



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation
on Land South of Fenn Lanes,
Dadlington, Leicestershire
Sculpture Trail 'The Storm Breaks' (Site 2)**

NGR: SP 39836 98449

Nathan Flavell



**ULAS Report No: 2023-109
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Site Name: Land South of Fenn Lanes, Dadlington, Leicestershire. Sculpture Trail, 'The Storm Breaks' Site 2.

Grid Ref: SP 39836 98449

Author: Nathan Flavell

Client: Leicestershire Promotions Ltd

Planning Authority: Hinckley and Bosworth District Council

Planning Ref: 23/00088/FUL

ULAS Job No: 23-714

ULAS Report No: 2023-109

Accession Number: X.A151.2022

ReportTemplate2_SMS_Neg
Updated: 10/01/2022

Filename/Version	Checked by	Date	Notes
2023-109_draft	M.G.Beamish	18/07/2024	Draft to client for comment
2023-109_draft	M.G.Beamish	31/07/2024	Draft to archaeological advisor for comment. Report approved and agreement made that project is of no significance and no separate archive deposition necessary with LMS.
2023-109	M.G.Beamish	23/08/2024	Final report issued

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Cover photo: Excavation Area looking north

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OASIS RECORD

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	univers1-522313		
	Project Name	An Archaeological Strip, Map and sample Excavation, Land South of Fenn Lanes, Dadlington, Leicestershire		
	Start/end dates	12/10/2022 – 13/10/2023		
	Previous/Future Work	None		
	Project Type	Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample		
	Site Status	Registered battlefield 1000004		
	Current Land Use	Grazing pasture		
	Monument Type/Period	None		
	Significant Finds/Period	Pot, tile, Fe objects (all discarded)		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Condition		
PROJECT LOCATION	Planning Ref.	23/00088/FUL		
	County.	Leicestershire		
	Site Address/Postcode	Shenton Lane, Dadlington, Leicestershire CV13 6JD		
	Study Area	3.8ha		
	Site Coordinates	SP 39836 98449		
PROJECT CREATORS	Height OD	91m aOD		
	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority (Hinckley and Bosworth District Council)		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Matthew Beamish		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Nathan Flavell		
PROJECT ARCHIVE	Sponsor/Funding Body	Bosworth 1485 (Leicestershire Promotions Ltd)		
		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	None	None	None
	ID (Acc. No.)	X.A151/2022	X.A151/2022	X.A151/2022
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Contents	None	Photographs, to be included in grey lit report	Indices to be included in grey lit report
	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Description	Developer Report A4 pdf		
	Title	An Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation on Land South of Fenn Lanes, Dadlington, Leicestershire		
	Author	N. Flavell		
	Other bibliographic details	ULAS Report No: 2023-109		
	Date	2024		
	Publisher/Place	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester		

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An Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation on Land South of Fenn Lanes, Dadlington, Leicestershire

Nathan Flavell

Summary

This report details the results of an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land south of Fenn Lanes, Dadlington, Leicestershire, (NGR: SP 39836 98449). The work was preceded by a metal detector survey on a 2.5m grid. The work was undertaken in October 2023 on behalf of Leicestershire Promotions Ltd as part of the Bosworth 1485 Sculpture Trail works. The project includes four installations of which this 'The Storm Breaks' comprises

The 19x19m excavated area did not reveal any archaeological features. The metal detecting of the area uncovered a small number of post-medieval metal objects.

As there was nothing of archaeological significance found in the course of the work in agreement with the archaeological advisor and Leicestershire Museums, there will be no separate archive deposition for the work.

Introduction

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 16 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment (MHCLG 2021) this document forms the report for a programme of archaeological mitigation carried out on land south of Fenn Lanes, Dadlington, Leicestershire

The work was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of Leicestershire Promotions Ltd.

