



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation to the rear
of the Shoulder of Mutton Public House,
6, Chapel Street, Oakthorpe,
Swadlincote, Leicestershire**

NGR: SK 32095 12971

Nathan Flavell



ULAS Report No. 2019-069

© ULAS 2019

**An Archaeological Evaluation to the rear of the Shoulder of Mutton
Public House, 6, Chapel Street, Oakthorpe, Swadlincote,
Leicestershire
(SK 32095 12971)**

by

Nathan Flavell

For: Julie Mole

Planning Ref: 19/00273/FUL

Filename/Version	Amended/Checked by	Date
2019-069_Final_Report	J. Thomas	13/08/2019

University of Leicester, Archaeological Services, University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH

Tel: (0116) 2522848

www.le.ac.uk/ulas

ULAS Report Number 2019-069

©2019

Accession Number X.A33.2019

CONTENTS

Summary	1
Introduction	1
Geology and Topography	1
Historical and Archaeological Background	3
Archaeological Objectives	3
Methodology	3
Results	7
Discussion	14
The Post Roman Ceramic Finds - Deborah Sawday	14
The Animal Bone - William Johnson	15
Bibliography	16
Archive	16
Publication	16
Acknowledgements	18

FIGURES

Figure 1: Location of site	2
Figure 2: Site Location (Scale 1:50 000)	2
Figure 3: Site Location (not to scale)	4
Figure 4: Plan of development proposals showing provisional trench locations	5
Figure 5: Site plan showing eventual trench locations and archaeological features (in grey tone)	6
Figure 6: Trench 1 looking southwest	8
Figure 7: Trench 1 plan	8
Figure 8: Ditch [2] looking west	9
Figure 9: Ditch [2] section	9
Figure 10: Trench 2 looking southwest	11
Figure 11: Trench 2 plan	12
Figure 12: Ditch [4] looking southeast	13
Figure 13: Ditch [4] section	13

An Archaeological Evaluation to the rear of the Shoulder of Mutton Public House, 6, Chapel Street, Oakthorpe, Swadlincote, Leicestershire

Nathan Flavell

Summary

Archaeological trial trenching was carried out to the rear of the Shoulder of Mutton Public House, 6 Chapel Street, Oakthorpe, Swadlincote, Leicestershire, (SK 32095 12971) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on the 7th and 8th May 2019. The work was undertaken on behalf of Julie Mole in advance of a new residential development. The evaluation trenches both produced evidence of archaeological activity dating to the 16th – 17th century, in the form of two boundary ditches. The pottery assemblage from one of the ditches consisted predominantly of bowls which might indicate an association with dairy or cheese processing. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museums Service under the accession number X.A33.2019.

Introduction

This document constitutes the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out on land to the rear of Shoulder of Mutton Public House, 6 Chapel Street, Oakthorpe, Swadlincote, Leicestershire (SK 32095 12971). The work was undertaken on behalf of Julie Mole by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) between the 7th and 8th of May 2019. In advance of the proposed development of the site for housing (Planning Application 19/00273/FUL), the Planning Archaeologist as advisor to North-West Leicestershire District Council requested an archaeological field evaluation. This comprised trial trenching to determine the impact of the proposed scheme on any buried archaeology, and produce a mitigation strategy for the site.

Oakthorpe lies in the district of North West Leicestershire, close to the A42 and the villages of Donisthorpe and Measham (Figs. 1 & 2). The work followed the approved scheme of work as laid out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Archaeological Evaluation* (LaCombe 2019).

Geology and Topography

The site is located in the centre of Oakthorpe, lying approximately 0.65km north of the A42 and 2.0km east of A444 (Fig. 3). It is bordered on all sides by residential dwellings and it is situated no more than 120m from arable farm land to the west, east and north, and 160m to the south. The land is generally flat at a height of c.101m OD.

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain indicates that the underlying geology of the site is likely to consist of Moira Formation – Breccia, a sedimentary bedrock.

