
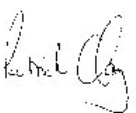


**An Archaeological Strip, Plan and Record
Exercise at Land adjacent to 1, Park Lane,
Walton, Kimcote and Walton,
Leicestershire (SP 596 871)**

James Harvey

For: Thomas Samuelson Ltd.

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An Archaeological Strip, Plan and Record Exercise at Land adjacent to 1, Park Lane, Walton, Kimcote and Walton, Leicestershire (SP 596 871)

James Harvey

Summary

An archaeological strip, plan and record exercise was carried out at land adjacent to 1, Park Lane, Walton, Kimcote and Walton, Leicestershire (SP 596 871) on the 30th January 2008, by University of Leicester Archaeological Services. The work was carried out on behalf of Thomas Samuelson Ltd. in advance of the construction of two dwellings on the site. The work involved excavation of a trial trench within the footprint of the new building and a subsequent watching brief during groundworks on the site.

No significant archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered during this strip, plan and record exercise.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A.31.2008.

1. Introduction

This document presents the results of an archaeological strip, plan and record exercise carried out at land adjacent to 1, Park Lane, Walton (Kimcote and Walton parish), Leicestershire (SP 596 871) The archaeological assessment was undertaken on behalf Thomas Samuelson Ltd. by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on the 30th January 2008.

Planning permission has been granted by Harborough District Council for the erection of two dwellings at 1, Park Lane, Walton, Leicestershire (SP 596 871), Planning Application: 07/01674/2. The proposed development lies in an area of significant archaeological potential, within medieval and post-medieval core of the village of Walton (**MLE 9867**), while finds of Roman date are also known from the village (**MLE6480**).

An archaeological investigation was requested by Leicestershire County Council's Historic and Natural Environment Team in their capacity as archaeological advisors to Harborough District Council. The work involved a strip, plan and record exercise within the development area as detailed in their *Brief for archaeological investigation at land adjacent to Park Lane, Walton, Leicestershire*, in accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and planning), para.30.

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

Walton is situated 10 miles south of Leicester and 6 miles west of Market Harborough. The development area is situated within the village core, south of Park Lane. (figs. 1 and 2).

The underlying geology, as indicated on the Geological Survey of Great Britain, Drift Geology sheet 170 Market Harborough is glacial till. The site consisted of an area of c. 0.1ha. of rough pastureland at a height of c.138m OD.

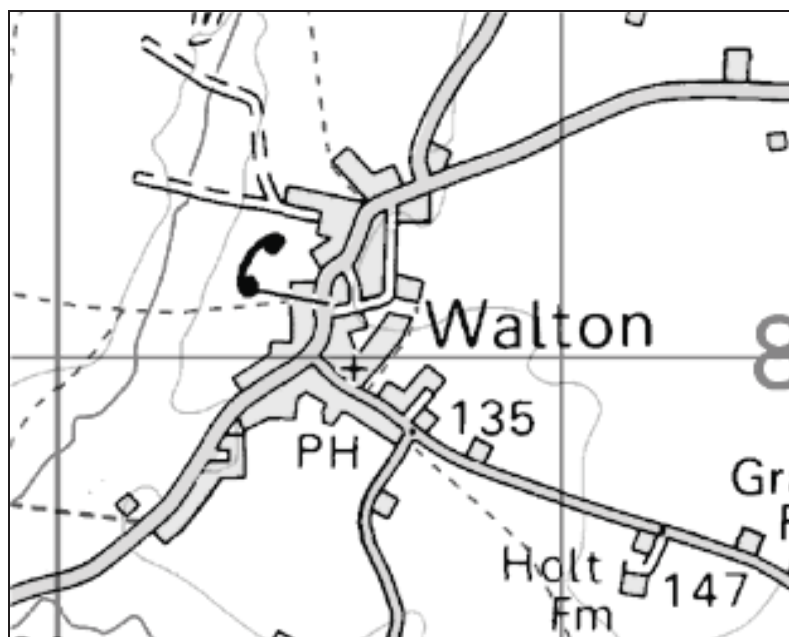


Figure 1: Site Location Plan (Scale 1:50000)

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2. Historical and Archaeological Background

Walton is a common name, often 'farmstead or village of the Britons', from the old English 'walk' (genitive plural wala) + tn (Mills 1998). The Domesday Book states 'Norman holds 4 1/2 carucates of land in Walton. Land for 2 ploughs. 10 Freemen have them. Meadow 1 furlong long and 1 wide. The value was 10s; now 25s' (Morgan 1979).

