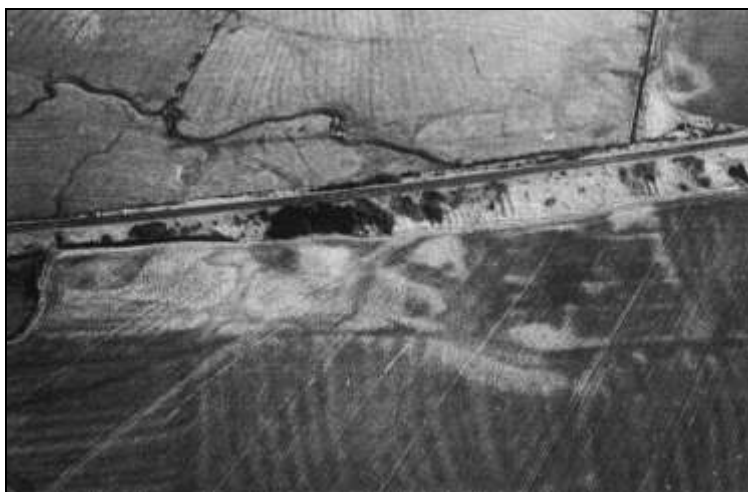




Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT AND GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY: LAND ADJACENT TO BITTESBY HOUSE, BITTESBY, LEICESTERSHIRE

on behalf of ALP Ambrose



by

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January 2008

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Site Data

<i>ASC site code:</i>	BBH	<i>Project no:</i>	905
<i>Oasis No.</i>	archaeol2-53861	<i>Accession No.</i>	X: A222 2005
<i>County:</i>	Leicestershire		
<i>District:</i>	Harborough		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Bittesby nr Lutterworth		
<i>Parish:</i>	Bittesby CP		
<i>NGR:</i>	SP 4990 8585 (centre)		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.3.7 hectares		
<i>Present land use:</i>	Agricultural (pasture)		
<i>Development:</i>	Raising ground level		
<i>Extent of development:</i>	c.3.7 hectares		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	tbc		
<i>Client:</i>	A.L.P. Ambrose Minerals Planning and Development Consultancy Highway House, Asfare Business Park Hinckley Road, Wolvey Leicestershire LE10 3HQ		
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Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

Desk-based assessment and geophysical survey were undertaken by ASC Ltd between April and June 2007 on land northwest of Bittesby House, Bittesby near Lutterworth, Leicestershire. The focus of the area examined was located on the western side of the disused Midland railway line over part of the site of the medieval village of Bittesby. The western extent of the village and the location and orientation of part of the villages open field system was defined by the geophysical survey. Finds recovered by the Lutterworth Fieldwalking Group have hinted that the village may have its origin in the early/mid Anglo Saxon period. The Norse origin of the village name certainly shows that an extant settlement was renamed, or that a settlement was established during the 9th or 10th century. Records illustrate that the village existed until its arable land was inclosed for sheep pasture and the majority of tenants evicted at the end of the 15th century.

1. Introduction

1.1 During 2007 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out desk-based assessment and geophysical survey to examine land located near Bittesby House, Bittesby, Leicestershire (NGR SP 4990 8585 (centre): Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by *A L P Ambrose*, and was carried out in response to a brief (Clarke 2005) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Harborough District Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA) at Leicestershire County Council.

1.2 *Planning Background*

The work was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16). The development comprised improvement to the agricultural value of an area of low lying arable land through importation and deposition of topsoil and subsoil to raise its level, therefore preventing intermittent flooding and improving yields.

1.3 *Location*

The site was located in the Harborough district of Leicestershire, in the civil parish of Bittesby, and was centred on NGR SP 4990 8585 (Fig. 1). It encompassed c.3.5 of arable farmland, located c.500m northwest of Bittesby House and c.200m north of the A5. The eastern side of the site was bounded by the embankment of a disused railway.

1.4 *Geology & Topography*

The soils of the area belong to the *Beccles 3 Association*, which are characterised as “*Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loamy over clayey soils and similar soils with only slight seasonal waterlogging. Some calcareous clayey soils especially on steeper slopes*” (Soil Survey, 1983, 711t). The underlying geology is characterised as “*boulder clay drift, overlying argillaceous rocks and limestone of the Penarth Group*” (*ibid*). The site lies on a moderate, east-facing, slope that descends from c.115m AOD to c.110m AOD.

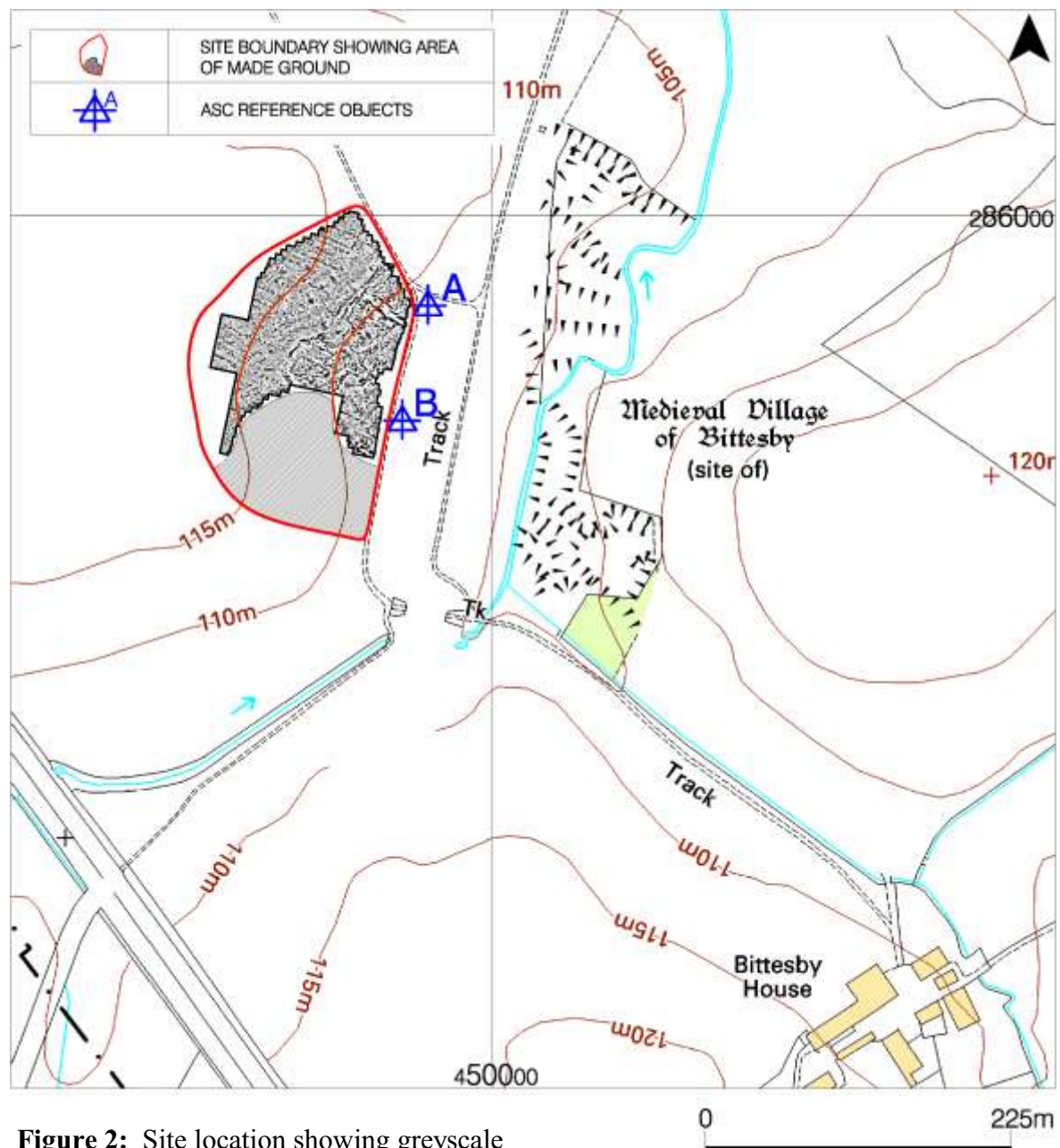


Figure 2: Site location showing greyscale gradiometer data (scale 1:5000)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 Desk Based Assessment

2.1.1 'Archaeological desk-based assessment is an assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource within a given area, consisting of a collation of existing information in order to identify the likely extent, character and quality of the known or potential archaeological resource, in order that appropriate measures might be considered' (IFA 2000a).

2.1.2 The assessment was carried out according to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (IFA 2001).

2.1.3 The following readily available sources of information were consulted for the desk-based assessment:

- *Archaeological Databases*

Archaeological databases represent the standard references to the known archaeology of an area. The principal source consulted was the Sites & Monuments (HER), Leicester. The study area employed in the HER search includes the site itself, and a surrounding study area of approximately 1km radius.

