An Archaeological Evaluation and
Artefact Retrieval Survey at Mill Lane, Gilmorton,
Leicestershire (SP 581 883)

Greg Farnworth-Jones

Client: TR & PD Baker
Planning Application No: 08/00575/FUL
Planning Authority: Harborough District Council

Checked by Project Manager

Signed: .. **Date:**27-06-08

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ULAS Report Number 2008-099

[X.A86.2008]

Archaeological Evaluation and Artefact Retrieval Survey on land at Mill Lane, Gilmorton, Leicestershire (SP 581 883)

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Greg Farnworth-Jones

1. Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out a metal detector artefact retrieval survey and archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at Mill Lane, Gilmorton, Leicestershire (SP 581 883), on the 16th and 17th June 2008. This work was undertaken on behalf of TR & PD Baker, as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of a proposed new egg production plant. A total of five evaluation trial trenches were excavated, which revealed no evidence of archaeological deposits or finds.

The site archive will be held with the County Archaeological Heritage Services, Leicestershire County Council, Community Services Department, under the accession code: [X.A86.2008].

2. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by TR & PD Baker to carry out an artefact retrieval survey and archaeological evaluation on land at Mill Lane, Gilmorton, Leicestershire (SP 581 883). This work was undertaken as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of a proposed new egg production plant.

The development site has been identified as an area of archaeological potential based upon assessment of the data in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER). In accordance with DOE Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (PPG 16, Archaeology and Planning, para.30) the planning archaeologist (PA) at Leicestershire County Council had advised that planning permission should be deferred until suitable archaeological field evaluation has been undertaken to assess the location, extent, significance and character of any buried archaeological remains. The PA has therefore requested a metal detecting survey of the area and an archaeological evaluation of a minimum 3% of the site (51m^2) by trial trenching to assess the likely archaeological impact of the development proposals. Once completed a review of the results will be undertaken and an appropriate mitigation strategy will be agreed.

3. Site Background (taken from the Brief).

The site is located on the southern side of Gawney Lane off Mill Lane, Gilmorton in south Leicestershire in the parish of Lutterworth (Fig 1).

