

**Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Ashacre,
Berridges Lane, Husbands Bosworth,
Leicestershire (SP 642 846)**

Greg Farnworth-Jones

**Planning Application No. 05/01876/3
Planning Authority: Harborough District Council**

Checked by Project Manager

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1. Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at Ashacre, Berridges Lane, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire (SP 642846) on the 7th-9th August 2006. This work was in advance of the proposed construction of 24 dwellings and an access road. This work was carried out on behalf of Barry Howard Homes Ltd. by University of Leicester Archaeological Services. A total of six evaluation trenches were excavated which revealed three pits of Late/post-medieval date, a ditch of unknown date and two postholes of possible late medieval date. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services Section, accession number X.A96.2006.

2. Introduction

2.1 This document constitutes the second stage of archaeological assessment to have been carried out on land at Ashacre, Berridges Lane, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire (SP 642846). The archaeological assessment was undertaken on behalf of Barry Howard Homes Ltd. by University of Leicester Archaeological Services.

2.2 Barry Howard Homes Ltd. propose to develop an area of c.5600sq metres of land at Ashacre, Berridges Lane, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire to the construction of 24 dwellings and demolition of the extant building. 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 a preliminary archaeological assessment of the site area be carried out. The assessment was to be undertaken in two stages, the first an archaeological desk-based assessment, which was previously carried out by ULAS (George and Clay, 2006), and a second stage of archaeological trial trench evaluation following the results of the desk-based assessment.

2.3 The desk-based assessment indicated that the site is located within the SMR site of the historic core of the medieval village of Husbands Bosworth, although none of the development area fronts on to a known medieval street. Various medieval sites and post-medieval sites are located relatively close to the development site. There is therefore some potential for finds or deposits of a medieval date within the proposed development area.

2.4 Map evidence indicates that the site has seen little development in the 19th and mid-20th century. If present, archaeological remains are likely to be relatively well preserved and close to the surface.

2.5 In summary, the area has some potential for containing archaeological remains of a medieval or post-medieval date and unknown potential for remains of earlier periods.

3. Site Background

3.1 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 170 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of boulder clays. The proposed development area is fairly flat at a height of *c.*159m OD.

3.2 The development area consists of an area of *c.*5600sq metres, within which is proposed the construction of 24 dwellings and demolition of the extant building.

