



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation
of Land at Dog & Gun Lane,
Whetstone, Leicestershire
(SP 562 958)**

Gerwyn Richards



ULAS Report No 2011-130
©2011

**An Archaeological Evaluation
Of Land at Dog & Gun Lane,
Whetstone, Leicestershire.
(NGR SP 562 958)**

Gerwyn Richards

Planning Application: Pre-Planning Enquiry
For: Marrons Ltd.

Checked by:

Signed:



Date: 01.09.2011

Name: ...Patrick Clay.

University of Leicester
Archaeological Services
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 252 2848 Fax: (0116) 252 2614
www.le.ac.uk/ulas

**An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Dog & Gun Lane, Whetstone
Leicestershire (SP 562 958)**

Contents

Summary	1
1. Introduction	1
2. Background	2
3. Aims and Methodology	3
4. Results	4
5. Conclusion	10
6. Archive & Publication	10
7. References	11
8. OASIS	15

Figures

Figure 1	Site Location	2
Figure 2	Detailed site plan	3
Figure 3	Trench location plan, overlaying results of geophysical survey	12
Figure 4	Trench 3 (Looking south-east).	13
Figure 5	Trench 8 (Looking south).	13
Figure 6	Trench 9 (Looking west-north-west).	13
Figure 7	Trench 11 (Looking north).	13
Figure 8	Trench 12 (Looking south-east).	14
Figure 9	Trench 13 (Looking north-west).	14

An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Dog & Gun Lane, Whetstone Leicestershire (SP 562 958)

Gerwyn Richards

Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by Marrons Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of proposed residential development on land at Dog & Gun Lane, Whetstone, Leicestershire.

The proposed development area had been identified as being of archaeological potential, located within an archaeologically diverse landscape with sites of known archaeological significance nearby. The archaeological evaluation revealed no deposits or finds of archaeological significance. A number of anomalies identified by geophysical survey were located and found to be non-archaeological in origin.

The archive for the archaeological work will be held by Leicestershire County Council, under the museums accession number X.A110.2011.

1. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by Marrons Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed residential development on land adjacent to Dog & Gun Lane, Whetstone, Leicestershire (SP 562 958; *Figure 1*). The proposed development area was located to the eastern end of Dog & Gun Lane, west of the A426, Lutterworth Road. The archaeological works are intended to provide preliminary indications of the character and extent of any buried archaeological remains in order that the potential impact of the development on such remains may be assessed by the Planning Authority.

Following Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5), Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team (LCCHNET) as archaeological advisors to the planning authority required that an evaluation by trial trenching is undertaken, to follow up the results of a desk-based assessment (Clarke 2010) and geophysical survey (Biggs 2011). This document presents the results of that evaluation.

