An Archaeological Watching Brief At Ferndale Drive, Ratby, Leicestershire. (SK 518 058)

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
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An Archaeological Watching Brief At Ferndale Drive, Ratby, Leicestershire. (SK 518 058)

Leon Hunt

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at Ferndale Drive, Ratby, Leicestershire during ground-works associated with the building of new houses. The site lies within an area of archaeological importance adjacent to previous finds of Roman date and close to the line of an important Roman road. The watching brief revealed many finds from Roman and medieval periods, including coins, pottery and brooches. No features were discovered that could be dated. The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services with accession number X.A35.2001.

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Cawrey Ltd to carry out a watching brief during the excavation of all ground disturbances, including topsoil stripping, foundation trenches and service trenches at Ferndale Drive, Ratby, Leicestershire (grid ref. SK 518 058). Archaeological work was required as a condition of the planning permission granted by Leicestershire County Council (planning application No. 98/00324/FUL/).

The site lies within an area of archaeological importance adjacent to previous finds of Roman date and close to the line of an important Roman road. During a previous watching brief carried out by ULAS in 2000 several sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery were recovered, along with a single Roman sherd and evidence of a medieval field system (Higgins 2000).

The planned development of new homes with associated services, garages and access roads was seen to have the potential to have a damaging impact on any archaeological remains if present.

The correspondence from the Senior Archaeologist, County Archaeology, Leicestershire Museums Service, dated 16th March 1999, detailed the need for a watching brief during the demolition and ground-works. A Design Specification for a watching brief was prepared by ULAS (Appendix 3).

Site Location and Geology

Ratby is located approximately 8km to the west of central Leicester close to the M1 motorway. The development site lies just to the west of the motorway close to the medieval core of Ratby. It lies approximately 2.5km to the east of Bury Camp, a large rectangular earthwork, which is thought to date from the Iron Age (Liddle 1982). A probable Roman road lies just to the north of the site. This is thought to run southeast to northwest and is thought to branch away from another road, which runs between Leicester and Mancetter in Warwickshire.

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The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain (Solid and Drift) Sheet 170 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Boulder Clay. The land lies at a height of *c.*90m.

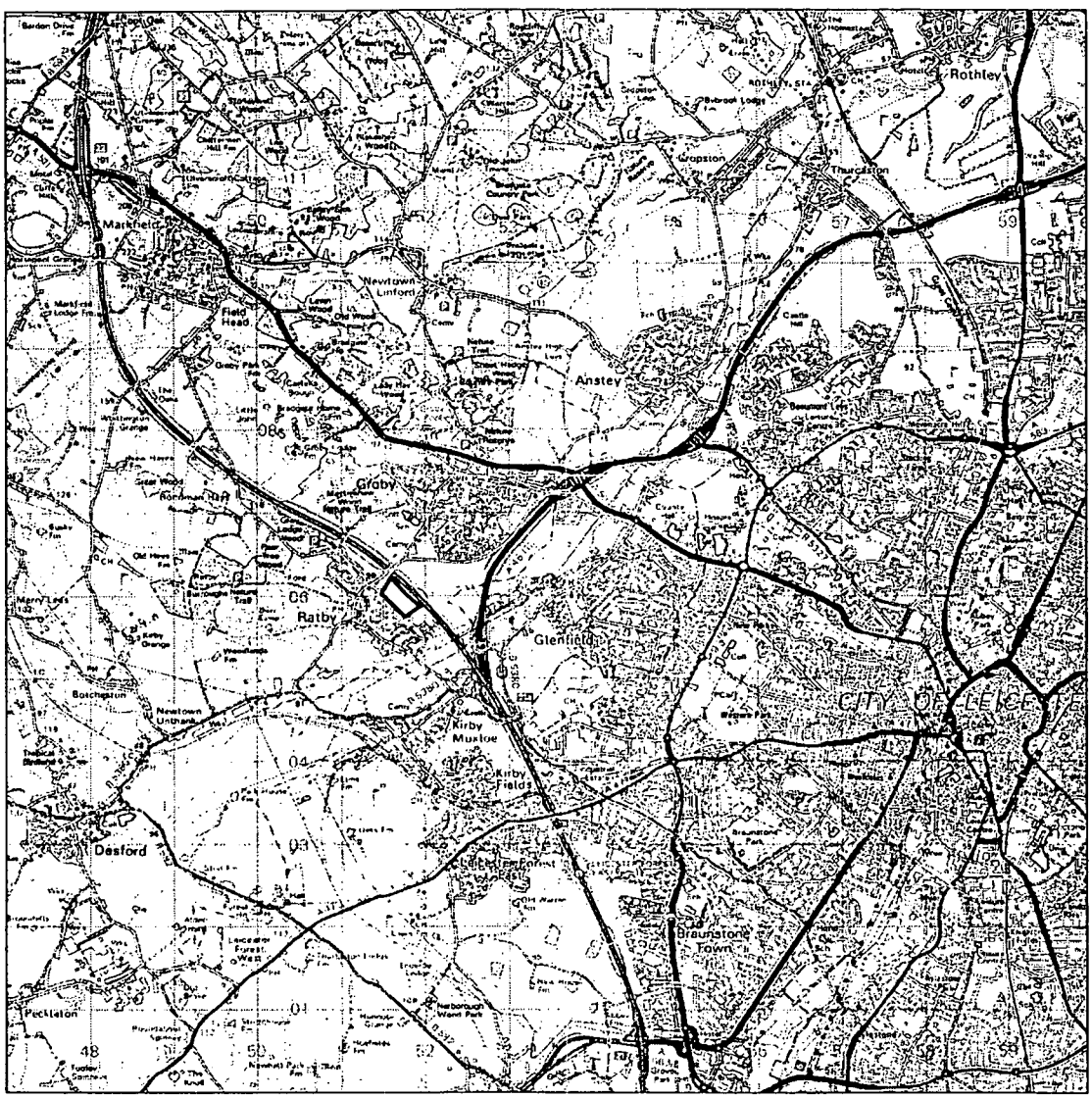

Figure 1:Site Location OS Map Landranger 140: Leicester, Coventry & Rugby Scale 1:50 000 ©Crown Copyright. Licence No. 100021186.

Aims and Methods

The purpose of the watching brief was to ascertain whether archaeological deposits were present. If so, the character, extent and date range of any deposits identified would be established, in order to assess their significance (see Appendices, Design Specification). Recording of these deposits would be carried out as appropriate, and an archive and this report produced. The work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, and adhered to the University's Health and Safety policy.

An archaeologist visited the site thirteen times between 05/07/01 and 27/09/01 and seven times between 20/03/03 and 21/07/03 and ground-works associated with the development were observed. This included topsoil stripping and the excavation of trenches for services and foundations. JCB training was also carried out on selected areas of the site and these procedures were also observed.

The spoil heaps were also checked for archaeological finds. All the work was carried out in close liaison with the Ratby archaeological warden Mr. Neil Glenister, who also carried out intermittent visits to the site and frequently surveyed the area with a metal detector.

