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Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological
Fieldwalking Survey
at Leicester Lane, Enderby,
Leicestershire
(SP 5483 9942)**




Roger Kipling

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**An Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey
At Leicester Lane, Enderby,
Leicestershire
(SP 5483 9942)**

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For: Mather Jamie Ltd.

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An Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey at Leicester Lane, Enderby, Leicestershire (SP 5483 9942)

Roger Kipling

Summary

An archaeological fieldwalking survey was undertaken in January 2015 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Mather Jamie on land at Leicester Lane, Enderby, Leicestershire. The fieldwork was undertaken as part of a combined programme of geophysical and fieldwalking survey in advance of proposed mixed commercial and residential development of the site. The archaeological fieldwalking survey produced a small assemblage of Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery in addition to several later prehistoric worked flints, suggesting the possible presence of Roman and/or medieval remains on site.

The site archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council under the accession number X.A10.2015.

Introduction

Mather Jamie wish to apply for planning permission for a mixed commercial and residential development on land at Leicester Lane, Enderby, Leicestershire. The c.31.4 hectare area, comprising six arable fields (SP 5483 9942) has been identified as having some archaeological potential following analysis of the Historic Environment Record (HER) and via a desk-based assessment (Kipling 2014) and a geophysical survey (Stratascan 2014). 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 a non-intrusive fieldwalking survey. The agreed scheme was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (ULAS 2015).

Archaeological Background

The archaeological desk-based assessment commissioned for the site indicated that the application area lies within an area of known archaeological interest.

Prehistoric/Undated

Palaeolithic flint tools have been found in the vicinity (**MLE6041**), whilst a large assemblage of Neolithic to the Iron Age flint tools were found during the excavation of an Iron Age site north of the site (**MLE7123**). A scatter of flint material and sherds

of pottery dating from the Neolithic to Early Bronze Age were found 300m south-east of the site (**MLE7377**).

Excavations undertaken prior to construction of the Park and Ride directly north of the present site in 2006 revealed a mid/late Iron Age double ditch system (**MLE16060**), the easternmost ditch containing mid/late Iron Age pottery and the westernmost Roman finds (mainly C1st/C2nd in date).

Trial trenching and excavation in 2011/12 on land fronting Leicester Lane flanking the southern boundary of the present site recorded Iron Age/Roman features consisting of two pits and a ditch (**MLE19315**), whilst a substantial Iron Age site was discovered south-west of Grove Farm Triangle in the 1980s and 1990s.

Excavation by ULAS on the Park and Ride site directly north of the site revealed evidence for further two Iron Age houses and a double ditch system (**MLE16060 & MLE16060**; Harvey 2011). The area was occupied into the Roman period (see below). The cropmarks within the site itself (**MLE16568 & MLE16569**) are most likely prehistoric or possibly Roman in date. One appears to be a double ditch. Trial trenching in 2012 confirmed the presence of various ditches, including drove ways, a stock enclosure and possibly a dew pond (**ELE8611**).

Romano-British

The site is traversed by the line of the major Roman road known as the Fosse Way (**MLE1380**). Metal detecting along the route close to the Grove Farm Triangle, yielded Roman brooches, a coin and a copper alloy seal box lid (**MLE7684**). Geophysical survey in 2005 revealed a series of parallel linear anomalies to the west of the survey area tentatively interpreted as ditches associated with the Fosse Way and subsequently confirmed by excavation (**ELE7192**; Harvey 2006).

During the excavations at the Park and Ride site excavation in 2008 six collections of human remains, some in very poor condition, were recorded. The identifiable remains consisted of two male skeletons and one female. They are probably Roman since they have no grave goods (**MLE17757**) (Harvey 2009; 2011). Trial trenching to the north of the Police Headquarters in 2012 (**MLE20819**) recorded three ditches, a shallow pit and a stone-lined circular feature, possibly a hearth (**ELE8611**).

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 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct (2014) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014). The LCC *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological work Leicestershire and Rutland* (1997) was also adhered to.

