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Archaeological Services

**A Fieldwalking survey on
land north-east of
Charity Farm,
Uppingham Road,
Bushby, Thurnby Parish,
Leicestershire
NGR: SK 65311 04851**

Donald Clark and Claire LaCombe




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Charity Farm, Uppingham Road, Bushby,
Thurnby Parish, Leicestershire**

NGR: SK 65311 04851

Donald Clark and Claire LaCombe

For: Nexus Heritage on behalf of Bloor Homes Ltd

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A fieldwalking survey on land north-east of Charity Farm, Uppingham Road, Bushby, Thurnby Parish, Leicestershire

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Summary

A field walking survey was undertaken on 15th December 2016 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services, commissioned by Nexus Heritage on behalf of Bloor Homes Ltd, on land north-east of Charity Farm, Uppingham Road, Bushby, Thurnby Parish, Leicestershire.

The area was surveyed prior to proposed development of a sports pitch. The 1.6 hectare area was field walked in 10m transects with position of finds logged on the site plan.

A record of the field walking survey will be transferred to the Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the Accession No. X.A146.2016.

Introduction

On the 15th December 2016 a team from University of Leicester Archaeological Services carried out a field walk survey of a 1.6 hectare parcel of land to the north-east of Charity Farm, Uppingham Road, Bushby, Thurnby Parish, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 65311 04851). The survey was commissioned by Nexus Heritage on behalf of Bloor Homes Ltd

