



**University of
Leicester**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey at
Land south of Kinchley Lane,
Rothley, Leicestershire
NGR: SK 564 138**

Tim Higgins



ULAS Report No 2013-111
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**An Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey
At land south of Kinchley Lane,
Rothley, Leicestershire**

NGR: SK 564 138

Tim Higgins

For: Lafarge Aggregates Ltd

Checked by:

Signed:



Date: 07.06.2013

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An Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey at land south of Kinchley Lane, Rothley, Leicestershire

Tim Higgins

Summary

An archaeological fieldwalking survey was carried out by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land to the south of Kinchley Lane, Rothley, Leicestershire, on behalf of Lafarge Aggregates Ltd. The fieldwalking survey revealed flint flake and core scatters equally distributed across the three fields. In addition to this, a moderate density of mostly modern pottery was identified across the entire survey area.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services Section, accession no. XA.50.2013.

1. Introduction

This report presents the results of an archaeological fieldwalking survey carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land to the south of Kinchley Lane, Rothley, Leicestershire (SK 564 138). The work was undertaken as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of proposed use as storage for the Mountsorrel Quarry.

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The proposed development area is located on Kinchley Lane south of the Mountsorrel Quarry in the parish of Rothley (Grid. Ref. SK 564 138 centre) and is approximately 8km to the north of central Leicester

The area that was surveyed consists of three fields that cover an area of *c.*22.3 ha. It is bordered to the north by Mountsorrel quarry and to the west by Swithland Reservoir. It is bounded along its southern and eastern edges by fields/small holdings (see figs.1 and 2).

The land drops noticeably from 78m on the higher land to the northeast down towards the southwest of the site into the Swithland Valley, which is now flooded and occupied by the reservoir. The ground then rises up again towards the southeast to 80m OD. The OS 1st edition map labels the area as 'Kinchley Hill'. The noticeable dip in this undulating landscape, corresponding to a narrow linear depression running east to west, seems to represent an old water course running into the former Swithland River. Kinchley Lane runs just to the south of this narrow east west valley.

The Charnwood Forest geology consists of outcrop of pre Cambrian rocks rising beneath a layer of Triassic marls (Mercia Mudstone group) forming an area of higher ground. The local geology also consists of Oadby Till that contains chalk, flint and Jurassic limestone clasts in a grey matrix derived mainly from Liassic clays.

