



University of
Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey
For land at Melton Road,
Rearsby, Leicestershire.**

NGR: SK 6473 1421

Jennifer Browning




ULAS Report No 2014-128
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Melton Road, Rearsby, Leicestershire
(NGR: SK 6473 1421)**

Jennifer Browning

**For:
Jelson Ltd.**

Checked by:	
Signed:	
Date:	22/07/2014
Name:	Patrick Clay

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

ULAS Report Number 2014-128
Acc. No X.A82.2014
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An Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey for Land at Melton Road, Rearsby, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 6473 1421)

Summary

An archaeological fieldwalking survey was carried out by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) for land at Melton Road, Rearsby, Leicestershire (SK 6473 1421). The evaluation was commissioned by Jelson Ltd. in advance of the proposed development of the land for new housing.

Ground conditions were only suitable for fieldwalking on one of two fields included in the assessment area; the other was pasture. The fieldwalking survey revealed a low level of Neolithic-Bronze Age flint and post-medieval pottery across the area that was surveyed. The latter may be evidence of a manuring scatter.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire Museums Service under the accession no. X.A82.2014.

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 Melton Road, Rearsby, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 6473 1421) on the 9th June 2014. The work was undertaken as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of proposed development of the site.

Site Description, Topography and Geology

Rearsby lies in Charnwood District and the site lies on the north-western side of Melton Road close to the centre of Rearsby village. Rearsby lies in the Charnwood district of Leicestershire around 9.5 miles north-east of Leicester (Figure 1).

The site consists of two fields of around 10.6 hectares. Field 1 is currently under pasture and Field 2 is arable. The topography of field 1 falls gently from east to west from around 61m aOD to around 59m aOD. Field 2 is broadly flat. A public footpath crosses Field 1 from east to west and continues without crossing Field 2.

The British Geological Survey website indicates that the underlying geology of the site is likely to be Branscombe Formation Mudstone overlain by Birstall Member, or Wanlip Member Sand and Gravel.

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>.



Figure 1: Site Location

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Archaeological Background

A desk-based assessment has been undertaken for the application area (Hunt 2014). A human burial has been found within the site itself, although this was not dated at the time of its discovery. Associated finds indicate that this was likely to have been Roman or Anglo-Saxon in origin and was unlikely to have been an isolated find; therefore the site may have potential to contain further burials.

There are a number of prehistoric sites listed on the HER in the vicinity of the assessment area. These include settlement evidence, a barrow and a possibly henge monument. Excavations carried out along the line of the Rearsby bypass between 2003 and 2005 demonstrated that the area surrounding Rearsby is rich in prehistoric remains (Clarke and Beamish 2007).

There is some evidence for Roman occupation, including finds of Roman coins in the area (recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme database) and the presence of the possibly Roman road to the east of the village.

In addition, there are also recorded medieval remains from the core of the village, although the proposed development site is located just outside the historic medieval village core of Rearsby. The site was once part of the Rearsby Estate, the remains of which lie to the north of the site.

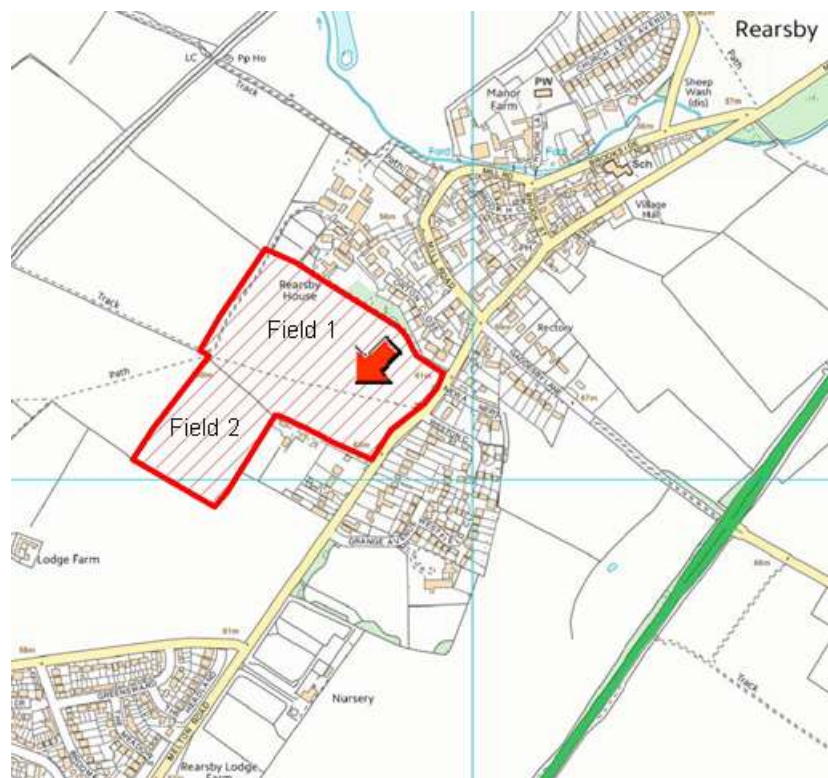


Figure 2: Plan of proposed development area. Provided by developer. Scale unknown.

