

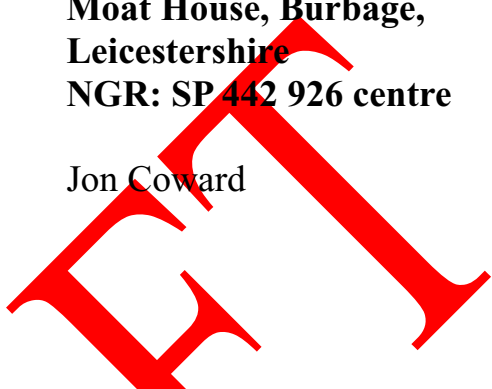


**University of  
Leicester**

**Archaeological Services**

**Sample and Evaluation  
Excavations at Burbage  
Moat House, Burbage,  
Leicestershire  
NGR: SP 442 926 centre**

Jon Coward



ULAS Report No 2011-031  
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**Sample and Evaluation Excavations at Burbage**

**Moat House, Burbage, Leicestershire**

**NGR: SP 442 926 centre**

**Jon Coward**

**For: J Guest Ltd**

Approved by

**Signed:**



**.Date: 15-03-2011**

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## **Sample and Evaluation Excavations at Burbage Moat House, Burbage, Leicestershire SP 442 926**

### **1. Summary**

*Sample excavation and exploratory trial trenching were undertaken by ULAS for J. Guest Ltd in March 2011 at the Moat House, Burbage, Leicestershire (SP 442 926), in advance of redevelopment. The sample excavations were undertaken in conjunction with groundworks for the construction of phase 1 of the development and revealed no definite features or deposits of any antiquity, the area having been extensively disturbed. One of the exploratory trial trenches located to pick up the possible remnants of a previous building on the site did however reveal a stretch of wall which may represent part of the demolished rectory. Medieval roofing tile was noted in the vicinity, including a complete example which was retained.*

*The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service under accession code X.A20.2011 in due course.*

### **2. Introduction**

This work was undertaken in accordance with DOE Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5: Planning and the Historic Environment). As it was deemed that the proposed development would have a damaging effect on any archaeological deposits present within the application area, Leicestershire County Council Historic and Natural Environment Team, as archaeological advisors to the planning authority requested a two stage archaeological investigation to identify any archaeological deposits and avoid or minimise damage by the development.

Stage 1 was designed to mitigate the effects of phase 1 of the development and comprised a strip, plan and sample of phase 1 of the building beginning with a series of trial trenches (Fig. 2 trn04 – trn15) to determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits and if present, their depth in relation to the proposed formation level. In the event that deposits could be shown to be affected by the proposed ground works, areas would then be stripped for further investigation.

The second stage comprised exploratory trial trenches located to attempt to pick up the remains of the earlier house (Fig. 2 trn01-trn03) and assesses the nature and extent of archaeological deposits which might be affected by phase 2 of the development.

### **3. Background**

The project comprises the construction of a residential/nursing home along with eight residential units at Moat House Burbage, Leicestershire (Fig1; SP 442 926). Archaeological work was constrained by the presence of the existing building on the site.

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 141 indicates that the underlying geology consists of Dunsmore Gravel, a combination of clay, sand and gravel. The site lay at a height of 129.5 - 131m OD.

#### 4. Historical Background (from the WSI)

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site occupies an area of archaeological interest. The proposed development area is within the historic core of the medieval village of Burbage and is the site of 18th-century pleasure gardens belonging to the former rectory, now demolished. The earthworks of a moat constructed as part of these gardens are still clearly visible on the land to the west of Moat house (adjacent to the Phase 1 proposed development). A previous archaeological evaluation (Kipling 2003) in part of the affected area noted

'there were also hints of the survival of insubstantial medieval features in those areas not disturbed by subsequent gardening and/or landscaping activity'.

*n.b.* It was noted that in associated paperwork, and previous reports, the map reference had been incorrectly given an SK prefix, placing the site in Rotherham, rather than the correct SP prefix.

#### 5. Aims

Stage 1: Through archaeological controlled trenching and investigation:

- 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.

Stage 2: Through the examination of a trial trench, the main objectives of the evaluation will be:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation was to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.



