

**An Archaeological Topographic Survey
And Watching Brief
On Land Adjacent to West End,
North Kilworth, Leicestershire
(SP 615 836)**

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Checked by Project Manager

SignedDate.....

Name.....

For: Mr and Mrs N. Burke.

University of Leicester Archaeological Services

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An Archaeological Topographic Survey and Watching Brief on Land Adjacent to West End, North Kilworth, Leicestershire (SP 615 836).

*Matthew Hurford
and Greg Farnworth-Jones*

Summary

An archaeological topographic survey and watching brief by control and supervision was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on land adjacent to West End, North Kilworth, Leicestershire (SP 615 836) during the ground works for the construction of a menage.

The topographic survey confirmed the presence of ridge and furrow earthworks which would once have been within the open field system of North Kilworth.

In total three archaeological trenches were excavated down to the natural mudstone examining an area c.240 sq metres. No earth-fast archaeological features were identified during the watching brief.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under the Accession Number XA4 2007.

1. Introduction and Site Background

1.1 University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by Mr and Mrs N. Burke to undertake an archaeological topographic survey and watching brief on land adjacent to West End, North Kilworth, Leicestershire (SP 615 836) during the ground works for the construction of a ménage.

1.2 The site comprises c.0.08 hectares of paddock which is within the southern part of a large field, bound by the Lutterworth Road to the north, the B5414 to the east, and field boundaries to the south and west and lies at a height of c. 143.9 OD.

1.3 Geologically the development area lies on Charmouth Mudstone Formation with Blue Lias Formation to the south. (Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain sheet 170).

1.4 The site has been identified as an area of archaeological potential as it lies adjacent to the historic settlement core of North Kilworth (**MLE 9146**). Immediately south and south east of the proposed development are the remains an ice house and cattle trough MLE 1008. The proposed ménage will be sited over earthwork remains of ridge and furrow indicating that the development site once lay within the open field system of North Kilworth. It is possible that archaeological remains pre-dating the nucleation of the medieval village of North Kilworth may survive beneath the ridge and furrow. As a result Leicestershire County Council as archaeological advisors to the planning authority requested a strategy of a topographic survey and a watching brief by control and supervision.

2. Aims

2.1 To record the earthwork remains of the area of ridge and furrow to be levelled by the ménage.

Through archaeological observation of existing overburden stripping and ground works by the client's contractors:

- To identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or 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 any results.

3. Methodology

3.1 All work followed the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LMARS 1997), the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*. A specification for these works was produced by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (Clay 2005), which outlines the definition and scope of the following archaeological work (Appendix 1).

3.2 The surviving earthworks were surveyed with an EDM prior to the commencement of the ground works.

3.3 During the topsoil strip watching brief, three trenches measuring *c.* 80sq metres, providing a 30% sample of the ground works, were machine excavated to a depth of *c.* 0.40m.

3.4 The trenches were all excavated under full archaeological supervision.

3.5 All layers and potential archaeological deposits were investigated and recorded.

4. Results

4.1 The topographic survey confirmed that north northeast to south southwest aligned ridge and furrow earthworks were present and that they extend to the north and east of the proposed development area. No ridge and furrow is present to the west, possibly due to later landscaping. The earthworks terminate to the south where there is a level strip which is several metres wide, possibly a trackway of indeterminable date running across the field. Ploughing beyond this would have been difficult as the land falls steeply towards the stables.

4.2 During the watching brief for the topsoil stripping, three trenches measuring c.80sq metres, providing a 30% sample of the ground works, were machine excavated to a depth of c. 0.3m.

4.3 The trenches revealed that the site contained a layer of soft mid reddish brown silty clay topsoil, (001), that varied in depth between 0.15m and 0.31m beneath which was a subsoil, (002), that consisted of soft reddish brown slightly silty clay with 5% stones that were rounded to sub-rounded and up to 50mm in size. Occasional charcoal flecks were also present.

