



**University of
Leicester**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey
on land off Hinckley Road, Barlestone,
Leicestershire**

NGR: SK 4214 0529

Jon Coward



ULAS Report No 2014-026
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Leicestershire**

NGR: SK 4214 0529

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For: Paladin Development Ltd

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Summary

An archaeological fieldwalking survey was carried out in January 2014 by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land east of Hinckley Road, Barlestone, Leicestershire, on behalf of Paladin Developments Ltd. The fieldwalking survey revealed a single Romano-British sherd and a scatter of early medieval to early post-medieval pottery, consistent with a manuring scatter from the nearby village.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council, accession no. XA.6.2014.

1. Introduction

This report presents the results of an archaeological fieldwalking survey carried out in January 2014 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS). The work was undertaken as part of an archaeological evaluation in advance of proposed development.

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The site is located to the south of the current village (*Figure 1, Figure 2*) and covers an area of approximately 28.25 hectares centred on grid reference SK 4214 0529. The northern part of the land lies within Barlestone parish, while the southern part is in Osbaston parish. The site lies at a height of *c.* 125m O.D. on undulating agricultural land, with a general slope down to the south-east.

The British Geological Survey notes that the superficial geology consists predominantly of diamacton till (Oadby member) with seams of Bosworth clay and mid-pleistocene sands and gravels particularly in the southern part of the area. The bedrock geology consists of Gunthorpe member mudstone.

3. Archaeological Background

A desk-based assessment has been prepared for the area (Browning 2013). Although the site is located outside the historic settlement core, the Historic Environment Record notes that the surrounding landscape has produced finds belonging to a variety of periods including prehistoric, Roman and medieval. It is therefore an area which could have archaeological potential.

The cartographic evidence indicates that the land has remained in agricultural use for several centuries and there is little evidence for any previous development. Therefore if archaeological remains should exist, they would be more likely to belong to the pre-medieval periods and are unlikely to have been adversely affected by later land use.

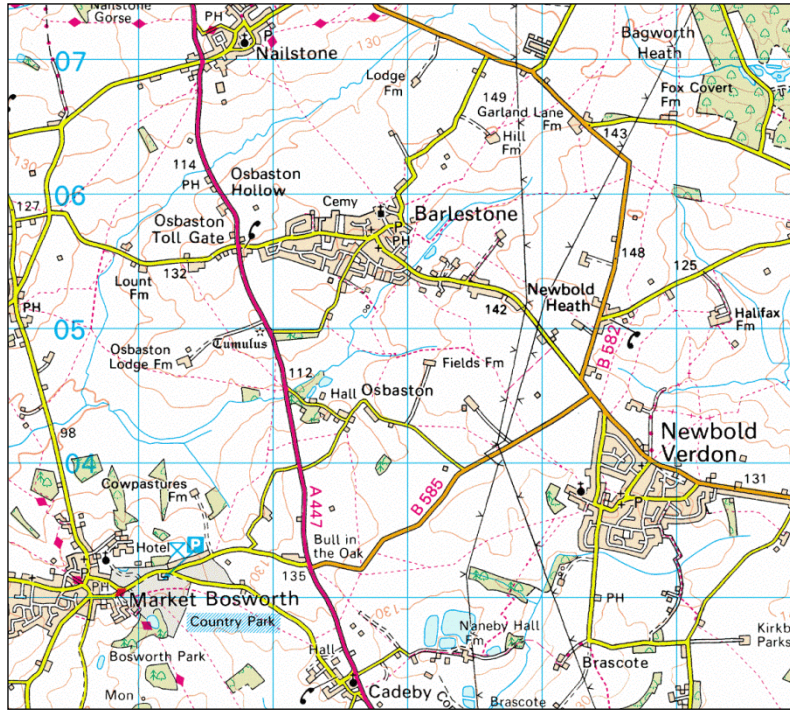


Figure 1 Barlestone

Taken from OS Landranger Map Sheet 140 NTS Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2013

