



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

An archaeological investigation (strip,
plan and sample) at Willow House,
Strawson's Farmyard,
Old Great North Road,
Great Casterton, Rutland
NGR: TF 0014 0895

Leon Hunt



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**An archaeological investigation
at Willow House,
Strawson's Farmyard,
Old Great North Road,
Great Casterton, Rutland
(TF 0014 0895)**

Leon Hunt

**for:
S.J Knight**

Planning application no. FUL/2009/1150

Checked by

Signed:



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CONTENTS

Summary	2
Introduction.....	2
Site Location, Geology and Topography	3
Archaeological Background.....	4
Archaeological Objectives	5
Methodology	5
Results.....	5
Area 1	5
Area 2.....	5
Area 3.....	6
Conclusion	7
Acknowledgements.....	8
Archive.....	8
Appendix I: The Roman pottery	14
Appendix II: Brief for Archaeological Investigation (Strip, Plan & Sample Excavation)	15
Appendix III: Design specification.....	23
Appendix IV: OASIS information	31

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location.....	3
Figure 2: Plan of the site, provided by developer. Scale 1: 500 (approximate).....	4
Figure 3: Plan of observations carried out during archaeological work	7

PLATES

Plate 1: Area 1 with slabs removed, looking west.....	9
Plate 2: Area 1, post excavation, looking north.....	9
Plate 3: Area 2 prior to work, looking south-west	10
Plate 4: Area 3, post-excavation, looking west.....	10
Plate 5: West facing section of trench in area 2, looking east	11
Plate 6: North facing elevation of farm wall (Area 2), looking south	11
Plate 7: Area 3 prior to excavation, looking east.....	12
Plate 8: Area 3 stripped down to hardcore, at 0.2m deep, looking west.....	12
Plate 9: South facing section of trench in area 3, looking north	13
Plate 10: Area 3, post-excavation, looking west, with concrete stanchion in foreground.....	13

An archaeological investigation (strip, plan and sample) at Willow House, Strawson's Farmyard, Old Great North Road, Great Casterton, Rutland (TF 0014 0895)

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Summary

Archaeological work was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) for S.J. Knight on land at Willow House, Strawson's Farmyard, Old Great North Road, Great Casterton, Rutland (TF 0014 0895).

The work was in advance of two extensions and a detached garage being constructed on the site, which lies within the medieval core of Great Casterton and within the Roman town.

The three areas excavated revealed previous disturbance; mainly make-up layers that would have been deposited when the site was landscaped during the conversion of Willow House from a barn into a private dwelling.

The third area contained the most disturbed ground and appears to have been situated in an area previously occupied by a farm building.

No archaeological features were revealed although three sherds of Romano-British grey-ware were recovered from the topsoil within Area 3.

An archive will be prepared for the site and will be deposited with Oakham and Rutland Museums with accession number OAKRM.2010.12.

Introduction

An archaeological investigation by strip, plan and sample was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) for S.J Knight on land at Willow House, Strawson's Farmyard, Old Great North Road, Great Casterton, Rutland (NGR: TF 0014 0895) during ground-works associated with the construction of two small extensions to Willow House plus the construction of a separate new garage and workshop.

The proposed development site lies within the historic core of Great Casterton, a medieval and post-medieval village (HER No. **MLE8829**), within the walls of the Roman town (**MLE5294**) and adjacent to the scheduled remains of the town (**SM RT161**).

The site is therefore of significant archaeological potential, based upon an assessment of information held in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER).

In consequence the Senior Planning Archaeologist (SPA) recommended the need for a programme of archaeological investigation and recording prior to the start of development. This comprised a soil strip under archaeological control and supervision of all areas of proposed development impact (foundations, services and landscaping), planning of the exposed surface and sample excavation of features identified.

This work was in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5), and was intended to provide indications of the character and extent of any archaeological remains that may have been present on the site, so that the Planning Authority could assess the potential impact of the proposed development on such remains.

Site Location, Geology and Topography

Great Casterton lies at the eastern edge of Rutland around 2.5 miles from the centre of Stamford and around 10 miles from Oakham (Figure 1).

The site itself lies at Strawson's Farmyard on the eastern side of the Old Great North Road in Great Casterton. The site, including the house is broadly rectangular in shape, covers around 0.17 hectares and lies at a height of approximately 40m aOD.

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain indicates that the site lies on Lower Lincolnshire Limestone Member Bedrock with bands of Northampton Sand formation Iron-oolite.

The ground-works were focussed on three small areas; two areas adjoining Willow House which were covered in gravel and partially paved and a further area on the garden lawn. The land is generally flat (Figure 2).

