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Archaeological Services

A Fieldwalking Survey of land north of Ashby Road, Ibstock, Leicestershire

NGR: SK 401 107

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**A Fieldwalking Survey of land
north of Ashby Road, Ibstock,
Leicestershire**

NGR: SK 401 107

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For: Bellway Homes Ltd

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A Fieldwalking Survey of land north of Ashby Road, Ibstock, Leicestershire SK 401 107

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1. Summary

Fieldwalking of land east of Ashby Road, Ibstock, Leicestershire has located some dispersed prehistoric flint and some medieval and post-medieval/modern pottery but with no obvious concentrations. The flint suggests transient activity during the Mesolithic-Bronze Age periods while the medieval and post-medieval/modern pottery is probably the result of manuring the open fields around Ibstock. The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession no. XA.5.20010

2. Background

A residential development of c.7.2ha is proposed for land adjacent to Ashby road, Ibstock, by Bellway Homes Ltd. The site lies at the very western edge of Ibstock at the parish boundary with Heather and currently consists of farmland. A programme of archaeological evaluation was requested by the Planning Authority.

The land is largely flat and at Ashby Road, lies at around 141m OD. The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 155 showed that the underlying geology of the assessment area was likely to be Mercia Mudstone Group clay.

3. Historical Background

(Taken from the Archaeological Desk-based Assessment, Hunt 2009)

The Historic Environment Record for the area shows that flint, dated to the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age period has been discovered to the southern of the assessment area. Further prehistoric artefacts have been found to the west and north-east of the site. A few hundred yards to the north of the site is the line of the Via Devana Roman Road, and archaeological work in this area has revealed evidence of further prehistoric remains along with a substantial Roman settlement, exemplified by structural remains, field systems, pottery and tile kilns and burials.

There is no map evidence of the area having been occupied previously (e.g Figure 2).

