

**Archaeological Control and supervision
of site strip at
Ecob's Garden Centre,
Horsewell Lane,
Wigston Magna, Leicestershire
(SP 606 979)**

Leon Hunt & Greg Jones

for
Westleigh Homes

Planning application 08/00309/FUL

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Archaeological Control and supervision of site strip at Ecob's Garden Centre, Horsewell Lane, Wigston Magna (SP 6070 9795)

Leon Hunt & Greg Jones

Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological control and supervision of stripping on the previous site of Ecob's Garden Centre, Horsewell Road, Wigston Magna, Leicestershire, (SP 6070 9795) on the 21st and the 28th of April 2009. This work was undertaken on behalf of Westleigh developments during the ground works for the construction of new dwellings. During a previous evaluation a Roman ditch had been recorded. The controlled strip uncovered the continuation of the Roman ditch, which contained Roman pottery and animal bone. The pottery suggested a 3rd – 4th century date for the ditch.

The site archive will be held with the Leicestershire County Council, Community Services Department, under the accession code: [X.A121.2008].

Introduction

An archaeologically controlled and supervised site strip was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of Westleigh Homes on a site at the former Ecob's Garden Centre, 119 Horsewell Lane, Wigston Magna, Leicestershire (NGR SP 606 979). This work was carried out in advance of the construction of two new dwellings on the site and continues a scheme of archaeological investigation recently carried out by ULAS.

The previous archaeological work included a desk-based assessment (Boutsikas 2008), which identified the proximity of a number of recorded archaeological sites, listed on the Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire, including Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon remains. The site also lies close to the remains of a Roman building and c. 200m from the site of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery.

Between the 7th and 12th August 2008, an archaeological field evaluation was carried out on the site by ULAS for Westleigh Developments Ltd. Three ditches and one gully were revealed near the Horsewell Lane frontage (trenches 6 & 9). One of these contained Roman pottery, and it is likely that at least two of these ditches were of Roman date. The other two features were undated (Gnanaratnam 2008).

In view of these discoveries the archaeological adviser to the planning authority made the following recommendation:

'Based upon the results of the evaluation, we will be advising the planning authority that a condition for further archaeological work should be attached on any planning permission. This work should take the form of an archaeologically controlled strip of the two plots in the north east corner of the site, adjacent to Horsewell Lane, in the area of trenches 6 and 9 only' (ULAS Report No 2008/131). (L. Griffin, LCC, email of 20 November 2008 17:47)

This recommendation is in accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning), para.30, and it was agreed that an initial site strip under

archaeological control and supervision be undertaken, followed by archaeological excavation of significant deposits which would be destroyed or damaged by the construction of dwellings in the two plots in the north-east corner of the site, adjacent to Horsewell Lane (Fig. 2).

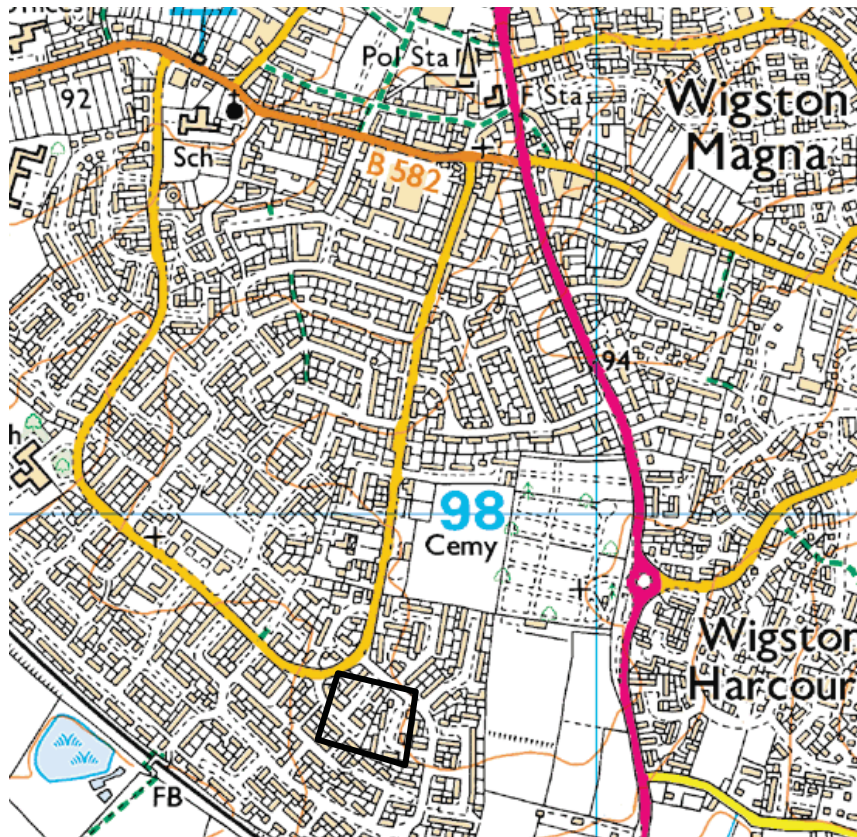


Figure 1: Location map of former Ecob Garden Centre site. Scale 1: 2000

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Site Location and Geology

The site lies on the western side of Horsewell Lane, at the southern end of Wigston in the Borough of Oadby and Wigston, Leicestershire (Fig. 1). The site was formally occupied by Ecob's Garden Centre.