Permission has been granted for a number of new sculptures to be erected around the historic battlefield site as part of a sculpture trail. The trail is designed to follow the course of the battle across the installation sites. The sites include at the Church of St. James, Sutton Cheney (Site 1), this site off of Fenn Lanes (Site 2, planning ref 23/00088/FUL), in the Churchyard of St. James the Greater, Dadlington (Site 4) and at the Battlefield Centre Sutton Cheney (Site 5) subject to an archaeological condition comprising an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation (a controlled strip), plus metal detection.

The aim of the work was to record any archaeological deposits which may have been impacted upon by development

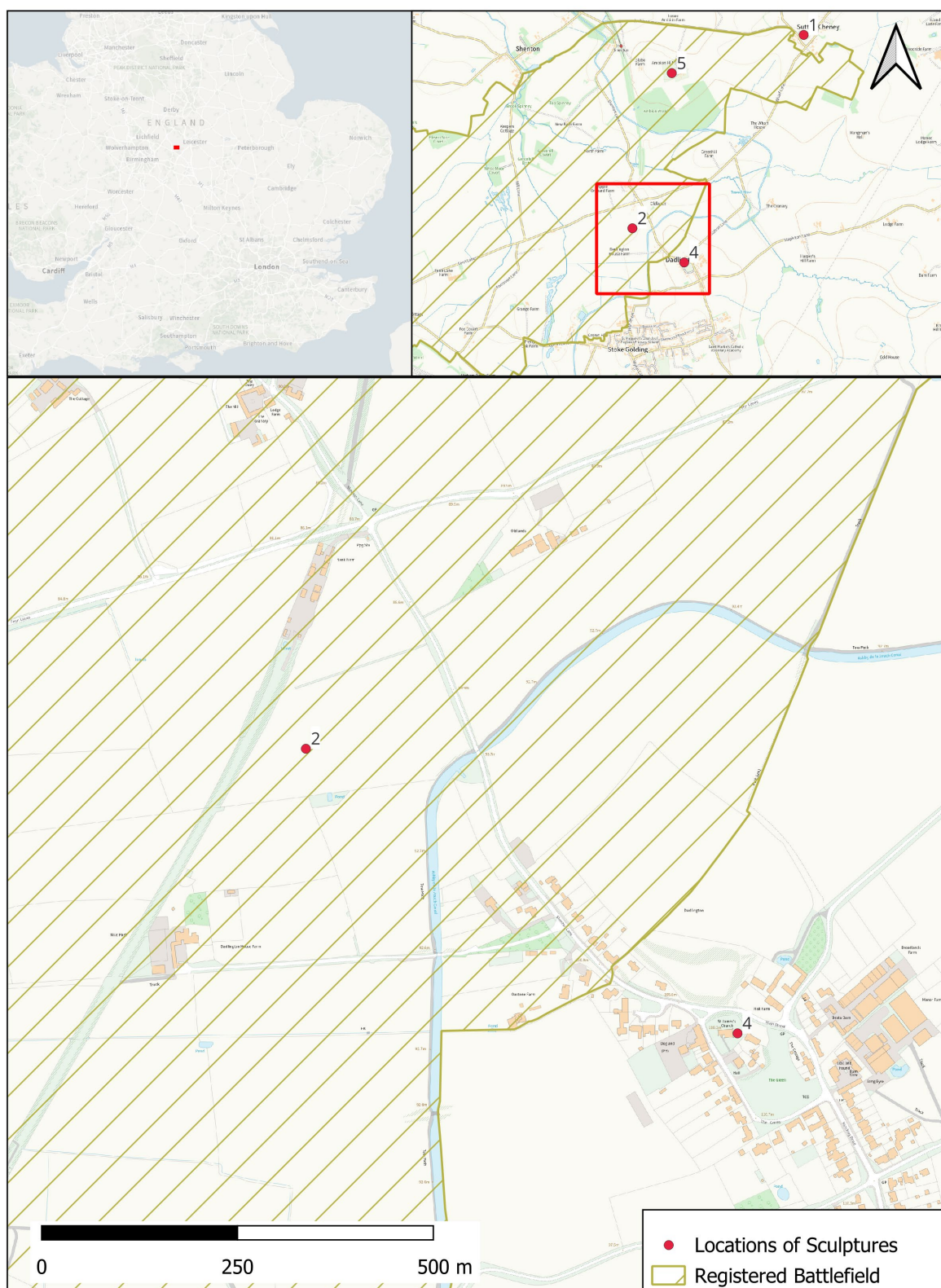
'The Storm Breaks' represents the protagonists of the Battle of Bosworth and comprises 4.5m high stone figures of King Richard III, Henry Tudor and several significant barons, with the choice of stones for each figure connecting them to their locality. The sculptures lie each side of a drystone path revetment that leads along the line of an existing footpath.

