

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
conducted during groundworks for
the construction of a residential
property at 2, Boyers Orchard,
Harby, Leicestershire.
NGR SK 7479 3117**

Sue Henderson
June 2007

Planning Application Ref: 06/00552/6
Client: Mr E. Sutherland

Checked by Project Manager



Signed: . .Date: 23.04.2008

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Sue Henderson.

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Summary

A watching brief was carried out by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) during groundworks for a proposed residential development in the grounds of Elder House, Boyers Orchard, Harby, Leicestershire. The work involved archaeological attendance for inspection and recording during ground disturbance. Stripping of overburden and foundation trenching revealed a layer of demolition material and the shallow remains of a wall footing running east - west in the easternmost trench. The relationship of these features with a ceramic field drain suggested modern construction and demolition. No other features were observed.

The archive will be deposited with the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record under the accession number X.A82.2007 .

1. Introduction.

Elder House, a 19th century brick residential property, lies on the eastern side of the Leicestershire village of Harby. A planning application has been made for a residential development in the grounds of the house. As the grounds lie within the medieval core of the village and may disturb areas of archaeological potential, Leicestershire County Council as advisors to Melton Borough Council, requested a watching brief to monitor the groundworks. University of Leicester Archaeological services (ULAS), on behalf of the client Mr E. Sutherland, implemented a watching brief to cover the proposed groundworks.

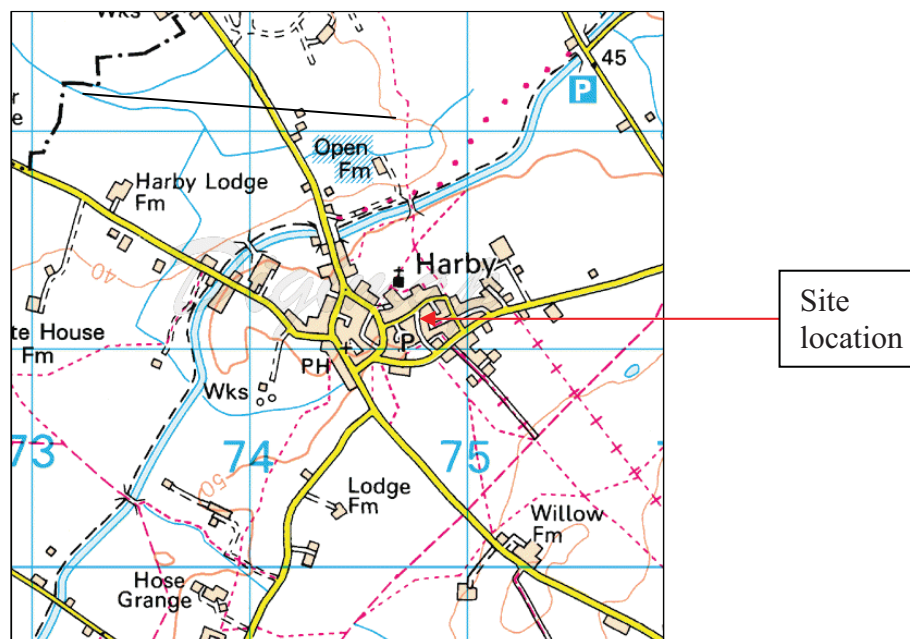


Figure 1. Site location, illustrated using the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale map

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2. Geology and Topography.

Harby lies in the Vale of Belvoir at approximately 55 metres OD. The landscape is gently undulating, with shallow ridges and broad river valleys. There are no superficial deposits and the bedrock is Foston member, a grey mudstone which contains lateral beds of Littlegate limestones.

