An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Link Road/Bradgate Road, Anstey, Leicestershire (SK 512 179)

Greg Farnworth-Jones

Client: Jelson Ltd. Planning Application No: 07/2671/2 Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council

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1. Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at Link Road/Bradgate Road, Anstey, Leicestershire (SK 512 179), between the 12th and the 15th May 2008. This work was undertaken on behalf of Jelson Limited, as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of a proposed new residential development. Twelve evaluation trial trenches were excavated, which revealed vague traces of furrows from preenclosure strip farming. No further evidence was revealed for archaeological deposits or finds.

The site archive will be held with the County Archaeological Heritage Services, Leicestershire County Council, Community Services Department, under the accession code: [X.A83.2008].

2. Introduction

2.1 University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Jelson Ltd. to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land at Link Road/Bradgate Road, Anstey, Leicestershire (SK 512 179). This work was undertaken as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of a proposed new residential development.

2.2 In accordance with DOE Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (PPG 16, Archaeology and Planning, para.30) 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 phase of intrusive trial trench evaluation be undertaken at the site to confirm the presence or absence of archaeological remains at the site.

2.3 The development site and areas to the north-west has been subject to a previous geophysical survey (GSB 2000), which identified a number of anomalies of possible archaeological origin. This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching carried out in May 2008 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS).

3. Site Background

3.1 The site is located off Link Road and Bradgate Road, Anstey, Leicestershire (SK 512 179). The site comprises pasture covering *c*.2.4ha.

3.2 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 1, indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of alluvium overlying boulder clay. The site undulates between the heights of c.84m OD and c.88m OD.



Figure 1Site Location Scale 1:50000© Crown Copyright Licence No. 100021186

4. Previous Work and Archaeological Survey

4.1 The application area lies to the north-west of the village core (HER ref: MLE402) site and areas to the north-west has been subject to previous geophysical survey (GSB 2000) which has identified a number of anomalies of possible archaeological origin.

4.2 The place-name is derived from the Old English word '*anstiga*'. This has generally been interpreted as referring to a short or narrow length of road, possibly on a slope or a hill (Ekwall 1960, *sub* Anstey). On the basis of topographic comparison, Margaret Gelling (1984 63-4) has suggested that the place – name refers more specifically to settlements on a short stretch of road with forks at either end. She also noted that many Ansteys were in elevated positions. Certainly, the Leicestershire Anstey fits both criteria.

4.3 Anstey is first recorded in the Domesday Book when it was held by one of the county's largest landholders, Hugh de Grantemesnil, castellan of Leicester (DB, 1, 232a). The Domesday Book also records that 1 plough and 4 serfs were held by the lord, 13 villeins and 4 bordars held 2 ploughs, 8 acres of meadow and two stretches of woodland. Anstey was a chapelry of Thurcaston until 1866 when it became an independat parish (Rot. Hugh, I, 252; VCH Leics, 1, 399). Thurcaston also included the hamlet of Cropston. Both Anstey and Cropston were presumably once berewicks or manorial dependencies of Thurcaston. At the time of Domesay Book, both Thurcaston and Anstey manors were held by Hugh Grantemesnil, castellan of Leicester. Domesday (DB 1, 230a) records that Hugh had 24 burgesses in Leicester attached to Anstey.

4.4 Robert fitz Parnell, Earl of Leicester (1191-1204) granted land and four cottages in Anstey to Leicester Abbey (Augustinian). He also granted the Abbey the rights to pasturage in that part of Leicester Forest lying between the roads from Leicester to Anstey and Groby (Bodl. Laud 625, fo. ivb; Rot. Chart, li,145). The latter area can be identified with the extra-parochial areas known in modern times as Anstey Pastures, Leicester Frith and Gilroes.

4.5 Leicester Abbey manor was clearly not the only estate in Anstey by the 14th century. The Ferrers family also held a manor in the west. Some of the Ferrers land was granted to Ulverscroft priory in the 1280's and 90's. In the late 13th century, the Cistercian abbey of Garendon was granted rent from two properties in Anstey by Margaret Ferrers. Prior to the Dissolution nearly half, if not more of the Ferrers manor in Anstey must have been in monastic hands. The Ferrers estates descended by marriage in 1445 to the Grey family (later Earls of Stamford). The Greys dwelt in Bradgate House from 1500 until 1709, after which date they dwelt permanently at Enville in Staffordshire.

5. Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The principle aims of the archaeological evaluation were:
- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range of any archaeological deposits located.
- To define the quality and state of preservation of these deposits.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

6. Methodology

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

6.2 The application area covers c. 2.4 ha and the area of impact covers c. 1.5 ha. The Senior Planning Archaeologist had requested that a c.3.2% sample of the area of impact be sampled, the equivalent of c. ten 30m x 1.6m trench totaling c.450 sq metres (Clay 2008). In actuality the width of the machine bucket used was found to be to narrow (1.5m). In light of this it was decided that two more trenches would be added to reach the 3.2% sample requirement.

6.3 Topsoil and 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 approximately 1.5m (or one bucket width) down to the top of archaeological deposits or natural undisturbed ground, whichever was reached first.

6.4 Trenches were examined by 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.

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

6.6 Trench locations were located and recorded using a GPS station and tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The data was processed using TopCon tools survey software and the final plans completed with the aid of TurboCad version 11 design software.

7. **Results and Interpretations**

7.1 A total of 12 trial trenches were excavated in the proposed development site. All trenches were 30m in length (unless stated otherwise in the results table Figure 4.) and c. 1.5m in width. Their locations are shown on Figure 3. Four of the trenches were located to target areas of archaeological potential based on the previous geophysical survey. The remaining trenches provided a random sample of the area (approximately 3.2%), in order to get a representative cover of the proposed development area.

7.2 Initial machining in trench1 revealed dark grey brown friable clay silt (40/60), with occasional small rounded / sub-angular stones (2%) to a depth of c. 0.35m. Beneath this layer was observed compact mid red brown silty clay (30/70), with occasional rounded stones (1%), to a further depth of c. 0.1m. At a depth of c. 0.50m was revealed the natural substratum which consisted of mid / light orange brown sandy clay alluvium with small weathered angular stone inclusions (8%). This same stratigraphy was found across the site in all twelve trial trenches although the stratigraphic depths varied due to the undulation of the site.



Figure 2 Proposed trench plan in relation to the geophysical anomalies (From GSB 2007). Area to the north-east is allocated as a public open space.



Fig. 3 Trench Location Plan

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stratigraphy was found across the site in all twelve trial trenches although the stratigraphic depths varied due to the undulation of the site.

7.3 Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4 and 11 and 12 were all positioned to target the geophysical anomalies located during the previous geophysical survey (GBS 2000). However most of these anomalies appear to have been the result of field drains and natural geological features.

7.4 Located at 15.7m from the southern edge of trench 1 was what had initially appeared to be a linear feature (001), [002]. However after further machining for the extra trench 12 revealed that this was actually a modern field drain.

7.5 During the machining of Trench 7 it initially appeared as though some post holes had been located. However after thorough excavation of these 'features' it was apparent that they were actually natural features most probably caused by root action. Insubstantial and intermittent traces of ridge and furrow were observed in trench 5 orientated north-east to south-west. These correspond with the geophysical survey results which located evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation in the adjacent field to the north-west of the site (fig.2). No other archaeological finds, features or deposits were located during the evaluation.

Tr.	Length	Width	Subsoil	Depth	Notes	Top of
No	_		Depth	of		archaeology
			-	Natural		(m)
						· · · ·
1	30m	1.5m	0.35m	0.50m	negative	N/A
2	30m	1.5m	0.32m	0.40m	negative	N/A
3	30m	1.5m	0.30m	0.38m	negative	N/A
4	30m	1.5m	0.28m	0.40m	negative	N/A
5	30m	1.5m	0.30m	0.40m	NE-SW furrows	N/A
6	30m	1.5m	0.29m	0.41m	negative	N/A
7	30m	1.5m	0.32m	0.41m	negative	N/A
8	30m	1.5m	0.28m	0.43m	negative	N/A
9	30m	1.5m	0.30m	0.42m	negative	N/A
10	30m	1.5m	0.29m	0.40m	negative	N/A
11	30m	1.5m	0.29m	0.40m	negative	N/A
12	30m	1.5m	0.29m	0.40m	negative	N/A

Figure 4 Trench summary



Figure 5 Trench 5 containing traces of ridge and furrow (NW facing)

8. Discussion and Conclusion

8.1 The archaeological evaluation by trial trenching identified vague traces of ridge and furrow which were orientated northeast to south-west and correspond to the geophysical survey results (GBS 2000) which suggested ridge and furrow in the adjacent field.