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain (Solid and Drift Geology, Sheet 156) indicated that the underlying geology was likely to be Glacial Till, overlying Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone.

The site is largely flat, with a slope towards the north. It covers 0.56 hectares and lies at a height of approximately 92m O.D.



Figure 2: Plan of the proposed development at Horsewell Lane. Stripped area marked in red. Plan provided by developer. Scale Unknown

Aims and Methods

A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was compiled by ULAS in the form of a design specification prior to the commencement of the work (Appendix 4). This outlined the aims and methods of this archaeological work:

The aims of this archaeological work, through archaeological supervision of the site strip and by the client's contractors, were:

- 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.

The project involved archaeological control and supervision of all groundworks which had the potential to destroy or damage buried archaeological remains in the two plots in the north-eastern corner of the site, in the vicinity of ULAS trenches 6 & 9. Overburden was removed in level spits down to the top of archaeological deposits, natural subsoil or the maximum formation level required by the contractors

(whichever is higher) by a mechanical excavator equipped with a flat-bladed ditching bucket.

Archaeological Background

An excavation carried out *c.*200m to the east of the site revealed evidence of Iron Age and Roman occupation, including Roman building remains and a large amount of pottery associated with a number of ditch features (Liddle and Middleton 1994; HER No. MLE4964 & MLE4965). During a watching brief in 1974 a possible iron working site, dated to the Roman period (but erroneously listed as Anglo-Saxon on the HER), was discovered (MLE4969).

An Anglo-Saxon cemetery is also known to exist around 200m to the east of the site (MLE4966). Trial excavations close to the cemetery site in 1988 uncovered a ditch and Anglo-Saxon pottery, suggesting an occupation site (MLE4967).

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was carried out by ULAS in 2008 in advance of the construction of several new dwellings on the former Ecob garden centre site (Gnanaratnam 2008). This involved the excavation of nine trenches across the proposed development site (Fig. 3).

