



# Blaby Cemetery Extension Leicestershire

Archaeological Evaluation



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## Quality Assurance

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## Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by the CDS Group to undertake the archaeological evaluation of a 0.59-hectare parcel of land located immediately adjacent to the eastern edge of Blaby cemetery, Leicestershire (NGR 457505 297550). The work was carried out as part of a planning application for the extension of the existing cemetery to provide approximately 160 additional burial plots.

None of the four excavated trenches contained any archaeological remains. A subsoil deposit was recorded in one of the trenches; this may represent a former ploughsoil/cultivation furrow. No finds were recovered during the evaluation and no deposits meriting environmental sampling were identified.

Based on a combination of these results and those of an earlier geophysical survey, the site does not appear to be of any elevated archaeological potential. The aims and general objectives of the evaluation have been met, albeit with the context of a negative result.

Given the very limited results of the fieldwork, it is recommended that deposition of the project archive should involve the uploading of the approved site report to the Archaeology Data Service via OASIS only.

## Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank the CDS Group for commissioning the archaeological evaluation, in particular Eliot Winter. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of the Leicestershire County Council Senior Planning Archaeologist (Heritage), who monitored the project for Blaby District Council, and to T. P. Contractors for their cooperation and help on site.



# Blaby Cemetery Extension, Leicestershire

## Archaeological Evaluation

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by the CDS Group to undertake the archaeological evaluation of a 0.59 hectare parcel of land located adjacent to Blaby cemetery, Leicestershire (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in association with the planned extension of the existing cemetery to provide approximately 160 additional burial plots. A planning application (23/0280/FUL) submitted to Blaby District Council, was granted, subject to conditions, some of which relate to archaeological investigation.
- 1.1.3 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2023a). The Senior Planning Archaeologist (Heritage) at Leicestershire County Council approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 1.1.4 The evaluation, comprising four trial trenches (4% sample), was undertaken from 16–17 October 2023.

#### 1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the evaluation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context and assess whether the aims of the evaluation have been met.
- 1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource that may be impacted by the proposed development and facilitate an informed decision with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.

#### 1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The proposed evaluation area is located on land adjacent to Blaby cemetery, Mill Lane, Blaby, Leicestershire, centred on NGR 457505 297550. The site consists of a single agricultural field, enclosed on the south, north and eastern sides by hedgerows and fencing. To the west and north-west lie the existing bounds of Blaby cemetery, with part of the site boundary following the cemetery driveway's turning loop. A gap in the eastern boundary of the site leads to Highfields Farm, which lies immediately south-east of the site.
- 1.3.2 The site is situated within a relatively flat area of land at an elevation of approximately 75 m above Ordnance Datum (OD).
- 1.3.3 The bedrock geology throughout much of the site is mapped as Mudstone of the Branscombe, with Blue Anchor Mudstone beneath its south-east corner. Superficial

deposits are Quaternary in date and comprise Sand and Gravel of the Wigston Member, and diamicton till (British Geological Survey 2023).

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior desk-based assessment (DBA Wessex Archaeology 2023b), which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 1 km study area of the proposed development. A summary of the results is presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (LHER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

### 2.2 Previous investigations related to the proposed development

#### *Gradiometer survey (2023)*

2.2.1 The geophysical survey did not identify any anomalies that could be considered archaeological in origin (Wessex Archaeology 2023c). The results were dominated by an increased magnetic response thought to be the result of modern farming practices or landscaping. It was thought possible, however, that weaker archaeological features were present on site but they have been obscured by the distribution of more magnetic material.

### 2.3 Archaeological and historical context

#### *Palaeolithic (970,000–9500 BC)*

2.3.1 Palaeolithic artefacts have been recovered from wider Soar Valley region including artefacts dated to the Lower Palaeolithic which have been recovered from deposits of Wigston Sand and Gravel, the superficial geology which underlies much of the site. Palaeolithic finds are relatively rare in the locality, and none are recorded within the DBA study area by the LHER, however.

