

**An Archaeological Watching Brief  
During groundworks at  
Bradgate Bakery,  
Madeline Road,  
Leicester.  
(NGR SK 573 088)**

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**For: Bradgate Bakery**

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Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Location of watching brief study area

## **An Archaeological Watching Brief during groundworks at Bradgate Bakery, Madeline Road, Leicester. (SK 573 088)**

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### **Summary**

*University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) undertook an archaeological watching brief at Bradgate Bakery, Madeline Road, Bursom Industrial Estate, Beaumont Leys, Leicester. The site lies to the north of Leicester, in an area where Iron Age and Neolithic activity has been identified. The site, therefore, had some archaeological potential. The watching brief revealed no archaeological features or finds associated with archaeological features. The archive will be deposited with Leicester City museums Services with accession number A6.2005.*

### **Introduction**

The University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Bradgate Bakery to carry out a watching brief during the excavation of foundations and services associated with a small scale factory extension at the site of the current Bradgate Bakery at Madeline Road, Bursom Industrial Estate, Beaumont Leys, Leicester LE4 1WX (NGR SK 573 088). Archaeological work was required as a condition of the planning permission granted by Leicester City Council (planning application No. 20041935).

The site lies to the north of the historic town of Leicester, in an area where prehistoric activity has been identified. The main activity dates from the Iron Age, but there is also some evidence of Neolithic activity.

The planned development of the extension to the Bradgate Bakery and associated services was seen to have the potential to have a damaging impact on any archaeological remains if present.

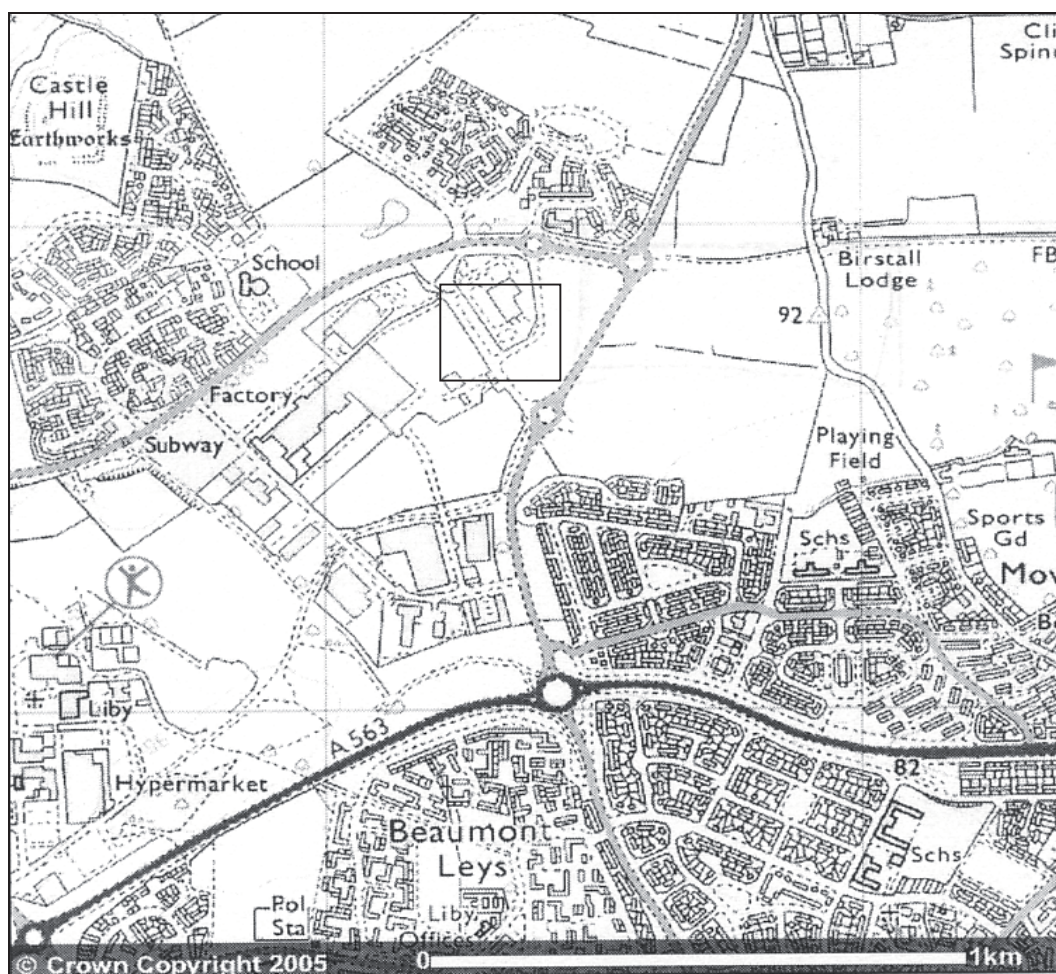
*A Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation* (Appendix 1) was prepared for the site (Leicester City Council Culture & Regeneration 2004). This outlined the need for a written scheme of investigation or project specification for the work.

