



# University of Leicester

## Archaeological Services

Archaeological attendance for  
inspection and recording during  
ground-works at 'The Bank',  
Main Street, Ullesthorpe,  
Leicestershire  
(SP 5065 8771)



**Archaeological attendance for inspection and recording  
during ground-works at  
'The Bank', Main Street,  
Ullesthorpe,  
Leicestershire  
(SP 5065 8771)**

**Leon Hunt**

*for*

Tobias Property Development  
Planning App. No. 09/00526/FUL

**Checked by Project Manager**

**Signed:**



**Date: 10/5/2012**

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**Accession Number: X.A48.2012**

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## **Archaeological attendance for inspection and recording during ground-works at 'The Bank', Main Street, Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire (SP 5065 8771)**

Leon Hunt

### **Summary**

*An archaeological investigation (strip, plan and sample) was carried out by ULAS during ground-works at The Bank', Main Street, Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire (SP 5065 8771).*

*The site lies in the medieval and post-medieval core of Ullesthorpe.*

*The site previously contained a detached 19th-century house (originally two dwellings) with a long rectangular garden behind. The land had been stripped of vegetation prior to the archaeological attendance.*

*Areas for new dwellings at the western side of the garden and along the street frontage were stripped and observed.*

*No archaeological features or archaeological artefacts were observed or retrieved during the archaeological work.*

### **Introduction**

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Tobias Property Developments to carry out an archaeological inspection (strip, plan and sample excavation) during ground-works at 'The Bank', Main Street, Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire (SP 5065 8771).

This archaeological work is in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Section 12 (conserving and enhancing the historic environment). The work was required as a condition of the planning consent, issued by Harborough District Council following advice from the Historic and Natural Environment Team, Environment and Heritage Services Department, Leicestershire County Council.

### **Site Location, Geology and Topography**

The site lies on the northern side of Main Street, Ullesthorpe. The village of Ullesthorpe lies in the Harborough District of Leicestershire around 3.5 miles north-west of Lutterworth (Figure 1).

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Oadby Member – Diamicton.

The site lies on an elongated sub-rectangular piece of land. The site previously contained a detached house, formed of two 19th-century dwellings, facing the southern street front with garages to the west and east. A large garden lay to the north.

The building had been demolished and the land stripped of vegetation prior to the archaeological attendance. The land lay around 0.5m above the road line and was mainly flat.

The land measure 879 square metres and lies at a height of around 118m aOD.



## 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 strip plan and sample excavation 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.

