

# **DESERTED MEDIEVAL VILLAGE, WELBY, LEICESTERSHIRE**

## **A Desk-Based Assessment**

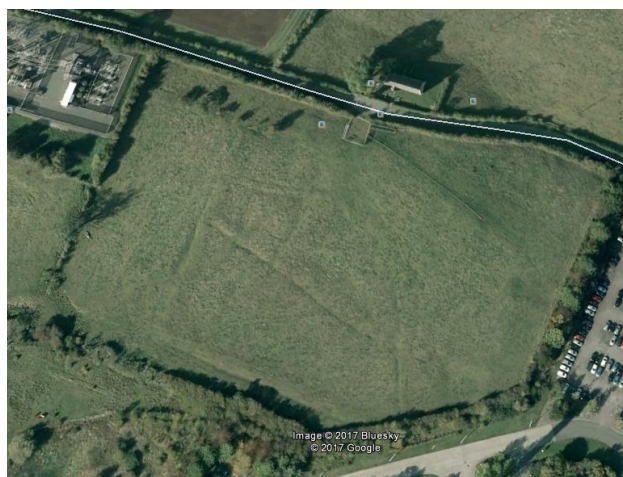
Prepared by L. Saunders

2017


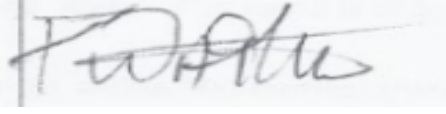
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**Force Archaeology**

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## SUMMARY

This assessment considers the background history of the site area, together with the potential below ground archaeological resource of the site.

The potential of the study area was assessed following consultation of documentary evidence and site inspection.

The site in question is a known deserted medieval village that sits within a historically rich landscape with close proximity to Prehistoric and Romano-British activity that could extend within the area of the site.

The now deserted village of Welby formed one of the original group of five hamlets, which lay round the Anglo-Danish central township of Melton Mowbray 'middle town'. This itself was centrally located within the area which became known as 'The Five Boroughs' during the Danelaw period.

The earliest reference to Welby is within the Great Domesday Book c.1086 A.D., when it was referred to as 'Alebie' and 'Alebi'. This name is of Scandinavian origin - the homestead or farm of Ali.

Within the close vicinity (i.e.: within 500 metres) there is evidence of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British Activity.

Previous investigations on the site have uncovered pottery which has been identified of Saxo-Norman' type and stone walls.

It is not known whether this 'Saxo-Norman' pottery is from the pre or post 1066 period as no reports are available

The potential below ground archaeological remains that may survive at varying levels which may be susceptible to impact by any groundwork comprise:

- ☐ Prehistoric and Romano-British settlement activity
- ☐ Early medieval settlement activity
- ☐ Residual finds, including medieval structural items and other items (Prehistoric, Roman, Medieval pottery etc).

Further structured archaeological investigations are required to help clarify the archaeological potential of the Site and the extent of any damage that may have been caused by the activities of the Holwell Iron Co. Ltd and Asfordby Deep Coal Mine.

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## **Acknowledgements**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. SITE BACKGROUND

1.1.1. Trent and Peak Archaeology (TPA) were commissioned by St. Bartholomew's Church to carry out an archaeological watching brief at St. Bartholomew's Church, Welby, Leicestershire during the construction of a car park on land immediately to the South of the Church and Welby Lane (SK72495 20952). During this watching brief it was noted by the Site Archaeologist that there appeared to be substantial earthworks in the field, and during the construction of the car park medieval walls were revealed.

1.1.2. This Desk Based Assessment carried out by Force Archaeology (FA) considers the background history of the area as well as the potential below ground archaeological resource of the field in question

### 1.2. GEOLOGY / TOPOGRAPHY (With thanks to Lee Elliot of TPA)

1.2.1. Welby centred on the church (at SK7254220985) which lies 3km to the north-west of Melton Mowbray town-centre, off the Nottingham Road (A606), along St. Bartholomew's Way and Welby Lane. (Watching Brief by TPA in 2014)

1.2.2. The underlying superficial geology consists of Cretaceous and Jurassic rock fragments with subordinate lenses of sand and gravel or clay and silt, which in this area is rich in lias rock fragments.

1.2.3. The underlying bedrock consists of the Mudstone Formation consisting of dark grey laminated shales and dark pale bluish grey mudstone (with abundant argillaceous limestone, phosphatic or ironstone nodules in some areas).

1.2.4 The local topography is undulating with Welby Lane at the base of a small valley rising (from c.87m at the railway bridge) as it runs westwards past the church at 102.87m OD. Many of the undulations associated with the village earthworks that previously surrounded the church have been reduced, although a noticeable hollow runs West/East in the North of the field in question and another past the north side of the church.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 DOCUMENTARY

2.1.1 The potential of the study area was assessed following consultation of the documentary evidence held at the following sources.

**1. *Leicestershire Historic Environment Record and Heritage Gateway Online database***

The Historic Environment Record (HER) online database held by Leicestershire County Council was consulted for any relevant data for the study area.

**2. *National Monument Record On-line Database (PastScapes)***

The English Heritage online database of archaeological sites (comprising over 400,000 records) was consulted.

**3. *Documentary & Cartographic Sources***

A rapid search was made for relevant published works, maps and documents held online by various institutions



## 2.2. SITE INSPECTION

- 2.2.1 The site was also subject to inspection to observe any visible features of archaeological significance. Results were recorded by digital photographs and noted on a scaled base map.

## 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

### 3.1. PREHISTORIC

- 3.1.1. The discovery of a Late Bronze Age Hoard (c. 1000-800 BC) is the earliest evidence of activity in the vicinity. This is recorded as being found c.1875, approximately 500 metres to the West (Monument No 321498) and consisted of socketed axes, a spearhead, a sword, a bronze cup, harness mounts and cauldron handle fittings. These were deposited in Leicester Museum in 1919. Precise details are unclear as they were found during gravel digging and the exact details of the location have been lost due to modern industrial activity
- 3.1.2. Iron Age activity (c. 800BC - 43 AD) is recorded at 2 sites, one c. 160 metres to the North West (pottery), and the other (ditched enclosures and pottery) 400 metres to the West (MLE 18614)

### 3.2. ROMANO-BRITISH

- 3.2.1. MLE 18614 also suggested a continuity of occupation into the Romano-British period with Romano British pottery having been found. Trial trenching suggested a concentration of late Iron Age and early Roman settlement activity on top of a ridge overlooking the valley. In 1980, Field Walking activity apparently noted examples of tesserae, pottery and tile. This is suggestive of settlement and also it is reported that a mosaic was uncovered in 1988 during ditching but the location of this is not known.
- 3.2.2. In 2002, ditches, pits and 500 sherds of Roman pottery were noted during a watching brief at the Remount Centre 1.5km to the South-East. This pottery was dated as early 1st to 2nd centuries, and also late 3rd to 4th centuries, indicating a break in occupation.

### 3.3. ANGLO-SAXON

- 3.3.1. No activity in the near vicinity has been noted, although urns, brooches and beads have been found at an unknown location in the Melton Mowbray area

### 3.4. MEDIEVAL

- 3.4.1. Documentary evidence shows that the site was occupied between 1066 and 1607, and excavations close by noted Saxo-Norman pottery as well as later pottery. Building foundations were also noted (however, no reports are available). During construction of a car park in the north of the field in 2016 the foundations of a medieval wall was uncovered, and a fragment of a Copper Alloy Spur arm of a style dateable to the Georgian period (1714 – 1830) was also found.

