



**OAKFORD  
ARCHAEOLOGY**

**Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to the  
B6047, Market Harborough, Leicestershire**



*on behalf of  
the client*

**Report No. 21-23**

**Project No. 1818**

**August 2021**



# OAKFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeological Groundworks and Historic Buildings

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## Summary

*An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Oakford Archaeology in July 2021 on land adjacent to the B6047, Market Harborough, Leicestershire (SP 7229 8873). The work comprised the machine-excavation of 6 trenches totalling 180m in length, with each trench 1.6m wide. These provided a spatial sample of the site.*

*The evaluation identified the presence of an N-S aligned linear feature at the northern end of Trench 3 underneath the remnant ridge and furrow. The single fill contained four sherds of Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age pottery and the feature probably forms part of an agricultural ditch system.*

*Well defined ridge and furrow was identified in all the trenches, although dating was constrained by the lack of dateable artefactual material and the homogeneity of the soil that formed the earthwork features.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared for Richard Colson (CC Town Planning) on behalf of Mr Sebastian Barnett and sets out the results of an archaeological trench evaluation undertaken by Oakford Archaeology (OA) in July 2021 on land adjacent to the B6047, Market Harborough, Leicestershire (SP 7229 8873). The work was required to provide information in support of a forthcoming planning application (21/00197/OUT) for the construction of 15 commercial units and associated works, on the advice of the local planning authority Harborough District Council (HDC), as advised by Chloe Cronogue-Freeman, the Planning Archaeologist for the Historic and Natural Environment Team (HNET), Leicestershire County Council.

### 1.1 The site

The site (Fig. 1) lies on level ground to the northwest of the historic settlement of Market Harborough in an area of planned enclosure containing ridge and furrow and at a height of c. 102.5mAOD. The underlying solid geology belongs to the Dyrham Formation, interbedded mudstone and siltstone formed approximately 183 to 191 million years ago in the Jurassic Period and gives rise to loamy- and clayey soils of the Wickham 2 Association.<sup>1</sup>

### 1.2 Historical and archaeological background

The historical and archaeological background of the site has been presented in detail in the *Archaeological desk-based assessment* prepared by RPS Group (2020). In summary, the work lies to the northwest of the historic settlement of Market Harborough, in an area where evidence for prehistoric, Romano-British and later medieval activity has been previously identified.

Investigations to the west of the site at the Airfield Business Park has identified a small quantity of residual Neolithic/Bronze Age flint, as well as features, deposits and finds relating to prehistoric settlement and agricultural activity. Middle Iron Age/Late Iron Age pottery has been recovered from the site, alongside animal bone and a Late Iron Age or Early Roman copper alloy pendant, while Radiocarbon dates suggest a date of c. 240BC-90BCE. Contemporary activity has been identified by geophysical survey to the north and west of the main settlement focus. A further concentration of Iron Age settlement activity, consisting of a series of adjoining small rectangular enclosures and unenclosed ring ditches which date from the 4<sup>th</sup> century to the 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE, has been investigated to the southwest of the site. In addition to Iron Age pottery the finds have included the lower stone of a rotary quern, cattle bone and fired clay. Further investigations in the Manor Farm and Burnmill Farm areas to the southwest have identified further features, deposits and finds relating to Mid-Late Iron Age settlement and agricultural activity.

Romano-British activity, consisting of a series of enclosures with little internal structural evidence, has been identified at Airfield Farm to the north, while excavations at Manor Farm have identified an early Roman settlement defined by an extensive rectilinear system of ditched enclosures and extending over 2.6ha. There was little evidence for buildings or other structures. Metal detecting recovered a single possible Roman coin, 12 fragments of 1<sup>st</sup> century AD brooches and a sword scabbard chape dated to c.100-200AD. The settlement appears to have been abandoned by the mid-3<sup>rd</sup> century. To the east of the proposed site a Roman ladder settlement has been investigated, Features recorded include pits, gullies and ditches and these contained a large quantity of pottery dating to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, although later wares were

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<sup>1</sup> [www.bgs.co.uk](http://www.bgs.co.uk).

also present. Faunal remains were also recovered, while environmental sampling provided evidence for grain processing on site.

Little is known of the post-Roman and early Saxon development of the area, although the site of a probable Anglo-Saxon cemetery was identified in 1873 some distance to the south of the site at Hill Crest. The finds included cruciform, annular and saucer brooches, a pot hook (possibly a key) and a large collection of pottery and glass.

Within the site are the eroded remains of 15 north-west/south-east aligned selions or individual strips (Fig. 2). These are likely to be medieval in date and were originally part of a wider system, with more complete remains surviving on the eastern side of Leicester Road (B6047). The site remained in agricultural use throughout the post-medieval and modern period. The Leicestershire and Northamptonshire Union Canal, completed through to Market Harborough by 1809, is located immediately to the west of the site.

In other counties the earliest detailed historic map available of a parish, its boundaries, land parcels and individual properties, is generally the tithe map. Drawn up between 1836 and the early 1850s the accompanying apportionment set out clearly the land within each parish that was liable to pay the tithe. In the case of Leicestershire unfortunately most parishes had all their tithes extinguished by successive Parliamentary Enclosure Awards and no tithe map is available for the site.

The area was mapped by the Ordnance Survey in 1884, when the site was shown in the greatest detail thus far (Fig. 3). Consisting of a single field no alterations are shown on the 1902 Ordnance survey map and the site remained unchanged until the 1920's when the southern half of the field was sub-divided and turned over to allotments. By the 1960's houses were encroaching to the southwest and south, and a new road was built.

## 2. AIMS

The principal aim of the evaluation was to establish the presence or absence, character, extent, depth, date and condition/state of survival of any archaeological features and deposits within the footprint of the proposed development. The results of the evaluation will inform the planning process - particularly whether there are any remains present of sufficient significance and state of preservation to affect the principle or layout of the proposed development and may also be used to formulate a programme of further archaeological work either prior to and/or during groundworks to mitigate the impact of the development on any remains present.

## 3. METHODOLOGY

The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a project design prepared by Oakford Archaeology (2021), submitted to and approved by the HNET prior to commencement on site. This document is included as Appendix 1.

The work comprised the excavation of 6 trenches totalling 180m in length, with each trench 1.6m wide. They were positioned to provide a spatial sample of the site and their positions were agreed with the HNET prior to commencement on site. The positions of trenches as excavated are shown on Fig.5.

Machine excavation was undertaken under archaeological control using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1m wide toothless grading bucket. Topsoil and underlying deposits were removed to the level of either natural subsoil, or the top of archaeological deposits (whichever was higher). Areas of archaeological survival were then cleaned by hand, investigated and recorded.

The standard OA recording system was employed. Stratigraphic information was recorded on *pro-forma* context record sheets and individual trench recording forms, plans and sections for each trench were drawn at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate and a detailed digital photographic record was made. Registers were maintained for photographs, drawings and context sheets on *pro forma* sheets.

## 4. RESULTS

Relevant detailed plans and sections are included as Figs. 6-7 and context descriptions for the trenches are set out in Appendix 2.

A generally uniform overlying layer sequence of topsoil and subsoil onto natural subsoil was encountered in all areas. The depth of the overlying deposits ranged from 0.5-0.7m. Two representative sections were drawn to illustrate the stratigraphic sequence in the investigation area (Figs. 6-7) and the spacing of the ridge and furrow.

