



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

An archaeological watching
brief during groundworks at
Rothley Lodge
Rothley
Leicestershire
NGR: SK 593 136

Cathryn Shean




**An archaeological watching brief
during groundworks at
Rothley Lodge
Rothley
Leicestershire
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Cathryn Shean

For

RSK Properties Ltd

Planning Application Number APP/K2420/A/13/2203402

Approved by:	
Signed:	
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An archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Rothley Lodge, Rothley, Leicestershire, NGR: SK 593 136

Cathryn Shean

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Rothley Lodge, Rothley, Leicestershire, NGR: SK 593 136 during groundwork's for a new business park. The site lies adjacent to a known Neolithic – Bronze Age site at Rothley Lodge Farm and other prehistoric remains are known within the vicinity of the proposed development area. The watching brief indicated that much of the site had been disturbed possibly when the adjacent sewage works was constructed. No archaeological deposits were located. The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under the Accession Number X.A11.2015.

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by RSK Properties Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief during ground-works at Rothley Lodge, Rothley, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 593 136; Figure 1).

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

The watching brief is required as a condition of the planning consent for the development of the area for a business park (Planning App. No. APP/K2420/A/13/2203402; Figure 2).

The development lies close to known prehistoric remains and adjacent to known Neolithic and Bronze Age sites. Previous archaeological fieldwork undertaken by ULAS on land to the north revealed a nationally importance Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement site (Hunt and Cooper 2006).

Location and Geology

The site is located 300m south-east of Mountsorrel, to the east of the A6 between Loughborough and Leicester in Charnwood Borough. The proposed development area is located 500m north-east of Rothley immediately to the east of the A6 between Loughborough and Leicester. At the north-west corner of the development area comprised a small warehouse storage area, remains of a farmhouse, and associated metalled access and offloading areas. Fields of semi-improved grassland ran through the development area immediately to the south and east of the warehouse area and farmhouse. At the southeast was a disused sewage works and several access roads and trackways. Two large ponds, apparently the result of extractive activity, lay to the north of the sewage works. At the eastern periphery of the site adjacent to the river Soar there was an area of floodplain with a willow plantation (Figure 1). The land descended from the north-west to south-east from around 65m AOD to around 45m AOD.

The Geological Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 156 (Leicester) shows that the underlying geology is likely to comprise glacial sands and gravel to the west, Mercian mudstone Group clays, river gravel and alluvium to the east.