## 4. WELBY VILLAGE - HISTORY

- 4.1. The now deserted village of Welby formed one of the original group of five hamlets (with Burton Lazars, Eye Kettleby, Sysonby and Freeby), which lay round the Anglo-Danish central township of Melton Mowbray 'middle town' (Brownlow 1980, 9). This itself was centrally located within the area known as 'The Five Boroughs' of Deoraby, Snottingham, Lincylene, Stanford and Ligeraceaster (Derby, Nottingham, Lincoln, Stamford and Leicester)



- 4.2. The earliest reference to Welby is within the Great Domesday Book c.1086 A.D., when it was referred to as 'Alebie' and 'Alebi'.
- 4.3. Alebi(e) has its origins in "Ali's By", from the Old Norse and Old Danish personal name "Ali", plus the second element "by" (meaning Farmstead or Village)
- 4.4. In the Great Domesday Book of 1086, land within Welby is listed as follows; (Morris 1979, 40, 13 & 38, and 29, 4) (note: A Carucate was the area of land an oxen team could plough in a single annual season and equated to approximately 120 acres, a Bovate was 15 acres)
- In **ALEBIE (Welby)** are 8 carucates of land less 2 bovates, which belong to Melton Mowbray. There were 5 ploughs. Now 16 sokemen have 5 ploughs there, and 6 acres of meadow. It was worth 10s; now 40s. This was held by Geoffrey of La Guerche from Countess Judith. ( $960 - 30 + 6 = 936 \text{ acres}$ ),
  - Hugh Burdet holds of the countess  $6 \frac{1}{2}$  carucates of land in **ALEBI**. There were 4 ploughs. Now in demesne there are  $1 \frac{1}{2}$  ploughs; and 7 villeins with 2 sokemen and 3 bordars have  $1 \frac{1}{2}$  ploughs. From part of a mill 3s, and [there are] 12 acres of meadow. It was worth 10s; now 20s. ( $780 + 12 = 792 \text{ acres}$ )
  - Godwine holds 1 carucate of land 2 bovates in **ALEBI**. It is waste; yet it is worth 3s ( $120 + 30 = 150 \text{ acres}$ )
  - Ralph holds of the countess half a carucate of land in **ALEBI**. It is waste; yet it is worth 2s. ( $60 \text{ acres}$ )
    - By comparison Wharram Percy in Yorkshire (now under the stewardship of English Heritage) in 1086 had a value of 70 shillings, had  $4 \frac{1}{2}$  ploughs and was 9 Carucates in size
    - No church is listed in the Domesday Survey c.1086 AD for Welby (Morris 1979), which fell within the parish of Melton Mowbray. However, this should not be taken as an absence of a church as few Leicestershire churches were recorded in Domesday. As two priests are recorded for Melton Mowbray (Morris 1979, 29, 3) possibly to service its wider parish of several hamlets including Welby, one of the priests may have been a chaplain or curate therefore the presence of a chapel on site at this time cannot be discounted.
    - It was not clear as to which parish / village shared the ownership of the Mill as the Domesday Survey did not mention part ownership for any of the surrounding villages.
- 4.5. St Bartholomew's Church which lies to the north of the field, the other side of the road, is first recorded as present in 1220 (in the *Matriculus* of the Archdeacons of Leicester), which listed it as a chapelry served twice a week by the mother church of Melton (Nicholas 1795, I, lxii), although the presence of an earlier chapel cannot be ruled out. The bulk of the existing church layout consisting of chancel, nave and tower has changed little since the 13th /14th century.,
- 4.6. In 1377 the number of taxpayers for the village was seventy-five, and by 1524 was just seven plus four (Hurst & Beresford 1963-4, 32)
- 4.7. Depopulation in Welby appears to have accelerated in the late medieval to early post medieval period following early enclosure for pasture or improved arable (Hurst & Beresford 1963-4, 25-26). In 1607 William Digby, who held 610 acres of land (350 arable, 200 pasture, 40 meadow and 20 woodland, Nichols 1795, 285), was charged

with depopulation of Welby by the Attorney General in the Court of the Star Chamber (Parker 1949, 75). Within the hearth tax of 1670 just seven households are listed ((Hurst & Beresford 1963-4, 32). In 1795 just seven families are recorded as living in the hamlet itself (Nichols 17895, 285).

- 4.8. There appears to have been a brief revival in the early 19th century with the population recorded at fifty-eight in 1801 and seventy-six in 1811 (Hurst & Beresford 1963-4, 32). By 1841 the population of Welby was just forty-four (Pigot 1841, 47) with the village described as a township and chapelry of scattered farmhouses (Pigot 1846). This was to fall to just thirty-eight in 1901, although this had improved to ninety-six by 1931 (Hurst & Beresford 1963-4, 32).
- 4.9. With the founding of Holwell Ironworks in 1875, the much of what was Welby Village was destroyed, and pit waste from the establishment of a 'superpit' was spread over an area to the West of the Ab Kettleby road. (Alan Fox 2017).
- 4.10. The last remnant of Welby Hall was demolished in 1961 as it was in an unsafe condition.
- 4.11. Today all that remains of this village consists of St Bartholomew Church, Welby Grange (600metres to the North East), and Grange Cottage (250 metres North East).

## **5. WELBY - ARCHAEOLOGY**

### **5.1. AERIAL VIEWS**

- 5.1.1. Aerial Views from the 1950s indicate that Welby Village occupied an area some 500 metres from East to West, and 350 metres North to South
- 5.1.2. These photographs show substantial earthworks especially to the West and South which can still be seen

### **5.2. EXCAVATIONS**

- 5.2.1. A report from the Melton Times (May 3rd 1968) states that as topsoil was being removed from the site for during the levelling of the Ironworks tip, pottery and wall foundations were uncovered. It is understood that trial pits were excavated but no reports have been found
- 5.2.2. In 1982 the then Coal Board carried out an Exploratory Soil survey. A map showing the sites of the Trial Pits dug shows only one in the field under investigation. It was situated approximately at Grid Ref SK 725 209 although this is not certain. It must be noted that the current Tenant Farmer has no recollection of any pits being dug in the field in question, but there were some in surrounding fields.
- 5.2.3. Leicester Museums Archaeology Record - Site Summary sheet records that 10 sherds of 'Saxo-Norman & Medieval pottery' was found. 6 sherds were identified as examples of Stamford ware. (Stamford ware was manufactured between the late 9th and early 12th centuries AD).

Further finds of medieval date found within the vicinity of Welby have included a medieval pilgrim flask (MLE6809) c.400m to the west and a coin of Edward III (MLE6810) recovered from Welby Lodge (c.834m to NW).

### **5.3. NON INVASIVE INVESTIGATIONS**

- 5.3.1. A hollow way can still be seen running West/East in the north of the field, which would have joined the original line of Welby Lane. There is another immediately to the north of the churchyard, which also joins Welby Lane to the east.



