

**An Archaeological Excavation and Watching brief at
16-30 Main Road, Old Dalby,
(Broughton and Old Dalby), Leicestershire.
NGR: SK 6747 2377**

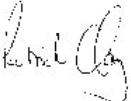
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**For: Truman Contractors (East Midlands) Ltd.
Planning Permissions: 05/00006/FUL and 07/00315/FUL**

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An Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief at 16-30 Main Road, Old Dalby, Leicestershire. NGR: SK6747 2377

Andrew Hyam

Summary

An archaeological excavation and watching brief was undertaken for Truman Contractors (East Midlands) Limited by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) between the 25th of July and the 15th of August 2007. The purpose of the work was to observe the groundworks taking place in advance of the construction of two domestic dwellings and to archaeologically strip and excavate the footprint of a further two dwellings.

The site is located within the historic medieval core of the village and the Leicestershire Historic Environment Record indicated that there was a high potential for preserved archaeological remains. A desk-based assessment (ULAS report 2004/139) and trial trenching (ULAS report 2005/128) were the first stages of a programme of archaeological investigation. The trial trenching revealed the presence of significant buried remains of late Saxon and medieval date. In view of this, the proposed building works were identified as likely to uncover surviving archaeological deposits and features.

The watching brief on two plots revealed the presence of a possible plot boundary running across the site which contained a small amount of 12th century pottery. The two area strips showed evidence of possible plot divisions and occupation activity from the late 9th to the 14th centuries. A small stone structure containing a high quantity of charred plant remains was also found.

Records will be deposited with the Leicestershire County Council under Accession Number X.A. 189.2007.

1. Introduction

The village of Old Dalby lies approximately 7 kilometres to the north-west of Melton and is within the parish of Broughton and Old Dalby (fig. 1). The development site is located in a pocket of open land bounded by properties on Main Road to the north and Church Lane and Paradise Lane to the west and south (NGR: SK 6747 2377) (fig. 2). Access is from Main Road. The site is rectangular in shape covering an area of 0.44ha and, prior to development, was covered in rough pasture with a small hedge running north to south across its centre. The area has a slight slope from north-west to south-east with the ground level being between 91m and 87m OD. The underlying geology for most of the site is predominantly Lower Jurassic mudstone. The soils are chalky till of the Ragdale Association which are described as slowly permeable seasonably waterlogged clayey and fine loam over clayey soil with some slowly permeable calcareous claye soil especially on the slopes.

2. Background

The Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates that the development site lies within the historic settlement core of the medieval and post-medieval village (HER ref: MLE9269 and George 2004). Earthworks belonging to the medieval village (MLE3446) and the nearby scheduled preceptory of the Knights Templar (MLE3448) to the south all indicated that the site had a high probability of containing preserved archaeological features and deposits. In view of this a limited programme of trial trenching was undertaken by ULAS in 2005 (Parker 2005) which revealed stratified archaeological deposits dating from the 12th to the 14th centuries along with a possible post-medieval earthwork as part of a flood management scheme. This work therefore indicated that evidence for medieval settlement and some limited light industrial activity remained intact across the site.

Because the four dwellings would damage or destroy much of the surviving archaeological remains the Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council requested that further investigation and recording take place before any development commenced. This investigation was designed to take place in two parts comprising of an open area excavation on house Plots 2 and 4 and an intensive watching brief within the remaining development area.

3. Archaeological objectives

The main objectives of the archaeological work were:

- To locate and record any significant archaeological remains and to characterise their nature within the development area
- To identify any evidence for medieval or post-medieval village occupation and to identify whether it is domestic, industrial or agricultural
- To establish a chronology for any surviving archaeology and identify how this may fit into a wider pattern of village development within the East midlands
- To produce an archive and report of all results

4. Methodology

All work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct in accordance with their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Excavation*.

The scheme for the works involved open area excavation for Plots 2 and 4 where the more significant archaeological deposits were located during the evaluation. Archaeological attendance in the form of a watching brief was also required for the remaining Plots 1 and 3 and associated groundworks.

During the open area excavation all topsoil, subsoil and made ground was removed in spits using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under full archaeological supervision until undisturbed substrata or archaeological deposits were encountered. The exposed archaeological deposits were then planned and sample excavated. Where appropriate, measured plans of all archaeological features were drawn at a scale of 1:50 or 1:20, whilst sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. All drawings were levelled and tied to the Ordnance Survey datum. The watching brief involved the observation of overburden removal by the archaeologist during the

groundworks. Any exposed archaeological deposits were then recorded using standard ULAS pro-forma recording sheets.

A photographic record of the investigation was prepared illustrating in detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record also included a number of working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological investigation. 35mm black and white prints and colour digital photographs were used to create the photographic record.

5. Results

Prior to the start of the archaeological work the central hedge had been removed along with all traces of grass and vegetation. Much of the exposed ground was quite disturbed as a result (fig. 3).

The watching brief

Plot 1

This area of the site was initially started after some very heavy rain resulting in a problem with the machinery becoming a bogged down, and this may have caused some disturbance of any surviving archaeological features. Once proper stripping had restarted it could be seen that the waterlogged topsoil and subsoil had become very mixed with some disturbance extending down to make contact with the natural pale creamy-yellow clay approximately 0.3m below current ground level. Two parallel shallow gullies were observed running north-west to south-east across the plot. The westernmost gully was approximately 0.4m wide by 0.2m deep and was filled with a dark grey-brown silty clay. It extended for 6m across the plot from the southern edge before ending in a disturbed area of natural clay. No finds were recovered from this feature. Some 8.7m to the east of this feature was a similar gully [5] (6) measuring 0.6m wide by 0.1m deep from which a number of sherds of 12th century Stamford ware pottery were recovered (fig. 4). Again this feature was partially destroyed at the northern end, although the fact that it was not seen in the evaluation Trench 5, which ran across its path, may mean that it does actually stop at this point. No other features were observed within the watching brief area.

Plot 3

Despite a number of features being recorded in Trench 2, in the northern part of this plot, during the evaluation stage none were located during the course of this watching brief. Again however, the topsoil and subsoil had been waterlogged and were heavily disturbed by machine activity prior to the watching brief (fig. 5).

The open area excavation

Plot 2

Most features located within this plot tended to be shallow linear features (figs. 6, 7 and 8). Running down the western edge of the plot was a narrow gully [3] which may be the same one seen in evaluation Trench 4. Most of this feature extended beneath the baulk but where its width was exposed it measured 0.5m across. At its deepest excavated point it was 0.4m and was filled with a mid greyish-brown silty clay with orange mottled clay throughout (4). A small quantity of poorly preserved animal bone and some sherds of Nottingham ware and Oxidised Sandy ware all dating from the mid to later 13th century were recovered from the fill.

Gully [3] appeared to cut a slightly wider gully [18] running east to west across the plot. This feature had an average width of 0.78m with a lopsided U-shaped profile 0.24m deep. The light grey-brown silty clay fill (19) contained a single rim sherd of possible late 9th century Coarse Stamford ware.

At its eastern end gully [18] cut a north to south shallow gully [11] which ran on a parallel course to gully [3]. This gully varied in width between 0.6 and 1m wide with a depth of only 0.09m. It was filled with a mid grey-brown silty clay (12) from which a single sherd of 12th or 13th century Potters Marston and a sherd of later 13th or early 14th century Nottingham ware were recovered. After cutting across gully [11] the gully [18] entered an area of heavy disturbance probably associated with a gateway through the old hedgeline.

Immediately east of gully [11] was a 1.0m to 1.5m wide band of densely spaced stones set in a mid grey-brown silty clay (25) running north to south between [11] and the recently removed hedge. The possible trackway was quite shallow with little more than a single layer of stones laid onto the natural clay. A sample section through this feature recovered a sherd of Oxidised Sandy ware of a type not seen before in this county but which is believed to be an early 13th century Nottingham ware. A similar feature but with a higher proportion of ironstone fragments (26) ran along the southern edge of Plot 2 westwards from (25). It was not clear if this was the same feature as only a narrow portion was visible extending out from the baulk. No finds were recovered from this feature.

To the east of the modern hedgeline was another gully [20] again running on a roughly north to south alignment. This ran across the whole length of the plot and had an average width of around 1.5m. It had two fills, the primary fill (22) being a shallow 0.26m deep orange-grey clayish silt which did not contain any pottery or bone. Sealing this was the secondary fill (21) consisting of a mid grey-brown silty clay with small flecks of charcoal. This fill contained a large number of pottery sherds including another Oxidised sandy ware sherd as seen in fill (25). Other pottery included Stamford ware, nine sherds of late 13th century Coarse Shelly ware and a number of Nottingham ware sherds ranging from the early 13th century to the early 14th century. Gully [20] cut through a shallow spread or layer of orangey-grey silty clay (23) which did not contain any finds and could represent slumping or wash into the gully.

An oval shaped pit [7] was noted in the eastern half of Plot 1. This measured approximately 0.98m by 0.68m with a depth of 0.19m and was filled with a light grey-brown silty clay (8). No pottery was recovered from the fill although some badly degraded and fragmentary animal bone was observed.

Four possible post holes [9], [13], [15], [31] were located within the plot but none appeared to have any clear relationship with each other or any of the other features. The deepest of these features [13] was 0.14m and only [9] (10) contained one sherd of green glazed late 13th century Nottingham ware.