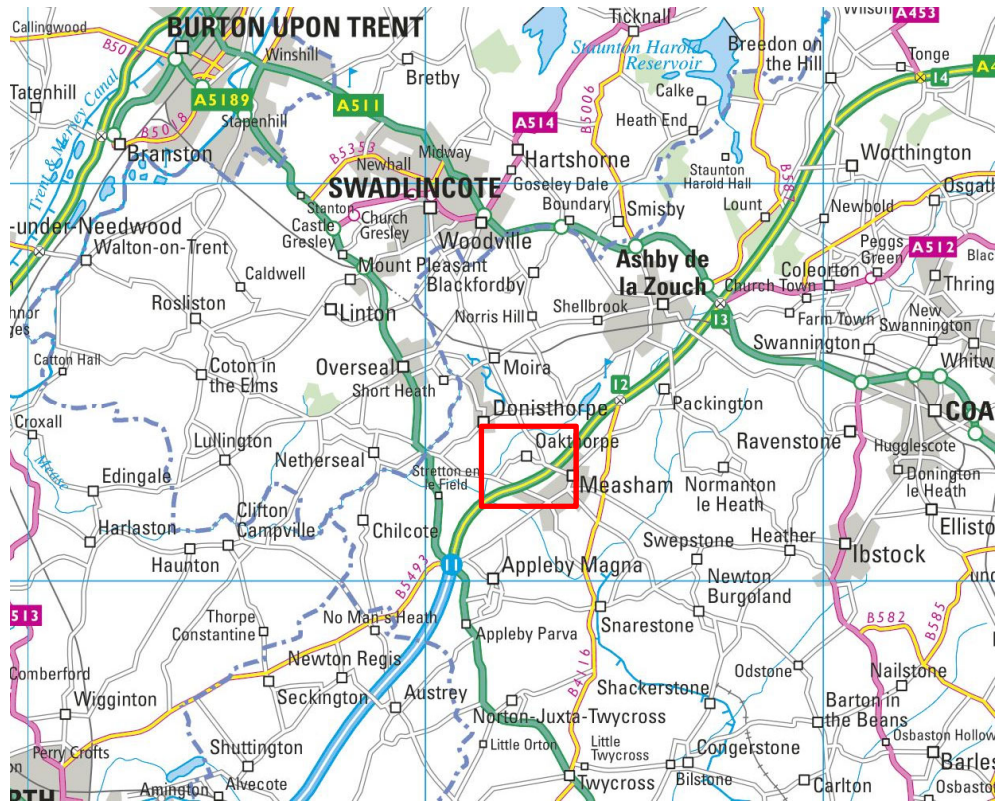


Figure 1: Location of site

Reproduced from Explorer® 1:100 000 scale by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright 2005. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495

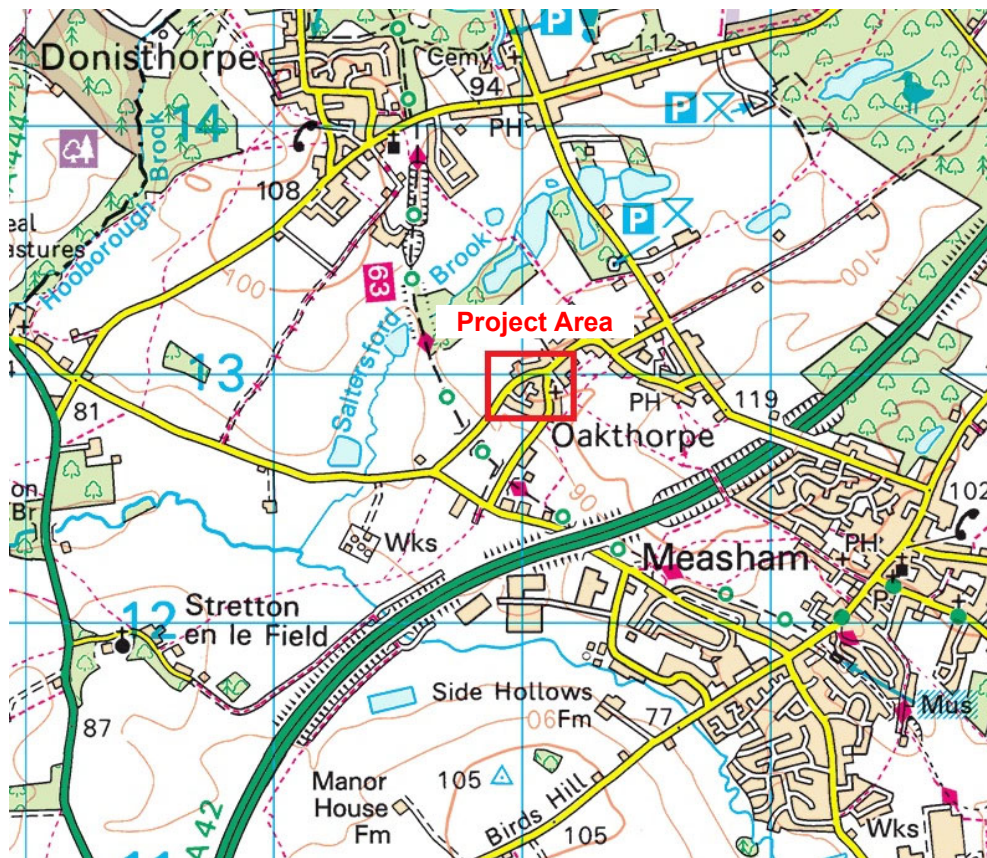


Figure 2: Site Location (Scale 1:50 000)

Reproduced from Landranger 1:50 000 by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495.

Historical and Archaeological Background

The site is situated within the historic core settlement of Oakthorpe Village (**MLE9097**) and is within an area of potential archaeological interest south of The Square and adjacent to 2 Coronation Lane listed grade II (**DLE901**).

The site is situated approximately 600m the west of the Donisthorpe to Measham Turnpike road (**MLE 21281**).

There is a pit alignment north-east of Stanleigh Plantation (Middle Bronze Age to Late Iron Age - 1500 BC to 42 AD), approximately 1.16m north west of the proposed area for development.

To the east of the pit alignment, and south east of Acresford Road, Donisthorpe is an Iron Age / Roman site (**MLE21859**) with an enclosure (Early Iron Age to Late Roman - 800 BC? to 409 AD?), a trackway (Early Iron Age to Late Roman - 800 BC to 409 AD) and a field system (Roman - 43 AD to 409 AD). The Roman field system, possibly with some earlier Iron Age components, possibly enclosures in the north-western area. The site was investigated in 2014, 2016 and 2017 via geophysical survey, trial trenching and excavation. Roman pottery was recovered from ditches and there was evidence for crops including oats, barley, rye, spelt wheat and free-threshing wheat. Finds include a Roman coin (Late Roman - 303 AD to 305 AD), pottery sherds (Early Roman to Late Roman - 101 AD to 400 AD) and also animal bone and plant remains dating 43 AD to 409 AD.

An early Neolithic flint scatter (**MLE16502**) was discovered approximately 1.2km north east of the proposed area for development in the field to the west of Oakthorpe Colliery, comprising of a core, pot boiler and scraper (Early Neolithic - 4000 BC to 3001 BC).

