Archaeological Works on Land at Anstey Lane, Leicester

Working shot during the initial stripping of site

ARS Ltd Report No. 2019/201
OASIS No. 368282

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Archaeological Research Services Ltd

Archaeological Works on Land at Anstey Lane, Leicester

ARS Ltd Report No. 2019/201

September 2019

Archaeological Research Services Ltd

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Executive Summary

Project Name: Land at Anstey Lane, Leicester
Site Code: LCAL19
Planning Authority: Leicestershire City Council
Planning Reference: P/19/0759/2
NGR: SK 55915 07623
Date of Attendance: Watching brief = 1st April 2019 – 3rd April 2019; Trial trenching and Strip, map, sample excavation = 16th September 2019 – 24th September 2019
Date of Report: September 2019

Archaeological research services Ltd was commissioned by Galliford Try on behalf of Leicestershire County Council to undertake a watching brief, trial trenching and a strip, map and sample prior to construction of an improvement scheme for the A46 Anstey Lane junction. Within the site of proposed development the presence of a bank and ditch, possibly part of a medieval park pale, is visible on historical mapping. In consultation with the City Archaeologist for Leicester City Council, it was agreed that an archaeological watching brief, trial trenching and a strip, map and sample would take place during the initial strip of the linear area running parallel to the current road.

This report has been written by Stephanie Blues, Archaeological Officer at Archaeological Research Services Ltd, it details the results of a watching brief, strip, map and sample and trial trenching which took place in September 2019. The project was managed by Zoë Cavendish, Project Manager at Archaeological Research Services Ltd.

The site is a linear strip of land 20-25m wide and approximately 405m long, running along Anstey Lane. A watching brief was initially undertaken during the removal of tree stumps in April 2019. Following this, an archaeological strip, map and sample across the whole site, as well as the excavation of two targeted trial trenches, was undertaken. During these works, the overburden was stripped down to the underlying natural Mudstone under constant archaeological supervision. No archaeological remains or finds were encountered during the archaeological works.

1. Introduction

1.1. Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1. Leicestershire County Council and Highways England have developed an improvement scheme for the A46 Anstey Lane Junction which provides access from the Leicester Western Bypass (A46) to Leicester Road to the North and Anstey Lane (A5630) and Gynsill Lane to the South. The scheme aims to widen the Southbound on slip, Northbound off slip and the roundabout gyratory carriageway to relieve traffic congestion at the junction. Alongside this, pavement re-surfacing is planned for the northbound and southbound on and off slip roads.

1.1.2. Archaeology is a material consideration in the planning process. The aim of the programme of works is, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 199 (MHCLG 2018), to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publically accessible.

1.1.3. In accordance with the generic *Brief for Archaeological Attendance* (2019) produced by Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team and in consultation with the City Archaeologist for Leicester City Council, it was agreed that the archaeological work would be in the form of an archaeological watching brief, trial trenching and a strip, map and sample excavation. Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) was commissioned by Galliford Try on behalf of Leicestershire County Council to undertake these archaeological works.

1.1.4. This report details the results of the archaeological works, which took place in September 2019. The field work was undertaken by Rob Cole, Kylie Bassendale and Stephanie Blues. The project was managed by Zoë Cavendish, Project Manager at Archaeological Research Services Ltd.

1.2. Site Location, Land use, and Geology

1.2.1. The site is located near the Anstey Lane Roundabout, which is situated at the north western extent of the city of Leicester in the county of Leicestershire with the A46 traversing from the south west to north east (northbound). To the north of the site, is farmland and the residential area of Anstey. To the south of the site is arable and pastoral farmland with the residential area of 'New Parks' further south (See Figure 1).

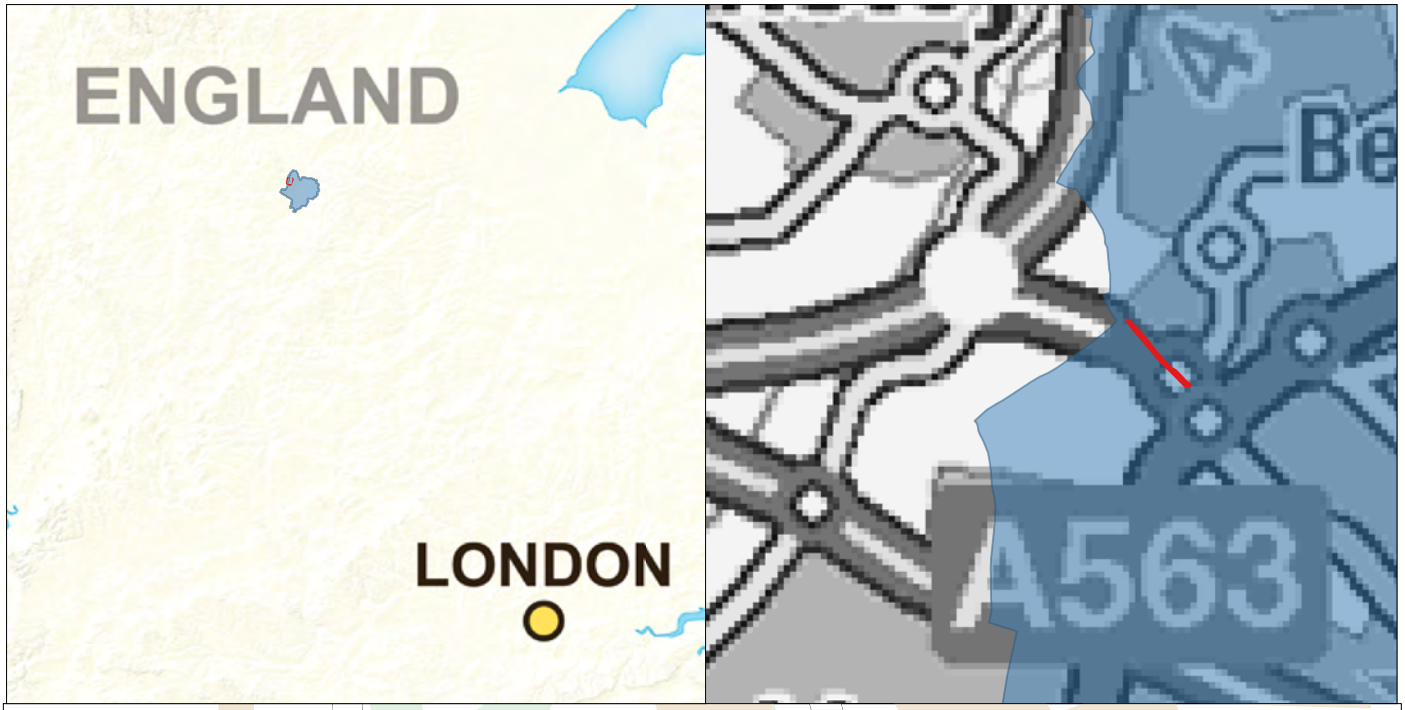
1.2.2. The site is a linear strip of land 20-25m wide and approximately 405m long. It is located off Anstey Lane, approximately 1.5km from Anstey, 4.2km from Leicester city centre and 0.7km south east of the Western Bypass. To the eastern edge a modern drain is present and beyond that is Gorse Hill Industrial Estate. The PDA (proposed development area) extends as far as the drain to the south.