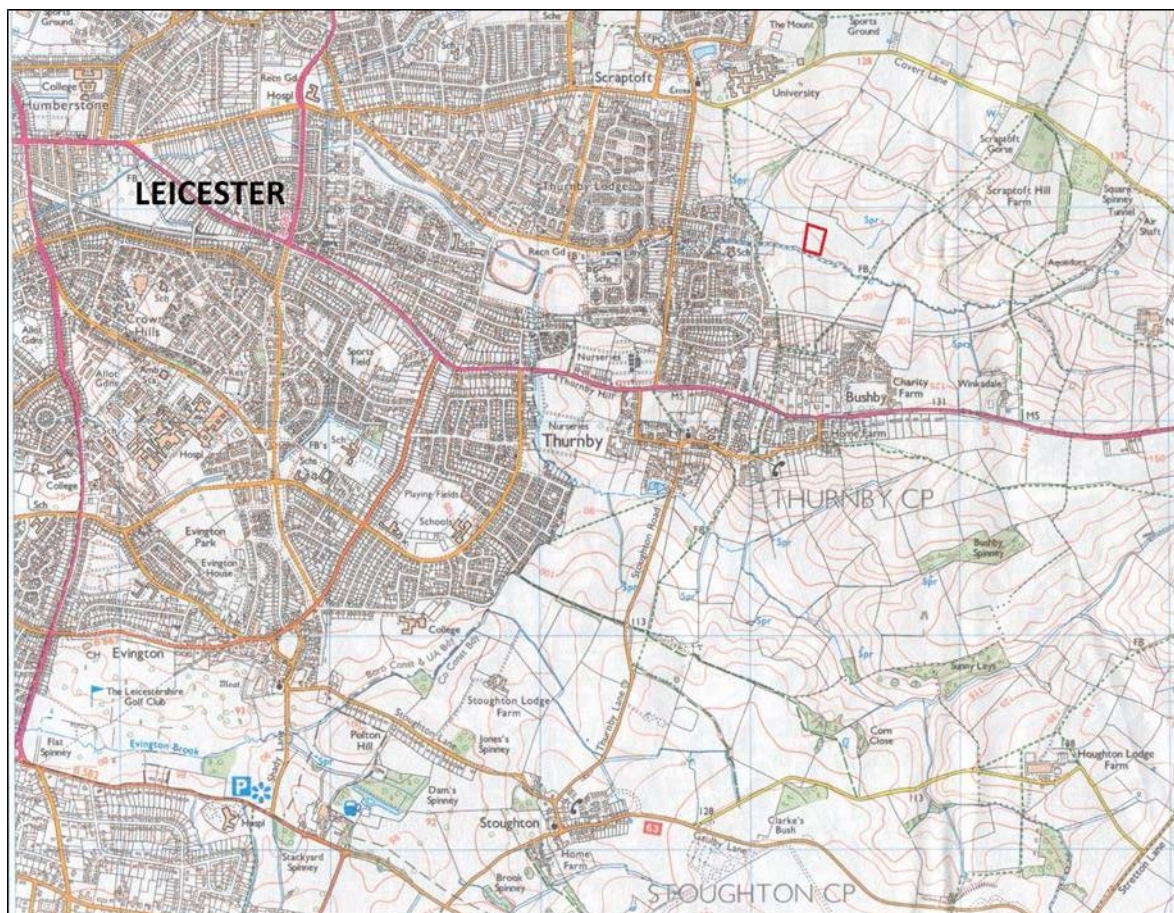


Figure 1. Location of site (supplied by client)

Site Description, Topography and Geology

The application area covers an area of c.1.6 hectares comprising part of one arable fields located north-east of the Charity Farm north of Uppingham Road, Bushby in Thurnby parish. The site rises gradually to the north and appears to be the original topography

The site lies to the east and north of Charity Farm, on the northern side of Thurnby Hill, within the parish of Thurnby and Bushby, Harborough, Leicestershire, around 3 miles east of Leicester City centre (Figure 1).

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain indicates that the underlying geology of this area consists mainly of Glacial Till in the southern part of the site overlying sand and gravel and Lower Lias Clays and Limestones to the north and west (Geological Survey of England and Wales, Solid and Drift Geology, Sheet 156). The land lies at a height of 131m aOD.

Archaeological Background

The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland indicates that there are no known archaeological sites within the assessment area itself. The HER does indicate that there are a number of sites in the vicinity of the study area. The more relevant of these are summarised below; a full list is shown in the Appendix and shown on Figure 2. An archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared for the adjacent application (SK 658 041; Hunt 2010).

Prehistoric

A large quantity of flint artefacts, dating from the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age periods have been found on a site around 500m south-south-west of the assessment area (**MLE16940**). A prehistoric axe hammer was found in the centre of Thurnby, around 900m south-west of the site (**MLE6338**).

A recent evaluation on land to the north-west of the assessment area has revealed evidence of Bronze Age activity, including a cooking area (a so-called 'burnt mound'), along with undated pits containing possible cremations and field systems (Coward 2010).

Roman

Sixteen burials were discovered at a site at St. Luke's Close in Thurnby in 1957. Finds associated with the bodies included brooches, rings and pottery (**MLE2538**).

Around 69 sherds of Roman pottery, including high quality Samian ware, have been found on a site around 900m south of the assessment area (**MLE9136**). Further finds lie nearby (**MLE2537**). Another findspot for Roman pottery lies around 250m to the north-west of the site (**MLE9503**).

Medieval

The site lies outside the early medieval settlement cores of both Thurnby (**MLE9022**) and Bushby (**MLE9023**). Medieval pottery has been found alongside the Roman pottery mentioned above (**MLE9506**)

Post-medieval

A group of earthworks from the post-medieval period have been identified at Hereford Drive in Bushby, around 700m west of the site (**MLE9137**). All the other post-medieval features within the vicinity of the assessment area are buildings within the settlement core of Thurnby or the milestone along the Uppingham Road, 300m east of the assessment area (**MLE13606**).

A 17th century button has been found in a garden opposite the assessment area (**NCL-64E498**).

The line of the railway, now dismantled, lies at the northern edge of the site (**MLE16088**).

