



UNIVERSITY OF  
**LEICESTER**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Watching Brief on land Evaluation on land off Medbourne Road, Slawston, Leicestershire, LE16 7UP**

**NGR: SP 78033 94122**

**Claire Brown**



**ULAS Report No 2019-075**

**©2019**

**Site Name:** Land OS 0002, Medbourne Road, Slawston, Leicestershire, LE16 7UP

**Grid Ref:** SP 78033 94122

**Author:** Claire Brown

**Client:** Mrs Helen Smith

**Planning Ref.** 18/00547/FUL & 19/00745/NMA

**ULAS Report Number:** 2019-075

**Accession Number:** X.A.35.2019

<b>Filename/Version</b>	<b>Checked by</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Draft</b>	<b>Vicki Score</b>	<b>17/6/2019</b>

*This Report has been prepared solely for the person/party and project for which it has been commissioned and should not be relied upon or used by any other person/party or for any other project without the written consent of ULAS. No part of this report is to be copied in any way without prior written consent. While every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, however, ULAS cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies contained within this report*

University of Leicester, Archaeological Services,  
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH  
Tel: (0116) 2522848  
[www.le.ac.uk/ulas](http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas)

© ULAS 2019

## OASIS RECORD

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>	<b>Oasis No</b>	universil-354702		
	<b>Project Name</b>	An archaeological watching brief on land (OS 0002) Medbourne Road, Slawston, Leicestershire, LE16 7UP		
	<b>Start/end dates</b>	30/05/2019		
	<b>Previous/Future Work</b>	None		
	<b>Project Type</b>	Watching Brief		
	<b>Site Status</b>	None		
	<b>Current Land Use</b>	Pasture		
	<b>Monument Type/Period</b>	None		
	<b>Significant Finds/Period</b>	None		
	<b>Reason for Investigation</b>	NPPF		
	<b>Position in the Planning Process</b>	Planning condition		
<b>Planning Ref.</b>	18/00547/FUL& 19/00745/NMA			
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	<b>County</b>	Leicestershire		
	<b>Site Address/Postcode</b>	Land OS 0002, Medbourne Road, Slawston, LE16 7UP		
	<b>Study Area</b>	15.24m x 6.70m, 1		
	<b>Site Coordinates</b>	SP 78033 94122		
	<b>Height OD</b>	100m aOD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	ULAS		
	<b>Project Brief Originator</b>	Harborough District Council		
	<b>Project Design Originator</b>	ULAS		
	<b>Project Manager</b>	Vicki Score		
	<b>Project Director/Supervisor</b>	Claire Brown		
	<b>Sponsor/Funding Body</b>	Mrs Helen Smith		
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVE</b>		<b>Physical</b>	<b>Digital</b>	<b>Paper</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	LCC Museum service	LCC Museum service	LCC Museum service
	<b>ID (Acc. No.)</b>	X.A35.2019	X.A35.2019	X.A35.2019
	<b>Contents</b>	None	Photographs	Report/ Photo Record/ Trench Sheets
<b>PROJECT BIBLIOGRA PHY</b>	<b>Type</b>	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	<b>Description</b>	Developer Report A4 pdf		
	<b>Title</b>	An archaeological watching brief on land OS 0002, Medbourne Road, Slawston, Leicestershire (SP78033 94122)		
	<b>Author</b>	Brown, C		
	<b>Other bibliographic details</b>	ULAS Report No 2019-075		
	<b>Date</b>	2019		
	<b>Publisher/Place</b>	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester		

## Contents

Summary .....	4
Introduction.....	4
Location and Geology.....	6
Historical and Archaeological Background .....	8
Archaeological Objectives .....	8
Research Objectives .....	8
Methodology .....	10
Results.....	11
Discussion and Conclusion .....	11
Archive and publication.....	13
Acknowledgements.....	13
Bibliography .....	13

