



**University of
Leicester**

Archaeological Services

**An archaeological field
evaluation to the rear of
8-10 Market Street,
Ashby-de-la-Zouch,
Leicestershire
(SK 35673 16738)**

Leon Hunt



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**An archaeological field evaluation
to the rear of 8-10 Market Street,
Ashby-de-la-Zouch,
Leicestershire
(SK 35673 16738)**

Leon Hunt

for

Lychgate Homes Ltd

(Planning Authority: North West Leicestershire P.A No. 12/00832/FUL)

Checked by Project Manager

Signed:



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An archaeological field evaluation to the rear of 8-10 Market Street, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire (SK 35673 16738)

Leon Hunt

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land to the rear of 8-10 Market Street, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire (SK 35673 16738). The archaeological work was carried out in advance of the redevelopment of the site for new dwellings and shops and was commissioned by Lychgate Homes.

The site lies in the medieval core of the town and consists of a long narrow plot of land behind the buildings at the street front of Market Street. The plot to the rear of 8-10 Market Street retains the long, narrow configuration characteristic the medieval burgage plots. It has seen less subdivision than many of the other plots on Market Street and therefore there was potential for medieval remains on the site.

The buildings that previously occupied the site had been demolished prior to the evaluation and demolition debris and soil covered the site at the time of the work.

A total of three evaluation trenches were excavated by a small excavator and two layers of demolition rubble were exposed overlying two layers of silty/sandy clay subsoil. Two sherds of mid-19th century pottery and one sherd of medieval pottery (from AD 1250-1300) were retrieved from Trench 2, giving a modern date for the demolition rubble and a possible medieval date for the subsoil layer, which may be indicative of the cultivation of the ground during this period.

A feature, most likely part of tree throw was identified in Trench 2, but otherwise no archaeological features were uncovered during the evaluation.

The archive for the site will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A26.2014.

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Lychgate Homes Ltd to carry out an archaeological field evaluation on land to the rear of 8-10 Market Street, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 35673 16738). The work is in advance of the proposed redevelopment of the site for 7 new dwellings with shops below, with new access arrangements and parking.

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

The site lies on the south side of Market Street, which was the principal road of Ashby and probably dates to the 13th century. The plot retains the long, narrow configuration characteristic of a medieval burgage plot and therefore there is potential for medieval remains within the area.

Location and Geology

The site lies in the town centre of Ashby-de-la-Zouch (Figure 1) to the rear of the buildings at 8-10 Market Street, although the access to the site is via South Street, which lies to the south.

The site is a long thin plot of land, oriented north to south lying between Market Street and South Street. The site covers 884 square metres and lies at a height of 123m aOD, with a slight fall to the south (Figure 2).

The British Geological Survey website records that the underlying geology as Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation - Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone overlain with Alluvium.

