

**An Archaeological Strip, Plan and
Sample Excavation for land at
Leicestershire Police HQ, St. John's,
Enderby, Leicestershire
(SP 55534 99551)**

Wayne Jarvis



**An Archaeological Strip, Plan & Sample Excavation
for Land at Leicestershire Police HQ, St. John's, Enderby,
Leicestershire (SP 55534 99551)**

**Wayne Jarvis
For: Leicestershire Police
Planning Ref: 19/0155/FUL**

Filename/Version	Checked by	Date
Draft	Vicki Score	29/06/2020

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 Report Number: 2020-099

© ULAS 2020

Accession Number X.A56.2020

CONTENTS

Summary	1
Introduction.....	1
Geology and Topography	2
Historical and Archaeological Background	4
Archaeological Objectives	4
Methodology	4
Results.....	5
Discussion and Conclusions	13
Archive and Publications	14
Acknowledgements.....	14
References and Sources	15

FIGURES

Fig. 1: Site Location within UK, county of Leicestershire, Contains Ordnance Survey Data.....	2
Fig. 2: Client plan of location within the Police HQ and proposed site, three new rows of bays, general plan	3
Fig. 3: Client plan showing site proposals	6
Fig. 4: Trenched areas overlain on proposals plan	7
Fig. 5: Trench 1 along east edge of site, north (undisturbed) section of, looking north	8
Fig. 6: Trench 2 along south edge of site, looking west	9
Fig. 7: Trench 3 along north edge of site, looking west	10
Fig. 8: Trench 4 in central area of site, looking NNE.....	11
Fig. 9: Trench 5 in central area of site, looking NNE.....	12
Fig. 10: Trench 1 south end, showing west edge of backfilled deep service, looking N	13
Fig. 11: Location of the site in relation to the previous two negative watching briefs.	14

An Archaeological Strip, Plan and Sample Excavation for land at Leicestershire Police HQ, St. John's, Enderby, Leicestershire (SP 55534 99551)

Wayne Jarvis

Summary

An archaeological Strip, Plan and Sample Excavation has been carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land at Leicestershire Police HQ, St. John's, Enderby, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 55534 99551).

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) have been commissioned by Leicestershire Police to carry out the work in advance of the proposed new development of the site for a car park.

The assessment area consists of grassland (playing fields). It covers around 0.48 hectares and lies at around 65m aOD.

Previous archaeological work in the vicinity has revealed evidence for later prehistoric and Roman remains. The proposed development site is also situated 500m east of the Fosse way, a Roman road that linked Exeter to Lincoln. Until recently the site area comprised flat grass playing fields used for exercise and training. The site does not lie within a Conservation Area or close to any historic buildings.

Assessment of the area took the form of a mixture of stripping of topsoil and overburden the perimeter of the car park where the proposed groundworks to be deeper, and evaluative trenching within the proposed car park surface area where the groundworks were to a much shallower level.

No archaeological features were identified and no finds were recovered from the site works. Over the majority of the site the proposed ground works would not extend deep enough to impact any potential archaeological remains.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A56.2020.

Introduction

This document constitutes the report for an archaeological Strip, Plan and Sample excavation carried out on land adjacent to at Leicestershire Police HQ, St. John's, Enderby, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 55534 99551, Fig. 1). The work was undertaken on behalf of Leicestershire Police by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) between the 24th and 25th of June 2020. Planning permission has been granted for the construction of a new car park (19/0155/FUL). The Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council required a programme of archaeological work comprising a Strip, Plan and Sample excavation to mitigate the impact of the proposed scheme on any buried archaeology across the site.

The site lies on the B4114 in Enderby, just off the M1 motorway at junction 21 and close to the Fosse Park shopping centre (Fig. 1). Enderby is a small town and civil parish in the Blaby District of Leicestershire, around 6 miles south-west of Leicester

City Centre in Leicestershire. The work followed the procedures laid out in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Brown 2019).

