



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation on land at Long Lane Kegworth,
Leicestershire, LE67 8FJ**

NGR: SK SK 485 272

Leon Hunt



ULAS Report No 2019-008

©2019

Site Name: Long Lane, Kegworth, Leicestershire

Grid Ref: SK 485 272

Author: Leon Hunt

Client: CgMs

Planning Ref. 14/01132/FULM, Condition 12

ULAS Report Number: 2019-008

Accession Number: X.A2.2019

Filename/Version	Checked by	Date
2019-008 Draft	Vicki Score	14/01/2019
2019-008 Draft2	Vicki Score	15/01/2019

This Report has been prepared solely for the person/party and project for which it has been commissioned and should not be relied upon or used by any other person/party or for any other project without the written consent of ULAS. No part of this report is to be copied in any way without prior written consent. While every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, however, ULAS cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies contained within this report

University of Leicester, Archaeological Services,
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 2522848
www.le.ac.uk/ulas

© ULAS 2019

OASIS RECORD

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	universi1- 339016		
	Project Name	An archaeological field evaluation on land at Long Lane, Kegworth, Leicestershire (SK 485 272)		
	Start/end dates	8 th to 10 th January 2019		
	Previous/Future Work	Geophysical survey		
	Project Type	Evaluation		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Agricultural Land/ set aside		
	Monument Type/Period	None		
	Significant Finds/Period	None		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition		
Planning Ref.	14/01132/FULM			
PROJECT LOCATION	County	Leicestershire		
	Site Address/Postcode	Slack and Parr Ltd, Long Lane, Kegworth		
	Study Area	5.3 ha		
	Site Coordinates	SK 485 272		
	Height OD	31.30m to 31.90m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	North West Leicestershire District Council		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Vicki Score		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Leon Hunt		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	CgMs		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	LCC Museum service	LCC Museum service	LCC Museum service
	ID (Acc. No.)	X.A2.2019	X.A2.2019	X.A2.2019
	Contents	None	Photographs	Report/ Photo Record/ Trench Sheets
PROJECT BIBLIOGRA PHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Description	Developer Report A4 pdf		
	Title	An archaeological field evaluation on land at Long Lane, Kegworth, Leicestershire (SK 485 272)		
	Author	Hunt, L		
	Other bibliographic details	ULAS Report No 2019-008		
	Date	2019		
	Publisher/Place	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester		

CONTENTS

Summary	2
Introduction.....	2
Location and Geology.....	3
Historical and Archaeological Background.....	3
Archaeological Objectives	6
Methodology	6
Results.....	8
Field 1	8
Trench 01	9
Trench 02	9
Trench 03	10
Trench 04	10
Trench 05	10
Field 2	12
Trench 06	12
Trench 07	13
Conclusion	13
Archive and publication.....	13
Acknowledgements.....	14
References.....	14

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location.....	3
Figure 2: Location of study areas to be evaluated	4
Figure 3: Plan showing results of geophysical survey (after Brunning 2014).....	5
Figure 4: Work in progress on Trench 01, looking north	7
Figure 5: Location of trial trenches.....	8
Figure 6: Trench 02, post excavation, looking north-east	9
Figure 7: Trench 05, post excavation, looking north-west	11
Figure 8: Work in progress on Trench 06 in Field 2, looking south-west.....	11
Figure 9: Trench 06, post-excavation, looking south	12

An archaeological field evaluation on land at Long Lane, Kegworth, Leicestershire (SK 485 272)

Leon Hunt

Summary

This document is a fieldwork report for an archaeological trial trench evaluation, carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at the Slack and Parr site, Long Lane, Kegworth, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 485 272) in advance of the construction of a new factory and residential development.

The development site consisted of two set-aside fields to the north and south of the Slack and Parr industrial site, which lies at the junction of Side Ley and Long Lane, to the north of the town centre of Kegworth in North-West Leicestershire. It lies to the south of Lockington Quarry where significant prehistoric and Roman archaeological remains have been revealed. Long Lane is also listed on the Historic Environment Record for Leicestershire and Rutland as a possible Roman road.