The final feature, located in the south-west corner of the plot, was a 1m by 0.6m horseshoe shaped ironstone structure (17) (24) [29] sunk into the natural clay (figs. 9 and 10). The faced ironstone blocks (24) were well shaped and laid without mortar

against the edge of the cut. The upper edge of the stonework ended at the top of the natural clay with no evidence that it extended any higher. Despite the very dark grey-brown silty clay fill (17) being full of charcoal and burnt organic material there was no indication of heat or burning on the surrounding stones. An environmental sample showed fill (17) to contain abundant quantities of cereal grains, legumes and weed seeds consistent with field margin clearance and burning. No pottery was recovered from this feature.

Plot 4

The key features of this plot were a number of ditches and a stone surface running east to west across the northern side (figs. 11, 12 and 13). These had been partially observed in the evaluation Trench 1.

Running from east to west across the northern edge of the plot was an ironstone rubble spread (32) from which a range of pottery was recovered during cleaning. The earliest was a sherd of late 12th century Stamford ware, with two sherds of mid 13th century Oolitic ware, two of Potters Marston, another sherd of the new Oxidised Sandy ware and a number of later 13th or early 14th century Nottingham wares. Spread (32) appeared to be laid on a dark grey-brown silty clay (54) which formed the backfill of flat-bottomed linear ditch [53]. The full width of [53] was not seen as it extended to the north beneath the baulk and was cut on its southern side by ditch [51] (fig. 14). The feature was 0.6m at its deepest point. Thirteen sherds of the new Oxidised Sandy ware from the mid 13th century were recovered from fill (54) as were three sherds of Stamford ware, two sherds of early medieval Splashed ware, six sherds of Coarse Shelly ware and six sherds of mid to late 13th century Nottingham ware.

As mentioned, cutting the southern edge of [53] was a parallel ditch [51]. At its widest point this feature measured 1.6m across and was 0.65m deep extending to a flat base. The fill, (52), was a dark grey-brown silty clay containing numerous small ironstone fragments. Sherds of Stamford ware, Coarse Shelly ware, Potters Marston and four more sherds of the Oxidised sandy ware were recovered from this feature.

On its southern edge ditch [51] cut another parallel east to west ditch [49]. This feature although only 0.35m deep was relatively flat-bottomed and had a similar profile to the other ditches in this part of the plot. The mid grey-brown silty clay fill (48) was very similar to that in the adjacent ditch [47] which it appeared to cut and could only be seen clearly towards the base of the section. No finds were recovered from this feature.

To the south of, and cut by, [49] was another parallel east to west ditch [47]. This was the most shallow of all four ditches with a depth of 0.3m but again had a similar flat-bottomed profile. The fill, (48), was a mid grey-brown silty clay with patches of natural orange-brown natural clay mixed throughout. Two sherds of Stamford ware and Potters Marston ware were recovered along with a sherd of Splashed ware and one of Nottingham ware.

Entering the plot from the south were two shallow intercutting linear gullies [37] and [39]. The earliest of these north to south oriented features, [37], was a 0.8m wide and 0.15m deep flat-bottomed gully filled with a mottled orange-brown and grey silty clay

(38). One sherd each of Stamford ware, Oolitic ware similar to that seen in layer [32], Splashed ware and Nottingham ware were recovered from fill (38). Slightly north of the section that was placed across both features the gully [37] became very indistinct and disappeared roughly 5m north of the baulk. Cutting the western edge of [37] was a second gully [39] which was approximately 0.6m wide with a slightly more curved base. It contained a mid grey-brown silty clay fill (40) from which no datable finds were recovered. This gully appeared to end half way across the site, at a similar point to gully [37], and a small section was cut across this butt-end. Although given a different fill number (35) it was clear that the fill was the same as fill (40). A single sherd of Stamford ware of similar date to that found in [37] was recovered from fill (35).

To the west of [37] and [39] were two similar shaped and sized pits or post holes [34] and [42]. [34] held a mid grey-brown silty clay fill (33) which contained three sherds of fine Stamford ware and one each of Oolitic ware and coarse Stamford ware. The southernmost of the two pits [42] contained a very similar silty clay fill (41) to pit [34] although no datable finds were recovered from this feature.

In the south-west corner of Plot 4 was a small area of ironstone rubble fragments and a number of intercutting pits. Unfortunately, once stripped, heavy rain washed a contaminated liquid from a heap of imported soil across this part of the plot making excavation impossible (fig. 15). The stone area, [43] (44), appeared to be a rectangular patch measuring 3m x 1.5m of mid-brown silty clay with large fragments of ironstone within it. Some of the displaced stones indicated that the feature was about 0.12m deep. Embedded in the surface of (44) were eight sherds of early medieval fine Splashed ware and three mid 13th century Nottingham ware sherds. Although not entirely clear, it appeared as if [43] cut a small linear feature entering the plot from the west. Contamination prevented further investigation.

Set around feature [43] were eight circular pits or post holes varying in size from 0.2m in diameter to 0.7m in diameter. Inundation by the contaminated liquid prevented anything more than a simple plan. One pit however, [45], produced a single sherd of fine Splashed ware from its dark grey-brown silty clay fill (46) which was recovered during the machining stage.

6. Discussion

The evidence gained from this excavation indicates the presence of domestic activity from as early as the late 9th century to the mid or late 14th century. The main period of activity was however apparently between the late 12th century and the early 14th century. It must also be noted however that the only sherd of 9th century pottery came from a feature which cut an early 13th century feature meaning that this must be a residual find possibly from earlier manuring scatter.

The key feature type that defines the site is the gully or ditch. All of the features observed were running either parallel or perpendicular to the surrounding road layout and it can be assumed that they were used as property boundaries. That a number have been re-cut indicates a relative permanence to the site and this is especially clear with the deeper series of ditches seen in the northern part of Plot 4. Because the areas surrounding the gullies are relatively undisturbed it may be that there was relatively

light occupation and they were more likely to be a long way behind the main housing plots, and may have been used for more of a horticultural purpose.

The small number of pits or post holes across the site certainly do not form the outline of any potential buildings and the lack of datable or diagnostic finds do not help form a conclusion as to their use or date. Again however, the dating evidence that was recovered from these features indicates activity during the 12th and 13th centuries.

The undated stone feature in Plot 2 produced useful environmental evidence of cereal processing and waste. It also shows that crop rotation between cereals and legumes was probably being practiced and that some land-clearance may have been taking place. Although it cannot be dated precisely this is typical of the medieval rural agricultural economy of the region. It is also unclear exactly what the structure is as the free-threshing grains found within the fill have no need for parching. A suggestion is that the waste material may actually been used for kindling for another unknown activity.

Overall, the network of ditches or gullies, which was also noted in the evaluation, points towards agricultural activity in the area from at least the 9th century followed by more permanent settlement during the 12th, 13th and early 14th centuries. The area under investigation then appears to go out of use after this time perhaps after becoming isolated by surrounding development.

7. Archive

The archive consists of:

This report,

5 pro-forma watching brief forms,

2 context number index forms,

52 context record sheets,

1 drawing sheet index,

1 drawing index,

10 drawing sheets: 5xA3, 3x A2, 2x290mmx320mm

1 levels sheet,

2 digital photograph index sheets,

2 contact sheets of the digital photographs,

2 35mm black and white photograph index sheets,

2 contact sheets for black and white photographs (1 full sheet, 1 part sheet),

9 strips of black and white negatives,

1 environmental sample index sheet,

1 cd containing this report and the digital photographs.

52 sherds of pottery

Assorted animal bone fragments.

8. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. A record of the project will also be submitted to the OASIS project. Oasis is an online index to archaeological grey literature reports.

9. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was undertaken by A Hyam, S Henderson and S Clarke. The project was managed by Dr P Clay.

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Appendix 1. Figures.



Figure 1. Old Dalby Location.

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Figure 2. Site location.
Site highlighted with principal property boundaries around it.



Figure 3. Plot 1 watching brief area. Looking south.

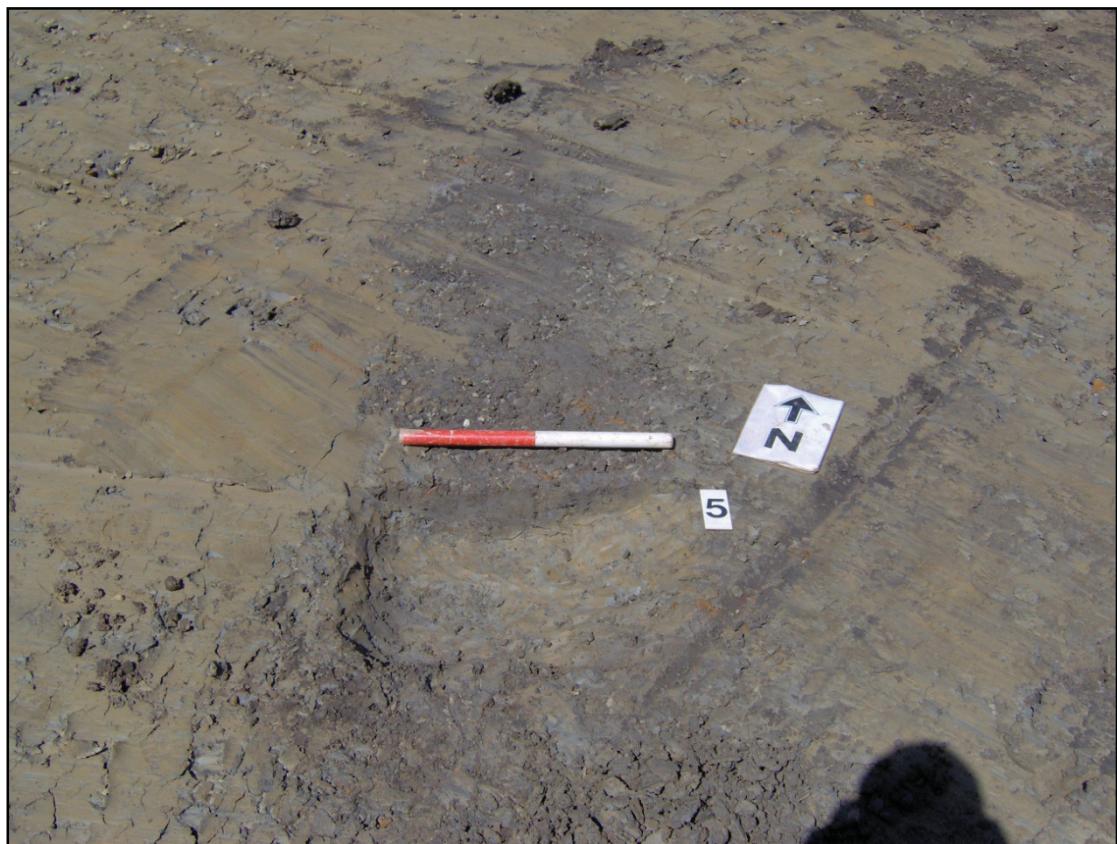


Figure 4. Plot 1, gully [5].



