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**Archaeological Services**

An archaeological field  
evaluation on land at  
**Bardon Road,**  
**Coalville**  
**Leicestershire**  
**(SK 4404 1311)**

Leon Hunt



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**An archaeological field evaluation on land at  
Bardon Road, Coalville  
Leicestershire  
(SK 4404 1311)**

**Leon Hunt**

*for*

CgMs Consulting Ltd

**Checked by Project Manager**

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## **An archaeological field evaluation on land at Bardon Road, Coalville Leicestershire (SK 4404 1311)**

Leon Hunt

### **Summary**

*An archaeological field evaluation was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land at Bardon Road, Coalville, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 4404 1311). The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd in advance of the proposed development of the site for new housing.*

*The site consists of two rectangular fields; one currently under pasture, the other overgrown with a combined size of approximately 5 hectares.*

*The site lies close to the findspot for prehistoric artefacts, including a plano-convex knife dating from the Neolithic period and the location of a Bronze Age burial urn.*

*A total of 18 30m trenches were excavated across the two fields. A system of ceramic and stone field drains was identified along with the remains of a number of furrows running north to south. The remains of a modern field boundary were also encountered in Field 1, running between three trenches as a narrow linear ditch. A patch of alluvium associated with a watercourse that passes through the field, was identified at the south-eastern edge of the site in Field 2.*

*No archaeological features or finds associated with archaeological features were identified or recovered during the evaluation.*

*The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A94.2015.*

### **Introduction**

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to carry out an archaeological field evaluation on land at Bardon Road, Coalville, Leicestershire (SK 4404 1311).

Planning consent is to be sought for the re-development of the site for new housing.

This archaeological work is in accordance with NPPF Section 12: Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment.

The site lies to the east of a field that contained known archaeological remains, including the findspot for a Neolithic flint knife (HER Ref. No: MLE7288) and the location of a recently discovered (2015) Bronze Age burial urn (MLE21950 & MLE21952).

### **Location and Geology**

Coalville lies around 15 miles north-west of Leicester in the District of North-West Leicestershire. The site consists of two fields that lie to the south-west of Bardon Road, part of the A511 between Coalville and Leicester (Figure 1).

Field 1 (northern field) was under grass at the time of the evaluation and was accessed via a wide tarmac track that leads from Bardon Road to a neighbouring sub-station. A power line runs from this station across the field from east to west.

Field 2 (southern field) is accessed via a narrow metalled track also leading from Bardon Road. This field was rough ground and mostly covered in vegetation at the time of the evaluation. A power line runs from north-west to south-east across the site.

The fields are bordered by housing to the north-east, by fields to the north-west and by the mineral railway associated with Bardon Quarry to the south and south-east.

The land falls from north-west to south-east from around 160m aOD to around 145m aOD.

The underlying geology of the site is shown on the British Geological Survey website as consisting of Gunthorpe Member Mudstone overlain by Oadby Member Diamicton sand, silt and gravel except on the southern part of Field 2 where there is likely to be alluvium from the watercourse that crosses the field from north-east to south-west.

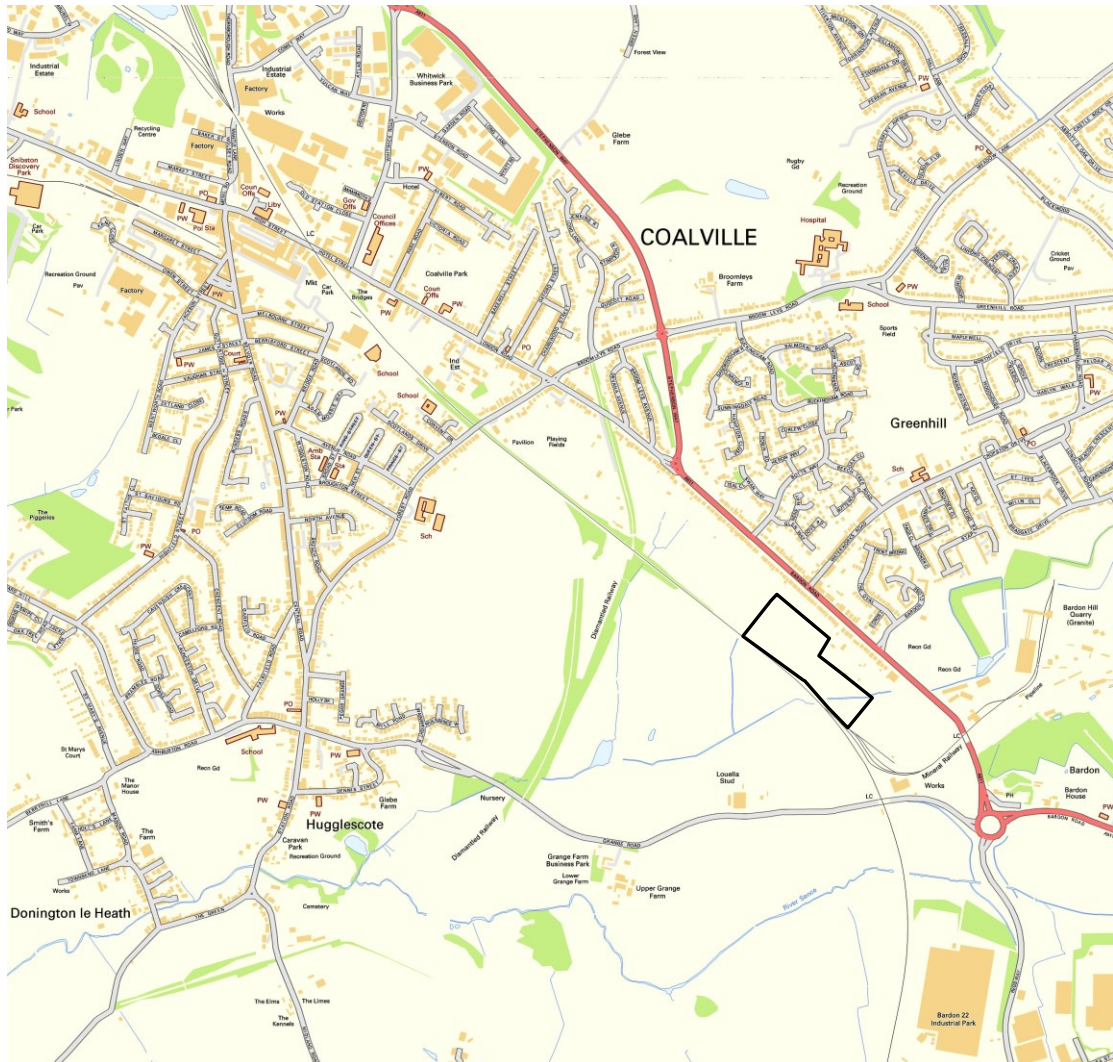


Figure 1: Site Location  
Contains Ordnance Survey Data. Scale 1: 10 000

## Historical and Archaeological Background

The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland indicates that there are archaeological sites located within the vicinity of the assessment area (Nexus Heritage 2013). From the Neolithic and Bronze Age a late Neolithic plano-convex knife was found in the field to the west of the assessment site in the 1970s (HER Ref. No: MLE7288). At the time of this discovery this field had just been ploughed. A recent trial trench evaluation, carried out by MOLA in 2015 has revealed part of a Bronze Age burial urn close to the findspot for the knife, along with an undated gully feature (MLE21950 & MLE21952).

