



Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Strip, Plan & Record
Of Grange Park, Blaby Road,
Enderby,
Leicestershire (SP 542 990)**

By Gerwyn Richards



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**An Archaeological Strip, Plan
and Record of Grange Park, Blaby Road,
Enderby, Leicestershire.**

(NGR SP 542 990)

Gerwyn Richards

Planning Application: 08/0894/1/PX

For: Mr E. Sykes

Checked by

Signed:



Date: 02-03-2009

Name: V. Score

Approved by

Signed:



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Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by Mr E. Sykes to undertake an archaeological strip, plan and record of land at Grange Park, Blaby Road, Enderby, Leicestershire, where outline planning permission has been granted for the development of the area as a residential caravan park. The proposed development area had been identified as being of possible archaeological significance.

Initially four trenches were excavated within the areas of proposed groundworks in order to ascertain the likely extent of any potential earthfast archaeological remains. If any remains had been encountered there the trench would then be extended to fully exposed these remains or to the full extent of the buildings footprint. A proposed fifth trench was not opened as the ground level had clearly been raised by c. 1metre.

The initial strip totalled an area of approximately 42metres square and uncovered nothing of archaeological significance. This area was recorded and no further work was carried out. There was clear evidence of extensive groundworks having already been carried out.

The archive for the archaeological work will be held by Leicestershire County Council, under the accession number X.A194.2009.

1. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by Mr E. Sykes to undertake an archaeological strip, plan and record in advance of the construction of 10 amenity blocks at Grange Park, Blaby Road, Enderby, Leicestershire (SP 542 990; Figure 1). Outline planning permission has been granted for the construction of a residential caravan site (Planning Application Number 08/0894/1/PX; Figure 2). No previous non-intrusive or intrusive archaeological work has been carried out within the proposed development area.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. In the field immediately to the north of the application site, Anglo-Saxon artefacts have been recovered (HER Ref: MLE 9784) and a Roman road runs to the east of the site (MLE 1380). A probable Roman kiln site has been identified at Johnstone Spinney (MLE 101) and

another Anglo-Saxon artefact has been recovered (MLE 6087). A programme of archaeological work comprising strip plan and sample excavation within the proposed development area to identify any deposits of archaeological importance was recommended by Leicestershire County Council to confirm whether archaeological remains are present within the application area and, if necessary, formulate a mitigation strategy in the event of further work being required.

The proposed development area was, until recently used as unofficial allotments and grazing. It is clear that extensive groundworks have already taken place, with both a new access road laid and extensive hard standing.

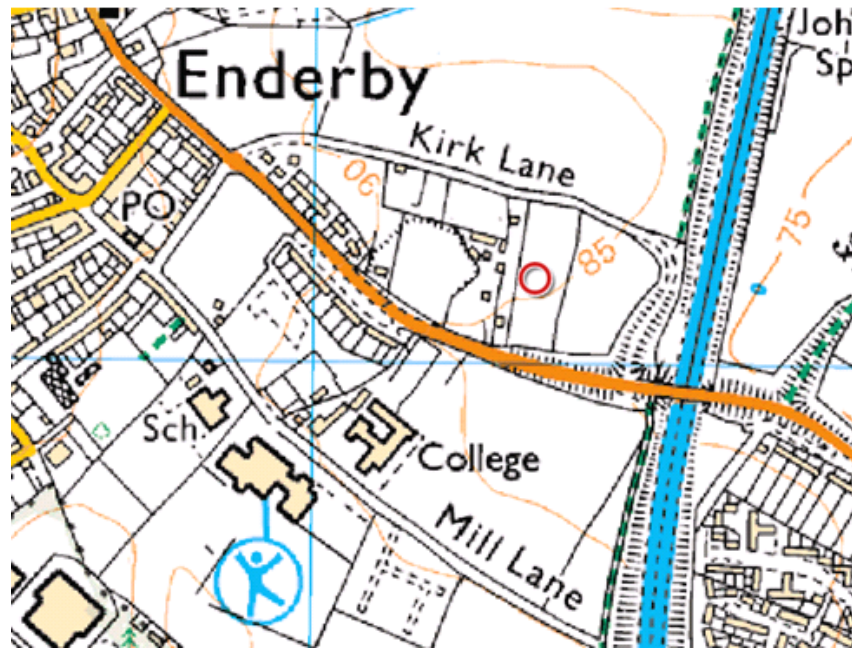


Figure 1. Site location Scale 1:50000

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2. Aims and Methodology

The aim of the archaeological work was to ascertain through controlled stripping and investigation whether any significant archaeological remains were present within the area to be developed. If identified a sufficient sample was to be excavated and recorded to establish the extent, date, quality, character, and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the groundworks. Further archaeological recording would be undertaken, if required, in the light of the results of this programme.