Geophysical survey carried out in 2014 as part of the evaluation of the Slack and Par site revealed few features that could be archaeological in nature. However, a small group of anomalies located on the northern part of the site were deemed worthy of further investigation.

Therefore, a total of seven trenches were placed across two fields. No archaeological remains were identified. A pair of small pits within Trenches 06 and 07 within Field 2 on the southern part of the site, proved to be modern in origin. A further disturbed area in Trench 07 proved to be natural geology.

The archive for the site will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A2.2019.

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by CgMS Ltd. on behalf of Crest Nicholson Midlands to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Long Lane, Kegworth, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 485 272; Fig. 1). The work was carried out between 8th – 10th January 2019.

The work was carried out as part of a phased programme of archaeological work required by the Planning Authority following advice from the Leicestershire Planning Archaeologist in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, MHCLG 2018). Planning permission has been granted for the demolition of the existing commercial buildings and redevelopment of the area (14/01132/FULM, Condition 12).

The site lies to the south of Lockington Quarry where significant prehistoric and Roman archaeological remains have been revealed and a geophysical survey on the development site in 2014 (Bunning 2014) identified anomalies, which had the potential to be archaeological in origin. Further work comprising trial trenching was therefore required to fulfil the conditions of the planning permission.

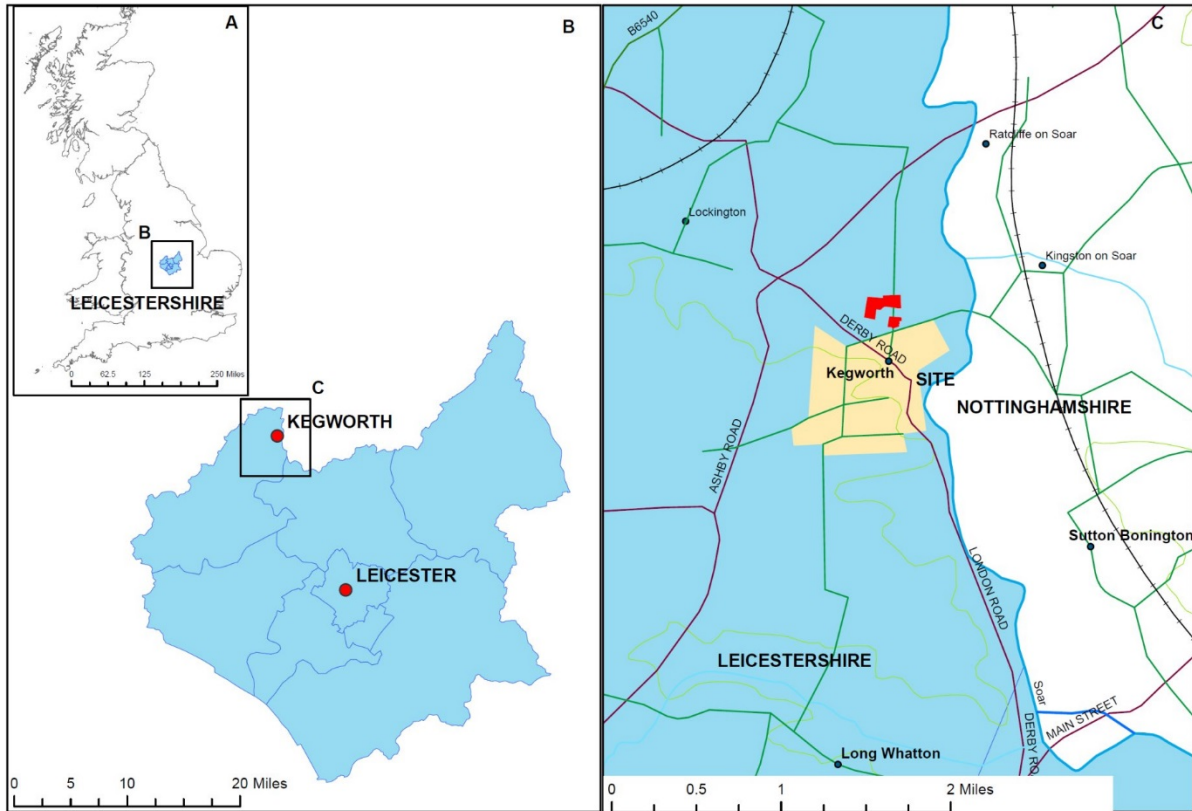


Figure 1: Site Location

Location and Geology

