



**University of
Leicester**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation
At Leicester Road,
Hinckley, Leicestershire
(SP 493 948)**

By Gerwyn Richards



ULAS Report No 2010-133
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**An Archaeological Evaluation at Leicester Road,
Hinckley, Leicestershire.**

(NGR SP 493 948)

Gerwyn Richards

Planning Permission: N/A

For: Fisher German

Checked by

Signed:



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**An Archaeological Evaluation at Leicester Road, Hinckley,
Leicestershire (NGR SP 493 948).**

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An Archaeological Evaluation at Leicester Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire (NGR SP 493 948).

Gerwyn Richards

Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by Fisher German to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land off Leicester Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire in advance of the construction of residential units. The proposed development area had been identified as being an area of archaeological potential.

Three evaluation trenches were excavated within the proposed development area in order to sample anomalies identified by a previous geophysical survey and to ascertain the likely extent of any potential archaeological remains.

The geophysical anomaly in Trench 1 proved to be a modern animal burial while no trace was found for the linear anomaly in Trench 3.

Only limited evidence of potential archaeological remains were uncovered, limited to a single trench (Trench 2), none of which were dateable. Significant colluvial deposits were observed within the easternmost trench.

The archive for the archaeological work will be held by Leicestershire County Council, under the museums accession number X.A116.2010.

1. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by Fisher German to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed works on land off Leicester Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire (SP 493 948; Fig. 1). The proposed development involves the construction of over 200 new residential units with access roads, open spaces and footpaths within a site of approximately 8.2 hectares. No previous intrusive archaeological work has been carried out within the proposed development area.

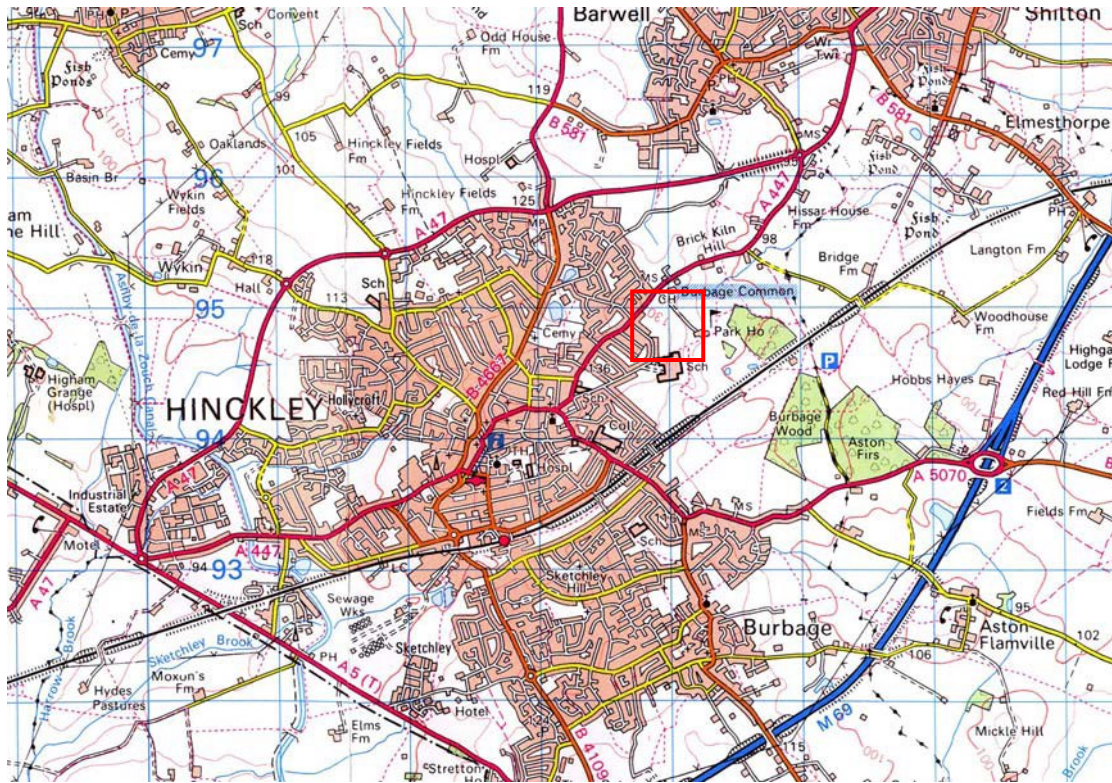


Figure 1: Site location Scale 1:50000

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2. Background

Archaeological evaluation of the site was requested by Leicestershire County Council Historic and Natural Environment Team on behalf of the planning authority by trial trenching to test geophysical anomalies.

