



**An Archaeological Evaluation on land
At Moorbarns Lane, Lutterworth,
Leicestershire
[NGR: SK SP 532 834]**

Greg Farnworth-Jones

**For: Chris Hewitt
Planning Authority: Harborough District Council**

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**Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Moorbarns Lane, Lutterworth,
Leicestershire (NGR: SK SP 532 834)**

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Greg Farnworth-Jones

1. Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at Moorbarns Lane, Lutterworth, Leicestershire (NGR: SK SP 532 834) by ULAS on the 5th February 2008. This work was in advance of the proposed construction of a new agricultural barn and creation of access. This work was commissioned by Mr. Chris Hewitt. One evaluation trench was excavated which failed to reveal any archaeological finds or features. The results of the investigation were therefore negative. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services Section, under the Accession Number: [X.A35.2008].

2. Introduction

2.1 In accordance with Planning policy Guidelines 16 (PPG 16, Archaeology and Planning, para 30), this document presents the results of an archaeological evaluation on land at Moorbarns Lane, Lutterworth, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 532 834) required by Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the planning authority. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Mr. Chris Hewitt by University of Leicester Archaeological Services.

2.2 Mr. Chris Hewitt proposes to construct a new agricultural barn with associated access on land at Moorbarns Lane, Lutterworth, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 532 834). 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 by intrusive archaeological trial trenching. The site has potential for containing archaeological remains of a prehistoric and Roman date and unknown potential for remains of later periods.

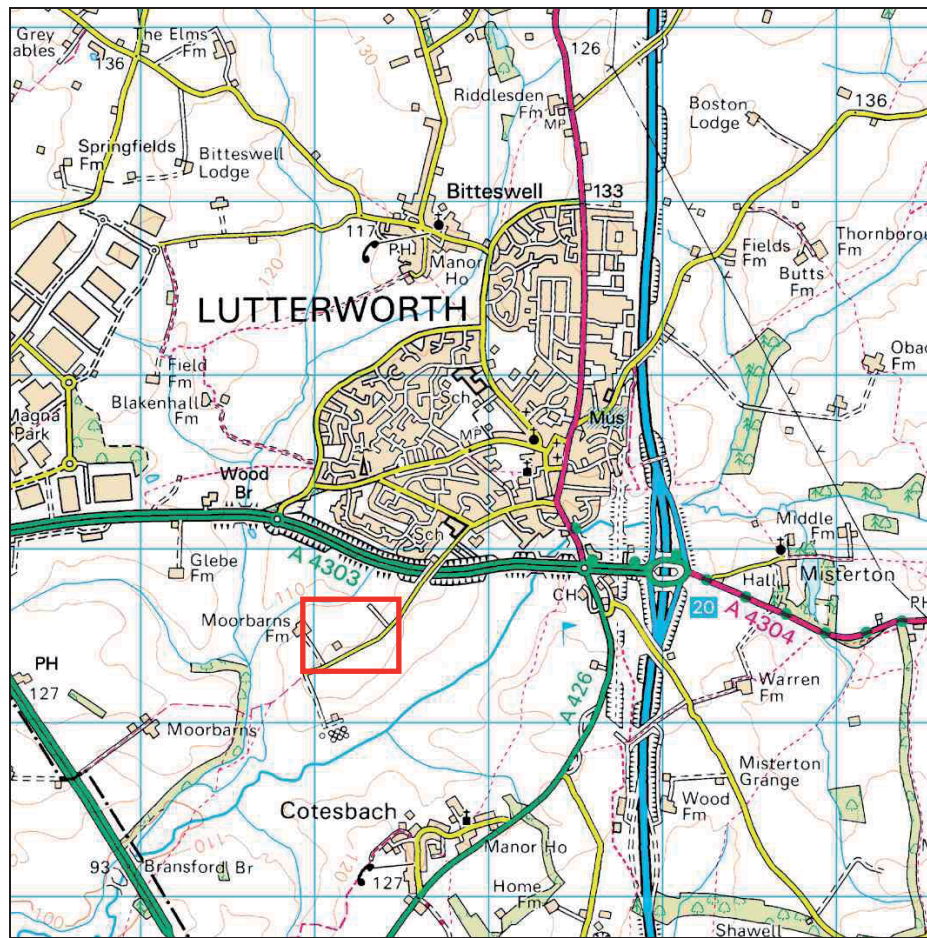


Fig. 1. Site location Scale 1:50000

Reproduced from the Landranger 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 2002. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495.

