



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

An Archaeological Evaluation
County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire

NGR: SK 5499 0713

Tim Higgins



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**An Archaeological Evaluation
County Hall, Glenfield**

Leicestershire

NGR: SK 5499 0713

Tim Higgins

For: Leicestershire County Council

University of Leicester

Archaeological Services



University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH

Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

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An Archaeological Evaluation County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire, (SK 5499 0713)

Timothy Higgins

Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire, (SK 5499 0713) from the 20th to 23rd August 2012. Ten trenches were excavated to evaluate an area for a proposed new car park and access road located within a field to the north-east of County Hall.

Archaeological features were identified in seven of the ten trenches. The features appear to represent the remains of a Roman field system and associated features and yielded a small assemblage of Late 1st to 2nd century pottery, animal bone and charred plant remains, indicating domestic activity nearby. There is also Roman building material suggesting the presence of a stone-founded building in the area of similar date to the pottery.

The remaining three trenches contained no archaeological deposits with the exception of modern field drains.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under accession number X.A76.2012.

Introduction

The proposed development is located to the north of County Hall immediately adjacent to the MUGA, Glenfield, Leicestershire (NGR SK 5499 0713, Fig. 1). The site comprises an area of c. 1.17 hectares, within which will be constructed a new car park accompanied by appropriate landscaping.

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological trial trenching that was undertaken between 20th – 24th August 2012. The development site was identified as an area of significant archaeological potential based upon assessment of archaeological data held by the Leicestershire & Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER). The Principal Planning Archaeologist Historic & Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council, recommended a programme of evaluation trenching to assess the likely archaeological impact of the development proposals. A strategy for the work was set out in the Written Scheme for Investigation, (Score 2012).

The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment.

Geology and Topography

The proposed development lies to the north of County Hall and comprises an area of *c.* 1.17 hectares (Fig. 1). The site lies at *c.* 80m OD on ground falling gently to the west. The geology of the area comprises overlying boulder clay of Oadby Till.

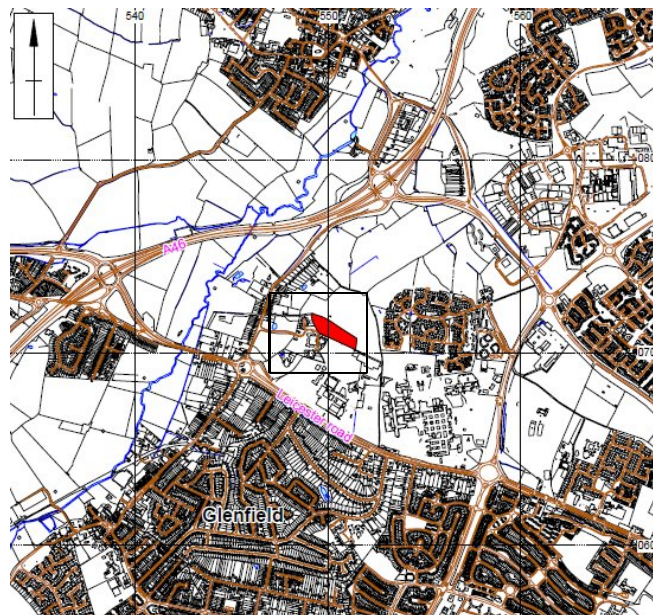


Figure 1: Location of site at County Hall Glenfield. Scale 1:50,000

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Historical and Archaeological Background

Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. In the 1980's an assemblage of Roman pottery was recovered from the proposed development site itself (HER Ref: MLE 117) and archaeological work on the land immediately to the south revealed the south-west edge of a Romano-British settlement. Investigation of the archaeological features and the pottery both indicate that the settlement was long lived (BUFAU 1999/506). The excavation plan showed features heading towards the proposed development site.

Six trenches were excavated in 2009 on land immediately to the south-east (Fig. 2). The ground was found to be largely disturbed by the construction of the present day car park and no significant archaeological remains were encountered (Taylor 2009)



Figure 2: Proposed trench location plan (proposed location of 2012 trenches in blue, 2009 trenches in red.)

Archaeological Objectives

The main aims 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 development
- 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 within the southern area of the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

Methodology

Prior to any machining of trial trenches general photographs of the site areas were taken.

Approximately 540sq m. of trenching (a 5% sample of the area of impact), comprising ten 30m x 1.6m trenches were excavated (Figs 2-3). All trenches were 1.6m wide and the length and orientation of the trenches are outlined in the Trench Summaries (Table 1; Fig.3). The trenches were positioned to provide a random sample in order to examine representative cover of the proposed development area.

The topsoil and overlying layers were removed under full archaeological supervision by a JCB excavator until either the top of archaeological deposits or natural undisturbed substratum was reached, or to a maximum safe depth given the specific site conditions.

The bases and sections of trenches were cleaned in areas where potential archaeology was observed. Archaeological remains were recorded and sample excavation was undertaken in order to determine the character and date of any remains. Bulk soil samples were taken as appropriate in order to evaluate the environmental potential of the site. Archaeological contexts as a cut are indicated by square brackets e.g [09], while those that are fills are indicated by round brackets e.g (07).

The trenches were located using a Topcon Hiper Pro GPS+ RTK System attached to a Topcon FC-100 controller. The data was processed using Topcon Tools GPS+ Post Processing Software and the final plans completed with the aid of TurboCad v.15 design software.

All the work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct (2010) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (2008).

