

An Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey For land at Cosby Road, Countesthorpe, Leicestershire.

NGR: SP 569 951

Jennifer Browning



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An Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey for land at Cosby Road, Countesthorpe, Leicestershire (SP 569 951)

Jennifer Browning

For: Persimmon Homes Ltd.

Checked by:

Signed:

Date: 26.06.2014

Name: Patrick Clay

University of Leicester

Archaeological Services University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614 www.le.ac.uk/ulas

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Summary

An archaeological fieldwalking survey was carried out by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) for land at Cosby Road, Countesthorpe, Leicestershire (SP 569 951). The evaluation was commissioned by in advance of the proposed development of the land for new housing.

Ground conditions were only suitable for fieldwalking on one of three fields included in the assessment area; a second was pasture while the crop was too advanced in the third. The fieldwalking survey revealed a dispersed scatter of artefacts concentrated towards the eastern side of the field, which included Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery, in addition to a small number of worked flints and ceramic building material. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under the accession no. X.A80.2014.

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 Cosby Road, Countesthorpe, Leicestershire (SP 569 951). The work was undertaken as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of proposed development of the site.

Site Description, Topography and Geology

Countesthorpe lies in Blaby District, around 6 miles south of Leicester and 2 miles south of the Leicester suburb of South Wigston (Fig. 1). The site lies on the southwestern edge of Countesthorpe and consists of two arable fields, Field 1, c.3.8 hectares and Field 3, c. 4.7ha, and one pasture field of around 1.3 hectares (Field 2). The assessment area is located around 2km to the west of the village settlement core, on the southern side of Cosby Road. It comprises three fields located to the west of a modern housing estate, demarcated by Hill Lane to the west and a disused railway embankment to the east (Figure 2).

The land rises from the west to the south-east from around 88m aOD to around 93m aOD. There is a slight rise to the east but the land appears flat with a slight rise to the east.

The British Geological Survey for England and Wales indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Mercia Mudstone, overlain by Diamicton Till. http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html.

An Archaeological	Fieldwalking	Survey at (Cosby Road.	Countesthorpe.	Leics.

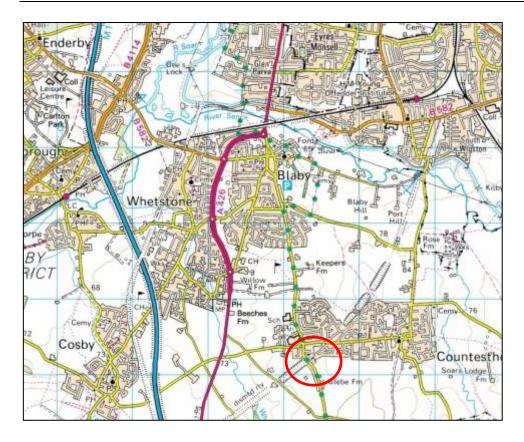


Figure 1: Site Location

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Archaeological Background

A desk-based assessment has been completed for the sites (Clarke and Hunt 2014). 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 few known archaeological sites within a 1km radius of the site. The evidence for these is largely from cropmarks and from geophysical survey and none have been the subject of archaeological work that has allowed them to be closely dated.

Previous fieldwalking in the vicinity has produced evidence from the prehistoric to the post-medieval periods. The line of a Roman road lies 520m to the west. Although there is also some evidence for medieval and post-medieval artefacts in the vicinity, the site is at least 2km from the medieval settlement core of Countesthorpe.

A geophysical survey has been carried out over the site (Stratascan). The preliminary results suggest that, with the exception of ridge and furrow, no significant archaeological features were detected.

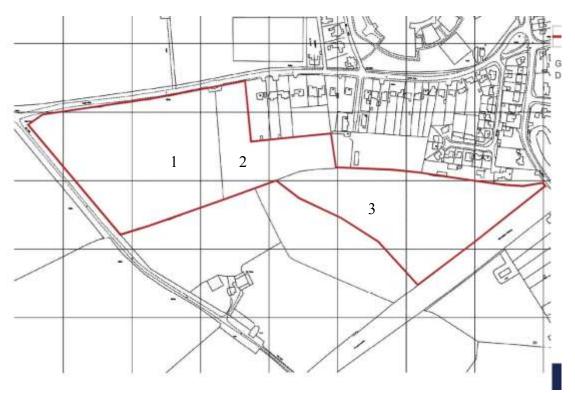


Figure 2: Plan of proposed development area. Provided by developer

Aims and Methods

The overall aim of the fieldwalking survey was to gather some information to establish the potential 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.