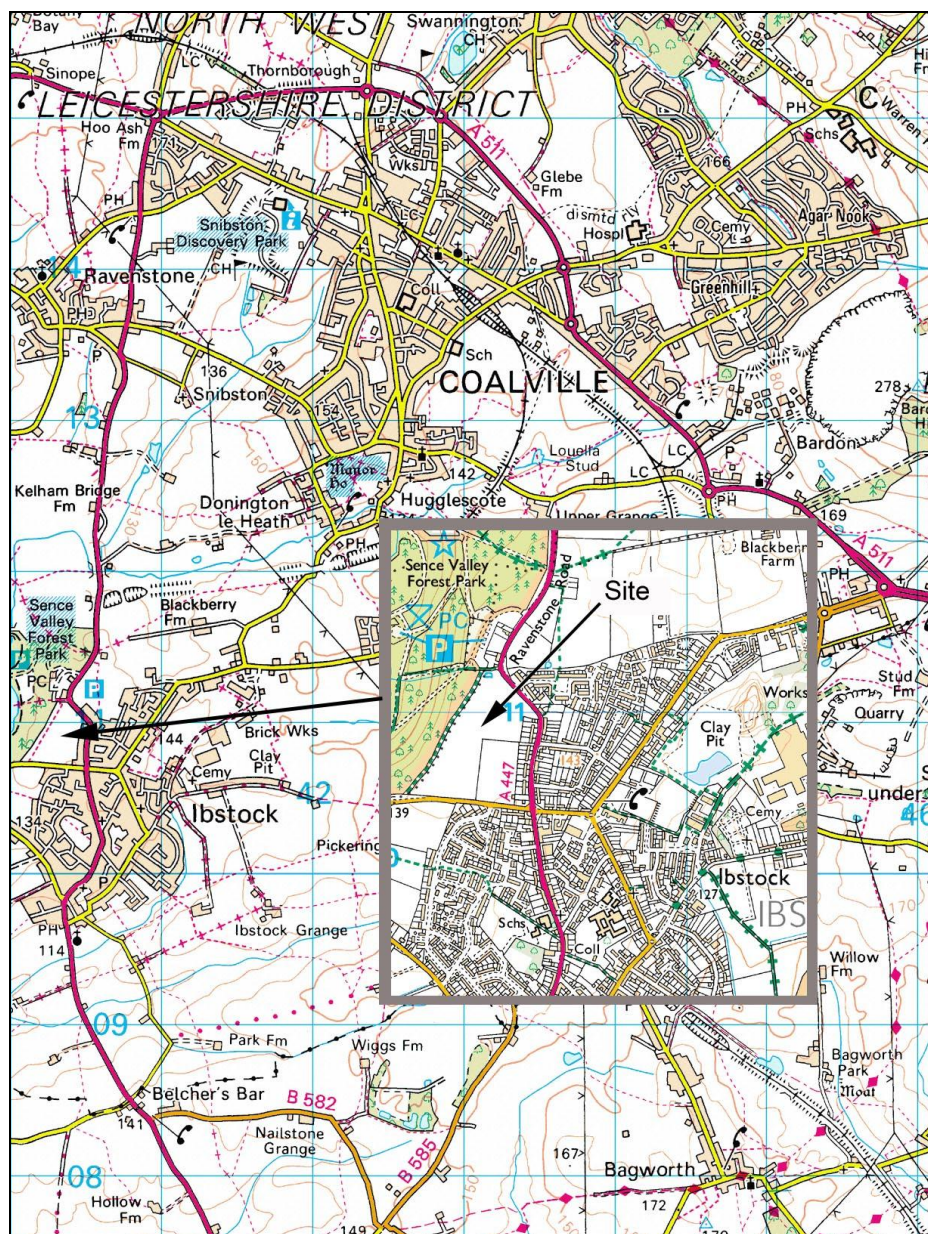


Figure 1 Location of site

Reproduced from 1:50 000 and 1:25 000 scale maps by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495.

4. Aims

The aim of the survey was to gather sufficient information to establish the extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any archaeological features and deposits within the area targeted for evaluation. A geophysical survey also undertaken is reported under separate cover.

5. Methods

The area was fieldwalked along 20m traverses, and all suspected pre-modern artefacts were collected, bagged, and recorded by hand-held GPS units, which were reporting an average accuracy of *c.* 4-5m. Assuming a 2m field of vision 10% of the field surface was searched. The crop, which appeared to be a winter cereal, was not

developed enough to hamper soil visibility. The soil was a sticky clay loam with abundant stone and small pebbles, plus widespread fragmentary C.B.M. Two small areas near the north entrance and south entrance were flooded. Light conditions were good throughout the survey, which was carried out in January 2010. 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).

