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Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Field Evaluation on Land at
Whiteacres, Main Street, Tugby, Leicestershire**

NGR: SK 76052 00821

Roger Kipling



ULAS Report No 2020-114

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Site Name: Whiteacres, Main Street, Tugby, Leicestershire

Grid Ref: SK 76052 00821

Author: Roger Kipling

Client: Colin Storry

Planning Ref. Pre-Determination

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OASIS RECORD

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	Project Name	An Archaeological Field Evaluation at Whiteacres, Main Street, Tugby, Leicestershire		
	Start/end dates	6 th – 7 th July 2020		
	Previous/Future Work	None		
	Project Type	Evaluation		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Lawned garden		
	Monument Type/Period	Ditch/medieval		
	Significant Finds/Period	Pottery/post medieval		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Pre-determination		
Planning Ref.	N/A			
PROJECT LOCATION	County	Leicestershire		
	Site Address/Postcode	Whiteacres, Main Street, Tugby, Leicestershire, LE7 9WD		
	Study Area	c.0.16 hectares		
	Site Coordinates	SK 76052 00821		
	Height OD	164m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator			
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Vicki Score		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Roger Kipling		
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An Archaeological Field Evaluation at Whiteacres, Main Street, Tugby, Leicestershire

(SK 76052 00821)

Roger Kipling

Summary

This document is a fieldwork report for an archaeological trial trench evaluation, carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land at Whiteacres, Main Street, Tugby, Leicestershire (SK76052 00821) in advance of residential development.

A total of three trenches were opened in an area of lawned garden attached to the property. One of these, Trench 2, revealed a single post medieval ditch and associated spread, the former likely representing either a field ditch or demarcating the rear boundary of the Main Street property. The archive for the site will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service under accession number X.A57.2020.

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were contracted by the client, Colin Storry, to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Whiteacres, Main Street, Tugby, Leicestershire (SK 76052 00821; Fig. 1). The fieldwork was carried out between 6th and 7th July 2020.

The work was required by the Planning Authority following advice from the Leicestershire Planning Archaeologist in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, MHCLG 2018).

Planning permission (20/00726/FUL) is being sought for the construction of two semi-detached residential dwellings, adjacent to Whiteacres with vehicular access off Main Street (Fig. 3). It required a programme of archaeological work, commencing with trial trenching, 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.

All work was undertaken as per the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; ULAS 2020).

Location and Geology

Tugby lies around 10 miles east of Leicester in the County of Leicestershire (Fig. 1) and the site lies on the eastern side of Main Street on the edge of the village on an area of open grassland. White Acres lies to the south-west, Spinney Nook forms the southern boundary and Main Street runs to the north (Fig. 2).

The site covers around 0.16ha of land at a height of 164m aOD. The British Geological Survey

notes that the superficial geology consists of Diamicton till (Oadby Member). The bedrock geology consists of mudstone of the Whitby Member Formation.

