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**Archaeological Services**

**An Archaeological  
Evaluation at the  
Fernie Hunt Stable,  
Nether Green, Great  
Bowden,  
Leicestershire  
NGR: SP 7350 8830**

Tim Higgins



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2011-127  
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**An Archaeological Evaluation at  
Fernie Hunt Stables, Nether Green, Great Bowden  
Leicestershire**

**NGR: SP 7350 8830**

**Tim Higgins**

**For: Mulberry Homes**

Approved by

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# **An Archaeological Evaluation at Fernie Hunt Stables, Nether Green, Great Bowden, Leicestershire NGR SP 7350 8830**

**Tim Higgins**

## ***Summary***

*An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken on land at Fernie Hunt Stables, Nether Green, Great Bowden, Leicestershire by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) between the 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of July February 2011. The initial potential of the site was highlighted by an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Hunt 2006) which indicated that the development area was located within an area close to the medieval village core.*

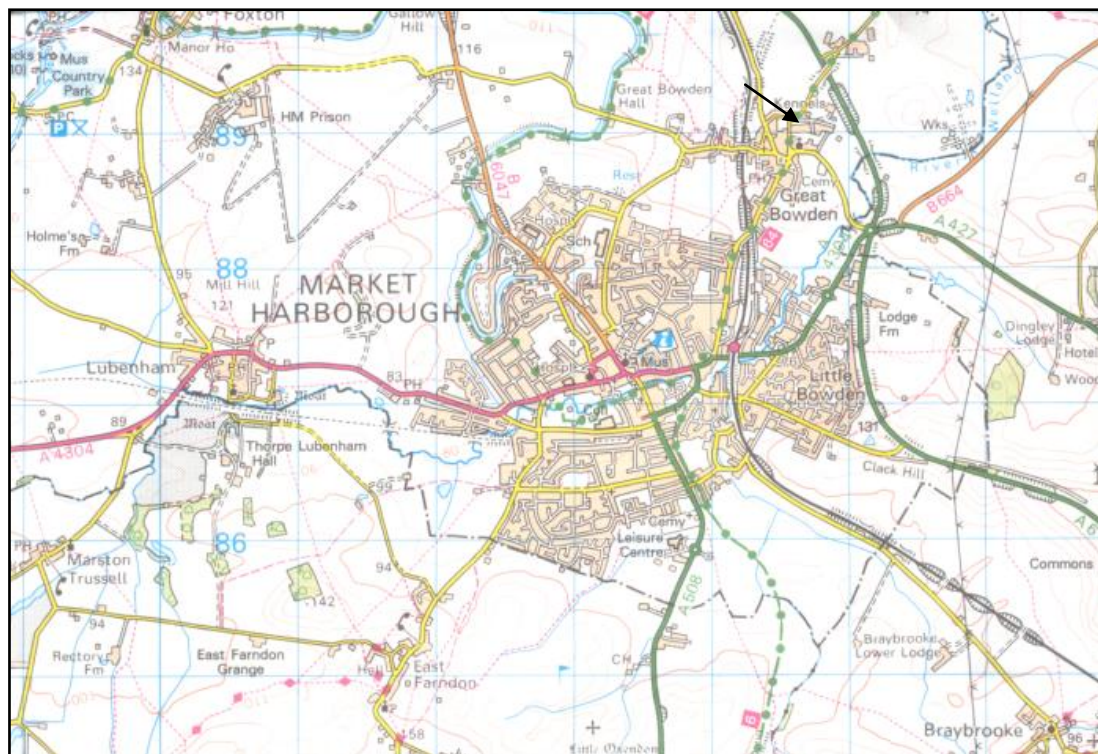
*Two trenches contained archaeological remains which comprised organic clay. They contained pottery suggesting a possible late medieval to early post-medieval date. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under accession number X.A102.2011.*

## **1. Introduction**

Planning permission is being sought for the erection of an outbuilding with garage at Fernie Hunt Stables, Nether Green, Great Bowden, Leicestershire (P.A 08/01522FUL; NGR SK 7350 883, Figure.1).

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological trial trenching that was undertaken between 27th and 29th July 2011. It addresses the requirements of the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council as advisor to the planning authority. A strategy for the work was set out in the Written Scheme for Investigation, (Clay 2011, hereinafter the 'WSI'; Appendix 3). The trial trenching was undertaken to assess the impact from a proposed new outbuilding (P.A 08/01522/FUL). The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5).

The development area lies to the south of a property that is fronting on to Nether Green with the parish church of St. Peter and St Paul to the south. It is currently occupied by horse stables and an orchard bounded on three sides by residential development and gardens. The site is centred on SP 7350 8830 and covers an area of approx 0.24 hectares.



**Figure 1: Location of Great Bowden**

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## 2. Archaeological and Historical background

Great Bowden is mentioned in Domesday and belonged to William I after previously belonging to Edward the Confessor. It consisted of nine and a half curacates of land. William's niece also held land in Great Bowden.

Great Bowden village lies on the south-east border of Leicestershire, about sixteen miles from Leicester. To the south and south-east the ancient parish of Great Bowden was bounded by the River Welland, which was and largely remains the boundary between Leicestershire and Northamptonshire. In shape the parish was compact and approximately rectangular. The ancient parish formerly contained, besides Great Bowden, two dependent chapelries, St. Mary in Arden and Market Harborough (VCH Volume 5: Gartree Hundred.1964).

Harborough was a separate township within Great Bowden parish as early as 1254, and was always independent for civil purposes. St. Mary's chapelry never formed a separate civil unit. The part that lay outside Little Bowden was included in Great Bowden township, which formed a separate unit for civil purposes comprising the whole ancient parish except Harborough and the lands in Northamptonshire attached to St. Mary's. By 1881 Harborough was considered to be a separate civil parish.