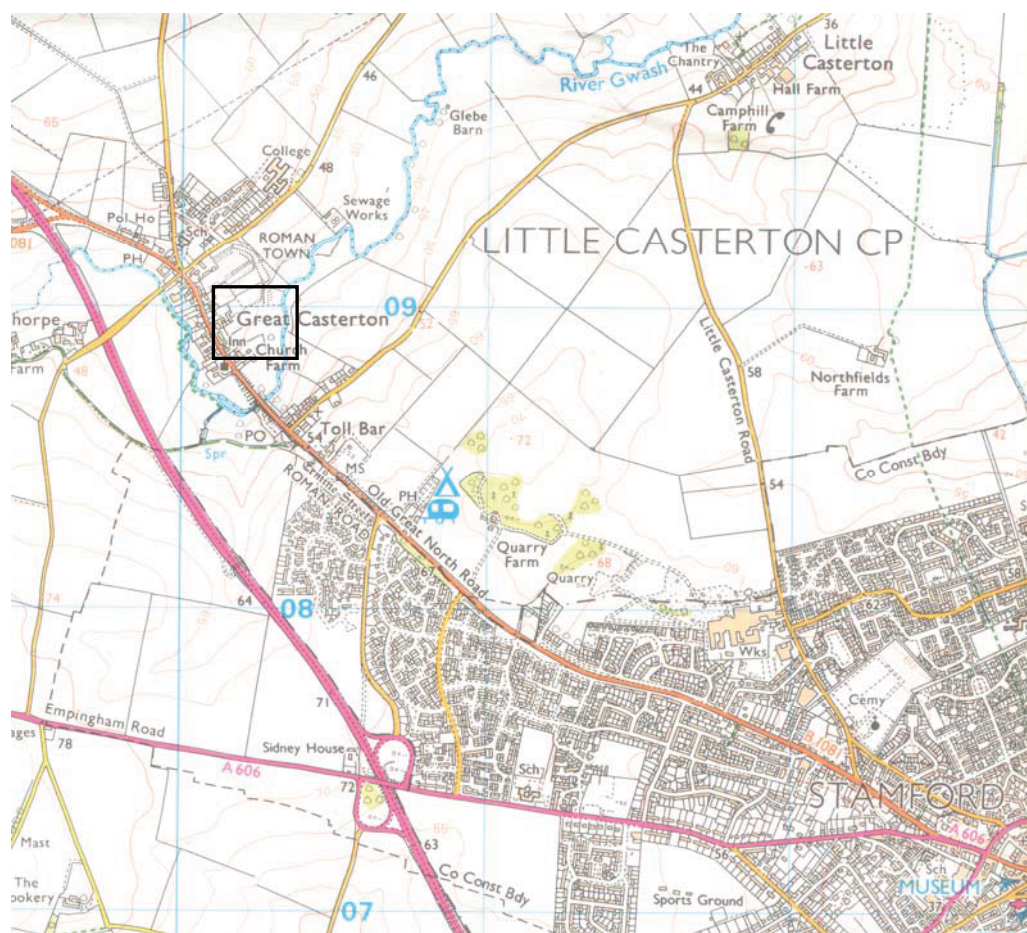


Figure 1: Site location

Reproduced from OS map Pathfinder 896 (Rutland Water) 1:25000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 1990
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Archaeological Background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates that the proposed development site lies centrally within the historic settlement core of the Roman walled town of Great Casterton, as well as the subsequent medieval and post-medieval settlement (HER refs. **MLE5294** and **MLE8829**).

There have been various archaeological investigations undertaken at the site, including a recent archaeological attendance during a small extension (encompassed by the current application), which produced Roman pottery. Other fieldwork conducted in the early 1990s included a series of 1m boxes close to the area of the proposed extension. This investigation demonstrated the presence of significant and well preserved archaeological remains of Roman and medieval date, buried at a relatively shallow depth below the present ground surface (c. 0.3 to 0.5m below existing).

A subsequent phase of archaeological monitoring during development of Strawson's farmyard in 1996 revealed further Roman and medieval remains. In the immediate vicinity, evaluation in advance of planning proposals at 3-8, Main Street, revealed structural remains of post-medieval, medieval and probable Roman date.

Willow House is a stone-built barn conversion. Early OS maps of the site show further buildings to the east of the house within the current site boundaries.

The site lies within an area that was once the crew yard for the farm.

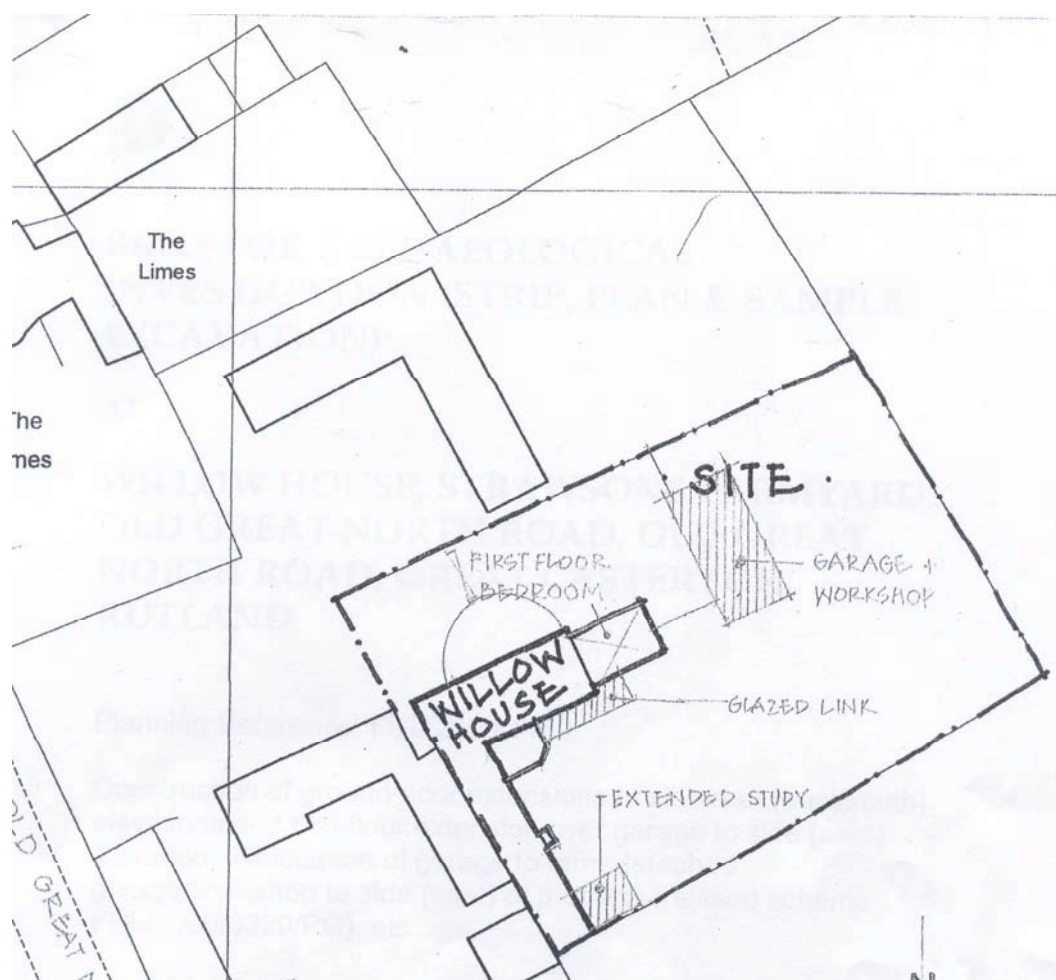


Figure 2: Plan of the site, provided by developer. Scale 1: 500 (approximate)

Archaeological Objectives

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

Methodology

The project involved the supervision of overburden removal and other ground-works by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above.

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct in accordance with their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

The archaeological work followed the *Brief for Archaeological Investigation (Strip, plan and Sample Excavation)* as prepared by the Historic and Natural Environment Team, Community Services Department, Leicestershire County Council (dated 02 March 2010 (Appendix II)) and follows the Design Specification for Archaeological Work prepared by ULAS (Appendix III).

