



**An Archaeological Evaluation at
Road 2 Ponds, Lubbethorpe,
Leicestershire. (SK 52929 01570)**

Claire LaCombe



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For: Mather Jamie Ltd.

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Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Road 2 Ponds, Lubbesthorpe, Leicestershire, on behalf of Mather Jamie Ltd. Five trenches, totalling 314.5m², of the site, were excavated to evaluate an area in advance of a proposed drainage infrastructure development. The archaeological work was carried out from the 10th-11th of July 2018, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework, Section 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment.

Evidence for modern truncation was recorded. The archaeological evaluation proved to be negative as no archaeological features or deposits were observed in any of the five trenches.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire Museums under the Accession Number XA112.2011.

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Mather Jamie Ltd. to carry out an archaeological field evaluation on land at Lubbesthorpe (Road 2 Ponds site), Leicestershire in advance of a proposed drainage infrastructure development.

The fieldwork was intended to provide preliminary indications of the character and extent of any heritage assets in order that the potential impact of the development on such remains may be assessed by the Planning Authority.

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 July 2018. It followed a strategy for the work devised by ULAS, which was set out in the Design Specification for Lubbesthorpe - Road 2 Ponds, Lubbesthorpe, Leicestershire (Jarvis 2018).

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA) Code of Conduct and adhered to their Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2014).

