University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

An archaeological watching brief during groundworks at 33, Main Street, Queniborough, Leicestershire (SK 647 121)

Leon Hunt

ULAS Report No 2012-005

An archaeological watching brief during groundworks at 33, Main Street, Queniborough, Leicestershire (SK 647 121)

Leon Hunt

for

B. Durkin Developments Ltd

Planning Application Number P/11/1449/2

Checked by Project Manager

Signed: 

Date: 20.01.2012

Name: Patrick Clay

University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

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ULAS Report No.2012-005

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An archaeological watching brief during groundworks at 33, Main Street,Queniborough, Leicestershire (SK 647 121)

Leon Hunt

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services during ground-works at 33, Main Street, Queniborough, Leicestershire (SK 647 121).

The site lies within the medieval and post-medieval core of the town and a medieval stone hearth was discovered on the site in 1989.

The watching brief involved the monitoring of ground reduction and the excavation of foundation trenches on the site, associated with the erection of two new dwellings.

An area at the rear of the site was stripped of upper soils to a depth of around 0.25m. The area was covered in thick loamy garden soil and the depth of stripping was not sufficient to expose the subsoil or natural sub-stratum. An area at the south-eastern edge of the site, wherein the medieval was discovered was left undisturbed. Small areas of concrete and rubble were exposed in the stripped area, relating to the temporary structures that once covered this part of the site.

The foundation trenches at the front of the site were largely negative except for a two small sections of brick wall and rubble against the north-western section alongside a brick pillar These may relate to a building; the brick 'pillar' may have been part of a chimney breast with the walls and rubble representing the demolished walls of the building. The early maps of the area show an L-shaped building lying here. These remains are likely to represent part of the foundations of the earlier building.

An archive for the site will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council with accession number X.A3.2012.

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by D. Durkin Development Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief during ground-works at 33, Main Street, Queniborough, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 647 121).

This archaeological work is in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment, Policy HE12.3 (DCLG 2010).

The watching brief is required as a condition of the planning consent for a new development at the site (Planning Application No. P/11/1449/2) issued by Charnwood Borough Council.

The site lies within the medieval and post-medieval core of the town and a medieval stone hearth was discovered on the site in 1989 (Ref No. **MLE794**).

The watching brief involved the monitoring of ground reduction and the excavation of foundation trenches on the site.

Location and Geology

The site lies at 33, Main Street, Queniborough, and lies on the southern side of Main Street. The site is basically rectangular, oriented broadly north-east to south-west, with a further section of land leading around to the rear of 29 and 31, Main Street. The height of the land at the road edge is around 61.7m aOD and the land measures around 0.175 hectares in size.

The site is bordered by a stone and brick wall at the street frontage and a large reconstructed brick wall to the south-east. Neighbouring buildings border the site to the north-west and further sections of stone and brick walls lie to the south-west.

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of England and Wales, sheet 156 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to be river gravel.

