



Northamptonshire Archaeology

A Programme of Archaeological Mitigation Works
at Travis Perkins Site, Pate Road
Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		Oasis No. 163493	
Project title	A Programme of Archaeological Mitigation Works at Travis Perkins Site, Pate Road, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire		
Short description	An archaeological investigation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology at the Travis Perkins Site, Pate Road, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire. This comprised the mechanised removal of overburden, topsoil and subsoil within the footprint of the tool store compound. No archaeological features or finds were present.		
Project type	Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication		
Site Status	-		
Previous work	Excavation and Watching Brief.		
Current land use	Grassed area		
Future work	None		
Monument type and period	Deserted Medieval Village		
Significant finds	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Leicestershire		
Site address	Pate Road, Melton Mowbray		
Post code	-		
OS co-ordinates	NGR SK 737 178		
Area (sq m/ha)	8m x 8.70m		
Height aOD	c.80-85m		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)		
Project brief originator	Leicestershire Senior Planning Archaeologist		
Project Design originator	AMEC Environment & Infrastructure UK Limited		
Director/Supervisor	Christopher Jones		
Project Managers	Adam Yates		
Sponsor or funding body	Travis Perkins Building Merchants		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	28-10-2013		
End date	29-10-2013		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents	
Physical	NA store	None	
Paper		Site records (1 small archive box)	
Digital		Client report PDF	
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	A Programme of Archaeological Mitigation Works at Travis Perkins Site, Pate Road, Milton Mowbray, Leicestershire		
Serial title & volume	13/215		
Author(s)	Christopher Jones		
Page numbers	6		
Date	November		

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Back cover: Site after removal of overburden

**A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION WORKS
AT TRAVIS PERKINS SITE, PATE ROAD, MELTON MOWBRAY
LEICESTERSHIRE
X.A171.2013**

Abstract

An archaeological investigation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology at the Travis Perkins Site, Pate Road, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire. This comprised the mechanised removal of overburden, topsoil and subsoil within the footprint of the tool store compound. No archaeological features or finds were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by AMEC Environment & Infrastructure UK, on behalf of Travis Perkins Builders Merchants, to carry out an archaeological investigation through continuous observation within the footprint of the tool store compound at Pate Road, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire (NGR SK 737 178).

