An Archaeological Evaluation at Thurmaston Lane, Quakesick Valley, Humberstone, Leicester. South Western Areas A and B (SK 630 067).

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Appendix 1

An Archaeological Evaluation at Thurmaston Lane, Quakesick Valley, Humberstone, Leicester. South Western Areas A and B (SK 630 067).

Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by Persimmon Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of proposed residential development at South Western Areas A and B Quakesick valley, off Thurmaston Lane, Humberstone There are well-documented Iron Age settlements within close proximity of the proposed development.

Geophysical survey had identified a number of possible archaeological features towards the southern edge of the proposed development area. Excavation of evaluation trenches within these areas indicated substantial ground disturbance probably destroying all but the deepest and most substantial archaeological deposits, this ground disturbance affected the majority of the southern and eastern edges of the proposed development area.

The excavation of trench 15 uncovered a substantial enclosure ditch, probably Iron Age in date containing complex stratigraphy and evidence of re-use suggesting probable settlement nearby rather than agricultural use.

Substantial ridge and furrow field systems were observed across large parts of the development area. These were recorded during this phase of work.

1. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by Persimmon Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of proposed residential development at South Western Areas A and B Quakesick valley, off Thurmaston Lane, Humberstone, Leicester (Fig. 1; SK 630 067; Planning Application: P.A 2001/0901). A desk-based assessment (Clay and Butler 2001) including an examination of the Leicestershire and Rutland Sites and Monument Record (SMR) indicated that the site is located close to known Iron Age settlements and finds (References LC451; LC1434; LC1305; LC567; LC1302). Of note is the large Iron Age 'agglomerated settlement' to the west and southwest (Fig. 3; Charles *et al* 2000; Thomas 2003). Geophysical survey, also carried out by ULAS suggests that there are archaeological deposits immediately to the west of the application area (Butler 2001). In view of this a programme of intrusive investigation through trial trenching was requested by Leicester City Council of 2% density in the area of the geophysical anomalies and 0.5% elsewhere. Previous evaluation (0.5%) to the north and south in Areas 1, 5 and 6 failed to locate any archaeological deposits (Jones 2002 a and b).

The proposed development is located approximately 4.5 kilometres northeast of Leicester city centre, in Humberstone ward and adjacent to the village of Hamilton.

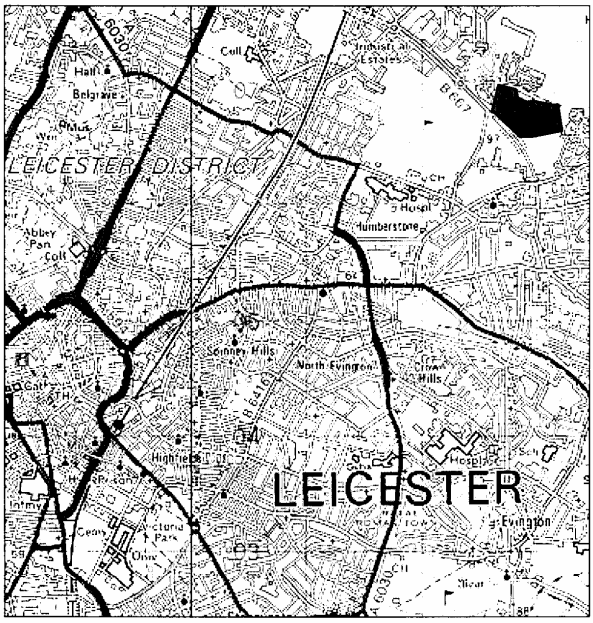
The development area consists of undulating rough pasture and a number of isolated copses. There are a number of hedgerows within the development area, which appear to be 19th century enclosure hedges and therefore, of no great antiquity. The site lies at approximately 83 metres OD and the underlying geology consists of boulder clay with sand and gravel to the northeast (British Geological Survey Solid and Drift, Sheet Number 156).

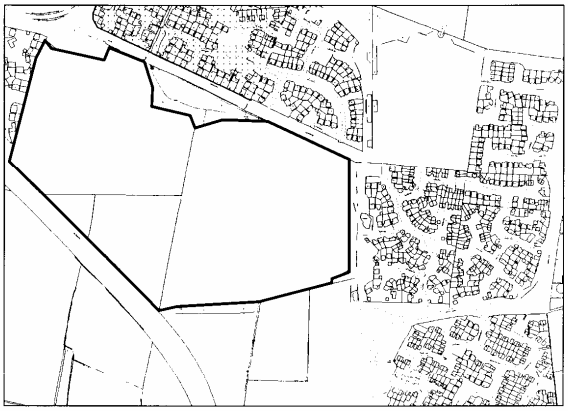
This report covers areas A and B, covering the southwestern extent of the proposed development area, immediately adjacent to known Iron Age settlement and includes the area of geophysical anomalies. This forms a continuation of the archaeological evaluations carried out on Area 6 West of the proposed development area (Richards 2004). Together with the previous evaluations in Phases 1, 2 and 6 (Jones 2002a and b; Richards 2004) this completes the evaluation of the application area.

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 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.

Previous geophysical survey had identified part of this development area as likely to contain archaeological remains and therefore the City Archaeologist has requested a 2% sample. The remainder of the area was within the 0.5% sample area. In all seventeen 30 metre trenches and four 5 metre test pits (Fig 3) were excavated by back actor with a ditching bucket. The evaluation took place between December 15th 2004 and January 19th 2005. The evaluation followed the *Design Specification for archaeological evaluation* (05/510 20.8.2004; Appendix 2).





