Great Bowden Heritage & Archaeology

Field Walking at Chater's Hill, Market Harborough.

Grid Ref: SP735887 9th, 11th, 12th September 2009



Location. This field is on the northern slope of Bowden Ridge, close to Burnmill Road. It was part of the West Field in Great Bowden's open fields. At the nearest point it is 350 metres from the Iron Age settlement found by ULAS (University of Leicester) in 2011 further east along the ridge.

Associated Documents: Great Bowden Heritage & Archaeology Field Walking in Webb's Meadow, Lower Green's Hill and Russell's Seeds. University of Leicester Archaeological Services for Waterfield Place Ref: 2011-097

Method: The field was walked in sections. Traverses were at 10 metre intervals and stints at 30 metre intervals. The traverses were walked as far as possible in a north-south direction. A triangular section in the far east of the field and a smaller triangular section in the south-east corner were not walked. In the

centre section of the field a distinct raised plateau made it impossible to see the markers at the far side. It is therefore likely that some of the traverses went over the same piece of ground and the angle of the traverses may have changed slightly when the second team took over.

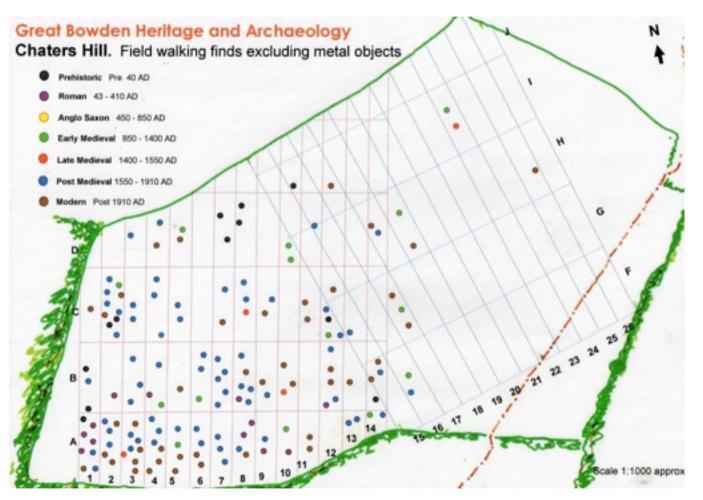


Finds summary:

Prehistoric = 12 flints, 2 sherds late Iron Age pottery Roman = 9 sherds (grey ware, white ware, early Roman grog tempered ware) Early medieval and medieval = 18 sherds (Stamford ware, Lyveden Stanion ware, Sandyware, Midland Purple) Early post medieval and post medieval = 53 sherds (Midland Black, pancheon type ware, stone ware, late Midland purple, Staffordshire slipware, clay pipes, mottled ware, yellow ware) Modern, white and blue and white glazed sherds not counted.

Note: The field at the bottom of the hill (northern section) produced far fewer finds than the higher section. The team on this lower section were the most experienced but were having the same difficulties with hot weather and hard dusty ground as the other team on higher ground. We cannot explain the reduced number of finds.

(**Note 2017** - since researching the area in the Bowden Ridge project from 2015 we think that this lack of finds may be explained by a deviation in the course of the Gunnsbrook, in the northern part of the field, which probably had meadows on each bank which would not have been ploughed. Further work on this is planned.)





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Pottery Finds Key

LIA - Late Iron Age. Similar pottery continued into the early Roman period

WW - made with oolitic clay - many small holes in fabric

GW - Grey ware - the kitchen and cooking pots made throughout the Roman period

ST - Fine pottery from the Stamford area from about 850 AD - in 2B it is hard to distinguish from Roman period pottery.

Early Medieval - probably from about the mid Saxon period up to the Saxo-Norman period

Toft ware - medieval fine sandyware with a patterned glaze - this example may be toft ware or similar

LY1 - Lyveden Stanion oolitic limestone ware made in the Northants. villages from about 1200-1400 Salt glazed stoneware

MP - Midland Purple hard fired - fabric often dark purple in colour with thick black glaze on inner side. Survives well in the soil.

CW - Cistercian ware1475-1700 thin, hard fabric, brick red or purple, glazed both sides, brown or purplish black

MW - Mottled ware (manganese ware) late 17th-18th century, buff or red fabric, mottled dark brown glaze

MB Midland Black 1550-1700 red fabric, shiny black glaze, softer than CW

Staff - Staffordshire Slipware 1640-1750 pale buff fabric, yellow glaze, brown stripes or squiggles

Pancheon - 18-19th century very common large dairy or kitchen bowls, pinkish fabric, orange/red slip and brown glaze.

Stoneware hard fired grey fabric, English slipware brown or white glaze

Modern. Covers china and pottery from about 1800 onwards - a variety of fabrics and styles.

