

**Archaeological Test-pitting at Tollgate Cottage,  
Bumblebee Lane, Highcross, Sharnford,  
Leicestershire (SP 471 888)**

**Greg Farnworth-Jones**

**Planning Application No. 06/0835/1/PX  
Planning Authority: Blaby District Council**

**Checked by Project Manager**

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**1. Summary**

*Archaeological test-pitting was carried out on land at Tollgate Cottage, Bumblebee Lane, Highcross, Sharnford, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 471 888), on the 23rd October 2006. This work was in advance of the proposed extension of the existing cottage. This work was carried out on behalf of the clients Mr and Mrs Shuttleworth and Savage Hayward Architects by University of Leicester Archaeological Services. A total of two 1x1m test-pits were excavated by hand. The results of which were negative. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services Section, accession number X.A117.2006.*

**2. Introduction**

**2.1** This document provides the results of archaeological exploratory works by test-pitting carried out on land at Tollgate Cottage, Bumblebee Lane, Highcross, Sharnford, Leicestershire (SP 471 888). The archaeological assessment was undertaken on behalf of Mr and Mrs Shuttleworth and Savage Hayward by University of Leicester Archaeological Services.

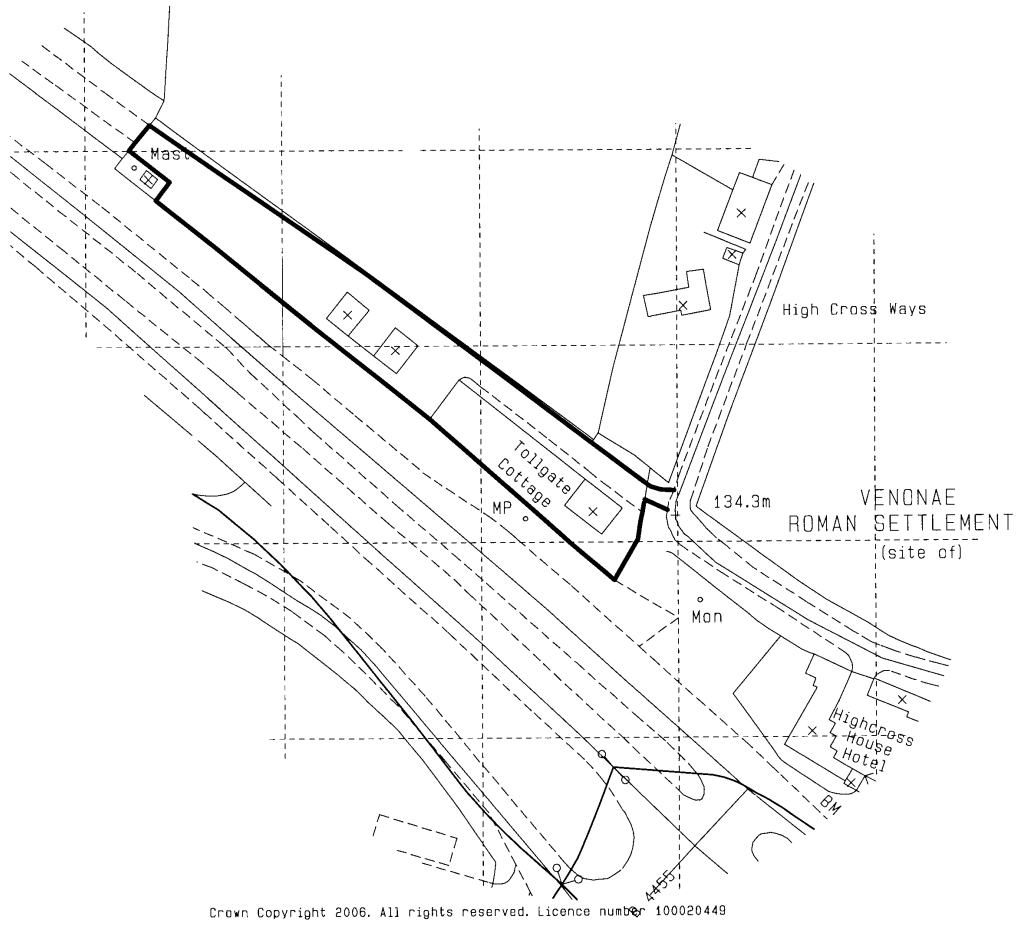
**2.2** The clients propose to build an extension to the existing cottage. The Senior Planning Archaeologist of the Historic and Natural Environment Team of Leicestershire County Council, in his capacity as archaeological adviser to the planning authority, requested that archaeological attendance during groundworks be carried out. To assess whether archaeological remains were likely to be present initially archaeological exploratory works, consisting of two 1m x 1m hand dug test pits to were excavated to provide a 5% sample.