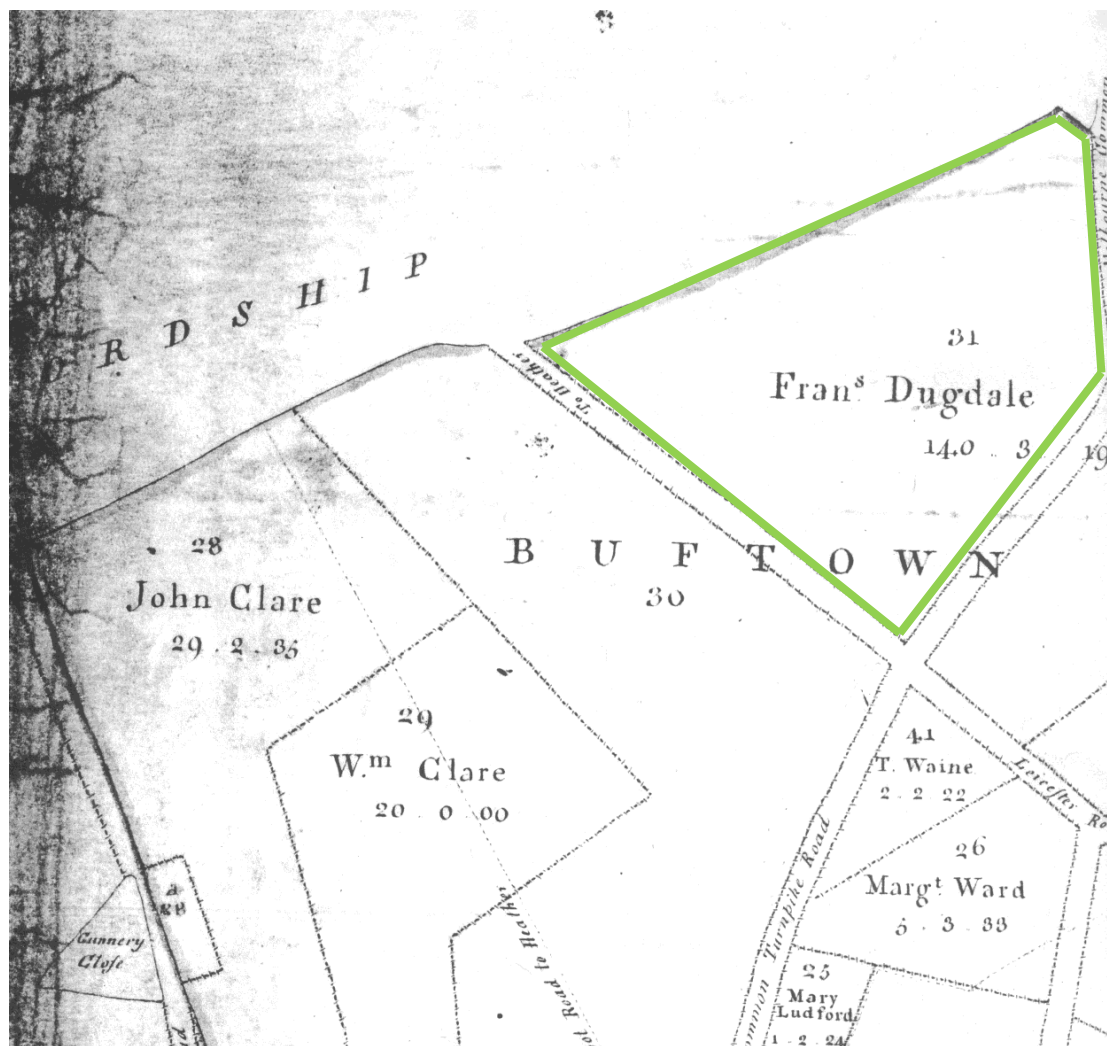


Figure 2 Detail of 1775 enclosure map of Ibstock, with assessment area highlighted.

6. Results

6.1 Prehistoric material

Eleven flints catalogued below (Table 3) represent a sparse later prehistoric scatter, possibly dating from the Mesolithic or Bronze Age.

6.2 Romano-British material

No Romano British material was located during the survey

6.3 Medieval and post-medieval material

Twenty-three sherds of pottery were recovered during the fieldwalking, seven of which could be dated the medieval period, the remainder being of post-medieval/modern date.

