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Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation
Rose Business Park, Lutterworth Road,
Blaby, Leicestershire.**

**NGR: SP 564 963
By Tim Higgins**



ULAS Report No 2017-086

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An Archaeological Evaluation
Rose Business Park, Lutterworth Road, Blaby
Leicestershire
NGR: SP 564 963

Tim Higgins

For: Brackley Property Developments

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University of Leicester
Archaeological Services
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

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An Archaeological Evaluation Land at Rose Business Park, Lutterworth Road, Blaby, Leicestershire.

Tim Higgins

Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Rose Business Park, Lutterworth Road, Blaby, Leicestershire, (SP 564 963) from the 18 to 23 May 2017. Trenches were excavated to evaluate an area where outline planning permission has been granted for Class B1/B2 and B8 development within the grounds of former rose nursery. None of the trenches contained any archaeological features and were generally clean and sterile with the exception of field drains. The area to the east appears to have been landscaped during the construction of the modern buildings. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under accession number X.A49.2017.

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out an archaeological evaluation at Rose Business Park, Lutterworth Road, Blaby, Leicestershire, (SP 564 963; Fig. 1) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS). Outline planning permission has been granted for Class B1/B2 and B8 development. This archaeological evaluation was part of the required conditions.

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* this document forms the report for an archaeological evaluation, with an assessment of the potential impact on buried archaeological remains from groundworks associated with future development.

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological trial trenching, which took place in May – June 2017. It followed a strategy for the work devised by ULAS, which was set out in the Design Specification for archaeological evaluation Land at Rose Business Park, Lutterworth Road, Blaby, Leicestershire, (SP 564 963) (ULAS 2017). The trial trenching undertaken provided a c. 3% sample of the 2.9ha area.