**2.3** The site itself is an old tollgate cottage on Watling Street, Roman road and is adjacent to the site of the Roman settlement of Venonae, a scheduled ancient monument. There is therefore some potential for finds or deposits of a Roman date within the proposed development area.

**3. Site Background**

**3.1** The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 169 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of boulder clays. The proposed development area is fairly flat at a height of c.134.3m OD.

**3.2** The application area covers c. 40sq metres, within which is proposed the extension of the existing cottage at the front and rear of the property. .

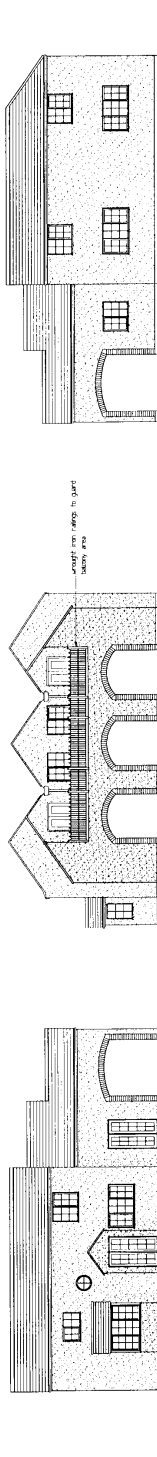


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 A R C H I T E C T S  
 19 Station Rd Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 1AW, 01455 635665, FAX: 01455 618971

Client	Mr & Mrs Shuttlewood		Drawing Site Location Plan			
Project	Proposed Extensions & Alterations Tollgate Cottage, Bumble Bee Lane Highcross	Auth	JEH	Date	May 2006	
		Scale	1 : 1250	Job No	06 / 58	
					Drawing No	02

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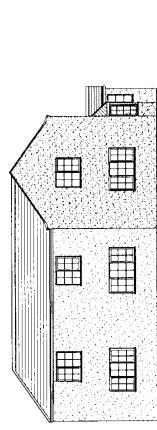
Figure 1 Site Location Plan



NORTH EAST ELEVATION

NORTH WEST ELEVATION

SOUTH WEST ELEVATION



SOUTH EAST ELEVATION

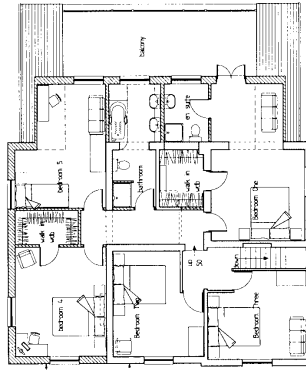


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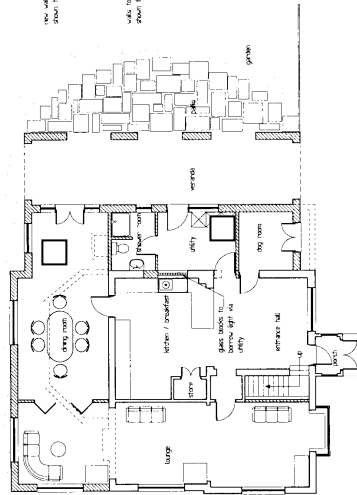
15, BUCKINGHAM SQUARE, LONDON, W1A 0AA

