

**Hinckley and District General Hospital
Mount Road
Hinckley
Leicestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation



for:
NHS Property Services Ltd.

CA Project: MK1034
CA Report: MK1034_1
Accession number: X.A12.2024

April 2024



Hinckley and District General Hospital

Mount Road

Hinckley

Leicestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: MK10034
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SUMMARY

Project name:	Hinckley and District General Hospital
Location:	Mount Road, Hickley, Leicestershire
NGR:	442914 293718
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	11th - 13th March 2024
Planning reference:	23/00851/OUT
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Leicestershire Museums and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Accession Number:	X.A12.2024
Site Code:	HDH24

In March 2024, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Hinckley and District General Hospital, Mount Road, Hickley, Leicestershire, in support of a planning application for the redevelopment of a Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) and Endoscopy building. A total of five trenches were excavated across the 0.39ha site, which is located on the edge of the historic core of the town, approximately 100m to the south of the site of Hinckley Castle.

Despite the archaeological potential of the wider area, no archaeological features were identified in any of the trenches. Modern disturbance was noted within Trenches 1-3, in the western portion of the Site, coinciding with the location of a recently demolished temporary building.

The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that had such remains been present they were removed by previous development/ uses of the site or that the historic core of the town did not extend this far to the south.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In March/2024, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Hinckley and District General Hospital, Mount Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire (centred at NGR: 442914 293718, Fig. 1; hereafter 'the Site'), on behalf of NHS Property Services Ltd (the Client).
- 1.2. Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) has granted planning permission for the *redevelopment of a Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) and Endoscopy building (Use Class E(e) (access, appearance, layout and scale to be considered with landscaping reserved)* at Hinckley and District General Hospital (planning ref: 23/00851/OUT).
- 1.3. Based on consultation advice provided by William Kelly, the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council (SPALCC), Condition 6 of this planning permission requires an appropriate programme of archaeological works to be undertaken, including a phase of exploratory trial trenching, followed, as necessary, by a second phase of investigation and recording. Condition 6 states:

6. No development shall take place/commence until the necessary programme of archaeological work has been completed. The programme will commence with an initial phase of trial trenching to inform a final archaeological mitigation scheme. Each stage will be completed in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI), which has been [submitted to and] approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed mitigation WSI, which shall include the statement of significance and research objectives, and

- The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works;

- The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI.

Reason: To ensure satisfactory archaeological investigation, recording, dissemination and archiving in accordance with the requirements of Policies DM11, DM12 and DM13 of the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (2016).

- 1.4. The scope of this evaluation was defined in discussions between CA and the SPALCC. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2023) and approved by the SPALCC.
- 1.5. The evaluation was also undertaken in line with *Standard for archaeological field evaluation (ClfA 2023)*; *Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation (ClfA 2023)*; *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

The Site

- 1.6. The Site is approximately 0.39ha in extent, located in the southeastern corner of Hinckley and District Hospital, to the north of Mount Road (Fig. 2). The western half of the Site is largely occupied by a single storey prefabricated building that was formerly in use for adult physiotherapy and children's therapy facilities. To the east of the Site is an irregular-shaped structure comprising the original Cottage Hospital, which has been subject to various later extensions and alterations since it was built in circa 1900. The area between these two structures is occupied by a lawn and dotted with small trees while a small car park is located to the north of the Site and accessed via a driveway situated along the Site's western limit. The Site lies at approximately 120m aOD in the south-west, rising to c.130m aOD in the north-east..
- 1.7. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as Mercia Mudstone Group, a sedimentary bedrock which formed between 252.2 and 201.3 million years ago during the Triassic period. This is overlain diamicton of the Oadby Member, a sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 480 and 423 thousand years ago, during the Quaternary period (BGS 2024).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The detailed archaeological background of the Site has been previously presented as part of a Heritage Assessment (HA) produced by CA (CA 2023). The following paragraphs are drawn and summarised from that source.

