



**Archaeological Test Pitting at 15 Bridge Street, Packington, Leicestershire**

**NGR: SK 36018 14405**

**Nathan Flavell**



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**Site Name:** 15 Bridge Street, Packington, Leicestershire

**Grid Ref:** SK 36018 14405

**Author:** Nathan Flavell

**Client:** Andrew Large Surveyors

**Planning Ref.** 19/00225/FUL

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## OASIS RECORD

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>	<b>Oasis No</b>	universi1-375047		
	<b>Project Name</b>	15 Bridge Street, Packington, Leicestershire		
	<b>Start/end dates</b>	11-11-2019 – 12-11-2019		
	<b>Previous/Future Work</b>	DBA ULAS 2019-034		
	<b>Project Type</b>	Evaluation – test pits		
	<b>Site Status</b>	None		
	<b>Current Land Use</b>	Garden		
	<b>Monument Type/Period</b>	None		
	<b>Significant Finds/Period</b>	Pottery, flint, tile, glass		
	<b>Reason for Investigation</b>	NPPF		
	<b>Position in the Planning Process</b>	Pre-planning		
	<b>Planning Ref.</b>	19/00225/FUL		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	<b>County</b>	Leicestershire		
	<b>Site Address/Postcode</b>	15 Bridge Street, Packington, Leicestershire LE65 1WB		
	<b>Study Area</b>	0.4 ha		
	<b>Site Coordinates</b>	SK 36018 14405		
	<b>Height OD</b>	119-121m aOD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	ULAS		
	<b>Project Brief Originator</b>	North West Leicestershire Borough Council		
	<b>Project Design Originator</b>	ULAS		
	<b>Project Manager</b>	Gavin Speed		
	<b>Project Director/Supervisor</b>	Nathan Flavell		
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	<b>Recipient</b>	LCC Museum service	LCC Museum service	LCC Museum service
	<b>ID (Acc. No.)</b>	X.A109.2019	X.A109.2019	X.A109.2019
	<b>Contents</b>	Pottery, flint	Photographs	Report/ Photo Record/ Trench Sheets
<b>PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>Type</b>	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
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## **Archaeological Test Pitting at 15 Bridge Street, Packington, Leicestershire**

### **Nathan Flavell**

#### **Summary**

*An archaeological test pit evaluation, carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land at 15 Bridge Street, Packington, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 36018 14405) in advance of the construction of a residential development.*

*A total of four test pits were excavated across the site revealing no archaeological features, a small amount of medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil.*

*The archive for the site will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A109.2019.*

#### **Introduction**

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Andrew Large Surveyors to carry out an archaeological test pit evaluation on land at 15 Bridge Street, Packington, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 36018 14405; Fig. 1). The work was carried out from 11-12th November 2019.

The work was carried out 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 as planning permission is being sought for the proposed residential development of the site (19/00225/FUL). The Planning Archaeologist as advisor to Harborough District Council has therefore requested an archaeological field evaluation. This is in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, MHCLG 2018) for North West Leicestershire Borough Council.

#### **Location and Geology**

Packington lies in Leicestershire in the district of North West Leicestershire, close to the A42 and the towns of Ashby de la Zouch and Measham. The assessment area lies on the southern edge of the village on the southern side of Bridge Street close to its junction with Babelake Street and immediately east of the Gilwiskaw Brook. The Gilwiskaw Brook to the south of Bridge Street (in Packington) and the River Mease as far as its confluence with the River Trent are designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The assessment area consists of a rectangular parcel of land of 0.4 hectares, currently occupied by mature gardens and lawn associated with 15 Bridge Street. The land lies at a height of 106m aOD. There is a slight fall from east to west.

The British Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 155 (Coalville), indicates that the underlying geology comprises superficial alluvial deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel overlying bedrock deposits of sandstone belonging to the Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation (BGS 2010). The site lies in the shallow valley of the Gilwiskaw Brook, a tributary

of the Rive Mease, at c.109m above Ordnance Datum (OD) with the ground dropping down gradually from north-west to south-east.

