An Archaeological Evaluation at Yennards Farm for the extension to Huncote Quarry, Huncote, Leicestershire (NGR 5045 9815).

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University of Leicester Archaeological Services

Report 2005/005

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Matthew Hurford

1. Summary

Following a desk-based assessment, fieldwalking and geophysical survey, a trial trench evaluation was undertaken at Yennards Farm, Huncote, Leicestershire (NGR 5045 9815). No significant archaeological deposits were located. In a number of the trenches northeast to southwest aligned furrows were discovered, the remains of medieval strip farming. The site archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council, heritage services under Accession Number XA1.2005-01.

2. Introduction

In accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG 16, Archaeology and Planning, para 30), this document presents the results of an archaeological evaluation of trial trenching at Yennards Farm, Huncote, Leicestershire (NGR 5045 9815).

The area is subject to a planning application (2004/0101/1) for an extension to an existing sand and gravel quarry. It follows the results of a desk-based assessment (ULAS Report 2003/169), fieldwalking (ULAS Report 2004/083), magnetic susceptibility and gradiometer surveys (Stratascan Report J1857). The evaluation forms part of an Archaeological Impact Assessment following the requirements of the *Brief for Archaeological evaluation at Yennards Farm, Hucote, Leicestershire* produced by Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team.

All the archaeological work adhered to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's (IFA) *Code of conduct* and their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* and the *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team).

The proposed development site is located at Yennards Farm, Huncote, Leicestershire (NGR 5045 9815, fig. 1 and 2). It consists of an area *c*. 7.6ha. The application area is currently arable farmland that had recently been sown.

3. Geology

The British Geological Survey 1:500000 Series England and Wales Sheet 155 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of boulder clay with under and over lying sand and gravel. Some red marl beds of sandstone maybe present in the northern part of the application area.

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

A search of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) has shown that an early Roman trumpet brooch, a whetstone, part of a Roman spoon and a segment of bronze bowl

have been found within the northern part of the application area (SMR reference: 59 NW EX). In addition the surrounding area is rich in finds from the prehistoric to the medieval period (Fig. 3*).* Full details of SMR references are given in Appendix 1.

The National Monuments Record (NMR) and Cambridge University Aerial Photograph Collection (CUCAP) were consulted for information about aerial photographs that may show the application area. No photographs of the area were lodged with CUCAP. A small number of photographs in the NMR, both vertical and oblique, showed parts of the application area. However, none were taken after 1990 and therefore any archaeological features should have been incorporated into the County SMR (P. Liddle pers. comm.).

Earlier prehistoric

The quarry extension lies within the former valley of the Bytham river, a pre-Anglian system which rose in the area of Stratford on Avon, Warwickshire flowed northeast though Leicestershire before turning east through East Anglia and draining into the North Sea. This river is associated with some of the earliest remains of humans in Britain dating from *c.* 500,000 years ago (Graf 2002, 15).

A lower Palaeolithic Acheulian hand axe and a palaeolithic flake were located during fieldwalking in the present extension area (SP 509 976; Coward 2003).

Neolithic and Bronze Age flints (*c.* 3000-1500 BC) have been found from fieldwalking south of the application area (SMR reference: 59 NW AS). A recent fieldwalking survey of the current extension area also located lithic material which may be of this date (Coward 2003; 2004).

An Early Bronze Age perforated axe of rough weathered stone was found close to the village of Huncote in 1938 but unfortunately was subsequently lost (SMR reference 59 NW A).

Later prehistoric

An Iron Age chariot linchpin dating from *c.* 100BC was discovered in 1996 through metal detecting in the area presently being quarried. The following year a fragment of a circular copper alloy fitting was recovered (SMR reference: 59 NW EQ).

During the topsoil stripping for the current quarry extension a watching brief located an Iron Age settlement at SP 5160 9850. Subsequent excavation located an enclosure with two circular buildings associated with Iron Age pottery of 1st century BC- 1st century AD date (Shore 2001).

Evidence of Iron Age occupation was observed in the Potters Marston sandpit area (SMR reference: 59 NW P). Several hearths were noted and the finds included Iron Age pottery.

Cropmarks showing a large D-shaped enclosure, with a probable prehistoric date have been noted south of the application area (SMR reference: 59 NW AS). Fieldwalking around this area has located Iron Age pottery.

Roman (AD 43-450)

An early Roman trumpet brooch, a whetstone, part of a Roman spoon and a segment of bronze bowl have been found within the northern part of the application area (SMR reference: 59 NW EX).

A scatter of Roman metalwork and a fragment of Roman roof tile was located south of the M69 and Yennards Farm (SMR reference: 59 NW EY). Two fragments of an early Roman bow brooch were recovered through metal detecting (SMR reference: 59 NW EZ).

Early Roman pottery was located during the excavation of the Iron Age settlement in the current quarry extension (Shore 2001).

A spindle whorl made from the base of a Roman greyware pottery vessel was found close to the Sandpit cottages to the south of the application area (SMR reference: 59 NW AD). Evidence of Roman occupation was observed in Potters Marsden sandpit area (SMR reference: 59 NW P). Roman pottery was also associated with the hearths noted above. Other finds from the vicinity of the application area include a Roman coin of Victorious and a medieval silver groat (SMR reference: 59 NW BD) and two Roman coins and a number of lead loomweights (SMR reference: 59 NW BF). Other high status finds include a Roman fibula brooch (EG).

Fieldwalking around this area of the D-shaped enclosure has located Roman pottery (SMR reference: 59 NW AS). Recent fieldwalking located ceramic building materials within the proposed development area (Coward 2004).

Cropmarks to the west of Hardwick Lodge Farm showed several linked rectangular enclosures and other features (SMR reference: 59 NW K). A number of Roman pottery sherds were found close to these cropmarks and a small trial trench revealed a narrow band of red clay and finds including kiln bars (SMR reference: 59 NW W).

Anglo-Saxon

A number of finds have been made north of the application area including an Anglo-Saxon cruciform brooch (SMR reference: 59 NW EU), and a Viking sword pommel (SMR reference: 59 NW EG). Recent fieldwalking located a scatter of early medieval pottery in the north western part of development area (Coward 2004).

Medieval

Close to Huncote village, the evidence is predominantly for medieval activity. A number of earthworks of bank and ditch type have been noted around Hall Farm, Huncote (SMR reference: 59 NW AE). In 1985 they were surveyed by Hartley and are thought to mainly represent the 17th and 18th century gardens of the Hall (Hartley 1989, 57 & 65). A triangular moat was noted between Hall Farm and the Mill but this has since been filled in. The site of the medieval mill is suspected at SMR reference: 59 NW AB, although the modern building is or 19th century date. In the Matriculus of *c*.1220 Huncote was given as a chapelry of Narborough. During the building of a

bungalow in 1985, close to the presumed manorial buildings, a stone foundation was revealed. Investigation in 1990 uncovered a substantial stone foundation (Clay 1991). Medieval finds such as tile. Window glass and plaster have also been recovered from the location. It is known that the chapel was in ruins by the 17th century and by the early 19th is represented only by a field name (SMR reference: 59 NW BX).The Laros charity metal detecting dig in 1995 turned up a number of finds, mostly medieval pennies, at SMR references EI, EJ, EN, EM and EP. A medieval silver groat is known from Forest Road (SMR reference: 59 NW BD). There was a general scatter of medieval pottery located within the proposed development area during the fieldwalking undertaken by ULAS in 2004 (Coward 2004).

Undated

An undated quern or millstone was located south of Thurlaston Brook (SMR reference: 59 NW AC).

Historical Background

There is no known date for the founding of Huncote but the name is thought to have Anglo-Saxon origins. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle states that in AD 836 the King of Mercia, Wiglaf, assembled a Mercian council somewhere within his lands. It is thought to have been Croft Hill. The purpose of the council was the occasion of the granting of land by the king to Hanbury monastery in Worcestershire (Hoskins 1950, 86). However, more recent research has suggested that although Croft Hill is an important landmark, some of the flatter land around may have been the site of the council in 836 (Sturgess 1997, 3).

The Domesday book records that around 1086 Huncote was in the Wapentake of Guthlaxton and belonged to the Count of Meulan. The lands included a mill, worth 10s, 15 acres of meadow and woodland " half a league long and 4 furlongs wide" (Morris 1979, 3). Huncote was later in the Hundred of Sparkenhoe, which is thought to have originated around 1300 from the subdivision of Guthlaxton Hundred (Hoskins 1950, 84).