Groundworks involved the excavation of soil from an area 19m square with the full excavation through any subsoil of the foundation pits for each sculpture to a depth of 0.80m.

Site Location, Geology and Topography

The site lies near the hamlet of Dadlington some 2.7km south-west of Sutton Cheney and 1km north-east of Stoke Golding. The Civil Parish of Dadlington and Sutton Cheney lies in the Hinckley and Bosworth District of Leicestershire around 3km south-east of Market Bosworth and 4.3km north-west of Hinckley. The sculpture site lies within a pasture field north-west of Dadlington of around 3.8ha, on flat land at a height of around 91m aOD.

The sculpture is to be situated within the field approximately halfway along the public footpath that crosses the field from north to south. The field is surrounded by hedges and trees on all sides. To the east lies Shenton Lane (with gated access into the field) and the Ashby-de-la-Zouch canal. To the north is a partial hedgerow with a gap at the western end leading into a further field with Fenn Lanes to the north. To the west lies the line of the former railway as a raised embankment, which has truncated the original rectangular shape of the field and runs north-east to south-west.



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Created by: M Beamish
Created on: 17/07/2024

Figure 1: Position of site 2 in relation to other Sculpture trail installations (1, 4 and 5), and the Registered Battlefield

The British Geological Website indicates that the underlying geology of the area is likely to be Gunthorpe Member Mudstone overlain by Wolston Clay (clay, silt and sand) (<https://www.bgs.ac.uk>).

The Soilscape website indicates that the soils within the assessment area are likely to be Soilscape 18: Slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils (<http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscales>).