## Figures

Figure 1: Site Location.....	5
Figure 2: Location of site in relation to Slawston. (Google earth image, accessed 2019).....	5
Figure 3: Location of proposed development. Plan provided by client. ....	6
Figure 4: Proposed site layout. Plan provided by client. ....	7
Figure 5: Plan & elevations of proposed classroom. Plan provided by client. ....	7
Figure 6: Geophysical Survey of the area done by the HFWG in 2018 and 2019. Top = Greyscale, Bottom Interpretation. Green = ridge and furrow. Pink = modern disturbance.....	9
Figure 7: Excavation underway. Looking north-east.....	10
Figure 8: Site fully stripped. Looking north west. ....	11
Figure 9: View of the stripped area, looking south-west. (Shape of the area distorted in the composite photograph but furrows visible.) .....	12

## **An archaeological watching brief on Land OS 0002, Medbourne Road, Slawston, Leicestershire, (SP 78033 94122)**

**Claire Brown**

### **Summary**

*This document is a fieldwork report for an archaeological watching brief, carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land at OS 00002, Medbourne Road, Slawston, Leicestershire, LE16 7UP in advance of the construction of a classroom.*

*The development site consisted of an area of pasture field west of Medbourne Road to the south of Slawston village, within an area of ridge and furrow medieval earthworks associated with medieval fields of Slawston.*

*Geophysical survey of the field carried out in 2018-2019 produced no evidence for archaeological features.*

*The area of the classroom, 15.24m x 6.7m was stripped under archaeological supervision and apart from signs of residual ridge and furrow, no archaeological remains were identified.*

*The archive for the site will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A.35.2019.*

### **Introduction**

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Mrs Helen Smith to carry out an archaeological watching brief on land OS 00002, Medbourne Road, Slawston, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 78033 94122; Fig. 1). The work was carried out on 30/05/2019.

The work was carried out as required by the Planning Authority following advice from the Leicestershire Planning Archaeologist in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, MHCLG 2018). Planning permission has been granted for erection of a classroom which forms the centre of a proposed Equine Assisted Learning Centre with attendant ménage, a parking area and access road (18/00547/FUL & 19/00745/NMA). The watching brief was to inspect and record the groundwork excavation of the area to accommodate a blockwork foundation slab to a depth of 0.2m, in order to safeguard any archaeological remains that may be present.

The site lies in pasture containing ridge and furrow earthworks.



Figure 1: Site Location  
*Contains OS data © Crown copyright [and database right] (2019)*