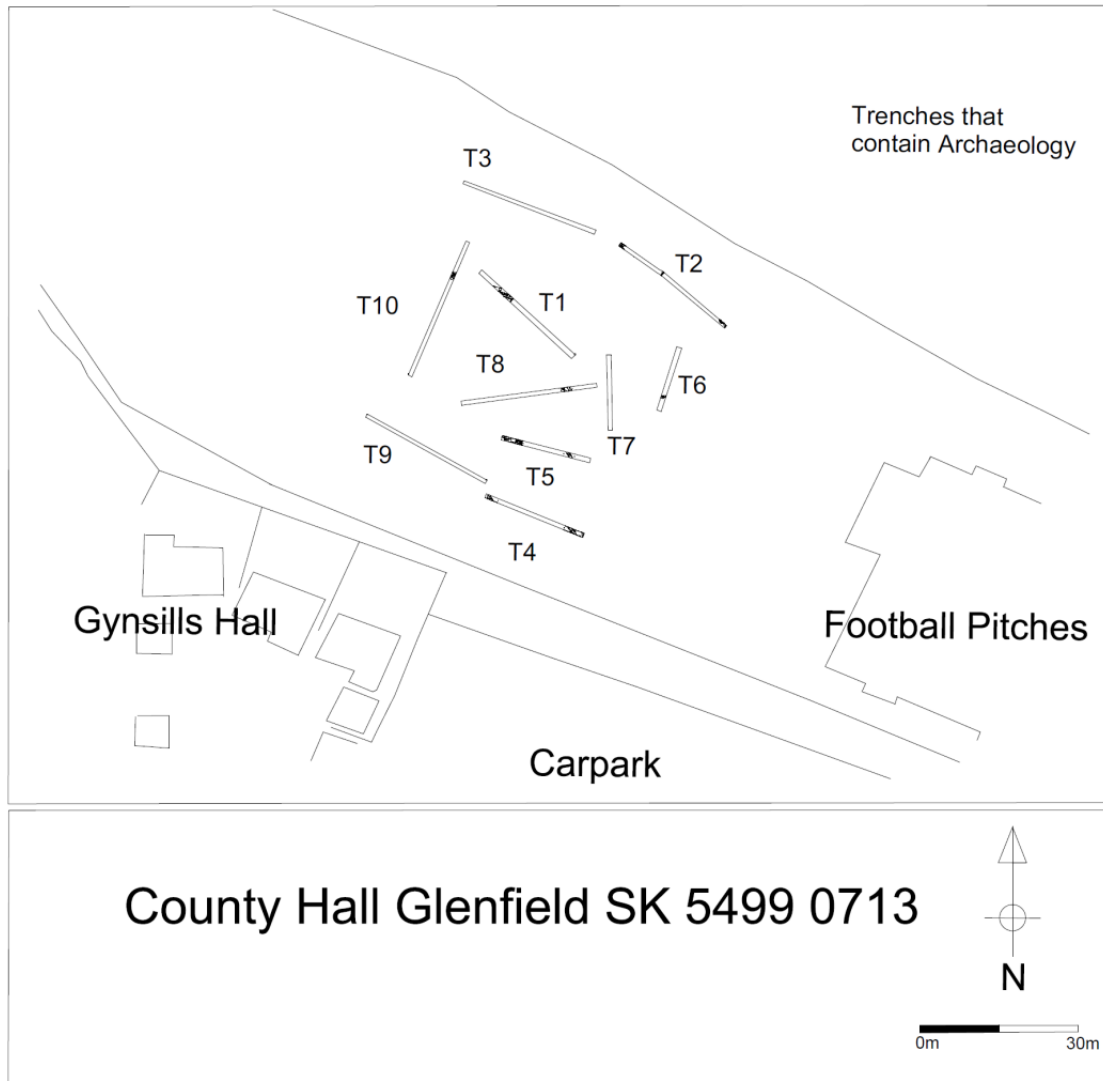


Figure 3: Actual trench location plan

Results

Table 1: Trench summaries

Trench	Orientation	Length(m)	Average depth (m)	Notes feature/context descriptions	Minimum depth to archaeology or natural substratum
1	north-west south-east	28.00m	0.58m	Roman Ditch cut [02] fill (01) Gully cut [04] fill (03) Roman pottery Late 1st - 2nd century. Animal Bone	89.59m OD
2	north-west to south-east	28.50m	0.40m	Roman Ditch cut [08] fill (07) Gully cut [12] fill (11) Pit cut [10] fill (09) Roman pottery Late 1st - 2nd century. Animal Bone	89.68m OD
3	west to east	29.20m	0.70m	Modern land drain	89.65m OD
4	south- west to north-east	22.00m	0.54m	Roman stone and pebble spread (15). Ditch cut [13] fill (14) Roman pottery Late 1st - 2nd century. Animal Bone	89.65m OD
5	south -west to north-east	19.00m	0.67m	Roman stone and pebble spread (21). Ditch cut [19] fill (20) Roman pottery Late 1st - 2nd century	89.55m OD
6	north to south	14.00m	0.41m	Roman Ditch cut [18] fill (17) Roman pottery Late 1st - 2nd century. Animal Bone. Modern field drain	90.60m OD
7	north-west to south-east	15.50m	0.48m	Modern land drain	89.70m OD
8	south-west to north east	28.50m	0.40m	Gully features cut [25] fill (24) cut [27] fill (26) Land Drains	89.70m OD
9	west to east	29.00m	0.61m	Land Drains	87.60m OD
10	north to south	30.00m	0.45m	Roman Ditch cut [23] fill (22) Roman pottery Late 1st - 2nd century. Animal Bone. Modern field drain	88.70m OD

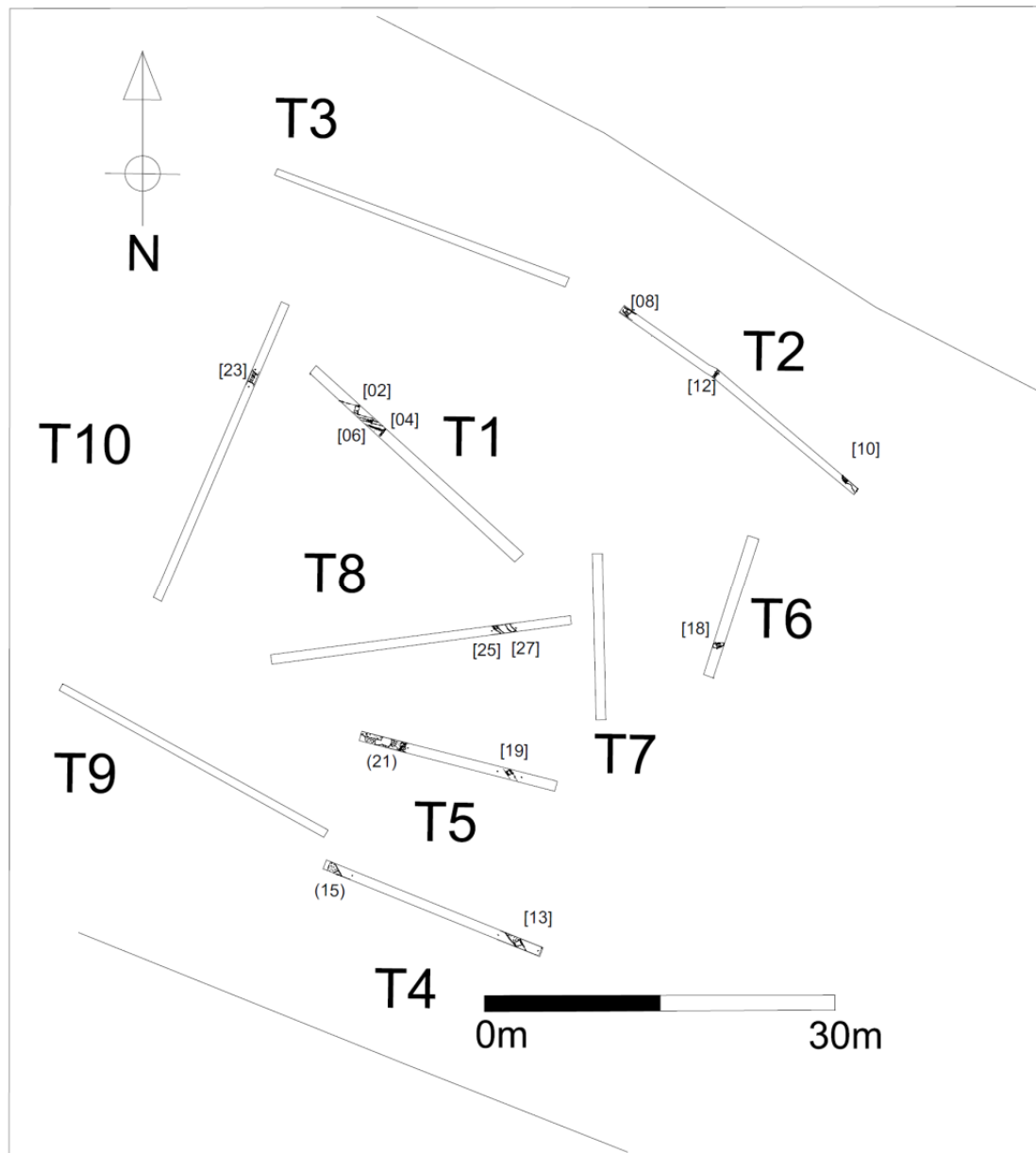


Figure 4: Feature location plan

Trench 1

Trench 1 targeted the centre of the proposed development and was orientated north-west to south-east (Figs 3-4). A total of three linear features were identified within the trench; ditch [02] (01), gully [04] (03) and gully [06] (05), all aligned west to east and located towards the centre of the trench (Fig. 5).

Feature [02] located towards the north-west end of the trench was a medium sized shallow ditch aligned east to west with a broad ‘U’ shaped profile, gradual sloping sides and a rounded base (Fig. 5: Section 1.02, Fig. 6). The feature spanned the width of the trench and measured 1.25m wide, and was 0.26m in deep. The ditch contained a single fill (01) which comprised orange-grey silty-clay mixed with occasional charcoal flecks. The fill contained animal bone (Appendix 3) and Late 1st to 2nd century Roman pottery (Appendix 2).

A small shallow gully [04] was identified towards the centre of the trench measuring 0.46m wide and 0.09m deep. A section excavated across the feature revealed fairly shallow sides and rounded base (Fig. 5; Section 1.02). The feature contained a single fill (03) comprising orange-grey silty clay mixed with occasional charcoal flecks and small rounded chalk pebbles. This feature contained Late 1st to 2nd century pottery and a single small fragment of probable Roman tile (Appendix 2).

The third feature [06] was located on the south-east side of the trench and consisted of a narrow gully that spanned the trench running west to east. The gully measured 0.18m wide and 0.11m deep and had steep sloping sides tapering to a point. The fill comprised orange-grey silty-clay mixed with occasional charcoal flecks and contained modern ceramic pipe fragments suggesting it is likely to be a field drain.

