



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services



**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
10 Main Street, Frolesworth,
Leicestershire
NGR: SP 504 906**

Gavin Speed

ULAS Report No 2009-112.
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**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
10 Main Street, Frolesworth, Leicestershire**

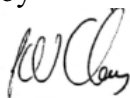
NGR: SP 504 906

Gavin Speed

For: Trustees of the Frolesworth Settlement

Checked by

Signed:



....**Date:** 21.08.2009

Name: Patrick Clay

Approved by

Signed:



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An Archaeological Watching Brief at 10 Main Street, Frolesworth, Leicestershire

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of the Trustees of the Frolesworth Estate at 10 Main St., Frolesworth, Leicestershire (SP 504 906), during the groundworks for a new dwelling. No significant archaeological deposits or artefacts were identified. The work is a continuation of earlier work carried out in 2003 (Jarvis 2003). The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services Section, accession no. XA.109.2003.

Introduction

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief, which was undertaken during residential development at 10 Main Street, Frolesworth, Leicestershire (SP 50460 90690). This is a second stage of archaeological work on the site, following a watching brief in 2003 (Jarvis 2003).

The site is located within the medieval historic village core of Frolesworth, 50 metres north of the Main Street frontage. The site is also located some 150m due east-north-east of St. Nicholas Church. Due to its location the site is seen as having the potential to contain associated archaeological deposits of medieval and later periods. The potential for archaeological deposits predating the early medieval period to survive was also highlighted.

The groundworks comprised the excavation of footings for a new dwelling which had the potential to severely damage or destroy any archaeological remains that may be present on the site. The fieldwork is necessary to fulfil the conditions required by the Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council. The requirement was for an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during groundworks that had the potential to expose or damage any underlying archaeological deposits

The underlying geology of the site consists of Wolston sand and gravel (British Geological Survey map sheet 169). The site lies at a height of approximately 115m above O.D.

