



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological field evaluation at
Area 1B, New Lubbesthorpe,
Lubbesthorpe, Leicestershire
(SK 528 018)**

Claire LaCombe



ULAS Report No 2018-068
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Area 1B, New Lubbesthorpe, Lubbesthorpe, Leicestershire
(SK 528 018)**

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For
Mather Jamie Ltd.

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An Archaeological field evaluation at Area 1B, New Lubbesthorpe, Lubbesthorpe, Leicestershire (SK 528 018)

Claire LaCombe

Summary

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land at New Lubbesthorpe, Leicestershire (SK 528 018), during March 2018, being part of a staged larger project. The work was undertaken in advance of a proposed mixed use development. Thirty nine trenches were excavated targeting the Phase 1b residential areas R2 parts 2 and 3, R6 part 2, R9 part 1, and R26 (to east of Area 2). The majority of the proposed area proved negative during the current phase of works. However in the area of Warren Farm (R2 part 2) the remains of a wall was recorded.

The archive for this work will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number XA112.2011.

1 Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Mather Jamie Ltd. to carry out an archaeological field evaluation on land at New Lubbesthorpe, Leicestershire (SK 528 018). Outline planning permission has been granted for Class B1/B2 and B8 development (P.A 11/001001/OX). This archaeological evaluation was part of the required outline conditions.

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment this document forms the report for an archaeological evaluation, with an assessment of the potential impact on buried archaeological remains from groundworks associated with future development.

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological trial trenching, which took place in March 2018. It followed a strategy for the work devised by ULAS, which was set out in the Design Specification for Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Area 1B, New Lubbesthorpe, Lubbesthorpe, Leicestershire (Brown 2018).

The site lies south of Leicester Forest East. The proposed site is a mixed use development. The report should be considered in conjunction with previous archaeological work undertaken for this development (Hunt 2008; Haddrell 2009; 2010; Jarvis 2011; Jarvis 2015).

2 Site Location, Details, Geology and Topography

The proposed Phase 1 development area is located in the parish of Lubbesthorpe (Fig 1). The site is located south of Leicester Forest East, to the east of Beggars Lane, and straddling both sides of Lubbesthorpe Bridle Road (SK 528 018 centre). A provisional trench plan was agreed with the Leicestershire County Council (LCC) Principal Planning Archaeologist, although the size and position indicated on the provisional trench plan would be varied due to unforeseen site constraints or the presence of archaeological deposits (Fig 2). The main area reported on here for evaluation purposes is a series of fields south of Old Warren Farm (proposed areas

R26, R9 Parts 1 and 2). A secondary area within close proximity of the Old Warren Farm buildings (R2 parts 2 and 3), north of the new road was also investigated.