*A Design Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief* (Appendix 2) was therefore prepared by ULAS and was produced in consultation with Chris Wardle, Planning Archaeologist for Leicester City Council. This outlined the need for the presence on site of an experienced professional archaeologist during the specified works.

### **Site Location and Geology**

Bursom Industrial Estate is situated c.5km to the north of central Leicester. The site is bounded by Madeline Road to the west and by Knight's Road to the east (Figure 1).

The site is centred on NGR SK 573 088 and is approximately level at 92m OD. It is situated on boulder clay overlying Mercia mudstone group clay.



**Figure 1: Site Location** . Licence Number AL100021187.

## Aims and Methods

The purpose of the watching brief was to ascertain whether archaeological deposits were present. If so, the character, extent and date range of any deposits identified would be established, in order to assess their significance (see Appendices, Design Specification). Recording of these deposits would be carried out as appropriate, and an archive and this report produced. The work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, and adhered to the University's and ULAS's Health and Safety policy.

An archaeologist visited the site on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2004 and groundworks associated with the development were observed (Figure. 2).

## **Archaeological Background**

The Leicester Sites and Monuments Record shows that the site lies in an area of archaeological interest. Iron Age pottery has been discovered to the south-east of the site and an Iron Age ditch were discovered during trial trenches excavated by ULAS (LC 459, LC 1464). An undated post-hole on land to the south of the present site was also discovered during a ULAS evaluation (Gnanaratnam 2002). Subsequent evaluation of the area to the south of the site revealed evidence of a mid- to late Iron Age settlement along with possible earlier Neolithic remains. (LC 1484).

Evaluations carried out by ULAS in 2001 and 2005 on a site to the east of the current site (now occupied by an industrial unit) to the east of Beaumont Leys Lane, revealed no archaeological remains (Priest 2001 & Hunt 2005).

## **Results**

The concrete was removed from the development area, which consisted of an area c.1.5m square. This revealed a dark grey re-deposited mixed clay, with a drain running through it. The clay was excavated to a depth of 1.45m. At the base of the mixed clay layer was a concrete foundation base. The excavation stopped at this level.

## **Conclusion**

The watching brief revealed that the area consisted entirely of made up ground and therefore no archaeological features were present.

## **Archive**

The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services with accession number A6.2005 and consists of the following:

1 watching brief record sheet, including sketch section.

## **Bibliography**

Gnanaratnam, A., *An Archaeological Evaluation at Bursom Business Park Extension, Mowmacre, Leicester (SK 576 089)* ULAS Report no. 2002-208

Hunt, L.P.W.L., *An Archaeological Evaluation at Bursom Business Park Extension (Northeast), Mowmacre, Leicester (SK 576 088)* ULAS Report No. 2005-028

Priest, V., 2001 *An Archaeological Evaluation at Bursom Business Park Extension, Mowmacre, Leicester (SK 576 088)* ULAS Report no. 2001-140

Scott Wilson 2005 *Bursom Business Park Extension, Beaumont Leys Lane, Leicester. Specification for Archaeological Evaluation*



## Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Mr. M. Mountain of Bradgate Bakery and Williams-Architects Ltd for their co-operation. The Steve Jones carried out the watching brief; Richard Buckley was the Project Manager.