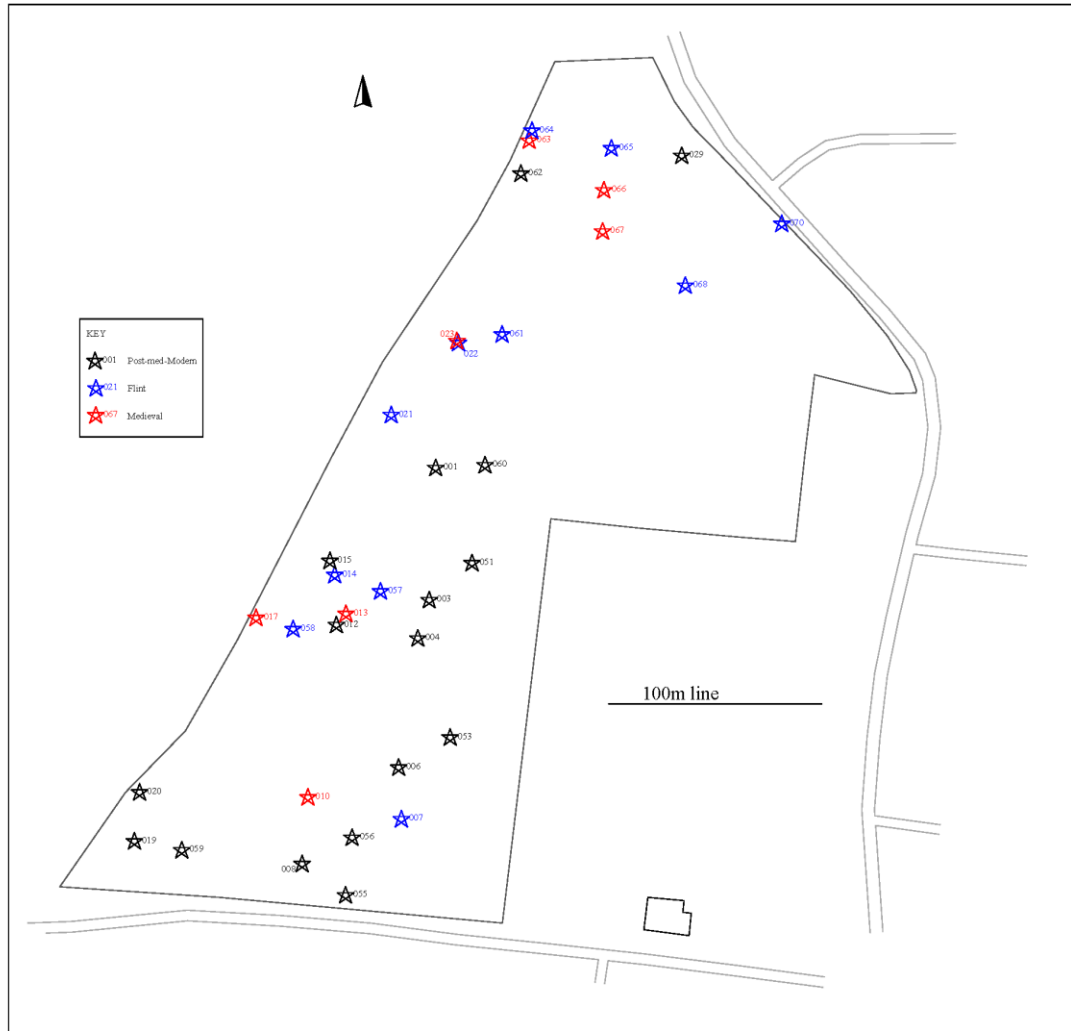


Figure 3 Plan of finds located during fieldwalking

7. The finds

The Flint Lynden Cooper

The eleven flints catalogued below (Table 3) represent a sparse later prehistoric scatter, possibly dating from the Mesolithic or Bronze Age. Thirteen other flints have been discarded as natural.

The Pottery and Miscellaneous finds Deborah Sawday

The pottery 23 sherds, weighing 431 grams was catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 1989; Davies and Sawday 1999). The results are shown in Tables 1 – 3 below.

The remaining finds comprised a fragment of modern ceramic building material and a piece of coal.

Table 1: The medieval and later pottery by fabric, sherd numbers and weight (grams).

Fabric	Common Name	Sherds	Weight	% of Total sherds nos.
Early Medieval/Medieval/Early Post Med				
OS	Oxidised Sandy ware	1	16	
CC1	Chilvers Coton 1	1	21	
MS3	Medieval Sandy ware 3	1	4	
MP2/3	Midland Purple 2/3	3	90	
EA1	Earthenware 1	1	15	
Later Medieval/ Early Post-Medieval Sub Totals		7	146	30.43
Post Med/Modern				
EA2	Earthenware 2	10	206	
EA4	Mottled ware	1	3	
EA10	Earthenware 10	1	6	
EA	Earthenware	2	27	
SW	Stoneware	1	31	
PO	Porcelain	1	12	
Post Med/Modern Sub Totals		16	285	69.56
Totals		23	431	99.99

The medieval and early post-medieval pottery accounted for approximately 30% of the site totals by sherd count. The remaining 69% is made up of post-medieval and modern material, mostly Earthenware, chiefly EA2, which is predominantly a pancheon ware. This fabric, EA10 and the Porcelain, fabrics SW and PO in particular date primarily from the later 18th or 19th centuries.

The pottery is probably associated with the manuring of the fields in medieval and modern times. The medieval and early post-medieval pottery seems to be typically fairly local in terms of their original place of manufacture. Chilvers Coton in Warwickshire was an important regional pottery production centre in the medieval and post-medieval periods, and the wares constituted a major import into the county, especially the western side, from the mid-13th century. The most likely sources of the later Medieval Sandy ware, fabric MS3, the Midland Purple fabrics MP2 and MP3 and Earthenware 1 are also thought to be to the west of the county, including Chilvers Coton and Ticknall in Derbyshire, the latter lying *c.*20 km to the north west of the site.