- 5.3.2. Other potential related sites include fishponds to the north-west at Fishpond Close (MLE 3344) and south-east toward the railway bridge close to the valley bottom (MLE3341), while to the west lies the site of a possible former watermill (MLE3348) with associated millpond in nearby former Osier Beds (MLE3351).
- 5.3.3. A Field walkover in January 2017 by members of Op. Nightingale Heritage noted a substantial bank running North/South some 100 metres in length. 20 metres from the North end of the bank was a gap of 5 – 10 metres which had the appearance of an entrance. At the Southern end the bank turned 90 degrees East for a further 100 metres before it disappeared into the adjoining Industrial Business Park. An external ditch ran parallel to this bank. At the corner the height differential was 1.5 metres. It was thought significant in that the corner was rounded, reminiscent of those seen in Roman Army forts.
- 5.3.4. A Topographic survey carried out in February 2017 by Op Nightingale Heritage identified the substantial bank and external ditch, also some 10 potential House platforms
- 5.3.5. A Ground Resistance Survey (GRS) was carried out in May 2017. This concentrated on an area 60 metres East/West and 80 metres North/South which included the northern section of the western bank and ditch.

This showed that there appeared to be a further ditch running North/South just to the West of and parallel to the one previously identified. There was also a high resistance echo that could be a trackway leaving the entrance, passing the first ditch then turning south between the two for about 15 metres.

Inside the bank, and to the north of the possible entrance was a high resistance echo that was rectangular in shape and had the appearance of walls. Another echo was also to the south but not as clear.

Two potential House Platforms, 40 metres by 20 metres were also identified, as were possible trackways between them. During the GRS the thistle undergrowth was trampled down and one closest to the bank/ditch became very noticeable. Towards one end of the platform there appeared to be what could be interpreted as a passageway.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

This archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared for the area to the South of Welby Lane, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire (SK 72460 20890) by Force Archaeology (FA).

The Site is a known Deserted Medieval Village (AD1066 to 1607). Due to the name of the Village being of Scandinavian origin there is the potential for evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity (AD410 to 1066). The site also has potential for activity for the Romano-British period because of the unusual rectilinear high bank with external ditches and the evidence of Romano-British activity nearby (Roman pottery having been noted close to the northwest of the Site).

Further non-intrusive and Intrusive archaeological work would help clarify the archaeological potential of the Site and the extent of any damage that may have been caused by the activities of the Holwell Iron Co. Ltd and Asfordby Deep Coal Mine.



It may also help to answer some of the questions posed in 'East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands' which was compiled on behalf of the region's historic environment community by David Knight, Blaise Vyner and Carol Allen in 2012

Early Medieval: c.410–1066

(6.6.5.1) How may Anglo-Saxon and British communities have utilised late Roman towns and their immediate environs?

(6.6.5.2) Can we identify middle Anglo-Saxon defensive works, including new foundations and refurbishments of Roman walled towns?

High Medieval: 1066–1485

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

(6.7.2.2) How can we shed further light upon the origin and development of dispersed hamlets and farms in champion and pastoral areas?

(6.7.2.3) How can we improve our understanding of the form, evolution and functions of buildings within rural settlements and establish the extent of surviving medieval fabrics?

(6.7.2.4) Can we clarify further the processes of settlement desertion and shrinkage, especially within zones of dispersed settlement?

## **APPENDICES**

- 1. DESIGNATED AND UN-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS RECORDED ON THE HER  
WITHIN 1km VICINITY OF CHURCH**
- 2. PHOTOGRAPHS, MAPS AND SURVEY RESULTS**
- 3. GROUND RESISTANCE SURVEY - EXPLANATION**

## APPENDIX 1: DESIGNATED AND UN-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS RECORDED ON THE HER WITHIN 1km VICINITY OF CHURCH.

### HISTORIC ENGLAND MONUMENT REPORT

#### **WELBY**

**Unique Identifier:** 321501

**NMR Number:** SK 72 SW 2

#### **Location**

Asfordby (Civil Parish)  
Melton (District)  
Leicestershire

**OSGB Grid Reference** SK 725 209 (area)

#### **Summary**

Welby - DMV

#### **Status**

#### **Other Identifiers**

SMR Number (Leicestershire) - 72SW B

#### **Notes**

*Refs. to the deserted village of Welby. (1)*

The site of this deserted village was indicated by Mr D. Clarke at SK 726209.

Situated on the side of a hill it extends from the church, which is still in use, down to a stream at the foot of the hill, where much mutilated remains of former stews remain in Fishponds Spinney.

These earthworks no longer form any coherent shape as the spinney has been split in two by an embanked railway line.

The Old Hall (SK 7264 2103) has been demolished. Surveyed at 1/2500. (2)

Visible on St. Joseph A.P.'s. (3)

Half of this site was ploughed and levelled in 1966. It was visited in 1968 and it was found that Stanton Staveley Iron Works waste tips were encroaching on the other half. A local society are carrying out trial excavations which have exposed stone walls. (4)

The northerly field has been ploughed and is at present under crop. Only in the SW corner beyond the hollow way have any earthworks survived in the other field, the remainder having been bulldozed out of existence.

Published survey (1/2500 1968)

revised no information gained re the Society noted by authy 4. (5)

#### **Sources**

- 1 Essays in Leic. Hist. (Hoskins) pp.67 ff.
- 2 Field Investigators Comments  
F1 BHS 19-JUL-62
- 2a D. T-D. Clarke Keeper of Ants Leicester Mus
- 3 APs (CUC BK 66,67: BI 7,8: BR 40,41: BY 11)
- 4 D.M.V. Research Gp., 1968,10
- 5 Field Investigators Comments  
F2 BHS 21-APR-72





### Related Events and Archives

Any event and or archive records linked to this monument are outlined below. For further details please contact the Historic England Archive quoting the Unique Identifier and NMR Number of this monument record and the identifying numbers and titles of items of interest

### Related Event Records

<b>321502</b>	Field observation on SK 72 SW 2	Field Observation (Visual Assessment)	19 Jul 1962 - 19 Jul 1962
<b>321504</b>	Field observation on SK 72 SW 2	Field Observation (Visual Assessment)	21 Apr 1972 - 21 Apr 1972
<b>632278</b>	WELBY	Excavation	01 Jan 1968 - 31 Dec 1968
<b>659648</b>	WELBY	Watching Brief	01 Jan 1982 - 31 Dec 1982

**Related Archive** There are no related archives for this monument.

HER No	Name	Designation	Grid Ref
<b>MLE3340</b>	<b>Welby deserted medieval village</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>SK 726 209</b>
<p><b>Description</b></p> <p>Deserted medieval village. It had two parallel hollow ways, one still largely followed by the modern lane. Numerous earthworks including building platforms were visible but are now built over. Saxo-Norman and medieval pottery was found whilst digging trial pits in 1982</p>			

HER No	Name	Designation	Grid Ref
<b>MLE6366 MON. No. 321498</b>	<b>Bronze Age Hoard /Bronze Age finds from Welby</b>	<b>Grade II</b>	<b>SK 73010 21174</b>
<p><b>Description</b></p> <p>Hoard, including a bronze bowl and cauldron fittings, found at Welby in 1875</p> <p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>In 1919 a large group of Bronze Age finds were brought to Leicester Museum, said to have been found in Welby Parish during gravel digging. The hoard included a sword, three axes, a spearhead, harness fitting, mounts, handle attachments and a cup.</p> <p><b>Associated Finds</b></p> <p>CUP (Late Bronze Age - 1000 BC to 801 BC)  HANDLE (Late Bronze Age - 1000 BC to 801 BC)  HARNESS FITTING (Late Bronze Age - 1000 BC to 801 BC)  HOARD (Late Bronze Age - 1000 BC to 801 BC)  MOUNT (Late Bronze Age - 1000 BC to 801 BC)  SOCKETED AXEHEAD (Late Bronze Age - 1000 BC to 801 BC)  SPEARHEAD (Late Bronze Age - 1000 BC to 801 BC)  SWORD (Late Bronze Age - 1000 BC to 801 BC)</p>			



