



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation
on Land at Angell Drive,
Market Harborough,
Leicestershire**

NGR SP 7233 8649

Roger Kipling



**ULAS Report No 2018-144
©2018**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
of Land off Angell Drive,
Market Harborough,
Leicestershire**

NGR: SP 7233 8649

Roger Kipling

For: Redrow Homes Ltd.

Filename/Version	Checked by	Date
2018-144 Draft	Leon Hunt	23/08/2018

University of Leicester
Archaeological Services
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

ULAS Report Number 2018-144
©2018
Accession Number X.A82 2018

Contents

Summary.....	1
Introduction.....	1
Site Description, Topography and Geology.....	2
Archaeological and Historical Background.....	3
Aims and Objectives.....	4
Methodology.....	4
Results.....	6
Trench 5.....	6
Trench 1.....	6
Trenches 2-4 & 6-7.....	6
Discussion.....	10
Archive.....	10
Publication.....	10
Acknowledgements.....	10
Bibliography.....	10
Appendix 1: OASIS Information.....	12

Figures

Figure 1: Site location; plan supplied by developer.....	2
Figure 2: Ecologist inspecting excavation area prior to machining.....	5
Figure 3: Location plan showing trenches and area of 2000 evaluation.....	5
Figure 4: Trench 5 southern extension showing gully [01].....	8
Figure 5: Gully [01]; section.....	8
Figure 6: Southern end of Trench 5 with view southeast along gully [01]; 1m scale.....	9
Figure 7: Gully [01]; view northeast; 0.25m scale.....	9
Figure 8: Trench 1; view west (1m scale).....	7
Figure 9: Trench 3; view west (1m scale).....	7

Tables

Table 1: Trench Table.....	6
----------------------------	---

An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Angell Drive Market Harborough Leicestershire

Roger Kipling

Summary

An archaeological field evaluation was undertaken on land off Angell Drive, Market Harborough, Leicestershire between the 15th and the 20th of August 2018 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS). Outline planning permission has been granted for a residential development on the land. A preliminary geophysical survey of the proposed development area and follow up archaeological evaluation had produced limited evidence for Iron Age archaeological activity adjacent to the development site in 2000. The Leicestershire County Council, Senior Planning Archaeologist, as advisor to the local planning authority therefore requested that a programme of additional archaeological investigation take place in order to identify the impact on the archaeological resource and to formulate a mitigation strategy if appropriate.

Seven 30m long trenches were excavated across the site. They produced evidence for a single undated linear archaeological feature in addition to a number of medieval plough furrows. Discovery of the former may form part of limited evidence for Iron Age archaeological activity encountered adjacent to the development site by preliminary excavation in 2000. Due to the largely negative results of this fieldwork, the Senior Planning Archaeologist advised that no further archaeological works were required.

The report will be archived under accession number X.A82.2018.

Introduction

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 16 *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* this document forms the report for an archaeological evaluation on land at Angell Drive, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, NGR: SP 7233 8649. Under planning application 17/01269/OUT outline planning permission has been granted for the erection of up to 57 dwellings on the land. The Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council had previously requested that a programme of geophysical survey (GSB 1999) and archaeological trial trenching (JSAC 2000) be undertaken prior to any construction work taking place. As a result of the latter, a supplementary programme of archaeological evaluation was requested, targeting land adjacent to an area which had produced undated archaeological features.



Figure 1: Site location (from the WSI, CgMs 2018)

Site Description, Topography and Geology

The development site is located to the south-west of Market Harborough. It comprises approximately 1.9 ha. of land centred at National Grid Reference SP 7233 8649 (Fig. 1). The site is a roughly rectangular shaped plot bounded to the south-east by Angell Drive, to the south-west by Limner Street, to the north-west by a balancing pond and to south-west by outlying land (Fig. 2). The southern portion of the site is currently occupied by two site compounds. The site is generally level and is situated at c.80m OD.

The solid geology of the site is mapped as Mudstone from the Chamouth Mudstone Formation overlain by superficial sand and gravel River Terrace deposits in the southern part of the site and Alluvium clay, silt, sand and gravel in the northern part of the site. (mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).