In 1895 Market Harborough Urban District was created, to include the whole of Great Bowden ancient parish, including Harborough, and all of Little Bowden that was in Leicestershire. In 1927 Great and Little Bowden were absorbed into Market Harborough civil parish, which thus became co-extensive with the urban district. Parts of each parish were

transferred between the villages around Market Harborough throughout the next century (VCH Volume 5: Gartree Hundred.1964).

In 1086 Great Bowden was the centre of a large soke (a subordinate unit to a mother parish), which included lands in twelve other Leicestershire villages. The origin of the soke is unknown, but it seems to have existed under Edward the Confessor. Great Bowden soke is mentioned in 1173, but not subsequently. Nothing is known of its organization. Part of its territories evolved into a separate entity known as the soke of Stretton.

The present stable buildings were erected by J.H. Stokes of Nether House probably between 1900 and 1914 and remained in the Stoke's family ownership until purchased by the Fernie Hunt in the late 1950's-early 1960's. The Fernie Hunt, which separated from the Quorn Hunt in 1853 previously owned stables in Medbourne until 1924-5 ([http://www.geocities.com/ferniehunt/fernie\\_main.htm](http://www.geocities.com/ferniehunt/fernie_main.htm)). Lord Stalbridge, who succeeded Mr.Fernie of Keythorpe Hall as Master in 1919, built the kennels (on the opposite side of the road at Nether Green) in 1924-1925 but never owned the stable block, although he probably did build 1 and 2, Fernie Cottages (J. Cowen, pers.comm).

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER – formerly Sites and Monuments Record) does now list the stables within the application area (MLE16149). The stables are described as being built in 1920 (but see above this page) when the Fernie Hunt moved from Medbourne. They are high status buildings, well built, reflecting the importance of the Hunt at this time. Structures include stabling, a tack room, grain loft, etc. (Ricahrds 2006).

The application area also lies within the historic core of the village of Great Bowden.

### **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.

### **4. Methodology**

The LCC Planning Archaeologist has requested a minimum 5% sample of the proposed c. 125 sq.m development, the equivalent of five 15m by 1.6m trenches. The provisional trench plan attached (Figure. 2) shows the proposed locations of the trenches. The size and position

of the trenches indicated on the provisional trench plan was varied due to unforeseen site constraints as detailed below.

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). Contamination by a petrochemical spill was present in Trenches 1-3.

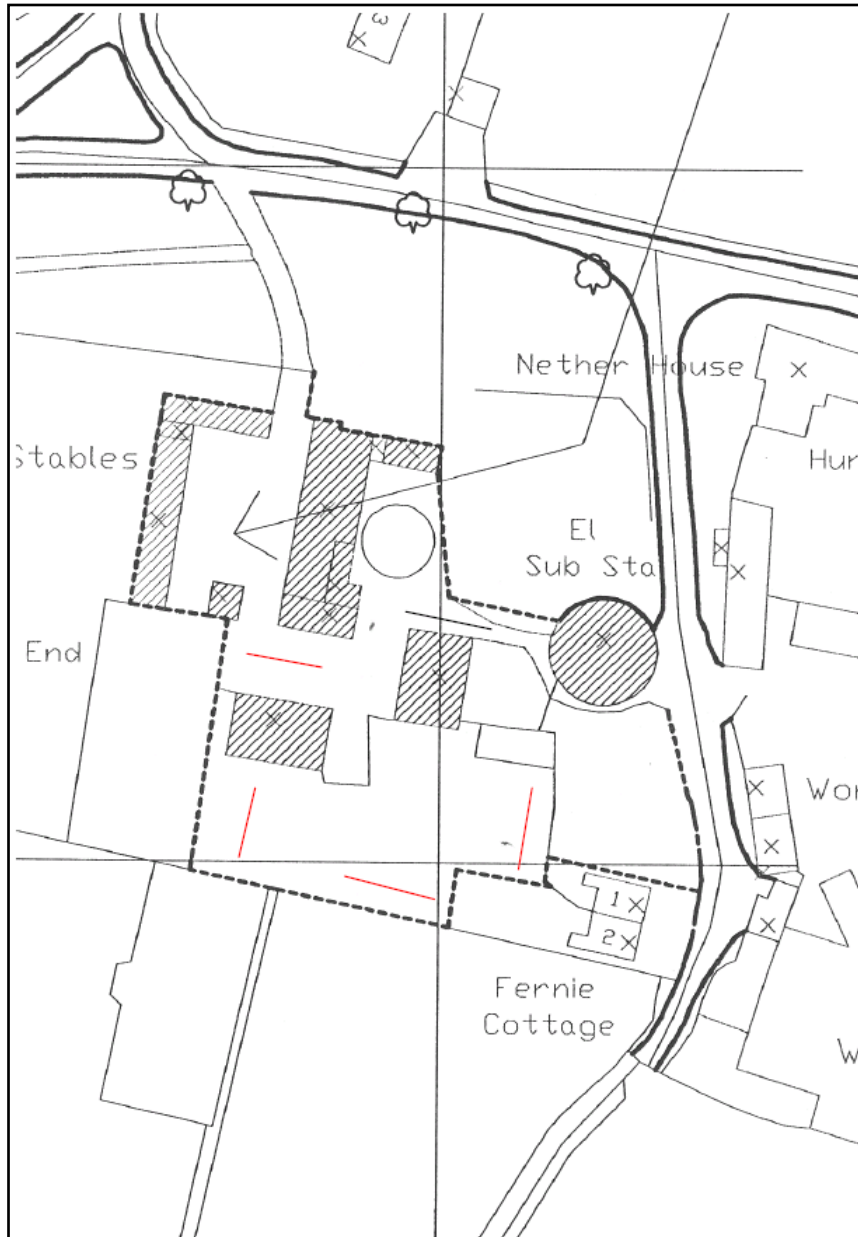
The trenches were located using a Topcon Hiper Pro GPS+ RTK System attached to a Topcon FC-100 controller. The data was processed using Topcon Tools GPS+ Post Processing Software and the final plans completed with the aid of TurboCad v.15 design software.