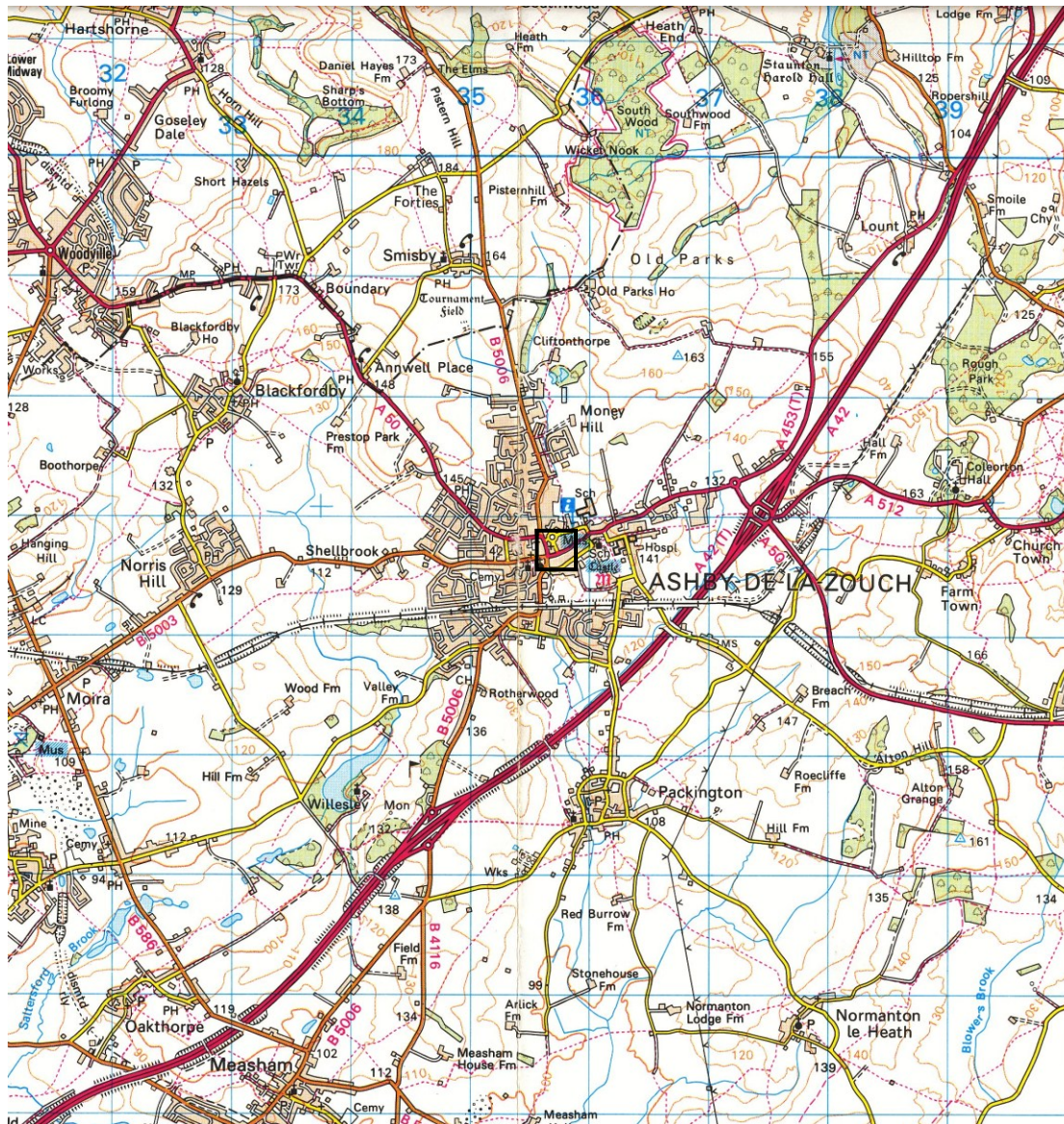


Figure 1: Site Location

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Historical and Archaeological Background

‘Ashby’ is a place-name of Anglo-Danish origin, meaning "Ash-tree farm" or "Ash-tree settlement" (Mills 2003). The Norman French suffix of ‘de la Zouch’ dates from the years after the Norman conquest of England, when the town became a possession of the La Zouche family during the reign of Henry III.

Ashby is mentioned in the Domesday as ‘Ascebi’ and was held by Ivo from Norman noble Hugh de Grandmesnil (Morris 1979).

It is the 12th century house that was modified, extended and rebuilt over subsequent centuries that forms the core of Ashby Castle. The La Zouche family received a market grant as early as 1219 but there is no evidence of burgess tenure or that it aspired to borough status.

Ashby was controlled by the Hastings family after 1464 and William Hastings, 1st Baron Hastings enhanced the fortifications of the castle from 1473. During the English Civil War the town was one of the Royalists' chief garrisons under the control of Colonel Henry Hastings, 1st Baron Loughborough and commander of the North Midlands Army. When the town fell after a long siege in March, 1646 it was counted a great relief to the surrounding towns and villages. With castle slighted the Hastings family left the town (Clark & Slack 1976).