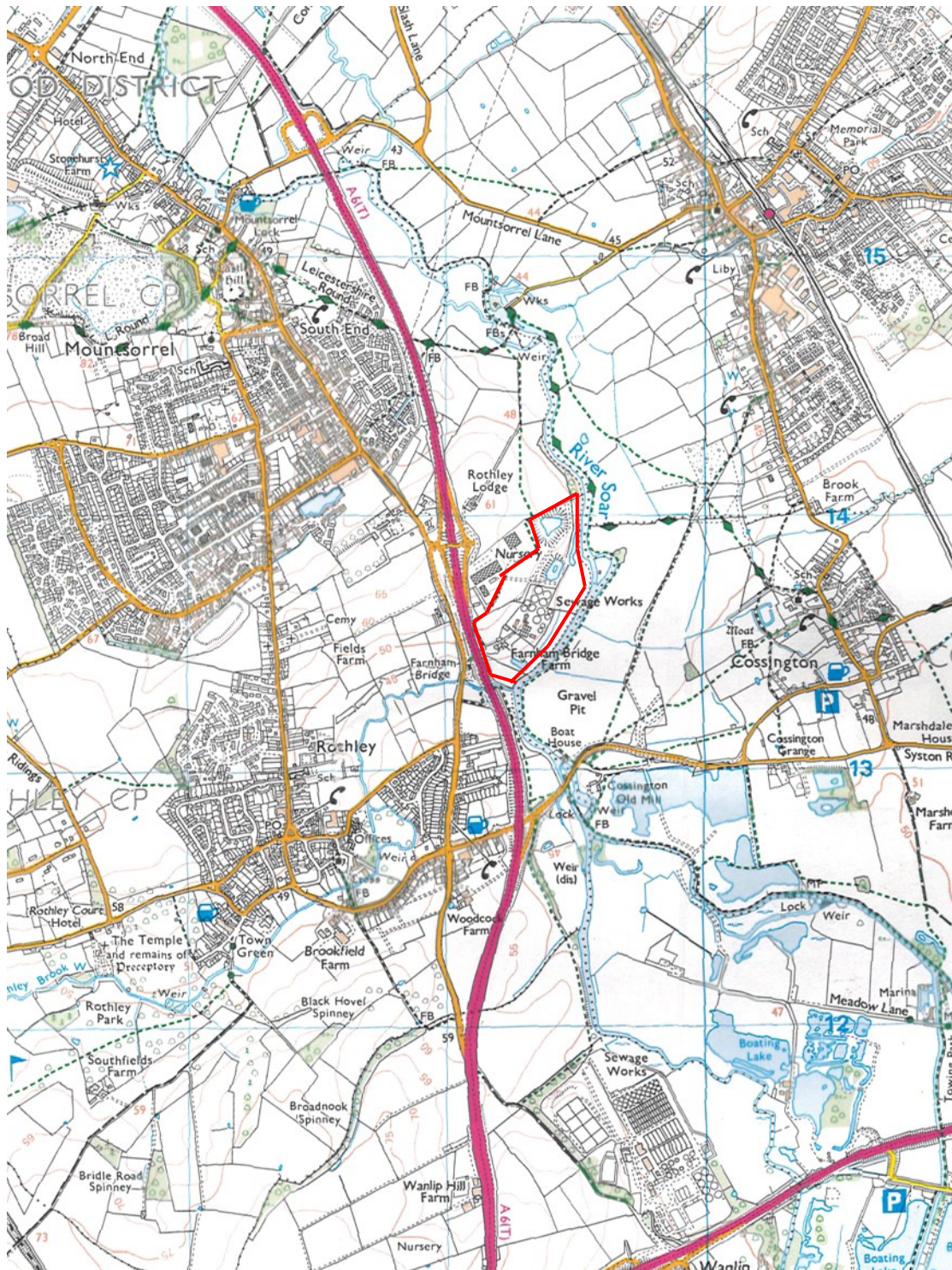