Kegworth lies in North-West Leicestershire, close to the border with Nottinghamshire, around 18 miles north-west of the city of Leicester (Fig. 1). The proposed development area is located within fields on the western side of Long Lane, which lies at the northern edge of the town and consists of a broadly rectangular area of around 5.3 hectares which includes the Slack and Parr factory and office buildings, car parks and areas of agricultural land. The area under study for this evaluation consists of two open areas to the north and south of the Slack and Parr industrial site which at the time of the evaluation were set aside and covered in grassland (Fig. 2).

The site is mostly flat and lies at a height of around 31m aOD.

The British Geological Survey records the solid geology of the site as mudstone of the Edwalton Formation. This is overlain by superficial silt and gravel of the Hemington Member, and by sand and gravels of the Syston Member.

Historical and Archaeological Background

Extensive archaeological work has been undertaken during gravel extraction at Lockington Quarry, which lies around 1km to the north north-west of the Slack and Parr site. Features include an early Iron Age land boundary consisting of a double pit alignment, a double ditch driveway, probably constructed in the final Iron Age/Roman period, which heads towards a late Iron age/Roman village and adjoining villa, which sit north of Ratcliffe Lane and are a scheduled monument.

Flint and pottery dating to the Middle Neolithic was also discovered within the quarry along with a double ditch running towards a nearby stream.

A further prehistoric pit alignment consisting of 39 individual pits was discovered during an earlier phase of the extraction, along with several ditch features.

The evaluation and the subsequent excavation of more recent phases of extraction at the quarry showed highly truncated linear and pit features possibly relating to an Iron Age settlement. Recent work also yielded a pit containing fragments of a Peterborough ware bowl and 22 worked flint pieces, along with other pits and small post-holes. The excavations also revealed a small burnt mound next to a palaeochannel.

Recent work during Phases 8 and 9 of the quarry in 2017-2018 have located more prehistoric ditch and pit features.

Long Lane, on which the current study area lies in listed on the Historic Environment Record as a Roman Road, leading to the Roman town at Red Hill (HER Ref No. **MLE4658**).

