

**An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at
Mountsorrel Library, Market Place
Mountsorrel, Leicestershire (SK 5834 1509)
*Greg Farnworth-Jones***

**Planning Application No. 05/3783/2
Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council**

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**Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Mountsorrel Library, Market Place,
Mountsorrel, Leicestershire (SK 5834 1509)**

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Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Mountsorrel Library, Market Place, Mountsorrel, Leicestershire (SK 5834 1509)

By Greg Farnworth-Jones

1. Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at the site of the former Mountsorrel Library, Market Place, Mountsorrel, Leicestershire, (NGR: SK 5834 1509). This work was in advance of the proposed residential development of 7 new dwellings and associated car parking and landscaping. This work was carried out on behalf of Clegg Construction by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on the 29th January 2008 and was combined with a geotechnical survey. A total of six geotechnical testpits/archaeological evaluation trenches were excavated. Trench II revealed the lower courses of an 17th century stone wall, which formed part of the timber-framed building which stood on the site before the construction of the library. 19th century additions to the building were also discovered including a ceramic quarry tiled floor set on a concrete base and a nineteenth century chimney base in Trench I. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services Section accession number: [X.A.33.2008].

2. Introduction

2.1 This document constitutes the second stage of archaeological assessment to have been carried out on land at Mountsorrel Library, Market Place, Mountsorrel, Leicestershire (SK 5834 1509). The archaeological assessment was undertaken on behalf of Clegg Construction by University of Leicester Archaeological Services.

2.2 Clegg Construction propose to develop an area of c.1.8 ha of land at Mountsorrel Library, Market Place, Mountsorrel, Leicestershire (SK 5834 1509) for seven new residential dwellings with associated parking and landscaping. 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 (Harvey, 2005, ULAS Report 2005-123), followed by a stage of archaeological trial trench evaluation in the light of the results of the desk-based assessment.

2.3 The trial trench evaluation was combined with a geotechnical survey in the light of the predicted impact (eg. the levels will not be reduced to the rear of the site but the grassed areas to the front will be reduced by c. 1.5 m).

