

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
Beggarsbush Close,
Frisby on the Wreake,
Leicestershire (SK 691178)**

By Gerwyn Richards



**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
Beggarsbush Close, Frisby on the Wreake.
Leicestershire.**

(NGR SK 691 178)

Gerwyn Richards

Planning Application: 07/01379/FUL

For: Susan Heggie

Checked by

Signed



Date: 7/9/2009

Name:... Vicki Score

Approved by

Signed



Date: 7/9/2009

Name: R. J. Buckley

University of Leicester
Archaeological Services
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 252 2848 Fax: (0116) 252 2614
www.le.ac.uk/ulas

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at Beggarsbush Close, Frisby on the Wreake.
Leicestershire. (NGR SK 691 178)**

Contents

Summary	1
1. Introduction	1
2. Aims and Methodology	3
3. Results	3
4. Discussion	3
5. Archive & Publication	4
6. References	4

Figures

Figure 1	Site Location	2
Figure 2	Proposed Development.	6
Figure 3	Plan of Ridge & Furrow Surrounding the Proposed Development Area.	7
Figure 4	Stanchion Pit.	8

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at Beggarsbush Close, Frisby on the Wreake.
Leicestershire. (NGR SK 691 178)**

Gerwyn Richards

Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services was commissioned by Susan Heggie to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks in advance of building work at Beggarsbush Close, Frisby on the Wreake, Leicestershire. Planning permission has been granted for the construction of two timber barns, a mess room, a compost toilet, menage and wind turbine. The proposed development area had been identified as being of possible archaeological significance due to its proximity to known sites of archaeological importance, including prehistoric and Roman finds.

Nothing of archaeological significance was observed during the course of this watching brief on 21 August 2009. The monitored groundworks uncovered evidence of extensive ground disturbance and this, along with the lack of any of the ridge and furrow seen in surrounding fields surviving within the proposed development area, suggest the site has undergone significant recent ground disturbance.

The archive will be held by Leicester County Council, under the accession number X.A168. 2009.

1. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services was commissioned by Susan Heggie to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks in advance of construction work on land at Beggerbush Close, Rotherby Lane, Frisby on the Wreake, Leicestershire (SK 691 178; *Figure 1*). Planning permission has been granted for the construction of two timber barns, a mess room, a compost toilet, menage and wind turbine on land currently used as stabling. No previous non-intrusive or intrusive archaeological work has been carried out within the proposed development area.

The proposed development area consists of pasture and a range of small timber buildings fronting Rotherby Lane, to the south west of Frisby on the Wreake. The proposed development area occupies the highest part of a field which slopes down approximately south to north above the flood plain of the River Wreake.

The proposed development area is close to known sites of archaeological significance. A search of the Leicestershire & Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER)

indicates that the field immediately to the west of the proposed development area was geophysically surveyed following the collection of a large quantity of pottery, the majority of which was Iron Age in date. The geophysical survey recorded what appears to be an enclosed Iron Age farmstead (HER Ref. No. MLE7985). The presence of Roman pottery as well as Iron Age suggests that the site may have continued on into the Roman period. In addition, some sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery were also recovered (HER Ref. No. MLE 6828), suggesting activity of this period in the vicinity. As well as these remains, there are extensive ridge and furrow earthworks, probably medieval or early post medieval in date within the surrounding fields, but interestingly not within the proposed development area itself.

The Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council, as archaeological advisor to Melton Borough Council advised that the proposed works may have an impact upon buried archaeological remains. In view of this a programme of archaeological attendance by way of a watching brief was carried out during the groundworks by the clients contractors on 21 August 2009, following Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG 16, Archaeology and Planning para. 30).

