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Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological
Fieldwalking Survey
at Measham Road,
Appleby Magna,
Leicestershire
(SK 315 102)**



Roger Kipling

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Leicestershire
(SK 315 102)**

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For: Paladin Developments Ltd.

Approved by:

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An Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey at Measham Road, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire (SK 317 103)

Roger Kipling

Summary

An archaeological fieldwalking survey was undertaken in November 2013 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Paladin Development Ltd on land at Measham Road, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire. The fieldwork was undertaken as part of a combined programme of earthwork, geophysical and fieldwalking survey as a preliminary to proposed residential development. The archaeological fieldwalking survey produced a small quantity of late medieval and post medieval pottery, likely deposited as the result of manuring of the arable fields, some possibly originating from the nearby village or earthworks.

The site archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council under the accession number X.A183.2013.

Introduction

Paladin Developments Ltd wish to apply for planning permission for residential development in two areas of land at Appleby Magna, Leicestershire. The northernmost area, west of Measham Road (SK 317 103) was identified as having some archaeological potential following a desk-based assessment by CgMs (Bourn 2013). In view of this further pre-determination archaeological work was requested by the Leicestershire County Council, Principal Planning Archaeologist, as advisor to the planning authority, initially in the form of non-intrusive geophysical and fieldwalking surveys. The agreed scheme was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (ULAS 2013).

The archaeological desk-based assessment commissioned for the site indicated that the application area lies to the north of the medieval core of Appleby Magna (MLE5992). Appleby Magna also lies to the south-east of the approximate route of a postulated Roman road linking Watling Street, at Tamworth, to a crossing of the Trent at Sawley and the adjacent Roman small town at Redhill (MLE20490). An evaluation and subsequent excavation of the site of a hotel on the east side of the nearby M42 junction, c. 600m to the west of both sites, has recorded a small 4th century Roman farmstead with a simple corn drier, possible threshing floors and a number of possible structures including a sunken featured building (MLE8596; Clarke 2000; 2010).

Work was undertaken in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework Section 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment (DCLG March 2012). All archaeological work was in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct (2010) and adhered to their *Standard and*

Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2008). The *LCC Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological work Leicestershire and Rutland* (1997) was also adhered to.

Site Description, Topography and Geology

The plot of land to the west of Measham Road is on a very slight east facing slope lying at *c.* 90m OD. The underlying geology of the site is Tarporey Siltstone Formation.

Methodology

The overall aim of the fieldwalking survey was to gather information in order to establish the extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permitted) of any archaeological features and deposits within the area. Pre-modern artefacts were collected and bagged along 12 x 10m transects. 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.

Approximately one third of the field fronting Measham Road was not available to be walked due to its being under crop stubble, reducing the survey area to approximately 2.6 ha. The visibility during the survey was good with diffused lighting and the field freshly ploughed.

All archaeological work adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LMARS).

Results

Numbers of finds from the fieldwalking survey, which consisted entirely of pottery sherds, were fairly low (30 in total) and ranged in date from the late medieval to modern periods (Figure 2 & Appendix). The random distribution pattern of the material, likely derived from manuring practices from the medieval period onwards, reflects plough activity.

A small proportion of the assemblage (8 sherds) comprised late medieval-early post medieval Cistercian and Midland Black ware pottery sherds and post medieval Earthenwares and Black ware chamber pot. The relatively large sherd size of some of this material suggests a direct association with the village and/or the standing earthworks a short distance to the south.