### 4.1 The trenches

#### **Trench 1** (Detailed plan Fig. 5. Plates 2-4)

This trench measured 30m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately NE-SW and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.7m. The natural subsoil (102), consisting of yellow clay, was overlain by a 0.4m thick mid yellowish brown silty clay (101) and interpreted as a subsoil. This was sealed underneath a dark brown silty clay (100) up to 0.3m thick. This was the material that constituted the upstanding ridges and partly covered the furrows. No archaeological features, finds or buried soil horizons were identified. The recorded layer sequence is set out in Table 1, Appendix 2.

#### **Trench 2** (Detailed plan and section Fig. 5. Plates 5-7)

The trench measured 30m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately N-S. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.7m. The natural subsoil (202), consisting of yellow clay, was overlain by a 0.4m thick mid yellowish brown silty clay (201) interpreted as a subsoil. This was sealed underneath a dark brown silty clay (200) up to 0.3m thick. This was the material that constituted the upstanding ridges and partly covered the furrows. No archaeological features, finds or buried soil horizons were identified. Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 2, Appendix 2.

#### **Trench 3** (Detailed plan and section Figs. 5-6. Plates 8-12)

The trench measured 30m x 1m, was orientated approximately NE-SW. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.55m. A single archaeological feature, consisting of a N-S aligned linear at the northern end of the trench was uncovered by the works. Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 3, Appendix 2.

Feature 302 was a linear feature aligned approximately N-S. This probable ditch was 0.88m wide and 0.32m deep with gradually breaking sides and a concave base. Four sherds of Late Neolithic or early Bronze Age pottery were



recovered from its single fill (304), consisting of a relatively uniform mid greyish brown silty clay based deposit. Two soil sample were taken from this deposit but they were found to be sterile apart from a dozen unidentifiable pieces of charcoal. The ditch appeared to be associated with pre-ridge and furrow land division and was on a markedly different alignment to the medieval earthworks.

**Trench 4** (Detailed section Fig. 6. Plates 13-15)

This trench measured 30m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately NE-SW and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.65m. The natural subsoil (402), consisting of yellow clay, was overlain by a 0.4m thick mid yellowish brown silty clay (401) and interpreted as a subsoil. This was sealed underneath a dark brown silty clay (400) up to 0.35m thick. This was the material that constituted the upstanding ridges and partly covered the furrows. No archaeological features, finds or buried soil horizons were identified. The recorded layer sequence is set out in Table 4, Appendix 2.

**Trench 5** (Plates 16-18)

The trench measured 30m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately E-W. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.7m. The natural subsoil (502), consisting of yellow clay, was overlain by a 0.4m thick mid yellowish brown silty clay (501) interpreted as a subsoil. This was sealed underneath a dark brown silty clay (500) up to 0.3m thick. This was the material that constituted the upstanding ridges and partly covered the furrows. No archaeological features, finds or buried soil horizons were identified. Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 5, Appendix 2.

**Trench 6** (Detailed section Fig. 7, Plates 19-21)

The trench measured 30m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately N-S. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.7m. The natural subsoil (602), consisting of yellow clay, was overlain by a 0.4m thick mid yellowish brown silty clay (601) interpreted as a subsoil. This was sealed underneath a dark brown silty clay (600) up to 0.3m thick. This was the material that constituted the upstanding ridges and partly covered the furrows. No archaeological features, finds or buried soil horizons were identified. Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 5, Appendix 2.

## 5. THE FINDS

by Grace Jones

This is a relatively small finds assemblage composed almost entirely of unstratified post-medieval materials. These are itemised in Appendix 3 and briefly described below.

### *Pottery*

The pottery has been quantified by ware group and any salient features noted. This level of recording accords with the ‘basic record’ advocated for the purpose of characterising an assemblage rapidly.<sup>2</sup>

The earliest material comprises four plain body sherds from a single vessel, recovered from linear 303. The fabric contains common vesicles, likely to derive from leached shell temper, in a matrix with moderate quantities of sub-rounded medium to coarse-grained quartz, and sparse ferric inclusions. The sherds are oxidised to a yellowish-brown colour on their external surface; the core and internal surface are unoxidised, greyish-brown in colour. They are 10mm thick.

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<sup>2</sup> Barclay *et al* 2016, section 2.4.5.

All are abraded, probably a result of a relatively low firing temperature and the post-depositional environment. A Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date is likely for these sherds.

The six sherds of post-medieval date were unstratified. Three are in a black-glazed redware, of 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century date; they include a bowl rim. The other three are creamwares, deriving from a flatware vessel with polychrome over-glaze painted decoration.

### *Other finds*

The other finds were also all unstratified. A worked flint flake and broken flake derive from prehistoric activity but are undiagnostic and not closely dateable. Four stem fragments from clay tobacco pipes are of 17<sup>th</sup> century date or later, on the basis of stem diameter and bore. A single, abraded fragment of ceramic building material comes from a medieval roof tile in an orange sandy fabric.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

The trench evaluation constitutes a thorough examination of the site, with trenches positioned to provide a spatial sample of the site. Intact soil sequences (up to 0.7m deep) have been confirmed and the total removal of this material within each trench has revealed limited evidence for buried archaeological features. The distribution of archaeological features identified during the evaluation is shown on Fig. 8.

Medieval agricultural activity is evidenced by well-defined ridge and furrow earthworks throughout the investigation area. The evaluation has demonstrated that archaeological remains are present immediately below the level of the former ridge and furrow, remains of a single boundary features bisecting the site on a N-S alignment dating to the Late Neolithic or early Bronze Age periods. It is reasonable to suggest therefore that there is potential for the preservation of further cut features and artefacts of prehistoric date in this part of the site.

Should planning consent be granted, it is certain, given the presence of remains on the site, that further archaeological investigations within the site will be required and the nature and extent of such works will need to be agreed with the planning authority prior to work starting on site. Initial consultation with the HNET indicate that on this site such work is likely to comprise a targeted archaeological watching brief on the area of the westernmost industrial unit, including the footprint of the new industrial unit and any major services and landscaping/topsoil stripping.

## 7. PROJECT ARCHIVE

The site records have been compiled into a fully integrated site archive which is currently held at Oakford Archaeology's offices under project number 1818, pending deposition with the ADS. Details of the evaluation, including a pdf copy of the final report will be submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (oakforda1- 423306).

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This evaluation was commissioned by Richard Colson (CC Town Planning) on behalf of Mr Sebastian Barnett. The project was managed for Oakford Archaeology by Marc Steinmetzer. The fieldwork was carried out by Marc Steinmetzer; the illustrations for the report were prepared by Marc Steinmetzer; the finds analysis was undertaken by Grace Jones (Wessex Archaeology). Thanks are hereby recorded to Chloe Cronogue-Freeman (HNET) who provided advice throughout the project.

