UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER
Archaeological Services

# An archaeological field evaluation on land at Boyer's Orchard, Harby, Leicestershire (SK 749 313)

Leon Hunt

ULAS Report No 2016-060

**An archaeological field evaluation on land at**
**Boyer's Orchard,**
**Harby,**
**Leicestershire**
**(SK 749 313)**

**Leon Hunt**

*for*
Mr. Howard Coy

**Checked by Project Manager**

**Signed:** 

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# An archaeological field evaluation on land at Boyer's Orchard, Harby, Leicestershire (SK 749 313)

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## Summary

*An archaeological field evaluation was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land at Boyer's Orchard, Harby, Leicestershire (SK 749 313).*

*The work was commissioned by Howard Coy in advance of the proposed development of the land for new housing. The site is currently pasture fields.*

*The site lies within an area of significant archaeological interest. It is situated within the medieval settlement core of Harby and close to known Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon remains.*

*A total of 18 trenches were excavated across three fields. All were negative for archaeological features. Four trenches contained deep made-up ground, possibly in-filled ponds, one of which can be identified on early OS maps of the area. Other trenches contained concrete and a modern brick floor, suggesting that farm buildings were once situated here. Early OS maps show a small building on the southern part of the site.*

*The archive for the site will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A40.2016.*

## Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Mr Howard Coy to carry out an archaeological field evaluation on land at Boyer's Orchard, Harby, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 749 313).

Planning permission has been granted for the construction of 15 new dwellings on the land. The evaluation was required to provide a record of the archaeological remains in mitigation of the impact of the proposed development (Planning Ref: 15/00942/OUT).

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

The site lies within an area of significant archaeological interest. It is situated within the medieval settlement core of Harby and close to known Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon remains.

## Location and Geology

The proposed development site is located in the north-east of the village of Harby. Harby lies in the heart of the Vale of Belvoir, approximately 10 miles north of Melton Mowbray (Figure 1).

The site consists of a sub-rectangular field (Field 1) and parts of two other larger fields (Fields 2 & 3) (Figure 2), covering around 1.2ha. The land falls from north to south from around 57m aOD to around 56m aOD.

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain indicates that the underlying geology across the majority of the site is interbedded Mudstone and

Limestone of Foston Member, with the south-western edge of the site comprising Phosphorite of Foston Member. No drift geology is recorded. The overlying soils are known as Evesham 2, which are typical calcareous pelosols consisting of slowly permeable clayey soils.