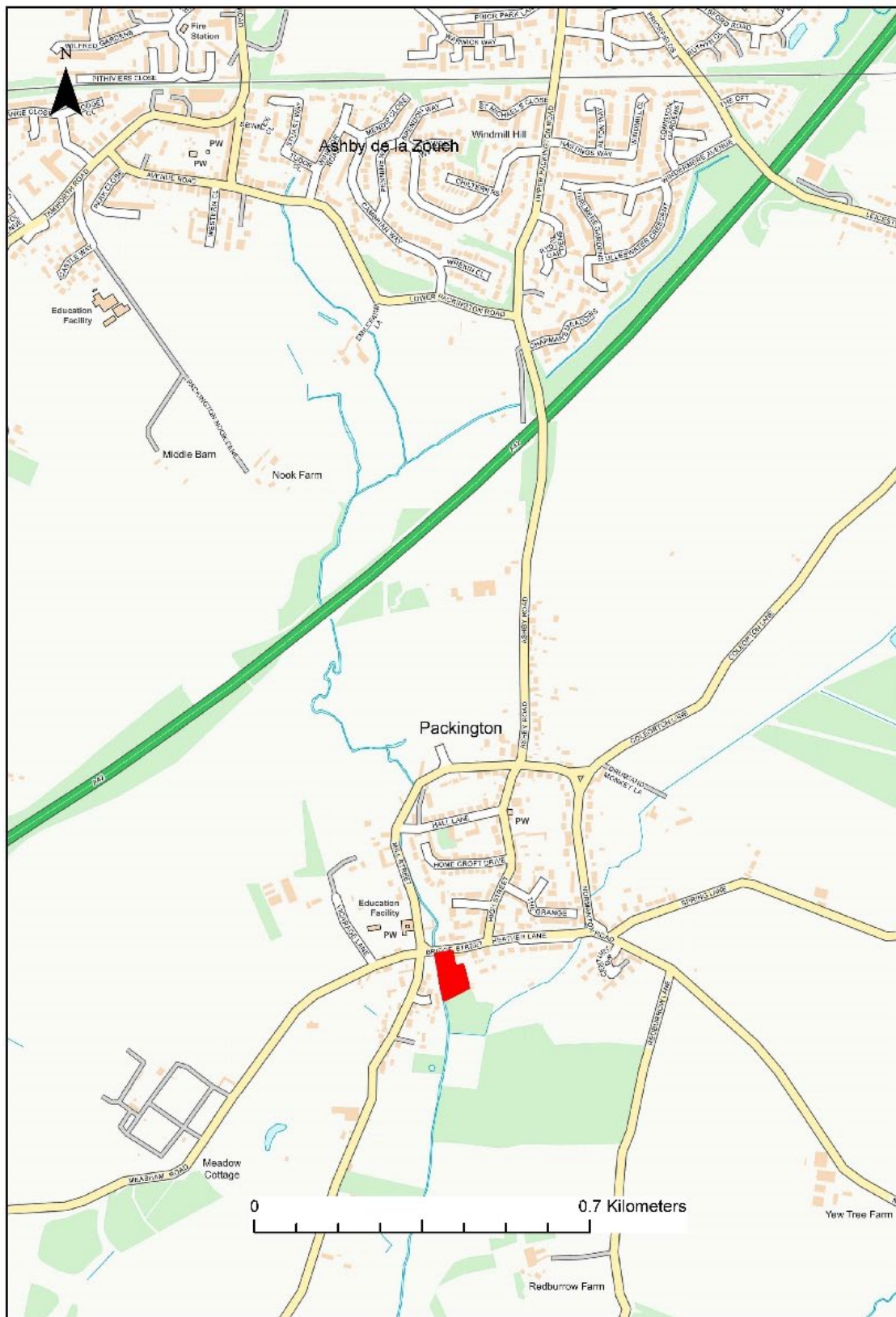


Figure 1: Site Location  
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## Historical and Archaeological Background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) and the DBA (Kipling 2019) shows that the site lies in an area of archaeological interest on the southern periphery of the historic medieval and post-medieval settlement core of Packington (HER ref. **MLE10599**). The Gilwiskaw Brook, which has the potential to reveal palaeoenvironmental remains, forms the western boundary of the site. The 13th century Church of the Holy Rood (**MLE10868**) and its associated graveyard lie 200m to the northwest. The development site lies within the Packington Conservation Area, and there are a number of Listed Buildings in the vicinity. The DBA showed that there are no known archaeological sites within the assessment area itself. However, there are a number in the vicinity and the results are included in summary below:

