

Tritax Symmetry (Hinckley) Limited

## **HINCKLEY NATIONAL RAIL FREIGHT INTERCHANGE**

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### **The Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange Development Consent Order**

Project reference TR050007

### **Environmental Statement Volume 2: Appendices**

### **Appendix 13.6 - Evaluation Report (Phase 2)**

Document reference: 6.2.13.6

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**October 2022**

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Planning Act 2008

The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009  
Regulation 5(2)(a)

The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017  
Regulation 14

**This document forms a part of the Environmental Statement for the Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange project.**

Tritax Symmetry (Hinckley) Limited (TSH) has applied to the Secretary of State for Transport for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange (HNRFI).

To help inform the determination of the DCO application, TSH has undertaken an environmental impact assessment (EIA) of its proposals. EIA is a process that aims to improve the environmental design of a development proposal, and to provide the decision maker with sufficient information about the environmental effects of the project to make a decision.

The findings of an EIA are described in a written report known as an Environmental Statement (ES). An ES provides environmental information about the scheme, including a description of the development, its predicted environmental effects and the measures proposed to ameliorate any adverse effects.

**Further details about the proposed Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange are available on the project website:**



**The DCO application and documents relating to the examination of the proposed development can be viewed on the Planning Inspectorate’s National Infrastructure Planning website:**

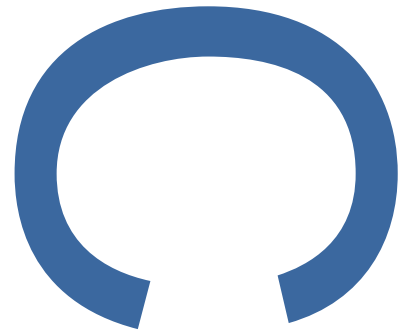
**<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/hinckley-national-rail-freight-interchange/>**

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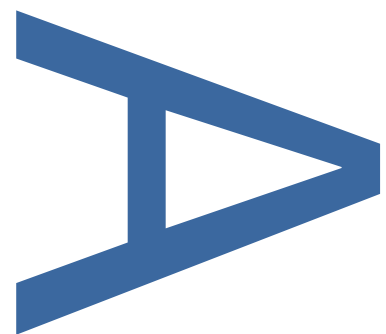
**LAND AT HINCKLEY NATIONAL  
FREIGHT INTERCHANGE,  
LEICESTERSHIRE**



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**



**SITE CODE: LHFI22  
REPORT NO: R.15180  
NOVEMBER 2022**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

**DOCUMENT VERIFICATION**

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## **An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Hinckley National Freight Interchange, Leicestershire**

**Local Planning Authority:** Leicestershire County Council

**Central National Grid Reference:** SP 45194 95334

**Site Code:** LHFI22

**Report No.** R15180

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## ABSTRACT

*Pre-Construct Archaeology was commissioned by EDP on behalf of Tritax Symmetry (hereafter referred to as 'the client'), to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land proposed for the A47 Link Road Corridor associated with Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange, Leicestershire (site centred NGR: SP 45194 95334; Figure 1). The investigations were required to investigate the potential for archaeological remains ahead of the proposed development, for which a DCO application is being submitted.*

*A total of nine trenches were excavated across the northern extents of the A47 Link Road Corridor within the Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange DCO site. These trenches were located in the far north-western corner of site, directly southeast of the B4668. Trenches 1 to 5 revealed a palaeochannel that had been suggested by LiDAR data, although the channel itself was sterile and contained no archaeological finds or organic deposits within the areas investigated. Trenches 6 to 9 recorded a basic stratigraphic sequence of natural substrate, subsoil, and topsoil, with no archaeological finds or features recorded.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land to the south-east of the B4668 Leicester Road, Hinckley, (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference SP 45194 95334; Figure 1) between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022. The investigations were commissioned by Tritax Symmetry to inform upon the potential archaeological resource and impact upon it from the A47 Link Road Corridor associated with the Hinckley Rail Freight Interchange, for which a DCO application is being submitted.
- 1.2 The proposed development area has previously been the subject of a geophysical survey (Headland Archaeology 2021) which recorded extensive spreads of “green waste,” which had been spread as soil improver over c. 75% of the site, and it was felt that the “green waste” could have masked any underlying archaeological features which may be present. Previous archaeological evaluation trenching to the east (Cotswold Archaeology 2019), undertaken as part of the same scheme, recorded human activity ranging from the late Iron Age to 20th centuries, including evidence for a dispersed Roman rural settlement focused on a probable roundhouse.
- 1.3 The Planning Archaeologist has therefore requested that a programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching be undertaken to further investigate and characterise archaeological potential of the area and to allow for consideration of the impact of the proposed development upon archaeological heritage assets and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposal.
- 1.4 The definition of an archaeological field evaluation is *‘a limited programme of non-intrusive and / or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quantity and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national and*



*international context as appropriate*' (CIFA 2014a).

1.5 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by PCA (2022) in response to a scope of work agreed between EDP and Richard Clark, Team Manager (Heritage), Historic & Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council.