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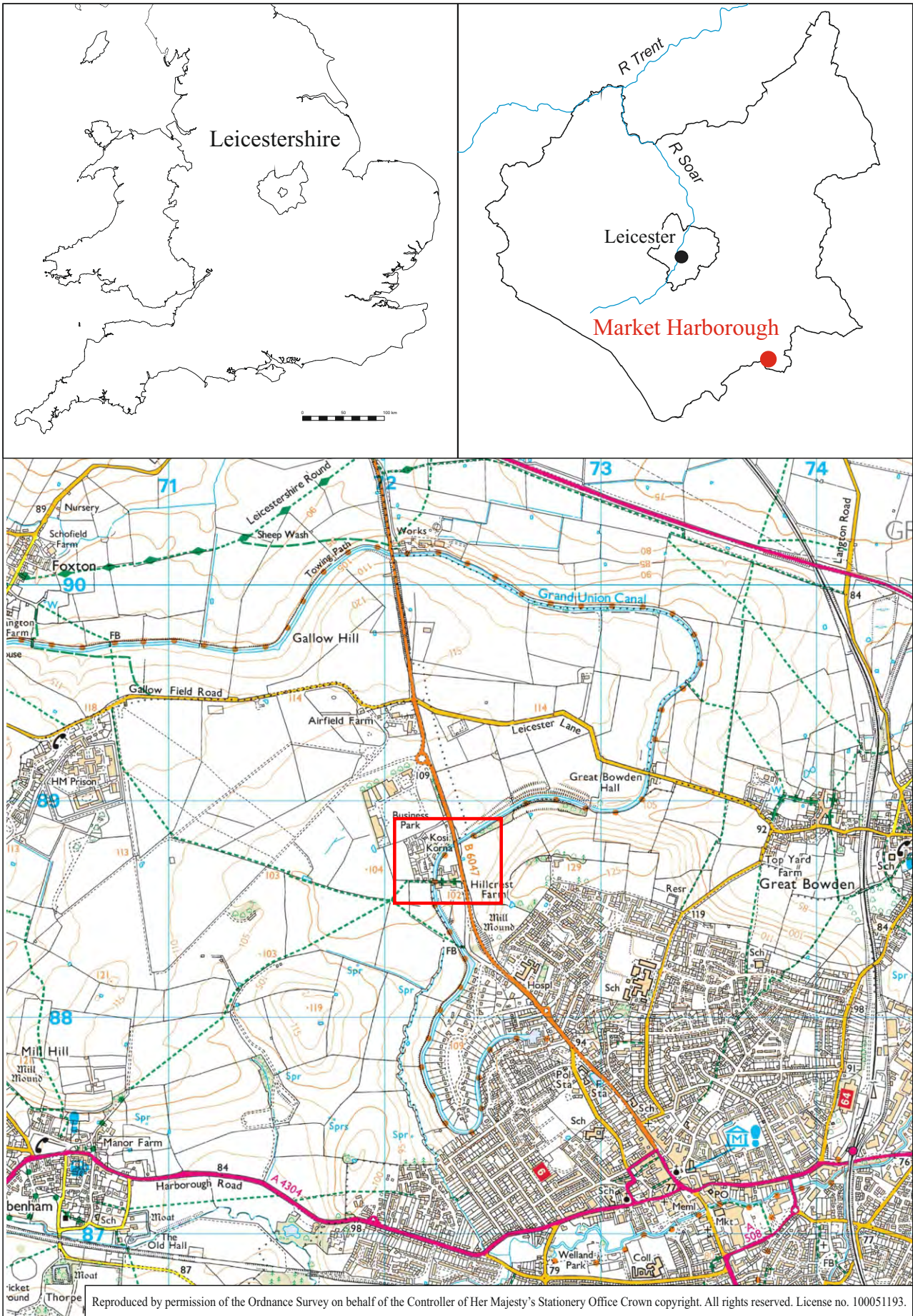


Fig. 1 Location of site.

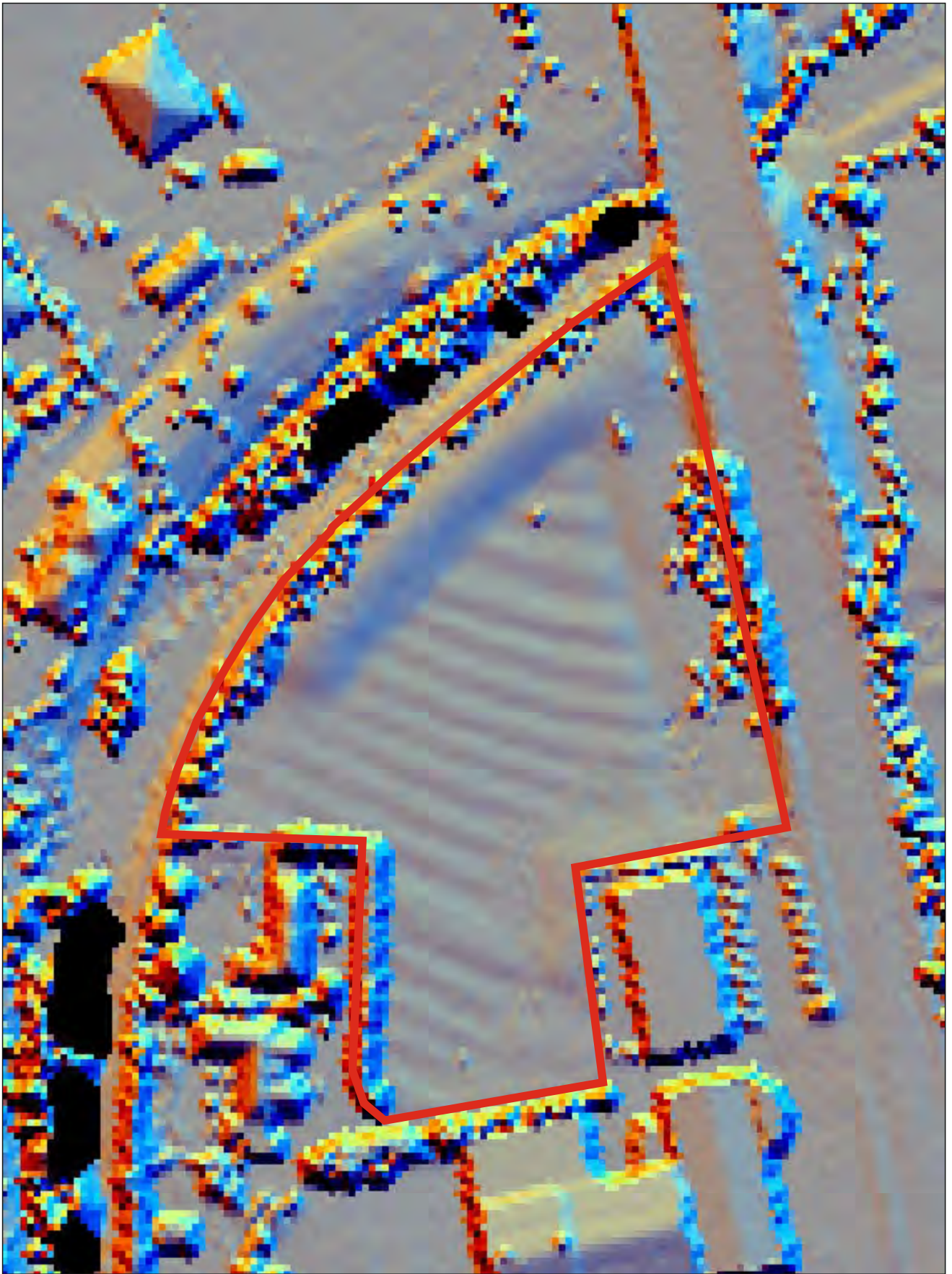


Fig. 2 Detail from the LIDAR survey.



Fig. 3 Detail from the 1884 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map Leicestershire Sheet L. 4.

