



**University of
Leicester**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey at Shawell Quarry Fields Farm
Extension, Shawell, Leicestershire**

NGR SP 5354 8179



Adam Clapton

ULAS Report No 2015-020

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**An Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey at
Shawell Quarry Fields Farm Extension**

**Shawell
Leicestershire**

NGR: SP 53541 81795

Adam Clapton

For: Lafarge Tarmac plc

Checked by:

Signed:



Date: 03.02.2015

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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An Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey at Shawell Quarry Fields Farm Extension, Shawell, Leicestershire (SP 5354 8179).

Adam Clapton

Summary

An archaeological fieldwalking survey was carried out by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) for land at Shawell Quarry Fields Farm Extension, Shawell, Leicestershire (SP 5354 8179). The survey was commissioned by Archaeologica Ltd on behalf of Lafarge Tarmac in advance of the proposed quarry extension. The survey took place in December 2014.

Ground conditions for fieldwalking in field 2 were poor due to advanced crop obscuring the ground surface, but adequate in fields 3 and 4 where the crop was less advanced. The survey revealed a small quantity of medieval and post-medieval pottery, with a larger amount of more modern sherds also present. No pre medieval dated pottery was recovered during the survey. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire Museums Service under the accession no: X.A154.2014.

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 field-walking survey carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land Shawell Quarry Fields Farm Extension, Shawell, Leicestershire (SP 5354 8179). The work was undertaken as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of proposed quarry extension by Lafarge Tarmac.

Site Description, Topography and Geology

The site of proposed development is located to the south of A426 Rugby Road, south of the village of Cotesbach and east of Home Farm.

The application site itself consists of three fields, fields 2, 3 and 4 (fig 2). Field 3 is subdivided by hedgerows running east-north-east to west-south-west. All fields are arable land and sown with crop showing, although the crop in field 2 is particularly thick hindering visibility. The southern corner of field 4 is still under summer crop and therefore this area could not be walked.

The site of proposed quarry extension is shown in fig 1. The geology of the site consists of boulder clay and glacial moraine over Jurassic Lower Lias clay (British Geological Survey, 2014). The site is gently sloping towards the west and is at c. 30m OD.

