University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

An Archaeological Evaluation at Green's Lodge Farm, Huncote, Leicestershire
NGR: SP 520 983

Jon Coward

ULAS Report No 2009-145

An Archaeological Evaluation
at Green's Lodge Farm,
Huncote, Leicestershire

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Jon Coward

For: A.C. Shropshire Ltd

Approved by

Signed:  **Date**: 2/11/2009..

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X.A198.2009

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An Archaeological Evaluation at Green's Lodge Farm, Huncote, Leicestershire SP520 983

1. Summary

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken by ULAS in October 2009 at Green's Lodge Farm, Huncote, Leicestershire SP520 983 for A. C. Shropshire Ltd. The evaluation was part of a pre-planning enquiry in advance of a proposed biogas facility. No features or finds of archaeological significance were revealed by the evaluation. The archive will be deposited with LMARS under accession code X.A198.2009 in due course.

2. Background

It is proposed to build a biogas facility area to the north of the current farm buildings at Green's Lodge farm site which would process animal waste. A processing building would be constructed, together with seven three-metre tall tanks. It may also be necessary to construct a new roadway across the site to facilitate lorry access.

Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team (LCCHNET) as archaeological advisors to the planning authority prepared a Brief (HNET 2009) requesting an evaluation by trial trenching to identify and locate any archaeological remains of significance, and proposing suitable treatment to avoid or minimise damage by the development. The sample to be examined was to be a minimum of 0.5% by area; 50m^2.

3. Historical Background

A desk-based assessment has been undertaken for the area (Boutsikas, 2008), which confirmed that the site lies within an area of archaeological interest. The Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) includes references to a sub circular, ditched Iron Age enclosure containing two round houses and other ditch features and pits from the quarry on the other side of Forest Road. Late Iron Age and Early Roman pottery was found in several features (HER Ref: MLE9569). Additional finds reported from the vicinity include an enamelled late Iron Age chariot linch pin and a possible terret ring, found to the south east (MLE 6532).

The Loros charity metal detecting dig in 1995 turned up a number of finds, mostly medieval pennies (e.g. **MLE6252**).

Geophysical Survey by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of ULAS (Butler, 2009) over the area identified some anomalies, but failed to locate any convincing evidence of archaeological remains.