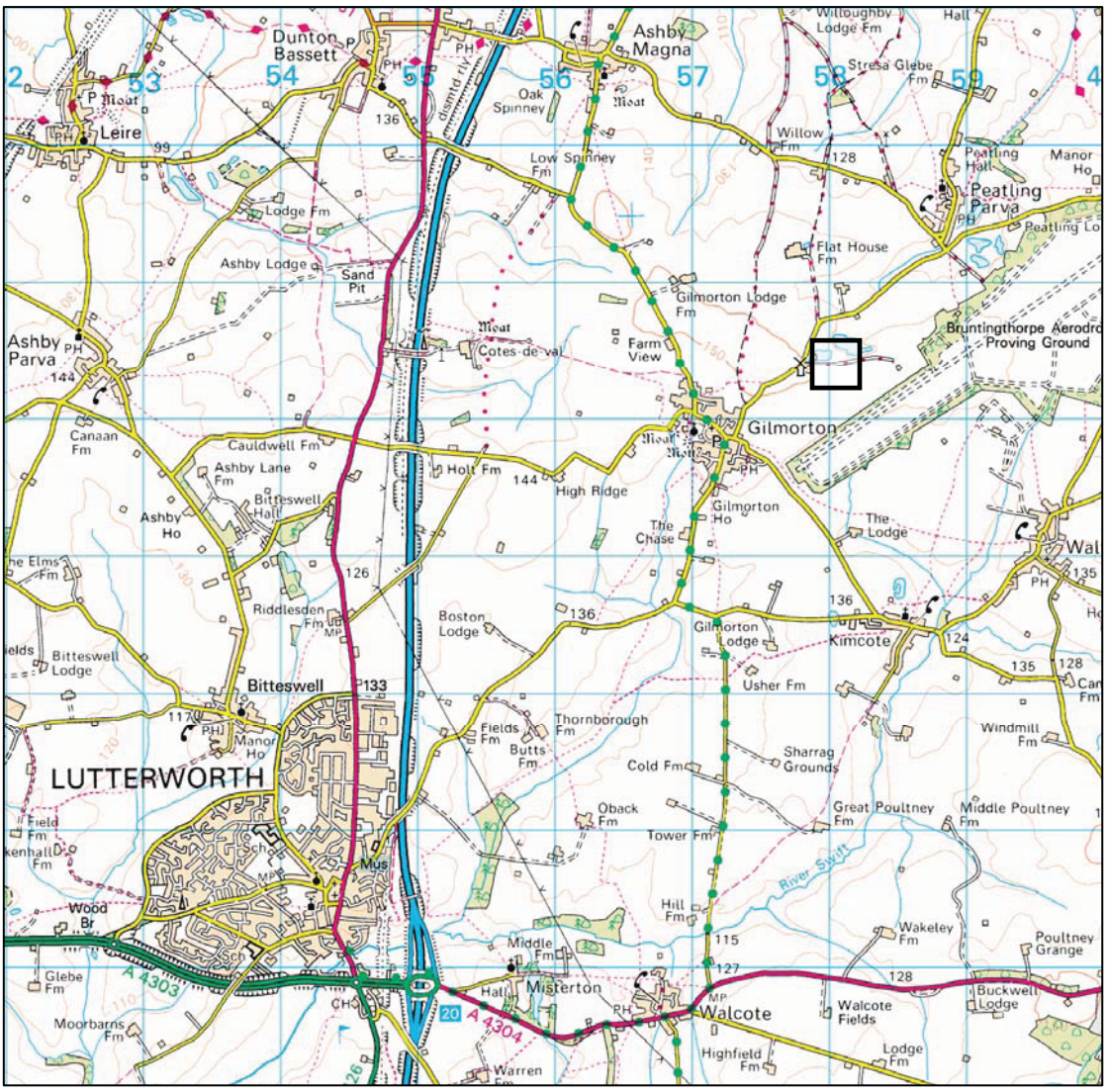

Fig.1. Site location Scale 1:50000

4. Geological and Topographical Background

The geology of the site is likely to consist of Diamicton Till overlying Mudstone of the Blue Lias and Charmouth formation (Geological Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 170).