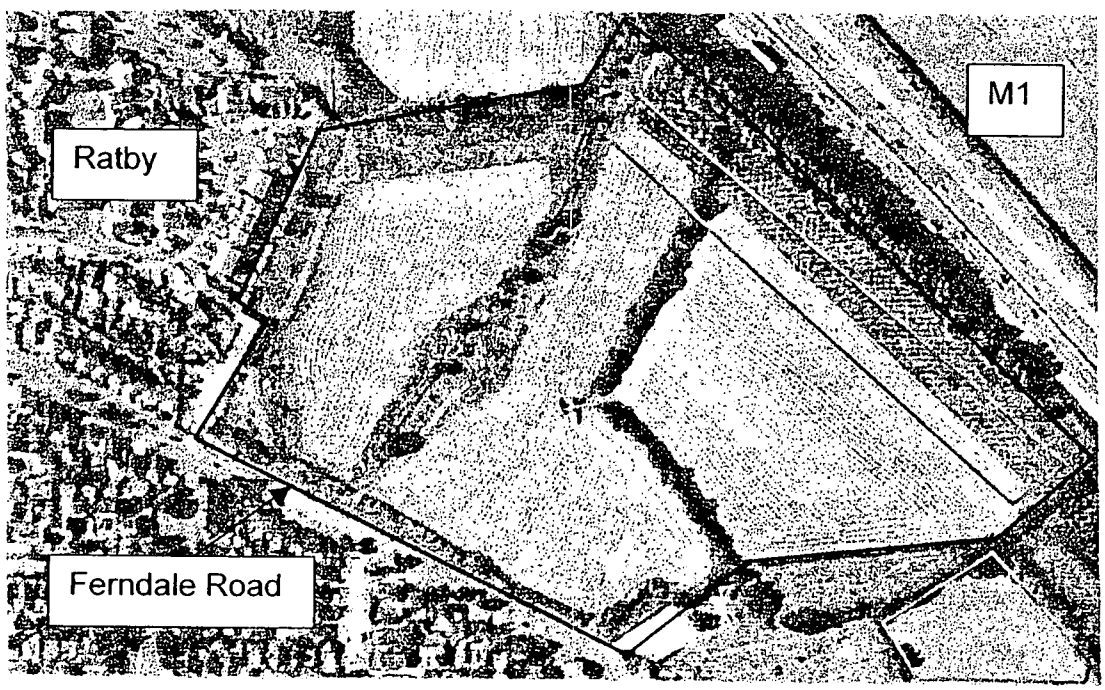

Plate 1: Aerial photograph of development site, with study areas highlighted in green. Previously watched areas (Higgins 2000) highlighted in red.

Results

An archaeologist visited the site 13 times between 05/07/01 and 27/09/01and topsoil stripping and trenching for services was observed throughout this time. Throughout the site the topsoil consisted of 0.2-0.3m of dark brown loam, the subsoil consisted of 0.2m of reddish mid-brown firm clay. The natural substratum consisted of orangey brown slightly sandy silty clay with patches of rounded pebbles, with some variation in clay colour between areas. The trenches were between 0.6m and 1.2m wide and between 0.75m and 4m deep.

During the visits of 05/07/01 and 06/07/01several features were observed. These included areas of metalled surfaces, most likely old field tracks, areas of loose large pebbles and a small pit. This pit was 0.4m in diameter and was 0.14m deep. It was

roughly circular in plan and contained a fill of blueish grey clay with some charcoal flecks. No finds were found within the features to date them. However, a sherd of Roman pottery was located 3m from the pit. Other finds from this visit included brick fragments, a sherd of Potters Marsden pottery and some other pieces of glazed pottery.

A slate drain and a small area of loose pebbles were also observed (Figure 3). No features were observed during the stripping that was watched on 09/07/01.

During the visit on 10/07/01 service trenches were observed. No features were observed, but Mr Glenister discovered several interesting finds. These included two Roman fibula brooches and a collection of ceramic finds, which included medieval pottery (Appendix 1). The following visits of 11/07/01 and 12/07/01 revealed no features that were archaeological. However, two sherds of pottery were discovered, one medieval, the other post-medieval. The area previously watched by ULAS in 2000 (Higgins 2000) was observed on 11/07/01. Areas of pebbles or cobbles were also observed, mainly around the entrances to the fields, but there was also evidence of cobbling in the centre of the western field (Figure 3).

The 'pond' area (Figure 3), which was to form an attenuation pond for the site, was watched during the visit of 13/07/01. Areas of gravel were observed, but were later found to be non-archaeological. The archaeological warden found more sherds of medieval pottery from a similar location to those discovered during previous visits. Finds were also recovered including a belt buckle, a sherd of Samian ware and flint flakes on the visits of 23-27/07/01 and also during the visits of 01/08/01 and 07/08/01, many from the from the metal detecting and surveying of Neil Glenister. The sewer trenches observed during these visits, however, did not yield any evidence of features or finds although they were up to 3-4 metres deep. No features were seen during the JCB training observed on these days. However, a few sherds of medieval pottery were recovered close to the 'pond' excavations during these visits and during the visit of 27/09/01.

The seven later visits in 2003 mainly involved the watching of the excavation of foundation trenches, although some topsoil stripping and service trenches were observed. The visits of 07-09/05/03 and 13-14/05/03 and 18/07/03 and 21/07/03 mainly involved the watching of foundation trenches for Plots 63-68. Despite the most interesting finds, including the two Roman brooches (Appendix 2) being located in this area no archaeological features were seen, although a few sherds of medieval pottery were located.

Conclusion

The watching brief yielded some significant finds, which suggests Roman activity in the area, along with some evidence of activity from the early medieval period. However, all the finds were located from within the topsoil and are therefore not clear evidence of activity taking place in any distinct areas of the site. Many were found close to field boundaries and close to the small stream, which runs across part of the site (Figure 3) and may have moved some distance from their point of origin.

The areas of apparent cobbling close to the field entrances are likely to be associated with the local farmer's attempts to consolidate areas that tended to become muddy and waterlogged during damp periods. This is endorsed by Neil Glenister who has observed this kind of activity throughout his association with the site and the local farmer.

The cobbled areas within the fields are also attempts to consolidate areas that are frequently used by farm machinery moving from field to field.

Only one feature was identified and excavated and that was the small post-hole seen during the visits of 05/07/01 and 06/07/01. This yielded no artefacts that would of dated it, but the proximity of the feature to the metalled surface just within the field entrance would suggest that this might have been the posthole for a gatepost, just within the middle field (Figure 3).

The watching brief uncovered no firm evidence for the line of the Roman Road, although the conditions under which the archaeological work was carried out was not conductive to good observational practice, as the site was not stripped systematically under close archaeological supervision.

The work of Neil Glenister in neighbouring fields to the study area have uncovered further finds, including a Roman 'Lion' decoration, a further 'Dolphin' brooch and part of a Roman knife pommel. The evidence for Roman activity in the area is strong, but unfortunately not specific.

Also of note is the relatively large quantity of medieval and post-medieval pottery covered from the watching brief (Appendix 1). Again no features were associated with these and it is likely that they are the result of manuring the fields over several centuries.