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 169 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Oadby Till, a mainly grey pebbly clay, with chalk inclusions, with the potential for Wolston Sand and Gravel towards the eastern boundaries of the application area.

The proposed development area lies in a semi-rural location to the north-east of the post-war suburban sprawl of Hinckley. An archaeological desk based assessment commissioned by Fisher German (Clarke 2009) indicated that there are no known archaeological sites within the proposed development area. However, the Historic Environment Record for Leicestershire & Rutland (HER) indicate a number of known archaeological sites within the vicinity of the proposed development area (Fig. 2). Immediately to the south of the proposed development area, a number of finds, including pottery sherds, quern fragments, tessera and tile (HER Ref MLE2834), suggest the presence of a Roman occupation site, possibly a villa, in the vicinity. Place name evidence indicates the possible location of a post-medieval windmill (HER Ref MLE2838) approximately 150m to the south of the proposed development area at Mill Close as well the location of a former Brick Kiln at Brick Kiln Hill,

approximately 300m to the northeast (HER Ref MLE2870). Cropmark evidence observed from aerial photography indicate a rectilinear enclosure, possibly Prehistoric in date approximately 1km to the north of the proposed development area (HER Ref MLE2801).

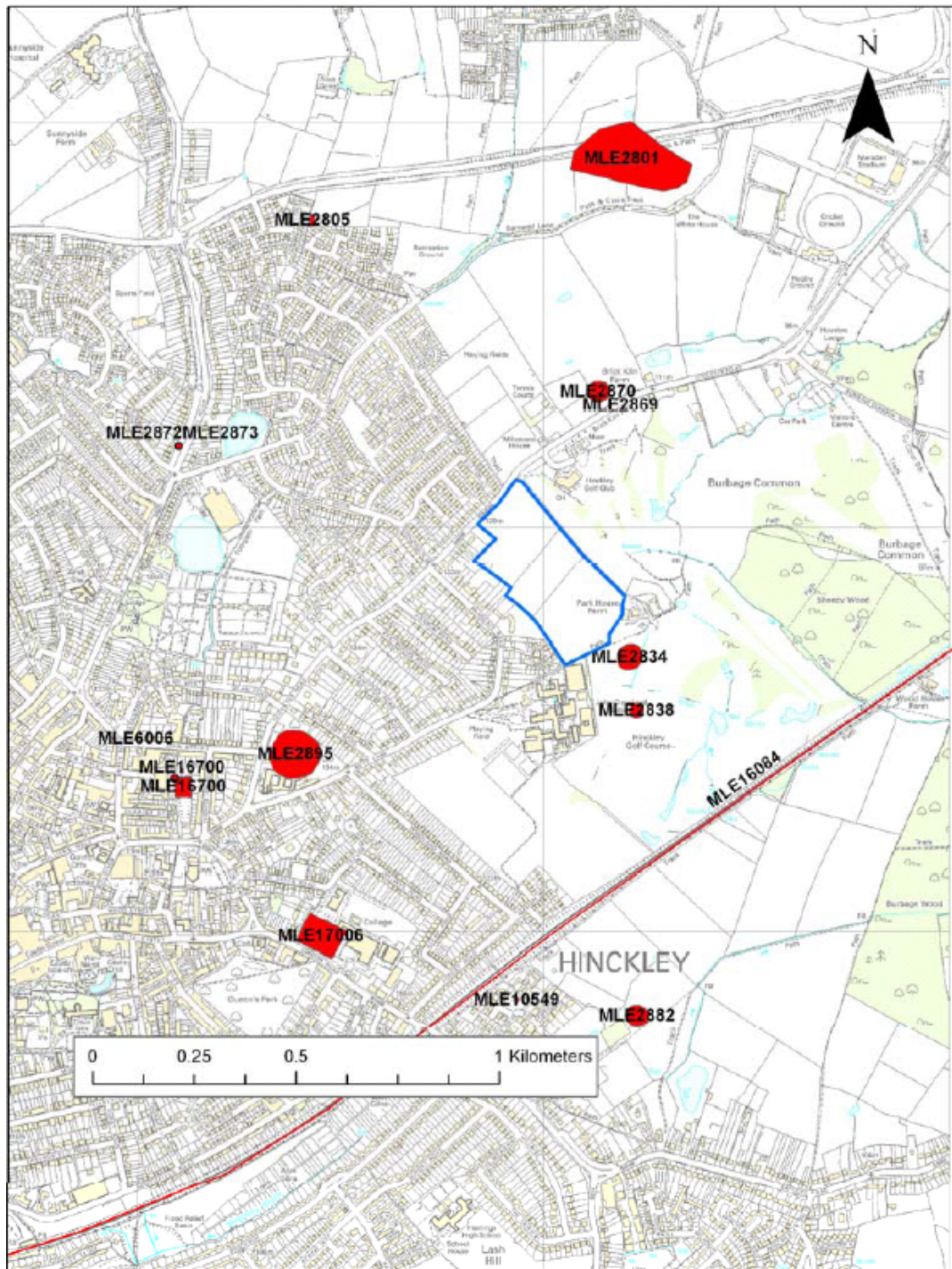


Figure 2: Proposed development area in detail (in blue) with known areas of archaeological significance recorded by Leicestershire HER highlighted in red.