A total of 10 amenity blocks are proposed, four in pairs (Plots 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9) and two individual blocks (Plots 1 & 10). It was decided to initially excavate trenches 1.2metres wide and 10metres long, reduced to 5metres long for the single blocks within the footprints of the proposed blocks. This initial excavation was carried under archaeological supervision. Due to the ground level having clearly been raised by approximately 1metre within plots 8, 9 & 10 (*Figure 3*) and the proposed groundworks only extending approximately 300mm below current ground level and would clearly not impact upon any potential archaeological remains, it was decided

not to excavate these two trenches. The archaeological work took place on October 13th 2009. The archaeological work followed the *Design Specification for archaeological work* (10-115). All excavations were carried out using a JCB with ditching bucket.

3. Results

3.1 Area 1 (Plots 6 & 7)

Area 1 straddled the boundary of plots 6 & 7 (*Figure 2*), a trench 1.2metres wide and 10metres long, aligned north to south was excavated. Both plots had previously been stripped of topsoil and hardcore had been laid within plot 7. The trench was excavated to a depth of approximately 300mm below the current ground level (approximately 600mm below the proposed ground level) revealing a substratum of light brown sandy silt.

There were no remains of archaeological significance within the initial controlled stripped so it was decided not to extend the area to encompass the whole of the footprint. The area was recorded and released for backfilling.

3.2 Area 2 (Plots 4 & 5)

Area 2 straddled the boundary of plots 4 & 5 (*Figure 2*), a trench 1.2metres wide and 10metres long, again aligned north to south was excavated. Both plots had previously been stripped of topsoil and hardcore had been laid. The trench was excavated to a depth of approximately 450mm below the current ground level (approximately 850mm below the proposed ground level) revealing a substratum of mid brown sandy silt.

There were no remains of archaeological significance within the initial controlled stripped so it was decided not to extend the area to encompass the whole of the footprint. The area was recorded and released for backfilling.

3.3 Area 3 (Plot 1)

Area 3 is located within Plot 1, the northernmost plot within the proposed development area (*Figure 2*), a trench 1.2metres wide and 5metres long, again aligned north to south was excavated. Plot 1 had been partially stripped of topsoil and hardcore had been laid, the trench was located in order to sample a small area of apparently undisturbed ground. The trench was excavated to a depth of approximately 260mm below the current ground level (approximately 560mm below the proposed ground level) revealing a substratum weathered sandy clay mudstone. This suggests a change in the underlying substratum occurs between the southern end of the proposed development area and the northern end.

There were no remains of archaeological significance within the initial controlled stripped so it was decided not to extend the area to encompass the whole of the footprint. The area was recorded and released for backfilling.

3.4 Area 4 (Plots 2 & 3)

Area 4 straddled the boundary of plots 2 & 3 (*Figure 2*), a trench 1.2metres wide and 10metres long, again aligned north to south was excavated. Both plots had previously been stripped of topsoil, but unlike the other plots, hardcore had yet to be laid within the footprint of the proposed block. The trench was excavated to a depth of approximately 240mm below the current ground level (approximately 540mm below the proposed ground level) revealing a substratum of mid brown sandy silt.

There were no remains of archaeological significance within the initial controlled stripped so it was decided not to extend the area to encompass the whole of the footprint. The area was recorded and released for backfilling.

4. Conclusion

Despite its promising location within an area of known archaeological significance, and as a result of extensive previous ground disturbance and the shallow nature of the proposed works, nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered during the course of the archaeological work. If any archaeological remains are present at depth, it is unlikely that the proposed groundworks will impact upon them.

5. Archive & Publication

The site archive consists of

CD containing 16 digital images

1 A4 contact sheet

A4 Photo index sheet

1 A3 permatrace sheet of trench locations & site notes

Unbound Copy of This Report (ULAS Report Number 2009-141)

The archive will be held at Leicestershire County Council under the Accession Number X.A194.2009

A version of the summary (above) will be published in *Transactions of Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course.