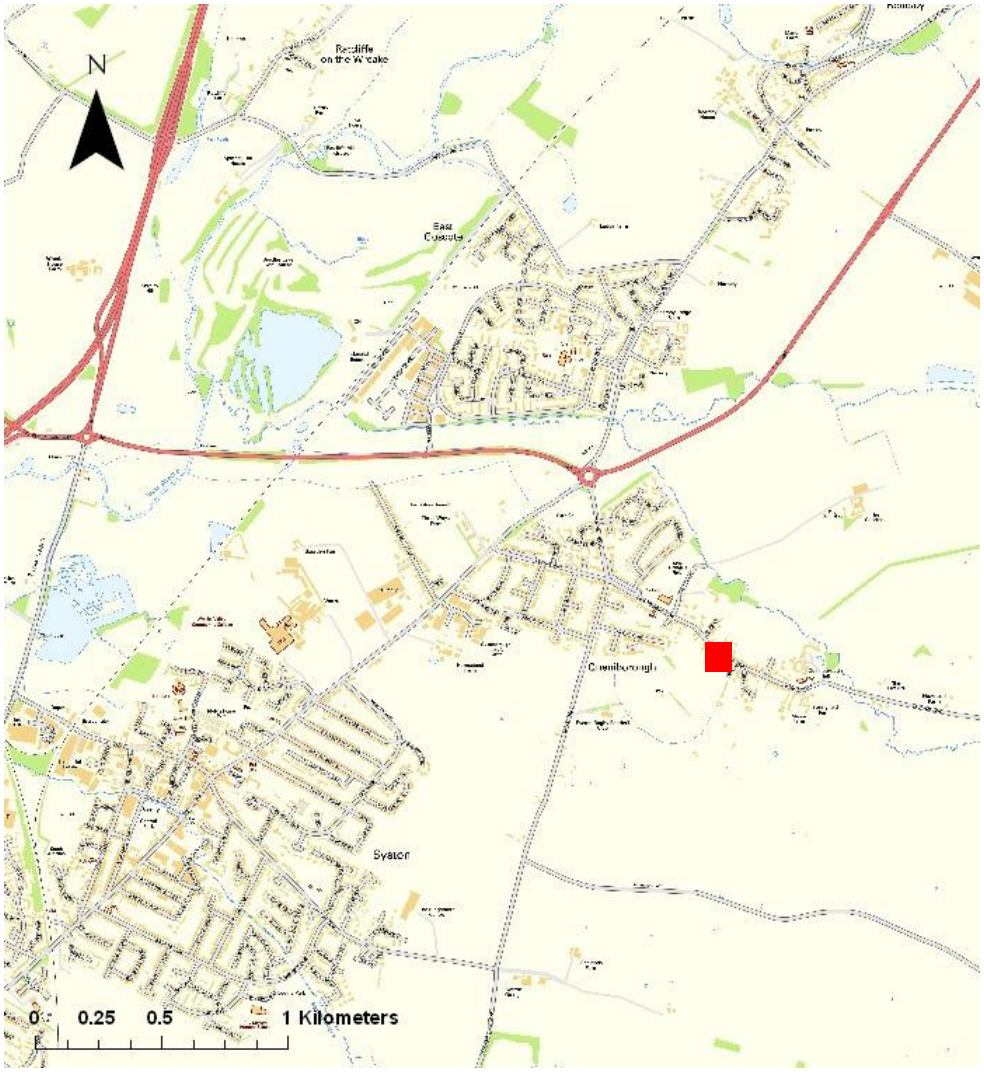

Figure 1: Site Location

The land once contained a bungalow, built in the early-mid 20th century with gardens and allotments to the rear. The rest of the site was covered in temporary structures such as sheds and outhouses and a number of agricultural vehicles were stored on the site.

Historical and Archaeological Background

The Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) records the discovery of a medieval stone hearth to the rear of 33 Main Street in 1989 (HER Ref: MLE 794). More generally, the site lies within the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of the village and there is therefore the possibility that buried archaeological remains may be affected by the development.