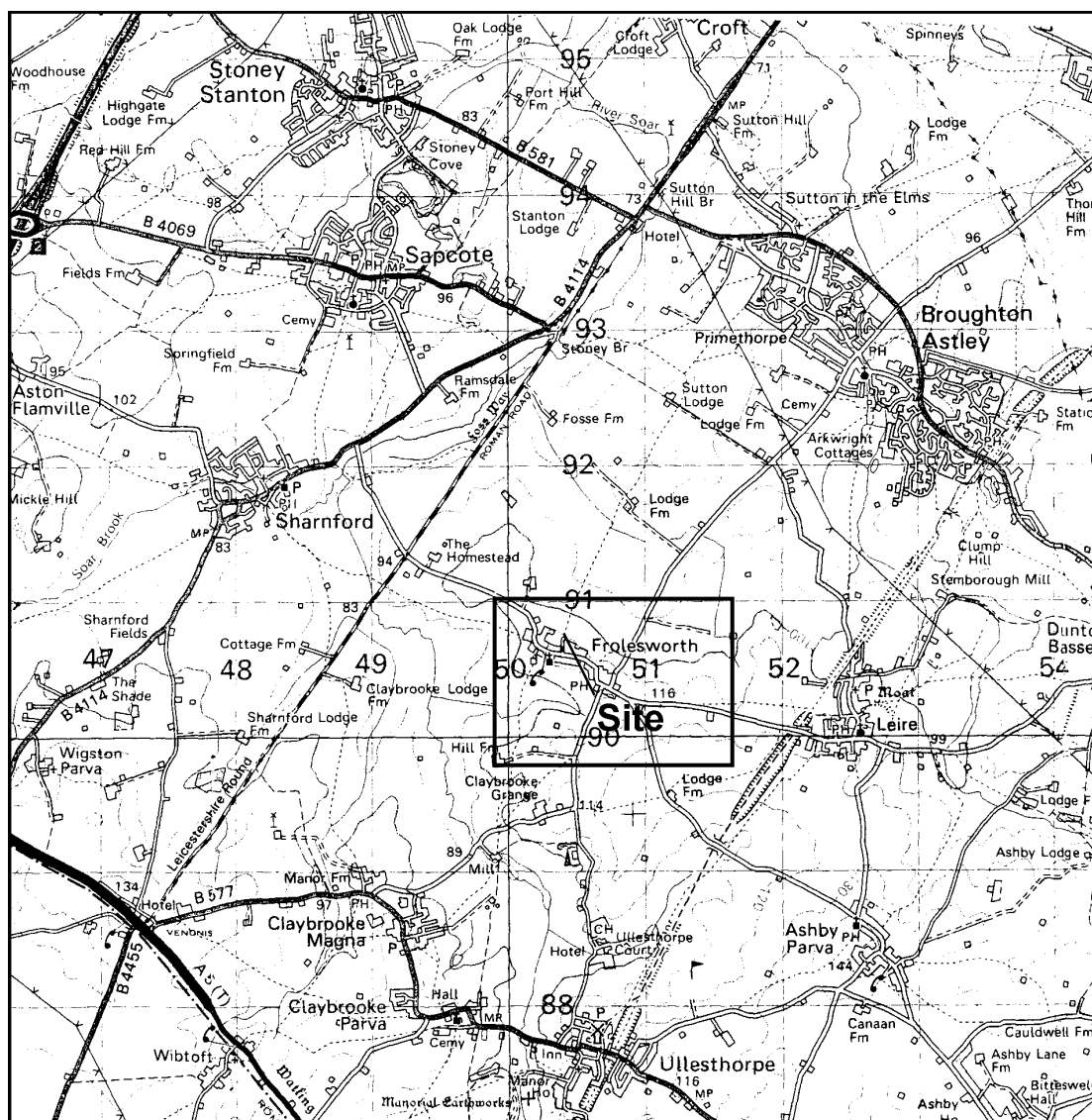


Figure 1: Site location plan. 1:50 000.

Reproduced from Landranger 1:50 000 scale by permission of Ordnance Survey
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Archaeological and Historical Background

The village has late Saxon origins, being recorded in the Domesday Book as Frellesworde, deriving from a personal name and *worth* a homestead (Ekwall 1970, 189). The land was held by Hugh de Grentesmenil, a major Norman landowner. Nineteen individuals are recorded in the village, presumably adult males. However, the village does not appear in the Leicestershire Poll Tax Survey (1377). This may be due to the villagers not qualifying or perhaps the village may have been included with other settlements. In the mid 16th century Diocesan Returns the village had 33 households, which is about average for a smaller village. Frolesworth seems to have

been most densely populated during the 19th century when the population varied between 250 and 300 individuals. Population declined at the end of the 19th century to around 200, and has remained at a similar level until the present day.

An archaeological watching brief undertaken on the site in 2003 located a two metre wide ditch three metres to the north and parallel with the street frontage (Jarvis 2003, 2). The ditch was backfilled with material dating to the post-medieval period (AD 1500 +), suggesting that this was a boundary feature that may have gone out of use by the 17th or 18th century. Traces of a former cobbled surface, perhaps from an access road/track were also identified. Elsewhere in the village, an archaeological evaluation at 2 Main Street did not locate any archaeological evidence (Gnanaratnam & Hyam 2003). Other archaeological finds from the village include an iron axe, and Roman and medieval pottery (Jarvis 2003, 2).

Aims and Methods

The purpose of the watching brief was to ascertain whether archaeological deposits were present. If so, the character, extent and date range of any deposits identified would be established, in order to assess their significance (see appendix 2). Recording of these deposits would be carried out as appropriate, and an archive and this report produced. The work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, and adhered to the University's Health and Safety policy.

The groundworks were to involve a topsoil strip over the area of the proposed dwelling, and the excavation by machine of a north-south wall footing and drain to the east and west of the plot respectively. Monitoring of this work took place on 10/08/09, when work consisted of a JCB type excavator performing the groundworks.