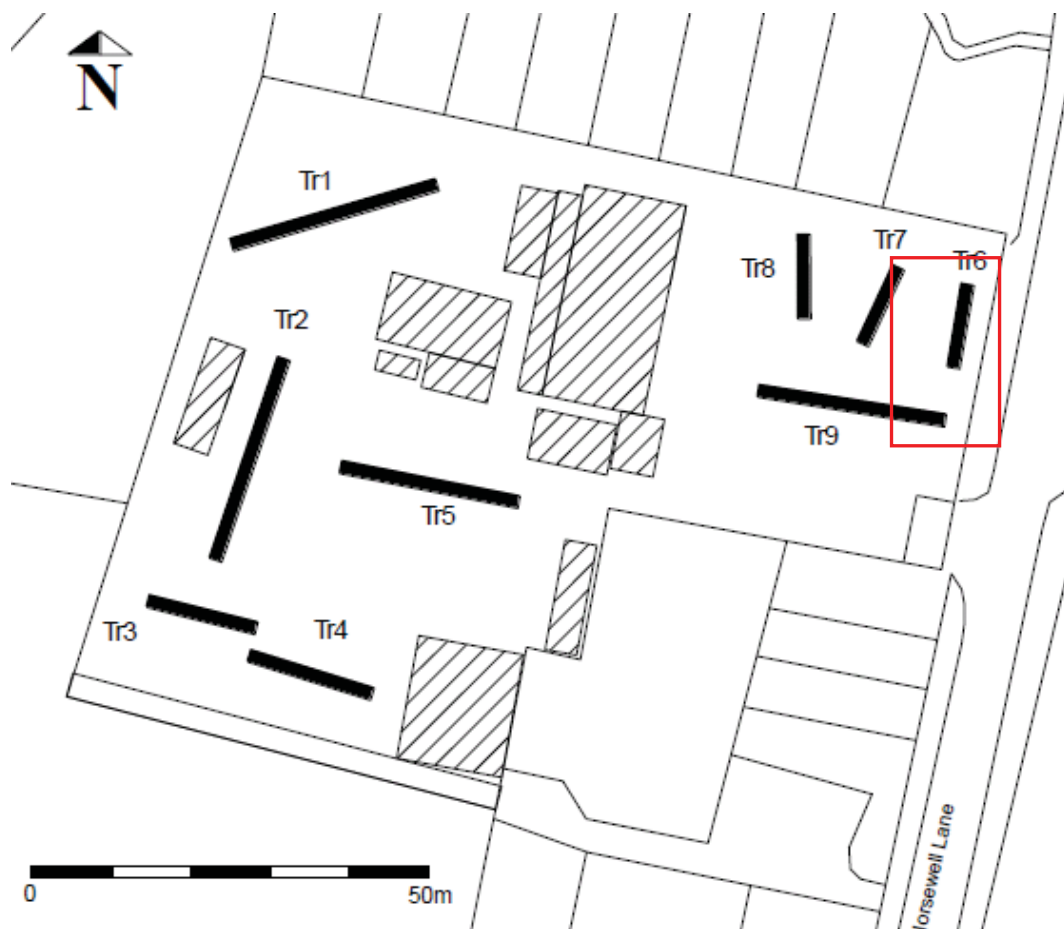


Figure 3: Plan of evaluation trenches superimposed with later stripped area in red

Trenches 6 and 9, which were located close to the road, contained archaeological features. Trench 6 contained an undated gully (3) and a possible field boundary ditch (2) (Fig. 4), whereas Trench 9 contained two linear features of similar size and shape, one of which contained Romano-British pottery (1), most likely 3rd century AD in date (Fig. 5).

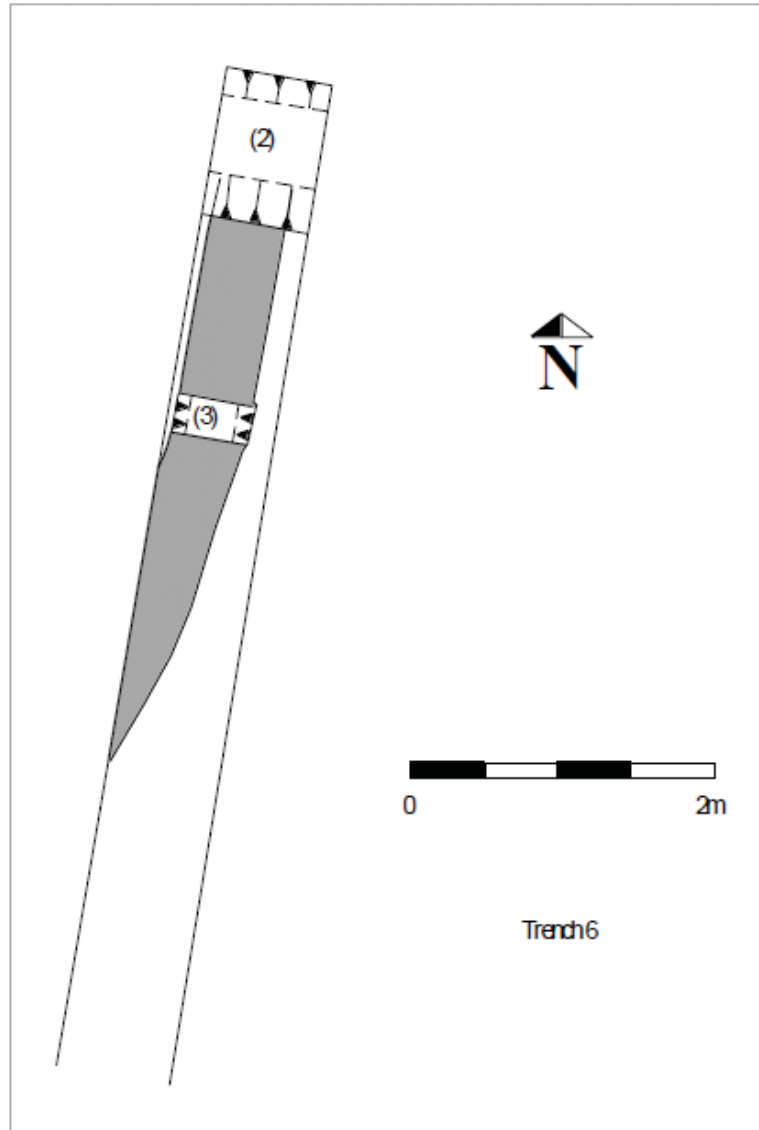


Figure 4: Post excavation plan of Trench 6 (Gnanaratnam 2008).