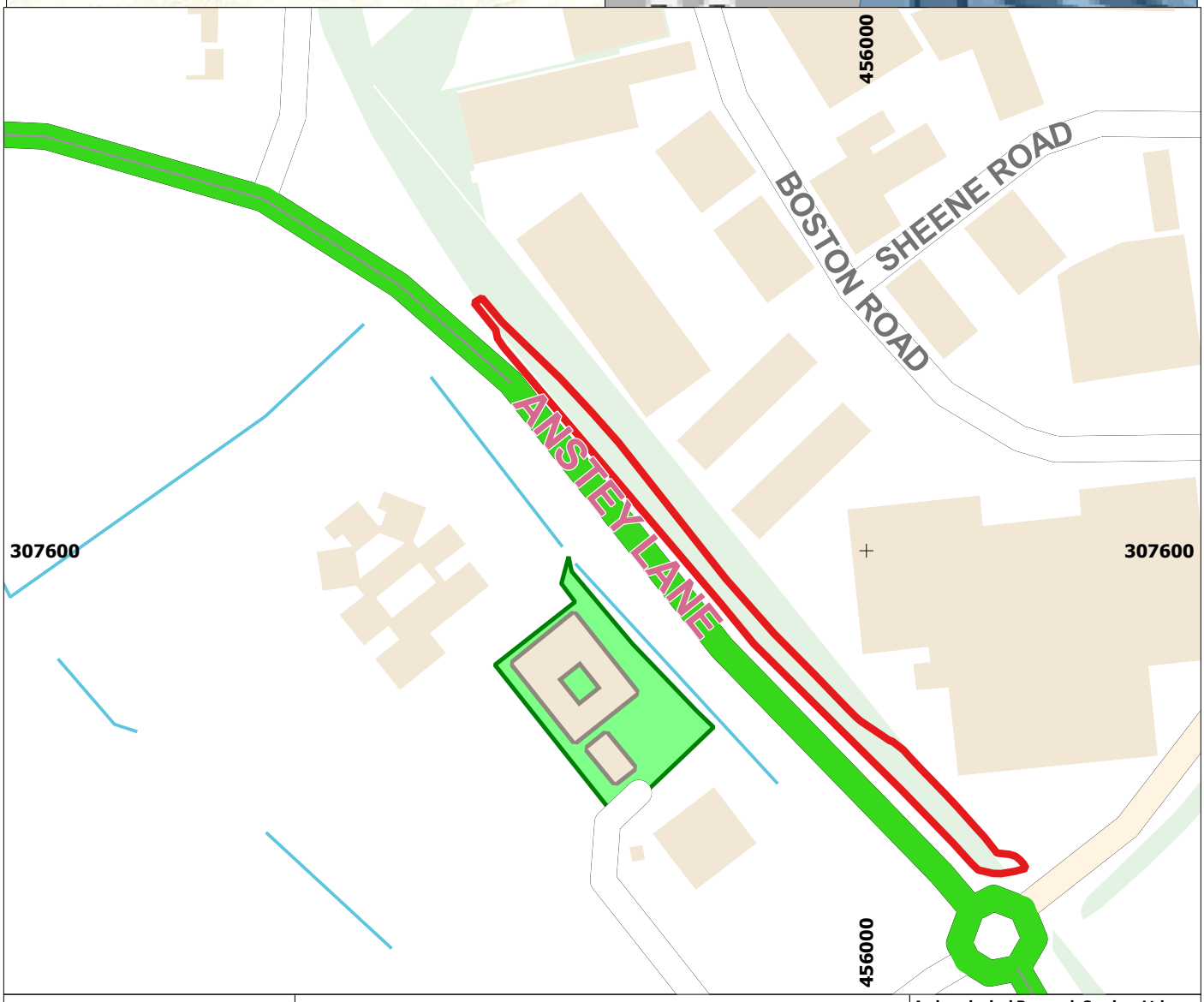
1.2.3. The site is bounded by the public footpath and road on Bennion Road to the south, and by the footpath/verge to the western side. The eastern edge of the site does not extend all the way into the wooded area and is not defined by any physical features.

1.2.4. When archaeological works initially commenced, the PDA was covered in vegetation, including some tree stumps.

1.2.5. Topographically, the land is uneven and lies at a height of approximately 91m aOD.

1.2.6. The underlying geology consists of Edwalton member Mudstone and superficial deposits of Oadby member Diamicton (BGS 2019).





Site name: Anstey Lane, Leicester
Date: March 2019
Drawn by: AL
Scale: Varies

City of Leicester

Site Boundary

N

Figure 1:
Site location

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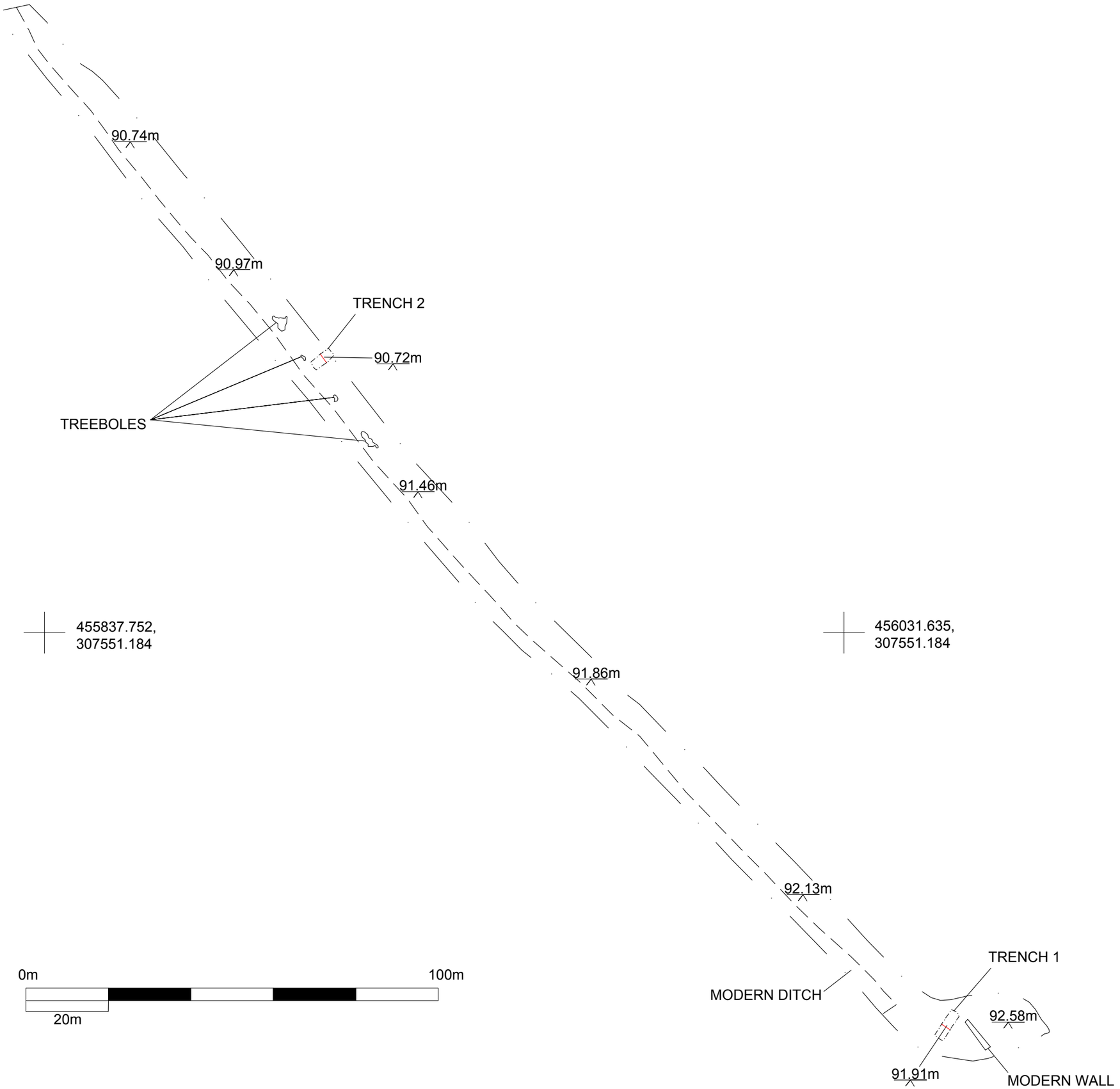

Site Name: LCAL'19
Date: 25.09.19
Drawn by: SAB
Scale: As shown

Figure 2: Site Plan

Sections

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1.3. Archaeological and Historical Background

1.3.1. A detailed archaeological and historical background can be found in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Lodoen 2019; Appendix I); a brief summary is presented here.

1.3.2. The earliest archaeological evidence within the vicinity of the PDA was in the form of two spot finds, 1km south east of the site. The first was a stone axe, Neolithic to Bronze Age in date (MLC623), and a Neolithic flint axe (MLC622).