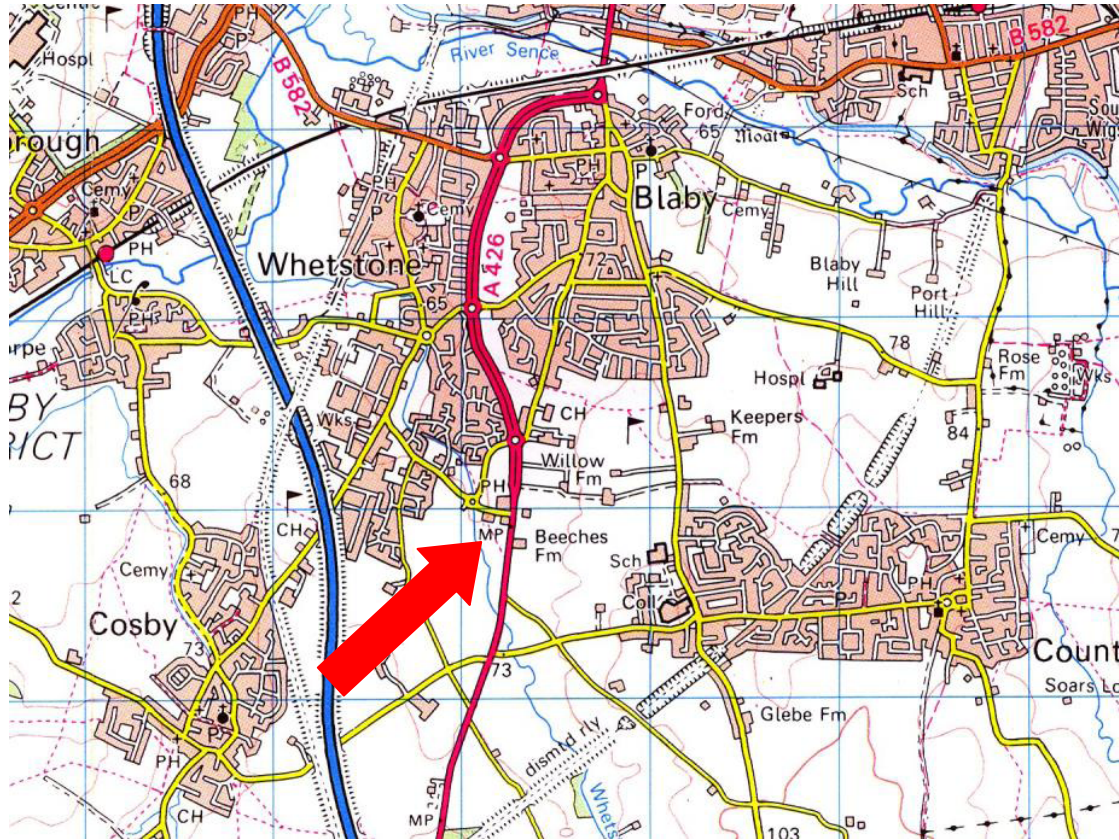


Figure 1. Site location

By permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 1996. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495.

2. Background

The proposed development area lies within a rich and varied archaeological landscape, nearby are the historic settlements of Whetstone, Countesthorpe and Cosby. An archaeological desk based assessment commissioned by Marrons Ltd (Clarke 2011) indicated that there are no known archaeological sites within the proposed development area. However, the Historic Environment Record for Leicestershire & Rutland (HER) indicates a number of known archaeological sites within the vicinity of the proposed development area, including the medieval and post medieval village core of Whetstone (HER Ref MLE15731), which is known to have Anglo Saxon origin and is referred to in the Domesday Book as “*Westham*”. A large scatter of Early Mesolithic to Late Bronze Age flints were recovered (HER Ref MLE16999) nearby.

In addition, various other archaeological sites and finds have been recorded within the vicinity of the proposed development area. (<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>):

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Triassic Mercia Mudstone, the drift geology is Boulder Clay.

An archaeological geophysical survey has also been carried out within the proposed development area (Biggs 2011). The results included two positive linear anomalies as well as ridge and furrow lines, remnants of medieval or early post medieval ploughing.