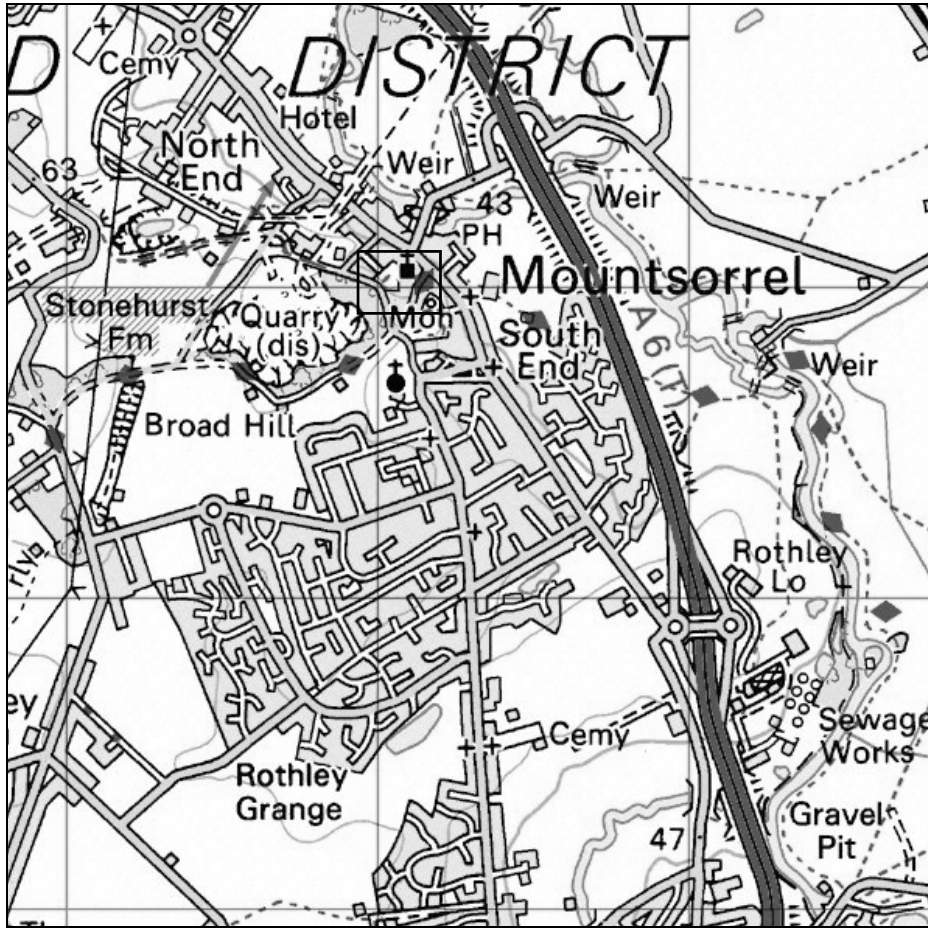


Fig. 1. Site location Scale 1:50000

Reproduced from the 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.

3. Site Location

3.1 The site is located at Market Place, Mountsorrel, Leicestershire (SK 5834 1509). The site comprises a tarmaced car park to the rear, the area of the now demolished library and a grass verge at the front.

4. Geology and Topography

3.2.1 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 156 indicates that the underlying geology consists of river gravel terraces. The site lies at a height of 48m - 50m OD.

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

5.1 The desk-based assessment indicated that the site is located within the SMR site of the historic core of the medieval village of Mountsorrel (HER MLE 702) and that an 18th century timber framed building with stone foundations had occupied the site prior to the construction of the library. There is therefore good potential for finds or foundations of a post-medieval date within the proposed development area.