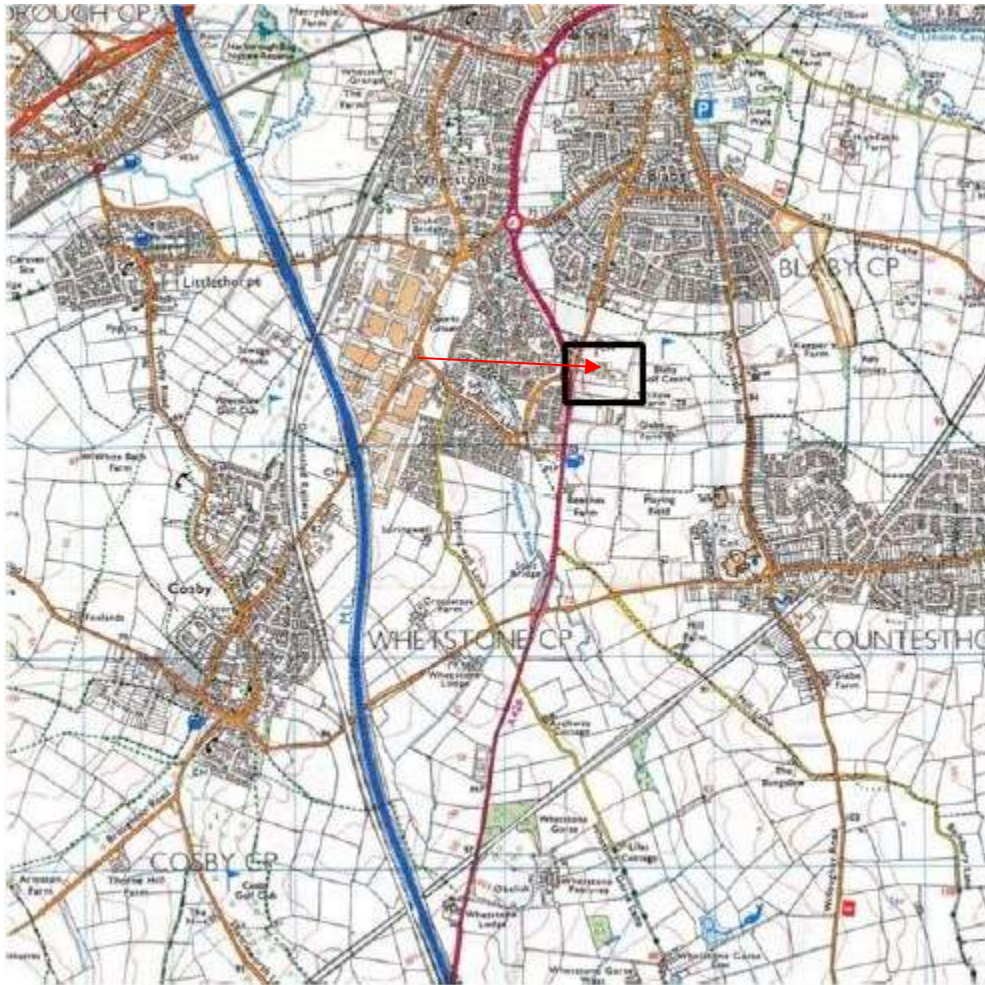


Figure 1: Site location plan within the UK and county of Leicestershire

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2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The site lies on the eastern side of Lutterworth Road in Blaby, within the Blaby District of Leicestershire around 6 miles south of Leicester (Fig. 1).

The site consists of a rectangular area measuring around 2.9ha on flat ground at a height of around 78m aOD. The site contains a number of office buildings and warehouses, surrounded by rough ground and a car park. It also contains a Day Nursery fronted by lawns that used to be a formal garden.

The British Geological Survey website indicates that the underlying geology is Diamicton overlying Mercia Mudstone.

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

A desk-based assessment has been undertaken for the site (Hunt 2015). There are a few known archaeological sites in the vicinity of the site. These include a prehistoric enclosure located 700m to the south-east of the site and the line of a Roman road that may run less than 100m to the west of the site. The site lies some distance from the medieval and post-medieval cores of Blaby and Whetstone. The assessment therefore determined that there was low potential for prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval remains to be discovered during new development on the site and low to moderate potential for Roman remains due to the proximity of the line of the Roman road.



Figure 2: Development Area and proposed Trench Plan

4. Aims and Objectives

The broad aims of the archaeological evaluation trenches were:

- To determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains on the site as indicated by the geophysical survey
- To establish the nature and extent of any existing disturbance and intrusion to subsurface deposits and, where the data allows, assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits of archaeological significance

- To enable the clients to establish a schedule for archaeological risks

The detailed objectives of the archaeological evaluation trenches are:

- Insofar as possible within methodological constraints, to explain any temporal, spatial or functional relationships between the structures/remains identified, and any relationships between these and the archaeological and historic elements of the wider landscape.
- Where the data allows, identify the research implications of the site with reference to the regional research agenda and recent work in Leicestershire.

Research Aims

While the nature, extent and quality of archaeological remains within the areas of investigation for the project remain unknown until archaeological work is undertaken, it is possible to determine some initial objectives derived from *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (Knight et al. 2012) and *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda* (Cooper 2006).

Prehistoric

Characterise the prehistoric settlement resource and investigate intra-regional variability (4C). Investigate intra-regional variations in development of fields and linear boundaries (4F) Study the production distribution and use of artefacts (4G)

Romano-British

Investigate landscape context of rural settlements (5H)

Early Medieval – High Medieval

Elucidate the chronology and demography of Roman to Anglo-Saxon transition period (6A), Review the evidence for developing settlement hierarchies (6C).

Investigate the morphology of rural settlements (7E), Investigate development of the open field system and woodland management (7I).

Post-medieval

Identify the landless urban and rural poor (8A), Establish a typology of regional building traditions (8C), Identify agricultural improvements of the 16th – 18th centuries (8E), Research the development of industry and its impact upon landscape and settlement morphology (8F).

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

5. Methodology

Prior to any machining of trial trenches, general photographs of the site areas were taken. Three trenches were unable to be excavated due to the presence of live services in the immediate area.

The 11 trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil and overlying layers were removed under full archaeological supervision until either the top of archaeological deposits or the natural undisturbed substratum was reached. Trenches were examined for archaeological deposits or finds by hand cleaning. The trenches were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid and then were backfilled and leveled at the end of the evaluation.

The work followed the approved design specification (ULAS 2017) and adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* and their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (2014).

6. Results

The location of the trenches and shown on Fig. 3 and the results are presented below in Table 1.