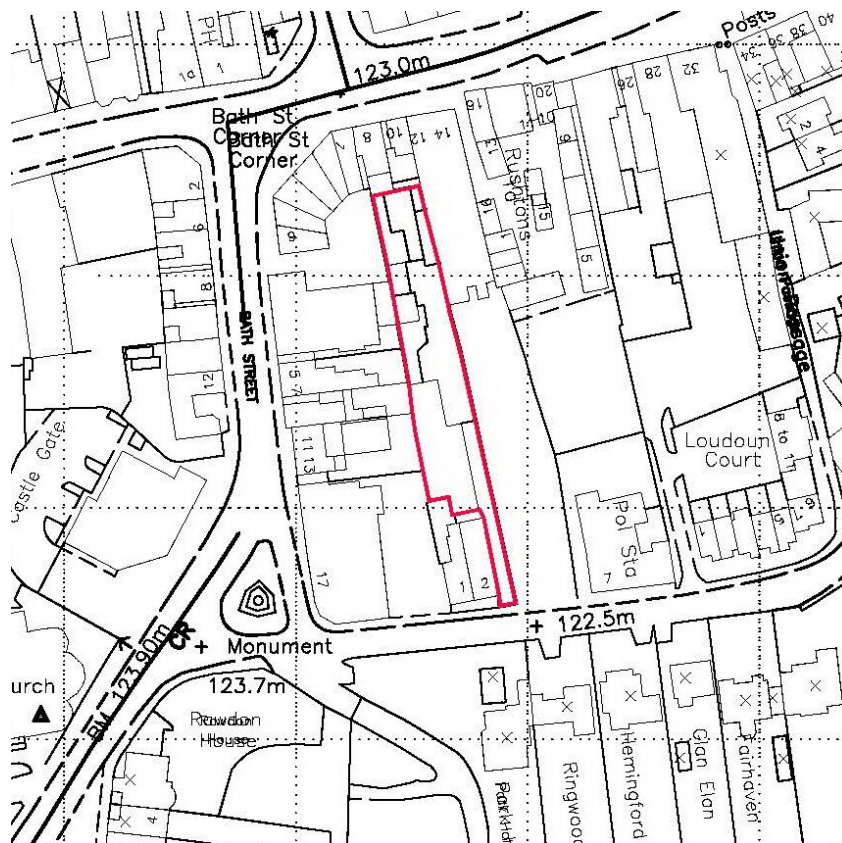


Figure 2: Plan of proposed development area. Provided by developer.
Scale Approx. 1:1250

The town contains many early timber framed buildings, although many are hidden behind later brick facades. The Bull's Head public house retains its original

Elizabethan half-timbering although most of this was plastered over some years ago and can now no longer be seen from the street. Other buildings retain their original Elizabethan timbers in full street view.

Much of the town centre, particularly along Market Street, retains the basic layout of the medieval burgage plots. These were rental properties owned by the king or lord of the manor, usually consisting of a house and a long narrow plot of land to the rear. These were well-established by the 13th century. As populations grew, burgage plots could be split into smaller additional units.

The narrow plot to the rear of 8-10 Market Street is one such plot and retains the long, narrow configuration characteristic the medieval burgage plots. It has seen less subdivision than many of the other plots on Market Street and therefore, there is potential for medieval remains within the area.

The site formerly contained a bakehouse, dating from the early 20th century and a number of other small brick outhouses, including a lairage and slaughterhouse. These buildings were the subject of a Level 2 Building Survey in 2013 (Clarke 2013).

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.