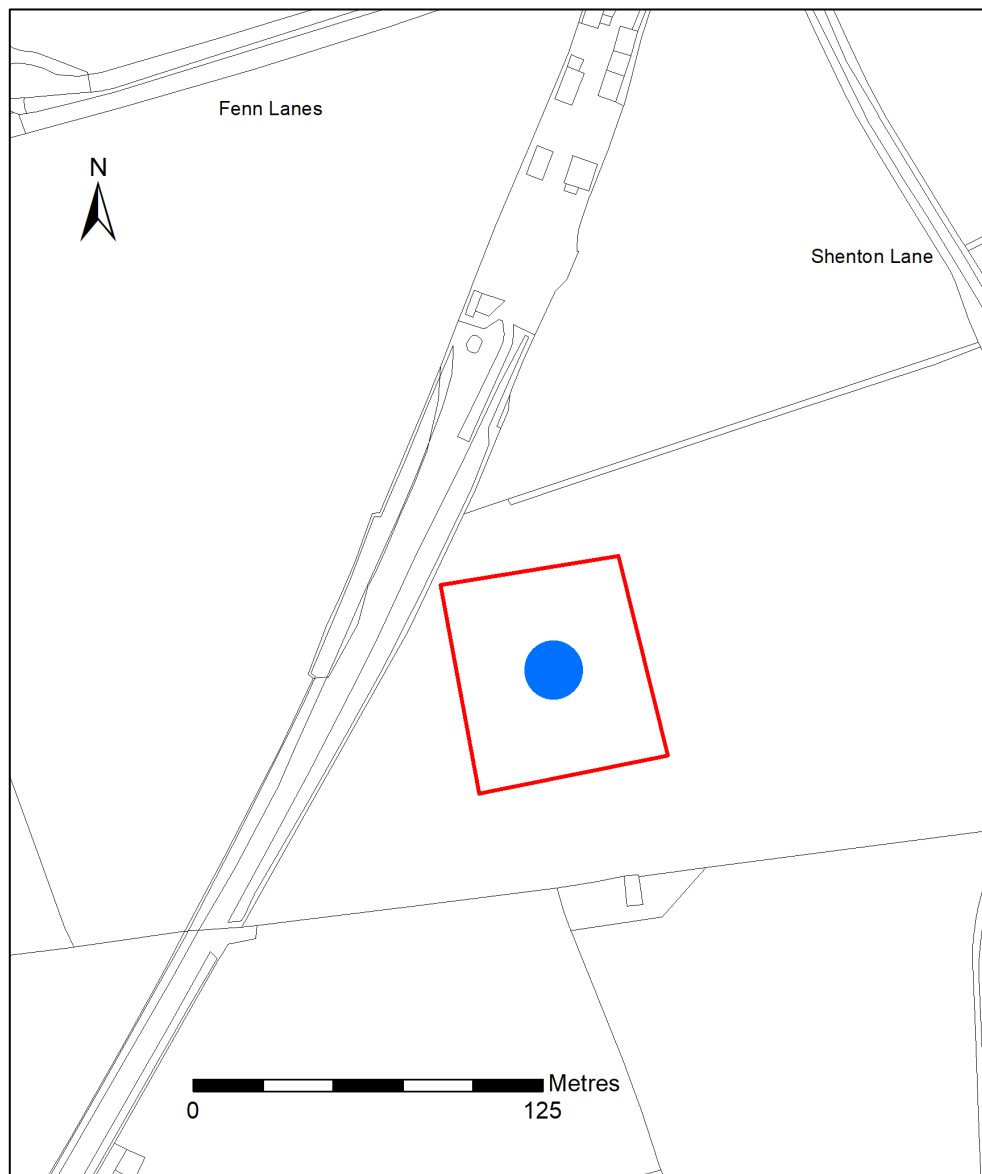


Figure 2: Detail of site location. Plan provided by client

Historical and Archaeological Background

A desk-based assessment was produced for the proposed sculpture site and all four other proposed sites. The following is summarised from the Site 2 assessment. The assessment included the consultation of the Historic Environment Record (HER) for the area within a

250m radius of the proposed site. The HER event numbers and monument numbers are shown in bold in the text (Hunt and Hyam 2022).

The village of Sutton Cheney is of Anglo-Saxon/early medieval origin. The place-name 'Sutton' is a very common English place-name meaning, simply 'the south place or farm'. It is normally associated with a larger village or town; in this case Sutton is the village to the south of Market Bosworth (Mills 2003). The village, and the churchyard site, fall within the Sutton Cheney Conservation Area.

In early literature the village is often referred to as Sutton-juxta-Bosworth. The affix 'Cheney', originally 'Cheynell', comes from the name of the farmer that was the tenant on the land at Sutton in the time of Henry III (Nichols 1811).

The sculpture will lie close to the hamlet of Dadlington. The place-name of Dadlington is derived from the Anglo-Saxon personal name 'Daedela' and the Old English '-ingtūn'; '*a settlement associated with*'. Therefore, the village's name means 'farm/settlement of Daedela' (<http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk>).

The site lies close to areas covered by the Bosworth Battlefield Survey, carried out from 2005-2010. This project led by Dr Glenn Foard of the Battlefields Trust, ran for these five years, combining documentary, topographical and fieldwork research. The Project aimed to piece together the landscape of 1485, including site such as Shakespeare's famous marsh, where Richard III lost his horse, and to locate any evidence of the Battle. A metal detecting survey of a huge area of land finally recovered a unique collection of medieval cannon balls and a scatter of small items lost by combatants in the Battle. Many of the fields surrounding the village were included in the survey including those to the direct south and north-west of the assessment area (HER Event No. **ELE8443**). (see Ford and Curry 2013).

