UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER
Archaeological Services

Bosworth Links Digs Coton
The Settlement of the Cottages

SK 393 023 & SK 387 019

Mathew Morris

With Paul Blinkhorn and Wayne Jarvis

ULAS Report No: 2024-002

MARKET BOSWORTH SOCIETY

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Site Name: Community archaeological test pitting at Coton Priory and Far Coton, Leicestershire

Grid Ref: SK 393 023 & SK 387 019

Author: Mathew Morris MA ACIfA

Client: Market Bosworth Society / Bosworth Links

Planning Ref. n/a

ULAS Job No: 23-916

ULAS Report No: 2024-002

Accession No: X.A39.2023

Filename/Version	Checked by	Date	Notes
Carlton TP report	Mathew Morris	03/05/2023	Draft
2024-002 draft	Mathew Morris	05/01/2024	Draft completed
2024-002v1	Mathew Morris	12/01/2024	Minor edits

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OASIS RECORD

PROJECT DETAILS	**Oasis No**	universi1-521923		
	Project Name	Bosworth Links Digs Coton		
	Start/end dates	22/04/2023 to 23/04/2023		
	Previous/Future Work	No further works		
	Project Type	Community test pitting		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Private gardens		
	Monument Type/Period	Surface, late medieval/early post-medieval		
	Significant Finds/Period	Pottery, Roman, medieval and post-medieval Flint, Bronze Age		
	Reason for Investigation	Research		
	Position in the Planning Process	n/a		
	Planning Ref.	n/a		
PROJECT LOCATION	**County**	Leicestershire		
	Site Address/Postcode	Various locations across Coton Priory and Far Coton, Leicestershire CV13		
	Study Area	11 1m sq test pits		
	Site Coordinates	SK 393 023 & SK 387 019		
	Height OD	100m OD to 110m OD		
PROJECT CREATORS	**Organisation**	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Market Bosworth Society / Bosworth Links		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Mathew Morris		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Mathew Morris		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Market Bosworth Society / National Lottery Heritage Fund		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		**Physical**	**Digital**	**Paper**
	Recipient	Leicestershire Museums	Archaeological Data Service	Leicestershire Museums
	ID (Acc. No.)	X.A39.2023	X.A39.2023	X.A39.2023
	Contents	Flint, pottery, clay pipe, glass, metalwork, bone & shell	Photographs, final report, specialist reports	Test-pit recording booklets, field notes
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	**Type**	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Description	Developer Report A4 pdf		
	Title	Bosworth Links Digs Coton: The Settlement of the Cottages		
	Author	Mathew Morris		
	Other bibliographic details	ULAS Report No. 2024-002		
	Date	2023		
	Publisher/Place	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester		

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Acknowledgements

A project like this could not have succeeded without the support and contributions of many individuals and organisations. University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved, especially project chairman Nigel Palmer, whose inspiration and enthusiasm brought the work to fruition, together with members of the Bosworth Links committee, Judy Buckell, Marion Lambourne and Project Officer Gemma Tallis.

We would also like to thank the School of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Leicester for providing equipment, and Mr and Mrs Stamper, the Dixie Grammar School and Bosworth Parish Hall for all allowing use of their facilities.

The project was only made possible by funding provided by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and we thank them for the support and guidance throughout the project.

From Coton, we would like to extend a special thank you to the landowners and occupiers who generously provided access to their gardens and land: Mr and Mrs Stamper, Dave, Nigel, Terry, Sally Brothwell and Linda Kirkham.

We would also like to thank all the volunteers who contributed to the project, digging and recording test pits, and collecting and processing finds: Jane Alesbrook, Elizabeth Babington, Fiona Bennett, Katie Berry, Hannah Boston, Judith Boston, Judy Buckell, Chris Coombs, Graham Coombs, Steve Dilks, Simon Dodd, Joe Ecob, Mick Edwards, Isabella Edwards, Caroline Ellis, Laura Ellis, Alice Goodman, Annabelle Goodman, Jan Goodman, Joy Goodman, Steven Goodman, Zander Goss, Emma Harris, Dineke ten Hove, Paul Kettell, Marion Lambourne, David Liew, Richard Liddington, Masie Mansfield-Ellis, Amelia McDonald, Brayden McDonald, Chris Peat, Jonah Tallis, Mathew Tallis, Tina Tallis, Carol Thomas Paul Ready, Carol Riddington, Dawn Robinson, Andy Ridout, Judy Smithers, Jane Southgate, David Statham, Wendy Wallace, Jon Whiting, Marianne Whiting and Richard Yates.

From ULAS, fieldwork was supervised by Mathew Morris with Tom Clayton and Harriet Coulton. Post-excavation analysis at ULAS was undertaken by Mathew Morris with specialist assistance from Paul Blinkhorn and Wayne Jarvis. This report was written by Mathew Morris, who takes full responsibility for any errors or omissions. Photographs were taken by ULAS staff and Nigel Palmer, video by Bill Newsinger and drone footage by Tom Clayton. The project was managed for ULAS by Mathew Morris.

Summary

Bosworth Links Digs Coton was a community archaeology project organised by the Market Bosworth Society and made possible by funds from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The project involved residents of Coton and its wider community in carrying out archaeological excavations (test pits) in the spaces they inhabited in order to make new discoveries about the history of the places in which they lived.

The work was carried out by volunteers under the supervision of University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) in private gardens, paddocks and public green spaces at Far Coton and Coton Priory, Leicestershire, centered on National Grid Reference (NGR) SK 393 023 and SK 387 019.

Eleven 1m sq test pits were excavated. In most instance, test pits were dug through a sequence of turf, topsoil and subsoil, stopping when the natural ground was reached. Three test pits identified archaeological features, including a probable stone yard surface, a possible stone land drain and a disturbed dog burial. In total, 1559 individual finds (13.398kg) were recovered, ranging in date from the Bronze Age to the present day.

Bosworth Links Digs Coton has been a moderate success. Overall, the eleven test pits produced evidence for medieval agriculture from the 12th century onwards, and medieval occupation at Near Coton from the 15th century onwards, as well as tantalizing hints of earlier Bronze Age and Roman landscapes. The distribution of pottery from the test pits suggests that much of the area was given over to arable cultivation in the medieval period, enriched with domestic refuse, with land being given over to pasture from the 15th or 16th century onwards. At Far Coton, settlement was probably to the north of the study area in the vicinity of Upper and Lower Farm. At 'Middle Coton', the earthworks listed on the Historic Environment Record as deserted medieval settlement were more likely to be post-medieval field boundaries and modern earth movement, whilst at Near Coton medieval occupation did not appear to pre-date the 15th century. However, 15th century activity at Near Coton does suggest that settlement here is much earlier than previously attested, and 50-200 years earlier than the extant 17th century Coton Priory Farm.

A slight scatter of Bronze Age lithics represented a low-level 'background noise' of prehistoric activity in the wider landscape. Similarly, the small assemblage of Roman pottery also represented activity in the wider landscape, probably associated with Roman settlement sited to the north-east, closer to Market Bosworth.

The excavation formed part of the broader Bosworth Links Project and is archived with Leicestershire Museums Services accession number X.A39.2023.

Bosworth Links Digs Coton: The Settlement of the Cottages

Community archaeological test pitting at Coton Priory and Far Coton, Leicestershire

Mathew Morris

Introduction

Bosworth Links is a community archaeology project established in 2016 by the Market Bosworth Society, and made possibly by funds from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The project aimed to involve residents of Market Bosworth and its wider community in carrying out archaeological excavations (test pits) in the spaces they inhabited in order to make new discoveries about the history of the places in which they lived.

This document forms the report for community archeological test pitting carried out in private gardens at Coton Priory and Far Coton, Leicestershire, centered on National Grid References (NGR) SK 393 023 and SK 387 019.

The work was carried out by volunteers under the supervision of University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) for the Market Bosworth Society, as part of the Bosworth Links project. The scope of works was established by the Bosworth Links project and set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by ULAS (Morris 2023a).

Context of the project

In 2022, the Market Bosworth Society successfully secured funds from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to deliver a continuation of the community heritage project Bosworth Links in six settlements surrounding the town of Market Bosworth – provisionally identified as Coton, Carlton (excavated in September 2022, Morris 2023b), Osbaston, Cadeby, Sutton Cheney and Shenton. This would build on the results and research outcomes of the first phase of Bosworth Links, carried out in 2017-18 (Morris 2018).

The aim of the project was for residents of those villages, and their wider community, to carry out archaeological excavations (test pits) in the places they live in order to make new discoveries about the past history of the area. It was hoped that this would inspire and stimulate wider interest in the history of the region and contribute to ongoing academic research into the development of settlement, landscape, and demography in Britain.

The project was carried out by the Market Bosworth Society in collaboration with University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS), who provided technical and methodological advice and on-site training and supervision as well as specialist evaluation of the results which were reported back to the local community in a programme of outreach events.

As Professor Carenza Lewis has noted, this type of project is ‘about communities, in communities, for communities, with communities and by communities’ (2015, 395).

Participation was open to everyone who lives in the local and wider community of Coton Priory and Far Coton and the surrounding region. This included excavating and/or finds processing and/or helping with project planning and organisation. No previous archaeological knowledge or experience was needed, with training provided within the project, and there was opportunities for both able-bodied and less able people of all ages to take part in a wide range of activities including digging into the ground, searching through excavated soil, finds washing and maintaining written records.

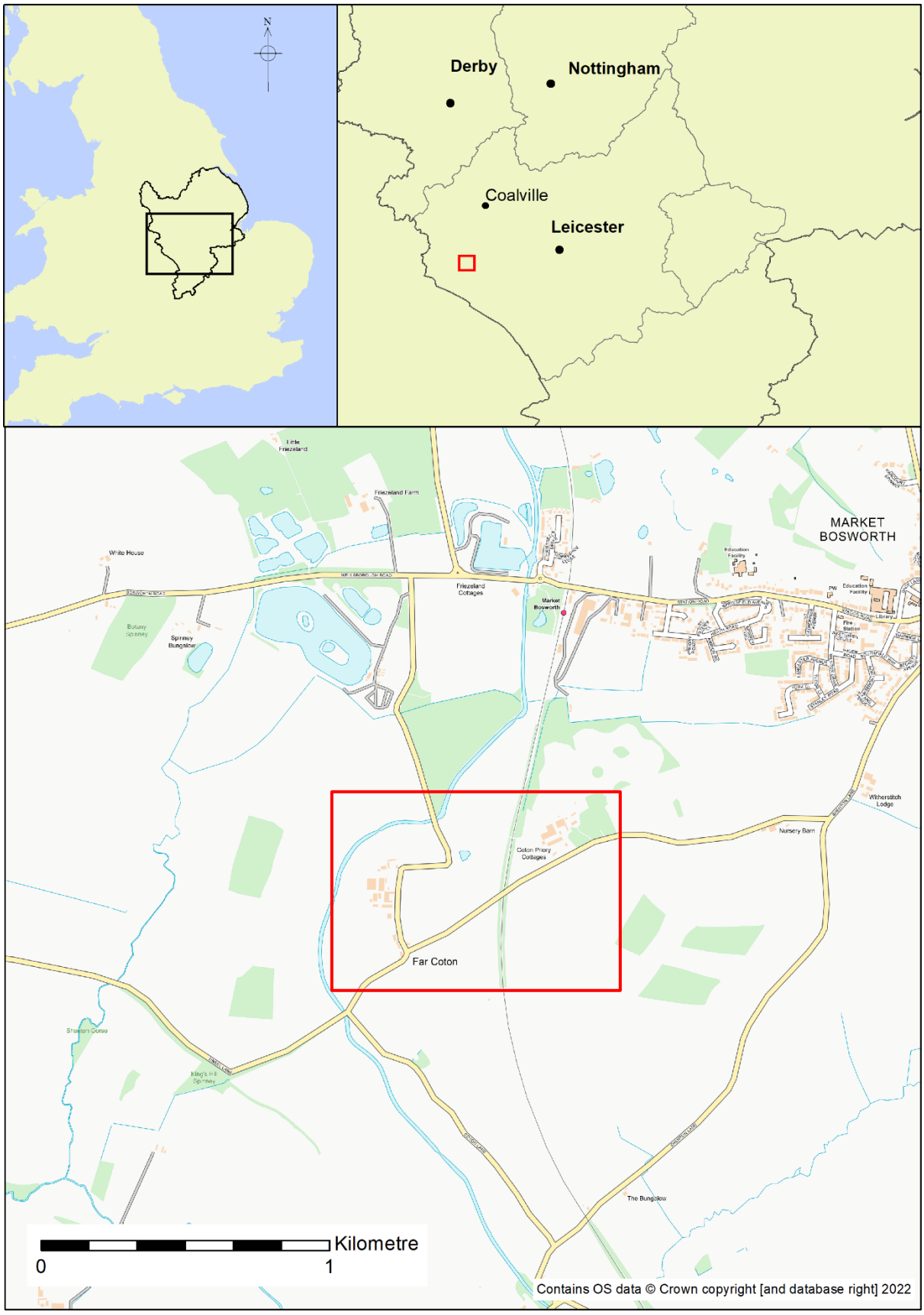

Figure 1: Location of study area.

Site Location, Geology and Topography

The study area was the hamlet of Coton Priory and Far Coton, which lies approximately 1km south-west of Market Bosworth and 20km west of Leicester (Figure 1).

The project took place in eleven locations in private gardens across the hamlet (Figure 2). Today, the hamlet has two settlement foci, Coton Priory to the east (also called Near Coton), and Far Coton, 500m to the west. Coton Priory comprises Priory Farm and Coton Priory Cottages, all situated to the north of Priory Lane/Tinsel Lane. Far Coton comprises farms and other properties clustered around the junction of Priory Lane/Tinsel Lane and Coton Bridge Lane and along Coton Bridge Lane.

The hamlet lay at the western end of a north-east/south-west oriented ridge of high ground between 100m OD to the west and 110m OD to the east. Ground dropped away to the north, south and west into post-glacial tributary valleys of the River Sense.

The British Geological Survey website indicated that the underlying geology around both Far Coton and Coton Priory was likely comprised of superficial deposits of Mid Pleistocene glaciofluvial sand and gravel overlying Mid Triassic mudstone of the Gunthorpe Member (BGS OpenScience).

The Soilscape website indicated that the soils across Coton, where surviving, were slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils (Soilscape 18, http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/).

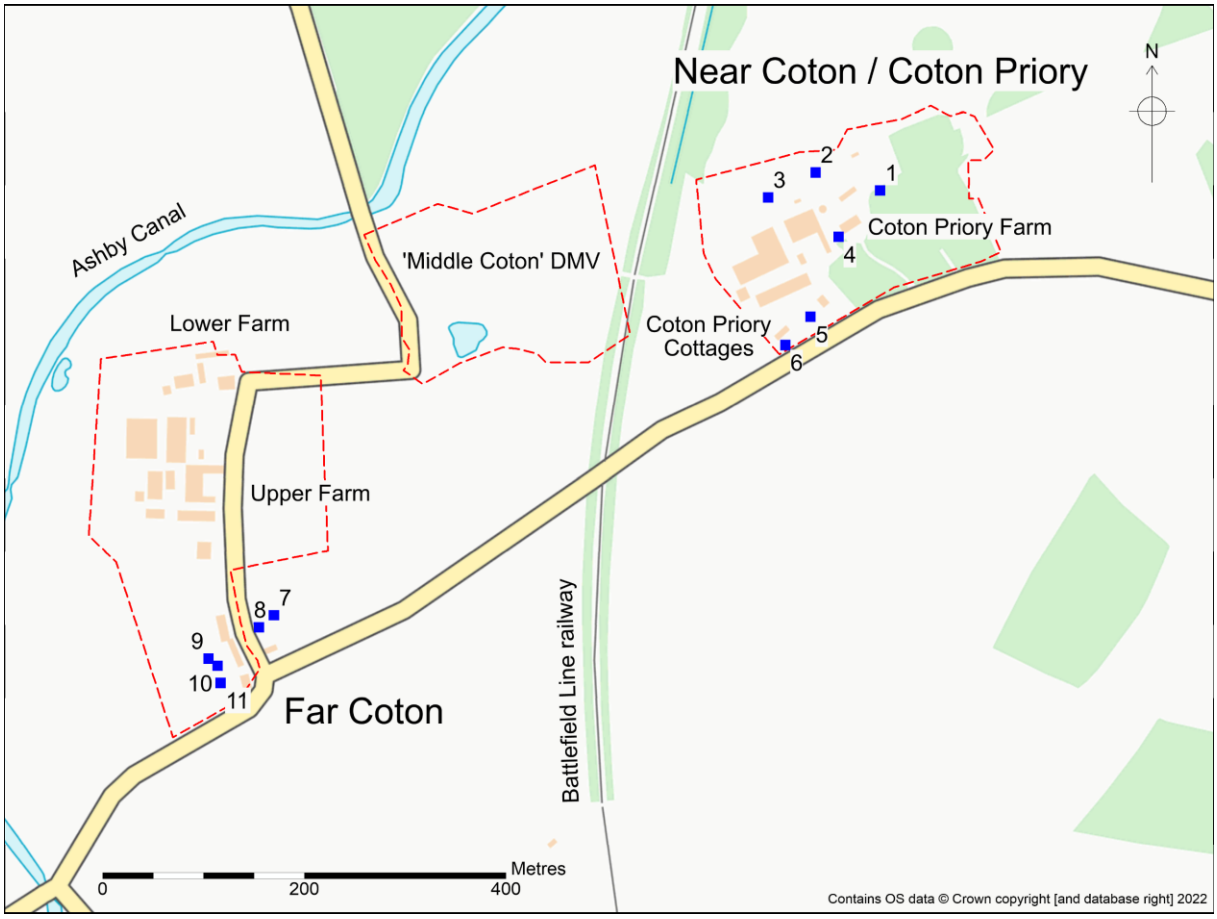

Figure 2: Test pit locations.

The red dashed line represents the extent of the historic settlement core as shown on the HER (MLE2911)

Historical and Archaeological Background (Adapted and updated from Hyam 2019)

Historical Background

The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire described settlement at Coton as having three identifiable parts: Near Coton (today more commonly called Coton Priory) and Far Coton, which both remain inhabited, and 'Middle Coton' which existed only as earthworks - a hollow way flanked by sites of buildings behind which were old enclosures (MLE2911). These earthworks are also sometimes referred to as Coton shrunken medieval village (SMV), Figure 3.

There is no entry for Coton in the Domesday Book of 1086 and the settlement is first mentioned by name as Cotes in the *Rotuli Curiæ Regis* of 1200. The name is believed to be derived from the Old English 'cot', meaning cottage(s) (Bourne 2003). A chapel, served three times a week from the mother church at Market Bosworth, was mentioned in 1220 (Nichols 1811, 501). In 1279, an inquisition identified six virgates of land at Coton, held by four free tenants (*ibid*, 494). Nichols also notes that in 1280 the settlements of Bosworth, Coton, Carlton and Shenton all answered as one manor; this appears to have remained the case into the 15th century. Historically, Coton therefore appears to have been a small collection of dwellings subservient to nearby Market Bosworth.

The 1848 tithe map for Market Bosworth (ROLLR ref. Ti/214/1, Figure 4) shows six farms, three at Far Coton and three at Near Coton, with a solitary building at 'Middle Coton' (aerial photographs from the 1940s show this to be a barn). At Near Coton, the farms include Coton Priory Farm with other farms to the east and west, neither extant today. At Far Coton, Upper and Lower Farm are both shown; both still stand today.

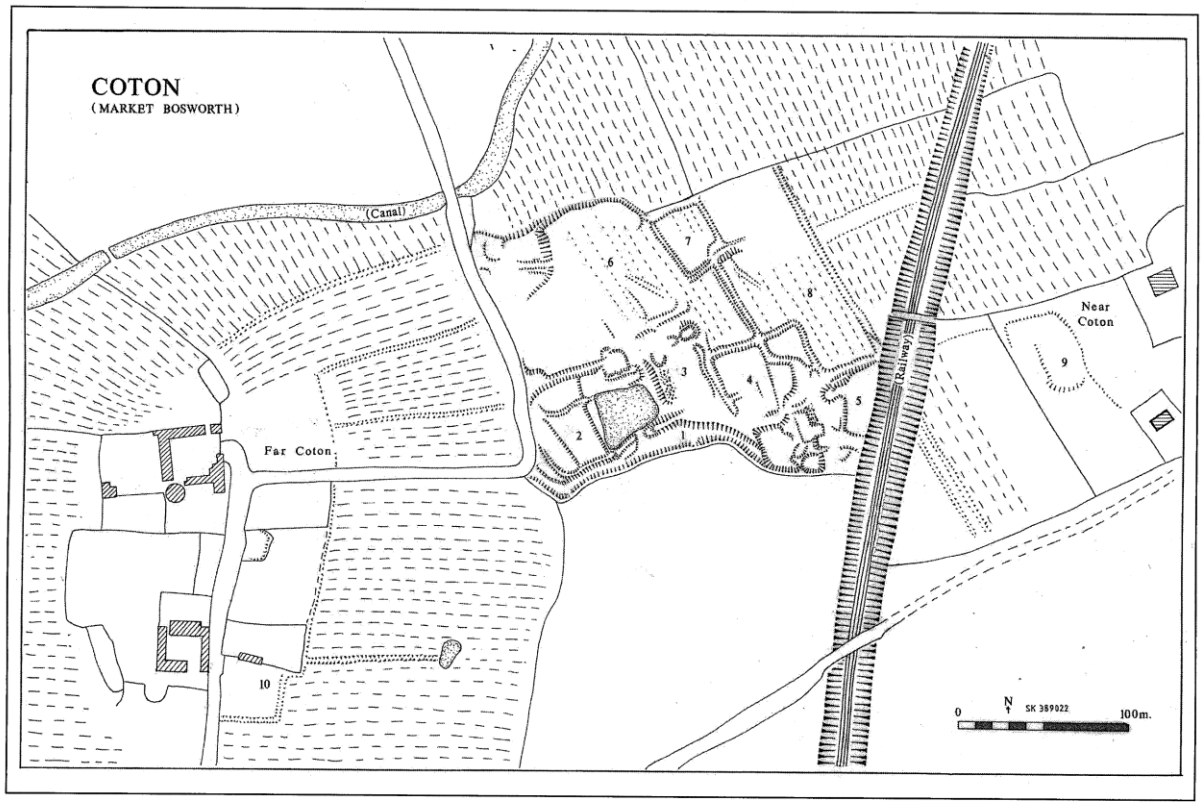

Figure 3: The earthworks of Coton SMV.