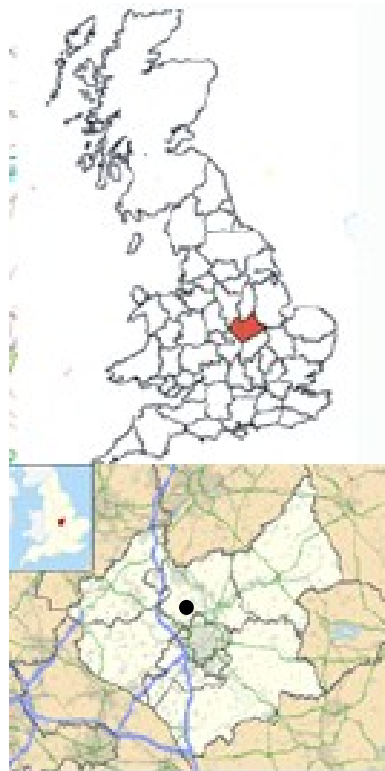


Figure 1: Site location plan within the UK and county of Leicestershire

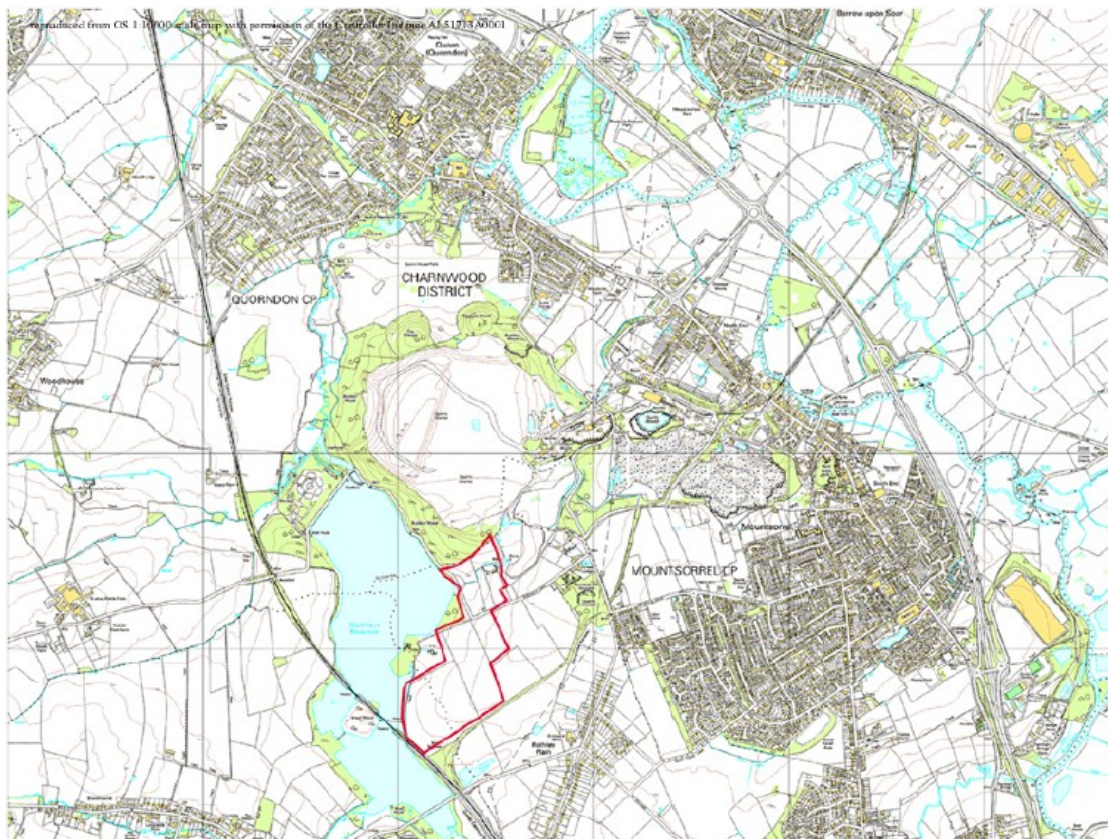


Figure 2: Site location plan. 1:25 000 (1 km grid). By permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495

3. Archaeological Background

(Taken from Lisboa 2013)

The Historic Environment Records (HERs) for Leicester and Leicestershire and Rutland shows that the site is located in close proximity to a number of known archaeological sites, ranging in date from the Neolithic-Bronze Age to the medieval period.

Most of the Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement evidence in the area comes from fieldwalking with numerous flint scatters, many in areas of slightly higher ground overlooking the confluence zone. Apart from those in the Kinchley Lane site adjacent to Buddon Wood, flint scatters were known and investigated at Wood Lane (**MLE708**). A field walking survey undertaken at Wood Lane recovered various worked flint flakes tools and cores. Subsequent excavations at the site revealed prehistoric settlement. Further to the west in Halstead Road field walking recovered a scatter of worked flint (**MLE17956**). Two evaluations at Wood Lane (**MLE 708**) and at Cross lane Mountsorrel (**MLE 9527**) undertaken in 2002, both reveal features that had flint and Bronze Age pottery associated with them. Isolated arrowheads have been found close to Swithland Lane and Halstead Road junction (**MLE9744**)

Some evidence of Iron Age settlement has been recorded during evaluations within the vicinity. Prior to quarrying in early 1970s an Iron Age stone pottery pounder and Roman ceramic were recovered as surface finds from Buddon Wood on the higher ground just to the north of Kinchley Lane (**MLE 842, 843, 7416**). Late Iron Age settlements have been found in the course of the evaluation at Wood Lane (**MLE 708**) and Hales Land (**MLE 720**). In the latter an enclosure with internal features including post-holes and gullies were found containing Late Iron Age pottery.

In the environs of the area, two loom-weights of Late Saxon type were found during quarrying in the 19th century (**MLE6104**). Saxon occupation is known from Halstead Road (**MLE 6016**)

The site lies 1.5km east of the medieval village cores of Mountsorrel and Rothley and presumably throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods the application area was used as open agricultural land. A number of possible manuring scatters containing medieval and post-medieval pottery have been recorded by fieldwalking within the wider study area.

4. Aims and Methods

The overall aim of the fieldwalking survey was to gather information to establish the extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any archaeological features and deposits within the area. Pre-modern artefacts were collected and bagged along 10m transects that had been set up within 100m Ordnance Survey grids. The location of the finds was plotted using hand held GPS loggers (Garmin Legend Hcx, satellite accuracy c.3-5m). Assuming a field of vision of 2 metres, a 20% sample of the field's surface was examined.

The visibility during the survey was good with diffused lighting and the crop only partially obscuring the surface, providing *c.*90% ground visibility (Figs. 4-5). All archaeological work adhered to the Institute for Archaeologist's (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LMARS).