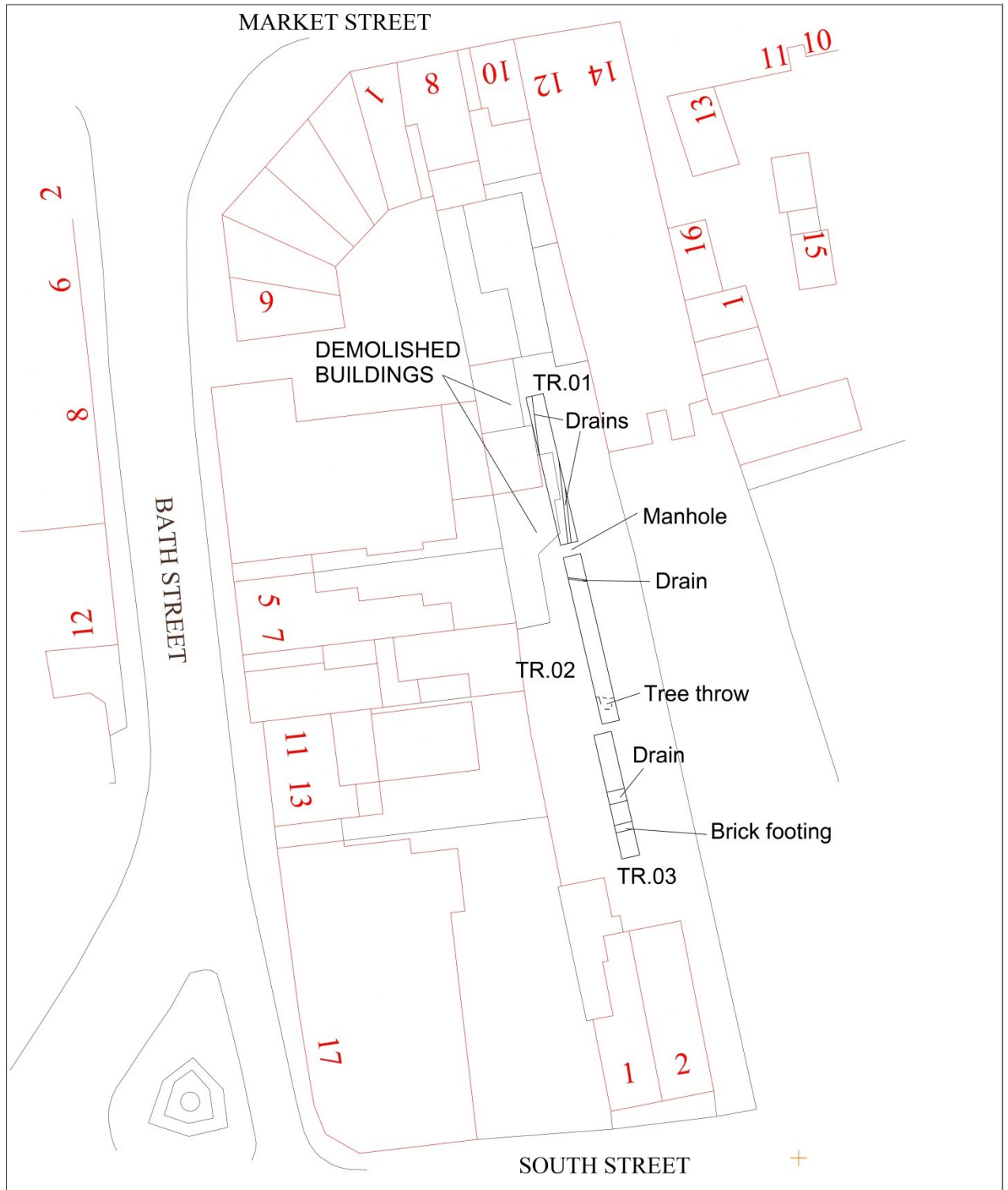


Figure 3: Plan of trench locations and notable features

Methodology

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2012) 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* prepared by ULAS (2014).

It is proposed to excavate 50m length x 2m of trenching (approximately 10% sample of the area) to target the new buildings and adjacent site access/services and landscaping. Due to the presence of large manholes, a total of three trenches were excavated within the proposed footprint of the new development.

The buildings that had occupied the site had been demolished prior to the evaluation leaving an area of soil and demolition rubble (Plate 1).

The trenches were excavated with a small tracked excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide ditching bucket, or occasionally a 1m toothed bucket to excavate areas covered in concrete or rubble. The work was carried out on 3rd March 2014 (Plate 2).



Plate 1: The site prior to excavation, looking north



Plate 2: Work in Progress, looking south

Results

The sequence within the trench sections was broadly the same across the site, with some variation.

For the most part an upper layer (1) of mixed demolition rubble and dark grey and brown clayey soil overlay a thicker layer (2) of darker soil and larger pieces of brick rubble. Between both these layers in places was a thin layer of soil and ash.

Below this in Trenches 02 and 03 was a thick layer (3) of mixed dark brown and grey silty-clay, with a high density of charcoal flecks and lumps in the matrix. Below this was a slightly thinner layer (4) of mid brownish grey sandy clay with frequent, but fewer, charcoal inclusions.

In Trench 01 the upper demolition layers (1) and (2) lay directly over the natural clay, which in all three trenches was a brownish or orangish sandy-clay with pebbles. In Trench 03 the layers (1) and (2) were fairly similar, with a thin layer of soil and ash in places between the layers.

Trench 01

Orientation: North north-west to south south-east

Length: 14.2m

Width: 1.7m

Interval	NNW 0m	2m	4m	6m	8m	10m	12m	14.2m SSE
Layer (1)	0.13m	0.18m	0.29m	0.22m	0.35m	0.30m	0.20m	0.20m
Layer (2)	0.35m	0.40m	0.40m	0.50m	-	0.54m	0.45m	0.50m
Top of natural	0.48m	0.58m	0.69m	0.72m	0.35m	0.84m	0.65m	0.70m
Base of trench	0.51m	0.59m	0.70m	0.73m	0.68m	0.85m	0.72m	0.70m

No archaeological features or artefacts were discovered within this trench. The line of a drain could be identified running broadly north-south across the trench, from the northern end and disappearing into the western baulk of the trench. Further to the south, another larger drain cut emerged from the eastern baulk and ran southwards to meet a large manhole at the southern end of the trench (Plate 3).



Plate 3: Trench 01 after excavation, looking south

Trench 02

Orientation: North north-west to south south-east

Length: 16.5m

Width: 1.7m

Interval	NNW 0m	2m	4m	6m	8m	10m	12m	14m	16.5m SSE
Layer (1)	0.19m	0.19m	0.17m	0.20m	-	-	-	0.05m	0.06m
Layer (2)	0.32m	0.32m	0.34m	0.30m	0.20m	0.36m	0.35m	0.25m	0.34m
Layer (3)	0.24m	0.30m	0.35m	0.20m	0.26m	0.28m	0.28m	0.30m	0.40m
Layer (4)	0.30m	0.40m	0.35m	0.46m	0.50m	0.40m	0.40m	0.30m	0.80m
Layer (5)	-	0.25m	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Top of Natural	1.25m	1.46m		1.16m	0.96m	1.04m	1.03m	0.90m	-
Base of trench	1.45m	1.46m	1.51m	1.26m	0.96m	1.04m	1.08m	0.95m	0.80m

No archaeological features were discovered within this trench. A small silty feature (5) was identified close to the southern end of the trench. After excavation this was shown to be the edge of an amorphous feature, containing a mixture of silt and grey and yellow clay (6) with a few flecks of charcoal and small pebbles; most likely a tree throw.

A sherd of Pantheon ware was recovered from the base of layer (2) and a sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the base of layer (4) (see Appendix).