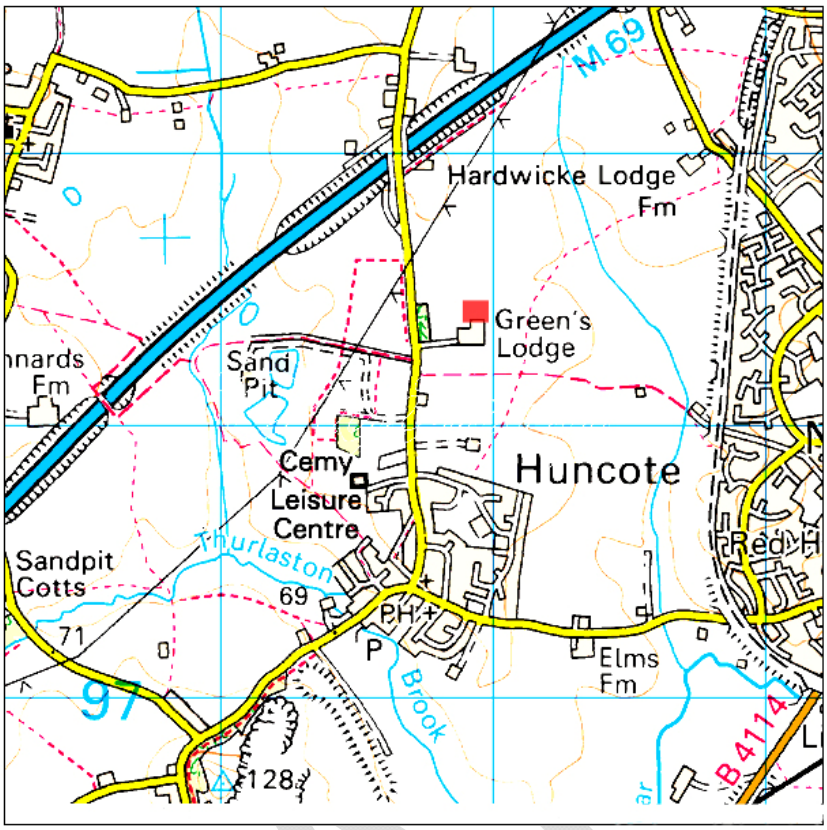

Figure 1 Position of Green's Lodge Farm in relation to Huncote, Leicestershire. Reproduced from Explorer™ 1:50,000 scale maps by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495

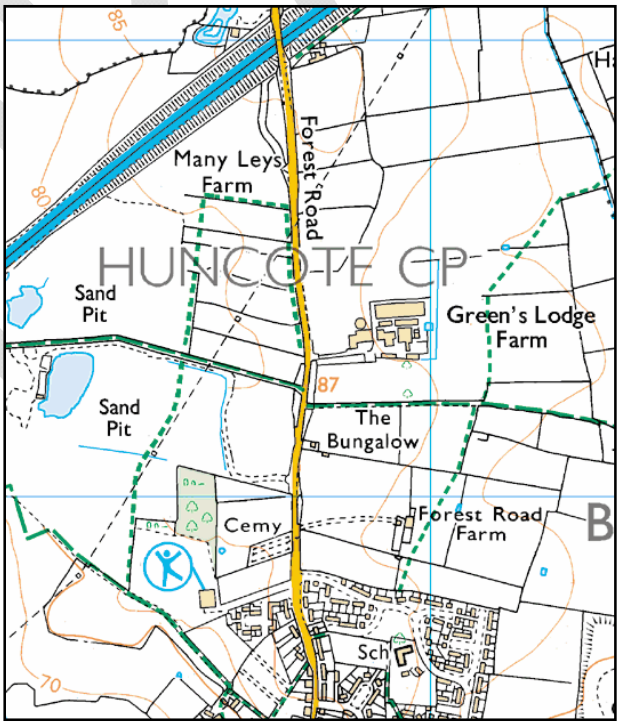

Figure 2 Green's Lodge Farm. Reproduced from 1:25,000 scale maps by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495

4. Aims

The main objectives of the evaluation were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation was to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

5. Methods

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct and adhered to their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008).

Topsoil/modern overburden was removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision, down to the uppermost archaeological deposits or natural substrata, whichever was reached first, by JCB using a toothless ditching bucket. Trenches were excavated to a width of 1.2m.

Although the geophysical survey failed to locate convincing archaeological features, two anomalies were targeted by the trenching: a long linear feature running north-south, and a vague area of mixed magnetic response in the south-west of the evaluation area.

A photographic record was made showing the nature of the work undertaken.

6. Results

6.1 Trench 1 (Figure 4

Trench 1, of 30.5m length, was positioned west to east over a vague area of magnetic anomaly. Removal of the mid grey-brown compact silty clay topsoil revealed there to be no subsoil as such; natural substrata were encountered at a depth of *c.* 0.30m. These were mixed, the main component being a dirty yellowish clay with common pebbles. The clay became sandier to the east end of the trench. Occasional patches of larger cobbles were encountered, and some small streaks of purple-pink clay. Some tilling/ploughing scars running east-west were in evidence, and charcoal flecks were common. An unusually large amount of modern plastic and building debris was encountered in the topsoil, and one modern or early modern pot sherd, which was not retained. No other finds or features were noted, and no indication of the cause of the geophysical anomaly.

Figure 3 Trench 1, looking east

Interval from W end	1m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	28m
Depth of topsoil from surface	0.30	0.30	0.27	0.25	0.20	0.27	0.30
Depth of subsoil/top of nat from surface	0.30	0.30	0.27	0.25	0.20	0.27	0.30
Depth of trench base from surface	0.35	0.35	0.32	0.30	0.35	0.32	0.35

Table 1 Trench 1 Depth of strata are in metres.