Archaeological Objectives

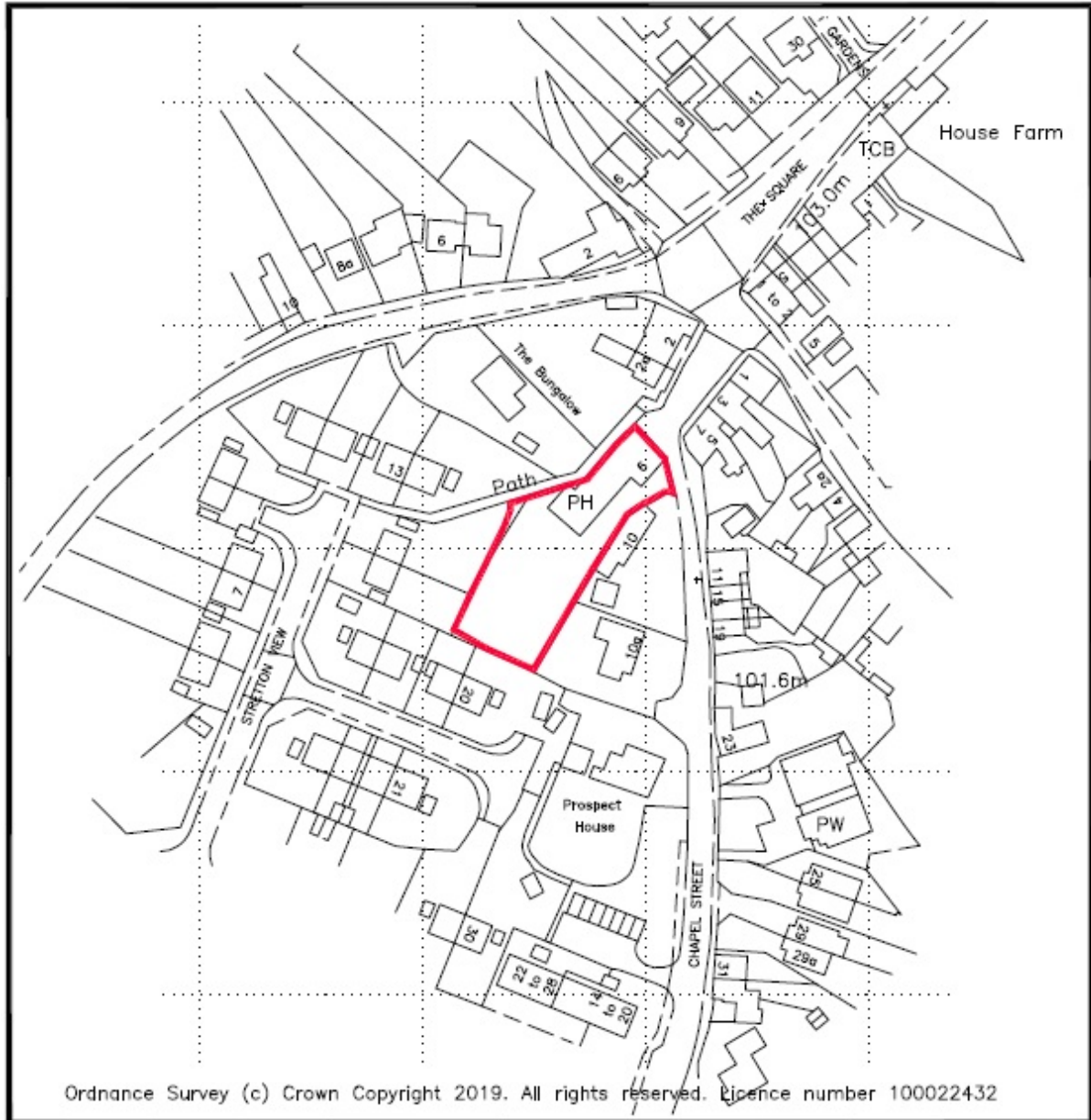
The main objectives of the archaeological work were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits.
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits and features encountered.
- To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to assess the impact of the proposed development on cultural heritage and to help formulate a mitigation strategy
- To record any archaeological deposits and produce an archive and report of any results.

Methodology

The original trench plan, as indicated in the WSI, consisted of two trenches located to cover the area of a new building (Fig. 4). Due to site constraints however, the trenches were moved or shortened to avoid trees (Fig. 5). The trenches were excavated with a toothless bucketed machine down to natural substratum.

The sections and existing spoil heaps were visually inspected for features and finds. 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).



Location Plan
Scale 1:1250

R3DDL Job Ref: 19.215



Indicative North

Figure 3: Site Location (not to scale)
Plan provided by developer.

