



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

Archaeological attendance and
recording at The Forge,
15 Old Forge Road,
Fenny Drayton.
Leicestershire
(SP 350 969)

Leon Hunt



ULAS Report No 2013-059
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**Archaeological attendance and recording
at The Forge, 15, Old Forge Road,
Fenny Drayton, Leicestershire
(SP 350 969)**

Leon Hunt

for

Mrs. K. Berry-Hart

Planning Application Number 12/00517/HOU

Checked by Project Manager

Signed: 

Date: 26th April 2013

Name: Vicki Score

University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH

Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

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CONTENTS

Summary	1
Introduction.....	1
Location and Geology.....	1
Historical and Archaeological Background.....	2
Archaeological Objectives	3
Methodology.....	4
Results.....	4
Conclusion	4
Acknowledgements.....	5
Publication	5
Archive.....	6
APPENDIX: Written Scheme of Investigation.....	10

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location.....	2
Figure 2: Site location plan. Scale 1: 1250. Provided by developer	3
Figure 3: East facing section of westernmost trench,	5

PLATES

Plate 1: The furnace in the garden of The Forge, prior to demolition work.	7
Plate 2: Work in progress, after demolition of previous extension, looking west	7
Plate 3: West facing section, looking east	8
Plate 4: Large pit beneath furnace (within wooden box). Looking south-west.....	8
Plate 5: Part of box frame of original house, exposed after demolition.	9

Archaeological attendance and recording at The Forge, 15 Old Forge Road, Fenny Drayton, Leicestershire (SP 350 969)

Leon Hunt

Summary

Archaeological attendance and recording (watching brief) was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) during ground-works at The Forge, 15, Old Forge Road, Fenny Drayton, Leicestershire (SP 350 969).

The work was carried out during the excavation of foundation trenches for a new extension to the existing house.

The site lies within the medieval and post-medieval core of the village and close to known archaeological remains. An archaeological evaluation carried out in 1999 to the rear of the current site revealed medieval pottery and tile. The remains of the furnace of the old forge lie adjacent to the site.

A large pit, most likely associated with the remains of the furnace at the site was revealed during the watching brief. Part of the original timber framing of the house was exposed during the work.

The archive for this work will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A38.2013.

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Mrs. K. Berry-Hart to carry out an archaeological watching brief during ground-works at The Forge, 15 Old Forge Road, Fenny Drayton, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 350 969).

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 the erection of a new extension and alterations to the existing building at the above address (Planning App. No. 12/00517/HOU).

The site lies within the medieval and post-medieval core of the village and close to known archaeological remains.

Location and Geology

The site is located on the eastern side of Old Forge Road in the centre of Fenny Drayton, which lies in the Hinckley District of Leicestershire around 3 miles east of Atherstone and 5 miles north of Nuneaton (Figures 1 and 2).

The British Geological Survey website indicates the underlying Bedrock to be of the Mercia Mudstone Group Clay (MMG).

The site covers 650 square metres and lies at a height of around 89m aOD.



Figure 1: Site Location

Reproduced from *Landranger*® 1:50 000 scale, Sheet 140 (Leicester, Coventry and Rugby) by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright 2009 All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495.

Historical and Archaeological Background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies within an area of archaeological interest. The site is situated within the medieval and post-medieval settlement core of Fenny Drayton (HER ref. **MLE8930**) close to known archaeological remains. An archaeological evaluation, carried out in 1999, on the site to the rear of the proposed development site, revealed archaeological features containing medieval pottery and tile (**MLE8505**).

These remains have been interpreted as medieval backyard activity for a property fronting onto Old Forge Road, and there is some suggestion that they could be related to the medieval pottery industry (**MLE2879**). Consequently, there was a likelihood that buried archaeological remains would be affected by the development.

The remains of the furnace associated with the old forge are still extant and lie to the direct west of the site (Plate 1). These were protected by wooden boarding during the building works.

Archaeological Objectives

The main objective of the archaeological excavation was 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 watching brief were:

- 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.