3. Site Location

3.1 The site is located on the northern side of Moorbarns Lane in the parish of Lutterworth, (NGR: SP 532 834) where it is proposed to construct a barn measuring 30m by 12m.

4. Geology and Topography

4.1 The geology of the site is likely to consist of Diamicton Till above interbedded limestone and mudstone of the Blue Lias Formation (Geological Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 169). The site lies at a height of *c.* 121m O.D. The land is fairly flat.

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

5.1 The application site lies in an area of archaeological potential, close to known remains. The crop mark of a ring ditch, likely to be a barrow, is recorded in the field adjacent to the application site (HER Ref: MLE 1920); modern Ordnance Survey mapping marks a tumulus on this spot.

5.2 Field walking in the field to the south of the application site has recovered sherds of Roman pottery (MLE 10432), and finds suggesting a Roman building are known a little further to the east (MLE 1942). Cropmarks show a rectangular enclosure in the adjacent field.

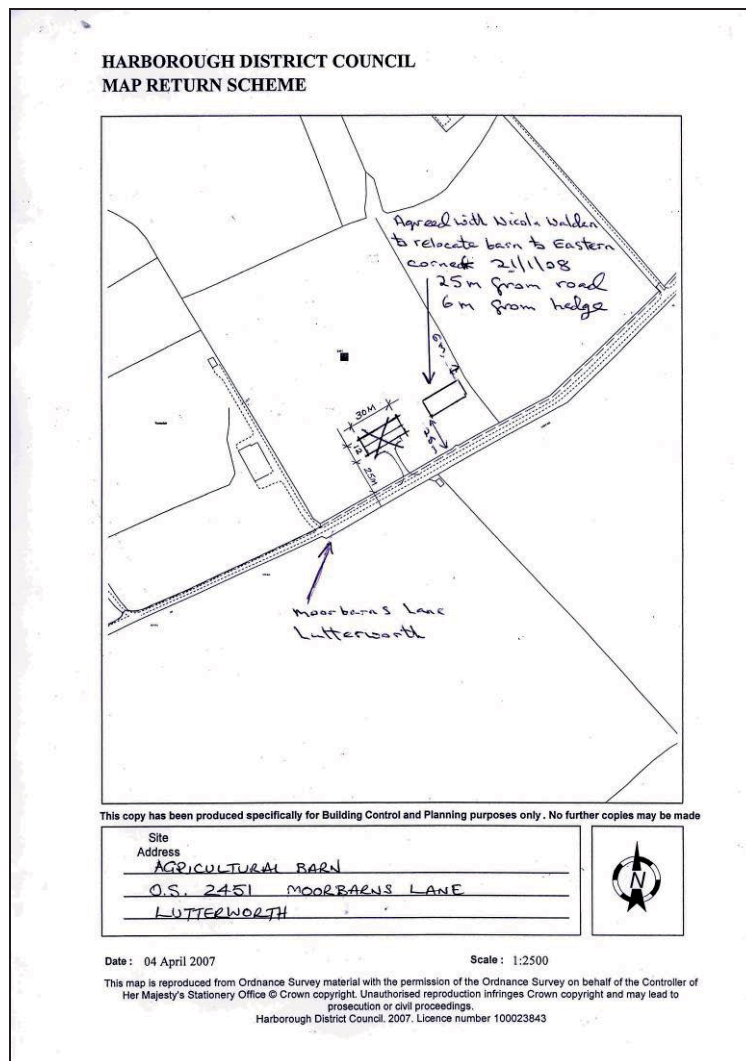


Fig. 2 Location of proposed barn (plan supplied by developer)

6. Aims and Objectives

6.1 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.

6.2 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.

7. Methodology

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

7.2 The Senior Planning Archaeologist had requested that a *c.* 7 % sample of the area affected by ground works (min 25 sq. m.) be evaluated archaeologically by trial trenching to confirm the nature, extent, date and significance of any archaeological deposits that may be present. The work followed the *Design Specification for Archaeological work* approved by the Senior Planning Archaeologist as advisor to the planning authority (Buckley, 2008). This comprised one 20m x 1.5m trench totalling 30 sq m. The exact location was defined by constraints of the area for trenching.