Figure 5. Plot 3 watching brief area. Looking east.



Figure 6. Plot 2 pre-excavation picture.

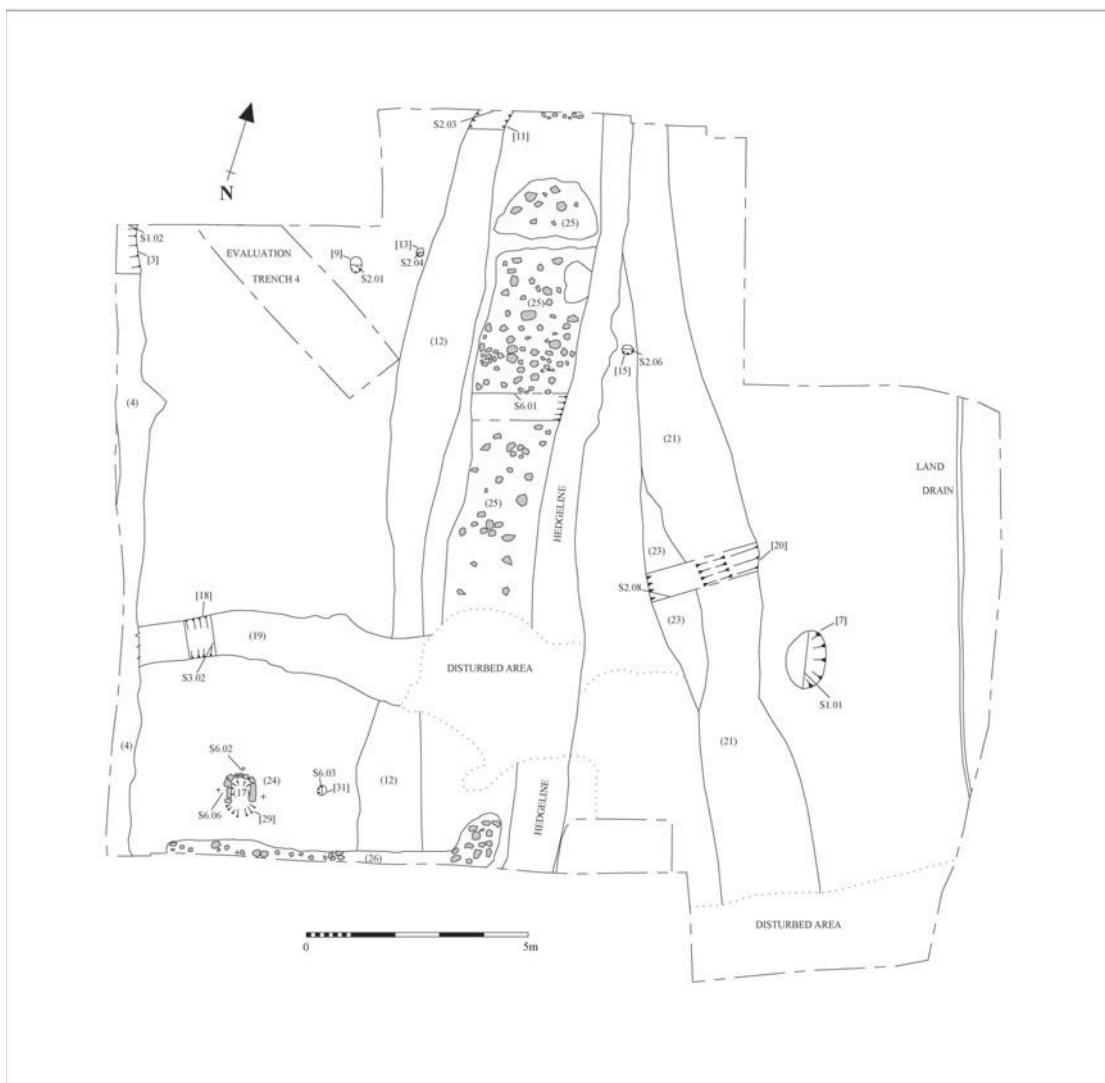


Figure 7. Plot 2 plan.

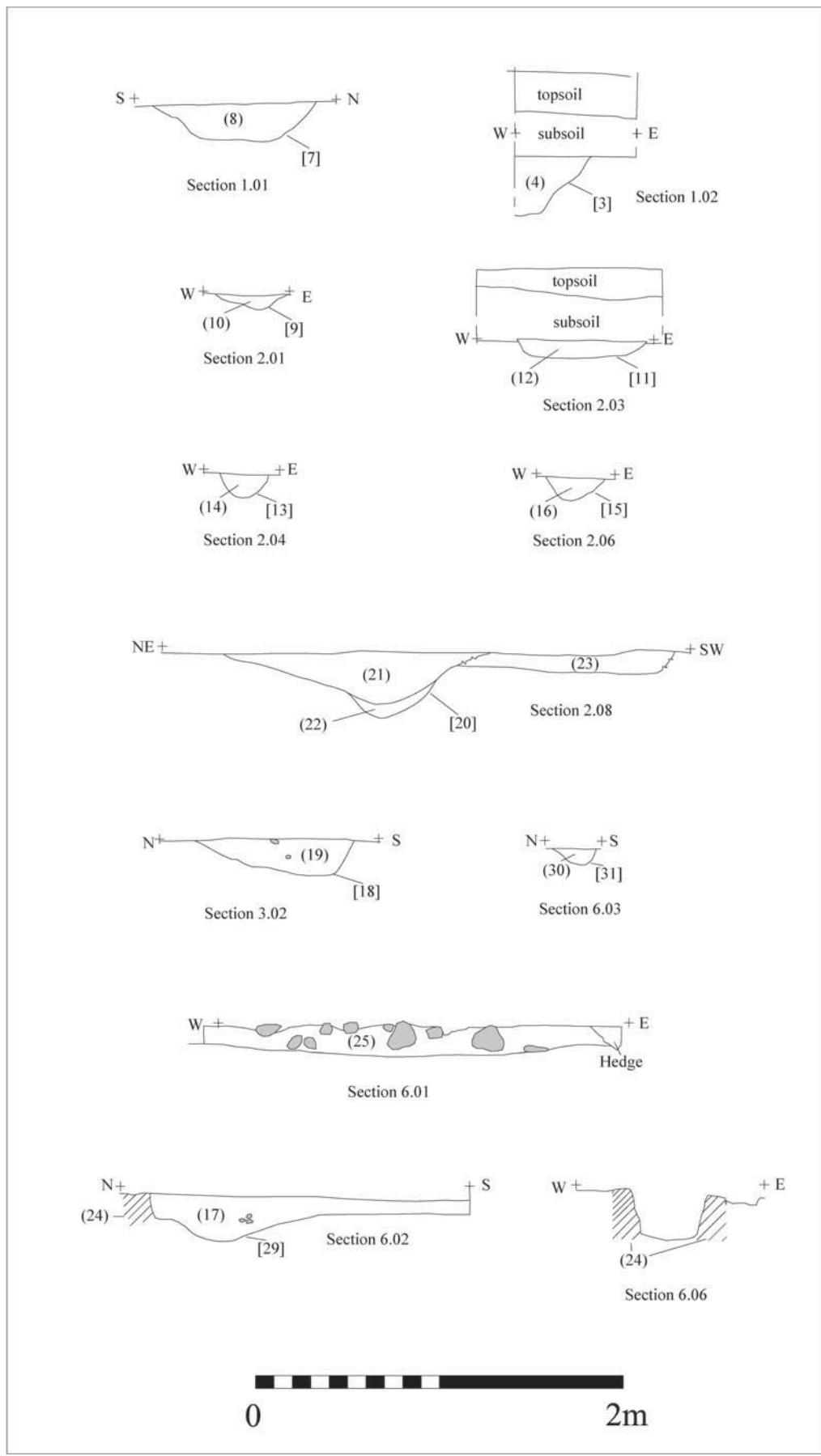


Figure 8. Plot 2 sections.



Figure 9. Stone structure (24).



Figure 10. Stone structure (24).



Figure 11. Plot 4 pre-excavation picture.



Figure 12. Plot 4 plan.