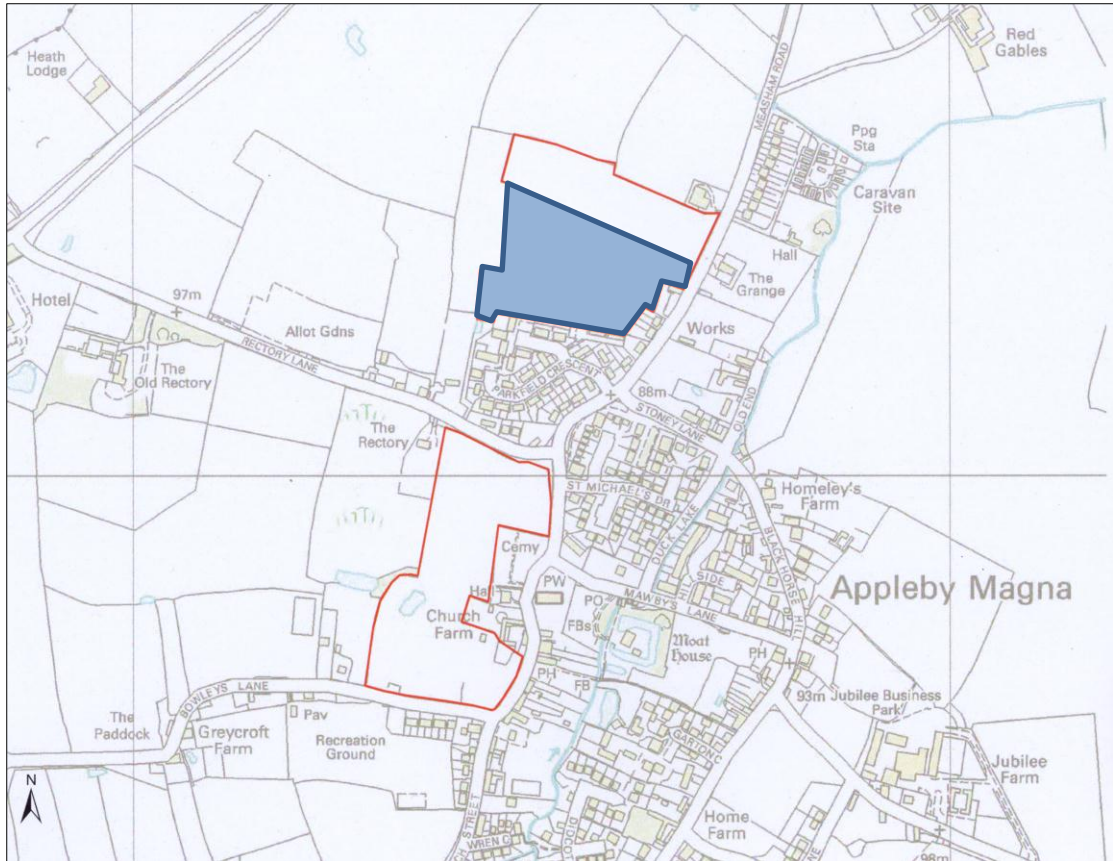


Figure 1: Location of the two survey areas of earthwork and geophysical survey at Church Street (south) and fieldwalking and geophysical survey at Measham Road (north, in blue)

The Pottery *Deborah Sawday*

Featureless body sherds in post-medieval and modern earthenware or pancheon ware were discarded and the remainder was listed by find spot, weight (grams) and fabric, using the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 1989, Sawday 2009). The catalogue and approximate date ranges are shown below (Tables 1 and 2).

Discussion

An interesting assemblage of late medieval or early post-medieval pottery was recovered in Cistercian and Midland Black ware in a range of hollow ware vessel forms (Table 2). The most likely sources for these wares are Ticknall in Derbyshire (Spavold and Brown 2005) and Chilvers Coton in Warwickshire (Mayes and Scott 1984), which lie approximately 15km to the north and 20km to the south, respectively, of the village.

