

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at  
Logix Park, Hinckley,  
Leicestershire.  
(SP 415 923).**

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**For: Weldon Plant Limited**

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council  
Planning Application Reference: 03/01217/FUL

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Figure 1: Site location. Reproduced from Landranger® 1:50 000 scale by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100021187.

Figure 2: Site location (close up). Reproduced from Landranger® 1:50 000 scale by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100021187.

Figure 3: Development Plan 1:2050 scale

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University of Leicester Archaeological Services

Report No. 2004/092

**Summery**

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on 20 May 2004 for the initial site works of Logix Park Industrial Estate, Hinckley, Leicestershire (SP 415 923) by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of Weldon Plant Ltd. The work involved archaeological observation during the stripping of the road line linking the new industrial estate to the A5*

*No significant archaeological finds or deposits were observed during this work. The site archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services, Accession No. XA. 37 2002.*

**Introduction**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) during the initial site works for the Logix Park Industrial Estate, Hinckley, Leicestershire (SP 415 923) (fig. 1).

The site had been identified as an area of archaeological potential from information held in the Leicestershire and Rutland Sites and Monuments Record. In view of this an archaeological watching brief during the ground works was recommended as part of the planning conditions by Hinckley and Bosworth Council (planning application no. 03/01217/FUL).

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) was commissioned to carry out the watching brief on behalf of the client, Weldon Plant Ltd. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on the 20th May 2004, the work involved archaeological observation during the stripping of the road line linking the new industrial estate to the A5.

**Location and Geology**

The development area is located on the south-western edge of Hinckley, Leicestershire (SP 415 923). The area is defined by the existing A5 road to the south, by the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Canal to the west, the Hinckley Sewage Works to the north and Sketchley Meadow Industrial Estate to the east (fig. 2). The development covers an area of c.30ha and at a height of 90m to 105m OD (NAA 2002: 1).

The Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 169 indicates that the underlying geology would consist of Wolston clay, grey stoneless clay and silt, Alluvium and yellow or brown silty clay with pockets of sand and gravel.

## Archaeological Objectives

The aims of the watching brief were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range of any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To assess the local, regional and national importance of any deposits.
- To define an appropriate mitigation strategy if necessary.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

## Archaeological Background

No known archaeological work has been previously undertaken within the development area. However, a significant amount of archaeological activity has been previously identified within its vicinity. The course of the former Roman road (Watling Street) from Mancetter to High Cross is recorded on an approximately north-west to south-east alignment immediately beyond the southern boundary of the development area. The present course of the A5 follows this original alignment although Roman features are not readily apparent on the ground due to the transformations the road has undergone to reach its present state (NAA 2002: 3).

The core of medieval village of Sketchley lies close to the west of the development as well as being located near to Stretton Baskerville, a deserted medieval village recorded to the south of the A5.

## Methodology

This initial phase of the watching brief was to involve archaeological observation of excavations associated with the construction of the road linking the new industrial estate with the A5 (fig. 3). Unfortunately work had already commenced prior to the watching brief, this meant that the area had already been stripped and tracked on, also most of the eastern area had either been covered with clay or stone.

Archaeological observation involved investigation of the trench sections and stripped areas where visible, as well as inspection of the spoil heaps for any unstratified finds to gain a better understanding of the material that had been excavated.

The work followed the *Archaeological design specification for archaeological work*, and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Code of Conduct and the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological watching briefs*.

## Results

Most of the observable stripped area had been machined to a depth of c.0.6m. The depth of the overburden seems to vary considerably in depth from c.0.3m - >0.6m. The overburden consisted of a very rich dark brown loam containing large quantities of modern demolition material. This deep deposit is probably the result of the



previous land-use of the site, having been used as grass plots for the filtration of liquid sewage from the nearby Hinckley Sewage Works (NAA 2002: 1).

