

# **Archaeological Services**



An Archaeological Evaluation at 11, Church Lane, Wymondham, Leicestershire NGR: SK 8510 1860

**Tim Higgins** 

ULAS Report No. 2011-117 ©2011

# An Archaeological Evaluation at

# 11 Church Lane, Wymondham,

Leicestershire

NGR: SK 8510 1860

**Tim Higgins** 

For: Mr R A Weston

Approved by:				
Signed: Date: 18.07.2011.				
Name: Richard Buckley				

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# An Archaeological Evaluation at 11, Church Lane, Wymondham, Leicestershire NGR SK 8510 1860

# Tim Higgins

# Summary

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken on land at 11, Church Lane, Wymondham, Leicestershire by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) 13th July 2011. The initial potential of the site was highlighted by an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Hunt 2010) which indicated that the development area was located within a medieval village core. Two trenches were excavated to evaluate an area for a proposed new housing located within the vacant land to the east of an existing property.

Both trenches contained no archaeological features although a single flint core was retrieved from the subsoil within Trench 2. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under accession number X.A96.2011.

# 1. Introduction

Planning permission is being sought for the construction of new dwellings at 11, Church Lane, Wymondham, Leicestershire (P.A *pre-planning*; NGR SK 8510 1860, Figure.1).

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological trial trenching that was undertaken on 13th July 2011. It addresses the requirements of the *Brief For a Programme of Archaeological Investigation of Land at 11, Church Lane, Wymondham, Leicestershire* and the *Brief for the Archaeological Field Evaluation at 11, Church Lane ,Wymondham, Leicestershire* (LCCHNET– hereinafter 'Brief'). A strategy for the work was set out in the Written Scheme for Investigation, (Buckley 2011, hereinafter the 'WSI'; Appendix 1). The trial trenching was undertaken to assess the impact from a proposed new residential buildings (P.A pre planning). The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5).

The development area lies to the east of a property that is fronting on to Church Lane within an area of vacant land bounded on three sides by residential development. The site is centred on SK 8510 1860 and covers an area of approx 820 sq metres.

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain indicates that the underlying geology of this area is most likely to consist of early Jurassic ferruginous limestone of marlstone rock formation (Geological Survey of England and Wales, Borne, Solid and Drift Geology, Sheet 143).

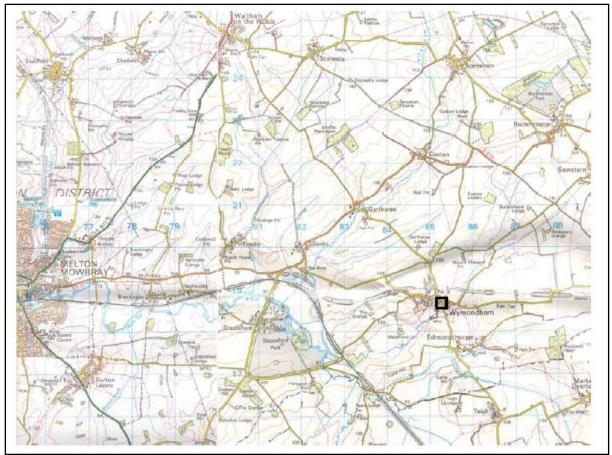


Figure 1: Site location plan 1:50 000

Reproduced from Landranger Map 130 (Grantham) and Map 129 (Nottingham & Loughborough) by permission of Ordnance Survey ® on behalf of the The Controller of Her Majesty's Staionary Office. © Crown Copyright 1994 All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495.

# 2. Archaeological and Historical background

A detailed archaeological and historical background to the site is presented in a previous desk-based assessment undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (Hunt 2010). The property is situated within the historic core of the medieval village settlement of Wymondham and the potential for the presence of Roman, Saxon or medieval settlement was considered high. A Roman villa lies 300m to the north-east of the development and findspots from the prehistoric, Roman and Anglo Saxon periods have been found within the vicinity of the site. Earthworks associated with the shrinking of the village during the medieval period are located to the south-west and to the north of the village. A medieval church lies 200m to the south of the development and a manor house is located 200m to the east.

The proximity to the Roman villa means that there may be some potential for outlying agricultural activity associated with the villa as rural settlement. There is potential, given the proximity of the site to the medieval Manor House and medieval earthworks, for features associated with medieval manor to be located within the assessment area. It was thought that the potential for prehistoric activity was low.

