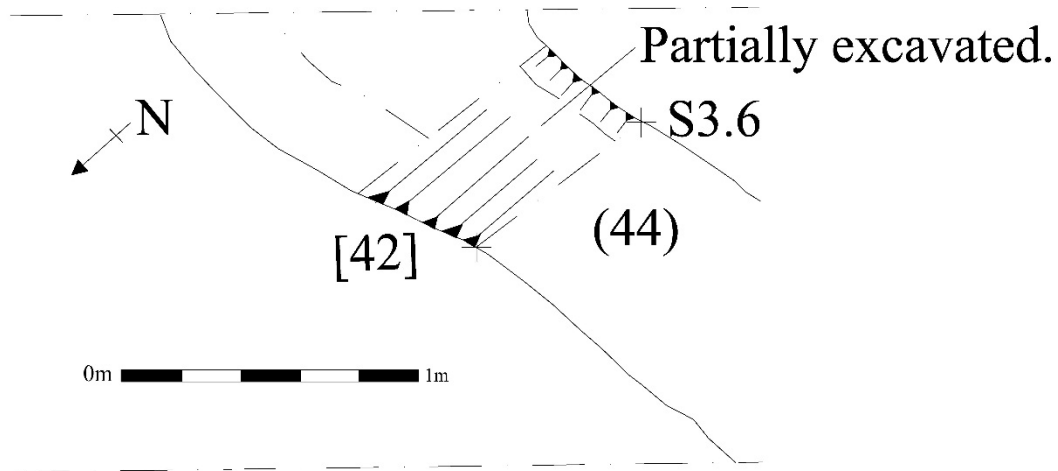


Figure 11: Plan of ditch [42].

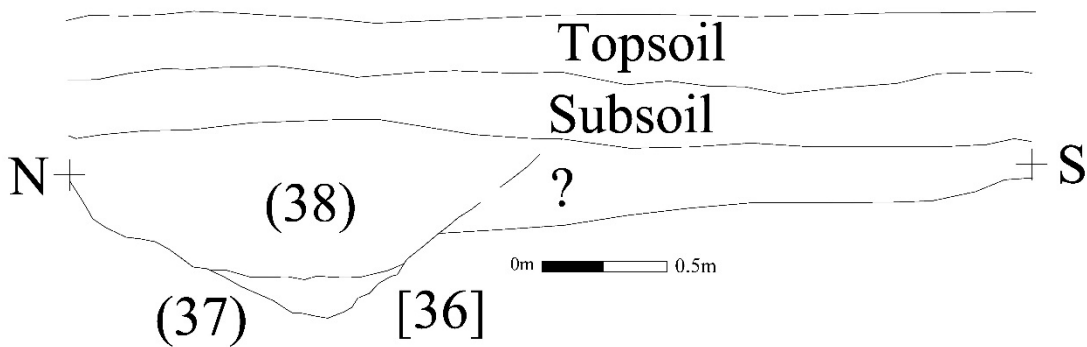


Figure 12: West facing section of ditch [36].

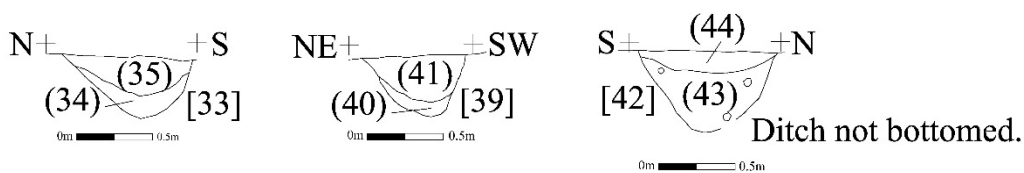


Figure 13: Sections of features [33], [39] & [42]

Trench 6

Trench six (Plate 21) was located along the eastern edge of the evaluation area on a north south axis and contained evidence of the 19th century pond at its southern end also located in trench five. It contained seven features of which, after investigation, four were found to be modern and relating the 19th century hedge lines and drainage, one was established to be root disturbance and two were medieval in date.