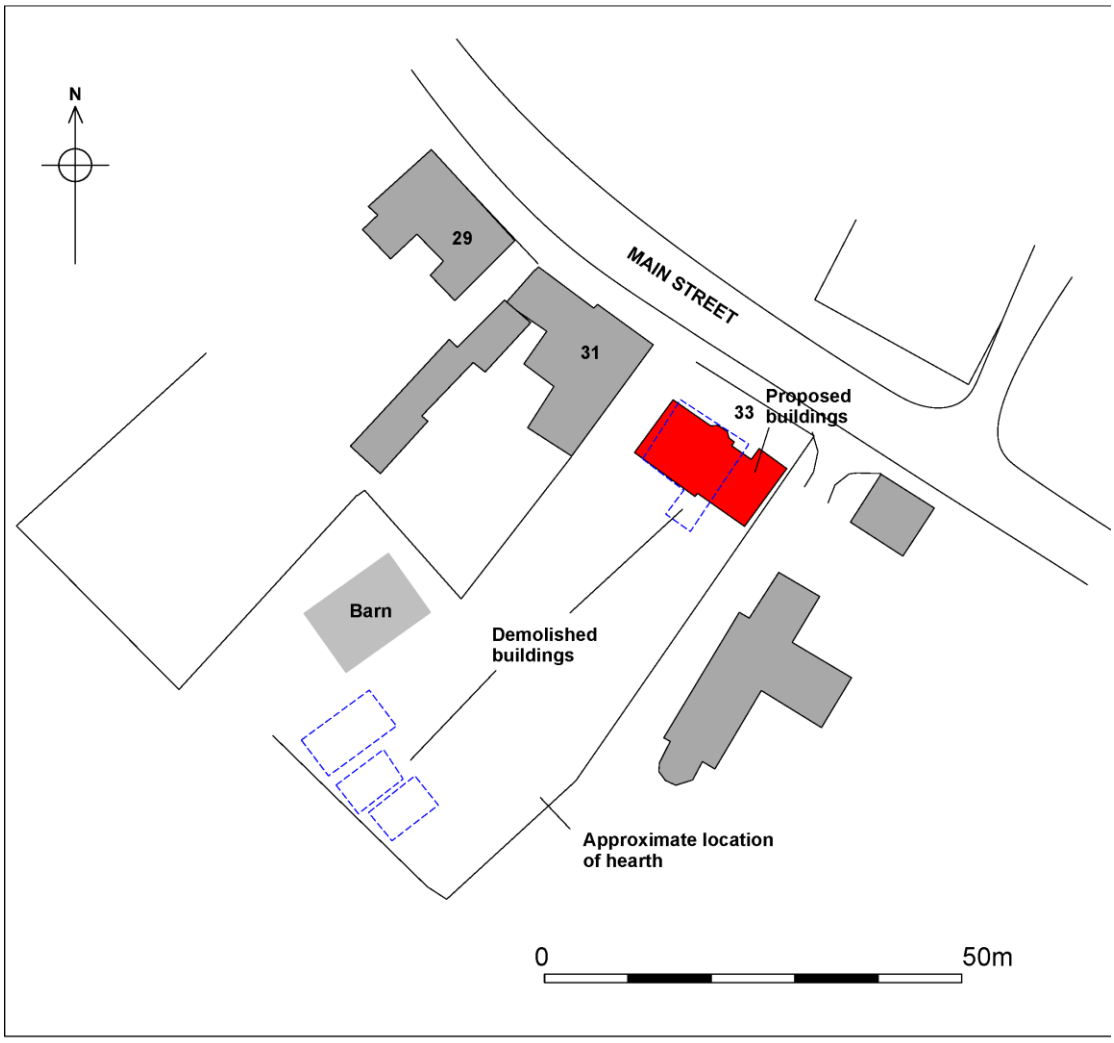

Figure 2: Plan of proposed development

Archaeological Objectives

The main objective of the archaeological excavation is to determine and understand the nature, function and character of any significant archaeology on the site in its cultural and environmental setting.

The aims of the Watching brief are:

- 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 record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground-works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Methodology

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2010) and adhered to their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008).

A Design Specification for Archaeological Work (see Appendix) was produced by ULAS prior to the archaeological work being undertaken.

The project involved the supervision of overburden removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works.

The bungalow and the temporary structures had been demolished and removed prior to the archaeological attendance.

The archaeological attendance monitored the reduction of ground levels to the rear of the site and the excavation of foundation trenches associated with the two new dwellings at the front of the site (Figure 2).

The excavations were undertaken by a large tracked excavator fitted with a variety of toothless buckets.