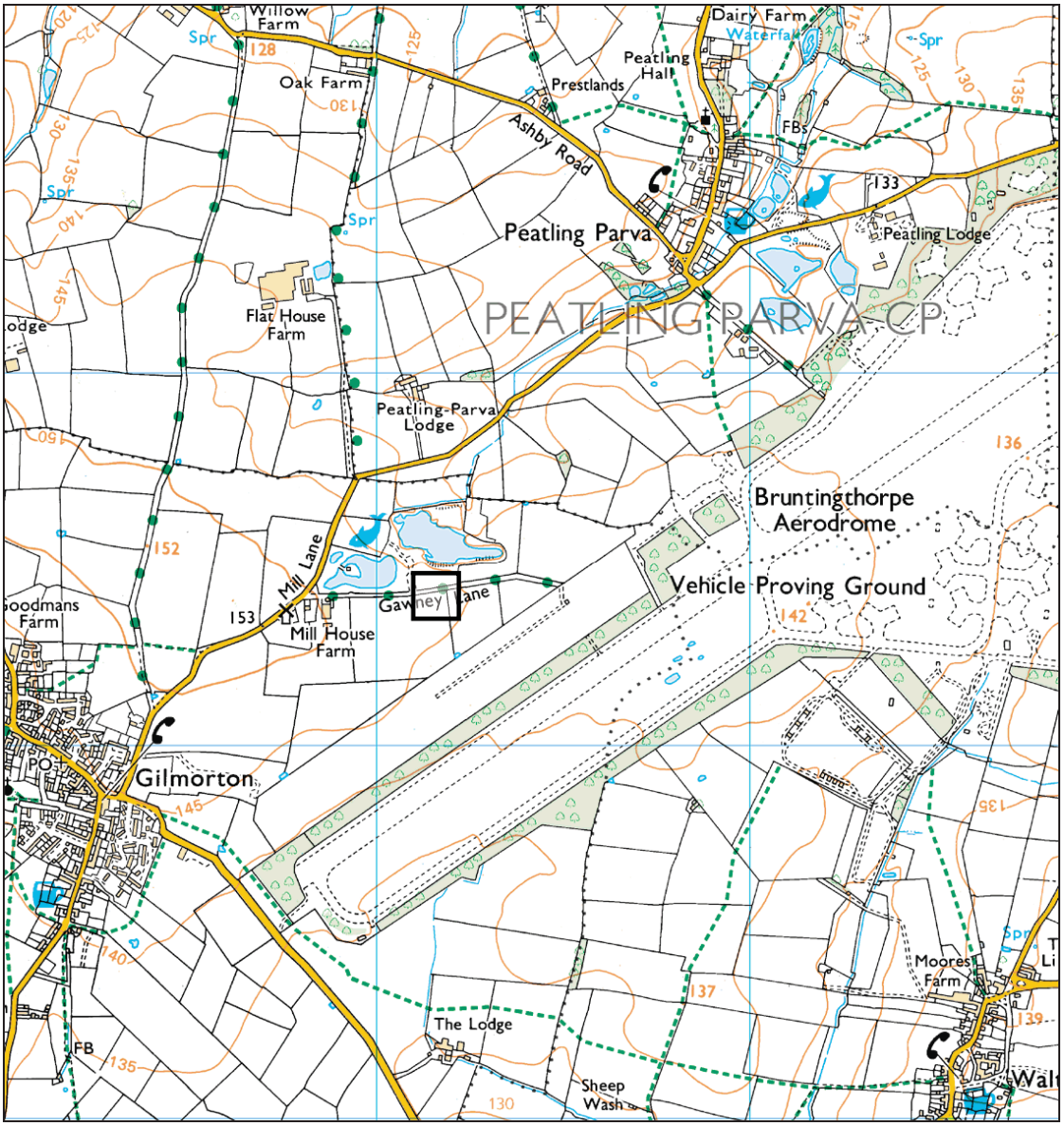

Fig. 2 Site location 1:25000

5. Archaeological and Historical Background (from Brief)

A total of 1254 Roman coins ranging in date from AD253-296 were found close to the application site in 2004 by metal detectorists. They were found with a grey ware pot. Radiates were originally silver but by this time they had been debased to being essentially bronze. Further investigation of the site revealed a scatter of pottery.

No previous archaeological work has been conducted within the proposed development area.

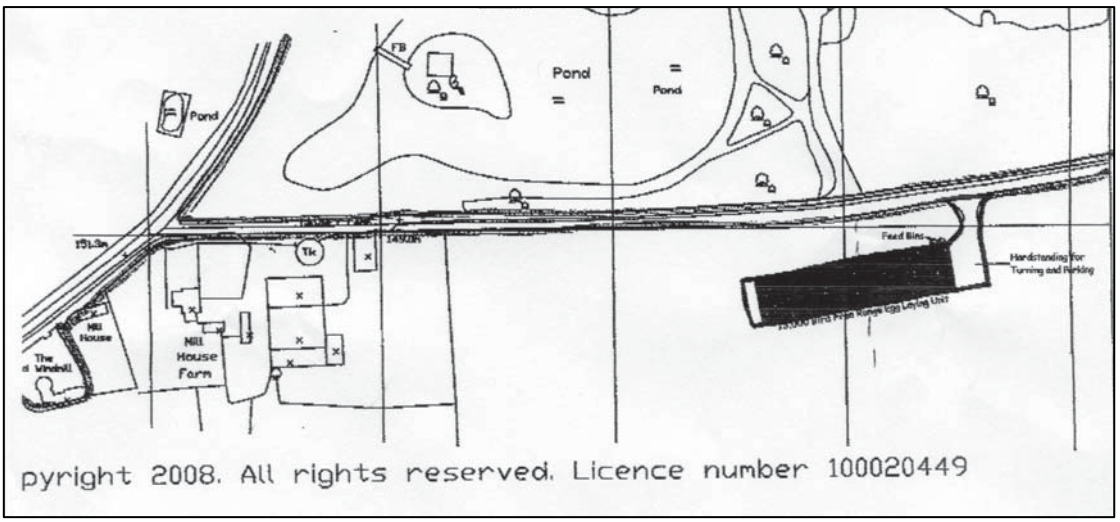

Fig. 3 Location of proposed barn

6. Methodology

6.1 Artefact Retrieval Methodology

A baseline was laid out across the northern edge of the area of the proposed egg production plant and was then divided into 1m strips running across the site which were then marked out. The field archaeologists walked up and down the strips using metal detectors to locate any metallic artefacts.

6.2 Trial Trenching Methodology

Five trenches, approximately 17m by 1.5m (total of 127m^2; 7.5% of the total area), were excavated across the footprint of the proposed agricultural building (Fig. 4). The trenches were located to provide a good sample of the proposed development area, which were marked out prior to excavation.

The present ground surfaces over the area of the trench were removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision. The work used a mini mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket and continued down to the uppermost archaeological deposits or undisturbed natural (whichever was encountered first), to a maximum depth of 1m. The trenches were backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.

The trenches were then examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located and planned at an appropriate scale, and fully recorded

