



**An Archaeological Strip, Plan and Sample  
at Mount Cottage, 29, Mount Road,  
Castle Gresley, South Derbyshire.**

**NGR SK 2793 1790**

**Jamie Patrick**

**For: Clare West & David Littlewood**

Checked by	
<b>Signed:</b> .....	<b>Date:</b> 04-06-200..
<b>Name:</b> ....Vicki Score.....	
Approved by	
<b>Signed:</b> .....	<b>Date:</b> 04-06-200..
<b>Name:</b> ....Patrick Clay .....	

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

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## CONTENTS

Summary .....	1
Introduction.....	1
Site Location and Geology.....	1
Background.....	1
Aims.....	3
Methodology .....	3
Results.....	4
Conclusion .....	4
Archive.....	4
Acknowledgements.....	5
Bibliography .....	5
Appendix 1: Design Specification .....	9

## FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location (outlined).....	2
Figure 2: Site of proposed development (taken from the Archaeological Brief) .....	3
Figure 3: Overview of excavated slots through post-medieval ditch, looking south-west. ....	6
Figure 4: Section through ditch terminal looking south-west.....	7
Figure 5: Section through ditch looking south-west.....	7
Figure 6: Machining away the overburden on the site.....	7

## **An Archaeological Strip, Plan and Sample at Mount Cottage, 29, Mount Road, Castle Gresley, South Derbyshire (SK 2793 1790).**

### **Summary**

*An archaeological strip, plan and sample was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at Mount Cottage, 29, Mount Road, Castle Gresley, South Derbyshire (NGR 279 179) during groundworks associated with a proposed garage and dwelling extension. The site lies approximately 12 metres north-west of Castle Gresley Motte and Bailey, a Scheduled Monument. The site covers approximately 25 square metres and no known previous excavations have taken place in the vicinity. The overburden was excavated down to the natural geology which was cut by a post-medieval ditch on the southern excavation limit. No archaeological features were found related to the castle or pre-dating the ditch. The archive will be deposited with Derby Museum and Art Gallery with accession number DBY MU 2008/159.*

### **Introduction**

An archaeological field evaluation was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of Clare West and David Littlewood during groundworks covering the footprint of a proposed garage and dwelling extension. This was carried out in order to evaluate any archaeological remains that might exist within the proposed development area which lies close (12 meters from the north-west boundary), to a motte and bailey castle (SM23288). The evaluation was required by the Development Control Archaeologist, Derbyshire County Council, as archaeological advisor to the planning authority prior to planning consent being granted. The Archaeological Brief required a two-stage strip, plan and record approach.

### **Site Location and Geology**

The site lies approximately one kilometre to the north-west of Castle Gresley Village centre and approximately three kilometres to the south-west of Swadlincote town centre, just south-west of the A444 (Fig. 1). The proposed development site lies on fairly flat terrain with the natural bedrock comprising Sandstone deposits with thin beds of mudstone and conglomerate, close to the boundary with Coal formation deposits (Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain sheet 141). Superficial deposits in the area include head and till deposits and areas of alluvium. The present cottage has been built into the development area creating a terrace which would have destroyed any archaeological deposits, which may have existed next to the road.

### **Background**

No Desk-based Assessment has been carried out for this site and no known fieldwork has taken place in the vicinity of the site. However, the proposed extension lies close

to the north-western boundary of the Scheduled Monument (SM23288) of Castle Gresley Motte and Bailey (Fig. 2). The Scheduled Monument boundary does not encompass all of the area occupied by the medieval castle and it was possible that buried evidence of the castle or associated remains could lie within the proposed development area.

The monument includes a motte (approximately 4m high) and three baileys and would have had an elevated position with wide views over the countryside between The River Trent to the north and the River Mease to the south. The castle was documented between 1371 and 1375, and founded at this time by William de Gresley (English Heritage Record of Scheduled Monuments). The proposed development site lies at the back (north-east) of the motte and ditch and not the bailey ditch where associated buildings would be expected (see figure 1).

