University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

Excavations at Great Casterton Primary School, Pickworth Road, Great Casterton, Rutland (SK 999 092)

Leon Hunt

ULAS Report No 2011-082

Excavations at Great Casterton Primary School, Pickworth Road, Great Casterton, Rutland (SK 999 092)

Leon Hunt

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Newlife Ltd

Approved by

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Summary

An archaeological excavation and watching brief was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) for Newlife Ltd at Great Casterton Primary School, Pickworth Road, Great Casterton (SK 999 092).

The work followed on from an earlier evaluation at the site, which revealed part of a partially damaged Romano-British pottery kiln and was in advance of a new extension to the main school building.

Most of the area in the footprint of the proposed new building was stripped by machine. Another part of the main kiln structure was uncovered along with part of the stoke-pit of the kiln. Many artefacts were retrieved including parts of kiln bars, a large amount of kiln-produced pottery and other forms of pottery not associated with the kiln.

A further pit feature, cut into the limestone and showing signs of burning was found at the opposite end of the trench to the main kiln. It was thought this maybe a second stoke pit for a second kiln, but a watching brief carried out during ground-works on the foundation trenches of the new building did not reveal any evidence for a further kiln. The purpose of this pit is unknown.

The firing chamber of the kiln falls outside the main development area and was reburied.

Introduction

An archaeological excavation was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) for Newlife Ltd at Great Casterton Primary School, Pickworth Road, Great Casterton (NGR: SK 999 092) in advance of a new extension to the main school building.

The work followed on from an evaluation by trial trenching carried out by ULAS in February 2011, when a small evaluation trench located part of a late 2nd century-early 3rd century Romano-British pottery kiln.

The fieldwork was intended to mitigate any damage to buried archaeological remains which will occur from the proposed construction of the new classroom. The fieldwork consisted of a small excavation carried out between the dates of 16th-21st May 2011 within the footprint of the proposed new building and a watching brief carried out on 6th June 2011 during the ground-works for the foundation trenches.

Site Location, Geology and Topography

Great Casterton lies at the eastern edge of Rutland around 2.5 miles from the centre of Stamford and around 10 miles from Oakham (Figure 1). The site itself lies on the eastern side of Pickworth Road, to the north of the centre of the village.

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 157 (Stamford), indicates that the underlying geology is likely to be Lower Lincolnshire Limestone.

The site, at the playground end, lies at 44.50m above Ordnance Datum. This rises up to around 46.45m aOD at the top of the bank. The rear of the school lies at around 46.55m aOD. The school grounds as a whole cover 0.72 hectares.

The site of the excavation was on the south-eastern side of the school under an area, which had contained a soft play area, protected by a large glass canopy. Both the play area and the canopy had been removed prior to the excavation leaving a rectangular area covered in consolidated stone ballast, wood chippings and the concrete stanchions of the canopy. A large manhole covering a series of drains lies adjacent to the excavation area.

The excavated area was broadly rectangular and was orientated north-east to south-west (Figure 2).

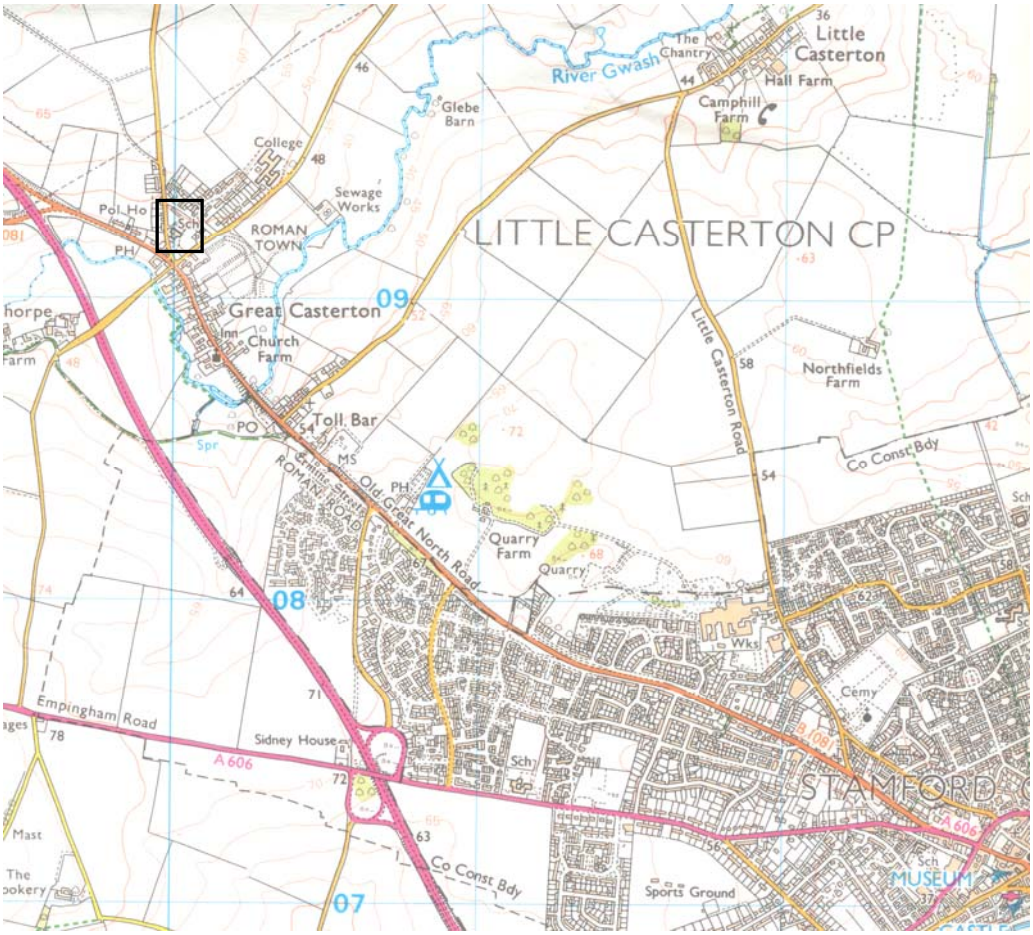

Figure 1: Site Location

Archaeological Background

The proposed development area is within an area rich in archaeological data included in the Historic Environment Record (HER). The school is adjacent to a Roman Fort