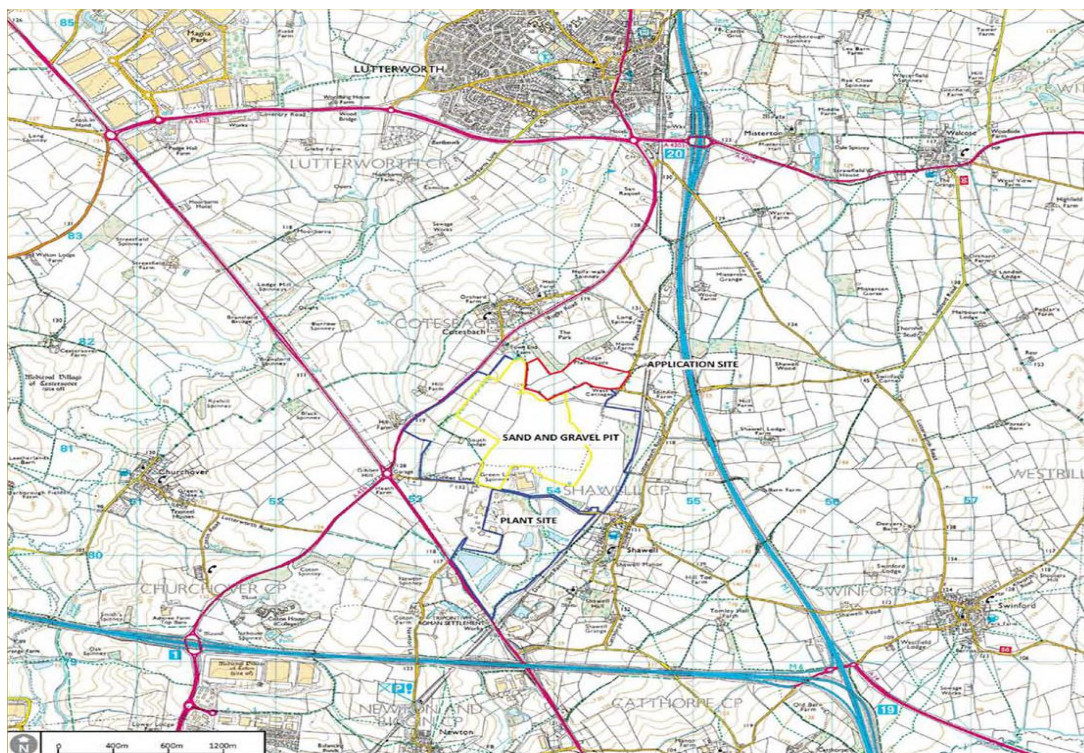


Figure 1: Site location (provided by client)

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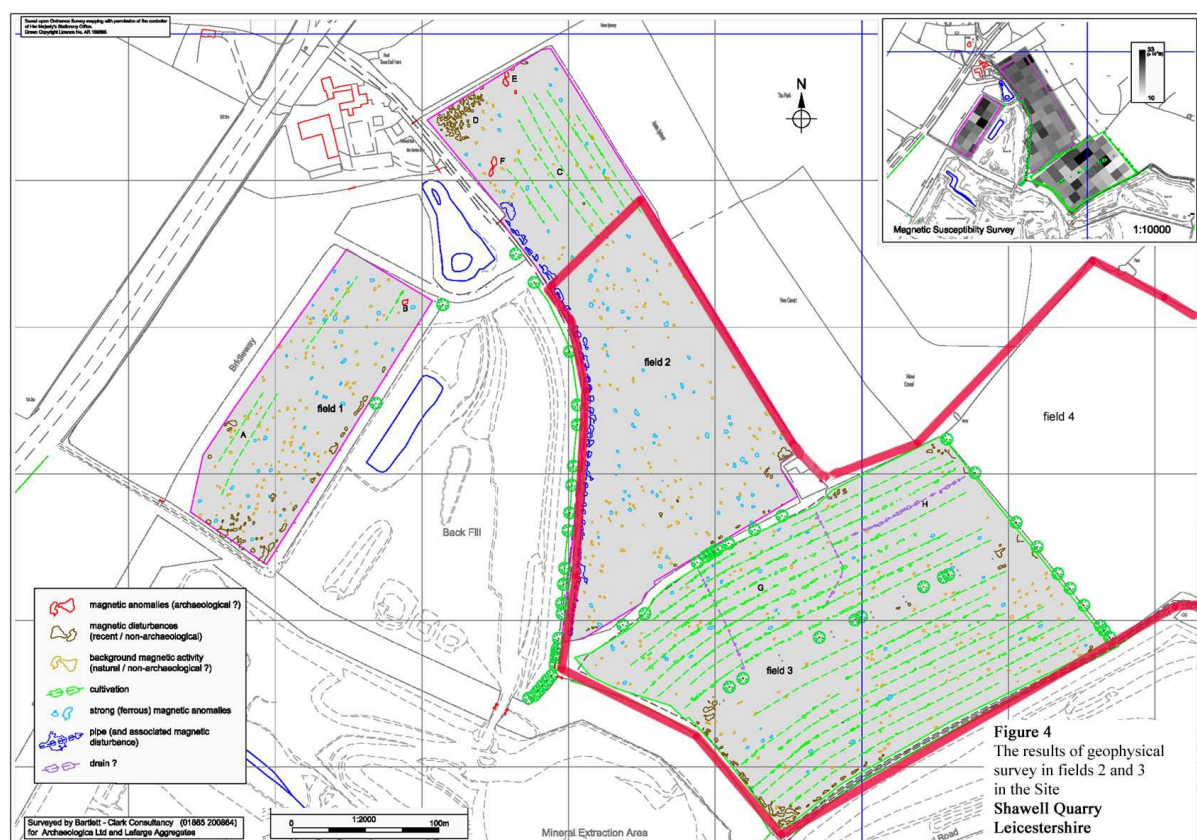