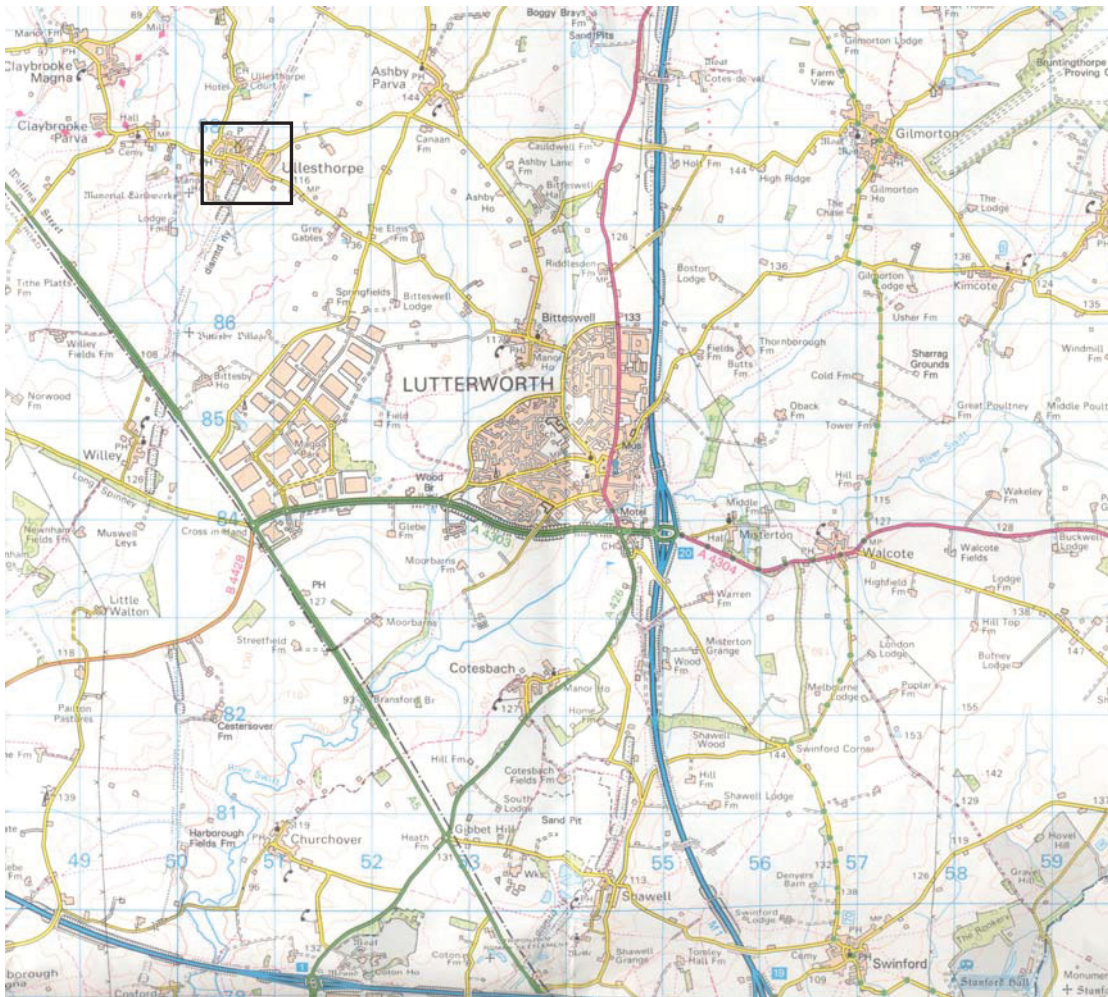


Figure 1: Site Location

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## Archaeological Background

The site lies within the medieval and post medieval settlement core of the village.

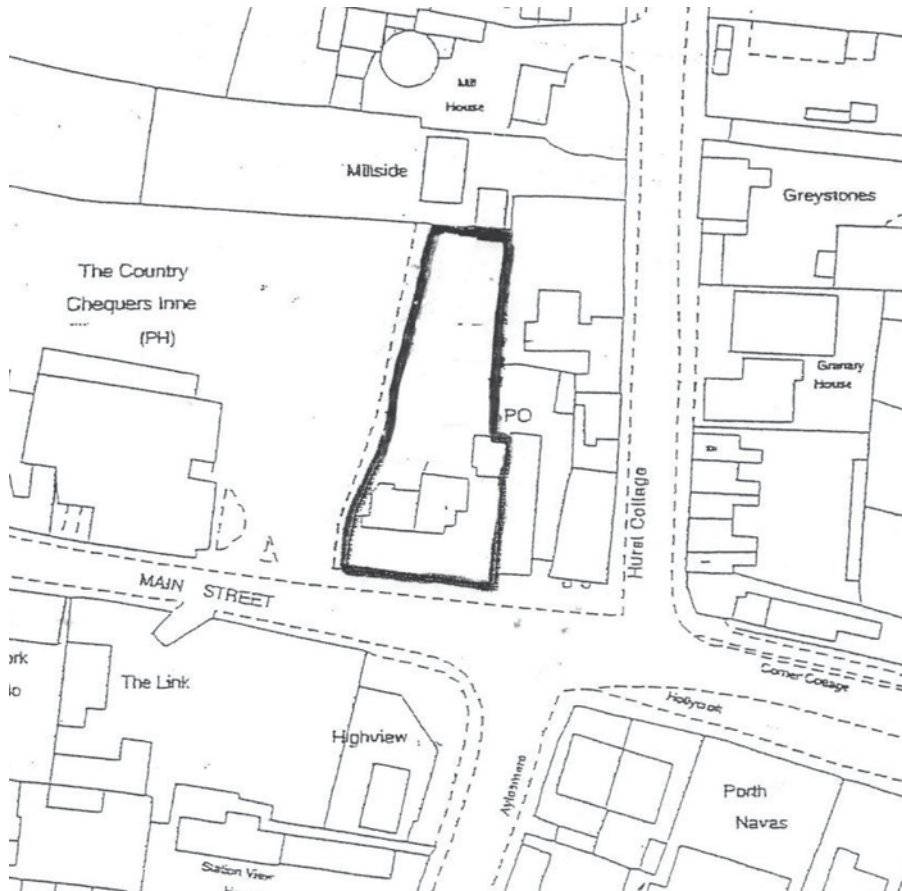


Figure 2: Plan of development site. Scale 1: 1250. Provided by developer

## 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 Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Work* 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 soils were stripped with a large tracked excavator fitted with a flat ditching bucket.