#### *Post-glacial prehistoric (9500BC–AD 43)*

2.3.2 A single Mesolithic flint (MLE26563) was recovered 400 m west of the site, at Bouskell Park. In addition, further lithic finds include a Neolithic or Bronze Age flint (MLE16145) from Wigston Road, Blaby (400 m north-west of site) and a selection of lithic flakes from Glen Ford Grange, Glen Parva, 700 m north-west of site (MLE24469). A Bronze Age palstave (MLE6255) has been found 750 m south-east of the site as well as a later-Bronze Age settlement (MLE140) at Glen Parva approximately 550 m north (Clay 2004). Finally, a set of cropmarks including a trackway (MLE24) of probable Iron Age date is situated approximately 150 m east of the site.

#### *Romano-British (AD 43–410)*

2.3.3 The site is situated approximately 750 m east of the Roman road (MLE1902) heading south from the regional centre of Leicester (*Ratae Corieltauorum*) which links with Watling Street at Caves Inn. Further limited evidence of Romano-British period activity has been identified including several findspots of pottery and coins. Within Blaby finds include a coin from Wigston Road, 650 m west of the site (MLE7677) and pottery from Bouskell Park, 300 m west (MLE26562). In addition, a Romano-British gully (MLE25870) was identified during archaeological trial trenching (ELE11411) at Blaby Hall Farm.

*Saxon and medieval (AD 410–1500)*

- 2.3.4 The site is situated around 500 m east of the medieval core of Blaby. The village of Blaby is recorded in the *Domesday Book* of 1086 as a relatively large settlement of 37 households, and under the lordship of the Count of Meulan (Open Domesday n.d.).
- 2.3.5 The Grade I Listed Church of All Saints, Blaby (NHLE:1074757/MLE12236) is the most prominent medieval feature within the village. Further sites within the medieval core of Blaby include a possible manor within Bouskell Park (MLE19) where excavations (ELE11570) in 2021 identified medieval cobbled surfaces and recovered a quantity of medieval pottery. The LHER also identifies the earliest elements of the Old Bakery (MLE16820) on Wigston Road as being medieval in date. Findspots and other buried remains also provide evidence of medieval Blaby (MLE16463, MLE16820, MLE6614, MLE6615, MLE6616).
- 2.3.6 Faint traces visible in Google Earth Imagery dated April 2021, and marks visible in a 1959 aerial photo held by Historic England (raf\_58\_2947\_f22\_0003) tentatively indicate the possible presence of ridge and furrow within the site, however no traces were identified during a visit undertaken as part of the DBA. Several other areas of ridge and furrow extending south and east of Blaby can be identified from LiDAR data and also by a 2010 geophysical survey in an area approximately 150 m south-east of the site. The presence of ridge and furrow indicates that the site was likely under cultivation during the medieval period.

*Post-medieval (AD 1500–1800)*

- 2.3.7 Within Blaby most of the post-medieval features relate to Blaby Hall (MLE12257) and farmhouse (NHLE:1074758/ MLE12261) and their grounds approximately 400 m west of the site.
- 2.3.8 Several further post-medieval sites in and around Blaby include a portion of the Bakers Arms Public House (NHLE:1361041/MLE25993) and the churchyard walls (MLE12248).
- 2.3.9 Moving into the post-medieval period there was relatively little change in the pattern of settlement. Towards the close of the post-medieval period the evidence of the industrialisation and development of the landscape begins to be more apparent with the development of the Grand Union Canal and turnpike routes passing through Blaby. This period brought change to the area west of the present cemetery with the creation of formal landscape elements in the grounds of Blaby Hall.

*19th century and modern (AD 1800–present day)*

- 2.3.10 In 1863 Blaby Cemetery (MLE22177) opened. In Ordnance Survey mapping dated 1886, the site is shown as part of larger field within an extensive area of rectilinear fields representing post-medieval planned enclosure on the south side of Mill Lane. Within the immediate vicinity the most notable changes shown on subsequent historic mapping is the emergence of allotment gardens on the field east of the site, which are then subsequently developed into Highfields Farm, as shown on the 1971 OS map.
- 2.3.11 The National Archives holds several documents relating to the purchase of land and possible expansion of the cemetery in the early 20th century (HLG 45/776, HLG 6/1633).



## 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

### 3.1 General aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2023a) and in compliance with the ClfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a), were to:

- provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
- inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

### 3.2 General objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation were to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

### 3.3 Site-specific objectives

3.3.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the regional research framework (Research Frameworks 2023) the site-specific objectives of the evaluation are to:

- examine evidence for remains of modern farming practices or landscaping (detected on the geophysical survey; Wessex Archaeology 2023c) and assess if this has impacted on any earlier remains;
- assess the potential for the recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region.