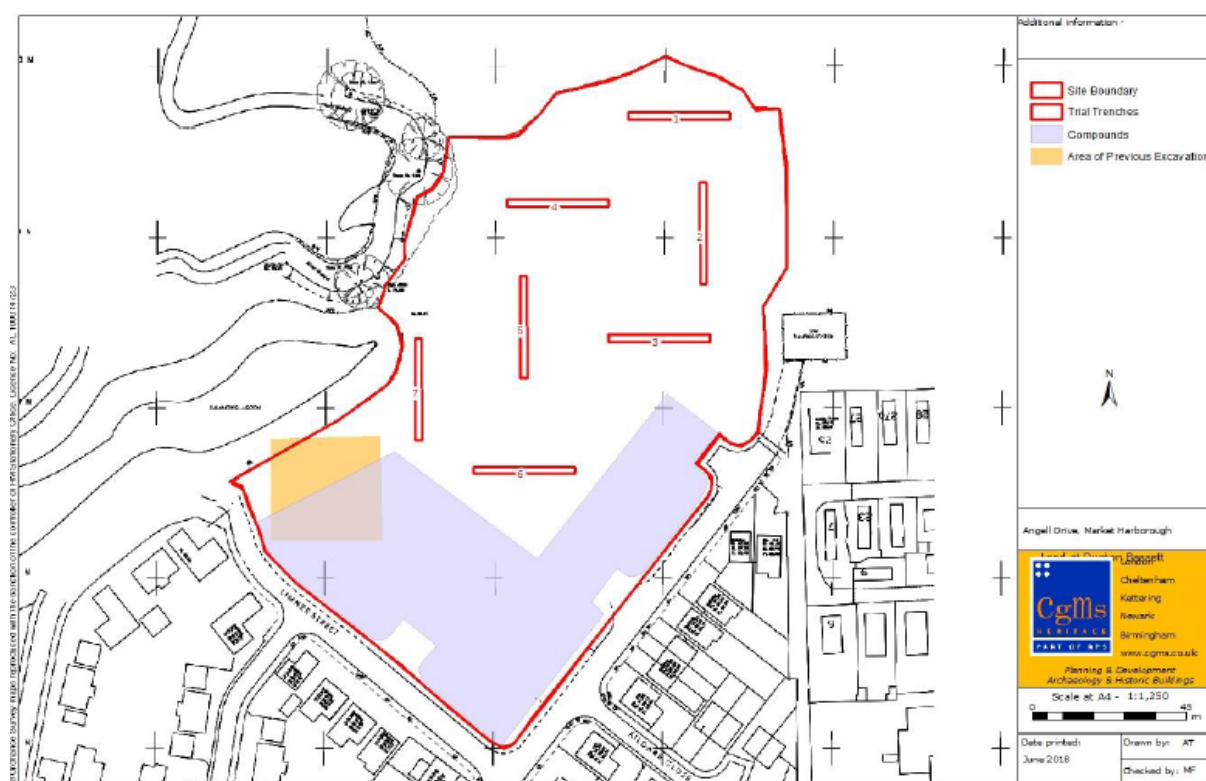


Figure 2: Detail of the site location showing previous excavation area, the compounds and proposed trench locations (from the WSI, CgMs 2018)

Archaeological and Historical Background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) notes that the site lies within an area of archaeological interest comprising known buried archaeological remains - ditch, pits, gulleys – dated to the Iron Age and detected during geophysical survey and subsequent trial trenching in 1999.

The archaeological potential of the development site was previously the subject of a desk-based assessment (JSAC 1999; 582/99/01), geophysical survey (GSB 1999) and archaeological evaluation (JSAC 2000). These works were undertaken on a c.24ha area as part of an application for land off Angell Road, Market Harborough. The current development site falls within this area.

The desk-based assessment suggested that no known archaeological assets existed on the site. JSAC subsequently commissioned GSB to undertake a Geophysical Survey to identify any buried remains on the site. The entire site was scanned and detailed gradiometer survey was undertaken across five areas of the site in order to target the anomalies. Detailed Survey Area 3 falls within the current development site and the geophysics results identified a curvilinear feature/ possible ring ditch, possible pit and linear feature in Area 3.

Further to the results of the geophysical survey, a combination of trenching and area excavation was undertaken comprising a 40m x 30m area and eight 20m x 2m trenches. The 40m x 30m excavation area is located within the current site and the results identified a curvilinear ditch and a linear gully both dating from the Middle to Late Iron Age. This area is now largely beneath a construction compound.