- *Historic Documents*

Documentary research provides an overview of the history of a site and its environs, suggesting the effects of settlement and land-use patterns. The principal source consulted was the Leicestershire County Records Office (CRO), Wigston Magna, Leicester.

- *Cartographic & Pictorial Documents*

Old maps and illustrations are normally a very productive area of research. The principal sources consulted were those held at the Leicestershire Record Office (Wigston).

- *Air Photographs*

Given favourable light and crop conditions, air photographs can reveal buried features in the form of crop and soil marks. They can also provide an overview of and more specific information about land use at a given time. The principal source consulted was a single oblique black and white photograph taken by James Pickering in 1963 (NMR SP 5085/1).

- *Geotechnical Information*

A description of the topography and solid and surface geology of the site and its environs was compiled, so as to appreciate the potential condition of any archaeological remains, to assess the hydrological conditions, and to appraise the potential for the survival of buried waterlogged archaeological and palaeoenvironmental deposits.

- *Secondary & Statutory Sources*

The principal source consulted were those held in the local studies library at Wigston, Leicester.

2.2 Walk-Over Survey

As part of the assessment a walk-over survey of the site was undertaken on July 6th 2005, with the following aims:

- To examine any areas of archaeological potential identified during research for the assessment, in particular with a view to gauging the possible survival or condition of any remains present.
- To consider the significance of any above-ground structures, historic buildings or historic landscape features present.
- To assess present site use and ground conditions, to assess appropriate fieldwork techniques, if required by the AA.

2.3 Geophysical Survey

2.3.1 The aims of the geophysical survey were:

- To determine the presence/absence of subsurface archaeological features.
- To attempt interpretation of the form and function of any archaeological features.
- To attempt to assess the state of preservation, extent and character of any surviving archaeology on the site.

2.3.2 The methods that were required for the survey were:

- Detailed magnetometer survey of c.0.65 hectares of the site at a sample interval of 0.25m x 1.0m. Survey blocks were to have a minimum size of 40m x 40m.
- Detailed resistance survey of c.0.65 hectares of the site at a sample interval of 1.0m x 1.0m. Survey blocks were to have a minimum size of 40m x 40m.

2.4 Constraints

Topsoil and subsoil had been stripped from the surface of the development site before commencement of archaeological fieldwork and the southern third of the development site had already had imported material dumped on to it thus preventing geophysical survey of this area. The resistance survey was abandoned after it became clear that the stripped surface had baked hard preventing insertion of the resistance probes and causing spurious resistance readings. The area of magnetometer survey was increased to 1.3 hectares to compensate.

3. Archaeological & Historical Evidence

3.1 Introduction

The local and regional settings of archaeological sites are factors that are taken into consideration when assessing the planning implications of development proposals. The study area lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest and the development site overlies part of the deserted medieval village of Bittesby. The locations of known archaeological and historical sites recorded in the Historic Environment Record (HER) are shown in Fig. 3, and details appear in Section 9. The following sections provide a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs.

3.2 Prehistoric (before 600BC)

Little is known of the prehistoric periods in this part of Leicestershire. Generalised narratives for the county have been produced (Beamish 2004) but specific information of direct relevance to the Bittesby area is absent. Recent work by the Lutterworth Fieldwalking Group recovered a small lithic assemblage from the stripped surface of the development area. The assemblage largely consists of undiagnostic waste flakes and much of it is tentatively dated to the later Neolithic and/or Bronze Age periods. The presence of a core and a flake dating to the Palaeolithic period, plus one Mesolithic microlith is also suggested (Bevan 2007; specialist report in Appendix 1)

3.3 Iron Age (600BC-AD43)

It is not until the Iron Age that a more coherent narrative starts to emerge (Clay 2004). There is an increase in land clearance from the late Bronze Age onwards and a more managed approach to exploiting the land, manifested by the introduction of extensive field and long-distance boundary systems (*ibid*, 42-3). Pit alignments, with a suggested function of defining areas of pasture, were constructed, but were often replaced by single and multiple ditched systems towards the middle of the first millennium BC.

Over two hundred and twenty Late Iron Age sites are listed in the Leicestershire HER and extensive fieldwalking surveys have suggested the presence of a site every 1.8-2km on favourable land (*ibid*, 44). The most common form of settlement of this period consists of small enclosed or unenclosed farmsteads (*ibid*).

The only evidence of this period in the vicinity of Bittesby is from a find spot approximately 110m to the north of the village (Fig. 3; HER: MLE 10324). Two sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered, one of which was a grog tempered ware probably dating from the late Iron Age.

3.4 Romano-British (AD43-c.450)

At least ten Romano-British (RB) towns are present in Leicestershire, of which the largest was *Ratae* (Leicester), the *civitas* capital (Liddle 2004, 71-80). The locations of sixty-two villas are recorded by the HER and nineteen have been partly excavated.

Over three hundred and sixty six smaller sites of diverse function are also recorded (*ibid.*).

Watling Street (HER: MLE 1388), one of the major roads of Roman Britain (Taylor 1979, 191) runs on a northwest-southeast alignment c.300m southwest of the village site. The route of the Roman road is closely followed by the modern A5. An inhumation burial was discovered at NGR SP 496-857 (Fig 3. HER: MLE 1225) on the northern side of the A5, c.300m southwest of the village site. Roadside burials are relatively common in the RB period although the excavated example remains undated.

Artefacts suggesting the presence of settlement of this period have been recovered in the environs of Bittesby. Pottery is recorded at NGR SP 499-858 (HER: MLE 6132 and 16461) and RB building material was discovered near the medieval village during the 19th century.

Transactions of Leicestershire Archaeological Society (Vol I, 1934) describes the RB building material recovered in the vicinity of Bittesby:

'the cutting of the railway line from Leicester to Rugby disclosed many evidences of Roman occupation on the Bittesby site. Barnett states that "many foundations were dug up and antiquities of divers kinds found there"; and Dyson, quoting from an old newspaper, says: "Workmen engaged on this line came upon the foundation of a Roman villa at Bittesby. It disclosed a building of considerable dimensions with a beautiful tessellated pavement and the remains of a bath.....Throsby also records having seen a fine Roman urn from Bittesby.'

The Lutterworth Fieldwalking Group recently recovered eighteen sherds of RB pottery and a single fragment of tegula roof tile from the stripped surface of the development site (Fawcett 2007; specialist report in Appendix 1).

The summarised evidence indicates that building remains of this period may lie beneath or in close proximity to the medieval village.

3.5 Anglo-Saxon (c.450-1066)

Fieldwalking surveys in Leicestershire have suggested that reasonably dense levels of early Anglo-Saxon (AS) occupation were present, most commonly located in river valleys or on promontories (Knox 2004, 95). Recent metal detecting has resulted in inhumation cemeteries being more visible than settlement sites due to the recovery of metal grave goods (*ibid.*).

The social and political backdrop to this period is still only partially understood although increased royal authority and a growth in effective administration during the mid AS period (Bowman 2004, 126) appear to have led to the adoption of farming practices that exploited field systems usually focused on a single nucleated settlement.

Leicestershire lay in the kingdom of Mercia during the mid and late AS period although Scandinavian incursions during the 9th century saw the Bittesby area

included within the Danelaw. The southern boundary of Scandinavian influence was delimited by the A5 although this boundary may have fluctuated slightly through time. The name of Bittesby is certainly of Scandinavian origin; the ending *by* derives from the Norse for farmstead or village (Cameron 1977, 118; Wilshire 1977, 5). It is currently unclear whether the village was founded by Norse invaders or if an established AS settlement was renamed.

A small number of AS finds have been recovered near Bittesby. A loom weight was discovered northwest the village at NGR SP 499-861 (HER: MLE 6250) and a single pot sherd was recovered c.200m north of the site at NGR 501-864 (HER: MLE 10324). Three small sherds of early/mid AS pot have recently been recovered from the stripped surface of the development site by the Lutterworth Fieldwalking Group (Blinkhorn 2007: specialist report in Appendix 1).

3.6 Medieval (1066-1500)

The Domesday Survey (1086) places Bittesby in the *Gartree Wapentake* (Willams & Martin 2003, 629). In 1086, Bittesby was held by the king and it was assessed at 5 *carucates*. There was land for 4 ploughs and 20 acres of meadow. The demesne had enough land for 1 plough and 2 ploughs were held by 14 individuals (10 villeins and 4 bordars). If the individuals listed were the heads of households, a population somewhere between 40 and 60 people could be extrapolated.

