



**University of  
Leicester**

**Archaeological Services**

**Archaeological Exploratory Works at  
The Hall, Lower Green, Findern,  
Derby, Derbyshire  
NGR: SK 30943 30475 centre**

Dr. Roger Kipling



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**Archaeological Exploratory Works at  
The Hall, Lower Green, Findern, Derby  
[NGR SK 30943 30475]**

**Dr. Roger Kipling**


**For: Bassett Homes Ltd**

Checked by:

**Signed:**  **Date:** 10/11/2009

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## **Archaeological Exploratory Works at The Hall, Lower Green, Findern, Derby (NGR SK 30943 30475)**

Dr. Roger Kipling

### **Summary**

*A programme of archaeological exploratory works was undertaken on 7th October 2009 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Bassett Homes Ltd following the granting of planning permission for the demolition of an outbuilding and the erection of housing and vehicular access at Sycamore Aventure, Findern, Derby. No archaeological features were encountered, with the exception of a possible 19th century wall foundation trench and cattle burial. The site archive will be deposited with Derbyshire City Museum under the accession number DBYMU 2009-190.*

### **Introduction**

A programme of archaeological exploratory works was undertaken following the granting of permission for the demolition of an outbuilding on land off Sycamore Avenue, Findern, Derbyshire and the construction of a single residential property with attendant garage and vehicular access. Work was carried out on the recommendation of the Derbyshire County Council, Development Control Archaeologist (DCA) as archaeological advisor to the planning authority, and addressed the requirements for an archaeological impact assessment following Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning, Paragraph 30).

Although no archaeological desk-based assessment of the development area had been undertaken prior to the evaluation, the DCA was not aware of any previous archaeological investigation on this particular site.

Findern is mentioned in the Domesday survey as an outlier of the manor of Mickleover, which indicates that in 1086 Findern was an identifiable settlement. Regrettably details of Findern's size and value are not provided separately in the survey but are combined with those of two further outliers of Mickleover manor. Hence little of detail may be deduced regarding the size and value of the settlement that existed in 1086.

The development site lies immediately north-east of All Saints church and churchyard (SMR 19909), a Grade II listed building. The present church building dates to 1862 but it does incorporate elements of the earlier chapel which stood on the same site. It is believed the chapel, which was given by William the Conqueror to Burton Abbey, was Saxon in origin. A description of the chapel was published by Jewitt in 1863. The present church certainly incorporates elements of Norman and 17th century stonework. The boundary wall to the churchyard is also Grade II listed. The medieval chapel may have developed in close proximity to the settlement.

The Parliamentary Enclosure map of 1781 is the earliest mapping available. At that date the boundaries of the present churchyard had been established. Intriguingly, the east end of the chapel's footprint appears to be slightly closer to the boundary with the Old Hall than that of the present church. By the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey the present church had been built. The layout of the Old Hall and outbuildings appears much the same as it is today, and subsequent maps confirm there is little change.

As it was deemed likely that the proposed development would have a damaging effect on any archaeological deposits, if present, within the application area, an archaeological evaluation was recommended by the DCA which followed the approved design specification (Appendix).

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 155 indicates that the underlying geology was likely to consist of sand and gravel. The land lies at a height of *c.* 58 OD.

### **Aims and Methods**

The aim of the evaluation was to ascertain whether any archaeological deposits were present within the area of development. All work was in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) Code of Conduct and adhering to their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.

The archaeological exploration involved the machine excavation of two trial trenches aligned across the development area.

A JCB 3C excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket was employed to excavate two trial trenches each measuring 11m by 1.4m (Trenches 1 & 2; Figure 2), targeting the locations of the proposed housing and attendant garage. In addition, a 0.30m wide trench was machined along the proposed line of a rerouted electrical service cable. Full archaeological supervision was undertaken throughout this work in order to monitor for evidence of archaeological deposits or remains. Trenches were examined by hand cleaning and the archaeological deposits and geological strata revealed recorded in detail.