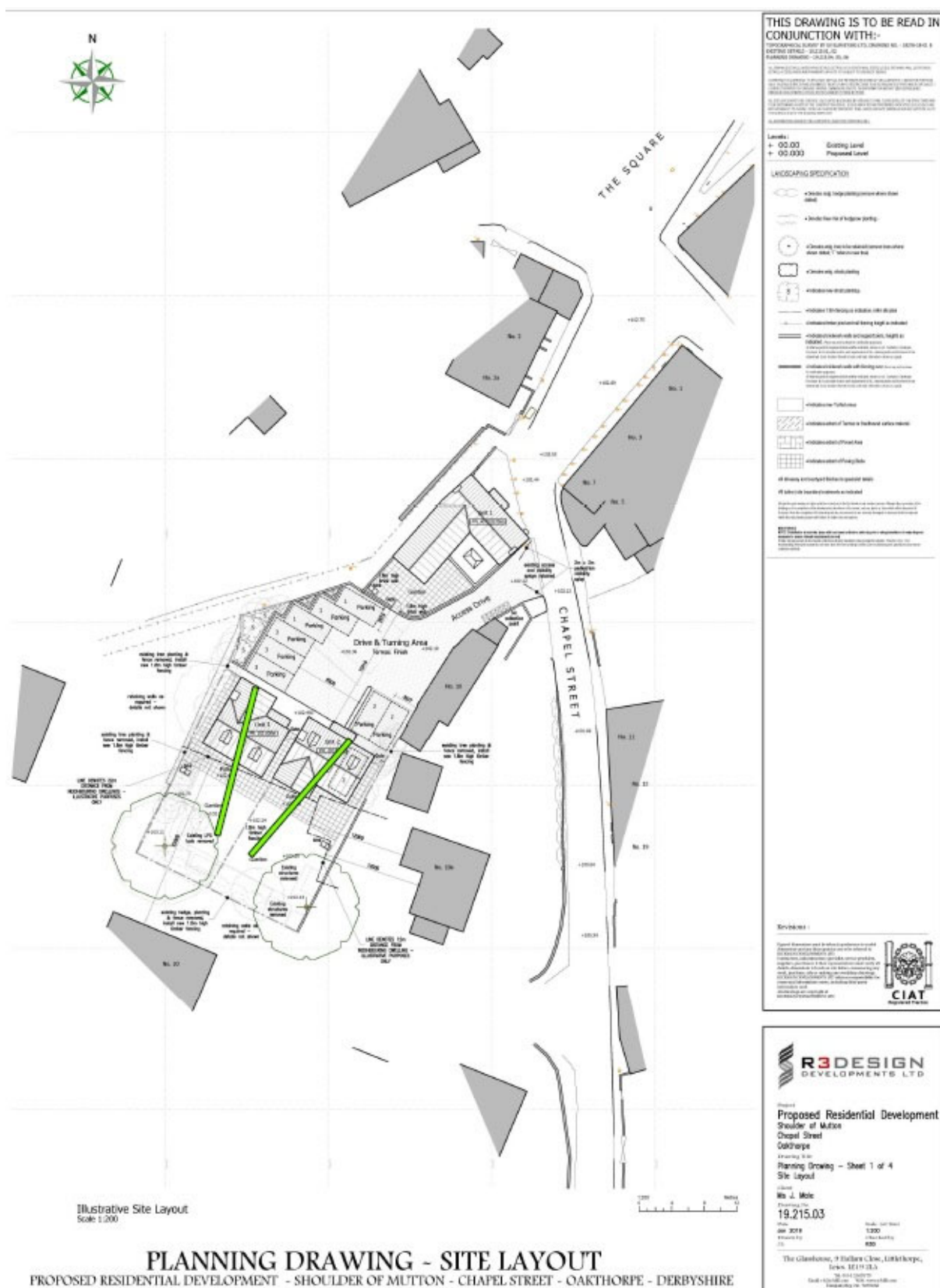


Figure 4: Plan of development proposals showing provisional trench locations

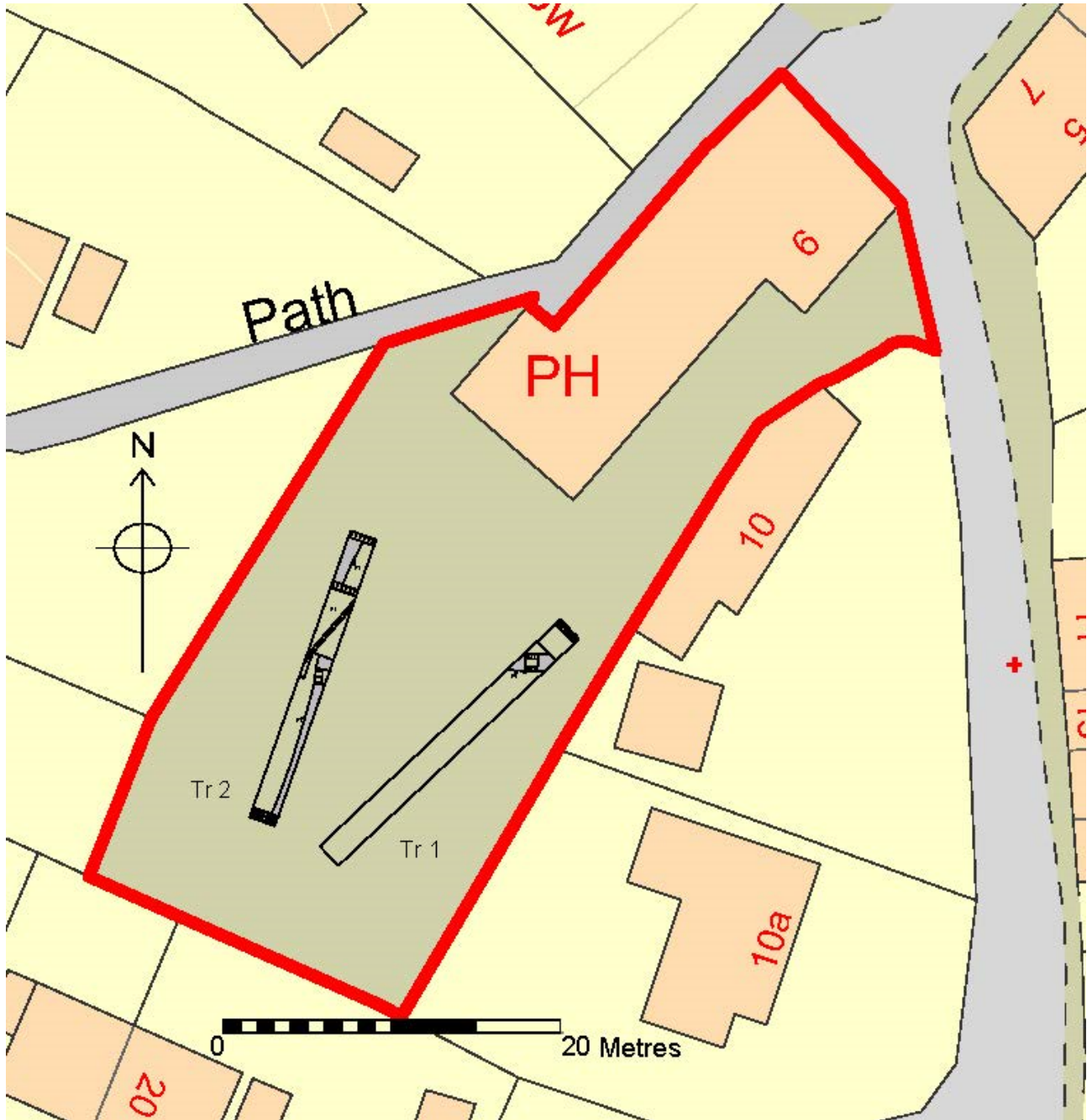


Figure 5: Site plan showing eventual trench locations and archaeological features (in grey tone)

Results

The excavated trenches both contained archaeological remains in the form of early boundary ditches. One was undated but the second was dated to the post-medieval period (16th/17th century). Both ditches lay on slightly different alignments and most likely represent sections of earlier plot boundaries within the village layout.

Trench 1

Trench 1 measured 19.6m x 1.6m, and was aligned northeast-southwest (Fig. 6). The natural substratum consisted of pink-red gravelly sand, encountered between 0.34m and 0.71m below ground level. Cut into the natural was a single ditch [2] aligned east-west with a moderately concave profile, measuring 1m wide x 0.18m deep (Figs. 7 - 9). It was filled by (1) brown-red silt sand. No finds were recovered from this ditch and it is therefore undated. The backfilled ditch was overlain by a subsoil (6), mixed brown-red silty sand with occasional charcoal and pebbles, 0.1-0.29m thick. This was covered by topsoil (5), grey-brown silty clay-sand with CBM and charcoal inclusions, 0.08-0.18m thick. This was overlain by a modern levelling layer of dark grey sandy clay for the bedding and modern block surface.

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)	Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)		Archaeology?
1	19.6		1.6	31.36		0.6		0.81		Yes
Interval (m) from northeast end	0	5	10	15	19.6					
Block & bedding depth	0.15	0.23	0.18	0.19	0.19					
Levelling layer depth	0.04	0.09	0.15	0.13	0.15					
Topsoil depth (5)	0.09	0.1	0.11	0.18	0.08					
Subsoil depth (6)	0.15	0.1	0.13	0.2	0.29					
Top of natural substratum	0.43	0.34	0.57	0.7	0.71					
Base of trench	0.72	0.6	0.65	0.72	0.81					