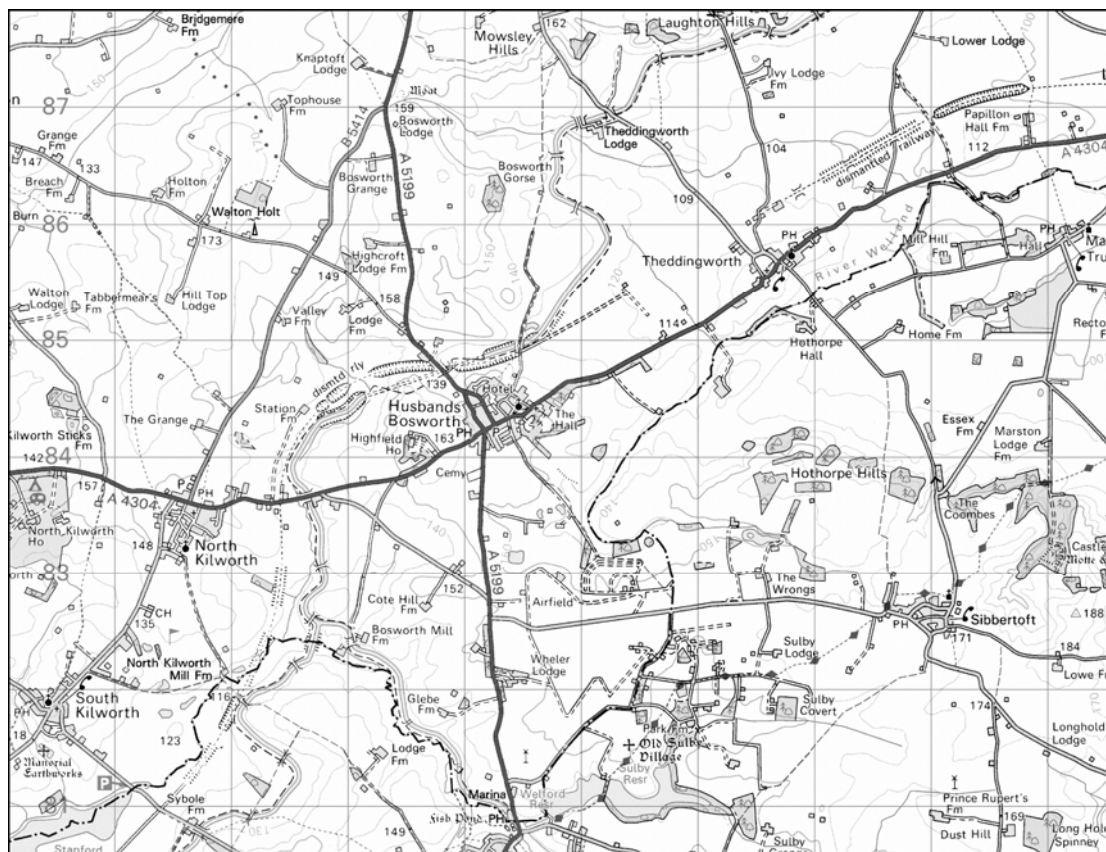


Fig. 1 Site location Scale 1:50000

Reproduced from the OS map Landranger 140 Leicester area 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 1996. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 10002186.

Archaeologist as advisor to the planning authority (Clay, 2006). This comprised six 30m x 1.5m trenches totalling c.285 sq m. The exact location was defined by constraints of the area for trenching.

4.4 Topsoil/modern overburden was removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision, down to the uppermost archaeological deposits by JCB 3C using a toothless ditching bucket. Trenches were excavated to a width of 1.6m.

4.5 Trenches were examined by appropriate hand cleaning. Any archaeological deposits or significant natural deposits were 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 longitudinal face of each trench.

4.7 Trench locations were recorded using an electronic distance measurer and tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