Client	Mr & Mrs Shuttlewood	Drawing No	03 e
Project	Proposed Extensions & Alterations, Tollgate Cottage, Bumblebee Lane, Highcross	Date	May 2006
Drawings	Sketch Scheme 2	Job No	06 / 58
Arch	JAF	Scale	1:100

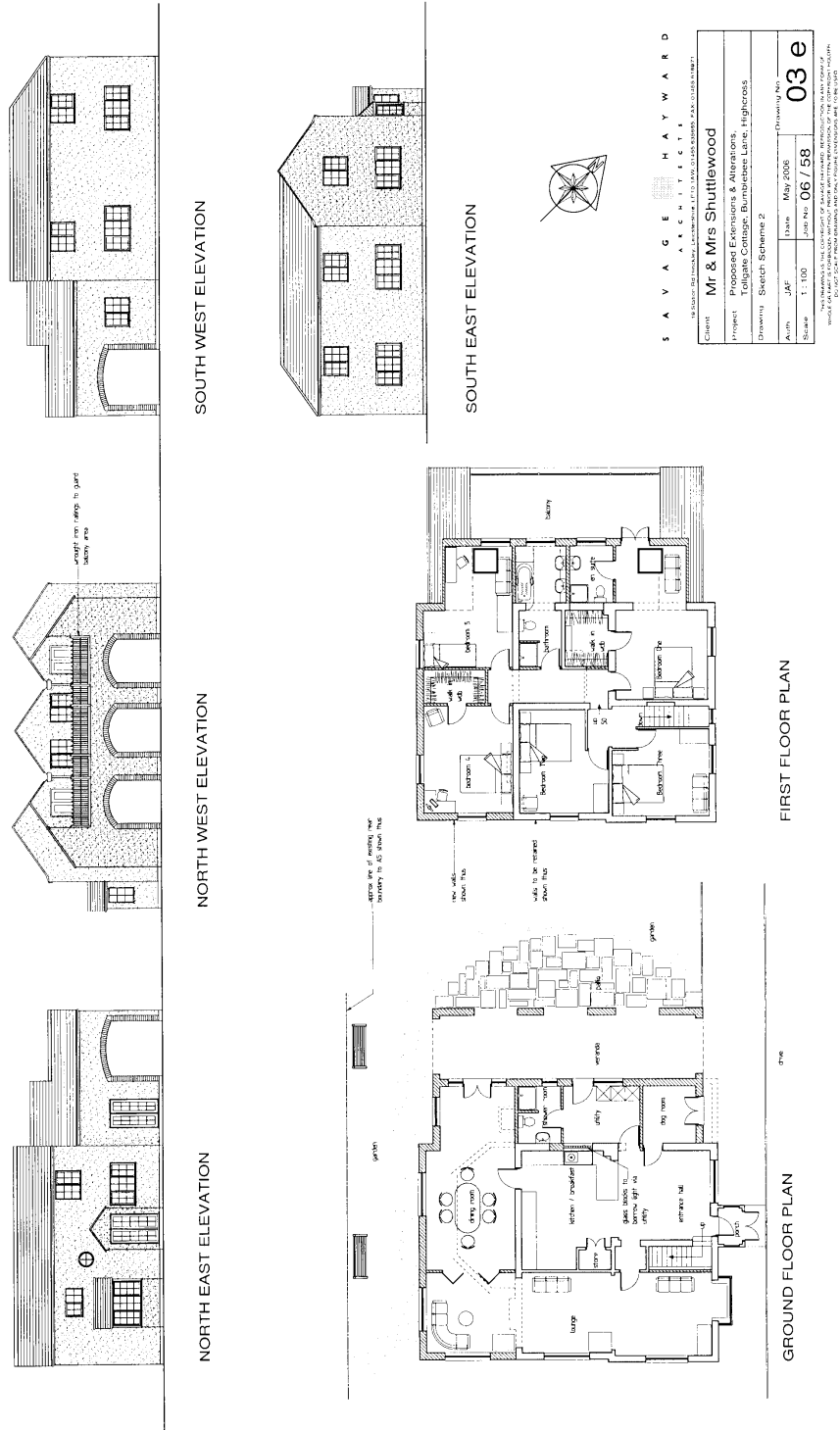
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FIRST FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



