



**University of
Leicester**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Excavation
On land west of Britannia Road,
Burbage, Leicestershire
NGR: SP 440 919 centre**

Tim Higgins



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**An Archaeological Excavation on land west of
Britannia, Burbage
Leicestershire**

NGR: SP 440 919

Tim Higgins

For: David Wilson Homes

Approved by:

Signed:



Date: 07.12.2012

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[X.A78. 2010]

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An Archaeological Excavation on land west of Britannia Road, Burbage, Leicestershire

(NGR: SP 440 919)

Tim Higgins

1. Summary

An Archaeological excavation on land west of Britannia Road, Burbage, Leicestershire was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of David Wilson Homes in August 2012 and April 2013. The excavation comprised the supervision of overburden removal in four areas located over Roman deposits that had been located during previous evaluation. A trench extension was excavated during construction in 2013.

The excavations revealed a network of possible enclosure and field ditches that contained late 1st to 2nd century Roman pottery and was probably located close to a Roman settlement.

The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council under Accession No. X.A78.2010.

2. Introduction

This report presents the results of an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation prior to the phase of ground-works undertaken before the construction new houses located to the west of Britannia Road, Burbage, Leicestershire (NGR SP 440 919). In view of the potential impact of the development this was undertaken as a mitigation strategy following recommendations by the Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team (LCCHNET) as advisors to the planning authority.

The project involved the controlled strip and removal of overburden within four areas that targeted archaeological deposits found during the previous trial trenching. The extent of the four areas would depend on the results of the stripping (Figure 2).

The archaeological excavation was carried out in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12. All archaeological work adhered to the Institute for Archaeologist's (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2010).

3. Site description, topography and geology

The application area lies to the south-west of the village of Burbage, and covers an area of c. 2.4 hectares. It is currently under pasture. There is recent residential development along the northern and north-eastern boundary. To the south and east

there is agricultural land while to the west there are playing fields. The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 169 indicates that the underlying geology of the site is likely to consist of Thrussington Till. The site slopes from the north-north-west at *c.* 120m O.D to the south-south-east at *c.* 115m O.D. A public footpath bisects the site, running east-north-east to west-south-west across the centre.



Figure 1: Location of the development in Burbage

4. Archaeological and Historical background

A desk-based assessment had been prepared for the area (Richards 2009). The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland records that a number of archaeological sites have been identified in the vicinity of the development area. In addition to the historic settlement core of Burbage, which contains a number of listed buildings and other post-medieval archaeological remains, there are also significant archaeological remains within the immediate vicinity, west of the proposed development area, including an Anglo Saxon Brooch (HER ref MLE 6181) and twelve Roman coins (HER ref MLE 2846). Although not on the HER a ring ditch, possibly indicating the former location of a Bronze Age burial mound is located immediately to the south-east of the application area.

A geophysical survey by detailed magnetometry had been undertaken for the area (Butler 2010). This had located some geophysical anomalies suggesting a possible enclosure to the north-east, medieval ridge and furrow (strip field systems), ferrous signals and much building debris. The ridge and furrow evident in the geophysical survey was not easily distinguished on the ground, especially in the southernmost field.

A field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken on the proposed development area on land west Britannia Road, Burbage by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (Coward 2010). The trial trench evaluation had demonstrated that a moderate density of archaeological deposits was present within the application area. The lack of finds and the absence of pit/post-hole type features suggest that the remains were probably not indicative of settlement activity. Several features were located, including pits, gullies and ditches. Some of the features contained Roman pottery, and there was also prehistoric flint recovered from the fills. They may represent evidence of more than one phase of agricultural field system, located on the settlement periphery and probably date to the Romano-British period. There was evidence of dumping and perhaps earthmoving over parts of the southern area of the site.

5. Aims and method.

The main objectives of the strip map and sample excavation will be:

1. To identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or archaeological deposits.
2. To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by proposed ground-works.
3. To record any archaeological deposits to affected by the ground-works.
4. To produce an archive and report of any results.

All work and archaeological deposits encountered were recorded in accordance and follow the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, the standard policy and practice of ULAS as set out in the design specification (appendix 1) and adherence to the University's Health and Safety policy.

6. Results

Area 1 (Figure 3 and 4)

This area was located in north-east corner of the development and targeted a vaguely defined geophysical anomaly and narrow linear features located in the subsequent evaluation. The excavation area measured 12.00m east to west and 9.00m wide north to south and natural substratum was reached at depth of 0.60m below the surface. The natural substratum comprised pale yellowish grey silty-clay mixed with occasional pebble. Overlying this was a 0.30m deep layer of grey clay subsoil, which in turn was sealed by dark grey topsoil, 0.30m thick.

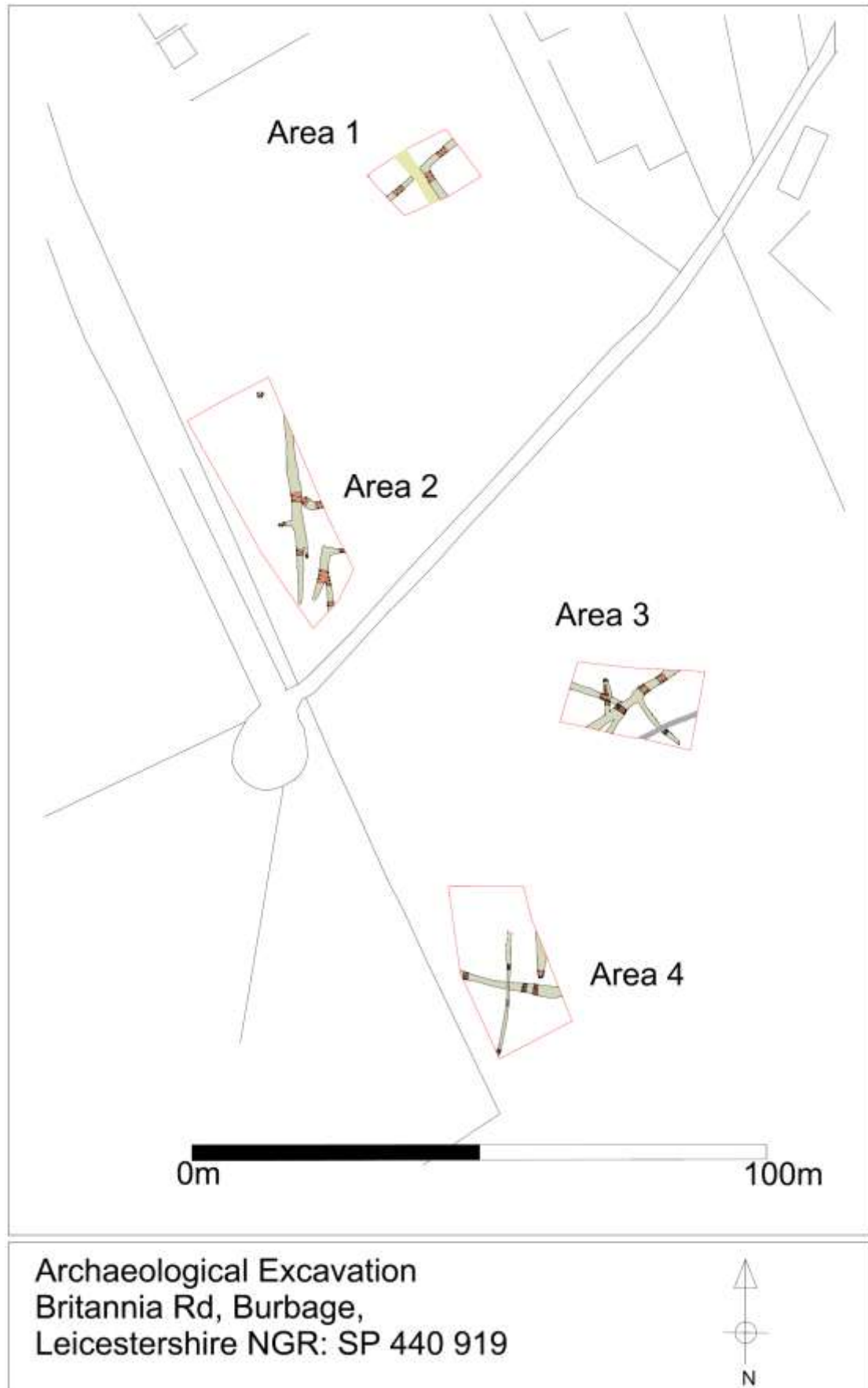


Figure 2: Location strip areas

An 'L' shape ditch was found on the east side of the stripped area along with a butt end of a narrow gully located on the west side. The 'L' shape trench which could be the corner of an enclosure ran from east to west towards the centre of the area and turned sharply and headed southwards. Two sections were excavated across the ditch. A section across the east - west length of ditch revealed a profile [116] (S 102.01), which had a moderate sloping north side that appeared to have slight step in it that may suggest a possible re-cut. The south side of the ditch was very steep and the base was round. The ditch measured 1.06m at the top and had a depth of 0.60m. A primary fill (118) was found at the base of the ditch and comprised a mid-yellowish grey silty clay mixed with occasional pebble. Above this was a second fill (117) that consisted of yellowish brown sandy clay mixed with frequent pebbles.