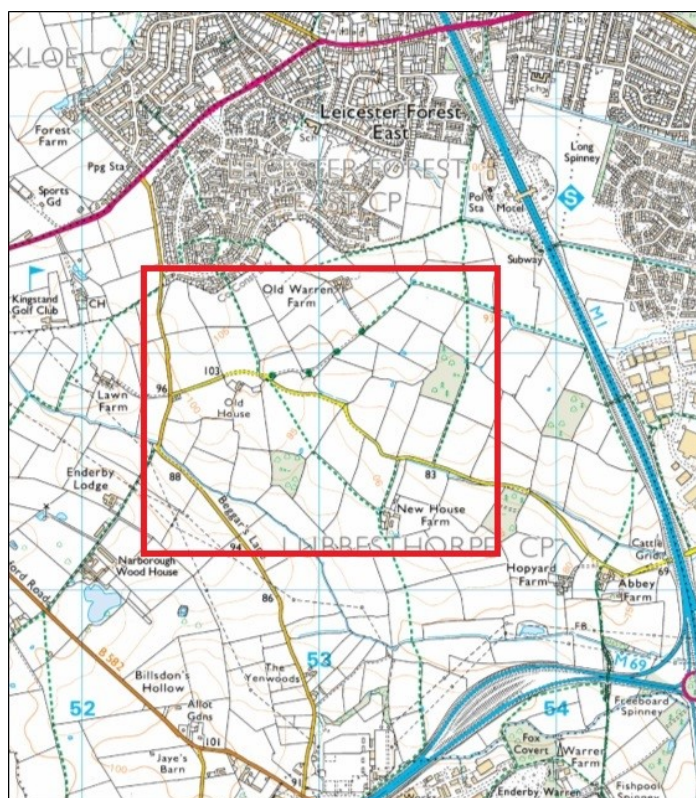


Figure 1: Location of site

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The site area is currently predominantly under grass, with only one field ploughed (R9 part 1), and is bordered on all sides by further agricultural land. The geology, according to the Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, is likely to consist of alluvium and river gravels overlying boulder clay and Mercia Mudstone. The land falls north to south and varies between *c.*88m -100m OD.

3 Historical and Archaeological Background

An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (Hunt 2008), geophysical surveys (Haddrell 2009; 2010), targeted trial trenching (Jarvis 2011: 2015) and an Environmental Statement have previously been prepared.

The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland shows that there are no known archaeological sites within this planned area for investigation. However, there are many archaeological sites in the vicinity of the assessment area. The following details the more relevant sites in the vicinity.

Prehistoric

A Middle Bronze Age palstave was discovered at a site close to the north-west corner of the larger assessment area (**MLE6268**). To the south of this, is a ring ditch cropmark, which most

likely denotes the site of a Bronze Age barrow (**MLE218**). Previous work on site has identified a small Bronze Age cremation cemetery (**MLE23223**) (Jarvis 2015).

A sherd of Middle Bronze Age pottery (from an urn) was recovered during trenching in 2015 (**MLE23225**) on land 150m to the west of Old Warren Farm. In approximately the same location, a Neolithic/Bronze Age core, a denticulate, and a possible Lower Palaeolithic core (**MLE23229**) were recovered. Also directly west of Old Warren Farm (R2 parts 2 and 3), during trial trenching in 2015, 11 sherds of Iron Age pottery were retrieved from an area of charcoal-rich sand (**MLE23224**).

During trial trenching in 2015, two urned cremations were recorded approximately 280m south west of Old Warren Farm (**MLE23223**) along with a possible pit and post hole. The urns consisted of 141 sherds of Middle Bronze Age pottery. Environmental sampling provided evidence for charcoal and hazelnut shells.

Trial trenching in 2015 recovered three pieces of unstratified flint from this vicinity: two flakes and a fragment of a blade core (**MLE23228**) approximately 650m south west of Old Warren Farm and south of the bridal road. These were located in the adjacent field, west of R9 part 1.

Roman

A late Roman crossbow brooch found just to the west of Beggars Lane (**MLE7716**), and six sherds of Roman pottery were recovered during trenching in 2015- all pairs of joining sherds (**MLE23227**). The sherds were abraded but fairly large and may indicate the medieval disturbance of stratified Roman features in the immediate vicinity. These were located in the adjacent field, west of R9 part 1.

Anglo-Saxon

During fieldwalking in 1992, prior to proposed motorway widening, four sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered (**MLE233**).

Medieval

A large fishpond, most likely of medieval origin is located east of the Old House at SK 529 019 (**MLE222**). A fishpond is mentioned in this area in 1295 and in 1348. A few hundred metres to the west of this area is a medieval rabbit warren (**MLE221**), which is also a Scheduled Monument (**SM30239**). A medieval deer park covers a large area south of Old Warren Farm (**MLE230**).

Post-medieval

New House Farm (**MLE20165**) was originally built in brick between c.1777 and 1812, when the site was recorded as Enderby Lodge. Old Warren Farm (**MLE20166**), the main farm buildings range in date from the early to mid 19th Century. It may have been built in accordance with the principals of the 'model' farm. Boyers Lodge, Early C17th timber framed building, the only surviving keeper's lodge associated with Leicester Forest (**MLE11087**).

4 Archaeological Objectives

The archaeological evaluation had the potential to contribute to the following research aims (Knight et al, 2012).