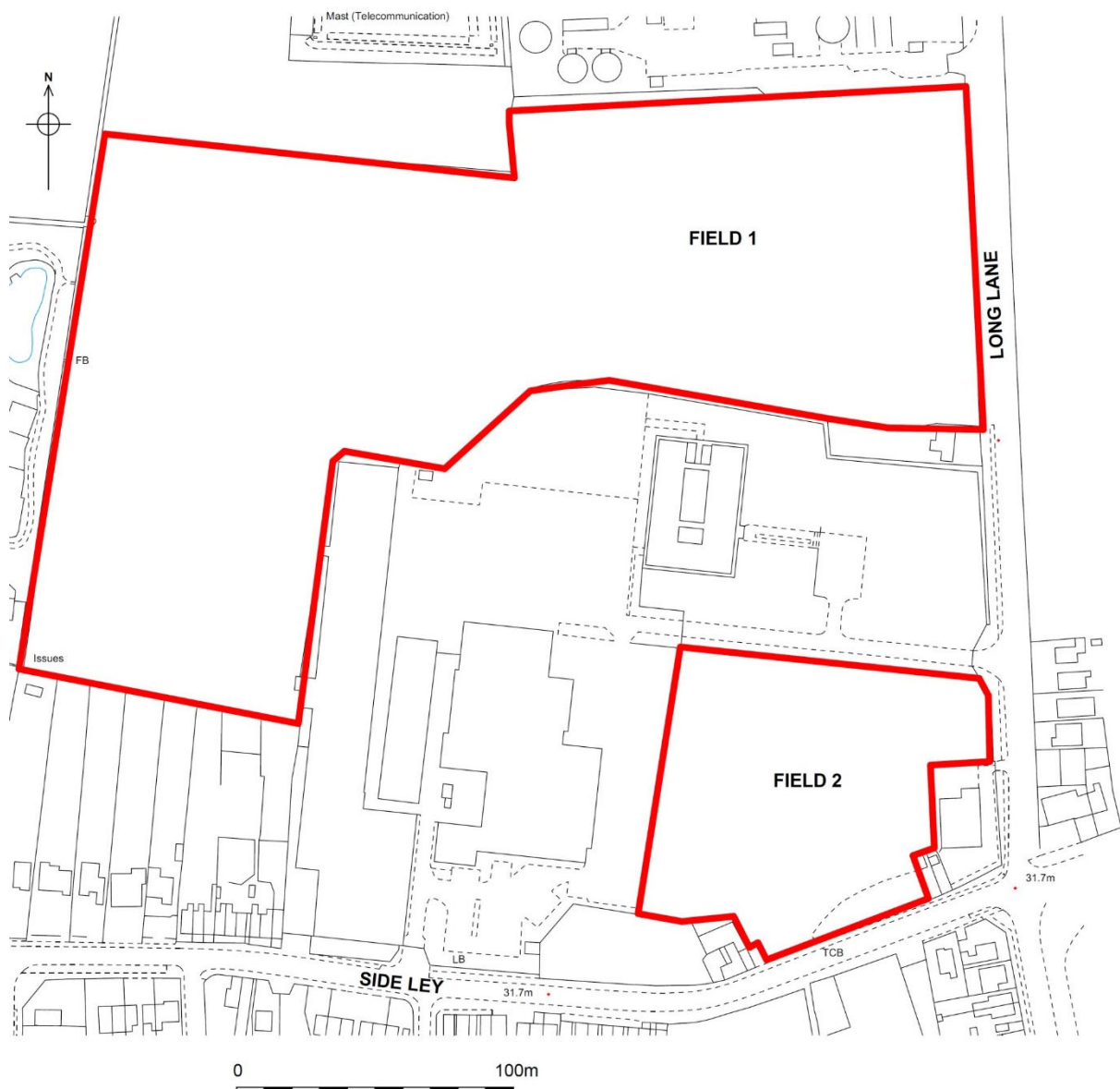


Figure 2: Location of study areas to be evaluated

The archaeological potential of the development site, consisting of the three fields to the north-east, north-west and east of the office buildings, was partially evaluated in 2014 through a programme of geophysical survey (GSB: Land off Side Ley Kegworth Geophysical Survey Report G1490, 2014) (Fig. 3).

No anomalies of clear archaeological interest were detected. Two former field boundaries were identified, which could be correlated with features recorded on late 19th century Ordnance Survey mapping. The majority of other magnetic responses were assessed as being of modern origin and associated with the industrial buildings and metal fencing on the site.

The only features of potential archaeological interest in the survey were a handful of sinuous, weakly magnetic, trends in the north-eastern part of the site ('Area 2' in the survey). These were categorised in the survey report as "Uncertain Origin", but were considered likely to be of an agricultural nature (Brunning 2014).



Figure 3: Plan showing results of geophysical survey (after Brunning 2014)

Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives of the evaluation were:

- To verify the results of the geophysical survey
- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within undisturbed parts of the development site
- To assess the artefactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits encountered
- To assess the impact of previous land use on the site
- To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation is to verify the geophysical survey and establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits identified 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.

Methodology

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (rev. 2014a) in accordance with their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (rev. 2014b). The archaeological work followed the *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for exploratory trial trenching* prepared by CgMs and agreed with the Leicestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist (December 2018). The work was monitored by the client (CgMS) and the Leicestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist.

