An Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching at the Proposed Aylestone Park and Ride Scheme Site 35, Leicester Lane, Enderby, Leicestershire NGR: SP 5111 9958 (centre)

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Contents

List of figures and Plates

An Archaeological Evaluation at the Proposed Aylestone Park and Ride Scheme (Site 35), Leicester Lane, Enderby, Leicestershire (SP 5111 9958)

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at land to the south of Leicester Lane and west of St. John's Road, Enderby, Leicestershire (SP 5111 9958) by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services between the 23rd January and 6th February 2006 for Leicestershire County Council. This work followed an HER search and geophysical survey that both highlighted the potential for archaeological features to be present within the application area. The evaluation forms part of an archaeological impact assessment for the proposed Aylestone Park and Ride Scheme.

Eighteen trenches totalling 682m in length and 1.8m wide were machine excavated (equalling an area of 1228m²) in order to target specific anomalies highlighted by the geophysical survey as well as to evaluate 'archaeologically blank' areas.

Positive results were obtained from three trenches excavated. Trench 1 located the remains of ditch systems suggested by the geophysical survey and Trench 3 located postholes and gullies that may represent the remains of an undated roundhouse structure. These features could potentially indicate Iron Age settlement associated with settlement activity found to the north of the site.

Trench 18 was located across the projected line of the Fosse Way Roman road. Remains of the agger (the built up embankment) and a possible roadside ditch were revealed within the southeast end of the trench although the upper layers have been truncated by ploughing. Beyond this, a gravel spread was also observed that could either represent a precursor to the road or hardcore that was laid down during the construction phase of the road. A copper alloy brooch that may date as early as the first Century BC was found in close proximity to this surface.

*Th*e site archive will be held by *Leicestershire County Council (Accession No.X.A.6.2006).*

1. Introduction

1.1 University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Leicestershire County Council to carry out an archaeological evaluation of land south of Leicester Lane, west of St. John's Road, Enderby, Leicestershire (SP 5111 9958). The work was undertaken as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance the proposed Aylestone Park and Ride Scheme.

1.2 The proposed development area has been identified as an area of archaeological potential from information held in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER). Subsequently a geophysical survey was conducted within the area (Stratascan 2006). This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching carried out between the 23rd January and 6th February 2006, by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS). The trial excavation followed the Project Design prepared by James Meek (ULAS 2006, Appendix 6) that had approved by the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council following his Brief for the site.

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

2.1 The proposed site of the park and ride is located 7km southwest of Leicester, to the northwest of the village of Enderby. It consists of an area of *c.* 6.4 ha that is bounded to the north by Leicester Lane and to the east by St. John's Road (centred on SP 5511 9958; figs. 1 and 2).

2.2 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 156 indicates that the underlying geology consists of glacial sand and gravel to the northeast, river gravel to the southeast, with Mercian mudstone solid geology beneath. To the west the directly underlying geology consists of Mercian mudstone. The proposed development area lies between a height of 65.70-68.95m OD on land that slopes gently to the south.

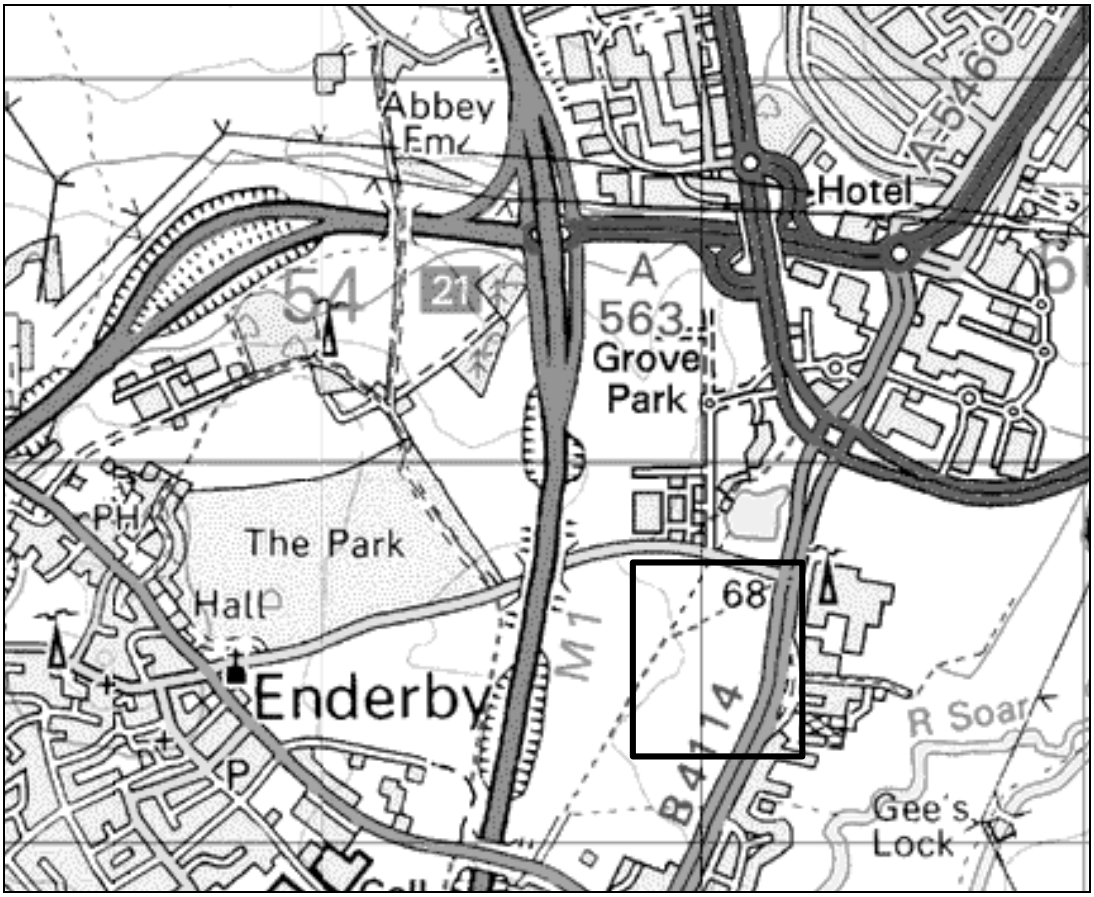

Fig. 1 Site location

3. Archaeological Background

3.1 *(Background from the Brief prepared by the Senior Planning Archaeologist of Leicestershire County Council)*

3.1.1 Assessment of the Leicestershire & Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) reveals a number of known archaeological sites on or in the immediate vicinity of the proposed park and ride site. These comprise the findspots of a Romano-British brooch (HER ref.: MLE7688) and an Anglo-Saxon die stamp (MLE6086), both found within the development area. In addition, the western edge of Site 35 is located on the line of a former field boundary that reflects the alignment of the Roman 'Fosse Way', a major arterial road connecting Leicester with Lincoln to the north-east and Cirencester and Exeter to the south-west (MLE1380) (fig.2).

3.1.2 The wider area, within 500m of the proposed development site, includes an extensive range of recorded archaeological sites, two of which have seen extensive excavation. These can be subdivided by broad period as follows:

Palaeolithic (500,000-10,000BC):

- MLE6041 Summary description: Flint hand-axe found to the south of Ratby Meadow Lane. NGR: SP5599.

Neolithic to Early Bronze Age (4000-1500 BC):

- MLE89 Neolithic flint scatter located to the north of Aldeby Close. SP552990.
- MLE7378 Neolithic & Early Bronze Age artefact scatter, west of the M1 and north of Leicester Lane. SK545000.

Late Bronze Age to Iron Age (1500BC-AD43):

- MLE79 Excavated Iron Age settlement site, north of Penman Way. SK550002.
- MLE99 Iron Age pottery scatter, north of Johnson's Spinney. SP546994.
- MLE112-113 Excavated Iron Age enclosure and settlement site, north of Leicester Lane. SP549999.
- MLE6259 Late Bronze Age pottery scatter west of the M1 and north of Leicester Lane. SP545999.

Romano-British period (AD43-410):

- MLE88 Pottery scatter suggesting an occupation site, located to the north of Aldeby Close. SP552990.
- MLE101 Probable pottery kiln, north of Johnson's Spinney. SP546994
- MLE7684 Artefact scatter, south of Penman Way. SK552000.
- MLE7686 Roman coins found in scatter, south of Penman Way. SK551001.
- MLE7687 Pottery reported from St John's, Aldeby. SP553990.
- MLE7689 Coin of Vespasian from south of Johnson's Spinney. SP546991.

Anglo-Saxon & Medieval periods (AD410-1485):

- MLE91 Deserted medieval village of Aldeby, east of St John's/Narborough Road South. SP553991.
- MLE114 An Anglo-Saxon cremation cemetery north of Leicester Lane. SP549999.
- MLE6087 Late Anglo-Saxon artefact (strap end), north of Johnson's Spinney. SP546994
- MLE6620 Possible copper alloy dagger pommel, found south of Penman Way. SK552000

- MLE6622 Coins found in a scatter along with a copper alloy buckle loop, south of Penman Way. SK551001
- MLE6623 The scheduled remains of St John's Church, Aldeby (SM196), north of Aldeby Close. SP553991.
- MLE6624 Scatter of medieval pottery and artefacts suggesting the presence of the occupation site, found north of Johnson's Spinney. SP547993.

Undated:

- MLE90 Metal working site located to the north of Aldeby Close. SP552990.
- MLE98 Probably earthwork remains of a quarry, north of Blaby Road.
- MLE9371 Bronze figurine found south of Johnson's Spinney. SP546991.

Figure 2. Site location plan and SMR information – information from the Leicestershire Sites and Monuments Record, Historic and Natural Environment Team of Leicestershire County Council

3.2 *Geophysical Survey (Stratascan 2005, Figure 3)*

3.2.1 The geophysical survey that has recently been undertaken by Stratascan Limited has revealed a few potential archaeological features scattered across the application area. The preliminary results suggested that agricultural marks aligned northwest to southeast cross the majority of the site area, although whether these represent earlier remains of ridge and furrow or later deep plough marks was unclear. Scattered smaller anomalies potentially representing pits and linear features (ditches gullies) were also indicated. Material possibly deposited during the construction of St. John's Road to the east and the junction with Leicester Lane to the north is apparent adjacent to the road lines. A number of possible land drains have also been indicated across the area.

3.2.2 The possible alignment of the Fosse Way has been indicated by the survey on the north-western edge of the site area, projecting roughly north-east from the field boundary to the south. It was suggested that these anomalies might represent ditches associated with the road.

3.2.3 The route of a gas main crosses through the western part of the site area, the route of which is clearly evident on the geophysical survey results.