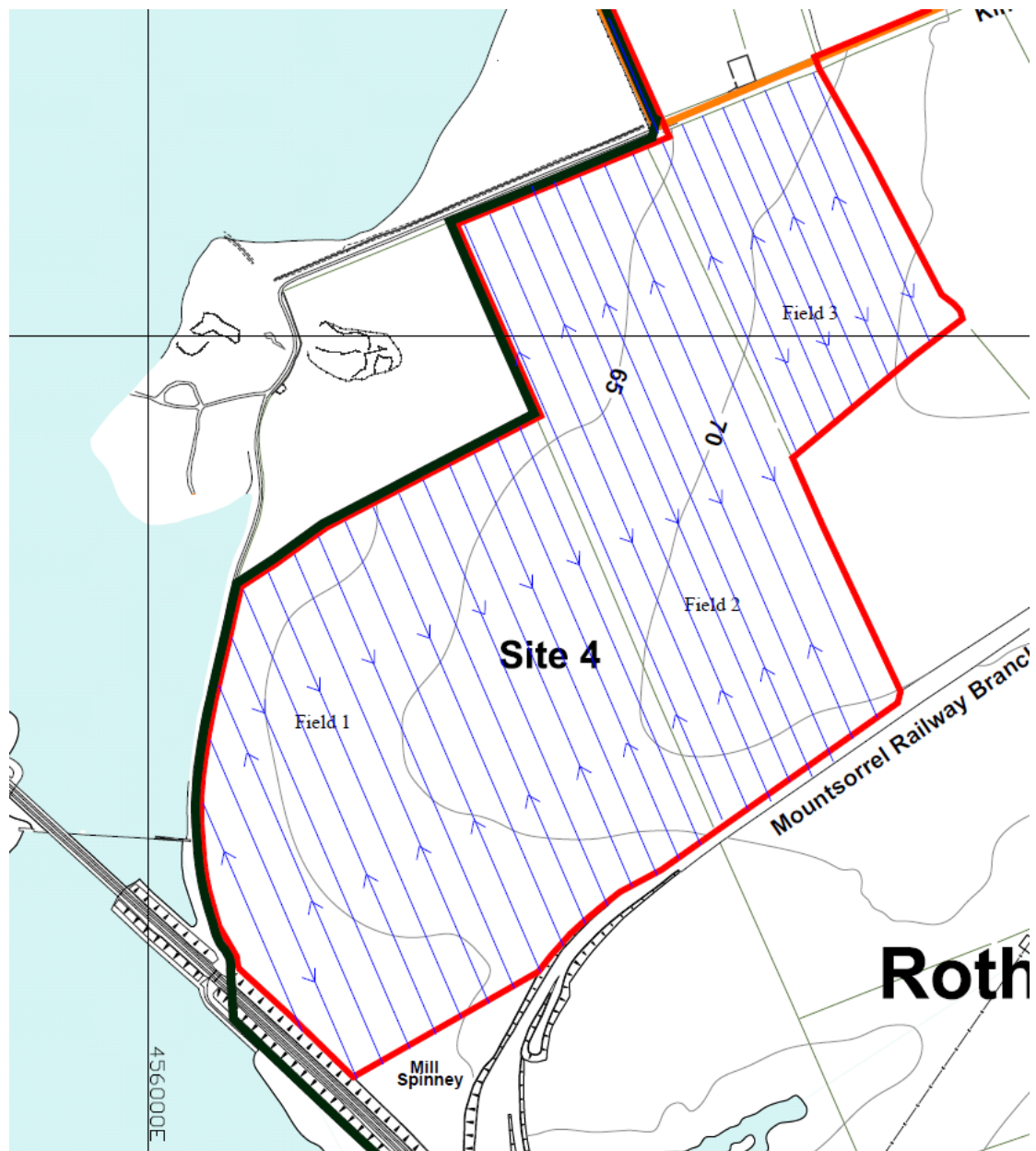


Figure 3: Field numbers and direction of fieldwalking traverses



Figure 4: View of Field 1 looking west



Figure 5: View of Field 2 looking north

5. Results

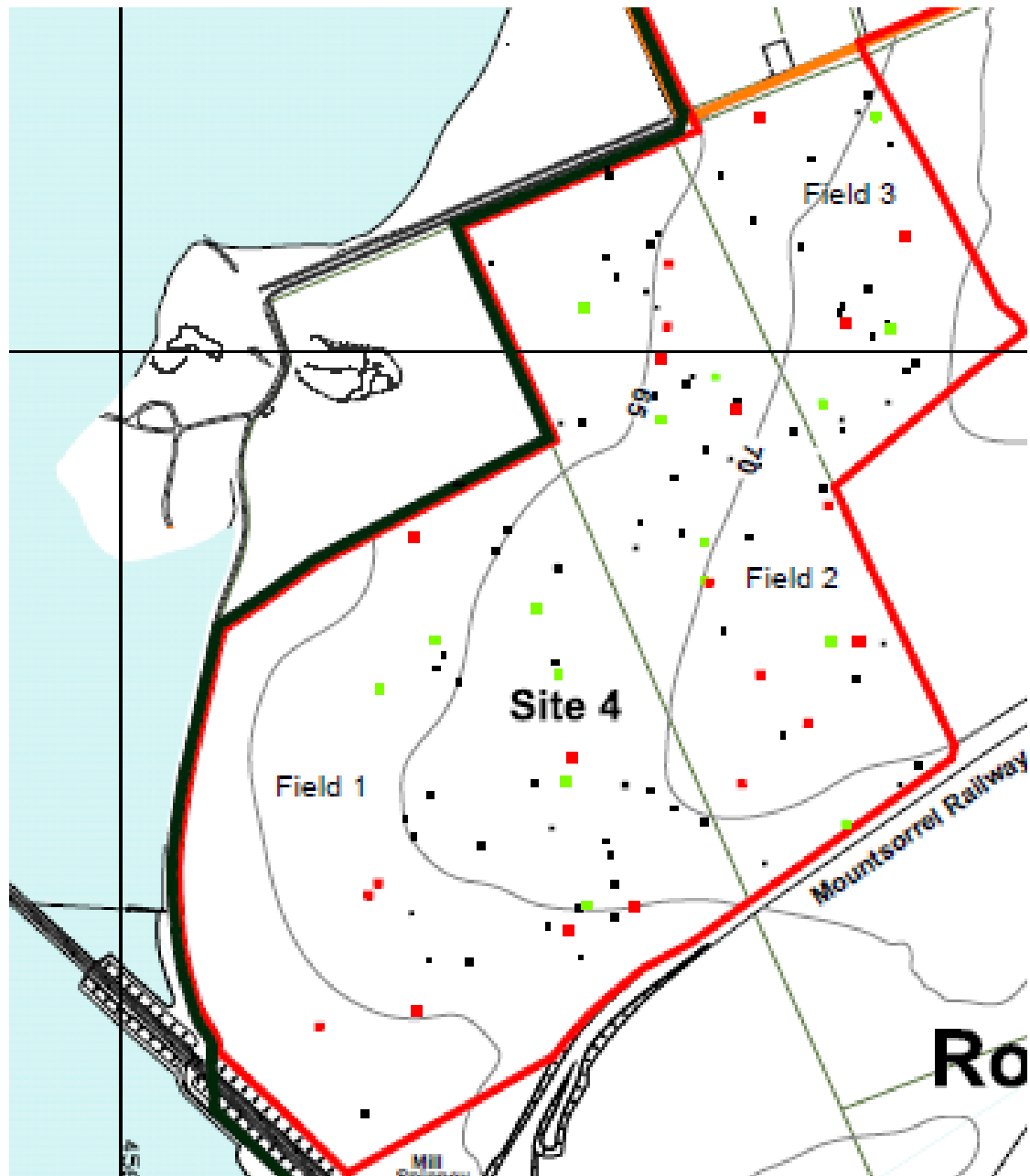


Figure 6: Distribution of Worked Flint

Key: Red = cores/ Green = tools/ Black = flakes

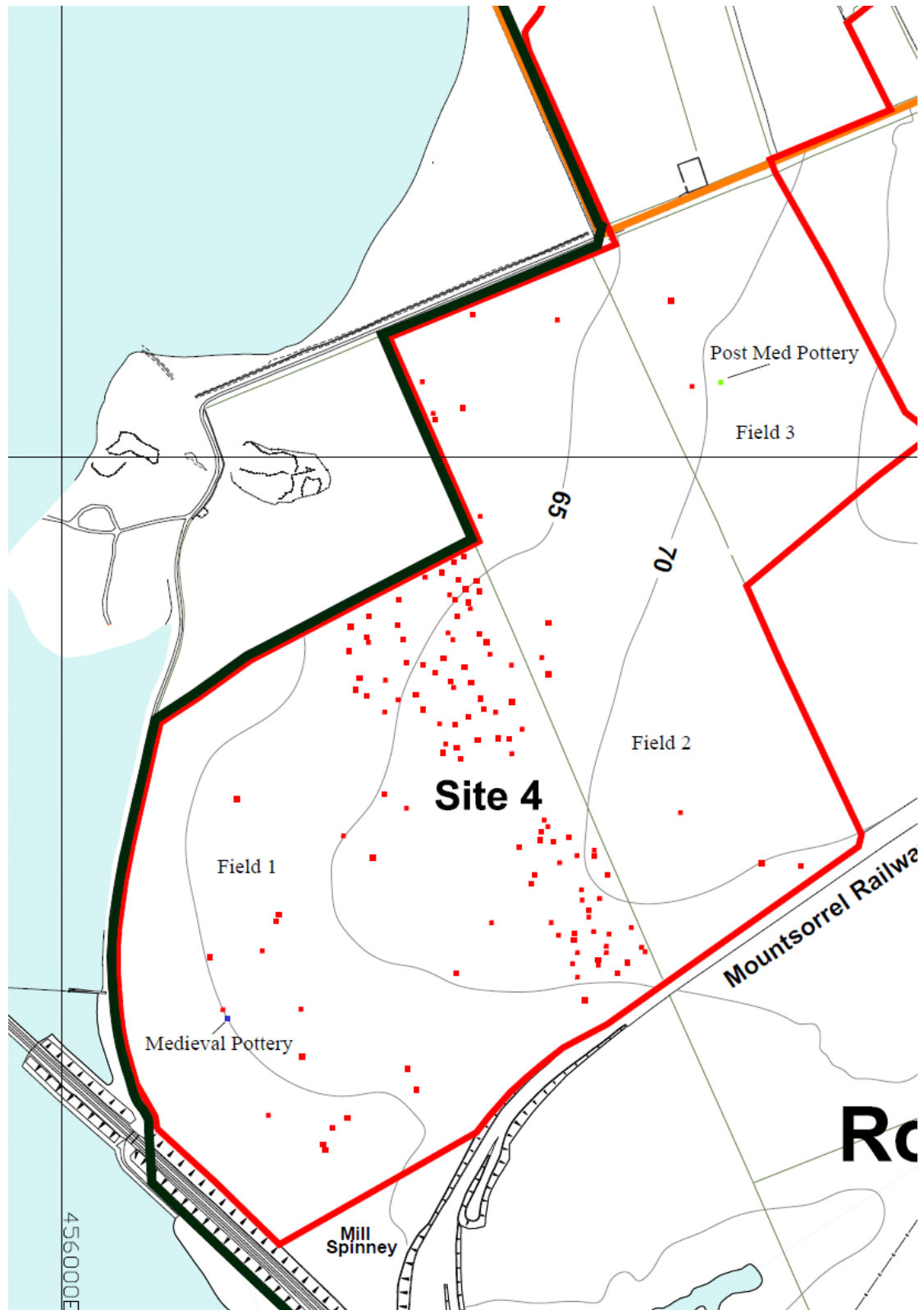


Figure 7: Distribution of medieval (blue), post-medieval (green) and modern pottery (red)

6. The Finds

The Lithics

Lynden Cooper

Some 90 worked flints were recovered, comprising 31 pieces from field 1, 37 pieces from field 2 and 22 pieces from field 3. The grey-brown flint raw material was all local till-derived semi-translucent flint with thin cortex skin. The majority was not patinated.