The Iron Age and Roman Periods (Taylor 2006; Willis 2006; Knight et al 2012)

There are known Iron Age and Roman sites within the vicinity, including enclosures and a Roman road. The evaluation may contribute to knowledge on Iron Age – Roman transitions in rural settlement, landscape and society. Artefacts may identify trade links and economy. The evaluation has the potential to contribute to Research Agenda topics: 5.4.4, 5.6.1, 5.6.3 Research Objective 5H - *Investigate the landscape context of rural settlements* and Research Objective 4G - *Study the production, distribution and use of artefacts*.

The Medieval period (Vince 2006, Lewis 2006, Knight et al 2012).

The evaluation may contribute towards research into the origins and development of medieval settlement, landscape and society. Environmental evidence could provide information on local environmental conditions as well as settlement activity, craft, industry and land use. Artefacts can assist in the development of a type series within the region and provide evidence for evidence for craft, industry and exchange across broad landscape areas. The evaluation has the potential to contribute to Research Agenda topics 7.1.2, 7.2.1-7.2.4, 7.5.5, 7.6.1, 7.7.1-7.7.4 and Research Objective 7E - *Investigate the morphology of rural settlements*.

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.

5 Methodology

Prior to any machining of trial trenches, general photographs of the site areas were taken. The archaeological work followed the Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological work (WSI) prepared by ULAS. One trench at Old Warren Farm (R2 part 2) was abandoned due to flooding and another opened elsewhere (T301). An extra trench was added in R6 part 2 (T281). All trenches were excavated either by JCB type excavator or 360 machines rubber tracked machines with a ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. After excavation and recording the trenches were backfilled.

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 trenches were located using DGPS onto the OS National Grid.

6 Results

The trenches, contexts, etc., are numbered consecutively following the sequence started during the 2011 evaluation (Jarvis 2011, 2015). Largely, the trenches were negative, bar one (T297).

All data gathered from the current phase are shown on Figs 2-6 and tabulated below (Table 1). The trenches were all shallow, probably having been plough eroded, with the natural substratum often being immediately below topsoil and the subsoil thin or absent. The natural substratum was observed at depths between 0.18m and 0.82m. The topsoil was a dark brown sandy-clay loam, the subsoil, where present, was a mid-brown sandy-clay. The natural substratum consisted mostly of a brown/orange clay, with some areas of stony sand.