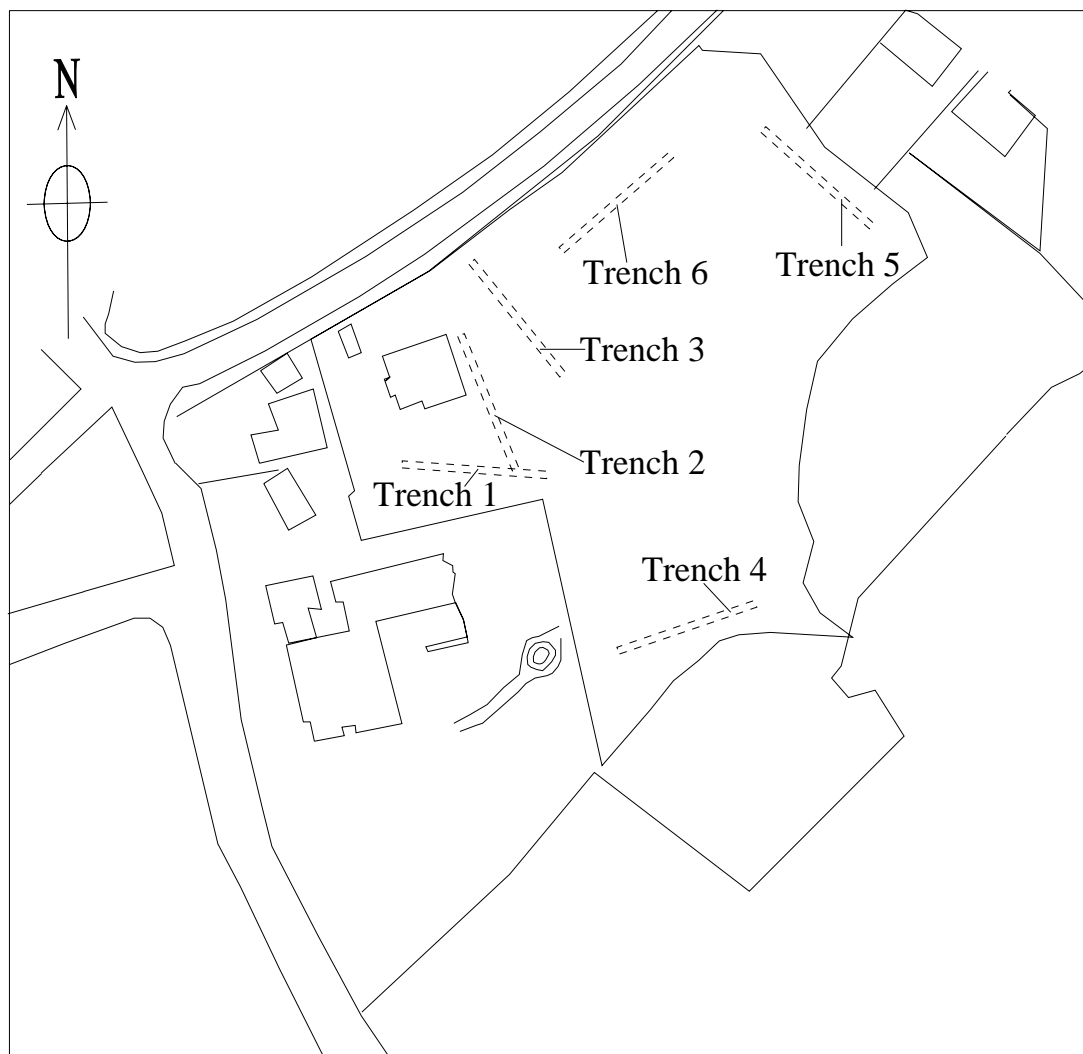


Figure 3 – Trench Location Plan

5. Results

5.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 Details

<i>Length of Trench</i>	30m
<i>Area of Trench</i>	48sq.m
<i>Surface Level (m OD)</i>	c.159m OD
<i>Base of Trench (m OD)</i>	c.158.4m OD (min), 157.7m OD (max).
<i>Top of Natural (m OD)</i>	c.158.5m OD (min), 157.9m OD (max).

Trench one was located on the west of the site orientated west to east (Fig.3). Initial machining revealed mid-grey brown, clay silt topsoil, down to a depth of c.0.5m. Below this machining revealed mid-light grey brown, friable clay silt subsoil to a further depth of c.0.3m. Below this layer subsoil was observed consisting of slightly gravely orange and blue clay and ironstone gravel. No archaeology was present within trench one, except for three modern land drains running from south to north.

Trench 2 Details

<i>Length of Trench</i>	26m
<i>Area of Trench</i>	41.6sq.m
<i>Surface Level (m OD)</i>	c.159m OD
<i>Base of Trench (m OD)</i>	c.158m OD (min), 157.6m OD (max).
<i>Top of Natural (m OD)</i>	c.158.5m OD (min), 157.9m OD (max).

Trench two was located to the northwest of trench one, orientated NE-SW and adjoining trench one at a right angle. This was due to on site access restrictions (Fig.3).

Initial machining revealed similar topsoil to that observed in trench one, to a depth of c.0.5m. Below this layer was observed subsoil similar to that observed in trench one, also to a depth of 0.5m.

At a depth of 1.2m and measuring 7.8m from the northern end of the trench, was located a pit -cut [3], fill (4), measuring 1.85m in diameter and 0.6m deep. Fill (4) consisted of firm orangey brown silt clay (20:80), with occasional small rounded stones and charcoal flecks. Fill (4) also contained articulated animal leg bones and feet. Located at 8m from the northern end of the trench, at a depth of 1.2m was located pit - [1], (2). It measured 1.35m long by 0.7m wide and measured 0.16m in depth. The fill (2), consisted of firm grey brown silt clay, with charcoal flecks and occasional rounded stones and contained animal long bones.

At 18.5m from the northern end of the trench at a depth of 1.4m, was located a ditch cut - [7], fill (8), orientated east-west and measuring 1.55m long (excavated), 0.75m wide and 0.5m deep. The fill consisted of firm grey brown silt clay with charcoal

