

**Archaeological Work on Land off  
Nutt's Lane,  
Hinckley, Leicestershire  
(SP 413 925)**

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*For*

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### **Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was carried out by ULAS on land off of Nutt's Lane, Leicestershire (NGR SP 413 925) for A. Cartwright. The watching brief was required by the planning authority as the site lies within an area of archaeological potential and is close to the line of the Roman road of Watling Street.*

*No archaeological remains or finds were located during the watching brief.*

### **Introduction**

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by A. Cartwright to carry out an archaeological strip plan and sample excavation on land off of Nutt's Lane, Leicestershire (NGR SP 413 925). This report details the results of the supervision of groundworks in the northern part of the application area following earthwork survey. Groundworks in the southern half of the application area have yet to be undertaken. A full report incorporating the earthwork survey and watching brief of the groundworks in the southern half of the application area are to follow.

This archaeological work forms part of the planning proposal for the site for the development of industrial units (Planning Application No. 04/01316) and follows on from the desk-based assessment prepared for the site by ULAS (Marsden 1999), which concluded that the application area lies within an area of archaeological potential close to the line of the Roman Road of Watling Street (A5) and within a general area of known prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval sites. An archaeological trial trench evaluation (Gnanaratnam 1999) had located undated archaeological features at a depth of 0.5 m within the area. The application area was also recorded as containing a ridge and furrow medieval field system and was subject to an earthwork survey.

The Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services, as archaeological advisers to the planning authority, detailed the need for archaeological investigation of the proposed development area in the *Brief for Archaeological Strip, Plan and Sample Excavation at Nutt's Lane, Hinckley, Leicestershire* (02/11/05). The work followed the *Design Specification for Archaeological Earthwork survey and valuation by Trial Trenching* prepared by ULAS. (ULAS 06/326: see Appendix 2).

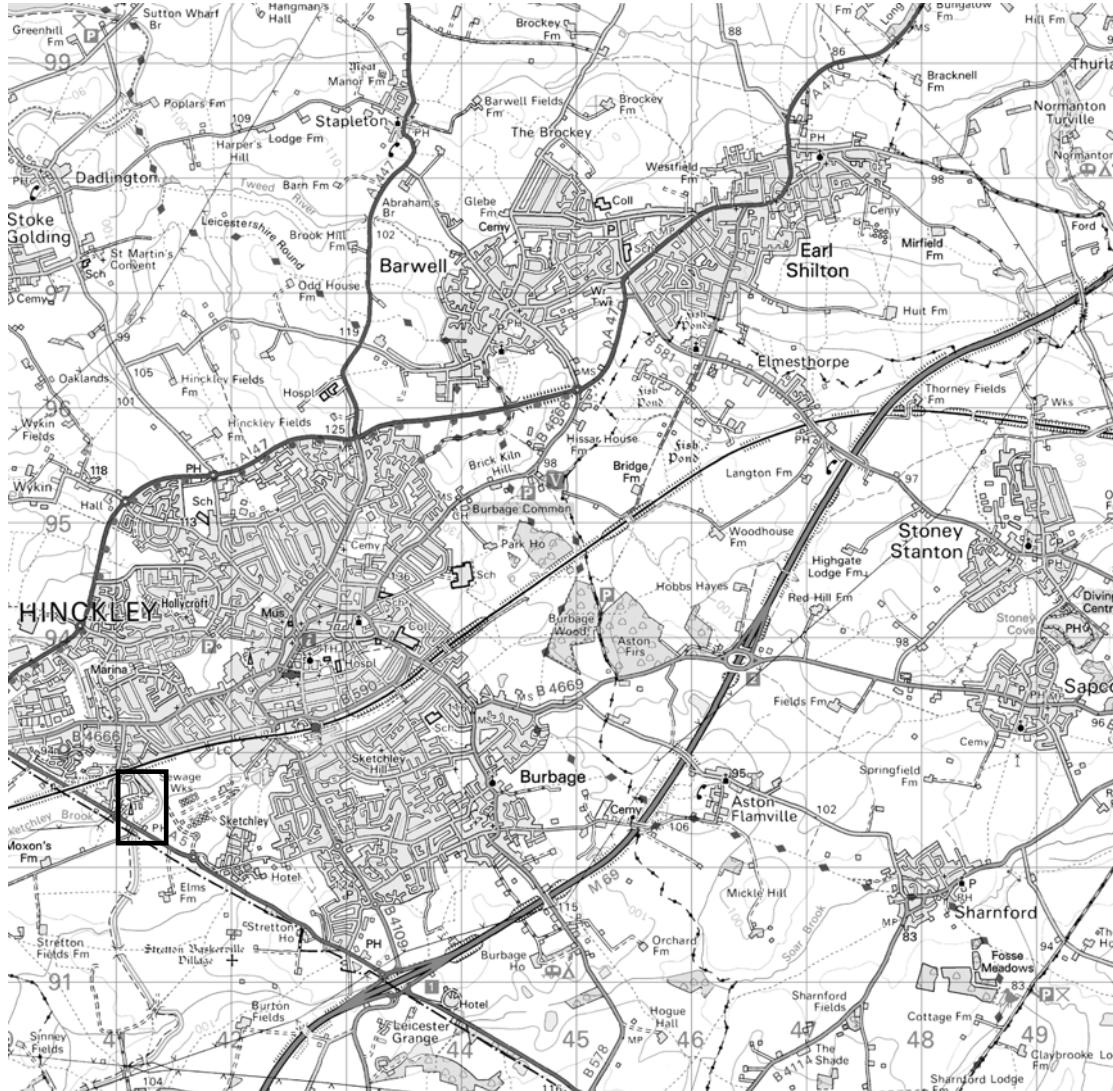
Following discussion with the Planning Archaeologist the methodology was modified as only a very shallow strip of the topsoil was proposed for this area. It was, therefore, to comprise of a constant watching brief during the soil stripping.

