



# University of Leicester

## Archaeological Services



**An Archaeological Watching Brief  
at 10, Harcourt Spinney,  
Market Bosworth,  
Leicestershire**

**NGR: SK 4046 0356**

**Jon  
Coward**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at  
10, Harcourt Spinney, Market Bosworth,  
Leicestershire**

**Jon Coward**

**For: Mr & Mrs Nixon**

Approved by:



Signed:

Date: 31/05/2012

Name: R J Buckley

**University of Leicester  
Archaeological Services**  
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH  
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614  
[www.le.ac.uk/ulas](http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas)

**ULAS Report Number 2012-092**

©2012

XA59.2012.

## CONTENTS

Summary .....	1
1. Introduction.....	1
2. Site Description, Topography and Geology.....	1
3. Historical and Archaeological Background.....	1
4. Aims and Objectives .....	2
5. Methodology .....	3
6. Results.....	3
7. Conclusions.....	6
8. Archive.....	7
9. Publication .....	7
10. Bibliography .....	7
11. Acknowledgements.....	8
APPENDIX 1: Written scheme of Investigation .....	9

## FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location.....	2
Figure 2 Areas affected by development .....	4
Figure 3 Stripping the area north west of the present house. Looking south west .....	4
Figure 4The area as stripped. 1metre rod, looking north-east .....	5
Figure 5 Removal of the patio, north-eastern area. Looking east.....	6
Figure 6 North eastern area as stripped. 1m rod, looking east north east.....	6

# **An Archaeological Watching Brief at 10, Harcourt Spinney, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire**

Jon Coward

## **Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was carried out by ULAS in May 2012 for Mr and Mrs Nixon on land at 10 Harcourt Spinney Market Bosworth, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 4046 0356, in advance of development. No archaeological deposits were revealed, nor finds of any antiquity. There were indications that landscaping may have been carried out during the construction of the present house. The archive will be deposited with LCC HNET in due course under accession code XA59.2012.*

## **1. Introduction**

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by ULAS in May 2012 for Mr and Mrs Nixon on land at 10 Harcourt Spinney Market Bosworth, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 4046 0356). This was undertaken during the groundworks for an extension to the extant building. The work was required in order to assess the nature, extent, date and significance of any archaeological deposits which might be present. This report presents the results of this work.

## **2. Site Description, Topography and Geology**

The site lies at about 110m OD on the north side of Harcourt Spinney, Market Bosworth, which lies to the north of the historic core of Market Bosworth (Figure 1). The site is on a steep slope; the present house has been cut back into the slope. The geology was sand and gravels.

## **3. Historical and Archaeological Background**

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies within an area of archaeological interest. The site is 120m west of a Scheduled Roman site and the HER records show that Roman artefacts have been found in the garden of the application site, so there was a likelihood that buried archaeological remains would be affected by the proposed development