Several other prehistoric objects have been uncovered within the wider vicinity. To the south-west of the site, adjacent to the South Leicestershire Colliery and the disused railway, a Mesolithic core and a late Neolithic scraper were found during field-walking exercise in 1997 (MLE10357). To the north of this find-spot, on the outskirts of Hugglescote, a large quantity of Neolithic/Bronze Age flints, including a side scraper, arrowhead and a core, were found across two fields on the other side of the disused railway line during a field walking exercise by the Witan Archaeology Group in 2003 (MLE16538, MLE16541). A Mesolithic flint core and two other flints were also recovered in this vicinity (MLE9458).

In addition to these finds a number of undated small circular and sub-circular crop-marks were observed from aerial photographs in 2007 in a field to the south-west of Grange Farm (MLE16770)

Along the northern boundary of the Site the HER has identified a possible Roman Road, following the alignment of the current Coalville High Street, Hotel Street, London Road and Ashby Road (MLE9876). In addition to the straight layout of the road, which is a characteristic of Roman Roads, its alignment suggests that it was oriented north-west to south-east – running to *Ratae Corieltavorum* (Roman Leicester). A band of scattered stones on precisely this alignment was discovered running across a harrowed field in the vicinity of Spinney Cottages, (MLE10350). To the south of the Site another possible Roman Road has been identified along Beveridge Lane (MLE16545).

## Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives of the evaluation were:

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

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

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

## Methodology

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014) in accordance with their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014). The archaeological work followed the *Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological work* (WSI) prepared by ULAS (Appendix I).

The client had requested a 2% sample comprising 14 x 30m x 1.8m trenches within the site; 11 within Field 1 and 3 within Field 2. Subsequent to the evaluation proving to be largely negative a further four trenches were added to Field 1, close to the findspots for the prehistoric material in the adjacent field, bringing the total to 18 over the two fields. The orientation and position of some of the trenches proposed in the WSI was altered slightly to work around the powerlines that crossed the site (Figure 2)

The trenches in Field 1 were excavated using a large tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Plate 1), and the trenches in Field 2 were excavated using a CASE backactor fitted with toothless ditching bucket (Plate 6). All trenches were backfilled after recording and monitoring by the Leicestershire County Council Principal Planning Archaeologist.