3. Aims and Methodology

The main objectives of the evaluation were through archaeological trial trenching:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits in areas to be affected by the development.
- To provide information on the extent, character, condition and date range of archaeological deposits within the application area.
- To assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

In order to minimise damage to the standing crop and to avoid a medium pressure gas main which crosses the proposed development area, after consultation with Planning Control Archaeologist it was decided to evaluate the impact of proposed development with the excavation of three 15m x 1.8m trenches (Fig. 3), specifically targeting anomalies identified by previous geophysical survey (Hancock 2010). The excavation took place between July 8th & 9th 2010. The trenches were excavated by a Case Loader Backhoe using a ditching bucket.

The archaeological work followed the *Brief for archaeological evaluation of land at Leicester Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire NGR SP439 948* (LCC) and *Design Specification for archaeological work* (ULAS 10-366).

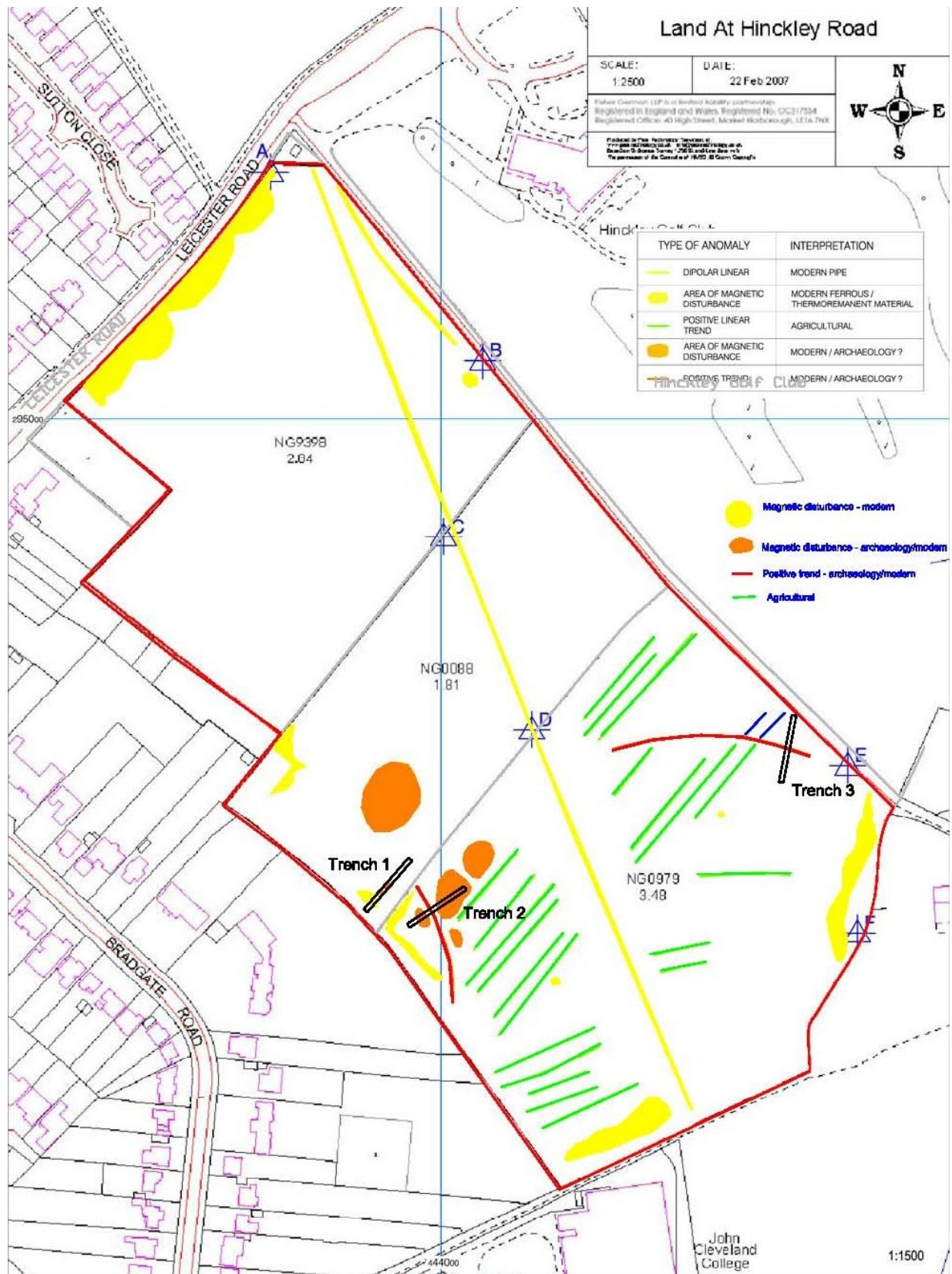


Figure 3: Trench location plan overlaid on the geophysical survey.

