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Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey on
land off Heather Lane, Ravenstone,
Leicestershire
NGR: SK 401 133**

JonCoward



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**An Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey on
land off Heather Lane, Ravenstone,
Leicestershire
NGR: SK 401 133**

Jon Coward

For: Leicestershire County Council

Checked by:

Signed:



Date: 28.11.2013

Name: Patrick Clay

**University of Leicester
Archaeological Services**
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

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An Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey on land off Heather Lane, Ravenstone, Leicestershire NGR: SK 401 133

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Summary

An archaeological fieldwalking survey was carried out by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land off Heather Lane, Ravenstone, Leicestershire, on behalf of Leicestershire County Council. The fieldwalking survey revealed a sparse scatter of medieval pot, a moderate amount of more modern ceramic material, and a very few worked flints. These scatters are unlikely to be significant.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services Section, accession no. XA.178.2013.

1. Introduction

This report presents the results of an archaeological fieldwalking survey carried out on 29th October 2013 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land west of Heather Lane, Ravenstone (SK 401 133). The work was undertaken as part of an archaeological evaluation in advance of proposed residential development.

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The site is approximately 2.5 ha in area and comprises two arable fields. Only part of the southern field was within the survey area. The land slopes gently down to the west. The British Geological Survey (www.bgs.ac.uk) records the bedrock below the site as the Tarporley Siltstone Formation overlain by superficial glaciofluvial sand and gravel deposits.

3. Archaeological Background

The Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the site lies within an area of known archaeology. An Archaeological desk-based Assessment indicated that the proposed development area (Clarke 2013) includes traces of ridge and furrow earthworks across the site. Scatters of Mesolithic and Bronze Age flint tools have been recorded through extensive fieldwalking undertaken in the surrounding area, and there is also good evidence for Iron Age and Roman occupation nearby, in the form of cropmarks and pottery scatters. There is therefore potential for prehistoric and Roman deposits to be present below-ground, with less potential for the presence of deposits of a medieval date. The site has not undergone previous development and any archaeological deposits that are present therefore are likely to be relatively well-preserved and close to the ground surface. A geophysical survey by Stratascan however was inconclusive (Haddrell 2013).

