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Archaeological Services

Archaeological Attendance and recording during groundworks at land to the south of Ashby Road, and to the south-west of the athletics stadium, Loughborough University, Loughborough, Leicestershire

SK 51848, 19225 (centre)



Claire LaCombe

ULAS Report No 2018-031

Accession Number X.A112.1017

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For: Loughborough University

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## **Archaeological Attendance and recording during groundworks at land to the south of Ashby Road, and to the south-west of the athletics stadium, Loughborough University, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 3TU SK 51848, 19225 (centre)**

### **Summary**

*Archaeological attendance was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at land to the south of Ashby Road, and to the south-west of the athletics stadium, Loughborough University, Loughborough, Leicestershire. The work was commissioned by Loughborough University in advance of the proposed development of new student accommodation, a central hub, warden's accommodation, access and landscaping.*

*On inspection, it was observed that the ground had been levelled, and that there had been no penetrating groundworks. It was advised that further visits would be required once excavation began for the construction of the student accommodation.*

*The fieldwork was carried out by Claire LaCombe. The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service under Accession Number X.A112.2017*

*Cover Photo: General site shot looking east*

### **Introduction**

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Loughborough University to carry out archaeological attendance at land to the south of Ashby Road, and to the south-west of the athletics stadium, Loughborough University, Loughborough, Leicestershire SK 51848, 19225 (centre)

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

The work was required as a condition of the planning consent, issued by Charnwood Borough Council, for the erection of student accommodation to provide 617 bed spaces (Use Class C2), Elite Athlete Centre (Use Class C1), a central 'Hub' building, warden's house, landscaping provision, provision of access and services infrastructure and the demolition of 10 existing buildings within the site. Planning application number P/16/2558/2

### **Site Location, Geography and Topography**

The proposed development site consists of land within the Central park area of the University campus. It is adjacent to the A512 Ashby Road, North of the Water-based Hockey pitch and to the west of the Paula Radcliffe Athletic Stadium (Figure 1). The site itself consists of a mix of developed land which includes standing buildings, a sports field, road / pathway and woodland. There are many fenced areas within the development site itself as well as along the

North West boundary line. The site also has Burleigh Brook running north to west alongside the A512 shielded within the wooded area. The site is at an approximate height of 50m O.D. The Geological Survey of Great Britain indicates that the underlying geology consists of Gunthorpe Member – Mudstone.



Figure 1: Location of Loughborough University (contains OS data).



Figure 2: Location of site.



Figure 3: Proposed development. (Provided by client).

### Archaeological Background

The villages of Leicestershire and the wider English Central Midlands, appear to have evolved alongside their open field systems, during the later 1st millennium AD. Buried archaeological evidence, constituting one or more as yet unidentified heritage asset(s) (National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12, paragraph 128 and Appendix 2), spanning the period from the earliest evolution of the village to its more recent past can be expected within the development area. Consequently, there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the development.

An archaeological desk based assessment has been prepared for the area (LaCombe 2016). The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates that the site is located within an area of good archaeological potential as there are known archaeological sites containing prehistoric remains close to and within the proposed development site. These include an Iron Age flint, beehive quern and Roman pottery. The village cores of Knightthorpe and Thorpe Acre are close to the site containing many remains from the medieval period.

Groundworks associated with the proposed development are likely to disturb any archaeological remains that may be present, consequently there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the development.

## Archaeological Objectives

The main objective of the archaeological excavation was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of any significant archaeology on the site in its cultural and environmental setting.

The aims of the archaeological attendance were 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 establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscape and to advance understanding of the heritage assets.
- To recover artefacts and ecofacts to compare with other assemblages and results
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

## Methodology

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014a) and adhered to their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2014b).

*A Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Work* was produced by ULAS prior to the archaeological work being undertaken (ULAS 2017).

The proposed new development will involve the construction of student accommodation to provide 617 bed spaces (Use Class C2), Elite Athlete Centre (Use Class C1), a central 'Hub' building, warden's house, landscaping provision, provision of access and services infrastructure and the demolition of 10 existing buildings within the site.

