



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at 11 Quinton Rise, Oadby,
Leicestershire**

NGR: SK 6243 0001

Mathew Morris



ULAS Report No. 2011-094
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**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at 11 Quinton Rise, Oadby,
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NGR: SK 6243 0001

Mathew Morris

For: Mr A Q Rehman

Planning application no. 10/00546/DEXFP

Approved by:

Signed: ...  Date: 13.06.2011..

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X.A72.2011

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An Archaeological Watching Brief at 11 Quinton Rise, Oadby, Leicestershire (SK 6243 0001)

Mathew Morris

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at 11 Quinton Rise, Oadby, Leicestershire (SK 6243 0001) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) between the 9th May and 10th June 2011. The work was carried out on behalf of Mr A Q Rehman in advance of construction of two single-storey extensions to the front and rear of the existing house. The work involved supervision and inspection of machine and hand excavated foundation trenches within the driveway and garden adjacent to No. 11 for any indication of archaeological activity. Despite little apparent disturbance from adjacent sand and gravel extraction to the west of the house, the results of the investigation proved negative. Ground to the east of the house and been completely destroyed by quarrying. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A72.2011.

Introduction

This document constitutes the final report for an archaeological watching brief carried out at 11 Quinton Rise, Oadby, Leicestershire (SK 6243 0001). The work was carried out on behalf of Mr A Q Rehman by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) between the 9th May and 10th June 2011.

The proposed construction of two single-storey extensions on the front and the rear of No. 11 (Planning Application No. 10/00546/DEXFP) were located in the driveway and garden of the existing house. The development impacted an area of approximately 0.04ha on the east side of Quinton Rise, Oadby, situated approximately 6km south-east of Leicester City Centre (Figure 1).

The watching brief was requested by Leicestershire County Council's Historic and Natural Environment Team in their capacity as archaeological advisors to Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5: Planning and the Historic Environment, March 2010). The work followed the approved *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Attendance for Inspection and Recording* (see Appendix One).

Geology and Topography

The British Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 170 (Market Harbour), indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of superficial deposits of Mid Pleistocene glacial Diamicton Till (Boulder Clay) bedrock deposits of Early Jurassic mudstone belonging to the Blue Lias and Charmouth Formations (BGS 1968). The site lies on the summit of a gentle hill at a height of c.100m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) with the ground dropping away on all sides.