In 1124, with the King in Normandy, the King's thanes held a council at Hundhoge (Huncote) and had forty four thieves executed (Nichols 1811, 819). It has been suggested that Croft Hill is the location for the gruesome scene (Hoskins 1950, 85). Croft Hill is located half way between Croft and Huncote and was called after either village in early records but by the 16th century it is primarily associated with Croft (Hoskins 1950, 87).

In the 17th century, Huncote was in the possession of the Stafford family. The Enclosure of Leicester Forest took place in 1628 and John Stafford claimed 130 acres as part of his manor of Huncote. The King took a third of this while the commoners were granted just under a third, with Stafford retaining 30 acres (Nichols 1811, 820). Nichols reveals that in the late 18th century Forest Lane in Huncote was still enjoyed as a common by the Freeholders (Nichols 1811, 820).

A granite quarry was established near the village by John Hobill and "the stone is chiefly used for paving and repairing roads" (White 1862, 699).

Field Boundaries

Examination of the study area on Tithe Maps and early Ordnance Survey (OS) maps show that the field systems have changed little. The biggest changes have been caused in recent times by the construction of the M69 and the establishment of the quarry.

The 1st edition OS map for Huncote (1888) shows the western part of the development area to contain almost identical field boundaries to those of the modern fields. A fieldname survey of this area produced by the Leicestershire and Rutland Federation of Women's Institutes in 1968, did not provide any fieldnames suggestive of archaeological or historical activity. Rather these seem to reflect topographic descriptions. The 1840 tithe map for Huncote shows the area to be divided into fields and did not yield any historically informative fieldnames. Similarly, the boundaries on the 1916 Huncote OS map (Fig. 4) mostly correspond to the modern field boundaries.

The existence of hedgerows has been noted on the boundaries of the fields. Examination of the field boundaries has shown that they have remained in use since before 1888.

A landscape map of the Huncote and Thurlaston area, shows that ridge and furrow, the earthwork remains of medieval strip farming, were present in the study area, although earthwork remains are no longer visible. These were mostly aligned east-west (Fig.5; Hartley 1989, 77).

5. Objectives

The main objectives of the evaluation were:

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

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

All work follows the *Institute of Field Archaeologist's Code of Conduct* and adheres to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological evaluations.*

6. Methodology

A *c.* 2% sample of the area totaling 543 sq. metres was examined in the form of three 30m x 1.6m trenches and seven 30m x 1.9m trenches, the locations of which having been agreed with the Senior Planning Archaeologist at LCC following the completion of the desk-based assessment (Fig. 6). The trenches were examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located were planned and sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence. All plans were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

The site archive will be held by the Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team.

7. Results

Trial Trenching

Trench 1

Interval from SW end	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m
Topsoil Depth	0.30m	0.30	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.28m	0.35m
Subsoil Depth	0.35m	0.37m	0.44m	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m
Top of Natural						0.50m	0.50m
Base of Trench	0.35m	0.37m	0.44m	0.40m	0.40m	0.50m	0.50m

Trench 1 measured 30m long and 1.6m wide and was on a northeast to southwest alignment. It was located over three linear geophysical anomalies (Fig.6).

Approximately 0.30m of dark grey brown silty clay topsoil was removed revealing dark orangey brown clayey silt subsoil. Beneath the subsoil at the northeast end of the trench, natural pinkish brown clay was encountered.

The geophysical anomalies were not located. However, cutting the subsoil was a linear feature [002]. It was aligned northeast to southwest and was up to 120mm deep with a flattish base. The features overall length and width were not established. Its fill consisted of a firm dark orangey brown silty clay with occasional rounded to sub-rounded pebbles and >1% charcoal flecks (Fig.7). The orientation and size of the feature would suggest that it was a furrow, part of the medieval field systems which were present in the development area (Fig.5; Hartley 1989, 77).

Trench 2

Interval from S end	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m
Topsoil Depth	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.28m	0.30m
Subsoil Depth	0.40m	0.40m	0.45m		0.38m		
Top of Natural				0.30m	0.40m	0.28m	0.30m
Base of Trench	0.40m	0.40m	0.45m	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m

Trench 2 measured 30m long and 1.6m wide and was on a north to south alignment. It was located adjacent to finds of Romano-British ceramic building materials (Fig.6).

Approximately 0.30m of dark grey brown silty clay topsoil was removed revealing dark orangey brown clayey silt subsoil. Beneath the subsoil was natural pinkish brown clay.

Cutting the subsoil was a linear feature (100). It was located in the south of the trench and was aligned northeast to southwest. Its fill also consisted of firm dark orangey brown silty clay with occasional rounded to sub-rounded pebbles (Fig.7). The orientation and size of the feature would suggest that it is also a furrow (Fig.5; Hartley 1989, 77).

Trench 3

Interval from W end	**0m**	**5m**	**10m**	**15m**	**20m**	**25m**	**30m**
Topsoil Depth	0.28m	0.30m	0.26m	0.30m	0.34m	0.30m	0.26m
Subsoil Depth	0.33m	0.38m		0.38m			0.38m
Top of Natural	0.33m	0.38m	0.40m		0.34m	0.30m	
Base of Trench	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m	0.38m	0.40m	0.40m	0.38m

Trench 3 measured 30m long and 1.9m wide and was on an east to west alignment. It was located over a geophysical anomaly that was aligned northeast to southwest (figs.6).

Approximately 0.30m of dark grey brown silty clay topsoil was removed revealing dark orangey brown clayey silt subsoil. Beneath the subsoil was natural pinkish brown clay with yellow mottles. A sherd of 17th –18th century pottery was recovered from the spoil.

Cutting the subsoil were four linear features, (200), (201), (202), and (203). The geophysical anomaly was one of these features (Fig.7). As their fill, size and orientation was the same as the features in the previous trenches it is reasonable to interpret them as also being part of the medieval field system (Fig.7; Hartley 1989, 77).

Trench 4

Interval from W end	**0m**	**5m**	**10m**	**15m**	**20m**	**25m**	**30m**
Topsoil Depth	0.29m	0.29m	0.23m	0.22m	0.24m	0.25m	0.24m
Subsoil Depth	0.44m	0.40m	0.33m				
Top of Natural	0.44m	0.40m	0.33m	0.22m	0.24m	0.25m	0.24m
Base of Trench	0.46m	0.46m	0.40m	0.50m	0.45m	0.45m	0.38m

Trench 4 measured 30m long and 1.9m wide and was on an east to west alignment. It was located to the north of where finds of Romano-British ceramic building material have been found and to the north and east of geophysical anomalies (Fig.6).

Approximately 0.25m of dark grey brown silty clay topsoil was removed revealing a dark orangey brown clayey silt subsoil in the western half of the trench, beneath which was natural pinkish brown clay. In the eastern half of the trench there was no subsoil. A single struck flint flake (sf no. 004) was recovered from spoil.

Cutting the subsoil and natural were three linear features, (300), (301) and (302) (Fig.7). As they have the same characteristics as the features previously discussed it is likely that they are also furrows (Fig.5; Hartley 1989, 77).

Trench 5

Interval from S end	**0m**	**5m**	**10m**	**15m**	**20m**	**25m**	**30m**
Topsoil Depth	0.32m	0.33m	0.38m	0.36m	0.34m	0.32m	0.32m
Subsoil Depth	0.40m	0.42m	0.46m	0.44m	0.38m	0.39m	0.37
Top of Natural	0.40m	0.42m			0.38m	0.39m	
Base of Trench	0.49m	0.47m	0.46m	0.44m	0.50m	0.43m	0.37m

Trench 5 measured 30m long and 1.9m wide and was on an east to west alignment. It was located over a curvilinear geophysical anomaly (Fig.6).

Approximately 0.33m of dark grey brown silty clay topsoil was removed revealing dark orangey brown clayey silt subsoil. Beneath the subsoil was natural pinkish brown clay. A sherd of 12th –13th century pottery was recovered from the spoil.

Two linear features, (400) and (401), cut the subsoil (Fig.5). Their alignment and fill is similar to the other features and so are also likely to be furrows. (Fig.5; Hartley 1989, 77).