The site is located within the medieval core of the village of Walton (**MLE 9867**). As such, there was a potential for remains dating to the medieval settlement of the village to survive within the application site.

In addition to the potential for remains dating to the medieval period to be present, there are indications of activity in Walton during the Roman period. Sherds of Roman and Iron Age pottery are reported to have been found during building works along the southern side of Chapel Lane (**MLE 6480**).

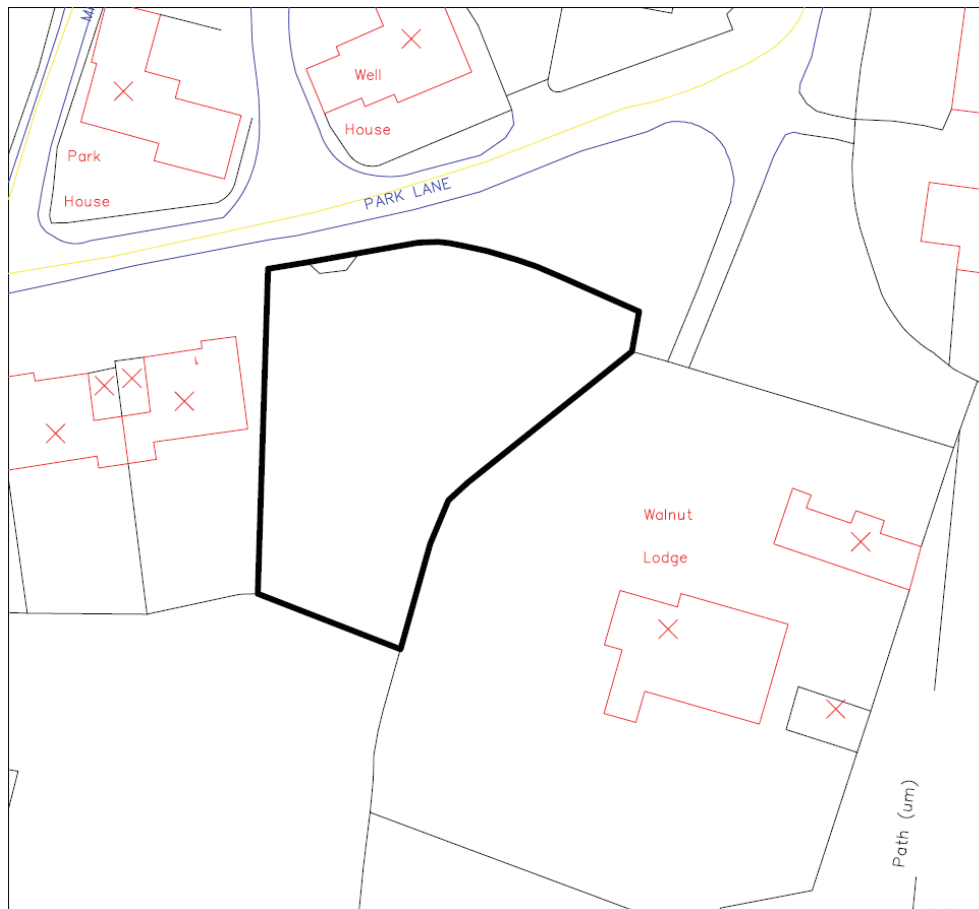


Figure 2: Site Location Plan (close up)

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4. Aims and Objectives

The main aims through archaeological controlled stripping and investigation were:

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

5. Methodology

The project involved the supervision of overburden removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. Initially it was proposed to excavate a trial trench within the proposed footprint of the buildings to assess the depth of topsoil/overburden and determine the presence/absence of any archaeological remains.

Should significant archaeological remains be identified in an initial trial trench, and found to be 0.15m or less below proposed formation, the site was to be stripped down to the top of the archaeology, followed by a programme of excavation and recording, using additional personnel as necessary.

