

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at Elms Farm, Main Street,
Peckleton, Leicestershire (SK 472 012)**

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Checked by Project Manager

SignedDate.....

Name.....

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University of Leicester Archaeological Services

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Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. Aims	1
3. Methodology	2
4. Results	2
5. Conclusions	2
6. Archive	2
7. Acknowledgements	2

Illustrations

Figure 1. Location plan	3
Figure 2. Plan of Elms Farmhouse development area	4
Figure 3 Trench location plan	5

Appendix Design Specification for Archaeological Work at Elms Farm, Main Street, Peckleton, Leicestershire (SK 472 012)

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief by control and supervision was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services in the footprint of a proposed conservation lake at Elms Farm, Main Street Peckleton, Leicestershire.

In total three trenches were excavated down to natural Boulder Clay sub-strata, examining a total of c.220 sq metres. No earth-fast archaeological features were identified during the watching brief.

The site archive will be held by the Historic & Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council (Accession No. XA 189.2004).

1. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by Mrs C. Robertson and Peter Gilkes Surveying Services to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Elms Farm, Main Street, Peckleton, Leicestershire, (SK 472 012) during top soil stripping prior to the construction of a conservation lake.

Geologically the development area lies on glacial boulder clay with underlying and overlying sand and gravel (Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain sheet 155). The site had been identified as an area of archaeological potential as it lies between the medieval core of the village of Peckleton and earthworks of a medieval/post medieval fishpond complex (SMR site refs. 40 SE.U). As a result Leicester County Council Heritage Services as archaeological advisor to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council requested a strategy of archaeological watching brief by control and supervision (11.10.2004). However this was later modified to an evaluation.

All work followed the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LMARS 1997), the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*. A specification for these works was produced by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (Clay 2004), which outlines the definition and scope of the following archaeological work (Appendix).

2. Aims

The archaeological work is to ascertain whether any significant archaeological remains are present within the area to be developed and to establish their extent, date, quality, character, form and potential. Recording archaeological deposits would be carried out as appropriate, and an archive produced.

3. Methodology

To assess the potential for the presence of archaeological deposits three trenches were excavated with a mechanical excavator with a bladed bucket within the footprint of the proposed development. Trenching totalled c.220sq metres (Trench 01 measured 60m x 2m, Trench 02 measured 25m x 2m and Trench 03 measured 24m x 2m) providing a 14% sample of the area. Further monitoring was deemed unnecessary as no underlying archaeology was encountered.

The trenches were all excavated under archaeological supervision.

All layers and potential archaeological deposits were investigated and recorded.

4. Results

The trenches revealed that the site contained a layer of soft, mid brown, silty clay topsoil that varied in depth between 0.20m and 0.39m. The underlying natural Boulder Clay consisted of soft mid reddish brown clay with patches of loose, light to mid, yellowish brown and orangish brown fine sand.

No archaeological deposits were encountered

5. Conclusions

Despite being in an area of archaeological interest the watching brief produced no evidence of archaeological activity.

6. Archive

The archive consists of two trench location plans (Scale 1:500). Plan 01 also contains the trench depths, soil depths and soil descriptions. There is also one watching brief and photo record sheet and 10 digital images. It will be held by Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services under the Accession Number XA 189.2004.

7. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was undertaken by the author. The project was managed by Dr Patrick Clay (ULAS).



Figure 1: Site location plan 1:50 000

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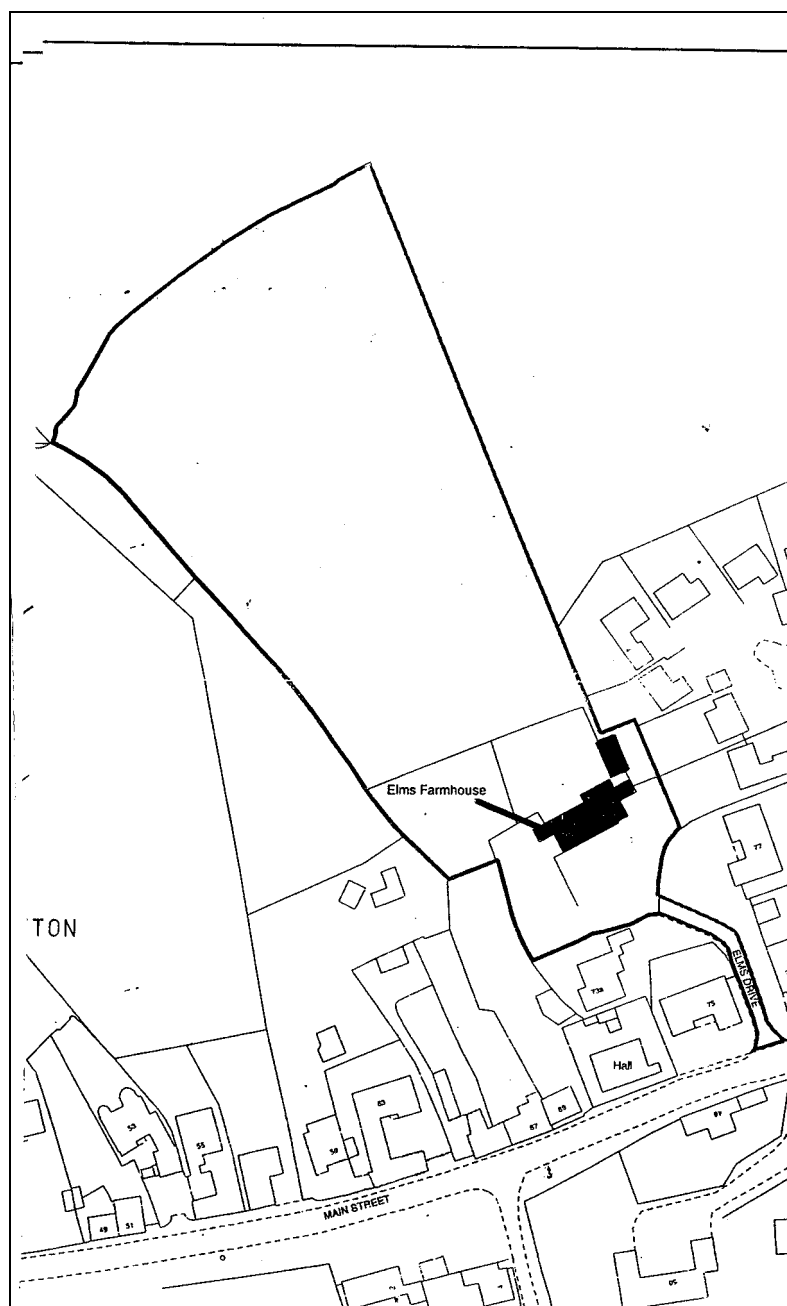