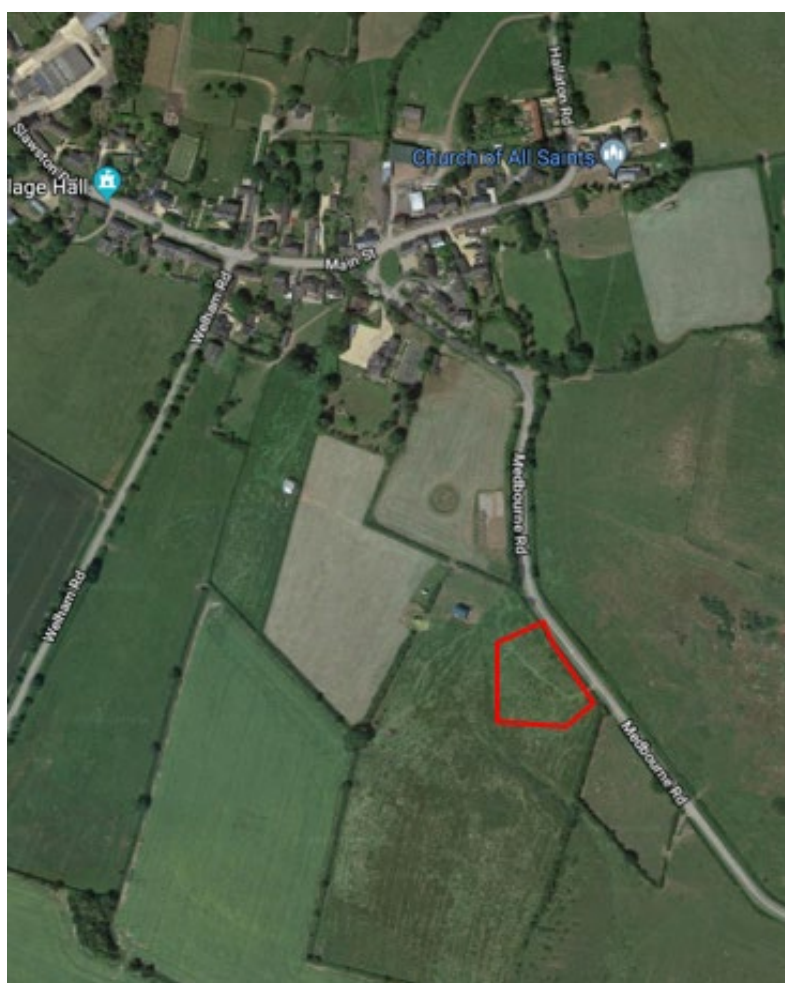


Figure 2: Location of site in relation to Slawston. (Google earth image, accessed 2019)  
*© Blue Sky data Google Earth 2019*

## Location and Geology

The pasture field in which the development area sits is south of the village of Slawston, in South West Leicestershire and is accessed from a field gate off Medbourne Road (Fig. 2). The area to be covered by the watching brief is 15.24m long x 6.7m wide (102.1m<sup>2</sup>) and lies 20m to the west of Medbourne Road (Figs 3, 4 and 5).

The site is mostly flat and lies at a height of around 100m aOD.

The British Geological Survey identifies the bedrock geology of the area as Whitby Mudstone Formation.