1.6 In addition, the archaeological evaluation by trial trenching conforms to the guidelines and standards laid down in the following documents:

- *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Reading (CIFA 2020a);
- Code of Approved Conduct for the Regulation of Arrangements in Field Archaeology, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Reading (CIFA 2020b);
- Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Reading (CIFA 2020c);
- Management of Archaeological Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Morphe), Historic England: London (HE 2015);
- *Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual 1*, Pre-Construct Archaeology, London (Taylor and Brown 2018);
- Fieldwork Operations Manual, Regional Variation Addendum; Warwick Office, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, Warwick (Webster 2018);

1.7 The general aims of these investigations were:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where observed;
- to establish the character of any potential features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
- to assess the impact of the application on the archaeological site;

- to recover artefactual materials from as many contexts as possible to allow for a refined chronological sequence of the site to be established;
- to recover palaeoenvironmental material to gain an understanding on site preservations, potential and gain an understanding of formation processes;
- to provide the Local Planning Authority with a characterisation of the potential of the site so an informed decision can be made.

1.8 This report describes the results of the evaluation of Trenches 1-9. On completion of all phases of work the site archive will be deposited with the Leicestershire County Council Museum Collections. The site archive will be stored using accession reference number: **X.A105.2022**.

## **2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **2.1 Geology**

2.1.1 The underlying geology is mapped as Mercia Mudstone Group, which was formed in the Triassic Period. This is overlain in the majority of the site by superficial deposits of Bosworth Clay Member clay and silt, which formed in the Quaternary Period (BGS 2021).

### **2.2 Topography**

2.3 The site of the proposed location of the A47 Link Road is c. 21ha in area and covers the areas of seven pasture/agricultural fields. It extends from the B4668 in the northwest to the railway line immediately south of Bridge Farm in the south-east. The two small fields that have been evaluated at this stage are in the far north-western area of the site, directly southeast of Leicester Road B4668. Five of the nine trenches excavated in this area targeted a possible former watercourse that LiDAR data suggested was present. The other four were located in a small field directly to the south. This part of site is relatively flat, ranging from 93.52m AOD in the far northwest corner to 93.23m AOD in the south eastern corner of this area.

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 General**

- 3.1.1 The area of investigation has previously been the subject of a geophysical survey (Headland Archaeology, 2021). The following background summarises the relevant background information produced in that report, as well as the preceding evaluation of the adjacent area to the east (Cotswold Archaeology, 2019).
- 3.1.2 As noted above, there has been extensive geophysical survey and evaluation trenching in the area to the east of the London and North Western Railway, which recorded human activity ranging from the late Iron Age to 20th centuries. This also included evidence for a dispersed Roman rural settlement such as a probable roundhouse in the central southern area of that site. This was overlain by the remains of a medieval landscape consisting of ridge and furrow, which in turn was superseded by an enclosed system of 18th century fields focused on a newly constructed farmstead and the alignment of Burbage Common Road.
- 3.1.3 At Hinckley Football Stadium to the northwest a possible prehistoric enclosure (MLE2800) has been identified, although follow up geophysical survey of the area did not positively identify any archaeological features.
- 3.1.4 The geophysical survey of the present site recorded extensive spreads of “green waste,” which had been spread as soil improver over c. 75% of the site. No geophysical anomalies were noted in the “green space” area; however, it was felt that the “green waste” could have masked any underlying archaeological features which may still be present. In those parts of the site where the “green waste” was absent, the geophysical survey recorded only land drains and modern disturbance. LiDAR data indicates the former presence of a watercourse in the north-western part of the site, which is in the small area that has been investigated so far in this evaluation.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Introduction**

- 4.1.1 Nine trenches were excavated in the northern end of the A47 Link Road Corridor, with five trenches measuring 25m by 3.60m to target the possible river channel, and four trenches measuring 25m x 1.80m.
- 4.1.2 The opening of all trenches was undertaken using a wheeled backhoe-type mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. All mechanical works were monitored by a suitably experienced archaeologist.
- 4.1.3 Following opening, all trenches were cleaned, photographed, and recorded. Once cleaned all trenches were inspected and potential features/deposits excavated to retrieve artefactual and ecofactual material, as well as determine their character, significance, and date. All trenches were inspected again after sufficient weathering to ensure that no potential features or deposits are missed. Prior to backfilling, all deposits, including the trench sections, were again inspected for artefactual material.
- 4.1.4 Due to the depth of channel deposits within Trenches 1 to 5, and the waterlogged and therefore unstable nature of the deposits within the trenches, these were stepped across their entire length to a depth of approximately 1.60m. Additional depth was achieved by cutting a series of sondages through the base of the trench in order to record the nature of the channel deposits at greater depth.
- 4.1.5 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I; Taylor & Brown 2018) and PCA Fieldwork Operations Manual Regional Variation Addendum; Warwick (Webster 2018).

### **4.2 Excavation and Sampling**

- 4.2.1 The trenches were placed using a random grid for Trenches 6 to 9 as there were no geophysical anomalies to target in this area due to a spread of “green waste”. Of these trenches, Trench 9 had to be moved 7m south as the southern end ran into a hedge line. Trenches 1 to 5 were placed specifically

across a possible river channel that ran southwest - northeast across site. These trenches were aligned to attempt to transect the channel.