Figure 6: Trench 1 looking southwest

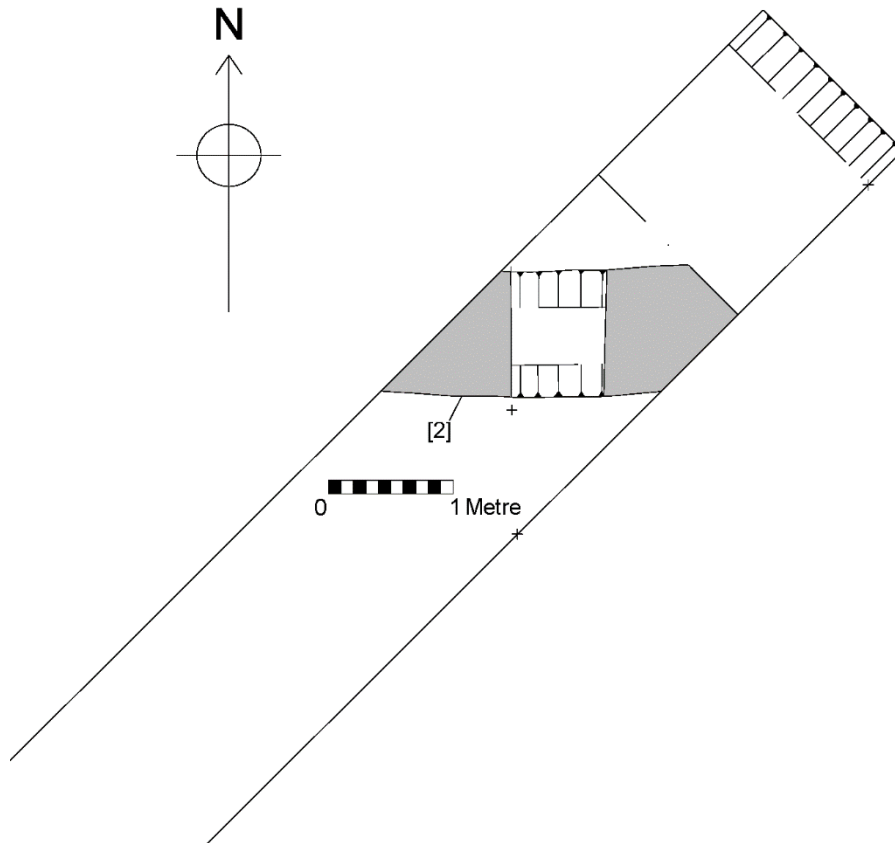


Figure 7: Trench 1 plan



Figure 8: Ditch [2] looking west

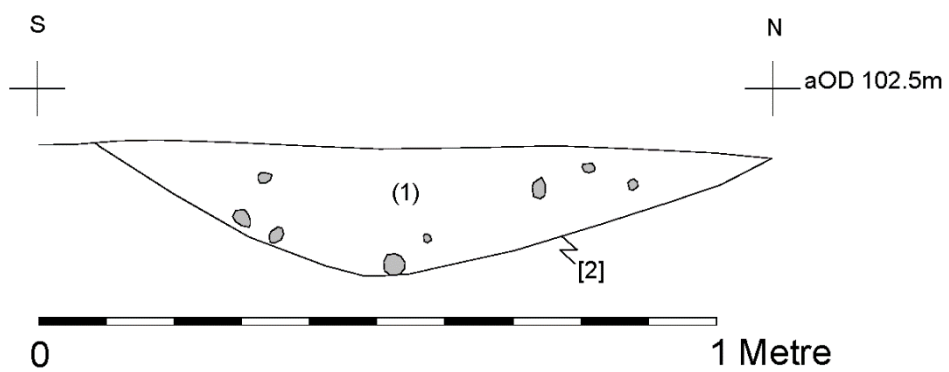


Figure 9: Ditch [2] section

Trench 2

Trench 2 measured 21.8m x 1.6m, and was aligned northeast-southwest (Fig. 10). The natural substratum was the same as in trench 1, encountered between 0.58m and 0.67m. Cut into the natural subsoil was ditch [4], aligned generally north-south with a moderately concave profile, measuring at least 0.7m wide (full width not encountered within the trench) by 0.4m deep (Figs. 11 - 13). It was filled by (3) a red-brown silty sand with occasional charcoal and pebbles. 5 sherds of 16th/17th century pottery and a fragment of possible cattle bone were recovered from the ditch. The backfilled ditch was overlain by subsoil (8), the same as (6), measuring 0.21-0.26m thick from which a fragment of 17th century pottery was recovered. This was overlain by topsoil (7), the same as (5), 0.06-0.24m thick, which contained further fragments of pottery dating to the later medieval/early post medieval period. This in turn was overlain by a modern levelling layer of dark grey sandy clay for the bedding and modern block surface.

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)		Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)		Archaeology?
2	18		1.6		28.8		0.55		0.86		Yes
Interval (m) from northeast end	0	5	10	15	18						
Block & bedding depth	0.2	0.27	0.19	0.21	0.23						
Levelling layer depth	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.05						
Topsoil depth (7)	0.06	0.24	0.17	0.17	0.17						
Subsoil depth (8)	0.26	-	0.26	0.25	0.21						
Top of natural substratum	0.58	-	0.67	0.67	0.67						
Base of trench	0.75	0.55	0.86	0.84	0.8						



