

# **Archaeological Services**

Archaeological Attendance and Recording at the Old Mill House, 37 Edmondthorpe Road, Wymondham, Leicestershire SK 85310 18650

Leon Hunt



ULAS Report No 2013-043 ©2013

## Archaeological Attendance and Recording at The Old Mill House, 37 Edmondthorpe Road, Wymondham, Leicestershire. (SK 85310 18650) Leon Hunt

For

Ben Wood Planning Application Number 12/00884/FUL

Checked by Project Manager
Signed: Wicker Score
Date: 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2013
Name: Vicki Score

### **University of Leicester**

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Accession Number: X.A24.2013

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### Archaeological Attendance and Recording at The Old Mill House, 37 Edmondthorpe Road, Wymondham, Leicestershire (SK 85310 18650)

### Leon Hunt

### Summary

Archaeological Attendance and Recording (watching brief) was under taken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) during groundworks on a former builder's yard at The Old Mill House, 37 Edmondthorpe Road, Wymondham, Leicestershire (SK 85310 18650).

The site lies at the southern edge of the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of Wymondham close to the presumed position of Wymondham watermill.

Consequently, there was a likelihood that buried archaeological remains would be affected by the development.

Archaeological observations during the excavation of trenches for foundations for a new office building on the site revealed that, apart from some thin layers of silty subsoil, the sequence largely consisted of hard-core lying over truncated soils over the natural reddish brown clay.

This suggested that the area had been stripped sometime in the past before the area was overlain with hard-core.

Small areas containing a silty deposit, most likely caused by root action or a small tree bole was observed in part of the section but otherwise there were no archaeological deposits recorded.

The archive for the site will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A24.2013.

## Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Ben Wood to carry out Archaeological Attendance and Recording (an archaeological watching brief) during ground-works at The Old Mill House, 37 Edmondthorpe Road, Wymondham, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 85310 18650; Figure 1)).

This archaeological work is in accordance with NPPF Section 12: Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment. The watching brief is required as a condition of the planning consent for a new office building on the site (Planning Application No. 12/00884/FUL) issued by Melton Borough Council.

The site lies at the southern edge of the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of Wymondham and close to the presumed position of Wymondham watermill (MLE4216). Consequently, there was a likelihood that buried archaeological remains would be affected by the development.

### Location and Geology

The site lies on an old builder's yard to the south of 37, Edmondthorpe Road, Wymondham, Leicestershire, around 7 miles east of Melton Mowbray (Figures 1 & 2).

The development area is broadly triangular and covers 1800 square metres. The land lies at an approximate height of 100m aOD and is broadly flat, with a slight fall to the south. The site is bordered by a stream to the north-east and by hedges and trees to the south and south-east. A metal fence lies at the north-western edge of the site and to the north is a single storey brick building.

At the time of the watching brief the land was partially covered in building materials and was partially stoned up with hard core (Plate 1).

The British Geological Survey shows the underlying Bedrock to be Limestone of the Marlstone Rock Formation and Dyrham Formation Siltstone and Mudstone overlain in places with alluvium.



Figure 1: Site Location Reproduced from Landranger<sup>®</sup> 1:50 000 scale, Sheet 131 (Grantham) by permission of Ordnance Survey<sup>®</sup> on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright 2005 All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495.

### Historical and Archaeological Background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the site lies in an area of archaeological interest, comprising the southern edge of the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of Wymondham (HER ref.: **MLE9203**). It is situated immediately to the south of the presumed position of Wymondham watermill (**MLE4216**), which is likely to have its origin in the medieval period.

### **Archaeological Objectives**

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

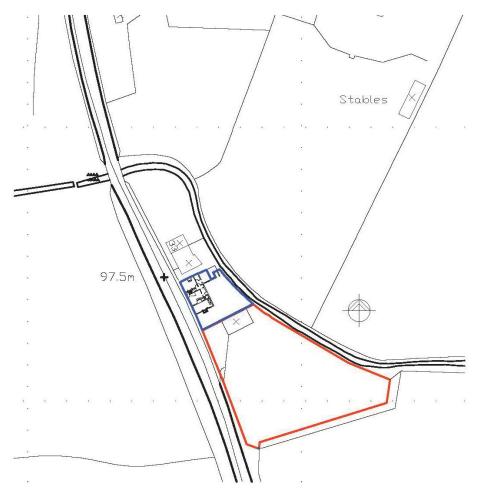


Figure 2: Plan of development area (red line). Scale 1: 1250. Provided by developer

### 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 Attendance Inspection and Recording (watching brief) (see Appendix) 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 work consisted of the excavation of foundation trenches associated with the construction of a new office building on the site (Figure 3).

The soils were removed by a small tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket or a 0.6m toothed bucket in the case of foundation trenches (Plate 2).