### **4.3 Recording Methodology**

- 4.3.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit (or equivalent) with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better. Each point was recorded in relation to the OSGB36 geod model and coded to an internal PCA database to provide a dataset which records feature type, context number, associated drawing numbers and any other information that may be relevant.
- 4.3.2 This survey provided a three-dimensional geo-referenced visual representation of the archaeology present.
- 4.3.3 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2018; Webster 2018). Context sheets were primarily filled in by the archaeologist who excavated the feature/deposit. All deposits recorded during the evaluation are listed in Appendix 2.
- 4.3.4 All deposits were recorded with sufficient data to allow for a full characterisation of the context and its relationships to be made and allow for future studies to query and compare the dataset with confidence.
- 4.3.5 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process using a Canon EOS 1300D digital SLR camera with a 18.0-megapixel resolution. Digital Photographs were taken of all deposits and all images will be labelled appropriately and cross-referenced in relation to a site specific photography register and regarded as part of the primary archive.

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

### 5.1 Trenches 1- 5

- 5.1.1 Trenches 1 to 5 were situated in the northwest corner of the wider site, directly to the southeast of Leicester Road B4668. This field was slightly higher at the northern corner near Trench 1 at a height of 93.52m AOD, before sloping slightly down to the south-eastern corner near Trench 5 at a height of 92.26m AOD. These trenches were 3.60m wide to allow space for stepping. Trenches 1 to 4 were aligned northeast to southwest in order to transect the width of the channel, whereas Trench 5 ran northwest to southeast due to limitations of the field size and shape. The only change to these trenches from the agreed plan was Trench 2, which was extended by 2m to the northeast to record the north-eastern edge of the channel.
- 5.1.2 The fill of the channel - **(1005)**, **(2005)**, **(3005)**, **(4005)** and **(5005)** - was very soft and unstable and the trenches experienced a rapid influx of water at depth, making them prone to collapse. As a result of this, stepping was limited to approximately 1.60m depth, with sondages cut below this at intervals across the trench to record the channel at a greater depth.

#### Trench 1

- 5.1.3 Trench 1 was situated in the far north-western corner of site, closest to B4668 Leicester Road, and was aligned northeast to southwest. At each end of the trench the mid reddish brown compact silty clay natural substrate **(1003)** was recorded at 93.31m AOD. This deposit was consistent throughout Trenches 1-5.
- 5.1.4 Within Trench 1 the full extent of the river channel **[1004]** was exposed cutting **(1003)**, with a width of 22.76m. The fill of the channel **(1005)** was an apparently homogenous mid reddish brown soft silty clay with occasional lenses of light greyish blue silty clay. Despite the deposit likely being formed over an extended period of time, it was not possible to distinguish different episodes of accumulation, and so a single context was ascribed to the fill. Within this section of the channel the lowest depth reached was 91.55m AOD, 1.96m

BPGL. At the depth, however, the base of the channel was not evident. In fact, it was only within Trench 5 that the probable base of the feature was recorded. No archaeological finds were recovered, and no organic content was noted.

- 5.1.5 This river deposit **(1005)** was sealed by subsoil **(1002)**, a mid-yellowish grey compact silty clay ranging from 0.28m to 0.10m in thickness. This in turn was overlain by topsoil **(1001)**, a mid-greyish brown sandy clayey silt, varying in thickness from 0.10m to 0.04m.

### **Trench 2**

- 5.1.6 Trench 2 also ran northeast to southwest and was to the southeast of Trench 1. The natural substrate **(2003)** was revealed at 93.13 AOD (0.30m BPGL). Here the full extent of the river channel **[2004]** was revealed at a width of 20.30m. Two sondages were excavated, the deepest to 91.32m AOD (1.95m BPGL) although the full depth of the channel was not noted. The fill **(2005)**, was a mid reddish brown soft silty clay with patches of light greyish blue silty clay. The channel was sealed by subsoil **(2002)**, which varied in thickness from 0.30m to 0.12m, which in turn was sealed by topsoil **(2001)**, which was between 0.14m and 0.08m in thickness.

### **Trench 3**

- 5.1.7 Trench 3 also ran northeast to southwest, to the southeast of Trench 2 and the northwest of Trench 4. The natural substrate **(3003)** was revealed at 92.38m AOD (0.49m BPGL). The river channel **[3004]** was revealed in full, however the full section was not visible as it was cut by modern land drain ditch **[3006]**. The modern ditch **[3006]** was 1.72m wide and was filled by a yellow plastic pipe and fill **(3007)**, a mid-reddish brown soft silty clay. It cut through the far north-eastern edge of the river channel **[3004]**, obscuring the full extent, leaving a width of 18.50m visible.
- 5.1.8 Again, the base of the channel was not reached, however, based on depths reached in the sondages, it was below 90.67m AOD (2.07m BPGL) in depth. The fill **(3005)** was the same as in the previous two trenches and sterile of any dateable evidence. The channel was overlain by the subsoil **(3002)** which



varied in thickness from 0.28m to 0.08m, and topsoil **(3001)** that was between 0.22m to 0.08m.