QUAKESICK VALLEY FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION	SCALE 1:50,000 (TOP) 1:5000 (BOTTOM)	Reproduced from Ordnance Survey maps with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, c. Crown Copyright. ULAS licence no. AL51800A0001

Fig. 1: Location Plan

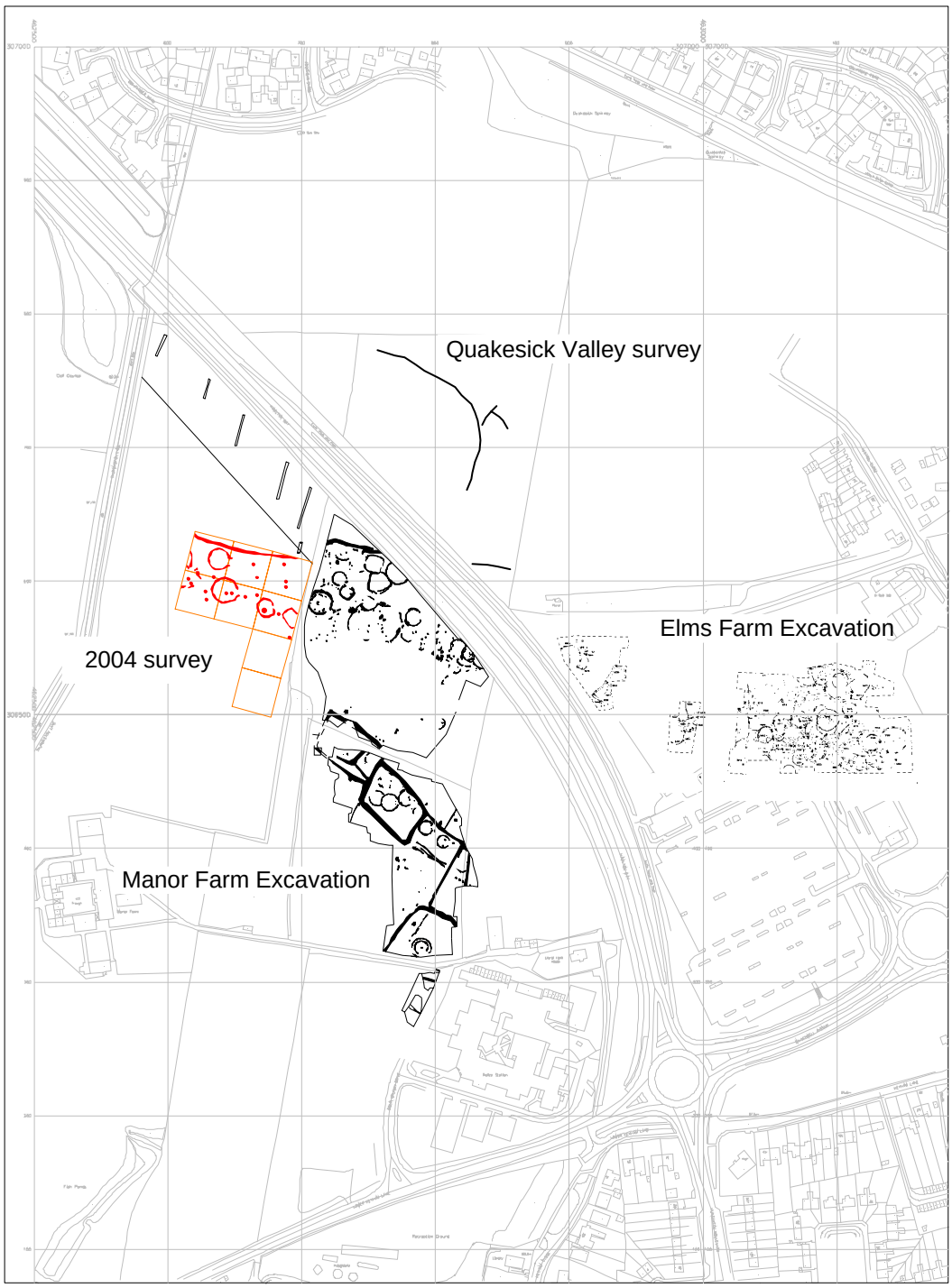


Figure 2. Previous Excavations and Surveys at Quakesick Valley with location of Areas A and B evaluation highlighted. Grid Squares are 100m x 100m.

3. Results Area A

3.2 Trench 8

Trench 8 was located towards the western end of Area A to investigate an anomaly identified by geophysical survey. The anomaly appeared to be a possible linear

feature aligned northwest southeast and north-northeast south-southwest, creating a possible enclosure.

Approximately 500mm of topsoil and subsoil was excavated before an horizon of weathered bedrock was exposed into which a linear feature [502] was cut. Further hand cleaning of the trench indicated two north - south aligned furrows, one of which truncated the north-eastern edge of [502] a small pit [503] and a possible post hole [505] approximately 7 metres south of [502]. A section 0.75m wide was excavated through [502] revealing a concave cut with sides sloping at approximately 25 degrees with no discernable difference between the sides and the base; the fill consisted of orangey brown sandy silt with occasional lenses of clay. There was no evidence of re-cuts and the linear feature appears to have fallen out of use and gradually silted up. There was however possible evidence of a bank on the northern edge (down slope) of [502]. Here there was a layer of reddish brown clay (511), which appeared to be re-deposited weathered bedrock and sealed by later deposits. The boundary between (511) and the surrounding weathered bedrock was extremely difficult to distinguish suggesting possible slump from a bank constructed of this excavated bedrock as the feature fell out of use and into disrepair.

Unfortunately no dating evidence was recovered, however, given the proximity of known Iron Age settlements its is likely that this feature is also Iron Age in date and may represent a field system associated with these settlements. If indeed it is a field boundary the absence of any dating material is unsurprising.

Both [503] and [505] were also excavated and recorded; [503] proved to be the more substantial of the two, measuring approximately 0.60m by 0.80m by 100mm deep with concave sides and a generally flat base. The fill consisted of greyish brown clayey silt; showing evidence of burning in the form of charcoal flecks and occasional pieces of clay turned orange by heating. The second feature, [505], a possible post hole was much smaller, only 0.40m by 0.5m by 40mm deep and much less well defined than [503]. The profile of the post hole was similar to that of [503], while the fill consisted of orangey brown silty clay, very similar to the surrounding natural.

Although no dating evidence was recovered from either feature it could be assumed that they are contemporary with [502] and therefore, maybe Iron Age in date. The fact that [505] is very shallow may suggest that it has suffered severe truncation, which may indicate an earlier date than the adjacent and better preserved [503]. The presence of these two features may indicate some settlement activity associated with [502] in this area.

3.2 Trench 9

Trench 9 was located towards the centre of Area A and targeted two anomalies identified by geophysical survey; the anomalies appeared to be curvilinear features possibly representing a circular enclosure or roundhouse. Approximately 400mm of topsoil and subsoil was excavated revealing an horizon of weathered bedrock and patches of clayey silt subsoil. There was nothing to indicate an archaeological origin for the anomalies, although there was a trench containing a ceramic field drain towards the northern edge of Trench 9 which may have been the source of one of the anomalies. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed within the trench.

