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**Archaeological Services**

**An Archaeological Fieldwalking  
Survey over land off the Fleet,  
Stoney Stanton, Leicestershire  
NGR: SP 493 953 centre**

Jon Coward



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**An Archaeological Fieldwalking  
Survey over land off the Fleet,  
Stoney Stanton, Leicestershire**

**NGR: NGR: SP 493 953 centre**

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**For: Persimmon Homes**

Approved by

**Signed:**



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**X.A38.2010**

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## **An Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey over land off The Fleet, Stoney Stanton, Leicestershire. NGR: SP 493 953 centre**

### ***1. Summary***

*A fieldwalking survey was carried out in March 2010 by ULAS for Persimmon Homes on land east of The Fleet, Stoney Stanton, Leicestershire SP 493 953. A very sparse scatter of medieval to early post-medieval pottery was recovered, together with a single flint, and larger amounts of post-medieval to modern pottery and ceramic building material. The archive will be deposited with LMARS under accession code X.A38.2010.*

### ***2. Background***

This document reports the results of a fieldwalking survey undertaken to evaluate potential archaeological deposits on land adjacent to The Fleet, Stoney Stanton, Leicestershire (SP 493 953), in advance of proposed housing development. The development covers an area of *c.* 7.5 ha currently used as agricultural land, lying at a height of around 82m OD. The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 15 indicated that the underlying geology of the site was likely to consist of Glacial Till and Mercia Mudstone Group clay. The site consisted of two fields, which were largely flat and bordered by hedgerows and domestic fences. The larger was arable, the other rough pasture, and there was a narrow road verge also. Only the large arable field (*c.*5.2 ha) was suitable for fieldwalking.

An archaeological desk-based assessment of the site (Richards 2009) concluded that there was low to moderate potential for archaeological remains being present within the assessment area. The fields would appear to have been farmland since at least the post-medieval period and any underlying archaeology was likely to be relatively well preserved. The site lies to the north-east of Stoney Stanton village in an area that is largely undeveloped. Most of the known archaeological sites in the area were located in the village cores of Stoney Stanton and Potters Marston to the north-east. Finds of prehistoric artefacts, including flint tools from the Mesolithic (MLE7388) and Iron Age (MLE6499 & MLE6570) were known from the vicinity, indicating that there was human activity from these periods in this area, and the lack of known archaeology within the assessment area may be due to the archaeological potential being untested.

### ***3. Aims***

The overall aim of the survey was to gather sufficient information to establish the extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any archaeological features and deposits within the area targeted for evaluation.