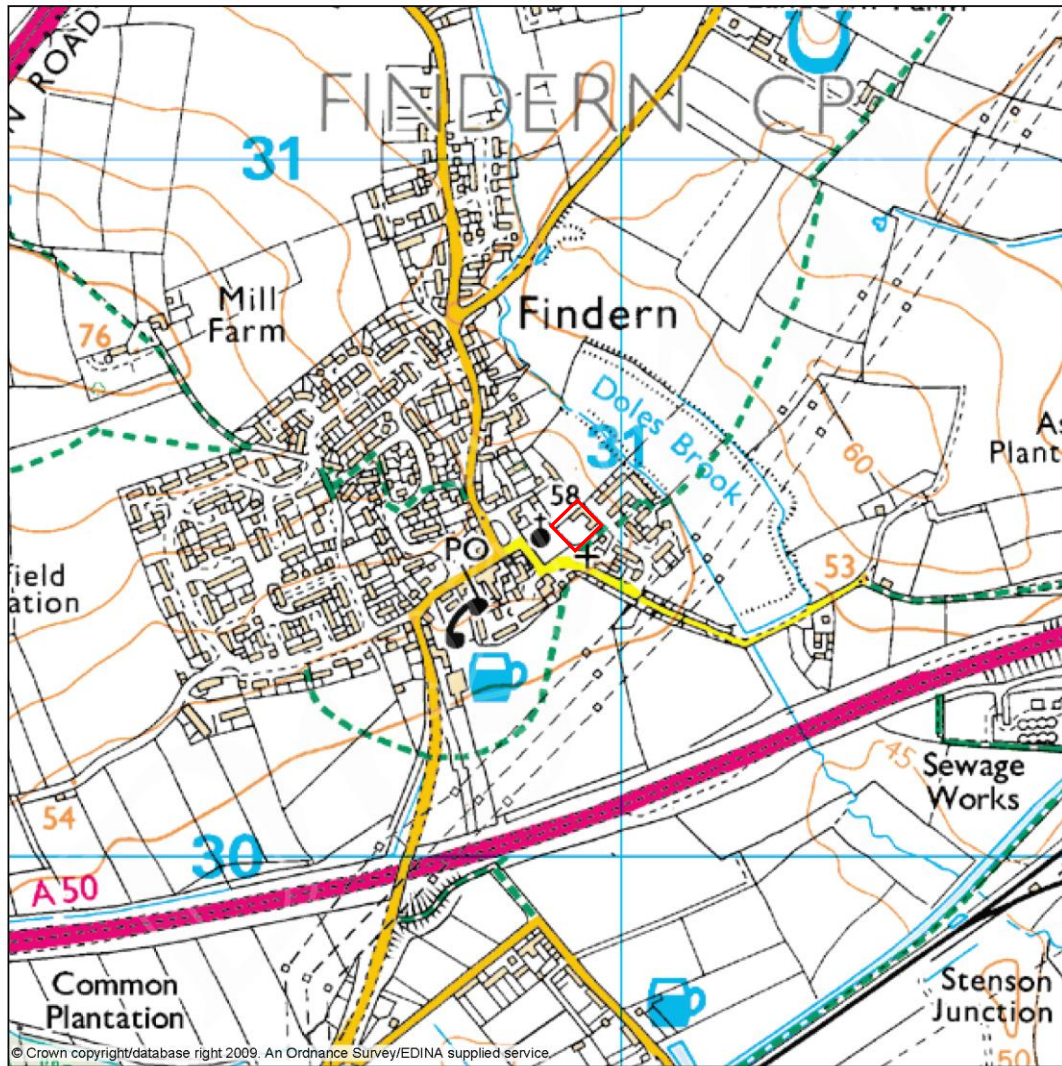


Figure 1: Site Location (Scale 1:50 000)