**S A V A G E A R C H I T E C T S**  
 10, BURNLEY ROAD, BURNLEY, LANCASHIRE, BURNLEY, LANCASHIRE, BURNLEY, LANCASHIRE

**Client:** Mr & Mrs Shuttlewood  
**Project:** Proposed Extensions & Alterations, Tollgate Cottage, Bumblebee Lane, Highcross  
**Drawings:** Sketch Scheme 2

Auth:	JAF	Date:	May 2006	Drawing No:	03 e
Scale:	1:100	Job Ref:	06 / 58		

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Figure 2 Plan of the proposed extension in relation to test pit locations

## 4. Methodology

4.1 All work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*.

4.2 The main objectives of the test-pitting was:

1. To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
2. To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
3. To produce an archive and report of any results.

4.3 The Senior Planning Archaeologist had requested that a *c.* 5 % sample of the area (*c.*40 sq metres) to be excavated where the extension is proposed. The work followed the *Design Specification for Archaeological work* approved by the Senior Planning Archaeologist as advisor to the planning authority (Clay, 2006). This comprised of two 1m x 1m hand dug trial pits. The exact location was defined by constraints of the area for trenching.

4.4 Topsoil was removed in level spits, down to the uppermost archaeological deposits or natural substratum. Trenches were excavated to the dimensions of 1m x 1m.

4.5 The test pits were the hand cleaned. Any archaeological deposits or significant natural deposits were to be planned at an appropriate scale and sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence. All plans have been tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Spot heights were taken as appropriate.

4.6 Sections were drawn as appropriate, including records of at least one face of each trench.

## 5. Results

### 5.1 Trench 1

#### Trench 1 Details

<i>Length of Trench</i>	1m
<i>Area of Trench</i>	1sq.m
<i>Surface Level (m OD)</i>	<i>c.</i> 134.3m OD
<i>Base of Trench (m OD)</i>	<i>c.</i> 133.45m OD
<i>Top of Natural (m OD)</i>	<i>c.</i> 133.45m OD

Trench one was located on the south western (rear) side of the property. Initial hand excavation revealed dark-grey brown, silt clay loam topsoil, down to a depth of *c.*0.35m. Below this excavation revealed mid-grey brown, silt clay upper subsoil to a depth of *c.*0.15m, which in turn revealed a second subsoil layer consisting of very silty clay to a further depth of *c.*0.3m. The natural substratum was reached at 0.85m

and consisted of yellow brown till (boulder clay). No archaeology was present within trench one, except for a modern service pipe seen in the eastern corner running from north to south.



Figure 3 Trench 1 facing South West

### **Trench 2 Details**

<i>Length of Trench</i>	1.2m
<i>Area of Trench</i>	1.08sq.m
<i>Surface Level (m OD)</i>	c.134.3m OD
<i>Base of Trench (m OD)</i>	c.133.8m OD
<i>Top of Natural (m OD)</i>	c.133.8m OD

Trench two was located to the north of trench one, located on the north-western side of Tollgate cottage

Initial hand excavation revealed topsoil, or overburden, to a depth of c.0.25m. This layer consisted of dark grey brown silt clay with high charcoal inclusions (>10%). Below this, the 'subsoil' was excavated which consisted of yellow/orange sand and charcoal flecks. This appeared to be part of a make up layer related to a modern disused sewer pipe that ran through the southern corner of the trench, orientated east-west. At a depth of 0.5m natural till (boulder clay) was reached. No archaeological features other than the modern disused sewer pipe were seen.