# 3. Aims and Objectives

The main aims of the evaluation were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits. In particular these would target the anomalies highlighted by the geophysical survey.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed development
- 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 within the southern area of the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

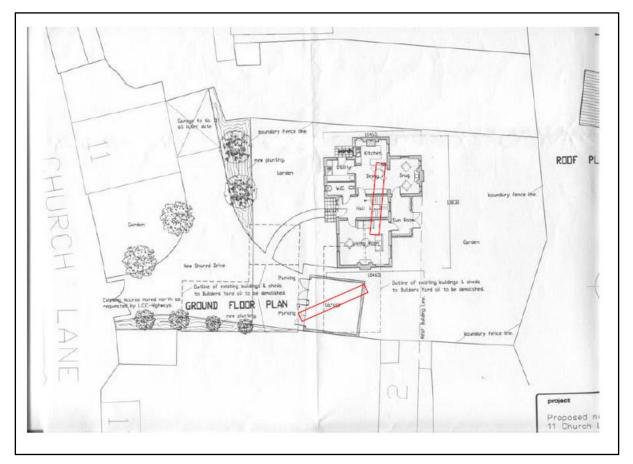


Figure 1. Proposed Trench Locations

# 4. Methodology

The LCC Planning Archaeologist requested a sample evaluation of the proposed development. It was proposed that two 15m by 1.6m trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed buildings. The provisional trench plan (Fig.2) shows the locations

of the trenches. The orientation, location and shape of the trenches were modified in view of the on-site constraints including avoiding existing timber workshops and sheds to the west (Fig.3).

The topsoil and overlying layers were removed under full archaeological supervision until either the top of archaeological deposits or natural undisturbed substratum was reached, or to a maximum safe depth given the specific site conditions.

The bases of the trenches were cleaned in areas where potential archaeology was observed. Archaeological remains were recorded and sample excavation was undertaken in order to determine the character and date of any remains. Bulk soil samples were taken as appropriate in order to evaluate the environmental potential of the site. Archaeological contexts as a cut are indicated by square brackets e.g [09], while those that are fills are indicated by round brackets e.g (07).

The trenches were located using a Topcon Hiper Pro GPS+ RTK System attached to a Topcon FC-100 controller. The data was processed using Topcon Tools GPS+ Post Processing Software and the final plans completed with the aid of TurboCad v.15 design software.

All the work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct (2010) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (2008).

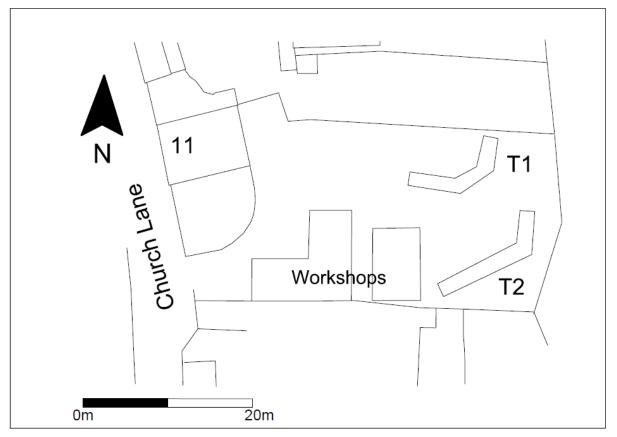


Figure 3: Trench location plan

# 5. Results

Trench	Orientation	Length(m)	Average depth (m)	Notes feature/context descriptions	Minimum depth to archaeology or natural substratum
Trench	south-west	12m	0.70m	No features	0.55m top of natural
1	to north-east				
Trench	south-west to	14m	0.80m	No features	0.60m top of natural
2	north-east				

A total of two trenches were excavated within the proposed development area.

# Trench 1 (Figure 3 and Plate 1)

Length 12.00m Width 1.60m Depth minimum 0.63m, maximum 0.71m

Trench 1 was located towards the northern end of the development within the foot print of the proposed buildings. The trenches excavated shape was altered from a planned rectangular to an L shape and measured 14.00m in length and 1.60m in width.

The natural substratum was reached at a minimum depth of 0.55m and maximum 0.70m below the ground surface, and comprised compacted pale orange brown clay mixed with angular limestone. No archaeological features were observed within this trench. Overlying the natural was subsoil layer consisting of light greyish brown clay silt mixed with occasional angular limestone pebble context (02). This subsoil layer measured between 0.30m and 0.42m deep. The topsoil context (01) comprised brown grey clay silt mixed with frequent charcoal flecks and modern brick or tile fragment. The top soil measured up to 0.28m deep.

# Trench 2 (Figure 3 and Plate 2)

Length 14.00m Width 1.60m Depth minimum 0.70m, maximum 0.98m

This trench was located towards the southern half of the development area. Trench 2 was also modified and excavated as an L shape, which measured 14m long, 1.60m wide. The natural was reached at a depth of between 0.60m and 0.73m below the surface. No archaeological features were found within this trench. A subsoil layer context (02) measured between 0.39m and 0.43m deep and contained a single flint artefact, which has been identified as multi-platform core dated to either the Neolithic or Bronze Age (see Appendix 1). Overlying the subsoil was the topsoil context (01) that measured between 0.22m and 0.30m deep.