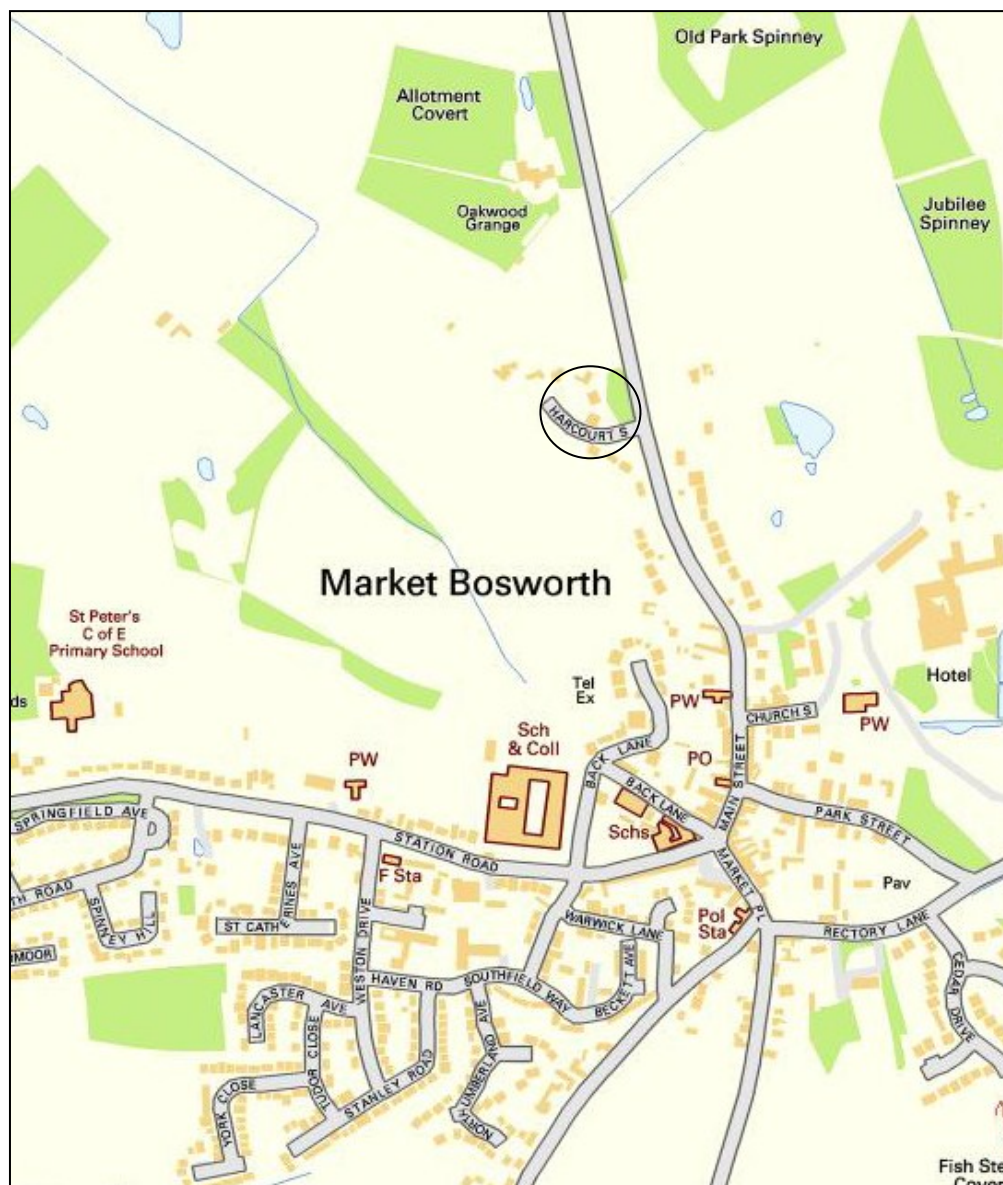


Figure 1: Site Location.

© Crown Copyright and database rights 2010 Ordnance Survey

#### 4. Aims and Objectives

An application has been made for an extension to the house in the form of two extensions: one to the north-west of the present footprint and one to the north-east. (Planning application No. 12/00082/HOU). Following Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5), Leicestershire County Council Senior Planning Archaeologist as archaeological advisor to the planning authority required that archaeological attendance for inspection and recording (a watching brief) was carried out.

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.

## 5. Methodology

The work followed the Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 1) and adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (rev. 2010) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (rev. 2008).

The development affected two areas adjoining the current house footprint. That to the north-west side involved removal of a steep bank of ground down to the current ground floor level . To the north-east side, only c. 0.40m of soil was removed as the proposed structure is a single storey summer room with a block and beam floor (Figure 2



Figure 2. To allow for working space, the areas stripped were slightly larger than the areas of the extensions themselves

## 6. Results

### 6.1. The north-west extension area

Initially the area was stripped of topsoil using an excavator with a toothless bucket, in spits (Figure 3). The topsoil consisted of a light yellow-grey sandy loam, very friable, quite clean of occupation material. Below a very diffuse interface was a light yellow-grey silty sand; this was also friable and very clean. Below this was an interface layer which contained some small stones and charcoal flecks over a mottled yellow/beige sand natural which had a very slight clay element. The height of the natural was *c.* 0.80m below the ground level at the south side of the extension area and 1.10m below ground level upslope to the north (Figure 4). The archaeological monitoring was halted once undisturbed natural was encountered. No archaeological deposits were seen down to the natural, and no archaeological finds were recovered. Given the very clean nature of the topsoil and subsoils removed, it is entirely possible that they are not original soils *in situ* and may have been ground makeup created during the construction of the present house; it was noticeable that though the natural was rising to the north, the rise of the ground level of the present lawns was far more pronounced.