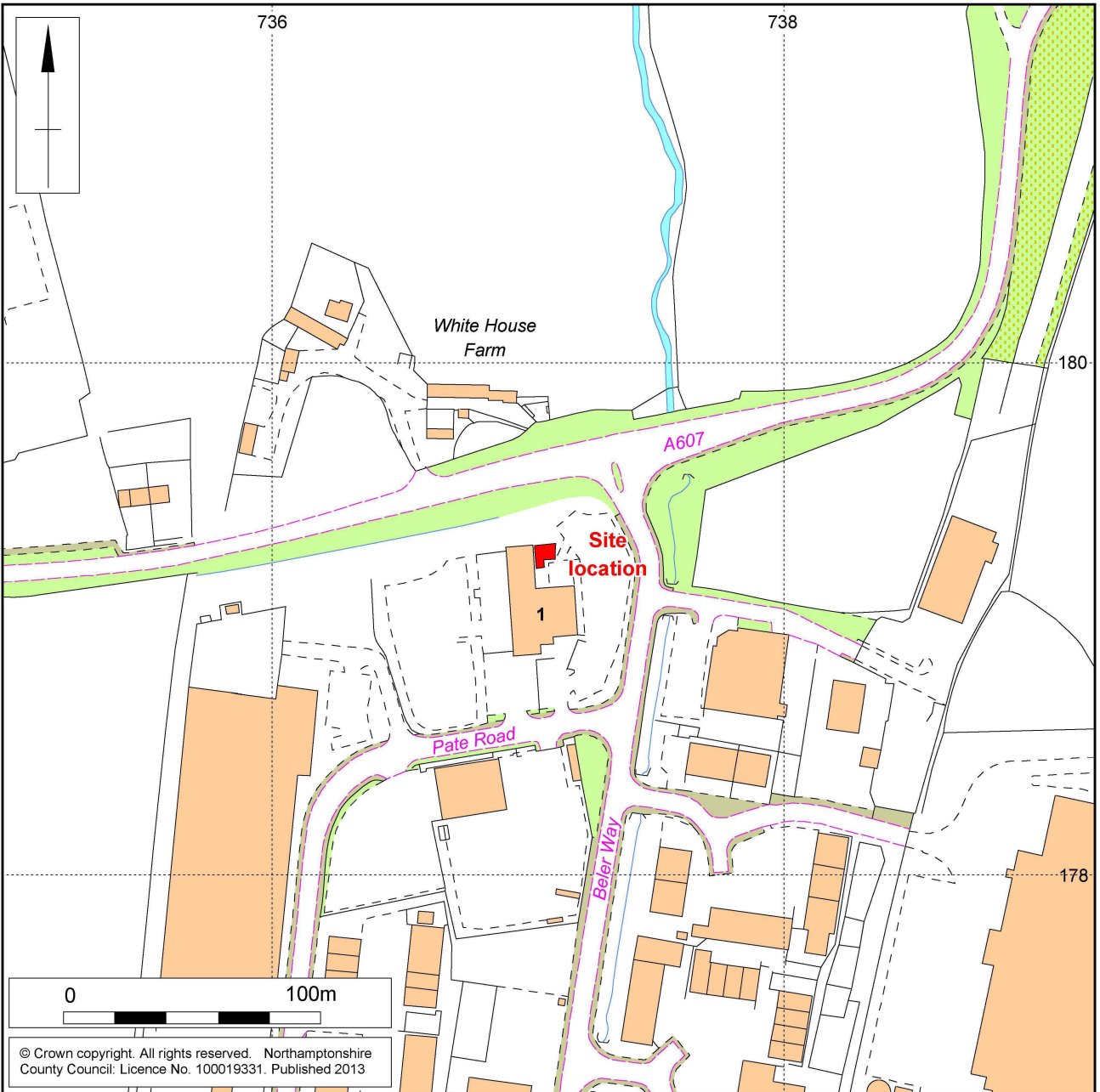
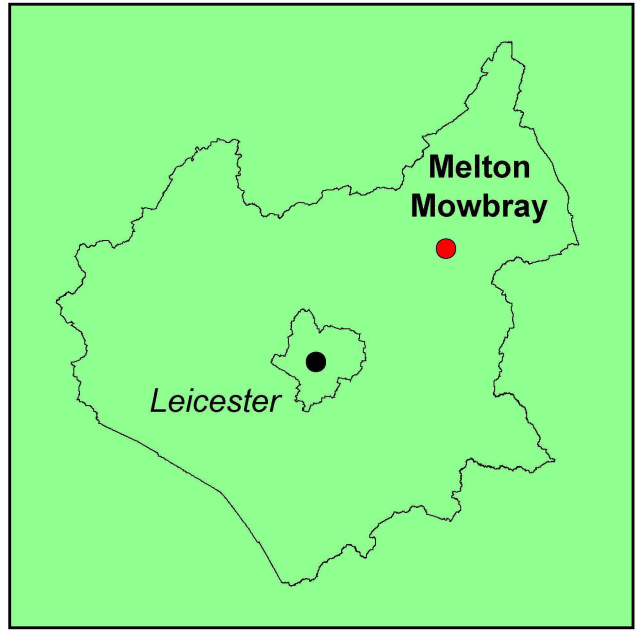
The investigation was carried out to fulfil the objectives of a request for archaeological investigation by the Principal Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council. The works were undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AMEC Environment & Infrastructure UK (2012). This comprised the archaeological observation of the removal of overburden, topsoil and subsoil, followed by the investigation and recording of any remains present.

2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The site is situated on a modern industrial estate, c 2.2km south-west of the centre of Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire. The site is immediately bounded by Leicester Road (A607) to the north, Beler Way to the east and is accessed to the south, via Pate Road (Fig 2).

The industrial estate is surrounded by open agricultural countryside to the east, south and west, with a disused railway running north by south along the eastern boundary of the industrial/trading estate. The current 'Syston to Melton Mowbray' railway line and the River Eye both run east by west, approximately 350m north of the site.

The site is situated at a height of c 80-85m aOD and is mainly situated upon pre-glacial (Pre-Anglian) Bytham Sands and Gravel (reddish-brown sand and gravel). However, Anglian glacial till deposits are recorded on the extreme western side of the site. These comprise; *Thrussington Till* (reddish-brown to grey sandy clay, with Triassic and Carboniferous rock fragments) and *Oadby Till* (lias-rich grey to yellowbrown, with Jurassic stones) (BGS 2002).



