



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation on land at Old Farm, Main Street, Gilmorton
Leicestershire.**

NGR: SP 569 881



Joseph Peters

ULAS Report No 2019-141
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Site Name: Old Farm, Main Street, Gilmorton, Leicestershire.

Grid Ref: SP 569 881

Author: Joseph Peters

Client: TM Builders

Planning Ref. 17/01965/OUT

ULAS Report Number: 2019-141

Accession Number: X.A66 2019

Filename/Version	Checked by	Date
2019-141	Vicki Score	14/01/2019

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OASIS RECORD

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	universi1-412010		
	Project Name	An archaeological field evaluation on land at Old Farm, Main Street. Gilmorton, Leicestershire (SP 88032)		
	Start/end dates	13 th to 23 rd August 2019		
	Previous/Future Work			
	Project Type	Evaluation		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Agricultural Land/ set aside		
	Monument Type/Period	None		
	Significant Finds/Period	None		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition		
Planning Ref.	17/01965/OUT			
PROJECT LOCATION	County	Leicestershire		
	Site Address/Postcode	Old Farm, Main Street, Gilmorton		
	Study Area	0.59 ha		
	Site Coordinates	SP 88032		
	Height OD	141m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Harborough District Council		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Vicki Score		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Tim Higgins / Joseph Peters		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	TM Builders		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	LCC Museum service	LCC Museum service	LCC Museum service
	ID (Acc. No.)	X.A66.2019	X.A66.2019	X.A66.2019
	Contents	None	Photographs	Report/ Photo Record/ Trench Sheets
PROJECT BIBLIOGRA PHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Description	Developer Report A4 pdf		
	Title	An archaeological field evaluation on land at Old Farm, Main Street, Leicestershire (SP 88032)		
	Author	Peters, J		
	Other bibliographic details	ULAS Report No 2019-141		
	Date	2019		
	Publisher/Place	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester		

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An Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation on land at Old Farm, Main Street, Gilmorton Leicestershire (SP 88032)

Joseph Peters

Summary

Gilmorton is a village close to the southern border of Leicestershire, 5km north-east of Lutterworth. The proposed development site was situated on land between Ullesthorpe Road and Ashby on the western edge of the village.

An initial stage of 6 trial trenches was proposed, with trenches 04-06 recorded as negative. Sufficient archaeology was found in Trenches 01 and 02 to warrant authorisation for stripping of the north – east of the site.

The excavation of the stripped area uncovered three phases of occupation; the earliest phase, which was characterised by various boundary ditches. The second phase, characterised by evidence for metalworking and potential structures. And the final phase, characterised by postholes relating to a possible structure.

The archive for the site will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A66.2019.

Introduction

An archaeological trial trench evaluation and excavation was undertaken between the 13th and the 23rd of August 2019 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of TM Builders at Old Farm, Main Street, Gilmorton, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 569 881; Fig 1) in advance of the proposed development of the site for housing (Planning Application 17/01965/OUT, Condition 5). This 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 advance of the proposed development of the site for housing (Planning Application 17/01965/OUT, Condition 5).

The work was carried out as part of a phased programme of archaeological work required by the Planning Authority following advice from the Leicestershire Planning Archaeologist in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, MHCLG 2018)



Figure 1: Site Location

*Contains OS data © Crown copyright [and database right] (year)
Lidar source Environment Agency (year)*

Location and Geology

Gilmorton is a village close to the southern border of Leicestershire, 5km north-east of Lutterworth. (Fig. 1). The proposed development site is situated on land between Ullesthorpe Road and Ashby on the western edge of the village. The site is accessed via the drive to the Old House Farm off Main Street/Ullesthorpe Road and is currently occupied by a farmyard and attendant buildings.

The development area is approximately 0.59 ha in size, and lies at a height of 141m aOD.

The British Geological Survey identifies the underlying geology as mid-Pleistocene Till overlying Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth mudstone. A band of alluvium runs southwards through the centre, presumably the course of a previous stream shown on the early OS maps.

Historical and Archaeological Background

The site lies on the western edge of the historic medieval core of the village. A desk-based assessment undertaken in 2018 identified a small number of known archaeological sites in the vicinity of the assessment area (Brown and Brown 2018).

Prehistoric

The earliest entry for the assessment area on the HER is a Bronze Age spearhead found by a metal detectorist just south of Home Farm (MLE6441) to the north of the proposed site. Some flint finds have also been recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS).

Iron Age / Roman

The Roman period is represented by a number of finds Roman including brooches from metal detecting to the north-west (MLE10306) and a Roman tile found south of Gilmorton Spinney (MLE7836). Within the village Roman pottery was found at Goodman's Farm to the north-east (MLE21777). The PAS records a number of Roman finds including coins in the general area.

Anglo-Saxon / Medieval

The house and immediate outbuildings lie just within the historic settlement core of the village (MLE9865). Medieval activity has been found just to the north-east of the proposed site at Goodman's Farm. In 2014 archaeological evaluations revealed ditches associated with an area of cobbling, a ditch and several other features that might be postholes and furrows (MLE21775).

The Scheduled Monument to the south-west of the village includes a motte castle (MLE1535), a moat to the north-west (MLE1537), house platforms to the south (MLE1536) and two fishponds below them (MLE1538).

Located in the north part of the village and approximately 125m to the south-west of the proposed development site is an earthwork of possible medieval date which may represent an enclosure (MLE1540) There are two find medieval finds in the HER. Part of a medieval spoon was found southwest of Farm View (MLE6990) and metal detecting northwest of Parsons Barn Farm recovered a medieval annular brooch (MLE10305).

Post-Medieval / Modern

Post-medieval remains were also found at Goodman’s Farm to the north-east of the proposed site including ditches (MLE21776) and there is a stretch of brick wall along Church Drive (MLE11802)

The majority of evidence of post-medieval date is concentrated within Gilmorton village. The site of two post-medieval houses are identified on Mill Lane (MLE22400 and MLE22401) and All Saint’s Church Burial ground is also identified (MLE9865). Crop marks of old field boundaries are recorded west of Flat House Farm (MLE1197).

Whilst the region has continued to have a primarily agricultural focus, Bruntingthorpe Airfield was constructed in 1942 for use during World War II (ML15962).

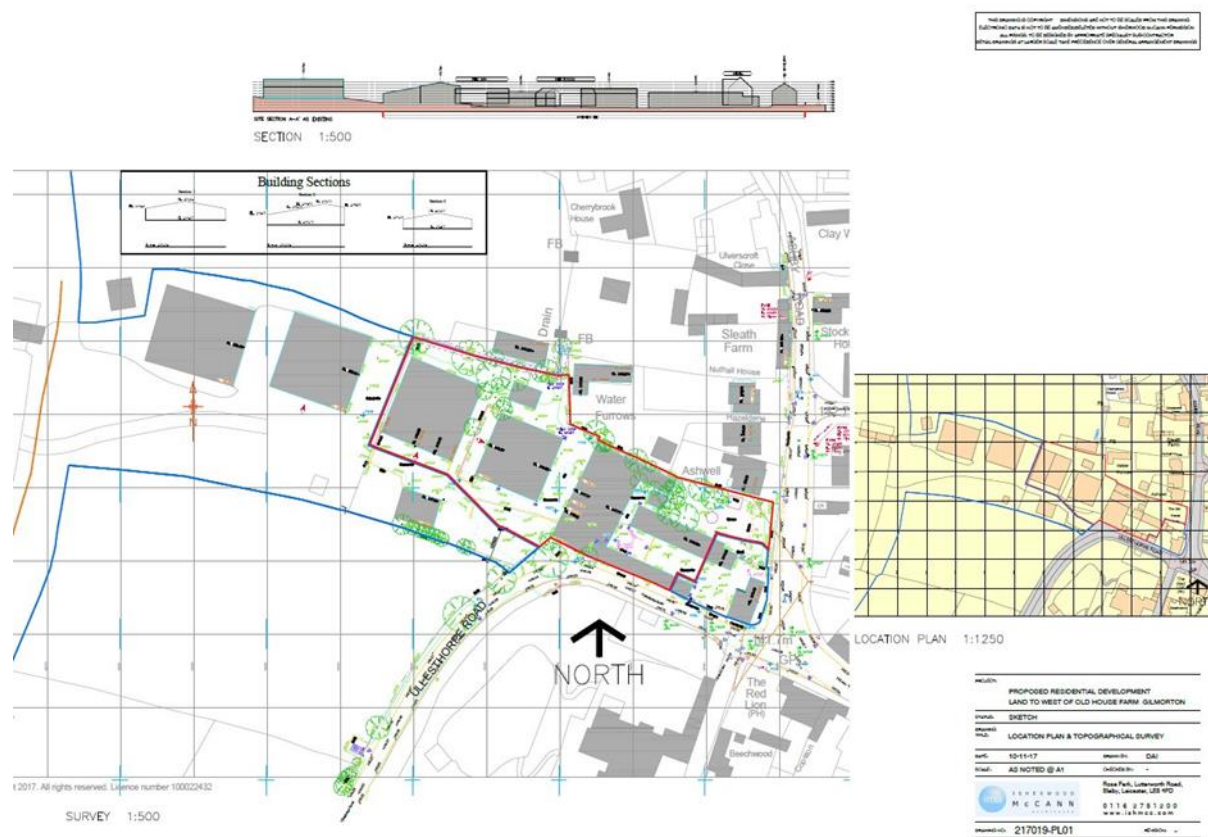


Figure 2: Location of assessment area (red line) and existing layout (provided by client)

Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives of the evaluation 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.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation is to verify the geophysical survey and establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits identified on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

Research Objectives

While the nature, extent and quality of archaeological remains within the areas of investigation for the project remain unknown until 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 on the periphery of the historic village core and the known archaeological sites on the HER suggests that there is moderate potential for archaeological deposits from the medieval period onwards. The evaluation therefore has the potential to contribute to the following research aims.