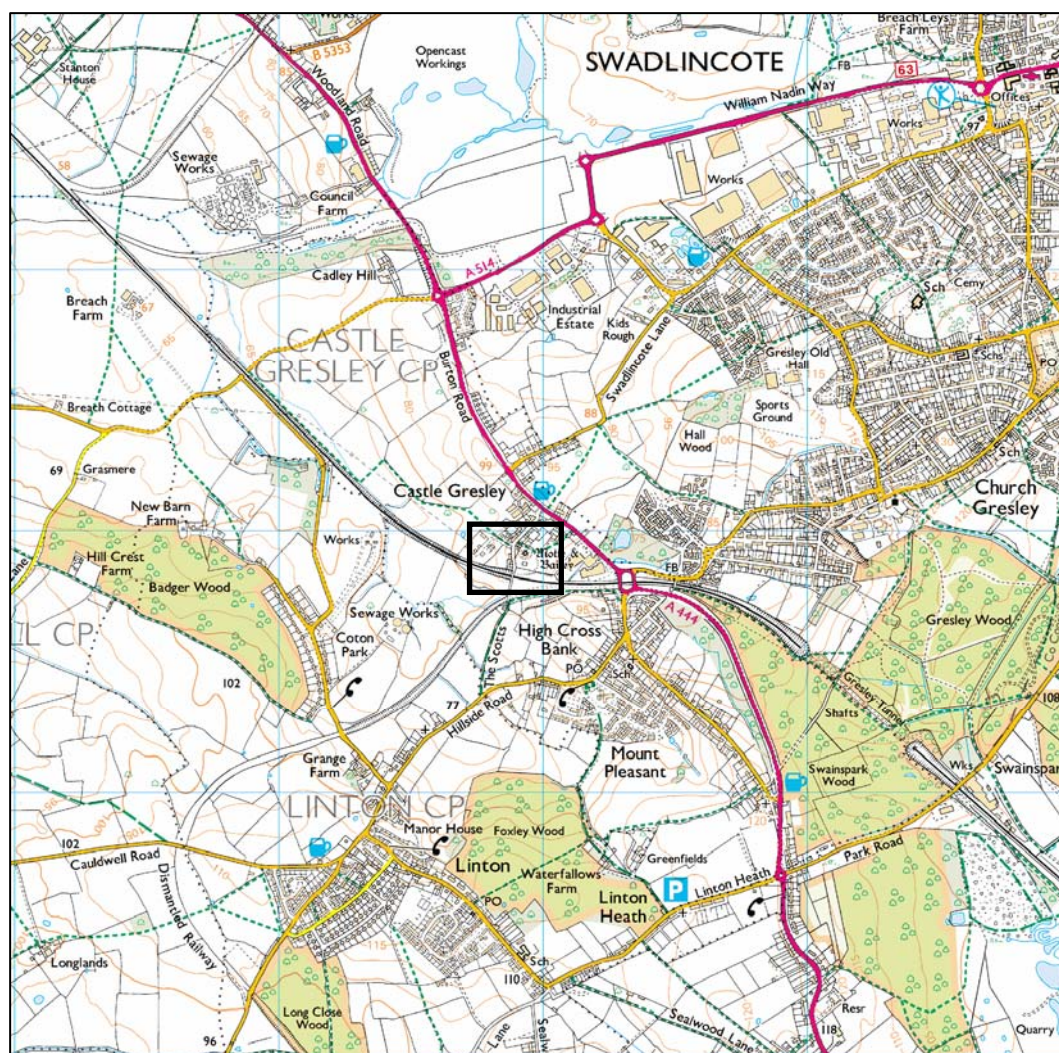


Figure 1: Site location (outlined).