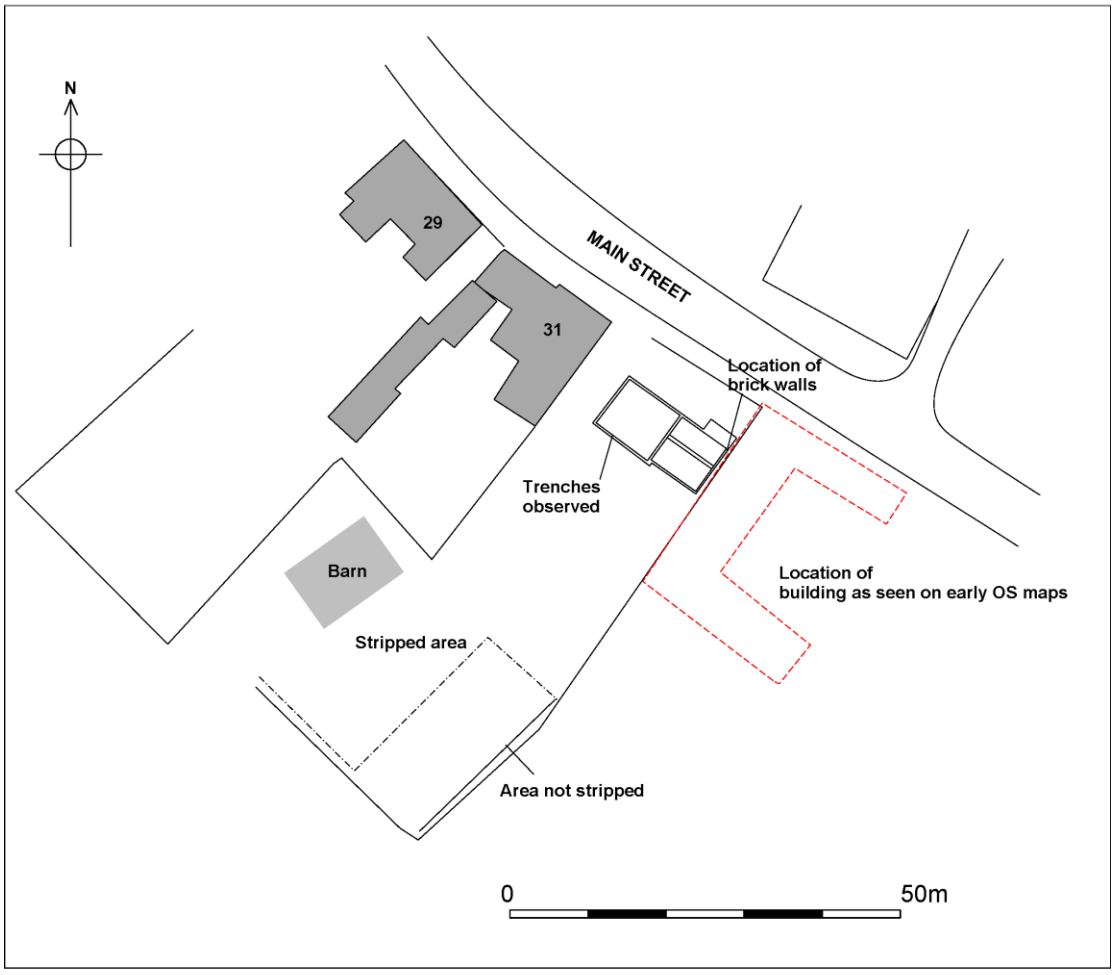

Figure 3: Plan of observations carried out during watching brief

Results

The initial visit of 5th January 2012 involved the monitoring of the reduction of ground levels to the rear of the site (Plate 1). An area approximately 24m long and between and 18-33m wide was stripped of upper soils to a depth of around 0.25m. The land was covered in thick loamy garden soil and the depth of stripping was not sufficient to expose the subsoil or natural sub-stratum (Plates 2 & 3). An area measuring 13m by 24m was left at the south-east edge of the site, where much of the allotment area was situated (Figure 3).

Small areas of concrete and rubble were exposed, relating to the temporary structures that once covered this part of the site.

The second visit was on 9th January 2012 and foundation trenches associated with the two new dwellings on the site were observed. The topsoil over the area had been removed to a depth of 0.2m.

The foundation trenches for the houses were excavated to a depth of around 0.9m-1m and were 0.8m wide (Plate 4) . Over most of the site a further 0.1m of topsoil lay over orangey brown sand and gravel (Plate 5).

Against the brick wall at the south-eastern side of the site, where the topsoil had been retained the topsoil depth was around 0.44m over a two sections of brick wall, separated by brick and mortar rubble with a brick 'pillar' abutting the walls to the south.