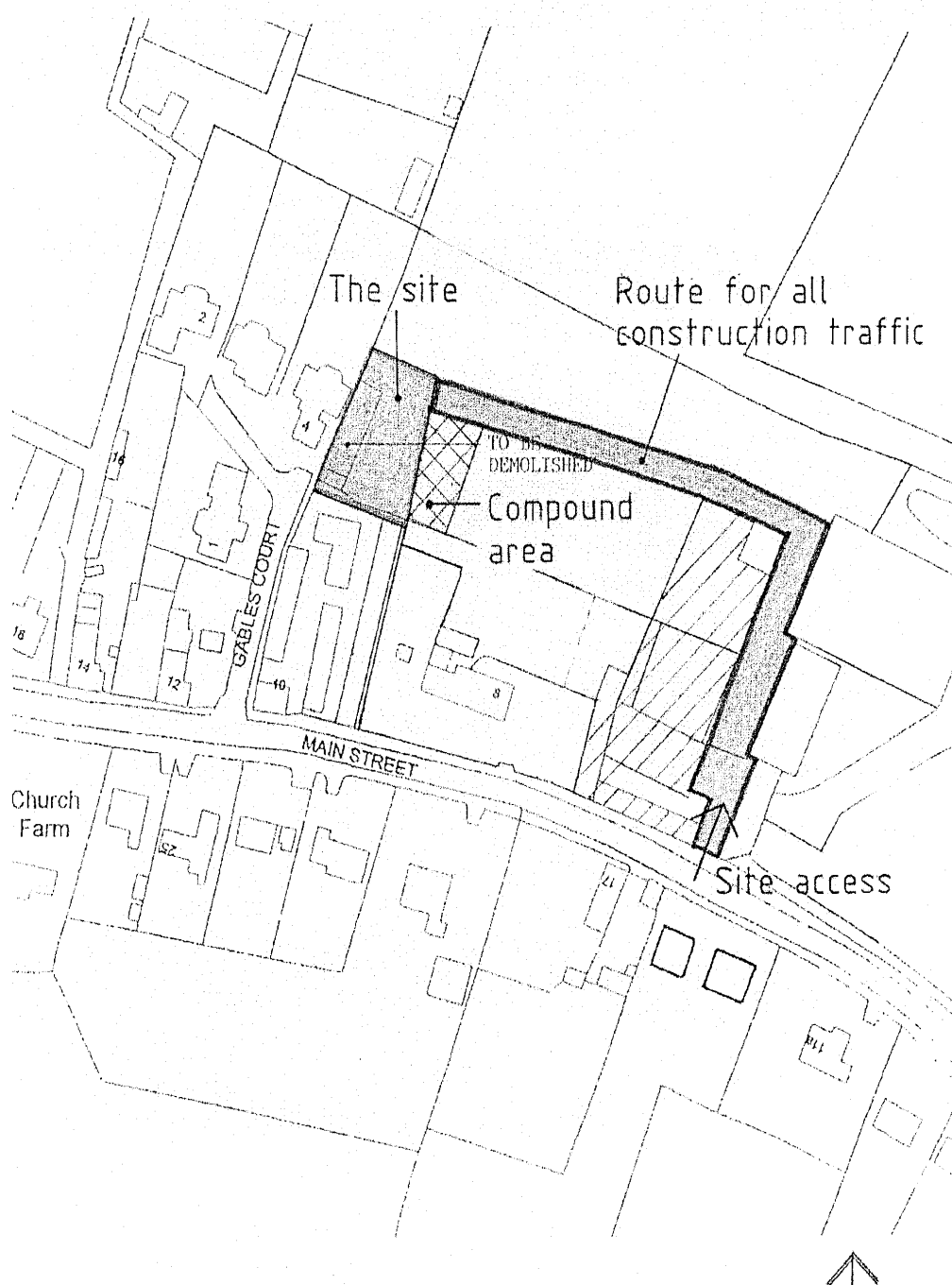


Figure 2: Site location plan showing proposed development (plan provided by client)

Results

Around 40 metres of foundation trenches were excavated by JCB (Figure 3). They were 0.6m wide and *c.*1m deep. For most of the length of this, the groundworks affected only natural deposits below a layer of garden soil, 0.4m thick. Within this

topsoil an abraded body sherd, dated to *c.*1100 – 1250 was recovered (see appendix 1). Below this was a natural substratum consisting of a clean brownly orange sand with occasional gravel. Some demolition rubble and brick footings were removed from a recently demolished 20th century barn.



Figure 3: General view of excavated trenches, looking south

A possible linear feature was observed along the western north-south aligned foundation trench (see photo on front cover, and Figure 5), six metres from the south-end. This was 0.1m deep, had concave side and a flat base and contained a mid grey-brown silty-clay with no finds. It was not seen in the other – eastern - north-south aligned foundation trench. It is possible that this could be a natural geological feature.

A ceramic land drain was observed running north-south at various points in the foundation trenches (see figure 4). Within the backfilled trench cut for this drain was a single sherd of a wide mouthed bowl or pancheon rim, dated to the late 17th or early 18th century (see appendix 1). This may indicate a date for this land drain.