Field 1 produced six cores, 16 x 2ry flakes (of which three were calcined), one 3ry flake, two shatter fragments and six tools (4 scrapers, piercer and retouched flake).

Field 2 produced ten cores, one 1ry flake, 11 x 2ry flakes, one 3ry flake, six shatter fragments (two of which calcined) and seven tools (four scrapers, one piercer and two retouched flakes).

Field 3 produced three cores, ten 2ry flakes, two shatter fragments and four tools (two scrapers a retouched flake and a notched flake).

Technologically the scatter is predominantly a later prehistoric flake assemblage with hard hammer percussion. The cores varied from pieces with just one or two removals, possibly just tested pieces, to those with a few more removals, but none exhibiting systematic working to use the internal flint. The latter displayed unsystematic migrating platforms. The predominance of 2ry flakes with traces of cortex also points to the lack of systematic core working. Typological markers are not secure but an overall crudity of scraper morphology, several with limited straight-edged retouch, would best be interpreted as belonging to the mid-late Bronze Age. Surface condition was not recorded in a systematic way but there were many pieces that displayed very sharp edges possibly indicating that they had only just been incorporated into the plough soil. In contrast there are a few indications of a background Mesolithic component in the form of a few pieces showing blade/bladelet technology and, probably, the few patinated pieces.