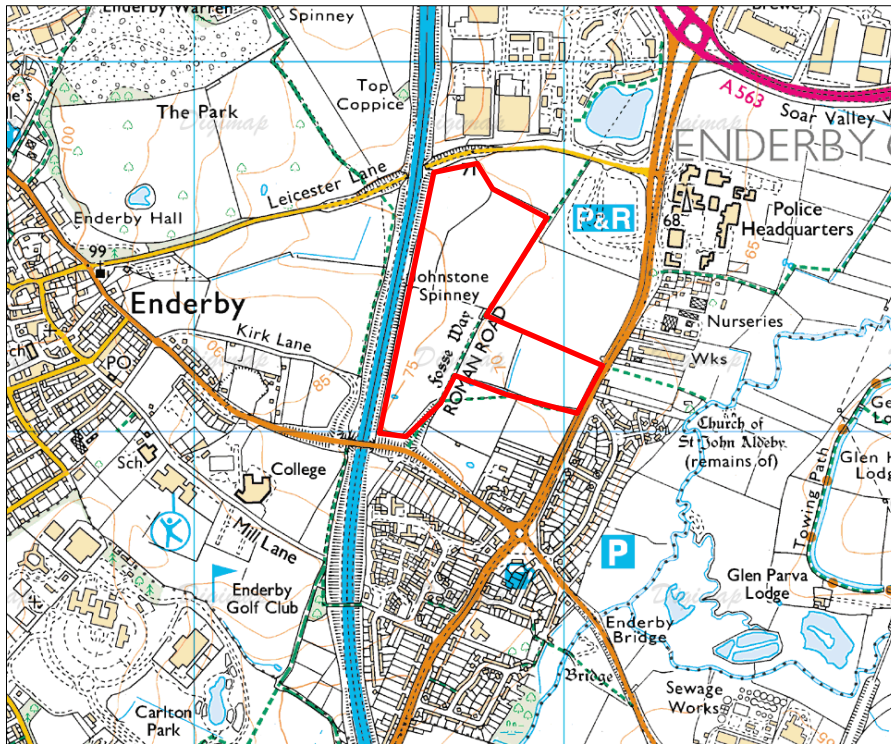


Figure 1: Location of the fieldwalking survey at Leicester Lane

Site Description, Topography and Geology

The application area lies on the south-eastern edge of Enderby south of the Park and Ride site and Fosse Park shopping centre and between the M1 to the west and St. Johns (B4114) to the east. The land is spread across six arable fields and is crossed on a south-west to north-east line by the line of the Fosse Way Roman road in the form of a public footpath. The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 169 indicates that the underlying geology of the site is likely to consist of Edwalton Member – Mudstone. The drift geology is Thruslington Member – Diamicton across the west of the site, Oadby Member – Diamicton in the north-east and Glaciofluvial Deposits, Mid Pleistocene – Sand and Gravel in the south-east (British Geological Survey website). The overlying soils are known as Salop which are typical stagnogley soils. These consist of reddish fine loamy over clayey soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 3 Midland and Western England).

The site rises gradually to the west and lies at a height of *c.* 70m O.D.

Aims of the Survey

The survey area had the potential to contain settlement remains of the later Iron Age and Roman periods. Key objectives were to attempt to determine the chronology through dating of surface assemblages. A key research question was what impact the Roman conquest had upon rural settlements and landscapes (eg through agricultural

intensification, introduction of new crops or products) and how this is manifested in variations in settlement forms. Data was sought to contribute to examination of resource trading and movement, the production, movement and consumption of pottery within the regional economy and whether artefact research can contribute to studies of eating, drinking and other manifestations of social identity. (Research Agenda topics 4.1.1 and 4.1.2; 4.5.2; 4.8.3; 5.4.1 to 5.4.6; 5.5.1 to 5.5.5; 5.6.1; 5.5.3; 5.5.6; Research Objective 4B - refine first millennium BC ceramic chronology by additional radiocarbon dating and typological analyses; Research Objective 4E - Assess the evidence for the evolution of settlement hierarchies; Research Objective 4F - Investigate intra-regional variations in the development of fields and linear boundary systems; Research Objective 4G - Study the production, distribution and use of artefacts; Research Objective 5C - Promote the systematic application of scientific dating techniques to sites of the Roman period; Research Objective 5E - Promote the integration of specialist studies of material relating to subsistence, diet and health research Objective 5H - Investigate the landscape context of rural settlements. Knight et al 2012).