The second section was excavated across the north - south length of ditch [119] (S102.02). The ditch measured 0.90m wide and 0.30m deep. The east side of the ditch had a moderate sloping side with a step which again could suggest a re-cut. The west side was very steep and the base was narrow and flat. The ditch contained a single fill (120) that comprised yellowish grey sandy-clay mixed with occasional rounded pebble.

At the western end of the stripped area a narrow gully running eastward [121] was exposed and a section (S102.05) was excavated across the narrow linear feature with very steep sides and narrow rounded base. The gully appeared to terminate as a rounded butt end at its east end. The gully contained a single fill (122) comprising a yellowish brown grey sandy-clay mixed with the occasional round pebble.

Between the two features medieval furrow orientated north to south were observed which had been subsequently been cut by a modern field drain running in the same direction.

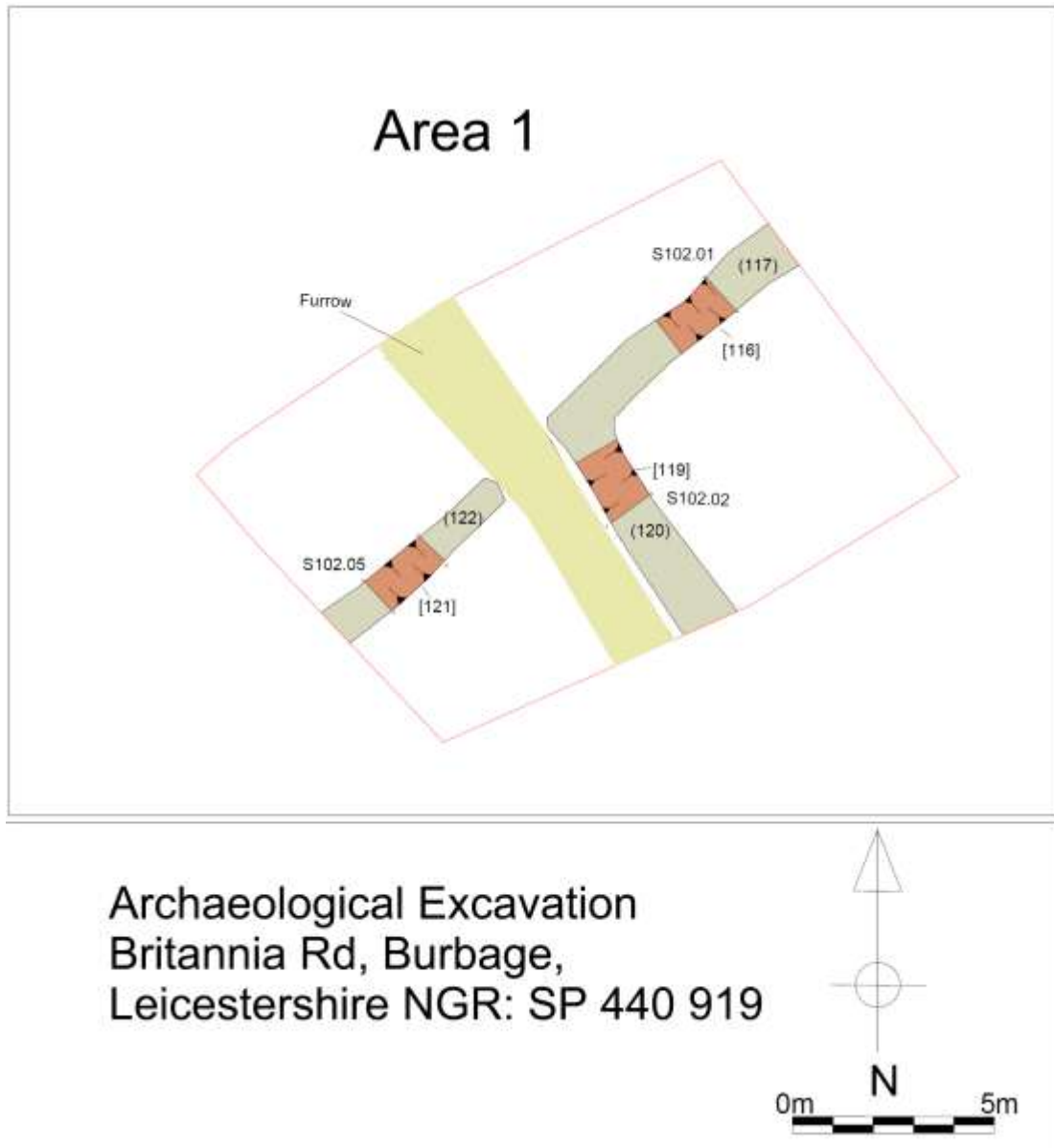


Figure 3 Area 1 Plan

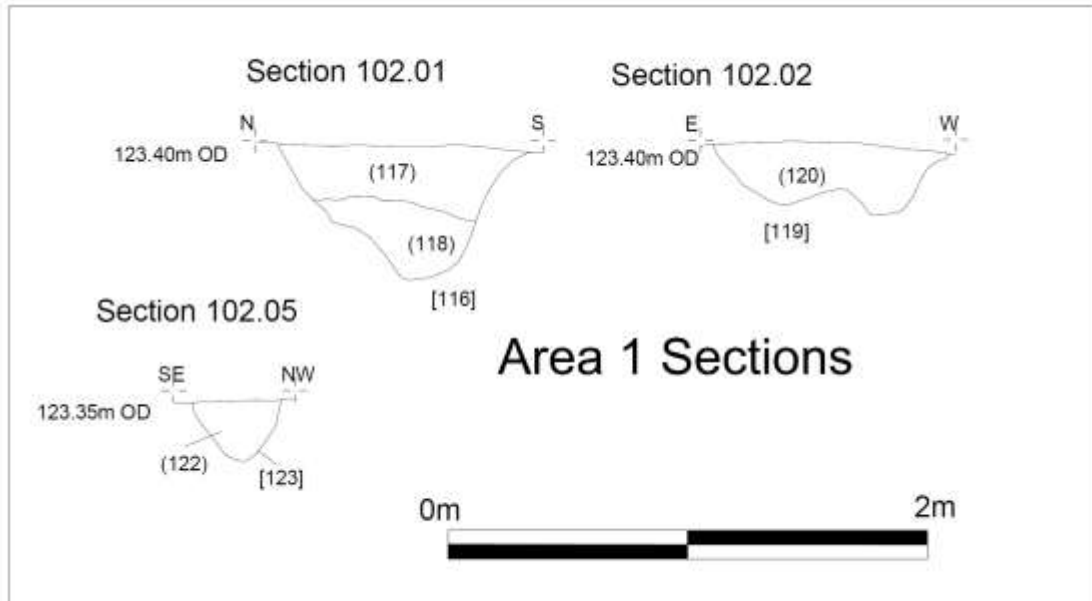


Figure 4 Area 1 Sections



Plate 1 Section 102.01 cut [116]



Plate 2: Area 2 excavation.

Area 2 (Figure 5 and 6)

A second area was opened up towards the centre of the site on the west side and measured 40m long and 14.5m wide and was excavated to a depth of *c.* one metre. The natural substratum comprised dark yellowish brown clay-sand mixed with pebbles. It was sealed by a 0.70m deep subsoil that comprised yellowish brown clay-sand measuring 0.70m deep. This was below a dark greyish brown sandy-clay topsoil that was 0.30m deep. This area targeted archaeological features found within evaluation Trench 1 (Coward 2010). Within this area strip a ditch, a single pit and another 'L' shaped ditch were revealed. The 'L' shaped ditch, which is thought to be a corner of another enclosure, ran from east to west towards the centre of the excavated area, and then turned sharply before dividing into two separate linear features that headed southwards. Sections were excavated across the ditch to reveal their profiles. The section excavated across the east west length of ditch revealed a narrow gully [107] (S100.05), with moderate sloping sides and round base. It measured 0.21m wide and 0.07m deep and appeared to be truncated.

