

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at Hopyard Farm, Bridle Road,
Lubbesthorpe, Leicestershire
(SK 6258 0598)**

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<p>Checked by Project Manager</p> <p>SignedDate.....</p> <p>Name.....</p>
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For: Mather Jamie Ltd.

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Lubbesthorpe, Leicestershire (6258 0598).**

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Design Specification for Archaeological Work at Hopyard Farm, Bridle Road,
Lubbesthorpe, Leicestershire (SK 6258 0598)

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by Matthew Hurford

Summary

An archaeological watching brief by control and supervision was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services at Hopyard Farm, Bridle Road, Lubbesthorpe, Leicestershire (SK 6258 0598) during the excavation of foundation trenches for a proposed new building.

In total three foundation slots were excavated down to natural Boulder Clay examining an area c.3sq 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

1. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by Mather Jamie Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Hopyard Farm, Bridle Road, Lubbesthorpe, Leicestershire, (SK 6258 0598) during the excavation of foundation trenches for a proposed new building.

Geologically the development area lies on Boulder Clay (Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain sheet 156).

The site has been identified as an area of archaeological potential as it lies within the medieval core of the village of Lubbesthorpe and is adjacent to the site of St. Peters Chapel. As a result Leicestershire County Council as archaeological advisors to the planning authority requested a strategy of watching brief by control and supervision.

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 2005), which outlines the definition and scope of the following archaeological work (Appendix 1).

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

Three trenches measuring *c.* 1sq metre, providing a 100% sample of the ground works, were hand excavated to a depth of *c.* 0.50m.

The trenches were all excavated under full 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 dark grey brown clay topsoil, (001), that varied in depth between 0.15m and 0.31m beneath which was a subsoil, (002), that consisted of soft reddish brown slightly silty clay with 5% stones that were rounded to sub-rounded and up to 50mm in size. Occasional charcoal flecks were also present. At an average depth of *c.* 0.40m natural substratum was encountered, (003), that consisted of firm reddish brown clay.

Cutting (002) and (003) in Trench 02 was a north to south aligned redundant phone cable. The sub-soil and natural substratum were also cut by modern services on an east to west alignment in Trench 03.

No archaeological deposits were encountered.

5. Conclusions

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

6. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was undertaken by the author. The project was managed by Dr Patrick Clay (ULAS). I would also like to thank George for his help throughout the day.