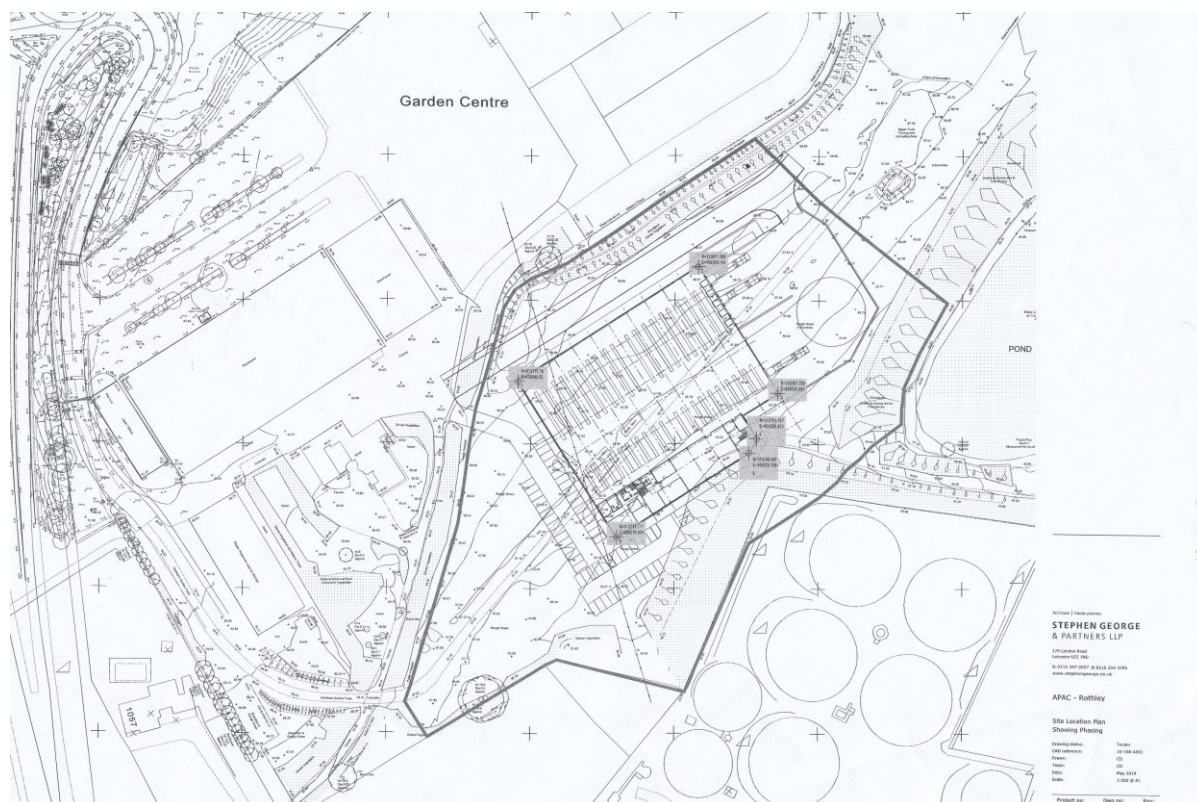


