

**An Archaeological Evaluation on
Land Adjacent to 209 Forest Road,
Woodhouse, Leicestershire
(SK 538 151)**

Matthew Hurford

Checked by Project Manager

SignedDate.....

Name.....

For: Woodhouse Community Hall Trust

Planning Application 06/1077/2

University of Leicester Archaeological Services

Report 2007/119

**An Archaeological Evaluation on land adjacent to 209 Forest Road, Woodhouse,
Leicestershire (SK 538 151).**

Matthew Hurford

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1. Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land adjacent to 209 Forest Road, Woodhouse, Leicestershire (SK 538 151) by ULAS in August 2007. The work was commissioned by Woodhouse Community Hall Trust.

In total three trial trenches were excavated in order to assess the potential for the survival of archaeological remains.

Despite the proposed development site being identified as an area of archaeological potential no archaeological deposits were encountered.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the Accession Number X.A141.2007

2. Introduction

In accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG 16, Archaeology and Planning, para 30), this document presents the results of an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land adjacent to 209 Forest Road, Woodhouse, Leicestershire (SK 538 151).

The evaluation was requested by Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the planning authority as detailed in their *Brief for Archaeological Exploratory Trial Trenching of Land Adjacent to 209 Forest Road, Woodhouse, Leicestershire*. The trial trench evaluation followed the approved Design specification for archaeological evaluation by trial trenching (ULAS Report No. 07-639-01 Appendix 1)

The proposed development (P.A. 06/1077/2) comprises an area c.0.17ha upon which it is proposed to construct a community hall with associated landscaping and carpark.

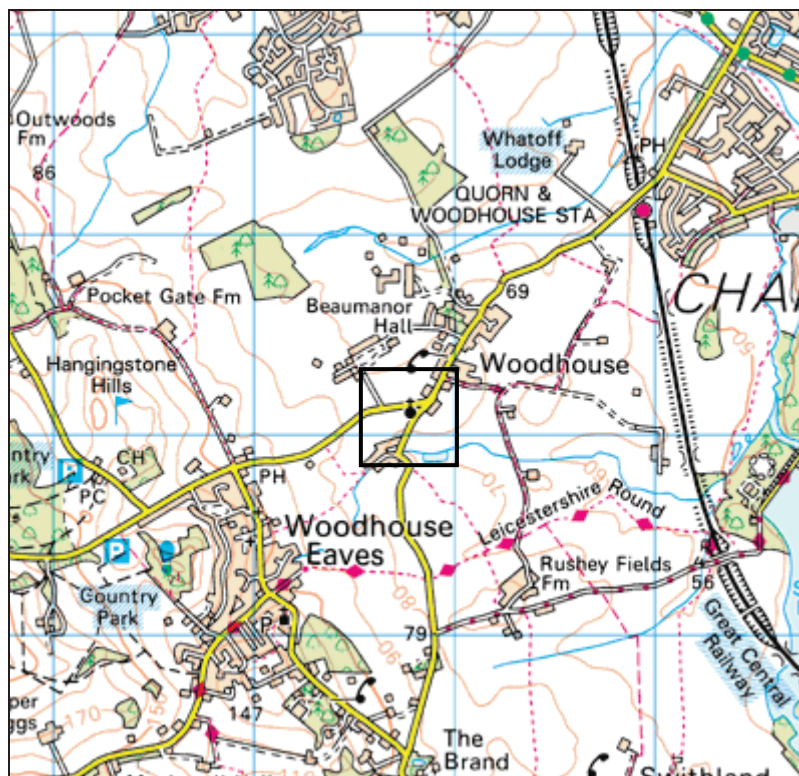


Figure 1. Location plan with application area outlined. Scale 1:50000

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3. Geology and Topography

The site lies at a height of *c.*79m O.D. The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 155 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of boulder clay/till drift deposits overlying the solid Triassic mudstone (Mercia Mudstone Group). The latter is exposed to the north where not masked by the drift deposits.

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. It is opposite the medieval church of St. Mary in the Elms (HER Ref No. **MLE1116 & 13943**), close to Garat's Hay (**MLE1124 & 13946**), a post-medieval house, which was first mentioned in 1534 and has plausible medieval fishponds. Consequently there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the proposed development.

5. Objectives

The main objectives of the evaluation were:

- 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.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation was 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.

All work follows the *Institute of Field Archaeologist's Code of Conduct* and adheres to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological evaluations*.

