



University of
Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An archaeological field
evaluation on land at
Scalford Road Lodge,
Scalford Road,
Melton Mowbray,
Leicestershire
(SK 75325 21009)**

Leon Hunt



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**An archaeological field evaluation on land at
Scalford Road Lodge,
Scalford Road,
Melton Mowbray,
Leicestershire
(SK 75325 21009)**

Leon Hunt

for

Persimmon Homes

Planning Application Number 13/00479/FUL

Checked by Project Manager

Signed:



Date: 15.10.2013

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An archaeological field evaluation on land at Scalford Road Lodge, Scalford Road, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire (SK 75325 21009)

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Summary

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was carried out on land at Scalford Road Lodge, Scalford Road, Melton Mowbray (NGR: SK 75325 21009) in advance of the proposed development of the site for new housing and infrastructure including new balancing ponds.

The site consisted of a large rectangular field and part of a further field to the east. Both fields were under pasture at the time of the archaeological work.

The site lies to the west of Melton Country Park where archaeological work carried out in the late 1980s revealed evidence a Roman settlement, most likely a continuation of human activity in the area dating Iron Age. Activity during the Bronze Age is also known from the area.

A geophysical survey was carried out prior to the evaluation and was inconclusive; only ridge and furrow earthworks and a few areas of disturbance had been identified.

The evaluation consisted of 13 trenches placed across Field 1 to the west and three smaller trenches on Field 2 to the east. All were found to be negative for archaeological features, with only ridge and furrow earthworks, field drains and an area of disturbance close to a field entrance identified within the trenches, mirroring the geophysical survey of the site.

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Persimmon Homes to carry out an archaeological field evaluation on land at Scalford Road Lodge, Scalford Road, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 75325 21009) in advance of the proposed development of the site for new housing.

This archaeological work is in accordance with NPPF Section 12: Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment.

The evaluation is required as a condition of the planning consent for the proposed erection of 91 new homes with a mix of 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedroom dwellings with associated infrastructure by Persimmon Homes Ltd. at the above address (Planning App. No. P.A. 13/00479/FUL).

The application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire & Rutland indicates that the site lies adjacent to an area that was excavated in the late 1980s and yielded evidence for human occupation of the area from the Late Iron Age through to the Roman period. Other finds from the Bronze Age also lie nearby.

Location and Geology

The site lies on the eastern side of Scalford Road, Melton Mowbray, around 2 km north of Melton town centre (Figure 1).

The site consists of a sub-rectangular field (Field 1) of *c.*3.1 hectares and a further rectangular section of another field to the east (Field 2) of *c.*0.9 hectares. The land was under pasture at the time of the evaluation.

The land falls from north-west to south-east from *c.*111m aOD to *c.* 103m aOD in Field 1, and from 103m aOD to 93m aOD in Field 2.

The British Geological Survey website indicates that the underlying geology of the site is likely to be Oadby Member Diamicton overlying Charmouth Mudstone Formation Mudstone (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain>).



Figure 1: Site Location

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Historical and Archaeological Background

A desk-based assessment was produced by ULAS for the site in 2010 (Hunt 2010) and showed that the Melton Mowbray area is very rich in archaeology and this is exemplified by a large number of records in the Historic Environment Record (HER) for the town and its environs. The application area, however, lies *c.*2km to the north of the town centre in an area that has not been developed and therefore the sites in the vicinity of the application area are more limited. The majority of listed archaeological sites are largely from an area close to Melton Country Park, which lies adjacent to the application area. A polished axehead was present during excavation close to Melton

Country Park (**MLE7269**). A triple bank and ditch earthwork dated to the Bronze Age was surveyed in 1989 at the edge of the Country Park (**MLE3996**).

An archaeological excavation carried out by Leicestershire Archaeological Unit in 1989 along the Scalford Brook, which lies 100m to the south-east of the site at the edge of Melton Country Park revealed Iron Age features, including a ditch, post-holes and pits (**MLE3995**). The features were associated with animal remains and pottery (Beamish 1990). The excavation also revealed evidence of Roman occupation, most likely a continuation of settlement from the pre-Roman Iron Age. This included a considerable amount of occupation debris and remains dating from the late 2nd to early 4th century, such as the remains of timber structures surrounded by an enclosure ditch, pits and post-holes. Finds included a knife, a coin and a brooch (**MLE3992**). The work also revealed two burials dated to the late Roman period (**MLE3994**).

Metal detecting in the Country Park area has led to the discovery of a Roman furniture knob and a bow brooch (**MLE8006**).

Other Iron Age finds in the vicinity include a Late Iron Age (or early Roman) quern (**MLE6589**).

A geophysical survey was carried out on the site prior to the evaluation but was inconclusive, revealing ridge and furrow earthworks, but no anomalies that may be construed as archaeological in origin.

