



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation on Land
off Badcock Way,
Fleckney,
Leicestershire**

NGR SP 6518 9242

Tim Higgins



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An Archaeological Evaluation on land off Badcock Way, Fleckney, Leicestershire

Tim Higgins

Summary

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken on land off Badcock Way, Fleckney, Leicestershire by University of Leicester Archaeological Services in March 2019. The trenches were excavated targeting geophysical anomalies and sampling areas where archaeology was not otherwise indicated. The work was undertaken in tandem with a second trenching exercise addressing the survival of medieval and post-medieval field systems which is reported separately.

One of two geophysical anomalies coincided with a positive archaeological feature, which was a pit filled with fire cracked pebble rich deposits. The date of the feature remains unknown, but it did contain a single hand-made nail and vitrified tile or brick and it is therefore suspected to be of post-medieval date.

The site archive will be held with Leicestershire Museum Service, under the accession code: X.A26.2019.

Introduction

An archaeological field evaluation (AFE) was undertaken as part of the requirements identified by the Principal Archaeologist, Historic & Natural Environment Team at Leicester County Council as archaeological advisor to planning authority in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 16: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment. The AFE was undertaken to assess whether any archaeological remains of significance were present within the proposed development site and propose suitable treatment to avoid or minimise damage by the development.

The archaeological potential of the plot was to be assessed by a phased programme of work, commencing with archaeological desk-based assessment (Browning 2016) and including Geophysical survey (Walford 2018) and Aerial Survey (Austrums 2019). This report presents the results of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching carried out in March 2019 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS).

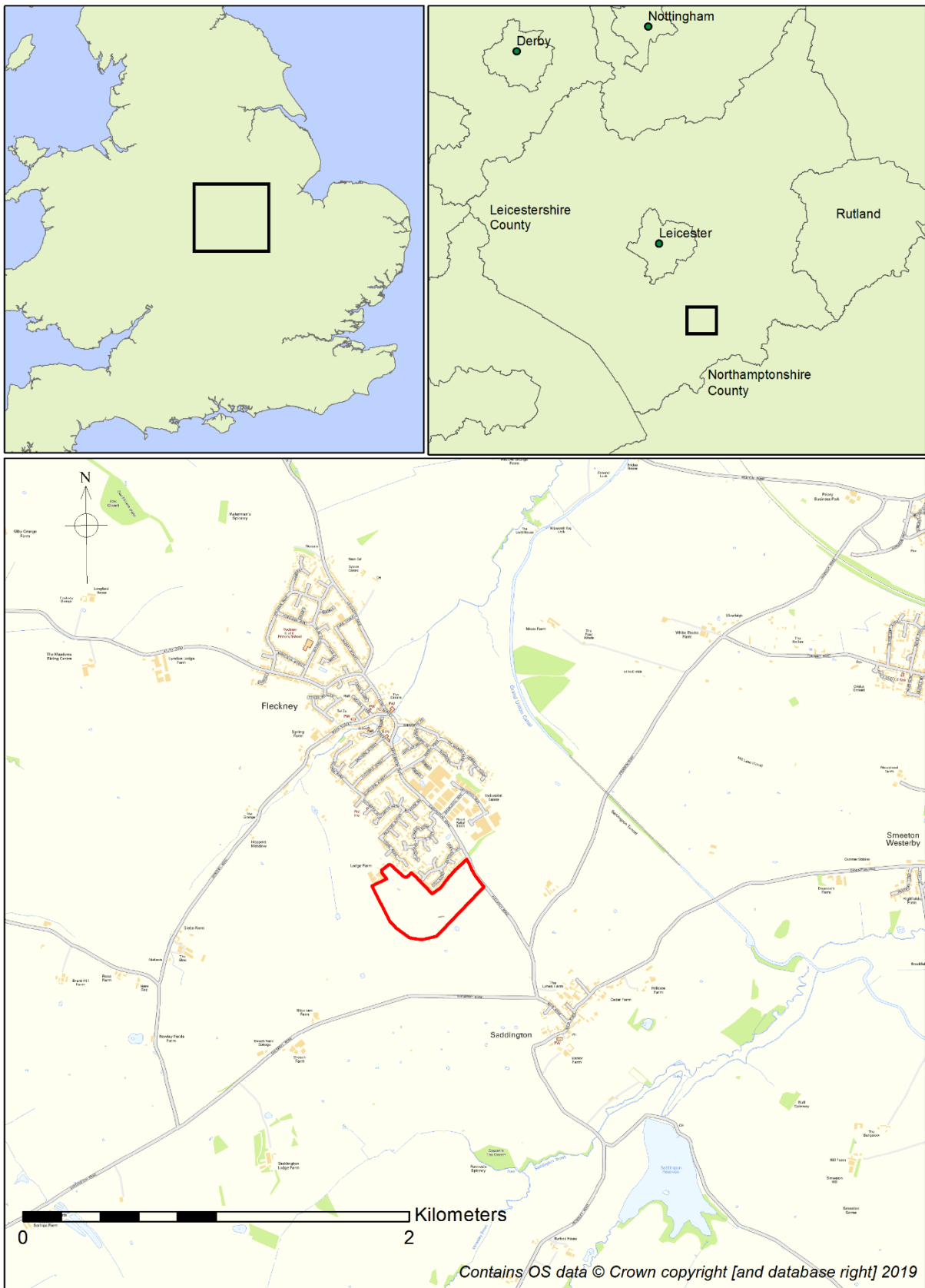


Figure 1: Location of development area (red line) on southern edge of Fleckney, Leicestershire.

Site Description, Topography and Geology

The assessment area lies on the southern outskirts of Fleckney and is currently under pasture. It comprises a total land area of c.12.8 hectares. The land is relatively flat and lies at a height of c. 121m aOD. The site lies immediately to the south and west of a recent housing development and is intended for further residential development.

The British Geological Survey website indicates that the underlying geology is likely to be Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (undifferentiated) - Mudstone. The superficial geology consists of mid-Pleistocene diamicton till.

Archaeological Background

A desk-based assessment has been carried out (Browning 2016) and the following is a summary based on the assessment

Medieval

No Saxon sites are recorded, however the majority of HER references for Fleckney and Saddington document the presence of medieval remains. These are primarily located within the respective historic settlement cores of Fleckney (**MLE16856**), c.1km to the north and Saddington (**MLE9319**), which lies 800m to the south-east. Medieval pottery was found within the centre of Fleckney, to the west of the Village Hall (**MLE6713**). A possible medieval fishpond, The Willows (**MLE1489**) is located approximately 800m north-west of the site. Medieval earthworks thought to represent early village settlement are also be found at the Cedars, Fleckney, just outside the 1km radius of the assessment. The site of the medieval manor house at Saddington (**MLE2271**) is thought to have existed where Saddington Hall now stands. Medieval village earthworks are known at Manor Farm, Saddington (**MLE2270**) and around Saddington Hall (**MLE22419**) and a medieval spearhead was recovered from 3, Council Houses (**MLE6762**). A watching brief on Main Street in Saddington produced evidence for an undisturbed stratigraphy (**ELE4862**), while a watching brief at Lamplighters in Fleckney revealed undated cobbling and an area of burning and two sherds of medieval pottery (**ELE9489**).