Prehistoric

- 2.2. No prehistoric finds or features are recorded within the Site. The nearest prehistoric artefacts to be identified in the vicinity of the Site include an Iron Age brooch (MLE6500), found at the Hinckley Castle, and late prehistoric flints (MLE22694) found at the site of the Vicarage, St Mary's Road, both approximately 160m to the north and the west of the Site respectively. Other finds include a Bronze Age spearhead (MLE6351) found c.450m south of the Site on the Flood Relief Basin adjacent to East Close, and a Neolithic arrowhead (MLE19788), located at Merevale Close, c.900m south-west of the Site.
- 2.3. Approximately 1km south-west of the Site, a large-scale trial trench evaluation at Sketchley Brook (ELE7685) discovered a prehistoric pit containing Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery and some burnt bone.

Romano-British

- 2.4. No Roman finds or features are recorded within the Site. A Roman brooch (MLE7939) was found in the Flood Relief Basin, c.350m south of the Site; Roman pottery (MLE18561) discovered at the Hinckley Priory site, c.150m west of the Site; and Roman coins (MLE7941) were recovered from a site in Walton Terrace, c.600m west of the Site. A bust, named the 'Hinckley Bust' (338092), was discovered in 1930 after the demolition of cottages on the site of the priory barn, c. 800, north-east of the Site. A Roman glass bottle, pottery sherds and portions of tessellated pavement (338134) were also found in the general area of the bust's discovery site. The Roman road of Watling Street, now the A5, runs along the southwestern edge of Hinckley c.2km to the south-west of the Site.

Early medieval and medieval

- 2.5. No early medieval or medieval finds or features have been recorded within the Site.
- 2.6. The Site lies immediately south-east of the historic settlement core of Hinckley. In the early 1100s a small priory was established under the mother house of Lyre Abbey in La Vielle-Lyre, Normandy, c.115m west of the Site. Excavations in 2015 at the priory

site revealed possible timber buildings, a cobbled yard and pond features (ELE9927, MLE2878, MLE2880).

- 2.7. A motte and bailey fortified Norman castle was established in 1151 by Hugh de Grantmesnil, Earl of Leicester c.100m north of the Site. Significant remains of the bailey and part of the moat, including associated underground archaeology, are designated as a Scheduled Monument (SM1010299), and preserved in Argent's Mead Park (MLE2890/338131).
- 2.8. St. Mary's church (MLE13020) is located c.170m east of the Site, built in 1240 on the site of an earlier Norman church which it is believed was the abbey church to the priory.
- 2.9. A medieval pit (MLE21398) was identified c.50m west of the Site, and a medieval feature (MLE22085) containing a sherd of pottery, a piece of medieval roof tile and a piece of brick tile, were recorded c.60m north-west of the Site. Finds further afield from the Site include road remains (MLE2896), c.400m west of the Site, a medieval well (MLE2877), c.390m north-west of the Site, Tudor bricks, c.360m south of the Site and a medieval coin hoard (MLE6792), c.440m east the Site.

Post-medieval and modern

- 2.10. Hinckley expanded at a rapid rate during the post-medieval period due to the development of the industry of stocking weaving, but the Site appears to have remained undeveloped until the late 19th century.
- 2.11. Hinckley's open land was enclosed by an Act of Parliament in 1759 and though cartography does not exist from this period, a map of 1782 by J. Robinson does show the northern part of the Site within enclosed land and describes it as 'lawn', which generally refers to grassy ground likely in use as pasture.
- 2.12. The 1844 Tithe map shows one farmstead at the southwestern corner of the Site, but no above ground remains of any of the former farmstead buildings survive and this area of the Site is located beneath the current driveway.
- 2.13. The 1888 1st Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) shows that the Site remains across agricultural fields very similar in formation to that shown on the 1844 Tithe map.