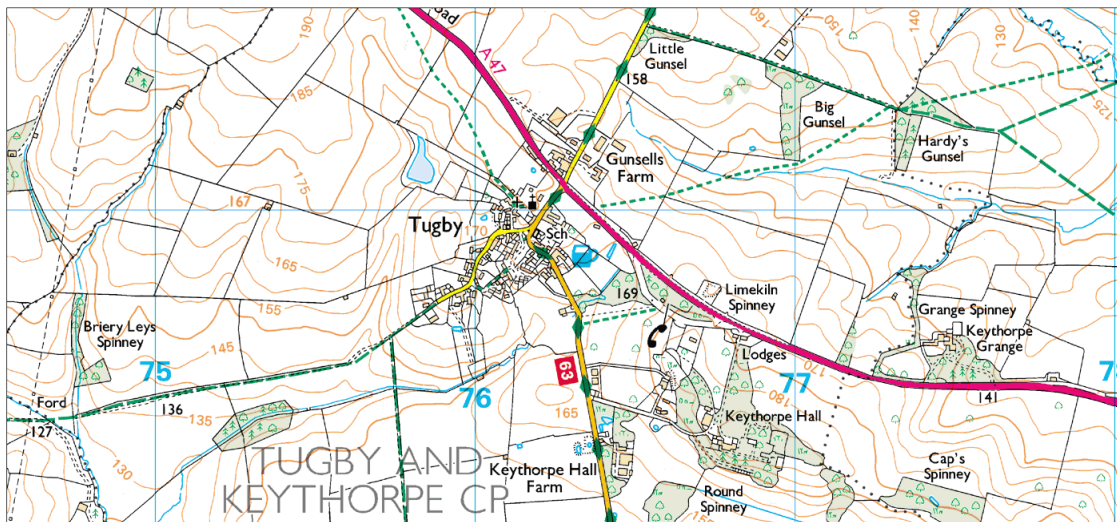


Figure 1: Site Location

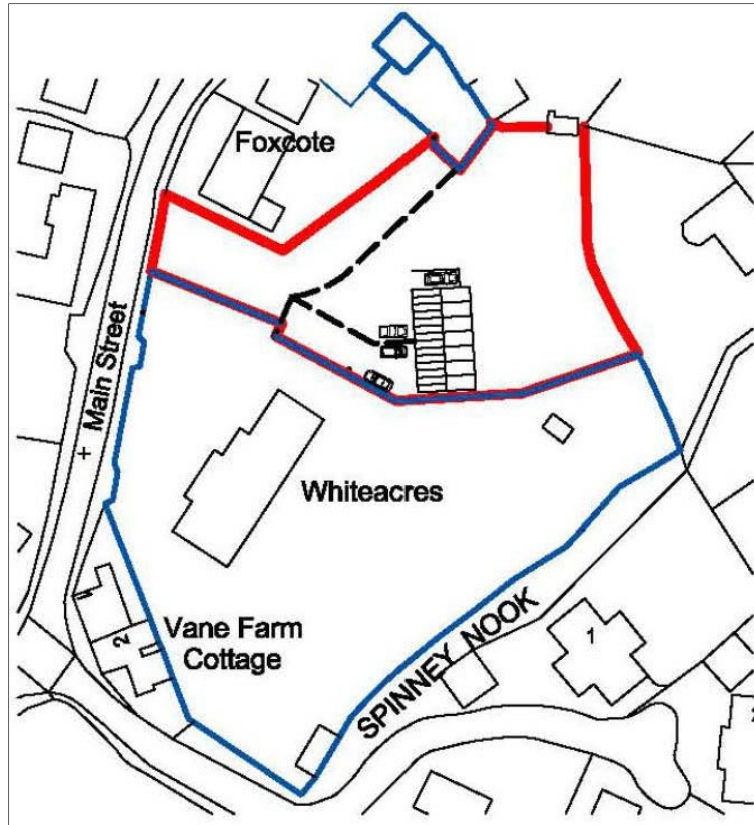


Figure 2: Site Location (provided by client)