Scale 1:2500

Site Location Fig 1

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out large-scale archaeological excavations at Eye Kettleby in 1996-7, in advance of the Samworth Brothers development (TLAHS 1998, 1999). A rare early-mid Anglo-Saxon village, discovered to the west of the Eye Kettleby medieval village, was encountered. This earlier settlement site is believed to have been the precursor to the medieval village (BA 1997).

Further evidence of the Anglo-Saxon village was recorded during further investigations in 2011 at the site of 'Kettleby Foods' development. The archaeological work revealed the presence of a sunken-featured building, posthole building, other structural features and a pit (LAHS 2011).

A programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out within the development site at Pate Road by Trent and Peak Archaeology (Johnson 2012), at the request of the Leicestershire County Council (LCC) Principal Planning Archaeologist (PPA). This was carried out during excavation of several trenches within two areas of hard-standing to the east and west of the existing on-site buildings.

The archaeological monitoring established a sequence of levelling activity relating to the previous use of the site as a car showroom. Despite the excavation of a significant proportion of the external hardstanding areas to the specified proposed site formation depth of 0.55m (and in some areas in excess of this), no trace of archaeologically significant activity was observed.

Undisturbed natural deposits, namely Bytham sands, were only exposed in the northern part

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the work was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of the archaeological site in its cultural and environmental setting.

The aims of the investigation were to:

- confirm the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains within the area of the tool store compound;
- gain information on and record any buried archaeological remains which may be present within the footprint of the tool store compound.

The objectives of this archaeological work were to:

- identify and investigate the presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality of any known, suspected and as yet unknown archaeological features/deposits, particularly dating to the Lower Palaeolithic Period, which may be present within the footprint of the tool store compound;

- prepare a fully illustrated report on the results of the archaeological investigation that is compliant with all relevant guidance and good practice, including the *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire & Rutland* (LCC 2005 rev.);
- provide sufficient information within the report to enable the formulation of a suitable mitigation strategy and appropriate management of the archaeological resource, which is to be affected by the proposed development; and
- disseminate the above report, in a timely manner, to the Principal Planning Archaeologist and Historic Environment Record at Leicestershire County Council and the client (Travis Perkins).

5 METHODOLOGY

The designated area was stripped of soils in advance of the creation of a tool store compound. It was excavated with a backward-pulling JCB excavator with a flat-bladed ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. The northernmost part of the building footprint was not excavated as this lay within an inaccessible securely-fenced area.

The character, composition and general depositional sequence of stratification was recorded on Northamptonshire Archaeology watching brief sheets. All recording followed the guidelines detailed in the Northamptonshire Archaeology *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual* (2011).

All records were compiled during fieldwork into a comprehensive site archive in accordance with the guidelines of Appendix 3 in the English Heritage procedural document, *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (1991).