Figure 1 Site location



Historical and Archaeological Background (from Hunt 2010)

The assessment area lies within the parish of Rothley. Rothley has been inhabited since Saxon times, evidenced by the ancient Saxon cross in the church graveyard in the village. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book where it is listed as “Rodolei” which is most likely from the Anglo-Saxon Roplēah meaning “meadow in a clearing” (Mills 2003).

The Domesday Book shows that at the time it was amongst the lands belonging to the King. The land included 37 acres of meadow, a mill and considerable woodlands. This manor also controlled surrounding pieces of land in a large number of villages including Asforby, Seagrave and Sileby.

A desk-based assessment has been undertaken for the site (Hunt 2010). The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. Although no known archaeological remains are known from the development area the site lies adjacent to a nationally important Neolithic - Bronze Age site at Rothley Lodge Farm, which was excavated by ULAS in 2005 (Hunt 2006). Flint scatters and other prehistoric remains have been found close to the site. These include a Bronze Age barrow (**MLE538**), Iron Age roundhouse (**MLE539**) and cremations (**MLE9070 & MLE9071**). The geophysical survey was inconclusive but did appear to indicate some areas of magnetic disturbance (Figure 3; Hancock 2011).

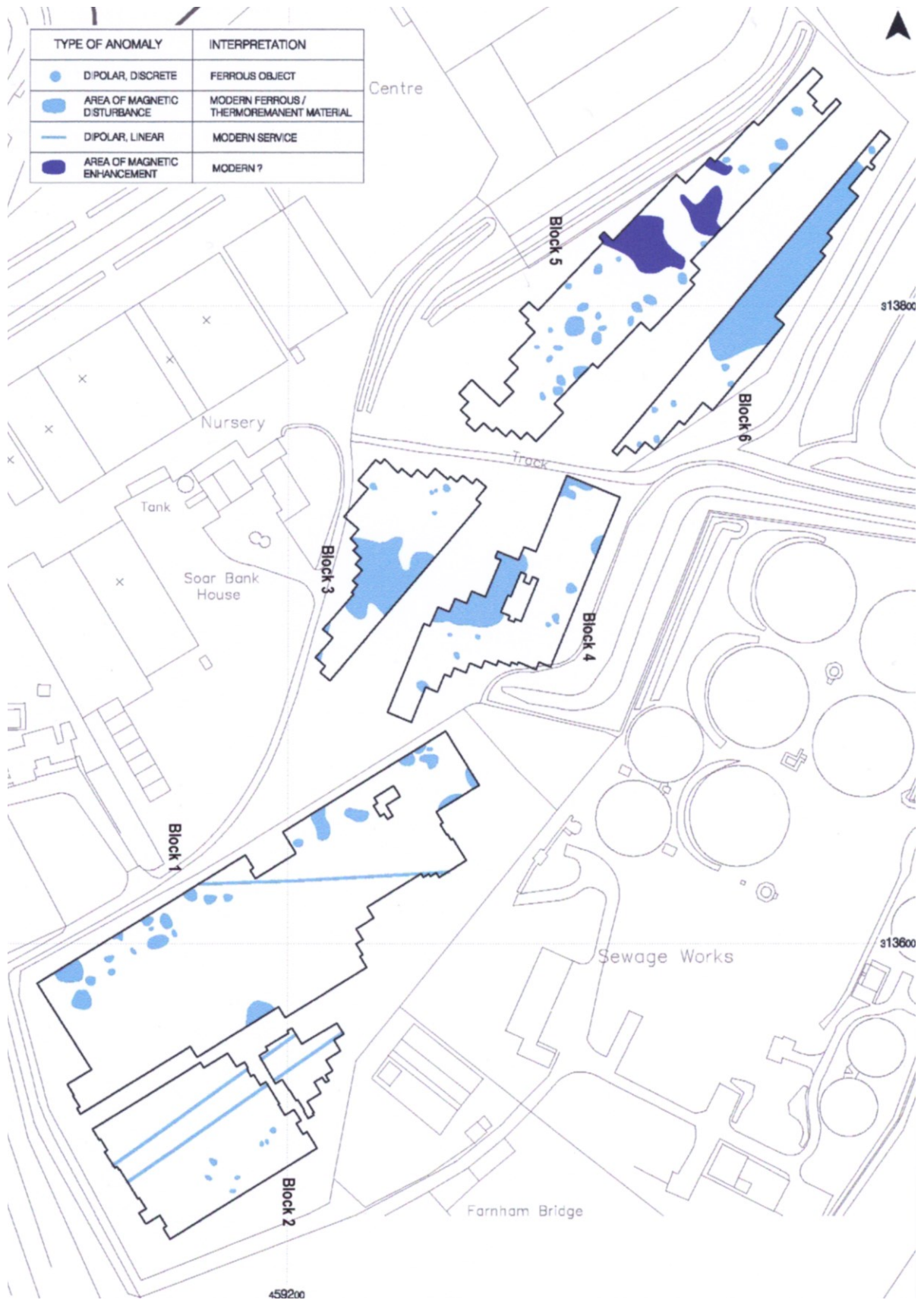


Figure 3. Interpretation of geophysical survey results from Hancock 2011, Figure 4

Archaeological Objectives

The project was to carry out an archaeological watching brief (with control and supervision) at the above site in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; Section 12 Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment). This was carried out, as a requirement by the Planning Authority, on any ground works in connection with the erection of the new buildings and associated works. This work followed a Written Scheme of Investigation (see Appendix), approved by Charnwood Borough Council.

The purpose of the archaeological work may be summarised as follows:

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

Methodology

Archaeological attendance for inspection and recording was carried out with site visits on 19th November 2014 and 9th December 2014. The project involved the inspection and control of the machine excavated ground reduction by an experienced professional archaeologist to determine the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.

The excavation was undertaken by 360 excavators with toothed and toothless buckets. All exposed areas, sections and spoil heaps were visually inspected for features and finds. Any archaeological deposits which were exposed would be hand cleaned, planned, photographed, and sample excavated and recorded as appropriate to addressing the objectives of the watching brief. Field notes were recorded on pro-forma ULAS watching brief record forms.