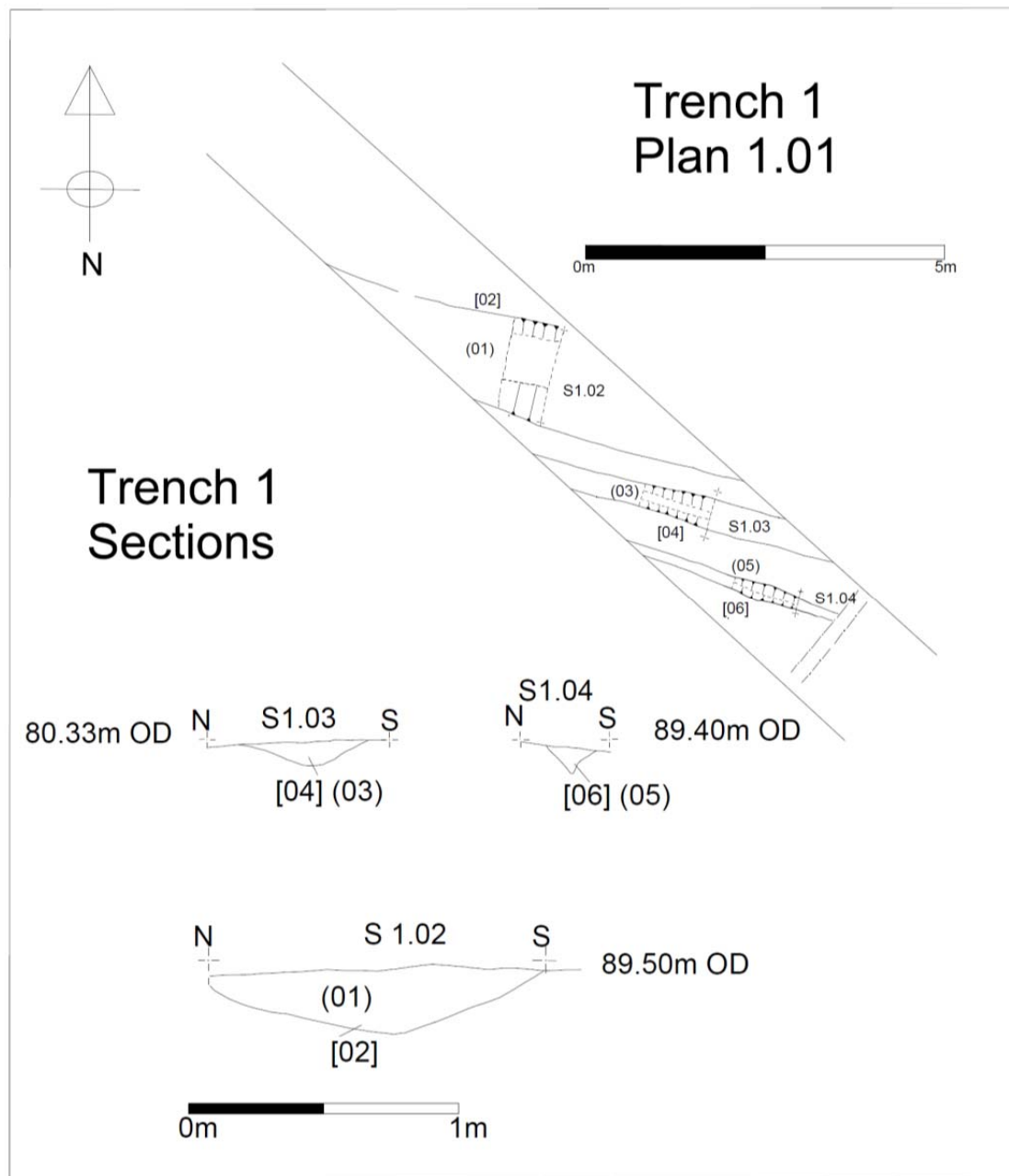


Figure 5: Trench 1 Plan and Sections



Figure 6: Trench 1 Ditch [02] looking east.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was located towards the north-east corner of the field and orientated north-west to south-east (Figs 3-4.). At the western end of the trench a large linear feature [08] was observed with a south-east to north-west alignment (Fig. 7).

The excavated section revealed that the west side of the ditch had a very steep slope. The base of the ditch was not reached due to water issues; however the excavated section reached a measured depth of 0.65m and 0.91m (Fig. 7; Section 1.05; Fig. 8). The feature contained a single fill (07) and consisted of orange-grey silty-clay mixed with occasional charcoal flecks and contained animal bone (Appendix 3) and Roman pottery sherds of an early to middle 2nd century date (Appendix 2).

Towards the centre of the trench a shallow narrow gully [12] was observed running south-west to north-east. A section excavated across this feature revealed gradual sloping sides and a narrow rounded base (Fig. 7; Section 1.08). The gully measured approximately 0.40m wide and 0.12m deep. The fill (11) comprised yellowish-grey silty-clay mixed with occasional charcoal flecks and contained Roman pottery (Appendix 2).

At the eastern end of the trench a possible pit [10] was identified although the full extent of the feature could not be determined as it ran beneath the trench section (Fig. 7; Section 1.06). Excavation revealed an irregularly-shaped feature that measured 3.10m wide and 0.37m deep. The section revealed gradual sloping sides and a flat base. The fill (09), comprised an orange-grey silty-clay with occasional charcoal flecks and containing Roman pottery sherds (Appendix 2).

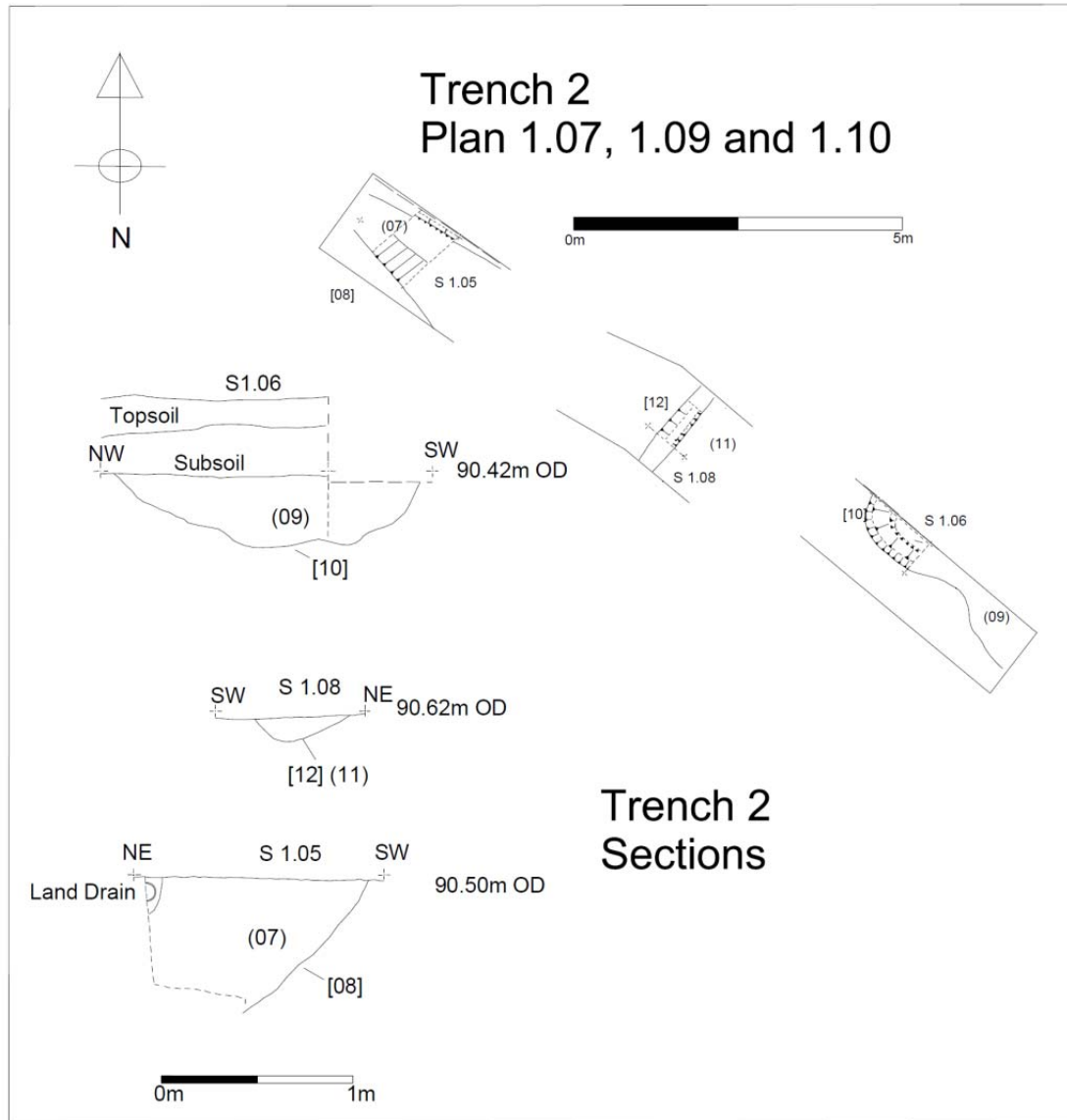


Figure 7: Trench 2 Plan and Sections



Figure 8: Trench 2 Ditch cut [08] fill (07)

Trench 3

Trench 3 was located towards the northern boundary of the development site and was orientated north-west to south-east (Fig. 3). Only a modern ceramic field drain was identified in this trench orientated north to south, at the north-west end of the trench. The natural substratum was reached after around 0.35m - 0.55m of topsoil and subsoil was removed.