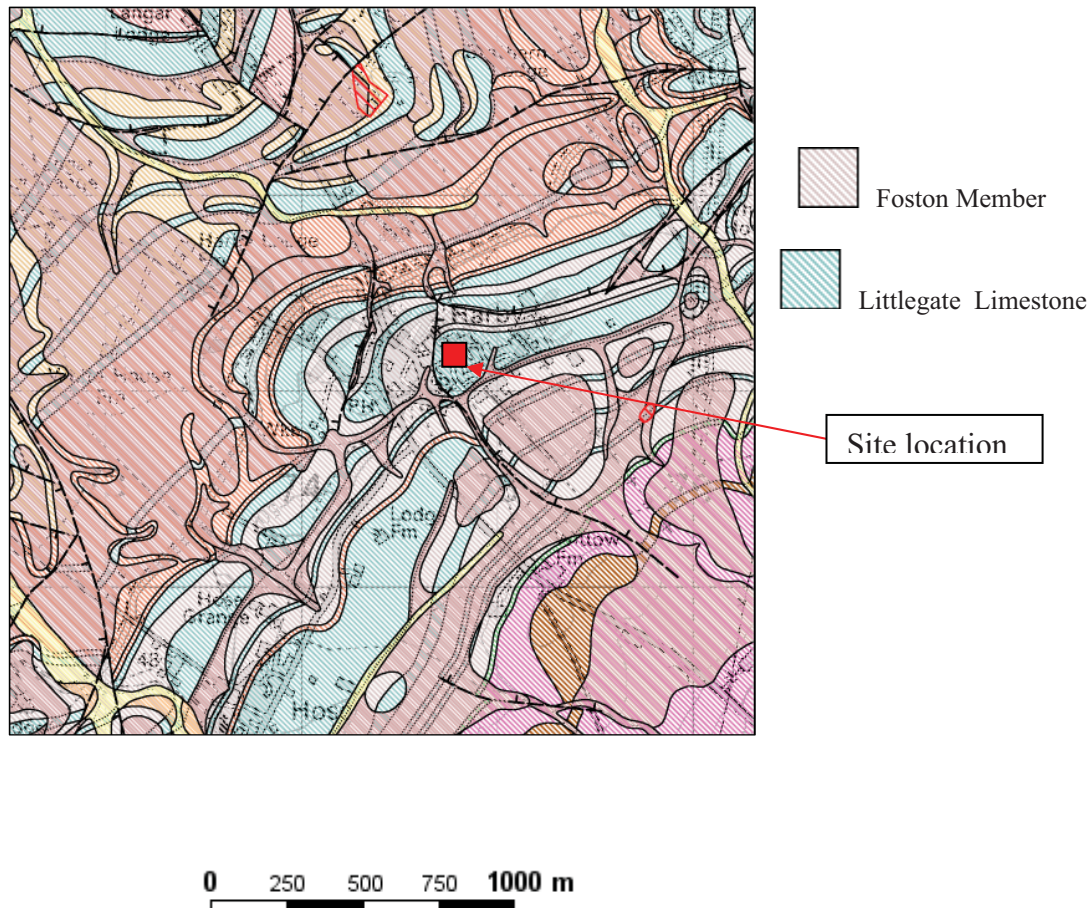


Figure 2. The geology of the site (from British Geological Survey).

3. Background.

The name Harby has old English and Scandanavian roots and can be roughly translated as meaning farmstead of the herdsman (Mills 1998). At the time of Domesday *Herdebi* had 24 Freemen, 7 villagers and 3 smallholders (Morris 1979). The development site lies within the medieval core of Harby and close to the medieval church (HER MLE12679). The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record also identifies evidence of Roman settlement (MLE 10201) to the south-east of the site (Priest 2004). The earliest Ordnance Survey map of Harby in 1884 portrays the development area very much as it is today, bordered by Elder House to the north-west with outbuildings abutting the wall to the south.