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

## 5. Results

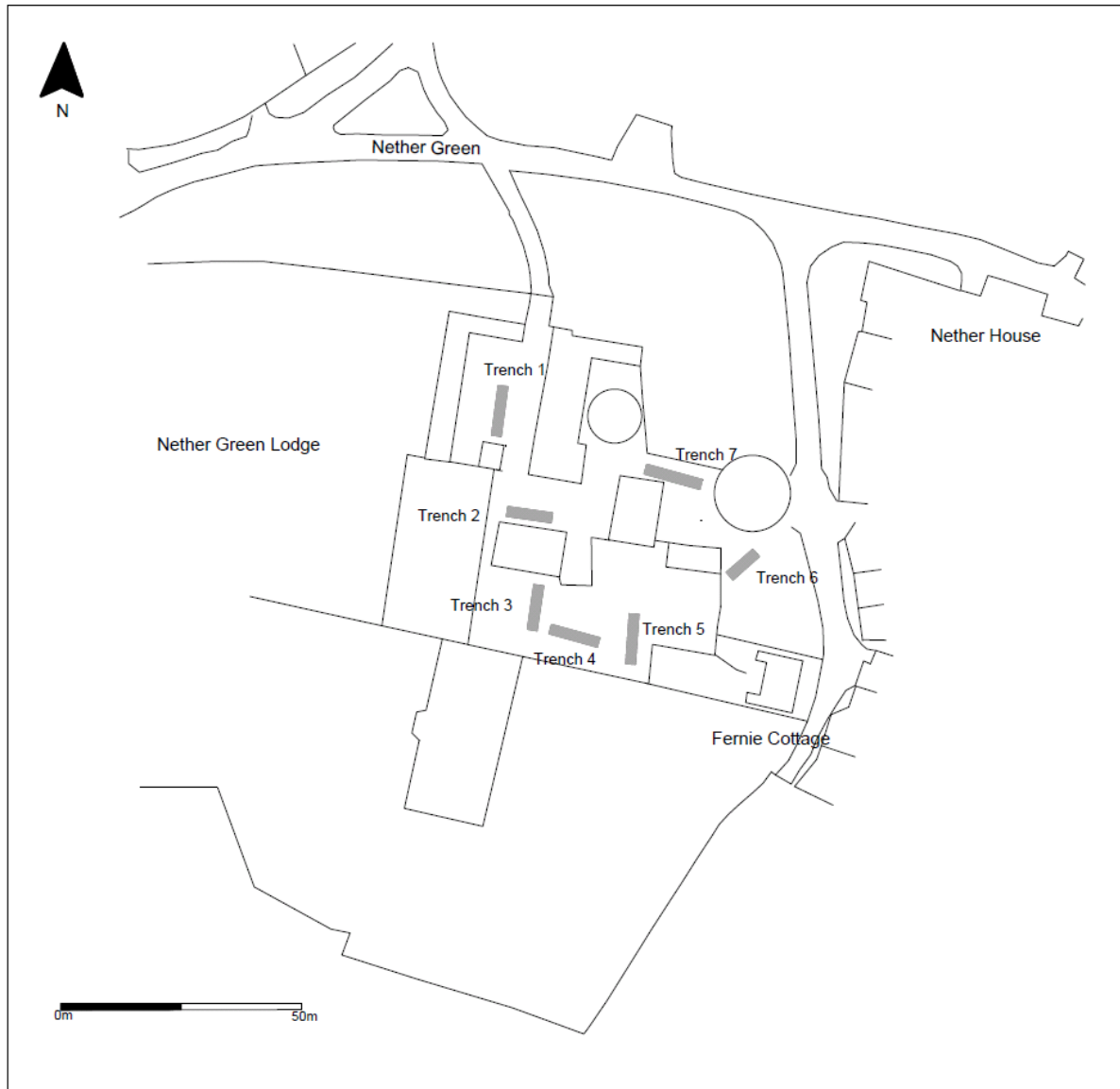
<b>Trench</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	<b>Length(m)</b>	<b>Average depth (m)</b>	<b>Notes feature/context descriptions</b>	<b>Minimum depth to archaeology or natural substratum</b>
1	north to south	10.00m	0.65m	natural substratum truncated and levelled by construction of yard surfaces	0.50m natural substratum
2	west to east	9.20m	0.65m	organic clay deposit (03)	0.60m organic clay
3	north to south	8.50m	1.30m	organic clay deposit (08), layer of made ground (06) and (07)	1.20m organic clay
4	west to east	10.00m	1.10	north south ceramic pipe land drains	0.80m natural substratum
5	north to south	10.00m	0.80		0.75m natural substratum
6	south-west to north-east	7.00m	0.65m	north south ceramic horse shoe land drain	0.46m natural substratum
7	west to east	11.50m	0.72m	tree root disturbance	0.50m natural substratum

Due to site access constraints and to help minimise disruption to site access, trenches were now shortened in length to *c.* 10m and two additional trenches were added to the five original trenches proposed (Figure 3)



**Figure 2: Provisional Trench Locations**





**Figure 3: Trench location plan**

### **Trench 1**

Trench 1 was located towards the north-west corner of the development site within the stable yards and orientated north to south (Figure 3). The natural substratum was reached after *c.* 0.50m - 0.60m of tarmac (01) and brick hardcore rubble (02) was removed. Within trench the natural comprised pale yellowish brown and pale grey clay. This trench suggests that this corner of the development has been disturbed by modern stripping as it contained little or no subsoil.

### **Trench 2**

Trench 2 was located towards the western half of the development in front of a barn and was orientated east to west (Figure 2). The natural substratum was reached at depth 0.30m below

ground surface. At the eastern end of the trench a large irregular feature [04] was observed (Figure 4).