All the areas were excavated using a mini-digger fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the final finish level.

Results

Area 1

The first area to be excavated was the footing for the first floor extension to the south side of the garage, which measured 7.4m by 1.2m (Figure 3).

The paving slabs in this area had been removed prior to the commencement of the work (Plate 1). The machine reduced the layers in even strips revealing Type 1 hardcore, sand, slate and other dumped building material down to a layer of loose buried topsoil, around 0.4m below original ground level.

As this area would appear to consist of made-up ground the rest of the area was stripped to the appropriate finished level.

No archaeological finds or features were observed (Plate 2).

Area 2

The second area was for a proposed study close to the southern farm wall, against the east facing wall of the house, which measured 5m by 4m (Figure 3; Plate 3).

Initially a small area was stripped close to the building; this contained gravel and disturbed topsoil over natural clay. The work then continued from the western edge near the house onto the lawn to the east.

The machine removed the layers in even strips revealing 0.2m of ceramic building debris and a thin layer (0.1m) of topsoil down to the natural clay towards the house and 0.35m of loose topsoil on top of the natural clay at the eastern end, to a total depth of 0.5m (Plates 4 & 5).

A number of large limestone boulders, measuring an average size of 0.35m-0.4m by 0.24m were located loose within the topsoil close to the southern wall. These were not dressed or bonded and the topsoil between them contained modern material such as plastic and polystyrene. The barn wall appeared to have no obvious foundation course (Plate 6); the western elevation of the converted open barn stood on breeze blocks.

The finished ground level contained a mixture of limestone brash and sandy clay. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Area 3

The final excavation was on an area measuring 7.5m by 6m, which was situated on the garden lawn to the east of the house (Figure 3; Plate 7). This was to be a new garage and workshop.

This area was stripped in two stages as the initial strip revealed a hard compacted layer of hardcore and building material under the topsoil. Therefore, the area was initially stripped with a 1.6m toothless bucket, revealing 0.2m of topsoil over the hard surface (Plate 8), which contained patches of asphalt. The bucket was then changed to a smaller toothless bucket and the area stripped to a final level of 0.45m under the ground surface, revealing hardcore and ceramic building material containing many types of modern synthetic material such as plastic, batteries and sweet wrappers (Plate 9). A large concrete stanchion was revealed close to the eastern edge of the trench (Plate 10).

Three small sherds of Romano-British greyware, dating from the late 3rd century were found during an inspection of the topsoil spoil (see Appendix I). No other archaeological finds or features were observed.

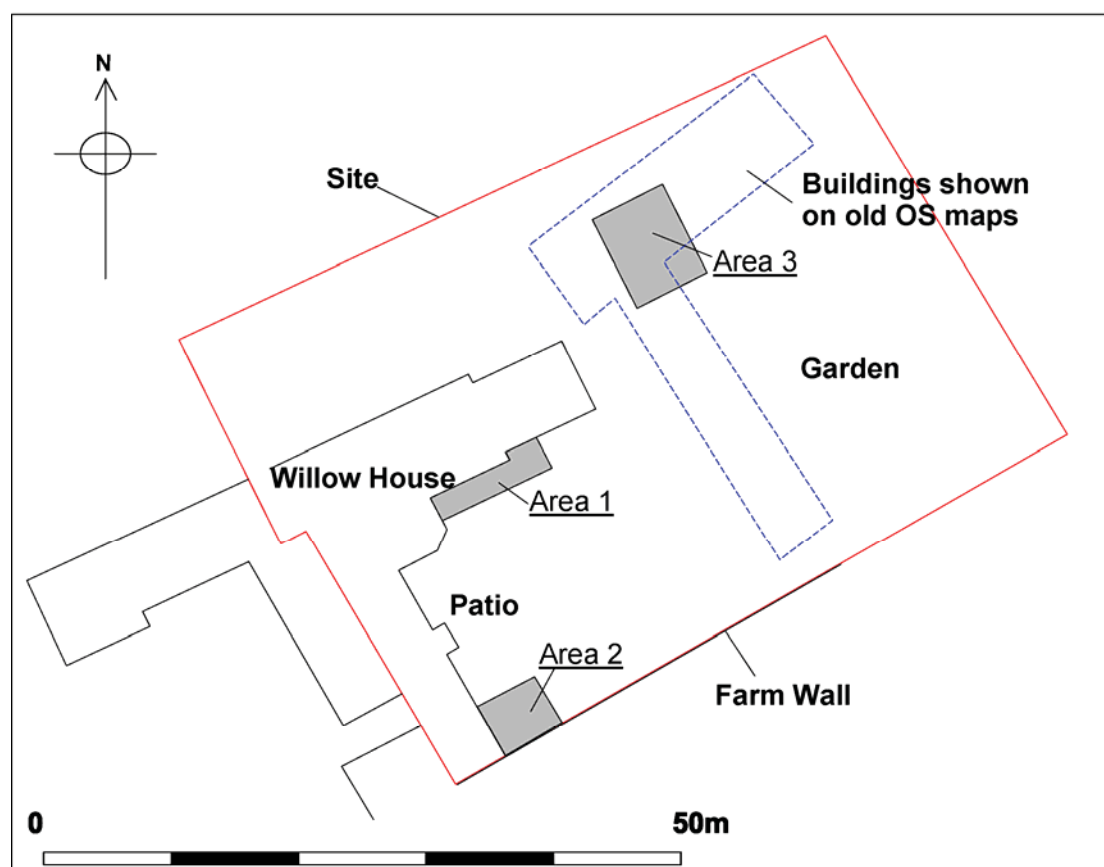


Figure 3: Plan of observations carried out during archaeological work

Conclusion

Although the site at Strawson's Farmyard is within the medieval town and adjacent to the Roman Scheduled remains the archaeological work was largely negative in regard to archaeological features.

Area 1 consisted of made-up ground of modern building debris and hardcore down to a layer of topsoil, which itself was quite loose and not compacted. This would suggest that this area was disturbed during the conversion of the original barns into the present Willow House.

Area 2 was similar but with topsoil lying directly on top of the natural clay and limestone. This topsoil was also quite loose and may have been brought in to create the garden when the house was converted. The presence of the large limestone blocks within the topsoil is of note, but they were undressed and their provenance is unknown. There was a large amount of dumped material within the soils removed during this work and these boulders may have been from some other part of the site.