Site/ Parish: Ashby Road, Ibstock Mountsorrel Accession No.: XA5 2010 Document Ref: ibstock1.docx Material: pot/flint/misc. Site Type: open fields	Submitter: J. Coward Identifier: pot – D. Sawday/ Flint – L. Cooper Date of Identification: 12/2/10 Method of Recovery: field walking Job Number: 10 - 525
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Table 2: Key to Pottery/Ceramic Building Material Fabrics and to Date ranges

Fabric	Ware	Date Code	Period	Date Range
OS	Oxidised Sandy	EM	Early Med	c.1100/1250
CC1	Chilvers Coton 1	MED	Medieval	c.1250-1400
MS3	Medieval Sandy 3	MED/LM	Med/Late Med	c.1250-c.1500/50
MP2/3	Midland Purple 2/3	LM	Late Medieval	c.1375/1400 - 1500/50
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+
EA4	Mottled ware	PM/MOD	Post Med/Mod	c.1650/80-1780
EA10	Earthenware 10	MOD	Modern	c.1750-1900+
EA	Earthenware	MOD	Modern	c.1750-1900+
SW	Stoneware	MOD	Modern	c.1750-1900+
PO	Porcelain	MOD	Modern	c.1750-1900+

Table 3: The Finds

Find No.	Fabric	Nos	Grms	Date Range	Comments
All pot unless stated otherwise					
1	EA10	1	6	MOD	
2	COAL	1			
3	EA	1	24	MOD	abraded
4	EA2	1	16	PM/MOD	
5	Flint	1			Natural - discarded
6	EA2	1	27	PM/MOD	
7	Flint	1			Tertiary flake
8	EA2	1	18	PM/MOD	
9	Flint	1			Natural - discarded
10	EA1	1	15	EPM/PM	
11	Flint	1			Natural - discarded
12	EA2	1	17	PM/MOD	
13	MS3	1	16	MED/LM	
14	Flint	1			Core (migrating)
15	EA	1	15	MOD	Drain Pipe/tile
16	Flint	1			Natural - discarded
17	MP3	1	6	LM	
18	Flint	1			Natural - discarded
19	PO	1	12	MOD	
20	EA	1	3	MOD	Flower pot
21	Flint	1			Primary flake
22	Flint	1			Core (discoidal)
23	MS3	1	4	LM	Highly fired
24	Flint	1			Natural - discarded
25	Flint	1			Natural - discarded
26	Flint	1			Natural - discarded
27	Flint	1			Natural - discarded
28	Flint	1			Natural - discarded
29	EA2	1	16	PM/MOD	

51	EA2	1	14	PM/MOD	
52	Flint	1			Natural - discarded
53	EA2	1	14	PM/MOD	
54	Flint	1			Natural - discarded
55	SW	1	31	MOD	
56	EA4	1	3		
57	Flint	1			Primary flake
58	Flint	1			Core (migrating)
59	EA2	1	27		
60	EA2	1	35		
61	Flint	1			Secondary flake
62	EA2	1	22		
63	CC1	1	21		Bowl rim
64	Flint	1			Secondary flake
65	Flint	1			Secondary flake
66	MP2	1	68		Cistern rim, thumbled clay strip round neck under rim
67	OS	1	16		Jar rim, fabric similar to OS2 save no calcareous inclusions
68	Flint	1			Secondary flake
69	Flint	1			Natural - discarded
70	Flint	1			Retouched flake

8. Discussion

The fieldwalking survey has located a very few finds comprising some dispersed prehistoric flint and some medieval and post-medieval/modern pottery with no obvious concentrations. A density of less than 10 objects per hectare from a *c.* 10% collection is low and does not suggest that the area was occupied. The presence of a few pieces of flint suggests transient activity during the Mesolithic-Bronze Age periods while the medieval and post-medieval/modern pottery is probably the result of manuring the open fields around Ibstock.

9. Archive

The archive consists of the finds, a GPS survey print-out, and one *pro-forma* fieldwalking record sheet. It will be deposited with LMARS under accession code X.A5.2010 in due course.

10. OASIS Entry

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/>

ID	OASIS entry summary
Project Name	Ashby Road, Ibstock, Leicestershire
Summary	Fieldwalking of land east of Ashby Road, Ibstock, Leicestershire has located some dispersed prehistoric flint and some medieval and post-medieval/modern pottery but with no obvious concentrations. The flint suggests transient activity during the Mesolithic-Bronze Age periods while the medieval and post-medieval/modern pottery is probably the result of manuring the open fields around Ibstock. The archive will be

	deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession no. XA.5.2010
Project Type	Fieldwalking
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Jon Coward
Previous/Future work	Previous: Desk-based assessment; Geophysical survey. / Future: uncertain.
Current Land Use (2009)	Agricultural farmland
Development Type	Commercial
Reason for Investigation	PPG16
Position in the Planning Process	Pre-planning assessment
Site Co ordinates	SK 401 107
Start/end dates of field work	26/01/2010
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council, Museums
Study Area	7.2ha
Associated project reference codes	Museum accession ID: XA.5.2010 OASIS form ID:

11. Acknowledgements

The survey was carried out by Jon Coward and Mathew Morris of ULAS. Project management was by Patrick Clay of ULAS. ULAS would like to thank Nick Wilkins of Bellway Homes for his help in the course of the project.