Reproduced from Hartley 2008

Archaeological Background

The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire indicated that there were some known archaeological sites in the study area.

Prehistoric

There were no known prehistoric remains recorded within the study area.

Roman

There were no known Roman remains recorded within the study area.

Medieval

The shrunken medieval village of Coton was noted in the HER as three settlement foci (MLE2911), discussed above. The earthworks were surveyed by R.F. Hartley (2008, Figure 3). Witan Archaeology dug test pits in the earthworks but recovered only 17th-19th century material, concluding that the earthworks were post-medieval in date and agricultural in function. There was also several large holes dug for gravel in the 1940s and possible disturbance from the railway cutting (Stephen and Paul Saunders, *pers. comm.* 2023).

In 2003, a well-cast copper alloy fitting (MLE9801), probably part of a medieval key, was found in the field south-east of Coton Bridge which contains the earthworks of 'Middle Coton'. An early medieval stirrup-strap mount (PUBLIC-61D859) and a medieval silver groat of King Edward IV (PUBLIC-84FC29), found in 'Far Coton', have also been reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

A windmill was mentioned at Coton in 1279, 1294 and 1420. It has been suggested that it lay at SK 398 023 (MLE2910).

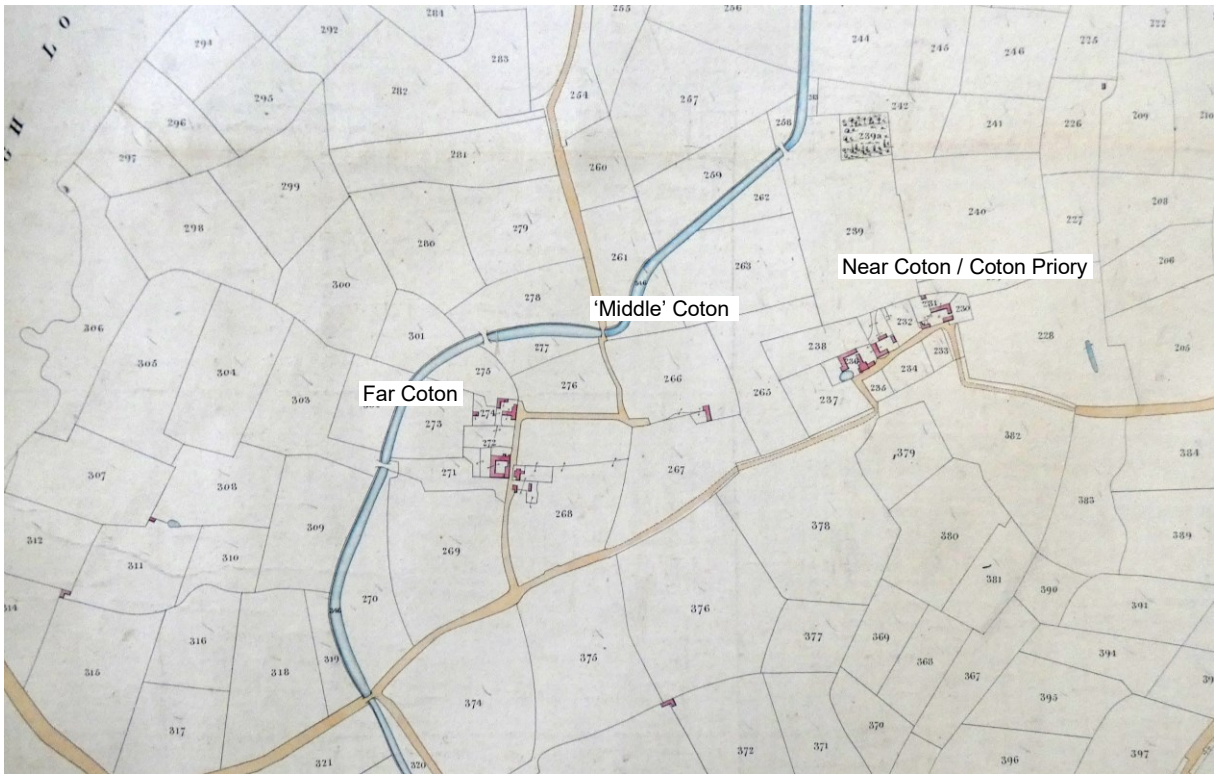

Figure 4: Detail from the 1848 tithe map for Market Bosworth showing Near and Far Coton.

ROLLR ref. Ti/214/1

Post-Medieval and Modern

A silver threepence of Queen Elizabeth I (PUBLIC-86260A) was found in 'Far Coton' and reported to the Portable Antiquties Scheme.

Coton Priory Farmhouse is a Grade II listed early 17th-century timber-framed hall-and-crosswing house, restored in 1905 (MLE12135). Also part of Coton Priory Farm, to the north of the farmhouse, is a Grade II Listed 17th or 18th-century timber-framed stable block, reputedly formerly cottages (MLE12137). Other Grade II Listed farm buildings, to the west of the farmhouse, include a group of late 19th century brick outbuildings, including a cart lodge, granary and cow shed, arranged around a courtyard (MLE12138) and a late 19th century octagonal dairy (MLE12136).

In Far Coton, 5-6 Coton Bridge Lane, on the east side of the road junction, is reputedly a park keepers lodge commissioned by Charles Tollemache Scott in the 1880s (MLE25059). However, it is not shown on Ordnance Survey maps until 1928.

Other local features include the Ashby Canal, curving around the hillside to the west of Coton (MLE8916). This 30-mile long, single level canal opened in 1804 and connected Ashby Woulds with the Coventry Canal. East of the canal, bisecting Far Coton and Coton Priory, is the Ashby & Nuneaton Joint Railway (MLE16051). The railway opened in 1873 and closed in 1971, today this part of the line is still used by the Battlefield Line heritage railway.

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the archaeological work were set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation Morris 2023a) as follows:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits and features encountered.
- To record any archaeological deposits and produce an archive and report of any results.

The main community objectives were:

- To involve local people in excavating archaeological test pits to discover when and where medieval settlement took place.
- To inspire and stimulate wider interest in the history of the village by giving people the opportunity to take part in a hands-on archaeological project.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the work was to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, and significance of the heritage assets within their local and regional context.

Research Objectives

Bosworth Links is an archaeological project organised by the Market Bosworth Society which was seeking to answer questions about the history and archaeology of the market town and its surrounding region through a programme of community-driven test pit excavation.

Market towns, such as Market Bosworth, are quintessential elements of the English countryside, providing an important hub for a community much wider than the town itself. In 2017-18, community-driven archaeological investigation in Market Bosworth itself proved highly successful, giving its residents a unique opportunity to explore their own past, make new discoveries about the development of their town and identify previously unknown archaeological sites dating back thousands of years to the Bronze Age (Morris 2018). This was only one part of a much bigger picture. In the East Midlands, important avenues of archaeological research include gaining better understanding of the role towns had as social, administrative, industrial and commercial centres within their regional marketing system. To do this, it is important to study surrounding settlements which possibly share an infinity with the market town.

A coherent community-driven archaeological study of a market town and its satellite settlements has never been carried out before and provides an important opportunity to investigate the nature and extent of the town's influence on the surrounding countryside. For instance:

- In the medieval period did villages have a symbiotic relationship with their market town (i.e. did the fortunes of one influence the others)?
- Did manorial ownership affect relationships (some settlements shared the same tenants-in-chief, others did not)?
- The Black Death in the 14th century appears to have had a major effect on settlement in Market Bosworth, did it have a similar effect in the surrounding villages?
- Market Bosworth and some of the surrounding villages existed by the 11th century, and are mentioned in the Domesday Book, but others are not. When did these villages develop?
- Villages like Osbaston and Cadeby have Viking name elements. What evidence, if any, is there for Scandinavian activity in these villages?
- Roman activity is known at Market Bosworth (a villa), Carlton (field systems) and Cadeby (pottery kiln), what evidence is there for Roman activity elsewhere?

It was also possible to establish some initial research objectives derived from the *East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework* (EMHERF)*:*

ROMANO-BRITISH (AD 43-c.410)

5.4.5: What patterns can be discerned in the location of settlements in the landscape?

EARLY MEDIEVAL (AD c.410-1066)

6.4.1: What impact may Germanic and Scandinavian immigration have had upon established rural settlement patterns, and how may place-name evidence contribute to studies of settlement evolution?

HIGH MEDIEVAL (AD 1066-1485)

7.2.1: How can we elucidate further the development of nucleated villages, and in particular the contribution of the Danelaw to changes in village morphology?

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

For Coton, specific research objectives included:

- Was there a prehistoric and/or Roman landscape beneath the hamlet?
- What was the nature, date and extent of settlement at Far Coton and Coton Priory?

Methodology

The excavation strategy employed during Bosworth Links Digs Coton involved using volunteers of all ages, with minimal or no archaeological experience, working under the direction of experienced archaeological supervisors. The work followed the methodological statement set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the project (Morris 2023a) with fieldwork taking place between 22/04/2023 and 23/04/2023. All work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological field excavations* (2020a) and adhered to their *Code of Conduct* (2021).

A test pit is a small archaeological trench excavated scientifically in a series of layers to recover artefacts and cultural material which can tell us something of what was going on in the past in the vicinity of the test pit. In the first instance, test pit locations were volunteered by landowners and public organisations in the local community. The suitability of each site and the exact location of each test pit within its respective property was decided prior to the excavation by the project manager, in discussion with the landowner, to fulfil the objectives of the project. Each test pit was marked out by the project manager before excavation commenced.

Test pits each measured 1m sq. Turf was removed and each test pit excavated by hand in a series of 0.1m thick layers to the natural substratum or a maximum depth of 1m, dependent on which was reached first. All excavation was undertaken with a view to avoid damage to any archaeological deposits or features which appeared worthy of preservation *in-situ* or warranted more detailed investigation than for the purposes of the project. All spoil was screened for finds using sieves with a standard 10mm mesh, except for any heavy clay soil which was hand searched. Test pit locations were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid using appropriate methods. Once finished, every test pit was backfilled, and the turf reinstated.

Test pits were recorded using a *pro-forma* recording system comprising a 16-page Test Pit Recording Booklet devised by ULAS for community test pitting projects. This was modelled on a system developed by Access Cambridge Archaeology for use with members of the public with no previous archaeological experience. The recording booklet contained pages to plan and record individual layers, record the sections of the test pit, locate the test pit and record what was found. Where necessary, any complex archaeological deposits encountered were excavated and recorded using standard procedures on separate prepared *pro-forma* recording sheets and drawing film. A photographic record of the investigations was created illustrating in both detail and general context the test pits excavated and the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record also included 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

All non-metallic, inorganic finds, and bone was washed on site, dried, and bagged separately for each layer of each test pit. Subsequently, artefacts from each layer were sorted into find groups (i.e. pottery, animal bone, metal, flint etc.) and bagged separately ready for specialist analysis. Some finds deemed to have little or no research value (i.e. undiagnostic and/or modern building material) were discarded at this stage. Finds considered appropriate for recording, analysis and curation included: all pottery, all faunal remains, metalwork, worked stone and burnt stone, and all finds pre-dating 1800. Finds appropriate for disposal after recording included: all plastic, modern glass, modern metal objects, modern building material and other modern items (i.e. batteries, shotgun cartridges, fabric etc.); all unworked stone including fossils; and all modern organic material such as wood. All finds work adhered to the CIfA's

Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (2020b).

Archive and Publication

The project will be recorded on the Leicestershire Historic Environment Record, and will be made digitally accessible through the Archaeological Data Service under OASIS Id. Universi1-521923.The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service in due course under the accession code X.A39.2023. The archive contains the following:

- 1 unbound copy of this report (2024-002)
- 11 pro-forma test pit recording booklets
- A photographic index and digital photographs
- Finds Records
- 1 box of flint, pottery, clay tobacco pipe, glass, metalwork, industrial residues, bone, shell and other finds.

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society. An in-depth article covering the combined results of the Bosworth Links project will be produced in due course.

Test Pit Results

In total, 11 test pits were excavated across Coton by volunteers of the Bosworth Links project. Six test-pits were excavated at Near Coton/Coton Priory and five at Far Coton. On average, test pits were dug to a depth of 0.5m. Natural substratum was reached in nine test pits, and may have been reached in the other two, although in both cases this remained unproven. It was generally described as brownish orange or yellowish grey clayey sand. This was consistent with the expected local geology, which was described as glaciofluvial sand and gravel.

Three test pits contained archaeological features. A probable stone yard surface in Test Pit 1, a possible stone land drain in Test Pit 3 and a disturbed dog burial in Test Pit 8. The other eight test pits were all dug through a sequence of topsoil and subsoil to the natural substratum.

The results of individual test pits are detailed below using the following phasing:

- Mesozoic (252-66 million years ago)
- Bronze Age (2600-700 BC)
- Roman (AD 43-410)
- Saxo-Norman (AD 850-1100)
- High Medieval (AD 1100-1400)
- Later Medieval (AD 1400-1550)
- Post-medieval (AD 1550-1800)
- Modern (AD 1800-present)

Table 1: Summary of test pit locations.

TP No.	Location	Grid Reference	Date Excavated	Max Depth	Natural Reached?	Features?
1	Coton Priory Farm (east garden)	SK 39350 02408	22/04/23	0.4m	Yes?	Stone surface
2	Coton Priory Farm (east orchard)	SK 39286 02426	22-23/04/23	0.5m	Yes	-
3	Coton Priory Farm (west orchard)	SK 39239 02401	22-23/04/23	0.4m	Yes	Stone land drain?
4	Coton Priory Farm (west garden)	SK 39309 02362	22-23/04/23	0.4m	Yes?	-
5	2 Coton Priory Cottages	SK 39281 02283	22-23/04/23	0.5m	Yes	-
6	4 Coton Priory Cottages	SK 39256 02255	22-23/04/23	0.5m	Yes	-
7	5 Far Coton (east)	SK 38749 01987	23/04/23	0.4m	Yes	-
8	5 Far Coton (west)	SK 38734 01975	22-23/04/23	0.5m	Yes	Dog burial
9	4 Far Coton	SK 38684 01944	22-23/04/23	0.6m	Yes	-
10	3 Far Coton	SK 38693 01937	23/04/23	0.6m	Yes	-
11	2 Far Coton	SK 38696 01920	22-23/04/23	0.5m	Yes	-

Test Pit 1: Coton Priory Farm (east garden), SK 39350 02408

Test Pit 1 (Figure 5) was dug in an area of garden east of Coton Priory Farmhouse. The 1848 tithe map identifies this area as a croft, under pasture, occupied by a Mary Rawlings. Mary Rawlings was the tenant farmer occupying a farm which was formerly situated west of Coton Priory Farmhouse, which was replaced by the current farm buildings in the late 19th century. The original route of Priory Lane/Tinsel Lane ran immediately south of the test pit location. Aerial photographs from the mid-20th century show the site under cultivation, possibly as a market garden.

Figure 5: Excavation of Test Pit 1, looking south-west.

Figure 6: The stone surface in Test Pit 1, looking north.

During the excavation, 0.3m of turf and dark brownish grey clayey silt topsoil (Layers 1-3) was removed. Beneath was a 0.1m thick layer of large cobbles and fieldstones (Layer 4) which may have been the remains of a stone surface (Figure 6). Rain overnight flooded the test-pit and further excavation was abandoned. A yellowish grey clayey sand, presumed to be the natural substratum, was observed beneath the stone surface, 0.4m below the ground.

In all, 189 individual finds (1.652kg) were recovered from the test pit (Table 2). A single sherd of High Medieval pottery (12th-14th century) and large assemblages of later medieval (15th-mid-16th century) and post-medieval (mid-15th-18th century) pottery were found. Other finds included modern building material, typically fragments of handmade brick and tile made locally from the late 18th century onwards. Pieces of clay tobacco pipe, modern bottle glass, part of a modern button and a small assemblage of animal bones were also present. The oldest material recovered was a worked flint which was probably of Bronze Age date.

Test Pit 1 was sited to assess the potential extent of medieval activity in Near Coton/Coton Priory. Medieval pottery suggests a changing pattern of activity in the vicinity of the test pit. The single sherd of 12th-14th century pottery was small and abraded. This suggests that it was circulating in plough soil for a prolonged period of time. Rather than representing nearby habitation at this time this pottery was likely imported from elsewhere, perhaps included in domestic refuse used to manure fields. From the 15th century onwards, however, the pottery assemblage grows and changes, with larger, less worn sherds present, suggesting that there was now habitation in the vicinity of the test pit. This is consistent with the stone surface found at the base of the test pit which was likely an external yard surface of late medieval/post-medieval date. This activity is 50-200 years earlier than the earliest tree-ring date (AD 1600, https://doi.org/10.5284/1091408) from the timber framing in Coton Priory Farmhouse and indicates that there was habitation in the area before the present farm was built.

The worked flint was debitage, flakes removed during tool manufacture and maintenance. The rather impromptu nature of the material may suggest a Bronze Age date and the flint represented a low-level ‘background noise’ of prehistoric activity in the wider landscape.

Many thanks to Mr and Mrs Stamper for the test pit location. Excavation was carried out over one day on April 22, 2023 by Richard Liddington, Paul Kettell and Jonah, Mathew and Tina Tallis.

Table 2: The finds from Test Pit 1

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
1	Building material	7	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
1	Clay pipe	2	Clay tobacco pipe stem	Post-medieval+	1.6mm & 3mm bores
1	Clay pipe	1	Clay tobacco pipe bowl	Modern	Thin walled
1	Flint	1	Primary flake	Bronze Age	
1	Glass	3	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
1	Pot	1	Cistercian Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1450/75-1550
1	Pot	1	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD
2	Bone & shell	7	Misc. animal bone	Undated	
2	Building material	43	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
2	Building material	1	Wire nail	Modern	2½"
2	Building material	2	Iron object	Undated	Probably a nail
2	Clay pipe	2	Clay tobacco pipe stem	Modern	1.6mm bore
2	Clay pipe	1	Clay tobacco pipe bowl	Post-medieval	Thick walled, 3mm bore

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
2	Fossil	1	Gryphaea (Devil's Toenail)	Mesozoic	
2	Glass	9	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
2	Pot	1	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395
2	Pot	2	Cistercian Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1450/75-1550
2	Pot	5	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD
2	Pot	3	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1780
2	Pot	1	Midland Blackware	Post-medieval	Ticknall AD 1550-1725
2	Pot	6	Midland Purple Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1370-1550
2	Pot	1	Midland Yellow Ware	Post-medieval	Ticknall AD 1500-1725
3	Bone & shell	6	Misc. animal bone	Undated	
3	Building material	23	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
3	Building material	1	Staple	Modern	23mm wide x 38mm
3	Clay pipe	11	Clay tobacco pipe stem	Post-medieval+	x4 with 1.6mm bore, x6 with 2.4mm bore, x1 with 3mm bore
3	Glass	22	Clear window glass	Modern	Some with iridescence
3	Glass	2	Clear bottle glass	Modern	Some with iridescence
3	Personal adornment	1	Button	Modern	Cover for shank button, slightly domed, 16mm diam.
3	Pot	1	Cistercian Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1450/75-1550
3	Pot	7	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD
3	Pot	3	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1780
3	Pot	3	Midland Blackware	Post-medieval	Ticknall AD 1550-1725
3	Pot	7	Midland Purple Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1370-1550
3	Pot	1	Midland Yellow Ware	Post-medieval	Ticknall AD 1500-1725

* Phasing: Mesozoic (252-66 million years ago), Bronze Age (2600-700 BC), Roman (AD 43-410), Saxo-Norman (AD 850-1100), High Medieval (1100-1400), Later Medieval (1400-1550), Post-medieval (1550-1800), Modern (1800-present)

Test Pit 2: Coton Priory Farm (east orchard), SK 39286 02426

Test Pit 2 (Figure 7) was dug in an area of modern orchard north of Coton Priory Farmhouse. The area is unlisted on the 1848 tithe map but the 1st edition Ordnance Survey shows it as a small enclosure. Recent aerial images (GoogleEarth) show the site as pasture until the early 2000s when it was planted as orchard.

Figure 7: Excavation of Test Pit 2, looking south.

Figure 8: Test Pit 2 post-excavation, looking north.

During the excavation, 0.2m of turf and dark brownish grey sandy silt topsoil (Layers 1-2) was removed (Figure 8). Beneath was 0.2m of greyish brown sandy silt subsoil (Layers 3-4) and

0.1m of brownish orange clayey sand (Layer 5). The natural substratum, grey orange clayey sand, was reached 0.5m below ground level; no archaeological features were recorded.

In all, 152 individual finds (546g) were recovered from the test pit (Table 3). Single sherds of Roman (2nd-4th century) and High Medieval pottery (12th-14th century) were found, along with two sherds of late medieval pottery (15th – mid-16th century and larger assemblages of post-medieval and modern pottery (mid-15th – present). Other finds included modern building material, typically fragments of handmade brick and tile made locally from the late 18th century onwards. Iron nails, modern bottle glass, part of a slate pencil, a modern plastic button and a small assemblage of animal bones were also present.

Test Pit 2 was sited to assess the potential extent of medieval activity in Near Coton/Coton Priory. Hartley's earthwork survey (2008) suggested that this site was close to a possible trackway connecting Far Coton, Middle Coton and Near Coton with Market Bosworth. No evidence for the trackway was found and finds recovered from the test pit were consistent with the area being under cultivation from at least the 2nd century AD. Roman and medieval pottery sherds were typically small and abraded. This suggests that they were circulating in plough soil for a prolonged period of time. Rather than representing nearby habitation at this time this pottery was likely imported from elsewhere, perhaps included in domestic refuse used to manure fields. Post-medieval and modern finds in the soil suggest that the area remained under cultivation into the 19th century. No evidence of activity pre-dating the Roman period was found.

Many thanks to Mr and Mrs Stamper for the test pit location. Excavation was carried out over two days on April 22-23, 2023 by Emma Harris, David Liew, Carol Riddington and Judy Smithers.

