

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
Rectory Field Nursery, Rectory Road,
Wanlip, Leicestershire.
(SK 598 107).**

Gavin Speed

For: K & D Group

Charnwood Borough Council
Planning Application Reference: 01/2510/2

Checked by Project Manager

Signed: **Date:**.....

Name:

**University of Leicester
Archaeological Services**

University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614
Website: <http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas/>

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Figure 1: Site location. Reproduced from Landranger® 1:50 000 scale by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100021187.

Figure 2: Proposed location of new bungalow

Figure 3: Proposed building layout

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Rectory Field Nursery, Rectory Road, Wanlip, Leicestershire (SK 598 107).

Gavin Speed

University of Leicester Archaeological Services

Report No. 2004/046

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during ground works for the construction of a detached property at Rectory Field Nursery, Rectory Road, Wanlip, Leicestershire (SK 598 107) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of K & D Group.

No archaeological finds or deposits were observed during this work. The site archive will be deposited with Leicester Museums Service under accession number XA.46.2004.

Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) during groundworks for development on land at Rectory Field Nursery, Rectory Road, Wanlip, Leicestershire (SK 598 107).

The site had been identified as an area of archaeological potential from information held in the Leicestershire and Rutland Sites and Monuments Record. In view of this an archaeological watching brief during the ground works was required as part of the planning conditions by Charnwood Borough Council (planning application no. 01/2510/2).

The University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) was then commissioned to carry out the watching brief on behalf of the client, K & D Group. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on the 26th February 2004, the work involved archaeological observation during excavation of foundation trenches for a new dwelling.

Location and Geology

The site is situated 6.5km north of Leicester city centre to the east of Rectory Lane, Wanlip, in the Borough of Charnwood (fig.1). The area of groundworks totals 13m x 13m (see fig.2), and lies at a height of *c.* 50m O.D.

The Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 156 indicates that the underlying geology would consist of sand and gravel.

Archaeological Objectives

The aims of the watching brief were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range of any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To assess the local, regional and national importance of any deposits.
- To define an appropriate mitigation strategy if necessary.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Archaeological Background

No known archaeological work has been previously undertaken within the application area. However, a vast amount of archaeological activity has been previously recorded in the area.

Several archaeological sites are known from the surrounding area. An Iron Age settlement and enclosure site has also been excavated to the north of the works (Beamish 1998). Recent archaeological investigation in advance of the new pipeline immediately also to the north of the site has revealed several sites of archaeological interest including a previously unknown later prehistoric settlement site with possibly associated ditched field system. Another small area held evidence of activity consisting of a gully and pit cluster, also of later prehistoric date. Towards the Wanlip end of the pipeline Anglo Saxon and Roman remains were recorded (Thomas 2003). An Anglo-Saxon cemetery has also been partially excavated to the west of the site.

Methodology

The ground had been previously cleared of vegetation using a JCB. The archaeological watching brief involved archaeological observation of the excavation of foundation trenches for the proposed detached property.

Foundation trenches were excavated using a JCB 3CX. Following their excavation, all foundation trenches were examined and recorded by written record and photographs.

The work followed the *Archaeological design specification for an archaeological watching brief (03/750 ULAS)*, and the Institute of Field

Archaeologists' (IFA) *Code of Conduct* and the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological watching briefs*.

Results

The topsoil consisted of a very dark grey loam, with major root disturbance. Three sherds of 'Willow pattern' and glass fragments (of Post-medieval/modern date) were observed in the topsoil.

The subsoil consisted of dark brown sandy clay with occasional pebbles, and the natural substratum consisted of orange sand.

The same sequence of soil horizons was observed in all of the foundation trenches.

No significant archaeological finds or deposits were located within the machine-excavated foundations.

Conclusion

No archaeological deposits, features or pre-modern artefacts were encountered during the watching brief.

The application area had been previously used as a builder's yard, and it is possible that any possible archaeological deposits may have already been removed/disturbed

Site Archive

The archive will be deposited with Leicester City Museums Service under accession number X.A.46 2003. It consists of a watching brief recording form, colour transparency slides and monochrome negatives.

Publication

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

Acknowledgements

This archaeological watching brief was carried out by Gavin Speed, and the project manager was James Meek.