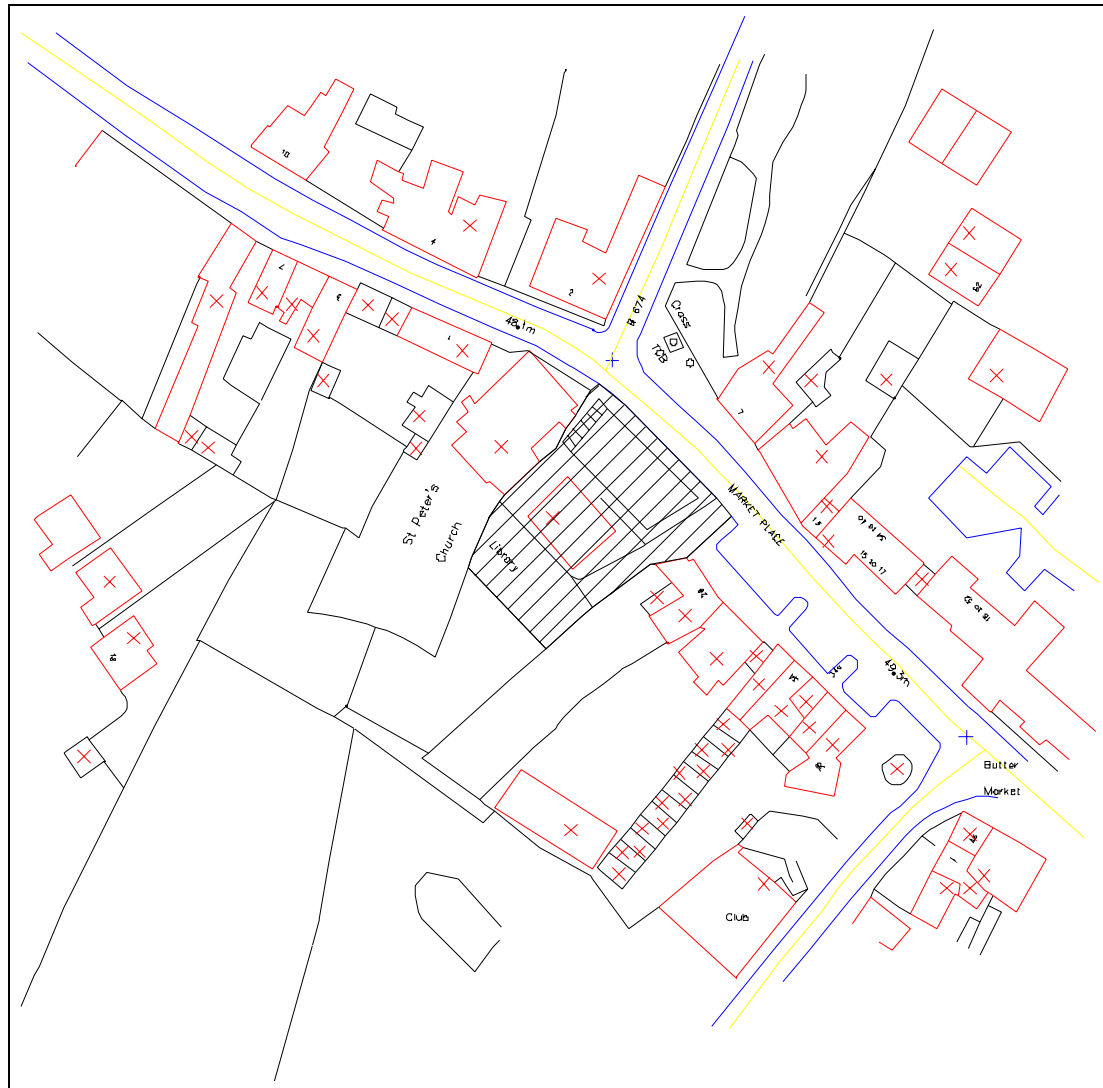


Fig. 2. Location of the development area (development area highlighted)

6. Methodology

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

6.2 The main objectives of the evaluation were:

- 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.

6.3 Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation was 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.

6.4 Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

6.5 The application area covers *c.* 920 sq m. The Senior Planning Archaeologist had requested that a *c.* 5 % sample of the area affected by ground works (*c.*45 sq m.) where new buildings are proposed. These trenches were combined with a geotechnical survey in the light of the predicted impact (eg. the tarmac will not be removed to the rear of the site but the grassed areas to the front will be reduced by *c.* 1.5 m). The work followed the *Design Specification for Archaeological work* approved by the Senior Planning Archaeologist as advisor to the planning authority (Clay, 2007). The exact location was defined by constraints of the area for trenching.

6.6 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 *c.*0.6m.

6.7 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.