The large feature [04] was found running diagonally across the eastern end of the trench and a section (Figure 4 Section 1:02) excavated across the feature revealed it had a broad undulating base with gradually sloping sides and measured 6.80m wide and 0.48m deep. The feature contained a single fill (03) and consisted of dark-grey organic clay silt mixed with occasional charcoal flecks, animal bone and medieval pottery sherds (Appendix 1). The natural substratum and feature was reached after around 0.50m - 0.60m of tarmac (01) and brick hardcore rubble (02) was removed. This trench suggests that this part of the development has been disturbed by modern stripping as it contained little or no subsoil.

### **Trench 3**

This trench was located towards the south-west corner of corner of the development area within an orchard behind a barn. The trench was orientated north to south (Figure 3). A natural substratum was reached at depth of 1.60m below the ground surface. Sealing the natural was layer of dark grey organic clay (08) measuring 0.30m thick. This clay was similar to organic clay deposit or feature (03), which had been first observed within Trench 2 located 12.00m to the north. No finds or pottery were found within this deposit. Overlying the organic clay was a very compacted layer of greyish brown clay silt (07). This layer measured 0.50m deep and contained occasional post-medieval pottery sherds. A ceramic horse shoe field drains running west to east was observed to be cutting this layer. Above layer (07) was another compacted layer (06) was observed. This layer measured 0.70m deep and comprised pale brown clay silt mixed with occasional medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds (Appendix 1). A topsoil, 0.20m deep, sealed layer (06) and comprised dark greyish brown clay mixed with an occasional brick fragment and pebble (05)

This trench suggests that this corner of the development has been disturbed as it contained no subsoil. The natural substratum and organic clay were sealed by what appeared to be two layers of made-up ground with a combined depth of 1.20m.

### **Trench 4**

This trench was located towards the southern end of the development area within the orchard and was orientated west to east (Figure 3). A natural substratum was reached at a depth 0.80m below the ground surface and was sealed by layer of made ground (11). The compacted layer measuring 0.60m deep and comprised pale brown clay silt mixed with occasional pottery sherds. Overlying the made ground layer was layer of topsoil (05) measuring 0.20m deep

This trench suggests that this corner of the development may have been disturbed by modern landscaping as it contained little or no subsoil.

### **Trench 5**

Trench 5 was located towards the south-east corner of the development area close to Fernie Cottage and was orientated north to south (Figure 3). This trench suggests that this corner of the development has been disturbed by modern stripping as it contained little or no subsoil.

The natural substratum was reached at a depth of between 0.75m and 1.00m and was sealed layer of made ground (10). Layer (10) comprised compacted pale brown clay silt mixed with occasional pottery sherd and measured up to 1.00m deep. Overlying the made ground layer was layer of topsoil (05) measuring between 0.30m and 0.40m deep.

### **Trench 6**

Trench 6 was located towards the north of Fernie Cottage and was orientated north-east to south-west (Figure 3). Again this trench contained no subsoil and the natural substratum was reached at a depth of between 0.46m and 0.60m, sealed below a layer of made ground (09). Layer (09) comprised compacted pale brown clay silt mixed with occasional pottery sherds and measured up to 0.60m deep. Overlying the made ground layer was a layer of topsoil (05) measuring between 0.20m and 0.25m deep. This trench suggests that this corner of the development may have been disturbed by modern landscaping as it contained little or no subsoil.

### **Trench 7**

This trench was located on the east side of the development between two riding rings and a natural substratum was reached at depth of 0.50m below the ground surface. Above the natural substratum was layer of made ground (12) measuring 0.68m thick and consisted of light grey brown silty clay mixed with brick fragments and stone rubble. The layer was heavily disturbed by root action. Overlying the made ground layer was a layer of topsoil (05) measuring between 0.15m and 0.20m deep.



**Plate 1: Trench 2 Section 1.02 looking south organic clay silt (03)**

## **6. Discussion**

Five out of the six evaluation trenches (trenches 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Figure 3) identified truncated and stripped natural substratum suggesting extensive ground clearance levelling prior to the construction of the stables and cottage. Trenches 2 and 3 contain organic clays overlying natural substratum which suggests that the south west corner has not been levelled in the past. The organic clay silts are perhaps layers on natural incline down towards the south-west or a natural basin where water has gathered depositing organic material. The organic clay (03) within trench 2 contained medieval pottery and animal bone suggest a possible medieval date for this deposit. The organic clays are sealed by two substantial layers of made ground used to raise the ground level. The pottery found within these layers (07) and (06) suggest post medieval or modern date. These layers were perhaps part of the general landscaping undertaken during the construction of the stables.

## **7. Conclusion**

The archaeological evaluation has revealed extensive, stripping and truncation in the eastern northern areas of the development site. There appears to be less extensive modern disturbance in areas within the western half of the development but only organic clays were revealed but were buried under thick deposits of made ground. The medieval pottery found within the organic clay located in trench 2 could be intrusive as medieval sherds were also found in layers made ground that sealed organic clay within Trench 3. Any potential archaeological deposits that may have been associated with an early property that perhaps once fronted on to Nether are likely to have been disturbed or truncated during the construction of the stables.

## **8. Archive and Publication**

The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under accession number X.A102.2011.

The content of the paper archive consists of:

1 Unbound A4 copy of this report

1 A4 Trench recording sheets

1 A4 Context summary sheet

12 A4 Context Sheets

1 A4 Photo record sheet

1 A4 Drawing Record

1 A2 Plan and section drawing sheets

Black and white contact print Black and white picture negatives

A4 Colour digital contact print 1 CD of 41 digital photos

A record of the project will be submitted to the Oasis project under the code universil-107496. 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.