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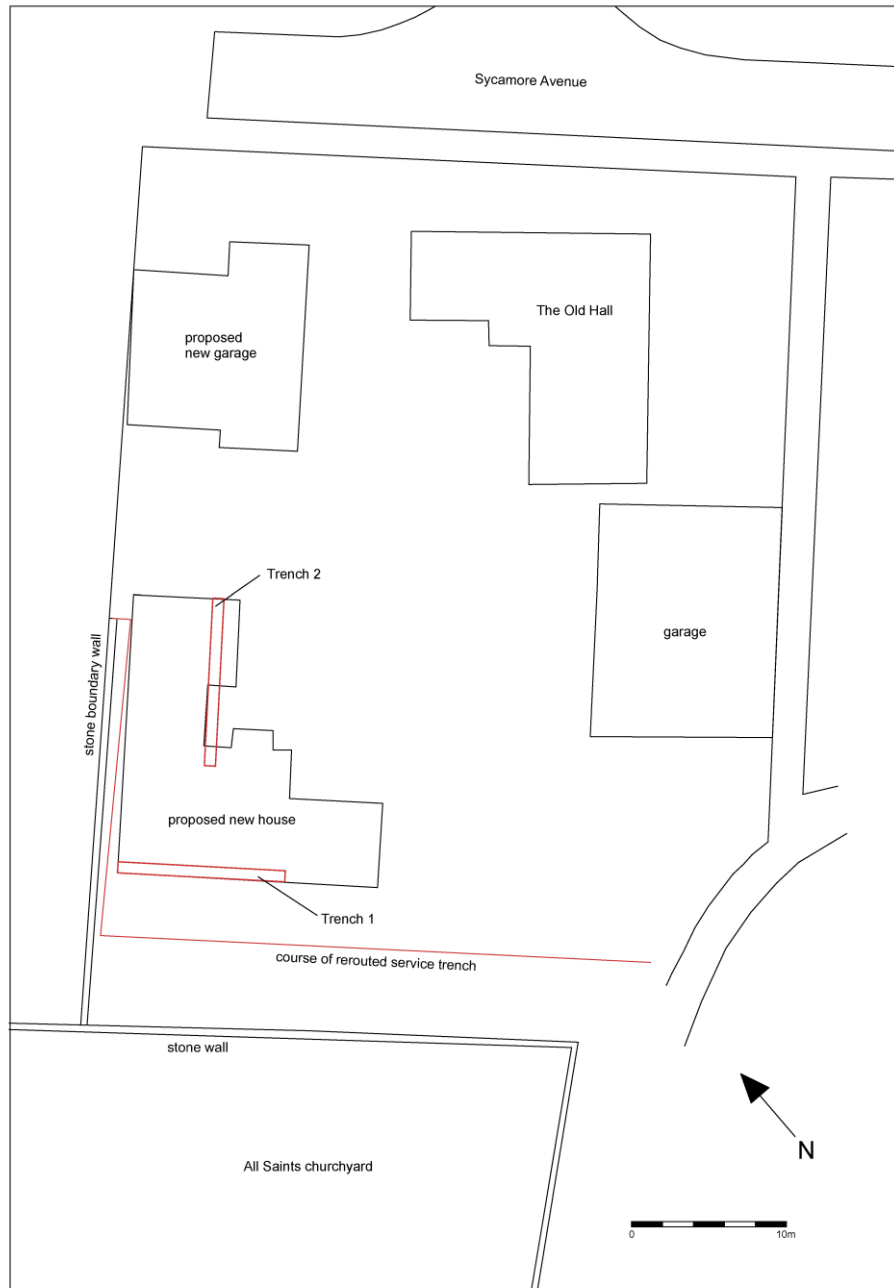


Figure 2: Location of development area with evaluation trenches. Scale: 1:1250

## Results

Exploratory work involved the machine excavation of two 11m trenches (1 & 2) within the foundation footprint of a proposed new-build residential property and attendant garaging on land situated between Sycamore Avenue and All Saints Church, Lower Green, on the eastern edge of Findern village. In addition, monitoring was undertaken of the cutting of a 0.30m wide trench for a rerouted electrical service cable, running along the south-western and south-eastern edges of the site.

Machining of **Trench 1** (Figure 3), the southernmost trench, involved the removal of 0.25-0.40m of turf and fine humic loam topsoil, which contained *c.*3% coarse gravel and occasional modern ceramic building material fragments. Beneath this, a further 0.35m-0.90m of mixed dark grey loam and mid brown silty clay subsoil included *c.*20-40% rounded gravel and further very sparse modern ceramic building material fragments. Coarse natural pale brown sand with varying 40-70% gravel content was revealed at the base of the trench, with greater gravel content visible towards the north-west end of the trench. A 19th/20th century ceramic land drain crossed the trench *c.*4.5m from its north-west end. No archaeological features were observed.