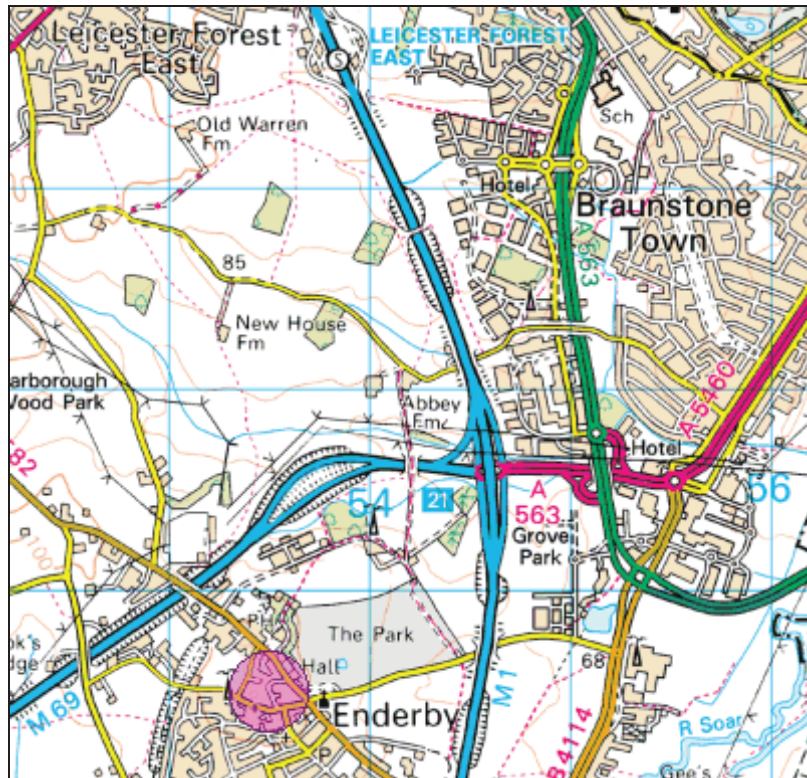


Figure 1. Site location 1:50000

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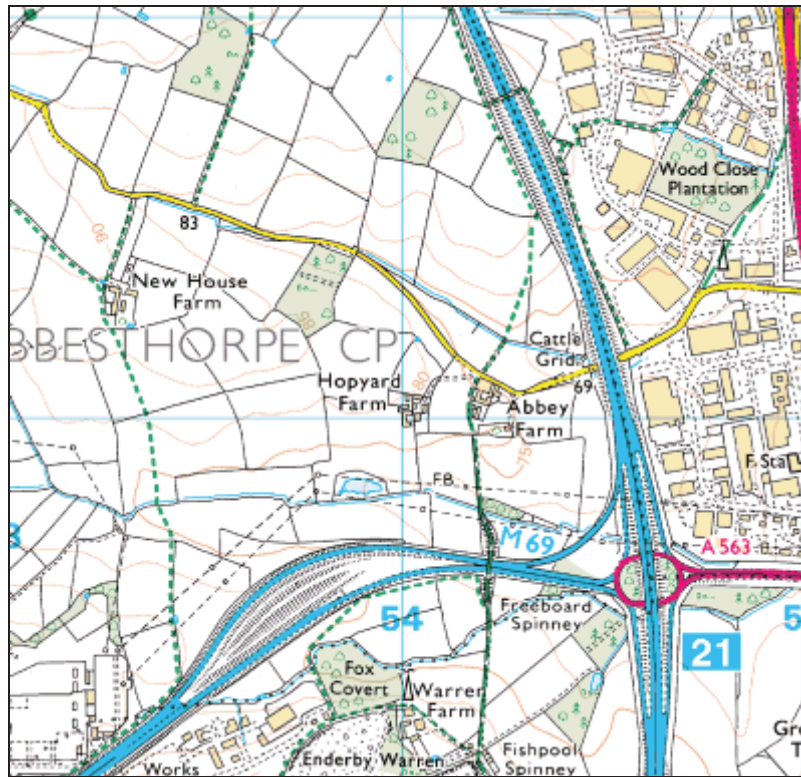


Figure 2. Site location 1:25000

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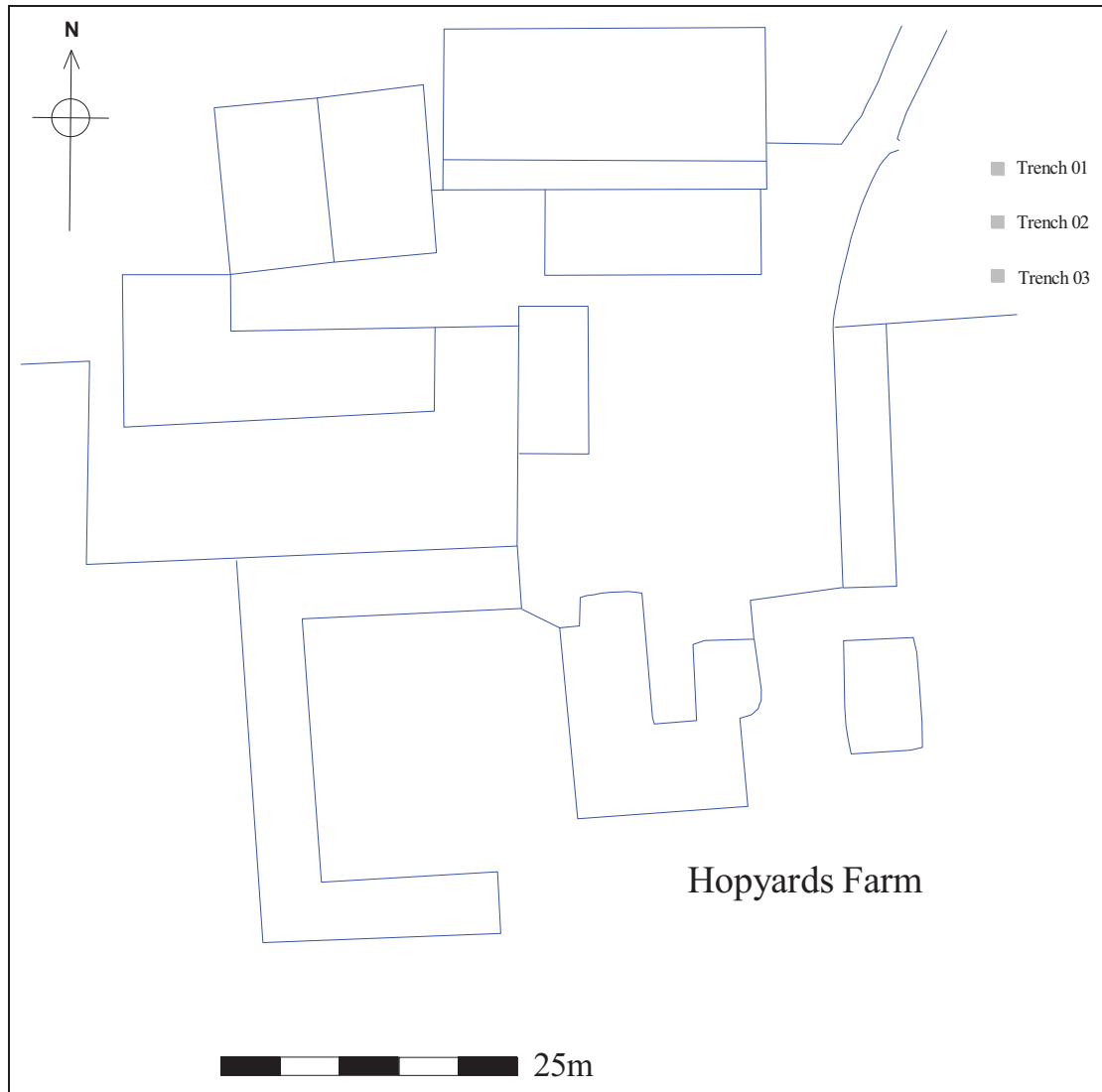


Figure 3 Trench location plan.