The population may have increased to 100 or more over ensuing centuries as by 1279 it was recorded that there were 23 villein tenants each holding a virgate and 2 free tenants with 1 virgate between them (Nichols 1810, Vol IV, Part 1, 117). In 1280 Bittesby, Ullesthorpe, Great and Little Claybrook and Ullesthorpe were grouped together as a single township or vill (*ibid.*). Bittesby was assessed at £1 14s 6d in the Lay Subsidy of 1334, which places it at the lower end of settlements in terms of value. At the time of the first poll tax in 1377 the taxable population was 21, which suggests a total population similar to that recorded a century earlier (Pugh 1955, III, 139).

Bittesby is recorded as a 'parish liberty in Leicestershire' (Youngs 1991, 221), although it may have been an earlier Chapelry. The HER records discovery of dressed stonework which may define the location of a possible chapel at Bittesby (HER: MLE 1227).

Inclosure and depopulation occurred at Bittesby in 1488 and 1494. For example, the Leicestershire Returns to Wolsey's Inquiry of 1517 show that the Earl of Shrewsbury (the lord of the manor) evicted 60 people from Bittesby on October 2nd 1494 (Fryde 1991, 810). The records illustrate that Bittesby was in decline during the 15th century and the mass eviction of 1494 appears to have effectively killed off the village.

The Lutterworth Fieldwalking Group recovered 249 sherds of medieval pottery during recent survey over the stripped surface of the development site. Specialist assessment has shown that the date of the recovered assemblage spans the entire medieval period (Blinkhorn 2007; specialist report in Appendix 1).

3.7 *Post-Medieval (1500-1900)*

In 1520, the Countess of Shrewsbury appeared before the Exchequer to answer for the decline of Bittesby (Beresford 1987, 195). According to the account given to the Exchequer, there were only 150 acres of arable land remaining at Bittesby in 1488 when it was largely inclosed and converted to pasture (Beresford 1987, 210). Interestingly, it was another six years before the tenants were evicted and some 26 years before the authorities showed their concern about the fate of the inhabitants.

By 1524/5 there were only 3 taxpayers left in Bittesby and by 1563, there were no households wealthy enough to pay any tax (Pugh 1955, 139). However, a fine of 1572 indicates that there were still 3 messuages with garden and orchards surviving (Hoskins 1950, 93). Surrounding landuse is listed as 40 acres of arable, 60 acres of meadow, 3 acres of wood and 1000 acres of pasture (*ibid.*). The conversion from arable to pasture is illustrated by the fact that in 1588 Thomas Jusly had 280 ewes pastured at Bittesby (Hoskins 1950, 175).

Bittesby is listed in the hundred of *Guthlaxton* in 1830 (Farnham 1933, vol IV, 125). The area had remained as uninterrupted farmland until the Midland Counties railway opened between Leicester and Rugby in 1840 (Lelux 1984, 104). The railway line bisects the site of the village on a north-south aligned embankment and is shown on the 1842 tithe map of the Bittesby area (Leics R.O: DE 218/170; T1/361. Fig. 4), Bittesby Lodge (subsequently Bittesby House Farm) is shown on OS 1st Series mapping although there is no indication of the abandoned medieval settlement on either plan. The DMV is also absent from later 1st Ed. (Fig 5) and 2nd Ed. (Fig 6) Ordnance Survey maps of the area. Bittesby was designated a Civil Parish in 1866.

3.8 *Modern (1900-present)*

Leicestershire Records Office holds sale particulars for Bittesby House Farm dated 1944 (DE 3931 72/83). The farm was sold in 2 plots, one of 539 acres and the second one of 196 acres. The sale schedule shows that 16 fields in the larger western plot, which encompassed a total area of 284.2 acres, had been 'broken up' by order of the *Leicestershire War Agricultural Executive Committee* (*ibid.*).

3.9 *Recent Archaeological Work*

Earthworks of the medieval village were observed at the west of the railway line when Beresford visited the site in the 1940's (Beresford 1987). However, this area was ploughed and the earthworks damaged in 1953. Beresford (*ibid.*) published a plan of the ridge and furrow at the west of the village site (Fig. 7); unfortunately, detail of the earthworks within the area of settlement is scant. An aerial photograph of 1963 (Plate 3) suggests that some of the more pronounced earthworks at the west of the railway line may have survived a decade of ploughing.

The earthworks at the east of the railway line were statutorily protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 17034) in the late 1950's and were surveyed by R F Hartley in 1985.

The HER records that pottery, including Roman, Saxon and medieval material was collected from the area at the west of the railway embankment during the 1970's.

The Lutterworth Fieldwalking Group recently (April 2005) noted two small cobbled surfaces, collected 52 lithics, 18 Romano-British potsherds, 3 early/mid Anglo Saxon, 249 medieval pot sherds, a single piece of Romano-British roof tile and post medieval artefacts from the development site after topsoil and subsoil had been stripped prior to land improvement. The finds are now curated by Leicestershire Museums Service Acc No: X.A222 2005. Five NNE-SSW aligned gridded transects were walked. The majority of artefacts were collected from the three easternmost transects, the two westernmost transects were located over remnants of the medieval villages open field system and show a marked paucity in the variety and number of finds. The finds are discussed by type and date in the relevant sections above, specialist assessment of the finds is presented in Appendix 1.

Nigel Clamp, a local detectorist and amateur archaeologist, also carried out work during 2005 and collected a small assemblage of Romano-British pottery of 1st – 4th century date, two late Roman coins and other metal objects of uncertain date.

As previously noted (Section 2.4) imported material had been dumped on a third of the development site before ASC's initial site visit and archaeological examination of this area was not possible. In light of the results of the geophysical survey over the remainder of the development area, Leicestershire County Councils Archaeological Advisor required that ASC delimit the remaining area of settlement features and monitor installation of a protective layer of permeable geo-textile over them. This work was completed by ASC in June 2007.

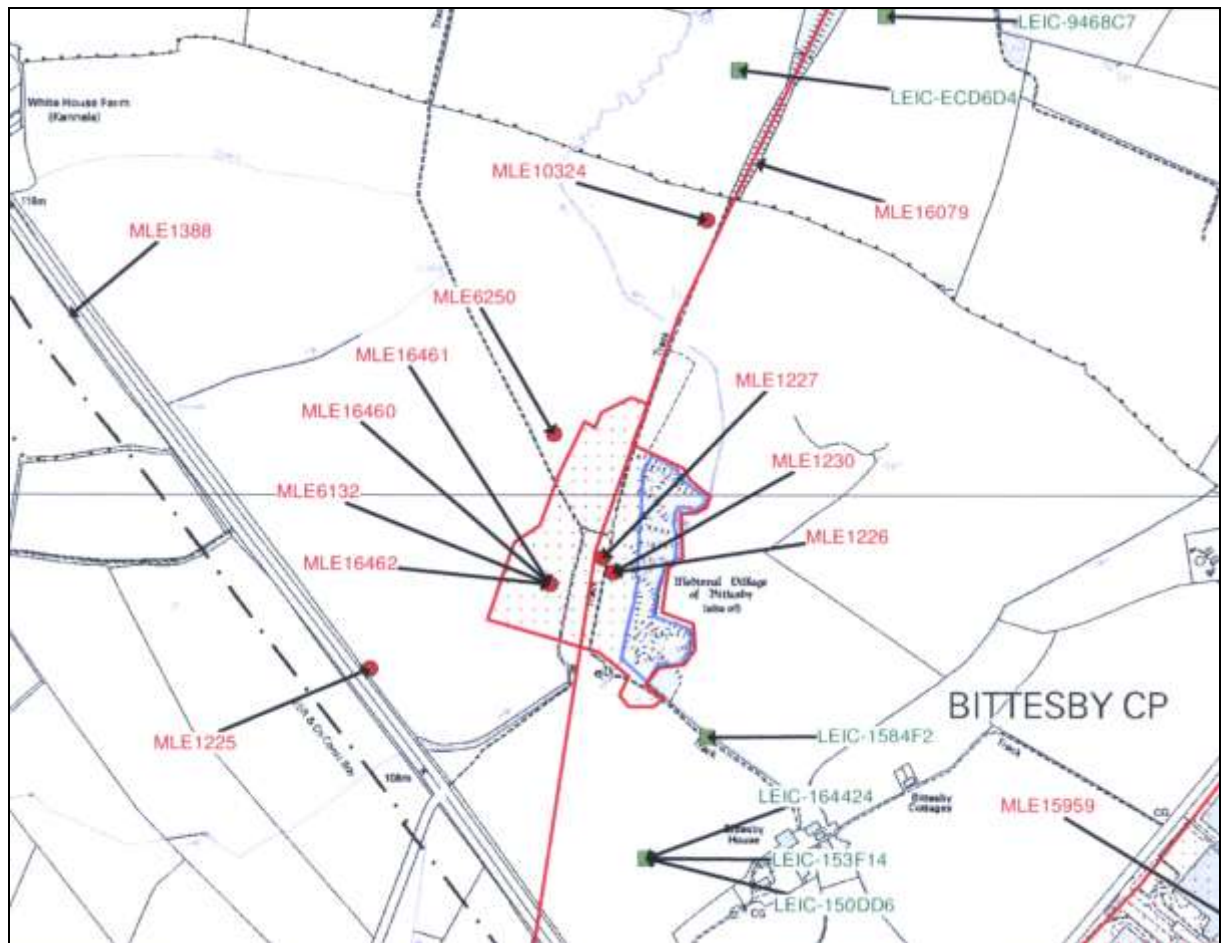


Figure 3: Archaeological sites recorded by Leicestershire HER (© Leics. C. C.).