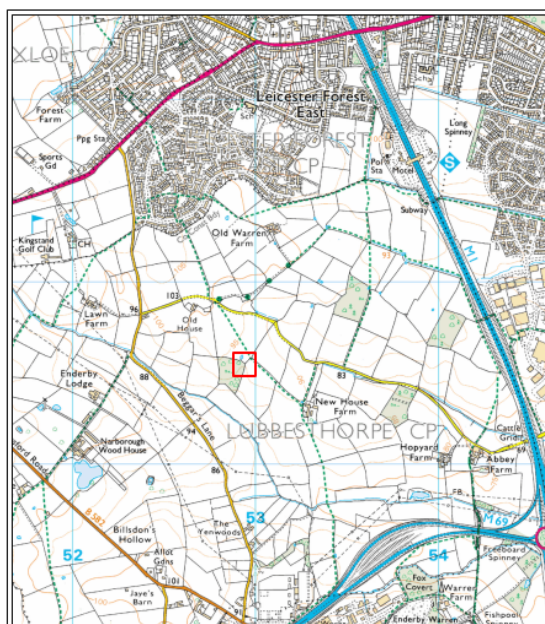


Figure 1: Location of site

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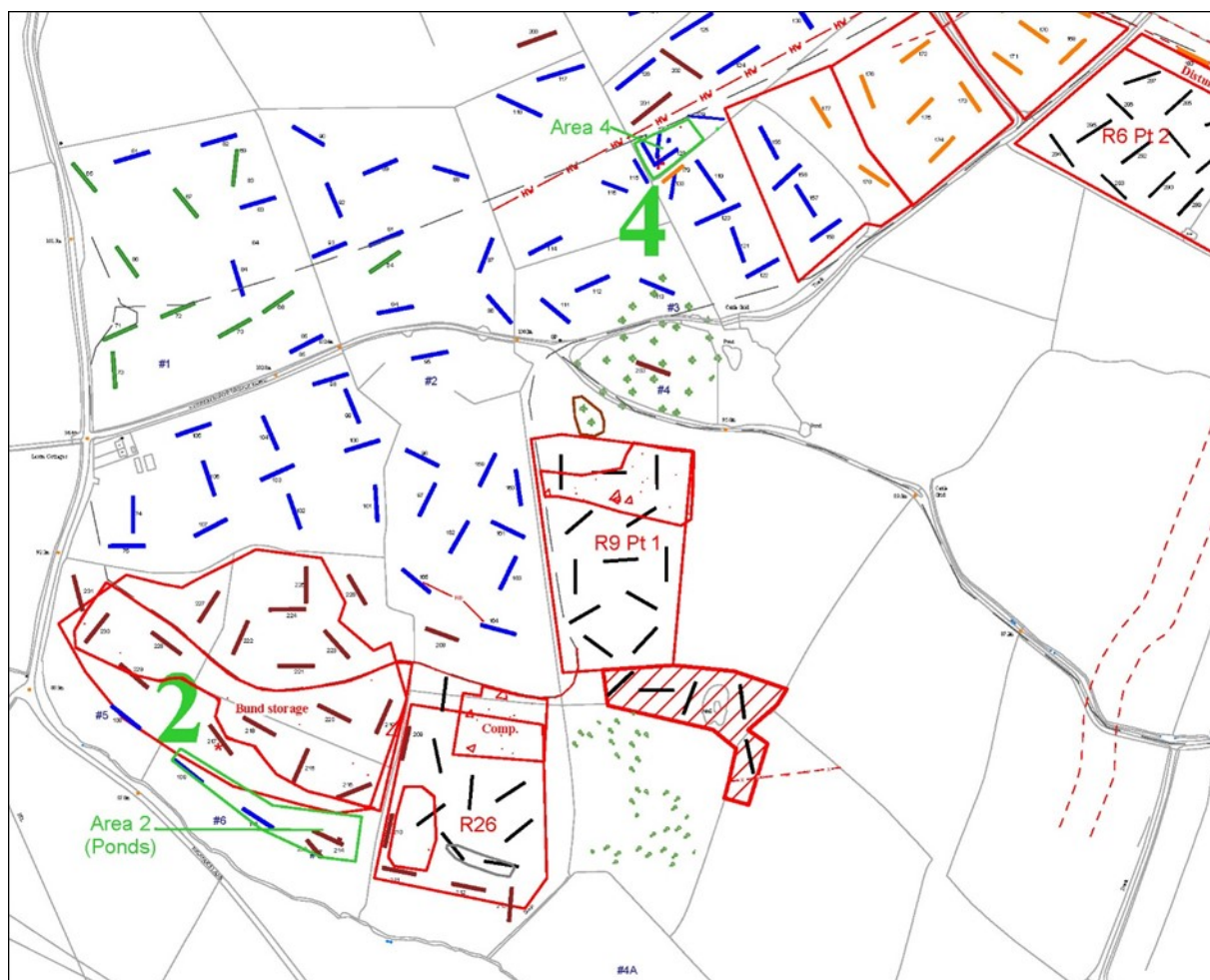


Figure 2: Previously trenched areas in relation to current area (shaded red)