1.3.3. There is also evidence for Roman activity within the area surrounding the PDA. Approximately 1.06km to the south west of the PDA is a Roman site (MLE117) where finds from the excavations and trial trenching suggests nearby domestic activity. Evidence of Roman activity in the surrounding area is also suggested by further spot finds of a sherd of Roman Samian Ware (MLC2658), approx. 1.4km away, and a spot find containing two brooches and a coin (MLE401) north east of Anstey Lane. This is discussed in further detail in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Lodoen 2019; see Appendix I).

1.3.4. Evidence for medieval activity is also present within and around the PDA in the form of ridge and furrows and park boundaries. Further details of these features can be found in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Lodoen 2019; see Appendix I).

1.3.5. The only heritage asset that is present in the PDA is a medieval park boundary for the park pale of a medieval deer park (MLC218). It survives in the form of an intermittent bank and ditch earthwork, starting north of Gorse Hill and follows the line of the road to the south before turning toward the south east to follow Anstey Lane. It terminates at Bennion Road leaving a gap before continuing again south of Krefeld Way following Anstey Lane towards Leicester. There is no clear evidence of the bank within the PDA itself but the ditch following the line of the footpath is thought to preserve the route of the pale.

2. Aims and Objectives

2.1 Regional Research Aims and Objectives

2.1.1 The archaeological works had potential to provide evidence relating to the research objectives and overarching research themes identified in the *Updated Research Agenda for the East Midlands* (Knight *et al.* 2012), notably for the late Bronze Age and Iron Age period, High Medieval and Post-Medieval periods.

2.1.2 For the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age Period these were as follows:

- 4.6 - Field systems and major linear boundaries: Can we shed further light upon the development of field and boundary systems? (Knight *et al.* 2012, 58)

2.1.3 For the high medieval Period, these included the following:

- 71 – Investigate the development of the open-field system and medieval woodland management (Knight *et al.* 2012, 104).

2.1.4 For the post-medieval period these included the following:

- 8.2 – Can we establish regional typologies of parklands, parkland structures and the villages and cottages associated with estates (Knight *et al.* 2012, 108)?

2.2 Principle Aims and Objectives

2.2.1 The aims of the programme of archaeological works were as follows:

- To gather sufficient evidence to establish, supplement, improve and make available information about any archaeological remains existing within the PDA, and to provide appropriate post-excavation assessment, analysis, reporting, archiving and dissemination.

- To gather evidence for the presence or absence of the medieval park pale (MLC218) the route of which is believed to be preserved in the line of the extant ditch on site.

2.2.2 The objectives were as follows:

- To produce a photographic, drawn and descriptive record of any surviving below-ground archaeological remains.

- To produce dating and phasing for archaeological deposits recorded on site.

- To establish the character and delimit the extent of archaeological deposits in order to define functional areas on site.

- To produce information on the economy and local environment.

3. Methodology

3.1 Coverage

3.1.1 The archaeological works consisted of a watching brief, trial trenching and an archaeological strip, map and sample. The watching brief and strip, map and sample covered the whole of the PDA. Alongside this, two targeted trenches were excavated across the presumed remains of the former park pale, which now potentially survives as a roadside ditch.

3.2 General Statement of Practice

3.2.1 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Lodoen 2019; see Appendix I) and the guidance laid out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA's) *Code of Conduct* (2014a)*, Standards and guidance for an*

archaeological Excavation (2014c) and Leicestershire County Council's *Brief for Archaeological Attendance* (2019).

3.2.1 A risk assessment was created before work commenced and all site operations were conducted in accordance with the ARS Ltd Health and Safety Policy and current Health and Safety Legislation.

3.3 Watching Brief Methodology

3.3.1 The watching brief involved supervising the removal of tree stumps in the wooded area of the PDA.

3.3.2 Any archaeological deposits were excavated and recorded as appropriate.

3.4 Trial Trenching Methodology

3.4.1 Trial trenching involved the excavation of two targeted trenches under archaeological supervision. Trenches were located to target the roadside ditch running through the site on the north-west to south-east alignment, presumed to be the ditch of a former park pale. The second trench was located to target the raised brick drain running through the site on the same alignment as the presumed park pale ditch.

3.4.2 Mechanical excavation was undertaken using a 360 excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.

3.4.3 The trench was cleaned by hand to expose any archaeological features and deposits. These were then excavated and recorded as appropriate.

3.4.4 All spoil removed during excavation was scanned visually to recover any small finds. Any finds recovered were recorded and their location noted on the site plan.

3.4.5 A representative section of each trench was drawn to record the deposits present. These were then tied into the National Grid using a Leica Survey grade GPS. Alongside this spot heights were taken.

3.5 Strip, Map and Sample Methodology

3.5.1 The strip, map and sample involved the removal of overburden, under archaeological supervision, followed by investigation and recording of exposed archaeological deposits.

3.5.2 The strip was undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket. The PDA was excavated by machine down to the natural underlying mudstone.

3.5.3 Any archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand, and then recorded as appropriate. Archaeological drawings produced were tied into the National Grid using a Leica Survey Grade GPS.

3.5.4 Where photographs were taken, a high resolution digital SLR camera with sensor exceeding 12 megapixels was used. All photographs taken were taken to the highest quality setting.

3.5.5 All archaeological features and deposits encountered were mapped using a Leica Survey Grade GPS. Spot heights of the PDA were taken as appropriate.

4. Results

4.1 Watching Brief Results

4.1.1 During the supervision of tree stump removal in the PDA, no archaeological features or deposits were exposed (See Figure 3). Contexts encountered included topsoil (001), subsoil (002) and the underlying natural mudstone (003). These have been summarised in Table 1 below.

Figure 3. Tree stump following removal

4.2 Trial Trenching Results

4.2.1 Two targeted trial trenches were excavated. Each trench sited to target the location of the presumed bank and ditch of the medieval park pale.

4.2.1 Trench One

4.2.1.1 Trench one was sited towards the south-eastern extent of the PDA (See Figure 2), targeting the southern area of the presumed bank and ditch of the medieval park pale.

4.2.1.2 The trench was 7.46m long and 2.3m wide. It was excavated to a depth of 0.26m, where the underlying natural mudstone (003) was encountered (See Figures 4 and 5).

Contexts encountered include topsoil (001), subsoil (002) and the natural mudstone (003) (See Figure 8). These are summarised in Table 1 below.

4.2.1.3 No archaeological features or deposits, including the medieval park pale, were encountered during excavation.

Figure 4. Trench shot of Trench 1

Figure 5. Representative Section of Trench 1, showing Topsoil (001), Subsoil (002) and Natural (003)

4.2.2 Trench Two

4.2.2.1 Trench two was located to the north of trench one (see Figure 2), targeting the northern extent of the presumed bank and ditch of the medieval park pale.

4.2.2.2 The trench was 5.45m long and 2.19m wide, and was excavated to a depth of 0.13m, where the underlying natural mudstone (003) was encountered (See Figures 6 and 7).

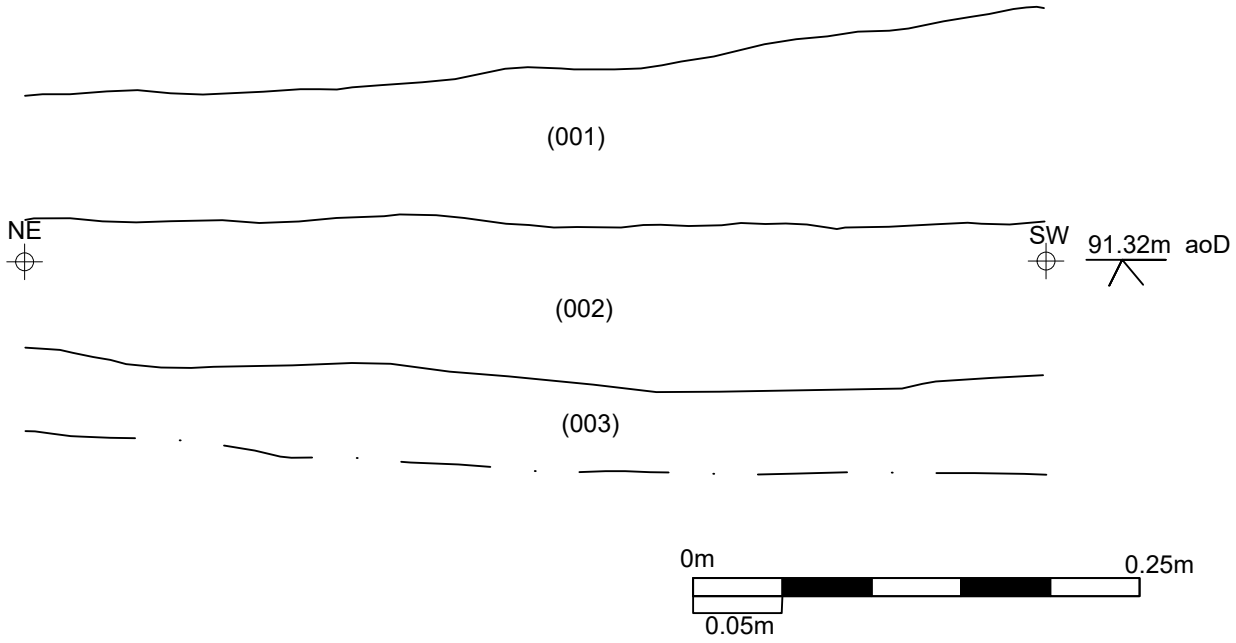
Contexts encountered include topsoil (001), subsoil (002) and the natural mudstone (003) (See Figure 8). These are summarised in Table 1 below.