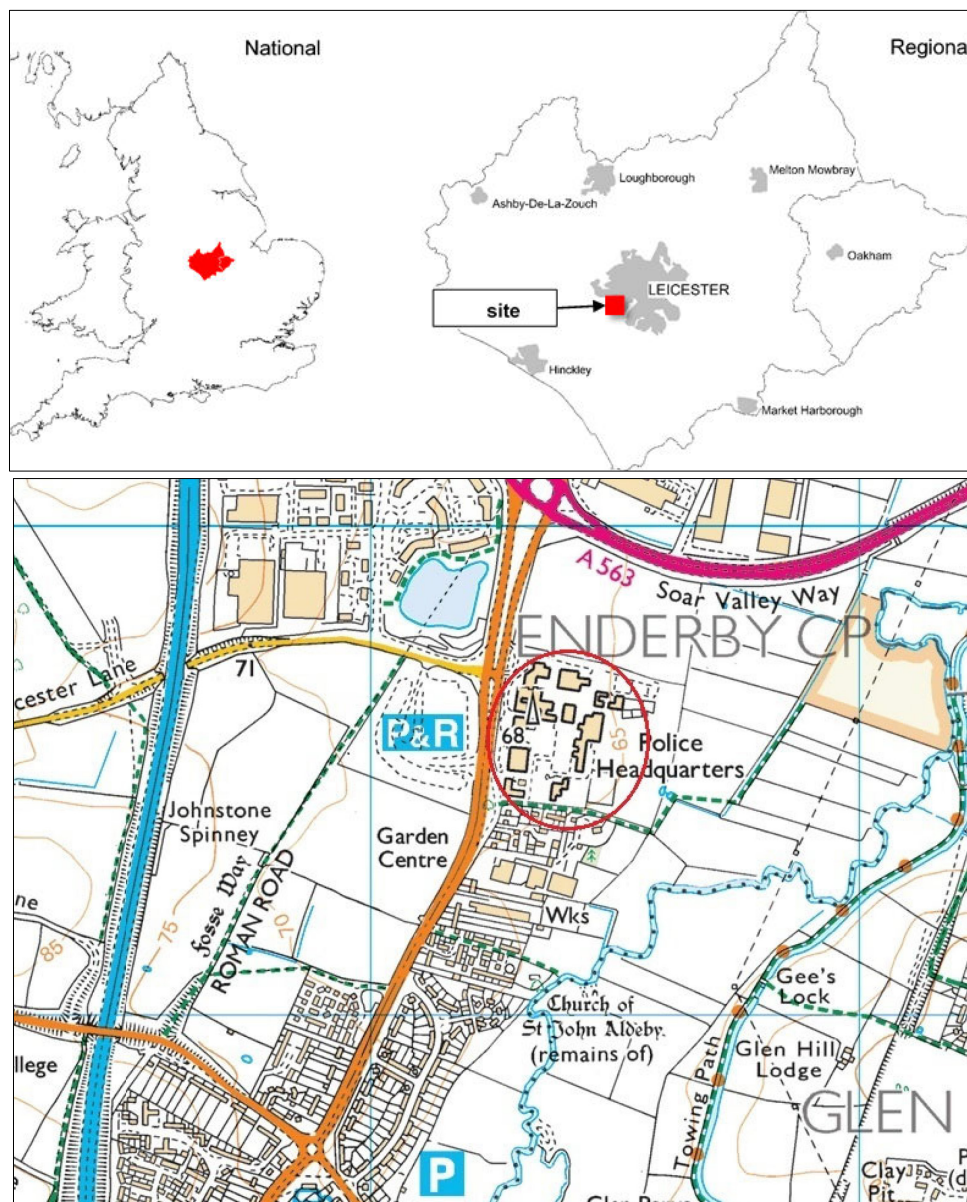


Fig. 1: Site Location within UK, county of Leicestershire, Contains Ordnance Survey Data

Contains OS data © Crown copyright [and database right] 2019

Geology and Topography

The site lies on the B4114 in Enderby, just off the M1 motorway at junction 21 and close to the Fosse Park shopping centre (NGR: SP 55534 99551, Fig. 1). Enderby is a small town and civil parish in the Blaby District of Leicestershire, around 6 miles south-west of Leicester City Centre in Leicestershire. The site lies on relatively level ground at a height of approximately 65m OD. The British Geological Survey website indicates that the superficial deposits consist of glaciofluvial deposits (Mid Pleistocene sand and gravel), and the underlying geology consists of Edwalton Member mudstone (BGS 2020).

The assessment area abuts the current car park, east of the main Police HQ buildings (Fig. 2). The proposed site currently consists of grassland (playing fields), and was formerly a football pitch.