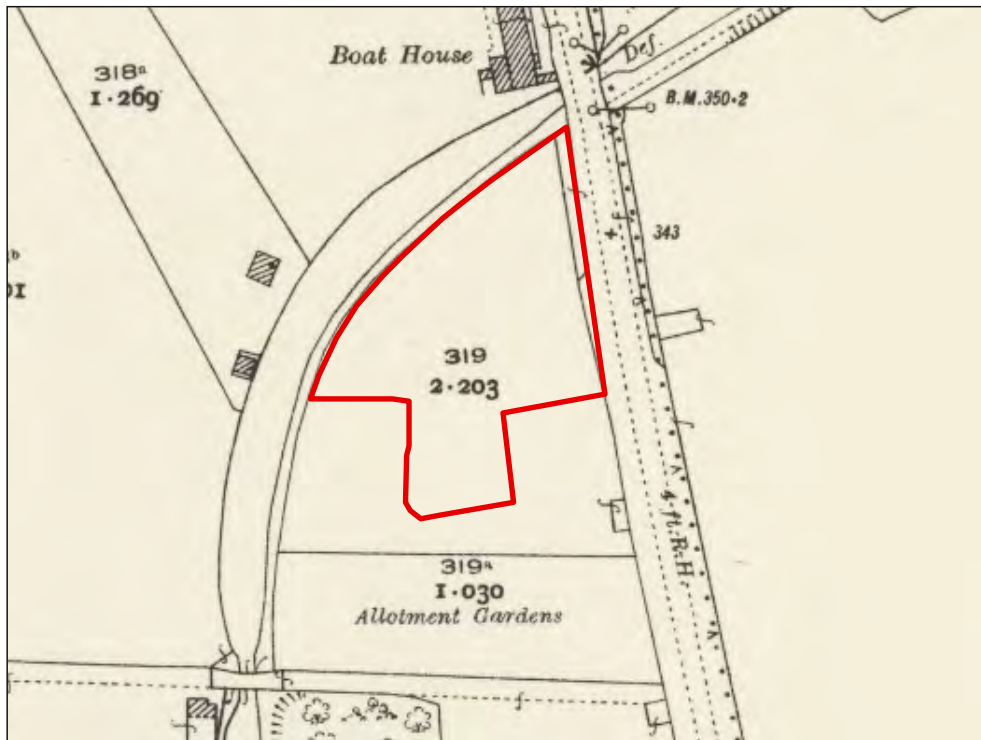


Fig. 4 Detail from the 1928 Ordnance Survey Map Leicestershire Sheet L. 4.

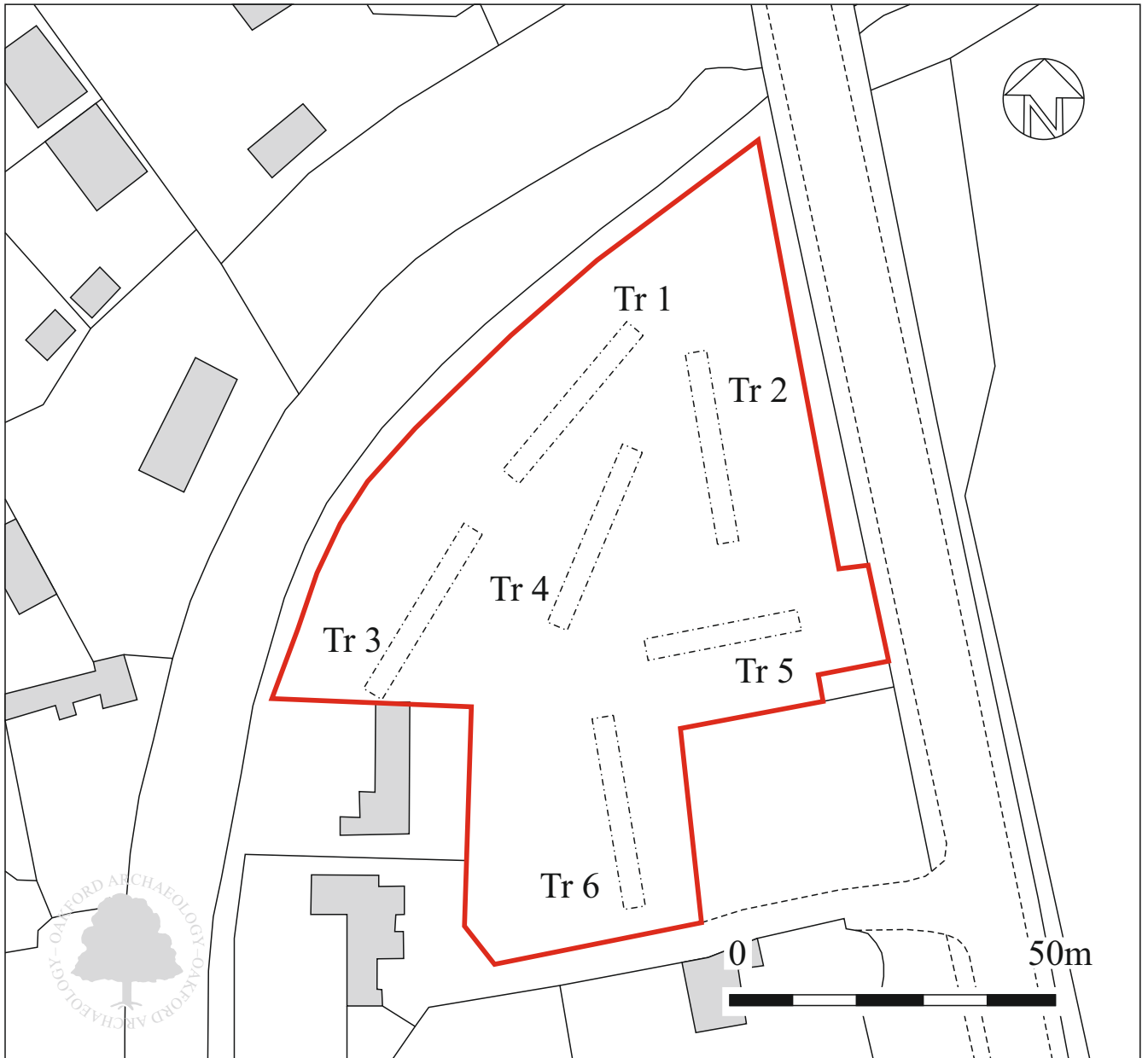
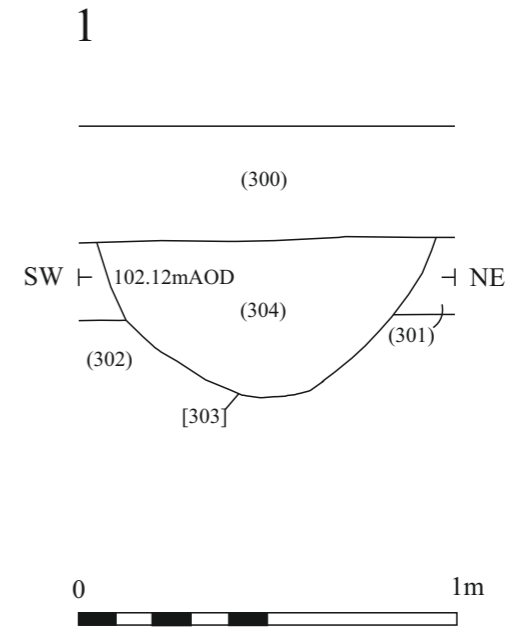
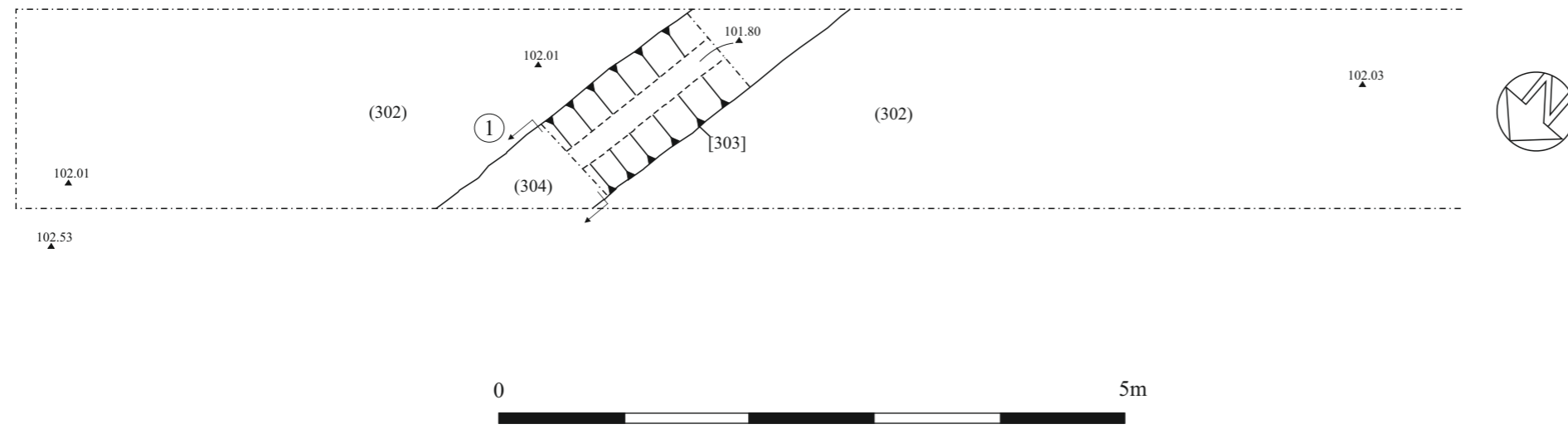


