



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at Glenfield Primary School,
Stamford Road,
Glenfield Leicestershire
(SK 53972 05904)**

Gerwyn Richards



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at Glenfield Primary School, Stamford Road.
Glenfield, Leicestershire.**

(NGR SK 53972 05904)

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Planning Application: N/A

For: Leicestershire County Council.

Checked by Project Manager

Signed:



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Stamford Road, Glenfield, Leicestershire (SK 53972 05904)**

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Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services was commissioned by Leicestershire County Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks in advance of the construction of new school buildings at Glenfield Primary School, Glenfield, Leicestershire.

An archaeological desk-based assessment had identified the proposed development area as being of archaeological potential. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed during the course of this watching brief.

The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council, under the accession number XA22. 2010.

1. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services was commissioned by Leicestershire County Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks in advance of the construction of new school buildings at Glenfield Primary School, Stamford Road, Glenfield (SK 53972 05904; *Figure 1*). The proposed development area was located on the school playing fields to the south-west of the current school buildings. The groundworks initially consisted of a topsoil strip.

An archaeological desk-based assessment (Speed 2009) had identified a number of archaeologically significant remains within the vicinity of the proposed development area. The Leicestershire & Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) lists a number of archaeologically significant remains within the vicinity of the proposed development area (Speed 2009). These include Neolithic and Bronze Age flint tools (HER Ref: MLE7380, MLE6260 & MLE7382). Romano-British remains are also listed, including the alignment of the Roman road known as Via Devana, approximately 300metres to the south west, a Roman *sestertius* coin was found 80metres to the south-west, suggesting possible settlement activity (HER Ref: MLE7693). Further settlement evidence, including a tile, a coin and a brooch (HER Ref: MLE131) have also been recovered.

The historic settlement core of Glenfield is immediately to the north of the proposed development area, as is the ruined 13th century church of St Peter (Listed Building Grade II HER Ref: MLE11066). The church was abandoned in 1876 and replaced by the Goddard & Paget designed St Peters church (1874-77), a Grade II Listed Building (HER Ref: 11067).

The earliest reference to Glenfield occurs in the Domesday survey of 1086. Here it is referred to as Clanefelde, meaning „clean open land“, „or „open land free from weeds or

other unwanted growth" (Mills 2003). The village is described as consisting of Six ploughlands, all but three oxgangs...valued at ten chillings" (Nichols 1811, 609). It also records that land was held in Glenfield by Hugh de Grandmesnil; a priest and mill are also mentioned. Throughout the medieval period, the area was woodland outside the Royal Forest of Leicester.

