An Archaeological Evaluation for a proposed residential development at 1008, Melton Road, Syston, Leicestershire. (SK 615 106)

David Parker

For Radleigh Homes Limited

Planning Application No. 05/0637/2

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Cont	ents		Page
1.	Sum	mary	1
2.	Intro	duction	1
3.	Back	ground	2
4.	Aims	s and Methods	4
5.	Resu	lts	5
6.	Disc	ussion and Conclusions	9
7.	Arch	ive	9
8.	Ackr	nowledgements	9
9.	Bibli	ography	10
10.	Appe	endix 1	11
	Appe	endix 2 Design Specification	12
Figu	res		
Figur	e. 1	Site location Scale 1:50000	2
Figur	e. 2	Site Location showing the proposed development area Scale 1:1250	3
Figur	re. 3	Trench Location Plan	5
Figur	e. 4	Section and Plan of feature in Trench 5	8
Figur	e. 5	Section and Plan of feature in Trench 6	9

An Archaeological Evaluation for a proposed residential development at 1008, Melton Road, Syston, Leicestershire. (SK 615 106)

By David Parker

1. Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Radleigh Hom es Limited on land at 1008, Melton Road, Syst on, Leicestershire (SK 615 106). This work was carried out in advance of proposed residential development.

Six trenches were excavated from which it was concluded that the previous construction of a bungalow had caused considerable disturbance and altered the landscape of the site. However, a pit and a post-hole were uncovered in trenches five and six respectively. These may have been prehistoric but no evidence was found to support this. Some worked flint fragments were located in the topsoil. No other features of archaeological significance were identified.

The site ar chive will be held by the Histor ic & Natur al Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council (Accession Number XA228.2004).

2. Introduction

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by ULAS at 1008, Melton Road, Syston, Leicestershire . (SK 615 106, fig. 1 and 2) which was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of new dwellings, with associated car parking, access driv eways and garden land scaping. The development area has been identified as an area of arch aeological potential from information held in the Leicestershire and Rutland Sites and Monuments Record. It indicates that the site it is close to known Prehistoric sites. Previous archaeological work that included desk based assessment; evaluation and watching brief indicated archaeological potential, as rare Neolithic remains were located.

Charnwood Borough Council requested a prog ramme of archaeological work as a condition of planning permission (see Appendix 2). The work was carried out during the 25th and 26th August on behalf of Ra dleigh Homes Limited and followed the Design Specification for Archaeological Work.

3. Background

The proposed developm ent site is located at 1008 Melton Road, Syston, approximately 6.5km northeast of Leicester, in Syston parish in the district of Charnwood (SK 615 106, figs. 1 and 2). It consists of an area of c.0.35 ha. A deskbased assessment was undertaken (George 20 04), this indicates that the site for development lies directly to the east of the Fosse Way Roman road (LE1380). An evaluation adjacent to the southern area of the proposed development revealed a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pit w ith associated pottery and flin t (LE5948) and undated features that appear to be sm all gullies and postholes (LE5949 and LE5950). In addition, crop-m arks showing Iron Age and Rom an enclosures, ditches and field systems are loca ted to the west and southeast (LE993, LE994, LE1007, LE1062 and LE8625). A Bronze Age round barrow that contained a cremation is directly to the east of the development (LE990 and LE991). Two find-spots are recorded to the southwest and southeast of the application area, including a Late Bronze Age spearh ead (LE6302) and a Late Ne olithic Grooved Ware pottery sherd (LE7164).

Map evidence indicates that the s ite has been built on in the m id-20th century. There are areas, however, where archaeolo gical remains may be relatively well preserved beneath the present ground surface. (George 200 4). Therefore there is potential for archaeological deposits or finds of a prehistoric and Roman date, and also some, but less, potential for archaeological remains of later periods within the proposed development area.

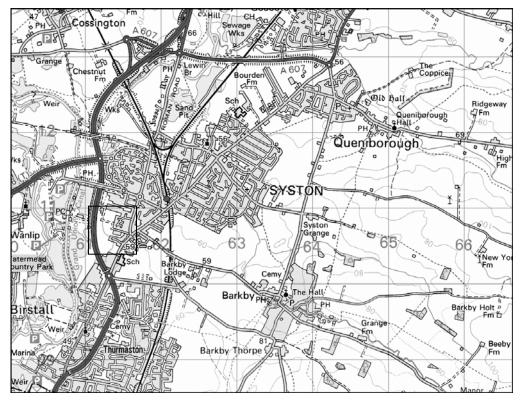


Figure. 1. Site location Scale 1:50000

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Fig. 2. Location of the development area 2004 Scale 1:1250 (supplied by developer)

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The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 156 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of sand, gravel and Marlstone. The site lies at a height of $c.57 \,\mathrm{m}$ O.D.