Post-medieval - Modern

Many of the monuments associated with this period are industrial in nature. Several post-medieval sites associated with local brickmaking are noted from land around Fleckney, including a brickworks, Arnesby Road, Fleckney (**MLE21537**) (on the site of a former medieval fishpond) and brick yards, south-west of Fleckney (**MLE21538**). In addition there was a post-medieval gravel pit north-east of Saddington (**MLE21996**), which is depicted on early OS maps. A number of Historic Buildings are located in the respective settlement cores of Fleckney and Saddington.

Historic Landscape Character

The site comprises several fields, which have been included in the Historic Landscape Characterisation record for Leicestershire. The northern part of the proposed area within Fleckney parish is characterised as ‘planned enclosure’ meaning:

Either small or large enclosures with a predominantly straight boundary morphology giving a geometric, planned appearance. Laid out by surveyors these field patterns are the result of later enclosure during the 18th and 19th centuries. Included in this character type are commons enclosed by Act of Parliament.

The southern part of the land, within Saddington parish, is recorded as ‘reorganised piecemeal enclosure’, which is defined as:

Small irregular or rectilinear fields that have lost 10% or more field boundaries since the 1st Edition 6” map, or areas of large irregular or rectilinear fields.

The south-eastern corner of the proposed development area is within a zone characterised as ‘other large rectilinear fields’.

Large irregular fields exhibiting a significant number of sinuous boundaries, which cannot be assigned to one of the other character types. This group will include enclosure patterns created through the amalgamation of fields since the publication of the 1st Ed. 6” OS map.

A landscape map of the area, available from the HER, shows the historic extent of ridge and furrow. It depicts northwest-southeast aligned ridge and furrow on the south-western part of the site but north-south aligned earthworks on the south-eastern part of the site. Ridge and furrow is not shown on the land south of Fleckney Lodge, within Fleckney parish.

A geophysical survey (Walford 2017) of the development area identified medieval and post-medieval ridge and furrow along with one possible post-medieval brick clamp in the north-west of the survey area. A pair of uncertain features, possibly pits, were also identified in the south-east part of the area. Other detected features are recent in date, including a pipeline and an extensive spread of hard-core or made ground.

Given the possibility that significant buried remains could be affected by the proposed development and the nature of the surviving ridge and furrow earthworks, the Planning Archaeologist has therefore recommended an archaeological evaluation comprising trial trenching following an Earthwork Analysis and Survey.



Figure 2: Proposed development (supplied by client)

Aims and Objectives

The main objectives of the archaeological work are:

To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.

To establish the character, extent and date range and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits.

To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits and features encountered.

To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to assess the impact of the proposed development on cultural heritage and to help formulate a mitigation strategy

To record any archaeological deposits and produce an archive and report of any results.

The results of the evaluation will provide information in order for the local planning authority to make informed recommendations and to identify an appropriate mitigation strategy for the proposed development.

Research Objectives

While the nature, extent and quality of archaeological remains within the areas of investigation for the project remain unknown until archaeological work is undertaken, it is possible to determine some initial objectives derived from *East Midlands Heritage* research agenda (Cooper 2006, Knight *et al.* 2012). The site's location between the historic village cores of Fleckney and Saddington and the presence of significant earthworks suggests that there is potential for archaeological deposits from the medieval period onwards. The evaluation therefore has the potential to contribute to the following research aims.

Medieval

While the nature, extent and quality of archaeological remains within the areas of investigation for the project remain unknown until archaeological work is undertaken, it is possible to determine some initial objectives derived from *East Midlands Heritage* research agenda (Cooper 2006, Knight *et al.* 2012). The site's location between the historic village cores of Fleckney and Saddington and the presence of significant earthworks suggests that there is potential for archaeological deposits from the medieval period onwards. The evaluation therefore has the potential to contribute to the following research aims.

The area lies within a medieval agricultural landscape and may contribute to the study of rural medieval settlement and early field systems. (7E)

The origins of the open-field system (7I)

Post-Medieval - Industrial

Identify agricultural improvements of the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries (8E)

Research the development of East Midlands industry and its impact upon landscape and settlement morphology (8F)

Contribute to assessing the landscape impact of the early industrialization of agriculture (9G)

These research aims have been identified based on the current state of knowledge within the area of the scheme. The research aims will be re-assessed and updated during the course of the fieldwork.



Figure 3: Trench Plan

Methodology

Prior to any machining of trial trenches, general photographs of the site areas were taken. The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil and overlying layers were removed under full archaeological supervision until either the top of archaeological deposits or the natural undisturbed substratum was reached. Trenches were examined for archaeological deposits or finds by hand cleaning. The trenches were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid and then were backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.

The work followed the approved design specification (ULAS 2019) and adhered to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct and adhered to their Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (2014).

Constraints

Overhead electricity cables passed across the southern edge of the fields. A number of trenches were moved to the north from their proposed positions in order to keep plant a safe distance away from the cables.

A public bridleway, the Leicestershire Round, passed through the centre of the site, and was enclosed by fencing panels. One of the proposed earthwork trenches could not be opened in this area.

The removal of Great Crested Newts was being undertaken during the survey. Trench locations were agreed with an Ecologist who also monitored the excavation and open trenches. One end of each trench was ramped to enable escape.

Results

The evaluation consisted of 23 trial trenches of which 1 contained archaeological remains. Two trenches targeted geophysical anomalies and the remainder areas that were otherwise archaeologically 'blank'. The results will be presented in field location order, with general trench details shown in tabular form, followed by more detailed descriptions and images of selected trenches. Trenches excavated as part of the earthwork trenching programme (9, 10,13,15,19 and 26) are included in the tables (identified by a grey font) but are omitted from the trench descriptions and will be reported separately.

Field 1

Trench	Length	Width	Orientation	Depth Min	Depth Max
23	30m	1.80m	NE-SW	0.32m	0.57m
24	30m	1.80m	NW-SE	0.30m	0.50m
25	30m	1.80	N-S	0.20m	0.57m
26	15m	1.80m	NE-SW	0.42m	0.56m
27	30m	1.80m	NE-SW	0.37m	0.55m

Trenches 23 to 27

Three out of the four trenches placed within this field were located in blank areas, and one across a potential earthwork.

Trench 24 targeted a potential bank but displayed no visible earthwork in either the sections of the trench or in the base of the trench. In trench 24 the subsoil measured between 0.22m and 0.30m in depth and there was no change to suggest an earthwork or bank was present. A feature at the base of the trench was a single ceramic field drain.

The remaining three trenches that had targeted blank areas revealed only land drains in Trench 27, and no ridge and furrow were visible in all three.



Figure 4: Trench 26 Field 1

Field 2

Trench	Length	Width	Orientation	Depth Min	Depth Max
28	30m	1.80	NE-SW	0.45m	0.52m
29	30m	1.80m	NNE-SSW	0.41m	0.62m

Trench 28

Trench 28 had targeted a blank area within southern half of the field and only a single land drain was found at the western half of the trench.