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

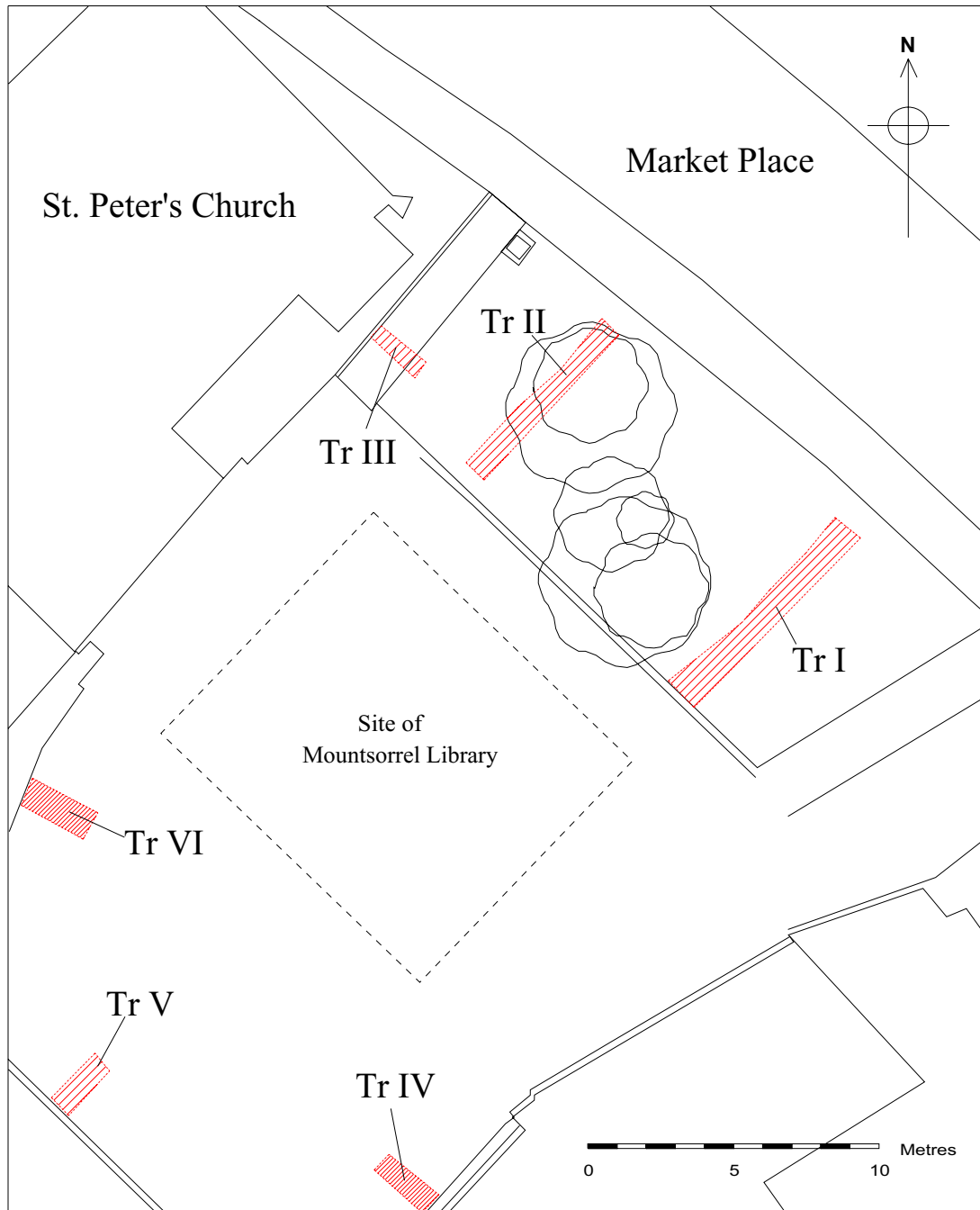


Fig. 3 Trench location plan

7. Results

7.1 Trench I

<i>Length of Trench</i>	8.6m
<i>Area of Trench</i>	8.6 sq. m
<i>Surface Level (m OD)</i>	c.48m OD
<i>Base of Trench (m OD)</i>	c.47.5m OD

Trench one was located on the eastern corner of the site near to the main road, orientated NE-SW (fig.4). Initial machining of trench one revealed dark greyish-brown sandy silt topsoil, with occasional rounded stones, to a depth of c.0.3m. Further machining in trench one removed the topsoil layer to reveal red clay natural at a depth of c.0.3m. Located further up the trench however, at c.3m from the northern end of the trench was revealed below the topsoil, a demolition layer (008), 0.2m deep, which contained crushed brick, tile and slate fragments.

At 5.7m from the northern end of the trench was located the remains of a c.19th century brick fire place and chimney base. This structure (007) measured 1.4 metres in length, 0.4m in depth and survived to a height of 0.6m.

7.2 Trench II

<i>Length of Trench</i>	7.2m
<i>Area of Trench</i>	4.32 sq. m
<i>Surface level (m OD)</i>	c.48m OD
<i>Base of Trench (m OD)</i>	c.47.6 OD

Trench two was located on the northern corner of the site, to the north of trench one and near to the main road (fig.3). It was orientated NE-SW. Initial machining revealed dark greyish-brown slightly sandy silt topsoil, with occasional rounded stones, to a depth of c.0.3m. Further machining in trench one removed the topsoil layer to reveal red clay natural at a depth of c.0.3m.

At 0.6m from the north-eastern edge of the trench was located a concrete surface (001) (fig.3), which was overlaid with ceramic floor tiles (002) (fig.4). At 4m from the north-eastern end of the trench this floor of concrete and tiles terminates, but then starts again (003) at 4.5m where it steps up 0.1m and continues to the far end of the trench at 7.2m (fig.3). At 5.6m from the north-eastern edge of trench two, on the northern side, was located a granite wall structure (005) (fig.4), measuring 2.7m in length, 0.2m wide (excavated width) and standing to a height of 0.5m, from the top of ceramic quarry tile floor surface (003).

It was clear that this wall was the remnants of the 17th century building that had stood on the site prior to the construction of the Mountsorrel Library in 1964.