6. Methodology

Three trenches, one 25m by 1.5m, one 20m by 1.5m and one 15m by 1.5m were excavated providing a 5% sample of the 0.17ha site. The trenches targeted the footprint of the proposed building and carpark.

The topsoil and subsoil was removed in spits by machine with a toothless ditching bucket under full supervision, until archaeological deposits or undisturbed substrata were encountered.

The location of the trenches was tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

Each trench was examined by hand cleaning. One longitudinal face of each trench was recorded. All sections were levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

7. Results

Trench 01 (see fig.2)

Interval from SW end	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m
Topsoil Depth	0.32m	0.18m	0.30m	0.33m	0.34m	0.38m
Rubble Depth	0.92m	0.42m	-	-	-	-
Subsoil Depth	-	-	0.38m	0.68m	0.66m	0.64m
Top of Natural	0.92m	0.70m	0.38m	0.68m	0.66m	0.64m
Base of Trench	0.92m	0.90m	0.56m	0.74m	0.74m	0.76m

Trench 01 was located in the eastern half of the development area. It measured 25m long and 1.5m wide and was on an northeast to southwest alignment. The base of the trench lay at a height of between *c.*78.21 OD in the southwest and *c.*78.53 OD in the northeast.

Between 0.18m and 0.38m of very dark brownish grey silt topsoil was removed revealing brick, concrete and tile rubble in the southwest of the trench, probably

originating from buildings present on the 1955 Ordnance Survey map but absent on the 1974 one, and mid pinkish grey sandy clay in the northeast. Natural substratum consisting of mid reddish pink clay with occasional pale greyish white clay patches was reached between 0.56m and 0.92m below ground level.

No archaeological deposits were encountered

Trench 02 (see fig.2)

Interval from SW end	0m	3m	6m	9m	12m	15m	18m	20m
Topsoil Depth	0.14m	0.20m	0.18m	0.23m	0.18m	0.22m	0.19m	0.20m
Subsoil Depth	0.42m	0.50m	0.44m	0.48m	0.45m	0.42m	0.46m	0.43m
Top of Natural	0.42m	0.50m	0.44m	0.48m	0.45m	0.42m	0.46m	0.43m
Base of Trench	0.45m	0.59m	0.53m	0.55m	0.56m	0.52m	0.47m	0.48m

Trench 02 was located in the western half of the development area adjacent to the road. It measured 20m long and 1.5m wide and was on a northeast to southwest alignment. The base of the trench lay at a height of between *c.*78.66 OD in the southwest and *c.*78.78 OD in the northeast.

Between 0.14m and 0.23m of light brown silt topsoil was removed revealing mid reddish brown silt subsoil beneath. Natural substratum consisting of mid reddish brown clay was reached between 0.42m and 0.50m below current ground level.

No archaeological deposits were encountered.

Trench 03 (see fig.2)

Interval from SW end	0m	3m	6m	9m	12m	15m
Topsoil Depth	0.19m	0.18m	0.17m	0.21m	0.17m	0.19m
Subsoil Depth	0.36m	0.38m	0.30m	0.38m	0.35m	0.37m
Top of Natural	0.36m	0.38m	0.30m	0.38m	0.35m	0.37m
Base of Trench	0.48m	0.45m	0.42m	0.45m	0.45m	0.45m

Trench 03 was located in the western half of the development area to the north of Trench 02. It measured 15m long and 1.5m wide and was on a northeast to southwest alignment. The base of the trench lay at a height of between *c.*78.19 OD in the southwest and *c.*78.37 OD in the northeast.

Between 0.18m and 0.19m of light brown silt topsoil was removed revealing mid reddish brown silt subsoil beneath. Natural substratum consisting of mid reddish brown clay was reached between 0.30m and 0.38m below current ground level.

No archaeological deposits were encountered.

8. Discussion

Despite the proposed development site being identified as an area of archaeological potential no archaeological deposits were encountered. In the case of the area containing Trench 01 the 20th century truncation would have removed any archaeological deposits. The paddock containing Trench 2 and 3 is likely to have always been undeveloped agricultural land.

9. Acknowledgements

Fieldwork was undertaken by the author with the assistance of Matt Morris. Richard Buckley managed the project.