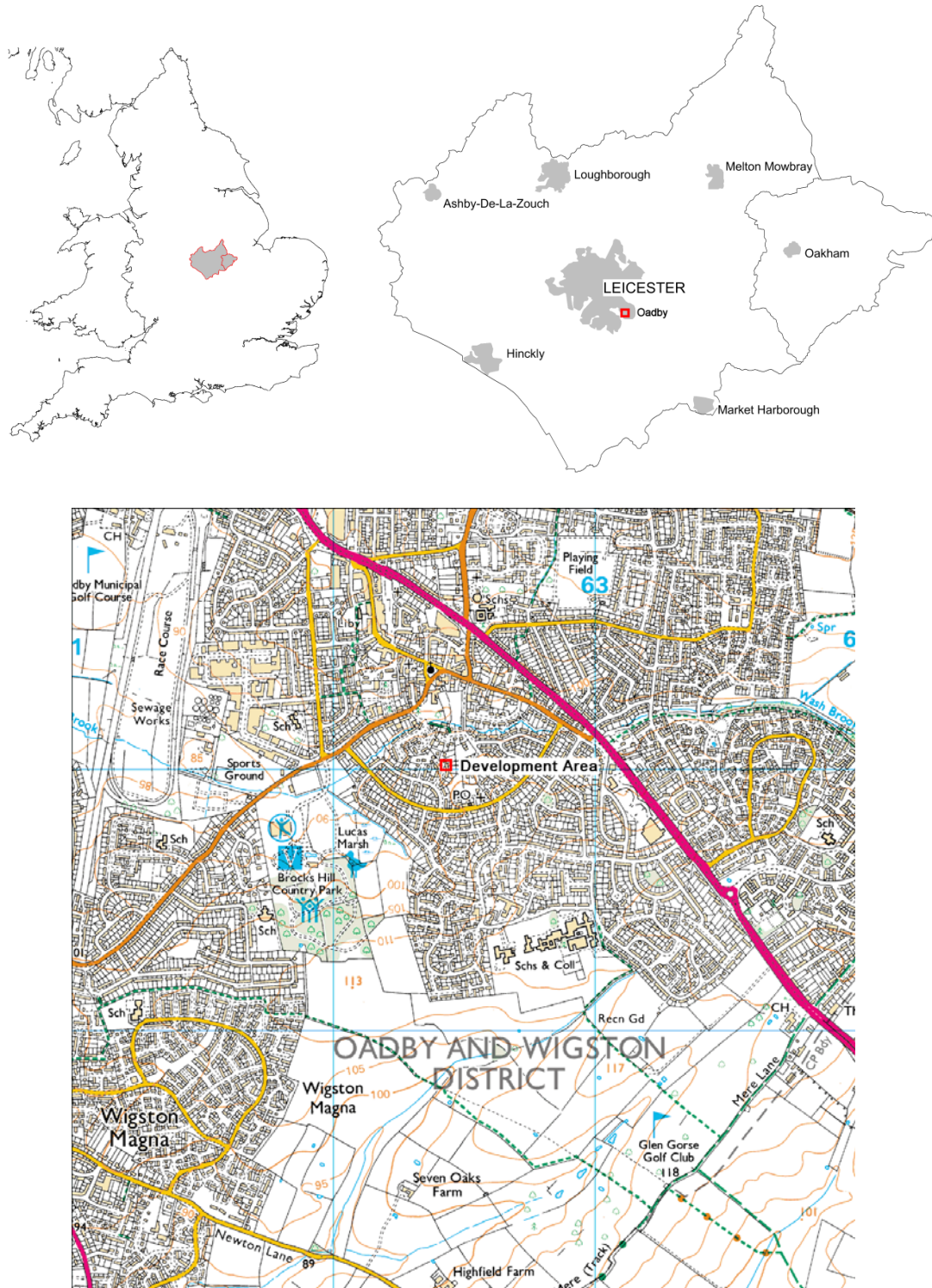


Figure 1: Location maps with development area highlighted

Reproduced from Explorer® 233 Leicester & Hinckley 1:25,000 OS map by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. © Crown copyright 2010. All rights reserved. License number AL100029495.

Historical and Archaeological Background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the development site lies in an area of archaeological interest. In 1955 during the building of the Brock Hill Estate considerable quantities of Roman pottery, part of a Roman road and a 2nd century AD ditch, along with a few coins and other finds were recovered from properties along Rosemead Drive and Honeybourne Close, all less than 200m to the south and west of the development site (HER ref: MLE4954). Some late Iron Age pottery has also been found on Rosemead Drive and evidence suggests that a Roman occupation site was located somewhere in the vicinity.

Two Roman skeletons were also found in 1955, with a third found beneath the pavement on the corner of Brambling Way and Siskin Hill in 1998. This is less than 150m south-west of the development site. The burials are believed to be part of the Brocks Hill Roman cemetery (MLE4955) first discovered in 1760 when at least eighty skeletons and cremations in urns were disturbed during sand and gravel extraction on the hill. Evidence for this extraction can be seen on Ordnance Survey maps up to 1955 and the quarry edge is shown to run through the development site (Figure 2).

A hearth and Saxon pottery have also been found on Brambling Way to the south-west (MLE4956) and the site lies close to the historic medieval and post-medieval settlement core of Oadby (MLE9060) located some 550m to the north-west.

Archaeological Objectives

The principal objectives of the watching brief were:

- To identify the presence or absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date of any archaeological deposits to be effected by the proposed ground works.
- To excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be effected by the proposed ground works.
- To produce a report and archive of any results.

Methodology

The project required a professional archaeologist to supervise all groundwork likely to impact upon any archaeological remains.