Fig. 5 Trench location plan.

# Trench 3



# Trench 4

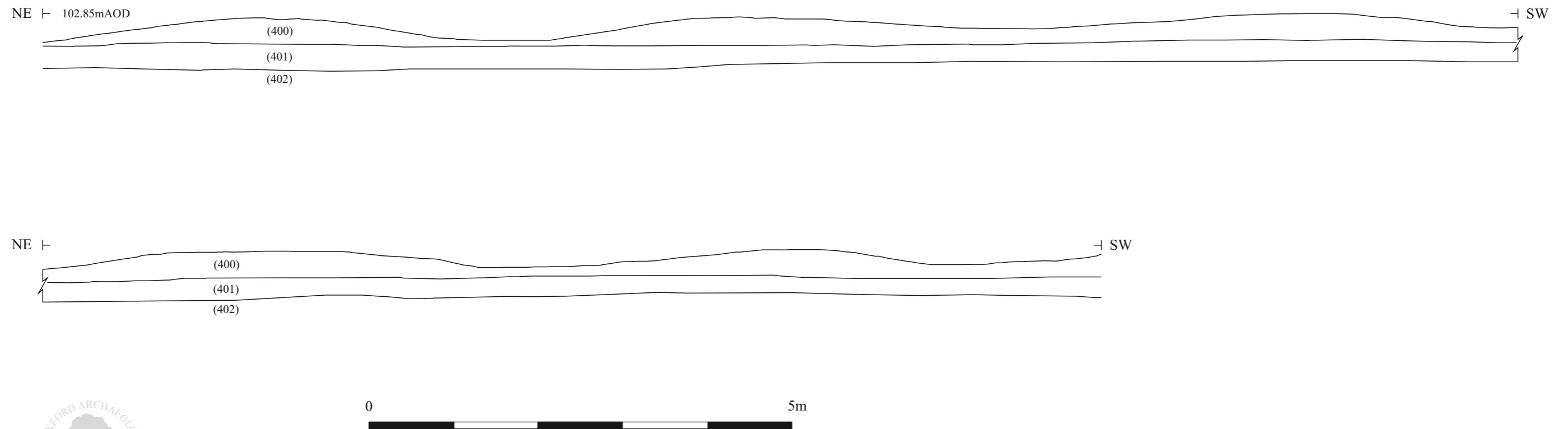


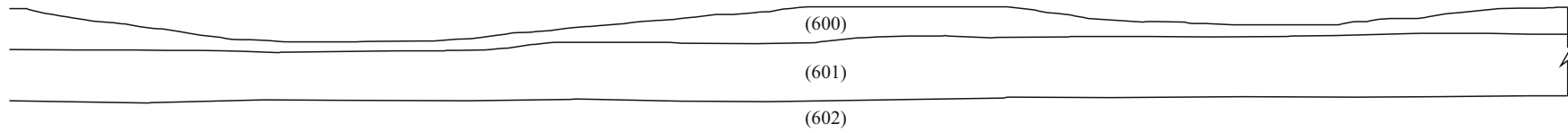
Fig. 6 Trenches 3 and 4: Plan and sections.



# Trench 6

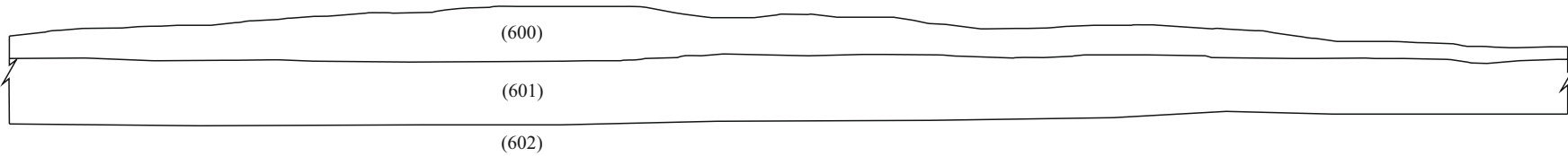
NE † 102.95m AOD

† SW



NE †

† SW



NE †

† SW

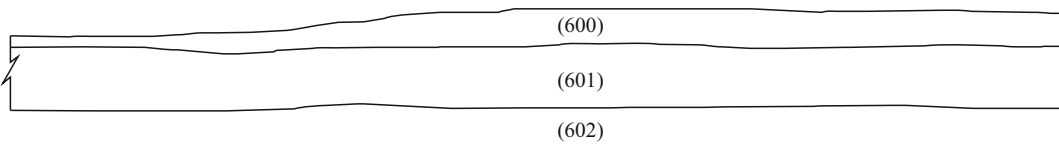


Fig. 7 Trench 6: section.

