



# University of Leicester

## Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Fieldwalking survey  
on land to the east of Pulford Drive,  
Scraptoft and Thurnby, Leicestershire.  
NGR: SK 656 051 centre**

Jon Coward



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Jon Coward

For GVA Grimley

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## **An Archaeological Fieldwalking survey on land to the east of Pulford Drive, Scraptoft and Thurnby, Leicestershire. NGR: SK 656 051 centre**

### **1. Summary**

*An archaeological evaluation by fieldwalking was carried out in March 2010 by ULAS for GVA Grimley on land to the east of Pulford Drive, Scraptoft and Thurnby, Leicestershire (SK 656 051 centre) in advance of proposed development. The fieldwalking survey showed a sparse scatter of medieval and later material, and only six lithic pieces, which were however in two tight clusters. The archive will be deposited with LMARS under accession code X.A40.2010 in due course.*

### **2. Background**

The proposed development area is on the eastern edge of Leicester although situated in Scraptoft and Thurnby parishes in Harborough District. The application area (Figure 1) covers an area of c.12.6ha, mainly comprising two fields either side of Thurnby brook, with c.100m of a field to the north, and a small part of the corner of a field to the north-east. The fields either side of Thurnby brook slope gently towards it; to the north the land starts to climb steeply up to the ridge to the north and north-east.

### **3. Historical Background**

An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for the area was prepared by ULAS (Coward, 2010). The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland indicates that there are no known archaeological sites located in the assessment area itself. However, the site is situated adjacent to an area rich in archaeological remains, mainly of Roman, Saxon, and medieval date.