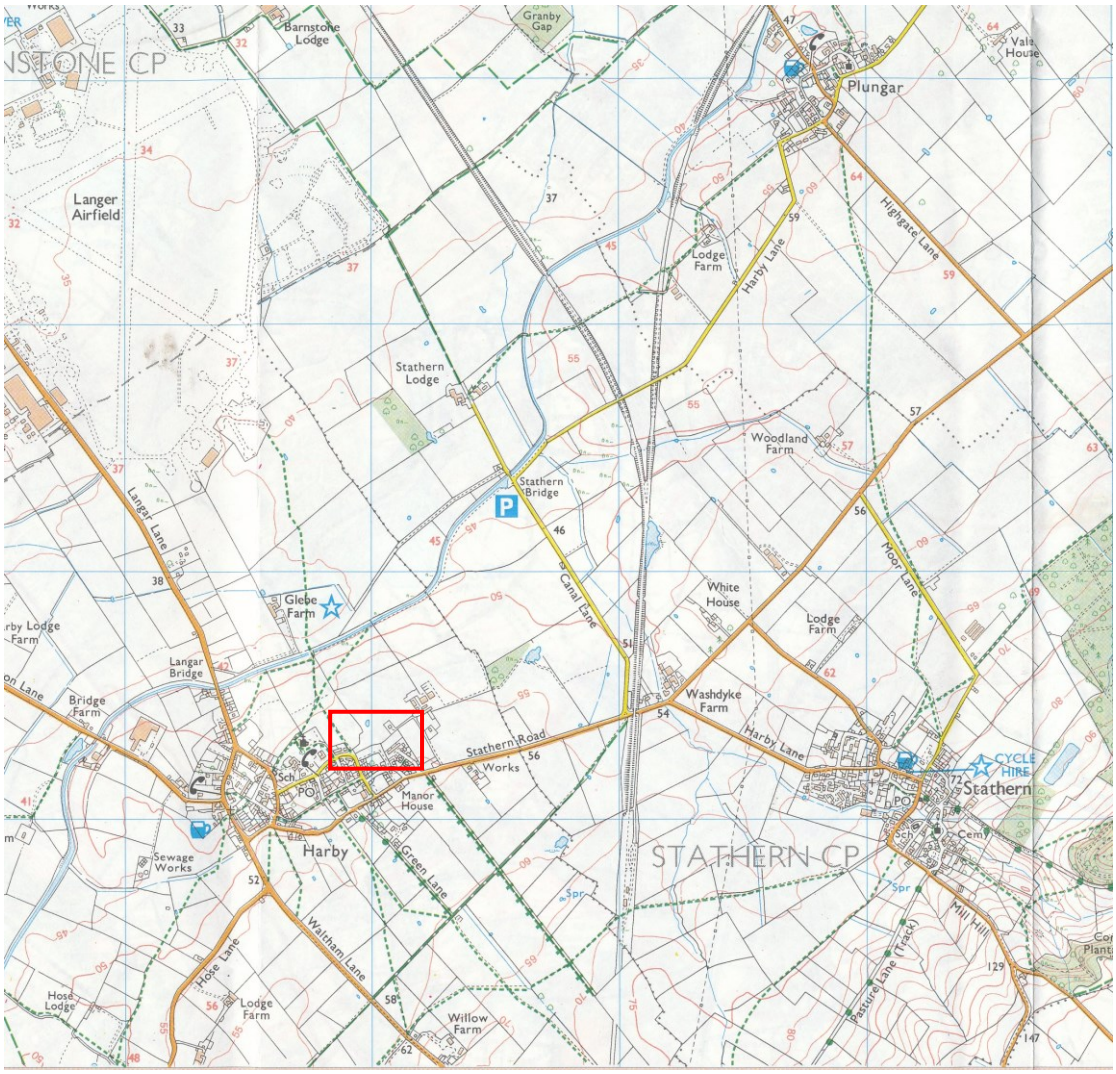


Figure 1: Site Location



## Historical and Archaeological Background

Harby was originally groups of artisan dwellings, agricultural cottages and other buildings which straddled a dense network of lanes. A considerable amount of infilling has consolidated the village form, particularly between School Lane and Boyer's Orchard.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates that the application site lies within an area of significant archaeological interest, situated within the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of Harby (HER Ref. No. MLE8748), and between the recorded location of two identified Roman occupation sites, the first abutting the development site to the northwest (MLE3550),

the second c.45m to the south (MLE10201). Roman finds associated with the Roman site MLE3550 include a cosmetic scoop, weight, brooch, thimble, iron spearhead, coins and numerous sherds of pottery. In the same location, a number of sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered (MLE10199) along with six sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery and a brooch (MLE6195). In addition to the recorded archaeological remains a significant volume of metal detected finds have been recovered from the immediate vicinity, including a number of coins, brooches, domestic and cosmetic items. An evaluation to the west of the proposed development site at Pinfold Lane (MLE1021), revealed a series of gullies and post-holes with associated Roman pottery that may represent a former structure. A further linear gully and undated ditch are thought to be contemporary, along with finds of burnt clay and animal bone. To the south-west of the survey area, on the western edge of the village, earthwork remains of a headland are recorded (MLE5914), along with irregular earthworks alongside the road. These are thought to be the remains of a medieval field system and possible building platforms.

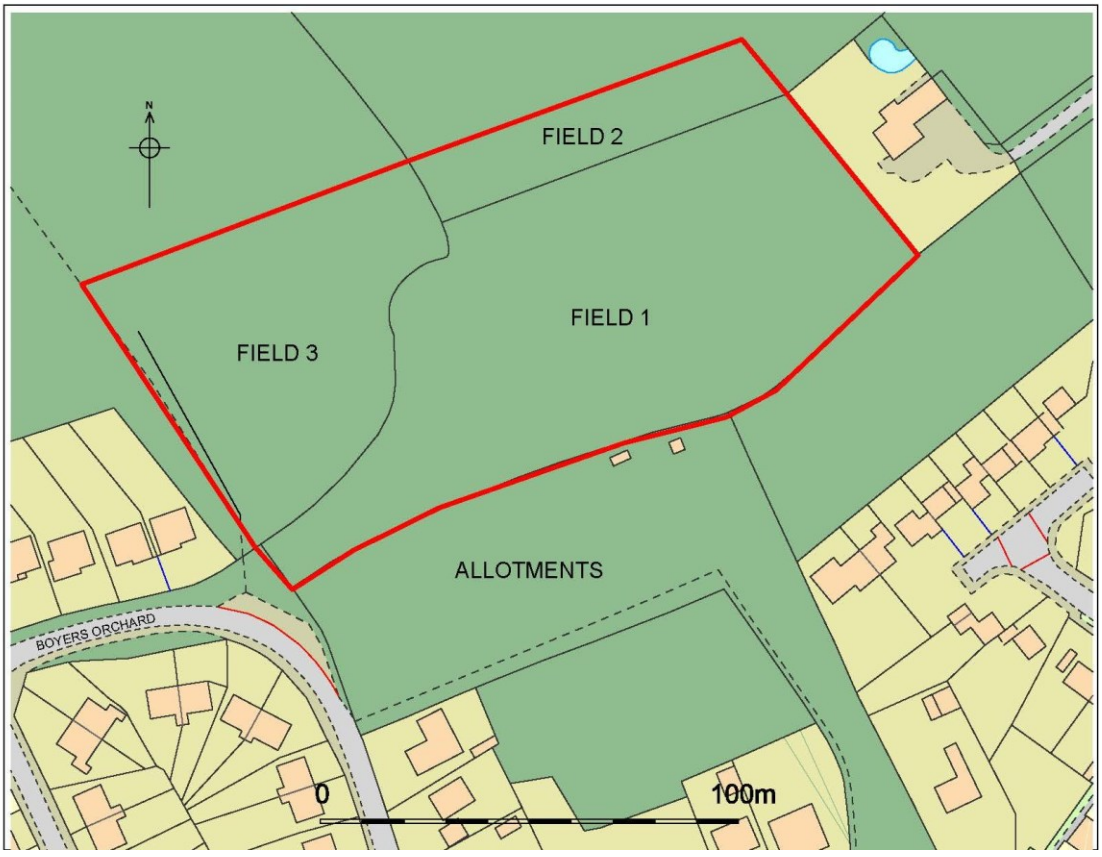


Figure 2: Plan of proposed development area.

