

MIRA24



MIRA TECHNOLOGY PARK PLOT 44

STRIP, PLAN & SAMPLE

PLANNING REF.14/0661/CONDIT / 24/00962/DISCON / 24/00672/REM

commissioned by Swanvale Developments Limited
on behalf of MTP Developments Limited

May 2026

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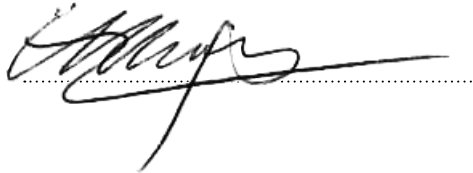
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Local Authority **Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council** / Fieldwork Date **19.03.2025–23.05.2025** /
OASIS Ref. **headland1-530509** / Archive Repository **Leicestershire County Council Museums**

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook an investigative programme of archaeological work at MIRA Technology Park, Higham on the Hill, Leicestershire. The excavation revealed a landscape shaped by sustained agricultural use, dominated by undated drainage systems.

A rectilinear drainage system was identified in the south-west corner of the site that likely represents Roman planting trenches and aligns to Watling Street. Three further pits were recorded around a 1st century AD Roman waste pit identified during the trial trenching stage of the work. Radiocarbon dating from a sample taken from one of these pits returned a late 1st century BC to early 2nd century AD date. Large drainage features extend across the rest of the site, indicating increased investment in land management. Other features, including a pond, wheel ruts and a possible hedgerow, suggest continued landscape modification into the present day.

Overall, the site illustrates long-term agricultural adaptation established slightly before or contemporary with the construction of Watling Street to the south.

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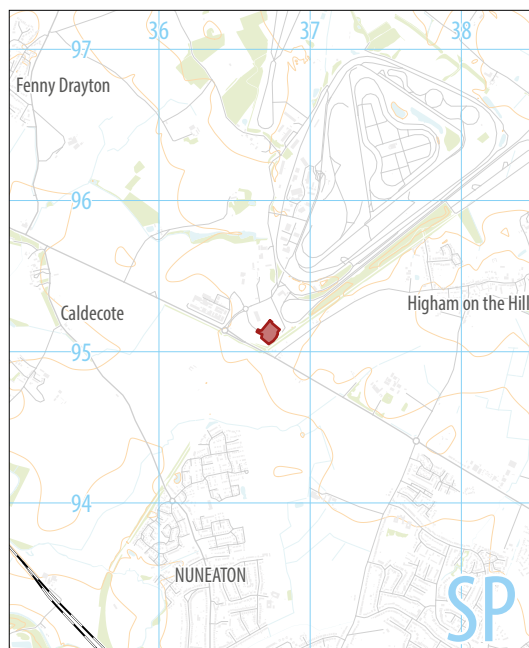
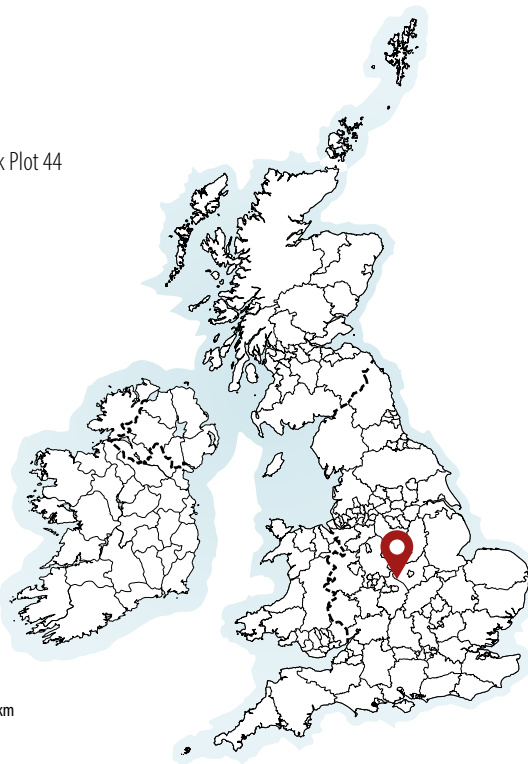
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MIRA Technology Park Plot 44
A5
near Nuneaton
Warwickshire

0 200km
1:12,500,000 @ A4



0 40m
1:2,000 @ A4

area of investigation

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ILLUS 1 Site location

MIRA TECHNOLOGY PARK PLOT 44

STRIP, PLAN & SAMPLE

1 INTRODUCTION

This assessment report has been prepared following a programme of archaeological excavation undertaken at MIRA Technology Park, Higham on the Hill, Leicestershire, by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd (Illus 1). The works were carried out to satisfy the requirements of Condition 32 of planning permission 14/0661/CONDIT and reserved matters application 24/00672/REM, specifically concerning Plot 44. The fieldwork was conducted between 19th March 2025 and 23rd May 2025 and comprised a strip, plan, and record excavation strategy, implemented to mitigate the archaeological impact of the proposed development.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was submitted to Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council detailing the programme of archaeological works, which included a strip, map and record during the site clearance works and initial groundworks (Allsop 2025). The result of that work is detailed within this report.

1.1 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is situated at NGR SP 36705 95109, located at MIRA Technology Park, Higham on the Hill, Leicestershire. It is bounded to the south by the A5 Watling Street, by existing business park infrastructure to the north and west and by a railway line to the east. The land use before development was flat grassland with some stockpiling of soils from adjacent development plots. The site was situated at 99m AOD and covered an area of 0.97 hectares.

The bedrock geology of the site consisted of Mercia Mudstone with no superficial deposits recorded (NERC 2026). Overlying soils are recorded as Soilscape 8, comprising slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (Cranfield University 2026).

1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (ULAS 2010) for the wider MIRA Technology Park established that the PDA lay within an area of archaeological activity from prehistoric to post-medieval times. There was a moderate to high archaeological potential for Iron Age to Roman remains, given the presence of cropmarks of an enclosure immediately north of the PDA, and its location adjacent to the Roman road of Watling Street and proximity to the small Roman town of Mancetter. There was a moderate potential for other prehistoric remains, with various artefacts discovered in the surrounding area. The PDA lies outside the known extent of the deserted medieval village of Lindsey and the medieval (and post-medieval) village core of Higham, and so, the potential for archaeological remains of these periods was low.