Figure 4 Trench 2 Facing North East

## 6 Conclusion

**6.1** Both of the trenches produced negative archaeological results, indicating low levels of archaeological activity on the site. .

## 8 Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the clients, Mr and Mrs Shuttleworth, for their assistance and co-operation on site. Patrick Clay, who managed the project and the fieldwork was carried out by the author, all of ULAS.

## 9 Bibliography

Clay, P., 2006 *Design Specification for archaeological evaluation, Tollgate Cottage, Bumblebee Lane, Highcross, Sharnford, Leicestershire (SP 471 888)* ULAS Ref. 07/554

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26.10.2006

## 10 Appendix - Design Specification

### UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

#### Design Specification for archaeological work

*Job title: Tollgate Cottage, Bumblebee Lane, Highcross, Sharnford, Leicestershire*

*NGR: SP 471 888*

*Client: Mr and Mrs Shuttleworth and Savage Hayward*

*Planning Authority: Blaby District Council*

*Planning application No. 06/0835/1/PX:*

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 *Definition and scope of the specification*

This document is a design specification for a phase of exploratory works 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.

### 2.1 *Context of the Project*

- 2.1.1 The site is located at Tollgate Cottage, Bumblebee Lane, Highcross, Sharnford, Leicestershire (NGR: SP471 888). The site comprises a garden surrounding a residential property.
- 2.1.2 Planning permission is being sought for an extension to an existing cottage.
- 2.1.3 Leicestershire County Council (LCC) as archaeological advisors to the planning authority have requested a programme of archaeological work in mitigation for the potential impact on any archaeological remains.

### 2.2 *Geological and Topographical Background*

- 2.2.1 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 169 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of boulder clay.

### 2.3 *Archaeological and Historical Background*

- 2.3.1 The application area is located close to the scheduled ancient monument of the Roman town of Highcross.

## 3 Archaeological Objectives

- 3.1 The main objectives of the exploratory works will be:
  - To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
  - To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
  - To produce an archive and report of any results.
- 3.2 Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation is to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.
- 3.3 Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

#### **4. Methodology**

##### **4.1 General Methodology and Standards**

- 4.1.1 All work will follow the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (1999).
- 4.1.2 Staffing, recording systems, health and safety provisions and insurance details are included below.
- 4.1.3 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site by the project manager. These will ensure that project targets are met and professional standards are maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with the Senior Planning Archaeologist the Planning authority and the Client.

##### **4.2 Trial trenching and test pitting methodology**

- 4.2.1 Prior to any machining of trial trenches general photographs of the site areas will be taken. A CAT scanner will be employed to attempt to locate underlying services.
- 4.2.2 Test pits will be hand excavated until the natural substratum is located or depth of one metre.
- 4.2.3 The test pits will be backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.
- 4.2.4 The application area covers *c.* 40 sq.m. Two 1m x 1m hand dug test pits will be excavated to assess the potential for archaeological deposits to provide a 5% sample. Additional test pits may be excavated if necessary. The exact location of the test pits may need to be modified depending on constraints on site.
- 4.2.5 Test pits will be examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located will be planned at an appropriate scale and sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence. All plans will be tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.
- 4.2.6 Sections of any excavated archaeological features will be drawn at an appropriate scale. At least one longitudinal face of each trench will be recorded. All sections will be levelled and tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum, or a permanent fixed bench mark.
- 4.2.7 Trench locations will be recorded using an electronic distance measurer. These will then be tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.
- 4.2.8 Any human remains will initially be left *in situ* and will only be removed if necessary for their protection, under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations.

##### **4.3 Recording Systems**

- 4.3.1 The ULAS recording manual will be used as a guide for all recording.
- 4.3.2 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto pro-forma recording sheets.
- 4.3.3 A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a trench plan at appropriate scale, which will show the location of the areas investigated in relationship to the investigation area and OS grid.
- 4.3.4 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made. Sections including the half-sections of individual layers of features will be drawn as necessary, typically at a scale of 1:10. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be recorded.
- 4.3.5 A photographic record of the investigations will be prepared illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.
- 4.3.6 This record will be compiled and checked during the course of the excavations.