Figure 2: Plan of Elms Farmhouse development area (not to scale).

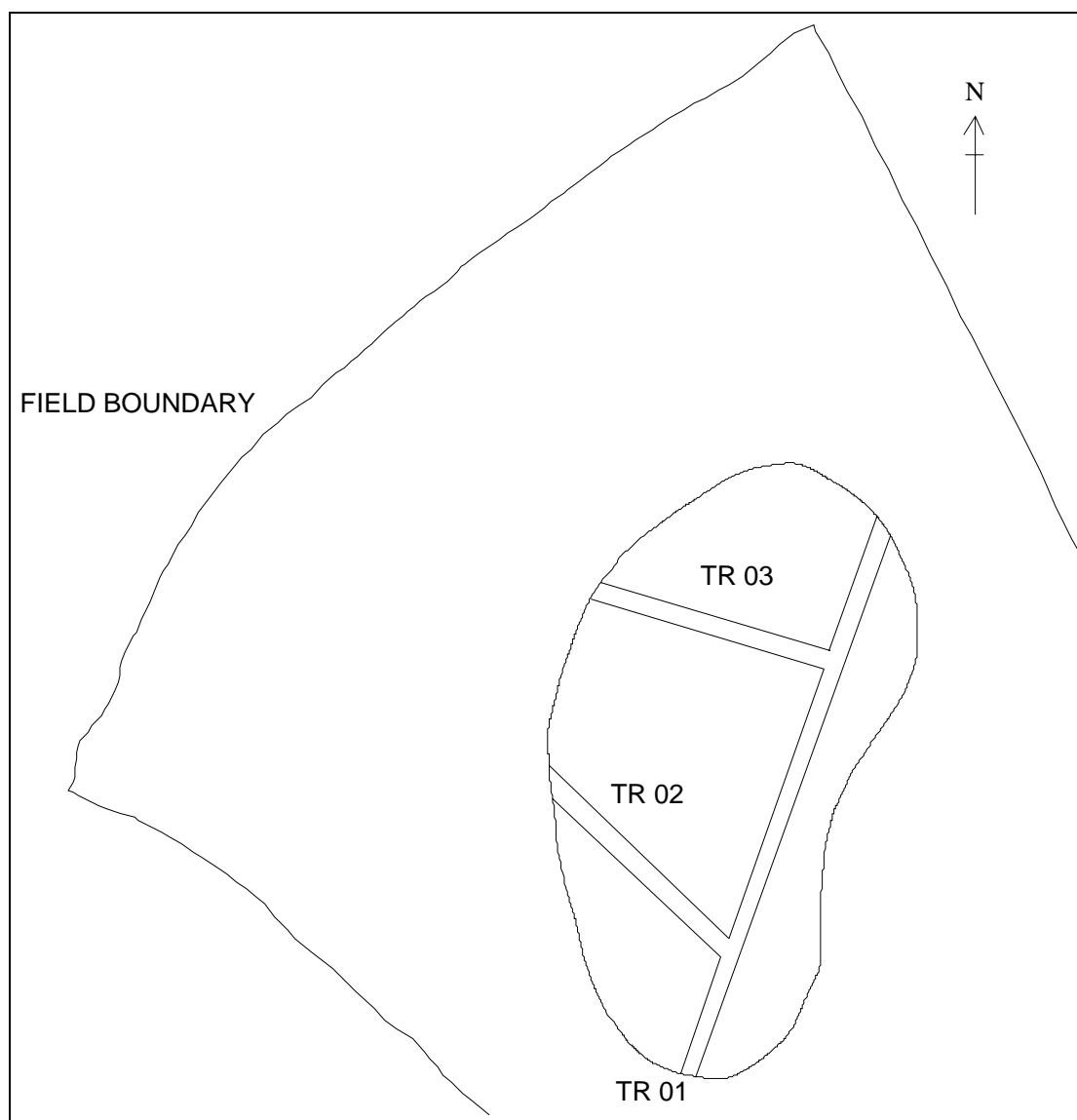


Figure 3. Trench location plan (Scale 1:1000).