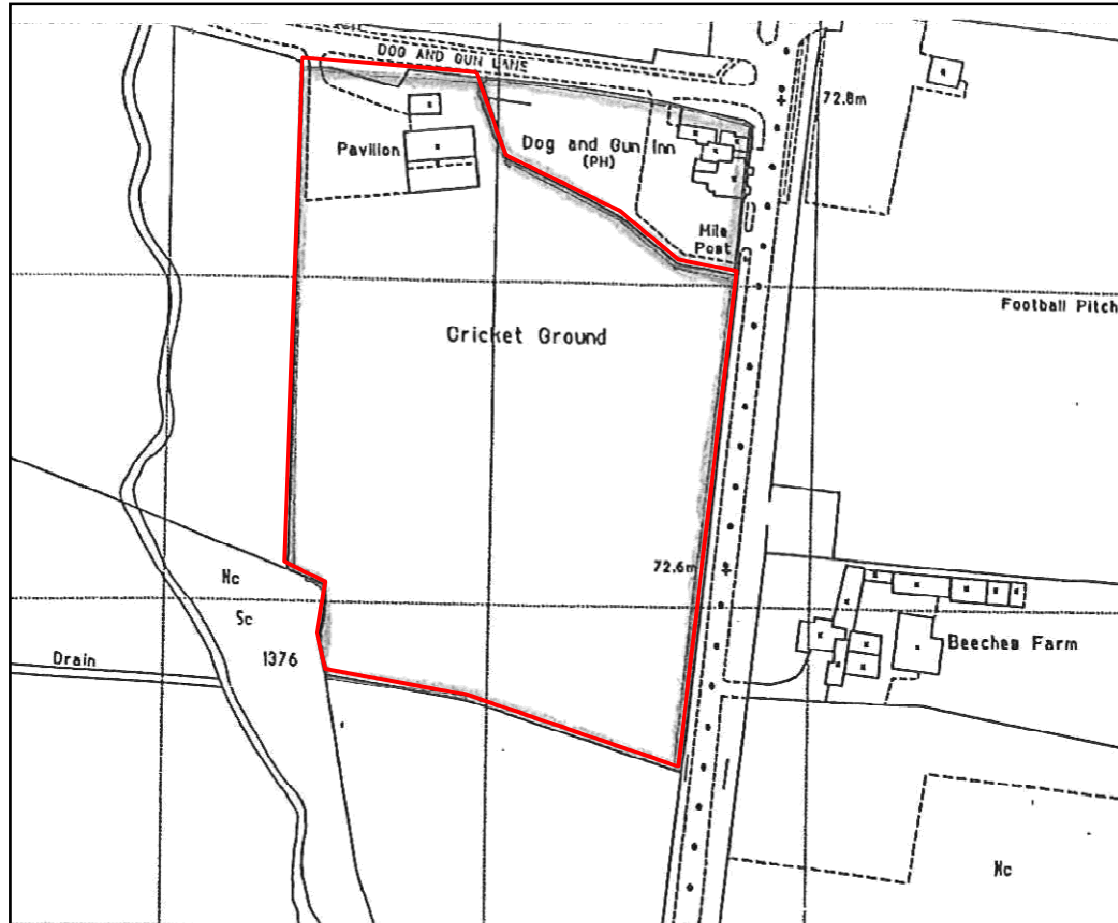


Figure 2 Detailed site plan.
(Supplied by Client, Not to Scale)

3. Aims and Methodology

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to:

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

The work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2010) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008) and adhered to the University's Health and Safety policy. The methodology to be followed was detailed in the *Design Specification for Archaeological work* (ULAS 11-697).

A 2% sample of the 2.1 ha. proposed development area, totalling c. 420 sq m, the equivalent of 13 20m x 1.8m trenches was proposed. The excavations were carried out by a Case back hoe loader fitted with a ditching bucket under continuous archaeological supervision. The exposed substratum was observed and the spoil searched for finds. The archaeological work took place on August 24th to 26th 2011.

4. Results

4.1 Trench 1

Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m
Topsoil Depth in mm	150	150	190	150	140
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	200	270	260	240	230
Base of Trench	310	340	340	350	235

Trench 1 was located adjacent to the northernmost boundary of the proposed development area, targeting the linear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. The trench was aligned east to west. Approximately 0.14m to 0.19m of topsoil was excavated revealing a shallow layer of silty sand subsoil, below which was an orange-brown silty sand and gravel substrata. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.31m to 0.35m below the current ground level. A polythene water pipe crossed the trench at the location of anomaly; it is likely that this was the source of the anomaly. There was no clear source for the second anomaly; however it was likely to have been caused by the extensive surface disturbance within this part of the proposed development area.

The trench contained nothing of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

4.2 Trench 2

Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m
Topsoil Depth in mm	150	230	190	200	190
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	290	300	300	300	300
Base of Trench	380	400	400	400	600

Trench 2 was located adjacent to the westernmost boundary of the proposed development area, targeting two discreet anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. The trench was aligned west-north-west to east-south-east. Approximately 0.14m to 0.19m of topsoil was excavated revealing the same shallow layer of silty sand subsoil as was seen in trench 1, below which was an orange-brown silty sand and gravel substrata. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.38m to 0.6m below the current ground level. A lense of dense gravel and pea grit was observed at this

level at the location of the anomaly, and it is likely that this was the source of the anomaly. Again there was no clear source for the second anomaly, however it was again likely to have been caused by the extensive surface disturbance within this part of the proposed development area.

The trench contained nothing of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

4.3 Trench 3

Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m
Topsoil Depth in mm	190	180	200	200	200
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	360	300	330	300	300
Base of Trench	500	400	430	400	430

Trench 3 was located between trenches 1 and 2 again targeting the linear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. The trench was aligned north-west to south-east. Approximately 0.18m to 0.28m of topsoil was excavated revealing the same shallow layer of silty sand subsoil as was seen in previous trenches, below which was an orange-brown silty sand and gravel substrata. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.4m to 0.5m below the current ground level. A ceramic field drain crossed the trench in the location of the anomaly, and it is likely that this was the source of the anomaly.

The trench contained nothing of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

4.4 Trench 4

Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m
Topsoil Depth in mm	200	180	200	190	200
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	280	280	Furrow Fill	300	300
Base of Trench	320	340	320	310	390

Trench 4 was located approximately 50metres south of trench 2, adjacent to the westernmost boundary of the proposed development area, an area which did not return any geophysical results during the survey. The trench was aligned north to south. Approximately 0.18m to 0.2m of topsoil was excavated revealing the same shallow layer of silty sand subsoil as was present in previous trenches, below which was an orange-brown silty sand and gravel substrata. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.31m to 0.39m below the current ground level. A single furrow crossed the trench, aligned east to west, like those identified by the geophysical survey.