Aims and Objectives

The overall objectives and research agenda are detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for *Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching on land at Angell Drive, market Harborough, Leicestershire* (CgMs 2018).

The specific objectives for this programme of work were as follows:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the location, character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits.
- To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to assess the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource
- To inform a strategy to mitigate the impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains
- To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate Museum and to provide information to the Leicestershire HER.

In addition, the programme of archaeological investigation was conducted within the general research parameters and objectives defined by ‘East Midlands Heritage: A research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment’ (compiled on behalf of the region’s historic environment community by D. Knight, B. Vyner and C. Allen) and the earlier Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda for the East Midlands ‘The Archaeology of the East Midlands’ edited by N. Cooper (2006). Specific research aims stemming from this were determined as:

- How are nucleated settlements related to one another and to other settlements of the periods? In particular, is there evidence for a developing settlement hierarchy? (4.5 Late Iron Age Settlements)
- Can we shed further light upon the development of field and boundary systems? (4.6 Field Systems and Major Linear Boundaries)
- How many studies of boundaries within, around and between settlement contribute to analysis of structure deposits? (4.7 Ritual and Structure Deposition and Religion)

The investigation also took into account the national research programmes outlined in English Heritage’s ‘Strategic Framework for historic Environment Activities and Programmes in English Heritage (SHAPE)’ first published in 2008.

Methodology

Prior to excavation the trenches were marked out with a DGPS. All locations of trenches and associated spoil heaps were hand-searched by an ecologist in order to check for the presence of newts or other protected fauna (Fig. 3).

Trenching was undertaken using a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and employed under constant archaeological supervision. Seven 30m long by 1.8m wide trenches were excavated across the site in order to provide a 3.5% sample of the previously unexcavated area of the site. Some of the trench locations were modified slightly to avoid ecological constraints (Fig. 4).