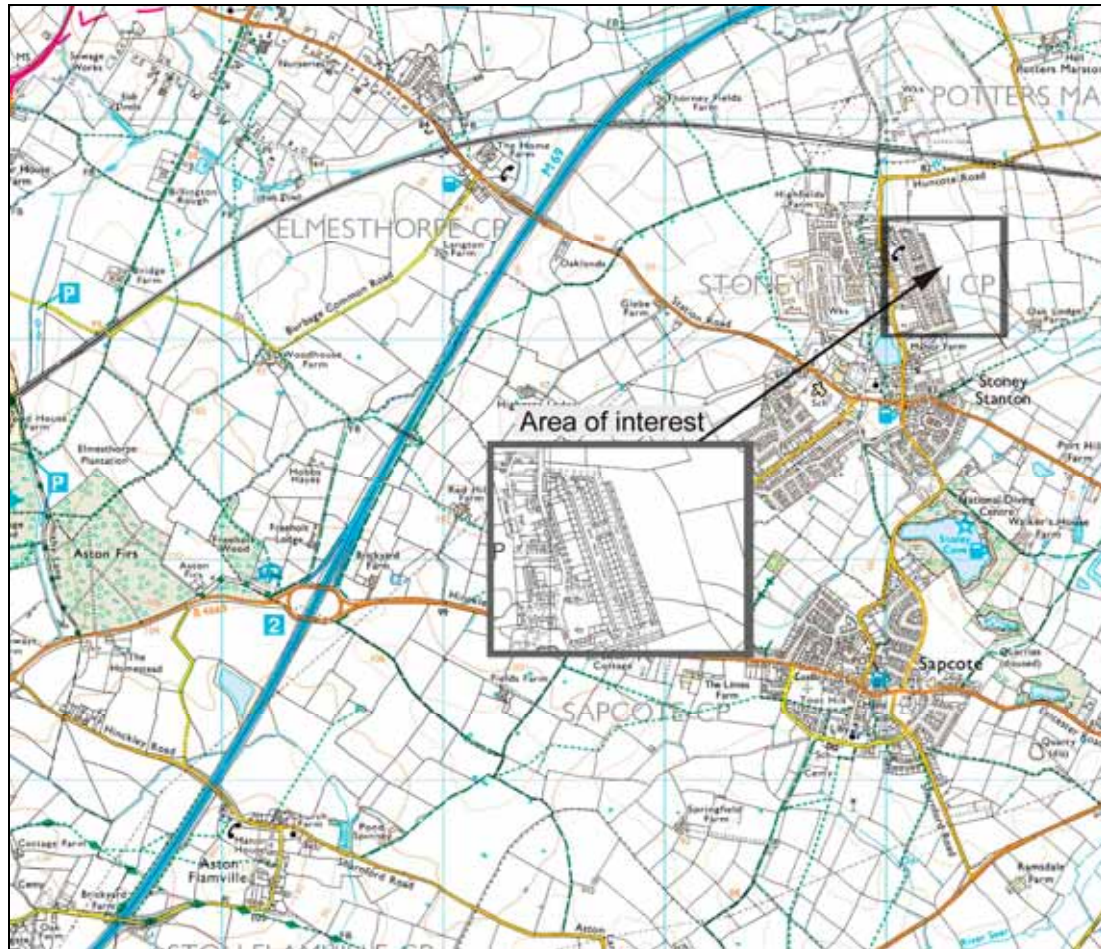


Figure 1 Stoney Stanton, Leicestershire.

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#### 4. Methods

The field was surveyed in March 2010 using traverses 20m apart with 1 metre scanned each side of the traverse line, giving a potential sample of 10% of the surveyed area. Field conditions were good, the ground weathered and not obscured by crop, and the light, although bright, caused little glare. Finds were recovered and logged using hand-held Garmin GPS units, which were showing an average accuracy of approx 5-6m during the survey. Finds which were judged to be obviously modern (e.g. eighteenth century and later) by the survey team were left on the ground and not logged; thus any modern pot shown in the distribution map and the finds identification tables will be a considerable under-representation.

A geophysical survey was also undertaken of the field (Haddrell 2010).

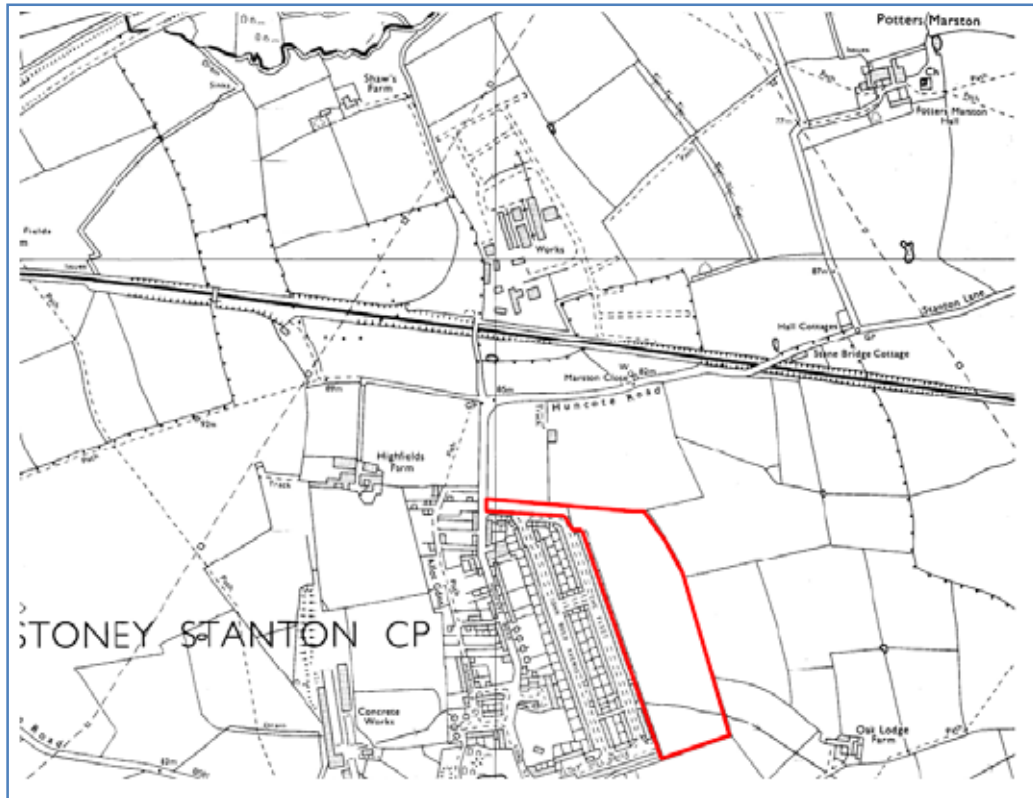


Figure 2 Application area  
Plan provided by developer. Fieldwalked area is the large middle field

