



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

**A Fieldwalking Survey on
Land East and West of Broughton Way,
Broughton Astley,
Leicestershire
NGR: SP 531 930 and SP 527 931**

Andrew Hyam



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**A Fieldwalking Survey on
Land to the East and West of Broughton Way,
Broughton Astley, Leicestershire**

NGR: SP 531 930 and 527 931

A R Hyam

For: Jelson Ltd

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A Fieldwalking Survey on Land East and west of Broughton Way, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire. NGR: SP 531 930 and SP 527 931

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Summary

A fieldwalking survey was undertaken by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land to the east and west of Broughton Way, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire. The survey took place in December 2011 in advance of a proposed housing development. A small scatter of pottery was recovered with dates ranging from the mid 13th century to post medieval and modern. The finds are indicative of the continued practice of manure scattering.

The fieldwork was carried out by A.R.Hyam. The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service under Accession Number X.A180.2011

Introduction

This report presents the results of a fieldwalking survey to evaluate the potential archaeological deposits on land to the east and west of Broughton Way, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire. The complete survey includes both fieldwalking and geophysical surveys and was undertaken in advance of a proposed residential development. Archaeological desk based assessments have already been prepared for the areas which show that, although there are no known sites within the proposed development areas, there are some prehistoric, Roman and medieval sites within the immediate locality which may have some relevance to the survey areas. The work has been commissioned by Jelson Limited and followed the Written Scheme of Investigation (ULAS 2011) approved by the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council as advisor to the planning authority.

Background

The village of Broughton Astley lies approximately 8km to the south-west of Leicester and 10km due east of Hinckley (Fig. 1). In its present form the village has two distinct areas of development to the south-east and north-west of the parish church. The site lies to the north of the centre of the two halves and is either side of Broughton Way (the B581), a main road running through the village (Fig. 2).