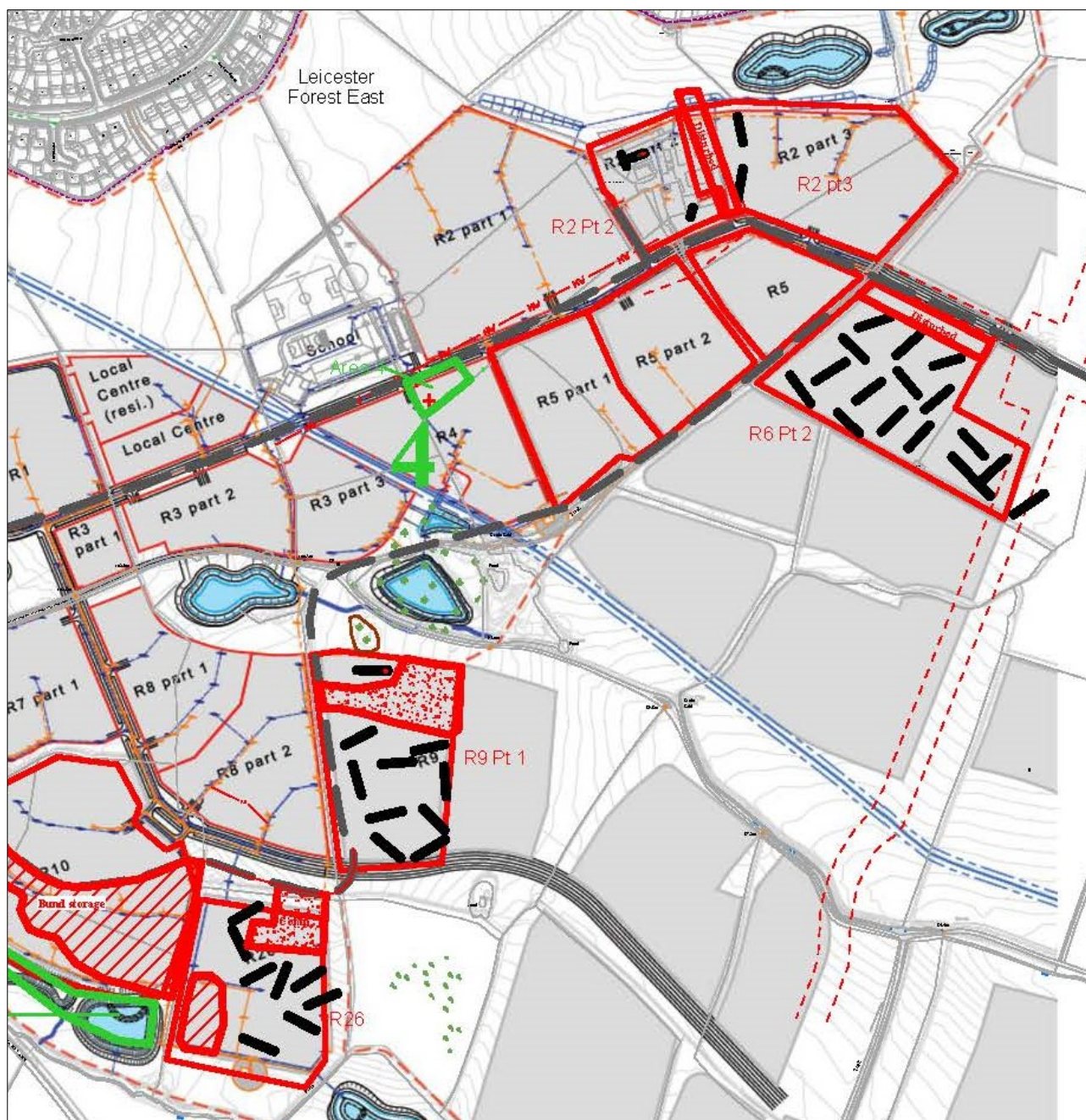


Figure 2: Overall plan of trenches within area of investigation (trenches in black)

Table 1: Results

Area	Trench	Orientation	Min. Depth	Max. Depth	Comments
R6pt2	281	NE-SW	0.30m	0.40m	No Archaeological features
R6pt2	282	NW-SE	0.27m	0.40m	No Archaeological features
R6pt2	283	E-W	0.30m	0.43m	No Archaeological features
R6pt2	284	NE-SW	0.26m	0.33m	No Archaeological features
R6pt2	285	NE-SW	0.30m	0.40m	No Archaeological features
R6pt2	286	E-W	0.25m	0.36m	No Archaeological features
R6pt2	287	NE-SW	0.28m	0.40m	No Archaeological features
R6pt2	288	NE-SW	0.23m	0.31m	No Archaeological features
R6pt2	289	NE-SW	0.26m	0.36m	No Archaeological features
R6pt2	290	NE-SW	0.20m	0.35m	No Archaeological features
R6pt2	291	NW-SE	0.18m	0.32m	No Archaeological features
R6pt2	292	NE-SW	0.32m	0.44m	No Archaeological features
R6pt2	293	NW-SE	0.30m	0.36m	No Archaeological features
R6pt2	294	NW-SE	0.28m	0.40m	No Archaeological features
R6pt2	295	NW-SE	0.20m	0.33m	No Archaeological features
R6pt2	296	NW-SE	0.28m	0.38m	No Archaeological features
R2pt3	297	E-W	0.50m	0.70m	Trench 17m long. Remains of brick wall [6001] and stone garden feature [6000]