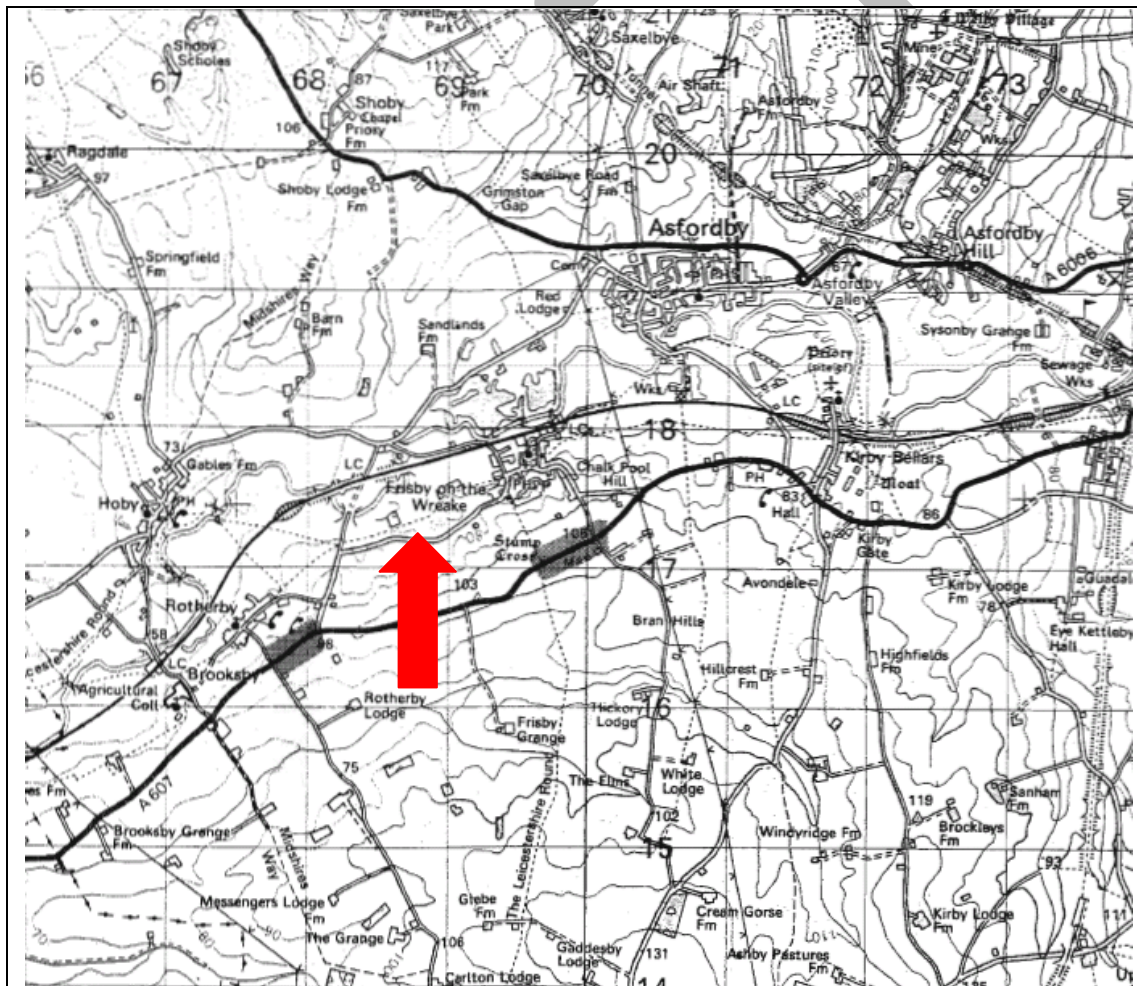


Figure 1. Site location

By permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 1996. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495.

2. Aims and Methodology

The aim of the archaeological work, through archaeological inspection and recording of groundworks by the client's contractors, was to:

- To identify the presence/absence of 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

The archaeological work followed the *Design Specification for Archaeological Work* (ULAS 10-103). The work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2006) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LMARS) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008), and adhered to the University's Health and Safety policy.