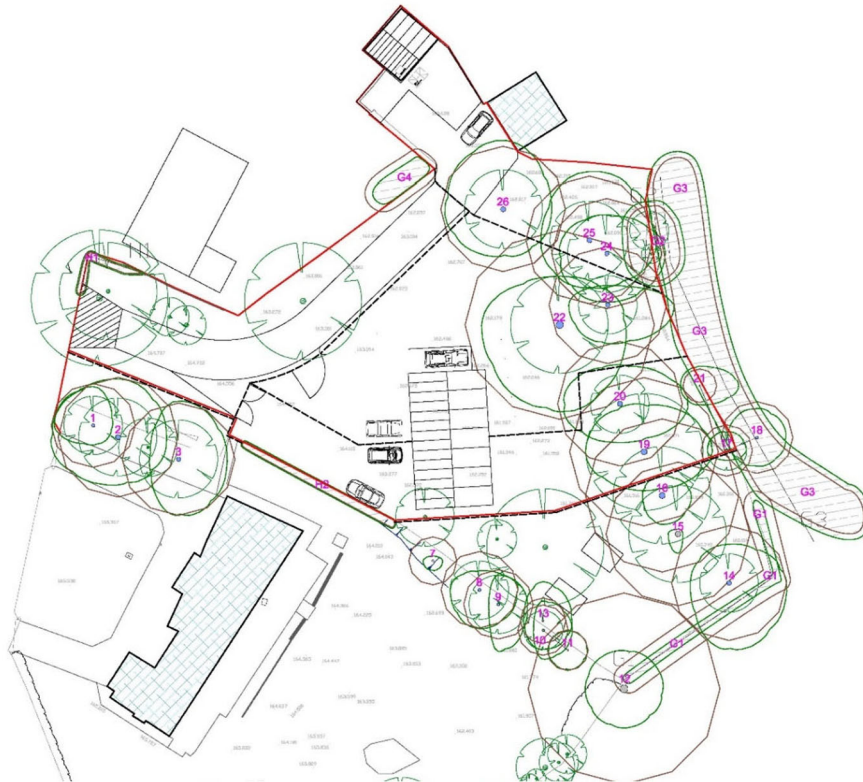


Figure 3: Proposed development plan (provided by developer)

Historical and Archaeological Background

Prehistoric - Roman

In the north of the village, a stone with a smooth surface bearing several cup-shaped marks lies west of the church, a fragment of which was detached in 1962 and is in the museum collections. It is considered possible that it dates from the Bronze Age. A pit containing three mid-2nd century Roman pottery sherds was recorded at the Old Manor House, Main Street on the eastern side of the village during a strip, plan and sample excavation in 2015 (MLE22630). Recent excavations by ULAS on Hallaton Road, found a series of Roman drainage ditches suggesting a possible settlement site somewhere to the north (Browning 2020).

Anglo-Saxon

An Anglo-Saxon burial was discovered c.1km south east of the proposed development area, at Keythorpe Hall in May 1859 'whilst removing earth in a new flower garden' (MLE2568) (SK 768 002). The individual was accompanied by a number of grave- goods, including an elaborately decorated hanging bowl, a pair of bone dice, 46 bone gaming pieces and some possible brooches. In 1863 the gaming pieces, dice and comb were displayed by Lord and Lady Berners at Keythorpe Hall.

Medieval

The site lies within the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of the village, as deduced using historic maps, landscape maps (MLE10345). The ridge and furrow plan (Hartley 1992, unpublished; Figs 4 and 6) shows some of the old boundaries and earthworks as well as the ridge and furrow in the fields surrounding the village.

The proposed development area lies near earthworks north of Fishpool Spinney, which possibly represent a terraced garden, a fishpond and other boundary features (MLE20620). Earthworks indicating a complex of substantial buildings (MLE2572) lie north-east of Manor Farm. Observations made during archaeological work in 2013 indicate that these earthworks are still extant (Browning 2013). The appearance of the earthworks, with apparent building platforms and indications of formal gardens, as well as their close proximity to the church, suggests that they could represent the site of an old Manor House and its associated grounds. Old Manor Farm House, Main Street was demolished in 2015 (MLE21882). The house was probably constructed as a 2-storey hall and cross-wing house c.1505. The hall was timber- framed, the cross-wing had a stone ground storey and a timber-framed upper storey.

Trial trenching in 2013 recorded two ditches to the south of the earthwork complex and c.500m east of the proposed site, thought to be medieval field or stock enclosure boundaries (MLE21652). In the centre of the village a watching brief was carried out on levelling operations in the 1970s found possible medieval cobbling with 12th-13th century pottery (MLE2566). Another watching brief at Spinney Nook, Main Street in 1998 recorded several gullies thought to be boundary ditches for medieval plots with medieval pottery (MLE2564). These included Saxo-Norman sherds, providing supportive evidence for the pre- Conquest origins of the village (Browning and Warren 1998). The site appeared to have fallen out of use after the 14th century, possibly suggesting settlement shift or shrinkage. Works on Well Field the 1970s (MLE2566) found cobbling and 12th / 13th century pottery. It is likely these medieval remains continue into the application area.