## 4 METHODS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2023a) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

### 4.2 Fieldwork methods

#### *General*

4.2.1 The trench locations were set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the approximate positions proposed in the WSI.



- 4.2.2 Four trial trenches, each measuring 30 m in length and 2 m wide, were excavated in level spits using a 180° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.
- 4.2.3 Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand.
- 4.2.4 Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval, although none were seen.
- 4.2.5 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the client and the Senior Planning Archaeologist (heritage) were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

#### *Recording*

- 4.2.6 All exposed deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system.
- 4.2.7 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of the excavated trenches. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.2.8 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

### **4.3 Finds and environmental strategies**

- 4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2023a). Guidelines for the treatment of artefacts and environmental remains were in general accordance with: *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011), and ClfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting (Type 2: Appraisal)* (ClfA 2023a).

### **4.4 Monitoring**

- 4.4.1 The Senior Planning Archaeologist (Heritage) monitored the evaluation on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the Senior Planning Archaeologist (Heritage).

## **5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE**

### **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 None of the four excavated trenches contained any archaeological remains (Figs 1–4).
- 5.1.2 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (Appendix 1). Figure 1 shows all trenches as excavated, together with the preceding geophysical survey results (Wessex Archaeology 2023c)





## **5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits**

- 5.2.1 A simple and mostly homogeneous sequence of deposits was observed across the site. The natural underlying geology comprised a deposit of mid-brownish-red silty sand with sparse gravels, which was observed uniformly across the site. Topsoil comprised a mid-greyish brown sandy silt, 0.33–0.43 m deep (Fig. 5).
- 5.2.2 The only outlier to this pattern was trench 2, where a 0.11 m thick subsoil of mid-reddish brown silty sand (202) was recorded between the topsoil and geological substrate (Fig. 6).

## **6 FINDS EVIDENCE**

### **6.1 General**

- 6.1.1 No finds were recovered during the stripping of the trenches.

## **7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE**

### **7.1 General**

- 7.1.1 No archaeological deposits were identified during the excavation of the trenches; as such no environmental samples could be taken.

## **8 CONCLUSIONS**

### **8.1 General**

- 8.1.1 The four trenches were devoid of remains and suggest an absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the site. The only exception might be the subsoil in trench 2, which – given the evidence of former cultivation of the evaluated area – could represent the remains of a former ploughsoil or base of a furrow. Nevertheless, based on a combination of these results and those of the earlier geophysical survey, the area of the proposed cemetery extension does not appear to be of any elevated archaeological potential.
- 8.1.2 The aims and general objectives of the evaluation have been met, albeit with the context of a negative result. The absence of any archaeological remains means that it was not possible to pursue the site-specific objectives.

## **9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION**

### **9.1 Archive**

- 9.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield. Leicestershire County Council Museum Collections has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code X.A58.2023.
- 9.1.2 The evaluation has generated a very limited physical archive comprising paper indices only. The paper indices have been digitised by scanning. The file will be retained on Wessex Archaeology's internal computer system alongside digital photographs of the site. Given the negative result of the project no further preparation of the project archive is required.

### **9.2 OASIS**

- 9.2.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (wessexar1-517836,





Appendix 2). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Senior Planning Archaeologist (Heritage) on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

### **9.3 Selection strategy**

- 9.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, i.e., the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.
- 9.3.2 The selection strategy, which is presented in Appendix 3, details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy) and follows ClfA's *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives* (ClfA 2023b). It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.
- 9.3.3 Given the very limited results of the fieldwork, it is considered that the site conforms to the definition of a 'sterile project' (i.e., one that produces nothing of evidential value), according to the ClfA *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives* (2023b; archaeological archives from sterile projects). It is therefore recommended that deposition will involve the uploading of the approved site report to the Archaeology Data Service via OASIS only.

### **9.4 Security copy**

- 9.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g., Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

## **10 COPYRIGHT**

### **10.1 Archive and report copyright**

- 10.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.
- 10.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.