6.2 Trench 2 (Figure 4)

Trench 2, of 30m length, was positioned west-south-west to east-north-east to cross a linear geophysical anomaly. As in trench 1, the topsoil was shallow and compact, of similar colour and composition to trench 1. The natural substrata were also of the same nature as those encountered in trench 1, a dirty yellowish clay being predominant. As the trench crossed the line of the putative geophysical anomaly, a feature was encountered: this was *c.* 1 m in width and ran north-south, and consisted of topsoil mixed with clumps of pink/purple clayish strata, with modern debris

including fragments of plastic bag. Fortuitously, the machine driver was familiar with the farm and pointed out that the feature, which was obviously recent, was almost certainly the trench for an underground slurry pipe which ran from the large circular slurry tank to the south, up the line of the geophysical anomaly, to the north edge of the field, where a vertical plastic take-off pipe was visible coming out of the ground in the hedgeline. No other finds or features were encountered.

Interval from WSW end	1m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m
Depth of topsoil from surface	0.30	0.35	0.30	0.33	0.30	0.25	0.30
Depth of subsoil/top of nat from surface	0.30	0.35	0.30	0.33	N/A: modern cut feature	0.25	0.30
Depth of trench base from surface	0.36	0.40	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.30	0.40

Table 2 Trench 2 Depth of strata are in metres

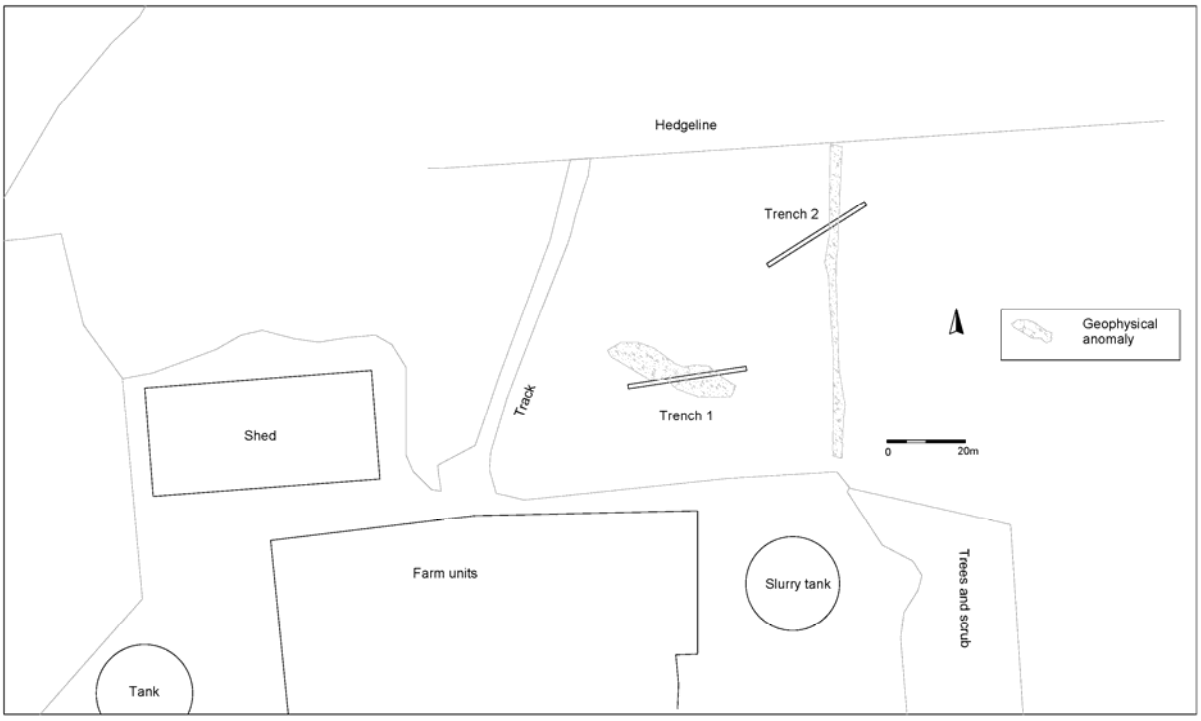

Figure 4 Layout of trenches in relation to farm buildings and geophysical anomalies

Figure 5 Trench 2, looking ENE

7. Archive

The archive consists of:

2 *pro-forma* trench recording sheets
Digital images

It will be archived by LMARS under accession code X.A198.2009 in due course.