Trench 4

This trench was located towards the south-east corner of the development area and was orientated south-east to north-west (Figs 3-4). Feature [13] was located towards the east end of the trench. This was a truncated, medium-sized ditch aligned approximately north to south (Fig. 9). The ditch was 1.16m wide and 0.12m deep. A section excavated across the ditch revealed a cut with steep, sloping sides breaking sharply into a wide, flat base (Fig. 9; Section 2.02). The ditch contained a pale grey-brown silty-clay fill (14) with occasional charcoal flecks and pebbles. Sherds of 2nd century Roman pottery and a fragment of animal bone were recovered from the ditch.

At the western end of the trench an irregular large stone spread (15) spanning the width of the trench was identified (Fig. 9). The stone spread measured approximately 3.00m across with a depth of 0.10m and comprised pale grey-brown silty-clay mixed with abundant angular stones and rounded pebbles. Mixed within the spread were charcoal flecks, 2nd century Roman pottery sherds, Roman tile and animal bone

(Appendices 2 and 3). A test slot excavated across the feature revealed irregular sides and base with pebbles apparently driven in to the natural clay.

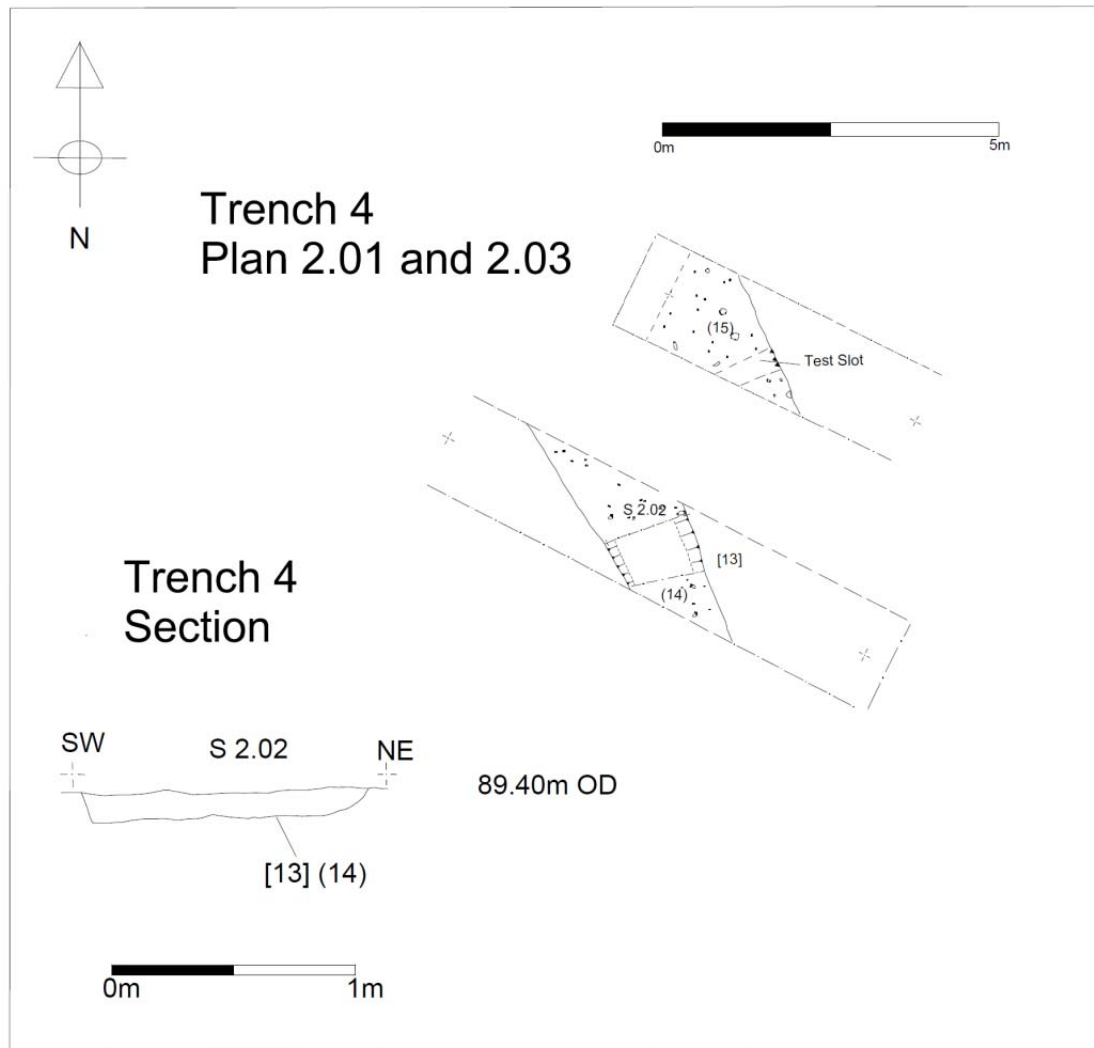


Figure 9: Trench 4 Plan and Sections

Trench 5

Trench 5 was located towards the centre of the development area and was orientated north-west to south-east (Figs 3-4). Feature (21) was located towards the west end of the trench and was believed to be a spread of material (Figs 10-11). The spread measured 7.80m long and spanned the width of the trench. The irregular shaped spread comprised pale grey brown clay mixed with large angular and small sub-round pebbles. A test slot excavated across the spread revealed an irregular base and sides and measured 0.04m deep. The spread also contained early to mid 2nd century Roman pottery sherds.

Further towards the east a ditch [19] a north south linear feature was running north to south across the trench. The narrow feature measured 0.86m wide and 0.13m deep with steep sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 10; Section 2.04). The fill (20) comprised dark grey clay-silt mixed with large charcoal flecks and containing sherds of Roman pottery dating from the late 1st to early 2nd century.

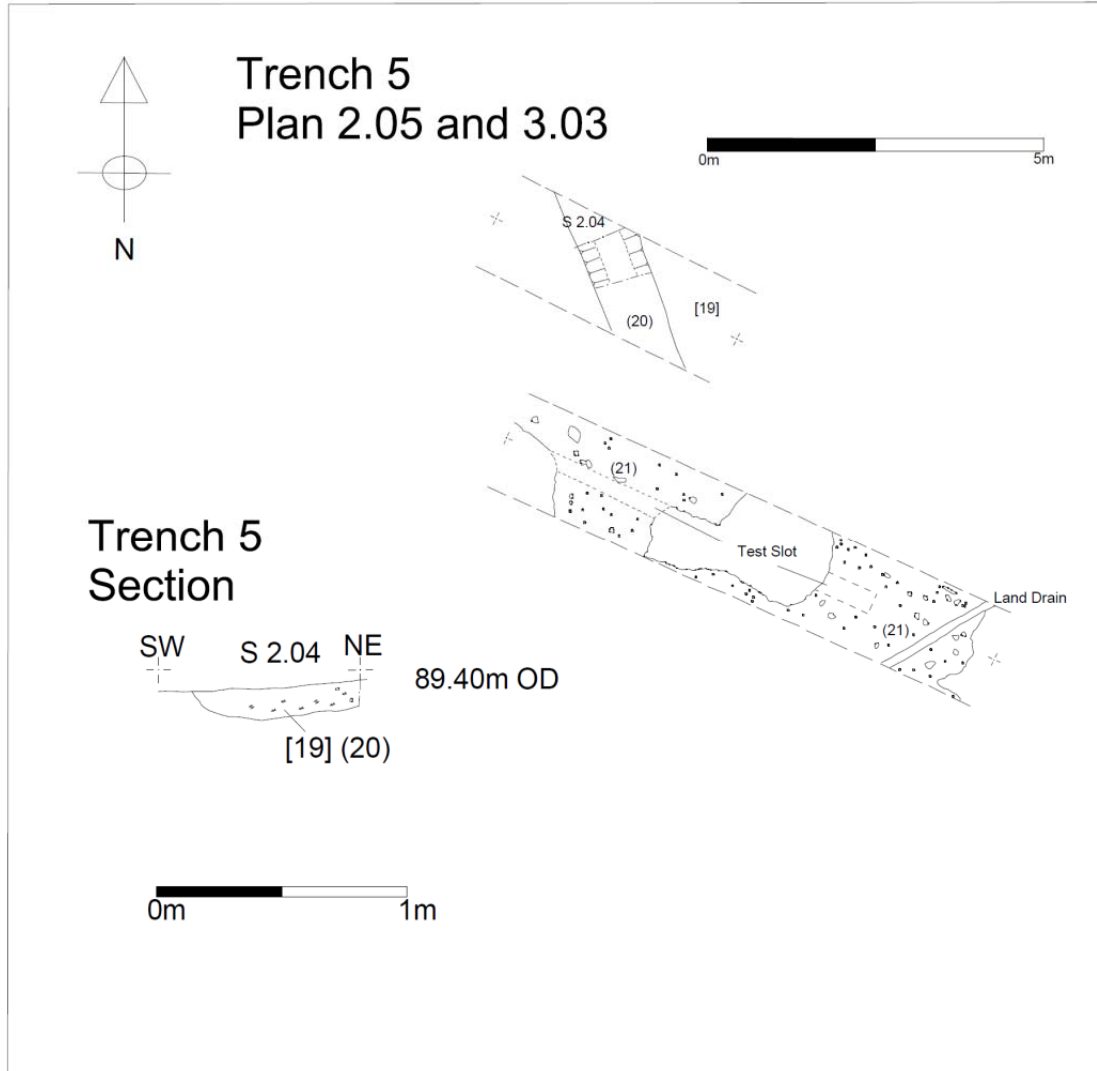


Figure 10: Trench 5 Plan and Section



Figure 111: Trench 5, Stone spread (21)