R2pt3	298	N-S	N/A	N/A	Trench 8.2m long. Abandoned due to flooding. No Archaeological features
R2pt3	299	N-S	0.37m	0.50m	No Archaeological features
R2pt3	300	N-S	0.60m	0.82m	Modern ditch boundary. Heavily disturbed
R2pt3	301	N-S	0.56m	0.69m	16m long trench. Land drain.
R26	302	NW-SE	0.30m	0.42m	No Archaeological features
R26	303	E-W	0.33m	0.40m	No Archaeological features
R26	304	NE-SW	0.29m	0.76m	No Archaeological features
R26	305	NNE-SSW	0.22m	0.30m	No Archaeological features
R26	306	NW-SE	0.23m	0.38m	No Archaeological features
R26	307	NE-SW	0.33m	0.48m	No Archaeological features
R26	308	NW-SE	0.30m	0.42m	No Archaeological features
R26	309	NW-SE	0.25m	0.48m	No Archaeological features
R9Pt1	310	NW-SE	0.20m	0.35m	No Archaeological features
R9Pt1	311	NE-SW	0.26m	0.33m	No Archaeological features
R9Pt1	312	NW-SE	0.24m	0.30m	No Archaeological features
R9Pt1	313	E-W	0.22m	0.38m	No Archaeological features
R9Pt1	314	NW-SE	0.27m	0.37m	No Archaeological features
R9Pt1	315	E-W	0.26m	0.33m	No Archaeological features
R9Pt1	316	N-S	0.28m	0.40m	No Archaeological features
R9Pt1	317	NE-SW	0.30m	0.42m	No Archaeological features
R9Pt1	318	E-W	0.35m	0.43m	Field boundary
R9Pt1	319	E-W	0.36m	0.50m	Field boundary