Trench 6

Interval from E end	**0m**	**5m**	**10m**	**15m**	**20m**	**25m**	**30m**
Topsoil Depth	0.31m	0.33m	0.26m	0.24m	0.28m	0.31m	0.25m
Subsoil Depth	0.43m	0.47m	0.47m	0.33m	0.42m	0.42m	0.37m
Top of Natural							
Base of Trench	0.43m	0.47m	0.47m	0.41m	0.42m	0.42m	0.37m

Trench 6 measured 30m long and 1.9m wide and was on an east to west alignment. It was located over a curvilinear geophysical anomaly (Fig.6).

Approximately 0.30m of dark grey brown silty clay topsoil was removed revealing dark orangey brown clayey silt subsoil. A sherd of 1st century Roman pottery was recovered from the spoil.

Cutting the subsoil were three linear features, (500), (501) and (502) (Fig.7). They possessed the same characteristics as the features previously discussed and so are also likely to be part of the medieval field system (Fig.5; Hartley 1989, 77).

Trench 7

Interval from W end	**0m**	**5m**	**10m**	**15m**	**20m**	**25m**	**30m**
Topsoil Depth	0.30m	0.30m	0.28m	0.30m	0.26m	0.30m	0.30m
Subsoil Depth	0.34m	0.54m	0.42m	0.52m			
Top of Natural					0.26m	0.30m	0.30m
Base of Trench	0.59m	0.52m	0.52m	0.52m	0.44m	0.44m	0.39m

Trench 7 measured 30m long and 1.9m wide and was on an east to west alignment (Fig 6). It was located to the south of the find spot of an early Roman trumpet brooch (SMR reference: 59NW EX). In close proximity to this was found a whetstone, a bowl of a Roman spoon and a segment of bronze bowl.

Approximately 0.30m of dark grey brown silty clay topsoil was removed revealing a dark orangey brown clayey silt subsoil. Beneath the subsoil at the western end was natural pinkish brown sandy clay. No archaeological deposits were encountered.

Trench 8

Interval from S end	**0m**	**5m**	**10m**	**15m**	**20m**	**25m**	**30m**
Topsoil Depth	0.30m	0.33m	0.28m	0.30m	0.28m	0.32m	0.28m
Subsoil Depth	0.58m	0.60m	0.48m	0.60m	0.60m	0.62m	
Top of Natural		0.60m	0.48m				0.40m
Base of Trench	0.58m	0.88m	0.60m	0.60m	0.60m	0.62m	0.40m

Trench 8 measured 30m long and 1.9m wide and was on a north to south alignment (Fig.6). It was located to the on the find spot of an early Roman trumpet brooch (SMR

reference: 59NW EX). In close proximity to this had been found a whetstone, a bowl of a Roman spoon and a segment of bronze bowl.

Approximately 0.30m of dark grey brown silty clay topsoil was removed revealing a dark orangey brown clayey silt subsoil. Beneath the subsoil was natural pinkish brown sandy clay. No archaeological deposits were encountered.

Trench 9

Interval from N end	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30.12m
Topsoil Depth	0.22m	0.23m	0.24m	0.30m	0.30m	0.31m	0.29m
Subsoil Depth			0.35m	0.54m	0.60m	0.61m	0.44m
Top of Natural	0.22m	0.23m	0.35m	0.54m			
Base of Trench	0.51m	0.55m	0.54m	0.57m	0.60m	0.61m	0.44m

Trench 9 measured 30.12m long and 1.9m wide and was on a north to south alignment. located over a find spot of Romano-British ceramic building materials (Fig.6).

Approximately 0.25m of dark grey brown silty clay topsoil was removed revealing a dark orangey brown clayey silt subsoil. Beneath the subsoil was natural pinkish brown clay with occasional medium sized angular stones. No archaeological features were encountered.

Trench 10

Interval from N end	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30.52m
Topsoil Depth	0.23m	0.30m	0.31m	0.35m	0.26m	0.38m	0.36m
Subsoil Depth	0.40m	0.50m	0.51m	0.49m	0.52m	0.62m	0.50m
Top of Natural	0.40m	0.50m	0.51m	0.49m			
Base of Trench	0.46m	0.53m	0.57m	0.53m	0.52m	0.62m	0.50m

Trench 10 measured 30.52m long and 1.9m wide and was on an east to west alignment. It was located over two linear geophysical anomalies that were aligned north to south (Fig.6).

Approximately 0.30m of dark grey brown silty clay topsoil was removed revealing dark orangey brown clayey silt subsoil beneath which was natural pinkish orange brown clayey silt with 35-40% degraded grey mudstone.

Cutting the natural were two linear features, (900) and (901), which excavation established were land drains.

8. Conclusion

The trial trench evaluation confirmed the existence of northeast to southwest aligned ridge and furrow that had been documented on previous maps. This would suggest that the area has been in agricultural use from the medieval period or earlier. Therefore any archaeological deposits are likely to have suffered from some degree of plough erosion. The absence of furrows in three of the northern trenches could be the result of modern ploughing methods. The only finds were a struck flint flake, one sherd of Roman, three sherds of medieval and one sherd of post-medieval pottery all from unstratified contexts.

Although no significant archaeological deposits were discovered, the proposed application area has produced Roman material that may be evidence of Roman settlement in the vicinity. Furthermore, the application area is situated within a landscape of considerable archaeological and historical importance with sites listed on the SMR dating from the Palaeolithic to the medieval period.

9. References

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10. Acknowledgements

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Appendix 1: Sites and Monuments Reference. All references can be found on map sheet 59NW (Fig.3)

1 Sites and Monuments Records from within the Application area

Roman

59NW.EX	SP 505 983	Parts of a trumpet brooch found by M. Morris in 1997. In 1998, a whetstone, a bowl of a Roman spoon and a segment of bronze bowl were found very close to brooch findspot.

2 Sites and Monuments Records from the vicinity of the Application area

Prehistoric

59NW.EW	SP 5162 9765	A number of struck flints including 8 cores, 5 flakes and a possible hammerstone found on the Huncote allotments by M. Parker.
59NW.EQ	SP 515 985	In 1996, an Iron Age chariot linchpin was found by Mr. Morris. This is a rare find with no parallels as yet and has enamelling on the front and incised decoration on the back. During subsequent archaeological work in February 1998 a small fragment of a circular copper alloy fitting, which might be contemporary with the linchpin. A coin of Edward the Confessor was found by Mr. Morris.
59NW.AS	SP 510 973	Cropmark of a large D-shaped enclosure bisected by Huncote/Croft parish boundary. Double ditched at least on straight side. The enclosure is similar in size and shape to presumed earlier phase enclosure at Enderby. Ridge and furrow visible SW of the site. 3 sherds of Iron Age pottery, 2 early Roman sherds, 5 early medieval, also 1 flint end scraper, 1 blade and 1 blade-like flake were recovered from fieldwalking in 1987.
59NW.K	SP 523 985	To the west of Hardwick Lodge farm, fairly close to the application area, cropmarks have revealed several linked rectangular enclosures and other features. At least one enclosure looks archaeological (Peck, R. and Parsons, D. 1972).
59NW. W	SP 523 990	In 1979 in the area of cropmarks (K) a flint core was found. In 1976 fieldwalking recovered a 4th century mortarium sherd, a tegula fragment and a sherd of greyware pottery. In 1977 more Roman sherds, kiln

		bar fragments and Samian sherds were found. A small trial trench revealed a narrow band of red clay and finds included more kiln bars (TLAHS 52 1977, 100).
59NW. A	SP 5145 9785	In the summer of 1938 an Early Bronze Age perforated axe of rough weathered stone was found c. 8" long and shaped like an axe hammer. It was handed to the foreman and subsequently lost.