## Results

The 19th-century building had been demolished prior to the archaeological attendance and the land had been levelled. Trees and shrubs had been removed (Plates 1 & 2).

Initially a rectangular area measuring 14m x 8m was stripped where a single house was to be constructed on the western side of the site (Plate 3).

The topsoil, a dark humic garden soil, 0.5m deep, was stripped in two separate spits down to the substratum of yellowish brown clay with flints. This was carried out in two halves; with the eastern half checked first and then the western half. The soil contained a number of bricks and other modern material. No archaeological features were observed (Plates 4 & 5).

The work then proceeded to the street frontage (Plate 6). The land lay around 1m above the line of the pavement. Around 0.45m of topsoil, consisting of a greyish brown silty clay was removed to reveal a mixed and partially disturbed natural substratum, mainly of yellowish brown clay with patches of pebbles and flint. The remains of several drains and other disturbed areas were revealed. Initially a strip around 4m wide was removed down to the natural (Plate 7) and then the whole of the front of the site was stripped. No archaeological remains were revealed (Plate 8).

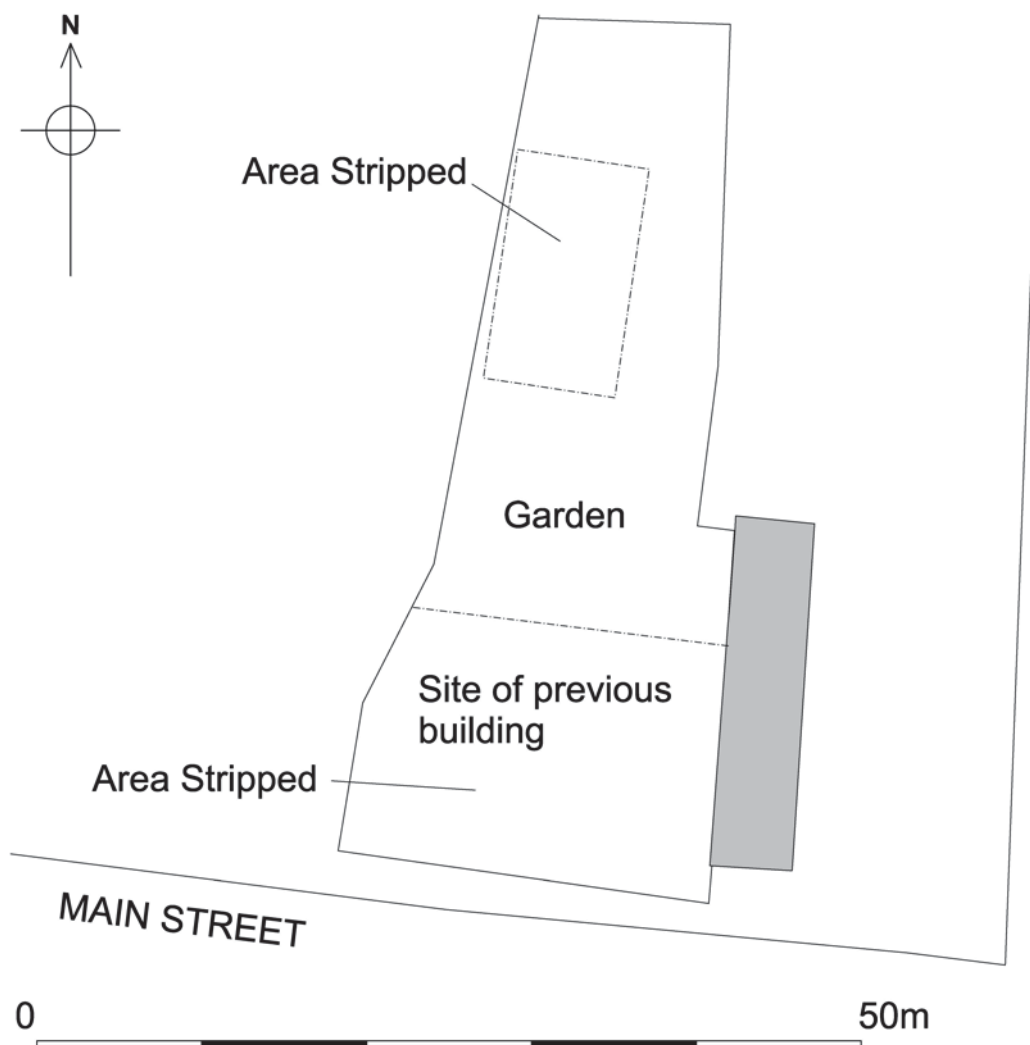


Figure 3: Plan of site and areas observed

### Conclusion

The site at 'The Bank', Main Street, Ullesthorpe had some potential for archaeological remains due to its proximity to medieval and post-medieval buildings within the historic core of the village.

The area to the rear of the site, which had more potential due to its undisturbed nature, was shown to be void of any archaeological features.

The front of the site had less potential as it had been previously developed and remnants of the previous building and services still remained, with the remains of drains and ceramic building materials encountered.

No archaeological features or artefacts were found throughout the site.

### **Acknowledgements**

ULAS would like to thank Tobias Property Development for the work. Leon Hunt would like to thank Rob Maloy and Bez (of Bez Plant) for their help and co-operation during the archaeological attendance. The watching brief was carried out by the author and the project manager was Richard Buckley.

### **Archive**

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A48.2012 and consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report. No 2012-076
- 1 Watching brief recording sheet
- 1 Set digital photographs
- 1 Set B&W photographs
- 1 Set B&W negatives

The report will be 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/> (Appendix I).

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09-05-2012





Plate 1: The site prior to stripping, looking south-west



Plate 2: The site prior to stripping, looking north-west