Sections were excavated across the north – south orientated enclosure ditches. The western ditch [101] (S100.02) had moderate sloping sides with a broad rounded base. The cut measured *c.* 1m wide and was 0.31m deep. The ditch contained a yellowish sandy-clay fill (100) mixed with round pebbles. Small fragments of animal bone were also present within the fill (see appendix 2). The eastern cut [103] (S 100.01) was narrower and measured 0.50m wide and 0.44m deep. The profile had very steep sides breaking into a narrow rounded base. The fill comprised dark yellowish brown sandy-clay mixed with frequent rounded pebbles.

Further to the north a 'T' shaped feature was present, further evidence of a field enclosure ditches that probably extended to the north, south and east. The north to south running ditch appeared to have two phases of cuts. The first phase cut [105] (S101.07) had steep 45 degree sloping sides that break into narrow rounded base that measured 1.25m wide and 0.40m deep. The ditch contained a primary fill (150) which comprised yellowish grey sand, and a second fill (104) that consisted of dark yellowish grey sandy-clay mixed with occasional sub-rounded pebble. The second phase re-cut [111] comprised a very steep sided ditch that broke gradually into a broad flat base. This cut measured 1.10m wide and 0.36m deep. The re-cut contained a single fill (110), which comprised yellowish brown sandy clay mixed with occasional medium sub-angular stones and small pebbles. Adjoining the north - south ditch was an east-west ditch which formed a 'T' shape. This east-west cut [109] (S101.06 and S100.06) was irregular in plan and the excavated sectioned revealed a ditch with a steep northern side and more gradual sloping south side. Both sides broke gradually into a flat base. The ditch contained a single fill (108) which comprised yellowish brown sandy-clay mixed with occasional sub-round small pebbles. The ditch measured 1.17m wide and 0.32m deep.

The north - south ditch appeared to have a second attached feature [115] on its west side. A short narrow linear gully located towards the centre of the stripped area ran east to west into ditch [105] (S100.07). A slot excavated across [105] revealed a shallow feature with moderately sloping sides with a rounded base and rounded butt end. The feature measured 1.40m long, 0.40m wide and 0.07m deep. It contained a single fill (104) that comprised yellowish brown silty-clay mixed with sub-rounded pebbles.

Towards the north-east corner of the stripped area a small shallow sub-circular pit [113] (S100.08) measured 0.95m in diameter and 0.33m in depth. The pit had gradually sloping sides with a rounded base. The fill (112) comprised mid-brown and mottled orange brown silty-sand mixed with occasional rounded pebbles and several small sub-angular stones. Small fragments of animal bone were also found within this fill (see Appendix 2).



Figure 5 Area 2 Plan

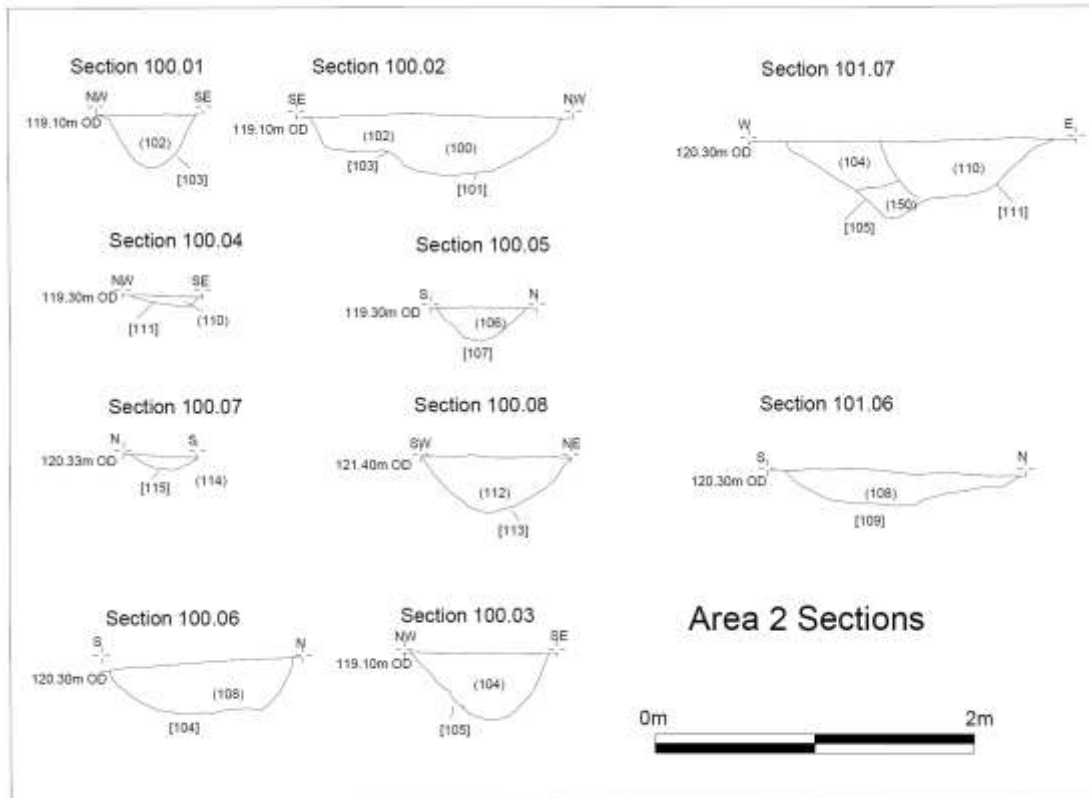


Figure 6 Area 2 Sections



Plate 3 Section 100.03 Ditch cut [105]



Plate 4 Section 100.02 Ditch cut [103] and [101]



Plate 5 Area 3

Area 3 (Figure 7 and 8)

Area 3 was located towards the east side of the development and measured 22m by 13m and the natural substratum comprising yellowish brown clay sand mixed with the frequent small pebbles was at a depth of 0.90m. This was sealed by a layer of subsoil 0.60m deep that comprised yellow brown sandy-silt mixed with occasional small pebbles. Sealing the subsoil was dark greyish brown sandy-clay topsoil 0.30m thick. Within this stripped area another sequence of inter-cutting ditches was found that may represent more than one phase of agricultural field system. There appeared to be three phases of ditches and the first in the sequence is another 'L' shaped feature located towards the centre of the stripped area. The ditch ([147] and [145] S104.04 and S 104.07) was orientated in a north-east to south-west direction and turned sharply at a right angle to run south-westwards. Sections excavated across the ditch revealed steep 45 degree sloping sides that broke sharply into a wide flat base, which measured 0.72m wide and 0.21m deep. The ditch contained mid-light brown silty-clay mixed with sub-rounded pebbles (144) and (146). Roman pottery sherds dated from the mid-1st to 2nd century were found within this fill (see N. Cooper appendix 2).

The second phase in the sequence is represented by a recut of the north-east to south-west section ditch which also extended south-westwards ([127] and [138] S106.03 and S104.04). Sections excavated across the ditches revealed a cut with very steep sides and a flat base which measured 1.30m wide and 0.50m deep. The fill (128) and (137) comprised yellowish brown grey sandy-clay mixed with occasional medium size rounded pebbles. Within this fill mid- to late 2nd century Roman pottery was found (see N. Cooper appendix 2). A small truncated gully cut [133] (S105.05) was found attached on the western side of the ditch. A section excavated across the gully revealed a narrow linear gully with very steep sloping sides breaking into a narrow rounded base. The full extent of the gully is unknown as it was truncated by a later ditch but it measured 0.54m wide and 0.21m deep.

A third phase in the sequences is another possible enclosure ditch which appears to have a different alignment to two previous phases and was located in the south-west corner of the stripped area. The ditch runs in a north-west to south-east direction then turns sharply to run south-westwards [129], [140] and [142] (S105 .03 and 106.03). Sections across the ditch revealed a shallow cut with gradually sloping sides that broke into a broad flat base. The ditch measured 0.80m wide and 0.30m deep. The fill, contexts (130), (139) and (141), comprised mid- brown grey silty-clay mixed with small rounded pebbles. On the corner of the enclosure ditch a small shallow gully [131] (S105.01) abutted the ditch. It had a rounded butt end to the south east and measured 1.80m long, 0.90m wide and 0.15m deep. A section excavated across the gully revealed a cut with moderate sloping sides that breaks gradually into a rounded base.