From metal detector surveys between 2005 and 2010 a number of finds were made of items probably related to the Battle of Bosworth. The items comprise a badge, finger rings and horse fittings. The area of the registered battlefield (List Entry 1000004) was subsequently redrawn in 2013 and is shown in Figure 1. The site lies fully within the registered battlefield. The approximate centre of most intense combat is thought to lie 300m to the west-north-west (see Ford 2018).

Prehistoric and Roman

There are no known prehistoric sites within a 250m radius of the assessment area. There are two known Roman sites within a 250m radius of the proposed sculpture site. The first of these is Fenn Lanes, which lies 240m north of the site. This is the former Mancetter Road, a Roman road from Leicester (Ratae Corieltavorum) to Mancetter (Manduessedum). The line is marked by current day roads and cropmarks.

Groundworks through the area along the line of the road have revealed cobbles, bedding layers and other features associated with the road (HER Ref No. **MLE3019**). Around 200m south-east of the assessment area is the findspot for a Roman brooch, which was found during metal detecting in 2006 (**MLE20612**).

Anglo-Saxon to Medieval

There are no known Anglo-Saxon or medieval sites recorded on the HER within a 250m radius of the site, although several findspots for metal finds are recorded (see above).

Post-medieval to modern

The Ashby Canal runs through the south-eastern edge of the field in which the assessment area lies. The canal ran from Ashby Woulds down to the Coventry Canal in Warwickshire. It opened in 1804, but was taken over by the Midland Railway in 1846.

In 1923 the Midland Railway was amalgamated into the London Midland and Scottish, and maintenance of the canal declined. It further declined after the nationalisation of the railways in 1948. By 1957 the canal in Measham was described as an open sewer. The stretch of the canal between Snarestone Pumping Station and Measham was finally abandoned in 1966 (**MLE8916**).

The line of the Ashby and Nuneaton Joint railway runs around 60m west of the assessment area on a north-east to south-west alignment (**MLE16051**). The railway was opened in 1873 and was the first in Britain to run a double expansion engine (the 'Medusa' in 1878). In 1971 the line was closed and the track was removed. The Battlefield Line uses part of the line, running from Shackerstone to Shenton via Market Bosworth.

Aims and Objectives

The main objectives of the archaeological work were defined as follows:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits.
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits and features encountered.
- To record any archaeological deposits and produce an archive and report of any results.

Research Objectives

The proximity of the Roman road at Fenn Lanes and the findspots for Roman and medieval artefacts in the vicinity of the site indicates that there is a potential for archaeology relating to these periods. On this basis it is possible to determine some initial objectives identified within *The East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework* (<https://researchframeworks.org/emherf/>) with the potential for remains that could contribute to the following Research Objectives:

Roman:

5.1.3: How may our understanding of Romano-British sites known only from metal-detected and fieldwalking finds be enhanced?

5.1.4: How can we advance our knowledge of the chronology of Romano-British metal finds, particularly brooches?

5.7.1: Can the chronology of road construction and links between road building and campaigns of conquest be clarified?

Medieval:

7.2.1: How can we elucidate further the development of nucleated villages, and in particular the contribution of the Danelaw to changes in village morphology?

7.4.6: How should battlefield sites be further investigated?

Methodology

All work followed the procedures set out in the approved *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) for the project (ULAS 2023).

All work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Briefs*, (updated 2020a), *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Excavation* (updated 2020b) and adhered to their *Code of Conduct* (updated 2021). The accession number X.A151.2022 was used to identify all records and artefacts.

The project area was pegged out using RTK GPS. A metal detector survey was subsequently undertaken over the area on 5m transects by M. Beamish and John Palmer (independent detectorist) on Saturday 7th October.

Metal Detector Survey:

Setting out of survey grids and detecting

The methodology for sampling on 2.5m transects followed Foard & Curry 2013, p104.

Two parallel baselines were laid out, using cross-sight ranging poles for the right-angles. Then, using reels of nylon rope marked at 2.5 m intervals, coloured flags were laid out in a standard sequence along each baseline. Additional flags were placed at the field edge, sighted by eye in relation to the flags on the baseline. Flag colours for adjacent transects were rotated in a standard sequence to help discrimination in both set-up and detecting. Each detectorist was able to keep exactly to their transect by ensuring the flags in front, along their transect, were always aligned.

