

**An Archaeological Evaluation of Land off Wysall Lane Wymeswold,
Leicestershire (NGR SK 603 237)**

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Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by George Wimpey East Midlands Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land off Wysall Lane, Wymeswold, and outline planning permission has been granted for the building of 64 residential dwellings. An archaeological desk-based assessment had identified the area has having high archaeological potential.

In all 18 evaluation trenches were excavated across the proposed development area, sampling an area approximately 1020² in size. Two archaeological features dating from the were recorded within one of the southernmost trenches adjacent to the village. Otherwise, there was no evidence of earth-fast archaeology within the proposed development area.

The southern trenches also included a considerable build up of colluvial deposits which could be masking other archaeological features. A number of standing earthworks were recorded within the proposed development area, including ridge and furrow and a possible track way.

1. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by George Wimpey East Midlands Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of proposed residential development on land bordering Wysall Lane, Wymeswold, Leicestershire (SK 603 237). Outline planning permission has been granted for building of 64 residential dwellings and access road on a site currently occupied by pasture land and dilapidated agricultural buildings to the east and west of Wysall Lane (Planning Application Number P/03/3482/2). An archaeological desk based assessment (ULAS Report Number 2006-082) identified the site as having high archaeological potential. The site is located directly adjacent to the village core and the Leicestershire & Rutland SMR (Sites & Monuments Record) map records three prehistoric archaeological sites, four Roman archaeological sites, two Anglo-Saxon archaeological sites and three post-medieval archaeological sites, all within 500m of the proposed development area. In view of this a programme of intrusive investigation through trial trenching was requested by Leicestershire County Council to confirm whether archaeological remains are present within the application area and, if necessary, formulate a mitigation strategy.

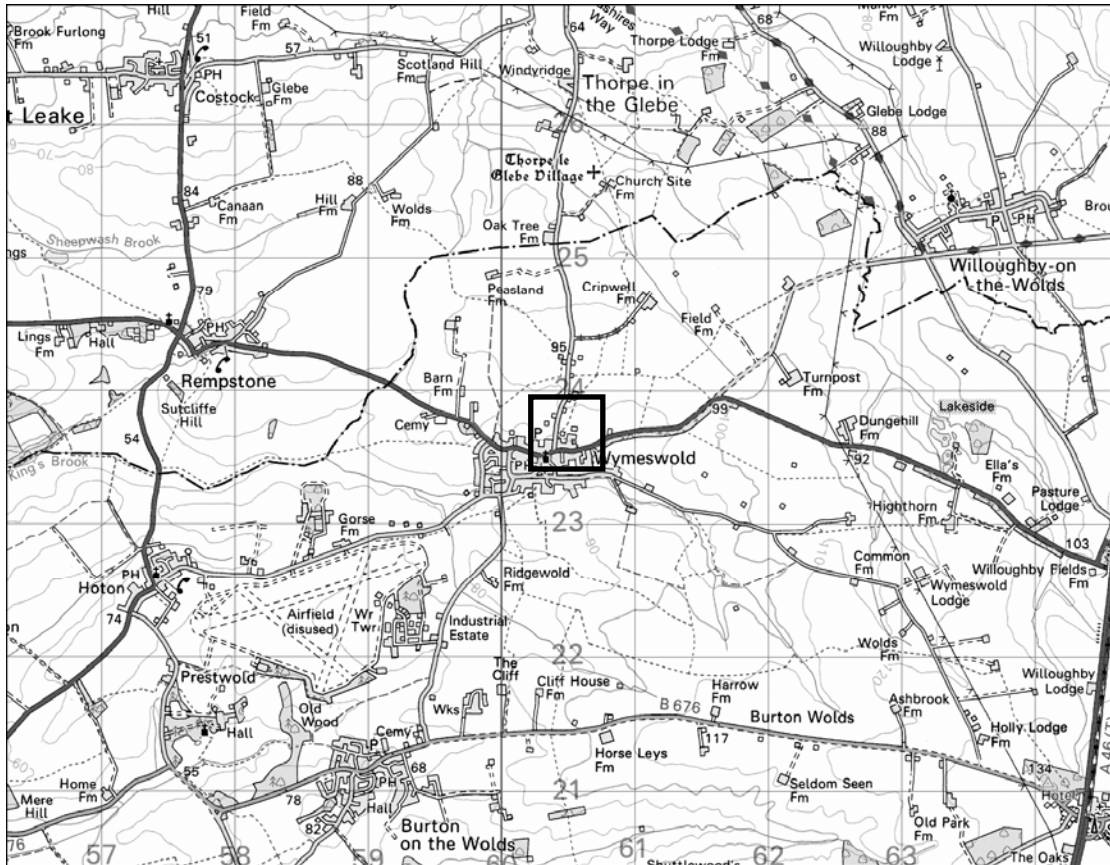


Figure 1. Site location Scale 1:50000

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2. Aims and Methodology

The aim of the archaeological work was to ascertain whether any significant archaeological remains were present within the area to be developed. If identified a sufficient sample were to be excavated and recorded to establish their extent, date, quality, character, form and potential including environmental data. Further archaeological recording would be undertaken if required in the light of the results of this programme.