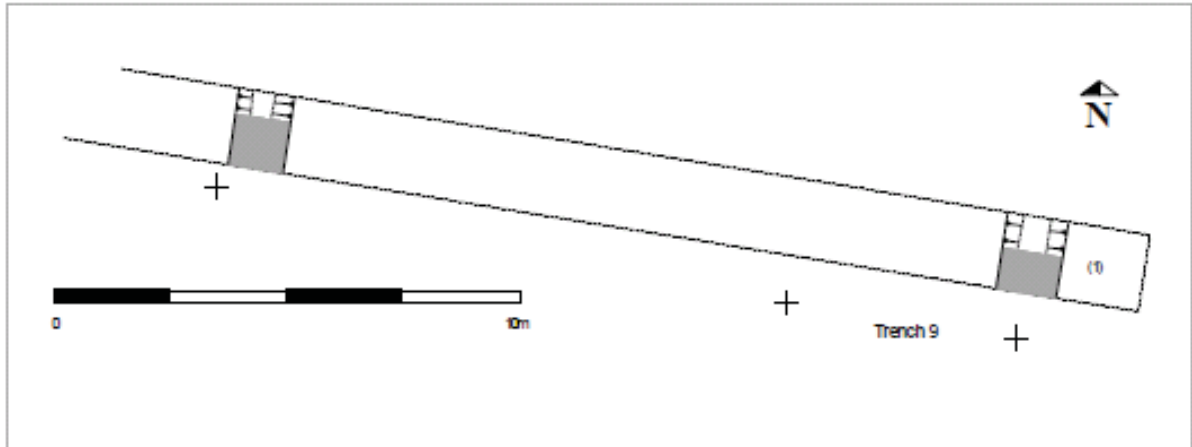


Figure 5: Post excavation plan of Trench 9 (Gnanaratnam 2008).

Results

The archaeological control and supervision of site stripping was undertaken on the 21st April and the 28th April 2009. This work involved the supervision of overburden removal in spits down to the natural subsoil in the two plots in the north-eastern corner of the site in the vicinity of ULAS evaluation trenches 6 & 9 (Figs 3 & 6). The controlled strip on the 21st April incorporated area 1 while the work undertaken on the 28th April involved area 2 (Fig. 6).

Initial machining in area 1 revealed topsoil/overburden down to a depth of *c.*0.4m, below which was revealed to a further depth of *c.*0.3m light yellowish brown silty clay subsoil with occasional stones. Beneath these layers was revealed the natural substratum which consisted of yellow brown sandy clay with occasional mixed gravelly patches. The machining depth of area 1 was *c.*0.9m (maximum depth) and *c.*0.6m (minimum depth). No archaeological finds or features were located during the stripping of area 1 and no evidence was found of the linear features (2) or (3) observed in trench 6 from the evaluation.

On the morning of the 28th April 2009 further machining was undertaken to the south for area 2 (Fig. 6). Initial machining revealed similar overburden deposits and subsoil layers to those observed in area 1.

Located at *c.*2m from the eastern edge of the area 2 trench was located a ditch (fig. 6; (1); Figs 7 and 8) which had been initially uncovered in trench 9 during the ULAS evaluation. Measuring *c.*1.3m in width the ditch continued in a north-north-west direction towards the trench 6. Ditch (1) was sectioned (Figs 8 & 9) and was *c.*0.6m deep. The fill consisted of mid greyish-brown silty clay with charcoal flecks and contained five Roman pottery sherds, a single fragment of tegula roof tile and animal bone. The pottery assemblage comprises sherds from the late 3rd century to the 4th century (Appendix 1) and animal bone including cattle and sheep/goat (Appendix 2). Although the orientation of the ditch might suggest that it did not continue north into area 1, it may well have changed direction slightly; the ditch recorded in trench 6 was also curved (Figs 4 and 6).

