

**An archaeological field
evaluation for the proposed
TIC-IT Project,
MIRA,
Higham-on-the-Hill,
Leicestershire
(SP 36860 97195)**

Leon Hunt



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for

Swanvale Developments on behalf of

HORIBA MIRA Ltd

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CONTENTS

Summary	1
Introduction	1
Location and Geology	2
Historical and Archaeological Background	3
Archaeological Objectives	3
Methodology	5
Central Area	6
Field 881: Trenches 01-11, 32	7
Field 721: Trenches 12-31	7
Field 727: Trenches 33-36	10
Southern Area	10
Field 882: Trenches 37 and 38	11
Field 886: Trenches 39-47	11
Field 887: Trenches 48-52	11
Northern Area	13
Field 859: Trenches 53-57	14
Field 858: Trenches 58 and 59	14
Field 857: Trenches 60-63	14
Field 720: Trenches 64-69	15
Conclusion	15
References	16
Acknowledgements	16
Archive	16
Appendix I: Trench summary	17
Appendix II: OASIS data entry	20
Appendix III: Soil Chemistry Georgina Clipstone	22
Appendix IV: Metal Detector finds Matthew Beamish	24

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location	2
Figure 2: Plan of proposed new development. Provided by developer	4
Figure 3: Final trench layout across the proposed TIC-IT site with field numbers	5
Figure 4: Trenches within central fields (position inset)	6
Figure 5: Work in progress in Field 881, looking north	7
Figure 6: Post excavation shot of Trench 01, looking north-west	8
Figure 7: Post excavation shot of Trench 08, with field drain highlighted, looking north-east	8
Figure 8: Work in progress in field 721, looking south-east	9
Figure 9: Post excavation shot of Trench 34, looking north-west	9
Figure 10: Trenches within southern fields (position inset)	10
Figure 11: Post excavation shot of Trench 38, looking south-west	11
Figure 12: Post excavation shot of Trench 47, looking north-west	12
Figure 13: Post excavation shot of Trench 50, looking north-east	12
Figure 14: Trenches within northern fields (position inset)	13
Figure 15: Post excavation shot of Trench 53, looking north-west	13
Figure 16: Post excavation shot of Trench 66, looking north-east	14
Figure 17: pH Values: Topsoil is listed above subsoil for each sampling point (blue circle)	23

An archaeological field evaluation for the proposed TIC-IT Project, MIRA, Higham-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire (SP 36860 97195)

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Summary

This report presents the findings of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on the proposed site of the TIC-IT Project, MIRA, Higham-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire (SP 36860 97195).

The archaeological evaluation was carried for Swanvale Developments on behalf of Horiba MIRA Ltd in advance of the proposed development of the site for a new high-speed limit-handling facility.

The site lies close to findspots for a number of prehistoric artefacts and is close to two Roman roads and Roman settlement remains. The proposed development area also lies partially within the registered battlefield of the Battle of Bosworth and there are two deserted medieval villages close to the site. The main MIRA testing site lies upon a former WWII airfield and modern remains associated with the airfield have been found during earlier evaluations.

The proposed TIC-IT site lies upon arable, pasture and set-aside land to the north-west of the main MIRA site. A total of sixty-nine 30m x 1.9m trenches were placed across a total of ten fields.

No archaeological remains were encountered during the evaluation.

Metal detector survey of the excavated soils and trench bases resulted in the finding of one musket ball, with no other pieces of any archaeological interest.

Introduction

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on the proposed site of the TIC-IT Project, MIRA, Higham-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 36860 97195).

The archaeological evaluation was carried for Swanvale Developments on behalf of Horiba MIRA Ltd in advance of the proposed development of the site for a new high-speed limit-handling facility (TIC-IT).

The site currently consists of pasture and arable fields to the north-west of the current MIRA vehicle testing facility.

Archaeological remains associated with the former WWII airfield that occupied the site have been located within the proposed TIC-IT site, along with a number of metal finds of various periods discovered during metal detecting. The proposed development area also lies partially within the registered battlefield of the Battle of Bosworth (1485). There are also two deserted medieval villages close to the site.

The site also lies close to findspots for a number of prehistoric artefacts and is close to two Roman roads. Roman settlement remains have been found to the north-east of the site.