The overall aim of the survey was to gather sufficient information to establish the presence, extent and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any archaeological evidence within the survey area.

A magnetic gradiometer geophysical survey of the site undertaken in September 2014 by Stratascan detected a linear feature and an angled linear positive anomaly in the west of the site, interpreted as either archaeological enclosures or field boundaries. Other linear anomalies in the west of the site were interpreted as former field boundaries and small discrete positive anomalies as possible backfilled pits (Stratascan 2014).



Figure 2: Results of geophysical survey

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. Work was undertaken between 27th and 28th January 2015. 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.

Two further fields, one at the northern end of the development fronting Leicester Lane and a second fronting St. Johns (B4114) were not surveyed due to crop stubble, an area totalling *c.*12ha., reducing the surveyed area to *c.*19.4ha. The visibility during the two days of survey was good with diffused lighting and the fields freshly ploughed and well-weathered.

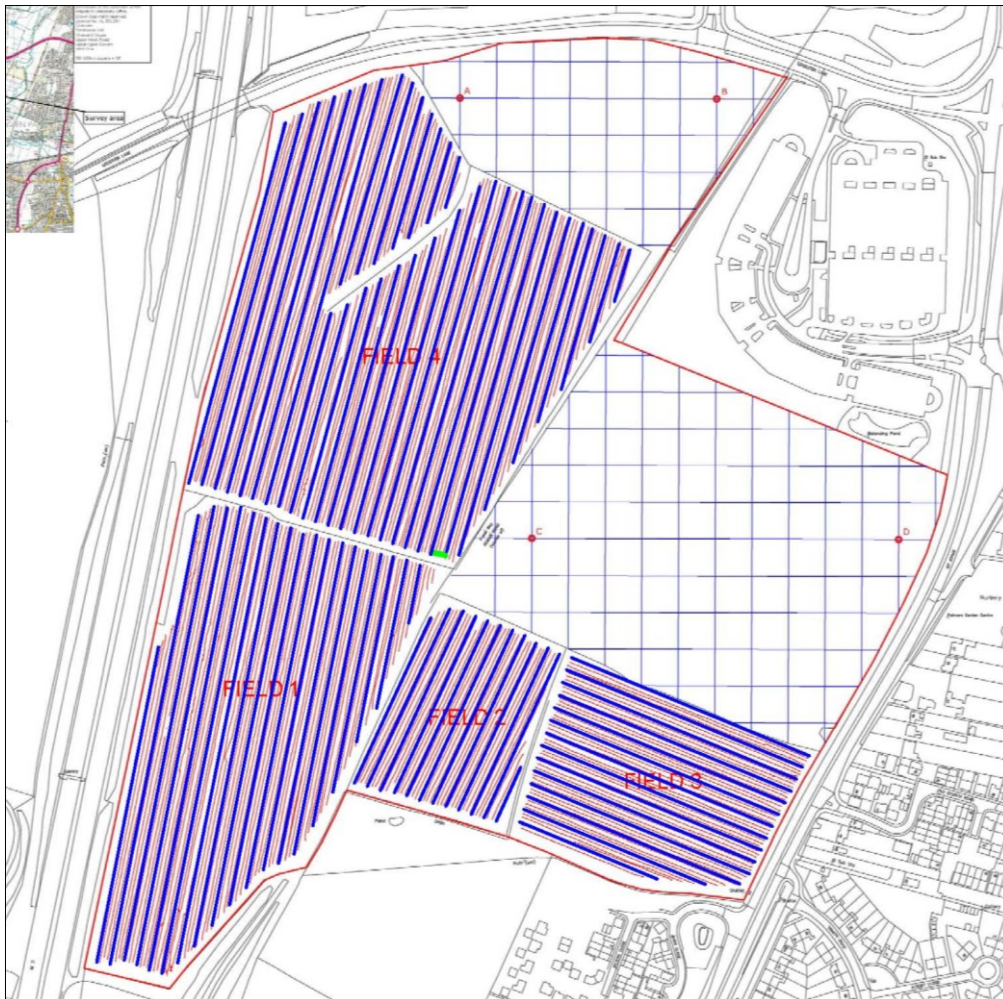


Figure 3: Fieldwalked fields (1-4) showing walked transects in blue.