4.4 No archaeological deposits were encountered during the topsoil strip watching brief.

5. Conclusions

5.1 The watching brief on land at West End, North Kilworth, Leicestershire (SP 615 836), failed to produce any archaeology from the prehistoric, Roman or Saxon periods.

5.2 The archaeological topographic survey confirmed that that north northeast to south southwest aligned ridge and furrow earthworks were present and that they extend to the north and east of the proposed development area. Therefore the survey confirmed that the land was used for agriculture during the medieval period and did indeed once lie within the open field system of North Kilworth.

5.3 Despite being in an area of archaeological interest the watching brief produced no evidence of archaeology in addition to the ridge and furrow earthworks encountered during the topographic survey. It seems likely therefore that the site has primarily functioned as arable and grazing land since the medieval period, without subsequent ploughing or settlement activity, which has allowed the ridge and furrow to remain intact.

6. Archive

6.1 The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council, accession number X.A4.2007. It consists of a watching brief recording form and digital photographs.

7. Acknowledgements

7.1 The topographic survey was conducted by Matthew Hurford with the assistance of Hugh Shannon and the watching brief for the topsoil strip was conducted by Greg Farnworth-Jones. The project was managed by Dr Patrick Clay (ULAS).

Illustrations

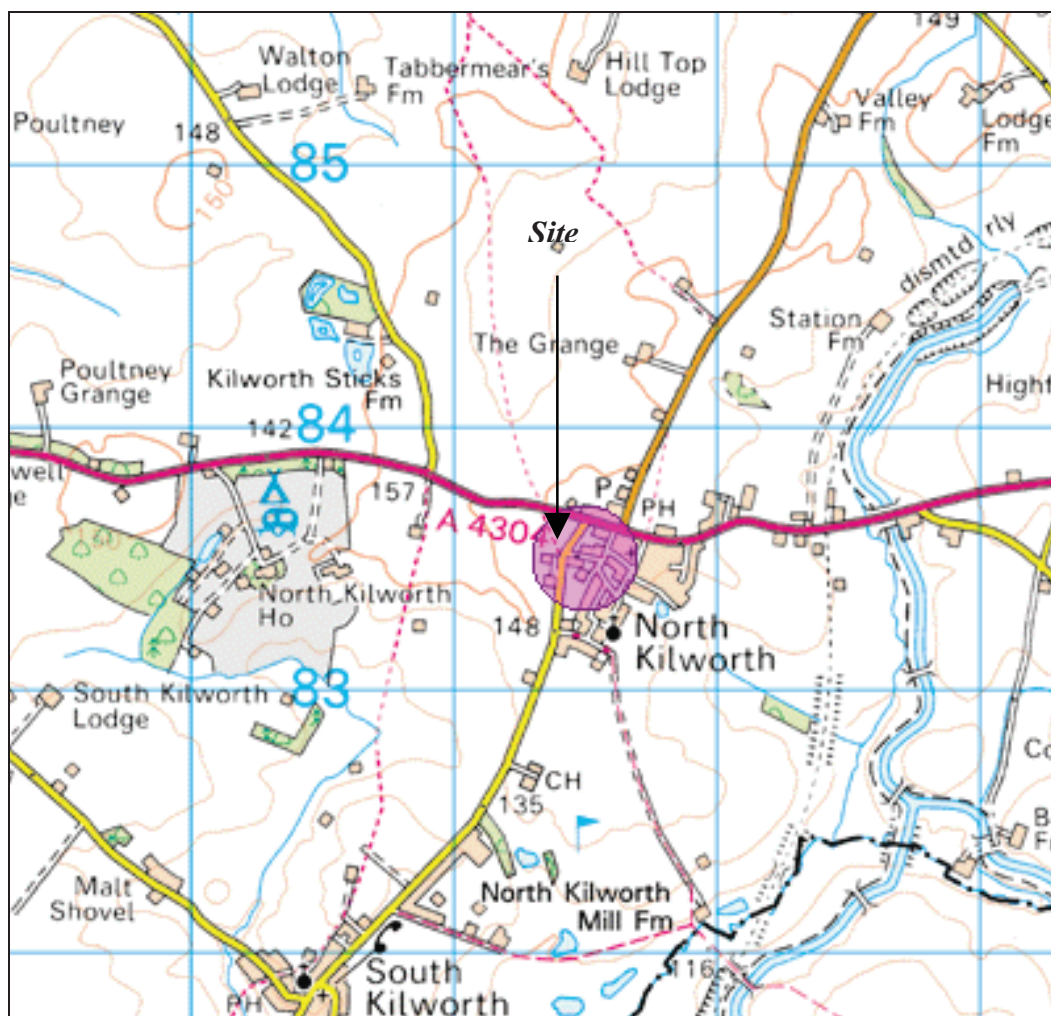


Figure 1. Site location 1:50000

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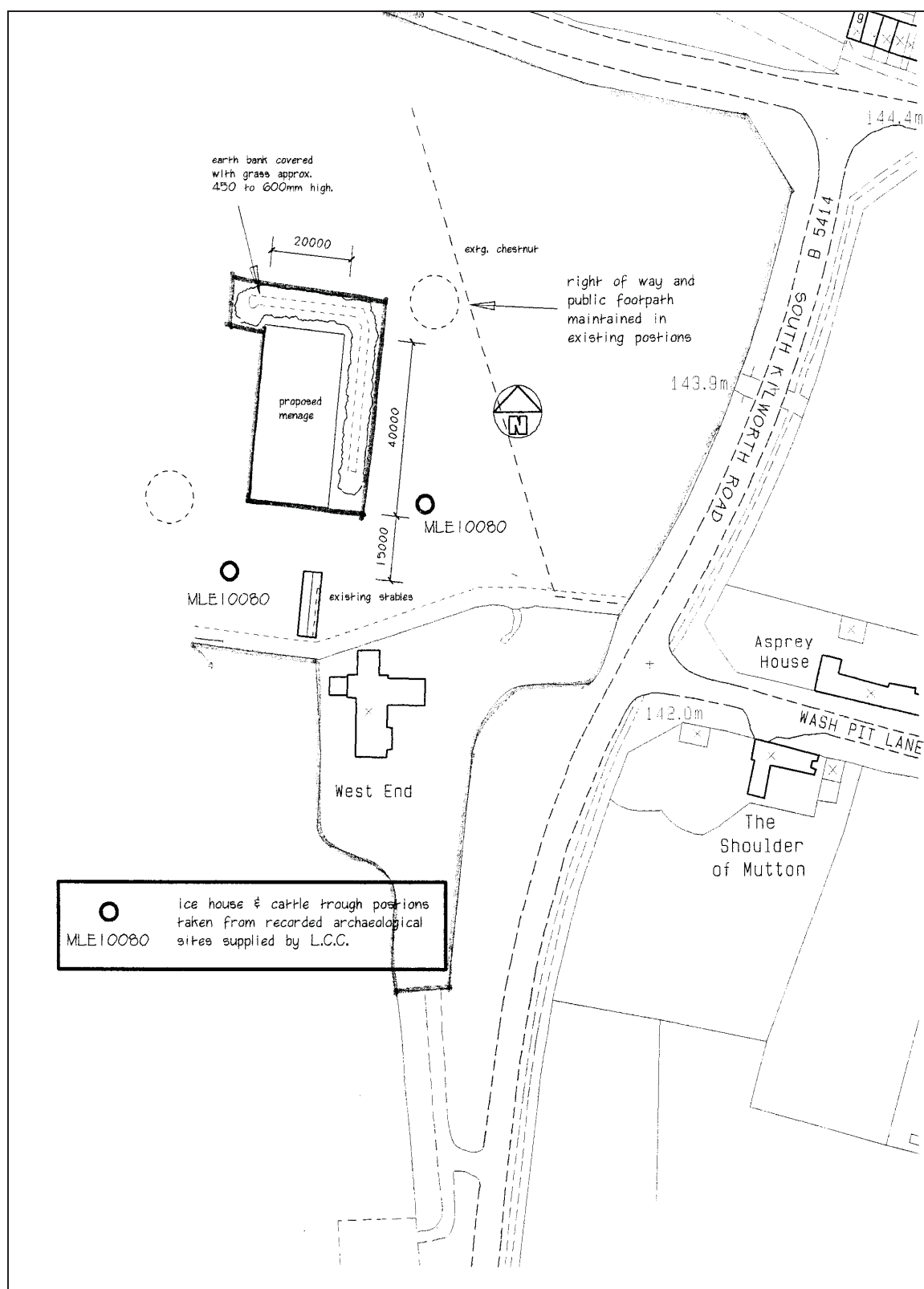


