



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation
on land off Britannia Rd,
Burbage, Leicestershire
NGR: SP 440 919 centre**

Jon Coward



ULAS Report No 2010-088.
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on land off Britannia Rd,
Burbage, Leicestershire**

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Jon Coward

For: J.M.Knapp and Sons Ltd

Approved by



Signed: ...

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An Archaeological Evaluation on land off Britannia Rd, Burbage, Leicestershire SP 440 919 centre

1. Summary

An archaeological evaluation by metal detector survey and trial trenching was carried out in May 2010 by ULAS on land off Britannia Road, Burbage, Leicestershire SP 440 919 for J.M. Knapp and Sons Ltd, in advance of proposed residential development. Several features were located, including pits, gullies and ditches. Some of the features contained Roman pottery, and there was also prehistoric flint recovered from the fills. There was evidence of dumping and perhaps earthmoving over parts of the southern area of the site. The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council under accession code X.A.78.2010 in due course.

2. Background

The application area lies to the south-west of the village of Burbage, and covers an area of c. 2.4 hectares. It is currently under pasture. There is recent residential development along the northern and north-eastern boundary. To the south and east there is agricultural land while to the west there are playing fields. The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 169 indicates that the underlying geology of the site is likely to consist of Thrussington Till. The site slopes from the north-north-west at c.120m O.D to the south-south-east at c. 115m O.D. A public footpath bisects the site, running east-north-east to west-south-west across the centre.

3. Historical Background

A desk-based assessment had been prepared for the area (Richards 2009). The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland records that a number of archaeological sites have been identified in the vicinity of the development area. In addition to the historic settlement core of Burbage, which contains a number of listed buildings and other post-medieval archaeological remains, there are also significant archaeological remains within the immediate vicinity, west of the proposed development area, including an Anglo Saxon Brooch (HER ref MLE 6181) and twelve Roman coins (HER ref MLE 2846). Although not on the HER a ring ditch, possibly indicating the former location of a Bronze Age burial mound is located immediately to the south-east of the application area.

A geophysical survey by detailed magnetometry had been undertaken for the area (Butler 2010). This had located some geophysical anomalies suggesting a possible enclosure to the north-east, medieval ridge and furrow (strip field systems), ferrous signals and much building debris (Butler 2010; Fig. 3). The ridge and furrow evident in the geophysical survey was not easily distinguished on the ground, especially in the southernmost field.

4. Aims

The main objectives of the evaluation 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 produce an archive and report of any results.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation was 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.