Figure 10: Trench 2 looking southwest

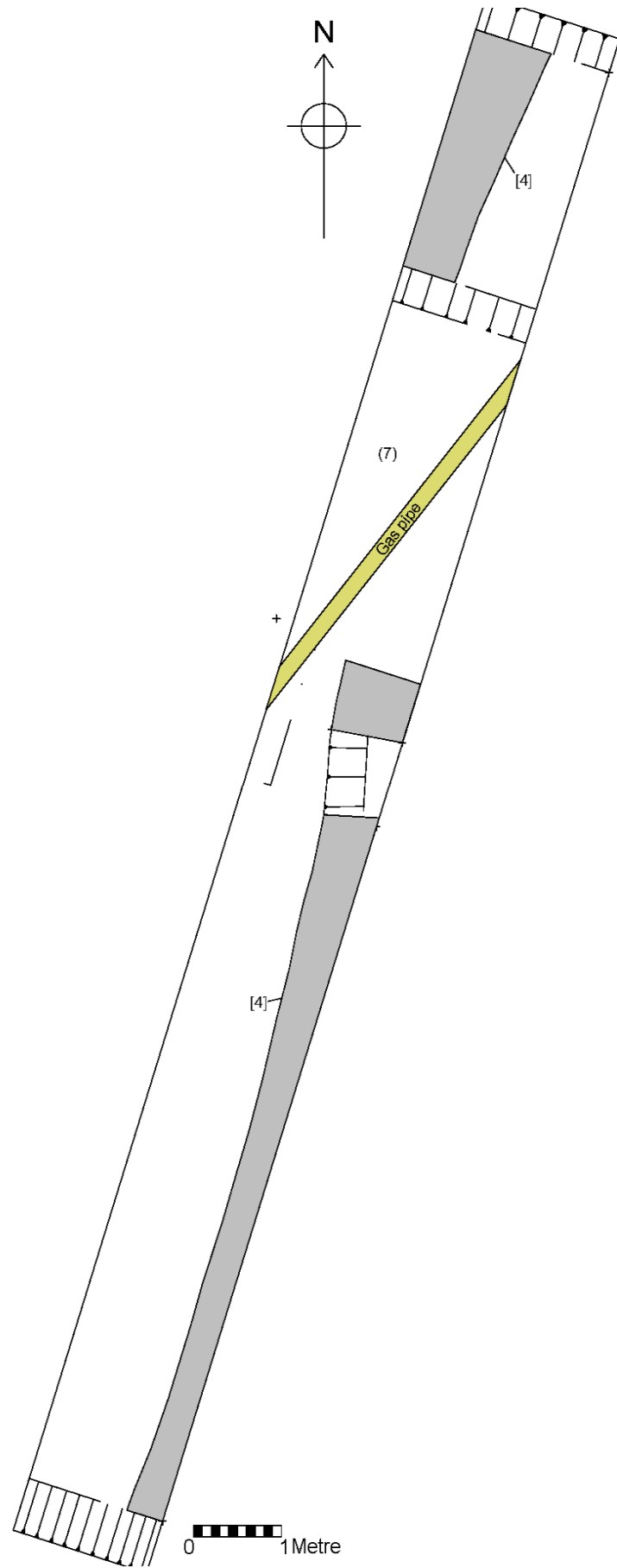


Figure 11: Trench 2 plan



Figure 12: Ditch [4] looking southeast

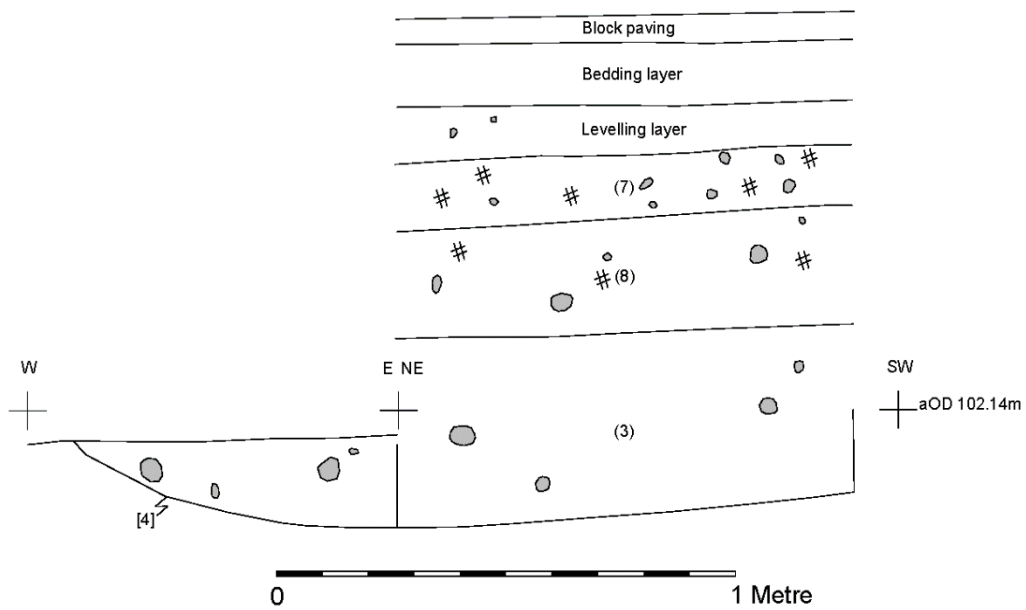


Figure 13: Ditch [4] section

Discussion

The evaluation produced positive results in the form of boundary ditches that were present in both trenches. The ditches lay on slightly different alignments and it is possible that both may be of slightly different dates, although the relationship between the two was obscured by a gas pipe. One of the ditches lay on an east-west alignment and this is unusual in relation to the prevailing orientation of the surrounding plots, perhaps suggesting a phase of land reorganisation at some stage.

A good assemblage of pottery was retrieved from ditch [4], showing that it was backfilled during the 16th or 17th century. Given the presence of slightly earlier pottery in the subsoil it is possible that the boundaries were in use during the later medieval period before the local landscape was reorganised.

The pottery assemblage is of interest given the apparent bias towards bowls that might suggest an association with cheese-making or dairy processing, perhaps giving an insight into specialised activities in this part of the village at the time.

The Post Roman Ceramic Finds - Deborah Sawday

The Ceramic Finds

The pottery assemblage was made up of thirteen sherds, weighing 319 grams and representing a maximum count of twelve vessels.

Condition

The condition of the pottery was good with some abrasion, but also with a relatively large average sherd weight of 24.53 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,). The results are shown below (tables 1 and 2). Single pottery sherds have been counted as one vessel.

Table 1: The Later Medieval and Post Medieval and Modern Pottery fabrics.

Fabric Code	Common Name/Kiln & Fabric Equivalent where known	Approx. Date Range
MP	Midland Purple ware-- Ticknall, Derbyshire	c.1375-1550
MY	Midland Yellow ware - Ticknall	c.1500-1725
EA1/2	Earthenware – Coarse Post Medieval Earthenware - Ticknall,	16th-17th C+
EA4	Mottled ware – Staffs.	1680-1780
EA6	Earthenware 6 - Black Glazed Earthenware ?Ticknall/Staffs	16th C.-18th C.
EA7	Earthenware 7 - Slipware - Ticknall	17th C.-19th C.
EA10	Fine White earthenware/China	modern

Discussion

The results are shown below, table 2.

Conclusion

The medieval and post-medieval pottery fabrics are typical of the region, whilst the degree of abrasion on the sherds in MY and EA7 and the slightly sandy fabric of the latter, suggest that this pottery may be relatively early in the sequence, perhaps dating from the 16th or 17th centuries. The preponderance of bowls is indicative of an assemblage associated with cheese and dairy processing. The pottery production centre at Ticknall is the most likely source of the Midland Purple and Midland Yellow wares, and of the post medieval Earthenwares, fabrics EA1/2 and EA7. The Mottled ware, fabric EA4, is probably from Staffordshire, and fabric EA6 could be a product of either the Ticknall or the Staffordshire kilns.

Table 2: The pottery by context, fabric/ware, sherd number, weight (grams), and EVES.