Plate 3: Work in progress on garden area. Looking north-west



Plate 4: Eastern side of garden area stripped, looking south-west





Plate 5: Western part of garden area stripped, looking south



Plate 6: Work in progress at street frontage, looking north-east





Plate 7: Finished initial strip at street frontage, looking north



Plate 8: Street frontage area stripped, looking south-east

## Appendix 1 OASIS

| <b>INFORMATION REQUIRED</b>      | <b>DATA</b>                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Project Name                     | The Bank, Main St. Ullesthorpe |
| Project Type                     | Strip, plan and sample         |
| Project Manager                  | Vicki Score                    |
| Project Supervisor               | Leon Hunt                      |
| Previous/Future work             | No/No                          |
| Current Land Use                 | House & garden                 |
| Development Type                 | New housing                    |
| Reason for Investigation         | Planning Policy Statement 5:   |
| Position in the Planning Process | As a condition                 |
| Site Co ordinates                | SP 5065 8771                   |
| Start/end dates of field work    | 23/04/12                       |
| Archive Recipient                | Leicestershire Museums         |
| Height min/max                   | 118 aOD                        |
| Study Area                       | 879 sq. m.                     |
| Finds                            | None                           |



**Appendix II: Written scheme of investigation:****UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES****Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological work:  
Strip, map and sample excavation and Watching Brief**

*Job title: "The Bank". Main Street. Ullesthorpe*

NGR: SP 5065 8771

*Client: Tobias property Development*

*Planning Authority: Harborough District Council*

*Planning application No. 09/00526/FUL  
& Conservation Area Consent 09/00204/CON*

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

This document is a design specification for an archaeological strip/map and sample excavation at the above site, in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment, Policy HE12.3 (DCLG 2010). It has been produced in response to a condition placed on the planning permission by Harborough District Council following advice from the Historic and Natural Environment Team, Environment and Heritage Services Department, Leicestershire County Council. This specification provides a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for a phase of archaeological control and supervision of groundworks with excavation of affected deposits. The fieldwork specified below is intended to investigate and record any buried archaeological remains which may exist on the site that are affected by the proposals.