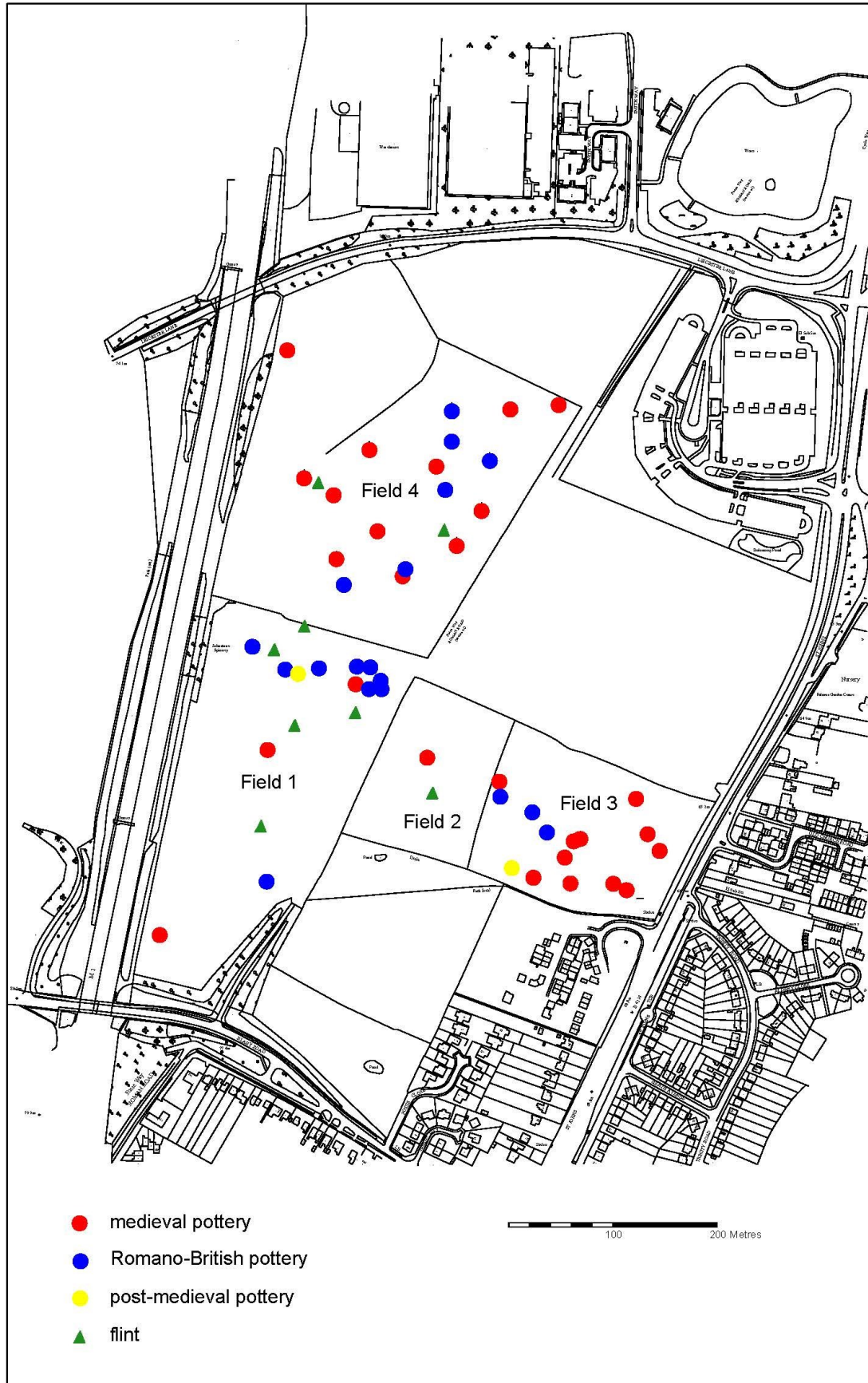


Figure 4: Fieldwalking results

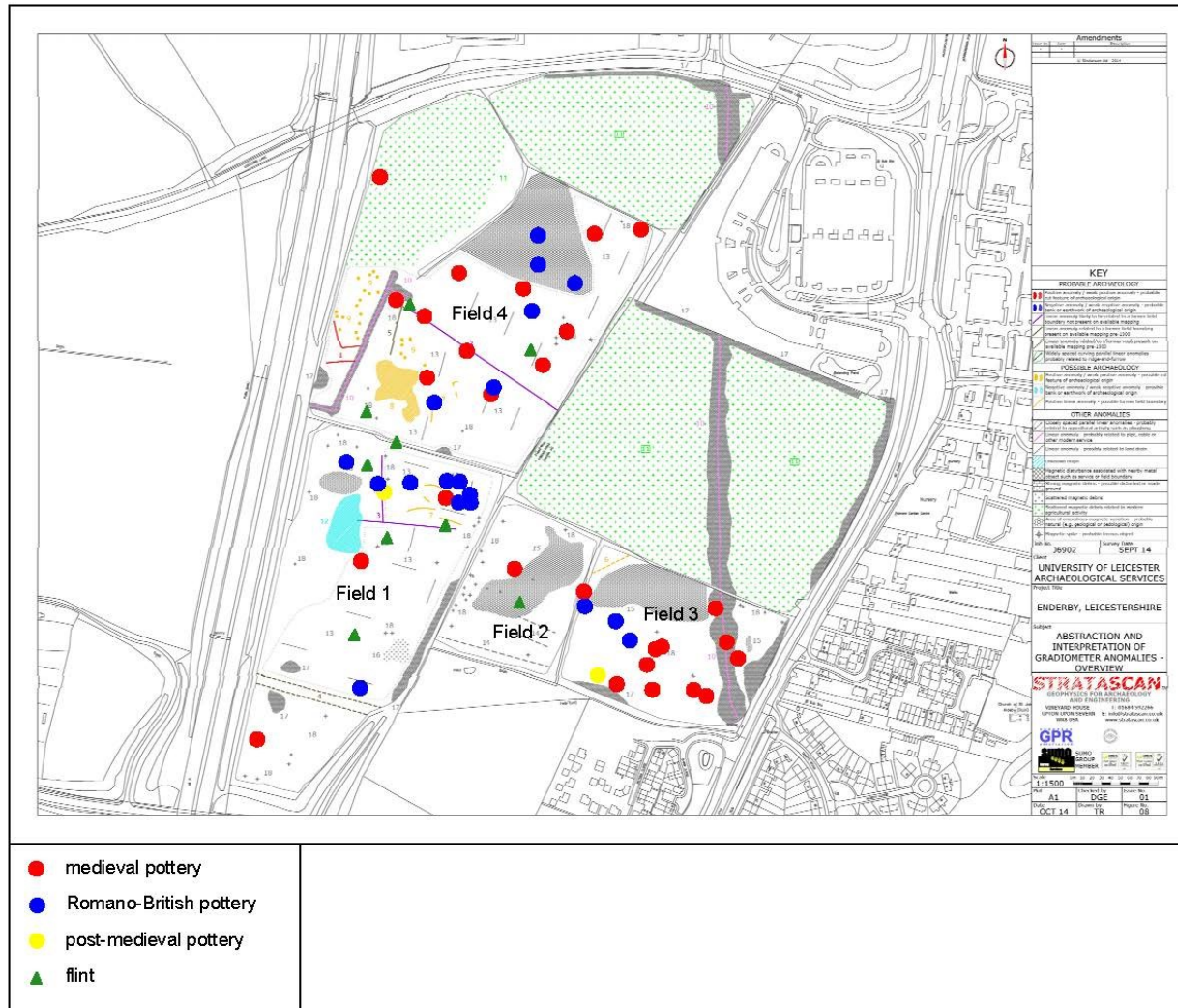


Figure 5: Fieldwalking results overlaid on geophysical survey

Results

The fieldwalking survey at Leicester Lane, Enderby, produced a small amount of archaeological material, primarily pottery fragments of predominately medieval date (33 sherds) as well as a smaller number (18) of Romano-British and post-medieval (34) date. Additional material comprised several undiagnostic flint fragments of later prehistoric date (Figure 4).

Distribution across the four fields surveyed was largely uneven, and with little or no indication of any correlation with the results of the geophysical survey (Figure 5). Field 3 demonstrated a predominance of medieval material, whilst Field 4 demonstrated a fairly even mix of Romano-British and medieval pottery. A clustering of Roman material at the north-east corner of Field 1 may, however, reflect the possible presence of archaeological features as indicated by the geophysical survey. The majority of the remaining distribution of archaeological material is, however, likely to be indicative of medieval and post-medieval/modern manuring patterns.

