

# birmingham archaeology

Fieldwalking at Stockings Farm,  
Arnold, Nottinghamshire 2005

Project No. 1349

**Fieldwalking at Stockings Farm, Arnold, Nottinghamshire 2005**

By

Kate Bain and John Halsted

*For further information please contact:*

Alex Jones (Director)  
Birmingham Archaeology  
The University of Birmingham  
Edgbaston  
Birmingham B15 2TT  
Tel: 0121 414 5513  
Fax: 0121 414 5516  
E-Mail: [bham-arch@bham.ac.uk](mailto:bham-arch@bham.ac.uk)  
Web Address: <http://www.barch.bham.ac.uk/bufau>

# Fieldwalking at Stockings Farm, Arnold, Nottinghamshire 2005

## CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1	BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT .....	1
1.2	LOCATION .....	1
<b>2</b>	<b>AIMS AND OBJECTIVES</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOGRAPHY</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>METHODOLOGY</b> .....	<b>2</b>
4.1	FIELDWORK .....	2
4.2	GENERAL .....	2
<b>5</b>	<b>RESULTS</b> .....	<b>2</b>
5.1	FINDS.....	3
	<i>The ceramics by Stephanie Ratkai</i> .....	3
	<i>The flint by John Halsted</i> .....	3
	<i>The coin by John Halsted and Kate Bain</i> .....	3
<b>6</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>REFERENCES</b> .....	<b>4</b>

## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1 LIST OF FINDS

#### List of Figures

Fig.1 General site location

Fig.2 Location of fieldwalking with distribution of finds shown

## **SUMMARY**

*Fieldwalking was undertaken over an area of 6ha at land adjacent to Stockings Farm, Arnold, Nottinghamshire. The fieldwalking was commissioned by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants in advance of a proposed residential development.*

*The fieldwalking produced an assemblage of largely 18th/19th century ceramics, together with an 18th century coin and a single worked flint.*

## **Field Walking at Stockings Farm, Arnold, Nottinghamshire 2005**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background to the project**

This report outlines the results of a programme of surface collection undertaken by Birmingham Archaeology on land at Stockings Farm, Arnold, Nottinghamshire (centred on NGR SK 588 467) in September and October 2005. This was undertaken in advance of proposals for the development of the site for residential use. The fieldwalking survey was commissioned by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants.

The project was undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (IFA 2001) and in accordance with guidelines laid down in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (DoE 1990). It was anticipated that the results of the surface collection would contribute towards the formation of an archaeological mitigation strategy for the development proposals.

#### **1.2 Location**

The development proposals cover an area of approximately 14ha (hereinafter referred to as the site), however not all of this was suitable for field walking at the time. The site comprised set aside, grass, with the hatched area (totalling approximately 6ha, Fig. 1) being recently harrowed. To the east and south of the site is the conurbation of Arnold. The site is bordered to the north and west by open fields. The Carlton Hill Nature Reserve lies to the north of the site.

### **2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The principal objective was to quantify and define the extent of artefactual data within the proposed development area through fieldwalking. The survey was to collect, record, analyse and plot the location of artefacts recovered from the surface of the ploughsoil. Systematic fieldwalking of the development area was undertaken to identify finds within the ploughsoil, with the expectation that scatters of finds may relate to buried archaeological features. In addition to this, the aim was to identify archaeological sites which may only 'exist' within the ploughsoil (for example, scatters of mesolithic flint). This information would then be used to enable the identification of potential archaeological deposits not currently recorded. The results would also supplement data from the Sites and Monuments Record enabling an informed mitigation strategy to be prepared, and if appropriate, alongside an assessment of its wider historical and archaeological background.

### **3 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOGRAPHY**

The site is located between c. 100m OD, rising to c.120m OD to the north, towards Stockings Farm and lies c.8km north of the River Trent. The area fieldwalked comprised partial areas of two harrowed fields with reddish brown clay soils, overlying sandstone geology.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Fieldwork**

The sampling methodology was set out in a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (Birmingham Archaeology 2005). Approximately 6ha was subject to fieldwalking (Fig.1). The site was divided into 100m<sup>2</sup> grids, orientated according to the Ordnance Survey national grid, and surveyed using a Leica GS-500 differential GPS system, accurate to within 1m. Each 100m<sup>2</sup> grid was walked in transects spaced at 10m intervals. Each find of flint, metal and ceramic was given a number and individually recorded in 3 dimensions using the Leica GPS system. Each GPS reading was referenced to the Ordnance Survey national grid and datum.