The trench contained nothing of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

4.5 Trench 5

Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m
Topsoil Depth in mm	220	200	200	170	160
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	290	270	210	230	250
Base of Trench	320	300	290	270	300

Trench 4 was located approximately 30 metres south of trench 1, targeting the same linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. The trench was aligned east to west. Approximately 0.16m to 0.22m of topsoil was excavated revealing the same shallow layer of silty sand subsoil as was present in previous trenches, below which was an orange-brown silty sand and gravel substrata. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.27m to 0.32m below the current ground level. Again the polythene water pipe crossed the trench in the location of the anomaly, and it is likely that this was the source of the anomaly.

The trench contained nothing of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

4.6 Trench 6

Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m
Topsoil Depth in mm	200	200	190	180	200
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	250	290	260	300	320
Base of Trench	300	320	280	360	400

Trench 6 was located adjacent to the easternmost boundary of the proposed development area, again to sample an area which did not return any geophysical results during the survey. The trench was aligned east to west. Approximately 0.18m to 0.2m of topsoil was excavated revealing the same shallow layer of silty sand subsoil as was present in the other trenches, below which was an orange-brown silty sand and gravel substrata. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.28m to 0.4m below the current ground level.

The trench contained nothing of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

4.7 Trench 7

Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m
Topsoil Depth in mm	230	140	200	200	200
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	300	Furrow Fill	280	270	Furrow Fill
Base of Trench	400	350	400	3430	400

Trench 7 was located adjacent to the easternmost boundary of the proposed development area, approximately 18metres south of trench 6, targeting a discrete anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. The trench was aligned north to south. Approximately 0.14m to 0.23m of topsoil was excavated revealing the same shallow layer of silty sand subsoil as was present in the other trenches, below which was an orange-brown silty sand and gravel substrata. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.35m to 0.4m below the current ground level. A number of furrows crossed the trench, aligned east to west. There was no clear source for the anomaly.

The trench contained nothing of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

4.8 Trench 8

Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m
Topsoil Depth in mm	200	200	240	200	190
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	300	300	Furrow Fill	270	270
Base of Trench	400	400	400	310	310

Trench 8 was located adjacent to the north-easternmost corner of the proposed development area, approximately 40metres north of trench 6, targeting a discrete anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. The trench was aligned north to south. Approximately 0.19m to 0.24m of topsoil was excavated revealing the same shallow layer of silty sand subsoil as was present in previous trenches, below which was a light yellow brown weathered clay substrata, unlike that seen in previous trenches. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.31m to 0.4m below the current ground level. A number of furrows crossed the trench, aligned east to west. A deposit of a lime-like material was observed within the topsoil within the area of the anomaly, possibly the source.

The trench contained nothing of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

4.9 Trench 9

Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m
Topsoil Depth in mm	200	200	200	200	190
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	400	330	300	300	
Base of Trench	500	490	400	350	300

Trench 9 was located adjacent to the south-westernmost corner of the proposed development area, approximately 30metres south of trench 4, targeting a group of discrete anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. The trench was aligned west-north-west to east-south-east within an area of extensive and obvious recent ground disturbance. Approximately 0.19m to 0.2m of topsoil was excavated revealing the same shallow layer of silty sand subsoil as was present in other trenches, below which was an orange-brown silty sand and gravel substrata, becoming clayier at the eastern end. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.3m to 0.5m below the current ground level. There was no clear source of the anomalies, however there was extensive recent ground disturbance on the surface including evidence of burning, suggesting a likely source of the anomalies.

The trench contained nothing of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

4.10 Trench 10

Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m
Topsoil Depth in mm	250	200	200	200	200
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	Furrow Fill	Furrow Fill	Furrow Fill	Furrow Fill	Furrow Fill
Base of Trench	360	400	350	300	350

Trench 10 was located adjacent to the southernmost boundary of the proposed development area, approximately 40metres south-west of trench 9, targeting a discrete anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. The trench was aligned east to west. Approximately 0.2m to 0.25m of topsoil was excavated revealing the same shallow layer of silty sand subsoil as was present in previous trenches, below which was an orange-brown silty sand and gravel substrata. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.3m to 0.5m below the current ground level. A single furrow, aligned east to west could be seen on the northern side of the trench. There was no clear source of the anomaly, however, as with trench 9 there was evidence of burning on the surface, suggesting a likely source.