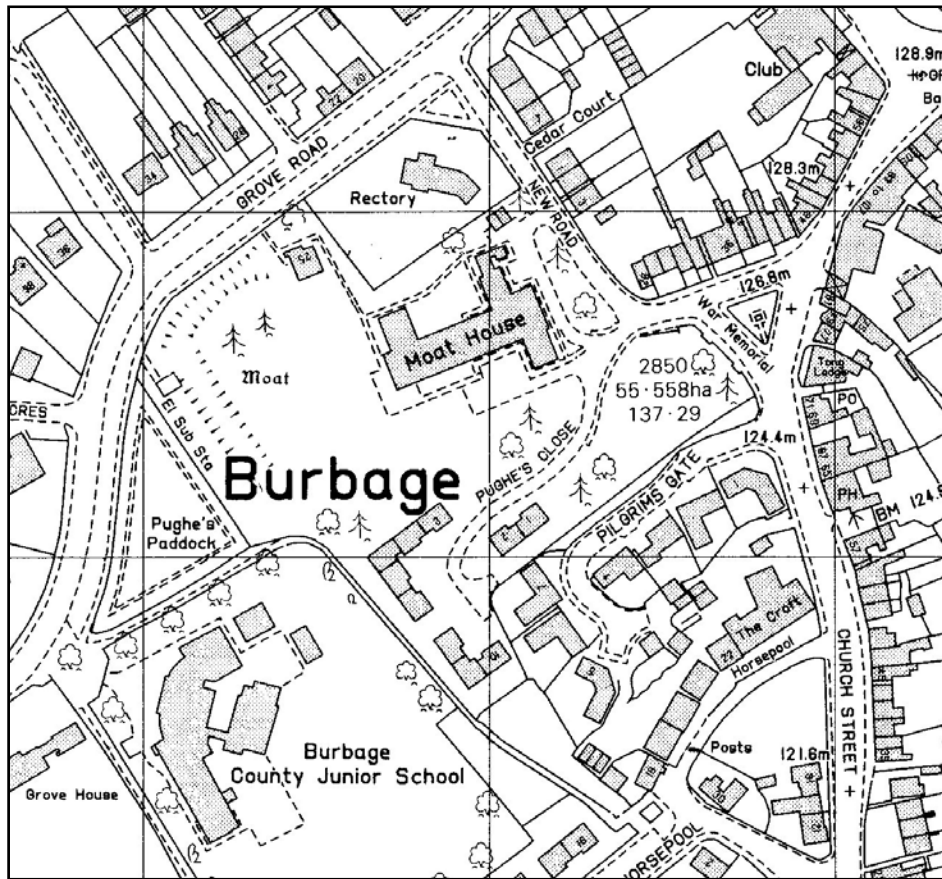


Figure 1 The Moat House, Burbage

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## 6. Methodology

### *Strip plan and sample*

The Brief and Written Scheme of Investigation envisaged a 'strip, plan, and sample' project on the assumption that the footprint of the new build and associated groundworks was to be taken down to formation level in an area strip; in the event the developers decided that site and soil conditions were not suitable for this kind of technique. As an area strip was not being undertaken, an archaeological strategy was adopted of sampling the affected area with trenches, and if features of plausible antiquity were discovered, to define their extents with further trenching, as necessary (Fig. 2). Some trenches (e.g. Fig. 2, trn05) were outside the footprint but over land where some ground reduction was to take place. Part of the north-west of the footprint was inaccessible due to trees, but it was felt that the root systems would have disturbed any underlying deposits in any case. All trenches were 1.6m in width; a total of c.238 square metres was opened, excluding trenches 1-3.

### *Evaluation trial trenching*

The brief called for a 20m by 1.6m exploratory trench to be excavated from the south-west corner of the present building eastward with the aim of picking up a corner of the former rectory which lies mostly under the present building. In the event, this proved to be impracticable as the immediately adjacent building is a working nursing home, and any trench in this position would cut through access and exit paths, including a fire exit. Moreover, a live electricity cable feeding the outbuildings to the south runs at right angles away from the side of the nursing home. Thus trenches were located wherever they could be fitted (Fig. 2). Trench 1 was 3.1m in length by 1.6m width and was located between a fire exit and the electrical service cable. Trench 2 was 6m in length; this ran from the other side of the cable and access/exit path, eastwards towards an access path into portacabin offices. Trench 3 was 9m long and ran south-south-east down the side of this path before dog-legging to the south to avoid the offices.