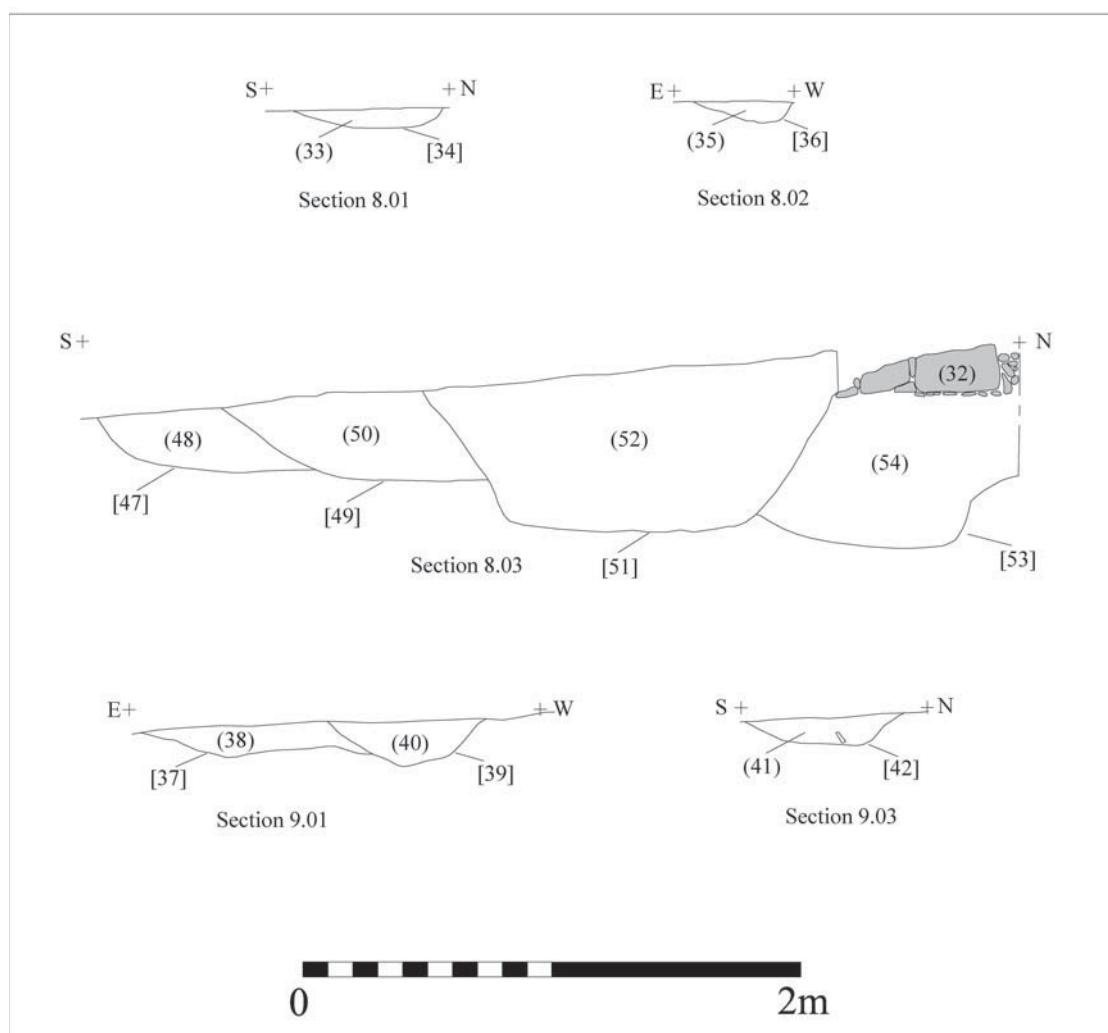


Figure 13. Plot 4. sections.



Figure 14. Section 8.03 across multiple ditches.



Figure 15. Plot 4, pits and stone area. Looking south.

Appendix 2. Pottery Report

The medieval and later pottery and miscellaneous finds

D. Sawday

The stratified pottery, 154 sherds, weighing 1.437 kg, was examined under a binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabric series (Davies and Sawday 1999). The pottery totals, by fabric, are shown below (table 1).

Fabric/Ware	Sherd Nos.	%	Weight Grams	Average Sherd Weight
Late Saxon/Early Medieval				
ST3 – Coarse Stamford ware	5	27	5.4	
ST2 – Fine Stamford ware	11	46	4.1	
ST1 – Very Fine Stamford ware	10	43	4.3	
OL - Oolitic ware	5	26	5.2	
SP2 – Fine Nottingham Splashed ware	13	123	9.4	
SP1 – Splashed ware 1	2	15	7.5	
OS6 – Oxidised Sandy ware 6	36	23.3	352	9.7
PM – Potters Marston	8		72	9.0
Sub Total	90	58.4	704	7.8
Medieval				
NO1 – Nottingham Glazed ware 1	7		159	22.7
NO2 – Nottingham Glazed ware 2	7		86	12.2
NO3 – Nottingham Glazed ware 3	19		333	17.5
NO – Nottingham Glazed type ware	2		4	2.0
CS – Coarse Shelly ware	27	17.5	138	5.1
Sub Total	62	40.2	720	11.6
Post Medieval/Modern				
EA - Earthenware	2		13	
Sub Total	2	1.2	13	
Totals	154	99.8	1437	

Table 1: The post Roman pottery totals by fabric sherd numbers and weight (grams).

The Site Record

The earliest pottery, a single sherd of a jar rim, in the coarse Stamford fabric, ST3, possibly dating from the late 9th century, occurred in the fill of the east–west ditch [18]. The two linear features [36]=[39] and [5], contained pottery which dated from the mid 10th or 11th and the 12th century respectively, and the fill of the pit [34] contained pottery dating from the late 11th to the 12th century. However, this dating evidence must be treated with some caution as these contexts only produced very small groups of pottery, ten sherds, weighing 54g, in total. Similarly, only two sherds

of pottery, thought to date from the 12th or early to mid 13th centuries, were associated with the track-way, context (25), and the pit [45].

Three sherds of fabric NO2, which is interpreted as a ‘transitional’ fabric from splashed ware into the Nottingham glazed wares and dated from c.1230 to the mid or later 13th century, were recovered from feature [43]. Another sherd in the same fabric, together with residual pottery, was found in the ditch [47], which lay parallel to the main street.

The Nottingham glazed fabric NO3, generally dating from the mid 13th – if not slightly earlier - to the later 13th centuries, was found in all of the remaining contexts with pottery, except [51]. These contexts included the boundary ditch [3], the linear feature [37], the stone feature context (32), the linear ditch [47] and the parallel cut [53]. The upper fill, context (21), of the linear ditch [20], the ashy layer (28), the post-hole [11], and the stone layer (32), all contained particularly hard fired, internally reduced, examples of NO3, or a coarse unclassified Nottingham ware, fabric, NO, both probably dating from the later 13th or, even, the early 14th centuries.

Almost half of the pottery assemblage from the excavation and watching brief, by sherd numbers, was recovered from the linear ditch [47] and the later re-cuts [53] and [51]. The back fill of [47] contained pottery dated from c.1230 to c.1280, as noted above, whilst [53] produced pottery with a similar terminal date in the mid or later 13th century. Only residual material, dating from the 12th or early 13th centuries, was found in the backfill of [51].

The Ceramic Record

The pottery occurred in a typically domestic range of vessel forms, jars, a cup, bowls and jugs were all recorded. The range of fabrics present also reflects the essentially local nature of pottery trade and distribution patterns at this time: Stamford was a major pottery production centre in the earlier period, whilst the Nottingham splashed and glazed wares dominate the medieval assemblages.

A new fabric has been identified at this site, OS6, which appears to be a Nottingham product contemporary with the Nottingham splashed wares, fabrics SP1 and SP2. A sandy ware jug rim in a similar form to one found here in fabric OS6 has been dated to from c.1200 to c.1225 at Nottingham (Coppock 1980, fig.65.62).

Also new to the county series is fabric OL, which has been identified here and at Great Bowden. This fabric, which is tempered with oolitic limestone, was initially thought to a coarse ware version of Lyveden Stanion B ware, (Northamptonshire County type series fabric 320), and identified as fabric LY2 in the Leicestershire series (Davies and Sawday 1999). However, a more local source, possibly in south Lincolnshire, now seems to be more likely for this hand made, pottery. Similar material, in fabric SLSNO, at Lincoln (Young *et al* 2005, 123), is dated from the 12th or early 13th centuries, and used exclusively for hand made jars. Here, fabric OL only occurs in unidentifiable vessel forms.

The origins of the Coarse Shelly wares, CS remains uncertain. This category is generic, and covers a range of fabric types, and probably comes from several sources

both to the north and east of Leicestershire. Unfortunately most of the sherds are very soft fired and hence abraded and fragmentary, and no vessel forms were found to aid their identification. However, as with fabric OL, a fairly local origin to the east, probably in Lincolnshire, rather than Stanion Lyveden to the south, in north Northamptonshire, seems most likely for this particular group.

Conclusions

The pottery provides some evidence of activity in this part of the core of the medieval village from the possibly as early as the late 9th or 10th centuries. The low average sherd weight of the Stamford ware in particular (table 1) indicating that this material may be the result of the manuring of the fields rather than actual occupation on the site. However, the 12th and 13 century splashed and Nottingham glazed wares exhibit a larger average sherds weight, and relative lack of abrasion, this and the quantity of animal bone found in medieval contexts, suggesting that, certainly by the 13th century, there may have been occupation in the vicinity.