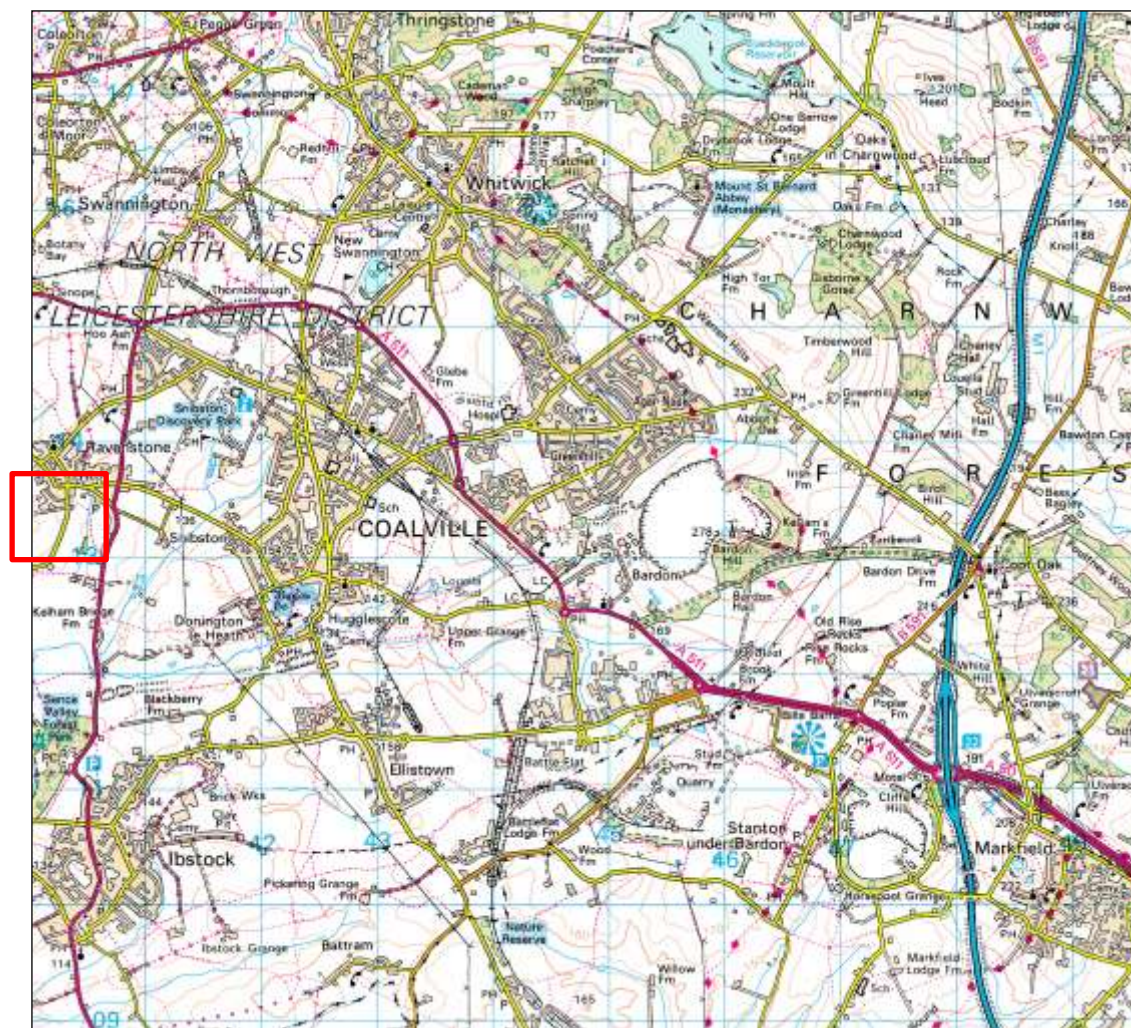


Figure 1. Site Location

Taken from OS Landranger Map Sheet 129 Nottingham and Loughborough

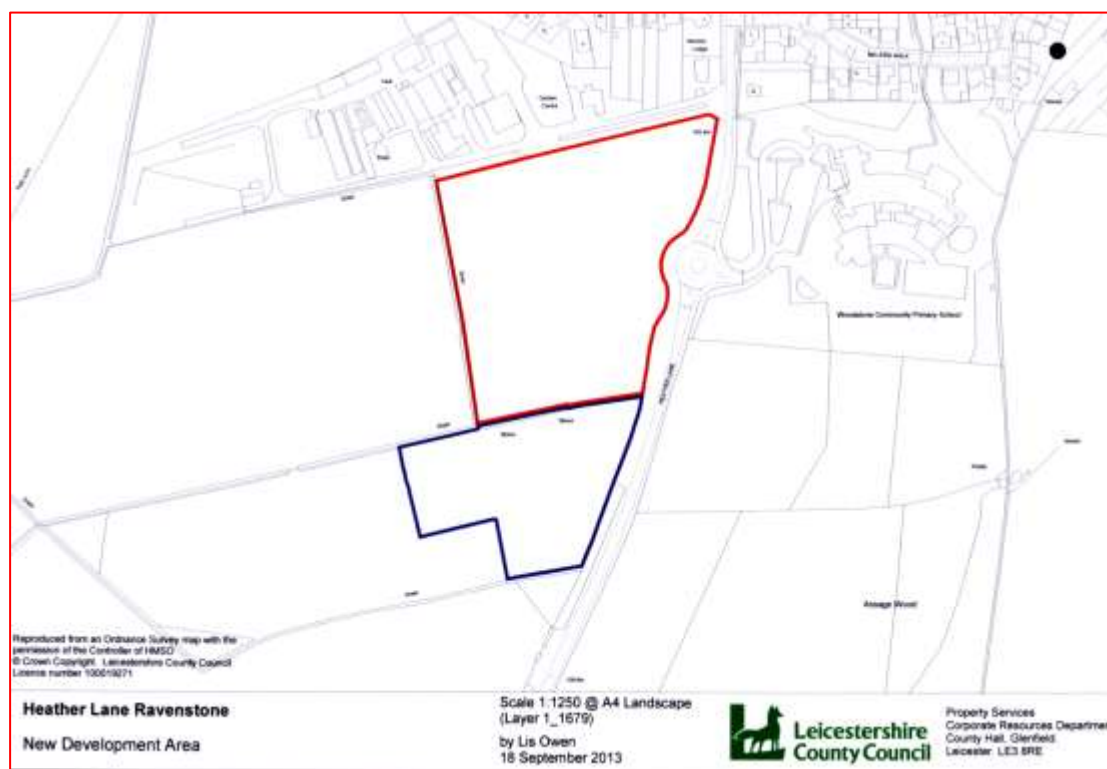


Figure 2 Survey area based on a plan supplied by Leicestershire County Council

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. Pre-modern artefacts were collected and bagged along 10m transects. The location of the finds was plotted using hand held GPS loggers (Garmin extrex Legend and Garmin GPS 72, indicated satellite accuracy 2-5m). Assuming a field of vision of 2 metres, a 20% sample of the survey area surface was examined.

The visibility during the survey was reasonable to good; the light was often harsh and oblique but the crop was not obscuring the surface unduly. Artefacts of obvious modern date were not collected. 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)*.



Figure 3: North field looking north-west towards the Garden Centre

5. Results

There was a widespread scatter of modern pottery, glass, and ceramic building material which was not recovered; in the northern field it was clear that a ceramic field drain system had been damaged by ploughing.