## 10.2 Third party data copyright

- 10.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g., Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1: Trench summaries

| Trench No 1    |                         | Length 30 m   | Width 2 m | Depth 0.50 m |
|----------------|-------------------------|---|-----------|--------------|
| Context Number | Interpretative Category | Description   |           | Depth BGL    |
| 101            | Topsoil                 | Mid grey brown sandy silt, rare fine rooting from well-established turf, rare-sparse 4-6% gravels fine-coarse 5-60mm subround, poorly sorted, soft compaction, boundary below clear |           | 0.0–0.34     |
| 102            | Natural                 | Mid brown red sandy clay, sparse 5-10% gravels fine-coarse 10-60mm subround poorly sorted, moderate compaction  |           | 0.34+        |

| Trench No 2    |                         | Length 30 m   | Width 2 m | Depth 0.58 m |
|----------------|-------------------------|---|-----------|--------------|
| Context Number | Interpretative Category | Description   |           | Depth BGL    |
| 201            | Topsoil                 | Mid grey brown sandy silt, rare fine rooting from well-established turf, rare-sparse 4-7% gravels fine-coarse 10-60mm subround poorly sorted, soft compaction, boundary below clear |           | 0.0–0.35     |
| 202            | Subsoil                 | Mid red brown silty sand, rare-sparse 4-6% gravels fine-coarse 10-60mm subround poorly sorted, soft compaction, boundary below clear  |           | 0.35–0.45    |
| 203            | Natural                 | Mid brown red sandy clay, sparse 5-10% gravels fine-coarse 10-60mm subround poorly sorted, moderate compaction  |           | 0.45+        |

| Trench No 3    |                         | Length 30 m  | Width 2 m | Depth 0.46 m |
|----------------|-------------------------|--|-----------|--------------|
| Context Number | Interpretative Category | Description  |           | Depth BGL    |
| 301            | Topsoil                 | Mid grey brown sandy silt, rare fine rooting from well-established turf, rare-sparse 4-6% gravels fine-medium 10-40mm subround, moderately sorted, soft compaction, boundary below clear |           | 0.0–0.33     |
| 302            | Natural                 | Mid red brown sandy clay rare 3-5% fine gravels fine-coarse 10-80mm subround poorly sorted, moderate compaction  |           | 0.33+        |

| Trench No 4    |                         | Length 30 m   | Width 2 m | Depth 0.52 m |
|----------------|-------------------------|---|-----------|--------------|
| Context Number | Interpretative Category | Description   |           | Depth BGL    |
| 401            | Topsoil                 | Mid grey brown sandy silt, rare fine rooting from well-established turf above, rare-sparse 4-6% gravels fine-medium 10-50mm subround moderately sorted, moderate compaction, boundary below clear |           | 0.0–0.43     |
| 402            | Natural                 | Mid brown red sandy clay, sparse 5-10% gravels fine-coarse 10-80mm subround moderately sorted, moderate compaction  |           | 0.43+        |



## Appendix 2: OASIS summary

**OASIS ID (UID):** wessexar1-517836

**Project Name:** Blaby Cemetery Extension, Blaby, Leicestershire

**Activity type:** Geophysical Survey, MAGNETOMETRY SURVEY, Evaluation

**Sitecode(s):** 276041

**Project Identifier(s):** Blaby Cemetery Extension, Blaby, Leicestershire, 276041, 276042

**Planning Id:** 23/0280/FUL

**Reason for Investigation:** Planning: Pre application

**Organisation Responsible for work:** Wessex Archaeology

**Project Dates:** 06-Jul-2023 - 17-Oct-2023

**HER:** Leicestershire HER

**HER Identifiers:** [no data]

**Project Methodology:** Geophysical survey: The cart-based gradiometer system used a Carlson BRX-7 RTK GNSS instrument, which receives corrections from a network of reference stations operated by the Ordnance Survey (OS). Such instruments allow positions to be determined with a precision of 0.02 m in real-time and therefore exceeds European Archaeologiae Consilium recommendations. The detailed gradiometer survey was undertaken using four Sensys FGM650/3 magnetic gradiometers spaced at 1 m intervals and mounted on a non-magnetic cart. Data were collected with an effective sensitivity of  $\pm 8 \mu\text{T}$  over  $\pm 1000 \text{ nT}$  range at a rate of 100 Hz, producing intervals of 0.02 m along transects spaced 4 m apart.

