



**University of
Leicester**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey
For land at at Willesley Lane,
Ashby-de-la- Zouch, Leicestershire.**

NGR: SK 34668 15779

Vicki Score



**An Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey for land at
Willesley Lane, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire
(SK 34668 15779)**

Vicki Score

For: Charles Church

Checked by

Signed:



Date: 25.04.2014

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ULAS Report Number 2014-073
Acc. No X.A61.2014
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An Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey for land at Willesley Lane, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire (SK 34668 15779)

Summary

An archaeological fieldwalking survey was carried out by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) for land at Willesley Lane, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire (SK 34668 15779). The assessment was commissioned by Charles Church from University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) in advance of the proposed development of the land for new housing.

The fieldwalking survey revealed a very low level of post-medieval pottery across the survey area. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire Museums Service under the accession no. X.A61.2014.

Introduction

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Section 12 (Conserving and enhancing the historic environment), this report presents the results of an archaeological fieldwalking survey carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at Willesley Lane, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire (SK 34668 15779). The work was undertaken as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of proposed development of the site.

Site Description, Topography and Geology

Ashby-de-la-Zouch lies in North-West Leicestershire, around 18 miles north-west of Leicester and 13 miles west of Loughborough (Fig. 1). The site lies on the south-western edge of Ashby, on the north-western side of Willesley Lane and consists of an arable field of around 1.52 hectares (Fig. 2 2).

The British Geological Survey website indicates that the underlying geology is likely to be Millstone Grit (mudstone, siltstone and sand) with a band of Chatsworth Grit Sandstone running across the middle of the field from north-east to south-west.

The land slopes from south-east to north-west to the brook, from around 114m aOD at the road edge to around 109m at the brook. The land was covered in crop stubble at the time of the site visit and the land is surrounded by hedges and trees and by a brook to the north-west, which is a tributary of the Shell Brook.