The Planning Archaeologist of Historic and Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council as advisor to Charnwood Borough Council following Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG 16, Archaeology and Planning para. 30) has requested a 5% sample. Twenty 30m long trenches, 1.6m wide and a single 20m trench, 1.6m wide were to be excavated by JCB with a ditching bucket totalling 992m². However, ground conditions prevented the use of a JCB so a back actor with a 2m ditching bucket was used. Overhead power lines also required the alteration of the intended trench locations, as a result a total of 15 30m trenches and 20m trenches were excavated sampling a total area of 1020m². (Figure 4) The evaluation took

place between July 27th and August 3rd 2006. The evaluation followed the *Design Specification for archaeological evaluation* (06/671 Appendix).

Because the proposed development is located within two separate fields divided by Wysall Lane, for the purpose of this evaluation each field has been allocated a number. Field 1 is the field to the west of Wysall Lane and Field 2 is the field to the east of Wysall Lane. Field 2 was further subdivided into Field 2 and 2a by a intermittent hedgerow.



Figure . 2. Location of the development area supplied by developer, development area highlighted (Scale unknown)

3. Results

3.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

Trench 1 was located within the southern most part Field 1 (to the west of Wysall Lane). Approximately 200mm to 300mm of topsoil was excavated revealing a colluvial layer of weathered brown clay; a further 500mm to 600mm of colluvium was excavated before another change was encountered. At this level, the base of the trench consisted of weathered light brown boulder clay, into which two potentially archaeologically significant features were cut.

Features, [001] and [003] were semi circular, approximately 500mm in diameter; it was decided to half section both features. [001] was a flat bottomed pit approximately 190mm deep at its deepest point; the fill (002) consisted of brown firm silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, which merged with the weathered bedrock. A single sherd of much abraded twelfth century Potters Marsden type pottery was recovered during the course of the excavation (D. Sawday *pers comm.*). Excavation of [003] revealed another pit, this time with concave sides and a rounded base, the fill,

(004) was much darker with considerably more charcoal than (002). Unfortunately no dating evidence was recovered from [003].

Although limited these two pits suggest the proximity of the proposed development area to areas of archaeological significance.

3.2 Trench 2

The second excavated trench was located approximately s west of trench 1. A similar depth of topsoil was excavated revealing the same colluvial deposit as trench 1, excavation of this layer continued until undisturbed bed rock was reached at approximately 1.1m below current ground level at the southern most end of the trench and 400mm at the northern end of the trench. As expected the greatest depth of colluvium was in the southern end of the trench, its lowest point.

There was nothing of archaeological significance within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

3.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was located approximately north of trench 2 and aligned east west. Between 150mm and 350mm of topsoil was excavated revealing an horizon of weathered clay, a further 100mm to 300mm of this subsoil was excavated until weathered boulder clay bedrock with abundant inclusions of weathered Gypsum. There was no evidence of the colluvium encountered within trenches 1 and 2, the colluvium, as expected was limited to the base of the slope.

There was nothing of archaeological significance within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

3.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was located approximately north of trench 3 adjacent to the western most boundary of the proposed development area, aligned north south. Subsoil and bedrock was the same as exposed within trench 3 and of a similar depth.

A geotechnical test pit excavated by George Wimpey East Midlands was exposed towards the southern end of the trench. There was nothing of archaeological significance within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

3.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was excavated approximately north of trench aligned east west and limited to 20m in length due to the proximity of overhead power lines. As with previous trenches approximately 200mm to 300mm of topsoil and 200mm to 300mm of subsoil was excavated before horizon of boulder clay bedrock with weathered Gypsum was reached.

There was nothing of archaeological significance within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

3.6 Trench 6

Trench 6 was located approximately north of trench 5, adjacent to the north westernmost corner of the proposed development area. Topsoil and subsoil depths were similar to those within the previous trenches and the base of the trench consisted of the same weathered boulder clay bedrock.

There was nothing of archaeological significance within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

3.7 Trench 7

Trench 7 was the most northerly trench within Field 1, adjacent to the northern most boundary of the proposed development area. The trench was aligned east west and again limited to 20 due to the proximity of overhead power lines.

The results were similar to the other trenches within this part of the field, nothing of archaeological significance was observed within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

3.8 Trench 8

Trench 8 was located approximately ten south of trench 7 adjacent to the westernmost boundary of Field 1 and Wysall Lane itself. A similar depth of topsoil and subsoil was excavated before boulder clay bedrock was exposed.

As with trench 4, a geotechnical test pit excavated by George Wimpey East Midlands was uncovered. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

3.9 Trench 9

Trench 9 was the final trench excavated within Field 1 and located approximately south of trench 8. A similar depth of topsoil and subsoil was excavated before boulder clay bedrock was exposed.

There was nothing of archaeological significance within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

3.10 Trench 10

Trench 10 was the first of the trenches excavated within Field 2, to the east of Wysall Lane within the south westernmost corner of this part of the proposed development area. There were ridge and furrow earthworks visible within this field so the trench was located in an attempt to avoid any truncation caused by these.

Between 200mm and 250mm of topsoil was excavated revealing an horizon of weathered clay. A further 90mm to 120mm of this subsoil was excavated until weathered boulder clay bedrock with abundant inclusions of weathered Gypsum was exposed.