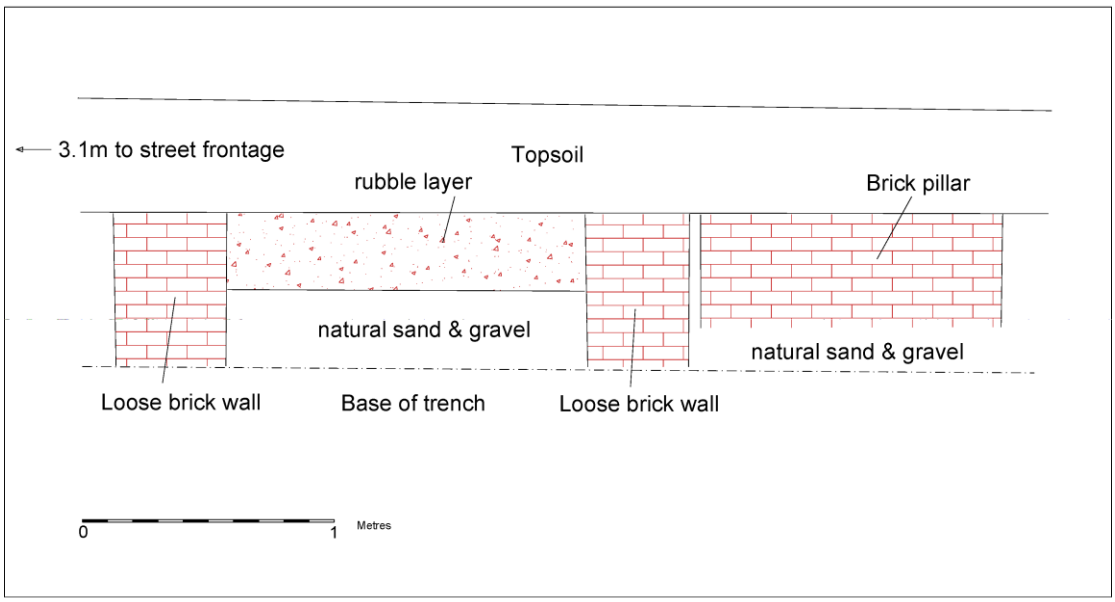

Figure 4: North-west facing section of north-eastern trench, showing wall sections observed

The sections of wall were of loose brick with small sections of concrete and were 0.45m wide and around 0.6m deep. The rubble layer between was around 0.3m deep on top of sand and gravel substrate (Plate 6 & Figure 4). The more southerly section of wall could be seen continuing into the section opposite but did not continue into the foundation trenches to the north-west.

The section of brick 'pillar' was around 1.2m wide and 0.6m deep and made of bonded bricks; some were 2 inch deep others were larger in size (Plate 7 & Figure 4). The total trench depth here was around 1.15m.

The rest of the foundation trenches were examined as they were excavated (Plate 8). No other features or finds were revealed during the ground-works.

Conclusion

The stripping of the topsoil to the rear of the site was not of sufficient depth to expose the lower soils over the area. Small areas of modern rubble and concrete were exposed, relating to the sheds and other structures that once covered to site. The area where the hearth was discovered was not subject to ground-works and was left as a garden.

The foundation trenches at the front of the site were largely negative except for the sections of brick wall and rubble against the north-western section. These may relate to a building; the brick 'pillar' may have been part of a chimney breast with the walls and rubble to the north-east representing demolished walls of the building.

The early editions of the Ordnance Survey maps of the area show an L-shaped building lying alongside the land at 33, Main Street (see Figure 3). The wall that now borders the site at this point was rebuilt from old bricks when the current house was built on the adjacent site in the late 20th century and these structures are likely to represent part of the foundations of the earlier building.

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Brian Durkin and his team for their help and co-operation during this work. The watching brief was carried out by the author and the project was managed by Richard Buckley.