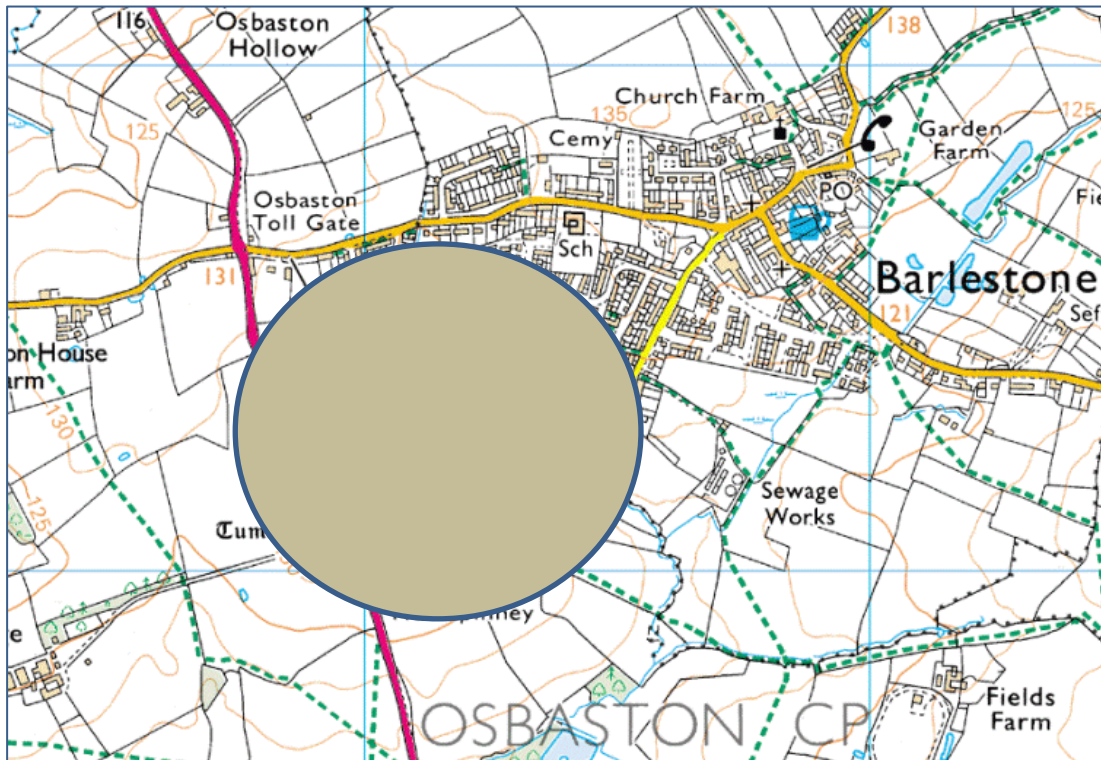


Figure 2 Area of survey in relation to Barlestone village

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2013

4. Aims and Methods

The overall aim of the fieldwalking survey was to gather information to establish the extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any archaeological features and deposits within the area. Potential pre-modern artefacts were collected and bagged along 10m transects. The location of the finds was plotted using hand held GPS loggers (Garmin extrex 10, indicated satellite accuracy 2-3m). Assuming a field of vision of two metres, a 20% sample of the survey area surface was examined.

The broadleaf crop was advanced in the north-west part of field 1 (Figure 5) and was obscuring the surface, this crop was less advanced in the eastern and southern parts of the field. The visibility was reasonable in field 2 although the crop was also advanced on the west side (Figure 6), although for the majority of the field the visibility was reasonable (e.g. Figure 7). The light was good during the survey. Field 3 was subject to a walk-over rather than systematic survey as the crop was too far advanced (Figure 8) for most of the surface to be seen. All archaeological work adhered to the Institute for Archaeologist's (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LMARS).