- The area lies within a medieval agricultural landscape and may contribute to the study of rural medieval settlement and early field systems. (7E)
- These research aims have been identified based on the current state of knowledge within the area of the scheme. The research aims will be re-assessed and updated during the course of the fieldwork.

Methodology

All work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2014b) and adhered to their Code of Conduct (2014a).

An accession number (X.A66.2019) was obtained prior to commencement of the project and used to identify all records and artefacts

Demolition of the existing farm buildings and concrete farmyard and clearance of the site was undertaken prior to commencement of archaeological investigation of the site.

General photographs of the site were be taken prior to machining.

Evaluation trenches were set out using an appropriate methodology. The position and size of trenches were adjusted on site to account for constraints, with the approval of the planning archaeologist.

A total of five 20m trenches and one 10m trench were machined in targeted areas that will be most disturbed by building works. The provisional trench plan (Fig. 3) shows the proposed location of the trenches although the size and position indicated on the trench plan vary due to unforeseen site constraints following demolition of the buildings. Provision has been made for a contingency for further trenching to clarify any archaeological deposits that are encountered.

Excavation was carried out with a machine appropriate for the work fitted with a flat-bladed bucket to expose the underlying strata.

Topsoil and overburden was removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision. The trenches were excavated down to the top of archaeological deposits or natural undisturbed ground, whichever was reached first. All excavation by machine and hand were 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. Where structures, features or finds appear to merit preservation in situ, they were adequately protected from deterioration.

Any archaeological deposits encountered were recorded in plan and excavated using standard ULAS procedures. All exposed features were investigated (unless otherwise agreed with the Planning Archaeologist). Discrete features were half-sectioned as a minimum where possible; a 1m wide section of each linear feature was excavated.

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.

A site plan was prepared showing the location of the areas examined in relationship to the overall investigation area and OS grid. All principal contexts were recorded by drawn plans (scale 1:20 or 1:50, or electronically using GPS) and drawn sections (scale 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate). The relative height of all principal strata and features were be recorded.

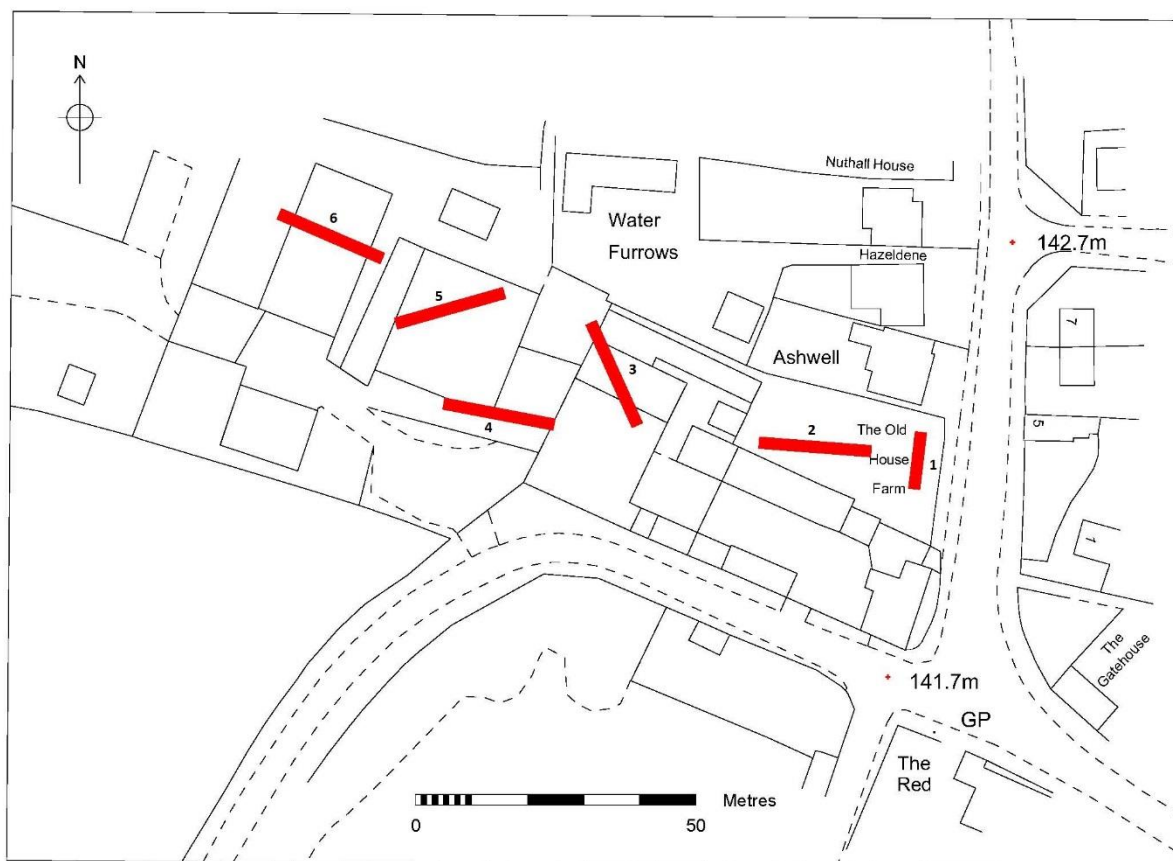


Figure 4: Location of Evaluation Trenches

Evaluation Trenches

Results

The sequence of soils in Trenches 01 and 02 consisted of a dark grey brown soft loam sand topsoil with occasional rounded pebbles, overlaying a mid black brown silty sand sub soil with frequent small rounded pebbles. This overlays the natural sub-stratum of orange yellow clays and orange red sands and gravel. Both topsoil and subsoil in are fairly shallow with a maximum depth of 0.86m and showing very little modern disturbance.

The sequence for the Trenches 03 – 06 consist primary of a dark black grey layer of made ground containing demolition hard-core and modern backfill. This overlays the natural sub-stratum of orange yellow clays and orange red sands and gravel. These were excavated to a similar depth as previous trenches, except Trench 06 which was deeper than expected.

Sufficient archaeology was found in Trenches 01 and 02 to warrant authorisation for stripping of the North – East of the site.

Trench 01

Located to the eastern most site boundaries near the modern street frontage. It is orientated north to south and exposed potential occupational features and evidence of metal working. Features included a posthole alignment with a dark grey black silty ash/charcoal fills and a post-medieval refuse pit containing bone and slag.

Interval	(N) 0m	2m	4m	6m	8m	10m
OD Height (m)	141.71					141.66
Topsoil Depth	0.20m	0.20m	0.22m	0.20m	0.20m	0.20m
Subsoil Depth	0.40m	0.44m	0.44m	0.44m	0.60m	0.40m
Depth of Natural	0.62m	0.64m	0.64m	0.62m	0.80m	0.40m
Base of Trench	0.62m	0.64m	0.64m	0.62m	0.80m	0.40m



Figure 5: Trench 01, post excavation, looking north

Trench 02

Located to the eastern boundaries of site near the street frontage. It is oriented east to west and exposed several north-south ditches and gullies.

Interval	(E) 0m	4m	8m	12m	16m	20m
OD Height (m)	141.70					141.04
Topsoil Depth	0.18m	0.14m	0.20m	0.24m	0.30m	0.18m
Subsoil Depth	0.38m	0.40m	0.42m	0.70m	0.86m	0.46m
Depth of Natural	0.42m	0.40m	0.42m	0.70m	0.86m	0.70m
Base of Trench	0.42m	0.40m	0.42m	0.70m	0.86m	0.80m



Figure 6: Trench 02, post excavation, looking west.

