


**An Archaeological Watching Brief at Land
adjacent to 33, Rearsby Road, Thrussington,
Leicestershire (SK 648 158)**

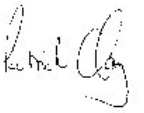
James Harvey

For: W.D Mundon Construction.

Checked by

Signed: ...  .Date: ...27.02.2008...
Name: ..Nicholas. J. Cooper.....

Approved by


Signed:Date: ..28.-2.2008.....
Name:Patrick Clay.....

**University of Leicester
Archaeological Services**
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614
www.le.ac.uk/ulas

ULAS Report Number 2008-029
©2008
X.A43.2008

CONTENTS

Summary	1
1. Introduction.....	1
2. Site Description, Topography and Geology.....	2
2. Historical and Archaeological Background	2
4. Aims and Objectives	3
5. Methodology	4
6. Results.....	4
7. Discussion	5
8. Archive and Publication.....	6
9. Acknowledgements.....	6
10. Bibliography	6
Appendix 1: Design Specification	7

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location Plan (Scale 1:50000)	2
Figure 2: Site Location Plan (close up).....	3
Figure 3: View of the rear foundation trench looking southeast	5

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Land adjacent 33, Rearsby Road, Thrussington Leicestershire (SK 648 158)

James Harvey

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at land adjacent to 33, Rearsby, Leicestershire (SK 648 158) on the 19th February 2008 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services. The work was carried out on behalf of W.D Munden Construction in advance of construction of a new residential dwelling on the site. The work involved topsoil stripping and the excavation of foundation trenches of the new build for any indication of archaeological activity. However no significant archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered during the watching brief.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A43.2008.

1. Introduction

This document presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at land adjacent to 33, Rearsby Road, Thrussington, Leicestershire (SK 648 158) The archaeological assessment was undertaken on behalf W.D Mundon Construction by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on the 19th February 2008.

Planning permission has been granted by Charnwood Borough Council for the erection of a dwelling at 33, Rearsby Road, Thrussington, Leicestershire (SK 648 158), Planning Application: 07/03469/2. The proposed development lies in an area of significant archaeological potential, within medieval and post-medieval core of the village of Thrussington.

An archaeological investigation was requested by Leicestershire County Council's Historic and Natural Environment Team in their capacity as archaeological advisors to Charnwood Borough Council. The work involved a watching brief of foundation trenches within the development area as detailed in their *Brief for an archaeological attendance for inspection and recording*, in accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and planning), para.30.

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

Thrussington is situated 8 miles north-east of Leicester and 6 miles south-west of Melton Mowbray. The development area is situated within the village core, south of Rearsby Road. (figs. 1 and 2).

The underlying geology, as indicated on the Geological Survey of Great Britain, Drift Geology sheet 156 for Leicester is alluvium overlying Mercia Mudstone. The site consisted of an area of *c.* 0.1ha. of grassed area at a height of *c.* 55m OD.

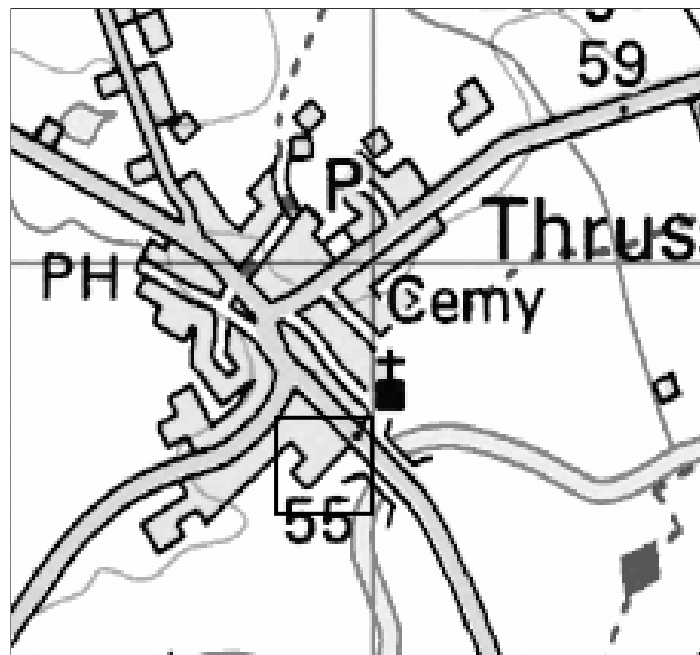


Figure 1: Site Location Plan (Scale 1:50000)

Reproduced from the OS map Land ranger of behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright All rights reserved Licence Number AL 100029495.