Context	Fabric/ware	No	Gr	Max Vessel No	Comments
3 [4] ditch	EA7	1	63	1	Wheel thrown bowl with flanged rim, red bodied with white slip on interior and rim top, firing yellow under lead glaze, abraded. Similar vessels dated from pre-1670s at Staffordshire (Greaves, 1976, fig.29.29) and the form is paralleled in Midland Yellow ware, Woodfield form Nex. The latter ware is dated generally from c.1500 at Leicester and c.1550+ in Coventry, with a terminal date in the first half of the 18 th C, (Woodfield 1984).
3	EA7	1	42	1	Wheel thrown bowl with everted and externally thickened rim, red bodied with white slip on all surfaces under a lead glaze, firing yellow on interior, abraded. Similar vessels dated from pre-1670s at Staffordshire (Greaves, 1976, fig.29.27). The form is also found in Midland Yellow ware (Woodfield 1984, form NfA) with a date range as above.
3	MY	2	66	1	Fragmentary profile of shallow bowl or dish with knife cut /scalloped rim, wheel thrown, buff bodied, with a lead glaze, firing yellow on interior, abraded. This vessel form is not paralleled in Midland Yellow (Woodfield 1984)
3	EA7	1	15	1	Base fragment white slip under glaze on interior, abraded.
3	EA7	1	10	1	Wheel thrown fragment, with lead glaze firing brown over red body.
7 topsoil	MP	1	19	1	Jar/cistern rim, red sandy fabric, some white inclusions, wheel thrown, similar rim types recorded near Ticknall production centre (Leigh and Cumberpatch 2011, fig.4.5), later medieval.
7	EA1/2	1	71	1	Hollow ware, probably a jar, lead glazed black over a red body on interior and exterior, ?17 th C+
7	EA4	1	6	1	Cup rim, wheel thrown, 1680+.
7	EA10	3	13	3	Modern fine white earthenware/china
8 subsoil	EA6	1	14	1	Flanged bowl rim, wheel thrown, lead glazed dark brown over red body – probably dating from the 17 th C.
Misc.					
3		1			Animal bone

The Animal Bone - William Johnson

A single fragment of animal bone was recovered from the fill (3) of a ditch [4]. The fragment was poorly preserved with extensive damage covering the entirety of the surface characteristic of burial within an acidic environment. The fragment was identified as part of the radius of a large mammal, most likely cattle.

Bibliography

B.G.S. website, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

Brown, D., 2008, *Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives (Institute for Archaeologists)*

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

Greaves, S. J., 1976. 'A Post-Medieval Excavation in Woodbank Street, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England SJ 866497' *City of Stoke-on-Trent Museum Archaeology Society*, Rep. **10**. Stoke on Trent.

LaCombe, C., 2019 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Filed Evaluation: Shoulder of Mutton, 6 Chapel Street, Oakthorpe, Swadlincote, Leicestershire* ULAS WSI **19-584**

Leigh, D, and Cumberpatch, D., 2011 A post-medieval pottery waster pit at Southwood House farm on the Calke Abbey Estate, near Ticknall, South Derbyshire' *Derbyshire Archaeol. Journal* **13**, 2011, 174-194.

MPRG, 1998 *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms*. Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 1, London.

MPRG, 2016 *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper, London.

Woodfield, P. 1984 'Midland Yellow Wares' *Newsletter West Midlands Pottery Research Group* **2**

Archive

The site archive for this phase consists of: 2 A4 trial trench sheets, 8 A5 context sheets 1 A4 drawing index, 1 A4 drawing record sheet, 1 A4 photo index sheet, 17 digital photographs and 1 A2 permatrace sheet. It will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A33.2019.

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	Oasis No	universi1-352901
----------------	-----------------	------------------

DETAILS	Project Name	Shoulder of Mutton Public House, 6 Chapel Street, Oakthorpe		
	Start/end dates of field work	07/08-05-2019		
	Previous/Future Work	None		
	Project Type	Evaluation		
	Site Status			
	Current Land Use	Car park		
	Monument Type/Period	post-medieval		
	Significant Finds/Period	pottery		
	Development Type	Residential		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition		
	Planning Ref.	19/00273/FUL		
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	Shoulder of Mutton, 6 Chapel Street, Oakthorpe, Swadlincote, Leicestershire DE12 7QT		
	Study Area	66 sq m		
	Site Coordinates	SK 32095 12971		
	Height OD	103m		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Originator Brief	Local Planning Authority (CCC)		
	Project Originator Design	ULAS		
	Project Manager	John Thomas		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Nathan Flavell		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Julie Mole		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	Leics Mus Service	Leics Mus Service	Leics Mus Service
	ID (Acc. No.)	X.A33.2019	X.A33.2019	X.A33.2019
	Contents	Pottery, bone	Photographs	Trial trench sheets, photo records, contact sheet, context sheets, drawings
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Title	Archaeological Evaluation at Shoulder of Mutton Public House, 6 Chapel Street, Oakthorpe, Swadlincote, Leicestershire		
	Author	Flavell, N.		

	Other bibliographic details	ULAS Report No 2019-069
	Date	2019
	Publisher/Place	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester
	Description	Developer Report A4 pdf

Acknowledgements

Thanks are extended to the client for their co-operation and assistance on site. Fieldwork was undertaken by Nathan Flavell, the report was written by Nathan Flavell and the project was managed for ULAS by John Thomas.

Nathan Flavell BA (Hons) PG Dip

Archaeological Services (ULAS)
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614
Email: nf70@le.ac.uk

11/05/2019



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH
UK

Directors

Dr Richard Buckley OBE BA PhD FSA MCifA

e: rjb16@le.ac.uk

t: +44 (0)116 252 2848

f: +44 (0)116 252 2614

e: ulas@le.ac.uk