Bibliography

Higgins, T 2000. *An Archaeological Watching Brief, Taverner Drive, Ratby, Leicestershire (SK 520 057)* ULAS Report 2000/86

Archive

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Historic and Natural Environment Team with accession number X.A35.2001 and consists of the following:

2000 Watching brief (Tim Higgins)

1 Copy of Final Report (ULAS 2000-86)

1 Watching brief recording sheet

2 Maps/sketches of site

2 Architect's Plans

2001-2003 Watching Brief (Steve Jones/Leon Hunt)

1 Copy Final Report (ULAS 2005-175)

18 Watching Brief Recording Sheets

2 Aerial Photographs (prints) of the Site, prior to the work

63 Colour Slides

1 B&W Contact Sheets with 30 prints

30 B&W Negatives

2 Architect's Plans

8 Maps and sketches of find locations

1 Box of Small Finds

A few finds discovered by Neil Glenister have been recorded with Leicestershire Historic and Natural Environment Team and are retained by Mr. Glenister in his private collection (see Appendix 2).

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank the representatives of Cawrey Limited for their assistance. Steve Jones and Leon Hunt of ULAS would also like to thank Neil Glenister for his help, experience and co-operation on this project. Steve Jones, Jen Browning and Sally Ann Smith carried out the watching brief. Patrick Clay managed the project.

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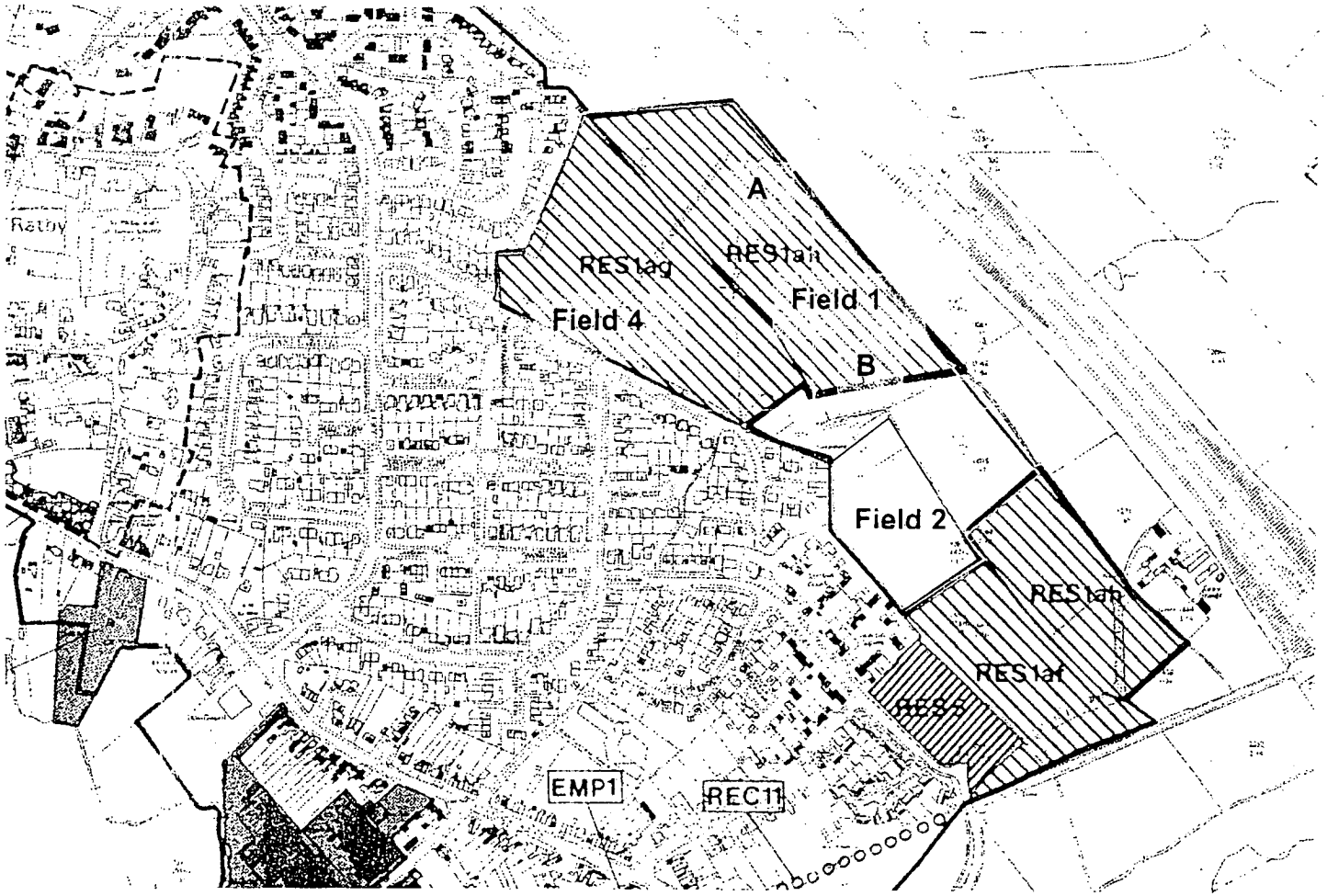
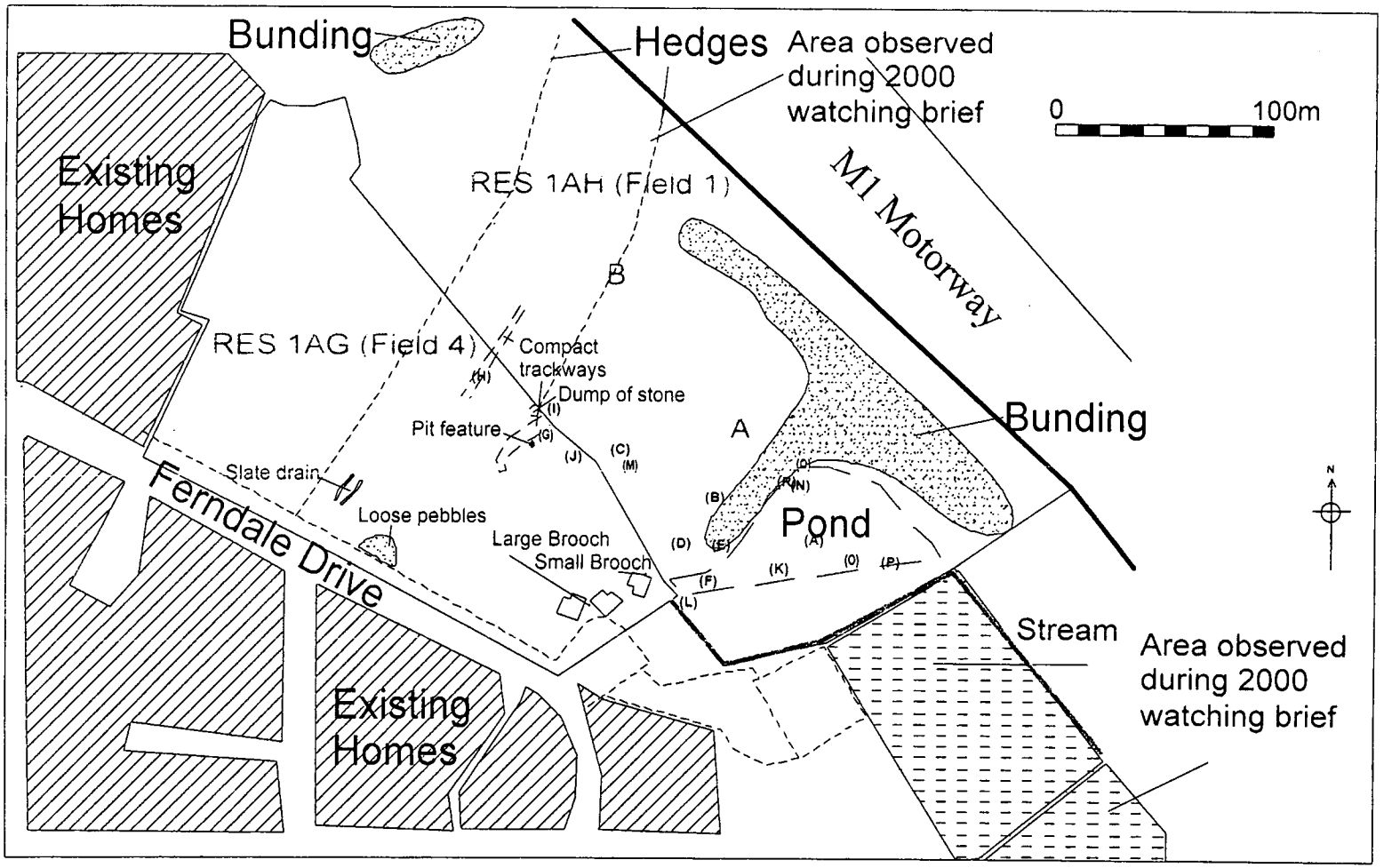