5. Results

(Figure 3, Figure 4)

There was a widespread low density scatter of obviously modern pottery, and a medium density of brick fragments; these were not recovered. For detailed sherd identity, see table 2 below.

No prehistoric material was noted. A single Romano-British sherd was recovered, in the north of field 1. Six dispersed sherds of Early medieval or high medieval and eight sherds of Late medieval to Early post-medieval pottery were recovered. A larger quantity of late post-medieval and modern material is not shown on the plots.

As can be seen from the plots, there is no clear clustering, but an increase in material is noted on the eastern sides of both fields 1 and 2; this may reflect actual distribution, but also may reflect the better surface visibility away from the higher western side where the crop was further through. The amount of material noted is consistent with manuring scatters commonly seen adjacent to villages.

Field 3 did not reveal any pre-modern artefacts on the walk-over. A large man-hole in the centre south part of the field indicates that there is a large service running underneath this field, the orientation of which could not be seen on the surface.

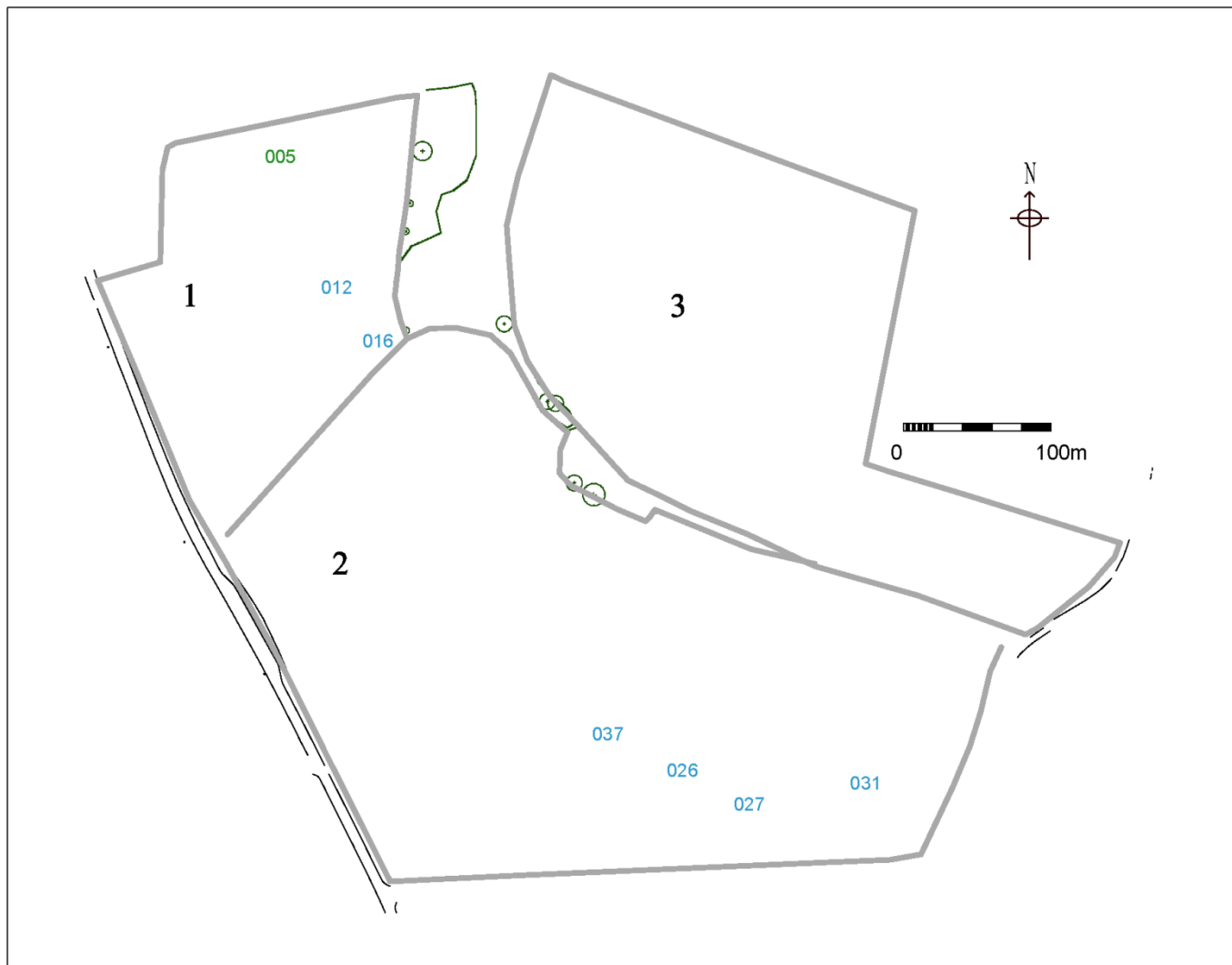


Figure 3 Romano-British (green) and early medieval/medieval (blue) pottery

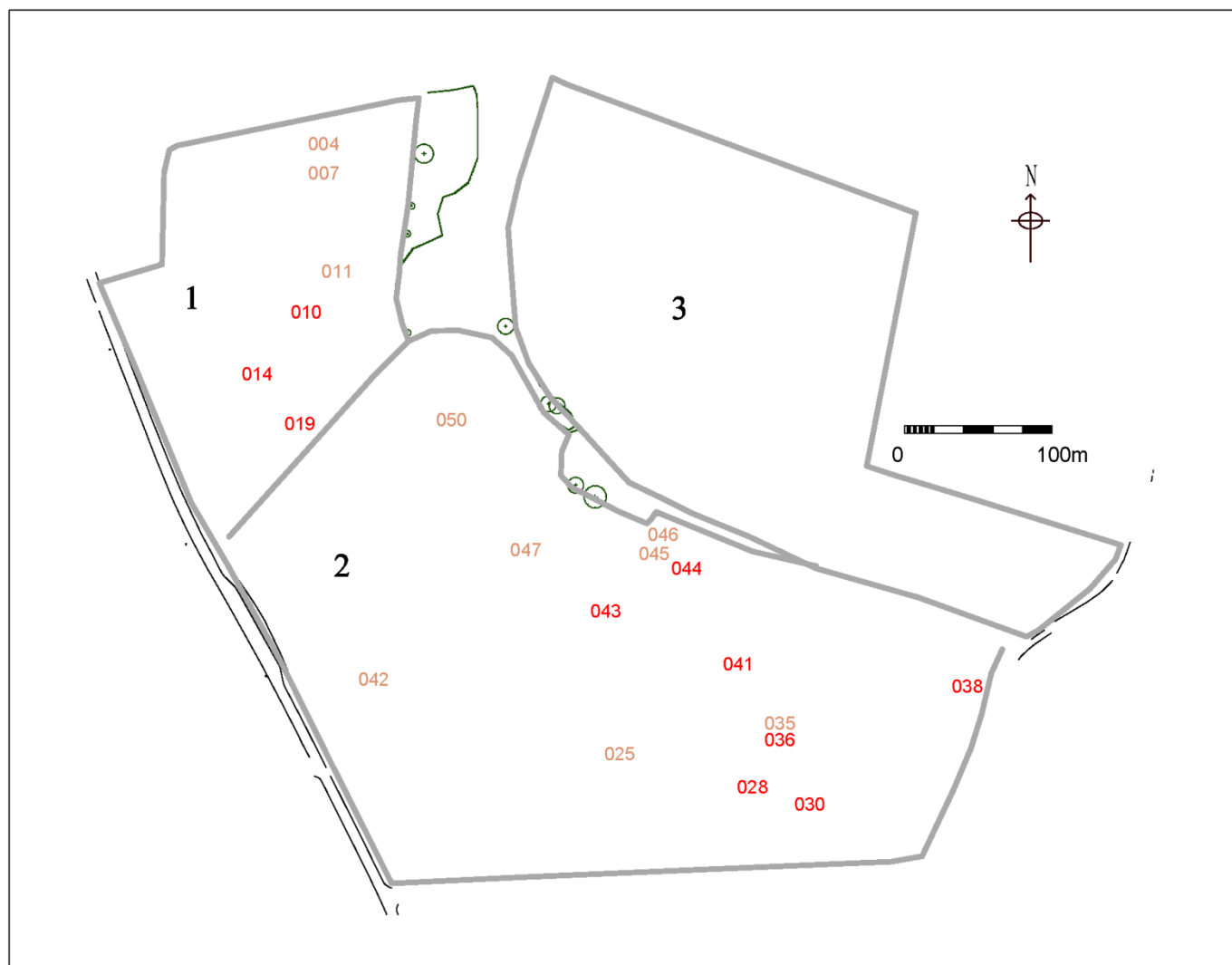


Figure 4 Late medieval, early post-medieval (red), and post-medieval (tan) pottery



Figure 5 Field 1 looking south-south-east



Figure 6 Field 2 looking east



Figure 7 Field 2 looking south-west



Figure 8 Field 3, looking north

6. The Finds

No lithics were noted during the survey.

The Ceramic Finds

Deborah Sawday

The finds which comprised 42 pottery sherds, seven fragments of ceramic building material and two pieces of slate, were catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 2009). The results are shown below (table 1 and table 2).

Table 1: The pottery by fabric and number in approximate chronological order.

Fabric/Ware	Nos.
Roman	
CC – Nene Valley Colour Coat	1
Sub Total	1
Early/High Medieval	
PM – Potters Marston	1
CC1 – Chilvers Coton A ware	5
Sub Total	6
Later Medieval/Early Post Medieval	
CC2 – Chilvers Coton C ware	1
MS3 - Medieval Sandy ware 3	2
MS8 - Medieval Sandy ware 8	1
CW1 – Cistercian ware 1	1
CW2 – Cistercian ware 2	1
CW/MB – Cistercian ware/Midland Black ware	2
Sub Total	8
Post Medieval	
MY – Midland Yellow ware	1
EA1 – Earthenware 1	1
EA3 - Mottled ware	2
EA7 – Slipware	2
Sub Total	6
Post Medieval/Modern	
EA2 – Earthenware 2	14
EA – Unclassified Earthenware	7
Sub Total	24
Totals	42

A sherd of 4th century Roman Nene Valley Colour Coat and 19 sherds of medieval and early post medieval pottery were recorded. The fabrics are typical of the region; the pottery and tile production centre at Chilvers Coton in Nuneaton was probably the major source of much of the medieval and later medieval wares, including the Medieval Sandy wares and the Cistercian ware fabric CW1.

All of the ceramic building material in the unclassified Earthenware, fabric EA, was post-medieval or modern in date. Both this material and undiagnostic pottery sherds in the

post medieval or modern Earthenware fabrics EA and EA2 were discarded on completion of the catalogue.

The bulk of these finds were generally small and heavily abraded. They are presumably associated with the manuring of the fields with 'night-soil' from the nearby village of Barlestone from the medieval period onwards.

Table 2: The ceramic finds by fabric, fragment number and period.

Notes: All pottery unless specified otherwise.