A modern 1.00m wide brick culvert was seen running south-west to north-east at southern end of the stripped area. The modern culvert seen Area 3 perhaps relates to the boundary feature noted on the geophysical survey (see Figure 11).

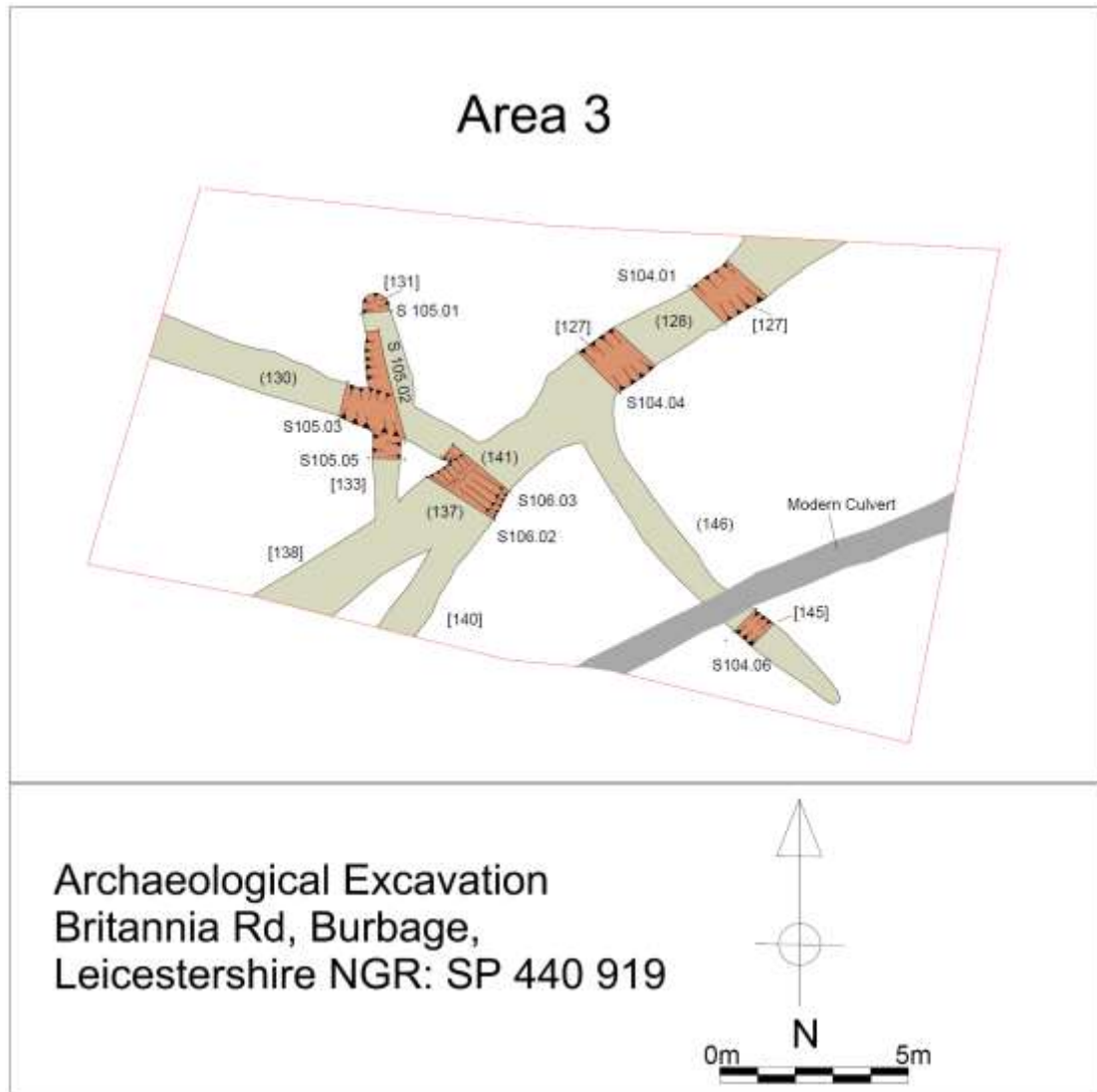


Figure 7 Area 3 Plan

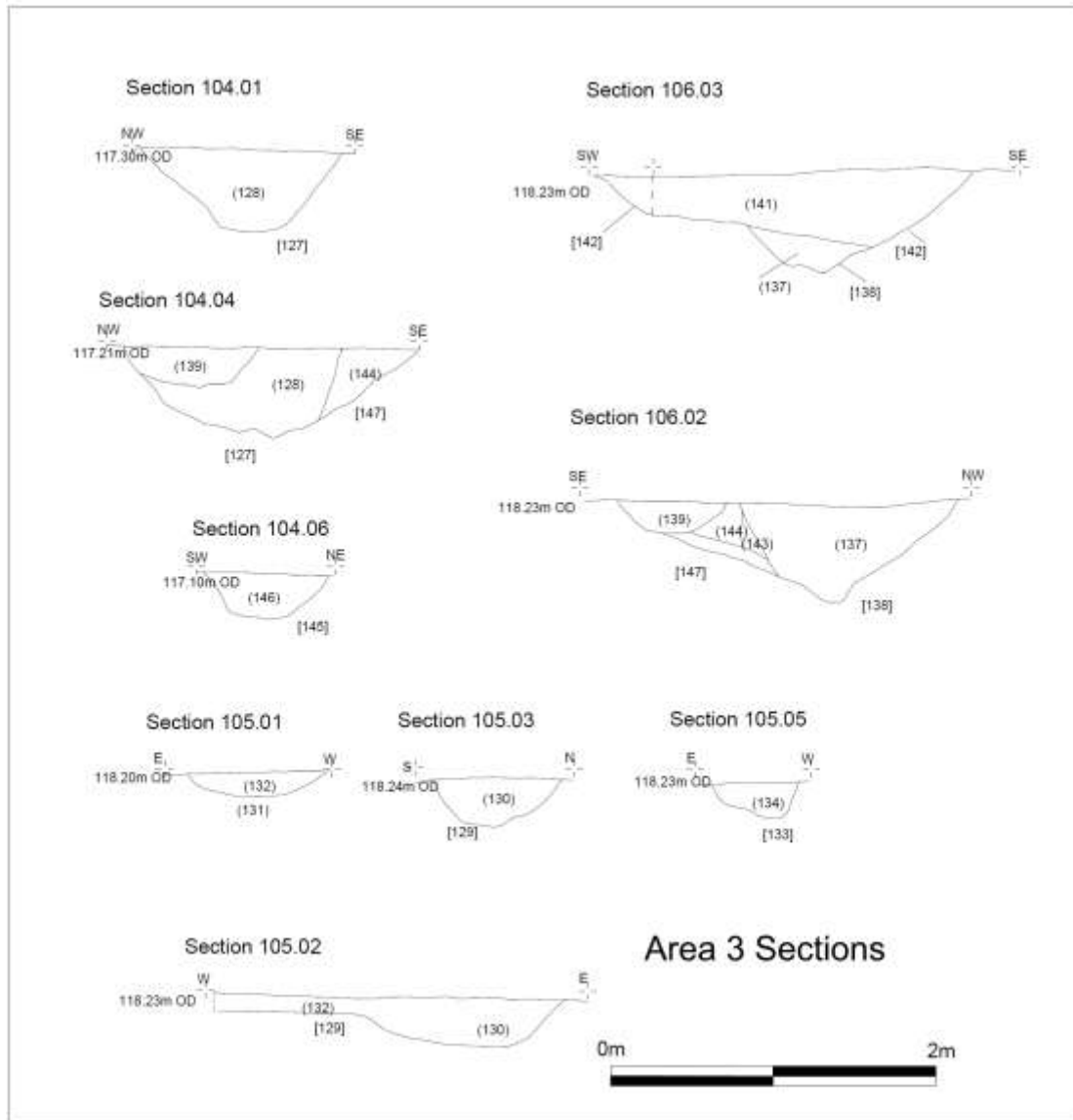


Figure 8 Area 3 Sections



Plate 6 Section 104.09 Ditch cut [127]



Plate 7 Section 106.02 Ditch cut [140], [147] and [138]

Area 4 (Figure 9 and 10)

This area was stripped towards the south-west corner of the development. The excavated area measured 29.5m by 13.5m and was stripped down to the substratum at a depth 0.80m. The natural substratum comprised greyish yellow clay mixed

occasional pebble and was sealed by 0.50m thick layer of subsoil that comprised grey silty clay. Overlying was a layer of topsoil, which measured 0.30m deep.