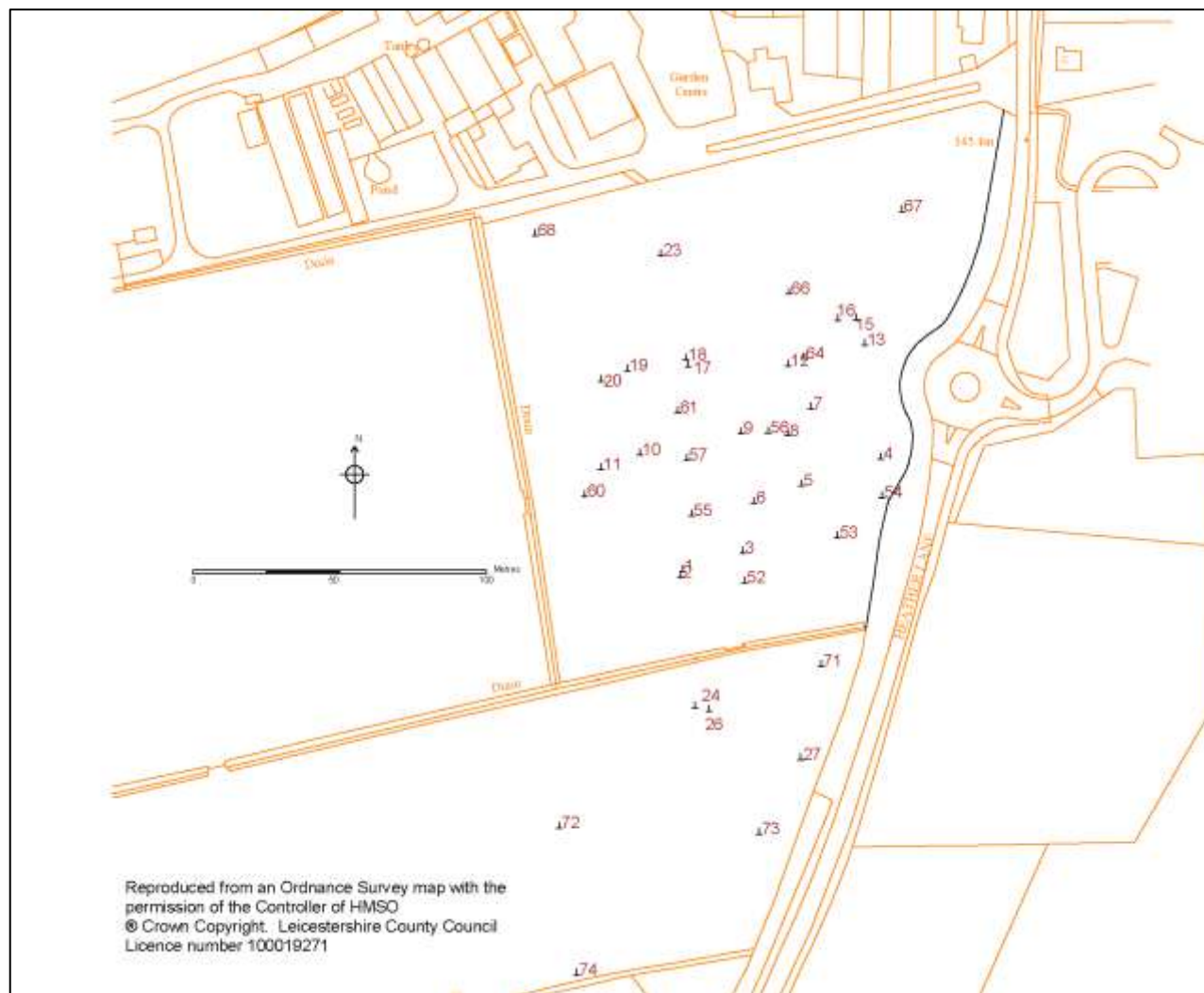


Figure 4 Post-medieval ceramics

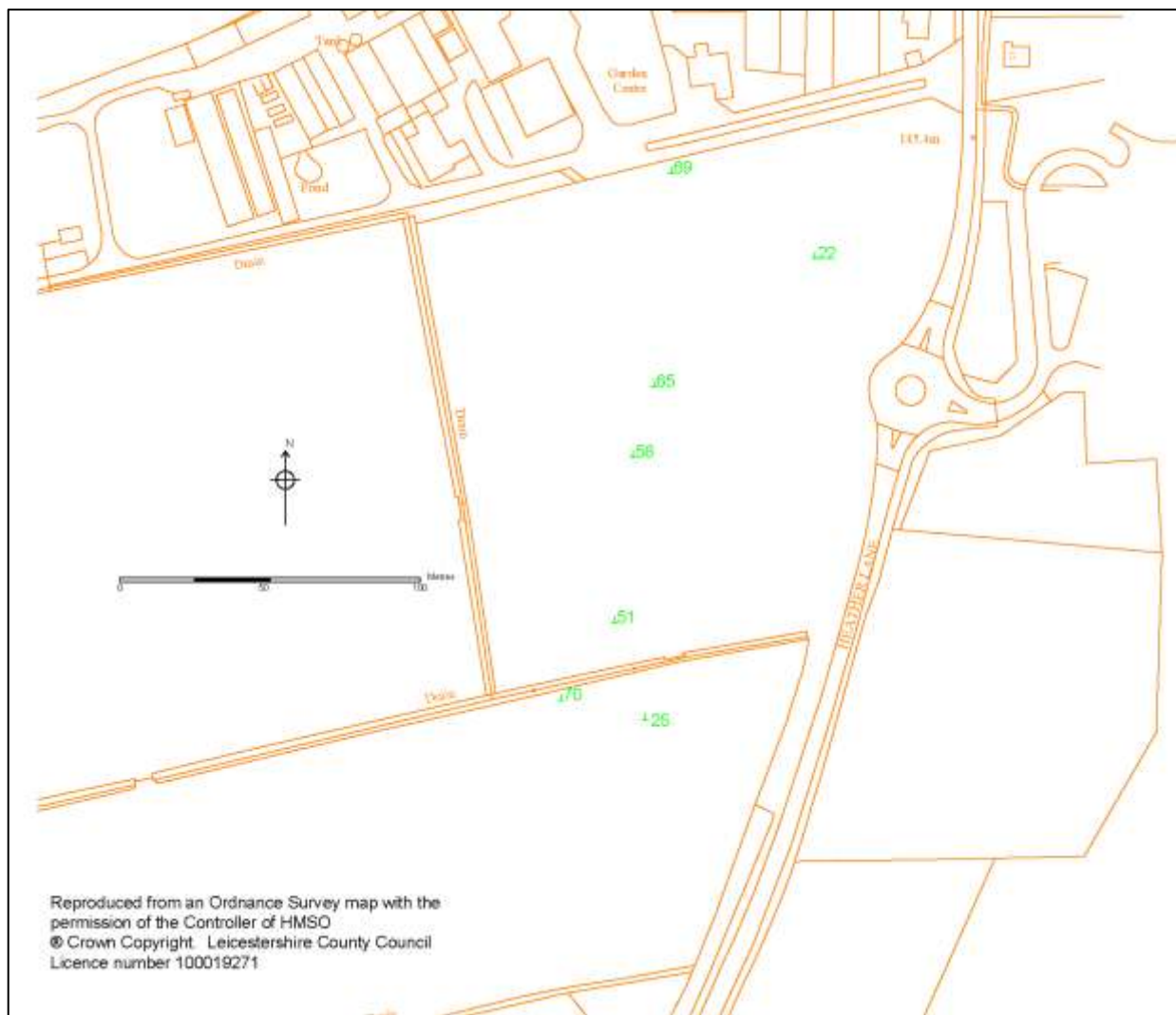


Figure 5 Medieval and late medieval ceramics

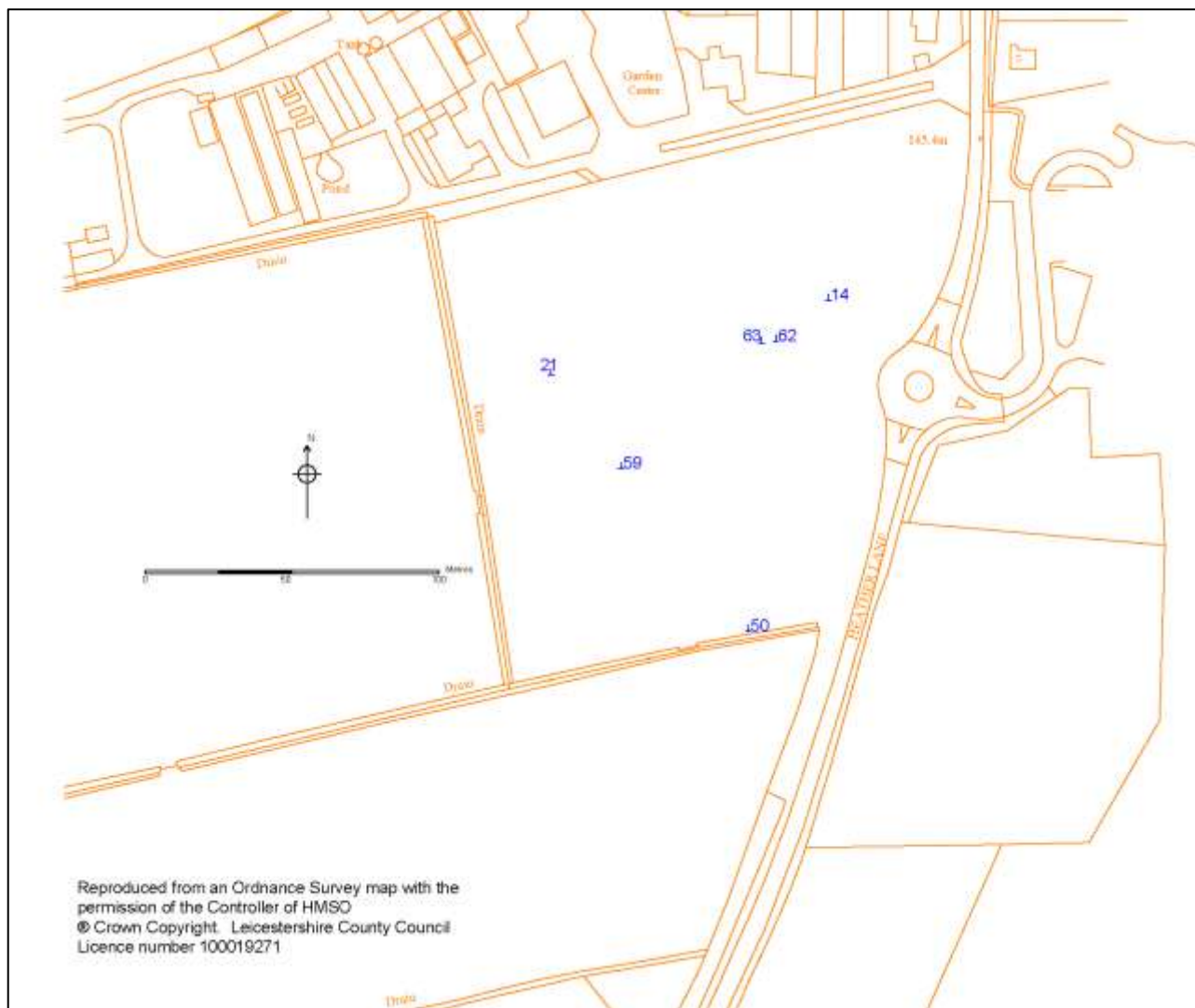


Figure 6 Lithics



Figure 7 North field looking north-east



Figure 8 South field, looking west

6. The Finds

The Lithics

Lynden Cooper

Six worked flints were recovered. The pieces were all of local till-derived flint. The typotechnology of the assemblage would suggest a later prehistoric date, probably Bronze Age.

14	piercer
21	Scraper on natural piece, straight retouch
50	3ry flake
59	Thumbnail scraper (crude)
62	3ry flake
63	Core? Could be plough-struck

The Ceramic Finds

Deborah Sawday

