

**An Archaeological Evaluation at Thurmaston
Lane, Quakesick Valley, Humberstone,
Leicester. Area 6 Western (SK 630 067).**

Gerwyn Richards

Planning Application: P.A 2001/0901

For: Persimmon Homes Ltd

University of Leicester Archaeological Services

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An Archaeological Evaluation at Thurmaston Lane, Quakesick Valley, Humberstone, Leicester. Area 6 Western (SK 630 067).

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Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by Persimmon Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Quakesick Valley, off Thurmaston Lane, Humberstone, Leicester. There are well-documented Iron Age settlements within close proximity of the proposed development.

The excavation of trench 3 uncovered a substantial Iron Age enclosure ditch, containing a large quantity of pottery fragments. There was also evidence for a build of colluvium, which initially masked the ditch, across this part of the development area.

Over one half of the proposed development site was unavailable for evaluation because construction and landscaping had already taken place prior to archaeological involvement.

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 Site 6 (Western) 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. 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).

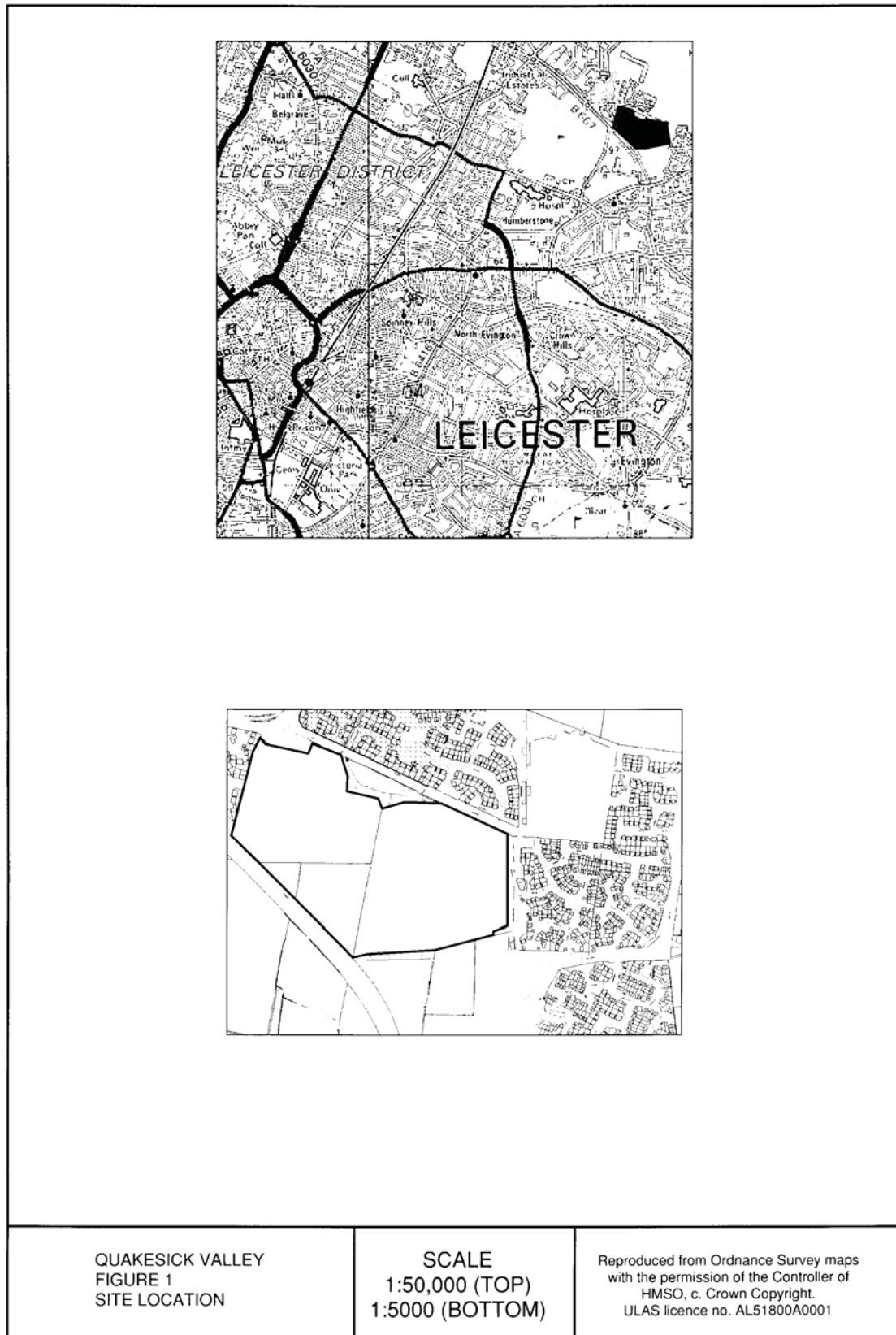


Fig. 1: Location Plan

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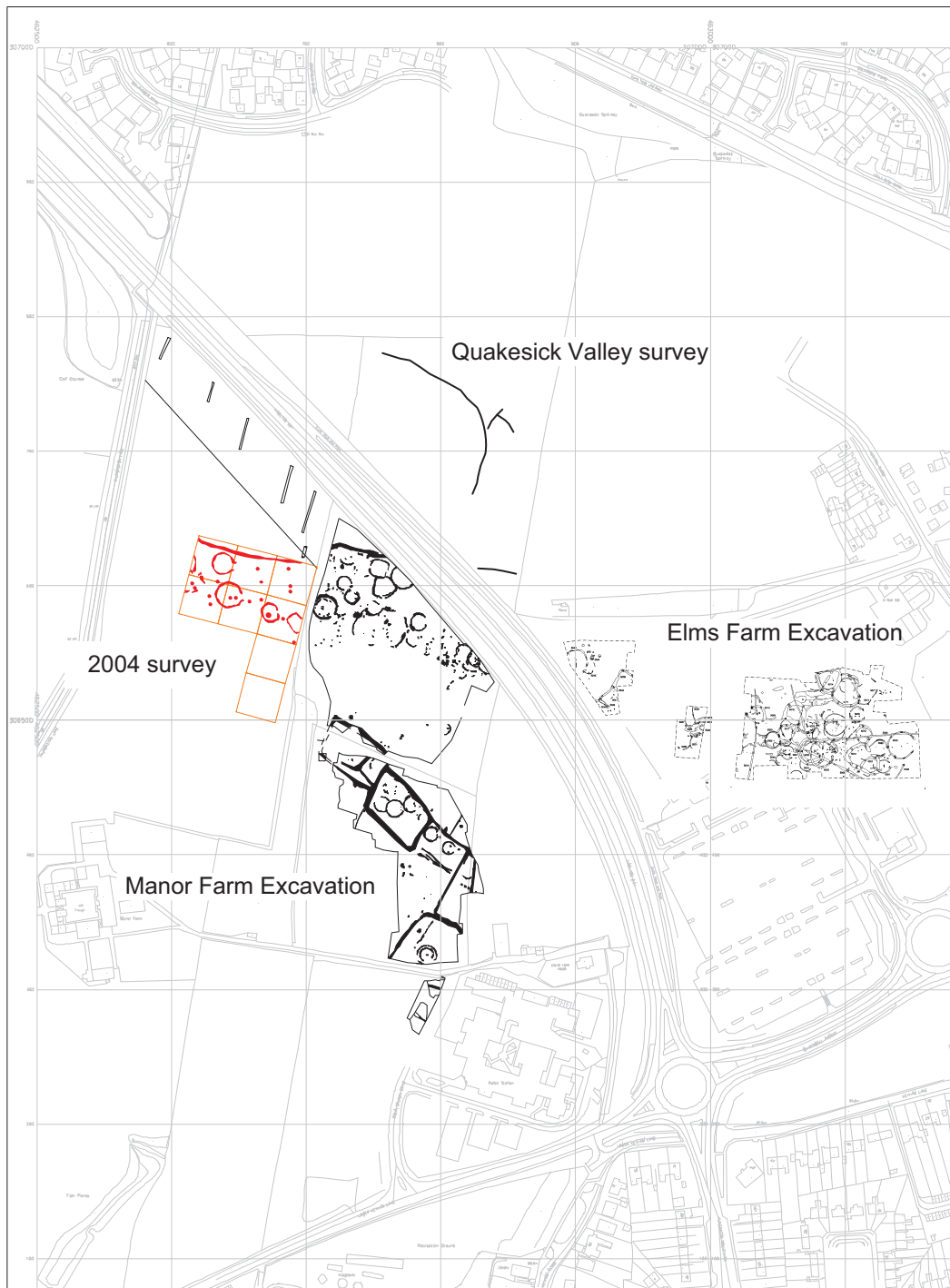


Figure 2. Previous Excavations and Surveys at Quakesick Valley with location of Area 6 Western evaluation highlighted. Grid Squares are 100m x 100m.

2. Aims and Methodology

3.1 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 to establish their extent, date, quality, character, form and potential including environmental data was to be recorded. Further archaeological recording would be undertaken if required in the light of the results of this programme. As the application area was outside the focus suggested by geophysical survey a 0.5% sample had been requested by the City Archaeologist. An area of approximately 240 sq metres was proposed for evaluation, equating to eight 20 metre long trenches, 1.5 metres wide. The evaluation followed the *Design Specification for archaeological evaluation* (05/510 20.8.2004; Appendix 2).

The proposed development area had been stripped of topsoil prior to archaeological involvement. The exposed surface consisted of orangey brown silty clay subsoil and due to the time elapsed between the stripping and the visit it was impossible to tell whether any archaeological remains had been exposed. However, a number of sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from this surface during the initial walkover. The trenches were excavated by back actor with ditching bucket under continuous archaeological supervision.

A substantial part of the proposed development area had already been landscaped and built over prior to archaeological involvement. As a result the area available for archaeological evaluation had been seriously reduced, it was only possible to site 3 trenches, covering approximately 90 sq metres in the north-easternmost corner of the proposed development area (*Fig 3*).