There was nothing of archaeological significance within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

3.11 Trench 11

Trench 11 was located towards the centre of Field 2, approximately east of trench 10. Between 200mm and 300mm of topsoil was excavated revealing an horizon of weathered clay, a further 120mm to 300mm of this subsoil was excavated until weathered boulder clay bedrock with abundant inclusions of weathered Gypsum was exposed.

Two north-south aligned furrows and a nineteenth century ceramic field drain, cut into the westernmost furrow were observed within the trench. There was nothing of archaeological significance within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

3.12 Trench 12

Trench 12 was located towards the northern edge of the proposed development area, approximately north of trench 11. Between 200mm and 360mm of topsoil was excavated revealing an horizon of weathered clay, a further 120mm to 200mm of this subsoil was excavated until weathered boulder clay bedrock with abundant inclusions of weathered Gypsum was exposed.

There was nothing of archaeological significance within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

3.13 Trench 13

Trench 13 was located towards the southern edge of the proposed development area, approximately east of the still standing agricultural building. Approximately 200mm to 300mm of topsoil was excavated revealing weathered clay subsoil to a depth of between 200mm and 250mm, below this, as with the earlier southern trenches a colluvial deposit was encountered.

This colluvial layer was excavated to a depth of approximately 700mm to 800mm below the current ground level. Even at this depth, there was no evidence of the colluvium masking archaeologically significant deposits. There was nothing of archaeological significance within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

3.14 Trench 14

Trench 14 was located towards the centre of Field 2, approximately north of trench 13. Between 220mm and 300mm of topsoil was excavated revealing an horizon of weathered clay, a further 200mm to 340mm of this subsoil was excavated until weathered boulder clay bedrock with abundant inclusions of weathered Gypsum was exposed.

There was nothing of archaeological significance within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

3.15 Trench 15

Trench 15 was located within the south easternmost corner of the proposed development area. Approximately 290mm to 400mm of topsoil was excavated revealing weathered clay subsoil to a depth of between 400mm and 600mm. Below this, as with trench 13, and other southern trenches, a colluvial deposit was encountered.

This colluvial layer was excavated to a depth of approximately 500mm at the northern end of the trench and 1.0m at its southern end. Even at this depth, there was no evidence of the colluvium masking archaeologically significant deposits. There was nothing of archaeological significance within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

3.16 Trench 16

Trench 16 was the most easterly of the trenches within the proposed development area, located approximately east of trench 15. Approximately 290mm to 450mm of topsoil was excavated revealing weathered clay subsoil to a depth of between 400mm and 700mm, below this, as with trench 15, and other southern trenches, a colluvial deposit was encountered.

This colluvial layer was excavated to a depth of approximately 500mm and 800mm. Even at this depth, there was no evidence of the colluvium masking archaeologically significant deposits. There was nothing of archaeological significance within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

3.17 Trench 17

Trench 17 was located adjacent to the northernmost boundary of the proposed development area, approximately northwest of trench 16. Between 210mm and 350mm of topsoil was excavated revealing an horizon of weathered clay, a further 200mm to 340mm of this subsoil was excavated until weathered boulder clay bedrock with abundant inclusions of weathered Gypsum was exposed.

Towards the middle of the trench a linear deposit of brick, tile and other debris was exposed, this deposit was approximately 4m wide and directly below the turf. This deposit could be aligned with an abandoned gateway in the northernmost field boundary and could be traced as an earthwork heading in a south easterly direction towards the adjacent farm buildings. Although no evidence for dating was recovered, this track way probably twentieth century in date.

There was nothing of archaeological significance within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

3.18 Trench 18

Trench 18 was the final trench to be excavated within the proposed development area and located approximately half way between trenches 12 and 17, adjacent to the

northernmost boundary. A relatively shallow 200mm to 220mm of topsoil was excavated revealing an horizon of weathered clay; a further 50mm to 220mm of this subsoil was excavated until weathered boulder clay bedrock with abundant inclusions of weathered Gypsum was exposed.

There was nothing of archaeological significance within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

4. Earthworks

A number of standing earthworks were identified during the course of the evaluation, most notably ridge and furrow earthworks, a remnant of medieval ploughing. This was most apparent within Field 2, where closely cropped grass made it easily distinguishable, this ridge and furrow was aligned north south, following the general topography within the proposed development, a gradual slope rising from the south to the north.

There was also ridge and furrow within Field 1, however, the extremely overgrown nature of this field made identification very difficult. Evidence of ridge and furrow was, however, observed during the excavation of the evaluation trenches and as with Field 2, the ridge and furrow was aligned north south. It is possible that there are other earthworks within Field 1 which were unidentifiable during this evaluation due to the dense vegetation cover.

Finally, within Field 2a there was very little evidence of the ridge and furrow earthworks observed within the other fields. There was, however, evidence of an earthwork, possibly a track way, aligned north south, encountered by trench 17 and the excavated material appeared to be twentieth century in date. The actual track way, may be earlier in date. There is a possible suggestion of this track way on the 1921 Ordnance Survey (1921 Ordnance Survey map Leicestershire Sheet No. XI.II with Scale 1:2500). Towards the centre of the field the track way widened considerably, which may relate to a possible building which only appears on the 1991 Ordnance Survey map (Leicestershire Sheet No SK 6023 Scale 1:2500).