Trench 03

Oriented east to west. No archaeological features were located within this trench. Heavily truncated by modern disturbances

Interval	(E) 0m	4m	8m	12m	16m	20m
OD Height (m)	140.83					140.87
Modern Depth	0.27m	0.20m	0.10m	0.20m	0.30m	0.40m
Subsoil Depth	n/a	0.40m	0.38m	0.50m	0.42m	n/a
Depth of Natural	0.27m	0.40m	0.38m	0.50m	0.42m	0.40m
Base of Trench	0.27m	0.40m	0.38m	0.50m	0.42m	0.40m



Figure 7: Trench 03, post excavation, looking east

Trench 04

Oriented north east to south west. No archaeological features were located within this trench. Heavily truncated by modern disturbances

Interval	(NE) 0m	4m	8m	12m	16m	20m
OD Height (m)	141.33					141.55
Modern Depth	0.84m	0.50m	0.56m	0.32m	0.36m	0.42m
Subsoil Depth	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Depth of Natural	0.84m	0.50m	0.56m	0.32m	0.36m	0.42m
Base of Trench	0.90m	0.62m	0.60m	0.40m	0.40m	0.48m



Figure 8: Trench 04, post excavation, looking north - east

Trench 05

Oriented east to west. No archaeological features were located within this trench. Heavily truncated by modern disturbances

Interval	(E) 0m	4m	8m	12m	16m	20m
OD Height (m)	141.87					142.47
Modern Depth	0.40m	0.60m	0.60m	0.40m	0.42m	0.42m
Subsoil Depth	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Depth of Natural	0.40m	0.60m	0.60m	0.40m	0.42m	0.42m
Base of Trench	0.60m	0.80m	0.82m	0.60m	0.60m	0.60m



Figure 9: Trench 05, post excavation, looking west

Trench 06

Oriented east to west. No archaeological features were located within this trench. Heavily truncated by modern disturbances

Interval	(E) 0m	4m	8m	12m	16m	20m
OD Height (m)	140.59					141.36
Modern Depth	0.48m	0.45m	0.50m	0.90m	1.00m	1.00m
Subsoil Depth	0.58m	0.60m	0.86m	n/a	n/a	n/a
Depth of Natural	0.58m	0.60m	0.86m	0.90m	1.00m	1.00m
Base of Trench	0.62m	0.80m	0.86m	0.90m	1.00m	1.00m



Figure 10: Trench 06, post excavation, looking east.

Strip, Map and Record

Results

Note: Archaeological contexts as a cut are indicated by square brackets e.g. [22], while those that are fills or layers are indicated by round brackets e.g. (23). There was not a great variation within the fills of the features – most were generally fairly homogenous mid-dark greyish or yellowish brown silty clay deposits. Only notably different deposits are described more fully within the excavation results

Prehistoric:

A single piece of worked flint was found out of context in the stripped area. This lithic is described as a serrated primary flake and is thought to be Neolithic in date.

Roman:

During the excavations the only evidence for Roman activity came from a single grey ware pottery sherd that was recovered as a residual find within posthole feature (84) [83].

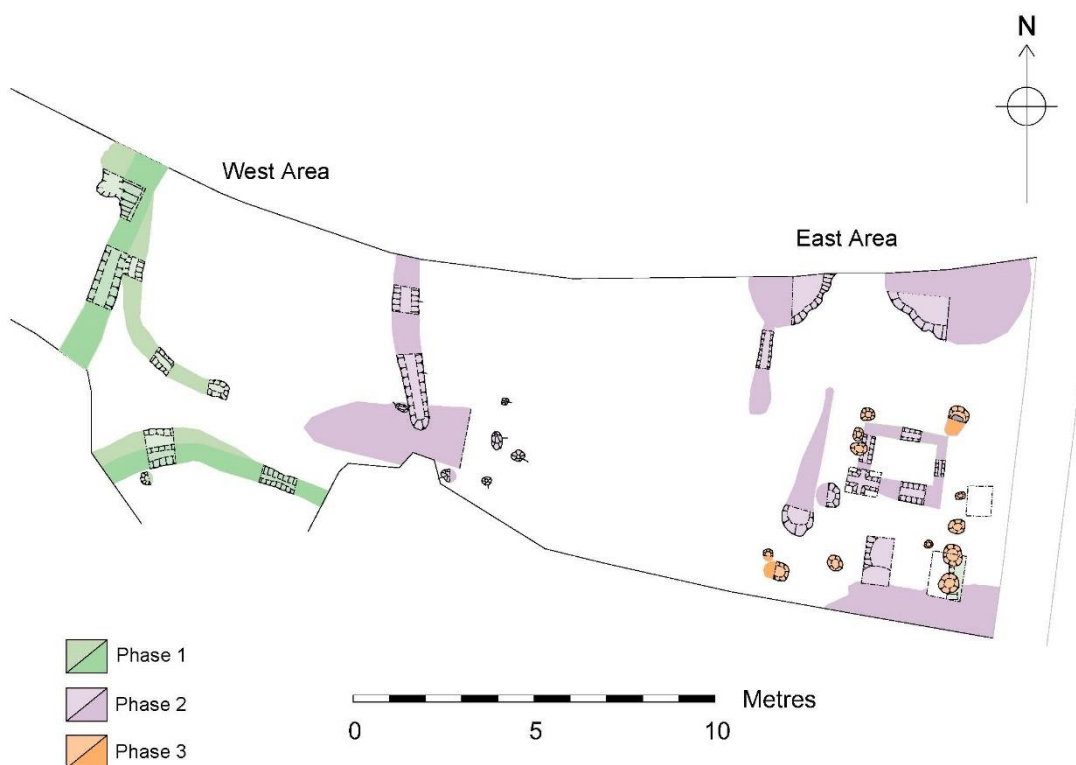


Figure 11: Site plan: all phases

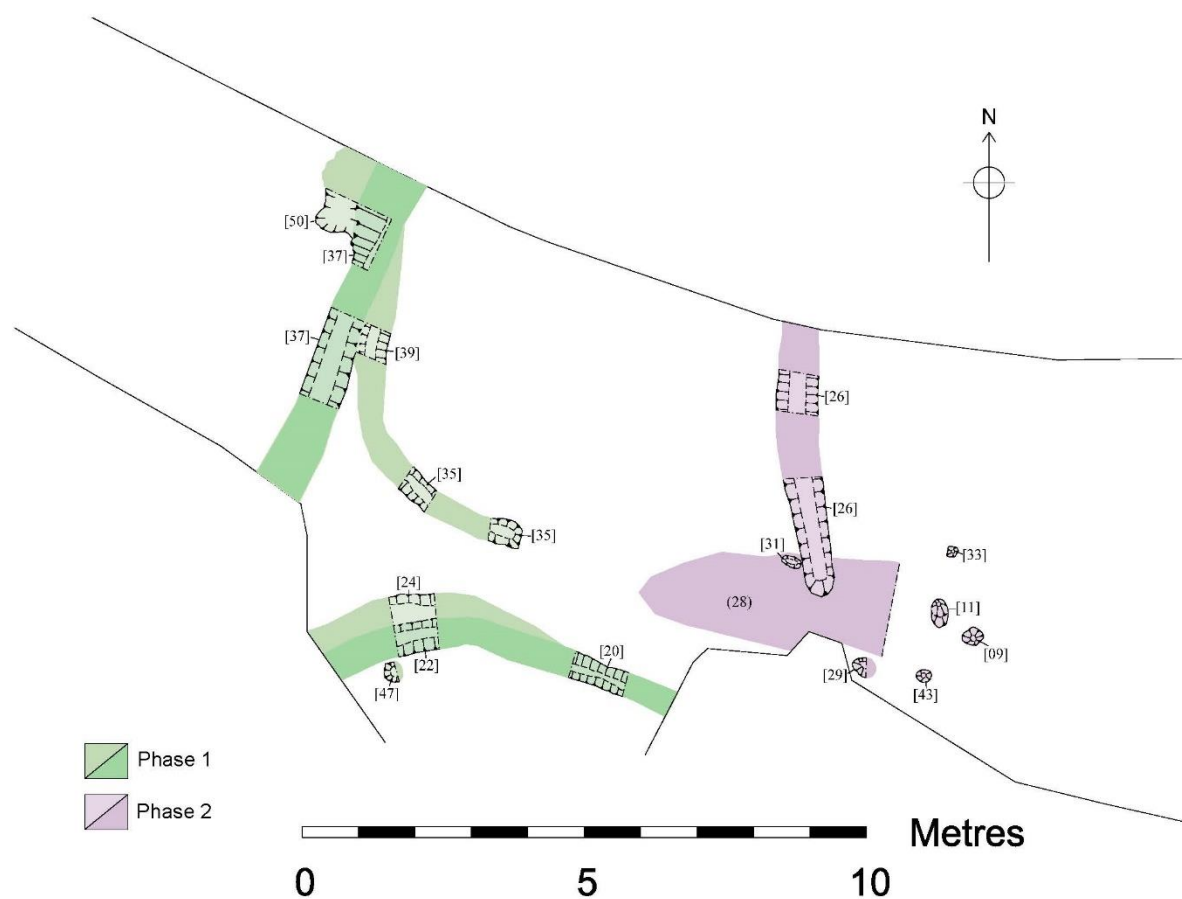


Figure 12: West Area plan

Phase 1: Boundary ditches (1100 – 1400AD)

Ditches [20, 22] [24] [35, 39] [37] [95]

Pit [50]

Posthole [47]

Phase 1 represents the earliest phase of archaeological features found on site and is indicative of medieval occupation in Gilmorton. It comprises of various boundary ditches towards the west of site [20, 22] [24] [35, 39] [37] as well as a single north south ditch along the western street frontage [95]. This phase also includes a single posthole [47], located south of ditch [20, 22], and a possible pit [50], cut by Ditch [37].