<i>Find code</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Field Location</i>	<i>Identification</i>
024	Flint	Field 1	Natural
031	Flint	Field 1	
035	Flint	Field 1	3ry flake, calcined
039	Flint	Field 1	Natural
055	Flint	Field 1	Natural
076	Flint	Field 1	2ry Flake
081	Flint	Field 1	
083	Flint	Field 1	Concave scraper
084	Flint	Field 1	
087	Flint	Field 1	Scraper
092	Flint	Field 1	Shatter
095	Flint	Field 1	Core
114	Flint	Field 1	Retouched Flake
115	Flint	Field 1	2ry Flake
116	Flint	Field 1	2ry Flake
118	Flint	Field 1	2ry Flake, burnt
124	Flint	Field 1	2ry Flake
125	Flint	Field 1	Core
126	Flint	Field 1	2ry Flake
127	Flint	Field 1	Core
128	Flint	Field 1	Scraper nb prepared base
129	Flint	Field 1	2ry Flake
131	Flint	Field 1	Natural
132	Flint	Field 1	Natural
133	Flint	Field 1	2ry Flake
135	Flint	Field 1	Core
136	Flint	Field 1	Natural
137	Flint	Field 1	Piercer
138	Flint	Field 1	Natural
140	Flint	Field 1	Shatter
142	Flint	Field 1	2ry Flake
145	Flint	Field 1	2ry Flake
147	Flint	Field 1	Thumbnail scraper (crude)
153	Flint	Field 1	2ry flake, calcined
157	Flint	Field 1	2ry flake, calcined
158	Flint	Field 1	2ry flake
159	Flint	Field 1	2ry flake
163	Flint	Field 1	Core
165	Flint	Field 1	
167	Flint	Field 1	2ry flake
169	Flint	Field 1	Core
170	Flint	Field 1	Core
176	Flint	Field 1	Natural
180	Flint	Field 2	2ry flake
181	Flint	Field 2	Core
182	Flint	Field 2	2ry flake
183	Flint	Field 2	Core, calcined
185	Flint	Field 2	Shatter, calcined
186	Flint	Field 2	Scraper
188	Flint	Field 2	Core
190	Flint	Field 2	core
192	Flint	Field 2	Scraper?
193	Flint	Field 2	Core
194	Flint	Field 2	Natural
195	Flint	Field 2	2ry Flake
196	Flint	Field 2	2ry Flake
197	Flint	Field 2	2ry Flake
199	Flint	Field 2	core
200	Flint	Field 2	Piercer

201	Flint	Field 2	Scraper
202	Flint	Field 2	Shatter
206	Flint	Field 2	3ry Flake
207	Flint	Field 2	Shatter
209	Flint	Field 2	Natural
210	Flint	Field 2	2ry Flake
211	Flint	Field 2	Natural
218	Flint	Field 2	1ry Flake
220	Flint	Field 2	Scraper?
222	Flint	Field 2	Retouched Flake
223	Flint	Field 2	Bladelet
224	Flint	Field 2	
227	Flint	Field 2	2ry Flake
228			Natural
229	Flint	Field 2	2ry Flake
233	Flint	Field 2	2ry flake, patinated
234			3ry flake, patinated
235	Flint	Field 2	Natural
237	Flint	Field 2	Core
239	Flint	Field 2	2ry Flake
240	Flint	Field 2	2ry Flake
241	Flint	Field 2	Core
242	Flint	Field 2	Core, opposed platform, patinated
243	Flint	Field 2	2ry Flake
245	Flint	Field 2	Retouched patinated flake ie re-used
246	Flint	Field 2	Shatter, clacined
247	Flint	Field 2	Core
252	Flint	Field 2	Shatter
253	Flint	Field 2	Natural
255	Flint	Field 2	
257	Flint	Field 1	2ry Flake
259	Flint	Field 1	Scraper/knife (invasive retouch)
263	Flint	Field 3	2ry Flake
264	Flint	Field 3	Shatter, patinated
265	Flint	Field 3	Natural
266	Flint	Field 3	2ry Flake, patinated
267	Flint	Field 3	2ry Blade nb soft stone percussion
268	Flint	Field 3	Core
269	Flint	Field 3	Shatter
270	Flint	Field 3	2ry Flake
271	Flint	Field 3	2ry Flake
275	Flint	Field 3	Natural
276	Flint	Field 3	2ry blade
278	Flint	Field 3	2ry Flake
280	Flint	Field 3	Scraper?
281	Flint	Field 3	2ry Flake
282	Flint	Field 3	Natural
283	Flint	Field 3	Retouched Flake
284	Flint	Field 3	Crested flake, patinated
285	Flint	Field 3	Core, patinated
286	Flint	Field 3	2ry Flake
287	Flint	Field 3	2ry Flake
288	Flint	Field 3	Scraper
289	Flint	Field 3	Natural
290	Flint	Field 3	Core
291	Flint	Field 3	Notched Flake
292	Flint	Field 3	2ry flake

Table 1: Flint identification

The Ceramic Finds

Deborah Sawday

The pottery, 131 sherds, was catalogued with reference to the guidelines set out by the Medieval Pottery Research Group, (MPRG 1998; MPRG 2001) and the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 1989; Davies and Sawday 1999; Sawday forthcoming).