An accession number (X.A2.2019) was obtained prior to commencement of the project and used to identify all records and artefacts

The northern field ('Area 2' in the geophysical survey report) for the purpose of this report will be known as Field 1 and the southern field ('Area 3' in the geophysical survey report) will be known as Field 2. A total of seven 30m x 1.6m trenches were proposed targeting the anomalies in Area 2 and areas of disturbance in Area 3. Trenches 01-05 were located in Field 1, Trenches 06-07 in Field 2 (Fig. 5).

No further work was required for the field north-west of the factory ('Area 1' in the geophysical survey report). A contingency provision was made for additional trenching should it prove necessary to adequately evaluate the site's archaeological potential

The excavation of the trenches was carried out using a CASE Backactor 'Extendahoe' fitted with a 1.6m wide ditching bucket under constant supervision by an experienced archaeologist (Fig.4).

Trenches were excavated to the level of the natural sub-stratum or to archaeological layers, whichever the higher in the sequence. All archaeological work was undertaken as specified within the WSI. The trenches were verbally signed off by the Planning Archaeologist before being backfilled by machine.



Figure 4: Work in progress on Trench 01, looking north

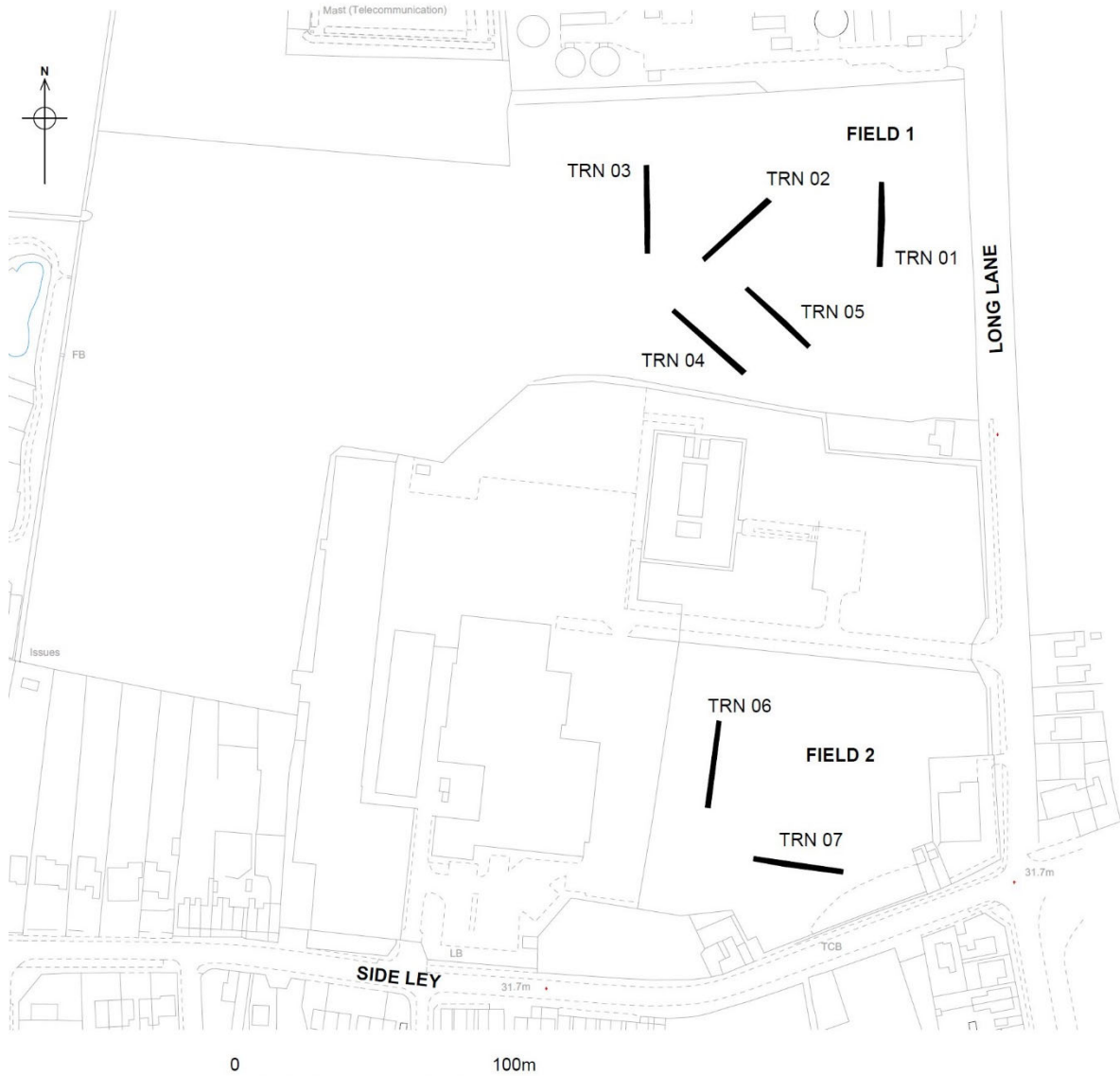


Figure 5: Location of trial trenches

Results

Field 1

The sequence of soils in Field 1 consisted of a dark yellowish brown soft silty sand topsoil with rare rounded pebbles, overlying a mid orange brown silty sand subsoil with frequent rounded pebbles. This overlay the natural sub-stratum of brownish orange sand and gravel. Both topsoil and subsoil in most of the trenches in Field 1 were fairly deep, except in Trench 03 where the subsoil was shallower.

Some plough marks running east to west across the trenches were identified during stripping.

Trench 01

Interval	(S) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	29m (N)