Area 3 also consisted on made-up ground and contained a large amount of dumped material, including rubbish such as plastics. Asphalt was revealed in patches, with a large patch towards the northern side of the trench. Part of a concrete stanchion with a holding down bolt within the concrete was revealed partially within the eastern baulk of the trench.

The owner of the farm had identified this area as previously containing an access down to a group of farm buildings (now demolished). The Ordnance Survey maps from 1886 to 1971 show a group of buildings towards the eastern edge of the site. The stanchion would presumably have been part of this structure.

Three sherds of Roman grey-ware pottery were recovered from the topsoil in Area 3. The presence of Romano-British pottery is an indication of Roman activity in the area; to be expected within the walls of the Roman town.

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank S.J Knight and family for their help and co-operation with this project. Thanks are also due to Tim Caister and colleagues of Stone Homes Ltd.

The author carried out the archaeological work and the project was managed by Vicki Score.

Archive

An archive will be prepared for the site and will be deposited with Oakham and Rutland Museums with accession number OAKRM.2010.12.

The archive consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report No. 2010-092
- 1 list of photographs
- 1 Set of B & W photographs (contact sheet)
- 1 Set B & W negatives
- 1 CD of digital photographs
- 2 Watching brief record sheets

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24-05-2010



Plate 1: Area 1 with slabs removed, looking west



Plate 2: Area 1, post excavation, looking north



Plate 3: Area 2 prior to work, looking south-west



Plate 4: Area 3, post-excavation, looking west



Plate 5: West facing section of trench in area 2, looking east



Plate 6: North facing elevation of farm wall (Area 2), looking south



Plate 7: Area 3 prior to excavation, looking east



Plate 8: Area 3 stripped down to hardcore, at 0.2m deep, looking west



Plate 9: South facing section of trench in area 3, looking north



Plate 10: Area 3, post-excavation, looking west, with concrete stanchion in foreground

Appendix I: The Roman pottery

Roman Pottery from Great Casterton OAKRM.2010.12

Nicholas J. Cooper

Three sherds of Roman pottery were retrieved, unstratified, from the excavations. All three are in Lower Nene Valley grey ware (Leicestershire Museums fabric GW4; Cooper 2000, 73). One (33g) is from the chamfered base of a flanged bowl (Howe et al 1980, fig. 2.17) and probably similar to examples from the later 3rd-century well group at Empingham, Rutland (Cooper 2000, 87, fig.43.110-11). The other two, joining sherds (6g), come from a jar form of similar date.

Reference:

Cooper, N.J., 2000 'The Roman pottery' in N.J. Cooper (ed) *The Archaeology of Rutland Water*. Leicester Archaeology Monograph 6, 72-97. Leicester: Leicester University School of Archaeology and Ancient History.

Appendix II: Brief for Archaeological Investigation (Strip, Plan & Sample Excavation)

**BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL
INVESTIGATION (STRIP, PLAN & SAMPLE
EXCAVATION)**

AT

**WILLOW HOUSE, STRAWSONS FARMYARD,
OLD GREAT NORTH ROAD, OLD GREAT
NORTH ROAD, GREAT CASTERTON, RUTLAND**

Planning Reference: FUL/2009/1150

**Construction of ground-floor extensions to side/rear
(east/south) elevations and first-floor extension over garage
to side (east) elevation. Relocation of garage to form
detached garage/workshop to side (east) of property (revised
scheme FUL/2009/0329/PG), etc.**

**Historic & Natural Environment Team, Community Services
Department, Leicestershire County Council**

Revised on: 08 July 2010

**BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION (STRIP, PLAN & SAMPLE
EXCAVATION) AT WILLOW HOUSE, STRAWSON'S FARMYARD, OLD GREAT NORTH
ROAD, GREAT CASTERTON, RUTLAND**

1. Summary of Brief

- 1.1 The proposed development site lies within the historic core of Great Casterton, a medieval and post-medieval village, and within the walls of the Roman town. The site is therefore of significant archaeological potential, based upon an assessment of information held in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 1.2 In consequence the Senior Planning Archaeologist (SPA) has recommended the need for a programme of archaeological investigation and recording prior to the start of development. This shall comprise a soil strip under archaeological control and supervision of all areas of proposed development impact (foundations, services and landscaping), planning of the exposed surface and sample excavation of features identified. All archaeological work shall be undertaken in accordance with this brief and an approved Specification/Written Scheme of Investigation, as secured by condition on the current planning permission FUL/2009/1150.

2. Appendices for reference as part of this Brief (to be supplied by the developer to the archaeological contractor)

- 2.1 General location plan;
- 2.2 Site layout plan(s);
- 2.3 Architect's plans to show areas of ground impact;

3. Site location and description

- 3.1 The development area is located on the north side of the Old Great North Road Road, at NGR TF00140895, immediately adjacent to the Scheduled remains of the Roman town (SM ref.: RT161; HER ref.: MLE5294) and within the medieval village core of Great Casterton (MLE8829). The site is approximately rectangular and totals some 0.17ha in area. It is bounded by the main road to the southwest, and property boundaries to the northwest and southeast, with open ground to the rear.

4. Geology & Topography

- 4.1 The development site lies upon Lower Lincolnshire Limestone solid bedrock (British Geological Survey of Great Britain, Stamford, Sheet 157). The site appears to be relatively level, at c. 42m aOD.

5. Site Constraints

- 5.1 The Senior Planning Archaeologist has not determined the location of any on site underground services. No site geotechnical information was available to inform the writing of this brief.

6. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 6.1 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates that the proposed development site lies centrally within the historic settlement core of the Roman walled town of Great Casterton, as well as the subsequent medieval and post-medieval settlement (HER refs. MLE5294 and MLE8829). There have been various archaeological investigations undertaken at the site, including a recent archaeological attendance during a small extension (encompassed by the current application), which produced Roman pottery. Other fieldwork conducted in the early 1990s included one of

a series of 1m boxes close to the area of the proposed extension. This investigation demonstrated the presence of significant and well preserved archaeological remains of Roman and medieval date, buried at a relatively shallow depth below the present ground surface (c. 0.3 to 0.5m below existing). A subsequent phase of archaeological monitoring during development of Strawson's farmyard in 1996 revealed further Roman and medieval remains. In the immediate vicinity, evaluation in advance of planning proposals at 3-8, Main Street, revealed structural remains of post-medieval, medieval and probable Roman date.