Evaluation: Excavation of four 30 m x 2 m machine-dug trenches

**Project Results:** Geophysical survey: The area is dominated by an increased magnetic response which is the result of modern farming practices or landscaping. It is possible, however, that weaker archaeological features are present on site but they have been obscured by the distribution of more magnetic material.

Trench evaluation: None of the four excavated trenches contained any archaeological remains. A subsoil deposit was recorded in one of the trenches; this may represent a former ploughsoil/cultivation furrow. No finds were recovered during the evaluation and no deposits meriting environmental sampling were identified.

**Keywords:**

**Archive:**

**Reports in OASIS:**

Plesnicar, R., (2023). *Blaby Cemetery Extension, Blaby, Leicestershire: Detailed Gradiometer Survey Report*. Salisbury: Wessex Archaeology. 276041.03.

Turner, J., (2023). *Blaby Cemetery Extension, Blaby, Leicestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*. Sheffield: Wessex Archaeology. 276042.03.



## **Appendix 3: Selection strategy**

[276042]  
**[Blaby Cemetery Extension]**  
 [version 2, 26/10/2023]

## Selection Strategy

### Project Information

#### Project Management

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| <b>Project Manager</b>                   | John Winfer             |
| <b>Archaeological Archive Manager(s)</b> | Jessica Irwin           |
| <b>Organisation</b>                      | Wessex Archaeology (WA) |

#### Stakeholders

|   |   | Date Contacted  |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Collecting Institution(s)</b>        | Leicestershire County Council<br>Museum Collections<br>Archaeology Data Service   | 20/02/2023 (pre-excavation)<br>19/10/2023 (post-excavation) |
| <b>Project Lead / Project Assurance</b> | John Winfer   | N/A   |
| <b>Landowner / Developer</b>            | CDS Group   | N/A   |
| <b>Other (external)</b>                 | Planning archaeologist for the Leicestershire County Council (LCC).   | 19/10/2023  |
| <b>Other (internal)</b>                 | WA Finds Manager (Rachael Seager Smith)<br>WA Environmental Manager (Sander Aerts)<br>WA Geomatics & BIM Manager (Chris Breedon)<br>WA internal finds & environmental specialists (see WSI) | N/A; briefed as part of standard project process            |

#### Resources

|                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Resources required</b> | WA archives team |
|---------------------------|------------------|

#### Context

This overarching selection strategy document is based on the ClfA Archives Selection Toolkit (2019) and relates to archaeological project work being undertaken by Wessex Archaeology as defined in the WSIs.

Relevant standards, policies and guidelines consulted include:

#### General

- *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections* (Society of Museum Archaeologists, 1993)
- *Archaeological archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF, revised edition 2011, section 4)
- Leicestershire County Council Museum Collections *guidelines* (2017)

#### Relevant research agendas

- Relevant regional research agenda (East Midlands Research Framework)

#### Finds

- *Standard Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation & research of archaeological materials* (CIFA, 2014)
- *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, Study Group for Roman Pottery, Medieval Pottery Research Group 2016)

#### Environmental

- *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory, Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011)
- *Geoarchaeology: Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record* (Historic England 2015)
- *Guidelines for the Curation of Waterlogged Macroscopic Plant and Invertebrate Remains* (English Heritage 2008)
- *Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the Recording, Sampling, Conservation and Curation of Waterlogged Wood* (English Heritage 2010)
- *Waterlogged Organic Artefacts: Guidelines on their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation* (Historic England 2018)

#### **Research objectives of the project**

Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the regional research framework (East Midlands Research Framework), the research objectives of the excavation are to:

- examine evidence for remains of modern farming practices or landscaping (detected on the geophysical survey; Wessex Archaeology 2023b) and assess if this has impacted on any earlier remains;
- assess the potential for the recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region.

#### **REVIEW POINTS**

Consultation with all Stakeholders regarding project-specific selection decisions will be undertaken at a maximum of three project review points:

1. Data gathering: on site, if any unforeseen discovery necessitates an amendment to the proposed collection strategy, or if adjustments are made to any sampling strategy
2. End of data gathering (assessment stage)
3. Archive compilation

## **1 – Digital Data**

### **Stakeholders**

WA Project Manager; WA Archives Manager; WA Geomatics & BIM Manager; planning archaeologist for the LCC; ADS

### **Selection**



To promote long-term future reuse deposition file formats will be of archival standard, open source and accessible in nature following national guidance from ADS 2013, ClfA 2014c and the requirements of the digital repository.