The natural substratum was reached in some areas and consisted of mid orangey brown clay as well as light yellowish brown silty clay with gravel pockets and alluvium.

The majority of the stripped area had been tracked on; this restricted the observation of the ground for any potential archaeological features. No finds were observed on the surface and the sections revealed no obvious cuts into the natural. A small area to the north-west of the site had been left cleanly stripped to a level on the interface between the overburden and natural, here a shallow patchy linear was observed. This feature was orientated north-south, it had a width of 1.6m and depth of 0.04m and contained a dark brown silty clay deposit with coke inclusions. This feature may represent evidence of ridge and furrow, a field system widely adopted during the medieval period. Another area towards the south-east of the site had been fairly cleanly stripped to natural and was clear of any features of archaeological interest apart from a north-south orientated Post-Medieval field drain.

The spoil heaps contained large quantities of demolition material including brick concrete and tarmac. This suggests the area is to have been subject to significant disturbance caused by previous land-use by the sewage works. No finds of archaeological significance were encountered.

## **Conclusion**

No significant archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered during the watching brief. An area adjacent to the existing roundabout and the A5 Watling Street had been previously stripped and stoned prior to an archaeologist being present on site. This area may be seen to have had a higher archaeological potential than the rest of the road line.

## **Archive**

The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services with the Accession No. XA. 37.2002. It consists of watching brief sheets and colour transparency slides.

## **Publication**

A summary of the work will be submitted for inclusion in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course.

## **Acknowledgements**

ULAS would like to thank Weldon Plant Ltd. for their help and cooperation during the watching brief. This archaeological watching brief was carried out by James Harvey; the project manager is James Meek.

## References

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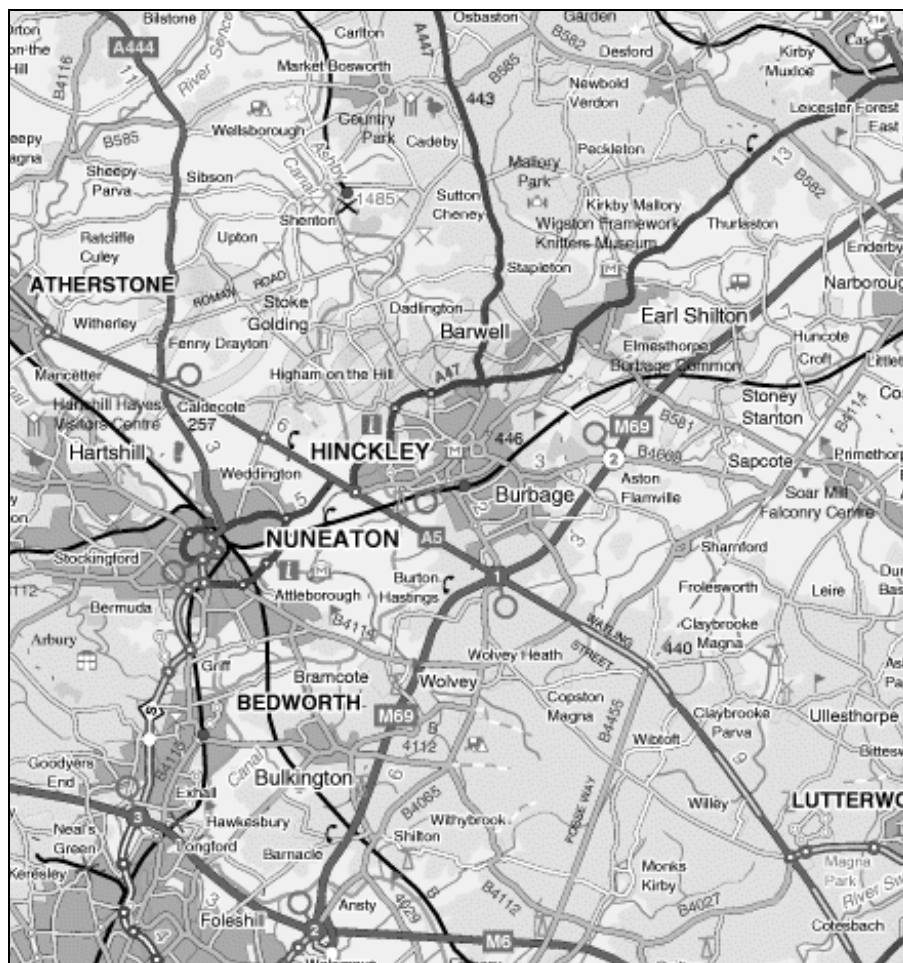