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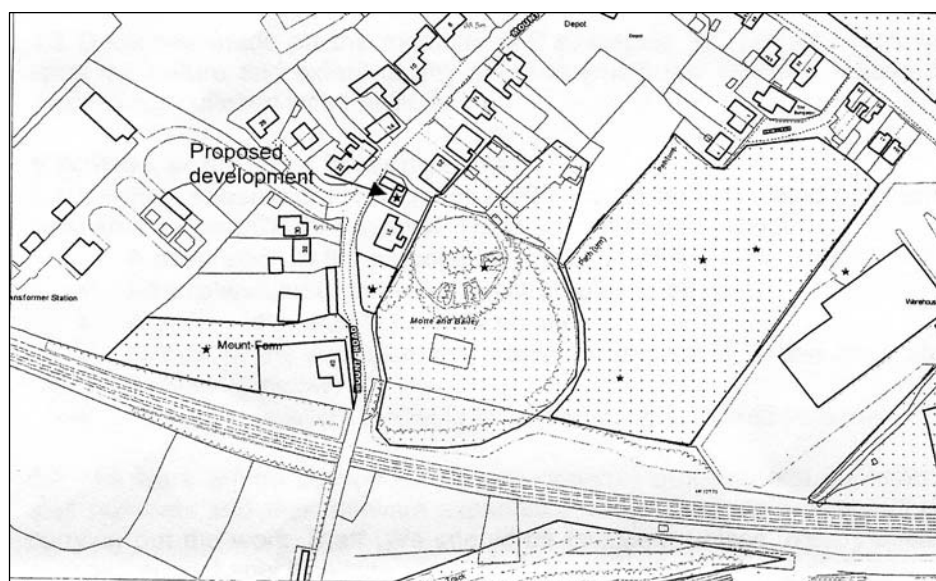


Figure 2: Site of proposed development (taken from the Archaeological Brief)

### **Aims**

The aims of the fieldwork were through archaeological controlled stripping and investigation:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits within the application area.
- To establish the character, extent and date range and importance of any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works and the likely impact upon such features, so that an appropriate mitigation strategy for the site can be identified.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

### **Methodology**

The overburden across the footprint of the proposed development was removed using a mini-digger and a ditching bucket to the top of the natural deposits. The work was carried out on the 19th and 20th May and all ground-work was supervised by an experienced professional archaeologist.

Identified archaeological deposits were recorded and all work followed the Institute of *Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct (2006)*, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (2001)* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field evaluation (2001)*, and adhered to ULAS's Health and Safety policy.

## Results

The proposed building is to be constructed on two levels, with the garage on the lower level with the dwelling area extension on the upper level. This required total removal of the topsoil and some of the underlying geology. The topsoil (001) was approximately 0.35 – 0.5m deep comprising a dark greyish loam, which contained some post-medieval pottery. The topsoil and subsoil was removed in spits onto the natural substrata consisting of moderately sorted rounded / sub- rounded pebbles and stones in a fine sandy silt matrix. Some subsoil (002) was present but did not cover the whole area. This was a mid greenish-brown loam approximately 0.20m deep. The only feature identified within the excavation area was a linear feature [003] running south-west – north-east across the southern area of the site. This ditch terminated 3.20m from the south-west excavation limit and continued beneath the southern excavation limit, so the exact shape could not be determined. However the ditch edge did curve to the south-west suggesting a ditch terminal. The width exceeded 0.90m into the excavation limit with a depth of *c.* 0.3- 0.5m, and cut by later activity. Two slots were excavated through the ditch. The main fill (004) consisted of a silty clay loam, mid orangish-brown in colour and contained several sherds of post-medieval pottery.

## Conclusion

The whole of the proposed area was stripped to the top of the natural geology. No archaeology related to the motte and bailey castle was revealed. The earliest pottery recorded from the site was slipware (possibly Staffordshire) which dates from the late 17th and well into the 18th century. The feature (although the width was not fully revealed) appears to be a ditch and may be the remains of an old field boundary. However local knowledge suggests that brick cottages once existed to the south-west of the site where a modern dwelling now exists; the ditch could possibly be the remnants of a property boundary ditch.

## Archive

The archive will be deposited with Derbyshire County Council with accession number DBY MU 2008/ 159 and will contain the following:

- 5 Context sheets
- 1 Photo record sheet
- 2 Sheets of permotrace (1 for section drawings & 1 for a plan)
- 12 Digital colour photographs

## **Acknowledgements**

ULAS would like to thank Clare West and David Littlewood for their help and co-operation. James Patrick undertook the evaluation. Vicki Score was the project manager.

## **Bibliography**

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IFA, 2001, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field evaluation*

ULAS, 2008, Design Specification for archaeological field evaluation Mount Cottage, 29 Mount Road, Castle Gresley, Swadlincote, Derbys. DE11 9ES (SK 2793 1790).

Jamie Patrick  
ULAS  
University of Leicester  
University Road  
Leicester  
LE1 7RH



Figure 3: Overview of excavated slots through post-medieval ditch, looking southwest.





Figure 4: Section through ditch terminal looking south-west



Figure 5: Section through ditch looking south-west



Figure 6: Machining away the overburden on the site.



