



University of
Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation
on land at Meynell Road
Quorndon, Leicestershire**

NGR: SK 56365 17115

Nathan Flavell



ULAS Report No. 2015-132

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Meynell Road, Quorn, Leicestershire**

NGR: SK 56365 17115

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An archaeological evaluation on land at Meynell Road, Quorn, Leicestershire (SK 56365 17115)

Nathan Flavell

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at Meynell Road, Quorn, Leicestershire (SK 56365 17115) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 17-18 August 2015. The work was carried out on behalf of Leicestershire County Council in advance of the proposed re-development of the site. In all six trenches totalling 248.25 square metres were excavated. This revealed a single gully across two of the trenches. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A88.2015.

Introduction

This document constitutes the report for an archaeological investigation carried out on land at Meynell Road, Quorn, Leicestershire (SK 56365 17115). The work was carried out on behalf of Leicestershire County Council by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 17-18 August 2015.

The site lies on the southern side of Meynell Road, Quorndon (fig. 1). Quorndon (Quorn) itself lies *c.* 9.5 miles north of Leicester, in the Charnwood borough of Leicestershire. The assessment area is currently a rough pasture field (fig. 2).

The work was requested by the Leicestershire County Council Property Services, recommended by Leicestershire County Council Historic & Environment Team, in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Section 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment. An evaluation by trial trenching was approved prior to development to assess the location, extent, significance and character of any buried archaeological remains. The work followed the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) as laid out in the *Written Specification for archaeological work* (Clay 2015).

Geology and Topography

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 169 indicates that the underlying geology of the site is likely to consist of alluvium overlying Branscombe Mudstone Formation (BCMU). The site is effectively flat, lies at a height of *c.* 41m O.D.

Historical and Archaeological Background

A desk-based assessment has been prepared for a site *c.* 100m to the north-west (Kipling 2013). The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record indicates that the proposed development lies to the north of the historic settlement core of medieval Quorndon in the Charnwood district of Leicestershire and is close to prehistoric and Roman sites. There is therefore some potential for archaeological deposits to be present within the area for proposed development