3. Results

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located adjacent to the westernmost boundary of the proposed development area on a small plateau which dropped away to the north-east. The trench was located to attempt to sample three areas of magnetic anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. The trench was 30m long and aligned north-east to south-west.

Approximately 0.2m to 0.3m of plough soil was excavated, exposing a thin layer of subsoil, which disappeared as the trench progressed down slope. Beneath the topsoil was an orange-brown sandy-silt substratum at approximately 0.3m below the existing ground level. Further examination identified a pit containing a recent animal burial. This feature is likely to be the source of at least one of the anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. There was no clear evidence for any of the other geophysical anomalies.

No further remains of archaeological significance were found within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was excavated approximately 15m south-east of Trench 1, on the same plateau. The trench was 30m long and aligned north-east to south-west and was located to sample three anomalies identified by the geophysical survey, including a possible linear feature. Approximately 0.3m to 0.4m of ploughsoil was excavated exposing an orange mixed weathered clay substratum. Hand cleaning at this level exposed a number of potential features.

A 0.5m section was excavated through a linear feature in the centre of the trench. The fill, (005) consisted of a mid-brown slightly silty clay with abundant small to medium stones concentrated near the top of the fill. As the excavation progressed it became apparent that there was no clear or defined cut for the feature and it was decided to machine excavate the remainder of the fill in order to ascertain the true extent of the feature. Machine excavation indicated that the feature was almost certainly some sort of geological feature within which was a deposit of boulder clay. This geological feature matches the location of the geophysical anomaly identified in the centre of the trench.

A possible linear spread was recorded towards the south-western end of the trench. As a result of a cut for a modern field drain it was only possible to excavate a section through the smallest part of the spread at the south western end of the trench. Excavation revealed a linear cut, [003] approximately 800mm wide and 180mm deep with concave sides and a flat bottom. The fill, (004) comprised a grey-brown sandy silt with abundant stones, including occasional heat affected stones. Such stones are common on sites of prehistoric occupation. Unfortunately no dating evidence was recovered from the feature.

A small post-hole was located towards the north-eastern end of the trench. The post hole [001] was slightly sub-angular in shape and approximately 0.2m by 0.3m in size and 160mm deep, with near vertical sides and a flat bottom. The fill (002) consisted

of a grey-brown firm sandy silt with a single large stone sitting on the bottom, possibly a packing stone. Once again no dating evidence was recovered from the feature, however a number of small flecks of burnt daub were also observed within the fill, suggesting a possible structural use for the post hole.

There were no further remains of archaeological significance within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was excavated towards the easternmost corner of the proposed development area, at the bottom of a slope (south - north). The trench was 30m long, aligned north-west to south-east and located to attempt to sample a linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. Approximately 0.3m to 0.35m of ploughsoil was excavated exposing a substantial colluvial build up of between 0.5m to 1m at the southern end of the trench. There was no clear source for the geophysical anomaly.

There were no remains of archaeological significance within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

4. Conclusion

The trenches in this evaluation were located in order to sample a number of anomalies identified by a geophysical survey. No trace of the anomaly targeted by Trench 3 was uncovered and an anomaly targeted within Trench 1 was likely to have been caused by a recent animal burial. Trench 2 targeted a linear anomaly which upon excavation appeared to be geological in origin and of no archaeological interest. However, this trench did uncover a linear feature and a post-hole which may be of archaeological interest.

Trenches 1 and 2 were located on a small plateau located on the westernmost boundary of the proposed development area. Such sites were favoured sites for prehistoric settlement and it is possible, therefore, that the limited archaeological remains recorded within Trench 2 are evidence of this. The proximity of the boundary and the extensive development beyond suggests that any remaining archaeological remains within the proposed development area may be limited to this high ground only.