Figure 2 Areas affected by development



Figure 3 Stripping the area north west of the present house. Looking south west

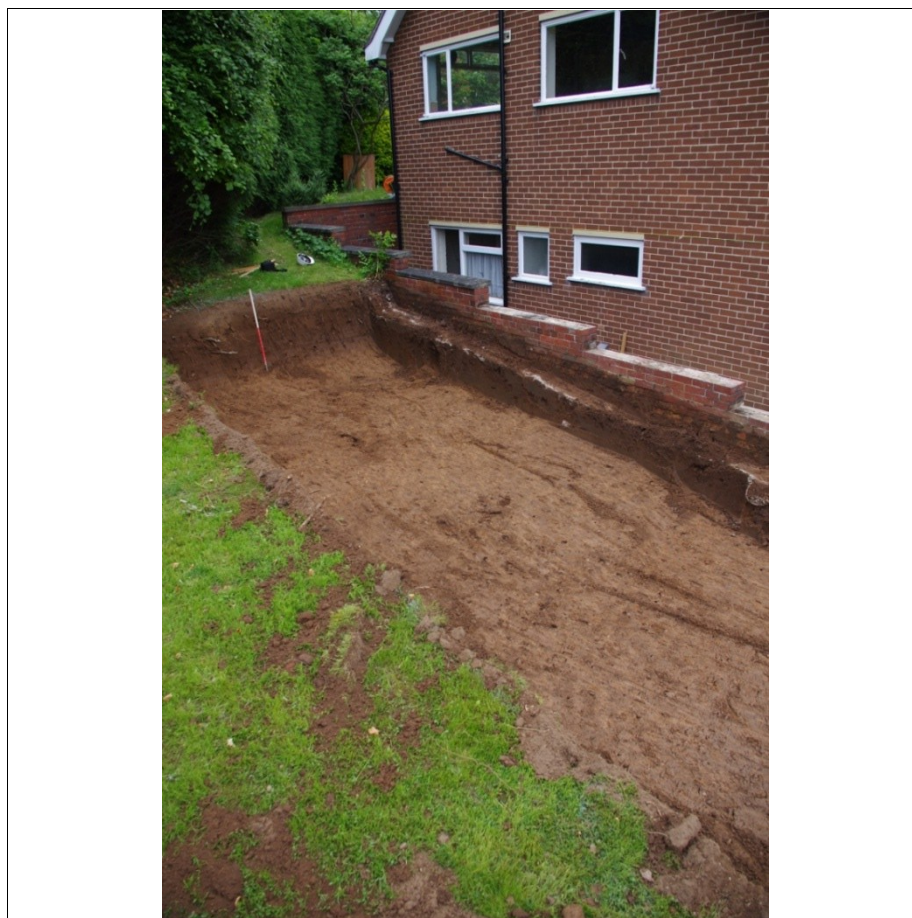


Figure 4 The area as stripped. 1 metre rod, looking north-east



## 6.2

The area to the north-east was covered by a crazy paving patio area. This was removed by machine (Figure 5) to reveal a thin sandy make-up. As the nature of the extension was for a summer-room, only *c.* 0.40m of soil needed to be removed down to formation level. This subsoil was a grey brown silty sand, friable, with moderate small pebbles. Natural strata were not reached, and no archaeological deposits or finds of any antiquity were noted (Figure 6).