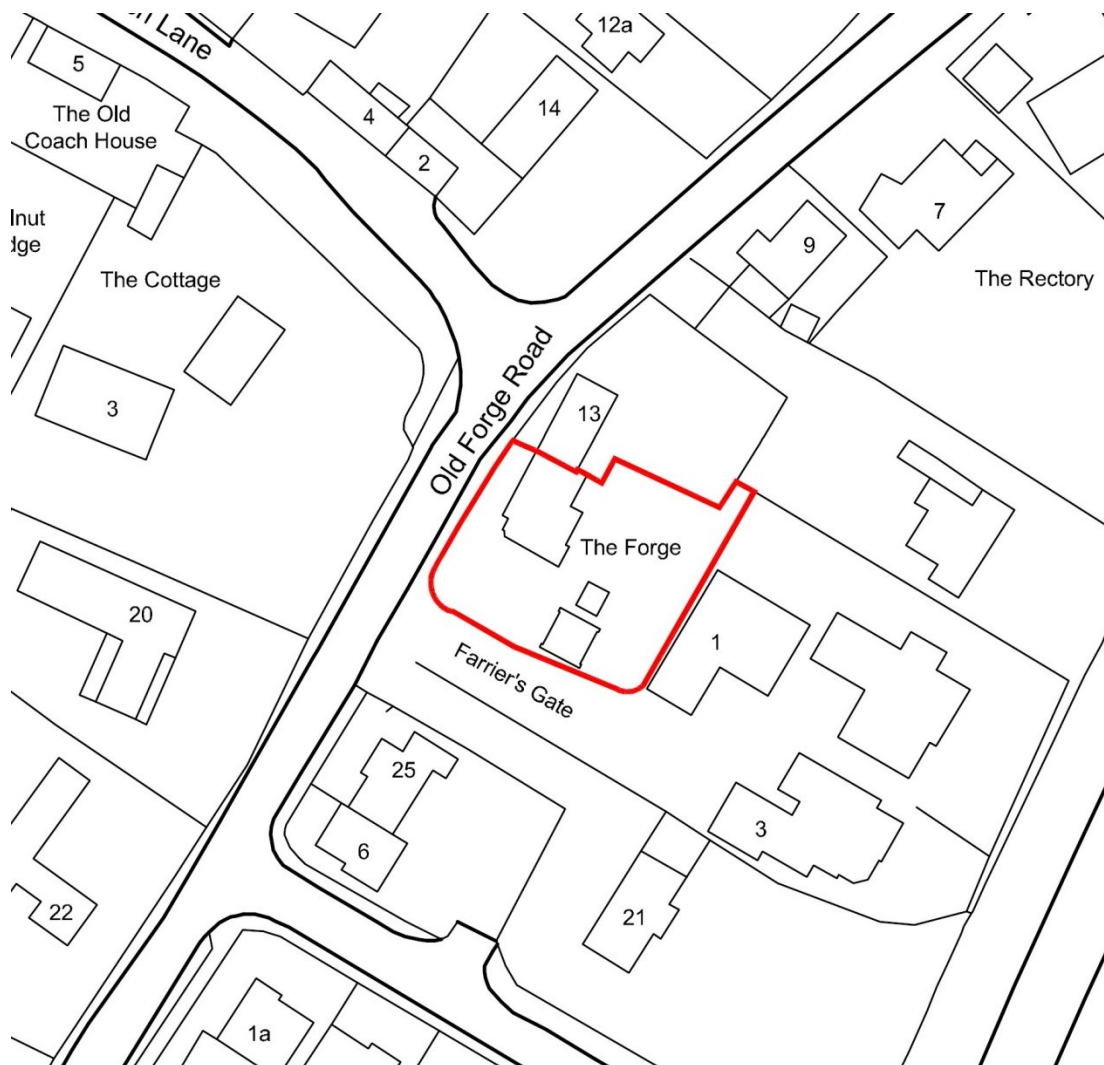


Figure 2: Site location plan. Scale 1: 1250. Provided by developer

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 Design Specification for Archaeological Work (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 erection of the new extension.