Following the Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, a geophysical survey and trial trenching evaluation were undertaken in 2011 and 2014 within the PDA (SLE3300; SLE4489). These identified the presence of archaeological deposits consisting of ditches, gullies and pits, including a large rubbish pit that contained 68 sherds of 1st century AD pottery, 12 pieces of fired clay and a small amount of animal bone.

Immediately adjacent to the northwest of the PDA, a strip, map and sample exercise was undertaken in 2017 (SLE5555), which recorded two gullies, both aligned NW/SE. They were 1.5–2m wide and approximately 4m apart. From these features, three sherds of a black-burnished ware bowl/dish were recovered and two sherds of a greyware jar, all Roman date.

A fieldwalking survey to the north and northwest of the PDA recorded a small scatter of medieval pottery, including roof and ridge tile (MLE19116 & SLE3268).

1.3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The objective of the Strip, Plan & Record was to mitigate the effects of the development on subsurface archaeological deposits through preservation by record.

More specific aims of the Strip, Plan & Record include:

- › monitoring all ground clearance works and preliminary groundworks during each phase of the development;
- › establishing the location, extent, nature and date of archaeological features or deposits present within areas subject to ground works and preserving them by full excavation and creation of a complete record; and
- › the resulting archive (finds and records) will be organised and deposited with an appropriate museum/archive repository to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit.

Regional research framework

The Strip, Plan & Record strategy was designed following the East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework (EMHERF, 2025). Based on this framework, the following research questions have been highlighted as of potential relevance to the works summarised above, and as such informed strategy both on site and during the assessment phase:

- › 5.4.1: How did the Conquest impact upon rural settlements and landscapes?
- › 5.5.4: Can we chart more closely the processes of agricultural intensification and expansion and the development of field systems?
- › 5.7.3: To what extent may communication routes have been influenced by Late Iron Age settlement patterns and routes of movement?

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 SITE WORKS

The Strip Plan & Record comprised the removal of overburden for the primary development footprint within Plot 44 down to the archaeological or geological horizon under direct control of an archaeologist (see site plan).

The main contractor undertook all groundbreaking works under direct archaeological control, with all soft deposits removed in spits using a flat-bladed ditching bucket. A toothed excavator bucket was used to break up the compact upper layer of subsoil at the northern part of the site, making it easier for the flat-bladed bucket to perform subsequent scraping.

The archaeological sub-surface remains encountered were subject to a programme of excavation and recording. The stripped surface was not tracked over until the archaeology had been adequately excavated and recorded.

The significance of sub-surface remains was determined by the archaeological advisor of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, and the scope of further works, such as the re-stripping of a small area to the northern part of the site, was determined with their agreement during an on-site meeting with the client's representative.

2.2 RECORDING

Recording followed ClfA Standards and Universal Guidance documents for both conducting 'archaeological excavation' and 'monitoring and recording' (ClfA 2023a–d). All contexts were given unique numbers. This recording was undertaken on Headland's pro forma digital recording system 'HARK!'. Where stratified deposits were encountered, a 'Harris' matrix was compiled. Digital photography was used to record any archaeological features; a graduated metric scale was clearly visible. Paper registers were created for all Digital Photography and Drawings, which were then digitised to fit into our HARK! Systems.

A site plan including all identified features, areas of excavation and other pertinent information was recorded using existing scaled plans of the site, which were accurately linked to the National Grid and heights to OD. Complex plans and sections were hand-drawn on permatrace at an appropriate scale (normally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections). Otherwise, they were recorded 3-Dimensionally using Headland's digital spatial recording system with a dGPS and/or Total Station

No finds were identified during this phase of works. No environmental samples were collected as part of this stage of works as the features were assessed by the site team to have a low potential for ecofactual recovery.

2.3 REPORTING AND ARCHIVES

The reporting followed on from the completion of the fieldwork and has taken the form of a single grey literature report, detailing the results of the evaluation and the assessment of all recovered finds. An online OASIS record (headland1-530509) has been completed and will be accompanied by a PDF report and digital boundary file. A copy of the OASIS entry can be found in Appendix 3.

All reporting was undertaken following the methodology set out in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Allsop 2025) and followed current professional standards as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including their Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (ClfA 2019). Specialist reporting was carried out by suitably qualified professionals familiar with the project and adhered to the standards set out in the ClfA Toolkit for Specialist Reporting (ClfA 2021).

The project archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museum Service, the agreed repository for the project. This includes both the documentary and digital archive, which





ILLUS 3 North-east facing section of ditch [403004] **ILLUS 4** South-west facing section of ditch [423012]

will be submitted within six months of the project's completion. Where possible, digital deposition will be the preferred method. The digital archive will also be submitted to the archaeological data service (ADS).

All finds recovered during the evaluation will be reported to Leicestershire County Council Museum, which will determine the final destination of the material archive. Once confirmed, arrangements will be made to transfer both title and material to the receiving institution within 12 months.

3 RESULTS

The archaeological remains identified across the site can be grouped into four discrete areas (Illus 2). In the south west corner, a rectilinear drainage system was exposed, comprising five parallel, evenly spaced gullies bounded to the north by a transverse ditch. In the south east corner, a cluster of circular refuse pits was recorded. At the centre of the site, three undated drainage ditches and a stone built culvert were identified. In the northern part of the site, a V shaped ditch extended beyond the northern limit of the PDA. Collectively, these features are likely to represent elements of historic agricultural drainage.

The fourth area, located to the east, consisted of three post holes. Within the centre of the site several modern, parallel linear gullies, which contained plastic, were interpreted as recent wheel ruts created by plant movement during soil bunding associated with adjacent development. Nearby, an east to west line of shallow, sterile pits likely represented the remains of a former hedgerow, possibly associated with trees that once formed a field boundary.