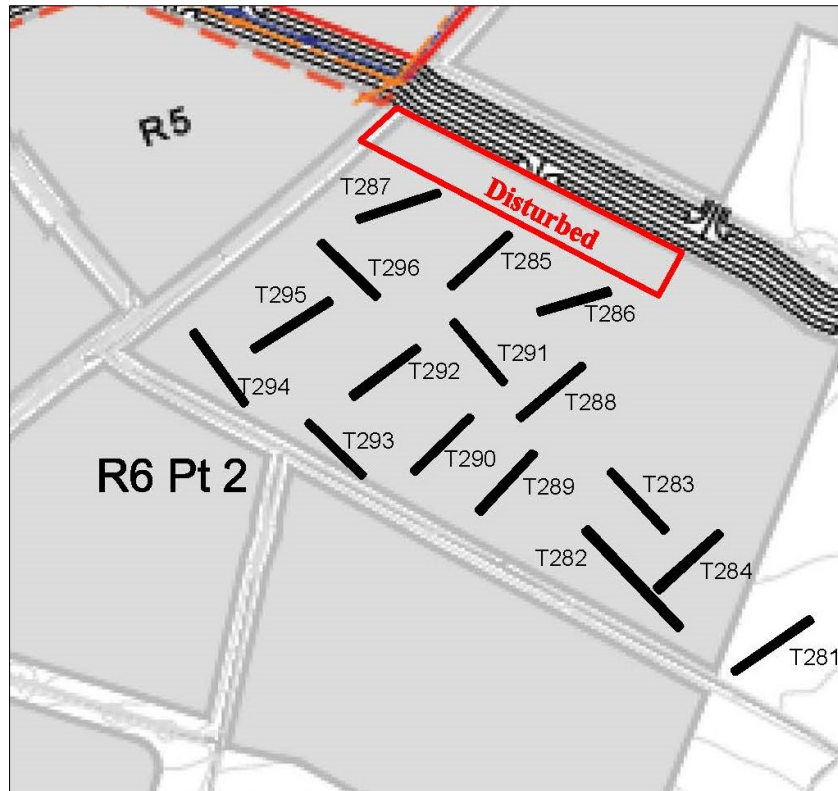


Figure 3: Position of trenches 281-296 within area R6 Pt2

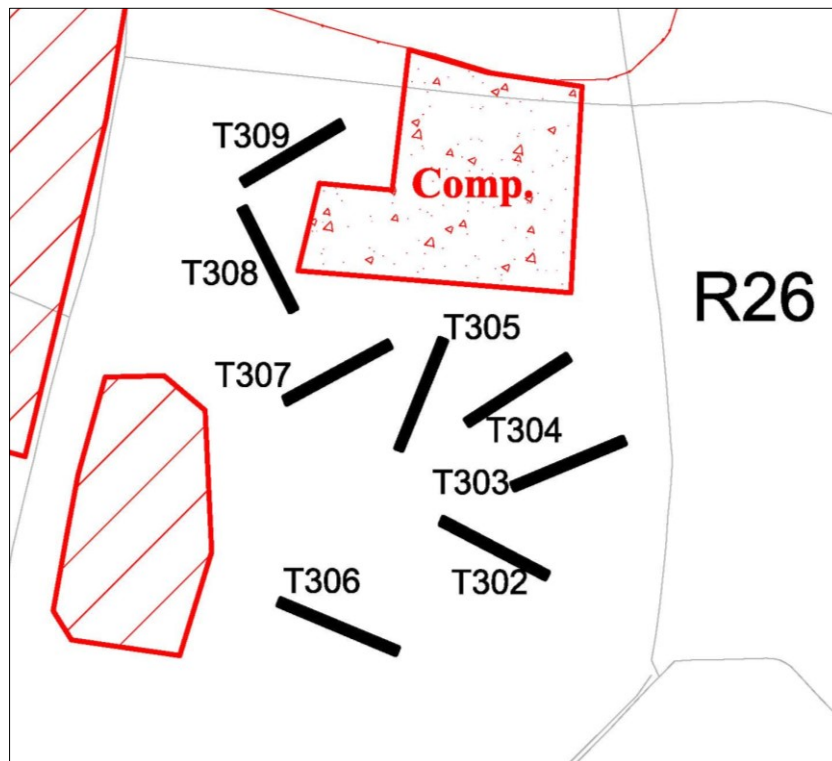


Figure 4: Position of trenches 302-309 within area R26

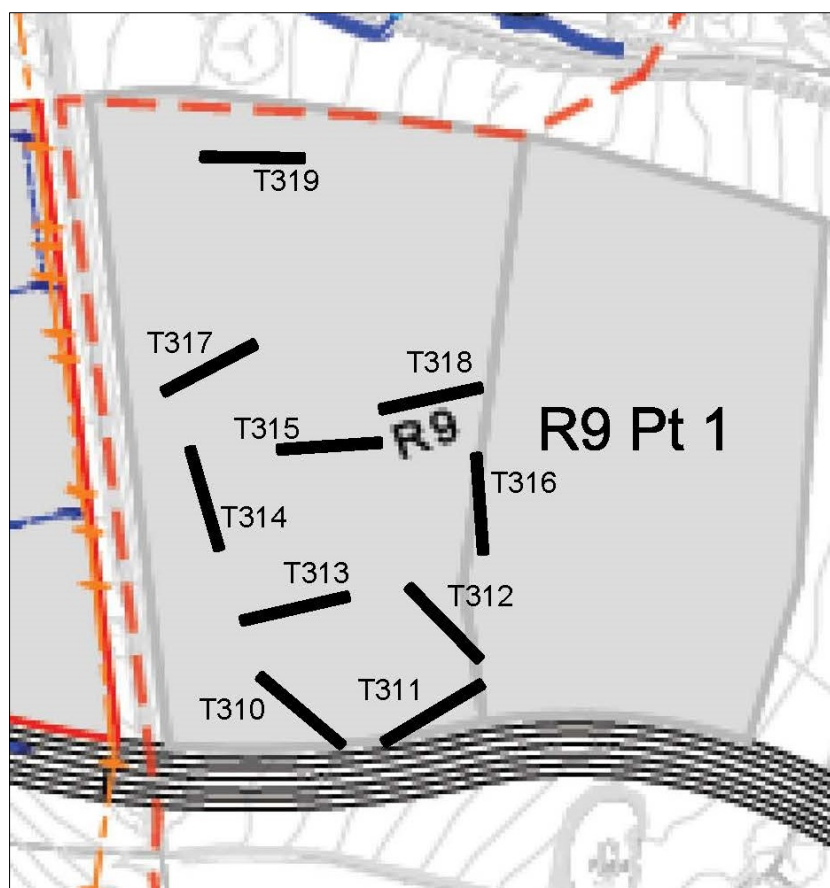


Figure 5: Position of trenches 310-319 within area R9 Pt1

Area R2 Pt 3 – Old Warren Farm

This area was located around Old Warren Farm and was the only area where positive features were recorded. A ‘blade-like secondary flint flake’ was found in the spoil of T301. It was identified by Wayne Jarvis. The trench itself was negative.