- 1.2 The definition of archaeological excavation, taken from the Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance: for Archaeological excavations (IFA S&G) is a controlled programme of intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features, structures, and as appropriate, retrieves artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. 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****2.1 Context of the Project**

- 2.1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Harborough District Council for the construction of three houses at the above site, following demolition of the existing property, with a condition requiring the implementation of a scheme of archaeological investigation. This is to comprise an archaeologically supervised soil strip of the affected area, together with archaeological excavation and recording of affected deposits as necessary. No Brief has been issued by the Senior Planning Archaeologist for the work.
- 2.1.2 The document provides details of the methodology to be adopted by ULAS on behalf of the client in the course of the strip/map and sample excavation.
- 2.1.2 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Oadby Member – Diamicton.

**2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 2.2.1 The site is located in the medieval and post-medieval core of the village of Ullesthorpe (MLE 10380).

### 3. Archaeological Objectives

3.1 The main objectives of the archaeological work will be:

- To identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or 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.

### 4. Methodology

4.1 General Methodology and Standards

4.1.1 All work will follow the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological watching briefs* (2008).

4.1.2 Staffing, recording systems, health and safety provisions and insurance details are included below.

4.1.3 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 Senior Planning Archaeologist, the Planning authority and the Client.

4.2 Strip, Plan and Sample

4.2.1 The project will involve the supervision of overburden removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist in advance of the commencement of groundworks and determine the presence/absence of any archaeological remains. This may involve the initial excavation of trial trenches.

4.2.2 Should significant archaeological remains be identified this will be followed by a programme of excavation and recording, using additional personnel as necessary.

4.2.3 The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with the contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work.

4.2.4 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 using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) where appropriate.

4.2.5 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, 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.

4.2.6 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.

4.2.7 Any human remains encountered will be initially left in situ and only be removed under a Ministry of Justice Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The developer and Leicestershire County Council will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.2.8 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located there may be the need for contingency time and finance to be provided to ensure adequate recording is undertaken. On the discovery of potentially significant remains the archaeologist will inform the developer, the Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council and the planning authority. If the archaeological remains are identified to be of significance additional contingent archaeological works will be required.

4.3 Archaeological on-site recording

- 4.3.2 The archaeological features exposed by the machine stripping will be planned and sample excavated to provide an adequate sample to address the objectives (3.1).
- 4.3.3 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 using a Total Station Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM). 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.
- 4.3.4 The location of the excavation will be surveyed using a GPS or Total Station Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) linked to a hand held computer.
- 4.3.5 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, 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.
- 4.3.6 Any human remains encountered will be initially left in situ, where appropriate the police and coroner shall be informed. Human remains will only be removed following appropriate liaison with the Ministry of Justice and in compliance with their requirements and in accordance with appropriate professional standards and guidance, as well as other relevant environmental health regulations. In all circumstances the developer and Leicestershire County Council, will be informed immediately upon the discovery of significant human remains.
- 4.3.7 Any material recovered which would be regarded as treasure following the Treasure Act 1996 will be reported to the coroner.
- 4.3.8 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site from the project manager. These will ensure that professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for monitoring visits with representatives of the developer (Leicestershire County Council Highways), Leicestershire County Council's Historic & Natural Environment Team and the planning authority.
- 4.3.9 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located during the fieldwork programme there may be the need for contingency time and finance to be provided to ensure adequate recording is undertaken. On the discovery of potentially significant remains the archaeologist will inform the developer, the Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, HNET and the planning authority. If the archaeological remains are identified to be of significance additional contingent archaeological works will be required.
- 4.4 Recording Systems
- 4.4.1 The ULAS recording manual will be used as a guide for all recording.
- 4.4.2 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto pro-forma recording sheets.
- 4.4.3 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.
- 4.4.4 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, typically at a scale of 1:10. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be recorded.
- 4.4.5 A 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.
- 4.4.6 This record will be compiled and checked during the course of the excavations.