Discussion and Conclusions

The archaeological fieldwalking survey at Leicester Lane, Enderby, Leicestershire, produced a small quantity of Romano-British and medieval pottery. Results from Field 1 appear to reinforce geophysical survey evidence for the possible presence of Romano-British and/or medieval archaeological features. The remainder of the fieldwalking data is likely the result of manuring of the arable fields during the medieval and post-medieval/modern periods.

Archive and Publications

The site archive (X.A10.2015), consisting of pottery sherds and paper and photographic records, will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service.

The paper archive consists of:

- Paper record sheets
- 85 pottery and ceramic building material fragments
- Seven fragments of worked flint plus a modern gun flint.

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

Roger Kipling, Andy Mcleish and Jamie Patrick of ULAS undertook the archaeological evaluation on behalf of Mather Jamie Ltd. The project was managed by Patrick Clay.

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Oasis Information

Project Name	Land at Leicester Lane, Enderby, Leicestershire
Project Type	Archaeological fieldwalking survey
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Roger Kipling
Previous/Future work	Mixed use Development
Current Land Use	Agricultural
Development Type	Mixed use
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Pre-determination
Site Co ordinates	(SP 5483 9942)
Start/end dates of field work	27 th -28 th January 2015
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council
Study Area	19.4ha.

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Appendix: The Ceramic and Flint Finds*Deborah Sawday***The Finds**

The finds have been listed by find spot (Table 3). The modern material; the glass, brick or tile, and flower pot has not been retained.

The Flint

Seven fragments of worked flint and a piece of modern gun flint were recovered. The former, which comprised three scrapers and four secondary flakes, dated to the later pre-historic period, (L. Cooper, pers. comm.)

The Ceramic Material

The 85 fragments of pottery and ceramic building material were catalogued with reference to the Roman and later ULAS fabric series (Connor and Buckley 1999; Sawday 2009). The results are shown below, (Tables 1 and 2).

Table 1: The Pottery/Ceramic Building Material Fabrics.

Fabric	Ware	Approximate Date range	Notes
Roman			
GW	Grey ware	Roman	
DW	Derbyshire ware	Late 2nd – 4th C. AD	
OW	Oxidised ware	Roman	
MO4	Mortaria ware	Late 2nd – 4th C. AD	Mancetter Hartshill
WW2	White ware	Roman	
AM9	Amphora	Roman	
Medieval/Post Med/Modern			
PM	Potters Marston	1100-1300+	Potters Marston, Leics
OS2	Oxidised Sandy ware	1100-1250	?Local
CC1	Chilvers Coton A ware	1250-1300+	Chilvers Coton, Warwicks
MS2	Medieval Sandy ware	1200-1400	Chilvers Coton, Warwicks,
MS8	Medieval Sandy ware	1350-1550	Chilvers Coton, Warwicks, Ticknall Derbyshire
MP1-4	Midland Purple	1375-1550	Chilvers Coton, Warwicks, Ticknall Derbyshire
EA1	Jar/Butter pot ware	1500-1750	Chilvers Coton/Ticknall/Staffs
EA2	Earthenware 2	1750-2000	Chilvers Coton/Ticknall/Staffs
EA	Earthenware (Unclass.)	1500-1750	Staffs etc
EA7	Slipware	1600-1850	Ticknall etc
SW	Stoneware	1750-2000	Misc.

Table2: The pottery/ceramic building material fabrics present by sherd/fragment number.

Fabric/Ware	Sherd Nos.
Roman	
GW	7
DW	3
OW	5
MO4	1
WW2	1
AM9	1
Sub Total	18
Early/High Medieval	
PM	15
OS2	1
CC1	6
MS2	1
MS8	1
MP1, 2,4 – Midland Purple	9
Sub Total	33
Post Medieval/Modern	
EA1 – Earthenware 1	1
EA2 -	5
EA – Earthenware (Unclassified cbm/flower pot)	11
EA7 - Slipware	1
SW –Salt-Glazed Stoneware	16
Sub Total	34
Site Total	85

Eighteen fragments of Roman pottery (N. Cooper pers. comm.) were present, together with 67 sherds of medieval and later pottery and/or ceramic building material.

