



**University of
Leicester**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at Bemrose Community School,
Uttoxeter New Road, Derby.
NGR SK 33747 35353 (centre)**

Jamie Patrick



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**An Archaeological watching brief at Bemrose
Community School, Uttoxeter New Road, Derby,
NGR SK 33747 35353 (centre)**

James Patrick

For: Wilmott Dixon Construction Ltd

Approved by:

Signed: ...



Date: ... 19/05/2014

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An Archaeological watching brief at Bemrose Community School, Uttoxeter New Road, Derby NGR SK 33747 35353 (centre)

James Patrick

Summary

An Archaeological watching brief was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at Bemrose Community School, Uttoxeter New Road, Derby, (NGR SK 33747 35353)) during ground-works associated with the construction of a new School and associated services. The site is located on the west side of Derby, approximately 1.2 kilometres from the city centre and also approximately 1.5 Kilometres north-east of the A38 (Ryknield Street Roman Road). The main purpose of the Watching Brief was to establish if the Ryknield Street Roman Road crossed the development area, which would link to both former excavations at the Crest Motel and Nuns Street and to establish if any associated Romano –British settlement existed. The overburden was only excavated down to the natural red clay substratum to approximately 15 metres from the northern excavation limit. As the natural topography slopes down sharply to the south with only the first 15 metres being level, much of the development area (Southern half) had been built up to level ground with only top-soil removed. This area was heavily disturbed with modern pottery/ brick rubble present. No archaeological features were located cutting the natural sub-soil other than north – south aligned ridge and furrow remains running from the north-west corner of the site.

Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of Wilmott Dixon Construction Ltd during ground-works covering the footprint of a new school, associated car park and services (Planning application No. DER/07/13/00873/DCC).

Following National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment the Derbyshire County Council, Development Control Archaeologist as archaeological advisor to the planning authority required that an archaeological watching brief was undertaken in view of the site's location close to the line of the Ryknield Street Roman Road.

The site boundary extends to within 200m of the alignment of the Ryknield Street Roman road shown on the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (HER 18929 and 99016). Ryknield Street was a major Roman route running north-south through the Midlands, from the Fosse Way near Cirencester through Alcester and Derby (Little Chester) towards Templeborough near Rotherham. To the south-west of Derby the road is thought to run through Littleover on or close to the current course of Ryknield Road/Pastures Hill. A section of road was located in 2003 during excavations west of the former Crest Hotel, Littleover, 1.5km south-west of the proposal area, and this site is now a Scheduled Monument (SM 23287). Ryknield Street has also been located in the vicinity of Nuns Street, 1.2km north-east of the proposal area. Between these known points, the exact projection of the route is largely a matter of conjecture, but the Historic Environment Record shows the road running through the Bemrose School site beneath the existing buildings and continuing through the grounds to the west.

Site Location and Geology

The site is situated just off Rowditch Avenue off Uttoxeter New Road and lies approximately 1.2 kilometres West of Derby City Centre (Nuns Street) and approximately 1.5 kilometres North- East of Rykniel Street (the present A38), see (Fig. 1). The proposed development site lies mostly on a fairly steep slope running down from north to south and is bounded by dwellings to the south, east, and present school to the north with playing fields to the west. The top 20 metres of the site (southern end) is on fairly level ground at approximately 80 m OD The natural underlying geology consists of Mercia Mudstone Group (Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain sheet 141).

Aims and Objectives

Research aims

The watching brief had the potential to contribute to research aims identified in the East Midlands Research Framework (Cooper ed. 2006) and strategy (Knight et al. 2012). There are Roman sites and a Roman road within the vicinity and the watching brief may have been able to contribute to knowledge on Iron Age – Roman transitions in rural settlement, landscape and society while artefacts may have identified trade links and economy (Taylor 2006; Knight et al 2012)

The main objectives of the archaeological work were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Specifically the watching brief was required to establish if the Roman road crossed the development area, linking the two known sites and also if any associated Roman- British settlement existed and/ or other archaeological remains not linked to the Roman Road.

Methodology

The work followed the WSI (Clay 2014) and adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (rev. 2010) and their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (rev. 2008).

The overburden across the footprint of the proposed development was removed using a 360 mechanical excavator and ditching bucket was used to excavate the top of the required levels. This was mostly to sub-soil at the southern end of site and to natural geology (the first 20 metres) at the northern end. The work was undertaken on the 8th and 9th of April 2014 and all ground-work was supervised by an experienced professional archaeologist.

Identified archaeological deposits were recorded and all work followed the Institute of *Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct (2006), Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (2001)* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field evaluation (2001)*, and adhered to ULAS's Health and Safety policy.