3. Results

The footprint of the new building was located approximately 17 metres south of the Rotherby Lane frontage, towards the centre of the proposed development area. An area, approximately 19 metres by 11 metres (*Figure 2*) was reduced by approximately 400mm to 450mm along the north edge. This depth decreased towards the south as the natural ground level dropped, resulting in less than 100mm to 150mm being removed along the southern edge of the building. Approximately 300mm of topsoil was removed revealing a horizon of re-deposited mudstone substratum. Excavation of the south-easternmost stanchion indicated that this re-deposited mudstone extended to at least 1.26 metres below the existing ground level. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed during the course of this watching brief.

4. Discussion

This archaeological watching brief did not observe any archaeologically significant remains. The excavations appear to suggest that extensive ground disturbance had already occurred within the proposed development area. The fields surrounding the proposed development area all had ridge and furrow earthworks, while none were visible within the proposed development area (*Figure 3*). It was also noticeable that the contours within the proposed development area did not follow those of the surrounding fields and there was a noticeable change in ground level between the proposed development area and the surrounding fields. This evidence appears to support the possibility that extensive ground disturbance had occurred in the past. Beyond the southern boundary of the proposed development area there was a substantial depression visible, possibly a pond or a borrow pit, suggesting a possible source for the re-deposited mudstone observed during the excavations. The client stated that the proposed development area had been ploughed during World War II; the evidence of this watching brief suggests that material may also have been imported onto site, possibly to level it during the war, also.

5. Archive & Publication

The site archive consists of:

1 A4 paper site plan
CD containing 17 digital images
1 A4 Contact sheets
1 A4 photo record sheets
1 A4 Watching brief sheet
1 A4 Sketch plan of surrounding ridge and furrow
Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report Number 2009-114)

The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under the Accession Number X.A168. 2009.

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

6. References

IfA, 2006 *Code of Conduct*

IfA, 2001 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

ULAS 2009, *Design Specification for Archaeological Work* (10-103)

Gerwyn Richards
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614
Email: gr42@le.ac.uk

© ULAS 26/08/2009

Draft OASIS record summary:

INFORMATION

Project Name	Beggarsbush Close, Rotherby Lane, Frisby on the Wreake
Project Type	Watching Brief
Project Manager	R Buckley
Project Supervisor	G Richards
Previous/Future work	No
Current Land Use	Agricultural
Development Type	Agricultural buildings
Reason for Investigation	PPG 16
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	SK 691 178
Start/end dates of field work	21.8.2009 (1 day)
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council
Study Area	300 sq m