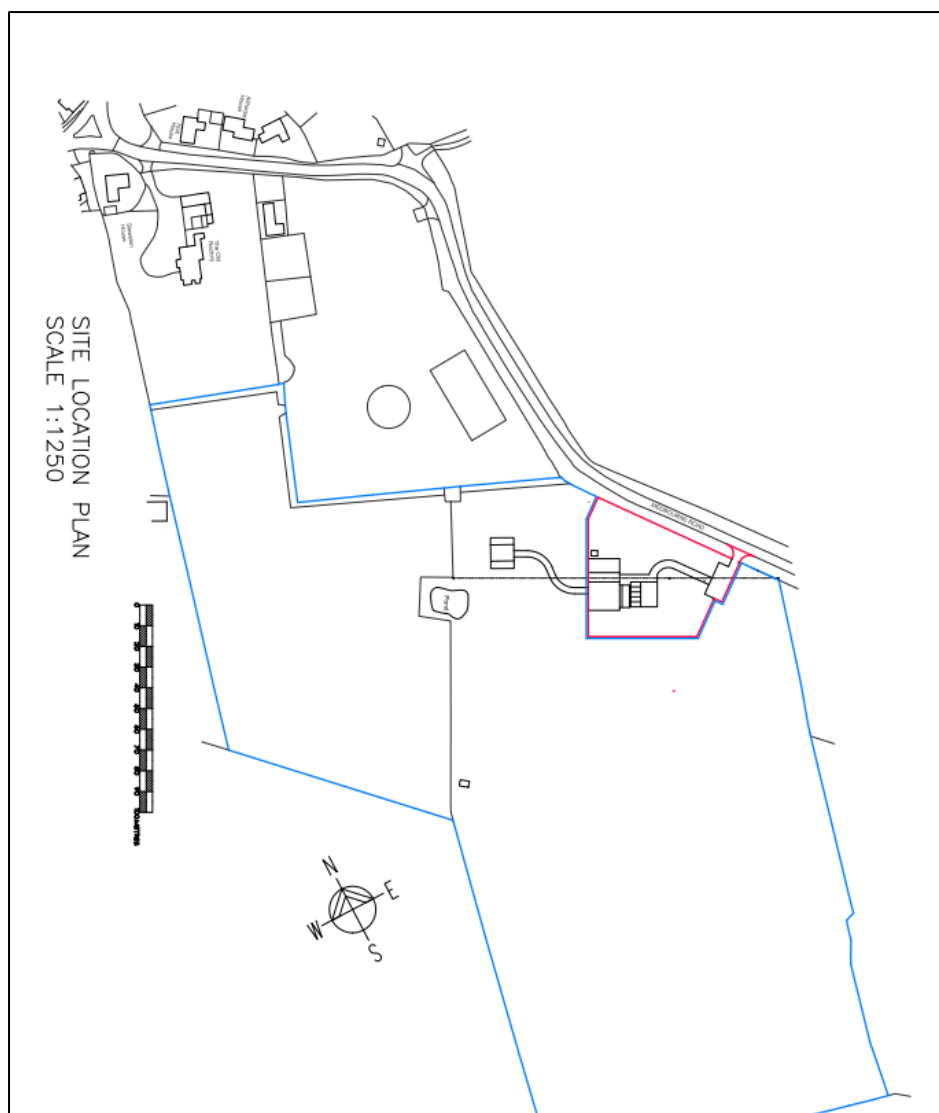


Figure 3: Location of proposed development. Plan provided by client.

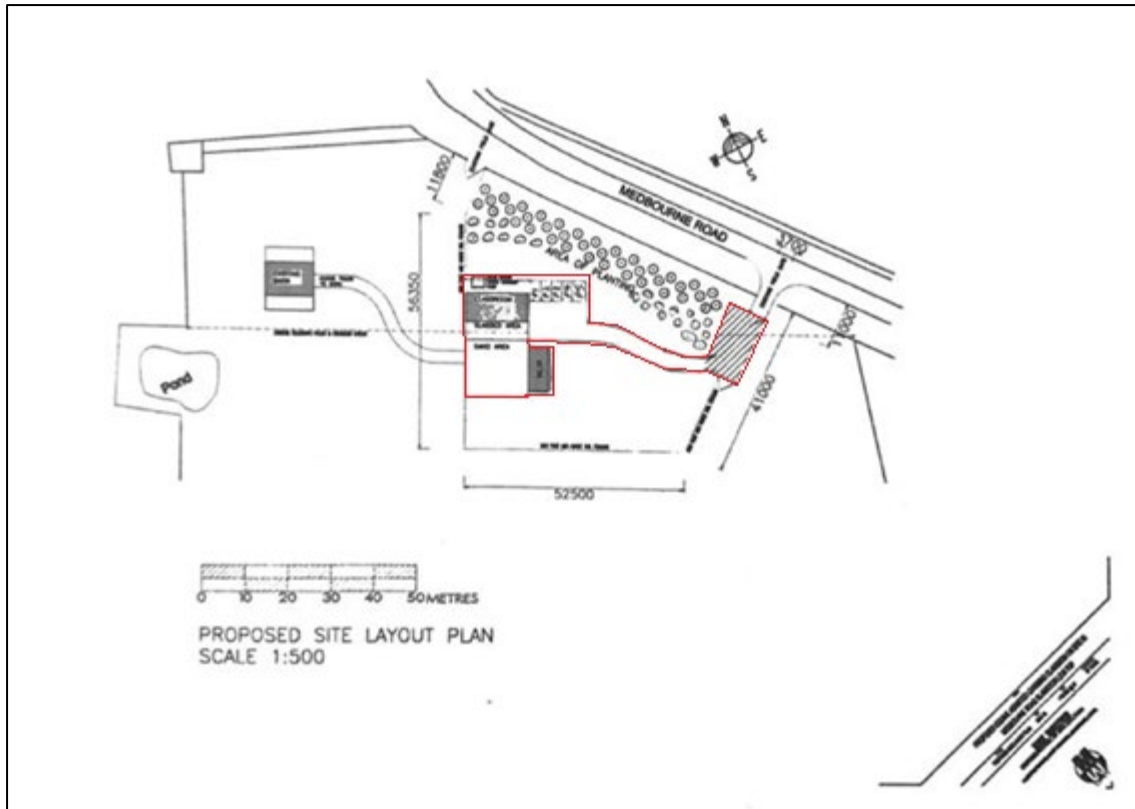


Figure 4: Proposed site layout. Plan provided by client.