2. Historical and Archaeological Background

Thrussington village is thought to have originated as a Danish settlement. The development area is located within the medieval core of the village (**MLE 1013**) and as such, there was a potential for remains dating to the medieval settlement of the village to survive within the application site. Also medieval earthworks, including upstanding walls have been identified to the north-west of the development area (**MLE 1014**). The Holy Trinity parish church, which is Norman in origin, is located *c.* 70m north of the development area.

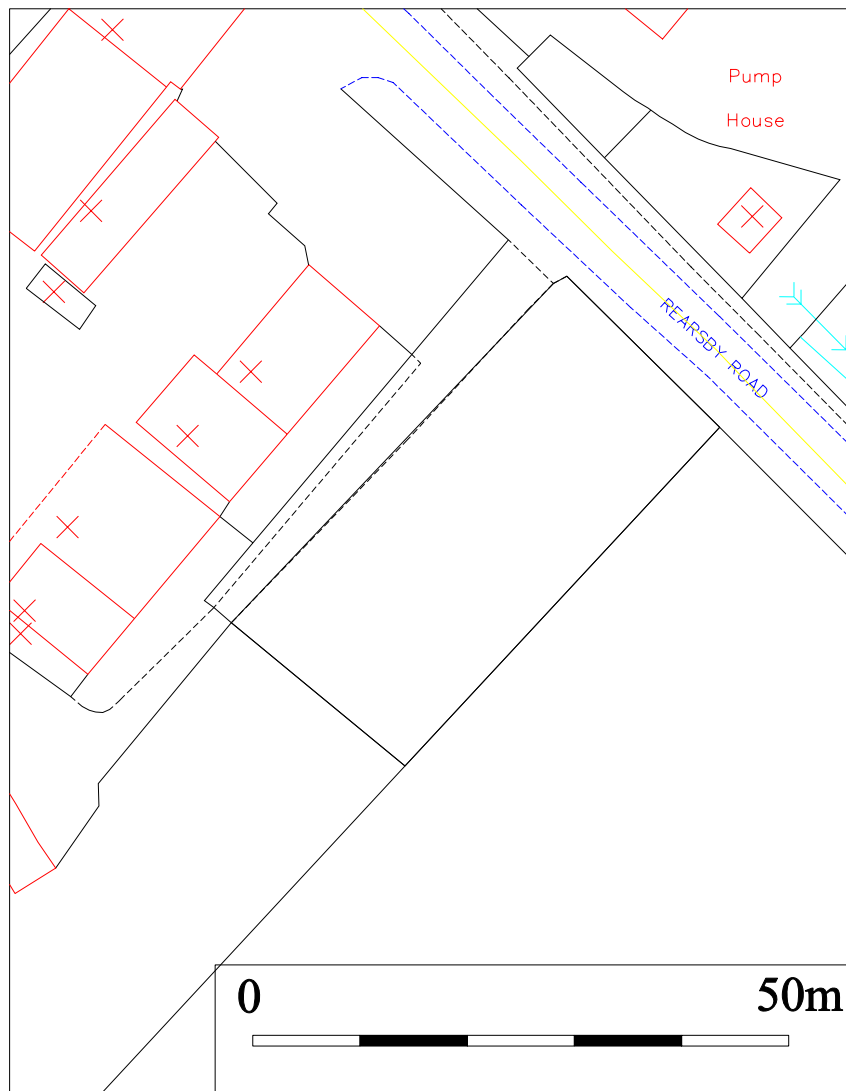


Figure 2: Site Location Plan (close up)

Reproduced from the OS map Land ranger of behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright All rights reserved Licence Number AL 100029495.