Topsoil Depth	0.28m	0.36m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.27m
Subsoil Depth	0.32m	0.30m	0.43m	0.30m	0.30m	0.42m	0.43m
Depth of Natural	0.60m	0.66m	0.73m	0.60m	0.60m	0.72m	0.70m
Base of Trench	0.61m	0.67m	0.75m	0.62m	0.64m	0.75m	0.75m

No archaeological features were located within this trench.

Trench 02

Interval	(SW) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	31m (NE)
Topsoil Depth	0.28m	0.36m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.32m	0.30m
Subsoil Depth	0.20m	0.10m	0.35m	0.25m	0.20m	0.18m	0.17m
Depth of Natural	0.48m	0.46m	0.65m	0.55m	0.50m	0.40m	0.47m
Base of Trench	0.49m	0.47m	0.66m	0.60m	0.52m	0.42m	0.48m

No archaeological features were located within this trench (Fig. 6).



Figure 6: Trench 02, post excavation, looking north-east

Trench 03

Interval	(S) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	31m (N)
Topsoil Depth	0.28m	0.30m	0.30m	0.28m	0.24m	0.27m	0.30m
Subsoil Depth	0.10m	0.08m	0.08m	0.08m	0.07m	0.03m	0.05m
Depth of Natural	0.38m	0.38m	0.38m	0.36m	0.31m	0.30m	0.35m
Base of Trench	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m	0.38m	0.33m	0.31m	0.38m

No archaeological features were located within this trench.

Trench 04

Interval	(SE) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	33m (NW)
Topsoil Depth	0.30m	0.33m	0.32m	0.32m	0.30m	0.30m	0.35m
Subsoil Depth	0.26m	0.30m	0.28m	0.028m	0.23m	0.30m	0.25m
Depth of Natural	0.56m	0.65m	0.60m	0.60m	0.53m	0.60m	0.60m
Base of Trench	0.60m	0.65m	0.62m	0.62m	0.55m	0.65m	0.65m

No archaeological features were located within this trench.

Trench 05

Interval	(SE) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m (NW)
Topsoil Depth	0.24m	0.33m	0.25m	0.28m	0.30m	0.36m	0.30m
Subsoil Depth	0.27m	0.29m	0.30m	0.20m	0.14m	0.17m	0.17m
Depth of Natural	0.41m	0.62m	0.55m	0.48m	0.44m	0.53m	0.47m
Base of Trench	0.43m	0.63m	0.57m	0.50m	0.46m	0.55m	0.48m

No archaeological features were located within this trench (Fig. 7).