8.2 Ridge and furrow is generally considered representative of medieval ploughing within the midlands and northern counties (Hall 1998) and is the most common surviving feature of the medieval landscape (Astill & Grant 1988). Fields were divided into strips within an open landscape and ploughed for arable crops causing large ridges. This creation of ridges is thought to assist natural drainage; ridges are usually therefore often aligned down the steepest gradient (Hall 1988). This method caused the soil to move in the direction of ploughing creating heads at the end of ridges where the plough was lifted for turning and headlands where two strips lay at right angles to each other.

8.3 No further evidence was revealed for archaeological features or finds.

9. Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the clients Jelson Ltd for their assistance and co-operation. Patrick Clay managed the project and the fieldwork was carried out by the author, with the assistance of Tim Rhodes all of ULAS.

10. Archive

The site archive [X.A83.2008], consisting of paper records, permatrace drawings and digital colour photographs will be housed with the County Archaeological Heritage Services, Leicestershire County Council Community Services Department.

Archive accession code [X.A83.2008] contents:

Context Sheets	Trench Recording Sheets	Permatrace Sheets	Digital Colour Slides	Index Sheets
4	10	1	26	2

11. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological publication in due course.

12. Bibliography

Astill, G. and Grant, A., 1998 Medieval fields in all their forms. *British Archaeology* 33 April 1998

Clay, P., 2008 Design Specification for archaeological work on land at Link Road/Bradgate Road, Anstey, Leicestershire (SK 512 179) ULAS Ref: 08/633

DB Domesday Book: Leicestershire

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- Gelling, M., 1984 Place-names in the Landscape. London
- Rot. Hugh. *Rotuli Hugonis de Welles* Vol. 1, ed., W.P.W. Phillimore. (Lincoln Record Society **3**). Lincoln 1912.

VCH Victoria County History, Leicestershire and Warwickshire.

Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), 2001 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2001)

Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service. *Guidelines and Procedures for* Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland.

GSB 2000 *Geophysical Survey report. Anstey, Link Road.* Geophysical surveys of Bradford

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10/06/2008

Appendix:

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Job title: Link Road/Bradgate Road, Anstey, Leicestershire

NGR: SK 512 179

Client: Jelson Ltd

Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council

Planning application No. 07/2671/2

1. Introduction

1.1 **Definition and scope of the specification**

This document is a design specification for an initial phase of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching 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 a mitigation strategy can be agreed to fulfill Condition 28 of the planning permission.

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 off Link Road and Bradgate Road, Anstey, Leicestershire (SK 512 179). The site comprises pasture covering c. 2.4ha.
- 2.1.2 Planning permission has been granted for residential development. The south-eastern extent of the area is to remain as a public open space.
- 2.1.3 Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team (LCCHNET) as archaeological advisors to the planning authority have requested an initial stage of archaeological work comprising a field evaluation by trial trenching to identify and locate any archaeological remains of significance and propose suitable treatment to avoid or minimise damage by the development.

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.2.1 The site and areas to the northwest is has been subject to previous geophysical survey (GSB 2000) which has identified a number of anomalies of possible archaeological origin.
- 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 earthfast 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. 2.4 ha. and the area of impact covers c. 1.5 ha. A c. 3.2% sample of the area of impact is proposed, the equivalent of c. ten 30m x 1.6m trench totaling c. 450 sq m. (Fig 1). 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 Ministry of Justice guidelines 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 is scheduled to start during w.c 12.05.2008 with two staff. Further staff will be added if archaeological remains are discovered.
- 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.
- 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 LCCHS 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)
GSB 2000	Geophysical Survey report. Anstey, Link Road
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Fig 1 Site location



Fig 2 Proposed trench plan in relation to the geophysical anomalies (From GSB 2007). Area to the north-east is allocated as a public open space.

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 not to 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 Wiels 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.