Faint village earthworks were photographed from the air in 1981 south-east of Wellfield Close, Tugby (MLE2565), 500m south east of the proposed site. The northern part was developed in the 1990s but the southern section is still visible on 2011 aerial photographs. Further earthworks were identified to the north-west (MLE2573).

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.

The results of the evaluation provide information in order for the local planning authority to make informed recommendations and to identify an appropriate mitigation strategy for the proposed development.

Research Objectives

While the nature, extent and quality of archaeological remains within the areas of investigation for the project remained unknown until archaeological work was undertaken, it was possible to determine some initial objectives derived from *East Midlands Heritage* research agenda (Cooper 2006, Knight *et al.* 2012). The site lies outside the village core, in what were probably open fields associated with the village. The evaluation therefore had the potential to contribute to the following research aims:

Early Medieval

6.4 Rural settlement patterns, 6.7 Agricultural economy and rural landscape

High Medieval

7.2, 7.3 (Rural settlement, manors and manorial estates).

These research aims were identified based on the current state of knowledge, within the area of the scheme, and re-assessed and updated during the course of the fieldwork.

Methodology

Three trial trenches were excavated across the proposed development area, positioned to target the area to be affected by the proposed new building and access road. The orientation of Trench 02 was moved slightly in order to avoid disturbance to trees and their roots.

Prior to any machining of trial trenches, general photographs of the site areas were taken. The trenches were excavated in level spits, using a JCB mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 5).

Trenches were examined for archaeological deposits or finds by hand cleaning. The trenches were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid using a Topcon Hiper SR GPS and then were backfilled and levelled at the end of recording, with approval from the Leicestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist.

The work followed the approved WSI (ULAS 2020) and adhered to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (2014).