Bibliography

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Gavin Speed
University of Leicester Archaeological Services
University Road, Leicester, LE1 7RH

gs50@leicester.ac.uk
Tel:0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614

01.03.2003

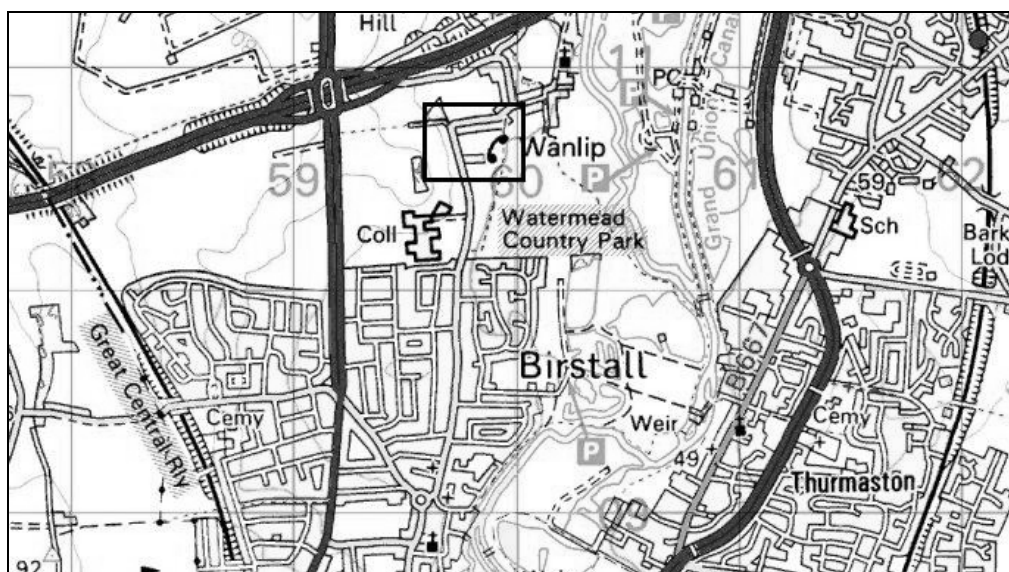


Figure 1: Site location.

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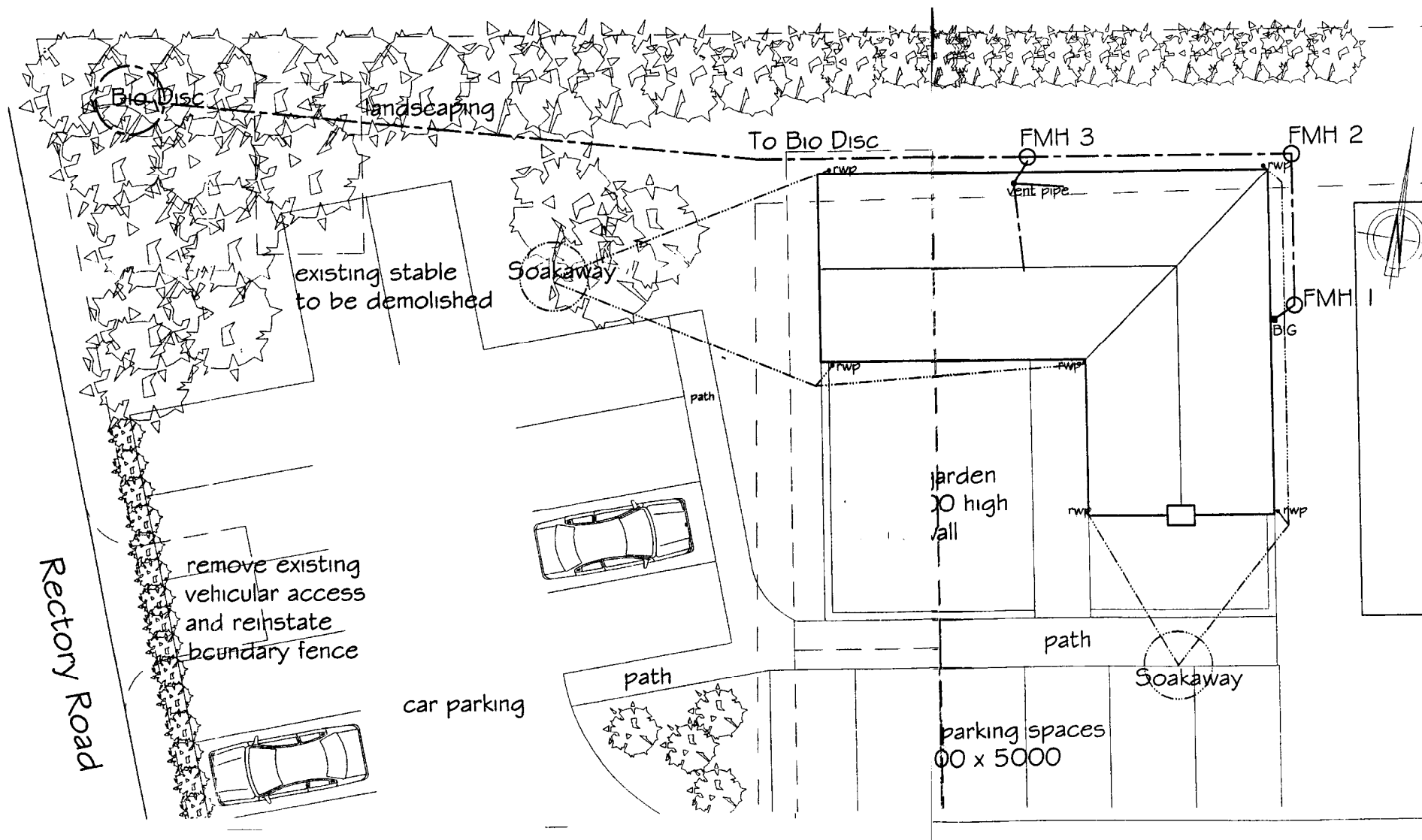