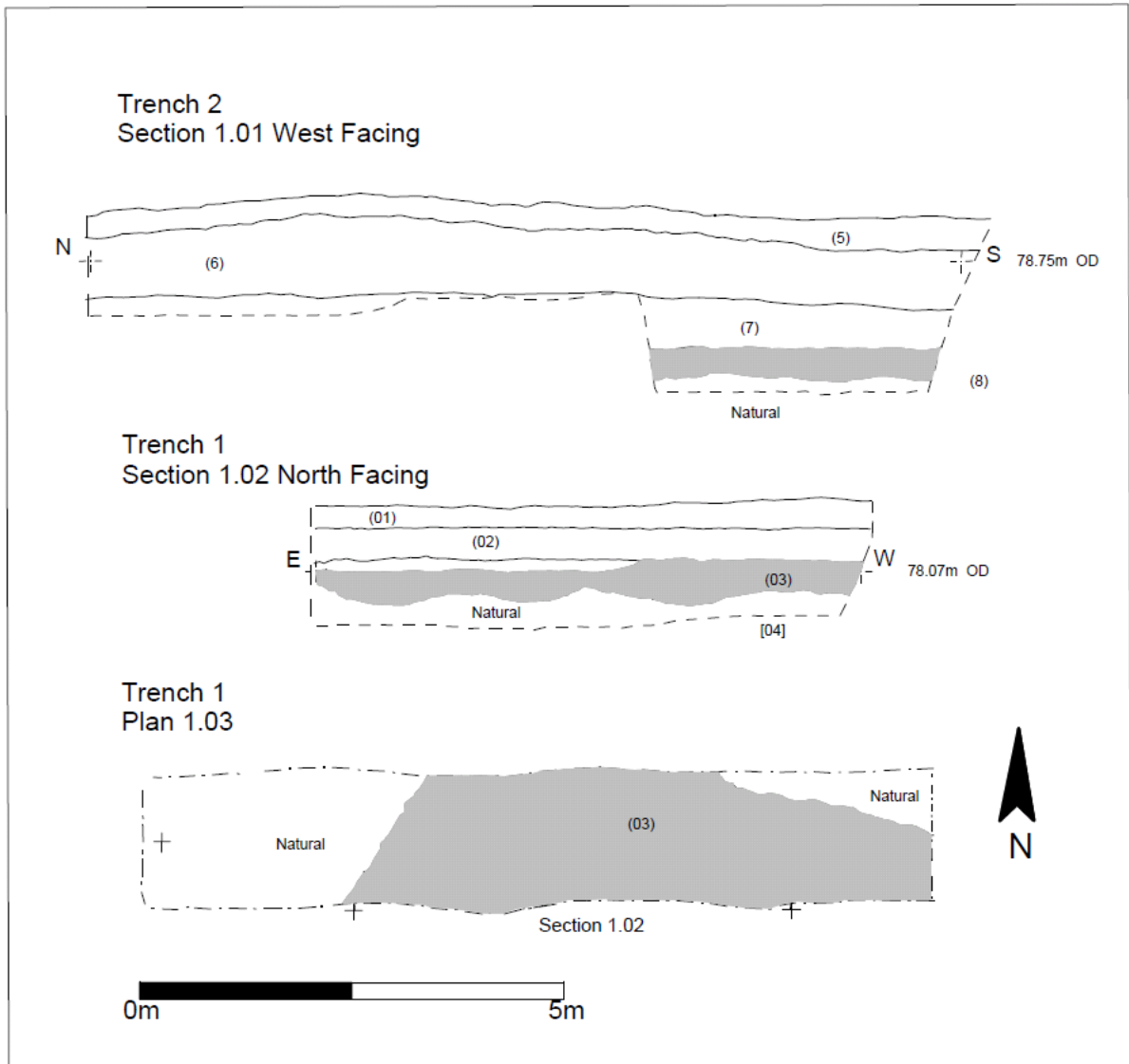


Figure 4: Trench 1 Plan and Sections





Plate 2: Trench 3 Section 1.01 looking west dark organic clay silt (08) found above the natural substratum



**Plate 3 Trench 3 Looking south**



**Plate 4 Trench 2 looking east**

## **9. Acknowledgements**

The fieldwork was carried out by the author, assisted by Gerwyn Richards. Dr. Patrick Clay managed the project. The pottery and miscellaneous finds were identified by Deborah Sawday while Jennifer Browning identified the animal bone, both of ULAS.

## **10. Bibliography**

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## Appendix 1: The Post Roman Pottery and Animal Bone.

*The Ceramic Finds*

*Deborah Sawday*

The pottery, 17 sherds, weighing 843 grams, was catalogued with reference to the guidelines set out by the Medieval Pottery Research group, (MPRG, 2001) and the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 1989; Davies and Sawday 1999). A piece of ceramic building material, a clay tobacco pipe bowl, and fragments of animal bone, identified by Jennifer Browning were also recorded. The results are shown below (Tables 1 and 2).

Table 1: The medieval and later pottery by fabric, sherd numbers and weight (grams).

<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Sherds</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Average Sherd Weight</b>
Medieval/Early Post Medieval				
OL	Oolitic ware	2	32	
CS	Coarse Shelly ware	2	84	
LY1	Lyveden/Stanion B ware	1	54	
MP	Midland Purple	1	332	
Sub Total		6	502	83.6
Post Medieval				
EA6	Blackware	1	19	
EA7	Slipware	1	18	
RH	Rhenish Stoneware	1	16	
EA2	Earthenware 2	1	47	
Sub Total		4	100	25.0
Later Post Medieval/Modern				
EA	Earthenware	1	20	
EA2	Earthenware 2	3	172	
SW	Stoneware	1	19	
SW5	Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware	1	21	
PO	Porcelain	1	9	
Sub Total		7	241	34.4
Site Total		17	843	

The possible midden in context (3) [4] in trench 2 produced four sherds of medieval pottery dating from the 12th to the 13th or 14th centuries. A 17th century sherd was the only find in context (10) in trench 5. The two sherds from the made up ground context (7) in trench 3 were respectively: post-medieval, dating from c.1650 to 1750; and post medieval or modern in date. A fragment of post-medieval brick occurred in the same context. Two medieval and two post-medieval or modern sherds occurred in the made up ground (6) above context (7) in the same trench, together with a late 17th or early 18th century clay pipe fragment

A 17th century fragment of Rhenish Stoneware, and three sherds of post-medieval and modern pottery occurred in the made up ground (9) in trench 6, and two sherds of post-medieval and modern pottery were the only finds in the made up ground (11) in trench 4.