There are also two ponds within the proposed development area, both recorded on the first edition Ordnance Survey (1900 Ordnance Survey map Leicestershire Sheet No. XI.II). Although of limited archaeological interest, both appear to be of some considerable age.

It also appears that the actual alignment of Wysall Lane has shifted also. On the western side of the lane there is a broad ditch and high bank, capped with a very dense hedgerow; it is possible that this is a hollow way tracing the original line of Wysall Lane. There is no similar feature on the eastern side, suggesting that the road has been widened and shifted eastwards. There is likely to be some truncation of this hollow way by the construction of the access road.

5. Conclusion

Despite its very promising location, very little of archaeological significance was recovered during the course of this evaluation. Two archaeological features were

recorded within trench 1, the nearest to the medieval village to the south, and the recovered twelfth century pottery suggests that whatever settlement activity occurred within this area ceased by the twelfth century and the settlement focus shifted to the south with the area examined given over to agriculture.

There was a considerable build up of colluvium uncovered within the southernmost trenches; this was expected due to their location at the base of the slope. This colluvial layer sealed the pit from which the twelfth century pottery was recovered it is possible, therefore, that further archaeologically significant deposits may be masked by the colluvium which were not encountered during the course of this evaluation closer to the medieval village.

6. References

Bocock, S. 2006 *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for a Proposed Residential Development, Wysall Lane, Wymeswold, Leicestershire (SK 603 237)*. ULAS report 2006-82.

Speed, G. 2003 *An Archaeological Evaluation of land off East Road, Wymeswold, Leicestershire (SK 607 234)*. ULAS report 2003-016.

7. Archive & Publication

The site archive consists of

- 1 A2 permatrace sheet containing trench locations and plans & sections of trench 1
- 18 A4 Trench Recording Sheets
- Black and white negatives with contact sheets
- 1x CD of Digital Colour Images and A4 contact sheet
- 1A4 Photo Index Sheet

The archive will be held at Leicestershire County Council, under accession number X.A88.2006

A version of the summary (above) will be published in *Transactions of Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course.