8. Acknowledgements

The project was carried out by Jon Coward of ULAS, with project management by Richard Buckley. ULAS would like to thank Randall Boddy and David Mackley of AC Shropshire for their help in the course of the project.

9. Bibliography

Boutsikas, E. 2008 *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for the proposed development on land at Green's Lodge, Forset Road, Huncote, Leicestershire, SP 5200 9835* ULAS Report 2008-088

Butler, A.2009 *Archaeological Geophysical Survey at Green's Lodge Farm, Huncote, Leicestershire.* Northamptonshire Archaeology Report 08/215

Appendix 1: The Design Specification

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Job title*: Green Lodge Farm, Huncote: Proposed Biogas Facility*

Client: *A.C. Shropshire Ltd*

Planning Authority: *Blaby District Council*

NGR: *SP 5200 9835*

Planning Application No: *Pre planning enquiry:*

1 Introduction

1.1 ***Definition and scope of the specification***

This document is a design specification for an initial phase of archaeological field evaluation (AFE) at the above site, in accordance with DOE Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning, para.30). The fieldwork specified below is intended to provide preliminary indications of character and extent of any buried archaeological remains in order that the potential impact of the development on such remains may be assessed by the Planning Authority.

1.2 The definition of archaeological field evaluation, taken from the Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance: for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IfA S&G: AFE) 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 on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

2. Background

2.1 ***Context of the Project***

2.1.1 It is proposed to build a biogas facility on the site which will process animal waste. A processing building will be constructed, together with seven three-metre tall tanks. The latter will be located in an area to the north of the current farm buildings. It may also be necessary to construct a new roadway across the site to facilitate lorry access.

2.1.2 Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team (LCCHNET) as archaeological advisors to the planning authority have preared a Brief (HNET 2009) requesting an evaluation by trial trenching to identify and locate any archaeological remains of significance and propose suitable treatment to avoid or minimise damage by the development. The sample to be examined is to be a minimum of 0.5% by area; 50m2.

2.2 ***Archaeological and Historical Background (from Brief/Desk Study)***

2.2.1 A desk-based assessment has been undertaken for the area (Boutsikas 2008), which confirms that the site lies within an area of archaeological interest. The Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) includes references to a sub circular, ditched Iron Age enclosure containing two round houses and other ditch features and pits from the quarry on the other side of Forest Road. Late Iron Age and Early Roman pottery was found in several features (HER Ref: MLE9569). Additional finds from the vicinity include a reported enamelled late Iron Age chariot linch pin and a possible terret ring, found to the south east (MLE 6532).

2.2.2 Previous archaeological fieldwork has been undertaken in the vicinity by ULAS, following the discovery of the linchpin to the west of the application area. Fieldwalking and metal detector surveys carried out in 1997 and 2003 revealed few finds of interest, although the latter recovered a scatter of lithic material dating from the prehistoric period, including a rare lower Palaeolithic Acheulian hand axe. A small amount of medieval and Roman material was also recovered. Geophysical survey of the area produced some potential archaeological features, but their response was very weak. An evaluation at the linchpin findspot in 1998 revealed no archaeological features, although the area may have been damaged by medieval ploughing. An ongoing watching brief in 2001 in the same area revealed a curvilinear Iron Age enclosure ditch up to a metre in width, subsequent excavation of which revealed evidence of a late Iron Age farmstead with two circular buildings and a series of stock control boundaries. Fieldwalking in 2004 around Huncote Quarry to the west of the site revealed material of prehistoric to modern date. Of note was a concentration of early medieval pottery, and the presence of several pieces of Romano-British roofing tile. An archaeological evaluation in the same area in 2005 revealed no significant archaeological deposits. No archaeological finds were also identified during an archaeological watching brief in 2007 in Springfield Farm, to the north of the proposed development.