7. Previous work and archaeological survey

- 7.1 No known previous archaeological work has been carried out within the application area.

8. Planning Background and Requirement for Work

- 8.1 In response to outline and reserved matters planning applications submitted to Rutland County Council (Plan App No.: FUL/2009/1150) for the extension and alteration of the existing dwelling, etc., the Senior Planning Archaeologist advised that planning permission should be granted subject to an archaeological investigation secured by condition upon any planning approval.
- 8.2 The archaeological investigation, a 'Strip, Plan and Sample' record forms the "programme of archaeological work" specified in that condition. The requirement for archaeological work is in accordance with PPG 16 "Archaeology and Planning". The purpose of the work is to identify and record archaeological deposits during development.

9. Methodology

- 9.1 Arrangements for the deposition of the project archive should be made prior to the start of the archaeological project.
- 9.2 Where deposition with the local museums service or approved archiving repository is proposed, an accession number (or similar) **must** be applied for prior to the start of the project. The accession number covers all components of the project as defined by this brief. (*See 22. below for contact details*).
- 9.3 Where demolition of standing buildings/structures or site clearance is required, prior to the start of such works the developer will liaise with the archaeological curator and contractor to determine the need for and level of archaeological attendance.
- 9.4 The main project will involve the archaeological control of overburden stripping, followed by sample investigation and recording of exposed archaeological deposits. This work shall be undertaken by an experienced professional archaeologist in relation to the permitted development detailed above (8.1). Where mechanical excavation is required all such works will be undertaken using a bladed bucket. Soil will be excavated to the proposed formation level, or to the top of archaeological deposits, whichever is first identified. Where archaeological deposits/features are located, an appropriate plan record and archaeological investigation will be completed prior to further mechanical excavation. The developer will make provision for the necessary archaeological investigation (fieldwork, post-excavation analysis and reporting).
- 9.5 The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with the contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work
- 9.6 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and recorded as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated. 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. 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.

- 9.7 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 a specialist environmental officer.
- 9.8 Any human remains encountered will be initially left in situ and only be removed under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The landowner and/or developer, the Historic & Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council, and the coroner will be informed immediately of their discovery.
- 9.9 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 by representatives of the Historic & Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council and Melton Borough Council.
- 9.10 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located during the archaeological investigation there may be the need for contingency time and finance to be provided to ensure adequate recording is undertaken. On the discovery of potentially significant remains the archaeologist will inform the developer, the Senior Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council and the planning authority.

10. Site Access: Health and Safety

- 10.1 The archaeological Contractor will be responsible for ensuring that all works are conducted in accordance with a defined Health and Safety Policy. Contractors must observe all current safe working practices, whether required by their own policy or those of the principal development contractor (see *SCAUM Manual, Health & Safety in Field Archaeology, 1997*).
- 10.2 Before commencing work the Contractor **must** carry out a Risk Assessment in accordance with the requirements the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992. The assessment should as appropriate include liaison with the site owner and the Senior Planning Archaeologist in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised and their implications properly understood. A copy of this must be given to the Senior Planning Archaeologist **before** commencement of Site works.
- 10.3 The developer must provide all information reasonably obtainable on contamination and the location of live services before commencement of Site works.

11. Environmental Sampling

- 11.1 Contractors are to adhere to the recommendations in the '*Working Papers of the Association for Environmental Archaeology, Number 2. Environmental archaeology evaluations, September 1995*'.

11.2 If appropriate, environmental samples will be taken from features to enable their date, nature, extent and condition to be described and analysed. Samples should be taken from the fills of features where organic materials may be preserved, such as pits, ditches and other deposits, especially if waterlogged.

12. Treatment of finds

12.1 All finds will be exposed and as appropriate, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid For Finds*, 1998 (new edition) and the recipient museum's guidelines.

12.2 Finds which may constitute 'treasure' under the Treasure Act, 1996 must be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner. Where removal can not take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

12.3 In line with an agreed discard strategy, all identified finds and artefacts will be retained. Certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is recommended by the recipient museum's archive curator.

13. Post-excavation work

13.1 According to standard procedure, the archaeological fieldwork will be followed by a period of post-excavation analysis and reporting. This will include the cataloguing and analysis of any finds, samples and the preparation of the archive for the site report and its subsequent deposition.

14. Reports

14.1 A full written report combining all stages of the investigation shall be prepared, at least two copies of which should be sent to the Historic & Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council. If this report is to form part of the planning process, it is in the developer's interest to ensure this report is prepared to an adequate standard (see 'Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland') in order that a judgement of the archaeological value of the site can be made as quickly as possible and the Senior Planning Archaeologist can recommend the archaeological condition is discharged.

14.2 The report/s will:

- i) Include:
 - a) All plans tied into the Ordnance Survey data
 - b) Drawing and plans
 - c) A summary of any artefacts together with their interpretation
 - d) Any specialist reports
 - e) A concise non-technical summary of the project results
 - f) A full listing of the archive contents
- ii) Assess:
 - a) The archaeological significance of the development site and any archaeological deposits encountered during the fieldwork
 - b) The evidence in its local, regional and national context, as appropriate, also aiming to highlight any research priorities where applicable

14.3 The final report/s will be deposited with the Leicestershire and Rutland HER no later than six months after completion of the project. As a minimum this will comprise two full colour paper copies of the report including its relevant accompanying plans.

14.4 Results of the project, even if negative, will be submitted for publication in the appropriate academic journals. Contractors are to provide a summary of findings to the 'Transactions of the Leicestershire Historical and Archaeological Society'.

14.5 If significant results are obtained a copy of the final report/s will be deposited in the National Monuments Record, English Heritage, Swindon.

15. Archive

15.1 The archive consists of all artefacts, written records, drawn and photographic records. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. It should also contain Site matrix, site summary and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental data. The site accession number will be appropriately marked on all elements forming part of the site/project archive (See 9.2. above).

15.2 Archive will be prepared in line with UKIC Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (1990), 'Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation' (Archaeological Archives Forum 2007) and the current version of Leicestershire Museums Services' document "The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service".

16. Deposition

16.1 The integrity of the site archive should be maintained. All find and records should be properly curated by a single organisation, and be available for public consultation.