(HER ref: MLE5293) and close to the walls of a Roman small town (MLE5294) and the medieval and post-medieval village of Great Casterton (MLE8829). Other recorded remains in the vicinity of the application area include the alignment of Ermine Street, the Roman road (MLE5748) a few hundred metres to the west. There are also several findspots for prehistoric material around the town, including Iron Age settlement evidence from within Roman contexts. The site lies adjacent to a known Roman burial ground (MLE5302), which itself lies adjacent to an Anglo-Saxon burial ground (MLE5304) and suggests the continuity of settlement from the Roman period into the Anglo-Saxon period. Recent archaeological work in this area has confirmed the presence of Romano-British burials, with the discovery of 133 inhumations dating to the late 3rd and early 4th centuries (McConnell & Grassam 2005)

Trial trenching undertaken by ULAS on behalf of the client in February 2011 (Hunt 2011) revealed evidence for a Roman pottery kiln in Trench 02. The latter was excavated to the rear of the school in a tight space, and revealed part of the firing chamber of a Romano-British pottery kiln, containing several sherds of Romano-British pottery and fragments of kiln lining and kiln furniture, dating the kiln to the late 2nd to early 3rd century.

The kiln is similar in form to two other Romano-British pottery kilns discovered in the area in the late 1950s, indicating that the school grounds lie in an area where further Romano-British discoveries are likely. The character and the content of the pottery kiln suggest that it is undoubtedly part of the same industry as the two kilns lying immediately to the south on the line of the Ryhall Road. The Great Casterton colour-coated ware industry is the only one, besides the much more extensive Lower Nene Valley industry, to use kilns with tongue pedestals and bar flooring (Swan 1984) and this strongly suggests that the former was an offshoot of the latter in its early stages.

The products identified in the present kiln are very similar to the early products of the Lower Nene Valley and of those from the 1958 kiln at Great Casterton which included bag-shaped beakers and Castor box casseroles (Corder 1961).

Archaeological Objectives

- To provide further clarification of the nature and extent of surviving archaeological remains on the site.
- To characterise more fully the date range and significance of any archaeological deposits to be affected by the development proposals
- To excavate and record significant archaeological deposits which will be destroyed or damaged by groundworks associated with the construction of the new building,
- To excavate and record significant archaeological deposits whose future integrity may be compromised by groundworks associated with the construction of the new building.
- To produce an archive and report of the results.

Methodology

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct (2008) and adhered to their Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (2008).

Internal monitoring procedures were undertaken including visits to the site by the project manager. These were to ensure that project targets were met and that professional standards were maintained.

A trench was excavated by a JCB 3CX backactor under constant archaeological supervision in the footprint of the proposed new building extension. Two large stanchions and a drain complex lay at the NW edge of the site and were avoided by the machine. The kiln exposed during the evaluation was also uncovered so that the complete excavated area was close to 8.25m x 2.5m at the south-east end and 5m x 4.5m north-west end covering a total area of *c.*27 square metres.

The trench was excavated to archaeological layers or the natural sub-stratum, whichever was the higher.

After excavation, the intact kiln remains were in-filled with building sand before being reburied.

Contexts numbers throughout this report are represented by circular brackets (1) to represent fills, layers or structural elements and in square brackets, [2], to represent cuts.