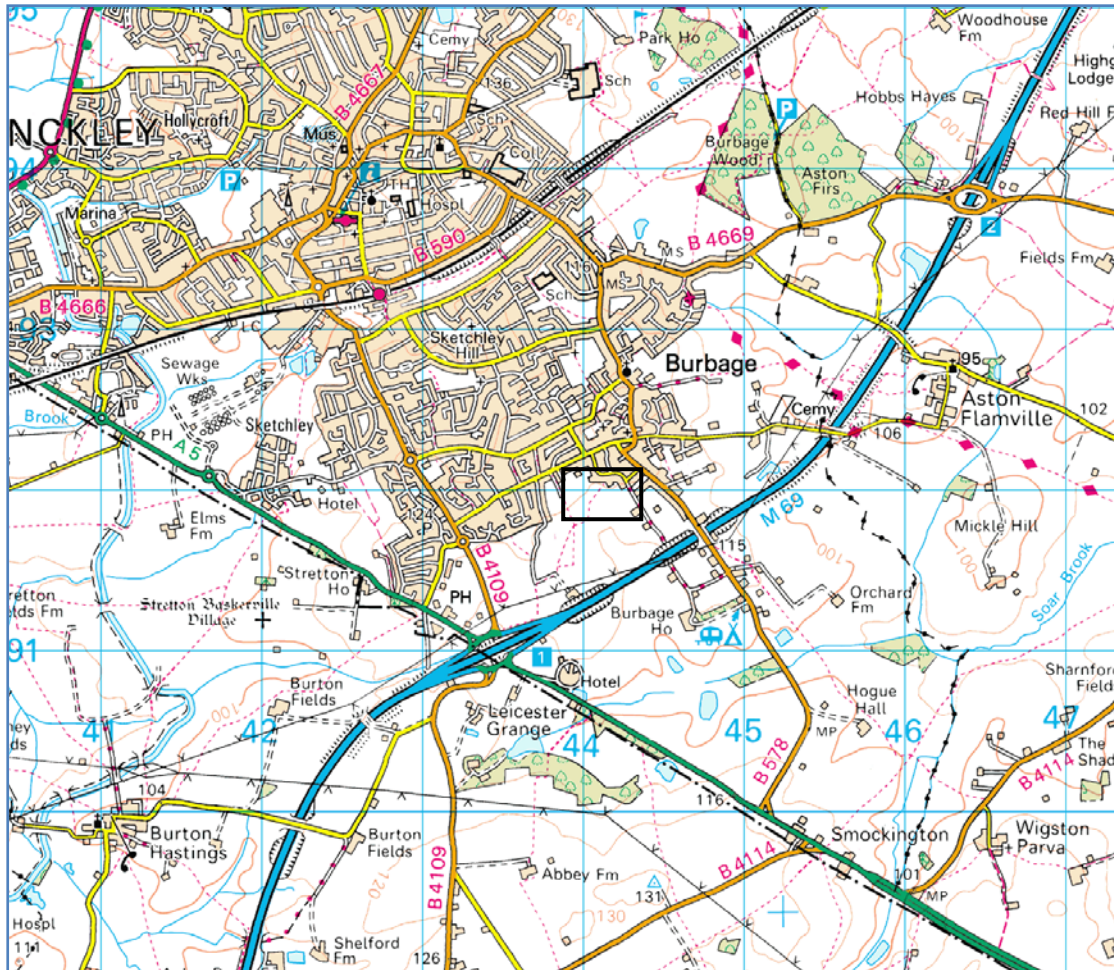


Figure 1 Site Location

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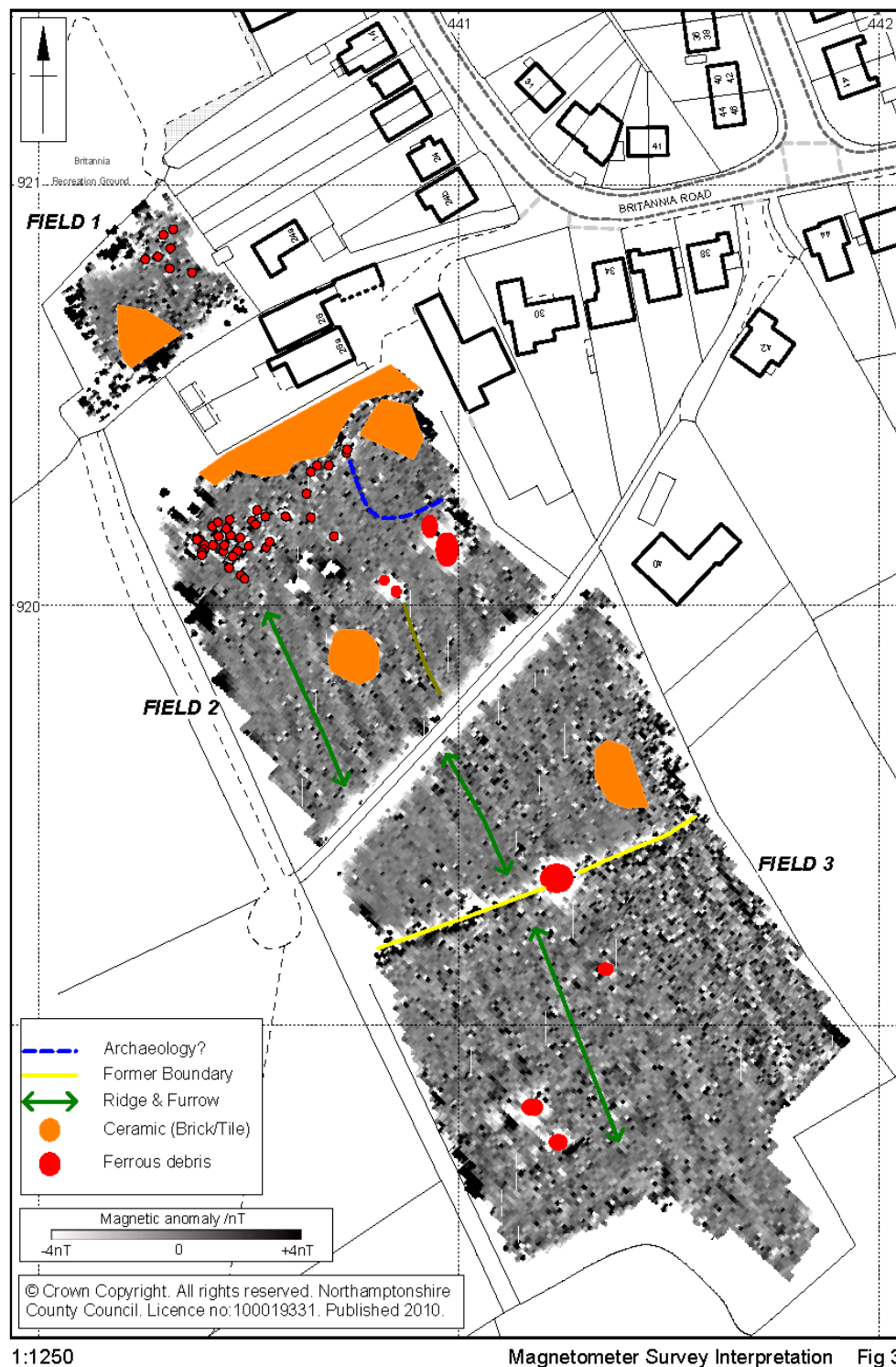


Figure 2 Geophysical survey interpretation (from Butler 2010)

5. Methods

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008).

The Metal detector survey was carried out using a Laser B3 detector with an 8 inch concentric polo head. Discrimination was set at 2 (scale 0-10) so that the machine would reject small ferrous objects such as (25mm) nails etc.

Where possible fields were traversed in sweeps of centred on a three metre wide transect in a north-east/south-west direction.

A c. 2% sample of the area was targeted by trial trenching. Topsoil/modern overburden was removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision, down to the uppermost archaeological deposits or natural substrata by a JCB using a toothless 1.5m ditching bucket. The trenching targeted a vaguely defined geophysical anomaly in the north-east corner of the development area, and provided a sample across the rest of the area with a bias to the west side in response to the HER data. The trenches were positioned to avoid the furrows insofar as they were visible on the surface, or kinked if it seemed that a trench was straddling a furrow in the subsoil. All were aligned north-west to south-east other than the shorter trenches 4 and 15 which were north-east to south-west. Cut numbers are indicated by square brackets with fills in round brackets e.g [8], (15).

6. Results

6.1 Metal detector survey *Ken Wallace*

The survey was undertaken on April 18th 2010 on two of the small rough pasture fields situated to the south west of Britannia Road and to the east of the recreation ground in the village of Burbage.

Field 1. The northernmost and smallest field was not surveyed as the owner of the field could not be contacted for permission.

Fields 2 & 3. It was apparent that there had been extensive metal detecting on both these fields in the recent past, with lots of spade cut divots, holes and discarded pieces of iron in evidence.

Two local residents whose properties back onto the fields, they both stated that the fields were 'often metal detected'.

The survey failed to make any finds of historic or archaeological interest.

6.2 Trial trenching

All trenches aligned north-north-west to-south-south-east except for trenches 4 and 15 which were west-south-west to east-north-east.

The north field

Trench 1

Trench 1 exhibited a grey-brown sandy silt topsoil, with a mid-brown sandy-clay subsoil over a mixed sand, pebble, and gravel natural substratum with one band of pink-brown clay. Immediately beneath the subsoil on the interface with the natural substratum a gully [28] and a post-hole or pit [31] were located. The gully was *c.* 0.40m in width and 0.15m in depth, with a grey silty clay fill which included some charcoal fragments. The pit, which ran into the east baulk, was *c.* 0.90m in width and 0.40m in depth, with a grey silty sandy clay fill including some charcoal fragments. A flint bladelet was recovered from the fill. Archaeological deposits were encountered at *c.* 0.55m below ground level.



Figure 3 Trench locations. Larger scale plans are in Figures 4-6.

Interval from S end	1m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m
Topsoil depth cm from G.L	30	30	25	25	25	30	25
Subsoil depth cm from G.L	70	80	70	50	55	50	45
Subsoil(2) depth cm from G.L							
Top of natural substrata depth cm from G.L	70	80	70	50	55	50	45
Base of trench	90	100	80	60	60	60	55

Trench 2

Trench 2 exhibited a grey-brown sandy silt topsoil, with a mid-brown sandy clay subsoil; beneath this was another subsoil of brownish grey clay above natural substrata of yellowish sand and sandy clay. A single narrow linear feature [32] of 0.25m width and 0.25m depth ran up most of the trench, well-defined in the south and central parts where it appeared c. 0.65m below ground level, becoming more vague to the north end. The fill was a mid-brown silty sandy clay with pebbles, the excavated section showed a profile with vertical sides and a flattish base.

