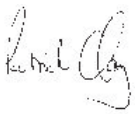
An Archaeological Evaluation
at Spring Farm,
Main Street, Fleckney, Leicestershire
(SP 645 933)

Dan Stone

For: Westleigh Homes

Checked by



Signed: ...**Date: 7 Aug 2008**

Name: ...

Approved

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ULAS Report Number 2008-108

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An Archaeological Evaluation at Spring Farm,

Main Street, Fleckney, Leicestershire

(SP 645 933)

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An Archaeological Evaluation at Spring Farm, Main Street, Fleckney, Leicestershire (SP 645 933)

Dan Stone

Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching for Westleigh Homes on land at Spring Farm, Main Street, Fleckney, Leicestershire (SP 645 933). The work was undertaken as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of residential development. The evaluation did not locate any significant archaeological deposits within the area examined. The archive is to be deposited with Leicestershire Museum Service, under Accession Number X.A96.2008

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS for Westleigh Homes on Monday 14th July 2008 on land at Spring Farm, Main Street, Fleckney, Leicestershire (SP 645 933). The work was carried out following advice from the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, as archaeological advisors to the planning authority, who detailed the level of archaeological work required. This advice was provided in connection with an application for planning permission for the construction of 16 dwellings on the land with associated driveways and services. This report presents the results of the archaeological evaluation by trial trenching, assessing the impact of the proposed development upon any archaeological deposits present.

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The development area is located off Main Street in Fleckney, approximately 8 miles south of Leicester (Fig. 1) The site is L-shaped and comprises some 0.55 hectares. The underlying geology of the site is likely to comprise Diamicton Till overlying Mudstone of the Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Formation (British Geological Survey of Great Britain, Market Harborough, Sheet 170). The site lies at a height of *c*. 106m O.D

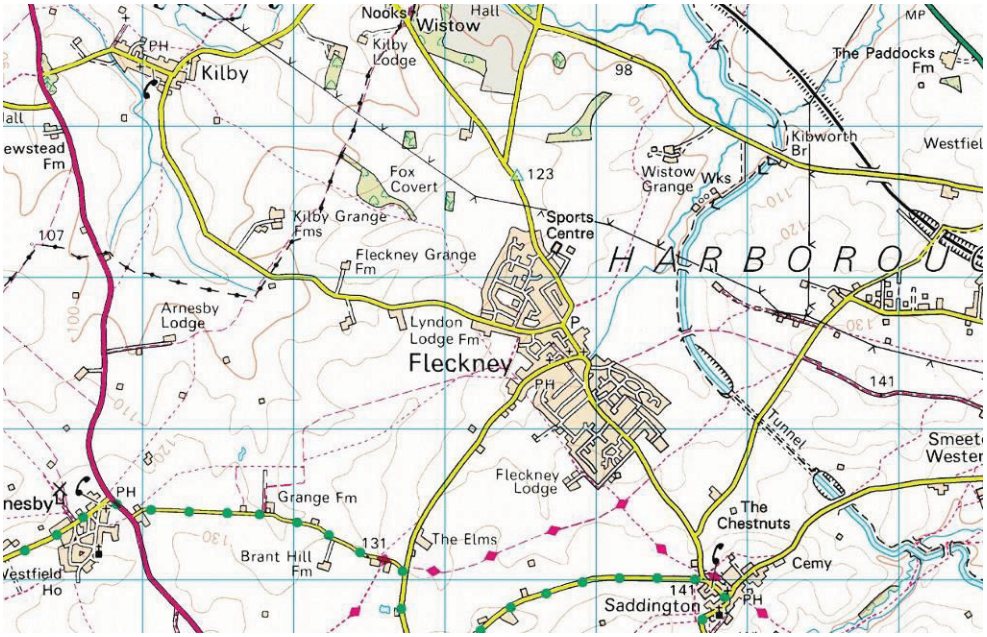

Figure 1: Site location:
Reproduced from Landranger map sheet 140 Leicestershire, Coventry and Rugby® 1:50 000 scale by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright 2007.All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495.