3.2.4 The preliminary results of the geophysical survey have demonstrated the existence of a number of potential anomalies of archaeological origin, although there would appear to be no specific concentrations.

4. Aims and Objectives

4.1 The main objectives of the evaluation will be:

- To confirm or otherwise the archaeological origin of the features identified from the geophysical survey.
- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits in areas where the survey did not reveal possible archaeological anomalies.
- To provide information on the extent, character and date of archaeological deposits within the application area.
- The archaeological evaluation, once the above information has been gathered, will help to determine a decision being made on planning permission regarding archaeological issues. Potentially further stages of archaeological investigation will be required as a condition of planning permission.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

4.2 Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation is to establish the nature, extent and significance of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from proposed development.

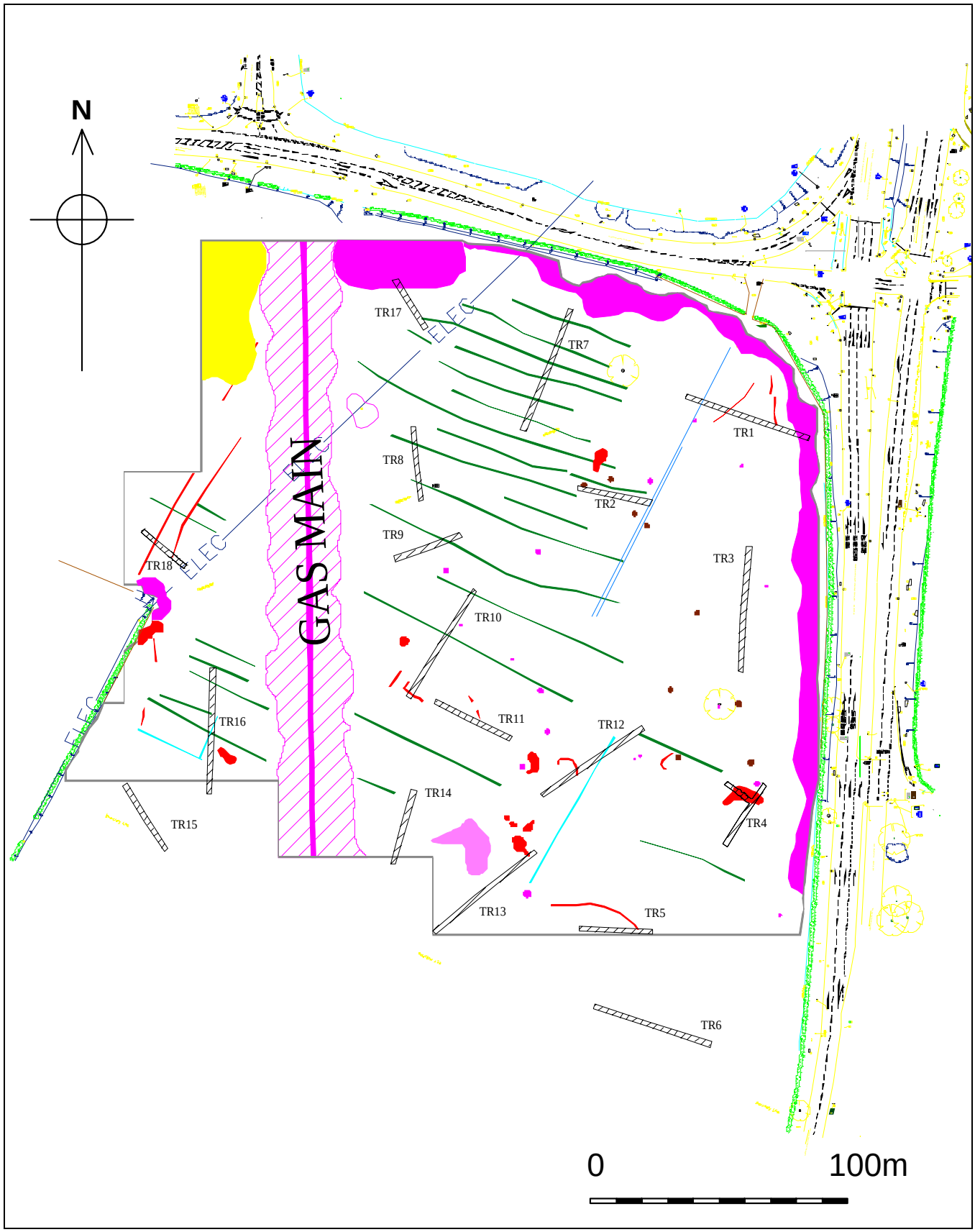

Figure 3: Trench location plan superimposed over the geophysical survey results

4.3 Trial trenching is an intrusive form of archaeological evaluation. The scheme of the trenching will serve to target areas shown to contain potential archaeological features from the geophysical survey and assess the areas where no anomalies were revealed.

5. Methodology

5.1 The Specification stated that eighteen trenches, ten 30m and eight 50m in length were to be located in order to target geophysical anomalies and in apparently archaeologically 'blank' areas according to the geophysical results (Figure 3). One of these trenches was located outside the proposed development area in order to confirm the location of the Fosse Way (Roman road) and determine its state of preservation. The trenches were positioned using a Garmin Global Positional System (GPS) 12 parallel channel receiver in order to target anomalies shown on the geophysical survey. The GPS accuracy ranged between 2 to 8 metres.

5.2 The trenches were excavated using a JCB 310C tracked machine equipped with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil and overlying layers were removed under full archaeological supervision until either the top of archaeology or undisturbed natural ground was reached, or to a depth of 1.20m.

5.3 The bases of the trenches were examined for archaeological remains any any possible features were hand-cleaned. Where confirmed archaeological remains existed they were planned to scale and recorded. Limited excavation of archaeological features was carried out to determine the character and date of any remains. Archaeological features were recorded with reference to the ULAS recording manual.

5.4 The trenches were located using an Electronic Distance Measurer linked to a hand-held Psion data logger. The data was processed using N4ce survey software and the final plans completed with the aid of TurboCAD version 11 design software.

5.5 All work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations, and the Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service).

6. Results

Note: Archaeological contexts as a cut are indicated by: [ ], those that are deposits are indicated by: ().

6.1 A total of eighteen trenches were excavated in the proposed development area. They were arranged in order to target areas of archaeological potential that had been highlighted by the geophysical survey as well as to evaluate the 'archaeologically blank' areas. Trenches 1-16 vary slightly in position from the trench plan shown in the design specification and this is due to the accuracy of the GPS receiver. Trenches 17 and 18 were moved and shortened

to approximately 20m in order to avoid overhead power cables. Also a 12m extension was added to Trench 4 in order to better characterise the archaeology encountered there. A total of 682m of trenching was undertaken (1.95% sample of the total area).

6.2 Trench 1 Contexts (7)-[10]

6.2.1 Trench 1 was located in the northeast corner of the field, located approximately 7m from the eastern boundary. It measured 50.4m x 1.8m and was aligned northwest to southeast. It was positioned to target two weak positive linear features highlighted by the geophysical survey.

6.2.2 The topsoil consisted of a mid greyish brown clayey loam with rare pebble inclusions. This varied in depth between 240-280mm and overlaid a light orangey brown silty clay that had rare inclusions of natural flint nodules and pebbles. The subsoil varied in depth between 380-450mm and directly overlaid the natural substratum that was a mix of yellow gravely sand, red sand and yellow sandy clay.

6.2.3 Two linear features [8] and [10] were located and excavated, towards the southeast end of the trench (fig.4). Feature [8] was aligned north-northwest to south-southeast and spanned the width of the trench. It measured 1.9m in width and had a depth of 730mm. The sides of the feature were straight, with an incline of *c.*50° and it had a concave base. It was filled by single deposit (7) that consisted of a light greyish brown clayey silt that contained occasional inclusions of angular stones and flint nodules and rare charcoal flecks. The second linear feature [10] was aligned northwest to southeast and also spanned the width of the trench. It measured 2.4m in width and had a depth of 740mm. The feature had concave sides and base and was also filled by a single deposit (9) that consisted of a mid greyish brown clayey silt that contained occasional pebble inclusions and rare charcoal flecks. Two sherds of early Roman pottery, a residual flint flake and a small quantity of domestic animal bone were also recovered from this context. The water table was reached in both features at a depth of *c.*700m beneath the top of the trench.