4.2.2.3 No archaeological features or deposits, including the medieval park pale, were encountered during excavation.

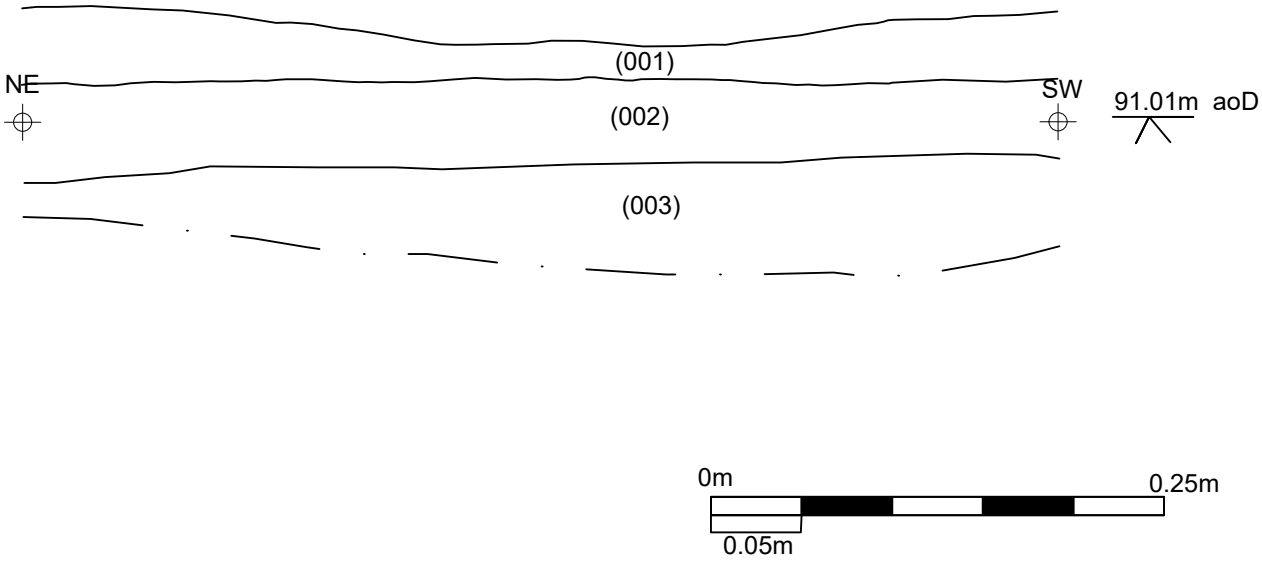
Figure 6. Trench Shot of Trench Two

Figure 7. Representative Section of Trench Two showing Topsoil (001), Subsoil (002) and Natural (003)

SE FACING SECTION OF TRENCH 1



SE FACING SECTION OF TRENCH 2



Site Name: LCAL'19
Date: 11.09.19
Drawn by: KB
Scale: As shown

Figure 8: Representative Sections of Trench 1 and 2

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4.3 Strip, Map and Sample Results

4.3.1 The overburden across the PDA was stripped, under archaeological supervision, down to the underlying natural mudstone (003) (See Figures 9 and 10).

Figure 9. Area Shot of Stripped Area

Figure 10. Area Shot of Stripped Area (Low Light)

4.3.2 Contexts encountered included topsoil (001) and subsoil (002). These were stripped down to the underlying natural mudstone (003), the depth ranged from 0.11m to 0.30m BGL. These are summarised in Table 1 below.

4.3.3 Tree boles were encountered in the northern extent of the site (See Figure 2). These were expected as the area was wooded prior to the commencement of works and thus are not archaeologically significant.

4.3.4 All future intrusive groundworks will occur within the monitored areas. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed during the strip, including the bank and ditch of the presumed medieval park pale.

Context Number	Description/Processual Interpretation	Thickness/Extent	Height aOD
(001)	Fine textured dark greyish black deposit comprised of clayey sandy silt, heavily truncated by large root. Represents topsoil extending across extent of site.	0.10m-0.45m/covers extent of site	91.07m-91.46m
(002)	Fine textured mid brown clayey silt deposit with heavy rooting. Represents subsoil across extent of site.	0.02m-0.12m/covers extent of site	91.03m-91.32m
(003)	Fine textured mid yellowish brown clay with frequent root activity present and moderate amount of flint and some chalk included. Represents underlying natural mudstone.	Extent of site	90.74m-92.58m

Table 1: Summary of Contexts Encountered

5. Discussion

5.1 The archaeological works demonstrated that there were no archaeological remains present in the areas disturbed by the groundworks. The only features encountered were tree boles, which are to be expected in a wooded area, and a modern wall, neither of which are archaeologically significant.

5.2 The absence of archaeological features is perhaps not surprising when previous land use is considered. It is likely that the PDA sits within the boundary of a medieval deer park, although the exact limits of the park are not known. Historic mapping indicates that the land remained undeveloped and rural in character until tree planting alongside the B5327 Anstey Lane in the mid-20th century. The pattern of land use within the PDA is borne out in the nature of the deposits encountered during the archaeological works where the only notable disturbance was from tree boles and rooting.

5.3 All future intrusive groundworks will occur within the monitored area, which was excavated under archaeological supervision and thus no archaeological remains will be impacted by the development.

6. Archive Deposition

6.1. The archive will comprise one full colour copy of the report in PDF format with accompanying plans and registers. This will be deposited with the Leicester City HER. A PDF version of the report will also be uploaded as part of the OASIS record (OASIS ID: 368282).

7. Publicity, Confidentiality, and Copyright

7.1. Any publicity will be handled by the client.

7.2. Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Acts (1988).

8. Statement of Indemnity

8.1. All statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

9. Acknowledgements

9.1. Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank everyone who contributed to the outcome of this project. In particular we would like to thank Galliford Try and Leicester County Council for commissioning the work.

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Appendix I: Written Scheme of Investigation

Land at Anstey Lane,
Leicester

Written Scheme of Investigation
for Archaeological Works

March 2019

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Prepared on behalf of:	Galliford Try
Date of compilation:	March 2019
Compiled by:	Adam Lodoen
Local Authority:	Leicester City Council
Site central NGR:	SK 55915 07623

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 Introduction

1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) on behalf of Galliford Try working for Leicestershire County Council (the clients). It details a scheme of archaeological works on land at Anstey Lane, Leicester (NGR: SK 55915 07623) (Figure 1).

1.2 Leicestershire County Council and Highways England have developed an improvement scheme for the A46 Anstey Lane Junction which provides access from the Leicester Western Bypass (A46) to Leicester Road to the north and Anstey Lane (A5630) and Gynsill Lane to the south. The scheme aim is to widen the southbound (SB) on slip, northbound (NB) off slip and the roundabout gyratory carriageway to relieve traffic congestion at the junction. Pavement re-surfacing of the NB and SB on and off slip roads will also be undertaken as part of the works.