Figure 1 Site Location

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Figure 2: Location of development Area (supplied by client)



Figure 3 Removal of sub-soil, showing ridge and furrow. Looking South

Results

The development of the school required an area of 9,130 square metres to be topsoil stripped by mechanical excavator. Only a limited area was stripped down to the natural geology. This was from the northern end of the site for approximately the first 15 metres where the area was fairly level. However any potential archaeological remains would have been observed by the present works for this distance from the north until the correct formation level had been reached. The southern part of the area was only stripped down to the sub-soil and then built up to the required formation level so no impact was made on any underlying archaeological features which may have been present cutting the natural substratum. There was an exception to this in an area top the south-east where excavations for a tank with a footprint of approximately 30m (N-S) and 10m (E-W) was to be undertaken. This was excavated to a depth of 1.8m. However no archaeological features were observed cutting the clean red clay. The sub-soil was heavily disturbed throughout with large amounts of modern pottery and brick rubble present. The small areas of natural geology exposed showed no signs of a Roman Road or any other associated / un-associated archaeological features. Only north-south ridge and furrow remains were seen running for approximately 15 metres until obscured by the sub-soil. These seem to have been disturbed with modern fills containing modern pottery

Conclusion

Only a small area at the north of the site was stripped to the top of the natural geology. No evidence for the Roman Road or any related or unrelated archaeological deposits was revealed. Modern pottery was recovered from the sub-soil, where it appeared that a lot of landscaping had taken place. This is consistent with the levelling which would have taken place for playing fields. Where the natural geology was exposed, ridge and furrow was noted on a north-south orientation, running from the north-west corner of the site and visible for approximately 15 metres to 20 metres.

As only a small proportion of natural geology was revealed at the north end of the site it is possible that the majority of the area may still preserve any underlying archaeology, if present.

Archive

The archive for this project will be retained by ULAS as there are no finds or features associated with it. A copy of this report will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) for Derbyshire. The archive (DBY UNR 2014) contains the following:

- Three Watching Brief forms
- Digital photos and photo index
- Finds (as detailed in the Appendix)

Bibliography

Cooper, N.J., 2006 (ed.) The Archaeology of the East Midlands. An archaeological resource assessment and research agenda. Leicester: Leicester Archaeology Monograph 13

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Acknowledgements

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ULAS 16.05.2014

Appendix. University of Leicester Archaeological Services Design Specification 14-611

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Written scheme of investigation for archaeological work

Job title: Bemrose Community School, Uttoxeter New Road, Derby

NGR: SK 33747 35353(centre)

Client: Derby City Council

Planning Authority: Derby City Council

Planning application No. DER/07/13/00873/DCC:

1 Introduction

1.1 This document is a design specification for an archaeological watching brief with control and supervision at the above site, in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment (DCLG 2012). This specification provides a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for the fieldwork specified below which is intended to provide information on the character and extent of any buried archaeological remains which may exist on the site and if present record to an appropriate level.

1.2 The document provides details of the following work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client.

- Archaeological attendance, inspection and recording during groundworks.

2. Background

Context of the Project

1.1 This document sets out a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) to record potential archaeological deposits at Bemrose Community School, Uttoxeter New Road, Derby (SK 33747 35353) in advance of the erection of a primary school and formation of associated landscaping, car parking and play area

1.2 The proposed development area is located in the parish of Derby (Grid. Ref. SK 356 311; figs.1 and 2). It covers an area of c. 1ha currently used as playing fields.

1.3 The following is taken from the advice letter of 16.09.2013 from the Derbyshire County Council Development Control Archaeologist as advisor to the planning authority

The site boundary extends to within 200m of the alignment of the Ryknield Street Roman road shown on the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (HER 18929 and 99016).

Ryknield Street was a major Roman route running north-south through the Midlands, from the Fosse Way near Cirencester through Alcester and Derby (Little Chester) towards Templeborough near Rotherham. To the south-west of Derby the road is thought to run through Littleover on or close to the current course of Ryknield Road/Pastures Hill. A section of road was located in 2003 during excavations west of the former Crest Hotel, Littleover, 1.5km south-west of the proposal area, and this site is now a Scheduled Monument (SM 23287). Ryknield Street has also been located in the vicinity of Nuns Street, 1.2km north-east of the proposal area. Between these known points, the exact projection of the route is largely a matter of conjecture, but the Historic Environment Record shows the road running through the Bemrose School site beneath the existing buildings and continuing through the grounds to the west. However, given the uncertainty over the exact route, the road may run anywhere on the site, or alternatively may not cross the site at all.

Because of this uncertainty, it is possible that remains of the Roman road may survive below ground within the current proposal area. I recommend that the most proportionate approach to this

University of Leicester Archaeological Services Design Specification 14-61

archaeological potential is to require archaeological monitoring of the initial site stripping work (watching brief) with recording of any archaeological remains identified during the process, in line with NPPF para 141.

2. Geology and topography

2.1 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 141 indicates that the underlying geology of the site is likely to consist of Mercia Mudstone Group. The land is generally flat at a height of c.80 m OD.