### **4. Aims**

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



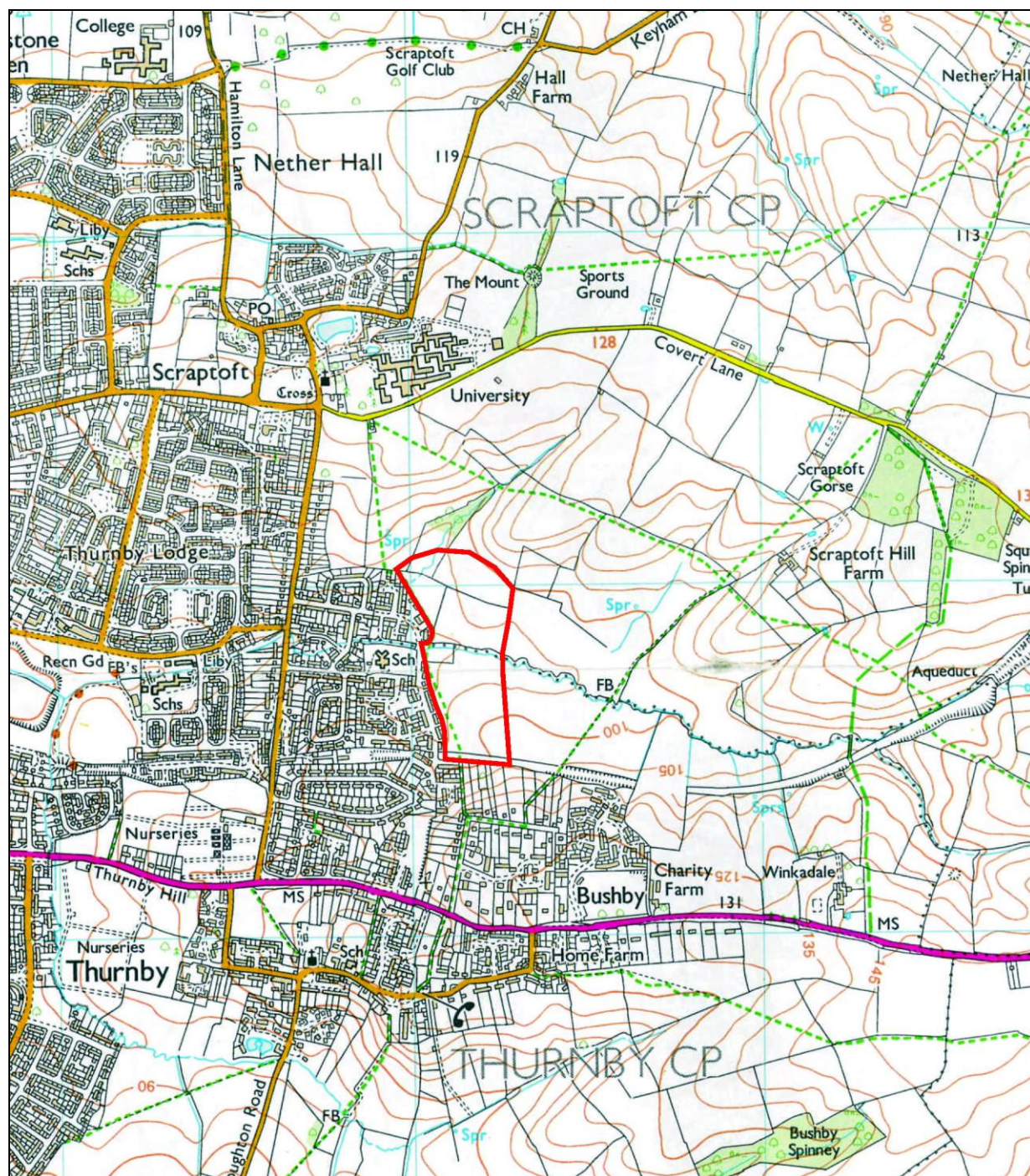


Figure 1 Survey area

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## 5. Methods

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain indicated that the underlying geology was likely to consist of Mercia Mudstone Group across most of the application area, with alluvial cover either side of Thurnby Brook. The area was walked at 20m transects, each transect being scanned for potential artefacts 1m either side of the transect line, giving a sample of *c.* 10% of the area. Finds were plotted using handheld GPS units which were showing an average accuracy of approximately 6-7 metres. Ground conditions were good; although the

crop (brassica or rape) was well through, it was not advanced enough to significantly hamper visibility, and light conditions were good, being bright but overcast. Potential artefacts were recovered, bagged, and logged. Material which was clearly 18th century or later was not recovered

