



**University of  
Leicester**

**Archaeological Services**

**Archaeological Attendance, Inspection  
and Recording on Land off Tofts Hill,  
Stathern, Leicestershire**

**SP 53485 95687**

**Stephen Baker**




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**Archaeological Attendance, Inspection and Recording on land off  
Tofts Hill, Stathern, Leicestershire  
SP 53485 95687**

**Stephen Baker**

**For: Smith and Green Partnership  
Planning Application Authority: Leicestershire County Council**

Approved by:

<b>Signed:</b>
<b>Date:</b> 21.01.2016
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## **Archaeological Attendance, Inspection and Recording at land on Tofts Hill, Stathern, Leicestershire**

**SP 53485 95687**

*Stephen Baker*

### **Summary**

*Archaeological Attendance, Inspection and Recording was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at Tofts Hill, Stathern, Leicestershire (SP 53485 95687) on the 19th January 2016. Work was undertaken on behalf of Smith and Green Partnership during ground works and clearance connected to the construction of a three bedroomed residential property. Machine excavated ground works of the footprint of the proposed building were monitored. Although a possible furrow was uncovered, no archaeological features, deposits or finds were observed and the result of the investigation proved negative.*

### **Introduction**

On the 19th January 2016 University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out Archaeological Attendance, Inspection and Recording at Tofts Hill, Stathern, Leicestershire. The work was undertaken on behalf of Smith and Green Partnership during ground works connected to the construction of a three bedroomed residential property. This report presents the final results of the Archaeological Attendance, Inspection and Recording.

### **Site Location, Geology and Topography**

The proposed development site lies on Croft Road, north-west of Cosby at NGR SP 53485 95687) at a height of about 69m OD. The Geology of Britain Viewer (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>) shows that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Syston Member Sand and Gravel over Triassic Rocks (Undifferentiated) - Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone.

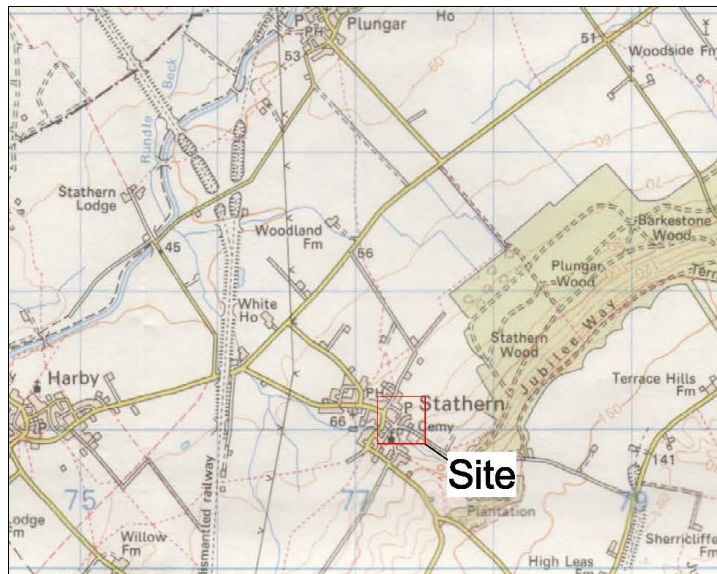


Figure 1: Site Location

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## Archaeological and Historical Background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) showed that the application site lay in an area of archaeological interest. It was inside the medieval and post-medieval settlement core of the village and close to the medieval parish church of St. Guthlac. The site was within an area of well-preserved medieval village earthworks and ridge and furrow, which relate to the medieval settlement, consequently, there was good potential for the presence of below-ground archaeological remains within the application area, which were likely to be affected by the proposed development.

The villages of Leicestershire and the wider English Central Midlands, appear to have evolved alongside their open field systems, during the later 1st millennium AD. There was some potential for buried archaeological evidence, spanning the period from the earliest evolution of the village to its more recent past could be expected within the development area. Consequently, there was a likelihood that buried archaeological remains would be affected by the development.

The Principal Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council (LCC) as advisor to the planning authority recommended archaeological attendance for inspection and recording during the ground works for the proposed development to record any archaeological remains uncovered.