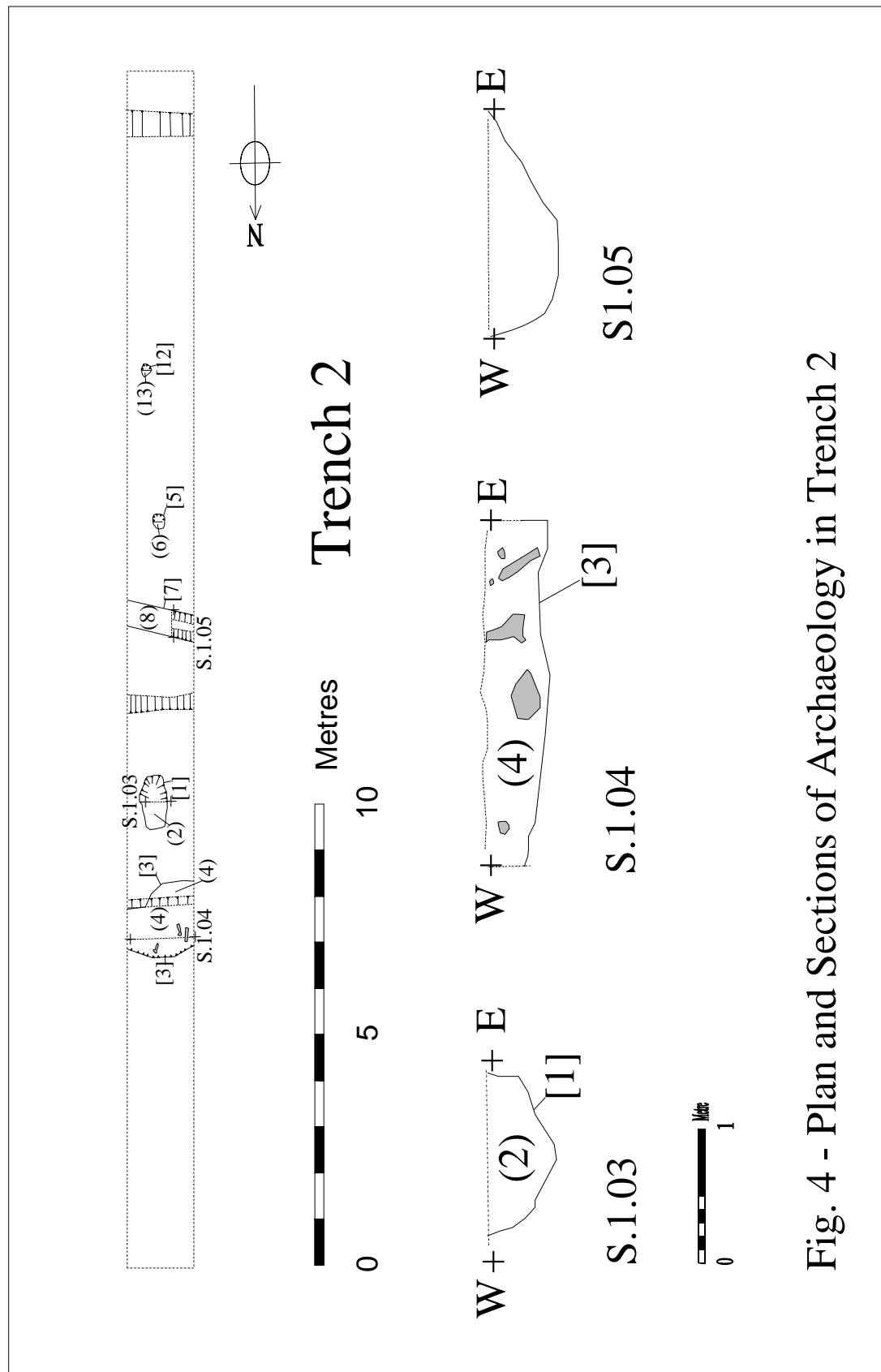


Fig. 4 - Plan and Sections of Archaeology in Trench 2

flecks and occasional small rounded stones. There were no finds recovered from the fill (8).

Located at 17.25m from the northern end of the trench, at a depth of 1m was located a possible post-hole - cut [5], fill (6) measuring 0.3m in diameter, with a depth of 0.04m. The fill (6) consisted of loose, grey brown (with orange flecks) silt clay and contained no finds.

At 18.6m from the northern end of the trench, at a depth of 1m was located another possible posthole-cut [12], fill (13) which measured 0.2m in diameter and was 0.05m deep. Fill (13) was identical to (6) and also contained no finds.

Trench 3 Details

<i>Length of Trench</i>	30m
<i>Area of Trench</i>	48sq.m
<i>Surface Level (m OD)</i>	c.159m OD
<i>Base of Trench (m OD)</i>	c.158.2m OD (min), 158m OD (max).
<i>Top of Natural (m OD)</i>	c.158.45m OD (min), 158m OD (max).

Trench three was located to the north-west of trench two, orientated NS-EW (Fig 3). Initial machining revealed a mid-dark grey brown, friable clay silt topsoil, with occasional small rounded stones, to a depth of c.0.45m. Beneath the topsoil, machining revealed light orangey brown clay silt subsoil, with occasional small rounded stones, to a depth of c.0.35m. Natural was observed as light orange gravel clay and light silvery-blue clay. No archaeology was present in trench three.

Trench 4 Details

<i>Length of Trench</i>	30m
<i>Area of Trench</i>	48sq.m
<i>Surface Level (m OD)</i>	c.159m OD
<i>Base of Trench (m OD)</i>	c.158.6m OD (min), 157.7m OD (max).
<i>Top of Natural (m OD)</i>	c.158.6m OD (min), 157.7m OD (max).