### *Prehistoric*

Irregular cropmarks were observed at Red Burrow Farm 700m to the south, but not investigated (**MLE4794**), and an undated cropmark complex southeast of Measham Road (**MLE17326/7**), 800m to the northwest, identified from aerial photos in c.2006. There are no known Iron Age or Roman sites known in the vicinity. The nearest evidence of this date is from 2km away, east of Heather Road. Here a Romano-British settlement site was excavated where enclosures, a possible timber building, and a pottery kiln were identified (Lucas 1981).

### *Roman*

A possible Roman road has been postulated, linking Watling Street at Tamworth to a crossing of the Trent crossing at Sawley (**MLE20490**). The projected course of the road, which runs southwest-northeast, runs within 20m of the northwest corner of the study area.

### *Medieval to modern*

The village of Packington dates from the early medieval period, first documented during the Domesday Survey of 1086 as Pachintone. This is thought to refer to, in Old English, the 'Estate of Pacca'. In 1043, Leofric earl of Mercia granted the manor and the advowson of the church to the abbey of St Mary at Coventry. It remained in the possession of the abbey until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 1530s. At the time of the Domesday Survey the village contained approximately ten families, including a priest; this had risen to thirty-eight families in 1564. The village is noted to have had a mill since the 12th century and was granted the right to hold a market in 1257. Following the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the manor of Packington was granted by the Crown to the Hastings family of Ashby-de-la-Zouch. It was subsequently held by them and their descendants until the estate was sold off in the 1920s. Within Packington the patronage of the Abney- Hastings family was reflected with their involvement in the building of the village school on Mill Lane in the late nineteenth century. Sir Charles Abney- Hastings in 1833 established a school at the White House and had the bridge over the Gilwiskaw Brook on Bridge Street built at his expense in 1832. The settlement developed with an agricultural economy until the second half of the twentieth century (Kipling 2019, 8).

The actual settlement core of Packington village is of historic medieval and post-medieval date (HER ref. MLE 10599), with the 13th-century Church of the Holy Rood surviving (**MLE10868**). The village of Packington has an early medieval origin. The assessment area lies on the southern periphery of the historic medieval core of the village (**MLE10599**). The pre-enclosure open fields system of the village are known to have been located a short distance to the south of the development). A possible medieval watermill (**MLE4796**) may have been



located on the site of its 17th century successor (**MLE10924**), as first referred to in Domesday Book with a value of 12d, around 350m north of the assessment area. A late post-medieval or modern water meadow weir is recorded on the Gilwiskaw Brook (**MLE20535**) 500m to the south of the assessment area. Post-medieval activity is attested in the village core. Modern activity is known with coal mining in the area. Undated earthworks are recorded (**MLE17383**) 900m to the northeast alongside the Gilwiskaw Brook and, close by, a series of undated features recorded southeast of Nook Farm (**MLE17382**)

## Archaeological Objectives

The specific aims of the evaluation were to:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits on the site.
- To characterise the extent, date range, character, condition and significance of any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- 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.

Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area, the results of which will provide information for the local planning authority to identify an appropriate mitigation strategy.

## Research Objectives

The site's location just outside the historic village core suggests that there is potential for archaeological deposits from the medieval period onwards. The evaluation has the potential to contribute to the following research aims outlined in the *East Midlands Heritage Research Agenda* (Cooper 2006, Knight *et al.* 2012).

### *Early Medieval:*

6.4 Rural settlement patterns, 6.7 agricultural economy and rural landscape.

### *High Medieval:*

7.2 Rural settlement, 7.7 agrarian landscape and food producing economy.

### *Post- Medieval:*

8.3 agricultural landscapes and food-producing economy, 8.4 rural settlement patterns.