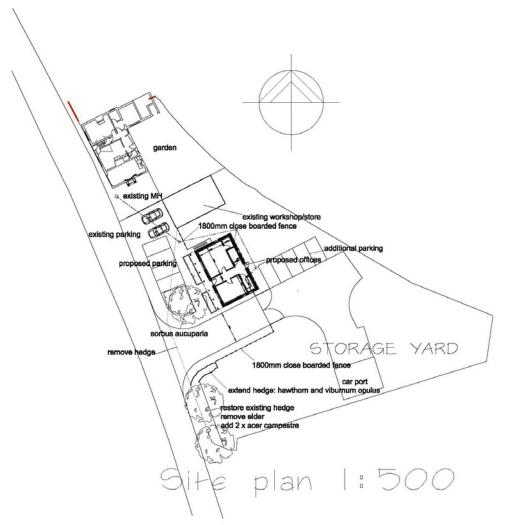


Figure 3: Plan of proposal. Provided by developer

### Results

The site was initially visited on 7th March 2013 and a single foundation trenching forming the rear of the new structure was excavated.

This trench was 0.6m wide 10.2m long, running north-west to south east and was around 0.60m deep at the southern end and around 0.4m at the northern end due to the slope of the land.

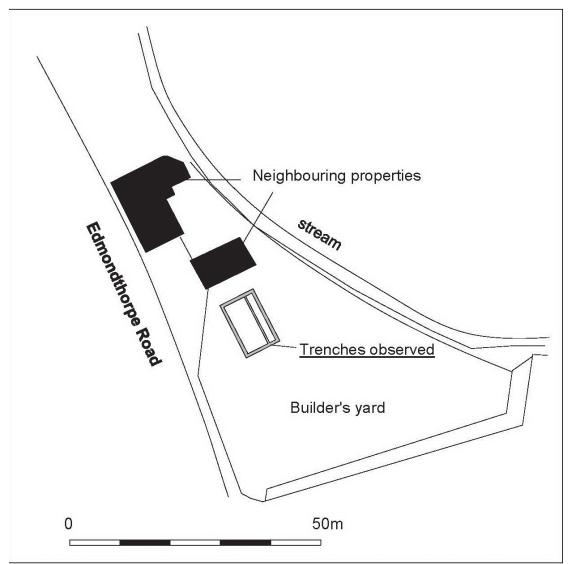


Figure 4: Plan of trenches observed during watching brief

The soil sequence consisted of a thin layer of garden soil over 0.15m of yellowish grey hard core at the northern end, which overlay a compacted stoney, silty clay with lots of ceramic building material and debris within the matrix. This lay above a reddish brown clay. Throughout the rest of the trench hard-core overlay the natural clay (Plate 3).

Around half way along the trench was a very disturbed area and towards the southern end of the trench was a patch of silty material within the visible section.

A second visit was undertaken on 22nd March 2013 during which the remainder of the trenches were excavated and some ground reduction undertaken.

The trenches were all excavated to around 0.7m wide and were around 0.4m deep at the northern end of the site and 0.6m deep at the southern end. At the northern end the sequence largely consisted of 0.2m of hard core over less than 0.1m of silty clay over the natural sub-stratum of reddish brown clay.

The finished trenched area measured around 8m x 12m.

At the southern end the hard-core was often deeper and lay over a slightly thicker layer of silty clay. But generally, except for small areas the upper soils appeared to have been removed in the past and replaced by the hardcore. In some areas various different layers of stoning and hardcore could be seen (Plate 4).

The central area was stripped with a flat bladed bucket by around 0.2m, which only just removed the hardcore from this area, exposing the reddish brown clay beneath (Plate 5).

#### Conclusion

No archaeological features or finds associated with archaeological features were observed during the watching brief.

The silty areas seen in the initial strip were largely amorphous and were most likely the remains of roots or small tree boles.

The depth of the hard core and lack of upper soils throughout the site suggests that the site had been stripped and slightly levelled prior to the hardcore being laid sometime in the past.

The thin layer of topsoil seen at the northern end of the initial trench corresponds with the overhang of the large trees close to the bank of the stream at this end, suggesting that this soil is comprised of degraded leaf litter, which has been allowed to build up over the hardcore surface.

### Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work through the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York.

A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in a suitable regional archaeological journal in due course.

Project Name	The Old Mill House, 37 Edmondthorpe Road,			
	Wymondham			
Project Type	Watching Brief			
Project Manager	Vicki Score			
Project Supervisor	Leon Hunt			
Previous/Future work	None			
Current Land Use	Builder's yard			
Development Type	New Office			
Reason for Investigation	NPPF			
Position in the Planning	Condition			
Process				
Site Co ordinates	SK 85310 18650			
Start/end dates of field work	07-03-2013- 22-03-2013			
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museums			
Study Area	1800 sq. m.			

OASIS data entry

### Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Ben Wood, Sarah Jane Wood and machine driver Ashley Walton for their help and co-operation with this project.

The watching brief was carried out by Leon Hunt and the project was managed by Vicki Score.

### Archive

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A24.2013.