Figure 3: Ecologist inspecting excavation area prior to machining

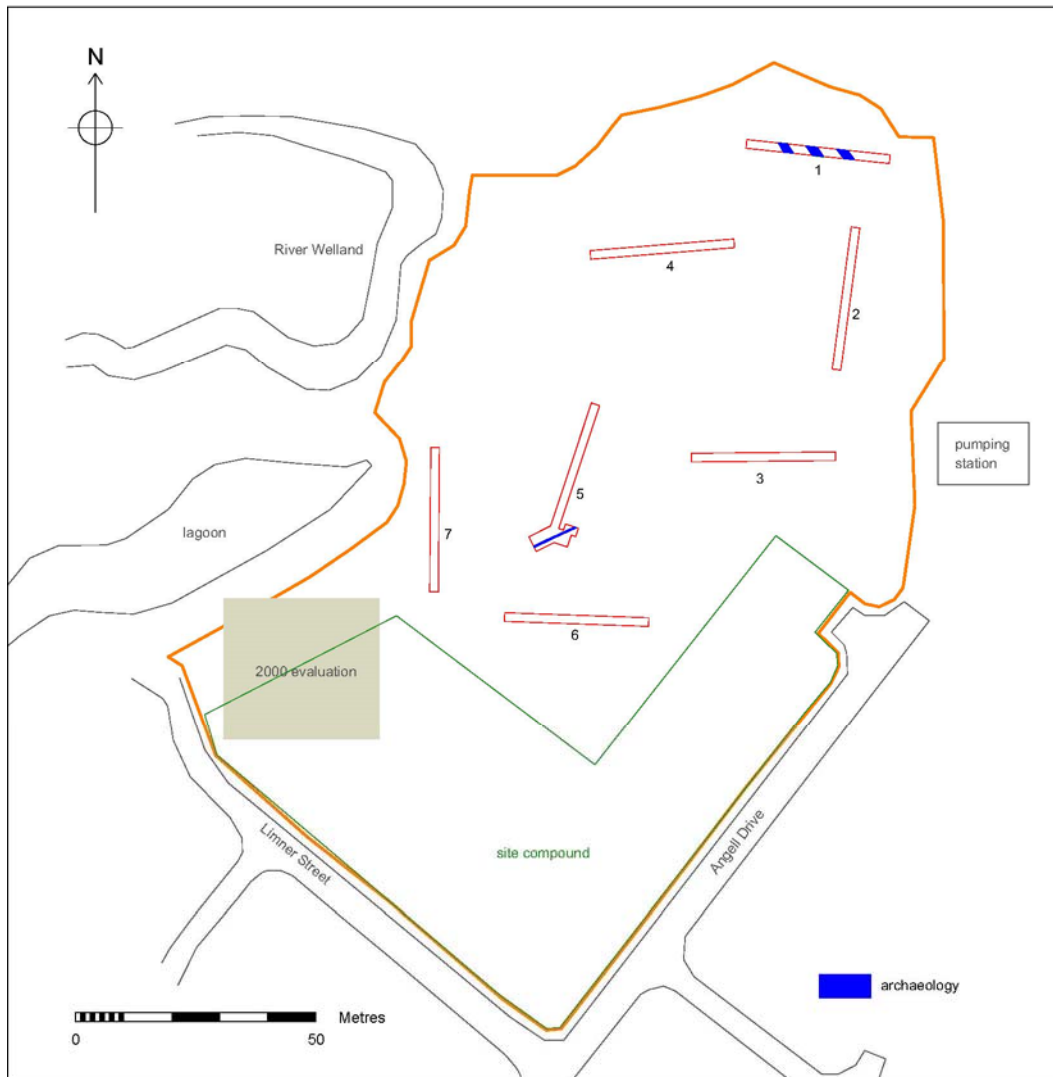


Figure 4: Location plan showing the trenches and area of 2000 evaluation

Results

The seven 30m long by 1.8m wide trenches were excavated across the site in order to provide a representative 3.5% sample of the previously unexcavated area of the development area. In all cases, machine clearance of the site several years previously had resulted in removal of all topsoil, leaving a thin overburden of subsoil overlying the natural clays, which was carefully removed by machine in order to determine whether archaeology was present. The results of the trenching is shown in the table below.

Archaeological features were observed in only two of the seven trenches, comprising a single undated gully or truncated ditch (Trench 5) and three medieval plough furrows (Trench 1).

Table 1: Trench Table

Trench	Length (m)	Min depth (m)	Max depth (m)	Subsoil depth (min-max)	Archaeology present?
1	30	0.28	0.58	0.25-0.50	Yes; plough furrows
2	30	0.32	0.55	0.25-0.50	No
3	30	0.39	0.55	0.28-0.55	No
4	30	0.22	0.35	0.22-0.35	No
5	30	0.37	0.66	0.25-0.58	Yes; single undated linear
6	30	0.36	0.47	0.22-0.48	No
7	30	0.36	0.60	0.36-0.50	No

Trench 1

Trench 1 (30m x 1.8m x 0.28m-0.58m), aligned east-west, was located at the northern edge of the proposed development area (Fig. 4). Removal of 0.28m-0.50m of mid orange-grey clay silt subsoil revealed a dull pale orange-brown natural clay, which was truncated by three *c.* 1m wide parallel medieval plough furrows traversing the trench on a northwest-southeast alignment (Fig. 5).

Trenches 2-4 & 6-7

The remaining five evaluation trenches were all archaeologically blank. The removal of a clay silt subsoil overburden revealing a consistent orange-brown clay natural geology with manganese, flint gravel and limestone inclusions (see Trench 3, Fig. 6 as representative).

Trench 5

Located in the central area of development, Trench 5 was aligned north-east to south-west and measured 30m x 1.8m x 0.37m-0.66m deep. The removal of a thin overlying spread of vegetation and 0.25m-0.58m of underlying firm mid orange-grey clay silt subsoil revealed a mid-orange-brown natural clay with sporadic limestone inclusions.

A single undated linear feature, representing either a gully or truncated ditch, **[01]** occupied the southern end of the trench. The trench was extended in order to expose a representative length of the feature (Figs 5-8). The gully (0.40m x 0.08m x 10m+) had an open U-shaped profile with 35° sides and concave base and crossed the trench on a south-west to north-east alignment. It contained a single pale grey-brown fill **(02)** which did not produce any finds.