HER No	Name	Designation	Grid Ref
MLE18614	Iron Age/Roman site west of Welby	None	SK 721 210
<p><i>Summary</i> Area of mid/late Iron Age and early Roman settlement. Geophysical survey and trial trenching confirmed the presence of various enclosure ditches. It was unclear if settlement was continuous or if there were two chronologically separate phases.</p> <p><i>Description</i> <b>Additional Information</b> &lt;1&gt; Chisem, Sarah, 2010, <i>Peel Wind Farms (UKC) Ltd, Asfordby Wind Farm, Geophysical Report</i> (Unpublished document) Various possible archaeological features were noted during geophysical survey in 2010 including two possible structures and linears. In the north, there is a positive linear feature running ENE/WSW 30m south of the northern field boundary. Ninety metres south of the northern field boundary is a positive circular anomaly. Adjoining this feature to the south is a subtler circular anomaly. Potentially, therefore, two structures are represented. A subtle linear feature runs between the circular feature and the eastern field boundary. The three circular anomalies are all of a similar size - approximately 18m in diameter. A sub-circular feature is observed 75m south of the northern field boundary, and a curvilinear anomaly is present 52m north of the southern field boundary.</p> <p>&lt;2&gt; Harvey, James, 2011, <i>An archaeological evaluation at the proposed Asfordby Wind Farm site</i> (Unpublished document) Trial trenching in 2011 confirmed the presence of various ditches and gullies.</p>			

HER No	Name	Designation	Grid Ref
MLE6502	Iron Age pottery found at Peas Field	None	SK 724 211
<p><i>Description</i> A sherd of possible Iron Age pottery was found amongst Roman finds in 1980. These appeared to represent enclosure ditches. Finds included 12 sherds Mid/Late Iron Age pottery, 13 sherds of early Roman pottery, 70 fragments of animal bone, 21 pieces of fired clay/daub and one chalk object. No structural evidence was recorded though the finds suggest there was occupation in the immediate vicinity.</p> <p>&lt;1&gt; <i>Britannia</i> (Journal) "Trial trenching suggested a concentration of late Iron Age and early Roman settlement activity on top of a ridge overlooking the valley. This could represent the continuation of settlement previously identified to the east of the site near to the deserted village of Welby."</p> <p>&lt;2&gt; Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society, 2012, <i>Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society, Volume 86</i> (Journal) "The results suggest a concentration of settlement activity dating to the Late Iron Age and Early Roman periods on top of a ridge overlooking the valley. This could be the continuation</p>			

of settlement activity previously identified to the east of the site near to the deserted village of Welby."

#### Associated Finds

DAUB (Middle Iron Age to Late Iron Age - 400 BC to 42 AD)  
 MAMMAL REMAINS (Middle Iron Age to Late Iron Age - 400 BC to 42 AD)  
 SHERD (Middle Iron Age to Late Iron Age - 400 BC to 42 AD)  
 WORKED OBJECT (Middle Iron Age to Late Iron Age - 400 BC to 42 AD)  
 MAMMAL REMAINS (Early Roman - 43 AD to 249 AD)  
 SHERD (Early Roman - 43 AD to 249 AD)

HER No	Name	Designation	Grid Ref
MLE3345	Roman site at Peas Field	None	SK 724 211
<i>Description</i> In 1980 the Melton Fieldwork Group found a scatter of Roman pottery. It was mostly grey ware but there were also sherds of a mortarium and colour coated wares. Eight fragments of Roman tile and two tesserae were also recorded. It may be related to MLE3349 (a mosaic).			

HER No	Name	Designation	Grid Ref
MLE3349	Roman villa northwest of Welby Church	None	SK 72 21
<i>Description</i> In 1988 it was reported that a mosaic was found 'some years ago' whilst ditching. It was quickly covered up. It may relate to MLE3345			

#### MLE3340 Welby deserted medieval village. SK 726 209

##### Description

Deserted medieval village. It had two parallel hollow ways, one still largely followed by the modern lane. Numerous earthworks including building platforms were visible but are now built over. Saxo-Norman and medieval pottery was found whilst digging trial pits in 1982.

#### MLE11239 (List No.075115) Church of St Bartholomew, Grade II\* SK7252020975

##### Summary

A small Ironstone church listed in the Matriculus of 1220 as a chapelry of Melton. It has an unbuttressed saddleback west tower, twin late perpendicular belfry windows and a nave and chancel all in one. Extensive restoration took place in 1860-2.

##### Description

Church. C14 and C15, repaired C17. Restored 1860-2 by R W Johnson. Coursed squared ironstone and limestone, with limestone dressings, Welsh slate roofs to body of church, Swithland slate roof to tower. Chancel and nave in one, S porch and W tower. 3-light E window has Perpendicular tracery and hood mould. 2-light chamfered stone mullion window to NE with chamfered stone surround, a 2-light window to middle of N wall with flattened arched head and



hood mould. Similar window to SW, a 2-light window to SE with ogee-arched heads to lights, quatrefoils to head and hood mould, small 1-light window to left with cusped pointed arched head and 3-light window to right of porch with segmental arched head. Perpendicular tracery and hood mould. Chamfered S door with flattened arched head in porch which has double-chamfered doorway. 2-stage tower has lancet window to bottom stage W side and small 2-light bell-chamber openings, with round-arched heads to lights, to E and W gables of saddleback roof. Stone-coped gables with kneelers to tower, porch and chancel. Diagonal off-set buttresses to E end. Off-set buttress to SW angle and buttresses between bays to N. Interior: Small chamfered ogee-arched piscina to N side of altar. Another chamfered arched opening, possibly an aumbry, to S of altar. Plain octagonal font, probably C17. Polygonal oak pulpit with Jacobean round arch-headed panels; similar panels at attached reading desk.

**MLE6809 Medieval pilgrim flask. SK 721 211***Description*

A medieval pilgrim flask was found in the early 1980s. It has a floral design on one side and cross hatching on the other.

**MLE6810 Medieval coin from Welby Lodge. SK 718 215***Description*

A rather worn coin of Edward III (probably 1351-1361) was found 'in the garden', presumably of Welby Lodge, in the 1980s. It is apparently from the Durham mint.

**MLE18118 Outbuildings at Welby Grange Farm. SK 730 211***Summary*

Various outbuildings were recorded in 2010 - a threshing barn, cart shed, and cattle shed. One is dated 1843 or 5 on its gable end. (Bradwell, Stephen, 2010)

*Description*

The building survey recorded various architectural details. The threshing barn had a timber loft access door and some ventilation slits, the cart shed had the remains of a dovecote in its west gable, the cattle shed had a timber 'hit and miss' ventilation screen. The separate barn to the east of the farmyard is presumably also C19th in date.