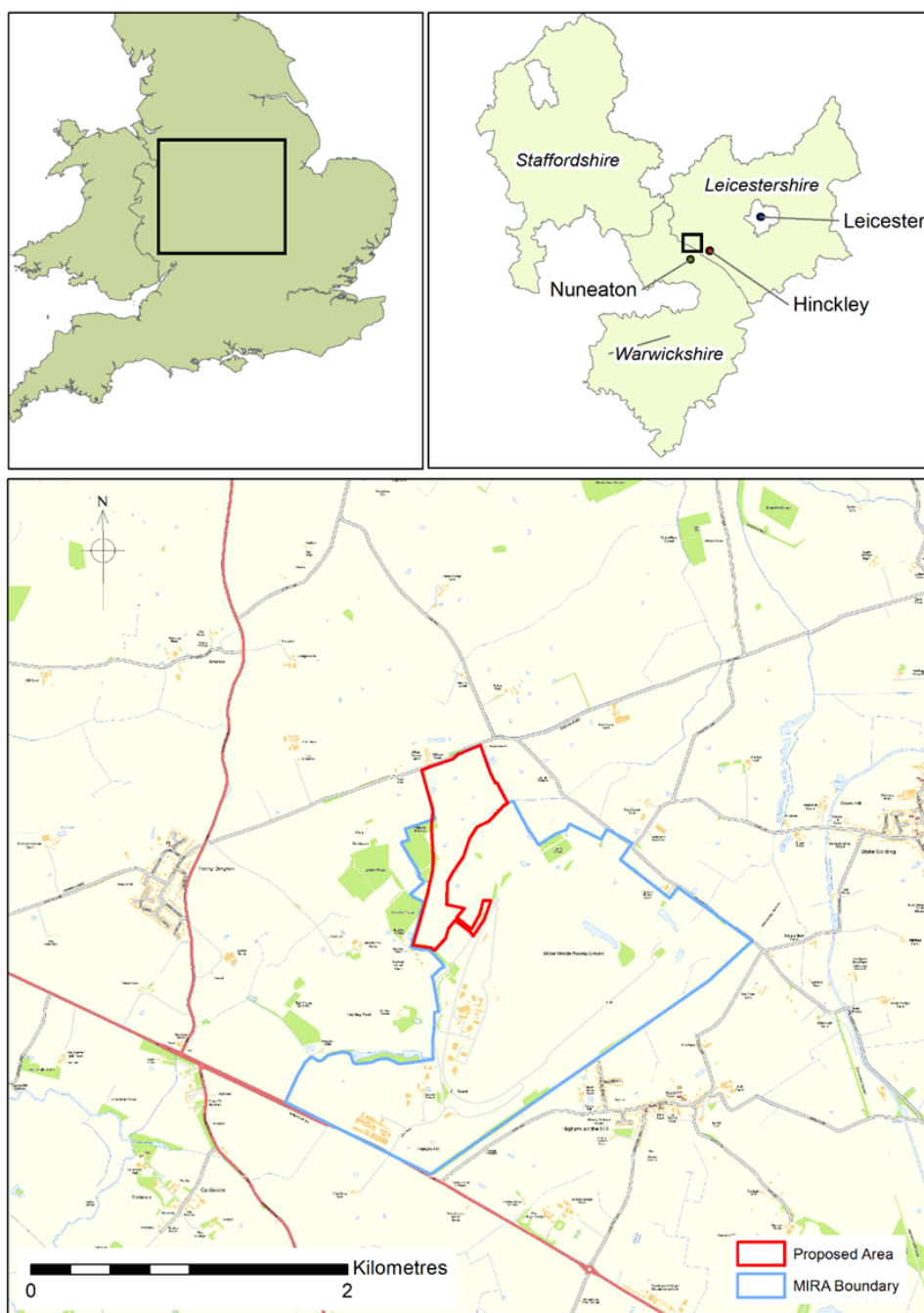


Figure 1: Site Location
 Contains Ordnance Survey Data

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Location and Geology

The MIRA site lies within the parish of Higham-on-the-Hill, in the District of Hinckley and Bosworth, Leicestershire, around 5 miles north-west of Hinckley and 3.5 miles north of Nuneaton (Figure 1). It is bordered by the A5 (Roman Watling Street) to the south; which is the border with Warwickshire. The dismantled Ashby and Nuneaton Joint Railway runs to the south-east of the site and to the north-west and north-east lie fields and local roads. The main TIC-IT site lies on fields at the north-western edge of the area (red line). The northern part of these fields lie within Witherley parish.

The site lies at a height of around 100m aOD, with the high point of the site lying at 104m aOD close to the southern edge. The total area of the MIRA site is around 310ha. The TIC-IT site covers around 33ha (Figure 2).

The British Geological Survey website indicates that the underlying geology across most of the site consists of Thrussington Member Diamicton overlying Mercia Mudstone, with Mercia Mudstone to the south and some areas of Bosworth Clay Member overlying Mercia Mudstone over most of the proposed TIC-IT site.

Historical and Archaeological Background

A desk-based assessment has been prepared for the site and the Historic Environment Record for Leicestershire and Rutland (HER) was consulted (Hunt 2018).

The proposed TIC-IT site lies to the west of the current MIRA vehicle testing facility, which itself lies upon a former WWII airfield. The proposed new development site lies within pasture, set aside, and arable fields.

The site also lies close to findspots for a number of prehistoric artefacts. There is also a scheduled Bronze Age barrow located 900m west of the site. There are also cropmarks associated with prehistoric enclosures close to the proposed development area.

The site lies close to the line of two Roman roads. The line of the Mancetter Roman Road, which would have run from the Roman town of Mancetter (Manduessedum) to Leicester lies adjacent to the northern edge of the site (now Fenn Lanes), and the A5 to the direct south of the MIRA site also follows the line of a Roman Road (Watling Street). This runs from London to Wroxeter, Shropshire. An archaeological evaluation undertaken close to the line of the road in 2014 revealed a section of Roman ditch.

Roman settlement remains have been found to the north-east of the site with further findspots from the Roman period nearby.

There are two deserted medieval villages in the vicinity of the site (Lindley and Rowden). The remains of the chapel at Lindley Park are also scheduled.

The site of the Battle of Bosworth (1485) lies to the north-east of the proposed TIC-IT site and the TIC-IT site and the current MIRA testing site lie partially within the area designated as the extent of the battlefield. Over the years a large amount of medieval finds have been discovered including a halberd, cannonballs, badges and rings. Some finds have been located within the proposed TIC-IT site itself.

Although not visible on the ground the LiDAR data for the site shows the remains of ridge and furrow earthworks on the pasture fields on the northern part of the site.

Features associated with the site's former use as an airfield have been located during previous archaeological work.

There is moderate potential for archaeological remains and finds from prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval and modern periods to be revealed during the proposed new development on the site.

Archaeological Objectives

The aims of the archaeological observation, attendance and, as appropriate, investigation, are:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscape.

- To recover artefacts and ecofacts to compare with other assemblages and results
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the recording is to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, and significance of the heritage assets within their local and regional context.

The survey addresses East Midlands Research Strategy Objective 7H (Research Strategy Agenda topic 7.4.6, Archaeology of the East Midlands: 196, 213, SHAPE 2008: Understanding place: analysis of specific historic assets and locales (11111.130), NHPP 2011: Identification of terrestrial assets via non-intrusive survey (3A4); Battlefields (4E1): Investigate the location and character of medieval battlefield.