Figure 3: General view northwest of Trench 1

**Trench 2**, situated to the north of and aligned at right angles to the first, also measured 11m in length (Figure 4). Between 0.5m and 0.65m of loamy topsoil overlay 0.20m of silty clay subsoil and, beneath, mixed natural sands and gravels comparable to those observed in Trench 1. A live electrical cable crossed the trench at its midpoint, which prevented the investigation of a 3m section of the trench. Two features of 19th or 20th century date were, however, identified at the eastern end of the trench. The first consisted of a linear feature [1] measuring 0.8m wide, 0.25m



deep and with a near-vertical sides and a flat base, and which crossed the trench at right angles (Figure 5). Its single sandy clay fill [2] contained modern ceramic building material fragments which, combined with the location and apparent north-west to south-east alignment of the feature, suggests that it may represent a wall foundation trench associated with 19th-century farm buildings known to once occupied the site, as identified on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 6).



Figure 4: General view south-west of Trench 2

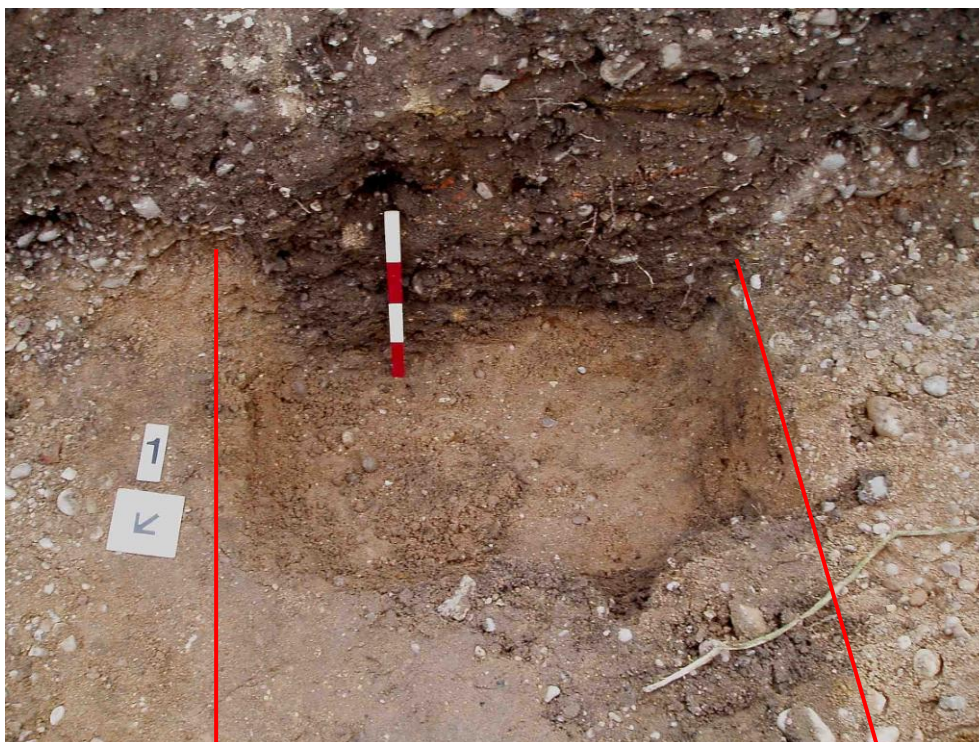


Figure 5: Possible wall foundation trench [1], Trench 2, viewed southeast



Figure 6: First edition Ordnance Survey map showing probable wall trench [1] alignment

In addition, a single pit feature [4], (Figure 7), flanked [1] on its eastern side. The partially-exposed probably rectangular feature measured 1.4m x 0.70m and at least 0.48m deep; it was not fully excavated. The single dark grey sandy clay silt fill contained flint pebbles, modern ceramic building material and quantities of cattle bone, and hence could represent a cow burial.

Monitoring of the machine excavation of the cable trench, which measured 0.30m wide and 1m deep, revealed a topsoil and subsoil sequence comparable to that exposed in Trenches 1 and 2. No archaeological features were identified.



Figure 7: Pit [4], Trench 2, viewed northwest



Figure 8: Machining of cable trench in progress; view north

## Conclusions

The archaeological exploratory work at The Hall, Lower Green, Findern, did not identify any archaeological features, with the exception of a possible wall foundation trench likely relating to 19th farm buildings, and a probable cattle burial of similar date. However, the recovery of medieval pottery from subsoil overlying a possible quarry feature and ditch or gully in Trench 3, coupled with the similarity of their fills to the overlying material suggests that these features may be of medieval date. In Trench 1, a further linear feature located at the foot of a seemingly natural slope may represent a drainage ditch or gully for water run-off. The recovery of a small amount of post-medieval and modern pottery and tile from overlying topsoil in this trench may indicate indirect dating for this feature.