-
- 2.14. In 1903 the 2nd Edition OS map illustrates that Cottage Hospital has been built in its earliest plan form, and terraced domestic development has occurred along the roadsides of Hill Street and Mount Lane outside of the Site boundaries.
- 2.15. By the production of the OS mapping of 1928 two semidetached houses have been constructed in the southwestern corner of the Site, including rear yards, in the location of the current single storey prefabricated building.
- 2.16. The OS map of 1992 shows even greater expansion of the Cottage Hospital; the former terraced and detached houses on Hill Street and Mount Road have been demolished for further hospital buildings. The prefabricated building on the south-west corner of the site is also extant by this time, replacing two former dwellings.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation. This information will enable HBBC, as advised by the SPALCC, to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets within the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposals. This process is in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DLUHC 2023).
- 3.2. A further objective of the project was to compile a stable, ordered, accessible project archive.
- 3.3. The specific objective of the evaluation was to investigate the potential presence of early medieval and medieval archaeology relating to the historic settlement of Hinckley.
- 3.4. Due to the lack of archaeologically significant features or deposits, no contributions can be made to any research objectives identified by the online *East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework* (RFN 2024; <https://researchframeworks.org/emherf/>), or previous version of the research framework, including *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda* (Cooper 2006) and *East Midlands*

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of 5 trenches in the locations shown on Figure 2, including three trenches measuring 20m long by 1.6m wide (Trenches 1, 2 and 4), one trench measuring 10m long by 1.6m wide (Trench 3), and one trench measuring 7m long by 1.6m wide (Trench 5). Trench 5 had been intended to measure 10m long, but had to be shortened on site due to the presence of a mature tree, with the agreement of the SPALCC.
- 4.2. The trenches were located to target the footprint of the proposed new building and provide a representative sample of the Site.
- 4.3. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. Overburden was stripped from the trenches by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate.
- 4.4. Records were maintained in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.5. Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. No deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 4.6. CA will make arrangements with Leicestershire County Museum Service for the deposition of the project archive under accession number: X.A12.2024. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (CIfA 2014; updated October 2020).

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A.

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- 5.2. The natural geological substrate, comprising yellow grey clay was exposed within all excavated trenches at a depth of approximately 0.4 – 0.7m below existing ground level.
- 5.3. In Trenches 1-3, situated within the footprint of the now demolished temporary building, the natural substrate was overlain by a modern made ground deposit measuring between 0.4m-0.7m thick. Evidence for truncation caused by the construction of the building foundations was also encountered, particularly within Trench 1 (see Fig. 2-4).
- 5.4. Trenches 4 and 5 (see Fig. 4) were located within an area of landscaping immediately to the west of the current Cottage Hospital. Within these trenches, the natural substrate was overlain by subsoil deposits of light brown silty clay measuring 0.1m thick. This in turn was sealed by topsoil of mid brown silty clay with a thickness of 0.35m.
- 5.5. No features or deposits of any type or period pre-dating the modern era were observed during the fieldwork, and no finds were recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1. Five trenches were excavated within the footprint of a proposed new building located on the site of a now-demolished prefabricated structure within the south-west corner of the Hinckley and District General Hospital site. Despite the archaeological potential of the wider area (see *Archaeological background*, above), no archaeological features were identified in any of the trenches. Modern disturbance was noted within Trenches 1-3, in the western portion of the Site, coinciding with the location of the recently-demolished building. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that had such remains been present they were removed by previous development/ uses of the site or that the historic core of the town did not extend this far to the south.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Dan Riley, assisted by Rory Bateman and Sam Cross. This report was written by Dan Riley and edited by Anna Wolf. The report illustrations were prepared by Helena Munoz-Mojado. The project archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Clare Bond. The project was managed for CA by Daniele Pirisino and Adrian Scruby.