The archive consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound Copy of this report (2013-043)
- 2 Watching brief recording sheets
- 1 CD of digital photographs
- 1 Contact Sheet of digital photographs
- 1 Set B&W contact sheets
- 1 Set B&W Negatives

### Bibliography

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) 2010, Code of Conduct

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) 2008, *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* 

ULAS, 2013, A Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Attendance Inspection and Recording (watching brief).

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22-03-2013



Plate 1: The site prior to ground-works, looking south-east



Plate 2: Work in progress, looking south-east



Plate 3: West facing section of initial eastern trench, looking east



Plate 4: East facing section of western trench, showing different layers of hardcore and stoning, looking west



Plate 5: The finished foundation trenches, looking north-east

## APPENDIX: Written Scheme of Investigation UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

### Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Attendance,

### Inspection and Recording (watching brief)

## The Old Mill House, 37 Edmondthorpe Road, Wymondham, Leicestershire.

#### NGR: SK85310 18650

### For: Ben Wood

## Planning application: 12/00884/FUL: New office building, etc.

### Planning Authority: Melton Borough Council

## Start Date: 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013 TBC.

## 1 Introduction

#### Definition and scope of the specification

- 1.1 This document is a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Archaeological Attendance, Inspection and Recording (watching brief) at the above site, in accordance with NPPF (Section 12 Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment). This specification provides a written scheme for an archaeological watching brief, as required by the Planning Authority, of groundworks in connection with work at The Old Mill House, 37 Edmondthorpe Road, Wymondham, Leicestershire.
- 1.2 The document provides details of the following work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client.
  - Archaeological attendance, inspection and recording during groundworks

## 2. Background

#### Context of the Project

2.1. The planning consent is for the erection of New office building, etc.: The Old Mill House, 37, Edmondthorpe Road, Wymondham, Leicestershire (Figs 1 and 2).

#### Archaeological and historical background (taken from the advice letter)

2.2 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the site lies in an area of archaeological interest, comprising the southern edge of the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of Wymondham (HER ref.: MLE9203) and is situated immediately to the south of the presumed position of Wymondham watermill, the latter likely to have its origin in the medieval period (MLE4216). Consequently, there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the 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.

- 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.

#### Geological background

The British Geological Survey shows the underlying Bedrock to be Limestone of the Marlstone Rock Formation and Dyrham Formation Siltstone and Mudstone overlain in places with alluvium.

#### 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 during groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist. During these 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.
- 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 microslags (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. Digital photos will be submitted in tiff format.
- 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:
  - Summary
  - The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
  - The nature, location and extent of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
  - The local, regional and national context as appropriate highlighting any research priorities where applicable.
  - Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
  - a summary of artefacts, specialist reports and a consideration of the evidence within its local, regional, national context.
  - The location and size 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 <u>http://ads.ac.uk/project/oasis</u> 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 It is anticipated that work will be undertaken starting 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013..

### 10. Health and Safety

10.1 A Risks Assessment form will be completed prior to work commencing onsite, 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, details of which are provided in the accompanying Health & Safety Method Statement.

## 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 2013	Advice Letter
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

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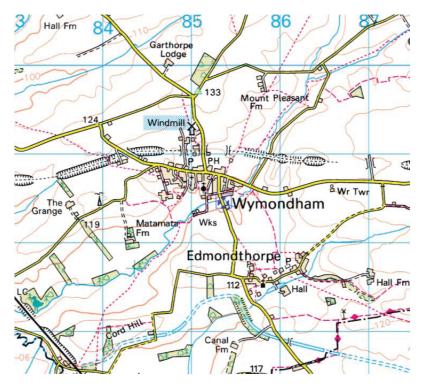
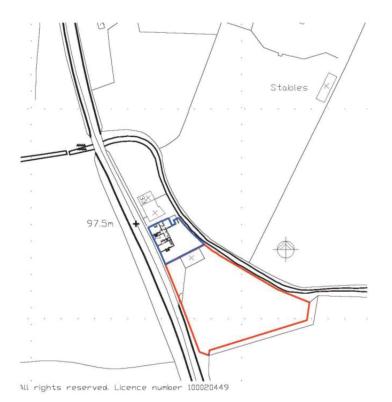


Fig. 1 Location plan



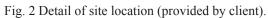




Figure 3: Plans of proposed development (provided by client).

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

Site Name	Job No	Start Date	PM	Contact
The Old Mill House, 37, Edmondthorp	be 13-359	7 <sup>th</sup> March 2013	Vicki Score	0116 252 2848
Road, Wymondham, Leicestershire				
Site Director	Site Contacts		Team (Nos)	
TBC		1 TBC		

#### SITE WORKS & METHOD STATEMENT

The work will involve the monitoring of groundworks across the area as detailed in the specification followed by excavation of archaeological deposits.

All work will adhere to the University of Leicester Health and Safety Policy and follow the guidance in the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (2001)

#### Watching Brief Method Statement

Services: Any known services will be marked on the ground and avoided. All machine excavation will be carefully monitored.

**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**

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

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