In the event that archaeological remains of uncertain significance were located in the initial trench/test pit (e.g. undated post-hole/pit), further trenching may have been necessary, at the discretion of the site supervisor, to clarify their nature and significance and determine the need for a full topsoil strip.

If no archaeological deposits are identified within the trench, or the depth of overburden is greater than 0.15m, there was no requirement for the site to be stripped to a level below proposed formation and subsequent groundworks were to be subject to an intermittent watching brief.

All work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (1999).

6. Results

Trench 1



Figure 3: Approximate Trench Location Plan

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Trench 1 measured 12m x 1.8m and was aligned approximately north-south (fig.3). The topsoil consisted of a dark greyish brown sandy loam that contained occasional inclusions of rounded pebbles. The thickness of the topsoil varied between 300-400mm and overlaid similar mid/dark greyish brown subsoil that also contained occasional pebble inclusions. The subsoil varied in depth between 200-350mm and directly overlaid the natural substratum that consisted of a yellowish brown sandy gravely clay.

Two linear features were observed within the trench that were orientated north-west to south-east. One of the linear features was machined out to confirm its nature. It was found to have a shallow concave profile and measured 300mm deep. It was filled with a deposit much the same as the subsoil that overlaid it. Both features have been interpreted as agricultural furrows. A modern trench c.300mm wide, also ran up the centre of the trench. This cut the furrows and containing modern (20th century) china.

Other shallow disturbances were also observed that proved to be modern upon further investigation. None of the modern material was retained.



Figure 4: Trench 1, looking south

As no archaeological deposits were encountered within the evaluation trench it was agreed that the ground reduction for the dwellings could commence with a low level watching brief. Approximately 40% of the total area of ground reduction was observed (fig.3). This was generally machined to the top of the natural substratum. It was observed that the subsoil thinned to east of the site. Further evidence of northwest-southeast aligned furrows was also observed within this area.

No significant archaeological finds or deposits were observed during this programme of work.



Figure 5: General view of ground reduction looking northeast

7. Discussion

No significant archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered during this strip, plan and record exercise. Ploughed out medieval or early post-medieval ridge and furrow was observed on a north-west to south-east orientation. Observation of aerial photographs from the fields immediately to the east of the development area shows a continuation of ridge and furrow on the same alignment, indicating that the development area is likely to have been part of the open field system of Walton during this time.

8. Archive and Publication

The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A.31.2008. The content of the archive consists of:

- 1 Unbound A4 copy of this report
- 1 A4 Watching Brief recording sheet
- 1 A4 Photo record sheet
- 1 A4 Colour digital photo contact print
- 1 CD of 12 digital photos

A record of the project will also be submitted to the OASIS project under the code universi1-37962. Oasis is an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large-scale developer funded fieldwork.

A summary of the work will be submitted for inclusion in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course.

9. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by the author. Dr. Patrick Clay managed the project, both of ULAS. I would like to thank the client, Thomas Samuelson Ltd. for their assistance and cooperation throughout the duration of the project.

10. Bibliography

Mills, A., 1998 *Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press.

Morgan, P., 1979. *Domesday Book 22 Leicestershire*. Philimore and Co. Ltd.

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Appendix 1: Design Specification

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

1, Park Lane, Walton, Walton and Kimcote, Leicestershire (SP 596 871)

Planning Application: 07/01674/3

Planning Authority: Harborough District Council

For: Thomas Samuelson Ltd

1 Definition and scope of the specification

1.1 In accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and planning), para.30, this specification provides a written scheme for archaeological strip plan and record, as required by the Planning Authority, of any groundworks on the site which may disturb areas of archaeological potential in connection with a planning application for the erection of two dwellings at 1, Park Lane, Walton (Walton and Kimcote parish), Leicestershire (SP 596 871) Planning Application: 07/01674/2 for Thomas Samuelson Ltd.

1.2 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's (IFA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland (LMARS)*.

2 Background

2.1 Requirement for archaeological work

2.1.1 The archaeological work involves a strip plan and record exercise within the development area to identify any deposits of archaeological importance as detailed in the advice letter of 17.12.2007 from LCC HNET and sample generic *Brief for archaeological investigation (strip plan and sample excavation)*.