2.2.3 The Loros charity metal detecting dig in 1995 turned up a number of finds, mostly medieval pennies (e.g. **MLE6252**).

2.2.4 Geophysical Survey by Northamptonshire Archaeology in connection with this application, on behalf of ULAS, did not identify any significant archaeological remains.

3. Archaeological Objectives

3.1 The main objectives of the evaluation will be:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

3.2 Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation is to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

3.3 Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

4. Methodology

4.1 *General Methodology and Standards*

4.1.1 All work will follow the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008).

4.1.2 Staffing, recording systems, health and safety provisions and insurance details are included below.

4.1.3 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site by the project manager. These will ensure that project targets are met and professional standards are maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with the Senior Planning Archaeologist the Planning authority and the Client.

4.2 *Trial Trenching Methodology*

4.2.1 Topsoil/modern overburden will be removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision, down to the uppermost archaeological deposits by JCB 3C or equivalent using a toothless ditching bucket.

4.2.2 Trenches will be excavated to a width of 1.5m and down to the top of archaeological deposits. The area of the trenches will be protected by barrier fencing.

4.2.3 The trenches will be backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.

4.2.4 A minimum sample of 50 sq. m is required, so two 20m by 1.5m wide trial trenches (60 sq. m) will be examined (Fig. 2). The exact location of the trenches may need to be modified depending on constraints on site.

4.2.5 Trenches will be examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located will be planned at an appropriate scale and sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence. All plans will be tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

4.2.6 Sections of any excavated archaeological features will be drawn at an appropriate scale. At least one longitudinal face of each trench will be recorded. All sections will be levelled and tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum, or a permanent fixed bench mark.

4.2.7 Trench locations will be recorded using an electronic distance measurer. These will then be tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

4.2.8 Any human remains will initially be left *in situ* and will only be removed if necessary for their protection, under Ministry of Justice guidelines and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations.

4.3 *Recording Systems*

4.3.1 The ULAS recording manual will be used as a guide for all recording.

4.3.2 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto pro-forma recording sheets.

4.3.3 A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a trench plan at appropriate scale, which will show the location of the areas investigated in relationship to the investigation area and OS grid.

4.3.4 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made. Sections including the half-sections of individual layers of features will be drawn as necessary, typically at a scale of 1:10. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be recorded.

4.3.5 A photographic record of the investigations will be prepared illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

4.3.6 This record will be compiled and checked during the course of the excavations.

5. Finds and Samples

5.1 The IfA *Guidelines for Finds Work* will be adhered to.

5.2 Before commencing work on the site, a Site code/Accession number will be agreed with the Planning Archaeologist that will be used to identify all records and finds from the site.

5.3 During the fieldwork, different sampling strategies may be employed according to the perceived importance of the strata under investigation. Close attention will always be given to sampling for date, structure and environment. If significant archaeological features are sample excavated, the environmental sampling strategy is likely to include the following:

i. A range of features to represent all feature types, areas and phases will be selected on a judgmental basis. The criteria for selection will be that deposits are datable, well sealed and with little intrusive or residual material.

ii. Any buried soils or well sealed deposits with concentrations of carbonised material present will be intensively sampled taking a known proportion of the deposit.

iii. Spot samples will be taken where concentrations of environmental remains are located.

iv. Waterlogged remains, if present, will be sampled for pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and radiocarbon dating provided that they are uncontaminated and datable. Consultation with the specialist will be undertaken.

5.4 All identified finds and artefacts are to be retained, although certain classes of building material will, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording with the approval of the Senior Planning Archaeologist. The IfA *Guidelines for Finds Work* will be adhered to.