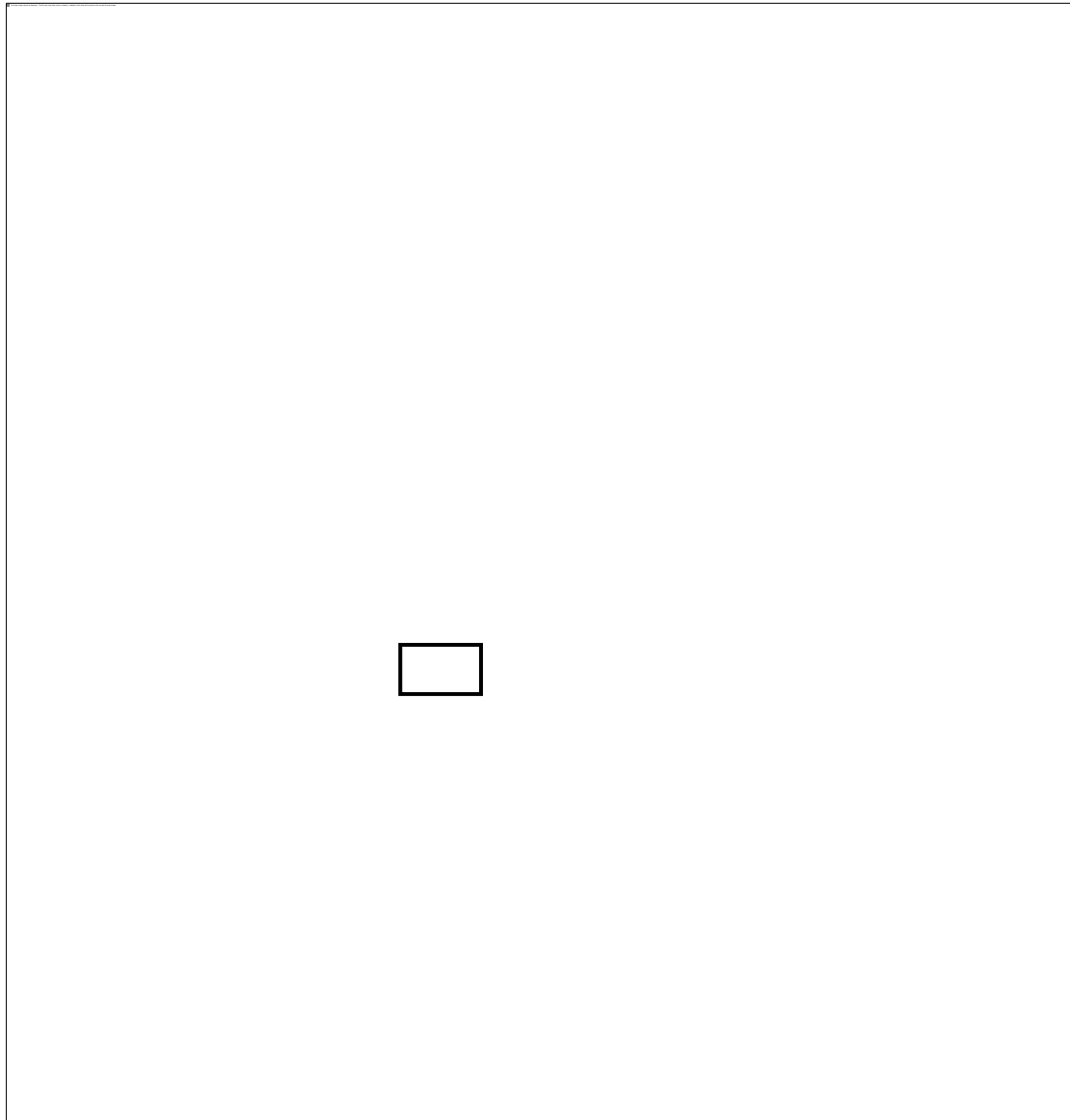


Figure 1: Site Location

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Archaeological Background

A desk-based assessment has been completed for the sites (Hunt 2013). The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland indicates that there are no known archaeological remains located in the assessment area itself. There are a number of known archaeological sites located in the vicinity of the assessment area including prehistoric features and finds as well as sites associated with Leicestershire's industrial heritage.



Figure 2: Plan of proposed development area. Provided by developer

Aims and Methods

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

The field contained a winter crop (Fig. 3), however enough of the soil was visible to walk. The visibility during the survey was average, and the weather was mostly cloudy and dull. All archaeological work adhered to the Institute for Archaeologist's (IfA) *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations*.

All artefacts were collected and bagged along 10m transects. The location of the finds were plotted using hand held GPS loggers (Garmin etrex 10, satellite accuracy *c.*3m and Garmin GPS72, satellite accuracy *c.*5m). Assuming a field of vision of 2 metres a 20% sample of the field's surface was examined. The artefact locations were logged manually on site, and plots produced using Garmin Base Camp, GPS Utility, and ArcGIS.



Figure 3: The site from the east, looking west

Results

Only ten finds were recovered from the fields's surface. These were all post-medieval pottery sherds scattered across the field along with a glass bottle. A plot of the finds is shown below in Fig. 4. Some modern pottery sherds, along with modern brick/tile and glass fragments were also observed but not collected. These finds are likely to have resulted from manuring spreads being added to the fields from the post-medieval period onwards.

Table 1: Pottery catalogue

Find No	Description	Sherds	Date
1	EA2 Pancheon ware	1	Post-medieval
2	SW5 Brown stoneware	1	Post-medieval
3	Fragment of base – red fabric	1	Post-medieval
4	EA5? Small frag. glazed	1	Post-medieval
5	Red fabric	1	Post-medieval
6	EA2 Pancheon ware	1	Post-medieval
7	Unident. frag	1	Post-medieval
8	Brick/tile frag	1	Post-medieval
9	Brick/tile frag burnt.	1	Post-medieval
10	Glass bottle (David Beckham aftershave)	1	Modern