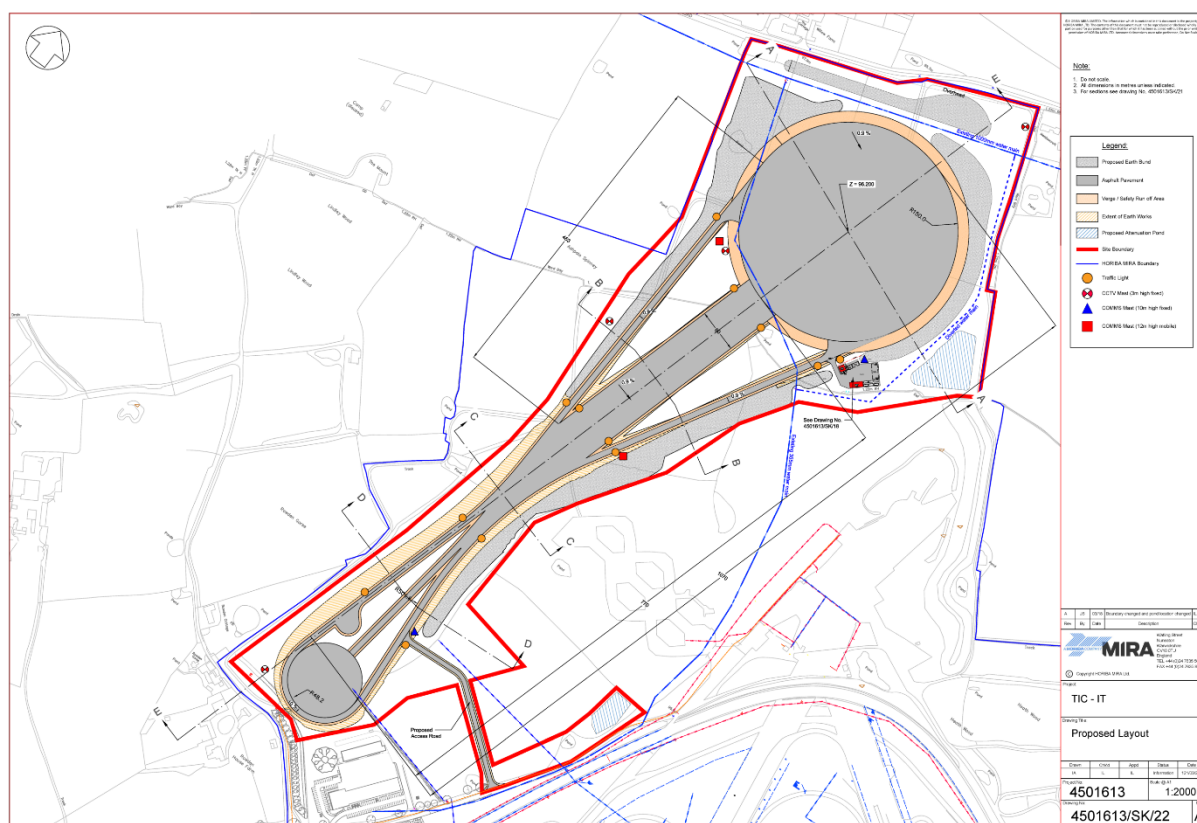


Figure 2: Plan of proposed new development. Provided by developer



Figure 3: Final trench layout across the proposed TIC-IT site with field numbers

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.

It was proposed that seventy 30m x 1.8m trenches were to be excavated using two large tracked excavators fitted with flat-bladed buckets to expose the underlying strata (Figure 3).

Topsoil and overburden was removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision. The trenches were excavated down to the top of archaeological deposits or natural undisturbed ground, whichever was reached first.

All excavation by machine and hand was undertaken with a view to avoid damage to archaeological deposits or features.

A metal detector in all metal mode was used to scan the surface of the excavated trenches, and excavated spoil. All finds that were clearly not of modern origin were to be retained, and their positions located to National Grid Coordinates.

Any possible archaeological features were sample-excavated by hand as appropriate in order to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence.

The trenches were laid out using a RTK-GPS. The proposed trench layout was adjusted slightly and the new positions recorded and tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

The trenches were photographed and backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.

Due to ongoing work by an ecological contractor carrying out newt surveys in areas occupied by great crested newts, the central arable fields were evaluated first before moving onto the pasture and set-aside areas to the east, south and north, which were mown after being examined by the ecologist.

Central Area

This area contained two arable fields (881 and 721) and a set-aside area (727) (Figure 4).

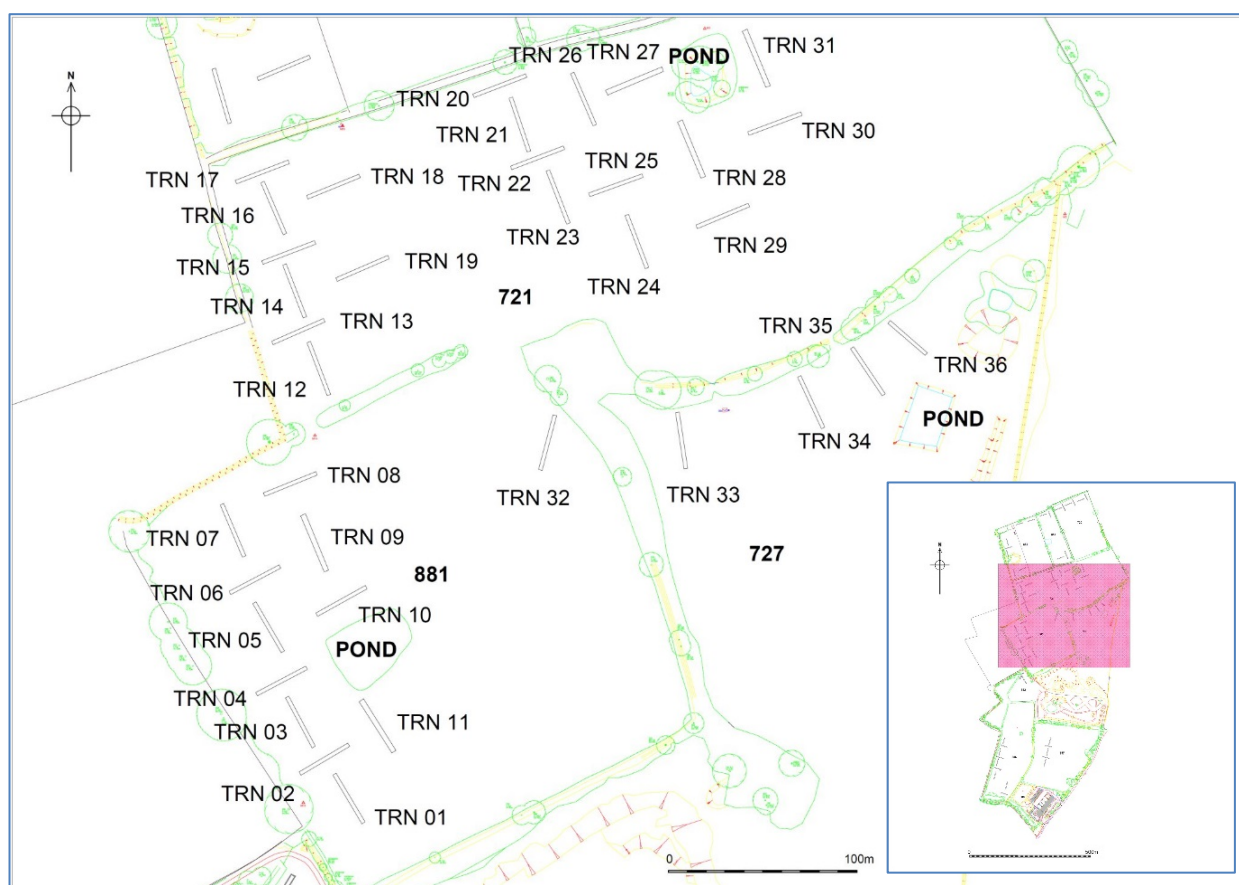




Figure 5: Work in progress in Field 881, looking north

Field 881: Trenches 01-11, 32

The topsoil within these trenches consisted of dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent rounded pebbles. Many of the trenches contained very thin or no subsoil, which when present consisted of a light yellowish brown clayey silt. The natural substratum consisted of reddish orange clay with some patches of gravelly clay. Trenches 06 and 08 contained possible features, which on closer inspection were found to be either modern disturbance or field drains. No archaeological features were revealed within these trenches (Figures 5-7).