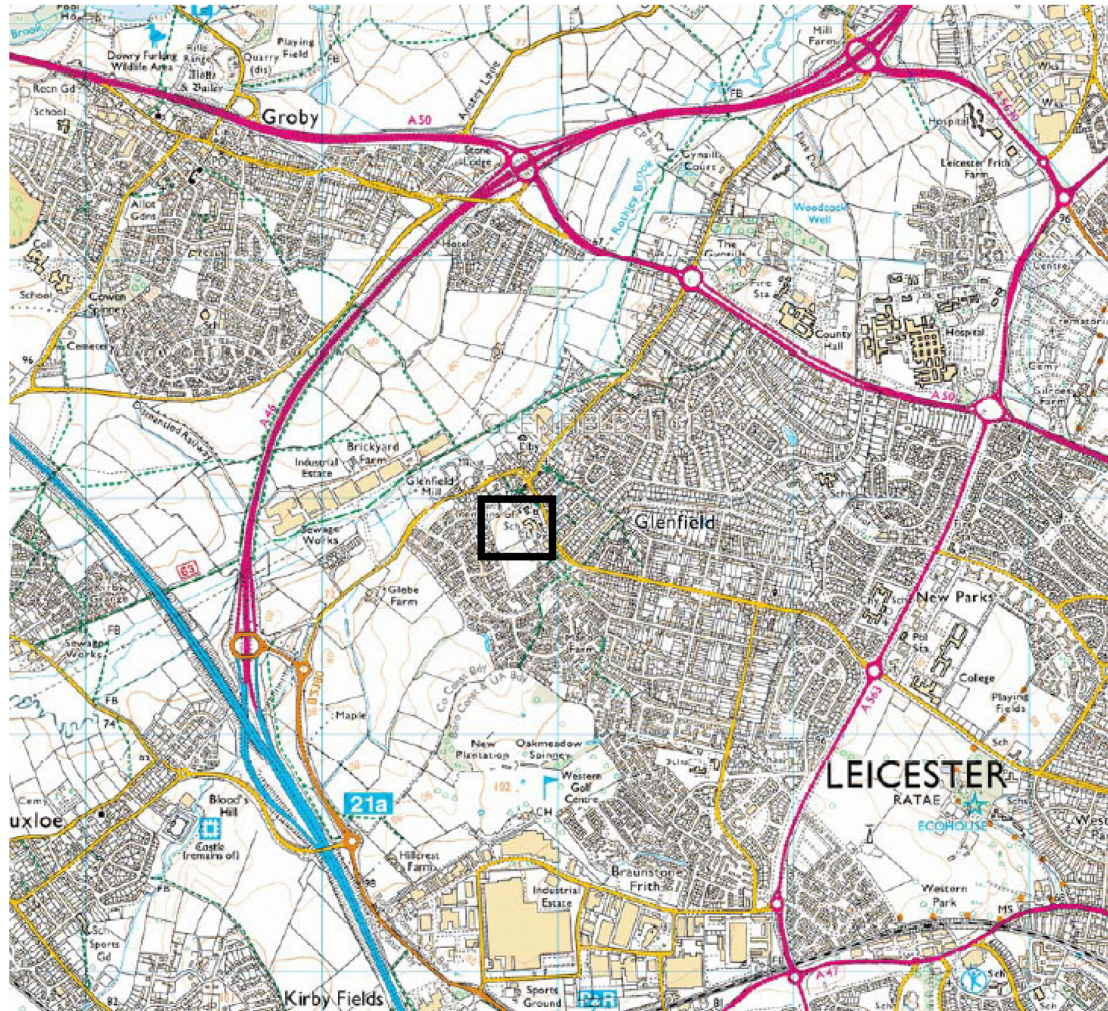


Figure 1. Site location

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The Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council as advisor to Blaby District Council advised that the proposed works may have an impact upon buried archaeological remains. In view of this a programme of archaeological attendance was approved. This consisted of a watching brief carried out during the groundworks undertaken by the client's contractors and was to include three archaeological evaluation trenches within the footprint of the proposed new building. As a result of a change in methodology and in consultation with the planning archaeologist it was decided not to excavated the evaluation trenches, but maintain an archaeological watching brief with archaeological control of the topsoil stripping across the whole of the proposed development area. This work followed Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG 16, Archaeology and Planning para. 30).

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 work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2006) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008), the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LMARS) and adhered to the University's Health and Safety policy.