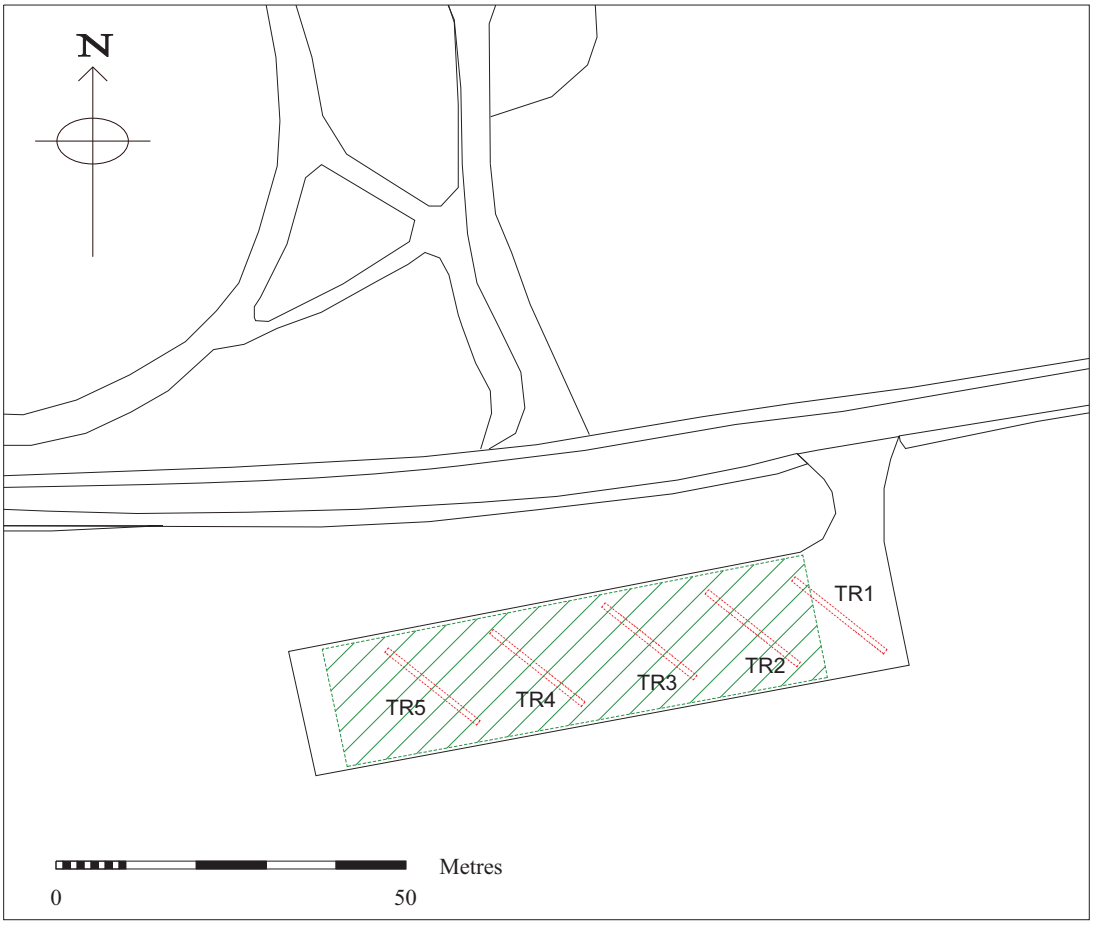

Fig. 4 Trench location plan

7. Results

Artefact Retrieval Survey

The results of the metal detector survey were negative. The only metal artefacts recovered from the site were some modern artefacts including buttons, cartridge shells and a ring pull.

After the initial artefact retrieval / metal detection survey had been completed five evaluation trenches were excavated within the proposed development area and their locations are shown on Figure 4.

Trench 1

Depth of deposits

Interval (from SE-end)	*0m*	*5m*	*10m*	*15m*	*17m*
Topsoil thickness	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Subsoil thickness	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Depth to top of natural	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Depth to base of trench	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6

Trench 1 was located on the eastern side of the proposed egg production plant (fig.4). The trench measured 17m in length and was 1m in width and was excavated to a horizontal interface with the natural subsoil. Topsoil consisted of light brown clay silt with frequent small regular and irregular stones <0.08m average size. A subsoil layer of mid brown clay silt with occasional irregular stones <0.13m, lay below the topsoil. Natural subsoil consisted of brown orange sand with patches of gravel. No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 2

Depth of deposits

Interval from SE-end	*0m*	*5m*	*10m*	*15m*	*17m*
Topsoil thickness	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3
Subsoil thickness	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Depth to top of natural	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Depth to base of trench	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6

Trench 2 was located approximately 10m to the west of trench 1 and measured 17m in length and 1m wide and was orientated NW-SE (Fig. 4). The soil and natural stratigraphy appeared almost identical to that seen in Trench 1. No archaeological finds or features were identified in Trench 2 although a single metal button was recovered by the metal detector approximately 7m from the south-eastern end.

Trench 3

Depth of deposits

Interval from SE-end	*0m*	*5m*	*10m*	*15m*	*17m*
Topsoil thickness	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Subsoil thickness	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Depth to top of natural	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Depth to base of trench	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7

Trench 3 was located approximately 10m to the west of trench two and was orientated NW-SE (Fig.4). The stratigraphy observed in Trench 3 was identical to that observed in the previous trenches. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Figure 5: Trench 4 west facing section

Trench 4

Depth of deposits

Interval from SE-end	*0m*	*5m*	*10m*	*15m*	*17m*
Topsoil thickness	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Subsoil thickness	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Depth to top of natural	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Depth to base of trench	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4

Trench 4 was excavated *c.* 10m to the west of Trench 3 and was orientated NW-SE (Fig.4). Initial machining revealed stratigraphy that was almost identical to that observed in the previous three trenches except that some manganese deposits were present within the natural sand. No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the excavation of Trench 4.