Field 721: Trenches 12-31

The topsoil within these trenches consisted of dark greyish or reddish brown silty clay with frequent sub-rounded pebbles. Many of the trenches contained very thin or no subsoil, which when present consisted of a light yellowish brown clayey silt or silty clay with frequent sub-rounded pebbles. The substratum mainly consisted of reddish orange clay with patches of bluish grey clay. Some trenches contained field drains and evidence of plough scars. Those trenches close to the central pond (Trenches 26 and 27) contained relatively deep subsoil, often containing an upper yellowish brown layer and a greyish brown lower layer.

A single musket shot was recovered from the topsoil of Trench 25 (p24).



Figure 6: Post excavation shot of Trench 01, looking north-west



Figure 7: Post excavation shot of Trench 08, with field drain highlighted, looking north-east



Figure 8: Work in progress in field 721, looking south-east



Figure 9: Post excavation shot of Trench 34, looking north-west

Field 727: Trenches 33-36

This field was covered in very rough grass, which was later mown but the land was very uneven and had a tendency to become boggy after heavy rain (Figure 9). Trench 36 was reduced in length by around 5m due to the proximity of a newt pond and unmown rough grass areas. The topsoil consisted of a dark reddish or yellowish brown silty clay with occasional rounded or sub-rounded pebbles. The subsoil was a mid-reddish brown silty clay with frequent rounded pebbles. The substratum consisted of slightly pebbly reddish grey clay, or yellowish brown stony clay. A number of field drains were identified some of which were quite substantial in size.

Southern Area

This area consisted of four fields all containing rough grassland (882, 886, 887 and 888), and in the case of Field 888, made-up ground covered in rough grass (Figure 10).

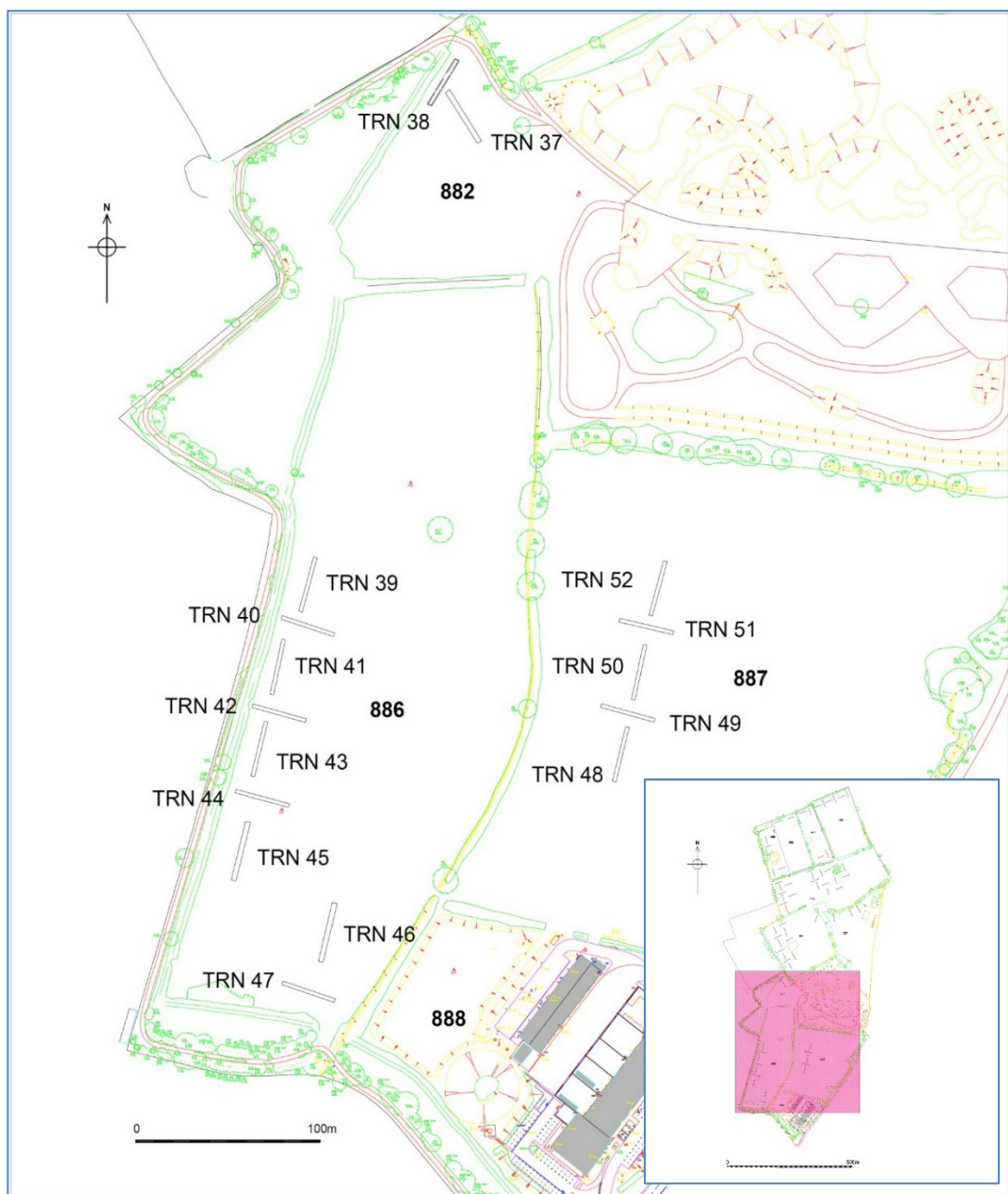


Figure 10: Trenches within southern fields (position inset)

Field 882: Trenches 37 and 38

Two trenches were placed within this field. The topsoil was mid-brownish grey silty clay over very thin subsoil of yellowish orange clayey silt. The substratum was a yellowish orange clay with some areas of pebbly clay. No features were located within these trenches (Figure 11).