The work followed the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Clay 2014) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (rev. 2014) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (rev. 2014) and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LMARS).

Results

An area to the north of site 108m by 8m was examined on 19th November 2014. This had been stripped to the natural substratum to a depth of c 0.4m. To the south of the site an area of similar size was already stripped down to reddish sandy clay at a depth of 0.62m.

To the south of these areas an area of c. 100m by 25m was examined on 9th December 2014. This showed considerable evidence of modern disturbance to a depth of at least 1.2m (Figure 5).

There were no archaeological deposits visible during the watching brief and the area appeared to have been disturbed with re-deposited material present. This may have been the result of the construction of the sewage works at an earlier date and some re-deposited material may have derived from the ponds to the north-east. The evidence of modern disturbance is consistent with the results from the geophysical survey which did indicate the presence of magnetic disturbance (Hancock 2011).

References

Hancock, A., 2011 *Geophysical Survey: Land at Rothley Lodge/APAC Site Rothley, Leicestershire*. Archaeological Services and Consultancy.

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Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Roe Developments (UK) Ltd and their on-site contractors for their help and co-operation

Archive

The archive for this project, comprising this report, two watching brief recording sheets and 19 digital photographs will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museums under Accession no. X.A11.2015.

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19.12.2014



Figure 4 General view of site during groundworks (09.12.2014)



Figure 5. Stripped area to north of development area viewed from the west (19.11.2014)



Figure 6 Central part of application area following machine stripping showing modern disturbance (09.12.2014)



Figure 7 Central part of application area following machine stripping showing depth of modern disturbance (09.12.2014)

APPENDIX: Design Specification for archaeological work

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Attendance,

Inspection and Recording (watching brief)

APAC, Rothley Lodge, Rothley, Leicestershire, NGR: SK 593 136

For: RSK Properties

Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council

Planning application Appeal Ref: APP/K2420/A/13/2203402

Start Date: TBC

1 Introduction

Definition and scope of the specification

- 1.1 This document is a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Archaeological Attendance, Inspection and Recording (watching brief) at the above site, in accordance with NPPF (Section 12 Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment). This specification provides a written scheme for an archaeological watching brief, as required by the Planning Authority, of groundworks in connection with work at APAC, Rothley Lodge, Rothley, Leicestershire, NGR: SK 593 136 (Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The document provides details of the following work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client.
 - Archaeological attendance, inspection and recording during groundworks.

2. Background

Context of the Project

- 2.1. The proposed development would include the construction of a new business park on the site.
- 2.2 The site is located 300m south-east of Mountsorrel, to the east of the A6 between Loughborough and Leicester in Charnwood Borough
- 2.3 The Geological Survey of England & Wales, Sheet 156 (Leicester) shows that the underlying geology is likely to comprise glacial sands and gravel to the west, Mercian mudstone Group clays, river gravel and alluvium to the east. The site consists of a small warehouse storage area, a farmhouse and associated land and several areas of semi-improved grassland. There is also a disused sewage works, two large ponds and several access roads and trackways. Towards the river there is floodplain with a willow plantation (Figure 2). The land falls from the north-west to south-east from around 65m aOD to around 45m aOD..

Archaeological and historical background

- 2.4 A desk-based assessment has been undertaken for the site (Hunt 2010). The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. The site lies adjacent to a nationally important Neolithic - Bronze Age site at Rothley Lodge Farm, which was excavated by ULAS in 2005. Other significant prehistoric remains are known in the vicinity of the proposed development area.
- 2.5 The site has moderate to high potential for archaeological remains from the prehistoric period and low to moderate potential for archaeological remains from other periods. This potential will largely be determined by the extent of damage to parts of the site by previous development.
- 2.6 A geophysical survey was inconclusive (Hancock 2011).