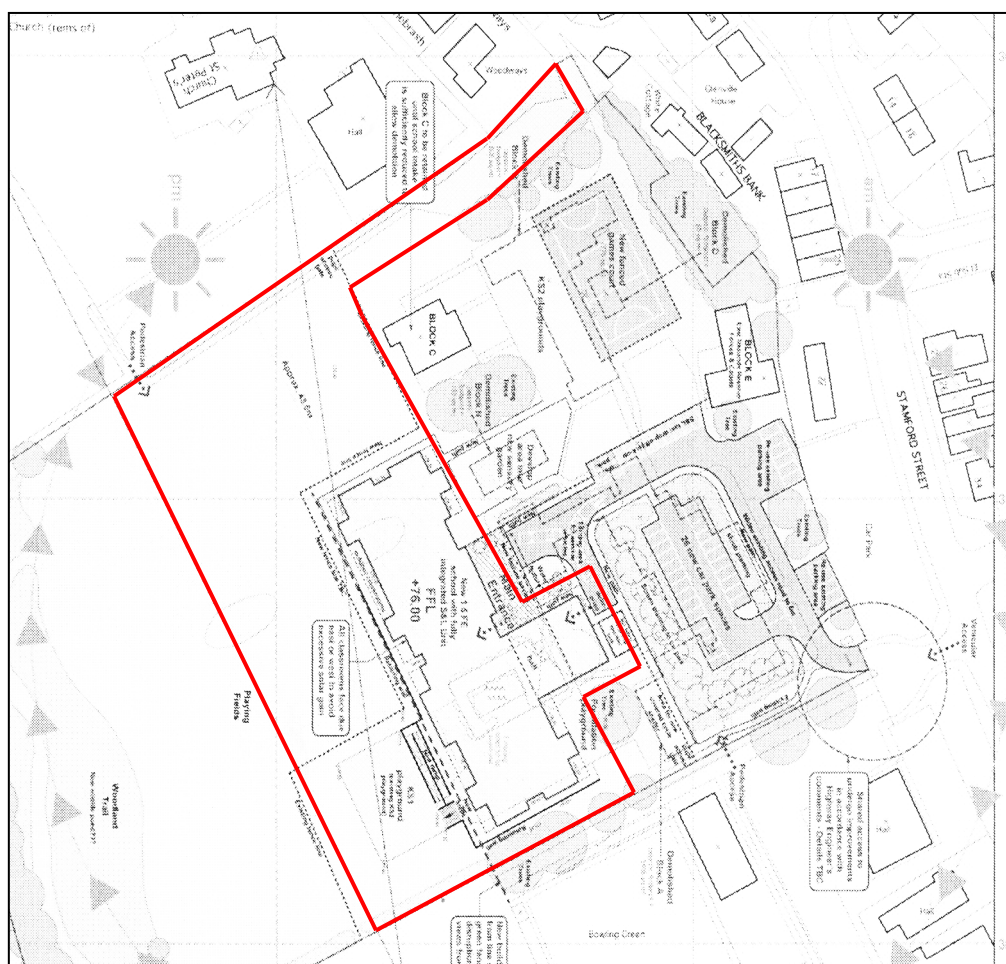


Figure 2 Proposed development area.
(not to scale, supplied by client)

Following negotiation with the contractors all groundworks were carried out by a 21 tonne machine with back-actor fitted with a ditching bucket under continuous

archaeological supervision. The exposed substratum was observed and the spoil searched for finds. The watching brief took place between February 17th 2010 and February 22nd 2010.

3. Results

The proposed development area occupied a grassed area to the west of the existing school buildings. The site sloped down from the south to the north. A visual survey of the proposed development area prior to work commencing indicated that the southernmost part of the site had been extensively landscaped, likely to have comprised cut and fill excavation and re-deposition at some point in the past. This work would have destroyed any potential archaeological remains within this area.

The topsoil strip began along the northernmost boundary and progressed southwards. Approximately 250mm to 300mm of topsoil was removed revealing a substratum of dark orange-brown sandy silt, with occasional lenses of weathered Mercia Mudstone group bedrock. This same substratum was encountered across the whole of the proposed development area, and contained nothing of archaeological significance. No pre-modern artefacts were located.

Towards the southern end of the proposed development area the underlying substratum became increasingly disturbed, suggesting the groundworks associated with the earlier landscaping of this part of the proposed development area impacted upon this area and any potential archaeological remains.

The access road at the north-easternmost corner of the proposed development area was also monitored during the topsoil strip. The majority of this area consisted of road make up and was therefore, only stripped of vegetation to a shallow (0.15m) depth. There was a narrow area of undisturbed ground along the southern edge, which was reduced by approximately 350mm, exposing a similar sandy silt substratum seen elsewhere within the proposed development area; this area, also contained nothing of archaeological significance.

4. Conclusion

The proposed development area occupied a promising location within the historic settlement core of Glenfield. However, no archaeologically significant deposits or remains were encountered the course of this watching brief. The southern part of the proposed development area had been affected by earlier groundworks and it appeared these also had had an impact within the remaining parts of the proposed development area.

5. Archive & Publication

The site archive consists of:

- 1 A3 permatrace sheet containing site plan & section
- 8 Black & White negatives and contact prints
- CD containing 8 digital images
- 1 A4 Contact sheet

4 A4 Watching brief sheets

Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report Number 2010-038)

The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under the Accession Number X.A22. 2010.