A brick wall with buttressing either side was uncovered in T297, which was located within the central court-yard of the farm. Also within this trench was a linear feature of large stones (Fig 48). They were not mortared, so it is unlikely that they formed part of a structure of any kind. They were covered with a natural stone rubble

Trench 297

Trench 297 (Fig. 7) exposed two features. A linear stone feature (Fig. 9), and a brick wall with buttressing (Fig. 8). The linear stone feature did not show any signs of bonding, and the stones were quite flat but irregular in shape. It is possible that they were an earlier decorative surface.

The brick wall was visible in section to six courses and had reinforcing buttressing either side of it, suggesting that this wall was a garden feature and not the supporting wall of a building. This was probably a garden wall associated with the farm – one is illustrated on the 1885 Ordnance Survey Map of the area (Fig. 10). It is possible that both features were contemporary and part of the original gardens of the farm house.

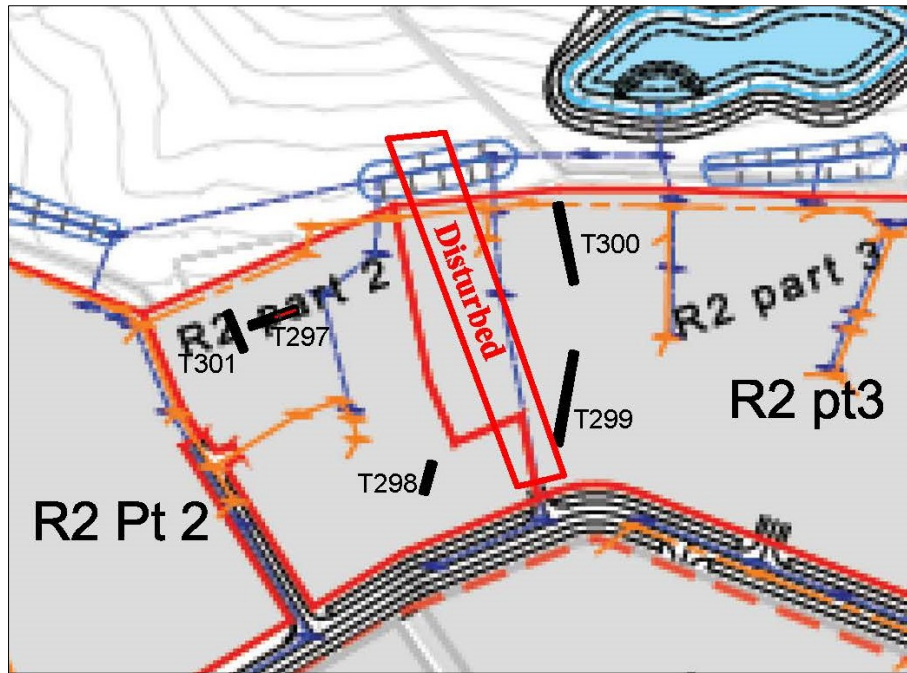


Figure 6: Position of trenches 297-301 in vicinity of Old Warren Farm (areas R2 Pt2 and R2 Pt3)



Figure 7: Trench 297. Area R2 Part 2.



Figure 8: Trench 297. Wall feature [6001].



Figure 9: Trench 297. Linear stone feature [6000]



Figure 10: Ordnance Survey Map of Leicestershire, Sheet XXXVI.NE. Published 1885. Shows location of the garden wall (highlighted in red) within the courtyard of the farm running north-west south-east.

8 Conclusion

The majority of the site area evaluated during this stage of the works proved negative. However, a small area around Old Warren Farm in the north of the proposed site produced evidence of activity. Here two features were noted in the grounds of the farm possibly relating to old garden design. A small flint blade like secondary flake was found also close to the farm, relatively close to where other worked flint has been found. This together with other prehistoric finds in the area, including cremations is indicative of a prehistoric settlement close by.