There were two possible phases of ditching found within this area. The first phase consisted of two ditches found towards the southern half of the stripped area. A ditch cut [124] (see Figure 10 S103.01, S103.03 and S103.05) was found running west to east across the stripped area and comprised wide cut with moderate sloping sides that break into an undulating rounded base that may suggest possible re-cuts. The ditch measure 1.45m wide and 0.35m deep and contained a fill (123) consisting of grey clay silt mixed with occasional rounded and angular pebble. Towards the south-eastern end of this ditch a butt end of a second ditch cut [125] (S103.07) was found. This ditch appeared to be run north-eastward into eastern baulk of the stripped area. A section excavated across the ditch revealed moderate sloping sides and a broad flat base. It contained a single fill (126) which comprised very dark grey clay silt mixed with occasional rounded and angular pebble. Fragments of animal bone were present within this fill (see appendix 2) and ditch appeared to respect the east-west ditch [124].

A second phase of ditches consisted of a narrow ditch [136] located towards the centre of the stripped running north-east to south-west and cutting across the earlier ditch [124]. Sections excavated across the ditch exposed a profile with very steep sides that broke sharply into a narrow flat base (see Figure 10 S108.02, S108.04 and S108.06). The ditch contained single fill (135) that comprised dark grey clay mixed with occasional round and sub-angular pebbles. The ditch measured 0.75m wide and 0.35m deep.

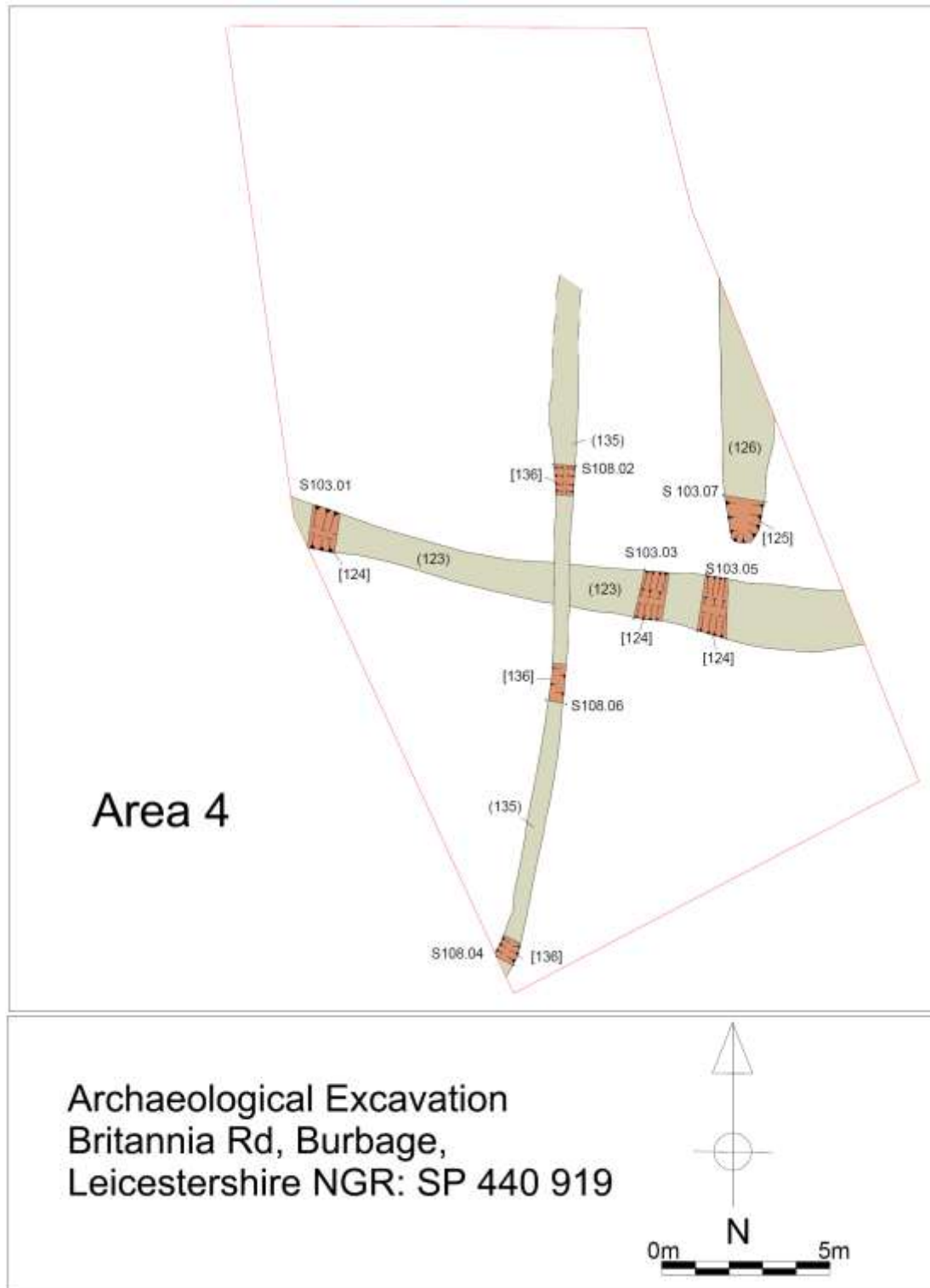


Figure 9 Area 4 Plan

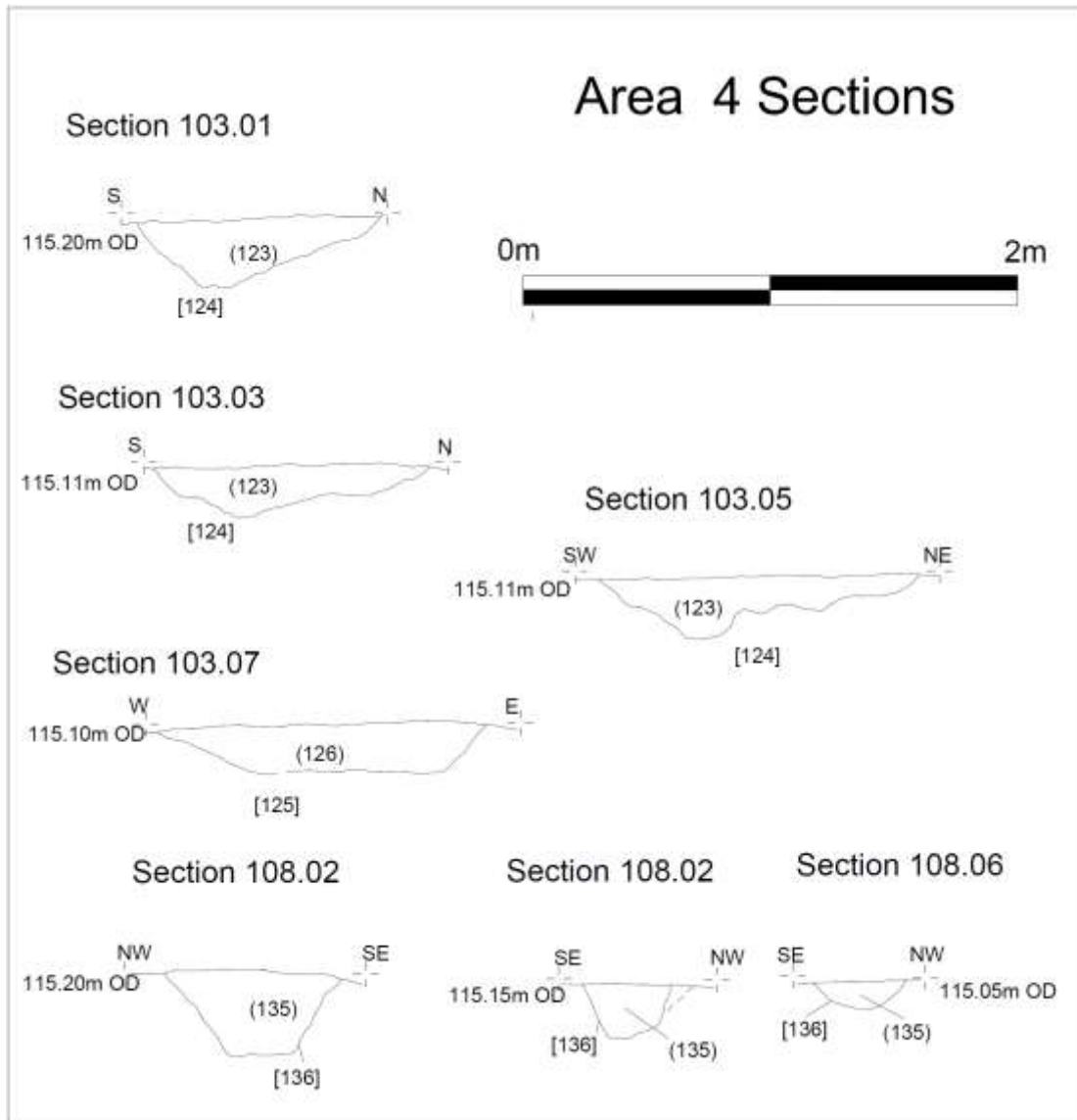


Figure 10 Area 4 Sections



Plate 8 Section 103.05 Ditch cut [124]