The work involved the supervision and inspection of machine and hand dug foundation trenches in order to identify any archaeological deposits or the natural substratum. This was carried out using a mini 360° mechanical excavator with a 0.6m toothed bucket. All exposed areas, sections and existing spoil heaps were visually inspected for features and finds. Archaeological deposits were hand cleaned, planned, photographed and sample excavated as appropriate to addressing the objectives of the watching brief. Field notes were recorded on a pro-forma ULAS watching brief recording form whilst any stratigraphic units would be given a unique context number and recorded on pro-forma ULAS context sheets if deemed appropriate. In all four visits were made to the development site.

All work followed the *Institute for Archaeologists' (IFA) Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and the

Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland (LMARS).

Results

The two planned single-storey extensions were located against the front and rear elevations of the existing house (No. 11). At the front of the house the footing was situated over the driveway and front garden (see cover), whilst to the rear of the house the footing was situated over a patio area and rockery on the edge of a sharp drop in ground level, presumed to be evidence of old sand and gravel quarrying (Figure 5). The footings were dug to be *c.*0.6m wide and up to *c.*1.8m deep.

In the front footing (Figure 3), initial machining removed *c.*0.35m of redeposited clay and rubble and *c.*0.14m of dark grey clayey-silt from the northern half of the footing. This appeared to be consolidation for the driveway laid across a preserved soil, most likely the remains of the original 1955 topsoil from before the house was built. Across the southern half of the footing, beneath the front garden, *c.*0.2m of turf and topsoil was removed. In both halves of the footing, these covered a *c.*0.35m thick layer of firm, mottled orangeish-grey silty-clay subsoil. Beneath this was *c.*0.64-0.98m of soft, naturally occurring greyish-orange sandy-clay which became increasingly sandier the further east it was observed. At the bottom of the footing, *c.*1.4m below ground level in the south and *c.*1.85m in the north was firm greyish-orange clay containing large quantities of crushed ironstone, mudstone and chalk. This was the natural glacial clay substratum. No archaeological features were observed and the only disturbance visible was from modern services associated with the present house.

In the rear footing (Figure 4), initial digging removed up to *c.*0.55m of compact brownish-grey clayey-silt which had probably been imported post-1955 to terrace the sloping ground in the back garden and create a level patio area. Beneath it was a *c.*0.14m thick layer of soft, fine grey clayey-silt which sloped down to the east at approximately seven degrees. This most likely represents the pre-1955 ground level. In section on the southern side of the footing, beneath the grey clayey-silt, the old quarry edge could be seen cutting through soft, natural greyish-orange silty-sand *c.*0.5m east of the house. The quarry edge dropped down to the east at approximately seventy degrees, continuing beneath the observed depth of the footing (*c.*1m below ground level), and it was filled with soft, mottled greyish-orange/orangeish-grey clayey-silt. This appeared to have accumulated naturally and was presumably derived from soil erosion washing in along the quarry edge after it had fallen out of use. The quarry was observed to have truncated or disturbed all ground within the area of the rear footings and no archaeological features survived.

Discussion

Although the development site was identified as an area of archaeological interest nothing was encountered during the watching brief. Overall, ground in front of the house, to the west, remained largely undisturbed but to the rear of the house truncation from mid-18th century or later sand and gravel extraction had removed any earlier deposits. However, the watching brief did enable some clarity to be established regarding the differing locations of the quarry edge recorded on Ordnance Survey maps between 1886 and 1955, with the 1886 map appearing to be the more accurate (Figure 5).

Bibliography

B.G.S., 1968 *England and Wales Sheet 170 Market Harborough: Bedrock and Superficial Deposits*. 1:50,000 scale geology series.

Archive

The site archive consists of: 4 A4 watching brief record form
9 digital photographs

The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A72.2011

Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work to the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York (Appendix 2).

A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal, the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*, in due course

Acknowledgements

Thanks are extended to the client, Mr A Q Rehman, and the contractors for their co-operation and assistance on site. Fieldwork was undertaken, and the report written by Mathew Morris. The project was managed for ULAS by Dr Patrick Clay.