4. Aims and Objectives

The main aims through archaeological observation 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 required a professional archaeologist to supervise all stripping and groundwork likely to impact upon any archaeological remains.

The work involved the supervision and observation of topsoil stripping and excavation of foundation trenches by a JCB 3C mechanical excavator using a 0.5m wide toothed bucket on the back actor. All stripped areas and existing spoil heaps were visually inspected for features and finds.

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

The topsoil consisted of dark greyish brown sandy loam. This measured c.350mm in depth and contained roots and modern demolition debris. In some areas there were thin layers of demolition material located directly beneath the topsoil. Generally the topsoil overlaid a mid greyish brown sandy alluvium. This varied in thickness between 350-600mm and was clean of any material, modern or otherwise. The alluvium directly overlaid the substrata that consisted of a mixture of Mercia Mudstone as well as river terrace deposits, consisting of pinkish brown sandy gravelly clay and yellowish brown sandy gravelly clay.



Figure 3: View of the rear foundation trench looking southeast

7. Discussion

No significant archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered during this watching brief. The presence of alluvium shows that the development area has been subject to inundation from the River Wreake during the past. In the Trent Valley it has been noted that alluviation is a predominantly medieval phenomenon, thought to be due to increased flooding as a result of climatic downturn around the 14th century, with flood waters containing a high silt load, derived from intensive ploughing (Brown *et al.* 2001). Although no dating evidence was recovered from the alluvial deposits at this site, an absence of medieval activity may be taken to indicate that the area was prone to flooding at this time, and therefore unsuitable either for settlement or cultivation. The area would presumably have been exploited as meadowland during this period.

8. Archive and Publication

The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A43.2008. 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 8digital photos

A record of the project will also be submitted to the OASIS project under the code universi1-38355. Oasis is an online index to archaeological grey literature reports.

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, Wayne Munden, for his assistance and cooperation throughout the duration of the project.

10. Bibliography

Brown, A.G., Cooper, L., Salisbury, C.R. and Smith, D.N., 2001. 'Late Holocene channel changes of the Middle Trent: channel response to a thousand-year flood record' *Geomorphology* 39, pp. 69-82.

James Harvey

ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel:0116 229 7600
Fax: 0116 252 2614

Email: jrh20@le.ac.uk

Appendix 1: Design Specification

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

33, Rearsby Road, Thrussington, Leicestershire (SK 648 158)

Planning Application: 07/3469/2

Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council

For: W.D Munden Construction

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 attendance for inspection and recording (a watching brief), 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 a dwelling at 33, Rearsby Road, Thrussington, Leicestershire (SK 648 158) Planning Application: 07/3469/2 for W.D Munden Construction.

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 watching brief within the development area to identify any deposits of archaeological importance as detailed in the *Brief for archaeological attendance for inspection and recording (a watching brief), at 33 Rearsby Road, Thrussington, Leicestershire* (LCC HNET 06.02.2008).

2.2 Archaeological potential

The site is located close to medieval village earthworks (MLE1014), and the medieval core of Thrussington (MLE1013) including the parish church (MLE13253).

3 Aims

3.1 Through archaeological observation 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, 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, Historic Environment 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. 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 2005) 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)

Patrick Clay

Director

ULAS

University of Leicester

University Road

Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel:0116 252 2848

Fax: 0116 252 2614

Email: pnc3@le.ac.uk

18.02.2008


H.M. LAND REGISTRY		TITLE NUMBER		
		LT 160547		
ORDNANCE SURVEY PLAN REFERENCE	SK6415	SECTION	0.	Scale 1/1250
COUNTY LEICESTERSHIRE		DISTRICT CHARNWOOD		© Crown Copyright 1985