16.2 Subject to the landowner's agreement, arrangements for deposition of the full site archive ought to be made with the appropriate collecting body, (e.g. Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service, County Hall, Glenfield, LE3 8TB). The archive will be presented to the Archive Curator within 9 months of completion of the fieldwork, unless alternative arrangements have been agreed in writing with the Senior Planning Archaeologist and Archive Curator.

16.3 It should be noted that the Senior Planning Archaeologist will not recommend the discharge of any planning conditions until he/she has approved the report, has received confirmation that the archive meets current standards by the Archive Curator and has received written confirmation that a summary of the archaeological work has been forwarded to the above mentioned journals.

17. Requirements (including responsibilities of prospective developer and Archaeological Contractor)

17.1 Appointment of Archaeological Contractors

17.1.1 The professional archaeological Contractors invited to tender for the work must be able to demonstrate within their Specification that they can provide staffing and expertise with the appropriate experience in dealing with technology of the type and nature required in this Brief.

17.1.2 Contractors will operate in line with professional guidelines and standards as stated in the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA):

- Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (1994, revised 1999),
- IFA Code of Conduct (1985, as revised 1997) and,
- IFA By-Law Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology (IFA, 1990 as revised, 1998).

17.2 Pre-tender site visit

17.2.1 The Contractor must visit the site before completing any Specification, as there may be implications for accurately costing the project. This visit must be noted, along with any other relevant site details, within the Specification.

17.3 Specification

17.3.1 The Specification will cater for full post-excavation analysis, reporting and deposition of the site findings.

17.3.2 The Specification must:

- a) be prepared within a defined research context (e.g. *The Archaeology of the East Midlands, An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Leicester Archaeology Monograph 13, ed. N Cooper, 2006), and set out the site-specific objectives of the archaeological works,
- b) detail the proposed works as precisely as is reasonably possible, and where appropriate, indicate clearly on plan their location and extent,
- c) include details, including name, qualifications and experience of the Site director and all other key project personnel, including any specialist staff and sub-contractors, will be included in the Specification. The ratio of on-site voluntary assistance must not exceed a ratio of more than 1:2 employed experienced staff,
- d) detail archive deposition, publication and presentation,
- e) provide a timetable for proposed works.

17.4 Approval of the Specification

17.4.1 The Specification must be forwarded to the Senior Planning Archaeologist for approval prior to the start of the proposed development.

17.4.2 Any changes the Senior Planning Archaeologist recommends to a preferred Specification might have financial implications for the costing of the archaeological Contractor, changes to the Specification will be discussed and agreed in writing by the Senior Planning Archaeologist and the archaeological Contractor, and submitted in writing to the Local Authority.

17.5 Agreement

17.5.1 There must be a written archaeological agreement that satisfactorily implements the approved format and provides sufficient financial support for all aspects of the work including fieldwork, finds processing, conservation, specialist analysis, archiving, cataloguing, report work and long-term storage curation. The archaeological Consultant/Contractor must confirm with the Senior Planning Archaeologist that the prospective developer has signed such an agreement before the commencement of works on site.

18. Monitoring

18.1 The work undertaken by the archaeological Contractor, will be monitored under the auspices of the Leicestershire Senior Planning Archaeologist, or their appropriate representative, who is responsible for monitoring all archaeological work in Leicestershire and Rutland on behalf of the Local Planning Authority. Monitoring includes reviewing site work, the progress of excavation reports, archive preparation and final deposition.

18.2 Before the commencement of the project the Contractor must inform the Senior Planning Archaeologist, in writing, of the timetable of proposed works and ensure that the Senior Planning Archaeologist is kept regularly informed about developments during site and subsequent post-excavation work.

18.3 The Senior Planning Archaeologist will be given at least one week's written notice of commencement of archaeological work.

19. Alterations to this Brief

- 19.1 This Brief is valid for three months (from the date below). If not tendered within this period the prospective developer will seek confirmation from the Senior Planning Archaeologist of its continued validity. In addition the following apply:
- 19.2 Prior to the formal appointment of an archaeological Contractor, the Senior Planning Archaeologist reserves the right to alter this Brief if additional information comes to light that may have a bearing on the scope and methods of work currently required (e.g. site construction constraints, foundation details etc).
- 19.3 After formal appointment, any alterations recommended by the Senior Planning Archaeologist which may affect the archaeological Contractor's agreed Project Design (whether this be before commencement, or during the project), will be made in consultation with the archaeological Contractor and submitted to the Local Planning Authority.

20. Key Definitions

Senior Planning Archaeologist

Responsible for providing an archaeological curatorial planning service to Leicestershire districts. Advises on the nature of the work required and monitors projects from implementation to completion.

Archive Curator:

Responsible for the long-term curation of the archive in the recipient Museum.

Prospective Developer:

Person/group/developer commissioning the archaeological work.

Contractor:

Archaeological Contractor tendering to carry out the archaeological work and as appointed by the prospective developer.

Specification or Written Scheme of Investigation:

Written document detailing the proposed work and as provided by a Contractor in line with the Brief provided by the Senior Planning Archaeologist.

21. Contact details:

Senior Planning Archaeologist:

Historic & Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council, Room 500, County Hall, Leicester Road, Glenfield, Leicestershire, LE3 8TE. Telephone No.: 0116 3058322. Fax: 0116 3057965. Email: riclark@leics.gov.uk.

Regional Science Advisor (English Heritage):

English Heritage, 44, Derngate, Northampton, Northamptonshire, NN1 1UH. Telephone No.: 01604 735451. Fax: 01604 735401. Email: Jim.Williams@english-heritage.org.uk.

Assistant Keeper Archaeology (Leicestershire Archives):

Collections Resources Centre, Leicestershire Museums Services, c/o County Hall, Leicester Road, Glenfield, Leicestershire, LE3 8RA. Telephone No.: 01509 815514. Fax: 01509 813934. Email: rpollard@leics.gov.uk.

Curator of Rutland County Museums Service (Rutland Archives):

Rutland County Museum, Catmose Street, Oakham, LE15 6HW. Telephone No.: 01572 758440. Fax: 01572 758445. Email: sdavies@rutland.gov.uk.

Date: 08 July 2010

Appendix III: Design specification

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological investigation (Strip, Plan and Sample)

*Willow House, Strawsons Farmyard,
Old Great North Road, Great Casterton, Rutland.*

NGR: TF00140895

Planning Application: FUL/2009/1150

For: S. J. Knight

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 for an archaeological strip, plan and record, as required by the Planning Authority, of any groundworks on the site which may disturb areas of archaeological potential in connection with a planning application for extensions to the existing property.