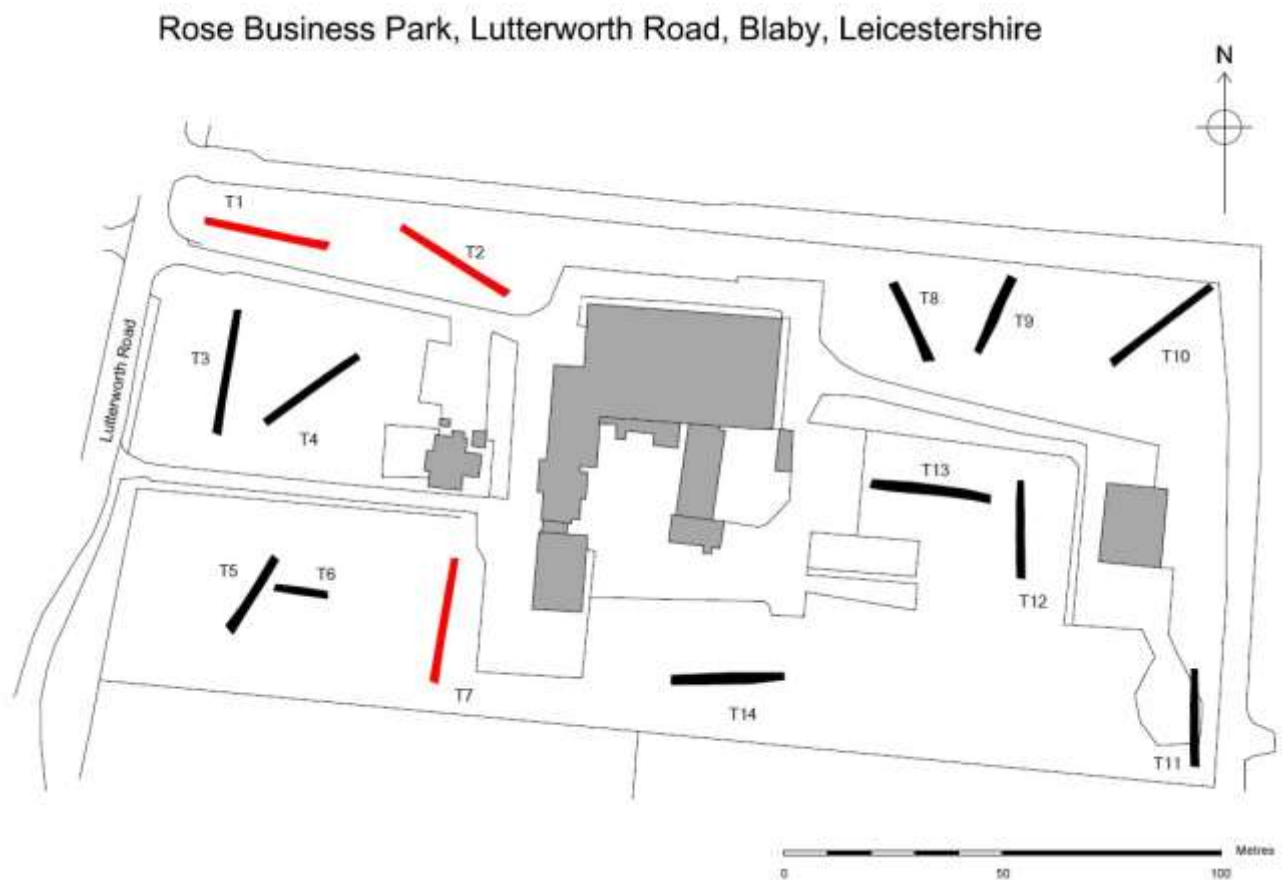


Figure 3: Trench Location Plan

Table 1 Trench Summaries

Trench	Length (m)	Height of Trench base (m a OD)	Natural Substratum	Notes	Min. depth to archaeology/natural (m)
1				Trench not excavated due to the presence of services	
2				Trench not excavated due to the presence of services	
3	<i>c.28.9</i>	84.98m	Dull brown orange sandy clay	Negative empty trench, Shallow subsoil	0.30
4	<i>c.26.2</i>	85.55	Red orange brown clay	Negative empty trench. Land drains	0.32
5	<i>c.30</i>	84.74m	Light orange brown sandy clay	Negative empty trench Modern field drain. Shallow shallow sub soil	0.38
6	<i>c.12.20</i>	84.75m	Light orange brown sandy clay	Negative empty trench Modern field drain.	0.52
7				Trench not excavated due to the presence of services	
8	<i>c.23</i>	87.57	Light orange brown sandy clay	Negative trench. Truncated topsoil. Ground level stripped with gravel surface placed on top	0.32