#### **Trench 4**

5.1.9 Trench 4 only recorded the north-eastern edge of the channel **[4004]**, with a maximum recorded width of 7.13m. This side of the channel also had two land drains running through it, meaning excavation of the channel fill **(4005)** was limited in this location, and it was only excavated to a depth of 91.05m AOD (1.12m BPGL), with the base of the channel not reached. The overlying subsoil **(4002)** had a thickness of 0.21m, and the topsoil **(4001)** of 0.08m. The natural substrate **(4003)** was uncovered at 92.223m AOD (0.47m BPGL).

#### **Trench 5**

5.1.10 Trench 5 was aligned southeast to northwest, and the full width of the channel was not revealed. The natural substrate **(5003)** was recorded at 91.49m AOD (0.76m BPGL) in the northwest corner of the trench only. This trench was the only location where the possible base of the river channel **[5004]** was reached. Trial pit 5.1 recorded a clear horizon with the underlying gravel deposits, interpreted as representing the possible base of the channel, at 89.15m AOD (3.05m BPGL). No archaeological finds or organic deposits were recovered in the full profile of river channel fill **(5005)**, although a single small fragment of burnt wood was recovered from the upper level of the fill. The river deposit **(5005)** was sealed by subsoil **(5002)** at 0.43m thick, which in turn was sealed by topsoil **(5001)** at 0.11m thick.

### **5.2 Trenches 6-9**

5.2.1 Trenches 6 to 9 were in a small field directly to the south of Trenches 1-5. Trench 6 was aligned northwest to southeast, Trench 7 ran north to south and Trenches 8 and 9 were both aligned northeast to southwest - these trenches all measured 1.80m by 25m. Trench 9 had to be moved 7m south so as to avoid the field boundary hedge.

5.2.2 In all four trenches the earliest deposit recorded was the natural substrate **(6003)**, **(7003)**, **(8003)** and **(9003)**, a mid-greyish red compact silty clay,

revealed at 93.82m AOD (0.17m BPGL) in Trench 7, at 93.14m AOD (0.40m BPGL) in Trench 8 and at 92m AOD (0.31m BPGL) in Trench 9. This was sealed by subsoil **(6002)**, **(7002)**, **(8002)** and **(9002)**, a mid-yellowish brown compact sandy clay that varied in thickness from 0.20m in Trench 6, 0.23m in Trench 7 and 0.15m in Trenches 8 and 9. In turn this was sealed by the topsoil **(6001)**, **(7001)**, **(8001)** and **(9001)**, a mid greyish brown silty clay that had a thickness of 0.16m in Trench 6, 0.18m in Trench 7, 0.16m in Trench 8 and finally 0.19m in Trench 9. No archaeological finds or features were recovered from these trenches.

## **6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 The excavation of Trenches 1-9 in the north-western corner of site determined that despite some potential for archaeology beneath the “green waste” found across site, no archaeological features or deposits were recorded.
- 6.2 The presence of the river channel suggested by LiDAR in this area was confirmed, however, and was present and excavated in Trenches 1 to 5. The full width of the channel was revealed in Trenches 1 to 3, varying from 22.76m to 20.30m wide. The possible base of the channel was only reached in Trench 5 at 89.145m AOD (3.05m BPGL), suggested by a sharp depositional change from silty clay to sandy gravel. As the sondage in which this was recorded was close to the edge of the river channel, it is likely not the deepest part of the channel.
- 6.3 The fill of the channel was entirely sterile, with a complete absence of archaeological finds or deposits suitable for palaeoenvironmental sampling. The absence of finds or features from across the area of investigation would suggest very limited past human exploitation of this area of the site.

## **7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank EDP and Tritax Symmetry for commissioning the work. PCA are also grateful to Richard Clark, Team Manager (Heritage), Historic & Natural Environment Team, for monitoring the work. The author would also like to thank the project team: Emma Cowdell, Gareth Morgan, and Harry Minogue. Illustrations were produced by Diana Valk. The project was managed by Tim Bradley.