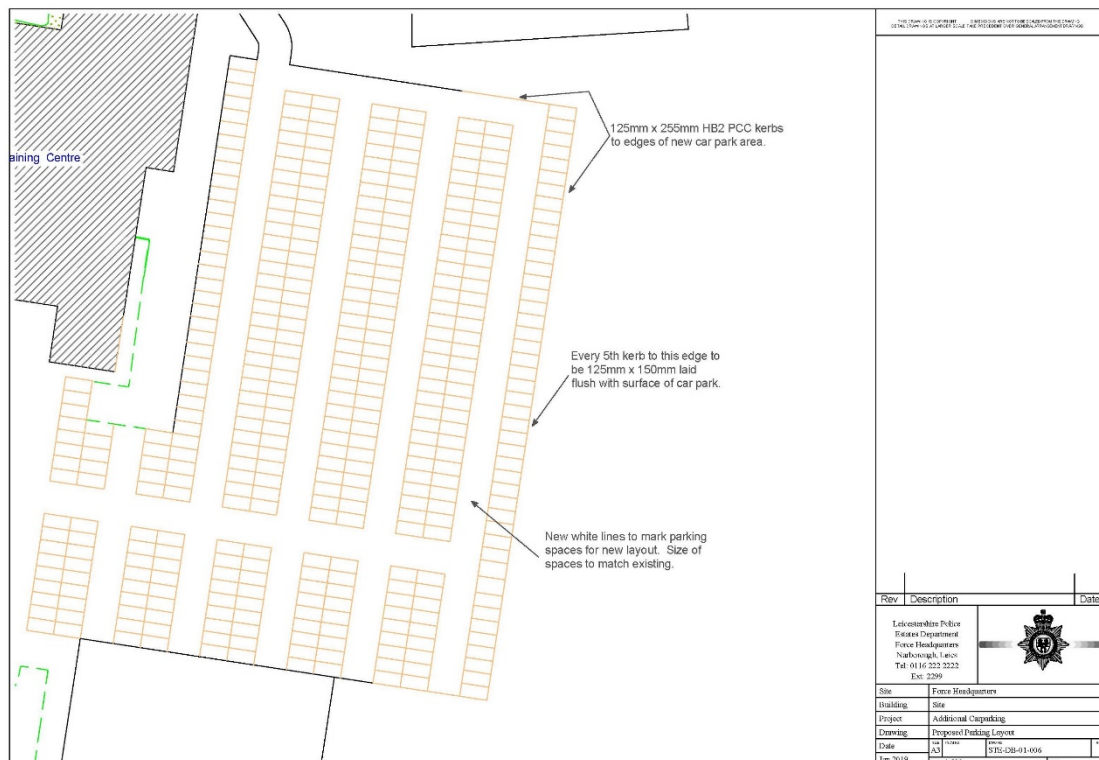
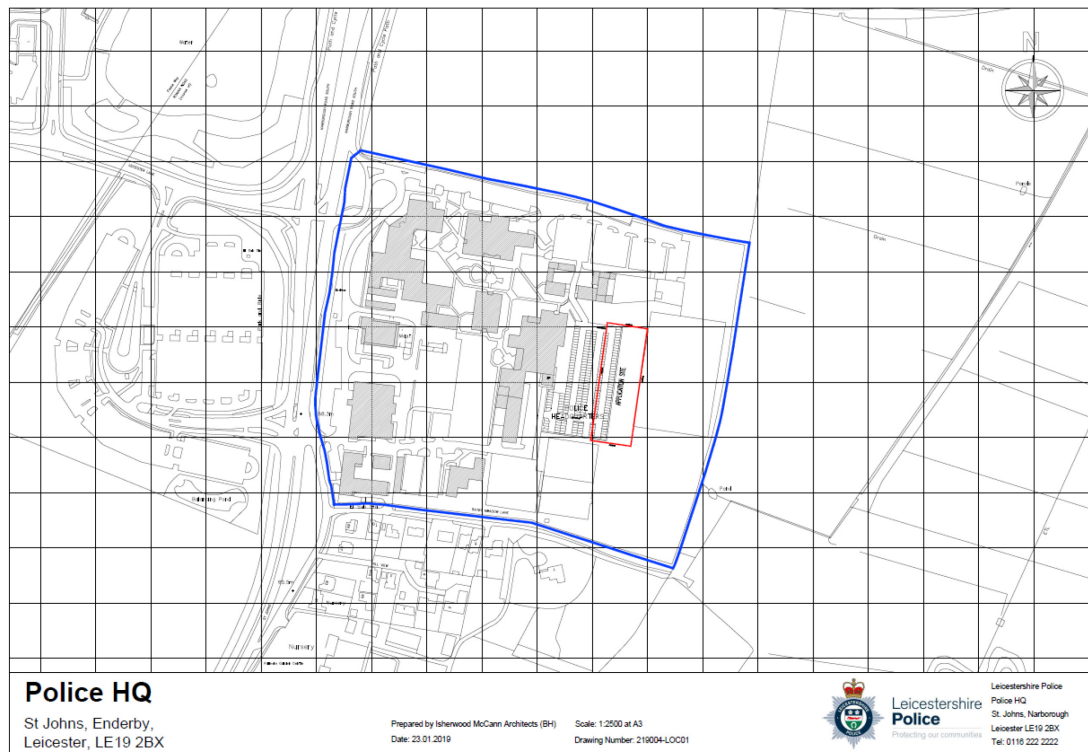