Conclusion

The Roman finds are evidently associated with the Fosse Way which traversed the site. The post-Roman finds are probably the result of the manuring of the fields with ‘night-soil’ from the nearby village of Enderby from the medieval period onwards.

Bibliography

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Table 3: The ceramic finds by fabric, fragment number, period and find spot.

Notes: All pottery unless specified otherwise. CBM - Ceramic Building Material Date Code: LPRH = Later Pre-historic, RB = Roman, EM = Early Med, MED = Medieval, LM = Later Medieval, PM = Post Medieval, MOD = Modern				
Find No	Fabric	Sherd No.	Date	Comments
101	EA2	2	PM/MOD	discarded
102	Glass	1	MOD	discarded
103	Glass	1	MOD	discarded
104	EA2	1	PM/MOD	discarded
105	MO4	1	RB	Mortarium - 3 rd -4 th C. AD
105	OW	1	RB	
106	Glass	1	MOD	discarded
107	EA	1	MOD	Flower pot - discarded
108	Flint	1	LPRH	scraper
109	EA7	1	PM	Press moulded slipware dish
110	Flint	1	LPRH	Secondary flake
112	MP2	1	LM	reduced
113	PM	1	EM/MED	?storage jar fragment, abraded
114	MP4	1	LM	
115	EA	1	MOD	CBM - discarded
116	EA	1	MOD	CBM - discarded
117	EA	1	MOD	CBM - discarded
118	MP1	1	LM	
119	MS2	1	MED/LM	
120	EA1	1	EPM	oxidised
121	MP2	1	LM	Jug rim
122	MP2	1	LM	
123	MP1	1	LM	Under-fired, oxidised
124	OW	1	RB	Necked jar
125	GW	1	RB	
126	CC1	1	MED	Jug rim
127	OW	1	RB	
128	PM	1	EM/MED	abraded
128	CC1	1	MED	
129	PM	1	EM/MED	abraded
131	CC1	1	MED	
132	Flint	1	LPRH	Concave scraper
201B	Flint	1	LPRH	Secondary flake
202A	EA	1	MOD	CBM - discarded
203A	EA	1	MOD	CBM - discarded

204A	SW	1	MOD	Beer Bottle top
205A	OW	1	RB	
206B	Flint	1	LPRH	Secondary flake
207B	Flint	1	PM/MOD	Gun flint 7/8 x 5/8" (Brandon source)
208A	EA	1	MOD	Flower pot - discarded
209A	MP1	1	LM	glazed
301A	WW2	1	RB	White ware
302A	GW	1	RB	
304A	EA	1	MOD	CBM - discarded
305A	EA2	1	PM/MOD	discarded
306A	AM9	1	RB	Amphora
307A	PM	1	EM/MED	Strap handle - abraded
308A	GW	1	RB	base
309A	GW	1	RB	
310A	PM	1	EM/MED	abraded
311A	coal	1		discarded
312A	DW	1	RB	
313A	PM	1	EM/MED	abraded
314B	Flint	1	LPRH	Secondary flake
315A	OS2	1	EM	
316A	MP1	1	LM	
317A	DW	1	RB	
318A	DW	1	RB	
319A	CC1	1	MED	
320A	GW	1	RB	
321A	PM	1	EM/MED	Abraded rim
322A	PM	1	EM/MED	abraded
323	PM	1	EM/MED	?stj fragment, abraded
324A	CC1	1	MED	
325A	MP1	1	LM	Oxidised jar rim
326A	MS8	1	LM	
327A	EA	1	MOD	CBM -discarded
328A	EA2	1	PM/MOD	discarded
329A	CC1	1	MED	
330A	GW	1	RB	
331B	Flint	1	LPRH	Scraper
332A	PM	1	EM/MED	abraded
333A	Coal	1		discarded
334A	PM	1	EM/MED	abraded
335A	GW	1	RB	
336A	EA	1	MOD	CBM -discarded
338A	PM	1	EM/MED	abraded
337A	OW	1	RB	
339A	PM	1	EM/MED	abraded
340A	PM	1	EM/MED	abraded
341A	PM	1	EM/MED	abraded

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