9 Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Mather Jamie Ltd. for their help and co-operation with this project. The project was monitored on behalf of the Planning Authority by Richard Clark. The project was managed by Vicki Score, supervised by Wayne Jarvis and the fieldwork was carried out by Donald Clark and Claire LaCombe, all of ULAS.

10 Archive and Publication

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number XA112.2011, and forms part of a larger archive incorporating earlier work.

The archive for this phase consists of the following:

- Trench Index (2 A4 pages) and 39 Trench record sheets (A4 pages).
- 2 Photo Record sheets. Other site indices (1 context summary sheets, 2 A5 context sheets (context no. 6000-6001), 1 drawing index and 1 drawing record sheet, 1 A3 permagraph drawing sheets)
- 1 Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report 2018-068)
- Digital photograph contact sheets
- Digital photographs on CD

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 DETAILS	Oasis No	universi1-315334
	Project Name	An Archaeological field evaluation at Area 1B, New Lubbesthorpe, Lubbesthorpe, Leicestershire
	Start/end dates of field work	13-03-2018 to 26-03-2018
	Previous/Future Work	Yes/Unknown
	Project Type	Evaluation
	Site Status	None
	Current Land Use	Cultivated Land
	Monument Type/Period	Wall/Post-medieval
	Significant Finds/Period	Flint/Unknown
	Development Type	Residential
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition
	Planning Ref.	P.A 11/001001/OX
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	Area 1B, New Lubbesthorpe, Lubbesthorpe, Leicestershire LE19 4BH
	Study Area	32.3 ha
	Site Coordinates	SK 528 018
	Height OD	88m OD
	Organisation	ULAS

PROJECT CREATORS	Project Brief Originator	Leicester County Council		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Vicki Score		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Wayne Jarvis/Donald Clark		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Developer/Mather Jamie Ltd.		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	LCC MusService	LCC MusService	LCC MusService
	ID (Acc. No.)	X.A112.2011	X.A112.2011	X.A112.2011
	Contents	Flint flake	Photos Survey data	Watching brief records Field Notes
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Title	An Archaeological field evaluation at Area 1B, New Lubbethorpe, Lubbethorpe, Leicestershire		
	Author	LaCombe, C.		
	Other bibliographic details	ULAS Report No 2018-068		
	Date	2018		
	Publisher/Place	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester		
	Description	Developer Report A4 pdf		

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- OS MAPS: 6 inch to 1 mile: 1885
- Library of Unpublished Fieldwork Reports: <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/greylit/>
- University of Leicester Library

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Appendix 1: Trench Photos



Figure 11: Trench 281. Area R6 Part 2. Negative trench.



Figure 12: Trench 282. Area R6 Part 2. Negative trench.



Figure 13: Trench 283. Area R6 Part 2. Negative trench.



Figure 14: Trench 284. Area R6 Part 2. Negative trench.



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Figure 24: Trench 294. Area R6 Part 2. Negative trench.



Figure 25: Trench 295. Area R6 Part 2. Negative trench.



Figure 26: Trench 296. Area R6 Part 2. Negative trench.



Figure 27: Trench 298. Trench abandoned due to flooding. Area R2 Part 2. Negative trench.



Figure 28: Trench 299. Area R2 Part 3. Negative trench.



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Figure 30: Trench 301. Area R2 Part 2. Negative trench.



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Figure 37: Trench 308. Area R26. Negative trench.



Figure 38: Trench 309. Area R26. Negative trench.



Figure 39: Trench 310. Area R9 Part 1. Negative trench.



Figure 40: Trench 311. Area R9 Part 1. Negative trench.



Figure 41: Trench 312. Area R9 Part 1. Negative trench.



Figure 42: Trench 313. Area R9 Part 1. Negative trench.



Figure 43: Trench 314. Area R9 Part 1. Negative trench.



Figure 44: Trench 315. Area R9 Part 1. Negative trench.



Figure 45: Trench 316. Area R9 Part 1. Negative trench.



Figure 46: Trench 317. Area R9 Part 1. Negative trench.



Figure 47: Trench 318. Area R9 Part 1. Negative trench.



Figure 48: Trench 319. Area R9 Part 1. Negative trench.



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