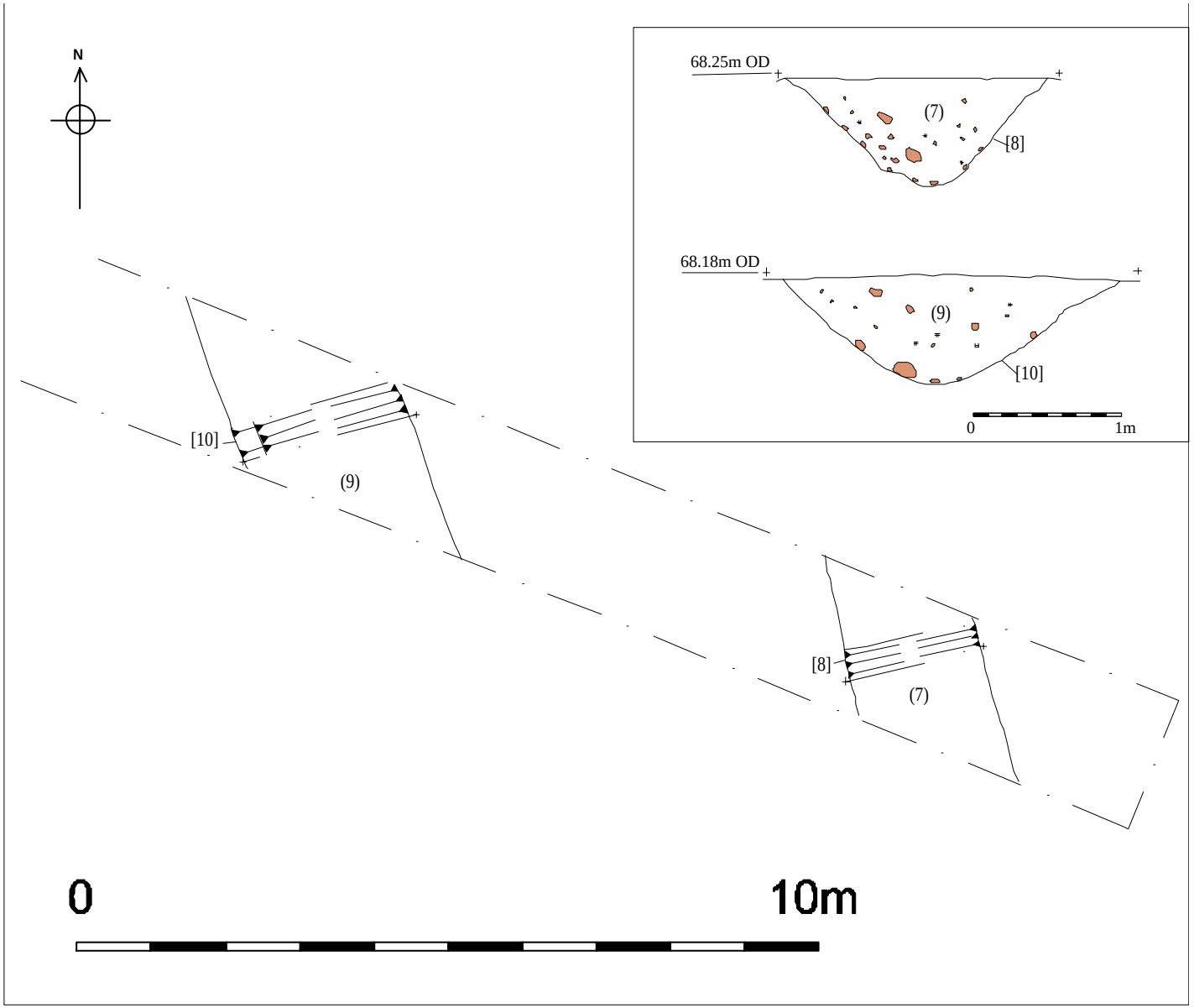

Figure 4: Ditches [8] and [10] at the south end of Trench 1

6.3. Trench 2

6.3.1 Trench 2 was located approximately 50m southwest of Trench 1. It measured 20m x 1.8m and was aligned west-northwest to east-northeast. The topsoil consisted of dark greyish brown clayey loam with rare inclusions of small angular stones and pebbles. It varied in depth between 270-300mm and directly overlaid the natural substratum that consisted of yellowish brown clay.

6.3.2 No archaeological finds or features were located in this trench. The trench was subsequently recorded and backfilled.

6.4 Trench 3

6.4.1 Trench 3 was located parallel to the eastern boundary, approximately 50m to the south of Trench 1. It measured 49.2m x 1.8m and was aligned north south. The topsoil consisted of dark greyish brown clayey loam with occasional pebble inclusions. It varied in depth between 200-340mm and overlaid a dark orangey brown clayey silt subsoil that contained rare inclusions of small sub angular stones and pebbles. The subsoil varied in depth between 360-480mm and directly overlaid the natural substratum that consisted of orangey brown clay.

6.4.2 No archaeological finds or features were located in this trench. The trench was subsequently recorded and backfilled.

6.5 Trench 4 Contexts (1)-[6] and [23]-(25)

6.5.1 Trench 4 was located approximately 40m south of Trench 3. It measured 29.3m x 1.8m and was aligned northeast to southwest. The topsoil consisted of dark brown clayey loam with occasional pebble inclusions. It varied in depth between 200-320mm and overlaid a light orangey brown silty clay subsoil that contained inclusions of rare small angular stones and pebbles. The subsoil varied in depth between 460-600mm and directly overlaid the natural substratum that consisted of mixed bands of grey clay, red sandy clay, orange sandy gravel, grey silty clay, orange silty clay and red sandy gravel.

6.5.2 Two circular features [2] and [4] and a possible linear feature [6] were located and sample excavated towards the centre of the trench (fig.5). Feature [2] measured 680mm in diameter and had a depth of 270mm. Its sides and base were concave and it was filled by a single deposit (1) that consisted of a mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional pebble inclusions and rare charcoal flecks. A second circular feature [4] was located 300mm southwest of feature [2]. It measured 660mm in diameter and had a depth of 480mm, considerably deeper than feature [2]. Its sides were reasonably steep and straight with an incline of *c.* 75° and it had a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit (3) that consisted of a light greyish brown silty clay that contained occasional inclusions of pebbles and charcoal. A possible linear feature [6] was located 10m to the southwest of circular features. It measured 400-750mm in width and had a depth of 150mm. It was orientated north south although it was slightly curvilinear in nature and it had an enlarged terminus at its southern end. The sides of the feature had a gentle slope with an incline of c.30° and had a fairly flat base. It was filled by a single deposit (5) that consisted of a

mid greyish brown silty clay with rare inclusions of pebbles and angular stones. A single broken retouched flint flake was recovered from this fill.

6.5.3 Features [2] and [4] were clearly archaeological although no dating evidence was retrieved from them. Two furrows were observed on a roughly north south alignment. This alignment varies from the northwest to southeast alignment seen all the other trenches but this does correspond with the landscape map obtained from the Leicestershire HER that shows a change in furrow alignment along the eastern boundary of the field. It is unclear whether the shallow linear [6] may represent the base of a third furrow or if the feature is archaeological in origin.

6.5.4 The Senior Planning Archaeologist requested that the trench be expanded to the northwest from the location of the circular features in an attempt to improve the characterisation of the archaeology encountered. An extension of 12m x 2m revealed a curvilinear feature [23] that was truncated to the southwest by a furrow (fig. 5). It measured 720mm in width and had a depth of 670mm. The north side of the feature has a steep straight side with an incline of *c.* 60°. The south side had an incline from the top of 45° that broke to 60° towards the base of the feature which was concave. It was filled by two deposits (24) and (25). Deposit (24) measured 420mm in width and had a depth of 200mm. It consisted of a mid greyish brown silty sandy clay deposit with occasional inclusions of medium sub rounded stones and rare charcoal flecks. Deposit (2) measured 500mm in width and had a depth of 670mm. It consisted of a light greyish brown silty sandy clay with occasional inclusions of large subrounded stones and rare charcoal flecks.

6.5.5 It is conceivable that features [2], [4] and [23] represent part of a currently undated roundhouse structure with an easterly entrance interpreted from the presence of a deep door posthole feature [4] and a terminus of the curvi-linear gully feature [23] at this location. It would be expected that that a southern part of the gully would have also been seen in the trench and its absence may be due to plough truncation having been obscured by furrows.

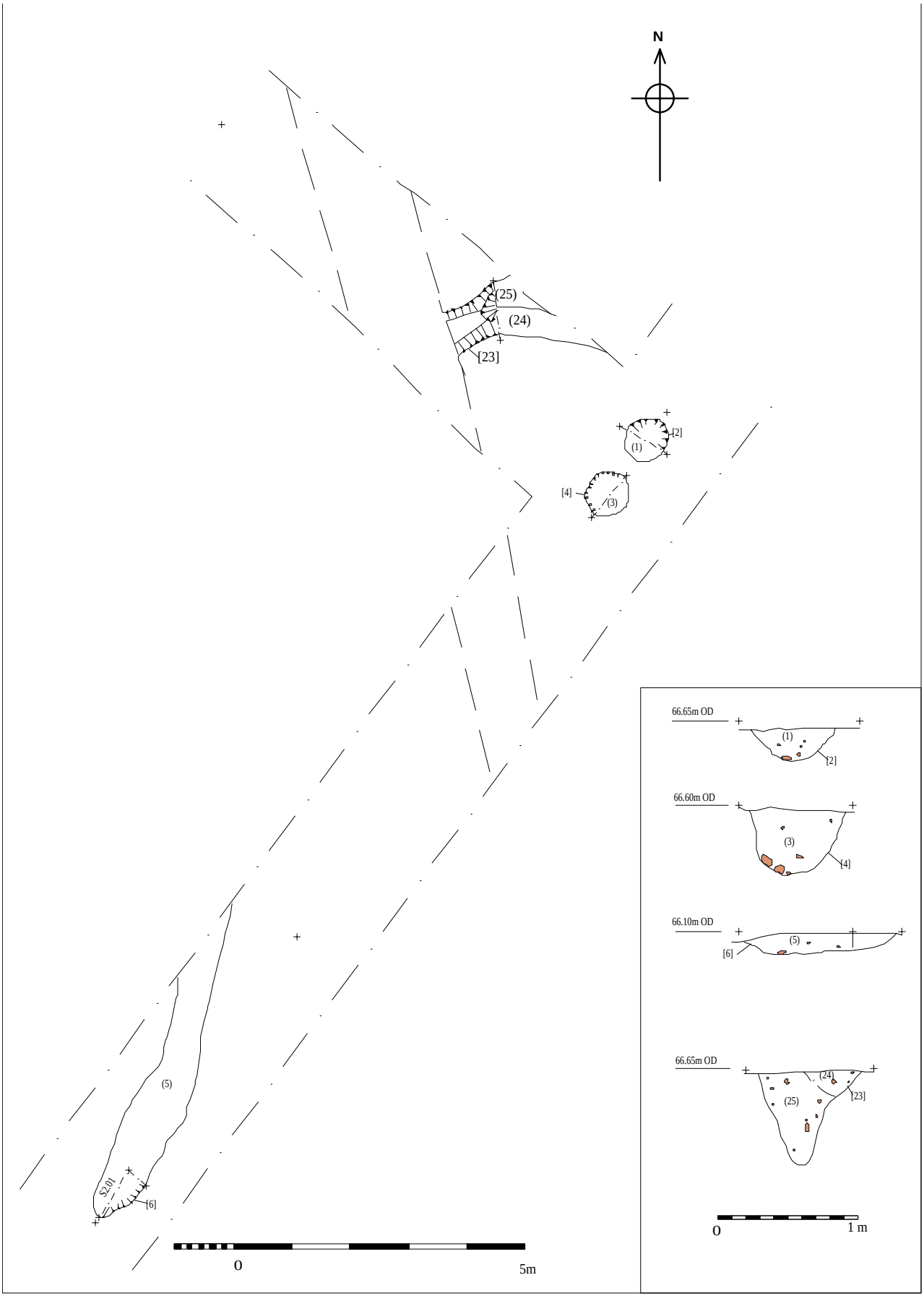

Figure 5: Features towards the centre of Trench 4

6.6 Trench 5

6.6.1 Trench 5 was located approximately 45m southwest of Trench 4. It measured 28.5m x 1.8m and was aligned east west. The topsoil consisted of dark greyish brown clayey loam with rare pebble inclusions. It varied in depth between 240-360mm and overlaid a dark greyish brown silty clay subsoil that also contained rare pebble inclusions. The subsoil varied in depth between 380-580mm and directly overlaid the natural substratum that consisted of orangey brown clay.

6.6.2 No archaeological finds or features were located in this trench. The trench was subsequently recorded and backfilled.