Trench four was located to the south of trench 3, on the southern edge of the site orientated SW-NE, due to sever access restrictions on site.

Initial machining revealed light grey gritty clay silt topsoil, with occasional sub-angular stones, to a depth of c. 0.45m. Beneath the topsoil was revealed light yellowish brown friable gritty clay silt with occasional sub angular stones, to a depth of c. 0.35m. Natural was reached at a depth of c.0.8m and consisted of light orange gravel clay. No archaeological deposits were present in trench four.

Trench 5 Details

<i>Length of Trench</i>	30m
<i>Area of Trench</i>	48sq.m
<i>Surface Level (m OD)</i>	c.159m OD
<i>Base of Trench (m OD)</i>	c.157.4m OD (min), 157.7m OD (max).
<i>Top of Natural (m OD)</i>	c.158.73m OD (min), 157.7m OD (max).

Trench five was located to the north-east of trench four, on the north-western edge of the site and was orientated NW-SE.

Initial machining revealed mid-dark grey brown loose clay silt topsoil, containing occasional rounded stones, to a depth of c.0.35m. Below the topsoil layer was uncovered firm mid-grey brown silt clay subsoil, to a depth of c.0.65m. Below the subsoil was revealed mid orange gravel clay. No archaeology was located in trench 5.

Trench 6 Details

<i>Length of Trench</i>	30m
<i>Area of Trench</i>	48sq.m
<i>Surface Level (m OD)</i>	c.159m OD
<i>Base of Trench (m OD)</i>	c.157.9m OD (min), 157.3m OD (max)
<i>Top of Natural (m OD)</i>	c.158m OD (min), 157.3m OD (max).

Trench six was located to the west of trench five, along the northern edge of the site, orientated SW-NE. Machining revealed mid-greyish brown soft clay silt with occasional rounded stones, to a depth of c.0.3m. Below this, a subsoil layer was unearthed consisting of light grey-brown soft silt clay, with occasional rounded stones to a depth of c.0.4m. Beneath this layer natural was reached which consisted of light orange clay and silvery blue clay. No archaeology was present in trench six.

6 Discussion

6.1 The archaeology uncovered in trench two indicated archaeological activity at Ashacre, on the north-western area of the site, nearest to the road of Berridges Lane, seemingly dating to the late medieval / post-medieval period. Postholes [12] and [5] could be related to garden boundaries, in the late-medieval/early post-medieval period. Ditch [7], (8), could potentially be a field boundary ditch dating to the medieval period. Pits [1] and [3] both contained late medieval pottery and large quantities of articulated animal bone, suggesting rubbish pits, possibly relating to industrial processes such as leather tanning.

7 Conclusion

7.1 Trenches one, three, four and five all produced negative archaeological results, indicating low levels of archaeological activity on the site. Trench two did however produce archaeological features which included two pits, two possible post holes and a ditch, all of which dated to the Late-medieval/post medieval period.

8 Archive

8.1 The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services Section, accession number X.A96.2006.

9 Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the clients, Barry Howard Homes Ltd., for their assistance and co-operation on site. Patrick Clay, who managed the project and the fieldwork was carried out by the author with the assistance of Dan Prior, all of ULAS.

10 Bibliography

Clay, P., 2006 *Design Specification for archaeological evaluation Ashacre, Berridges Lane, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire (SP 642 846)* ULAS Ref. 06/582

Marsden, P., 2002 *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for land at Ashacre, Berridges Lane, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire (SP 642 846)* Leicestershire (SK 537 194) ULAS Ref. 2006-010

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11 Appendix:-Design Specification

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Job title: Ashacre, Berridges Lane, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire

NGR: SP 642 846

Client: Barry Howard Homes Ltd

Planning Authority: Harborough District Council

Planning application No. 05/01876/3

1 Introduction

1.1 Definition and scope of the specification

This document is a design specification for an initial phase of 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.

2. Background

2.1 Context of the Project

- 2.1.1 The site is located to the rear of Ashacre, Berrides lane, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire (SP 642 846. The site comprises a house and garden area.
- 2.1.2 Planning permission has been granted subject to conditions for the construction of 24 dwellings and access road.
- 2.1.3 Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services (LCCHS) as archaeological advisors to the planning authority have requested a field evaluation by trial trenching to identify and locate any archaeological remains of significance and propose suitable treatment to avoid or minimise damage by the development. This requirement is detailed in their letter of 20.1.2006 and 16.2.2006 to HDC (Appendix 2).