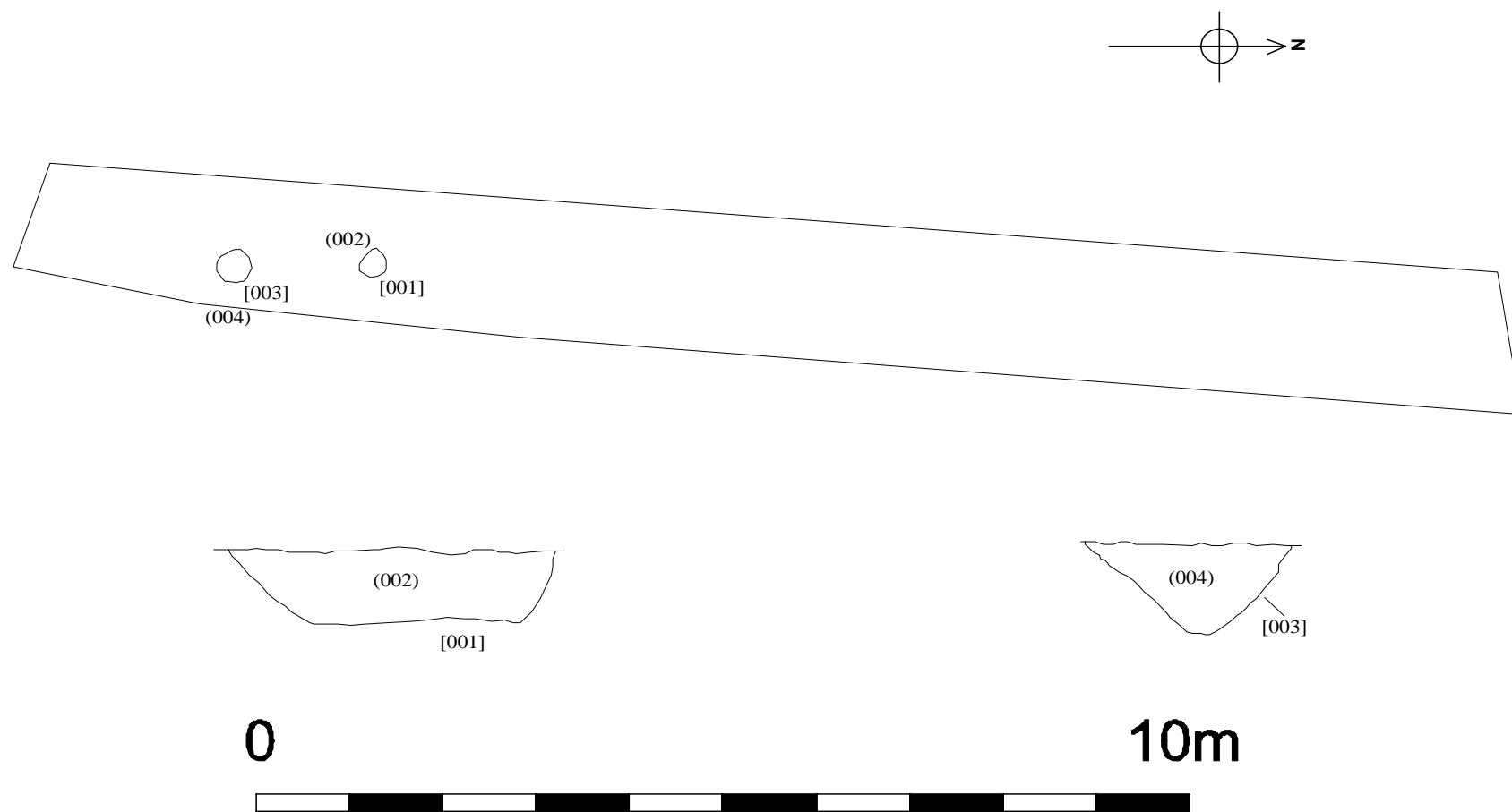


Figure 3 Sections & Plan of Trench 1

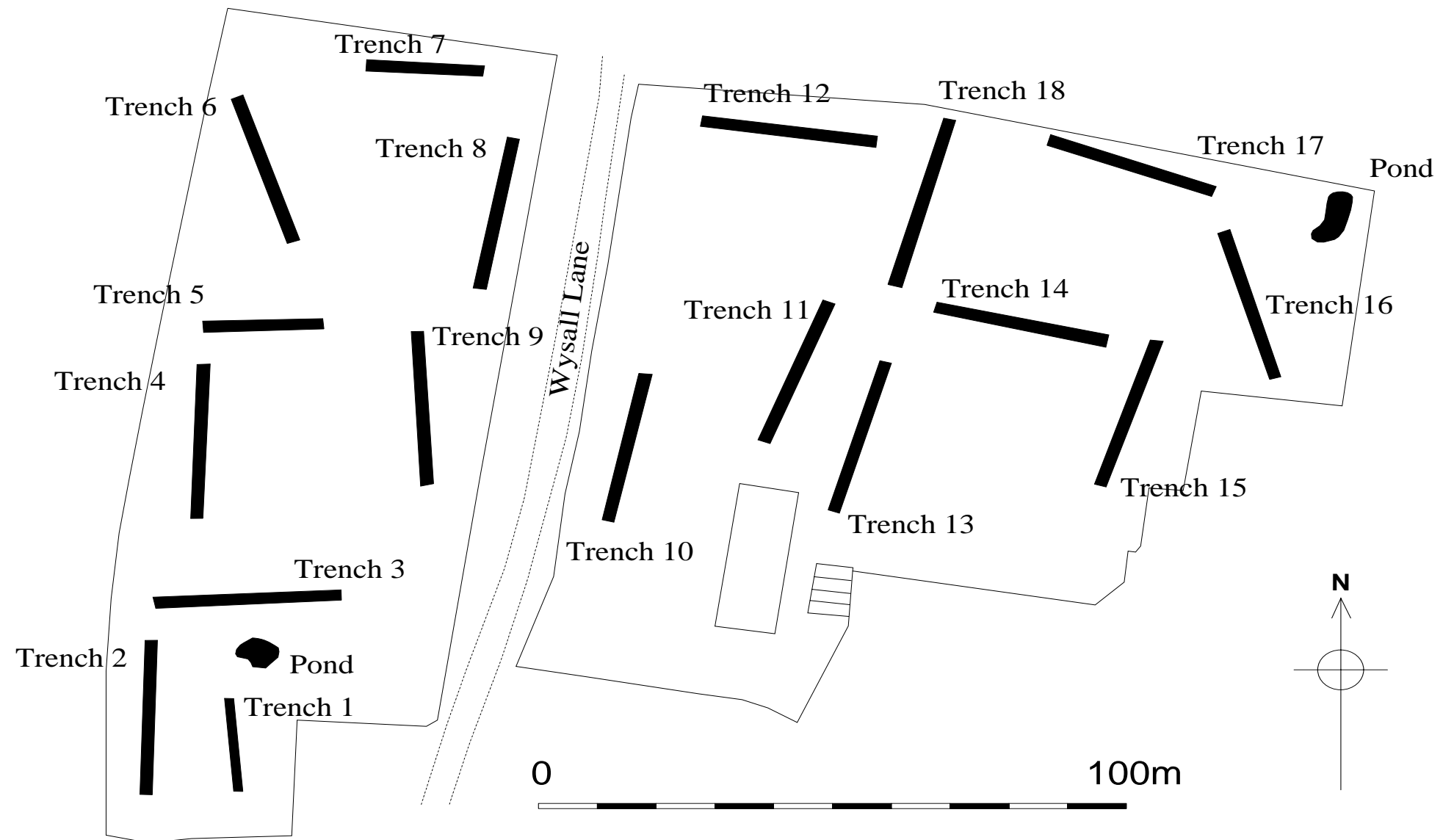


Figure 4 Trench Location Plan

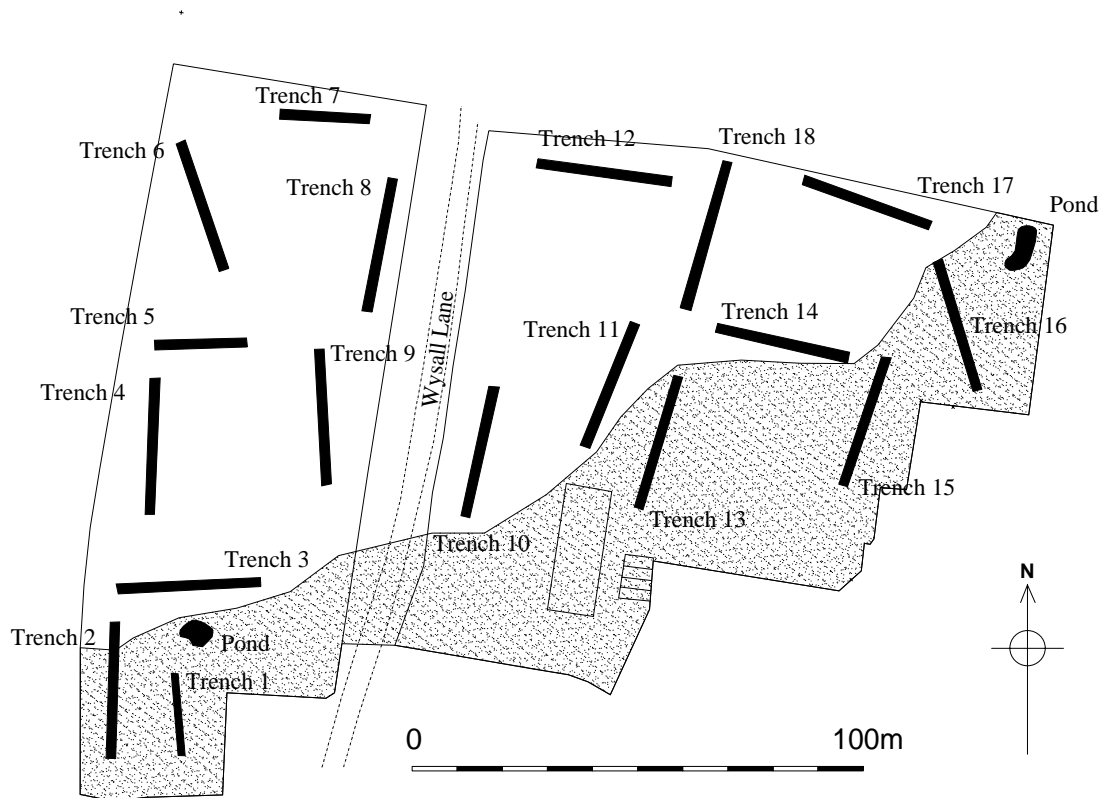


Figure 5 Trench Locations in relation to Likely Extents of Colluvial Deposits.

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

*Job title: Wysall Lane, Wymeswold, Leicestershire
NGR: SK 603 237*

Client: George Wimpey East Midlands Ltd

Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council

Planning application No. P/03/3482/2:

1 Introduction

1.1 *Definition and scope of the specification*

This document is a design specification for an initial phase of archaeological field evaluation (AFE) at the above site, in accordance with DOE Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning, para.30). The fieldwork specified below is intended to provide preliminary indications of character and extent of any buried archaeological remains 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 of Field Archaeologists Standards and Guidance: for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IFA S&G: AFE) 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

2.1 *Context of the Project*

2.1.1 The site is located on Wysall Lane, Wymeswold, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 603 237). The site comprises two pasture fields to the east and west of Wysall Lane.

2.1.2 Planning permission has been granted subject to conditions for the construction of 64 residential dwellings and access road.

2.1.3 Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services (LCCHS) as archaeological advisors to the planning authority have requested a field evaluation by trial trenching to identify and locate any archaeological remains of significance and propose suitable treatment to avoid or minimise damage by the development. This requirement is detailed in their advice letter of 20.02.2004 (Appendix 1).