2.2 Archaeological potential

2.1 The site is located in the medieval and post-medieval core of the village of Walton (MLE 9867) while finds of Roman date are also known from the village (MLE6480).

3 Aims

3.1 Through archaeological controlled stripping and investigation:

1. To identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or 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 record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
4. To produce an archive and report of any results.

4 Methods

4.1 The project will involve the supervision of overburden removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. Initially it is proposed to

open some initial trial trenches to assess the depth of topsoil/overburden and determine the presence/absence of any archaeological remains.

4.2 Should significant archaeological remains be identified in an initial trial trench, and found to be 0.15m or less below proposed formation, the site is to be stripped down to the top of the archaeology, followed by a programme of excavation and recording, using additional personnel as necessary.

4.3 In the event that archaeological remains of uncertain significance are located in the initial trench/test pit (e.g. undated post-hole/pit), further trenching may be necessary, at the discretion of the site supervisor, to clarify their nature and significance and determine the need for a full topsoil strip.

4.4 If no archaeological deposits are identified within the trench, or the depth of overburden is greater than 0.15m, there will be no requirement for the site to be stripped to a level below proposed formation and subsequent groundworks will be subject to an intermittent watching brief.

4.5 The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with the contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work.

4.6 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) where appropriate.

4.7 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

4.8 All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

4.9 Any human remains encountered will be initially left in situ and only be removed under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The developer and Leicestershire County Council will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.10 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site from the project manager. These will ensure that professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for monitoring visits with representatives of the owners and Leicestershire County Council.

4.11 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located during the watching brief there may be the need for contingency time and finance to be provided to ensure adequate recording is undertaken. On the discovery of potentially significant remains the archaeologist will inform the developer, the Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services and the planning authority. If the archaeological remains are identified to be of significance additional contingent archaeological works will be required.

5 Recording Systems

5.1 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets.

5.2 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 plan at 1:200 (or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated.

5.3 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made on drawing film, related to the OS grid and at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Elevations and sections of individual layers of features should be drawn where possible. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans.

5.4 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared. This will include black and white prints and colour transparencies 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.

5.5 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the watching brief.

5.6 All site records and finds will be kept securely.

6 Report and Archive

6.1 An accession number will be drawn prior to the commencement of the project (Brief 8.1). Following the fieldwork the on-line OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis> will be completed. A report on the investigation will be provided following the groundworks.

6.2 Copies will be provided for the client, Sites and Monuments Record and planning Authority. 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.

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 be presented to Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services normally within six months of the completion of analysis. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

7 Publication

7.1 A summary report will be submitted to a suitable regional or national archaeological journal within one year of completion of fieldwork. A full report will be submitted if the results are of significance.

8 Timetable and Staffing

8.1 The investigation is scheduled to commence at the start of the contractors groundworks on 30.01.2008. An experienced archaeologist will be present during this work.

9 Health and Safety

9.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (revised 2007) with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is in the Appendix. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate.

10 Insurance

10.1 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.

11. Bibliography

MAP 2, *The management of archaeological projects* 2nd edition English Heritage 1991

MGC 1992, *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission)

RFG/FRG 1993, *Guidelines for the preparation of site archives* (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700)

SMA 1993, *Selection, retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* (Society of Museum Archaeologists)