Pottery finds by Traverses 10 metres apart (numbers) and stints at 30 metre intervals across the field (letters)

Traverse Ref	LIA	ww	GW	ST	E.Med	Toft	LY1	Salt	MP	CW	MW	MB	Staff	Pan	Stone	Mod
1A		6, 10, 12g	12g						26g					12g		
1B	10.51g														4g	
2A									27g					Зg		
2B				3g												

Traverse Ref	LIA	ww	GW	ST	E.Med	Toft	LY1	Salt	MP	cw	MW	MB	Staff	Pan	Stone	Mod
2C							35g					7g	9g	15g		5, 6, 12g
ЗA										6g				9g		
3B											Зg	2g	5g	3, 7g		
4A								11g						9, 31g		5, 7g
4B			6g				6g		21g		12g			23g		
4C																2g
4D																
5A						11g										2g
5C												1g	1g			
5D							9g									
6A														28g		1, 4g
6B					1g											
7A											6g	10g				
7B												12g		9, 18g	19g	
7C																4g
8A		Зg														
8B			11g													
8C										1g						
9A			16g													

Traverse Ref	LIA	ww	GW	ST	E.Med	Toft	LY1	Salt	MP	CW	MW	MB	Staff	Pan	Stone	Mod
9B																1g
9C											7g					4g
10A			16g				8g									
10B									6g							3g
10D							9g									
11A																2, 5g
11C																1, 2g
12B			5g											22g		5g
12C							4g							10g		1g
13B																2g
14A							24g							17g		
14B														48g		1, 2g
14D																2, 8g
16F				10g												
17G							55g									5, 11g
19C																12g
19H							26g									
231							36g		62, 79g							
25H															32g	
random									117g							



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Finds other than pottery

Traverse No	Ceramic other than pottery	Animal bone	Worked stone & flint	Metal & Metal working	Glass	All other finds
1A			1 x flint flake = 9g		1 x glass = 20g	1 x oyster shell = 23g
1C		1 x bone = 6g			1 x decorative glass(texture of opalescence) = 6g	
2A	1 x clay pipe stem (narrow) = 1g 2 x terracotta tile fragment (age unknown) 14g, 8g				1 x green glass = 1g	1 x oyster shell = 3g
2C	1 x clay pipe stem = 1g		1 x struck flint = 14g 1 x flint core = 25g			
ЗA	1 x clay pipe stem = 4g 1 x terracotta tile fragment 9g				1 x thick bottle glass = 47g 1 x glass = 5g 1 x glass = 5g 1 x fine glass with opalescence= <1g	1 x oyster shell = 11g
3B						2 x Belemite fossils
3D	1 x clay pipe stem = 1g					1 x fossil = 80g
4A	1 x terracotta tile, age unknown = 23g	1 x animal bone = 11g			1 x green bottle glass = 4g	
4B	1 x clay pipe stem = 3g					
5A	2 x brick or fired clay fragments, 2g and 4g				1 x glass with opalescence = 8g 1 x green bottle glass = 2g	
5B		1 x herbivore tooth = 5g			1 x thick bottle glass with opalescence = 17g	1 x part ammonite fossil = 78g

Traverse No	Ceramic other than pottery	Animal bone	Worked stone & flint	Metal & Metal working	Glass	All other finds
5D					1 x heavy bottle base = 51g	
6A	1 x clay pipe stem = 1g					
6B	1 x fired clay/brick = 9g 1 x clay pipe stem= 2g					
7A	2 x clay pipe stems= 1 g and 3g 1 x terracotta tile, age unknown = 14g 1 x nibbed tile (post med) = 161g 1 x field drain = 84g					
7C	1 x clay pipe stem = 1g					
7D	1 x flint recorticated and crushed at one end possibly very early = 21g 1 struck flint = 6g 1 x flint flake = 2g					
8A	1 x clay pipe stem = 5g	1 x tooth/tusk = 2g			1 x fine green bottle glass = 2g	1 x oyster shell = 4g
8B	2 x clay pipe stems = 3g, 3g 1 x frag. fired clay/brick = 5g				1 x thick green bottle glass = 16g	1 x Belemite fossil = 5g
8C	1 x clay pipe stem = 5g 1 brick frag. = 12g	1 x animal bone = 6g				
8D			1 x flint scraper = 28g 1 x flint flake? = 14g			
9A	1 x field drain frag. = 23g					
9B	1 x part of clay pipe bowl = 1g				1 x glass rim = 17g	1 x slate = 2g
10B						

Traverse No	Ceramic other than pottery	Animal bone	Worked stone & flint	Metal & Metal working	Glass	All other finds
10D	1 x medieval roof tile or vessel = 7g					
10E			1 x struck flint fragment = 12g			
11D	1 x medieval tile, LY1 fabric (oolites present) = 32g					
12A				1 x iron bar (twisted, ornamental, half inch square, flat end shows it has cracked & failed over time 13.5 cm long = 188g		
12B				2 x metal hooks = 41g, 6g	1 x thick green bottle glass = 65g 1 x thin clear window glass = 1g	1 x Welsh slate = 13g
12C			1 x flint core = 42g	l metal bar = 109g	1 x green glass = 3g	
13A	1 x clay pipe stem = 4g				1 x thick clear window glass= 1g	
13B						1 x slate = 11g
13C					1 x green glass = 2g	
13E			1 x struck flint prob. natural but poss. retouch = 15g			
14B			1 x flint flake = 14g	1 x metal ring/washer = 7g		
14E						1 x slate = 3g
171	1 x flowerpot frag = 1g					

Chaters Hill Fieldwalking September 2009



Midland Purple lid - found randomly near hedge 117grams

Traverse 1 Finds - 1B Late Iron Age 10.51 grams

