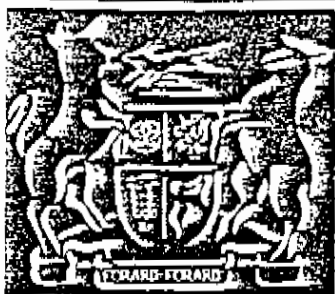


INDEX DATA	RPS INFORMATION
Scheme Title M1 junction 19	Details Desk study.
Road Number M1	Date August 1992
Leicestershire CC Contractor museums, Arts & Records service	
County Leicestershire	
OS Reference SP57	
Single sided ✓ Double sided A3 ● Colour 0	



LEICESTERSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL
MUSEUMS, ARTS AND
RECORDS SERVICE

A DESK STUDY OF M1 JUNCTION 19 IN LEICESTERSHIRE

on behalf of the Department of Transport

by

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Archaeological Survey Assistant

August 1992

MARS AST 92/7

CONTENTS

1. Background
2. Aims
3. Sources consulted
4. Results
5. Assessment
6. Recommendations

Maps of study area at 1:10,000 containing sites of archaeological interest and sites known to be of no archaeological interest.

Archaeological Plan 1
Archaeological Plan 2

1. BACKGROUND

In August 1992 Ove Arup and Partners, consultants to the Department of Transport, commissioned Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service to undertake a Desk Study of the area surrounding the M1 Junction 19. The Museums Archaeological Survey Team undertook the project.

2. AIMS

The aim of the Desk Study was to be a first step in defining and substantiating areas of archaeological potential likely to be adversely affected by the creation of a new junction and the widening of the M1 motorway. An area 500 metres on either side of both motorways for the length of the overall study area was checked for the presence of sites of archaeological potential.

Areas where the archaeology is known to have been already destroyed were also recorded. The second stage of the process, the preliminary field investigation, will involve a fieldwalking survey within the defined area of search.

3. SOURCES CONSULTED

The National Monuments Record

The Leicestershire Sites and Monuments Record

Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service Accession Files

All available Ordnance Survey Maps from the County Records Office

1817 1"

1886 1st Ed. 6"

“ 2nd Ed. 6”

1886 25"

1904 25"

1950 Revised 6"

1955 Provisional 1:10,000

1988 1:10,000

Geological Map 1"

Catthorpe Tithe Map 1848

Catthorpe Altered Apportionments 1st Feb 1924

Swinford Enclosure Award 1783 - not available for study

East Midlands Archaeological Bulletins

Transactions of Leicestershire Archaeological & Historical Society

Aerial photographs 1940s, 1990, 1991

County Council Minerals Section records of borrow pits and landfill

Nichols, J. 1807 History and Antiquities of Leicestershire Vol.4 No.1

Victoria History of the County of Leicester

Vol.1 Page, W, 1907

Vol.2 Hoskins, W.G., 1954

Vol.5 Lee, J.M. & McKinley, R.M., 1964

4. RESULTS

The Desk Study has shown fifteen areas of archaeological potential (Plan 1 Areas 1-13, Plan 2 Areas 1-2).

The six cropmark sites (Plan 1 Areas 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9) are as yet uninterpreted and undated but may represent sub-soil features such as ditches and foundations from early settlements. These represent the only areas where evidence is available and it should be emphasised that only a small proportion of archaeological sites appear as cropmarks.

The areas of alluvial deposits (Plan 1 Areas 2, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13 and Plan 2 Areas 1-2) represent areas of high archaeological potential, as any archaeology would be buried and preserved from later disturbance, such as arable farming. It is possible to find buried landscapes dating to Prehistoric times beneath alluvium and these are extremely valuable to archaeological research.

Two areas have been found in which any archaeology would have already been destroyed by the extraction of borrow pits, and no further survey is necessary (Plan 1 Areas 14 and 15).

Sites of Archaeological Potential:

No. on Plan 1	SMR Ref.	NGR	Parish	Description
1	57NE.P	SP556792	Swinford	Undated rectangular enclosure: cropmark
2	-	SP557793c	Swinford	Area of alluvial deposits potentially covering and preserving archaeology
3	57NE.C	SP561793	Swinford	Possibly 5 undated sub-rectangular enclosures: cropmarks
4	-	SP552785c	Catthorpe	Area of alluvial deposits potentially covering and preserving archaeology
5	-	SP564789c	Swinford	" " " " "
6	(57NE.G (57NE.Q	SP556784c SP558785c	Catthorpe Catthorpe	Iron Age or Roman quern 3 possibly Iron Age or Roman enclosures: Cropmarks
7	57NE.B	SP559781	Catthorpe	3 uncertain ring ditches: cropmarks
8	57NE.R	SP564784	Swinford	Uncertain ring ditch and feature: cropmarks
9	57NE.R	SP566781	Swinford	Undated rectangular enclosure: cropmark
10	-	SP559776c	Catthorpe	Area of alluvial deposits potentially covering and preserving archaeology
11	-	SP561776c	Catthorpe	" " " " "
12	-	SP566778c	Swinford	" " " " "
13	-	SP567782c	Swinford	" " " " "
No. on Plan 2				
1	-	SP545785	Catthorpe	Area of alluvium potentially covering and preserving archaeology
2	-	SP547790	Catthorpe	" " " " "