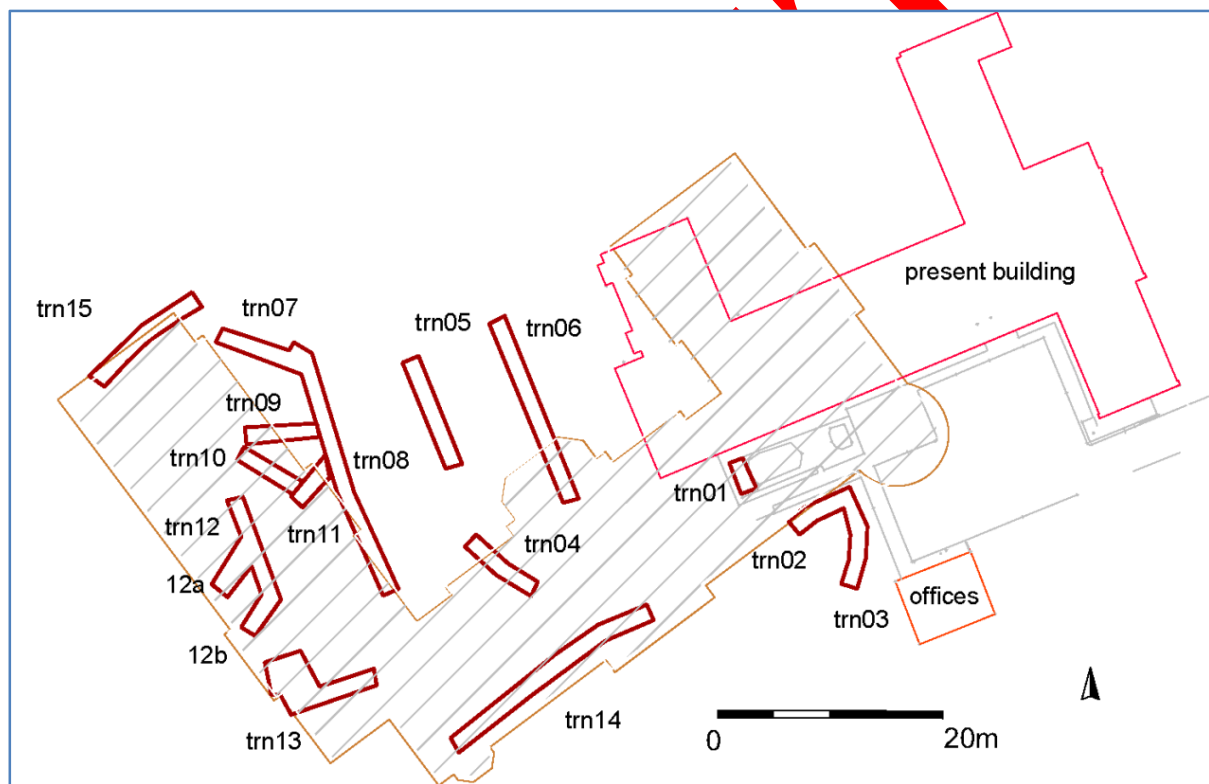


Figure 2 Trench positions, extant building, and proposed building

## 7. Results

### *Trenches 04-15*

Many modern features were encountered during the trenching. These included large pits several metres in diameter, shallow scoops, a culvert, some brick wall footings (presumably Victorian garden walls judging by the thickness and type of brick), drains of varying construction (both brick and French) and a plausible ditch running through three trenches which exhibited a V profile. What was soon apparent was that all of these features were obviously modern (e.g. 18th century or later). All contained fragments of modern brick and tile debris in their fills, or were cut through deposits which contained this sort of debris.

What also became apparent was that there was extensive redeposition, with very few of the trenches exhibiting the standard stratigraphy of topsoil overlying subsoil and the substrata. Redeposited building debris, including 19th and 18th-century brick, tile fragments, masonry (mostly granite) and dumps of sand were spread over the area. Only trenches 15 to the north and 14 to the south revealed natural substrata, and much of trench 14 was extensively disturbed by tree and shrub roots. Trial excavation was only carried out on features which were not obviously modern.

### *Features investigated*

The V section of a ditch *c.* 1m width and 0.50m depth was encountered in trench 12. The feature was followed (Fig. 2, trn 12A) where it terminated. Further stretches of the same ditch were seen in trenches 10 and 09, where it appeared to be cut by a French drain, although it did not appear on the opposite side of the drain. Initial sections through the ditch indicated that it could plausibly be of some antiquity, as no modern material was encountered in the fill. However, excavations at the east end revealed it was filled with a dump of 18th-century brick fragments. The ditch also cut modern redeposited material in trench 10 and is likely to be a modern feature. The ditch is on the same alignment as ditch 03 in trench 1 of the 2003 evaluation (Kipling 2003), which was undated.

The only other feature to merit investigation was a shallow scoop in trench 13, *c.* 2.3m by 1.2m wide and 0.15m deep. The fill (05) was a sandy silt. At the very top of the fill medieval pottery was recovered (see Appendix 1). Although exhibiting plausible sides and base to the south and south-east, the definition of the feature degraded to both the west and north to the extent and it is considered more likely to represent a root bowl than a genuine archaeological deposit.

### *Trenches 01-03*

Below the turf, deposits in trench 1 were split diagonally from north-west to south-east. To the south-west were possible undisturbed deposits, with a grey-brown, clay-silt subsoil over orange silty-clay. The north-eastern deposits were disturbed and/or redeposited, with deposits of building debris.

Trench 2 showed potential undisturbed strata at its very west end, with a subsoil and orange clay natural substrata reached at a depth of 0.3m below ground level. The rest of the trench was disturbed and contained redeposited material, again with abundant amounts of building debris. Within these deposits, however, was the base of a mortared brick footing (Fig. 3, (03))



crossing the trench north-west to south-east. This was made up of frogless brick, of slightly irregular dimensions but typically 9.5" (240mm) long by 4.25" (110mm) width by 2.25" (60mm) depth. Two more irregular courses were identified in-situ below the machined level (Figs 3 - 5); the disturbed upper courses had been machined off. The structure did not give the appearance of being particularly well-made, even allowing for some disturbance. The footing appeared to have originally crossed the trench, but has been partly truncated or removed on the south side of the trench. East of this wall footing all deposits were disturbed and/or redeposited down to the base at 0.60m below ground level. Within this disturbed material was a discrete area of sizeable (up to 230 by 270mm) chunks of granite masonry (04) with some associated mortar; this may represent a very disturbed *in-situ* structure of unknown orientation, but cleaning failed to show any convincing bonding, and it is more likely a dump.