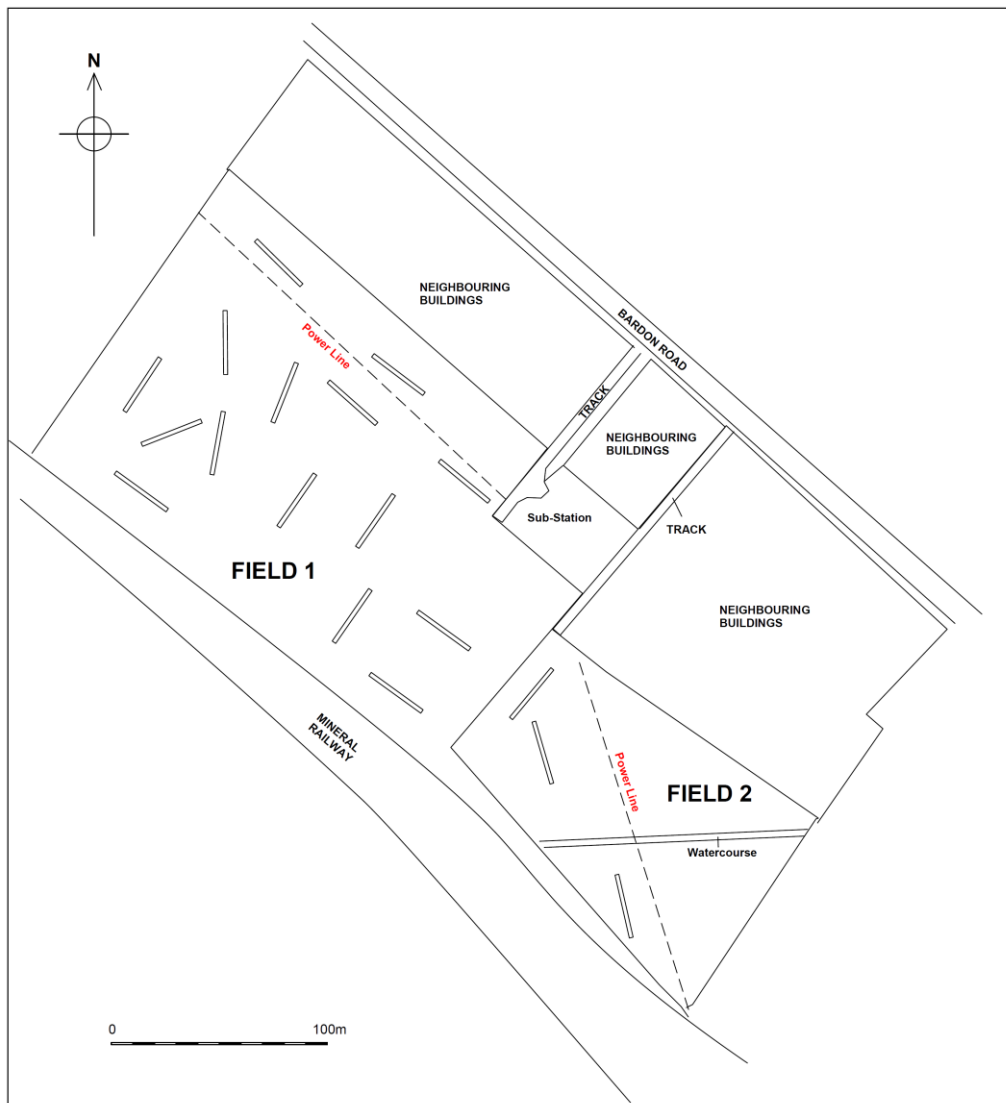


Figure 2: Plan of site with trench positions



## Results

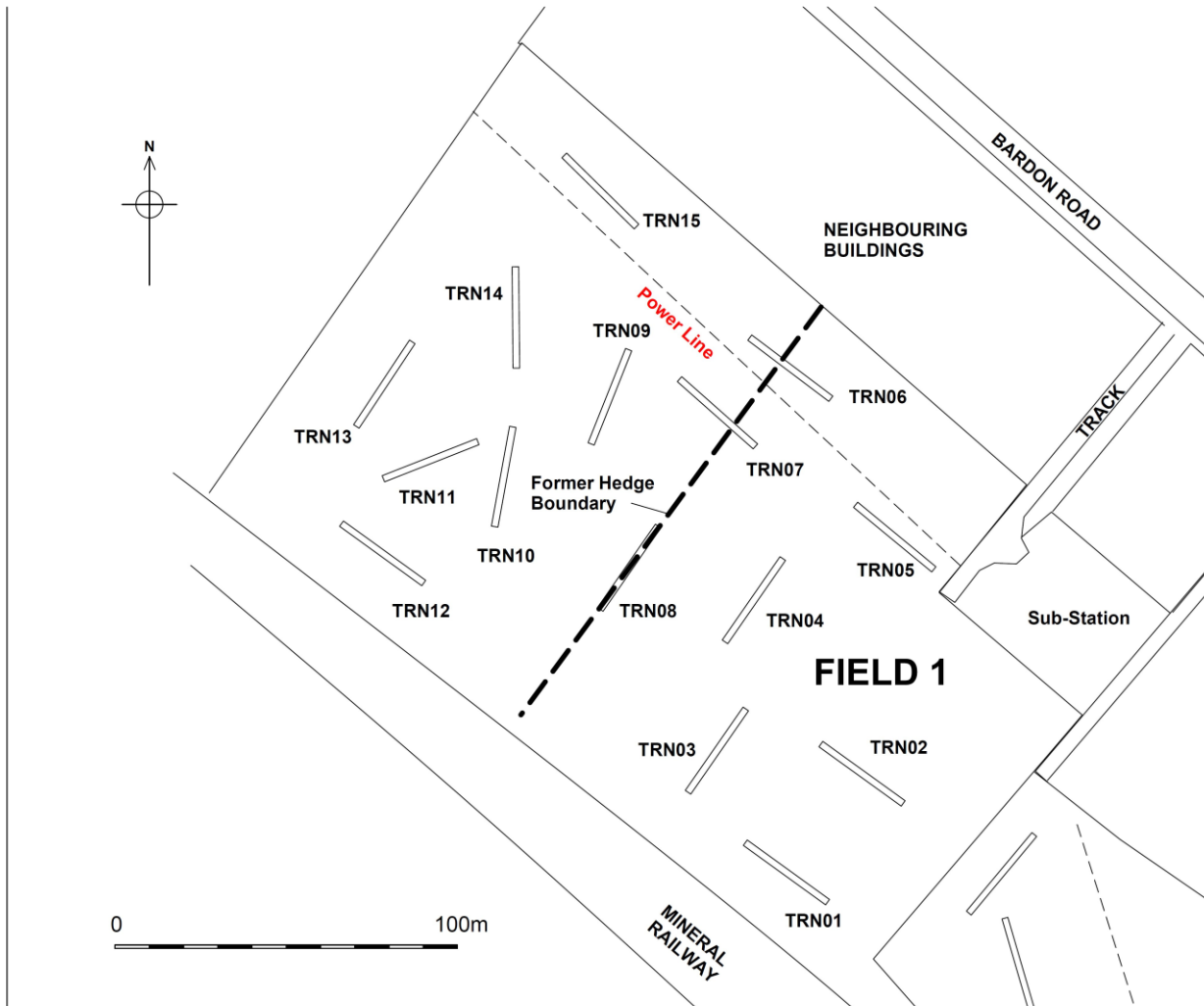


Figure 3: Trench positions in Field 1

### *Field 1*

#### *Trench 01*

Orientation: SE-NW

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Greyish Brown Loam with frequent rounded and angular pebbles

Subsoil: None Visible

Natural Substratum: Yellow or orange brown clay with angular stones

INTERVAL	(SE)	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m
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	0m						(NW)
<b>TOPSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.26m	0.20m	0.38m	0.30m	0.39m	0.33m	0.39m
<b>SUBSOIL DEPTH</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOP OF NATURAL</b>	0.26m	0.20m	0.38m	0.30m	0.39m	0.33m	0.39m
<b>BASE OF TRENCH</b>	0.26m	0.24m	0.38m	0.37m	0.39m	0.33m	0.39m

No archaeological features were identified within this trench



Plate 1: Work in progress, Field 1, looking south-east

*Trench 02*

Orientation: SE-NW

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Greyish Brown Loam with frequent rounded and angular pebbles

Subsoil: None Visible

Natural Substratum: Brownish yellow clay with stones

INTERVAL	(SE) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m (NW)
<b>TOPSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.30m	0.40m	0.34m	0.30m	0.39m	0.37m	0.30m

<b>SUBSOIL DEPTH</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOP OF NATURAL</b>	0.30m	0.40m	0.34m	0.30m	0.39m	0.37m	0.30m
<b>BASE OF TRENCH</b>	0.30m	0.40m	0.34m	0.40m	0.39m	0.37m	0.30m

No archaeological features were identified within this trench. A ceramic field drain was identified running north-east to south-west across the trench (Plate 2).