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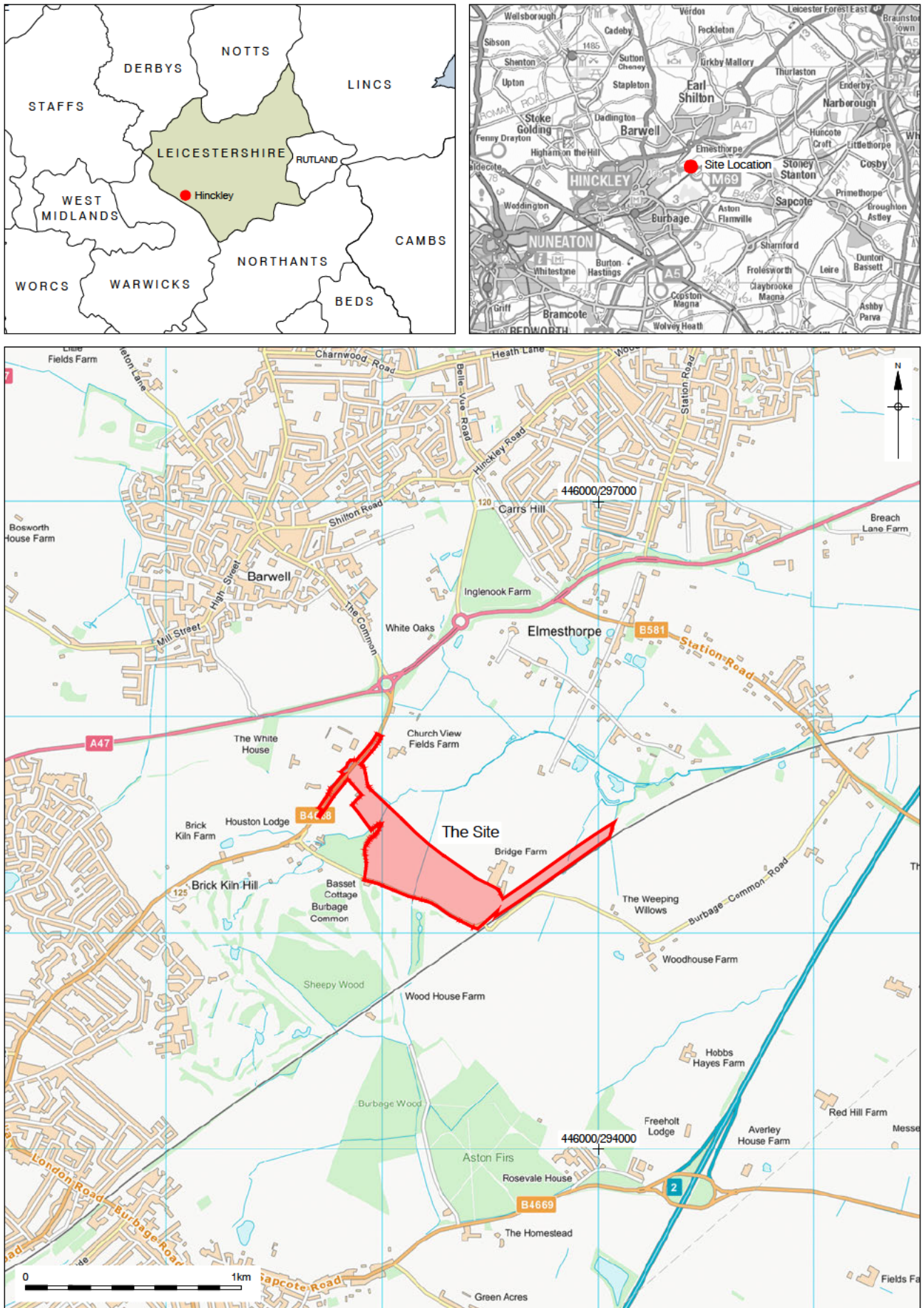
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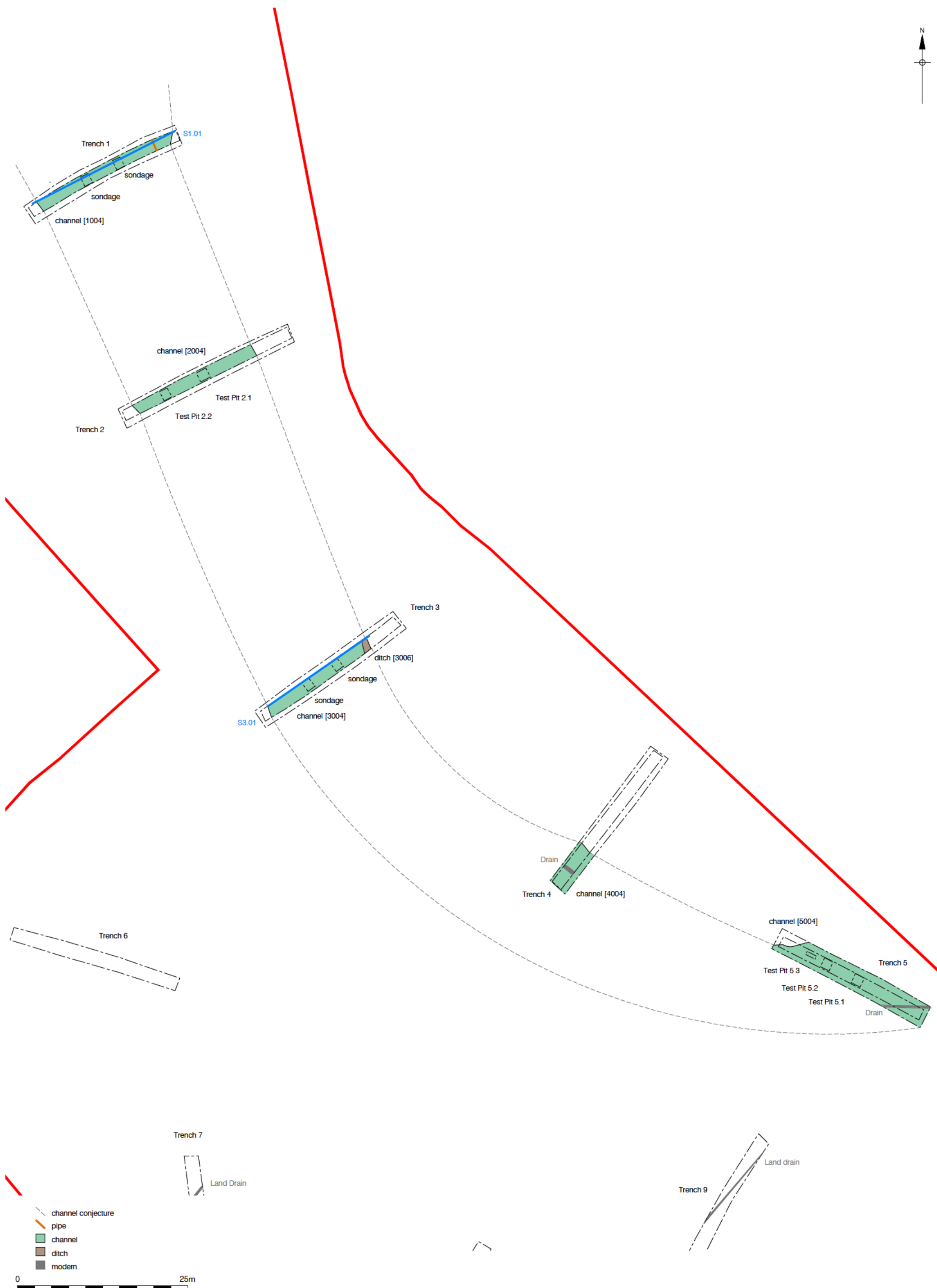