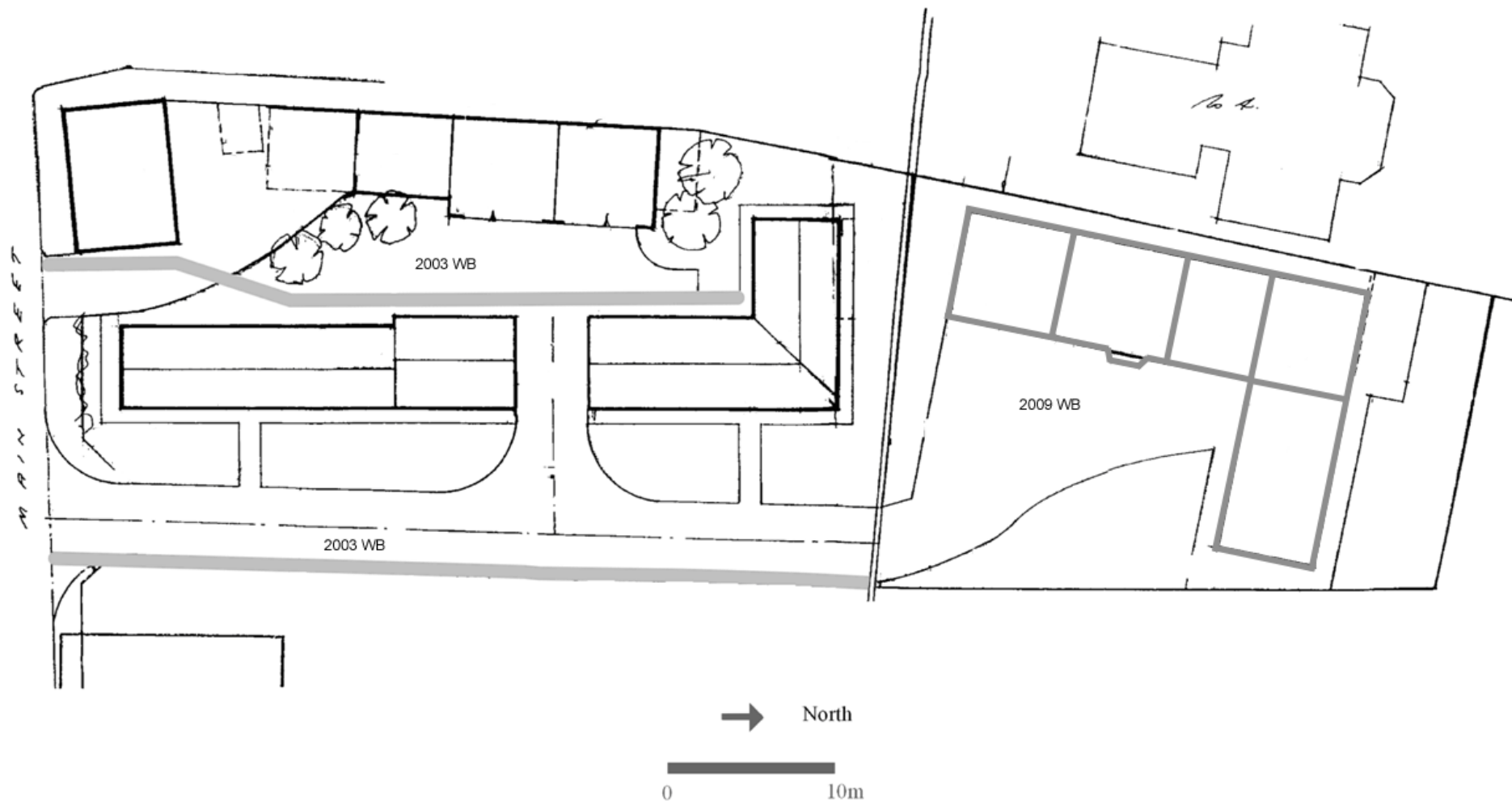


Figure 4: Detailed trench location plan, in relation to the 2003 watching brief



Figure 5: Undated linear feature



Figure 6: Land drain visible on edge of trench in two places, looking SE

Conclusions

No significant archaeological features or finds were exposed during the groundworks at 10 Main Street, Frolesworth. The land was probably used as open farmland up to present times, and any buildings associated with the medieval and post medieval occupation of the village are likely to have been located closer to the street frontage. A single medieval pottery sherd hints at some possible activity close by.

Archive

Fieldwork was carried out by the author. The pottery was identified by Deborah Sawday. Patrick Clay managed the project.

The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services, and is an addition to the current archive under accession number XA.109.2003.