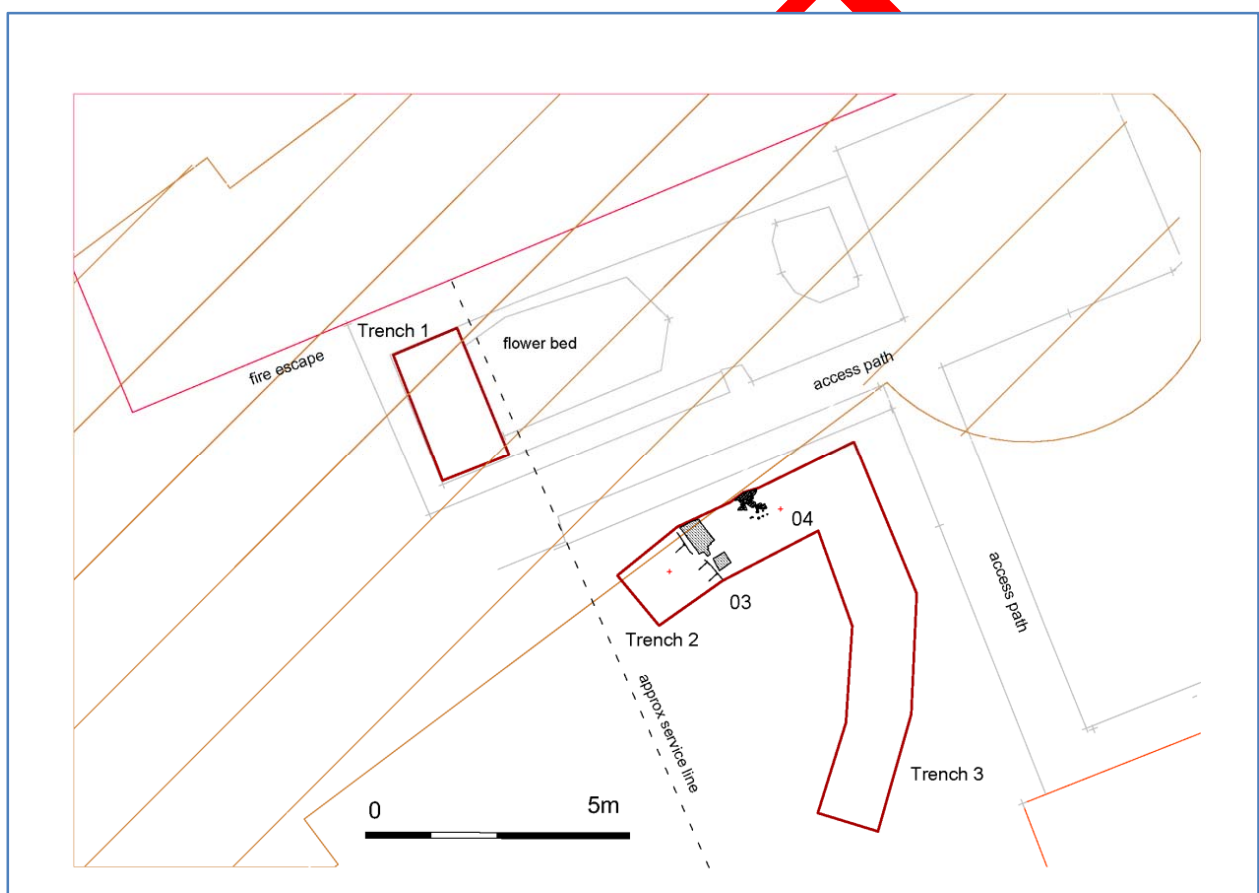


Figure 3 Detail of trenches 1-3 showing extant (red) and proposed (brown) buildings



Figure 4 Wall footing in trench 2

Trench 3 showed the same disturbed and redeposited strata as trench 2. Natural strata were not encountered down to the trench base at c. 0.60m. The wall footing in trench 2 did not make a re-appearance in trench 3, nor was there any evidence for a robber cut on the extrapolated line.

## 8. Discussion

As well as the granite masonry and building material, a distinct type of smashed tile was very common in the exposed deposits, comprising a rectangular ceramic nibbed roof tile in an orange fabric. A complete example of one of these medieval tiles was retained for analysis (see pottery report below). It is most likely that all this building debris originally came from either a building on the site itself, or perhaps adjacent to the site. The house shown on the site in illustration by Nichols looks to be early 18th century (Fig. 5), and although it could have been hiding an earlier structure inside, the medieval roof tiles are likely to have come from a predecessor.