3.1 Trench 10

Trench 10 was also located to target two anomalies, possibly linear features, identified by geophysical survey and the north - south stretch of the linear feature [502] located within trench 8. Approximately 300mm to 500mm of topsoil and subsoil was excavated revealing an horizon of weathered bedrock. Once again there was nothing to indicate an archaeological origin for the anomalies, although there was again a trench containing a ceramic field drain and a roughly linear concentration of rounded pebbles in approximately the same locations as the geophysical anomalies.

There was no indication that [502] continued within this trench so it was decided to extend the trench further eastwards with the hope of locating [502]; the trench was extended until it reached trench 9. However, there was no evidence of [502], or indeed any other archaeological feature within this extension. A cast iron water pipe was uncovered, however, which could have been the source of the geophysical anomaly.

3.2 Trench 11

Trench 11 was the most easterly trench within Area A, located approximately 13 metres south of trench 10. Approximately 500mm of topsoil and subsoil was excavated revealing an horizon of dark grey brown clayey silt which continued for at least a further 300mm without encountering any evidence of weathered bedrock.

This deposit was not encountered anywhere else during the evaluation and it is possible that it is some kind of colluvial deposit.

3.3 Trench 12

Trench 12 was located in the far southeastern extent of Area A, again targeting a linear anomaly identified by geophysical survey which was thought to be a continuation of the enclosure ditch identified by during the adjacent Manor Farm excavations (Thomas 2003). Between 0.70m and 1.0m of topsoil and apparently imported material was excavated without reaching undisturbed subsoil or bedrock; this imported material appeared to be extremely well compacted and had probably been rolled and probably originated from the adjacent A47 Link Road. A large diameter lead pipe was recovered from the approximate area of the geophysical anomaly and is its likely source. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed within the trench.

3.4 Trench 13

Trench 13 was excavated in order to establish the extent of the damage caused by the temporary easement excavated across the site during the construction of a deep sewer. Between 200mm and 400mm of topsoil was excavated revealing an horizon of disturbed weathered bedrock with abundant inclusions of modern debris, obviously deposited when the area was used as a temporary working surface. A further 200mm to 300mm was excavated without any change. This disturbance was approximately 15 metres wide with evidence of undisturbed subsoil at the northern edge of the trench. Once this disturbance was visible it was possible to trace the line of the easement on

the surface through the change in vegetation and this was recorded by EDM (Fig 3). Nothing of archaeological significance was observed.

3.5 Trench 24

The final trench within Area A was a test pit excavated adjacent to the southern boundary of the development, approximately 30 metres northwest of trench 12 to establish the extent of the disturbed ground recorded within trench 12. The made ground did also continue within this trench, so it can be assumed that the ten metres adjacent to the southern boundary of Area A consists of disturbed ground and is therefore of no archaeological interest.

4. Results, Area B

4.1 Trench 4

Trenches 1, 2, and 3 were excavated and recorded in September 2004 (ULAS Report No 2004-162). Trench 4 was therefore the first trench excavated during this phase of evaluation and located in the northwestern corner of the proposed development area (Fig 3), the trench was 30 metres long 1.8m wide and reached a maximum depth of 500mm. An area of apparently modern disturbance was uncovered within the south-westernmost part of the trench and the remainder of the trench consisted of weathered boulder clay bedrock; there were two parallel linear features [301 & 303] aligned west-northwest east southeast. The larger of the two [301] was excavated and revealed to be furrow, it was decided therefore not to investigate [303], as it was likely that this too was also a furrow. No other archaeologically significant remains were observed.

4.2 Trench 5

Trench 5 was located approximately 50 metres north of trench 4 and aligned north – south. Once again the exposed surface consisted of weathered boulder clay and orangey brown silty clay subsoil. Three parallel linear features [402, 403 & 405] aligned westnorthwest - eastsoutheast were also uncovered following the same alignment as the furrows uncovered within trench 4. Both [402] and [403] were excavated and confirmed to be furrows and a number of sherds of re-deposited Romano-British pottery were recovered from [403].

Later, during the evaluation it became apparent that there were ridge and furrow earthworks within this part of the development area and indeed within other parts of the development area. It was decided to record these earthworks as part of this phase of work; the results of this survey will be discussed in section 5.

4.3 Trench 6

Trench 6 was located approximately 30 metres southeast of trench 4, aligned east to west and excavated to a maximum depth 0.80m. The exposed surface consisted of weathered boulder clay and orangey brown silty clay subsoil; there was nothing of archaeological significance exposed within the trench.

4.4 Trench 7

Trench 7 was located approximately 70 metres east of trench 6 and again failed to uncover anything of archaeological significance.

4.5 Trench 14

Trench 14 was the first of the trenches excavated within the south-easternmost part of the development area, the area nearest the 'agglomerated settlement' (Charles *et al* 2000; Thomas 2003). Approximately 500mm of topsoil and subsoil was excavated revealing an horizon of weathered bedrock and a pocket of orangey brown sand in the westernmost part of the trench. A furrow, aligned north - south, the same alignment as all the previously observed furrows was also located towards the western end of the trench. There was nothing of archaeological significance within the trench.

4.6 Trench 15

Trench 15 was located towards the centre of the south-easternmost part of the development area, approximately 100 metres north of trench 14 (Fig 3). Approximately 400mm of topsoil and subsoil was excavated revealing an horizon of weathered bedrock and evidence of possible modern disturbance at the far eastern end of the trench. Further hand cleaning indicated the presence of two linear features [703] and [704], aligned approximately northwest - southeast and a small gulley [712] apparently cutting [703]. Two north - south furrows were also present, both of which partially truncated [703] and [704].

A 500mm wide section was excavated through [704] revealing it to be a shallow feature, approximately 230mm deep with gently sloping sides and a relatively flat base, apparently cut into weathered bedrock. The fill (701) consisted of light greyish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and no dating evidence was recovered. A 500mm section was also excavated through [703], the cut into weathered bedrock on the south-westerly edge was straight forward and relatively simple to excavate. However, it became apparent that the apparent north-easterly edge was in fact a change in fill and the linear feature was in fact much larger than first thought and extended beyond the edge of the evaluation trench. It was decided therefore to extend the trench to ascertain the extent to the feature.