Stratascan carried out a geophysical survey of the proposed development site in July 2015 (Davies 2015). The magnetic gradiometer survey identified a number of anomalies that have been characterised as being of possible archaeological origin (Figure 3). These are a number of linear and broken linear anomalies across the site. These are indicative of former cut features, such as ditches, and may be of archaeological origin. The broken linear anomalies may be archaeological features which have been disturbed by later ridge and furrow cultivation.

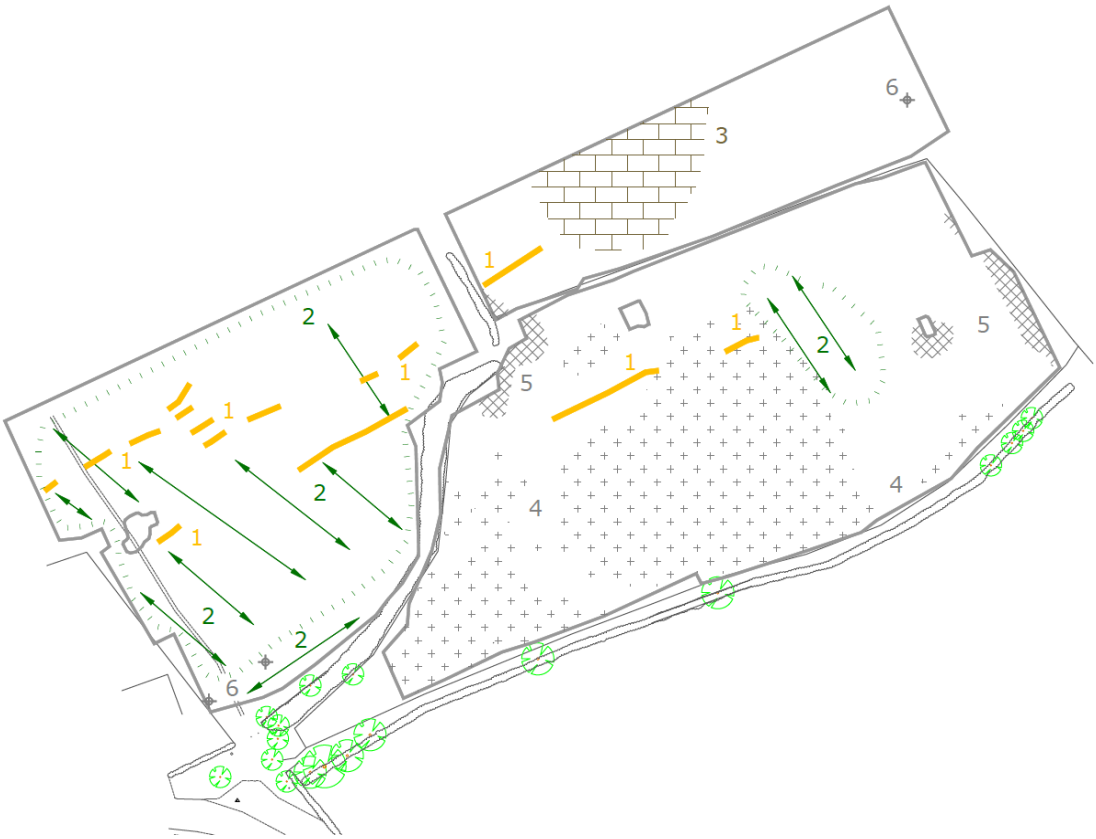


Figure 3: Geophysical Survey results. Possible archaeological features in yellow. Ridge and furrow in green