## 6. Results

### 6.1 Prehistoric to Roman material

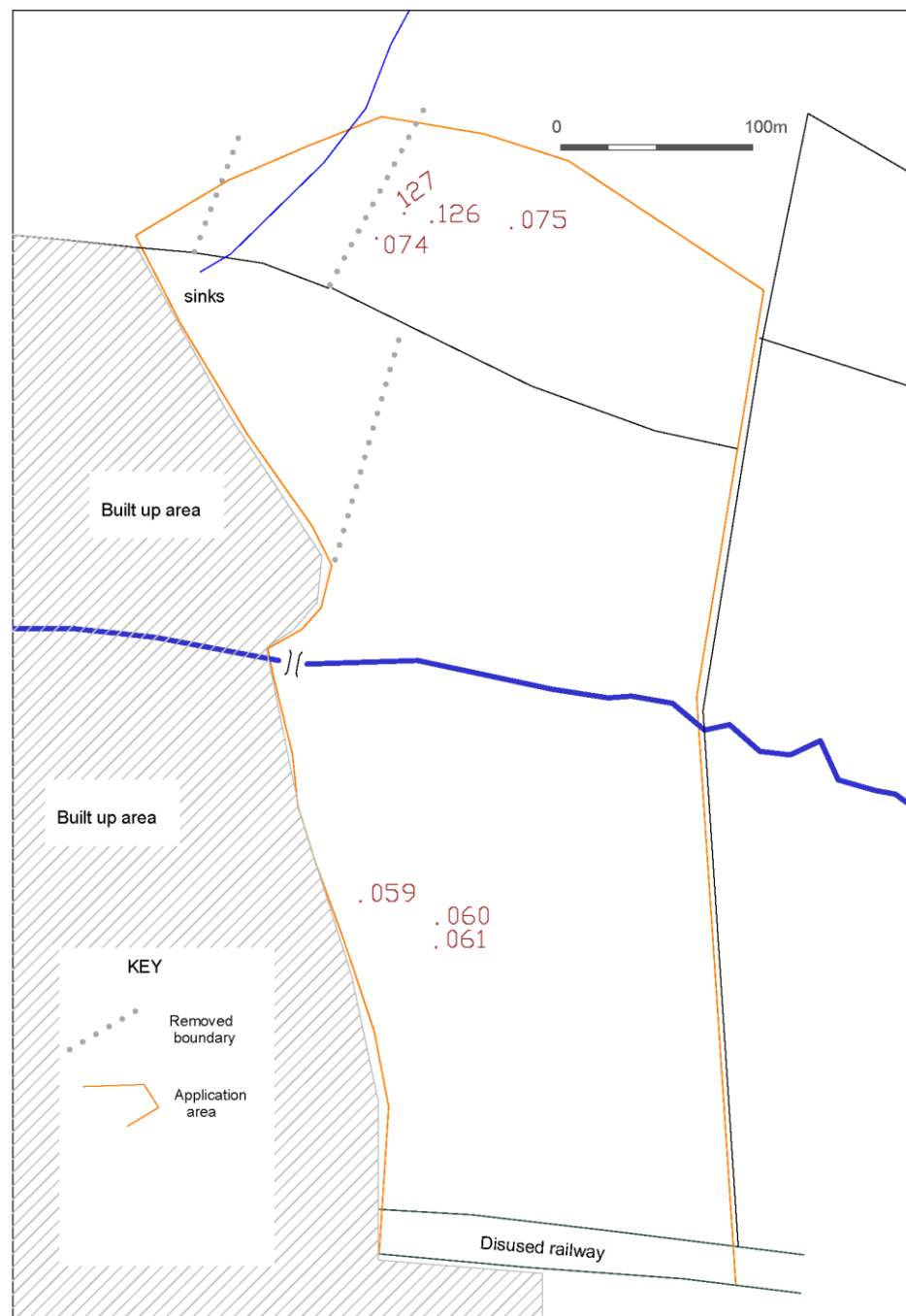


Figure 2 Lithics, plus single Roman sherd (127)  
North to top. See finds report for detailed identifications.



Although small in number, the lithics are concentrated in two areas, one group of three to the south and the other group of three on the slope of the hillside to the north. A single sherd of Roman pottery (Fig. 2, 127) was located to the north of the area.