## **Appendix 1: Design Specification**

### **UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES**

#### **Design Specification for archaeological field evaluation**

*Mount Cottage, 29 Mount Road,  
Castle Gresley, Swadlincote, Derbys. DE11 9ES  
(SK 2793 1790)*

*Planning Authority: Derbyshire*

*For: David Littlewood*

#### ***1 Definition and scope of the specification***

1.1 In accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and planning, para.30), this specification provides a written scheme of investigation for an archaeological evaluation (Stage 1), prior to submission of a planning application, as required by the Development Control Archaeologist (DCA). The work involves the archaeological evaluation of the footprint and associated groundworks of a proposed extension to Mount Cottage, 29 Mount Road, Derbyshire (SK 2793 1790) for David Littlewood.

1.2 This specification addresses the requirement in the 'Brief for Archaeological Fieldwork' requested for the site by the Development Control Archaeologist, Derbyshire County Council, as archaeological advisor to the planning authority. The Brief requires a two-stage strip and record approach. This document details the specifications for **Stage 1** only. A separate specification for Stage 2 will be submitted after the results of Stage 1 have determined any necessary further requirements.

1.3 This document provides a scheme of works for:

- The stripping under archaeological supervision of the footprint and associated groundworks for the construction of an extension to Mount Cottage, 29 Mount Road, Derbyshire (SK 2793 1790).

1.4 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's (IFA) *Code of Conduct, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field evaluation*

#### ***2 Background***

##### ***2.1 Archaeological potential***

2.1.1 No Desk-based Assessment has been carried out for this site. However, the proposed extension lies approximately 12metres from the north-western boundary of the Scheduled Monument (SM23288) of Castle Gresley Motte and Bailey (Fig. 1). The scheduled monument boundary does not encompass all of the area occupied by the medieval castle and it is possible that buried evidence of the castle or associated remains lies within the proposed development area.

#### ***3 Aims***

3.1 Through archaeological controlled stripping and investigation:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits within the application area.

- To establish the character, extent and date range and importance of any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works and the likely impact upon such features, so that an appropriate mitigation strategy for the site can be identified.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

#### **4 Methods**

4.1 The development area is to be subject to a two-stage strip and record approach.

- **Stage 1:** The project will involve the supervision overburden removal by an experienced professional archaeologist over the footprint of the proposed development to a level at which it is possible to assess the presence or absence of evidence relating to the medieval castle.
- **Stage 2:** The methodology for stage 2 will be outlined in a separate written scheme of investigation after the results of Stage 1 have been assessed.

4.2 The stripping will be undertaken using an appropriate machine and bucket (e.g. JCB with a ditching bucket) for stripping the overburden. Machining over the area will be done in spits down to archaeological horizons or natural substrata which ever is encountered first. The archaeologist may stop the machining at any time to look at the deposits.

4.3 The stripped area will be cleaned and any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at an appropriate scale (typically 1:20) and tied into an overall site plan. All plans will be tied into the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) where appropriate.

4.4 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence.

4.5 All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at an appropriate scale (typically 1:10 or 1:20), levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

4.6 Any human remains encountered will be initially left in situ. The client and Derbyshire County Council will be informed immediately on their discovery. If removal is required this will be in consultation with ULAS' osteo-archaeologist and comply with the relevant Ministry of Justice, Diocesan and other regulations and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations.

4.7 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site from the project manager to ensure that professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for monitoring visits with representatives of the owners and Derbyshire County Council.

4.8 The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with the contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work.

4.9 After the completion of Stage 1, ULAS will prepare if required a short written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the DCA requirements for Stage 2 will be determined. If remains relating to the SM are encountered preservation *in situ* is likely to be recommended and no further work will be necessary. If the results of Stage 1 are inconclusive than further work will be required.

#### **5 Sampling strategies**

5.1 Sufficient of any archaeological features or deposits will be hand excavated in order to provide the information required. This will normally entail 20% sampling of linear features and 50% sampling of discrete features such as pits and post holes as below. However in some circumstances where feature types (such as post-holes or pits) are numerous, a sufficient number will be sampled, at this stage, to characterise the date and nature of the activity.