Feature [25] (Plate 22) was a small east-west gully measuring 0.5m wide by 0.14m deep located at the southern edge of trench 6. This was probably a small drainage gully and was filled by (26) a mid-grey brown silty clay with sparse small rounded pebbles. No dating evidence was recovered from this fill.

Further down the trench and parallel to [25] was ditch [27] (Plate 23) a 1.5m wide by 0.28m feature, probably for drainage, backfilled by (28) a mid-red grey silty clay with occasional small rounded pebbles. The fill appears to represent natural silting up, although medieval pottery was recovered from the base of the feature, dating from the mid-11th century to the 14th century.



Plate 21: Trench 6 looking north.



Plate 22: Feature [25], looking east.



Plate 23: Feature [27] looking west.



Figure 14: West and east facing sections of features [25] & [26].

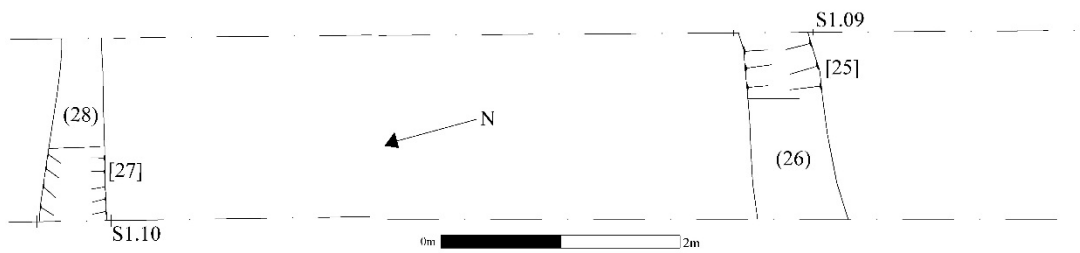


Figure 15: Plan of features [25] & [27] in southern end of trench 6.

Trench 7

Trench 7 (Plate 24) was located along the western edge of the evaluation area on a north-south alignment and contained one partially exposed shallow furrow running along most of its length, also on a north-south axis. One small potential feature cut into this was investigated and found to be modern disturbance. No other archaeological features or deposits were recorded in this trench.



Plate 24: Trench 7 looking north

Trench 8

Trench 8 (Plate 25) was located along the northernmost edge of the evaluation area on an east–west alignment. Its position was moved by approximately 5m at its western end to avoid a large modern dump of builder’s rubble. The trench contained a large amount of modern disturbance with an animal burial in the subsoil at the western end of the trench adjacent to a ditch which contained a large amount of modern brick rubble, coal and glass in its fill. At 6m into the trench the remains of brick floored C19th (?) 1.6m deep cellar backfilled with rubble was encountered (Plate 26), though no corresponding building has been identified on any of the historical map data. This was quickly photographed and the trench immediately backfilled to mitigate the risk from loose trench sides collapsing. No other archaeological features or deposits were encountered in this trench.



Plate 25: Trench 8 looking west.