7.3 Topsoil/modern overburden was removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision, down to the uppermost archaeological deposits by JCB 3C using a toothless ditching bucket. Trenches were excavated to a width of 1.5m.

7.4 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.

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

8. Results

8.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 Details

<i>Length of Trench</i>	20m
<i>Area of Trench</i>	30sq.m
<i>Surface Level (m OD)</i>	c.121m OD
<i>Base of Trench (m OD)</i>	c.120.6 m OD (min), 121.4m OD (max).
<i>Top of Natural (m OD)</i>	c.120.75m OD (min), 120.70m OD (max).

Trench one was located on the north-east side of the site orientated north-east/south-west (Fig.3). Initial machining revealed mid-grey brown, very sandy-silt topsoil, down to a depth of c.0.15m. Further machining revealed mid-light yellowish-brown, sandy-clay subsoil to a further depth of c.0.2m. Below this layer natural was reached which consisted of light yellowish-brown clay at a height of c.120.7m. No archaeological finds or features were present within trench one.

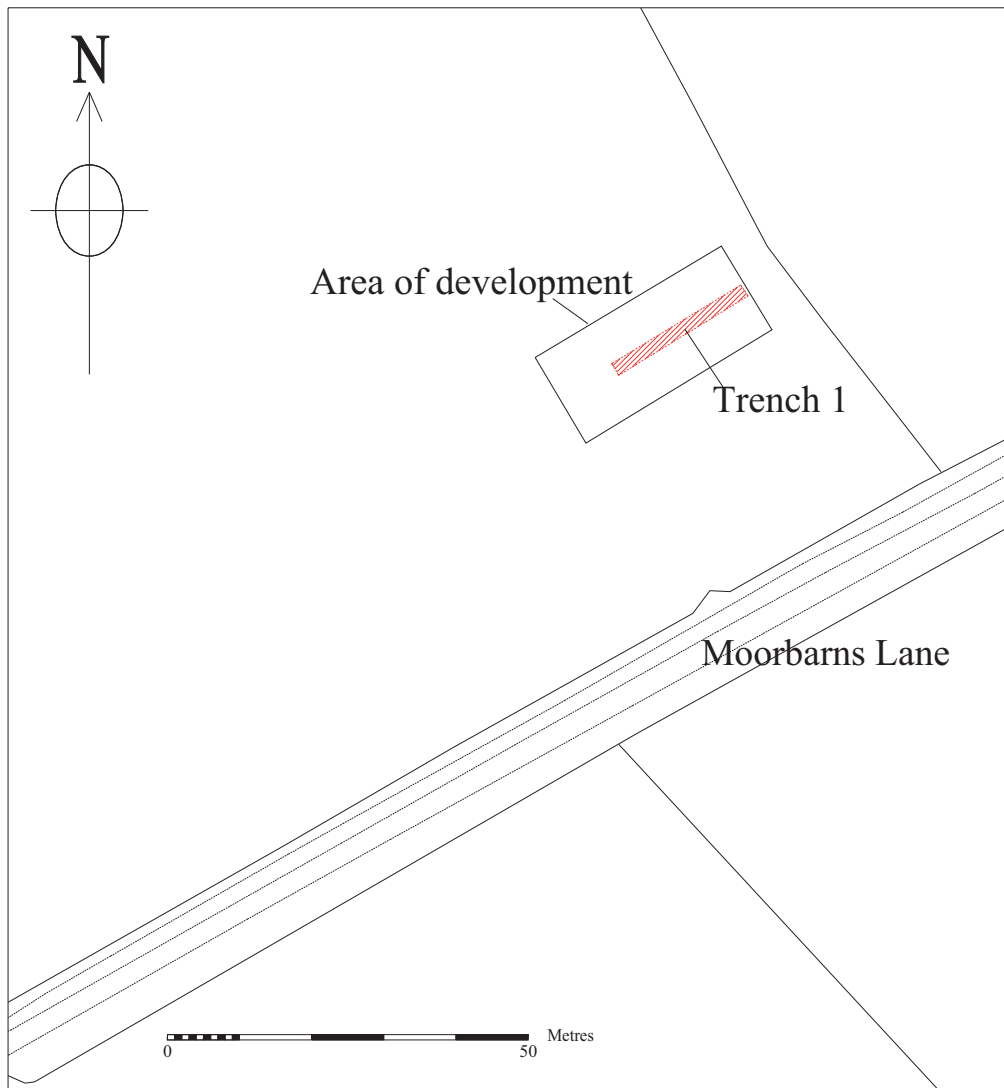


Fig. 3 Trench location plan



Fig. 4 Trench 1 facing SW

9. Conclusion

9.1 The archaeological evaluation undertaken on land at Moorbarns Lane, Lutterworth, Leicestershire (NGR: SK SP 532 834), produced no archaeological finds or features. Therefore the evaluation has established that the chance of uncovering archaeology in the remaining area of the site is unlikely.

9.2 The results of the archaeological investigation were therefore negative.

10. Archive

10.1 The site archive consists of 1 trench recording sheet and 9 digital colour photographs and will be held by Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services Section, accession number X.A35.2008.

11. Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the client, Chris Hewitt, for his assistance and co-operation on site. Richard Buckley managed the project and the fieldwork was carried out by the author both of ULAS.

12. Bibliography

Buckley, R., 2008 *Design Specification for archaeological evaluation by trial trenching, Proposed agricultural barn and creation of access, Moorbarns Lane, Lutterworth, Leicestershire (NGR: SK SP 532 834)* ULAS Ref. 08/149-01

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05.02.2008

Appendix 1- Design Specification

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching

Proposed agricultural barn and creation of access

Moorbarns Lane, Lutterworth, Leicestershire

NGR: SK SP 532 834

Client: Chris Hewitt

Planning Authority: Harborough District Council

1 Introduction

1.1 Definition and scope of the specification