Figure 11: Post excavation shot of Trench 38, looking south-west

Field 886: Trenches 39-47

Nine trenches were placed within this field, which had a tendency to become boggy. The topsoil consisted of brownish grey silty clay with no subsoil visible. The substratum was a reddish or yellowish brown stony clay (Figure 12). The trenches contained no features.

Field 887: Trenches 48-52

This field contained five trenches. The topsoil was a very dark yellowish brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded stones. The subsoil was very thin and, where visible, consisted of mid-yellowish brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles. The substratum was a brownish or greyish yellow stony clay. The trenches occasionally contained field drains and a large drain or pipe crossed Trench 50 from east to west (Figure 13).



Figure 12: Post excavation shot of Trench 47, looking north-west



Figure 13: Post excavation shot of Trench 50, looking north-east

Northern Area

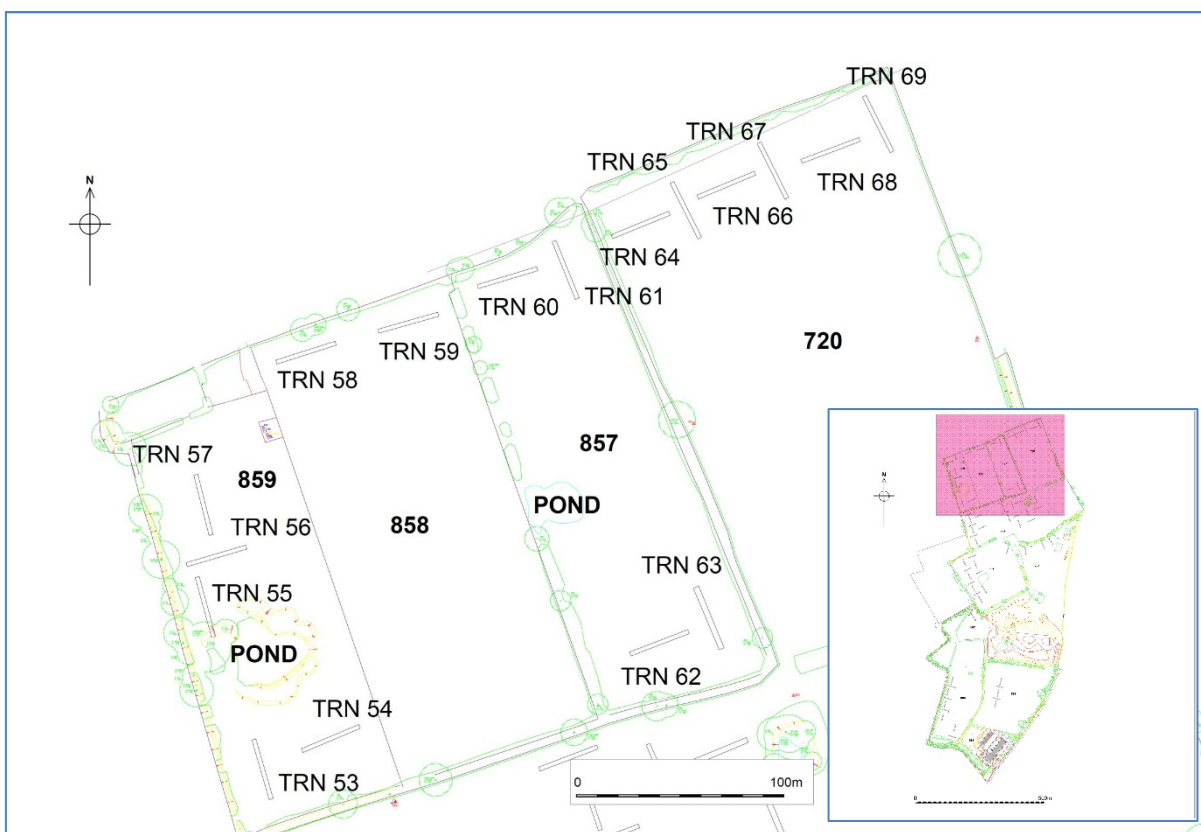


Figure 14: Trenches within northern fields (position inset)



Figure 15: Post excavation shot of Trench 53, looking north-west

The northern part of the site consisted of four individual fields, three pasture and one arable containing a total of seventeen trenches (Figure 14).

Fields 857-859 were under pasture at the time of the evaluation and were mown closely and checked over by the ecologist before excavation of the trenches commenced. Fields 857 and 859 both contained ponds. Field 720 was under a barley crop at the time of the evaluation.

Field 859: Trenches 53-57

The topsoil within the trenches in this field was a mid to dark reddish brown silty clay with frequent sub-rounded medium pebbles over a fairly thick subsoil of mid- reddish brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded medium pebbles. The substratum was red and greyish blue silty clay. The subsoil was particularly thick close to the centrally situated pond. No features were observed in any of the trenches (Figure 15).

Field 858: Trenches 58 and 59

The topsoil within this field was also a mid to dark reddish brown silty clay with frequent sub-rounded medium pebbles over a fairly thick subsoil of mid- reddish brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded medium pebbles. A water pipe, leading to a water trough was located during the excavation of Trench 59.

Field 857: Trenches 60-63

The four trenches within the field all contained a dark reddish brown topsoil consisting of silty clay with occasional to frequent sub-rounded pebbles over a subsoil of mid reddish brown silty clay, with fewer stones than the topsoil. The substratum was a grey and reddish grey silty clay.



Figure 16: Post excavation shot of Trench 66, looking north-east

Field 720: Trenches 64-69

Six trenches were placed across this field; all at the northern end between a power line and a water main. The topsoil was a dark reddish brown silty clay with frequent sub-rounded pebbles over a subsoil of mid reddish brown silty clay. Both were very pebbly. The substratum was a stony reddish brown clay with greyish blue bands (Figure 16). Plough marks were in evidence running along the length of the trench. Some trenches contained field drains and Trench 69 at the eastern end of the field contained several including a plastic drain, which had caused considerable disturbance to the ground causing a slight foreshortening of the trench at its south-eastern end to avoid further damage to the drain.

Conclusion

The MIRA site covers a very large area mainly within the former agricultural hinterland of Higham and the former villages of Rowden and Lindley. The main vehicle testing site lies over a former WWII airfield, with the proposed TIC-IT site lying to the north-west within arable, set aside and pasture fields within the parishes of Higham and neighbouring Witherley.