Trench 5

Depth of deposits

Interval from SE-end	*0m*	*5m*	*10m*	*15m*	*17m*
Topsoil thickness	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Subsoil thickness	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Depth to top of natural	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Depth to base of trench	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4

Trench 5 was located approximately 10m to the west of Trench 4, orientated NW-SE (Fig. 4). Initial machining revealed light brown silty clay topsoil, with occasional small rounded stones <0.08m, below which was seen mid brown silty clay subsoil identical to the stratigraphy seen in the previous trenches. The natural substratum was also identical to the natural observed in the previous trenches. Located at *c.*4m from the south-eastern end of trench 5 was seen parallel plough scars *c.*0.1m wide running diagonally N-S across the excavated trench. These plough scars were identified as being modern in origin. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were located during the excavation of Trench 5.

8. Conclusion

The results of the artefact retrieval and archaeological evaluation by trial trenching failed to reveal any archaeological finds or deposits on land by Gawney Lane off Mill Lane, Gilmorton in south Leicestershire (NGR: SP 581 833). The results of the survey were therefore negative.

9. Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the clients Mr. TR & Mr. PD Baker for their assistance and co-operation. I would also like to thank Ken Wallace for his assistance with the metal

detection survey. Vicki Score managed the project and the fieldwork was carried out by the author, with the assistance of Dan Stone, all of ULAS.

10. Archive

The site archive [X.A86.2008], consisting of paper records, and digital colour photographs will be housed with the County Archaeological Heritage Services, Leicestershire County Council Community Services Department.

Archive accession code [X.A86.2008] contents:

Copy of Report:	Risk Assessment:	Trench Recording Sheets:	Digital Colour Photographs:	Photographic Index Sheet:
1	1	5	27	2

11. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological publication in due course.

12. Bibliography

Brief, 2008 *Brief for Artefact Retrieval and Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Mill Lane, Gilmorton, Leicestershire* issued by Historic and Natural Environment Team, Environment and Heritage Services, Leicestershire County Council

IFA, 1999 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

IFA, 2006 *Codes of Conduct*

Score, V., 2008 *Design Specification for Artefact Retrieval and Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching, Proposed Egg Production Plant, Mill Lane, Gilmorton, Leicestershire (NGR: SP581 883)* ULAS Ref. 08/322_Sp01

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20.06.2008

Appendix 1: **Design Specification for Artefact Retrieval and Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching**

Proposed Egg Production Unit

Mill Lane, Gilmorton, Leicestershire

NGR*: SP 581 883*

Client: *TR & PD Baker*

Planning Application No: *08/00575/FUL*

1 Introduction

1.1 ***Definition and scope of the specification***

This document is a design specification for a phase of intrusive archaeological field evaluation (AFE) at the above site, in accordance with DOE Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning, para.30). The fieldwork specified below is intended to provide information on the character and extent of any buried archaeological remains which may exist on the site. The requirements of the planning authority are expressed in their 'Brief for Artefact Retrieval and Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Mill Lane, Gilmorton, Leicestershire (hereinafter the 'Brief').

1.2 The definition of archaeological field evaluation, taken from the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standards and Guidance: for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IFA 1999) 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 for:

- Artefact retrieval by metal detecting survey
- Archaeological evaluation by intrusive trial trenching.

1.4 The brief suggested a further stage of artefact retrieval by fieldwalking of the area prior to trial trenching. A site visit (04-06-2008) showed that the land was not suitable for fieldwalking being a mixture of pasture and a well advanced cereal crop.

2. Background (taken from the Brief).

2.1 ***Context of the Project***

2.1.1 The site is located on the southern side of Gawney Lane off Mill Lane, Gilmorton in south Leicestershire in the parish of Lutterworth (Fig 1), where it is proposed to construct a Egg Production Unit and access.

2.1.2 The development site has been identified as an area of significant archaeological potential based upon assessment of the data in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER). The planning archaeologist (PA) at Leicestershire County Council has advised that planning permission should be deferred until suitable archaeological field evaluation has been undertaken to assess the location, extent, significance and character of any buried archaeological remains. The PA has therefore requested a metal detecting survey of the area and an archaeological evaluation of 3% of the site (51m^2) by trial trenching to assess the likely archaeological impact of the development proposals. Once completed a review of the results will be undertaken and an appropriate mitigation strategy will be agreed.

2.2 ***Geological and Topographical Background***

2.2.1 The geology of the site is likely to consist of Diamicton Till overlying Mudstone of the Blue Lias and Charmouth formation (Geological Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 170).

