

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
during groundworks adjacent to
Lawrence House, Back Lane,
Claybrooke Magna, Leicestershire,
(SP 493 886)**

Susan Henderson

Planning Application Ref: 05/01481/3

Client: Mr and Mrs S. Burgess

Checked by
Signed:Date:.....
Name:
Approved by
Signed:Date:.....
Name:

University of Leicester
Archaeological Services
University Rd, Leicester LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

An Archaeological Watching Brief during groundworks adjacent to Lawrence House, Back Lane, Claybrooke Magna, Leicestershire (SP 493 886).

Susan Henderson

Contents

	Summary	1
1	Introduction	1
2	Geology and Topography	2
3	Background	4
4	Archaeological objectives	4
5	Methodology	5
6	Results	5
7	Conclusion	9
8	Archive	10
9	Publication	10
10	References	10
11	Acknowledgements	10
12	Appendices	10

Figures

Figure 1.	Site location map, scale 1:50 000	1
Figure 2.	Site geology map, scale 1:625000	2
Figure 3.	Figure 3 Site location. Scale 1:1250	3
Figure 4.	The Ordnance Survey First Edition Map (1888) showing the development site before the construction of Lawrence House.	3
Figure 5.	Development area in relation to Lawrence House.	4
Figure 6.	Layer revealed by topsoil stripping viewed from the east	5
Figure 7.	Plan of the new dwelling	6
Figure 8.	Site plan showing location of quarry pits in relation to the foundation trenches.	7
Figure 9.	Working shot showing a quarry pit section in the eastern corner of the site.	8
Figure 10.	Foundations of outbuilding revealed in the foundation trench viewed from the east.	9

An Archaeological Watching Brief during groundworks adjacent to Lawrence House, Back Lane, Claybrooke Magna, Leicestershire (SP 493 886)

Susan Henderson

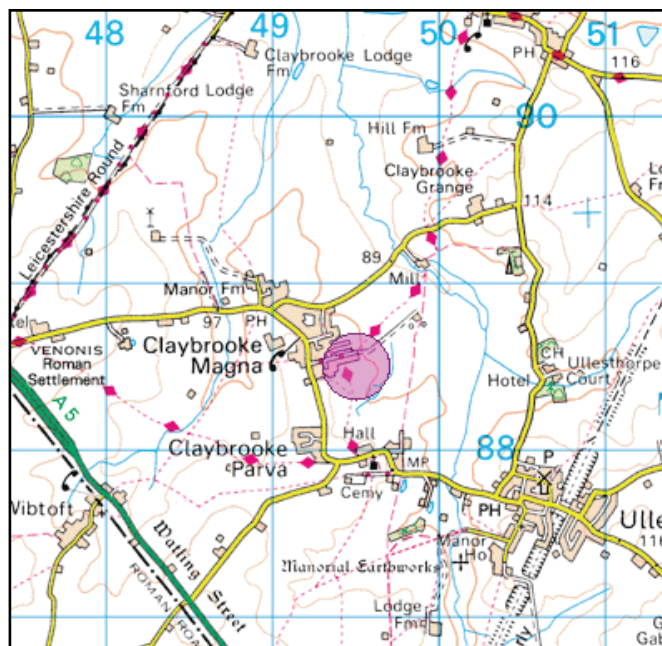
Summary

A watching brief was carried out by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) during groundworks for a proposed bungalow adjacent to and within the grounds of the existing Lawrence House, Back Lane, Claybrooke Magna. The brief involved attendance for inspection and recording during ground disturbance to identify any deposits of archaeological importance. Stripping of the topsoil revealed a disturbed layer interspersed with patches of sand. Trenching identified a series of pits, on average 1.5 metres deep, cutting into the natural sand. These can be interpreted as evidence of sand quarrying probably during the middle of the 19th century.

The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Sites and Monuments Record under the accession number X.A58.2007.

1. Introduction.

Lawrence House is an early 20th century villa style house on Back Lane in the village of Claybrooke Magna (SP 492 886). Planning permission has been granted for a residential development in the grounds of the house (P.A 05/01481/3).



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

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. © Crown Copyright, All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100021187.

As the grounds lie within the medieval core of the village and groundworks may disturb areas of archaeological potential, Leicestershire County Council, as advisors

to Harborough District Council, requested a watching brief, secured by a planning condition, to monitor these. ULAS, on behalf of the clients Mr and Mrs S. Burgess, implemented a watching brief to cover the proposed groundworks.

2. Geology and Topography.

Claybrooke Magna lies on Triassic Mudstone, with superficial deposits of alluvium and glacial sand and gravel.