Plate 4: East facing section of Trench 02, tree throw feature in foreground

Trench 03

Orientation: North north-west to south south-east

Length: 12m

Width: 1.7m

Interval	NNW 0m	2m	4m	6m	8m	10m	12m SSE
Layer (1)/(2)	0.58m	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m	0.45m	0.45m	0.40m
Layer (3)	0.27m	0.28m	0.30m	0.30m	0.40m	0.40m	0.50m
Layer (4)	0.44m	0.60m	0.44m	0.50m	0.45m	0.50m	0.40m
Top of Natural	1.29m	1.28m	1.14m	1.20m	1.30m	1.35m	1.30m
Base of Trench	1.29m	1.28m	1.24m	1.20m	1.45m	1.45m	1.35m

No archaeological features or artefacts were discovered within this trench. The excavation was interrupted at around 5m by a large pipe (the manhole lay to the west of the trench) and this was left in situ. Further to the south was a section of wall foundation running east to west across the trench. This was of a modern build and difficult to remove and was therefore also left in situ.



Plate 5: West facing section of Trench 03.

Conclusion

The site at 8-10 Market Street had potential for medieval archaeology due to the original burgage plot shape largely being retained to the present day.

The buildings that occupied the site had been demolished recently and some remnants of foundations and concrete areas were still extant.

The sequence within the trenches consisted of a layer of demolition rubble (mainly represented by Layer (1)), which overlay a thin layer of soil and ash visible in part of the sections of the trenches. These two layers are likely to represent a recent demolition layer with the ash layer possibly representing a former surface.

Below this was another, thicker demolition layer, with a larger soil component (2), although in Trench 03, there was little difference between the two layers. A sherd of Pantheon ware pottery was retrieved from the base of this layer in Trench 02, suggesting an early modern date for this layer, which possibly represents the demolition of the buildings that formally occupied the site around the early years of the 20th century. The 1903 Ordnance Survey map shows a number of small and medium sized buildings on the site and most of the earlier buildings identified in the building survey date from this time.

A large wall foundation, which proved difficult to remove, was located close to the southern end of Trench 03. This is most likely to be part of the bakehouse, which was located here prior to its demolition.

The soil layers under this, represented by layers (3) and (4), are likely to date to when the area was under cultivation. A single sherd of medieval pottery, dating from the late 13th century, was retrieved from layer (4), giving an early medieval date for the bottom of this layer; the area may have continued being cultivated in the post-medieval to modern period, possibly after the land had been divided into plots.

A silty feature was identified at the southern end of Trench 02, close to a disturbance at the very southern edge. Excavation proved that the feature (5) had very little substance and lay over and under the amorphous feature, suggesting that this was a tree throw or similar archaeo-botanical feature. The 1881 OS map shows the area here as a small orchard, so the tree may date from this time, although the area may have been covered in trees at any period prior to its enclosure and cultivation.

References

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ULAS, 2014 *Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological work at 8-10 Market Street, Ashby de la Zouch.*

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Lychgate Homes Ltd for the work and their help and co-operation with the watching brief. The project was managed by Patrick Clay and the work carried out by Leon Hunt and Nathan Flavell. Thanks are due to Deborah Sawday for the pot report.

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	8-10, Market Street, Ashby-de-la-Zouch
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	Vicki Score
Project Supervisor	Leon Hunt
Previous/Future work	None
Current Land Use	Buildings and access
Development Type	New dwellings and shops
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition
Site Co ordinates	SK 35673 16738
Start/end dates of field work	03-03-2014
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museums
Study Area	884 sq. m.

Archive

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums. An accession number will be allocated forthwith.

The archive consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report. ULAS Report No. 2014-046
- 1 Unbound copy of Building Survey report. ULAS Report No. 2013-094
- 3 Trench Recording Sheets
- 1 Photographic Record
- 1 CD of digital photographs
- 1 Set of B&W Contact Sheets
- 1 Set of B&W Negatives

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11-03-2014

APPENDIX I: THE POST ROMAN POTTERY FROM ASBY DE LA ZOUC, LEICS.

Deborah Sawday

The Finds

The pottery, three sherds, weighing 105 grams, and a vessel rim equivalent of 0.05, (calculated by adding together the circumference of the surviving rim sherds, where one vessel equals 1.00) was catalogued with reference to the guidelines set out by the Medieval Pottery Research Group, (MPRG 1998), (MPRG, 2001) and the ULAS fabric series (Davies and Sawday 1999), (Sawday 2009). The results are shown below, (table 1).

One sherd was retrieved from the base of Layer 4, a layer of silty subsoil. This was a medieval sherd in Chilvers Coton A ware, and is dated from c.1250 to 1300+. This pottery is a product of a major medieval industry based at Chilvers Coton in Nuneaton, some 30km to the south of the town, and apparently reflects the essentially local nature of most pottery production and distribution in the region during the medieval period.