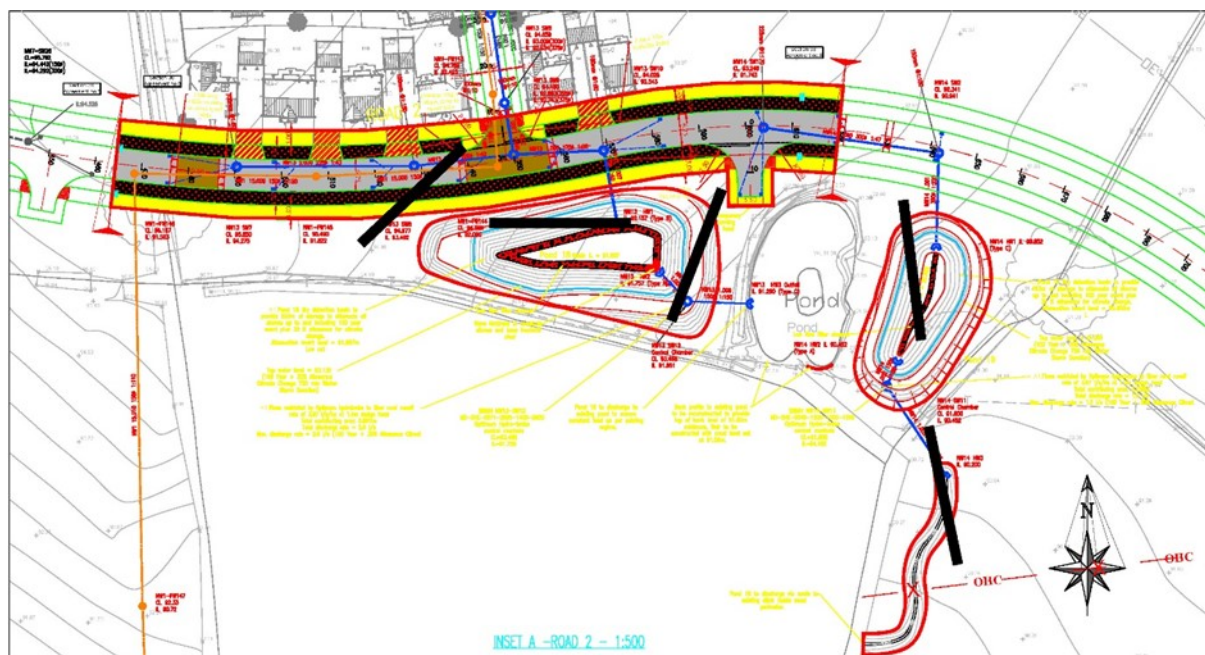


Figure 3: Trench locations (in black) overlain on the proposed plan.

Site Description, Topography and Geology

The proposed area for development lies to the west of the city, approximately 8km from the city centre. It covers approximately 0.64 hectare and forms the southern boundary of a large arable field containing a seasonal crop. The site sits either side of an existing pond. The investigation also included a small area in another arable field, south east of the main field. The land generally falls north to south and varies between c.90m -94.5m OD

The British Geological Survey website indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of alluvium and river gravels overlying boulder clay and Mercia Mudstone

Historical and Archaeological Background

The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland shows that there are no archaeological sites within the proposed area for development, however, there are several archaeological sites in the vicinity of the assessment area from the prehistoric period through to the post-medieval period. Previous trenching in the local environs has not identified any particular areas of archaeological significance in the immediate vicinity.

Archaeological Background

The assessment area lies within a wider area that is rich in archaeological remains. Recent archaeological work in 2015 directly to the west of the site in the adjacent field, has revealed Roman Pottery (MLE23227). Six sherds of pottery were recovered. In the same area and during the same investigation, three pieces of worked flint (two flakes and a fragment of a blade core) of Neolithic / Bronze Age date were recovered (MLE23228). Lubbesthorpe medieval deer park is situated north-west of the site (MLE230). The park belonged to the Archbishop of York in 1354. Also to the west of the site, a ring ditch cropmark was noted on aerial photographs taken in 1975. It is possibly a Bronze Age barrow (MLE218).

Aims and Objectives

Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation involving the excavation of exploratory trenches to ascertain the presence, condition and date of any archaeological remains which may be present.

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 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 aims, the principal objective was to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, and significance of the heritage assets within their local and regional context in order to formulate a mitigation strategy to address the impacts of the proposed development on cultural heritage.

Methodology

The Design Specification (Jarvis 2018) proposed the examination of five 30m trenches. The topsoil and overlying layer were removed in level spits under continuous archaeological supervision to the uppermost level of significant archaeological deposits, the natural substratum, or to a maximum safe working depth, depending on which was reached first. Trenches were excavated using a JCB with a 1.5m wide flat bladed ditching bucket. The trenches were recorded and then backfilled at the end of the evaluation. The location of the trenches and features were recorded using GPS.

All trenches, exposed sections and spoil heaps were visually inspected for features and finds. No archaeological features were observed during the evaluation. Field notes were recorded on pro-forma ULAS trench recording forms.

A photographic record of the excavation was prepared. Colour digital photographs were taken throughout the evaluation. The photographic record also included 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

All trenches were excavated by a JCB with a 1.5m wide ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. After excavation, photographing and recording, the trenches were backfilled.