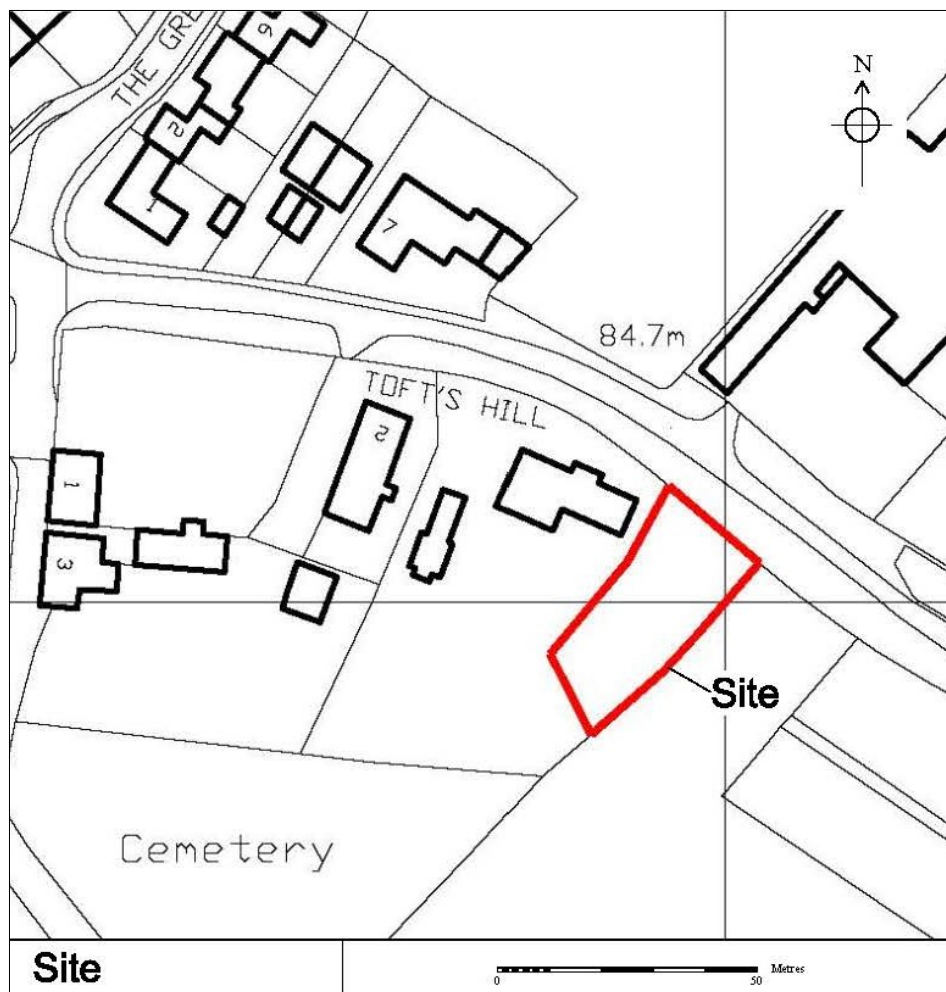


Figure 2: Proposed development area

### Archaeological Objectives

The project was to carry out archaeological attendance for inspection and recording at the above site, in accordance with NPPF (Section 12 Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment). This was carried out, as a requirement by the Planning Authority, on any ground works in connection with the erection of the new buildings and associated works. This work followed a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI ; Clay 2015), recommended by the LCC Principal Planning Archaeologist as specialist adviser to north-east Leicestershire District Council. The purpose of the archaeological work may be summarised as follows:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To advance understanding of the heritage assets
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

## Methodology

Archaeological attendance for inspection and recording was carried out with a site visit on 19th January 2016. The project involved the inspection and control of the machine-dug foundation footprint strip associated with the construction of the three bedroomed two-storey residential building by an experienced professional archaeologist to determine the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits

This was carried out using a mini mechanical excavator with a c.1.6m wide ditching bucket. All exposed areas, sections and spoil heaps were visually inspected for features and finds. Field notes were recorded on pro-forma ULAS watching brief record forms.

All work followed the approved written scheme of investigation (Clay 2014) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological watching briefs* (2014) and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LMARS 1997).



Figure 3: Removing topsoil/subsoil

## Results

The footprint of the building was stripped of brown grey clay-loam topsoil, c. 0.35m and subsoil of c. 0.38m deep respectively, to reveal a clean, light yellow brown clay substratum across the development area. Evidence was uncovered of a possible furrow orientated north-

east to south-west, surviving where the land dropped off towards the south. No archaeological deposits or finds were revealed during the ground works.



Figure 4: Areas of groundworks with location of possible furrow

## Discussion

Other than the possible remains of a furrow, the ground works did not reveal any evidence for archaeological deposits. The presence of the furrow may suggest that the area was outside the settlement and within the open field system.

## Archive

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council and will follow Brown (2008) and the LCC Guidelines (2014). The archive contains:



- 1 watching brief recording sheets
- 1 photographic record sheet
- Thumbnail prints of digital photographs
- CD containing digital photographs

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

### Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work to the *Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) at the University of York (see **Error! Reference source not found.**).

Oasis

<b>Project OASIS no.</b>	universi1-14650
<b>Project Name</b>	Tofts Hill, Stathern, Leicestershire
<b>Project Type</b>	Watching Brief
<b>Project Manager</b>	Patrick Clay
<b>Project Supervisor</b>	Stephen Baker
<b>Previous/Future work</b>	None/None
<b>Current Land Use</b>	Garden
<b>Development Type</b>	Residential
<b>Reason for Investigation</b>	NPPF
<b>Position in the Planning Process</b>	Pre- Planning condition
<b>Site Co-ordinates</b>	SP 53485 95687
<b>Start/end dates of field work</b>	19/01/2016
<b>Archive Recipient</b>	Leicester County Council
<b>Study Area</b>	0.36 ha

A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal, the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*, in due course.

### Bibliography

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### **Acknowledgements**

The fieldwork was undertaken on behalf of Smith and Green Partnership and was carried out by Stephen Baker. I am grateful to the contractors for their cooperation on site. Dr Patrick Clay managed the project.

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20-01-2016

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