The other two sherds were from the base of Layer (2), which was the lower of the two demolition layers. Part of an internally slipped and glazed wide mouthed bowl or pancheon with a complex moulded rim in the post medieval Earthenware, EA2, was also recovered together with another fragment in the same ware. Similar vessels in Leicester were found in a context dated to the early to mid-19th century, (Davies and Sawday 1999, 197, Fig.97.181-182). The white inclusions in the clay body and proximity to Ticknall, which lies approximately 10km to the north, and which was an important pottery production centre from the 15th to the 19th centuries (Boyle and Rowlandson 2009), suggest the latter as the most likely source for these sherds.

The finds are of interest to the author as this is one of the few opportunities she has had to examine pottery from within the core of the historic town.

Bibliography

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- MPRG, 1998 *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms*. Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper **1**, London.
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- Sawday, D., 2009, 'The medieval and post medieval pottery and tile' in J. Coward and G. Speed, *Urban Life in Leicester: An Archaeological Excavation at Freeschool Lane*. Vol 2 *Specialist Reports* ULAS Report No.2009-140 ,v2, 36-182.

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

context	Fabric/ware	no	grams	Comments
U/S top of silt	CC1 – Chilvers Coton A ware	1	16	c.1250 – 1300+. External evidence of both glaze and sooting.
U/S top of silt	EA2 – Earthenware 2	1	88	Wide mouthed bowl or pancheon with complex, moulded rim and glaze firing dark brownish black over iron rich slip on internal surfaces, external rim diameter c.500mm, EVES 0.05.
U/S top of silt	EA2	1	1	Fragment only.

APPENDIX II: Design Specification for archaeological work**UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES****Written scheme of investigation for archaeological work**

Job title: 8-10 Market Street, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire

NGR: SK35673 16738

Client: Lynchgate Homes Ltd.

Planning Authority: North West Leicestershire

Planning application No. 12/00832/FUL

Scheduled Start date: TBC

1 Introduction***Definition and scope of the specification***

- 1.1 This document is a design specification for an initial phase of archaeological field evaluation at the above site, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The fieldwork specified below is intended to provide preliminary indications of significance 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* (2008) 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 proposed development (SK35673 16738; centre) is located on land to the rear of NOs 8-10 Market Street Ashby de la Zouch,, Leicestershire (Figs 1-2). Planning consent has been given for the demolition of existing buildings and erection of 7 no. two bedroom dwellings with commercial use below and associated access arrangements and parking.
- 2.2 The development site has been identified as an area of archaeological potential based upon assessment of archaeological data held by the Leicestershire & Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 2.3 In consequence the Principal Planning Archaeologist (PPA), Historic & Natural Environment Team (HNET), Leicestershire County Council, has recommended the need for a further phase of archaeological investigation comprising a programme of evaluation trenching. The investigation is required to provide an adequate sample of the development area and assess the likely archaeological impact of the development proposals.
- 2.4 The site lies at c. 123m OD on ground falling slightly to the south. The geological mapping notes Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation - Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone overlain with Alluvium.

Archaeological and Historical Background (from the brief)

- 2.3 The desk-based and buildings assessment (Smith 2013) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest within the historic market town of Ashby de la Zouch. The site lies on the south side of Market Street, the principal road of Ashby probably dating to the 13th century. The plot retains the long, narrow configuration characteristic of a medieval burgrave plot and has seen less subdivision than many of the other plots on Market Street (Smith 2013, 2-3). There is therefore potential for medieval remains within the area.

Site Constraints

- 2.4 There are no known constraints on the site.
- 2.5 This project falls under the CDM regulations.
- 2.6 Service plans show no services within the area for evaluation.

3. Archaeological Objectives

- 3.1 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.

Research Aims

- 3.5 All work will be considered in light of the East Midlands Research Framework (Cooper ed. 2006) and strategy (Knight et al 2012), along with targeting national research aims. Potential research objectives that this scheme might contribute towards include:
- 3.6 The site has the potential to contribute to research objectives relating to the High Medieval and later periods (Cooper 2006, 137-160; Knight et al. 2012, 70-81). Excavations may contribute to knowledge on the development of the town and its buildings and changes in settlement morphology. Information on the sequence and chronology of boundaries and their relationship to settlements may be recovered and environmental evidence could provide information on trade, economy and land use. Artefacts can provide evidence for evidence for craft industry and.