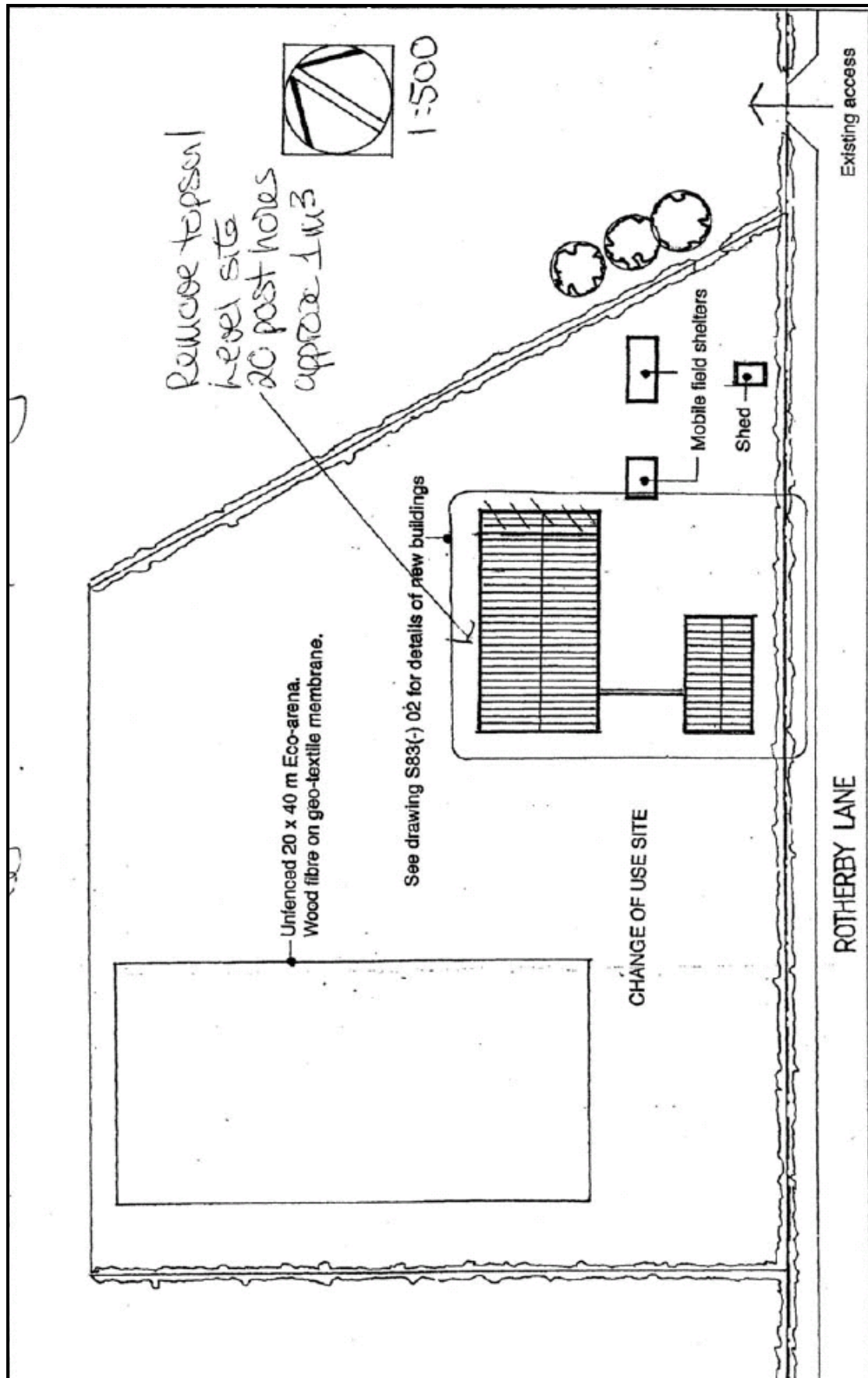


Figure 2 Proposed Development (Drawing Supplied by Client, Not to Scale).