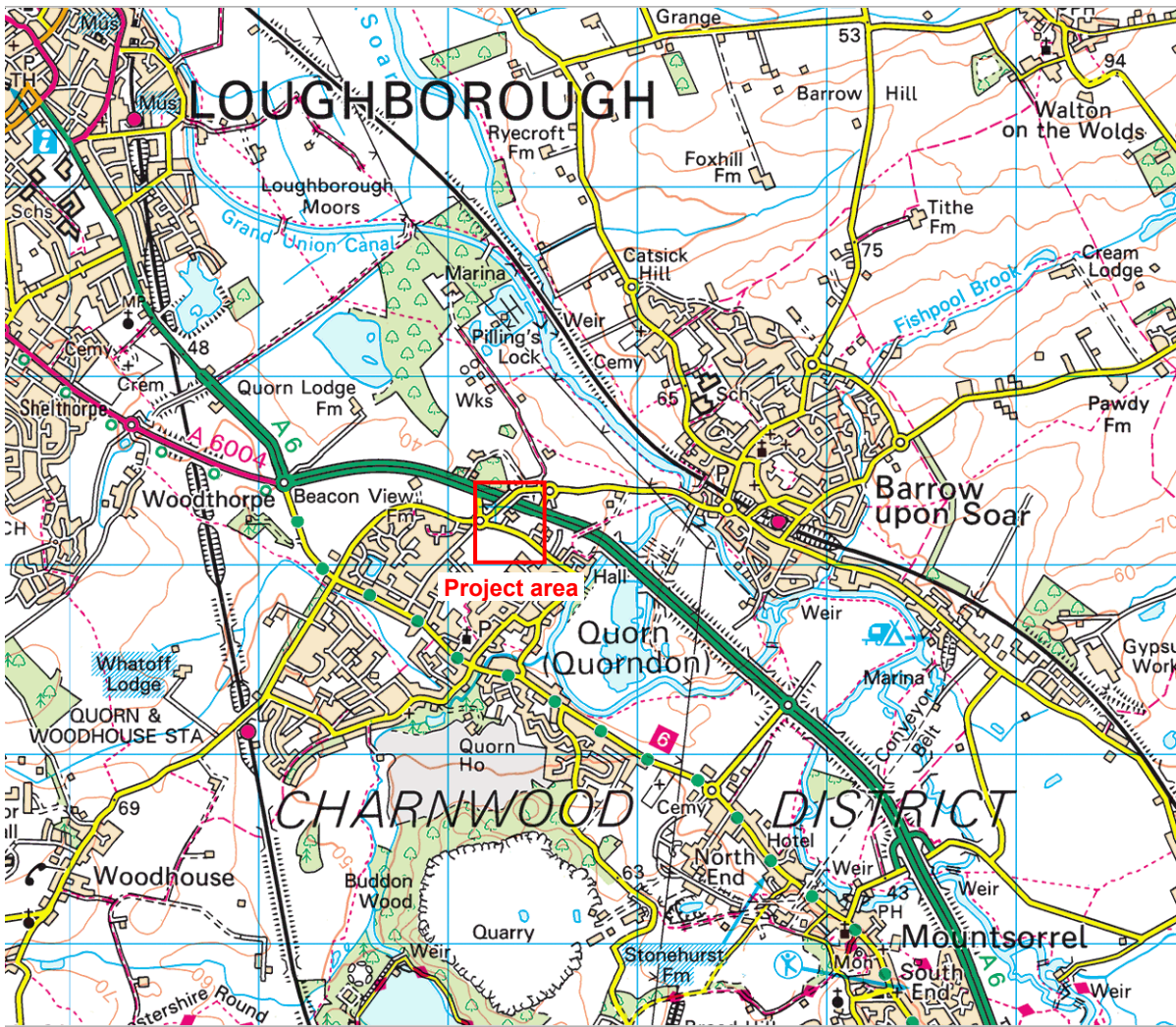


Figure 1: Site Location (Scale 1:50 000)

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Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives of the archaeological work 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.