1.2 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute for Archaeologist's (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2008) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008) and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LMARS 2005). Unless otherwise detailed within this Design Specification, the archaeological investigation will be undertaken in accordance with, and fulfil the requirements of, the Leicestershire County Council Brief (2nd March 2010).

2. Background

Context of the Project

2.1 This document deals with the construction of ground floor extensions to the side/rear (east/south) elevations and first floor extension over garage to side (east) elevation and the relocation of a garage to form a detached garage/workshop to the east of the property (Revised scheme FUL/2009/0329/PG).

2.2 The archaeological work involves a strip plan and sample excavation within the development area to identify any deposits of archaeological importance as recommended by Leicestershire County Council in their Brief. University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) has been commissioned to undertake the work. Depending on the results of this stage further work may be required.

Geological and Topographical Background

2.3 The site lies at Willows House, Strawsons Farmyard, House, Strawsons Hon the southern side of Great Casterton on the Old Great North Road. It is approximately rectangular in shape and covers 0.17 ha. The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain indicates the site lies on Lower Lincolnshire Limestone Member Bedrock with bands of Northampton Sand Formation Iron-oolite.

Archaeological potential (from the brief)

2.4 The site lies within an area of archaeological interest as indicated by the information held in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER). The site lies within the historic core of the medieval and post-medieval Village of Great Casterton (MLE 8829). In addition the site lies within the walls of the Roman town (MLE5294), adjacent to the scheduled remains (SM RT161). Various work has been undertaken at the site including a watching brief during an extension which produced Roman pottery. Fieldwork in the 1990s close to the site found well-preserved archaeological remains of Roman and medieval date. Further monitoring of Strawsons Farmyard in 1996 revealed further Roman and medieval remains evaluation at 3-8 Main Street revealed structural remains of post-medieval, medieval and possibly Roman. In consequence the Senior Planning Archaeologist (SPA) has

recommended the need for a programme of archaeological investigation and recording prior to the start of the development.

Requirement for archaeological work

2.5 The SPA as archaeological adviser to the planning authority has recommended strip, plan and sample to be undertaken using a machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, followed by archaeological excavation of any archaeological deposits.

3 Aims

3.1 Through archaeological controlled stripping and investigation:

- To identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

4 Methods

General Methodology and Standards

4.1 An accession number will be drawn prior to the commencement of the project and arrangements made for the deposition of the project archive.

4.2 Staffing, recording systems, health and safety provisions and insurance details are included below.

4.3 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.

Strip, Plan and Sample

4.4 The project will involve the supervision of overburden removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. Initially it is proposed to open a trial trench to assess the depth of topsoil/overburden and determine the presence/absence of any archaeological remains.

4.5 Should significant archaeological remains be identified in an initial trial trench, and found to be 0.15m or less below proposed formation, the site is to be stripped down to the top of the archaeology, followed by a programme of excavation and recording, using additional personnel as necessary.

4.6 In the event that archaeological remains of uncertain significance are located in the initial trench/test pit (e.g. undated post-hole/pit), further trenching may be necessary, at the discretion of the site supervisor, to clarify their nature and significance and determine the need for a full topsoil strip.

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

4.8 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at 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.

4.9 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.

4.10 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.

4.11 Any human remains encountered will be initially left in situ and only be removed under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The developer and Leicestershire County Council will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.12 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located there may be the need for contingency time and finance to be provided to ensure adequate recording is undertaken. On the discovery of potentially significant remains the archaeologist will inform the developer, the Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services and the planning authority. If the archaeological remains are identified to be of significance additional contingent archaeological works will be required.

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 watching brief.

5.6 All site records and finds will be kept securely.

6. Finds

6.1 The IfA *Guidelines for Finds Work* will be adhered to.

6.2 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.

6.3 An Accession number will be obtained from the relevant museum prior to work commencing. This will be used to identify all records and finds from the site.

6.4 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 Planning Archaeologist.

6.5 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.

7. Environmental Sampling

7.1. If features are appropriate for environmental sampling a strategy and methodology will be developed on site following advice from ULAS's Environmental Specialist. Preparation, taking, processing and assessment of environmental samples will be in accordance with current best practice. The sampling strategy is likely to include the following:

- 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.

7.2 All collected samples will be labelled with context and sequential sample numbers.

7.3 Appropriate contexts will be bulk sampled (15 litre or the whole context depending on size) for the recovery of carbonised plant remains and insects.

7.4 Recovery of small animal bones, bird bone and large molluscs will normally be achieved through processing other bulk samples or 30 litre samples may be taken specifically to sample particularly rich deposits.

7.5 Wet sieving with flotation will be carried out using a York Archaeological Trust sieving tank with a 0.5mm mesh and a 0.3mm flotation sieve. The small size mesh will be used initially as flotation of plant remains may be incomplete and some may remain in the residue. The residue > 0.5mm from the tank will be separated into coarse fractions of over 4mm and fine fractions of > 0.5-4mm. The coarse fractions will be sorted for finds. The fine fractions and flots will be evaluated and prioritised; only those with remains apparent will be sorted. The prioritised flots will not be sorted until the analysis stage when phasing information is available. Flots will be scanned and plant remains from selected contexts will be identified and further sampling, sieving and sorting targeted towards higher potential deposits.

8. Report and Archive

8.1 The full report in A4 format will usually follow within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork. Copies will be provided for the client, the Local Planning Authority and the Historic Environment Record. 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.

8.2 A full copy of the archive as defined in Brown (2008) will be presented to Leicestershire 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.

9. Publication

9.1 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.

9.2 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

the HER prior to completion of the form. Once a report has become a public document following its incorporation into the HER it may be placed on the web-site.

10. Acknowledgement and Publicity

10.1 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.

10.2 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.

11. Timetable and Staffing

11.1 The investigation is scheduled to commence at the start of the contractors groundworks on in mid June, although no start date has yet been confirmed. An experienced archaeologist will be present during this work.

12 Health and Safety

12.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (revised 2007) 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.

13. Insurance

13.1 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.