Figure 2: Fields 1-4 showing geophysical anomalies (from Lisboa 2013)

Archaeological Background

An archaeological desk based assessment was prepared for the area (Lisboa 2013). The Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates that the surrounding area has produced finds of various periods with local concentrations of archaeological significance located mainly in the medieval historic cores of Shawell and Cotesbach, the latter to the north of the site. Prehistoric sites are known in the Lutterworth and Misterton areas 3km to the north and north-east. The line of the Roman Watling Street (HER 1388) runs along the line of the A5. The line of the Roman Lutterworth road is located further to the east (MLE 1902). Some finds of Roman date are known from the village of Cotesbach to the north of the site. An Anglo Saxon cemetery (HER1414) is recorded from 19th century records near Bransford Bridge, Cotesbach, while Cotesbach has a medieval origin (MLE 10383). Sherds of medieval date have also been found in the village.

Previous works to the south of the application site have yielded no significant archaeological features with previous watching briefs (Coward 2009) showing only ridge and furrow activity and a 20th century track way. Following a geophysical survey of fields 1, 2 and 3 (fig. 2: Bartlett 2013) six trial trenches were opened by ULAS in November 2014, within field 1 (Kipling 2014). Again this showed only ridge and furrow with no other archaeological features identified.

Aims and Methods

The overall aim of the fieldwalking survey was to gather sufficient 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 preferably undertaken following ploughing and subsequent weathering of the ploughsoil. However, a field sown with crop can be walked until the crop obscures visibility or would be damaged. Field 2 (fig 3) was under crop with poor ground visibility, while fields 3 (fig4) and 4 (fig 5) had crop just showing through and visibility was considered reasonable. The fields were walked over a two day period. Fields 2 and 3 were walked over the first day with weather conditions being mostly dry with broken cloud cover. Field 4 was walked on the second day and weather conditions were showery with broken cloud cover. All archaeological work adhered to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's (Cifa) *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). The location of the finds was plotted using hand held GPS loggers (Garmin Etrex 10, satellite accuracy *c.*3m) and (Garmin GPS 72 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 2 looking north-east



Figure 4: Field 3 looking east



Figure 5: Field 4 looking south

Results

The survey area, covering c. 14.5 ha., was walked via transects at 10m intervals, orientated north-east to south-west in field 1 and 4 and south-east to north-west in field 3. Ground visibility varied due to the advanced state of crop, with visibility being particularly poor in field 2, this resulted in the majority of finds being located in fields 3 and 4. Despite the presence of prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon archaeology in the area, no pre-medieval material dated was recovered during the survey.

A total of 16 sherds of medieval pottery was recovered, along with 24 sherds of post-medieval fabric (fig 6). The remaining 46 sherds of material were classified as modern fabrics. The bulk of the material recovered can be attributed to the manuring of the fields from the nearby village of Shawell from the medieval period onwards.

Conclusion

On the basis of the geophysical and fieldwalking surveys there is relatively low potential for archaeological deposits to be present within the application area.

Archive

Fieldwork was carried out by Adam Clapton, Nathan Flavell and Donald Clark. The pottery was identified by Deborah Sawday. Patrick Clay managed the project.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire Museums Service under Accession No. X.A154.2014

The archive contains:

- Survey notes and plans
- Digital photos on CD
- 1 bag of finds
- 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.