Fig. 2: Client plan of location within the Police HQ and proposed site, three new rows of bays, general plan

Historical and Archaeological Background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the site lies within an area of archaeological interest (Brown 2019). An Iron Age site was recorded during work in 1993-1994 to the east of the proposed development (HER Ref. MLE96). Extensive archaeological activity has also been recorded to the north and west (MLE7688, MLE16568-9, MLE16060-1, MLE17757 and MLE200819), which includes burials, a Roman road and Iron Age settlement. Five hundred metres to the west, archaeological excavations in 2008 located Roman burials and an Iron Age and Roman boundary system (Harvey 2019).

Immediately to the north of the Police Headquarters, south of Soar Valley Way, trial trenches in 2011 found features of mid-late Iron Age and Early Roman date, and excavation led to a unique and internationally significant find, an Iron Age bark shield (Kipling 2012). An evaluation on land at Leicester Lane found 1st-2nd century Roman features in a settlement enclosure linked to the Fosse way by a track way (Kipling 2016).

The proposed development site is situated 500m east of the Fosse way, a Roman road that linked Exeter to Lincoln via Ilchester, Bath, Cirencester and Leicester. South of Leicester, apart from a short diversion in Narborough, the course of the Fosse Way runs close to the line of the B4114.

Previous work on the Police HQ includes two watching briefs in 2015 during the construction of a helicopter landing pad and in 2018 during the construction of a property and archive store that were negative for any archaeological remains (González Rodríguez 2015, Earley 2018).

There is a possibility that significant buried remains could be affected by the proposed development. The Planning Archaeologist has therefore recommended an archaeological evaluation comprising a Strip, Plan and Sample excavation of the development area with excavation of any archaeological deposits.

Archaeological Objectives

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 advance understanding of the heritage assets
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Methodology

The proposals are shown in Fig. 2 - Fig. 3. Turf, topsoil, and overburden were removed from the excavations using a Kubota 8 ton mechanical tracked excavator equipped with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket, under archaeological supervision. The overburden was removed until either the natural substratum or top of archaeological features was revealed. The vertical sections of the stripped area and existing spoil heaps were visually inspected for features and finds. Archaeological features would be hand

cleaned, planned, photographed and sample excavated as detailed in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI). All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CifA) Code of Conduct (2014a) and adhered to their Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (2014b).

The site area measured 108m north-south by 23m east-west. As the proposed development was a car park with mostly shallow groundworks, it was clear that the proposals would have a limited effect on any subsurface features. The strip, plan and sample excavation therefore focused on assessing the levels of archaeological deposits or natural ground, and evaluating the potential for archaeological features within the overall area.

Around the perimeter of the new car park new kerbs were to be set, requiring deeper excavations. Running the length of the east line a drain would also involve deeper works. The perimeter of the area was therefore stripped first down to the top of archaeological deposits or natural substrata, which was encountered first. These trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision as a way of evaluating the potential for archaeology and the depths at which any features would be expected

The car park surface within the interior of the site required a shallower strip to a maximum depth of c.0.3m (Fig. 3), from the current tarmac level to the west (see background in Fig. 6). These depths were above the levels stripped to around the perimeter and following consultation with the Planning Archaeologist a decision was made to instead excavate two 25m long evaluation trenches aligned NNE to SSW to cross the area. If archaeological deposits were found the area of the strip could then be extended.