Roman

59NW.EX	SP 505 983	Parts of a trumpet brooch found by M. Morris in 1997. In 1998, a whetstone, a bowl of a Roman spoon and a segment of bronze bowl found very close to brooch findspot.
59NW.EY		A very close scatter of Roman metalwork and a fragment of Roman roof tile (tegula). The metalwork includes 2 copper alloy coins, one illegible and one Constantine (early 4th century), a denarius of Faustina Junior (mid late 2nd AD), a late Roman military buckle, a bronze chain hook, an enamelled boss and a copper alloy terminal.
59NW.BD	SP 517 982	Roman coin of Victorius (268-70AD) recovered from "near Bridle way" in February 1978 some 6-8" deep. A medieval Edward III silver groat found in August 1978.
59NW.BF	SP 519 979	In 1981 W. Ruskin found 2 Roman coins (one copper of 1st or 2nd century and a antonianus of Postumus (259-268AD). A rim sherd of medieval pottery (12th century) and 2 dozen lead loomweights were also recovered.
59NW.AD	SP 501 975?	Rev. Burford donated a spindle whorl made from the base of a greyware pot, pierced, "from the edge of a sandpit near the crossroads. Thurlaston" (north of sandpit cottages).
59NE. EZ	SP 507 980	2 fragments of Colchester decorative bow brooches, early Roman, metal detected by M. Morris.
59NW.P	SP 499 973 SP 500 973	Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon finds associated with occupation. In 1941, Eric Pochin saw 2 or 3 hearths in Potters Marston sandpit. Another example recorded in 1942, a circular stone feature with charcoal. Another hearth was noted in 1943 by E. P. and F. Cottrill. Roman pottery, including greyware and handmade pottery, found 1945 and 1952. Some pottery found in 1953 was identified as Anglo-Saxon. These

		finds certainly represent late Roman occupation, possibly a villa but it is unclear whether the hand made pottery is Anglo Saxon or Iron Age. However, it all might be Iron Age. Roman (mortarium) and early medieval pottery found by Mr. Lees in 1957.
59NW.EU	SP 5080 9884	Cruciform Anglo-Saxon brooch found in 2 halves by M. Morris and M. Shore (5th-6th AD) in 1997. It may represent a burial.
59NW. AC	SP 508 973	Undated quern or millstone found by E. Pochin in a dump of broken stone in a field. Original provenance must be doubtful.
59NW.DS	SP 503 978	In 1978 the top half of a late Iron Age or Early Roman gritstone beehive quern turned up in ploughing to the south of Yennards Farm. The spot was described as being half a mile west of Croft Hill, which is not the same as the grid reference. In 1955 the bottom stone of coarse gritstone was found at SP502 978. Fieldwalking has turned up Roman pottery sherds and later material.
559NW.EG	SP 5125 9911	A Roman fibula and a Viking sword pommel have been found at Manor Farm, close to the application area. A Medieval Long Cross penny was also found at Manor Farm.

Medieval

59NW.AB	SP 514 973	Huncote Mill. The earliest watermill on this site may have been Saxo-Norman as a watermill in mentioned in the Domesday book as being in "Huncote". The present building is early 19th century. A pond lies to the north of the mill house (possibly medieval) which is now filled in.
59NW.AM	SP 518 975	On the Huncote Tithe Award map of 1840 the field names Mill Hill Closes and Mill Closes are centred at the above reference.
59NW.BX	SP 515 974	Huncote given as a chapelry of Narborough in the Matriculus of c. 1220. The chapel is mentioned again in 1349 and 1489. A stone foundation found when Mr. Coates was building a bungalow (1985). This is close to the presumed manorial buildings. Burton says the chapel is "ruinated and decayed" (1623) and Nichols says the site was then called "Chapel Yard". (1811). A watching brief carried out in 1990 revealed 3 separate individuals from 100-200 years ago.

		Investigation revealed a substantial stone foundation of a building. A number of medieval finds including floor and roof tiles, window glass, plaster and the earliest Potters Marston material.
59NW.AE	SP 514 975	Earthworks NW of Hall Farm include a triangular moat or garden feature and a possible terraced formal garden of 16th-17th date. The latter was surveyed in 1985 but the former was now filled in. Finds from metal detecting by Martin Shore revealed "part of a cauldron, tweezers, and a piece of bronze".
59NW.EI	SP 5122 9959	In 1995 the Laros charity dig found a cut half penny from the reign of King John (1199-1216).
59NW.EJ	SP 5115 9945	The Laros charity dig found a cut half penny from the reign of King Henry III (1216-1272).
59NW.EM	SP 5150 9933	The Laros Charity Dig found a Henry II-III penny.
59NW.EN	SP 5118 9924	The Laros Charity Dig found an Edward groat.
59NW.EP	SP 5148 9915	The Laros Charity Dig found a medieval horse fitment.

3. Other recently discovered sites not on the SMR

1. SP 509 976 Lower Palaeolithic Achuelian hand axe; paleolithic flint flake found during fieldwalking (Coward 2003)

2. SP 509 976 Prehistoric flint scatter found during fieldwalking (Coward 2003).

3. SP 5160 9850 Iron Age settlement

Following geophysical survey, fieldwalking and open area evaluation, a watching brief and metal detector survey was undertaken at Forest Road, Huncote, Leicestershire (SP 5160 9850), close to the discovery of a late Iron Age linch pin (Shore 2001). The watching brief during topsoil stripping prior to sand and gravel extraction located features of Iron Age date. Subsequent machine stripping revealed a sub-rectangular Iron Age enclosure, which was then subject to an excavation. This has revealed evidence of a small farmstead, which was in use during the late Iron Age with possible continuation into the early Roman period. This included two circular buildings and a series of stock control boundaries within the enclosure. Charred cereal remains including spelt and emmer wheat and animal bone including cattle, horse and sheep/goat were recovered suggesting a small scale mixed economy, possibly for an extended family group. The finds and archive are to be deposited with Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service (accession number X.A55.2000).

Appendix 2 The Finds Nicholas J. Cooper

Roman pottery

Context	Sfno	Fabric	Sherds	Weight	Date
Trench 6 spoil	006	Greyware (transitional)	1	12	C1st AD

Medieval and later Pottery

Context	Sfno	Fabric	Sherds	Weight	Date
	001	Potters Marston PM	1	42	1100-1300
	002	Midland purple MP2	1	54	1375-1550
Trench 5 spoil	005	Potters Marston PM	1	5	1100-1300
Trench 3 spoil	003	Post-med earthenware EA2	1	8	C17th/18th
Total			**4**	**109**	

Prehistoric Flint

A single struck flake (sf no. 004) was recovered from spoil in Trench 4.

Appendix 3

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Job title: Huncote Quarry Extension, Yennards Farm,

Croft Road, Huncote, Leicestershire

NGR: SP 5045 9815 (centre)

Client: Acresford Sand and Gravel Co. and SLR Consulting

Planning Authority: Leicestershire County Council, Environmental Services

Planning application No. 2004/0101/1

1 Introduction

1. Definition and scope of the project design

1.1 Following Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning), para.30, this specification is for archaeological trial trenching at Yennards Farm, Croft Road, Huncote, Leicestershire, (centred on SP 5045 9815; Fig. 1). The area is subject to a planning application (2004/0101/1) for an extension to an existing sand and gravel quarry. It follows the results of a desk-based assessment (ULAS Report 2003/169), fieldwalking (ULAS Report 2004/083), magnetic susceptibility and gradiometer surveys (Stratascan Report J1857). It addresses the requirements of the *Brief for Archaeological evaluation at Yennards Farm, Huncote, Leicestershire* produced by Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team: 16.9.2004 hereinafter the 'brief').

1.2 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's (IFA) *Code of Conduct* and their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological evaluation* and the *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records now Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team.

2.Background

2.1 Description of the site

2.1.1 The site is located east of Croft Road, Huncote and comprises *c*. 23 ha. The area is currently under arable cultivation and the underlying substratum comprises boulder clay.

2.1.2 A desk-based assessment has been prepared by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS Report 2003-169). Archaeological work in advance of a previous quarry extension to the northeast (P.A 97/0414) revealed an Iron Age farmstead (ULAS Report 2001/115) while Iron Age, Saxon and Viking metalwork has been found from the surrounding area. Roman metalwork and roof tile has been found

within the application area. An appraisal has been undertaken of the potential for Lower Palaeolithic remains which indicates that Brooksby deposits may be present at the base of the proposed extraction while there is also a possibility of Palaeolithic remains within the more shallow Baginton gravels (Colcutt 1999).

2.1.3 Fieldwalking (ULAS Report 2004/083), magnetic susceptibility and gradiometer surveys (Stratascan Report J1857) have been undertaken. The fieldwalking located some flint material, a dispersed scatter of Roman pottery and tile, (Figure 2) and medieval and post medieval pottery which probably represents a manuring scatter. Geophysical anomalies of likely archaeological origin were also located. A programme of archaeological work comprising trial trenching is now required to further elucidate the archaeological potential and, if necessary, formulate a mitigation strategy ('Brief' 9).