12. Bibliography

Connor, A., and Buckley, R., 1999 *Roman and Medieval Occupation in Causeway Lane, Leicester*, Leicester Archaeology Mon. **5**.

Davies, S., and Sawday, D., 1999 'The Post-Roman Pottery and Tile' in A. Connor and R. Buckley, 1999, 165-213.

Hunt, L., 2009. *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment for land to the north of Ashby Road, Ibstock, Leicestershire (SK 401 107)* ULAS Report 2009-123

Sawday, D., 1989 'The post-Roman pottery', 28-41 in J.N. Lucas, 'An excavation in the north east quarter of Leicester: Elbow Lane, 1977', *Trans. Leicestershire Archaeol. and Hist. Soc.* **63**, 18-47.

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Appendix: The Design Specification

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Land adjacent to Ashby Road, Ibstock, Leicestershire SK 401 107

Written scheme of investigation for Geophysical and Fieldwalking Surveys

For: Bellway Homes Ltd

1. Introduction

1.1 This document sets out a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) to evaluate potential archaeological deposits at Land adjacent to Ashby Road, Ibstock, Leicestershire (SK 401 107). An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for the area has been prepared (Hunt 2009).

1.2 The proposed development area is located north of Ashby Road, Ibstock, Leicestershire (SK 401 107). The site consists of approximately 7.2ha within which Bellway Homes Ltd are proposing a scheme of residential development.

1.3 The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland records that there are no archaeological sites located in the assessment area itself. However, the site is situated in an area rich in archaeological remains.

2. Geology and topography

2.1 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 155 shows that the underlying geology of the assessment area is likely to be Mercia Mudstone Group clay.

3. Aim of the Survey

3.1 The overall aim of the survey is to gather sufficient information to establish the extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any archaeological features and deposits within the area targeted for evaluation. A fieldwalking survey and detailed gradiometry will be undertaken.

4. Survey Methodology

4.1 General Methodology

4.1.1 A geophysical and fieldwalking surveys are required over the area in order that an assessment can be made of the presence and extent of any archaeological deposits.

4.1.2 The geophysical survey will be sub-contracted to Northamptonshire Archaeology, a registered organisation with the IfA. Suitable equipment will be used by a qualified archaeologist specialising in geophysical survey to cover an area as indicated in Figures 1 and 2. The results will then be interpreted and reported in a way that will give as much clarity as possible to the surveyed results enabling an informed decision on the nature of the archaeology. The specifications of the equipment and detailed methodology are outlined in Appendix 1.

4.1.3 The land for evaluation is mostly farmland. Access will be agreed with the landowner prior to access.

4.1.4 All geophysical survey work will adhere to guidance set out in English Heritage Research and Professional Services Guideline No.1: Geophysical survey in archaeological field evaluation (2008) and Geophysical Data in Archaeology: A Guide to Good Practice (Archaeology Data Service).

4.1.5 Available ploughed fields within the previously unsurveyed area to the south-east. The surveys will be committed to the standards and codes of conduct set out by the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

4.2 Setting out of survey grids

4.2.1 The survey grids will be set out using a Global Positioning Satellite receiver. Partial grids shall be avoided wherever possible. Survey pegs will be set out in field boundaries and where possible be left in place. All survey grids will be plotted onto the OS digital base map with National Grid co-ordinates to enable the accurate location of trial trenches over anomalies.

4.3 Specific Methodology: Geophysical survey

4.3.1 The equipment used for the magnetic survey will be carried out using a dual sensor Grad601-2 Magnetic Gradiometer manufactured by Bartlington Instruments Ltd. The Grad601-2 consists of two high stability fluxgate gradiometers suspended on a single frame. Each sensor has a 1m separation between the sensing elements increasing the sensitivity to small changes in the Earth's magnetic field.