2.2 *Geological and Topographical Background*

2.2.1 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 142 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of boulder clay. The site lies at a height of c.82m O.D.

2.3 *Archaeological and Historical Background*

2.3.1 A desk based assessment has been completed for the application (ULAS Report 2006-082). The proposed development site is located directly adjacent to the village core of Wymeswold (fig.1). It consists of an area of c.2 ha, within which it is proposed to construct various residential dwellings. The Leicestershire Sites and Monuments Record indicates that the site for development lies adjacent to the historic medieval core of Wymeswold (MLE1149).

Within 500m of the proposed development three prehistoric archaeological sites (MLE1168, MLE6462 and MLE6464), four Roman archaeological sites (MLE5921, MLE7801, MLE7802 and MLE7803), two Anglo-Saxon sites (MLE1147 and MLE11593), two medieval sites (MLE1156 and MLE15930) and three post-medieval sites (MLE1150) and formal gardens (MLE1151) have been surveyed in the earthworks at Hall Closes, 400m to the southeast, suggesting a mansion building. A windmill is shown 335m to the north of the proposed development on maps of 18th, 19th and early 20th century date (MLE1153). In addition, 46 buildings have been listed in the HER (Heritage Environment Record) for Wymeswold. Directly adjacent to the development area is The Old Chapel (MLE14584).

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.

3.2 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.