Table 3: The finds from Test Pit 2

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
1	Building material	11	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
2	Building material	32	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
2	Building material	1	Iron object	Undated	Probably a nail
2	Glass	1	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
2	Household	1	Slate pencil	Modern	Broken
2	Pot	1	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
2	Pot	2	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD
3	Bone & shell	4	Misc. animal bone	Undated	
3	Building material	36	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
3	Building material	2	Iron object	Modern	Probably a nail
3	Building material	7	Wire nails	Modern	Assorted sizes, 1"-3"
3	Garden waste	1	Modern plastic	Modern	Plant pot
3	Glass	3	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
3	Glass	3	Green bottle glass	Modern	
3	Glass	1	Dark blue bottle glass	Modern	
3	Personal adornment	1	Button	Modern	White plastic, 2-hole, 11mm diam.
3	Pot	1	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395
3	Pot	7	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
3	Pot	5	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD
3	Pot	1	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1780
3	Pot	2	Staffordshire Creamware	Post-medieval	AD 1730-1850
3	Pot	1	Midland Blackware	Post-medieval	Ticknall AD 1550-1725
4	Building material	20	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
4	Glass	1	Green bottle glass	Modern	
4	Glass	1	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
4	Pot	2	Cistercian Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1450/75-1550
4	Pot	1	Tin-glazed earthenware	Post-medieval	AD 1700-1800
4	Pot	1	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD
4	Pot	1	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1780
4	Pot	1	Roman pottery	Roman	Greyware

* Phasing: Mesozoic (252-66 million years ago), Bronze Age (2600-700 BC), Roman (AD 43-410), Saxo-Norman (AD 850-1100), High Medieval (1100-1400), Later Medieval (1400-1550), Post-medieval (1550-1800), Modern (1800-present)

Test Pit 3: Coton Priory Farm (west orchard), SK 39239 02401

Test Pit 3 (Figure 9) was dug in an area of modern orchard north-west of Coton Priory Farmhouse. The 1848 tithe map identifies this area as part of a croft, under pasture, occupied by an Ann Moxon and an Edward Clementson. Census records revealed that Ann Moxon and her son-in-law Edward Clementson were the tenant farmers occupying Coton Priory Farm. Aerial photographs from the mid-20th century onwards show the site as pasture until the early 2000s when it was planted as orchard.

Figure 9: Excavation of Test Pit 3, looking west.

Figure 10: Test Pit 3 post excavation, looking north. The line of stones may be the remains of a post-medieval field drain.

During the excavation, 0.4m of turf and dark brownish grey sandy silt topsoil (Layers 1-4) was removed. A north/south orientated line of fieldstones, up to 0.3m wide, at the bottom of the test pit may have been the remains of a post-medieval field drain (Figure 10). The natural substratum, orange brown clayey sand, was reached 0.4m below ground level.

In all, 67 individual finds (928g) were recovered from the test pit (Table 4). A small assemblage of modern pottery (19th century – present) was found. Other finds included modern building material, typically fragments of handmade brick and tile made locally from the late 18th century onwards. Iron nails, modern bottle glass, and a small piece of iron slag were also present.

Test Pit 3 was sited to assess the potential extent of medieval activity in Near Coton/Coton Priory. Hartley's earthwork survey (2008) suggested that this site was close to a possible trackway connecting Far Coton, Middle Coton and Near Coton with Market Bosworth. No evidence for the trackway was found and the scarcity of finds from the test-pit suggests that this area was given over to pasture for a prolonged period of time, with no habitation nearby. No evidence of activity pre-dating the 19th century was found.

Many thanks to Mr and Mrs Stamper for the test pit location. Excavation was carried out over two days on April 22-23, 2023 by Elizabeth Babington, Katie Berry, Dineke ten Hove and Jon Whiting.

Table 4: The finds from Test Pit 3

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
2	Building material	6	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
2	Glass	1	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
2	Pot	1	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
3	Building material	16	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
3	Glass	4	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
4	Building material	20	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
4	Building material	4	Wire nails	Modern	Assorted sizes, 2"-2¾"
4	Building material	1	Forged nail	Undated	Large nail, 120mm long x 15mm thick
4	Glass	9	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
4	Industrial residues	1	Iron slag	Undated	
4	Pot	4	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+

* Phasing: Mesozoic (252-66 million years ago), Bronze Age (2600-700 BC), Roman (AD 43-410), Saxo-Norman (AD 850-1100), High Medieval (1100-1400), Later Medieval (1400-1550), Post-medieval (1550-1800), Modern (1800-present)

Test Pit 4: Coton Priory Farm (west garden), SK 39309 02362

Test Pit 4 (Figure 11) was dug in an area of lawn immediately west of Coton Priory Farmhouse. A survey of the timber framed farmhouse has suggested that the earliest surviving parts of the farmhouse, a timber framed hall-and-crosswing house, could date to the mid-16th century, whilst tree-ring dating has given a felling date of 1600 for timbers in the main range, with a second date for the cross-wing of *c*. 1610 (HER ref. MLE12135). The 1848 tithe map suggests that this area was originally an enclosure, probably gardens, associated with a farm to the west of Coton Priory Farm occupied by tenant farmer Mary Rawlings. This farm was replaced by the current farm buildings in the late 19th century.

Figure 11: Excavation of Test Pit 4, looking north-west

Figure 12: Test Pit 4 post-excavation, looking north

During the excavation, 0.3m of turf and dark brownish grey sandy silt topsoil (Layers 1-3) was removed. Beneath was over 0.2m of reddish orange clayey sand (Layers 4-5). This was possibly

the natural substratum, or may have been redeposited natural material (Figure 12). Excavation of the test pit was impeded by a large number of tree roots and Layer 4 down could only be partially investigated. Excavation halted at a maximum depth of 0.5m; no archaeological features were recorded.

In all, 242 individual finds (1.518kg) were recovered from the test pit (Table 5). A single sherd of late medieval pottery (15th - mid-16th century) was found, along with along with a large assemblage of post-medieval and modern pottery (mid-16th century – present). Other finds included modern building material, typically fragments of handmade brick and tile made locally from the late 18th century onwards. Iron nails, an S-shaped iron hook, clay tobacco pipe, modern bottle glass, modern garden waste and a small assemblage of animal bone was also present. The oldest material recovered was a worked flint which was probably of Bronze Age date.

One curiosity was a .32 extra short rimfire cartridge case (also known as a .32 Protector), which was manufactured in the late 19th and early 20th century for small compact close protection personal weapons such as the Protector Palm Pistol and the Remington-Rider Magazine Pistol.

Test Pit 4 was sited to assess the potential extent of medieval and post-medieval activity in Near Coton/Coton Priory, and particularly the date of occupation associated with Coton Priory Farmhouse. Finds were predominately post-medieval and modern and only one sherd of medieval pottery was found. The earliest post-medieval pottery was predominately of 17th century date, and this was consistent with the known construction date for the farmhouse. The late medieval pottery was small and abraded. This suggests that it was circulating in plough soil for a prolonged period of time. Rather than representing nearby habitation it was likely imported from elsewhere, perhaps included in domestic refuse used to manure fields (perhaps from an identified area of late medieval habitation to the north of the farmhouse – see Test Pit 1). As such, there was no evidence for habitation in the vicinity before the 17th century. It is worth pointing out, however, that excavation of this test pit was compromised by tree roots, and there were indications that the turf and topsoil had been landscaped in the 20th century. Therefore, this test pit may not have produced a complete picture of activity in the vicinity.

The worked flint was debitage, flakes removed during tool manufacture and maintenance. The rather impromptu nature of the material may suggest a Bronze Age date and the flint represented a low-level ‘background noise’ of prehistoric activity in the wider landscape.

Many thanks to Mr and Mrs Stamper for the test pit location. Excavation was carried out over two days on April 22-23, 2023 by Mick and Isabella Edwards, Caroline Ellis, Laura Ellis, Masie Mansfield-Ellis and Richard Yates.

Table 5: The finds from Test Pit 4

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
1	Bone & shell	2	Misc. animal bone	Undated	
1	Building material	28	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
1	Fossil	1	Gryphaea (Devil's Toenail)	Mesozoic	
1	Pot	2	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD
1	Pot	1	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1780
1	Pot	2	Staffordshire Creamware	Post-medieval	AD 1730-1850
2	Building material	66	Red ceramic building material	Modern	

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
2	Building material	4	Yellow ceramic building material	Modern	Tile with reduced surface, 12mm thick
2	Building material	1	Blue ceramic building material	Modern	Reduced brick
2	Building material	5	Iron object	Undated	Probably a nail
2	Building material	1	S-shaped hook	Modern	100mm x 35mm, 4mm diam. wire, bent
2	Flint	1	Tertiary flake	Bronze Age	
2	Fossil	2	Gryphaea (Devil's Toenail)	Mesozoic	
2	Glass	4	Green bottle glass	Modern	
2	Glass	4	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
2	Munitions	1	.32 exra short rimfire cartridge case (.32 Protector)	Modern	Rimmed, straight case, 9.6mm diam. rim, 8.1mm diam. body, 10mm length, raised 'G' headstamp, rimfired (c.1890-1920)
2	Pot	8	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
2	Pot	20	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD
2	Pot	6	Staffordshire Creamware	Post-medieval	AD 1730-1850
2	Pot	1	Midland Blackware	Post-medieval	Ticknall AD 1550-1725
2	Pot	2	White Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1730-1770
3	Bone & shell	3	Misc. animal bone	Undated	
3	Building material	4	Yellow ceramic building material	Modern	Tile with reduced surface, 12mm thick
3	Building material	32	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
3	Building material	3	Iron object	Modern	Probably a nail
3	Clay pipe	1	Clay tobacco pipe bowl	Modern	Thin walled
3	Garden waste	1	Foil	Modern	
3	Garden waste	1	Metal grill	Modern	
3	Glass	6	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
3	Glass	1	Green bottle glass	Post-medieval+	With iridescence
3	Pot	2	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
3	Pot	10	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD
3	Pot	1	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1780
3	Pot	9	Staffordshire Creamware	Post-medieval	AD 1730-1850
3	Pot	1	Midland Purple Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1370-1550
3	Pot	3	White Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1730-1770
3	Pot	1	English Brown Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1670-1900
4	Building material	1	Red ceramic building material	Modern	

* Phasing: Mesozoic (252-66 million years ago), Bronze Age (2600-700 BC), Roman (AD 43-410), Saxo-Norman (AD 850-1100), High Medieval (1100-1400), Later Medieval (1400-1550), Post-medieval (1550-1800), Modern (1800-present)

Test Pit 5: 2 Coton Priory Cottages, SK 39281 02283

Test Pit 5 (Figure 13) was dug in garden west of 2 Coton Priory Cottages. The 1848 tithe map identifies this area as undeveloped and part of a croft, under pasture, occupied by an Ann Moxon and an Edward Clementson. Census records revealed that Ann Moxon and her son-in-law Edward Clementson were the tenant farmers occupying Coton Priory Farm. The present house is part of a semi-detached property, built as estate cottages for Coton Priory Farm in the early 20th century.

Figure 13: Excavation of Test Pit 5, looking north

Figure 14: Test Pit 5 post-excavation, looking north

During the excavation, 0.3m of turf and dark brownish grey sandy silt topsoil (Layers 1-3) was removed. Beneath was 0.2m of orange brown clayey silt sand subsoil (Layers 4-5). The natural substratum, brownish orange clayey sand, was reached 0.5m below ground level (Figure 14); no archaeological features were recorded.

In all, 189 individual finds (1.387kg) were recovered from the test pit (Table 6). A small assemblage of post-medieval and modern pottery (17th century – present) was found. Other finds included modern building material, typically fragments of handmade brick and tile made locally from the late 18th century onwards. Iron nails and screws, modern bottle glass and modern plastic garden waste was also present. The oldest material recovered was a worked flint which was probably of Bronze Age date.

Test Pit 5 was sited to assess the potential extent of medieval activity in Near Coton/Coton Priory. The scarcity of finds from the test pit pre-dating the 17th century suggests that this area was given over to pasture for a prolonged period of time, with no habitation nearby. More recent pottery finds and building material were likely associated with the construction and occupation of the present house.

The worked flint was debitage, flakes removed during tool manufacture and maintenance. Signs of retouching on the flake might indicate it was used as a tool. The rather impromptu nature of the material may suggest a Bronze Age date and the flint represented a low-level 'background noise' of prehistoric activity in the wider landscape.

Many thanks to Dave for the test pit location. Excavation was carried out over two days on April 22-23, 2023 by Fiona Bennett, Chris and Graham Coombs and Jane Southgate.

Table 6: The finds from Test Pit 5

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
1	Building material	14	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
1	Building material	1	Wire nail	Modern	2"
1	Glass	2	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
1	Pot	2	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
2	Building material	6	Yellow ceramic building material	Modern	
2	Building material	41	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
2	Building material	5	Iron object	Undated	Probably a nail
2	Building material	1	Phillips head screw	Modern	1¼"
2	Garden waste	4	Modern plastic	Modern	Inc. hard red & black plastic
2	Glass	13	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
2	Pot	11	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
2	Pot	1	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD
2	Pot	1	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1780
3	Building material	58	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
3	Building material	6	Iron object	Undated	Probably a nail
3	Building material	1	Forged nail	Undated	3½", very corroded
3	Garden waste	1	Modern plastic	Modern	Plant pot
3	Glass	6	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
3	Glass	1	Green bottle glass	Modern	
3	Pot	7	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
3	Pot	1	English Brown Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1670-1900
4	Building material	3	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
4	Building material	1	Forged nail	Undated	3"
4	Flint	1	Retouched secondary flake	Bronze Age	
4	Pot	1	English Brown Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1670-1900

* Phasing: Mesozoic (252-66 million years ago), Bronze Age (2600-700 BC), Roman (AD 43-410), Saxo-Norman (AD 850-1100), High Medieval (1100-1400), Later Medieval (1400-1550), Post-medieval (1550-1800), Modern (1800-present)

Test Pit 6: 4 Coton Priory Cottages, SK 39256 02255

Test Pit 6 (Figure 15) was dug in the front garden, south of 4 Coton Priory Cottages. The 1848 tithe map identifies this area as undeveloped and part of a croft, under pasture, occupied by an Ann Moxon and an Edward Clementson. Census records revealed that Ann Moxon and her son-in-law Edward Clementson were the tenant farmers occupying Coton Priory Farm. The present house is part of a semi-detached property, built as estate cottages for Coton Priory Farm in the early 20th century.

Figure 15: Excavation of Test Pit 6, looking north

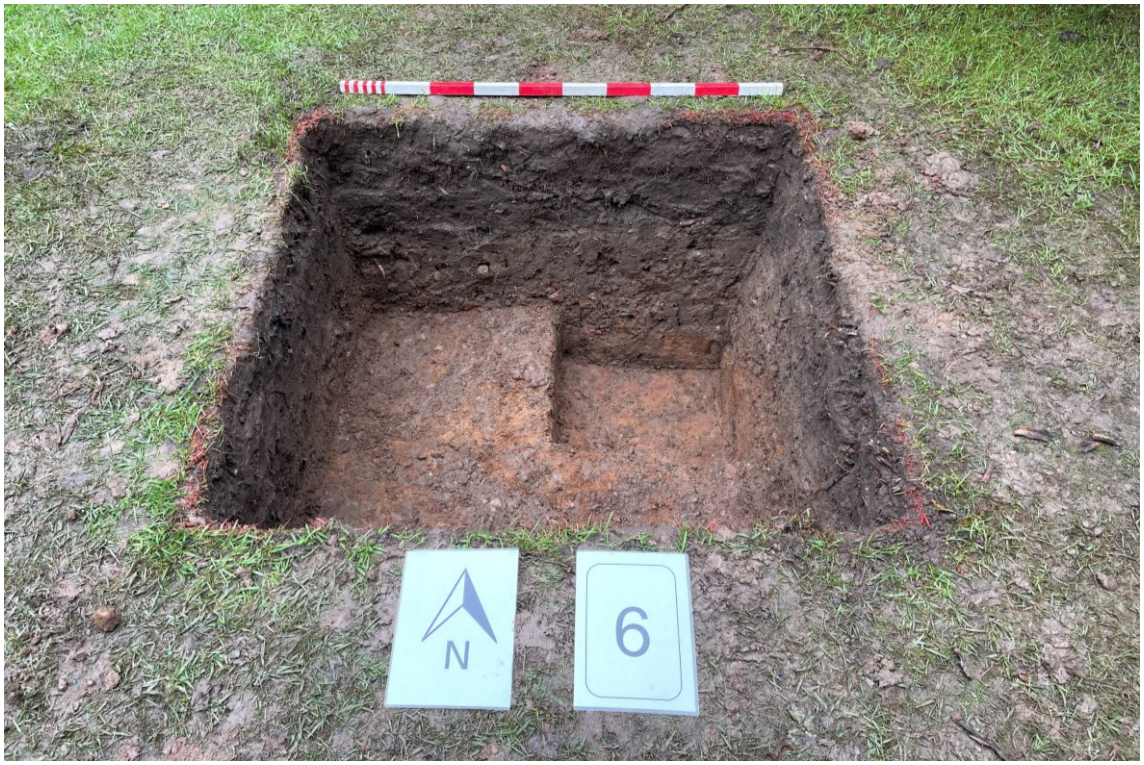

Figure 16: Test Pit 6 post-excavation, looking north

During the excavation, 0.3m of turf and dark brownish grey sandy silt topsoil (Layers 1-3) was removed. Beneath was 0.2m of orange grey clayey silt sand subsoil (Layers 4-5). The natural substratum, brownish orange clayey sand, was reached 0.5m below ground level (confirmed by a quarter section of the north-west corner of the test pit down to a depth of 0.7m, Layer 6 - Figure 16); no archaeological features were recorded.

In all, 150 individual finds (1.746kg) were recovered from the test pit (Table 7). A single sherd of Roman pottery (2nd-4th century) was found, along with small assemblages of High Medieval pottery (12th-14th century) and post-medieval and modern pottery (17th century – present). Other finds included modern building material, typically fragments of handmade brick and tile made locally from the late 18th century onwards. An iron nail, modern bottle glass, part of an iron pipe and modern garden waste were also present. The oldest material recovered was a worked flint which was probably of Bronze Age date.

Test Pit 6 was sited to assess the potential extent of medieval activity in Near Coton/Coton Priory. Finds from the test pit were consistent with the area being under cultivation from at least the 2nd century AD. Roman and medieval pottery sherds were typically small and abraded. This suggests that they were circulating in plough soil for a prolonged period of time. Rather than representing nearby habitation in these periods, this pottery was likely imported from elsewhere, perhaps included in domestic refuse used to manure fields. The small amount of post-medieval and modern pottery suggests that this agricultural land was taken out of cultivation in the 16th or 17th century and turned over to pasture, with most of the modern finds representing occupation of the present house in the 20th century.

The worked flint was debitage, flakes removed during tool manufacture and maintenance. The rather impromptu nature of the material may suggest a Bronze Age date and the flint represented a low-level ‘background noise’ of prehistoric activity in the wider landscape.

Many thanks to Linda Kirkham for the test pit location. Excavation was carried out over two days on April 22-23, 2023 by Steve Dilks, Simon Dodd, Dawn Robinson and Wendy Wallace.

Table 7: The finds from Test Pit 6

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
1	Building material	16	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
1	Glass	7	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
1	Glass	2	Green bottle glass	Modern	
1	Building material	2	Iron object	Modern	3mm thick, curved, probably parts of an iron pipe
1	Pot	1	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD
1	Pot	2	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+
2	Building material	16	Red ceramic building material	Modern	Inc. modern nib tile
2	Building material	2	Yellow ceramic pipe	Modern	Unglazed
2	Building material	2	Yellow ceramic building material	Modern	Tile with reduced surface, 12mm thick
2	Building material	1	Iron object	Undated	Probably a nail
2	Building material	1	Welsh roof slate	Modern	Punched hole
2	Garden waste	2	Foil	Modern	
2	Garden waste	1	Bar	Modern	Cast bar, 50mm x 12mm x 6mm
2	Glass	18	Clear bottle glass	Modern	Inc. square bottle base, 40mm x 34mm

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
2	Pot	1	Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1200-1475
2	Pot	2	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395
2	Pot	1	Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1200-1475
2	Pot	3	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
2	Pot	1	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD
2	Pot	1	Roman pottery	Roman	Colour-coated ware
3	Building material	35	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
3	Garden waste	2	Foil	Modern	
3	Glass	21	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
3	Pot	1	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395
3	Pot	2	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
3	Pot	2	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+
4	Building material	4	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
5	Flint	1	Secondary flake	Bronze Age	Blade-like prior removals

* Phasing: Mesozoic (252-66 million years ago), Bronze Age (2600-700 BC), Roman (AD 43-410), Saxo-Norman (AD 850-1100), High Medieval (1100-1400), Later Medieval (1400-1550), Post-medieval (1550-1800), Modern (1800-present)

Test Pit 7: 5 Far Coton, SK 8749 01987

Test Pit 7 (Figure 17) was dug in garden, north-east of 5 Far Coton. Aerial photographs from the mid-20th century show that the property was built on an area of ridge and furrow. The 1848 tithe map identifies this area as undeveloped and part of a croft, under pasture, occupied by a Thomas Payne. A house, outbuildings, yard and garden are also mentioned and are visible on the map, sited 150m further north opposite Upper Farm. Thomas Payne was the tenant farmer occupying Lower Farm. The current house, a semi-detached brick-built cottage, is reputedly a park keepers lodge commissioned by Charles Tollemache Scott in the 1880s, although it does not appear on Ordnance Survey maps until 1928 (HER ref. MLE25059).

Figure 17: Excavation of Test Pit 7, looking south-west

Figure 18: Test Pit 7 post-excavation, looking north

During the excavation, 0.3m of turf and dark brownish grey sandy silt topsoil (Layers 1-3) was removed. Beneath was 0.1m of greyish brown clayey sand subsoil (Layer 4). The natural substratum, yellowish grey clayey sand, was reached 0.4m below ground level (Figure 18); no archaeological features were recorded.

In all, 71 individual finds (576g) were recovered from the test pit (Table 8). A small assemblage of High Medieval pottery was found (12th-14th century), along with a single sherd of post-medieval pottery (16th-18th century) and a small assemblage of modern pottery (19th century – present). Other finds included modern building material, typically fragments of handmade brick and tile made locally from the late 18th century onwards. Iron nails, modern bottle and window glass, a carbon rod from a battery and other modern garden waste was also present.