## 5. Finds and Samples

- 5.1 The IfA *Guidelines for Finds Work* will be adhered to.
- 5.2 Before commencing work on the site, a Site code/Accession number will be agreed with the Planning Archaeologist that will be used to identify all records and finds from the site.
- 5.3 During the fieldwork, different sampling strategies may be employed according to the perceived importance of the strata under investigation. Close attention will always be given to sampling for date, structure and environment. If significant archaeological features are sample excavated, the environmental sampling strategy is likely to include the following:
- 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.
- 5.4 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 Senior Planning Archaeologist. The IfA *Guidelines for Finds Work* will be adhered to.
- 5.5 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner. Where appropriate they will be cleaned, marked and receive remedial conservation in accordance with recognised best-practice. This will include the site code number, finds number and context number. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self sealing plastic bags, again marked with site code, finds and context numbers and boxed by material in standard storage boxes (340mm x 270mm x 195mm). All materials will be fully labelled, catalogued and stored in appropriate containers.

## **6. Report and Archive**

- 6.1 A report on the fieldwork will be provided following analysis of the records and materials.
- 7.2. 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.
- 7.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in Brown (2008) will be presented to an appropriate registered museum within six months of the completion of analysis. This archive will include all written, disk-based, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.
- 7.4 On the completion of fieldwork the on-line OASIS form at <http://oasis.ac.uk> will be submitted.

## **8. Acknowledgement and Publicity**

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 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.

## **9. Copyright**

- 9.1 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.

**10. Timetable**

- 10.1 The strip map and sample excavation will be undertaken followed by the archaeological attendance at a date TBA (probably March 2012) with one member of staff.
- 10.2 Following the fieldwork 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.

**11. Health and Safety**

- 11.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Archaeological Services Health and Safety Policy and Health and Safety manual with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is attached as Appendix 1. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate. The HSE has determined that archaeological investigations are exempt from CDM regulations.
- 11.2 A Risks assessment will be completed prior to work commencing on-site, and updated as necessary during the site works.

**12. Insurance**

- 12.1 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.

**13. Monitoring arrangements**

- 13.1 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. At least one week's notice will be given to the LCC HNET Senior Planning Archaeologist before the commencement of the archaeological fieldwork in order that monitoring arrangements can be made.
- 13.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the *IfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations, excavations or watching briefs* as appropriate.
- 13.3 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

**14. Contingencies and unforeseen circumstances**

- 14.1 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.

**15. Bibliography**

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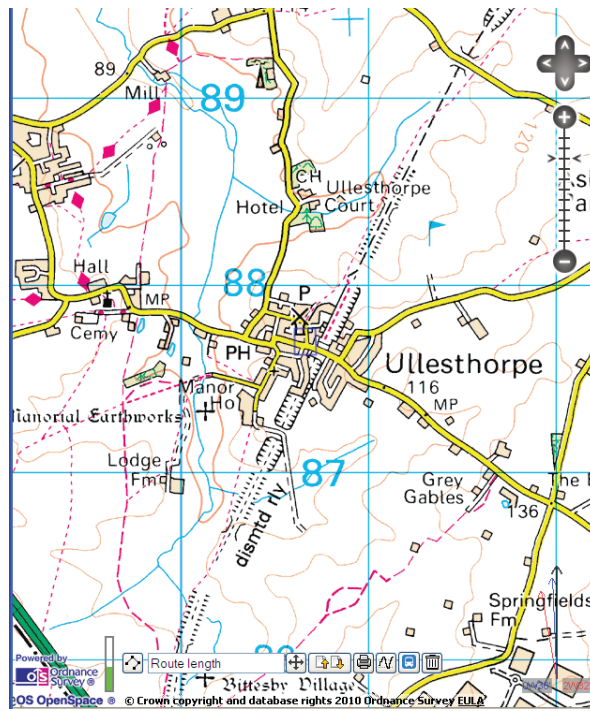
|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Brown, D.,<br>2008 | <i>Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives</i> (Institute for Archaeologists)                          |
|                    | <a href="http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/chr/default.aspx">http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/chr/default.aspx</a> |
| IfA, 2010          | <i>Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs.</i>   |
| IfA, 2010          | <i>Code of Conduct</i>  |

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Site Location Plan. 3no. New Houses.  
 Land at site of "The Bank", Main Street.  
 Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire. LE17 5BT.  
 for Tobias Property Development.  
 Scale : 1:1250 @ A4 Size.  
 Craig Harwood @ Kindertons Property Development.  
 Kindertons House, Marshfield Bank, Crewe, Cheshire, CW2 8UY.  
 Tel : 08450 942311.