A shallow curvilinear ditch [20, 22] with steep sloping sides with a flat base (0.66m wide x 0.30m deep) was located in the south-west corner of the excavation (Fig. 12). It contained a mid green brown sandy silt fill (20, 23) with occasional rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks. Pottery finds more specifically date this between to between 1100 – 1250AD. The ditch was likely to have formed the dividing line between two properties (northern and southern plots) that once extended south-eastwards and fronted onto Ashby road. Continuing past both the eastern and western limits of excavation, it is possible this feature connects to ditch [37] further south, similar to ditch [35, 39]. Additionally, this feature also appears to be a later recut of ditch [24]. Suggesting the boundary had an extended period of use. (Fig.13).

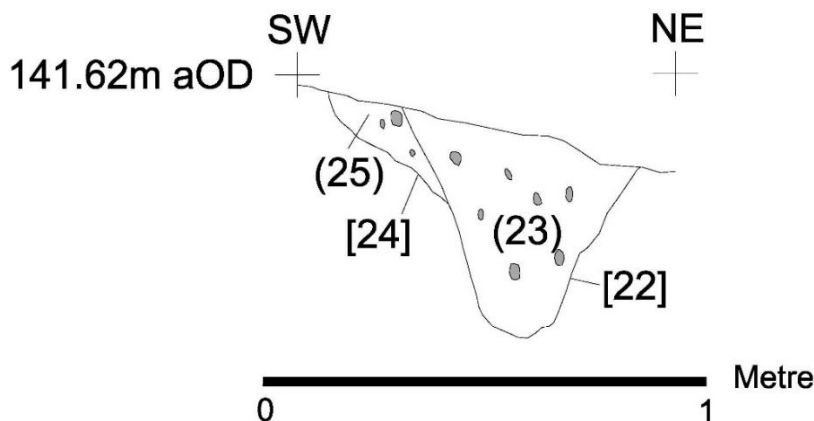


Figure 13: Section of Ditches [20, 22] and [24]

Curvilinear ditch [35, 39] had shallow concave sides and base (0.45m wide x 0.17m deep). Containing a mid orange brown sandy silt fill (36, 40) with occasional pebbles. This feature appears to be similar in function to the aforementioned Ditch [20, 22], acting as a dividing line for a northern property. Ditches [20, 22] and [35, 39] have an apparent 0.30m wide gap between them, interpretive of a pathway between properties.

Ditch [37] was a north east to south west extension of previous boundary ditches (Fig. 12). It was seen for a distance of six metres but is likely to continue past the limits of excavation. It had concave shallow sides with a flat base (0.82m wide x 0.22m deep). It contained a mid green brown sandy silt fill (38) and occasional rounded pebbles and rare charcoal flecks. This features cuts ditch [35, 39] (Fig. 14), and is likely to have also cut ditch [20, 22] past the southern excavation limit. This features suggests a change in boundary lines as it runs across the previously described pathway denying accessibility between properties.

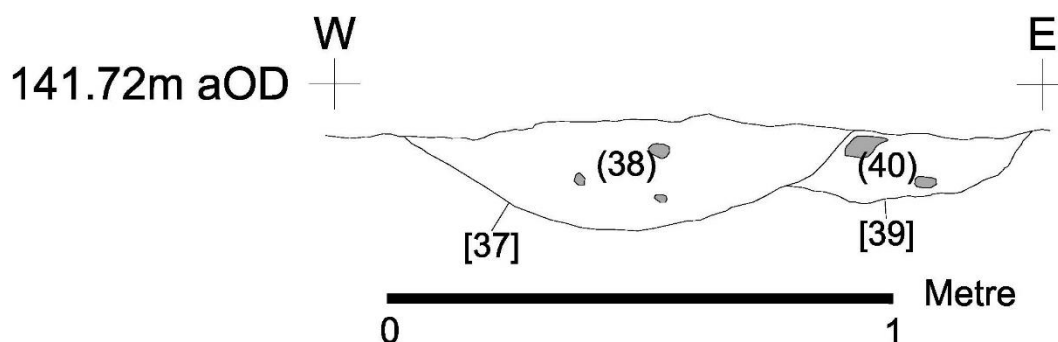


Figure 14: Section of Ditches [37] and [35, 39]

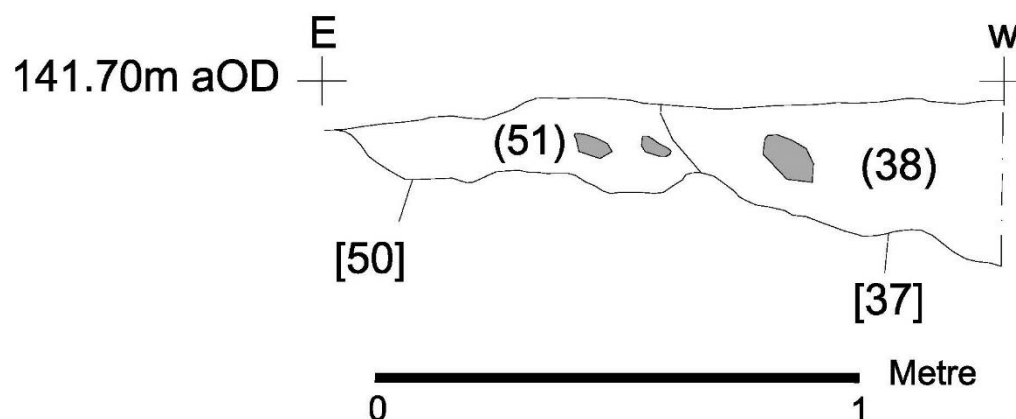


Figure 15: Section of Ditches [37] and Pit [50]

Ditch [95] was partially revealed via a sondage in the eastern corner of the excavation (Fig. 16) and appears to continue north-south, parallel to the roadside (1.20m wide x 0.20m deep). It contained a mid orange grey silty sand fill (96) with occasional rounded pebbles and natural flint fragments. This feature was cut by postholes [69] and [79].

Pit [50] was located in the north-west corner of the excavation (Fig. 12). It had irregular sides and base (0.80m wide x 0.30m deep). It contained a dark yellow brown silty clay fill (51) and occasional rounded pebbles. This feature pre-dates the boundary ditches as it is cut by ditch [37] (Fig. 15). No datable finds were recovered from the feature.

Posthole [47] was located south of ditch [22]. It had steep U-shaped sides and an irregular base (0.30m DIA x 0.14m deep). It contained with a dark yellow black brown silty clay fill (48) with occasional rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks.

Phase 2: Metalworking (1500 – 1700AD)

Postholes [09] [11] [29] [31] [33] [43]

Surfaces (28) (62)

Ditches [16] [26] [52]

Pits [13] [18] [41] [85] [87]

Gullies [54] [56] [58] [60]

Phase 2 is characterised by a period of metal working in the area with samples from various features containing iron fayalite smithing slag and hammer scale residues. Pottery sherds and metal small finds date this period between 1500-1600AD.

Surface (28) was situated to the west of site and was seen in section of Trench 01 (Fig. 5). It comprised of a grey brown silty clay and abundant pebbles (4.50m length x 1.70m wide x 0.10m deep) (Fig. 16). Samples taken from this deposit contained large quantities on slag material with abundant flake and sphere hammerscale detected from the finer fractions. A small assemblage of pottery sherds were found in this deposit roughly dating to 1500–1800AD. More specific dating found included a worn Charles II Halfpenny (Dia. 29mm). The coin date is illegible, though minting dates are limited to 1672 – 1673, and 1675 (Numista). Additionally,

a stone (66g) from (28), with inner and outer surfaces, and a heat affected core (W.29mm), with vitrification, is likely from a structure involved with high temperature activity, and possibly a hearth. This surface was cut by posthole [31] and ditch [26].

Above this surface was a series of postholes [09] [11] [29] [31] [33] [43], all of similar size (0.30m DIA and 0.20m deep avg.) (Fig. 18). These features contained a similar dark grey brown silty clay fill (10) (12) (30) (32) (34) (44) with charcoal flecks and iron fayalite smithing slag. There was a significant lack of pottery found in these features, except for posthole [09] which contained a single sherd of EA5 Imitation Mottled Ware dating to 1680-1780AD.

