



UNIVERSITY OF  
**LEICESTER**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation at: Land  
parcel R9 Pt2 and Pond 14, 'New  
Lubbesthorpe'. SK 5297 0170**

Andrew McLeish



ULAS Report No 2020-061

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**Site Name:** Land parcel R9\_2 and Pond 14, New Lubbethorpe

**Grid Ref:** SK5297 0170

**Author:** A. McLeish

**Client:** The Drummond Estate

**Planning Ref:**

**ULAS Report Number:** 2020-061

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## OASIS RECORD

	<b>Oasis No</b>	<b>universi1-412179</b>		
	<b>Project Name</b>	An Archaeological Evaluation at Land parcel R9 Pt2 and Pond 14, 'New Lubbesthorpe' SK 5297 0170		
	<b>Start/end dates of field work</b>	23-04-2020 to 24-04-2020		
	<b>Previous/Future Work</b>	Yes/yes		
	<b>Project Type</b>	Field Evaluation		
	<b>Site Status</b>	None		
	<b>Current Land Use</b>	Farming and pasture		
	<b>Monument Type/Period</b>	None		
	<b>Significant Finds/Period</b>	None		
	<b>Development Type</b>	Drainage		
	<b>Reason for Investigation</b>	National Planning Policy Framework		
	<b>Position in the Planning Process</b>	Post-determination		
<b>Planning Ref.</b>	18/0433/RM			
<b>OASIS RECORD</b>	<b>Site Address/Postcode</b>	LE19 4BH		
	<b>Study Area</b>	2.5ha		
	<b>Site Coordinates</b>	SK 5297 0170		
	<b>Height OD</b>	Min: 90m - Max: 96m		
<b>OASIS RECORD</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	University of Leicester Archaeological Services		
	<b>Project Brief Originator</b>	Local Authority Archaeologist		
	<b>Project Design Originator</b>	Vicki Score		
	<b>Project Manager</b>	Vicki Score		
	<b>Project Director/Supervisor</b>	Andrew Mcleish		
<b>Sponsor/Funding Body</b>	Developer: Mather Jamie			
<b>OASIS RECORD</b>		<b>Physical</b>	<b>Digital</b>	<b>Paper</b>
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	<b>Contents</b>	NONE	Digital photography Miscellaneous Report	Context sheets Drawings Miscellaneous Report
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## **An Archaeological Evaluation at R9 Pt 2 and pond 14, Lubbesthorpe, Leicestershire. (SK 52929 01570)**

**Andrew Mcleish**

### **Summary**

*University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation for a site at New Lubbesthorpe (Land Parcel R9, Pt 2 and Pond 14), Leicestershire, on behalf of the Drummond Estate in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework, Section 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment. Eleven trenches, totalling 594m<sup>2</sup>, were excavated to evaluate an area in advance of a proposed drainage infrastructure development. The archaeological work was carried out from the 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> of April 2020,*

*Evidence for medieval agriculture in the form of furrows was recorded in three trenches in addition to evidence of modern truncation. No other evidence for archaeological features was noted.*

*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 the Drummond Estate to carry out an archaeological field evaluation on land at Land parcel R9\_2 and Pond 14 Lubbesthorpe Leicestershire in advance of a proposed drainage infrastructure development.

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 2019).

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological trial trenching, which took place in April 2020 and 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.

### **Site Description, Topography and Geology**

The proposed development area is situated on land to the south of Lubbesthorpe Bridle Way, east of the site of Old House (Figs 1-2). It is currently an arable field, and the archaeological work covered an area approximately 2.5ha in size. The land falls from the west to the east, and varies between c.90m - 96m aOD.

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).