The site archive (DBYMU 2009-190), consisting of paper and photographic records and a site drawing, will be housed with the Derby City Museums.

The archive consists of:

- Two trench record sheets
- Four single context record sheets
- A single A3 drawing sheet
- 12 digital photographs
- 18 monochrome (film) photographs
- A risk assessment form

## Publication

A version of the excavation summary (see above) will appear in due course in the *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal*.

## Acknowledgements

Dr. Roger Kipling and Leon Hunt of ULAS undertook the archaeological evaluation on behalf of Bassett Homes Ltd. The project was managed by Dr. Richard Buckley.

## Bibliography

ULAS 2009 *Design Specification for Archaeological Exploratory Works at The Hall, Lower Green, Findern, Derby (SK 30943 30475). 08/549*

## Oasis Information

Project Name	Archaeological Exploratory Works at The Hall, Lower Green, Findern, Derby, NGR SK 30943 30475
Project Type	Evaluation by trial trenching ( Strip, plan and record)

Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Roger Kipling
Previous/Future work	Unknown
Current Land Use	Orchard
Development Type	Housing
Reason for Investigation	PPG16
Position in the Planning Process	Assessment; planning already granted.
Site Co ordinates	NGR SK 30943 30475
Start/end dates of field work	7 <sup>th</sup> October 2009
Archive Recipient	Derby City Museums
Study Area	0.2ha

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## Appendix: Design Specification

### UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

#### Design Specification for Archaeological Exploratory Works

*The Hall, Lower Green, Findern, Derby*

*SK 30943 30475*

*P.A 9/2007/0055/O*

**Client: Bassett Homes Ltd**

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 *Definition and scope of the specification*

In accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning), para.30, this specification constitutes a 'written scheme of archaeological investigation' which ULAS intends to implement on behalf of the Client to evaluate the potential buried archaeological remains within the easement of the proposed road scheme.

1.2 This document provides a scheme of works for archaeological evaluation by trial trenching. It address the requirements for a written scheme of investigation detailed in the '*Brief for a Conditioned Programme of Archaeological Work*' issued by Derbyshire County Council Development Control Archaeologist as advisor to South Derbyshire District Council. (22.10.2007 hereinafter the 'Brief').

## 2. Archaeological Aims and Objectives

### 2.1 *Aims*

The principal aim of the evaluation is to obtain adequate information on the presence, nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits within the specified areas.



Figure 1 Location of the development (From 'Brief' Fig 1)

## 2.2 **Objectives**

- 2.2.1 To identify the presence, extent and significance of any archaeological deposits present that may be affected by the construction of dwellings

## 3. **Background (From Brief 2)**

- 3.1 No archaeological desk-based assessment has been submitted with this application.
- 3.2 As far as the DCA is aware there has not been any previous archaeological investigation on this particular site.
- 3.3 Findern is mentioned in the Domesday survey as an outlier of the manor of Mickleover. This indicates that in 1086 Findern was an identifiable settlement. Unfortunately details on Findern's size and value are not given separately in the survey but are combined with those of two further outliers of Mickleover manor. Consequently very little of detail can be said regarding the size and value of the settlement that existed in 1086.
- 3.4 The development site is immediately north-east of All Saints church and churchyard (SMR 19909), a grade II listed building. The present church building dates to 1862 but it does incorporate elements of the earlier chapel which stood on the same site. It is believed the chapel, which was given by William the Conqueror to Burton Abbey, was Saxon in origin. A description of the chapel was published by Jewitt in 1863. The present church certainly incorporates elements of Norman and seventeenth century stonework. The boundary wall to the churchyard is also listed grade II.
- 3.5 The medieval chapel may have developed in close proximity to the settlement.
- 3.6 The Parliamentary Enclosure map of 1781 is the earliest mapping available. At that date the boundaries of the present churchyard had been established. Intriguingly, the east end of the chapel's footprint appears to be slightly closer to the boundary with the Old Hall than that of the present church.
- 3.7 By the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey (fig. 3) the present church had been built. The layout of the Old Hall and outbuildings appears much the same as it is today, and subsequent maps confirm there is little change.

## 4. **Methodology**

### 4.1 **General Methodology and Standards**

- 4.1.1 All work will follow the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field evaluations*.
- 4.1.2 Staffing, Recording systems, Health and Safety provisions and Insurance details are provided.