Figure 2. Location plan of proposed menage 1:2500.

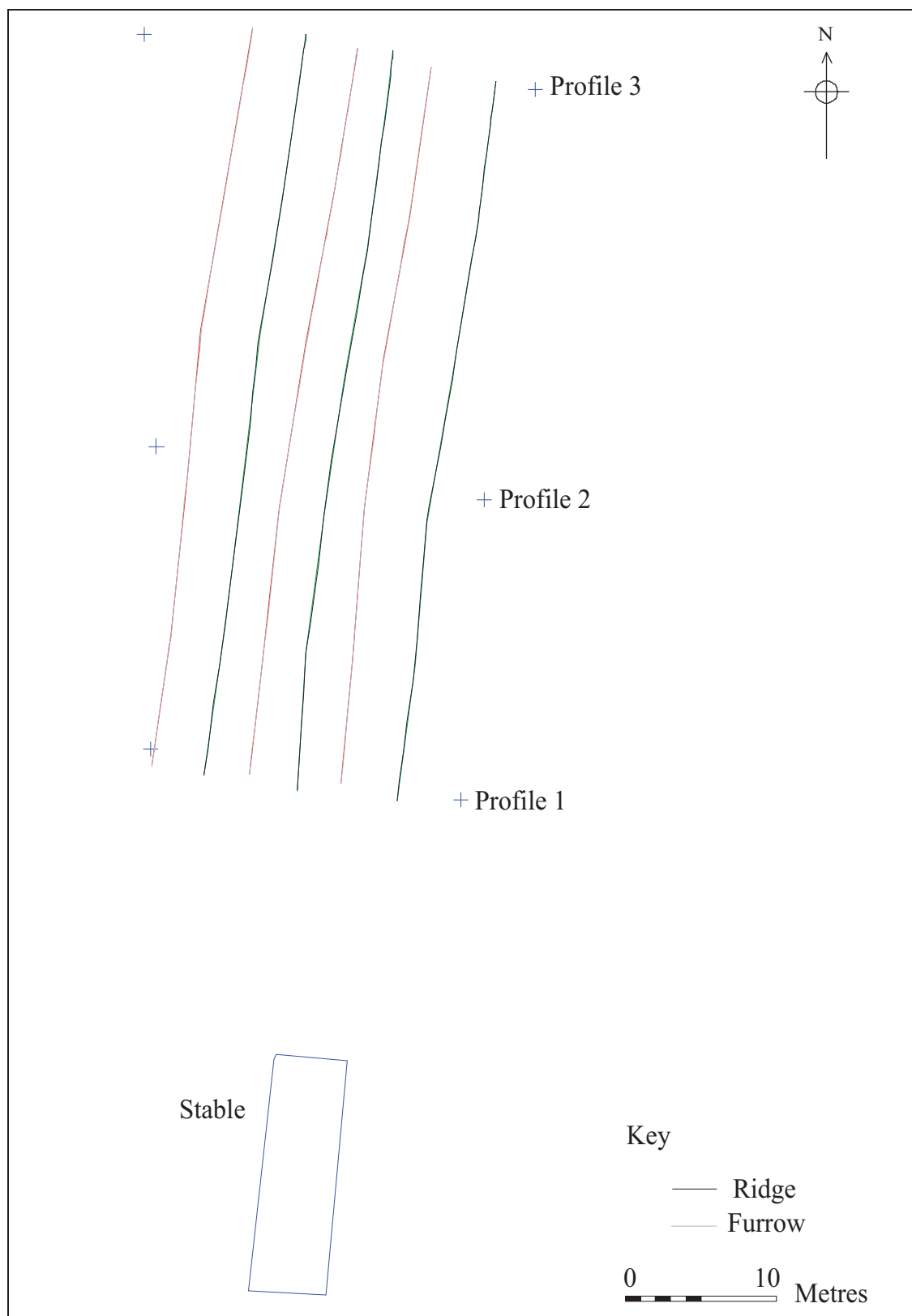


Figure 3. Earthwork survey.