Plate 9 Section 108.02 Ditch cut [136]



Figure 11 Geophysical Survey and Areas 1 to 4 excavations

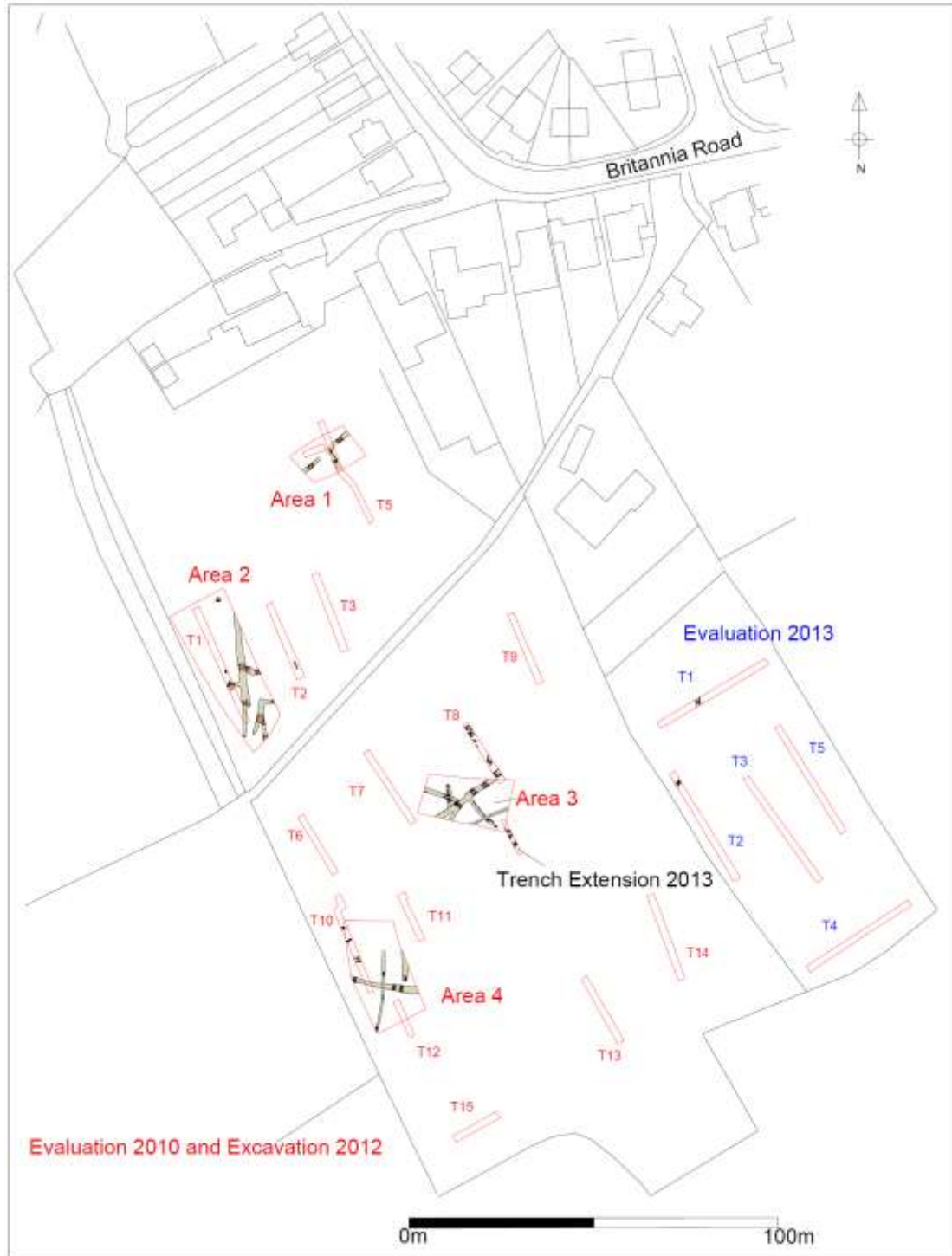


Figure 12 Summary Plan that includes the 2010 Evaluation Trenches, 2012 Excavation Areas and the 2013 Trench extension.

Trench Extension 2013

Roger Kipling

A small trench was excavated on land west of Britannia Road, Burbage currently the subject of residential construction by Charles Church Ltd., during the course of backfilling of earlier trenches on adjacent land (ULAS Report 2013-003), on 4th April 2013. The trench, measuring 10m x 1m and between 0.60m and 0.85m in depth, was located to the south of an area previously excavated by ULAS in 2012 (see Figure 12).

The trench was occupied three linear features, cutting the mottled and patchy orange-brown and grey natural sandy clay and sealed by 0.60m-0.85m of mixed topsoil and clay and associated with site levelling and the present development. A narrow, steep-sided gully [200] measuring 0.25m wide by 0.28m deep and containing a single dense pale grey sandy clay fill (201) crossed the trench on an east-west alignment. The feature produced no finds. The gully was cut at its northern end by a ditch [202] running at right angles. [202] consisted of an open V-shaped cut measuring 0.80m wide, 0.25m deep with 45° sides to a flattish base. The single fill (203), a fine pale grey sandy silty clay produced no finds.

Directly to the east, a second parallel ditch [204] traversed the trench on a north-south alignment. Measuring 1.30m wide, 0.23m deep with 30° sides running to a flattish base, the single pale grey sandy silty clay fill (205) yielded no finds.

Although none of these features provided any dating evidence, it is likely from their location in close proximity to features of known Roman date, to be of similar provenance, whilst their shallow depth is probably explained by recent ground levelling activity associated with the present development.