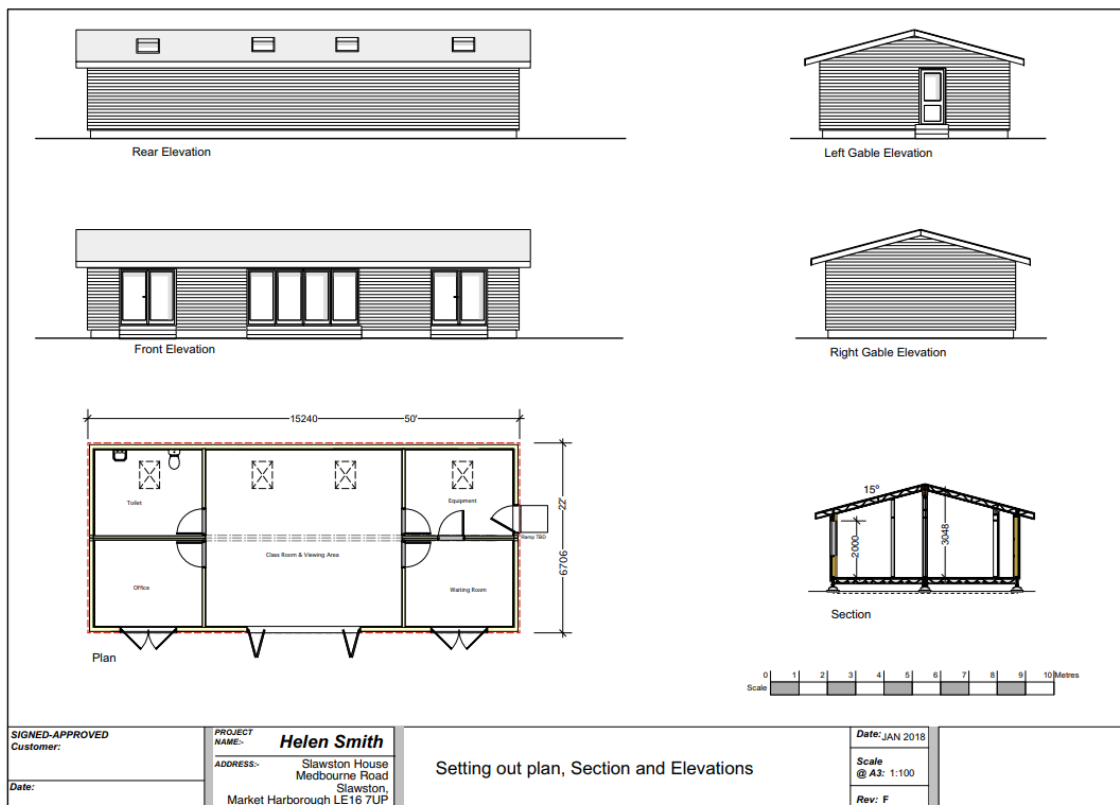


Figure 5: Plan & elevations of proposed classroom. Plan provided by client.



## Historical and Archaeological Background

The Site lies in a pasture field occupied by standing ridge and furrow earthworks, which indicate that the field formed part of the medieval field system of the village of Slawston.

The site was the subject of an archaeological geophysical survey by the Hallaton Fieldwork Group (HFWG) in 2018 (Fig. 6). A field to the west was subsequently surveyed in March 2019. The results of survey of the proposed development area showed no obvious archaeological features although there was evidence for the ridge and furrow earthworks running approximately north-east – south-west. A slight flare in the centre corresponds to a wooden pylon for overhead cables.

No features were visible on the survey in the field to the west although there was a north-east - south-west trend which probably corresponds to ploughed out ridge and furrow earthworks and another flare showing the location of a wooden pylon.