6.7 Trench 6

6.7.1 Trench 6 was located 30m south of Trench 5. It measured 47.5m x 1.8m and was aligned northwest to southeast. The topsoil consisted of dark greyish brown clayey loam with rare pebble inclusions. It varied in depth between 240-460mm and overlaid a mid orangey brown silty clay subsoil that also contained rare pebble inclusions. The subsoil varied in depth between 340-600mm and directly overlaid the natural substratum that consisted of orangey brown clay with gravel spreads.

6.7.2 No archaeological finds or features were located in this trench. A ceramic field drain was noted on a northwest southeast orientation. The trench was recorded and backfilled.

6.8 Trench 7

6.8.1 Trench 7 was located approximately 50m west of Trench 1. It measured 50.5m x 1.8m and was aligned north-northeast to south-southwest. It crossed an area highlighted by the geophysical survey as having extensive agricultural marks.

6.8.2 The topsoil consisted of dark brown clayey loam with rare pebble inclusions. It varied in depth between 200-310mm and overlaid a mid orangey brown silty clay subsoil at the south-southwest end that contained inclusions of rare small sub angular stones. The subsoil varied in depth between 400-500mm and directly overlaid the natural substratum that consisted of yellowish brown clay.

6.8.3 Six parallel linear features were observed cutting the natural substratum. These were approximately the same width, *c.* 1.8 m wide and equally distant, *c.* 6 m from one another and were aligned northwest to southeast. These features represent the filled in furrows of medieval or early post medieval ridge and furrow ploughing as was highlighted by the geophysical survey. No other archaeological finds or features were located in this trench. The trench was subsequently recorded and backfilled.

6.9 Trench 8

6.9.1 Trench 8 was located approximately 40m southwest of Trench 7. It measured 29m x 1.8m and was aligned north south. It crossed as area highlighted by the geophysical survey as having a small number of agricultural marks.

6.9.2 The topsoil consisted of dark greyish brown clayey loam with rare pebble inclusions. It varied in depth between 270-400mm and directly overlaid the natural substratum that consisted of yellowish brown clay.

6.9.3 Three parallel linear features were observed cutting the natural substratum. These were approximately the same width, *c.* 1.8 m wide and equally distant, *c.* 6 m from one another and were aligned northwest to southeast. These represent a continuation of the ridge and furrow field system seen in Trench 7. No other archaeological finds or features were located in this trench. The trench was subsequently recorded and backfilled.

6.10 Trench 9

6.10.1 Trench 9 was located approximately 20m south of Trench 8. It measured 27m x 1.8m and was aligned east-northeast to west-northwest. It crossed as area highlighted by the geophysical survey as having a single agricultural mark.

6.10.2 The topsoil consisted of dark greyish brown clayey loam with rare inclusions of small to medium subrounded stones. It varied in depth between 200-350mm and overlaid a mid brown silty clay subsoil that contained no inclusions. The subsoil varied in depth between 390-520mm and directly overlaid the natural substratum that consisted of yellowish brown clay.

6.10.3 Four parallel linear features were observed cutting the natural substratum. These varied in width between *c.* 1.4-2.9 m wide and equally distant, *c.* 6 m from one another and were aligned northwest to southeast. These represent a continuation of the ridge and furrow field system seen elsewhere. A ceramic field drain was observed in the most west southwest furrow. No other archaeological finds or features were located in this trench. The trench was subsequently recorded and backfilled.

6.11 Trench 10

6.11.1 Trench 10 was located approximately 20m southeast of Trench 8. It measured 49m x 1.8m and was aligned northeast to southwest. It crossed as area highlighted by the geophysical survey as having a single agricultural mark.

6.11.2 The topsoil consisted of dark grey clayey loam with rare pebble inclusions. It varied in depth between 200-330mm and overlaid a mid brown silty clay subsoil that contained rare inclusions of small subrounded stones. The subsoil varied in depth between 470-550mm and directly overlaid the natural substratum that consisted of orangey brown sandy clay.

6.11.3 Two parallel linear features were observed cutting the natural substratum located at 3m and 9m from the northeast end of the trench. These represent a continuation of the ridge and furrow field system seen elsewhere. No other

archaeological finds or features were located in this trench. The trench was subsequently recorded and backfilled.

6.12 Trench 11

6.12.1 Trench 11 was located approximately 10m east of Trench 10. It measured 31.5m x 1.8m and was aligned northeast to southwest. It was targeted to cross a weak positive linear highlighted by the geophysical survey.

6.12.2 The topsoil consisted of dark brown clayey loam with rare pebble inclusions. It varied in depth between 270-450mm and overlaid a dark greyish brown clayey silt subsoil that contained rare pebble inclusions. The subsoil varied in depth between 340-600mm and directly overlaid the natural substratum that consisted of brownish grey clay with chalk flecks and orangey brown sandy clay.

6.12.3 No archaeological finds or features were located in this trench. It is possible the geophysics in this area may relate to a field boundary observed on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map that is shown to project across the field near this location. The trench was recorded and backfilled.

6.13 Trench 12

6.13.1 Trench 12 was located 30m to the east of Trench 11. It measured 47m x 1.8m and was aligned northeast to southwest. It was targeted to cross a weak positive curvilinear feature highlighted by the geophysical survey.

6.13.2 The topsoil consisted of dark greyish brown clayey loam with rare pebble inclusions. It varied in depth between 200-380mm and overlaid a dark brown silty clay subsoil that contained rare pebble inclusions. The subsoil varied in depth between 400-700mm and directly overlaid the natural substratum that consisted of brownish grey clay with chalk flecks and orangey brown clay.

6.13.3 No archaeological finds or features were located in this trench. The water table was observed at 900mm at the southwest end of the trench. The trench was subsequently recorded and backfilled.

6.14 Trench 13

6.14.1 Trench 13 was located 20m south of Trench 12. It measured 50m x 1.8m and was aligned southwest to northeast. It was targeted to cross a possible pit anomaly highlighted by the geophysics. The topsoil consisted of dark greyish brown clayey loam with rare inclusions of small subrounded stones. It varied in depth between 180-340mm and overlaid a dark brown silty clay subsoil that contained rare inclusions of small subrounded stones and pebbles. The subsoil varied in depth between 460-520mm and directly overlaid the natural substratum that consisted of dark brown clay and gravel and dark greyish brown clay with chalk flecks.

6.14.2 Vegetation disturbance of the natural substratum in a linear form was observed 20m from the northeast end of the trench that may suggest a northeast to southwest-aligned hedge boundary but there is no cartographic evidence of a

boundary in this location. The alignment of the disturbance also could suggest it is the base of a furrow.

6.15 Trench 14

6.15.1 Trench 14 was located approximately 40m northwest of Trench 13. It measured 30m x 1.8m and was aligned north-northeast south-southwest. The topsoil consisted of dark greyish brown clayey loam with rare pebble inclusions. It varied in depth between 270-300mm and overlaid a dark brown silty clay subsoil that contained no inclusions. The subsoil varied in depth between 380-500mm and directly overlaid the natural substratum that consisted of yellowish brown clay.

6.15.2 No archaeological finds or features were located in this trench. The trench was subsequently recorded and backfilled.

6.16 Trench 15

6.16.1 Trench 15 was located 100m west of Trench 14. It measured 30m x 1.8m and was aligned northwest to southeast. The topsoil consisted of dark greyish brown clayey loam with rare pebble inclusions that were more occasional towards the northwest end. It varied in depth between 240-350mm and overlaid a mid brown silty sandy clay subsoil that contained occasional inclusions of small subrounded stones and pebbles. The subsoil varied in depth between 350-530mm and directly overlaid the natural substratum that consisted of greyish brown clay.

6.16.2 A well constructed stone drain built out of local Enderby granite was observed at the northwest end of the trench that measured 0.42m wide. The drain was northeast to southwest aligned and ran parallel with the field boundary that marks the fossilised route of the Fosse Way. A ceramic field drain was observed at the southeast end of the trench that was aligned southeast to northwest. No archaeological finds or features were located in this trench. The trench was subsequently recorded and backfilled.

6.17 Trench 16

6.17.1 Trench 16 was located approximately 25m northeast of Trench 15. It measured 50m x 1.8m and was aligned north south. It crossed as area highlighted by the geophysical survey as having extensive agricultural marks and was also targeted to pick up a possible pit anomaly.

6.17.2 The topsoil consisted of dark greyish brown clayey loam with rare pebble inclusions that were more occasional towards the northwest end. It varied in depth between 240-390mm and overlaid a mid brown silty sandy clay subsoil that contained occasional inclusions of small subrounded stones. The subsoil varied in depth between 330-600mm and directly overlaid the natural substratum that consisted of brown clay and reddish brown sandy clay.

6.17.3 Three parallel linear features were observed cutting the natural substratum. These were located at 14m, 24m and 31m from the southern end of the trench

and were aligned northwest to southeast. These represent a continuation of the ridge and furrow field system seen elsewhere. No other archaeological finds or features were located in this trench. The trench was subsequently recorded and backfilled.

6.18 Trench 17

6.18.1 Trench 17 was located approximately 50m northwest of Trench 7. It was moved from the original position set out by the specification to avoid overhead power lines. The trench was also shortened to 22m x 1.8m and was aligned northwest to southeast.

6.18.2 The topsoil consisted of dark greyish brown clayey loam with rare inclusions of small angular stones. It varied in depth between 200-300mm and overlaid a dark orangey brown clayey subsoil that contained no inclusions. The subsoil varied in depth between 310-600mm and directly overlaid the natural substratum that consisted of brownish grey clay.

6.18.3 No archaeological finds or features were located in this trench. The trench was subsequently recorded and backfilled.

6.19 Trench 18 (see fig.6)

6.19.1 Trench 18 was located approximately 50m north of Trench 16. It was moved from the original position set out by the specification to avoid overhead power lines. The trench was also shortened to 21m x 1.8m and was aligned northwest to southeast. It was targeted to cross two faint positive linear anomalies that were associated with an area that produced a negative response by the geophysical survey. It was conceivable that that these responses may have been caused by the remains of Fosse Way Roman road that has been projected through this area.

6.19.2 The topsoil consisted of a dark greyish brown clayey loam with abundant pebbles. It was noted that the topsoil along the projected line of the Fosse Way did contain a vastly greater concentration of pebbles than the surrounding area. Two distinct subsoil's were observed in this trench. Subsoil (11) was present up to 4.6m from the southeast end of the trench. It varied in depth between 260-440mm and consisted of a reddish brown sandy silty clay with occasional inclusions of large pebbles. Beyond this the subsoil changed to a mid greyish brown silty clay deposit (12) that contained occasional pebble inclusions. This deposit varied in depth between 180-38mm.