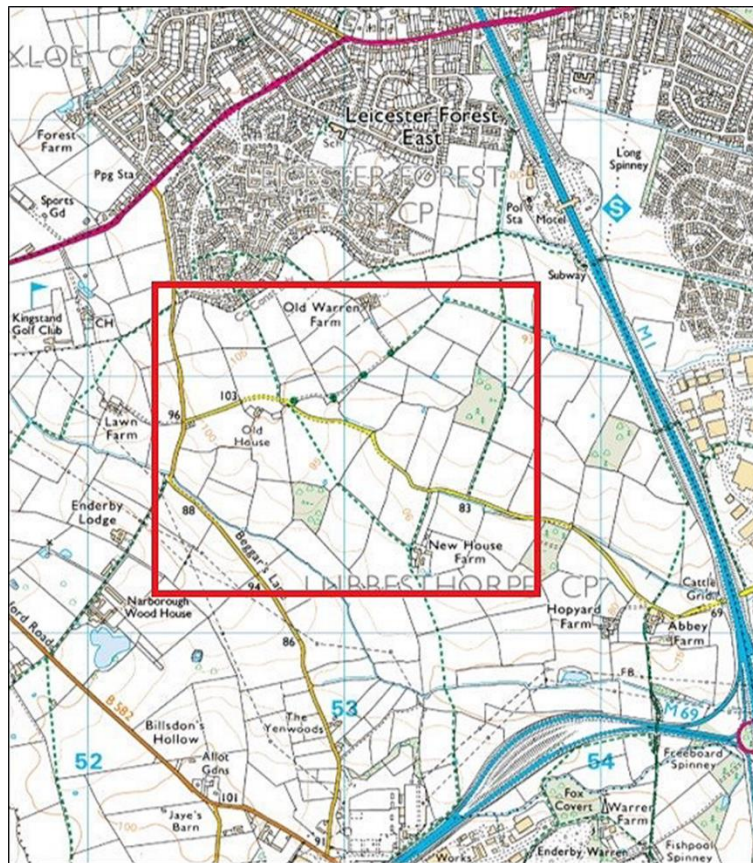


Figure 1: Location of site within, larger Lubbesthorpe area. Site is central main field with diagonal path (cf. Fig. 2).

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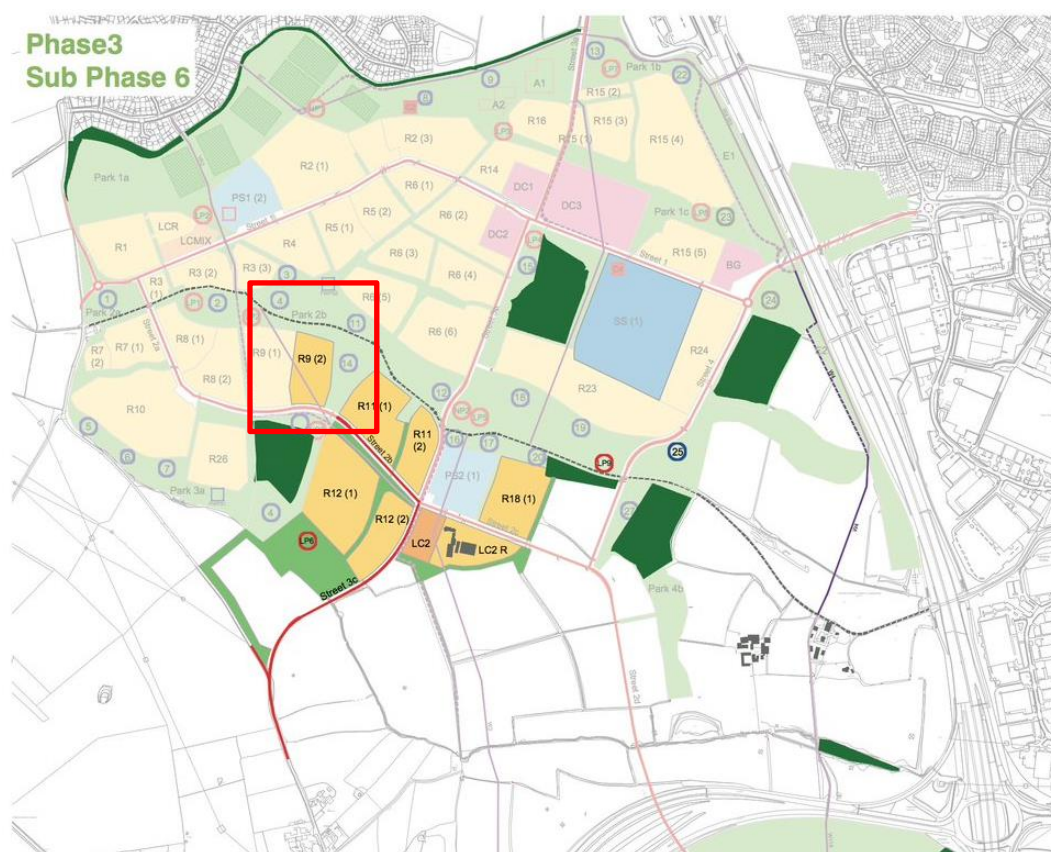


Figure 2: Location of site (R9 Pt2) and Pond 14. Plan provided by client

### 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 trial trenching followed a strategy for the work devised by ULAS, which was set out in the Design Specification for Lubbesthorpe - Road 2 Ponds, Lubbesthorpe, Leicestershire (ULAS 2020).