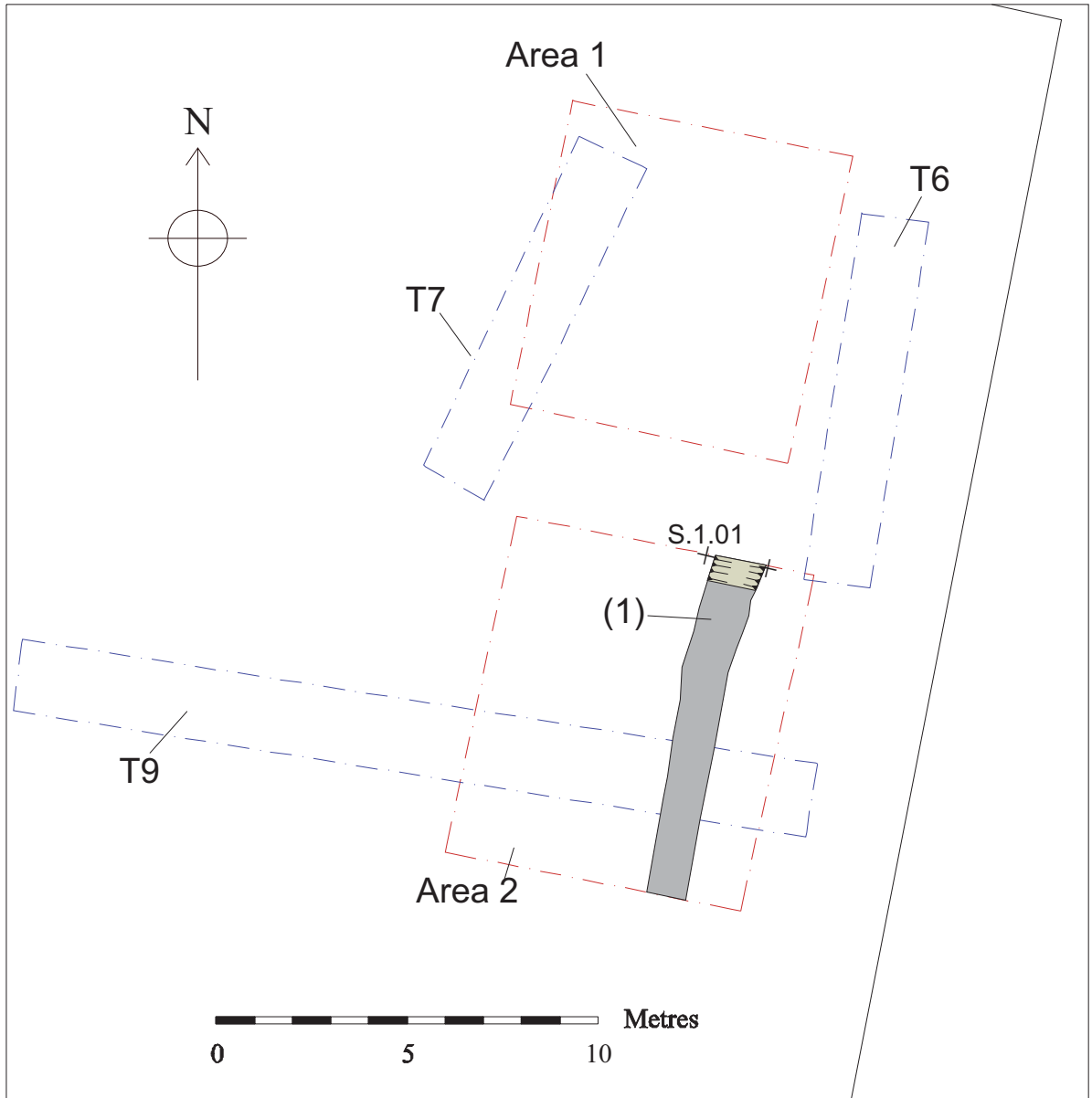


Figure 6: Plan of excavated areas 1 & 2



Figure 7: Area 2 looking north

Figure 8: Roman Ditch (1) looking north

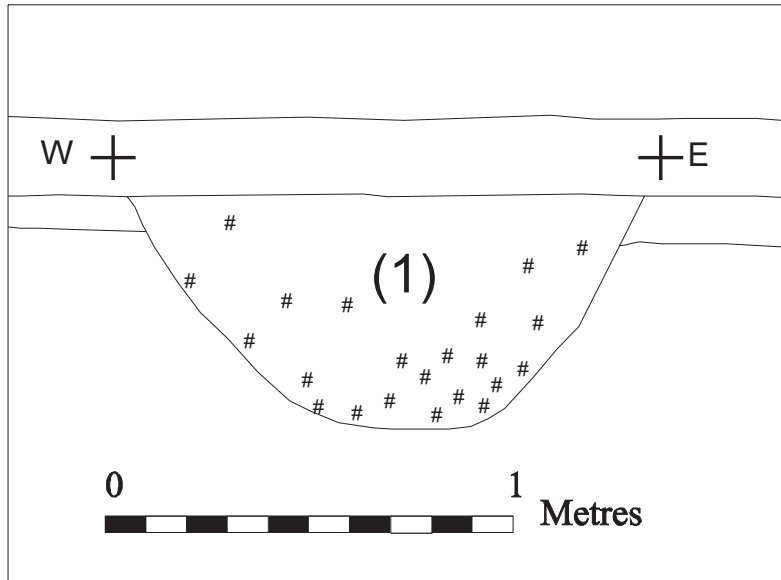


Figure 9: Section through Roman ditch (1)

Conclusion

The archaeological controlled strip failed to reveal evidence of any Saxon archaeology, despite earlier finds in the near vicinity. However, Roman finds were located. Roman pottery and animal bone were recovered from a slightly curving ditch. Further machining revealed that this feature was the same as the ditch that was uncovered in trench nine during the earlier archaeological evaluation and may also be the same ditch that was located in trench 6. It is possible that this feature served as a boundary ditch. No evidence was recorded for any later activity during the archaeological strip which may indicate that the site had been affected by truncation from subsequent agricultural activity. The archaeological controlled strip therefore recorded the extent of the ditch and confirmed the feature as being of 3rd -4th century date.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the clients Westleigh Developments for their assistance and co-operation. Vicki Score managed the project and the fieldwork was carried out by Greg Jones and the report was produced by Leon Hunt and Greg Jones both of ULAS.

Archive

The site archive consisting of paper records and digital colour photographs will be held with the County Archaeological Heritage Services, Leicestershire County Council, Community Services Department, under the accession code: [X.A121.2008].