5. Archive & Publication

The site archive consists of :

- 1 A2 permagraph sheets contain plans, sections & context descriptions
- CD containing 15 digital images
- 1 A4 contact sheet
- 15 Black & White negatives and contact prints
- 1 A4 photo index sheet
- 3 A4 trench recording sheets
- 1 A4 context summary sheet
- 1 A4 paper drawing showing gas main & easement

Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report Number 2010-133)

The archive will be held at Leicester County Council Museums under the Accession Number X.A116.2010

A version of the summary (above) will be submitted to the editor of the local journal *Transactions of Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* for inclusion in the next edition.

6. References

Clarke, S.J. 2009 *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of Land Adjacent to Leicester Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire (SP 493 948)*. ULAS Report 2009-182.

Hancock, A. 2010 *Geophysical Survey of Land Adjacent to Leicester Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire*. ULAS Report 2010-080.

IfA, 2008 *Code of Conduct*

IfA, 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

LCC 2010 *Brief for archaeological evaluation of land at Leicester Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire NGR SP439 948*

ULAS 2010 *Design Specification for archaeological work at Leicester Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire NGR SP439 948*



Figure 4: Trench 2 in Plan.

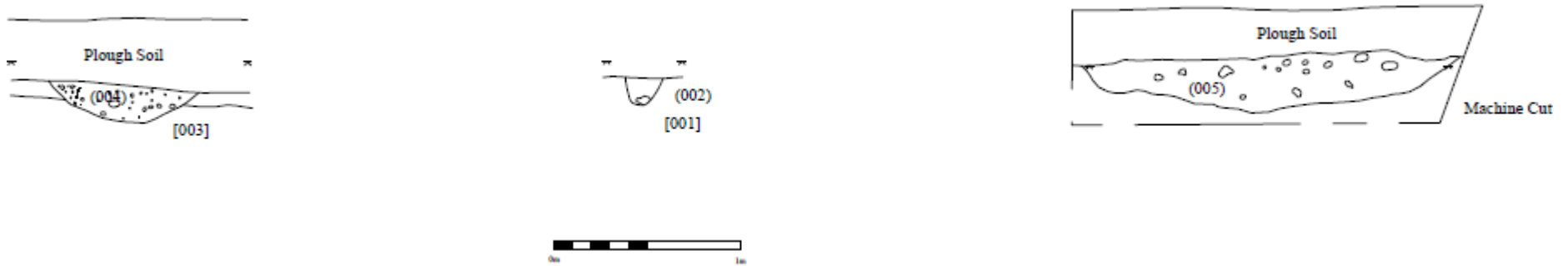


Figure 5: Trench 2 Excavated Sections.



Figure 6: North-east facing section of [001].



Figure 7: South-east facing section of [003].

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT SPECIFICATION

1 Introduction

Definition and scope of the specification

- 1.1 This document is a design specification for an initial phase of archaeological investigation at the above site, in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5). This specification provides a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for a phase of intrusive archaeological field evaluation. The fieldwork specified below is intended to provide preliminary indications of character and extent of any buried archaeological remains in order that the potential impact of the development on such remains may be assessed by the Planning Authority.
- 1.2 The definition of archaeological field evaluation, taken from the Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance: for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008) is a limited programme of non-intrusive and/ or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.
- 1.3 The document provides details of the work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client, and should be submitted to the Archaeological Advisor to the Planning Authority for approval before archaeological investigation by ULAS is implemented.

2 Background

Context of the Project

- 2.1 This document deals with a proposed development on land off Leicester Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire SP 439 938 (Fig. 1). The site consists of approximately 8.2ha within which Fisher German Chartered Surveyors are proposing a scheme of residential development, to incorporate c. 232 dwellings within a network of footpaths, access roads and landscaped garden areas.
- 2.2 An archaeological evaluation of the site has been requested by Leicestershire County Council Historic and Natural Environment Team on behalf of the planning authority by trial trenching to test geophysical anomalies.

Geological and Topographical Background

- 2.3 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 169 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Oadby Till, a mainly grey pebbly clay, with chalk inclusions, with the potential for Wolston Sand and Gravel towards the eastern boundaries of the application area.

Archaeological Background (taken from the DBA)

- 2.4 The proposed development area is in a semi-rural location, just to the east of the modern suburban sprawl of Hinckley town, and to the west of Burbage Common. There are no known archaeological sites within the development area itself, although the Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland has details of a number of sites in the vicinity, including Roman remains very close by.

Requirement for archaeological work

- 2.5 The archaeological adviser to the planning authority has recommended a programme of trial trenching to target anomalies identified during the geophysical survey, to be undertaken using a machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, followed by archaeological excavation of any archaeological deposits. This will take the form of three 30m x 1.6m wide trenches, although the size and shape of these may be modified depending on site or health and safety constraints (Fig. 2).