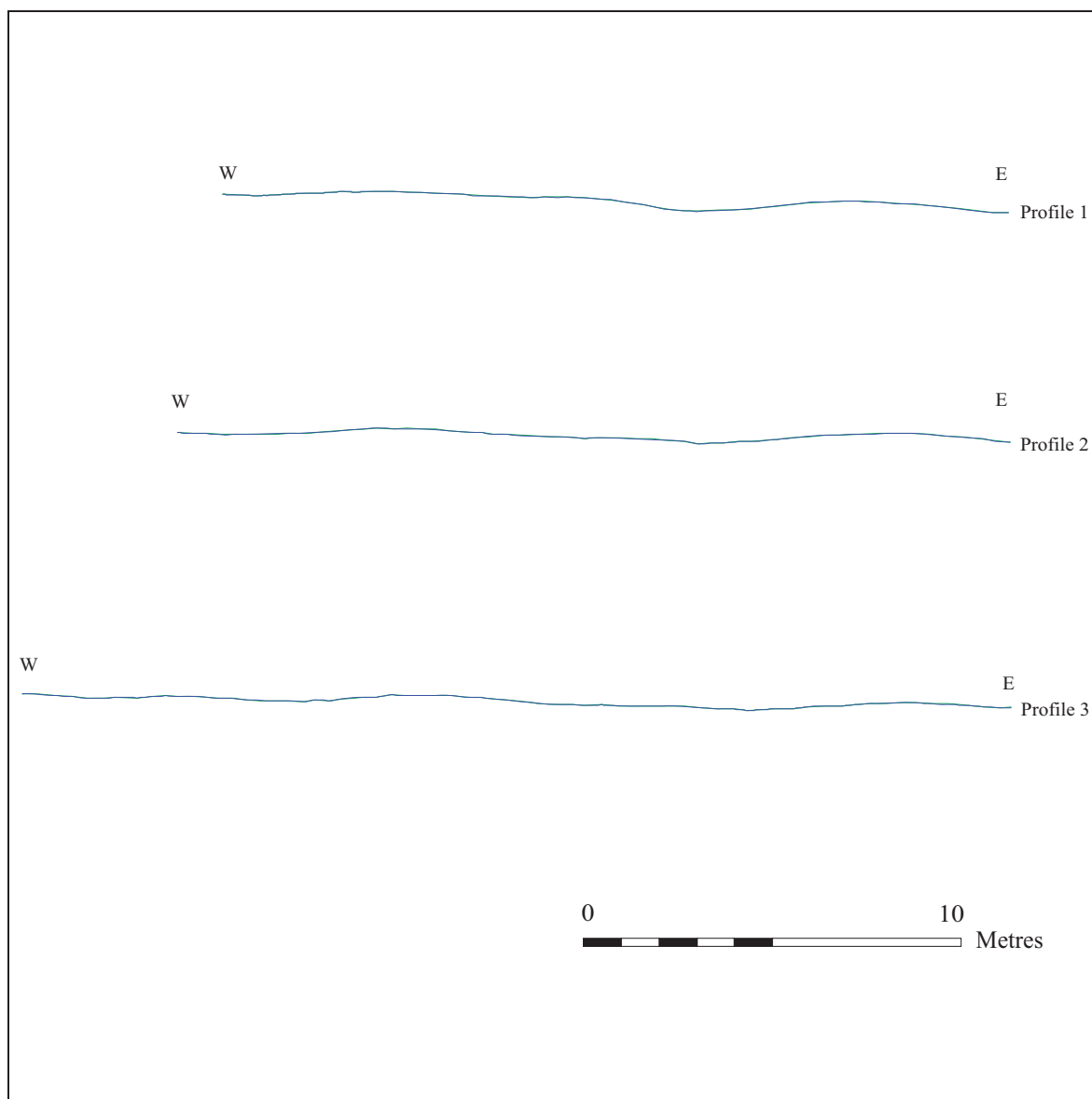


Figure 4. Profiles across the ridge and furrow



Plate I. Ridge and furrow looking northwest from the southeast corner of the proposed development.



Plate II. Ridge and furrow looking northeast from the southwest corner of the proposed development.



Plate III Topsoil machine stripping looking north east.



Plate IV Topsoil machine stripping looking North

Appendix. Design Specification.

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

West End, North Kilworth, Leicestershire (SP 615 836)

Planning Application: 06/00509/3

For: Mr and Mrs N Burke

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 archaeological topographical survey and attendance, including control and supervision of ground works, as required by the Planning Authority, of any ground works on the site which may disturb areas of archaeological potential in connection with a planning application for the construction of a menage at West End, North Kilworth, Leicestershire (SP 655 981) for Mr and Mrs N Burke.

1.2 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 Background

2.1 Requirement for archaeological work

2.1.1 The archaeological work involves the topographical survey and archaeological attendance during the groundworks to identify any deposits of archaeological importance as detailed in the *Brief for topographical survey and archaeological attendance for inspection and recording (an intensive watchline brief at land adjacent to West End, North Kilworth, Harborough, Leicestershire* (LCC 04.12.2006 hereinafter 'The Brief').

2.2 Archaeological potential

2.2.1 The 'brief' indicates that the site is in an area of surviving ridge and furrow adjacent to the historic settlement core of North Kilworth.

3 Aims

3.1 To record the earthwork remains of the area of ridge and furrow to be levelled for the ménage.

3.2 Through archaeological observation of existing overburden stripping and groundworks by the client's contractors:

1. To identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or 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 EDM or GPS survey of the surviving ridge and furrow earthworks prior to the commencement of groundworks.

4.2 The archaeological attendance of site levelling will be undertaken by an experienced professional archaeologist during the groundworks. During these ground works, if any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest.

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

4.3 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.

4.4 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.

4.5 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.

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

4.6 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, Heritage Services and Harborough District Council.

4.7 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located during the watching brief there may be the need for contingency time and finance to be provided to ensure adequate recording is undertaken. On the discovery of potentially significant remains the archaeologist will inform the developer, the Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services and the planning authority. If the archaeological remains are identified to be of significance additional contingent archaeological works will be required.

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 An accession number will be drawn prior to the commencement of the project (Brief 8.1). Following the fieldwork the on-line OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis> will be completed. 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

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.

8 Timetable and Staffing

8.1 The investigation is scheduled to commence during w.c 08.01.2007.

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 2005) 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)

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08.01.2007

Appendix

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

West End, North Kilworth, Leicestershire (SP 615 836)

Planning Application: 06/00509/3

For: Mr and Mrs N Burke

1 Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for topographical survey and an archaeological watching brief.

1.2 The work will involve 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 Vialls 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.