## 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.

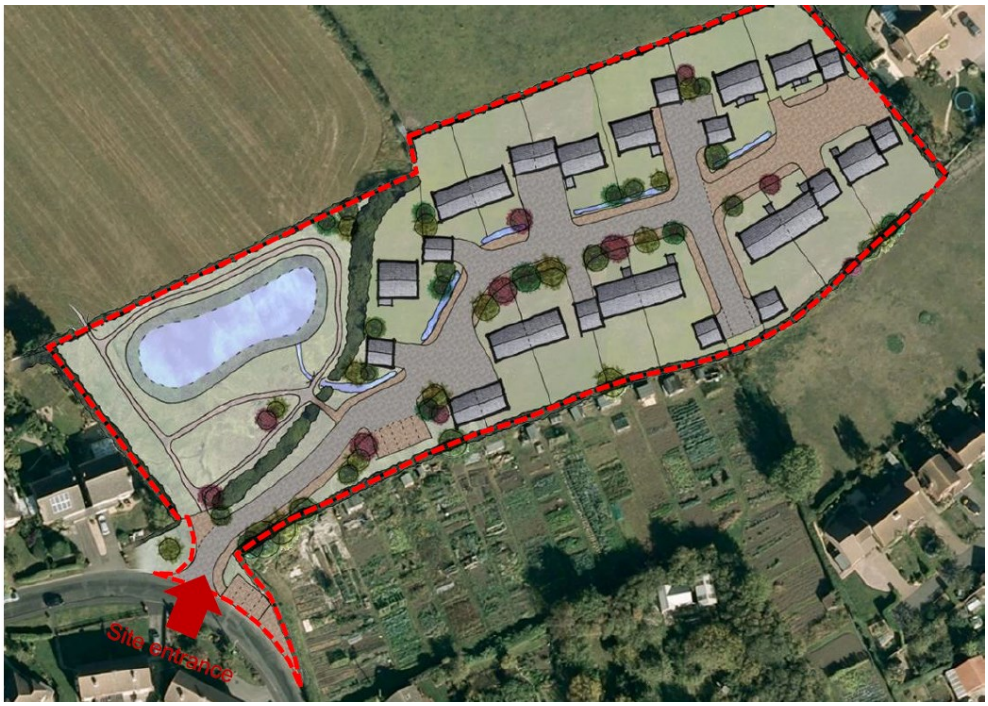


Figure 4: Plan of proposed development, provided by developer

## Methodology

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

The WSI asked for fifteen 30m x 1.6m trenches within the site (with one extra in reserve), providing a 5% sample of the proposed development area.

Due to access problems only a small tracked machine could be used with a 1m wide bucket, so reducing the size of the trenches. Two trenches proved to be very deep and full of made-up ground and had to be fore-shortened. Due to this a total of 18 trenches were excavated, although some of these were short in length.

A well-used public footpath lay along the western edge of the site and so the trenches in Field 3 were moved closer together slightly in order to avoid the line of this path.

The trenches were excavated by a small tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. After recording the trenches were backfilled. Due to the unstable nature of the ground within some areas, Trenches 4,5,12 and 13 were backfilled immediately after recording. Part of Trench 12 was backfilled immediately after excavation.

Plate 1: Work in progress, Field 1, looking north-west

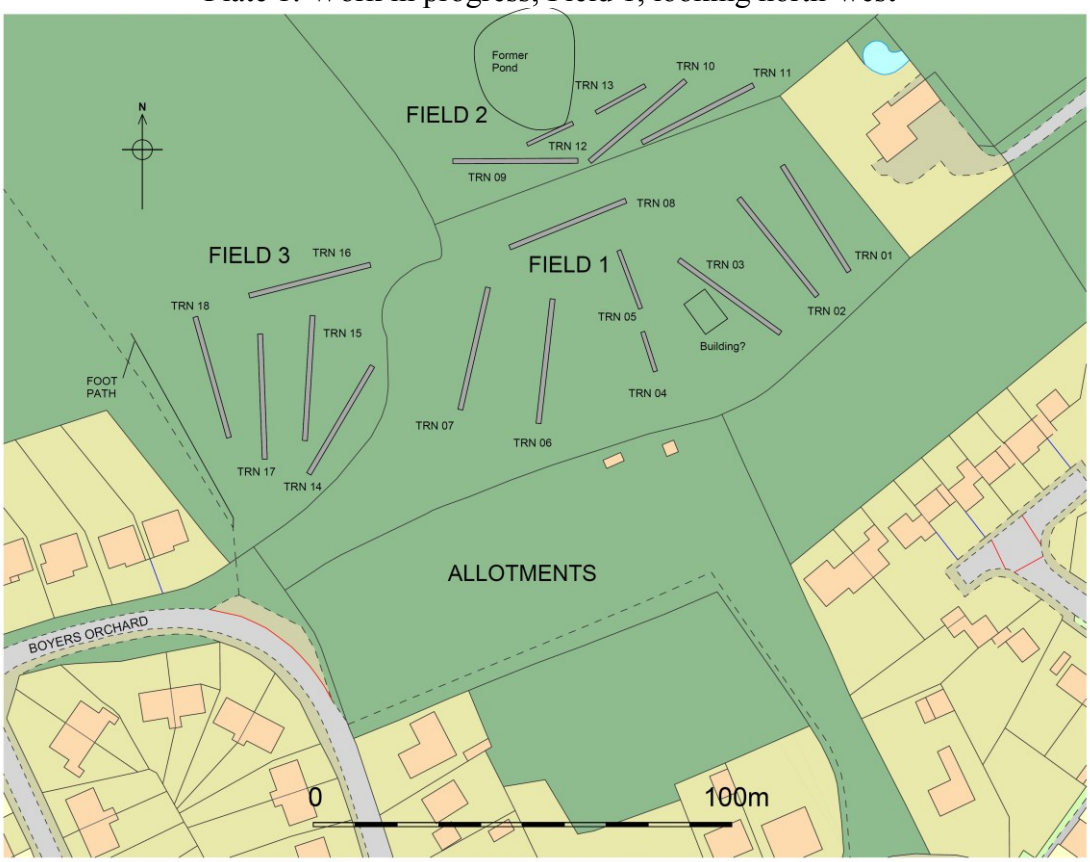


Figure 5: Plan of trench locations and features observed on OS mapping

## Results

### *Field 1*

*Trench 01*

Orientation: North-west – South-east

Length: 30m

Width: 1m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay

Subsoil: Light greyish brown silty clay

Natural Substratum: Yellowish grey silty clay

| Interval | (SE)5m | 10m | 15m | 20m | 25m | 30m(NW) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Topsoil Depth** | 0.10m | 0.10m | 0.09m | 0.07m | 0.06m | 0.06m |
| **Subsoil Depth** | 0.21m | 0.15m | 0.19m | 0.14m | 0.18m | 0.14m |
| **Top of Natural** | 0.31m | 0.25m | 0.28m | 0.21m | 0.24m | 0.20m |
| **Base of Trench** | 0.38m | 0.32m | 0.31m | 0.26m | 0.36m | 0.32m |