DRAFT

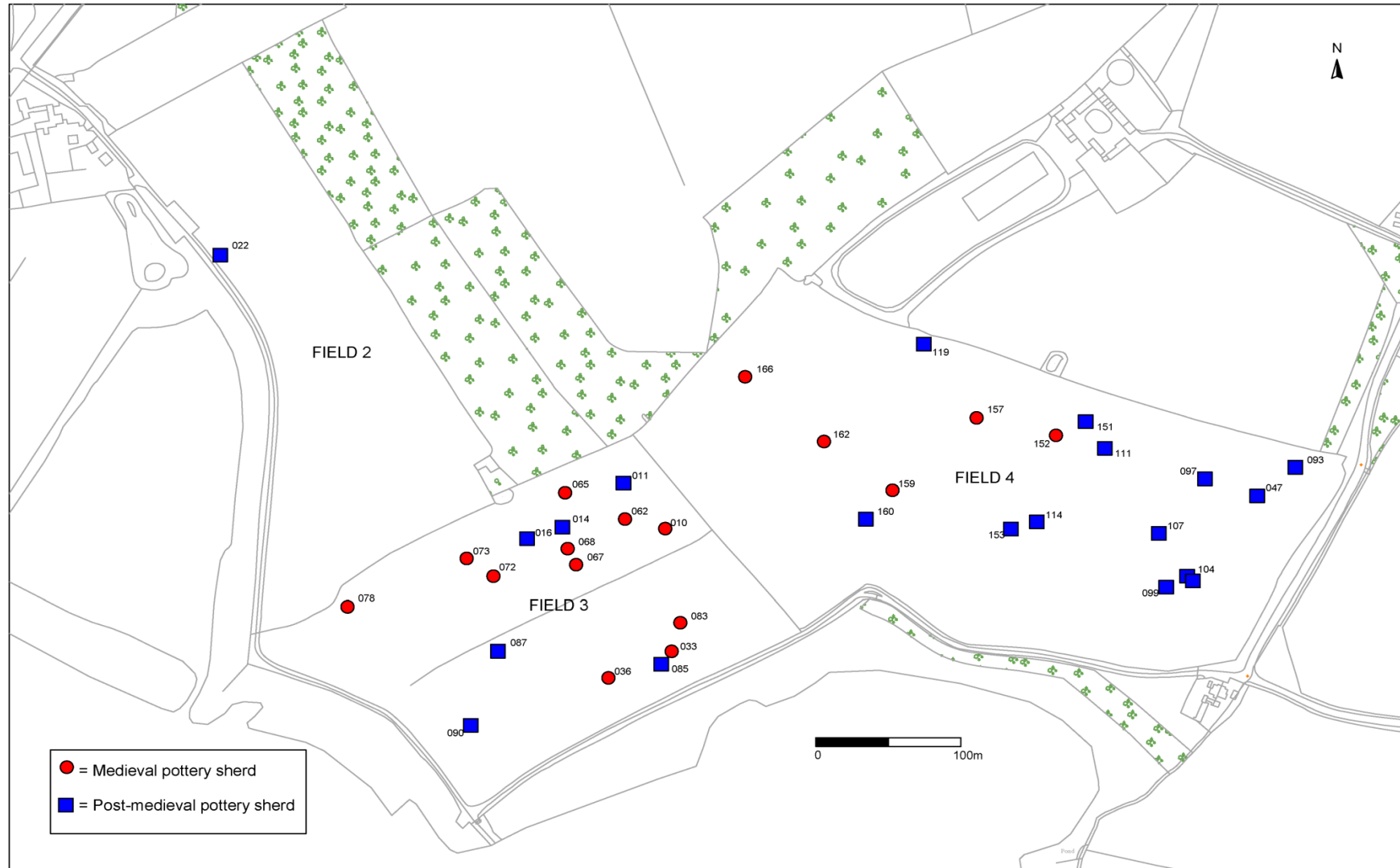


Figure 6: Location of finds (map supplied by client)