Sites listed below are those within a 1 kilometre radius of Bittesby but exclude those that are of 20th century date.

MLE:	NGR	Period	Type	Description
1225	SP 496-857	unknown	burial	skeleton
1226	SP 499-858	Medieval	settlement	Scheduled DMV – SAM 17034
1227	SP 499-858	Medieval	structure	Chapel
1230	SP 499-858	Roman	structure	villa
1388	SP 46-89	Roman	structural	Road (Watling Street)
6132	SP 499-858	Roman/Med	finds	Pottery sherds
6250	SP 499-861	Anglo-Saxon	find	Loom weight
10324	SP 501-864	IA/AS/Med	find	Pottery sherds
16079	SP 56-94	19 th Century	earthwork	Railway line
16460	SP 499-858	Medieval	finds	pottery
16461	SP 499-858	Roman	finds	pottery
16462	SP 499-858	RB/AS	finds	pottery



Figure 4: Tithe map of Bittesby area in 1842 (pink = approximate area of land improvement)



Figure 5: Ordnance Survey of Bittesby area in 1877 (1st Ed 6inch scale)



Figure 6: Ordnance Survey of Bittesby area in 1901 (2nd Ed 6 inch scale)

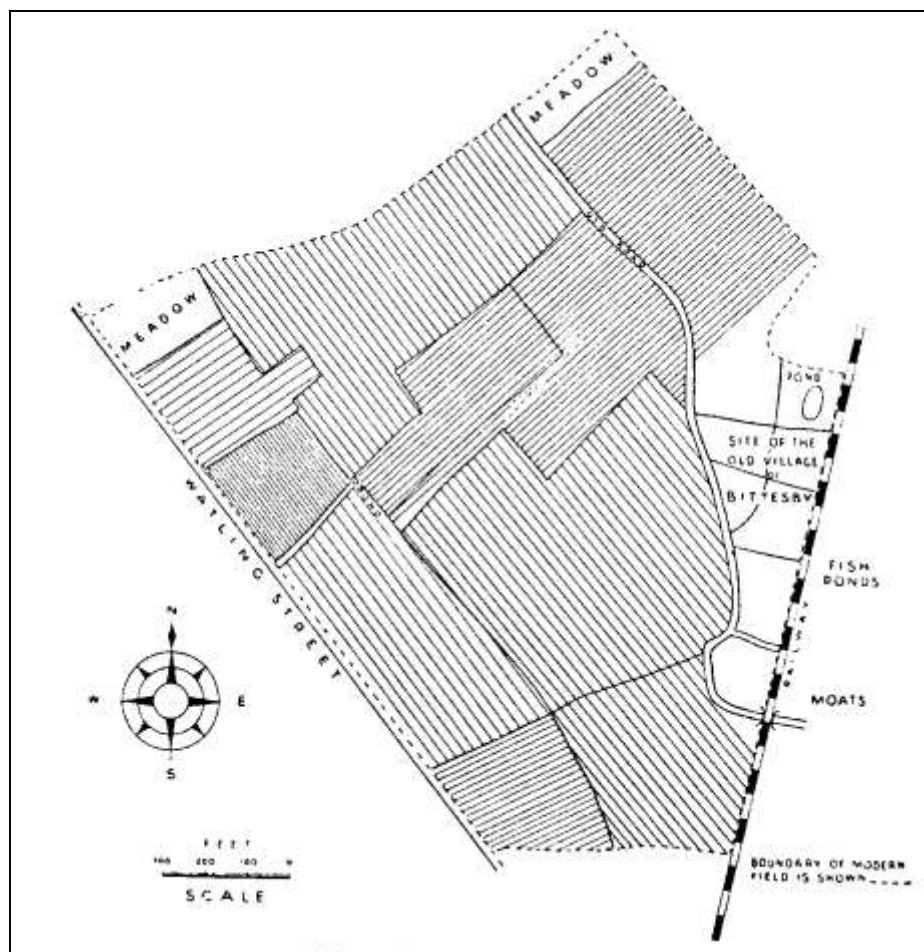


Figure 7: Plan of ridge and furrow at Bittesby (after Beresford 1954: Fig. 2)

4. Walk-Over Survey

4.1 *Extent, Access & Present Use*

The site of the proposed land improvement was approximately 3.7ha in extent and formed a semi circular area (Fig. 2). Access was obtained from the east along an unmetalled track from Bittesby House. The land was in agricultural use.

4.2 *Buildings*

There were no buildings on or in the immediate vicinity of the site.

4.3 *Services*

There were no known services crossing the site.

4.4

The walk over survey was carried out on July 6th 2005. Topsoil and subsoil was removed from the site surface some time earlier, vegetation and weeds had regrown on the stripped surface. Made ground covered the southern third of the site. Occasional areas of cobble surface were visible amongst the vegetation and a pronounced ESE – WNW aligned hollow way passed through the east centre of the site. An earthen bund bounded the north, south and west of the site and a footpath running parallel with and immediately adjacent to the railway embankment, delimited the east.

5. Statutory Constraints on Development

5.1 Introduction

A range of planning constraints are potentially in place on any given site. These constraints may relate both to the area as a whole, and to adjacent areas and are taken into consideration when assessing the implications of planning and other proposals made to the local authority and to other local and national bodies.

5.2 Conservation Areas

There are no conservation areas in the area of the proposed development.

5.3 Areas of Archaeological Significance

The site is noted in the HER listing (MLE 1226) describing the DMV of Bittesby. The area of the DMV east of the railway embankment is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (see below).

5.4 Scheduled Ancient Monuments

The area immediately east of the development site is statutorily protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 17034). Included within the legal description is the following: *“The village earthworks comprise hollow ways and house platforms. A ditch up to 1m deep runs along the north of the area, near to which is some faced stonework, indicating the site of a chapel a south-north flowing stream runs on the eastward side of the site”* (ibid.).

5.5 Listed Buildings

There are no listed buildings on or adjacent to the site.



Plate 1: Overall view of the site looking north



Plate 2: Detail of exposed cobbles on the site



Plate 3: Aerial photograph of the site taken in 1963 (J. Pickering - NMR ref: SP 5085/1)

6. Geophysical Survey: Results and Discussion

6.1 Introduction

The fluxgate gradiometer survey has successfully defined an eastern limit to settlement activity, the location of a plough headland or trackway and the position of part of the open field system of the medieval village of Bittesby (see Figs 8 and 9). Definitive interpretation of the origin and characterisation of the extent of individual features from the defined geophysical anomalies has proved problematic because of damage to features probably caused by removal of top and subsoil during groundwork carried out before the involvement of ASC. Nonetheless, interpretation of anomalies and characterisation of areas of different activity is attempted in the following sections.

6.2 Agricultural Anomalies

- 6.2.1 WNW-ESE aligned, parallel positive magnetic anomalies are present at the west of the survey block (**A**). The lines of enhancement are weak and often intermittent, characteristics that suggest that the unmonitored soil strip may have truncated the features that cause the anomalies, although it is of equally possible that the features may already have suffered significant damage through earlier ploughing. This type of anomaly is characteristic of the presence of denuded remnants of ridge and furrow.
- 6.2.2 At the north of the survey block a NNE-SSW aligned line of positive magnetic enhancement (**B**) runs adjacent to and orthogonal to the eastern end of the ridge and furrow. The line of positive enhancement, and four discrete areas of enhancement (**C**) lying southwest of it, may originate from deeper areas of soil caused by the turn of the plough at the end of the furrows or may signify the presence of the truncated remnants of a boundary ditch. It is possible that the discrete anomalies could identify infilled pits, although it seems more probable that these anomalies are associated with the remnants of the open field system identified to the west.
- 6.2.3 A c.15m wide band of ground with a relatively uniform magnetic background runs along a NE-SW alignment at the eastern end of the ridge and furrow. This magnetically quiet area appears to define the location of a plough headland, or trackway, which separated agricultural fields at the west from settlement activity discussed in the following sections.

6.3 Settlement Anomalies

6.3.1 General

The area east of the plough headland or trackway identified in Section 6.2.3 contained abundant magnetic anomalies identifying the presence of archaeological settlement features. The exact origin and spatial relationship of many of the magnetic anomalies is often uncertain due to their intermittent or discrete nature. However, definition of zones of different types of activity is attempted in the following sections.