## 6.2 Medieval material

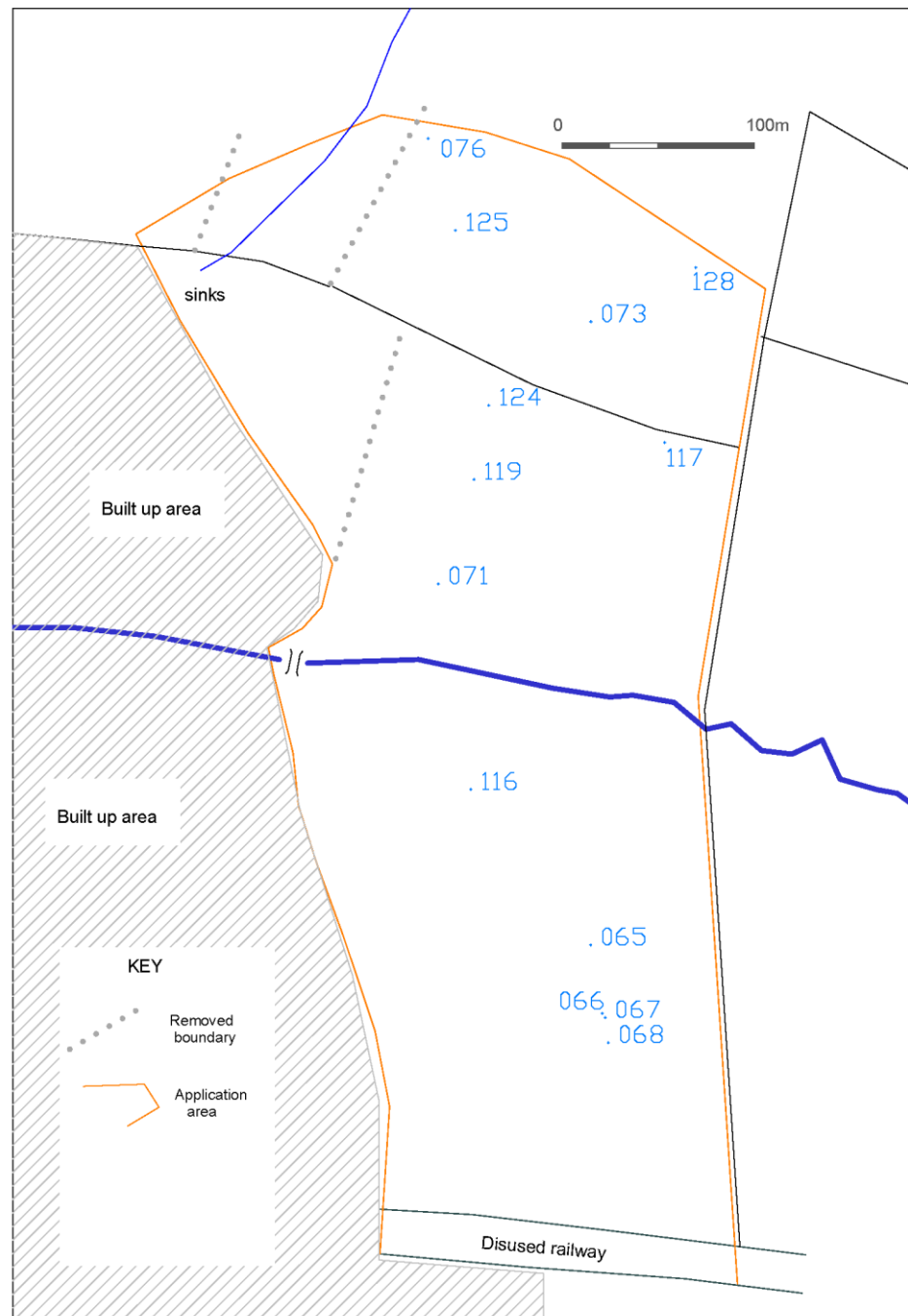


Figure 3 Medieval artefacts  
North to top. See finds report for detailed identifications

The medieval material (13 sherds) is more dispersed, with a cluster in the south field.