8. REFERENCES

- AAF (Archaeological Archives Forum) 2011 *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation*
- ADS (Archaeology Data Service) 2021 *Guidelines for Depositors*
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- Cooper N (eds) 2006 *The Archaeology of the East Midlands. An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*
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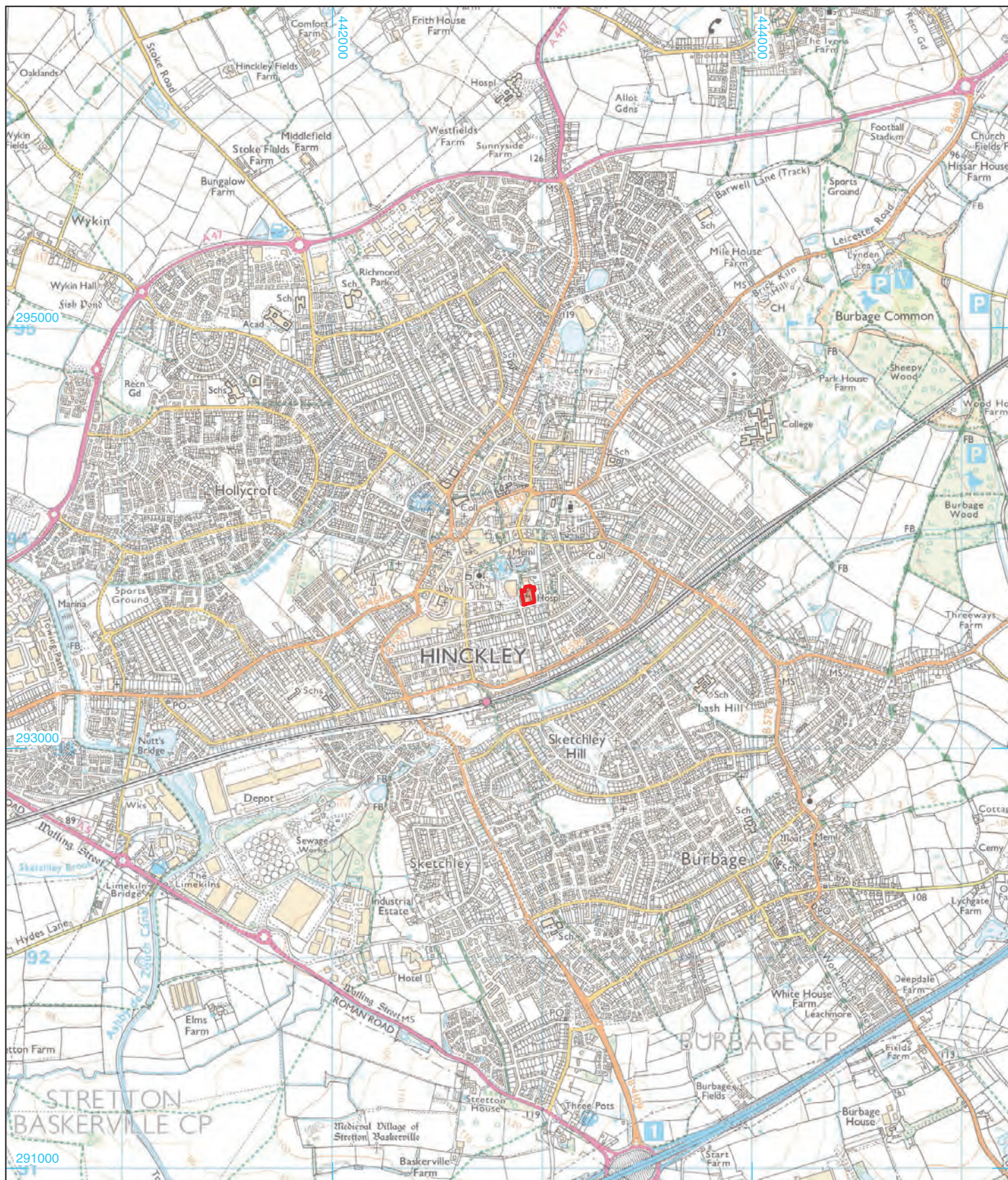
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- HE (Historic England) 2015c *Digital Image Capture and File Storage: Guidelines for Best Practice*
- Knight D, Blaise V, Allen C 2012 *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*
- LCC (Leicestershire County Council) 2022 *The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire County Council Museum Collections*
- RFN (Research Frameworks Network) 2024 *East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework. Part of the Research Frameworks Network [East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework \(researchframeworks.org\)](https://researchframeworks.org)*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1	100	layer		Other Layer	Made ground including modern rubble, CBM, plastic, glass.	20	1.6	0.7
1	101	layer		Natural	Compact, light orange grey silty clay	20	1.6	0
2	200	layer		Other Layer	Made ground including modern rubble, CBM, plastic, glass	20	1.6	0.4
2	201	layer		Natural	Compact, light orange grey silty clay	20	1.6	0
3	300	layer		Other Layer	Made ground including modern rubble, CBM, plastic, glass	10	1.6	0.4
3	301	layer		Natural	Compact, light orange grey silty clay	10	1.6	0
4	400	layer		Topsoil	Mid brown, friable silty clay	20	1.6	0.35
4	401	layer		Subsoil	Light brown, friable silty clay	20	1.6	0.1
4	402	layer		Natural	Compact, light orange grey silty clay	20	1.6	0
5	500	layer		Topsoil	Mid brown, friable silty clay	7	1.6	0.3
5	501	layer		Subsoil	Light brown, friable silty clay	7	1.6	0.1
5	502	layer		Natural	Compact, light orange grey silty clay	7	1.6	0