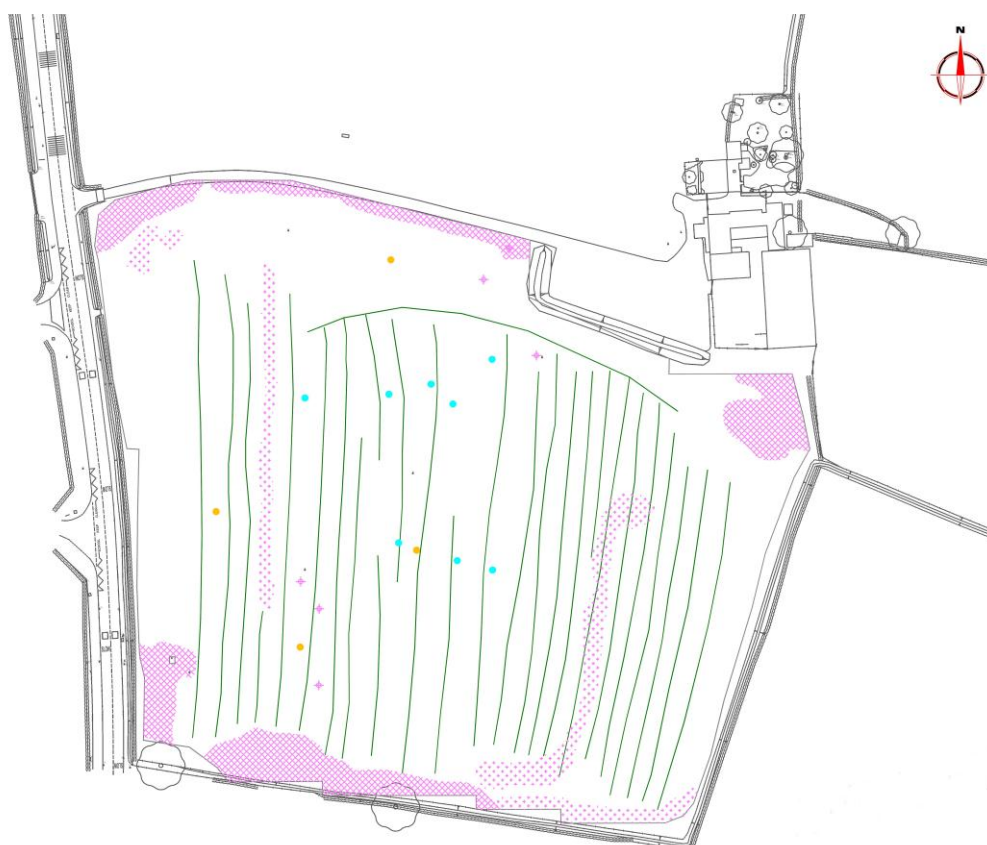


Figure 2: Interpretive plan of geophysical survey of Field 1. Provided by Stratascan

Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives of the evaluation 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 produce an archive and report of any results.

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.

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



Figure 3: Plan of proposed development. Provided by developer.

Methodology

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2010) in accordance with their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

(2010). The archaeological work followed the *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological work* (WSI) prepared by ULAS (Appendix IV).

The WSI asked for a 2% sample of the proposed development area, covering c. 700 sq metres of trenching; the equivalent of 13 30m by 1.8m trenches. An additional two 10m and one 20m long trenches are proposed to target the proposed location of balancing ponds in Field 2. Subject to the results of the original trenching, provision was made for a further 1% (c. 350 sq metres) of trenching to target areas of potential revealed in the initial trenching.

Two trenches (Trenches 04 & 05) were moved slightly from their original position due to the proximity of a power line.

The trenches were excavated by a large tracked excavator to the top of archaeological deposits or the natural sub-stratum, whichever was the higher (Plate 1).



Plate 1: Work in progress on Trench 08, looking north-east to Scalford Road Lodge

Results

The soil sequence throughout Field 1 consisted of brownish grey clayey silt topsoil with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks over a greyish orange silty clay subsoil also with occasional small stones. Below this lay the substratum of greyish orange or yellowish brown slightly silty clay mixed with common small chalk nodules, angular flint nodules and occasional pebbles. There were also occasional larger pieces of iron stone and large cobbles within the clay. The only variation to this was in Trench 09 where there was a band of greyish orange clayey sand with rare small angular stones and manganese staining crossing the trench, towards the southern end.

The sequence in Field 2 the topsoil was a grey silt with rare small 1 stones over a greyish orange subsoil of clayey silt with common small chalk nodules and flint

fragments. The substratum consisted of greyish orange or greyish brown silty clay with flint and chalk nodules.

Faint furrows were identified in some of the trenches and a number of field drains, either chalk filled or ceramic were also encountered.

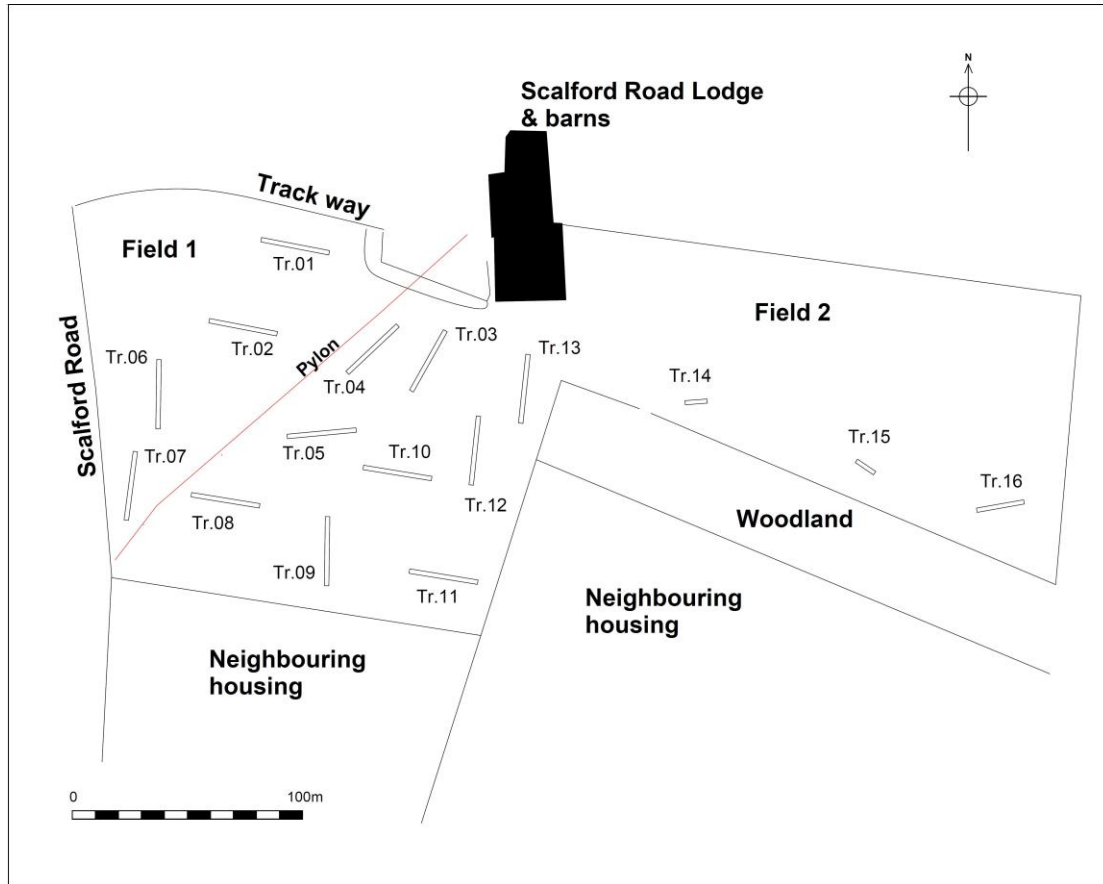


Figure 4: Trench plan at Scalford Road Lodge

Trench 01

Length: 30m		Width: 1.8m			Orientation: East-West		
Interval	E 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m W
Topsoil Depth	0.27m	0.30m	0.32m	0.29m	0.27m	0.33m	0.24m
Subsoil	0.15m	0.09m	0.11m	0.20m	0.13m	0.10m	0.15m
Top of natural	0.42m	0.39m	0.43m	0.49m	0.50m	0.43m	0.39m
Base of trench	0.50m	0.39m	0.48m	0.55m	0.51m	0.45m	0.41m