2.3 ***Archaeological and Historical Background*** **(from Brief)**

2.3.1 A total of 1254 Roman coins ranging in date from AD253-296 were found close to the application site in 2004 by metal detectorists. They were found with a grey ware pot. Radiates were originally silver but by this time they had been debased to being essentially bronze. Further investigation of the site revealed a scatter of pottery.

2.3.2 No previous archaeological work has been conducted within the proposed development area.

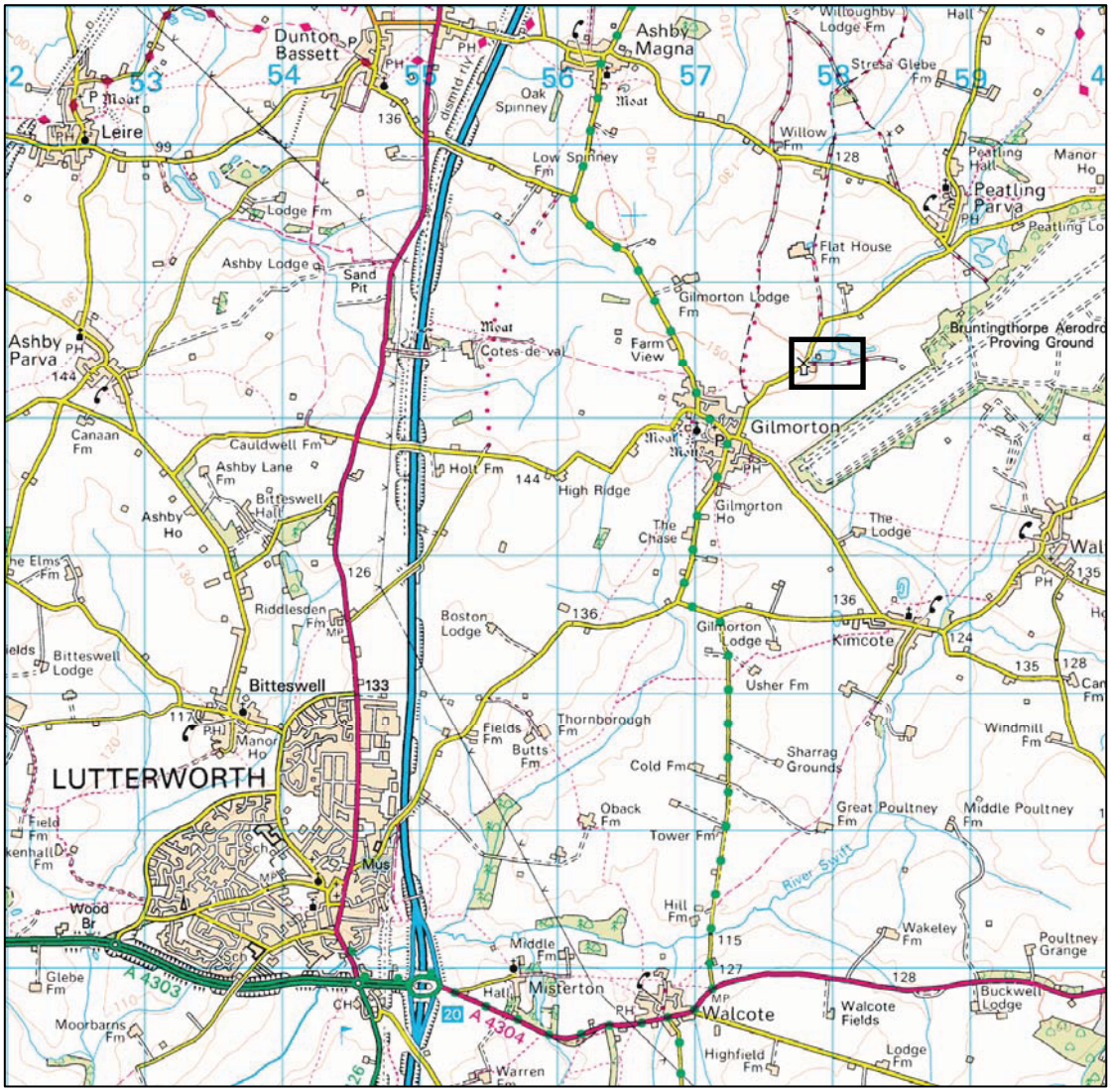

Fig. 1 Site Location

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, date range and environmental potential for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposals.
- To sample excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the 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 and significance of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from proposed development. The archaeological evaluation, once the above information has been gathered, will serve to determine a decision being made on planning permission regarding archaeological issues. Potentially further stages of archaeological investigation will be required as a condition of planning permission.