ID	OASIS entry summary
Project Name	Shawell Quarry fields farm extension
Summary	The fieldwalking survey revealed a low level of medieval and post-medieval pottery across the survey area.
Project Type	Fieldwalking
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Adam Clapton
Previous/Future work	Desk-based assessment (Lisboa 2014).
Current Land Use	Arable farmland
Development Type	Quarry extension
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Pre-application
Site Co ordinates	SP 5354 8179
Post-code	LE12 7GZ
Height (metres above O.D.)	
Start/end dates of field work	11/12//2014- 12/12/2014
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Study Area	
Associated project reference codes	Museum accession ID: XA.154.2014 OASIS ID: universi1-000000

Bibliography

Bartlett A. H. B., 2013 *Shawell Quarry, Leicestershire: Report on Archaeological Geophysical Surveys 2012-2013*

CIfA 2014 *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations*

CIfA 2014 *Code of Conduct*

Coward, J., 2009 *An Intermittent Watching Brief at Shawell Quarry, Leicestershire SP 537 814*. ULAS Report 2009-135

Kipling, R., 2014 *An Archaeological Evaluation at Shawell Quarry Extension West, Prosser Land, Shawell, Leicestershire (SP 53541 81797)*. ULAS Report 2014-205

Lisboa I.M.G. 2013 *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment At Prosser Land Shawell Leicestershire* AC 3148/D1

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Adam Clapton
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH
Tel: 0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614
Email: ac562@le.ac.uk

02.02.2015

Appendix 1. The Finds

Deborah Sawday

The 94 sherds of pottery and 15 fragments of ceramic building material recovered from the three fields have been catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 2009). Thirteen clay tobacco pipe stems and three fragments of unworked flint were also recorded.

The results are shown below (tables 1-3).

Table 1 The medieval pottery and ceramic building material fabrics.

Fabric	Common Name/	Approx. Date Range
PM	Potters Marston ware	1100-1300/50+
MS	Medieval Sandy ware	1200-1400
CO2	Coventry A ware	1100-1400
MB	Midland Black ware	1550-1750
RW	Red ware	1500-1750
EA1	Jar/Butter pot ware	1500-1750
EA	Earthenware (Unclassified)	1500-2000
EA2	Earthenware 2	1600-2000
EA3/5	Mottled/Imitation Mottled ware	1680-1780
EA6	Black ware	1650-1750
EA7	Slip ware	1600-1850
EA8	Cream ware	1730-1850
SW4	White Salt-Glazed Stoneware	1730-1770
SW	Stoneware (Unclassified)	1750-2000
EA10	Fine White Earthenware/China	1750-2000
PO	Porcelain	1750-2000

Four of the 16 medieval fragments could be sourced to two major pottery production centres in the Middle Ages, at Potters Marston and Coventry, approximately 25km to the north and

west of Shawell respectively. The remaining Medieval Sandy wares, which are generally wheel thrown and glazed, are all also probably local in origin.

Most of the medieval and later material occurred in field 3 (table 2). The bulk of these finds may be associated with the manuring of the fields with 'night-soil' from the nearby village of Shawell from the medieval period onwards.

All save diagnostic examples of vessel rims in the modern unclassified Stoneware and Earthenware were discarded. Sherds in the later post-medieval or modern Cream ware, Fine White Earthenware, Porcelain and Earthenware² were not retained. Neither were the fragments of ceramic building material, clay tobacco pipe stems and the unworked flint.

Table 2 The Site Totals by material and field in approximate chronological order.

Fabric/Ware	Sherd/Fragment Nos.		
	Field 2	Field 3	Field 4
Pottery			
Medieval			
PM - Potters Marston ware			2
CO2 Coventry A ware		1	1
MS – Medieval Sandy	1	9	2
Sub Total	1	10	5
Post Medieval/Modern			
MB - Midland Black ware			1
RW – Red ware		1	2
EA1 – Earthenware 1			
EA – Earthenware (Unclassified)			2
EA2 – Earthenware 2			7
EA3/5 – Mottled/Imitation Mottled ware		1	1
EA6 – Black ware		2	3
EA7 - Slipware			4
EA8 – Cream ware		2	

SW4 – White Salt-Glazed Stoneware			4
Sub Total		6	24
Modern			
EA10/PO - Fine White Earthenware/ Porcelain	1	16	12
SW – Stoneware (Unclassified)	1	14	4
Sub Total	2	30	16
Pottery Totals	3	46	45
Ceramic Building Material	3	9	2
Flint - natural			3
Clay pipe		9	4
Site Totals	6	64	54

Table 3 The ceramic & miscellaneous finds by fabric/material, fragment number, period and find spot.