6.19.3 A consistent layer of sand and gravel was encountered below subsoil (11) at the southeast end of the trench aligned northeast to southwest. This has been interpreted as a make-up layer for the road, which spanned the width of the trench and had a depth of 220mm. This surviving stretch of road gravel measured 4.6m in length, extending beyond the southeast end of the trench. A slot was excavated into the gravel and it was found to comprise of two layers. The lower layer (22) consisted of compacted mid greyish brown silty sandy clay mixed with frequent pebbles that measured between 60-300mm in size. The spread varied in thickness between 100-200mm. The upper layer (16) consisted of mid orange silty sand and gravel with pebble sizes varying

between 20-80mm. It varied in thickness between 140-240mm and was best preserved towards the centre where the material was slightly metalled on the surface.

Plate 1 View of Trench 18 showing the remains of the Fosse Way *agger*

6.19.4 A stone capped drain [13] that was cut from the topsoil cut the road make-ups on the northwest side. This feature measured 1.0m in width, spanned the width of the trench and had a depth of 480mm. The drain was made out of local Enderby granite, it was clearly redundant and badly plough damaged. Beyond the drain natural clay was encountered which suggests the drain marks the edge of the road and further indication of this is the clear change in subsoil at

this point. A drain was seen in a similar location during constructions at Grove Farm industrial park and its presence at this location may not be coincidence. It is plausible that a depression in the ground left from a silted roadside ditch could have been utilised during the construction of the drain.

6.19.5 A possible linear [17] was located and excavated 800mm beyond the drain. It was aligned northeast to southwest and spanned the width of the trench. It measured 1.5m in width and had a depth of 320mm. The sides of the feature were straight with an incline of c.45° and it had a flat base. It was filled by a mid orangey brown sandy clay deposit with rare inclusions of angular stones. Again this feature could be interpreted as a roadside ditch but interpretations can only be tentative on the basis of one trench.

6.19.6 A gravel spread (21) was observed 1.8m beyond feature [17]. It measured 3.6m in length but was not seen consistently across the whole area in plan although traces of it could be seen elsewhere in section. A slot was excavated through the spread that was found to vary in thickness between 20-120mm It consisted of greyish brown silty sandy clay with pebbles and angular chips measuring 10-60mm in size pressed directly into the clay natural. Again it is difficult to interpret such a layer from one trench but it is possible the remains may represent a precursor to the more substantial road built adjacent although no evidence of ditches were found to the northeast of this area. The wet clay natural in this area would not have produced material suitable for the road *agger* which meant that material would have been brought in during its construction (probably still quite locally). Perhaps this surface was laid down as part of the construction process in order to cart the sand and gravel to the site. This is quite plausible if the boggy conditions of the field today are a representation of what the land was like in early Roman times. A brooch was recovered 880mm southeast of the area of gravel spread (21). This very simple brooch manufactured from a single length of wire with a narrow, decorated bow belongs to the La Tene III tradition of single-piece brooches (Nauheim / Nauheim derivative). It is argued that this example is pre-Conquest, possibly dating as early as the late first Century BC (N. Cooper pers. comm.). It is possible that the brooch relates to gravel layer (21) but unfortunately this cannot be proved stratigraphically.

Figure 5: The Fosse way remains at the southeast end of Trench 18

7. Discussion

7.1 The trial trenching at the proposed park and ride site at Leicester Lane, Enderby has shown that archaeological deposits are located within the application area although only a small number of the anomalies highlighted by the geophysics did produce any positive results. The only stratified pottery that was retrieved during the evaluation came from a linear feature [10] in Trench 1. This material consisted of an abraded sherd from a samian platter dish dating between the mid/late first century AD and a jar base from a greyware vessel dating between the late first/early second century AD. However it is difficult to characterise the archaeology here based on these finds alone. The projected line of the Fosse Way Roman road passes c. 200m to the west, but no other Roman activity has been observed in the vicinity. The Trench was located in close proximity to an Iron Age farmstead discovered at Grove Farm. Here a 'D' shaped enclosure (500m to the north) and a smaller sub-rectangular enclosure (300m northwest) were excavated, both of which were found to contain a number of roundhouses dating to the middle to late Iron Age (Clay 1992; Meek *et al.* 2004). Both these enclosure ditches contained small quantities of Romano-British pottery dating from the mid first to second century in their backfills. It is therefore conceivable that the features found in Trench 1 may represent a continuation of activities relating Iron Age to the farmstead spreading onto the lower ground.

7.2 Further undated activity was located along the eastern boundary of the site in Trench 4. Two postholes and a curvi-linear gully were observed in close proximity to each other. The arrangement of these features may indicate the remains of an undated roundhouse structure with an eastern entrance although this could only be confirmed by further work.

7.3 Trench 18 was located partially outside the development area in order to bisect the proposed line of the Fosse Way. The Fosse Way was the Roman road that linked Exeter (*Isca Dumnoniorum*) in South West England, to Lincoln (*Lindum*) in the East Midlands, via Bath (*Aquae Sulis*), Cirencester (*Corinium*) and Leicester (*Ratae Coritanorum*). The accepted construction method for Roman road involves the building of embankment or *agger*, often using material from the roadside ditches, on top of which large blocks of stones or gravel layer would be laid to form a foundation. This would have supported a surface consisting of gravel above. There would have also been a camber that would have helped with the drainage. (Bagshawe 1979:15). However there is variation in construction methods as Davies clearly argues (Davies 2004: 55).

7.4 The *agger* for the Fosse Way was partially exposed at the southeast end of the trench 18. There was no evidence that the natural clay had been used to build an *agger*. Two distinct layers were observed; the lower layer consisted of large stones forming its foundation. known as 'hard bottoming'. Davies suggests that this is the case for only 26% of the Roman roads in Britain and that the likelihood that larger stones will be found in the foundation layer increases towards the north of Britain. It has been argued that 'hard bottoming' was favoured by military road builders (Davies. 2002:58). This is interesting when considering the Fosse Way in its context. The word 'Fosse' is derived from the Latin *Fossa* meaning 'ditch'. For the first few decades after the Roman

invasion of Britain in AD 43, the Fosse Way marked the western frontier of Roman rule in Britain. It is possible therefore that the road began as a defensive ditch that was later filled in and converted into a road. Or possibly a defensive ditch ran alongside the road for at least some of its length. The upper layer consisted of a silty sand and gravel with a maximum size of 80mm. It is unlikely that this is part of a 'soft' surface layer and is more likely to be a middle foundation layer because cobbled sections of the road have been observed further north at Grove Farm. It is likely the uppermost layers of the road in this area have been subject to considerable truncation though plough action. A possible roadside ditch was observed to the northwest of the road but again this has suffered considerable plough damage. A gravel surface was also observed to the northwest of the trench. Land was often levelled beyond the *agger* during the construction of the road; it is possible gravel was laid down in order to aid the transportation of materials for the road across difficult terrain due to the unsuitability of the natural clay. A rare brooch was recovered in close proximity to this layer that may date as early as the late first Century BC.

7.5 Medieval and early post-medieval activities were observed during the course of the evaluation. Ridge and furrow was observed a number of trenches. The majority of this was aligned northwest to southeast although Trench 3 suggested a north-south orientation that indicates two separate field systems were in existence, the landscape map compiled by the Leicestershire HER shows a change in orientation close to the eastern boundary of the site which complements this evidence. Also a small quantity of unstratified medieval and early post-medieval pottery was observed across the field and probably relates to muckspreading activities. The pottery included a fragment of a chicken feeder dating between the sixteen-seventeenth centuries. A wide, shallow, straight-sided dish with wheel thrown concentric divisions internally. Their function remains uncertain, although as their name implies they may have been designed to hold feed or water for domestic fowl. This is an interesting find as medieval examples of these forms are rare, and this may be an early example of a form that remained uncommon even in the post medieval period (Sawday pers. comm.).

7.6 The evaluation has only demonstrated archaeological remains in a few areas of the proposed park and ride area, the majority of the archaeology is focussed along the eastern boundary of the site and that these deposits exist from a depth of 300mm below present ground surface. Although no plans for the proposed park and ride scheme have been provided by the client, it is likely that the construction work will have an impact on archaeological deposits that are present, and even removal of topsoil may have an impact. Also the construction of drainage systems and a balancing pond will cause significant damage to any archaeological deposits where present.

7.7 The remains of the Fosse Way were found at the southeast end of Trench 18, which was located outside the western boundary of the site. The full extent of the road could not be confirmed because of an overhead power line that restricted the location of the trench. It is possible that these remains may continue into the development area and therefore the potential impact of the development on these remains also needs to be considered.

8. Archive

8.1 The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council (Accession No.X.A.6.2006). It consists of trench record sheets, site records, plans and digital photographs.

8.2 A brief summary of this report will published in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course.

9. Acknowledgements

9.1 The fieldwork was carried out by the author with assistance of Dave Parker. Elizabeth Johnson and Deborah Sawday identified the pottery, Nicholas Cooper examined the small finds and Lynden Cooper examined the flint. James Meek managed the project.

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Appendix 1: Trench Summaries

Trench	Length (m)	Average Depth (m OD)*	Natural	Minimum depth to Substratum (m)	Maximum depth to Substratum (m)	Minimum depth to archaeology (m)	Notes
1	50.4	68.09	Yellow gravely sand/ yellow sandy clay	0.33	0.43	0.38	Linear features [8] and [10]
2	28	67.55	Yellowish brown clay	0.22	0.30	N/A	Negative
3	49.2	67.85	Orangey brown clay	0.29	0.50	N/A	Negative
4	41.3	66.37	Grey clay/red sand/orange sandy gravel/ yellow clayey gravel etc.	0.46	0.60	0.50	Postholes [2] and [4] Linear features [6] and [23]
5	28.5	65.66	Orangey brown clay	0.28	0.34	N/A	Negative
6	47.5	65.45	Orangey brown clay and gravel	0.34	0.60	N/A	Field drain
7	50.5	67.05	Yellowish brown clay	0.26	0.50	N/A	Furrows
8	29	66.19	Yellowish brown clay	0.24	0.40	N/A	Furrows
9	27	66.22	Yellowish brown clay	0.28	0.52	N/A	Furrows
10	49	66.32	Greyish brown clay/ orangey brown sandy clay	0.27	0.55	N/A	Furrows
11	31.5	66.22	Brownish grey clay with chalk flecks/ orangey brown clay	0.34	0.60	N/A	Negative
12	47	66.33	Brownish grey clay with chalk flecks/ orangey brown clay	0.35	0.66	N/A	Negative
13	50	66.24	Dark brown clay and gravel/greyish brown clay with chalk flecks	0.36	0.56	N/A	Hedge boundary?
14	30	66.42	Yellowish brown clay	0.38	0.50	N/A	Negative
15	30	66.68	Greyish brown clay	0.35	0.53	N/A	Stone drain/field drain
16	50	66.53	Brown clay/reddish brown sandy clay	0.33m	0.60m	N/A	Furrows a and hedge boundary?
17	22	65.81	Greyish brown clay	0.31	0.60	N/A	Negative
18	21	66.25	Grey clay/clayey sand and gravel	0.33	0.98	0.30	Contexts (11)-(22) relating to Fosse Way