Fig. 2: Proposed location of new bungalow

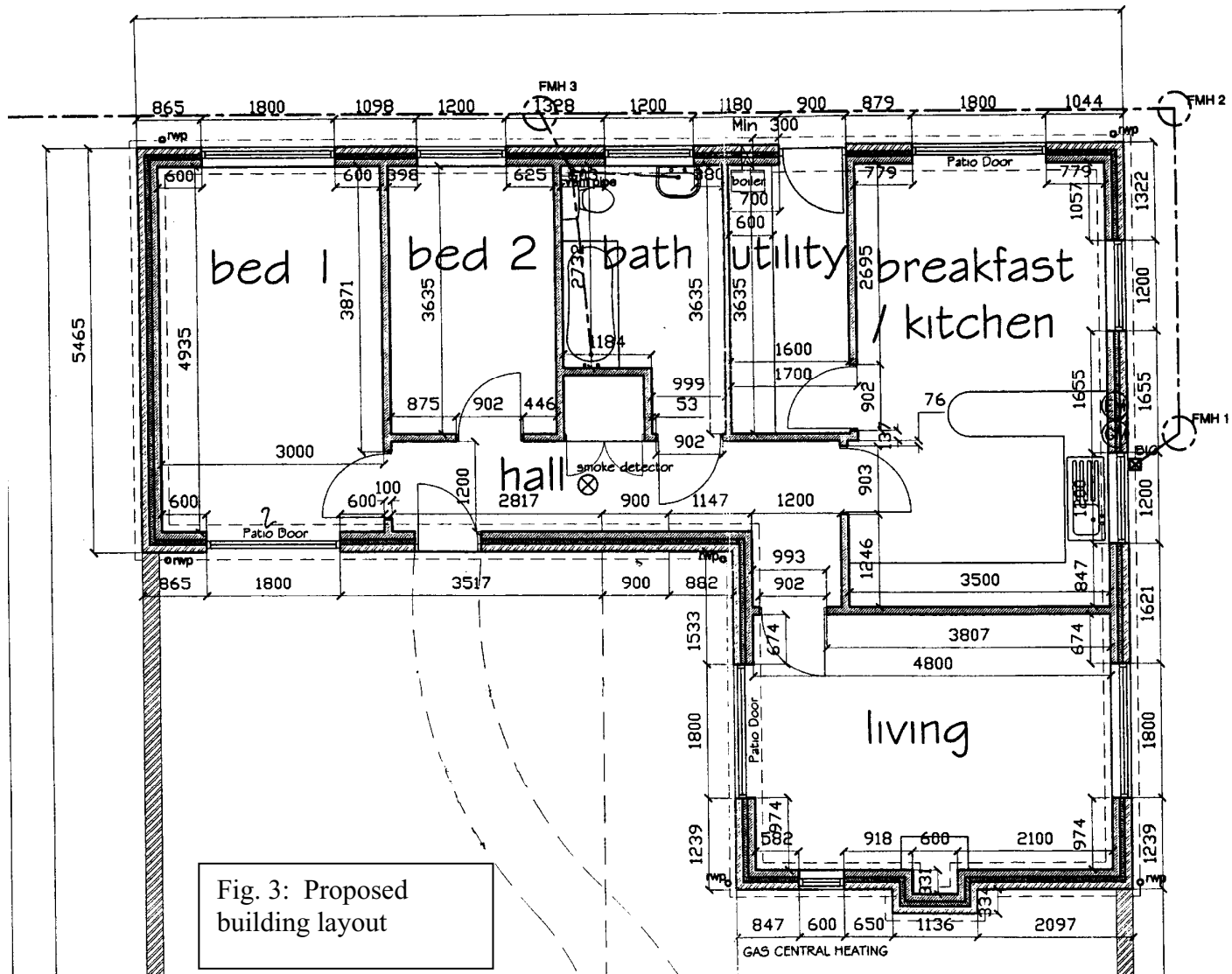


Fig. 3: Proposed building layout