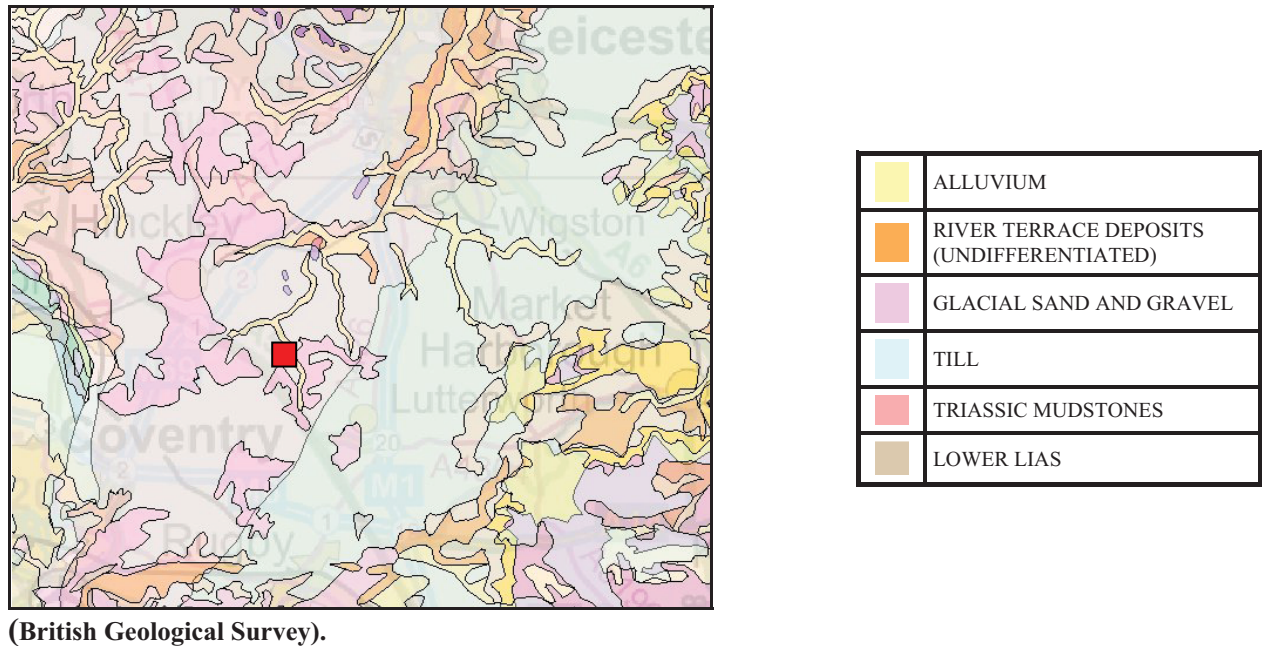


Figure 2. A map showing the geology of the site.

3. Background.

Claybrooke Magna lies within two miles of the crossing of the Fosse Way by Watling Street at the 'High Cross.' There are, however, few recorded finds of Roman date within Claybrooke Magna itself. The name *claeg broc* first appeared in 962 in the *Cartularium Saxonicum* (Bourne 2003), becoming *Claibroc* by the time of Domesday. To the south-west of the development site is the Vineyard Dairy Farmhouse (NMR 544601) dating from the early 17th century. Early Ordnance Survey maps of the area (1888 and 1903) show a building on the site of the present Lawrence House and an orchard in the area of the development (Fig. 3). The building represented on the map, is not the present house, but part of a barn attached to a farmhouse, which the current building replaced in the early 20th century. Also visible on the 1888 and 1903 maps, are two small outbuildings against the southern boundary wall which no longer exists, although the western boundary wall remains.