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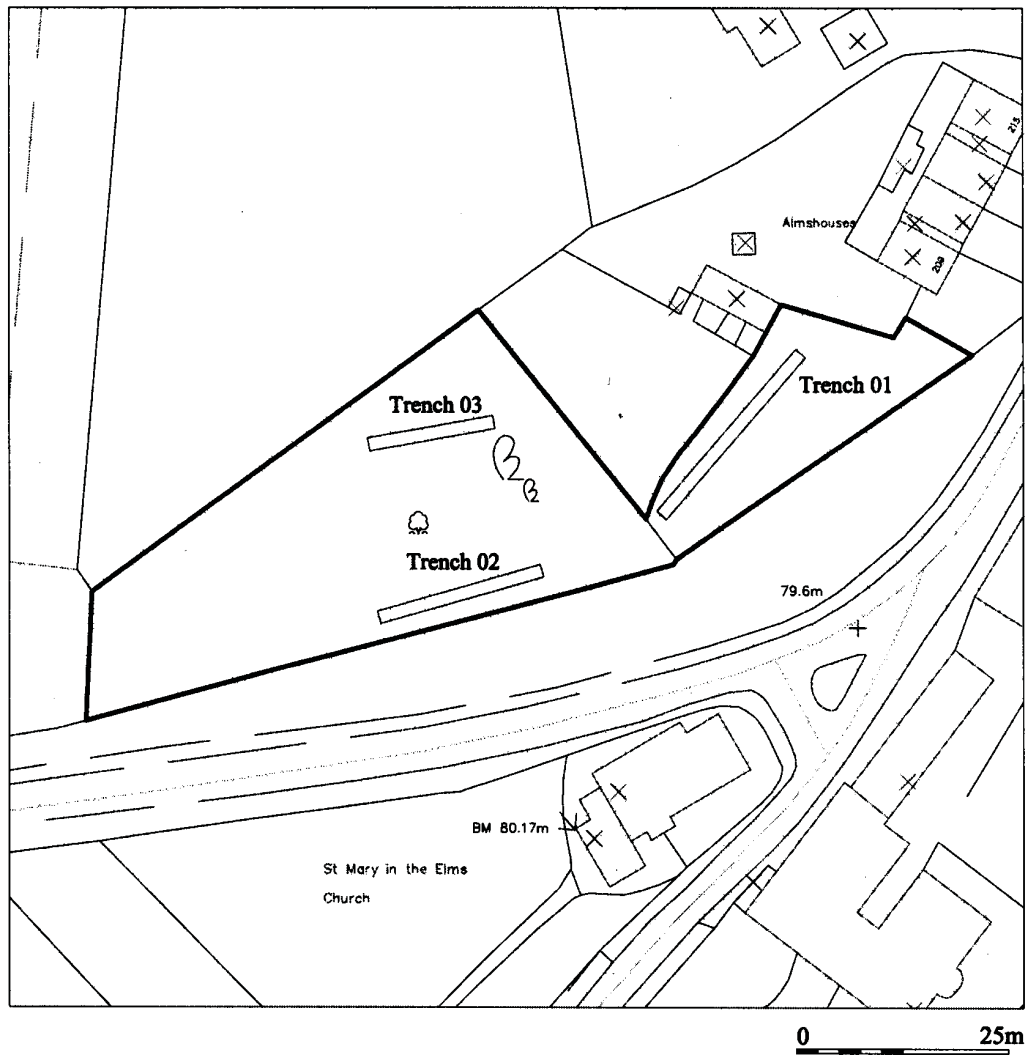


Figure 2. Trench location plan with evaluation area outlined.



Plate I. Trench 01 after excavation looking northeast.



Plate II. Trench 01 southeast facing section southwest half of the trench.

Appendix 1

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching

Proposed Community Hall, land Adj. To 209 Forest Road, Woodhouse, Leicestershire.

NGR: SK 538151

Client: *Woodhouse Community Hall Trust*

Planning Authority: *Charnwood Borough Council*

1 Introduction

1.1 *Definition and scope of the specification*

This document is a design specification for a phase of intrusive 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.

1.3 The document provides details of the work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client, and should be submitted to the Archaeological Advisor to the Planning Authority for approval before archaeological investigation by ULAS is implemented. The document provides details of the work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client for:

- Archaeological evaluation by intrusive trial trenching.