BARN (Late Post-medieval to Modern - 1843 AD? to 2050 AD)

CART SHED (Late Post-medieval to Modern - 1843 AD? to 2050 AD)

COW HOUSE (Late Post-medieval to Modern - 1843 AD? to 2050 AD)

THRESHING BARN (Late Post-medieval to Modern - 1843 AD? to 2050 AD)

**MLE12763 (List No.1360869) Stone outbuilding immediately east of Welby Grange, Grade II. SK7301021174***Summary*

The building contains numerous fragments of medieval stonework

*Description*

Outbuilding C19, with re-used C17 stonework. Coursed squared ironstone, Swithland slate roof. Doors to left and right of centre of long side facing Welby Grange (q.v.), that to left with segmental-arched brick head, that to right with moulded Tudor-arched stone head and moulded stone jambs. Small 2-light window to right of right-hand door with ovolo-moulded stone mullion, similar moulding to jambs and ovolo-moulded stone jamb or mullion as lintel. Moulded re-used stonework to sill and jambs of small 1-light window above. Opening to left of door has moulded stone left jamb and lintel. 1-light window to right of centre with moulded stone jambs, sill and lintel. Stonework to centre incorporates head of large Tudor-arched stone fireplace with carved spandrels and frieze ornamented with pairs of flutes alternating with faceted bosses. Left gable end faces yard and has pair of kennel openings with brick jambs and wood lintels. Dovecote



**MLE 12762 (List No.1180096) Welby Grange, Grade II. SK7299521171***Description*

Farmhouse. Mid-late C17, altered, possibly rebuilt C19. Coursed squared ironstone, artificial graded slate roof, brick end stacks on stone bases. T-plan. 2-storey, 3-window range. Main front faces garden to S and has central double-leaf, part-glazed door, formerly window, with stone surround retaining jambs, head and hood mould of original ovolo-moulded stone mullion window. 2-light casement windows to ground and 1st floors with similar surrounds, those to 1st floor without hood moulds. Chamfered plinth moulded stone eaves and stone-coped gables with kneelers. Full-height wing to rear centre with casement window and C20 porch to rear of wing with glazed lean-to roof.

**MLE12764 (List No.1180103) Grange Cottage, Grade II. SK7275321019***Description*

Cottage. Late C17/early C18, altered C20. Coursed squared ironstone, glazed black pantile roof, brick ridge and end stacks. 2-unit plan. 2-storey, 2-window range. Central C19 door with long pointed arched panels and cemented lintel in C20 timber porch. 2-light C20 casement window to ground floor right and 2-light casements to 1st floor, all with wood lintels. Brick-coped gables. Interior noted as having chamfered spine beam and inglenook with bressumer above with 1-light window to gable with moulded stone jambs and lintel. Traceried head of medieval window to head of gable with quatrefoil and ogee-arched heads of former lights.

**MLE8862 Welby Old Hall, None. SK 726 210***Description*

Site of Welby Old Hall, the home of the Digby family. The hall is surrounded by parterres and terrace walks of its C16th/C17th gardens. These may have been laid out by George Bennett, or his son, who became High Sheriff of Leicestershire in 1623.

GARDEN (Early Post-medieval - 1540 AD to 1699 AD)

HOUSE (Post-medieval - 1540 AD to 1899 AD)

**MLE4002 Sysonby Grange Scheduled 21672. SK 737 210***Summary*

Well preserved earthworks of the grange farm of Welby and Sysonby, once owned by Garendon Abbey. The earthworks include enclosures, building foundations and a fishpond. They were surveyed in 1982 and foundations of a large barn(?) were noted.

*Description*

The earthwork and buried remains of a monastic grange. The grange, which is referred to as both Welby Grange and Sysonby Grange in documentary sources, belonged to the Cistercian Abbey of Garendon, Loughborough from at least the early 14th century. The surviving remains of the grange occupy a roughly square area, bounded by ditches to the north and south and by the course of a former stream to the west. The eastern part of the grange is no longer evident. The surviving boundary features enclose and area of small enclosures, defined by ditches which are thought to have served as drainage channels, and by low banks. Several of these enclosures, in the northern and eastern parts of the site, retain evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation. In the north western corner of the grange is a small pond which is now dry. In the south western and central parts of the monument are a number of building platforms and levelled terraces indicating the position of buried features which are believed to represent the site of agricultural buildings and the monks' domestic accommodation?

**MLE3341 Fishpond at Welby, None. SK 727 209***Description*

There are earthworks of a dried-out fishpond to the south-east of the Old Hall. Others probably existed in the valley bottom before the construction of the railway.

**MLE3344 Mon. No. 964554 Fishpond at Fishpond Close. SK 721 216***Description*

A large fishpond was contour-surveyed by the Melton Fieldwork Group in 1978. On the Welby Tithe Map of 1839 the field is called 'Fishpond Close'. Fishpond east of Welby Lodge. Trans Leicestershire Archaeol Hist Soc 53 1977-78 p79

**MLE3348 Watermill at Millfield. SK 720 207***Description*

The field was called 'Millfield', and there are apparently earthworks in the Welby Osier Beds that may have their origin as the millpond. The Domesday book mentions a watermill in Welby.

**MLE3351 Welby Osier Beds. SK 719 210***Description*

There are apparently earthworks within the Osier Bed. These may be connected with a millpond (see MLE3348).

**MLE16126 Holwell Works, None. SK 726 201***Summary*

Construction of the works began in 1878, and it opened in 1881. Most of the iron ore came from mines near Holwell and on the Leicestershire-Lincolnshire border at Sewstern. The works had the only blast furnaces in Leicestershire. Foundries were built to the north of the furnaces, in production by 1904.

*Description*

Photographic survey of the Works stables/garage was undertaken in 2013 (see MLE20833). The report also said that 29, South Street was the site manager's house (see MLE20834).

<1> Dawson, Michael, 2009, *Archaeological desk-based assessment and appraisal of the former Holwell Iron Works* (Unpublished document)

Richard Dalglish and Howard Allport formed the Holwell Iron Company in 1875, initially for quarrying ironstone. In 1880 they started to build blast furnaces at Holwell; by 1886 two furnaces were in production and by 1887 the third was completed. In 1890 it was decided to build the fourth furnace, though it was made shorter than planned to save money. In the early 1890s the furnaces were modernised by putting in bell tops. New stoves and blowing engines were introduced. Calcining kilns were built. Following a trip to America in 1900 the Foundry Manager drew up plans for new foundries and machine shops; production began in 1904. In addition to the foundry's brickmaking machinery was installed and later a modern machine shop, a blacksmiths shop and a locomotive shed. The main section of the new machine shop was a pipe foundry, which was served by radial cranes. In 1918 Holwell merged with the Stanton Ironworks Company. Various improvements took place: new boilers, turbine blowing engines and a crusher plant to convert slag for road metallurgy. Pig Casting Machines were built in 1937 and 1941, new raw material bunkers and the Slag Preparation Plant was improved. In 1950 an asphalt plant was constructed. In 1954 a fire almost gutted the blacksmiths shop and it was rebuilt as a machine shop. In 1962-3 the blast furnaces were demolished and with the cessation of iron making Holwell became a foundry. In 1969 a new automated foundry was commissioned. In 1981 Stanton and Staveley was acquired by Pont-a-Musson, the parent company of St Gobain.



Further improvements followed with a state-of-the-art melting facility in 1989 and later improvements to eliminate fumes, reduce noise and improve water recirculation. Today the St Gobain plant manufactures manhole covers.

**MLE18615 Possible mineshafts west of Welby. SK 721 210**

*Description*

Two large metallic anomalies were located during geophysical survey in 2010. Evidence of coal mining in the area suggests they may be possible mineshafts.