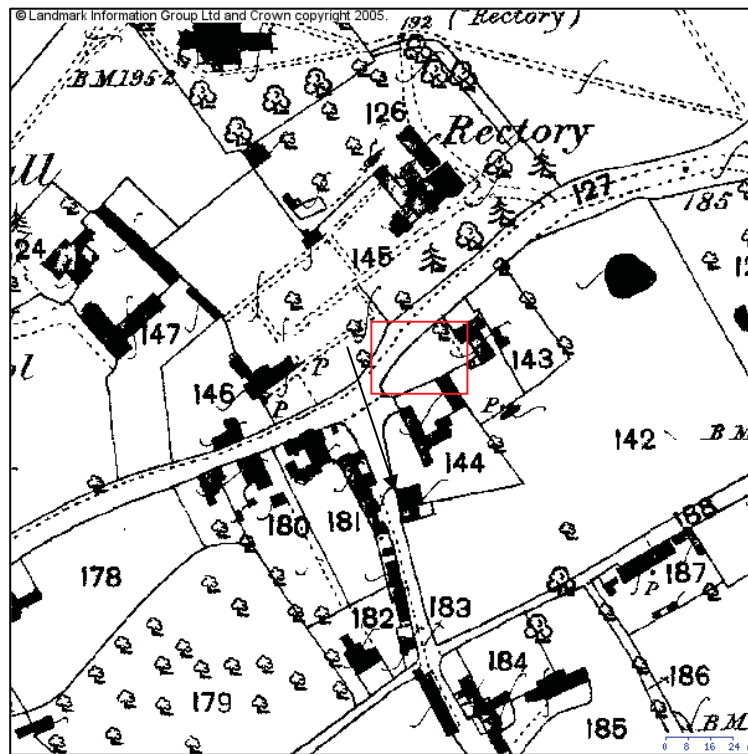


Figure 3 The 1884 Ordnance Survey map drawn at a scale of 1:2500.

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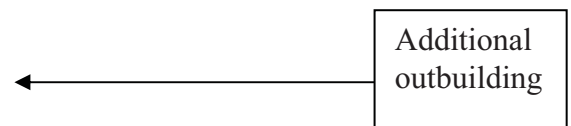


Figure 4 The 1972 Ordnance Survey map Scale of 1:2500.

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The 1972 OS map however shows an additional outbuilding in the south-eastern corner of the site which is no longer present

5. Methodology

The monitoring of groundworks included supervision of the stripping of existing overburden and the excavation of foundation trenches, anticipated to be 0.6 metres wide and 1.0 metre deep. Any archaeological deposits seen to be present were to be excavated and recorded as appropriate. Stripping was completed using a mini 360C excavator with a 1.2 metre toothless ditching bucket and trenching with a using a 0.6 metre toothed ditching bucket. All work adhered 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).

6. Results

Stripping began with the removal of a series of large tree roots, the trees had been felled but the roots not removed. Stripping revealed patches of greenish clay subsoil with patches of sand and building debris, this appeared as a spread rather than as part of a feature. There was a considerable amount of tree root activity in the subsoil, approximately 0.3 metres of topsoil was removed. Trenching was to follow the line of the exterior walls and began in the south-east corner. Topsoil depth was on average 0.35 metres. Below this a layer building debris extended for a further 0.2 metres. The layer included some brick, slate and tarmac and presumably related to the demolition of the building on the 1972 map. A layer of greenish clay subsoil extended to the base of the trench. As a result of the degree of root activity, the building inspectors requested that the foundations be excavated to a depth of 1.8 metres or to the natural geological substratum, whichever occurred first. In trench one, the substratum was reached at 1.5 metres at the eastern end, but had to be deepened to 1.8 metres at the half way point. Trenching continued at that depth for the remainder of the groundworks.

In trench two, there was a concentration of the building debris identified in stripping. There were possible remnants of an ironstone foundation course, although no obvious cut could be identified. This was mirrored in the opposite wall of the trench, suggesting that the foundation possibly ran east-west. If this was a building foundation, it could be expected to find a return or a parallel wall in further trenching. No similar wall was found. It could, therefore, have been an open ended structure or it may have been an earlier boundary wall. The nature of the debris did rather suggest a building as there were substantial amounts of mortar and what appeared to be degraded lime plaster. There were, however, no dateable finds from within the excavated area of the foundations.