6.3.2 *Hollow Way*

During the geophysics fieldwork, c.1m deep remnants of a WNW-ESE, returning to run NE-SW, aligned hollow way was observed bisecting the centre of the eastern part of the survey block. A shallower (c.0.5m max) and less defined NNE-SSW aligned hollow way branched from the northern side of the aforementioned hollow way. The position of the earthworks was surveyed with a total station and is shown relative to geophysical anomalies on Fig 9. Some spatial correlation between identified linear positive magnetic anomalies and the edges of the WNW-ESE aligned section of hollow way seems evident although the exact origin of these magnetic anomalies remains unclear.

6.3.2 *North of Hollow Way*

A positive, NW-SE aligned, linear magnetic anomaly (**D**) is visible toward the centre of this area, its form is characteristic of an anomaly caused by the magnetically enhanced fill of a cut and infilled archaeological ditch. Similarly aligned segmented linear anomalies run roughly parallel and c.8m north of **D** and could identify sections of an opposing infilled track way ditch.

NE-SW aligned linear anomalies (**E**) at the northwest of anomaly **D** are characteristic of those caused by cut and infilled archaeological ditches and they delimit the western extent of settlement features. Other linear, curvilinear and discrete anomalies are present within the area north of the hollow way and suggest the presence of enclosures, ditches, pits and possible structural features. Unfortunately, the disjointed nature of the majority of the anomalies precludes definitive identification of their origins.

6.3.3 *South of the Hollow Way*

Magnetic anomalies characteristic of those caused by cut and infilled archaeological ditches are identified at **F** and **G** and appear to identify a small, possibly internally divided, rectilinear enclosure. The position of a larger rectilinear enclosure may be identified by infilled ditch type anomaly **H**.

A group of strong magnetic anomalies are identified at the south east of the survey block (**I**). The magnetic anomalies are characteristic of those caused by cut and infilled archaeological features. The presence of a ditch and at least three pits is suggested.

Other spatially disparate magnetic anomalies characteristic of those caused by cut and infilled archaeological features are identified in this area. The random patterning of these anomalies makes definitive interpretation of their origin difficult although the presence of ditch segments, pits and structural features seems likely.



Figure 8: Greyscale gradiometer data (scale 1:1000)

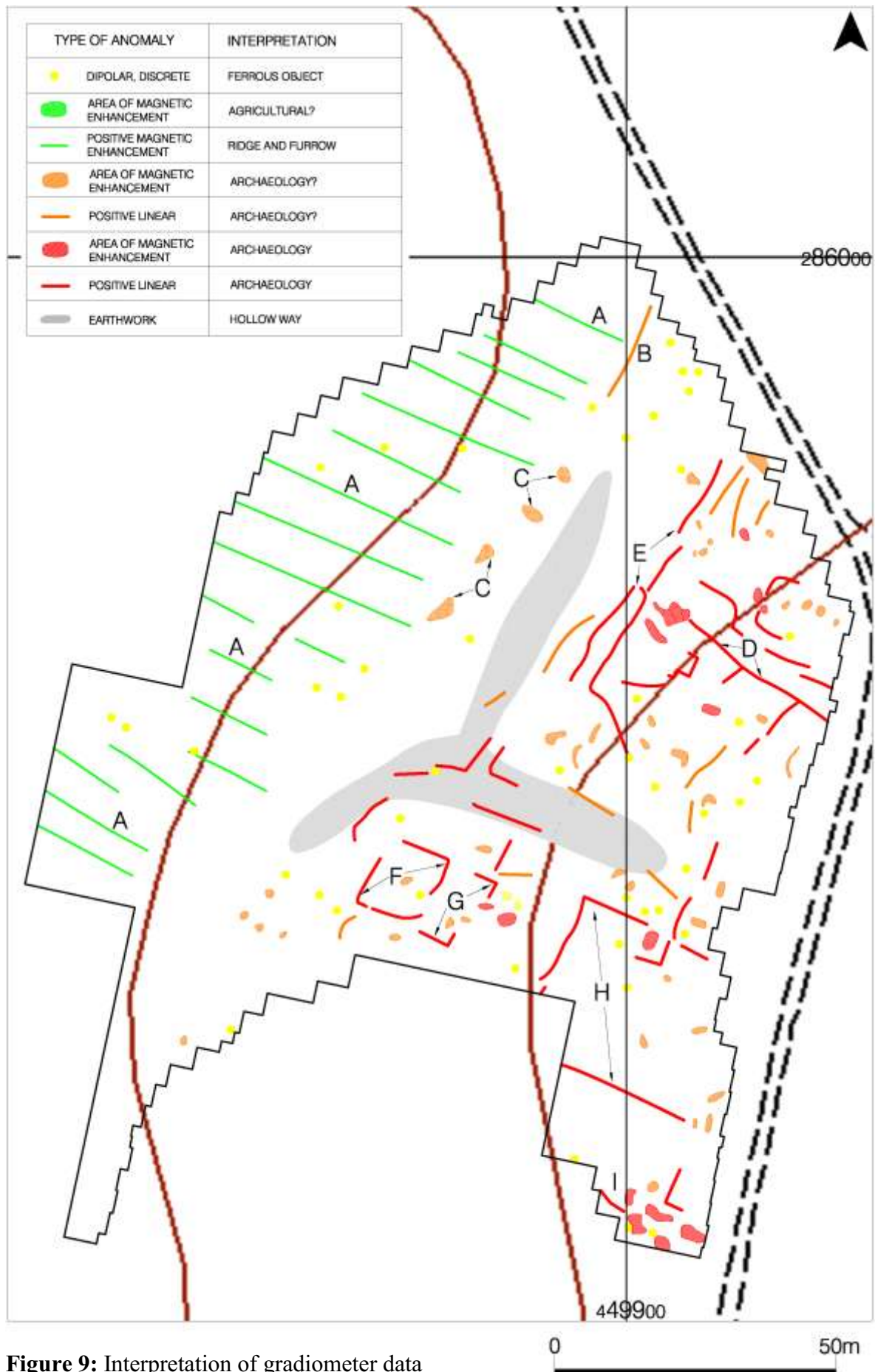


Figure 9: Interpretation of gradiometer data
(scale 1:1000)

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 Investigations carried out by ASC have confirmed that the eastern half of the development is located over archaeological features that define part of the medieval village of Bittesby. The results of the geophysical survey combined with the observed position of remnants of eroded medieval track ways suggest that two areas of settlement are located north and south of a well worn route into and out of the village. The geophysical survey also confirms that the western half of the area of land improvement covers part of the medieval villages open field system.
- 7.2 Undoubted damage has occurred to the archaeological features through use of this area as arable land during the late 20th century and because of unmonitored topsoil and subsoil stripping before the involvement of ASC. To prevent further damage the Archaeological Advisor of Leicestershire County Council required preservation *in-situ* of the surviving archaeological features. The agreed scope of the work was to cover the exposed area of settlement features with a layer of permeable geotextile then a subsequent layer of inert substrate. This work took place during June 2007 and was monitored by ASC.
- 7.3 Artefacts collected by The Lutterworth Fieldwalking Group from the stripped surface of the development during July 2005, show that human activity in the area of Bittesby predates the medieval village. For example, a small assemblage of late prehistoric flint tools demonstrates the presence of Neolithic or Bronze Age people (Bevan 2007; specialist report in Appendix 1) and recovery of a small assemblage of Romano British (RB) pottery and a fragment of RB roof tile (Fawcett 2007; specialist report in Appendix 1) illustrates activity of that period. The largest number of finds were dated to the medieval period and the greatest concentration and variety were recovered from three transects located at the eastern part of the development site over the remains of the village. Two remaining transects were located over the remnants of the medieval villages open field system and a marked decrease in the quantity and variety of finds is evident from the fieldwalking records.
- 7.4 The fieldwalking records show that finds were collected along transects subdivided into 12 stints. Unfortunately, examination of the archive after collection for specialist finds assessment revealed that the finds had been combined into bags divided only by period and any evidence of spatial patterning of finds by date had therefore been lost.
- 7.5 Specialist assessment of the medieval pottery (Blinkhorn 2007; specialist report in Appendix 1) has illustrated that the assemblage spans the medieval period. The dates of the pottery suggest that the development lies over a section of the village that was established in the earliest medieval sub-period (Saxo-Norman) and which continued in use until the village was depopulated. Recovery of a much smaller assemblage of post medieval pottery illustrates the decline of the village in the late med/early post med periods and the subsequent alteration of landuse from arable to pasture.
- 7.6 Tantalising evidence of the scale of Roman activity in the area of Bittesby is detailed in an antiquarian report which records discovery of a “Roman villa.....with a beautiful tessellated pavement and the remains of a bath” during construction of the section of railway line that, in part, bisects the site of the medieval village. The text

of the antiquarian report does not make the position or extent of the suggested villa clear and the small assemblage of spatially dispersed Romano-British material collected during the fieldwalking, which interestingly includes a fragment of roof tile, does not aid any attempt to locate it. Nonetheless, the summarised evidence indicates that at least one well furnished building of this period was located under the railway embankment in the area of the medieval village.