The medieval wares (Table 1) reflect the local geology, with oolitic and shelly wares, including Stanion Lyveden ware, from the Jurassic region of south Lincolnshire and north east Northamptonshire in evidence. An origin to the west, possibly Warwickshire and Staffordshire, is suggested for the later medieval Midland Purple, and post-medieval

Blackware and Slipware, and at least one of the coarse pancheon wares in Earthenware 2 (Melton and Scott 1999). The presence of Rhenish Stoneware is of interest, but not totally unexpected, as this pottery was imported into the country in vast quantities in the later medieval and post-medieval periods. One post-medieval sherd has been interpreted as a possible product of the Polesworth kilns

Whilst the makeup layers have been interpreted as modern, evidence from West Cotton (Blinkhorn 2001) and elsewhere indicates that in the medieval period also, material from domestic middens were periodically carted away for re-use in the back-filling and levelling of the ground. Although only one stratified context was encountered here, the presence of residual medieval and post medieval pottery with a relatively high average sherd size, and a notable lack of abrasion is of note, and suggests that further stratified levels may survive in the vicinity.

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Table 2: The medieval and later pottery by fabric, sherd numbers and weight (grams) and the miscellaneous finds by context.

Context	Fabric/Ware	Nos.	Grams	Comments
<b>POTTERY</b>				
3 [4] T2 ? midden	OL – South Lincs. Oolitic ware	2	32	Body sherds, sooted externally, possibly 2 separate vessels, c.1100-1300.
3 [4] T2	CS – Coarse Shelly ware	2	84	Joining sherds, convex base, dated c.1100-1400.
6 T3 made up ground - modern	MP – Midland Purple	1	332	Convex cistern/jar base. Fabric transitional into post medieval, sparse quartz, streaks of white clay & shale inclusions, brown glaze internally, knife trimmed

				externally, with clay streaks/spots – stacking evidence underneath, dated 16th – 17th C.
6 T3	LY1 – Stanion Lyveden B ware	1	54	Wide mouthed bowl, simple everted rim with straight edge, lead glaze firing over white slip on interior. Estimated rim diameter 320 mm. Similar (Bellamy 1983, fig.4.36). Dated c.1225-?1400.
6 T3	EA2 – Earthenware 2	1	50	Wide mouthed bowl/pancheon rim, pink fabric, lead glaze over iron rich slip firing black on interior, post medieval/modern.
6 T3	EA - Earthenware	1	20	Modern flower pot
7 T3( below 6)	EA2 – Earthenware 2	1	18	Flat base fragment, abraded, post medieval/modern
7 T3	EA6 - Blackware	1	19	Cup body with strap handle base, glazed black on interior & exterior, 1650-1750..
9 T6 made up ground	RH – Rhenish Stoneware	1	16	Body, probably from a jug, mottled brown glaze externally, glazed internally, 17th C. Frechen/Cologne.
9 T6	SW5 – Brown Salt Glaze Stoneware	1	21	Post medieval/modern.
9 T6	EA2 – Earthenware 2	1	104	Wide mouthed bowl/pancheon rim, buff fabric, slipped & glazed dark brown internally, post medieval/modern/
9 T6	PO - Porcelain	1	9	Modern
10 T5	EA7 - Slipware	1	18	Small wheel thrown cup base, yellow lead glaze internally & externally, the exterior also has feathered iron rich slip decoration. Staffordshire, 17th C.
11 T4 made up ground	EA2 – Earthenware 2	1	47	Iron rich very fine red bodied fabric with white clay streaks, glazed brownish/black internally. Similar form & possibly fabric (?type 3) at Polesworth, Warwickshire, dated late 17th early/mid 18th C, (Melton and Scott 1999, 94-126, fig.9.60)
11 T4	SW - Stoneware	1	19	Brown body, brown lead glaze externally & tinted blue internally, modern.
<b>CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL</b>				
7 T3	EA – Earthenware	1	19	Brick fragment, post medieval.
<b>CLAY PIPE</b>				
6 T3	China clay	1		Complete bowl with heel & some milling at rim, & part of stem. Probably late 17th or early 18th C. (Higgins 1985, fig.2.23),
<b>ANIMAL BONE</b>				
3 [4] T2	Left Cattle Radius –	3		Identified by J. Browning.

? midden	proximal shaft			
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Site/ Parish: Fernie Hunt Stables, Nether Green Great Bowden, Leics. Accession No.: XA102 2011 Document Ref: great bowden5.docx Material: pottery, cbm, pipe clay & animal bone. Site Type: edge of village core	Submitter: T. Higgins Identifier: D. Sawday/J. Browning Date of Identification: 11.8.2011 Method of Recovery: evaluation Job Number: 11- 680
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## **Appendix 2 Environmental samples**

Samples were taken from context (03) but these were not processed in view of the presence of modern petrocarbon contamination.

## Appendix 3                      Written Scheme of Information

### UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

#### Written scheme of investigation for archaeological work

*Job title: Plots 7 and 8, Fernie Hunt Stables, Nether Green, Great Bowden, Leicestershire*

*NGR: SP 735 883*

*Client: Mulberry Homes*

*Planning Authority: Harborough District Council*

*Planning application No. 08/01522/FUL*

#### 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 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 for 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.

#### 2.                    Background

##### *Context of the Project*

- 2.1                    The assessment area covers *c.* 0.24 ha. south of Nether Green, Great Bowden, Market Harborough, Leicestershire
- 2.2                    An application is proposed for the conversion stable buildings and the construction of 00 new units.
- 2.3                    Following Planning policy Statement 5 (PPS5) Policy HE6 Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team (LCCHNET) as archaeological advisors to the planning authority will require that an evaluation by trial trenching is undertaken.