4. Methodology***General Methodology and Standards***

- 4.1 All work will follow the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2011) and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008). 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 Trenching will follow the demolition of the existing buildings on the site.
- 4.7 It is proposed to excavate 50m length x 2m of trenching (approximately 10% sample of the area) to target the new building and adjacent site access/services and landscaping. The provisional trench plan attached (Fig. 3) shows the proposed location of the trenches (nominally 2 x 15m long and 2 x 10m long trenches) - the size and position indicated on the plan may vary due to unforeseen site constraints or the presence of archaeological deposits.
- 4.7 Topsoil and overburden will be removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision with a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket (a toothed bucket may be used to remove modern overburden). 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
- 4.8 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.
- 4.9 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.
- 4.10 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.
- 4.11 Trench locations will be recorded by an appropriate method. These will then be tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.
- 4.12 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.
- 4.13 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.
- 4.14 The trenches will be backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.

Recording Systems

- 4.15 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.
- 4.16 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets.
- 4.17 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.
- 4.18 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

- 4.19 This record will be compiled and 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, 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 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 work is scheduled to start following the demolition of the existing buildings on the site (Date TBC). The work is expected to take 2-3 days to complete and 1-2 experienced archaeologists are likely to be present during the work.
- 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. This project is likely to fall under CDM regulations and 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 (See Appendix for details).

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.

16. Bibliography

Brown, D., 2008 *Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives* (Institute for Archaeologists)

Cooper, N., 2006, *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: an archaeological resource agenda. ULAS/English Heritage.*

IfA, 2008, *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation.*

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Knight D, Blaise, V & Allen C. 2012 *East Midlands Heritage. An updated research agenda and strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands.*

LCC, 1997 Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological work Leicestershire and Rutland (1997)

LMARS, 2001 The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service (LMARS 2001).

Smith, D. 2013 A Building Archaeology Assessment and Plot Analysis relating to Nos 8-10 Market Street, Ashby de la Zouch.

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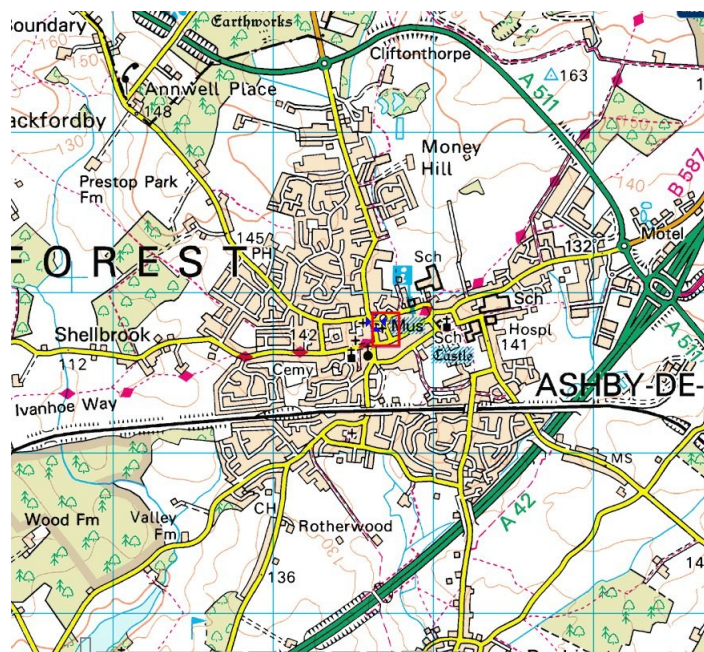
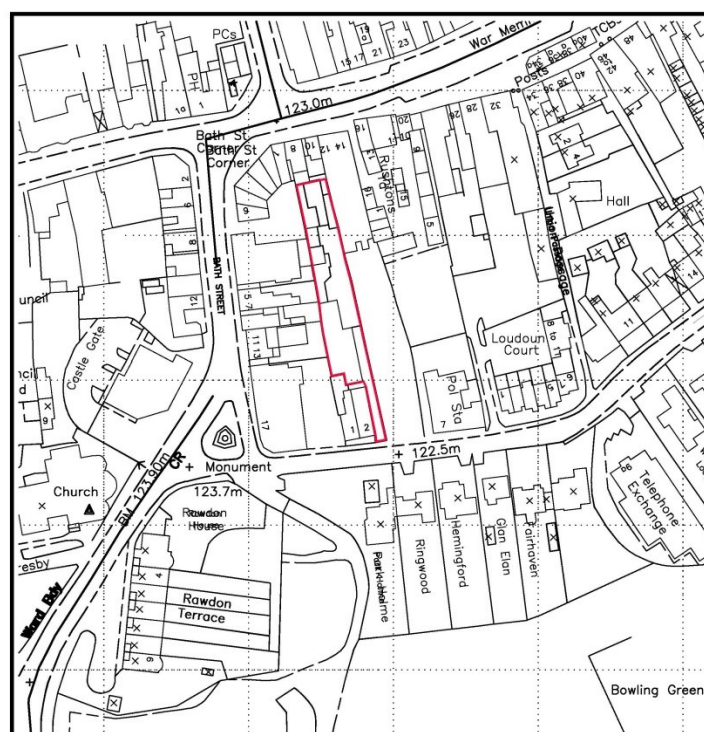