**Fig. 1 Location Plans**

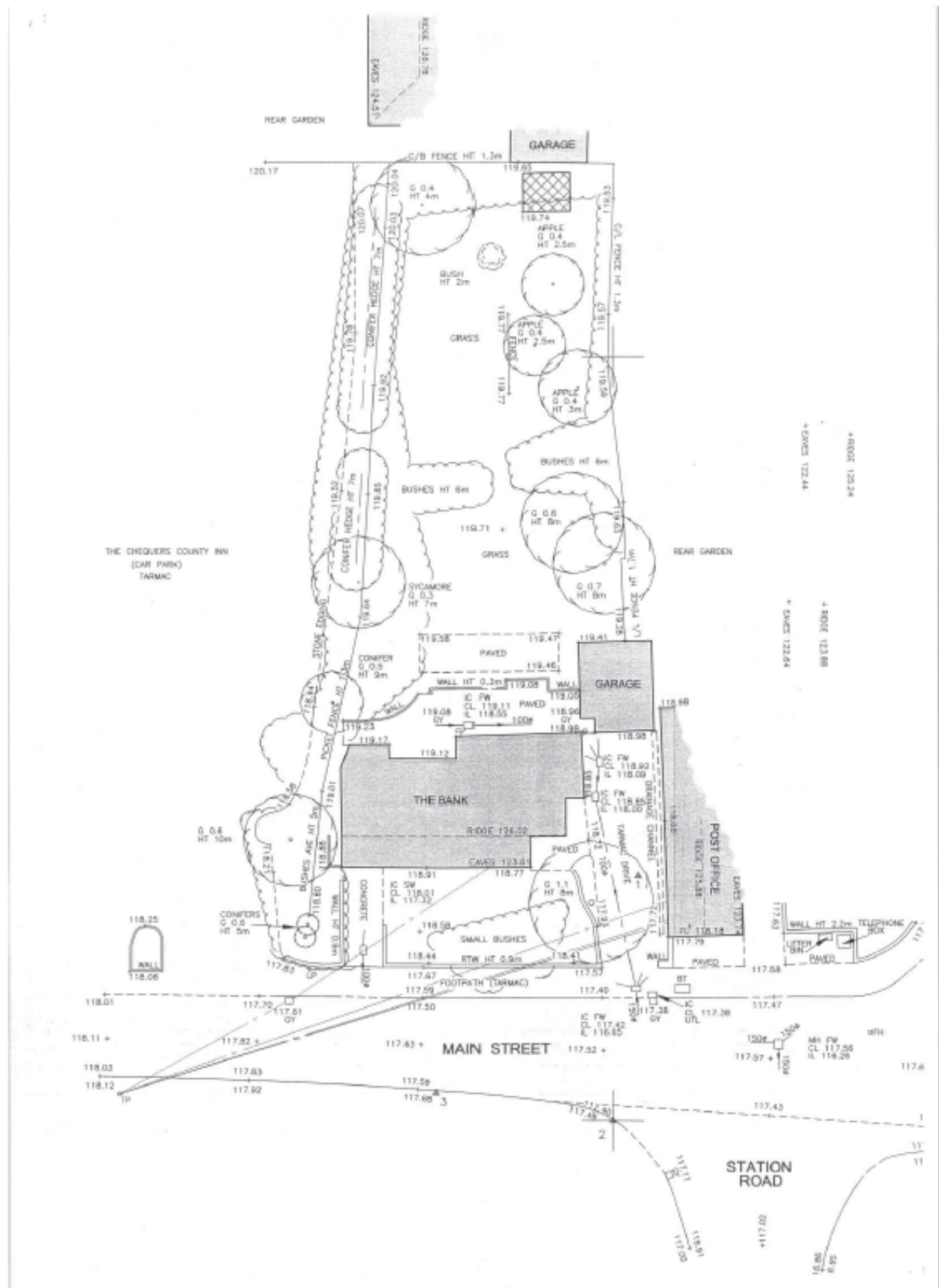


Fig 2: Existing Site Layout

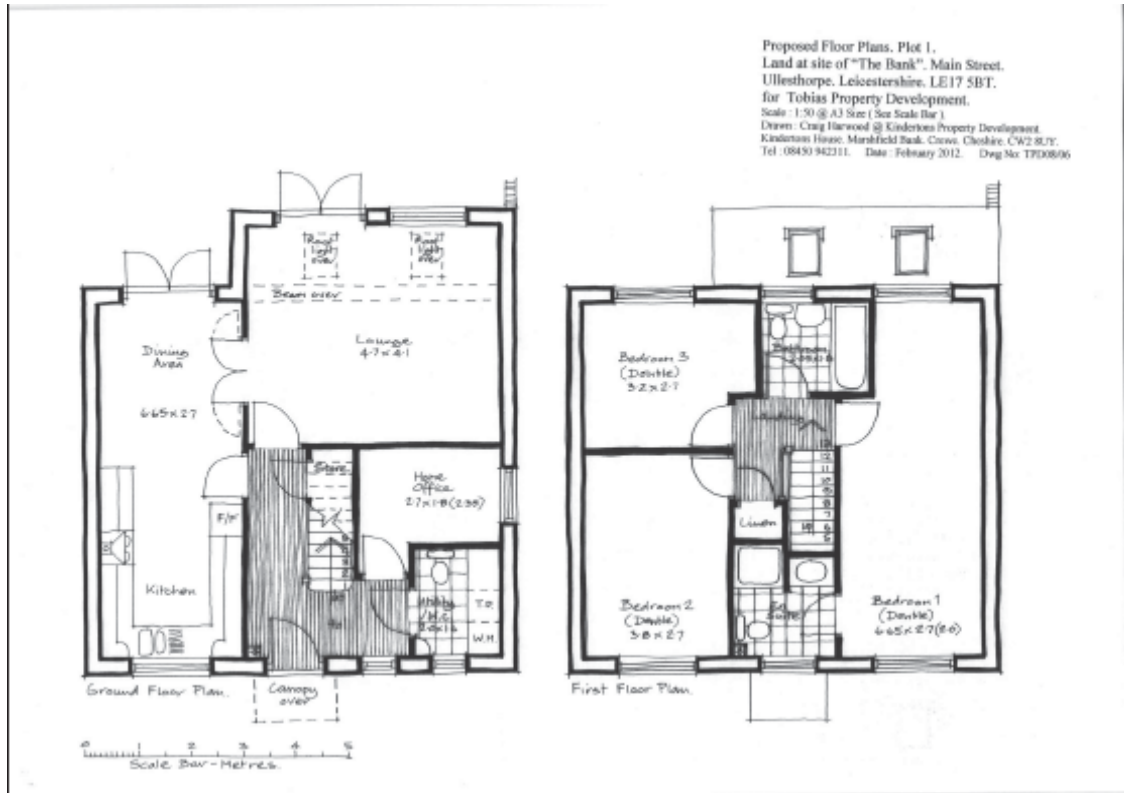


Figure 2 proposed ground-floor plan

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF METHOD STATEMENT & RISK ASSESSMENT**

| Site Name  | Job No        | Start Date | PM              | Contact       |
|--|---------------|------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <i>Job title: "The Bank". Main Street. Ullesthorpe NGR: SP 5065 8771</i> | 12-168        |            | Richard Buckley | 0116 252 2848 |
| Site Director  | Site Contacts |            | Team (Nos)      |               |
| TBC  | TBC           |            |                 |               |

**SITE WORKS & METHOD STATEMENT**

The work will involve the supervision of machining across the area as detailed in the specification followed by excavation of archaeological deposits

**Excavation Method Statement**

- Access and parking will be gained via authorised routes to be arranged with the land owner/tenant.
- All staff will be inducted by the site director prior to starting work on site (Appendix 3).
- **Services:** A CAT Scanner may be used in both POWER and RADIO mode to scan trench lines for services prior to excavation. [The CAT must be in calibration and used by a competent person and used in both POWER and RADIO mode.
- Trenches will not be excavated within 15m of known water mains or sewers or in the vicinity of other underground services or electrical cables without a separate SSOW. Any known services will be marked on the ground and avoided. All machine excavation will be carefully monitored.
- No work will be undertaken beneath overhead cables. If a tracked machine is required to pass below an overhead cable a separate SSOW will be followed.
- **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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