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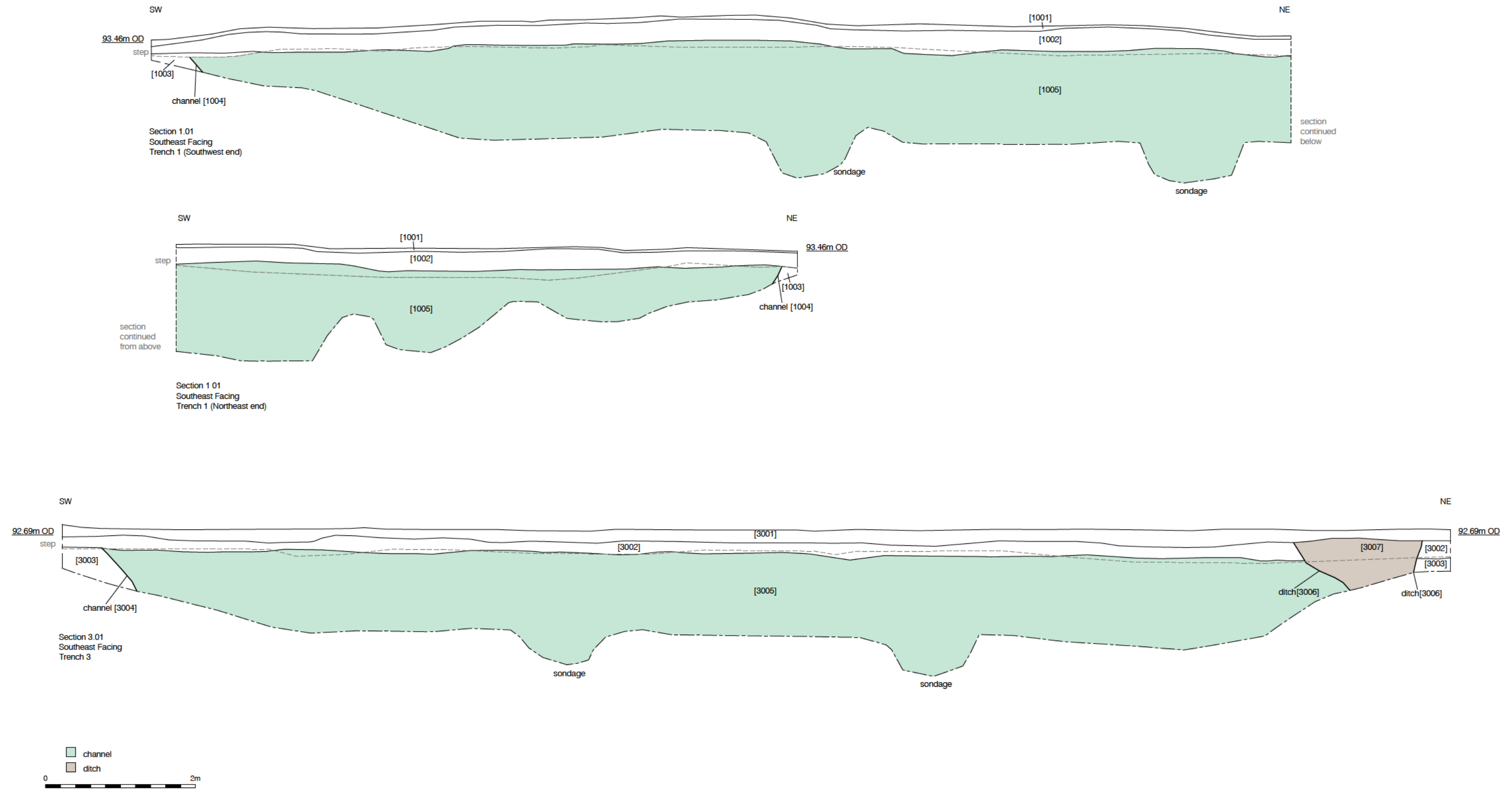
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**9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES**