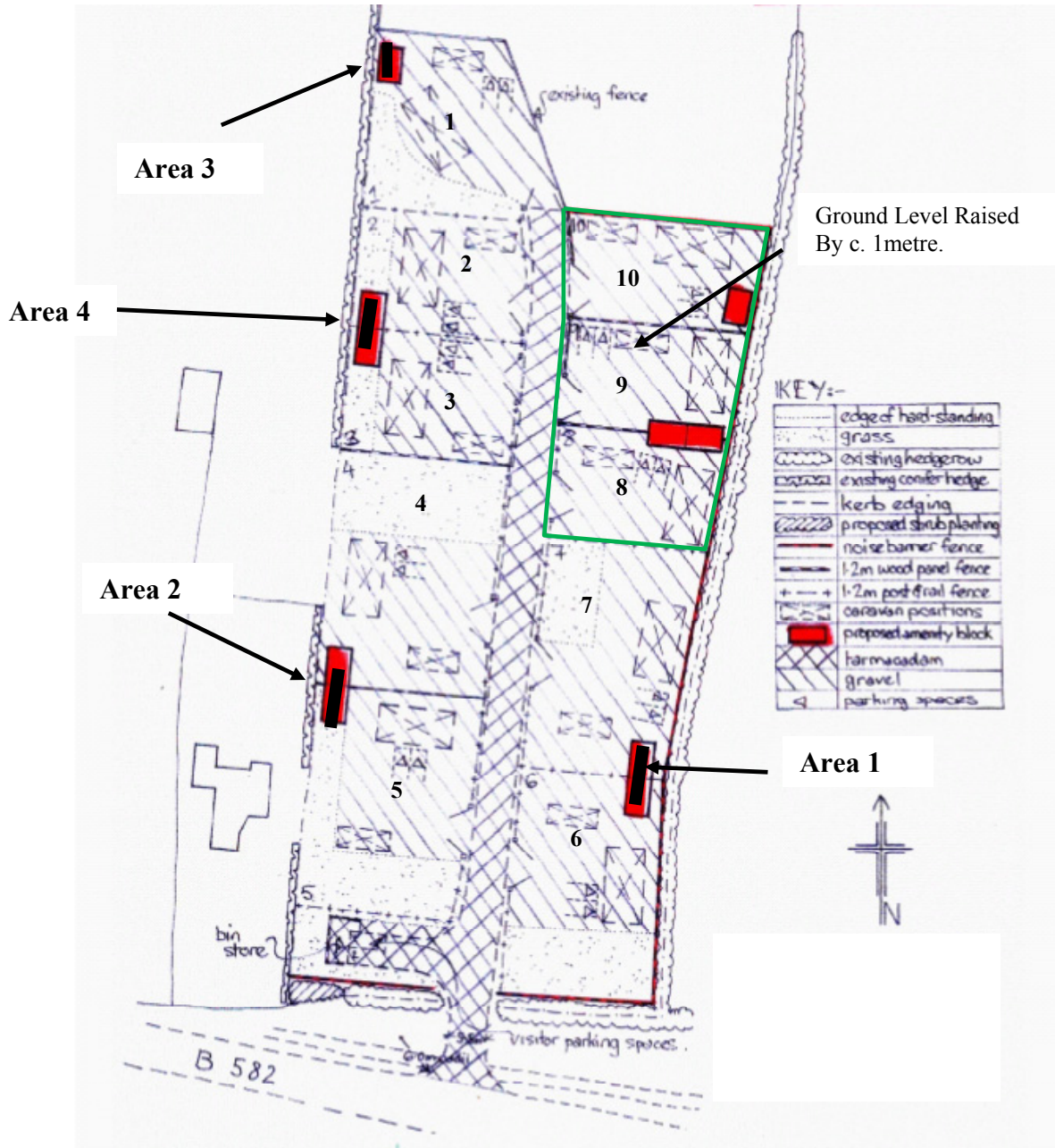


Figure 2 Proposed Development Area.
(Original Drawing Supplied by Client)



Figure 3 Made Ground Within Plots 8, 9 & 10.



Figure 4 Exposed substratum Within Area 4.

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