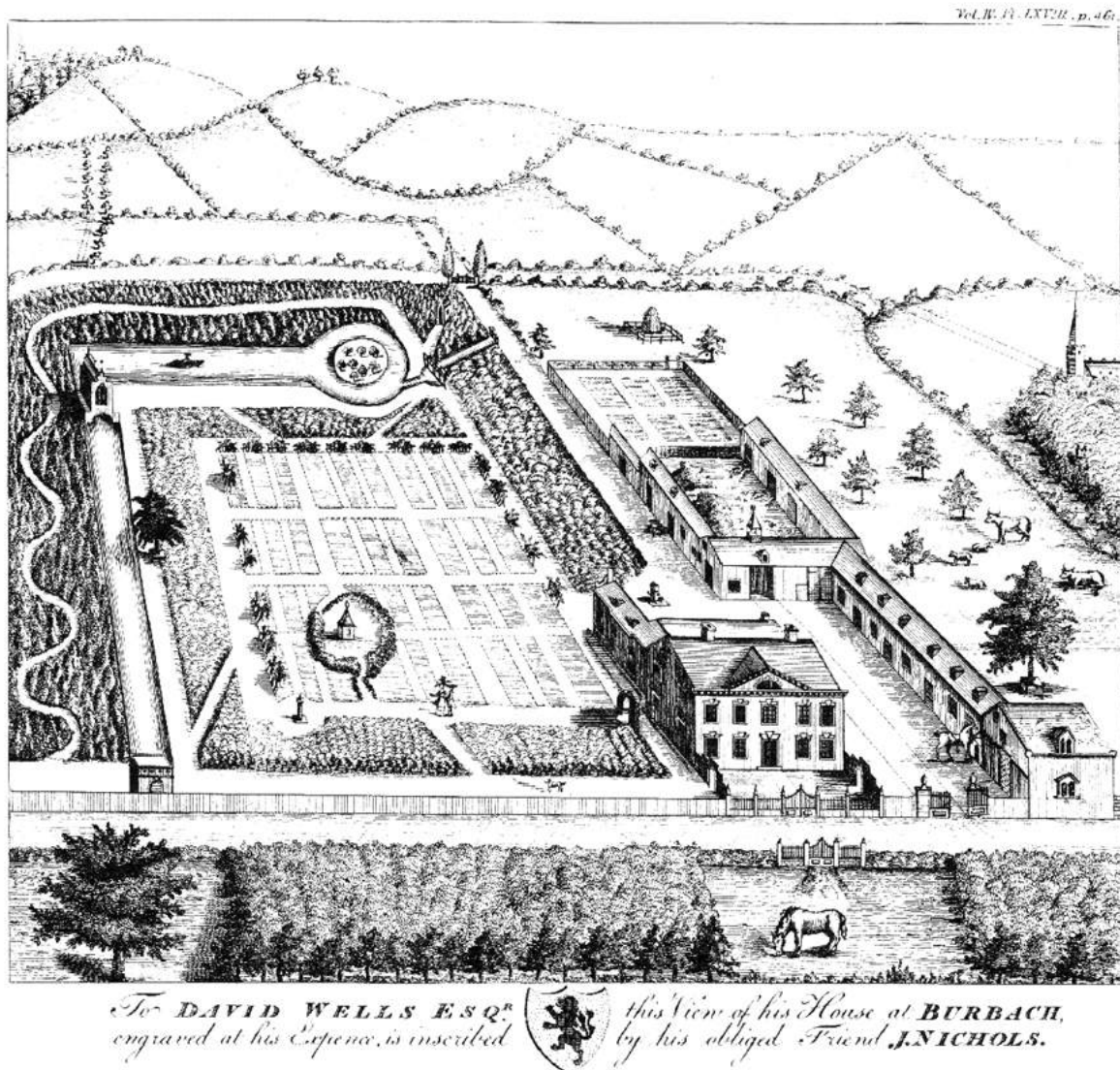


Figure 5: 19th century illustration of the Moat House from Nichols, Vol. 4, Part 2, Plate 68 (1811)

A modern culvert/drain seen in trench 14 and traced through trench 4 has interesting construction techniques and materials. For the construction a wide trench was cut, and the sides filled with various forms of hardcore, predominantly large lumps of granite, some of which were considerable size and weight. The irregular culvert roof was created by wedging

flatter pieces across, or roughly corbelled using interlocking chunks. The presence of modern white porcelain wedged in between the interlocking chunks proves this to be a modern construction, but it is both slap-dash and over-engineered; the most likely explanation for its construction style is that there was a large amount of granite masonry lying around to hand.

The 18th-century pleasure gardens, moat and ancillary structures would have necessarily entailed landscaping; further disturbance will have been caused by their removal, followed by the demolition of the 18th-century house and construction of the present nursing home in the 1970s. The results of the sample exercise have confirmed that there is likely to be very little undisturbed natural ground in the area of the proposed building footprint: in general, the area has been subjected to earth-moving on a large scale.

### *The Old Rectory*

Wall (03) is on the same orientation as the demolished rectory, and may represent it, although the original 1880s mapping suggests that the rectory wall should be about three metres to the north-east (Fig. 5). The bricks certainly look 18th century rather than 19th century, and the construction is a bit slap-dash. However, were this the rectory wall, the structure would represent the unseen footings rather than the wall proper which might explain the unfinished nature of the structure. Alternatively it may be some ancillary structure to the house. There was a lot of disturbed and redeposited material in the vicinity; it is not easy to say whether this derives from the 1960s demolition of the rectory and construction of the present building, or from the original construction of the demolished building. It may be noted that the formation level for the new build at 129.60m is well above wall 03 which is at 128.5m.

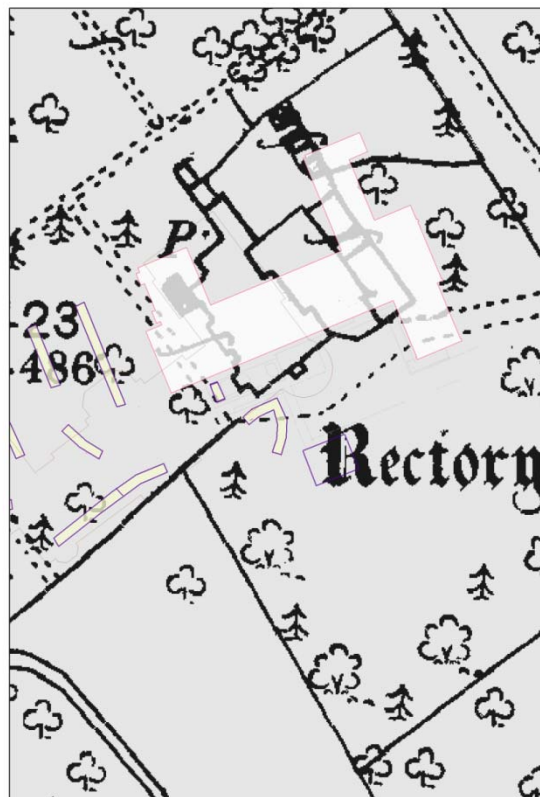


Figure 6 Present building and trenches overlain onto 1st edition OS map



## 9. Archive

The archive consists of:

- Monochrome film and contact prints
- Digital files and contact sheets
- 1 sheet photo index
- 1 sheet context index
- 1 sheet drawing sheet index
- 15 *pro-forma* trench record sheets
- 3 context sheets
- 1 sheet permagraph scaled plan

It will be deposited with LMARS under accession code X.A20.2011 in due course.

## 10. Acknowledgements

The project was carried out by Jon Coward and Steve Baker of ULAS. Project management was by Richard Buckley. ULAS would like to thank the staff of J Guest Ltd for their assistance in carrying out the project.

## 11. Bibliography

(see n.b. para 3 for note on map references)

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## Appendix 1: The finds

*Deborah Sawday*

The pottery and the flat roof tile were catalogued with reference to the guidelines set out by the Medieval Pottery Research group, (MPRG, 2001) and the ULAS fabric series, (Sawday 2009). The results are shown below (Table 1).

### ***The Pottery***

The pottery, three joining sherds in Potters Marston ware came from a feature likely to be a root bowl. The sherds are from the base of an externally sooted vessel, probably a cooking pot or jar. The base is thin walled, a typologically early feature of this ware, and probably dates to the 12th century. Potters Marston is ubiquitous in the county in the medieval period, especially to the west, and the production centre in the village of that name, lies less than 10 km to the north east of Burbage.