Figure 5: Trench 1; view west showing furrows (1m scales)



Figure 6: Trench 3; view west (1m scale)

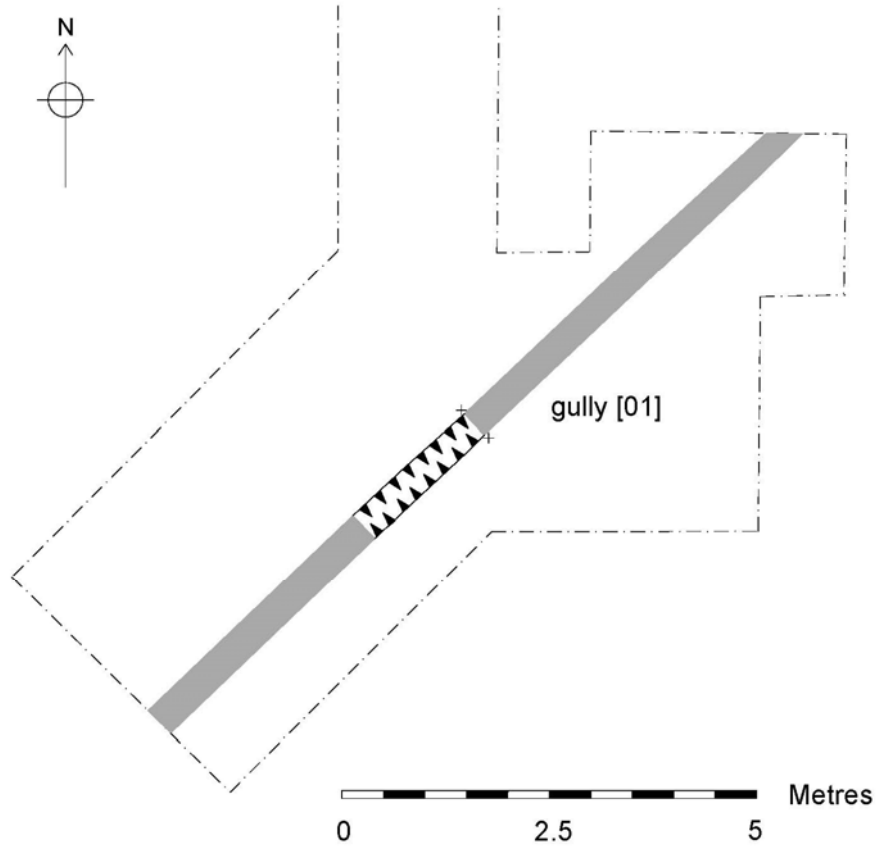


Figure 7: Trench 5 southern extension showing gully [01]

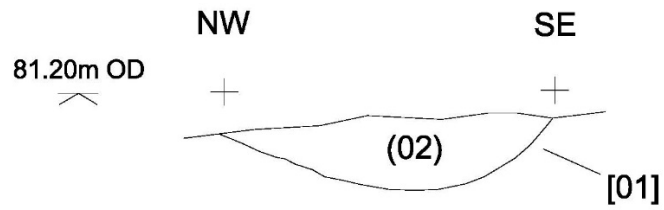


Figure 8: Gully [01]; section



Figure 9: Southern end of Trench 5 with view southeast along gully [01]; 1m scale