##### *Archaeological and Historical Background*

- 2.4                    An archaeological desk-based assessment and historic building assessment has been undertaken for the area (Hunt 2008; Richards 2008). The site lies within the conservation area of Great Bowden, close to many historical buildings and finds and features from the medieval period. The desk-based assessment concluded that there is low to moderate potential for prehistoric and Roman archaeology and moderate potential for archaeology from the medieval period. As the area has not been subject to earlier survey the planning authority has requested an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching

#### 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**

##### ***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 Field Evaluation* (2008). The *LCC Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological work Leicestershire and Rutland* (1997) will be adhered to.
- 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 A 5% sample of the 0.24 ha., area is proposed totalling c. 125 sq m. of trenching, the equivalent of five 15m x 1.6m trenches. The provisional trench plan attached (Fig. 2) 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 the presence of archaeological deposits.
- 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. All excavation by machine and hand will be undertaken with a view to avoid damage to archaeological deposits or features which appear worthy of preservation in situ or more detailed investigation than for the purposes of evaluation. Where structures, features or finds appear to merit preservation in situ, they will be adequately protected from deterioration.
- 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.

#### **5. Finds**

- 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 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.
- 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 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 (i.e datable) will be bulk sampled (50 litres 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 50 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 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.
- 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.
  - 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).
- 7.3 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 and will follow the LCC guidelines detailed in *The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service* (LMARS).



- 7.4 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.

## **8 Publication and Dissemination of Results**

- 8.1 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.
- 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://www.oasis.ac.uk> 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.

## **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 Copyright**

- 10.1 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.

## **11 Monitoring arrangements**

- 11.1 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.
- 11.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the IfA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (2008)
- 11.3 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

## **12 Timetable and Staffing**

- 12.1 A start date is likely to be 25 July 2011. The work is likely to take 3-4 days to complete and two experienced archaeologists are likely to be present during the work.
- 12.2 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.

## **13 Health and Safety**

- 13.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (revised 2010) 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.

## **14. Insurance**

- 14.1 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.

## 15. Contingencies and unforeseen circumstances

- 15.1 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.

## 16. Bibliography

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

Hunt, L., 2008 *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of the Fernie Hunt Stable, Nether Green, Great Bowden, Market Harborough, Leicestershire.* (SP 747 889), ULAS Report 2008-063

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

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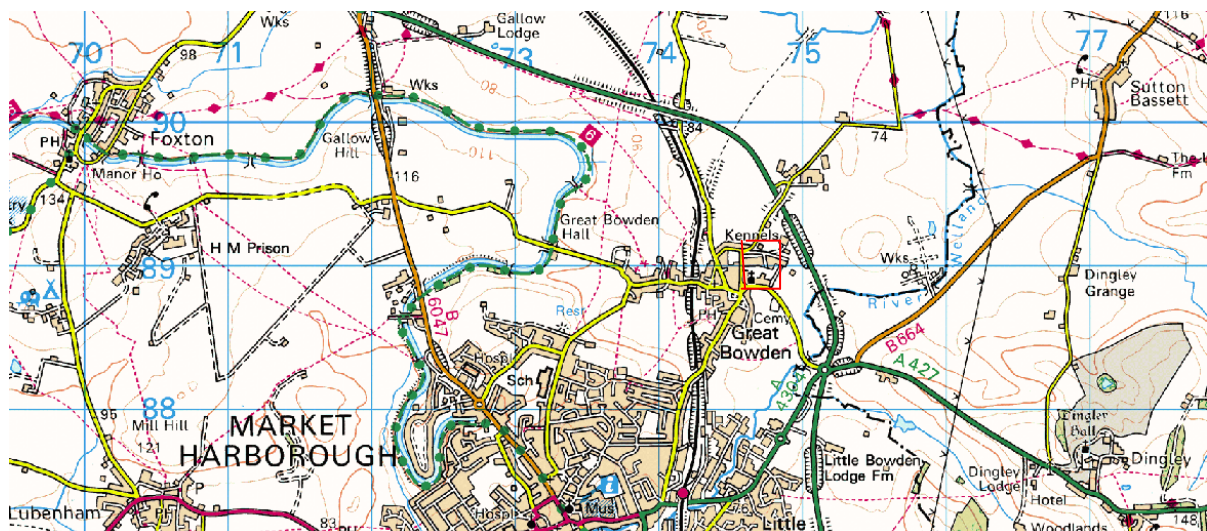


Figure 1. Application area (outlined in red)