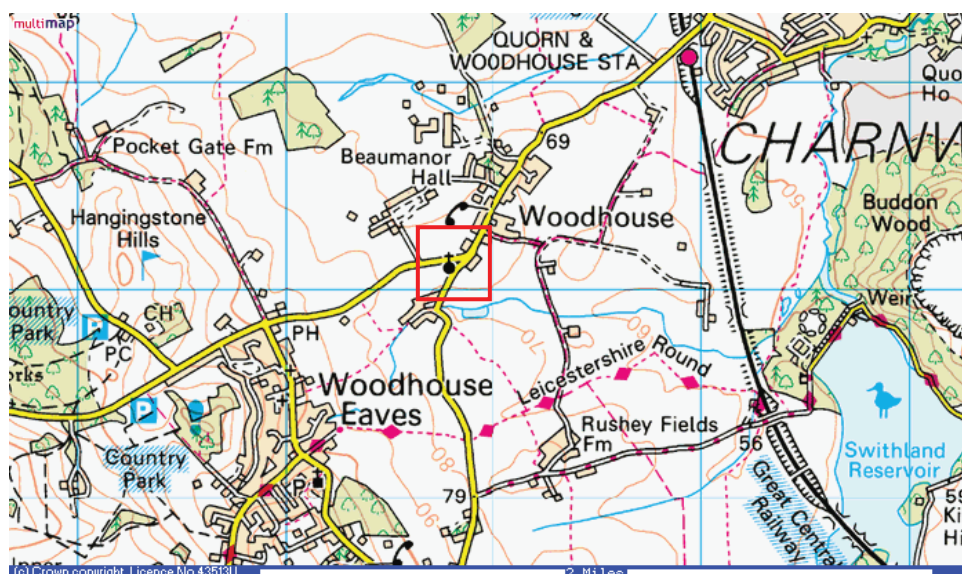


Fig. 1: Site Location

2. Background

2.1 *Context of the Project*

- 2.1.1 The proposed development site is located on land adjacent to 209 Forest Road, Woodhouse, Leicestershire upon which it is proposed to construct a community hall with associated landscaping and car parking. The land is approximately triangular and measures some 0.17ha.
- 2.1.2 The senior planning archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council has produced a Brief (hereinafter the Brief) for archaeological evaluation of 5% of the site by trial trenching, about 80m, to confirm the nature, extent, date and significance of any archaeological deposits that may be present. University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS), has been commissioned to undertake the work.
- 2.1.3 It is understood that no archaeological desk-based assessment for the site has been undertaken.

2.2 *Geological and Topographical Background (taken from the Brief)*

- 2.2.1 The geology of the site is likely to consist of boulder clay/till drift deposits overlying the solid Triassic mudstone (Mercia Mudstone Group). The latter is exposed to the north where not masked by the drift deposits (Ordnance Survey Geological survey of Great Britain, Sheet 155).

2.3 *Archaeological and Historical Background (taken from Brief)*

- 2.3.1 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. It is opposite the medieval church of St. Mary in the Elms (HER Ref No MLE1116 & 13943), close to Garat's Hay (MLE1124 & 13946), a post-medieval house, which was first mentioned in 1534 and has plausible medieval fishponds. Consequently there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the proposed development.

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 proposals.
 - To sample excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the 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 and significance of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from proposed development. The archaeological evaluation, once the above information has been gathered, will serve to determine a decision being made on planning permission regarding archaeological issues. Potentially further stages of archaeological investigation will be required as a condition of planning permission.

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 Planning authority and the Client, if required.
- 4.2 ***Trial Trenching Methodology***
- 4.2.1 Three trenches, one 30m by 1.5m and two 15m by 1.5m (total of 90 sq. m), will be excavated, representing a 5% sample of the area (Fig 2). The trenches will target the footprint of the proposed community hall and the associated car park.
- 4.2.2 The present ground surfaces and underlying modern overburden (approximately 0.2 - 0.5m of made ground is expected), over the area of the trench, will be removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision. The work will use a mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket and will continue down to the uppermost archaeological deposits or undisturbed natural (whichever is encountered first), to a maximum depth of 1.2m. The trenches will be backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation, but surfaces will not be reinstated.
- 4.2.3 Trenches will be examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located will be planned at an appropriate scale. Archaeological deposits will be sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence. All plans will be tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Relative spot heights will be taken as appropriate.
- 4.2.4 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 benchmark.
- 4.2.5 Trench locations will be recorded using an electronic distance measurer. These will then be tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.
- 4.2.6 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. The relative height of all principal strata and features will be recorded. The stratigraphy of all trenches shall be recorded even where no archaeological features are identified.
- 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