Interval from S end	1m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m
Topsoil depth cm from G.L	30	25	25	25	25		
Subsoil depth cm from G.L	50	40	40	50	40		
Subsoil(2) depth cm from G.L	75	70	60	60	55		
Top of natural substrata depth cm from G.L	85	70	60	65	50		
Base of trench	90	75	65	70	50		

Trench 3

Trench 3 exhibited a grey-brown sandy silt topsoil, with a mid-brown sandy-clay subsoil; beneath this was another subsoil of brownish grey clay over a natural substratum of pebbles and stones in a sandy clay matrix. No finds or features were noted in this trench.

Interval from S end	1m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m
---------------------	----	----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Topsoil depth cm from G.L	25	25	25	25	30		
Subsoil depth cm from G.L	50	40	50	50	70		
Subsoil(2) depth cm from G.L	70	70	85	80	100		
Top of natural substrata depth cm from G.L	75	75	85	90	105		
Base of trench	75	75	85	85	105		

Trenches 4 and 5

Positioned to intersect with geophysical anomalies noted in the north-eastern corner of the site, trenches 4 and 5 exhibited a grey-brown sandy-silt topsoil, with a mid-brown sandy clay subsoil. Trench 5, which was dug north to south, was kinked after 15m to avoid what appeared to be a possible plough furrow running down its west side. No features were visible in the subsoil or natural substratum which corresponded with the east-west line of the geophysical anomaly; however there was a vague band of differing vegetation on the surface which respected the anomaly, and topsoil mixed into the subsoil was visible in the baulk section at this point. South of this the trench flooded immediately on excavation, although no features were noted during machining. Investigation of the putative furrow gave inconclusive results, with a greyish silty fill in a wide shallow cut [24] consistent with a furrow; however within it was a narrower and deeper (0.20m width by 0.20m depth) cut with similar fill. Another section through this feature to the north showed the narrower cut [26] without the broad shallow component. These features appeared c.0.50m below ground level.

Trench 4 was dug perpendicularly to the west to cross the return of the anomaly; a north-south land drain was encountered in the subsoil on the eastern edge of the trench, and another encountered on the west edge, corresponding to the line of the anomaly.

Interval from N end	1m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m
Topsoil depth cm from G.L	20	30	20	20	20		
Subsoil depth cm from G.L	50	50	45	40	50		
Subsoil(2) depth cm from G.L							
Top of natural substrata depth cm from G.L	55	55	60	60	70		
Base of trench	55	55	60	60	70		

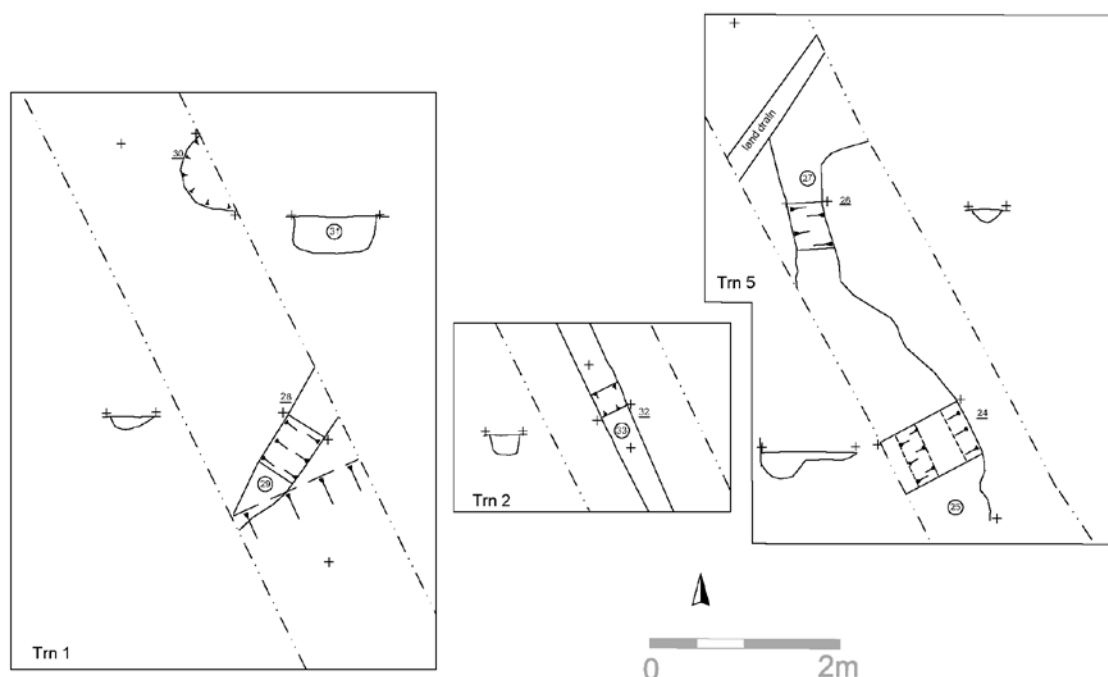


Figure 4 Detail of trenches 1, 2 and 5 in the north field

6.2 Results: the south field

Trench 6

Trench 6 exhibited a mid-grey clay-sand topsoil with abundant charcoal and ash fragments, and a clean mid-brown sandy-clay subsoil. Beneath this a further subsoil was encountered, consisting of a very clean light grey clay with abundant ironpan and/or manganese mottling. A mixed biege sand and sandy clay was present at about 110cm depth. Initially the grey clay was machined off, but as it was totally sterile and appeared to be the natural substratum, it was left partially in place at the base of the southern half of the trench. At the south end, roots confirmed the presence of a removed hedge boundary, as interpreted by the geophysical survey. No features nor finds were encountered.

Interval from S end	1m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m
Topsoil depth cm from G.L	30	25	30	25	30		
Subsoil depth cm from G.L	80	80	80	80	80		
Subsoil(2) depth cm from G.L	105	95	95	105	105		
Top of natural substrata	110	100	100	115	115		

depth cm from G.L							
Base of trench	110	100	100	115	115		

Trench 7

Trench 7 exhibited a mid-grey brown sandy-silt topsoil, and a mid-brown sandy-clay subsoil. Both were unusually clean and virtually free of any coarse components such as charcoal fragments or pebbles. Beneath this a deep layer of homogenous mid-grey clay with charcoal staining was present down to c. 1m below ground level. This was removed to show a mixed natural substratum consisting of pale sands with varying amounts of gravels and pebbles, together with sandy-clay areas. No finds or features were recovered

Interval from S end	1m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m
Topsoil depth cm from G.L	30	30	30	25	25		
Subsoil depth cm from G.L	50	60	65	60	60		
Subsoil(2) depth cm from G.L	90	100	95	95	90		
Top of natural substrata depth cm from G.L	95	1005	100	100	95		
Base of trench	100	110	105	100	100		

Trench 8

Trench 8 exhibited a dark grey clay-sand topsoil with abundant charcoal and ash fragments, and a grey-brown sandy-clay subsoil with abundant pebbles and stone fragments over an orange beige clay natural substratum. Several features were observed beneath the subsoil cutting a natural substratum, at a depth below ground level of c. 0.50m at the south to 0.70m at the north.