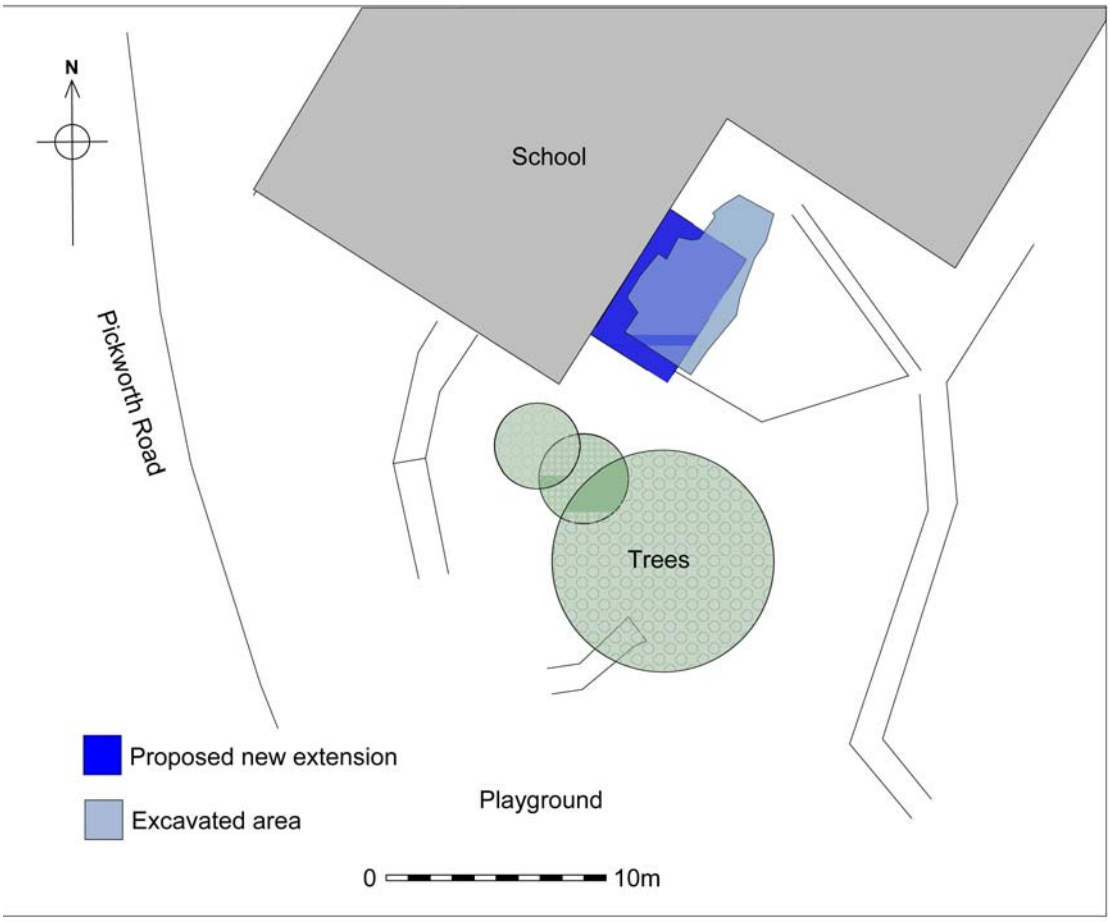

Figure 2: Location plan of site

Results

The trench was stripped from north-west to south-east away from the school buildings. Spoil was deposited to the south-east. The area was largely covered in compacted ballast and wood chippings, under which lay around 200mm of Type 1 hardcore or Geotextile fabric respectively (Plate 1). Under these layers lay around 400mm-450mm of dark-brown topsoil over a thin (less than 100mm) layer of yellowish/reddish brown subsoil (1) (Plate 2). A large modern concrete-covered drain ran from the manhole close to the north-west corner of the trench to the south-east and another ran from the manhole across the edge of the site to the south-west.

Areas of charcoal and burnt clay were observed and stripping was halted at this point at around 410mm deep. In the central area, no archaeological features were observed and so stripping continued to the natural sub-stratum of yellow limestone, which lay at a depth of around 450mm-500mm (Plate 3 & Figure 3). The soils around the kiln, stripped under the kiln walls (2), were observed.

The deposits within the kiln were then removed by hand. Much of this was re-deposited fill from the previous evaluation, but the stripping had revealed much of the rest of the kiln structure, which had not been destroyed by the north-west to south-east drain, to the south-east of the evaluation trench. The soils within this area were removed. These consisted of silty clays, identical to those encountered in the evaluation, which were an upper fill (3) of silty clay and a lower fill of silty clay (4) containing large amounts of Roman pottery, including fragments of bag beakers, mortaria, bowls and jars. The fill also contained fragments of kiln bars (Plate 4).

The pottery sherds within fill (4) included one sherd with applique figural decoration comprising a human head, dating to the later 2nd or early 3rd century. The head is very similar to a representation of the god Bacchus found on another vessel from the Lower Nene Valley Potteries (Webster 1989) (see front cover Plate).

Once the soils were removed the full structure of the kiln could be observed (Plate 5). It consisted of a limestone-lined pit cut into the natural sub-stratum with at least one course of stone clear of the natural within the subsoil (1). Heat had affected both the built lining and the natural stone behind it, colouring it reddish-orange.

A thin skin of mortar had been applied to the inside of the kiln and the base, which lay around 800mm from the upper course. The base sloped down from the north edge and to a lesser extent to the east and west.

A central pedestal support (5) lay in the centre of the kiln, oriented north-east to south-west. This was also constructed of rough limestone blocks, with smooth green glassy sides and appeared to have a smooth mortar cap much of which has been lost. The pedestal measured 200mm wide and was around 400mm tall. It most likely continued across the south-western part of the kiln, but the end and the rest of the kiln had been destroyed by the drain.

A band of disturbed lining approximately 150mm-200mm deep ran around the kiln around 150mm below the surface, largely at the same depth as the top of the pedestal, suggesting that the kiln bars would have been pressed into the kiln inner surface (Plate 6).

Around 1.5-2m to the south-west of the main kiln structure was a spread of soil covered in charcoal flecks, burnt clay and degraded limestone. This consisted of a spread of very dark brown silty clay (12), containing many charcoal flecks, large

amounts of medium and large limestone fragments, large amounts of pottery sherds, bone, oystershells, iron nails, glass and fragments of kiln lying. The pottery included fragments of samian ware pottery, which would not have produced in the kiln.

Close to the edge of this area was another spread of lighter material, consisting of reddish-brown sandy silt (14) also containing large amounts of pottery and burnt stone.

These layers were removed in spits and a cut [15] was observed at the very south-eastern edge of this area cut through the limestone. This was a 45 degree cut on the upper part of the feature, steepening towards the base, which was slightly concave. This showed the feature to be 600mm deep with a lower fill (17) of very dark silty clay, black in places containing large amounts of charcoal (Plates 7 & 8). At the very north-eastern edge of cut [15] against the drain the limestone was stained bright reddish-orange due to heat. A section of natural limestone was observed within the north-west facing section of the drain cut, possibly suggesting the other side of the feature lay under the baulk to the north-west, most likely disturbed by the drain complex.

At the south-western edge of the trench was another smaller spread of material containing a charcoal spread (7) and an area of burnt clay (6) within a matrix of dark brown silty clay. This was removed to revealed a sub-circular feature [19] partially obscured by the south-west baulk of the trench (Plates 9 & 10). The feature contained a large amount of large limestone blocks (8) within an upper fill (16) of reddish-brown sandy silt with ash and burnt stone, with charcoal rich fill (18) close to the base. The cut [19] was at 45 degrees to a flat base. A halo of burning (9) surrounded the feature on its south-eastern edge (Plate 11).

To the north of this feature were two disturbed areas containing a large amount of sandy material and charcoal (10) and a further area of mixed silt, sand and crushed or degraded limestone (11). Around (11) lay another halo of burnt limestone (13).

As this feature was partially obscured by the baulk at the south-western edge of the trench it was possible that the feature continued to the south-west and west and may have been under threat by the south-western foundation trench of the new building. A mitigation strategy was put in place to ensure that the new building would have as small and impact as possible on the buried remains. This included moving the south-eastern foundation trenches slightly further south-east to avoid feature [19] and for all trenches to be excavated to a width of 450mm, as opposed to the normal 650mm.

A foundation trench was excavated for the south-western side of the new building to a depth of 1.2m below the level of the existing ground level. This revealed a thin layer of sand and hardcore over approximately 600mm of silty soil lying over the natural yellow limestone. A small area of burnt red limestone was observed in the south-west facing section of the trench and two large limestone blocks, similar to those (8) dumped into the pit feature [19]. No finds were recovered and no other archaeological features were present (Plate 12). This showed that feature [19] was in fact more lozenge-shaped, measuring 1.6m by 700mm and consisted of a pit cut into the limestone, which had been turned reddish-orange with extreme heat.