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Cifa) Code of Conduct (rev. 2019) and adhered to their Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2014).

Eleven 30m long trenches were set out across the site to provide a good spread and to target the pond area (Fig. 3). Trenches were excavated using a JCB 3CX with a 1.6m wide flat bladed ditching bucket.

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. 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 and trenches 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.

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 341 and 342 were laid at an opposing angle to that specified on the plan due to site constraints (Fig. 4).

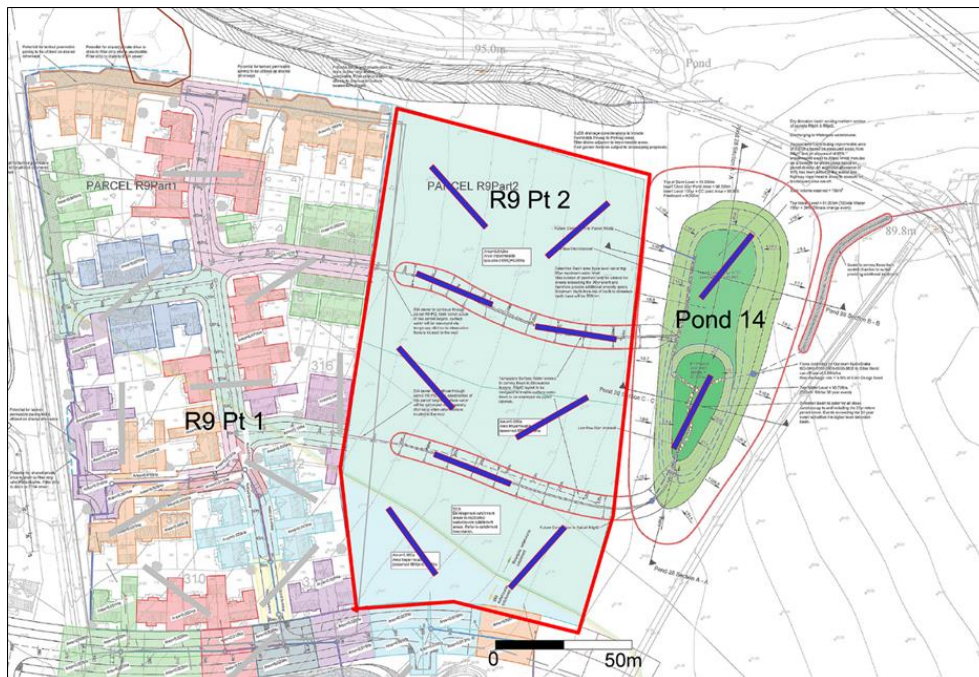


Figure 3: Location of site and proposed trench locations





Figure 4: Location plan and numbering of trenches. Furrows are shown in red.

## Results

The trenches were all extremely shallow, probably having been plough eroded, with the natural substratum being immediately below topsoil and the subsoil thin or absent. The natural substratum was observed at depths between 0.3m and 0.45m. The topsoil was a dark brownish-grey friable silty clay with occasional sub-rounded gravel inclusions. No subsoil was noted in this part of the field. The natural substratum consisted mostly of pale yellow-brown clay, with some discontinuous patches of gravel. Heavy modern plough scarring and root disturbance were noted in all of the trenches which was

unsurprising given the shallow nature of the topsoil in this field. All of the trenches were negative for archaeology aside from the remains of medieval furrows.