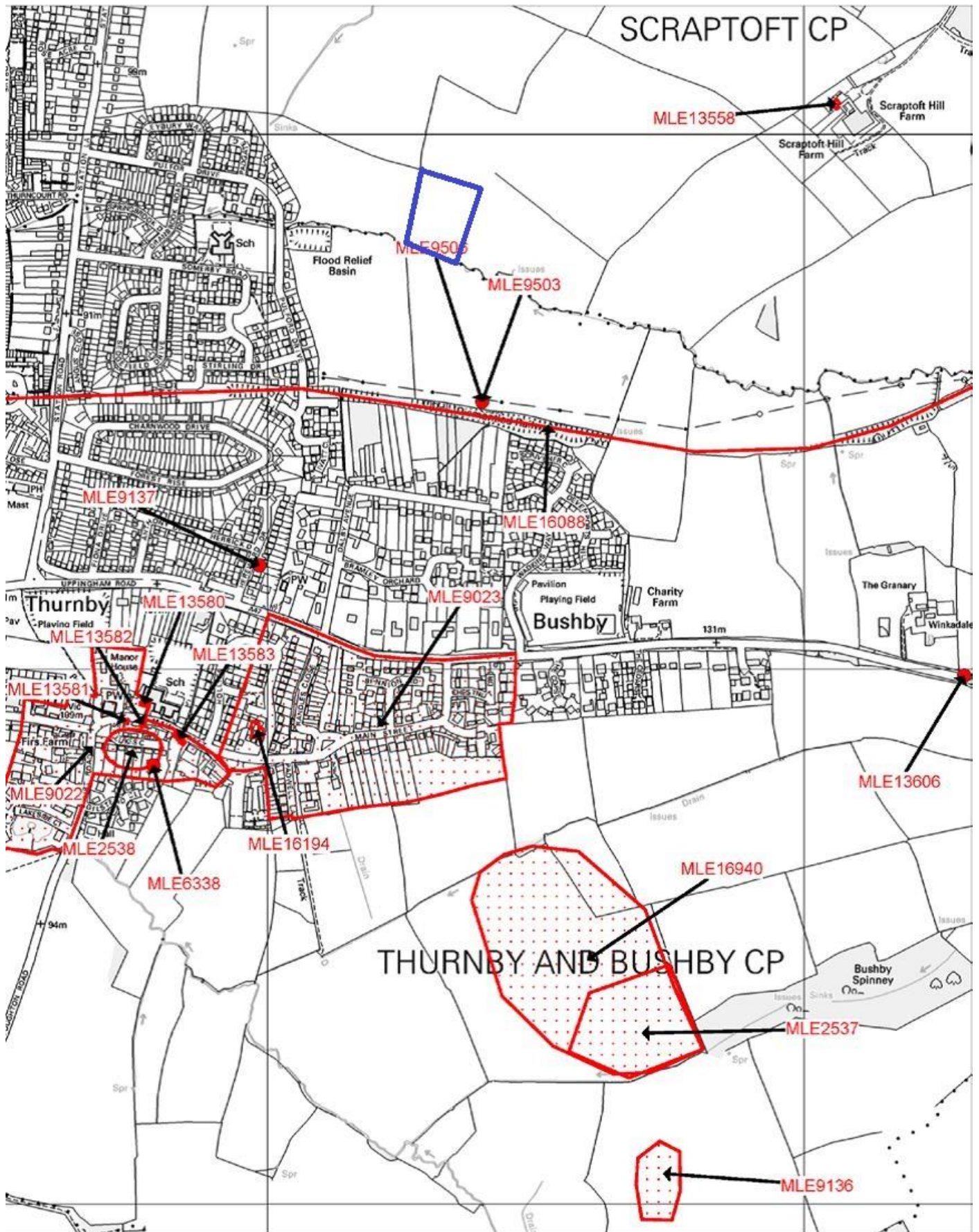


Figure 2. Plan of sites in the vicinity shown on the Historic Environment record for Leicestershire and Rutland. Scale 1:10000 (development site outlined in blue)

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 GPS 72). Assuming a field of vision of 2 metres, a 20% sample of the survey area surface was examined.