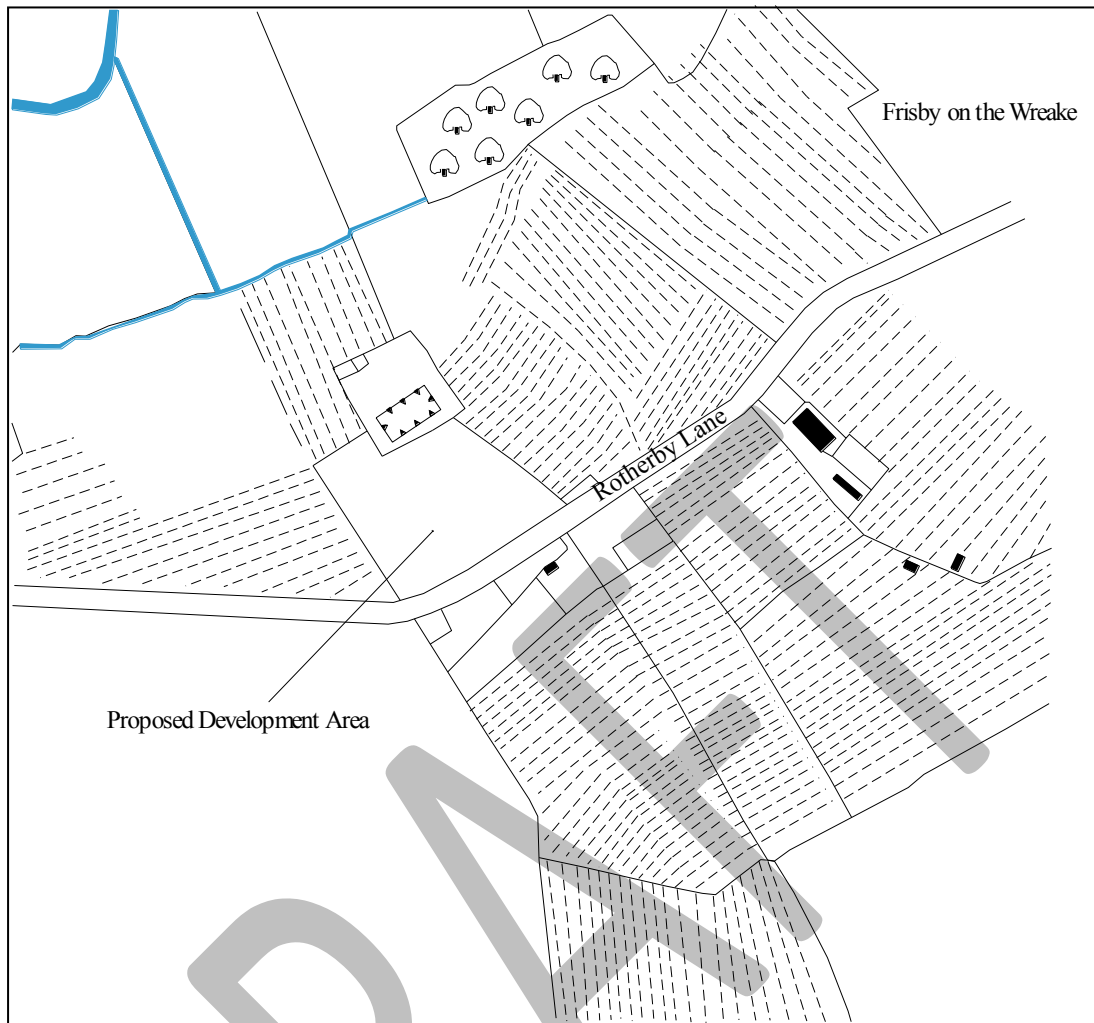


Figure 3 Sketch Plan of Ridge & Furrow Surrounding the Proposed Development Area.



Figure 4 Stanchion Pit.

Appendix.

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Job title: Frisby on the Wreake, Beggarsbush Close, Rotherby Lane: Field OS 9527

NGR: SK 691178

Client: Susan Heggie

Planning Authority: Melton Borough Council

Planning application Nos. 07/01379/FUL

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 watching brief, during ground works for two barns, mess room, compost toilet, ménage and wind turbine at the above site, as required by the Planning Authority.

1.2 It addresses the requirements detailed in the advice provided by Leicestershire County Council as advisors to the planning authority (Appendix 1).

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 the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LMARS).

2.1 Context of the Project

2.1.1 The Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council, as archaeological advisor to the planning authority, has detailed the level of archaeological work required (Appendix 1).

2.2 Archaeological Background (taken from advice letter)

2.2.1 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. The field directly to the west of the proposed development site was geophysically surveyed following the collection of a large quantity of pottery, the majority of which was Iron Age in date. The geophysical survey recorded what appears to be an enclosed Iron Age farmstead (HER Ref. No. MLE7985). The presence of Roman pottery as well as Iron Age suggests that the site may have continued on into the Roman period. In addition, some sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery were also recovered (MLE 6828), suggesting activity of this period in the vicinity. Consequently, there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the development.

3 Aims

3.1 *Archaeological watching brief.* Through archaeological inspection and recording of groundworks by the client's contractors:

1. To identify the presence/absence of archaeological deposits.
2. To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
3. To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.

4. To produce an archive and report of any results.

4 Methods

4.1 The project will involve the examination of groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist. If any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest.

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

4.4 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.

4.5 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded as appropriate to establishing 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.

4.6 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.