Test Pit 7 was sited to assess the potential extent of medieval activity in Far Coton. Finds recovered from the test pit were consistent with the area being under cultivation from at least the 12th century through to the 14th century. Medieval pottery sherds were typically small and abraded. This suggested that they were circulating in plough soil for a prolonged period of time. Rather than representing nearby habitation in the medieval period this pottery was likely imported from elsewhere, perhaps included in domestic refuse used to manure the fields surrounding the village. The absence of a large assemblage of post-medieval pottery suggests that this agricultural land was taken out of cultivation in the 15th or 16th century and turned over to pasture. This is consistent with the ridge and furrow visible in aerial photographs of the area. Most of the modern finds probably represent occupation of the present house in the late 19th/20th century. No evidence of activity pre-dating the medieval period was found.

Many thanks to Linda Kirkham for the test pit location. Excavation was carried out over one day on April 23, 2023 by Chris Peat, Paul Ready, Andy Ridout and David Statham.

Table 8: The finds from Test Pit 7

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
1	Building material	9	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
1	Building material	3	Brown-glazed ceramic pipe	Modern	
1	Building material	1	Iron object	Undated	Probably a nail
1	Garden waste	4	Foil	Modern	
1	Garden waste	5	Modern plastic	Modern	Inc. plant pot, label etc.
1	Glass	3	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
1	Pot	1	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395
1	Pot	4	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
1	Pot	1	Midland Yellow Ware	Post-medieval	Ticknall AD 1500-1725
2	Building material	10	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
2	Building material	5	Yellow-glazed ceramic pipe	Modern	
2	Building material	1	Wire nail	Modern	
2	Garden waste	1	Foil	Modern	
2	Glass	8	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
2	Household	1	Carbon rod from battery	Modern	40mm x 5mm
2	Pot	3	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
3	Building material	1	Iron object	Undated	Probably a nail

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
3	Garden waste	1	Iron object	Modern	Semi-spherical, cast, 100mm x50mm x50mm, agricultural machinery / pipe cap
3	Glass	3	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
3	Pot	3	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
4	Building material	1	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
4	Glass	1	Clear window glass	Modern	
4	Pot	1	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+

* Phasing: Mesozoic (252-66 million years ago), Bronze Age (2600-700 BC), Roman (AD 43-410), Saxo-Norman (AD 850-1100), High Medieval (1100-1400), Later Medieval (1400-1550), Post-medieval (1550-1800), Modern (1800-present)

Test Pit 8: 5 Far Coton, SK 38734 01975

Test Pit 8 (Figure 19) was dug in garden, north of 5 Far Coton. Aerial photographs from the mid-20th century show that the property was likely built on an area of ridge and furrow (HER ref. MLE2911). The 1848 tithe map identifies this area as undeveloped and part of a croft, under pasture, occupied by a Thomas Payne. A house, outbuildings, yard and garden are also mentioned and are visible on the map, sited 150m further north opposite Upper Farm. Thomas Payne was the tenant farmer occupying Lower Farm. The current house, a semi-detached brick-built cottage, is reputedly a park keepers lodge commissioned by Charles Tollemache Scott in the 1880s, although it does not appear on Ordnance Survey maps until 1928 (HER ref. MLE25059).

Figure 19: Excavation of Test Pit 8, looking south-west

Figure 20: Test Pit 8 post-excavation, looking north

During the excavation, 0.3m of turf and dark brownish grey sandy silt topsoil (Layers 1-3) was removed. Beneath was 0.2m of orange brown clayey sand subsoil (Layer 4-5). The natural substratum, brownish orange clayey sand and gravel, was reached 0.5m below ground level (Figure 20). In Layers 4-5, a large quantity of dog bones was recovered, possibly a disturbed burial of an articulated animal.

In all, 269 individual finds (2.077kg) were recovered from the test pit (Table 9). Small assemblages of Saxo-Norman pottery (mid-9th – mid-12th century) and High Medieval pottery (12th – 14th century) were found, along with a small assemblage of post-medieval and modern pottery (17th century – present). Other finds included modern building material, typically fragments of handmade brick and tile made locally from the late 18th century onwards. Iron nails, modern bottle glass, the carbon rod from a battery, a plastic button and other modern garden waster was also present. The oldest material recovered was a worked flint which was probably of Bronze Age date.

Test Pit 8 was sited to assess the potential extent of medieval activity in Far Coton. Finds recovered from the test pit were consistent with the area being under cultivation from at least the late 9th century through to the 14th century. Medieval pottery sherds were typically small and abraded. This suggested that they were circulating in plough soil for a prolonged period of time. Rather than representing nearby habitation in the medieval period this pottery was likely imported from elsewhere, perhaps included in domestic refuse used to manure the fields surrounding the village. The absence of a large assemblage of post-medieval pottery suggests that this agricultural land was taken out of cultivation in the 15th or 16th century and turned over to pasture. This is consistent with the ridge and furrow visible in aerial photographs of the area. Most of the modern finds probably represent occupation of the present house in the late 19th/20th century.

The worked flint was debitage, flakes removed during tool manufacture and maintenance. The rather impromptu nature of the material may suggest a Bronze Age date and the flint represented a low-level ‘background noise’ of prehistoric activity in the wider landscape.

Many thanks to Linda Kirkham for the test pit location. Excavation was carried out over one day on April 23, 2023 by Judy Buckell, Hannah Boston, Judith Boston and Zander Goss.

Table 9: The finds from Test Pit 8

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
1	Building material	26	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
1	Building material	3	Iron object	Undated	Probably a nail
1	Garden waste	1	Iron object	Modern	Part of agricultural machinery, green paint
1	Garden waste	5	Modern plastic	Modern	Broken white laundry peg
1	Glass	6	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
1	Glass	1	Turquoise bottle glass	Modern	
1	Pot	7	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
1	Pot	1	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD
2	Bone & shell	4	Misc. animal bone	Undated	
2	Building material	30	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
2	Building material	49	Wire nails & screws	Modern	Assorted sizes, 1½"-2¾"
2	Building material	2	Staple	Modern	17mm wide x 20mm

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
2	Building material	1	Bolt	Modern	Long iron bolt with nut & washer, 300mm x 7mm, bent
2	Garden waste	1	Bottle cap	Modern	Screw cap, stamped 'CIBA', 20mm diam.
2	Garden waste	7	Modern plastic	Modern	Inc. plant labels
2	Glass	11	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
2	Household	1	Carbon rod from battery	Modern	Copper cap, 34mm x 5mm
2	Personal adornment	1	Button	Modern	White plastic, 2-hole, 11mm diam.
2	Pot	6	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
2	Pot	1	Staffordshire Creamware	Post-medieval	AD 1730-1850
3	Bone & shell	1	Misc. animal bone	Undated	
3	Building material	12	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
3	Building material	3	Iron object	Modern	Probably a nail
3	Garden waste	2	Foil bottle caps	Modern	
3	Glass	12	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
3	Pot	2	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
4	Building material	1	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
4	Fossil	1	Gryphaea (Devil's Toenail)	Mesozoic	
4	Garden waste	1	Pipe	Modern	14mm diam., flattened
4	Glass	3	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
4	Pot	1	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395
4	Pot	1	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+
5	Bone & shell	59	Misc. animal bone	Modern	Articulated, dog burial
5	Flint	1	Secondary squat chip	Bronze Age	
5	Pot	2	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+
5	Pot	3	Stamford ware	Saxo-Norman	AD 850/900-1150

* Phasing: Mesozoic (252-66 million years ago), Bronze Age (2600-700 BC), Roman (AD 43-410), Saxo-Norman (AD 850-1100), High Medieval (1100-1400), Later Medieval (1400-1550), Post-medieval (1550-1800), Modern (1800-present)

Test Pit 9: 4 Far Coton, SK 38684 01944

Test Pit 9 (Figure 21) was dug in the back garden, west of 4 Far Coton. Aerial photographs from the mid-20th century show that the property was likely built on an area of ridge and furrow, however, it is also included within an area suggested to be part of the shrunken medieval village of Coton (HER ref. MLE2911). The 1848 tithe map identifies this area as pasture occupied by a John Hox, the tenant farmer at Upper Farm, 150m to the north. The current house, part of a semi-detached property with 3 Far Coton, was built in the mid-20th century, most likely as an estate cottage.

Figure 21: Excavation of Test Pit 9, looking west

Figure 22: Test Pit 9 post-excavation, looking north

During the excavation, 0.3m of turf and dark brownish grey sandy silt topsoil (Layers 1-3) was removed. Beneath was 0.3m of orange brown silty clayey sand subsoil (Layer 4-6). The natural substratum, yellowish grey clayey sand, was reached 0.6m below ground level (Figure 22); no archaeological features were recorded.

In all, 108 individual finds (854g) were recovered from the test pit (Table 10). A single sherd of High Medieval pottery (12th-14th century) was found, along with two sherds of late medieval pottery (15th – mid-16th century) and a small assemblage of post-medieval pottery (late 17th – 19th century). Other finds included modern building material, typically fragments of handmade brick and tile made locally from the late 18th century onwards. A large assemblage of modern nails and screws, modern bottle glass (including melted glass), and modern garden waste was also present and probably indicated the burning of domestic rubbish at the end of the garden. The oldest material recovered was two worked flint which were probably of Bronze Age date.

Test Pit 9 was sited to assess the potential extent of medieval activity in Far Coton. Finds recovered from the test pit were consistent with the area being under cultivation from at least the 12th century through to the mid-16th century. Medieval pottery sherds were typically small and abraded. This suggested that they were circulating in plough soil for a prolonged period of time. Rather than representing nearby habitation in the medieval period this pottery was likely imported from elsewhere, perhaps included in domestic refuse used to manure the fields surrounding the village. The absence of a large assemblage of post-medieval pottery, and lack of modern pottery, suggests that this agricultural land was taken out of cultivation in the 15th or 16th century and turned over to pasture. This is consistent with the ridge and furrow visible in aerial photographs of the area. Most of the modern finds probably represent occupation of the present house in the 20th century.

The worked flint was debitage, flakes removed during tool manufacture and maintenance. One piece was a ‘potlid’ (a small rounded flake caused by natural thermal fracturing) which had been worked into a thumbnail scraper. The rather impromptu nature of the material may suggest a Bronze Age date and the flint represented a low-level ‘background noise’ of prehistoric activity in the wider landscape.

Many thanks to Terry for the test pit location. Excavation was carried out over one day on April 22, 2023 by Chris Peat, Paul Ready, Andy Ridout and David Statham.

Table 10: The finds from Test Pit 9

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
1	Building material	9	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
1	Building material	13	Wire nails & screws	Modern	Assorted sizes, nails 2"-2¾", screws 3¼"
1	Garden waste	2	Modern plastic	Modern	Hard white plastic
1	Glass	5	Clear bottle glass	Modern	Inc. melted bottle neck
1	Glass	1	Dark blue bottle glass	Modern	
2	Building material	10	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
2	Building material	16	Wire nails & screws	Modern	Assorted sizes
2	Fossil	2	Gryphaea (Devil's Toenail)	Mesozoic	
2	Garden waste	1	Foil	Modern	
2	Garden waste	3	Modern plastic	Modern	Inc. plant label from 'Edward's Garden Centre, Nether Whitacre', handwritten on back 'Lanicera Halliana' (honeysuckle)
2	Glass	12	Clear bottle glass	Modern	

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
3	Building material	8	Wire nails	Modern	1½"
3	Building material	3	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
3	Building material	1	Iron object	Undated	Probably a nail
3	Glass	1	Clear window glass	Modern	
3	Pot	1	Midland Purple Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1370-1550
3	Pot	1	English Brown Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1670-1900
4	Building material	8	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
4	Flint	1	Retouched primary flake	Bronze Age	Retouched and utilised
4	Flint	1	Thumbnail scraper on potlid	Bronze Age	Irregular form
4	Glass	1	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
4	Pot	1	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1780
4	Pot	1	Staffordshire Creamware	Post-medieval	AD 1730-1850
4	Pot	1	White Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1730-1770
5	Building material	2	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
5	Glass	1	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
5	Pot	1	Midland Purple Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1370-1550
6	Pot	1	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+

* Phasing: Mesozoic (252-66 million years ago), Bronze Age (2600-700 BC), Roman (AD 43-410), Saxo-Norman (AD 850-1100), High Medieval (1100-1400), Later Medieval (1400-1550), Post-medieval (1550-1800), Modern (1800-present)

Test Pit 10: 3 Far Coton, SK 38693 01937

Test Pit 10 (Figure 23) was dug in the back garden, west of 3 Far Coton. Aerial photographs from the mid-20th century show that the property was likely built on an area of ridge and furrow, however, it is also included within an area suggested to be part of the shrunken medieval village of Coton (HER ref. MLE2911). The 1848 tithe map identifies this area as pasture occupied by a John Hox, the tenant farmer at Upper Farm, 150m to the north. The current house, part of a semi-detached property with 4 Far Coton, was built in the mid-20th century, most likely as an estate cottage.

Figure 23: Excavation of Test Pit 10, looking west

Figure 24: Test Pit 10 post-excavation, looking north

During the excavation, 0.3m of turf and dark brownish grey sandy silt topsoil (Layers 1-3) was removed. Beneath was 0.3m of orange brown clayey silt subsoil (Layer 4-6). The natural substratum, brownish orange clayey sand and gravel, was reached 0.6m below ground level (Figure 24); no archaeological features were recorded.

In all, 56 individual finds (688g) were recovered from the test pit (Table 11). A small assemblage of High Medieval pottery (12th-14th century) was found, along with a small assemblage of late medieval pottery (15th – mid-16th century) and a larger assemblage of post-medieval pottery (late 17th – 19th century). Other finds included modern building material, typically fragments of handmade brick and tile made locally from the late 18th century onwards. The oldest material recovered was three worked flint which were probably of Bronze Age date.

Test Pit 10 was sited to assess the potential extent of medieval activity in Far Coton. Finds recovered from the test pit were consistent with the area being under cultivation from at least the 12th century through to the mid-16th century. Medieval pottery sherds were typically small and abraded. This suggested that they were circulating in plough soil for a prolonged period of time. Rather than representing nearby habitation in the medieval period this pottery was likely imported from elsewhere, perhaps included in domestic refuse used to manure the fields surrounding the village. The absence of a large assemblage of post-medieval pottery, and the lack of modern pottery, suggests that this agricultural land was taken out of cultivation in the 15th or 16th century and turned over to pasture. This is consistent with the ridge and furrow visible in aerial photographs of the area. Most of the post-medieval pottery (25/27 sherds) came from a single English Brown Salt-Glazed stoneware bowl of probable 19th century date. This and most of the other finds from the test pit probably represent occupation of the present house in the 20th century.

The worked flint was debitage, flakes removed during tool manufacture and maintenance. Signs of retouching on one of the flakes might indicate that it was used as a tool. The rather impromptu nature of the material may suggest a Bronze Age date and the flint represented a low-level ‘background noise’ of prehistoric activity in the wider landscape.

Many thanks to Nigel for the test pit location. Excavation was carried out over one day on April 23, 2023 by Richard Liddington, Paul Kettell and Jonah, Mathew and Tina Tallis.

Table 11: The finds from Test Pit 10

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
1	Building material	1	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
2	Building material	9	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
2	Building material	1	Yellow-glazed ceramic pipe	Modern	
2	Building material	1	Iron object	Undated	Probably a nail
2	Flint	1	Primary flake	Bronze Age	Broken
2	Pot	1	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+
3	Building material	8	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
3	Flint	1	Tertiary flake with retouch	Bronze Age	
3	Pot	1	Chilvers Coton ‘A’ Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395
3	Pot	1	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1780
3	Pot	1	Midland Purple Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1370-1550
4	Building material	2	Red ceramic building material	Modern	

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
4	Pot	1	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD
4	Pot	1	Midland Purple Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1370-1550
4	Pot	18	English Brown Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1670-1900
5	Flint	1	Tertiary squat flake	Bronze Age	
5	Pot	7	English Brown Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1670-1900

* Phasing: Mesozoic (252-66 million years ago), Bronze Age (2600-700 BC), Roman (AD 43-410), Saxo-Norman (AD 850-1100), High Medieval (1100-1400), Later Medieval (1400-1550), Post-medieval (1550-1800), Modern (1800-present)

Test Pit 11: 2 Far Coton, SK 38696 01920

Test Pit 11 (Figure 25) was dug in the back garden, west of 2 Far Coton. Aerial photographs from the mid-20th century show that the property was likely built on an area of ridge and furrow, however, it is also included within an area suggested to be part of the shrunken medieval village of Coton (HER ref. MLE2911). The 1848 tithe map identifies this area as pasture occupied by a John Hox, the tenant farmer at Upper Farm, 150m to the north. The current house, part of a semi-detached property with 1 Far Coton, was built in the early 20th century, most likely as an estate cottage (mounted on the front of the house is a plaque bearing the Dixie family crest, a leopard sejant).

Figure 25: Excavation of Test Pit 11, looking south-west

Figure 26: Test Pit 11 post-excavation, looking north

During the excavation, 0.1m of turf and dark brownish grey sandy silt topsoil (Layers 1). Beneath was 0.1m of charcoal and fire waste (Layer 2) overlying 0.3m of yellowish grey clayey silt (Layers 3-5). The natural substratum, brownish orange clayey sand and gravel, was reached 0.5m below ground level (Figure 26); no archaeological features were recorded.

In all, 66 individual finds (1.426kg) were recovered from the test pit (Table 12). A single sherd of Roman pottery (2nd – 4th century) was found, along with a single sherd of High Medieval pottery (12th – 14th century) and a small assemblage of post-medieval and modern pottery (18th century – present). Other finds included modern building material, typically fragments of handmade brick and tile made locally from the late 18th century onwards. Modern iron nails and screws, bottle glass and garden waster were also present.

Test Pit 11 was sited to assess the potential extent of medieval activity in Far Coton. Finds recovered from the test pit were consistent with the area being under cultivation from at least the 2nd century through to the mid-16th century. Roman and medieval pottery sherds were typically small and abraded. This suggested that they were circulating in plough soil for a prolonged period of time. Rather than representing nearby habitation in these periods, this pottery was likely imported from elsewhere, perhaps included in domestic refuse used to manure the fields surrounding the village. The absence of a large assemblage of post-medieval and modern pottery suggests that this agricultural land was taken out of cultivation in the 15th or 16th century and turned over to pasture. This is consistent with the ridge and furrow visible in aerial photographs of the area. Most of the modern finds probably represent occupation of the present house in the 20th century.

Many thanks to Sally Brothwell for the test pit location. Excavation was carried out over two days on April 22-23, 2023 by Alice, Annabelle, Jan, Joy and Steven Goodman, and Amelia and Brayden McDonald.

Table 12: The finds from Test Pit 11

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
1	Building material	5	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
1	Building material	1	Yellow-glazed ceramic pipe	Modern	
1	Building material	1	Blue ceramic building material	Modern	Reduced brick, frogged, 76mm thick
1	Building material	1	Iron object	Undated	Probably a nail
1	Garden waste	1	Bottle cap	Modern	34mm diam., 14mm deep, no screw thread
1	Glass	1	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
1	Garden waste	1	Modern plastic	Modern	Sink plug
1	Pot	2	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
1	Pot	1	Staffordshire Creamware	Post-medieval	AD 1730-1850
2	Building material	7	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
2	Building material	16	Wire nails & screws	Modern	Assorted sizes, 1½-2½" nails & 3" screws
2	Glass	2	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
2	Garden waste	1	Iron fitting	Modern	Square with tapered side (house-shaped), 32mm x 42mm, 1mm thick, 2 screw holes in diagonal corners
2	Pot	11	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
4	Pot	1	Midland Blackware	Post-medieval	Ticknall AD 1550-1725
5	Building material	10	Wire nails	Modern	Assorted sizes, 2"-2¼"

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
5	Pot	2	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
5	Pot	1	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+
5	Pot	1	Roman pottery	Roman	Greyware, jar base

* Phasing: Mesozoic (252-66 million years ago), Bronze Age (2600-700 BC), Roman (AD 43-410), Saxo-Norman (AD 850-1100), High Medieval (1100-1400), Later Medieval (1400-1550), Post-medieval (1550-1800), Modern (1800-present)

Finds Summary

In total, 1559 individual finds (13.398kg) were recovered from the eleven test pits dug across Coton in 2023 (see Appendix One for a full catalogue of finds). Archaeological material ranged in date from the Bronze Age to the present day and was broken down into the following categories for analysis: flint, pottery, clay tobacco pipe, glass, personal adornments, household objects, munitions, building material, industrial residues, garden waste, and bone and shell. Non-archaeological material included a small assemblage of fossils (Table 13, Figure 27). During cataloguing, finds were dated and assigned a phase (Table 14, Figure 28).

Finds were collected and processed during the dig weekend by Jane Alesbrook, Joe Ecob, Marion Lambourne, Carol Thomas and Marianne Whiting under the supervision of ULAS staff. Further processing and cataloguing was carried out by Mathew Morris; analysis of the flint was undertaken by Wayne Jarvis, and pottery by Paul Blinkhorn.