The soils were removed by a small tracked excavator fitted with a 0.6 toothless ditching bucket.

Results

The old extension had been demolished prior to the visit by an archaeologist on 3rd April 2013.

A series of foundation trenches were then excavated by the machine. The trenches were all between 0.6-0.7m wide and 0.9m deep (Plate 2). The sequence of soils largely consisted of a very thin layer (0.1-0.2m) of greyish brown silty clay lying over the red and blue Mercia Mudstone clay (Plate 3).

At the south-western edge of the trenches, almost directly under the furnace remnants was a large pit, which was around 0.6m deep (the depth of the trench at this point) with 45° sides visible in the south-east facing section and partially within the north-east facing section. The fill consisted of tip lines of silty soil, ceramic building material and clinker (Figure 3: Plate 4).

The removal of the previous extension also revealed a section of the original timber box frame of the house (Plate 5).

No other archaeological features were identified and no finds were found during the watching brief.

Conclusion

The trenches associated with the new extension at The Forge were largely devoid of archaeological features. However, a large pit containing tip lines of clinker and soil was identified along the south-western corner of the trenches.

The pit lay directly under the remains of the old furnace and is most likely the remains of an aeration pit under the furnace, which would have caught ash and other materials during cleaning. The pit contained pieces of brick and soil and was presumably filled in with ash, soil and brick after the furnace fell out of use.

The demolition of the previous extension revealed part of the timber framing of the original building. This was a box frame structure and appeared to have been pegged, which suggests a possible date for this building of at least pre-1840.

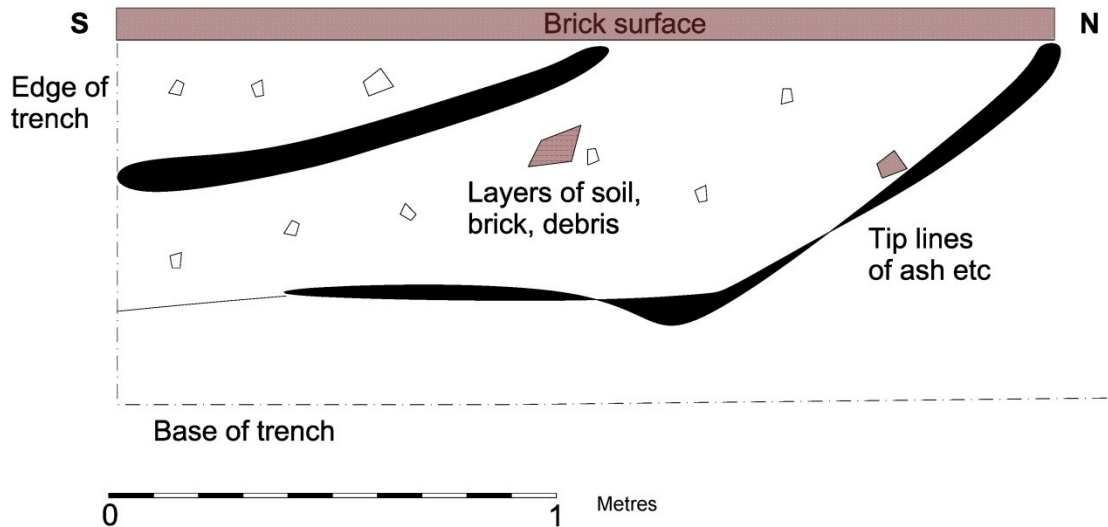


Figure 3: East facing section of westernmost trench, showing pit observed in section

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Mr and Mrs Berry-Hart and also the builder Adrian Pope for their help and co-operation during the watching brief. The watching brief was attended by Leon Hunt and the project was managed by Patrick Clay.

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.