### 6.3 Post-medieval and modern material

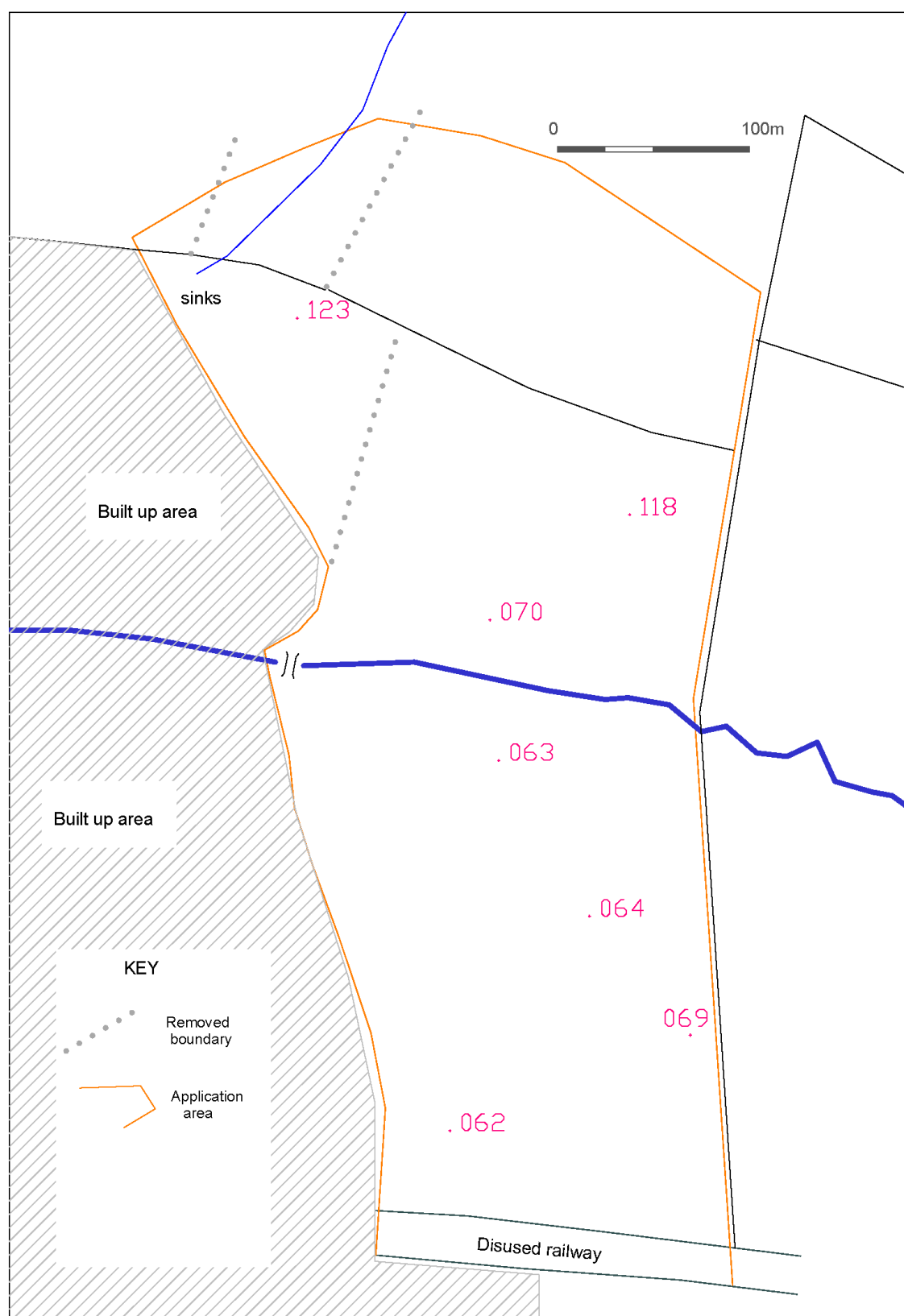


Figure 4 Post-medieval and modern material. North to top.



The material post medieval and modern is both sparse and dispersed. The modern material shown will underestimate the real distribution, as modern material was not retrieved deliberately.

## 7. Discussion

A low density of material was recovered from the fieldwalking survey. Some limited evidence of activity during the prehistoric period was recovered including a Mesolithic artefact on the basis of the bladelet technology and heavy patination. The remaining five flints are also likely to be prehistoric, and are possibly Neolithic or Bronze Age in date. A single Roman sherd was located to the north. This may be associated with other Roman material known from north of the area (HER Ref MLE 2280). The medieval, post-medieval and modern material is likely to have been introduced by manuring the fields.

## 8. Archive

The archive consists of the finds, and a *pro-forma* fieldwalking survey diary sheet. It will be archived with Leicestershire County Council under accession code X.A40.2010 in due course.

The report is listed on the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York.. Available at: <http://oasis.ac.uk/>

| ID                                 | OASIS entry summary   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Project Name                       | Land east of Pulford Drive, Scraptoft and Thurnby, Leicestershire   |
| Summary                            | An archaeological evaluation by fieldwalking was carried out in March 2010 by ULAS for GVA Grimley Ltd, on land east of Pulford Drive, Scraptoft and Thurnby, Leicestershire (SK 656 051 centre) in advance of proposed development. The fieldwalking survey showed a small dispersed scatter of medieval and post-medieval material, and only 6 lithic pieces. The lithics were in two tight clusters. The archive will be deposited with LCC under accession code X.A40.2010 in due course. |
| Project Type                       | Fieldwalking  |
| Project Manager                    | Patrick Clay  |
| Project Supervisor                 | Jon Coward  |
| Previous/Future work               | Previous: desk-based assessment (Coward 2010) / Future: uncertain.  |
| Current Land Use (2009)            | Agricultural farmland   |
| Development Type                   | Housing   |
| Reason for Investigation           | PPG16   |
| Position in the Planning Process   | Pre-planning  |
| Site Co ordinates                  | SK 656 051  |
| Start/end dates of field work      | 19/03/2010 – 19/03/2010   |
| Archive Recipient                  | Leicestershire County Council,  |
| Study Area                         | 12.6ha  |
| Associated project reference codes | Museum accession ID: XA.40.2010<br>OASIS form ID:   |

### **9. Acknowledgements**

The survey was carried out by Jon Coward and Leon Hunt. Project management was by Patrick Clay. We would like to thank Katherine Smith of GVA Grimley Ltd for her help and co-operation.

### **10. Bibliography**

Coward, J., 2010 *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for land off Pulford Drive, Scraftoft, Leicestershire SK 651 048* ULAS Report 2010-062

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26.03.2010

## Appendix 1: The Finds

### The Flint

Lynden Cooper

One flint, find number 126, is prehistoric and dated to the Mesolithic period on the basis of the bladelet technology and heavy patination. The remaining five flints are also likely to be prehistoric, and are possibly Neolithic or Bronze Age in date.

### The Pottery and Miscellaneous Finds

Deborah Sawday

The nineteen sherds of pottery, weighing 220 grams, were catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabric series (Connor and Buckley, 1999). One Roman sherd was present, whilst the remainder dated predominantly to the medieval period, and was in local fabrics typical of those found in the region. Two fragments of modern ceramic building material were also recorded.