Results

For the purposes of recording the areas evaluated were treated as trenches, hence Trench 1-5 (Fig. 4). **Trench 1** ran along the long east edge of the proposals where a kerb and a new drain would be sited, and was 108m long (Fig. 5). **Trench 2** ran along the south edge (Fig. 6), **Trench 3** along the north edge (Fig. 7); both were 23m long. **Trenches 4** and **5** were internal to the proposed hard-standing area and were 25m long (Fig. 8, Fig. 9). All trenches were 1.5m wide. No archaeological features were identified during the works and no stray finds were recovered from the spoil or the unstratified deposits. A series of land drains were observed, including both granite-built and recent plastic examples, these mostly ran downslope to the east. Several modern services were also recorded cutting the natural substrata. Some of these were probably associated with the former football pitch and two large concrete stanchions from the pitch floodlights were also exposed in Trench 1 and removed during the work. Natural ground was observed in all evaluated areas, except the southern half of Trench 1 where only backfill of a surviving large service trench was observed across the width of the trench (Fig. 10). This backfill was not removed as observation in a manhole and confirmed by a trial hole indicated that the service was at a substantial depth (1.1m or more below current ground level).

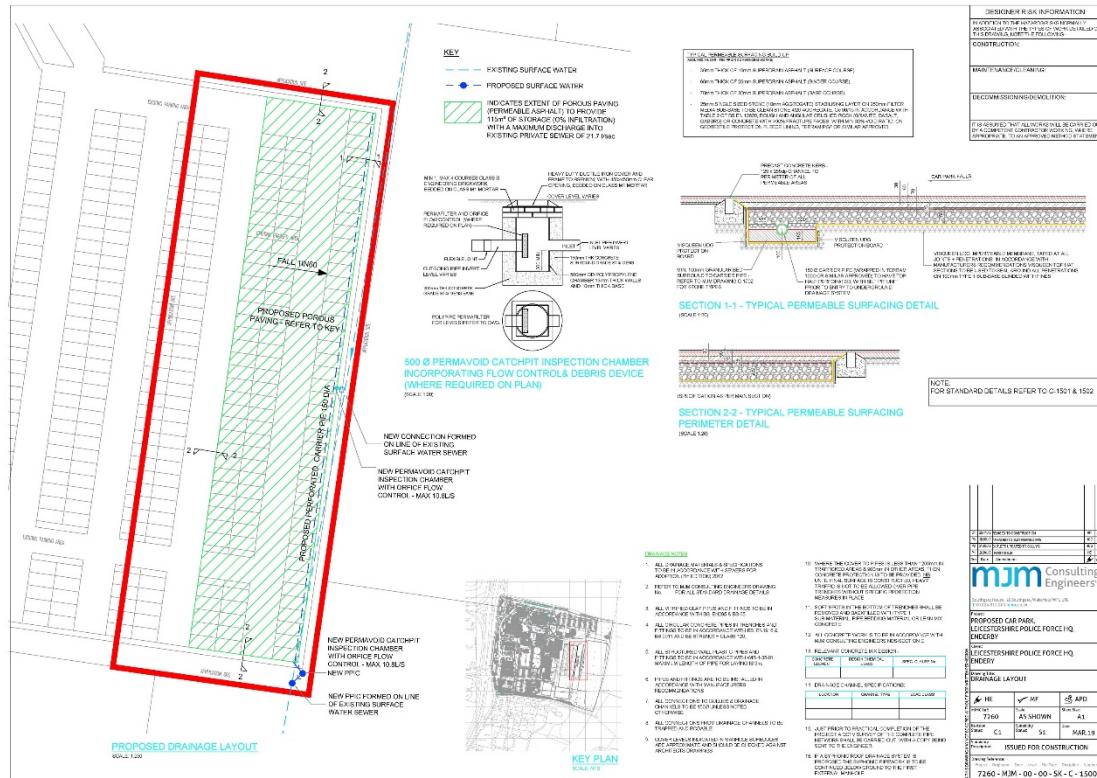


Fig. 3: Client plan showing site proposals

The broad sequence of deposits was as follows; the topsoil consisted of a clean dark brown-grey sandy-clay loam, mostly pebble free and possibly brought in as the majority of the substrate were stony. Below the topsoil was a subsoil consisting of an orangey-brown gravelly clay. The natural substrata was somewhat variable, being a brown-orange gravelly sand in the north but becoming progressively more clay-rich to the south. The gravel comprised rounded cobbles up to 100mm across.