Trench 6

Trench 6 targeted the eastern side of the proposed development and was orientated approximately north to south (Figs 3-4). A single linear feature or ditch, [18] aligned west to east was identified towards the southern end of the trench (Figs 12-13)

The feature appears to be the butt-end of a medium size ditch or gully [18] and measured 1.50m long, 0.70m wide and 0.28m deep. A section excavated across the feature revealed fairly steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 12; Section 3.01). The feature contained a single fill (10), which comprised orange-grey silty-clay mixed with charcoal flecks and small pebbles of chalk and flint. The ditch also contained a few sherds of late 1st to 2nd century Roman pottery and animal bone (Appendices 2 and 3).

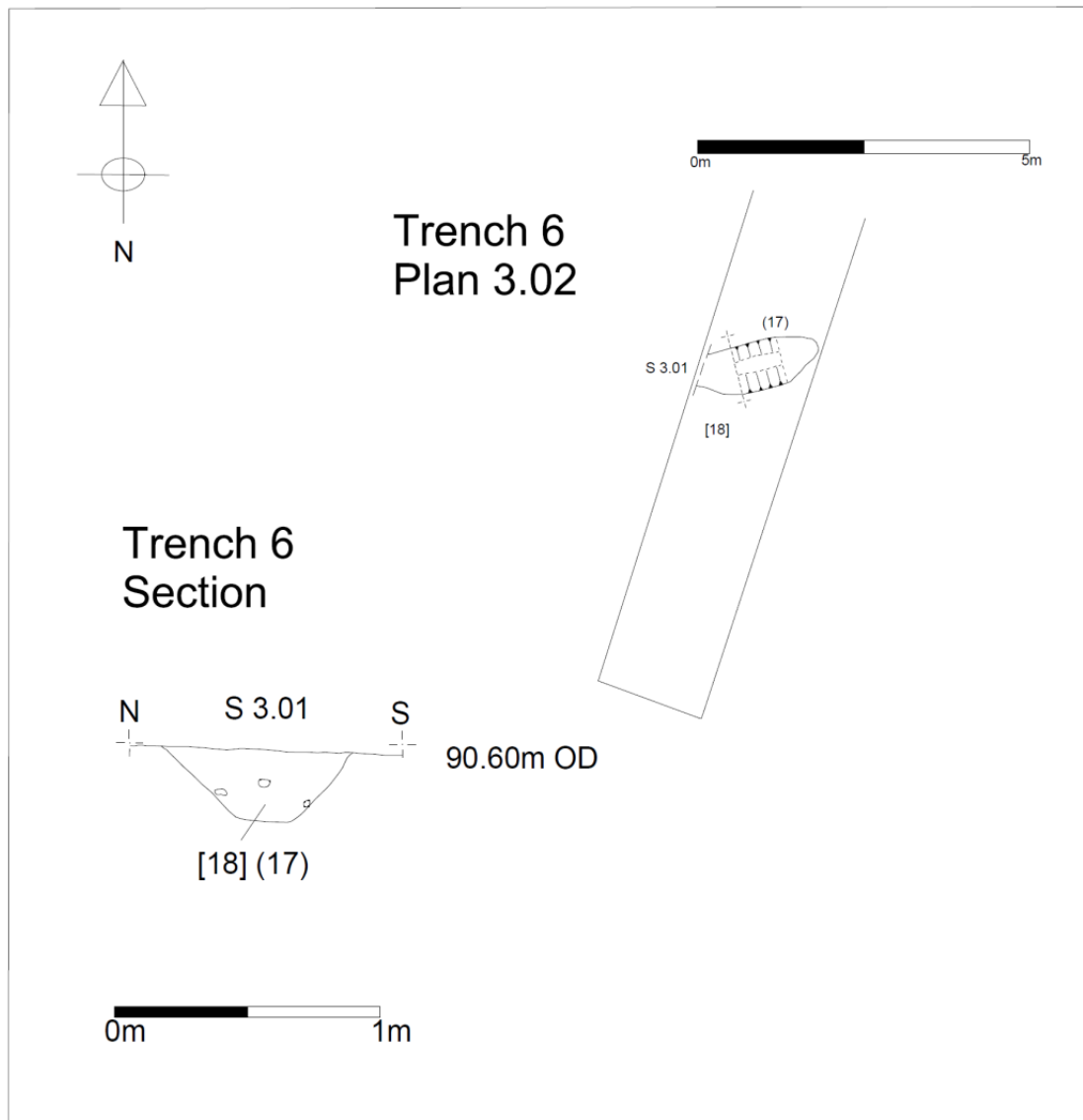


Figure 12: Trench 6 Plan and Section



Figure 13: Trench 6 Ditch cut [18], fill (17)

Trench 7

Trench 7 was located towards the eastern boundary of the development site orientated north to south (Fig. 3). Only a modern ceramic field drain was observed, orientated east to west and located at the northern end of the trench. The natural substratum was reached after around 0.30m - 0.55m of topsoil and subsoil was removed.

Trench 8

This trench was located towards the centre of the field and was orientated approximately east to west (Figs 3-4). At the eastern end of the trench two small, linear features or gullies [25] and [27] were observed on a south to north alignment (Fig. 14).

Gully [25] comprised a shallow, irregular, linear feature spanning the trench with gradually sloping sides and a broad, rounded base (Fig. 14; Section 3.07). The feature measured 0.50m wide and 0.10m deep, with a fill (24) comprising a pale grey-yellow silty-clay with charcoal flecks.

The second gully [27] lay adjacent to the first feature [25] and comprised a truncated, narrow, irregular feature, measuring 0.60m wide and 0.10m deep. A section across the feature revealed shallow sloping sides and a broad rounded base (Fig. 14; Section 3.08). The fill (26) comprised a pale grey-yellow silty-clay with charcoal flecks.