## Methodology

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (rev. 2019) in accordance with their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*



(rev. 2014). The archaeological work followed the *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Archaeological Evaluation* prepared by ULAS and agreed with the Leicestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist (August 2019). The work was monitored by the client and the Leicestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist. An accession number (X.A109.2019) was obtained prior to commencement of the project and used to identify all records. A total of 4, 1x1m test pits were placed in areas of proposed buildings (Fig. 2). The test pits were moved to avoid mature trees and rooting (Fig. 3). The test pits were hand excavated under constant supervision by an experienced archaeologist. The test pits were excavated to the level of the natural sub-stratum or to archaeological layers, whichever the higher in the sequence. All archaeological work was undertaken as specified within the WSI.



Figure 2: Proposed test pit plan

## Results

All four test pits did not reveal any archaeological features. Test pit 2 could not be backfilled due to the high water table flooding the pit. Test pit 3 had to be abandoned because of the high water table flooding during excavation. The natural substratum varied between grey-red-brown sandy clay and yellow-orange clay sand with pebble inclusions. Subsoil was grey-brown mixed clay silt and brown-red silty clay. Topsoil varied between dark brown sandy clay loam and red-brown clay loam.

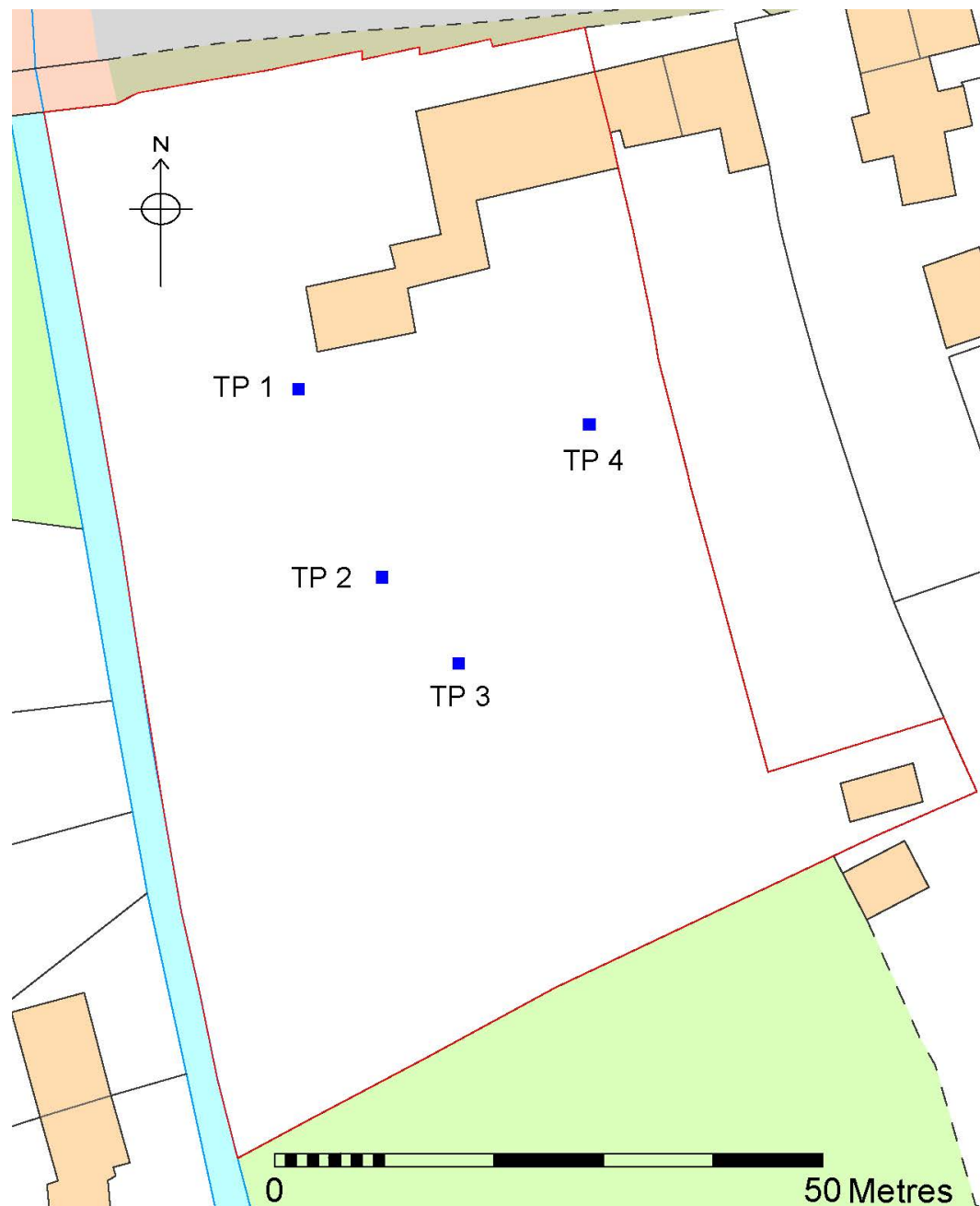


Figure 3: Actual test pit plan

### ***Test pit 1***

Test pit 1 was placed behind the garages to the north of the site, moved slightly west because of mature trees. (Fig. 4). The natural substratum consisted of grey-red-brown silty clay, 0.39m below ground level. Above this was subsoil (103) mixed mid-brown silty clay with coal and charcoal inclusions, 0.12m thick. Above this was a demolition levelling layer (102), grey-brown mixed clay silt with frequent CBM inclusions, 0.17m thick. Topsoil (101) lay above this consisting of dark brown sandy clay loam, 0.1m thick.



Figure 4: Test pit 1 looking southeast