The trench was extended by approximately 2.0m to the northeast locating the northeasterly edge of the feature. It was approximately 3.0m wide at its widest point and aligned northwest – southeast. It also became apparent that [704] was actually part of the same feature and (701) was the secondary fill of [703]. The remainder of the section through [703] was excavated revealing a ditch approximately 0.60m deep with a steeply cut northeastern side, a gentler southwestern side and a relatively flat base clearly cut into weathered bedrock. The ditch appeared to follow the contours of the southwest to northeast slope; the gentler southwest edge was probably caused by erosion.

A closer examination of the excavated section showed evidence of at least 3 re-cuts; the earliest, [703] was also the largest, approximately 0.60m deep and 2.90m wide with a steeply cut northeastern side, a gentler southwestern side and a relatively flat

base. The southwestern edge had a lower fill of mid greyish brown sandy clay (707), which had the appearance of buried saturated turf suggesting that this phase of ditch had been left open for some period of time and not been especially well maintained, allowing topsoil accumulate and turf to grow. No dating evidence was recovered.

The first re-cut, [717] was made approximately 0.80m further to the northeast, down slope creating a ditch approximately 0.60m deep which would have been at least 1.60m wide. The profile was the same as that observed within [703] with the southwestern edge having a gentler slope, probably caused by erosion. However there was no evidence of the buried turf observed within [703], suggesting that during this phase of use the ditch had been better maintained. The fill, (709) immediately abutting the southwestern edge consisted of apparently re-deposited weathered bedrock which may be indicative of a bank of excavated material slumping back into the ditch over time. Unfortunately no dating evidence was recovered from within [717].

The final re-cut, [718] was again made further to the northeast, creating a ditch approximately 0.60m deep and 1.60m wide with only two distinct fills (713) and (714) contained within [718]. Both (713) and (714) consisted of clay; the lower of the two (714) had turned a grey blue colour probably as a result of water saturation, the adjacent weathered bedrock having also changed colour probably for the same reason. An examination of the immediate topography with the naked eye indicated that the exposed section of ditch was at a low point and therefore prone to water logging. Once again, however no dating evidence was recovered.

The final feature within trench 15 was the butt end of a narrow gulley, [712] aligned southwest - northeast, which apparently cut the southwestern edge of [703] before becoming indistinct within the fill of [703]. A section was located approximately 0.70m from the butt end and excavated revealing a shallow gulley approximately 180mm deep with relatively steep sides and narrow base. The fill (711) consisting of light greyish brown silty clay, contained no dating evidence.

Further hand cleaning was carried out to establish the relationship between [712] and [703] and it became apparent that [712] did indeed cut [703] and was truncated by [718], the final re-cut within the ditch. It appears, therefore, that [703] was out of use long enough for [712] to be excavated through it before it too was truncated by [718] the later re-cut, indicating that the ditch had come back into use.

Although very little dating evidence was recovered from these features a tentative Iron Age date can be suggested on the basis of their similar form and proximity to nearby Iron Age features. Despite the relatively small area exposed a quite complex stratigraphy was revealed, including evidence of re-use, abandonment and probable prolonged occupation. It is possible therefore that despite the lack of dating evidence the features exposed within trench 15 represent nearby settlement activity.

4.7 Trench 16

Trench 16 was also located towards the centre of the southeastern area and approximately 300mm of topsoil was excavated revealing re-deposited clay, similar to that recorded within trench 12. Once again it appears that the southern edge of the

development area had been used as landfill, probably during the construction of the adjacent A47 Link Road. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed within the trench.

4.8 Trenches 17 & 18

Both trenches 17 an 18 were located towards the southeastern boundary of the development area (Fig 3) in order to establish the extent of the disturbance observed within trenches 12, 13, 16 and 24. Both trenches contained re-deposited clays which was excavated to a depth of almost 2.0m within trench 18, with no evidence of undisturbed material. Once again this material was extremely well compacted, suggesting that it had been mechanically compressed further supporting the idea that the area had been used as landfill during the road construction.

The results from trenches 17 and 18 confirm the observations from trenches 12, 13, 16 and 24 and it is likely, therefore, that most, if not all of this southeastern area has been affected and is of little archaeological interest. The actual depth and compaction of this imported material would also suggest that any buried archaeological remains would have been seriously affected, if not completely destroyed.

An EDM plot of the probable edge of this disturbance along with the probable line of the easement to the north and west was carried out, Figure 3.

4.9 Trench 19

Trench 19 was excavated approximately 50 metres from the easternmost boundary of the development area. A approximately 1.10m of topsoil and subsoil was excavated before weathered bedrock was uncovered. This depth of subsoil had not been seen elsewhere within the development area and an examination of the exposed section indicated the deposit was likely to be colluvial in origin. The depth of this deposit increased as excavation continued upslope, so much so that the trench exceeded safe working limits. It was decided, therefore, not to continue the excavation. It is possible that this colluvial layer is masking archaeological remains and further investigation may be required if the ground disturbance extends to this depth.

4.10 Trench 20

Trench 20 was located towards the northeastern corner of the proposed development area. The surface appeared to be heavily rutted and possibly disturbed ground. Between 180mm and 400mm of topsoil was excavated before a layer, between 400mm and 0.8m deep of modern debris including tarmac, concrete and plastic was revealed. Sealed below this was a colluvial layer similar to that observed within trench 19 which continued beyond safe a working limit and undisturbed bedrock was not encountered. Once again it is possible that this colluvial layer masks deeper archaeological deposits and further work may be required if deep disturbance occurs in this area.

4.11 Trench 21

Trench 21 was located approximately 60 metres down slope from trench 15. Approximately 0.60m to 0.8m of topsoil and colluvium was excavated revealing an horizon of weathered bedrock. Once again there was a considerable depth of colluvium, similar to that seen within trenches 19 and 20, although this time undisturbed bedrock was reached and nothing of archaeological significance was observed.

The results from trenches 19, 20, and 21 suggests a substantial build up of colluvium within this northern area of the proposed development. It is possible, therefore, that deeper lying archaeological features may be masked by this layer and that further work maybe required before any deeper ground disturbance is carried out.