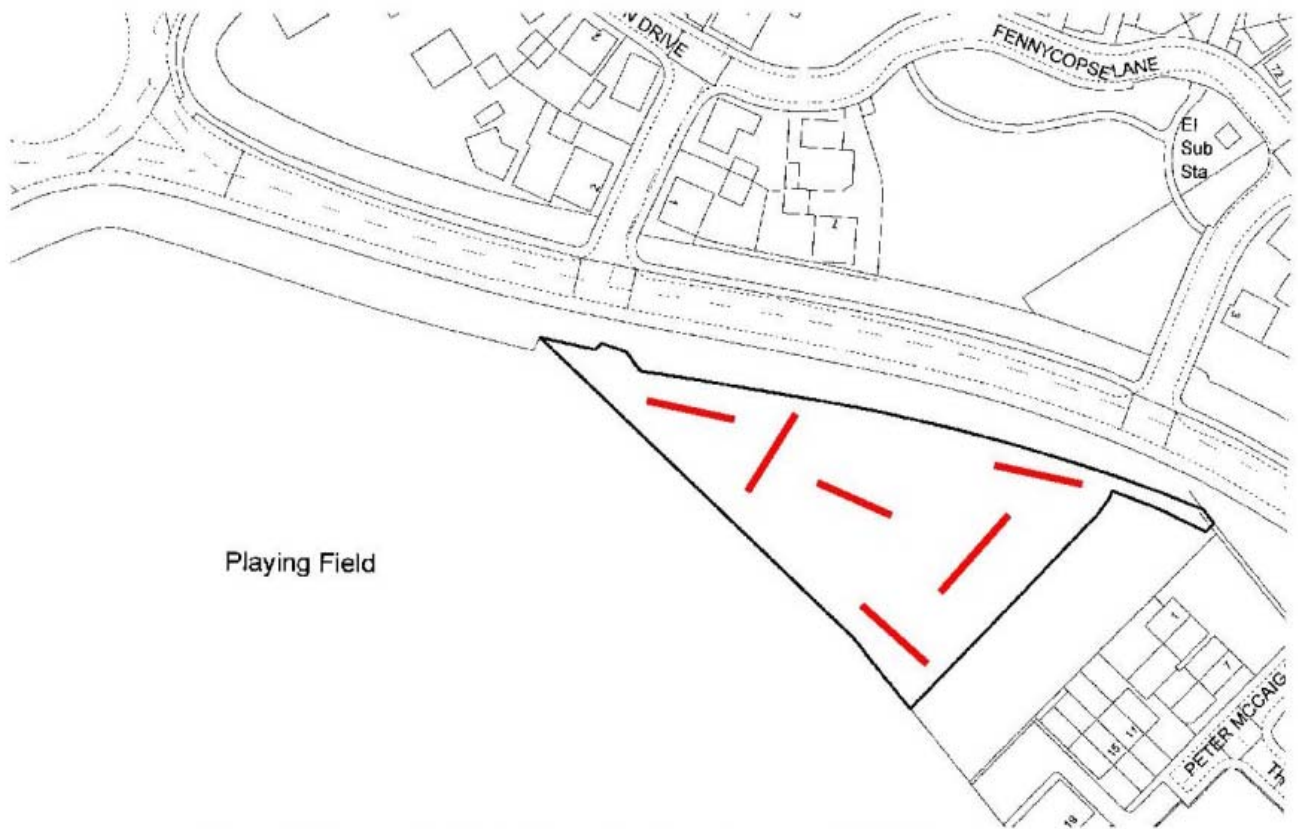


Figure 2 Proposed trench plan

Methodology

Six trenches (Fig. 3) were excavated under continuous archaeological control and supervision using a JCB 3CX with a ditching bucket. The trenches were generally 30m long and 1.5m wide.

The trenches, sections and existing spoil heaps were visually inspected for features and finds. Archaeological features were hand cleaned, planned, photographed and sample excavated as per the approved WSI (Clay 2015).

All work followed the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological field evaluations*.