3.3 Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

4. Methodology

4.1 *General Methodology and Standards*

4.1.1 All work will follow the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (1999).

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 Senior Planning Archaeologist the Planning authority and the Client.

4.2 *Trial Trenching Methodology*

4.2.1 Prior to any machining of trial trenches general photographs of the site areas will be taken. A CAT scanner will be employed to attempt to locate underlying services.

4.2.2 Topsoil/modern overburden will be removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision, down to the uppermost archaeological deposits by JCB 3C or equivalent using a toothless ditching bucket. Trenches will be excavated to a width of 1.5m and down to the top of archaeological deposits.

4.2.3 The trenches will be backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.

4.2.4 The application area covers c. 2 ha.. A c. 5% sample of the area of impact has been requested, the equivalent of 20 30m x 1.6m trenches and one 20m x 1.6m trench totaling c 992 sq m. (Fig 1). The exact location of the trenches may need to be modified depending on constraints on site.

4.2.5 Trenches will be examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located will be planned at an appropriate scale and sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence. All plans will be tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

4.2.6 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 bench mark.

- 4.2.7 Trench locations will be recorded using an electronic distance measurer. These will then be tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.
- 4.2.8 Any human remains will initially be left *in situ* and will only be removed if necessary for their protection, under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations.
- 4.3 *Recording Systems*
- 4.3.1 The ULAS recording manual will be used as a guide for all recording.
- 4.3.2 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto pro-forma recording sheets.
- 4.3.3 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 trench plan at appropriate scale, which will show the location of the areas investigated in relationship to the investigation area and OS grid.
- 4.3.4 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, typically at a scale of 1:10. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be recorded.
- 4.3.5 A 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.
- 4.3.6 This record will be compiled and checked during the course of the excavations.
5. Finds and Samples
- 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 During the fieldwork, different sampling strategies may be employed according to the perceived importance of the strata under investigation. Close attention will always be given to sampling for date, structure and environment. If significant archaeological features are sample excavated, the environmental sampling strategy is likely to include the following:
- 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.
- 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 Senior Planning Archaeologist. The IFA *Guidelines for Finds Work* will be adhered to.
- 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 numbers and boxed by material in standard storage boxes (340mm x 270mm x 195mm). All materials will be fully labelled, catalogued and stored in appropriate containers.
6. Report and Archive

- 6.1 The full report in A4 format will usually follow within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and copies will be dispatched to the Client, Senior Planning Archaeologist; SMR and Local Planning Authority.
- 6.2 The report will include consideration of:-
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
 - The nature, location, extent, date, significance and quality 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.
 - 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).
- 6.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in *The Guidelines For The Preparation Of Excavation Archives For Long-Term Storage* (UKIC 1990), and *Standards In The Museum: Care Of Archaeological Collections* (MGC 1992) and *Guidelines for the Preparation of Site Archives and Assessments for all Finds* (other than fired clay objects) (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993) will usually be presented to within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.
- 7 Publication and Dissemination of Results
- 7.1 A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*. A larger report will be submitted for inclusion if the results of the evaluation warrant it.
8. Acknowledgement and Publicity
- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 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.
9. Copyright
- 9.1 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.
10. Timetable
- 10.1 The evaluation is scheduled to start during July 2006 with two staff. Further staff will be added if archaeological remains are discovered.
- 10.2 The report will be ready within three weeks of the completion of fieldwork. 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.
11. Health and Safety
- 11.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Archaeological Services Health and Safety Policy and Health and Safety manual with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is attached as Appendix 1. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate. The HSE has determined that archaeological investigations are exempt from CDM regulations.

11.2 A Risks assessment will be completed prior to work commencing on-site, and updated as necessary during the site works.

12. Insurance

12.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with St Pauls Travellers Policy No. UCPOP3651237 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters (50%) and Brit Insurances (50%) Policy No. FUNK3605.

13. Monitoring arrangements

13.1 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. At least one weeks notice will be given to the LCCHS Senior Planning Archaeologist before the commencement of the archaeological evaluation in order that monitoring arrangements can be made.

13.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the IFA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*.

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

14. Contingencies and unforeseen circumstances

14.1 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.

15. Bibliography

- MAP 2 The management of archaeological projects 2nd edition English Heritage 1991
- MGC 1992 Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections 1992 (Museums and Galleries Commission)
- RFG/FRG 1993 Guidelines for the preparation of site archives (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993)
- SMA 1993 Selection, retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland 1993 (Society of Museum Archaeologists)

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APPENDIX 1

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

A risks assessment will be produced by on-site staff, which will be updated and amended during the course of the evaluation.

1. Nature of the work

1.1 Brief description of the work involved e.g.

The work will involve machine excavation by JCB 3C or equivalent during daylight hours to reveal underlying archaeological deposits. Overall depth is likely to be c. 0.5 m with possible features excavated to a depth of another 1m. Trenches will not be excavated to a depth exceeding 1.2m. Spoil will be stockpiled no less than 1.5 m from the edge of the excavation, the topsoil and subsoil being kept separate. Remaining works will involve the examination of the exposed surface with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and excavation of archaeological features. Deeper features will be fenced with lamp irons and hazard tape. Three staff will be used on the evaluation.