#### **5. Finds and Samples**

- 5.1 The IFA *Guidelines for Finds Work* will be adhered to.
- 5.2 Before commencing work on the site, a Site code/Accession number will be agreed with the Planning Archaeologist that will be used to identify all records and finds from the site.
- 5.3 During the fieldwork, different sampling strategies may be employed according to the perceived importance of the strata under investigation. Close attention will always be given to sampling for date, structure and environment. If significant archaeological features are sample excavated, the environmental sampling strategy is likely to include the following:
- i. A range of features to represent all feature types, areas and phases will be selected on a judgmental basis. The criteria for selection will be that deposits are datable, well sealed and with little intrusive or residual material.
  - ii. Any buried soils or well sealed deposits with concentrations of carbonised material present will be intensively sampled taking a known proportion of the deposit.
  - iii. Spot samples will be taken where concentrations of environmental remains are located.
  - iv. Waterlogged remains, if present, will be sampled for pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and radiocarbon dating provided that they are uncontaminated and datable. Consultation with the specialist will be undertaken.
- 5.4 All identified finds and artefacts are to be retained, although certain classes of building material will, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording with the approval of the Senior Planning Archaeologist. The IFA *Guidelines for Finds Work* will be adhered to.
- 5.5 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner. Where appropriate they will be cleaned, marked and receive remedial conservation in accordance with recognised best-practice. This will include the site code number, finds number and context number. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self sealing plastic bags, again marked with site code, finds and context numbers and boxed by material in standard storage boxes (340mm x 270mm x 195mm). All materials will be fully labelled, catalogued and stored in appropriate containers.

## **6. Report and Archive**

- 6.1 The full report in A4 format will usually follow within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and copies will be dispatched to the Client, Senior Planning Archaeologist; SMR and Local Planning Authority.
- 6.2 The report will include consideration of:-
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
  - The nature, location, extent, date, significance and quality of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
  - The anticipated degree of survival of archaeological deposits.
  - The anticipated archaeological impact of the current proposals.
  - Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
  - Summary.
  - The location and size of the archive.
  - A quantitative and qualitative assessment of the potential of the archive for further analysis leading to full publication, following guidelines laid down in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage).
- 6.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in *The Guidelines For The Preparation Of Excavation Archives For Long-Term Storage* (UKIC 1990), and *Standards In The Museum: Care Of Archaeological Collections* (MGC 1992) and *Guidelines for the Preparation of Site Archives and Assessments for all Finds* (other than fired clay objects) (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993) will usually be presented to within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

## **7 Publication and Dissemination of Results**

- 7.1 A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*. A larger report will be submitted for inclusion if the results of the evaluation warrant it.

## **8. Acknowledgement and Publicity**

- 8.1 ULAS shall acknowledge the contribution of the Client in any displays, broadcasts or publications relating to the site or in which the report may be included.
- 8.2 ULAS and the Client shall each ensure that a senior employee shall be responsible for dealing with any enquiries received from press, television and any other broadcasting media and members of the public. All enquiries made to ULAS shall be directed to the Client for comment.

## **9. Copyright**

- 9.1 The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

## **10. Timetable**

- 10.1 The test pits are scheduled to start during w.c 23.10.2006 with one member of staff.
- 10.2 An interim report will be provided, following a verbal summary, immediately following the completion of fieldwork. The on-site director/supervisor will carry out the post-excavation work, with time allocated within the costing of the project for analysis of any artefacts found on the site by the relevant in-house specialists at ULAS.

## **11. Health and Safety**

- 11.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Archaeological Services Health and Safety Policy and Health and Safety manual with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is attached as Appendix 1. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate. The HSE has determined that archaeological investigations are exempt from CDM regulations.
- 11.2 A Risks assessment will be completed prior to work commencing on-site, and updated as necessary during the site works.