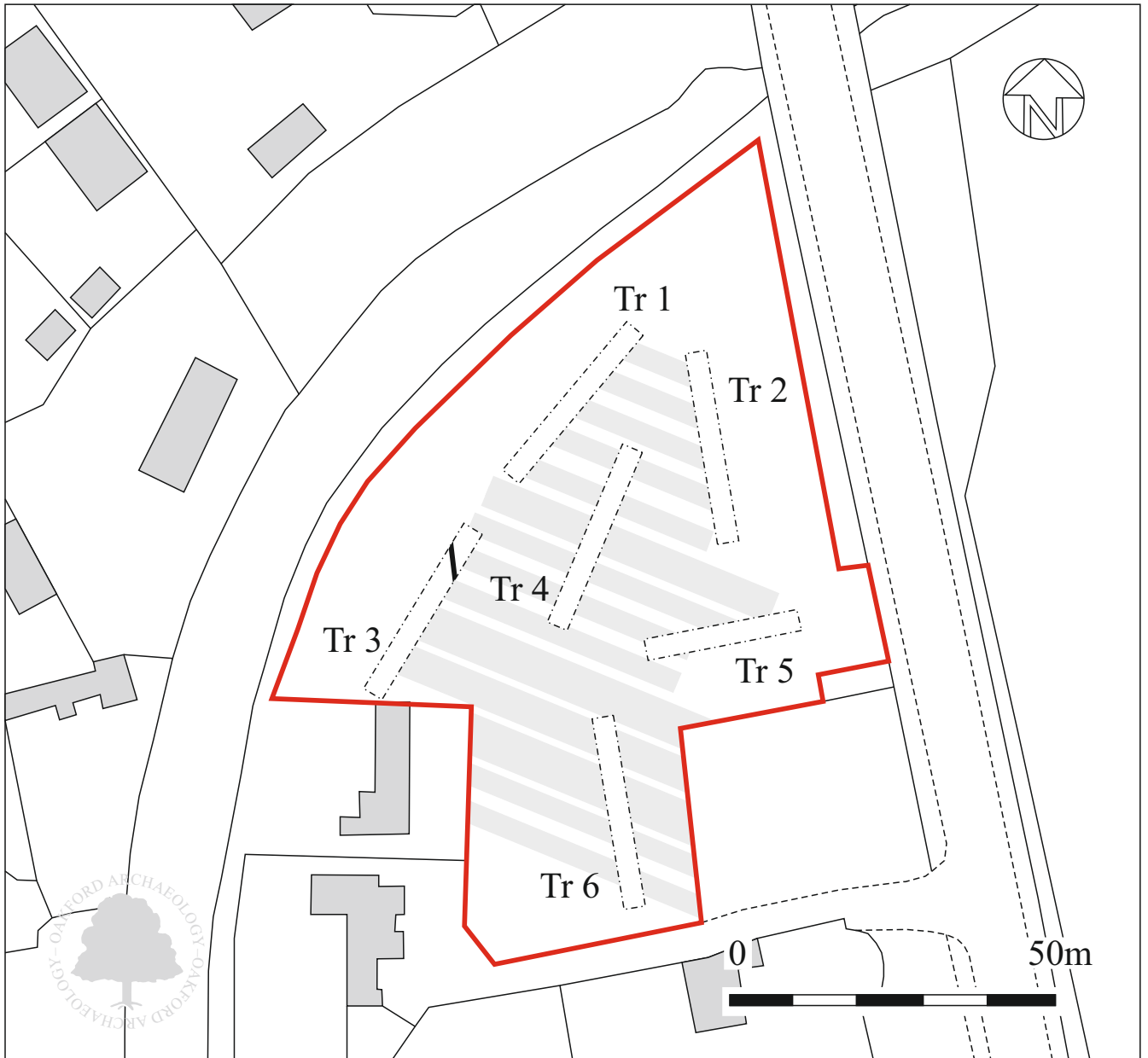


Fig. 8 Trench plan showing principal features identified.



Fig. 1 General view of Trenches 1-6 showing surviving ridge-and-furrow and upcast from the construction of the Leicestershire and Northamptonshire Union Canal. Looking southwest.



Pl. 2 General view of Trench 1. 2m scale. Looking southwest.



Pl. 3 Sample Section Trench 1 showing depth of deposit sequence. 1m scale. Looking northeast.



Pl. 4 General view of Trench 1. 2m scale. Looking northeast.



Pl. 5 General view of Trench 2. 2m scale. Looking north.



Pl. 6 Sample Section Trench 2 showing depth of deposit sequence. 1m scale. Looking west.



Pl. 7 General view of Trench 21. 2m scale. Looking south.



Pl. 8 General view of Trench 3 showing ditch [303].  
2m scale. Looking southwest.



Pl. 9 General view of ditch [303]. 1m scale. Looking  
north.



Pl. 10 General view of ditch [303] showing ridge-and-furrow in middle foreground and canal upcast in background. 1m scale. Looking north.



Pl. 11 Section through ditch [303]. 0.5m scale. Looking north.





Pl. 12 General view of Trench 3. 2m scale. Looking northeast.



Pl. 13 General view of Trench 4. 2m scale. Looking southwest.



Pl. 14 Section through ridge-and-furrow in Trench 4. 2m scale. Looking southeast.



Pl. 15 General view of Trench 4. 2m scale. Looking northeast.



Pl. 16 General view of Trench 5. 2m scale. Looking east.



Pl. 17 Sample Section Trench 5 showing depth of deposit sequence. 1m scale. Looking north.



Pl. 18 General view of Trench 5. 2m scale. Looking west.



Pl. 19 General view of Trench 6. 2m scale. Looking north.



Pl. 20 Section through ridge-and-furrow in Trench 6. 2m scale. Looking northeast.



Pl. 21 General view of Trench 6. 2m scale. Looking south.

Appendix 1:

Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Archaeological works

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document has been prepared by Oakford Archaeology (OA) for the client and sets out the methodology to be employed during an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to the B6047, Market Harborough, Leicestershire (SP 7229 8873). This document represents the 'Written Scheme of Investigation' required under a planning application (21/00197/OUT) for the construction of 15 commercial units and associated works. The work is required by the local planning authority Harborough District Council (HDC), as advised by Chloe Cronogue-Freeman, the Planning Archaeologist for the Historic and Natural Environment Team (HNET), Leicestershire County Council.
- 1.2 The proposed work lies in an area of high archaeological potential to the northwest of the historic settlement of Market Harborough, in an area where evidence for prehistoric, Romano-British and later medieval activity has been previously identified.
- 1.3 Investigations to the west of the site at the Airfield Business Park has identified a small quantity of residual Neolithic/Bronze Age flint, as well as features, deposits and finds relating to prehistoric settlement and agricultural activity. Middle Iron Age/Late Iron Age pottery has been recovered from the site, alongside animal bone and a Late Iron Age or Early Roman copper alloy pendant, while Radiocarbon dates suggest a date of c.240BC-90BCE. Contemporary activity has been identified by geophysical survey to the north and west of the main settlement focus. A further concentration of Iron Age settlement activity, consisting of a series of adjoining small rectangular enclosures and unenclosed ring ditches which date from the 4<sup>th</sup> century to the 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE, has been investigated to the southwest of the site. In addition to Iron Age pottery the finds have included the lower stone of a rotary quern, cattle bone and fired clay. Further investigations in the Manor Farm and Burnmill Farm areas to the southwest have identified further features, deposits and finds relating to Mid-Late Iron Age settlement and agricultural activity.
- 1.4 Romano-British activity, consisting of a series of enclosures with little internal structural evidence, has been identified at Airfield Farm to the north, while excavations at Manor Farm have identified an early Roman settlement defined by an extensive rectilinear system of ditched enclosures and extending over 2.6ha. There was little evidence for buildings or other structures. Metal detecting recovered a single possible Roman coin, 12 fragments of 1<sup>st</sup> century AD brooches and a sword scabbard chape dated to c.100-200AD. The settlement appears to have been abandoned by the mid-3<sup>rd</sup> century. To the east of the proposed site a Roman ladder settlement has been investigated, Features recorded include pits, gullies and ditches and these contained a large quantity of pottery dating to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, although later wares were also present. Faunal remains were also recovered, while environmental sampling provided evidence for grain processing on site.
- 1.5 Little is known of the post-Roman and early Saxon development of the area, although the site of a probable Anglo-Saxon cemetery was identified in 1873

some distance to the south of the site at Hill Crest. The finds included cruciform, annular and saucer brooches, a pot hook (possibly a key) and a large collection of pottery and glass. Within the site are the eroded remains of roughly north-west/south-east aligned ridge and furrow. These are likely to be medieval in date and were originally part of a wider system, with more complete remains surviving on the eastern side of Leicester Road (B6047).

- 1.6 The site remained in agricultural use throughout the post-medieval and modern period. The Leicestershire and Northamptonshire Union Canal, completed through to Market Harborough by 1809, is located immediately to the west of the study site.