Figure 2: Plan of complete development area, showing developer's and archaeologists' field annotations. Main area covered by this report in red



(A)-(R)= FIND SPOTS/AREAS (See Appendix 1)

Figure 3: Site plan with features and finds observed during watching brief

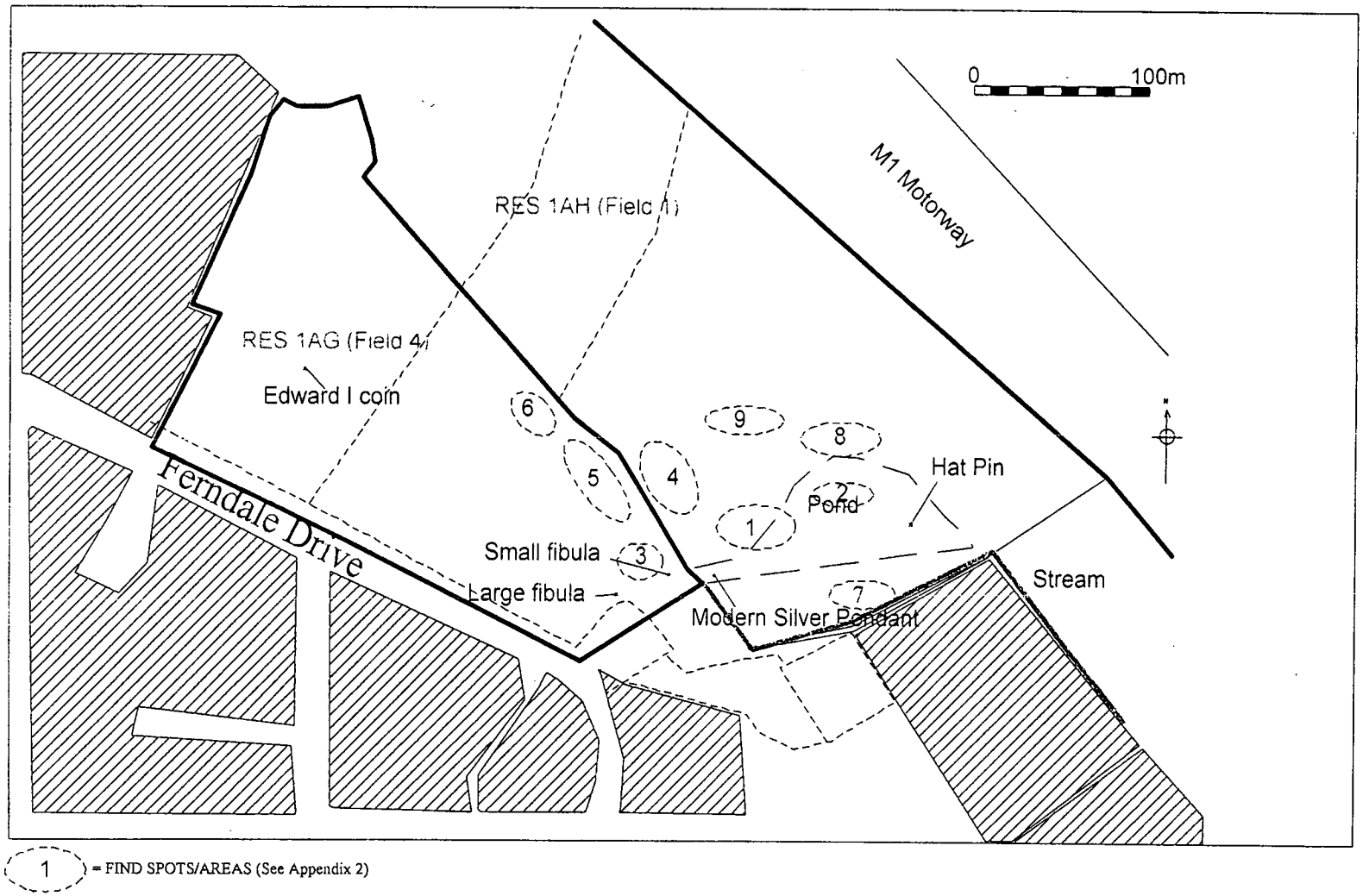


Figure 4: Site plan with finds observed and collected by Neil Glenister during and subsequent to watching brief