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

5. References

IfA, 2008 *Code of Conduct*

IfA, 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

Mills, A. D. 2003 "Glenfield" in *A Dictionary of British Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. Oxford Reference Online. Oxford University Press.

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Nichols, J., 1811 *The History of the County of Leicestershire*. Volume IV, Pt.II. Lon

Speed, G., 2009 *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for Glenfield Primary School, Stamford Street, Glenfield, Leicestershire (SK 53972 05904)*. ULAS Report No 2009-055

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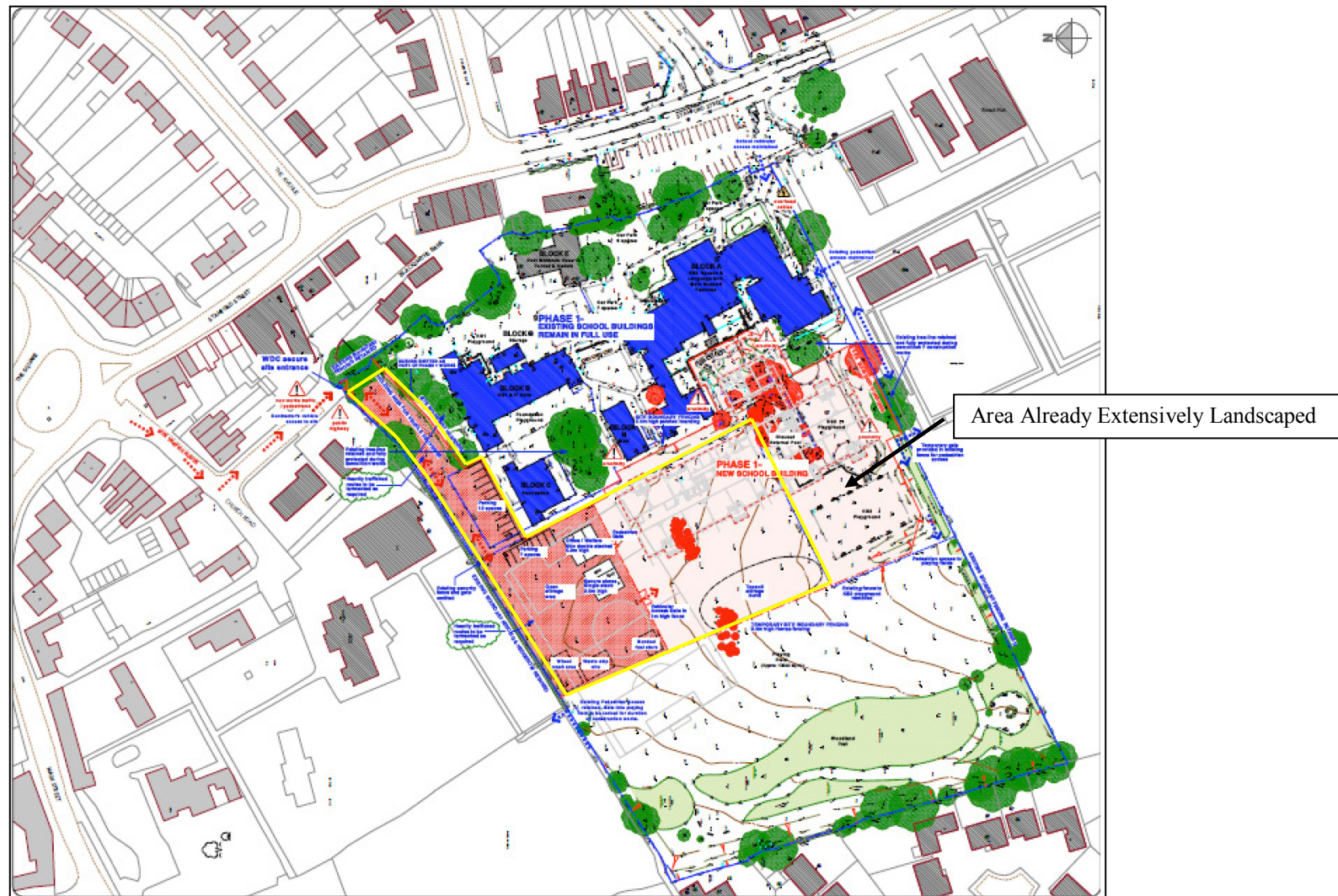


Figure 3 Areas observed during watching brief (high lighted in yellow).