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

A desk-based assessment has been prepared for this site for an earlier application (Clay 2003). The site is located within the historic settlement core of Fleckney (HER Ref: MLE16856), where there is a potential for remains of medieval and post-medieval date to be present. Fleckney was settled before the Norman Conquest and the Church of St. Nicholas contains 12th-century fabric (MLE 12834). To the west of the village hall, medieval pottery has been found (MLE 6713). A courtyard farm is shown to occupy the site on the late 19th-century map and further buildings have been added in the late 20th century. However in general it appears that little archaeological work has been carried out in Fleckney.

The Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) includes a reference to a Middle Bronze Age (1500-1000 BC) looped spearhead (MLE6315). This is the earliest known find from Fleckney. This is likely to be a stray find but it is not clear whether associated archaeological features may exist.

The origins of the village are obscure but there was certainly settlement prior to the Norman Conquest, when land was held by Edward Alferd (Badcock 1980, 9). Fleckney (Flechenie) receives two mentions in the Domesday Book. The land lay in Gartree Wapentake and belonged to Robert the Bursar, also known as Robert Dispensator. One carucate of land was referred to as waste and valued at 12d. The second entry lists three carucates of land, including meadow, all valued at 20s (Morgan 1979). In addition, a further seven carucates of land in Fleckney, held by the Basset's of Weldon, are not mentioned in the Domesday Book (Lee & McKinley 1964, 86).

Although there seems never to have been a manor house in Fleckney (the house known as the 'Manor' house bears no true association), the manorial rights passed

down through various families until they came to the Lovelace family in the 19th century. These rights lapsed in the 1920's (Badcock 1980, 12).

The majority of HER references for Fleckney document the presence of medieval remains. The Church of St. Nicholas on Main Street has Norman features, although much of the present church was rebuilt in 1869-70 (MLE1487). Medieval earthworks thought to represent early village settlement are to be found at the Cedars (MLE1486 and MLE1490). The earthwork of a medieval village fishpond is located southwest of the village centre (MLE1489). Pottery from medieval cooking pots was discovered west of the village hall (MLE6713).

The village appears to have been a small farming community until the introduction of the brick-making industry in the 19th century, which swelled the population from 348 in 1801 to 514 in 1831 (Badcock 1980, 23). The bricks were handmade and said to be extremely hard. The Fleckney village pond is an example of a former brick pit. However, by the mid-19th century, hosiery had taken over as the main industry.

There are few early maps and records relating to Fleckney. Badcock reproduces the 1769 Enclosure map in his 'History of Fleckney' and also provides a map listing field names. Fleckney is depicted on Prior's Leicestershire map of 1777, which suggests that the main settlement at this time was concentrated along Main Street but appeared to extend along what is now High Street, as far as Cedar Farm (Welding 1984, 3).

The 1st and 2nd edition OS map, produced in the 1885 and 1904 indicates that the site was occupied by two buildings either side of a courtyard which are labelled as an Inn. By 1929 the building to the northwest has had an extension and the complex appears to now be part of a farm. By 1961 the north-western buildings have been demolished and replaced and additional outbuildings have been constructed within the former courtyard area. The existing farmhouse is clearly identifiable, although it has been extended to the north. A pond is shown to the north of the buildings which are now labelled Springs Farm. By 1975 further barns and outbuildings have been constructed and the plan of the farm remains the same in 1983. However by now the village has expanded with new housing to the east. The 1990 OS map shows that an outbuilding to the north-west has been demolished and the farm is labelled Spring Farm rather than Springs Farm. None of the buildings on the site are currently listed.

The HER landscape map for the area shows ridge and furrow strip field systems, taken from vertical aerial photographs, aligned east to west visible to the west of the development area.

4. Aims and Objectives

The aims as identified in the Specification (Appendix 1) are

1. To identify the presence /absence of any archaeological deposits

2. To establish the character, extant, date range and environmental potential for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposals

3. To sample excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.

4. To produce an archive and report of the results

These objectives will be achieved with trial trenching across the plot. This is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of archaeological features that may exist within the area. This information would allow the county archaeologist to assess the potential impact of the proposed development upon any archaeological remains.

The objective is to gain an indication of the extant of the nature, extant date and significance of any archaeological deposits, in order that an appropriate mitigation strategy may be adopted for remains that may be affected by the development proposals.