Archive

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council with accession number X.A3.2012 and consists of the following:

1 Unbound copy of this report No. 2012-005

2 Watching brief recording sheets

1 CD of digital photographs

1 Set B&W Photographs

1 Set B&W Negatives

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13-01-2012

Plate 1: Work in progress at rear of site, looking south-east

Plate 2: Rear of site after stripping, looking north-west

Plate 3: Rear of site after stripping, looking north-east

Plate 4: Work in progress on first house, looking north-east

Plate 5: South-west facing section of trench, looking north-east

Plate 6: North-west facing section at north-east edge of site showing wall sections and rubble, looking south-east

Plate 7: North-west facing section at north-east edge of site showing probable chimney breast, looking south-east

Plate 8: Work in progress on second house, looking north-west

APPENDIX: Design Specification for archaeological work

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological attendance, inspection and recording (watching brief)

33 Main Street, Queniborough, Leicestershire, LE7 3DB

SK 645 122

For: Brian Durkin

Planning application: P/11/1449/2

Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council

1 Introduction

Definition and scope of the specification

1.1 This document is a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological attendance and monitoring at the above site, in accordance with PPS 5 (Planning for the Historic Environment). This specification provides a written scheme for an archaeological watching brief, as required by the Planning Authority, of any groundworks in connection with the erection of an extension at Church Street, Rothley.

1.2 The document provides details of the following work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client as recommended by Charnwood Borough Council.

- Archaeological monitoring of development groundworks

2. Background

Context of the Project

2.1. The planning consent is for the construction of a private drive and two dwelling houses (Figs 1 and 2).

Archaeological and historical background

2.4 The Leicestershire HER records the discovery of a medieval stone hearth to the rear of 33 Main Street in 1989 (MLE 794). More generally, the site lies within the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of the village and there is therefore the possibility that buried archaeological remains may be affected by the development.

3. Archaeological Aims and Objectives

3.1 The purpose of the archaeological work may be summarised as follows:

- 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 record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To advance understanding of the heritage assets
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

4. Methodology

General methods

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 An accession number will be obtained prior to commencement of the project and used to identify all records and artefacts.

Archaeological attendance for inspection and recording

4.4 The project will involve a watching brief during groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist. During these ground works, if any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest.

4.5 Excavation should be undertaken by a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket for stripping in level spits. A toothed bucket may be used for removing modern overburden or rubble deposits.

4.6 If the initial monitoring identifies areas of no archaeological interest (e.g. modern made ground or disturbed areas), then the archaeologist may stand down monitoring of that area.

4.7 If significant archaeological deposits are discovered work may need to be halted in order for contingency excavation and recording to be carried out. The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with the contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work.

4.8 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.

4.9 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded using standard ULAS procedures. Sufficient of any archaeological features or deposits will be hand excavated in order to provide the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Standard sampling amounts are:

- 50% of the exposed area of each pit and other discrete archaeological features.
- 10% (minimum 1m section) of the exposed lengths of linear features (including slotted and interrupted ditches and pit alignments). Excavation sections will be placed to provide adequate coverage of the features and will include excavation of terminals and intersections. A flexible approach will be adopted to the location of excavation samples such that areas of exposed ditch fill with higher artefact or ecofact content may be targeted.
- 25% of ring gullies will normally be excavated to include excavation of the terminals. Special regard will be given to significant stratigraphic relationships and concentrations of artefactual material.
- Structural and foundation deposits will be exposed and cleaned with a view to defining their nature and any relationships.

4.10 All below ground stratigraphy will be recorded. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

4.11 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.

4.12 Spoil will be monitored for artefacts. A representative sample of unstratified finds may be retained.

4.13 Any human remains encountered will be initially left in situ, covered and protected, and only be removed in accordance with a Ministry of Justice licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The landowner and/or developer, the Planning Authority and the coroner will be informed immediately of their discovery.

Preservation in situ and Contingency Provisions

4.14 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located during the archaeological investigation there may be the need for contingency time and finance to be provided to ensure adequate recording is undertaken.

4.15 On the discovery of potentially significant remains the archaeologist will inform the developer and the planning authority in order for detailed discussion between all relevant parties to take place.

Recording Systems

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

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

4.18 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.

4.19 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.

4.20 A photographic record of the investigations will be prepared as per the brief, 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.

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

5 Finds & samples

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

5.2 An Accession number will be obtained prior to the commencement of any on-site works, that will be used to identify all records and finds from the site.

5.3 Any finds that may constitute 'treasure' under the Treasure Act, 1996 will be reported to the local Coroner and removed to a safe place.

5.4 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.