Figure 4 Work in progress, looking south.

Appendix

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Job title: Glenfield Primary School, Stamford Road, Glenfield, Leicestershire (SK 53972 05904)

Client: Leicestershire County Council

Planning Authority: Blaby District Council

Planning application No.

1 Introduction

1.1 Definition and scope of the specification

This document is a design specification for an initial phase of archaeological field evaluation (AFE) at the above site, in accordance with DOE Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning, para.30). The fieldwork specified below is intended to provide preliminary indications of character and extent of any buried archaeological remains in order that the potential impact of the development on such remains may be assessed by the Planning Authority.

- 1.2 The definition of archaeological field evaluation, taken from the Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance: for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IfA S&G: AFE) is a limited programme of non-intrusive and/ or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

2. Background

2.1 Context of the Project

- 2.1.1 The site is at Glenfield Primary School, Stamford Street, Glenfield, Leicestershire. The site lies immediately to the south of centre of Glenfield village on the western side of Stamford Street (Figure 2). The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 155 indicates that the underlying geology of the site is likely to consist of Mercia Mudstone Group clay. The land lies at a height of around 77m above O.D.

- 2.1.2 Planning permission has been granted for the construction of a new school building covering c. 1600 sq metres (Figure 3).

- 2.1.3 Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team (LCCHNET) as archaeological advisors to the planning authority have requested an evaluation by trial trenching to identify and locate any archaeological remains of significance and propose suitable treatment to avoid or minimise damage by the development. For the compound area they have requested a watching brief during overburden removal.

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.2.1 A desk-based assessment has been undertaken for the area (Speed 2009). The Leicestershire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that there are no known archaeological features within the assessment area itself. However, there are several sites (40) of archaeological significance immediately surrounding the site, and in the wider vicinity.

3. Archaeological Objectives

- 3.1 The main objectives of the evaluation will be:

- 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 produce an archive and report of any results.
- 3.2 Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation is to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.
- 3.3 Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

4. Methodology

4.1 General Methodology and Standards

- 4.1.1 All work will follow the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008).
- 4.1.2 Staffing, recording systems, health and safety provisions and insurance details are included below.
- 4.1.3 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site by the project manager. These will ensure that project targets are met and professional standards are maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with the Senior Planning Archaeologist the Planning authority and the Client.

4.2 Trial Trenching and watching brief methodology

- 4.2.1 A watching brief will be undertaken during the overburden stripping for the compound. Topsoil/modern overburden will be removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision, down to the uppermost archaeological deposits by JCB 3C or equivalent using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 4.2.2 Trenches will be excavated to a width of c. 1.6m and down to the top of archaeological deposits. The area of the trenches will be protected by barrier fencing.
- 4.2.3 The trenches will be backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.
- 4.2.4 The area of impact covers c. 0.16 ha. A c. 6 % sample of the area is the equivalent of three 20m x 1.6m trenches totaling c. 96 sq m. (Fig. 3). The exact location of the trenches may need to be modified depending on constraints on site.
- 4.2.5 Trenches will be examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located will be planned at an appropriate scale and sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence. All plans will be tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.
- 4.2.6 Sections of any excavated archaeological features will be drawn at an appropriate scale. At least one longitudinal face of each trench will be recorded. All sections will be levelled and tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum, or a permanent fixed bench mark.
- 4.2.7 Trench locations will be recorded using an electronic distance measurer. These will then be tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.
- 4.2.8 Any human remains will initially be left *in situ* and will only be removed if necessary for their protection, under Ministry of Justice guidelines and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations.