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Hinckley and District General Hospital, Mount Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire	
Short description	In March 2024, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Hinckley and District General Hospital, Mount Road, Hickley, Leicestershire, in support of a planning application for the redevelopment of a Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) and Endoscopy building. Five trenches were excavated within the footprint of a proposed new building located on the site of a now-demolished prefabricated structure within the south-west corner of the Hinckley and District General Hospital site. Despite the archaeological potential of the wider area (see Archaeological background, above), no archaeological features were identified in any of the trenches. Modern disturbance was noted within Trenches 1-3, in the western portion of the Site, coinciding with the location of the recently-demolished building. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that had such remains been present they were removed by previous development/ uses of the site or that the historic core of the town did not extend this far to the south.	
Project dates	11th - 13th March 2024	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Heritage Assessment (CA 2023)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Hinckley and District General Hospital, Mount Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire	
Study area (m ² /ha)	0.39ha	
Site co-ordinates	NGR: 442914 293718	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Leicestershire County Council	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Adrian Scruby, Daniele Pirisino	
Project Supervisor	Dan Riley	
MONUMENT TYPE		
None		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
None		
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	n/a	n/a
Paper	Leicestershire County Museum Service	Site records
Digital	Archaeology Data Service	Digital archive, digital photographs, report
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2024 <i>Hinckley and District General Hospital, Mount Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report MK1034_1		



Site boundary

0 1:25,000 1km

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Ordnance Survey 0100031673



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PROJECT TITLE

Hinckley And District General Hospital,
Mount Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY HMM
CHECKED BY DJB
APPROVED BY DP
PROJECT NO. MK1034
DATE 08/04/2024
SCALE @A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Modern

0 1:500 25m

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PROJECT TITLE
Hinckley And District General Hospital,
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FIGURE TITLE
Site plan showing evaluation trenches

DRAWN BY HMM	CHECKED BY DJB	PROJECT NO. MK1034	DATE 08/04/2024	FIGURE NO. 2
APPROVED BY DP	SCALE @A3	SCALE 1:500		



General view of Site, looking south-west



General view of Site, looking north-west



Trench 1 with evidence of modern disturbance, looking south (1m scales)



Trench 1, representative section, looking east (1m scale)



Trench 2 with evidence of modern disturbance, looking south-east (1m scales)



Trench 3 with evidence of modern disturbance, looking east (1m scales)



Trench 4, looking north (1m scales)



Trench 5, looking east (1m scales)

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