Archive accession code [X.A121.2008] contents:

Copy of Report:	Watching Brief Recording Sheets:	Digital Colour Photographs:	Pottery	Animal Bone
1	2	44	5 sherds of Roman pottery 1 fragment of tegula roof tile	4 fragments

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Buckley, R., 2009 *Design Specification for archaeological control and supervision of site strip on land at Ecob's Garden Centre, Horsewell Road, Wigston Magna* ULAS Ref: 09/153/01.

Gnanaratnam, A., 2008 *An Archaeological Field Evaluation at the former Ecob's Garden Centre, 119 Horsewell Road, Wigston Magna, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 6070 9795)* ULAS Report 2008-131.

Liddle, P. and Middleton, S., 1994, 'An Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Wigston Magna, Leicestershire' *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*, **68**: 64–86.

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Appendix 1: The Roman Pottery and Tile from XA121.2008 - Nicholas J. Cooper

Introduction

An assemblage of five sherds of Roman pottery weighing 302g and a single fragment of a tegula roof tile weighing 148g, was retrieved from context (1), the fill of the north-south Roman ditch, first identified during excavation of Trench 9 at the evaluation stage of the project.

Methodology

The material was classified using the Leicestershire Museums Fabric Series (Pollard 1994, 112-114) and quantified by sherd count and weight as detailed in the following table.

Results

Table 1: Roman pottery and tile from excavation at Ecob's garden centre, Wigston

Roman Pottery and tile from Wigston XA.121.2008							
Context	Fabric	NRFcode	Form	Type	Sherds	Weight	Date
1	MO2	OXF WS	Mortarium	WC7.3	1	48	4th cent
1	MO2	OXF WS	Mortarium	WC7.1-3	1	54	4th cent
1	GW3		Jar		1	124	L.3rdcent
1	CG1B	HAR SH	Bowl	Form 6	1	72	4th cent
1	CG1B	HAR SH	Jar	Form 2	1	4	4th cent
Total					5	302	
Tile	sandy				1	148	

The assemblage comprises the rim and a base (not clearly from the same vessel) of an Oxfordshire white-slipped mortarium (Fabric MO2/ OXF WS) of Young's Type WC7.3 (Young 1977, 122 and fig.38) which, although it emerged in the mid-3rd century was not common until the 4th century, and probably did not get to Leicestershire before the later 4th century. Additionally, the group includes the rim of a bowl with a square cut flange, and the shoulder of a jar in Harrold (or South Midlands) Shell-tempered ware, of Forms 6 and 2, respectively (Tyers 1996, Fig.242 and table 60 after Sanders), both of which would not generally occur in Leicestershire before the second half of the 4th century (see also Brown 1994, 75, fig.39.350 belonging to Phase 6 dated later 4th to early 5th century). The grey ware jar sherd is in a light grey fabric with dark surfaces, but not a product of the Lower Nene Valley as it is micaceous. The form is likely to be narrow-mouthed and typical of those belonging broadly to the late Roman East Midlands burnished ware tradition as recorded from the late 3rd or early 4th-century well group from Empingham, Rutland (Cooper 2000, 86 and Fig 42.104-8). Both the greyware sherd and the mortarium as well as the tile fragment have abraded and flaked surfaces typical of waterlogged burial conditions, whilst the shell-tempered ware does not.

Discussion

The initial assemblage recovered during evaluation was not diagnostic enough to allow closer dating than the third century or later for this context, but the material from the controlled strip indicates that the deposit dates to the later fourth century probably after about AD 360, at which time the products of both Oxfordshire and Harrold, Bedfordshire, become widespread across the Midlands and elsewhere.

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Appendix 2: The Bone from Wigston Magna - Jennifer Browning

Context	Species	Bone	Notes
1	Large mammal	Rib fragment	Fresh breaks
1	Cattle	metacarpal	Fragment from fused proximal end, fresh breaks
1	Large mammal	Shaft fragment	Large, flat fragment, possibly from mandible or pelvis
1	Sheep/goat	Metatarsal	Fused proximal end and most of shaft present. Gnawing noted at the distal end of shaft.

Four fragments of animal bone were recovered from a single Roman context (1). The bones are moderately well-preserved with little surface abrasion and appear to derive from the usual range of domestic species of the period; cattle and sheep/goat being positively identified. A much larger sample of bone would be required to determine any further significance to the remains.

Appendix 3: Oasis Information:

INFORMATION REQUIRED	EXAMPLE
Project Name	Ecob's Garden Centre, Horsewell Road, Wigston Magna, Leicestershire
Project Type	Control and supervision of site strip with archaeological excavation and recording of affected deposits
Project Manager	Vicki Score
Project Supervisor	Greg Jones
Previous/Future work	Archaeological Evaluation/No future work needed
Current Land Use	Garden centre/yard
Development Type	Residential, Extension
Reason for Investigation	PPG16
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	NGR: SP 6070 9795
Start/end dates of field work	21.04.09 – 28.04.09
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire
Study Area	c. 0.56ha

Appendix 4: Design Specification

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for Archaeological Mitigation Strategy

Archaeological Control and Supervision of Site strip with Archaeological Excavation and Recording of affected deposits.