Fig 1 Location of Development

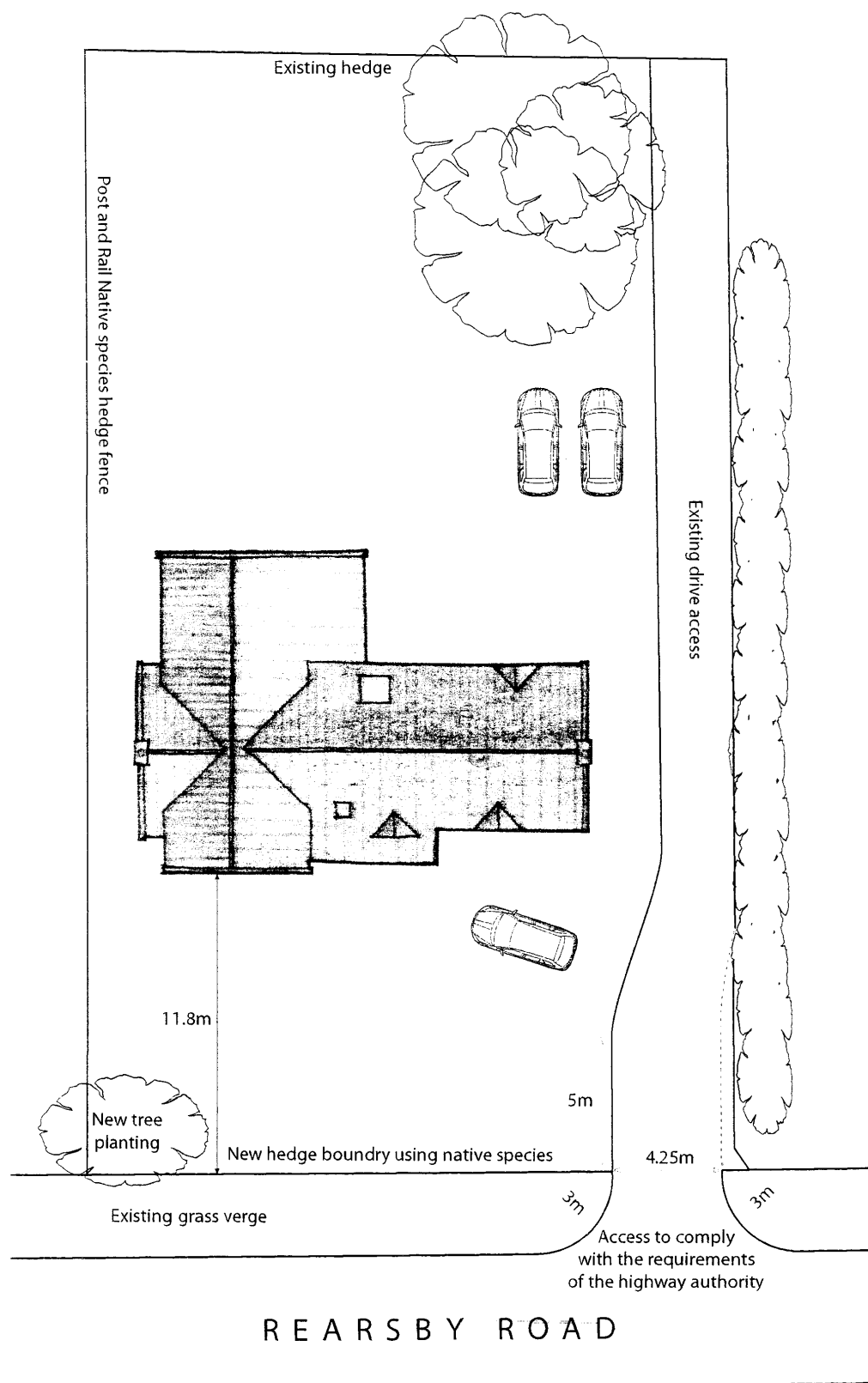


Fig. 2 Plan of proposed development

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

33, Rearsby Road, Thrusington, Leicestershire (SK 648 158)

Planning Application: 07/3469/2

Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council

For: W.D Munden Construction

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.

18.01.2008