The archive contains:

- Watching brief form
- Context sheets
- Digital photos on CD
- Site notes and plans
- 2 finds
- CD containing this report
- Unbound copy of this report

The report is listed on the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York under ID: universi1-63343. Available at: <http://oasis.ac.uk/>

ID	OASIS entry summary for universi1-63343
Project Name	10 Main Street, Frolesworth
Summary	<i>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of the Trustees of the Frolesworth Estate at 10 Main St., Frolesworth, Leicestershire (SP 504 906), during the groundworks for a new dwelling. No significant archaeological deposits or artefacts were identified. The work is a continuation of earlier work carried out in 2003 (Jarvis 2003). The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services Section, accession no. XA.109.2003.</i>

Project Type	Watching Brief
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Gavin Speed
Previous/Future work	Previous: watching brief. Possible future work.
Current Land Use (2005)	Farmland
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	PPG16
Position in the Planning Process	as a condition
Site Co ordinates	SP 50460 90690
Start/end dates of field work	10/08/2009
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services
Study Area	2.8ha
Associated project reference codes	Museum accession ID: XA.109.2003 OASIS form ID: universi1-63343

Bibliography

- Gnanaratnam, A., & Hyam, A., 2003. *'An Archaeological Evaluation at 2 Main Street, Frolesworth, Leicestershire (NGR SK 5070 9040)'* University of Leicester Archaeological Services unpublished report no. 2003-050.
- Jarvis, W., 2003, *An Archaeological Watching Brief at The Hollies, 10 Main Street, Frolesworth, Leicestershire (SP 504 906)*. University of Leicester Archaeological Services unpublished report no. 2003-092.

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Appendix 1: The Pottery

By Deborah Sawday

The pottery, two sherds, weighing 45 grams, was catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabrics Series (Davies and Sawday 1999). An abraded and externally sooted body sherd, probably part of a cooking pot or jar dating from the 12th or early to mid 13th century was found in context 14. The source of this early medieval sherd, which is in fabric OS2, Oxidised Sandy ware 2, is uncertain but it is thought to be fairly local in origin.

A post-medieval or modern pancheon or wide mouthed bowl rim occurred in context 13 in the post medieval or modern Earthenware, EA2. This ware is common throughout the region and is probably a Staffordshire product. Similar pottery has been noted on a previous watching brief on the site.

Bibliography

Connor, A., and Buckley, R., 1999 *Roman and Medieval Occupation in Causeway Lane, Leicester*, Leicester Archaeology Mon. **5**.

Davies, S., and Sawday, D., 1999 'The Post Roman Pottery and Tile' in A. Connor and R. Buckley, 1999, 165-213.

Context	Fabric/Ware	Nos	Grams	Comments
13	EA2 – Earthenware 2	1	36	Wide mouthed bowl or pancheon rim slipped & glazed internally. Slipped exterior rim, later 17th – 18th century +.
14	OS2 – Oxidised Sandy ware 2	1	9	Abraded body sherd, sooted externally, c.1100-c.1250.

Appendix 2: Design Specification for Archaeological Works

***Site: The Hollies Cottage, 10 Main Street, Frolesworth,
Leicestershire***

NGR: SP 504 906

Client: Trustees of the Frolesworth Settlement

Planning Authority: Harborough District Council

Summary

In view of the potential of the site for containing buried archaeological remains relating to the medieval village of Frolesworth, the site lying within the historic core of the village and close the Main Street Frontage, the archaeological adviser to the planning authority has recommended archaeological attendance and recording during topsoil stripping and groundworks for the proposed development, to ensure that affected deposits are adequately recorded. This specification provides details of the methodologies and standards to be adopted by ULAS on behalf of the client during the course of the work.

1. Introduction

1.1 Definition and scope of the specification

In accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning), para.30, and the condition placed on planning permission, this specification constitutes a 'written scheme of archaeological investigation' which ULAS intends to implement on behalf of the Client in mitigation of any damage which may be caused to buried or standing archaeological remains from the development.

- 1.2 The definition of archaeological watching brief, taken from the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standards and Guidance: for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IFA S&G: AWB) is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.

- 1.3 The purpose of a watching brief, as laid down in the IFA S&G AWB is:

to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.

to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment.

- 1.4 This document provides a scheme of works for:

Archaeological attendance and recording during topsoil stripping and groundworks likely to disturb archaeological remains, if present.

2. Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives, within the resources available, are

- 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 excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

3. Background

- 3.1 The site is located within the medieval historic core of Frolesworth, and adjoins the Main Street frontage. The site is also located some 100m due east-north-east of St. Nicholas Church. Due to its location the site is seen as having the potential to contain associated archaeological deposits of medieval and later periods. A report on earlier works at this location has been produced (Jarvis 2003).
- 3.2 There is still potential for archaeological deposits predating the early medieval period to survive, although this level of potential has not been assessed.
- 3.3 The groundworks will comprise the removal of topsoil, excavation of footings, associated services and access routes, which would severely damage or destroy any archaeological remains that may be present on the site.
- 3.4 The underlying geology of the site consists of sand and gravel (British Geological Survey map sheet 169). The site lies at a height of approximately 115m aOD.

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 Watching Briefs*.
- 4.1.2 Staffing (as far as is possible), 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 Archaeologist at LCC, Harborough District Council planning authority and the Client, if required.

4.2 *Watching brief methodology*

- 4.2.1 The archaeologist will be present during all groundworks that have the potential to affect any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area. The commencement of groundworks and subsequent timetable of works must be agreed between the Client, the Client's contractor and ULAS.
- 4.2.2 The archaeologist will observe any topsoil stripping and the excavation of foundation trenches and drains, by the Client's contractors, in order to obtain an adequate record of any archaeological deposits or finds disturbed or exposed by groundworks associated with the development.
- 4.2.3 The archaeologist will cooperate at all times with the contractors to ensure that there are no unnecessary delays to the work. However, if any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will have the power to temporarily halt the works in order to define and record areas of archaeological interest.
- 4.2.4 Any archaeological deposits encountered will be recorded and excavated using standard ULAS procedures (see section 5 below).
- 4.2.5 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the development, ULAS shall have the power to halt any ground works and shall inform the site agent/project manager and the Senior Planning Archaeologist, and prepare a written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Senior Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement on behalf of the Client a contingency scheme for salvage excavation of affected archaeological features.

4.3. Environmental Sampling

- 4.3.1 If significant archaeological features are subject to excavation, the sampling strategy will include the following if practicable, within the scope of the project and with the allocated resources:

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.

Any buried soils or well-sealed deposits with concentrations of carbonised material present will be intensively sampled taking a known proportion of the deposit.

Spot samples will be taken where concentrations of environmental remains are located.

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.

4.4 Recording Systems

- 4.4.1 The ULAS recording manual will be used as a guide for all recording.
- 4.4.2 Individual descriptions of any observed archaeological strata and features exposed by the works will be entered onto pro-forma recording sheets.
- 4.4.3 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 plan at appropriate scale, which will show the location of the investigation area in relation to the OS or site grid, as appropriate.
- 4.4.4 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. Relative levels of archaeological deposits will be taken across the site area.
- 4.4.5 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.
- 4.4.6 As a minimum, the watching archaeologist will record the location and depths of any areas of groundworks, including descriptions and depths of all principal strata disturbed, even if no archaeological features are present.

5. Finds and 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 Leicestershire Museums for storage in perpetuity.
- 5.3 An accession number will be obtained for the watching brief which will be used to identify all records and finds from the site.
- 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 four weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and copies will be dispatched to the Client (2 copies), Senior Planning Archaeologist/Leicestershire HER (2 copies) and Harborough District Council Planning Officer (1 copy).
- 6.2 The report will include:-
- Summary
 - The aims and methods adopted in the course of the watching brief.
 - The nature, location, extent, date, significance and quality of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
 - Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
 - The location and size of the archive.
- 6.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in Brown (2008) will normally 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 Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society for publication. A larger report will be submitted for inclusion if the results of the archaeological works 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. The Senior Planning Archaeologist will also be consulted when dealing with such enquiries.

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/Staffing

- 10.1 One member of ULAS staff will be present on the site during groundworks. The groundworks are likely to start during w/c 10.08.2009.
- 10.2 The report will normally be completed within eight weeks of the completion of 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 FAME 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.
- A Risks assessment form will be completed prior to work commencing on-site, and updated as necessary during the site works.
- It is assumed that the locations of all services on the site are already known to the Client, and that this information will be made known to the attending archaeologist.

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 Senior Planning Archaeologist subject to the health and safety requirements of the site. Usually at least one weeks notice will be given to the Senior Planning Archaeologist before the commencement of the archaeological works in order that monitoring arrangements can be made, unfortunately in this case there has been some confusion with planning conditions resulting in the works commencing prior to archaeological.
- 13.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the IFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.
- 13.3 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

14. Bibliography

Brown, D., 2008 *Standard and Guidance for the creation, preparation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* IfA 2008

Jarvis, W., 2003 *An archaeological watching brief at The Hollies, 10, Main Street, Frolesworth, Leicestershire (SP 504 906)* ULAS Report 2003-092

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