3. Archaeological Aims and Objectives

- 3.1 The purpose of the archaeological work may be summarised as follows:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits or earlier building remains.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits/ structural evidence to be affected by the proposed works.
- To record any archaeological deposits/ structural evidence to be affected by the works.
- To advance understanding of the heritage assets
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Research Aims

3.2 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.

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

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

3.3.1 The exploitation of valley 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)

3.3.2 *The development of first farming communities. The area is adjacent to anationally important Neolithic site and is close to prehistoric ceremonial landscapes and the scheme may uncover archaeological assets associated with these. Palaeoenvironmental evidence may provide information on agricultural practices and land use.*

3.4 Research aims will be reviewed and updated as the work progresses and new information comes to light.

4. Methodology

General methods 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 Watching Briefs* (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 An accession number will be obtained prior to commencement of the project and used to identify all records and artefacts.

Archaeological attendance for inspection and recording

4.4 The project will involve archaeological control and supervision of groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist. During these works, if any archaeological deposits or structural evidence is seen to be present, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest.

4.5 Excavation should be undertaken by a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket for stripping in level spits down to the top of any archaeological deposits, natural subsoil or to the proposed formation level where this lies more than 0.15m above any significant archaeological deposits. A toothed bucket may be used for removing modern overburden or rubble deposits. The work should be supervised and monitored by an appropriately experienced archaeologist.

4.6 If the initial monitoring identifies areas of no archaeological interest (e.g. modern made ground or disturbed areas), then the archaeologist may stand down monitoring of that area, subject to the agreement of the Planning Authority.

4.7 If significant archaeological deposits are discovered work may need to be halted in order for contingency excavation and recording to be carried out. The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with the contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work.

- 4.8 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid.
- 4.9 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded using standard ULAS procedures. Sufficient proportions of any archaeological features or deposits will be hand excavated in order to provide the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence.
- 4.10 All below ground stratigraphy will be recorded. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.
- 4.11 All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.
- 4.12 Spoil will be monitored for artefacts. A representative sample of unstratified finds may be retained.
- 4.13 Any human remains encountered will be initially left in situ, covered and protected, and only be removed in accordance with a Ministry of Justice licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The landowner and/or developer, the Planning Authority and the coroner will be informed immediately of their discovery.

Preservation in situ and Contingency Provisions

- 4.14 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located during the archaeological investigation there may be the need for contingency time and finance to be provided to ensure adequate recording is undertaken.
- 4.15 On the discovery of potentially significant remains the archaeologist will inform the developer and the planning authority in order for detailed discussion between all relevant parties to take place.

Recording Systems

- 4.16 The ULAS recording manual will be used as a guide for all recording.
- 4.17 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto pro-forma recording sheets.
- 4.18 A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a plan at appropriate scale, which will show the location of the areas investigated.
- 4.19 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made. Sections including the half-sections of individual layers of features will be drawn as necessary. The relative height of all principal strata and features will be recorded. The stratigraphy of all trenches shall be recorded even where no archaeological features are identified.
- 4.20 A photographic record of the investigations will be prepared as per the brief, illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.
- 4.21 This record will be compiled and checked during the course of the excavations.

5 Finds & samples

- 5.1 The IfA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to. (*Standards and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2008))
- 5.2 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.
- 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 LCC for storage in perpetuity.

- 5.4 All identified finds and artefacts are to be retained, although certain classes of building material will, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording.
- 5.5 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner. Where appropriate they will be cleaned, marked and receive remedial conservation in accordance with recognised best practice. This will include the site code number, finds number and context number. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self sealing plastic bags, again marked with site code, finds and context.

6. Environmental Sampling

6.1 Although the environmental potential of the site is uncertain, if significant archaeological features are sample excavated, the following environmental sampling strategy will be adopted, following consultation with the ULAS Environmental Officer.