Table 13: The finds assemblage by category

Find category	No.	Weight (g)	% of assemblage
Flint	10	62	0.6
Pottery	278	1714	17.8
Clay tobacco pipe	18	37	1.2
Glass	217	631	13.9
Personal adornments	3	3	0.2
Household objects	3	3	0.2
Munitions	1	1	0.1
Building material	885	9377	56.8
Industrial residues	1	8	0.1
Garden waste	50	1078	3.2
Bone & shell	86	438	5.5
Fossils	7	46	0.4
TOTAL	**1559**	**13398**	

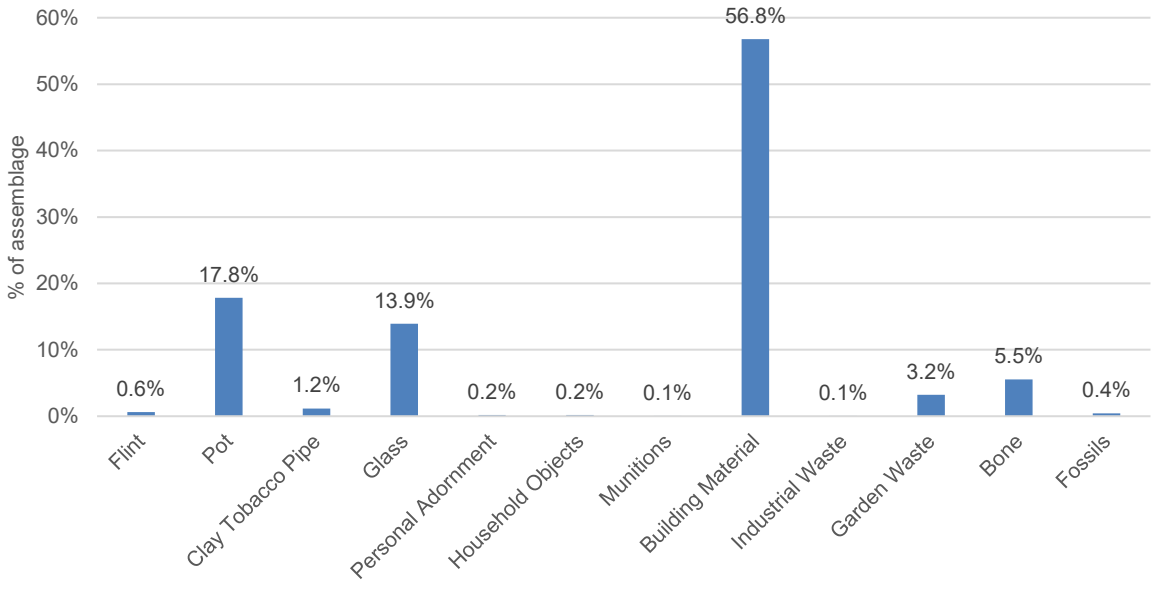

Figure 27: Chart showing the finds assemblage by category and percentage of assemblage

Table 14: The finds assemblage by phase

Phase	No.	Weight (g)	% of assemblage
Mesozoic (252-66 mya)	7	46	0.4
Bronze Age (2600-700 BC)	10	62	0.6
Roman (AD 43-410)	3	21	0.2
Saxo-Norman (850-1100)	3	7	0.2
High Medieval (1100-1400)	21	79	1.3
Late Medieval (1400-1550)	24	219	1.5
Post-medieval (1550-1800)	154	705	9.9
Modern (1800-present)	1278	11673	82.0
Undated	59	586	3.8

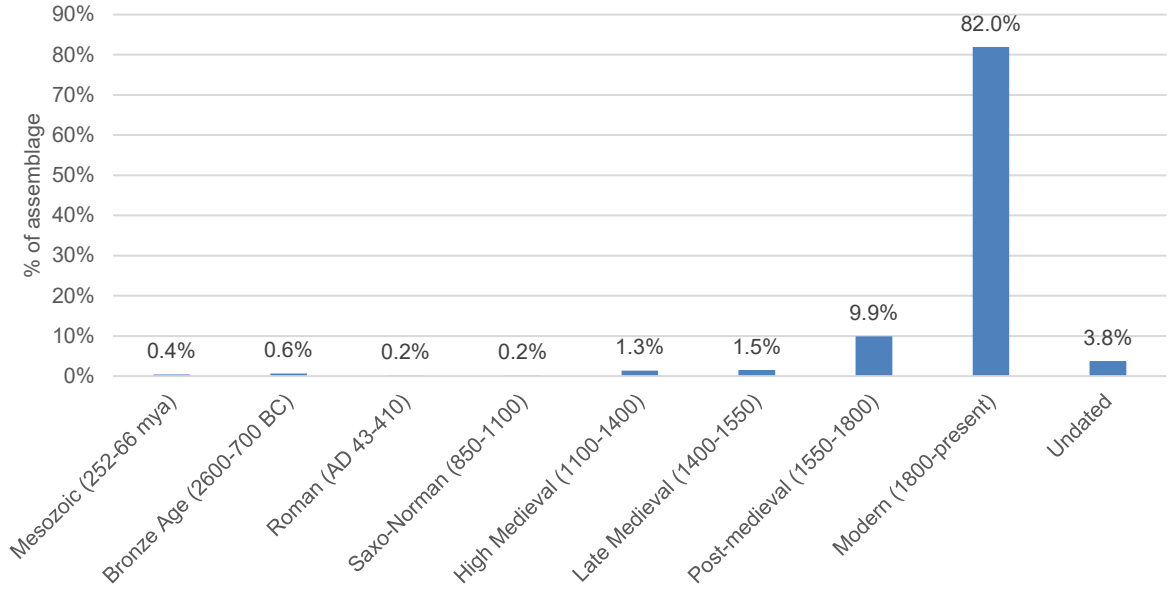

Figure 28: Chart showing the finds assemblage by phase and percentage of assemblage

Flint *Wayne Jarvis*

The small collection from Coton comprises ten worked flints, from excavated deposits during trial pitting (Table 15). The raw material is quite good quality dark grey translucent flint. The struck material consists of small pieces, and the flint may have been locally sourced from drift deposits.

The majority of the material is debitage, flakes removed during tool manufacture and maintenance. A few pieces have retouch or other indications of utilisation, including a likely scraper. The scraper, from TP9.4 (Figure 29), is a retouched potlid, thumbnail-like in form but not a regular button-shape. The absence of diagnostic tool types and the rather impromptu nature of the material may suggest a Bronze Age date, and the flint may represent a low-level 'background noise' of prehistoric activity.

Table 15: Breakdown of the flint assemblage

Test Pit	Layer	Type	Comments
1	1	1ry fl (flake)	
4	2	3ry flake	
5	4	Ret (Retouched) 2ry fl	
6	5	2ry fl, blade-like prior removals	
8	5	2ry squat chip	
9	4	Ret 1ry fl	Ret & util
9	4	Thumbnail scraper on potlid	Irreg form
10	2	1ry fl, broken	Edge abraded – utilised
10	3	3ry fl with ret	
10	5	3ry squat fl	

Figure 29: Thumbnail scrapper on potlid (TP9.4).

Pottery *Paul Blinkhorn*

Altogether, 278 sherds of pottery (1.714kg) were recovered from the eleven test pits. The pottery was recorded using the conventions of the Leicestershire County type-series (Table 16, Sawday 2009). A detailed description of each pottery fabric is presented in Appendix Two.

Table 16: Pottery fabrics

Fabric code	Common name	Approx. date range	No.	Weight (g)	% of assemblage
RB	All Romano-British pottery	AD 43-410	3	21	1.1
ST	Stamford Ware	AD 850/900-1150	3	7	1.1
PM	Potters Marston Ware	AD 1100-1300/50+	11	40	4.0
CC1	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	AD 1250-1395	8	30	2.9
CC2	Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware	AD 1200-1475	2	9	0.7
MP	Midland Purple Ware	AD 1375-1550	18	191	6.5
CW	Cistercian Ware	AD 1450/75-1550	6	28	2.2
MY	Midland Yellow Ware	AD 1500-1725	3	12	1.1
MB	Midland Blackware	AD 1550-1725	7	17	2.5
EA2	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	AD 1600-1900	58	521	20.9
EA3	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware	AD 1680-1780	13	33	4.7
EA8	Staffordshire Creamware	AD 1730-1850	22	24	7.9
EA10	Modern earthenware	AD 1800-present	88	714	31.7
EA11	Tin-glazed earthenware	AD 1700-1800	1	1	0.4
SW4	White Salt Glazed Stoneware	AD 1730-1770	6	8	2.2
SW5	English Brown Salt-glazed Stoneware	AD 1670-1900	29	58	10.4

The bulk of the pottery assemblage dated to the post-medieval period (1550-1800, 50.0%). A large assemblage of modern potter (1800-present, 31.7%) was also found, along with small assemblages of Roman (AD 43-410, 1.1%), Saxo-Norman (850-1100, 1.1%), High Medieval (1100-1400, 7.6%) and Late Medieval pottery (1400-1550, 8.6%) - Table 17,

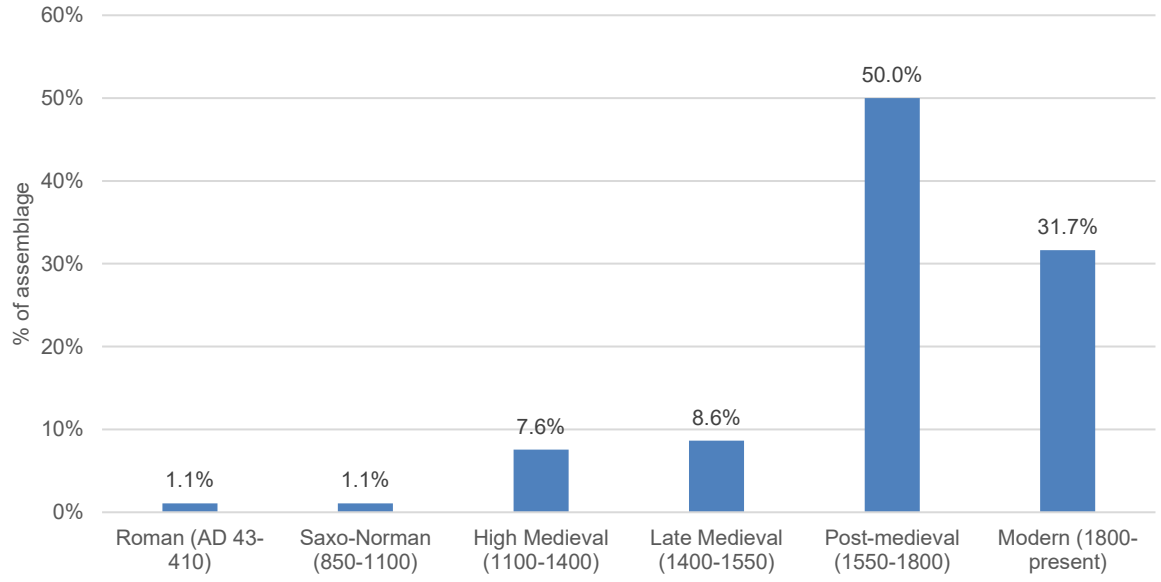

Figure 31.

Figure 30: left, medieval pottery from TP6; right, late medieval pottery from TP1.

Mixed, multi-period assemblages of pottery were found in the topsoil and the subsoil in every test pit. From this it is evident that the ground across Coton was extensively reworked in the past – through gardening, farming and building activities. Most of the assemblage comprised small and abraded pottery sherds (Figure 30, left), suggestive of material which was circulating in the soil for a long period of time, and in most instances the material was likely introduced to the soil by enriching it with manure from midden material containing domestic waste. In one test pit (TP1) a small but significant assemblage of Late Medieval pottery (Figure 30, right) was identified in association with a stone surface. These sherds were typically larger and less worn (suggesting that they had not moved far from their original place of deposition). This is interpreted as a site where late medieval activity was taking place in the vicinity (see Discussion). Post-medieval and modern pottery was recovered in larger quantities and typically corresponded with known historical activity at the test pit locations. The small assemblage of Roman pottery most likely represents a low-level 'background noise' of Roman activity in the wider landscape.

Table 17: The pottery assemblage by phase

Phase	No.	Weight (g)	% of assemblage
Roman (AD 43-410)	3	21	1.1
Saxo-Norman (850-1100)	3	7	1.1
High Medieval (1100-1400)	21	79	7.6
Late Medieval (1400-1550)	24	219	8.6
Post-medieval (1550-1800)	139	674	50.0
Modern (1800-present)	88	714	31.7
TOTAL	**278**	**1714**	

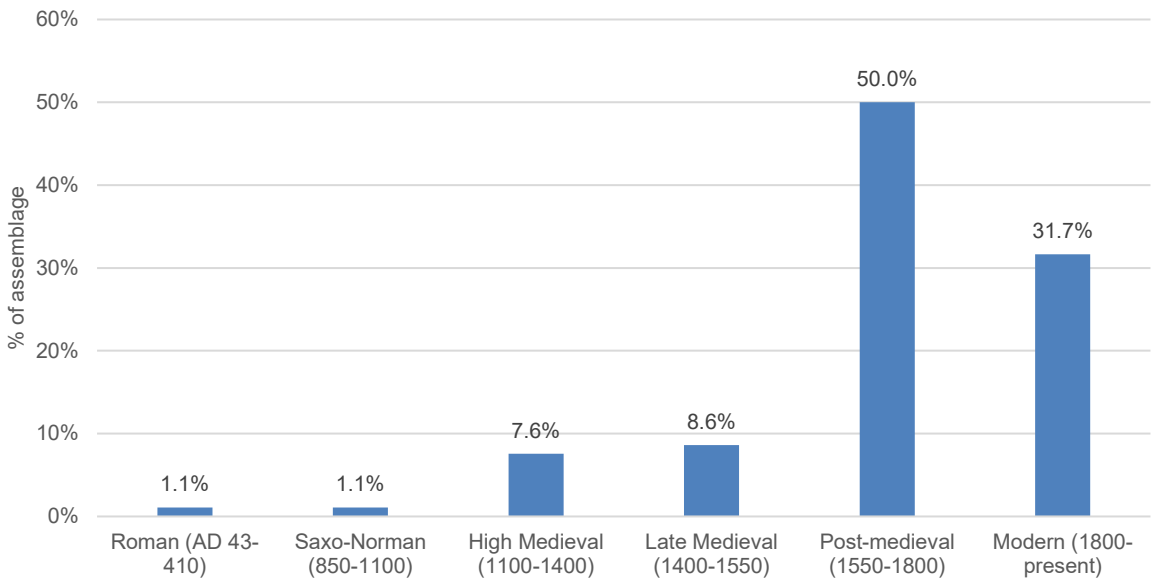

Figure 31: Chart showing the pottery assemblage by phase and percentage of assemblage

Clay tobacco pipe

Altogether, 18 pieces of clay tobacco pipe (37g) were recovered from two test pits. The bulk of the assemblage (n15, 83.33%) comprised pieces of broken pipe stem. These are of assorted diameters and lengths and, where identifiable, have bores of 3mm (n2), 2.4mm (n6) and 1.6mm (n7). Tobacco was introduced to England in the mid-16th century and clay pipes were manufactured in large quantities until the early 20th century. It is difficult to date pipe stems. Models for dating based on bore diameter have been attempted, on the principle that bore diameter decreased as production techniques became more sophisticated (i.e. larger bores are earlier than smaller bores). Following this, pipe bores of 3mm are of 16th century or later date, bores of 2.4mm are of 18th century or later date, and bores of 1.6mm are of mid-19th century or later date. However, it has been observed that there is still too much overlap in bore-diameters for it to be possible to date individual pipes accurately (Flood 1976).

Pipe bowls are much more dateable. Three fragments of pipe bowl were found. However, none were sufficiently intact to date. One fragment was thick-walled with a pipe bore of 3mm, the other two were thin-walled.

The majority of the clay tobacco pipe (n17) was found in Test Pit 1 at Coton Priory, with a single sherd found in Test Pit 4 (also at Coton Priory). This is understandable as this was the only property known to be occupied in the 17th-19th century.

Glass

Altogether, 217 fragments of glass (631g) were recovered from ten test pits (the exception being Test Pit 10). The assemblage was overwhelmingly of modern date (19th century – present) and was predominately nondescript, coming from a wide range of vessels including bottles, jars, table ware and decorative ware. A small assemblage of clear window glass was also present. The glass came in varying shades of different colours – clear (93.1%), green (5.5%), dark blue (0.9%) and turquoise (0.5%). A small number of fragments had some surface iridescence and one bottle neck was melted, probably from a recent bonfire.

Personal adornments

Three items of personal adornment were recovered from the test pits and are catalogued below:

1. TP1.3: Button, iron, 16mm diameter, cover for shank button, slightly domed. Modern.
2. TP2.3: Button, white plastic, 2-hole, 11mm diameter. Modern
3. TP8.2: Button, white plastic, 2-hole, 11mm diameter. Modern

Household objects

Three household items were recovered from the test pits and are catalogued below:

1. TP2.2: Slate pencil, broken. Modern
2. TP7.2: Carbon rod from battery, 5mm diam. 40mm long, broken. Modern
3. TP8.2: Carbon rod from battery, cu alloy cap, 5mm diam. 34mm long. Modern

Figure 32: Brass cartridge case from TP4.

Munitions

A small brass cartridge case was found and is catalogued below:

1. TP4.2: .32 extra short rimfire cartridge case, brass (also known as a .32 Protector). Rimmed, straight case, 9.6mm diameter rim, 8.1mm diameter body, 10mm length, 'G' headstamp, rimfired, c.1890-1920. Manufactured for small compact close protection personal weapons such as the Protector Palm Pistol and the Remington-Rider Magazine Pistol (Figure 32).

Building materials

The largest group of material recovered from the test pits was building material. Altogether, 885 pieces of building material (9.377kg) was recovered from the eleven test pits. This is divided into three categories, ceramic building material, other building material and metalwork associated with construction.

Ceramic building material (n719, 8.124kg, from eleven test pits) was predominately pieces of unfrogged red bricks, pantiles and nib tiles (n681). Much of this may have been produced locally from the late 18th century onwards. Brickyards were present in the parish, with one shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, 650m north of Coton at Bosworth Wharf. Other ceramic building material included small assemblages of engineering bricks and ceramic drainage pipes (yellow and brown-glazed and unglazed).

Other building material (n1, 10g, from Test Pit 6) included a fragment of Welsh roof slate with a punched hole.

Metalwork associated with construction (n165, 1.243kg, from eleven test pits) included forged square-shafted iron nails, wire nails, screws and bolts, iron staples and a piece of iron wire bent

into an S-shaped hook. The forged nails were undated, all of the other material was modern. In particular, Test Pits 8, 9 and 11 all produced large assemblages of modern nails concentrated in one or two layers. These were all modern and may have come from burning building waste in the gardens.

Industrial residues

A single piece of undated iron slag (8g) was recovered from Test Pit 3.

Garden waste

Fifty pieces of modern garden waste (1.078g) were recovered from eight test pits. This included foil bottle tops and modern plastic, mostly food wrappers, plant pots, plant labels, laundry pegs, a sink plug and other pieces of garden furniture. A large piece of green painted ironwork from Test Pit 8 may have come from a piece of modern agricultural machinery.

Bone and shell

Altogether, 86 pieces of animal bone (438g) were recovered from four test pits. This has not been analysed in any detail, but rapid assessment suggests a range of small to large mammals. Overall, as the assemblage has predominately been recovered from extensively reworked topsoil and subsoil, the material cannot be used as evidence for animal husbandry or food consumption near each test pit. In some instances, it has undoubtedly been redeposited in manuring spreads in plough soil.

At Test Pit 8, a large assemblage of animal bone was recovered from Layers 4-5. This has been identified as a dog, and probably represent the disturbed burial of an articulated animal.

Fossils

A small assemblage of fossils (n7) was recovered from four test pits. These were all *Gryphaea* (commonly known as Devil's Toenails), a marine creature from the Mesozoic Era (252-66 million years ago). They are naturally occurring in the geology of the area.

Discussion

Overall, the eleven test pits excavated across Coton in 2023 have produced promising results, telling a story of settlement development from the 15th century to the present day and revealing hints of earlier Bronze Age, Roman and medieval landscapes.

Lewis rightly cautions that 'any inference based on ceramic assemblages derived from a sample as small as a 1 sq. m is inevitably an inexact science' (2005, 139) because of fundamental unknowns including factors which may have affected deposition, preservation and movement of the ceramic material, and the extent to which the excavated sample is representative of past activity in the vicinity.

However, research carried out during test pitting projects at Shapwick, Whittlewood and across eastern England (Gerrard & Costen 1997, Jones & Page 2001, Lewis 2005) has established that some general, flexibly applied patterns of occupation can be inferred from ceramic assemblages in test pits. Excavators on those projects concluded that the recovery of less than five sherds of pottery of either Roman, medieval or post-medieval date from any given test pit meant that it was unlikely occupation was occurring nearby, whilst the recovery of ten or more sherds from any given test pit was generally taken to indicate occupation taking place in the immediate vicinity. Depending on site-specific and test pit-specific factors, sherd counts between five and ten were sometimes considered to represent nearby occupation, and sometimes not. Overall, the increasing number, size and weight of pottery sherds in the assemblage was taken to indicate the greater likelihood and/or proximity of intensive occupation nearby, whilst mitigating factors in sherd counts of less than ten, which might allow the inference of occupation in the vicinity, included whether the sherd count for any given period was restricted to just one or two adjacent layers within the pit, rather than scattered vertically throughout, and whether the layer/s within the test-pit contained no identifiably later material. However, single sherd counts, especially if the pottery was very small and abraded, were most likely to be associated with non-habitative activity such as manuring of arable land with relocated domestic waste. It was also recognised that pottery from some periods (i.e. prehistoric and early medieval pottery which is relatively rare and/or fragile) is less common than others, and that similar sherd counts/weights from different periods may in some instances be regarded as having widely differing significance (Jones 2005, Lewis 2005 & 2014).

These criteria were applied to the ceramic assemblage recovered from test pits in Coton, and the wider Bosworth Links project, and are discussed below.

Bronze Age (2600-700 BC)

The nature of any prehistoric activity around Coton remains unclear. Before the Bosworth Links project, no prehistoric finds had been made in area, and the presence of a slight scatter of worked flints of probable Bronze Age date in the test pits, mostly representing a low-level 'background noise' of prehistoric activity in the wider landscape, has not added significant new insights (Figure 33). One exception, in Far Cotton, was the five flints, 50% of the assemblage, which from two test-pits in adjacent properties (TPs 9-10). These were mostly debitage (waste flakes from tool production) with some showing signs of retoucing and other signs of utilisation, including a possible thumbnail scraper from Test Pit 9. The evidence is slight, but this concentration of material might be a sign of habitational activity in the vicinity. The location, at the end of the ridge overlooking the valley to the west, would certainly be apt.

Four thousand years ago, high ground to the north and east of Coton (towards Market Bosworth, Cadeby and Osbaston) was probably still densely wooded, and this may have been the case along the ridge on which Coton is situated. To the west, in the Sense Valley and its tributaries, land was probably being cleared for arable and pastoral use. A scatter of Neolithic and Bronze

Age flints has been found during fieldwork in the valley, 1.5km west of Far Coton (HER MLE15751), whilst test pitting at Market Bosworth (Morris 2018), 1.5km to the north-east of Coton Priory, has identified that the town is sited over a probable late Neolithic/early Bronze Age cremation cemetery. Further burial mounds are attested 2.5km to the south-east near Sutton Cheney (MLE3229 & MLE3251), all similarly sited along the edge of the high ground in positions which were probably visible from the low ground to the west. This 'landscape of the dead' may occupy a liminal space between the 'wild' and 'cultivated' landscapes in the area.