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 *Working on an excavation site.*

Precautions. Trenches to not be excavated to a depth exceeding 1.2m. Spoil will be kept 1.5m away from the edge of the excavated area to prevent falls of loose debris. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. Hard hats will be worn when working in deeper sections or with plant. First aid kit to be kept in site accommodation/vehicle. Vehicle and mobile phone to be kept on site in case of emergency.

2.2 *Working with plant.*

Precautions. Archaeologists experienced in working with machines will supervise topsoil stripping at all times. Hard hats, protective footwear and hazard jackets will be worn at all times. Machine driver to be suitably qualified and insured. If services or wells are encountered machining will be halted until extent has been established by hand excavation or areas where it is safe to machine have been established. Overhead power lines are present to the south of the areas to be evaluated. The machine will maintain a distance of at least 10 m to the north of the powerlines.

2.3 *Working within areas prone to waterlogging.*

If waterlogging occurs on site preventing work continuing it is proposed to excavate a sump, suitably fenced and clearly marked to enable the water to drain away. If this is insufficient a pump will be used. The sump will be covered when not in use and backfilled if no longer required. Protective clothing will be worn at all times and precautions taken to prevent contact with stagnant water which may carry Weils disease or similar.

2.4 *Working with chemicals.*

If chemicals are used to conserve or help lift archaeological material these will only be used by qualified personnel with protective clothing (i.e. a trained conservator) and will be removed from site immediately after use.

2.5 *Other risks*

Precautions. If there is any suspicion of unforeseen hazards being encountered e.g. chemical contaminants, unexploded bombs, hazardous gases, work will cease immediately. The client and relevant public authorities will be informed immediately.

Appendix 2

20th February 2004

Richard Clark/Helen Berrington
0116 264 5812/3
0116 264 5819
museums@leics.gov.uk

Dear Mr Blitz,

Planning Application No: P/03/3482/2: Erection of 64 dwellings with associated garages, roads, sewers and ancillary works. (Revised scheme P/03/1943/2 (withdrawn) refers), land off Wysall Lane, Wymeswold.

Archaeological considerations

Thank you for your consultation on this application. We recommend that you advise the applicant of the following archaeological requirements, which repeat the advice offered for previous applications 97/0677/2 and 03/1943/2.

Brief

The Leicestershire and Rutland Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. Although it is just outside the village's historic medieval core, a number of finds have been recorded in its vicinity. These include Iron Age and Roman coins (SMR Ref. No. 62SW, AV & AU), a Roman brooch (62SW Y) and a 10th century AD pin (62SW BL). Consequently, there is a likelihood that archaeological remains are present on the development site. However, due to a lack of previous archaeological survey in the area, it is impossible to define and characterise any such remains, or to tell the level of impact that the proposed development will have on the site. As such, further work should be carried out before planning permission is granted.

The preservation of archaeological remains is, of course, a "material consideration" in the determination of planning applications. The proposals include operations that would destroy any buried archaeological remains that are present, but the archaeological implications cannot be adequately assessed on the basis of the currently available information. Since it is possible that archaeological remains may be adversely affected by this proposal, we recommend that the planning authority defer determination of the application and request that the applicant complete an Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposals.

This will require provision by the applicant for:

1. A Desk-based Archaeological Assessment of the application area;
2. A field evaluation, by appropriate techniques including trial trenching, if shown necessary by the Assessment, to identify and locate any archaeological remains of significance, and to propose suitable treatment to avoid or minimise damage by the development. Further design, civil engineering or archaeological work may then be necessary to achieve this.

This information should be submitted to the planning authority before any decision on the planning application is taken, so that an informed decision can be made, and the application refused or modified in the light of the results as appropriate. Without the information that such an Assessment would provide, it would be difficult in our view for the planning authority to assess the archaeological impact of the proposals.

Should the applicant be unwilling to supply this information as part of the application, it may be appropriate to consider directing the applicant to supply the information under Regulation 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Applications) Regulations 1988, or to refuse the application. These recommendations conform with the advice provided in DoE PPG16 "Archaeology and Planning".

Should you be minded to refuse this application on other grounds, the lack of archaeological information should be an additional reason for refusal, to ensure the archaeological potential is given future consideration.

Should the planning authority be minded to approve the application without prior archaeological investigation as recommended, it is suggested that conditions should be attached to any such permission to address the significant archaeological potential. These should require the applicant to submit full development details and to make proper provision for an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation, the latter to include an initial stage of exploratory work to inform the preparation of an archaeological mitigation strategy (e.g. excavation of affected deposits).

The Archaeology Section, as advisors to the planning authority, will provide a formal Brief for the work and approve a Specification for the Assessment at the request of the applicant. This will ensure that the necessary programme of archaeological work is undertaken to the satisfaction of the planning authority, in a cost-effective manner and with minimum disturbance to the archaeological resource. The Specification should comply with this Department's "Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland" and relevant Institute of Field Archaeologists "Standards" and "Code of Practice", and should include a suitable indication of arrangements for the implementation of the archaeological work, and the proposed timetable.

Information on suitable archaeological organisations to carry out this work can be obtained from Leicestershire Heritage Services Archaeology Section. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Berrington
Assistant Planning Archaeologist