## Archaeological 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 and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits and features encountered.
- To record any archaeological deposits and produce an archive and report of any results.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the recording is to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, and significance of the heritage assets within their local and regional context.

## Research Objectives

### *Medieval*

Once on site it became apparent that the research objectives identified in the WSI were not directly relevant to this project. As a result a new research aim from the East Midlands heritage research agenda (Cooper 2006, Knight et al. 2012) was proposed:

Research Objective 7- Investigate the development of the open-field system and medieval woodland management.

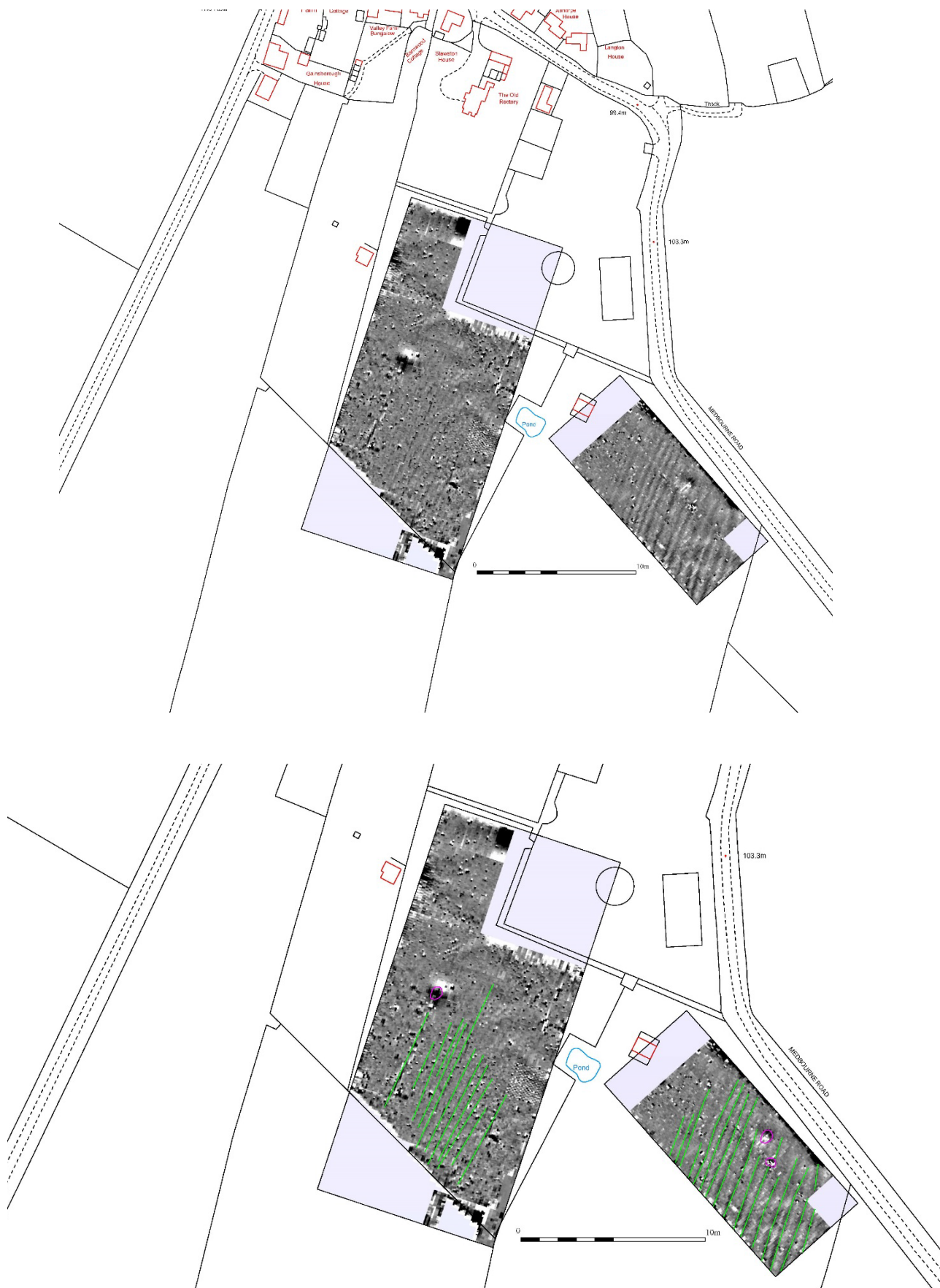


Figure 6: Geophysical Survey of the area done by the HFWG in 2018 and 2019. Top = Greyscale, Bottom Interpretation. Green = ridge and furrow. Pink = modern disturbance..