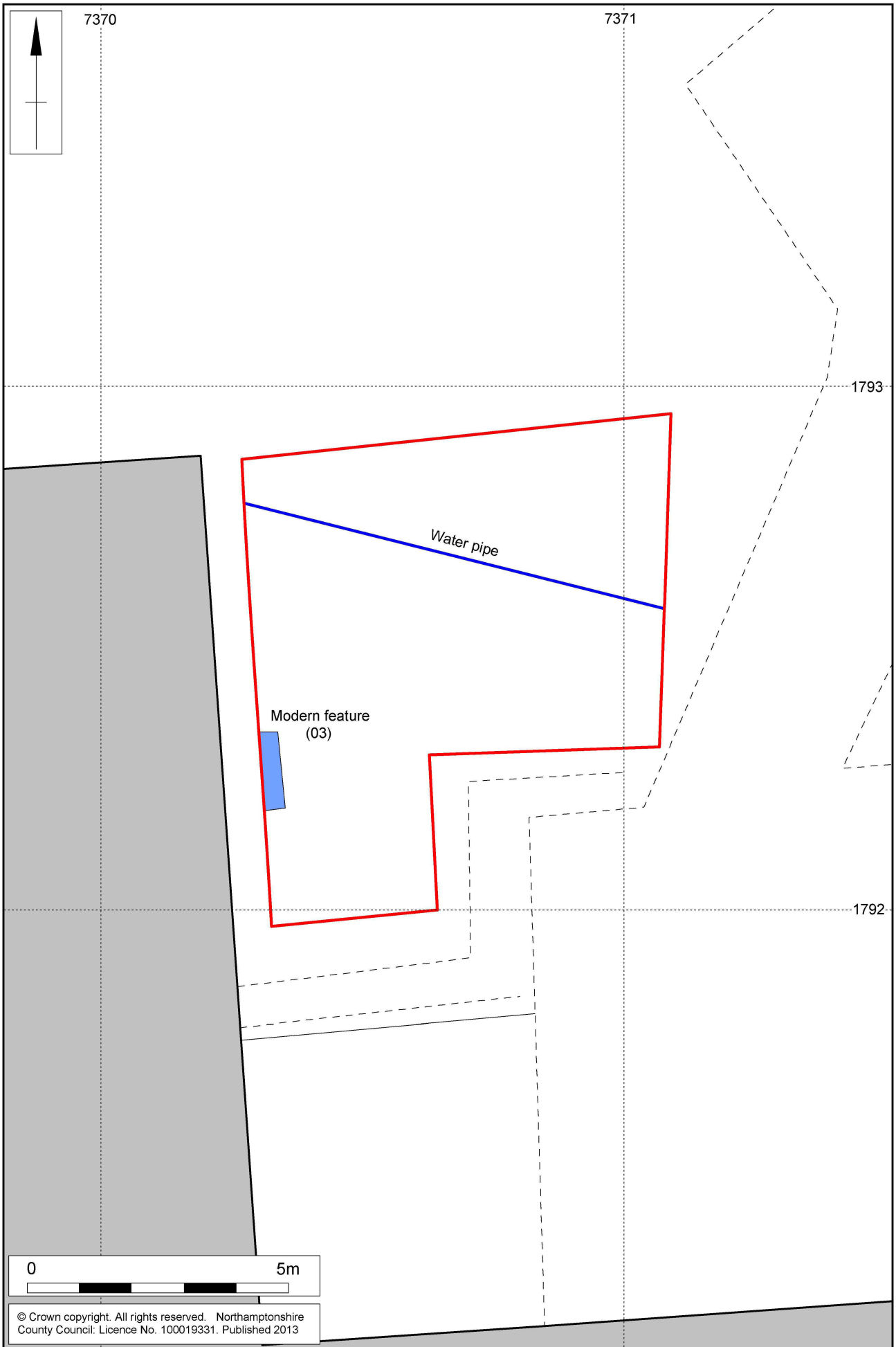
Work was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008) and *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010).

6 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

The area excavated measured approximately 8.70 x 8m and was excavated to a depth of between 0.80m and 0.30m until natural Bytham sands was exposed (Figs 2-5). A modern rectangular feature [04] was revealed on the west side of the site area and a disused modern plastic water pipe was also present, aligned east west across the site (Fig 2).

The natural orange brown sand (06) was encountered across the site which was overlaid by layers of mixed sandy clay (07), brown sandy clay with medium sub-rounded stones (5) and dark grey brown sandy clay (02). All the layers are disturbed and appear to be the result of landscaping of the ground (Figs 3-5).

No archaeological features or finds were observed in the site area.



Scale 1:100 (A4)

The excavation area Fig 2



Excavated area, looking north

Fig 3



Section 1, looking west

Fig 4



Section 2, looking north Fig 5

7 DISCUSSION

Archaeological observation, investigation and recording on the machine excavation of the footprint of the tool store compound revealed no archaeological features or finds.

The absence of a subsoil horizon and mixed layers of clay, sand and soil with modern debris in, indicates that the site has previously been disturbed.

The sequence of levelling when the Travis Perkins building and car-park were built seems to have removed any original soils and replace them with mixed soils and natural to form a grass bank around the Travis Perkins building.

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APPENDIX: CONTEXT INDEX

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
	9m N-s x 8m E-W	473705 317925		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature & type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
01	Topsoil	Firm dark brown clay loam	0.2m deep	
02	Subsoil	Firm dark grey/brown sandy clay	0.60m deep	
03	Fill of 04	Mixed dark brown sandy clay	1.6m wide 0.9m deep	
04	Modern feature	Rectangular pit cutting topsoil, only partly contained within the trench	1.6m wide 0.9m deep	
05	Made ground	Light brown sandy clay	0.4m deep	
06	Natural	Light orange brown sand		
07	Made ground	Light brown sandy clay	0.3m deep	



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