4.7 Any human remains encountered will be initially left *in situ* and only be removed under a Ministry of Justice Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The developer, Leicestershire County Council, and the coroner will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.8 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, Leicestershire County Council and Melton Borough Council.

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 Report and Archive

6.1 A report on the investigation will be provided following the groundworks.

6.2 Copies will be provided for the client, Sites and Monuments 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 Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services 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.

7 Publication and Dissemination of Results

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.

7.2 University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS form at <http://ads.ac.uk/project/oasis> will be completed detailing the results of the project. ULAS will contact the Senior Planning Archaeologist prior to completion of the form. Once a report has become a public document following its incorporation into Leicestershire HER it may be placed on the web-site.

8 Timetable and Staffing

8.1 The watching brief is scheduled to commence at the inception of the contractors groundworks on 21 August 2009. 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 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.

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

MAP 2, *The management of archaeological projects* 2nd edition English Heritage 1991
MGC 1992, *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission)
RFG/FRG 1993, *Guidelines for the preparation of site archives* (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700)
SMA 1993, *Selection, retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* (Society of Museum Archaeologists)

Richard Buckley
Director
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH
Tel: 0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614
Email: rjb16@le.ac.uk
18 August 2009

DRAFT

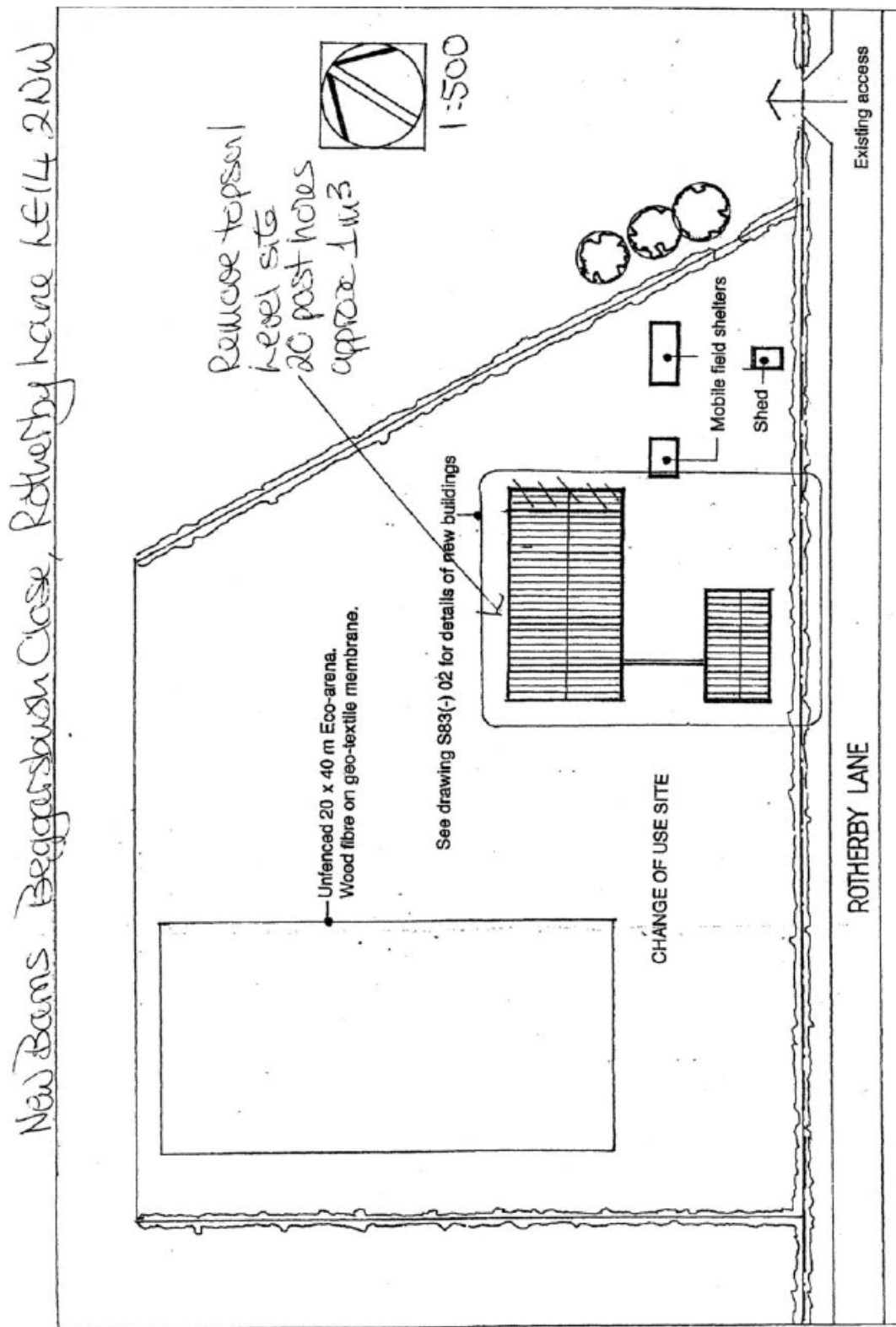


Fig. 1 Site Layout

APPENDIX 1

for your information



FAO: Mr Gilding
Mr P Gilding (Planning Officer)
Melton Borough Council
Council Offices
Nottingham Road
Melton Mowbray
Leics LE13 0UL

Date: 25th January 2008
My ref: CLE3944/HW
Your ref: 07/01379/FUL
Contact: Richard Clark
Phone: (0116) 305 8322
Fax: (0116) 305 7965
Email: riclark@leics.gov.uk

Dear Mr Gilding,

Planning Application No: 07/01379/FUL: Erection of 2 timber barns, mess room, compost toilet, manege and wind turbine; Field OS 9527, Rotherby Lane, Frisby on the Wreake.

Archaeological considerations