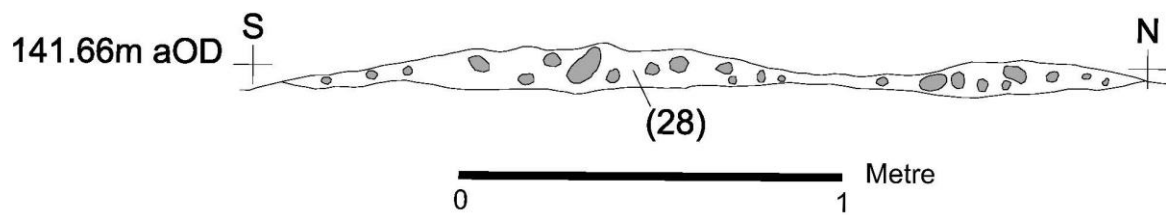


Figure 16: Section of Surface (28)



Figure 17: Surface (28) and Postholes [29] [31]



Figure 18: Postholes [09] [11] [33]

A group of north to south ditches were found during excavation, all located east of the earlier Phase 1 ditches. The western most ditch [26] was seen for a distance of three metres and continued north past the limits of excavation (Fig. 12). Described as having shallow sloping sides and a flat base (0.57m wide x 0.06m deep). It contained a dark yellow brown sandy clay fill (27) with occasional rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks. Although the feature contained no datable finds it is seen to cut surface (28), therefore post-dating said surface.

Further east, ditches [16] and [52] appear to define the latest known property boundaries. Both aligned north to south and roughly seen for a distance of four metres (Fig. 18). Ditch [16] continues north of the excavation limits and is seen to merge with pit [18], however, the relationship between these features has not been defined. It had shallow sloping sides and a flat base (0.57m wide x 0.06m deep). It contained a mid yellow brown sandy silt fill (17) with occasional rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks. Pottery found roughly dates this feature between 1600-1850AD. Ditch [52] had shallow sloping sides and a flat base (0.80m wide x 0.20m deep). Containing a mid yellow brown sandy silt fill (53) with occasional rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks. Pottery found roughly dates between 1250-1400AD, however, the feature is considered to be later due to the large quantity iron fayalite slag found in samples taken from this deposit. This associates the ditch with a period of metalworking identified on site.

Metalled surface (62) was situated to the south east of site. It was irregular in plan and shallow (2.70m long x 1.30m wide x 0.10m deep). It was comprised of a grey brown silty clay and abundant rounded pebbles. Although the feature contained no datable finds, this surface is located above pits [85] [87] and is possible associated with a similar surface (28). Excavation via sondage revealed the presence intercutting pits [85] and [87] below surface (62) (Fig. 19).

Pit [85] had moderate sloping sides with a flat base (0.70m wide x 0.40m deep). It contained a dark grey brown sandy clay fill (86) with occasional rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks. Pottery found roughly dates this feature to 1375-1550AD. Samples taken from this deposit contain a large quantity of iron fayalite slag, associating this pit with a period of metalworking identified on site. Cut by the aforementioned feature, pit [87] had moderate sloping sides with a flat base (0.70m wide x 0.34m deep). It contained a dark grey brown sandy clay fill (88) with occasional rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks. Although the feature contained no datable finds it is seen to be cut by pit [85], therefore pre-dating said pit.

Located in the north east corner of the excavation was a group of pits [13] [18] continuing north of the limits of excavation (Fig. 19). The first of which, pit [13] had moderate sloping sides with an irregular base (1.30m wide x 0.46m deep). It contained a mid yellow grey silty clay fill (14) and a mid yellow brown silty clay fill (15). Both fills contained inclusions of occasional rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks. Pottery found roughly dates this feature between 1375-1550AD. Pit [18] had straight shallow sides with a concave base (1.70m wide x 0.14m deep). It contained a mid green brown sandy silt fill (19) and occasional rounded pebbles and charcoal fleck. A small assemblage of pottery was found in this feature, roughly dating between 1375-1500AD. Animal bones found in this feature appear to be encrusted in a sandy mineralised material, indicating that the pit may have contained cess at some stage.

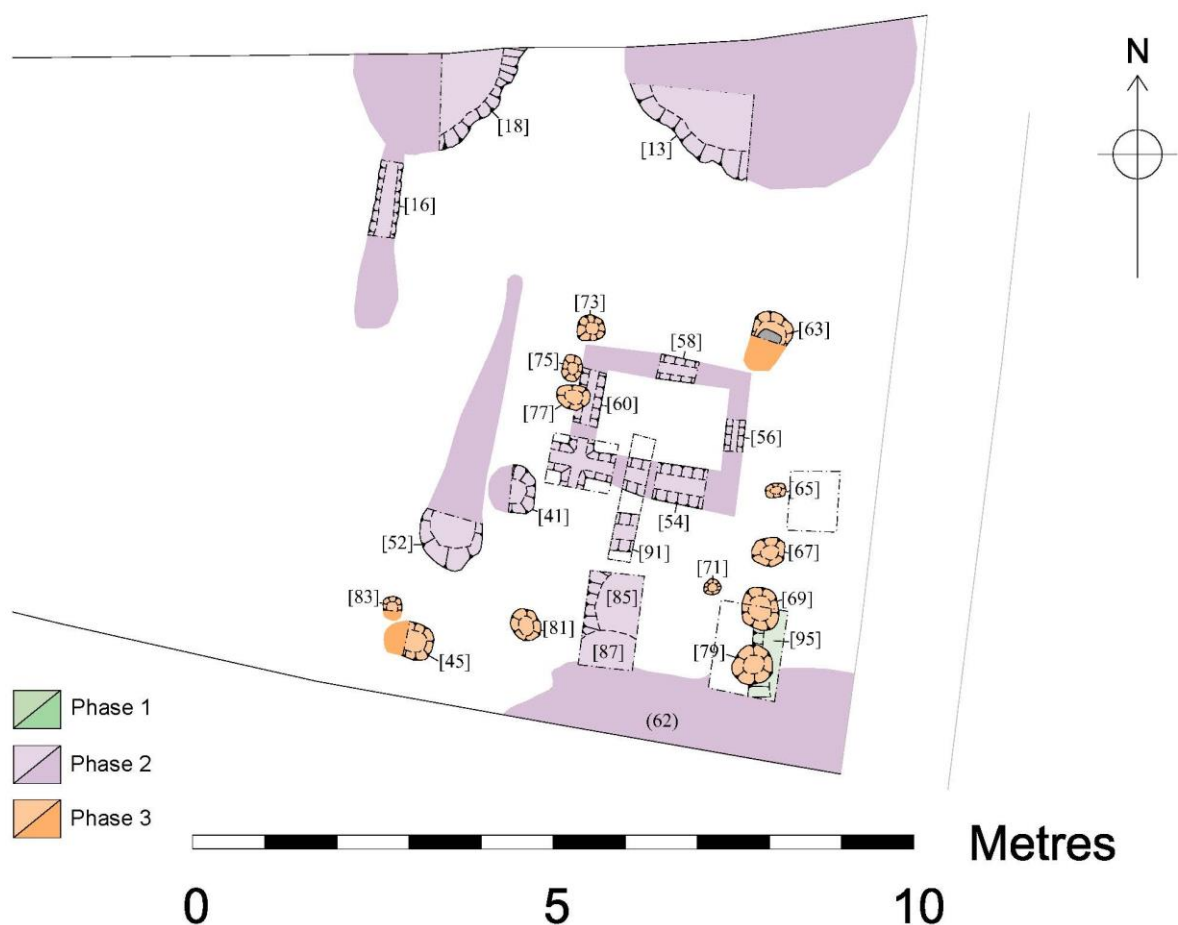


Figure 19: Area East plan

Pit [41] located was situated to the east of site (Fig. 19). It had shallow sloping sides and a flat base (0.65m DIA x 0.16m deep). It contained a mid yellow brown sandy silt fill (42) and occasional rounded pebble. Pottery found dates to 1230-1350AD, however, this is likely residual. Samples taken from this deposit contain iron fayalite slag, associating the feature with metalworking in the area.

Intercutting gullies [54] [56] [58] [60] were located to the east of site (Fig. 19), forming a possible rectangular shaped structure. All the gullies were similar in profile with U-shaped sides and a flat base (0.20m deep), but varied in width (0.25m – 0.50m wide). Each contained a similar dark grey brown silty sand fill (55) (57) (59) (61) and occasional rounded pebbles. The majority of these features contained no dateable finds, except for gully [54], which contained two fragments of pottery roughly dating between 1375-1500AD. However, samples taken from this context suggest the pottery is likely residual. This due to the samples containing large quantities of iron fayalite slag, associating the feature with a later period of metalworking.

Gully [91] was exposed via sondage running parallel to gully [54] (Fig. 20). Described as having had sloping sides and an irregular base (1.50m wide x 0.40m deep). It contained a dark grey brown silty sand fill (92) and occasional rounded pebbles. It contained no finds and wasn't defined outside of the sondage.