- i. A range of features to represent all feature types, areas and phases will be selected on a judgmental basis. The criteria for selection will be that deposits are datable, well sealed and with little intrusive or residual material.
- ii. Any buried soils or well-sealed deposits with concentrations of carbonised material present will be intensively sampled taking a known proportion of the deposit.
- iii. Spot samples will be taken where concentrations of environmental remains are located.
- iv. Waterlogged remains, if present, will be sampled for pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and radiocarbon dating provided that they are uncontaminated and datable. Consultation with the specialist will be undertaken.

6.2 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.

6.3 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.

6.4 Where there is evidence for industrial activity, macroscopic technological residues (or a sample of them) may be collected. Separate samples (c. 10ml) may be collected for micro-slugs (hammer-scale and spherical droplets). All industrial samples will be undertaken with reference to the Centre for Archaeology Guideline on Archaeometallurgy (English Heritage 2001).

7. Report and Archive

7.1 The full report in A4 format will usually follow within six weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and copies will be directed to the client, the Planning Authority and to the Historic Environment Record.

7.2 The report will include consideration of:

- Summary
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological investigation.
- The nature, location and extent of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
- The local, regional and national context as appropriate highlighting any research priorities where applicable.
- Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
- a summary of artefacts, specialist reports and a consideration of the evidence within its local, regional, national context.

- The location and size of the archive.

7.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in the IfA Standard and Guidance for archaeological archives (Brown 2008) will normally be presented to the recipient museum 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 of the work will be submitted to the local archaeological journal. A larger report will be submitted for inclusion if the results of the evaluation warrant it.

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://ads.ac.uk/project/oasis> will be completed detailing the results of the project. Once the report has become a public document following its incorporation into the HER it may be placed on the web-site.

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. Timetable and staffing

10.1 Start date to be arranged. It is expected that one archaeologist would be present during the ground works.

11. Health and Safety

11.1 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.

12 Insurance

12.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance, details of which are provided in the accompanying Health & Safety Method Statement.

13. Bibliography

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Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) 2008 *Standards and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2008) (finds)

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Figure 1 Location plan (provided by client)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF METHOD STATEMENT & RISK ASSESSMENT

Site Name	Job No	Start Date	PM	Contact
APAC, Rothley Lodge, Rothely	14/699	TBC	Patrick Clay	0116 252 2848
Site Director	Site Contacts		Team (Nos)	
TBC			1	

SITE WORKS & METHOD STATEMENT

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

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

Watching Brief Method Statement

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

Excavation: Work will be conducted as per the Methodology detailed in the specification. Machining will be conducted using ULAS SSOW1. Any lone working on site will be undertaken according to ULAS SSOW2 (Appendix 1).

A first aid kit and a site phone will be available on site at all times. At least one member of staff will have first aid training.

Equipment

All plant will be the responsibility of the client.

ULAS vehicles or personal cars will be used (all appropriately insured and maintained).

Besides the plant, equipment will include a variety of hand tools (e.g. shovels, mattocks, trowels), recording materials (e.g. photographic equipment, computers, levels etc.), survey equipment (e.g. EDM, DGPS) CAT scanners and metal detectors may be used.

Personnel

The site director (as above) will be responsible for the day to day running of the site. Specialists and visitors may be invited to visit the site during fieldwork. It is expected to hire plant and operators from a reputable local company.

All personnel are experienced in working with plant and in the excavation of trenches. All site staff hold CSCS cards and many also hold a SPA quarry passport. All site staff have some first aid training.

Normal working hours are 7 hours a day between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday.

Monitoring and communications

ULAS management and site staff details are as above.

Work will be monitored internally by the ULAS Project Manager and/or Health & Safety Co-ordinators.

ULAS method statements are prepared following standard guidelines and after consultation with the University Safety Services Department. Communication of the contents of the method statement to site staff is the responsibility of the Site Director. The risk assessment will be updated weekly or when conditions change.

Accident Reporting

All accidents will be logged using ULAS accident forms and report to the ULAS Main Office (0116 2522848) and if necessary to the University of Leicester Safety Services Dept (Appendix 2).

Contact Details

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