Trench 29

A geophysical survey (Walford 2017) of the development area identified a possible post-medieval brick clamp in the north-west corner of this field. Trench 29 was positioned to coincide geophysical anomaly that potentially represented brick clamp. Towards eastern end of the trench only a modern field drain filled with gravel was found which appear to have coincided with geophysical anomaly. This would suggest that the potential brick clap feature was probably modern disturbance thought to be associated with a drain. The only other features visible were two ceramic land drains both located towards the centre of the trench.



Figure 5: Trench 29 Field 2

Field 3

Trench	Length	Width	Orientation	Depth Min	Depth Max
14	25m	1.80m	E-W	0.32m	0.52m
15	26m	1.80m	SSE-NNW	0.47m	0.59m
16	30m	1.80m	NE-SW	0.38m	0.52m
17	31m	1.80m	SE-NW	0.34m	0.47m

The field appeared flat and no ridge and furrow was visible on the surface. A single trench (14) located in southern half of the field targeted geophysical survey anomalies thought to be a pair of uncertain features, possibly pits. The remaining two trenches had targeted blank areas.

Trench 14

This trench was also located within the SW corner of Field 3 and targeted geophysical survey anomalies thought to be a pair of uncertain features, possibly pits

Towards northern end of the trench an irregular pit feature appeared to have coincided with one of the geophysical anomaly features (Figure 6). Excavation of the feature revealed a single pit [1403] that had steep near vertical sides breaking gradually to a rounded base. The full extent of the feature remains unknown as it extended beyond the trench: it measured 2.80m long x 2.20m wide x 0.60m deep. It contained three fills with a primary fill (1406) that comprised of dark yellowish grey silty clay 0.10m thick mixed with abundant number of fired cracked pebbles and charcoal material that had been fired. A secondary deposit (1405), comprised of dark yellowish grey clay mixed with abundant flecks of charcoal. It contained less frequent fire cracked pebbles and had depth of 0.18m. A final fill (1402) comprised mid yellowish grey clay mixed more frequent fire cracked pebbles and occasional charcoal fleck.

The fire cracked or heat effected material appears to be deliberately deposited within the pit and may have come from demolished industrial structure such as oven. The pit appears to have been excavated into the top of a cultivation ridge and partly into an adjacent furrow. Within the furrow a layer of mid greyish yellow clay silt (1404) had accumulated over the pit and sealed it. This layer might represent a subsoil that had developed following continued ploughing of the ridge subsequent to the infilling of the pit (Figure 7).

A handmade nail and piece of industrial waste vitrified ceramic/tile found within the pit suggests it was most likely to be post-medieval in date.

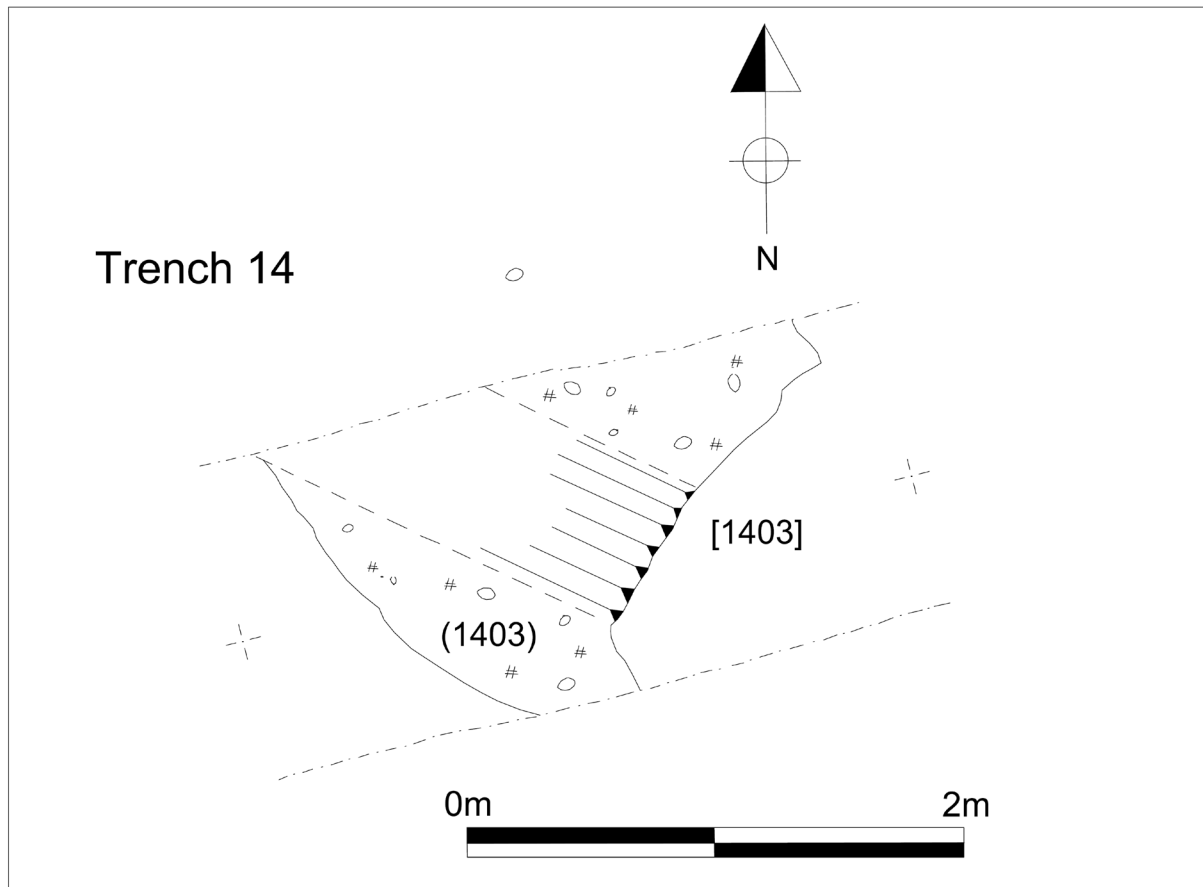


Figure 6: Plan Pit [1403] Trench 14



Figure 7: Pit [1403]

Trench 16

Trench 16 targeted another blank area in western half of the field with no specific geophysical anomalies apart from ridge and furrow. This trench contained ridge and furrow of the trench

running SE to NW orientation. A furrow was visible at the base of the trench within the natural and had an undulating U-shaped profile that was c.4.00m wide x 0.10m deep

Trench 17

This trench had targeted another blank area in the eastern half of the field with no specific geophysical anomalies apart from ridge and furrow. At the base of this trench ridge and furrow was trench running SE to NW orientation. Within the natural the furrow had an undulating U-shaped profile that was c.4.00m wide x 0.15m deep.



Figure 8: Trench 17

Field 4

Trench	Length	Width	Orientation	Depth Min	Depth Max
18	30m	1.8m	NE-SW	0.45m	0.60m
19	15m	1.8m	NE-SW	0.34m	0.54m
20	30m	1.8m	SE-NW	0.32m	0.45m
21	30m	1.8m	E-W	0.37m	0.51m
22	30m	1.8m	NE-SW	0.35m	0.55m

These trenches were placed in blank areas. The field appeared to be relatively flat and ridge and furrow was not visible on the surface.