14. Bibliography

Brown, D., 2008 *Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives* (Institute for Archaeologists)

IfA, 2006, *Code of Conduct*

IfA, 2001, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

LCC, 2009, *Brief for Archaeological Investigation (Strip, Plan and Sample Excavation) at Willow House, Strawsons Farmyard, Old Great North Road, Great Casterton, Rutland.*

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18th March 2010

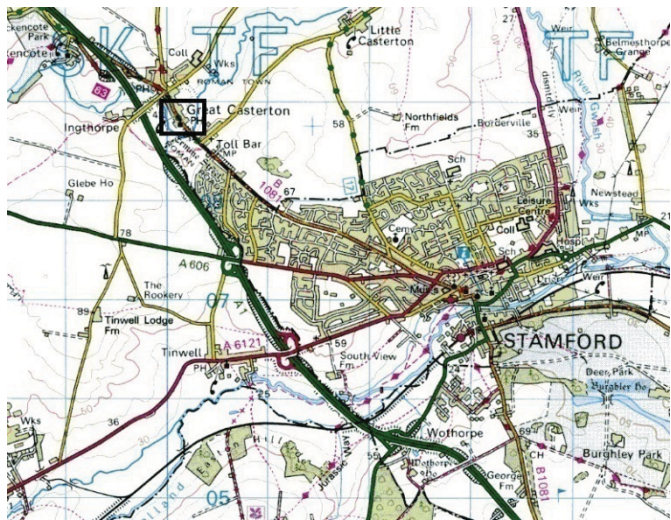


Figure 1: Location of the site

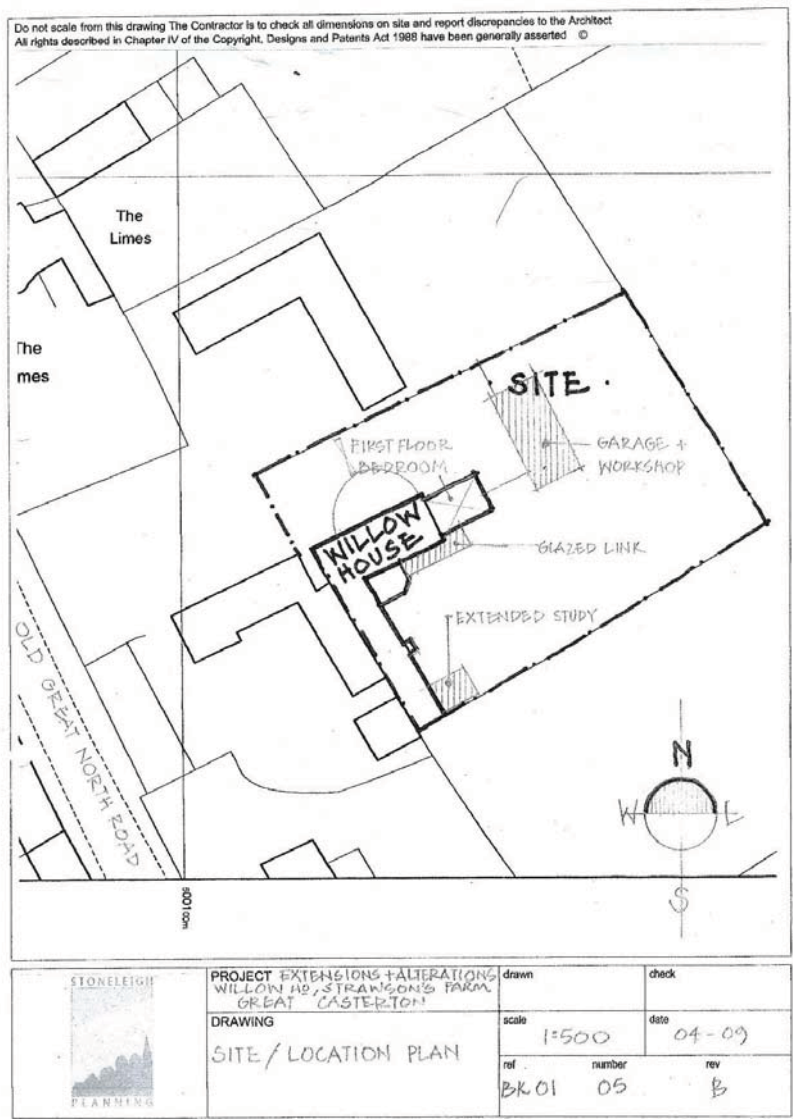


Figure 2: Plan of the proposed development.

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement
Willow House, Strawsons Farmyard,
Old Great North Road, Great Casterton, Rutland.

NGR: TF00140895

1. Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for archaeological investigation (strip plan and sample). It will be revised following the commencement of operations when the extent of risks can be assessed in full.

1.2 The work will involve overburden stripping by a mechanical excavator or similar during daylight hours and recording of any underlying archaeological deposits revealed. Overall depth is likely to be c. 0.3 - 0.5m. Following stripping the exposed deposits will be examined with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and archaeological features will be excavated. All work will adhere to the University of Leicester Health and Safety Policy and follow the guidance in the ULAS Health and safety and the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers (previously SCAUM) manuals, together with the following relevant Health and Safety guidelines, including the following.

- 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

1.3 The Health and Safety policy on site will be reassessed during the evaluation .All work will adhere to the company's health and safety policy.

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 Working within an excavation.

Precautions. No work will be undertaken beneath section faces deeper than 1.2m. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. A member of staff qualified in First Aid will be present at all times. A first aid kit 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 during machining. No examination of the area of stripping will take place until machines have vacated area. Observation of machines will be maintained during hand excavation.

2.3 Services

Precautions. The location of services will be discussed with the site contractor and any known services marked out accordingly. It is noted that a stormwater drain runs through the centre of the site. This will be identified and marked prior to excavation starting.

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.

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

18-03-2010

Appendix IV: OASIS information

Project Name	An archaeological investigation (strip, plan and sample) at Willow House, Strawson's Farmyard, Old Great North Road, Great Casterton, Rutland (TF 0014 0895)
Project Type	Strip plan and sample
Project Manager	P. Clay
Project Supervisor	L Hunt
Previous/Future work	Not known
Current Land Use	Garden
Development Type	Extension/ new garage
Reason for Investigation	Planning request
Position in the Planning Process	Post determination
Site Co ordinates	TF 0014 0895
Start/end dates of field work	11-05-2010- 12-05-2010
Archive Recipient	Oakham & Rutland Museums
Study Area	0.17 hectares

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