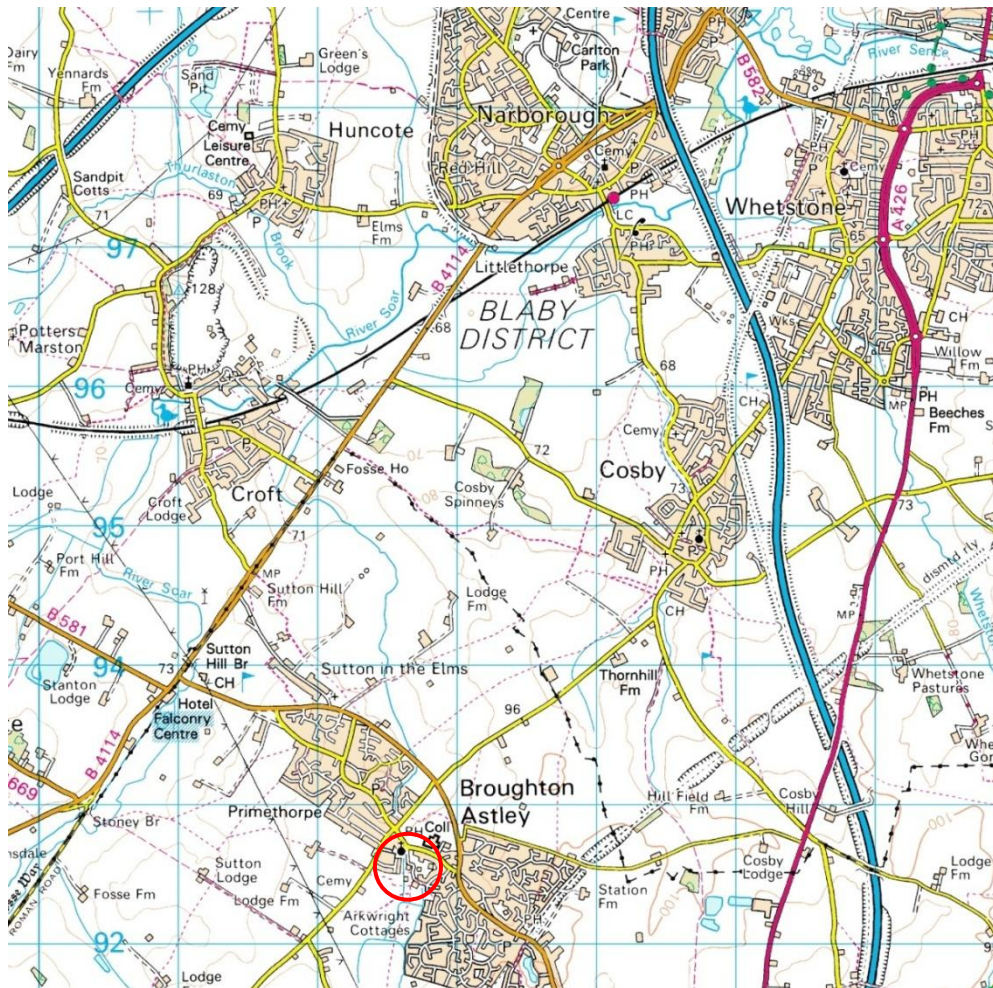


Figure 1. Broughton Astley location

1km grid. North to top of map

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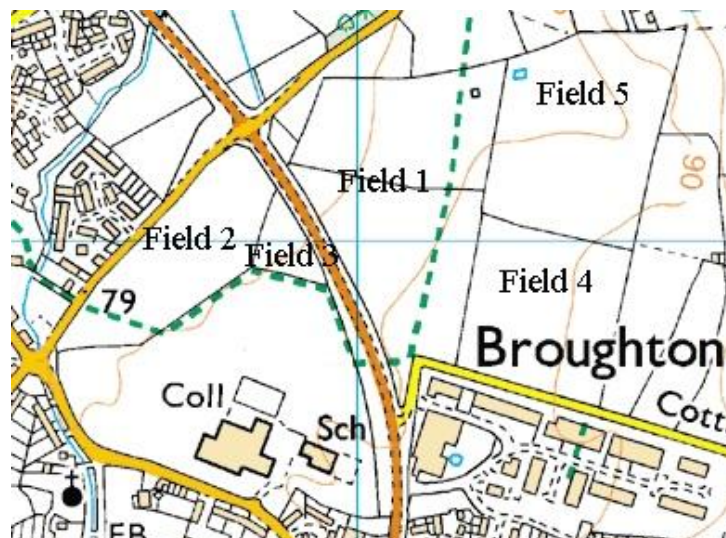


Figure 2. Proposed development site location and field numbers

1km grid. North to top of map

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The site to the east of Broughton Way consists of three fields forming a total area of 18.2 hectares. For the purposes of this survey the fields were allocated the reference numbers of Fields 1, 4 and 5 representing the order in which they were walked (Figs. 2 and 6). Most of the area is relatively flat with a gradual rise towards the north-east of the area (Fig. 3). Although the Ordnance Survey map shows Field 1 as two similarly sized fields it is now a single field with an approximate area of 7.5 ha which was possibly opened up soon after the new road was built. Only a lone tree survives to show where the old hedgeline was. At the time of the survey the field was sown with a cereal crop giving an approximate visibility of 60%. Fields 4 and 5, to the east of Field 1, had a crop covering most of the soil and so could not be walked (Fig. 4).

The site to the west of Broughton Way consists of a large field and the isolated corner of what was Field 1 which was cut off when Broughton Way was constructed. These fields were identified as Fields 2 and 3 (Fig. 2). Both fields, covering a total area of 3.2 hectares, had a cereal crop giving a similar partial obscuring coverage to that in Field 1 (Fig. 5). Both fields were relatively level with only a slight rise in the centre of Field 2.

Overall, the land falls from around 92m OD in the extreme eastern edge of the site to around 79m OD at the western edge. The Geological Survey of England & Wales, Sheet 169 (Coventry) shows that the geology of the sites should comprise alluvium and river terrace deposits, overlying glacial till, with the alluvium and river terrace deposits concentrated on the western side of the assessment area.



Figure 3. Field 1
Looking north.



Figure 4. Field 5
Looking north-east. This field could not be surveyed due to crop coverage



Figure 5. Field 2
Looking south-west

Objectives

The overall aim of the non-intrusive fieldwalking survey was to gather sufficient information to establish the extent and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any archaeological deposits within the area. The fieldwalking element will work in conjunction with a magnetometry survey (Stratascan 2012).

Fieldwalking Methodology

A programme of fieldwalking was undertaken over all the available areas. The fieldwalking was scheduled to take place after the fields are ploughed, rolled (or harrowed) and weathered for at least three weeks. At the time of the survey the fields had varying heights of crop as discussed above. Transects were walked following the line of crop growth wherever possible.

Transects were set out at 20m intervals and all pre-modern artefacts were collected and bagged along each transects. The location of the finds was plotted using hand held GPS loggers.