4.12 Trench 22

Trench 22 was located towards the northern edge of the proposed development area; approximately 0.70m of topsoil and subsoil was excavated revealing an horizon of weathered bedrock. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed within the trench.

4.13 Trench 23

The final evaluation trench was a test pit excavated on the far northern edge of the proposed development area. The area had clearly been disturbed in the recent past and the aim of the trench was to establish the extent of this disturbance. Approximately 0.7m of disturbed ground was excavated before buried topsoil was encountered. This topsoil sealed a layer of colluvium, which continued to a depth in excess of 1.5m before the depth and unstable nature of the disturbed ground prevented further excavation. It is possible that there are archaeological remains preserved within this area and further work maybe required if proposed formation level exceed this depth.

5. Earthworks

During the course of this evaluation it became apparent that a considerable part of the proposed development area contained ridge and furrow earthworks. As these are the remnants of medieval agriculture and are of archaeological interest in their own right, it was decided, therefore, that a record should be made of these earthworks before any further work took place within the proposed development area. As well as the standing earthworks a number of examples of furrows were observed within some of the evaluation trenches, the ridges of which had been ploughed out by modern agricultural methods.

The best-preserved ridge and furrow were located towards the northwestern edge of the proposed development area where there appeared to be two distinct patterns visible, possibly indicating two separate field systems. The first field system was aligned east - west, following the east to west slope within which four ridges were clear enough to be surveyed. There was a break in slope between this field system and the second visible field system which was aligned north to south, the direction in which the slope ran within this part of the development area. In this field system there

were five ridges clear enough to be surveyed. The break of slope was also the boundary between the east - west ridge and furrows and the north - south ridge and furrows, marked by a much wider ridge, aligned north - south, possibly a headland or field boundary.

The next area of ridge and furrow was located within Area A. As stated previously, this area has suffered considerable modern disturbance, confined to the southernmost part of the area and it was possible to trace the ridge and furrow further to the north. This ridge and furrow was aligned north - south and once again followed the north to south slope. The ridges were not as clearly defined; nevertheless it was possible to trace at least ten ridges of various lengths within this area and further examination of the resulting survey indicated that at least two of the ridges lined up with ridges recorded further north.

There was no evidence of standing ridge and furrow within the southeastern part of the proposed development area, although most of this area had been extensively disturbed. Trenches14 and 15, however did contain north – south aligned furrows sealed below the topsoil, the associated ridges having long since disappeared as a result of modern agricultural practices.

There did appear to be at least two separate field systems surviving within the development area and it was possible to record a substantial number of the ridges. Given better conditions and more closely grazed vegetation it is possible that more earthworks may have been located and recorded.

6. Conclusion

The aim of this evaluation was to establish the extent, date, quality, character, form and potential of any earth fast archaeological remains within the proposed development area. The development area was divided into two areas of archaeological potential and a total of 24 trenches were excavated. Area A had been identified as being of high archaeological potential as a result of a geophysical survey identifying a number of anomalies with potentially archaeological origins and a number of trenches were located in order to test these results.

Unfortunately the majority of the anomalies were caused by modern ground disturbance, most notably the temporary working surface that had been stripped during the construction of a deep sewer, which crossed the southern edge of the proposed development area. One anomaly, however, did appear to have archaeological origin; a linear feature identified by the geophysical survey located within trench 8, where two small post holes were also excavated; unfortunately no dating evidence was recovered from these features.

The second archaeologically significant feature was a substantial enclosure ditch recorded within trench 15 where excavation revealed evidence of at least three re-cuts, suggesting prolonged use. A small gulley partially truncated an earlier cut and was then itself truncated by a later re-cut, perhaps again suggesting prolonged use. Unfortunately no securely stratified dating evidence was recovered. However the proximity of known Iron Age settlements suggests a similar date.

A large proportion of the southeastern part of the proposed development area had suffered considerable modern disturbance with excavation indicating at least a two metre depth of imported material. Undisturbed bedrock was not encountered in any of the trenches excavated within this area.

Evidence of medieval strip field systems was observed across the proposed development area and ridge and furrow earthworks were observed within the northern and western parts of the development area. These were recorded and the resultant plot indicated at least two individual field systems.

7. Archive

The site archive consists of

24 trench recording sheets,
8 A2 and 4 A3 permatrace sheets containing plans and sections and 4 A4 drawing record sheets.
Black and white negatives with contact sheets
Colour slides and A4 photo index sheet.
38 Digital Photograph Images
56 single context record sheets
2 context summary sheet
1 A4 survey notes record sheet

The archive will be held at Leicester City Museums Service, under accession number A11.2004.

8. Publication

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

9. Acknowledgements

The evaluation was directed by Gerwyn Richards with assistance from Matthew Hurford and Jen Browning. ULAS would like to thank Persimmon Homes Limited for their help and assistance. The project was managed by Patrick Clay.