Starting from the south end, a post-hole (1) of 0.30m diameter by 0.25m depth had a large stone, which was plausible post-packing, within the fill. Immediately adjacent was a 1.30m wide ditch (4) of 0.50m depth, and to the north a further ditch (6) of similar width but slightly less depth which ran on a different alignment. The centre of the trench showed a possible shallow (0.10m) posthole (8) running into the west baulk, a butt end of a 0.15m depth linear (10), two intersecting linears (12, 14) of 0.15m depth, and a further linear feature (16) of 0.15m depth at the north end. All the fills were light or mid-grey brown silty-clay, with varying amounts of charcoal flecks.

Interval from S end	1m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m
Topsoil depth cm from G.L	25	30	30	30	30		
Subsoil depth cm from G.L	50	50	50	70	70		
Subsoil(2) depth							

cm from G.L							
Top of natural substrata depth cm from G.L	50	50	50	70	70		
Base of trench	55	55	55	75	85		

Ditch (4) contained Roman Grey ware and Black Burnished ware together with some flint fragments

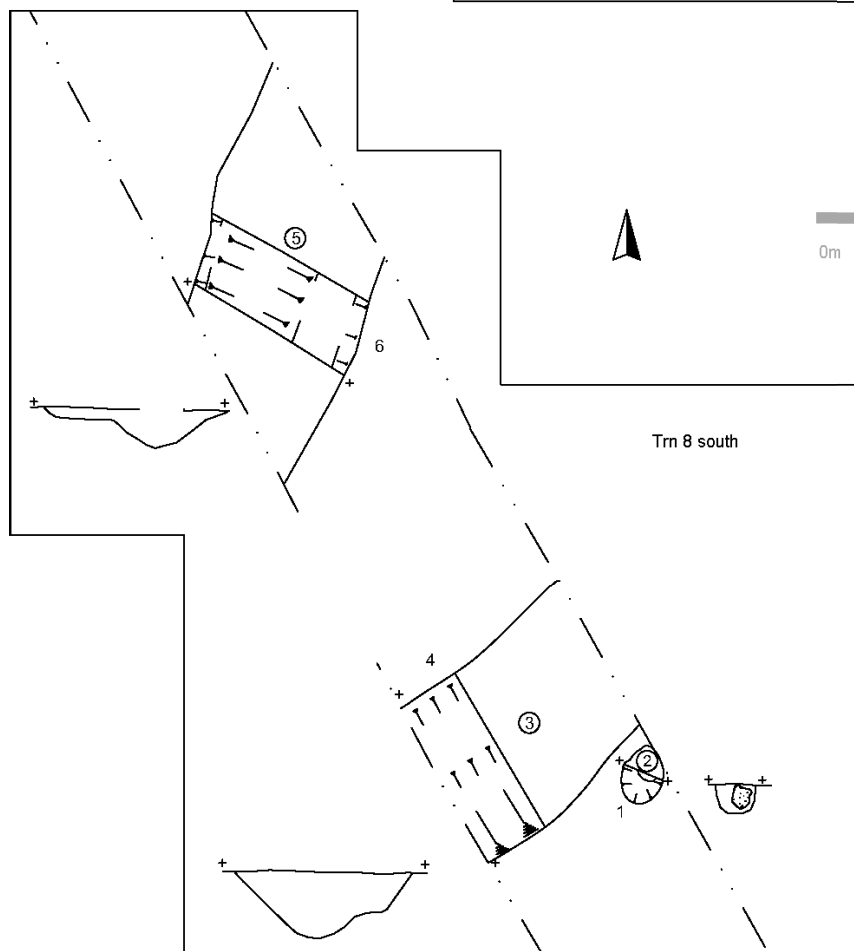
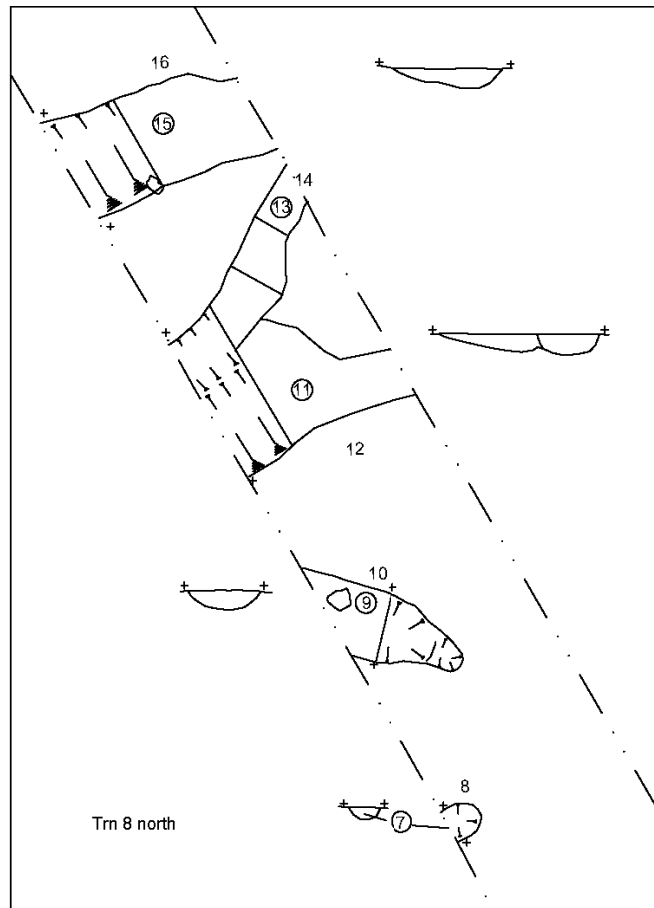


Figure 5 Features in trench 8

Trench 9

Trench 9 exhibited a dark grey clay- sand topsoil with abundant charcoal and ash fragments, and a mid-brown sandy clay pebbly subsoil, above a pink-red clay and clean orange sand natural substrata. Some anomalies were noted but appeared on excavation to be variations within the natural substrata; no other features or finds were located.