Trench 18

This trench located in the south of the field revealed only ridge and furrow running NE to SW orientation. The ridge and furrow was visible only in the sections of the trench with shallow depths of topsoil and subsoil within the furrows. The ridge and furrow visible on the surface only had moderate undulating U-shaped profile with furrows that were c.3.00m wide x 0.15m deep.

Trench 20

Trench 20 intersected a potential bank at its eastern end but no earthwork was visible in the sections or base of the trench. The subsoil measured between 0.10m and 0.20m deep and there

was no change to suggest an earthwork or bank was present. The only feature visible at the base of the trench was a modern service trench.



Figure 9: Trench 20

Trench 21

This trench had also crossed the same potential linear earthwork intersected Trenches 20, but this trench was also negative. The trench sections were examined and no earthworks were visible and the subsoil measured between 0.15m and 0.23m deep.

Trench 22

This trench was located in a blank area within the western half of the field. The ridge and furrow was clearly visible in the sections of the trench. The furrows within this trench were filled with subsoil that was 0.25m deep and the ridges survived to a height of 0.10m.

Field 5

Trench	Length	Width	Orientation	Depth Min	Depth Max
1	30m	1.80m	NE-SW	0.50m	0.70m
2	30m	1.80m	E-W	0.40m	0.50m
3	30m	1.80m	SE-NW	0.50m	0.60m
4	30m	1.80m	NE-SW	0.45m	0.60m
5	25m	1.80m	N-S	0.40m	0.60m
6	30m	1.80m	NE-SW	0.40m	0.60m
7	28m	1.80m	E-W	0.40m	0.60m
8	29m	1.80m	SSE-NNW	0.40m	0.70m
9	18m	1.80m	NE-SW	0.50m	0.90m
10	15m	1.80m	E-W	0.27m	0.50m
11	30m	1.80m	N-S	0.37m	0.50m
12	30m	1.80m	SE-NW	0.37m	0.50m
13	30m	1.80m	E-W	0.32m	0.48m

This field was divided into two by a bridle path running across the field from SE to NW between the two hedgerows. The north eastern half contained ridge and furrow that was clearly visible on the surface as pronounced narrow undulating 'U' shaped features. A total of eight trenches targeted generally blank areas. The south western half of the field contained two trenches that had targeted generally blank areas. This part of the field had also contained ridge and furrow that was clearly visible on the surface as pronounced broad undulating 'U' shaped features.

Trenches 1 to 8

This group of trenches were located to sample blank areas and revealed only ridge furrow earthworks. The ridge and furrow earthworks in this field were visible in the subsoil horizons above the natural subsoil only, and were not visible in the base of the trenches, which is unusual.

The topsoil was typically 0.30m deep on top of the ridges and in the furrows, however the subsoil measured 0.20m deep over the ridges and only 0.10m deep within the furrows. The ridge and furrow within this area were typically narrow in width with each measuring on average only 2.50m wide.



Figure 10: Trench 8

Trenches 11 and 12

Trenches 11 and 12 were located to sample blank areas and revealed only ridge and furrow earthworks. The ridge and furrow earthworks here were both visible as negative features in the base of the trenches and in the subsoil horizons above the natural.

The topsoil was typically 0.25m deep on top of the ridges and in the furrows, however the subsoil measured 0.20m deep over the ridges and only 0.10m deep within the furrows. The ridge and furrow within this area was typically broad in width with ridge and furrow measuring on average 4.00m wide. The topsoil and subsoil contained pottery sherds which dated from the 13th to 18th century



Figure 11: Trench 11

Finds

The Post Roman Ceramic and Miscellaneous Finds

Deborah Sawday

The Ceramic Finds

The pottery assemblage was made up of twenty sherds, weighing 445 grams, representing a maximum count of twenty vessels. Eighteen fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 2.759 kilograms were also recorded.

Condition

The pottery was fragmentary and abraded, and although these finds had a relatively high average weight of 22.25 grams; that for medieval material was notably lower (table 2). The ceramic building material was also fragmentary and had an average weight of 153.27 grams.

Methodology

The material was examined under an x20 binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to current guidelines (MPRG 1998, MPRG 2016) and the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 2009). The results are shown below (tables 1 and 2). Table 1 lists the pottery by fabric; table 2 by site totals, and table 2 catalogues the pottery and ceramic building material by context. Co-joining fragments are noted, whilst single fragments are generally counted as discrete objects.

Table 1: The medieval pottery and ceramic building material fabrics

Fabric	Common Name/Kiln & Fabric Equivalent where known	Approx. Date Range
PM	Potters Marston ware - Potters Marston, Leicestershire (1)	c.1100-c.1400+
CS	Coarse Shelly ware Northants CTS 330 (2)	c.1100-1400
LY1	Lyveden/Stanion type 'B' ware, Northants CTS 320 (2)	c.1225 1400+

Fabric	Common Name/Kiln & Fabric Equivalent where known	Approx. Date Range
CC2	Chilvers Coton fabric C (3), Warwicks CTS SQ30 (4)	Later 13 th C. -1475
MS	Medieval Sandy ware – misc. fine quartz tempered fabrics	c.1200-1400
MY	Midland Yellow ware - ?Ticknall, Derbyshire (5)	c.1500-1725
EA1	Earthenware 1 – Coarse Post-medieval Earthenware - Chilvers Coton/Ticknall, Derbyshire(3) (5)	c.1500-1750
EA2	Earthenware 2 – ‘Pancheon ware’, Chilvers Coton/Ticknall, Derbyshire (3) (5)	16th C-18th C. +
EA8	Cream ware	c.1730-1850
EA10	Fine White Earthenware/China	modern
EA	Earthenware	Post-medieval

(1) Sawday 2009	(4) Soden & Ratkai 1998
(2) Blinkhorn 2003	(5) Spavold and Brown 2005, Gooder 1984
(3) Mayes & Scott 1984	

The Ceramic record

The medieval and early post-medieval pottery fabrics are typical of the region; Potters Marston, Lyveden Stanion, Chilvers Coton and Ticknall were major centres of pottery production at this time. These finds, which date from the 12th or 13th centuries into the post-medieval period, are evidently associated with several phases of activity relating to the nearby villages of Fleckney and Saddington and to the earthworks in the vicinity.

All of the brick, tile and land drain appeared to be hand-made, although unfortunately few dimensions were available. One fragment was vitrified and possibly represented waste kiln material; it is possible that all of these finds represent the products of local brickworks, such as those at Arnesby Road, Fleckney.

Discussion

Medieval pottery dating from the 12th or 13th centuries was recovered from trenches 9, 13, 15, 17 and 21. Interestingly the medieval finds from trench 9 and 15 occurred in relationship with earthworks whilst those from trench 9 and 17, were found in two furrows; the remainder being recovered from the subsoil in trenches 13 and 21. Whilst the Earthenware EA1 is thought to date from the 16th or 17th centuries, typologically the fabric and vessel forms of the Earthenware fabric EA2, also suggest that these are relatively early in the sequence, whilst Midland Yellow is generally dated in Leicester and the county from circa 1500. The only modern pottery occurred in the subsoil in trenches 20, 21 and 22.