## **12. Insurance**

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

## **13. Monitoring arrangements**

- 13.1 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and Planning Archaeologist subject to the health and safety requirements of the site. At least one weeks notice will be given to the LCC 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.

## **15. Bibliography**

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

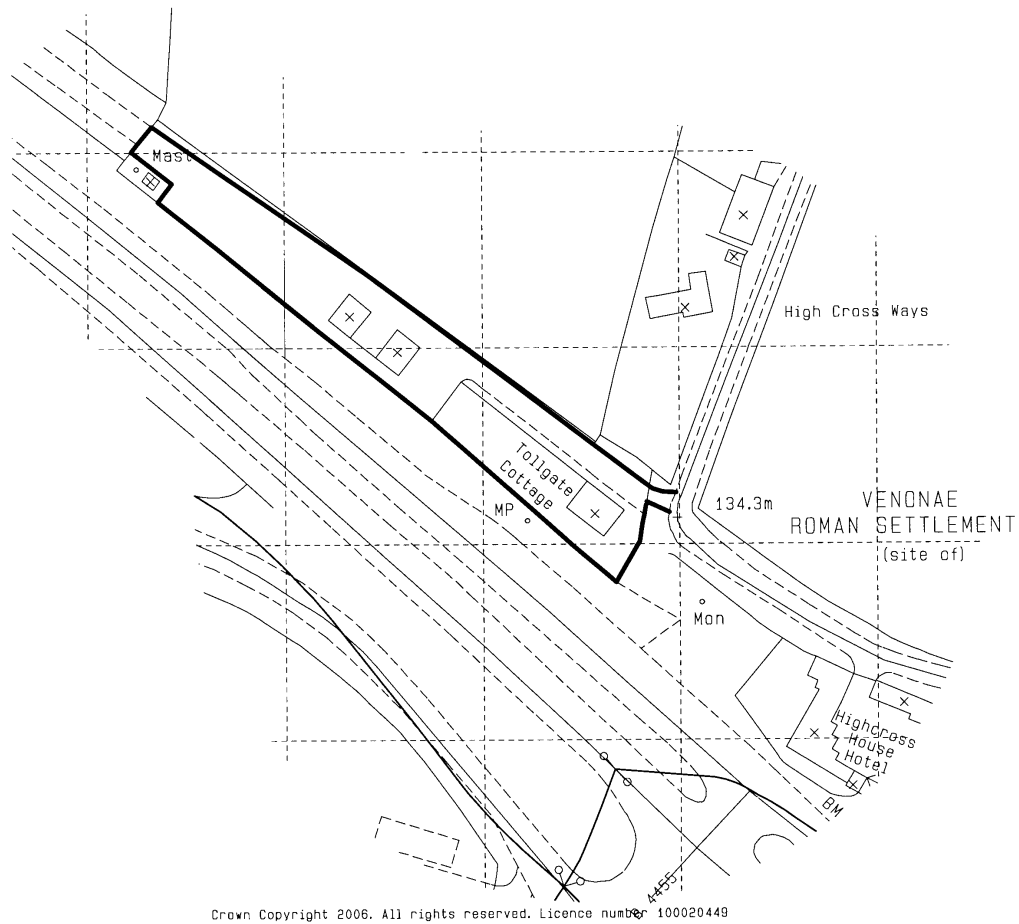
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Figure 1. Plan of the application area