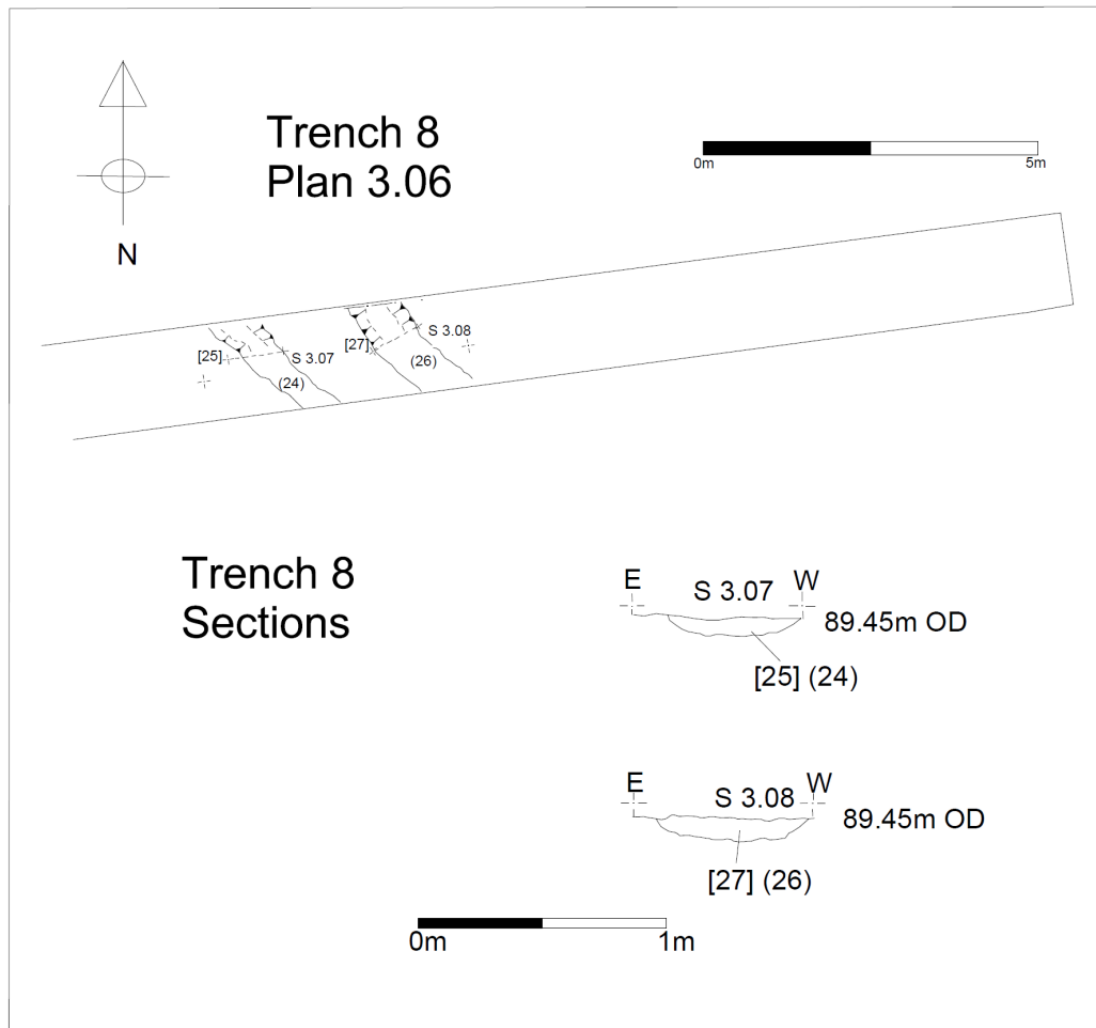


Figure 14: Trench 8 Plan and Sections

Trench 9

Trench 9 was located towards the southern boundary of the development site orientated north-east to south-west (Figs 3-4). Within Trench 9 only two modern ceramic field drains was observed orientated north to south and located at either end of the trench. The natural substratum was reached after around 0.40m - 0.55m of topsoil and subsoil was removed.

Trench 10

Trench 10 was located towards western boundary of the development area and orientated north-east to south-west (Figs 3-4). At the centre of the trench a large linear feature or ditch cut [17] was observed aligned north to south.



Figure 16: Trench 10 Ditch cut [23] fill (22)

Discussion

The archaeological evaluation has revealed extensive, fairly well preserved archaeological remains within the development area. Seven out of the ten evaluation trenches (Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10; Figs. 3-4) contained Roman features, sufficient archaeological evidence to suggest the spread of activity across the whole of the development area.

The bulk of the archaeological evidence recorded from the evaluation reflects Late 1st to 2nd century Roman activity in the form of ditches, pits and stone spreads. Three relatively large ditches were found within the trenches, [02] (Trench 1), [08] (Trench 2), and [23] (Trench 10). Presumably the ditches may relate to some form of boundary activity for fields or plots. A scatter of pits and smaller gully features were located between these potential plots, and pottery (Appendix 2) and animal bone (Appendix 3) was found within their fills. The bulk of the pottery was dated to the Late 1st to 2nd century suggesting domestic occupation from this period nearby. The greatest numbers of identified animal bones belonged to cattle; however a fragment from a juvenile red deer mandible was also present in the assemblage. Samples taken from the features suggest there is also the potential for the survival of charred plant remains (Appendix 4). Spreads of stone and pebbles found within two trenches (15) and (21) and might be perhaps potential threshing surfaces. An extensive threshing floor was found at a comparable Roman settlement excavated at General Hospital, Leicester (Chapman 2000).

A small assemblage of rather abraded Roman tile was recovered including tegula roof and wall tile. It is likely that the material was derived from a stone-founded building in the vicinity of similar date to the pottery (Appendix 2). Overall the pottery suggests a single phase of activity during the 2nd century which may not necessarily extend beyond about AD 160.

Archaeological work on the land immediately to the south revealed the south-west edge of a Romano-British settlement (ME117). Investigation of the archaeological features and the pottery both indicate that the settlement was long lived (BUFAU 1999/506). The excavation plan shows features heading towards the proposed development site and it is likely that archaeological remains found on this site represent the continuation of that settlement.

The archaeological remains on the site if fully investigated could help provide valuable information concerning the date, nature and development of the Romano-British settlement and as a rural settlement within the hinterlands of Roman Leicester. The site could be comparable with similar Romano British settlements located within the hinterland of Roman Leicester excavated at Leicester General Hospital, Crown Hills, Leicester (Chapman 2000) and Hamilton North, Humberstone, Leicester (Shore and Clay 2004)

Most of the trenches also contained modern land drains and some trenches had variable depths of topsoil and subsoil, suggesting some modern disturbance within the development area.

Conclusion

Archaeological remains were identified in seven out of the ten trenches suggesting that the whole development area has the potential for archaeological deposits.

The remains of a probable Roman field system and associated features formed the bulk of the remains, which yielded a small assemblage of Late 1st to 2nd century pottery, animal bone and charred plant remains, indicating domestic activity nearby. There is also Roman building material suggesting a stone-founded building in the vicinity of similar date to the pottery. This site may well represent the continuation of the Romano-British settlement recorded to the south.

Archive

The site archive consists of:

1 Unbound A4 copy of this report

11 A4 Trench recording sheets

1 A4 Photo record sheet

Black and white contact print Black and white picture negatives

A4 Colour digital contact print 1 CD of 24 digital photos

The archive will be held by Leicestershire Museum Service under the accession number X.A76.2012.

Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work to the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York (Appendix 1).

A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal, the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*, in due course

Acknowledgements

Thanks are extended to the client for their co-operation and assistance on site. Fieldwork was undertaken by the author with Matthew Morris and Roger Kipling. The project was managed for ULAS by Vicki Score.

Bibliography

Chapman, S. 2000 An Archaeological Excavation of Iron Age and Romano Settlement at Leicester General Hospital, Crown Hills, Evington, Leicester (NGR SK 6210 0410) ULAS Report 2000-041

Score, V., 2012, Written scheme of investigation for archaeological work: County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 5499 0713) ULAS Specification 13-306 (Appendix 5 of this report).

Shore, M. and Clay, P. 2004 The Excavation of a Romano-British settlement at Hamilton North Humberstone, Leicester (Site 1; NGR SK 6300 730) ULAS Report No. 2004-188

Taylor, E. 2009 An archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire

Tim Higgins
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614
Email: th31@le.ac.uk

2/10/2012

Appendix 1: OASIS Database entry

Project Name	County Hall, Glenfield
Project Type	Evaluation
Summary	<p>University of Leicester Archaeological Services (<i>ULAS</i>) carried out an archaeological Evaluation County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire, (SK 5499 0713) undertaken on the 20th and 23rd August 2012. This work was undertaken on behalf of the client Leicestershire County Council. A total of ten trenches were excavated to evaluate an area for a proposed new car park located within land to the north of County Hall.</p> <p>Seven of the trenches contained archaeological features which included Roman Ditches, pits and surfaces. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under accession number X.A76.2012</p>
Project Manger	Vicki Score
Project Supervisor	Timothy Higgins
Previous/Future work	None
Current Land use	Field
Development Type	Car park
Reason for Investigation	NPPF Section 12
Position in Planning Process	Pre-Planning
Site Co-ordinates	SK 5499 0713
Start /end dates of field work	20/08/2012 to 23/08/2012
Archive recipient	Leicestershire County Council
Study area	1.17ha

Appendix 2: Roman Pottery and Ceramic Tile

Nicholas J. Cooper

Assemblage Size and Condition

A stratified assemblage of 51 sherds of Roman period pottery weighing 916g (Average Sherd Weight 18g) was retrieved from 10 Roman contexts across six of the trenches. This represents a fairly well-preserved group in terms of sherd weight for a rural site, suggesting that although many sherds were abraded (probably due to exposure in middens prior to burial) they were discarded relatively close to the centre of domestic activity.

Methodology

The material was classified using the Leicestershire Museums Fabric Series (Pollard 1994), a summary of which is given below (Table 2). Within the archive database, specific fabrics were assigned to all sherds wherever possible, however in this report the generic ware groups summarised below are used to simplify data presentation. Vessel forms were also assigned where diagnostic sherds allowed, using the Leicestershire Form and Fabric Series and other published typologies (Pollard 1994; Tyers 1996; Webster 1996). The material was quantified by sherd count and weight. The complete dataset was recorded and analysed within an Excel workbook, which comprises the archive record.