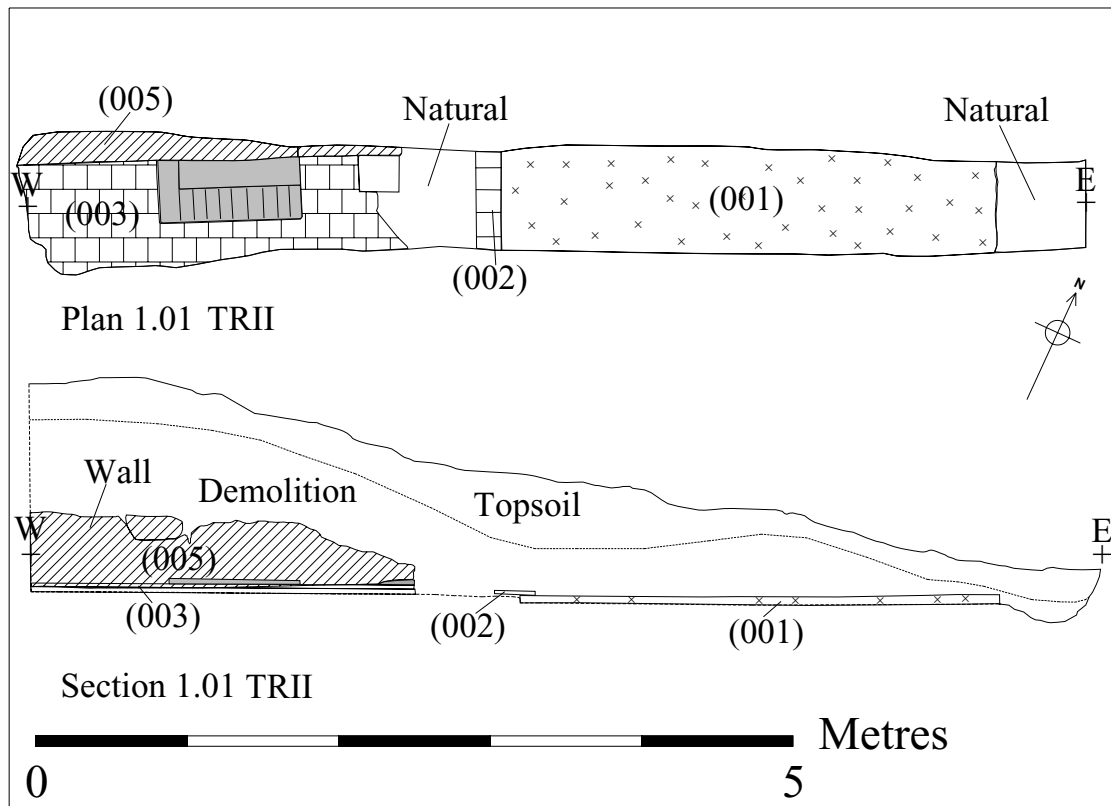


Fig.4 Plan and Section of Archaeology in Trench II

7.3 Trench III

Length of Trench	0.9m
Area of Trench	0.54 sq. m
Surface Level (m OD)	c.48m OD
Base of Trench (m OD)	c.46m OD

Trench three was located on the northern area of the site, abutting St. Peter's Church west of trench two (fig. 3) and orientated NW-SE. Further machining revealed a concrete hardcore and demolition material to a depth of c.2m. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within trench three.

7.4 Trench IV

<i>Length of Trench</i>	0.9m
<i>Area of Trench</i>	0.54 sq. m
<i>Surface Level (m OD)</i>	c.50m OD
<i>Base of Trench (m OD)</i>	c.49.35m OD

Trench four was located on the southern corner of the site southwest of trench one (fig. 3) and orientated NW-SE. Initial machining revealed tarmac overburden, to a depth of c.0.1m, below which natural was revealed, which consisted of slightly gravely red clay. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within trench four.

7.5 Trench V

<i>Length of Trench</i>	0.9m
<i>Area of Trench</i>	0.54 sq. m
<i>Surface Level (m OD)</i>	c.50m OD
<i>Base of Trench (m OD)</i>	c.49.05m OD

Trench five was located on the southern corner of the site, to the west of trench four and was orientated NE-SW (Fig. 3). Initial machining revealed tarmac overburden, to a depth of c.0.1m, below which natural was revealed, which consisted of slightly gravely red clay. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within trench five.

7.6 Trench VI

<i>Length of Trench</i>	0.9m
<i>Area of Trench</i>	0.54 sq. m
<i>Surface Level (m OD)</i>	c.50m OD
<i>Base of Trench (m OD)</i>	c.49.3m OD

Trench six was located on the north-western corner of the site (Fig. 3) and orientated NW-SE. Initial machining revealed tarmac overburden, to a depth of c.0.1m, below which natural was reached, which consisted of slightly gravely red clay. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within trench six.