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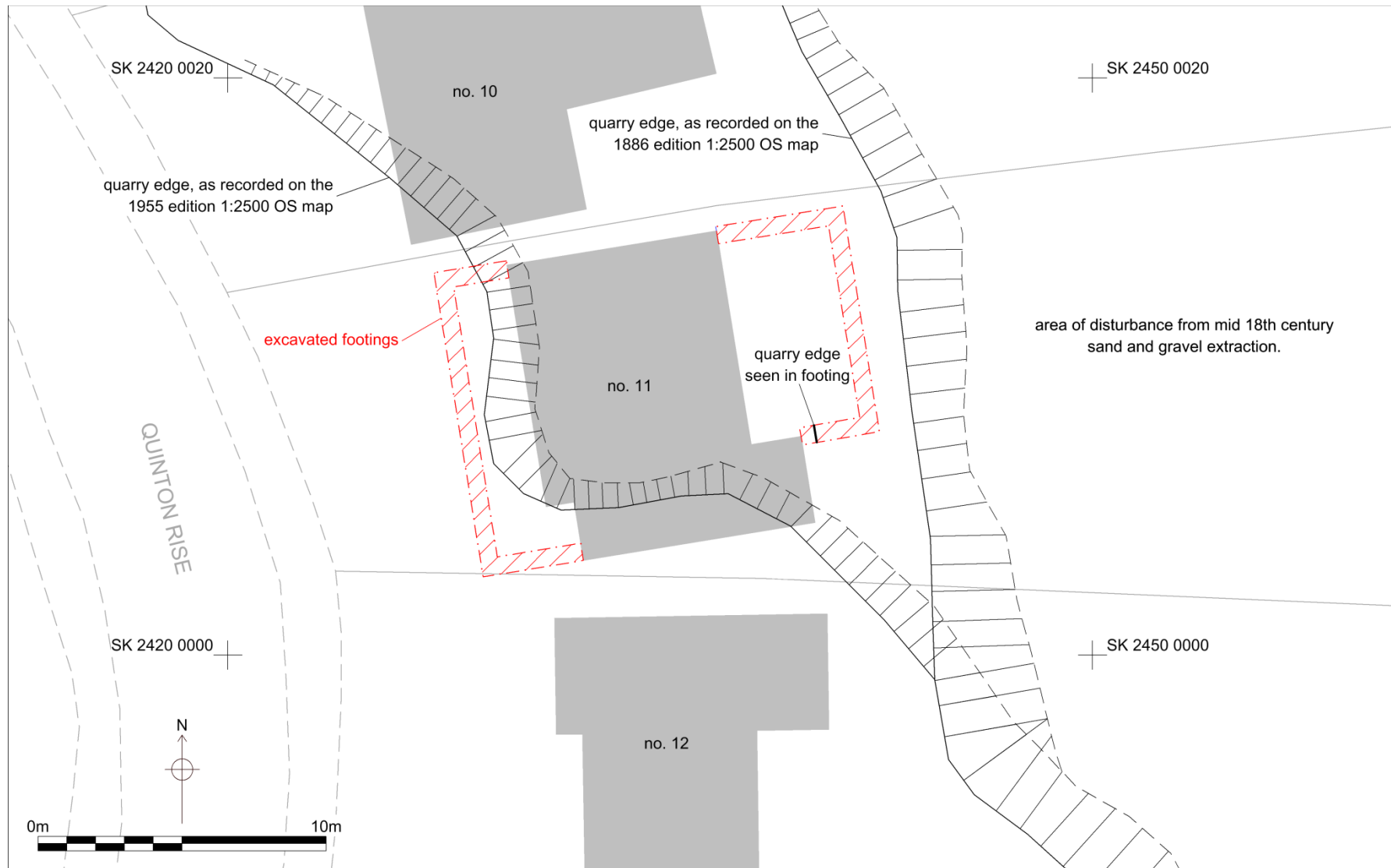


Figure 2: Plan of the development area showing the results of the watching brief



Figure 3: The northern front footing – looking north-east



Figure 4: The southern rear footing showing the quarry edge dropping away (to the left of the scale) – looking south