5.5 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner. Where appropriate they will be cleaned, marked and receive remedial conservation in accordance with recognised best-practice. This will include the site code number, finds number and context number. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self sealing plastic bags, again marked with site code, finds and context numbers and boxed by material in standard storage boxes (340mm x 270mm x 195mm). All materials will be fully labelled, catalogued and stored in appropriate containers.

6. Report and Archive

6.1 The full report in A4 format will usually follow within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and copies will be dispatched to the Client, Senior Planning Archaeologist; HER and Local Planning Authority.

6.2 The report will include consideration of:-

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
- The nature, location, extent, date, significance and quality of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
- The anticipated degree of survival of archaeological deposits.
- The anticipated archaeological impact of the current proposals.
- Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
- Summary.
- The location and size of the archive.
- A quantitative and qualitative assessment of the potential of the archive for further analysis leading to full publication, following guidelines laid down in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage).

6.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in the *IfA Standard and Guidance for archaeological archives (*Brown 2008) will normally be presented to Leicestershire County Council within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

7 Publication and Dissemination of Results

7.1 A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*.

7.2 University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS form at http://ads.ac.uk/project/oasis will be completed detailing the results of the project. ULAS will contact the Senior Planning Archaeologist prior to completion of the form. Once a report has become a public document following its incorporation into Leicestershire HER it may be placed on the web-site.

8. Acknowledgement and Publicity

8.1 ULAS shall acknowledge the contribution of the Client in any displays, broadcasts or publications relating to the site or in which the report may be included.

8.2 ULAS and the Client shall each ensure that a senior employee shall be responsible for dealing with any enquiries received from press, television and any other broadcasting media and members of the public. All enquiries made to ULAS shall be directed to the Client for comment.

9. Copyright

9.1 The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

10. Timetable

10.1 The evaluation start is proposed for w.c 17.08.2009 with two staff.

10.2 The on-site director/supervisor will carry out the post-excavation work, with time allocated within the costing of the project for analysis of any artefacts found on the site by the relevant in-house specialists at ULAS.

11. Health and Safety

11.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Archaeological Services Health and Safety Policy and Health and Safety manual with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is attached as Appendix 1. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate. The HSE has determined that archaeological investigations are exempt from CDM regulations.

11.2 A Risks assessment will be completed prior to work commencing on-site, and updated as necessary during the site works.

12. Insurance

12.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with St Pauls Travellers Policy No. UCPOP3651237 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters (50%) and Brit Insurances (50%) Policy No. FUNK3605.

13. Monitoring arrangements

13.1 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and Planning Archaeologist subject to the health and safety requirements of the site. At least one weeks notice will be given to the LCCHS Senior Planning Archaeologist before the commencement of the archaeological evaluation in order that monitoring arrangements can be made.

13.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the IfA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations.*

13.3 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

14. Contingencies and unforeseen circumstances

14.1 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the project, ULAS shall inform the site agent/project manager, Client and the Planning Archaeologist and Planning Authority and prepare a short written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement an amended scheme of investigation on behalf of the client as appropriate.

15. Bibliography

Brown, D., 2008 *Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives* (Institute for Archaeologists)

Boutsikas, E. 2008 *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for the proposed development on land at Green's Lodge, Forset Road, Huncote, Leicestershire, SP 5200 9835* ULAS Report 2008-088