4. Aims and Methods

This work follows on from the desk-based assessment (George 2004), which together with this evaluation satisfy the specification for archaeolog ical work at the site (see appendices). The purpose of the evaluation was to ascertain by trial trenching whether archaeological deposits were present. If so, the character, extent and date range of any deposits identified would be established, in order to assess their significance (see Appendices, Design Specification). Recording of these deposits would be carried out as appropriate, and an archive would be produced. The work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Ar chaeological Evaluations*, and adhered to the University's Health and Safety policy.

The evaluation was to comprise the excavation by a JCB type machine with toothless ditching bucket of trial trenches totalling c. 150 square metres (three 20m x 1.5m and two 15m x 1.5m trenches). However this was to comprise six trenches, approximately 1.5m wide of the following lengths: 15m, 20m, 7m, 11.5m, 19m and 17.5m. These totalled approx 135 square metres providing a c.3.6% sample.

These trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision until archaeological deposits, undisturbed strata or *c*.1.5m (whichever is higher) were encountered. The trenches were surveyed i n, and tied to the site grid using a Topcon GTS303 Total Station EDM (fig. 3). Fills of archaeological features are shown by round brackets (1), while cuts are shown by square brackets [2].

5. Results

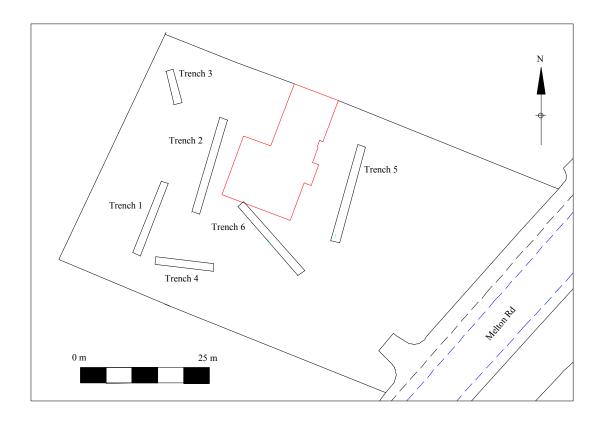


Figure 3 Trench Location Plan

Trench 1

Interval	0m	3m	6m	9m	12m	15m
Topsoil depth	0.2m	0.22m	0.24m	0.23m	0.34m	0.23m
Subsoil depth	0.69m	0.72m	0.65m	0.66m	0.58m	0.42m
Top of Natural	0.69m	0.72m	0.89m	0.89m	0.93m	0.65m
Base of trench	0.90m	0.93m	1.03m	1.0m	0.99m	0.76m

Trench 1 was located towards the western corner of the site (fig. 3), this puts it near to the bottom of the slope which ran across the site from roughly north to south. Its position varies slightly from the brief, as do the other trenches, due to another boundary put in place to preserve the existing trees and bushes. The trench measured 15m long and 1.5m wide.

The soils for this trench are as follows: Topsoil being between 0.22 and 0.34 thick and consisting of a m id-brown, soft sandy soil with inclusions of small angular pebbles (2%) and larger 5-8cm rounded pebbles (4%). The subsoil, 0.42m -0.72m thick, is a mid yellow-brown soft sandy soil with rounde d pebble inclusions about 1-3cm (5%). The natural was a mottled mix of light white g rey sand, mid yellow-brown sand and red clay, all mixed with numerous pebbles and gravel patches.

Some un-stratified flin ts were re covered from the area, however no further archaeological features or finds were observed.