The ceramic building material was found in the topsoil or subsoil in trenches 9, 12, 15, 20 and 29 and in the backfill of a pit [1403] in trench 14.

Table 2: The medieval and later pottery site totals by fabric, sherd number, weight (grams), vessel count, and average sherd weight (ASW)

Fabric	No.	Gr	Min.. Vessel	ASW
Medieval				

Fabric	No.	Gr	Min.. Vessel	ASW
PM	2	16	2	
CS	2	13	2	
LY1	1	16	1	
CC2	1	10	1	
MS	1	17	1	
<i>Sub-total</i>	7	72	7	<i>10.28</i>
Post-medieval				
MY	1	84	1	
EA1	5	91	5	
EA2	4	155	4	
<i>Sub-total</i>	10	330	10	<i>33.0</i>
Modern				
EA8	1	29	1	
EA10	2	16	2	
<i>Sub-total</i>	3	45	3	<i>15.0</i>
Site Total	20	445	20	

Conclusion

The medieval and early post-medieval pottery fabrics are typical of the region; Potters Marston, Lyveden Stanion, Chilvers Coton and Ticknall were major centres of pottery production at this time. These finds, which date from the 12th or 13th centuries into the Post-medieval period, are evidently associated with several phases of activity relating to the nearby villages of Fleckney and Saddington and to the earthworks in the vicinity.

All of the brick, tile and land drain appeared to be hand-made, although unfortunately few dimensions were available. One fragment was vitrified and possibly represented waste kiln material; it is possible that all of these finds represent the products of local brickworks, such as those at Arnesby Road, Fleckney.

Table 3: The medieval, post-medieval, and modern pottery & ceramic building material by context, fabric/material, number, weight (grams) and vessel/object number

Trench	Context	Fabric	No	Gr	Obj No	Comments
1	1001 subsoil	EA2	1	35	1	Pale buff body, marl, and sparse quartz & fe inclusions. Bowl with roughly moulded horizontal rim flange, iron rich slip on both interior and exterior. Abraded, estimated diameter 250mm.
1	1001 subsoil	MY	1	84	1	Bowl, rim with horizontal flange, (Woodfield 1984, form Na) yellow glaze on interior wall, abraded, estimated diameter 320mm.
9	901 subsoil	EA1	1	20	1	Reduced, internally glazed, hollow ware base fragment, possibly a jar.
9	902 earthwork	CC2	1	10	1	Oxidised red body, few inclusions, streaks of marl, slipped internally and externally with lead glaze firing brown over oxidised body and iron rich slip on interior.
9	902	MS	1	17	1	Oxidised red body, base fragment, hard fired fabric, sparse quartz, marl and ?white grog, brown glaze on interior. Possible CC2 variant.

Trench	Context	Fabric	No	Gr	Obj No	Comments
9	902	EA1	1	10	1	Reduced, internally glazed, hollow ware fragment, possibly a jar.
9	902	EA2	1	75	1	Oxidised, pale buff fabric with steaks & lumps of marl, and sparse quartz. Wide mouthed bowl rim, estimated diameter c.340mm, slipped, brown lead glaze on interior. Abraded. Internally.
10	1010 topsoil	EA1	1	21	1	Reduced, internally glazed, hollow ware base fragment, possibly a jar.
12	1201 subsoil	EA1	1	16	1	Reduced, internally glazed, hollow ware vessel, possibly a jar.
12	1201	EA2	1	14	1	Abraded, oxidised and slipped on both interior and exterior, internally glazed.
13	1301 subsoil	LY1	1	16	1	Abraded body – traces of lead glaze.
13	1301	EA2	1	31	1	Flat base with red slip on exterior.
15	1503 earthwork	PM	1	2	1	Body.
15	1503	CS	1	7	1	Body, abraded & sooted externally.
17	1702 furrow	CS	1	6	1	Abraded body with leached inclusions.
20	2001 subsoil	EA10	1	1	1	Body.
21	2101 subsoil	PM	1	14	1	Body, abraded.
21	2101	EA8	1	29	1	Hollow ware, lead glazed yellow.
22	2201 subsoil	EA10	1	13	1	Plate, transfer printed blue under glaze – modern.
27	2701 subsoil	EA1	1	24	1	Reduced, internally glazed, hollow ware vessel, possibly a jar.
	CBM					
9	900 topsoil	EA	1	24 1	1	Hand-made brick fragment
12	1201 subsoil	EA	2	48	1	Hand-made brick fragment
14	1402 [1403] pit	EA	1	32	1	Tile - vitrified
15	1500 topsoil	EA	1	14 9	1	Hand-made brick fragment
20	2001 subsoil	EA	6	43 3	6	Hand-made brick fragments
20	2001	EA	2	12 7	1	Hand-made flat roof tile, c.13mm thick
29	2900	EA	5	17 29	5	Hand-made land/field drain fragments, 20-25mm thick..

Finds from Earthwork recording trenches are indicated by grey tone

The Miscellaneous Finds

Two pieces of worked flint are evidence of some prehistoric activity in the vicinity, whilst the iron nail is not closely datable. The bottle glass may date from the later 17th or early 18th century.

I am indebted to Wayne Jarvis and Nicholas Cooper for their identification of the flint and ironwork respectively.

Table 4: The flint and miscellaneous find by context, material and number

Trench	FLINT	Material	No.	(W. Jarvis pers. comm.)
20	2001 subsoil	flint	1	Natural - discarded
21	2101 subsoil	flint	1	Possible core
21	2101	flint	1	Secondary flake with hinge fracture, possible evidence of a retouch or use wear.
	MISCELLANEOUS			
12	1200 topsoil	Stone	1	Worked fragment
14	1402 [1403] pit	Iron	1	Nail – handmade - post-medieval- (N. Cooper pers. comm.).
17	1701 subsoil	glass	1	Wine bottle base, dark olive green estimated diameter c.110mm, maximum thickness 11mm. Similar at Temple Balsall dated later 17 th – early 18 th C. (Gooder 1984, fig.44).

The Charred Plant Remains

Adam Santer

Introduction

During an archaeological evaluation at Fleckney in Leicestershire a sample was taken for the analysis of charred plant remains. The sample was taken from the fill (1402) of a possible Post-Medieval pit [1403].

Methodology

The sample consisted of a mid-yellowish grey clay and was processed in a York tank using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation into a 0.3mm sieve. The flotation fraction (flot) was sorted for environmental remains under an x10-40 stereo microscope.

Results

Some flecks of charcoal was found in the sample. No other archaeobotanical remains were found. The sample was abundant in modern rootlets suggesting heavy disturbance through bioturbation to the context.

Conclusion and statement of potential

Due to the small sample size and lack of plant remains found in the sample it was not possible to learn anything about diet, crop husbandry strategies or environment at the site.