Appendix 2: Context summaries

Enderby Park and Ride. Evaluation. X.A.6.2006				
Context	Cut	Below	Area	Description
1	2		T4	Fill of posthole
2		1	T4	Cut of posthole
3	4		T4	Fill of posthole
4		3	T4	Cut of posthole
5	6		T4	Fill of gully
6		5	T4	Cut of gully
7	8		T1	Fill of ditch
8		7	T1	Cut of ditch
9	10		T1	Fill of ditch
10		9	T1	Cut of ditch
11		15	T18	Subsoil over road
12		15	T18	Subsoil beyond drain
13		14	T18	Cut of drain
14		15	T18	Drain structure
15			T18	Fill of drain
16		11	T18	Road *agger*
17		18	T18	Cut of ditch?
18	17	12	T18	Fill of ditch?
19				Void
20				Void
21		12	T18	Gravel Layer
22		16	T18	Lower road 'bottoming' *agger*
23		25	T4	Cut of curvi-linear gully
24	23		T4	Fill of curvi-linear gully
25	23	24	T4	Fill of curvi-linear gully

Appendix 3: The Pottery

E. Johnson & D. Sawday

Romano-British Pottery from Evaluation at Aylestone Park, Enderby, Leicestershire.

Elizabeth Johnson, University of Leicester Archaeological Services

Two sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered as detailed below:

Context	Fabric	Form	Sherds	Weight (g)	TPQ
9	Samian	Platter	1	2	Mid/late 1stC
9	Grey ware	Jar base	1	38	Late 1st/early 2ndC

The Samian is a South Gaulish Drag.15/17 platter dating to the mid/late 1st century (Webster 1996: 30). The grey ware fabric is sandy and is likely to be a "transitional" fabric dating from the late 1st century to the very early 2nd century (Pollard 1986: 5; 1994: 114). Both sherds are very abraded.

A note on the post Roman pottery from an evaluation at Enderby, Leicestershire.

D. Sawday

The pottery, four sherds, weighing one hundred and seventy eight grams, was all from unstratified contexts, and included a fragment of twelfth or thirteenth century Potters Marston and a late medieval cistern rim and base in Midland Purple ware. Also present was part of a chicken feeder, a wide, shallow, straight-sided dish with wheel thrown concentric divisions internally. Their function remains uncertain, although as their name implies they may have been designed to hold feed or water for domestic fowl. The vessel is in an early post medieval earthenware, an oxidised version of fabric EA1, probably dating from the sixteenth or seventeenth centuries. This is an interesting find as medieval examples of these forms are rare, and this may be an early example of a form that remained uncommon even in the post medieval period.

The pottery fabrics were identified with reference to the ULAS fabric series, (Davies and Sawday 1999), and the vessel forms with reference to the Medieval Pottery Research Group, (MPRG 1998).

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Appendix 4: The Small Find

Nicholas J. Cooper

Report on Late Iron Age or Early Roman Brooch

Small Find 1, (21?) Fosse Way or surface adjacent?

Near complete one-piece copper alloy bow brooch, part of pierced catch-plate missing. A very narrow bow of flattened rectangular section and of similar width to the pin, gradually expands to the 'knee' of the bow where there is small moulding defined by two transverse ridges. The upper part of the bow, which is decorated with a shallow, wavy, longitudinal incision, continues to expand before tapering into a two coil spring with a superior (front facing, external) chord from under which the pin emerges and extends rearwards. Length 53mm, max. width of bow 4mm.

This very simple brooch manufactured from a single length of wire with a narrow, decorated bow belongs to the pre-Roman tradition of La Tene III single-piece brooches (Nauheim / Nauheim derivative). This example is derived from, or is a variant of the Continental type, the Nauheim, distinguished by the decorated upper bow and is very widespread in Britain at the time of the Conquest. However, although the derivative type continues in use into the latter decades of the First century AD, it is possible that this example dates to before the Conquest. A similar example came from excavations at West Bridge, Leicester (Mackreth and Butcher 1994, 141, fig.73.10) but it was not clear if that example had a solid or pierced catch-plate. The presence of a pierced catch-plate as indicated in the present example may suggest it to be a variety of Nauheim, and thus potentially of mid first century BC or later date. The presence of the moulding across the middle of the bow is the most common feature of the La Tene III brooches, although of the 71 examples covered by Olivier's study there is much variation including the example from Puckeridge-Braughing (Olivier 1988, 35, fig.17.1). The most recent discussion (Bayley and Butcher 2004, 145-148, fig. 107.T9), draws in evidence form sites such as Baldock in Herts., where even if the brooch were classified as a Nauheim derivative then the flattened bows, as here, would suggest a pre-Flavian date. A number of pin fragments from Baldock including two-coil examples with an external chord are considered to be the earliest on the site (Stead 1986, 109, nos. 3-12 and fig. 40.3) and stratigraphic analysis showed them to be from pre-Claudian and late first century BC contexts. This evidence would appear to support a pre-Conquest date for our present example, possibly as early as the late first Century BC.

Plate 2 View showing the front of the copper alloy brooch

Plate 3 View showing a side of the copper alloy brooch

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Appendix 5: The Flint

A small quantity of flint was recovered during the course of the evaluation. The two flakes found in stratigraphic deposits are broken likely to be residual in their context. Of note are the unstratified finds of a Palaeolithic retouched flake with dendritic patina and a Mesolithic bladlet (L. Cooper pers. comm.).

Catalogue

Trench	Context number	Flint
1	9	Flake
4	4	Retouched Flake
U/S	U/S	Mesolithic bladelet
U/S	U/S	Palaeolithic retouched flake

Appendix 6: Design Specification

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching

Proposed Aylestone Park and Ride Scheme Site 35,

Leicester Lane, Enderby, Leicestershire

NGR*: SP 5511 9958 (centre)*

Client: *Leicestershire County Council*

Planning Authority: *Blaby District Council*

1 Introduction

1.1 ***Definition and scope of the specification***

This document is a design specification for a phase of intrusive archaeological field evaluation (AFE) at the above site, in accordance with DOE Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning, para.30). The fieldwork specified below is intended to provide preliminary indications of 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.

1.2 The definition of archaeological field evaluation, taken from the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standards and Guidance: for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IFA S&G: AFE) is a limited programme of non-intrusive and/ or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

1.3 The document provides details of the work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client, and should be submitted to the Archaeological Advisor to the Planning Authority for approval before archaeological investigation by ULAS is implemented. The scheme includes the following:

- Evaluation by intrusive trial trenching

2. Background

2.1 ***Context of the Project***

2.1.1 Leicestershire County Council is proposing to construct a Park and Ride car park on the outskirts of the City of Leicester. The proposed site of the park and ride is located to the north-west of the village of Enderby, to the south of Leicester Lane and west of St. John's Road (centred on SP 5511 9958; figs. 1 and 2). It consists of an area of *c.* 6.4 ha. The Leicestershire Sites and Monuments Record indicates that the proposed site is close to areas where archaeological sites are known and is therefore recognised as having significant archaeological potential.

2.1.2 The area lies at a height of approximately 65.7 – 68.7m O.D.

2.1.3 Initial advice from Heritage and Natural Environment Team of Leicestershire County Council (HNET LCC) requested an archaeological evaluation of the site area by initial geophysical survey, followed up by trial trench evaluation of the site area. The evaluation has been

commissioned from University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS), with the geophysical survey undertaken by Stratascan Limited on behalf of ULAS.

2.1.4 The initial stage of geophysical survey of the area has been completed by Stratascan Limited. The report for this survey is still in progress, but preliminary results have been forwarded to ULAS. The survey has shown a number of features scattered across the site area that are potentially of archaeological origin. A basic interpretation of the features suggests pits and gullies / ditches of uncertain date. Likely agricultural marks and land drains were also recorded.

2.2 ***Geological and Topographical Background***

2.2.1 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 157 indicates that the underlying geology consists of clay and possibly boulder clay. The proposed development area is fairly flat, with a natural dip in the centre of the area on a northwest-southeast orientation.

2.3 ***Archaeological and Historical Background*** (from the Brief prepared by the Senior Planning Archaeologist of Leicestershire County Council)

2.3.1 The proposed park and ride development lies in an area of significant archaeological potential, although the site has not been the subject of systematic archaeological investigation. A number of archaeological monuments and findspots are known from the surrounding area and reflect the wider potential of the development. The proposals are likely to include works that will detrimentally impact upon any buried archaeological remains. It is therefore recommended that a programme of archaeological evaluation is undertaken in advance of the submission of any planning application, to allow proper consideration of the archaeological issues and the preparation of an appropriate mitigation strategy.

2.3.2 Assessment of the Leicestershire & Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) reveals a number of known archaeological sites on or in the immediate vicinity of the proposed park and ride site. These comprise the findspots of a Romano-British brooch (HER ref.: MLE7688) and an Anglo-Saxon die stamp (MLE6086), both found within the development area. In addition, the western edge of Site 35 is located on the line of a former field boundary that reflects the alignment of the Roman 'Fosse Way', a major arterial road connecting Leicester with Lincoln to the north-east and Cirencester and Exeter to the south-west (MLE1380).

2.3.3 The wider area, within 500m of the proposed development site, includes an extensive range of recorded archaeological sites, two of which have seen extensive excavation. These can be subdivided by broad period as follows:

Palaeolithic (500,000-10,000BC):

- MLE6041 Summary description: Flint hand-axe found to the south of Ratby Meadow Lane. NGR: SP5599.

Neolithic to Early Bronze Age (4000-1500 BC):

- MLE89 Neolithic flint scatter located to the north of Aldeby Close. SP552990.
- MLE7378 Neolithic & Early Bronze Age artefact scatter, west of the M1 and north of Leicester Lane. SK545000.

Late Bronze Age to Iron Age (1500BC-AD43):

- MLE79 Excavated Iron Age settlement site, north of Penman Way. SK550002.
- MLE99 Iron Age pottery scatter, north of Johnson's Spinney. SP546994.
- MLE112-113 Excavated Iron Age enclosure and settlement site, north of Leicester Lane. SP549999.
- MLE6259 Late Bronze Age pottery scatter west of the M1 and north of Leicester Lane. SP545999.