Figure 5: Ground to the rear of no. 11 dropping down into the old quarry workings – looking south-east

Appendix 1: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Attendance for Inspection and Recording

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Attendance for Inspection and Recording

11 Quinton Rise, Oadby, Leicestershire

NGR: SK 6236 0002

Planning Application: 10/00546/DEXFP

Client: Mr A Q Rehman

Authority: Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

1. Introduction

Definition and scope of the specification

- 1.1 This document is a design specification for a phase of archaeological investigation and recording at the above site, in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment, Policy HE12.3 (DCLG 2010). This specification provides a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for a phase of archaeological attendance for inspection and recording. The fieldwork specified below is intended to provide information on the character and extent of any buried archaeological remains which may exist on the site.
- 1.2 This document provides details of the work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client, and should be submitted to the Archaeological Advisor to the Planning Authority for approval before archaeological investigation by ULAS is implemented. The document provides details of the work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client for:

Archaeological attendance (an intensive watching brief)

2. Background

Context of the Project

- 2.1. The project involves single storey front and rear extensions at 11, Quinton Rise, Oadby Leicestershire (Figure 6 and Figure 7).

Geological and Topographical Background

- 2.2 The site lies on the east side of Quinton Rise, Oadby, Leicestershire (NGR SK 6236 0002). It totals approximately 0.04ha in area and is currently part of the existing garden and access.
- 2.3 The geology is glacial drift (boulder clay) (BGS Market Harborough Sheet 170). The site lies at a height of c.100m O.D.

Archaeological and Historical Background (from the brief)

- 2.4 The site has been identified as an area of archaeological potential from information held in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER). The site close to the Roman cemetery at Brocks Hill (MLE4955) and the historic medieval and post-medieval settlement core of Oadby (HER Ref MLE9060).
- 2.5 The Principal Planning Archaeologist has recommended an archaeological intensive watching brief to be undertaken, followed by archaeological excavation of any archaeological deposits with a contingency for recording and detailed excavation if required.

3. Archaeological Objectives

- 3.1 Through archaeological attendance and investigation:

- To identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or archaeological deposits.

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

4. Methodology

General Methodology and Standards

- 4.1 All work will follow the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2010) and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008).
- 4.2 Staffing, recording systems, health and safety provisions and insurance details are included below.
- 4.3 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 Planning authority and the Client, if required.
- 4.4 An accession number will be obtained prior to commencement of the project and used to identify all records and artefacts.
- 4.5 The project will involve the supervision of overburden removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist
- 4.6 The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with the contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work.
- 4.7 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) where appropriate.
- 4.8 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.
- 4.9 All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.
- 4.10 Any human remains encountered will be initially left in situ and only be removed under a Ministry of Justice Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The developer and Leicestershire County Council will be informed immediately on their discovery.
- 4.11 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located there may be the need for contingency time and finance to be provided to ensure adequate recording is undertaken. On the discovery of potentially significant remains the archaeologist will inform the developer, the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, and the planning authority. If the archaeological remains are identified to be of significance additional contingent archaeological works will be required.

Recording Systems

- 4.12 The ULAS recording manual will be used as a guide for all recording.
- 4.13 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto pro-forma recording sheets.
- 4.14 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.

- 4.15 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. The relative height of all principal strata and features will be recorded. The stratigraphy of all trenches shall be recorded even where no archaeological features are identified.
- 4.16 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.
- 4.17 This record will be compiled and checked during the course of the excavations.