Plate 2: Trench 02, post excavation, looking north-west

*Trench 03*

Orientation: SW-NE

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark brownish grey silty-clay with frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular stones

Subsoil: None Visible

Natural Substratum: Brownish yellow clay with stones

<b>INTERVAL</b>	<b>(SW) 0m</b>	<b>5m</b>	<b>10m</b>	<b>15m</b>	<b>20m</b>	<b>25m</b>	<b>30m (NE)</b>
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<b>TOPSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.30m	0.32m	0.38m	0.33m	0.37m	0.38m	0.30m
<b>SUBSOIL DEPTH</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOP OF NATURAL</b>	0.30m	0.32m	0.38m	0.33m	0.37m	0.38m	0.30m
<b>BASE OF TRENCH</b>	0.30m	0.33m	0.41m	0.33m	0.41m	0.38m	0.30m

No archaeological features were identified within this trench. Two furrows were faintly visible running across the trench from north to south. A system of ceramic field drains were identified running north-west to south-east across the trench

#### *Trench 04*

Orientation: SW-NE

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Greyish Brown Loam with frequent rounded and angular pebbles

Subsoil: None Visible

Natural Substratum: Brownish yellow clay with stones

<b>INTERVAL</b>	<b>(SW) 0m</b>	<b>5m</b>	<b>10m</b>	<b>15m</b>	<b>20m</b>	<b>25m</b>	<b>30m (NE)</b>
<b>TOPSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.26m	0.32m	0.38m	0.24m	0.34m	0.25m	0.30m
<b>SUBSOIL DEPTH</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOP OF NATURAL</b>	0.26m	0.32m	0.38m	0.24m	0.34m	0.25m	0.30m
<b>BASE OF TRENCH</b>	0.26m	0.32m	0.40m	0.32m	0.34m	0.29m	0.30m

No archaeological features were identified within this trench. Two furrows running broadly north to south were identified along with ceramic field drains running north-west to south-east across the trench. There was also a stone drain running along a similar orientation.

#### *Trench 05*

Orientation: NW-SE

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Brownish grey silty-clay with very frequent rounded and angular small and medium pebbles and occasional large cobble

Subsoil: None Visible

Natural Substratum: Brownish yellow clay with stones

<b>INTERVAL</b>	<b>(SE) 0m</b>	<b>5m</b>	<b>10m</b>	<b>15m</b>	<b>20m</b>	<b>25m</b>	<b>30m (NW)</b>
<b>TOPSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.26m	0.30m	0.31m	0.34m	0.33m	0.29m	0.27m
<b>SUBSOIL DEPTH</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOP OF NATURAL</b>	0.26m	0.30m	0.31m	0.34m	0.33m	0.29m	0.27m
<b>BASE OF TRENCH</b>	0.26m	0.35m	0.31m	0.34m	0.33m	0.29m	0.27m

No archaeological features were identified within this trench. Two furrows running broadly north to south were identified.

#### *Trench 06*

Orientation: NW-SE

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark brownish grey silty-clay with frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles and the occasional larger cobble

Subsoil: None Visible

Natural Substratum: Light brownish yellow silty-clay with stones and bands of grey silt

<b>INTERVAL</b>	<b>(SE) 0m</b>	<b>5m</b>	<b>10m</b>	<b>15m</b>	<b>20m</b>	<b>25m</b>	<b>30m (NW)</b>
<b>TOPSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.34m	0.30m	0.30m	0.34m	0.32m	0.32m	0.32m
<b>SUBSOIL DEPTH</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOP OF NATURAL</b>	0.34m	0.30m	0.30m	0.34m	0.32m	0.32m	0.32m
<b>BASE OF TRENCH</b>	0.34m	0.30m	0.30m	0.38m	0.32m	0.32m	0.32m

No archaeological features were identified within this trench. A dark linear feature containing modern metalwork and plastic was identified running across the trench from north-east to south-west. A pair of stone drains, one running east to west and the other running north to south were identified within the trench.



Plate 3: Trench 07, post excavation.  
Note stone drain running across trench, looking north-west

*Trench 07*

Orientation: NW-SE

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark brownish grey silty-clay with frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles and the occasional larger cobble

Subsoil: None Visible

Natural Substratum: Light brownish yellow silty-clay with stones and bands of grey silt

<b>INTERVAL</b>	<b>(SE) 0m</b>	<b>5m</b>	<b>10m</b>	<b>15m</b>	<b>20m</b>	<b>25m</b>	<b>30m (NW)</b>
<b>TOPSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.30m	0.31m	0.32m	0.25m	0.30m	0.33m	0.32m
<b>SUBSOIL DEPTH</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOP OF NATURAL</b>	0.30m	0.31m	0.32m	0.25m	0.30m	0.33m	0.32m
<b>BASE OF TRENCH</b>	0.30m	0.31m	0.32m	0.25m	0.33m	0.33m	0.32m

No archaeological features were identified within this trench. The dark modern linear seen in Trenches 06 and 08 was identified in this trench running north-east to south-west. There were also two ceramic drains running north-east to south-west and north-west to south-east. A further stone drain was seen running north-east to south-west (Plate 3).



Plate 4: Trench 08, post excavation, with old field boundary visible

*Trench 08*

Orientation: NE-SW

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark brownish grey silty-clay with very frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles and the occasional larger cobble

Subsoil: None Visible

Natural Substratum: Light brownish yellow silty-clay with bands of grey silt

<b>INTERVAL</b>	<b>(SW) 0m</b>	<b>5m</b>	<b>10m</b>	<b>15m</b>	<b>20m</b>	<b>25m</b>	<b>30m (NE)</b>
<b>TOPSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.30m	0.30m	0.23m	0.40m	0.32m	0.29m	0.30m
<b>SUBSOIL DEPTH</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

<b>TOP NATURAL OF</b>	0.30m	0.30m	0.23m	0.40m	*	0.29m	0.30m
<b>BASE TRENCH OF</b>	0.30m	0.30m	0.23m	0.40m	0.32m	0.37m	0.40m

\* Within Feature

No archaeological features were identified within this trench. The large modern linear feature was seen in this trench running broadly north-east to south-west (Plate 4).

*Trench 09*

Orientation: NE-SW

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark brownish grey silty-clay loam with frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles

Subsoil: None Visible

Natural Substratum: Light brownish orange silty-clay with stones

<b>INTERVAL</b>	<b>(SW) 0m</b>	<b>5m</b>	<b>10m</b>	<b>15m</b>	<b>20m</b>	<b>25m</b>	<b>30m (NE)</b>
<b>TOPSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.31m	0.33m	0.33m	0.35m	0.38m	0.30m	0.33m
<b>SUBSOIL DEPTH</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOP NATURAL OF</b>	0.31m	0.33m	0.33m	0.35m	0.38m	0.30m	0.33m
<b>BASE TRENCH OF</b>	0.38m	0.33m	0.33m	0.35m	0.38m	0.30m	0.33m

No archaeological features were identified within this trench. A system of ceramic and stone drains was identified within the trench, running north-west to south-east

*Trench 10*

Orientation: N-S

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m (with a small section 3m x 2m at northern end)

Topsoil: Dark brownish grey silty-clay with frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles and the occasional larger cobble

Subsoil: None Visible

Natural Substratum: Light brownish yellow silty-clay with stones and bands of grey silt



<b>INTERVAL</b>	<b>(S) 0m</b>	<b>5m</b>	<b>10m</b>	<b>15m</b>	<b>20m</b>	<b>25m</b>	<b>30m (N)</b>
<b>TOPSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.30m	0.39m	0.31m	0.26m	0.30m	0.27m	0.30m
<b>SUBSOIL DEPTH</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOP OF NATURAL</b>	0.30m	0.39m	0.31m	0.26m	0.30m	0.27m	0.30m
<b>BASE OF TRENCH</b>	0.30m	0.39m	0.31m	0.32m	0.30m	0.33m	0.30m

No archaeological features were identified within this trench. A system of ceramic and stone drains was identified within the trench, running north-west to south-east with one running north-east to south-west. The trench was widened slightly at the northern end to expose fully several silty features; these were sampled but were seen to be natural in origin.