## 5. Results

(See Appendix 1: The finds)

Only a single flint (no 109) attests to any prehistoric activity in the area, and no Romano-British material was recovered. Considering the area's proximity to the major medieval pottery production site of Potters Marston 1km to the north-east, the paucity of sherds of this ware (only 2) is surprising, moreover this paucity is reflected by the products of the other medieval wares: the total medieval sherd count is only 7 pieces (Figure 3). One would expect a medieval manuring scatter from the adjacent village to be more dense than this. Moving into the post-medieval period (Figure 4) the sherd count increases, and the comparative lack of medieval pottery could be taken as indicating that the surveyed area was neither settled, nor under the plough, until the later post-medieval period.

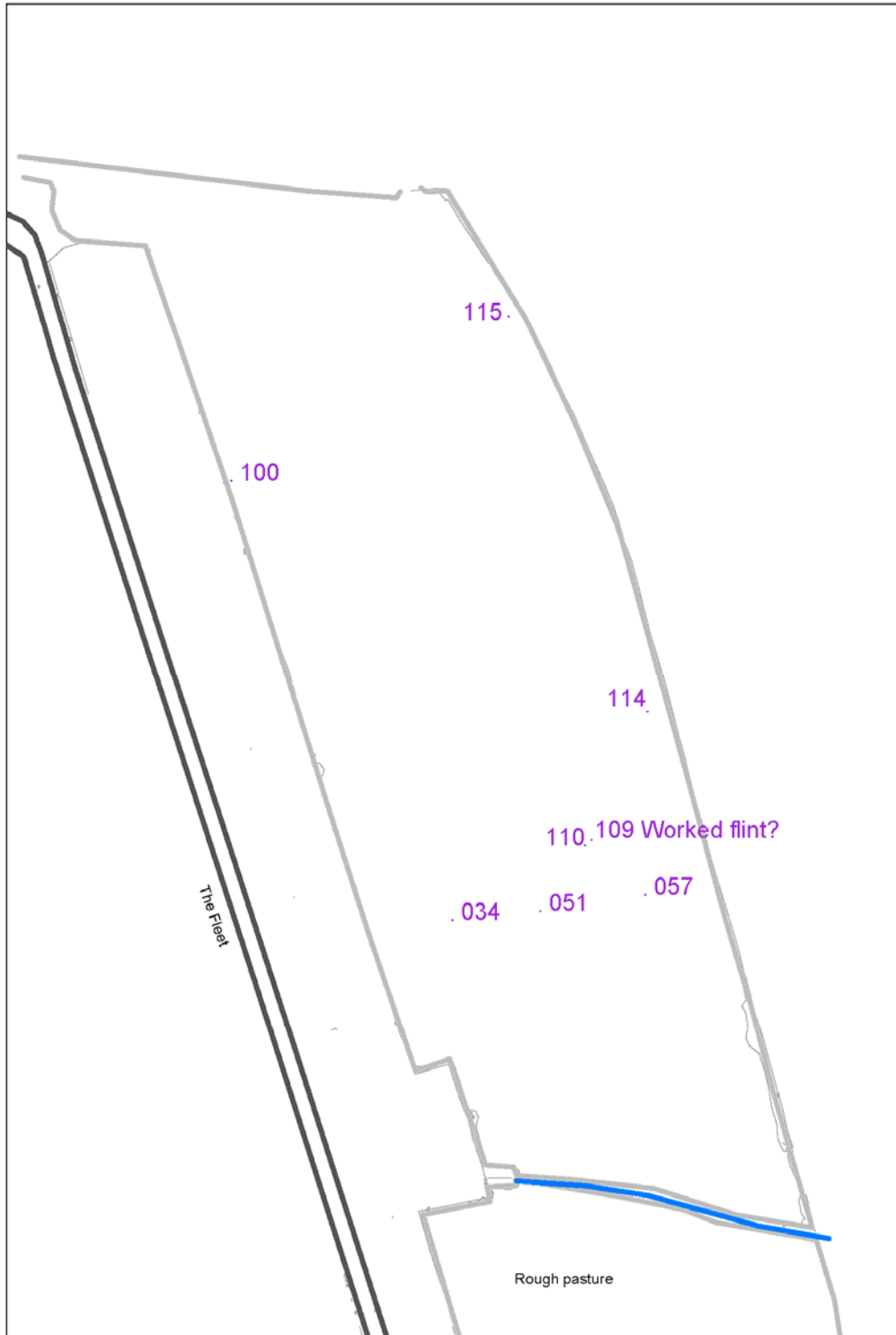


Figure 3 Prehistoric (109), medieval and early post-medieval material. See finds table for identifications.

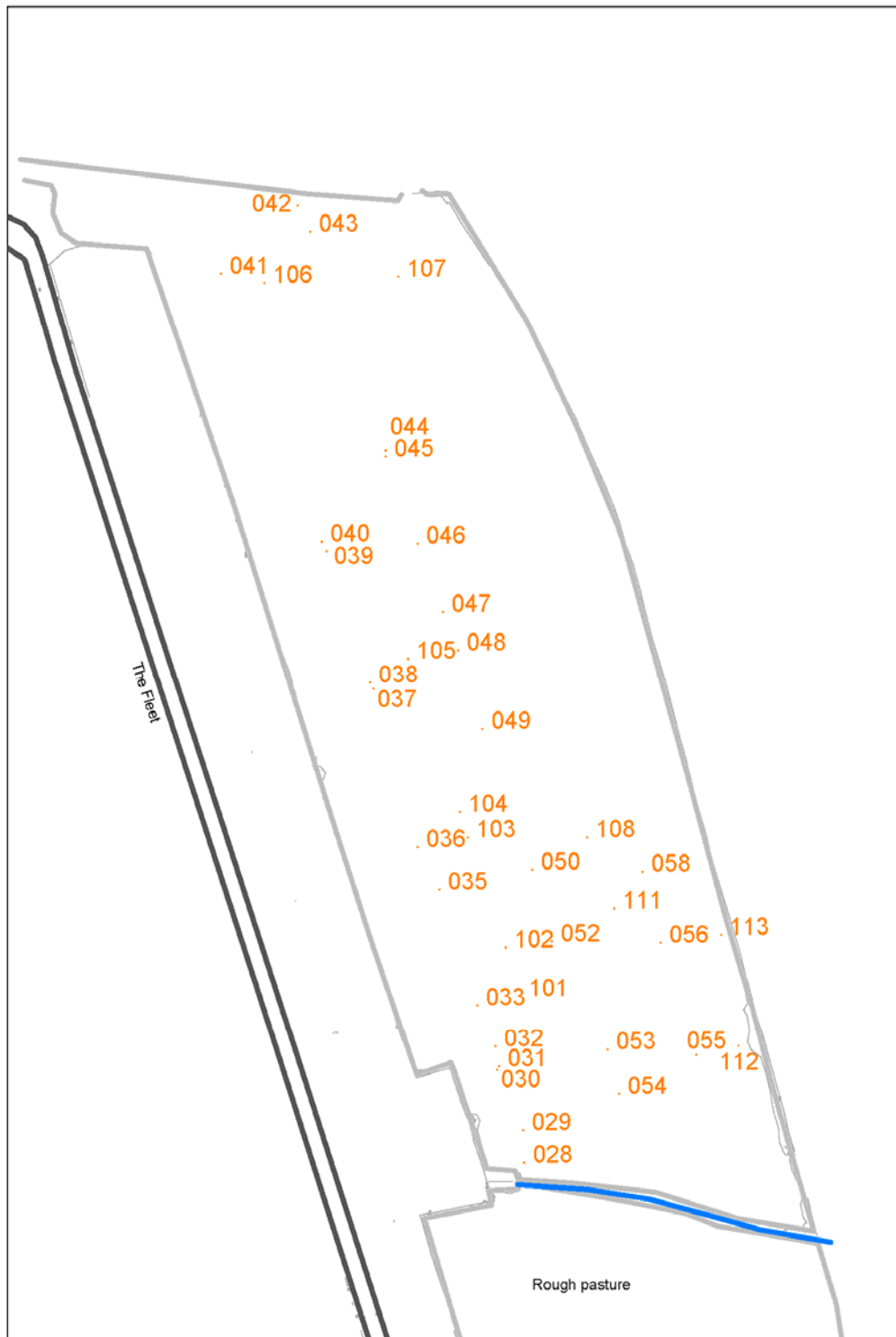


Figure 4 Late post-medieval and modern material. See finds table for identifications.