There was a modern linear feature running east to west across the trench. This was probably a service trench to the nearby house.

*Trench 02*

Orientation: North-west – South-east

Length: 30m

Width: 1m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay

Subsoil: Mid yellowish brown silty clay with pieces of limestone

Natural Substratum: Mid yellowish grey silty clay

| Interval | (SE)5m | 10m | 15m | 20m | 25m | 30m(NW) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Topsoil Depth** | 0.14m | 0.09m | 0.09m | 0.07m | 0.06m | 0.10m |
| **Subsoil Depth** | 0.21m | 0.25m | 0.18m | 0.25m | 0.19m | 0.22m |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Top of Natural** | 0.35m | 0.34m | 0.27m | 0.32m | 0.25m | 0.32m |
| **Base of Trench** | 0.44m | 0.46m | 0.38m | 0.41m | 0.32m | 0.38m |

There was a modern linear feature running east to west across the trench. This was probably a service trench to the nearby house (Plate 2).


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

*Trench 03*

Orientation: North-west – South-east

Length: 30m

Width: 1m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay

Subsoil: Mid yellowish brown silty clay with pieces of limestone

Natural Substratum: Mid yellowish grey silty clay

| Interval | (SE)5m | 10m | 15m | 20m | 25m | 30m(NW) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Topsoil Depth | 0.08m | 0.11m | 0.09m | 0.07m | 0.15m | 0.11m |
| Subsoil Depth | 0.27m | 0.23m | 0.20m | 0.22m | 0.18m | 0.32m |
| Top of Natural | 0.35m | 0.34m | 0.29m | 0.29m | 0.33m | 0.43m |
| Base of Trench | 0.45m | 0.43m | 0.37m | 0.37m | 0.41m | 0.49m |

There were areas of disturbance within the subsoil, containing brick and other modern inclusions.

*Trench 04*

Orientation: North – South

Length: 9.5m

Width: 1m

Topsoil: Very thin turf layer of yellowish brown silty clay

Subsoil: None: made-up ground under turf

Natural Substratum: Grey silty clay with limestone chunks

| Interval | (S)1m | 2m | 3m | 4m | 5m | 7m | 9m (N) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Topsoil Depth | 0.12m | 0.10m | 0.10m | 0.12m | 0.10m | 0.16m | 0.12m |
| Made-up ground | 0.34m | 0.63m | 0.72m | 0.76m | 0.72m | 0.72m | - |
| Buried soil | - | 0.30m | 0.24m | 0.22m | 0.31m | 0.62m | - |
| Base of Trench/ natural | 0.60m | 1.03m | 1.06m | 1.10m | 1.13m | 1.50m | 0.59m |

The sequence in this trench consisted of a thin topsoil/ turf layer, over a thick layer of made-up ground consisting of yellowish grey silty clay, with large amounts of brick, rusted metal and modern material. At the southern end of the trench was a slab of concrete (Plate 3).

Under this made-up ground was a layer of buried soil, somewhat humic in content. Under this was the natural clay, in some places this was very deep and the machine

struggled to reach the base. Therefore this trench was abandoned at 9.5m length and another short trench excavated to the north (Trench 05).

Plate 3: Trench 04, post excavation, looking northwest

*Trench 05*

Orientation: North-South

Length: 14.6m

Width: 1m

Topsoil: Very thin turf layer of yellowish brown silty clay

Subsoil: None: made-up ground under turf

Natural Substratum: Mid yellowish grey/yellowish brown silty clay with limestone

| Interval | (S)2m | 4m | 6m | 8m | 10m | 12m | 14m (N) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Topsoil Depth** | 0.10m | 0.12m | 0.12m | 0.12m | 0.10m | 0.12m | 0.09m |
| **Made-up ground** | 0.62m | 0.55m | 0.30m | 0.21m | 0.10m | 0.10m | 0.04m |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Buried soil** | - | 0.24m | 0.30m | 0.21m | 0.32m | 0.30m | 0.10m |
| **Base of Trench** | 1.20m | 1.03m | 0.74m | 0.65m | 0.56m | 0.66m | 0.65m |

As in Trench 04 the sequence in this trench consisted of a thin topsoil/ turf layer, over a thick layer of made-up ground consisting of yellowish grey silty clay, with large amounts of brick etc. Towards the northern end of the trench the sequence became more like the other trenches.

