



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Investigation
(Strip, Plan and Sample)
at Danemill Primary School,
Enderby, Leicestershire**

**NGR:
SP 5387 9894 90153**



Gavin Speed

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**An Archaeological Investigation (Strip, Plan and Sample)
at Danemill Primary School, Enderby,
Leicestershire**

(SP 5387 9894)

Gavin Speed

For: Leicestershire County Council

Approved by:

Signed:



Date: 15/11/2012

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CONTENTS

Summary	2
1. Introduction.....	2
2. Site Description, Topography and Geology.....	4
3. Archaeological and Historical Background	4
4. Aims and Objectives	4
5. Methodology	5
6. Results.....	5
8. Conclusion	9
9. Archive.....	9
10. Publication	10
11. Bibliography	10
12. Acknowledgements.....	11

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location within UK and Leicestershire.....	3
Figure 2: Location of Enderby.....	3
Figure 3: Site location, the red-shaded buildings denote the proposed new development (plan supplied by client).....	4
Figure 4: Areas of groundworks	6
Figure 5: View of topsoil removal in area of new car park, looking south	7
Figure 6: View of former hedge-boundary, looking west, 1m scale	8
Figure 7: View of former hedge-boundary, looking north, 1m scale	8
Figure 8: View of typical section, looking south, scale 0.5m.....	9

An Archaeological Investigation (Strip, Map and Sample) at Danemill Primary School, Enderby, Leicestershire

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Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological investigation (strip, map and sample) on land at Danemill Primary School, Enderby, Leicestershire (SP 5387 9894). The work was undertaken as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of a proposed new classroom, foundation block, and groundworks.

The investigation revealed a former hedge-line, shown as a field boundary on early Ordnance Survey maps. No further archaeological deposits or finds were present.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under accession no. X.A91.2012.

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS for Leicestershire County Council in October 2012 on land at Danesmill Primary School, Enderby, Leicestershire (SP 5387 9894, Figures 1 & 2). This was undertaken in advance of an application for proposed new classroom, foundation block, and groundworks.

The development site has been identified as an area of archaeological potential based upon assessment of archaeological data held by the Leicestershire & Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER). In consequence the Principal Planning Archaeologist (PPA), Historic & Natural Environment Team (HNET), Leicestershire County Council, has recommended the need for a further phase of archaeological investigation comprising a programme of evaluation trenching detailed in a brief. The investigation is required to provide an adequate sample of the development area and assess the likely archaeological impact of the development proposals. In view of the archaeological potential of the site, the Principal Planning Archaeologist has recommended the implementation of a scheme of archaeological investigation before construction commences. This is to comprise an archaeologically supervised soil strip of the affected area, together with archaeological excavation and recording of affected deposits as necessary. University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) has been commissioned to undertake the work on behalf of the client.

This document presents the results of the archaeological field evaluation (AFE) at the above site, in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF): Section 12 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment, and follows a Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Work (Buckley 2012), as agreed with NCC. The fieldwork specified below is intended to provide preliminary indications of character and extent of any heritage assets in order that the potential impact of the development on such remains may be assessed by the Planning Authority.