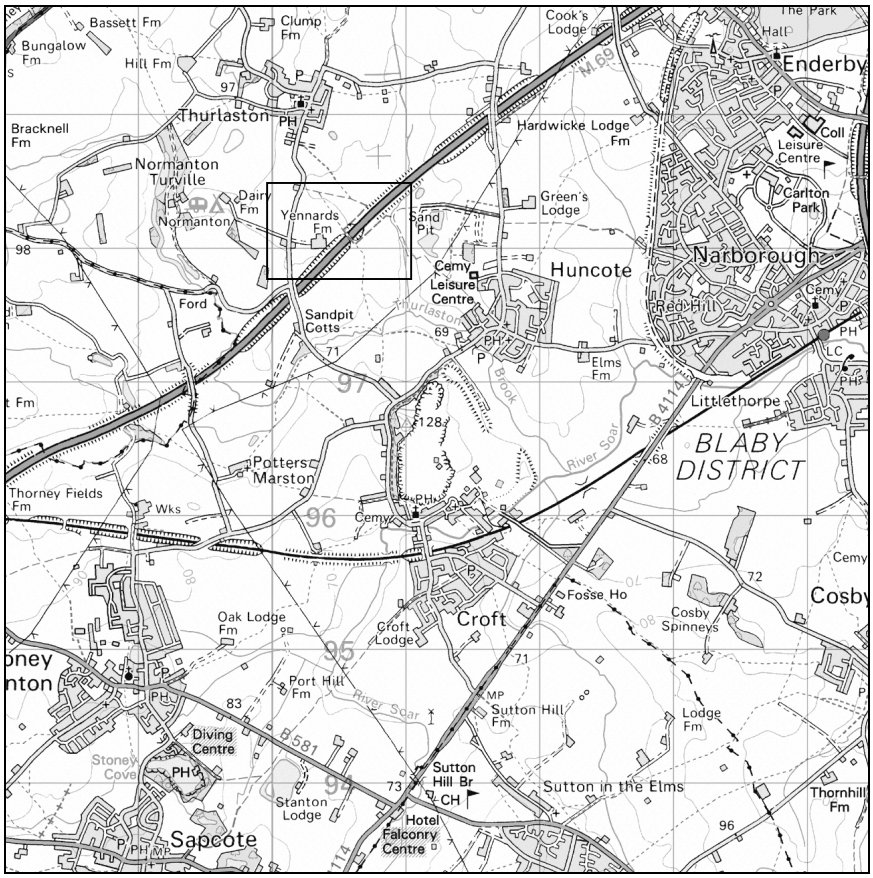

Fig 1. Location of Site

3. Objectives

3.1 The objective of the archaeological work is to ascertain whether any significant archaeological remains are present within the area to be developed. If identified a sufficient sample to establish their extent, date, quality, character, form and potential including environmental data will be recorded. Further archaeological recording may be required in the light of the results of this programme.

4 General Methodology

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

4.2 Staffing, recording systems, Health and Safety provisions and insurance details are provided.

4.3 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the sites from the project manager. These will ensure that project targets are being met and professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with representatives of Acresford Sand and Gravel and Leicestershire County Council. The strategy will be reviewed in the light of the quality of the archaeological resource as revealed at different stages of the fieldwork.

4.5 Trial trenching

4.5.1 Following discussion with the Senior Planning Archaeologist at LCC initially trial trenching totalling *c.* 450 sq metres (10 30m x 1.5m trenches) is proposed providing a *c*. 2% sample of the area to be quarried and landscaped. This will include trenches targeting Roman artefact locations and geophysical anomalies (Fig.2). The location may be varied according to any constraints on the availability of the area for trenching. There is a contingency for additional trenches depending on the results.

4.5.3 The area will be scanned by a CAT scanner to verify the location of services. Following this the overburden will be removed in spits by machine with a toothless ditching bucket (or similar) under full supervision, until archaeological deposits or undisturbed substrata are encountered.

4.5.4 The location of the trenches will be surveyed using a Total Station Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) linked to a Psion hand held computer.

4.5.5 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate to addressing the aims and objectives of the evaluation. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM).

4.5.6. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer. Deposits which may provide radiocarbon dating evidence will be sampled.

4.5.7 All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

4.5.8 Any human remains encountered will only be removed under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. Acresford Sand and Gravel Co., Leicestershire County Council and the coroner will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.6 Mitigation Strategy

4.6.1 Depending on the results of the trial trenching and following consultation with the County Archaeologist and the client a mitigation strategy may need to be formulated.

5 Recording Systems

5.1 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets.

5.2 A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map, enlarged to 1:500 (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a plan at 1:200 (or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated.

5.3 Some record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made on drawing film, related to the OS grid and at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Elevations and sections of individual layers of features should be drawn where possible. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans.

5.4 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared. This will include digital colour images illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation undertaken.

5.5 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the excavation.

5.6 All site records and finds will be kept securely.

6 Report and Archive

6.1 A report on the fieldwork will be provided following analysis of the records and materials. The full, bound report in A4 format will usually follow within eight weeks of the completion of all fieldwork, and copies will be dispatched to: the Client (2), Leicestershire County Council, Natural and Historic Environment team/Sites and Monuments Record (2), and the planning authority. The report will also be added to the OASIS database.

6.2 The report will include :-

i) A non-technical Summary

ii) An introductory Statement

iii) The aims and purpose of the evaluation

iv) The methodology adopted in the course of the evaluation

v) The nature, location, extent, date, significance and quality of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered

vi) Conclusion, including a confidence statement

vii) Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.

viii) Supporting data – including as a minimum basic quantification of all artefacts, ecofacts and structural data

ix) The location and size of the archive

x) References

6.2. 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.

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) (RFG/FRG 1993) will be presented to an appropriate registered museum within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all written, disk-based, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

7. Timetable and staffing

7.1. The trial trenching can commence during the week beginning 06.12.2004.

8. Health and Safety

8.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the Standing Committee of Archaeological Unit Managers (SCAUM) manual, as revised in 1997, as its Health and Safety Manual with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate. All ULAS staff will follow the site contractors' Health and Safety policy.

9 Insurance

9.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with Gerling Insurance Services Policy No. 62/99094/D, Risk Reference LT 35101 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Sun Alliance Insurance Policy No. 03A/5A 001 05978, Risk Reference LT 27229.

10. Bibliography

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

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

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

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

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14.10.2004
Revised 19.11.2004

Fig 1 Location of the application area at Yennards Farm, Huncote, Leicesershire

Fig. 2 Proposed trench locations in relation to Romano-British material from fieldwalking (tile/pottery) and earlier metal detected finds (EX). Scale 1:2500


Ceramic building material
I=imbrex, T= tegula
Pottery
Fig 3 Romano-British material Scale 1:2500
M69
+EX
Farm buildings
House

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

Job title: Huncote Quarry Extension, Yennards Farm,

Croft Road, Huncote, Leicestershire

NGR: SP 5045 9815 (centre)

Client: Acresford Sand and Gravel Co. and SLR Consulting

Planning Authority: Leicestershire County Council, Environmental Services

Planning application No. 2004/0101/1

1.Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for trial trenching. It will be revised following the commencement of operations when the extent of risks can be assessed in full.

1.2 The work will involve machine dug trial trenching during daylight hours and recording of any underlying archaeological deposits revealed. Overall depth is likely to be *c.* 0.2-0.5m. This will involve the examination of the exposed surface with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and excavation of archaeological features. All work will adhere to the University of Leicester Health and Safety Policy and follow the guidance in the Standing Committee of Archaeological Unit Managers manual, as revised in 1997, together with the following relevant Health and Safety guidelines, including the following.

HSE Construction Information Sheet CS8 Safety in excavations.
HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)143 (L): Getting to grips with manual handling.
HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)145 (L): Watch Your back.
CIRIA R97 Trenching practice.
CIRIA TN95 Proprietary Trench Support Systems.
HSE Guidance Note HS(G) 47 Avoiding danger to underground services. HSE Guidance Note GS7 Accidents to children on construction sites

1.3 The Health and Safety policy on site will be reassessed during the evaluation .All work will adhere to the company's health and safety policy.

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 Working within an excavation.