No archaeological features or artefacts were present within this trench.

Trench 02

Length: 31m		Width: 1.8m		Orientation: East-West			
Interval	E 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m W
Topsoil Depth	0.27m	0.26m	0.30m	0.27m	0.27m	0.30m	0.28m
Subsoil	0.17m	0.20m	0.13m	0.08m	0.09m	0.10m	0.14m
Top of natural	0.34m	0.46m	0.43m	0.35m	0.36m	0.40m	0.42m
Base of trench	0.38m	0.47m	0.45m	0.40m	0.42m	0.42m	0.45m

No archaeological features or artefacts were present within this trench. Three furrows were identified within this trench, approximately 7m apart.

Trench 03

Length: 31m		Width: 1.8m		Orientation: NNE-SSW			
Interval	0m SSW	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m NNE
Topsoil Depth	0.23m	0.30m	0.27m	0.25m	0.30m	0.29m	0.23m
Subsoil	0.11m	0.14m	0.19m	0.13m	0.15m	0.09m	0.13m
Top of natural	0.34m	0.44m	0.46m	0.38m	0.45m	0.38m	0.36m
Base of trench	0.43m	0.50m	0.50m	0.48m	0.48m	0.40m	0.45m

No archaeological features or artefacts were present within this trench.

Trench 04

Length: 31m		Width: 1.8m		Orientation: NE-SW			
Interval	SW 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m NE
Topsoil Depth	0.19m	0.24m	0.28m	0.23m	0.32m	0.23m	0.26m
Subsoil	0.09m	0.18m	0.12m	0.19m	0.18m	0.13m	0.20m
Top of natural	0.28m	0.42m	0.40m	0.42m	-	0.36m	0.46m
Base of trench	0.36m	0.54m	0.56m	0.60m	0.50m	0.48m	0.59m

No archaeological features or artefacts were present within this trench. Two furrows were identified within this trench, around 10m apart.



Plate 2: Post-excitation view of Trench 04, looking north-east

Trench 05

Length: 30.5m		Width: 1.8m			Orientation: E-W		
Interval	W 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m E
Topsoil Depth	0.28m	0.26m	0.20m	0.22m	0.24m	0.24m	0.21m
Subsoil	0.08m	0.13m	0.07m	0.09m	0.09m	0.16m	0.16m
Top of natural	0.36m	0.39m	0.27m	0.31m	0.33m	0.40m	0.37m
Base of trench	0.36m	0.48m	0.32m	0.48m	0.45m	0.52m	0.50m

No archaeological features or artefacts were present within this trench. Three furrows were identified within this trench, around 8-9m apart.

Trench 06

Length: 30.5m		Width: 1.8m			Orientation: N-S		
Interval	N 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m S
Topsoil	0.18m	0.19m	0.20m	0.24m	0.18m	0.19m	0.19m

Depth							
Subsoil	0.18m	0.18m	0.14m	0.13m	0.20m	0.22m	0.21m
Top of natural	0.36m	0.37m	0.34m	0.37m	0.38m	0.41m	0.40m
Base of trench	0.36m	0.48m	0.48m	0.48m	0.50m	0.50m	0.50m

No archaeological features or artefacts were present within this trench. Two field drains were identified, one running broadly north to south, the other running east to west.

Trench 07

Length: 30m		Width: 1.8m		Orientation: N-S			
Interval	N 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m S
Topsoil Depth	0.20m	0.18m	0.18m	0.20m	0.20m	0.22m	0.21m
Subsoil	0.08m	0.10m	0.06m	0.11m	0.10m	0.12m	0.09m
Top of natural	0.28m	0.28m	0.24m	0.31m	0.30m	0.34m	0.30m
Base of trench	0.36m	0.36m	0.32m	0.40m	0.46m	0.41m	0.41m

No archaeological features or artefacts were present within this trench. One field drain was identified, running north-west to south-east.

Trench 08

Length: 30m		Width: 1.8m		Orientation: WNW-ESE			
Interval	WNW 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m ESE
Topsoil Depth	0.20m	0.25m	0.24m	0.23m	0.26m	0.28m	0.21m
Subsoil	0.12m	0.25m	0.15m	0.10m	0.09m	0.28m	0.28m
Top of natural	0.32m	0.40m	0.39m	0.33m	0.35m	-	0.49m
Base of trench	0.46m	0.50m	0.50m	0.43m	0.44m	0.56m	0.59m

No archaeological features or artefacts were present within this trench. Five furrows were identified running broadly north to south, around 5m apart.

Trench 09

Length: 30m		Width: 1.8m		Orientation: N-S			
Interval	N 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m S

Topsoil Depth	0.16m	0.20m	0.18m	0.24m	0.26m	0.20m	0.19m
Subsoil	0.13m	0.18m	0.18m	0.28m	0.10m	0.16m	0.09m
Top of natural	0.29m	0.38m	0.46m	0.57m	0.36m	0.36m	0.28m
Base of trench	0.40m	0.42m	0.50m	0.68m	0.60m	0.51m	0.46m

No archaeological features or artefacts were present within this trench. One drain was identified running broadly east to west.