1.3 The Anstey Lane Roundabout is located at the north western extent of the city of Leicester in the county of Leicestershire with the A46 traversing from south west to north east (Northbound). To the north of the site is farmland and the residential area of Anstey. To the south of the site is arable and pastoral farmland with the residential area of 'New Parks' further south.

1.4 Archaeology is a material consideration in the planning process. The aim of this programme of works is, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 199 (MHCLG 2018), to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publically accessible.

1.5 This document comprises the WSI and sets out the archaeological works to be undertaken by ARS Ltd on land at Anstey Lane, Leicester in accordance with the generic *Brief for Archaeological Attendance* (2019) produced by Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team and in consultation with the City Archaeologist for Leicester City Council whose jurisdiction covers the proposed development area (hereafter PDA).

2 Background

2.1 Site Location and Geology

2.1.1 The PDA lies off Anstey Lane, approximately 1.5km from Anstey, 4.2km from Leicester city centre and 0.7km south-east of the Western Bypass. On the east edge of the PDA is a drain and beyond that is Gorse Hill industrial estate. The assessment area only extends as far as the drain to the very south. On the west and south of the site edge is a public pavement on Anstey Lane and Bennion Road.

2.1.2 The site consists of a linear strip of land 20-25m wide and approximately

405m long, running along Anstey Lane. It is currently in use as woodland. The southern end is bounded by the footpath and road on Bennion Road, and the west

by the footpath/verge on that side. The eastern edge of the site does not extend all the way into the wooded area and is not defined by any physical features. The land topography is uneven and lies at a height of approx. 91m aOD.

2.1.3 The assessment area lies just south of the boundary between Leicester City and Charnwood District, as well as the boundary to Anstey Parish. The northernmost part of the site is either very close to or overlaps with the Gorse Hill boundary of Castle Hill Country Park consisting of species-rich neutral grasslands and hedgerow. On the opposite side of Anstey Lane is the Anstey Lane and Gorse Meadows Local Nature Reserve.

2.1.4 The underlying geology consists of Edwalton member Mudstone, and superficial deposits of Oadby member Diamicton (BGS 2019).

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background (after Hames 2018)

Historical Background

Anstey

2.2.1 The place-name 'Anstey' is derived from the Old English word anstig. This has generally been interpreted as referring to a short or narrow length of road, possibly on a slope or a hill (Ekwall, 1960). Anstey is first recorded in the Domesday Book when it was held by one of the county's largest landholders, Hugh de Grantemesnil, castellan of Leicester. The Domesday Book also records that 1 plough and 4 serfs were held by the lord, 13 villeins and 4 bordars held 2 ploughs, 8 acres of meadow and two stretches of woodland (Morris 1979).

Designated Heritage Assets

2.2.2 The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland and the HER for Leicester indicate that there are no known archaeological remains recorded from within the PDA. There are no World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, battlefields or registered parks and gardens within 1km of the PDA. The closest Listed Building is a medieval to post-medieval Boundary Stone on Gynsill Lane (MLE14170). Some locally listed assets in the area include the lodge and covered reservoir on Anstey Lane (DLC634, LL/041), Leicester Frith Farm on Hallgate Drive (DLC635, LL/048) and a Park Pale (near Gorse Hill) (DLC621, LL/384).

Non-Designated Heritage Assets within a 750m radius of the PDA

Prehistoric

2.2.3 The HER records several entries for park boundaries. Although the parks themselves are late medieval in date there are two places where it has been suggested that the boundaries follow the lines of prehistoric multiple ditch systems (MLE397, MLC3193). The first of these (MLE397) is recorded on the 1885 OS map as a ditch and bank labelled 'Old Park Pale' and is still visible on the ground running parallel to Anstey Lane some 0.7km to the west of the site in a field south of Gynsill Lane. The second entry (MLC3193) is not recorded on OS maps in any specific way but the HER records it running perpendicular to the 'Old Park Pale' from its' southern

extent towards Anstey Lane along the modern field boundaries before turning 90° and running south-east along the route of Anstey Lane towards Leicester on the opposite side of the road from the site.

2.24 Just over 1km south-east of the site are two find spots, one of a stone axe Neolithic to Bronze Age in date (MLC623), and a Neolithic flint axe (MLC622).

Roman

2.2.5 Close to the site is the conjectured line of Little Chester Roman Road (MLC1483), leaving the north gate of Leicester and heading towards Derby. Two dark parallel lines have been observed correlating with the alignment of the parish boundary exiting Bradgate Park, however without excavation it cannot be said if this is the Roman roadway or not. Approximately 1.06km to the south-west of the PDA is a Roman site (MLE117). The finds from the excavations and trail trenching suggest nearby domestic activity. Approximately 1.4km of the PDA is a Roman Samian ware pottery sherd was found (MLC2658). North east of Anstey Lane and west of the Western Bypass is another Roman findspot containing two brooches and a coin (MLE401).

Anglo-Saxon to Medieval

2.2.6 The only heritage asset that occurs within the assessment area is another park boundary, the park pale of a medieval deer park (MLC218), which still survives in the form of an intermittent bank and ditch earthwork. It starts north of Gorse Hill and follows the line of the road to the south before turning toward the south-east to follow Anstey Lane. It terminates at Bennion Road leaving a gap before continuing again south of Krefeld Way following Anstey Lane towards Leicester. There is no clear evidence of a bank within the PDA itself but the ditch which follows the line of the footpath is thought to preserve the route of the pale.

2.2.7 There are a number of heritage assets on Gorse Hill, the road to the north of the assessment site. There is a 150m long medieval wood bank and parish boundary running north to south along the east side of Gorse Hill (MLE17735) defining the boundary of the Beaumont Leys Ward and Anstey Parish. The wood bank is most likely associated with the medieval Anstey Park (MLE17056). The Old Park Pale on Gynsill Lane mentioned above (MLE397) appears to be a boundary of this park, possibly respecting a much older, prehistoric, boundary along with (MLC3193).

2.2.8 To the north of the site is cropmark evidence for another medieval boundary bank or other possible park pale known as The Oaks (MLC209) appearing to run east to west. Much of it lies under what is now the Gorse Hill industrial estate but a small segment may have been preserved between in the woods between Anstey Lane and the industrial estate. Running along a portion of the southern half of Gorse Hill is another undated park pale (MLC2902, LL/384). On the west side of Anstey Lane, north of the Bradgate Heights estate lies Leicester Frith Farm on Hallgate Drive (MLC2916, LL/048), an undated building and locally listed asset. Nearby to this is Glenfrith Farm (MLC3192), which features extant ridge and furrow. Around 0.9km

from the site, south of Anstey proper is the site of a medieval/early post-medieval watermill (MLE390), and the current building is raised on a stone plinth of possibly medieval date; the extant building is 18th/19th century (MLE391).

Post-medieval and modern

2.2.9 North-east of the Anstey watermill site is a brick kiln dated to the post-medieval period (MLE395). Around 0.7km from the site lies the site of the previous Anstey Pastures County House built in 1833 (MLE388). It has since been destroyed and now lies under the Western Bypass. Documentary evidence shows the location of a small smallpox hospital accessed via Anstey Lane, opened around 1900 AD (MLC2437). There are numerous recorded modern features near the site, for example the Severn Trent Water Emergency Control Centre nuclear bunker (MLC2726), the construction of which was abandoned in 1980, and a section of the Grand Central Railway (MLC1600) consisting of earthworks, extant and demolished buildings closed in the 1960s.

3 Aims and Objectives

3.1 Regional Research Aims and Objectives

3.1.1 The proposed archaeological works have the potential to provide evidence relating to research objectives and overarching research themes identified in the *Updated Research Agenda for the East Midlands* (Knight *et al.* 2012), notably for the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age Period, High Medieval and Post-Medieval periods.

3.1.2 For the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age Period these include the following:

- 4.6 – Field systems and major linear boundaries: Can we shed further light upon the development of field and boundary systems? Knight *et al.* 2012, 58)

3.1.3 For the High Medieval Period these include the following:

- 7I – Investigate the development of the open-field system and medieval woodland management (Knight *et al.* 2012, 104)

3.1.4 For the Post-Medieval Period these include the following:

- 8.2 – Can we establish regional typologies of parklands, parkland structures and the villages and cottages associated with estates? (Knight *et al.* 2012, 108)

3.2 Principal Aims and Objectives

3.2.1 The aims of the programme of archaeological works are to gather sufficient evidence to establish, supplement, improve and make available information about any archaeological remains existing within the area of investigation, and to provide appropriate post-excavation assessment, analysis, reporting, archiving and dissemination.