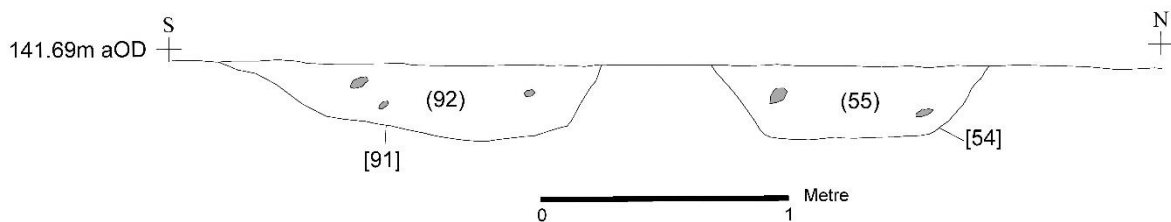


Figure 20: Section of Gullies [54] and [91]

Phase 3: Posthole structure (1700AD+)

Postholes [45] [63] [65] [67] [69] [71] [73] [75] [77] [79] [81] [83]

Phase 3 consists of the remnants of a possible post medieval structure, characterised by a series of postholes to the east of site. The structure is rectangular in plan (4.50m long x 3m wide) and appears to extend west from the southern face (Fig. 21).

Postholes [45] [63] [65] [67] [69] [71] [73] [75] [77] [79] [81] [83] are all of a similar size and profile, described as having sloping sides and a flat base (0.25m – 0.60m DIA x 0.20m deep). Due to the ephemeral nature of these features the majority were fully excavated. However, they were all described as containing a similar dark grey brown silty sand fill (46) (64) (66) (68) (70) (72) (74) (76) (78) (80) (82) (84) with occasional rounded pebbles. Finds from these features includes two incomplete square section nail shafts from fills (82) and (84), as-well-as a single sherd of residual Roman grey ware pottery found in fill (84). Stone packing was also seen in the majority of postholes, with posthole [63] containing a large flat padstone.

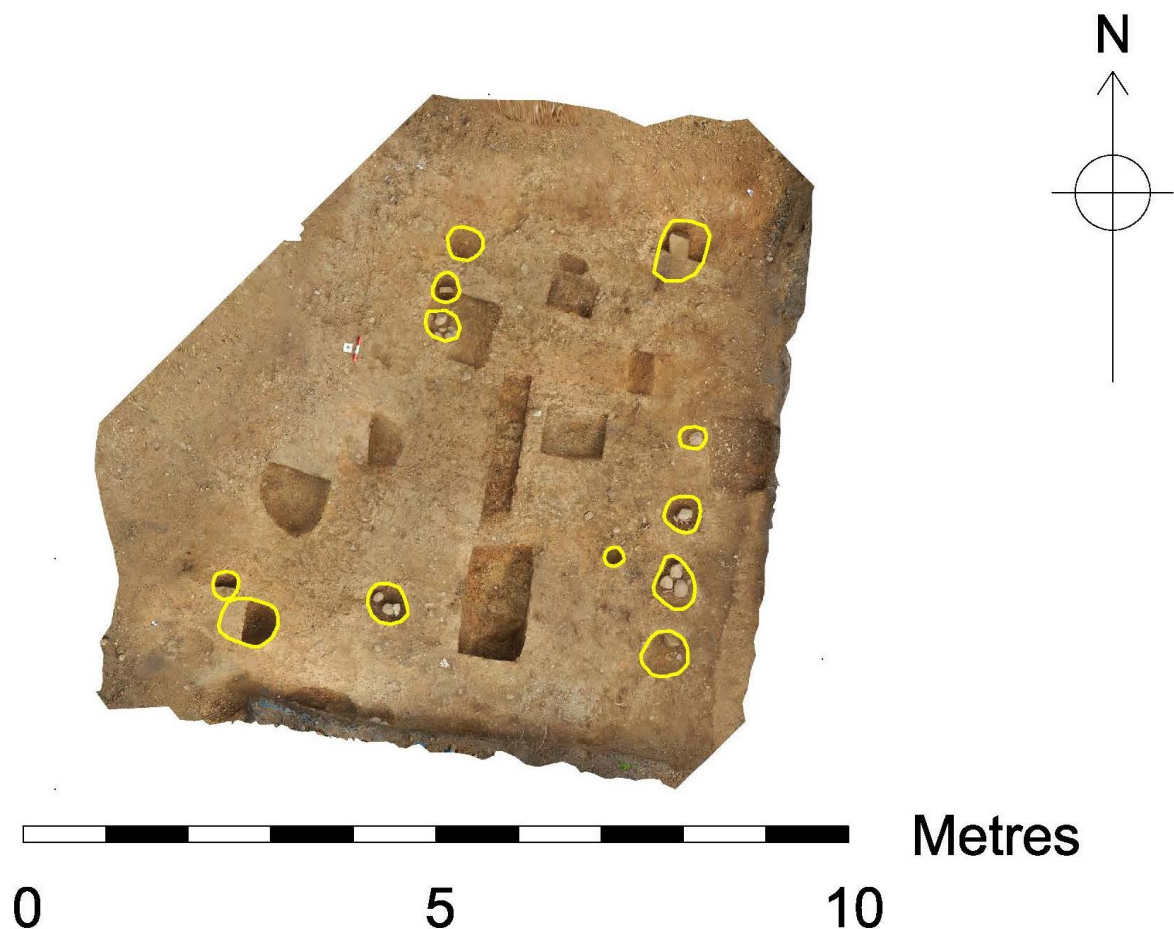


Figure 21: Photogrammetry plan of structure (highlighted in yellow)

The Finds

The Pottery and Clay Tobacco Pipe - Deborah Sawday and Jennifer R. McNulty

The Ceramic Finds

The post-Roman pottery assemblage was made up of 55 sherds, weighing 1.201kg, representing a maximum count of 36 vessels. There was also one residual sherd of undiagnostic Roman Grey ware, weighing 1g and a fragment of clay tobacco pipe present.

Condition

The condition of the pottery was good with relatively little abrasion and an average sherd weight of 21.8g.

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). The results are shown below (tables 1 to 5). Tables 1 and 2 list the pottery by fabric and tables 3 and 4 detail the total sites and vessel forms present respectively. Table 5 catalogues the pottery by context. Single pottery sherds have been counted as one vessel.

The Ceramic Record

The pottery record (table 3) includes average sherd weight (ASW) and maximum vessel count. EVEs calculations were deemed unsuitable for this assemblage due to the low number of rims present and the level of fragmentation for those that did survive. Co-joining sherds are noted whilst single sherds are generally counted as one vessel.

The Site Record

The range of medieval pottery fabrics present reflects the essentially local nature of pottery production and distribution in the medieval period (table 3). Potters Marston, Chilvers Coton and Nottingham were all centres of pottery manufacture at this time, whilst the origins of the Coarse Shelly wares probably lie to the east on the Jurassic. The latter wares reflect the rise of new production centres and the growing predominance of the new pottery industries to the west, notably Ticknall in Derbyshire, and Staffordshire. In terms of the vessel forms present; jars, jugs and bowls are typical of medieval assemblages (table 4).

Discussion

The bulk of the assemblage, 34 sherds, weighing 839g, and a count of 19 vessels, was recovered from the pits [13], [18] and [85], contexts (14), (19) and (86). All contained late medieval Midland Purple ware with a terminal date of c.1550, while the one fragment from the pit, context [41] (42), has a terminal date of c.1350. A further 15 sherds weighing 257g and a count of 11 vessels occurred in the ditches/gulleys contexts [1], [16], [22], [37], [53], [89] and [95].

The terminal dates of these seven contexts range from 1250 to 1850. The structural evidence from the post holes, context [9] (one sherd weighing 11g) and the cobbled surfaces, context (28), five sherds from one context weighing 94g, indicates a date range of 1650 to 1850. One sherd of residual Roman pottery was recovered from the posthole [83].

Conclusion

The range of vessel forms present, and of the sooting on some of the medieval vessels which were evidently used for cooking, is indicative of a domestic assemblage. The medieval and post-medieval pottery fabrics are typical of the region as noted above, and Chilvers Coton products, including the Midland Purple fabric MP1, make up 60 per cent of the assemblage (table 3) and this is unsurprising due to the close proximity of the site to Chilvers Coton, Nuneaton a major pottery production centre lying approximately 20km to the west of the village.

The pottery dates from the 12th to the 18th centuries and is evidence of many phases of activity in the area associated with the village from the medieval period and later, and indeed, the site is located on the western edge of the historic core of the settlement. The average sherd weight of 20.9g for the medieval finds and 23.7g for the later material suggests the survival of undisturbed archaeological levels in the vicinity, but the relatively small size of the assemblages from many of the contexts means that the dating evidence must be treated with some caution.

Table 1: The medieval pottery fabrics.