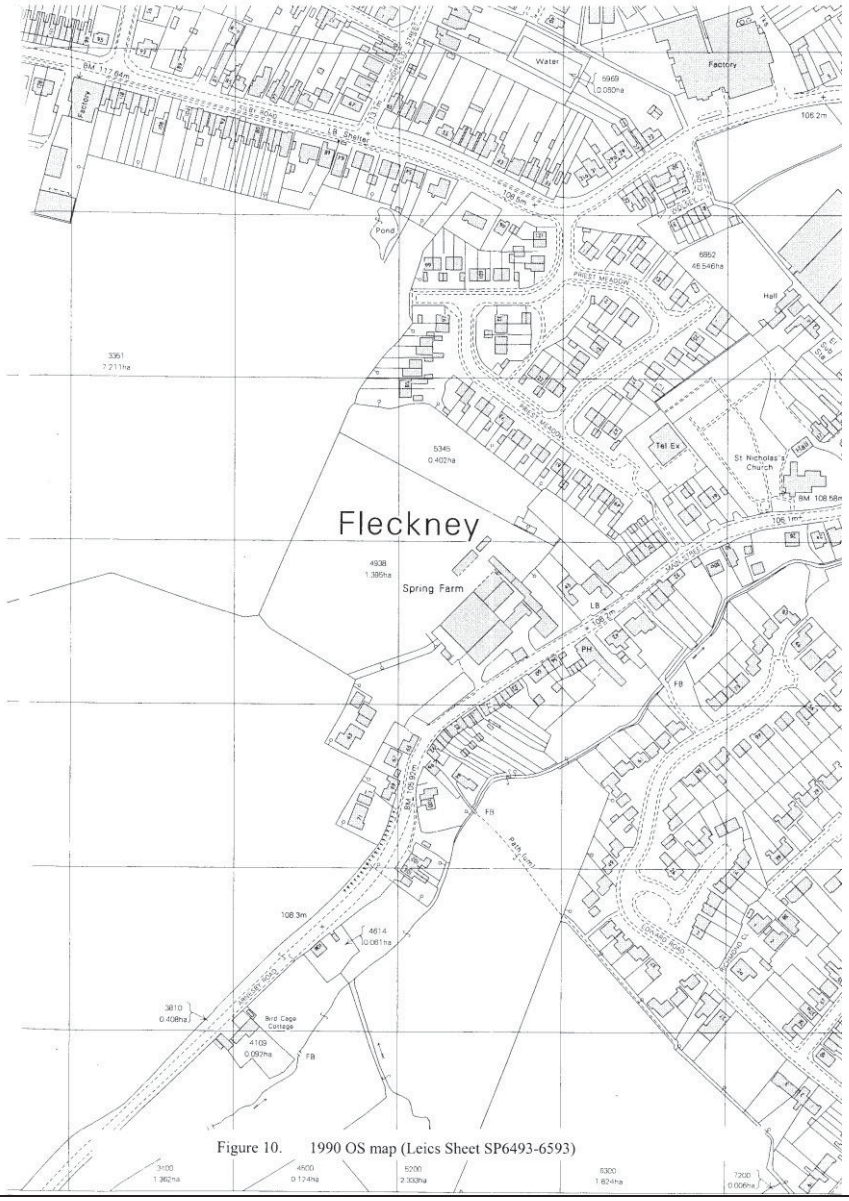

Figure 2 Plan of the application area (from Clay 2003 Fig. 7)

5. Methodology

Prior to any machining of trial trenches, general photographs of the site areas were taken, along with a record of the work in progress and trench record shots taken prior to backfilling. The Senior Planning Archaeologist had requested an archaeological evaluation of 3% (min) of the site by trial trenching (min 39 sq m) to confirm the presence, nature, date and significance of any archaeological deposits present. A *c*. 70 sq. m sample was therefore proposed the equivalent of three trenches, each 15m by 1.5m, to be excavated across the footprint of the proposed buildings (Fig 2). Due to the presence of buildings on the site, other obstacles and issues of clearance height and JCB digger access to the interior of the buildings and certain areas of the site, five smaller trenches were finally excavated to cover a sample area of 39 sq m.