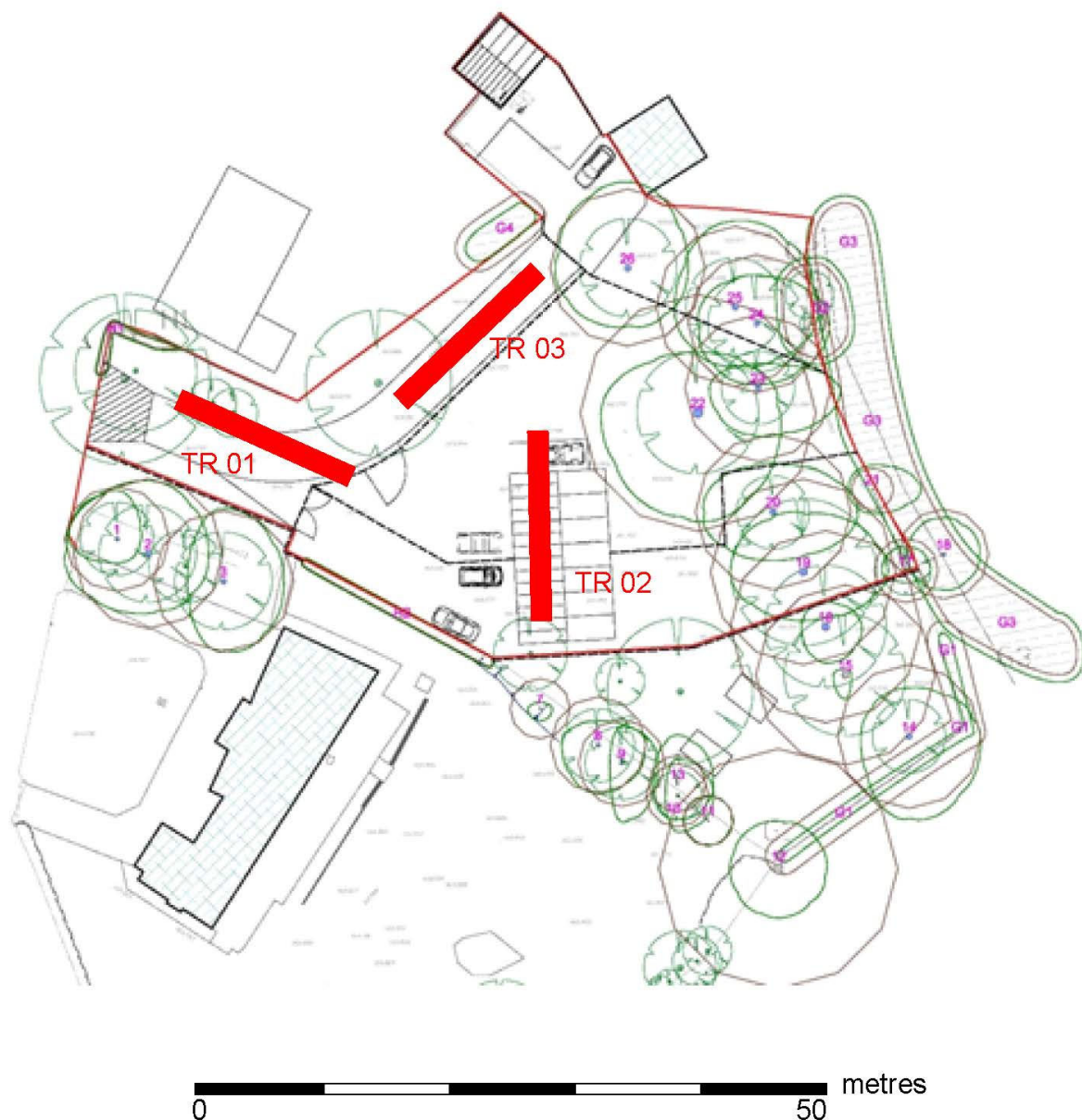


Figure 4: Trench location plan



Figure 4: Machining Trench 01: view south

Results

A total of three trenches were excavated within the proposed development area.

Table 1: Trench summaries

TRENCH	ORIENTATION	LENGTH AND WIDTH (metres)	TOPSOIL THICKNESS (metres)	SUBSOIL THICKNESS (metres)	DESCRIPTION	TRENCH DEPTH (MIN-MAX metres)
01	SE - NW	15 x 1.6	0.18 – 0.20	0.08 – 0.55	No archaeological deposits	0.95 – 1.30
02	N - SW	15 x 1.6	0.45 – 0.60	0.20 – 0.45	Ditch [01], spread (03)	0.85 – 0.95
03	NE - SW	15 x 1.6	0.15 – 0.20	0.35 – 0.50	No archaeological deposits	0.58 – 0.75

Trench 01

Trench 01 (Figure 5) was located in the north-west corner of the property close to the Main Street frontage and positioned in order to target the footprint of the proposed access road. 0.18m-0.20m of mid grey clay loam topsoil overlay 0.60m-0.75m of redeposited mid orange-brown clay with brick rubble associated with construction of the present property in the 1960s. An underlying 0.10m-0.55m of mid grey-brown clay silt subsoil overlay a mottled mid orange-brown sandy clay. No archaeological deposits or finds were observed.



Figure 5: Trench 01: view west (1m scale)

Trench 02

Trench 02 was located centrally in the lawned gardens and targeted the footprint of the proposed residential buildings (Figs 6 and 7); the trench was repositioned slightly in order to avoid disturbance to adjoining trees. Approximately 0.45m-0.60m of topsoil and 0.20m-0.45m of subsoil was removed, overlying the same sandy clay as had been observed in Trench 01.