#### *Trench 11*

Orientation: E-W

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Very dark grey silty-clay loam with frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles

Subsoil: None Visible

Natural Substratum: Brownish yellow/ orange silty-clay with stones and bands of grey silt

<b>INTERVAL</b>	<b>(E) 0m</b>	<b>5m</b>	<b>10m</b>	<b>15m</b>	<b>20m</b>	<b>25m</b>	<b>30m (W)</b>
<b>TOPSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.25m	0.30m	0.30m	0.36m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m
<b>SUBSOIL DEPTH</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOP OF NATURAL</b>	0.25m	0.30m	0.30m	0.36m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m
<b>BASE OF TRENCH</b>	0.25m	0.35m	0.33m	0.37m	0.35m	0.30m	0.30m

No archaeological features were identified within this trench. A number of ceramic drains were identified running north-west to south-east across the trench plus a single stone drain running north-east to south-west. A single silty feature was sampled but was natural in origin.

#### *Trench 12*

Orientation: NW-SE

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Very dark grey silty clay loam with frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles

Subsoil: None Visible

Natural Substratum: Brownish yellow/ orange silty-clay with stones and bands of grey silt

INTERVAL	(SE) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m (NW)
<b>TOPSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.30m	0.32m	0.34m	0.30m	0.29m	0.31m	0.30m
<b>SUBSOIL DEPTH</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOP OF NATURAL</b>	0.30m	0.32m	0.34m	0.30m	0.29m	0.31m	0.30m
<b>BASE OF TRENCH</b>	0.30m	0.32m	0.34m	0.33m	0.31m	0.31m	0.34m

No archaeological features were identified within this trench. Two stone drains were identified running north-east to south-west and a single ceramic drain was seen running broadly north-west to south-east.

### *Trench 13*

Orientation: SW-NE

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Very dark grey silty-clay loam with frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles

Subsoil: None Visible

Natural Substratum: Light brownish orange slightly stony clay

INTERVAL	(SW) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m (NE)
<b>TOPSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.30m	0.27m	0.29m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.35m
<b>SUBSOIL DEPTH</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOP OF NATURAL</b>	0.30m	0.27m	0.29m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.35m
<b>BASE OF TRENCH</b>	0.33m	0.27m	0.29m	0.33m	0.30m	0.30m	0.35m

No archaeological features were identified within this trench. A number of ceramic drains were identified running north-west to south-east across the trench.

*Trench 14*

Orientation: N-S

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Very dark grey silty-clay loam with frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles

Subsoil: None Visible

Natural Substratum: Light brownish orange slightly stony clay

INTERVAL	(S) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m (N)
<b>TOPSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.29m	0.29m	0.31m	0.32m	0.27m	0.30m	0.40m
<b>SUBSOIL DEPTH</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOP OF NATURAL</b>	0.29m	0.29m	0.31m	0.32m	0.27m	0.30m	0.40m
<b>BASE OF TRENCH</b>	0.29m	0.29m	0.31m	0.32m	0.27m	0.30m	0.40m

No archaeological features were identified within this trench. A number of ceramic and stone drains were identified running north-west to south-east across the trench.



Plate 5: Trench 15, post excavation. Note stone drains running across trench, looking south-east

*Trench 15*

Orientation: NW-SE

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark brownish grey silty-clay with frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles and the occasional larger cobble

Subsoil: None Visible

Natural Substratum: Light brownish orange clay with stones

INTERVAL	(S) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m (N)
<b>TOPSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.26m	0.34m	0.30m	0.30m	0.32m	0.31m	0.30m
<b>SUBSOIL DEPTH</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOP OF NATURAL</b>	0.26m	0.34m	0.30m	0.30m	0.32m	0.31m	0.30m
<b>BASE OF TRENCH</b>	0.26m	0.34m	0.30m	0.36m	0.32m	0.31m	0.30m

No archaeological features were identified within this trench. A number of stone drains were identified running east to west across the trench (Plate 5).