## Methodology

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct (rev. 2014a) in accordance with their Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (rev. 2014b). The archaeological work followed the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for exploratory trial trenching prepared by ULAS and agreed with the Leicestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist (May 2019). The work was monitored by the client and the Leicestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist.

An accession number (X.A35.2019) was obtained prior to commencement of the project and used to identify all records and artefacts

The footprint of the classroom was excavated to a depth of 0.2m using a mini digger using a flat bladed ditching bucket under the constant supervision of the archaeologist. All archaeological work was undertaken as specified within the WSI. The stripped area was left open to receive the concrete slab that was to form the foundation platform of the classroom (Fig.7).



Figure 7: Excavation underway. Looking north-east.

## Results

The topsoil was dark brown silt and the subsoil was mid orange-brown silty clay with small stone and flint inclusions. No archaeology was uncovered although the furrows of the medieval ridge and furrows survived as regularly spaced darker metre-wide linear features running north-west/south-east. These darker linear features aligned with visible ridge and furrow earthworks in the surrounding pasture field (Figs 8-9).

## Discussion and Conclusion

The proposed development area at on land OS 0002 off Medbourne Road, Slawston had potential to reveal evidence of medieval ridge and furrow, which was indeed uncovered. This confirmed that the field as a whole was part of the medieval field system surrounding Slawston village (Research objective 7, Knight et al. 2012 ) No further archaeological features were discovered, which confirms the findings of the 2018 geophysical survey.



Figure 8: Site fully stripped. Looking north west.



Figure 9: View of the stripped area, looking south-west. (Shape of the area distorted in the composite photograph but furrows visible.)

## Archive and publication

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A 35.2019 and consists of the following:

1 Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report No. 2019-008)

1 watching brief recording sheet

1 Photo Record sheet

1 Contact sheet of digital photographs

1 CD digital photographs

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work through the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York.

A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in a suitable regional archaeological journal in due course.

## Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Mrs Helen Smith for her help and co-operation with the project, and Nigel Tilley of Tilley & Sons for operating the digger. Claire Brown carried out the trial trenching for ULAS and the project was managed by Vicki Score.

## Bibliography

British Geological Survey (Website) Geology of Britain Viewer. Available at <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed May 2019

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014a. Reading: CIfA

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014b *Standards and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*. Reading: CIfA

Cooper, N.J. 2006. *The Archaeology of the East Midlands*. Leicester Archaeology Monograph **13**.

Kipling, R 2019. *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Attendance and Recording during Groundworks on Land OS 0002 ULAS Job no:19-338*

Knight, D., Blaise, V. and Allen C. 2012. *East Midlands Heritage. An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2018) *National Planning Policy Framework*. London: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Claire Brown  
ULAS  
University of Leicester  
University Road  
Leicester LE1 7RH  
Tel: 0116 252 2848  
Fax: 0116 252 2614  
Email: [cb520@le.ac.uk](mailto:cb520@le.ac.uk)  
10/06/2019



UNIVERSITY OF  
**LEICESTER**

### Archaeological Services

University of Leicester  
University Road  
Leicester LE1 7RH  
UK

Directors

**Dr Richard Buckley** OBE BA PhD FSA MCifA

**e:** [rjb16@le.ac.uk](mailto:rjb16@le.ac.uk)

**t:** +44 (0)116 252 2848

**f:** +44 (0)116 252 2614

**e:** [ulas@le.ac.uk](mailto:ulas@le.ac.uk)