Fabric	Common Name/Kiln & Fabric Equivalent where known	Approx. Date Range
PM	Potters Marston ware - Potters Marston, Leicestershire	c.1100-1300/50+
CS	Coarse Shelly ware - Northampton fabric T1/2, T2, Northants CTS 330	c.1100-1400
NO3	Nottingham- Light Bodied/Reduced Green Glazed ware NOTGL/NOTGR	c.1230-1350
CC1	Chilvers Coton A/Ai Warwick CTS WW01	c.1250- 1325/1400
CC2	Chilvers Coton fabric C Warwick CTS SQ30	c.1300-1500

Table 2: The later medieval and post-medieval pottery fabrics.

Fabric Code	Common Name/Kiln & Fabric Equivalent where known	Approx. Date Range
MP1	Midland Purple ware 1 - Chilvers Coton fabric D	c.1375-1550
MP	Midland Purple	c.1375-1550
MB	Midland Blackware - ?Ticknall, Derbyshire	c.1550-1750
MY	Midland Yellow ware - ?Ticknall, Derbyshire	c.1500-1725
EA1	Earthenware 1 – Coarse Post Medieval Earthenware - Chilvers Coton/Ticknall, Derbyshire	c.1500-1750
EA5	Imitation Mottled ware (with slip)	c.1680-1780
EA7	Earthenware 7 - Slipware - Staffs etc	c.1600-1850

Table 3: The medieval and later pottery site totals.

Fabric	No.	Gr	Max. Vessel	ASW	% of total by sherd
Earlier Medieval/ Medieval					
PM	6	101	5	16.8	10.9
CS	4	51	4	12.8	7.3
CC1	19	372	8	19.6	34.6
CC2	7	242	4	34.6	12.7
NO3	1	8	1	8	1.8
Sub Total	37	773	22	20.9	67.3
Later Medieval/ Post Medieval					
MP1	7	193	4	27.6	12.7
MP	3	127	3	42.3	5.5
MB	1	13	1	13	1.8
MY	1	10	1	10	1.8
EA1	2	62	2	31	3.6
EA5	1	11	1	11	1.8
EA7	3	11	2	3.7	5.5
Sub Total	18	427	14	23.7	32.7
Site Totals	55	1201	36	21.8	100

Table 4: The identifiable medieval and post medieval pottery vessels.

Fabric	Max. vessel no						Totals
	jar	bowl	jug	jar/bowl	cup	hollow ware	
CS	1	1		1			3
PM			1				1
CC1			1				1
CC2		2					2
MP1			1				1
MB					1		1
EA7						1	1
Site Totals	1	3	3	1	1	1	10

Table 5: The pottery by context.

Context	Cu t	Feature	Fabric	Sh .	Gr.	Ma x V.	Form	Part	Date	Comment
2 / 39	1 / 38	ditch/gully	PM Potters Marston	1	3	1	vessel type unknown (vtu)	body	1100 - 1250	
2 / 39	1 / 38	ditch/gully	CS Coarse Shelly	1	6	1	jar/bowl	rim	1100 - 1250	abraded externally thickened rim
10	9	posthole	EA5 Imitation Mottled Ware	1	11	1	vtu	base	1680 - 1780	

14	13	pit	PM Potters Marston	1	24	1	vtu	body	1100 - 1250	
14	13	pit	CC1 Chilvers Coton	17	34 2	6	vtu	body, base	1250 - 1400	
14	13	pit	CC2 Chilvers Coton	4	19 4	1	flared bowl	profil e	1300 - 1500	external sooting, sherds join. Similar in CC2 (fabric piii) at the Austin Friars, Leicester, (Woodland 1981, fig.34.119)).
14	13	pit	MP Midland Purple	2	11 6	2	vtu	body, base	1375 - 1550	externally sooted concave base & vitrified body sherd w Fe concretions
17	16	ditch	MP Midland Purple	1	11	1	vtu	base	1375 - 1550	
17	16	ditch	EA7 Slipware	2	2	1	hollow ware	base	1600 - 1850	wheel thrown, sherds join
19	18	pit	PM Potters Marston	2	69	1	jug	handl e	1100 - 1250	strap handle, sherds join
19	18	pit	CS Coarse Shelly	1	18	1	jar	rim	1100 - 1400	upright externally thickened rim
19	18	pit	MP1 Midland Purple	1	37	1	jug	base	1375 - 1550	small vessel
23	22	ditch	CS Coarse Shelly	1	9	1	vtu	body	1100 - 1250	soft fired and externally sooted
28		cobble surface	MY Midland Yellow	1	10	1	vtu	base	1500 - 1725	
28		cobble surface	EA1 Jar/Butter pot ware	2	62	2	vtu	body, base	1500 - 1750	
28		cobble surface	MB Midland Black	1	13	1	cup	handl e	1550 - 1750	
28		cobble surface	EA7 Slipware	1	9	1	vtu	rim	1600 - 1850	unusual form

38	37	ditch	CS Coarse Shelly	1	18	1	bowl	rim	1100 - 1400	simple externally thickened rim
42	41	pit	NO3 Nottingham W13/W14	1	8	1	vtu	body	1230 - 1350	
53	52	ditch	CC1 Chilvers Coton	1	9	1	vtu	body	1250 - 1400	
84	83	posthole	GW Grey ware	1	1	1	vtu	body	C2-C4	undiagnostic Roman pottery
86	85	quarry pit	PM Potters Marston	2	5	2	vtu	body	1100 - 1250	
86	85	quarry pit	CC1 Chilvers Coton	1	21	1	jug/flask	base	1200 - 1400	small vessel, externally sooted flat base w spots of glaze
86	85	quarry pit	CC2 Chilvers Coton	1	3	1	vtu	body	1300 - 1500	
86	85	quarry pit	MP1 Midland Purple	1	2	1	vtu	body	1375 - 1550	
90 / 55	89 / 54	gully	CC2 Chilvers Coton	1	31	1	bowl	rim	1300 - 1500	externally thickened rim
90 / 55	89 / 54	gully	MP1 Midland Purple	1	10	1	vtu	body	1375 - 1500	
96	95	gully	CC2 Chilvers Coton	1	14	1	vtu	body	1300 - 1500	
96	95	gully	MP1 Midland Purple	4	14 4	1	vtu	body, base	1375 - 1550	sherds join

The Clay Pipe

One clay pipe bowl and heel fragment weighing 8 was the only find from context (8), a pit. Using the Leicester clay pipe typology from Freeschool Lane (Higgins, 2009, 266, fig 39.15), this clay pipe can be dated from 1680 to 1710.

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Site/ Parish: Gilmorton, Leicestershire	Submitter: J. Peters
Accession No.: XA66.2019	Identifier: D. Sawday & J. McNulty
Document Ref: Gilmorton1.docx	Date of Identification: 21/10/2019
Material: Pottery	Method of Recovery: Evaluation
Site Type: western edge historic med village core	Job Number: 19/314

The Industrial Residues and Metal Finds – Heidi Addison

Iron Slag Introduction and Methodology

A large quantity of over 21kg of iron fayalite smithing slag was recovered from both bulk (14,838g), and environmental samples (6,496g) from four contexts (11), (12), (14) and (26), with the majority (93%) found in (14). The bulk assemblage and <4mm fractions were subject to visual identification, following national guidelines (Historic England, 2015). A magnet and x10-40 stereo microscope were used to extract and identify hammerscale from the >4mm residues.

The slag from contexts (11), (12) and (14) is mid to dark grey, generally vesicular, with heavy deposits of iron oxide staining, including probable iron off-cuts and fragments, which have dropped into the hearth during the smithing. Additionally, vitrified hearth lining is present alongside small fragments of coal, particularly in the largest deposit (14), which pottery, with a date range between c.1100-c.1550 was also found. Abundant quantities of flake and sphere hammerscale supporting hammer welding (forging) were recovered from samples 5 (12) [11] and 7 (14) [13] (Fig.1)

One small fragment of dense iron fayalite with reduced ceramic lining attached (178g) from the subsoil (26), provides limited evidence for the smelting of iron in the vicinity. The fragment does not have the typical flow marks of tap slag, which may suggest it was collected from a sunken hearth or pit of a non-tapping furnace. Furthermore, the reduction of the lining indicates it was subject to an atmosphere limited/depleted of oxygen such as a below level chamber.