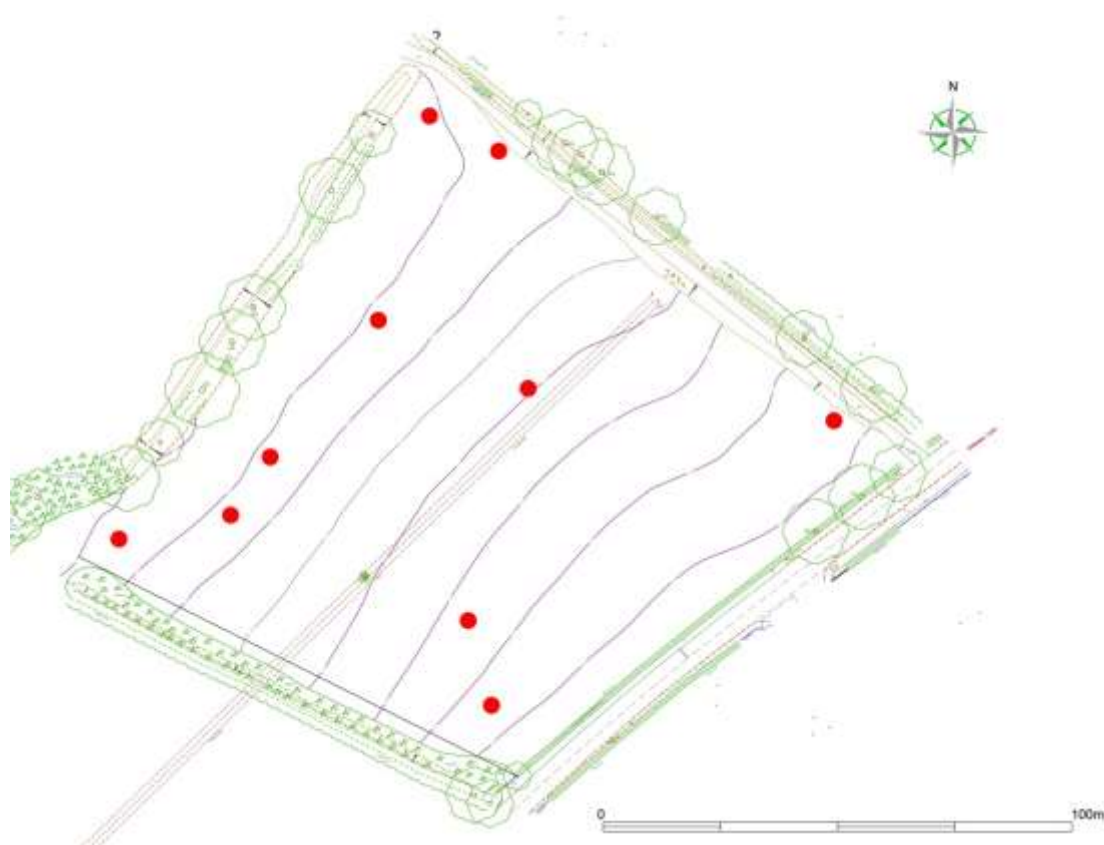


Figure 4: Location of the finds (Survey provided by the client).

Archive

Fieldwork was carried out by Andy McLeich and Rebecca Hearne. The pottery was identified by Nick Cooper. Vicki Score managed the project.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire Museums Service under accession no. X.A61.2014.

The archive contains:

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

The report will be 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	Willesley Lane, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire
Summary	The fieldwalking survey revealed a very low level of post-medieval pottery across the survey area.
Project Type	Fieldwalking
Project Manager	Vicki Score
Project Supervisor	Andy McLeish
Previous/Future work	Previous: DBA. / Future: Geophysical Survey, Trial Trenching.
Current Land Use	Agricultural farmland
Development Type	Housing
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Pre-application
Site Co ordinates	SK 34668 15779
Post-code	DE12 6ED
Height (metres above O.D.)	109-114mOD
Start/end dates of field work	24/04/2014
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Study Area	1.5ha
Associated project reference codes	Museum accession ID: X.A61.2014 OASIS ID: universi1-000000

Bibliography

IfA, 2012 *Code of Conduct*

IfA, 2008 *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations.*

Hunt, L. 2014, *An archaeological desk-based assessment for land at Willesley Lane, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire (SK 34668 15779).* ULAS Report No2014-024.

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