The trenches were excavated using a JCB mechanical digger equipped with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil and overlying layers were removed in level spits under full archaeological supervision until archaeological deposits or the top of the natural undisturbed substratum was reached. Trenches were examined for archaeological deposits or finds by hand cleaning and tied into the ordnance Survey National Grid. The trenches were backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.

All work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (2001). Internal monitoring procedures were put in place to include, if required, visits to the site by the project manager, external monitoring meetings with the planning authority and the client in order to ensure project targets were met and professional standards followed.

6. Results and interpretations

6.1 Following attendance on site it was apparent that the current upstanding farm outbuildings and internal concrete surfacing restricted access to the southern areas of the site. Internal clearance heights and access into the interior of the buildings for the JCB digger were limited and it was necessary to excavate discontinuous trenches across the area of the proposed trial trench positions to attain the minimum 3% sample of the site, within those areas most likely to be affected by development on the site. A ditching bucket was used to remove level spits down to the depth of 1m, except where concrete and hardcore make up was encountered when a toothed bucket was briefly used to remove material.

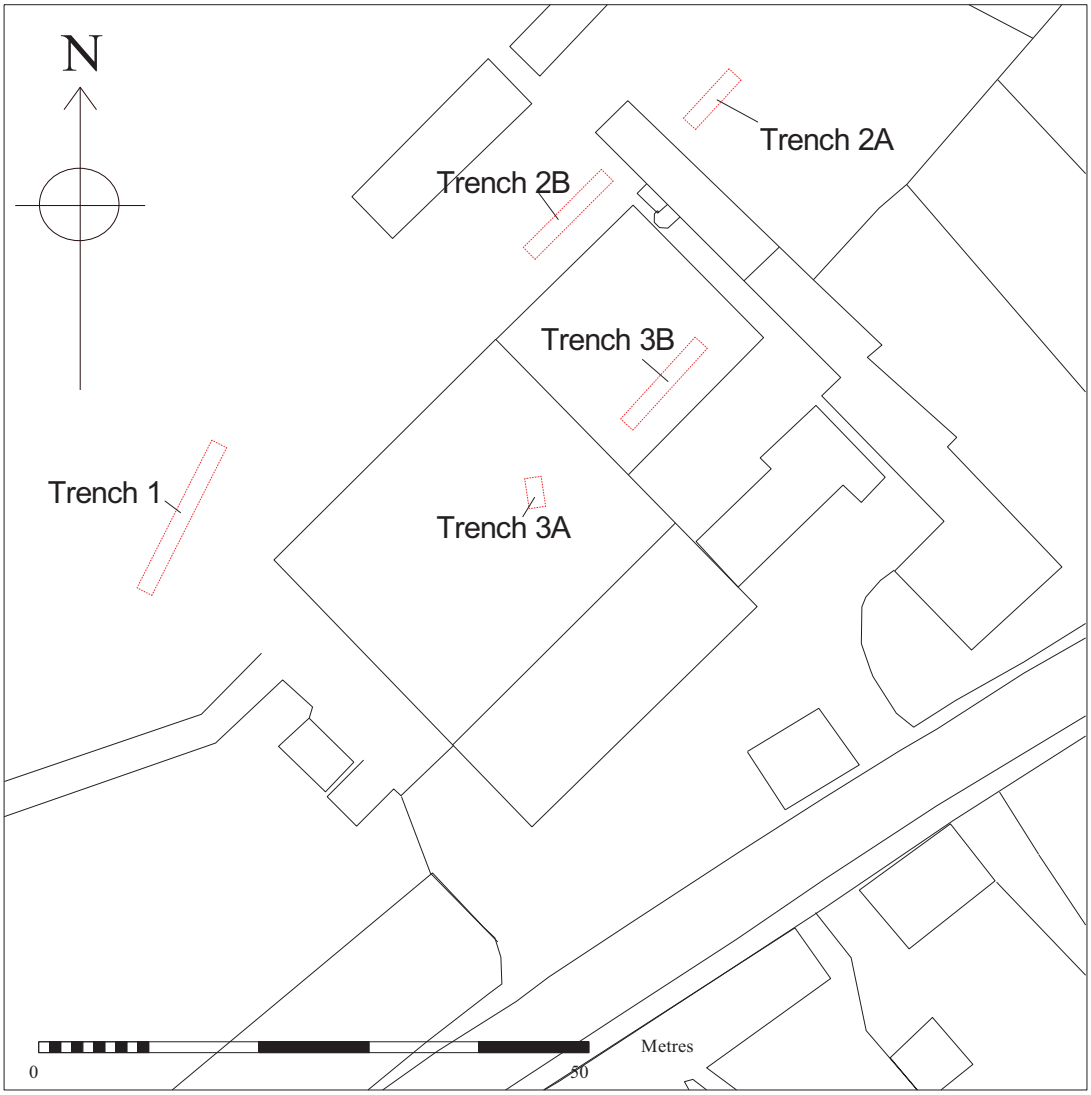

Figure 3:Trench Location Plan

6.2 Trench 1 Orientated South-west / North-east

Dimensions: 15m length x 2m width x maximum 1.20 m depth and minimum 0.45m. Located in the north-west corner of the site, the excavation of this trench involved the initial breaking and removal of in situ hardstanding, make up and concrete surfacing external to the adjacent farm buildings. About 0.34 m of modern overburden and made up ground was removed and the presence of moderate diesel/hydrocarbon contamination was revealed across the length of the trench.

At 0.34m below the surface, a 0.22m thick mid dark brown grey silty clay deposit with occasional large sub-rounded stones was observed. At a depth of 0.55m from the surface, a light brown homogenous sterile silty clay with occasional mottling was observed and was excavated a further 0.56 m depth. This material was interpreted as the natural substratum which was at a consistent depth along the course of the trench and also exhibited traces of hydrocarbon contamination. No significant archaeological deposits were observed.

6.3 Trench 2a Orientated north east /south west