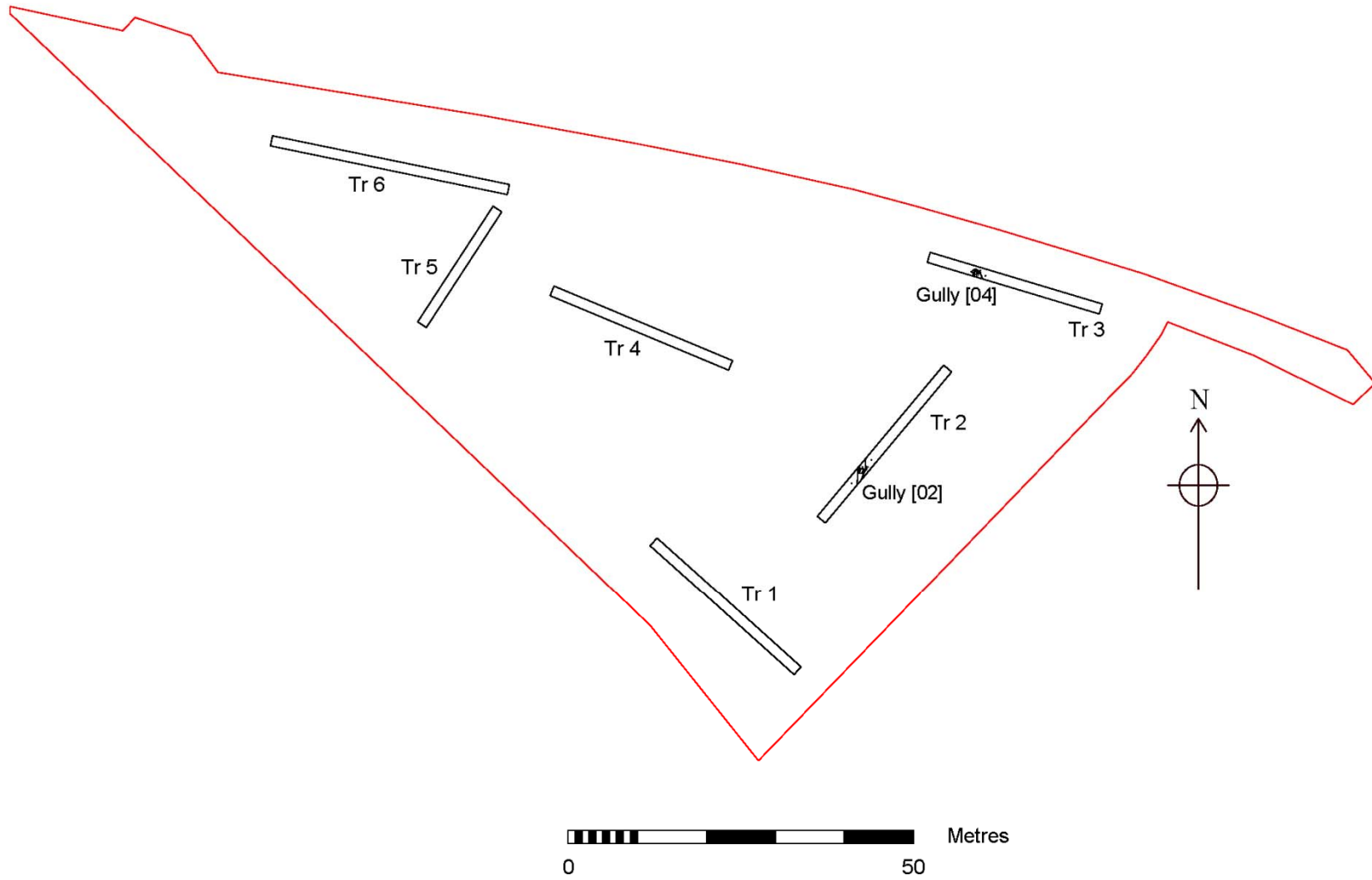


Figure 3: Site plan

Results

Generally topsoil consisted of grey-brown pebbly sandy-loam. The subsoil was brown-orange silty-sand with frequent pebble inclusions. The natural geology was an orange pebbly sand, with orange gravel patches in some trenches.

Trench 1 was located in the south corner of the site aligned north-west to south-east. No archaeological features or finds were located.

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)		Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)	Max. depth (m)		Archaeology?
1	28		1.5		42		0.6	1.02		No
Interval (m) from northwest end	0	5	10	15	20	25	28			
Topsoil depth	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.26	0.55	0.67			
Subsoil depth	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.27	0.29	0.2			
Top of natural substratum	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.53	0.84	0.87			
Base of trench	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.75	0.69	0.98	1.02			

Trench 2 (Fig. 4) was located in the east of the site aligned north-east to south-west. A single gully [02] (Figs. 6, 8 & 10) was uncovered at approximately 0.5m deep, near the south-west end of the trench. It was aligned north-south, 0.9m wide and 0.28m deep. It had a single fill of (01) orange-brown silty-sand with frequent pebble inclusions. No finds were recovered.

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)		Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)	Max. depth (m)		Archaeology?
2	28.5		1.5		42.75		0.92	0.52		Yes
Interval (m) from southwest end	0	5	10	15	20	25	28.5			
Topsoil depth	0.25	0.2	0.3	0.25	0.3	0.33	0.3			
Subsoil depth	0.3	0.18	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3			
Top of natural substratum	0.55	0.38	0.5	0.45	0.5	0.63	0.6			
Base of trench	0.82	0.52	0.58	0.56	0.62	0.92	0.73			

Trench 3 (Fig. 5) was located in the north-east corner of the site aligned north-west to south-east. A gully terminus [04] (Figs. 7, 9 & 10) was uncovered at approximately 0.5m deep near the south-eastern end of the trench. It was aligned north-west to south-east, 1m wide and 0.33m deep. It had a single fill of (03) orange-brown silty-sand with semi-frequent pebble inclusions. No finds were recovered.