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.

Fieldwalking is a technique which can be used on arable fields in order to sample artefacts found within the ploughsoil, which may indicate the presence of buried archaeological features or previous land-use. It is preferable to carrying it following ploughing and the subsequent weathering of the ploughsoil. It can be carried out from this point until the crop becomes too dense. The technique was only suitable for Field 2, which was arable. Visibility during the survey was fairly good, and the weather was mostly dry, with broken cloud cover. 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 ArcGIS.



Figure 3: Field 2 looking south-west



Figure 4: Ground conditions in Field 2 at the time of the survey

Results

The field was rectangular in shape and was walked via transects orientated north-east to south-west. Of the 53 finds recovered during the field walking survey, 42 consisted of post-medieval and modern pottery sherds, which were considered to have little archaeological significance and are likely to have resulted from manuring spreads being added to the fields from the post-medieval period onwards (see Sawday, this report). A fragment of post-medieval Black ware pottery has been retained for future reference. Ten fragments of worked flint were also recovered, including a knife, a core and a piercer, as well as a primary flake, two secondary flakes, two tertiary flakes and a retouched flake. These are indicative of Neolithic/Bronze Age activity but have not occurred in a significant concentration. The finds do not cluster and are too few to suggest the location of any buried archaeological features.

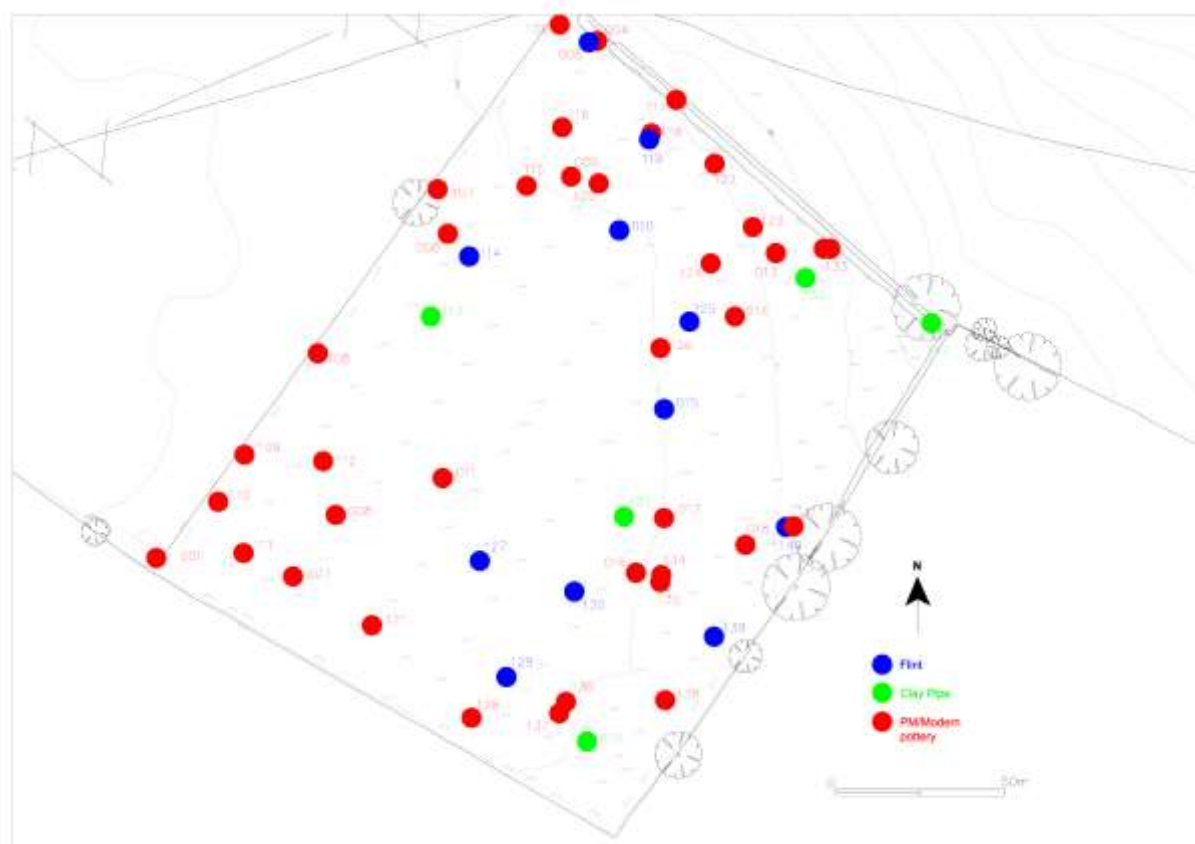


Figure 5: Location of the finds (Survey provided by the client).