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Site/Parish: 16-30 Main Rd, Old Dalby, Leicestershire Accession No/ Doc Ref: XA189 2007/old dalby2 doc Material: pottery & misc. finds Site Type: Village core	Submitter: A. Hyam Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Id: 29/8/07 Method of Recovery: wb & part exc. Job No. 07-420
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Context	Fabric/ware	No	Grams	Comments
POT				
4 [3]	NO1- Nottingham ware 1	1	62	Base, wheel thrown, flat
4 [3]	OS6 – Oxidised Sandy ware 6	16	180	One pot, sooted ext, no sign of glaze
4 [3]	NO3 - Nottingham ware 3	2	21	Jug base, glaze & stacking evidence underneath, light grey internally, mid - later 13th C.
6 [5]	ST3 – Coarse Stamford ware	1	2	abraded
6 [5]	ST2 – Fine Stamford ware	1	3	Burnt – thin lead glaze
6 [5]	ST1 – Very fine Stamford ware	1	1	Abraded – 12th C.
9 [10]	NO3	1	5	Light grey internally, green glaze ext, mid - later 13th C.
12 [11]	PM – Potters Marston	1	9	c.12th – c.13th C
12 [11]	NO3	1	10	Hard fired, grey internally, green glaze ext, later 13th C or possibly early 14th C.
19 [18]	ST3	1	12	Everted jar rim, Kilmurry form 3-4 or 3-5, ?late 9th C.
21 [20]	ST3	1	2	
21 [20]	ST2	1	1	
21 [20]	CS – Coarse Shelly ware	9	35	
21 [20]	PM	2	10	
21 [20]	SP1 – Coarse Nottingham Splashed ware	2	15	
21 [20]	OS6	1	7	Possibly 12th – early – mid 13th C.
21 [20]	?NO2 – Transitional Nottingham ware	2	38	Coarse, ill sorted inclusions, pink body, bowl with liquid glaze, similar form in a splashed ware dated c.1200-1225 at Nottingham (Coppock 1980, fig.65.62)
21 [20]	NO1	2	79	Green glazed jug with single thumbing a base of strap handle, c.1250 - (Young et al 2005, 176)
21 [20]	NO3	10	151	Jug fragments, including baluster base, some light grey internally, mid - later 13th C..
21 [20]	NO	1	2	Coarse inclusions, but not a ‘gritty ware’, possibly Nottingham? Later 13th. - ? C or possibly early 14th C.
25	OS6	1	10	Date uncertain, possibly 12th – early 13th C.
28	NO	1	2	As 21 above, later 13th C? or possibly early 14th C.
32	ST2	1		Everted, squared jar rim. ? Kilmurry form 11-18, generally dated c.1150, typically later 12th early 13th C, joins (32).
32	CS	1	5	Probably early medieval
32	OL – Oolitic ware	2	5	Two joining flat base fragments
32	PM	2	7	

32	OS6	1	9	Squared jar rim, joins 54
32	NO2	1	1	
32	NO3	2	24	Hard fired, reduced, later 13th C or possibly early 14th C.
32	EA – Earthenware	2	13	Flower pot - ?intrusive, form post medieval, fine sandy fabric
33	OL	1	10	
33	ST3	1	2	Kilmurry form 9 – cup – simple everted rim, sooted rim edge. Form not closely dated.
33	ST2	3	6	All with very thin lead glaze, this most common late 11th – mid 12th C.
35	ST2	1	18	?spouted jar, Kilmurry form 8, rim only, everted, thick greenish yellow glaze, possibly glaze 5, abraded. ? Mid 10th - 11th C – form not found in 12C contexts at Stamford (Kilmurry 1980, 140).
38 [37]	ST2	1	4	
38 [37]	OL	1	1	
38 [37]	SP2	1	3	?cooking ware
38 [37]	NO3	1	14	Mid – later 13th C
44 [43]	SP2	8	94	Two vessels, pale green splashed glaze
44 [43]	NO2	3	37	Transitional from splashed, one sooted ext, one with very thin brown glaze, dated c.1230-1270/1280 at Nottingham.
46 [45]	SP2	1	10	Sooted ext, green glaze internally, dates from early to mid 12th – c.1250 at Nottingham (Young <i>et al</i> 2005, 127).
48 [47]	ST2	1	1	
48 [47]	ST1	1	1	
48 [47]	OL	1	10	?fabric, mix of calcite & quartz
48 [47]	PM	2	19	Everted & upright & thickened jar rims
48 [47]	SP2	1	6	
48 [47]	NO2	1	10	Both with spots of greenish glaze, c.1230-1270/80.
52 [51]	ST3	1	9	sooted
52 [51]	ST2	1	2	Sooted ext
52 [51]	ST1	6	19	One glazed
52 [51]	CS	11	13	Tiny fragments
52 [51]	PM	1	27	Jug strap handle, thumbed down sides, 12th early 13th.
52 [51]	OS6	1	14	Fine well sorted quartz inclusions. Bowl rim with horizontal flange, sooted ext.
52 [51]	OS6	3	37	One burnt, traces of glaze
54 [53]	ST2	1	1	Yellow glaze
54 [53]	ST1	2	22	Strap handle
54 [53]	CS	4	27	
54 [53]	CS	1	26	Jar rim, upright, externally thickened (Mc McCarthy 1979, fig.82.91) - in a cream sandy ware - 13th – mid 14th C.
54 [53]	CS	1	32	Upright, simple, thickened bowl rim
54 [53]	SP2	2	10	Olive green glaze
54 [53]	OS6 – Oxidised Sandy ware 6	1	10	Jar rim, joins (32) above.
54 [53]	OS6 – Oxidised Sandy ware 6	12	85	Includes squared jug rim with external collar (Coppock 1980, fig.68.85), 2nd quarter 13th C at Nottingham, joins 32

				above..
54 [53]	NO1	4	18	One jug rim sherd with dark green glaze, similar at Nottingham (Coppock 1980, fig.67.81) where dated to 2nd quarter 13th C, these sherds have finer fabrics than the above
54 [53]	NO3	2	108	Strap jug handle with single thumbing at base, c.1250, white bodied with grey core., another sherd light grey internally – mid – later 13th C.
CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL				
32	EA - Earthenware	1	7	Brick/tile – possibly intrusive
33		5	7	
48 [47]	EA	1	5	? Brick/tile – possibly intrusive
52 [51]	EA	1	1	? Brick/tile – possibly intrusive
ANIMAL BONE				
4 [3]		1		
21 [20]		2		
25		5		
33		1		
35		1		
38 [37]		1		
45 [46]		1		
52 [51]		3		
54 [53]		12		Approx.
MISC				
25		1	1	Industrial residue
28	Fe	1		Nail

Appendix 3. Charred Plant remains.

From evaluation (XA134.2005) and excavation (XA 189.2007).

Angela Monckton (August 10th 2005 and Dec 5th 2007)

Introduction

Sample were taken from a burnt deposit located during the evaluation (XA134.2005 context 12) and from the stone oven feature (XA189.2007 context 17) during the excavation. The samples were processed to recover charred plant remains which can provide evidence of the crops cultivated and activities on sites in the past. There is a lack of evidence from rural medieval and post-medieval sites and it was hoped that remains would be found to add to others from Leicestershire and Rutland to provide evidence about the countryside in the medieval period and to help to interpret the features.

Methods

The samples were wet sieved in a York tank with a 0.5mm mesh and flotation into a 0.3mm mesh sieve. The residues were all air dried and the fraction over 4mm sorted for finds and discarded while the fraction below 4mm was reserved. This was carried out by Dave Parker in 2005 and Anita Radini in 2007 at ULAS.

The flotation fractions (flots) were air dried and all sorted for plant remains using a x10-30 stereo microscope. The plant remains were then identified by comparison with modern material at the University of Leicester. The remains were counted and recorded (Table 1), the plant names follow Stace (1991) and are charred seeds in the broad sense unless described otherwise.

Results

Charred plant remains were abundant in the samples and the plants found were all typical of medieval or post-medieval sites.

The cereals: The majority of the identified grains were of wheat (*Triticum* sp), mainly of the characteristic short broad shape of free-threshing wheat which could be either bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum* s.l.), or a second type of free-threshing wheat called rivet wheat (*Triticum turgidum* type) known from medieval England (Moffett 1991). A few wheat chaff fragments (rachis) were found, some of rivet wheat, and a few abraded fragments were most probably of bread wheat, so the wheat appears to be a mixture of both types of wheat. Barley grains (*Hordeum vulgare*) were also found in smaller numbers but were abraded and could not be identified further, occasional rye grains were also present in the second sample but were too few to suggest this represented a crop here.

Other useful plants: In the first sample fragments of hazel nutshell (*Corylus avellana*) were evidence of the use of gathered food. A fruitstone of a small plum, possibly bullace, and a fragment of sloe stone were also found showing the use of cultivated or collected fruits. Other food plants were legumes represented only by fragments of peas or possibly cultivated vetch, but this could not be confirmed from

the incomplete remains. The presence of all these remains suggests the presence of domestic waste in the sample. The second sample differed in lacking fruit or nut remains but containing numerous fragments of legumes which included some whole peas (*Pisum sativum*), although possibly small beans were also present. This shows the presence of a legume crop which would have been part of crop rotation with the cereals.

Wild plants: In the first sample charred weed seeds were relatively numerous and were mainly weeds of disturbed ground or arable land such as stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*) which was common in medieval times and is a plant of heavy soils, and cleavers (*Galium aparine*) a weed of autumn sown cereals such as wheat and rye. Others included vetches (*Vicia/Lathyrus*), docks (*Rumex* sp), and large grasses (Poaceae). Plants of damp ground were represented by spike rush (*Eleocharis* sp.) and buttercup (*Ranunculus* subgen. *Ranunculus*) however, all of these may be arable weeds. Some of these were also present in the second sample which differed in containing very numerous seeds of docks (*Rumex* sp.). This is a prolific producer of seeds so may be from few plants but it is unusual to find so many in this sample.