### ***Test pit 2***

Test pit 2 was placed near the western boundary to the south of the site, moved slightly east to avoid rooting. (Fig. 5). What appeared to be natural substratum was the same as in test pit 1 0.7m below ground level. Above this was a possible subsoil (203) red-grey silty clay, 0.3m thick. Above this was a subsoil (202), brown-red silty clay with frequent pebbles, 0.2m thick. Topsoil (201) lay above this consisting of mid brown sandy clay loam, 0.2m thick. Further investigation could not be conducted as water began to pour in from the side of the test pit, subsequently flooding it (Fig. 6).





Figure 5: Test pit 2 looking south (beginning to flood)



Figure 6: Test pit 2 flooded

### ***Test pit 3***

Test pit 3 was placed to the south of the site, moved slightly east up slope because of the flooding in test pit 2. (Fig. 7). The natural substratum was not reached as at c.0.4m deep water started to well up from the subsoil. The subsoil as recorded (302) was brown-red sandy clay with pebble inclusions. Topsoil was dark red-brown clay loam, 0.3m thick.





Figure 7: Trench 3 looking northeast

#### ***Test pit 4***

Test pit 4 was placed towards the eastern boundary of the site, moved slightly south because of a backfilled swimming pool (Fig. 8). The natural substratum consisted of yellow-orange clay sand, 0.55m below ground level. Above this was a probable interface layer (403), mixed brown-orange clay sand with pebbles 0.14m thick. Subsoil consisting of red-brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal and pebble inclusions, 0.16m thick. Topsoil was the same as in test pit 3, 0.25m thick.



Figure 8: Trench 4 looking northwest

## The Post Roman Ceramic and Miscellaneous Finds - *Deborah Sawday*

### *The Ceramic Finds*

The pottery assemblage was made up of 62 sherds, weighing 791g, representing a maximum count of 51 vessels. Seventeen fragments, weighing 3.552kg, of ceramic building material, including an 18th century brick, weighing 2.791kg, were also recorded.

### *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 (Sawday 2009). The results are shown below (tables 1 -3). Co-joining sherds are noted whilst single sherds are generally counted as one vessel.

Table 1: The pottery and ceramic building material fabrics.