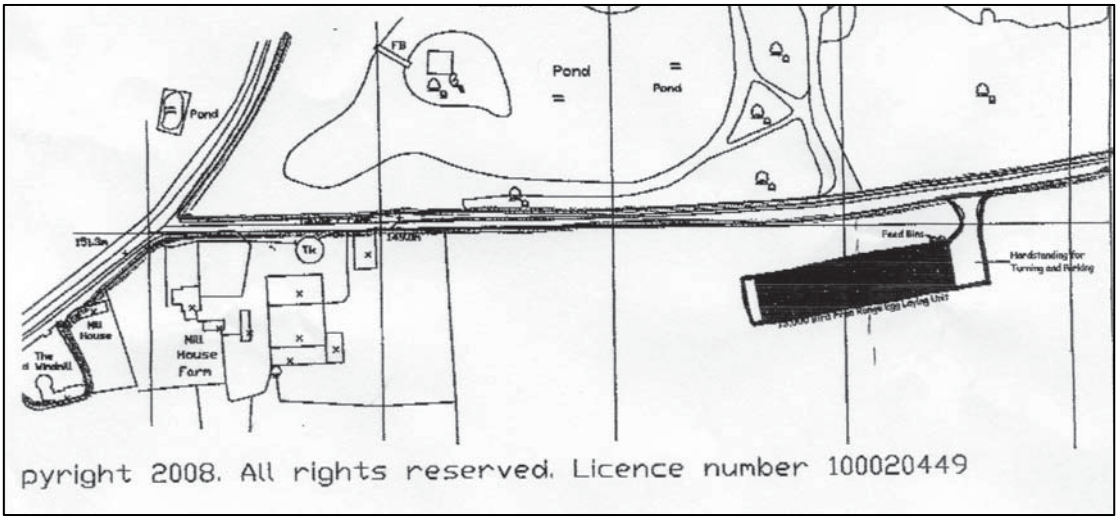

Fig. 2 Location of proposed barn

4. Methodology

4.1 *General Methodology and Standards*

4.1.1 All work will follow the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Code of Conduct* (2006) and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (1999).

4.1.2 An accession number will be obtained prior to the commencement of the project.

4.1.3 A site visit on 04-06-08 shows that the site has good access and no obvious constraints to the proposed evaluations. Liaison with the client will ensure that any service trenches will be avoided.

4.1.4 Staffing, recording systems, health and safety provisions and insurance details are included below.

4.1.5 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.

4.2 Metal detecting Methodology

4.2.1 A metal detecting survey of the site will be undertaken prior to the trial trench evaluation. The grass and crop over the area will require either flattening or mowing prior to work starting.

4.2.2 The proposed development area will be marked out and a base line established. The area will be systematically metal-detected and all finds recorded using an electronic measuring device (EDM or GPS).

4.2.3 If anything significant is recorded the proposed location of the trenches may well be moved to investigate this further.

4.3 Trial Trenching Methodology

4.3.1 Two trenches, approximately 17m by 1.5m (total of 51m^2; 3% of the total area), will be excavated across the footprint of the proposed agricultural building (Fig. 2).

4.2.2 Trenches will be located to provide a good sample of the proposed development area, which will be marked out prior to excavation. The location of the trenches may be dictated by conditions and the location of any services or other constraints.

4.2.3 The present ground surfaces over the area of the trench will be removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision. The work will use a mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket and will continue down to the uppermost archaeological deposits or undisturbed natural (whichever is encountered first), to a maximum depth of 1m. The trenches will be backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.

4.2.3 The trench 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. All plans will be tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Relative spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

4.2.4 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 site grid.

4.2.5 The trench location will be recorded in relation to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

4.2.6 Any human remains will initially be left *in situ* and will only be removed if necessary for their protection, in compliance with relevant legal and 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. The relative height of all principal strata and features will be recorded. The stratigraphy of all trenches shall be recorded even where no archaeological features are identified.

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 & samples

5.1 The IFA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to.

5.2 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 LCC for storage in perpetuity.

5.3 An Accession number will be obtained from the Assistant Keeper of Archaeological Archives at Leicestershire County Council that will be used to identify all records and finds from the site, prior to the commencement of any on-site works.

5.4 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. As part of this phase, environmental sampling will be undertaken as appropriate in order to assess the environmental potential of the deep ditch or pond-like features under investigation 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.

5.5 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 Leicestershire Planning Archaeologist. The IFA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to.

5.6 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

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 Senior Planning Archaeologist/SMR to be distributed amongst relevant sections of Leicestershire County Council as necessary.

6.2 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).

6.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in *The Guidelines For The Preparation Of Excavation Archives For Long-Term Storage* (UKIC 1990), and *Standards In The Museum: Care Of Archaeological Collections* (MGC 1992) and *Guidelines for the Preparation of Site Archives and Assessments for all Finds* (other than fired clay objects) (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993) will usually be presented to 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 to the local archaeological journal, the Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society. A larger report will be submitted for inclusion if the results of the evaluation warrant it.