Micromorphology Report from Fleckney

Anita Burns

Introduction

The three samples submitted for sectioning were collected from adjacent areas spanning three contexts as shown on the north facing section drawing of Trench 9, the unit sequence from bottom to top being 904, 903, 902. The thin section from Sample 4 contains Units 904 and 903 and is referred to here as TS 1. The thin section from Sample 2 contains Unit 903 and is referred to here as TS 2. The thin section from Sample 3 contains Units 903 and 902 and is referred to here as TS 3 (Figure 1).

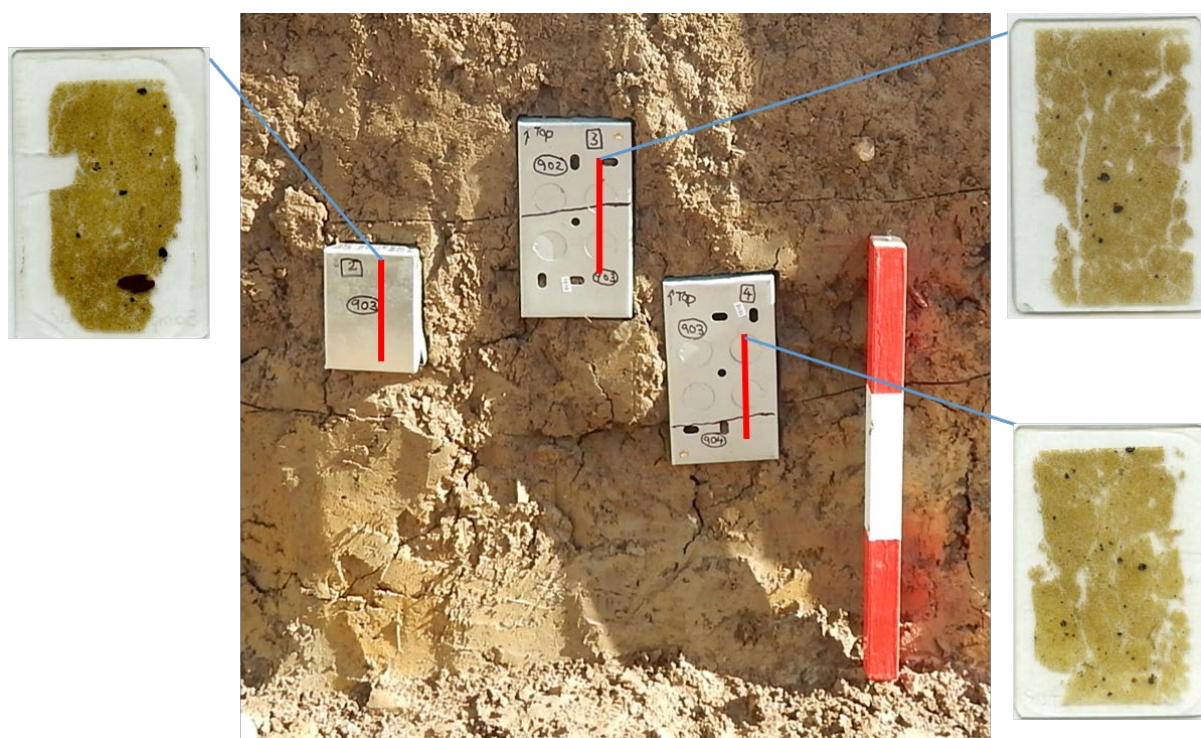


Figure 12: Relative locations of the thin sections within the sampling blocks (red line) and across the section face.

Methodology

The samples were dried through acetone vapour exchange drying over a period of weeks (Miedema *et al.* 1974) and were judged as dry when the hydrometer reading indicated less than <1% water content below the samples. The samples were then filled with resin (Araldite 2020) under vacuum and held in a fume hood until fully cured. The samples were cut with a Buehler Abrasimet 250 abrasive cutter to produce slabs perpendicular to the direction of the ground surface and at least 2.5cm from the edge of the sampling tin. The slabs were then trimmed to the size of the glass slides (51 x 76 mm) and one face was ground flat using a series of successively finer diamond abrasive discs and silica carbide papers. The flat faces were mounted onto the frosted slides with mounting resin (Logitech epoxy 301) and held in a mounting jig until set. The excess sample was removed on a cut off saw (Logitech GTS1 and VS2 abrasive cutter) and lapped to 30 μm thick on a Logitech LP50 lapping machine with calcined alumina (Al_2O_3 15 μm) and oil (Logitech ethanediol lapping fluid). The sections were polished on a Buehler Vector LC polisher with 6 and 3 μm monocrystalline diamond polishing pastes. The thin sections were examined using an Olympus BH2 petrographic microscope with x10 eyepieces and x1.5, x5, x10, and x20 objectives and RL and TL light sources. Images were

captured using a Zeiss Axio Imager.M2m microscope with EC Epiplan Neofluar objectives and a halogen HAL 100 light source with a Zeiss Axiocam MRm camera and Zeiss Zen 2.5 imaging software. Micromorphological descriptions were made using the terminology of Court *et al.* 1989 and Bullock *et al.* 1985.

Results

Thin section 1- Sample 4, Units 904 and 903

Unit 904

Unit 904 is present in the lower portion of this thin section. This unit was brownish yellow (PPL) and brownish orange (XPL) in colour at x50 magnification with an embedded c/f related distribution of poorly sorted sand in well sorted silt. Excremental pedofeatures and fresh roots (although a small proportion of this unit) suggest bioturbation has been present to some extent in the unit at some point. Infillings in vertically oriented planes, cracks and channels could be evidence of illuviation. Peds may be sub-angular block to prismatic but this is difficult to assess as there is very little (1.5-2.5cm) of this unit visible on this thin section relative to the possible size of such peds (cm to decimetre scale). The possibly prismatic peds could be evidence only of the dry state during sampling due to the high clay content of the unit. Similarly there were some small voids around some of the coarse grains where the fine material as a coating has shrunk and contracted away from the mineral grains during drying. The majority of voids as cracks, planes and channels and a grano-striated b-fabric around coarse inclusions such as quartz crystals suggest wetting and drying which can be seen in relation to the large clay content (20:80 c/f at 10 μm). However, there was no evidence of laminated nodules suggesting these nodules were not produced through repeated stages of deposition of fine material around a nuclei which can occur through successive cycles of wetting and drying.

Unit 903

Unit 903 is present in the middle and upper parts of this thin section. It displays orangey brown colours (PPL) and brownish orange (XPL) at x50 magnification. It has c/f ratio of 30:70 (10 μm limit) with an embedded related distribution. Most voids are channels and planes with a few small chambers and vesicles. It contains quartz and cryptocrystalline quartz and negligible amounts of organics. There were less infillings present in this unit than in the lower unit present in the lower portion of this thin section. Note that the sediment has several large channel and plane shaped voids which could affect the visible pedostructure. Also the weakly developed prismatic peds may be a result of the drying out of the clay content which could have been a massive ped structure in situ during wetter conditions. The samples were collected from a dry section face (Figure 1).