### 6. Archive

The archive consists of the finds themselves, a *pro-forma* fieldwalk diary sheet, and a print-out of finds locations on O.S.co-ordinates. It will be archived by LMARS under accession code X.A38.2010.



### **7. Acknowledgements**

The survey was carried out by Jon Coward and Dave Parker of ULAS. Project management was by Richard Buckley.

### **8. Bibliography**

- Haddrell, D., 2010 *Land Off The Fleet, Stoney Stanton: Geophysical Survey report*. Unpub. Stratascan report J2703
- Richards, G., 2009 *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment for land off The Fleet, Stoney Stanton, Leicestershire (SP 493 953)* Unpub. ULAS Report 2009-143

*Appendix 1: The finds*

Deborah Sawday

*The Pottery, Ceramic Building Material and Miscellaneous finds*

The pottery, 27 sherds, weighing 324 grams was catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 1989), (Davies and Sawday 1999). Sixteen fragments of post medieval or modern ceramic building material, chiefly brick and tile, were also recorded. The results are shown in Tables 1 – 3 below. The remaining finds included a flint nodule, possibly struck as a test piece in the Pre-historic period (L. Cooper pers. comm.). An iron nail, industrial residue and what may be a fragment of worked stone were also present.

Table 1 The medieval and later pottery by fabric, sherd numbers and weight (grams).

Fabric	Common Name	Sherds	Weight	% of Total sherds nos.
<b>Medieval/Early Post Medieval</b>				
PM	Potters Marston	2	16	
CC1	Chilvers Coton 1	1	9	
MS	Medieval Sandy	1	5	
MP2	Midland Purple 2	1	10	
CW2/MB	Cistercian 2/Midland Black ware	2	24	
<b>Sub Totals</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>25.9</b>
<b>Post Medieval/Modern</b>				
EA1/2, EA2	Earthenware 1/2	15	227	
EA4/7	Earthenware 4/7	3	26	
EA10	Earthenware 10	1	4	
EA	Earthenware	1	3	
<b>Sub Totals</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>74.0</b>
<b>Totals</b>		<b>27</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>99.9</b>

The medieval and early post medieval pottery accounted for approximately 25% of the site totals by sherd count, and comprised a range of wares typical of the region: Potters Marston, Chilvers Coton, Midland Purple and Cistercian/Midland Blackware. The remainder of the assemblage is made up of post medieval and modern material, whilst the Earthenwares EA4 and EA7 date from the 17th century most of the remaining Earthenware, EA1 and EA2, date from the post medieval to the modern periods. EA2, the most common ware, is predominantly a pancheon ware, dates primarily from the later 18th or 19th centuries. A flower pot fragment in the unclassified Earthenware, EA, is also present.

The medieval and early post medieval pottery seems to be typically local in origin. Potters Marston, a major local pottery production centre from c.1100, is situated only approximately one km to the north east of the village of Stoney Stanton. Chilvers Coton, a suburb of Nuneaton, which lies c.15km (approximately 10 miles) to the

south west, was another major manufacturing centre for pottery in the medieval period.

Chilvers Coton and Ticknall in Derbyshire, the latter lying c.32 km to the north west of the site, are the most likely sources of the later medieval Midland Purple fabric MP2 and the Cistercian ware CW2. The post medieval Midland Blackware and many of the post medieval and modern Earthenwares, including the ceramic building material, may also originate from the same sources – though more local sources for the latter cannot be discounted.

The majority of the finds may be associated with the manuring of the fields in both medieval and modern times.

#### Bibliography

Connor, A., and Buckley, R., 1999 *Roman and Medieval Occupation in Causeway Lane, Leicester*, Leicester Archaeology Mon. **5**.

Davies, S., and Sawday, D., 1999 'The Post Roman Pottery and Tile' in A. Connor and R. Buckley, 1999, 165-213.

Sawday, D., 1989 'The post Roman pottery', 28-41 in J.N. Lucas, 'An excavation in the north east quarter of Leicester: Elbow Lane, 1977', *Trans. Leicestershire Archaeol. and Hist. Soc.* **63**, 18-47.