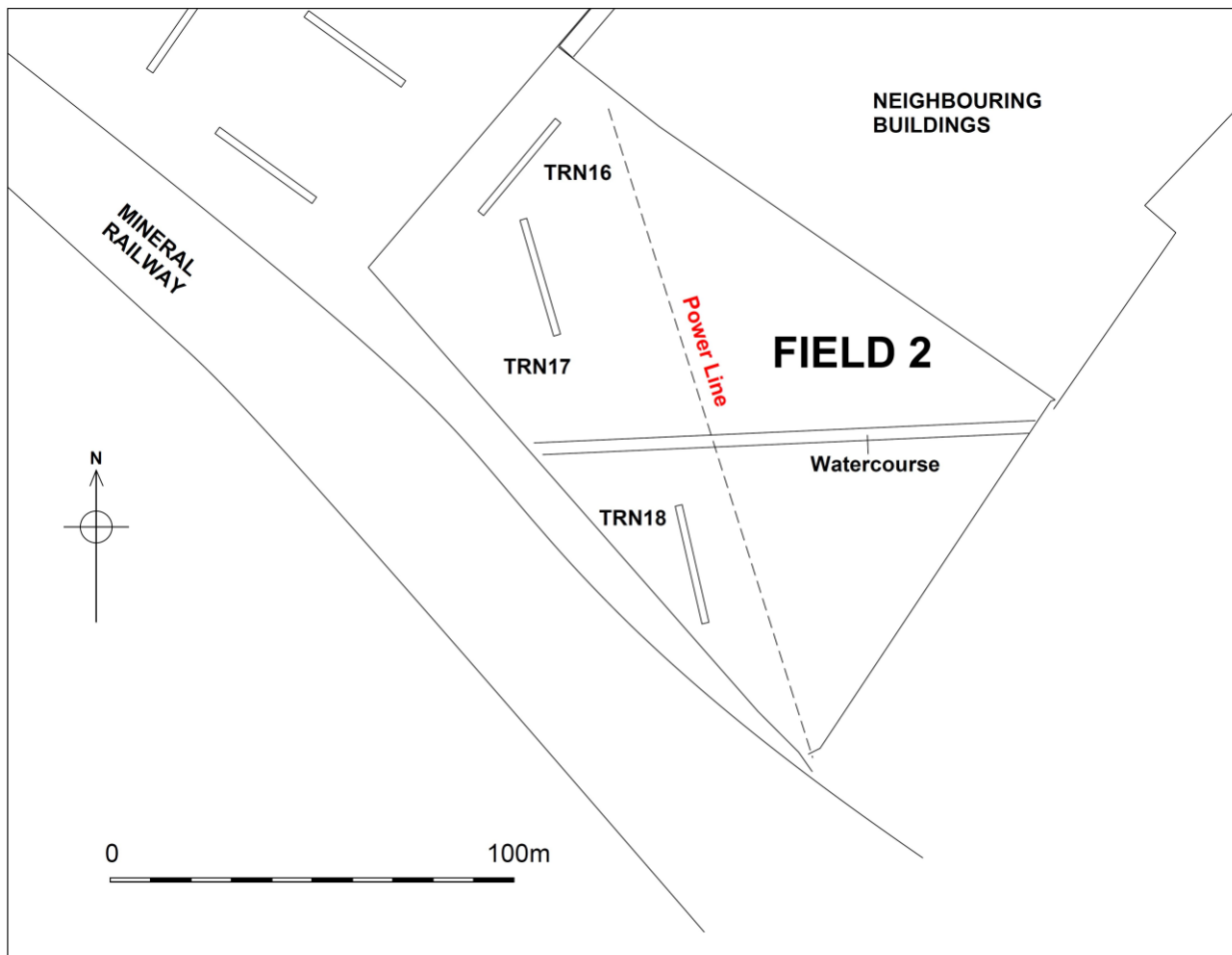


Figure 4: Trench positions in Field 2



Plate 6: Work in progress, Field 2, looking south

***Field 2***

*Trench 16*

Orientation: SW-NE

Length: 30m

Width: 1.6m

Topsoil: Dark yellowish brown silty-clay

Subsoil: Very light yellowish brown silty-clay with occasional rounded pebbles

Natural Substratum: Light orange brown clay with frequent rounded stones at southern end of trench and light orange brown clay at northern end.

INTERVAL	(SW) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m (NE)
<b>TOPSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.28m	0.24m	0.20m	0.25m	0.30m	0.25m	0.32m
<b>SUBSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.13m	0.13m	0.23m	0.20m	-	0.13m	0.20m
<b>TOP OF NATURAL</b>	0.41m	0.37m	0.43m	0.45m	0.30m	0.38m	0.52m
<b>BASE OF</b>	0.41m	0.37m	0.43m	0.45m	0.30m	0.38m	0.53m

<b>TRENCH</b>							
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No archaeological features were identified within this trench.

*Trench 17*

Orientation: N-S

Length: 30m

Width: 1.6m

Topsoil: Mid yellowish brown silty-clay

Subsoil: Light orange brown silty-clay with sparse rounded pebbles

Natural Substratum: Light orange clay with occasional rounded stones

<b>INTERVAL</b>	<b>(N) 0m</b>	<b>5m</b>	<b>10m</b>	<b>15m</b>	<b>20m</b>	<b>25m</b>	<b>30m (S)</b>
<b>TOPSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.25m	0.25m	0.30m	0.26m	0.30m	0.25m	0.32m
<b>SUBSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.30m	0.20m	0.10m	0.08m	0.14m	0.13m	0.08m
<b>TOP OF NATURAL</b>	0.55m	0.45m	0.40m	0.34m	0.44m	0.38m	0.40m
<b>BASE OF TRENCH</b>	0.55m	0.50m	0.45m	0.40m	0.48m	0.38m	0.40m

No archaeological features were identified within this trench.



Plate 7: Trench 18, post excavation, looking south-east

*Trench 18*

Orientation: N-S

Length: 30m

Width: 1.6m

Topsoil: Dark blackish grey loam

Subsoil: 1. Light orange brown silty-clay 2. Yellowish brown silty clay

Natural Substratum: Light yellow brown silty-clay

INTERVAL	(N) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m (S)
<b>TOPSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.20m	0.25m	0.30m	0.32m	0.40m	0.30m	0.30m
<b>SUBSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.19m	0.25m	0.16m	0.18m	-	0.16m	0.20m
<b>TOP OF NATURAL</b>	-	0.50m	0.46m	0.50m	0.40m	0.46m	0.50m
<b>BASE OF TRENCH</b>	0.39m	0.50m	0.60m	0.50m	0.45m	0.46m	0.50m

No archaeological features were identified within this trench (Plate 7). Two layers of subsoil were identified within this trench, with a combined depth of around 0.20m. The lower layer was siltier than the upper and was probably alluvial in origin.

**Conclusion**

The land at Bardon Road, Coalville had considerable potential for prehistoric features given its proximity to the burial urn and knife found in the neighbouring field to the north-west. The wider area around the site is also relatively rich in flint finds from prehistoric periods. However, no archaeological features or finds associated with archaeological features were discovered within any of the evaluation trenches.

For the most part the sequence within the trenches in Field 1 (Trenches 1-15), showed shallow loamy topsoil over the natural sub-stratum of clay with stones and silt patches, along with a network of slate and ceramic field drains. Furrows, running north to south were visible in some of the trenches close to the south-eastern corner of the field (Trenches 03-05).

A modern linear feature identified within Trenches 06-08 corresponds to the position of a field boundary (hedge and ditch) on all early Ordnance Survey maps until the 1980s, which broadly would have divided Field 1 into two.

The trenches within Field 2 revealed a slightly deeper sequence of soils, with a thin layer of subsoil identified lying below the silty clay, often loamy, topsoil. In Trench 18, close to the southern edge of the site a layer of alluvium was identified, likely to be associated with the watercourse that passes through the land here. No earlier watercourses were identified within the trenches.

**Acknowledgements**

ULAS would like to thank CgMs for their help and co-operation with this project. The project was managed by Patrick Clay and the work carried out by Leon Hunt and James Patrick.

The machines were supplied by Planters Ltd and were driven by James Orton and Scott Croot.

## Publication

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

A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in a suitable regional archaeological journal in due course.