5. Finds

- 5.1 The IfA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to.
- 5.2 All antiquities, valuables, objects or remains of archaeological interest, other than articles declared by Coroner's Inquest to be subject to the Treasure Act, discovered in or under the Site during the carrying out of the project by ULAS or during works carried out on the Site by the Client shall be deemed to be the property of ULAS provided that ULAS after due examination of the said Archaeological Discoveries shall transfer ownership of all Archaeological Discoveries unconditionally to LCC for storage in perpetuity.
- 5.3 An Accession number will be obtained from the Assistant Keeper of Archaeological Archives at Leicestershire County Council that will be used to identify all records and finds from the site, prior to the commencement of any on-site works.
- 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.
- 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.
- 5.6 Finds which may constitute 'treasure' under the Treasure Act, 1996 must be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner. Where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

6. Environmental Sampling

- 6.1. If features are appropriate for environmental sampling a strategy and methodology will be developed on site following advice from ULAS's Environmental Specialist. Preparation, taking, processing and assessment of environmental samples will be in accordance with current best practice. The sampling strategy is likely to include the following:
- 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.
 - Any buried soils or well-sealed deposits with concentrations of carbonised material present will be intensively sampled taking a known proportion of the deposit.
 - Spot samples will be taken where concentrations of environmental remains are located.
 - Waterlogged remains, if present, will be sampled for pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and radiocarbon dating provided that they are uncontaminated.
- 6.2 All collected samples will be labelled with context and sequential sample numbers.
- 6.3 Appropriate contexts will be bulk sampled (50 litre or the whole context depending on size) for the recovery of carbonised plant remains and insects.
- 6.4 Recovery of small animal bones, bird bone and large molluscs will normally be achieved

through processing other bulk samples or 30 litre samples may be taken specifically to sample particularly rich deposits.

- 6.5 Wet sieving with flotation will be carried out using a York Archaeological Trust sieving tank with a 0.5mm mesh and a 0.3mm flotation sieve. The small size mesh will be used initially as flotation of plant remains may be incomplete and some may remain in the residue. The residue > 0.5mm from the tank will be separated into coarse fractions of over 4mm and fine fractions of > 0.5-4mm. The coarse fractions will be sorted for finds. The fine fractions and flots will be evaluated and prioritised; only those with remains apparent will be sorted. The prioritised flots will not be sorted until the analysis stage when phasing information is available. Flots will be scanned and plant remains from selected contexts will be identified and further sampling, sieving and sorting targeted towards higher potential deposits.
- 6.6 Where evidence of industrial processes are present (eg indicated by the presence of slag or hearth bases), samples will be taken for the analysis of industrial residues (e.g hammer scale).

7. Report and Archive

- 7.1 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 Senior Planning Archaeologist/HER to be distributed amongst relevant sections of Leicestershire County Council as necessary.
- 7.2 The report will include consideration of:
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
 - The nature, location and extent 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.
 - a summary of artefacts, specialist reports and a consideration of the evidence within its local, regional, national context.
 - The location and size of the archive.
- 7.3 Copies will be provided for the client, Historic Environment Record and planning Authority. 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.
- 7.4 A full copy of the archive as defined in Brown (2008) will be presented to Leicestershire County Council, normally within six months of the completion of analysis. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

8. Publication and Dissemination of Results

- 8.1 A summary of the work will be submitted to the local archaeological journal, the Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society. A larger report will be submitted for inclusion if the results of the evaluation warrant it.
- 8.2 University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS form at <http://oasis.co.uk> will be completed detailing the results of the project. ULAS will contact Leicestershire County Council's SMR prior to completion of the form. Once a report has become a public document following its incorporation into Leicestershire SMR it may be placed on the web-site. The Developer should agree to this procedure in writing as part of the process of submitting the report to Leicestershire SMR.

9. Acknowledgement and Publicity

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 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.

10. Timetable

- 10.1 The work is expected to start at a date to be arranged It will involve one person on site at varying times throughout the groundworks.

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 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.