Prehistoric artefacts have been found close to the site and therefore there was potential for remains from this period. Two Roman roads are known in the area lying to the north and south of the MIRA site. There was potential for Romano-British remains within the proposed site due to the proximity to these roads and Roman settlement remains that have been revealed nearby.

The MIRA site covers the abandoned villages of Rowden and Lindley and is partially within the designated extent of the Battle of Bosworth battlefield. Therefore, there was also potential for remains and artefacts from the medieval period to be located during the evaluation along with more recent material including remains associated with the WWII airfield.

A total of sixty nine trenches were placed across the line of the proposed new test track covering ten fields. These were mainly placed across the footprint of the proposed track, avoiding known services and often concentrated over areas with slight changes in topography.

The topsoil across the site mainly consisted of silts and clays, with similar subsoils encountered mainly within the arable fields. Little subsoil was encountered on the set-aside fields to the south, although it was encountered with the pasture fields to the north particularly close to the ponds within these areas. The subsoil was particularly deep close to the ponds in both the arable and pasture fields, with the deepest being encountered with Trenches 26 and 27 close to the central pond and in Trench 55 near the large pond in Field 859, suggesting periodical flooding events.

Field drains were encountered within some trenches, mainly within the arable fields where maintaining drainage was of importance and in some of the damp areas such as in Field 727. None were encountered in the set-aside areas (Fields 882, 886 and 887) and the ground here was very damp (and boggy after heavy rain), with the vegetation consisting of reeds and sedges mixed in with the rough grassland.

No archaeological features were revealed by the evaluation. Visible features encountered consisted of plough scars (within the arable fields), modern post-holes and the occasional disturbance from bioturbation, as well as the aforementioned drains and other modern disturbances.

The spoil and the trench bases were metal detected after excavation and only mundane modern objects (agricultural machinery remains, keys, coins etc.) were retrieved bar a single musket ball from

References

CifA, 2008 Codes of Conduct and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations

ULAS 2018 Design Specification for archaeological work; Land at MIRA – TICIT development proposal, Higham on the Hill Parish and Witherley Parish, Leicestershire (SP369975)

Hunt, L., 2018 An archaeological desk-based assessment for the Tic-It Project, MIRA, Higham-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire (SP 37011 97102) (ULAS Report No. 2018-029)

Acknowledgements

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Leon Hunt, Lucy Brown and George Issitt carried out the fieldwork, with Matthew Beamish as Project Manager. Barry Wright and John Palmer of the Ambion Hill Archaeological Research Group undertook the metal detector survey.

Archive

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A57.2018 and consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report
- 1 Unbound copy of desk-based assessment (ULAS Report No. 2018-029)
- 69 Trench Recording Sheets
- 1 Photo Record (3 sheets)
- Contact sheet of digital photographs
- 1 CD digital photographs

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Appendix I: Trench summary

Trench	Field	Size	Orientation	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Depth	Base of Trench	Comments
1	881	30mx1.9m	NW-SE	0.29m – 0.38m	None	0.32m-0.42m	-
2	881	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.26m-0.39m	None	0.37m-0.45m	-
3	881	30mx1.9m	NW-SE	0.27m-0.37m	None	0.29m-0.60m	-
4	881	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.25m-0.32m	None	0.36m-0.54m	-
5	881	30mx1.9m	NW-SE	0.23m-0.30m	0.06m-0.14m	0.36m-0.53m	-
6	881	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.21m-0.43m	0.08m-0.17m	0.35m-0.79m	Large plough scar
7	881	30mx1.9m	NW-SE	0.22m-0.40m	0.08m-0.14m	0.38m-0.67m	-
8	881	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.25m-0.44m	0.03m-0.11m	0.30m-0.60m	Modern features
9	881	30mx1.9m	NW-SE	0.23m-0.34m	0.08m-0.20m	0.40m-0.62m	-
10	881	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.24m-0.38m	0.05m-0.15m	0.39m-0.65m	-
11	881	30mx1.9m	NW-SE	0.27m-0.39m	0.03m-0.11m	0.42m-0.59m	-
12	721	30mx1.9m	NW-SE	0.25m-0.40m	0.06m-0.14m	0.25m-0.66m	-
13	721	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.21m-0.37m	0.09m-0.15m	0.30m-0.58m	Natural feature
14	721	30mx1.9m	NW-SE	0.25m-0.33m	0.06m-0.11m	0.35m-0.52m	Patchy subsoil; Land drain
15	721	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.23m-0.33m	0.07m-0.18m	0.48m-0.65m	-
16	721	30mx1.9m	NW-SE	0.24m-0.34m	0.04m-0.18m	0.44m-0.70m	-
17	721	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.22m-0.40m	0.04m-0.21m	0.43m-0.48m	-
18	721	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.23m-0.40m	0.05m-0.18m	0.35m-0.65m	Patchy subsoil; Land drain
19	721	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.25m-0.37m	0.03m-0.13m	0.41m-0.59m	Land drain
20	721	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.19m-0.24m	0.07m-0.18m	0.35m-0.52m	-

21	721	30mx1.9m	NW-SE	0.19m-0.28m	0.13m-0.30m	0.34m-0.75m	-
22	721	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.18m-0.30m	0.08m-0.14m	0.32m-0.50m	-
23	721	30mx1.9m	NW-SE	0.20m-0.30m	0.09-0.14m	0.36m-0.65m	Patchy subsoil
24	721	30mx1.9m	NW-SE	0.15m-0.30m	0.05m-0.18m	0.22m-0.50m	Land drains
25	721	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.17m-0.30m	0.24m-0.37m	0.27m-0.46m	Deep subsoil
26	721	30mx1.9m	NW-SE	0.20m-0.30m	0.20m-0.40m	0.50m-0.76m	Deep subsoil
27	721	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.17m-0.30m	0.08m-0.40m	0.30m-0.73m	Deep subsoil in places
28	721	30mx1.9m	NW-SE	0.24m-0.30m	0.02m-0.10m	0.30m-0.49m	-
29	721	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.20m-0.26m	0.08m-0.16m	0.30m-0.46m	-
30	721	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.20m-0.30m	0.06m-0.15m	0.32m-0.50m	-
31	721	30mx1.9m	NW-SE	0.16m-0.30m	0.07m-0.20m	0.35m-0.43m	-
32	881	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.24m-0.38m	0.04m-0.14m	0.40m-0.65m	-
33	727	30mx1.9m	N-S	0.13m-0.32m	0.05m-0.16m	0.32m-0.50m	-
34	727	30mx1.9m	NW-SE	0.23m-0.32m	0.10m-0.23m	0.37m-0.53m	-
35	727	30mx1.9m	NW-SE	0.23m-0.40m	0.08m-0.23m	0.26m-0.52m	Land drains
36	727	26mx1.9m	NW-SE	0.20m-0.28m	0.02m-0.14m	0.23m-0.38m	Patchy subsoil
37	882	30mx1.9m	NW-SE	0.21m-0.35m	0.04m-0.20m	0.32m-0.59m	Patchy subsoil
38	882	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.25m-0.36m	0.07m-0.11m	0.34m-0.45m	Very patchy subsoil
39	886	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.14m-0.35m	None	0.22m-0.55m	-
40	886	30mx1.9m	E-W	0.24m-0.37m	None	0.31m-0.42m	-
41	886	30mx1.9m	N-S	0.25m-0.34m	None	0.25m-0.34m	-
42	886	30mx1.9m	E-W	0.22m-0.33m	None	0.25m-0.41m	-
43	886	30mx1.9m	N-S	0.22m-0.34m	None	0.25m-0.36m	-