Dimensions: 6m length x 2m width x maximum 0.8m depth and minimum 0.6m.
Located in the east of the site, this trench was discontinuous and aligned with trench 2B further west, due to the presence of a brick stable block. Some 0.05m of topsoil lay over 0.1 m of brick rubble and debris. This in turn lay over 0.3m depth of further made up ground consisting of brick fragments, gravel, slate fragments and stones. A mid dark brownish-grey homogeneous sterile silty clay was observed below this and interpreted as the natural. The west end of the trench uncovered a subsurface storage tank which seeped into the base of the trench. No significant archaeological deposits were observed.

6.4 Trench 2B linear orientation north east /south west .
Dimensions: 10m length x 2m width x maximum 1.0 m depth and minimum 0.90m.
This trench was located in the east of the site and aligned with the west end of trench 2A. A 0.1m depth of silt gravel and tarmac was observed, overlying 0.1m of modern brick paving. This overlay a further 0.1m of gravel, brick and tarmac debris interpreted as make up for the brick paving. A second tier of brick paving and yellow sand make up, each of 0.1m thickness, was observed. A dark brownish-grey homogenous sterile silty clay 0.5m below the ground surface was observed below this and interpreted as the natural substratum. In the base of the trench, at a depth of 0.9m, drainage gullies were observed radiating from beyond the north edge of the trench and backfilled with modern tarmac and silty clay. No archaeological deposits were observed.

6.5 Trench 3a orientated north north west / south south east.
Dimensions: 6m length x 2m width x maximum 0.65 m depth and minimum 0.55m.
Located in the interior of the main farm buildings, this trench revealed made up ground with no evidence for either topsoil or subsoil. The trench rapidly flooded and was abandoned. It is likely modern truncation during the levelling for the construction of the present farm outbuildings reduced surfaces down to the natural substratum. Access issues prevented further excavation in the area. No archaeological deposits were observed.

6.6 Trench 3b orientated north east / south west
Dimensions: 10m length x 2m width x maximum 1.0 m depth and minimum 0.90m.
This trench was located at the east end of the main farm buildings. A 0.19m depth of light yellow-brown silty mixed modern material, including concrete and brick, made up the interior surface of the farm building. A 0.71 m depth of mid grey-brown silty clay lay below this, overlying the grey-brown silty clay natural substratum. Excavation of this material required the use of the toothed bucket due to heavy compaction and extreme aridity of the deposits. No archaeological deposits were observed.