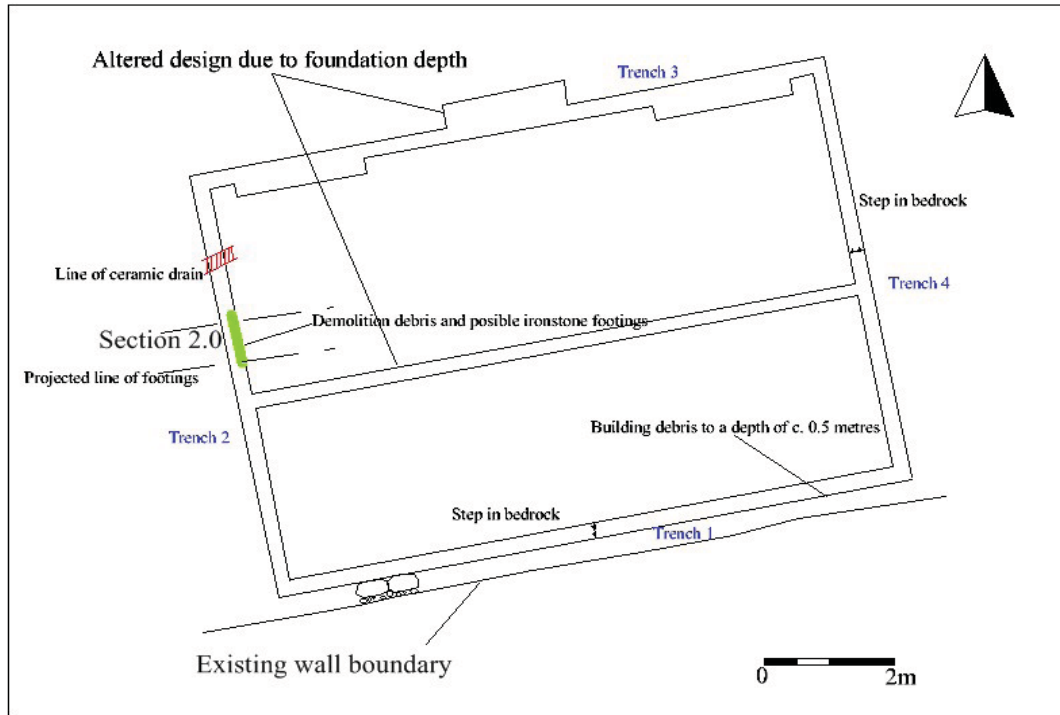


Figure 5. Site plan drawn using 1:50 plans supplied.



Figure 6. Rubble spread and possible ironstone foundation in the centre of trench two

The spread of the demolition debris covered a ceramic field drain possibly of 19th century date, which suggests that demolition post-dated the insertion of this pipe. It seems likely that the wall or outbuilding, possibly belonged to the then farm to the south, and was demolished when Elder House and the brick wall boundary were built

in the 19th century. This scenario is suggested by the fact that garden soil covered the demolition debris and this in turn covered a ceramic field drain.

Trenches to the north and additional trenches through the centre of the plot as requested by the buildings inspector, revealed no further features of archaeological significance.

7. Conclusion

The watching brief covering groundworks to the west of Elder House recorded two episodes of demolition, but no easily discernable features of archaeological significance. The demolition to the south-east was most certainly related to the outbuilding recorded on the 1972 Ordnance Survey map. The demolition of the wall, with ironstone foundations to the west of the plot, appeared to occur immediately prior to the landscaping of the grounds to Elder House. No other deposits or features of archaeological significance were identified and there are no recommendations for further work.

8. Archive

The archive consists of the report, drawings, site notes and digital photographs on disc and as prints. These will be held by Leicestershire County Council under the accession number X.A82.2007.

9. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted to *The Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* for publication in due course.

10. Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Mr E. Sutherland for his assistance and co-operation in the completion of this project. The project was managed by Dr Patrick Clay and fieldwork completed by the author.

11. References

Mills A.D 1998. *A Dictionary of British Place Names*. Oxford University Press.

Morris J. 1979. *Domesday Book. Leicestershire*. Phillimore. Chichester.

Priest, V. 2004. *Archaeological Evaluations on land at 16 Pinfold Lane, Harby, Leicestershire (SK 7500 3122)*. ULAS Report 2004-099

Speed, G. 2004. *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment for land to the rear and side of 16 Pinfold Lane, Harby, Leicestershire (SK 7500 3122)*. ULAS Report 2004-008.

12. Appendices

Appendix A. Design Specification for archaeological work at 2, Boyers Orchard, Harby.

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Appendix A

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

2, Boyers Orchard, Harby, Leicestershire SK 7479 3117

Planning Application: 06/00552/6

For: Mr E Sutherland

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 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 residential development at 2, Boyers Orchard, Harby, Leicestershire (SK 7479 3117; Planning Application: 05/01481/3) for Mr E Sutherland

It addresses the requirements detailed in ‘*A Brief for archaeological attendance for inspection and recording (a watching brief) at 2, Boyers Orchard, Harby, Leicestershire NGR SK 7479 3117 (29.03.2007)*’ from Leicestershire County Council as advisors to Melton Borough Council. It forms part of a scheme of work to fulfil planning appeal condition 6 required by Melton Borough Council.