The location of the finds were entered into a database format and plotted graphically using Arcview GIS software.

### **4.2 General**

Clearly identifiable modern material (e.g. brick) was not to be collected, but noted where significant quantities were encountered. Similarly 19<sup>th</sup> century material was also to be noted but not collected. In the event of dense scatters of the same type of artefact (for example, dense scatters of tile) these were collected and bagged together rather than individually.

Where large quantities of a contemporary assemblage were encountered (e.g. a spreads of Roman tile) this would be sampled and the outline extent of the main scatter recorded and plotted. No finds which might have constituted treasure were recovered. Bone was not collected from the ploughsoil as this is unlikely to represent anything other than modern debris, and therefore would not be informative.

All finds were processed during and immediately following the fieldwork and an assessment made of any special conservation requirements. Finds were washed, marked and are currently stored in conditions in accordance with national guidelines for long-term storage and conservation.

The full site archive includes all artefactual remains recovered from the site. The site archive will be prepared according to guidelines set down in Appendix 3 of the Management of Archaeology Projects (English Heritage, 1991), the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage (UKIC, 1990) and Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological collections (Museum and Art Galleries Commission, 1992). Finds and the paper archive will be deposited with an appropriate repository subject to appropriate permissions.

## **5 RESULTS**

The general scatter of material consisted of modern debris and fragments of modern glass which could be seen consistently over the whole site. Some fragments of modern ceramic were also observed but not collected. There were no significant clusters of artefacts although there seemed to be a tendency for finds toward the higher ground at the centre of the field, with less finds on the lower lying ground and the boundaries of the site.

## 5.1 Finds

### *The ceramics by Stephanie Ratkai*

A full list of the ceramic assemblage is contained in Appendix 1 below. The assemblage is predominantly 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century in date and is likely to relate either to occupation of this period on the site, or manuring scatters of this material onto fields from an associated 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century settlement. A single sherd of late medieval (No. 24; 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> century Midlands Purple Ware) suggests earlier settlement in the vicinity, as does a single 17<sup>th</sup> century sherd (No. 23; Cream Ware sherd).

### *The flint by John Halsted*

A single flint (37) was recovered from the fieldwalking. The flint was of a translucent grey-brown material with a mottled grey-white cortex with orange flecks. The attributes of this artefact are based on those set out by Andrefsky (1998). The flint was 35mm in length by 19mm in width. The flint had bimarginal retouch along the length of one edge (between its proximal and distal ends) with small areas of unimarginal retouch along opposing edges on its dorsal side.

The flint may represent a side scraper of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date, though is not specifically chronologically diagnostic.

### *The coin by John Halsted and Kate Bain*

A copper alloy coin was recovered during the fieldwalking. The coin measured 28mm in diameter and 3mm in thickness and was heavily corroded. However, it was possible to discern that the coin was an Irish halfpenny from the reign of George III, dating to between 1766 and 1769. On the face of the coin the letters R, I, V, S, I and X are discernible, which would have formed part of 'GEORGIVS III REX'. The bust image of the king is almost wholly corroded. The coin has a harp design on the reverse, comparable with coins issued between 1766 and 1769, also discernible are the letters I, B and R, of 'HIBERNIA' and the number 7, forming part of the date.

## 6 DISCUSSION

The worked flint represents the earliest activity in the area and may be indicative of prehistoric settlement of Neolithic or Bronze Age date, or activity associated with a ceremonial monument. However, the presence of a single flint does not constitute a significant node of activity, whether domestic or ceremonial in nature. Nevertheless the fieldwalking assemblage represents only a sample of the ploughsoil horizon, and the presence of further prehistoric artefacts within the ploughsoil, or within sub-surface features cannot be precluded.

The earlier single sherds of 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> century pottery and 17<sup>th</sup> century pottery indicate contemporary settlement in the vicinity. However, a greater quantity of sherds would perhaps be necessary in order to suggest a contemporary settlement dating between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century on the site itself. It is equally possible that these sherds derive from a settlement of this date in the vicinity, perhaps through manuring alongside the later material. The ceramic assemblage relates largely to 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century settlement either on the site itself or in the vicinity. This is underlined by the presence of an eighteenth century Irish halfpenny of George III. The question of why a coin in circulation in Ireland was recovered on the outskirts of Nottingham is one which further historical research into Anglo-Hibernian trade and population movement in the 18th century may be able to answer. Such questions are, however, beyond the scope of this report.