Table 2 Key to Pottery/Ceramic Building Material Fabrics and to Date ranges

Fabric	Ware	Date Code	Period	Date Range
PM	Potters Marston	EM	Early Med	c.1100/1250
CC1	Chilvers Coton 1	MED	Medieval	c.1250-1400
MS	Medieval Sandy	MED	Medieval	c.1250-1400
MP2	Midland Purple 2	LM	Late Medieval	c.1375/1400 - 1500/50
CW2/MB	Cistercian/ Midland Black	LM/EPM	Late Med/Early Post Med	c.1450-1650
EA1	Earthenware 1	EPM/PM	Early Post Med/Post Med	c.1500/50-1750
EA2	Earthenware 2	PM/MOD	Post Med/Mod	c.1500/50-1900+
EA4/7	Earthenwares 4/7	LPM	Post Med	c.1650-1750
EA10	Earthenware 10	MOD	Modern	c.1750+
EA	Earthenware	PM/MOD	Post Med/Mod	c.1500-1900+

Table 3: The Finds

Find No.	Fabric/ Material	Nos	Grams	Date Range	Comments
28	EA	1	8	PM/MOD	CBM (Ceramic Building Material)
29	EA	1	6	PM/MOD	CBM
30	EA	1	42	PM/MOD	CBM
31	EA	1	9	PM/MOD	CBM
32	EA4	1	2	LPM	POT
33	EA2	1	16	PM/MOD	POT
34	MP2	1	10	LM	Pot – under fired, brown glaze
35	EA	1	34	PM/MOD	CBM
36	EA2	1	56	PM/MOD	POT - Wide mouthed bowl or pancheon rim
37	EA	1	14	PM/MOD	CBM
38	EA	1	11	PM/MOD	CBM
39	EA	1	76	MOD	CBM
40	EA1/2	1	23	EPM/PM	POT – bowl rim
41	EA	1	7	PM/MOD	CBM
42	EA1/2	1	27	EPM/PM	POT
43	EA	1	16	MOD	CBM
44	EA	1	3	MOD	Flower pot
45	EA2	1	5	PM/MOD	POT
46	EA2	1	10	PM/MOD	POT
47	EA1/2	1	12	EPM/PM	POT
48	EA1/2	1	5	EPM/PM	POT
49	EA	1	15	MOD	CBM
50	EA2	1	1	PM	POT - fine ware
51	MS	1	5	LM	POT
52	EA7	1	8	LPM	POT
53	EA	1	12	PM	CBM
54	EA	1	40	MOD	CBM
55	EA7	1	16	LPM	POT – dish , press moulded, pie crust rim
56	EA2	1	14	PM/MOD	POT
57	PM	1	7	EM	POT
58	EA2	1	11	PM/MOD	POT
100	PM	1	9	EM	POT
101	STONE	1			Possibly worked in 2 planes, but very fragmentary.
102	IND RESIDUE	1			
103	EA1/2	1	17	EPM/PM	POT
104	EA2	1	5	EPM/PM	POT – fine ware
105	EA10	1	4	MOD	POT – fine ware, transfer printed under glaze

106	EA	1	19	MOD	CBM
107	EA	1	8	MOD	CBM
108	FE	1		PM/MOD	?NAIL
109	FLINT	1		? PREHIS.	Struck nodule – possibly a test piece?
110	CC1	1	9	MED	POT
111	EA	1	11	MOD	CBM
112	EA2	1	16	PM/MOD	POT
113	EA2	1	9	PM/MOD	POT
114	CW2/MB	1	19	LM/EPM	POT
115	CW2/MB	1	22	LM/EPM	POT

Site/ Parish: The Fleet, Stoney Stanton, Leics. Accession No.: XA38 2010 Document Ref: stoneystanton1.docx Material: pot/flint/cbm Site Type: open fields	Submitter: J. Coward Identifier: pot etc – D. Sawday/ flint – L. Cooper Date of Identification: 29.3.2010 Method of Recovery: field walking Job Number: 10 – 146 01
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**OASIS**

<b>INFORMATION REQUIRED</b>	<b>EXAMPLE</b>
Project Name	The Fleet, Stoney Stanton, Leicestershire.
Project Type	Fieldwalking survey
Project Manager	Richard Buckley
Project Supervisor	Jon Coward
Previous/Future work	Geophysical survey
Current Land Use	Arable
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	PPG16
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	SP 493 953 centre
Start/end dates of field work	March 2010
Archive Recipient	LMARS
<b>Study Area *</b>	5.2 ha

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