4.3 Recording Systems

- 4.3.1 The ULAS recording manual will be used as a guide for all recording.
- 4.3.2 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto pro-forma recording sheets.
- 4.3.3 A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a

trench plan at appropriate scale, which will show the location of the areas investigated in relationship to the investigation area and OS grid.

- 4.3.4 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made. Sections including the half-sections of individual layers of features will be drawn as necessary, typically at a scale of 1:10. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be recorded.
- 4.3.5 A photographic record of the investigations will be prepared illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.
- 4.3.6 This record will be compiled and checked during the course of the excavations.

5. Finds and Samples

- 5.1 The IfA *Guidelines for Finds Work* will be adhered to.
- 5.2 Before commencing work on the site, a Site code/Accession number will be agreed with the Planning Archaeologist that will be used to identify all records and finds from the site.
- 5.3 During the fieldwork, different sampling strategies may be employed according to the perceived importance of the strata under investigation. Close attention will always be given to sampling for date, structure and environment. If significant archaeological features are sample excavated, the environmental sampling strategy is likely to include the following:
 - i. 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.
 - ii. Any buried soils or well sealed deposits with concentrations of carbonised material present will be intensively sampled taking a known proportion of the deposit.
 - iii. Spot samples will be taken where concentrations of environmental remains are located.
 - iv. Waterlogged remains, if present, will be sampled for pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and radiocarbon dating provided that they are uncontaminated and datable. Consultation with the specialist will be undertaken.
- 5.4 All identified finds and artefacts are to be retained, although certain classes of building material will, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording with the approval of the Senior Planning Archaeologist. The IfA *Guidelines for Finds Work* will be adhered to.
- 5.5 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner. Where appropriate they will be cleaned, marked and receive remedial conservation in accordance with recognised best-practice. This will include the site code number, finds number and context number. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self sealing plastic bags, again marked with site code, finds and context numbers and boxed by material in standard storage boxes (340mm x 270mm x 195mm). All materials will be fully labelled, catalogued and stored in appropriate containers.

6. Report and Archive

- 6.1 The full report in A4 format will usually follow within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and copies will be dispatched to the Client, Senior Planning Archaeologist; HER and Local Planning Authority.
- 6.2 The report will include consideration of:-
 - The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
 - The nature, location, extent, date, significance and quality of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
 - The anticipated degree of survival of archaeological deposits.
 - The anticipated archaeological impact of the current proposals.
 - Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
 - Summary.
 - The location and size of the archive.

- A quantitative and qualitative assessment of the potential of the archive for further analysis leading to full publication, following guidelines laid down in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage).

6.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in the *IfA Standard and Guidance for archaeological archives* (Brown 2008) will normally be presented to Leicestershire County Council within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

7 Publication and Dissemination of Results

7.1 A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*.

8. Acknowledgement and Publicity

8.1 ULAS shall acknowledge the contribution of the Client in any displays, broadcasts or publications relating to the site or in which the report may be included.

8.2 ULAS and the Client shall each ensure that a senior employee shall be responsible for dealing with any enquiries received from press, television and any other broadcasting media and members of the public. All enquiries made to ULAS shall be directed to the Client for comment.

9. Copyright

9.1 The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

10. Timetable

10.1 The evaluation start is to be arranged with two staff. Further staff will be added if archaeological remains are discovered. The watching brief for the compound area will start on 15.02.2010.

10.2 The on-site director/supervisor will carry out the post-excavation work, with time allocated within the costing of the project for analysis of any artefacts found on the site by the relevant in-house specialists at ULAS.

11. Health and Safety

11.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Archaeological Services Health and Safety Policy and Health and Safety manual with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is attached as Appendix 1. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate. The HSE has determined that archaeological investigations are exempt from CDM regulations.

11.2 A Risks assessment will be completed prior to work commencing on-site, and updated as necessary during the site works.

12. Insurance

12.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with St Pauls Travellers Policy No. UCPOP3651237 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters (50%) and Brit Insurances (50%) Policy No. FUNK3605.

13. Monitoring arrangements

13.1 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and Planning Archaeologist subject to the health and safety requirements of the site. At least one weeks notice will be given to the LCCHS Senior Planning Archaeologist

before the commencement of the archaeological evaluation in order that monitoring arrangements can be made.