- 7.7** Recovery of three sherds of Early/Mid Anglo-Saxon pottery during the fieldwalking and the location of earlier find spots of a loom weight and pot sherd (HER MLE 6350 and 10324) hint that a farmstead of this period was located in the area of Bittesby. The exact nature of activity of this period is unclear although continuity of settlement throughout the Anglo-Saxon period is possible. What is certain is that the Norse origin of the name of the village illustrates that a farmstead was established or an earlier farmstead renamed during the 9th or 10th century.

8. Acknowledgements

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The research for the assessment, and the walk-over survey, were undertaken by Jonathan Hunn PhD MIFA. The geophysics fieldwork was undertaken by Alastair Hancock BSc PgDip and Tony Joyce BA. The report was prepared by Alastair Hancock and Jonathan Hunn with assistance from Calli Rouse BA PIFA and was subsequently edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

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10. Cartographic Sources

The following maps and plans were consulted in the course of this assessment:

Date	Reference	Description
1842	LLAL: DE.218/170 T1/361	Tithe Apportionment map of the hamlet of Bittesby (1842)
1885	OS 48 SE	Ordnance Survey 6 inch scale 1 st edition
1901	OS 48 SE	Ordnance Survey 6 inch scale 2 nd edition
1963	SP 4985	Ordnance Survey 1:2500 scale
1963	SP 4986	Ordnance Survey 1:2500 scale
1963	SP 5086	Ordnance Survey 1:2500 scale
1982	SP 4985	Ordnance Survey 1:2500 scale
1999	Explorer 222	Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 scale
2003	OS Landplan	Ordnance Survey 1:5000 scale

11. Air Photographs

The following photograph was examined in the course of this assessment:

Identification	Date	Type (O/V)	Description/comments
NMR SP 5085/1	1963	Obl.	View looking east at the western side of DMV

Appendix 1: Specialist Reports

The Medieval Pottery from Bittesby, Leics (Site XA222.2005)

Paul Blinkhorn

Introduction

The pottery was recorded using the conventions of the Leicestershire County type-series (Sawday 1994). The alpha-numeric codes preceded by an 'F' are those used in the primary database, as follows:

Fabric Classification

Early/Middle Saxon (c AD450 – 850)

- F2: Fine quartz
- F3: Ironstone and quartz

Saxo-Norman and Later

- F205: ST: Stamford ware, 900-1150.
- F300: PM: Potter's Marston ware, 1100-1300.
- F301: CC1: Nuneaton 'A' ware, AD1200-1400 .
- F302: CC2: Chilvers Coton 'C' ware, 1200-1475.
- F303: CC3: *Nottingham Ware 2, 1230-1300*
- F330: LY4: Shelly wares, 1100-1400.
- F360: MS1, *Medieval Sandy ware, 1200-1400*
- F403: MP2: Midland Purple ware, 1375-1550.
- F404: CW2: Cistercian ware, 1475-1550.
- F405: FR: Frechen Stoneware, 1550+.
- F425: EA: Post-medieval red earthenware, mid 16th century+.

The following, not in the published ULAS type-series, were also noted

- F328: Coventry 'D' ware, 1150 – 1250.
- F365: Late Medieval Reduced Ware, 1400 - 1500
- F402: Late Chilvers Coton ware (C), 15th century.
- F1001: Miscellaneous Romano-British wares (see specialist analysis by Andy Fawcett)

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds by fabric type is shown in Table 1.

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Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

		F1001		E/MS		F205		F300		F301		F302		F303		F328		F330		F360		F365		F402		F403		F404		F405		F425	
Trans	Stint	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
A	1	1	5					1	16																1	3							
A	2							2	20	1	18 9							18	77					2	12								
A	3	1	38					2	37	4	21							2	20							2	30					1	84
A	4	1	18	1	3			1	11																						1	8	
A	5											3	31					2	14							2	78	1	7				
A	6							2	13	1	5													1	6	1	7						
A	7	1	5					1	17			1	9					5	77														
A	8							7	59			2	69					3	17														
A	9							2	106			1	18																				
A	10	1	17	1	5			3	37			1	6																				
A	11	2	21							1	2	1	14					1	9	2	17					1	43						
A	12	1	4					1	7									1	11 6														
B	1	1	6					1	8	3	30							1	15														
B	2							1	10																								
B	3	1	18					1	26			1	36					1	14														
B	4	1	20							1	37	5	53					1	4			1	11										
B	5							9	107			3	82																				
B	6							4	60	1	8	1	17 4																				
B	7							1	26	1	21	2	59					1	6									1	2				
B	8	1	5					4	36																								
B	10	2	18																					1	49								
B	11	1	3					3	16			1	6																				
B	12											1	26																				
C	1							1	10			1	10																				
C	2							1	37															1	23	1	99						
C	4			1	9			1	20	1	7					1	11							2	53								
C	5							2	9	2	13							1	9			2	7										
C	6							1	11							1	8																

		F1001		E/MS		F205		F300		F301		F302		F303		F328		F330		F360		F365		F402		F403		F404		F405		F425	
Trans	Stint	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
C	7							1	5	1	8	1	44							1	4												
C	8	1	2					1	7									1	4														
C	9									1	6	3	37																				
C	11							1	59																								
D	1							2	45			1	5																				
D	2	2	14									1	4	1	13																		
D	4																			1	3												
D	6							1	3																								
D	7							1	5			1	2					1	4														
E	1							1	5									1	6	8	66												
E	3							1	8																								
E	5																																
F	1									1	2																						
PSW	0	2	21					17	266	1	12	11	15 1					2	24	3	55	3	25	3	72	3	34			1	3		
SWP	1							6	46			1	24					3	58							3	13 6						
SWP	2					1	6	4	23			1	12													1	9						
	Total	18	21 5	3	17	1	6	88	117 1	20	36 1	44	87 2	1	13	2	19	45	47 4	15	14 5	6	43	10	21 5	15	43 9	2	9	1	3	2	92

The Roman Pottery from Bittesby, Leic's (Site XA222.2005)

Andy Fawcett

Introduction

A small collection of Roman pottery was recovered from Bittesby House, Bittesby, Leicestershire (18 sherds with a combined weight of 212g).

Fabric and Form

Only one diagnostic sherd, a 'long lived' dish rim was present and dating therefore relies upon fabric identification. The majority of sherds are slightly abraded and belong to fabric type PNK GT (pink grog tempered ware) although some local grey wares are also present. This fabric was produced from the mid 2nd and on into the 4th century AD; it is more prevalent during the late 2nd to 3rd century AD.

A single sherd of samian was identified (considerably abraded in comparison to the PNK GT). It is certainly of east Gaulish origin and has a mid/late 2nd to early/mid 3rd century AD date. A single sherd of tegula roof tile weighing 221g in PNK GT was also recovered.

Conclusion

The predominance of coarse ware pottery is typical of the area and could suggest some form of low-grade rural activity in the vicinity.

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The Lithics from Bittesby, Leics (Site XA222.2005)

Lynne Bevan

Introduction

The flint assemblage comprised 51 items weighing a total of c. 400 grams. The flints were examined with the aid of a hand lens at x10 magnification for purposes of identification and assessment. Following identification, a summary listing was made of the flints by Grid Square Number and tool or waste category.

Any noteworthy and/or datable items discussed below are referred to either by Grid Square Number or by 'PS', the latter being indicative of items retrieved from the so-called 'perimeter sweep'.

Summary of Assemblage

Although in a fresh condition with very few pieces exhibiting any sign of water rolling or abrasion, the flint was of an unpredictable, often poor quality, with some evidence for hard inclusions and voids, resulting in hinge fractures. The unpredictable quality and, where present, thin remnant cortex, indicated that the flint originated from a secondary, probably river gravel, source. Most flint was translucent and either medium brown or grey in colour, with a few pieces in a finer-quality, darker, grey-brown flint.

Table 1 provides an artefactual breakdown of the whole assemblage, the chronological and archaeological implications of which are discussed below.

Cores	Flakes/Chunks	Blade-like Flakes	Scrapers	Other Retouched Items
3	28/3	5	3	10

Table 1: Artefactual Breakdown of Assemblage

The potential dating of the various elements of the assemblage is shown in Table 2. The potentially earliest items in the assemblage were a core and a large flake of water-rolled orange-brown opaque flint, both of which may date to the Palaeolithic period. A broken blade or possible microlith (12B), with steep retouch down one side and narrow blade detachments on its dorsal, dates to the Mesolithic period, probably the earlier Mesolithic rather than the later, due to its size.