The topsoil depth varied between and 0.22m and 0.5m. At the west of the site the topsoil was deepest as the ground had been made up along the east edge of the adjoining carpark (González Rodríguez 2015). The subsoil varied in depth between 0.1m and 0.19m and natural deposits were observed at a depth of between 0.15m and 0.69m from current ground level, with the 0.15m depth being where topsoil had already been removed, and 0.69m in the west of site where the ground has been previously landscaped. Additionally, some areas were disturbed from previous service-works and levelling of the ground for when the area was converted to playing fields.

Over the majority of the site the proposed ground works would not reach the level of natural ground. The exception was in the north-east quarter of the area, where the foundations for the perimeter kerb cut into natural by a maximum of 0.1m (depth to natural 0.42m, depth of proposals 0.52m here). Along the east edge of the site a new drain would also cut in to lower ground by a further 0.18m.

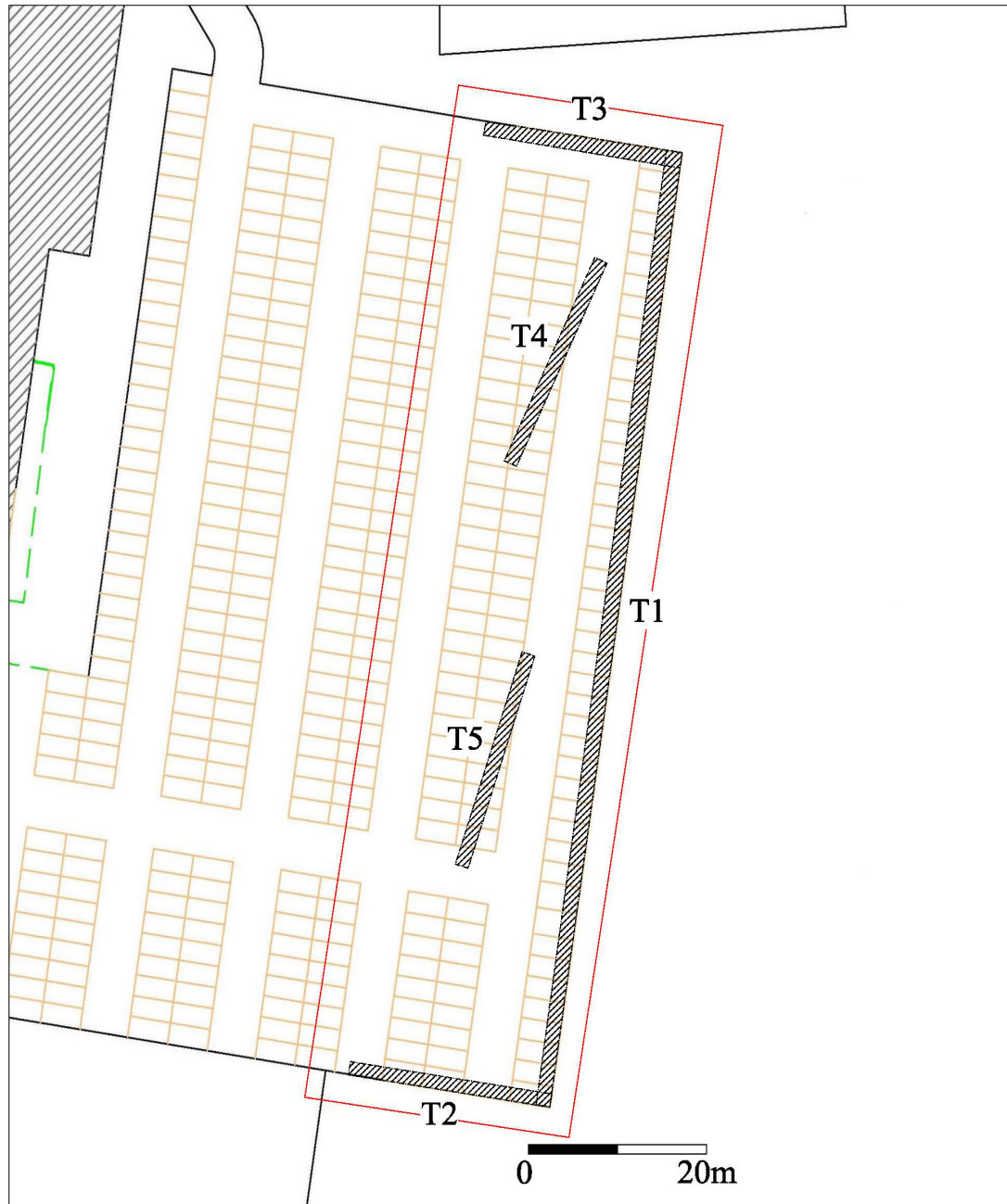


Fig. 4: Trenched areas overlain on proposals plan



Fig. 5: Trench 1 along east edge of site, north (undisturbed) section of, looking north