Interval from S end	1m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m
Topsoil depth cm from G.L	30	30	30	30	30		
Subsoil depth cm from G.L	70	70	60	50	70		
Subsoil(2) depth cm from G.L							
Top of natural substrata depth cm from G.L	85	80	70	60	75		
Base of trench	90	85	70	60	80		

Trench 10

Trench 10 was doglegged after the first four metres to avoid a land drain which was running down the trench. It exhibited a mid-grey brown clay-silt topsoil, and a clean mid-brown sandy-clay subsoil. Beneath this subsoil was a further homogenous mid- grey clay with abundant charcoal staining. This was removed to reveal mixed natural substrata of beige and pale grey sandy-clay, patches of pebbles and yellow sandy clay. Several features were observed beneath the mid-grey clay subsoil, cutting the natural substratum, at a depth below ground level of c. 0.80m at the south to 0.90m at the north.

From the south end, a ditch (18), 1.20m in width and 0.35m in depth, contained Roman Oxidized ware and flint. To the centre north was a narrow gully (20) of 0.30m width and 0.25m depth, also with Roman Oxidized ware in the fill, and a ditch (22) of 0.90m width and 0.35m depth. All the fills were a similar firm blue-grey sandy-clay.

Interval from S end	1m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m
Topsoil depth cm from G.L	25	30	25	20	20	30	35
Subsoil depth cm from G.L	50	50	50	40	60	60	70
Subsoil(2) depth cm from G.L	80	75	74	70	80	90	90
Top of natural substrata depth cm from G.L	90	80	80	75	85	95	95
Base of trench	90	80	80	75	85	95	95

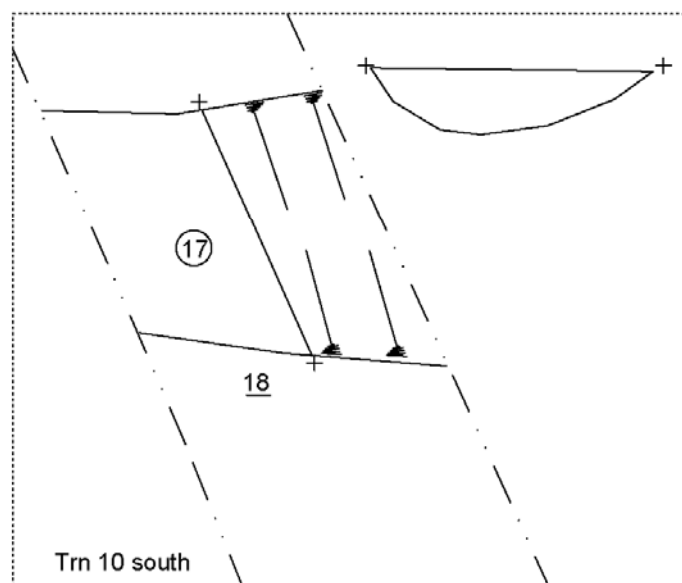
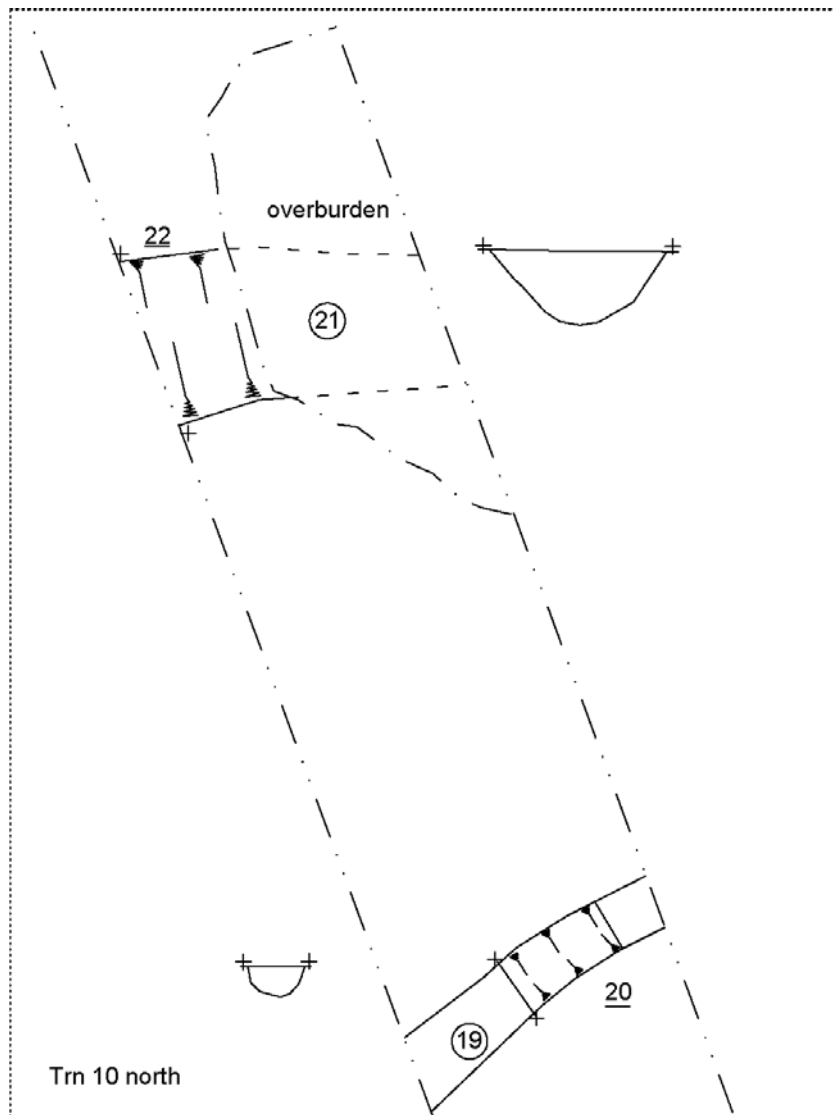


Figure 6 Features in trench 10



Figure 7 Ditch 18 in trench 10, looking south-east
Note clean grey clay ?colluvium underlying brown clay subsoil.

Trench 11

Trench 11 was doglegged after 3m to avoid a land drain running down its east side. It exhibited a mid-grey clay-sand topsoil with abundant charcoal and ash fragments, and a clean mid-brown sandy-clay subsoil. Beneath this was a disturbed dark grey clay with patches of stones, decayed wood fragments, and patches of yellow sandy clay with gravel inclusions. This continued down to c. 1m below ground level and caused the trench to flood on being machined out. No convincing undisturbed substrata were reached, and the trench was abandoned after machining 14m.

note: missing measurements below are due to the trench flooding on excavation

Interval from S end	1m	5m	10m	14m	20m	25m	30m
Topsoil depth cm from G.L	30	30	30	30			
Subsoil depth	60	60	60	60			

cm from G.L							
Subsoil(2) depth cm from G.L	95						
Top of natural substrata depth cm from G.L							
Base of trench	100						

Trench 12

This trench exhibited a dark grey sandy-clay topsoil with abundant charcoal, ash, and fragments of modern ceramics, over a mid-brown sandy-clay subsoil with charcoal staining which existed only at the north end. To the centre and south of the trench this was replaced by the disturbed dark grey clay with numerous inclusions also observed in trench 11. A yellowish sandy clay natural substratum was encountered at the north end, but this was increasingly being cut into by the mixed layer above as the trench progressed southwards, and the trench began flooding. The trench was abandoned after *c.* 10.5m of machining

note: the missing measurements below are due to the trench flooding on excavation

Interval from S end	1m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m
Topsoil depth cm from G.L	30	30	30				
Subsoil depth cm from G.L			50				
Subsoil(2) depth cm from G.L							
Top of natural substrata depth cm from G.L							
Base of trench							

Trench 13

This trench exhibited a mid-grey clay-sand topsoil with abundant charcoal and ash fragments, and a clean mid-brown sandy-clay subsoil, above a yellow and orange yellow sandy clay natural substratum. No finds or features were located.