This document is a design specification for a phase of intrusive 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 information on the character and extent of any buried archaeological remains which may exist on the site. The requirements of the planning authority are expressed in their 'Brief for Archaeological Evaluation at OS 2451, Moorbarns Lane, Lutterworth, Leicestershire (hereinafter the 'Brief').

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.

1.3 The document provides details of the work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client, and should be submitted to the Archaeological Advisor to the Planning Authority for approval before archaeological investigation by ULAS is implemented. The document provides details of the work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client for:

- archaeological evaluation by intrusive trial trenching.

2. Background (taken from the Brief).

2.1 Context of the Project

2.1.1 The site is located on the northern side of Moorbarns Lane in the parish of Lutterworth, where it is proposed to construct a barn measuring 30m by 12m.

2.1.2 The senior planning archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council has requested an archaeological evaluation of 7% of the site by trial trenching (min 25 sq. m) to confirm the nature, extent, date and significance of any archaeological deposits that may be present. University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS), undertook this work (see below).

2.2 Geological and Topographical Background

2.2.1 The geology of the site is likely to consist of Diamicton Till above interbedded limestone and mudstone of the Blue Lias Formation (Geological Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 169)

2.3 Archaeological and Historical Background (from Brief)

2.3.1 The application site lies in an area of archaeological potential, close to known remains. The crop mark of a ring ditch, likely to be a barrow, is recorded in the field adjacent to the application site (HER Ref: MLE 1920); modern Ordnance Survey mapping marks a tumulus on this spot.

2.3.2 Field walking in the field to the south of the application site has recovered sherds of Roman pottery (MLE 10432), and finds suggesting a Roman building are known a little further to the east (MLE 1942). Cropmarks show a rectangular enclosure in the adjacent field.



Fig. 1 Site Location

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, date range and environmental potential for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposals.
- To sample excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the 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 and significance of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the

potential impact upon them from proposed development. The archaeological evaluation, once the above information has been gathered, will serve to determine a decision being made on planning permission regarding archaeological issues. Potentially further stages of archaeological investigation will be required as a condition of planning permission.