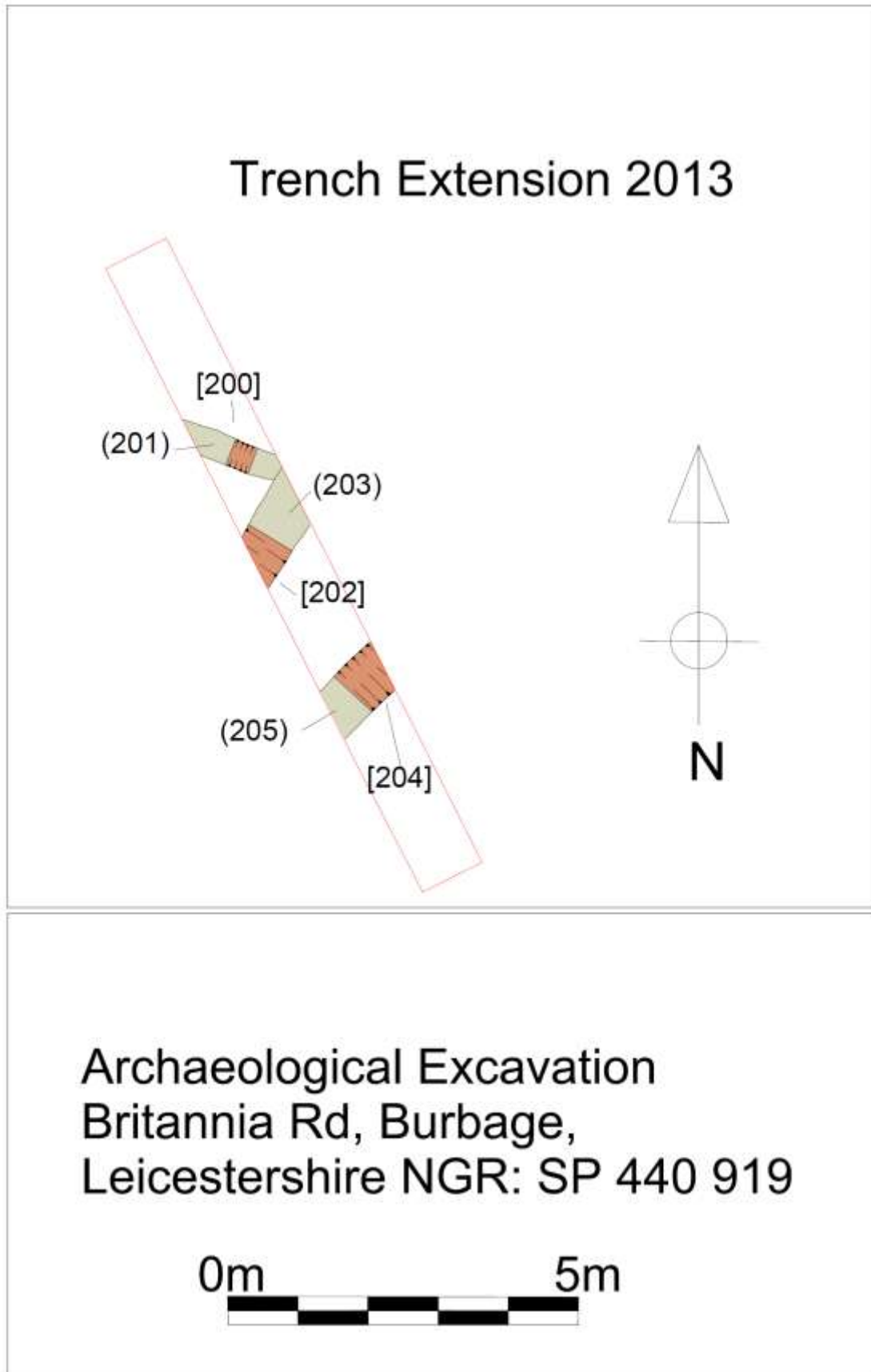


Figure 13 Trench Extension 2013



Plate 10 2013 Trench extension

8. Conclusion.

Prehistoric

Overall there is lack of confirmed prehistoric archaeological evidence with in the vicinity of the development area. A Neolithic arrow head (HER ref MLE 7235) was recovered approximately 500 metres to south-east (Richards 2009). During evaluation (Coward 2010) and these excavations worked flint of a later prehistoric Neolithic or Early -Bronze Age date were found as residual finds within features (see L. Cooper Appendix 2).

Romano British

The site lies 1km directly to the north of Watling Street Roman Road and Romano-British archaeological remains have been found within the vicinity of the development. These include an Iron Age or Romano British beehive quern stone (MLE 9028) at Burbage House Lake located to the south. In a field located immediately to the west 12 Roman coins, two brooches and pottery (MLE 2846) were

found in 1990s. A Roman mosaic has also been found within the village core (MLE 2846) (Richards 2009).

Following the 2010 evaluation (Coward 2010), these excavations have confirmed that the development probably lies within an area with agricultural ditches associated with fields systems or animal enclosures. A small trench was excavated in 2013 during the developments construction and was located to the south of an area 3 previously excavated by ULAS in 2012 (see Figure 12). This trench confirmed that the agricultural features continued to the south of Area 3.

The pottery finds suggest that they date from the late 1st century to mid 2nd century AD (see N. Cooper Appendix 2). The various ditches display evidence of re-cuts and changes in alignment that may represent evidence of more than one phase of agricultural field system.

There was a general lack of finds and absence of pit/post-hole type features that suggest that the remains were probably not indicative of settlement activity. The few pottery sherds and fragments of animal bone (see Browning Appendix 2) that were recovered from the ditches were perhaps waste associated with manuring or midden deposits. The general absence of other finds and abraded nature of the pottery suggests perhaps agricultural ditches associated with fields systems on the periphery of settlement.

The geophysical survey does not appear to have revealed any features that we can directly match up with the Roman ditches found during the excavations. The exceptions are the ridge and furrow feature seen in Area 1 and the modern culvert seen Area 3, that perhaps may relate to the boundary feature noted on the geophysical survey (see Figure 11).

9. Acknowledgements and publication

I would like to thank David Wilson Homes for their help and co-operation on site. The project was managed by Dr Patrick Clay and the fieldwork was carried out by the author, Tim Higgins, Leon Hunt, Steve Baker, Gavin Speed and Roger Kipling all of ULAS.

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in a suitable regional or national archaeological journal within one year of completion of fieldwork. The report has been added to the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) Online Access to the index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the University of York.

10. Archive

A full copy of the archive as defined in *The Guidelines For the Preparation Of Excavation Archives For Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990), and the *Standards In The Museum: Care Of Archaeological Collections* (MGC 1992) and *Guidelines for the*

Preparation of Site Archives and Assessments for all finds (RFG/FRG) will usually be presented to within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all records directly relating to the investigation undertaken.

The excavation archive consists of 1 copy of this report,
Indices,
50 Primary context sheets,
8 primary drawing sheets,
copies of site location plans and synthesised plans,
1 copy brief for archaeological work,
photo index form, colour digital photo contact sheet, B+W contact sheets, negatives
and 1 CD containing digital photos and a copy of the report.

Subject to confirmation it will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museum Service under accession number X.A78. 2010.

11. Bibliography

Butler, A., 2010 *Archaeological Geophysical Survey on land to the south Britannia Road Burbage, Leicestershire March 2010*. Northamptonshire Archaeological Report 10/54

Clay, P., 2012 *Design Specification for archaeological work on Land off Britannia Road Burbage, Leicestershire (NGR SP 440 919)* ULAS Ref: 12/409

Coward, J., 2010 *An Archaeological Evaluation on Land off Britannia Road Burbage, Leicestershire (NGR SP 440 919)* ULAS Report No. 20109-88

Richards, G., 2009 *A Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of Land off Britannia Road Burbage, Leicestershire (NGR SP 440 919)* ULAS Report No. 2009-161

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02.05.2013

Appendix 1 Oasis Summary

INFORMATION REQUIRED	EXAMPLE
Project Name	An archaeological Excavation on Land west of Britannia Road, Burbage, Leicestershire (SK 440 919).
Project Type	Archaeological Strip, plan and sample Excavation
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Tim Higgins
Previous/Future work	DBA, geophysical survey, evaluation
Current Land Use	Pasture
Development Type	Housing
Reason for Investigation	(NPPF) Section 12
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	NGR: SP 440 919
Start/end dates of field work	2/08/2012 to 17/08/2012
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council
Study Area *	2.4 hectares

Appendix 2 The Finds

Roman Pottery from an Evaluation at Britannia Road, Burbage XA78.2010

Nicholas J. Cooper

Assemblage size and condition

A stratified assemblage of 33 sherds of Roman period pottery weighing 287g (Average Sherd Weight 9g) was retrieved from three Roman contexts across the site. The material was in a generally abraded condition but only six different vessels are represented; one by a large number of joining sherds. The average sherd weight is fairly typical of rural sites where material is exposed on the surface and probably deposited at a distance from the centre of 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 1: Summary of Leicestershire Museums Fabric Series (Pollard 1994: 112-114).

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

Results

Table 2: quantified record of the Roman pottery assemblage

XA78.2010 Britannia Rd Burbage Roman Pot								
Context	Cut	Fabric	Form	Type	Dec	Sherds	Weight	date
128	127	BB1	jar	HB12	acute latt	22	188	M-L2nd
128	127	GW5	jar	neckbead		2	25	2nd
137	138	CG1A	storjar	neckbead		3	43	M1st2nd
137	138	GW5	jar	base		2	15	2nd
146	145	CG1A	jar	body		4	16	M1st2nd
Total						33	287	AvShWt 9g

Table 2 presents the quantified record of the assemblage as a whole which is discussed below.

Analysis

This small assemblage is dominated by the fragmentary remains of a jar in south-east Dorset Black Burnished Ware (BB1) of Holbrook and Bidwell's Type 12 with acute lattice decoration dating the mid-late 2nd century. It came from the fill (128) of a ditch in Area 3. BB1 is relatively unusual on rural sites and another vessel was recovered from the earlier evaluation in 2010 (Coward 2010), but is accounted for by the proximity of the site to the line of the Fosse Way which brought this type of pottery into the county. A necked bead rim jar in grey ware, from the same context, is of similar date. The shell-tempered jar from (146), which joins (128) at right angles in Area 3, would also indicate a date in the 2nd century, or may be slightly earlier. The shell-tempered storage jar and grey ware jar base from (137) reinforces a generally early Roman date (2nd century) for this activity.