### ***The Nib Tile***

The tile is whole save for the nib, which is broken at the tip, the first time the author has seen such a complete example. The inclusions and the clay body of the tile, and the proximity of the find spot to the medieval kilns at Chilvers Coton in Nuneaton, Warwickshire, less than 8km to the south west, where roof tiles as well as pottery were manufactured, suggest that it is a Chilvers Coton product. The fabric is CC2, Chilvers Coton fabric C, with a date range of c.1300 to 1500, (Mayes and Scott 1984, Table 3, 40-41). Several varieties of flat roof tile seem to have been made at Chilvers Coton, and this tile lacks the peg holes shown on the illustrated example from the kilns (*ibid* 1984, fig.116). The most commonly recorded Chilvers Coton type at the kiln site had square or occasionally circular perforations which would have been used to house the nails or pegs which were then driven through the tile to fasten it to the laths on the roof. Alternatively the tiles would have been hung from the laths on nibs, projecting from the underside of the tile. However at two locations at Chilvers Coton, namely site 15, F 74 and site 10, Kiln 29, circular perforations were also found on nibbed tiles, (*ibid*) 1984, table 3, fig.116). The use of both pegs and nibs suggests that the pegs in themselves were not always sufficient to secure the tiles. The tiles have been found elsewhere, and the evidence at Nuneaton Priory, for example, suggests that here at least tiles with peg holes were in the minority (Andrews and Quant 1984, 71).

The tile would have been made in a sanded rectangular wooden mould, hence the one sanded surface and edges, and smoothed lengthways with a wooden tool to remove any excess clay. The nib is an integral part of the tile and would have been made out of extra clay added to the tile and shaped into a projection whilst the tile lay in the mould, (Allin 1981, 65). The paw marks of a cat found on similar tiles at the Austin Friars, Leicester, shows that the flat sanded side, as opposed to the nibbed side would have been laid on the ground when the tiles were laid out to dry. However, this method of manufacture means that when the overlapping tiles were hung from the laths, the sanded surface was outside, exposed to the elements. Perhaps this surface was thought to be more weather proof, although a smooth surface would presumably have been preferable to allow the water to run off the roof. The smooth side of the tile shows no evidence of lime plaster, or torching, which was sometimes used to bed the overlapping tiles together to render them more weatherproof and secure on the roof, but other materials such as moss could also be used for the same purpose, (*ibid* 1981, 65-67).

The dimensions of the tile: 270 by 165mm (10  $\frac{3}{4}$ " by 6  $\frac{1}{2}$ " ), and 15 to 20mm (up to  $\frac{3}{4}$ " ) thick, is only slightly at variance with the Act of 1477 which stipulated that the size of roof tiles should be 10  $\frac{1}{2}$ " by 6  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and at least 5/8" (16mm) thick, (Salzman 1952, 230). This suggests a 15th century date for these tiles, which are larger than those at the Austin Friars, which were thought to be somewhat earlier in date, (Allin 1981, 65).

### ***Bibliography***

Allin, C.E., 1981 'The Ridge Tile' in J.E. Mellor and T. Pearce, *The Austin Friars, Leicester*. London: C.B.A. Res. Rep. **35**, 52-70.

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Salzman, L.F., 1952 *Building in England down to 1540*, Oxford

Sawday, D., 2009 'The Medieval and Later Pottery and Tile' in J. Coward and G. Speed, *Urban Life in Leicester: An Archaeological Excavation at Freeschool Lane*. Vol 2 *Specialist Reports* University of Leicester Archaeological Services Report No. **2009-140,v2**, 36-182.

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

Context	Fabric/Ware	No s	Gram s	Comments
<b>POTTERY</b>				
T13 (5)	PM – Potters Marston	3	30	Three joining sherds from the base of an externally sooted vessel, probably a cooking pot/jar. Thin walled, possibly 12th C.
<b>NIB/TILE</b>				
U/S	CC2 – Chilvers Coton	1	1249	Hand-made/moulded tile, 165 x 270 mm (6 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ " ), c.15 to 20 mm (up to $\frac{3}{4}$ " ) thick. Complete save for the nib at the top centre of the tile which is broken at the tip, 14th - 15th C.

Site/ Parish: Burbage Moat House, Burbage, Leics Accession No.: XA20 2011 Document Ref: burbage2.docx Material: pot & nib tile Site Type: village core	Submitter: J. Coward Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Identification: 9/3/11 Method of Recovery: evaluation Job Number: 11-124
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## ***Appendix 2: The Design Specification***

**UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES**  
**Written Scheme of Investigation for**  
**Archaeological Attendance for Inspection and Recording ('Strip, Map and Sample')**  
**and a trial trench**  
**Moat House, New Road, Burbage**  
**NGR: SK442 926**  
**Planning Application: 09/00922/FUL**  
**Client: J Guest Ltd**  
**Authority: Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council**

### **1. Introduction**

#### ***Definition and scope of the specification***

1.1 This document is a design specification for a phase of archaeological investigation and recording at the above site, in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment, Policy HE12.3 (DCLG 2010). This specification provides a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for a phase of archaeological attendance for inspection and recording. The fieldwork specified below is intended to provide information on the character and extent of any buried archaeological remains which may exist on the site.