3. Results

3.1 Trench 1

Interval (m) From End	0m	3m	6m	9m	12m	15m	20m
Ground (OD)	78.71	78.68	78.67	78.68	78.70	78.77	79.05
Base of Trench	78.57	78.48	78.40	78.36	78.33	78.36	78.60

Trench 1 was located adjacent to the northernmost boundary of the development area (*Fig 3*); the trench measured approximately 20 metres long and 1.6m wide and was on an east-northeast west-southwest alignment. Approximately 200mm of weathered subsoil was excavated revealing a horizon of mid-orangey brown silty clay with occasional bands of slightly darker material, which may be the remains of medieval furrows. A single sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from the spoil but no archaeological features were present.

3.2 Trench 2

Interval (m) From End	0m	3m	6m	9m	12m	15m	20m
Ground (OD)	78.71	78.68	78.67	78.63	78.70	78.77	79.08
Base of Trench	78.57	78.48	78.40	78.36	78.33	78.36	78.60

The second trench was located adjacent to the topsoil store along the north-westernmost site boundary (*Fig 3*). The trench measured approximately 20 metres long and 1.6m wide and on a northeast to southwest alignment. Approximately 200mm of weathered subsoil was excavated revealing a horizon of mid-orangey brown silty clay and a pocket of mixed sandy gravel with lenses of boulder clay towards the south-western extremity of the trench. Despite its markedly different appearance the deposit is undisturbed ground and likely to be a variation of glacial deposit.

Once again nothing of archaeological significance was observed within the trench.

3.3 Trench 3

Interval (m) From End	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	27m
Ground (OD)	80.41	80.38	80.37	80.36	80.37	80.52	80.49
Base of Trench	80.19	80.74	80.05	80.04	80.06	79.99	80.04

The final trench was located towards the centre of the proposed development area, the easternmost area still available for archaeological evaluation (*Fig. 3*). The trench was approximately 27 metres long and 1.60m wide and aligned east-northeast to west-southwest, approximately 15 metres south of trench 1. Approximately 200mm of weathered subsoil was excavated revealing a horizon of mid-orangey brown silty clay; further hand cleaning indicated the apparent presence of a number of small linear features towards the eastern end of the trench.

As a result of locating these features it was decided, in conjunction with the City Archaeologist and Persimmon Homes, to extend the trench northwards by approximately 150 sq metres in order to evaluate the full 240 sq metres as originally intended. Further hand cleaning of the recently extended trench indicated that there was a layer of colluvium (314) overlying some of the features and it was decided to further reduce the trench by approximately 100mm.

This further machining indicated that what was thought to be several small gullies observed earlier was in fact a single large linear feature, which clearly cut the undisturbed pink boulder clay natural. The feature, [318], was approximately 2m wide and extended in a northwesterly direction across the width of the trench. Another linear feature [320] aligned northeast to southwest could also be seen within the

south-western part of the trench and appeared to be much narrower than [318], at approximately 1.5m wide. At this stage it was not possible to confirm whether this was a continuation of [318] or a separate feature. Further hand cleaning indicated two distinct fills, 316 and 317 within [318]. There were no other visible features.

As the colluvium appeared to increase in depth down slope (towards the north), it was decided to excavate a section within the northwest corner of trench 3 in order to ascertain the depth of this colluvial build up (*Fig 9*). A section approximately 1.2m deep was excavated until undisturbed natural sands were encountered at 83.92m OD (*Fig. 10*). There appeared to be at least 0.42m of colluvial build up within this part of the trench.

3.4 Excavation of [318]

Three sections were excavated across 318, sampling approximately 2% of the exposed length of ditch. The excavated sections towards the eastern end of the trench produced very similar results; the ditch was approximately 0.7m deep with relatively steep sides of approximately 40 to 45 degrees; the boundary with the underlying natural was smooth and clear to follow. The northwest-facing section including the remaining subsoil layers showed the colluvial deposits (314), which had originally sealed 318 (*Fig 4*).

A number of sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered from both sections, including some relatively large and un-abraded fragments of scored ware. The majority of the pottery was concentrated within 317, the darker secondary fill, although a single sherd of pottery was recovered from 322, an earlier fill, sealed by 317. The section excavated towards the centre of the ditch also uncovered a land drain, although there was no sign whatsoever of a cut for this in plan.

The final excavation through [318] was towards the western edge of the trench was located to investigate an apparent “bulge” on its southern edge. The cut was located beyond the furthest extent of 317.

A section was excavated through this part of the feature and the bulge (324) did appear to be different to 316; the fill was slightly greyer in colour and sandier in texture with more matrix supported rounded stones. The deposit was much shallower than 318, only 0.35m deep and the boundary with the natural substratum was clear to follow and with apparently stepped sides. No dating evidence was recovered from 324.

Unfortunately a cut for a ceramic land drain had destroyed the relationship between 324 and [318] so it was impossible to establish a stratigraphic relationship, however, the similarity between the two fills; 324 and 316 may suggest they may be contemporary date.