Discussion Old Dalby

The first sample from Old Dalby (XA134.2005 context 12) contains some charcoal and possibly coal with quite abundant plant remains at a relatively high density (16.8 items of plant remains per litre of sediment sieved). The sample contains 32 cereal grains, four chaff (rachis) fragments and 55 weed seeds in a 6 litre sample. Hence the sample is dominated by weed seeds with some chaff present and would seem to represent waste including cereal cleanings because the crops were processed after threshing to remove contaminants such as weed seeds and chaff although some grain may be included as spillage. The presence of occasional fragments of legumes and nutshell with fruit stones suggest that this is domestic waste from food preparation.

The second sample (XA189.2007 context 17) also contained very abundant remains with about 300 items per litre of sediment sieved, it includes more cereal grains, almost all of free threshing wheat as large prime grains. Both bread wheat and rivet are represented by a few chaff fragments so this may represent remains of a mixed crop. The samples also contains more abundant legumes including a few whole peas and numerous fragments. However, the most numerous remains in the sample are dock weed seeds. The sample appears to represent remains of a wheat crop as well as a legume crop with local weeds, perhaps as clearance of a field margin and the remains burnt or used as kindling. The sample certainly shows that these crops were cultivated here, the legumes suggesting crop rotation, and the wheat a mixed crop.

The structures of the burnt features provided no indication of their uses and the charred remains may therefore be incidental or burnt for disposal. There was no need to parch free-threshing wheats to facilitate threshing because the chaff is easily removed so the waste may have simply been burnt and was therefore preserved by charring. Cereals were sometimes parched to facilitate milling so some may be accidentally burnt in the process, although sometimes cereal cleaning waste was used as kindling in hearths for various purposes and this may be the case here, although most cereal waste on rural sites is likely to have been used as fodder. The weeds

found here could grow on all soils as found in the area and the cereal is likely to have been grown in the vicinity.

Samples thought to represent domestic waste, typified by a low density of remains mainly cereal grains and weed seeds, have been found from a few villages including Anstey (house platform), Freeby, Barrowden, Claybrook Magna, and Stapleton as well as in samples from within the town of Leicester (summarised in Monckton 2004). Some of the villages have produced different samples rich in chaff and weed seeds, indicating agricultural processing of cereals, such as have been found at Wyfordby, Anstey (ditch), Saxby village and Whissendine (Jarvis forthcoming, Monckton forthcoming). The latter two included rivet wheat in addition to bread wheat which was found at all four. The samples from Old Dalby are more like the second group although chaff is less well represented and domestic waste more apparent in the first sample. The second sample is more typical of agricultural waste as found in the second group of sites although chaff is more sparse and weeds very abundant; like Saxby and Whissendine both types of wheat are represented, possibly as the remains of a mixed crop. At present, deposits outside Leicester with rivet wheat are from Saxby village, Whissendine, and from Melton Sherrard Street, the latter from near the market (Monckton 2004). Bread wheat with rivet wheat is known from Leicester in the medieval and post medieval periods where it was consumed, but it is unknown where it was cultivated. It seems that rivet wheat together with bread wheat was cultivated on the productive soils of the north-east of Leicestershire and Rutland, and it is possible that they were supplied to Leicester through local markets.

Conclusions

Evidence of free-threshing wheat including both rivet wheat and bread wheat were found with a little evidence of barley and rye as possible additional cereals. There were few wheat chaff fragments with weed seeds as the most numerous of the remains in the samples suggested that the cereals were cultivated locally. Other remains of charred legumes were found and identified as peas, and possibly beans were present, a fruit stone of a small variety of plum, a sloe stone, and hazel nutshell fragments also suggested other foods consumed and the presence of domestic waste. The first sample may represent the cleaning of a locally produced crop for the village mixed with domestic waste from food preparation. The second sample with abundant wheat grains, a little chaff of bread wheat and rivet wheat, numerous legumes probably mainly peas, with abundant dock weed seeds may represent clearing of a field margin with the remains burnt for disposal or kindling. The sample probably represents agricultural waste and indicates the cultivation of two different crops; one of mixed wheat and another of legumes which were probably part of a crop rotation system. It is possible that other remains may be found in other parts of the village if further investigations occur, but domestic activity, possible cereal processing, and agricultural waste from cultivation of two of the crops are suggested here.

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Table 1. Charred plant remains from Old Dalby, Leics.

Site	XA134.05	XA189.07	
Feature type	Burnt	Burnt	
Context	12	17	
Cut number			
Sample	1	1.2	
CEREAL GRAINS			
<i>Triticum</i> free-threshing grain	9	99	Wheat
<i>Triticum</i> spp.	2	19	Wheat indet.
<i>Secale cereale</i> L.	-	3	Rye
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. grain	2	4	Barley
Cereal grains indet.	17	8	Cereal
CEREAL CHAFF			
<i>Triticum turgidum</i> type rachis	1	2	Rivet wheat
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> s.l. rachis	1	2	Bread wheat
<i>Triticum</i> sp. rachis	-	2	Emmer/Spelt
Cereal chaff fragment	2	1	Cereal chaff
Cereal culm node	1	-	Straw frag
FOOD PLANTS			
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	1	-	Hazel nut shell
<i>Prunus</i> sp.	1	-	Plum stone (small variety)
<i>Prunus spinosa</i> L.	1	-	Sloe stone
<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.	-	3	Peas
? <i>Pisum sativum</i> L.	-	13	Pea sized legumes
<i>Pisum/Vicia</i>	1	36	Peas/Beans
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L.	1	1u	Elder
WEEDS			
<i>Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus</i>	1	-	Buttercup
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.	-	6	Goosefoots
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L.	2	1	Knotgrass
<i>Rumex acetocella</i> L.	1	6	Sheep's sorrel
<i>Rumex</i> sp. (small)	-	68	Docks
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	12	431	Docks
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	8	6	Vetch/Vetchling
<i>Vicia</i> sp.	7	2	Vetch
<i>Medicago lupulina</i> L.	-	1	Black medick
<i>Medicago/Melilotus/Trifolium</i>	2	3	Clover type
<i>Galium aparine</i> L.	3	-	Cleavers
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	2	1	Stinking mayweed
Asteraceae	-	1	Daisy family
<i>Bromus</i> sp.	1	1	Brome grass
Poaceae (large)	4	11	Grasses, large
<i>Eleocharis</i> sp.	1	-	Spike-rush
Indeterminate seeds	12	28	Indet. Seeds
OTHER REMAINS			
Charcoal	++	++	Charcoal
Buds, woody	-	2	Buds
Stem fragments	3	7	Stem fragments
Thorns straight	2	2	Hawthorn/Blackthorn
Total	101	769	Items
Volume of sample	6	8*	Litres
Volume of flot	25	290	Mls
Density charred remains	16.8	385	items/litres

Key: + = present, ++ = moderate amount, +++ = abundant. rachis = rachis segment (chaff).

cf. = probable identification, u = uncharred, * = 25% sorted.

Remains are charred and are seeds in the broad sense unless stated.

Appendix 4. ULAS Design Specification.

Design Specification for an archaeological excavation and watching brief

Job title: 16-30, Main Road, Old Dalby, Broughton and Old Dalby, Leicestershire

NGR: SK 760 175

Client: Truman Contractors (East Midlands) Ltd

Planning Authority: Melton Borough Council

P. A 05/0006/6

1. Definition and scope of the specification

1.1 This specification forms a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological excavation and attendance (watching brief) at 16-30, Main Road, Old Dalby, Broughton and Old Dalby, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 760 175; Fig. 1)..

1.2 It addresses the requirements for archaeological recording from Leicestershire County Council as archaeological advisor to the planning authority following Planning Policy Guideline 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning para.30) outlined in their *Brief For The Archaeological Excavation And Attendance (Watching Brief) Of Land Off Main Road, Old Dalby, (Broughton And Old Dalby) Leicestershire 04.07.2007* (Appendix 2).

1.3 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* and the *Guidelines and procedures for archaeological work in Leicestershire* (Leicestershire Museum Service).

2. Background

2.1 Background

2.1.1 Context of the Project

The proposed development site is located near the centre of Old Dalby, off Main Road (figs.1 and 2). It consists of an area of c.0.46 ha. The Leicestershire Sites and Monuments Record indicates that the site for development lies within the historic medieval core of Old Dalby (**LE9269**). The Scheduled Ancient Monument of the medieval village earthworks is located 200m to the south of the proposed development (**LE3446**) and various medieval sites are located in the vicinity (**LE3442, LE3443, LE3444, LE3448, LE3450, LE3451, LE3452 and LE8672**). In addition, a possible Roman site (**LE9388**) and two post-medieval sites (**LE3447 and LE3449**) have been located in the vicinity of the proposed development (ULAS Report 2004-139).

2.1.2 A trial trench evaluation has been completed (ULAS Reports 2005-126). The trial trenching located the features of medieval or post-medieval date (Figs 2-3).

3. Aims and Objectives

3.2 The objective of the archaeological work is to ascertain whether any significant archaeological remains are present and characterise their nature within the area to be developed. Specifically the excavation will aim to identify any evidence for medieval and post-medieval village occupation, identify whether it was domestic or agricultural, establish a chronology and identify how this activity might fit into a wider pattern of village development in the East Midlands (Lewis 2006, 211).

4 General Methodology

4.1 All work will follow the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Code of Conduct* and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*.

4.2 Staffing, recording systems, Health and Safety provisions and insurance details are provided.

4.3 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the sites from the project manager. These will ensure that project targets are being met and professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with representatives of the clients and Leicestershire County Council. The strategy will be reviewed in the light of the quality of the archaeological resource as revealed at different stages of the fieldwork.