Table 2: Summary of Leicestershire Museums Fabric Series (Pollard 1994: 112-114).

<i>Fabric Code:</i>	<i>Fabric Type:</i>
Samian	Samian ware
C	Colour-coated wares
AM	Amphorae
GW	Grey wares
CG	Calcite gritted (shelly)
MG	Mixed Gritted
GT	Grog-tempered wares
MO	Mortaria
WW	White wares
OW	Oxidised wares
BB1	Black Burnished ware
SW	Sandy wares

Analysis of the Assemblage by fabric

Table 3 presents a quantified summary of the assemblage as a whole which is discussed stratigraphically below.

Table 3: Summary of Roman Pottery

Quantified Summary of Roman Pottery			
Fabric	Sherds	Weight	%sherds
Samian	5	215	10
Amphora	1	10	2
White	4	70	8
Oxidised	4	9	8
Grey	29	475	56
BB1	3	41	6
Shelly	5	96	10
Total	51	916	100

Although a small assemblage, there is enough diagnostic material to be confident about the likely date of the activity to which it relates. The samian ware, which makes up 10% of the assemblage (four different vessels) is all from Central Gaul and comprises a substantially complete Form 27 cup with an illegible stamp, dating to the 2nd century and probably the first half, and three bases from dish Form 18/31 dating between 90-150. The only other import is a single sherd from a South Spanish olive oil amphora of Dressel 20 which would also fit a 2nd century date. Like the relatively high of samian usage, the occurrence of BB1 on a site outside the town is also significant, although the sherds are not diagnostic enough to indicate the date of the activity, except to say it is probably from the middle of the 2nd century onwards and may be into the third. The white ware flagons (WW2) would also tend to indicate a date in the first half of the 2nd century and this would also fit with the early Roman shell-tempered ware (CG1A) jar rims which are all channel-rimmed. The grey wares make up over 50% of the assemblage and comprise almost entirely of necked jars with beaded rims, for which a 2nd century date is most likely. Overall, a later 1st or 2nd century date encompasses all of the material in the assemblage and it is conceivable that most of it could have been deposited by about AD160 or soon thereafter.

Stratigraphic Analysis

The eight sherds from fills (1) and (3) in Trench 1 are not really diagnostic beyond assigning a later 1st or 2nd century date, whilst the 18 sherds from the fills of features in Trench 2 included the samian Form 27 from (7) and a sherd of BB1 from (9), whilst (11) contained a grey ware jar. A further 11 sherds came from Trench 4, all from (14) and included samian Form 18/31 and a BB1 jar rim. Nine sherds came from pebble spread (21) in Trench 5, again including diagnostically early-to middle 2nd century material including samian Form 18/31. Three sherds of late 1st to 2nd century date came from fill (17) in Trench 6 and a single grey ware sherd from fill (22) in Trench 10. Overall, there are no discernible differences in the chronology of the pottery across the features which would suggest that the activity belongs to a single phase during the 2nd century which does not necessarily extend beyond about AD 160.

Roman and Modern Ceramic Building Material

A small assemblage of rather abraded Roman tile (four fragments; 723g) was recovered. The pebble spread (15) in Trench 5 contained a fragment of Roman tegula roof tile (135g) and a fragment of wall tile (465g). No pottery was associated with it but the similar pebble spread (21) contained early to middle 2nd century material. Single small fragments, probably from tegulae were also recovered from (3) in Trench 1 (105g) and (14) in Trench 4 (18g). It is likely that the material was derived from stone-founded building in the vicinity of similar date to the pottery. In addition two small fragments of modern brick (14g) were recovered from (5) which, in the absence of any other material could be intrusive, but otherwise indicate a modern feature.

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Appendix 3: Animal Bone

Jennifer Browning

Introduction

Trial trenching carried out by ULAS at County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire in August 2012 produced an assemblage of animal bone numbering 27 fragments. Evidence for archaeological activity was present in Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10 and consisted of pits, gullies and ditches. There was also evidence for possible stone-spreads with finds including pottery, tile and animal bone. The bones were recovered during the excavation of test slots in Trenches 1, 2, 4, 6 and 10. Pottery recovered from the features suggests that the animal bone was deposited primarily during the first half of the 2nd century.

Preservation

The animal bones recovered during hand-excavation were assessed to evaluate preservation and variety and therefore provide an indication of the faunal potential, should the site progress to excavation. The assemblage was fragmented, illustrated by the fact that only a third of the bones (n=9) bones were considered identifiable (table 1) and both old and modern breakage was observed. Surface condition was briefly assessed by context, following Harland et al (2003), and was predominantly fair to poor, indicating the bone surfaces were ‘solid in places, but flaky or powdery on up to 49% of specimen’ or ‘flaky or powdery over 50% of specimen’. Bones in context 7 (ditch in Trench 2) were assessed as good (‘lacks fresh appearance but solid; very localized flaky or powdery patches’).

The Assemblage

The current sample consists of 27 fragments from seven different features, predominantly ditches and gullies. This reflects the type of features on the site but also suggests that there is reasonable potential for bone survival within them. The greatest numbers of identified bones belonged to cattle; however a fragment from a juvenile red deer mandible was also present in the assemblage (Table 4). No bones from small species such as fish, birds or small mammals were seen amongst this small sample.

Table 4: The animal bones recovered from the site (Key: Lge mml= large mammal (indeterminate cattle/horse/red deer size) and Med mml (sheep/goat/pig/dog size))

Trench	Feature	Cut	Context	cattle	red deer	lge mml	med mml	indet.	Total
1	Ditch	2	1	1	1	3			5
1	Gully	6	5					1	1
2	Ditch	8	7	2		2	1		5
4	Ditch	13	14			1			1
4	Spread	-	15	2		4			6
6	Ditch	18	17	2					2
10	Ditch	23	22	1		6			7
			Total	8	1	16	1	1	27

The bones were mostly in large fragments and there were a small number of bones where the state of epiphyseal fusion could be determined. No butchery was evident although it is possible that this was masked by the poor surface condition. Gnawing

and burning were noted however, suggesting that a larger sample could provide useful information on the exploitation of animals at the site. In addition to dietary and economic information, bones also have the potential to provide evidence for craft activities.

Archaeological Context and Potential

Archaeological work on land immediately to the south at Gynsill's Hall, revealed the south-western edge of a Romano-British settlement (MLE117). Investigations have shown that the settlement was in use for a long while and also that the current site may be part of this larger settlement.

If further excavation produced greater quantities of material, it would be useful to compare the results with those from Roman Leicester, as the economic relationship between the town and the countryside is currently poorly understood. Roman period sites in Leicester itself have produced large assemblages from sites including Causeway Lane (Gidney 1999), Bonner's Lane (Baxter 2004) and recent work carried out in Leicester at the Highcross shopping centre (Browning 2009a; Browning 2009b; Wooding 2009). By contrast, rural Roman assemblages in the region are currently rare and when they exist, are often small and poorly preserved. Study of the rural economy has been identified as a particular gap in current knowledge (Monckton 2006, 277) and the supply of meat to the town has been highlighted as a potential research topic in regional frameworks (Knight et al 2010; Monckton 2006, 277).

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Appendix 4: Environmental Analysis

Anita Radini

During an archaeological evaluation at County Hall, Glenfield, conducted by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services, four samples were taken for the recovery of plant and animal remains that may provide information on diet, trade and land use on site. All the samples dated from the Roman period. Samples were from the following features:

- 1) Trench 2: sample **1** (7): ditch fill; sample **9** (10): pit fill
- 2) Trench 5: sample **3** (20): ditch fill
- 3) Trench 6: sample **4** (17): ditch fill

A small sub sample of each bag was scanned to assess survival. All of the samples appeared medium to dark brown in colour and had a fair amount of clay and silty sand. All samples had visible small root fragments, indicating a degree of bio-disturbance. Apart from this all the samples appeared to have a good amount of small fragments of charcoal and possibly other charred remains, together with what seemed small fragments of animal bones. From the low amount scanned it is not possible to assess the nature of these remains or if the remains are of diagnostic nature, allowing further identification. Therefore all the samples have potential for the recovery of plant and animal remains and should be processed in sieving tank for their extraction and possible identification. Samples **1** and **2** appear to hold the best potential.

Appendix 5: Design Specification

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Written scheme of investigation for archaeological work

Job title: County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire

NGR: SK 5499 0713

Client: Leicestershire County Council

Planning Authority: Blaby District Council

Planning application No. 2012/REG3Mi/0117/LCC

Scheduled Start date: 20th August 2012

1 Introduction

Definition and scope of the specification

1.1 This document is a design specification for an initial phase of archaeological field evaluation at the above site, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The fieldwork specified below is intended to provide preliminary indications of significance 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.