The trench contained nothing of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

4.11 Trench 11

Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m
Topsoil Depth in mm	230	200	200	200	190
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	Furrow Fill	300	Furrow Fill	300	Furrow Fill
Base of Trench	500	400	400	360	390

Trench 11 was located towards the centre of the proposed development area, approximately 45 metres north of trench 10, targeting two discrete anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. The trench was aligned north-north-east to south-south-west. Approximately 0.19m to 0.23m of topsoil was excavated revealing the same shallow layer of silty sand subsoil as was present in previous trenches, below which was a yellow sand substratum. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.36m to 0.5m below the current ground level. There was no clear source of the anomalies.

The trench contained nothing of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

4.12 Trench 12

Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	23m
Topsoil Depth in mm	180	230	200	190	200	200
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	300	250	Furrow Fill	250	Furrow Fill	270
Base of Trench	400	330	300	330	330	330

Trench 12 was again located towards the centre of the proposed development area, approximately 30 metres west of trench 11, targeting a number of discrete anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. The trench was aligned north-west to south-east. Approximately 0.18m to 0.23m of topsoil was excavated revealing the same shallow layer of silty sand subsoil as was present in previous trenches, below which was an orange-brown silty sand and gravel substrata. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.3m to 0.4m below the current ground level. A number of furrows, aligned east to west crossed the trench. There was no clear source of the anomalies.

The trench contained nothing of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

4.13 Trench 13

Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m
Topsoil Depth in mm	140	190	190	200	200
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	Furrow Fill	270	Furrow Fill	300	300
Base of Trench	300	360	300	400	400

Trench 13 was the final trench, located approximately 15 metres south of trench 5, targeting two discrete anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. The trench was aligned north-west to south-east. Approximately 0.14m to 0.2m of topsoil was excavated revealing the same shallow layer of silty sand subsoil as was present in previous trenches, below which was a yellow sand and gravel substrata. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.3m to 0.4m below the current ground surface. Once again a number of furrows, aligned east to west, crossed the trench. There was no clear source of the anomalies.

The trench contained nothing of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

5. Conclusion

The proposed development area occupied a promising location within a rich archaeological landscape. The archaeological evaluation, however did not encounter any archaeologically significant deposits or artefacts. The evaluation located a number of the anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey, all of which were non-archaeological in origin. Those not clearly identified are likely to have been caused by the extensive surface disturbance, including fires, which have occurred within the proposed development in recent years.

6. Archive & Publication

The site archive consists of:

- 1 A3 permagraph overlay showing trench ID
- 39 Black & White negatives and contact prints
- CD containing 39 digital images
- 2 A4 contact sheets
- 1 A4 photo index sheet
- 13 A4 trench recording sheets
- 1 A3 paper plan showing geophysical survey
- Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report Number 2011-130)
- Unbound copy of Geophysical Survey Report Dog and Gun Lane, Whetstone, Leicestershire (ULAS Report No 2011-060)

The archive will be held at Leicester County Council Museums under the Accession Number X.A110.2011

A version of the summary (above) will be submitted to the editor of the local journal *Transactions of Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* for inclusion in the next edition.

7. References

Biggs, M. 2011 *Geophysical Survey Report Dog and Gun Lane, Whetstone, Leicestershire*. ULAS Report No 2011-060

Clarke, S.J. 2010 *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment of land adjacent to the Dog and Gun Inn, Dog and Gun Lane, Whetstone, Leicestershire SP 562 958*. ULAS Report No 2010-192

IfA, 2010 *Code of Conduct*

IfA, 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

ULAS 2011 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation. The Dog & Gun, Land west of Lutterworth Road, Whetstone, Leicestershire*.

Gerwyn Richards
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel:0116 252 2848