## **7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Thanks are due to Dan Slatcher of John Samuels Archaeological Consultants and Elaine Willet, Nottinghamshire Archaeologist for their assistance. The field walking was supervised by Kate Bain assisted by Sally Radford and Alexa Stevenson. The report was written by Kate Bain and John Halsted. Richard Cuttler edited the report and managed the project for Birmingham Archaeology. Erica Macey-Bracken examined the finds assemblage, with the ceramics being examined by Stephanie Ratkai. The figures were prepared by Nigel Dodds.

## **8 REFERENCES**

Andrefsky, W 1998 *Lithics: macroscopic approaches to analysis*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Birmingham Archaeology 2005 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Fieldwalking at Stockings Farm, Arnold, Nottinghamshire*.

Department of the Environment (DoE) 1990 *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning*

Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) 2001 *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations*

Treasure Act 1996 Department of Culture Media and Sport



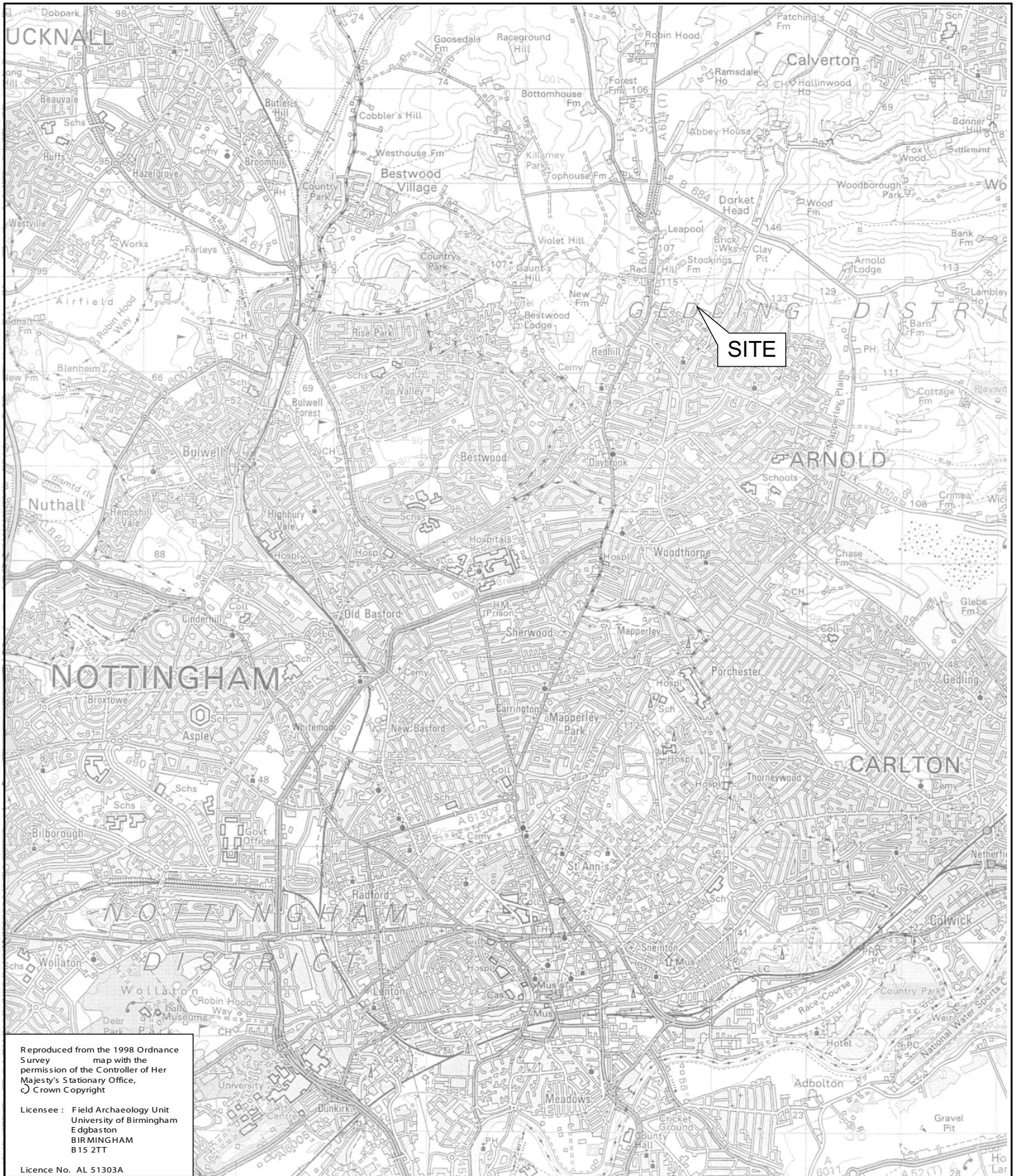


Fig.1



Fig.2

## APPENDIX 1. LIST OF FINDS

Find Number	Material and Quantity	Ware	Date
1			
2			
3	1 x ceramic drain		
4	1 x tile		
5	1 x glazed tile		
6	1 x slag		
7	1 x ceramic drain		
8	1 x post-med pot	cw	17th-18th c
9	1 x post-med pot	blw	17th-?18th c
10	1 x post-med pot	cw	17th-18th c
11	1 x post-med pot	blw	17th-?18th c
12	1 x post-med pot	cw	18th-?19th c
13	1 x post-med pot	cw	18th-?19th c
13	1 x post-med pot	indslpw?	19th c
14	1 x post-med pot		
15	1 x green bottle glass		
16	1 x post-med pot		
17	1 x post-med pot	cw	18th-?19th c
18	1 x post-med pot		
19	1 x post-med pot	cw	17th-18th c
20	1 x post-med pot	cw	17th-18th c
21	1 medieval pot?	cw	17th-18th c
22	1 x post-med pot	blw	18th c
23	1 x post-med pot	cw	17th c?
24	1 x medieval pot	mp	15th-16th c
25	1 x post-med pot	cw	18th c