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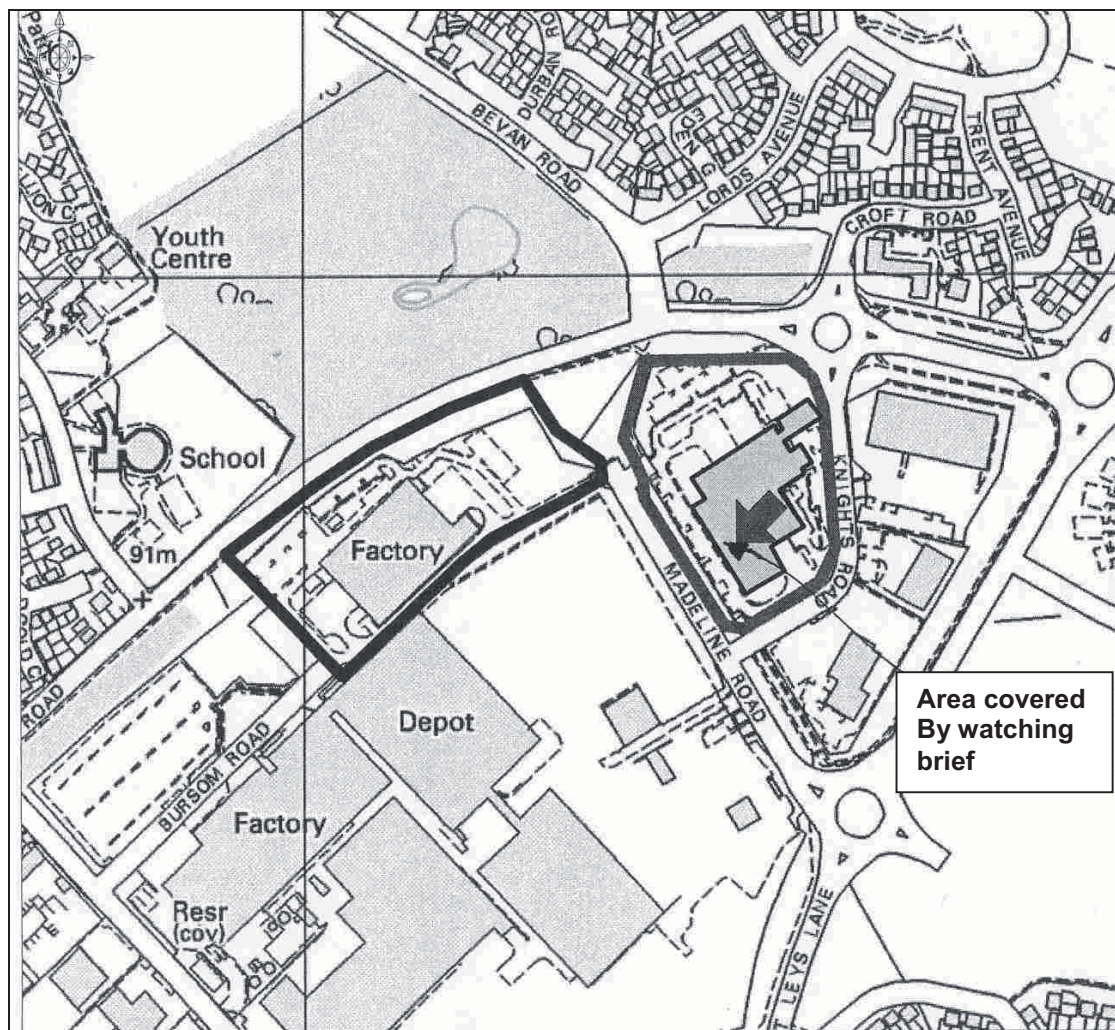


Figure 2: Location of watching brief study area