Fig. 6: Trench 2 along south edge of site, looking west



Fig. 7: Trench 3 along north edge of site, looking west



Fig. 8: Trench 4 in central area of site, looking NNE



Fig. 9: Trench 5 in central area of site, looking NNE



Fig. 10: Trench 1 south end, showing west edge of backfilled deep service, looking N

Discussion and Conclusions

ULAS carried out a Strip, Plan and Sample Excavation on land at Leicestershire Police HQ, St. John's, Enderby, Leicestershire. Natural ground was observed in trenching around the perimeter of the proposed site and also within the area of proposed hard-standing where two further evaluation trenches were excavated. The work did not identify any archaeological deposits, and moreover no unstratified artefactual material was found. This is consistent with the results from the previous two watching briefs (Fig. 11). There were indications from the ground that the area has previously been subjected to agricultural drainage, and more recently groundworks took place related to the use of the area as a football pitch and playing fields.

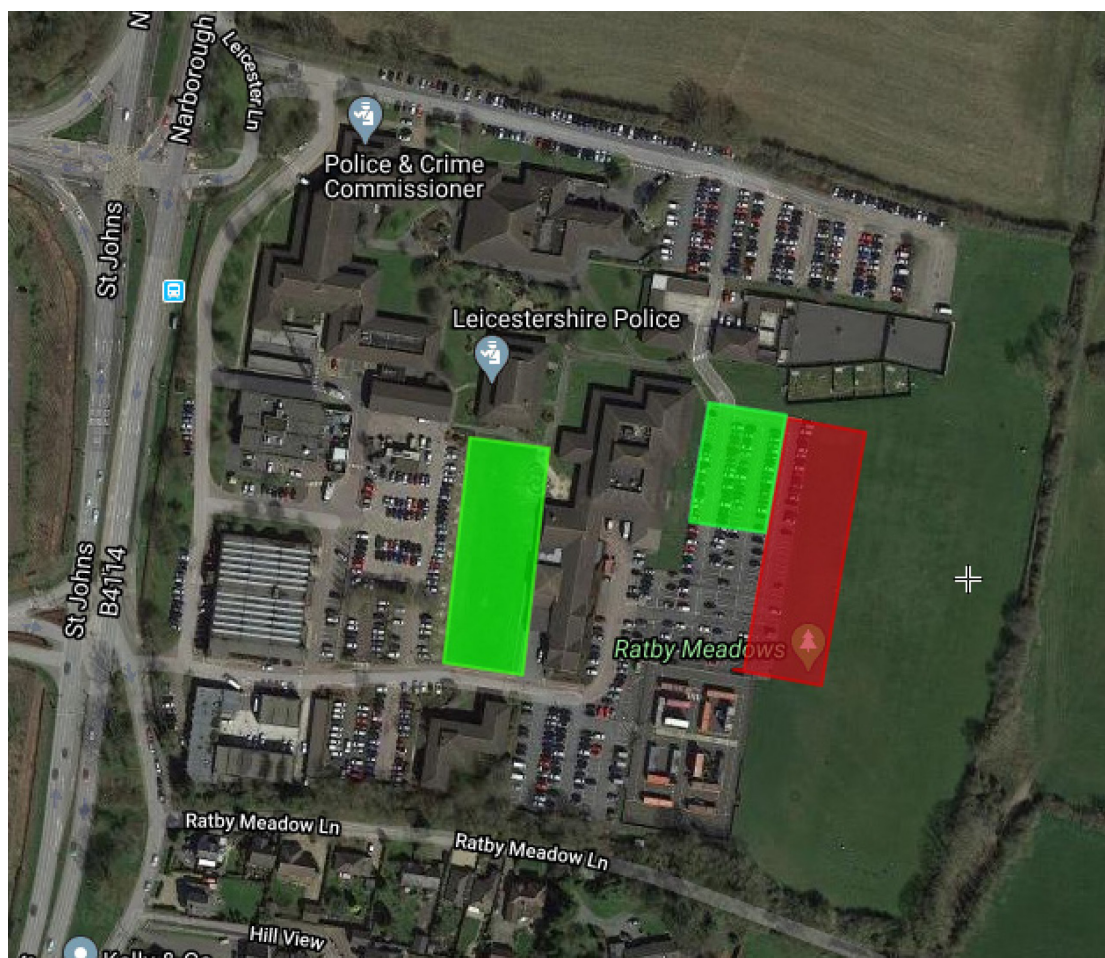


Fig. 11: Location of the site in relation to the previous two negative watching briefs.