The southern end of the trench was traversed by a shallow ditch [01] (2m+ in length x 1.30m wide and 0.30m deep) (Figs 8-12) with a shallow open profile and a flat base and running on a

south-west to north-east alignment. The feature's single fill (02) produced 5 sherds of medieval pottery and 2 fragments of ceramic building material. The ditch cut through a 3m wide and 3cm-5cm thick dump layer or occupation spread of compact ashy grey silt (03) (Figs 9, 10 and 12) containing charcoal and ashy flecks and inclusions. The deposit did not produce any dating.

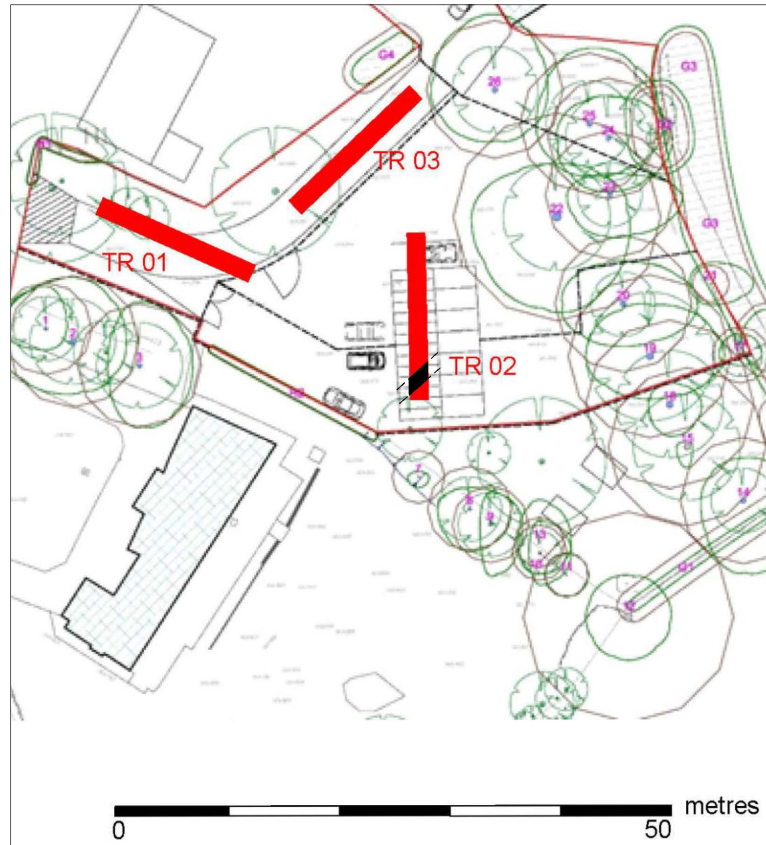


Figure 6: Trench 02 location with archaeology



Figure 7: Trench 02, ditch [01]: view southwest (1m scale)



Figure 8: Trench 02: view north (1m scale)



Figure 9: Trench 02, ditch [01] & spread (03): view west (1m scale)