1.3 This document provides details of the work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client, and should be submitted to the Archaeological Advisor to the Planning Authority for approval before archaeological investigation by ULAS is implemented. The document provides details of the work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client for:

- Archaeological investigation (Strip, Plan and Sample)
- Trial trench

1.4 The development is to be undertaken in two phases:

1. Site strip and construction of phase 1 of the building. As part of this, an archaeological trial trench will be examined and the site strip will be under the control and supervision of the archaeologist (Strip/Map/Sample)
2. The second phase of construction will follow after the demolition of the existing building. In the event that the phase 1 trial trench has indicated the presence of significant archaeological remains, further archaeological investigations may be required as part of the phase 2 works, and will be the subject of a separate WSI.

### **2. Background**

#### ***Context of the Project***

2.1. The project involves the construction of a residential/nursing home and eight residential units.

#### ***Geological and Topographical Background***

2.2 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 160 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Dunsmore Gravel; a combination of clay, sand and gravel. The site is located at a height of c. 129m aOD.

#### ***Archaeological and Historical Background (from the Brief)***

2.4 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site occupies an area of archaeological interest. The proposed development area is within the historic core of the medieval village of Burbage and is the site of 18th-century pleasure gardens belonging to the former rectory, now demolished. The earthworks of a moat constructed as part of these gardens are still clearly visible on the land to the west of Moat house (adjacent to the Phase 1 proposed development).

2.5 The Senior Planning Archaeologist has recommended an archaeological strip, plan and sample to be undertaken using a machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, followed by archaeological excavation of any archaeological deposits with a contingency for recording and detailed excavation if required. In addition, a trial trench is to be excavated immediately south of the south west corner of moat house (c. 20m east-west x 1.6m north-south, from the southern extension of the present car parking running west towards the flower beds).

### 3. Archaeological Objectives

#### 3.1 Through archaeological controlled stripping and investigation:

- 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.

#### 3.2 Through the examination of a trial trench:

The main objectives of the evaluation will be:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

3.3 Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation is to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

3.4 Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

### 4. Methodology

#### *General Methodology and Standards*

4.1 All work will follow the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct (2010) and adhere to their Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (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.

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

#### *Strip, Plan and Sample*

4.4 The project will involve the supervision of overburden removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. Initially it is proposed to open a trial trench to assess the depth of topsoil/overburden and determine the presence/absence of any archaeological remains.

4.6 Should significant archaeological remains be identified in an initial trial trench, and found to be 0.15m or less below proposed formation, the site is to be stripped down to the top of the archaeology, followed by a programme of excavation and recording, using additional personnel as necessary.

4.6 In the event that archaeological remains of uncertain significance are located in the initial trench/test pit (e.g. undated post-hole/pit), further trenching may be necessary, at the discretion of the site supervisor, to clarify their nature and significance and determine the need for a full topsoil strip.

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

4.9 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.

4.10 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.

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

4.12 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, Heritage Services and the planning authority. If the archaeological remains are identified to be of significance additional contingent archaeological works will be required.

### ***Trial Trench***

Prior to any machining of trial trenches general photographs of the site areas may be taken.

4.13 It is proposed to excavate one 20m x 1.6m trench. The provisional trench plan (Fig. 1) shows the proposed locations of the trench. The size and position of the trench indicated on the provisional trench 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 Trenches will be examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located will be planned at an appropriate scale. Archaeological deposits will be sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

4.8 Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan. All plans will be tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Relative spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

4.9 Sections of any excavated archaeological features will be drawn at an appropriate scale. At least one longitudinal face of each trench will be recorded. All sections will be levelled and tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum, or a permanent fixed benchmark.

4.10 Trench locations will be recorded by an appropriate method. These will then be tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

4.11 Any human remains encountered will initially be left in situ and will only be removed if necessary for their protection, under Ministry of Justice guidelines and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations.

4.12 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the project a contingency may be required to clarify the character or extent of additional features. The contingency will only be initiated after consultation with the Client and the Planning Archaeologist and Planning Authority. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement an amended scheme of investigation on behalf of the client as appropriate.

4.13 The trenches will be backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.

### ***Recording Systems***

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

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

4.16 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.

4.17 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.



4.18 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.

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

## **5. Finds**

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

5.2 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.

5.3 An Accession number will be obtained from the Assistant Keeper of Archaeological Archives at Leicestershire County Council that will be used to identify all records and finds from the site, prior to the commencement of any on-site works.

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.

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

## **6. Environmental Sampling**

6.1. If features are appropriate for environmental sampling a strategy and methodology will be developed on site following advice from ULAS's Environmental Specialist. Preparation, taking, processing and assessment of environmental samples will be in accordance with current best practice. The sampling strategy is likely to include the following:

- A range of features to represent all feature types, areas and phases will be selected on a judgmental basis. The criteria for selection will be that deposits are datable, well sealed and with little intrusive or residual material.
- Any buried soils or well-sealed deposits with concentrations of carbonised material present will be intensively sampled taking a known proportion of the deposit.
- Spot samples will be taken where concentrations of environmental remains are located.
- Waterlogged remains, if present, will be sampled for pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and radiocarbon dating provided that they are uncontaminated.

6.2 All collected samples will be labelled with context and sequential sample numbers.

6.3 Appropriate contexts will be bulk sampled (15 litre or the whole context depending on size) for the recovery of carbonised plant remains and insects.

6.4 Recovery of small animal bones, bird bone and large molluscs will normally be achieved through processing other bulk samples or 30 litre samples may be taken specifically to sample particularly rich deposits.

6.5 Wet sieving with flotation will be carried out using a York Archaeological Trust sieving tank with a 0.5mm mesh and a 0.3mm flotation sieve. The small size mesh will be used initially as flotation of plant remains may be incomplete and some may remain in the residue. The residue > 0.5mm from the tank will be separated into coarse fractions of over 4mm and fine fractions of > 0.5-4mm. The coarse fractions will be sorted for finds. The fine fractions and flots will be evaluated and prioritised; only those with remains apparent will be sorted. The prioritised flots will not be sorted until the analysis stage when phasing information is available. Flots will be scanned and plant remains from selected contexts will be identified and further sampling, sieving and sorting targeted towards higher potential deposits.