Conclusion

The further excavations at Great Casterton Primary School revealed a large portion of the pottery kiln located during the previous evaluation. The excavations showed that

the large modern drain had destroyed the flue of the kiln, but had left around two thirds of the main structure intact. It was possible to determine the size and shape of the kiln and much of its form including the central pedestal. Many more finds were also retrieved including fragments of kiln bars, largely absent from the evaluation.

It was also possible to excavate part of the stoke-pit for the kiln. Time constraints meant that only part of this was excavated; although it was possible to broadly determine its size and extent; it would have been around 2-2.5m in diameter.

A further feature was revealed to the south-west of the kiln, partially hidden under the baulk of the trench. Excavation of the pit [19], which was full of large limestone blocks revealed a sub-rectangular or lozenge-shaped pit filled with charcoal with a further component to the north, which was not excavated. No kiln type structure could be seen in this area and the exact purpose of this smaller pit is unknown.

Discussion

Text by Nicholas Cooper

This is a highly significant discovery since this is only the third kiln excavated at Great Casterton and its content is very similar to that of the other kilns which together appear to form an offshoot of the Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware industry based around Peterborough (Howe, Perrin and Mackreth 1980). The other two kilns lie just 50m or so to the south on the line of the Ryhall Road and were discovered in 1958 and 1966 (Burnham and Wacher 1990, 131, Fig.35; Corder 1961, 50-53; Whitwell and Dean 1966, 46). The present discovery might indicate that the remains of a more extensive potter's field of later 2nd or early 3rd century date might lie under the playing field immediately south of the school and adjacent to the late Roman cemetery discovered under the school when it was built in 1959 (Corder 1961, 50).

The character and the content of the pottery kiln suggest that it is undoubtedly part of the same industry as the two kilns lying immediately to the south on the line of the Ryhall Road. The Great Casterton colour-coated ware industry is the only one, besides the much more extensive Lower Nene Valley industry, to use kilns with tongue pedestals and bar flooring (Swan 1984, 97 and 22, Map 14) and this strongly suggests that the former was an offshoot of the latter in its early stages, or alternatively may have been its precursor.

References

Corder, P. 1961 *The Roman Town and Villa at Great Casterton: 3rd interim report for excavations 1954-58*. University of Nottingham.

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Acknowledgements

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Thanks are also due to the staff and pupils of Great Casterton Primary School.

The work was carried out by Leon Hunt and Andrew Hyam. Thanks to Nicholas Cooper for finds identification and interpretation. The project was managed by Richard Buckley on behalf of ULAS.

Archive

The archive will be deposited with Rutland County Museum, Oakham and will combine the archive form the evaluation and this excavation under the accession number OAKRM.2011.5.

The archive consists of the following:

1 Unbound copy of evaluation report no. 2011-025

1 Unbound copy of this report 2011-082

1 Photographic list

1 CD of digital photographs

1 Contact Sheet of digital photographs

1 set B & W contacts sheets

1 set B & W Negatives

1 Drawing list

8 sheets of permatrace, with site drawings

2 Trench recording sheets

10 context sheets

Several boxes of finds

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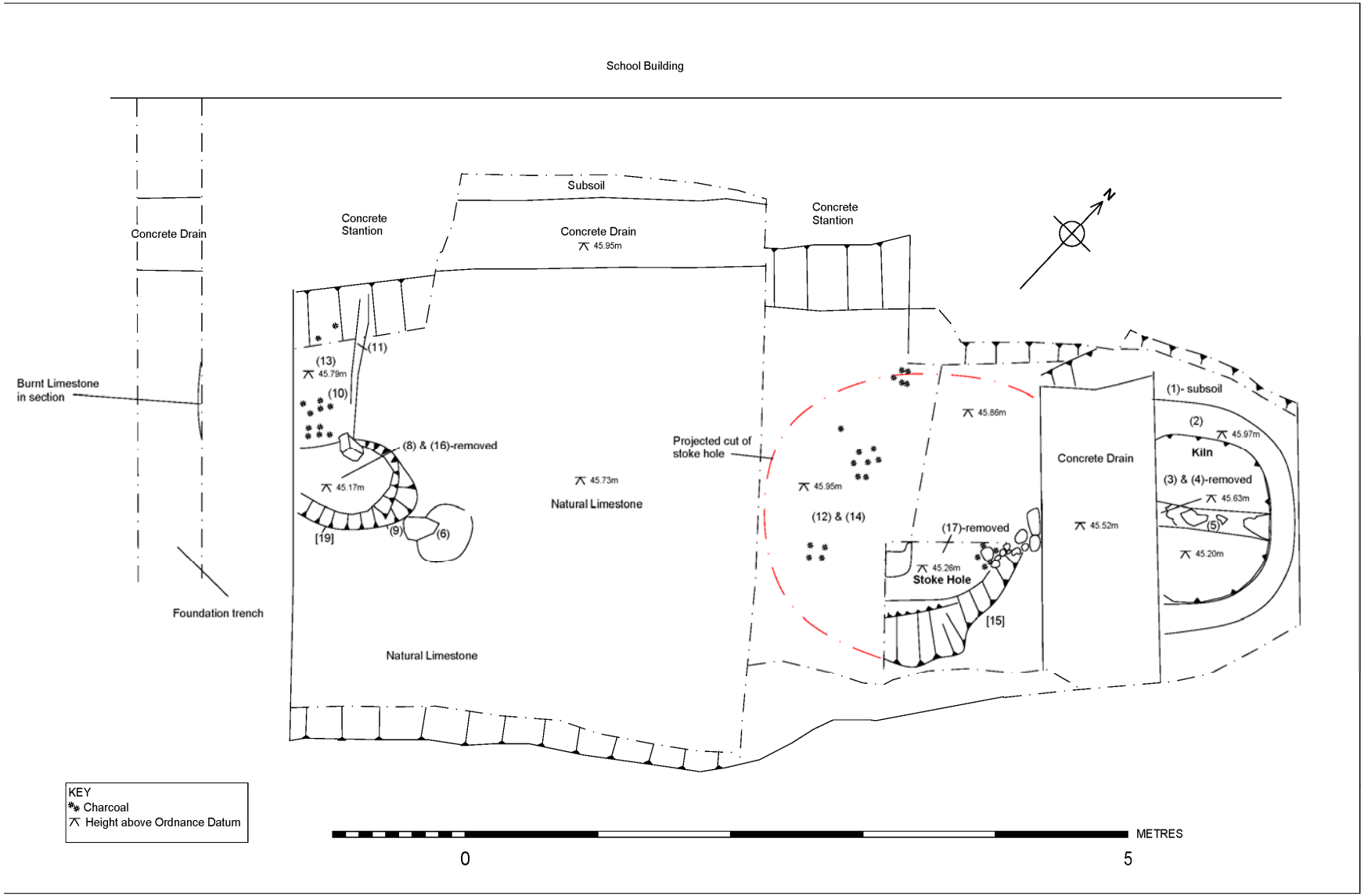