The main feature, [318] had also changed in character by this point, being both narrower and shallower. The darker fill, 317, from which the majority of the pottery had been recovered was no longer present and no dating evidence was recovered. The subsoil had also altered by this point, becoming much sandier; it is possible that this

change in subsoil is also the reason for change in the nature of 318, being sandier. It is possible that this area had suffered a greater degree of erosion than the adjacent clay subsoil causing this part of the ditch to be much less substantial and well preserved.

4. Conclusion

Despite the loss of the majority of the proposed development area a significant result was achieved from the limited area left to evaluate. The excavation of feature [318] indicates that Iron Age settlement already located in adjacent areas continued to the east and was relatively well preserved within this part of the site. A considerable build up of colluvium was also present on this part of the site, which was to be expected due to its location at the base of a slope, this build up would also have contributed towards the good preservation.

The density of pottery recovered may suggest nearby occupation in the area that has already been built upon. Fortunately a large proportion of the development area had been built up and the foundations for the new homes are to be excavated into this imported material, which may afford the earth fast archaeological remains some protection.

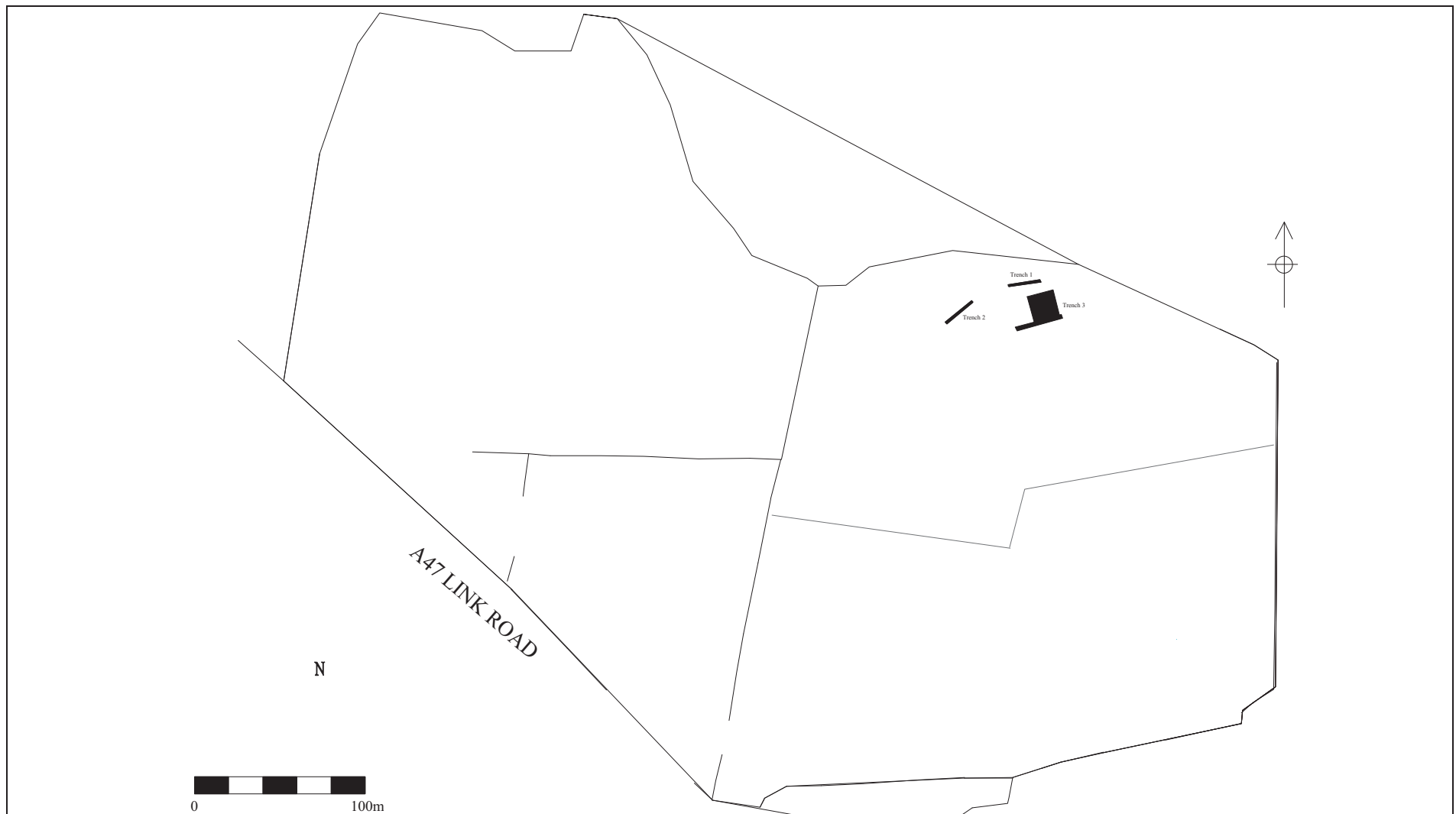


Figure 3 Trench Location Plan 1

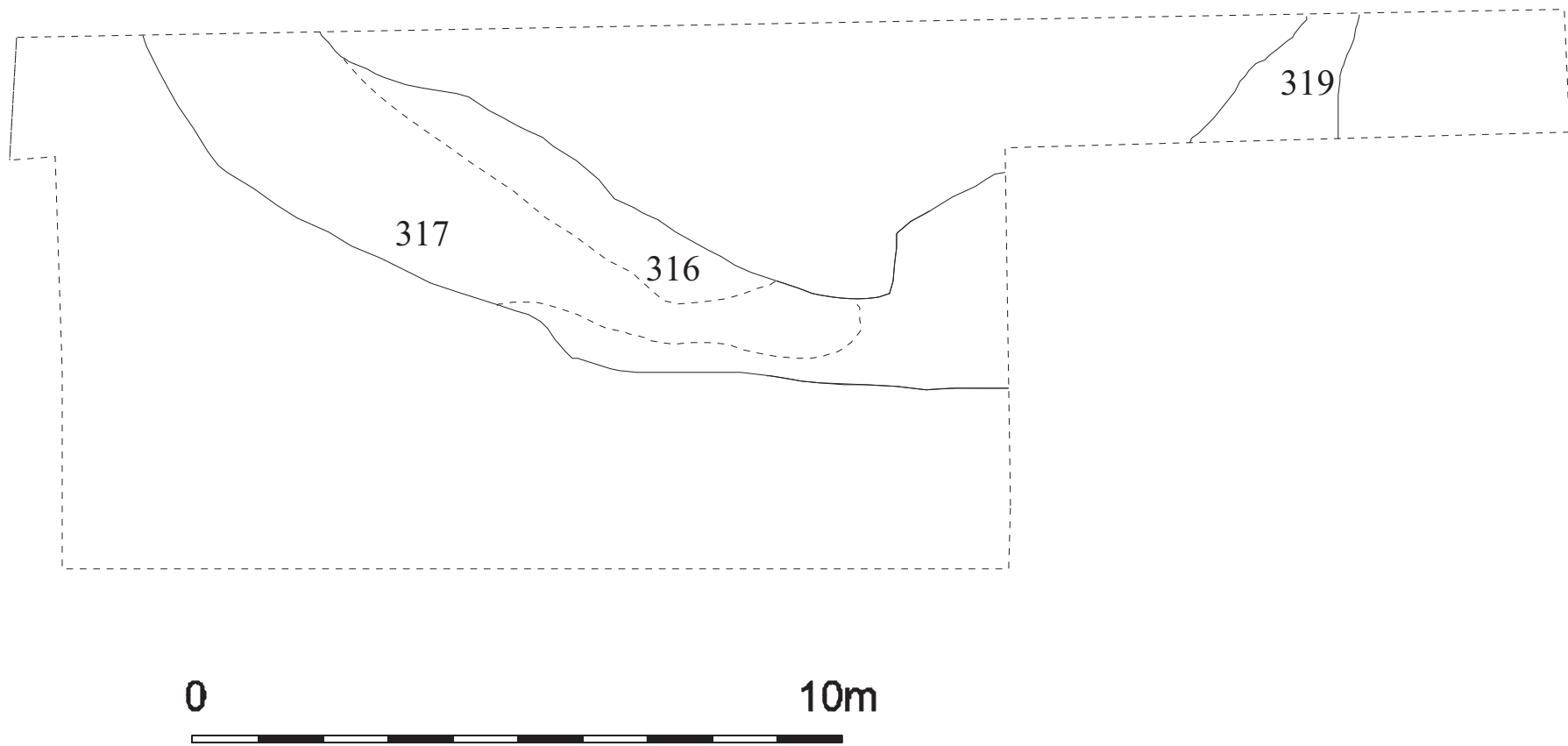
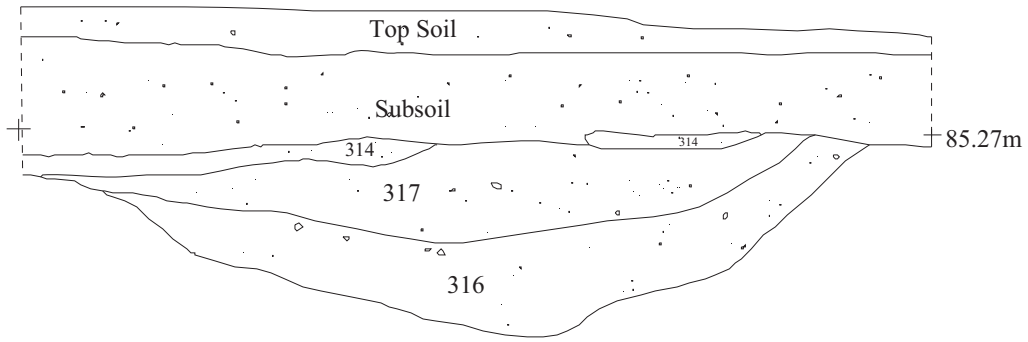


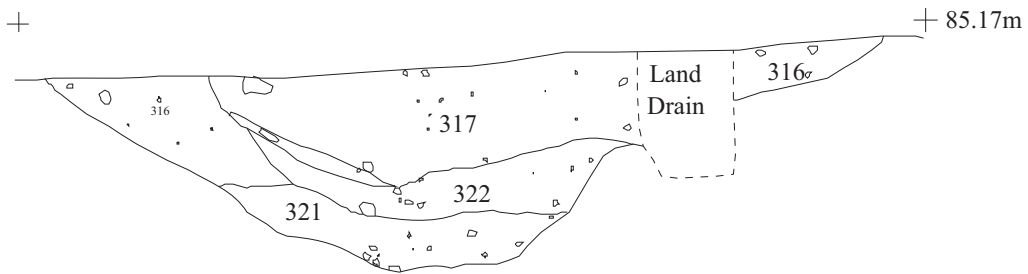
Figure 4 Plan of Extended Trench 3 showing Feature 318



Northwest Facing Section.