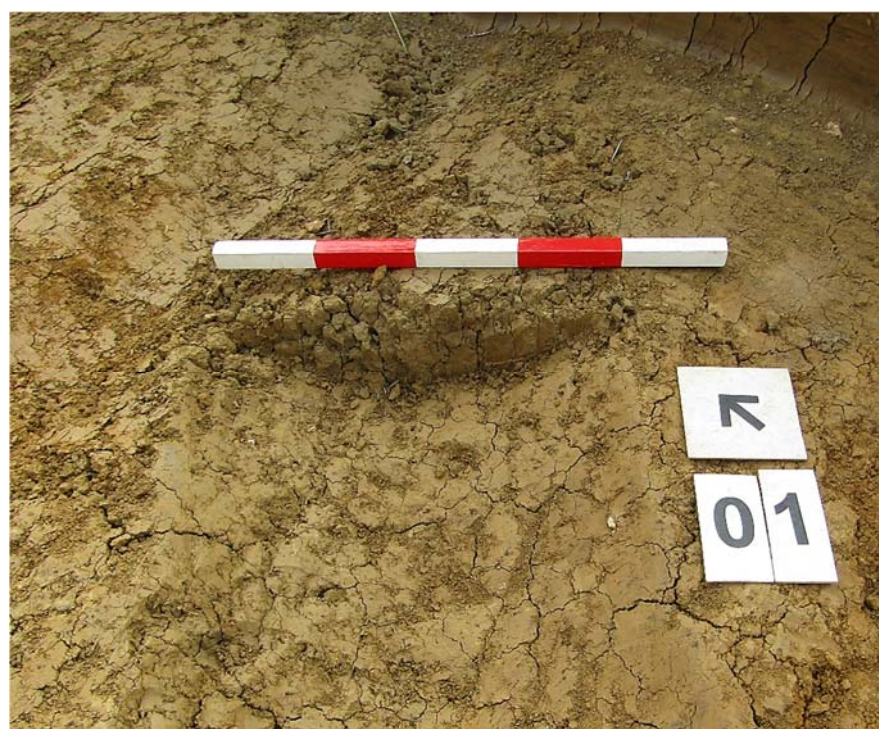


Figure 10: Gully [01]; view northeast; 0.25m scale

Discussion

The archaeological evaluation undertaken on land off Angell Drive, Market Harborough, Leicestershire in August 2018 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) produced evidence for a single undated linear archaeological feature in addition to a number of medieval plough furrows. Discovery of the former may form part of limited evidence for Iron Age archaeological activity encountered adjacent to the development site by preliminary excavation in 2000. Due to the largely negative results of this fieldwork, the Senior Planning Archaeologist advised that no further archaeological works were required.

Archive

The archive consists of:

The developer report (this report)

7 x ULAS pro-forma trench recording sheets

1 x photo record sheet

1 x contact sheet of 37 digital photographs

1 x CD of 37 digital images

2 x A3 drawing sheets

Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. A record of the project will also be submitted to the OASIS project. OASIS is an online index to archaeological grey literature.

Acknowledgements

The work was project managed by Vicki Score. The site director was Roger Kipling.

Bibliography

Brown, D. 2008. *Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives* (Institute for Archaeologists).

CgMs, 2018. *Written Scheme of Investigation for Trial trenching at Land at Angell Drive, Market Harborough, Leicestershire*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2008. *Codes of Conduct and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

Cooper, N.J., (ed) 2006 *The Archaeology of the East Midlands An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*. Leicester Archaeology Monograph 13.

GSB, 1999. *GSB Geophysical Survey Report on Land off Farndon Road, Market Harborough* GSB Ltd.

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants 1999. An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of Land off Farndon Road, Market Harborough

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants 2000. Results of an Archaeological Excavation on Land off Farndon Road, Market Harborough

Knight, D.; Vyner, B.; Allen, C.; 2012, *East Midlands Heritage. An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*. Nottingham Archaeological Monographs 6, University of Nottingham and York Archaeological Trust

Roger Kipling
ULAS
University of Leicester
rwk1@le.ac.uk

22-08-2018

Appendix 1: OASIS Information

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	universi1-326533		
	Project Name	Angell Drive Market Harborough		
	Start/end dates of field work	15-08-2018 - 20-08-2018		
	Previous/Future Work	Not known		
	Project Type			
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Uncultivated land		
	Monument Type/Period	Gully/undated		
	Significant Finds/Period	None		
	Development Type	Residential		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition		
	Planning Ref.	17/01269/OUT		
	PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	Angell Drive Market Harborough/LE16 9JE	
Study Area		1.9 ha		
Site Coordinates		SK		
Height OD		80m OD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority (e.g. LCC)		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Vicki Score		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Roger Kipling		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	CgMs		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	NA	LCC MusService	LCCMusService
	ID (Acc. No.)		XA82 2018	XA82 2018
	Contents		Photos Survey data	Field Notes
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Title			
	Author			
	Other bibliographic details	ULAS Report No		
	Date	2018		
	Publisher/Place	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester		
	Description	Developer Report A4 pdf		



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH
UK

Directors

Dr Richard Buckley OBE BA PhD FSA MCifA

e: rjb16@le.ac.uk

t: +44 (0)116 252 2848

f: +44 (0)116 252 2614

e: ulas@le.ac.uk



THE QUEEN'S
ANNIVERSARY PRIZES
FOR HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION
2013



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