Detectorists walked each transect with the machines set in non-ferrous mode.

GPS waypoints with hand held receivers were recorded at the field edge by each detectorist as they started and completed each transect.

Recovery of finds, numbering and marking of locations was undertaken by the individual detectorist. This ensured the detectorists remained alert and engaged through the day, as well as interested and committed to the survey in the long term. Every artefact recovered was assessed by the detectorist. If considered potentially significant, or if there was uncertainty, the find was individually numbered, bagged, and its location marked with a numbered flag.

Recording of find positions was undertaken by a ULAS surveyor using DGPS who maintained an overall finds index.

All non-ferrous artefacts considered too modern to be relevant were retained by each detectorist in a single bag for their 'junk' from each field on each day. This was intended to

provide a record of the background noise and was checked by the finds team to ensure that no potentially significant objects were being discarded.

Soil Stripping

Soil stripping of the area under supervision by ULAS was undertaken between 12-13 October 2023 and was followed by post-excavation and reporting.

A square area measuring 19x19m was reduced by c.0.3m under archaeological supervision. A further five rectangular foundations were excavated down through natural substratum (Fig. 3). Metal detecting was carried out prior to soil stripping, during the excavation and across the spoil heaps.

Monitoring

Internal monitoring procedures were undertaken with the project manager, to ensure that project targets were met and professional standards maintained. Provision was made for external monitoring meetings with the Planning Archaeologist if required.

The archaeological advisor to the planning authority did not visit the site but was sent photographs and kept apprised of progress throughout the project.



Figure 3: A metal detecting survey was undertaken on 2.5m transects prior to any groundworks.