Fabric	Common Name/Kiln & Fabric Equivalent where known	Approx. Date Range
CC1	Chilvers Coton A/Ai (1), Warwick CTS WW01 (2)	c.1250-1325/1400
CC2	Chilvers Coton fabric C (1), Warwick CTS SQ30 (2)	Later 13 <sup>th</sup> -1475
MS3	Medieval Sandy ware 3 misc. coarse hared fired quartz tempered fabrics -? Burley Hill/Allestree/Ticknall, Derbyshire (3)	c.1300-1450
MY	Midlands Yellow ware	c.1500-1750
EA2	Earthenware 2 – ‘Pancheon ware’, Chilvers Coton/Ticknall, Derbyshire	17th C-18th C. +
EA3	Mottled ware	1680-1780
EA8	Earthenware 8 - Creamware-	c.1730-1850.
EA10	Earthenware 10 – Fine White Earthenware/China	modern
EA	Unclassified Earthenware	post medieval/modern
SW4	White Salt Glazed Stoneware	1720/30-1770/80
SW5	Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware	1670-1900
SW	Stoneware	Modern

(1 ) Mayes & Scott 1984, (2) Soden & Ratkai 1998, (3) Cumberpatch 2004

### *Condition*

Much of the pottery was abraded and overall had a relatively low average sherd weight overall of only 12.75 g; the five sherds of medieval pottery, however, had a slightly higher average weight of 15g (table 2). The three fragments of medieval or early post-medieval flat roof/nib tile weighed 104g, giving an average weight of 34g.

Table 2: The pottery site totals.

Fabric	N o.	Gr	Max. Vessel	ASW grams	% of total by sherd
Medieval					
CC1	3	41	2	13.6	
CC2	1	30	1	30.0	
MS3	1	4	1	4.00	
sub-total	5	75	4	15.00	8.06
Post Medieval/Modern					
MY	1	6	1	6.00	
EA2	3	183	3	61.00	
EA3	1	1	1	1.00	
EA8	1	13	1	13.00	

EA10	27	115	24	4.25	
EA	13	2013	7	154.	
SW4	1	15	1	15.0	
SW5	2	10	1	5.0-	
SW	8	170	8	21.25	
sub-total	57	716	47	12.56	91.93
Site total	62	791	51	12.75	99.99

### Discussion

The five sherds, 75 g, of medieval pottery in contexts (203), (401) and (402), together with the three fragments of medieval or early post medieval roof tile in contexts (101) and (201) and the rest of the ceramic assemblage, and also the miscellaneous finds, are indicative of activity in the vicinity dating from the mid or later 13th century into the modern period.

### Conclusion

The medieval and early post-medieval pottery fabrics are typical of the region. These finds, together with the nib tile, and the glass waste in context (101) and the iron strap in context (201) (table 3), all occurred in contexts which also contained later post-medieval or modern material, possibly reflecting some of the many phases in the development of the medieval and later village.

Table 3: The pottery and miscellaneous finds by context.

Context	Fabric	No	Gr	Max V. No	Comments
101	SW	1	14	1	Modern brown glazed body - discarded
101	EA10	1	2	1	Modern blue and white under glaze decoration - discarded.
102	MY	1	6	1	Body
102	EA2	1	163	1	Pancheon rim, dense red fabric some marl, the whole covered in an iron rich slip, and glazed brown on interior and exterior rim.
102	EA	7	170	1	Bowl rim, red sandy fabric the whole covered in an iron rich slip with white slip on the interior.
102	SW5	2	10	1	Inscribed scroll decoration - 18 <sup>th</sup> C – Nottingham/Derbyshire.
102	EA8	1	13	1	Base frag slipped yellow and white.
102	EA10	1	5	1	Transfer (bat) printed pale blue under glaze, late 18 <sup>th</sup> – early 19 <sup>th</sup> C, discarded
102	EA10	6	21	4	Misc. body/base modern - discarded
102	EA10	3	7	3	Misc. transfer printed under glaze – modern, discarded
103	EA3	1	1	1	body
103	EA10	1	6	1	Transfer printed pale blue under glaze, late 18 <sup>th</sup> – early 19 <sup>th</sup> C, discarded
103	EA10	2	22	2	Misc. blue and white and brown decoration painted under glaze - discarded
103	EA10	2	9	1	Moulded decoration – mid/late 19 <sup>th</sup> C, discarded