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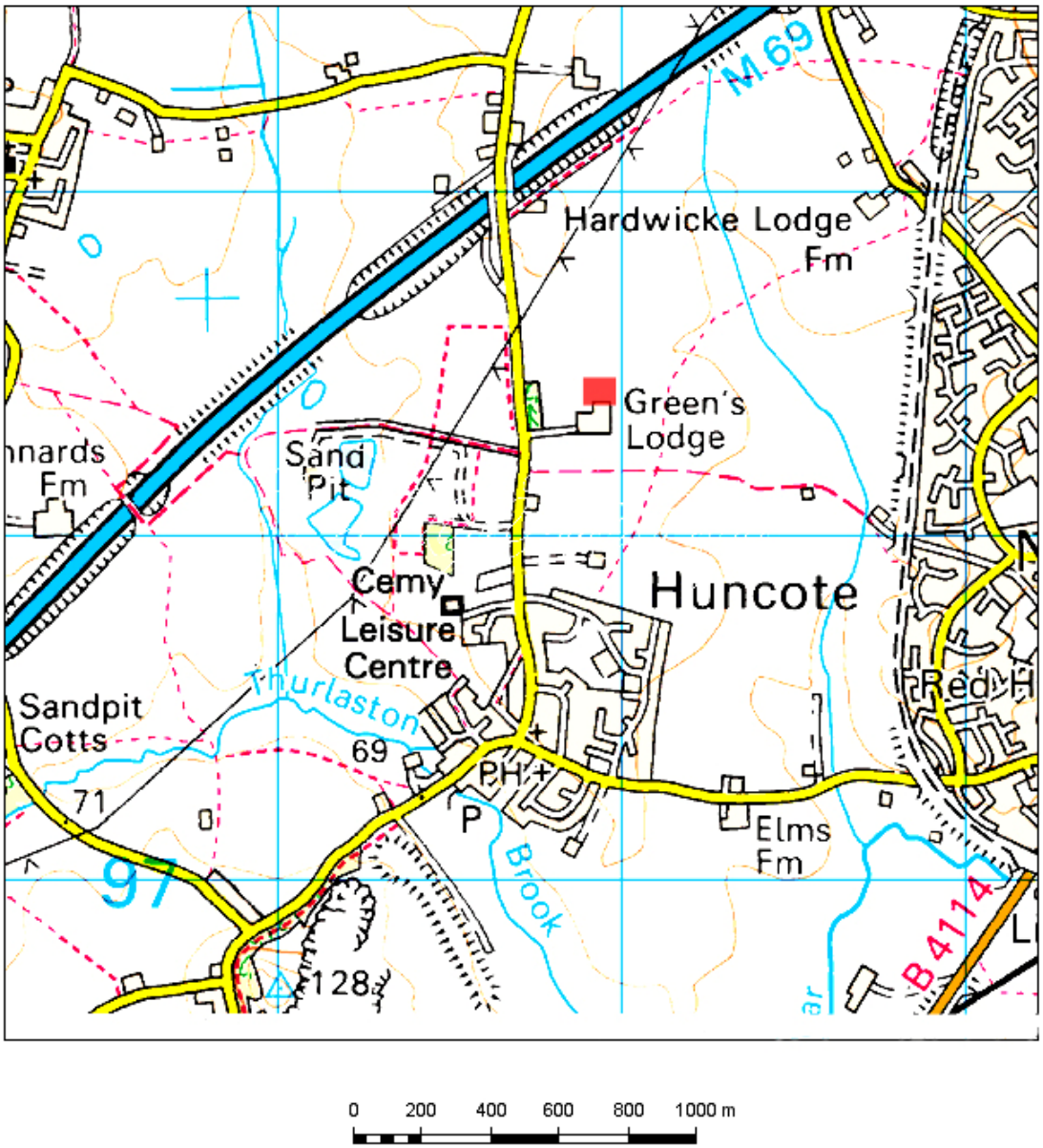