5.2 A sample of tree throw holes/possible natural features will be excavated sufficient to establish the nature of the features and to provide dating evidence.

5.3 A flexible approach will be adopted to the location of excavation samples such that areas of exposed ditch fill with higher artefact or ecofact content may be targeted. Special regard will be given to significant stratigraphic relationships and excavation of the terminals and concentrations of artefactual material.

5.4 In the event that structures are encountered, these will be sample excavated in sufficient detail to establish their relationship to the Castle, and determine any further necessary action in consultation with the DCA.

5.5 Where appropriate metal detectors may be used to scan for metallic finds on spoil heaps, and during the excavation of key archaeological features or deposits.

## **6. Recording Systems**

6.1 Before commencing work on the site, a site code will be issued to all records and finds from the site, to be agreed with the Derby Museum and Art Gallery. Arrangements will also be made with Derby Museum and Art Gallery for the deposition of finds and site archive.

6.2 The ULAS recording manual will be used as a guide for all recording.

6.3 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets. If the complexity of the archaeology warrants it, records will be computerised onto a database.

6.4 A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey data (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by plans at 1:200 (or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated in relationship to the investigation area and OS grid.

6.5 Some record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made on drawing film, related to the OS grid and be at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Sections including the half-sections of individual layers of features will be drawn as appropriate. The relative height of principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans.

6.6 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared. This will include black and white and colour photographs 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. A full photographic register will be maintained for the site.

6.7 This record will be compiled and checked during the course of the excavations.

## **7. Environmental Sampling**

7.1 Environmental sampling strategies will be developed, in line with current best practice, subject to the requirements of the evaluation work and future mitigation strategies, any issues of potential contamination and health and safety considerations. If significant archaeological features appropriate for sampling are subject to excavation, the sampling strategy will 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 ULAS environmental specialist will be undertaken.

7.2 If samples are taken, a pilot study will be undertaken as an initial stage of environmental processing. This will enable an assessment of which groups of samples are likely to be most productive for complete processing and further study.

7.3 Wet sieving with flotation will be carried out using a York Archaeological Trust sieving tank with a 0.5mm mesh and a 0.3mm flotation sieve. The small size mesh will be used initially as flotation of plant remains may be incomplete and some may remain in the residue.

7.4 The residue > 0.5mm from the tank will be separated into coarse fractions of over 4mm and fine fractions of > 0.5-4mm. The coarse fractions will be sorted for finds. The fine fractions and flots will be evaluated and prioritised; only those with remains apparent will be sorted. The prioritised flots will not be sorted until the analysis stage when phasing information is available.

7.5 Flots will be scanned and plant remains from selected contexts will be identified and further sampling, sieving and sorting targeted towards higher potential deposits.

7.6 Where appropriate provision will be made to recover material suitable for scientific dating. In this case appropriate specialists will be consulted along with the DCA.

## ***8. Finds and Samples***

8.1 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 Derby Museum and Art Gallery for storage in perpetuity.

8.2 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.

8.3 All identified finds and artefacts, including faunal remains, are to be retained, although certain classes of building material will, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording with the approval of the Planning Archaeologists. The IFA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to.

8.4 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. All metal objects will be x-rayed and then selected for conservation. All materials will be fully labelled, catalogued and stored in appropriate containers.

## ***9. Monitoring arrangements***

9.1 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. It will be the responsibility of ULAS to keep the curatorial staff at Derbyshire County Council informed about the progress of the works and proposed schedules, so that monitoring arrangements can be made. The DCA will be informed prior to the work starting. Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

9.2 Following completion of Stage 1 a site meeting will be carried out with the DCA to discuss further requirements.

## ***10. Timescale and Staffing***

10.1 The groundworks are scheduled to start on 19.05.08. It is envisaged that a professional archaeologist will be required on-site during the stripping of the footprint.

### **11. Report and Archive**

11.1 A brief report in letter form, summarising the main results of the watching brief will be released, if required, after the completion of Stage 1 fieldwork

11.2 The full, bound report in A4 format will usually follow within eight weeks of the completion of all fieldwork, and copies will be dispatched to: Derbyshire County Council Planning Archaeologist/Sites and Monuments Record (2), Derby City Council (1), Derby Museum and Art Gallery (1), the Client (2). The report will include consideration of:-

- Non-technical Summary
- Introductory Statement
- The aims and purpose of the watching brief
- The methodology adopted in the course of the watching brief
- The nature, location, extent, date, significance and quality of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered
- AN assessment of the importance of archaeological layers or features encountered using the Secretary for State's criteria (PPG16 annex 4)
- Conclusion, including a confidence statement
- Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
- Supporting data – including as a minimum basic quantification of all artefacts, ecofacts and structural data
- The index, location and size of the archive.
- References
- copy of the brief and specification.