Trench 10

Length: 30.5m		Width: 1.8m			Orientation: E-W		
Interval	W 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m E
Topsoil Depth	0.32m	0.23m	0.26m	0.21m	0.22m	0.21m	0.20m
Subsoil	0.10m	0.14m	0.14m	0.09m	0.17m	0.27m	0.20m
Top of natural	0.42m	0.37m	0.40m	0.30m	0.39m	0.48m	0.40m
Base of trench	0.49m	0.43m	0.49m	0.42m	0.46m	0.56m	0.40m

No archaeological features or artefacts were present within this trench. Three furrows were identified running north to south, around 7-8m apart.

Trench 11

Length: 30m		Width: 1.8m			Orientation: E-W		
Interval	W 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m E
Topsoil Depth	0.20m	0.19m	0.26m	0.20m	0.22m	0.23m	0.26m
Subsoil	0.28m	0.11m	0.22m	0.22m	0.21m	0.17m	0.05m
Top of natural	0.48m	0.30m	0.48m	0.42m	0.43m	0.40m	-
Base of trench	0.59m	0.44m	0.53m	0.50m	0.52m	0.52m	0.31m

No archaeological features or artefacts were present within this trench. A furrow was identified running north to south close to the eastern end of the trench. A drain was identified running north-east to south-west.

Trench 12

Length: 30.5m		Width: 1.8m			Orientation: N-S		
Interval	N 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m S
Topsoil Depth	0.22m	0.22m	0.24m	0.28m	0.20m	0.20m	0.22m
Subsoil	0.06m	0.16m	0.12m	0.22m	0.24m	0.25m	0.20m
Top of natural	0.28m	0.38m	0.36m	0.50m	0.44m	0.45m	0.42m
Base of trench	0.32m	0.48m	0.44m	0.56m	0.52m	0.56m	0.52m

No archaeological features or artefacts were present within this trench. A drain was identified running east to west.



Plate 3: Post-excavation view of Trench 13, looking north to Lodge

Trench 13

Length: 30.5m		Width: 1.8m			Orientation: N-S		
Interval	N 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m S
Topsoil Depth	0.18m	0.17m	0.18m	0.17m	0.18m	0.22m	0.18m
Subsoil	0.56m*	0.25m	0.31m	0.27m	0.34m	0.26m	0.34m
Top of	-	0.42m	0.49m	0.44m	0.52m	0.48m	0.52m

natural							
Base of trench	0.74m	0.55m	0.58m	0.59m	0.60m	0.58m	0.64m

No archaeological features or artefacts were present within this trench.

*For around the first 4m of the trench at the northern end is a hollow filled with modern rubble, possibly a cattle scar or quarry pit that has been filled in.

A drain was identified running east to west.

Trench 14

Length: 9.5m Width 1.8m			
Orientation: E-W			
Interval	W 0m	5m	9.5m E
Topsoil Depth	0.27m	0.27m	0.27m
Subsoil	0.22m	0.24m	0.21m
Top of natural	0.49m	0.51m	0.48m
Base of trench	0.70m	0.76m	0.71m

No archaeological features or artefacts were present within this trench. A ceramic field drain was identified running north-east to south-west.

Trench 15

Length: 10.8m Width 1.8m			
Orientation: NW-SE			
Interval	NW 0m	5m	10m SE
Topsoil Depth	0.21m	0.32m	0.28m
Subsoil	0.27m	0.19m	0.18m
Top of natural	0.48m	0.51m	0.46m
Base of trench	0.76m	0.83m	0.78m

No archaeological features or artefacts were present within this trench.

Trench 16

Length: 20m		Width 1.8m		Orientation: WSW-ENE	
Interval	WSW 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m ENE
Topsoil Depth	0.22m	0.21m	0.20m	0.22m	0.36m
Subsoil	0.34m	0.39m	0.22m	0.14m	-
Top of natural	-	0.60m	0.42m	0.36m	0.36m
Base of trench	0.56m	0.66m	0.55m	0.44m	0.50m

No archaeological features or artefacts were present within this trench.