<p>Notes: All pottery unless specified otherwise.</p> <p>CBM - Ceramic Building Material</p> <p>Date Code: EM=Early Medieval, MED = Medieval, LM = Later Medieval, PM = Post Medieval, MOD = Modern</p>					
Field 2					
Find No	Traverse No.	Sherd No.	Fabric	Date	Comments
36	T23	1	MS	MED	Olive green glazed
51	T8	1	EA	MOD	CBM - discarded
52	T17	1	EA10	MOD	Trans. printed blue, discarded
55	T24	1	EA	MOD	CBM – tile discarded

57	T26	1	EA	MOD	CBM – tile discarded
59	T30	1	SW	MOD	discarded
Field 3					
8	T1	1	EA10	MOD	discarded
9	T1	1	EA	MOD	CBM - discarded
10	T4	1	MS	MED/LM	
11	T4	1	EA6	PM	
14	T10	1	EA5	PM	
15	T10	1	SW	MOD	discarded
16	T13	1	RW	PM	
17	T16	1	EA	PM/MOD	CBM – discarded
18	T19	1	EA	PM/MOD	CBM – discarded
19	T22	1	EA	PM/MOD	CBM – discarded
20	T22	1	EA	PM/MOD	CBM – discarded
21	T25	1	EA10/PO	MOD	discarded
25	T31	2	EA10/PO	MOD	discarded
26	T31	1	EA10	MOD	Trans. printed blue, discarded
27	T31	1	EA8	PM/MOD	discarded
28	T31	1	EA10	MOD	Trans. printed blue, discarded
29	T31	1	EA10	MOD	Trans. printed blue, discarded
30	T31	1	EA10	MOD	Trans. printed blue, discarded
31	T31	1	SW	MOD	discarded
32	T34	1	SW	MOD	Trans printed marmalade jar
33	T40	1	MS	MED/LM	base
34	T40	1	EA	PM/MOD	CBM – tile discarded
35	T40	1	EA10	MOD	Trans. printed blue, discarded

36	T46	1	EA10	MOD	Discarded
37	T49	1	SW	MOD	Discarded
38	T52	1	SW	MOD	Jar rim
39/ 40	T42	1	SW	MOD	Bottle rim
41	T45	1	EA10	MOD	Discarded
42	T48	1	EA	PM/MOD	CBM – tile discarded
42	T48	2	SW	MOD	discarded
61	T5	1	SW	MOD	discarded
62	T6	1	MS	MED	Coarse fabric
63	T5	1	China clay	PM/MOD	Clay pipe stem - discarded
64	T8	1	EA	PM/MOD	CBM – tile discarded
65	T8	1	MS	MED/LM	
66	T12	1	EA6	PM	CBM –?tile - discarded
67	T12	1	MS	MED	
68	T11	1	MS	MED	Fine sandy fabric
69	T11	1	SW	MOD	discarded
70	T15	1	China clay	PM/MOD	Clay pipe stem - discarded
71	T14	1	China clay	PM/MOD	Clay pipe stem - discarded
72	T17	1	MS	EM/MED	
73	T17	1	MS	EM/MED	
74	T18	1	China clay	PM/MOD	Clay pipe stem - discarded
75	T18	1	China clay	PM/MOD	Clay pipe stem - discarded
76	T21	1	EA2	PM/MOD	Discarded
77	T23	1	China clay	PM/MOD	Clay pipe stem - discarded
78	T26	1	CO2	EM/MED	Reduced core