4.3.2 The equipment will be zeroed and balanced at a 'magnetically quiet' location with the use of a non-magnetic tripod. The balancing point will be accurately laid out using a compass. The gradiometer will be switched on for a period of at least 30 minutes prior to balancing and placed outside to allow stabilisation of temperature. Metal objects and compasses will be removed to at least 50m from the balancing position. Balancing with the Grad601-2 is an automated process using electronic adjustments and is only required prior to the start of each survey session (usually 2 per day).

4.4 Specific Methodology: Fieldwalking

4.4.1 A programme of fieldwalking will be undertaken over all area. The fieldwalking is to take place after the fields are ploughed, rolled and weathered for at least 3 weeks.

4.4.2 Pre-modern artefacts will be collected and bagged along 20m transects. The location of the finds will be plotted using hand held GPS loggers.

4.5 Sampling Interval

4.5.1 The fieldwalking survey will be carried out on a 20m grid with readings for the MS being taken at the node points.

4.5.2 Magnetometry Readings will be taken at 0.25m centres along traverses 1m apart. This equates to 3600 sampling points in a full 30x30m grid.

4.6 Depth of scan and resolution

4.6.1 Magnetometry - The Grad601-2 has a typical depth penetration of 0.5 – 1.0m. This would be increased in the presence of buried, strongly magnetic objects. The collection of data at 0.5m centres provides an appropriate methodology for balancing cost and time with resolution.

4.7 Data Capture

4.7.1 Fieldwalking readings will be logged manually on site, and then transferred to the office where they will be entered into a computer and colour surfer plots produced.

4.7.2 Magnetometry Readings will be logged consecutively into the data logger which in turn is daily downloaded into a portable computer on site. At the end of each job, data will be transferred to the office for processing and presentation. An initial assessment of the data quality will be carried out by the survey team. After each survey session a site record sheet will be completed or updated as appropriate.

4.8 Processing of data

4.8.1 Magnetometry Processing is performed using specialist software (e.g. Geoplot 3). Details of the software used and processing techniques should be provided by the Geophysical Survey Contractor.

4.8.2 Pre-modern artefacts will be collected from the fieldwalking surveys. These will be washed marked and identified.

4.8.3 All survey results will be plotted at an appropriate scale on an OS digital base map.

4.9 Timetabling

4.9.1 It is proposed that the surveys will be undertaken in January 2010

5. Liaison/Monitoring

5.1 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to the Leicestershire County Council, Planning Archaeologists, the client and his representatives subject to the health and safety requirements of the site.

5.2 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site by the project manager. These will ensure that project targets are met and professional standards are maintained.

6. Report

6.1 A reports on the fieldwork will be provided following analysis of the surveys. It will be distributed to

The client

Leicestershire County Council, Planning Archaeologist
Leicestershire County Council, (HER)

6.2 The reports will contain sufficient detail to enable the results of the evaluation to be interpreted without recourse to the site archive.

6.3 The reports will include the following

Non-technical summary

Introduction (Site location and description, archaeological background, nature and location of the survey)

Method statement detailing methods and equipment used, results and conclusions.

Summary of results and significance

Appendices of specialist reports

6.4 The reports will contain an accurate site plan showing the surveyed areas, raw data and interpretation of the principal features revealed. The data will be presented in map form on the OS digital map base, on A3 sheets at an appropriate scale; usually no scale smaller than 1:1000 is used. Maps will be constructed using AutoCAD and contain north arrows, scale-bar, scale, title, figure number, key and date. Adjacent areas must also be included on the plan to allow the site to be accurately located as well as the grid co-ordinates used.

7 Health and Safety

7.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (revised 2007) with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is in the Appendix. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate.

8 Insurance

8.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with St Pauls Travellers Policy No.

UCPOP3651237 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters (50%) and Brit Insurances (50%) Policy No. FUNK3605.

9. Bibliography.

- ADS *Geophysical Data in Archaeology: A Guide to Good Practice* (Archaeology Data Service)
EH, 2008 *Geophysical survey in archaeological field evaluation* (English Heritage 2008)
- Hunt, L., 2009 *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment for land to the north of Ashby Road, Ibstock, Leicestershire (SK 401 107)* ULAS Report 2009-123
- IFA, 2008 *Code of Conduct*

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