Fired clay of probable Roman date

A single fragment of undiagnostic fired clay (2g) was recovered from (110) [111]. This may represent burnt daub from a nearby structure.

References

Pollard, R., 1994 'The Iron Age and Roman Pottery' (51-114). In Clay, P. and Pollard, R. (eds): *Iron Age and Roman Occupation in the West Bridge Area, Leicester. Excavations 1962-1971*. Leicester: Leicestershire County Council Museums, Arts and Records Service.

Tyers, P., 1996: *Roman Pottery in Britain*. London and New York: Routledge.

Webster, P., 1996: *Roman Samian Pottery in Britain*. Practical Handbooks in Archaeology no. 13. York: Council for British Archaeology.

Worked Flint

Lynden Cooper

A small assemblage of worked flint was recovered from (100), (104), (112), (128) and (137).

There were 11 pieces of worked flint (some natural pieces have been discarded). The flint is semi-translucent and brown, all of it local till-derived material. The flake technology points to a later prehistoric date (Neolithic-Bronze Age).

(100) Shatter, Core (irregular)

(104) 2ry flake, 3ry flake

(112)? Re-touched flake

(128) 2 x 2ry flake

(137) chip, 2ry flake, Shatter, fragment (burnt)

Animal Bone

Jennifer Browning

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from (100), (112) and (126).

The animal bone recovered by hand during the evaluation was rapidly scanned to assess preservation and variety and therefore provide an indication of the faunal potential, should the site progress to excavation (table 1). The contexts are associated with deposits dating to the 2nd Century AD and are associated with Roman settlement.

A small amount of animal bone was recovered during the work and the evidence suggests that the soil conditions across the site are not especially favourable to bone; however there is some variability. The material in contexts 100 and 112 was very fragmented and the surface condition was also poor. However, the recovery of a fairly intact proximal humerus from context 126, suggests that better preservation is possible in some deposits. A much larger sample of bone would be needed to provide useful information on exploitation of animal resources at the site. This would be

highly recommended as the relationship between the town and the countryside in this period is still fairly poorly understood and evidence from rural sites is needed (Monckton 2006, 277).

Table 1: Summary of assemblage

Context	Preservation	Brief Description
100	poor	14 x medium mammal fragments
112	poor	12 x large mammal fragments
126	fair	Proximal cattle humerus (fused)

Reference

Monckton, A., 2006. Environmental Archaeology in the East Midlands, in N. Cooper (ed.) *The Archaeology of the East Midlands* Leicester Archaeological Monograph 13, 259-286

Appendix 3 Assessment of potential for environmental analysis

Anita Radini

Introduction

Soil samples were taken for the recovery of plant and other remains which can give evidence of different activities at the site and of the environment in the past. The samples were assessed for their potential to provide evidence about past environment, food production and consumption at the site.

Materials and Methods

The samples consisted of bulk samples of around 14 to 18 litres each, from medium to dark brown sandy-clayey soil. Sub samples of soil, from each sample, were scanned for the presence of charred plant remains and other eco-facts such as snails and insect remains.

Samples list with information and results of the scan is provided below in table 1.

Table 1

Sample	Context	Feature	Charcoal and charcoal flecks	Md Rt Fr
100	132	ditch	x	x
101	146	ditch	x	x
102	128	ditch	x	x

Md Rt Fr = modern root and rootlet fragments; x=present

Results

The plant remains

The few remains recovered from the scan were mainly preserved in the form of charred remains. Un-charred root and rootlets fragments, possibly of modern origin and in low quantity, were also observed, suggesting a degree of soil disturbance.

No charred macro-remains consisting of seeds and fruits were encountered during the scan, from any of the samples. Charcoal fragments and charcoal flecks were observed in all the samples, and in particular in sample 101, however none of the charcoal fragments was large enough to be identified.

Conclusions

Overall the archaeobotanical assemblage appears to be poor suggesting the concentration of environmental remains to be low. The scan of the sub-samples suggests low to medium concentration of charcoal fragments and fleck being present and an overall lack of other plant remains.

Appendix 4 Design Specification

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Written scheme of investigation for archaeological work

Job title: Land west of Britannia Road, Burbage, Leicestershire

NGR: SP 5492 9901

Client: David Wilson Homes

Planning Authority: Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

Planning application No. 12/00154/FUL

1 Introduction

1.1 *Definition and scope of the specification*

This document is a design specification for an archaeological strip map and sample excavation at the above site, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment, addressing the requirements of Planning Conditions. The fieldwork specified below is intended to mitigate the impact of the development on localised Roman remains identified during trial trench evaluation.

- 1.2 The definition of an archaeological excavation, taken from the Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance: for Archaeological Excavations (2010) is programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design.

2. Background

Context of the Project

- 2.1 The proposed development area is located adjacent to Britannia Road, Burbage, Leicestershire (SP 440 919; Figs. 1-3). The application area covers an area of *c.* 2.4 hectares and is currently under pasture. The site slopes north-north-west down to south-south-east which appears to be the original topography
- 2.2 *Geology*
The soils of the site are of the Salop Association which comprise “*slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged reddish fine loamy over clayey, fine loamy and clayey soils associated with fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging*” (711m: Soil Survey 1983; Sheet 3). The solid geology comprises reddish till.
- 2.3 Planning permission has been granted (P.A 12/00154/FUL) for the erection of 52 dwellings with garages and associated infrastructure on land south of 26 to 28, Britannia Road, Burbage.
- 2.4 Following National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment, Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team (LCCHNET) as archaeological advisors to the planning authority require that further recording by strip, map and sample excavation trial trenching is undertaken to mitigate the impact on the localised remains located during the pre-application field evaluation (Coward 2010).

Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.5 An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation of the area have been prepared (Richards 2009; Butler 2010; Coward 2010).
- 2.6 The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland records that a number of archaeological sites have been identified in the vicinity of the development area. In addition to the historic settlement core of Burbage, which contains a number of listed buildings and other post-medieval archaeological remains, there are also significant archaeological remains within the immediate vicinity, west of the proposed development area, including an Anglo Saxon Brooch (HER ref MLE 6181) and twelve Roman coins (HER ref MLE 2846). Although not on the HER a ring ditch, possibly indicating the former location of a Bronze Age burial mound is located immediately to the south-east of the application area .
- 2.7 The geophysical survey located anomalies suggesting a possible enclosure to the north-east, medieval ridge and furrow, ferrous signals and much building debris (Butler 2010; Fig. 3). Subsequent trial trench evaluation located four areas where localised Roman deposits were present (Fig 2; Coward 2010).

3. Archaeological Objectives

- 3.1 The main objectives of the strip map and sample excavation 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 record to an appropriate level the archaeological remains revealed
 - To produce an archive and report of any results.

4. Methodology

General Methodology and Standards

- 4.1 All work will follow the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct (2010) and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* (2010). 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.

4.2 Strip, Plan and Sample

- 4.2.1 The project will involve the supervision of overburden removal in four areas by an experienced professional archaeologist to determine the presence/absence of any archaeological remains. The extent of the four areas will depend on the results of the stripping.
- 4.2.2 Should significant archaeological remains be identified this will be followed by a programme of excavation and recording, using additional personnel as necessary.
- 4.2.3 Any archaeological deposits encountered will be recorded and excavated using standard ULAS procedures (see section 4.3 below).

4.3 Recording Systems

- 4.3.1 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.
- 4.3.2. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets.

- 4.3.3 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.
- 4.3.4 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.
- 4.3.5 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.

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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 Excavations (2010)

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

12 Timetable and Staffing

12.1 A start date is likely to be 30.07.2012. Initially one experienced archaeologist will monitor the stripping and further staff will be added as appropriate.

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. 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

Brown, D., 2008 *Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives* (Institute for Archaeologists)

Butler, A., 2010 *Archaeological Geophysical Survey on land to the south of Britannia Road, Burbage,*

Leicestershire March 2010. Northamptonshire Archaeology Report 10/54

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Richards., G., 2009 *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment for land at Britannia Road, Burbage, Leicestershire (SP 440 919)*. ULAS Report 2009-161

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