5. ASSESSMENT

The first six of the areas comprise cropmark sites with little or no further archaeological evidence due to the lack of field survey in the area. The criteria used by English Heritage to assess the archaeological value can be used with cropmark sites but these sites will all have very similar results, as follows:

5.1 Cropmark sites:

Survival/Condition

The whole of the study area with the exception of the alluvium deposits has been ploughed in the Medieval period. Remains of strip cultivation known as ridge and furrow can be seen on aerial photographs from the 1940s over most of the study area, either as cropmarks or earthworks. Some areas of earthwork ridge and furrow still survive today in the area. The sub-soil features which create the cropmarks will be cut by the furrows but buried and preserved by the ridges of the Medieval farming technique. This makes the survival incomplete but with areas of higher potential and worthy of investigation. Any above-ground features are now levelled by ploughing.

Period

The cropmarks themselves cannot be dated without more evidence of their form, use and contents, although analysis of the morphology can sometimes suggest a particular period. Fieldwalking and excavation should provide material which would enable dating and interpretation of the features. The chance find of an Iron Age or Romano British quern in area 6 tends to confirm an Iron Age or Roman date for the cropmarks - a date which the morphology suggests.

Fragility

Cropmarks are the remains of sub-soil features which have been ploughed, often over a long period of time. Often only the bottom of ditches and pits survive intact. Any soil stripping or earth movement would, therefore, have a severe negative impact on these features.

Diversity

Without knowing what the cropmarks represent it is difficult to assess the diversity of the sites. Area 3, however, does appear to comprise linear features as well as rectangular enclosures.

Documentation

As no archaeological survey work has been undertaken in the study area other than the aerial reconnaissance, the only documentation we have is the photographic archive containing the slides of the cropmarks. The quern found in Area 6 is documented in the accession files at the Jewry Wall Museum, St. Nicholas Circle, Leicester. The quern was discovered by Mr Harper, a farmer, in 1959 whilst ploughing the field and was donated to the Museums Service as Accession No. A113.1959.

Group Value

The cropmark evidence appears to show that Areas 3, 6 and 7 all contain more than one enclosure, thus, potentially increasing their archaeological value. The proximity of all these cropmark sites to each other, further enhances their group value.

Archaeological Potential

Experience tells us that cropmark sites often produce valuable archaeological evidence from fieldwalking and excavation. Likewise areas of alluvium can produce very valuable archaeological evidence when excavated. Areas 1, 2, 3 and 6 should provide some evidence of occupation sites associated with enclosures, whilst Area 4 may produce the remains of burial barrows. The form of the cropmarks in Area 6 is uncertain but detailed survey should determine this.

5.2 The Alluvial Deposits

The deposition of alluvial silt in the valley of the River Avon and those of its tributary streams is likely to have buried and preserved archaeological remains. Recent excavations in similar areas have shown buried ground levels with archaeological deposits in situ. The alluvium protects the archaeological deposits from later disturbance thus making the potential for survival of any existing archaeology very high.

5.3 Areas of No Archaeological Importance

There are two areas in the corridor which have previously been used as borrow pits. The fields at SP555787 (Area 14) and SP563787 (Area 15) were excavated in 1970 and 1990 respectively, for use in road construction. These

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Areas lacking survey data

In the light of the lack of any ground survey of the study area, we recommend that a Preliminary Field Evaluation be undertaken, where cultivation allows, over the entire study area - except for Areas 14 and 15 - in order to obtain the primary archaeological data for route evaluation. We recommend that all the arable fields be fieldwalked using the traverse and stint method so that any surface concentrations of material showing potential archaeological significance may be identified. This survey should form Stage 2 of this project.

6.2 Identified Areas of Archaeological Potential (Areas 1-13 on Plan 1 and Areas 1-2 on Plan 2)

Fifteen areas of significant but unclarified archaeological potential have been identified by this Desk Study. Further areas of archaeological significance may be identified by the Preliminary Field Evaluation of unsurveyed areas recommended above. All of these areas require clarification of the extent and significance of their archaeological potential by means of more detailed survey. This would enable recommendation of appropriate mitigation measures for any significant impact in the Environmental Statement for this project. This more detailed survey should form Stage 3 of this project.