Conclusion

Only one field within the application area was suitable for fieldwalking; Field 2 to the south-west. A few Neolithic-Bronze Age flint tools were recovered suggesting some activity during the time. A dispersed scatter of post-medieval/modern ceramic material is likely to have been derived from manuring scatters. There was no evidence of Roman or Anglo Saxon material from the fieldwalking. A human burial of this date has been located previously to the north of Field 2.

A geophysical survey has been undertaken of the area (Richardson 2014). This indicated that ploughed out ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-east to south-

west was present in Field 2. A weak positive anomaly in the southern field is indicative of a former cut feature, such as a backfilled pit, and may be of archaeological or natural origin. A buried service trench crossed the field aligned north-west to south-east (Richardson 2014, Fig 4).

Archive

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

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire Museums Service under Accession No: X.A82.2014

The archive contains:

- Survey notes and plans
- Digital photos on CD
- Finds including 1 pottery sherd and 10 flints.
- 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/>.

Jennifer Browning

ULAS

University of Leicester

University Road

Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 2848

Fax: 0116 252 2614

Email: ulas@le.ac.uk

18-07-2014

ID	OASIS entry summary
Project Name	Melton Road, Rearsby, Leicestershire
Summary	The fieldwalking survey predominantly revealed a scatter of post-medieval and modern pottery across the survey area, probably the result of manuring practices. A single sherd of early post-medieval pottery was recovered (black ware), as well as ten worked flints including tools, which indicate some Neolithic/Bronze Age activity.
Project Type	Fieldwalking
Project Manager	Patrick Clay

Project Supervisor	Jennifer Browning
Previous/Future work	Previous: DBA / Geophysical Survey, Future: Trial Trenching.
Current Land Use	Agricultural and pastoral farmland
Development Type	Housing
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Pre-application
Site Co ordinates	SK 647 142
Post-code	LE7 4XZ
Height (metres above O.D.)	c.60m
Start/end dates of field work	09/06/2014
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Study Area	10.1 ha.
Associated project reference codes	Museum accession ID: X.A82.2014 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 to the west of Melton Road, Rearsby, Leicestershire (SK 64735 14212))* ULAS Report No 2014-070.

Richardson, T., 2014 *Geophysical Survey Report. Rearsby, Leicestershire.* Stratascan Report J6903.

Jennifer Browning

ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 2848

Fax: 0116 252 2614

Email: ulas@le.ac.uk

18-07-2014

Appendix 1: The Pottery, Flint & Miscellaneous Finds by *Deborah Sawday*

Approximately 50 finds were recorded during the fieldwalking. The results are shown below (Table 1). Most of the material was post medieval or modern in date and only the worked flint and a fragment of post-medieval Black ware pottery have been retained for future reference.

Table 1: The pottery and miscellaneous finds by transect, GPS number and material.

Transect	GPS Number	Material	Notes
5	120	EA6 – Black ware	c.1650-1750+
2	5	Flint	Secondary flake
6	10	Flint	Piercer
10	15	Flint	Core
15	140	Flint	Tertiary flake
15	139	Flint	Tertiary flake
9	127	Flint	Secondary flake
11	130	Flint	Retouched flake
1	109	Flint	Primary flake
11	129	Flint	Knife
9	125	Flint	Secondary flake
14	19	Clay pipe	post med/modern - discarded
11	132	Clay pipe	post med/modern - discarded
15	142	Clay pipe	post med/modern - discarded
11	131	Clay pipe	post med/modern - discarded
3	113	Clay pipe	post med/modern - discarded
4	7	EA - Earthenware	modern - discarded
5	118	EA - Earthenware	modern - discarded
10	13	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded
10	14	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded
6	11	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded
4	9	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded
4	8	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded
2	6	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded
2	4	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded
22	92	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded
1	110	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded
1	107	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded
5	119	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded
5	117	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded
15	141	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded
1	106	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded
3	116	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded
13	135	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded
9	126	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded

9	126	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded
9	124	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded
7	122	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded
13	134	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded
3	115	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded
3	112	EA10 - Fine White China	modern - discarded
13	137	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded
1	108	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded
7	121	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded
13	136	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded
15	138	EA2 - Earthenware	post med/modern - discarded
12	17	EA2 - Earthenware	discarded
12	16	EA2 - Earthenware	discarded
10	12	EA2 - Earthenware	discarded
14	18	EA2 - Earthenware	discarded
11	133	SW - Stoneware	modern - discarded
11	128	SW - Stoneware	modern - discarded

Site/ Parish: Rearsby, Leics. Accession No.: XA82 2014 Document Ref: rearsby4.docx, rearsby1.xls Material: flint, pottery & misc. finds Site Type: open field	Submitter: J. Browning Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Identification: 03.07.2014 Method of Recovery: field-walking Job Number: 14-707
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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



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