OASIS data entry

Project Name	The Forge, Old Forge Road, Fenny Drayton
Project Type	Watching Brief
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Leon Hunt
Previous/Future work	None
Current Land Use	Garden
Development Type	New extension/ alterations
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition
Site Co ordinates	SP 350 969
Start/end dates of field work	03-04-2013
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museums
Study Area	0.1 ha

Archive

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A38.2013. It consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report (2013-059)
- 1 Watching brief recording sheet
- 1 CD digital photos
- 1 Contact sheet digital photos
- 1 Set B&W negatives
- 1 Set B&W contact sheets

Leon Hunt
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 2848

Fax: 0116 252 2614

Email:

lh90@le.ac.uk

23-04-2013



Plate 1: The furnace in the garden of The Forge, prior to demolition work.
Looking south-east



Plate 2: Work in progress, after demolition of previous extension, looking west



Plate 3: West facing section, looking east



Plate 4: Large pit beneath furnace (within wooden box). Looking south-west



Plate 5: Part of box frame of original house, exposed after demolition.
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)****Land adjacent to the The Forge, 15, Old Forge Road, Fenny Drayton****CV13 6BD****NGR: SP35089 96959****For: Mrs. K. Berry-Hart****Planning application: 12/00517/HOU****Planning Authority: Hinckley District Council****Start Date: November 2012 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 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 land adjacent to The Forge, 15, Old Forge Road, Fenny Drayton.
- 1.2 The document provides details of the following work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client.
 - Archaeological attendance or inspection and recording during groundworks

2. Background**Context of the Project**

- 2.1. The planning consent is for the erection of an extension to and alterations to the existing dwelling at The Forge, 15, Old Forge Road, Fenny Drayton (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 application site lies within an area of archaeological interest. The site is situated within the medieval and post-medieval settlement core of Fenny Drayton (HER ref. MLE8930) close to known archaeological remains. Archaeological evaluation, carried out in 1999, on the site to the rear of the proposed development site revealed archaeological features containing medieval pottery and tile (MLE 8505). These remains have been interpreted as medieval backyard activity for a property fronting onto Old Forge Road, and there is some suggestion that they could be related to the medieval pottery industry (SLE 2879). 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 of the Mercia Mudstone Group (MMG).

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 micro-slugs (hammer-scale and spherical droplets). All industrial samples will be undertaken with reference to the Centre for Archaeology Guideline on Archaeometallurgy (English Heritage 2001).
- 5.8 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner. Where appropriate they will be cleaned, marked and receive remedial conservation in accordance with recognised best practice. This will include the site code number, finds number and context number. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self sealing plastic bags, again marked with site code, finds and context

6. Report and Archive

- 6.1 Arrangements will be made for the archive, consisting of record sheets, original drawings, drawn plans, photographs, notes, copies of all reports along with an index to the archive to be deposited at Leicestershire Museums in accordance with the relevant procedures. 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 <http://ads.ac.uk/project/oasis> will be completed detailing the results of the project. Once the report has become a public document following its incorporation into the HER it may be placed on the web-site.

8. Copyright

- 8.1 The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

9. Timetable

- 9.1 It is anticipated that work will be undertaken in November 2012.

10. Health and Safety

- 10.1 A Risks Assessment form will be completed prior to work commencing on-site, and updated as necessary during the site works (see end of this document).

11 Insurance

- 11.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Employers Liability Insurance and Public/Products Insurance is with Allianz Insurance plc Policy No. SZ/21696148 and Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Newline Underwriting Management Limited, Policy No. WD1100541. Details are provided in the 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 2007 *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*

Roger Kipling
Field Officer
ULAS
University of Leicester

University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614
Email: rwk1@le.ac.uk