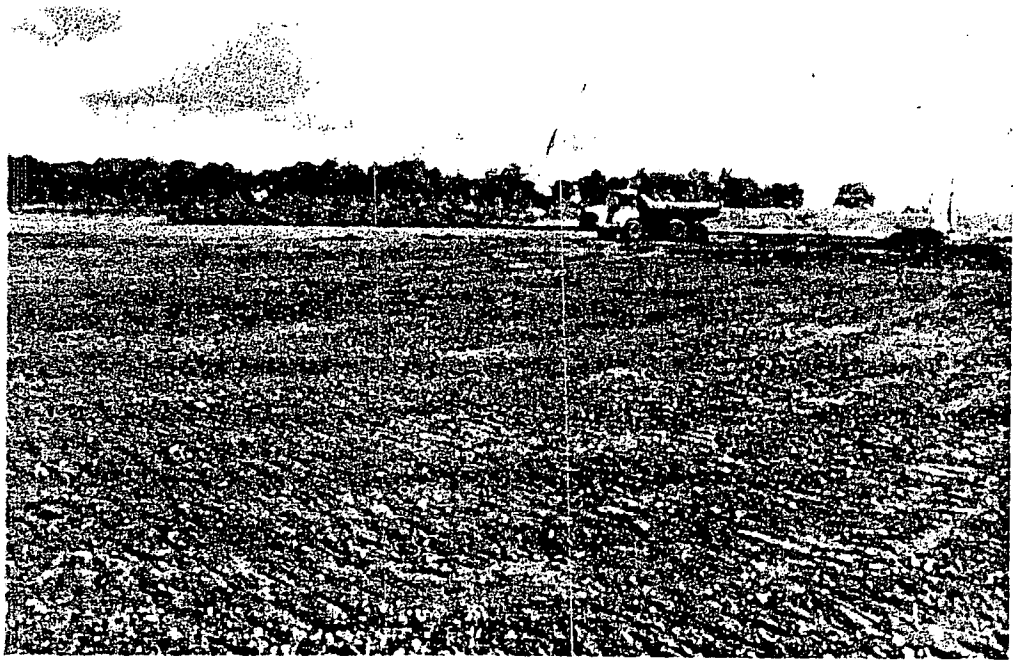


Plate 2: Work in progress, topsoil stripping, looking northeast

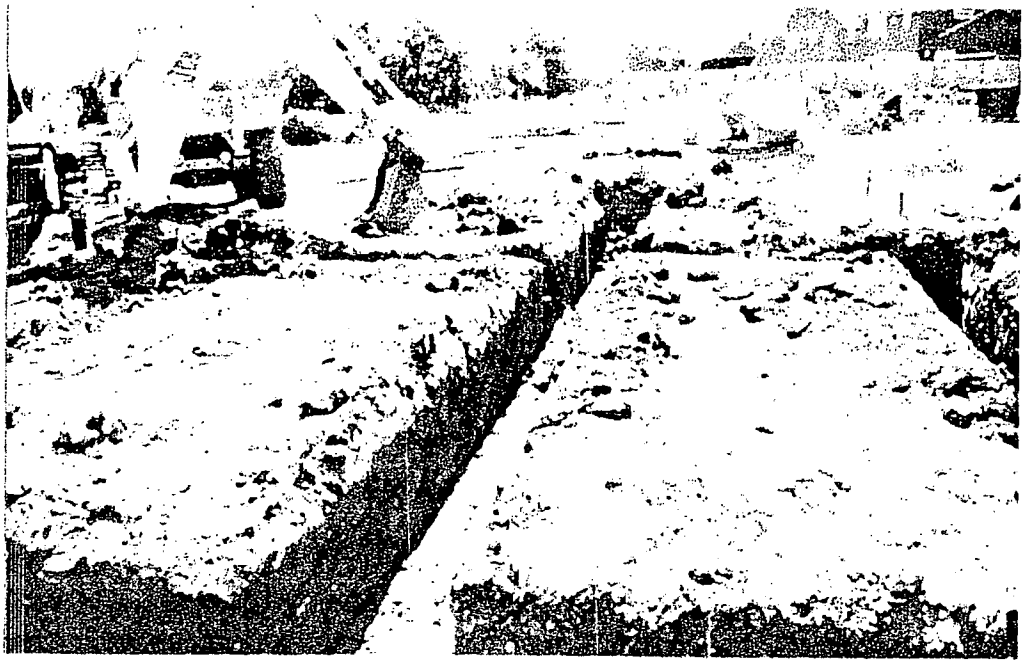


Plate 3: Work in progress on Plot 67 foundation trenches, looking southeast

APPENDIX 1: The medieval and later pottery and miscellaneous finds from a watching brief at Ratby, Leicestershire (See Figure 2 for field annotations, Figure 3 for positions)

The Pottery and Miscellaneous Finds

Deborah Sawday

Introduction

The pottery, 102 sherds, weighing 912 grams, was examined under a binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabric series (Davies and Sawday 1999), the results are shown below, Table 1. A small quantity of Roman tile, modern clay pipe and miscellaneous metal finds were also present.

Fabric/Ware	Sherd Nos.	%	Weight Grams	%
Roman				
GW – Grey ware	4		17	
SA – Samian ware	2		3	
OW – Oxidized ware	1		2	
Roman Sub Total	**7**	**6.8**	**22**	**2.4**
Period Unknown				
OS – Oxidised ware	4		23	
Period Unknown Sub Total	**4**	**3.9**	**23**	**2.5**
Medieval				
PM – Potters Marston	22		106	
CO2 – Coventry A ware	1		8	
CC1 – Chilvers Coton ware 1	19		191	
CC5 – Chilvers Coton ware 5	2		19	
MS2 – Medieval Sandy ware 2	3		32	
MS3 – Medieval Sandy ware 3	1		8	
MS – Medieval Sandy ware	2		5	
Medieval Sub Total	**50**	**49.0**	**369**	**40.4**
Post Medieval				
EA1 – Earthenware 1	1		14	
EA4 – Mottled ware	3		48	
EA6 - Blackware	1		5	
EA7 - Slipware	1		8	
Post Medieval Sub Total	**6.0**	**5.8**	**75**	**8.2**
EA/PO - Modern Earthenware/Porcelain	35		423	
Modern Sub Total	**35**	**34.3**	**423**	**46.3**
Totals	**102**	**99.8**	**912**	**99.8**

Table 1: The pottery totals by fabric sherd numbers and weight (grams)

Discussion

The seven sherds of Roman pottery are evidence of activity in the area from the second to the fourth century AD. The twenty two sherds of Potters Marston ware, the single largest group of pottery from the site, date from the twelfth to the thirteenth centuries, and, together with the Coventry fabric CO2, Chilvers Coton fabrics CC1 and CC5, and the Medieval Sandy wares account for forty nine per cent of the total

assemblage by sherd numbers. There is a noticeable lack of late medieval pottery, and relatively little post medieval material.

Conclusion

There was limited evidence of a Roman presence in the area, presumably relating to the Roman road to the north. The relatively low average sherd weight and degree of abrasion of the fifty sherds of medieval pottery suggest that they are probably the product of the manuring of the fields with domestic rubbish from the twelfth, to the thirteenth and, possibly, the fourteenth centuries. The few sherds of later medieval and early post medieval pottery may point to changes in the patterns of rubbish disposal or possibly to changes in the pattern of the village settlement at the time.

Typically the medieval pottery fabrics reflect the essentially local nature of pottery production and distribution that characterised the industry in this period.

Bibliography

Davies, S., and Sawday, D., 1999. 'The Post Roman Pottery and Tile' *in* A. Connor and R. Buckley, *Roman and Medieval Occupation in Causeway Lane, Leicester*, Leicester Archaeology Mon. **5**, 165-213.

Redknap, M., and Perry, J.G., 1996. 'Medieval and later pottery' *in* M. Rylatt, and M.A. Stokes, *The Excavations at Broadgate East, Coventry 1974-5.* Coventry Mus. Mon **5**, 37-99.