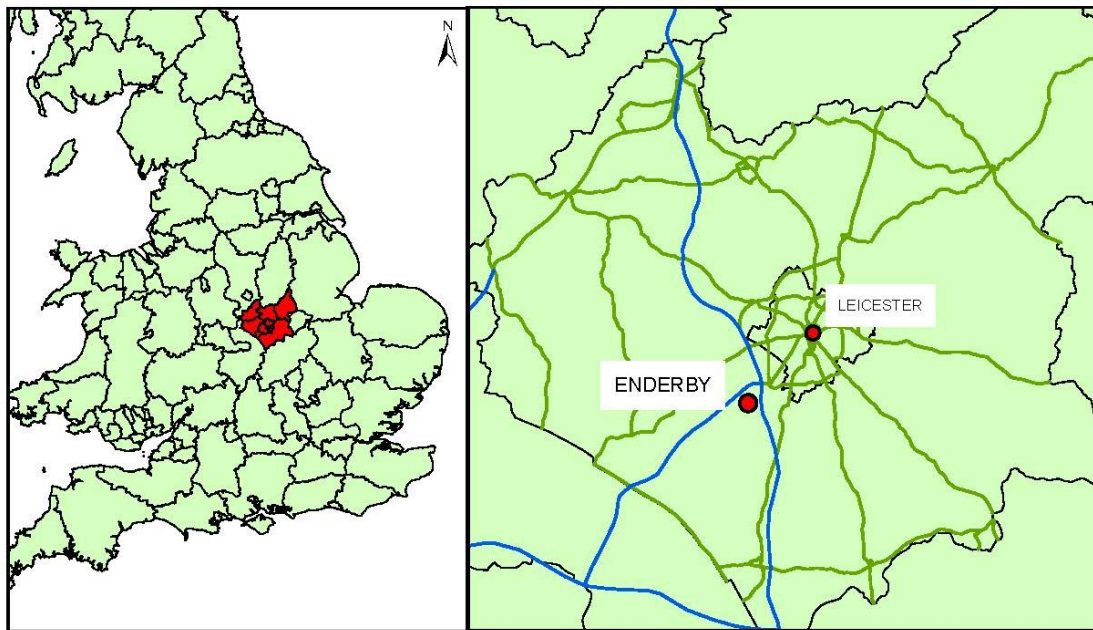


Figure 1: Site location within UK and Leicestershire

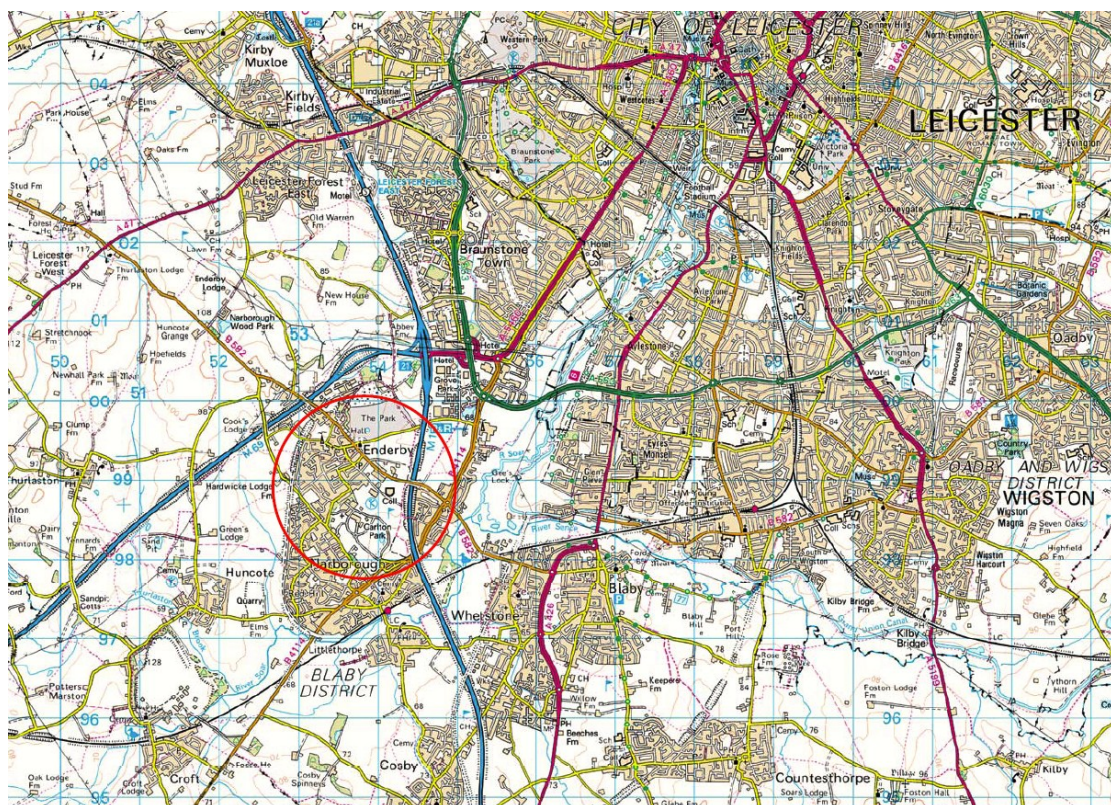


Figure 2: Location of Enderby

Reproduced from 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
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2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The proposed development (SP 5387 9894) is located at Danesmill Primary School, Enderby, Leicestershire (Figures 1 & 2). It comprises a c.0.5 ha area surrounded by school buildings and a hedgerow. The proposal is for two new classroom blocks and car park.

The site lies at c. 90m OD on flat ground. The British Geological Survey map, geology of Britain viewer (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>) shows that the underlying geology of the site is likely to consist of: glaciofluvial deposits, mid Pleistocene sand and gravel.