5.4 All identified finds and artefacts are to be retained, although certain classes of building material will, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording.

5.5 Although the environmental potential of the site is uncertain, if significant archaeological features are sample excavated, the following environmental sampling strategy will be adopted, following consultation with the ULAS Environmental Officer.

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

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

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

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

5.6 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.

5.7 Where there is evidence for industrial activity, macroscopic technological residues (or a sample of them) may be collected. Separate samples (c. 10ml) may be collected for micro-slags (hammer-scale and spherical droplets). All industrial samples will be undertaken with reference to the Centre for Archaeology Guideline on Archaeometallurgy (English Heritage 2001).

5.8 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

6. Report and Archive

6.1 Arrangements will be made for the archive, consisting of record sheets, original drawings, drawn plans, photographs, notes, copies of all reports along with an index to the archive to be deposited at Leicestershire Museums in accordance with the relevant procedures.

6.3 The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent and marked with the site accession number.

6.4 The archive will be prepared in line with appropriate professional guidelines (e.g. UKIC and ADS guidelines for the preparation of archaeological archives for long term storage and *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2007).

6.7 The full report in A4 format will usually follow within six weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and copies will be directed to the client, the Planning Authority and to the Historic Environment Record.

6.8 The report will include consideration of:

- A non-technical summary.
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the work.
- The location, date, significance and quality of the building.
- The nature, location and extent of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
- The anticipated degree of survival of archaeological deposits.
- The local, regional and national context as appropriate highlighting any research priorities where applicable.
- Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
- The location and size of the archive.
- Contents of the archive

7 Publication and Dissemination of Results

7.1 A summary of the work will be submitted to the local archaeological journal. A larger report will be submitted for inclusion if the results of the evaluation warrant it.

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

8. Copyright

8.1 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.

9. Timetable

9.1 The watching brief is due to commence on 17th October 2011.

10. Health and Safety

10.1 A Risks Assessment form will be completed prior to work commencing on-site, and updated as necessary during the site works (see end of this document|).

11 Insurance

11.1 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.

12. Monitoring arrangements

12.1 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and to the Planning Authority subject to the health and safety requirements of the site. Notice will be given to the Development Control Archaeologist before the commencement of the archaeological survey in order that monitoring arrangements can be made.

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

13. Bibliography

AAF 2007 *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*

LCC 2007 *Advice Letter*

English Heritage 2001 *Centre for Archaeology Guidelines on Archaeometallurgy*

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) 2010 *Code of Conduct*

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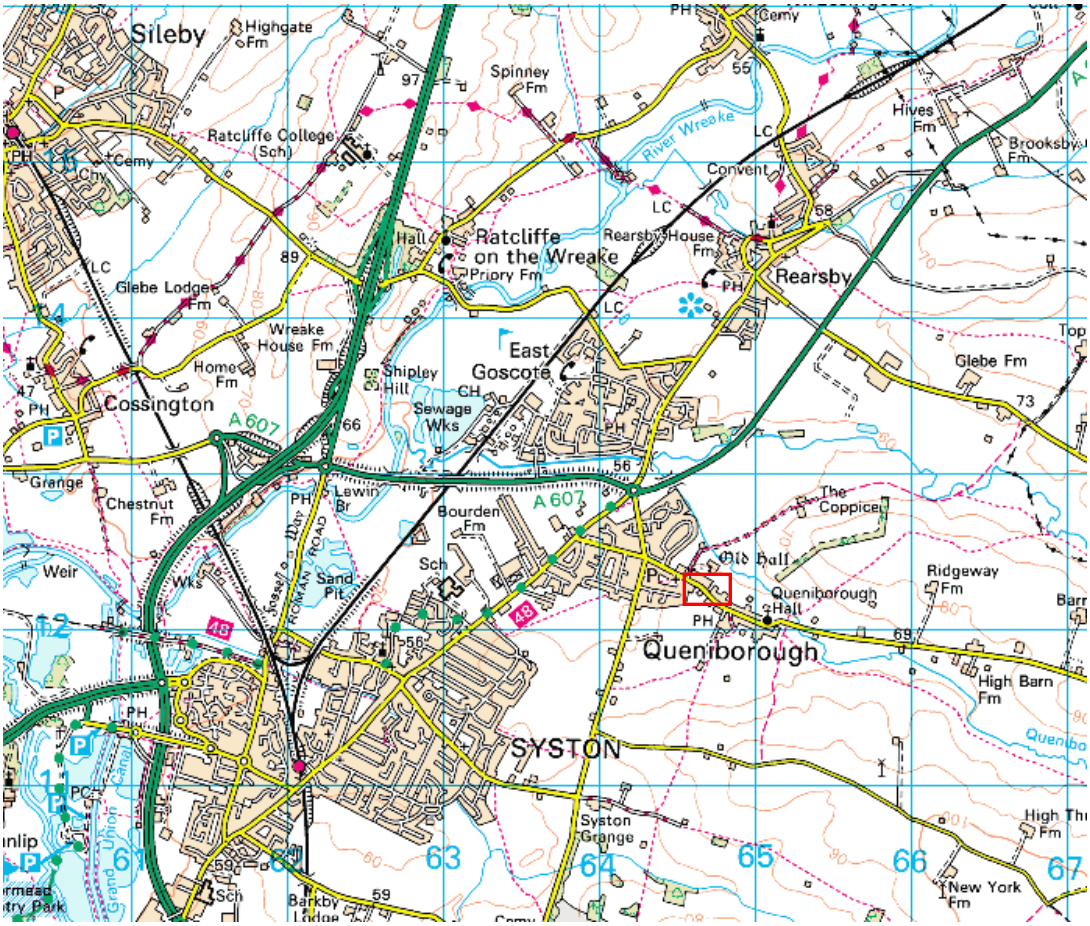