9	<i>c.19.70</i>	87.88m	Light orange brown sandy clay	Negative trench. Truncated topsoil. Ground level stripped with gravel surface placed on top	0.32
10	<i>c.29.3</i>	88.54	Red brown clay with orange sand	Negative trench. Land drains	0.45
11	<i>c.23</i>	88.30m	Mid brown orange sandy	Negative trench. Truncated topsoil.	0.38
			silt and gravel/ Mid grey brown silty clay	Ground levelled and stripped with redeposited natural placed on top of natural. Gravel surface placed on top Land drains found cutting natural at base.	
12	<i>c.23.4</i>	87.30m	Orange brown sandy sandy clay	Negative trench. Truncated topsoil. Ground level stripped with gravel surface placed on top	0.28
13	<i>c.27.6</i>	87.30	Orange Sandy clay	Negative trench. Truncated topsoil. Ground level stripped with gravel surface placed on top	0.28
14	<i>c.26.8</i>	86.33m	Red/Orange clay	Negative trench. Landrains. Modern building material found within the subsoil	0.42

Table 2 Trench Summaries

A total of 11 trenches were excavated within the development area. The sequence of soils encountered across the site comprised sandy clay natural substrata varying in colour and at an average depth of 0.3-0.4m below the ground surface. This was overlain with a thin orangebrown subsoil, present in all trenches but varying in thickness. Dark brown topsoil

overlay all deposits with an average 0.25 – 0.3m thickness but deeper in the south-west corner and much thinner to the east where there has been truncation of the land presumably as part of the landscaping for the current offices and buildings. In this area (trenches 8, 9, 10 11 12, 13 and 14) modern building material was found which suggested that topsoil may have been previously stripped and removed and then placed back within these areas.

No furrows were identified in the trenches but land drains were visible in several of the trenches. There are numerous services around the current buildings. No archaeological deposits were encountered in any of the trenches.



Figure 4: Trench 3



Figure 5: Trench 4



Figure 6: Trench 5



Figure 7: Trench 6



Figure 8: Trench 8



Figure 9: Trench 9



Figure 10: Trench 10



Figure 11: Trench 11



Figure 12: Trench 12



Figure 13: Trench 13



Figure 14: Trench 14

7 Discussion

The archaeological evaluation by trial trenching revealed no evidence for archaeological features or finds within the any of the trenches. Modern building material found within the trenches to the east suggests that topsoil may have been previously stripped and replaced. Trenches 3 and 4 at the west appear to be in a relatively undisturbed area.

Some of the trenches displayed shallow depths of topsoil and no subsoil, which could possibly indicate that extensive deep modern ploughing has taken place within these fields when the site was a former rose nursery.

Given the negative results no further archaeological work is likely to be required.

8. Archive

The site archive will be held by *Leicestershire Museums Service, under accession no. X.A49.2017.*

The site archive consists of:

- 1 Unbound A4 copy of this report
- 11 A4 Trench recording sheets
- 1 A4 Photo record sheet
- A4 Colour digital contact print 1 CD of digital photos

The archive will be held by Leicestershire Museum Service under the accession number X.A49.2017.

9. Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work to the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS)* database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York (Appendix 1). A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal, the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*, in due course

10. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. The report has been added to the Archaeology Data Service's (ADS) Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the University of York.

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12. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by the author and managed by Vicki Score. Teresa Hawtin and Sophie Clarke of LCC HNET monitored the work on behalf of the planning authority.

Author contact details:

Tim Higgins
University of Leicester Archaeological Services
University Road
Leicester
LE1 7RH

Th31@le.ac.uk

Tel: 0116 252 2848

Fax: 0116 252 2614

06/06/2017

OASIS data entry

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	universi1-		
	Project Name	Rose Business Park, Lutterworth Road, Blaby, Leicestershire NGR: SP 564 963 ‘		
	Start/end dates of field work	018-05-2016 - 23-05-2016		
	Previous/Future Work	No / Not known		
	Project Type	Evaluation		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	office buildings and warehouses, surrounded by rough ground		
	Monument Type/Period	None		
	Significant Finds/Period	None		
	Development Type	Class B1/B2 and B8 development		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning Condition		
Planning Ref.	15/1084OUT			
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	Lutterworth Road, Blaby LE 8 4DP		
	Study Area	0.29 ha		
	Site Coordinates	SP 564 963		
	Height OD	85m to 80m AOD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority (LCC)		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Vick Score		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Tim Higgins		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Brackley Property Developments		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	LCC Mus Service	LCC Mus Service	LCC Mus Service
	ID (Acc. No.)	X.A49.2017	X.A49.2017	X.A49.2017
	Contents	None	Photos	Evaluation records Field Notes
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
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	Description	Developer Report A4 pdf