Any sensitive data to be handled according to Wessex Archaeology data policy to ensure it is stored and transferred securely. The identity of individuals will be protected in line with GDPR. If required, data will be anonymised and redacted. Selection and retention of sensitive data for archival purposes will occur in consultation with the client and relevant stakeholders. Confidential data will not be selected for archiving and will be handled as per contractual obligation.

| Document type                       | Selection Strategy  | Review Points |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------|
| Site records                        | Most records have been completed digitally on site (with the exception of registers). None will be selected.  | 3             |
| Reports                             | The final post-excavation assessment report only, will be selected for deposition.  | 2, 3          |
| Specialist reports                  | Specialist reports will generally be incorporated in the final report with only minimal editing (reformatting, etc). None will be selected.   | 2, 3          |
| Photographic media (site recording) | Substandard and duplicate images will be eliminated; pre-excavation images may not be selected where duplicated by post-excavation shots; working shots will be very rigorously selected to include only good quality images with potential for reuse and those integral to understanding features, their inter-relationships and location on site; site condition and reinstatement photos will not be selected. | 2, 3          |
| Photographic media (objects)        | Images of individual or groups of objects, to include those of significance selected for publication and reporting. Substandard and duplicate images will be eliminated.  | 3             |
| Survey data                         | Site survey data will be used to generate CAD/GIS files for use in post-excavation activities. Shapefiles of both the original tidied survey data, and the final phased drawings will be selected.  | 2, 3          |
| Databases and spreadsheets          | Context, finds and environmental data in linked databases. None will be selected.   | 2, 3          |
| Geophysical data                    | RAW data and Interpretation Geo-tiffs. None will be selected.   | 2, 3          |
| Administrative records              | Includes invoices, receipts, timesheets, financial information, email correspondence. None will be selected, with the exception of any correspondence relating directly to the archaeology.   | 3             |

#### De-Selected Digital Data

De-selected data will be stored on WA secured servers on offsite storage locations. The WA IT department has a backup strategy and policies that involves daily, weekly and monthly and annual backups of data. This strategy is non-migratory, and original files will be held at WA under their

unique project identifier, as long as they remain useful and usable in their final version format. This data may also be used for teaching or reference collections by the museum, or by WA unless otherwise required by contractual or copyright obligations.

### Amendments

| Date       | Amendment  | Rationale  | Stakeholders  |
|------------|--|--|---|
| 26/10/2023 | Deselected all digital data except the final report. | Through agreement with LCC Museums Service and the LCC Planning Archaeologist, it has been recommended that deposition will be via the upload of the final report to OASIS in which will form a part of the ADS grey literature library. | WA Archives Manager; planning archaeologist for the LCC; ADS; LCC Museums Service |

## 2 – Documents

### Stakeholders

WA Project Manager; WA Archives Manager; Leicestershire County Council Museum Collections; planning archaeologist for the LCC

### Selection

A security copy of all paper/drawn records is a requirement of ClfA guidelines. This will be prepared on completion of the project, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. If the security copy is not required for deposition by Stakeholders, it will be retained on backed-up servers belonging to Wessex Archaeology.

Note that some information may be redacted to comply with GDPR legislation (personal data).

| Document type             | Selection Strategy  | Review Points |
|---------------------------|---|---------------|
| Site records              | None will be selected.  | 3             |
| Reports                   | No hard copies of reports to be selected.   | 2, 3          |
| Specialist reports & data | Specialist reports will generally be incorporated in the final report with only minimal editing (reformatting, etc). None will be selected. | 2, 3          |
| Photographic media        | Only digital photographic media produced. See digital data selection strategy above in section 1.   | 3             |
| Secondary sources         | Hard copies of secondary sources will not be selected.  | 3             |
| Working notes             | Rough working notes, annotated plans, preliminary versions of matrices etc, will not be selected.   | 3             |
| Administrative records    | Invoices, receipts, timesheets, financial information, hard copy correspondence. None will be selected.                                     | 3             |

### De-Selected Documents

De-selected sensitive analogue data will be destroyed (shredded) subject to final checking by the WA Archives team with the remainder recycled. Possible exceptions include records retained for business purposes, including promotional material, teaching and internal WA library copies of reports.