Plate 4: Post-excavation view of Trench 16, looking east

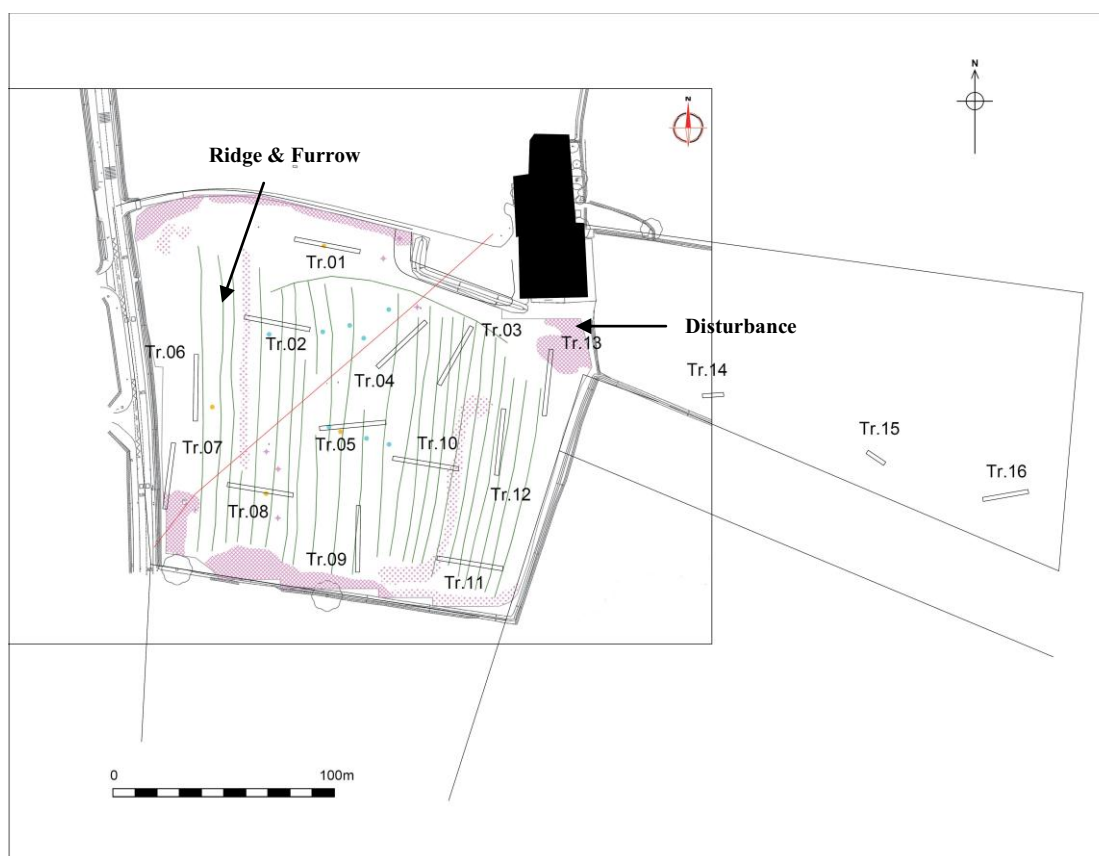


Figure 5: Trench plan at Scalford Lodge superimposed onto geophysical results

Conclusion

The evaluation on the land at Scalford Road Lodge, Scalford Road, Melton Mowbray was negative for archaeological features across the whole of the site. The only features identified within the evaluation trenches were field drains, furrows, and in Trench 13, a section of disturbed ground.

These findings correspond with the geophysical survey undertaken prior to the evaluation, which revealed ridge and furrow earthworks running north to south throughout Field 1 and an area of disturbance at the entrance of Field 2, most likely where the soil has been eroded by cattle during wet weather and the ground has been made up with brick and other rubble to ease the build-up of mud here.

Despite the proximity of the prehistoric and Roman features in Melton Country Park to the east of the site at Scalford Lodge it is evident that the settlement evidence there does not extend into the present area.

References

Beamish, M., 1990 *Excavations At Scalford Brook*. LAU Report (A162.1990)

Clarke, B., 2013 *Geophysical Survey Report: Scalford Road, Melton Mowbray* (Stratascan Report J5788)

Hunt, L., 2010 *An archaeological desk-based assessment for land to the east of Scalford Road, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire (SK 754 210)* (ULAS Report No. 2010-162)

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Persimmon Homes and farmer Alison Harker for their help and co-operation with this project. The project was managed by Patrick Clay and the work carried out by the author and Mathew Morris. The machine was supplied by Long Eaton Plant Hire and driven by Mark De-Hayes of C3 Construction.

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	Scalford Road Lodge, Melton Mowbray
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Leon Hunt
Previous/Future work	None
Current Land Use	Pasture
Development Type	New housing
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition
Site Co ordinates	SK 75325 21009
Start/end dates of field work	08-10-2013
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museums
Study Area	4ha

Archive

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A159.2013.

The archive consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report (2013-164)
- 1 Copy of the desk-based assessment report (2010-162)
- 16 Trench recording sheets
- 1 set of contact sheets of digital photographs

- 1 CD digital photographs
- 1 Set B&W contact sheets
- 1 Set B&W negatives

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14-10-2013

APPENDIX: Written scheme of investigation for archaeological work
UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Written scheme of investigation for archaeological work

Job title: Land East of Scalford Road, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire

NGR: SK 754 210

Client: Persimmon Homes Ltd

Planning Authority: Melton Borough Council

Planning application No. 13/00479/FUL

Proposed Start date; 14.10.2013

1 Introduction

1.1 Definition and scope of the specification

This document is a design specification for a phase of archaeological field evaluation (AFE) at the above site, in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF): Section 12 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment. Planning Permission is being sought for the proposed erection of 91 dwellings with a mix of 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedroom dwellings with associated infrastructure by Persimmon Homes Ltd. The fieldwork specified below is intended to provide information on the character and extent of any heritage assets in order that the potential impact of the development on such remains may be assessed by the Planning Authority.

- 1.2 The definition of archaeological field evaluation, taken from the Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2010) is a limited programme of non-intrusive and/ or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

2. Background

Context of the Project

- 2.1 The site lies on the eastern side of Scalford Road, Melton Mowbray, around 2km north of Melton town centre (Figure 1). The site consists of around 3.4ha of agricultural land south-west of Scalford Road Lodge, which lies around 200m east of the road (Figure 2).

2.2 Geology and topography

- 2.2.1 The British Geological Survey notes that the superficial geology consists predominantly of diamicton till (Oadby member) (http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html). The land falls from west to east, from c.115m aOD to c.95m aOD. The area covers c. 3.4ha. (Figure 2).

- 2.3 Following National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment, Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team

(LCCHNET) as archaeological advisors to the planning authority require that trial trenching is undertaken to further understand the significance of heritage assets which may be present.

Archaeological and Historical Background

2.5 An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment for the area has been prepared (Hunt 2010) The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates shows that the site lies adjacent to an area that was excavated in the late 1980s and yielded evidence for human occupation of the area from the Late Iron Age through to the Roman period. Other finds from the Bronze Age also lie nearby. The cartographic evidence indicates that the land has remained in agricultural use for several centuries and there is little evidence for any previous development.

2.6 The geophysical survey identified a few discrete anomalies of possible archaeological origin and north-south aligned anomalies denoting ridge and furrow . (Marsh forthcoming).

3. Archaeological Objectives

3.1 The archaeological evaluation has the potential to contribute to the following research aims.

Mesolithic (Myers 2006; Knight et al 2012, English Heritage 2010)

3.1.1 The exploitation of stream side locations during the Mesolithic (Myers 2006). Palaeoenvironmental evidence could provide information on land use.

Neolithic and Early Middle Bronze Age (Clay 2006; Knight et al 2012; English Heritage 2010)

3.1.2 *The development of ceremonial monuments and their environs – the e contains several prehistoric ceremonial landscapes and the scheme may uncover archaeological assets associated with these. Palaeoenvironmental evidence may provide information on agricultural practices and land use.*

Late Iron Age (Willis 2006; Knight et al 2012; English Heritage 2010)

3.1.3 *There are Iron Age settlements in the vicinity of the scheme. Information on the sequence and chronology of settlements may be recovered and palaeoenvironmental evidence could provide information on agricultural practices and land use. Artefacts can provide evidence for evidence for craft industry and exchange across broad landscape areas.*

The Roman Period (Taylor 2006; Knight et al 2012; English Heritage 2012)

3.1.4

There are several Roman sites within the study area including enclosures and a Roman road. The evaluations may contribute to knowledge on Iron Age – Roman transitions in rural settlement, landscape and society. Artefacts may identify trade links and economy.