Figure 3: Plan of archaeological excavations

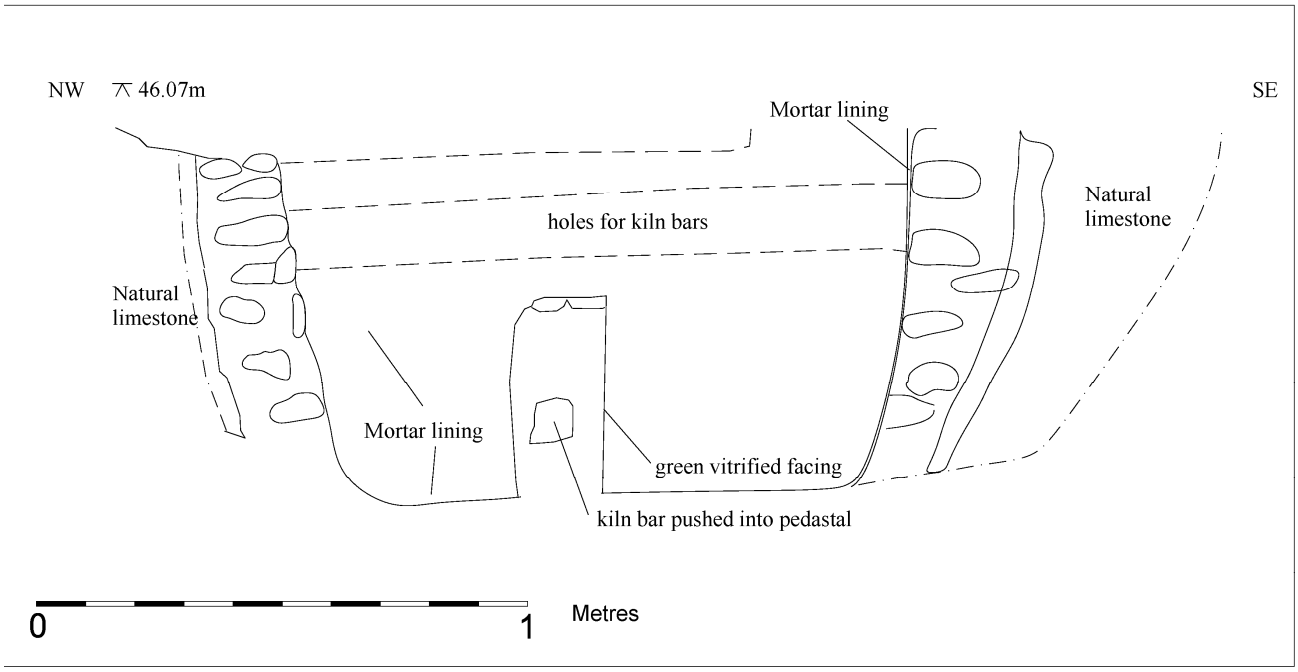

Figure 4: South-west facing elevation of kiln

Plate 1: Site cleared prior to excavation, looking north

Plate 2: Work in progress, looking east

Plate 3: Site stripped and cleaned, looking north-west

Plate 4: Kiln half excavated, looking south

Plate 5: Kiln fully excavated, looking east

Plate 6: Close-up of kiln bar indentations, looking east

Plate 7: Stoke pit quadrant post-excavation, looking south. Note burnt limestone

Plate 8: Kiln and stoke-pit, looking north-east

Plate 9: Pit feature [19], pre-excavation

Plate 10: Work in progress on feature [19]

Plate 11: Feature [19], post excavation, looking west north-west

Plate 12: South-west facing section of foundation trench, looking north-east with slight burning in section

Appendix I: The Finds

Roman Pottery and Kiln Furniture from the Evaluation and Excavation of a Colour-coated ware kiln at Great Casterton, Rutland OAKRM2011.5

Nicholas J. Cooper

Introduction

A total of 42 sherds of Roman pottery weighing 1787g (average sherd weight 42.5g) and with an EVEs value of 2.26 (total 4.52 vessels based on rims and bases) were retrieved during the evaluation from two contexts (3) and (4), the upper and lower fills of the partially excavated kiln structure. Additionally seven unstratified sherds (61g) were retrieved. A larger, but unquantified, assemblage came from the excavation of the remainder of the kiln chamber fill (4) and the fill of the adjacent stoke pit. Both features appear to have been backfilled with waste products of the kilns, or the *in situ* remnants of unretrieved loads, together with a small amount of other domestic refuse including pottery from other sources.

Methodology

The material was classified using the Leicestershire Museums Fabric Series (Pollard 1994, 112-114) and with reference to local Rutland assemblages excavated at Great Casterton (Corder 1961) and Empingham (Cooper 2000), and quantified by sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalents (EVEs based on rims and bases and divided by two) as detailed in Table 1.

There are currently insufficient resources to undertake a full quantification of the assemblage from the excavation, but a scan of the material has enabled an accurate identification of the range of forms which represent the products of the kiln or surrounding kilns and other associated pottery and so build on the work of the evaluation.