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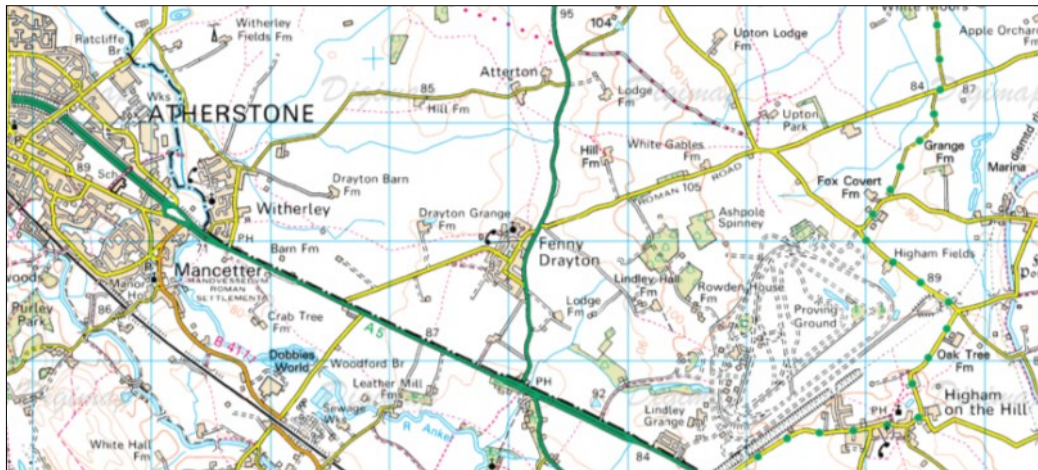


Fig. 1 Location plan

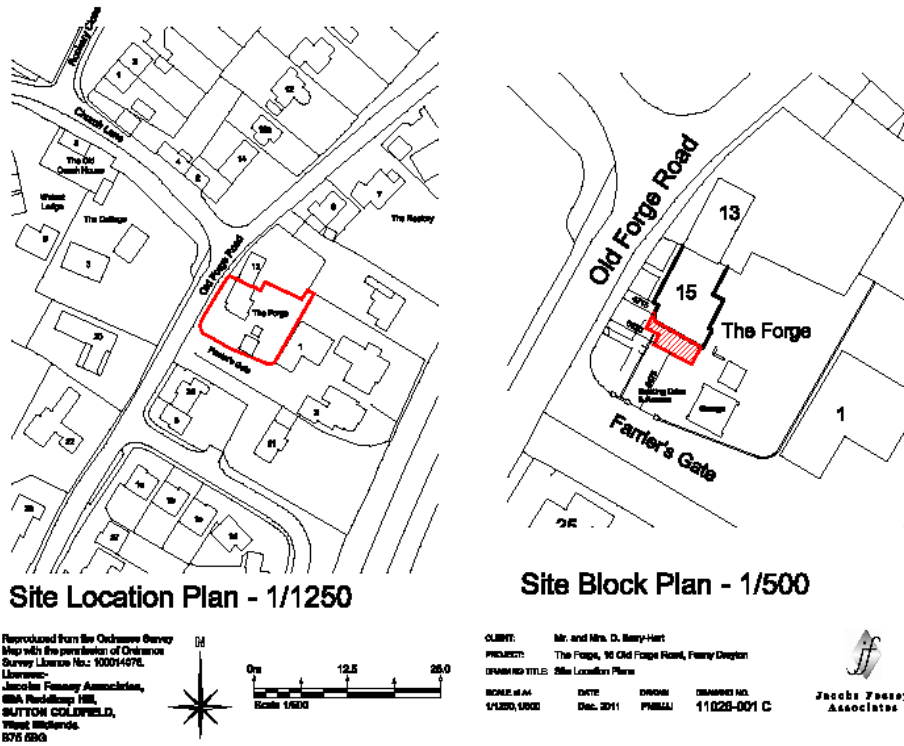


Fig. 2 Detail of site location (provided by client).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF METHOD STATEMENT & RISK ASSESSMENT

Site Name	Job No	Start Date	PM	Contact
The Old Forge, Old Forge Lane, Fenny Drayton	13-316	TBC	Vicki Score	0116 252 2848
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

T: +44 (0)116 252 2848

F: +44 (0)116 252 2614

E: ulas@le.ac.uk

w: www.le.ac.uk/ulas