Thank you for your consultation on this application. We recommend that you advise the applicant of the following archaeological requirements.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. The field directly to the west of the proposed development site was geophysically surveyed following the collection of a large quantity of pottery, the majority of which was Iron Age in date. The geophysical survey recorded what appears to be an enclosed Iron Age farmstead (HER Ref. No. MLE7985). The presence of Roman pottery as well as Iron Age suggests that the site may have continued on into the Roman period. In addition, some sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery were also recovered (MLE6828), suggesting activity of this period in the vicinity. Consequently, there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the development.

To ensure that any archaeological remains present are dealt with appropriately, the applicant should provide professional archaeological Attendance for inspection and recording during the groundworks for the proposed development. A contingency provision for emergency recording and detailed excavation should be made, to the satisfaction of your authority in conjunction with your archaeological advisors in this Department's Archaeology Section. The Archaeology Section will provide a formal Brief for the work at the applicant's request.

The applicant should, if planning permission is granted, also obtain a suitable written Specification and costings for the archaeological recording from an archaeological organisation acceptable to the planning authority. This should be submitted to this Archaeology Section, as archaeological advisors to your authority, for approval before the start of development.

Historic and Natural Environment Team, Environment and Heritage Services, Leicestershire County Council,
Room 500, County Hall, Leicester Road, Glenfield, Leicestershire, LE3 8TE

Alan Morrison, Director of Community Services www.leics.gov.uk

APPENDIX 2

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

***Job title: Frisby on the Wreake, Beggarsbush Close, Rotherby Lane: Field OS 9527
NGR: SK 691178***

Client: Susan Heggie

Planning Authority: Melton Borough Council

Planning application Nos. 07/01379/FUL

1 Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for an historic buildings appraisal and archaeological watching brief.

1.2 The work will involve inspection of buildings and 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.

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

Richard Buckley

18.8.2009

Contact Details

Richard Buckley or Patrick Clay
University of Leicester Archaeological
Services (ULAS)
University of Leicester,
University Road,
Leicester LE1 7RH

T: +44 (0)116 252 2848

F: +44 (0)116 252 2614

E: ulas@le.ac.uk

w: www.le.ac.uk/ulas