The pottery and ceramic building material, with find spots and approximate date ranges where appropriate, have been catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 1989; Sawday 2009), (Tables 1 and 2).

Five sherds of Medieval Sandy ware, dating from the 13th century or later, including a jar rim, were recorded together with two sherds of later medieval pottery in Midland Purple and Cistercian ware. The latter is possibly part of a two handled cup (Mellor and Pearce 1981, fig.41. 204, 207 and 209). All of the remaining pottery and ceramic building material was post medieval or modern in date.

The most likely sources for the medieval and much of the post medieval pottery are Chilvers Coton in Warwickshire and Ticknall in Derbyshire. These finds were presumably deposited as a result of the manuring of the arable fields from the medieval period onwards.

Table 1: Key to Pottery/Ceramic Building Material Fabrics and to Date ranges

Fabric	Ware	Date Code	Period	Date Range
MS2	Medieval Sandy 2	MED		c.1200/50-1400
MS	Medieval Sandy	LM/LM	Med/Late Med	c.1200/50-1500/50
MP	Midland Purple	LM	Late Med.	c.1375-1550
CW2	Cistercian ware 2	LM	Late Med.	c.1450-1550
EA1	Earthenware 1	EPM/PM	Early Post Med/Post Med	c.1500/50-1750
EA2	Earthenware 2	PM/MOD	Post Med/Mod	c.1500/50-1900+
EA6	Blackware	PM	Post Med	c.1650-1750
EA7	Slipware	PM	Post Med	c.1650-1750
EA	Earthenware	PM/MOD	Post Med/Mod	c.1500-1900+

Table 2: The ceramic finds by find spot, find type, fabric, number and date range.