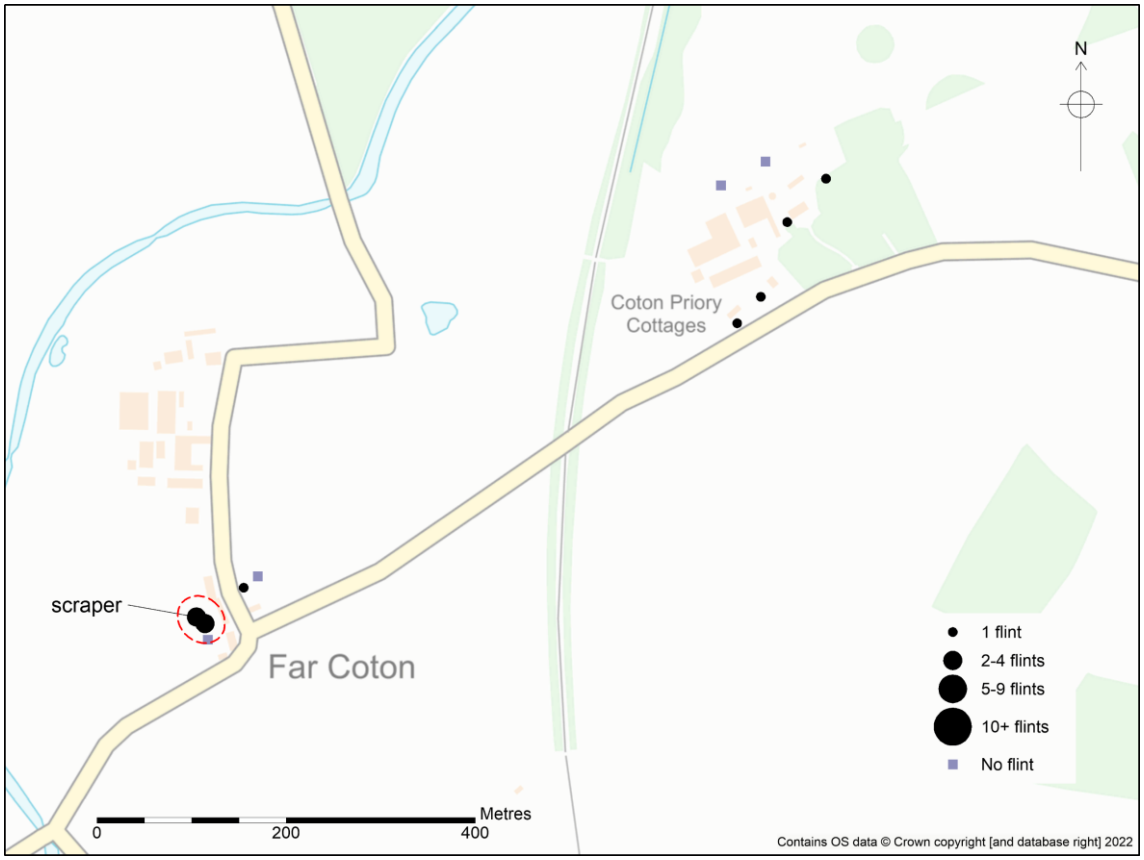

Figure 33: The distribution of worked flint across Coton.

Roman activity (AD 43-410)

A slight Roman presence was identified around Coton, with three test pits (TPs 2, 6 & 11) producing a very small assemblage (3 sherds) of Roman pottery. This material was typically small and abraded which suggested that it was circulating in the soil for a prolonged period, most likely as domestic refuse introduced to arable fields as manurer.

Two thousand years ago, the landscape around Coton was probably cleared of trees, although pockets of woodland undoubtedly still existed on the high ground to the north-east, beyond Market Bosworth. A probable Roman farmstead has been recorded at Carlton, 3km to the north (Flavell 2018) and field systems have been recorded on the high ground near Barlestone, 4km to the north-east, and beneath Market Bosworth 1.5km to the north-east (Gossip 1996, Harvey 2014). Closer to Coton, test-pitting at St Peter's Primary School, 1km to the north has also identified a possible settlement site, perhaps another farmstead (Morris 2018). These may have all been associated with a villa on the north edge of Market Bosworth, 1.5km to the north-east (MLE2924), forming part of a large well-managed estate.

To the west, fieldwalking has also identified possible Iron Age and Roman sites near Sibson (HER MLE8955, 9517 and 16406), whilst 2km the south, close to the Bosworth Battlefield Centre, fieldwork has recorded a probable Roman temple site.

Overall, whilst the Roman finds from Coton have not added significantly to the known Roman activity in the area, they do fit into a pattern of open agrarian landscapes dominated by dispersed farmsteads, with a scatter of villas and other rural activity sites. These probably formed part of the hinterland for the Roman town of *Manduessedum* (Mancetter), 8km to the south-west.

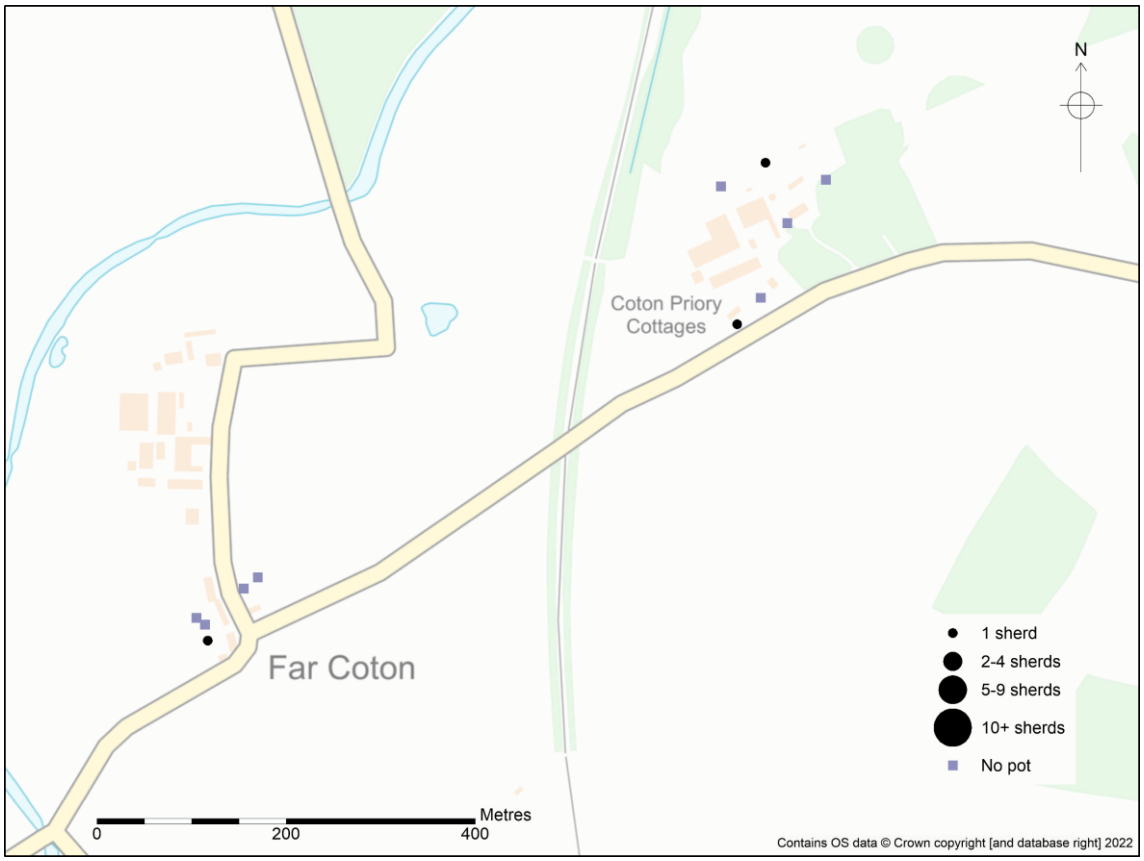

Figure 34: The distribution of Roman pottery across Coton.

Medieval activity (AD 1100-1550)

Nineteenth-century maps show that the pre-modern community at Coton had two foci of settlement, at Near Coton (Coton Priory today) and at Far Coton, whilst earthworks between the two have been suggested to be abandoned medieval settlement, dubbed 'Middle Coton' (Figure 3). Today, whilst there has been some modern development at both Near and Far Coton, the two areas of settlement remain distinct, separate settlements. When and how settlement at Coton began, therefore, was a primary research question of the Bosworth Links project and pottery from the test pits has provided some incomplete answers.

Coton was not recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086. The earliest surviving reference to the village by name is in the early 13th century, when it was a chapelry of Market Bosworth, and in the late 13th century it was included with Bosworth, Carlton and Shenton as a single vill. Historically, therefore, it appears to have been a small collection of dwellings subservient to Market Bosworth, and it is possible that it was included in the same entry as Bosworth (which was divided between two manors) at Domesday.

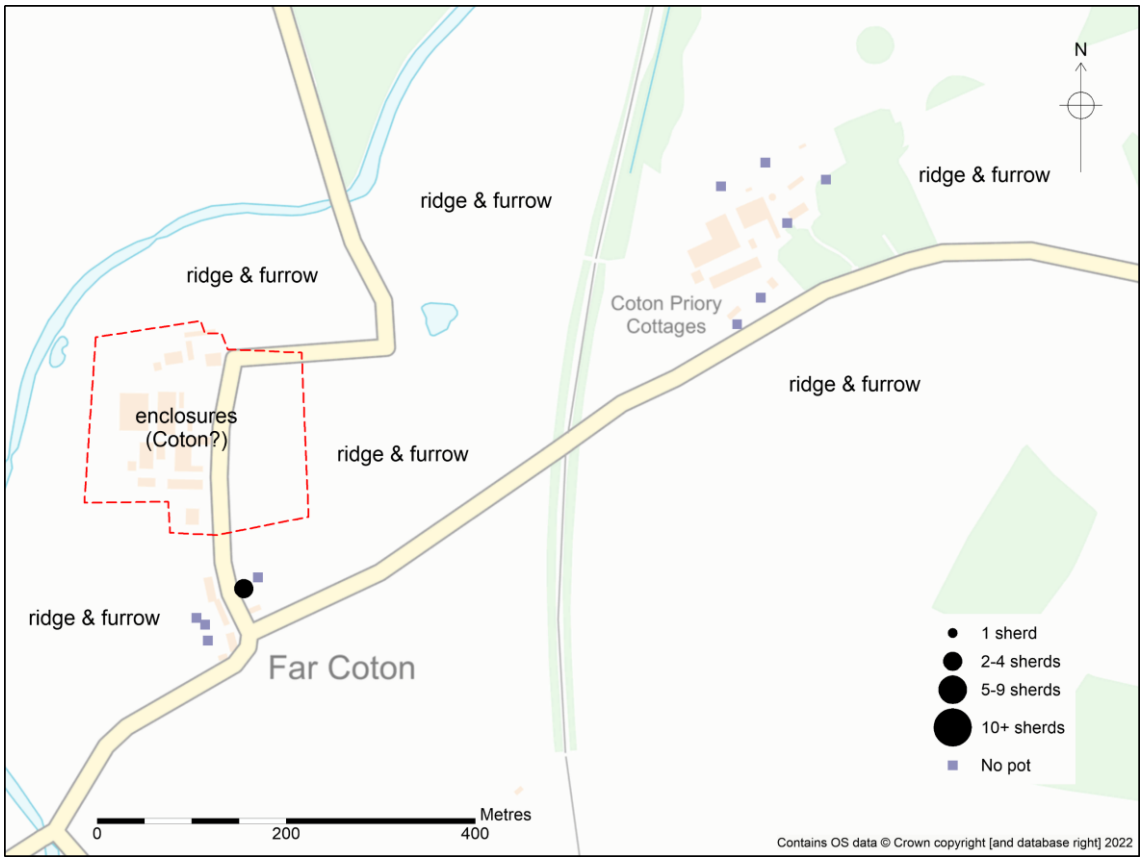

Figure 35: The distribution of Saxo-Norman pottery across Coton.

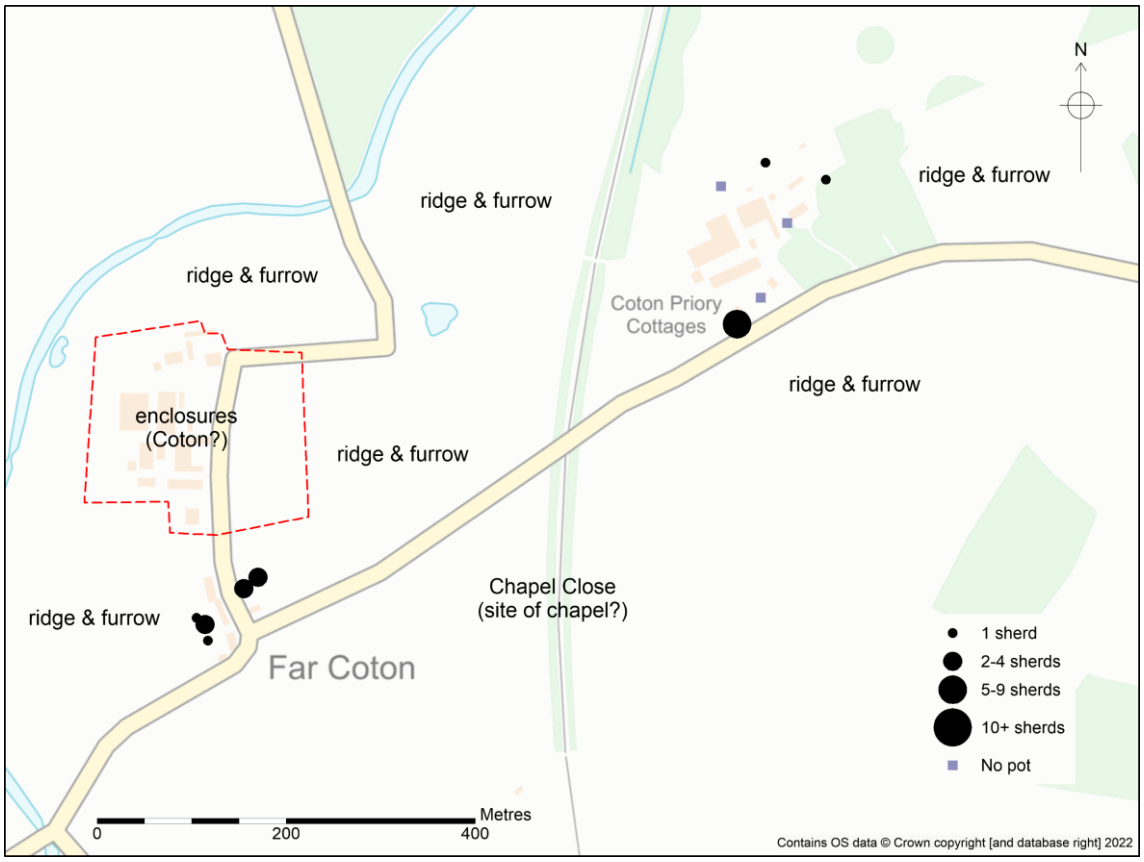

Figure 36: The distribution of High Medieval pottery across Coton.

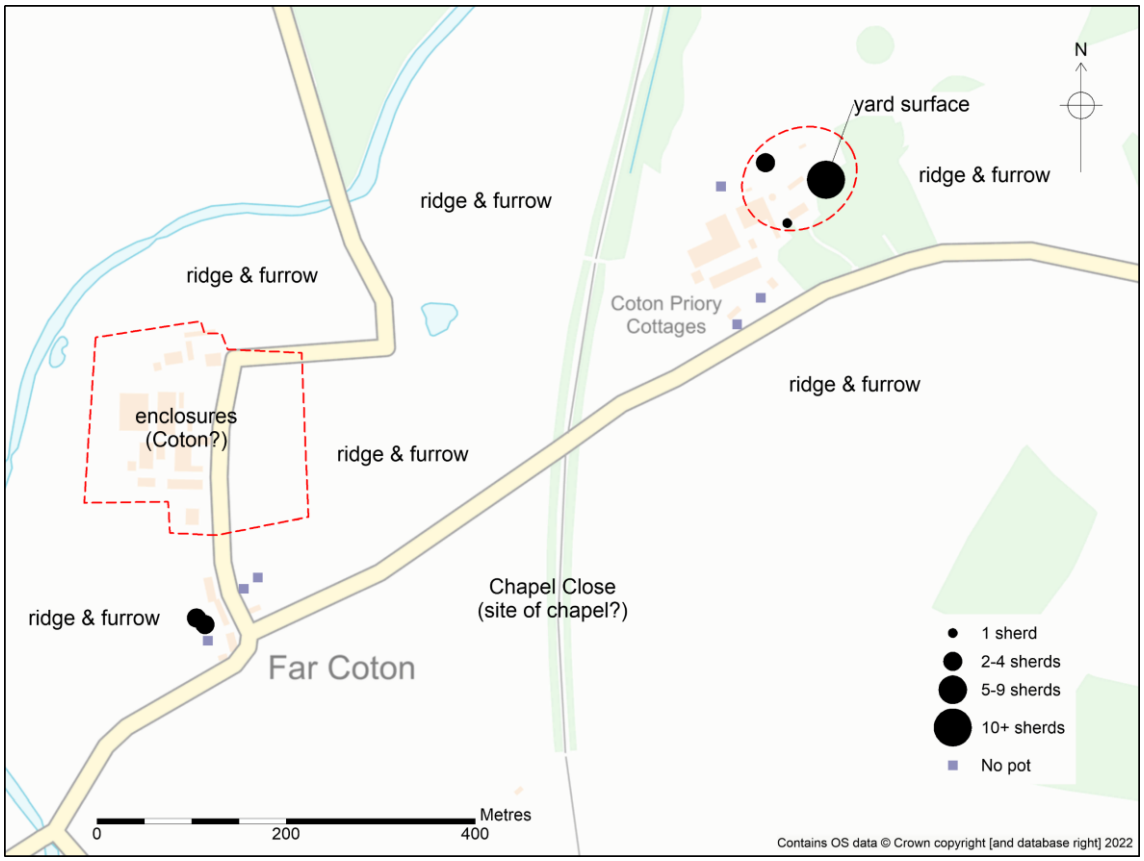

Figure 37: The distribution of Late Medieval pottery across Coton.

Figure 38: Aerial photograph from the 1960s showing ridge and furrow cropmarks around Far Coton, looking west. Test pits 7-11 were dug around the dwellings top right. Image: Leicestershire HER.

No Early Medieval (5th-mid-9th century) pottery was found during the Bosworth Links dig. However, small assemblages of Saxo-Norman (mid-9th-11th century) and High Medieval (12th-14th century) pottery were recovered, along with a yard surface and a small but potentially significant assemblage of Late Medieval pottery (15th-mid-16th century) - Figure 35 to Figure 37.

Most test pits (three in Near Coton and all five in Far Coton) were dug in areas of modern development on the edge of the pre-modern settlement cores (e.g. TPs 3, 5-11). These all produced tiny assemblages of medieval pottery which were characteristically small and abraded, indicative of material which had circulated in the soil for a prolonged period of time.

Rather than representing nearby habitation, this pottery was more likely to have been imported from elsewhere as domestic refuse in midden material used to manure the fields in the area. This was corroborated by the presence of visible ridge and furrow earthworks and cropmarks in the fields across the study area (Figure 38).

The medieval pottery fabrics were all typical of the region; from Stamford (65km to the east), Potters Marston (15km to the south-east), Chilvers Coton (15km to the south) and Ticknall (20km to the north), which were all major centres of pottery production during this period.

The earliest fabric found was Stamford ware (late 9th – mid-12th century) - Figure 35. Three sherds were found in TP 8, in an area of known ridge and furrow. The sherds were small and abraded and came from cultivation soil, and, therefore, can only infer activity of this date in the broader landscape, which would also includes Market Bosworth - which was known to exist at this time (Morris 2018). Another early fabric, Potters Marston ware (12th-13th century) was also found in small quantities across Coton, including TP 8. Given the small assemblage of material, the overlapping production periods of the two fabrics, and the absence of other Saxo-Norman wares, it is likely that the Stamford ware represents 12th century activity, and cannot be taken as evidence of pre-Conquest (i.e late 9th – 11th century) use of the area.

Towards the end of the 13th century, potters at Chilvers Coton switched from wood to coal as fuel and developed new kilns which produced higher firing temperatures. Demand for these new pots increased and by the 14th century the Potters Marston industry had ceased production (Sawday 1991). Small assemblages of Chilvers Coton ware (13th-14th century) were also found in test pits across Coton. Potters Marston ware and Chilvers Coton ware also have overlapping production periods and, again, can be contemporary when found in associated groups (Figure 36).

By the 15th century, the potters at Chilvers Coton and elsewhere in the north-west Midlands, including Ticknall in Derbyshire, were producing distinct Late Medieval fabrics. Late Medieval pottery (15th-mid-16th century) was also found in small quantities at Far Coton, and again may represents manuring practices. However, one test pit at Coton Priory Farm (TP 1) produced a larger, potentially significant assemblage of Midland Purple ware and Cistercian ware (Figure 37). This had a different character to the ‘manuring’ deposits, with sherds being larger and less worn, suggesting that there was now habitation in the vicinity of the test pit. Much of this Late Medieval pottery was recovered from the top of a stone surface, perhaps part of a yard area of late medieval/early post-medieval date. This activity was 50-200 years earlier than the known early 17th century date of Coton Priory Farmhouse and suggests that there was habitation in Near Coton before the present farm was built.

On present evidence, therefore, it would appear that the areas investigated during Bosworth Links Digs Coton were given over to arable cultivation through much of the 12th-14th century. At Far Cotton, the nature of the medieval settlement remains unclear. Land in the study area was being manurered with domestic refuse from at least the 12th century onwards, and perhaps

as early as the 10th or 11th century. However, the test pits did not identify a focus of habitation. Instead, medieval settlement was probably sited to the north of the study area, in the immediate vicinity of Upper and Lower Farms in Far Coton (which did not provide access for the project). Both farms and a third property are shown on the 1848 tithe map (ROLLR ref. Ti/214/1, Figure 4) and aerial photographs show that they were surrounded by earthworks defining a compact group of enclosures situated to either side of Coton Bridge Lane, amidst the ridge and furrow (Figure 3). These surrounded an area of approximately 4 hectares which could have easily accommodated the cottages and land of the four free tenants recorded living in Coton in the late 13th century (Nichols 1811, 494).