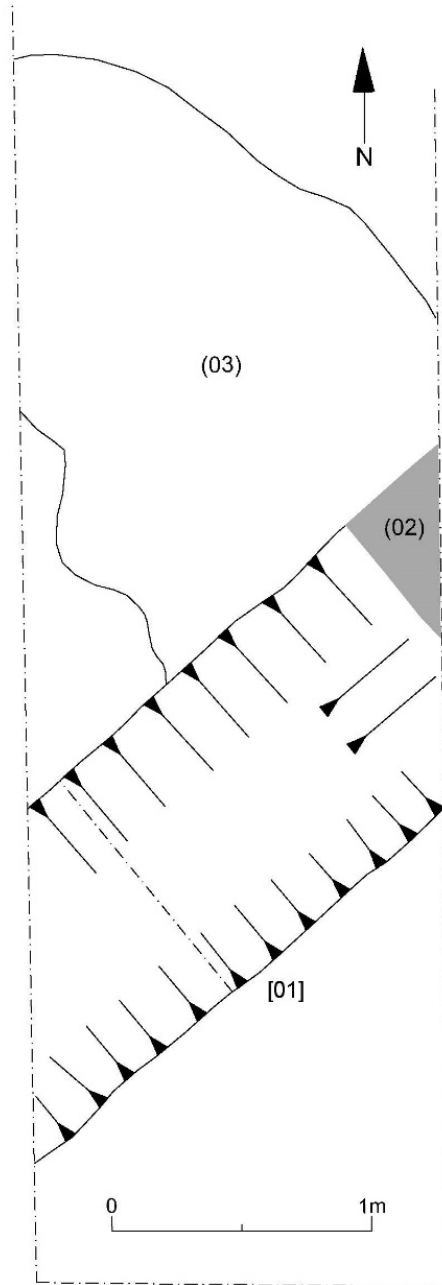


Figure 10: Plan of southern end of Trench 02

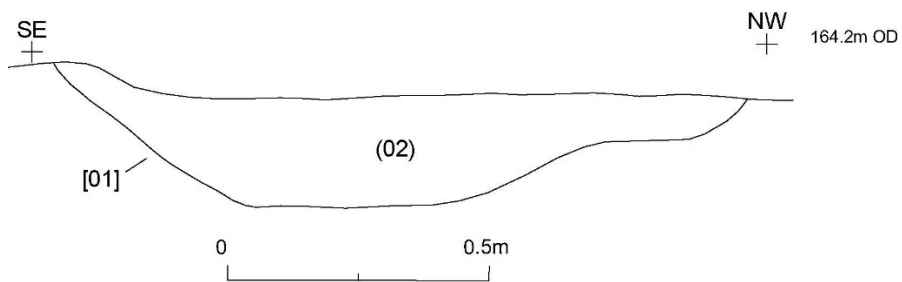


Figure 11: Ditch [01] section



Figure 12: Trench 02, ditch [01] & spread (03): view north (1m scale)

Trench 03

Trench 03 (Fig. 13) was located towards the northwest corner of the property and targeted the line of the proposed access road. 0.15-0.20m of topsoil and 0.35m-0.50m of subsoil overlay a mid orange-brown silty clay natural. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered.



Figure 13: Trench 03: view northeast (1m scale)

The Post Roman Ceramic Finds - Deborah Sawday

The Ceramic Finds

The pottery assemblage was made up of five sherds, weighing twelve grams. Two fragments of ceramic building material, weighing one gram, were also recorded.

Condition

The condition of the pottery and ceramic building material was characterised by a low average weight of less than half a gram and a high degree of abrasion.

Methodology

The pottery was examined under an x20 binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to current guidelines (MPRG 1998, 2016) and the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 2019). The results are shown below (Tables 2 and 3). Table 2 lists the pottery by fabric and table 3 catalogues the pottery and miscellaneous finds by context.

The Ceramic Record

The fabric codes and sources – where known – are shown in the fabric list, table 1. All of the finds were recovered from the back fill of the ditch, context (2) [1] (Table 2).

Conclusion

The medieval and early post-medieval pottery fabrics are typical of the region. A similar range of late Saxon and early medieval pottery in fabrics ST, and SN, dating from the late 9th to the 12th centuries, has been recorded by the author from previous excavations in the village, and confirms the late Saxon and early medieval origins of the settlement. However, the abraded and fragmented nature of the pottery assemblage suggests many phases of deposition and activity in the vicinity of the ditch, although the backfill deposit, although limited in size, does exhibit a convincing degree of homogeneity in terms of the late Saxon/early medieval date.

Table 2: The medieval pottery fabrics.