Archive and Publications

The site archive (X.A56.2020), consisting of paper and photographic records, will be housed with Leicestershire County Council Museums.

For this site the archive consists of:

- Site records – trench sheets, watching brief record sheet, photo index.

- Site photographs – digital, on CD and contact prints.

- Unbound Report hard copy and electronic copy (pdf_A).

A summary of this report will appear in due course in the Transactions the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society. The University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS data entry has been completed detailing the results of the project (see Appendix I of this report). This is digitally accessible through The Archaeological Data Services (<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/>).

Acknowledgements

The author undertook the archaeological Strip, Plan and Sample excavation on behalf of Leicestershire Police. The project was managed by Vicki Score, also of ULAS. Thanks also to the contractors Brookside Construction Ltd. for cooperation on site, and

also to Derek Brown of Leicestershire Police. The archaeological work was monitored by Richard Clark, Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council.

References and Sources

British Geological Survey

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html> (website visited 26/06/2020)

Brown, C. 2019 Written Scheme of Investigation for Strip, Plan & Sample Excavation: Leicestershire Police HQ, Enderby, Leicestershire (ULAS WSI 19-370)

CIFA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014a *Code of Conduct*

CIFA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014b *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations*

Earley, J. 2018 *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Leicestershire Police Force HQ*. ULAS Report no. 2018-159

González Rodríguez, M. 2015 *Archaeological Attendance, Inspection and Recording during groundworks at Leicestershire Constabulary, St. Johns, Enderby, Leicestershire*. ULAS Report No. 2015-129

Harvey, J. 2009 *Archaeological excavation on land between St. John's and Leicester Lane Enderby, Leicestershire*. ULAS Report no. 2009-169

Kipling, R. 2012 *An Archaeological Excavation on land south of Soar Valley Way, Enderby, Leicestershire*. ULAS Report no. 2012-059

Kipling, R. 2016 *An Archaeological Evaluation on land at Leicester Lane, Enderby, Leicestershire*. ULAS Report no. 2016-158

PROJECT DETAILS	OASIS ID	universi1-397555		
	Project Name	A Strip, Plan and Sample on Land at Leicestershire Police HQ, Enderby, Leicestershire		
	Start/end dates of field work	24/6/2020-25/6/2020		
	Previous/Future Work	No/No		
	Project Type	Recording Project		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Playing field		
	Monument Type/Period	None/None		
	Significant Finds/Period	None/None		
	Development Type	Car park		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Condition		
	Planning Ref.	19/0155/FUL		
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	Leicestershire Police HQ, ST. John's, Enderby, Leicestershire LE19 2BX		
	Study Area	2500m ²		
	Site Coordinates	SP 55534 99551		
	Height OD	65m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	University of Leicester Archaeological Services		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority		
	Project Design Originator	University of Leicester Archaeological Services		
	Project Manager	Vicki Score		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Wayne Jarvis		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Developer		
PROJECT ARCHIVE	Recipient	Physical	Digital	Paper
			Leicestershire County Museums	Leicestershire County Museums
	ID (Acc. No.)		X.A56.2020	X.A56.2020
	Contents		Digital Photographs PDF_A Report	1 pro forma watching brief sheet, 5 pro forma trench record sheets, photograph index, Unbound copy of report
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature		
	Title	An Archaeological Strip, Plan and Sample Excavation on Land at Leicestershire Police HQ, St. John's, Enderby, Leicestershire		
	Author	W. Jarvis		
	Other bibliographic details	University of Leicester Archaeological Services Report No. 2020-099		
	Date	2020		
	Publisher/Place	University of Leicester Archaeological Services		
	Description	A4 pdf_A		

Wayne Jarvis BA (Hons.) MA MCifA

Project Officer

ULAS, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester LE1 7RH Tel: 0116 252 2848 Email:
ulas@le.ac.uk

©ULAS 29/06/2020



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