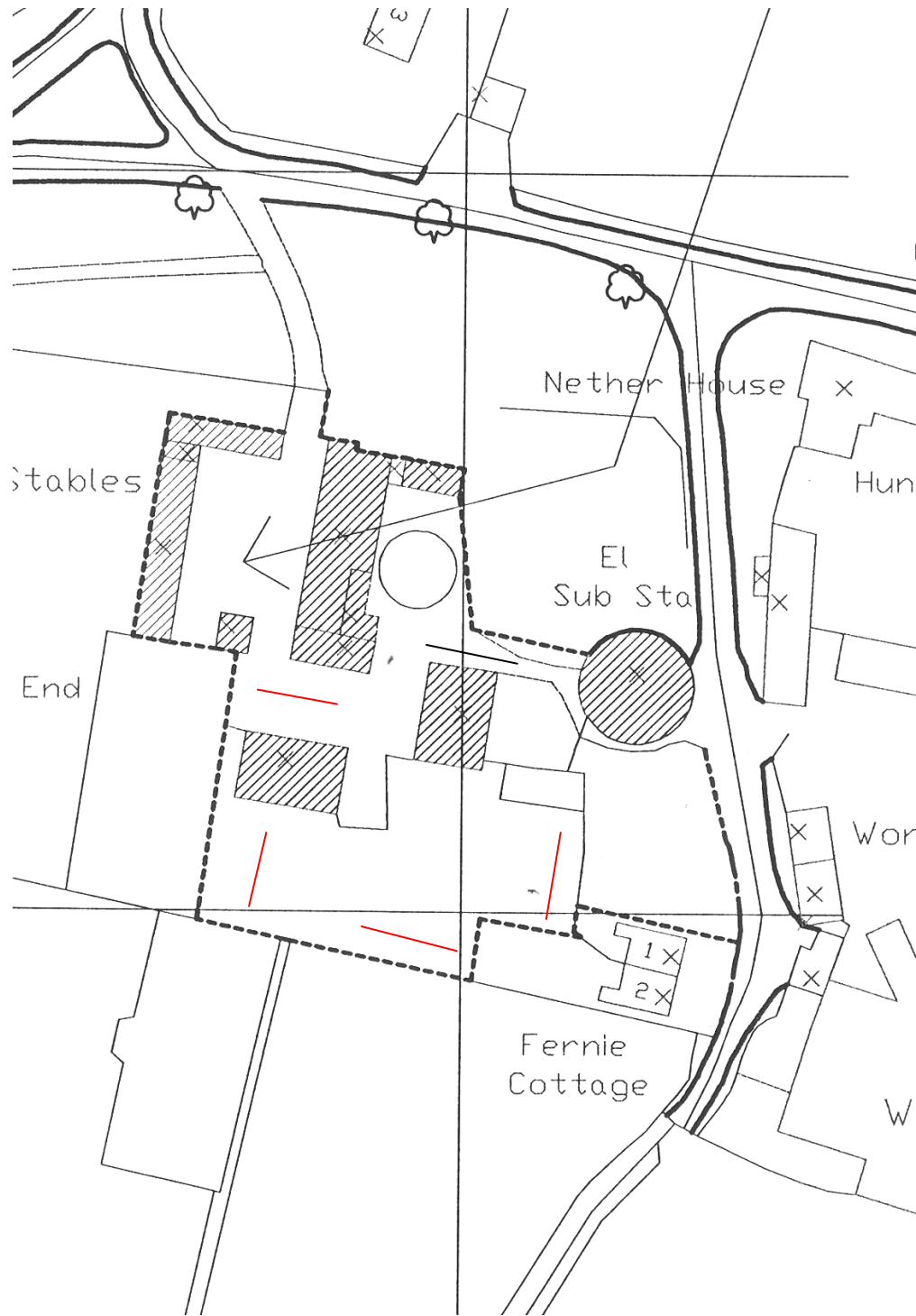


Figure 2 Location Plan and proposed trench locations. 100m grid

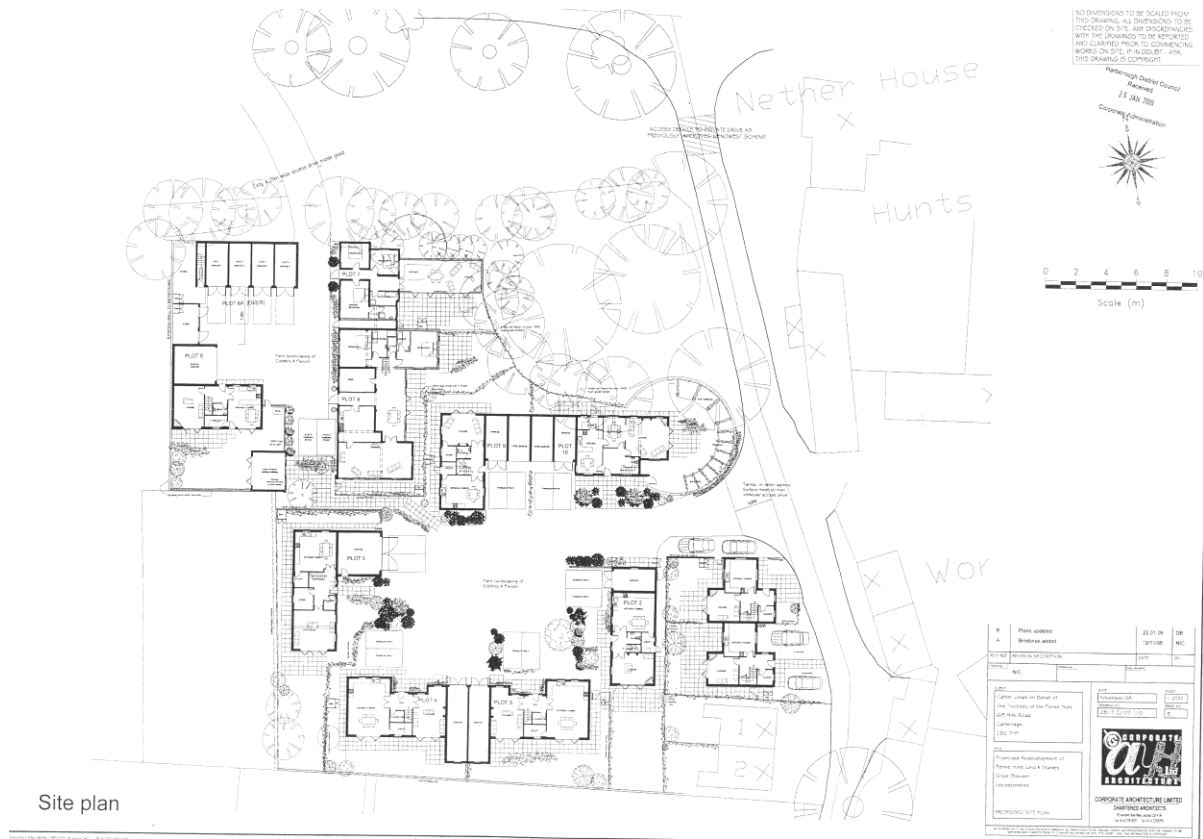


Figure 3 Proposed development

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