**MLE15988 Mon. No. 1416660 Pillbox (Type Fw3/22) 1939 – 1945. SK 722 213**

*Description*

Second World War Type 22 hexagonal pillbox with brick outer skin. Next to minor road between Ab Kettelby and Asfordby, Melton Mowbray

**MLE15983 Mon. No. 1416658 Tank Trap 1939 - 1945 east of Welby Lane. SK 723 218**

*Description*

The site of a 'cone' - a series of concrete blocks designed to impede the progress of armoured vehicles etc. Ten-twelve concrete Second World War anti-tank blocks now scattered about and in a heap. Next to minor road between Ab Kettelby and Asfordby, Melton Mowbray

## APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHS, MAPS AND SURVEY RESULTS

**Figure 1:**

Site location and surrounding heritage assets recorded on the Leicestershire HER.

**Figure 2:**

OS map showing heritage assets according to the historical periods

**Figure 3:**

Hartley's plan of 1984 showing Village earthworks surviving at Welby prior to the 1980's

**Figures 4 & 5:**

Aerial photographs from the 1950s. (The plane was passing from North to South).

Fig 4 shows Strip Fields to the North of the Church. The ditch and bank in the DMV field can clearly be seen, as can the site of the Old Hall

**Figure 5:**

showing the Bank and ditch extending all the way around the West & South of the village which have been ploughed out to the North and East. There are strange square shapes in the West & South that have not yet been explained

**Figure 6:**

Satellite Imagery 2011 (Google maps) showing the banks and ditches

**Figure 7:**

OS Map (scale 1:1250) with Topographic survey (March 2017) overlay

**Figure 9:**

Ground Resistance survey (May 2017)

**Figure 10:**

View of western bank looking south

**Figure 11:**

View of western bank looking north

**Figure 12:**

View of southern bank looking east

**Figure 13:**

General view of field looking west

**Figure 14:**

General view of field looking South East. The Field platform noted in Fig 9 is in the foreground

**Figure 15:**

Medieval wall noted during car park works 2016



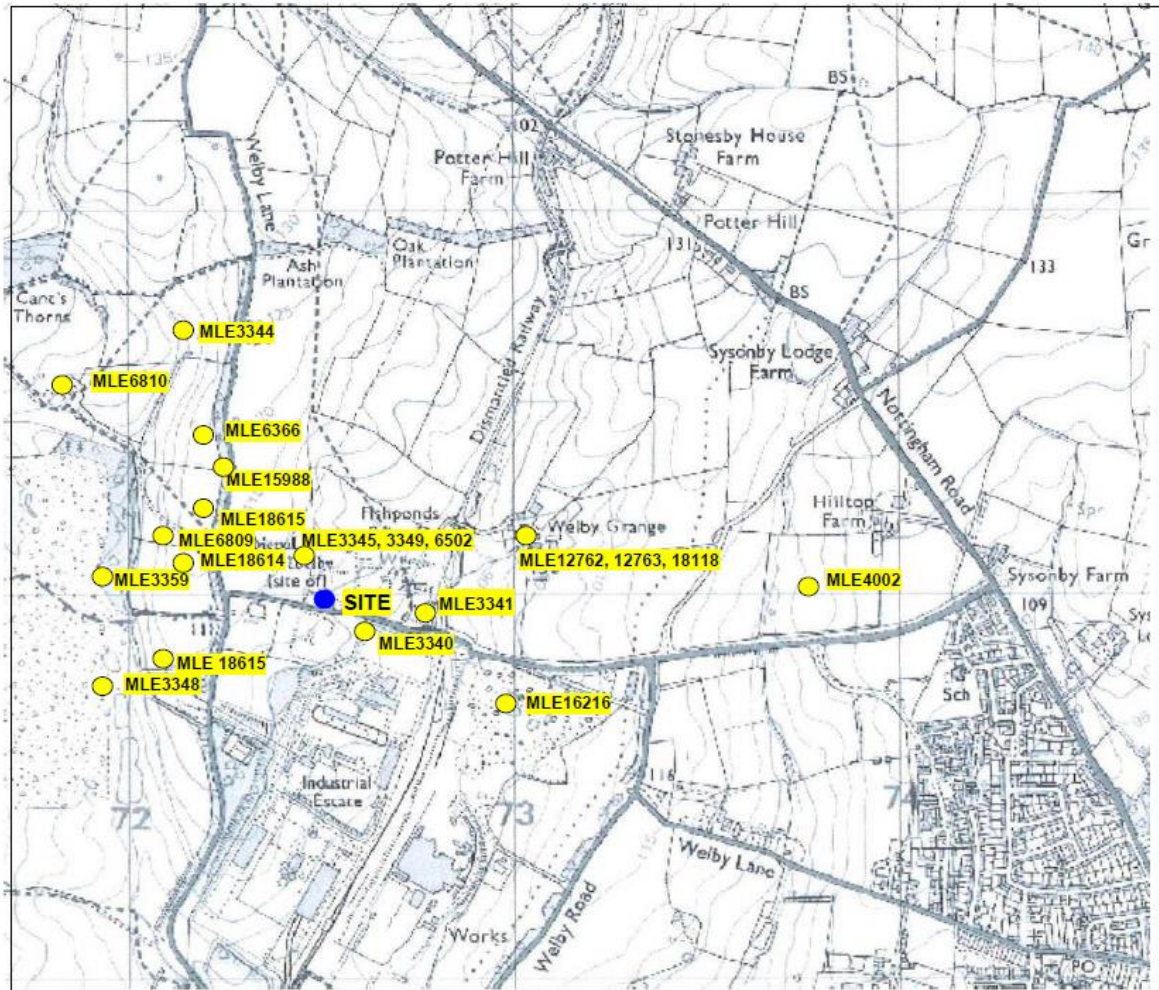


Figure 1: Site location and surrounding heritage assets recorded on the Leicestershire HER.