East Facing Section.



Northwest Facing Section.

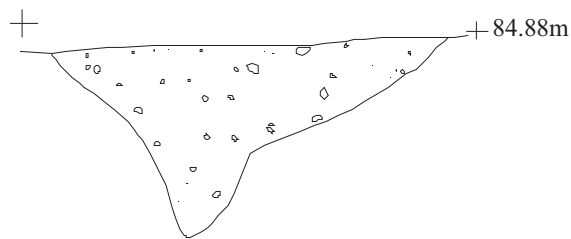


Southeast Facing Section.

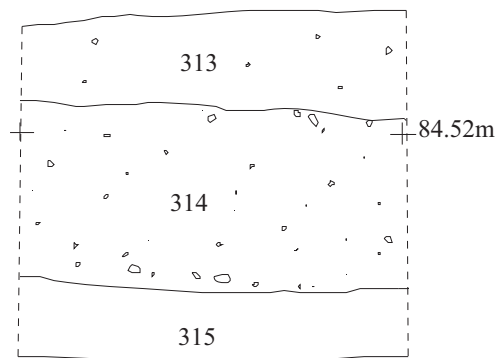
Figure 5 Sections across Feature 318



318 & 325 Northeast Facing Section.



318 Southwest Facing Section.



East Facing Section, Showing Depth of Colluvium.

Figure 6. Sections across Features 318, 325 and colluvium 313-5

5. Archive

The site archive consists of

3 trench recording sheets,

3 A2 and 3 A3 permatrace sheets containing plans and sections and 2 A4 drawing record sheets.

Black and white negatives with contact sheets

Colour slides and A4 photo index sheet.

18 single context record sheets

1 context summary sheet

1 A4 survey notes record sheet

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

6. Publication

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

7. Acknowledgements

The evaluation was directed by Gerwyn Richards with assistance from Steve Baker and Matt Parker. ULAS would like to thank Persimmon Homes Limited for their help and assistance. The project was managed by Patrick Clay.

8. References

Butler, A. 2001, *A Geophysical Survey on Land at Quakesick Valley, Humberstone, Leicester (SK 630 067)* ULAS Report 2001/160.

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Thomas J., 2003 Manor Farm, Keyham Lane, (SK 6275 0652 centre). *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*, **77**, 131-133.

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Appendix 1

The Iron Age Pottery Nicholas J. Cooper

Quantitative Summary

A stratified assemblage of 74 sherds of mid-late Iron Age pottery, weighing 1.018kg and with an estimated vessel equivalent (EVEs) value of 0.455, was retrieved during the trenching programme. Two fragments of fired clay or daub and a fragment of fuel ash also came from the same context (317), which may indicate structural remains and other activity.

Methodology

The Iron Age material has been analysed by form and fabric using the Leicestershire County Museums prehistoric pottery fabric series, with reference to the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Groups Guidelines (PCRG 1992), and quantified by sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalents (EVEs based on rim and base values and divided by two). Two major contemporary assemblages have been published in recent years from sites in the immediate vicinity at Wanlip and Elms Farm, Humberstone (Marsden 1998 and 2000).

The range of Iron Age fabrics matches those from the nearby assemblages at Wanlip and Humberstone and are described briefly here for convenience (Marsden 2000, 171; 1998, 45). As is typical of Prehistoric fabrics there is wide variation within each fabric category, which is defined by the predominant inclusion type present.

Q1 Sandy ware

Moderate to very common sub-rounded or rounded quartz (well to moderately sorted, up to 1mm) and sparse-moderate angular quartz.

R1 (formerly RQ1) igneous rock inclusions (granodiorite)

parse to very common sub-angular igneous rock fragments (poorly sorted, most up to 5mm).

S1 Shell tempered

Moderate to very common, well to poorly sorted fossil marine shell up to 8mm.

Discussion by form and fabric

All of the material derives from two fills (317) and (322) of a single cut feature (318). The single sherd in (322) is from the same vessel as that in (318) indicating a degree of disturbance. Three fabrics are represented; primarily the finer sandy (Q1) and granite tempered (R1) fabrics as would be expected in this part of the East Midlands and a smaller amount of the shell-tempered S1. Fabric Q2, which dominated the Middle Iron Age site at Wanlip, is absent. This absence may be of chronological significance as clay preparation changed from the use of larger quartz and rock

inclusions towards the greater use of quartz sand, but this transition is poorly understood at present.