Plate 1: Trench looking east



Plate 2 Trench 2 looking south-west

### 6. Discussion

The archaeological evaluation by trial trenching revealed no evidence for archaeological features cutting the natural. A single Neolithic or Bronze Age multi-platform flint core was found within the subsoil context (2). Only modern bricks and tile were found within the topsoil (which were examined and then discarded), which probably came from a period when plot was used as builders yard. The trial trenching suggests that there are unlikely to be any archaeological deposits present within the proposed development area.

# 7. Archive and Publication

The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under accession number X.A96.2011.

The content of the paper archive consists of:

- 1 Unbound A4 copy of this report
- 2 A4 Trench recording sheets
- 1 A4 Context summary sheet
- 2 A4 Context Sheets
- 1 A4 Small finds record sheet
- 1 A4 Photo record sheet

Black and white contact print Black and white picture negatives

A4 Colour digital contact print 1 CD of 24 digital photos

A record of the project will be submitted to the Oasis project under the code universil-105556. Oasis is an online index to grey literature reports.

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

# 8. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by the author, assisted by Steve Baker. Richard Buckley managed the project. The Lithic finds were identified by Lynden Cooper of ULAS.

# 9. Bibliography

Buckley, R., 2010, Written scheme of investigation for archaeological work: 11 Church Lane, Wymondham, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 8510 1860) ULAS Specification 11-183 (Appendix 2 of this report).

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), 2008, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations.

Hunt, L., 2010, An archaeological desk-based assessment for land at 11, Church Lane, *Wymondham, Leicestershire (NGR: SK8510 1860)* University of Leicester Archaeological Services ULAS Report No. 2010-187.

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20.07.2011

# **Appendix 1** Lithics

Lynden Cooper

Small Find	Context	Description	Period
1	2	Multi-platform	Neolithic/Bronze
		flint core	Age

### Appendix 2 Specification UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

#### Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological work

11 Church Lane, Wymondham, Leicestershire

#### NGR SK 851 186

#### WSI for trial trench evaluation

#### For: Mr R A Weston

#### Planning Authority: Melton Borough Council

#### Planning application No. pre-planning

#### 1 Introduction

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

This document is a Written Scheme of Investigation for an initial phase of archaeological field evaluation (AFE) at the above site, in accordance with PPS 5: Planning for the Historic Environment. 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 of Field Archaeologists Standards and Guidance: for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2008) 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.
- 1.3 The requirements for this work are presented in the 'Brief for Archaeological Evaluation' (hereinafter the Brief) issued by the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council.

#### 2. Background

#### Context of the Project

- 1.1 The proposed development will consist of the construction of a new detached dwelling and a detached garage. A further garage may be added at the northern edge of the site at a later date. The house will be placed fairly centrally on the site to the north of where the current timber workshops stand.
- 1.2 The assessment area lies within the historic medieval core of the village of Wymondham (MLE9203), around 200m north of the medieval church (MLE11564). It also lies around 200m west of the site of the medieval Manor House (MLE4228) and 300m north-east of a Roman villa (MLE4243). There are also findspots from prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods within the vicinity of the site and earthworks associated with the shrinking of the village during the medieval period, are located to the south-west and north of the site (MLE4226, MLE4244 & MLE4245).
- 1.3 The site lies within an area of rough ground, which was once part of a builder's yard. It is likely that there has been no development within this area, although as a yard it may have some disturbance to the ground and therefore the potential for the survival of underlying archaeological remains may be fairly good.

- 1.4 The proximity to the Roman villa means that there may be some potential for outlying agricultural activity associated with the villa as a rural settlement. There is also potential, given the proximity of the site to the medieval Manor House and medieval earthworks, for features associated with the medieval manor to be located within the assessment area. There is low potential for prehistoric features.
- 1.5 The map evidence would suggest that the house, which lies at the north-west corner of the site was once part of a larger building. It is possible that this area may be utilised in the future for the construction of a further garage and it is possible that the remains of a building may be found in this area during any ground-works.
- 1.6 In view of the archaeological potential of the site, the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council, has recommended trial trenching of the site prior to determination of the planning application in order that the potential impact of the proposals on buried archaeological remains may be assessed.

#### 2. Geology and topography

2.1 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain indicates that the underlying geology of this area is most likely to consist of early Jurassic ferruginous limestone of the marlstone rock formation (Geological Survey of England and Wales, Bourne, Solid and Drift Geology, Sheet 143). The site is currently in use as a garden associated with the dwelling to the south (Thorpeholm).

### 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 earthfast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

#### 4. Methodology

#### General Methodology and Standards

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

#### Trial Trenching Methodology

- 4.4 Prior to any machining of trial trenches general photographs of the site areas may be taken.
- 4.5 It is proposed to excavate two 15m x 1.6m trenches. The provisional trench plan (Fig. 1) shows the proposed locations of the trenches. The size and position of the trenches indicated on the provisional trench plan may vary due to unforeseen site constraints or archaeology.