The results of the analysis are shown below (Tables 1 and 2).

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

| Fabric   | Common Name                 | Sherds | Weight |
|----------|-----------------------------|--------|--------|
|          | Roman                       |        |        |
| GW       | Grey ware                   | 1      | 5      |
|          | Medieval                    |        |        |
| PM       | Potters Marston             | 4      | 38     |
| CS       | Coarse Shelly ware          | 1      | 2      |
| CC1/CC2  | Chilvers Coton 1/2          | 4      | 16     |
| MS3      | Medieval Sandy ware 3       | 2      | 27     |
| MP2      | Midland Purple 2            | 1      | 15     |
| CW2      | Cistercian ware 2           | 1      | 27     |
|          | Post Medieval/Modern        |        |        |
| EA1/2/EA | Earthenwares                | 4      | 84     |
| SW5      | Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware | 1      | 6      |
|          | Totals                      | 19     | 220    |

Table 2: The finds by context.

| Context | Fabric/Ware                       | Nos | Grms | Comments                                       |
|---------|-----------------------------------|-----|------|--|
|         | Pot - unless stated otherwise     |     |      |  |
| 59      | Flint                             | 1   |      | Scraper  |
| 60      | Flint                             | 1   |      | Secondary flake                                |
| 61      | Flint                             | 1   |      | Retouched blade                                |
| 62      | EA1 – Earthenware 1               | 1   | 50   | Jar rim  |
| 63      | EA1                               | 1   | 26   | Oxidised – brown glaze internally              |
| 64      | EA - Earthenware                  | 1   | 3    | ?Ceramic building material – tile, modern      |
| 65      | MS3 – Medieval Sandy ware 3       | 1   | 15   | Medieval                                       |
| 66      | CC1 – Chilvers Coton ware 1       | 1   | 1    | Medieval                                       |
| 67      | PM – Potters Marston              | 1   | 4    | Abraded, medieval                              |
| 68      | CW2 – Cistercian ware 2           | 1   | 27   | Later medieval or possibly early post medieval |
| 69      | EA                                | 1   | 31   | ?Modern field drain                            |
| 70      | SW5 – Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware | 1   | 6    | Modern   |

|     |                             |   |    |   |
|-----|-----------------------------|---|----|---|
| 71  | CC1                         | 1 | 8  | Medieval  |
| 72  | Stone                       |   |    | Discarded   |
| 73  | PM                          | 1 | 13 | Jar rim – abraded, medieval.                            |
| 74  | Flint                       | 1 |    | Tertiary flake  |
| 75  | Flint                       | 1 |    | Flake with notch  |
| 76  | CS – Coarse Shelly ware     | 1 | 2  | Abraded, inclusions leached out, medieval.              |
| 116 | MS3                         | 1 | 12 | Bowl rim with inscribed wavy line decoration, medieval. |
| 117 | CC2– Chilvers Coton ware 1  | 1 | 5  | Highly fired, crawled glaze, medieval.                  |
| 118 | EA                          | 1 | 2  | Modern flower pot                                       |
| 119 | CC2                         | 1 | 2  | Medieval  |
| 122 | Flint                       |   |    | Natural - discarded                                     |
| 123 | EA2 - Earthenware 2         | 1 | 6  | Post medieval/modern                                    |
| 124 | MP2 – Midland Purple ware 2 | 1 | 15 | Medieval  |
| 125 | PM                          | 1 | 16 | Everted bowl with horizontal thumbled strip, medieval.  |
| 126 | Flint                       | 1 |    | Tertiary bladelet                                       |
| 127 | GW – Grey ware              | 1 | 5  | Roman   |
| 128 | PM                          | 1 | 5  | Abraded, medieval                                       |

### *Bibliography*

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

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Site/ Parish: Land east of Pulford Drive, Scraftoft, Leics.<br>Accession No.: X.A40.2010<br>Document Ref: scraftoft1.docx<br>Material: flint, pottery & misc. finds | Submitter: J. Coward, P. Clay<br>Identifier: L. Cooper/D. Sawday<br>Date of Identification: 22.3.10<br>Method of Recovery: field walked<br>Job Number: 10-633<br>Site Type: unknown, edge of medieval village |
|---|---|

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