It is possible therefore that the proposed groundworks have the potential to expose and destroy archaeological and artefactual deposits associated with prehistoric, Romano-British and later medieval activity in the area.

## 2. AIMS

- 2.1 The aim of the evaluation is to identify, excavate and record any *in situ* archaeological remains affected by the development, by excavating trial trenches and, if necessary, excavate the archaeological remains prior to the start of construction, and to report on the results of the project, as appropriate.

## 3. METHOD

- 3.1 The first phase will comprise the excavation of 6 trenches totalling 180m in length, with each trench 1.8 m wide (see Fig. 1). Localised site constraints (eg. buried services, tree canopies etc.) may result in minor modifications to the trench layout.

Phase 1 - trial trenching, to identify whether any remains are present on the site, and if so where.

This will inform the level of mitigation needed before proceeding with the development:

Option 1 – no mitigation required

Option 2 - monitoring and recording/limited excavation during construction groundworks, if necessary. Sufficient time will need to be allowed for the completion of any archaeological recording and limited excavation necessary within the construction groundworks. At times this may require a pause in the construction works, but the need for this will be kept to a minimum where possible. Where more substantial delays are envisaged, then a site meeting will be convened as necessary with the HNET and the client to agree the way forward.



Option 3 - full archaeological excavation of certain areas prior to construction starting, if necessary

The need for, and extent of options 1, 2 & 3 will be reviewed and agreed at a site meeting with the HNET once the trial trenches have been dug and the results are clear. If required, option 3 will then be carried out and completed before the commencement of construction works, and option 2 during the latter. Should significant archaeological deposits or remains be present in the phase 1 trial trenches, then these will be left in situ and excavated as part of a larger area excavation under option 3.

In addition, there will be a further phase of off-site analysis and reporting work.

The method outlined below applies primarily to the phase 1 trenching work. Should options 2 or 3 be required, then the generic methods and provisions set out in sections 3.3 - 3.10 and 4 - 5 below will apply, and a plan showing proposed areas of excavation and/or monitoring will be submitted to the HNET for approval prior to such works starting.

- 3.2 Trenches will be CAT scanned prior to excavation. Trenches will be opened using a tracked or wheeled machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket. Excavation will continue until either the top of significant archaeological levels or natural subsoil is reached (whichever is higher), at which point machining will cease and investigation will continue by hand. Where archaeological deposits are present the trench will be cleaned and deposits investigated, excavated and recorded.

### *General project methods*

- 3.3 The area subject to option 2 or 3 will be agreed with the HNET in advance of fieldwork and shown on a plan. Topsoil or overburden across the area(s) to be investigated will be removed using a tracked or wheeled machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under the direct control of the site archaeologist to the depth of formation, the surface of in situ subsoil/weathered natural, archaeological or significant palaeoenvironmental deposits whichever is highest in the stratigraphic sequence, at which point machining will cease and investigation will continue by hand to clean the exposed surface.

All archaeological deposits and features will be stratigraphically excavated by hand down to natural subsoil in the following manner, unless agreed otherwise with the HNET:

- all significant deposits will be excavated and recorded by hand,
- some less significant and more bulky deposits may be carefully removed by machine with a toothless grading bucket, under direct archaeological supervision and with prior agreement of the HNET,
- fills of cut features will be excavated by hand as follows: -pits (50%), postholes (50 and then 100%), stakeholes (100%), linears (20%, targeted

on intersections, terminals or overlaps, etc). Surfaces will be completely excavated within the confines of the trenches or area excavation,

- If excavations reveal a substantial number of repetitive discrete features, such as stake-holes, the HNET would require that these should be adequately sampled by excavation to understand their character rather than the complete excavation of all such features,
- Should the above percentage excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined, full excavation of such features/deposits will be required. Additional excavation may also be required for the taking of environmental samples and the recovery of artefacts,
- Variations to these may be required, for example to fully recover important finds and material, or to obtain firmer dating evidence, and these will be agreed with the HNET and then carried out,
- Spoil will also be examined and scanned with a metal detector for the recovery of artefacts.

- 3.4 Environmental deposits will be assessed on site by a suitably qualified archaeologist, with advice as necessary from Allen Environmental Archaeology or the Historic England Regional Science Advisor, to determine the possible yield (if any) of environmental or microfaunal evidence, and its potential for radiocarbon dating. If deposits potential survives, these would be processed by Allen Environmental Archaeology (AEA) using the HE Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology (HE CfA Guidelines 2002/1) and Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (Historic England, second edition, August 2011), and outside specialists (AEA) organised to undertake further assessment and analysis as appropriate.
- 3.5 Initial cleaning, conservation, packaging and any stabilisation or longer-term conservation measures will be undertaken in accordance with relevant professional guidance (specifically 'First Aid for Finds' Watkinson, D and Neal V, (London: Rescue/UKICAS 2001) and CfA 2014 'Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials') and on advice provided by A Hopper-Bishop, Specialist Services Officer, RAM Museum, Exeter.
- 3.6 Should artefacts be exposed that fall within the scope of Treasure Act 1996 and The Treasure (Designation) Order 2002, then these will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner, the Leicestershire Finds Liaison Officer, and HE, according to the procedures relating to the legislation. The location of treasure items will be recorded with an EDM (as per 4.1 below), and, where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.
- 3.7 Should any articulated human remains be exposed; these will initially be left *in situ*. If removal at either this or a later stage in the archaeological works is deemed necessary, these will then be fully excavated and removed from the site subject to the compliance with the relevant Ministry of Justice Licence,

which will be obtained by OA on behalf of the client. Any remains will be excavated in accordance with the CIfA 'Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains' (Megan Brickley and Jacqueline I McKinley, 2004) and the CIfA Standards for Recording Human Remains (Piers D Mitchell and Megan Brickley, CIfA 2017). Where appropriate bulk samples will be collected.

- 3.8 The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve artefacts or report on other aspects of the investigations can be called upon (see below). The client will be fully briefed and consulted if there is a requirement to submit material for specialist research.
- 3.9 Health and Safety requirements will be observed at all times by archaeological staff working on site, particularly when machinery is operating nearby. Personal protective equipment (safety boots, helmets and high visibility vests) will be worn by staff when plant is operating on site. A risk assessment will be prepared prior to work commencing.
- 3.10 The HNET will be informed of the start of the project and will monitor progress throughout. A date of completion of all archaeological site work will be confirmed with HNET and the timescale of the completion of items under section 5 will run from that date.

#### 4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

- 4.1 The standard OA recording system will be employed, consisting of:
  - standardised single context record sheets; survey drawings, plans and sections at scales 1:10, 1:20, 1:50 as appropriate;
  - high resolution colour digital photography in line with the 'Digital Image Capture and File Storage: Guidelines for Best Practice' (Historic England, July 2015);
  - survey and location of finds, deposits or archaeological features, using EDM surveying equipment and software where appropriate;
  - labelling and bagging of finds on site from all excavated levels, post-1800 unstratified pottery may be discarded on site with a small sample retained for dating evidence as required

#### 5. REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

- 5.1 The reporting requirements will be confirmed with The NET on completion of the site work. If little or no significant archaeology is exposed then reporting will consist of a completed County HER entry, including a plan showing location of groundworks and of any significant features found. The text entry and plan will be produced in an appropriate electronic format suitable for easy incorporation into the HER and sent to the client and the HNET within three months of the date of completion of all archaeological fieldwork.