Precautions. No work will be undertaken beneath section faces deeper than 1.2m. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. A member of staff qualified in First Aid will be present at all times. First aid kit, vehicle and mobile phone to be kept on site in case of emergency.

2.2 Working with plant.

Precautions. The area will be scanned for services prior to machine excavation commencing. Hard hats, protective footwear and hazard jackets will be worn at all times. No examination of

the area of stripping will take place until machines have vacated area. Observation of machines will be maintained during hand excavation.

2.3 Working within areas prone to waterlogging.

Protective clothing will be worn at all times and precautions taken to prevent contact with stagnant water which may carry Vialls disease or similar.

2.4 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.

2.5 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.

2.6 No other constraints are recognised over the nature of the soil, water, type of excavation, proximity of structures, sources of vibration and contamination.

14.10.2004

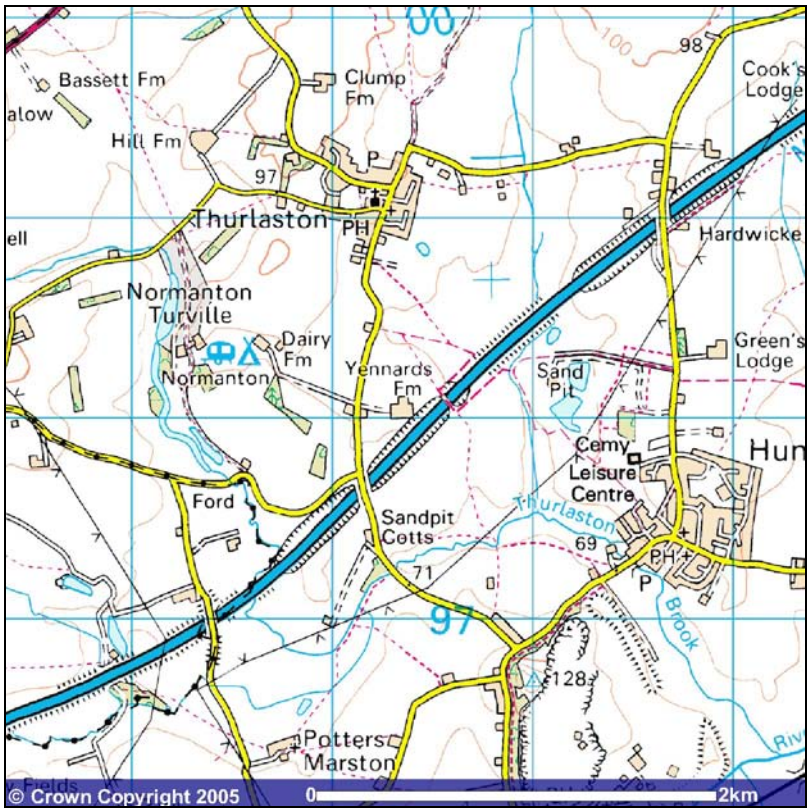

Fig. 1. Location of proposed development area.

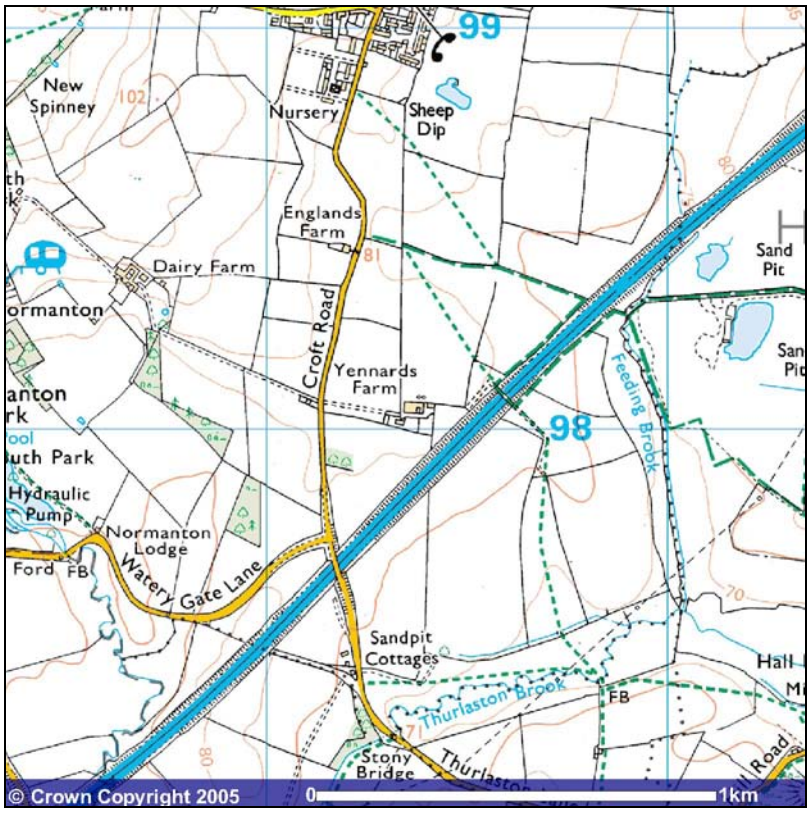

Fig. 2. Location of proposed development area.

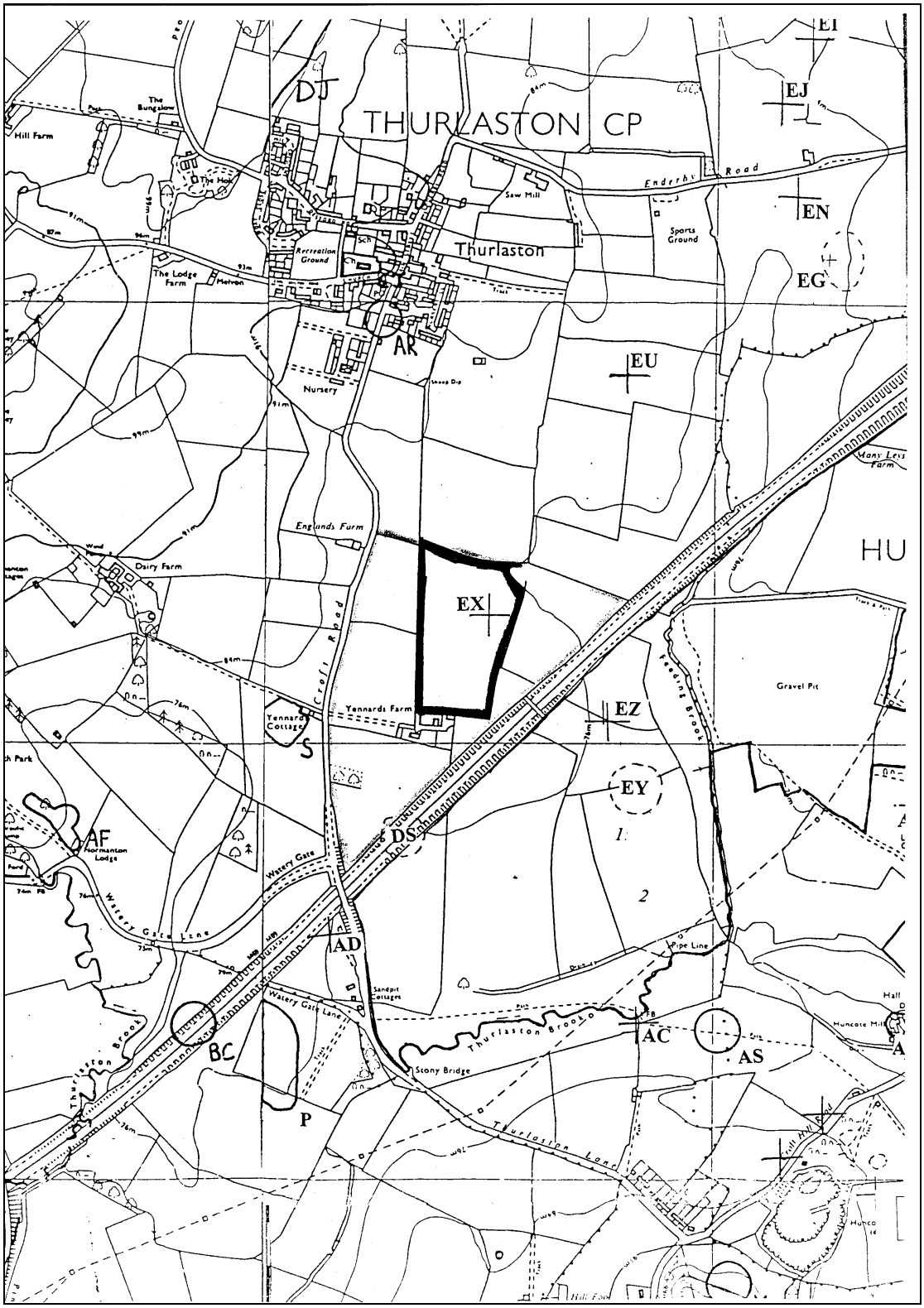

Fig. 3. Map showing SMR sites within the parish with evaluation area highlighted.