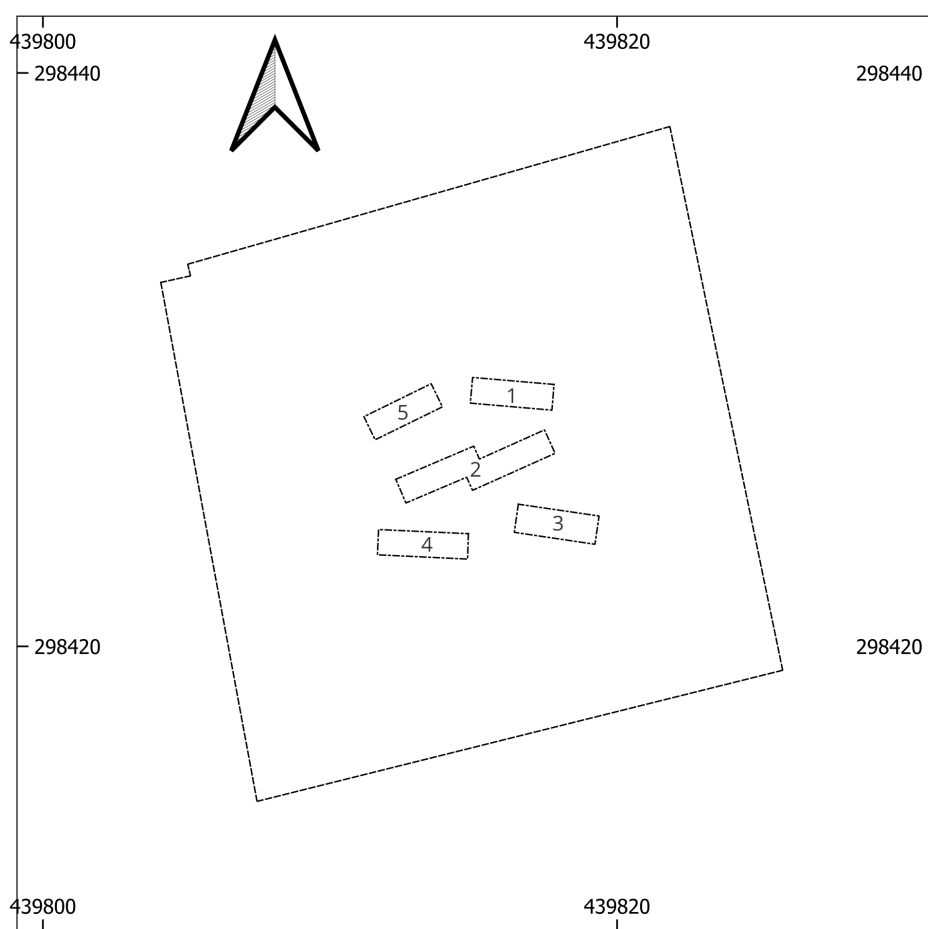


Figure 4: Strip, map and sample area with sculpture foundation pits to National Grid.

Results

Metal Detector Survey

The survey was undertaken on 7/10/2023. Eight finds of metal objects were made and these are described below (p.11). None of the artefacts are of archaeological significance (below p.12)

Soil Strip

The natural substratum (03) consisted of yellow-grey clay at approximately 0.3m below ground level. Subsoil (02), brown-grey silty clay covered this at between 0.12-0.15m thick. Topsoil (01), dark grey brown clay loam covered this, 0.12-0.15m thick. . A series of furrows were noted aligned roughly north-west to south-east truncating the natural substratum.

Five rectangular foundation pits were excavated 0.6m into the natural substratum (See Figure 4 and Appendix 2, p15).

No archaeology was uncovered (Fig. 4). In addition to the metal finds, a number of finds of pottery and ceramic building material were also made. None of this material is archaeologically significant.



Figure 5: Stripped area looking north-east

The Finds

All the finds have been recovered, processed and recorded in line with national standards (ClfA 2020c) as well as the ClfA Toolkits for *Recording Archaeological Materials* and *Specialist Reporting*. The specialist reports also follow their specific material standards and guidelines. The material was all recorded and reported on between June and July 2024.

The Pottery

Kristophe Michaels

Two sherds (57g) of a large post-medieval earthenware jar (EA1), with a splashed brown glaze on the internal and external surfaces of the rim and a brown glaze on the internal bowl surface, dating from the 16th to mid-18th centuries was recovered from context (01). These sherds were recorded following *The Standards* (Barclay et al 2016) and the fabrics follow the Leicestershire medieval and post-medieval fabric type series (Davies and Sawday 1999).

Table 1: Summary of Post Medieval pottery

Context	No. Sherds	Weight (g)	Fabric	Form	EVE	Rim diameter	Date	Comments
1	2	57	EA1	Poss. jar	7.5	36cm	1500 - 1750	Joining rim sherd. Highly vitrified with splash of dark greyey brown glaze on rim

								brim and on the external surfaces
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The ceramic building material

A total of 17 fragments weighing 891g of ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered from contexts (01) and (02), 16 of which were fragments of roofing ranging from 14 to 20mm in thickness along with a single highly abraded fragment of possibly handmade brick, details of which are in Table 2. All of the material appears to be of a post medieval date though it is too fragmentary to be particularly diagnostic and has limited evidence of mortaring.

Table 2: Summary of Ceramic Building Material

Context	Quantity	Weight (g)	Comments
1	7	320	Tile fragments
2	10	571	9 tile fragments, 1 brick fragment

Discussion

The small assemblage of ceramic finds is suggestive of post medieval. The assemblage is predominantly made up of ceramic building material, but the fragmentary character of it limits speculation as to nature of the structure it was associated with.

The finds have been fully recorded and discard is recommended for the assemblage.

The metal detected finds

Heidi Addison

The metal detector survey carried out on site produced an assemblage of eight registered finds, all dated as post-medieval to modern. The finds are in a range of metals including iron, copper alloy and tin alloy. This report groups and lists the objects by metal type, which includes a brief description of each.