7.7 Archaeological evaluation trenches numbers four to six contained no archaeological finds or features and were therefore negative.



Fig.5 TRII - Granite wall (005) Looking W



Fig.6 Quarry tile floor (003) Looking SW

8. Discussion

8.1 The granite stone wall located in trench two is undoubtedly the part of the 17th century timber-framed building identified in the Desk-Based assessment of the site (Harvey, 2005). This building was demolished in 1964 to make way for the site of Mountsorrel library. The concrete floor (001) and the ceramic floor tiles (002) and (003) appear to be of a much later date than the wall (005) *c.* late 19th century. However these features must be connected with this building because of the date at which it was demolished (see above). It seems most likely therefore that these floor surfaces were inserted during the *c.* late 19th century. This hypothesis was confirmed by the fact that (003) was laid abutting granite wall (005).

8.2 The chimney base (007) located in trench one is a *c.* 19th century construction due to the types of brick used. However as was the case in trench two the building that stood here before the construction of the library, was the 17th century structure that had served as a post-office. Therefore the chimney base (007) must have been inserted into the earlier building at a later date. In fact the photograph of this building in the desk-based study (Harvey, 2005, p.10) clearly shows the stone building having 'Victorian' style brick chimneys. The demolition layer (008) encountered in trench one appears to be all that survives of the rest of this building.

8.3 Trenches four to six contained no archaeology and so were negative, as was trench three. However trench three was very deep and contained large quantities of concrete rubble and general overburden. It appeared that this area of the site had been heavily disturbed and truncated during the construction of a modern man-hole drain.

9. Conclusion

9.1 The archaeological evaluation undertaken at the site of Mountsorrel Library, Market Place, Mountsorrel, Leicestershire (SK 5834 1509), established that the grass verge area on the north-east side of the site, contains evidence of post-medieval buildings. These remains have been identified as the 17th-18th century buildings that were demolished in 1964 before the construction of the library.

9.2 Further groundworks in this area of the site are likely to have an impact on the archaeological deposits present. It is therefore necessary for further archaeological work to be undertaken to fully record the surviving archaeological remains on the site.

10. Archive

10.1 The site archive consists of:

5 trench recording sheets, 5 context sheets, a permatrace drawing sheet and 58 colour digital photographs. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services Section, accession number: X.A33.2008.

11. Acknowledgements

11.1 I would like to thank the clients, Clegg Construction, and the Geotechnical surveyors, Nicholls Colton, for their assistance and co-operation on site. The fieldwork was carried out by the author and the project was managed by Patrick Clay, both of ULAS.

12. Bibliography

Clay, P., 2006 *Design Specification for archaeological work, Mountsorrel Library, Market Place, Mountsorrel, Leicestershire (SK 5834 1509)* ULAS Ref. 06/576

Harvey, J., 2005 *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment for Mountsorrel Library, Market Place, Mountsorrel, Leicestershire (SK 5834 1509)* ULAS Ref. 2005-123

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01.02.2008

13. *Appendix - Design Specification*

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Job title: Mountsorrel Library, Market Place, Mountsorrel, Leicestershire

NGR: SK 5834 1509

Client: Clegg Construction Ltd

Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council

Planning application No. 05/3783/2

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 at Market Place, Mountsorrel, Leicestershire (SK 5834 1509). The site comprises a tarmaced car park to the rear, the area of the now demolished library and a grass verge to the front.
- 2.1.2 Planning permission has been granted for the construction of seven dwellings with associated parking and landscaping.
- 2.1.3 Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team (LCC HNET) as archaeological advisors to the planning authority have requested exploratory works by trial trenching to identify whether the proposals will have an impact on any archaeological remains of significance. On the basis of this suitable mitigation measures can be formulated. This requirement is detailed in their letter of 18.01.2006 to CBC.

2.2 *Archaeological and Historical Background*

- 2.2.1 A desk-based assessment has been prepared for this development (ULAS Report 2005-123). The site is located within the medieval historic core of Mountsorrel (HER MLE 702) and a timber framed building had occupied the site prior to the construction of the library.

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.* 920 sq metres. A *c.* 5% sample of the area of impact is proposed, the equivalent of trenching totaling *c.* 45 sq m. (Fig 1). These trenches will be combined with a geotechnical survey in the light of the predicted impact (eg the tarmac will not be removed to the rear of the site but the grassed areas to the front will be reduced by *c.* 1.5 m. 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 establishing 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 start is to be arranged with two staff. Further staff will be added if archaeological remains are discovered.