SW facing shot of Trench 1, showing full extent of channel [1004]



SE facing shot of section through fill (1006) palaeochannel [1004], Trench 1





NE facing shot of channel [3004] in Trench 3



SE facing shot of channel [5004] in Trench 5





Sondage cut through Trench 5 channel fill (5005) to gravel deposits below (obscured by water)



N facing shot of Trench 7





SW shot of Trench 8

## 10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

### Trench 1

Length: 25m                      Width: 3.60m                      Orientation: SW-NE  
 Minimum Depth: 0.20m                      Maximum Depth: 2.16m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Measurements and/or depth	Discussion
1000	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
1001	Layer	Mid greyish brown compact sandy clay turf layer.	D 0.08m	Topsoil
1002	Layer	Mid yellowish grey compact silty clay with occasional rounded stone inclusions.	D 0.26m	Subsoil
1003	Layer	Mid purplish red compact silty clay with frequent manganese streaks	D 0.20m+	Natural
1004	Cut	River channel that runs NW-SE, same as 2004, 3004, 4004 and 5004. Full width of river channel visible in Trench 1.	L 1.80m+ x W 22.76m x D 1.82m+	Cut of River Channel
1005	Deposit	Alluvial deposit in river channel 1004. Mid brownish red soft silty clay, with occasional streaks and patches of light greyish blue soft silty clay throughout. Sterile deposit with no finds or organic content recovered.	L 1.80m+ x W 22.76m x D 1.82m+	Alluvial River Channel Deposit

### Trench 2

Length: 25m                      Width:3.60m                      Orientation: NE-SW  
 Minimum Depth: 0.36m                      Maximum Depth: 1.92m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Measurements and/or depth	Discussion
2000	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Measurements and/or depth	Discussion
2001	Layer	Mid greyish brown compact sandy clay turf layer.	D 0.14m	Topsoil
2002	Layer	Mid yellowish grey compact silty clay, with occasional small/medium rounded stone inclusions.	D 0.22m	Subsoil
2003	Layer	Mid purplish red compact silty clay with frequent manganese streaks.	0.36m+	Natural
2004	Cut	River channel that runs NW-SE, same as 1004, 3004, 4004 and 5004. Full width of river channel visible in trench 2.	L 1.80m+ x W 20.30m x D 1.80m+	Cut of River Channel
2005	Deposit	Alluvial deposit in river channel 1004. Mid brownish red soft silty clay, with occasional streaks and patches of light greyish blue soft silty clay throughout. Sterile deposit with no finds or organic material recovered.	L 1.80m+ x W 20.30m x D 1.80m+	Alluvial River Channel Deposit

### Trench 3

Length: 25m                      Width: 3.60m                      Orientation: NE-SW

Minimum Depth: 0.56m                      Maximum Depth: 1.89m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Measurements and/or depth	Discussion
3000	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
3001	Layer	Mid greyish brown compact sandy clay turf layer.	D 0.30m	Topsoil



Context Number	Context Type	Description	Measurements and/or depth	Discussion
3002	Layer	Mid yellowish grey compact silty clay, with occasional small/medium rounded stone inclusions.	D 0.28m	Subsoil
3003	Layer	Mid purplish red compact silty clay with frequent manganese streaks.	0.49m+	Natural
3004	Cut	River channel cut that runs NW-SE, same as 1004, 2004, 4004 and 5004. Full width of river channel visible in trench 3.	L 1.80m+ x W 18.50m+ x D 1.50m+	Cut of River Channel
3005	Deposit	Alluvial deposit in river channel 3004. Mid brownish red soft silty clay, with occasional streaks and patches of light greyish blue soft silty clay throughout. Sterile deposit with no finds or organic material recovered.	L 1.80m+ x W 18.50m+ x D 1.50m+	Alluvial River Channel Deposit
3006	Cut	Land drain ditch, with modern yellow plastic drain running along it. Runs NW-SE. Filled by 3006.	L 1.80m+ x W 1.72m x D 0.70m+	Modern land drain ditch
3007	Fill	Mid reddish brown soft silty clay, with common plastic rope inclusions and a yellow plastic drain running through.	L 1.80m+ x W 1.72m x D 0.70m+	Fill of modern ditch 3006

#### Trench 4

Length: 25m

Width: 3.60m

Orientation: NE-SW

Minimum Depth: 0.45m

Maximum Depth: 1.12m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Measurements and/or depth	Discussion
4000	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
4001	Layer	Mid greyish brown compact sandy clay turf layer.	D 0.08m	Topsoil
4002	Layer	Mid yellowish grey compact silty clay, with occasional small/medium rounded stone inclusions.	D 0.21m	Subsoil
4003	Layer	Mid purplish red compact silty clay with frequent manganese streaks.	D 0.20m+	Natural
4004	Cut	River channel cut that runs NW-SE, same as 1004,2004, 3004 and 5004. Only NE edge visible due to limitations of trench 4. Filled by alluvial deposit 4005.	L 1.80m+ x W 7.13m+ x D 1.03m+	Cut of River Channel
4005	Deposit	Alluvial deposit in river channel 4004. Mid brownish red soft silty clay with occasional streaks and patches of light greyish blue soft silty clay throughout. Sterile deposit with no finds or organic material recovered.	L 1.80m+ x W 7.13m+ x D 1.03m	Alluvial River Channel Deposit