3 Archaeological Objectives

- 3.1 The main objective of the evaluation is through archaeological trial trenching:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits in areas to be affected by the development.
 - To provide information on the extent, character, condition and date range of archaeological deposits within the application area.
 - To assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains.
 - To produce an archive and report of any results.
- 3.2 Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area. Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation is to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

4 Methodology

General Methodology and Standards

- 4.1 All work will follow the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2008) and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008).
- 4.2 Staffing, recording systems, health and safety provisions and insurance details are included below.
- 4.3 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site by the project manager. These will ensure that project targets are met and professional standards are maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with the Planning Authority and the Client, if required.

Trial Trenching Methodology

- 4.4 Prior to any machining of trial trenches general photographs of the site areas may be taken.
- 4.5 The provisional trench plan attached (Fig. 2) shows the proposed locations of the trenches positioned to target geophysical anomalies. The size and position of the trenches indicated on the provisional trench plan may vary due to unforeseen site constraints or archaeology.
- 4.6 Topsoil and overburden will be removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket. Trenches will be excavated down to the top of archaeological deposits or natural undisturbed ground, whichever is reached first.
- 4.7 Trenches will be examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located will be planned at an appropriate scale. Archaeological deposits will be sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.
- 4.8 Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan. All plans will be tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Relative spot heights will be taken as appropriate.
- 4.9 Sections of any excavated archaeological features will be drawn at an appropriate scale. At least one longitudinal face of each trench will be recorded. All sections will be levelled and tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum, or a permanent fixed benchmark.
- 4.10 Trench locations will be recorded by an appropriate method. These will then be tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.
- 4.11 Any human remains encountered will initially be left in situ and will only be removed if necessary for their protection, under Ministry of Justice guidelines and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations.
- 4.12 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the project a contingency may be required to clarify the character or extent of additional features. The contingency will only be initiated after consultation with the Client and the Planning

Archaeologist and Planning Authority. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement an amended scheme of investigation on behalf of the client as appropriate.

- 4.13 The trenches will be backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.

Recording Systems

- 4.14 Any archaeological deposits encountered will be recorded and excavated using standard procedures as outlined in the ULAS recording manual. Sufficient of any archaeological features or deposits will be hand excavated in order to provide the information required.
- 4.15. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets.
- 4.16 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made on drawing film, related to the OS grid and at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Elevations and sections of individual layers of features should be drawn where possible. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans.
- 4.17 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.
- 4.18 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the project.

6. Finds

- 6.1 The *IfA Guidelines for Finds Work* will be adhered to.
- 6.2 Before commencing work on the site, a Site code/Accession number will be agreed with the Planning Archaeologist that will be used to identify all records and finds from the site.
- 6.3 All antiquities, valuables, objects or remains of archaeological interest, other than articles declared by Coroner's Inquest to be subject to the Treasure Act, discovered in or under the Site during the carrying out of the project by ULAS or during works carried out on the Site by the Client shall be deemed to be the property of ULAS provided that ULAS after due examination of the said Archaeological Discoveries shall transfer ownership of all Archaeological Discoveries unconditionally to the appropriate authority for storage in perpetuity.
- 6.4 All identified finds and artefacts are to be retained, although certain classes of building material will, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording with the approval of the Planning Archaeologist.
- 6.5 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner. Where appropriate they will be cleaned, marked and receive remedial conservation in accordance with recognised best-practice. This will include the site code number, finds number and context number. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self sealing plastic bags, again marked with site code, finds and context numbers and boxed by material in standard storage boxes. All materials will be fully labelled, catalogued and stored in appropriate containers.

7. Environmental Sampling

- 7.1. If features are appropriate for environmental sampling a strategy and methodology will be developed on site following advice from ULAS's Environmental Specialist. Preparation, taking, processing and assessment of environmental samples will be in accordance with current best practice. The sampling strategy is likely to include the following:
- A range of features to represent all feature types, areas and phases will be selected on a judgmental basis. The criteria for selection will be that deposits are datable, well sealed and with little intrusive or residual material.
 - Any buried soils or well-sealed deposits with concentrations of carbonised material present will be intensively sampled taking a known proportion of the deposit.
 - Spot samples will be taken where concentrations of environmental remains are located.