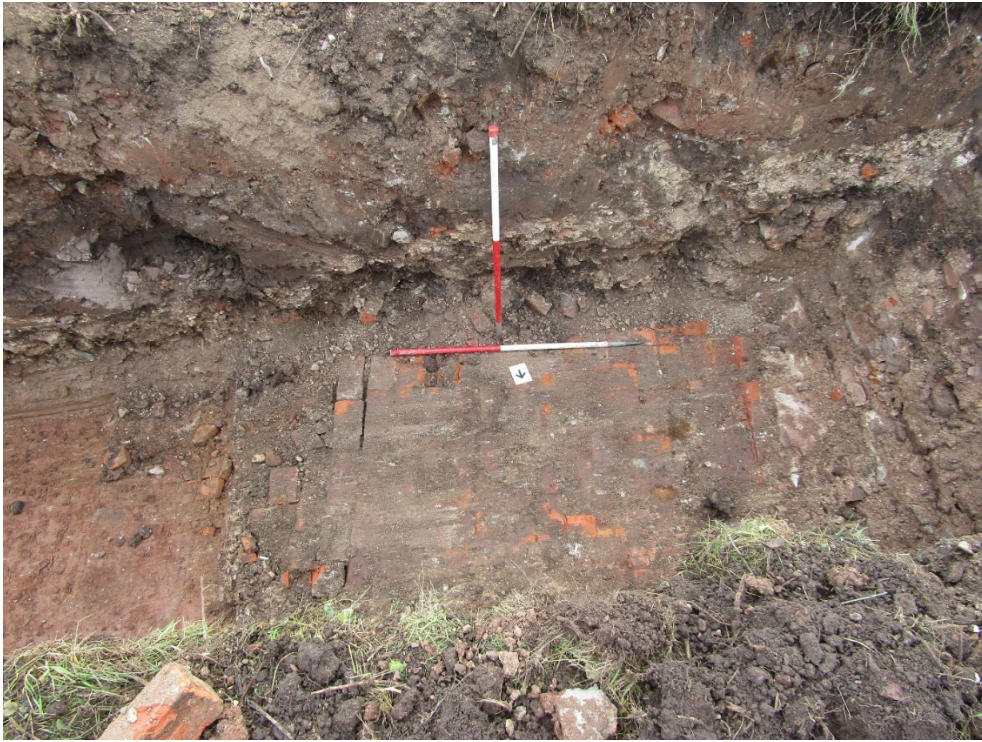


Plate 26: Nineteenth century cellar floor in Trench 8, looking south.

Trench 9

Trench 9 (Plate 27) was a small 11m trench on a north-south alignment machined in-between trenches two and four in order to establish whether features encountered in the aforementioned trenches were present in the space between. Four linear features were exposed in the trench although none were investigated further.



Plate 27: Trench nine looking north.

Conclusion

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken between the 5th and the 15th of November 2018 by University of Leicester Archaeological services on behalf of Stella Horton in advance of a proposed housing development.

Nine trenches were excavated by JCB to provide a representative sample of the archaeological potential of the development area in the absence of any geophysical survey. The composition of the topsoil and subsoil was suggestive of the ground having not being ploughed since the late medieval period leading to good potential preservation of medieval or earlier archaeological features.

Six trenches were found to contain archaeological features which could relate to settlement activity, with hints of a potential structure in trench four. Trenches one, two, four, five and nine contained ditches and gullies which could relate to enclosures and site drainage. Pottery found in the excavated features has been dated to between the 11th and 14th centuries which provides good evidence for medieval activity from the early post Norman period to the late C14th.

The associated animal bone remains suggest disposal of domestic waste and the environmental samples are also pointing to disposal of food waste. Altogether the pottery and environmental evidence indicates domestic activity on, or in the near vicinity of the site.

Whilst small amounts of material were recovered during hand-excavation, the preservation of the pottery and environmental remains was good, and indicates good potential for recovery of other well-preserved assemblages from the site. The character of the finds assemblage is also suggestive of occupation on the site as opposed to purely livestock or arable enclosures.

The positive trenches were located in the south and east of the proposed development area and this part of the site would merit further investigation if the remains are threatened by the development. The character and date of the activity suggests that these archaeological remains relate to the early occupation of the village and may provide important information about the formation and development of Norton Juxta Twycross.

The northern area of the site has substantial evidence for modern truncation with large overgrown areas of historically recent rubble. In addition trench eight contained evidence of a nineteenth century cellared building not noted on any of the historic maps. This structure appears to be running southwards (although its full extent has not been determined).

The Finds

The Post Roman Pottery - Deborah Sawday

The pottery assemblage was made up of 188 sherds, weighing 3.602kg, representing 38 vessels and a vessel rim equivalent of 1.2275 (calculated by adding together the circumference of the surviving rim sherds, where one vessel equals 1.00).