### **Location and Geology**

The site lies to the south of the Sketchley Brook and to the west of the Hinckley Canal, off of Hammond's Way, a new road off of the Nutt's Lane industrial estate, Hinckley, Leicestershire. The proposed development area, measuring *c.* 3.3ha,

consists of a large flat field, originally three fields divided by hedges that had been removed prior to the author's visit of 09/10/06.

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 155 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Mercia Mudstone Group clay. The site lies at a height of c. 48m O.D.



**Figure 1: Site Location. 1: 125 000**

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## Aims and Methods

Through controlled archaeological supervision of soil strip across the development, the aims of the work will be:

1. To identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or archaeological deposits.
2. To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.

3. To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
4. To produce an archive and report of any results.

The site was visited by an archaeologist on 09/10/06 and the stripping of the topsoil was observed.

The topsoil stripping was carried out by a bulldozer towing a large box scraper.

### The Results

The topsoil consisted of a dark brown clay loam with very few small angular stones. The topsoil and the turf were removed with a large scraper. This, and the wet weather early in the day, made visibility very poor. The topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.2m and did not expose the subsoil in many places. The subsoil, where visible, consisted of a yellowish brown silty clay and where a drainage channel had been dug close to the entrance of the site, the natural sub-stratum of grey or yellow clay was observed.