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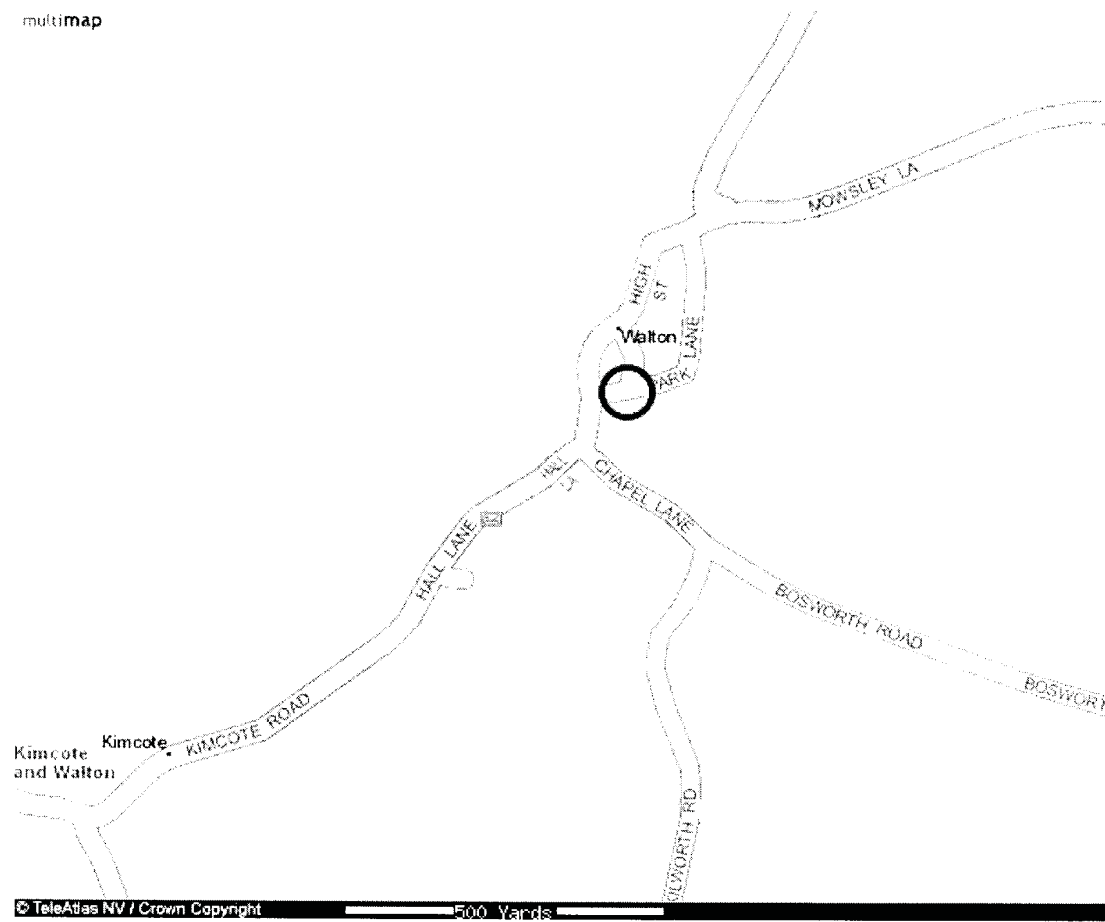