3. Archaeological Objectives

3.1 Research aims

3.1.1 All mitigation 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. Research aims will be reviewed and updated as the work progresses and new information comes to light. The following research objectives have the potential to be addressed by this project:

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

3.1.2 There are Roman sites within the vicinity and a Roman road. The watching brief 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 archaeological work 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 record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

4. Methodology

4.1 General Methodology and Standards

4.1.1 All work will follow the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological excavations (2008)*.

4.1.2 Staffing, recording systems, health and safety provisions and insurance details are included below.

4.1.3 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 Development Control Archaeologist, the Planning authority and the Client.

4.2 Controlled strip

4.2.1 The project will involve the monitoring of groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist to determine the presence/absence of any archaeological remains.

4.2.2 If artefacts or deposits are located a recording programme will be implemented in consultation with the Derbyshire County Council Development Control Archaeologist and the project's Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Consultant (Lynden Cooper). Other Palaeolithic and Mesolithic expertise will be consulted as appropriate.

4.2.3 Topsoil and overburden will be removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket until the interface of the overburden and the natural substratum is reached. The area will be searched for evidence of the perimeter of the lacustrine deposits where archaeological remains may be present. All excavation by machine and hand will be undertaken with a view to avoid any damage to archaeological deposits or features. No tracking by machine will be permitted over

surfaces until they have been inspected and archaeologically recorded, if necessary, before being handed over by the on-site archaeologist.

4.2.4 The area 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 establishing 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.

4.2.5 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. All artefacts will be 3D located.

4.2.6 Sections of any excavated archaeological features will be drawn at an appropriate scale. All sections will be levelled and tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum, or a permanent fixed benchmark.

4.2.7 Locations of any archaeological will be recorded by an appropriate method. These will then be tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

4.2.8 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.

4.3 Recording Systems

4.3.1 The archaeological deposits will be hand-cleaned by trowel or draw hoe. The cleaned surface will be scanned by metal detector.

4.3.2 The archaeological features exposed by the machine stripping will be planned and sample excavated to provide an adequate sample to address the objectives (3.1).

4.3.3 Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid using a Total Station Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM). All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

4.3.4 The location of the excavation will be surveyed using a GPS or Total Station Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) linked to a hand held computer.

4.3.5 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, 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.

4.3.6 Any human remains encountered will be initially left in situ, where appropriate the police and coroner shall be informed. Human remains will only be removed following appropriate liaison with the Ministry of Justice and in compliance with their requirements and in accordance with appropriate professional standards and guidance, as well as other relevant environmental health regulations. In all circumstances the developer and Derbyshire County Council, will be informed immediately upon the discovery of significant human remains.

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4.3.7 Any material recovered which would be regarded as treasure following the Treasure Act 1996 will be reported to the coroner.

4.3.8 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site from the project manager. These will ensure that professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for monitoring visits with representatives of the developer Derbyshire County Council Development Control Archaeologist Team and the planning authority.

4.3.9 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located during the fieldwork programme there may be the need for contingency time and finance to be provided to ensure adequate recording is undertaken. On the discovery of potentially significant remains the archaeologist will inform the developer, Derbyshire County Council Development Control Archaeologist and the planning authority. If the archaeological remains are identified to be of significance additional contingent archaeological works will be required.

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 DCC Development Control 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 and consultation with the Derbyshire County Council Development Control Archaeologist. 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:

- Suitable deposits for scientific dating for example organic material which could provide a radiocarbon (C14) date..
- 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 The full report in A4 format will usually follow within six months of the completion. Copies will be provided for the client and the Local Planning Authority and deposited with the Historic Environment Record. Subject to the results of the work an assessment report including requirements for further analysis. This would comprise 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).

7.2 The final report will include consideration of:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the fieldwork.
- The nature, location and extent of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
- The significance of archaeological deposits.
- 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.

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 Derby City Museums and Art Gallery within six months of the completion of fieldwork if finds are present. If there are no finds the archive will be deposited with the Derbyshire County Council Historic Environment Record. This archive will include all retained finds, written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. No finds will be discarded without the agreement of finds specialists. Written confirmation of completion of fieldwork will be sent to Derby Museum (if appropriate) and the Derbyshire County Council Development Control Archaeologist. Provisionally the archive will be deposited before 31.12.2014. Written confirmation of the final deposition of archive will be sent to the Derbyshire County Council Development Control Archaeologist.

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 Derbyshire County Council Development Control 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 Excavations and Watching briefs (2008)

11.3 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

12 Timetable and Staffing

12.1 A start date for the groundworks is provisionally w/c 10.03.2014..

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 University of Leicester Archaeological Services Design Specification 14-611
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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.

15. Bibliography

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

Cooper, N.J., 2006 (ed.) The Archaeology of the East Midlands. An archaeological resource assessment and research agenda. Leicester: Leicester Archaeology Monograph 13

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