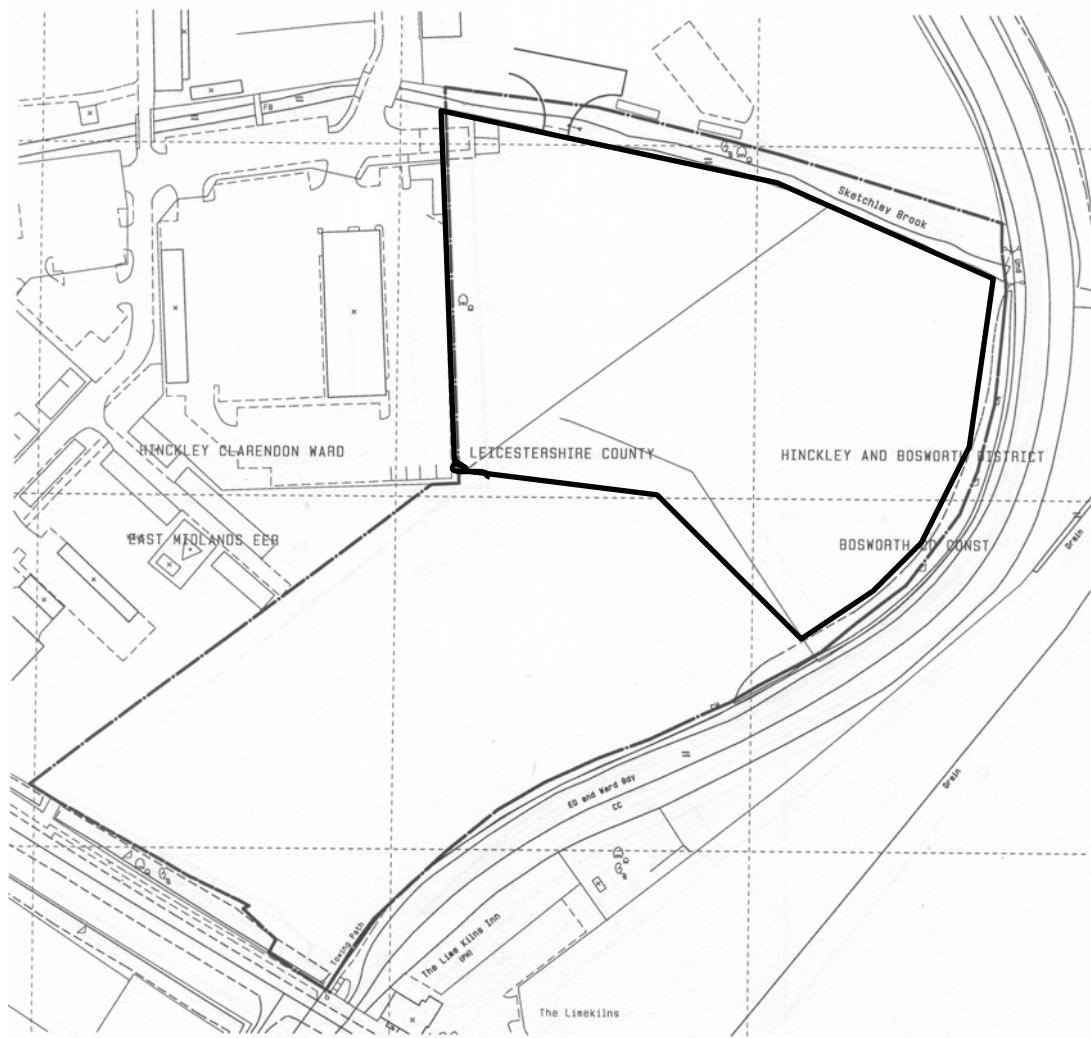


Figure 2 Plan of the area of the watching brief with area observed outlined.

No archaeological features were observed and no archaeological artefacts were recovered during the work.

### **Conclusion**

The development site had some potential for archaeological remains due to its proximity to Roman Watling Street and previously discovered archaeological deposits during the evaluation (Gnanaratnam 1999). However, the topsoil was not removed to a sufficient depth to expose the natural substratum or any archaeological features cutting the substratum.

### **Archive**

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Historic and Natural Environment Team with accession X.A203.2007 and consists of:

- 1 watching brief recording sheet
- 1 CD digital photographs
- 1 Contact sheet of digital photographs
- 5 A4 sheet of architect's plans
- 1 Unbound copy of this report

### **Acknowledgements**

ULAS would like to thank Nigel Brook of Exclaym, A Cartwright of A R Cartwright Ltd and Savage Hayward Ltd for their help and co-operation during this work. The author carried out the archaeological work. Patrick Clay was the project manager.

### **Bibliography**

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