Ecob's Garden Centre, Horsewell Road, Wigston Magna

Planning application 08/00309/FUL

NGR: (SP 6070 9795).

Planning Authority: Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

For: Westleigh Homes

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 (WSI) for an initial site strip under archaeological control and supervision, followed by archaeological excavation of significant deposits which will be destroyed or damaged by the construction of dwellings in two plots in the north-east corner of the site, adjacent to Horsewell Lane.

1.2 The archaeological investigation is required as a condition of the planning permission for the development and details of the necessary work have been specified in an email issued by Historic And Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council on behalf of the planning authority.

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

2 Background

2.1 Archaeological Background

2.1.1 The site lies adjacent to the road leading south from Wigston Magna and in existence by 1887, the date of the first map of the area. The desk-based assessment for the site indicated that the site lay near to known Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon remains (MLE4964; MLE4965; MLE4969; MLE4966 and MLE4967). Around 30m from the site on the opposite side of Horsewell Road, evidence for a Roman building were revealed along with, poorly dated, possibly Saxon ironworking traces. Around 200 metres away, the remains of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery were uncovered in the 18th century. Near to this site *c.* 10 Anglo-Saxon sherds were revealed in excavations in 1988 (Boutsikas 2008, 10).

2.1.2 Between the 7th and 12th August 2008, an archaeological field evaluation was carried out on the site by ULAS for Westleigh Developments Ltd. Near the Horsewell Lane frontage (trenches 6 & 9), three ditches and one gully were revealed. One of these contained Roman pottery, and it is likely that two of these ditches were of Roman date. The other two features were undated. The finds and archive are to be deposited with Leicestershire County Council, Sites and Monuments Record, Accession Number X.A121.2009.

2.2 Requirement for archaeological work

2.2.1 The archaeological adviser to the planning authority has made the following recommendation:

'Based upon the results of the evaluation, we will be advising the planning authority that a condition for further archaeological work should be attached on any planning permission. This work should take the form of an archaeologically controlled strip of the two plots in the north east corner of the site, adjacent to Horsewell Lane, in the area of trenches 6 and 9 only (ULAS Report No 2008/131). (L. Griffin, LCC, email of 20 November 2008 17:47

Effectively, this means a programme of archaeological control and supervision of ground reduction works associated with the development, in the specified areas, to be undertaken using a machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, followed by archaeological excavation of affected deposits.

3 Aims

3.1 Through archaeological supervision of the site strip and by the client's contractors:

- 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.

4 Methods

4.1 The project will involve archaeological control and supervision of all groundworks which have the potential to destroy or damage buried archaeological remains in the two plots in the north-eastern corner of the site, in the vicinity of ULAS trenches 6 & 9. Overburden will be removed in level spits down to the top of archaeology, natural subsoil or the maximum formation level required by the contractors (whichever is higher) by mechanical excavator equipped with a flat-bladed ditching bucket. 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 Upon completion of the initial site strip, any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated, following a strategy agreed with the archaeological adviser to the planning authority upon completion of the topsoil strip. Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) where appropriate. Should the initial site strip not reach the level of the natural substratum, further site visits will be required to supervise other groundworks (i.e. foundation and service trenches) until the archaeologist is satisfied that no archaeological deposits on the site will be affected by the proposals.

4.3 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. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

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

4.5 Any human remains encountered will initially be left in situ and only be removed under a Home Office Licence (if necessary) and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The owner, local authority and their archaeological advisers and the coroner will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.6 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site from the project manager. These will ensure that professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for monitoring visits with representatives of the owners, the planning authority and their archaeological advisers.

4.7 Any archaeological deposits encountered will be recorded and excavated using standard ULAS procedures. Archaeological deposits will be recorded using standard ULAS procedure. Sufficient of any archaeological features or deposits will be hand excavated in order to provide the information required.

50% of each pit and other discrete archaeological features will be excavated.

20% of the exposed lengths of linear features will normally be excavated. Excavation sections will be placed to provide adequate coverage of the features and will include excavation of terminals and intersections. 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.

25% of ring gullies will normally be excavated to include excavation of the terminals. Special regard will be given to significant stratigraphic relationships and concentrations of artefactual material. A lower excavation sample ratio of ditches will not be acceptable and in some cases a greater sample size, up to 100% may be required. Any increase in sample ratio will be agreed with the City Archaeologist.

4.8 In the event that unforeseen/significant 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, Planning Archaeologist and Planning Authority and prepare a short written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement on behalf of the Client a contingency scheme for emergency excavation of affected archaeological features.

5 Recording Systems

5.1 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets.

5.2 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 1:200 (or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated.

5.3 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made on drawing film, related to the OS grid and at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Elevations and sections of individual layers of features should be drawn where possible. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans.