Interval from S end	1m	5m	10m	15m	19m	25m	30m
Topsoil depth cm from G.L	20	20	20	20	20		
Subsoil depth cm from G.L	40	40	40	40	40		
Subsoil(2) depth cm from G.L							
Top of natural substrata depth cm from G.L	40	40	40	40	40		

Base of trench	45	45	45	45	45		
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Trench 14

This trench exhibited a dark grey clay-sand topsoil with abundant charcoal and ash fragments, and a clean mid-brown sandy clay subsoil, over reddish-brown clay natural substratum. No finds nor features were encountered with the exception of a modern land drain running across the north end of the trench at an angle

Interval from N end	1m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m
Topsoil depth cm from G.L	30	30	30	30	30		
Subsoil depth cm from G.L	45	50	55	50	50		
Subsoil(2) depth cm from G.L							
Top of natural substrata depth cm from G.L	55	60	60	60	60		
Base of trench	55	60	60	60	60		

Trench 15

Trench 15 was positioned to attempt to define the extent of the area of disturbance in the south-western quadrant of the development area evidenced in trenches 11 and 12. An ill-formed clay topsoil containing abundant charcoal, ash, and broken modern ceramics lay over a layer of sandy pebbles at a depth of 0.40m. A machine sondage was cut into this sandy pebble layer to try to determine its provenance; it appeared to be undisturbed natural substratum. This was cut into by a square-edged cut full of a modern dark-grey clay fill, and further machining eastwards revealed more of these straight-edged cuts filled with this material. No finds or features of any antiquity were revealed in the trench.

Interval from W end	1m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m
Topsoil depth cm from G.L	40	40	40	40			
Subsoil depth cm from G.L							
Subsoil(2) depth cm from G.L							
Top of natural substrata depth cm from G.L	40	40	40	40			
Base of trench	45	45	45	45			

7 Discussion

The northern field

Archaeological features were encountered in trenches 1, 2, and 5, but dating is uncertain as the single piece of flint from pit [30] in trench 1 may be residual. No good confirmation of an enclosure in the north-east corner corresponding to the vague geophysical anomaly was revealed, although some features both on the surface and in the soil could hint at an explanation for it. The land drain on the west edge of trench 4 was of unusual construction and position in that it lay immediately under the turf within the topsoil, and was constructed of large glazed collared ceramic pipes butted together as found with Victorian sewerage systems. It is entirely possible that this shallow ceramic structure could have caused the north-north-west/south-south-east geophysical response; although the anomaly is indicated in the interpretation to turn east, a continuation of the line of this anomaly is visible further south in the raw geophysical data (interpreted as a field boundary) where the polarised nature of the response could be caused by a line of ceramic pipes magnetised during firing.

The southern field

Clear evidence for archaeological activity was revealed in the north and east of the southern field, with ditches, gullies and post-holes or pits present. This is presumed to represent Roman occupation on the basis of the pottery dates, though there was also a significant quantity of prehistoric flint present.

Interpreting the various soil formations exposed in the southern field is problematic. The trenching (9, 13, 14) in the east and south-east of the southern field were negative, exhibiting a 'standard' progression of topsoil-subsoil-natural substratum.

Trench 8 also shows a topsoil-subsoil-natural substratum progression, and *in-situ* archaeology which obviously extends beyond the trench itself, while to the west were the deeper negative trenches 7 and 6. South of the removed field boundary in trenches 10 and partly in trench 11 an homogenous mid-grey clay with charcoal flecks had built up, sealing the archaeological features in trench 10; the origin of this stratum is unclear, although being on a slope in a field which has obvious drainage problems leads to the possibility that this may be an unusual form of colluviation derived from run-off upslope.

Parts of the south-western area have been disturbed, most probably in the recent past. The JCB operator, a local man, stated that his father thought that the area had been used as a dump for ash and rubbish at some unspecified time earlier in the 20th century, certainly the presence of a deep make-up of charcoally clay mixed with other modern materials in trenches 11 and 12 indicates dumping. Moreover, as noted in the Desk-based assessment (Richards 2009), this field was previously known as "Ash Furlong Bog"; if the 'ash' refers to cinders rather than the type of trees present, this area may have been utilised as a dumping ground for some considerable time. Odd phenomena within these trenches, such as straight-edged

vertical cuts, and tranches of natural substrata floating as lenses within this make-up, lead to the suspicion that this area may also have been subject to mechanical earth moving such as bulldozing. Square-edged cuts in trench 15 also appear to have been formed mechanically but here the deep build up of modern material is not present insofar as natural substratum sands and gravels appeared 40cm below the present ground level, although it is noticeable in this trench that no subsoil is present.

The ridge and furrow in the geophysical survey results (Butler 2010) also becomes very nebulous in this part of the field, and cannot be discerned on the surface. An examination of the topography of the land immediately surrounding the application area may be instructive: the playing field to the south-west appears to have had the southern side artificially built up as it is higher than the south part of the application area, moreover there is an abrupt drop on its southern edge. Bearing in mind the signs of bulldozing or other mechanical earth moving, one explanation would be that previously dumped material was moved downslope to the bottom of the field, truncating the ridges, and then westwards into the adjacent field (the hedgeline here has been grubbed out, and replaced by a fence), removing the original subsoil around trench 15 on its way, as make-up for the playing field. However there may be other explanations.

If further archaeological work is deemed necessary in the future, attention will need to be paid to ascertain the correct level for machining as this appears to be widely variable within the application area.

8. Archive

The archive consists of:

- 3 sheets permagraph
- 1 Photographic index
- 11 context sheets
- 1 context index sheet
- 14 Trench recording sheets
- Film negative and contact strips
- Digital photographs

It will be deposited with LMARS under accession number X.A78.2010 in due course.