11.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in The Guidelines For The Preparation Of Excavation Archives For Long-Term Storage (UKIC 1990), and Standards In The Museum: Care Of Archaeological Collections (MGC 1992) and Guidelines for the Preparation of Site Archives and Assessments for all Finds (other than fired clay objects) (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993) will be presented to the Derby Museum and Art Gallery normally within six months of the completion of fieldwork (arrangements for this are in progress). This archive will include all original written, drawn, photographic records, notes relating directly to the investigations undertaken, as well as final copies of the desk-based assessment, watching brief report and buildings appraisal, along with any finds and an index to the archive.

11.4 Following agreement with Derby Museum and Art Gallery the archive will be transferred there in accordance with the procedures set out in *Procedures for the Transfer of Archaeological Archives* (2003).

11.5 Following the fieldwork the on-line OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis> will be completed. A report on the investigation will be provided following the groundworks.

### **12. Publication**

12.1 A summary of the evaluation will be submitted for inclusion in the Derbyshire Archaeological Journal within 2 years. If warranted, a more detailed report will be submitted. Details of any publication will be sent to the Derbyshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

### **13. Copyright**

13.1 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.

#### **14. Acknowledgement and publicity**

14.1 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.

#### **15. Health and Safety**

15.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (2001) 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.

15.2 Health and Safety procedures will be agreed between ULAS and the site tenants prior to the commencement of work, and will be subject to review by both parties for the duration of the works.

15.3 The University of Leicester Archaeological Services Health and Safety Policy and manual, and Standard Operating Procedures will be adhered to during the course of the archaeological works.

15.4 Services will be located prior to any machining taking place and necessary steps will be taken to avoid them.

#### **16. Insurance**

16.1 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).

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Vicki Score  
Project Manager  
ULAS  
University of Leicester  
University Road  
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel:0116 252 2848  
Fax: 0116 252 2614  
Email:vp23@le.ac.uk  
07-05-08



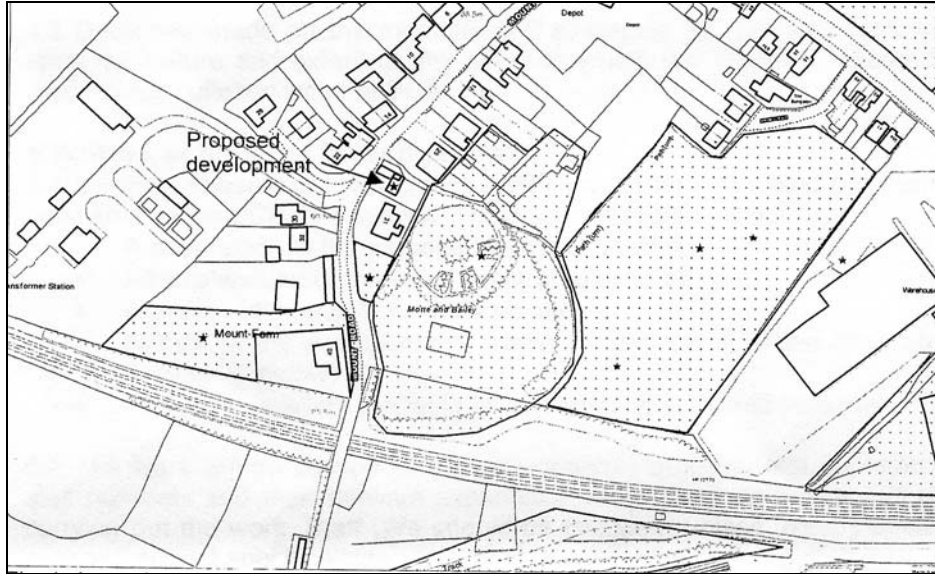


Fig 1 Location of Development within Castle Gresley (taken from the Brief)