<i>Fabric/Ware</i>	<i>Sherd Nos.</i>	<i>% of the total</i>
Medieval		
MS – Medieval Sandy ware	1	
Sub Total	1	0.76
Later Medieval/Early Post Medieval		
CW/MB – Cistercian ware/Midland Black ware	2	
Sub Total	2	1.52
Post Medieval/Modern		
MY – Midland Yellow ware	1	
EA2 – Earthenware 2	12	
EA3/4 - Mottled ware	1	
EA6 – Blackware	10	
EA7 – Slipware	1	
EA11- Tin-Glazed earthenware	1	
SW4 – White Salt-Glazed Stoneware	1	
Sub Total	27	20.61
Modern		
EA10 - Fine White Earthenware/China	70	
EA – Unclassified Earthenware	8	
SW7 – Black Basalt Stoneware	1	
SW - Unclassified Stoneware	17	
PO – Porcelain (hard paste)	5	
Sub Total	101	77.09
Totals	131	99.98

Table 2: The pottery fabrics, by fragment number, and the relative proportions present by period.

The results are shown above, (Table 2) and below (Table 3). Only two fragments of pottery, representing less than three per cent of the total assemblage, were medieval or early post-medieval in date; the former a green glazed Nottingham ware, whilst approximately twenty per cent dated from the 17th century into the modern period. The remainder, predominantly Fine White Earthenware and Stoneware, dated from the 18th to the 20th centuries.

Nine fragments of post-medieval or modern ceramic building material in unclassified Earthenware were also recorded.

The bulk of these finds are probably associated with the manuring of the fields with ‘night-soil’ from the nearby village of Rothley from the medieval period onwards.

Table 3: The ceramic finds by fabric, fragment number and period.

Find No	Fabric	Sherd No.	Date	Comments
Notes: All pottery unless specified otherwise. CBM - Ceramic Building Material Date Code: MED = Medieval, LM = Later Medieval, PM = Post Medieval, MOD = Modern				
2	EA10	1	MOD	
3	EA10	1	MOD	
4	EA10	1	MOD	
5	SW	1	MOD	
7	EA10	1	MOD	
8	EA10	1	MOD	
9	SW	1	MOD	
10	EA10	1	MOD	
11	EA10	1	MOD	
12	EA10	1	MOD	
13	EA10	1	MOD	
14	EA10	1	MOD	
15	EA10	1	MOD	
16	EA10	1	MOD	
17	EA10	1	MOD	
18	EA10	1	MOD	
19	EA10	1	MOD	
20	EA2	1	PM/MOD	
21	EA	1	MOD	CBM
22	EA6	1	PM	
23	SW	1	MOD	
25	EA10	1	MOD	
26	EA10	1	MOD	
27	EA10	1	MOD	
28	EA10	1	MOD	
29	EA10	1	MOD	
30	EA10	1	MOD	
33	EA10	1	MOD	
34	EA10	1	MOD	
36	SW	1	MOD	
38	EA10	1	MOD	
40	EA	1	MOD	CBM
42	PO	1	MOD	
43	EA10	1	MOD	
44	EA10	1	MOD	
45	EA10	1	MOD	
46	EA10	1	MOD	
47	PO	1	MOD	
48	SW	1	MOD	

50	EA10	1	MOD	
51	EA10	1	MOD	
52	EA10	1	MOD	
53	EA10	1	MOD	
54	EA6	1	PM	
56	EA10	1	MOD	
57	EA10	1	MOD	
58	MY	1	PM	
59	EA	1	MOD	
60	EA10	1	MOD	
61	EA10	1	MOD	
62	EA10	1	MOD	
63	EA10	1	MOD	
64	PO	1	MOD	
65	EA10	1	MOD	
66	EA10	1	MOD	
67	EA10	3	MOD	
68	PO	1	MOD	
69	EA10	1	MOD	
70	EA6	1	PM	
71	EA10	1	MOD	
72	EA10	1	MOD	
73	EA10	1	MOD	
74	EA10	1	MOD	
75	EA10	1	MOD	
77	EA10	1	MOD	
78	EA10	1	MOD	
79	EA10	1	MOD	
80	EA10	1	MOD	
82	EA10	1	MOD	
85	EA	1	MOD	?flower pot
86	EA10	1	MOD	
88	PO	1	MOD	
89	EA10	1	MOD	
91	SW	1	MOD	
93	EA	1	MOD	?flower pot
94	SW	1	MOD	
96	EA	1	MOD	CBM
97	EA10	1	MOD	
98	EA10	1	MOD	
99	SW	1	MOD	
100	EA10	1	MOD	
101	SW4	1	PM/MOD	
102	EA10	1	MOD	
103	EA10	1	MOD	
104	EA10	1	MOD	
105	EA10	1	MOD	