The trenches, are numbered consecutively following the sequence started during the 2011 evaluation (Jarvis 2011, 2015). The trenches were located as proposed in the WSI where possible, however, trench 340 had to be moved slightly south to accommodate water pipes and overhead telecoms cables (Fig. 4).

Results

All data gathered from the current phase are tabulated below (see table of results). The trenches were all quite shallow, probably having been plough eroded, with the natural substratum occasionally being immediately below topsoil and the subsoil thin or absent. The natural substratum was observed at depths between 0.16m and 0.65m. The topsoil was a mid grey/brown sandy-clay loam containing small round pebbles. The subsoil was a mid brown/yellow sandy-clay. The natural substratum consisted mostly of yellow/orange clay, with some discontinuous areas of stony orange/brown sand and red clay patches.

All of the trenches were negative for archaeology.

Trench	Orientation	Min. Depth	Max. Depth	Length of Trench	Width of Trench	Total area of trench	Comments
336	N - S	0.32m	0.48m	30.50m	2.20m	67.10m ²	No Archaeological features
337	NE - SW	0.16m	0.34m	30.00m	2.20m	66.00m ²	No Archaeological features
338	E - W	0.24m	0.35m	29.00m	2.20m	63.80m ²	No Archaeological features
339	NE - SW	0.32m	0.65m	28.00m	2.10m	58.80m ²	No Archaeological features
340	N - S	0.29m	0.39m	28.00m	2.10m	58.80m ²	No Archaeological features