3.1 EXCAVATION

Rectilinear field system (south-west)

Five north-east to south-west aligned ditches were recorded in the south-west corner of the site, continuing beyond the southern limit of excavation. Four of these ([403008], [403004], [441009] and [441013]) were excavated and found to be evenly spaced at

approximately 3.5m apart, each visible for around 13m. A fifth ditch at the eastern end of the group was identified but not excavated. The ditches were bounded to the north by a north-west to south-east oriented ditch [403010], forming a corridor roughly 1.5 metres wide between the features.

All the ditches were very shallow, with flat bases and gently sloping sides. The widest ditch, [403004], measured 0.7m wide by 0.23m deep, while the narrowest, [441009], measured 0.34m wide by 0.05 deep. Ditch [403010] was visible for 22m and extended beyond the western edge of the area. The fills of all the ditches consisted of a sterile reddish brown clay silt consistent with natural siltation and gradual disuse (Illus 3).

Refuse pits

Three circular pits [423010], [423012], and [423014] were identified in the south-east corner of the site. They were located at the periphery of a Roman refuse pit uncovered during the trial trenching (TT4.01) (Higgins 2014) (Illus 2).

Refuse pit [423010] was circular in plan with curved sides and a flat base, measuring 0.92m in diameter by 0.1m deep. It contained a single dumped deposit consisting of a mid-greyish black clayey silt with a moderate amount of small to medium-sized, well-sorted angular and sub-angular stone inclusions (432011).

Refuse pit [423012] was sub-circular in plan with curved sides and a flat base, measuring 1.19m long by 0.92m wide by 0.25m deep. The pit was deliberately backfilled with a mottled brownish grey coarse sandy clay with small to large, moderately sorted, rounded and angular stone inclusions, along with rare flecks of charcoal (432013) (Illus 4).

Refuse pit [423014] was sub-circular in plan with gently curved sides and a flat base, measuring 1.32m long by 0.9m wide by 0.17m deep. The pit was deliberately backfilled with a plastic mid-greyish brown silty clay with occasional to rare small to medium-sized, angular and rounded, well-sorted stone inclusions (432015). A small assemblage of cattle bone was recovered from the pit.



ILLUS 5 Plan shot of stone-built culvert [423008]

Drainage

Several drainage features were identified across the site, indicating that the area was regularly drained and likely used for agricultural purposes.

A stone-built culvert (423008) was located at the eastern edge of the site and had been truncated towards its northwestern end by ditch [441019]. It was orientated north-west to south-east, measuring 26.7m long by 0.26m wide by 0.31m deep and extended beyond the eastern limit of excavation (LOE). The walls of the culvert were constructed of unbonded angular limestone blocks laid vertically directly onto the natural geological subsoil, which were capped by larger limestone blocks (Illus 5). The size and shape of the stones varied, and they appear to have been loosely stacked together. The walls and capping of the culvert created a channel measuring c 0.18m², which had been partially silted up by a mid-greyish brown plastic silty clay (423009), approximately 0.08m thick.

Ditches [441005/441007], [441001], and [441019] are possibly part of an earlier drainage system that subdivided the current single field into smaller plots, however as they are all on a slightly different alignment it is difficult to know whether they were contemporary.

Ditch [441007] was located at the western edge of the site, to the north of rectilinear field system. It was orientated north-west to south-east, measuring 31.5m long by 0.32m wide by 0.13m deep and extended beyond the western LOE. Ditch [441007] has curved sides and flat base and contained a single sterile mid reddish brown clay silt (441008).

Ditch [441001] was located in the centre of the site, c 22m north-east of, and on a slightly different alignment to, ditch [441007]. It was orientated WNW-ESE and had curved sides and a flat base, measuring 15m long by 0.33m wide by 0.15m deep. It contained a single natural infilled deposit comprised of a hard mid reddish brown clayey silt with moderate, very small to small stone inclusions (441002).

Ditch [441019] was located at the eastern edge of the site and extended beyond the eastern LOE. It was orientated WNW-ESE and had steep, near vertical sides and a flat base, measuring 28.5m long by 0.5m wide by 0.38m deep. It contained a single naturally infilled deposit comprised of a sterile mid-greyish brown clayey silt (441020). A relationship slot was placed where it was thought that there was a truncated pit, however the excavation determined that they were part of the same feature and therefore recorded as such. This extension to the ditch measured 1m long by 0.7m wide by 0.38m deep and is thought to represent a holding pit to regulate water flow as part of a larger water management system.

Ditch [423016] was located in the northern section of the site and extended beyond the northern LOE. It was orientated north-east to south-west and had a V-shaped profile. It measured 10.8m long by 0.89m wide by 0.38m deep and contained a single naturally infilled deposit comprised of a friable mid-yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small to medium-sized rounded stone inclusions and small fragments of charcoal and CBM (Illus 6).



ILLUS 6 North-east shot of v-shaped ditch [423016] **ILLUS 7** South facing section of post-hole [423003]

Cluster of post-holes

A small cluster of three post-holes was identified towards the eastern edge of the site, to the north of ditch [441019].

Post-hole [423001] was sub-circular in plan with curved sides and a concave base, measuring 0.69m long by 0.61m wide by 0.33m deep. It contained a single fill comprised of a firm coarse sandy clay with small and medium-sized rounded and sub-rounded stone inclusions (423002).

Post-hole [423003] was sub-circular in plan with near vertical sides and a flat base, measuring 0.7m long by 0.5m wide by 0.36m deep. It contained a single fill comprised of a firm dark-greyish brown coarse sandy silt with occasional small to medium-sized rounded and sub-rounded stone inclusions (423004), which possibly represent packing material. The absence of a post-pipe and the gently sloping break on one of the two top edges suggest that the post was removed after use (Illus 7).

Post-hole [423005] was sub-circular in plan with steeply sloping sides and a flat base, measuring 0.7m long by 0.5m wide by 0.36m deep. It contained a single fill comprised of a firm dark-greyish brown coarse sandy clay with occasional small to medium-sized rounded and sub-rounded stones (423006), which possibly represent packing material.

Modern features

Several small, shallow, and amorphous features with gentle, flat bases were identified near the centre of the site. A large number of these were excavated, but no evidence was recovered to suggest anthropogenic activity. A modern nail was found in one of the features, indicating a recent origin. Their linear arrangement may suggest they represent the remains of a former hedgerow, possibly functioning as a field boundary.