Analysis by Form and Fabric

Table 1 Roman Pottery from the Evaluation of the Kiln and Unstratified

Great Casterton OAKRM11.5 Roman Pottery								
Context	**Fabric**	**Form(gen)**	**Type(spec)**	**Decoration**	**Sherds**	**Weight**	**EVEs**	**Diam**
3	C2NV	Bowl	chamf base	greyslip	1	30	0.12	120
4	WW2	bowl/mortarium	Flanged	red paint	8	675	0.7	220
4	WW2	bowl/mortarium	Flanged	trit grits	3	315	0.5	220
4	WW2	flanged bowl	HPM99	red paint	1	25	0.1	200
4	C2NV	castorbox	HPM89	orange slip	7	313	0.5	200
4	C2NV	bag beaker	HPM29	barbotine	1	10		
4	C2NV	bag beaker	HPM29		1	15		
4	C2NV	bag beaker	HPM26-29		1	10		
4	C3NV	bag beaker	HPM26-29		1	35		
4	C3NV	indented beaker	HPM40?	plain	1	5		
4	C2NV	beaker	misc	plain	1	4		

4	GW4	jar	misc	burnish	3	25		
4	GW	misc	misc		4	30		
4	C3NV	jar base	misc	thin extslip	2	60	1	75
4	C3NV	jar base	misc	thin extslip	3	52	0.6	85
4	C3NV	jar base	misc	thin extslip	1	25	0.5	75
4	C3NV	jar base	misc	thin extslip	1	72	0.5	95
4	CG	jar	storage		2	86		
US	C2NV	beaker	misc		1	6		
US	GW	jar	misc		4	35		
US	GT	jar	misc		2	20		
Total					**49**	**1848**	**4.52**	

Of the stratified material from the evaluation all but the two shell-tempered (Fabric CG) jar sherds and four miscellaneous grey ware sherds (Fabric GW) from (4) are in the four recognised fabrics of the Lower Nene Valley Industry; colour-coated ware using either a white firing clay (C2NV) or an orange firing clay (C3NV), a white ware (WW2) and a reduced (grey) ware (GW4). The thin, patchy nature of the slip coating on many of the pieces, the random occurrence of iron rich slip and paint on vessel surfaces, together with sintered or vitrified, or encrusted, surfaces and burning after breakage, all indicate that these vessels were never retrieved from the kiln or were wasters specifically used to patch the lining of the kiln. The most diagnostic pieces are the fragments of colour-coated ware bag-shaped beakers from lower fill (4), one of which has *en barbotine* decoration consistent with a later 2nd or early 3rd century date (Howe *et al.* 1980, no.29). The plain indented beaker sherd from (4) would also support this date (Howe *et al*. 1980, no.40). The only diagnostic rim is from a flanged bowl with red painted slashes on the rim (Howe *et al*. 1980, no.99) which are thought to date to the 2nd or 3rd century. The most intriguing and best-preserved vessel form is a shallow bowl or mortarium with an angular bead and flanged rim loosely imitating samian forms (see below). There are at least two vessels represented, both in a fine white ware (fabric WW2) and identical in form and size; one unlined and one with a sprinkling of small rounded stones (trituration grits) on the internal identifying it as a mortarium. The grits are not those usually used on mortaria made in the Lower Nene Valley and no examples have come from the other two kilns previously excavated at Great Casterton. They might be regarded as experimental pieces that were never intended to reach the consumer. The other notable feature of the assemblage from (4) is the occurrence of vessel bases, one certainly from a 'Castor box' casserole dish (Howe *et al*. 1980, no.89) and the others from small jars (Howe *et al*. 1980 nos.1-4) with a thin slip coating on the external surface. Some of these have clay lining from the kiln adhering to them suggesting they were selected out as flat fragments to line the kiln and block out draughts perhaps.

Assessment of the material from the Excavation

Lower fill of the kiln (4)

The new material excavated from (4) comprises vessels of the same type recovered during the evaluation but with some important additions. An additional 17 sherds belong to the unusual mortarium form previously identified, which seems to be attempting to copy and hybridise two relatively uncommon samian forms; firstly the mortarium Form 43 which was produced mainly in Eastern Gaul from AD170 until the first half of the 3rd century, and secondly the mortar-like bowl Form Curle 21, which was made from about AD150 until the early 3rd century. Like the samian examples, some are gritted and others not and the spout adopted is similar to that of Form 43.

A further 12 sherds belong to the rims and bases of 'Castor box' casserole dishes (Howe *et al*. 1980, no.89) and the others from small jars (Howe *et al*. 1980 nos.1-4) with a thin slip coating on the external surface. Some of these have clay lining from the kiln adhering to them suggesting they were selected out as flat fragments to line the kiln and block out draughts perhaps. A heavily encrusted lid with up turned rim is also part of this group. The remainder of (4) contains 16 sherds belonging to colour-coated beakers including one bag-shaped cornice rim with roulette decoration (Howe *et al*. 1980, no.33) and one sherd with applique figural decoration comprising a human head (Howe *et al*. 1980, no.28) , dating to the later 2nd or early 3rd century . The head is very similar to a representation of the god Bacchus found on another vessel from the Lower Nene Valley Potteries (Webster 1989, 11 and fig5.47a). The group also contained a further two examples of indented colour-coated beakers with curved rims (Howe *et al*. 1980, no.40) which were not made after about 225 in the adjacent Lower Nene Valley industry. Interestingly, two sherds from beaker without coatings also occurred. With exception of a couple of coarse grey ware sherds, all of the material represents kiln product.

Fill of the stoke pit (12)

The material from the fill of the stoke pit (12) adds to the range of vessel types being produced on site. Again there are examples of plain, indented beakers with outcurving rims (Howe *et al*. 1980, no.40), and these are accompanied by bag-shaped beakers with cornice rims and clay roughcast decoration, as previously found in the kiln excavated to the south in 1958 (Corder 1961, 50, fig. 18.2) as well on sites locally such as Empingham Site 1 (Cooper 2000, 84, fig.41.83), but notably not amongst the kiln product of production sites so far excavated in the Lower Nene Valley. This may simply be because the earliest kilns have not been excavated, or that production at Great Casterton slightly preceded the development of the industry around Water Newton. As a decorative technique, clay roughcasting is used less and less in the second half of the 2nd century being superseded by *en barbotine* and rouletting techniques. An example of a plain rimmed beaker with en barbotine vine scroll (Howe *et al*. 1980, no.34 but with the decoration of no.29) was also present. Amongst the material were occasional sherds of beakers which had both a reduced light grey fabric and reduced black colour-coat which would normally be regarded as a mis-firing and alongside them were examples of Lower Nene Valley grey ware products such as necked jars and flanged dishes (Howe *et al*. 1980, nos. 10 and 18).