ST3	Stamford ware – reduced coarse, fabrics E/F, H A/D (1)	late 9th- 11C
ST2	Stamford - fine, fabrics G B/(A) (1)	c.1050-12th C.
ST1	Stamford – very fine, fabrics B/C (1)	c.1150-13th C.
SN	St Neots/St Neots type ware (2) , Northants CTS fabric 100-105 (3)	c.850-1100
OL	Oolitic ware reduced/oxidised Northants CTS fabric 209 (3)	C1100-1300

(1) Kilmurry 1980, Leach 1987

(2) Hunter in McCarthy 1979

(3) Northants CTS, Blinkhorn 2003, 2009, 2008

Table 3: The pottery by context. (vtu – vessel type unknown)

Context	Fabric	No	grams	Form	Part	Comment
POTTERY						
2[1]ditch	ST3	1	7	vtu	base	Abraded, coarse reduced fabric, flat, with external trimming and light sooting
2	SN	1	2	vtu	body	pale buff outer surface and light grey interior
2	ST2	1	1	vtu	body	White bodied, pale yellow lead glaze and trace of possible rouletting on exterior
2	OL	1	1	vtu	body	Abraded, reduced core and oxidised outer surface
2	ST1	1	1	vtu	body	
MISC						
2	EA	2	1			Abraded fragments in fine red earthenware, period unknown,

Discussion and Conclusion

The excavation of three trial trenches across the development area did not reveal any significant archaeological remains, with the exception of a linear feature and an earlier dump or occupation spread. It is possible that the linear feature represents a post-medieval ditch and that the pottery is residual from the earlier spread. While there are no obvious field boundaries that would match this on the first edition OS map (1885), the positioning and alignment of the ditch observed in Trench 02 suggests that it could represent a continuation of the property boundary running at the rear of properties fronting Main Street, as observed on properties directly to the north of Whiteacres (Fig. 14). Alternatively, the feature could represent a field ditch possibly to be linked with the ditch visible as a standing earthwork running along the northern property boundary (Colin Storry, pers. comm.).

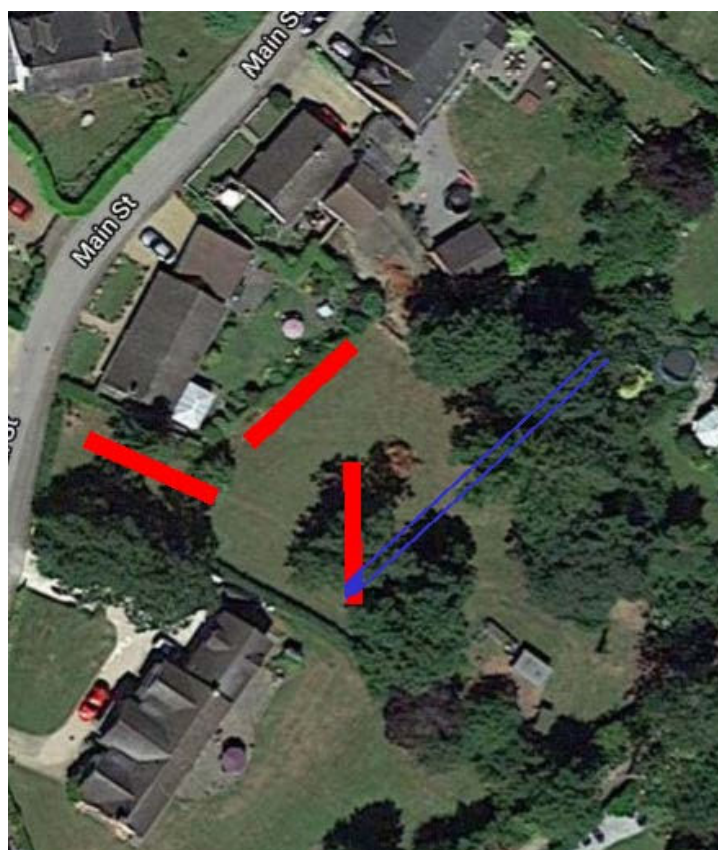


Figure 14: Trench 02 ditch: projected line

Archive and Publication

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A57 2020 and consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report No. 2020-114)
- 3 Trench recording sheets
- 1 Photo Record sheet
- 1 Contact sheet of digital photographs
- 1 CD digital photographs

1 Plan sheet

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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