44	886	30mx1.9m	E-W	0.22m-0.35m	None	0.23m-0.35m	-
45	886	30mx1.9m	N-S	0.23m-0.33m	None	0.21m-0.35m	-
46	886	30mx1.9m	N-S	0.20m-0.33m	None	0.27m-0.35m	-
47	886	30mx1.9m	E-W	0.26m-0.34m	None	0.29m-0.43m	-
48	887	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.23m-0.33m	0.05m-0.10m	0.26m-0.48m	Very patchy subsoil
49	887	30mx1.9m	NW-SE	0.24m-0.36m	0.13m (small section)	0.34m-0.52m	Very little subsoil
50	887	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.24m-0.34m	None	0.26m-0.43m	-
51	887	30mx1.9m	NW-SE	0.21m-0.36m	0.08m-0.17m	0.32m-0.51m	Patchy subsoil
52	887	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.22m-0.30m	0.07m-0.11m	0.27m-0.42m	Patchy subsoil
53	859	30mx1.9m	NW-SE	0.24m-0.35m	0.10m-0.27m	0.45m-0.52m	-
54	859	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.28m-0.36m	0.10m-0.22m	0.38m-0.61m	-
55	859	30mx1.9m	NW-SE	0.20m-0.40m	0.10m-0.20m	0.32m-0.50m	-
56	859	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.15m-0.23m	0.16m-0.24m	0.41m-0.50m	-
57	859	30mx1.9m	NW-SE	0.20m-0.27m	0.16m-0.24m	0.32m-0.55m	-
58	858	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.14m-0.25m	0.10m-0.22m	0.26m-0.42m	-
59	858	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.20m-0.32m	0.10m-0.20m	0.36m-0.52m	Water pipe
60	857	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.20m-0.37m	0.12m-0.20m	0.25m-0.56m	-
61	857	30mx1.9m	NW-SE	0.22m-0.34m	0.08m-0.20m	0.41m-0.52m	-
62	857	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.20m-0.30m	0.08m-0.15m	0.33m-0.42m	-
63	857	30mx1.9m	NW-SE	0.22m-0.30m	0.08m-0.13m	0.26m-0.48m	-
64	720	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.23m-0.30m	0.06m-0.20m	0.38m-0.52m	-
65	720	30mx1.9m	NW-SE	0.22m-0.30m	0.09m-0.14m	0.30m-0.50m	Patchy subsoil
66	720	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.16m-0.30m	0.05m-0.23m	0.30m-0.48m	Land drains

67	720	30mx1.9m	NW-SE	0.20m-0.29m	0.07m-0.11m	0.30m-0.40m	-
68	720	30mx1.9m	NE-SW	0.25m-0.34m	0.08m-0.10m	0.38m-0.51m	Patchy subsoil
69	720	30mx1.9m	NW-SE	0.20m-0.30m	0.04m-0.12m	0.25m-0.44m	Pipe disturbance

Appendix II: 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	universi1-318977
	Project Name	An archaeological field evaluation for the proposed TIC-IT Project, MIRA, Higham-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire
	Start/end dates of field work	21/05/18-01/06/18
	Previous/Future Work	Yes/ Yes
	Project Type	Evaluation
	Site Status	Designated Battlefield (part)
	Current Land Use	Arable/ Pasture/ Set-aside
	Monument Type/Period	None
	Significant Finds/Period	None
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF
	Position in the Planning Process	Pre-determination
	Planning Ref.	-
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	MIRA, Watling St, Nuneaton CV10 0TU
	Study Area	33ha
	Site Coordinates	SP 36860 97195
	Height OD	100-104 aOD
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority (LCC)
	Project Design Originator	ULAS
	Project Manager	Matthew Beamish

	Project Director/Supervisor	Leon Hunt		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Swanvale Developments on behalf of HORIBA MIRA Ltd		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	LCC Museum service	LCC Museum service	LCC Museum service
	ID (Acc. No.)	X.A57.2018	X.A57.2018	X.A57.2018
	Contents	None	CD Photos	Reports/ Trench Sheets/ Photo Record
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Title	An archaeological field evaluation for the proposed TIC-IT Project, MIRA, Higham-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire (SP 36860 97195)		
	Author	Hunt, L		
	Other bibliographic details	ULAS Report No 2018-107		
	Date	2018		
	Publisher/Place	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester		
	Description	Developer Report A4 pdf		

Appendix III: Soil Chemistry

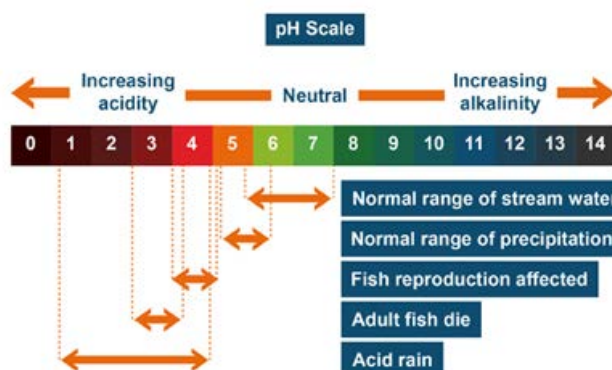
Georgina Clipstone

Soil PH Methodology

The soil samples were air-dried and passed through a 2-mm sieve. For each procedure 80ml of distilled water was mixed with 25g of the under 2mm sieved sample in a beaker which then was left to sit for 30 minutes. A digital PH meter probe was calibrated with two buffer solutions (pH 4.0 and pH 7.0). Each beaker sample was then stirred and the electrode introduced into the solution immediately above the sand layer at the base. Measurements were taken to the nearest 0.1 pH unit and were repeated three times to ensure accurate results. The electrode and the glass pipettes used for stirring were rinsed thoroughly in distilled water in between each measurement in order to avoid contamination.