3.2.2 The objectives are as follows:

- To produce a photographic, drawn and descriptive record of any surviving below-ground archaeological remains.
- To produce dating and phasing for archaeological deposits recorded on the site.
- To establish the character and delimit the extent of archaeological deposits in order to define functional areas on the site, e.g. industrial and domestic.
- To produce information on the economy and local environment.

4 Fieldwork Methodology

4.1 Coverage

4.1.1 The archaeological works will comprise an archaeological strip, map and sample across the whole of the PDA as well as the excavation of a targeted trench across the presumed remains of the former Park Pale which now survives as a roadside ditch.

4.1.2 The precise location of the trench will be agreed on site in the agreement of the City Archaeologist for Leicester. The depth and width of the trench will be sufficient to capture the full profile of the roadside ditch and any surviving remains of the bank of the Park Pale.

4.2 General Statement of Practice

4.2.1 All staff employed on the project will be suitably qualified for their respective project roles and have substantial experience of archaeological excavation and recording.

4.2.2 All staff will be made aware of the archaeological importance of the area surrounding the site and will be fully briefed on the work required by this specification.

4.2.3 All ground works covered under this specification will be undertaken by a suitable mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, or by hand, working in plan.

4.2.4 ARS Ltd will ensure that plant or machinery will not be operated in the immediate vicinity of any archaeological remains until they have been recorded.

4.2.5 Contractors and plant operators will be notified that any observations of archaeological remains must be reported immediately to the archaeologist on site.

4.2.6 Regular contact will be ensured between ARS Ltd and the site project manager to ensure that ARS Ltd is kept up to date with site works and given the change to respond appropriately and in line with the requirements of the City Archaeologist for Leicester City Council.

4.2.7 All site operations will be carried out in a safe manner in accordance with ARS Ltd's health and safety policy. A risk assessment will be prepared before commencement on site.

4.2.8 All elements of the project will be carried out in accordance with CIfA's *Code of Conduct* (2014a) and *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (2014c) and Leicestershire County Council's *Brief for Archaeological Attendance* (2019).

4.3 Strip, Map and Sample Methodology

4.3.2 The project will involve the removal, under archaeological control, of overburden followed by investigation and recording of exposed archaeological deposits. This work will be undertaken by an experienced professional archaeologist appointed by ARS Ltd.

4.3.3 Mechanical excavation will be undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket and will be continuously monitored by an experienced archaeologist. Excavation will proceed to the top of any significant archaeological horizon, or to the proposed formation level where this lies *no less than 0.15m* above any significant archaeological deposits.

4.3.4 Where archaeological deposits/features are located, appropriate archaeological investigation and recording will be completed prior to further ground reduction. The developer will make provision for the necessary archaeological investigation (fieldwork, post-excavation analysis, reporting and archive deposition). The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work.

4.3.4 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and recorded as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be excavated. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosoils and waterlogged deposits in consultation with our in house environmental officer.

4.2.5 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. This will encompass a minimum sample excavation of: 50% of each discrete feature; 10% of each linear feature in addition to terminals and intersections, each excavated slot measuring at least 1m in width (wherever possible); 100% of special features/deposits including burials, structural remains, kilns, etc. will be excavated, unless otherwise agreed with the Planning Archaeologist.

4.2.6 Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied to an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) or Leica Survey grade GPS. All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale and these tied to XYZ coordinates of the Ordnance Survey. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

4.3 Trenching Methodology

4.3.1 All elements of the trench excavation will be carried out in accordance with CIfA's *Code of Conduct* (2014a); *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (2014b); *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014c) and Leicestershire County Council's *Brief for Archaeological Attendance* (2019).

4.3.2 The project will involve the excavation under archaeological control of a single trench through the roadside ditch running through the site on a north-west to south-east alignment, presumed to be the ditch of a former Park Pale. The trench will also target the raised brick drain running through the site on the same alignment as the presumed Park Pale ditch, if possible and practicable. This work will be undertaken by an experienced professional archaeologist appointed by ARS Ltd.

4.3.3 Mechanical excavation will be undertaken using a suitable 360° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket working in plan. The depth and width of the trench will be sufficient to capture the full profile of the roadside ditch and any surviving remains of the bank of the Park Pale, unless the depth of the trench exceeds a safe excavation depth. Stripping will be continuously monitored by an experienced archaeologist. No machinery will track over areas that have previously been stripped until the area has been signed off by ARS Ltd.

4.3.4. The trench will be appropriately cleaned, if safe, by hand in order to expose the nature and extent of archaeological features and deposits.

4.3.5 All spoil removed during groundworks will be scanned visually to recover small finds. Any finds so recovered will be recorded and their location noted on a site plan at a relevant scale. The finds will be retained and recorded.

4.3.6 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and recorded as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be excavated. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosoils and waterlogged deposits in consultation with our in house environmental officer.

4.3.7 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded in accordance with the ARS Ltd field recording manual and single context recording system as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. This will encompass a minimum sample excavation of: 50% of each discrete feature; 10% of each linear feature in addition to terminals and intersections, each excavated slots measuring at least 1m in width (wherever possible); 100% of special features/deposits including burials, structural remains, kilns, etc. will be excavated, unless otherwise agreed with the Planning Archaeologist.

4.3.8 Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied to an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) or Leica Survey grade

GPS. All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale and these tied to XYZ coordinates of the Ordnance Survey. Spot heights will be taken

4.3.9 Topsoil and subsoil will be stored separately if necessary and will in all circumstances be stored at least 1m away from the trench edges.

4.3.10 Representative samples of bricks from brick-built structures and selective products of the brick working process will be retained for specialist analysis where appropriate.

4.3.11 Where archaeological deposits/features are located, appropriate archaeological investigation and recording will be completed prior to further ground reduction. The developer will make provision for the necessary archaeological investigation (fieldwork, post-excavation analysis, reporting and archive deposition). The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work.

4.4 Photography

4.4.1 Photography will comprise colour slide photography and black and white print and will be compiled under the following (excepting those provisions specifically relating to digital photography).

4.4.2 Where digital photography is undertaken:

- Photographs will be taken with a high resolution digital SLR camera with sensor exceeding 12 Mega pixels;
- Photographs will only be taken by staff who have been trained properly to use the camera;
- All photographs will be taken using the highest quality setting and saved in JPEG format. JPEG images will not be constantly re-opened and re-saved and that filing naming processes do not lead to additional image compression.
- All digital photographs will be taken in colour;
- Digital photographs will be taken either on a manual, aperture or shutter priority setting;
- A low ISO setting will be used.
- The aperture setting will be appropriate to the required depth of field of the image;
- A tripod will be used in low light conditions so that a long exposure shot (slower shutter speed) can be taken;
- All photographs (except large general or publicity shots) will include a suitable scale bar or rod.
- Photographs of features will include a north arrow;

- All photographs (except general shots) must include an information board displaying the Site Code or Accession Number and the principal context number;
- The information board must be legible;
- Photographs will be taken in appropriate light conditions (i.e. not strong sun). Where this is not feasible measures will be taken to ensure detail and clarity in representation of the object photograph.
- A photographic register will be compiled.
- Where 'bracketed shots' are taken (where it may not be possible to check an image for quality immediately or where lighting levels may affect contrast), only one image from the bracketed shot will be archived, the rest should be deleted.
- All digital photographs should be saved with a file name that uses the Accession Number, then an underscore followed by 'Figure' and a simple numerical sequence.
- ARS Ltd has a daily and weekly back-up and data recovery protocols. All digital photographs will be uploaded onto the project file on our network at daily intervals where backup copies are also made on a daily basis.