Several pairs of parallel gullies were also observed in the centre of the site. All gullies shared a consistent concave profile with gentle breaks of slope and were spaced approximately 1.5 meters apart. A piece of plastic was found in one of them, suggesting they are likely modern wheel ruts associated with recent landscaping activities.

A large natural hollow, interpreted as a pond, was identified in the southern part of the site, extending beyond the southern LOE. The pond was oval in plan, measuring >23m long by 12.7m wide by >1m deep. Excavations were halted at 1m below ground level for health and safety concerns. Within the pond, three deposits were identified (403001), (403002), and (403003). These varied between mid-brownish red silty clay and mid-reddish grey clay and were interpreted as natural depositional layers formed through sedimentation processes. However, they may have formed through slumping due to water movement and/or a deliberate backfilling of the pond. No artefacts or organic material were recovered from any of the deposits (Illus 8).

3.2 FINDS

No finds were recovered from any of the archaeological features investigated during the strip, plan & record excavation.

3.3 ENVIRONMENTAL

During archaeological excavation a total of 175g of animal bone was hand collected from one context (NISP=4). This assessment aims to determine the presence and preservation of any vertebrate remains, and to assess their significance and potential for enhancing the environmental and economic interpretation of the site.

Methods

Animal bone was examined by eye or under low magnification and, as far as possible, identified to species (or species group) and skeletal element, using modern comparative reference material and published works (eg Schmid 1972). Subjective records were made of the state of preservation, and the bones were examined for evidence of gnawing, burning, butchery and fresh breaks, which were noted where applicable. Where pieces of the same bone could be refitted, the pieces were recorded as a single element.

Remains that could not be identified to species were grouped into categories: large mammal (assumed to be cattle, horse or large deer (cervid)), medium-sized mammal 1 (assumed to be sheep/goat (caprine), pig or small deer), medium-sized mammal 2 (from a cat or hare-sized mammal) and completely unidentifiable.



ILLUS 8 South-east facing shot of pond [403001], [403002], and [403003]

Results

A small assemblage of 175g of well-preserved animal bone was recovered from fill (423015) of refuse pit [423014]. One fragmented cattle metatarsal was recovered, which was unfused at the distal end, suggesting that the animal was under 3 years of age (Silver 1963). The metatarsal also displayed a possible chop mark at the proximal end. Three cattle teeth, two of which were complete, and one which was highly fragmented, were also recovered.

Discussion and statement of potential

The small animal bone assemblage offers little potential to inform on the environment and economy of the site. The good preservation of the remains suggests that the paucity of zooarchaeological material is the result of depositional rather than taphonomic factors.

The small assemblage may suggest that animals were not being routinely raised or butchered on site or raised in large numbers; however, this may also be a result of the small size of the investigated area. The size of the assemblage could also suggest that the deposition of animal bone from agricultural or household waste took place elsewhere.

Scientific dating of the remains

The dating of the remains was completed by BETA Analytic. Two samples contained material suitable for AMS (accelerator mass spectrometry) radiocarbon dating, and further

details are provided for each of these samples in Table 1. It was recommended that the metatarsal be selected for radiocarbon dating.

TABLE 1 Material suitable for radiocarbon dating

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	SAMPLED
423015	Cattle metatarsal	Y
423015	Cattle teeth	N

Results of Radiocarbon Dating

Reported results are accredited to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Testing Accreditation PJLA #59423 standards, and all chemistry was performed in the Beta Analytic laboratory and counted in their own accelerators. Since Beta is not a teaching laboratory, only graduates trained in the strict protocols of the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Testing Accreditation PJLA #59423 program participated in the analyses.

Radiocarbon dates were calibrated in OxCal 4.4.4 (Ramsey 2021); r5 Atmospheric data from Reimer et al (2020). All dates are presented at 95.4% probability and rounded to the nearest 10 (Mook 1986) (Appendix 2).

The calibrated date spans the late Iron Age and early Roman transitional period (Table 2).

TABLE 2 Results of radiocarbon dating

CONTEXT	MATERIAL DATED	LAB NO	$\delta^{13}C$ (‰)	RADIOCARBON AGE BP	RADIOCARBON DATE (95.4% PROBABILITY)	PERIOD
423015	Cattle metatarsal	Beta-818648	-22.13	1980 +/- 30 BP	41 Cal BC - 120 Cal AD	Late Iron Age to Early Roman

Recommendations for further environmental research

No further work is recommended at this stage; however, the samples should be retained and considered during any further work on site.

Recommendations for Archiving

The assemblage should be retained until all phases of work are complete, at which point decisions regarding its discard can be made.

4 DISCUSSION

A series of five parallel, equally spaced, narrow and shallow ditches was recorded in the south-west corner of the site. These were bounded by an additional ditch, forming a rectilinear and highly ordered field system. Although undated, the alignment of this system respects that of the Roman road of Watling Street to the south-west. Combined with the recovery of a nearby waste pit during trial trenching that dated to the 1st century AD, it is likely that these features represent planting trenches of Roman date.

A recent review of comparable excavations across eastern England identified similar arrangements interpreted as planting trenches, typically spaced 4.5–5.5m apart, 0.6–0.8m wide, and approximately 0.25m deep (Weisman et al, 2020). The MIRA trenches were slightly closer together and on average narrower and shallower, though the latter may reflect truncation through ploughing. These features correspond well with house-garden beds or *pastinatio* trenches described by Roman authors and commonly associated with viticulture. However, some have argued that the scale of certain systems could have supported substantial vegetable production for large populations (ibid.).

Comparable examples have been recorded in Leicestershire, notably at Thistleton, where parallel gullies interpreted as cultivation trenches, also situated close to a Roman road, were believed to have been used for viticulture (Higgins 2011).