Table 1: Trench Summaries

Trench	Orientation	Min. Depth	Max. Depth	Length of Trench	Width of Trench	Total area of trench	Comments
341	NW-SE	0.38m	0.45m	30m	1.6m	48m <sup>2</sup>	No Archaeological features
342	NE -SW	0.37m	0.44m	30m	1.6m	48m <sup>2</sup>	No Archaeological features
343	E - W	0.3m	0.34m	30m	1.6m	48m <sup>2</sup>	No Archaeological features
344	NW - SE	0.34m	0.37m	30m	1.6m	48m <sup>2</sup>	No Archaeological features
345	E - W	0.32m	0.39m	30m	1.6m	48m <sup>2</sup>	No Archaeological features
346	E - W	0.36m	0.42m	30m	1.6m	48m <sup>2</sup>	One furrow, 2.4m wide running N-S.
347	NE - SW	0.31m	0.42m	30m	1.6m	48m <sup>2</sup>	No Archaeological features
348	NNE - SSW	0.31m	0.38m	30m	1.6m	48m <sup>2</sup>	No Archaeological features
349	NE - SW	0.35m	0.4m	30m	1.6m	48m <sup>2</sup>	Two furrows 2.2/2.3m wide running N-S.
350	NE - SW	0.32m	0.4m	30m	1.6m	48m <sup>2</sup>	Three furrows 2.4/2.5/2.7m wide running N – S.
351	NW - SE	0.34m	0.38m	30m	1.6m	48m <sup>2</sup>	No archaeological features

**Trench 341**

Trench 341 was located in the south eastern corner of the field, running in a north west – south east direction. The natural substratum was observed at depths between 0.32m and 0.48m. The topsoil was a dark greyish black loose (soil was very dry and had recently been ploughed and harrowed) silty clay with sparse sub angular gravel. No subsoil was observed. The natural substratum consisted mostly of pale yellow brown clay, with some patches of fine compact, subrounded gravel. No archaeological deposits or residual finds were recovered (Fig. 5).



Figure 5: Trench 341 looking south east (Scale 2x 1.0m). No archaeological features.

### ***Trench 342***

Trench 342 was located in the south western corner of the sample area, running in a north east – south west direction. The natural substratum was observed at depths between 0.37m and 0.44m. The topsoil was a dark greyish black loose (soil was very dry and had recently been ploughed and harrowed) silty clay with sparse sub angular gravel. No subsoil was observed. The natural substratum consisted mostly of pale yellow brown clay, with some patches of fine compact, subrounded gravel. No archaeological deposits or residual finds were recovered (Fig. 6).



Figure 6: Trench 342 looking south west (Scale 2x 1.0m). No archaeological features.

### ***Trench 343***

Trench 343 was located immediately north of trenches 341 and 342 in the southern area of the site, running in an east - west – direction. The natural substratum was observed at depths between 0.3m and 0.34m. The topsoil was a dark greyish black loose (soil was very dry and had recently been ploughed and harrowed) silty clay with sparse sub angular gravel. No subsoil was observed. The natural substratum consisted mostly of pale yellow brown clay, with some patches of fine compact, subrounded gravel. No archaeological deposits or residual finds were recovered (Fig. 7).

### ***Trench 344***

Trench 344 was located on the western edge of the area, running in a north west – south east direction. The natural substratum was observed at depths between 0.34m and 0.38m. The topsoil was a dark greyish black loose (soil was very dry and had recently been ploughed and harrowed) silty clay with sparse sub angular gravel. No subsoil was observed. The natural substratum consisted mostly of pale yellow brown clay, with some patches of fine compact, subrounded gravel. No archaeological deposits or residual finds were recovered (Fig. 8).



Figure 7: Trench 343 looking east (Scale 2x 1.0m). No archaeological features.



Figure 8: Trench 344 looking south-east (Scale 2x 1.0m). No archaeological features.

### ***Trench 345***

Trench 345 was located on the western edge of the area, north of trench 344 running in an east - west direction. The natural substratum was observed at depths between 0.32m and 0.39m. The topsoil was a dark greyish black loose (soil was very dry and had recently been ploughed and harrowed) silty clay with sparse sub angular gravel. No subsoil was observed. The natural substratum consisted mostly of pale yellow brown clay, with some patches of fine compact, subrounded gravel. No archaeological deposits or residual finds were recovered (Fig. 9).



Figure 9: Trench 345 looking east (Scale 2x 1.0m). No archaeological features.