Trench 2

Interval	0m	3m	6m	9m	12m	15m	18m
Topsoil	0.24m	0.40m	0.48m	0.66m	0.78m	0.82m	0.38m
depth							
Subsoil	0.54m	0.43m	0.34m	0.24m	0.14m	0.15m	0.34m
depth							
Top of	0.78m	0.83m	0.82m	0.90m	0.92m	0.97m	Not Reached
Natural							Keacheu
Base of	0.96m	0.98m	0.99m	1.10m	1.04m	1.08m	0.72m
trench							

This trench was located along the same alignment as trench 1 running up the slope to the northern boundary (fig.3). This trench was 20m long and 1.5m wide. The topsoil consisted of a dark brown-grey sandy soil with flint and pebble inclusions (7%) to a depth of 0.24m. However this was disturbed by a number of modern pits towards the southern end of the trench. The largest of these ran to a depth of approx. 0.80m and they contained a large am ount of rubble and building material including bricks,

plaster and mortar. The topsoil and modern pits were overlaying a mid to dark brown, compact sandy subsoil with inclusions of large pebbles making up 8% of the layer.

The trench was stripped to the natural substratum, which consisted of light tan-brown sand with patches of red clay, all with inclusions of gravel (10%)

Apart from a couple of un-stratified flints no archaeological feat ures or finds were observed.

Trench 3

Interval	0m	2m	4m	6m
Topsoil depth	0.20m	0.55m 0.50i	m 0.27m	
Subsoil depth	0.50m	0.30m 0.30i	m 0.62m	
Top of Natural	0.70m	0.85m 0.80i	n	Not reached
Base of trench	1.05m	1.10m 1.08i	n 0.89m	

The trench was located towards the north-west corner of the site (fig.3). This was put in at the request of the developer to establish the depth of root action while for the purpose of the evaluation it help ed to recover some of the excavated area lost due to the mentioned restrictions. This trench was 7m long and 1.5m wide. The topsoil consisted of a mid/dark brown, gritty, sandy soil with 2% small rounded pebbles (0.5-2cm). This overlay a mid orange-brown, sandy subsoil with 7% rounded pebbles (1-6cm). This trench was also stripped to the underlying natural substratum, a mixture of light white-yellow sand and m id tan-brown sand, both with patches of red clay and gravel.

Again although flints were found in the area this tren ch showed no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 4

Interval	2m	4m	6m	8m	10m
Topsoil	0.26m	0.20m 0.2	2m 0.28m 0.25	m	
depth					
Subsoil	0.52m	0.30m 0.3	5m 0.44m 0.42	2m	
depth					
Top of	0.78m	0.50m 0.5	7m 0.72m 0.67	m	
Natural					
Base of	0.95m	0.79m 0.8	0m 0.87m 0.84	m	
trench					

Trench four was located along the southern boundary of the site. This trench also was koved from the original location due to the laying of hardcore for site huts. Therefore the trench was shortened to a length of 11.5 m but still retaining a width of 1.5m. The topsoil consisted of compacted, dark brown sandy silt with inclusions of rounded

pebbles (2%) and angular flint chips (2%). The subsoil was a less compact make up of sandier silt (80% sand) with larger sub- angular pebbles (5%). The interf ace between the subsoil and the natural was hard to de termine, the subsoil being so dom inated by sand while the natural consisted of tan and white sand. The only indicator that natural had been reached was the presence of gravel and red clay patches.

No archaeological features or artefacts were observed within this trench.

Trench 5

Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	19m
Topsoil	0.26m	0.30m 0.4	0m 0.30m 0.42	m	
depth					
Subsoil	0.46m	0.55m 0.5	0m 0.75m 0.65	m	
depth					
Top of	0.72m	0.85m 0.9	0m 1.05m 1.07	m	
Natural					
Base of	0.72m	0.85m 0.9	0m 1.05m 1.30	m	
trench					

Pit (3), [4].

Trench five was located towards the centre of the site, running approxim ately north-south adjacent to the footpr int of the for mer bungalow (Fig.3). This trench was 19m long and 1.5m wide. The topsoil was a dark brown-grey clayey loam mixed with bricks and rubble from the dem olition of the bungalow. The subsoil consisted of a mid-orange-brown, slightly clayey, silty s and with pebble inc lusions. This was stripped to the natural substratum, which was a pale brown-yellow sand with occasional gravel and clay patches.

At the north end of trench 5 as mall pit was observed. This was investigated and was found to not contain any artefacts. However the pit was oval in plan with sloping sides to a concave, round base (Fig.4). However the pit had possibly been truncated at its northern side by the machine. The fill of the pit was a pale greyish-brown sand with inclusions of the occasional rounded pebble and a very few charcoal flecks. In composition the fill is almost like that of the natural substratum but appears to the eye as slightly darker. There was also an unstratified flint fragment found. No other archaeological artefacts or features were observed within this trench.