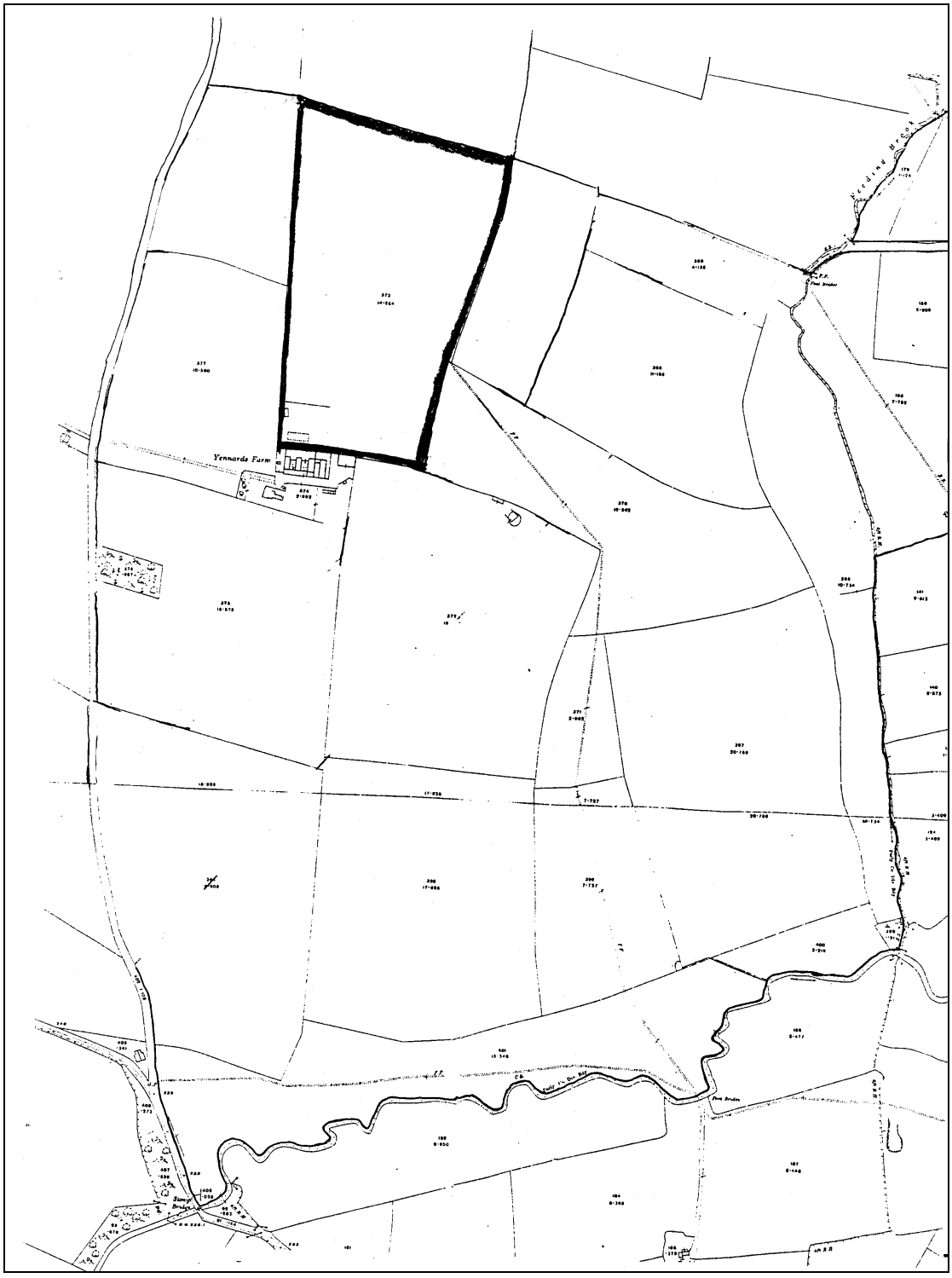

Fig. 4. 1916 OS map showing Huncote parish with the evaluation area outlined.

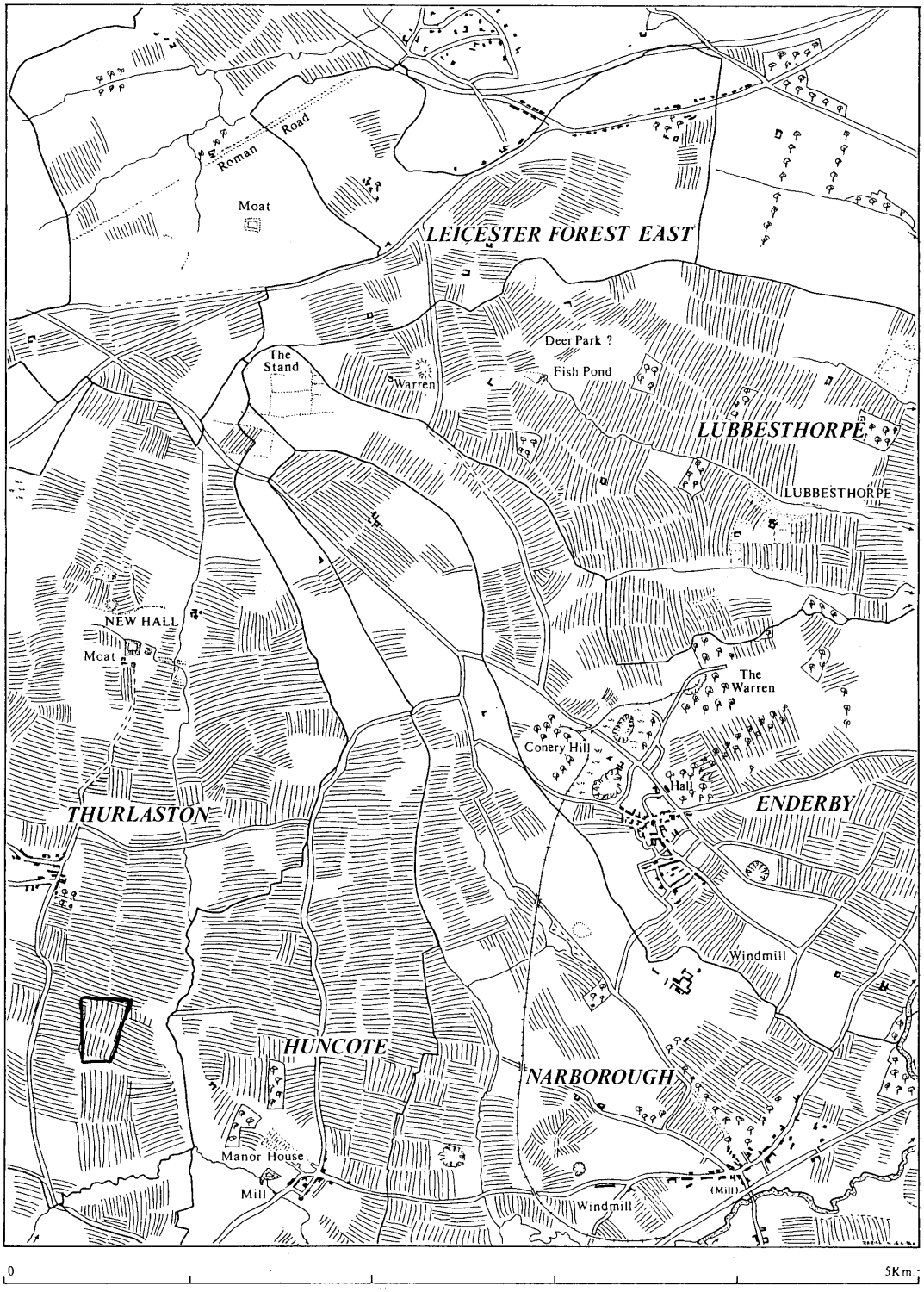

Fig. 5. Landscape map showing medieval field systems with the evaluation area highlighted.