3.2 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 Field Evaluation* (2010). The *LCC Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological work Leicestershire and Rutland* (1997) will be adhered to.
- 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 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to the Client and his representatives, the planning authority, the Senior Planning Archaeologist of the Heritage and Resources Team, Leicestershire County Council subject to the health and safety requirements of the site. At least one week's notice will be given prior to commencement of the recording work in order that monitoring arrangements can be made. All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the *IfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008).

Trial Trenching Methodology

- 4.5 Prior to any machining of trial trenches general photographs of the site areas will be taken.
- 4.6 Leicestershire County Council Historic and Natural Environment team, as advisors to the planning authority have requested trial trenching to evaluate the impact of the proposals on any underlying heritage assets. A 2% sample of this area covers *c.* 700 sq metres of trenching; the equivalent of 13 30m by 1.8m trenches. An additional two 10m and one 20m long trenches are proposed to target the proposed location of balancing ponds (Figure 3). The provisional trench plans attached (Figures. 2-3) show the proposed location of the trenches, although the size and position indicated on the provisional trench plan may vary due to unforeseen site constraints or the presence of archaeological deposits. Subject to the results of the trenching provision is made for a further 1% (*c.* 350 sq metres) of trenching to target areas of potential revealed in the initial trenching.
- 4.7 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. All excavation by machine and hand will be undertaken with a view to avoid damage to archaeological deposits or features which appear worthy of preservation in situ or more detailed investigation than for the purposes of evaluation. Where structures, features or finds appear to merit preservation in situ, they will be adequately protected from deterioration.
- 4.13 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.
- 4.14 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.
- 4.15 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.

- 4.16 Trench locations will be recorded by an appropriate method. These will then be tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.
- 4.17 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.
- 4.18 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.
- 4.19 The trenches will be backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.

Recording Systems

- 4.20 Any archaeological deposits encountered will be recorded and excavated using standard procedures as outlined in the ULAS recording manual. Sufficient of any archaeological features or deposits will be hand excavated in order to provide the information required.
- 4.21. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets.
- 4.22 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made on drawing film, related to the OS grid and at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Elevations and sections of individual layers of features should be drawn where possible. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans.
- 4.23 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds present. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.
- 4.24 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the project.

5. Finds

- 5.1 The IfA *Guidelines for Finds Work* will be adhered to.
- 5.2 Before commencing work on the site, a Site code/Accession number will be agreed with the Planning Archaeologist that will be used to identify all records and finds from the site.
- 5.3 All antiquities, valuables, objects or remains of archaeological interest, other than articles declared by Coroner's Inquest to be subject to the Treasure Act, present 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 the appropriate authority 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 with the approval of the 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.
- 5.6 Finds which may constitute 'treasure' under the Treasure Act, 1996 must be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner. Where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

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 (i.e datable) will be bulk sampled (50 litres 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 50 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.
- 6.6 Where evidence of industrial processes are present (eg indicated by the presence of slag or hearth bases), samples will be taken for the analysis of industrial residues (e.g hammer scale).
- 7 Report and Archive**
- 7.1 A draft version of the report will normally be presented within four weeks of completion of site works. The full report in A4 format will usually follow within eight weeks. Copies will be provided for the client and the Local Planning Authority and deposited with the Historic Environment Record.
- 7.2 The report will include consideration of:
- 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 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.
 - 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.
 - A quantitative and qualitative assessment of the potential of the archive for further analysis leading to full publication, following guidelines laid down in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage).
- 7.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in the IfA Standard and Guidance for archaeological archives (Brown 2008) will normally be presented to Leicestershire County Council within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken and will follow the LCC guidelines detailed in *The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service* (LMARS).
- 7.4 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.

8 Publication and Dissemination of Results

- 8.1 A summary report will be submitted to a suitable regional archaeological journal following completion of the fieldwork. A full report will be submitted to a national or period journal if the results are of significance.
- 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://www.oasis.ac.uk> will be completed detailing the results of the project. ULAS will contact the HER prior to completion of the form. Once a report has become a public document following its incorporation into the HER it may be placed on the web-site.

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 Copyright

- 10.1 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.

11 Monitoring arrangements

- 11.1 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and Planning Archaeologist subject to the health and safety requirements of the site.
- 11.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the IfA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (2008)
- 11.3 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

12 Timetable and Staffing

- 12.1 The start date is proposed for 14.10.2013. The work is likely to take 1-2 weeks to complete and will be carried out by two – three experienced archaeologists.
- 12.2 The on-site director/supervisor will carry out the post-excavation work, with time allocated within the costing of the project for analysis of any artefacts found on the site by the relevant in-house specialists at ULAS.

13 Health and Safety

- 13.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (revised 2010) with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is in the Appendix. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate.

14. Insurance

- 14.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. Public Liability Insurance and Employers Liability Insurance: Allianz Insurance plc Policy No. SZ/21696148. Professional Indemnity Insurance – Novae Underwriting Ltd. Policy No. 702610MMA120

15. Contingencies and unforeseen circumstances

- 15.1 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the project, ULAS shall inform the site agent/project manager, Client and the Planning Archaeologist and Planning Authority and prepare a short written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement an amended scheme of investigation on behalf of the client as appropriate.