106	EA10	1	MOD	
107	EA2	1	PM/MOD	
108	EA6	1	PM	
109	EA10	1	MOD	
110	EA10	1	MOD	
111	EA10	1	MOD	
112	EA10	1	MOD	
113	EA10	1	MOD	
117	EA10	1	MOD	
119	EA6	1	PM	
120	EA2	1	PM/MOD	
130	EA2	1	PM	
141	SW	1	MOD	
144	MB	1	PM	
146	EA11	1	PM/MOD	
150	SW	1	MOD	
151	SW	1	MOD	
152	SW	1	MOD	
154	EA	1	PM/MOD	CBM
160	EA2	1	PM/MOD	
161	EA2	1	PM/MOD	
162	EA2	1	PM/MOD	
166	SW	1	MOD	
168	EA	1	MOD	?flower pot
171	EA3/4	1	PM	
173	EA6	1	PM	
174	EA6	1	PM	
175	SW	1	MOD	
177	SW	1	MOD	
178	EA2	1	PM/MOD	
179	EA2	1	PM/MOD	
184	EA6	1	PM	
187	SW7	1	MOD	teapot handle
198	EA2	1	PM/MOD	
204	EA	1	PM/MOD	CBM
205	EA	1	PM/MOD	CBM tile
208	EA	1	MOD	?flower pot
212	EA	1	PM	CBM tile - early
213	EA6	1	PM	
215	EA	1	PM/MOD	CBM?
216	EA	1	PM/MOD	CBM?
217	EA	1	MOD	?flower pot
219	SW	1	PM/MOD	
226	EA	1	MOD	?flower pot
230	EA	1	MOD	
258	EA2	1	PM/MOD	
260	MS	1	MED	

261	EA2	1	PM/MOD	
262	EA7	1	PM	
274	EA6	1	PM	
279	SW	1	MOD	
293	CW/MB	1	LM/PM	

Site/ Parish: Kinchley Lane, Rothley, Leics. – Mountsorrel Quarry Accession No.: XA50.2013 Document Ref: rothley2.docx Material: ceramic Site Type: open fields	Submitter: T. Higgins Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Identification: 2.05.13 Method of Recovery: field walking Job Number: 13-616
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7. Conclusions

The fieldwalking survey has revealed a medium density scatter of Late Neolithic to Bronze Age worked flint across all fields. Technologically the scatter is predominantly a later prehistoric flake assemblage with hard hammer percussion. The cores varied from pieces with just one or two removals, possibly just tested pieces, to those with a few more removals, but none exhibiting systematic working to use the internal flint. The local geology partly consists of Oadby Till that contains flint, which perhaps provides a local source material that could be casually tested. There were also a few indications of a background Mesolithic component in the form of a few pieces. There appears to be general scatter of flint across all three fields with the exception of western edge of Field 1 where the flint scatter appears to diminish. There is a potential for colluvial deposits to accumulate here as the western edge of field borders the base of slope.

In addition to this a low level of medieval/ post-medieval pottery and medium level of modern pottery was identified across the entire survey area. This suggests agricultural activity and manuring throughout these periods

8. Archive

The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services, under accession number XA.50.2013.

The archive contains:

- Survey notes and plans
- Digital photos on CD
- 1 box of finds
- Unbound copy of this report

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	Kinchley Lane, Rothley
Summary	An archaeological fieldwalking survey was carried out by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land to the south of Kinchley Lane, Rothley, Leicestershire, on behalf of LafargeAggregates Ltd. The fieldwalking survey proved reasonably mainly positive, revealing a medium scatter flint flakes and cores in all three fields. In addition to this, a low to medium medieval and early post-medieval pottery was identified across the entire survey area.
Project Type	Fieldwalking
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Timothy Higgins
Previous/Future work	Future Geophysics
Current Land Use (2009)	Agricultural farmland
Development Type	Quarry
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Pre-application
Site Co ordinates	SK 564 138
Start/end dates of field work	23/04/2013 – 25/05/2013
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services
Study Area	22.3ha
Associated project reference codes	Museum accession ID: XA.50.2013 OASIS form ID: 196895

9. Acknowledgements

Fieldwork was carried out by Timothy Higgins, Anthony Gnanaratnam and Jamie Patrick. The pottery was identified by Deborah Sawday and the flint by Lynden Cooper. Patrick Clay managed the project.

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