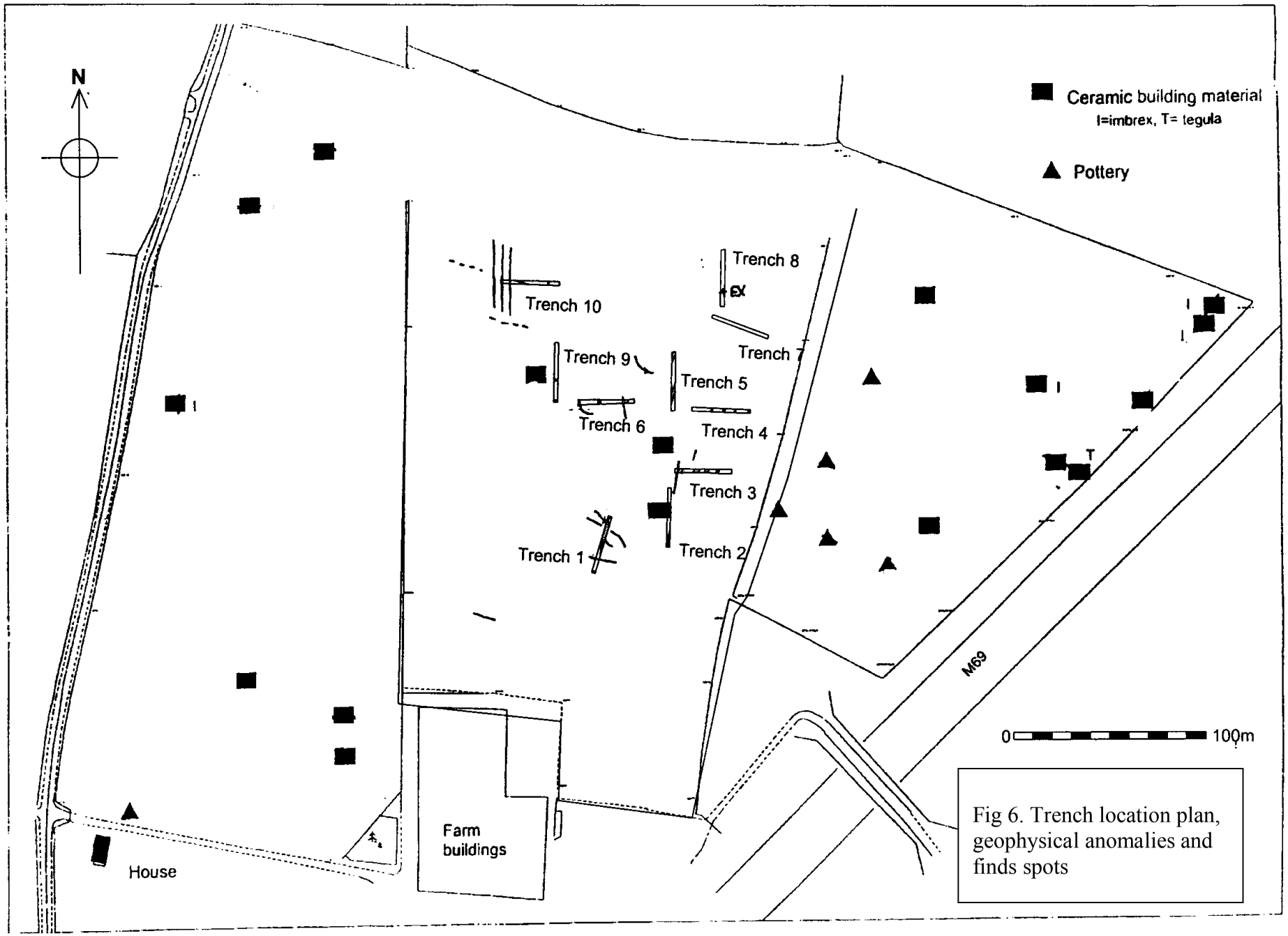

Fig 6. Trench location plan, geophysical anomalies and finds spots

Figure 6: Trench location plan geophysical anomalies and find spots

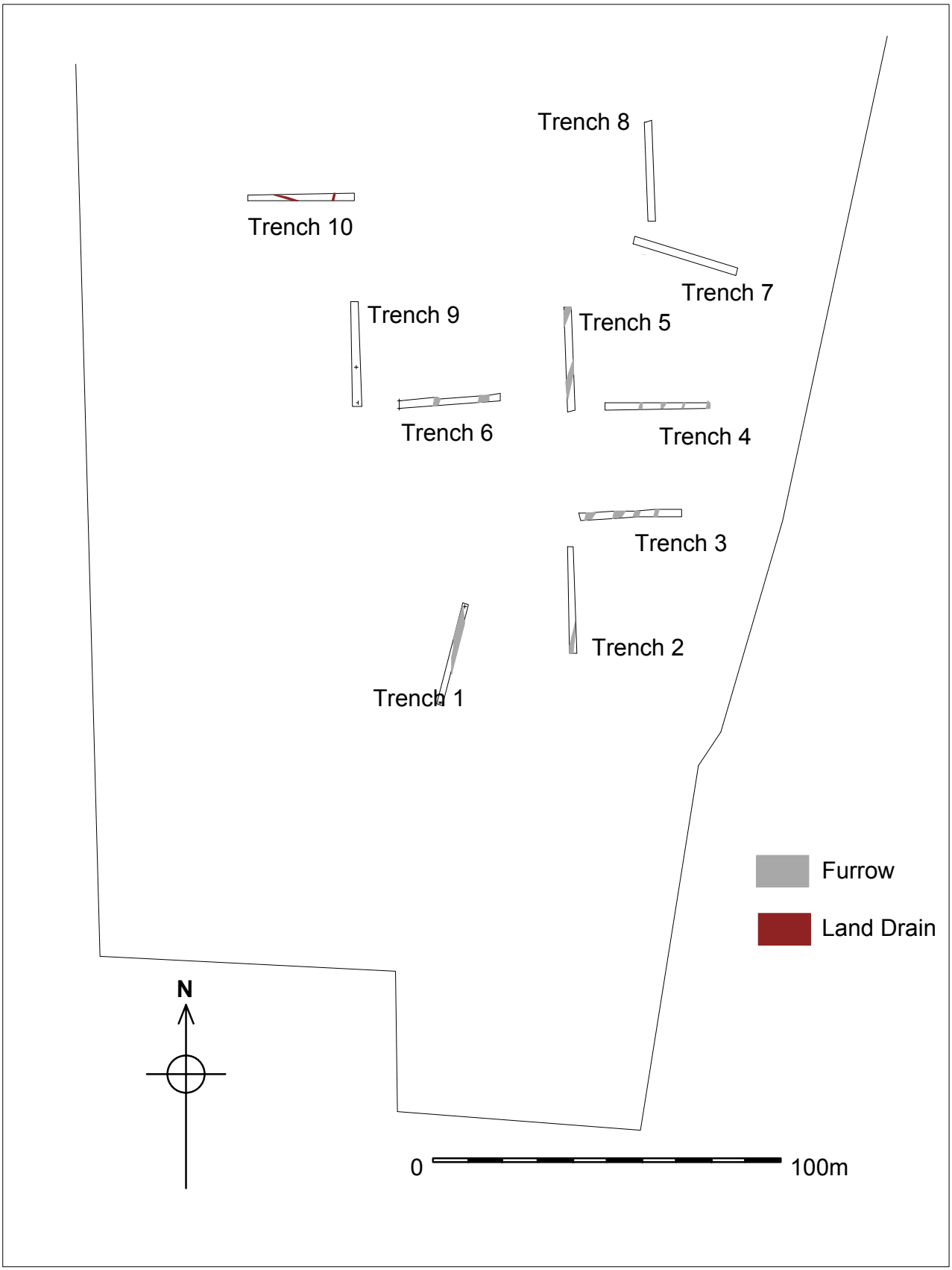

Fig. 7. Feature location plan.