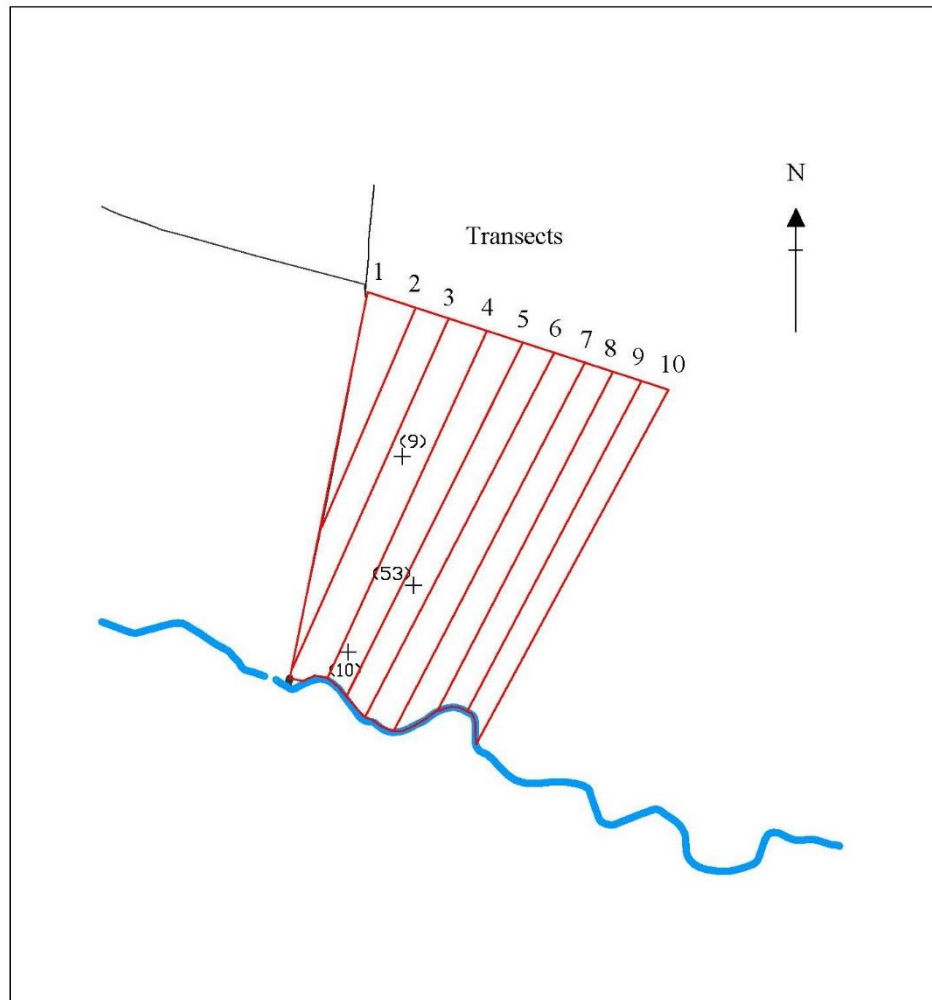


Figure 3. Positioning of Transects and location of finds (Wavpoints)

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 Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's (CIFA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (2014) and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LMARS 1997).

Results

There was a widespread scatter of modern pottery, glass and ceramic building material across the area for development which was not recovered due to their obvious modern nature.



Figure 4. View looking south



Figure 5. View looking north



Figure 6. View looking west along the southern edge of the development area



Figure 7. View looking west along the southern edge of the development area



Figure 8. View looking north-west from the south-eastern corner of the development area



Figure 9. View looking north-west from the southern edge of the development area



Figure 10. View looking north-west from the southern edge of the development area.



Figure 11. View looking north-west from the southern edge of the development area.



Figure 12. View looking north from the southern edge of the development area.



Figure 13. View looking east along the southern edge of the development area.