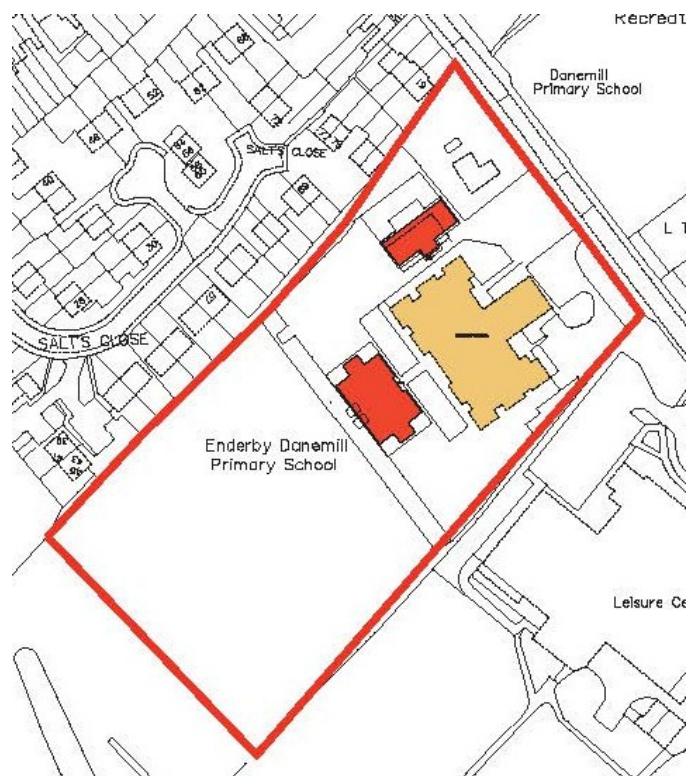


Figure 3: Site location, the red-shaded buildings denote the proposed new development (plan supplied by client)

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. The proposed development site lies in close proximity to the postulated site of a reported windmill (HER ref.: MLE111). The exact location of the mill is uncertain, although the OS map of c.1889 shows a cluster of structures roughly located at the north-west end of the proposed classroom block.

4. Aims and Objectives

The principal aims of the archaeological evaluation were:

- To identify possible areas of archaeological potential liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

- To establish the location, extent, date, and significance of any archaeological deposits located.
- To define the quality and state of preservation of these deposits.
- To assess the local, regional and national importance of any deposits.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

The objective was to gain an indication of the nature, extent, date and significance of any archaeological deposits which may be present in order that an informed planning decision can be taken.

5. Methodology

The project involved the supervision of overburden removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist in advance of the commencement of groundworks and determine the presence/absence of any archaeological remains.

Prior to any machining of trial trenches, general photographs of the site areas were taken. Topsoil and overburden was removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket. The area was excavated down to the top of archaeological deposits or natural undisturbed ground, whichever is reached first.

The area was to be examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located planned at an appropriate scale. Archaeological deposits were sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence.

Measured drawings of all archaeological features would be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan. All plans were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Relative spot heights were taken as appropriate. The location of the area was tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

The work followed the approved design specification (Buckley 2012) and adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (2008).

6. Results

Three areas were observed during groundworks, a new car park area to the front of the school, a new classroom block to the rear, and a new foundation block to the north.