- 4.6 Topsoil and overburden will be removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket. Trenches will be excavated down to the top of archaeological deposits or natural undisturbed ground, whichever is reached first.
- 4.7 Trenches will be examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located will be planned at an appropriate scale. Archaeological deposits will be sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence, 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.
- 4.8 Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan. All plans will be tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Relative spot heights will be taken as appropriate.
- 4.9 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 benchmark.
- 4.10 Trench locations will be recorded by an appropriate method. These will then be tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.
- 4.11 Any human remains encountered 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.
- 4.12 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the project a contingency may be required to clarify the character or extent of additional features. The contingency will only be initiated after consultation with the Client and the Planning Archaeologist and Planning Authority. 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.
- 4.13 The trenches will be backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.

#### **Recording Systems**

- 4.14 Any archaeological deposits encountered will be recorded and excavated using standard procedures as outlined in the ULAS recording manual. Sufficient of any archaeological features or deposits will be hand excavated in order to provide the information required.
- 4.15. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets.
- 4.16 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made on drawing film, related to the OS grid and at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Elevations and sections of individual layers of features should be drawn where possible. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans.
- 4.17 An adequate 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.
- 4.18 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the project.

#### 6. Finds

- 6.1 The IfA *Guidelines for Finds Work* will be adhered to.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 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 the appropriate authority for storage in perpetuity.

- 6.4 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 Planning Archaeologist.
- 6.5 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. All materials will be fully labelled, catalogued and stored in appropriate containers.

#### 7. Environmental Sampling

- 7.1. 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.
- 7.2 All collected samples will be labelled with context and sequential sample numbers.
- 7.3 Appropriate contexts will be bulk sampled (15 litre or the whole context depending on size) for the recovery of carbonised plant remains and insects.
- 7.4 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.
- 7.5 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.

#### 8 Report and Archive

- 8.1 A draft version of the report will normally be presented within four weeks of completion of site works. The full report in A4 format will usually follow within eight weeks. Copies will be provided for the client and the Local Planning Authority and deposited with the Historic Environment Record.
- 8.2 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.
  - 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).
- 8.3 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.
- 8.4 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.

#### 9 Publication and Dissemination of Results

- 9.1 A summary report will be submitted to a suitable regional archaeological journal following completion of the fieldwork. A full report will be submitted to a national or period journal if the results are of significance.
- 9.2 University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS form at <u>http://www.oasis.ac.uk</u> will be completed detailing the results of the project. ULAS will contact the HER prior to completion of the form. Once a report has become a public document following its incorporation into the HER it may be placed on the web-site.

#### 10 Acknowledgement and Publicity

- 10.1 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.
- 10.2 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.

#### 11 Copyright

11.1 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.

#### 12 Monitoring arrangements

- 12.1 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.
- 12.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the IfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (2008)
- 12.3 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

#### **13** Timetable and Staffing

- 13.1 A start date during week-commencing 11th July 2011 is proposed. The work is likely to take up to two days to complete and two experienced archaeologists are likely to be present during the work.
- 13.2 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.

#### 14 Health and Safety

14.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the FAME Health and Safety Manual (revised 2005) with appropriate risks assessments for all

archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is in the Appendix. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate.

#### 15. Insurance

15.1 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.

#### 16. Contingencies and unforeseen circumstances

16.1 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.

#### 17. Bibliography

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

Hunt, L. 2011 An archaeological desk-based assessment for land at 11, Church Lane, Wymondham, Leicestershire (SK 851 186) ULAS Report 2010-187

IfA, 2008 Codes of Conduct and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation.

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1/7/2011

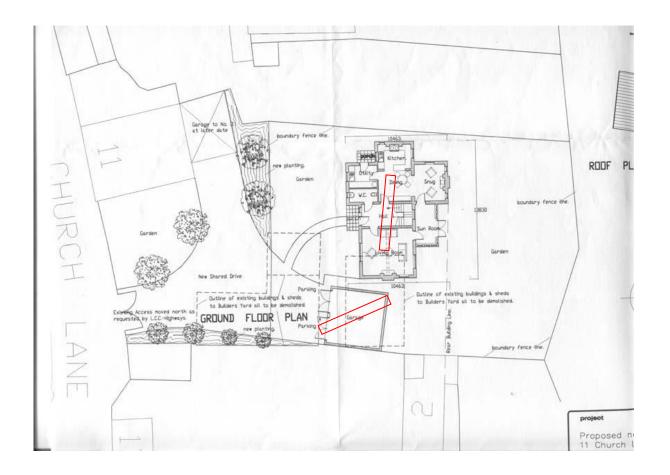


Figure 2 Trench Location plan

# **Contact Details**

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# **THE UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR 2008/9**