Site/Parish: Ratby, Leics. Accession No/ Doc Ref: XA35 2001/ratby2.doc Material: pottery & misc. finds Site Type: near Roman road. ? Medieval open fields	Submitter: L. Hunt et al Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Id: 13.12.05 Method of Recovery: wb

Date Codes: ROM – Roman, EM – c.1100-1300, MED – c.1250-1400, LM – 1300-1450, EPM, 1500/50-1650, PM – 1650-1750, MOD – 1750+, UN – period unknown

N.B. Field names refer to developer's field annotations (RES 1AH etc), and the various archaeologists' annotations: RES 1AG= Field (4); RES 1AH= Field (1) etc. (See Figure 2)

Field (1) is divided into two parts: A & B. Letters in brackets i.e (A) & (B) are finds groups or concentrations. 8-figure numbers on some finds are National Grid References

Context	Fabric/ware	No	Grams	Date	Comments
POTTERY Descriptions on bags					
Ratby w/b, Field A Top Soil					
RES I AH U/S	MS2 – Medieval Sandy ware 2	3	32	MED	Everted jar rim, probably Chilvers

					Coton product – but very coarse grits. Lacks white inclusions normally found in this MS2.
RES I AH U/S	EA – Modern Earthenwares	3	30	MOD	EA2, EA8, EA
RES I AH U/S N of Park	GW – Grey ware	1	1	ROM	Roman
RES I AH U/S N of Park	PM – Potters Marston	2	8	EM	Abraded
RES I AH U/S N of Park	EA4 - Mottled ware	1	25	PM	Bowl rim
RES I AH U/S N of Park	EA2 – Post Med/Modern Earthenware 2	3	78	MOD	
Field B					
RES I AH U/S	EA2	1	5	MOD	
Ratby, Ferndale Drive, NW Field					
NW Field – Soakaway?	EA2	3	30	MOD	
NW Field N of Track	EA4	1	5	PM	
NW Field N of Track	EA10 – Modern White Earthenware	2	5	MOD	
NW Field U/S	EA6 - Blackware	1	5	PM	
NW Field U/S	EA10/PO – Modern White Earthenware/Porcelain	2	10	MOD	
NW Field	CC1 – Chilvers Coton ware 1	1	5	MED	Glazed jug fragment, abraded
Ratby, Ferndale Drive Field (1) 1/8/01					
(A) RES AH	PM	3	8	EM	
(B)	SA - Samian	1	1	ROM	Roman - 2nd C.
(B)	PM	1	3	EM	
(B)	CC1	1	8	MED	Jug base
(J) 5182-0585	PM	1	8	EM	
(J) 5182-0585	CC1	1	8	MED	Simple everted bowl rim
(K) 5193 0582	OW – Oxidised ware	2	10	UN	Bowl rim, period unknown
(K) 5191 0582	CC1	1	7	MED	
(K) 5135-0584	CC5 – Chilvers Coton ware 5	1	2	MED	Glazed
(K) 5193-0580	EA2	1	18	MOD	Bowl rim
(L) 5194-0584	SA	1	2	ROM	Roman - 2nd C. ? Cup
(M) 5185-0584	CC1	2	5	MED	
(N) 5291-0584	PM	2	13	EM	
(P) 5195-0581	GW	1	4	ROM	Roman, 2nd – 4th C AD
(P) 5195-0581	CC1	2	12	MED	
(P) 5195-0581	EA1 – Earthenware 1	1	14	EPM	
(Q) 5190-0586	PM	2	2	EM	
(Q) 5190-0586	? CO2 – Coventry ware 2	1	8	EM	
(Q) 5190-0586	EA2	1	1	MOD	
(R) 5190-0583	MS3 – Medieval Sandy ware 3	1	8	LM	
Field (1)	CC1	1	32	LM	Highly fired
Ratby XA35 2001					
U/S Field (1)	PM	1	23	EM	
U/S Field (1)	EA2 – Post Medieval	1	6	PM	

	Earthenware				
U/S Field (1)	EA8 – Cream ware	1	6	MOD	
U/S Field 2 close to western hedge boundary	CC1	3	34	LM	Two sherds highly fired
I (1) 5185/0584 to 05187.05?12 – following hedge line & stream	GW	1	2	ROM	Roman, 2nd C AD
Ditto	PM	2	6	EM	
Ditto	CC1	3	17	MED	
Ditto	EA7 - Slipware	1	8	EPM	?17th C
Ditto	EA2	1	2	MOD	
B (1) SW side of Field 2	EA – Unclassified Earthenware	1	78	MOD	? 18th C
Field (4) NW & W area	EA4	1	18	PM	Cup base
Ditto	EA2	1	10	MOD	
Ditto	EA10	6	19	MOD	
Field 2 close to W. hedge boundary D (1)	GW	1	10	ROM	Roman, 2nd – 4th C AD
Ditto	OW	2	13	UN	Period unknown
Ditto	PM	1	4	EM	
Ditto	CC1	6	74	LM	Two sherds highly fired
A (1)	CC5	1	17	MED	Abraded
E (1) 5190-0580	OW	1	2	ROM	Roman ? 2nd C AD
Ditto	PM	2	8	EM	
Ditto	MS – Medieval Sandy ware	1	2	MED	Iron rich slip decoration
F (1) 5188-0580	SA	-	-	ROM	("At Museum")
Ditto	PM	3	17	EM	
Ditto	CC1	1	6	MED	Glazed
G (4)	PM	1	3	EM	
H (4) from track way	EA8	1	7	MOD	
J (4)	PM	1	3	EM	
Ditto	MS	1	3	MED	possibly a Nottingham ware, NO2
Topsoil	EA2, EA8, EA10, PO – Modern Earthenwares & Porcelain -	7	118	MOD	
CBM					
Ratby XA35 2001					
Field 2 U/S	EA	2	80	ROM	? Roman tile
Field (4)	EA	3	398	ROM	Roman tile
CLAY PIPE					
Field A Top Soil					
RES I AH U/S	Stem	2		MOD	
RES I AH U/S N of Park	Stem	1		MOD	
MISC					
Field A Top Soil					
RES I AH U/S	Iron & Metal objects	3		MOD	
RES I AH U/S N of Park	Animal Bone	1			
Field B					
RES I AH U/S	Iron Object	1			
Field 1					

(I) 5183-0586	Stone	3			
(K) 5192-0580	Stone	1			
(O) 5193-0581	Flint	1			
Field 2 G (4)	Stone	1			
Field 2 U/S	Iron Object	1		MOD	? Railing
Field 2 U/S	? Copper Alloy	1		MOD	Buckle - Modern

Table 2: Finds by area (See Figures 2 & 3)

APPENDIX 2: Small finds recorded by Neil Glenister (See Figure 4)
N.B: Mr. Glenister's finds areas not related to previous tables