### 4.2 **Trial trenching**

- 4.2.1 Trial trenching, comprising the excavation of two 10m by 1.6 m trenches, will be undertaken. Their locations may be varied according to any constraints on the availability of the area for trenching. The trenches will be excavated to a maximum safe depth of 1.2 metres.
- 4.2.2 The topsoil will be removed using a toothless ditching bucket under full supervision, until archaeological deposits or undisturbed substrata are encountered. Topsoil and subsoil will be stored in separate locations.
- 4.2.3 The location of the trenches will be surveyed using a Total Station Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) linked to a Psion hand held computer.

- 4.2.4 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 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).
- 4.2.5 Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and palaeochannels in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

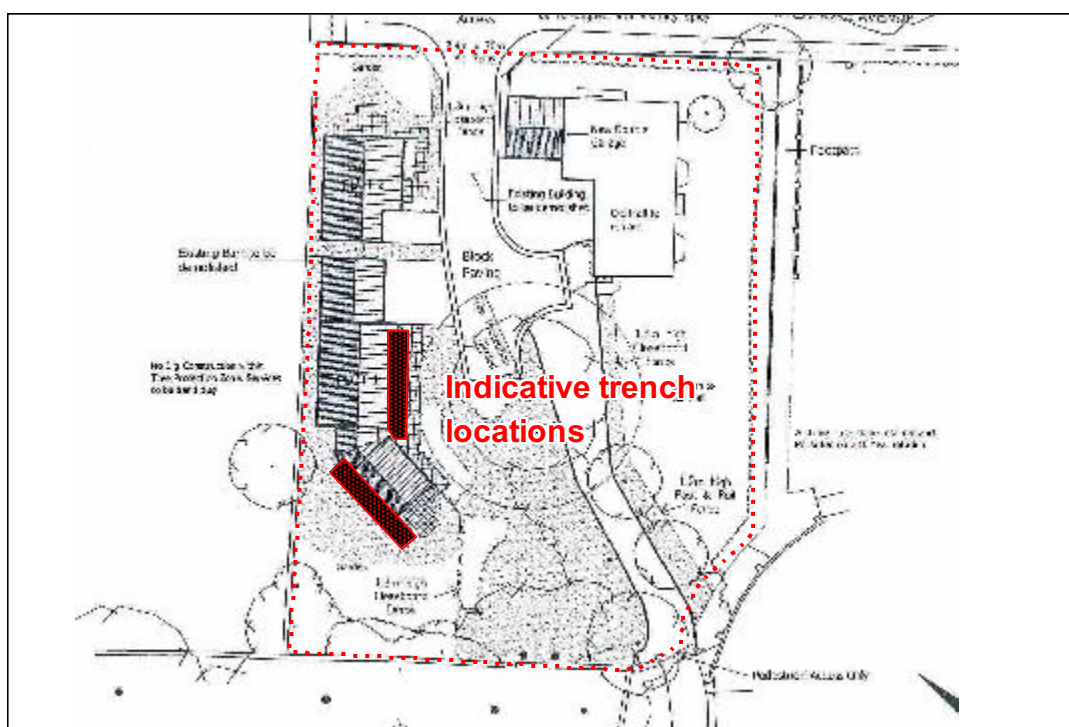


Fig. 2: Plan indicating possible trench locations (from 'breif Fig 4)

- 4.2.6 All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.
- 4.2.7 Any human remains encountered will only be removed following appropriate liaison with the Ministry of Justice and in compliance with their requirements and in accordance with appropriate professional standards and guidance, as well as other relevant environmental health regulations..

## 5. Recording Systems

- 5.1 The ULAS recording manual will be used as a guide for all recording.
- 5.2 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto pro-forma recording sheets.
- 5.3 Spot levels will be taken where appropriate and related to the Ordnance Survey datum.
- 5.3 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 detail plans at an appropriate scale which will show the location of the areas investigated in relation to the site and OS grid.



- 5.4 A record of the full extent in plan of all significant archaeological deposits encountered will be made, related to the OS grid at an appropriate scale (typically 1:20). Sections will be drawn through all significant cut features, levelled to OS datum and recorded on appropriate plans. Trench or excavation sides shall be drawn in section where significant deposits are present.
- 5.5 An adequate 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.
- 5.6 This record will be compiled and checked during the course of the excavations.