4.5 Sampling, Faunal Remains and Treasure

4.5.1 This section outlines sampling methodologies to be utilised.

4.5.2 A minimum bulk sample of 40 litres will be taken from sealed and stratigraphically secure deposits, that are adjudged to have the potential to provide environmental evidence relating to diet and economy, dating evidence or land use regime. A 100% bulk sample of the deposit will be taken if the deposit is less than 40L in volume.

4.5.2 Samples will be assessed by a suitable specialist and provision will be made for scientific dating, where justified against the project aims.

4.5.4 In the case of waterlogged or anaerobic deposits a minimum sample size of 20L will be taken.

4.5.5 Should a sequence of superimposed deposits of note be present, column sampling may be considered.

4.5.6 Where there is evidence for industrial activity, macroscopic technological residues (or samples of them) will be collected by hand. Separate samples (c. 10ml) will be collected from micro-slags (hammer scale and spherical droplets) in accordance with Historic England guidance on *Archaeometallurgy* (2015a) and *Archaeological Evidence for Glassworking* (Historic England 2018).

4.5.7 Samples will be taken for scientific dating (such as radiocarbon dating) in specific circumstances that will apply where dating by artefacts is insecure or absent.

4.5.8 Appropriate consideration will be given to the need for any geoarchaeological assessment of buried soils and sediment sequences exposed. Where said is necessary these will be inspected and recorded on site by a recognised geoarchaeologist as field inspection may provide sufficient data for understanding site formation processes. The procedures and techniques presented in *Geoarchaeology: Using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record* (Historic England 2015b) will be applied. Samples for laboratory assessment will be collected where appropriate, following discussion with the Planning Archaeologist.

4.5.9 Sampling strategies for wooden structures should follow the methodologies presented in English Heritage's *Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of waterlogged wood* (2010).

4.5.10 Should other types of environmental deposits be encountered, appropriate specialist advice will be sought and an appropriate sampling strategy devised. Samples will be assessed by a suitable specialist with provision for further analysis as required. Advice from the Historic England Scientific Advisor will be taken as appropriate.

4.5.11 In all instances sampling strategies will be in accordance with guidelines issued by Historic England's *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice Methods, from sampling and recovery to post excavation* (Campbell *et al*. 2011) and will be targeted in order to explore the levels and types of preservation present.

4.5.12 Any human remains will initially be left *in-situ* and protected and removal undertaken once a Coroners licence has been obtained in accordance with the relevant Ministry of Justice regulations.

4.5.13 All finds that may constitute 'treasure' under the Treasure Act, 1996, will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act (DCMS 2008). The Portable Antiquities Liaison Officer will also be notified.

HM Coroner
Mr T.H Kirkman
Charnwood Borough Council Offices
Southfield Road
Loughborough
Leicestershire
LE11 2TR

Tel: 0116 305 7732

Finds Liaison Officer
Wendy Scott
Room 600
County Hall
Glenfield
Leicestershire
LE3 8TE

Tel: 0116 3058325
e-mail: wendy.scott@leics.gov.uk

4.5.14 Where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be taken to protect the finds from theft. The planning

archaeologist will be notified and, if necessary, a site meeting arranged to determine if further investigation in the vicinity of the find spot is required.

4.6 Treatment of finds

4.6.1 All finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid for Finds,* (1998) and CIfA (2014d) *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* and the recipient museum's guidelines.

4.6.2 If large quantities, bulky or conservationally complex finds are discovered on site, the Archaeological Contractor must contact the Archives Curator at the earliest opportunity to enter into discussions regarding preservation and long-term storage of the archive.

4.6.3 In line with an agreed discard strategy, all identified finds and artefacts will be retained. Certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is recommended by the recipient museum's Archives Curator.

4.7 Preservation *in-situ* and Contingency

4.7.1 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located during the archaeological investigation there may be a need for contingency time and finance to be invoked to ensure that adequate recording is undertaken. Should significant remains be discovered ARS Ltd will inform the developer, the City Archaeologist and the Planning Authority.

4.7.2 Should significant archaeological deposits or structural remains requiring preservation *in-situ* be encountered detailed discussions between all relevant parties will be initiated. Where structures, features or finds appear to merit preservation *in-situ*, they will be adequately protected from deterioration.

4.7.3 Where design modification is not practically possible ARS Ltd will liaise with the developer for sufficient time and financial resources for full excavation, conservation, and curation of the archaeological resources before development continues.

5 Post-excavation

5.1 The archaeological fieldwork will be followed by post-excavation analysis and reporting. This will include the cataloguing and analysis of any finds, samples and the preparation of the archive for the site report and its subsequent deposition. Where artefacts are recovered from identified features they will be quantified by date class and type; in other circumstances, they will be quantified by period and class and type (e.g. 5 sherds, late Roman grey ware pottery); in other circumstances, as a minimum, they should be quantified by period and class (e.g. 5 sherds, Roman pottery).

5.2 Artefacts, biological samples and soils will be assessed for evidence of site and deposit formation processes and for evidence of recent changes that may have been caused by alterations in the site environment. Assessment will where necessary include x-radiography of all iron objects, (after initial screening to exclude obvious recent debris), and a selection of non-ferrous artefacts (including all coins).

5.3 Where necessary, active stabilisation or consolidation will be carried out, to ensure long-term survival of the material with due consideration to possible future investigation.

5.4 Once assessed, all material should be packed and stored in optimum conditions, as described in UKIC's *First Aid for Finds* (1998).

5.5 Assessment of any technological residues should be undertaken.

5.6 Any samples for dating will be promptly submitted and prior agreement will be made with the laboratory on turn-around time and report production.

5.7 Processing of all soil samples collected for biological assessment, or sub-sample of them, will be completed. The preservation state, density and significance of material retrieved will be assessed by recognised specialists. Special consideration will be given to any evidence for recent changes in preservation conditions that may have been caused by alterations in the site environment. Unprocessed sub-samples will be stored in conditions specified by the appropriate specialists.

5.8 Samples collected for geoarchaeological assessment should be processed as necessary by a recognised specialist and appropriate assessment undertaken. Where preservation *in-situ* is a viable option consideration should be given to the possible effects of compression on the physical integrity of the site and to any hydrological impacts of development.

5.9 Animal bone assemblages, or sub-samples of them, should be assessed by a recognised specialist.

5.10 Where human remains have been lifted assessment should be undertaken by a recognised specialist.

6 Reporting

6.1 Following completion of analysis ARS Ltd will produce a report which will include:

- Non-technical executive summary
- Introductory statement
- Aims and purpose of the project
- Methodology
- A location plan showing all excavated areas and any archaeological features with respect to nearby fixed structures and roads All plans tied into the Ordnance Survey data

- Measured drawings and plans with accurate scales and north arrows
- Photographs showing the general nature and character of the site (even where no archaeological remains are encountered)
- Deposit descriptions, including depth of overburden and section drawings where necessary
- A summary of any artefacts together with their interpretation
- Any specialist reports
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results
- Conclusions
- A full listing of the archive contents
- Supporting data – tabulated or in appendices
- References
- Statement of intent regarding publication
- Confirmation of archive transfer arrangements
- A copy of the WSI and OASIS form

The report will be provided to assess the following:

- The archaeological significance of the development site and any archaeological deposits encountered during the fieldwork
- The evidence in its local, regional and national context, as appropriate, also aiming to highlight any research priorities where applicable

6.2 The final report(s), detailing all stages of the investigations, will be deposited with the Leicester City HER no later than six months after completion of the project, unless otherwise agreed with the Planning Archaeologist. As a minimum this will comprise one full colour digital copy of the written report in pdf/A-1a (archival pdf) format including its relevant accompanying plans.

6.3 A further digital copy of the report should be sent to the Planning Archaeologist for their approval on behalf of the Planning Authority.

6.4 Results of the project, even if negative, will be submitted for publication in appropriate academic journals. As a minimum ARS Ltd will provide a summary of findings to the '*Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*' (School of Archaeology & Ancient History, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester, LE1 7RH).

6.5 Where wider dissemination is appropriate and the significance of the results warrant, a full copy of the report in an appropriate format will be submitted for publication in a relevant academic journal. If significant results are obtained a copy of the final report(s) will be deposited in the Historic England Archive (NMR),

Swindon. Where archaeological scientific investigation has formed an element of the project a copy of the report should be sent to the Historic England Regional Science Advisor for the East Midlands.