Three pits were identified on the periphery of the previously recorded Roman midden (Higgins 2014). Although small and shallow, one contained animal bone, suggesting a possible refuse-disposal function consistent with the midden. The proximity raises the possibility of long-term or repeated use of this corner of the site for waste deposition. Radiocarbon dating of the animal bone returned a date to the Late Iron Age to Early Roman period (1st century BC – 1st century AD), potentially pre-dating the establishment of Watling Street to the south and the respective field system to the west and indicating a continuation in agricultural use of the area pre-invasion of Leicestershire.

Three post holes to the north of these pits did not form any coherent structure, and without diagnostic material their function remains uncertain.

A series of larger drainage ditches and a stone-built culvert indicate continued agricultural use of the land, representing a more formalised drainage phase. These features may have subdivided the landscape into discrete plots or improved water management. Their limited extent, terminating before crossing the full site, suggests that a former north to south field boundary, now lost, once divided the area into two separate enclosures.

Across the central part of the site, a linear arrangement of shallow, amorphous pits on an east to west alignment was interpreted as possible tree throws or remnants of a hedgerow. This area also showed clear evidence of recent disturbance, including wheel ruts and a large oval pond. The presence of plastic within the ruts confirms very recent activity, likely linked to modern landscaping or agricultural vehicle movement during wet conditions. The pond in the south-west is likely a natural depression and appears, along with two others, on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888.

5 CONCLUSION

The excavation revealed a landscape shaped by sustained agricultural use, dominated by undated drainage systems. The rectilinear drainage system to the south-west suggests small-scale horticulture activity with gradual abandonment, likely relating to Roman planting trenches. The middle area is dominated by short-lived, undated ditches and a stone-lined culvert, indicating increased investment in land management. Refuse pits near a Roman midden, and post-holes suggest that the area might have been at the periphery of a settlement. The lack of structural remains and domestic artefacts suggests intentional spatial separation from domestic areas, suggesting that this area was part of an agrarian hinterland associated with the nearby settlements of Mancetter Roman town or the medieval towns of Lindey and/or Higham. Overall, the site illustrates long-term agricultural adaptation, with a firm establishment of this activity in the 1st Century AD..

6 REFERENCES

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7 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SITE AND CONTEXT REGISTERS

Appendix 1.1 Context register

CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION
452001	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey silty clay
452002	Subsoil	Mid brownish grey silty clay
452003	Geological Subsoil	Mid yellowish red silty clay
452004	Pit	Sub-Circular in plan with regular profile with curved base and sides
452005	Natural Infilling	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Fill of 452004
452006	Pit	Sub-Circular in plan with regular profile with curved base and sides
452007	Natural Infilling	Mid brownish grey silty clay. Fill of 452006
452008	Pit	Sub-Circular in plan with regular profile with curved base and sides
452009	Natural Infilling	Mid brownish grey silty clay. Inclusions: occasional sub-angular stones, occasional rounded stones, rare fired clay/cbm. Fill of 452008
441001	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE-SW with regular profile with flat base and curved sides
441002	Natural Infilling	Mid reddish brown silty clay. Inclusions: moderate sub-rounded stones. Fill of 441001
441003	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE-SW with irregular profile with curved base and sides
441004	Natural Infilling	Mid reddish brown silty clay. Inclusions: moderate rounded stones. Fill of 441003
441005	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE-SW with regular profile with curved base and sides
441006	Natural Infilling	Mid reddish brown silty clay. Inclusions: frequent rounded stones. Fill of 441005
441007	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE-SW with regular profile with shallow v-shape
441008	Natural Infilling	Mid reddish brown silty clay. Inclusions: moderate rounded stones. Fill of 441007
441009	Ditch	Linear, aligned NW-SE with regular profile with flat base and curved sides
441010	Natural Infilling	Light greyish yellow silty clay. Inclusions: moderate manganese. Fill of 441009
403001	Natural Infilling	Sub-Circular in plan
403002	Natural Infilling	Unknown in plan
403003	Natural Infilling	Sub-Circular in plan
403004	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE-SW with regular profile with flat base and curved sides

CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION
403005	Natural Infilling	Light brownish yellow silty clay. Fill of 403004
403006	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE-SW with regular profile with flat base and curved sides
403007	Natural Infilling	Light greyish yellow silty clay. Inclusions: frequent iron pan. Fill of 403006
403008	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE-SW with regular profile with flat base and curved sides
403009	Natural Infilling	Light greyish yellow silty clay. Inclusions: frequent manganese. Fill of 403008
403010	Ditch	—
403011	Natural Infilling	Light greyish yellow clayey clay. Inclusions: moderate manganese. Fill of 403010
403012	Dumped Layer	Unknown in plan
441011	Ditch	Linear, aligned NW-SE with regular profile with flat base and curved sides
441012	Natural Infilling	Mid reddish brown silty clay. Inclusions: rare rounded stones. Fill of 441011
441013	Ditch	Linear, aligned NW-SE with regular profile with flat base and curved sides
441014	Natural Infilling	Mid reddish brown silty clay. Inclusions: rare rounded stones. Fill of 441013
441015	Ditch	Linear, aligned NW-SE with regular profile with flat base and curved sides
441016	Natural Infilling	Mid reddish brown silty clay. Inclusions: rare rounded stones. Fill of 441015
441017	Ditch	Linear, aligned E-W with regular profile with flat base and curved sides
441018	Natural Infilling	Mid reddish brown silty clay. Fill of 441017
441019	Ditch	Linear, aligned NW-SE with regular profile with
423001	Pit	Sub-Circular in plan with regular profile with curved base and sides
423002	Natural Infilling	Dark brownish grey coarse sandy clay. Inclusions: rare sub-rounded stones, rare rounded stones. Fill of 423001
423003	Post-Hole	Sub-Circular in plan with regular profile with curved base and vertical sides
423004	Packing	Dark brownish grey coarse sandy clay. Inclusions: frequent sub-rounded stones, frequent rounded stones, rare charcoal. Fill of 423003
423005	Pit	Sub-Circular in plan with irregular profile with flat base and steeply sloping sides
423006	Natural Infilling	Dark greyish brown coarse sandy clay. Inclusions: occasional sub-rounded stones, occasional rounded stones. Fill of 423005
423007	Other	Linear, aligned NW-SE with regular profile with flat base and steeply sloping sides

CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION
423008	Positive Structural (not walls)	Made up of n/a of rough/coarse limestone (Medium/Largem). Bonded with none with none inclusions
423009	Natural Infilling	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Inclusions: rare rounded stones. Fill of 423007
423010	Pit	Circular in plan with regular profile with flat base and curved sides
423011	Dumped Layer	Mid greyish black coarse sandy clay. Inclusions: moderate sub-angular stones, moderate angular stones. Fill of 423010
423012	Pit	Sub-Circular in plan with regular profile with flat base and curved sides
423013	Deliberate Backfill	Mottled brownish grey coarse sandy clay. Inclusions: occasional angular stones, occasional rounded stones, rare charcoal. Fill of 423012
423014	Pit	Sub-Square in plan with regular profile with flat base and curved sides
423015	Natural Infilling	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Inclusions: occasional sub-angular stones, rare angular stones, rare rounded stones, occasional bone. Fill of 423014
423016	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE-SW with regular profile with steep v-shape
423017	Natural Infilling	Mid yellowish brown silty clay. Inclusions: occasional sub-rounded stones, occasional rounded stones, rare charcoal. Fill of 423016
423018	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE-SW with regular profile with steep v-shape
423019	Natural Infilling	Mid yellowish brown coarse sandy clay. Inclusions: occasional rounded stones, rare charcoal, rare fired clay/cbm. Fill of 423018
441020	Natural Infilling	Mid greyish brown fine sandy silt. Fill of 441019
441021	Ditch	—
441022	Natural Infilling	Mid reddish brown fine sandy clay. Fill of 441021

Appendix 1.2 Drawing register

DWG	PLAN	SECTION	DESCRIPTION
0001	—	X	S facing representative section in pond
0002	—	X	SE facing section of structure 423008

Appendix 1.3 Drawing register

PHOTO	C/S	DIRECTION	DESCRIPTION
0001	X	NE	Section Representation, showing 452001
0002	X	—	Section Representation, showing 452001
0003	X	E	Plan of pit 452008
0004	X	E	Section of S-Quarter of pit 452008
0005	X	W	Section of N-Quarter of pit 452008
0006	X	N	Plan shot of pit 452008
0007	X	E	W facing section of pit 452008
0008	X	E	Plan shot of pit 452008
0009	X	E	W facing section of pit 452008
0010	X	E	Plan shot of pit 452008
0011	X	SE	NW facing section of linear 403004
0012	X	SE	NW facing section of linear 403004
0013	X	SE	NW facing section of linear 403004
0014	—	—	VOID
0015	—	—	VOID
0016	X	NW	Pond deposits 403001
0017	X	NW	Pond deposits 403001
0018	X	NW	Plan shot linear 441001
0019	X	NE	SW facing section of 441001
0020	X	SW	NE facing section of 441001
0021	X	SE	NW facing section of terminus 441003
0022	X	NE	Location shot of linear 441001 and terminus 441003
0023	X	SE	NW facing section of terminus 441005
0024	X	SE	Location shot of linear 441005 & 441007
0025	X	NE	Plan shot of 441007
0026	X	NE	SW facing section of 441007
0027	X	SW	NE facing section of 441007
0028	X	NW	NW location shot of pond
0029	X	SW	SW location section of pond
0030	X	NE	NE location section of pond
0031	X	NW	NW location section of pond
0032	X	NW	Plan shot of ditch terminus 403006
0033	X	NW	Plan shot of ditch terminus 403006
0034	X	NW	SE facing section of 403008
0035	X	E	Plant shot of 403010
0036	X	SW	NE facing section of 403010
0037	X	NW	SE facing section terminus of 403017

PHOTO	C/S	DIRECTION	DESCRIPTION
0038	X	E	Location shot of linear 403010 & 403017
0039	X	E	Plan shot of 441009
0040	X	E	Plan shot of 441011
0041	X	SE	NW facing section of 441009
0042	X	E	Plan shot of 441015
0043	X	E	Plant shot of 441013
0044	X	SE	NW facing section of 441013
0045	X	SE	NW facing section of 441013
0046	X	S	Deposit on top of pond
0047	X	S	Deposit on top of pond
0048	X	W	E facing section of 423005
0049	X	W	E facing section of 423005
0050	X	W	Plan shot of 423005
0051	X	N	S facing section of post-hole 423003
0052	X	N	S facing section of post-hole 423003
0053	X	N	Plan shot of 423003
0054	X	NE	SW facing section of 423005
0055	X	NE	SW facing section of 423005
0056	X	NE	Plan shot of 423005
0057	X	N	S facing section of pit
0058	X	N	S face section of pit
0059	X	N	Plan shot of pit
0060	X	SW	Oblique shot of 423007
0061	X	NE	Plan shot of 423007
0062	X	NW	Oblique shot of 423007
0063	X	NE	Location shot of 423007
0064	X	NW	Location shot of 423007
0065	X	—	Plan shot of 423007
0066	X	—	Plan shot of 423007
0067	X	NW	SE facing section of 423007
0068	X	W	Plan shot of 441019

PHOTO	C/S	DIRECTION	DESCRIPTION
0069	X	S	N facing section of 441019
0070	X	—	Close up of 441019
0071	X	—	Plan shot of 441019
0072	X	—	Plan shot of 441019
0073	X	E	W facing section of 441019
0074	X	E	W facing section of 441019
0075	X	NE	SW facing section of 423010
0076	X	NE	Plan shot of 423010
0077	X	E	East facing location shot of 423010
0078	X	NE	SW facing section of pit 423012
0079	X	NE	Plan shot of pit 423012
0080	X	NE	SW facing section of pit 423012
0081	X	SE	NW facing section of pit 423014
0082	X	SE	Plan shot of pit 423014
0083	X	SW	NE facing section of 423016
0084	X	SW	Plan shot of 423016
0085	X	N	N facing location shot of 423016
0086	X	NW	SE facing section of 423018
0087	X	NE	SW facing section of 423018
0088	X	NW	Plan shot of 423018
0089	X	SW	NE facing location shot of 423018
0090	X	S	N facing section of 441021
0091	X	S	N facing section of 441021
0092	X	N	S facing section of 441021
0093	X	S	N facing section of 441021
0094	X	S	Plan shot of 441021
0095	X	S	Close up shot of N facing section of 441021
0096	X	W	General location shot
0097	X	E	General location shot
0098	X	W	General location shot