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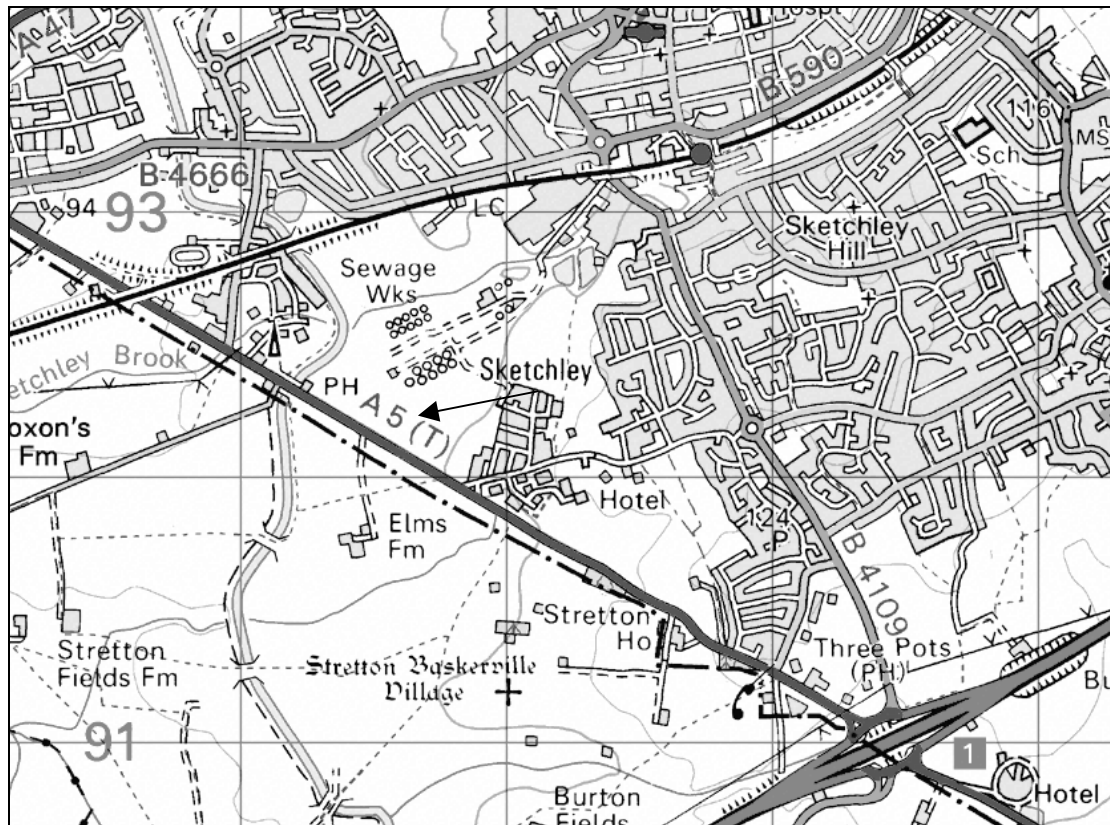


Figure 2: Site location (close up). Reproduced from Landranger® 1:50 000 scale by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100021187.