The Finds

The Post Roman Finds

Deborah Sawday

Methodology

The pottery; three sherds, weighing 74 grams, was examined under an x20 binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to current guidelines (MPRG 1998; MPRG 2016) and the ULAS fabric series (Davies and Sawday 1999; Sawday 2009).

The Ceramic Record

The results are shown below. The fabric codes and sources are shown in the fabric list, table 1. Table 2 catalogues the pottery by find spot, fabric, number, and weight (grams).

Table 1: The pottery fabrics.

Fabric	Common Name/Kiln & Fabric Equivalent where known	Approx. Date Range
PM	Potters Marston ware - Potters Marston, Leicestershire (1)	c.1100-c.1300/50+
EA7	Earthenware 7 - Slipware - Staffs (2)	Mid – later 17th C.
SW	Brown Glazed Stoneware	Modern
(1) Haynes 1952, Vince 1984, Sawday 1991, Davies and Sawday 1999		(2) Celoria, and Kelly 1973

Discussion

Typically the one sherd of medieval pottery is local to the region; the now deserted village of Potters Marston, the site of an important pottery industry in the medieval period, lies only some 15 km to the south east of Bushby. This and the other material found here might be the result of the practice product of manuring of the fields, during the medieval and later centuries, with rubbish from the adjacent settlement. However, the paucity of medieval finds may suggest that the field in question was kept under pasture rather than arable in the medieval period, and hence subject to little, if any, manuring.

Table 2: The pottery by context, fabric, sherd number and weight (grams).

No.	Fabric	No	Gr	Comments
09	PM	1	5	Body – thin walled, possibly 12th century.
10	EA7	1	36	Wheel thrown, wide mouthed bowl with everted hammer-headed rim, cream slip on interior which finishes in a line under the inner rim, and which has fired yellow under a lead glaze. Pink bodied fabric – probably second half of the 17th century Staffordshire, (Celoria and Kelly 1973, 17, fig.64.92).
53	SW	1	33	Flat base fragment glazed brown on exterior wall and yellow on interior surfaces. Modern.

Site/ Parish: Land north-east of Charity Farm & north of Uppingham Rd, Bushby, Thurnby.. Accession No.: XA146 2016 Document Ref: bushby1.docx Material: pot Site Type: field outside medieval village	Submitter: D. Clark, C. Lacombe Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Identification: 6.01.2017 Method of Recovery: field walking Job Number: 17-556
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Conclusions

The pottery finds are dispersed and show no concentrations. The medieval and modern finds are likely to have been introduced onto the fields as manuring scatters; of note is the complete absence of any Romano-British material.

Archive

The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services, under accession number X.A146.2016

The archive contains:

- 1 box of finds
- 10 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/>

Acknowledgements

Fieldwork was carried out by Donald Clark and Claire LaCombe. The pottery was identified by Deborah Sawday. Patrick Clay managed the project.

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OASIS Information

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	universi1- 275117		
	Project Name	Fieldwalking survey on land north-east of Charity Farm, Uppingham Road, Bushby, Thurnby Parish, Leicestershire		
	Start/end dates of field work	15/12/2016		
	Previous/Future Work	Not known		
	Project Type	Fieldwalking Survey		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Agricultural farmland		
	Monument Type/Period	None		
	Significant Finds/Period	Pottery medieval / modern		
	Development Type	Sports Pitch		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Pre-determination		
	Planning Ref.	n/a		
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	LE7 9TZ		
	Study Area	1.6 ha		
	Site Coordinates	SK 65311 04851		
	Height OD	131m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Developer		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Patrick Clay		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Donald Clark		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Developer / Nexus Heritage on behalf of Bloor Homes Ltd		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	LCC Mus Service	LCC Mus Service	LCC Mus Service
	ID (Acc. No.)	X.A146.2016	X.A146.2016	X.A146.2016
	Contents	3 x pottery shards	Photos Report	Fieldwalking records Field Notes
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
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