Palaeolithic	Early Mesolithic	Early Neolithic	Late Neolithic- Bronze Age	Uncertain
2	1	6	31	12

Table 2: Potential Dating of the Assemblage

One of the other two cores identified, a very small pebble core weighing eleven grams (PS), was broadly dated to the Early Neolithic period. Other early Neolithic material included a primary flake with a blade detachment on its dorsal (1B), a blade core fragment with possible marginal retouch, and a flake with blade detachments on its dorsal (10A). The two items from 10A may have originated from the same blade core, since they are of a similar translucent grey flint.

The other core, a large brown flake core weighing 40 grams (SWP 2), was dated to the Later Neolithic-Bronze Age periods. A burnt lump (9C) may also have been a flake core of similar date, but identification was precluded by loss of surface detail due to burning.

The majority of the other flakes and chunks were almost exclusively small and squat, typical of Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age and later industries (e.g. Pitts 1978). Their size and shape were determined by the fairly small size of the pebbles used and by unskilled knapping techniques, without

formal platform preparation. Many of the flakes exhibited hinge fractures and cones of percussion which are often associated with later industries and hard hammer techniques

Three scrapers were present in the assemblage, the first of which was an ovoid side and end scraper (3A) weighing nine grams, slightly larger than a typical Early Bronze Age thumbnail scraper but probably of a similar date. The other scrapers were combined tools. The first was a combined scraper/notched tool (PS) weighing 19 grams. Combination tools of this kind were common during the Later Neolithic period (Butler 2005, Fig. 71:6-7, 168-169). The other combination tool was a retouched piercer/scraper (3E) of fine-quality, mid-brown, translucent flint and weighing eight grams, a type of tool more common during the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age periods (Butler 2005, Fig. 71: 8, 168-169). It should be stressed that neither of the combined tools is closely datable, in common with the other retouched items which, like the waste flakes from the site, tended to be broad and squat and typical of Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age and later industries (e.g. Pitts 1978).

With fieldwalking or otherwise unstratified assemblages such as this, assigning close dating is problematic, one of the main problems being the difficulty in separating out flint from various phases of the Bronze Age and the Iron Age. While the existence of Iron Age flint working assemblages is now well established in lithic studies (e.g. Young and Humphrey 1999; Humphrey and Young 2003), Iron Age flints differ little in technological terms from those of Middle to Later Bronze Age date. In this case, however, while some items may date to the Later Bronze Age or even the Iron Age, the bulk of the assemblage appears to date to the Late Neolithic to Bronze Age periods, thus pre-dating known later prehistoric activity in this area (Hancock and Hunn 2007, 8).

Conclusions

This assemblage represents a very small portion of the original flint work present in the topsoil that has now been irretrievably lost. While the assemblage includes material from at least four different periods (Table 2), much of the dating is tentative and close chronological contemporaneity cannot be assumed between any of the items. Due to the small size of the collection and the high incidence of undiagnostic waste material and a small number of artefacts, none of which is closely datable, no possible chronological patterning was discerned in the on-site distribution of any of the material. The presence of scrapers and certain other retouched tools has been regarded as indicative of occupation *foci* (Schofield 1987, 280), although the small amount of scrapers in the assemblage and the difficulty of relating them in chronological terms, either to each other or to other flints from the site, precludes any detailed analysis of past activities in the landscape.

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Appendix 2: Magnetic Survey: Technical Information

Magnetic Susceptibility and Soil Magnetism

Iron makes up about 6% of the Earth's crust and is mostly present in soils and rocks as minerals such as maghaemite and haematite. These minerals have a weak, measurable magnetic property termed **magnetic susceptibility**. Human activities can redistribute these minerals and change (enhance) others into more magnetic forms. These effects are often observable by measuring the magnetic susceptibility of the topsoil, which can enable identification of areas where human occupation or settlement has occurred by virtue of the attendant increase (enhancement) in magnetic susceptibility. If the enhanced material subsequently fills features, such as ditches or pits, localised isolated and linear magnetic anomalies can result whose presence can be detected by a magnetometer (fluxgate gradiometer).

In general, it is a contrast between the magnetic susceptibility of deposits filling cut features, such as ditches or pits, and the magnetic susceptibility of the surrounding matrix, i.e. topsoils, subsoils and rocks, into which these features have been cut that causes the most recognisable archaeological responses. This is primarily because there is a tendency for magnetic ferrous compounds to become concentrated in the topsoil, thereby making it more magnetic than the subsoil or bedrock. Linear features cut into the subsoil or geology, such as ditches, that have been silted up or have been backfilled with topsoil will therefore usually produce a positive magnetic response relative to the background soil levels. Discrete feature, such as pits, can also be detected. Less magnetic material such as masonry or plastic service pipes that intrude into the topsoil may give a negative magnetic response relative to the background level.

An alternative method of enhancement to the magnetic properties of soil or archaeological features is through sustained heating. This can lead to the detection of features such as hearths, kilns or burnt areas through thermoremanent magnetism.

Types of Magnetic Anomaly

In the majority of instances anomalies are termed '**positive**'. This means that they have a positive magnetic value relative to the magnetic background on any given site. However some features can manifest themselves as '**negative**' anomalies that, conversely, means that the response is negative relative to the mean magnetic background. Such negative anomalies are often very faint and are commonly caused by modern, non-ferrous, features such as plastic water pipes. Infilled natural features may also appear as negative anomalies on some geologies. Where it is not possible to give a probable cause of an observed anomaly a '?' is appended.

It should be noted that anomalies that are interpreted as modern in origin might be caused by features that are present in the topsoil or upper layers of the subsoil. Removal of soil to an archaeological or natural layer can therefore remove the feature causing the anomaly.

The types of response mentioned above can be divided into five main categories which are used in the graphical interpretation of the magnetic data:

Isolated dipolar anomalies (iron spikes)

These responses are typically caused by ferrous material either on the surface or in the topsoil. They cause a rapid variation in the magnetic response giving a characteristic 'spiky' trace. Although ferrous archaeological artefacts could produce this type of response, unless there is supporting evidence for an archaeological interpretation, little emphasis is normally given to such anomalies, as modern ferrous objects are common on rural sites, often being present as a consequence of manuring.

Areas of magnetic disturbance

These responses can have several causes often being associated with burnt material, such as slag waste or brick rubble or other strongly magnetised/fired material. Ferrous structures such as pylons, mesh or barbed wire fencing and buried pipes can also cause the same disturbed response. This type of anomaly is characterised by very strong, 'spiky' variations in the magnetic background. A modern origin is usually assumed unless there is other supporting information.

Linear trend

This is usually a weak or broad linear anomaly of unknown cause or date. An agricultural origin, either ploughing or land drains is a common cause.

Areas of magnetic enhancement/positive isolated anomalies

Areas of enhanced response are characterised by a general increase in the magnetic background over a localised area whilst discrete anomalies are manifest by an increased response (sometimes only visible on an X–Y trace plot) on two or three successive traverses. In neither instance is there the intense dipolar response characteristic of an area of magnetic disturbance or of an ‘iron spike’ (see above). These anomalies can be caused by infilled discrete archaeological features such as pits or post holes or by kilns, with the latter often being characterised by a strong, positive double peak response. They can also be caused by pedological variations or by natural infilled features on certain geologies. Ferrous material in the subsoil can also give a similar response. It can often therefore be very difficult to establish an anthropogenic origin without intrusive investigation or other supporting information.

Linear and curvilinear anomalies

Such anomalies have a variety of origins. They may be caused by agricultural practice (recent ploughing trends, earlier ridge and furrow regimes or land drains), natural geomorphological features such as palaeochannels or by infilled archaeological ditches.

Methodology

Gradiometer Survey

There are two main methods of using the fluxgate gradiometer for commercial evaluations. The first of these is referred to as *scanning* and requires the operator to visually identify anomalous responses on the instrument display panel whilst covering the site in widely spaced traverses, typically 10-15m apart. The instrument logger is not used and there is therefore no data collection. Once anomalous responses are identified they are marked in the field with bamboo canes and approximately located on a base plan. This method is usually employed as a means of selecting areas for detailed survey when only a percentage sample of the whole site is to be subject to detailed survey. In favourable circumstances scanning may be used to map out the full extent of features located during a detailed survey.

The second method is referred to as *detailed survey* and employs the use of a sample trigger to automatically take readings at predetermined points, typically at 0.5m intervals, on zig-zag traverses 1m apart. These readings are stored in the memory of the instrument and are later dumped to computer for processing and interpretation.

The Geoscan FM36 fluxgate gradiometer and ST1 sample trigger were used for the detailed gradiometer survey. Readings were taken, on the 0.1nT range, at 0.5m intervals on zig-zag traverses 1m apart within 20m by 20m square grids.