Figure 4: Location map



Location Plan
Scale 1:1250

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DGADL Job Ref: 12.2743



Indicative North

Figure 2 Proposed development (supplied by client)

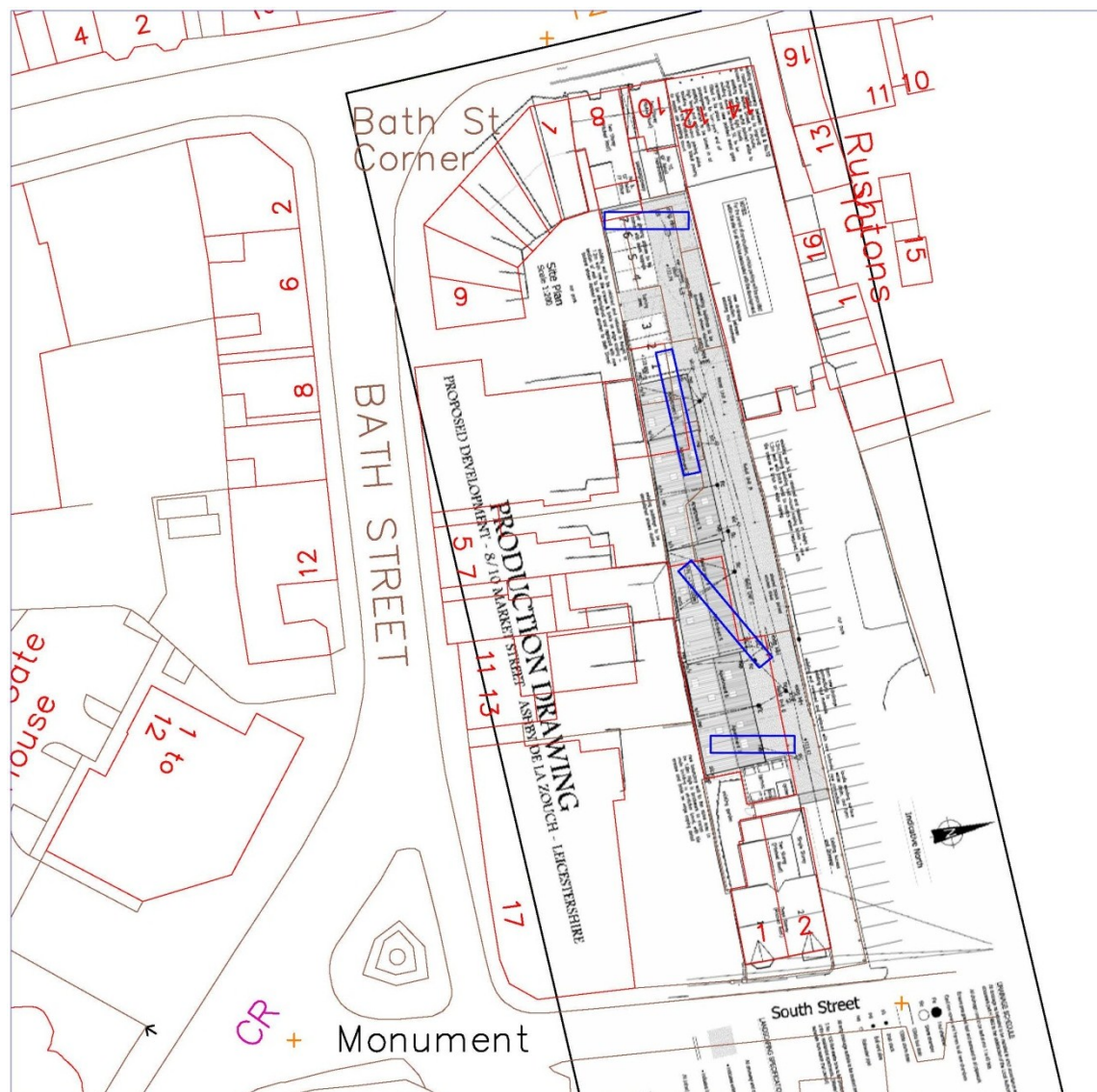


Figure 3: Proposed location of trenches.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING METHOD STATEMENT & RISK ASSESSMENT

Site Name	Job No	PM	Contact
8-10 Market Street, Ashby de la Zouch	13-202	Vicki Score	0116 252 2848
Site Director	Site Contacts		Team (Nos)
TBC			2-3

SITE WORKS & METHOD STATEMENT

Evaluation trenches are to be machine excavated as detailed in the specification to look at archaeological deposits. Trenches nearest the road line may be excavated first with a view to backfilling immediately once dealt with as these are closest to the footpath.

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 will be 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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