7. Conclusion

7.1 It was apparent that the topsoil horizon across the site was intermittent adjacent to the farm buildings and hardstanding yard surfaces.

7.2 The natural substratum observed in the trenches was a homogeneous sterile mottled blue to brown grey clay, present on average at a minimum of 0.5m below the present ground surface.

7.3 Development on the site would involve the removal of existing farmyard hardstanding areas and associated farm outbuildings. The latter are built upon hardcores composed of gravel make ups and brick debris and lie directly over the natural substratum observed in all trenches. Current topsoil adjacent to the outbuildings, appears to be a relatively recent and shallow accumulation over modern made ground construction horizons. Trenching within the site suggests a common pattern of truncation. No associated archaeological deposits, features or pre-modern artefacts were encountered during the evaluation. The areas available for examination and observed in trench sections suggest recurrent truncation of archaeological deposits by the existing buildings and hardstanding surfaces comprising the farmyard driveways. This truncation may have removed archaeological horizons between the natural substratum and the overlying modern surfaces and made ground.

8. Archive

A full copy of the archive as defined in *The Guidelines For the Preparation Of Excavation Archives For Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990), and the *Standards In The Museum: Care Of Archaeological Collections* (MGC 1992) and *Guidelines for the Preparation of Site Archives and Assessments for all finds* (RFG/FRG) will usually be presented to within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all records directly relating to the investigation undertaken.

The archive consists of one copy of this report, 6 site trench record notes, 1 digital photo record index sheet, 1 colour digital photograph contact sheet of 17 photographs and 1 CD containing 17 digital photographs. It will be deposited with the Leicestershire County Council, under accession number X.A96.2008

9. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. The report has been added to the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) Online Access to the index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the University of York.

INFORMATION REQUIRED	
Project Name	Spring Farm, Main Street, Fleckney.
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	Richard Buckley
Project Supervisor	Daniel Stone
Previous/Future work	Unknown
Current Land Use	Private residential dwelling and gardens
Development Type	Residential, private dwelling
Reason for Investigation	PPG16
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	SP 645 933
Start/end dates of field work	14th July 2008
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council
Study Area *	0.55 ha

10. Bibliography

Anon. 2000		*The Story behind a community project: Fleckney Millennium Wall Hanging.*
Badcock, J. C. 1980		*The History of Fleckney.* The Fleckney Parish Council.
Clay, P., 2003		*An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for land at Spring Farm, Main Street, Fleckney, Leicestershire (SP 645 933)* ULAS Report 2003-206
Lee, J.M. & McKinley, R.A. (ed) 1964		*The Victoria History of the County of Leicester.* Oxford University Press.
MAP 2 1991		*The management of archaeological projects* 2nd edition English Heritage
MGC 1992		*Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* 1992 (Museums and Galleries Commission)
Morgan, P., (ed) 1979		*Domesday Book. 22. Leicestershire.* Philimore and Co. Ltd.
Newcombe, B. 1973		The Furnival Story
Nichols, J, 1798		*The History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester.* Volume IV part ii. (Gartree Hundred*).* London.
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)
Welding, J.D. (ed)	1984	Leicestershire in 1777. *Leicestershire Libraries and Information.*

11. Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the client, Mr Michael Gisborne for his help and cooperation, the fieldwork was undertaken by Dan Stone and Steve Baker. The project was managed by Richard Buckley.

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14/07/2008

Figure 4 Trench 1 looking south-east

Figure 5 General view looking east

Figure 6 Trench 2A looking east

Figure 7 Trench 2A looking west

Figure 8 Trench 3A looking south-west

Figure 9 Trench 3B looking east

Figure 10 General view of Trench 3B during excavation

12 Appendix 1: Design Specification

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for Archaeological Investigation (Exploratory Trial Trenching)

***Proposed residential development, Spring Farm, Main Street, Fleckney Leicestershire* (*SP 645 933)*,**

Client: ***Westleigh Homes***

Planning Authority: ***Harborough District Council***

Planning Application; ***07/01650/FUL***

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) 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 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 Spring Farm, Main Street, Fleckney, 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 development area is located off Main Street, at NGR SP 645 933, in the village of Fleckney, approximately 8 miles south of Leicester. The site is L-shaped and comprises some 0.55 hectares.