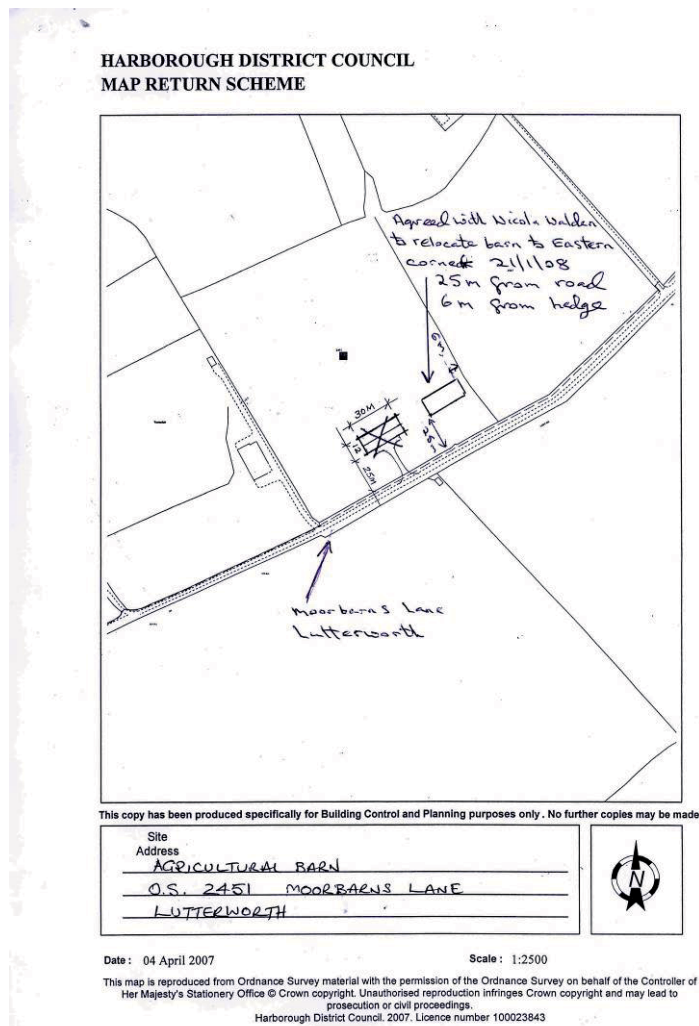


Fig. 2 Location of proposed barn

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 Planning authority and the Client, if required.

4.2 Trial Trenching Methodology

- 4.2.1 One trenches, 20m by 1.5m (total of 30sq. m), will be excavated across the footprint of the proposed agricultural building (Fig. 2).
- 4.2.2 The present ground surfaces and underlying modern overburden (approximately 0.2 - 0.5m of made ground is expected), over the area of the trench, will be removed in level spits, under

continuous archaeological supervision. The work will use a mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket and will continue down to the uppermost archaeological deposits or undisturbed natural (whichever is encountered first), to a maximum depth of 1m (See Section 11). The trenches will be backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation, but surfaces will not be reinstated.

- 4.2.3 The trench will be examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located will be planned at an appropriate scale. Archaeological deposits will be sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence. All plans will be tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Relative spot heights will be taken as appropriate.
- 4.2.4 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 benchmark.
- 4.2.5 The trench location will be recorded in relation to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.
- 4.2.6 Any human remains will initially be left *in situ* and will only be removed if necessary for their protection, in compliance with relevant legal and 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. The relative height of all principal strata and features will be recorded. The stratigraphy of all trenches shall be recorded even where no archaeological features are identified.
- 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 & samples**

- 5.1 The IFA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to.
- 5.2 All antiquities, valuables, objects or remains of archaeological interest, other than articles declared by Coroner's Inquest to be subject to the Treasure Act, discovered in or under the Site during the carrying out of the project by ULAS or during works carried out on the Site by the Client shall be deemed to be the property of ULAS provided that ULAS after due examination of the said Archaeological Discoveries shall transfer ownership of all Archaeological Discoveries unconditionally to LCC for storage in perpetuity.
- 5.3 An Accession number will be obtained from the Assistant Keeper of Archaeological Archives at Leicestershire County Council that will be used to identify all records and finds from the site, prior to the commencement of any on-site works.
- 5.4 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. As part of this phase, environmental sampling

will be undertaken as appropriate in order to assess the environmental potential of the deep ditch or pond-like features under investigation. 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.

- 5.5 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 City Archaeologist. The IFA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to.
- 5.6 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

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 Senior Planning Archaeologist/SMR to be distributed amongst relevant sections of Leicestershire County Council as necessary.
- 6.2 The report will include consideration of:
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
 - The nature, location and extent 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 to the local archaeological journal, 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.
- 7.2 University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS form at <http://ads.ac.uk/project/oasis> will be completed detailing the results of the project. ULAS will contact Leicestershire County Council's SMR prior to completion of the form. Once a report has become a public document following its incorporation into Leicestershire SMR it may be placed on the web-site. The Developer should agree to this procedure in writing as part of the process of submitting the report to Leicestershire SMR.