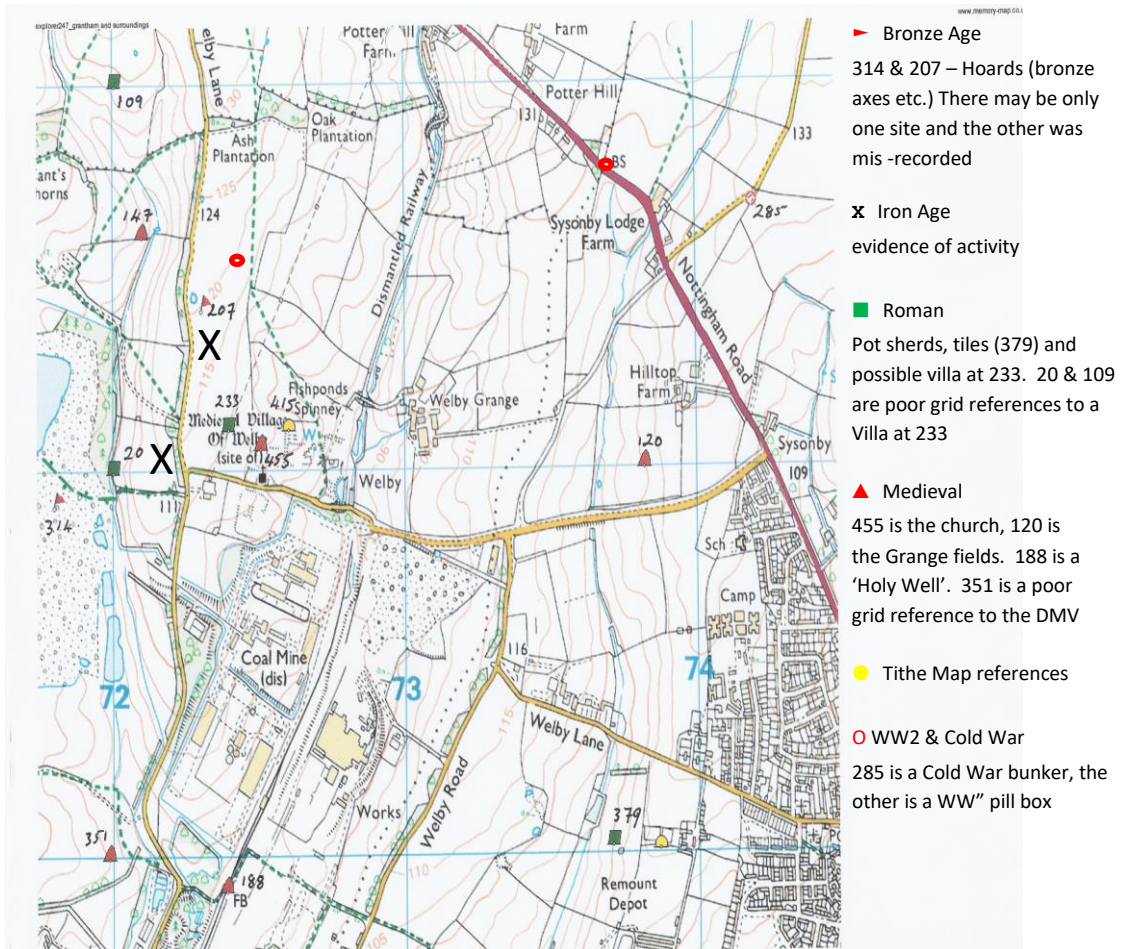


Fig 2: Assets according to Historical periods

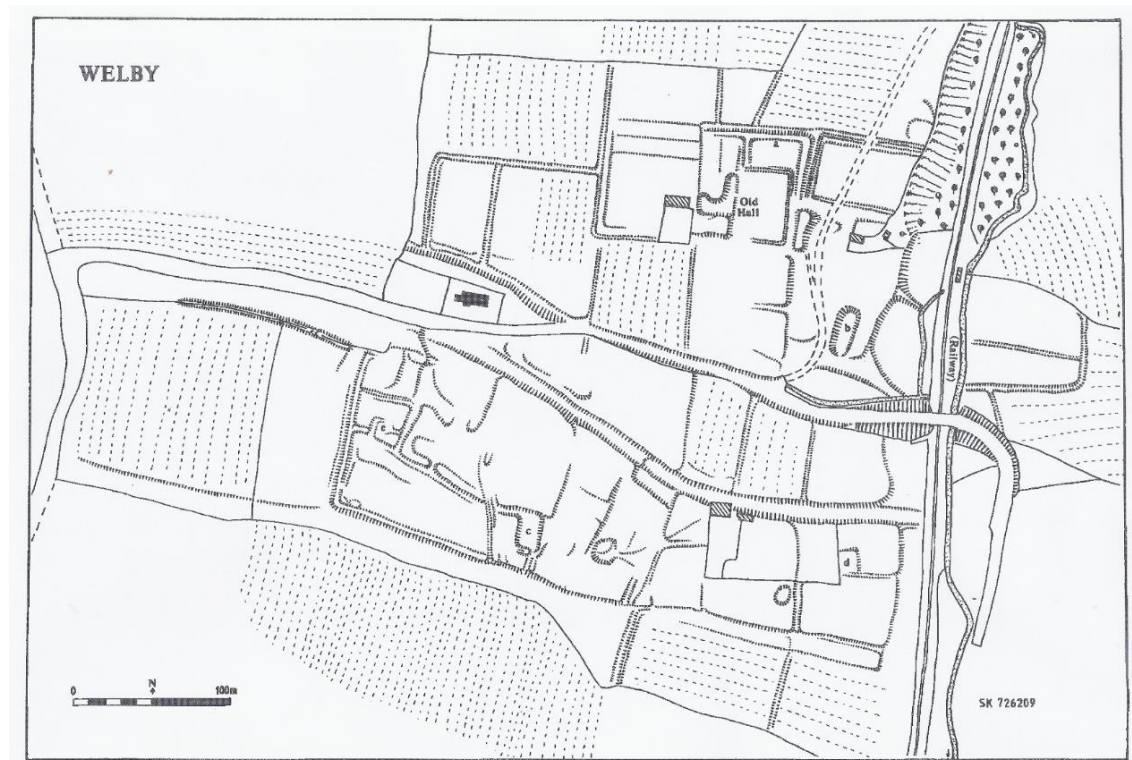


Fig 3: Hartleys Plan 1984





### AMX3 (taken in the 1950s)



Fig 4: The aerial photograph from the 1950s. (The plane was passing from North to South).



### AMX4 (taken in the 1950s)

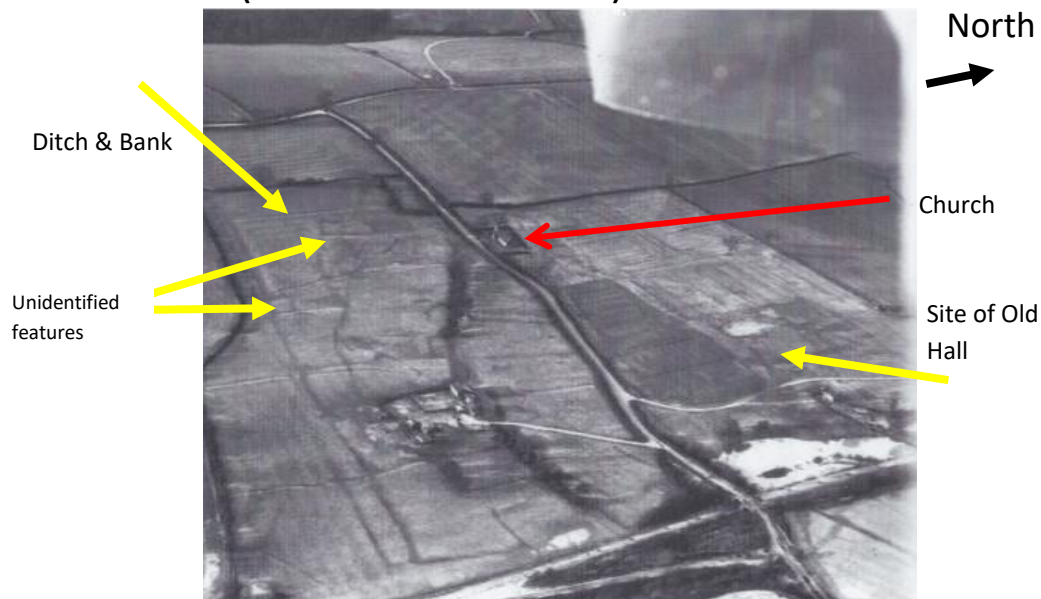


Fig 5: Showing the bank and ditch extending all the way around the West & South of the village which have been ploughed out to the North and East.