12. Bibliography

Brown, D., 2008	<i>Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives</i> (Institute for Archaeologists)
IfA, 2010	<i>Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs.</i>
IfA, 2008	<i>Code of Conduct</i>

03-03-2011

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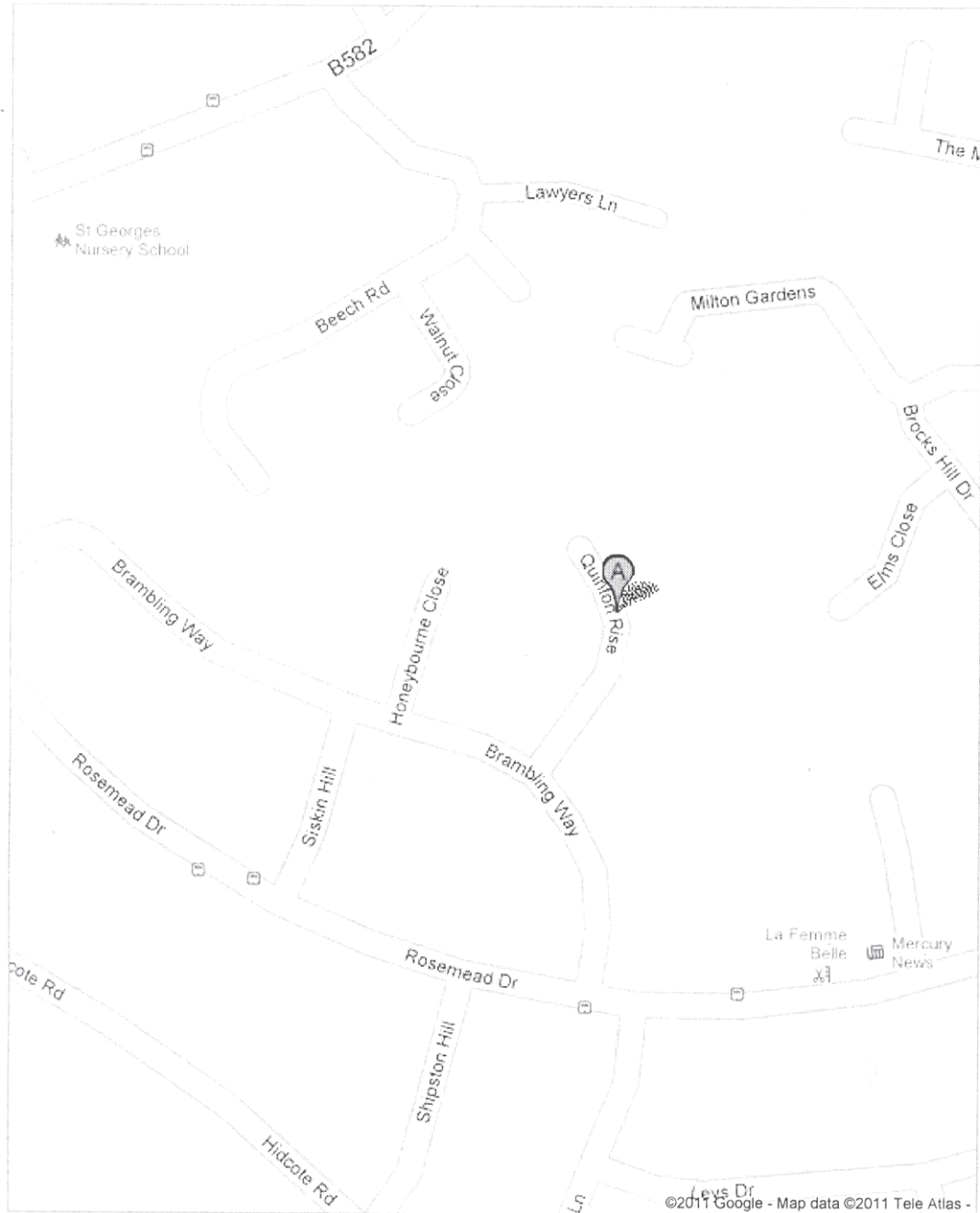