- Waterlogged remains, if present, will be sampled for pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and radiocarbon dating provided that they are uncontaminated.
- 7.2 All collected samples will be labelled with context and sequential sample numbers.
- 7.3 Appropriate contexts will be bulk sampled (15 litre or the whole context depending on size) for the recovery of carbonised plant remains and insects.
- 7.4 Recovery of small animal bones, bird bone and large molluscs will normally be achieved through processing other bulk samples or 30 litre samples may be taken specifically to sample particularly rich deposits.
- 7.6 Wet sieving with flotation will be carried out using a York Archaeological Trust sieving tank with a 0.5mm mesh and a 0.3mm flotation sieve. The small size mesh will be used initially as flotation of plant remains may be incomplete and some may remain in the residue. The residue > 0.5mm from the tank will be separated into coarse fractions of over 4mm and fine fractions of > 0.5-4mm. The coarse fractions will be sorted for finds. The fine fractions and flots will be evaluated and prioritised; only those with remains apparent will be sorted. The prioritised flots will not be sorted until the analysis stage when phasing information is available. Flots will be scanned and plant remains from selected contexts will be identified and further sampling, sieving and sorting targeted towards higher potential deposits.

8 Report and Archive

- 8.1 A draft version of the report will normally be presented within four weeks of completion of site works. The full report in A4 format will usually follow within eight weeks. Copies will be provided for the client and the Local Planning Authority and deposited with the Historic Environment Record.
- 8.2 The report will include consideration of:
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
 - The nature, location and extent of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
 - The anticipated degree of survival of archaeological deposits.
 - The anticipated archaeological impact of the current proposals.
 - Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
 - Summary.
 - The location and size of the archive.
 - A quantitative and qualitative assessment of the potential of the archive for further analysis leading to full publication, following guidelines laid down in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage).
- 8.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in the IfA Standard and Guidance for archaeological archives (Brown 2008) will normally be presented to Leicestershire County Council within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.
- 8.4 The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

9 Publication and Dissemination of Results

- 9.1 A summary report will be submitted to a suitable regional archaeological journal following completion of the fieldwork. A full report will be submitted to a national or period journal if the results are of significance.
- 9.2 University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS form at <http://ads.ac.uk/project/oasis> will be completed detailing the results of the project. ULAS

will contact the HER prior to completion of the form. Once a report has become a public document following its incorporation into the HER it may be placed on the web-site.

10 Acknowledgement and Publicity

- 10.1 ULAS shall acknowledge the contribution of the Client in any displays, broadcasts or publications relating to the site or in which the report may be included.
- 10.2 ULAS and the Client shall each ensure that a senior employee shall be responsible for dealing with any enquiries received from press, television and any other broadcasting media and members of the public. All enquiries made to ULAS shall be directed to the Client for comment.

11 Monitoring arrangements

- 11.1 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and Planning Archaeologist subject to the health and safety requirements of the site.
- 11.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the IfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (2008)
- 11.3 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

12 Timetable and Staffing

- 12.1 The trial trenching has been programmed to start on the 20th July. The work is likely to take two days to complete. At least one experienced archaeologist will be present during this work.
- 12.2 The on-site director/supervisor will carry out the post-excavation work, with time allocated within the costing of the project for analysis of any artefacts found on the site by the relevant in-house specialists at ULAS.

13 Health and Safety

- 13.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (revised 2005) with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is in the Appendix. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate.

14 Insurance

- 14.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with St Pauls Travellers Policy No. UCPOP3651237 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters (50%) and Brit Insurances (50%) Policy No. FUNK3605.

15 Bibliography

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

Clarke, S., 2009 An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment of land adjacent to Leicester Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire (SP 439 948). ULAS Report 2009-182

IfA, 2008 *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*

IfA, 2008 *Codes of Conduct*

LCC, 2009, *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching of Land at Farm Cottage, Main Street, Gunmley, Leicestershire NGR SP683 898*

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5th July 2010

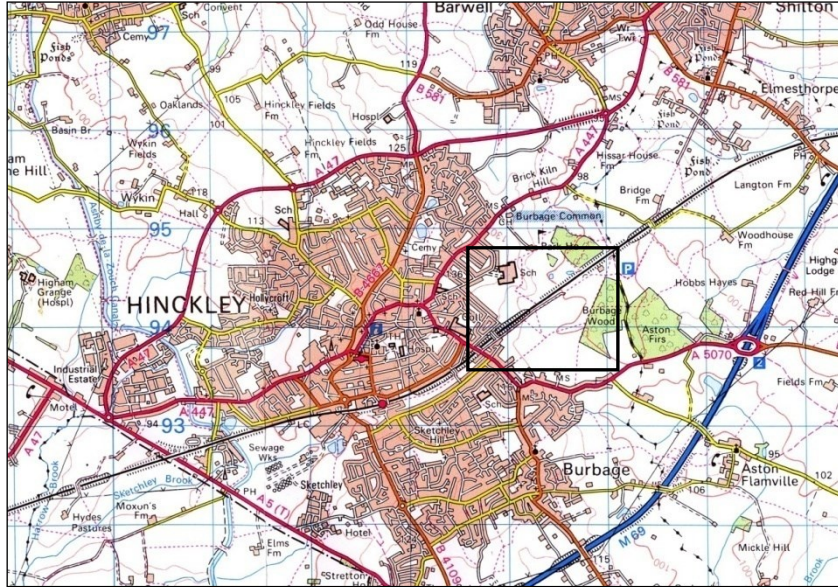


Figure 1 Site Location NTS. Plan provided by client.