Within fill (12) a number of non-kiln products also support a date in the second half of the 2nd century for the production. These include samian cup Form 33 and a shell-tempered ware jar from the nearby Bourne-Greetham industry.

Kiln Furniture and Lining

A total of 4.8kg of fired clay lining and kiln furniture were retrieved during the evaluation, from the lower filling of the kiln (4) another 0.3kg from (2). A larger but currently unquantified amount came from the remainder of the kiln fill during the excavation. The excavation photographs suggest the kiln was circular with a straight sided, tongued pedestal projecting into the centre which, as in the case of the typical Lower Nene Valley kilns, then support radiating bars resting on a surrounding ledge, between which were wedge-shaped perforated plates (e.g. Swan 1984 71, fig. XI or, just with bars and spacers 72, Fig. XII). The lining is very fragmentary; there is possible evidence for relining and very heavy vitrification of external surfaces closest to the source of heat, indicated by a green glazing, suggesting prolonged use at high temperatures approaching 1000 degrees C. There is one fragment which may be from a radiating kiln bar (of tapering square section 70mm in width), again with green glaze adhering, which might suggest it was an integral feature rather than being portable or replaced. Other fragments are suggestive of perforated flooring in fresher, less vitrified clay which may have been part of temporary floor, 25mm thick, replaced or maintained with each firing. This floor was smoothed on the upper side, on which the vessels were stacked and rough on the lower surface and one fragment preserved part of a circular perforation about 50mm in diameter.

Discussion

This is a highly significant group of material since this is only the third kiln excavated at Great Casterton and its content is very similar to that of the other kilns which together appear to form an offshoot of the Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware industry based around Peterborough (Howe, Perrin and Mackreth 1980). The other two kilns lie just 50m or so to the south on the line of the Ryhall Road and were discovered in 1958 and 1966 (Burnham and Wacher 1990, 131, Fig.35; Corder 1961, 50-53; Whitwell and Dean 1966, 46) and the present discovery might indicate that the remains of a more extensive potter's field of later 2nd or early 3rd century date might lie under the playing field immediately south of the school and adjacent to the late Roman cemetery discovered under the school when it was built in 1959 (Corder 1961, 50).

The character and the content of the pottery kiln suggest that it is undoubtedly part of the same industry as the two kilns lying immediately to the south on the line of the Ryhall Road. The Great Casterton colour-coated ware industry is the only one, besides the much more extensive Lower Nene Valley industry, to use kilns with tongue pedestals and bar flooring (Swan 1984, 97 and 22, Map 14) and this strongly suggests that the former was an offshoot of the latter in its early stages, if not its precursor.

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Appendix II: OASIS Information

Project Name	**Excavations at Great Casterton Primary School, Pickworth Road, Great Casterton, Rutland**
Project Type	Excavation
Project Manager	R. Buckley
Project Supervisor	L Hunt
Previous/Future work	Previous evaluation (Universi-95023)
Current Land Use	School grounds
Development Type	Building extension
Reason for Investigation	Developer's request
Position in the Planning Process	Post-determination
Site Co ordinates	SK 999 092
Start/end dates of field work	16-05-2011to 23-05-2011
Archive Recipient	Rutland County Museum
Study Area (school grounds)	0.72 hectares

Appendix III: Written Scheme of Investigation

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological work

Great Casterton Primary School, Pickworth Road, Great Casterton, Rutland
NGR SK 999 092

WSI for Excavation

For: Newlife Regeneration and Construction

Planning Authority: Rutland County Council

1 Introduction

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

This document is a Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological excavation at the above site, in accordance with PPS 5: Planning for the Historic Environment. The fieldwork specified below is intended to mitigate any damage to buried archaeological remains which will occur from the proposed construction of a new classroom.

1.2 The definition of archaeological excavation, taken from the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standards and Guidance: for Archaeological Excavation (2008) is a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwaqter. The records made and objects gathered during fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design'.

2. Background

Context of the Project

1.1 A planning application has been submitted for building extensions to the existing school buildings and a temporary haulage road to the site at Great Casterton Primary School, Pickworth Road, Great Casterton, Rutland (NGR: SK 999 092)

1.2 The proposed development area is within an area rich in archaeological data included in the Historic Environment Record (HER). The school is adjacent to a Roman Fort (HER ref MLE5293) and close to the walls of a Roman small town (HER ref MLE5294) and the medieval and post-medieval village of Great Casterton (HER ref: MLE8829). Other recorded remains in the vicinity of the application area include the alignment of Ermine Street, the Roman road (HER ref. MLE5748) a few hundred metres to the west. There are also several findspots for prehistoric material around the town, including Iron Age settlement evidence from within Roman contexts. The site lies adjacent to a known Roman burial ground (MLE5302), which itself lies adjacent to an Anglo-Saxon burial ground (MLE5304) and suggests the continuity of settlement from the Roman period into the Anglo-Saxon period. Recent archaeological work in this area has confirmed the presence of Romano-British burials, with the discovery of 133 inhumations dating to the late 3rd and early 4th centuries (McConnell & Grassam 2005)

1.3 Trial trenching undertaken by ULAS on behalf of the client in February 2011 (Hunt 2011) revealed evidence for a Roman pottery kiln in Trench 02. The latter was excavated to the rear of the school in a tight space, and revealed part of the firing chamber of a Romano-British pottery kiln, containing several sherds of Romano-British pottery and fragments of kiln lining and kiln furniture, dating the kiln to the late 2nd to early 3rd century. The kiln is similar in

form to two other Romano-British pottery kilns discovered in the area in the late 1950s, indicating that the school grounds lie in an area where further Romano-British discoveries are likely. The character and the content of the pottery kiln suggest that it is undoubtedly part of the same industry as the two kilns lying immediately to the south on the line of the Ryhall Road. The Great Casterton colour-coated ware industry is the only one, besides the much more extensive Lower Nene Valley industry, to use kilns with tongue pedestals and bar flooring (Swan 1984) and this strongly suggests that the former was an offshoot of the latter in its early stages. The products identified in the present kiln are very similar to the early products of the Lower Nene Valley and of those from the 1958 kiln at Great Casterton which included bag-shaped beakers and Castor box casseroles (Corder 1961). The opportunity to undertake a full excavation of this kiln would represent an important contribution to this little known industry and to Roman pottery studies in Britain in general.