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 archaeological evaluation is scheduled to start on 5 February 2008 and will last approximately 1 week.

10.2 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.

10.3 An interim report on the results of the evaluation can be prepared, if required, after the completion of the fieldwork.

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.

12 Insurance

12.1 All employees, consultants and volunteers are covered by the University of Leicester public liability insurance, £20m cover with St. Paul Travellers (policy no. UCPOP3651237). Professional indemnity insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters 50% and Brit Insurance 50%, £10m cover (policy no. PUNIO3605). Employer's Liability Insurance is with St. Paul Travellers, cover £10m (policy no. UCPOP3651237).

13. Monitoring arrangements

13.1 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and Senior Planning Archaeologist subject to the health and safety requirements of the site. Notice will be given to the Leicestershire 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 unlikely event, that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the project, ULAS shall inform the site agent/project manager, Client and the Senior Planning Archaeologist and Planning Authority and prepare a short written statement with plans detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Senior Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement an amended scheme of investigation on behalf of the client as appropriate.

15. Bibliography

- Brief *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation at OS 2451, Moorbarns Lane, Lutterworth, Leicestershire* issued by Historic and Natural Environment Team, Environment and Heritage Services, Leicestershire County Council
- 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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APPENDIX 1: Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement:

Proposed agricultural barn and creation of access

Moorbarns Lane, Lutterworth, Leicestershire

NGR: SK SP 532 834

Client: Chris Hewitt

A risks assessment will be completed by site personnel and will be updated and amended by on-site staff during the course of the evaluation.

1. Nature of the work

- 1.1 The work will involve trial trenching during daylight hours to reveal underlying archaeological deposits. The work will involve excavation using machine (JCB or equivalent with toothless ditching bucket), of trial trenches under the control and supervision of archaeologists.

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 Trial Trenching

The work will involve machine excavation by mechanical excavator during daylight hours to reveal underlying archaeological deposits. Due to the possible presence of hazardous ground gases and soft unstable ground, no trench will exceed 1m in depth as recommended by the site contamination investigation (RSK ENSR 2006). An assessment of the stability of the sides will be carried out by a competent person prior to staff access. All open trenches will be checked for stability every day and staff will remain alert to any indications of gases (e.g. smell).

A 'No Smoking' rule will be applied to the excavation areas.

Spoil will be stockpiled no less than 1.5 m from the edge of the excavation with the edges kept clean.

One end of each trench will be modified to provide access. Entry into the base of the trench is to be by this access only.

Remaining works will involve the examination of the exposed surface with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and excavation of archaeological features. 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. A first aid kit and mobile phone is to be kept on site at all times in case of an emergency.

2.2 Working with plant.

Each trench will be excavated by machine under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist. A responsible person will be nominated as banksman. They will direct the machine using a series of pre-arranged hand signals. No one else is to approach the machine working area until the banksman has been made aware of their presence.

During bucket changes site staff will stand well clear of the machine until the bucket/breaker has been correctly fitted and crowned.

During machining all personnel are to wear a safety helmet, steel toe-capped boots and a high visibility jacket / vest. Ear defenders / plugs and safety glasses will also be made available to all staff on site. Ear protection will be worn whilst the breaker/excavator is in use.

2.3 Working in vicinity of services

There is a known electricity sub-station adjacent to the site. No work will be carried out until a services plan has been seen and the location of known services are clearly identified and marked. Trenches may be moved to avoid services.

If services or wells are encountered, machining will be halted until their extent has been established by hand excavation, or areas where it is safe to machine have been established.

2.4 ***Working within areas prone to waterlogging.***

In the event of waterlogging preventing work continuing, an assessment will be made by the site supervisor to determine if it is possible to excavate a sump, suitably fenced and clearly marked to enable the water to drain away from the trenches. Protective clothing will be worn at all times and precautions taken to prevent contact with stagnant water which may carry Vials disease or similar.

2.5 ***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.

2.6 ***Other risks***

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.