Quakesick, Humberstone A11.2004 Iron Age pottery								
Context	Cut	Fabric	Form	Decoration	Sherds	Weight	EVEs	Diam
317	318	R1	Jar base	Scored	32	760	0.5	150
317	318	R1	misc	scored	27	100		
317	318	S1	misc		3	8		
317	318	Q1	Ovoid		3	68	0.22	140
317	318	Q1	Uprightrim		3	4	0.12	80
317	318	Q1	Uprightrim		1	2	0.07	120
317	318	Q1	misc		4	32		
322	318	R1	Jar base	scored	1	44		
Total					74	1018	0.455*	

* Total EVEs figure is divided by two as both rims and bases were measured.

At least four vessels are represented; the base of a scored ware jar in R1 dating from the later fourth (or probably third) century BC to the mid first century AD (Elsdon 1992) and three in Q1, in forms usually associated with scored decoration although none was present on these examples. The ovoid neckless form is paralleled locally at Wanlip (Marsden 1998, fig.27.38). The other two rims in Q1 probably belong to barrel-shaped vessels with upright or slightly flaring rims. This combination of fabrics in the same contexts also occurred at the nearby site at Hallam Fields Birstall (Cooper 2004 unpublished). The finer Q1 is clearly contemporary with R1 but whether it supercedes it entirely, during the Late Iron Age is not entirely clear.

References

Elsdon, S.M., 1992 'East Midlands Scored Ware' *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* **66**, 83-91.

Marsden, P., 1998 'The prehistoric pottery' in M. Beamish 'A Middle Iron Age Site at Wanlip, Leicestershire', 44-62, *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* **72**, 1-91.

Marsden, P., 2000 'The prehistoric pottery' in B. M. Charles, A. Parkinson and S. Foreman 'A Bronze Age Ditch and Iron Age Settlement at Elms farm, Leicester', 170-186, *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* **74**, 113-220.

Medieval and later Pottery

Six sherds were recovered, one of which was stratified from [320].

Medieval and later pottery

Context	Cut	Fabric	Sherds	Weight	Comment
US Tr.1		PM Potters Marston	1	36	12th-14th
	319	320 EA2 Post medieval earthenware	1	3	Post medieval
US Tr.3		medieval sandy	1	5	12th-14th
US		Misc medieval	3	30	

Appendix 2

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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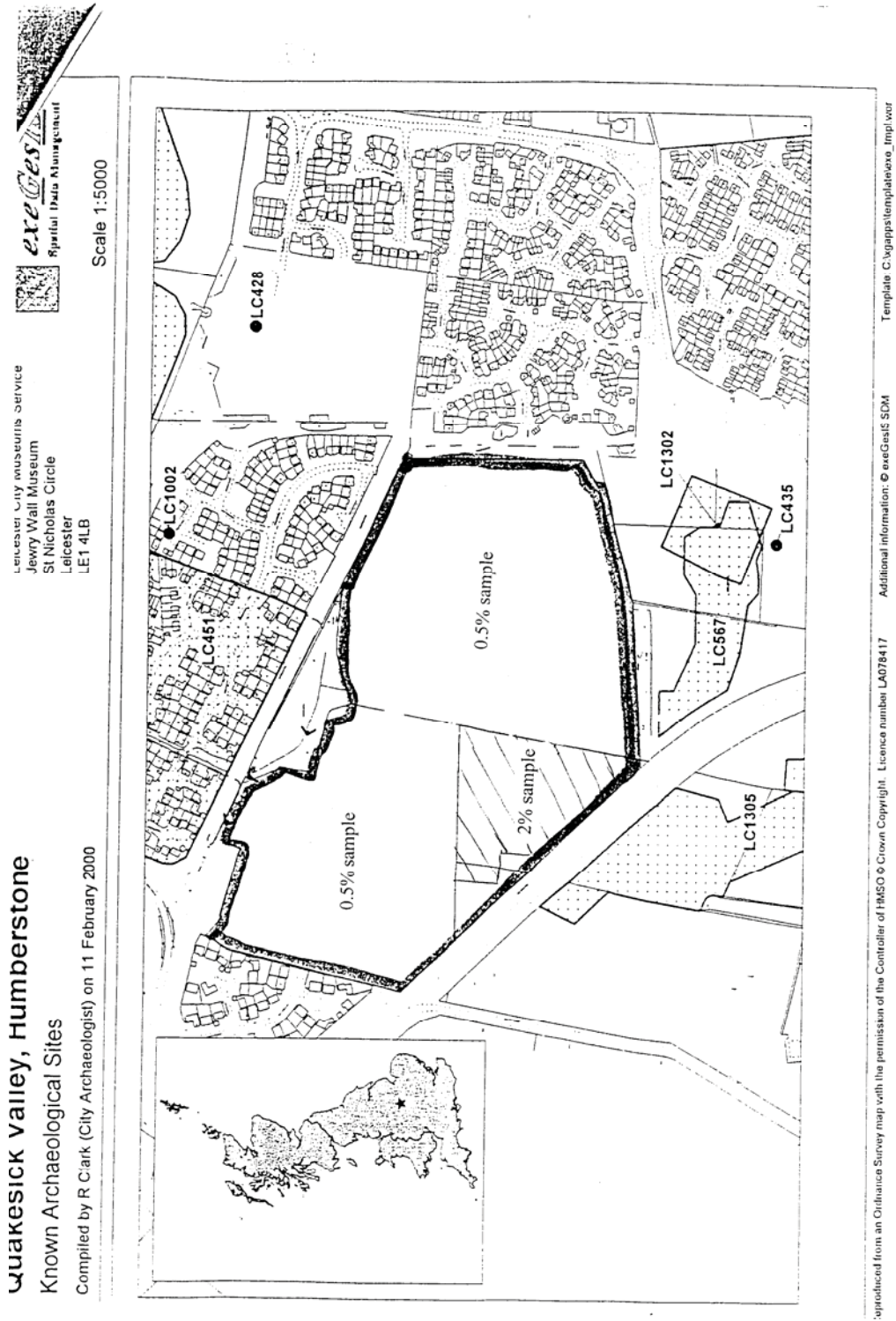
Tel:0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614