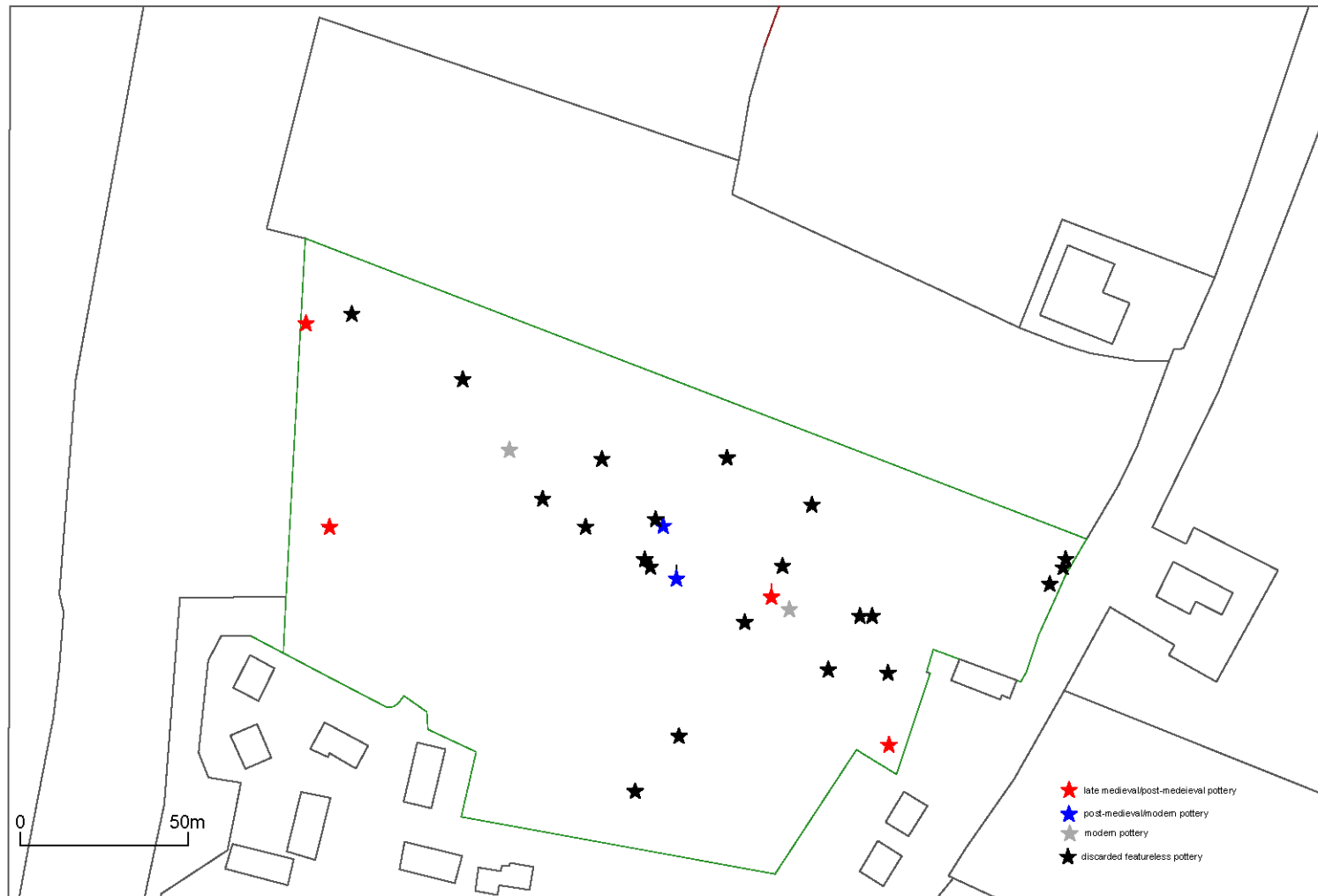


Figure 2: Minorca North, Measham: area of fieldwalking survey

The Earthenwares, chiefly wide mouthed bowls or pancheons, and the Black ware chamber pot, both date from the post medieval period or later. These wares probably originate from similar sources to the above, or possibly Polesworth, approximately 10km to the south west, in north Warwickshire, which the earliest documentary references date from the 1680s (Mayes and Scott 1999).

Conclusions

These finds were presumably deposited as a result of the manuring of the arable fields from the later medieval period onwards. The relatively large average sherd weight of 66 grams for the late medieval and early post medieval Cistercian/Midland Black ware, and 57 grams for the early post medieval Earthenware, fabric EA indicate that these wares if not the later material, may be associated with human activity associated directly with the nearby village or earthworks, rather than from further afield.