10. References

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15.6.2005

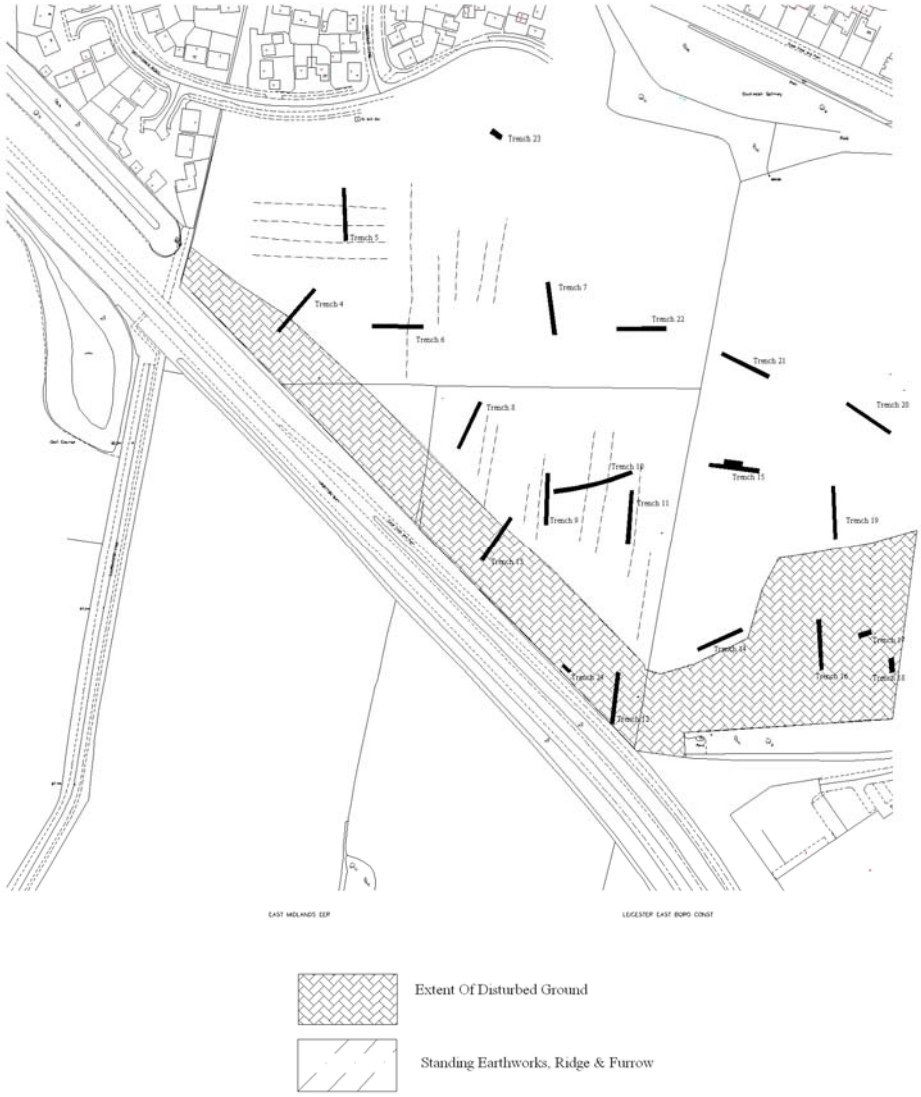

Figure 3 Site Plan Showing Trench Location, Standing Earthworks and Extent of Disturbed Ground.

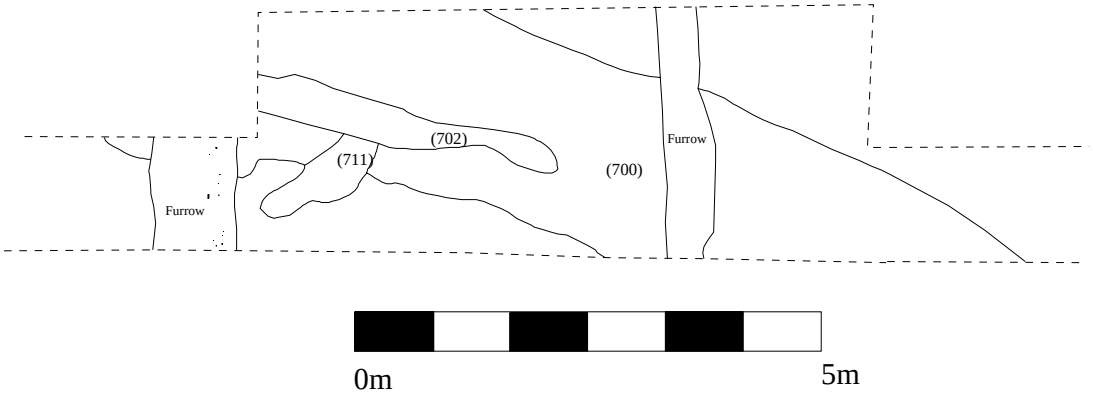

Figure 4 Plan of Trench 15, Showing (700), (702), contained within [703] & (711).

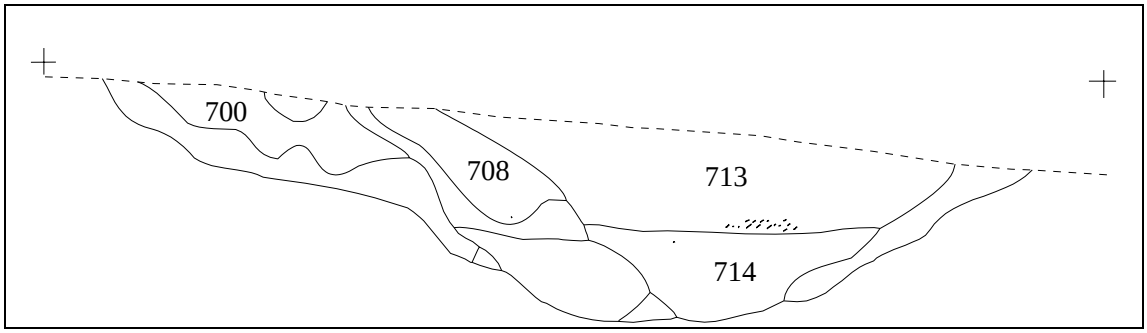

Figure 6 Northeast Facing Section of [703], [717] & [718] and Primary Fills. Trench 15. Scale 1:20.

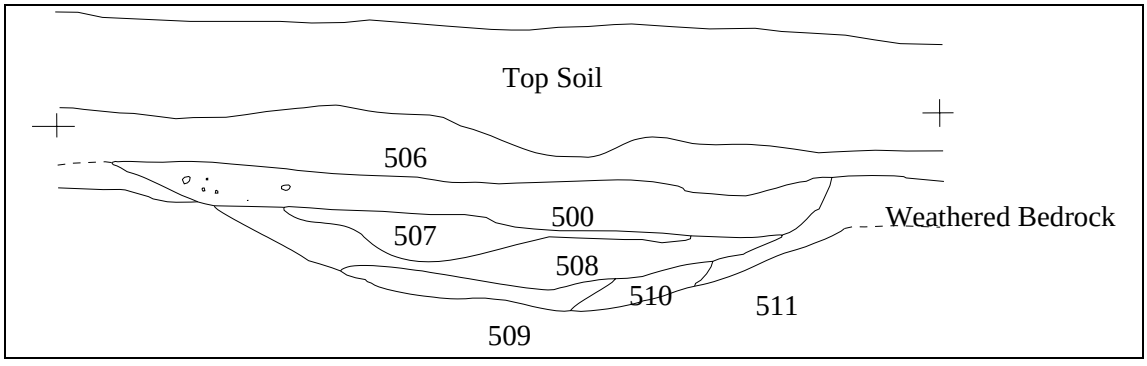

Figure 5 Southeast Facing Section of [502]. Trench 8. Scale 1:20.