2. Geology and topography

2.1 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 157 indicates that the underlying geology of the site is likely to consist of Lincolnshire Limestone. The site lies at a height of 45m aOD and is currently in use as part of the school grounds.

3. Archaeological Objectives

3.1 General

- To provide further clarification of the nature and extent of surviving archaeological remains on the site.
- To characterise more fully the date range and significance of any archaeological deposits to be affected by the development proposals
- To excavate and record significant archaeological deposits which will be destroyed or damaged by groundworks associated with the construction of the new building,
- To excavate and record significant archaeological deposits whose future integrity may be compromised by groundworks associated with the construction of the new building.
- To assess the impact of piling on adjacent archaeological deposits
- To produce an archive and report of the results.

3.2 ***Academic research themes***

- The chronology of Roman Great Casterton (the growth of the Roman town, periods of prosperity and decline, artefact dating
- Land-use, town planning and settlement patterns (early activity, public buildings and public works, character of land-use and changes over time, zones of occupation)
- The built environment (building plans – typology and dating, constructional techniques, building materials, interior decoration)
- Evolving social conditions in Roman Great Casterton (food and drink, health, wealth and social status)
- Trade and industry (the town and its hinterland, commerce, raw materials, crafts, industries, trading links)
-
- Periods of transition: The fourth century and later (the decline of Roman Great Casterton)

3.2 ***Specific research themes for the site***

Industry:

- Evidence for Roman pottery production

3.3 ***Regional Research Agenda*** (Cooper *et al* 2006)

3.3.1 *Roman* (Taylor 2006 154-159)

- Chronology
- The Late Iron Age Landscape and the strategy and consequences of conquest
- Urbanism – Origins, Growth and Development, Roles
- Communications and new geographies of power
- Artefact production, exchange and consumption
- Ritual, Religion and identity

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 Excavation (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.

Excavation Methodology

4.4 Prior to any machining of the excavation trench, general photographs of the site areas may be taken.

4.5 The proposed excavation area is shown on Figure 1. The size and position of the trench indicated on the 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 The trench 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 three months of completion of site works. The full report in A4 format will usually follow within six months. 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 excavation.
- The nature, location and extent of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
- The anticipated degree of survival of archaeological deposits.
- 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 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.

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 16th May 2011 is proposed. The work is likely to take up to two weeks to complete and two experienced archaeologists will 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 evaluation at Great Casterton Primary School, Pickworth Road, Great Casterton, Rutland (SK 999 092)* ULAS Report 2011-025

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09/05/2011

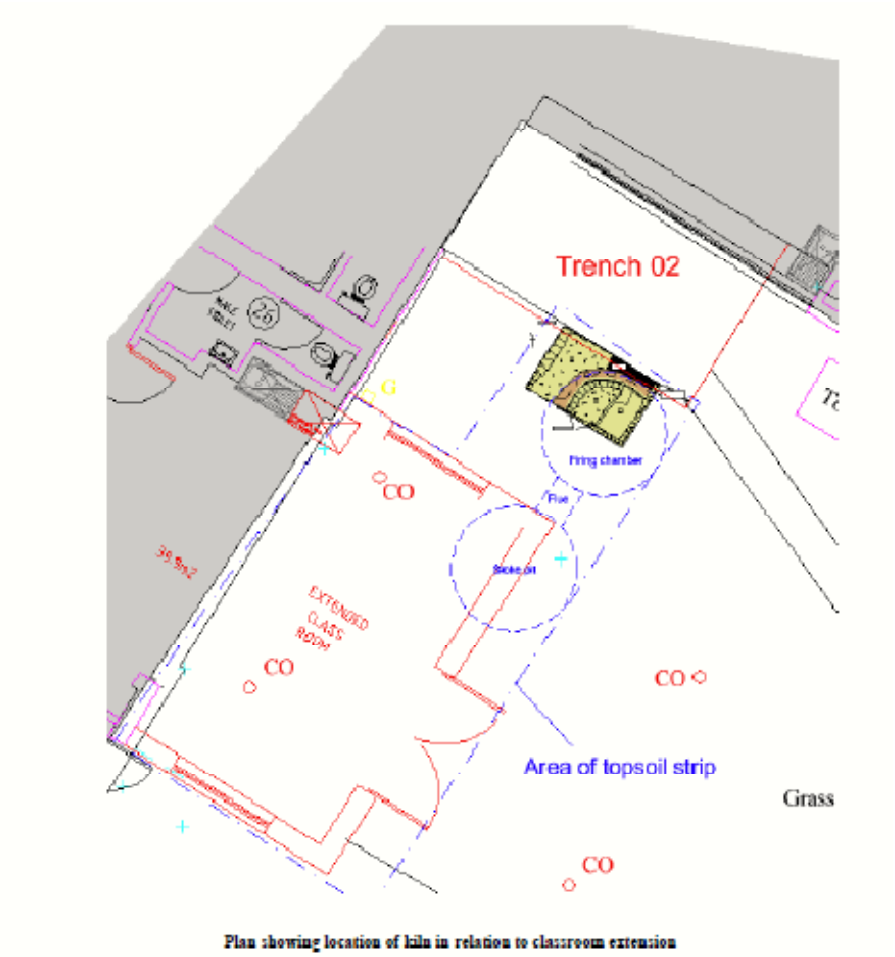

Figure 1 Plan showing position of trial trench, possible location of kiln stoke pit and area to be stripped for excavation (dash-dot blue line)

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