Figure 5 Removal of the patio, north-eastern area. Looking east



Figure 6 North eastern area as stripped. 1m rod, looking east north east

## 7. Conclusions

The watching brief did not identify any deposits or significant artefacts, despite the proximity to the Roman site to the east. However, it is quite likely that the construction of the present building (this appears to be 1960/70s or thereabouts) involved a lot of landscaping. This may have removed a lot of natural deposits in the immediate vicinity of the present footprint and/or covered them with make-up.

## 8. Archive

The site archive will be held by LCC HNET, with the accession no. XA59.2012.

The archive contains:

- 1 A4 watching brief recording sheet
- CD containing digital photographs
- Thumbnail print of digital photographs

The report is listed on the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York. Available at: <http://oasis.ac.uk/>

ID	OASIS entry summary
Project Name	Harcourt Spinney Market Bosworth
Summary	A watching brief was carried out
Project Type	Watching Brief
Project Manager	Richard Buckley
Project Supervisor	Jon Coward
Previous/Future work	No
Current Land Use	Lawned/hard standing
Development Type	House extension

Reason for Investigation	PPS5
Position in the Planning Process	Post-application
Site Co ordinates	SK 4046 0356
Start/end dates of field work	29/05/2012
Archive Recipient	LCC HNET
Study Area	150m2
Associated project reference codes	Museum accession XA59.2012 OASIS form ID: <b>universi1-127842</b>

## 9. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* and *Rutland Record* in due course. The report has been added to the Archaeology Data Service's (ADS) Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the University of York.

## 10. Bibliography

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), (rev. 2010), *Code of Conduct*

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

Buckley, R., *Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological attendance, inspection and recording (watching brief) 10 Harcourt Spinney, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire* ULAS 21/5/2012

## 11. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was funded by Mr & Mrs Nixon and was carried out by Jon Coward for ULAS. Richard Buckley managed the project.

Jon Coward  
University of Leicester Archaeological Services  
University Road  
Leicester  
LE1 7RH  
Fax: 0116 252 2614  
06/07/2011

## APPENDIX 1: Written scheme of Investigation

### UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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

10 Harcourt Spinney, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire

SK 4046 0356

For: Mr & Mrs Nixon

Planning application: 12/00082/HOU

Planning Authority: Hinckley and Bosworth

#### 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 PPS5 (Planning for the Historic Environment). This specification provides a written scheme for an archaeological watching brief, as required by the Planning Authority, in connection with the construction of an extension to an existing dwelling house.
- 1.2 The document provides details of the following work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client as recommended by the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council.
  - Archaeological monitoring of development groundworks

#### 2. Background

##### *Context of the Project (from the advice email)*

- 2.1. The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies within an area of archaeological interest. The site is 120m west of a Scheduled Roman site and the HER records show that Roman artefacts have been found in the garden of the application site, so there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the proposed 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 or historic building fabric.
  - To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits/historic building fabric to be affected by the proposed ground works.
  - To record any archaeological deposits/historic building fabric to be affected by the ground works or building alterations.
  - 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 by an experienced professional archaeologist. During groundworks, 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-slugs (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 A date for the commencement of the watching brief is to be confirmed.

## **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. Employers Liability Insurance and Public/Products Liability Insurance Allianz Insurance plc Policy No. SZ/21696148 Professional Indemnity Insurance – Newline Underwriting Management Ltd Policy No. WD1100541

## **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 2012                *Advice email of 20 March 2012 15:00 from Teresa Hawtin*

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*

Richard Buckley  
Director  
ULAS  
University of Leicester  
University Road  
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 2848  
Fax: 0116 252 2614  
Email: rjb16@le.ac.uk

© ULAS 21/5/2012



Fig. 1 Site Location

10, HARCOURT SPINNEY, MARKET BOSWORTH, LEICS



Fig. 2 Site Plan

## Contact Details

Richard Buckley or Patrick Clay  
University of Leicester Archaeological  
Services (ULAS)  
University of Leicester,  
University Road,  
Leicester LE1 7RH

**T:** +44 (0)116 252 2848

**F:** +44 (0)116 252 2614

**E:** [ulas@le.ac.uk](mailto:ulas@le.ac.uk)

**w:** [www.le.ac.uk/ulas](http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas)



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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