It was not possible to walk Field 1 due to the advanced state of the crop (
Figure 3 and

Figure 4). The other arable area, Field 3, contained a low maize crop however enough of the soil was visible to enable field-walking to take place (

Figure 5 and

Figure 6). The visibility during the survey was good, and the weather was mostly fine and bright. All archaeological work adhered to the Institute for Archaeologist's (IfA) *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations*.

Artefacts were collected and bagged along 10m transects. Some categories of (modern) finds were not collected; these included plastic, glass, finds such as bone and shell that are difficult to date and large quantities of ceramic building material (CBM); in the case of CBM a sample was collected and retained. The location of the finds was plotted using hand held GPS loggers (Garmin Etrex 10, satellite accuracy c.3m). Assuming a cone 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 TurboCAD.



Figure 3: Field 1, looking south-west



Figure 4: Ground conditions in Field 1 at the time of the survey



Figure 5: Field 3, looking north-west

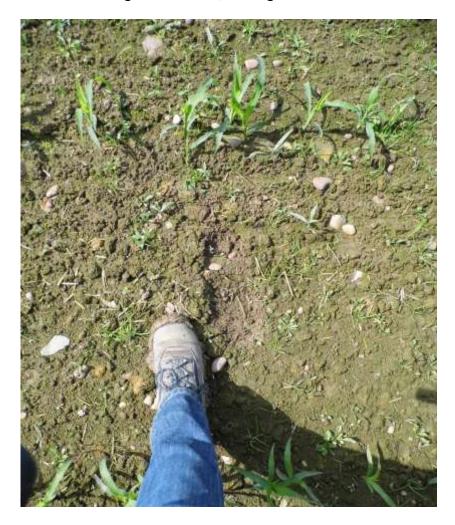


Figure 6: Ground conditions in Field 3 at the time of the survey

Results

As it was the straightest boundary, the south-eastern hedge was used as a baseline from which a total of 26 transects were laid out and walked on a south-east to northwest orientation

The range of material recovered included flint, slag, clay tobacco pipe, pottery and ceramic building material. The prehistoric period was represented by eight secondary flakes and a concave scraper. The finds were predominantly of post-medieval or modern date. However, two sherds of Roman (Oxidised Ware and Grey Ware) and three sherds of medieval pottery (two sherds of medieval Sandy ware and a single sherd of Cistercian ware, c.1200 and c.1550) were also recovered. A scatter of early post-medieval pottery was also in evidence, dating from c.1650/80 to c.1800. The medieval pottery is likely to have come from kilns in Chilvers Coton in eastern Warwickshire, while the earlier post-medieval pottery may have originated in Ticknall in Derbyshire (D. Sawday, this report).

The majority of the later post-medieval and modern finds are likely to have resulted from manuring spreads being added to the fields from the post-medieval period onwards. The bulk of material was concentrated on the eastern side of the field, where the gate is located, with the scatter becoming less dense towards the north-western corner. This could reflect the distance that manure was spread from the entrance.

Conclusion

The work has produced a low density scatter of material dating from the prehistoric to the post-medieval periods, which accords with field-walking surveys previously carried out in the area. There are no concentrations of material from any period that appear to suggest that buried archaeological features have been disturbed by ploughing. It is more likely that the majority of finds have entered the site through manuring, particularly in the post-medieval and modern periods.

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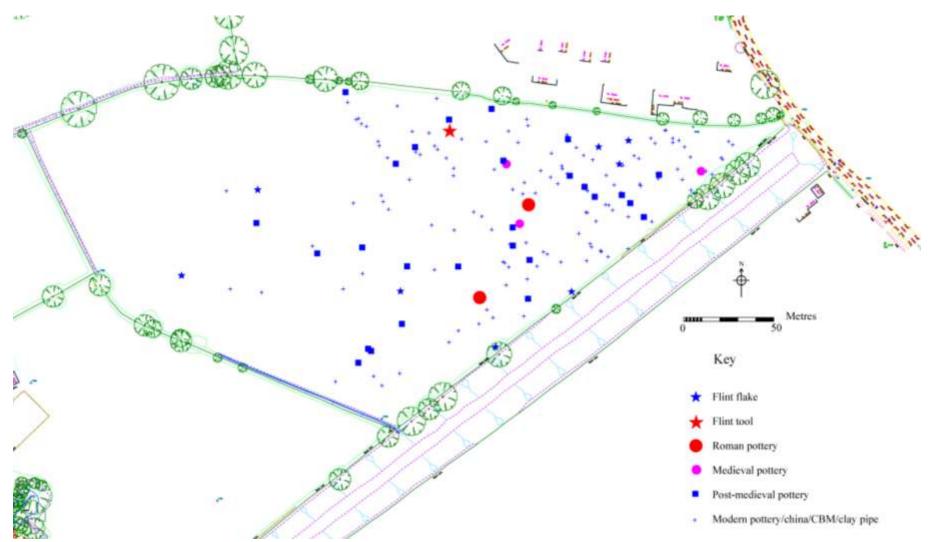