103	EA10	1	1	1	Flow blue decoration - discarded
103	EA10	7	22	7	Misc. modern sherds - discarded
103	SW	1	7	1	body with rouletted and moulded decoration – discarded
103	SW	3	33	3	Misc. modern sherds - discarded
201	SW	1	69	1	Brown glazed jar fragment, possibly a lid – stamped with the letters BL...glazed
201	SW	1	34	1	Modern – discarded.
201	EA10	1	4	1	Moulded body – modern, discarded
201	EA	1	6	1	Modern flower pot - discarded
203	CC1	2	38	1	Coarse white bodied fabric, squared rim, similar at site 1, F3 at Chilvers Coton (fig.65.23) where dated from the mid/late 13 <sup>th</sup> C. (Mayes and Scott 1984).
301	EA2	1	6	1	Fragment.
301	SW4	1	15	1	Hollow ware vessel with horizontal banding
301	EA	2	12	2	Modern flower –pot, discarded
301	EA10	1	4	1	Modern - discarded
301	SW	1	13	1	Modern - discarded
401	CC2	1	30	1	Ridged jug strap handle, abraded, similar at Chilvers Coton, Site 3, F24 where dated from the mid-14 <sup>th</sup> C ( <i>ibid.</i> 1984, fig.72.223).
401	EA10	1	12	1	Modern - discarded
401	EA2	1	14	1	Internally slipped and glazed, 18 <sup>th</sup> C+
401	EA	3	15	3	Modern flower pot - discarded
402	CC1	1	3	1	Fragment
402	MS3	1	4	1	Fragment
CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL					
101	EA	1	46		Moulded nib tile fragment with remains of broken nib - 16mm thick, red sandy fabric, typologically similar at Coventry in a coarse red sandy and smooth red sandy fabrics, dating from the 13 <sup>th</sup> to the early 16 <sup>th</sup> centuries, (Ratkai and Woodfield 2005, fig.148.1 and 4.).
101	EA	3	247		Modern land drain – discarded.
102	EA	1	2761		Moulded brick - 23.5 x 115 x 56mm (9 ¼ x 4 3/8 x 2 inches) 18 <sup>th</sup> C - discarded
102	EA	5	347		Modern land drain fragments - discarded
201	EA	1	31		Modern tile fragment - discarded
201	EA	1	37		Moulded brick or tile fragment ?18 <sup>th</sup> C. - discarded
201	EA	1	22		Moulded nib tile fragment - 13mm thick, red sandy fabric, med/early post med., discarded
201	EA	1	36		Moulded nib tile fragment - 16mm thick, red sandy fabric, med/early post med., discarded
203	EA	2	11		Abraded frags brick/tile - post med/modern, discarded.
301	EA	1	14		Abraded frag tile - post med/modern, discarded.

MISCELLANEOUS				
context	material	no.	gr.	
103	glass waste	1	58	Waste (retained by ULAS for reference)
103	glass waste	2	76	Waste (retained by ULAS for reference).
101	glass waste	1	14	Possibly waste discarded after manufacturing process (retained by ULAS for reference).
101	glass	1		Part of a base/prunt in thick dark green glass, later 17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> C wine bottle
101	glass	1		Bottle neck, modern - discarded.
201	iron	1		Crescent shape strap, possibly 12 <sup>th</sup> –into 13 <sup>th</sup> C (Goodall, 2011).
301	glass	3		Modern bottle glass - discarded
401	glass	7		Modern bottle glass - discarded
401	copper alloy	1		Handle – Georgian, discarded
402	glass	2		Abraded vessel glass - ?post med/modern, discarded
301	bone	1	3	Burnt long bone fragment– cow or horse, discarded
202	flint	1		Primary flake

## Discussion & Conclusion

The test pits did not reveal any archaeological features. Test pit 1 had evidence for the demolition levelling from stables as shown on an old OS map where garages now stand. The majority of the finds from the soil layers are mainly occupational from the 17-18th Centuries. A small amount of medieval pottery dating from the 13-15<sup>th</sup> Centuries was recovered from topsoil and subsoil contents. This could denote domestic activity within the vicinity.

## Archive and publication

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A109.2019 and consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report No. 2019-150)
- 4 Trench recording sheets
- 1 Context index sheet
- 1 Photo Record sheet
- 1 Contact sheets of digital photographs
- 1 CD containing a copy of this report and the digital photographs
- 2 finds checklists and accompanying finds.

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.

### Acknowledgements

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