The fieldwalking surveys were carried out on a 20m grid. Assuming a 2m range of view this provided a 10% sample of the total area.

Artefact locations were logged manually on site, and then plots produced using GPS Utility and ArcGIS 9.3 software.

Pre-modern artefacts were collected from the fieldwalking surveys. These were then washed marked and identified.

All survey results were plotted at an appropriate scale on an OS digital base map.

Results

The find distribution is shown in Figure 6 below.

Field 1

Only three sherds of pottery were recovered in a fairly wide scatter across the field. Towards the centre of the field was an abraded sherd of late 12th or early 13th century Potters Marston ware. A second sherd of Potters Marston ware was found near to the south-east corner close to a sherd of Medieval Sandy ware 3 probably towards the end of the medieval period. No other pottery or artefacts were recovered from this field.

Field 2

Six sherds of pottery and three fragments of post-medieval or modern clay tobacco pipe were recovered from Field 2. Of the six sherds of pottery four were of post-medieval or modern origin. The remaining two sherds were both mid 17th century in date and were a Black Earthenware EA6 wheel thrown fragment and an Earthenware EA7 yellow glaze over white slip coated body.

Field 3

No finds were recovered from this truncated corner of what used to be Field 1.

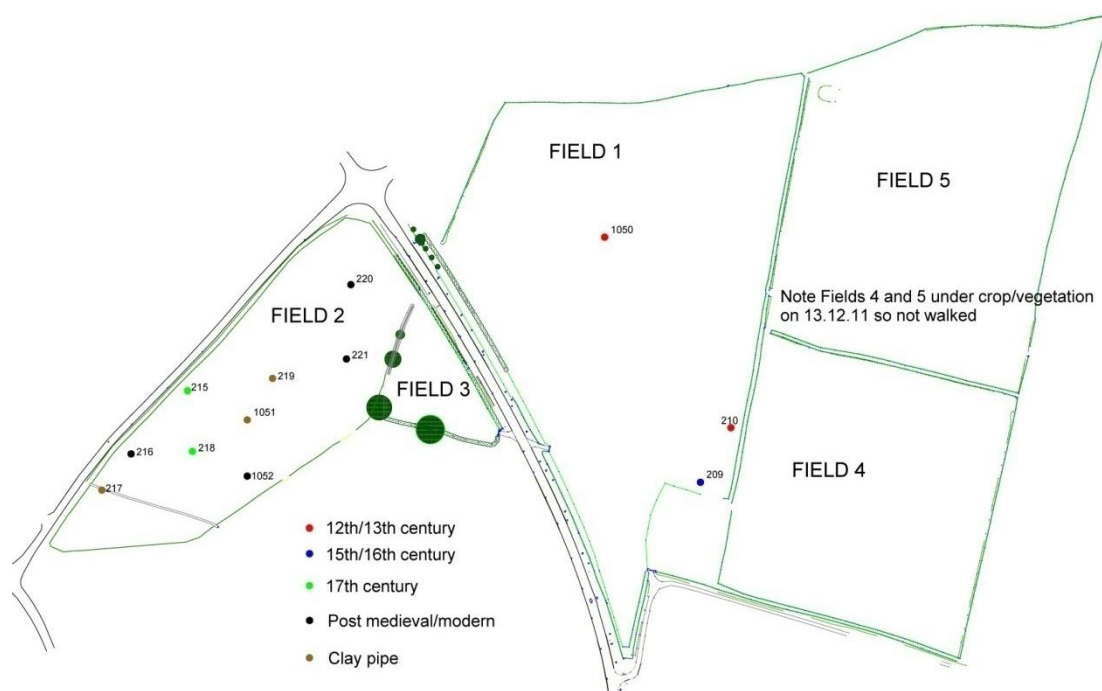


Figure 6. Distribution of finds

Discussion

The fairly small amount of pottery recovered would appear to be more consistent with manuring practice than with direct occupation within the field. The distribution of finds from the 13th and 14th centuries through to the post medieval and modern periods also indicates that the activity continued until relatively recently. Subsequent magnetometry has located anomalies of a possible enclosure to the east of Field 1 (Smalley 2012 J3021-A). Unfortunately no surface finds were located to provide a date range for this potential site.

Archive

The archive consists of:

This report,

3ULAS pro-forma fieldwalking record sheets,

14 pottery sherds (including 3 clay tobacco pipe fragments),

Contact sheet of 12 digital photographs,

1 photographic record sheet,

CD of this report and the digital photographs.

Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. A record of the project will also be submitted to the OASIS project. OASIS is an online index to archaeological grey literature.

Bibliography

ULAS 2011. *Design Specification for Archaeological Work: Land east and west of Broughton Way, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire*. University of Leicester Archaeological Services 07.12.2011

Smalley, R., 2012. *Geophysical Survey Report Land East of Broughton Way, Broughton Astley*. Stratascan Report J3021-A and B

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Appendix 1. Finds report

Deborah Sawday

The Pottery and Clay Tobacco Pipe

The Finds

The pottery, 11 sherds, weighing 176 grams, was catalogued with reference to the to the guidelines set out by the Medieval Pottery Research group, (MPRG 1998, 2001) and the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 1989; Davies and Sawday 1999; Sawday forthcoming). Also present were three fragments of post medieval or modern clay tobacco pipe. The results are shown below (Table 1).

Discussion

Four of the pottery sherds, weighing 32 grams, were in medieval fabrics, the two sherds of Potters Marston lying within a date range of between the 12th and 13th centuries. The sherd of Chilvers Coton ware dates from the mid or later 13th century and the other hard fired sherd in Medieval Sandy ware 3 probably from towards the end of the medieval period, in the 15th or early to mid 16th centuries. The two wheel thrown fragments weighing 35 grams in the Slipware, EA7, and Blackware, EA6, could both date from the mid or later 17th century.

Conclusion

The medieval pottery has a reasonable average sherd weight of 8 grams, and although somewhat abraded is evidence of medieval activity in the area, probably the manuring of the fields associated with the settlement at Broughton Astley nearby. The presence of two sherds dating from the mid 17th century suggests the continuation of that activity into the post medieval period.

Bibliography

- Connor, A., and Buckley, R., 1999 *Roman and Medieval Occupation in Causeway Lane, Leicester*, Leicester Archaeology Mon. **5**.
- Davies, S., and Sawday, D., 1999 'The Post Roman Pottery and Tile' in A. Connor and R. Buckley, 1999, 165-213.
- MPRG, 1998 *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms*. Medieval Pottery Research Group, London.
- MPRG, 2001. *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Saxon and Medieval Ceramics*

Context	Fabric/Ware	Nos	Grams	Comments
POTTERY				
209	MS3 – Medieval Sandy ware	1	12	Later medieval, traces of glaze & sooting externally.
210	PM – Potters Marston	1	6	12th – 13th century.
215	EA7 – Slipware	1	10	Wheel thrown, pink bodied, yellow glaze internally over a white slip. Mid 17th century+
216	EA2 - Earthenware	1	17	Relatively fine light brown glazed hollow ware body
217	CC1 – Chilvers Coton 1	1	6	Mid 13th century +1250
218	EA6 – Black Earthenware	1	25	Mid 17th century+
218	SW – Stoneware	1	5	Modern
220	SW 5 - Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware	1	67	Modern, small bottle, complete save for rim.
221	EA2 - Earthenware	1	17	Upright rim, probably from a jar or bowl, glazed under red slip internally, post medieval/modern
1050	PM – Potters Marston	1	8	Abraded body,
1052	EA - Earthenware	1	3	Modern flower pot.
CLAY PIPE				
219	China Clay	1		Fragment of tobacco pipe stem with spur/heel
217	China Clay	1		Fragment of tobacco pipe stem
1051	China Clay	1		Fragment of tobacco pipe bowl with moulded decoration.

Site/ Parish: Broughton Way, Broughton Astley, Leics. Accession No.: XA180 2011 Document Ref: broughton astley3.docx Material: pot/ Site Type: ¾ miles to west of church – open fields	Submitter: A. Hyam Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Identification: 10.1.12 Method of Recovery: field-walking Job Number: 12-564
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Appendix 2. OASIS Information

Project Name	Land east and west of Broughton Way, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire
Project Type	Fieldwalking survey
Project Manager	P N Clay
Project Supervisor	A R Hyam
Previous/Future work	DBA/geophysical survey/trial trenching
Current Land Use	Agricultural
Development Type	Housing
Reason for Investigation	Pre-planning
Position in the Planning Process	Pre-planning
Site Co ordinates	SP 531 930 and SP 527 931 centres
Start/end dates of field work	13.12.2011
Archive Recipient	LCC
Study Area	21.4 ha

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