4 Methodology

4.1 The scheme for archaeological work involves open area excavation of Plots 2 and 4 where the archaeological deposits were located during evaluation. Archaeological attendance (a watching brief) has been requested for the remaining groundworks. All work will follow the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Code of Conduct* and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations*.

4.2 Staffing, Health and Safety provisions and insurance details are provided.

4.3 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the sites from the project manager. These will ensure that project targets are being met and professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with representatives of Rutland County Council, as appropriate.

4.4 Open area excavation

4.4.1 The topsoil will be stripped in advance to expose the extent of significant archaeological deposits within Plots 2 and 4.

4.4.2 The topsoil will be removed in spits by machine with toothless ditching bucket (or similar) under supervision, until archaeological deposits or undisturbed substrata are encountered. The topsoil will be kept separate from the subsoil.

4.4.3 The archaeological deposits will be hand-cleaned by trowel or draw hoe. The cleaned surface will be scanned by metal detector.

4.4.4 The archaeological features exposed by the machine stripping will be planned and sample excavated to provide an adequate sample to address the research aims (3.1).

4.4.5 Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid using a Total Station Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM).

4.4.6 The location of the excavation will be surveyed using a Total Station Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) linked to a hand held computer.

4.4.7 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

4.4.8 Any human remains encountered will be initially left in situ and only removed under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. Any material recovered which would be regarded as treasure following the Treasure Act 1996 will be reported to the coroner .

4.5 Archaeological attendance (a Watching brief)

4.5.1 The project will involve the observation of overburden removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. During these ground works, if any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest.

4.5.2 The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with the contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work.

4.5.3 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) where appropriate.

4.5.4 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

4.5.5 All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

4.5.5 Any human remains encountered will be initially left *in situ* and only be removed under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The developer, Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services and the coroner will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.5.6 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site from the project manager. These will ensure that professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for monitoring visits with representatives of the owners, Leicestershire County Council and Melton Borough Council.

4.5.7 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located during the watching brief there may be the need for contingency time and finance to be provided to ensure adequate recording is undertaken. On the discovery of potentially significant remains the archaeologist will inform the developer, the Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council and the planning authority. If the archaeological remains are identified to be of significance additional contingent archaeological works will be required.

5 Recording Systems

5.1 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets. If the complexity of the archaeology warrants it these will be computerised using the ULAS Access system.

5.2 A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a trench plan at 1:200 (or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated in relationship to the investigation area and OS grid ('Brief' 4.8).

5.3 Some record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made on drawing film, related to the OS grid and be at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Sections including the half-sections of individual layers of features will be drawn as appropriate. The O.D height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans.

5.4 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared. This will include black and white prints and colour transparencies illustrating in both detail and general context the principal

features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

5.5 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the excavations.

6 Environmental Sampling

6.1 In order to contribute towards fulfilling the aims and objectives, outlined above (3.1-3) the routine sampling of excavated sites is required. Not all sites will produce samples suitable for analysis and interpretation but unless sampling is carried out and remains recorded there will be no basis for comparison of sites and for regional studies. Deposits to be sampled should be datable, have the potential to contain remains and represent the periods covered by the site. Hence the following deposits should be sampled:

6.1.1 Datable deposits containing pottery or any evidence of charcoal.

6.1.2 Features representing different periods and areas of the site.

6.2 Sample size will be a minimum of 20 litres although if charred plant remains appear to be at a very low concentration 40 litre samples should be considered. Small concentrations of remains will also be taken as samples if found.

6.3 The priority for sampling will be the corn drier which will have bulk samples taken on excavation. Other priorities for sampling will be pits, features associated with houses and deposits containing other materials such as pottery, bone and charcoal.

6.4 Should deposits containing abundant bone be found large samples of around 100 litres or a known fraction of the deposit will be taken for the constant recovery of smaller bones.

6.5 Any buried soils or well-sealed deposits with concentrations of carbonised material present will be intensively sampled taking a known proportion of the deposit. Samples of charcoal will be submitted for identification to establish the types of wood exploited.

6.6 Any waterlogged deposits will be sampled for pollen, plant macrofossils and insects in consultation with the specialists who will carry out the analysis.

6.7 If other remains such as molluscs are found samples will be taken and assessed by a specialist.

6.8 Sampling for examination of sediments will be considered if appropriate and a specialist consulted if necessary.

6.9 Wet sieving with flotation will be carried out using a York Archaeological Trust sieving tank with a 0.5mm mesh and a 0.3mm flotation sieve. The small size mesh will be used initially as flotation of plant remains may be incomplete and some may remain in the residue.

6.10 The residue > 0.5mm from the tank will be separated into coarse fractions of over 4mm and fine fractions of > 0.5-4mm. The coarse fractions will be sorted for finds. The fine fractions and flots will be evaluated and prioritised; only those with remains apparent will be sorted. The prioritised flots will not be sorted until the analysis stage when phasing information is available.

6.11 Flots will be scanned and plant remains from selected contexts will be identified and further sampling, sieving and sorting targeted towards higher potential deposits.

7 Finds and Samples

7.1 The IFA *Guidelines for Finds Work* will be adhered to.

7.2 All items of archaeological significance from the excavation will be examined and recorded to form part of the site archive to be eventually deposited with Leicestershire Museums. All identified finds and

artefacts are to be retained, although certain classes of building material may, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording.

7.3 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner. Where appropriate they will be cleaned, marked and receive remedial conservation in accordance with recognised best-practice. This will include the Site code number, finds number and context number. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self sealing plastic bags, again marked with Site code, finds and context numbers and boxed by material in standard storage boxes (340mm x 270mm x 195mm). All metal objects will be x-rayed and then selected for conservation. All materials will be fully labelled, catalogued and stored in appropriate containers.

7.4 Advice on conservation will be provided by the accredited conservator at University of Leicester School of Archaeological Studies. All remedial on-site conservation will follow UKIC guidelines.

8 . Report and Archive

8.1 An accession number will be drawn from Rutland County Council (Museums). A report on the fieldwork will be provided following analysis of the records and materials.

8.2. The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

8.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in the 'Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage' (UKIC 1990), and Standards in the Museum care of archaeological collections (MGC 1992) and 'Guidelines for the preparation of site archives and assessments for all finds (other than fired clay objects) (RFG/FRG 1993) will be presented to an appropriate registered museum within six months of the completion of analysis. This archive will include all written, disk-based, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

8.4 On the completion of fieldwork the originating organisation should complete the on-line OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project> /oasis on completion of the fieldwork.

9 Timetable and staffing

10.1. The excavation will commence with controlled topsoil removal down to the top of the archaeological deposits and can start during the week beginning 08.01.2007. The watching brief will commence at the re-start of the contractors groundworks

11. Health and Safety

11.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (2005) with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate.

12. Insurance

12.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with St Pauls Travellers Policy No. UCPOP3651237 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters (50%) and Brit Insurances (50%) Policy No. FUNK3605.

13. Bibliography

Lewis, C., 2006 'The Medieval period (850-1500)' in N. Cooper *The Archaeology of the East Midlands. A resource assessment and research agenda* University of Leicester: Leicester Monograph 13, 185-216.

MAP 2, *The management of archaeological projects* 2nd edition English Heritage 1991

MGC 1992, *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission)

RFG/FRG 1993, *Guidelines for the preparation of site archives* (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700)

SMA 1993, *Selection, retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* (Society of Museum Archaeologists)

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Appendix 4. Leicestershire County Council Brief

Brief for The Archaeological Excavation and Attendance (watching brief) of Land off Main Road, Old Dalby, (Broughton and Old Dalby) Leicestershire.

Summary of Brief

1.1 Following completion of a staged programme of archaeological investigation, the development site has been identified as an area of significant archaeological potential. The investigation has included the preparation of a desk-based assessment prepared by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS Rep. 2004/139), followed by a programme of evaluation by trial trenching (ULAS Rep.: 2005/128), again undertaken by ULAS. The latter has demonstrated the presence of significant buried archaeological remains of the late Saxon and medieval periods (10th-15th century AD). The significance of these remains and the character of the proposed development, requires the developer to make provision for a further programme of detailed investigation and recording. This work shall be undertaken and completed in advance of the impact of development.

1.2 In consequence the Senior Planning Archaeologist has recommended the completion of a scheme of archaeological investigation and recording. This shall comprise as necessary: area excavation, control and supervision of groundworks (an intensive watching brief), and make provision for the appropriate scientific and environmental sampling.

Appendices for reference as part of this Brief

General location plan.

The Site location.

Site location and description

3.1 The development area is located to the rear of residential properties (nos. 16-30) fronting onto Main Street, Old Dalby, in the parish of Broughton and Old Dalby, Leicestershire (NGR SK67472377 area). The application area is approximately rectangular, comprising c. 0.439ha of rough pasture. The area slopes from west to east, with ground level between c. 91m-87m aOD. The south-eastern site boundary is formed by a watercourse, the medieval/post-medieval management of which may be reflected in the earthwork bank located to the south-east of the site.

Soils and geology

4.1 The soils are chalky till of the Ragdale Association, described as slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey and fine loamy over clayey soil, with some slowly permeable calcareous clayey soil especially on slopes. The soils lie over solid Lower Jurassic mudstone of the Charmouth Mudstone Formation, except for the south-eastern edge of the development area where undifferentiated clay and silt head deposits define the line of the watercourse (Geological Survey of England & Wales, Melton, Sheet 142).