Figure 7: Location of the finds (Survey provided by the client)

Archive

The fieldwork was carried out by Jennifer Browning and Nathan Flavell. The pottery was identified by Nick Cooper and Deborah Sawday. Lynden Cooper identified the flint. Patrick Clay managed the project.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire Museums Service under Accession No: X.A80.2014.

The archive contains:

- Survey notes and plans
- Digital photos on CD
- Finds as catalogued
- 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/.

Appendix 1: The Pottery and Miscellaneous Finds

Deborah Sawday

Almost 200 finds were recorded during the fieldwalking: the results are listed below (Table 1). A range of material was recovered, including flint, slag, ceramic building material, pottery and clay tobacco pipe.

Most of the material was post-medieval or modern in date and only the worked flint and the Roman, medieval and early post-medieval pottery has been retained for future reference. There was some evidence of prehistoric flint working in the vicinity: six secondary scrapers, and a concave scraper and two secondary flakes were recovered. The two Roman pottery sherds comprised body fragments in the Oxidised Ware, fabric OW2, and the Grey ware, fabric GW3. Two pieces of medieval pottery in the Medieval Sandy ware fabrics MS3 and MS were collected, whilst a single sherd of later medieval Cistercian ware, fabric CW1, was also recovered. These are dated to between c.1200 and c.1550. Single fragments of Mottled ware, EA3, and Slipware, EA7, were also collected, together with twenty one sherds in Black ware, EA6, all lying within a date range of c.1650/80 to c.1800.

The most likely origins of the medieval and post-medieval pottery include Chilvers Coton in eastern Warwickshire for the medieval material and Ticknall in Derbyshire for the earlier post-medieval pottery. The majority of the later post-medieval and modern finds were evidently the result of the manuring of the fields from a settlement nearby, most probably Countesthorpe.

Table 1: Catalogue of finds

Transect	GPS Point	Material	Notes - XA80.2014	Period
5	24	Flint	secondary flake	prehistoric
6	20	Flint	secondary flake	prehistoric
6	21	Flint	secondary flake	prehistoric
11	58	Flint	concave scraper	prehistoric
13	59	Flint	secondary flake	prehistoric
18	83	Flint	secondary flake	prehistoric
20	90	Flint	secondary flake	prehistoric
22	95	Flint	secondary flake	prehistoric
26	100	Flint	secondary flake	prehistoric
11	51	GW3 - Greyware 3	Roman	Roman
17	81	OW2 - Oxidised ware 2	Roman	Roman
10	47	CW1 - Cistercian ware 1	c.1450/75-c.1550	Medieval
3	7	MS - Medieval Sandy	c.1200-1450	Medieval
14	74	MS3 - Medieval Sandy 3	early/mid 13th C - c.1450	Medieval
7	27	EA3 - Mottled ware	c.1680-1780/1800	post-medieval
8	31	EA3 - Mottled ware	c.1680-1780/1800	post-medieval
12	56	EA3 - Mottled ware	c.1680-1780/1800	post-medieval
17	83	EA3 - Mottled ware	c.1680-1780/1800	post-medieval