Figure 7: Trench 05, post excavation, looking north-west



Figure 8: Work in progress on Trench 06 in Field 2, looking south-west

Field 2

The soil sequence in Field 2 consisted of soft very dark greyish brown loam with very rare small stones lying over firm mid-reddish brown sandy clay with occasional, but sometimes very frequent, rounded pebbles. This lay over the natural sub-stratum of clayey sand and gravel. The subsoil at the southern end of Trench 06 and the western end of Trench 07 was slightly disturbed, and there were pits at the end of both trenches containing modern plastic fragments. Both the topsoil and subsoils within the two trenches were deeper than expected.

Trench 06

Interval	(S) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m (N)
Topsoil Depth	0.40m	0.37m	0.30m	0.33m	0.30m	0.30m	0.40m
Subsoil Depth	0.45m	0.33m	0.29m	0.20m	0.18m	0.24m	0.20m
Depth of Natural	0.85m	0.70m	0.59m	0.53m	0.48m	0.54m	0.60m
Base of Trench	0.90m	0.71m	0.60m	0.55m	0.50m	0.56m	0.65m

The trench contained a small pit, which on investigation produced plastic bags and was therefore modern.



Figure 9: Trench 06, post-excavation, looking south

Trench 07

Interval	(W) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	32m (E)
Topsoil Depth	0.40m	0.27m	0.30m	0.40m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m
Subsoil Depth	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.40m	0.35m	0.40m
Depth of Natural	0.70m	0.57m	0.60m	0.70m	0.70m	0.55m	0.70m
Base of Trench	0.72m	0.59m	0.68m	0.75m	0.80m	0.60m	0.78m

The trench contained two anomalies; one area proved to be caused by bioturbation and was most likely a tree throw, the other consisted of a small modern pit containing small pieces of plastic roofing material. No other features were identified during the excavations.

Conclusion

The proposed development area at Slack and Parr, Long Lane had some potential for archaeological remains due to its proximity to a possible Roman road (Long Lane) and prehistoric and Roman features located within the quarry to the north of the site. Previous geophysical survey had located possible anomalies in the northern field within the proposed development area (Field 1).

The trial trenches revealed deep soils, particularly within the central area of Field 1 and within Field 2. The deep subsoils may have been the result of alluvial deposits due to the location of the site within the former floodplain of the River Soar. Deep topsoil within Field 2 may have been due to the proximity of large trees, which partially encircle, and lie within, Field 2. There may have also been some deposition of upper soils in the area when the Slack and Parr buildings were constructed.

There was no evidence of features in the trenches within Field 1 and the anomalies located by the geophysical survey were most likely geological in nature. Two pits located at the southern and western ends of Trenches 06 and 07 respectively proved to be modern in date and, and are possibly related to disturbance caused by the soakaway that is located in the south-west corner of Field 2.

Archive and publication

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A2.2019 and consists of the following:

1 Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report No. 2019-008)

7 Trench recording sheets

1 Photo Record sheet

1 Contact sheet of digital photographs

1 CD digital photographs

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.

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Myk Flitcroft of CgMs for monitoring the work. Thanks are also due to Slack and Parr Ltd for their help and co-operation with the project. Leon Hunt carried out the trial trenching for ULAS and the project was managed by Vicki Score. The excavator was provided by Planters.

References

British Geological Survey (Website) Geology of Britain Viewer. Available at <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed January 2019

Brunning, E 2014 *Geophysical Survey Report G1490: Land Off Side Ley, Kegworth* (GSB Prospection Report).

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014a. Reading: CIfA

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014b *Standards and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*. Reading: CIfA

Cooper, N.J. 2006. *The Archaeology of the East Midlands*. Leicester Archaeology Monograph **13**.

Flitcroft, M 2018 Written Scheme of Investigation for Exploratory trial Trenching: Slack and Parr Ltd, Long Lane, Kegworth, Leicestershire (CgMs Ref: MF/25169/01)

Knight, D., Blaise, V. and Allen C. 2012. East Midlands Heritage. An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2018) National Planning Policy Framework. London: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Leon Hunt
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 2848

Fax: 0116 252 2614

Email: lh90@le.ac.uk

11/01/2019



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