Area	Object	Quantity	Date
1	Flint Flake	1	Unknown
1	Samian Cup Base	1	Roman
1	Grey Ware	1	Roman
1	Chilvers Coton	3	Medieval (Late 12th-Late 13th)
1	Midland Purple	2	Late Medieval (Mid 15th –Mid 16th)
1	Samian oddment	1	Roman
2	Potters Marston	4	Medieval Mid 12th-14th
2	Sandy Ware	2	Early Medieval
3	Flint Flakes	2	Unknown
3	Potters Marston	1	Medieval Mid 12th-14th
4	Potters Marston	2	Medieval Mid 12th-14th
4	Chilvers Coton	1	Medieval (Late 12th-Late 13th)
4	Grey Ware	2	Roman
5	Potters Marston	2	Medieval Mid 12th-14th
5	Grey Ware	2	Roman
6	Potters Marston	3	Medieval Mid 12th-14th
6	Chilvers Coton	1	Medieval (Late 12th-Late 13th)
7	Grey Ware	2	Roman
8	Potters Marston	2	Medieval Mid 12th-14th
8	Grey Ware	2	Roman
8	Pot?	1	Medieval
9	Samian oddment	2	Roman
9	Grey Ware	1	Roman
9	Potters Marston	2	Medieval Mid 12th-14th

Table 3: Neil Glenister's finds by area (See Figure 4)

Neil Glenister's Finds: Miscellaneous (see Figure 4)

The following have been identified by Richard Knox of Leicestershire Museums (30/07/01). See Figure 5.

1. Roman Brooch. Dolphin type with leaf-shaped lobes along each side of the bow. A raised ridge incised on both sides and bearing tiny internal incisions runs down the middle of the bow. The spring is enclosed. The arms are plain with a slight ridge at the terminals. Catch-plate is partly broken and pin broken. Date: 1st-2nd century AD.
2. Roman Brooch. Mattat shows two brooches, which could be related. One is unassigned and has simple T-shaped pin bar arms but an ornate bow. The

other has similar arms and an elaborate bow but only for a short while until a wide fantail emerges. As your brooch is broken not far down the bow it is difficult to tell what the foot was like. Another possibility is that had a trumpet-brooch style foot.

3. A penny of Edward I. 1279. London Mint.
4. A foot ring from a Samian cup. Probably 2nd century AD.
5. A stone looking rather like warn Samian.
6. Two flint flakes with no subsequent working. Neolithic-Bronze Age

Plus: A modern silver pendant and a Victorian silver hat pin.

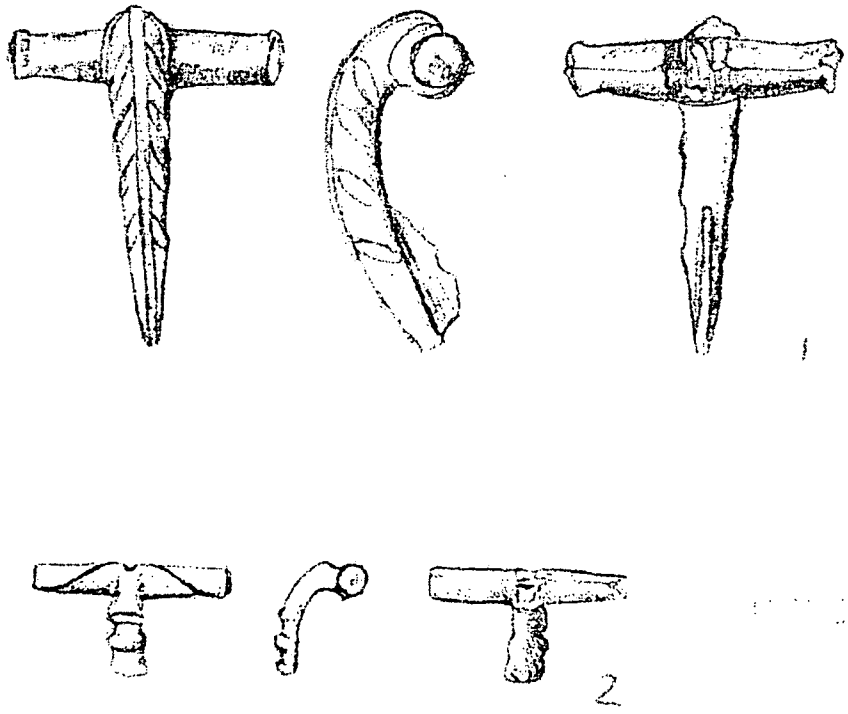


Figure 5: Illustration of Roman Brooches by R. Knox

APPENDIX 2: Small finds recorded by Neil Glenister (See Figure 4)
N.B: Mr. Glenister's finds areas not related to previous tables

Area	Object	Quantity	Date
1	Flint Flake	1	Unknown
1	Samian Cup Base	1	Roman
1	Grey Ware	1	Roman
1	Chilvers Coton	3	Medieval (Late 12th-Late 13th)
1	Midland Purple	2	Late Medieval (Mid 15th –Mid 16th)
1	Samian oddment	1	Roman
2	Potters Marston	4	Medieval Mid 12th-14th
2	Sandy Ware	2	Early Medieval
3	Flint Flakes	2	Unknown
3	Potters Marston	1	Medieval Mid 12th-14th
4	Potters Marston	2	Medieval Mid 12th-14th
4	Chilvers Coton	1	Medieval (Late 12th-Late 13th)
4	Grey Ware	2	Roman
5	Potters Marston	2	Medieval Mid 12th-14th
5	Grey Ware	2	Roman
6	Potters Marston	3	Medieval Mid 12th-14th
6	Chilvers Coton	1	Medieval (Late 12th-Late 13th)
7	Grey Ware	2	Roman
8	Potters Marston	2	Medieval Mid 12th-14th
8	Grey Ware	2	Roman
8	Pot?	1	Medieval
9	Samian oddment	2	Roman
9	Grey Ware	1	Roman
9	Potters Marston	2	Medieval Mid 12th-14th

Table 3: Neil Glenister's finds by area (See Figure 4)

Neil Glenister's Finds: Miscellaneous (see Figure 4)

The following have been identified by Richard Knox of Leicestershire Museums (30/07/01). See Figure 5.

1. Roman Brooch. Dolphin type with leaf-shaped lobes along each side of the bow. A raised ridge incised on both sides and bearing tiny internal incisions runs down the middle of the bow. The spring is enclosed. The arms are plain with a slight ridge at the terminals. Catch-plate is partly broken and pin broken. Date: 1st-2nd century AD.
2. Roman Brooch. Mattat shows two brooches, which could be related. One is unassigned and has simple T-shaped pin bar arms but an ornate bow. The

APPENDIX 3: Design Specification for Archaeological work

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Ferndale Drive, Ratby, Leicestershire ~~***(SP 496 849)***~~ SK 518058

Planning Application: ~~***99/00129/4***~~ 98|00324|FUL.

For: Cawrey Ltd

1 Definition and scope of the specification

1.1 In accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and planning), para.30, this specification provides a written scheme for an archaeological watching brief, as required by the Planning Authority, of any ground works on the site which may disturb areas of archaeological potential in connection with a planning application for residential development off Ferndale Drive, Ratby, Leicestershire (P.A ~~99/00129/4~~). 98|00324|FUL.