*Trench 06*

Orientation: North-South

Length: 30m

Width: 1m

Topsoil: Mid greyish brown silty clay with pieces of limestone

Subsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay with pieces of limestone

Natural Substratum: Mid yellowish grey/ brown silty clay

| **Interval** | **(S)5m** | **10m** | **15m** | **20m** | **25m** | **30m(N)** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Topsoil Depth** | 0.10m | 0.12m | 0.07m | 0.07m | 0.04m | 0.09m |
| **Subsoil Depth** | 0.34m | 0.31m | 0.21m | 0.29m | 0.19m | 0.28m |
| **Top of Natural** | 0.44m | 0.43m | 0.28m | 0.36m | 0.23m | 0.37m |
| **Base of Trench** | 0.55m | 0.60m | 0.45m | 0.50m | 0.40m | 0.41m |

An area of modern brick flooring was identified towards the NW end of the trench. There was also a spread of cobbles between the topsoil and subsoil at the NW end of the trench, with scatterings of modern white glazed pottery (Plate 4).

Plate 4: Brick flooring in Trench 06, looking north-west

*Trench 07*

Orientation: North-east-South-west

Length: 30m

Width: 1m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay with pieces of limestone

Subsoil: Yellowish grey/brown silty clay with pieces of limestone

Natural Substratum: Mid yellowish grey silty clay (or sandy clay) with some limestone

| Interval | (SW)5m | 10m | 15m | 20m | 25m | 30m(NE) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Topsoil Depth** | 0.12m | 0.12m | 0.12m | 0.08m | 0.07m | 0.07m |
| **Subsoil Depth** | 0.28m | 0.26m | 0.29m | 0.25m | 0.29m | 0.20m |
| **Top of Natural** | 0.40m | 0.38m | 0.41m | 0.33m | 0.36m | 0.27m |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Base of Trench** | 0.49m | 0.53m | 0.52m | 0.45m | 0.41m | 0.38m |

For the last 9m of the trench at the north-east end, the natural substratum becomes more yellowish brown sandy clay with a lot more limestone.

*Trench 08*

Orientation: East-west

Length: 30m

Width: 1m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay with pieces of limestone

Subsoil: Dark grey/brown silty clay with pieces of limestone

Natural Substratum: Yellowish grey silty clay with limestone

| **Interval** | **(W)5m** | **10m** | **15m** | **20m** | **25m** | **30m(E)** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Topsoil Depth** | 0.08m | 0.12m | 0.09m | 0.07m | 0.16m | 0.16m |
| **Subsoil Depth** | 0.19m | 0.17m | 0.29m | 0.36m | 0.36m | 0.35m |
| **Top of Natural** | 0.27m | 0.29m | 0.38m | 0.43m | 0.52m | 0.51m |
| **Base of Trench** | 0.32m | 0.31m | 0.52m | 0.54m | 0.62m | 0.56m |

There is a spread of limestone around the centre of the trench, running north to south.

***Field 2***

*Trench 09*

Orientation: East-west

Length: 30m

Width: 1m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay with pieces of limestone

Subsoil: Dark grey/brown silty clay with pieces of limestone

Natural Substratum: Mid blueish grey silty clay with limestone

| Interval | (W)5m | 10m | 15m | 20m | 25m | 30m(E) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Topsoil Depth** | 0.09m | 0.09m | 0.05m | 0.09m | 0.07m | 0.08m |
| **Subsoil Depth** | 0.16m | 0.19m | 0.36m | 0.36m | 0.32m | 0.28m |
| **Top of Natural** | 0.25m | 0.28m | 0.41m | 0.45m | 0.39m | 0.36m |
| **Base of Trench** | 0.35m | 0.40m | 0.52m | 0.52m | 0.52m | 0.44m |

There was a spread of limestone around 8m from the western end of the trench, running north to south. There was another at 20m.

*Trench 10*

Orientation: South-west-North-east

Length: 30m

Width: 1m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay with pieces of limestone

Subsoil: Dark grey/brown silty clay with pieces of limestone

Natural Substratum: Light blueish grey silty clay with limestone

| Interval | (SW)5m | 10m | 15m | 20m | 25m | 30m(NE) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Topsoil Depth** | 0.08m | 0.10m | 0.02m | 0.03m | 0.06m | 0.08m |
| **Subsoil Depth** | 0.17m | 0.14m | 0.22m | 0.18m | 0.19m | 0.24m |
| **Top of Natural** | 0.25m | 0.24m | 0.24m | 0.21m | 0.25m | 0.32m |
| **Base of Trench** | 0.36m | 0.36m | 0.41m | 0.30m | 0.42m | 0.38m |

Two field drains running broadly north to south were revealed within this trench.

*Trench 11*

Orientation: North-east-South-west

Length: 30m

Width: 1m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay

Subsoil: Mid yellowish brown silty clay

Natural Substratum: Dark yellowish grey silty clay with limestone

| Interval | (SW)5m | 10m | 15m | 20m | 25m | 30m(NE) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Topsoil Depth** | 0.05m | 0.07m | 0.09m | 0.08m | 0.09m | 0.08m |
| **Subsoil Depth** | 0.20m | 0.22m | 0.19m | - | 0.16m | 0.20m |
| **Top of Natural** | 0.25m | 0.29m | 0.28m | 0.27m | 0.25m | 0.28m |
| **Base of Trench** | 0.40m | 0.37m | 0.44m | 0.27m | 0.37m | 0.42m |

A field drain running broadly north to south was revealed within this trench.