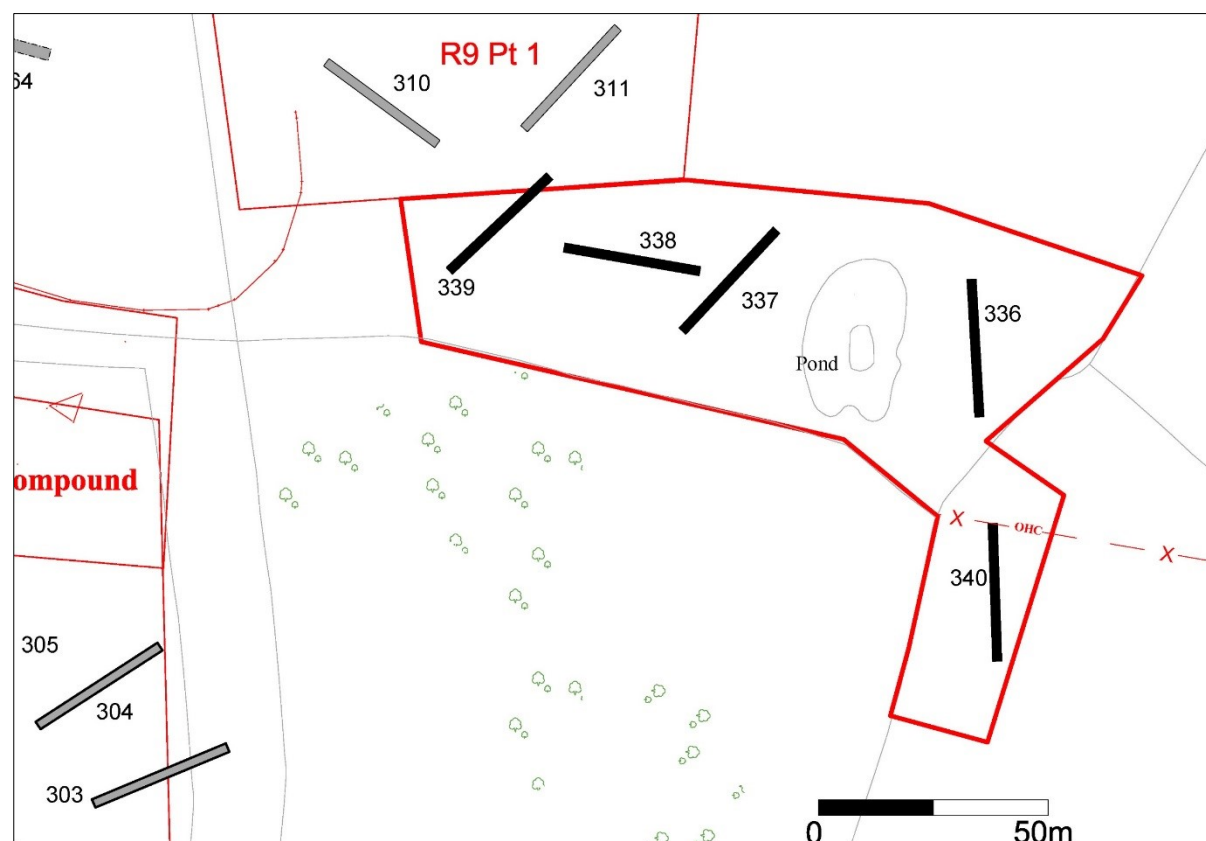


Figure 4: Location plan and numbering of trenches; earlier trenches phases in vicinity shown in grey.

Trench 336 (Fig. 5)

Trench 336 was located directly to the east of the existing pond, running in a north – south direction, close to the south western corner of the field. The natural substratum was observed at depths between 0.32m and 0.48m. The topsoil was a mid grey/brown sandy-clay loam containing small round pebbles. The subsoil was a mid brown/yellow sandy-clay with some redder patches. The natural substratum consisted mostly of yellow/orange sandy clay, with some discontinuous areas of stony orange/brown sand and red clay patches. Three land drains truncated the trench in a north-east, south-west direction, and one running north-west, south east. There was also visible plough scarring within the northern third of the trench. No archaeological deposits or residual finds were recovered.



Figure 5: Trench 336 looking south (Scale 1.0m). No archaeological features.

Trench 337 (Fig. 6)

Trench 337 was located directly to the west of the existing pond, close to the southern boundary of the field running in a north-east, south-west direction. The natural substratum was observed at depths between 0.16m and 0.34m. The topsoil was a mid grey/brown sandy-clay loam containing small round pebbles. The subsoil was a mid brown/yellow sandy-clay with some redder patches. The natural substratum consisted mostly of yellow/orange sandy clay, with some discontinuous areas of stony orange/brown sand and red clay patches. One land drain truncated the trench in a north-west, south-east direction. There was also visible plough scarring within the northern third of the trench. No archaeological deposits or residual finds were recovered.



Figure 6: Trench 337 looking north-east (Scale 1.0m). No archaeological features.

Trench 338

Trench 338 was located directly to the west of trench 337, close to the southern boundary of the field running in an east - west direction. The natural substratum was observed at depths between 0.24m and 0.35m. The topsoil was a mid grey/brown sandy-clay loam containing small round pebbles. The subsoil was a mid brown/yellow sandy-clay with some redder patches. The natural substratum consisted mostly of yellow/orange sandy clay, with some discontinuous areas of stony orange/brown sand and red clay patches. One land drain truncated the trench in a north-west, south-east direction. There was also visible plough scarring throughout the trench. No archaeological deposits or residual finds were recovered.



Figure 7: Trench 338 looking west (Scale 1.0m). No archaeological features.

Trench 339

Trench 339 was located directly to the west trench 338, close to the southern boundary of the field running in a north-east, south-west direction. The natural substratum was observed at depths between 0.32m and 0.65m. The topsoil was a mid grey/brown sandy-clay loam containing small round pebbles. The subsoil was a mid brown/yellow sandy-clay with some redder patches. The natural substratum at the northern end consisted mostly of yellow/orange sandy clay, with some discontinuous areas of stony orange/brown sand and red clay patches. At the southern end of the trench, the natural substratum was mostly red clay with <10% stony inclusions. One land drain truncated the trench in a north-west, south-east direction. There was also visible plough scarring throughout the trench. No archaeological deposits or residual finds were recovered.