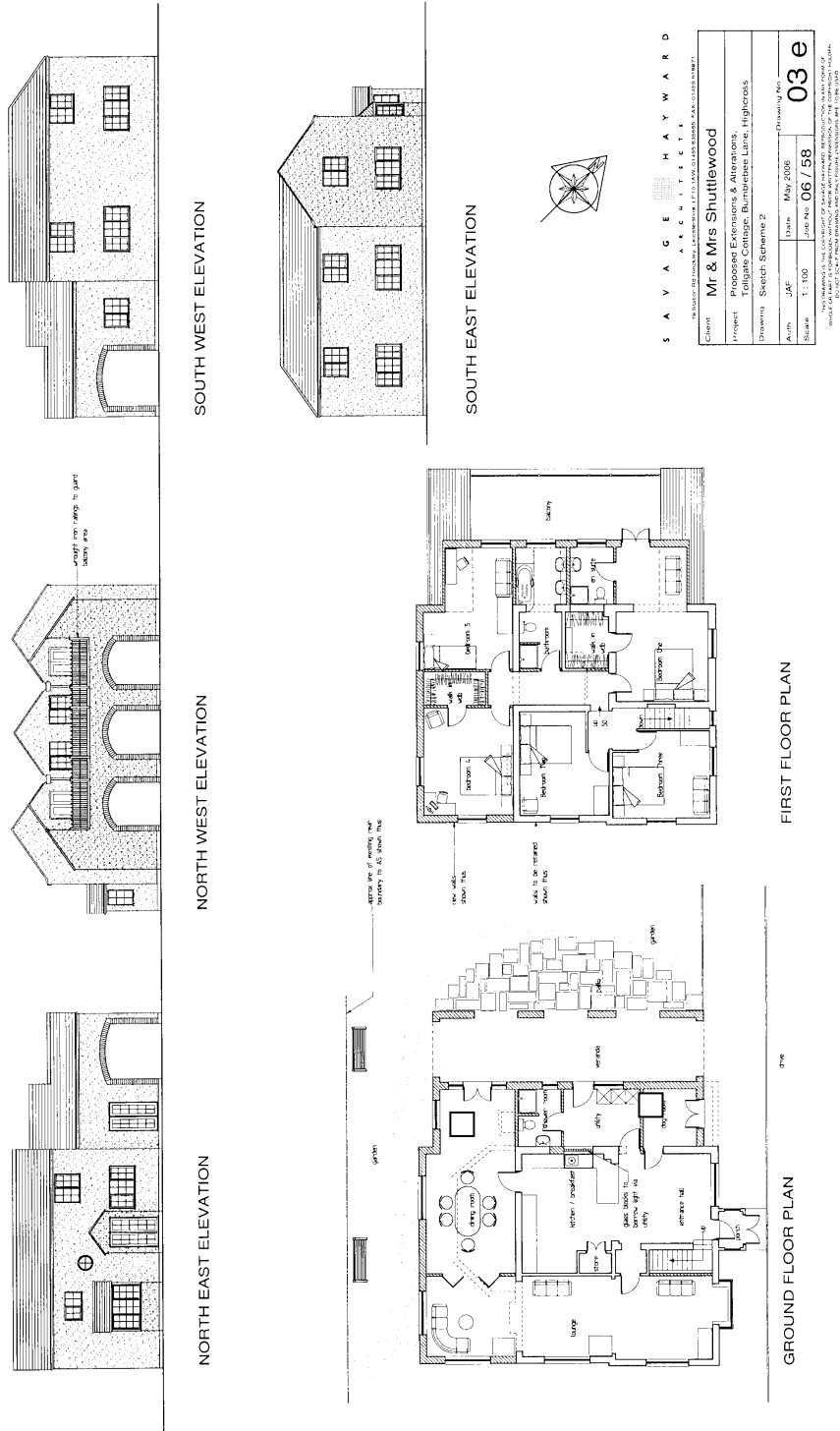


Fig. 2 Plan of extension with proposed test pit locations

## APPENDIX 1

### Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

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

#### 1. Nature of the work

##### 1.1 Brief description of the work involved e.g.

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

#### 2 Risks Assessment

##### 2.1 *Working on an excavation site.*

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

##### 2.2 *Working with plant.*

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

##### 2.3 *Working within areas prone to waterlogging.*

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

##### 2.4 *Working with chemicals.*

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

##### 2.5 *Other risks*

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