Figure 6: Location of 11, Quinton Rise, Oadby

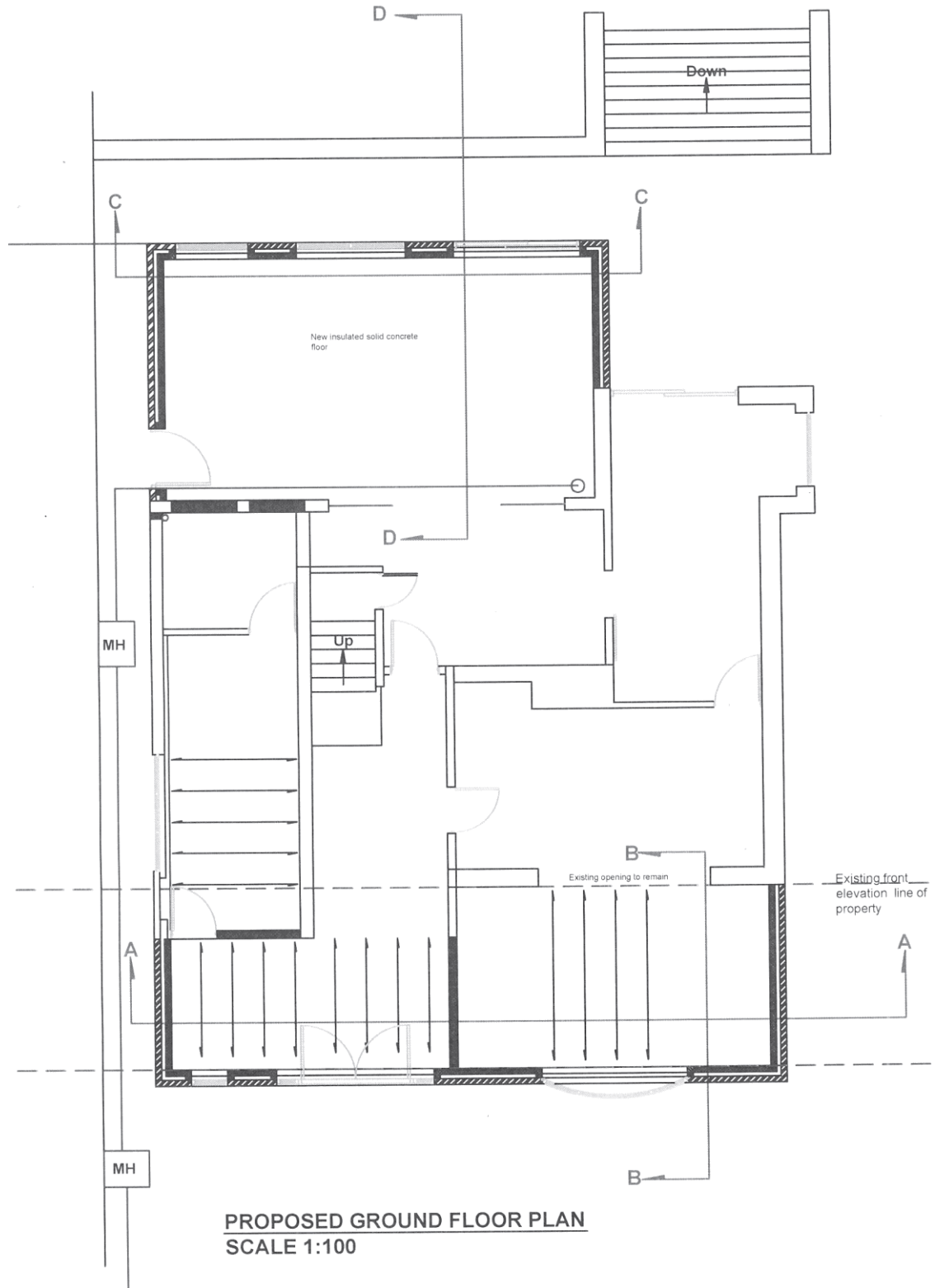


Figure 7: Plan of proposed extensions

Appendix 2: OASIS Database entry

OASIS no.	universi1-103095
Project Name	11 Quinton Rise, Oadby
Project Type	Watching Brief
Project Manager	Dr Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Mathew Morris
Previous/Future work	None
Current Land Use	Driveway and garden
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	PPS 5
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	SK 6243 0001
Start/end dates of field work	9/05/11 – 10/06/11
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council Museum Services
Study Area	0.04ha

Contact Details

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