Appendix

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological evaluation

Thurmaston Lane, Quakesick Valley, Humberstone, Leicester
Area 6 Western (SK 630 067);

Planning Application: P.A 2001/0901

For: Persimmon Homes Ltd.

1. Definition and scope of the specification

1.1 This specification is for archaeological trial trenching in advance of proposed residential development at Site 6 (Western) Quakesick valley, Humberstone, Leicester (SK 630 067; Planning Application: P.A 2001/0901) for Persimmon Homes Ltd.

1.2 It addresses the requirements for an archaeological impact assessment for Leicester City Council following Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning), para.30 as detailed in the letter from Leicester City Museums (17.7.2001) as advisers to the planning authority.

1.3 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's (IFA) *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* and the *Guidelines and procedures for archaeological work in Leicester* (Leicester City Museum Service).

2.Background

2.1. The proposed development is for a residential development. A desk-based assessment and geophysical survey has been undertaken which indicated that the area was within an important archaeological landscape (ULAS Reports 2000/79; 2000/160). The Leicester Sites and Monuments record indicates that the area is close to known Iron Age settlements and finds (LC451; LC1434; LC1305; LC567; 1302). Geophysical survey suggests that there are archaeological deposits immediately to the west of the application area (ULAS Report 2000/160). Trial trenching has already been undertaken for Sites 5 and 6 (eastern) and no archaeological deposits have been located (ULAS Reports 2002/24; 2002/25)

2.2 A programme of archaeological work comprising trial trenching is now required for Site 6 (Western; Figs. 1-2) to further elucidate the archaeological potential and, if necessary, formulate a mitigation strategy.

3. Objectives

3.1 The objective of the archaeological work is to ascertain whether any significant archaeological remains are present within the area to be developed. If identified a sufficient sample to establish their extent, date, quality, character, form and potential including environmental data will be recorded. Further archaeological recording may be required in the light of the results of this programme.

4 General Methodology

4.1 All work will follow the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhere to their Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations.

4.2 Staffing, recording systems, Health and Safety provisions and insurance details are provided.

4.3 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the sites from the project manager. These will ensure that project targets are being met and professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with representatives of the developer and Leicester City Council. The strategy will be reviewed in the light of the quality of the archaeological resource as revealed at different stages of the fieldwork.

4.5 Trial trenching

4.5.1 As the application area is outside the focus suggested by geophysical survey a 0.5% sample has been requested by the City Archaeologist. Trial trenching totalling *c.* 240 sq metres in the form of eight 20m long trenches, 1.5m wide will be undertaken providing a *c.* 0.5% sample (Fig. 2). The proposed location for the trenches may be varied according to any constraints on the availability of the area for trenching.

4.5.2 The topsoil and disturbed subsoil will be removed in spits by machine with toothless ditching bucket (or similar) under full supervision, until archaeological deposits or undisturbed substrata are encountered.

4.5.3 The location of the trenches will be surveyed using a Total Station Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) linked to a Psion hand held computer.

4.5.4 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate to addressing the aims and objectives of the evaluation. 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 using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM).

4.5.5. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosoils in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer. Deposits which may provide radiocarbon dating evidence will be sampled.

4.5.6 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.

4.5.7 Any human remains encountered will only be removed under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The developers, Leicester City Council and the coroner will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.6 Mitigation Strategy

4.6.1 Depending on the results of the trial trenching and following consultation with the City Archaeologist and the developer, a mitigation strategy may need to be formulated.

5 Recording Systems

5.1 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets.

5.2 A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map, enlarged to 1:500 (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a plan at 1:200 (or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated.

5.3 Some record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made on drawing film, related to the OS grid and at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Elevations and sections of individual layers of features should be drawn where possible. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans.

5.4 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared. This will include black and white prints and colour transparencies 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 undertaken.

5.5 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the excavation.

5.6 All site records and finds will be kept securely.

6 Report and Archive

6.1 The full, bound report in A4 format will usually follow within eight weeks of the completion of all fieldwork, and copies will be dispatched to: Leicester City Archaeologist/Sites and Monuments Record (2), and the Client (2). The report will also be added to the OASIS database.

6.2 The report will include :-

i) A non-technical Summary

ii) An introductory Statement

iii) The aims and purpose of the evaluation

iv) The methodology adopted in the course of the evaluation

v) The nature, location, extent, date, significance and quality of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered

vi) Conclusion, including a confidence statement

vii) Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.

viii) Supporting data – including as a minimum basic quantification of all artefacts, ecofacts and structural data

ix) The location and size of the archive

x) References

6.2. 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.

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) (RFG/FRG 1993) will be prepared. Following prior consultation the archive will be deposited with the appropriate registered museum within six months of the completion of post-fieldwork analysis. This archive will include all written, disk-based, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

7 Timetable and staffing

7.1. The trial trenching will be undertaken over five days and can commence during the week beginning 30.8.2004 or 6.9.2004.

8. Health and Safety

8.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (2001) with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate. All ULAS staff will follow the site contractors' Health and Safety policy.

9 Insurance

9.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with Gerling Insurance Services Policy No. 62/99094/D, Risk Reference LT 35101 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Sun Alliance Insurance Policy No. 03A/5A 001 05978, Risk Reference LT 27229.