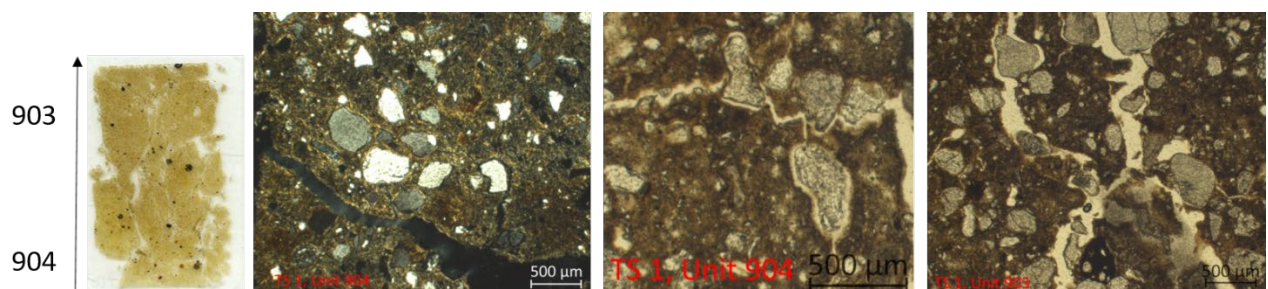


Figure 13: TS 1 (from Sample 4) with images of grano-striated b-fabric in Unit 904 (XPL), voids around quartz grains in Unit 904 (PPL) and vertically oriented voids in Unit 903 (PPL). All photographs are oriented with the “up” direction at the top of the image.

Thin section 2- Sample 2, Unit 903

Unit 903

This unit is the only unit visible on this thin section. The unit is orangey brown (PPL) and orangey brown (XPL) at x 50 magnification with a c/f ratio of 30:70 (10µm limit) with an embedded related distribution of poorly sorted sand in well sorted fine material. Unlike unit 904 as viewed in thin section 1 (Sample 4) channel and plane shaped voids do not constitute the majority of the voids. In this unit (903) as viewed in this thin section (TS 2) there are a wide variety of void shapes present with vughs as common as channels and planes (5%). There was a small amount of fresh and amorphous organic matter and one occurrence of chlorite. Very weakly developed sub-rounded blocky to prismatic pedostructure could be due to sample collected from a dry section face composed of a high clay content and may not be a representation of the true pedostructure under wetter conditions. It should be noted that the pedostructure in this unit (903) in this section (TS 2) is less well developed than in this unit in the upper portion of TS 1 and that it bears a greater resemblance in terms of (a lack of pedostructure) with this unit as represented in the lower portion of TS 3. Wetting and drying episodes suggested by pedostructure, alignment of plane shaped voids and with the grano-striated b-fabric around coarse quartz inclusions and nodules which may be iron rich from opacity in XPL and red colour in OIL.

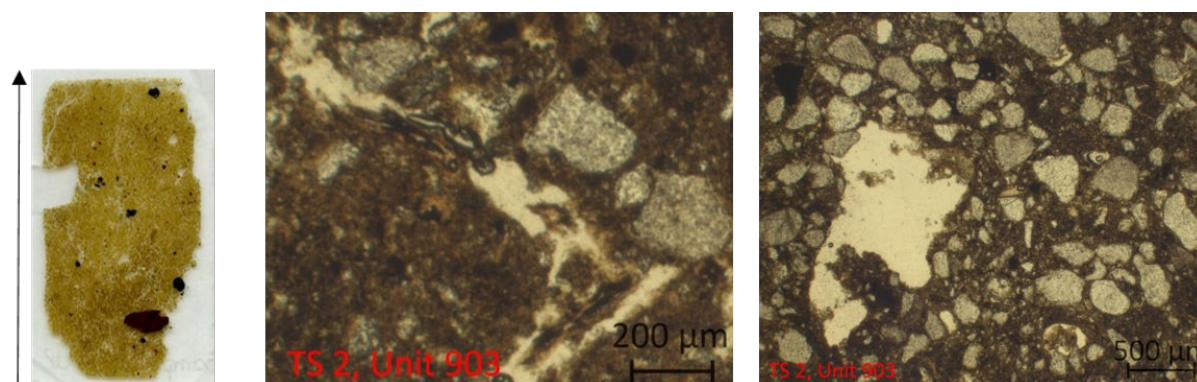


Figure 14: TS 2 (from Sample 2) with images of organic matter (PPL) and vugh shaped voids (PPL). Both photographs are oriented with the “up” direction at the top of the image.

Thin section 1- Sample 3, Units 902 and 903

Unit 903

This unit is visible in the lower portion of this thin section (TS 3, Sample 3). It has a medium orangey brown / brownish orange (PPL/XPL) colour at x50 magnification and a c/f ratio of 25:75 (10µm) limit of coarse materials (mostly quartz grains) with an embedded related distribution and with poor sorting. Most voids are channels and planes but with a few chambers and vughs. There are far less coatings and infillings than in the unit below (Unit 902 present in the lower half of TS 1 from Sample 4). There were no excremental pedofeatures visible and very little plant remains. There is a large plane shaped void (long axis parallel to the up direction) which traverses the entire length of the thin section (c.7cm). There are less nodules in this unit compared to the unit above (902).

Unit 902

This unit has a very diffuse (>2cm) and irregular lower boundary with the lower unit (903). The unit has a medium orangey brown/ bright orange colour (PPL/XPL) colour at x50 magnification and with a c/f ratio of 35:65 (10 µm limit) has a very slightly larger coarse fraction than the unit below (903). Similar to Unit 902 this unit (903) has a greater proportion of its voids as channel and plane shaped compared to Unit 903 which has an almost equal proportion of its voids as vughs as it does channels and planes (as viewed in TS 1, Sample 4). This unit did not have evidence of excremental pedofeatures and only a small proportion of plant remains (2%). However it did have some large nodules and large plane and channel shaped voids oriented parallel to the up direction by their long axis which could suggest that this unit has been more heavily altered by the effects of wetting and drying events than by bioturbation.