26	1 x post-med pot	cw	18th-?19th c
27	2 x post-med pot	cw	17th-18th c
28	1 x post-med pot	cw	17th-18th c
29	1 x post-med pot	blw	17th
30	1 x post-med pot	blw	17th-18th c
31	1 x post-med pot	cw	18th-?19th c
32	1 x post-med pot	cw	18th-?19th c
33	1 x post-med pot	slipco	late 17th-18th c
34	1 x medieval pot?	cw	18th-19th c
35	2 x post-medieval pot	blw	17th-18th c
36	1 x post-medieval pot	blw	18th c
37	1 x flint		
38	1 x post-medieval pot	blw	17th c
39	1 x post-medieval pot	cw	18th-?19th c
40	1 x post-medieval pot	cw	18th-?19th c
41	1 x post-medieval pot	cw	18th-?19th c
42	1 x post-medieval pot	blw	18th c
43			
44	1 x post-medieval pot; 1 x clay pipe	cw	18th-?19th c
45	1 x post-med pot	redstw	later 18th c

46	1 x post-med pot	cw	17th-18th c
47			
48	1 x post-med pot	blw	17th-18th c
48	1 x post-med pot	cw	17th-18th c
49	1 x post-med pot	cw	18th-?19th c
50	1 x post-med pot	stw	19th c
50	1 x post-med pot	cw	18th-?19th c
51	1 x post-med pot	cw	18th-?19th c
52	1 x coin		18th c
53	1 x post-med pot	cw	18th-?19th c
54	1 x post-med pot	blw	17th-18th c
55	1 x clay pipe		
56	1 x post- med pot	cw	18th-?19th c
57	1 x post-med pot	blw	18th c
57	1 x post-med pot	cw	18th-?19th c
58	1 x post-med pot	slpwf	later 17th-mid 18th c
59			
60	1 x post-med pot	cw	17th-18th c
61	1 x tile	rooftile	early post-med?
61	1 x post-med pot	bsg	18th-19th c
62	1 x clay pipe		
63	1 x post-med pot	cw	18th-?19th c
64	1 x post-med pot	cw	18th-?19th c
64	1 x post-med pot	bsg	19th c
65	1 x post-med pot	cw	18th-?19th c
66	1 x post-med pot	cw	18th-?19th c
67	1 x post-med pot	cw	18th-?19th c
68	1 x post-med pot	cw	18th-?19th c
69	1 x post-med pot	cw	18th-?19th c
70	1 x post-med pot	fpot	19th c
71	1 x iron item		
72	1 x iron item		
73	1 x post-med pot	cw	18th-?19th c
74	1 x post-med pot	cw	18th-?19th c
75	1 x post-med pot	cw	18th-?19th c
76	1 x post-med pot	cw	18th-?19th c
77	1 x post-med pot	cw	18th-?19th c
78	1 x post-med pot	cw	17th-18th c
79	1 x post-med pot	bsg	19th c
80	1 x fired clay		