Condition

The condition of the pottery was good with little abrasion and a relatively high average sherd weight of 19.15 grams.

Methodology

The 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). Co-joining sherds are noted, whilst single sherds are generally counted as one vessel. The results are shown below (tables 1 - 3).

Table 2: The pottery fabrics.

Fabric	Common Name/Kiln & Fabric Equivalent where known	Approx. Date Range
ST2	Stamford - fine, fabrics G B/(A) (1)	c.1050-12th C.
PM	Potters Marston ware - Potters Marston, Leicestershire (2)	c.1100- c.1300/50+
OS	Oxidised Sandy ware -? local	c.12th-13th C.
CS	Coarse Shelly ware (11) Northants CTS 330 (3)	c.1100-1400
CO2/ CO	Coventry fabric A & variants (4), Warwick CTS SQ202/203 (4)	12th-14th C.
CC1	Chilvers Coton A/Ai (5), Warwick CTS WW01 (6)	c.1250- 1325/1400
MS2	Medieval Sandy ware 2- misc. coarse soft fired quartz tempered fabrics, including coarse Chilvers Coton fabrics A/Ai, (5), and ? Nottingham, Burley Hill/Allestree, Derbyshire and Staffs(7)	Early/mid 13th C.-1400
EA6	Earthenware 6 - Black Glazed Earthenware	16th C.-18th C.
(1) Kilmurry 1980		(5) Mayes & Scott 1984
(2) Haynes 1952, Sawday 1991		(6) Soden & Ratkai 1998
(3) Northants CTS		(7) Coppack 1980, Soden & Ratkai 1998.
(4) Redknap and Perry 1996		

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

Fabric	No	Gr	EVE	Vessel no	ASW
ST2	3	50	0.1	2	16.6
PM	3	53	-	2	17.6

OS	1	18	-	1	18.0
CS	2	8	-	2	
CO2/CO	17 3	3332	0.78	25	19.26
CC1	2	54	0.11	2	27.0
MS	1	8		1	
MS2	2	62	0.152 5	2	31.0
EA6	1	17	0.085	1	
	18 8	3602	1.227 5	38	19.15

Conclusion

The medieval pottery fabrics and forms are typical of the region; most of the finds originate from Stamford, Potters Marston, Coventry and Chilvers Coton, which were major centres of pottery production at this time. These finds date from the 12th to the 13th or 14th centuries and are evidently associated with several phases of activity within the medieval village. The relatively high average sherd weight, the number of joining sherds and the lack of abrasion suggest the survival of relatively undisturbed archaeological levels in the vicinity.

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

Context	Fabric/ware	No	Gr	EVEs	Max Vessel No	Comments
2	CO2	4	33		1	Body/basal angle –some join
2	MS	1	8		1	Fine sandy ware - ?Tamworth/Chilvers Coton
8	CO2	109	819	0.45	1	Abraded jar rim/body/base (Redknapp and Perry 1996, fig.14.29), diameter 120mm
10	CO	1	28	0.055	1	Bowl rim (Redknapp and Perry 1996, fig.23.294-300), est diam. c.300mm. ?Fabric variation of CO2
22	OS	1	18		1	Sand and mineral/?granitic inclusions, + red FE/sandstone
22	CC1	1	12		1	Pale lead glaze on interior
22	MS2	1	3		1	abraded
22	EA6	1	17	0.085	1	Bowl rim , diameter 180mm
28	CO	1	7	0.05	1	Everted hammer-headed jar rim, est EVE
28	CO	5	39		3	Misc. body sherds
28	CS	1	8		1	Convex base
28	ST2	2	38		1	Joining sherds, knife trimmed & lead glazed on exterior
30	ST2	1	12	0.10	1	Jar rim, form Kilmurry form 4 (1980), diameter 140mm. sooted
35	CO2	2	9		2	Misc. body