At Near Coton, the pottery in Test Pit 1 suggests that some habitation was here from the 15th century onwards. This is much earlier than previously known and indicates that there was probably a late medieval precursor to the 17th century Coton Priory Farmhouse. The absence of late medieval pottery in test pits to the west of Coton Priory Farmhouse (TPs 2, 5-6) might suggest that some areas had been taken out of cultivation and turned over to pasture. This might help explain the appearance of habitation at Near Coton in the 15th century, with a change in farming practice from arable to pastoral farming perhaps necessitating more dispersed settlement.

The earthworks at 'Middle Coton' were not investigated as part of this project. However, previous work appears to have confirmed that they are of 17th-20th century date and agricultural in function, with no evidence of medieval habitation (Stephen and Paul Saunders, *pers. comm.* 2023). This would support historical sources which show that Coton was always a very small settlement, rather than a larger settlement which has shrunk over time.

The location of the chapel at Coton remains a mystery. Sources are confused about its location, with Nichols suggesting that it was sited on St Anne's Hill, north of Market Bosworth and 1.7km north-east of Coton (1811, 521). Allegedly the foundations of the chapel were discovered in 1700, and in 1727 several bodies were found whilst cutting through part of the hill to improve the Barton Road. Foss (1991) argues that this was the location of a chapel dedicated to St Thomas Aquinas and St Anne, mentioned in 1546, which may have had a pre-Conquest origin. Given the distance, it was unlikely to have been the chapel for Coton. Instead, a better suggestion might be that Coton Chapel was located in fields to the south of Coton, where the 1848 tithe map records a 'Chapel Close'.

Post-medieval and modern activity (AD 1550-present)

Coton does not appear to have grown significantly in the post-medieval period. In 1719 seven freeholders polled from the settlement, and by 1790 there were 52 inhabitants including eight farmers and a freeholder (Nichols, 1811, 521). Nine households (including seven farms) with 81 residents were recorded in the 1851 census and by 1901 this had reduced to four farms and two cottages (one uninhabited) with 34 residents.

At Far Coton, finds suggest that the area was given over to cultivation through the medieval period but the absence of large assemblages of late medieval and post-medieval pottery (Figure 39) suggest that this agricultural land was taken out of cultivation in the 15th or 16th century and turned over to pasture. This is consistent with the survival of ridge and furrow in the area. A similar change to pastoral farming has also been suggested at Near Coton (see discussion above).

One exception to the lack of post-medieval material was Test Pit 10, which produced 27 sherds of pottery (the average for Far Coton being 2 sherds per test pit). However, most of this material (25 sherds) came from a single broken English Brown Salt-Glazed stoneware bowl of probable

19th century date which was more likely to be associated with occupation of the present house than activities preceding it.

At Near Coton, a similar pattern of finds could be seen in Test Pits 3, 5 and 6, which also averaged 2 sherds of post-medieval pottery per test pit. This was a noticeable contrast to the test pits dug closet to Coton Priory Farmhouse (TPs 1-2 & 4), which averaged 32 sherds per test pit.

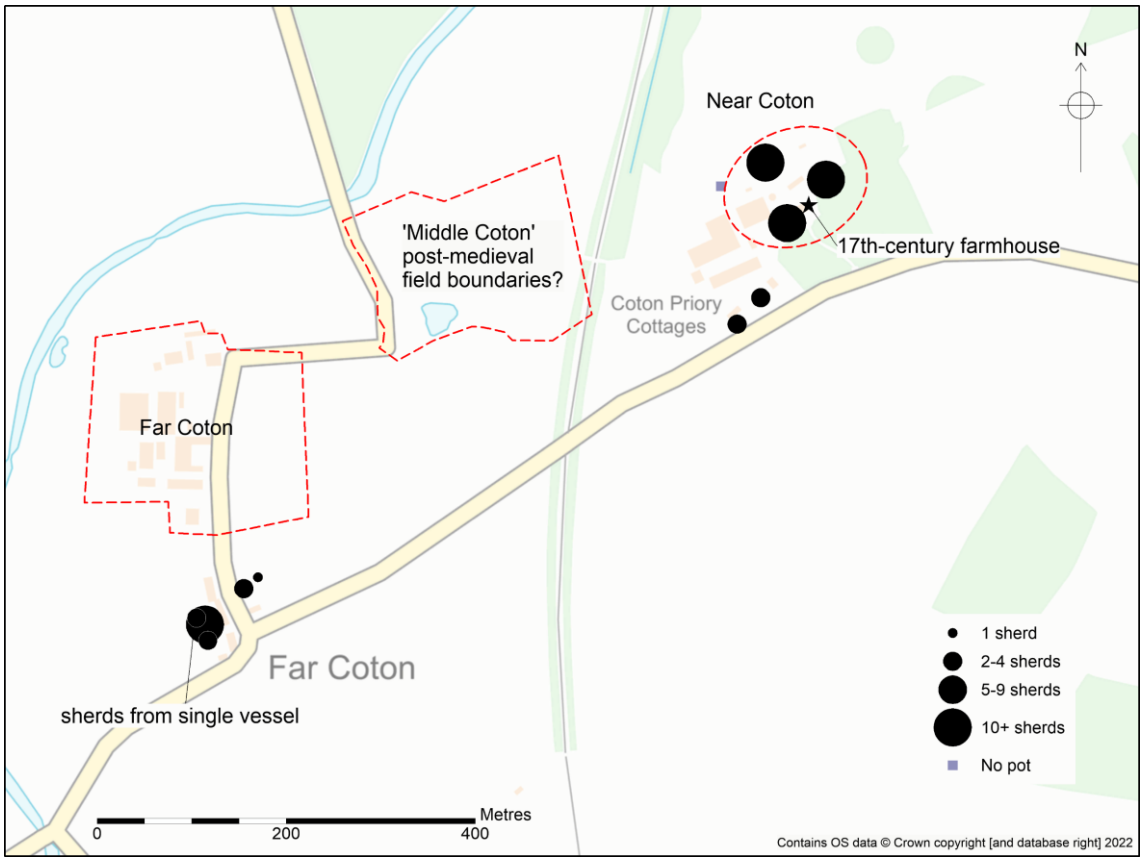

Figure 39: The distribution of Post-Medieval pottery across Coton.

Around the farmhouse, early Post-Medieval pottery, including Midland Yellow Ware and Midland Blackware, in conjunction with Late Medieval wares suggested that there was continuous occupation in the vicinity since the 15th century. Later Post-Medieval wares, such as the Staffordshire Mottled Ware and Creamware, were contemporary with construction of the present farmhouse.

Other finds from the test pits fitted this pattern of settlement. Pieces of clay tobacco pipe, for instance, were only found in test pits at Coton Priory Farmhouse (TPs 1 & 4). This is understandable as this was the only property in the study area known to be occupied in the 17th-19th century.

All eleven test pits produced considerable evidence for 20th and 21st century activity in the vicinity, including modern ceramics (Figure 40), building material, glassware, garden rubbish (e.g. plant labels, plant pots, broken laundry pegs, buttons and a sink plug), and a dog burial. These finds were all contemporary with the present houses in Coton, which (excepting Coton Priory Farmhouse) have all been constructed in the past 150 years, many as estate cottages for the surrounding farms.

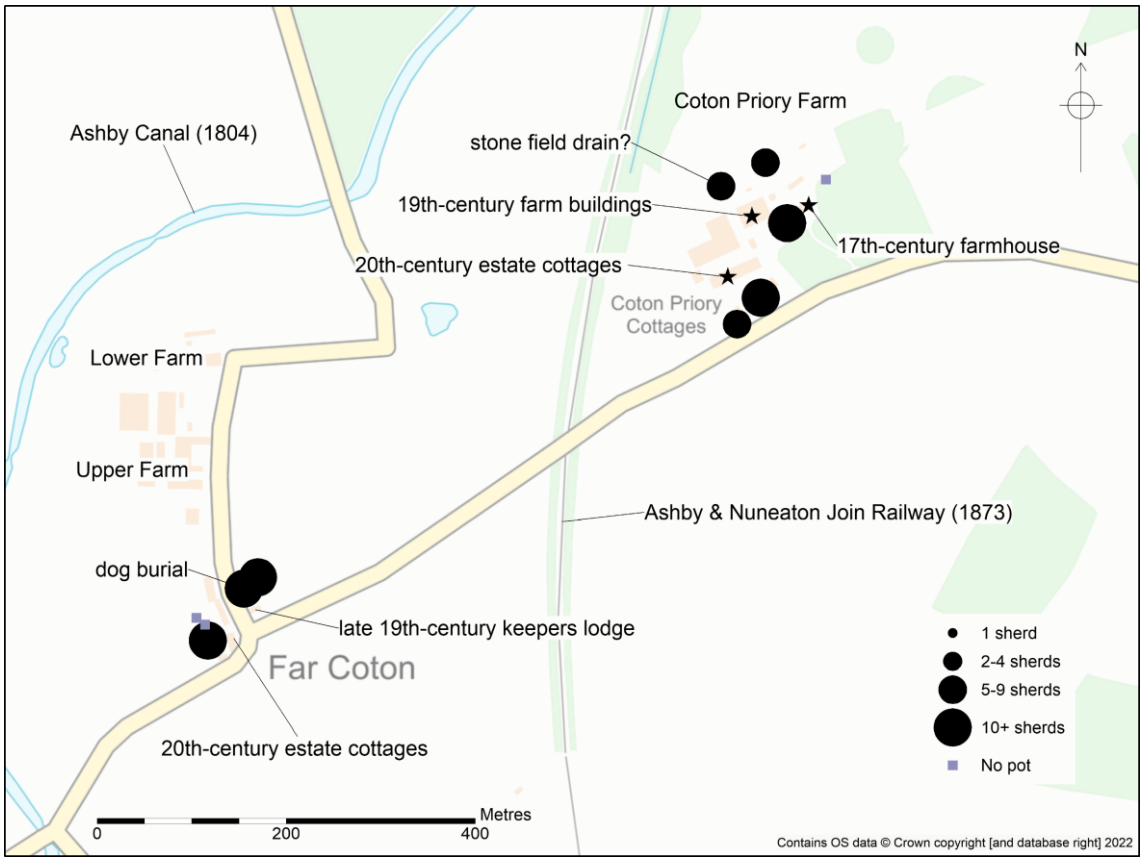

Figure 40: The distribution of Modern pottery across Coton.

Conclusion and Further work

Bosworth Links Digs Coton has been a moderate success. Overall, the eleven test pits produced evidence for medieval agriculture from the 12th century onwards, and medieval occupation at Near Coton from the 15th century onwards, as well as tantalizing hints of earlier Bronze Age and Roman landscapes. The distribution of pottery from the test pits suggests that much of the area was given over to arable cultivation in the medieval period, enriched with domestic refuse, with land being given over to pasture from the 15th or 16th century onwards. At Far Coton, settlement was probably to the north of the study area in the vicinity of Upper and Lower Farm. At 'Middle Coton', the earthworks listed on the Historic Environment Record as deserted medieval settlement were more likely to be post-medieval field boundaries and modern earth movement, whilst at Near Coton medieval occupation did not appear to pre-date the 15th century. However, 15th century activity at Near Coton does suggest that settlement here is much earlier than previously attested, and 50-200 years earlier than the extant 17th century Coton Priory Farm.

A slight scatter of Bronze Age lithics represented a low-level 'background noise' of prehistoric activity in the wider landscape. Similarly, the small assemblage of Roman pottery also represented activity in the wider landscape.

These results have raised new research questions which could be explored through a second programme of targeted test pitting.

- At Upper and Lower Farms, Far Coton test pitting could help assess whether the current farms are situated over medieval settlement, and whether this settlement was contemporary or earlier than that at Near Coton.

- East of Coton Priory Farmhouse, further test pitting could help confirm the extent of the late medieval activity in the area.
- In the field containing the earthworks known as ‘Middle Coton’, test pitting could help to confirm their post-medieval date and function.

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Appendix One: Finds catalogue

Test Pit	Layer	Soil type	Category	No	Wt (g)	Fabric	Description	Phase	Comments	Status
1	1	Topsoil	Building material	7	65	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
1	1	Topsoil	Clay pipe	2	3	Pipe clay	Clay tobacco pipe stem	Post-medieval+	1.6mm & 3mm bores	Archived
1	1	Topsoil	Clay pipe	1	1	Pipe clay	Clay tobacco pipe bowl	Modern	Thin walled	Archived
1	1	Topsoil	Flint	1	6	Flint	Primary flake	Bronze Age		Archived
1	1	Topsoil	Glass	3	4	Glass	Clear bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
1	1	Topsoil	Pot	1	17	CW	Cistercian Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1450/75-1550	Archived
1	1	Topsoil	Pot	1	6	EA2	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD	Archived
1	2	Topsoil	Bone & shell	7	13	Bone	Misc. animal bone	Undated		Discarded
1	2	Topsoil	Building material	43	596	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
1	2	Topsoil	Building material	1	5	Fe	Wire nail	Modern	2½"	Discarded
1	2	Topsoil	Building material	2	40	Fe	Iron object	Undated	Probably a nail	Discarded
1	2	Topsoil	Clay pipe	2	5	Pipe clay	Clay tobacco pipe stem	Modern	1.6mm bore	Discarded
1	2	Topsoil	Clay pipe	1	1	Pipe clay	Clay tobacco pipe bowl	Post-medieval	Thick walled, 3mm bore	Discarded
1	2	Topsoil	Fossil	1	9	Stone	Gryphaea (Devil's Toenail)	Mesozoic		Discarded
1	2	Topsoil	Glass	9	7	Glass	Clear bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
1	2	Topsoil	Pot	1	2	CC1	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395	Archived
1	2	Topsoil	Pot	2	4	CW	Cistercian Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1450/75-1550	Archived
1	2	Topsoil	Pot	5	36	EA2	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD	Archived
1	2	Topsoil	Pot	3	3	EA3	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1780	Archived
1	2	Topsoil	Pot	1	6	MB	Midland Blackware	Post-medieval	Ticknall AD 1550-1725	Archived
1	2	Topsoil	Pot	6	40	MP	Midland Purple Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1370-1550	Archived
1	2	Topsoil	Pot	1	3	MY	Midland Yellow Ware	Post-medieval	Ticknall AD 1500-1725	Archived
1	3	Topsoil	Bone & shell	6	34	Bone	Misc. animal bone	Undated		Discarded

Test Pit	Layer	Soil type	Category	No	Wt (g)	Fabric	Description	Phase	Comments	Status
1	3	Topsoil	Building material	23	315	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
1	3	Topsoil	Building material	1	8	Fe	Staple	Modern	23mm wide x 38mm	Discarded
1	3	Topsoil	Clay pipe	11	26	Pipe clay	Clay tobacco pipe stem	Post-medieval+	x4 with 1.6mm bore, x6 with 2.4mm bore, x1 with 3mm bore	Archived
1	3	Topsoil	Glass	22	26	Glass	Clear window glass	Modern	Some with iridescence	Discarded
1	3	Topsoil	Glass	2	3	Glass	Clear bottle glass	Modern	Some with iridescence	Discarded
1	3	Topsoil	Personal adornment	1	1	Fe	Button	Modern	Cover for shank button, slightly domed, 16mm diam.	Archived
1	3	Topsoil	Pot	1	1	CW	Cistercian Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1450/75-1550	Archived
1	3	Topsoil	Pot	7	215	EA2	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD	Archived
1	3	Topsoil	Pot	3	11	EA3	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1780	Archived
1	3	Topsoil	Pot	3	4	MB	Midland Blackware	Post-medieval	Ticknall AD 1550-1725	Archived
1	3	Topsoil	Pot	7	132	MP	Midland Purple Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1370-1550	Archived
1	3	Topsoil	Pot	1	4	MY	Midland Yellow Ware	Post-medieval	Ticknall AD 1500-1725	Archived
2	1	Topsoil	Building material	11	13	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
2	2	Topsoil	Building material	32	22	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
2	2	Topsoil	Building material	1	1	Fe	Iron object	Undated	Probably a nail	Discarded
2	2	Topsoil	Glass	1	1	Glass	Clear bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
2	2	Topsoil	Household	1	1	Slate	Slate pencil	Modern	Broken	Archived
2	2	Topsoil	Pot	1	1	EA10	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+	Archived
2	2	Topsoil	Pot	2	9	EA2	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD	Archived
2	3	Subsoil	Bone & shell	4	4	Bone	Misc. animal bone	Undated		Archived
2	3	Subsoil	Building material	36	248	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
2	3	Subsoil	Building material	2	27	Fe	Iron object	Modern	Probably a nail	Discarded
2	3	Subsoil	Building material	7	22	Fe	Wire nails	Modern	Assorted sizes, 1"-3"	Discarded
2	3	Subsoil	Garden waste	1	1	Plastic	Modern plastic	Modern	Plant pot	Discarded

Test Pit	Layer	Soil type	Category	No	Wt (g)	Fabric	Description	Phase	Comments	Status
2	3	Subsoil	Glass	3	6	Glass	Clear bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
2	3	Subsoil	Glass	3	6	Glass	Green bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
2	3	Subsoil	Glass	1	1	Glass	Dark blue bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
2	3	Subsoil	Personal adornment	1	1	Plastic	Button	Modern	White plastic, 2-hole, 11mm diam.	Archived
2	3	Subsoil	Pot	1	8	CC1	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395	Archived
2	3	Subsoil	Pot	7	12	EA10	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+	Archived
2	3	Subsoil	Pot	5	10	EA2	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD	Archived
2	3	Subsoil	Pot	1	4	EA3	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1780	Archived
2	3	Subsoil	Pot	2	2	EA8	Staffordshire Creamware	Post-medieval	AD 1730-1850	Archived
2	3	Subsoil	Pot	1	2	MB	Midland Blackware	Post-medieval	Ticknall AD 1550-1725	Archived
2	4	Subsoil	Building material	20	105	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
2	4	Subsoil	Glass	1	1	Glass	Green bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
2	4	Subsoil	Glass	1	2	Glass	Clear bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
2	4	Subsoil	Pot	2	6	CW	Cistercian Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1450/75-1550	Archived
2	4	Subsoil	Pot	1	1	EA11	Tin-glazed earthenware	Post-medieval	AD 1700-1800	Archived
2	4	Subsoil	Pot	1	15	EA2	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD	Archived
2	4	Subsoil	Pot	1	8	EA3	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1780	Archived
2	4	Subsoil	Pot	1	6	RB	Roman pottery	Roman	Greyware	Archived
3	2	Topsoil	Building material	6	5	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
3	2	Topsoil	Glass	1	1	Glass	Clear bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
3	2	Topsoil	Pot	1	1	EA10	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+	Archived
3	3	Topsoil	Building material	16	204	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
3	3	Topsoil	Glass	4	7	Glass	Clear bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
3	4	Topsoil	Building material	20	457	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
3	4	Topsoil	Building material	4	8	Fe	Wire nails	Modern	Assorted sizes, 2"-2¾"	Discarded

Test Pit	Layer	Soil type	Category	No	Wt (g)	Fabric	Description	Phase	Comments	Status
3	4	Topsoil	Building material	1	190	Fe	Forged nail	Undated	Large nail, 120mm long x 15mm thick	Archived
3	4	Topsoil	Glass	9	41	Glass	Clear bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
3	4	Topsoil	Industrial residues	1	8	Fe	Iron slag	Undated		Archived
3	4	Topsoil	Pot	4	6	EA10	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+	Archived
4	1	Topsoil	Bone & shell	2	2	Bone	Misc. animal bone	Undated		Archived
4	1	Topsoil	Building material	28	232	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
4	1	Topsoil	Fossil	1	9	Stone	Gryphaea (Devil's Toenail)	Mesozoic		Discarded
4	1	Topsoil	Pot	2	16	EA2	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD	Archived
4	1	Topsoil	Pot	1	1	EA3	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1780	Archived
4	1	Topsoil	Pot	2	3	EA8	Staffordshire Creamware	Post-medieval	AD 1730-1850	Archived
4	2	Topsoil	Building material	66	436	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
4	2	Topsoil	Building material	4	73	CBM	Yellow ceramic building material	Modern	Tile with reduced surface, 12mm thick	Discarded
4	2	Topsoil	Building material	1	51	CBM	Blue ceramic building material	Modern	Reduced brick	Discarded
4	2	Topsoil	Building material	5	48	Fe	Iron object	Undated	Probably a nail	Discarded
4	2	Topsoil	Building material	1	18	Fe	S-shaped hook	Modern	100mm x 35mm, 4mm diam. wire, bent	Discarded
4	2	Topsoil	Flint	1	2	Flint	Tertiary flake	Bronze Age		Archived
4	2	Topsoil	Fossil	2	9	Stone	Gryphaea (Devil's Toenail)	Mesozoic		Discarded
4	2	Topsoil	Glass	4	42	Glass	Green bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
4	2	Topsoil	Glass	4	7	Glass	Clear bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
4	2	Topsoil	Munitions	1	1	Cu alloy	.32 exra short rimfire cartridge case (.32 Protector)	Modern	Rimmed, straight case, 9.6mm diam. rim, 8.1mm diam. body, 10mm length, raised 'G' headstamp, rimfired (c.1890-1920)	Archived
4	2	Topsoil	Pot	8	8	EA10	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+	Archived
4	2	Topsoil	Pot	20	69	EA2	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD	Archived
4	2	Topsoil	Pot	6	8	EA8	Staffordshire Creamware	Post-medieval	AD 1730-1850	Archived
4	2	Topsoil	Pot	1	1	MB	Midland Blackware	Post-medieval	Ticknall AD 1550-1725	Archived