APPENDIX 2 RADIOCARBON DATING REPORT



ISO/IEC 17025:2017-Accredited Testing Laboratory

Beta Analytic, LLC
4985 SW 74th Court
Miami, FL 33155 USA
Tel: (305) 667-5167
info@betalabservices.com

May 14, 2026

Kathryn Turner
Headland Archaeology
13 Jane Street
Edinburgh, Eh33 2QF
UK

Dear Kathryn Turner,

Enclosed is the radiocarbon dating result for the sample recently sent to us. As usual, specifics of the analysis are listed on the report with the result and calibration data is provided where applicable. The Conventional Radiocarbon Age has been corrected for total fractionation effects and where applicable, calibration was performed using 2020 calibration databases (cited on the graph pages).

The web directory containing the table of results and PDF download also contains pictures, a cvs spreadsheet download option and a quality assurance report containing expected vs. measured values for 3-5 working standards analyzed simultaneously with your samples.

The reported result is accredited to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Testing Accreditation PJLA #59423 standards and all pretreatments and chemistry were performed here in our laboratories and counted in our own accelerators here in Miami. Since Beta is not a teaching laboratory, only graduates trained to strict protocols of the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Testing Accreditation PJLA #59423 program participated in the analysis.

As always Conventional Radiocarbon Ages and sigmas are rounded to the nearest 10 years per the conventions of the 1977 International Radiocarbon Conference. When counting statistics produce sigmas lower than +/- 30 years, a conservative +/- 30 BP is cited for the result unless otherwise requested. The reported d13C was measured separately in an IRMS (isotope ratio mass spectrometer). It is NOT the AMS d13C which would include fractionation effects from natural, chemistry and AMS induced sources.

When interpreting the result, please consider any communications you may have had with us regarding the sample. As always, your inquiries are most welcome. If you have any questions or would like further details of the analysis, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Our invoice has been sent separately. Thank you for your prior efforts in arranging payment. As always, if you have any questions or would like to discuss the results, don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Daniel Ponce
Pretreatment Area Coordinator / Technical Laboratory Supervisor



ISO/IEC 17025:2017-Accredited Testing Laboratory

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 4985 SW 74th Court
 Miami, FL 33155 USA
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REPORT OF RADIOCARBON DATING ANALYSISSubmitter **Kathryn Turner**Received Date **April 27, 2026**Company **Headland Archaeology**Report Date **May 14, 2026**Laboratory Number **Beta-818648**Sample Code **423015**

To validate report, scan this QR code on a mobile device or go to <https://verify.betalabservices.com> and enter the requested information.

Conventional Radiocarbon Age **1980 +/- 30 BP**

Ratio of Stable Isotopes

IRMS $\delta^{13}\text{C}$: -22.13 $\pm$ 0.30 o/oo**IRMS $\delta^{15}\text{N}$: 6.52 $\pm$ 0.40 o/oo****95.4% Probability Calibrated Range(s)**

(65.4%)	1 cal BC - 87 cal AD	(1951 - 1863 cal BP)
(17.7%)	41 - 7 cal BC	(1991 - 1957 cal BP)
(12.3%)	92 - 120 cal AD	(1858 - 1830 cal BP)

Submitter Material Bone (Non-heated)

Pretreatment (Bone collagen):collagen extraction: with alkali

Analyzed Material Bone collagen

Analysis Service AMS-Standard Delivery

Percent Modern Carbon 78.15 +/- 0.29 pMC

Fraction Modern Carbon 0.7815 +/- 0.0029

 $\delta^{14}\text{C}$ -218.46 +/- 2.91 o/oo $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ -225.61 +/- 2.91 o/oo (1950:2026)Measured Radiocarbon Age (without $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ correction): 1930 +/- 30 BP

Calibration BetaCal 5.0: High Probability Density Range Method: INTCAL20

Carbon/Nitrogen CN: 3.4 %C: 28.38 %N: 9.87

Results are ISO/IEC-17025 accredited. All work was done at Beta in-house NEC accelerator mass spectrometers and 4 Thermo IRMSs. The "Conventional Radiocarbon Age" was calculated using the Libby half-life (5568 years), is corrected for total isotopic fraction and was used for calendar calibration where applicable. The Age is rounded to the nearest 10 years and is reported as radiocarbon years before present (BP), "present" = AD 1950. Results greater than the modern reference are reported as percent modern carbon (pMC). The modern reference standard was 95% the ^{14}C signature of NIST SRM-4990C (oxalic acid). Quoted errors are 1-sigma counting statistics. Calculated sigmas less than 30 BP on the Conventional Radiocarbon Age are conservatively rounded up to 30. $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values are on the material itself (not the AMS $\delta^{13}\text{C}$). $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ values are relative to VPDB and Air-N₂ respectively. References for calendar calibrations are cited at the bottom of calibration graph pages.



ISO/IEC 17025:2017-Accredited Testing Laboratory

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BetaCal 5.0
Calibration of Radiocarbon Age to Calendar Years
(High Probability Density Range Method: INTCAL20)