#### Trench 5

Length: 25m

Width: 3.60m

Orientation: NW-SE

Minimum Depth:0.44m

Maximum Depth: 3.11m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Measurements and/or depth	Discussion
5000	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Measurements and/or depth	Discussion
				area.
5001	Layer	Mid greyish brown compact sandy clay turf layer.	D 0.11m	Topsoil
5002	Layer	Mid yellowish grey compact silty clay, with occasional small/medium rounded stone inclusions.	D 0.43m	Subsoil
5003	Layer	Mid purplish red compact silty clay with frequent manganese streaks.	D m	Natural
5004	Cut	River channel that runs NW-SE, same as 1004, 2004, 3004 and 4004. Only NE side visible due to limitations of trench 5. Filled by alluvial deposit 5005.	L 1.80m+ x W 19.58m+ x D 1.12m+	Cut of River Channel
5005	Deposit	Alluvial deposit in river channel 5004. Mid brownish red soft silty clay with occasional streaks and patches of light greyish blue soft silty clay throughout. Sterile deposit with no finds and only one piece of burnt wood recovered, sample 1.	L 1.80m+ x W 19.58m+ x D 1.12m+	Alluvial River Channel Deposit

#### Trench 6

Length: 25m

Width: 1.80m

Orientation: NW-SE

Minimum Depth: 0.39m

Maximum Depth: 1.20m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Measurements and/or depth	Discussion
6000	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Measurements and/or depth	Discussion
				located around trench area.
6001	Layer	Mid greyish brown compact sandy clay turf layer.	D 0.16m	Topsoil
6002	Layer	Mid yellowish grey compact silty clay.	D 0.20m	Subsoil
6003	Layer	Mid purplish red compact silty clay with frequent manganese streaks and occasional gravel patches.	D 0.08m+	Natural

#### Trench 7

Length: 25m

Width: 1.80m

Orientation: N-S

Minimum Depth: 0.32m

Maximum Depth: 0.43m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Measurements and/or depth	Discussion
7000	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
7001	Layer	Mid greyish brown compact sandy clay turf layer.	D 0.18m	Topsoil
7002	Layer	Mid yellowish brown compact silty clay.	D 0.23m	Subsoil
7003	Layer	Mid greyish red/purple compact silty clay with frequent manganese streaks and patches of light yellowish grey sandy clay.	D 0.17m+	Natural

#### Trench 8

Length: 25m

Width: 1.80m

Orientation: NE-SW

Minimum Depth: 0.34m

Maximum Depth: 0.45m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Measurements and/or depth	Discussion
8000	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
8001	Layer	Mid greyish brown compact sandy clay turf layer.	D 0.16m	Topsoil
8002	Layer	Mid yellowish brown compact silty clay.	D 0.15m	Subsoil
8003	Layer	Mid greyish red compact silty clay with frequent manganese streaks.	D 0.13m+	Natural

#### Trench 9

Length:25m

Width: 1.80m

Orientation: NE-SW

Minimum Depth: 0.29m

Maximum Depth: 0.51m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Measurements and/or depth	Discussion
9000	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
9001	Layer	Mid greyish brown compact sandy clay turf layer.	D 0.19m	Topsoil
9002	Layer	Mid yellowish brown compact silty clay.	D 0.15m	Subsoil
9003	Layer	Mid greyish red compact silty clay with frequent manganese streaks and occasional patches of gravelly clays and sands.	D 0.21m+	Natural

# Summary for preconst1-510576

OASIS ID (UID)	preconst1-510576
Project Name	Archaeological Evaluation at Land at Hinckley National Freight Interchange, Leicestershire
Sitename	Land at Hinckley National Freight Interchange, Leicestershire
Activity type	Archaeological Intervention
Project Identifier(s)	LHFI22
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project Dates	03-Oct-2022 - 14-Oct-2022
Location	Land at Hinckley National Freight Interchange, Leicestershire NGR : SP 45194 95334 LL : 52.5539792036622, -1.3348681149862 12 Fig : 445194,295334
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Leicestershire District : Blaby Parish : Elmhursthorpe
Project Methodology	Nine evaluation trenches excavated, five measuring 25m x 3.60m and four measuring 25m x 1.8m. These trenches were located in the far north-western corner of site, directly southeast of the B4668.
Project Results	Trenches 1 to 5 revealed a palaeochannel that had been suggested by LiDAR data, although the channel itself was sterile and contained no archaeological finds or organic deposits within the areas investigated. Trenches 6 to 9 recorded a basic stratigraphic sequence of natural substrate, subsoil, and topsoil, with no archaeological finds or features recorded.
Keywords	Palaeochannel - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	
HER	Leicestershire HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Martha, Carruthers
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museums;

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