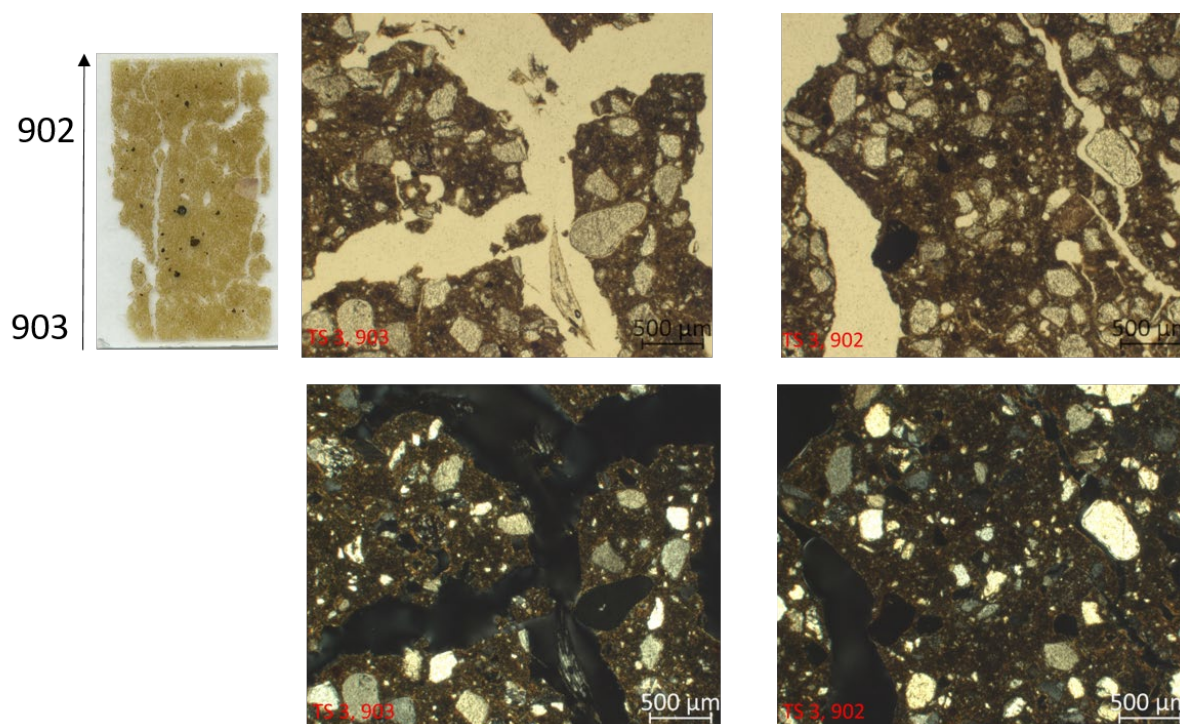


Figure 15: TS 3 (from Sample 3) with images of organic matter in Unit 903 (PPL above and XPL below) and voids in Unit 902 (PPL above and XPL below). All photographs are oriented with the “up” direction at the top of the image.

Summary

All three units seen in the three thin sections were characterised by a high clay content and a large fine fraction with coarse materials (mostly sand sized quartz grains) embedded within the finer material. All of them also had dark red to opaque nodules (which could be iron rich but would require SEM-EDS analysis) and some plane and channel shaped voids with their long axes oriented vertically. This may suggest that these units have all been subjected to wetting and drying events in the past. However, the lower unit (902) in the lowest thin section (TS1) showed the strongest grano-striated b-fabric and both the upper (904) and lower unit (902) displayed a greater proportion of plane and channel shaped voids than the middle unit (903) which could suggest that clay shrink swell cycles had a greater pedogenetic effect on the sediments above and below the buried soil unit (903) than Unit 903 itself. Unit 903 was not homogenous across the upper portion of TS 1 (Sample 4), TS 2 (Sample 2) and the lower

portion of TS 3 (Sample 3). Pedostructure is determined in these thin sections by voids and is more easily discernible in thin sections from Samples 4 and 3 than Sample 2.

Interpretation (MGB)

Voids are well represented in TS1, and somewhat less so in TS2.

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Discussion

Topsoils and subsoils were well defined against a boulder clay natural, and trenches were opened by an experienced archaeologist. Twenty two of twenty three excavated trenches were negative for archaeological remains.

Few artefactual finds were made, and these were in such low numbers that are they unlikely to have any significance. Two pieces of struck flint indicate some activity in the prehistoric period. Pottery of medieval and post-medieval date was recovered from the trenches. The majority of this was from the trenches excavated as part of the earthwork investigation programme.

A well-defined archaeological deposit was identified in the south of the site. This was a probable pit feature filled with a charcoal rich clay containing abundant fire cracked stone. The stone had not been burnt in situ. A sample from the infill contained charcoal but no other archaeobotanical remains. Finds from the excavation of the infill of the pit cannot be closely dated but suggest a post-medieval in date.

It is likely that whatever activity that created the fire cracked stone, occurred nearby. One of the finds from the pit, a piece of vitrified tile, may make an association between the pit and the various brickworks known in and around Fleckney (above p3), and it is clear that the natural clay was favoured for ceramic building material manufacture. It is possible that the feature survives some localised tile manufacture. A subsoil that had accumulated over the infill of the

pit in a furrow may indicate that plough cultivation had continued following infilling although it is not known when the feature was cut.

It was noted the ridge and furrow earthworks were different in field 5 in comparison to field 3. The ridge and furrow in field 5 was a positive feature above natural, with the furrows surviving as subsoil features only and the base of excavated trenches flat. By contrast, the furrows in field 3 penetrated natural. Trenches in field 1 did not locate any ridge and furrow earthworks, although there are indications of ridge and furrow in the results of the magnetometer survey. It is possible that field 1 was cultivated in the medieval period, and not subsequently, with more recent cultivation having removed it as surface feature.

Conclusion

The trench evaluation has demonstrated that the geophysical survey was successful in identifying buried archaeological features in one area of the site, although potential anomalies in another area appear to be the result of post-medieval drainage features.

One archaeological feature was identified and sample excavated, and this looks most likely to have been a result of activity in the post-medieval period and relating to brick or tile manufacture of which there is a known history in Fleckney.

The potential for further buried archaeological remains across the fields of the development from the results of these trenches, is otherwise low.

Some differences in the medieval and post-medieval cultivation histories of the fields was revealed in the excavated trenches.

Archive

A full copy of the archive as defined in Brown (2008) will normally be presented within six months of the completion of the fieldwork. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating to the investigations undertaken.

The archive consists of:

A copy of the report,

Indices

42 context sheets

6 plan and section drawing sheets

Digital with contact prints, photographic index

Finds

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum and Galleries under the accession number X.A26 2019

A summary of the work will be published in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank CgMs Limited for their help and co-operation on site. The project was managed by Mathew Beamish the fieldwork was carried out by the author and both Claire Brown and Georgia Day. The post-excavation analysis was undertaken by Deborah (Pottery), Rachel Small and Adam Santer (Environmental) all of ULAS.

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Appendix: Oasis

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	universi1-349329		
	Project Name	An Archaeological Evaluation Land off Badcock Way, Fleckney, Leicestershire		
	Start/end dates of field work	20-03-2019 - 04-04-2019		
	Previous/Future Work	Yes / Not known		
	Project Type	Evaluation		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Pasture		
	Monument Type/Period	Ridge and Furrow		
	Significant Finds/Period	Pottery / Medieval – Post-medieval		
	Development Type	Residential		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition		
	Planning Ref.	Planning Application no Planning		
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	Badcock Way, Fleckney, Leicestershire/LE8 8DF		
	Study Area	12.8 Hectares		
	Site Coordinates	SP 6518 9242		
	Height OD	c. 121m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority Leicestershire County Council		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Matt Beamish		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Tim Higgins		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	CgMs Limited		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	LCC MusService	LCC MusService	LCCMusService
	ID (Acc. No.)	X.A26.2019	X.A26.2019	X.A26.2019
	Contents	Pottery	Photos Survey data	Field Notes
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at 47 Clarence Street, Leicester		
	Author	Tim Higgins		
	Other bibliographic details	ULAS Report No 2019-062		
	Date	17/04/2019		
	Publisher/Place	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester		
	Description	Developer Report A4 pdf		



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