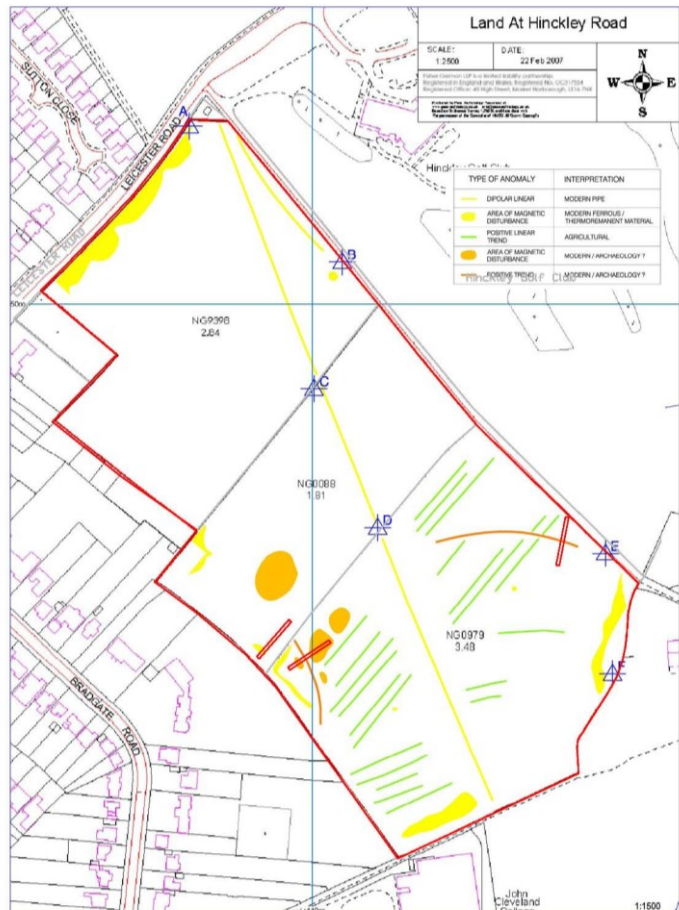


Figure 2 Proposed trench plan (Trenches in red), overlain on the geophysical survey. NTS.

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

1 Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for archaeological excavation.

1.2 The work will involve excavation of trial trenches during daylight hours and recording of any underlying archaeological deposits revealed. Overall depth is likely to be c. 0.5 - 1m. Work will involve the examination of the exposed surface with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and excavation of archaeological features. All work will adhere to the University of Leicester Health and Safety Policy and follow the guidance in the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (2001) together with the following relevant Health and Safety guidelines.

- HSE Construction Information Sheet CS8 Safety in excavations.
- HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)143 (L): Getting to grips with manual handling.
- HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)145 (L): Watch Your back.
- CIRIA R97 Trenching practice.
- CIRIA TN95 Proprietary Trench Support Systems.
- HSE Guidance Note HS(G) 47 Avoiding danger to underground services. HSE Guidance Note GS7 Accidents to children on construction sites

1.4 A risk assessment will be undertaken prior to work taking place, and will be reassessed during the evaluation .

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 Working within a building site

Precautions. No work will be undertaken beneath section faces. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. Hard hats will be worn at all times. A member of staff qualified in First Aid will be present at all times. First aid kit, vehicle and mobile phone to be kept on site in case of emergency.

2.2 Working with plant.

Precautions. Hard hats, protective footwear and hazard jackets will be worn at all times. No examination of the area of stripping will take place until machines have vacated area. Observation of machines will be maintained during hand excavation. Liaison will be maintained with the contractors to ensure programme of machine movement is understood.

2.3 Working within areas prone to waterlogging.

Protective clothing will be worn at all times and precautions taken to prevent contact with stagnant water which may carry Weils disease or similar.

2.4 Working with chemicals.

If chemicals are used to conserve or help lift archaeological material these will only be used by qualified personnel with protective clothing (i.e a trained conservator) and will be removed from site immediately after use.

2.5 Other risks

Precautions. If there is any suspicion of unforeseen hazards being encountered e.g chemical contaminants, unexploded bombs, hazardous gases work will cease immediately. The client and relevant public authorities will be informed immediately.

2.9 No other constraints are recognised over the nature of the soil, water, type of excavation, proximity of structures, sources of vibration and contamination.

Vicki Score
05-07-2010

Contact Details

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