7 Monitoring Arrangements

7.1 Notice of the commencement of works will be given to the designated LCC City Archaeologist.

Grahame Appleby (FSA)

City Archaeologist

Leicester City Council

Email: Grahame.Appleby@leicester.gov.uk

Tel: 0116 4546868

7.2 Internal monitoring of the project will be maintained by the designated project manager from ARS Ltd who will ensure the application of appropriate professional standards and will be overseen by Reuben Thorpe, MCI*f*A, FSA, Senior Project Manager at ARS Ltd. Provision will be made for monitoring visits by representatives of the Planning, Development and Transportation Team, Leicester City Council and the Planning Authority.

7.3 ARS Ltd will liaise with LCC's City Archaeologist at regular intervals throughout the course of the work.

7.4 The client will afford reasonable access to LCC's City Archaeologist, or their representatives, for the purposes of monitoring the works.

8 Staffing

8.1 The Project Manager for the archaeological works will be Reuben Thorpe Senior Project Manager at ARS Ltd or Tony Brennan Operations Manager at ARS Ltd. The fieldwork Project Officer will be a suitably experienced core member of ARS Ltd staff.

8.2 Specialist analyses will be carried out by appropriately qualified specialists as detailed subject to availability.

♦ Flint and prehistoric pottery:	Dr Robin Holgate MCI*f*A, FSA
♦ Romano-British pottery:	Dr Phil Mills MCI*f*A
♦ Samian ware:	Dr Gwladys Monteil
♦ Medieval and post-medieval pottery	Dr Chris Cumberpatch or Dr Robin Holgate, MCI*f*A, FSA
♦ Medieval and post-medieval metalwork, glass and clay pipes:	Mike Wood MCI*f*A

- Plant macrofossils and charcoals: Luke Parker
- Human and animal bone: Milena Grzybowska
- Radiocarbon dating: Professor Gordon Cook (SUERC)
- Finds conservation: Vicky Garlick (Durham University)

9 Archiving

9.1 Compilation and Transfer

9.1.1 An Accession Number has been obtained prior to the commencement of the fieldwork. That accession number is Y.A10.2019.

9.1.2 All artefacts and associated material will be cleaned, recorded, properly stored and deposited in the archive (see above).

9.1.3 The archive will consist of all artefacts, written records, drawn and photographic records. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. It will contain a site matrix, site summary and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental data. The site Accession Number will be appropriately marked on all elements of the site/project archive.

9.1.4 The archive must be prepared in line with *The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire County Council Museum Collections* (Leicestershire County Council, revised 2018) and other appropriate professional guidelines e.g. *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage* (UKIC 1990).

9.1.5 The archive will be deposited in line with the CIfA's Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (2014d), the Society of Museum Archaeologists (1993) Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), and Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (Brown 2007).

9.2 OASIS

9.2.1 The Leicester City HER supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. Upon completion of the fieldwork, the online OASIS form http://www.oasis.ac.uk/ will be completed. Once reports have become public documents and have been incorporated into the HER they will be uploaded to the Archaeological Data Service website so they can be freely consulted.

10 General Items

10.1 Health and Safety

10.1.1 All work will be carried out in accordance with The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. Specific health and safety policies exist for all our workplaces and all staff employed will be made aware of the policy and any relevant issues. The particular risks involved with this project will be assessed, recorded and relevant mitigation measures put in place as part of a full risk assessment, which will be compiled in advance of fieldwork and will be read and signed by all on-site operatives. ARS Ltd retains Citation as its expert health and safety consultants.

10.2 Insurance Cover

10.2.1 ARS Ltd holds full Employer's Liability (£10 million), Public Liability (£5 million) and Professional Indemnity (£2 million) insurance, which also cover community groups and volunteers working under the supervision of ARS Ltd staff.

10.3 Changes to the Written Scheme of Investigation

10.3.1 Changes to the approved methodology or programme of works will only be made with prior written approval of LCC's City Archaeologist.

10.4 Publicity and Copyright

10.4.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client. ARS Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

11 References

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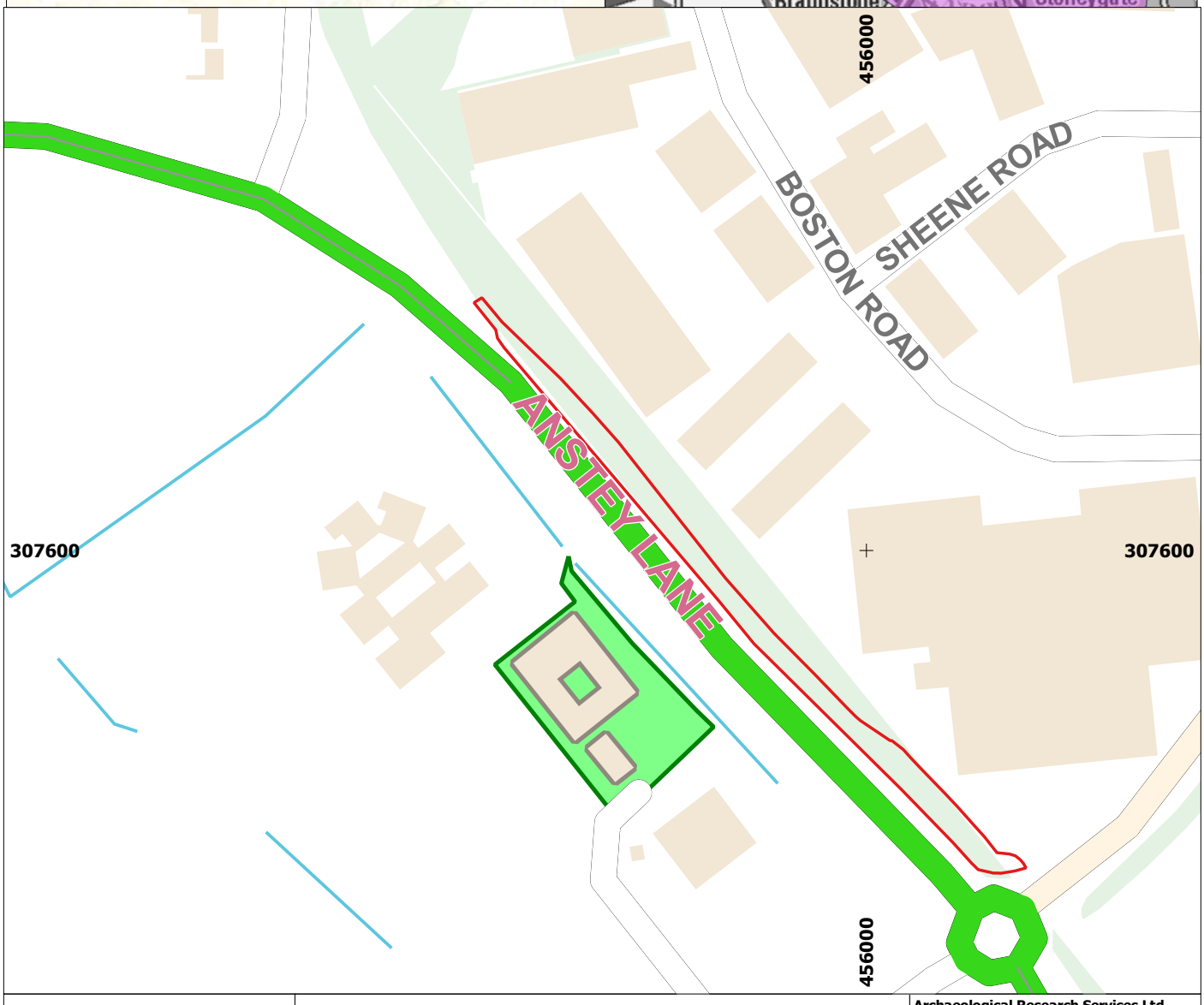
Figures



Site name: Anstey Lane, Leicester
Date: March 2019
Drawn by: AL
Scale: Varies

City of Leicester

Site Boundary

N

Figure 1:
Site location

Archaeological Research Services Ltd

Angel House
Portland Square
Bakewell
Derbyshire
DE45 1HB

Tel: 01629 814540
www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

Appendix II: OASIS Form