7.2 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 Leicestershire County Council's SMR prior to completion of the form. Once a report has become a public document following its incorporation into Leicestershire SMR it may be placed on the web-site. The Developer should agree to this procedure in writing as part of the process of submitting the report to Leicestershire SMR.

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 archaeological evaluation is scheduled to start on 16th June 2008 and will last approximately 3 days.

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.

10.3 An interim report on the results of the evaluation can be prepared, if required, after the completion of the fieldwork.

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.

12 Insurance

12.1 All employees, consultants and volunteers are covered by the University of Leicester public liability insurance, £20m cover with St. Paul Travellers (policy no. UCPOP3651237). Professional indemnity insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters 50% and Brit Insurance 50%, £10m cover (policy no. PUNIO3605). Employer's Liability Insurance is with St. Paul Travellers, cover £10m (policy no. UCPOP3651237).

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. Notice will be given to the Leicestershire Senior 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 unlikely event, that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the project, ULAS shall inform the site agent/project manager, Client and the Senior Planning Archaeologist and Planning Authority and prepare a short written statement with plans detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Senior Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement an amended scheme of investigation on behalf of the client as appropriate.

15. Bibliography

Brief, 2008 *Brief for Artefact Retrieval and Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Mill Lane, Gilmorton, Leicestershire* issued by Historic and Natural Environment Team, Environment and Heritage Services, Leicestershire County Council

IFA, 1999 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

IFA, 2006 *Codes of Conduct*

MAP 2, 1991 *The management of archaeological projects* 2nd edition English Heritage

MGC 1992 *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* 1992 (Museums and Galleries Commission)

RFG/FRG 1993 *Guidelines for the preparation of site archives (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993)*

SMA 1993 *Selection, retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* (Society of Museum Archaeologists)

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APPENDIX 1: Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement:

Proposed Egg Production Unit

Mill Lane, Gilmorton, Leicestershire

NGR*: SP 281 883*

Client: *TR & PD Baker*

A risk assessment will be completed by site personnel and will be updated and amended by on-site staff during the course of the evaluation.

1. Nature of the work

1.1 The work will involve trial trenching during daylight hours to reveal underlying archaeological deposits. The work will involve excavation using machine (JCB or equivalent with toothless ditching bucket), of trial trenches under the control and supervision of archaeologists.

2 Risk Assessment

2.1 ***Trial Trenching***

The work will involve machine excavation by mechanical excavator during daylight hours to reveal underlying archaeological deposits. Due to the possible presence of hazardous ground gases and soft unstable ground, no trench will exceed 1m in depth as recommended by the site contamination investigation (RSK ENSR 2006). An assessment of the stability of the sides will be carried out by a competent person prior to staff access. All open trenches will be checked for stability every day and staff will remain alert to any indications of gases (e.g. smell).

A 'No Smoking' rule will be applied to the excavation areas.

Spoil will be stockpiled no less than 1.5 m from the edge of the excavation with the edges kept clean.

One end of each trench will be modified to provide access. Entry into the base of the trench is to be by this access only.

Remaining works will involve the examination of the exposed surface with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and excavation of archaeological features. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on.

Protective footwear will be worn at all times. Hard hats will be worn when working in deeper sections or with plant. A first aid kit and mobile phone is to be kept on site at all times in case of an emergency.

2.2 ***Working with plant***.

Each trench will be excavated by machine under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist. A responsible person will be nominated as banksman. They will direct the machine using a series of pre-arranged hand signals. No one else is to approach the machine working area until the banksman has been made aware of their presence.

During bucket changes site staff will stand well clear of the machine until the bucket/breaker has been correctly fitted and crowned.

During machining all personnel are to wear a safety helmet, steel toe-capped boots and a high visibility jacket / vest. Ear defenders / plugs and safety glasses will also be made available to all staff on site. Ear protection will be worn whilst the breaker/excavator is in use.

2.3 ***Working in vicinity of services***

There is a known electricity sub-station adjacent to the site. No work will be carried out until a services plan has been seen and the location of known services are clearly identified and marked. Trenches may be moved to avoid services.

If services or wells are encountered, machining will be halted until their extent has been established by hand excavation, or areas where it is safe to machine have been established.

2.4 ***Working within areas prone to waterlogging***.

In the event of waterlogging preventing work continuing, an assessment will be made by the site supervisor to determine if it is possible to excavate a sump, suitably fenced and clearly marked to enable the water to drain away from the trenches. Protective clothing will be worn at all times and precautions taken to prevent contact with stagnant water which may carry Vialls disease or similar.

2.5 ***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.

2.6 ***Other risks***

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.