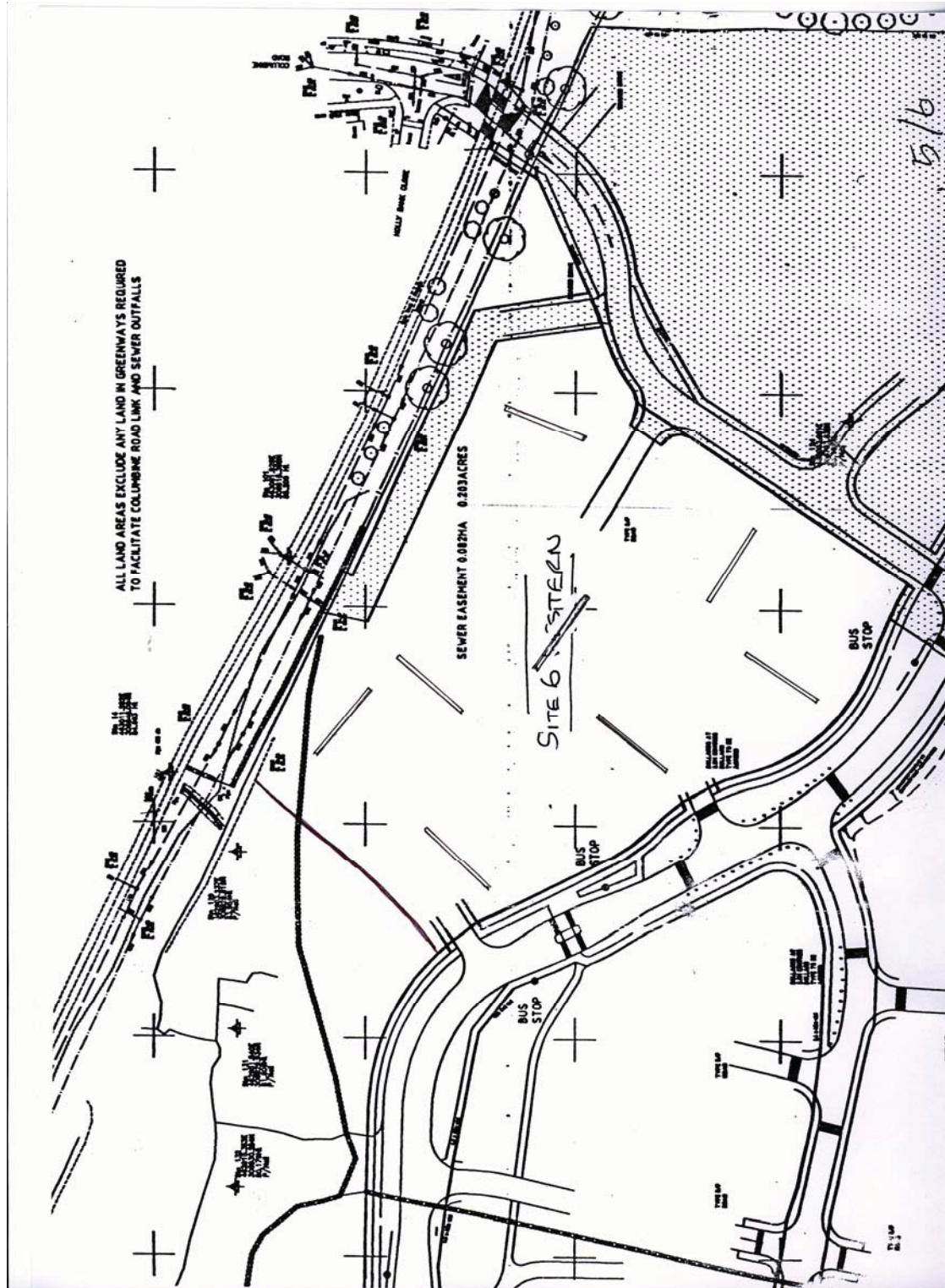
Email: pnc3@le.ac.uk

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.

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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 Vials 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