10.2 An interim report will be provided with a full report to follow. 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 LCCHNET 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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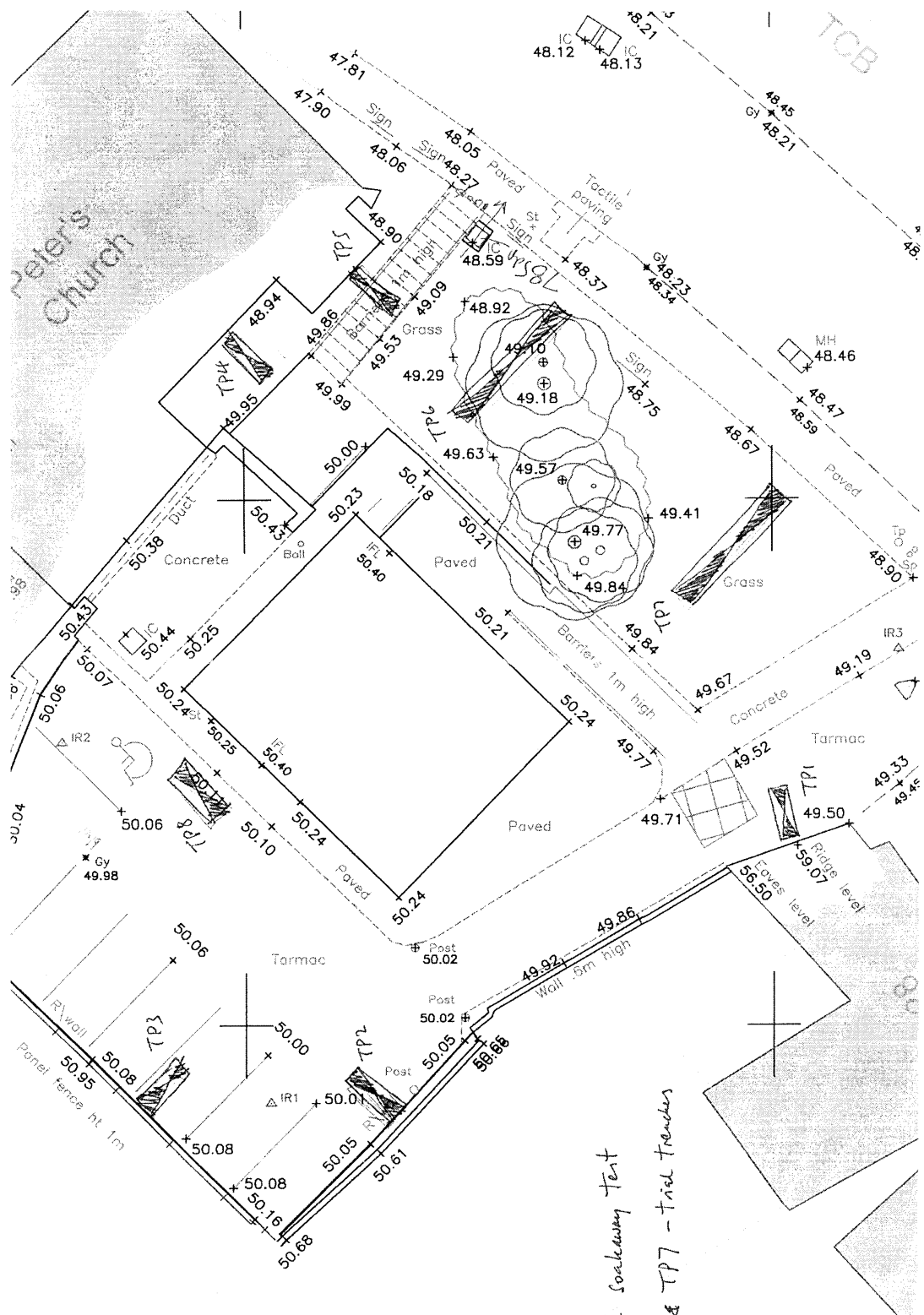


Fig 1 Proposed trench plan

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

2.2 *Working with plant.*

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

2.3 *Working within areas prone to waterlogging.*

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