79	T27	1	China clay	PM/MOD	Clay pipe stem - discarded
81	T33	3	EA10	MOD	Discarded
82	T35	1	SW	MOD	Discarded
83	T39	1	MS	MED	Strap handle – glazed
84	T42	1	EA10	MOD	Trans. printed blue, discarded
85	T43	1	EA6	PM	Small jar rim
86	T49	1	China clay	PM/MOD	Clay pipe stem - discarded
87	T52	1	SW	PM/MOD	
88	T43	1	EA8	PM/MOD	Discarded
89	T43	1	SW	PM/MOD	Discarded
90	T47	1	SW	PM/MOD	
91	-	1	EA10	MOD	Trans. printed blue, discarded
Field 4					
21	T34	1	EA10	MOD	Trans. printed blue, discarded
22	T34	1	RW	PM	Glazed internally
47	T4	1	SW4	PM/MOD	
48	T7	2	EA10	MOD	Trans. printed blue, discarded
49	T7	1	EA10	MOD	Trans. printed blue, discarded
93	T3	1	MB	PM	Handle fragment
94	T2	1	EA2	PM/MOD	Discarded
95	T5	1	China clay	PM/MOD	Clay pipe stem - discarded
96	T9	1	China clay	PM/MOD	Clay pipe stem - discarded
97	T8	1	RW	PM	Glazed externally
98	T8	1	EA	MOD	Discarded
99	T9	1	EA7	PM/MOD	Trailed dec.
100	T7	1	EA10	MOD	Discarded

102	T7	1	EA10	MOD	Trans. printed blue, discarded
103	T7	1	EA10	MOD	Discarded
104	T7	1	EA6	PM	
104	T16	1	EA7	PM/MOD	Trailed dec.
104	T16	1	EA10	MOD	Trans. printed blue, discarded
105	T10	1	EA	PM/MOD	CBM – tile discarded
106	T10	1	EA2	PM/MOD	Discarded
107	T10	1	SW4	PM/MOD	Bowl base
108	T13	1	EA10	MOD	Trans. printed blue, discarded
110	T16	1	Flint		Natural - discarded
111	T16	1	SW4	PM/MOD	
112	T16	1	SW4	MOD	Plate - discarded
113	T19	1	EA	MOD	CBM - discarded
114	T19	1	EA6	PM	
115	T25	1	EA10	MOD	Discarded
116	T25	1	SW	MOD	Discarded
117	T28	1	EA10	MOD	Trans. printed blue, discarded
118	T31	1	SW	MOD	Discarded
119	T31	1	EA7	PM/MOD	Trailed dec.
120	T34	1	EA2	PM/MOD	Discarded
123	T34	1	PO	MOD	Discarded
124	T37	1	EA2	PM/MOD	Chip – discarded.
150	T11	1	EA2	PM/MOD	Discarded
151	T18	1	EA3	PM/MOD	
152	T20	1	MS	MED	glazed
153	T21	1	EA7	PM/MOD	Trailed dec.

154	T23	1	China clay	PM/MOD	Clay pipe stem - discarded
155	T24	1	SW	PM/MOD	Discarded
156	T26	1	PM	EM/MED	
157	T27	1	China clay	PM/MOD	Clay pipe stem - discarded
158	T30	1	Flint		Natural - discarded
159	T29	1	MS	MED	Glazed
160	T30	1	EA6	PM	
161	T35	1	EA2	PM/MOD	Discarded
162	T34	1	CO2	EM/MED	
163	T36	1	EA	MOD	Flower pot - discarded
164	T36	1	SW	MOD	Discarded
165	T38	1	Flint		Natural - discarded
166	T40	1	PM	EM/MED	
50/1 01	T7	1	EA2	MOD	Discarded

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Site/ Parish Shawell Quarry Extension	Submitter: A. Clapton
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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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