Transect	GPS Point	Material	Notes - XA80.2014	Period
20	91	EA6 - Blackware	c.1650-1750+	post-medieval
5	20	EA6 - Blackware	c.1650-1750+	post-medieval
7	26	EA6 - Blackware	c.1650-1750+	post-medieval
7	28	EA6 - Blackware	c.1650-1750+	post-medieval
7	36	EA6 - Blackware	c.1650-1750+	post-medieval
8	27	EA6 - Blackware	c.1650-1750+	post-medieval
8	30	EA6 - Blackware	c.1650-1750+	post-medieval
9	49	EA6 - Blackware	c.1650-1750+	post-medieval
10	49	EA6 - Blackware	c.1650-1750+	post-medieval
11	56	EA6 - Blackware	c.1650-1750+	post-medieval
13	61	EA6 - Blackware	c.1650-1750+	post-medieval
13	62	EA6 - Blackware	c.1650-1750+	post-medieval
14	68	EA6 - Blackware	c.1650-1750+	post-medieval
15	72	EA6 - Blackware	c.1650-1750+	post-medieval
17	88	EA6 - Blackware	c.1650-1750+	post-medieval
19	90	EA6 - Blackware	c.1650-1750+	post-medieval
21	92	EA6 - Blackware	c.1650-1750+	post-medieval
22	93	EA6 - Blackware	c.1650-1750+	post-medieval
23	96	EA6 - Blackware	c.1650-1750+	post-medieval
23	97	EA6 - Blackware	c.1650-1750+	post-medieval
23	99	EA6 - Blackware	c.1650-1750+	post-medieval
24	98	EA6 - Blackware	c.1650-1750+	post-medieval
13	68	EA7 - Slipware	c.1650-1700+	post-medieval
5	19	Clay pipe	post med/modern	post med/modern
3	13	Clay pipe stem	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
3	16	Clay pipe stem	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
6	18	Clay pipe stem	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
7	25	Clay pipe stem	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
8	29	Clay pipe stem	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
9	48	Clay pipe stem	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
10	40	Clay pipe stem	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
10	46	Clay pipe stem	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
13	60	Clay pipe stem	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
13	64	Clay pipe stem	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
14	65	Clay pipe stem	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
14	69	Clay pipe stem	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
21	93	Clay pipe stem	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
24	97	Clay pipe stem	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
1	4	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
3	12	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
3	15	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
5	23	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
7	39	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
8	23	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
8	24	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
8	33	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
8	36	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern

Transect	GPS Point	Material	Notes - XA80.2014	Period
9	42	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
9	49	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
10	43	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
10	54	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
11	50	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
12	58	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
13	65	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
14	67	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
14	70	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
14	73	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
15	77	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
16	78	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
16	81	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
16	82	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
17	79	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
17	85	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
18	85	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
19	89	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
20	89	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
23	95	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
23	96	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
25	102	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded	post med/modern
3	17	EA - Earthenware	flower pot - modern - discarded	Modern
4	10	EA - Earthenware	flower pot - modern - discarded	Modern
8	26	EA - Earthenware	flower pot - modern - discarded	Modern
8	32	EA - Earthenware	flower pot - modern - discarded	Modern
8	35	EA - Earthenware	flower pot - modern - discarded	Modern
9	41	EA - Earthenware	flower pot - modern - discarded	Modern
9	45	EA - Earthenware	flower pot - modern - discarded	Modern
10	45	EA - Earthenware	flower pot - modern - discarded	Modern
10	49	EA - Earthenware	flower pot - modern - discarded	Modern
13	66	EA - Earthenware	flower pot - modern - discarded	Modern
14	63	EA - Earthenware	flower pot - modern - discarded	Modern
14	71	EA - Earthenware	flower pot - modern - discarded	Modern
17	80	EA - Earthenware	flower pot - modern - discarded	Modern
17	83	EA - Earthenware	flower pot - modern - discarded	Modern
18	86	EA - Earthenware	flower pot - modern - discarded	Modern
24	96	EA - Earthenware	flower pot - modern - discarded	Modern
2	5	EA10 - Fine White China	Modern - discarded	Modern
2	6	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded	Modern
2	8	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded	Modern
3	6	EA10 - Fine White China	Modern - discarded	Modern
3	10	EA10 - Fine White China	Modern - discarded	Modern
4	13	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded	Modern
4	16	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded	Modern
5	18	EA10 - Fine White China	Modern - discarded	Modern
5	22	EA10 - Fine White China	Modern - discarded	Modern