- 5.1 The IFA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to.
- 5.2 All antiquities, valuables, objects or remains of archaeological interest, other than articles declared by Coroner's Inquest to be subject to the Treasure Act, discovered in or under the Site during the carrying out of the project by ULAS or during works carried out on the Site by the Client shall be deemed to be the property of ULAS provided that ULAS after due examination of the said Archaeological Discoveries shall transfer ownership of all Archaeological Discoveries unconditionally to LCC for storage in perpetuity.
- 5.3 An Accession number will be obtained from the Assistant Keeper of Archaeological Archives at Leicestershire County Council that will be used to identify all records and finds from the site, prior to the commencement of any on-site works.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 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

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 Senior Planning Archaeologist/SMR to be distributed amongst relevant sections of Leicestershire County Council as necessary.
- 6.2 The report will include consideration of:
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
 - The nature, location and extent 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 to the local archaeological journal, 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.

7.2 University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS form at <http://ads.ac.uk/project/oasis> will be completed detailing the results of the project. ULAS will contact Leicestershire County Council's SMR prior to completion of the form. Once a report has become a public document following its incorporation into Leicestershire SMR it may be placed on the web-site. The Developer should agree to this procedure in writing as part of the process of submitting the report to Leicestershire SMR.

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 archaeological evaluation is scheduled to start week commencing 7 August 2007 and will last approximately 1 week.

10.2 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.

10.3 An interim report on the results of the evaluation can be prepared, if required, after the completion of the fieldwork.

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 Information on the known location of any other services or other constraints will need to be supplied by the Client, prior to the commencement of works on the site.

12 Insurance

12.1 All employees, consultants and volunteers are covered by the University of Leicester public liability insurance, £20m cover with St. Paul Travellers (policy no. UCPOP3651237). Professional indemnity insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters 50% and Brit Insurance 50%, £10m cover (policy no. PUNIO3605). Employer's Liability Insurance is with St. Paul Travellers, cover £10m (policy no. UCPOP3651237).

13. Monitoring arrangements

- 13.1 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and Senior Planning Archaeologist subject to the health and safety requirements of the site. Notice will be given to the Leicestershire 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 unlikely event, that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the project, ULAS shall inform the site agent/project manager, Client and the Senior Planning Archaeologist and Planning Authority and prepare a short written statement with plans detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Senior Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement an amended scheme of investigation on behalf of the client as appropriate.

15. Bibliography

- Brief Brief for Archaeological Exploratory trial trenching of land Adj. To 209 Forest Road, Woodhouse, Leicestershire HNET Leics. County Council
- 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:

Proposed Community Hall, land Adj. To 209 Forest Road, Woodhouse, Leicestershire.

NGR: SK 538151

Client: Woodhouse Community Hall Trust

Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council

A risks assessment will be completed by site personnel and will be updated and amended by on-site staff during the course of the evaluation.

1. Nature of the work

- 1.1 The work will involve trial trenching during daylight hours to reveal underlying archaeological deposits. The work will involve excavation using machine (JCB or equivalent with toothless ditching bucket), of trial trenches under the control and supervision of archaeologists.

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 Trial Trenching

The work will involve machine excavation by mechanical excavator during daylight hours to reveal underlying archaeological deposits. An assessment of the stability of the sides will be carried out by a competent person prior to staff access. All open trenches will be checked for stability every day and staff will remain alert to any indications of gases (e.g. smell).

A 'No Smoking' rule will be applied to the excavation areas.

Spoil will be stockpiled no less than 1.5 m from the edge of the excavation with the edges kept clean.

One end of each trench will be modified to provide access. Entry into the base of the trench is to be by this access only.

Remaining works will involve the examination of the exposed surface with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and excavation of archaeological features. 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. A first aid kit and mobile phone is to be kept on site at all times in case of an emergency.

2.2 Working with plant.

Each trench will be excavated by machine under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist. A responsible person will be nominated as banksman. They will direct the machine using a series of pre-arranged hand signals. No one else is to approach the machine working area until the banksman has been made aware of their presence.

During bucket changes site staff will stand well clear of the machine until the bucket/breaker has been correctly fitted and crowned.

During machining all personnel are to wear a safety helmet, steel toe-capped boots and a high visibility jacket / vest. Ear defenders / plugs and safety glasses will also be made available to all staff on site. Ear protection will be worn whilst the breaker/excavator is in use.

2.3 Working in vicinity of services

If services or wells are encountered, machining will be halted until their extent has been established by hand excavation, or areas where it is safe to machine have been established.