2.2 Geological and Topographical Background

- 2.2.1 The underlying geology is likely to consist of boulder clay with over and underlying sands and gravels.

2.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.3.1 A desk-based assessment has been prepared for the area (ULAS Report 2006-010). The site is located within the medieval historic core of Husbands Bosworth and therefore may have archaeological remains surviving.

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 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 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 Topsoil/modern overburden will be removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision, down to the uppermost archaeological deposits by JCB 3C or equivalent using a toothless ditching bucket. Trenches will be excavated to a width of 1.5m and down to the top of archaeological deposits.
- 4.2.3 The trenches will be backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.
- 4.2.4 The application area covers c. 5600 sq metres. A c. 5% sample of the area of impact is proposed, the equivalent of six 30m x 1.5m trenches totaling c. 285 sq m. (Figs 1). The exact location of the trenches may need to be modified depending on constraints on site.
- 4.2.5 Trenches 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 evaluation is scheduled to start in March 2006 with two staff. Further staff will be added if archaeological remains are discovered.
- 10.2 The report will be ready within three weeks of 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 LCCHS 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 event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the project, ULAS shall inform the site agent/project manager, Client and the Planning Archaeologist and Planning Authority and prepare a short written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement an amended scheme of investigation on behalf of the client as appropriate.

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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Fig 1 Proposed trench plan

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 1.0m 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 Vialls disease or similar.

2.4 *Working with chemicals.*

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

2.5 *Other risks*

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

Appendix 2

FAO Ms Emily Maples
Harborough District Council
Council Offices
Adam and Eve Street
Market Harborough
Leicestershire
LE16 7AG

Date: 11 July 2007
My ref: CL1243/LG
Your ref: 05/01876/FUL
Contact: Lucy Griffin
Phone: 0116 2656217
Fax: 0116 2657965
Email: lgriffin@leics.gov.uk

Dear Emily,

Planning Permission: 05/01876/FUL: Demolition of existing disused house and workshop and erection of 24 dwellings, etc.: Ashacre, Hunters Close, Husbands Bosworth

Thank you for your recent consultation and the amended plans for the above proposal.

The site lies within the historic core of Husbands Bosworth and part of the site lies within the former grounds of Bosworth House. Various medieval and post-medieval sites are known within the vicinity and a recent desk-based assessment (DBA) of the site concludes that there is “some potential for finds or deposits of a medieval and post-medieval date and unknown potential for earlier periods” (ULAS 2006/010).

The proposed development, including the removal of any overburden, is likely to have a detrimental impact upon any buried archaeological remains present. Further assessment is required, secured by condition upon any approved planning application. This will clarify the archaeological potential and the impact of the proposed development and enable the preparation of an appropriate archaeological mitigation scheme.

As such, a two- phase scheme of investigation is proposed, beginning with exploratory trial trenching. This is likely to be followed by area excavation of any significant archaeological remains. The Archaeology Section will provide a formal Brief for the work at the applicant’s request.

The applicant should if planning permission is granted also obtain a suitable written Specification and costing for the archaeological recording, from an archaeological organisation acceptable to the planning authority, and submit the Specification to this Archaeology Section as archaeological advisers to your authority, for approval before the start of development.

The Specification should comply with the above mentioned Brief, with this Department’s “Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland” and with relevant Institute of Field Archaeologists “Standards” and “Code of Practice”. It should include a suitable indication of arrangements for the implementation of the archaeological work, and the proposed timetable for the development.

I therefore recommend that any planning permission be granted subject to the following planning condition, to safeguard any important archaeological remains potentially present:

- 1 No development shall take place within the application area until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of

investigation which has been submitted and approved in writing by the planning authority.

Reason: To ensure satisfactory archaeological investigation and recording.

This condition is as advised in paragraph 55 of DoE Circular 11/95. The “Programme of Work” referred to in the recommended condition will in this case be a staged programme of archaeological investigation and recording, commencing with a desk-based assessment and trial trenching to be undertaken in advance of the start of development. All archaeological work shall be undertaken in accordance with a Brief prepared by this section and an approved Written Scheme of Investigation.

The Historic & Natural Environment Team (HNET), Leicestershire County Council Archaeology Section, as advisors to the planning authority, will monitor the archaeological work, to ensure that the necessary programme of archaeological work is undertaken to the satisfaction of the planning authority.

Should you or the applicant have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Lucy Griffin
Planning Archaeologist
Leicestershire County Council