Figure 8: Trench 339 looking north-east (Scale 1.0m). No archaeological features.

Trench 340

Trench 340 was located directly in a field, south west of the pond and the other trenches. The was in the north west corner of this field, and ran in a north –south direction. The trench had to be moved a few meters further south than originally planned because of the installation of some water pipes. The natural substratum was observed at depths between 0.29m and 0.39m. The topsoil was a mid grey/brown sandy-clay loam containing small round pebbles. The subsoil was a mid brown/yellow sandy-clay with some redder patches. The natural substratum consisted mostly of yellow/orange sandy clay, with some discontinuous areas of stony orange/brown sand patches. One land drain truncated the trench in a north-west, south-east direction. There was also visible plough scarring throughout the trench. No archaeological deposits or residual finds were recovered.



Figure 9: Trench 340 looking south (Scale 1.0m). No archaeological features.

Draft Research Themes

The evaluation was designed taking into consideration the *East Midlands Research Framework* (Cooper 2006), and the updated *Research Agenda and Strategy* (Knight *et al.* 2012). The following draft research themes were identified.

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:

- 4C - Characterise the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age settlement resource and investigate intra-regional variability.
- 4E - Assess the evidence for the evolution of settlement hierarchies;
- 4F - Investigate intra-regional variations in the development of fields and linear boundary systems

As the site was negative it has no potential to contribute to any research themes.

Conclusion

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on 10th and 11th July 2018 by University of Leicester Archaeological services on behalf of Mather Jamie Ltd in advance of a proposed drainage infrastructure development. Five trenches were excavated by JCB to provide a representational sample of the development area. There was some evidence from plough scars to suggest past agricultural activity and land drains across the site but no archaeological deposits were observed during the evaluation.

Archive

The site archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service under Accession No. XA112.2011.

The archive contains:

- 1 x A4 report
- 1 x Trench summary index sheet
- 5 x Trench sheets
- 1 x Digital photo index
- 2 x Digital photo sheets

Publication

A summary report will be submitted to the regional journal *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*.

University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York. The online OASIS form (Appendix 1) shall be completed detailing the results of the evaluation and once the report has become a public document following is incorporation into the Historic Environment Record it shall be placed on the website.

Acknowledgements

The project was managed by Vicki Score and Wayne Jarvis, the fieldwork was directed by Claire LaCombe with the assistance of Gabrielle Hames. Thanks go to Alan of Planters (Leicester) Ltd, for operating the machinery.

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12.07.2018

Appendix 1: OASIS data entry

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	universi1- 322267		
	Project Name	Lubbethorpe - Road 2 Ponds, Lubbethorpe, Leicestershire		
	Start/end dates of field work	10-07-2018 to 11-07-2018		
	Previous/Future Work	Yes/yes		
	Project Type	Field Evaluation		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Farming and pasture		
	Monument Type/Period	None		
	Significant Finds/Period	None		
	Development Type	Drainage		
	Reason for Investigation	National Planning Policy Framework		
	Position in the Planning Process	After determination		
Planning Ref.	18/0433/RM			
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	LE19 4BH		
	Study Area	0.64ha		
	Site Coordinates	SK 52929 01570		
	Height OD	Min: 90m - Max: 94.5m		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	University of Leicester Archaeological Services		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Authority Archaeologist		
	Project Design Originator	Vicki Score		
	Project Manager	Vicki Score		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Claire LaCombe		
PROJECT ARCHIVE	Sponsor/Funding Body	Developer: Mather Jamie		
	Recipient	Physical	Digital	Paper
		Leicestershire County Council Museums	Leicestershire County Council Museums	Leicestershire County Council Museums
		ID (Acc. No.)	XA112.2011	XA112.2011
Contents	NONE	Digital photography Miscellaneous Report	Context sheets Drawings Miscellaneous Report	
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature		
	Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at Road 2 Ponds, Lubbethorpe, Leicestershire. (SK 52929 01570)		
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