#### Amendments

| Date       | Amendment                          | Rationale  | Stakeholders  |
|------------|------------------------------------|--|---|
| 26/10/2023 | Deselected all physical documents. | Through agreement with LCC Museums Service and the LCC Planning Archaeologist, it has been recommended that deposition will be via the upload of the final report to OASIS in which will form a part of the ADS grey literature library. | WA Archives Manager; planning archaeologist for the LCC; ADS; LCC Museums Service |

### 3 – Materials

|                      |                                       |                   |     |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-----|
| <b>Material type</b> | Artefacts (bulk and registered finds) | <b>Section 3.</b> | 3.1 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-----|

#### Stakeholders

WA Archives Manager; WA Finds Manager; WA internal specialists; Leicestershire County Council Museum Collections; planning archaeologist for the LCC; landowner

#### Selection

Note that human remains are not included in this selection strategy; their recovery and subsequent treatment and curation will be governed by a Ministry of Justice licence(s).

The on-site finds recovery strategy is given below; it is of necessity fairly generic. It is anticipated that this will be reviewed and updated at the project assessment stage, once all collected finds have been processed and quantified. Amendments may be made prior to that on site in the event of unforeseen discoveries necessitating adjustments to recovery or sampling strategies (eg production sites, large concentrations of building debris, 'burnt mounds').

Throughout the following section, 'stratified' is taken to include topsoil deposits, while 'unstratified' indicates anything completely separated from context eg spoilheap finds, or surface finds other than those directly associated with underlying features.

| Find Type | Selection Strategy                   | Review Points |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Any       | No finds were found during fieldwork | 3             |

#### Uncollected Material

Finds which fall outside the categories proposed for on-site collection will not normally be recorded beyond a general comment on site recording sheets on the presence and nature of large concentrations (eg building materials, modern debris), but if specific sampling strategies are employed to deal with, for example, production waste, then a more accurate guide to the actual size of the parent assemblage (and thus the sample percentage) will be given.

Any uncollected material will be left *in situ* or (if collected and then de-selected), re-incorporated into the site.

### De-Selected Material

Consideration will be given to the suitability for use for handling or teaching collections by the museum or Wessex Archaeology, or whether they are of particular interest to the local community. De-selected material will either be returned to the landowner or disposed of. All will be adequately recorded to the appropriate level before de-selection.

### Amendments

| Date       | Amendment           | Rationale           | Stakeholders   |
|------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| 26/10/2023 | Updated finds data. | No finds recovered. | WA Archives Manager; planning archaeologist for the LCC; LCC Museums Service |

## 3 – Materials

|                      |                              |                   |     |
|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-----|
| <b>Material type</b> | Palaeoenvironmental material | <b>Section 3.</b> | 3.2 |
|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-----|

### Stakeholders

WA Archives Manager; WA Environmental Officer; WA internal specialists; Leicestershire County Council Museum Collections; planning archaeologist for the LCC

### Selection

All contexts suitable for environmental sampling will be considered for sampling. All environmental sampling will be undertaken following Wessex Archaeology's in-house guidance, which adheres to the principles outlined in Historic England's guidance (English Heritage 2011 and Historic England 2015a) and as stated in relevant WSI.

| Env Material Type | Selection Strategy                                    | Review Points |
|-------------------|---|---------------|
| Any               | No environmental samples were taken during fieldwork. | 3             |

### Uncollected Material

Any uncollected material will be left *in situ* or re-incorporated into the site.