5.4 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared. This will include black and white prints and colour transparencies 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.

5.5 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the project.

5.6 All site records and finds will be kept securely.

6 Report and Archive

6.1 An accession number will be drawn prior to the commencement of the project. 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.

6.2 Copies of the report will be provided for the client, Historic Environment Record and planning Authority. 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.

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 be presented to Warwickshire County Council, normally within six months of the completion of analysis. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

6.4 The report will be produced in A4 format and will include:

Summary

The aims and methods adopted in the course of the project.

The nature, location and extent of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.

The date and interpretation of excavated features.

Analysis of finds, samples for environmental data and radiocarbon dating.

Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.

Discussion of the results in their local, regional and national context including relating the results to evidence from nearby sites.

The location and size of the archive.

7 Publication

7.1 A summary report will be submitted to a suitable regional or national archaeological journal within one year of completion of fieldwork. A full report will be submitted if the results are of significance.

8 Timetable and Staffing

8.1 The investigation is scheduled to commence on Monday 10th November 2008 at the start of the contractors groundworks. An experienced archaeologist will be present during this work.

9 Health and Safety

9.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (revised 2005) with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is in the Appendix. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate.

10 Insurance

10.1 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.

11. Bibliography

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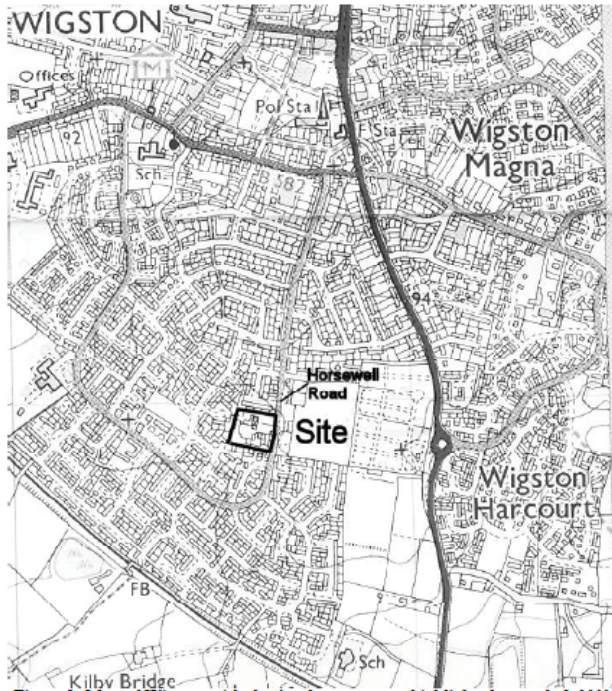


Figure 2: Proposed site layout

Appendix 1

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

1 Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for an archaeological watching brief and archaeological excavation.

1.2 The work will involve observation of groundworks during daylight hours and recording of any underlying archaeological deposits revealed. Overall depth is likely to be c. 0.2-0.5m. This will involve the examination of the exposed surface with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and excavation of archaeological features. All work will adhere to the University of Leicester Health and Safety Policy and follow the guidance in the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (2001) together with the following relevant Health and Safety guidelines.

1.3 HSE Construction Information Sheet CS8 Safety in excavations.

HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)143 (L): Getting to grips with manual handling.

HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)145 (L): Watch Your back.

CIRIA R97 Trenching practice.

CIRIA TN95 Proprietary Trench Support Systems.

HSE Guidance Note HS(G) 47 Avoiding danger to underground services. HSE Guidance Note GS7 Accidents to children on construction sites

1.4 The Health and Safety policy on site will be reassessed during the evaluation .

1.5 All work will adhere to the contractors' health and safety policy.

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 Working within a building site

Precautions. No work will be undertaken beneath section faces. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. Hard hats will be worn at all times. A member of staff qualified in First Aid will be present at all times. First aid kit, vehicle and mobile phone to be kept on site in case of emergency.

2.2 Working with plant.

Precautions. Hard hats, protective footwear and hazard jackets will be worn at all times. No examination of the area of stripping will take place until machines have vacated area. Observation of machines will be maintained during hand excavation. Liaison will be maintained with the contractors to ensure programme of machine movement is understood.

2.3 Working within areas prone to waterlogging.

Protective clothing will be worn at all times and precautions taken to prevent contact with stagnant water which may carry Weils disease or similar.

2.4 Working with chemicals.

If chemicals are used to conserve or help lift archaeological material these will only be used by qualified personnel with protective clothing (i.e a trained conservator) and will be removed from site immediately after use.

2.5 Other risks

Precautions. If there is any suspicion of unforeseen hazards being encountered e.g chemical contaminants, unexploded bombs, hazardous gases work will cease immediately. The client and relevant public authorities will be informed immediately.

2.9 No other constraints are recognised over the nature of the soil, water, type of excavation, proximity of structures, sources of vibration and contamination.