Test Pit	Layer	Soil type	Category	No	Wt (g)	Fabric	Description	Phase	Comments	Status
4	2	Topsoil	Pot	2	2	SW4	White Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1730-1770	Archived
4	3	Topsoil	Bone & shell	3	9	Bone	Misc. animal bone	Undated		Archived
4	3	Topsoil	Building material	4	64	CBM	Yellow ceramic building material	Modern	Tile with reduced surface, 12mm thick	Discarded
4	3	Topsoil	Building material	32	206	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
4	3	Topsoil	Building material	3	12	Fe	Iron object	Modern	Probably a nail	Discarded
4	3	Topsoil	Clay pipe	1	1	Pipe clay	Clay tobacco pipe bowl	Modern	Thin walled	Archived
4	3	Topsoil	Garden waste	1	1	Al	Foil	Modern		Discarded
4	3	Topsoil	Garden waste	1	14		Metal grill	Modern		Archived
4	3	Topsoil	Glass	6	10	Glass	Clear bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
4	3	Topsoil	Glass	1	1	Glass	Green bottle glass	Post-medieval+	With iridescence	Discarded
4	3	Topsoil	Pot	2	5	EA10	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+	Archived
4	3	Topsoil	Pot	10	134	EA2	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD	Archived
4	3	Topsoil	Pot	1	1	EA3	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1780	Archived
4	3	Topsoil	Pot	9	6	EA8	Staffordshire Creamware	Post-medieval	AD 1730-1850	Archived
4	3	Topsoil	Pot	1	4	MP	Midland Purple Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1370-1550	Archived
4	3	Topsoil	Pot	3	5	SW4	White Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1730-1770	Archived
4	3	Topsoil	Pot	1	2	SW5	English Brown Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1670-1900	Archived
4	4	Subsoil	Building material	1	5	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
5	1	Topsoil	Building material	14	75	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
5	1	Topsoil	Building material	1	5	Fe	Wire nail	Modern	2"	Discarded
5	1	Topsoil	Glass	2	5	Glass	Clear bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
5	1	Topsoil	Pot	2	9	EA10	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+	Archived
5	2	Topsoil	Building material	6	177	CBM	Yellow ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded

Test Pit	Layer	Soil type	Category	No	Wt (g)	Fabric	Description	Phase	Comments	Status
5	2	Topsoil	Building material	41	548	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
5	2	Topsoil	Building material	5	45	Fe	Iron object	Undated	Probably a nail	Discarded
5	2	Topsoil	Building material	1	3	Fe	Phillips head screw	Modern	1¼"	Discarded
5	2	Topsoil	Garden waste	4	3	Plastic	Modern plastic	Modern	Inc. hard red & black plastic	Discarded
5	2	Topsoil	Glass	13	31	Glass	Clear bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
5	2	Topsoil	Pot	11	34	EA10	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+	Archived
5	2	Topsoil	Pot	1	4	EA2	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD	Archived
5	2	Topsoil	Pot	1	1	EA3	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1780	Archived
5	3	Topsoil	Building material	58	296	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
5	3	Topsoil	Building material	6	37	Fe	Iron object	Undated	Probably a nail	Discarded
5	3	Topsoil	Building material	1	30	Fe	Forged nail	Undated	3½", very corroded	Discarded
5	3	Topsoil	Garden waste	1	1	Plastic	Modern plastic	Modern	Plant pot	Discarded
5	3	Topsoil	Glass	6	14	Glass	Clear bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
5	3	Topsoil	Glass	1	3	Glass	Green bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
5	3	Topsoil	Pot	7	17	EA10	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+	Archived
5	3	Topsoil	Pot	1	3	SW5	English Brown Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1670-1900	Archived
5	4	Subsoil	Building material	3	8	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
5	4	Subsoil	Building material	1	30	Fe	Forged nail	Undated	3"	Discarded
5	4	Subsoil	Flint	1	4	Flint	Retouched secondary flake	Bronze Age		Archived
5	4	Subsoil	Pot	1	4	SW5	English Brown Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1670-1900	Archived
6	1	Topsoil	Building material	16	487	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
6	1	Topsoil	Glass	7	32	Glass	Clear bottle glass	Modern		Discarded

Test Pit	Layer	Soil type	Category	No	Wt (g)	Fabric	Description	Phase	Comments	Status
6	1	Topsoil	Glass	2	24	Glass	Green bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
6	1	Topsoil	Building material	2	94	Fe	Iron object	Modern	3mm thick, curved, probably parts of an iron pipe	Discarded
6	1	Topsoil	Pot	1	2	EA2	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD	Archived
6	1	Topsoil	Pot	2	9	PM	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+	Archived
6	2	Topsoil	Building material	16	344	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern	Inc. modern nib tile	Discarded
6	2	Topsoil	Building material	2	83	CBM	Yellow ceramic pipe	Modern	Unglazed	Discarded
6	2	Topsoil	Building material	2	16	CBM	Yellow ceramic building material	Modern	Tile with reduced surface, 12mm thick	Discarded
6	2	Topsoil	Building material	1	6	Fe	Iron object	Undated	Probably a nail	Discarded
6	2	Topsoil	Building material	1	10	Slate	Welsh roof slate	Modern	Punched hole	Discarded
6	2	Topsoil	Garden waste	2	1	Al	Foil	Modern		Discarded
6	2	Topsoil	Garden waste	1	32	Cu alloy	Bar	Modern	Cast bar, 50mm x 12mm x 6mm	Archived
6	2	Topsoil	Glass	18	59	Glass	Clear bottle glass	Modern	Inc. square bottle base, 40mm x 34mm	Discarded
6	2	Topsoil	Pot	1	5	CC2	Chilvers Coton ‘C’ Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1200-1475	Archived
6	2	Topsoil	Pot	2	7	CC1	Chilvers Coton ‘A’ Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395	Archived
6	2	Topsoil	Pot	1	4	CC2	Chilvers Coton ‘C’ Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1200-1475	Archived
6	2	Topsoil	Pot	3	3	EA10	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+	Archived
6	2	Topsoil	Pot	1	3	EA2	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD	Archived
6	2	Topsoil	Pot	1	2	RB	Roman pottery	Roman	Colour-coated ware	Archived
6	3	Topsoil	Building material	35	374	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
6	3	Topsoil	Garden waste	2	1	Al	Foil	Modern		Discarded
6	3	Topsoil	Glass	21	93	Glass	Clear bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
6	3	Topsoil	Pot	1	1	CC1	Chilvers Coton ‘A’ Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395	Archived
6	3	Topsoil	Pot	2	10	EA10	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+	Archived
6	3	Topsoil	Pot	2	6	PM	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+	Archived

Test Pit	Layer	Soil type	Category	No	Wt (g)	Fabric	Description	Phase	Comments	Status
6	4	Subsoil	Building material	4	27	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
6	5	Subsoil	Flint	1	11	Flint	Secondary flake	Bronze Age	Blade-like prior removals	Archived
7	1	Topsoil	Building material	9	61	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
7	1	Topsoil	Building material	3	12	CBM	Brown-glazed ceramic pipe	Modern		Discarded
7	1	Topsoil	Building material	1	9	Fe	Iron object	Undated	Probably a nail	Discarded
7	1	Topsoil	Garden waste	4	1	Al	Foil	Modern		Discarded
7	1	Topsoil	Garden waste	5	1	Plastic	Modern plastic	Modern	Inc. plant pot, label etc.	Discarded
7	1	Topsoil	Glass	3	12	Glass	Clear bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
7	1	Topsoil	Pot	1	5	CC1	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395	Archived
7	1	Topsoil	Pot	4	11	EA10	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+	Archived
7	1	Topsoil	Pot	1	5	MY	Midland Yellow Ware	Post-medieval	Ticknall AD 1500-1725	Archived
7	2	Topsoil	Building material	10	30	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
7	2	Topsoil	Building material	5	91	CBM	Yellow-glazed ceramic pipe	Modern		Discarded
7	2	Topsoil	Building material	1	7	Fe	Wire nail	Modern		Discarded
7	2	Topsoil	Garden waste	1	1	Al	Foil	Modern		Discarded
7	2	Topsoil	Glass	8	9	Glass	Clear bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
7	2	Topsoil	Household	1	1	Carbon	Carbon rod from battery	Modern	40mm x 5mm	Discarded
7	2	Topsoil	Pot	3	7	EA10	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+	Archived
7	3	Topsoil	Building material	1	11	Fe	Iron object	Undated	Probably a nail	Discarded
7	3	Topsoil	Garden waste	1	248	Fe	Iron object	Modern	Semi-spherical, cast, 100mm x50mm x50mm, agricultural machinery / pipe cap	Discarded
7	3	Topsoil	Glass	3	18	Glass	Clear bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
7	3	Topsoil	Pot	3	10	EA10	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+	Archived
7	4	Subsoil	Building material	1	16	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded

Test Pit	Layer	Soil type	Category	No	Wt (g)	Fabric	Description	Phase	Comments	Status
7	4	Subsoil	Glass	1	4	Glass	Clear window glass	Modern		Discarded
7	4	Subsoil	Pot	1	6	PM	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+	Archived
8	1	Topsoil	Building material	26	203	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
8	1	Topsoil	Building material	3	29	Fe	Iron object	Undated	Probably a nail	Discarded
8	1	Topsoil	Garden waste	1	721	Fe	Iron object	Modern	Part of agricultural machinery, green paint	Discarded
8	1	Topsoil	Garden waste	5	4	Plastic	Modern plastic	Modern	Broken white laundry peg	Discarded
8	1	Topsoil	Glass	6	18	Glass	Clear bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
8	1	Topsoil	Glass	1	1	Glass	Turquoise bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
8	1	Topsoil	Pot	7	19	EA10	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+	Archived
8	1	Topsoil	Pot	1	1	EA2	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD	Archived
8	2	Topsoil	Bone & shell	4	6	Bone	Misc. animal bone	Undated		Archived
8	2	Topsoil	Building material	30	210	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
8	2	Topsoil	Building material	49	174	Fe	Wire nails & screws	Modern	Assorted sizes, 1½"-2¾"	Discarded
8	2	Topsoil	Building material	2	1	Fe	Staple	Modern	17mm wide x 20mm	Discarded
8	2	Topsoil	Building material	1	90	Fe	Bolt	Modern	Long iron bolt with nut & washer, 300mm x 7mm, bent	Discarded
8	2	Topsoil	Garden waste	1	1	Al	Bottle cap	Modern	Screw cap, stamped 'CIBA', 20mm diam.	Archived
8	2	Topsoil	Garden waste	7	2	Plastic	Modern plastic	Modern	Inc. plant labels	Discarded
8	2	Topsoil	Glass	11	34	Glass	Clear bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
8	2	Topsoil	Household	1	1	Carbon	Carbon rod from battery	Modern	Copper cap, 34mm x 5mm	Archived
8	2	Topsoil	Personal adornment	1	1	Plastic	Button	Modern	White plastic, 2-hole, 11mm diam.	Archived
8	2	Topsoil	Pot	6	32	EA10	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+	Archived
8	2	Topsoil	Pot	1	3	EA8	Staffordshire Creamware	Post-medieval	AD 1730-1850	Archived
8	3	Topsoil	Bone & shell	1	1	Bone	Misc. animal bone	Undated		Archived
8	3	Topsoil	Building material	12	50	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded

Test Pit	Layer	Soil type	Category	No	Wt (g)	Fabric	Description	Phase	Comments	Status
8	3	Topsoil	Building material	3	34	Fe	Iron object	Modern	Probably a nail	Discarded
8	3	Topsoil	Garden waste	2	3	Al	Foil bottle caps	Modern		Discarded
8	3	Topsoil	Glass	12	25	Glass	Clear bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
8	3	Topsoil	Pot	2	5	EA10	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+	Archived
8	4	Subsoil	Building material	1	1	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
8	4	Subsoil	Fossil	1	13	Stone	Gryphaea (Devil's Toenail)	Mesozoic		Discarded
8	4	Subsoil	Garden waste	1	2	Cu alloy	Pipe	Modern	14mm diam., flattened	Discarded
8	4	Subsoil	Glass	3	4	Glass	Clear bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
8	4	Subsoil	Pot	1	1	CC1	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395	Archived
8	4	Subsoil	Pot	1	4	PM	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+	Archived
8	5	Subsoil	Bone & shell	59	369	Bone	Misc. animal bone	Modern	Articulated, dog burial	Archived
8	5	Subsoil	Flint	1	3	Flint	Secondary squat chip	Bronze Age		Archived
8	5	Subsoil	Pot	2	4	PM	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+	Archived
8	5	Subsoil	Pot	3	7	ST	Stamford ware	Saxo-Norman	AD 850/900-1150	Archived
9	1	Topsoil	Building material	9	322	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
9	1	Topsoil	Building material	13	41	Fe	Wire nails & screws	Modern	Assorted sizes, nails 2"-2¾", screws 3¼"	Discarded
9	1	Topsoil	Garden waste	2	1	Plastic	Modern plastic	Modern	Hard white plastic	Discarded
9	1	Topsoil	Glass	5	17	Glass	Clear bottle glass	Modern	Inc. melted bottle neck	Discarded
9	1	Topsoil	Glass	1	10	Glass	Dark blue bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
9	2	Topsoil	Building material	10	78	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
9	2	Topsoil	Building material	16	73	Fe	Wire nails & screws	Modern	Assorted sizes	Discarded
9	2	Topsoil	Fossil	2	6	Stone	Gryphaea (Devil's Toenail)	Mesozoic		Discarded
9	2	Topsoil	Garden waste	1	19	Al	Foil	Modern		Discarded

Test Pit	Layer	Soil type	Category	No	Wt (g)	Fabric	Description	Phase	Comments	Status
9	2	Topsoil	Garden waste	3	1	Plastic	Modern plastic	Modern	Inc. plant label from 'Edward's Garden Centre, Nether Whitacre', handwritten on back 'Lanicera Halliana' (honeysuckle)	Discarded
9	2	Topsoil	Glass	12	31	Glass	Clear bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
9	3	Topsoil	Building material	8	13	CBM	Wire nails	Modern	1½"	Discarded
9	3	Topsoil	Building material	3	19	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
9	3	Topsoil	Building material	1	19	Fe	Iron object	Undated	Probably a nail	Discarded
9	3	Topsoil	Glass	1	1	Glass	Clear window glass	Modern		Discarded
9	3	Topsoil	Pot	1	5	MP	Midland Purple Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1370-1550	Archived
9	3	Topsoil	Pot	1	1	SW5	English Brown Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1670-1900	Archived
9	4	Subsoil	Building material	8	150	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
9	4	Subsoil	Flint	1	8	Flint	Retouched primary flake	Bronze Age	Retouched and utilised	Archived
9	4	Subsoil	Flint	1	10	Flint	Thumbnail scraper on potlid	Bronze Age	Irregular form	Archived
9	4	Subsoil	Glass	1	1	Glass	Clear bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
9	4	Subsoil	Pot	1	3	EA3	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1780	Archived
9	4	Subsoil	Pot	1	1	EA8	Staffordshire Creamware	Post-medieval	AD 1730-1850	Archived
9	4	Subsoil	Pot	1	1	SW4	White Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1730-1770	Archived
9	5	Subsoil	Building material	2	4	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
9	5	Subsoil	Glass	1	12	Glass	Clear bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
9	5	Subsoil	Pot	1	6	MP	Midland Purple Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1370-1550	Archived
9	6	Subsoil	Pot	1	1	PM	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+	Archived
10	1	Topsoil	Building material	1	3	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
10	2	Topsoil	Building material	9	136	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
10	2	Topsoil	Building material	1	212	CBM	Yellow-glazed ceramic pipe	Modern		Discarded

Test Pit	Layer	Soil type	Category	No	Wt (g)	Fabric	Description	Phase	Comments	Status
10	2	Topsoil	Building material	1	13	Fe	Iron object	Undated	Probably a nail	Discarded
10	2	Topsoil	Flint	1	7	Flint	Primary flake	Bronze Age	Broken	Archived
10	2	Topsoil	Pot	1	2	PM	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+	Archived
10	3	Topsoil	Building material	8	236	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
10	3	Topsoil	Flint	1	6	Flint	Tertiary flake with retouch	Bronze Age		Archived
10	3	Topsoil	Pot	1	6	CC1	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395	Archived
10	3	Topsoil	Pot	1	1	EA3	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1780	Archived
10	3	Topsoil	Pot	1	1	MP	Midland Purple Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1370-1550	Archived
10	4	Subsoil	Building material	2	8	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
10	4	Subsoil	Pot	1	1	EA2	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD	Archived
10	4	Subsoil	Pot	1	3	MP	Midland Purple Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1370-1550	Archived
10	4	Subsoil	Pot	18	37	SW5	English Brown Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1670-1900	Archived
10	5	Subsoil	Flint	1	5	Flint	Tertiary squat flake	Bronze Age		Archived
10	5	Subsoil	Pot	7	11	SW5	English Brown Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1670-1900	Archived
11	1	Topsoil	Building material	5	80	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
11	1	Topsoil	Building material	1	30	CBM	Yellow-glazed ceramic pipe	Modern		Discarded
11	1	Topsoil	Building material	1	569	CBM	Blue ceramic building material	Modern	Reduced brick, frogged, 76mm thick	Discarded
11	1	Topsoil	Building material	1	1	Fe	Iron object	Undated	Probably a nail	Discarded
11	1	Topsoil	Garden waste	1	1	Al	Bottle cap	Modern	34mm diam., 14mm deep, no screw thread	Discarded
11	1	Topsoil	Glass	1	3	Glass	Clear bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
11	1	Topsoil	Garden waste	1	8	Plastic	Modern plastic	Modern	Sink plug	Discarded
11	1	Topsoil	Pot	2	12	EA10	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+	Archived
11	1	Topsoil	Pot	1	1	EA8	Staffordshire Creamware	Post-medieval	AD 1730-1850	Archived

Test Pit	Layer	Soil type	Category	No	Wt (g)	Fabric	Description	Phase	Comments	Status
11	2	Fire waste	Building material	7	58	CBM	Red ceramic building material	Modern		Discarded
11	2	Fire waste	Building material	16	85	Fe	Wire nails & screws	Modern	Assorted sizes, 1½-2½" nails & 3" screws	Discarded
11	2	Fire waste	Glass	2	4	Glass	Clear bottle glass	Modern		Discarded
11	2	Fire waste	Garden waste	1	10	Fe	Iron fitting	Modern	Square with tapered side (house-shaped), 32mm x 42mm, 1mm thick, 2 screw holes in diagonal corners	Discarded
11	2	Fire waste	Pot	11	463	EA10	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+	Archived
11	4	Subsoil	Pot	1	4	MB	Midland Blackware	Post-medieval	Ticknall AD 1550-1725	Archived
11	5	Subsoil	Building material	10	27	Fe	Wire nails	Modern	Assorted sizes, 2"-2¼"	Discarded
11	5	Subsoil	Pot	2	49	EA10	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+	Archived
11	5	Subsoil	Pot	1	8	PM	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+	Archived
11	5	Subsoil	Pot	1	13	RB	Roman pottery	Roman	Greyware, jar base	Archived

Appendix Two: Pottery fabric notes *Paul Blinkhorn*

RB: Roman. An assortment of common types of Roman pottery such as grey ware and Nene Valley Colour-Coated Ware, used in many different places in Britain. Lots of different types of vessels were made.

ST: Stamford Ware. AD 850/900-1150. Made at several different sites in Stamford in Lincolnshire. The earliest pots were small, simple jars with white, buff or grey fabric, or large jars with painted red stripes. By AD 1000, the potters were making vessels which were quite thin-walled and smooth, with a yellow or pale green glaze on the outside, the first glazed pots in England. These were usually jugs with handles and a spout, but other sorts of vessel, such as candle-sticks, bowls and water-bottles are also known. It appears to have been much sought after because it was of such good quality, and has been found all over Britain and Ireland.

PM: Potters Marston Ware. AD 1100-1300/50+. Wheel-turned ware tempered with finely-crushed granite. One of the very few medieval pottery production centres known in Leicestershire, and provided much of the pottery for most of the county. Usually cooking pots, although glazed jugs are known.

CC1: Chilvers Coton 'A' ware. AD 1250-1395. Hard, sandy white fabric with a bright green glaze. Vessels mainly glazed jugs.

CC2: Chilvers Coton 'C' ware. AD 1200-1475. Hard, sandy, grey, red or yellow-buff fabric, often with a dark green to purplish glaze. Vessels mainly glazed jugs.

MP: Midland Purple ware. AD 1370-1550. Very hard, red to dark purplish-grey in colour, usually with a dark purple to black glaze. Wide range of different pots made such as jars, bowls and jugs.

CW: Cistercian Ware. AD 1450/75-1550. So-called because it was first found during the excavation of Cistercian monasteries, but not made by monks. The pots are very thin and hard, as they were made in the first coal-fired pottery kilns. The clay fabric is usually brick red or purple, and the pots covered with a dark brown- or purplish-black glaze on both surfaces. The main type of pot was small drinking cups with up to six handles, known as 'tygs'. They were sometimes decorated with painted dots and other designs in yellow clay. Cistercian ware was very popular, and is found all over England.

MY: Midland Yellow Ware. AD 1500-1725. White to buff slightly sandy fabric, with a thick, treacly and often heavily crazed yellow glaze on one or both surfaces. Wide range of early post-medieval vessel forms.

MB: Midland Blackware. AD 1550 – 1725. Similar to EA, but has a black glaze on one or both surfaces. Vessels usually tall cups, jugs and bowls.

EA2: Iron-Glazed Earthenware. AD 1600-1900. Similar to EA. Hard, red clay fabric which can have many inclusions. Very thick black glaze on inner surface. Sometimes slip on the outside. Also known as 'pancheon ware' referring to the large, wide rimmed bowls used in the dairy industry.

EA3: Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware. AD 1680-1780. Made from a fine, buff-coloured or red clay, with the pots usually covered with a mottled purple and brown glaze. A wide range of different types of pots were made, but mugs and chamber pots are particularly common.

EA8: Staffordshire Creamware. AD 1730-1850. A cream-coloured refined earthenware with a lead glaze over a pale body. Created by the potters of Staffordshire in the mid-18th century, who refined the materials and techniques of salt-glazed earthenware towards a finer, thinner, whiter body with a brilliant glassy lead glaze. Made in a variety of forms including plates, tea and coffee services etc. Remained popular until the mid-19th century before being replaced by modern earthenwares.

EA10: Modern earthenwares. AD 1800 onwards. A wide range of miscellaneous mass-produced 19th century wares, particularly the cups, plates and bowls with blue decoration which are still used today.

EA11: Tin-glazed earthenware. AD 1700-1800. Fine white earthenware, occasionally pinkish or yellowish core. Thick white tin glaze, with painted cobalt blue or polychrome decoration. Range of table and display wares such as mugs, plates, dishes, bowls and vases.

SW4: White Salt-Glazed Stoneware. AD 1730-1770. Delicate white pottery, usually for tea cups and mugs. Has a finely pitted surface, like orange peel.

SW5: English Brown Salt-Glazed Stoneware. AD 1670-1900. Very hard, grey fabric with white and/or brown surfaces. First made in Britain at the end of the 17th century, became very common in the 18th and 19th century, particularly for mineral water or ink bottles and beer jars.

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