Figure 1 Location of the application area

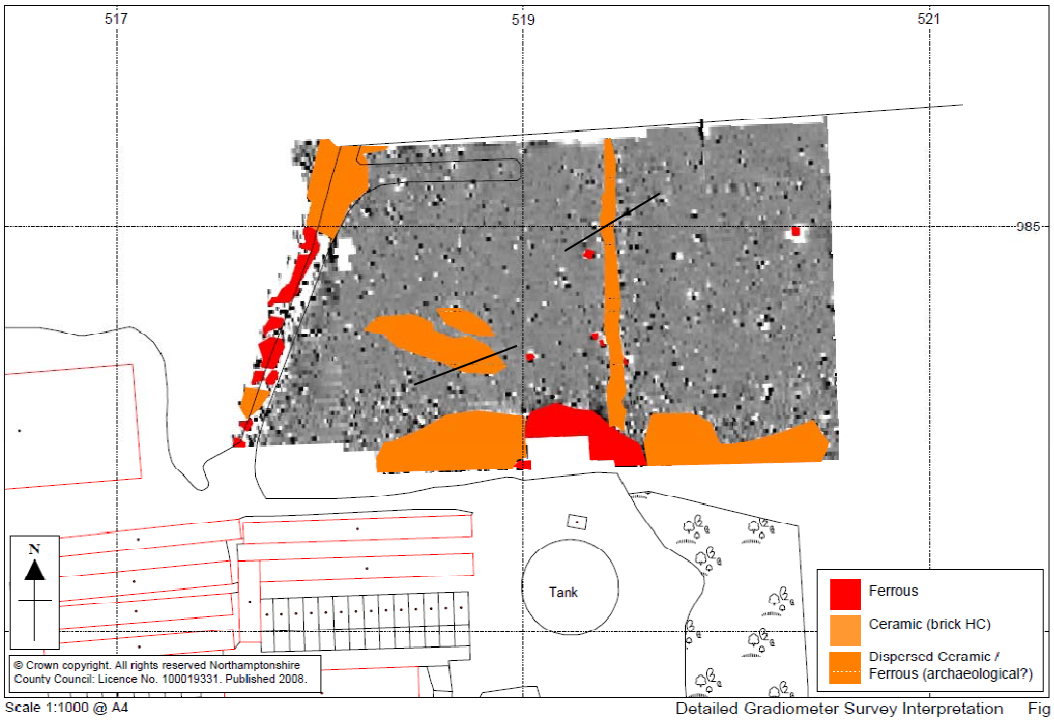

Figure 2 Proposed trench locations in relation to geophysical survey

APPENDIX 1

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

A risks assessment will be produced by on-site staff, which will be updated and amended during the course of the evaluation.

1. Nature of the work

1.1 Brief description of the work involved e.g.

The work will involve machine excavation by JCB 3C or equivalent during daylight hours to reveal underlying archaeological deposits. Overall depth is likely to be *c.* 0.5 m with possible features excavated to a depth of another 1m. Trenches will not be excavated to a depth exceeding 1.2m. Spoil will be stockpiled no less than 1.5 m from the edge of the excavation, the topsoil and subsoil being kept separate. Remaining works will involve the examination of the exposed surface with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and excavation of archaeological features. Deeper features will be fenced with lamp irons and hazard tape. Three staff will be used on the evaluation.

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 ***Working on an excavation site***.

Precautions. Trenches to not be excavated to a depth exceeding 1.2m. Spoil will be kept 1.5m away from the edge of the excavated area to prevent falls of loose debris. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. Hard hats will be worn when working in deeper sections or with plant. First aid kit to be kept in site accommodation/vehicle. Vehicle and mobile phone to be kept on site in case of emergency.

2.2 ***Working with plant***.

Precautions. Archaeologists experienced in working with machines will supervise topsoil stripping at all times. Hard hats, protective footwear and hazard jackets will be worn at all times. Machine driver to be suitably qualified and insured. If services or wells are encountered machining will be halted until extent has been established by hand excavation or areas where it is safe to machine have been established.

2.3 ***Working within areas prone to waterlogging***.

If waterlogging occurs on site preventing work continuing it is proposed to excavate a sump, suitably fenced and clearly marked to enable the water to drain away. If this is insufficient a pump will be used. The sump will be covered when not in use and backfilled if no longer required. Protective clothing will be worn at all times and precautions taken to prevent contact with stagnant water which may carry Wiels disease or similar.

2.4 ***Working with chemicals.***

If chemicals are used to conserve or help lift archaeological material these will only be used by qualified personnel with protective clothing (i.e. a trained conservator) and will be removed from site immediately after use.

2.5 ***Other risks***

Precautions. If there is any suspicion of unforeseen hazards being encountered e.g. chemical contaminants, unexploded bombs, hazardous gases, work will cease immediately. The client and relevant public authorities will be informed immediately.

Contact Details

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Archaeological Services

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THE UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR 2008/9