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)		Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)	Max. depth (m)		Archaeology?
3	26		1.5		39		0.57	0.79		Yes
Interval (m) from southeast end	0	5	10	15	20	26				
Topsoil depth	0.38	0.35	0.3	0.28	0.2	0.3				
Subsoil depth	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.25	0.3	0.2				
Top of natural substratum	0.64	0.63	0.58	0.53	0.5	0.5				

Base of trench	0.79	0.7	0.67	0.68	0.57	0.6			
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Trench 4 was located in the centre of the site aligned north-west to south-east. No archaeological features or finds were located.

Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)			Area (sq. m)			Min. depth (m)	Max. depth (m)	Archaeology?
4	28	1.5			42			0.32	0.68	No
Interval (m) from southeast end	0	5	10	15	20	25	28			
Topsoil depth	0.24	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2			
Subsoil depth	0.18	0.15	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1			
Top of natural substratum	0.42	0.45	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3			
Base of trench	0.68	0.6	0.59	0.32	0.5	0.4	0.42			

Trench 5 was located near the northwest of the site aligned north-east to south-west. No archaeological features or finds were located.

Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)			Area (sq. m)			Min. depth (m)	Max. depth (m)	Archaeology?
5	20	1.5			30			0.53	0.68	No
Interval (m) from southwest end	0	5	10	15	20					
Topsoil depth	0.2	0.26	0.2	0.32	0.29					
Subsoil depth	0.2	0.28	0.25	0.22	0.3					
Top of natural substratum	0.4	0.54	0.45	0.54	0.59					
Base of trench	0.53	0.68	0.63	0.65	0.66					

Trench 6 was located in the north-west corner of the site aligned north-west to south-east. No archaeological features or finds were located.

Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)			Area (sq. m)			Min. depth (m)	Max. depth (m)	Archaeology?
6	35	1.5			52.5			0.59	0.72	No
Interval (m) from northwest end	0	5	10	15	20	25	30	35		
Topsoil depth	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.22	0.28	0.29	0.24	0.22		
Subsoil depth	0.26	0.22	0.26	0.23	0.22	0.3	0.23	0.31		
Top of natural substratum	0.54	0.52	0.54	0.45	0.5	0.59	0.47	0.55		
Base of trench	0.6	0.66	0.66	0.64	0.59	0.72	0.69	0.7		