### *OASIS data entry*

Project Name	Bardon Road, Coalville
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Leon Hunt
Previous/Future work	None
Current Land Use	Pasture/ rough ground
Development Type	New Housing
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Pre-planning enquiry
Site Co ordinates	SK 4404 1311
Start/end dates of field work	14-09-2015 to 17-09-2015
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museums
Study Area	5 ha

## Archive

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A94.2015

The archive consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report
- 18 Trench recording sheets
- 1 Contact sheet of digital photographs
- 1 CD digital photographs

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22-09-2015



## **APPENDIX: Design Specification for archaeological work**

### **UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES**

*Job title: Land at Bardon Road, Coalville, Leicestershire*

*NGR: SK 4404 1311*

*Client: CgMs Consulting Ltd*

*Planning Authority: North West Leicestershire District Council*

*Planning application No. : Pre-planning enquiry*

#### **1 Introduction**

##### **1.1 Definition and scope of the specification**

This document is a design specification for archaeological field evaluation (AFE) at the above site, in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF): Section 12 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment. The fieldwork specified below is intended to provide preliminary indications of character 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 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance: for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2010) 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 This document sets out a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) to evaluate potential archaeological deposits at land Bardon Road, Coalville, Leicestershire (SK 4404 1311) in advance of proposed residential development.
- 2.2 The Application Area itself consists of two pasture fields, that lie to the south of Bardon Road. It is situated on the brow of a ridge, currently highlighted by Bardon Road, and declines towards the south. In the north-west corner of the site the ground level is 159m AOD and measures c. 3.70 hectares (Figure 1).
- 2.3 A Heritage Assessment has been undertaken by Nexus Heritage (2013).
- 2.4 The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland indicates that there are archaeological sites located within the vicinity of the assessment area (Nexus Heritage 2013). From the Neolithic and Bronze Age a late Neolithic plano-convex knife was found in the field to the west of the assessment site in the 1970s (LHER No: MLE7288, NGR: SK 439 131). At the time of this discovery this field had just been ploughed. Several other Prehistoric objects have been uncovered within the wider Assessment Area. To the south-west of the site, adjacent to the South Leicestershire Colliery and the disused railway, a Mesolithic core and a

late Neolithic scraper were found during field-walking exercise in 1997 (LHER No: MLE10357, NGR: 428 119). To the north of this find-spot, on the outskirts of Hugglescote, a large quantity of Neolithic/Bronze Age flints, including a side scraper, arrowhead and a core, were found across two fields on the other side of the disused railway line during a field walking exercise by the Witan Archaeology Group in 2003 (LHER No: MLE16538, NGR: 432 130; MLE16541, SK 432 128). A Mesolithic flint core and two other flints were also recovered in this vicinity (LHER No: MLE9458, NGR: 431 132). The presence of Prehistoric material to the south-west of the Site indicates human activity in the area at this time. However the nature and scale of that activity is not known. In addition to this a number of undated small circular and sub-circular crop-marks were observed from aerial photographs in 2007 in a field to the south-west of Grange Farm (LHER No: MLE16770, NGR: SK 431 122). There are no confirmed archaeological artefacts from the Roman period recorded within the Assessment Area. However, along the northern boundary of the Site the LHER has identified a possible Roman Road; this follows the alignment of the current Coalville High Street, Hotel Street, London Road and Ashby Road (LHER No: MLE9876, NGR: SK 42 14). In addition to the straight layout of the road, which is a characteristic of Roman Roads, its alignment suggests that it was oriented north-west to south-east – running to *Ratae Corieltauvorum* (a settlement based at current day Leicester). A band of scattered stones on precisely this alignment was discovered running across a harrowed field in the vicinity of Spinney Cottages, (LHER No: MLE10350, NGR: SK 444 129). To the south of the Site another possible Roman Road has been identified along Beveridge Lane (LHER No: MLE16545, NGR: SK 43 11).

### ***Geology and topography***

- 2.5 The geology of the Site is mainly characterised as the Gunthorpe Member Mudstone, a Sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 227 to 242 million years ago in the Triassic period. The Superficial geology is Oadby Member Diamicton which was formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary period.

## **3. Archaeological Aims and Objectives**

- 3.1 The archaeological evaluation may have the potential to contribute to the following research aims.

*Neolithic and Early Middle Bronze Age (Clay 2006; Knight et al 2012; English Heritage 2010)*

- 3.1.1 There is evidence of Neolithic-Bronze Age activity from the area and its vicinity. Ring ditches indicating the presence of Neolithic—Bronze Age ploughed out burial mounds. The evaluation may contribute to our understanding of burial practices of these periods.

*The Roman Period (Taylor 2006; Knight et al 2012; English Heritage 2012)*

- 3.1.2 The area lies adjacent to a major Roman road. The evaluations may contribute to knowledge on Iron Age – Roman transitions in rural settlement, landscape and society. Artefacts may identify trade links and economy.

- 3.2 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 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA) Code of Conduct (2010) 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, and the planning authority, 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 CIFA *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 A c. 2% sample of the 3.70 ha. application area is proposed which would be the equivalent of 17 30m by 1.6m trenches (c. 740 sq. m.). The provisional trench plans show the proposed location of the trenches, although the size and position indicated on the provisional trench plans may vary due to unforeseen site constraints or the presence of archaeological deposits (see Figs. 1 - 2).
- 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.
- 4.8 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.
- 4.9 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.
- 4.10 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.
- 4.11 Trench locations will be recorded by an appropriate method. These will then be tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.
- 4.12 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.

- 4.13 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 Authority. Following assessment of the archaeological remains ULAS shall, if required, implement an amended scheme of investigation on behalf of the client as appropriate.
- 4.14 The trenches will be backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.

### **Recording Systems**

- 4.15 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.
- 4.16. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets.
- 4.17 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.
- 4.18 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.
- 4.19 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the project.