13.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the IfA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*.

13.3 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

14. Contingencies and unforeseen circumstances

14.1 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the project, ULAS shall inform the site agent/project manager, Client and the Planning Archaeologist and Planning Authority and prepare a short written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement an amended scheme of investigation on behalf of the client as appropriate.

15. Bibliography

Speed, G., 2009 *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for Glenfield Primary School, Stamford Street, Glenfield, Leicestershire (SK 53972 05904)* ULAS Report 2009-055

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

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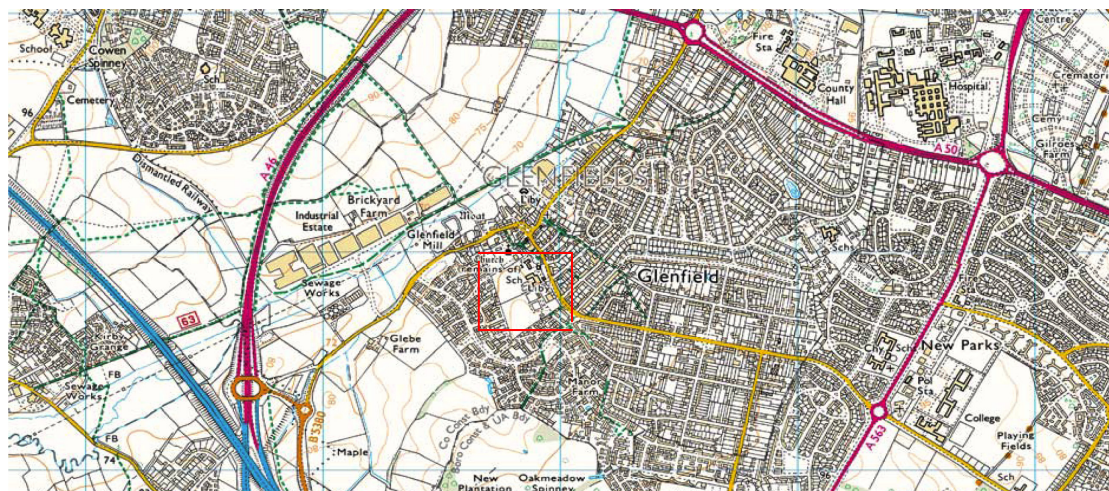