Figure 4: Trench 2 looking north-east



Figure 5: trench 3 looking north-west

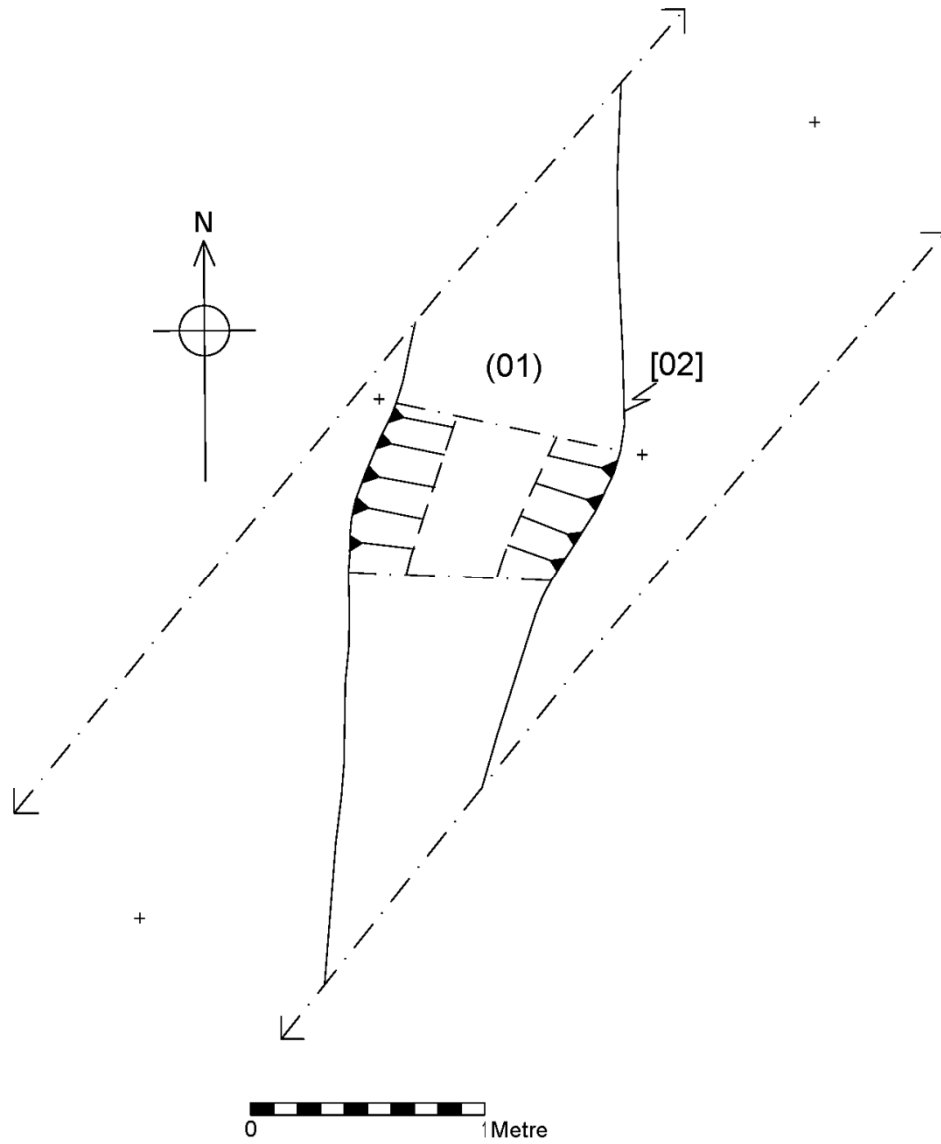


Figure 6: Trench 2, gully [02] plan

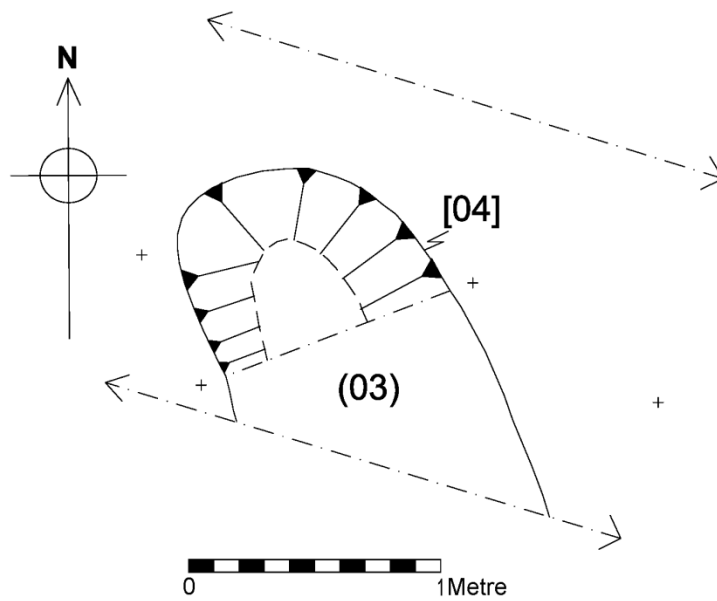


Figure 7: Trench 3, gully [04] plan



Figure 8: Gully [02] looking north



Figure 9: Gully [04] looking south-east

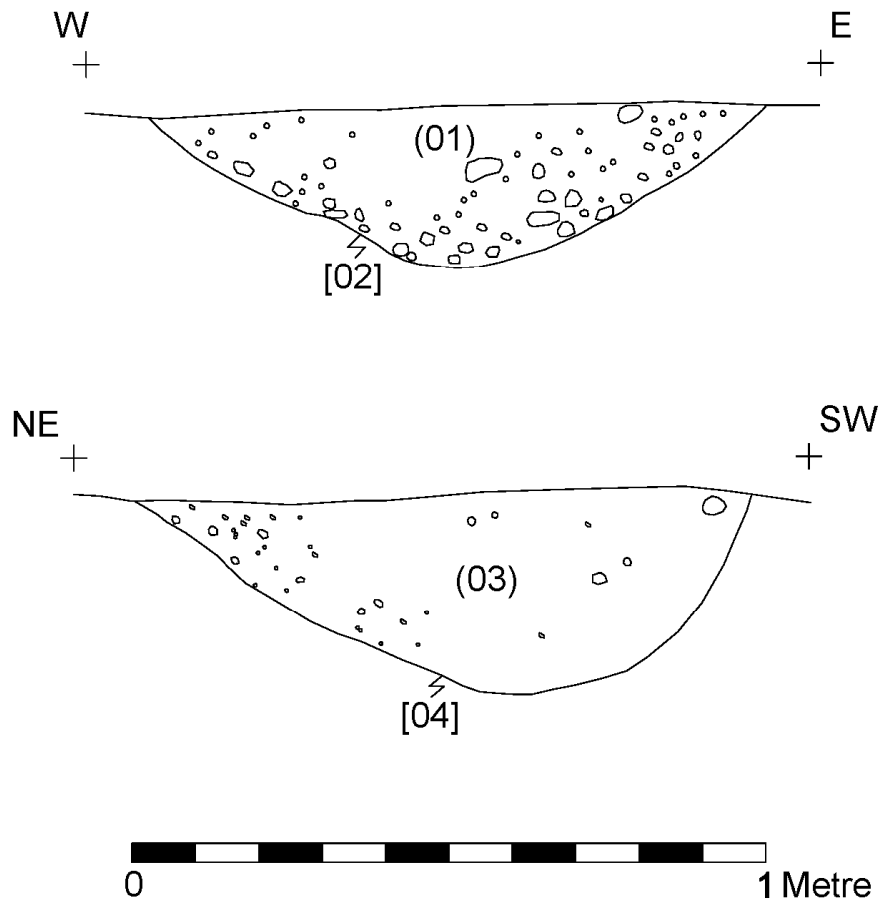


Figure 10: Sections

Discussion

The site only revealed what could be a single gully, or two parallel gullies of indeterminate date. They are most likely small land division boundaries as part of a field system. The lack of pottery suggests it is away from a settlement.

Bibliography

B.G.S. website, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

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

Clay, P., 2015, *Written Scheme for archaeological work: Meynell Road, Quorndon, Leicestershire*. Leicester, unpublished ULAS WSI ref. 15-740

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Archive

The site archive consists of: 1 A4 context index sheet, 6 A4 trial trench sheets, 4 A5 context sheets, 1 A4 photo index sheet, 1 A2 sheet of permatrace and 16 digital photographs.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A88.2015.

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 no.	universi1-244225
Project Name	Land at Meynell Road, Quorn, Leicestershire
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Roger Kipling
Previous/Future work	Unknown
Current Land Use	Pasture
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Pre-planning
Site Co ordinates	SK 56365 17115
Start/end dates of field work	17/08/2015-18/08/2015
Archive recipient	Leicestershire
Study Area	c. 248.25 square metres

Acknowledgements

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09/08/2015

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