35	CO	1	2		1	Body – reduced prob CO2
38	CS	1			1	Body, sooted externally
38	CO2	13	135		1	Thick walled body and convex base sherds
38	PM	3	53		2	Body
38	CO2	28	2163		8	Misc. body/base
38	CO2	1	14	0.09	1	Everted jar rim, diam. c.200mm , (Redknapp and Perry 1996, fig.13.19).
38	CO2	1	11	0.06	1	Everted jar rim, (Redknapp and Perry 1996, fig.15.82), diam. c.220mm
38	CO	1	14	0.075	1	Jar rim, (Redknapp and Perry 1996, fig.15.82), diam. c.220mm
41	CC1	1	42	0.11	1	Simple everted jar rim, diam. 200mm. Similar rims found at Chilvers Coton on site 13, kiln 31a-b, dating from the mid 13 th century site, 16. k36a-b into the later 14 th C, site 4 k24, (Mayes & Scott 1984, fig.82.577-579, fig.74.308).
41	MS2	1	59	0.1525	1	Externally thickened jar rim, diam. 240mm, trace of dark green glaze on neck. Similar rims found at Chilvers Coton on site 13, kiln 32a-b, dating from the later 13 th or early 14 th century (Mayes & Scott 1984, fig.83. 617-618)
43 [42]	CO	4	30		1	Thick walled reduced black body sherds
43	CO2	1	18		1	body
43	CO2	1	10		1	Basal angle fragment, flat. Trace of ?copper glaze on exterior

Site/ Parish: Norton Juxta Twycross
 Accession No.: XA125 2018
 Document Ref: Norton juxta2docx
 Material: pottery/misc
 Site Type: core medieval village/?smv

Submitter: A. McLeish
 Identifier: D. Sawday
 Date of Identification 21.11.2018.
 Method of Recovery: eval.
 Job Number: 19-224 .

The Animal Bones - William Johnson

A very small animal bone assemblage, 31 fragments, was recovered by hand during excavations at Norton Juxta Twycross. Animal bone was recovered from five contexts, all dated to the medieval period.

Methods

The bones were identified by 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. Ageing by fusion was carried out using the data provided by Reitz and Wing (2008: 72) and an attempt was made to speciate equid teeth following the methods of Davis (1980).

Results

The bone was generally well preserved with the majority (93.5%) of the fragments described as 'good', with flaking, where present, confined only to localised areas, whilst two fragments from context (43) were in 'excellent' condition with the bone surface still appearing fresh. Fragmentation was high, although in nearly all cases this was the result of modern damage; the broken surfaces having a distinctly lighter colouration and many of the fragments were able to be reassembled.

Of the bones that could be identified to species the majority belonged to cattle including a phalanx from context (2), pelvis from context (38) and radius and ulna fragments from context (43). The radius fragment was an unfused distal epiphysis so derived from an animal under 48 months of age (Reitz and Wing 2008: 72). Other species present included a sheep/goat femur shaft and maxillary molar from context (43) and a maxillary equid tooth from context (2). Damage to the protocone prevented further speciation.

Discussion

The good preservation and reassembly of joining fragments resulted in a relatively high proportion of specimens (30%) able to be identified to species. It is likely that the bones derive from domestic waste, the majority of identifiable elements belonging to cattle and sheep/goat and made up of a range of elements including a large presence of long bones. Further conclusions cannot be drawn due to the small sample size.

Statement of Potential

No further work is required on the assemblage under study. Should further excavation work be carried out analysis of the bone is recommended as the good preservation allows for a high level of identification and, although fragmentation was present, in the majority of instances this did not impede investigation. Should a larger assemblage be available to study it has the potential to reveal information on rural diet and animal husbandry strategies, areas identified as requiring further investigation in the east Midlands regional research framework (Monckton 2006: 283).