Fig. 1 Location plan

Fig 2 Proposed site layout (not to scale and)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF METHOD STATEMENT & RISK ASSESSMENT

Site Name	Job No	Start Date	PM	Contact
33 Main Street, Queniborough, Leics	12-517	17.10.11	Richard Buckley	0116 252 2848

Site Director	Site Contacts	Team (Nos)
TBC		1

SITE WORKS & METHOD STATEMENT

The work will involve the monitoring of groundworks across the area as detailed in the specification followed by excavation of archaeological deposits.

All work will adhere to the University of Leicester Health and Safety Policy and follow the guidance in the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (2001)

Watching Brief Method Statement

Any known services will be marked on the ground and avoided. All machine excavation will be carefully monitored.

Excavation: Work will be conducted as per the *Methodology* detailed in the specification. Machining will be conducted using ULAS SSOW1. Any lone working on site will be undertaken according to ULAS SSOW2 (Appendix 1).

A first aid kit and a site phone will be available on site at all times. At least one member of staff will have first aid training.

Equipment

All plant will be the responsibility of the client.

ULAS vehicles or personal cars will be used (all appropriately insured and maintained).

Besides the plant, equipment will include a variety of hand tools (e.g. shovels, mattocks, trowels), recording materials (e.g. photographic equipment, computers, levels etc.), survey equipment (e.g. EDM, DGPS) CAT scanners and metal detectors may be used.

Personnel

The site director (as above) will be responsible for the day to day running of the site. Specialists and visitors may be invited to visit the site during fieldwork. It is expected to hire plant and operators from a reputable local company.

All personnel are experienced in working with plant and in the excavation of trenches. All site staff hold CSCS cards and many also hold a SPA quarry passport. All site staff have some first aid training.

Normal working hours are 7 hours a day between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday.

Monitoring and communications

ULAS management and site staff details are as above.

Work will be monitored internally by the ULAS Project Manager and/or Health & Safety Co-ordinators.

ULAS method statements are prepared following standard guidelines and after consultation with the University Safety Services Department. Communication of the contents of the method statement to site staff is the responsibility of the Site Director. The risk assessment will be updated weekly or when conditions change.

Accident Reporting

All accidents will be logged using ULAS accident forms and report to the ULAS Main Office (0116 2522848) and if necessary to the University of Leicester Safety Services Dept (Appendix 2).

Contact Details

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Leicester LE1 7RH

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University of Leicester
Archaeological Services

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THE UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR 2008/9