Data Processing and Presentation

The detailed gradiometer data has been presented in this report in X-Y trace and greyscale formats. The former option shows the ‘raw’ data with no processing other than grid biasing whilst in the latter the data has been selectively filtered to remove spurious errors such as striping effects and edge discontinuities caused by instrument drift and inconsistencies in survey technique caused by poor field conditions.

An X-Y plot presents the data logged on each traverse as a single line with each successive traverse incremented on the Y-axis to produce a ‘stacked’ plot. A hidden line algorithm has been employed to block out lines behind major ‘spikes’ and the data has been clipped at 5nT. The main advantage of this display option is that the full range of data can be viewed, dependent on the clip, so that the ‘shape’ of individual anomalies can be discerned and potentially archaeological anomalies differentiated from ‘iron spikes’. ArchaeoSurveyor was used to create the X-Y trace plots.

ArchaeoSurveyor was used to process the data and produce the greyscale images and XY trace plots. All greyscale plots are displayed using a linear incremental scale.

Appendix 3: Survey Location Information

- 3.1 The geophysical survey blocks were established using a Pentax R-326EX total station. Survey block points were set out at 60m intervals with the total station and points at 20m intervals were set out as required using 100m tapes.
- 3.2 The survey grids were superimposed onto an Ordnance Survey digital map base. Overall there was a good correlation between the local survey and the digital map base and it is estimated that the average 'best fit' error is better than $\pm 2\text{m}$. It should be noted that Ordnance Survey 1:2500 mapping data have an error of $\pm 1.9\text{m}$ at 95% confidence. This potential error must be considered if co-ordinates are measured off for relocation purposes from points other than those listed below or if anomalies are relocated using GPS technology.

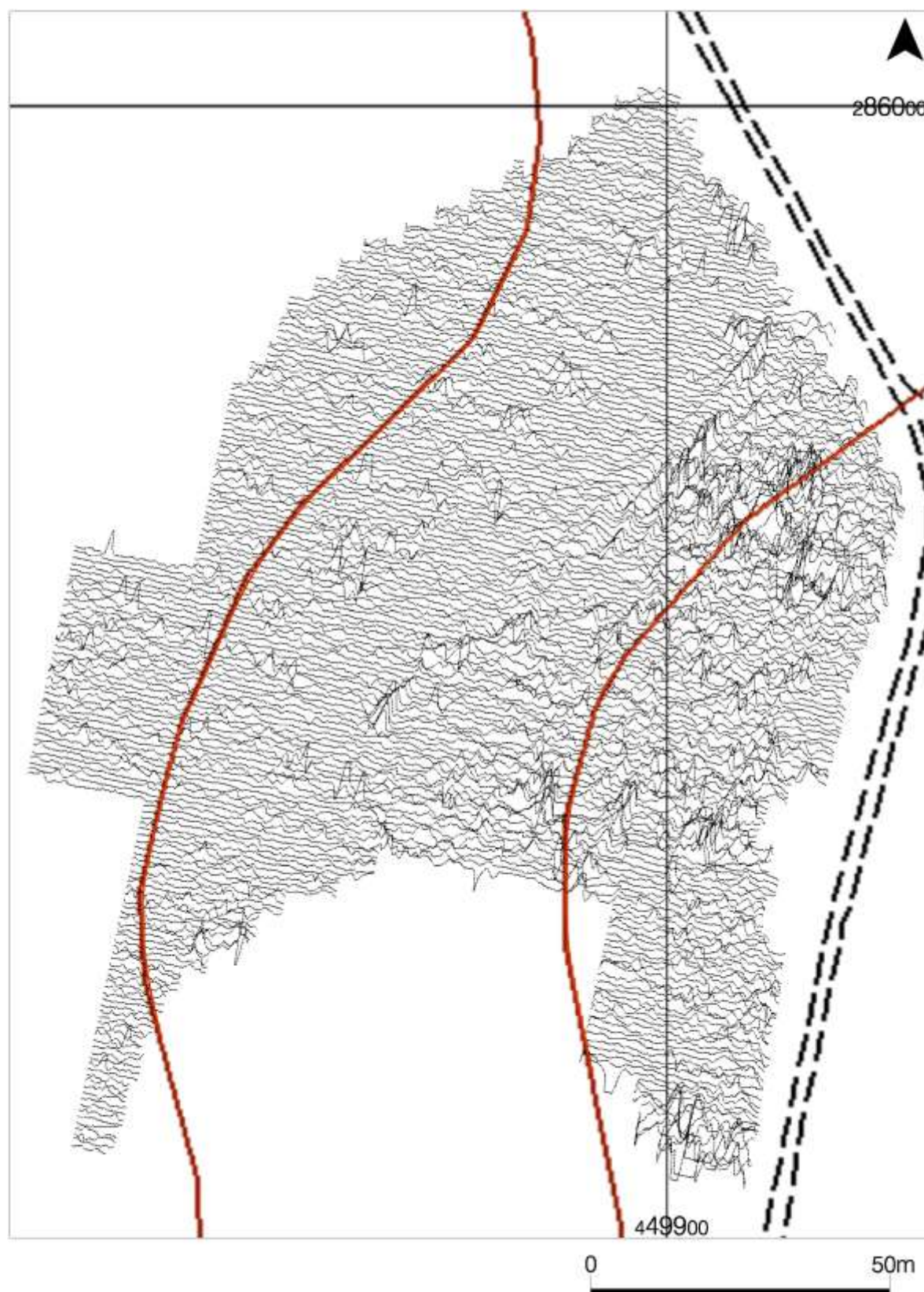
Station	Easting	Northing
A (wooden stake)	449953.25	285934.11
B (wooden stake)	449934.39	285849.46

ASC Ltd cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party or for the removal of any of the survey reference points.

Appendix 4: Geophysical Archive

- 4.1 The geophysical archive comprises:-
- an archive disk containing compressed (WinZip 8) files of the raw data, plot meshes and composites, report text (Word 2000), and graphics files (CorelDraw12 and AutoCAD 2000) files.
 - a full copy of the report
- 4.2 At present the archive is held by ASC Ltd although it is anticipated that it may eventually be lodged with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). Brief details may also be forwarded for inclusion on the English Heritage Geophysical Survey Database after the contents of the report are deemed to be in the public domain (*i.e.* available for consultation in the relevant Sites and Monument Record Office).

Appendix 5: XY Trace Plot of Raw Gradiometer Data (1:1000)



Appendix 6: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS						
Project Name:	Desk Based Assessment and Geophysical Survey: Land NW of Bittesby House, Bittesby, Leics					
Short Description:	<i>Desk-based assessment and geophysical survey were undertaken by ASC Ltd between April and June 2007 on land northwest of Bittesby House, Bittesby near Lutterworth, Leicestershire. The focus of the area examined was located on the western side of the disused Midland railway line over part of the site of the medieval village of Bittesby. The western extent of the village and the location and orientation of part of the villages open field system was defined by the geophysical survey. Finds recovered by the Lutterworth Fieldwalking Group have hinted that the village may have its origin in the early/mid Anglo Saxon period. The Norse origin of the village name certainly shows that an extant settlement was renamed, or that a settlement was established during the 9th or 10th century. Records illustrate that the village existed until its arable land was inclosed for sheep pasture and the majority of tenants evicted at the end of the 15th century.</i>					
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	DBA	FW	Geophys	Survey	Bldg Rec	Post-Exc
	WB	Strip&Rec	Trenching	Test pits	Exc	Other
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	None		Previous work: (eg. HER refs)		AP, Fieldwalking, Metaldetecting	
Current land use:	Agricultural		Future work: (yes / no / unknown)		No	
Monument type:	DMV		Monument period:		Med	
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	Medieval features and pottery					
PROJECT LOCATION						
County:	Leicestershire		OS reference: (to at least 8 figures)		SP 4990 8585 (site centre)	
Site address: (with postcode if known)	Land NW of Bittesby House, Bittesby, Leics					
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	c.3.7 ha		Height OD: (metres)		c. 110m	
PROJECT CREATORS						
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd					
Project brief originator:	Richard Clark		Project design originator:		A Hancock	
Project Manager:	J Hunn		Director/Supervisor:		A. Hancock	
Sponsor / funding body:	ALP Ambrose Ltd					
PROJECT DATE						
Start date:	May 2007		End date:		July 2007	
PROJECT ARCHIVES						
	Location (Accession no.)		Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)			
Physical:	Leicestershire Museums Service (LMS) Acc No: X.A222 2005		Fieldwalking Assemblage			
Paper:	LMS		Project Design and Fieldwork report			
Digital:	LMS		Report text, geophysical data, illustrations, basemap			
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)						
Title:	Desk Based Assessment and Geophysical Survey: Land NW of Bittesby House, Bittesby, Leics					
Serial title & volume:	Unpublished client report					
Author(s):	A J Hancock					
Page nos	1 - 40		Date:		28 th January 2008	