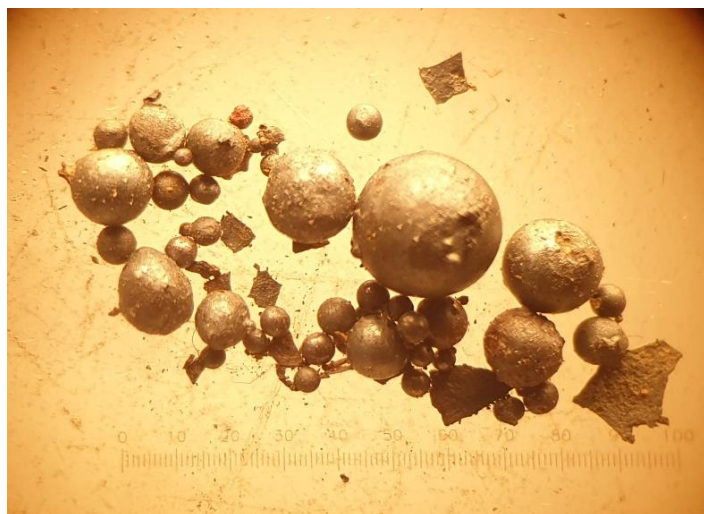


Fig.2 Flake and spheroid hammerscale in (12) and (14)

The >4mm fractions of a further nine samples were investigated from 2 (42), 3 (32), 4 (34), 6 (28), 8 (53), 11 (55), 14 (74), 15 (90) and 20 (86) totalling 2,778g of iron fayalite slag, of which a small amount (177g) from contexts (74) and (86) are far denser, suggesting smelting slag, however, there is no supporting evidence for this, although dating of the deposit (86) by pottery is c.1100-c.1550. The remainder of the slag (>4mm) was largely from samples 3 (32), 4 (34), and 6 (28), weighing 1,523g, 55g and 941g respectively, of which, flake and sphere hammerscale was detected from the finer fractions (<4mm). Additionally, a stone (66g) from (28), with inner and outer surfaces, and a heat affected core (W.29mm), with vitrification, is likely from a structure involved with high temperature activity, and possibly a hearth. The pottery from (28) suggests a date range from the later medieval to the post medieval period.

The metal finds

Copper alloy

Sf1 (14) **Fig.2** An incomplete, and undecorated strap fitting made from a flat sub-rectangular plate, with a bilobate terminal (13mm), which tapers to the broken edge of the collar, at the site of a rear facing hook for suspension. Two rivet holes (2mm and 2.5mm) run the longitude of the fitting. A similar example found in Wiltshire is recorded on the **PAS WILT-3F58DB** with a date range of 1500-1700. The entry also notes another pair of similar strap fittings from Norwich, which suggests they were mounted to sword belts, and dated by context to c.1600-1650.



Fig. 2 Strap fitting or mount (Sf1)

Sf2 (28) **Fig.3** A worn Charles II Halfpenny (Dia. 29mm). Obverse depicts a seated bust to the left, with the partial inscription *CAROLVS A CAROLO* and *BRITANIA* on the reverse. The coin date is illegible, though minting dates are limited to 1672-3, and 1675 (**Numista**)



Fig.3 Charles II Halfpenny (Sf2)

The Iron

Two incomplete handmade nail shafts of square section were recovered from contexts (82) and (84)

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The Animal Bones – *Jennifer Browning*

Introduction

A small assemblage of animal bones was recovered by hand-collection during excavation at Gilmorton. Specimens were recovered from four features; pits [7] and [18]; gully [95] and beamslot [54]; numbering eight specimens in total. These features are all associated with a medieval building on the street frontage, which dates to *c.* 1300-1550.

Method

The bones were identified by comparison to reference material held at the University of Leicester bone laboratory and ULAS. A catalogue was made for hand-collected bones (table 1). Preservation was scored using Harland et al's (2003) 4-point scale.

Results

Preservation was mixed but mostly good to fair (after Harland 2003). However, the elements recovered are mainly those that are more robust and survive better, such as metapodials and phalanges. The range of taxa was narrow, with only cattle and horse identified in the assemblage, although a medium mammal rib fragment is likely to represent sheep or pig. A horse phalanx had exostosis at its proximal end, although the articular surface was unaffected. This could have resulted from a number of different causes, such as injury, an arthritic condition or a long-standing infection. The bones from pit [18] were encrusted with a sandy substance, possibly some kind of mineralised material, indicating that the pit might have contained cess.

Table 1: Basic catalogue of animal bones

Feature	Cut	Context	Preservation	Number	Taxon	Element
pit	7 / 29	8 / 30	Poor	1	horse	lateral meta-podial
pit	7 / 29	8 / 30	Fair	1	horse	phalanx 2
pit	7 / 29	8 / 30	Good	1	horse	carpal/tarsal
pit	18	19	Fair	1	cattle	meta-carpal
pit	18	19	Fair	1	cattle	radius
beamslot	54	55	Good	1	cattle	meta-carpal
gully	95	96	Good	1	horse	tooth
gully	95	96	Fair	1	medium mammal	rib shaft

Conclusion

The small number of bones recovered from the features suggests that none contain primary deposition of animal bones but rather material in and around the site that was accidentally incorporated during backfilling of the features. Due to the small assemblage size, it is not possible to draw detailed conclusions concerning diet, craft activities or animal husbandry strategies at the site.

Discussion and Conclusion

The excavation has revealed evidence for a long period of activity within this part of the village that can be broken down into three broad phases.

Phase 1: Boundary ditches

The earliest phase of activity dates from the medieval period and is represented by at least three clear phases of boundary ditches to the west of site, possibly associated with a separation between two burgage plots. Whilst the pottery from the ditches does not pinpoint exact dates it does give a general range of activity between 1100-1400AD. From the limited evidence seen during the excavation work the broad span of the pottery dates suggests that ~~the area of~~ the site could have seen continual occupation during much of the medieval period. It would appear that ditches [24] and [35, 39] form the earliest phase and may possibly relate to a pathway between the ditches leading to a western field entrance. Recuts of ditch [24] suggest this entrance had an extended period of use. There is an apparent later remodelling of previous boundaries lines with the appearance of a north south ditch [37]. No evidence was observed for any structures or occupational layers associated with this this period. However, due to the size limitations of the excavated area not fully defining the boundaries of the plots, there is still the possibility that surviving occupational features may continue past the northern and south limits of excavation.

Phase 2: Metal working

Phase 2 was dated by the presence of metalworking which was not seen in the earlier phase is defined a period of metalworking found in the area, this is supported by samples taken from a variety of features containing large quantities of iron fayalite slag and hammerscale. The majority of this material was extracted from pit [13], but was commonly found in most features listed in this phase. However, due to the lack of evidence for a furnace or area of intense heating, it is possible this material relates to a dumping layer from nearby metal working activity. This suggests that the material is coming from a nearby area. The pottery found in features associated with this phase are roughly dated between 1500-1700AD, with more specified dating in the form of a worn Charles II Halfpenny found in surface (28). The coin date is illegible, though minting dates are limited to 1672-3, and 1675.

The most substantial evidence for a potential structure associated with metalworking is found to the west of site and consists of a series of postholes, [09] [11] [29] [31] [33], cut through a metallised surface (28). It is possible this potential structure continues south of the limits of excavation. Samples taken from these features contained the same iron fayalite slag located elsewhere on site.

A series of pits [13] [18] [85] [87] was found to the east of the excavation, continuing past both the north and south site boundaries. These features appear to follow the same projected alignment of earlier boundary ditches, which may suggesting they are either a replacement or a remodelling of the earlier ditches. However, due to the lack of supporting evidence and

limited scope of excavation, it is difficult to draw conclusions. As previously mentioned, samples from all features associated contained iron fayalite and hammerscale.

North to south ditches [16] [26] [52] may suggest a later remodelling of boundary ditches. It is not known how far beyond the limits of excavation these may extend.

Group of intercutting gullies were located to the east of site, and appear to form a possible rectangular structure. This possibly relates to an earlier phase of the later posthole defined structure associated with phase 3.

Phase 3: Posthole structure

[09] [11] [29] [31] [33] [43]

The latest phase is associated with the remains of a posthole defined rectangular structure situated along the street frontage. The clear difference in the backfill of the postholes and lack of metalworking finds clearly shows it is of a later phase than earlier features.

Due to the lack of occupational evidence found within this structure, e.g. floor surfaces or hearth activity, it is difficult to determine its true purpose. It is possible that, due to the lack of supporting evidence, this structure has no occupational function, and could be an ancillary building. However, it is also worth noting that the shallow remains of postholes could suggest that a large proportion of this structure has been lost via truncation. Therefore, any existing floor surfaces or features related to occupation may have been lost. Concerning the postholes, the presence of post packing indicates this is likely to be a structure, as opposed to a post alignment.

Overall, the excavation has contributed to the study of rural medieval and post-medieval settlements and early field systems in the area. This was highlighted in this project's research goals. The results of the excavation indicate that metalworking activity was taking place on site.

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Archive and publication

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A2.2019 and consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report No. 2019-008)
- 7 Trench recording sheets
- 1 Photo Record sheet
- 1 Contact sheet of digital photographs
- 1 CD digital photographs

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

ULAS would like to thank Myk Flitcroft of CgMs for monitoring the work. Thanks are also due to Slack and Parr Ltd for their help and co-operation with the project. Leon Hunt carried out the trial trenching for ULAS and the project was managed by Vicki Score. The excavator was provided by Planters.

Provide information on the client, consultant (if different), plant hire company, PM and site staff and specialists as well as any other parties.

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Please check the bibliography! Make sure you have the right accessed dates in for any websites!

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