5. Site Constraints

A public footpath between Main Street and Paradise Road crosses the northern half of the development site from north-west to north-east, entering the site to the rear of n. 24, Main Street. With the exception of the footpath, no constraints have been established by, or notified to Leicestershire County Council. However, the contractor shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure they are aware of all services, above and below ground that may affect the completion of the fieldwork programme. Appropriate liaison and on site investigation should form part of any project specification, to ensure thorough understanding of any issues relevant to the completion of the archaeological investigation.

6. Historical and Archaeological Background

The proposed development site is located near the centre of Old Dalby, to the rear of Main Road. The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates the application area lies within the historic settlement core of the medieval and post-medieval village (HER ref.: MLE9269). Earthworks of the medieval village (MLE3446) and nearby scheduled preceptory of the Knights Templars (MLE3448) lie to the south of the development site.

7. Previous work and archaeological survey

7.1 Previous evaluation has demonstrated the survival of significant buried archaeological remains. Features were identified in all the excavated trenches with particular clusters in trenches 1, 2 and 5. The report also notes the presence of an earthwork to the south-east of the site, possibly representing a flood management bank, although dating suggests it was constructed in the later medieval or early post-medieval periods.

8. Planning Background and Requirement for Work

Proposals have been submitted to Melton Borough Council as a full application for the erection of four detached residential properties, garages, access and landscaping (Planning permissions 05/00006/ful & 07/00315/ful).

8.2 Based upon an assessment of the development impact, it seems likely that the current proposals will have a damaging impact upon the identified archaeological remains. Consequently, it is recommended that the applicant is now required to undertake an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation and recording. This will comprise prior targeted excavation of the buried remains followed by archaeological attendance (a watching brief) during the development programme.

Methodology

The site investigation shall comprise two separate elements to run either consecutively or concurrently dependent upon the development timetable and the availability of the necessary archaeological resources. This shall comprise open area excavation of the targeted areas (Plots 2 and 4), and an intensive watching brief to be undertaken within the remaining development area.

Soil Stripping.

Top and subsoil stripping shall be undertaken under archaeological control and supervision. Machinery employed shall be appropriate for the requirements of the task, and shall be operated so as to minimise damage to archaeological deposits (avoid tracking across exposed or unprotected archaeological deposits, use of bladed ditching bucket, etc.).

Machine excavation of overburden within the targeted areas of archaeological interest (Plots 2 and 4) shall be under continuous archaeological control and supervision, and entail:

9.2.3 It is expected that the supervising archaeologist shall use their professional judgement to direct and target soil stripping to maximise the recovery of archaeological remains. This may result in variation to the expected open areas. Where this shall be significantly less than currently proposed, the prior agreement of the Senior Planning Archaeologist will be required.

Site Grid

A site grid for the whole development area shall be established and related to the National Grid.

9.4 Area Excavation

9.4.1 Each excavation area shall be fully cleaned by hand except where it is clear from observation of machining that no archaeological remains exist. The area should then be assessed by the project Director in consultation with the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council, to identify sub-areas warranting detailed investigation and recording. For the assessment process it will be necessary to do sufficient investigation to allow at least tentative identification of discrete meaningful units within each area and their state of preservation. Overall plans of each area should be

made at a scale of not less than 1:100 whilst settlement areas and other features of particular significance or areas of complex stratigraphy should be planned at not less than 1:20. Sections shall be recorded through all cut features, etc. at a scale of 1:10 and levelled to Ordnance datum. Additional levels shall be taken as appropriate. A comprehensive written context record and photographic record shall be maintained.

9.4.2 The sampling of features by hand can only be finally decided in the field on the basis of their potential to contribute to the project objectives and regional research agendas. However, the following guidelines indicate the level of work that is considered to be necessary for intensive and non-intensive excavation:

Ditches: all intersections, entrances/terminals shall be investigated together with a 5-10% sample excavation of fills along the feature's length to provide a sufficient record of the significance and character of the buried remains.

Structural features/gullies: all intersections, entrances/terminals shall be excavated, and sufficient of the remaining length to provide a minimum 20% sample, by length of the overall feature. Where atypical or artefactually rich deposits are identified, consideration should be given to additional sampling and/or full excavation.

Timber 'post hole' structures. Represented by slots and or postholes, including prehistoric and later structures shall be as a minimum half excavated. Where the character and significance of the archaeological deposits warrant additional investigation, consideration shall be given to full excavation as well as specialist sampling, etc. Consideration shall also be given to three-dimensional recording of finds.

Pits. For intensive investigation individual pits or small groups shall be, as a minimum, half sectioned. Where appropriate full excavation shall be considered for features of particular significance/potential. A representative sample of larger pit groups may be selected. Where non-intensive excavation is proposed normally only 50% of pits will need to be sampled as above (half sectioned/fully excavated).

Burials. Shall be fully excavated taking into account the current advice from the Ministry of Justice.

Special deposits. Any deposits of particular importance, e.g. potential ritual deposits, large closely stratified pottery assemblages should be fully excavated. Palaeochannels shall be sampled for environmental evidence and for dating purposes.

9.5 Watching Brief and Contingency

9.5.1 Machining within the designated zone shall be carried out under archaeological supervision and control in accordance with a scheme which has been agreed in advance. This shall incorporate the following issues:

The stripping methodology and timetable

The machinery to be used, to avoid unnecessary disturbance of archaeological deposits and maximise the speed and efficiency of the scheme.

Procedure in the event of significant and unexpected discoveries. The developer shall make all reasonable provision for the appropriate investigation and recording of significant archaeological deposits identified during the soil stripping and site formation.

10. Site Access: Health and Safety

The archaeological Contractor will be responsible for ensuring that all works are conducted in accordance with a defined Health and Safety Policy. Contractors must observe all current safe working practices, whether required by their own policy or those of the principal development contractor (see SCAUM Manual, Health & Safety in Field Archaeology, 1997).

Before commencing work the Contractor must carry out a Risk Assessment and liaise with the site owner, archaeological Consultants and the Senior Planning Archaeologist in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised. A copy of this must be given to the Senior Planning Archaeologist before commencement of Site works.

The prospective developer must provide all information reasonably obtainable on contamination and the location of live services before commencement of Site works.

No personnel are to work in deep unsupported excavations. Trench sides will be constantly assessed for stability and will have to be stepped, battered back or shored when there is risk of collapse.

All archaeological trenches will be backfilled upon completion. This is to be the responsibility of the archaeological Contractor, unless the prospective developer has given written instruction to the contrary.

11. Preservation in Situ

11.1 All excavation by machine and hand must be undertaken with a view to avoid damaging archaeological deposits or features which appear worthy of preservation in situ or more detailed investigation.

11.2 The discovery of substantial structural remains requiring preservation in situ will entail detailed discussion between all relevant parties. The costs associated with excavating, conserving, and curation of other unforeseen objects or structures of national importance lie outside the scope of this evaluation.

11.3 Where structures, features or finds appear to merit preservation in situ, they must be adequately protected from deterioration.

12. Archaeological Sciences and Environmental Sampling

12.1 Palaeoenvironmental sampling and archaeological scientific investigations should be undertaken in a manner broadly consistent with the English Heritage document The Management of Archaeological Projects.

12.2 An outline strategy of sampling for scientific dating, geoarchaeology and soil science, biological analysis, artefact conservation and analysis, and analysis of technological residues, ceramics, and stone should be agreed with the Local Authority, in consultation with the English Heritage Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science (RA) before commencement of site work. This strategy should be based on the evaluation results, and should be contained in the Project Design/Specification. The strategy will be subject to variation as appears necessary during the excavation, following consultation with the Local Authority and the RA.

12.3 Contractors are to adhere to the recommendations in the 'Working Papers of the Association for Environmental Archaeology, Number 2. Environmental archaeology evaluations, September 1995' and English Heritage guidance (2002), Environmental Archaeology. A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation).

Broadly palaeoenvironmental samples and sampling for archaeological scientific analysis will be taken where ever appropriate from features/deposits to facilitate their dating, characterisation and analysis. Samples should be taken from the fills of features where organic materials may be preserved, such as pits, ditches and other deposits, especially if waterlogged.

13. Treatment of Finds

All finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) First Aid For Finds, 1998 (new edition) and the recipient museum's guidelines.

Any finds of human remains will be left in situ, covered and protected and the appropriate authorities informed. If removal is essential it can only take place under appropriate Home Office and environmental health regulations, and if appropriate, in compliance with the 'Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981.

All finds which may constitute 'treasure' under the Treasure Act, 1997 must be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner. Where removal can not take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

All identified finds and artefacts will be retained, although certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is recommended by the recipient museum's archive curator.

14. Post-excavation Work

14.1 According to standard procedure, excavation will be followed by a period of post-excavation processing. This should involve the cataloguing and analysis of any finds, samples and the preparation of the archive for the site report and deposition.

14.2 The excavation report should be supplemented by a post-Excavation Assessment Report written in accordance with MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) and IFA Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Excavations (1999). If the report is in response to a planning condition, it is in the developer's interest to ensure this report is prepared to an adequate standard (see 'Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland') in order that a judgement of the archaeological value of the site can be made as quickly as possible.

15. Reports

A full written report combining all stages of the excavation and watching brief should be prepared, at least two copies of which should be sent to the Historic & Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council.

The report/s ought to:

Include

Plans of the development site, investigated areas and other appropriate details tied into the Ordnance Survey data

Sections and plans of significant features/areas

An account of the archaeological findings together with their interpretation

Any specialist reports

A concise non-technical summary of the project results

A summary of the archive contents

Assess

The archaeological significance of the development site and any archaeological deposits encountered during the fieldwork

The evidence in its setting, regional context and also aim to highlight any research priorities where applicable

15.3 Wherever appropriate, outline the options for achieving the preferred option of preservation in situ of significant archaeological deposits.

LCC brief