Acidity scale

- 6-7 neutral
- 5.5-6 – slightly acidic
- 5-5.5 – acidic



Results

Trench Number	Field	Soil Type	PH	Acidity
3	881; Central	Top soil	5.6	Slightly Acidic
3	881; Central	Sub soil	5.1	Acidic
28	721; Central	Top soil	5.5	Acidic
28	721; Central	Sub soil	5.4	Acidic
34	727; Central	Top soil	6.0	Neutral
34	727; Central	Sub soil	6.3	Neutral
42	886; Southernl	Top soil	6.1	Neutral
42	886; Southern	Sub soil	5.9	Slightly Acidic
56	859; Northern	Top soil	5.7	Slightly Acidic
56	859; Northern	Sub soil	6.3	Neutral
68	720; Northern	Top soil	5.9	Slightly Acidic
68	720; Northern	Sub soil	5.8	Slightly Acidic

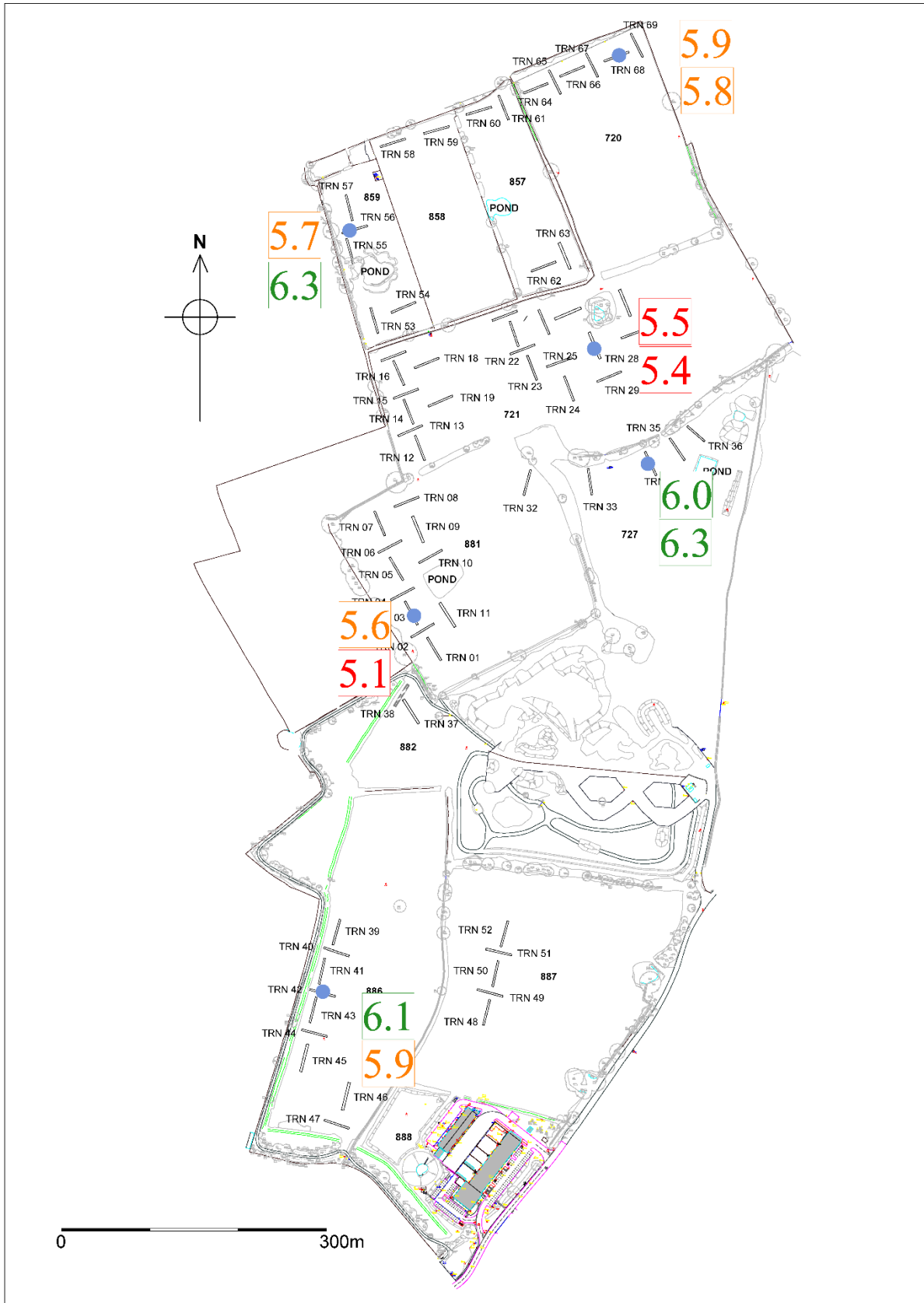


Figure 17: pH Values: Topsoil is listed above subsoil for each sampling point (blue circle)

Appendix IV: Metal Detector finds Matthew Beamish

Barry Wright and John Palmer undertook the survey over 5 days. Topsoil and subsoil from the excavated trenches, and the base of the excavated trenches were scanned with detectors set to all metals.

The survey produced very little material, the only piece that could potentially be related to the 1485 event, a musket ball from Field 2 (Field 721). Other material comprised machinery parts, lead scrap, and copper alloy buttons. No coins were recovered.

<i>Field</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>ID</i>	<i>Finder</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Description and date</i>
2/721	25	Trn25.1	John Palmer	Lead	From topsoil, Musket ball. Diam 13mm, 12g, C15th-19th.
886	40		John Palmer	Lead	From topsoil, .22 Calibre bullet

<i>Field</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>ID</i>	<i>Finder</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Description and date</i>
882	37		John Palmer	Iron	From top and subsoil: Modern agricultural machinery. Poor condition.
882	38		John Palmer	Iron	From top and subsoil: Modern agricultural machinery. Poor condition.

Non Ferrous Finds

A lead musket ball of approximately 12mm diameter was recovered from the topsoil of TRN 25.



A .22 bullet head was recovered from the topsoil of TRN40.

Ferrous material

TRN 37 and 38 gave a large amount of ferrous material. The pieces comprised mechanical parts from farm machinery or similar, and was present in both top and sub soil. The material was in poor condition and badly rusted.

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