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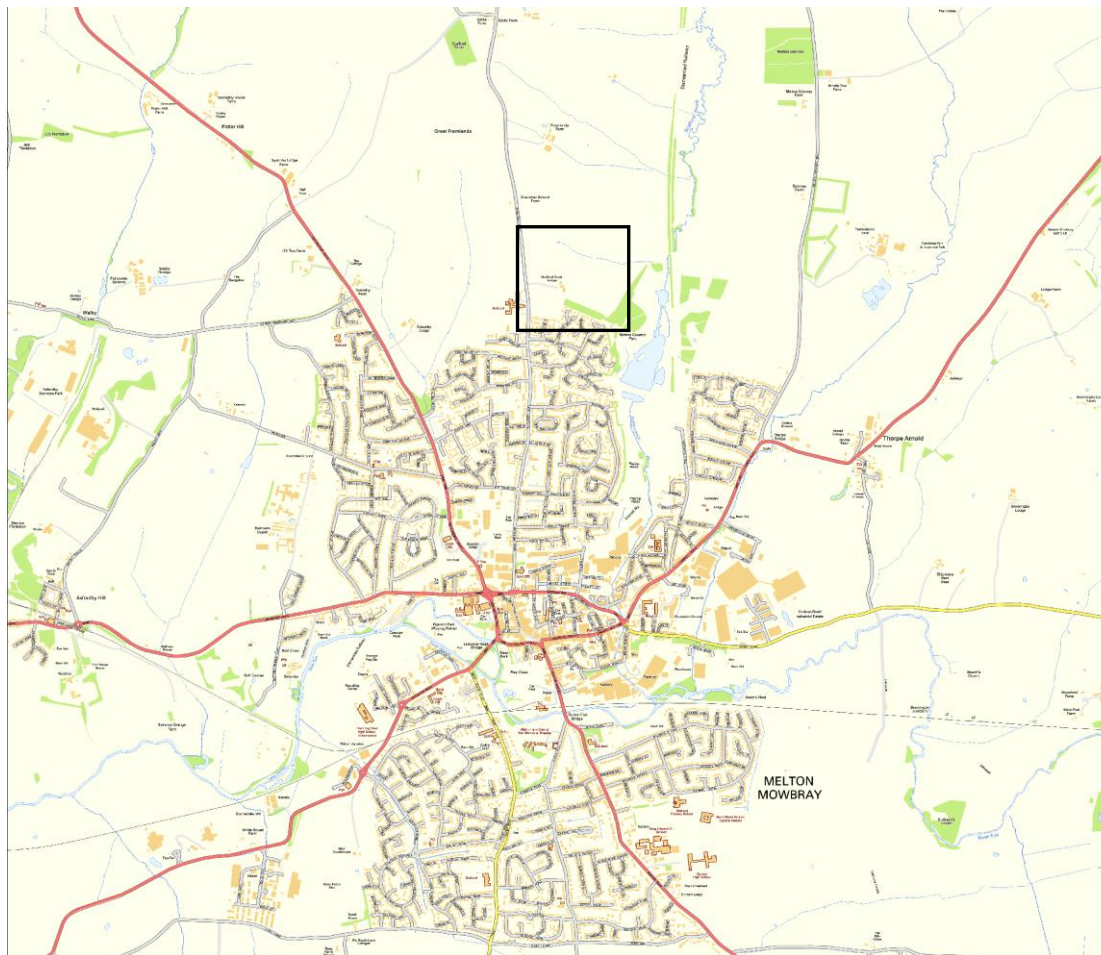


Fig 1: Site location

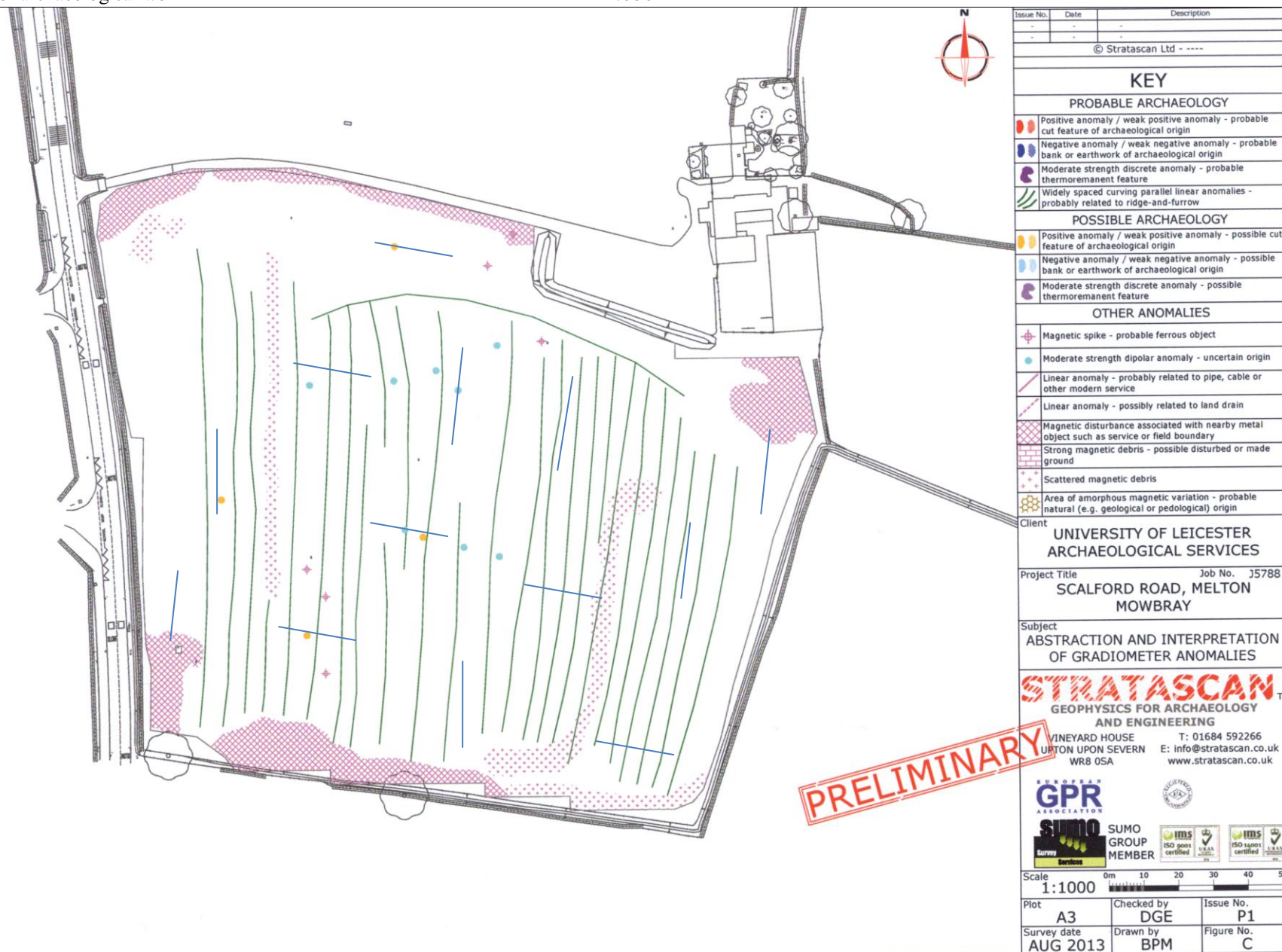


Fig 2: Site location with suggested trench locations in relation to the geophysical survey results