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

Patrick Clay
08.01.2007

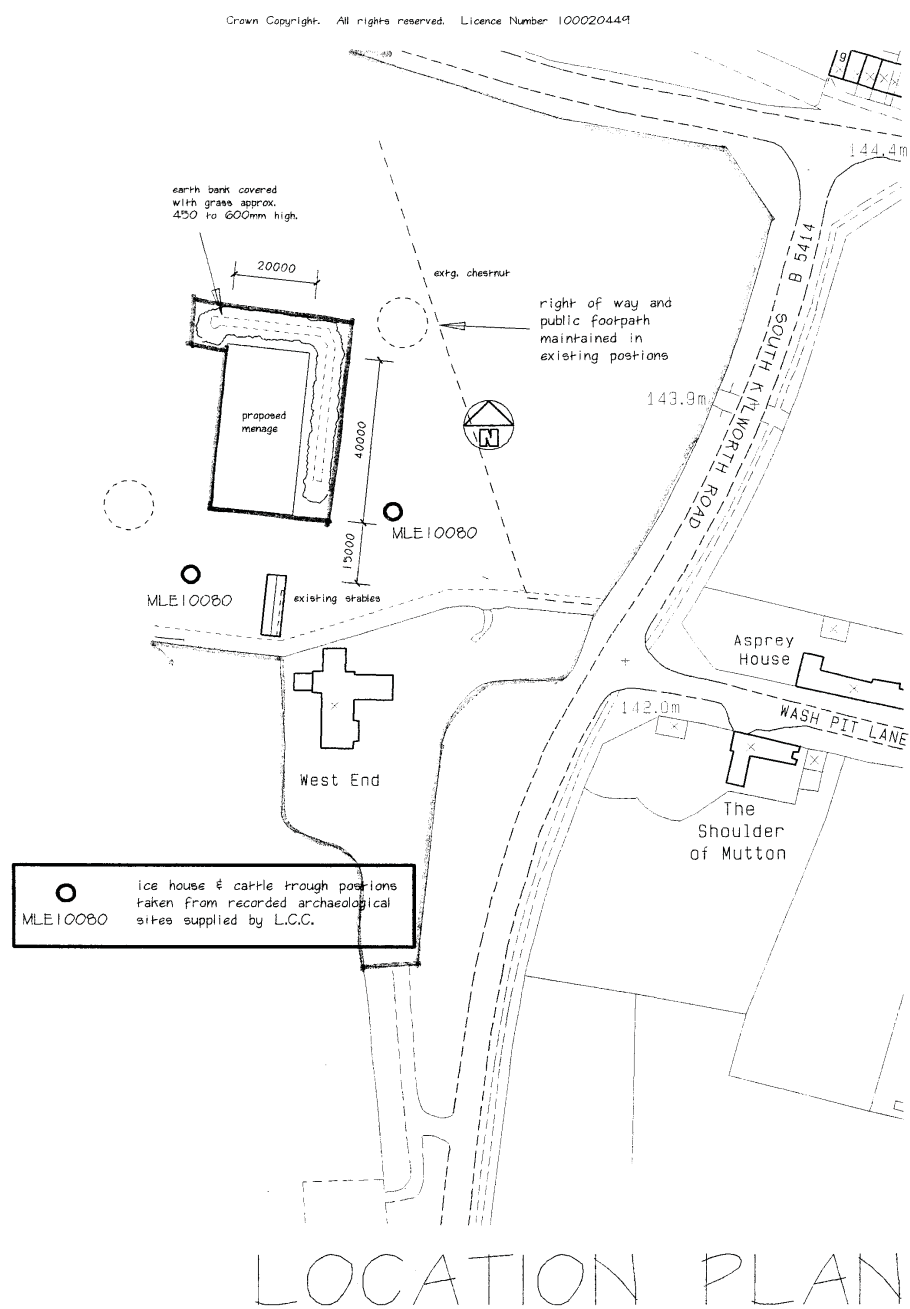


Figure 1 Location of Development Showing Proposed Position of Menage