CBM - Ceramic Building Material

Date Code: RB = Roman, EM = Early Medieval, MED = High Medieval, LM = Later Medieval, EPM = Early Post Medieval, PM = Post Medieval, MOD = Modern

Find No	Fabric	No	Date	Comments
1	EA	1	MOD	Discarded
2	EA2	1	PM/MOD	Discarded
3	EA	1	MOD	CBM – discarded
4	EA2	1	PM	Fine-ware
5	CC	1	RB	Colour Coat – Nene Valley 4 th C AD..
6	EA	1	MOD	Discarded
7	EA3	1	PM	
8	EA	1	MOD	CBM - discarded
9				Discarded
10	CW/MB	1	LM/EPM	Cup body/handle stub
11	EA2	1	PM	Fine-ware
12	CC1	1	MED	
13		1	PM	Discarded - plastic
14	MS8	1	LM	Bowl rim
15	EA2	1	PM/MOD	Discarded
16	CC1	1	MED	
17	EA	1	MOD	Discarded
18	EA2	1	PM/MOD	Discarded
19	MS3	1	MED/LM	
20	EA	1	MOD	Discarded
21	EA	1	PM/MOD	CBM –discarded
22	EA	1	MOD	CBM -- discarded
23	EA2	1	PM/MOD	Discarded
24	EA2	1	PM/MOD	Discarded
25	EA2	1	PM/MOD	Pancheon rim frag
26	CC1	1	MED/LM	Highly fired
27	CC1	1	MED/LM	Highly fired
28	CW2	1	LM	Cup base
29	slate	2	-	Fragments only - discarded
30	MS3	1	LM	Glazed base
31	CC1	1	MED	
32	EA	1	MOD	CBM – Discarded – land drain
33	EA	1	MOD	Discarded
34	EA2	1	PM/MOD	Discarded

35	EA7	1	PM	Internally glazed wide mouthed bowl rim
36	MY	1	EPM	abraded
37	PM	1	EM	
38	EA1	1	EPM	Strap handle, oxidised/glazed/transitional
39	EA2	1	PM/MOD	Discarded
40	EA2	1	PM/MOD	Discarded
41	CW1	1	LM	Coarse quartz inclusions
42	EA2	1	PM/MOD	Wide mouthed bowl rim
43	CC2	1	LM	
44	CW/MB	1	LM/EPM	Narrow corrugated vessel, ?cup
45	EA2	1	PM/MOD	Bowl rim
46	EA	1	PM	CBM – flat roof tile
47	EA7	1	PM	Glazed internally
48	EA	1	MOD	Discarded
49	EA	1	PM/MOD	CBM – discarded
50	EA3	1	PM	Strap handle
51	EA2	1	PM/MOD	Discarded
52	EA	1	MOD	Discarded

Site/ Parish: Barlestone, Leics Accession No: XA6 2014 Document Ref: barlestone2.docx Material: ceramic – pot/cbm Site Type: open fields near Barlestone	Submitter: J. Coward Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Identification: 03.01.2104 Method of Recovery: field walking Job Number: 14-619
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7. Archive

The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services, under accession number X A6.2014.

The archive contains:

1 *pro-forma* fieldwalking sheet

Digital images.

Pottery

The report is 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/> **OASIS table**

Project Name	Land off Hinckley Rd Barlestone, Leics.
Project Type	Fieldwalking survey
Project Manager	Vicki Score
Project Supervisor	Jon Coward
Previous/Future work	Desk-assessment; Geophysical survey to follow

Current Land Use	Arable farmland
Development Type	Mixed
Reason for Investigation	Pre-planning request following NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Decision pending
Site Co ordinates	SK4214 0529
Start/end dates of field work	Jan 2014
Archive Recipient	LMARS
Study Area	c. 28 ha

8. Acknowledgements

Fieldwork was carried out by Jon Coward, Chris Lawson, Paul Sherrard and Tom Slater. The pottery was identified by Deborah Sawday. Vicki Score managed the project.

9. Bibliography

Browning, J., 2013 *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment for Land South of Barlestone, Leicestershire (NGR SK 422 053)*. ULAS Report No 2012-168.

Sawday, D., 2009, 'The medieval and post medieval pottery and tile' in J. Coward and G. Speed, *Urban Life in Leicester: An Archaeological Excavation at Freeschool Lane*. Vol 2 *Specialist Reports* ULAS Report No.2009-140 ,v2, 36-182.

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