Table 1: Key to the Pottery Fabrics and Dates.

Fabric	Ware	Date Code	Period	Date Range
CW	Cistercian ware	LM	Late Med.	c.1450-1550
MB	Midland Black	EPM	Early Post Med.	c.1500/50-1650
EA	Earthenware	EPM	Early Post Med	c.1500/50-1650
EA2	Earthenware 2	PM/MOD	Post Med/Mod	c.1500/50-1900+
EA6	Black ware	PM	Post Med	c.1650-1750

Table 2: The pottery by find spot, fabric, number and date range.

Find spot.	Fabric	Nos	Grams	Date Range	Comments
5	EA2	1	30	MOD	Abraded, wide mouthed bowl/pancheon rim, external diameter c.165mm, slipped & glazed interior, slipped externally. Similar at Causeway Lane, Leicester found in association with modern pottery (Davies and Sawday 1999, fig.97.182), but this rim form also occurs throughout the post medieval period.
11	EA6	1	51	PM	Hollow war chamber pot rim, similar at Elbow Lane, Leicester (Sawday 1989, fig.11.67) glazed internally & externally, externally flanged rim, diameter c.180mm,
17	CW/ MB	1	25	LM/ EPM	Body sherd, glazed internally & externally from a cylindrical vessel, similar in Leicester identified as either a Cistercian ware jug (Woodland 1981, fig.42.223) or cup (Leicester Museum Acc. No A39 1988 15364).

25	EA2	1	41	MOD	Abraded, wide mouthed bowl/pancheon rim, similar to that from 5 above. External diameter c.160mm, slipped & glazed interior, slipped externally.
26	CW	1	47	LM/ EPM	Splayed base, diameter c.90mm glazed interior & exterior walls, glaze runs/stacking evidence under base indicate that this is late medieval Cistercian ware. The interior glaze demonstrates that this is an open vessel, possibly a waisted beaker (MPRG 1998, 6.1.3). A fragment of a similar hollow ware base from the site of the Church of St Peter, on the Vaughan Way excavations in Leicester, was tentatively identified as a chalice (Sawday 2009, fig.15.52).
27	EA	1	57	EPM	Thick walled internally glazed body – with large pebble/misc. stone, iron and marl inclusions, suggesting that this is a Ticknall product.
28	EA2	1	43	PM/ MOD	Simple everted abraded bowl rim, external diameter c.250mm, slipped & glazed internally,
31	CW/ MB	1	126	LM/ EPM	Splayed base of large thick walled hollow ware vessel, possibly a Cistercian ware posset pot or a wide bodied cup, (Woodland 1981, fig.41.204, 220) – but no evidence survives for the absence or presence of handle etc. Base diameter c.105mm. Glazed interior & exterior walls, glaze splash under base.

Discussion and Conclusions

The archaeological fieldwalking survey at Measham Road, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire, produced a small quantity of late medieval and post-medieval pottery, likely deposited as the result of manuring of the arable fields, some possibly originating from the nearby village or earthworks. Of note are the presence of Cistercian and Midland Black wares in a range of hollow ware vessel forms manufactured in Ticknall in Derbyshire and Chilvers Coton in Warwickshire.

Archive and Publications

The site archive (X.A183.2013), consisting of pottery sherds and paper and photographic records, will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service.

The paper archive consists of:

- Paper record sheets
- 30 pottery sherds

Publication

A version of the fieldwalking summary (see above) will appear in due course in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*.

Acknowledgements

James Harvey and Roger Kipling of ULAS undertook the archaeological evaluation on behalf of Paladin Development Ltd. The project was managed by Patrick Clay.

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Oasis Information

Project Name	Land south of Spinney Drive, Barlestone, Leicestershire
Project Type	Archaeological evaluation
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Roger Kipling
Previous/Future work	Development
Current Land Use	Agricultural/paddock
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Pre-determination
Site Co ordinates	NGR SK 429 023
Start/end dates of field work	May/June 2013
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council
Study Area	unknown

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