*Trench 12*

Orientation: South-west-North-east

Length: 11m

Width: 1m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay

Subsoil: None: made-up ground of yellowish grey silty clay and modern material

Natural Substratum: Dark blueish grey silty clay with limestone

| Interval | (SW)0m | 2m | 4m | 6m* | 8m* | 11m(E) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Topsoil Depth** | 0.11m | 0.10m | 0.06m | - | - | - |
| **Made-up ground** | 0.14m | 0.20m | 0.49m | - | - | - |
| **Top of Natural** | 0.25m | 0.30m | 0.55m | - | - | - |
| **Base of Trench** | 0.50m | 0.54m | 0.57m | - | - | 1.20m |

*The trench became deep and unstable at the 6m-8m mark and so it was backfilled for health and safety reasons. The sequence broadly consisted of thin topsoil over made-up ground over the natural substratum of clay, although the base of the trench soon flooded and collapsed (Plate 5).


Plate 5: Trench 12, post-excavation and partially back-filled, looking north-east

*Trench 13*

Orientation: South-west-North-east

Length: 12m

Width: 1m

Topsoil: Dark brownish grey silty clay

Subsoil: Mid blueish grey silty clay

Natural Substratum: Yellowish brown silty clay with limestone

| Interval | (SW)2m | 4m | 6m | 8m | 10m | 12m(NE) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Topsoil Depth** | 0.06m | 0.05m | 0.06m | 0.06m | 0.09m | 0.07m |
| **Subsoil Depth** | 0.12m | 0.10m | 0.30m | 0.33m | 0.34m | 0.33m |
| **Top of Natural** | 0.18m | 0.15m | 0.36m | 0.39m | 0.43m | 0.40m |
| **Base of Trench** | 0.55m | 0.50m | 0.53m | 0.49m | 0.61m | 0.57m |

No archaeological features or finds associated with archaeological features were discovered in the trench.

Plate 6: Work in progress, Field 3, Trench 16, looking west

***Field 3***

*Trench 14*

Orientation: North-east-South-west

Length: 30m

Width: 1m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay

Subsoil: Mid blueish/yellowish grey silty clay with limestone

Natural Substratum: Blueish yellow grey silty clay

| Interval | (SW)5m | 10m | 15m | 20m | 25m | 30m(NE) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Topsoil Depth | 0.22m | 0.21m | 0.21m | 0.20m | 0.17m | 0.22m |
| Subsoil Depth | 0.23m | 0.38m | 0.35m | 0.31m | 0.31m | 0.21m |
| Top of Natural | 0.45m | 0.59m | 0.56m | 0.51m | 0.48m | 0.43m |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Base of Trench** | 0.54m | 0.57m | 0.62m | 0.51m | 0.55m | 0.51m |

No archaeological features or finds associated with archaeological features were discovered in the trench.

*Trench 15*

Orientation: North-South

Length: 30m

Width: 1m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay

Subsoil: Mid blueish grey/brown silty clay

Natural Substratum: Mixed: Blueish grey silty clay and yellowish brown clay, with limestone

| **Interval** | **(S)5m** | **10m** | **15m** | **20m** | **25m** | **30m(N)** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Topsoil Depth** | 0.14m | 0.16m | 0.12m | 0.14m | 0.16m | 0.12m |
| **Subsoil Depth** | 0.26m | 0.32m | 0.23m | 0.22m | 0.22m | 0.25m |
| **Top of Natural** | 0.40m | 0.48m | 0.35m | 0.36m | 0.38m | 0.37m |
| **Base of Trench** | 0.49m | 0.52m | 0.52m | 0.43m | 0.43m | 0.45m |

Two field drains running broadly north-south across the trench. There was also a scattering of limestone cobbles around 3m from the southern end. No archaeological features or finds associated with archaeological features were discovered in the trench.

*Trench 16*

Orientation: East-west

Length: 30m

Width: 1m

Topsoil: Dark brownish grey silty clay

Subsoil: Mid blueish grey silty clay

Natural Substratum: Mixed: Blueish grey silty clay and yellowish brown clay, with limestone

| Interval | (W)5m | 10m | 15m | 20m | 25m | 30m(E) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Topsoil Depth | 0.16m | 0.20m | 0.18m | 0.13m | 0.15m | 0.24m |
| Subsoil Depth | 0.32m | 0.12m | 0.20m | 0.10m | 0.22m | 0.32m |
| Top of Natural | 0.48m | 0.32m | 0.38m | 0.23m | 0.37m | 0.56m |
| Base of Trench | 0.61m | 0.49m | 0.49m | 0.33m | 0.45m | 0.66m |

Two field drains running broadly north-south across the trench. No archaeological features or finds associated with archaeological features were discovered in the trench.