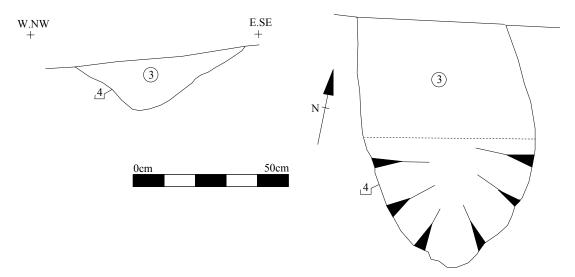


Figure 4 Pit [4] Section (left) and plan (right).

Trench 6

Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	17.5m
Topsoil	Disturbed	0.56m	0.63m 0.4	0m 0.54m	
depth					
Subsoil	Disturbed	0.78m	0.67m 0.8	1m 0.36m	
depth					
Top of	1.50m	1.33m 1.3	0m 1.19m		Disturbed
Natural					
Base of	1.50m	1.34m 1.3	0m 1.19m 0.90	m	
trench					

This trench was situated towards the cen tre of the site runni ng parallel to the temporary road surface put in place to bed the site huts and toilet. The trench was shortened from 20m to 17.5m due to the presence of a water pipe at the eastern end of the trench. The trench was 1.5m wide. The topsoil consisted of a dark brown-grey clayey loam mixed with modern rubble. The subsoil was a mid orange- brown sandy silt with mid- large rounded stones. Towards the northern end of the trench the subsoil was disturbed by the modern rubble. Howeve r all this was stripped to reveal the natural substratum. This consisted of a pale orange- brown, yellow sand with gravel patches and the occasional large rounded stone.

A single posthole was observed to wards the centre of this trench (1) [2]. This had a diameter of approx. 0.30m with steep (80 degrees from horizontal) sides with a rounded base (fig.5). The fill was of the sa me material as the natural surrounding it however it was a little darker (light grey-yellow). The fill also con tained charcoal inclusions (0.5%). Some unstratified flints were found at this trench but none were

associated with the posthole. No other arte facts or features were observed in this trench.

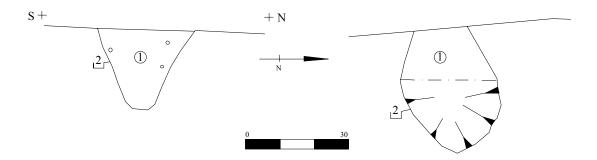


Figure 5 Post hole [2] Section (left) and plan (right)

6. Discussion and Conclusions

No features of archaeolo gical significance were discovered during the course of the evaluation at 1008 Melton Road, Syston, Leices tershire. Trenches 1, 3 and 4 showed no irregularities with the st ratigraphy in the soils. Tren ch 2 showed considerable modern disturbance my modern rubble hat intruded into the subsoil. This was probably caused by the demolition of the bungalow which formerly stood on the site. Trench 5 and 6 also showed som e modern disturbance as well as sm all features of inderterminate date.

A small number of unstratified flints were recovered from the site (appendix 1). These were thought to be of a late prehis toric date. They were not found in any concentrations or of any specific type and are likely to be residual.

The trenches have shown that the extent of the modern intrusion goes as far as the subsoils. However the features identifie d were found to be cutting the natural substratum, therefore there is potential for other features to have survived in unexcavated areas.

7. Archive

The site archive will be he ld by Leicestershire County Council, Historic & Natural Environment Team (Acc. No. XA.228.2004). It consists of finds, trench record sheets, site records, plans, and photographs. A brief summary of this report will be published in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course.

8. Acknowledgements

Fieldwork was carried out by the author w ith assistance from Matt Parker. Patrick Clay also of ULAS, managed the project. I am also grateful to the client Radleig h Homes Limited for their co-operation during this evaluation.

9. Bibliography

Clay P, . 2004. Design Specification for archaeol ogical evaluation at the Proposed Residential Development, 1008 Melton R oad, Syston, Leicestershire (SK 615 106). ULAS Design Specification 05/503

George, S. 2004. An archaeological Desk-based Assessment for the Proposed Residential Development at 1008 Melton Road, Syston, Leicestershire (SK 615 106) ULAS Report No. 2004-038.

10. Appendices

Appendix 1.