Romano-British period (AD43-410):

- MLE88 Pottery scatter suggesting an occupation site, located to the north of Aldeby Close. SP552990.
- MLE101 Probable pottery kiln, north of Johnson's Spinney. SP546994
- MLE7684 Artefact scatter, south of Penman Way. SK552000.
- MLE7686 Roman coins found in scatter, south of Penman Way. SK551001.
- MLE7687 Pottery reported from St John's, Aldeby. SP553990.
- MLE7689 Coin of Vespasian from south of Johnson's Spinney. SP546991.

Anglo-Saxon & Medieval periods (AD410-1485):

- MLE91 Deserted medieval village of Aldeby, east of St John's/Narborough Road South. SP553991.
- MLE114 An Anglo-Saxon cremation cemetery north of Leicester Lane. SP549999.
- MLE6087 Late Anglo-Saxon artefact (strap end), north of Johnson's Spinney. SP546994
- MLE6620 Possible copper alloy dagger pommel, found south of Penman Way. SK552000
- MLE6622 Coins found in a scatter along with a copper alloy buckle loop, south of Penman Way. SK551001
- MLE6623 The scheduled remains of St John's Church, Aldeby (SM196), north of Aldeby Close. SP553991.
- MLE6624 Scatter of medieval pottery and artefacts suggesting the presence of the occupation site, found north of Johnson's Spinney. SP547993.

Undated:

- MLE90 Metal working site located to the north of Aldeby Close. SP552990.
- MLE98 Probably earthwork remains of a quarry, north of Blaby Road.
- MLE9371 Bronze figurine found south of Johnson's Spinney. SP546991.

2.3.5 The geophysical survey that has recently been undertaken by Stratascan Limited has revealed a few potential archaeological features scattered across the application area. The preliminary results suggest that agricultural marks aligned north-west to south-east cross the majority of the site area, although whether these represent earlier remains of ridge and furrow or later deep plough marks is unclear. Scattered smaller anomalies potentially representing pits and linear features (ditches gullies) are also indicated. Material possibly deposited during the construction of St. John's Road to the east and the junction with Leicester Lane to the north is apparent adjacent to the road lines. A number of possible land drains have also been indicated across the area.

2.3.5 The possible alignment of the Fosse Way has been indicated by the survey on the north-western edge of the site area, projecting roughly north-east from the field boundary to the south. These anomalies lie

2.3.6 The route of a gas main crosses through the western part of the site area, the route of which is clearly evident on the geophysical survey results.

2.3.7 The preliminary results of the geophysical survey have demonstrated the existence of a number of potential anomalies of archaeological origin, although there would appear to be no specific concentrations.

3. Archaeological Objectives

3.1 The main objectives of the evaluation will be:

- To confirm or otherwise the archaeological origin of the features identified from the geophysical survey.
- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits in areas where the survey did not reveal possible archaeological anomalies.
- To provide information on the extent, character and date of archaeological deposits within the application area.
- The potential impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains, whether known or postulated, will be assessed.
- The archaeological evaluation, once the above information has been gathered, will serve to determine a decision being made on planning permission regarding archaeological issues. Potentially further stages of archaeological investigation will be required as a condition of planning permission.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

3.2 Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation is to establish the nature, extent and significance of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from proposed development.

3.3 Archaeological evaluation is an intrusive form of archaeological evaluation. The scheme of the trenching will serve to target areas shown to contain potential archaeological features from the geophysical survey and assess the areas where no anomalies were revealed.

4. Methodology

4.1 *General Methodology and Standards*

4.1.1 All work will follow the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (1999).

4.1.2 Staffing, recording systems, health and safety provisions and insurance details are included below.

4.1.3 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site by the project manager. These will ensure that project targets are met and professional standards are maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with the Planning authority and the Client, if required.

4.2 *Trial Trenching Methodology*

4.2.1 Prior to any machining of trial trenches general photographs of the site areas may be taken.

4.2.2 No trial trenches will be located within 20m of the centre line of the High Pressure Gas Main that crosses the site.

4.2.3 Topsoil and overburden will be removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision by JCB 3C or equivalent using a toothless ditching bucket. Trenches will be excavated to a width of 1.6m and down to the top of archaeological deposits or natural undisturbed ground, whichever is reached first.

4.2.4 The original brief and design specification suggested a 2% sample of the proposed development area would need to be trial trenched. For the *c.*6.3ha area (removing the area of the high pressure gas main), this equated to the equivalent of *c.*788m length of 1.6m width trenches. The provisional trench plan attached (figure 3) indicates 8 trenches of 50m length (400m) and 10 trenches of 30m length (300m). This leaves *c.*88m length of trench as a contingency to be located if necessary to confirm character and extent of any surviving archaeological features. The size and position of the trenches indicated on the provisional trench plan may vary.

4.2.5 Trenches will be examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located will be planned at an appropriate scale. Archaeological deposits will be sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence. All plans will be tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Relative spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

4.2.6 Sections of any excavated archaeological features will be drawn at an appropriate scale. At least one longitudinal face of each trench will be recorded. All sections will be levelled and tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum, or a permanent fixed benchmark.

4.2.7 Trench locations will be recorded using an electronic distance measurer. These will then be tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

4.2.8 Any human remains will initially be left *in situ* and will only be removed if necessary for their protection, under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations.

5. Finds

5.1 The IFA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to.

5.2 All antiquities, valuables, objects or remains of archaeological interest, other than articles declared by Coroner's Inquest to be subject to the Treasure Act, discovered in or under the Site during the carrying out of the project by ULAS or during works carried out on the Site by the Client shall be deemed to be the property of ULAS provided that ULAS after due examination of the said Archaeological Discoveries shall transfer ownership of all Archaeological Discoveries unconditionally to LCC for storage in perpetuity.

5.3 An Accession number will be obtained from the Assistant Keeper of Archaeological Archives at Leicestershire County Council that will be used to identify all records and finds from the site, prior to the commencement of any on-site works.

5.4 All identified finds and artefacts are to be retained, although certain classes of building material will, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording with the approval of the Senior Planning Archaeologist. The IFA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to.

5.5 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner. Where appropriate they will be cleaned, marked and receive remedial conservation in accordance with recognised best-practice. This will include the site code number, finds number and context number. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self sealing plastic bags, again marked with site code, finds and context numbers and boxed by material in standard storage boxes (340mm x 270mm x 195mm). All materials will be fully labelled, catalogued and stored in appropriate containers.

6. Report and Archive

6.1 The full report in A4 format will usually follow within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and copies will be dispatched to the Senior Planning Archaeologist/SMR (5 copies) to be distributed amongst relevant sections of Leicestershire County Council as necessary.

6.2 The report will include consideration of:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
- The nature, location and extent of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
- The anticipated degree of survival of archaeological deposits.
- The anticipated archaeological impact of the current proposals.
- Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
- Summary.
- The location and size of the archive.
- A quantitative and qualitative assessment of the potential of the archive for further analysis leading to full publication, following guidelines laid down in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage).

6.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in *The Guidelines For The Preparation Of Excavation Archives For Long-Term Storage* (UKIC 1990), and *Standards In The Museum: Care Of*

Archaeological Collections (MGC 1992) and *Guidelines for the Preparation of Site Archives and Assessments for all Finds* (other than fired clay objects) (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993) will usually be presented to within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

7 Publication and Dissemination of Results

7.1 A summary of the work will be submitted to the local archaeological journal, the Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society. A larger report will be submitted for inclusion if the results of the evaluation warrant it.

7.2 University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS form at http://ads.ac.uk/project/oasis will be completed detailing the results of the project. ULAS will contact Leicestershire County Council's SMR prior to completion of the form. Once a report has become a public document following its incorporation into Leicestershire SMR it may be places on the web-site. The Developer should agree to this procedure in writing as part of the process of submitting the report to Leicestershire SMR.'

8. Acknowledgement and Publicity

8.1 ULAS shall acknowledge the contribution of the Client in any displays, broadcasts or publications relating to the site or in which the report may be included.

8.2 ULAS and the Client shall each ensure that a senior employee shall be responsible for dealing with any enquiries received from press, television and any other broadcasting media and members of the public. All enquiries made to ULAS shall be directed to the Client for comment.

9. Copyright

9.1 The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

10. Timetable

10.1 The archaeological evaluation is scheduled to start in January 2006 and will last approximately 2 weeks.

10.2 The on-site director/supervisor will carry out the post-excavation work, with time allocated within the costing of the project for analysis of any artefacts found on the site by the relevant in-house specialists at ULAS.

10.3 An interim report on the results of the evaluation can be prepared, if required, after the completion of the fieldwork.

11. Health and Safety

11.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Archaeological Services Health and Safety Policy and Health and Safety manual with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is attached as Appendix 1. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate. The HSE has determined that archaeological investigations are exempt from CDM regulations.

11.2 A Risks assessment form will be completed prior to work commencing on-site, and updated as necessary during the site works.

11.3 The location of a high-pressure gas main crosses the western part of the site area and an overhead electricity cable also crosses the north-western corner. Information on the known location of any other services or other constraints will need to be supplied by the Client, prior to the commencement of works on the site.

12 Insurance

12.1 All employees, consultants and volunteers are covered by the University of Leicester public liability insurance, £20m cover with St. Paul Travellers (policy no. UCPOP3651237). Professional indemnity insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters 50% and Brit Insurance 50%, £10m cover (policy no. PUNIO3605). Employer's Liability Insurance is with St. Paul Travellers, cover £10m (policy no. UCPOP3651237).

13. Monitoring arrangements

13.1 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and Senior Planning Archaeologist subject to the health and safety requirements of the site. Notice will be given to the Leicestershire Senior Planning Archaeologist before the commencement of the archaeological evaluation in order that monitoring arrangements can be made.

13.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the IFA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations.*

13.3 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

14. Contingencies and unforeseen circumstances

14.1 In the unlikely event, due to the non-intrusive nature of the evaluation techniques being employed, that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the project, ULAS shall inform the site agent/project manager, Client and the Senior Planning Archaeologist and Planning Authority and prepare a short written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Senior Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement an amended scheme of investigation on behalf of the client as appropriate.