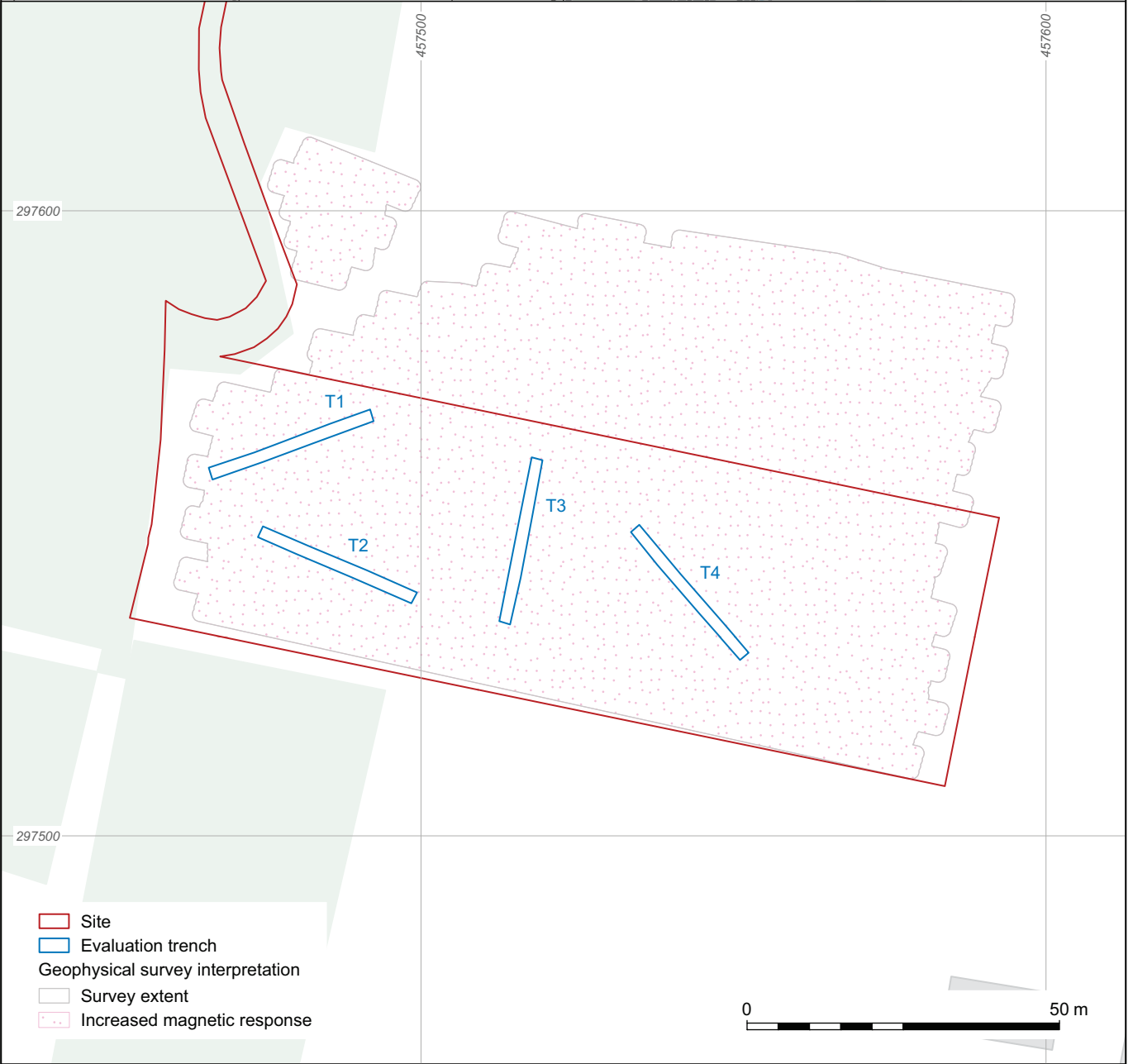
### De-Selected Material

De-selected material from samples will be disposed of after processing and post-excavation recording. All processed material will be adequately recorded to the appropriate level before de-selection.

### Amendments

| Date       | Amendment                   | Rationale                       | Stakeholders   |
|------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 26/10/2023 | Updated environmental data. | No environmental samples taken. | WA Archives Manager; planning archaeologist for the LCC; LCC Museums Service |





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Date: 19/10/2023    Created by: CM    Revision: 0    Scale: 1:1,000 at A4

Figure 1: Location of site and trench layout







Figure 2: Trench 1 seen from the south-west (2 x 1 m scale)



Figure 3: Trench 2 seen from the south-east (2 x 1 m scale)



Figure 4: Trench 4 seen from the south-east (2 x 1 m scale)



Figure 5: East facing representative section of trench 3 (1 x 1 m scale)





Figure 6: South-west facing representative section of trench 2, showing subsoil 202 (1 x 1 m scale)



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