The identification of the flints by L. Cooper

Site/Parish: 1008, Melton Road, Syston,
Leics.
Accession No/ Doc Ref:/
XA228.2004
Material: Semi-translucent flint
Site Type: Prehistoric

Submitter: D. Parker
Identifier: L. Cooper
Date of Id: 25.10.04
Method of Recovery: evaluation.

The flint, (8 pieces), were made of sem i-translucent local glacial till. The pieces suggested a late prehistoric date but are too few in number to be more specific. The proportions of each type are as follows:

Location	No. of Flints	Type
Tr.1	1	Flake Fragment
Tr.5	1	Blade
Tr.6	2	1 Flake, 1 Shatter
U/S	4	1 Core, 2 Flakes, 1 Core on a Flake

Appendix 2

Design Specification

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological evaluation

Proposed residential development, 1008, Melton Road, Syston, Leicestershire (SK 615 106)

Planning Application: 04/0637/2

For: Radleigh Homes Ltd

1. Definition and scope of the specification

- 1.1 This specification is for archaeological evaluation by trial trenching in advance of proposed residential development for land at Melton Road, Sy ston, Leicestershire (SK 615 106; P.A.04/0637/2 Fig. 1).
- 1.2 It addresses part of the require ments for an archaeological i mpact assessment for Charnwood Borough Council following Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning), para.30 detailed in the advice letter from Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services to the planning authority (17.3.2004).
- 1.3 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's (IFA) Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations and the Guidelines and procedures for archaeological work in Leicestershire and Rutland (Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services).

2.Background

2.1. The proposed development is for twelve apartments, seven houses and associated garages within an area of c.0.375 ha (Fig. 1). An archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared (ULAS Report 2004-038) which indicated that the application area was close to known prehistoric and Ro man sites. Previous archaeological work for developm entimmediately to the southwest of the application area included a desk-base d assessment (ULAS Report 2001/96), evaluations and watching brief which indicated that there was archaeological potential in the area as rare Ne olithic deposits were located (ULAS Reports 97-53; 97-20; Meek, 1998; SMR site ref LE5948). A programme of archaeological work comprising trial trenching is now required to further elucidate the archaeological potential and, if necessary, formulate a mitigation strategy.

3. Objectives

3.1 The objective of the archa eological work is to ascertain whether any significant archaeological remains are present within the area to be developed. If identified a sufficient sample to establish their extent, date, qualit y, character, form and potential including environmental data will be recorded. Further archaeological recording may be required in the light of the results of this programme.

4 General Methodology

- 4.1 All work will follow the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhere to their Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations.
- 4.2 Staffing, recording sy stems, Health and Safety provisions and insurance details ar e provided.
- 4.3 Internal monitoring procedures will be un dertaken including visits to the sites from the project manager. These will ensure that project targets are being met and professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with representatives of Radleigh Homes and Leicestershire County Council. The strategy will be reviewed in the light of the quality of the archaeological resource as reveal ed at different stages of the fieldwork.
- 4.4 On the basis of a site visit (11.02.04) the site comprises an area of c. 0.375 ha. within which is a b ungalow and garage (since dem olished) with to the east open ar eas and trees. There has be en some landscaping in association with the structures on the site. Various garden beds and plantings can be seen across the area, mainly restricted to the boundaries of the site. There are so me larger trees located along the Melton Ro ad boundary, and halfway along the southern boundary. The pond to the east of the driveway appears to have a maximum depth of c. 0.4m, and is fed from a stream to the east leading to a stone folly that houses the pond pum p. Generally the land sloped irregularly to the west, the easternmost corner being the highest point on site.

4.5 Trial trenching

- 4.5.1 Trial trenching totalling c. 150 sq metres (three 20m x 1.5m trenches, two 15m x 1.5m trenches) is proposed providing a c. 5% sample of the area (Fig. 1). The location may be varied according to any constraints on the availability of the area for trenching.
- 4.5.3 The area will be scanned by a CAT scanner to verify the location of services. Following this the overburden will be removed in spits by machine with a toothless ditching bucket (or similar) under full supervision, until archaeol ogical deposits or undisturbed substrata are encountered.
- 4.5.4 The location of the trenches will be surveyed using a Total Station Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) linked to a Psion hand held computer.
- 4.5.5 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate to addressing the aims and objectives of the evaluation. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated. Measured draw ings of all arch aeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied i nto an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM).
- 4.5.6. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosoils in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer. Deposits which may provide radiocarbon dating evidence will be sampled.
- 4.5.7 All excavated secti ons will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.
- 4.5.8 Any human remains encountered will only be removed under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant en vironmental health regulations. Ha ywood Exclusive Homes Ltd, Leicestershire County Council and the coroner will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.6 Mitigation Strategy

4.6.1 Depending on the results of the trial trenching and following consultation with the County Archaeologist and Radleigh Homes Ltd a mitigation strategy may need to be formulated.