9. Acknowledgements

The project was carried out by Ken Wallace (metal detector survey), Jon Coward and Dave Parker of ULAS. Project management was by Patrick Clay. ULAS would like to thank J.M.Knapp and Sons Ltd and George Burton of GBa&E for their assistance.

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Appendix 1: The finds

The Pottery, Flint and Animal Bone

The finds are listed below (table 1).

Table 1: The finds by context, number and weight (grams).

Context (fill) [cut]	Fabric/Ware/Material	No s	Gram s	Comments
Pottery				Nicholas J. Cooper
(3) [4]	GW5 – Grey ware	2	21	Jar base, 2nd-4th C AD
(3) [4]	BB1 – Black Burnished ware 1	2	16	Jar -?obtuse lattice decoration, late 3rd – 4th C AD
(17) [18]	OW – Oxidised ware	1	6	Roman
(19) [20]	OW – Oxidised ware	1	1	?Roman
TILE				
(17) [18]	Earthenware	1	81	Roman
Flint				Lynden Cooper
(3) [4]	Flint	1		Flake fragment
(3) [4]	Flint	1		Tertiary flake
(17) [18]	Flint	1		Bladelet fragment
(30) [31]	Flint	1		Secondary bladelet
U/S TR 8	Flint	1		Flake fragment
Bone				Jennifer Browning
(17) [18]	Animal	1		Cattle molar (lower)
(17) [18]	Animal	1		Large mammal shaft fragment

Appendix 2: Design Specification for archaeological work

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Land adjacent to Britannia Road, Burbage, Leicestershire SP 440 919

Written scheme of investigation for metal detector survey and trial trench evaluation

For: J.M.Knapp and Sons Ltd

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document sets out a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) to evaluate potential archaeological deposits at land adjacent to Britannia Road, Burbage, Leicestershire (SP 440 919) in advance of proposed residential development. An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and geophysical survey of the area has been prepared (Richards 2009; Butler 2010).
- 1.2 The proposed development area is located adjacent to Britannia Road, Burbage, Leicestershire (SP 440 919; Figs. 1-2). The application area covers an area of c. 2.4 hectares and is currently under pasture. The site slopes north-north-west down to south-south-east which appears to be the original topography.
- 1.3 The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland records that a number of archaeological sites have been identified in the vicinity of the development area. In addition to the historic settlement core of Burbage, which contains a number of listed buildings and other post-medieval archaeological remains, there are also significant archaeological remains within the immediate vicinity, west of the proposed development area, including an Anglo Saxon Brooch (HER ref MLE 6181) and twelve Roman coins (HER ref MLE 2846). Although not on the HER a ring ditch, possibly indicating the former location of a Bronze Age burial mound is located immediately to the south-east of the application area (Fig.2).
- 1.4 The geophysical survey located anomalies suggesting a possible enclosure to the north-east, medieval ridge and furrow, ferrous signals and much building debris (Butler 2010; Fig. 3).

2. Geology and topography

- 2.1 The application area lies to the south-west of the village of Burbage. The proposed development area is located approximately 45metres east of Britannia Road, access is via a lane off Britannia Road. There is recent residential development along the northern and northernmost part of the eastern boundary. To the south and east there is agricultural land while to the west there are playing fields. The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 169 indicates that the underlying geology of the site is likely to consist of Thrussington Till. The site slopes down from the north-north-west to south-south-east; the surrounding topography is similar suggesting this is largely unaltered since Enclosure and lies at a height of c. 120m O.D to the north-west dropping to c. 115m O.D to the south-east.

3. Archaeological Objectives

- 3.1 The main objectives of the evaluation will be:
 - 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 produce an archive and report of any results.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

4. Methodology

4.1 General Methodology and Standards

- 4.1.1 All work will follow the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008).
- 4.1.2 Staffing, recording systems, health and safety provisions and insurance details are included below.
- 4.1.3 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 Senior Planning Archaeologist, the Planning authority and the Client.

4.2 Metal detector survey and Trial Trenching Methodology

- 4.2.1 A metal detector survey will be undertaken prior to the trenching commencing, using a Viking 20 detector. This will be set to discriminate in favour of non-ferrous metals and will follow transects at 1-2m intervals. Any significant metalwork located will be plotted using a hand held GPS. The trial trenching will target any significant metalwork located.
- 4.2.2 Topsoil/modern overburden will be removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision, down to the uppermost archaeological deposits by JCB 3C or equivalent using a toothless ditching bucket. Trenches will be excavated to a width of 1.5m and down to the top of archaeological deposits. The area of the trenches will be protected by barrier fencing.
- 4.2.3 The trenches will be backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.
- 4.2.4 The area covers c. 2.4 ha, where residential development is proposed. A c. 2% sample of the area is the equivalent of c. 13 30m x 1.6m trenches totaling c. 480 sq m. The trenches will target geophysical anomalies, significant metalwork finds and test blank areas. The exact location of the trenches may need to be modified depending on constraints on site.
- 4.2.5 Trenches will be examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located will be planned at an appropriate scale and sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence. All plans will be tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.
- 4.2.6 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 bench mark.
- 4.2.7 Trench locations will be recorded using an electronic distance measurer. These will then be tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.
- 4.2.8 Any human remains 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.

4.3 Recording Systems

- 4.3.1 The ULAS recording manual will be used as a guide for all recording.
- 4.3.2 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto pro-forma recording sheets.
- 4.3.3 A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a trench plan at appropriate scale, which will show the location of the areas investigated in relationship to the investigation area and OS grid.
- 4.3.4 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made. Sections including the half-sections of individual layers of features will be drawn as necessary, typically at a scale of 1:10. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be recorded.
- 4.3.5 A 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.

4.3.6 This record will be compiled and checked during the course of the excavations.

5. Finds and Samples

5.1 The IfA *Guidelines for Finds Work* will be adhered to.

5.2 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.

5.3 During the fieldwork, different sampling strategies may be employed according to the perceived importance of the strata under investigation. Close attention will always be given to sampling for date, structure and environment. If significant archaeological features are sample excavated, the environmental sampling strategy is likely to include the following:

- i. 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.
- ii. Any buried soils or well sealed deposits with concentrations of carbonised material present will be intensively sampled taking a known proportion of the deposit.
- iii. Spot samples will be taken where concentrations of environmental remains are located.
- iv. Waterlogged remains, if present, will be sampled for pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and radiocarbon dating provided that they are uncontaminated and datable. Consultation with the specialist will be undertaken.

5.4 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 Senior Planning Archaeologist. The IfA *Guidelines for Finds Work* will be adhered to.

5.5 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 (340mm x 270mm x 195mm). All materials will be fully labelled, catalogued and stored in appropriate containers.