Figure 1 Location of the application area

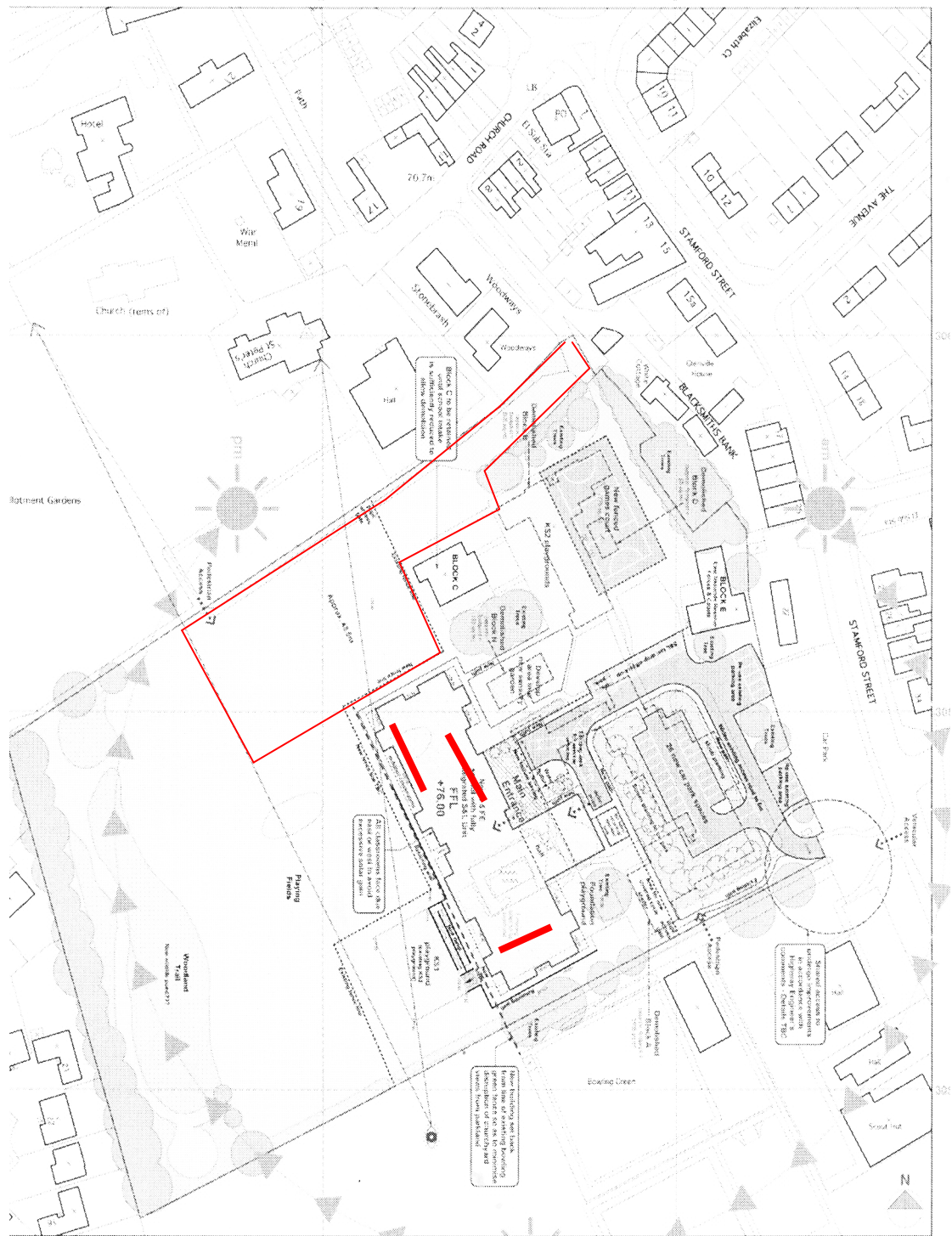


Figure 2 Plan of the area of new building with suggested trench locations. Area of compound to be stripped under archaeological supervision outlined.

APPENDIX 1

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

A risks assessment will be produced by on-site staff, which will be updated and amended during the course of the evaluation.

1. Nature of the work

1.1 Brief description of the work involved e.g.

The work will involve machine excavation by JCB 3C or equivalent during daylight hours to reveal underlying archaeological deposits. Overall depth is likely to be c. 0.5 m with possible features excavated to a depth of another 1m. Trenches will not be excavated to a depth exceeding 1.2m. Spoil will be stockpiled no less than 1.5 m from the edge of the excavation, the topsoil and subsoil being kept separate. Remaining works will involve the examination of the exposed surface with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and excavation of archaeological features. Deeper features will be fenced with lamp irons and hazard tape. Three staff will be used on the evaluation.

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 *Working on an excavation site.*

Precautions. Trenches to not be excavated to a depth exceeding 1.2m. Spoil will be kept 1.5m away from the edge of the excavated area to prevent falls of loose debris. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. Hard hats will be worn when working in deeper sections or with plant. First aid kit to be kept in site accommodation/vehicle. Vehicle and mobile phone to be kept on site in case of emergency.

2.2 *Working with plant.*

Precautions. Archaeologists experienced in working with machines will supervise topsoil stripping at all times. Hard hats, protective footwear and hazard jackets will be worn at all times. Machine driver to be suitably qualified and insured. If services or wells are encountered machining will be halted until extent has been established by hand excavation or areas where it is safe to machine have been established.

2.3 *Working within areas prone to waterlogging.*

If waterlogging occurs on site preventing work continuing it is proposed to excavate a sump, suitably fenced and clearly marked to enable the water to drain away. If this is insufficient a pump will be used. The sump will be covered when not in use and backfilled if no longer required. Protective clothing will be worn at all times and precautions taken to prevent contact with stagnant water which may carry Wiels 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.

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