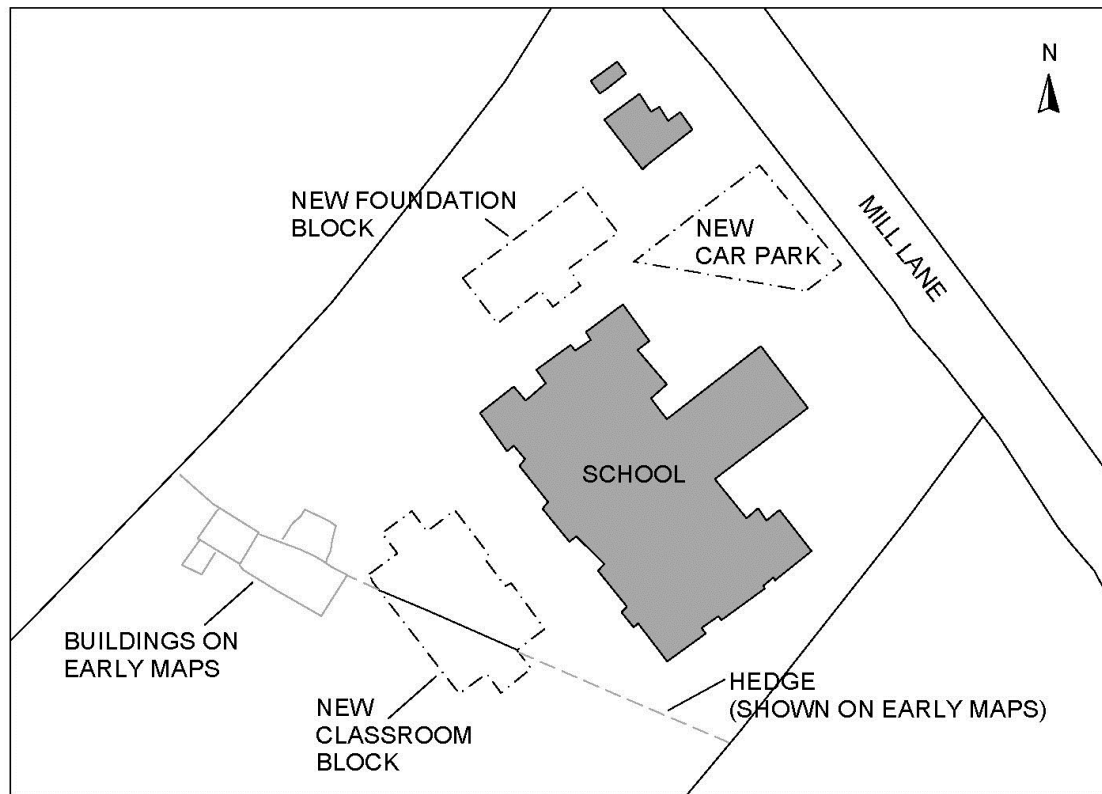


Figure 4: Areas of groundworks

Construction for a new car park at the front of the school required the topsoil to be removed in an area measuring *c.*17m x *c.*15m. The topsoil consisted of a dark black-brown loam and was *c.*0.35m thick. Below this was a very thin subsoil or natural interface *c.*0.05m thick. The natural substratum consisted of sands and gravels (Figure 5). No archaeological finds or deposits were observed. The area appeared to have been landscaped previously, probably during construction of the school.



Figure 5: View of topsoil removal in area of new car park, looking south

Construction for a new classroom block at the rear of the school required the topsoil to be removed in an area measuring *c.*19 x *c.*17m. The Topsoil consisted of a dark grey-brown loam and was *c.*0.45m thick. Below this was a subsoil *c.*0.18m thick above the natural substratum consisting of red clay. An extant base of a former hedge was observed running north-west to south-east across the area (Figures 6 & 7). It was very dark grey-brown in appearance with poorly defined edges. It corresponds with a field boundary shown on the 1886 Ordnance Survey map, and subsequent editions to 1958. It appears to have been removed during construction of the school in the 1960s. No further archaeological finds or deposits were observed. Buildings shown adjoining this hedgeline appear to have lain further west, beyond the development area (Figure 4).

The area for the proposed foundation block (on the north-side of the school) was located over the former swimming pool. Therefore the area had already been severely truncated by the construction of the swimming pool in the 1960s.



Figure 6: View of former hedge-boundary, looking west, 1m scale



Figure 7: View of former hedge-boundary, looking north, 1m scale



Figure 8: View of typical section, looking south, scale 0.5m

8. Conclusion

In summary, the archaeological investigation revealed the location of a former hedge from a field boundary, removed in the early 1960s. No significant archaeological evidence was revealed.

9. Archive

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council, accession number X.A91.2012.

The archive contains:

- Site notes
- 1 photographic recording sheet
- CD containing digital photographs and report
- Unbound copy of this report
- Thumbnail print of digital photographs
- 33mm black and white contact sheet and negatives

The report is listed on the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York, under ID: universi1-137590. Available at: <http://oasis.ac.uk/>

ID	OASIS entry summary
Project Name	Danemill Primary School, Enderby, Leicestershire
Summary	The investigation revealed an extant hedge, shown as a field boundary on early Ordnance Survey maps. No further archaeological deposits or finds were present.
Project Type	Strip, Map, Sample
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Gavin Speed
Previous/Future work	Previous: none / Future: unknown
Current Land Use	School playing fields
Development Type	School classrooms
Reason for Investigation	NPPF, Section 12
Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition
Site Co ordinates	SP 5387 9894
Start/end dates of field work	01/10/12, 09/10/12
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council
Study Area	0.5ha
Associated project reference codes	Museum accession ID: X.A191.2012 OASIS form ID: universi1-137590

10. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. The report has been added to the Archaeology Data Service's (ADS) Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the University of York.

11. Bibliography

Brown, D. 2008, *Standard and Guidance for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives*. Institute for Archaeologists.

Buckley, R. 2012, *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Work at Danemill Primary School, Enderby, Leicestershire*. University of Leicester Archaeological Services, unpublished document 12-200, 20/02/12.

IfA 2008, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation, Excavations, and Watching Briefs*. Institute for Archaeologists.

IfA 2010, *Code of Conduct*.

NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*.

12. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was funded by Leicestershire County Council, and was carried out by Gavin Speed. Dr Patrick Clay managed the project. Teresa Hawtin of LCC HNET monitored the work on behalf of the planning authority.

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