www.le.ac.uk/ulas

© ULAS 31/08/2011

Figure 3 Trench location plan, overlaying results of geophysical survey

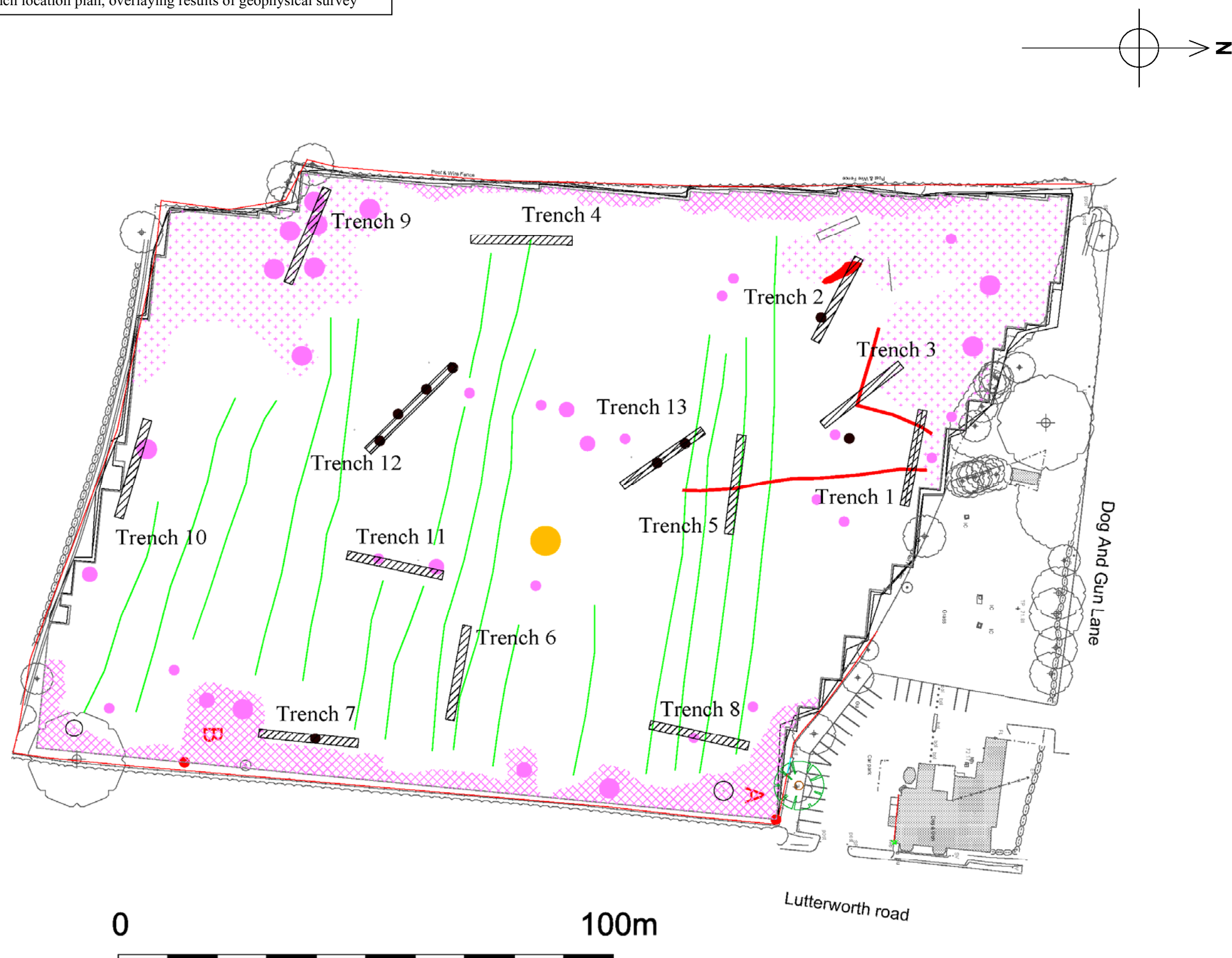




Figure 4 Trench 3 (Looking south-east).



Figure 5 Trench 8 (Looking south).



Figure 6 Trench 9 (Looking west-north-west).



Figure 7 Trench 11 (Looking north).



Figure 8 Trench 12 (Looking south-east).



Figure 9 Trench 13 (Looking north-west).

8. OASIS

INFORMATION REQUIRED	EXAMPLE
Project Name	Dog & Gun, Whetstone, Leicestershire
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Gerwyn Richards
Previous/Future work	Previous: Desk-based assessment; Geophysical survey. Future: Unknown
Current Land Use	Agriculture
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	PPS5
Position in the Planning Process	Pre Planning
Site Co ordinates	SP 562 958
Start/end dates of field work	August 2011
Archive Recipient	LMARS
Height min/max	72mOD
Study Area	2.1 ha
Finds	None

Contact Details

Richard Buckley or Patrick Clay
University of Leicester Archaeological
Services (ULAS)
University of Leicester,
University Road,
Leicester LE1 7RH

T: +44 (0)116 252 2848

F: +44 (0)116 252 2614

E: ulas@le.ac.uk

w: www.le.ac.uk/ulas