1.2 The definition of archaeological field evaluation, taken from the Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008) 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.

2. Background

Context of the Project

2.1 The proposed development (SK54990713; centre) is located to the north of County Hall immediately adjacent to the MUGA, (Fig. 1). The site comprises an area of c. 1.17 hectares, within which will be constructed a new carpark accompanied by appropriate landscaping.

2.2 The development site has been identified as an area of significant archaeological potential based upon assessment of archaeological data held by the Leicestershire & Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER).

2.3 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. The investigation is required to provide an adequate sample of the development area and assess the likely archaeological impact of the development proposals.

2.4 The site lies at c. 80m OD on ground falling gently to the west. The geological mapping notes overlying boulder clay of the Oadby Till.

Archaeological and Historical Background

2.3 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. In the 1980s an assemblage of Roman pottery was recovered from the proposed development site itself (HER Ref: MLE 117). Archaeological work

on land immediately to the south revealed the south west edge of a Romano-British settlement (MLE117). Investigation of the archaeological features and the pottery both indicate that the settlement was long-lived (BUFAU 1999/506). The excavation plan shows features heading towards the proposed development site.

Six trenches were excavated in 2009 on land immediately to the south-east (Fig. 3). The ground was found to be largely disturbed by the construction of the present day car park and no significant archaeological remains were encountered (Taylor 2009).

Site Constraints

- 2.4 There are no known constraints on the site.
- 2.5 This project falls under the CDM regulations.
- 2.6 Service plans show no services within the area for evaluation.

3. Archaeological Objectives

3.1 The main objectives of the evaluation will be

- 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.

3.3 Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation is 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.

3.4 Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

4. Methodology

General Methodology and Standards

4.1 All work will follow the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2011) and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008). The *LCC Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological work Leicestershire and Rutland* (1997) will be adhered to.

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

4.3 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.

4.4 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to the Client and his representatives, the planning authority, the Senior Planning Archaeologist of the Heritage and Resources Team, Leicestershire County Council subject to the health and safety requirements of the site. At least one week's notice will be given prior to commencement of the recording work in order that monitoring arrangements can be made. All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the IfA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008).

Trial Trenching Methodology

4.5 Prior to any machining of trial trenches general photographs of the site areas will be taken.

4.6 It is proposed to excavate ten trial trenches (each approximately 30 x 1.6m long) to cover the 5% sample required by the brief. The provisional trench plan attached (Fig. 2) shows the proposed location of the trenches - the size and position indicated on the plan may vary due to unforeseen site constraints or the presence of archaeological deposits.

4.7 Topsoil and overburden will be removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket. Trenches will be

excavated down to the top of archaeological deposits or natural undisturbed ground, whichever is reached first. All excavation by machine and hand will be undertaken with a view to avoid damage to archaeological deposits or features which appear worthy of preservation in situ or more detailed investigation than for the purposes of evaluation. Where structures, features or finds appear to merit preservation in situ, they will be adequately protected from deterioration

4.13 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, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

4.14 Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan. All plans will be tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Relative spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

4.15 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.

4.16 Trench locations will be recorded by an appropriate method. These will then be tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

4.17 Any human remains encountered will initially be left in situ and will only be removed if necessary for their protection, under Ministry of Justice guidelines and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations.

4.18 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the project a contingency may be required to clarify the character or extent of additional features. The contingency will only be initiated after consultation with the Client and the Planning Archaeologist and Planning Authority. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement an amended scheme of investigation on behalf of the client as appropriate.

4.19 The trenches will be backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.

Recording Systems 4.20 Any archaeological deposits encountered will be recorded and excavated using standard procedures as outlined in the ULAS recording manual. Sufficient of any archaeological features or deposits will be hand excavated in order to provide the information required.

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

4.22 A 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.

4.23 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared 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 mounted.

4.24 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the project.

5. Finds

5.1 The IfA *Guidelines for Finds Work* will be adhered to.

5.2 Before commencing work on the site, a Site code/Accession number will be agreed with the Planning Archaeologist that will be used to identify all records and finds from the site.

5.3 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 the appropriate authority for storage in perpetuity.

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 Planning Archaeologist.

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.

5.6 Finds which may constitute 'treasure' under the Treasure Act, 1996 must be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner. Where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

6. Environmental Sampling

6.1. If features are appropriate for environmental sampling a strategy and methodology will be developed on site following advice from ULAS's Environmental Specialist. Preparation, taking, processing and assessment of environmental samples will be in accordance with current best practice. The sampling strategy is likely to include the following:

A range of features to represent all feature types, areas and phases will be selected on a judgmental basis. The criteria for selection will be that deposits are datable, well sealed and with little intrusive or residual material.

Any buried soils or well-sealed deposits with concentrations of carbonised material present will be intensively sampled taking a known proportion of the deposit.

Spot samples will be taken where concentrations of environmental remains are located.

Waterlogged remains, if present, will be sampled for pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and radiocarbon dating provided that they are uncontaminated.

6.2 All collected samples will be labelled with context and sequential sample numbers.

6.3 Appropriate contexts (i.e datable) will be bulk sampled (50 litres or the whole context depending on size) for the recovery of carbonised plant remains and insects.

6.4 Recovery of small animal bones, bird bone and large molluscs will normally be achieved through processing other bulk samples or 50 litre samples may be taken specifically to sample particularly rich deposits.

6.5 Wet sieving with flotation will be carried out using a York Archaeological Trust sieving tank with a 0.5mm mesh and a 0.3mm flotation sieve. The small size mesh will be used initially as flotation of plant remains may be incomplete and some may remain in the residue. The residue > 0.5mm from the tank will be separated into coarse fractions of over 4mm and fine fractions of > 0.5-4mm. The coarse fractions will be sorted for finds. The fine fractions and flots will be evaluated and prioritised; only those with remains apparent will be sorted. The prioritised flots will not be sorted until the analysis stage when phasing information is available. Flots will be scanned and plant remains from selected contexts will be identified and further sampling, sieving and sorting targeted towards higher potential deposits.

6.6 Where evidence of industrial processes are present (eg indicated by the presence of slag or hearth bases), samples will be taken for the analysis of industrial residues (e.g hammer scale).

7 Report and Archive

7.1 A draft version of the report will normally be presented within four weeks of completion of site works. The full report in A4 format will usually follow within eight weeks. Copies will be provided for the client and the Local Planning Authority and deposited with the Historic Environment Record.

7.2 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.

a summary of artefacts, specialist reports and a consideration of the evidence within its local, regional, national context.

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).

7.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in the IfA Standard and Guidance for archaeological archives (Brown 2008) will normally be presented to Leicestershire County Council within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken and will follow the LCC guidelines detailed in *The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service* (LMARS).

7.4 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.

8 Publication and Dissemination of Results

8.1 A summary report will be submitted to a suitable regional archaeological journal following completion of the fieldwork. A full report will be submitted to a national or period journal if the results are of significance.

8.2 University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS form at <http://www.oasis.ac.uk> will be completed detailing the results of the project. ULAS will contact the HER prior to completion of the form. Once a report has become a public document following its incorporation into the HER it may be placed on the web-site.

9 Acknowledgement and Publicity

9.1 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.

9.2 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.

10 Copyright

10.1 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.

11 Monitoring arrangements

11.1 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and Planning Archaeologist subject to the health and safety requirements of the site.

11.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the *IfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (2008)

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

12 Timetable and Staffing

12.1 The work is scheduled to start on 20th August 2012. The work is expected to take 4-5 days to complete and 2-3 experienced archaeologists are likely to be present during the work.

12.2 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.

13 Health and Safety

13.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (revised 2010) with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is in the Appendix. This project is likely to fall under CDM regulations and the relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate.

14. Insurance

14.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with St Pauls Travellers Policy No. UCPOP3651237 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters (50%) and Brit Insurances (50%) Policy No. FUNK3605.

15. Contingencies and unforeseen circumstances

15.1 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the project, ULAS shall inform the site agent/project manager, Client and the 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 Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement an amended scheme of investigation on behalf of the client as appropriate.

16. Bibliography

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Vicki Score
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel:0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614

Email: vp23@le.ac.uk

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Contact Details

Richard Buckley or Patrick Clay
University of Leicester Archaeological
Services (ULAS)
University of Leicester,
University Road,
Leicester LE1 7RH

T: +44 (0)116 252 2848

F: +44 (0)116 252 2614

E: ulas@le.ac.uk

w: www.le.ac.uk/ulas