## **7. Report and Archive**

7.1 The full report in A4 format will usually follow within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and copies will be dispatched to the Senior Planning Archaeologist/HER to be distributed amongst relevant sections of Leicestershire County Council as necessary.

7.2 The report will include consideration of:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the work.
- The nature, location and extent of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
- The anticipated degree of survival of archaeological deposits.
- The anticipated archaeological impact of the current proposals.
- Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
- Summary.
- The location and size of the archive.

7.3 Copies will be provided for the client, Historic Environment Record and planning Authority. 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.

7.4 A full copy of the archive as defined in Brown (2008) will be presented to Leicestershire County Council, normally within six months of the completion of analysis. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

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

8.1 A summary of the work will be submitted to the local archaeological journal, the Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society. A larger report will be submitted for inclusion if the results of the evaluation warrant it.

8.2 University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS form at <http://ads.ac.uk/project/oasis> will be completed detailing the results of the project. ULAS will contact Leicestershire County Council's SMR prior to completion of the form. Once a report has become a public document following its incorporation into Leicestershire SMR it may be placed on the web-site. The Developer should agree to this procedure in writing as part of the process of submitting the report to Leicestershire SMR.

## **9. Acknowledgement and Publicity**

9.1 ULAS shall acknowledge the contribution of the Client in any displays, broadcasts or publications relating to the site or in which the report may be included.

9.2 ULAS and the Client shall each ensure that a senior employee shall be responsible for dealing with any enquiries received from press, television and any other broadcasting media and members of the public. All enquiries made to ULAS shall be directed to the Client for comment.

## **10. Timetable**

10.1 The work is expected to start on 22 February 2011. It will involve one person on site at varying times throughout the groundworks.

## **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 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with St Pauls Travellers Policy No. UCPOP3651237 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters (50%) and Brit Insurances (50%) Policy No. FUNK3605.

## 12. Bibliography

Brown, D., 2008

Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives (Institute for Archaeologists)

IfA, 2010 Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs.

IfA, 2008 Code of Conduct

8-Feb-2011

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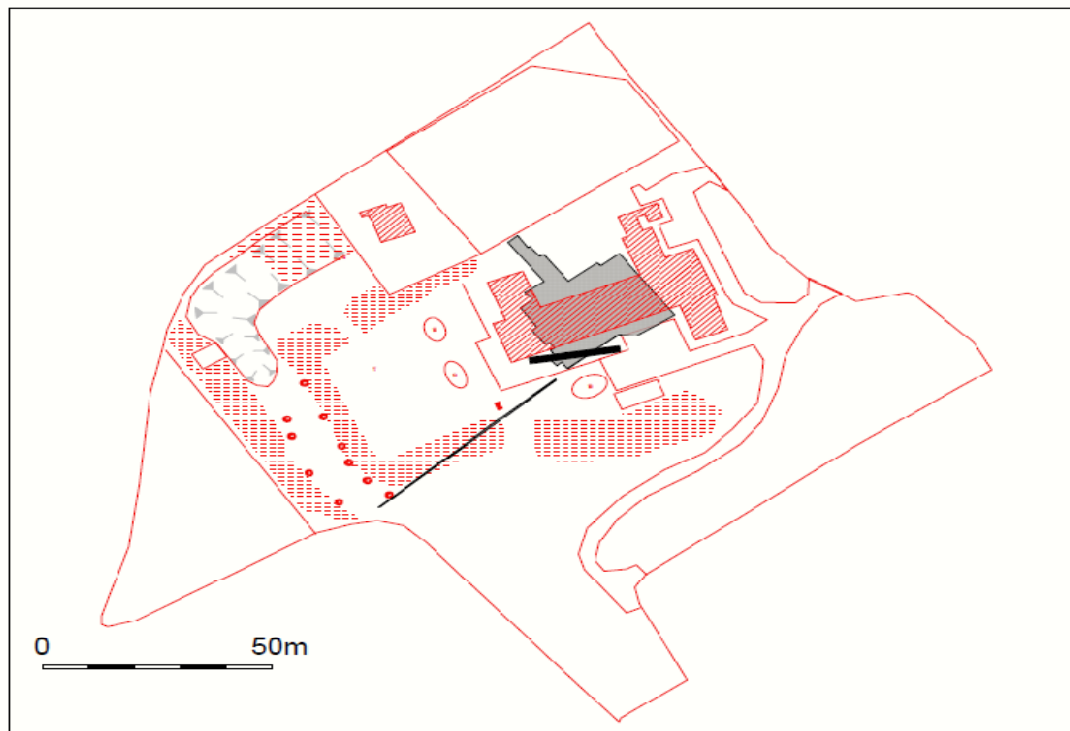


Fig. 1: Site location and proposed trench location

**Appendix 3: Oasis Information**

<b>INFORMATION REQUIRED</b>	<b>EXAMPLE</b>
Project Name	
Project Type	Sample and evaluation
Project Manager	Richard Buckley
Project Supervisor	Jon Coward
Previous/Future work	Previous: Desk assessment, geophysical survey, evaluation.
Current Land Use	Gardens/nursing home
Development Type	Nursing home
Reason for Investigation	PPG16
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	SP 442 926
Start/end dates of field work	March 2011
Archive Recipient	LMARS
Height min/max	129.5m - 131 m
Study Area *	0.3 ha
Finds	Medieval, modern

**Contact Details**

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