10. Bibliography

MAP 2, *The management of archaeological projects* 2nd edition English Heritage 1991

MGC 1992, *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission)

RFG/FRG 1993, *Guidelines for the preparation of site archives* (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700)

SMA 1993, *Selection, retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* (Society of Museum Archaeologists)

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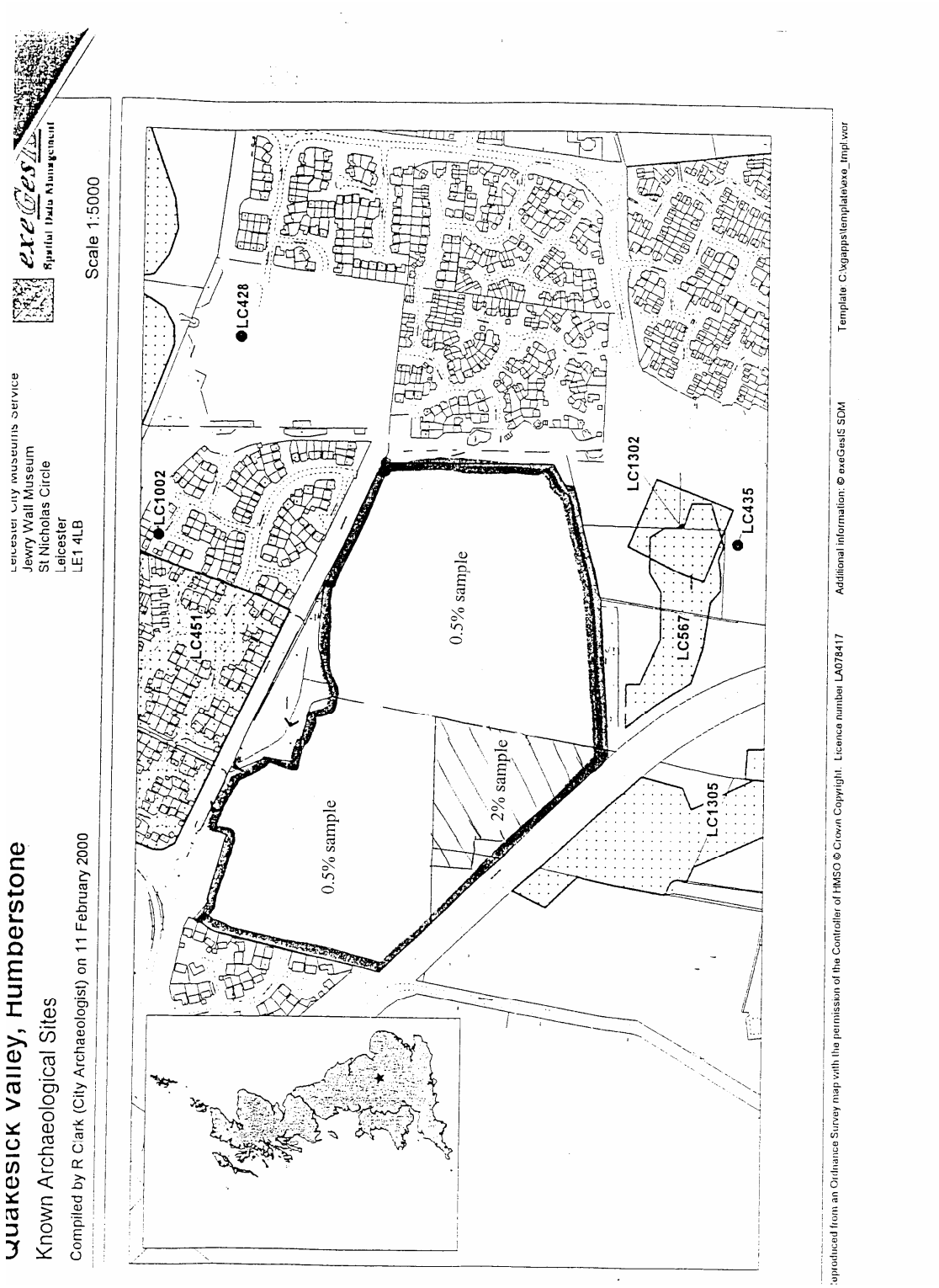
Fax: 0116 252 2614

Email: pnc3@le.ac.uk

Figure 1. Location of the application area at Quakesick Valley, Humberstone, Leicester showing the agreed trial trench sample and location of known archaeological sites. 1:5000.

Figure 2. Location of the application area at Quakesick Valley, Humberstone, Leicester showing proposed location of trial trenches. 1:1000.


Quakesick Valley, Humberstone
Known Archaeological Sites
Compiled by R Clark (City Archaeologist) on 11 February 2000
Scale 1:5000
Leicester City Museums Service
Jewry Wall Museum
St Nicholas Circle
Leicester
LE1 4LB
exeGesIS
Spatial Data Management
LC428
LC1002
LC451
0.5% sample
2% sample
0.5% sample
LC1302
LC435
LC567
LC1305
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Additional information: © exeGesIS SDM
Template C:\wgapps\template\exe_tmpl.wor

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

Thurmaston Lane, Quakesick Valley, Humberstone, Leicester (SK 630 067);

Planning Application: P.A 2001/0901

For: Persimmon Homes Ltd.

1.Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for trial trenching. It will be revised following the commencement of operations when the extent of risks can be assessed in full.

1.2 The work will involve machine-dug trial trenching during daylight hours and recording of any underlying archaeological deposits revealed. Overall depth is likely to be *c.* 0.2-0.5m. This will involve the examination of the exposed surface with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and excavation of archaeological features. 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) with appropriate guidelines for all archaeological work, including the following.

HSE Construction Information Sheet CS8 Safety in excavations.
HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)143 (L): Getting to grips with manual handling.
HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)145 (L): Watch Your back.
CIRIA R97 Trenching practice.
CIRIA TN95 Proprietary Trench Support Systems.
HSE Guidance Note HS(G) 47 Avoiding danger to underground services. HSE Guidance Note GS7 Accidents to children on construction sites

1.3 The Health and Safety policy on site will be reassessed during the evaluation .All work will adhere to the company's health and safety policy.

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 Working within an excavation.

Precautions. No work will be undertaken beneath section faces deeper than 1.2m. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. A member of staff qualified in First Aid will be present at all times. First aid kit, vehicle and mobile phone to be kept on site in case of emergency.

2.2 Working with plant.

Precautions. Hard hats, protective footwear and hazard jackets will be worn at all times. No examination of the area of stripping will take place until machines have vacated area. Observation of machines will be maintained during hand excavation.

2.3 Working within areas prone to waterlogging.

Protective clothing will be worn at all times and precautions taken to prevent contact with stagnant water which may carry Vialls 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.

2.6 No other constraints are recognised over the nature of the soil, water, type of excavation, proximity of structures, sources of vibration and contamination.

20.8.2004