No	Find type	Fabric	No	Date Range	Comments
1	pot	EA2	1	PM	Early in sequence
2	pot	EA6	1	PM	
4	pot	EA7	2	PM	Wheel thrown hollow - ware
5	pot	EA2	1	PM/MOD	
6	pot	EA2	1	PM/MOD	Wide mouthed bowl/pancheon rim
7	pot	EA	1	MOD	
8	pot	EA2	1	PM	
9	pot	EA7	1	PM	Wheel thrown flat – ware, traces of white trailed slip
10	pot	EA2	1	PM	Small fine ware vessel
12	pot	EA2	1	PM/MOD	
13	pot	EA2	1	PM/MOD	
16	pot	EA2	1	PM/MOD	Bowl rim
17	pot	EA2	1	PM/MOD	
18	pot	EA2	1	PM/MOD	Bowl rim
19	pot	EA2	1	PM/MOD	
20	pot	EA2	1	PM/MOD	Bowl rim
22	pot	MP1	1	LM	Internally glazed hollow ware – jar or cistern.
23	pot	EA	1	MOD	
24	pot	EA2	1	PM/MOD	
25	pot	MS	1	MED/LM	Glazed internally, trimmed externally.
26	tile	EA	1	MOD	
27	pot	EA2	1	PM/MOD	
51	pot	CW 2	1	LM	Cup/jar base, glazed
54	pot	EA2	1	PM/MOD	Bowl rim
56	pot	EA2	1	PM/MOD	
58	pot	MS2	1	MED	Abraded, traces of glaze and horizontal combed lines, probably a jug body.
60	pot	EA2	1	PM	Early in sequence
61	drain	EA	1	MOD	Field drain pipe
65	pot	MS	1	LM	? highly fired CC1
66	pot	EA2	1	PM/MOD	
67	pot	EA6	1	PM	Wide mouthed bowl/pancheon rim
68	pot	EA	1	MOD	Flower-pot
69	pot	MS	1	MED	Jar rim
70	pot	MS	1	LM	Bowl, glazed internally
71	pot	EA2	1	PM/MOD	
72	pot	EA2	1	PM/MOD	
73	pot	EA	1	MOD	
74	pot	EA	1	PM/MOD	Base of small hollow-ware

Site/ Parish: Ravenstone, Leics. Accession No.: XA173 2013 Document Ref: ravenstone2.docx Material: pottery/tile/ flint Site Type: open fields	Submitter: Jon Coward Identifier: D. Sawday, L. Cooper Date of Identification: 18.11.13 Method of Recovery: field-walking Job Number: 14/562
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7. Conclusions

Both the lithics, and the medieval and post-medieval pottery scatters are dispersed and show no concentrations; of note is the complete absence of any Romano-British material. The lithics indicate some activity in the area probably during the Bronze Age. The medieval and post-medieval pottery is likely to have been introduced on to the fields as manuring scatters.

8. Archive

The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services, under accession number XA178 2013.

The archive contains:

- 1 box of finds
- 5 digital photographs
- Unbound copy of this report

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	Heather Lane, Ravenstone, Leics.
Project Type	Fieldwalking survey
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Jon Coward
Previous/Future work	Desk-assessment; Geophysical survey. Trial trenching to follow
Current Land Use	Arable farmland
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	Pre-planning request following NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Decision pending
Site Co ordinates	NGR SK 401 133
Start/end dates of field work	29.10.2013
Archive Recipient	LCC
Study Area	c. 360 square metres

9. Acknowledgements

Fieldwork was carried out by Jon Coward and Leon Hunt. The pottery was identified by Deborah Sawday and the flint by Lynden Cooper. Patrick Clay managed the project. Access was arranged by Francesca Statham of LCC.

10. Bibliography

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Jon Coward
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel:0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614

Email: ulas@le.ac.uk

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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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