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, enlarged to 1:500 (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepare d. This will be supplemented by a plan at 1:200 (or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated.
- 5.3 Some 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 photo graphic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation undertaken.
- 5.5 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the excavation.
- 5.6 All site records and finds will be kept securely.

6 Report and Archive

- 6.1 A report on the fieldwork will be provided following analysis of the records and materials.
- 6.2. 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) (RFG/FRG 1 993) will be presented to an appropriate registere d museum within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all written, disk-based, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

7. Timetable and staffing

7.1. The trial trenching will be undertaken within a one week period and can commence during the week beginning 23.8.2004.

8. Health and Safety

8.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the Un Policy and uses the Standing Committee of Archaeological Unit Managers (SCAUM)

manual, as revised in 1997, as its Health a nd Safety Manual with appropriate risk s assessments for all archaeological work. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate. All ULAS st aff will follow the site contractors' Health and Safety policy.

9 Insurance

9.1 All ULAS work is covered by the Univ ersity of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Li ability Insurance is with Ger ling Insurance Services Policy No. 62/99094/D, Risk Reference LT 35101 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Sun Alliance Insurance Policy No. 03A/5A 001 05978, Risk Reference LT 27229.

10. Bibliography

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Meek, J., 1998, 'S yston, Melton Road (SK 614 10 6)', Transactions of the Leicest ershire Archaeological and Historical Society 72, 184.

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 Arc haeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (Society of Museum Archaeologists)

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17.8.2004

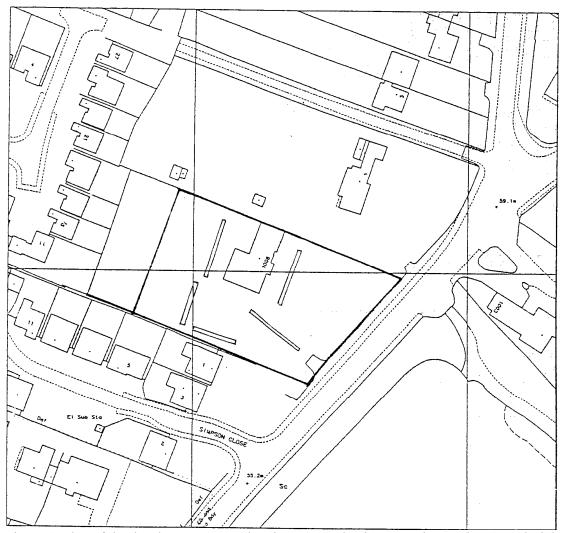


Figure 1. Plan of the developm ent area showing present land use, services and proposed trial trench locations. Scale 1:1250

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

Proposed residential development, 1008, Melton Road, Syston, Leicestershire (SK 615 106)

Planning Application: 04/0637/2

For: Radleigh Homes Ltd

1.Nature of the work

- 1.1 This stat ement is for trial trenching in advance of proposed residential d evelopment at Melton Road, Sy ston, Leicestershire. 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 machine dug trial trenching during daylight hours and recording of any underlying archaeological deposits re vealed. 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 ar chaeological features. All work will adhere to the University of Leicester Health and Safety Polic y and follow the guidance in the Standing C ommittee of Archaeological Unit Managers manual, as revised in 1997, 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. H SE 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. First aid kit, vehicle and mobile phone to be kept on site in case of emergency.

2.2 Working with plant.

Precautions. The area will be scanned for services prior to machine excavation commencing. Hard hats, protective footwear and hazard jackets will be worn at all times. No examination of the area of stripping wil 1 take place until machines have vacated area. Observation of machines will be maintained during hand excavation.

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 Vialls disease or similar.

2.4 Working with chemicals.

If chemicals are used to conserve or he lp 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 i mmediately. 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.

17.8.2004