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 watching brief involves attendance for inspection and recording during ground disturbance to identify any deposits of archaeological importance.

2.2 Archaeological potential

2.2.1 The site lies within the medieval core of Harby close to the medieval church (HER MLE12679) and evidence of Roman settlement (MLE10201).

3 Aims

3.1 Through archaeological supervision 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 supervision of overburden and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. 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 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 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 before the commencement of groundworks. A report on the watching brief will be provided following the groundworks. Following the fieldwork the work will be entered on to the OASIS project database.

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 watching brief is scheduled to commence at the inception of the contractors groundworks. An experienced archaeologist will be present during this work. It is proposed to watch all works, as specified above, with appropriately timed visits during the work in consultation with the contractors.

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 (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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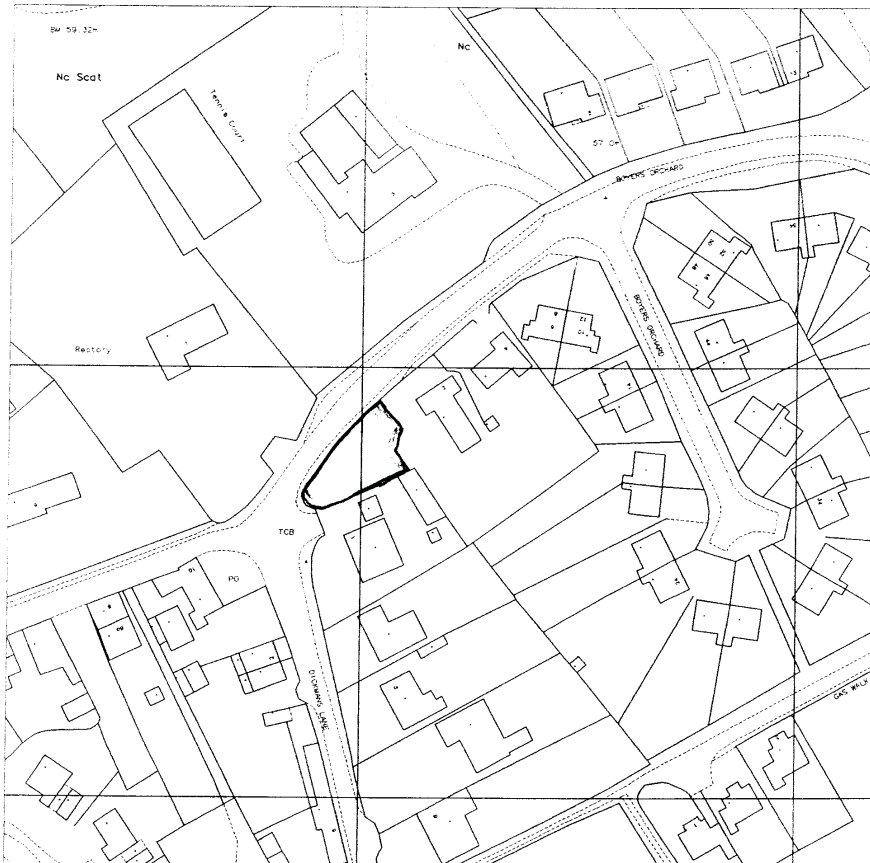
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11.05.2007

APPENDIX A



Siteplan® 1:1250

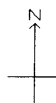
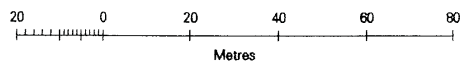


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Part or all of this Siteplan is enlarged from mapping produced at one or more of the following scales 1:1250, 1:2500, 1:10000.



Centre Coordinates: 474819 331184

National Grid sheet reference at centre of this Siteplan: SK7431

Supplied by: Meridian Map Services Lt
Serial Number: 01564800

*Boyers Orchard
1892/37*

2 Boyers Orchard
Harby
Leicestershire LE14 4BA

Appendix

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

2, Boyers Orchard, Harby, Leicestershire SK 7479 3117

Planning Application: 06/00552/6

For: Mr E Sutherland

1 Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for 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
11.05.2007