1.2 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's (IFA) Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.

2 Background

2.1 Requirement for archaeological work

2.1.1 The watching brief is required to cover all ground disturbance to identify any deposits of archaeological importance. It forms part of a scheme of work to fulfil the planning conditions likely to be required by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council following recommendations from Leicestershire Museum as advisors to the planning authority.

2.2 Archaeological potential

2.2.1 The site lies within an area of archaeological importance adjacent to previous finds of Roman date and close to the line of an important Roman road (SMR site refs. 50 NW.BL and 50 NW.CE).

3 Aims

3.1 Through archaeological observation of existing overburden stripping and, if necessary, foundation and service trench excavation by the client's contractors:

1. To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
2. To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
3. To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
4. To produce an archive and report of any results.

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4 Methods

4.1 The project will involve the presence on site of an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. During these groundworks, if any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest.

4.2 The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with the contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work.

4.3 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) where appropriate.

4.4 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

4.5 All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

4.5 Any human remains encountered will be initially left in situ and only be removed under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The owner, Leicestershire Museums and the coroner will be informed immediately on their discovery).

4.6 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site from the project manager. These will ensure that professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for monitoring visits with representatives of Leicestershire Museums and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.

4.7 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located during the watching brief there may be the need for contingency time and finance to be provided to ensure adequate recording is undertaken. On the discovery of potentially significant remains the archaeologist will inform the developer, the Senior Archaeologist at Leicestershire Museums and the planning authority. If the archaeological remains are identified to be of significance additional contingent archaeological works will be required.

5 Recording Systems

5.1 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets.

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5.2 A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map, (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a plan at 1:200 (or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated.

5.3 Some record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made on drawing film, related to the OS grid and at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Elevations and sections of individual layers of features should be drawn where possible. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans.

5.4 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared. This will include black and white prints and colour transparencies illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

5.5 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the watching brief.

5.6 All site records and finds will be kept securely.

6 Report and Archive

6.1 A report on the watching brief will be provided following the groundworks.

6.2 Copies will be provided for the client, Sites and Monuments Record and planning Authority. The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

6.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in the 'Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage' (UKIC 1990), and Standards in the Museum care of archaeological collections (MGC 1992) and 'Guidelines for the preparation of site archives and assessments for all finds (other than fired clay objects) (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993) will be presented to Leicestershire Museum within six months of the completion of analysis. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

6.4. Any disk-based data will be provided for Leicestershire Museums.

7 Publication

A summary report will be submitted to a suitable regional or national archaeological journal within one year of completion of fieldwork. A full report will be submitted if the results are of significance.

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8 Timetable and Staffing

8.1 The watching brief is scheduled to commence at the inception of the contractors groundworks. An experienced archaeologist will be present during this work. It is proposed to watch all works, as specified above, with appropriately timed visits during the work in consultation with the contractors. If necessary further staff will be brought in to record significant archaeological deposits.

9 Health and Safety

9.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the Standing Committee of Archaeological Unit Managers (SCAUM) manual, as revised in 1997, as its Health and Safety Manual 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.

10 Insurance

10.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with Gerling Insurance Services Policy No. 62/99094/D, Risk Reference LT 35101 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Sun Alliance Insurance Policy No. 03A/5A 001 05978, Risk Reference LT 27229.

11 Project Director

James Meek B.A (Hons) Archaeology (University of Southampton) 1990

Since 1988 James has worked for Winchester Archaeological Unit, Test Valley Archaeological Trust, Bedfordshire Archaeological Unit, Warwickshire Archaeological Unit, Leicestershire Archaeological Unit and University of Leicester Archaeological Services. He has supervised a variety of evaluations and excavations through to assessment and report preparation. He supervised work on an Iron Age gravel terrace site at Wanlip and the Hemington Bridges Project and directed the excavation of the Iron Age site at Enderby. He has experience in geophysical survey, EDM survey, computer aided design, post-excavation work and computerised databases.
Project Manager

Patrick Clay B.A (Hons) History (University of Lancaster) 1973; Ph.D (University of Leicester) 1996; A.M.A (Museums Association) 1984; M.I.F.A (Member Institute of Field Archaeologists AOC Excavation and Finds Study) 1984

After gaining considerable archaeological experience on a wide variety of sites since graduating in 1973, Patrick was appointed as a Field Officer with Leicestershire Archaeological Unit in 1978 and Project Manager in 1990. He was joint founder of University of Leicester Archaeological Services in 1995 where he is Assistant Director. He has directed many projects including excavations of round barrows and Iron Age settlements. He has published over twenty archaeological reports, his particular interest

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Appendix

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

Ferndale Drive, Ratby, Leicestershire.

1 Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for an archaeological watching brief.

1.2 The work will involve observation of groundworks during daylight hours and recording of any underlying archaeological deposits revealed. Overall depth is likely to be c. 0.2-0.5m. This will involve the examination of the exposed surface with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and excavation of archaeological features. All work will adhere to the University of Leicester Health and Safety Policy and follow the guidance in the Standing Committee of Archaeological Unit Managers manual, as revised in 1997, together with the following relevant Health and Safety guidelines.

1.3 HSE Construction Information Sheet CS8 Safety in excavations.
HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)143 (L): Getting to grips with manual handling.
HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)145 (L): Watch Your back.
CIRIA R97 Trenching practice.
CIRIA TN95 Proprietary Trench Support Systems.
HSE Guidance Note HS(G) 47 Avoiding danger to underground services. HSE Guidance Note GS7 Accidents to children on construction sites

1.4 The Health and Safety policy on site will be reassessed during the evaluation .

1.5 All work will adhere to the contractors' health and safety policy.

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 Working within a building site

Precautions. No work will be undertaken beneath section faces. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. Hard hats will be worn at all times. A member of staff qualified in First Aid will be present at all times. First aid kit, vehicle and mobile phone to be kept on site in case of emergency.

2.2 Working with plant.

Precautions. Hard hats, protective footwear and hazard jackets will be worn at all times. No examination of the area of stripping will take place until machines have vacated area. Observation of machines will be maintained during hand excavation. Liaison will be maintained with the contractors to ensure programme of machine movement is understood.

2.3 Working within areas prone to waterlogging.

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being in prehistoric clayland and alluvial archaeology, and has recently completed doctoral research into prehistoric settlement and land use on the East Midlands claylands with the University of Leicester which included the analysis of fieldwalking survey and excavation data from Leicestershire and Northamptonshire. He has also published small finds reports and is a founder member of the Roman Finds Group. Since 1990 he has managed over 300 archaeological projects including major fieldwork programmes in advance of the A46 Leicester Western By-pass, pipeline projects in Northamptonshire, Leicestershire and Rutland and gravel and opencast coal extraction in Leicestershire and Warwickshire.

12. Bibliography

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MGC 1992, *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission)

RFG/FRG 1993, *Guidelines for the preparation of site archives* (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700)

SMA 1993, *Selection, retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* (Society of Museum Archaeologists)

Patrick Clay
Assistant Director
13.8.1999

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