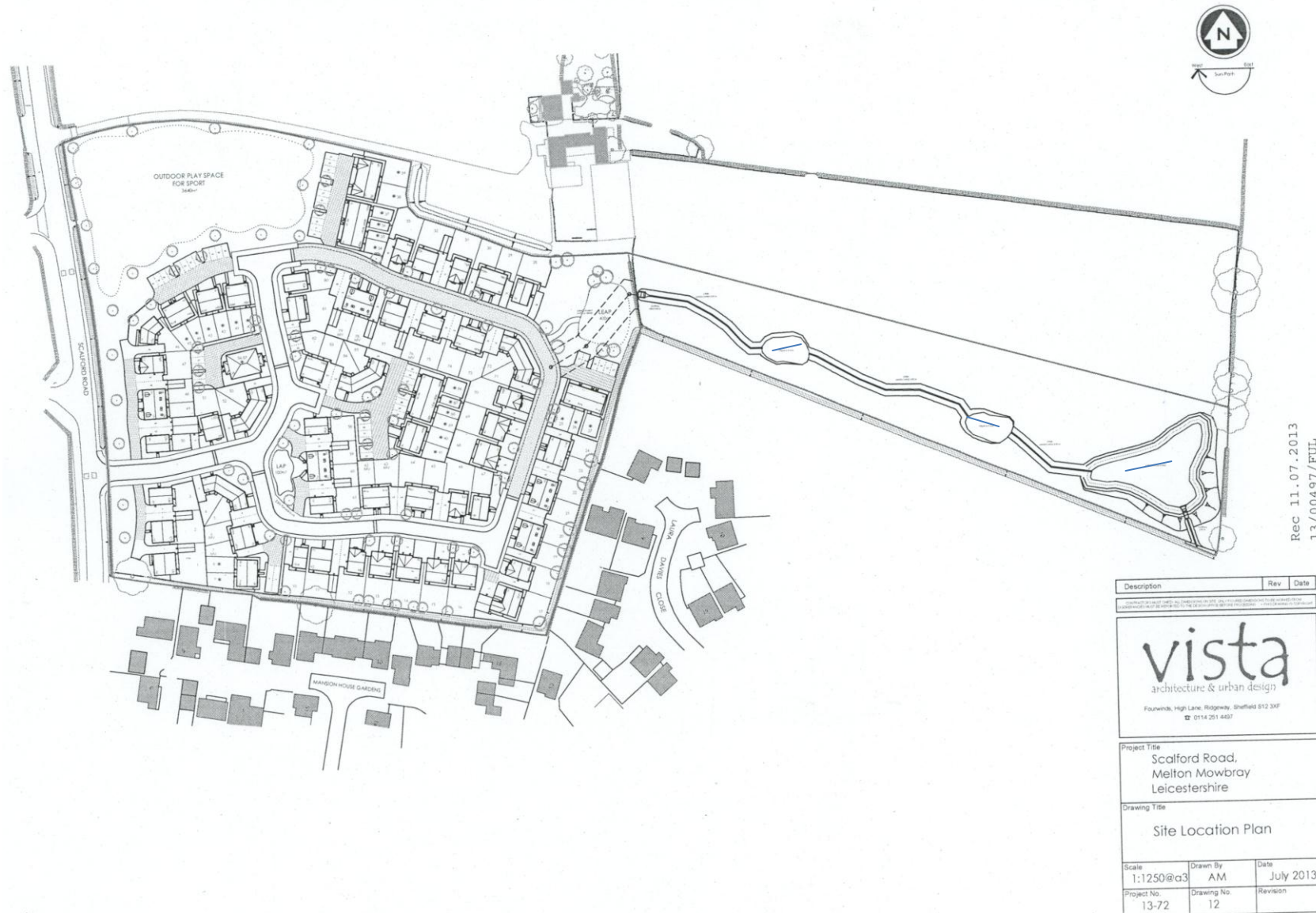


Figure 3 Plan of the proposed development with trenches targeting the balancing ponds

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING METHOD STATEMENT & RISK ASSESSMENT

Site Name	Job No	PM	Contact
Land off Scalford Road, Melton Mowbray Leicestershire	14/538	Patrick Clay	0116 252 2848 07796940240
Site Director	Site Contacts	Team (Nos)	
TBA	TBA	2	

SITE WORKS & METHOD STATEMENT

Evaluation trenches are to be machine excavated as detailed in the specification to look at archaeological deposits

Excavation Method Statement

- Access and parking will be gained via authorised routes to be arranged with the land owner/tenant.
- All staff will be inducted by the site director prior to starting work on site (Appendix 3).
- **Services:** A CAT Scanner may be used in both POWER and RADIO mode to scan trench lines for services prior to excavation. [The CAT must be in calibration and used by a competent person and used in both POWER and RADIO mode.
 - Trenches will not be excavated within 15m of known water mains or sewers or in the vicinity of other underground services or electrical cables without a separate SSOW. Any known services will be marked on the ground and avoided. All machine excavation will be carefully monitored.
 - No work will be undertaken beneath overhead cables. If a tracked machine is required to pass below an overhead cable a separate SSOW will be followed.
- **Excavation:** Trenching we conducted as per the *Trial Trenching Methodology* in the specification. Machining will be conducted using ULAS SSOW1. Excavation of trenches will be undertaken according to ULAS SSOW3 (Appendix 1). All trenches will be inspected each day by an appointed person and noted on the trench sheet (Appendix 4).
- 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

A mechanical excavator will be used for trench excavation. The site director will ensure that the appropriate certification is carried.

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 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 252 2848) and if necessary to the University of Leicester Safety Services Dept (Appendix 2).

Contact Details

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