2.4 Working within areas prone to waterlogging.

In the event of waterlogging preventing work continuing, an assessment will be made by the site supervisor to determine if it is possible to excavate a sump, suitably fenced and clearly marked to enable the water to drain away from the trenches. Protective clothing will be worn at all times and precautions taken to prevent contact with stagnant water which may carry Vialls disease or similar.

2.5 ***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.

2.6 ***Other risks***

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.

A public footpath crosses the site; this will be fenced (with Heras or similar) on either side to prevent access into the site and deep excavation warning signs will be displayed.

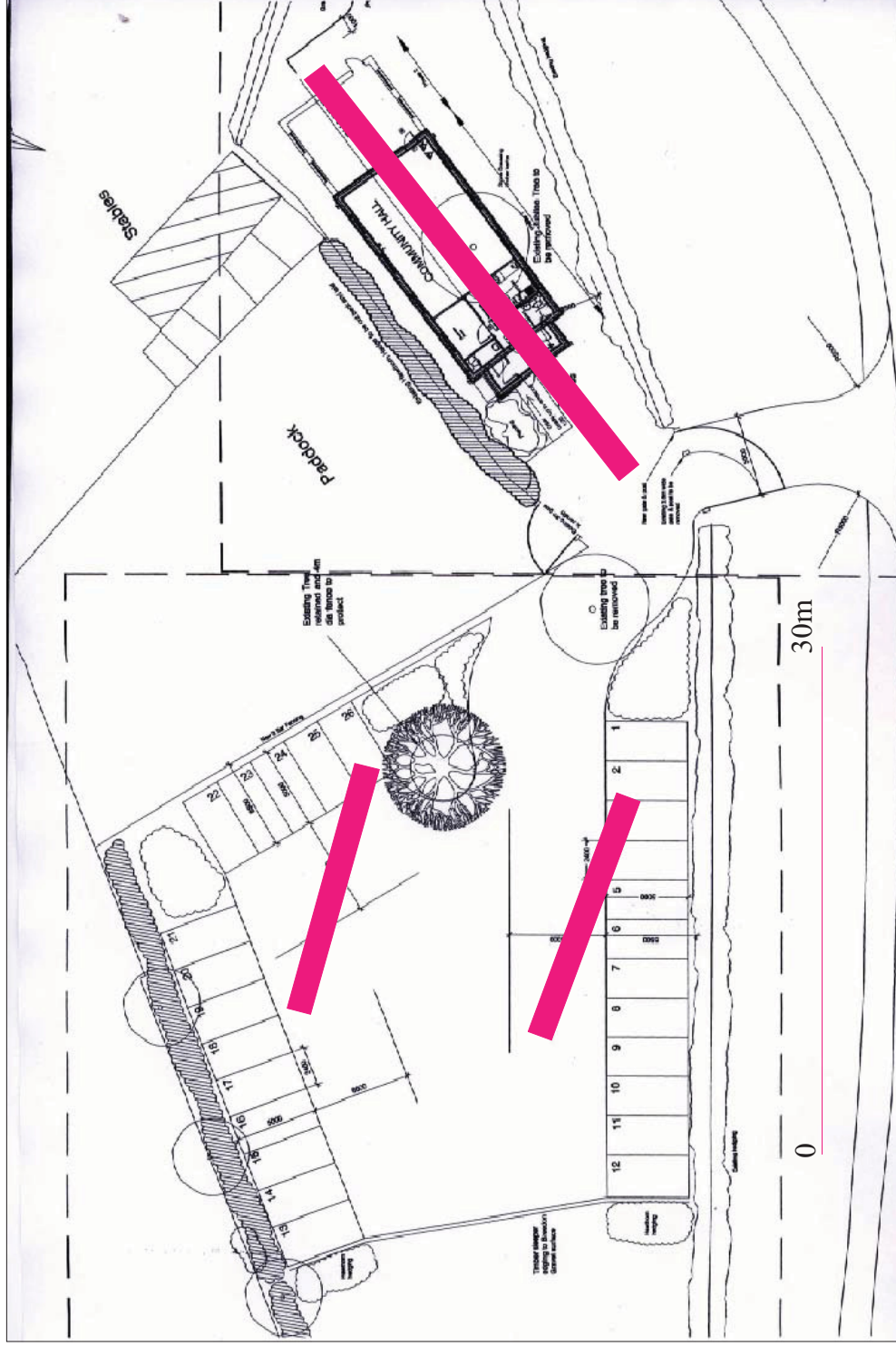


Fig. 2 Proposed trench layout in relation to development proposal