2.1.2 The site has previously contained late 20th Century farm buildings and 19th-Century farm buildings.

2.1.3 The proposed development is for the construction of 16 dwellings with associated driveways and services.

2.1.4 The senior planning archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council has requested an archaeological evaluation of 3% (min) of the site by trial trenching (min 39 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 underlying geology of the site is likely to comprise Diamicton Till overlying Mudstone of the Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Formation (British Geological Survey of Great Britain, Market Harborough, Sheet 170).

2.3 ***Archaeological and Historical Background*** **(from Brief)**

2.3.1 The site is located within the historic settlement core of Fleckney (HER Ref:MLE16856), where there is a potential for remains of medieval and post-medieval date to be present. Fleckney was settled before the Norman Conquest and the Church of St. Nicholas contains 12th Century fabric (MLE 12834). To the west of the village hall medieval pottery has been found (MLE 6713).

2.3.2 A courtyard farm is shown to occupy the site on the late 19th Century map and further buildings have been added in the late 20th Century. As such it is unlikely that remains of such significance as to present an obstacle to development will survive.

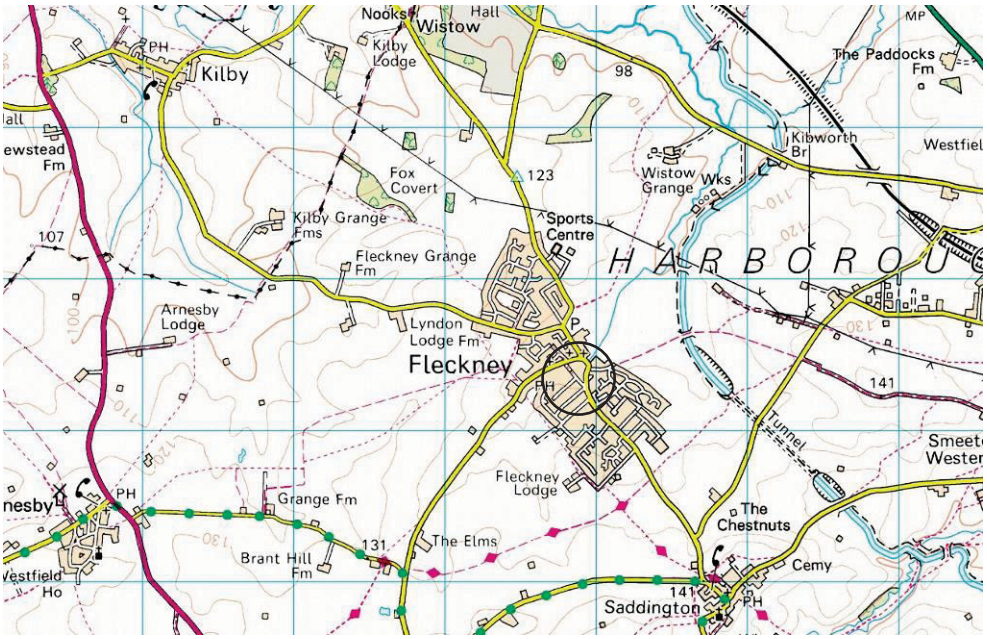

Figure 1: Site location. Scale 1:50000.

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 Site Layout with proposed trial trenches (not to scale)

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 Three trenches, each 15m by 1.5m (total of 70sq. m), will be excavated across the footprint of the proposed buildings (Fig. 2).

4.2.2 The present ground surfaces and underlying modern overburden (approximately 02 - 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 trenches 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 Planning 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 14 July 2008 and will last approximately 2 days.

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

Clay, P., 2008 *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for land at Spring Farm, Main Street, Fleckney, Leicestershire (SP 645 933)* ULAS Report 2003-206

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 residential development, Spring Farm, Main Street, Fleckney Leicestershire

NGR*: SP 645 933,*

Client: ***Westleigh Homes***

Planning Authority: ***Harborough District Council***

Planning Application: 07/01650/FUL

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 Vialls 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.