Iron

- 1) Sf3 Post-medieval/modern. A cast sub-square, single loop buckle frame of rectangular-section, with integral cylinder attached to one short side of frame, which has a longitude perforation. Bridle (L.36mm x W.24mm x D7.5mm).
- 2) Sf4, Sf6 and Sf8. Modern/unknown. Two tapering circle-section nails. One complete (L.32mm) and one incomplete (L.39mm). A third incomplete timber nail, rectangular in section of unknown date (L.44mm)
- 3) Sf5 Post-medieval/early modern. Fragment of the right-hand branch of a horseshoe. Dating characteristics are limited, however, there is an absence of modern fullering, which is a machine-made groove for nails (L.115mm, 72g).

- 4) Sf7 Modern/unknown. A circular stud/nail/mount with convex head and incomplete square-section attachment spike on the underside.

Copper alloy/base metal

- 5) Sf2 Modern (20th century onwards). An asymmetrical 'love heart' pendant, formed from a sheet with a central 'love heart' cut-out, housing two glass or cubic zirconia 'stones'. Smaller 'stones' are set around the periphery of the design. An incomplete loop sits asymmetrically on a lobe at the top of the pendant (L.15mm x W.13mm x D.4mm).

Silver colour/tin alloy

- 6) Sf1 Modern. A small, cast, plain silver coloured circular fitting or likely rivet, with a central perforation within a countersunk circle. Slight convex upper surface and concentric circles on the underside. The integral attachment shaft is incomplete (Diameter 15.5mm, 0.6g).

Discussion

The objects are all later in date and were found within the topsoil and subsoil and have little archaeological significance.

It is recommended that all of the material is discarded. An Excel spreadsheet detailing the material will be submitted as part of the site archive.

Discussion and Conclusion

The archaeological work carried out for the Bosworth Sculpture Trail did not reveal any significant archaeological features or finds. The post medieval nature of the finds would appear to be consistent with the nature of the site as enclosed open field outside of the village core of Daddlington, and a nearby footpath also a potential source of artefacts. No finds recovered were related to the date of the Battle of Bosworth, even though the site is within the registered battle area.

Archive and Publication

The archive for the project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums following their guidance (LMARS 2018) and national standards (CIfA 2020b) and the digital archive with the ADS under the accession number X.A151.2022 and consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report (2023-109)
- 3 Context sheets
- 1 Context index
- 1 Small finds index
- 1 Photographic record
- 1 CD of digital photographs

A summary of this report will appear in due course in the Transactions the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society.

The University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS data entry has been completed detailing the results of the project and will be digitally accessible through The Archaeological Data Services (<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/>).

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank the client, Gemma Tallis for Leicester Promotions and Stephen Broadbent of Broadbent Studio. The metal detector survey was undertaken by John Palmer and Matthew Beamish, and the soil strip by Nathan Flavell. Post-excavation was undertaken by Nathan Flavell and the finds team. The project was managed by Matthew Beamish for ULAS. We would like to thank John Palmer for undertaking the metal detector surveys. The plant machinery was provided by and operated by Ambion Contractors Limited.

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CIfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists) *Toolkit for Recording Archaeological Materials*

CIfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists) *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting*

East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework
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ULAS Report No. **2022-074**

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Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2021 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Section 16 Conserving and enhancing the historic environment.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

Soilscape website, <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/>

ULAS 2023 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Strip, Map and Sample. Site: Bosworth 1485 Sculpture Trail (Site 2), land south of Fenn Lanes, Sutton Cheney, Leicestershire* ULAS 23-714

Appendix 1: Context List

Context	Cut	Depth (in m)	Description
01	-	0.12 to 0.15	Dark grey brown clay loam topsoil
02	-	0.12 to 0.15	Brown-grey silty clay subsoil
03	-	-	Yellow-grey clay natural

Appendix 2: Foundation pits



Figure 6: Foundation pit 1 looking south-west



Figure 7: Foundation pit 2 (west side) looking south-east



Figure 8: Foundation pit 2 (east side) looking north-west



Figure 9: Foundation pit 3 looking south-east



Figure 10: Foundation pit 4 looking north



Figure 11: Foundation pit 5 looking south-east



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