Appendix 1: Trench Measurements

Trench No	Orient		Length		Width		
	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	28
3	NE-SW		28.9m		1.60m		
Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	28
Topsoil	0.25m	0.25m	0.25m	0.23m	0.36m	0.33m	0.30m
Subsoil	0.05m	0.10m	0.08m	0.10m	0.12m	0.12m	0.10m
Base of Trench	0.30m	0.38m	0.37m	0.40m	0.54m	0.53m	0.56m

Trench No	Orient		Length		Width		
	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	26
4	E-W		26.2m		1.60m		
Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	26
Topsoil	0.24m	0.26m	0.22m	0.22m	0.34m	0.23	20m
Subsoil	0.12m	0.15m	0.10m	0.12m	0.12m	0.10m	0.13
Base of Trench	0.47m	0.52m	0.38m	0.37m	0.53m	0.40m	0.38

Trench No	Orient		Length		Width		
	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	21m	
5	NE-SW		21.40		1.60m		
Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	21m	
Topsoil	0.20m	0.27m	0.38m	0.43m	0.45m	0.44	
Subsoil	-	0.38m	0.48m	0.48m	0.057	0.53	
Base of Trench	0.20m	0.40m	0.54m	0.57m	0.64m	0.58	

Trench No	Orient		Length		Width		
6	W-E		12.20		1.60m		
Interval	0m	5m	10m	12m			
Topsoil	0.40m	0.42m	0.37m	0.43m			
Subsoil	0.12	0.54m	0.19m	0.59m			
Base of Trench	0.59m	0.60m	0.60m	0.66m			

Trench No	Orient		Length		Width		
8	NW-SE		23m		1.60m		
Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	23m	
Topsoil	0.10m	0.10m	0.12m	0.20m	0.26m	0.12	
Subsoil	0.30	0.35m	0.32m	0.20m	0.187	0.20	
Base of Trench	0.49m	0.51m	0.48m	0.45m	0.46m	0.35	

Trench No	Orient		Length		Width		
9	NE-SW		19.70m		1.60m		
Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	19m		
Topsoil	0.15m	0.13m	0.10m	0.28m	0.10m		
Subsoil	0.20	0.25m	0.20m	0.20m	0.207		
Base of Trench	0.39m	0.48m	0.34m	0.57m	0.32m		

Trench No	Orient		Length		Width		
10	NE-SW		29.3m		1.60m		
Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	29
Topsoil	0.30m	0.27m	0.27m	0.22m	0.33m	0.23	25m
Subsoil	0.30m	0.40m	0.20m	0.30m	0.25m	0.34m	0.20
Base of	0.62m	0.72m	0.52m	0.56m	0.60m	0.59m	0.45

Trench							
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Trench No	Orient		Length		Width		
11	N-S		23m		1.60m		
Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	23m	
Topsoil	0.08m	0.13m	0.14m	0.20m	0.20m	0.15	
Made ground	0.30m	0.65m	0.42m	0.50m	0.50m	0.50m	
Base of Trench	0.40m	0.81m	0.60m	0.73m	0.75m	0.70m	

Trench No	Orient		Length		Width		
12	N-S		23.4m		1.60m		
Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	23m	
Topsoil	0.08m	0.07m	0.09m	0.10m	0.05m	0.10	
Made ground	0.20m	0.30m	0.40m	0.30m	0.40m	0.30m	
Base of Trench	0.32m	0.44m	0.56m	0.46m	0.50m	0.45m	

Trench No	Orient		Length		Width		
13	E-W		27.6m		1.60m		
Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	23m	27m
Topsoil	0.10m	0.13m	0.07m	0.08m	0.10m	0.12	0.08
Made ground	0.180m	0.20m	0.20m	0.35m	0.25m	0.22m	0.30
Base of Trench	0.32m	0.40m	0.35m	0.46m	0.39m	0.37m	0.39

Trench No	Orient		Length		Width		
14	E-W		26.8m		1.60m		
Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	
Topsoil	0.07m	0.10m	0.17m	0.20m	0.05m	0.10	

Made ground	0.45m	0.38m	0.350m	0.30m	0.37m	0.39m	
Base of Trench	0.54m	0.50m	0.57m	0.54m	0.45m	0.54m	



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

Contact Details

Richard Buckley or Patrick Clay
University of Leicester
Archaeological
Services (ULAS)
University of Leicester,
University Road,
Leicester LE1 7RH

T: +44 (0)116 252 2848

F: +44 (0)116 252

2614 E: ulas@le.ac.uk

w: www.le.ac.uk/ulas



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