15. Bibliography

MAP 2 The management of archaeological projects 2nd edition English Heritage 1991

MGC 1992 Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections 1992 (Museums and Galleries Commission)

RFG/FRG 1993 Guidelines for the preparation of site archives (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993)

SMA 1993 Selection, retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland 1993 (Society of Museum Archaeologists)

JEM

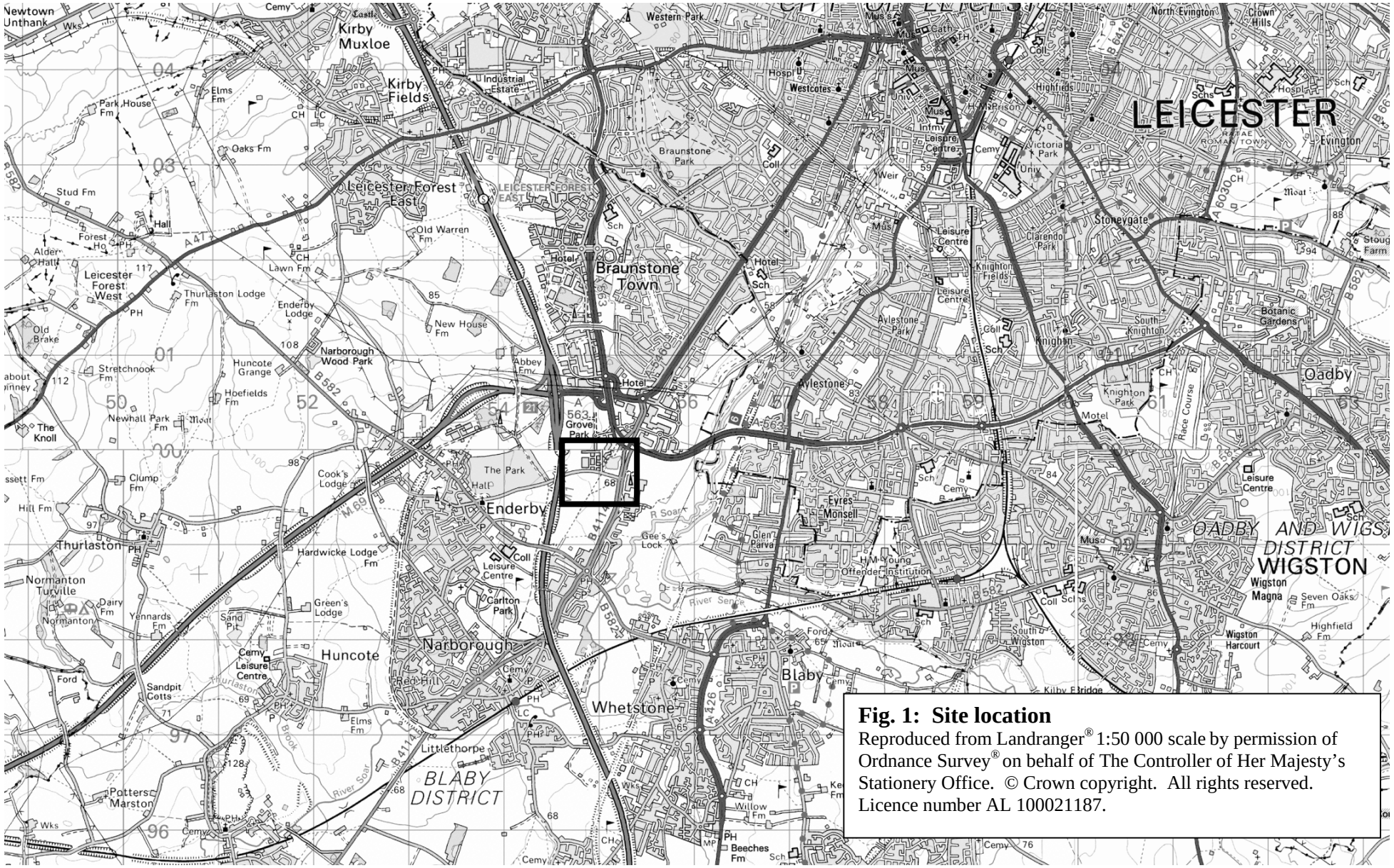

Fig. 1: Site location

Reproduced from Landranger® 1:50 000 scale by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100021187.

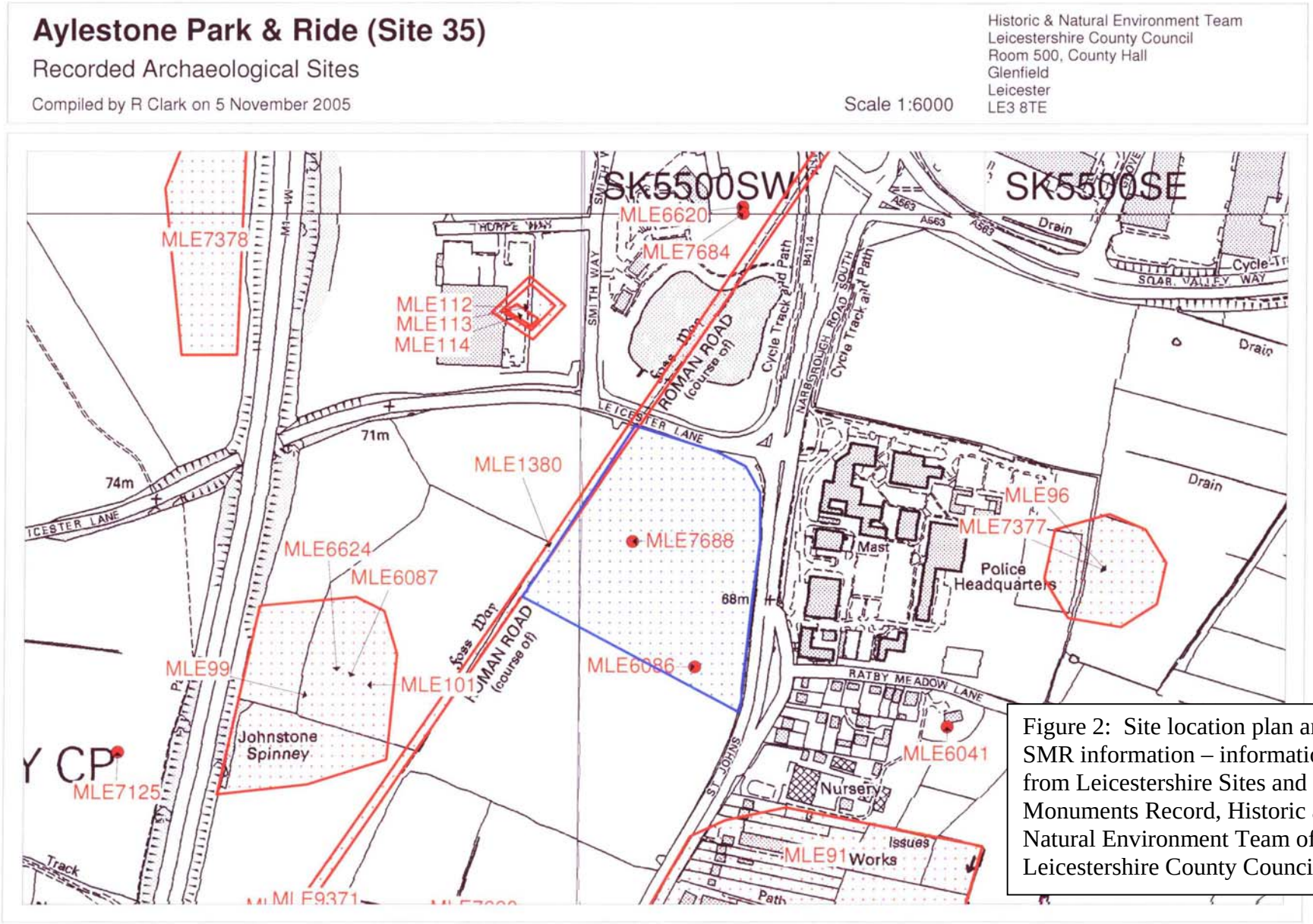

Figure 2: Site location plan and SMR information – information from Leicestershire Sites and Monuments Record, Historic and Natural Environment Team of Leicestershire County Council

Figure 3: Proposed trench location plan superimposed over geophysical survey results.

Ten of 30m x 1.6m trenches
Eight of 50m x 1.6m trenches

APPENDIX 1: Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement:

Evaluation of Proposed Aylestone Park and Ride Scheme, Leicester Lane, Enderby

A risks assessment will be produced by on-site staff, which will be updated and amended during the course of the evaluation.

1. Nature of the work

1.1 The work will involve trial trenching during daylight hours to reveal underlying archaeological deposits. The work will involve excavation using machine (JCB or equivalent with toothless ditching bucket), of trial trenches under the control and supervision of archaeologists.

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 ***Trial Trenching***

The work will involve machine excavation by mechanical excavator during daylight hours to reveal underlying archaeological deposits. Overall depth is likely to be *c.* 0.5 m with possible features excavated to a depth of another 1m. Trenches will not be excavated to a depth exceeding 1.2m. Spoil will be stockpiled no less than 1.5 m from the edge of the excavation, the topsoil and subsoil being kept separate. Remaining works will involve the examination of the exposed surface with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and excavation of archaeological features. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. Hard hats will be worn when working in deeper sections or with plant. First aid kit to be kept in site accommodation/vehicle. Vehicle and mobile phone to be kept on site in case of emergency.

2.2 ***Working with plant***.

Precautions. Archaeologists experienced in working with machines will supervise topsoil stripping at all times. Hard hats, protective footwear and hazard jackets will be worn at all times. Machine driver to be suitably qualified and insured. If services or wells are encountered machining will be halted until extent has been established by hand excavation or areas where it is safe to machine have been established. It is assumed that there is safe and permitted access to the site area.

2.3 ***Working in vicinity of services***

A high-pressure gas main crosses the western part of the site area. No machining of trenches will be undertaken within 20m of the centreline of the gas main. The relevant gas company will be informed prior to the commencement of the works.

An overhead electricity cable runs along the north-western corner of the site area. No machine will pass beneath the cable unless there is substantial clearance. No machining will be undertaken beneath the cable.

2.4 ***Working within areas prone to waterlogging***.

In the event of waterlogging preventing work continuing, it is proposed to excavate a sump, suitably fenced and clearly marked to enable the water to drain away from the trenches to facilitate recording. Protective clothing will be worn at all times and precautions taken to prevent contact with stagnant water which may carry Vialls disease or similar.

2.5 ***Working with chemicals.***

If chemicals are used to conserve or help lift archaeological material these will only be used by qualified personnel with protective clothing (i.e. a trained conservator) and will be removed from site immediately after use.

2.6 ***Other risks***

Precautions. If there is any suspicion of unforeseen hazards being encountered e.g. chemical contaminants, unexploded bombs, hazardous gases, work will cease immediately. The client and relevant public authorities will be informed immediately.