The environmental remains - Adam Santer

One bulk soil sample was taken for the analysis of charred plant remains. The sample came from the fill (8) of 12th-14th century pit [7]. The analysis of the charred plant remains are presented here, together with a discussion of what potential evidence can be obtained regarding past diet, crop husbandry strategies and environment at the site.

Methodology

The sample consisted of a dark-reddish brown clay and was processed in a York tank using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation into a 0.3mm sieve. The flotation fraction (flot) was sorted for plant remains and other artefacts under an x10-40 stereo microscope. The fine and course residues were not sorted. Plant remains were identified by comparison to modern reference material available at ULAS and their names follow Stace (1991).

Results

The sample contained a low density of plant remains (2.21 items per litre). Eleven free threshing wheat grains (*Triticum* sp.), ten indeterminate cereal grains and a single grain of barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) and an indeterminate cereal fragments along with eight large grass (Poaceae) and one dock (*Rumex* sp.) seeds were found. The sample contained a large quantity of modern rootlets and some modern weed seeds. This is indicative of heavy disturbance to the contexts from bioturbation.

Table 4: The charred plant remains found in the sample

Sample	1	
Context	8	
Cut	7	
Feature type	Pit	
Date	12th-14th C.	
Grain		
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.	1	Barley
<i>Triticum</i> sp.	11	Free threshing wheat
Indeterminate cereal	10	Indeterminate cereal
Wild seeds		
Poaceae (large)	8	Large grass
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	1	Docks
Total	31	
Soil volume (L)	14	
Items per litre	2.21	

Conclusion and statement of potential

The specimens that were present likely represent residual scatter from food waste spillage which had become burnt on a hearth. The ashes from the hearth would have formed a general scatter on the site and collected in open features (such as the pit). Due to the small sample size and the low density of plant remains found in the sample it was not possible to learn anything about diet, crop husbandry strategies or environment at the site. However, if further work is to be carried out then a suitable sampling strategy should be implemented.

Archive

The site archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service under Accession No. X.A125.2018.

The archive contains:

- 36 A5 context sheets
- 9 A4 Trench recording sheets.
- 3 A2 Permatrace drawing sheets
- 2 A4 Context index sheets

- 2 A4 Digital photo index sheets
- 1 A4 Drawing index sheet
- 1 A4 Drawing record sheet

Publication

University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York. The online OASIS form (Appendix 1) shall be completed detailing the results of the evaluation and once the report has become a public document following its incorporation into the Historic Environment Record it shall be placed on the website.

Acknowledgements

The project was managed by Vicki Score, the fieldwork was conducted by Claire Brown and Andrew McLeish. Thanks go to Planters (Leicester) Ltd, for operating the machinery.

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04/12/2018

Appendix 1: OASIS data entry

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No			
	Project Name	An Archaeological Evaluation on Land West of Main Street, Norton Juxta Twycross		
	Start/end dates of field work	5/11/18 – 15/11/18		
	Previous/Future Work	No/ Not known		
	Project Type	Evaluation		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Scrub land		
	Monument Type/Period	Ditches, gullies, posthole.		
	Significant Finds/Period	Medieval pot, unknown bone.		
	Development Type	Residential		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition		
	Planning Ref.	18/00786/FUL		
	PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	CV9 3QA	
Study Area		1.2 Hectares		
Site Coordinates		SK 32340 06916		
Depth				
PROJECT CREATORS		Organisation	ULAS	
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority (LCC)		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Vicki Score		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Andrew Mcleish		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Developer funded		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	n/a	Leicestershire Museums Service	Leicestershire Museums Service
	ID (Acc. No.)		X.A125.2018	X.A125.2018
	Contents			Trench recording sheets, photo record sheets, general notes, unpublished report
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Title	An Archaeological Evaluation on Land West of Main Street, Norton Juxta Twycross, Atherstone, Leicestershire.		
	Author	Andrew Mcleish		
	Other bibliographic details	ULAS Report No 2018-		

	Date	2018
	Publisher/Place	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester
	Description	



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