*Trench 17*

Orientation: North-south

Length: 30m

Width: 1m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay

Subsoil: Dark brownish grey silty clay

Natural Substratum: Mixed: Dark blueish grey silty clay and yellowish brown clay, with limestone

| Interval | (S)5m | 10m | 15m | 20m | 25m | 30m(N) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Topsoil Depth | 0.20m | 0.14m | 0.22m | 0.22m | 0.23m | 0.23m |
| Subsoil Depth | 0.23m | 0.18m | 0.22m | 0.14m | 0.12m | 0.16m |
| Top of Natural | 0.43m | 0.22m | 0.44m | 0.36m | 0.35m | 0.39m |
| Base of Trench | 0.52m | 0.47m | 0.53m | 0.52m | 0.42m | 0.44m |

No archaeological features or finds associated with archaeological features were discovered in the trench (Plate 7).


Plate 7: Trench 17, post excavation, looking north-west

*Trench 18*

Orientation: North-south

Length: 30m

Width: 1m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay

Subsoil: Dark brownish grey silty clay

Natural Substratum: Mixed: Dark blueish grey silty clay and yellowish brown clay, with limestone

| Interval | (S)5m | 10m | 15m | 20m | 25m | 30m(N) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Topsoil Depth** | 0.18m | 0.26m | 0.19m | 0.22m | 0.22m | 0.20m |
| **Subsoil Depth** | 0.16m | 0.20m | 0.30m | 0.13m | 0.38m | 0.42m |
| **Top of Natural** | 0.34m | 0.46m | 0.49m | 0.35m | 0.60m | 0.62m |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Base of Trench** | 0.46m | 0.60m | 0.59m | 0.44m | 0.62m | 0.71m |

No archaeological features or finds associated with archaeological features were discovered in the trench.

**Conclusion**

The evaluation on the land at Boyer's Orchard, Harby had some archaeological potential due to its position within the medieval core of the village and its proximity to Iron Age, Roman and medieval finds.

However, all of the eighteen evaluation trenches excavated within the proposed development area were negative for archaeological features and no artefacts were located within the trenches or spoil heaps.

Some of the trenches contained modern remains. These included large areas of made-up ground in Trenches 04 and 05 and in Trenches 12 and 13 and a modern brick floor remnant in Trench 06. There was also a concrete slab in Trench 04 and field drains, both ceramic and stone in several trenches.

Early Ordnance Survey maps of the area, consulted via the Digimap website, but not illustrated here due to copyright issues, show a large pond in Field 2, corresponding to the area of made-up ground and collapse seen in Trenches 12 and 13. It is likely, given the similar ground conditions that another pond existed in Field 1, which may have been filled in at an earlier date (Figure 5).

The earliest OS maps of the area, *c.*AD 1886-1900, show a small building in Field 1. Although this corresponds neither to the made-up ground nor the brick floor section, it may indicate the presence of farm buildings here that had been demolished prior to the early Ordnance Survey.

There were also some areas of scatter limestone cobbles beneath the topsoil. These may have been areas where puddling occurred and the stone had been used to provide a better surface. Alternatively, these may be areas of former paths across the fields here.

**Acknowledgements**

ULAS would like to thank Howard and Helen Coy and their family for their help and co-operation with this project. The project was managed by Richard Buckley and the work carried out by the Leon Hunt and Helen Purslow.

**Archive**

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums. An accession number will be allocated forthwith.

The archive consists of the following:

1 Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report 2016-060)

18 Trench recording sheets

1 Contact sheet of digital photographs

1 CD digital photographs

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31-03-2016

## Appendix 1: OASIS data entry

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.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **PROJECT DETAILS** | **Oasis No** | universi1- 247113 |
| | **Project Name** | An archaeological field evaluation on land at Boyer's Orchard, Harby, Leicestershire (SK 749 313) |
| | **Start/end dates of field work** | 15-03-2016 to 18-03-2016 |
| | **Previous/Future Work** | Not known |
| | **Project Type** | Evaluation |
| | **Site Status** | None |
| | **Current Land Use** | Pasture |
| | **Monument Type/Period** | None |
| | **Significant Finds/Period** | None |
| | **Development Type** | Residential |
| | **Reason for Investigation** | NPPF |
| | **Position in the Planning Process** | Planning condition |
| | **Planning Ref.** | 15/00942/OUT |
| **PROJECT LOCATION** | **Site Address/Postcode** | Boyer's Orchard<br>LE14 4BA |
| | **Study Area** | 1.8 ha |
| | **Site Coordinates** | SK 749 313 |
| | **Height OD** | 56m-57m aOD |
| **PROJECT CREATORS** | **Organisation** | ULAS |
| | **Project Brief Originator** | Local Planning Authority (LCC) |
| | **Project Design Originator** | ULAS |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Project Manager** | Richard Buckley | | |
| | **Project Director/Supervisor** | Leon Hunt | | |
| | **Sponsor/Funding Body** | Developer / Mr Howard Coy | | |
| **PROJECT ARCHIVE** | | **Physical** | **Digital** | **Paper** |
| | **Recipient** | LCC Museum service | LCC Museum service | LCC Museum service |
| | **ID (Acc. No.)** | X.A40.2016. | X.A40.2016. | X.A40.2016. |
| | **Contents** | None | Photos | Field Notes Trench Sheets |
| **PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY** | **Type** | Grey Literature (unpublished) | | |
| | **Title** | An archaeological field evaluation on land at Boyer's Orchard, Harby, Leicestershire (SK 749 313) | | |
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