Transect	GPS Point	Material	Notes - XA80.2014	Period
6	16	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded	Modern
6	17	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded	Modern
7	30	EA10 - Fine White China	Modern - discarded	Modern
8	28	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded	Modern
8	31	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded	Modern
8	37	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded	Modern
9	40	EA10 - Fine White China	Modern - discarded	Modern
9	40	EA10 - Fine White China		
		EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded Modern - discarded	Modern
9	47			Modern
10	38	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded	Modern
10	39	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded	Modern
10	41	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded	Modern
10	48	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded	Modern
10	48	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded	Modern
10	50	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded	Modern
10	54	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded	Modern
11	53	EA10 - Fine White China	Modern - discarded	Modern
11	54	EA10 - Fine White China	Modern - discarded	Modern
12	39	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded	Modern
12	51	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded	Modern
12	52	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded	Modern
12	57	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded	Modern
12	60	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded	Modern
12	61	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded	Modern
13	63	EA10 - Fine White China	Modern - discarded	Modern
17	84	EA10 - Fine White China	Modern - discarded	Modern
2	5	SW - Stoneware	modern - discarded	Modern
3	14	SW - Stoneware	Modern- discarded	Modern
3	15	SW - Stoneware	modern - discarded	Modern
4	11	SW - Stoneware	modern - discarded	Modern
5	21	SW - Stoneware	modern- discarded	Modern
7	29	SW - Stoneware	modern- discarded	Modern
7	33	SW - Stoneware	modern- discarded	Modern
7	34	SW - Stoneware	Modern - discarded	Modern
7	35	SW - Stoneware	modern- discarded	Modern
8	34	SW - Stoneware	modern - discarded	Modern
9	44	SW - Stoneware	modern- discarded	Modern
9	46	SW - Stoneware	Modern - discarded	Modern
10	42	SW - Stoneware	modern - discarded	Modern
11	52	SW - Stoneware	modern - discarded	Modern
12	53	SW - Stoneware	modern - discarded	Modern
14	64	SW - Stoneware	modern - discarded	Modern
14	72	SW - Stoneware	modern - discarded	Modern
15	73	SW - Stoneware	Modern - discarded	Modern
15	75	SW - Stoneware	Modern- discarded	Modern
15	76	SW - Stoneware	modern- discarded	Modern
18	84	SW - Stoneware	modern - discarded	Modern

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Transect	GPS Point	Material	Notes - XA80.2014	Period
18	87	SW - Stoneware	modern - discarded	Modern
18	88	SW - Stoneware	modern - discarded	Modern
19	91	SW - Stoneware	modern- discarded	Modern
22	94	SW - Stoneware	modern - discarded	Modern
23	100	SW - Stoneware	modern - discarded	Modern
24	99	SW - Stoneware	modern - discarded	Modern
2	5	Ceramic Building Material	undiagnostic - discarded	undiagnostic
2	7	Ceramic Building Material	undiagnostic - discarded	undiagnostic
3	9	Ceramic Building Material	undiagnostic - discarded	undiagnostic
4	9	Ceramic Building Material	undiagnostic - discarded	undiagnostic
4	14	Ceramic Building Material	undiagnostic - discarded	undiagnostic
4	15	Ceramic Building Material	undiagnostic - discarded	undiagnostic
7	31	Ceramic Building Material	undiagnostic - discarded	undiagnostic
7	32	Ceramic Building Material	undiagnostic - discarded	undiagnostic
7	37	Ceramic Building Material	undiagnostic - discarded	undiagnostic
7	38	Ceramic Building Material	undiagnostic - discarded	undiagnostic
11	56	Ceramic Building Material	undiagnostic - discarded	undiagnostic
11	57	Ceramic Building Material	undiagnostic - discarded	undiagnostic
13	67	Ceramic Building Material	undiagnostic - discarded	undiagnostic
15	74	Ceramic Building Material	undiagnostic - discarded	undiagnostic
15	77	Ceramic Building Material	undiagnostic - discarded	undiagnostic
17	86	Ceramic Building Material	undiagnostic - discarded	undiagnostic
17	87	Ceramic Building Material	undiagnostic - discarded	undiagnostic
10	43	Fired Clay	discarded	undiagnostic
8	25	Slag	discarded	undiagnostic
12	55	Slag	discarded	undiagnostic
25	101	Slag	discarded	undiagnostic

ID	OASIS entry summary				
Project Name	Cosby Road, Countesthorpe, Leicestershire				
Project Type	Fieldwalking				
Project Manager	Patrick Clay				
Project Supervisor	Jennifer Browning				
Previous/Future work	Previous: DBA Geophysical Survey / Future: Trial Trenching.				
Current Land Use	Arable and pastural farmland				
Development Type	Housing				
Reason for Investigation	NPPF				
Position in the Planning	Pre-application				
Process					
Site Co ordinates	SP 569 951				
Height (metres above O.D.)	88m aOD - 93m aOD.				
Start/end dates of field work	06/06/2014				
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service				
Study Area	c. 4.7ha				
Associated project reference	Museum accession ID: X.A80.2014				
codes	OASIS ID: universi1-000000				

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Clark, S. and Hunt, L. 2013 An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment on land to the south of Cosby Road, Countesthorpe, Leicestershire (SP 569 951) ULAS Report No 2013-182

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Contact Details

Richard Buckley or Patrick Clay University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester LE1 7RH

T: +44 (0)116 252 2848 **F:** +44 (0)116 252 2614

E: ulas@le.ac.uk

W: www.le.ac.uk/ulas