Fig 1 Location of Development

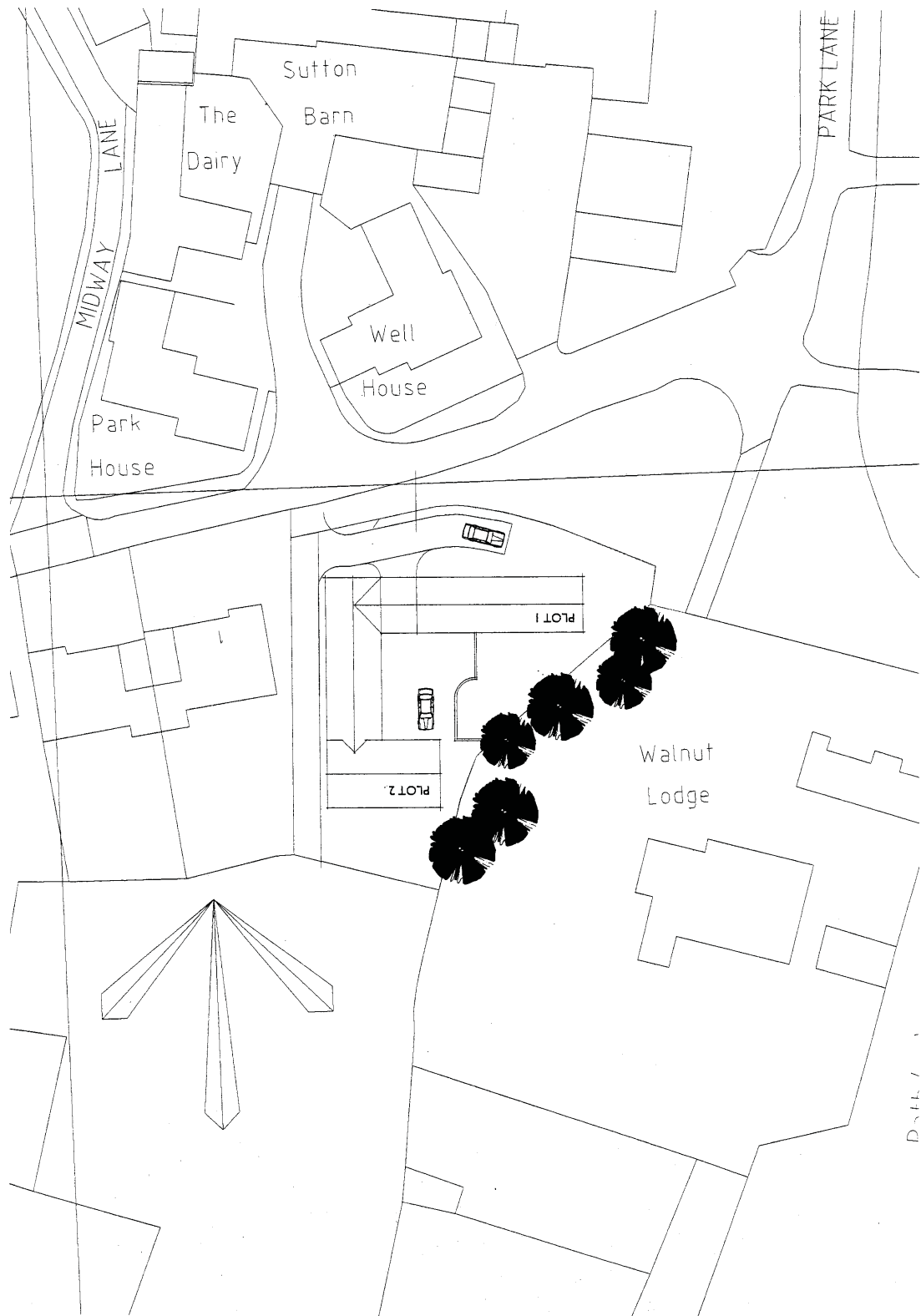


Fig. 2 Plan of proposed development

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

1, Park Lane, Walton, Walton and Kimcote, Leicestershire (SP 596 871)

Planning Application: 07/01674/3

Planning Authority: Harborough District Council

For: Thomas Samuelson Ltd

1. Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for archaeological watching brief (strip plan and sample). It will be revised following the commencement of operations when the extent of risks can be assessed in full.

1.2 The work will involve overburden stripping by JCB 3C or similar during daylight hours and recording of any underlying archaeological deposits revealed. Overall depth is likely to be c. 1.0–1.2m. Following stripping the exposed deposits will be examined with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and archaeological features will be excavated. All work will adhere to the University of Leicester Health and Safety Policy and follow the guidance in the ULAS Health and safety and the Standing Committee of Archaeological Unit Managers manuals, together with the following relevant Health and Safety guidelines, including the following.

HSE Construction Information Sheet CS8 Safety in excavations.

HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)143 (L): Getting to grips with manual handling.

HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)145 (L): Watch Your back.

CIRIA R97 Trenching practice.

CIRIA TN95 Proprietary Trench Support Systems.

HSE Guidance Note HS(G) 47 Avoiding danger to underground services. HSE Guidance Note GS7 Accidents to children on construction sites

1.3 The Health and Safety policy on site will be reassessed during the evaluation. All work will adhere to the company's health and safety policy.

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 Working within an excavation.

Precautions. No work will be undertaken beneath section faces deeper than 1.2m. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. A member of staff qualified in First Aid will be present at all times. First aid kit, vehicle and mobile phone to be kept on site in case of emergency.

2.2 Working with plant.

Precautions. Hard hats, protective footwear and hazard jackets will be worn at all times. No examination of the area of stripping will take place until machines have vacated area. Observation of machines will be maintained during hand excavation.

2.3 Working within areas prone to waterlogging.

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.

2.6 No other constraints are recognised over the nature of the soil, water, type of excavation, proximity of structures, sources of vibration and contamination.

28.01.2008