6. Report and Archive

6.1 The full report in A4 format will usually follow within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and copies will be dispatched to the Client, Senior Planning Archaeologist; SMR and Local Planning Authority.

6.2 The report will include consideration of:-

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
- The nature, location, extent, date, significance and quality 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).

6.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in Brown (2008) will usually be presented to LCC within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

7 Publication and Dissemination of Results

7.1 A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*.

8. Acknowledgement and Publicity

8.1 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.

8.2 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.

9. Copyright

9.1 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.

10. Timetable

10.1 The survey and evaluation start is proposed for w.c 19.04.2010 with two staff. Further staff will be added if archaeological remains are discovered.

10.2 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.

11. Health and Safety

11.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Archaeological Services Health and Safety Policy and Health and Safety manual with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is attached as Appendix 1. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate. The HSE has determined that archaeological investigations are exempt from CDM regulations.

11.2 A Risks assessment will be completed prior to work commencing on-site, and updated as necessary during the site works.

12. Insurance

12.1 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.

13. Monitoring arrangements

13.1 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. At least one weeks notice will be given to the LCCHS Planning Archaeologist before the commencement of the archaeological evaluation in order that monitoring arrangements can be made.

13.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the IfA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*.

13.3 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

14. Contingencies and unforeseen circumstances

14.1 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the project, ULAS shall inform the site agent/project manager, Client and the Planning Archaeologist and Planning Authority and prepare a short written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. 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.

15. Bibliography

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

Richards., G., *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment for land at Britannia Road, Burbage, Leicestershire (SP 440 919)*. ULAS Report 2009-161 2009

Butler, A., 2010 *Archaeological Geophysical Survey on l and to the south of Britannia Road, Burbage, Leicestershire March 2010*. Northamptonshire Archaeology Report 10/54

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Figure 1 Location of Application Area

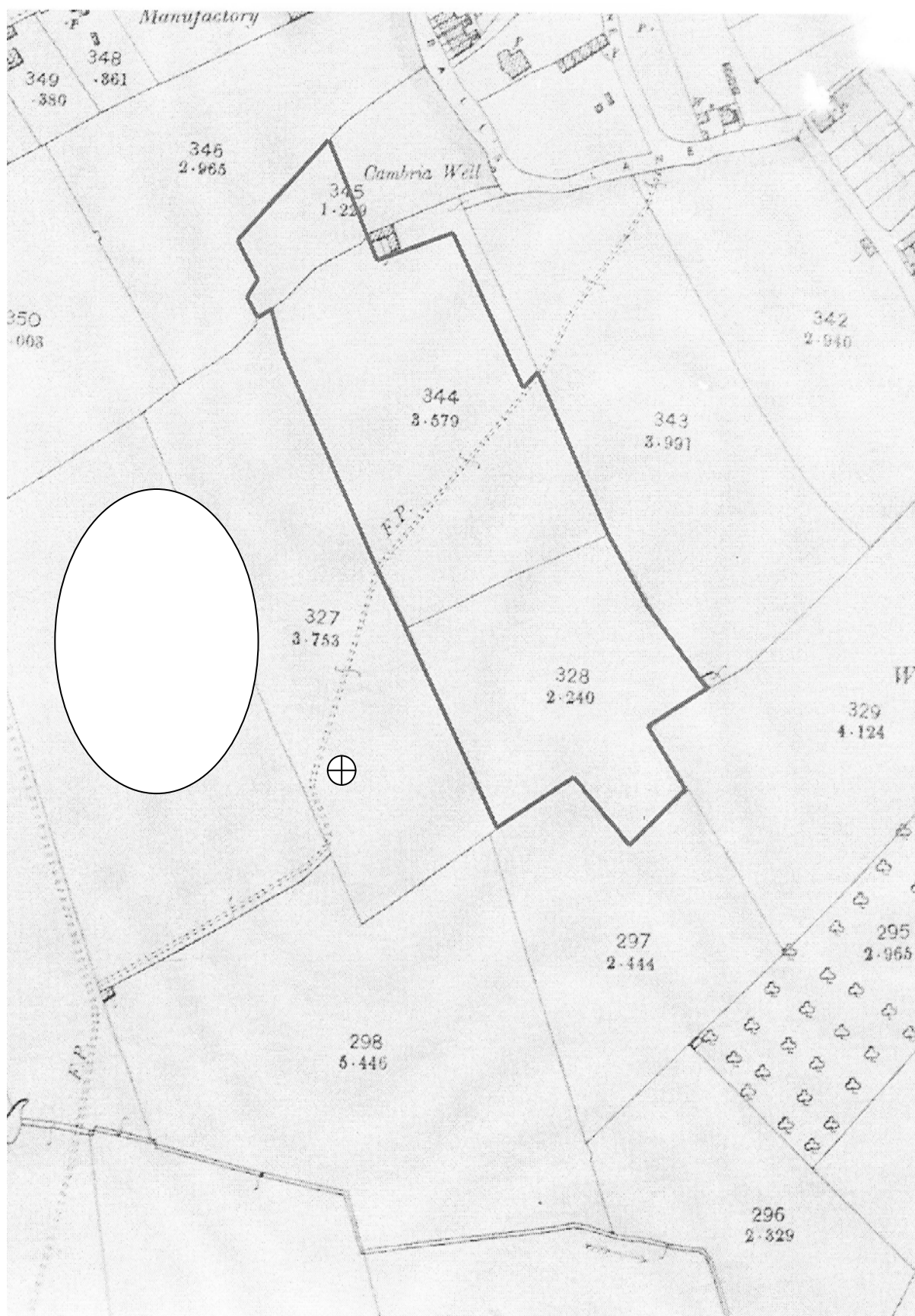


Figure 2 Application area showing location of ring ditch to the south-west (cross in circle) and general vicinity of the Roman and Anglo-Saxon metal finds.

Oasis record

INFORMATION REQUIRED	
Project Name	Burbage, off Britannia Road
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Jon Coward
Previous/Future work	Desk-based assessmnt, Geophysical survey
Current Land Use	Pasture
Development Type	Residentiall
Reason for Investigation	PPG16
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	SP 440 919
Start/end dates of field work	May 2010
Archive Recipient	LMARS
Study Area *	2.4 ha

Contact Details

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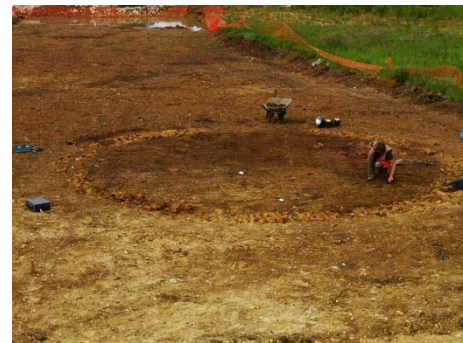
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