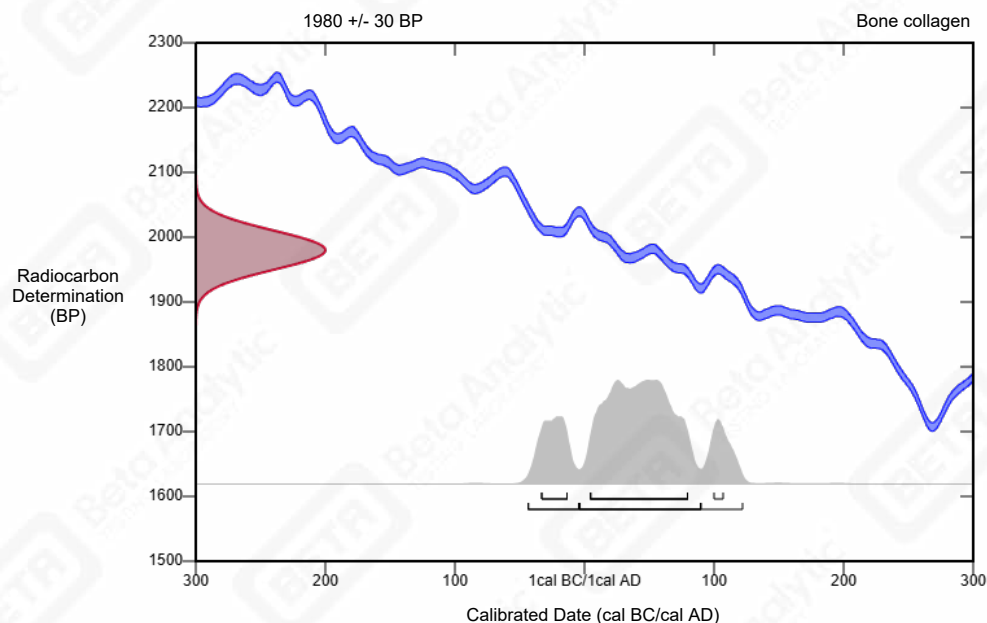
(Variables: $\delta^{13}C = -22.1$ o/oo)**Beta-Laboratory Number 818648****Conventional Radiocarbon Age (BP) 1980 +/- 30 BP**

95.4% Probability Calibrated Range(s)

(65.4%)	1 cal BC - 87 cal AD	(1951 - 1863 cal BP)
(17.7%)	41 - 7 cal BC	(1991 - 1957 cal BP)
(12.3%)	92 - 120 cal AD	(1858 - 1830 cal BP)

68.2% Probability Calibrated Range(s)

(56.9%)	7 - 77 cal AD	(1943 - 1873 cal BP)
(9.5%)	31 - 16 cal BC	(1981 - 1966 cal BP)
(1.8%)	102 - 105 cal AD	(1848 - 1845 cal BP)

423015

Database Used
INTCAL20

References**References to Probability Method**

Bronk Ramsey, C. (2009). Bayesian analysis of radiocarbon dates. Radiocarbon, 51(1), 337-360.

References to Database INTCAL20

Reimer, et al., 2020, Radiocarbon 62(4): 725-757.



ISO/IEC 17025:2017-Accredited Testing Laboratory

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Quality Assurance Report

This report provides the results of reference materials used to validate radiocarbon analyses prior to reporting. Known-value reference materials were analyzed quasi-simultaneously with the unknowns. Results are reported as expected values vs measured values. Reported values are calculated relative to NIST SRM-4990C and corrected for isotopic fractionation. Results are reported using the direct analytical measure percent modern carbon (pMC) with one relative standard deviation. Agreement between expected and measured values is taken as being within 2 sigma agreement (error x 2) to account for total laboratory error.

Report Date May 14, 2026
Submitter Kathryn Turner

QA MEASUREMENTS

Reference 1
Expected Value 23.05 +/- 0.20 pMC
Measured Value 23.19 +/- 0.09 pMC
Agreement Accepted

Reference 2
Expected Value 0.44 +/- 0.04 pMC
Measured Value 0.44 +/- 0.04 pMC
Agreement Accepted

Reference 3
Expected Value 95.86 +/- 0.37 pMC
Measured Value 95.86 +/- 0.24 pMC
Agreement Accepted

Comment All measurements passed acceptance tests.

Validation *Letitia Snáñez - Prieto*

Date May 14, 2026

APPENDIX 3 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: ENGLAND

OASIS ID (UID): headland1-530509

Project Name:	Watching Brief at MIRA Technology Park Plot 44
Site Name:	MIRA Technology Park Plot 44
Site Code:	MIRA24
Project Identifier(s):	P24-397
Activity Type:	Strip Map and Sample
Planning Id:	24/00672/REM
Reason For Investigation:	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for Work:	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd
Project Dates:	19-Mar-2025--23-May-2025
Location:	MIRA Technology Park Plot 44 NGR: SP 36705 95109 LL: 52.55259344006676, -1.460089852591483 12 Fig: 436705,295109
Administrative Areas:	Country: England County/Local Authority: Leicestershire Local Authority District: Hinckley and Bosworth Parish: Higham on the Hill
Project Methodology:	The Strip Plan & Record comprised the removal of overburden for the primary development footprint within Plot 44 down to the archaeological or geological horizon under direct control of an archaeologist (see site plan). The main contractor undertook all groundbreaking works under direct archaeological control, with all soft deposits removed in spits using a flat-bladed ditching bucket. A toothed excavator bucket was used to break up the compact upper layer of subsoil at the northern part of the site, making it easier for the flat-bladed bucket to perform subsequent scraping. The archaeological sub-surface remains encountered were subject to a programme of excavation and recording. The stripped surface was not tracked over until the archaeology had been adequately excavated and recorded. The significance of sub-surface remains was determined by the archaeological advisor of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, and the scope of further works, such as the re-stripping of a small area to the northern part of the site, was determined with their agreement during an on-site meeting with the client's representative.
Project Results:	The excavation revealed a landscape shaped by sustained agricultural use, dominated by undated drainage systems. The rectilinear drainage system to the south-west suggests small-scale horticulture activity with gradual abandonment, likely relating to Roman planting trenches. The middle area is dominated by short-lived, undated ditches and a stone-lined culvert, indicating increased investment in land management. Refuse pits near a Roman midden, and post-holes suggest that the area might have been at the periphery of a settlement. The lack of structural remains and domestic artefacts suggests intentional spatial separation from domestic areas, suggesting that this area was part of an agrarian hinterland associated with the nearby settlements of Mancetter Roman town or the medieval towns of Lindey and/or Higham. Overall, the site illustrates long-term agricultural adaptation, with a firm establishment of this activity in the 1st Century AD.
Keywords:	Coaxial Field System - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Midden - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder:	Private or public corporation MTP Developments Limited
HER:	Leicestershire HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for Work:	Callum Allsop
HER Identifiers:	[no data]
Archives:	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museums;



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