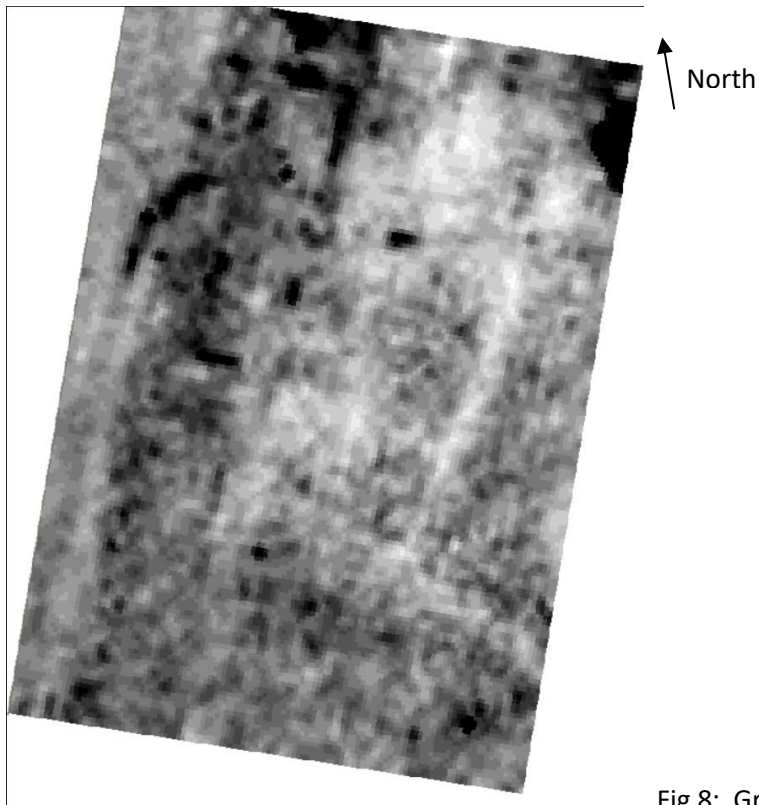


Fig 8: Ground Resistance Survey 2017

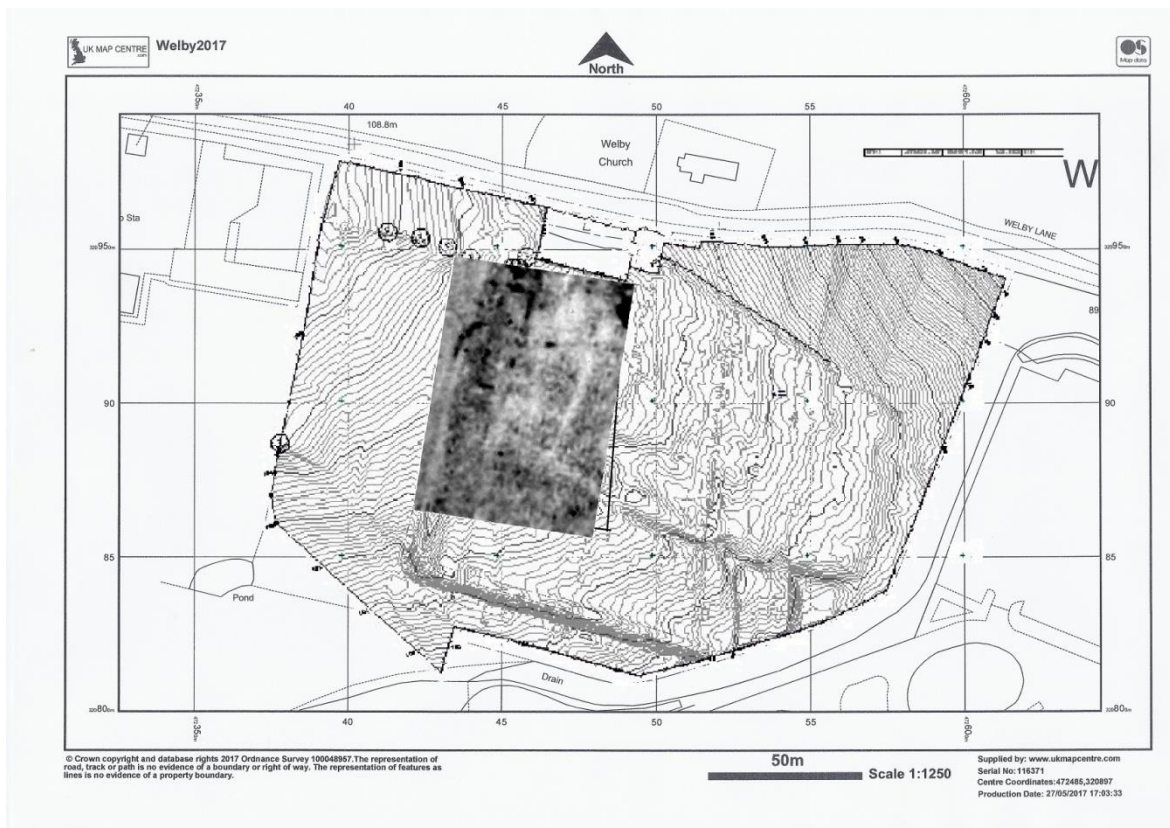


Fig 9: OS Map (scale 1:1250) with overlay of Topographic survey 2017 & Gound Resistance Survey 2017





Fig 10: View of western bank looking south



Fig 11: Western bank looking north





Fig 12: View of southern bank looking east



Fig 13: General view of field looking west



Fig 14: General view of field looking south east





Fig 15: Medieval wall found during car park works 2016

### Appendix 3: Ground Resistance Survey (Fig 8) - explanation

This is the resistance survey of a section of the Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) carried out in May 2017. It is best viewed at a greater distance than you would normally view a page!!

It covers an area of some 80 metres North to South and 60 metres East to West. North is at the top and is just inside the field from the new car park. West is from just outside the Bank and Ditch that can be seen on the ground

The darker response are areas of higher resistance, and lighter that of lower resistance.

From the left to the right (West to East).

1. Along the left side, about 1/3rd of the way down, can be seen a faint light straight line. This is thought to be a short ditch
2. To the inside of that is a dark, curved response. This could be a hard surface of a trackway.
  - a. It is possible that it is curved to exit the 'entrance' and then pass below the 2nd ditch before heading to its ultimate destination
  - b. This 'trackway' leaves the DMV in a gap in the bank that is 10 metres wide. This is the size of a gateway that would allow 1 cart, 4 horses or 8 men to pass through side by side.
3. Inside the 'trackway' is another light line running all the way from the top to the bottom. This is the ditch that can be physically seen on the ground.
4. At the top of the page about 1/3rd of the way from the left is a dark, right angled response. There are also indications of dark responses in line to the left and what looks like a + a little below the top line. This has the appearance of a square structure
5. Below (4) there are further responses that also give the appearance of a square structure
  - a. It may be that these are not 2 separate structures but one long rectangular one. However, this would then obstruct the 'trackway' on its way through the 'entrance' (if indeed it is an entrance)
6. To the top right is a black 'blob' This is the hardcore that has been laid down at the entrance to the field.
7. From the hardcore can be seen another faint straight line running to the SSW. This runs directly towards the Church. Towards the bottom end it meets another running from the East. Parallel to the longer one, another can be seen to the left. These surround what appears to be a house platform that can be seen on the ground. Within the 'house platform' there seems to be a passageway dividing the house in two. This can also be seen as a light line and corresponds to that viewed on the ground.