## **6. Environmental Sampling**

- 6.1 Although the environmental potential of the site is uncertain, if significant archaeological features are sample excavated, the following environmental sampling strategy will be adopted, following consultation with the ULAS Environmental Officer, Angela Monkton MIFA.
- 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.
- 6.2 Wet sieving with flotation will be carried out using a York Archaeological Trust sieving tank with a 0.5mm mesh and a 0.3mm flotation sieve. The small size mesh will be used initially as flotation of plant remains may be incomplete and some may remain in the residue.
- 6.3 The residue > 0.5mm from the tank will be separated into coarse fractions of over 4mm and fine fractions of > 0.5-4mm. The coarse fractions will be sorted for finds. The fine fractions and flots will be evaluated and prioritised; only those with remains apparent will be sorted. The prioritised flots will not be sorted until the analysis stage when phasing information is available.
- 6.4 Flots will be scanned and plant remains from selected contexts will be identified and further sampling, sieving and sorting targeted towards higher potential deposits.

## **7. Finds and Samples**

- 7.1 The IFA *Guidelines for Finds Work* will be adhered to.
- 7.2 All antiquities, valuables, objects or remains of archaeological interest, other than articles declared by Coroner's Inquest to be subject to the Treasure Act, discovered in or under the Site by ULAS or during works carried out on the Site by the Client shall be deemed to be the property of the landowner. All artefacts and ecofacts unearthed from the investigation and all other elements of the site archive (as defined in the English Heritage's *The Management of Archaeological Projects* [1991]) should be deposited by the contractor in an appropriate public museum registered or provisionally registered by the Museums and Galleries Commission and acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.
- 7.3 Before commencing work on the site, a site code will be agreed with Derby City Museums.
- 7.4 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.

7.5 All identified finds and artefacts are to be retained, and will be collected by context or where appropriate individually recorded in three dimensions. Certain classes of building material, however, may be discarded after recording with the approval of the Planning Archaeologist.

7.6 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). Metal objects will be X-rayed. All materials will be fully labelled, catalogued and stored in appropriate containers.

## **8. Health and Safety**

8.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the 'University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy' and the ULAS Health and Safety Policy (2007). Generic risk assessments and relevant legislation guidelines are contained within the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (2005). This augments and updates the Standing Committee of Archaeological Unit Managers (SCAUM) Health and Safety Manual (2006). A risks assessment will be completed before the work commences.

## **9. Insurance**

9.1 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.

## **10. Monitoring arrangements**

10.1 Access to monitor the project will be made available to the Client and his representatives CPM, who will arrange appropriate site meetings with the Derbyshire County Archaeologist. All monitoring visits will be subject to the health and safety requirements of the site.

10.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the IFA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field evaluations*.

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

## **11. Report and Archive**

11.1 A draft report in A4 format will be prepared upon completion of the fieldwork and submitted to CPM for approval. An appropriate number of copies of the final, approved version will then be submitted to CPM and the Client. After an appropriate period of time, to be agreed by the Client and their representatives CPM, a copy of the archive will be deposited with Derby Museum and Art gallery. Two copies of the report will be provided for the Derby and Derbyshire Sites and Monuments Record and the NMR.

The report will include consideration of:-

- Objectives of the project, the circumstances and date of its undertaking
- The name of the persons carrying out the work
- A summary of the excavation and controlled strip strategy and the results of the work with appropriate illustrations
- a site location plan at an appropriate scale
- a gazetteer and location plan of previously known and newly discovered sites within or adjacent to the area, including the location of the former relevant evaluation trenches
- detailed descriptions and appropriately scaled plans of the excavation and controlled strip areas which provide significant archaeological information
- finds quantification and assessment
- environmental archaeology assessment

- list of constraints which affected the excavation
- mapping and summary of archaeological deposits found
- all mapping and plans will be related to the national grid
- all levels will be related to Ordnance datum
- 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).
- 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 usually be presented within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

## **12 Publication and Dissemination of Results**

- 12.1 Publicity and public relations, including press releases and communication with the media during and subsequent to fieldwork will be undertaken by the employer.

## **13. Copyright**

- 13.1 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.

## **14. Acknowledgement and publicity**

- 14.1 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.
- 14.2 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.

## **15 Timetable**

- 15.1 The fieldwork schedule is to be arranged..

## **Bibliography**

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

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