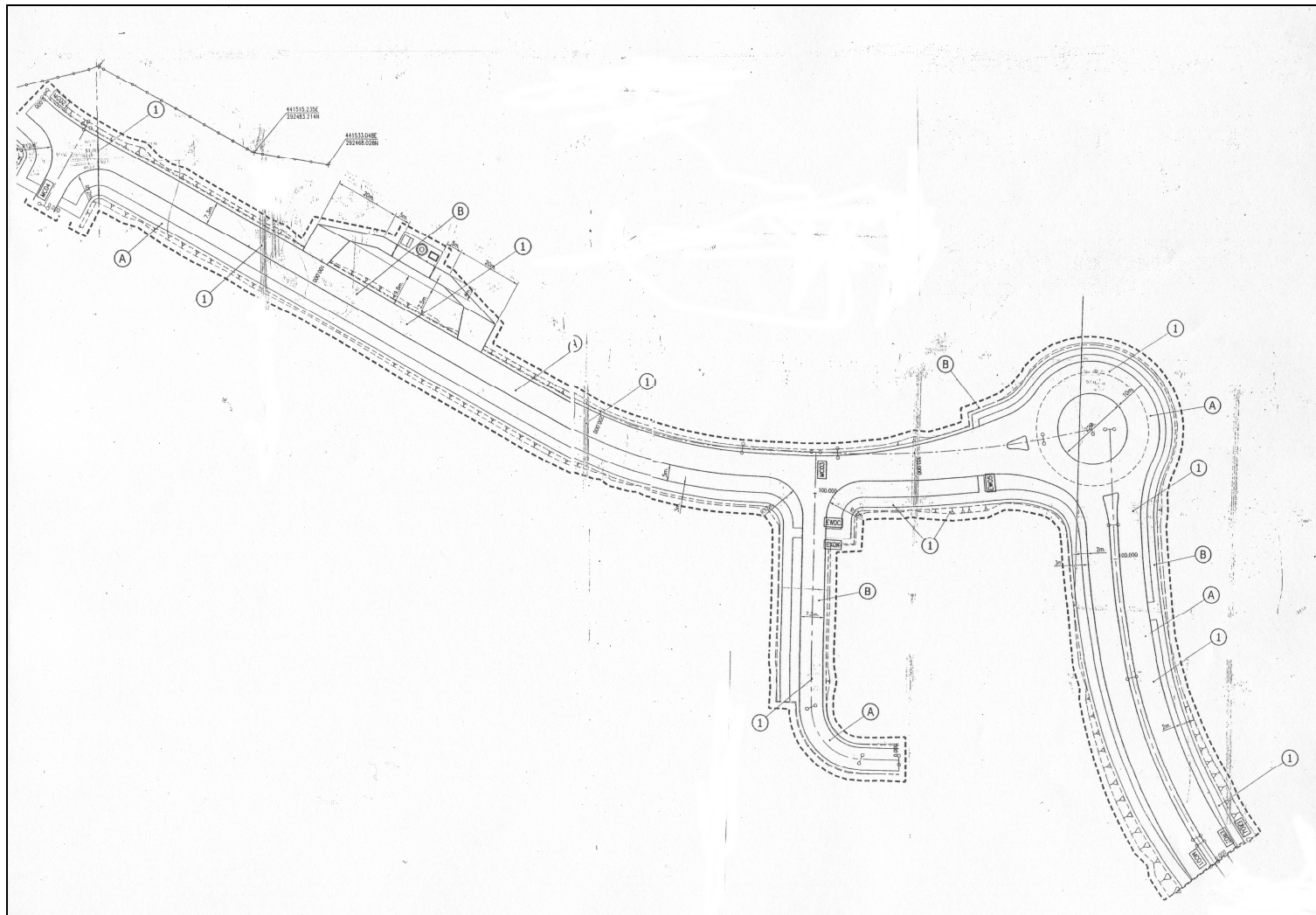


Figure 3 Development Plan (1:2050) (provided by Weldon Plant Ltd)