### **5. Finds**

- 5.1 The CIFA *Guidelines for Finds Work* will be adhered to.
- 5.2 Before commencing work on the site, a Site code/Accession number will be drwn from the LCC Museums Service 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 authority subject to the health and safety requirements of the site.
- 11.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the Cifa *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 A provisional start date is w.c September 14 2015. The work is likely to take 4-5 days to complete and will be carried out by a team experienced archaeologists.
- 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. Public Liability Insurance and Employers Liability Insurance: Allianz Insurance plc Policy No. SZ/21696148. Professional Indemnity Insurance – Novae Underwriting Ltd. Policy No. 702610MMA120

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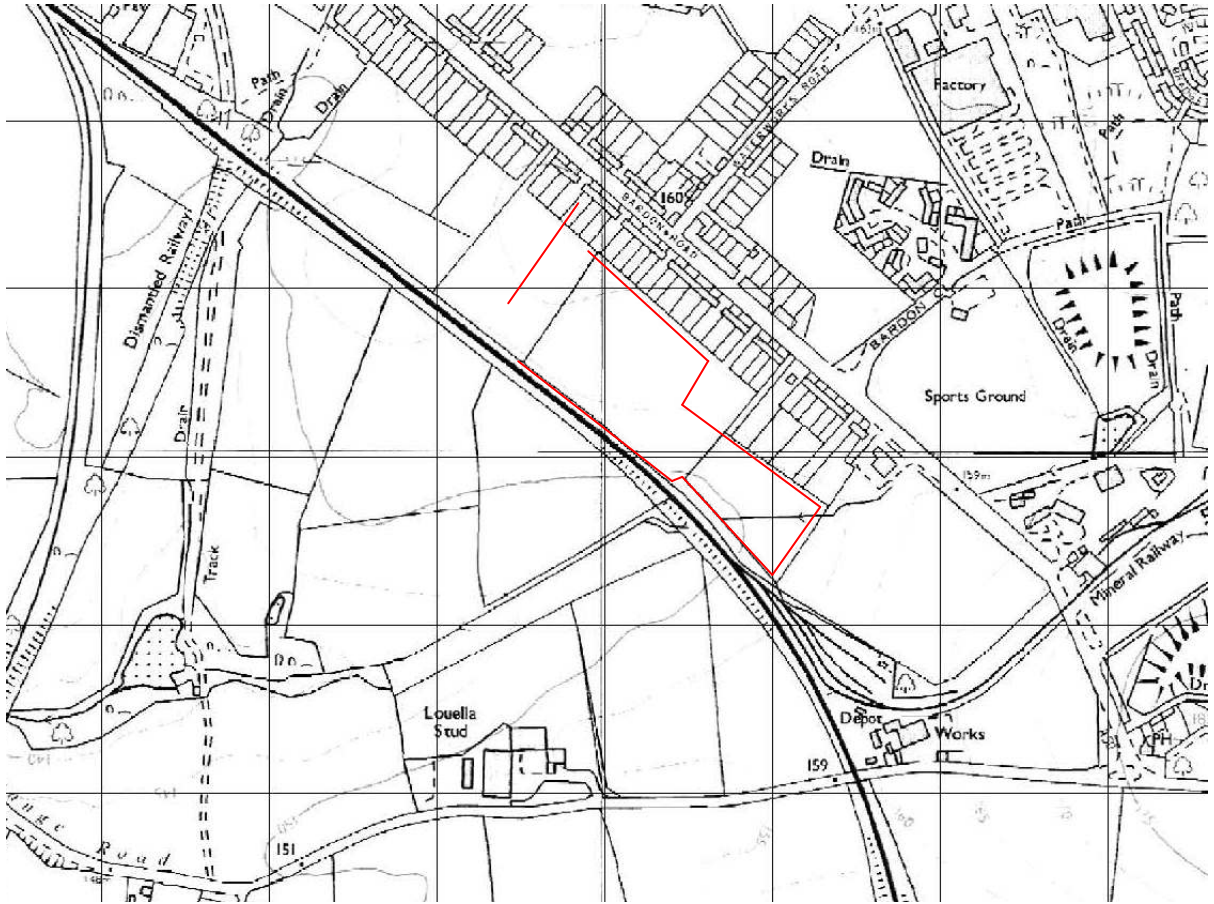


Figure 1 Application Area



Fig 2 Proposed trench locations 100m grid



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING METHOD STATEMENT & RISK ASSESSMENT**

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Job No</b>	<b>PM</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Bardon Road, Coalville, Leicestershire	15/602	Patrick Clay	<b>0116 252 2848</b> <b>07796940240</b>
<b>Site Director</b>	<b>Site Contacts</b>		<b>Team (Nos)</b>
			2

**SITE WORKS & METHOD STATEMENT**

Evaluation trenches are to be machine excavated as detailed in the specification to look at archaeological deposits

***Excavation Method Statement***

- Access and parking will be gained via authorised routes to be arranged with the land owner/tenant.
- All staff will be inducted by the site director prior to starting work on site (Appendix 3).
- **Services:** A CAT Scanner may be used in both POWER and RADIO mode to scan trench lines for services prior to excavation. [The CAT must be in calibration and used by a competent person and used in both POWER and RADIO mode.
  - Trenches will not be excavated within 15m of known water mains or sewers or in the vicinity of other underground services or electrical cables without a separate SSOW. Any known services will be marked on the ground and avoided. All machine excavation will be carefully monitored.
  - No work will be undertaken beneath overhead cables. If a tracked machine is required to pass below an overhead cable a separate SSOW will be followed.
- **Excavation:** Trenching we conducted as per the *Trial Trenching Methodology* in the specification. Machining will be conducted using ULAS SSOW1. Excavation of trenches will be undertaken according to ULAS SSOW3 (Appendix 1). All trenches will be inspected each day by an appointed person and noted on the trench sheet (Appendix 4).
- Any lone working on site will be undertaken according to ULAS SSOW2 (Appendix 1).
- A first aid kit and a site phone will be available on site at all times. At least one member of staff will have first aid training.

***Equipment***

A mechanical excavator will be used for trench excavation. The site director will ensure that the appropriate certification is carried.

ULAS vehicles or personal cars will be used (all appropriately insured and maintained).

Besides the plant, equipment will include a variety of hand tools (e.g. shovels, mattocks, trowels), recording materials (e.g. photographic equipment, computers, levels etc.), survey equipment (e.g. EDM, DGPS) CAT scanners and metal detectors may be used.

***Personnel***

The site director will be responsible for the day to day running of the site. Specialists and visitors may be invited to visit the site during fieldwork. It is expected to hire plant and operators from a reputable local company.

All personnel are experienced in working with plant and in the excavation of trenches. All site staff hold CSCS cards and many also hold a SPA quarry passport. All site staff have some first aid training.

Normal working hours are 7 hours a day between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday.

***Monitoring and communications***

ULAS management and site staff details are as above.

Work will be monitored internally by the ULAS Project Manager and/or Health & Safety Co-ordinators.

ULAS method statements are prepared following standard guidelines and after consultation with the University Safety Services Department. Communication of the contents of the method statement to site staff is the responsibility of the Site Director. The risk assessment will be updated weekly or when conditions change.

***Accident Reporting***

All accidents will be logged using ULAS accident forms and report to the ULAS Main Office (0116 252 2848) and if necessary to the University of Leicester Safety Services Dept

## Contact Details

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