The archaeological attendance involved the inspection of the levelled ground by an experienced professional archaeologist.

## Results

On arrival it was noted that the area for development had been levelled in preparation for construction of the student accommodation and associated buildings. The area was inspected for any archaeological features that may have become apparent during the levelling of the ground, however the inspection proved negative.

No penetrating groundworks were carried out during the attendance. The site management were advised that, based on the potential for archaeological features, additional visits would be required to observe any ground penetrating works. ULAS were not asked to carry out any further visits to the site.

No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered during the investigation.



Figure 4: Looking north-east from the westernmost point of the site



Figure 5: Looking south-east from the north-western extent of the site



Figure 6: Looking south-west along the north-western boundary





Figure 7: Looking north-east along the south-eastern boundary



Figure 8: Looking north from the south eastern boundary



Figure 9: Looking north-west from the southernmost point of the site



Figure 10: Looking north-west from the southernmost point of the site



Figure 11: Looking west from the centre of the site



Figure 12: Looking north-east from the centre of the site



Figure 13: Looking north-east along the south eastern boundary



Figure 14: Looking north-east along the south-eastern boundary



Figure 15: Looking south-east from the south-western boundary

## Discussion

Despite the potential for archaeological features or deposits none were observed during this attendance on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2107. On inspection, the ground had been stripped of grass, levelled and prepared ready for construction. No archaeological features were visible on the surface at this level. No ground was penetrated during the attendance on site, but management were advised that further visits would be required once excavation began for construction of the residential accommodation. ULAS were not asked to carry out any further visits to site.

## Archive

The archive consists of the following:

- 1 unbound copy of this report
- 1 watching brief recording sheet
- 1 set of digital photographs

The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service under Accession Number X.A112.1017.

The report is listed on the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York, under ID: universi1-309236. Available at: <http://oasis.ac.uk/>

## 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.

## Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was undertaken on behalf Loughborough University and was carried out by Claire LaCombe. Patrick Clay and Vicki Score managed the project.

## OASIS data entry

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>	<b>Oasis No</b>	universi1 - 309236		
	<b>Project Name</b>	The Throws Centre, Loughborough University		
	<b>Start/end dates of field work</b>	12/09/2017		
	<b>Previous/Future Work</b>	Yes / Not known		
	<b>Project Type</b>	Watching Brief		
	<b>Site Status</b>	None		
	<b>Current Land Use</b>	Sports field		
	<b>Monument Type/Period</b>	None		
	<b>Significant Finds/Period</b>	None		
	<b>Development Type</b>	Residential		
	<b>Reason for Investigation</b>	NPPF		
	<b>Position in the Planning Process</b>	Planning condition		
	<b>Planning Ref.</b>	P/16/2558/2		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	<b>Site Address/Postcode</b>	Loughborough University, Ashby Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 3TU		
	<b>Study Area</b>	1.2ha		
	<b>Site Coordinates</b>	SK 51848 19225		
	<b>Height OD</b>	50m OD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	ULAS		
	<b>Project Brief Originator</b>	Local Planning Authority (LCC)		
	<b>Project Design Originator</b>	ULAS		
	<b>Project Manager</b>	Vicki Score		
	<b>Project Director/Supervisor</b>	Claire LaCombe		
	<b>Sponsor/Funding Body</b>	Developer / Loughborough University		
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVE</b>		<b>Physical</b>	<b>Digital</b>	<b>Paper</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	NA	LCC MusService	LCC MusService
	<b>ID (Acc. No.)</b>		X.A112.2017	X.A112.2017
	<b>Contents</b>		Photos Survey data	Watching brief records Field Notes
<b>PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>Type</b>	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
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## **Bibliography**

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CIfA 2014b *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

ULAS. 2016 *An archaeological desk-based assessment for land to the south of Ashby Road, and to the south-west of the athletics stadium, Loughborough University, Loughborough, Leicestershire SK 51848, 19225 (centre)* ULAS 16-150

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