### ***Trench 346***

Trench 346 was located on the eastern edge of the area, north of trench 347 running in an east - west direction. The natural substratum was observed at depths between 0.36m and 0.42m. The topsoil was a dark greyish black loose (soil was very dry and had recently been ploughed and harrowed) silty clay with sparse sub angular gravel. No subsoil was observed. The natural substratum consisted mostly of pale yellow brown clay, with some patches of fine compact, subrounded gravel (Fig. 10). One medieval furrow with a width of 2.4m and a depth of 0.11m was found in the trench on a north – south alignment (Fig. 11).



Figure 10 Trench 346 looking east (scale 2x 1.0m) showing medieval furrow.



Figure 11 Test slot dug through medieval furrow in trench 346 (scale 1x 1.0m) looking north.

### ***Trench 347***

Trench 347 was located on the eastern edge of the area, north of trench 341 running in a north east – south west direction. The natural substratum was observed at depths between 0.31m and 0.42m. The topsoil was a dark greyish black loose (soil was very dry and had recently been ploughed and harrowed) silty clay with sparse sub angular gravel. No subsoil was observed. The natural substratum consisted mostly of pale yellow brown clay, with some patches of fine compact, subrounded gravel. No archaeological deposits or residual finds were recovered (Fig. 12).



Figure 12 Trench 347 looking north east (scale 2x 1.0m).

### ***Trench 348***

Trench 348 was located on the furthest eastern edge of the area in the footprint of the projected balance pond. It runs in a north north east – south south west direction. The natural substratum was observed at depths between 0.31m and 0.38m. The topsoil was a dark greyish black loose (soil was very dry and had recently been ploughed and harrowed) silty clay with sparse sub angular gravel. No subsoil was observed. The natural substratum consisted mostly of pale yellow brown clay, with some patches of fine compact, subrounded gravel. No archaeological deposits or residual finds were recovered (Fig. 14).

### ***Trench 349***

Trench 349 was located north of trench 348 on the furthest eastern edge of the area in the footprint of the projected balance pond. It runs in a north east – south west direction. The natural substratum was observed at depths between 0.35m and 0.4m. The topsoil was a dark greyish black loose (soil was very dry and had recently been ploughed and harrowed) silty clay with sparse sub angular gravel. No subsoil was observed. The natural substratum consisted mostly of pale yellow brown clay, with some patches of fine compact, subrounded gravel. The trench contained two medieval furrows measuring 2.2m and 2.3m wide running on a north – south alignment (Fig. 15).



Figure 13 Trench 348 looking south south west (scale 2x 1.0m).



Figure 14 Trench 349 looking north east (scale 2x 1.0m).



### ***Trench 350***

Trench 350 was located north of trench 346 on the eastern edge of the area. It runs in a north east – south west direction. The natural substratum was observed at depths between 0.32m and 0.4m. The topsoil was a dark greyish black loose (soil was very dry and had recently been ploughed and harrowed) silty clay with sparse sub angular gravel. No subsoil was observed. The natural substratum consisted mostly of pale yellow brown clay, with some patches of fine compact, subrounded gravel. The trench contained three medieval furrows measuring 2.4m and 2.7m and 2.5 wide running on a north – south alignment (Fig. 16).



Figure 15 Trench 350 looking north east (scale 2x 1.0m).

### ***Trench 351***

Trench 351 was located north of trench 345 on the western edge of the area. It runs in a north west – south east direction. The natural substratum was observed at depths between 0.35m and 0.4m. The topsoil was a dark greyish black loose (soil was very dry and had recently been ploughed and harrowed) silty clay with sparse sub angular gravel. No subsoil was observed. The natural substratum consisted mostly of pale yellow brown clay, with some patches of fine compact, subrounded gravel. No archaeological deposits or residual finds were recovered (Fig. 17).



Figure 16 Trench 351 looking north west (scale 2x 1.0m).

### ***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 these research themes.

### **Conclusion**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2020 by University of Leicester Archaeological services on behalf of the Drummond Estate in advance of a proposed drainage infrastructure development. Eleven trenches were excavated by JCB to provide a representational sample of the development area. Remains of medieval furrows were noted in three trenches running at 90 degrees to the Lubbesthorpe Bridle path. There was also evidence of plough scarring to suggest past agricultural activity in the remaining trenches, but no other 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
- 11 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 its incorporation into the Historic Environment Record it shall be placed on the website.

## **Acknowledgements**

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