5.2 Should significant deposits be exposed, further work (options 2 or 3 above) will be required either prior to and/or during construction groundworks. If the main contractor's programme requires that such archaeological work carries straight on from the trench evaluation, the results of all phases of archaeological work will be presented within one summary report within six months of the date of completion of all archaeological fieldwork. However, if there is a significant delay (more than six months) between the end of the trench evaluation and the start of subsequent groundworks, an interim summary report will be produced of the results of the phase 1 work. This report, if required, will be prepared within three months of the completion of the phase 1 trenching. Any summary report will contain the following elements as appropriate:

:

- location plan and overall site plans showing the positions of the trenches, excavated areas and the distribution of archaeological features within them, as well as copies of any relevant historic maps;
- a written description of the exposed features and deposits and a discussion and interpretation of their character and significance in the context of the known history of the site;
- plans and sections at appropriate scales showing the exact location and character of significant archaeological deposits;
- a selection of photographs illustrating the principal features and deposits found;
- specialist assessments and reports as appropriate, including if necessary (see 5.6 below) an outline of, and timetable for the completion of, any further work required to bring the most important results to wider publication.

5.3 A pdf version of the summary report will be produced and distributed to the Client, the HNET and the HER on completion of sitework within the timescale above. A copy of the report and pdf version will also be deposited with the site archive.

5.4 An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared with reference to *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (2015) upon completion of the project.

The archive will consist of two elements, the artefactual and digital - the latter comprising all born-digital (data images, survey data, digital correspondence, site data collected digitally etc.) and digital copies of the primary site records and images, compiled in accordance with the ADS Guidelines for Depositors (2015).

The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) with the permission of the landowner within 6 months of the completion of site work, while the artefactual element will be deposited with the Leicester Museum and Art Gallery (*ref. number pending*). Any artefacts not taken by the Leicester Museum and Art Gallery will be offered to the landowner before being discarded. The hardcopy of the archive will be offered to the Leicester Museum and Art Gallery and if not required will be disposed of by OA.

OA will notify the HNET upon the deposition of the digital archive with the ADS, and the deposition of any material (finds) archive with Leicester Museum and Art Gallery.

Should no artefacts be recovered or should Leicester Museum and Art Gallery not wish to retain any that are, then, with the agreement of the HNET, the report submitted to OASIS will form the sole archive for this project.

- 5.5 A .pdf copy of the updated summary report will be submitted, together with the site details, to the national OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological investigations) database within three months of the completion of site work (oakforda1-423306).
- 5.6 A short report summarising the results of the project will be prepared for inclusion within the “round up” section of the ‘Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society’, if merited, within 12 months of the completion of site work.
- 5.7 Should particularly significant remains, finds and/or deposits be encountered, then these, because of their importance, are likely to merit wider publication in line with government planning guidance. If such remains are encountered, the publication requirements – including (para 141 of the NPPF) any further analysis that may be necessary – will be confirmed with the HNET, in consultation with the Client. OA, on behalf of the Client, will then implement publication in accordance with a timescale agreed with the Client and the HNET. A final draft publication text and figures will be produced within 12 months of the completion of all phases of archaeological site work unless otherwise agreed in writing.
- 5.8 Any amendments to the method or timescale set out above will be agreed in writing with the HNET before implementation.

## 6. COPYRIGHT

- 6.1 OA shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in this document.

## 7. PROJECT ORGANISATION

- 7.1 The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced archaeologists, in accordance with the Code of Conduct and relevant standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (*Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief, 2014, revised 2020, the Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation, 2014*). The project

will be managed by Marc Steinmetzer. Oakford Archaeology is managed by a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

### ***Health & Safety***

- 7.2 All monitoring works within this scheme will be carried out in accordance with current *Safe Working Practices (The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974)*.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

#### *Specialists contributors and advisors*

The expertise of the following specialists can be called upon if required:

*Bone artefact analysis: Ian Riddler;*

*Bird remains: Matilda Holmes;*

*Dating techniques: Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre;*

*Charcoal identification: Dana Challinor;*

*Diatom analysis: Nigel Cameron (UCL);*

*Environmental data: AEA;*

*Faunal remains: Lorraine Higbee (Wessex), Michael Wootton;*

*Finds conservation: Alison Hopper-Bishop (Exeter Museums);*

*Fish remains: Hannah Russ, Sheila Hamilton-Dyer;*

*Human remains: Charlotte Coles, Mandy Kingdom;*

*Lithic analysis: Linda Hurcombe (Exeter University);*

*Medieval and post-medieval finds: John Allan;*

*Metallurgy: Gill Juleff (Exeter University);*

*Numismatics: Norman Shiel (Exeter);*

*Petrology/geology: Roger Taylor (RAM Museum), Imogen Morris;*

*Plant remains: Lisa Gray;*

*Prehistoric pottery: Henrietta Quinnell (Exeter);*

*Roman finds: Paul Bidwell & associates (Arbeia Roman Fort, South Shields);*

*Others: Wessex Archaeology Specialist Services Team*

**MFR Steinmetzer**

**8 June 2021**

**updated v2 29 June 2021**

**WSI/OA1818/01**

## Appendix 2:

### Context descriptions by Trench

Table 1: Trench 1

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
100	0-0.3m	Dark brown silty clay	Topsoil
101	0.3-0.4m	Mid yellowish brown silty clay mudstone fragments (5%)	Subsoil
102	0.4m+	Mid yellow orange clay mudstone fragments (5-10%), manganese (5%)	Natural subsoil

Table 2: Trench 2

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
200	0-0.3m	Dark brown silty clay	Topsoil
201	0.3-0.7m	Mid yellowish brown silty clay mudstone fragments (5%)	Subsoil
202	0.7m+	Mid yellow orange clay mudstone fragments (5-10%), manganese (5%)	Natural subsoil

Table 3: Trench 3

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
300	0-0.35m	Dark brown silty clay	Topsoil
301	0.35-0.55m	Mid yellowish brown silty clay mudstone fragments (5%)	Subsoil
302	0.55m+	Mid yellow orange clay mudstone fragments (5-10%), manganese (5%)	Natural subsoil
303	0.35-0.75m	N-S aligned linear feature with gradually breaking sides and concave base	Cut of ditch
304	0.35-0.75m	Mid greyish brown silty clay charcoal flecks (1%), mudstone fragments (5%), waterworn pebbles (1%)	Fill of ditch [303]

Table 4: Trench 4

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
400	0-0.35m	Dark brown silty clay	Topsoil
401	0.35-0.65m	Mid yellowish brown silty clay mudstone fragments (5%)	Subsoil
402	0.65m+	Mid yellow orange clay mudstone fragments (5-10%), manganese (5%)	Natural subsoil

Table 5: Trench 5

<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Depth (b.g.s.)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
500	0-0.3m	Dark brown silty clay	Topsoil
501	0.3-0.7m	Mid yellowish brown silty clay mudstone fragments (5%)	Subsoil
502	0.7m+	Mid yellow orange clay mudstone fragments (5-10%), manganese (5%)	Natural subsoil

Table 6: Trench 6

<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Depth (b.g.s.)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
600	0-0.3m	Dark brown silty clay	Topsoil
601	0.3-0.7m	Mid yellowish brown silty clay mudstone fragments (5%)	Subsoil
602	0.7m+	Mid yellow orange clay mudstone fragments (5-10%), manganese (5%)	Natural subsoil



## Appendix 3: Finds quantification

Context	Feature	Spot date	Quantity	weight	Notes
unstratified			13	116g	1 worked flint flake and one broken flake; 3 sherds of creamware (after 1780); 3 sherds of black-glazed redware (17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century) incl one rim; 4 clay tobacco pipe stems (late 17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century).
304	303	Late Neolithic to early Bronze Age	4	13g	Four sherds of Late Neolithic or early Bronze Age pottery 1 vessel.