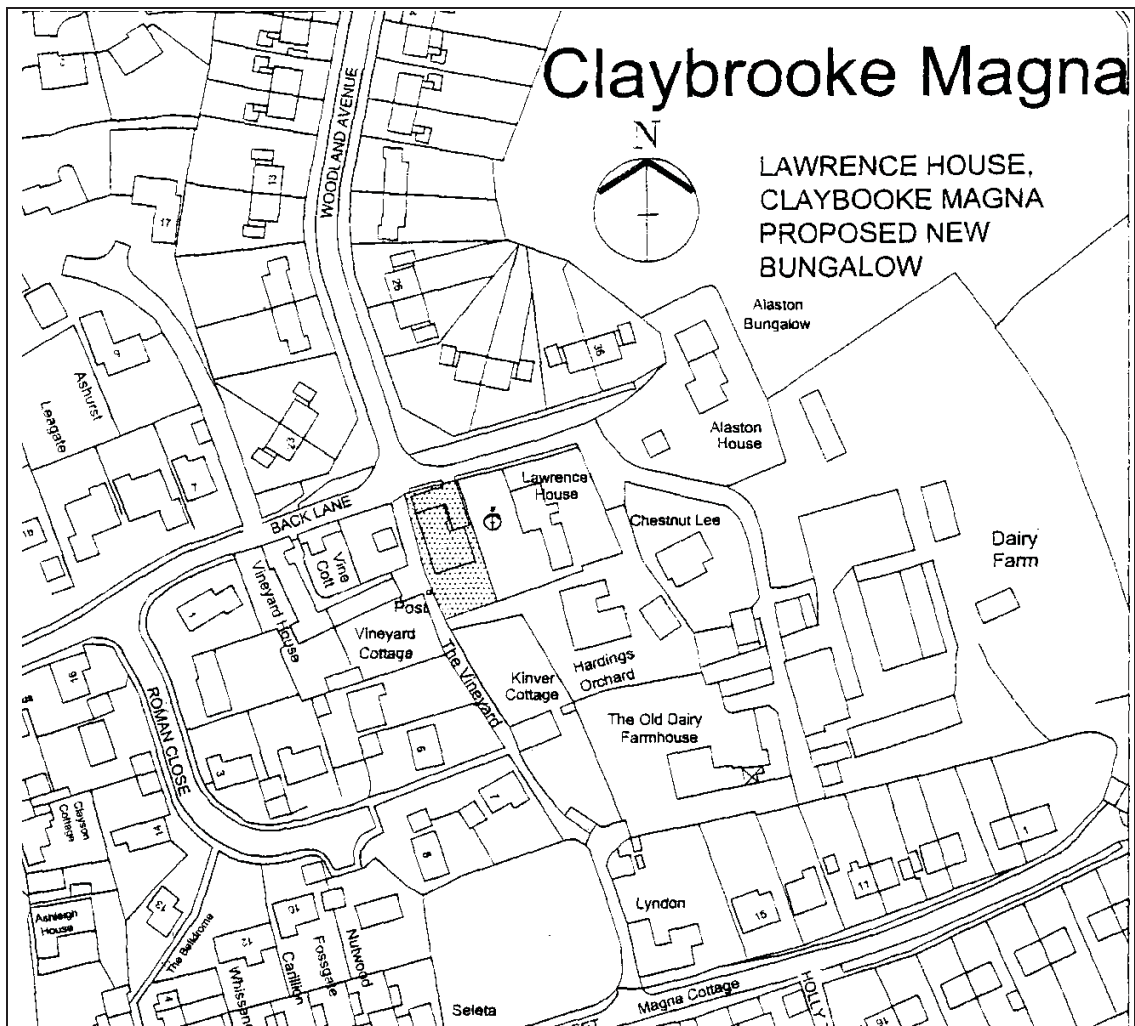


Figure 3 Site location. Scale 1:1250

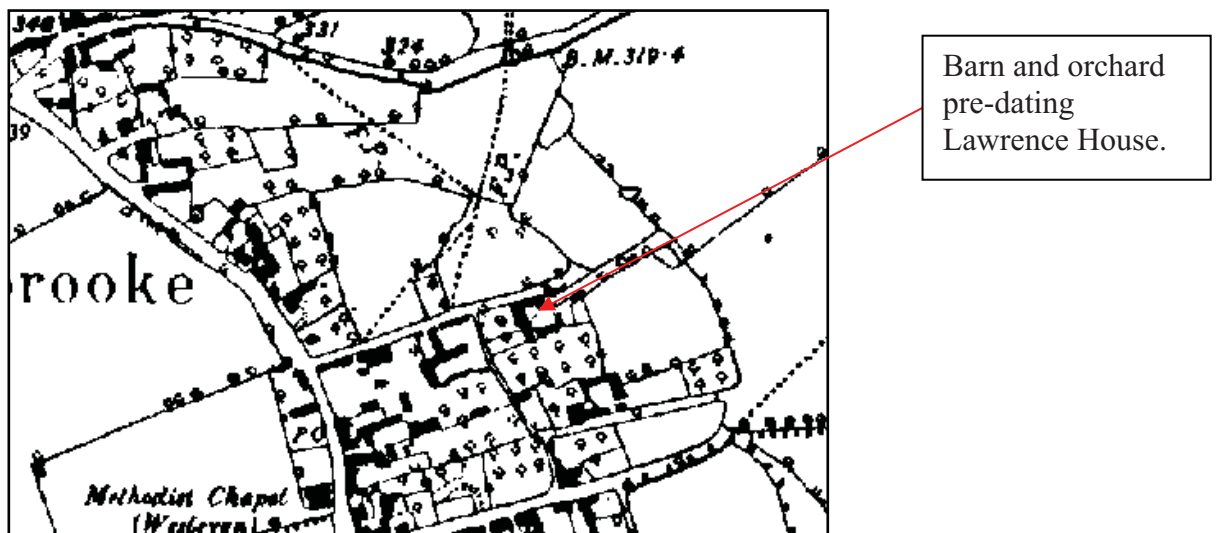


Figure 4. The Ordnance Survey First Edition Map (1888) showing the development site before the construction of Lawrence House.

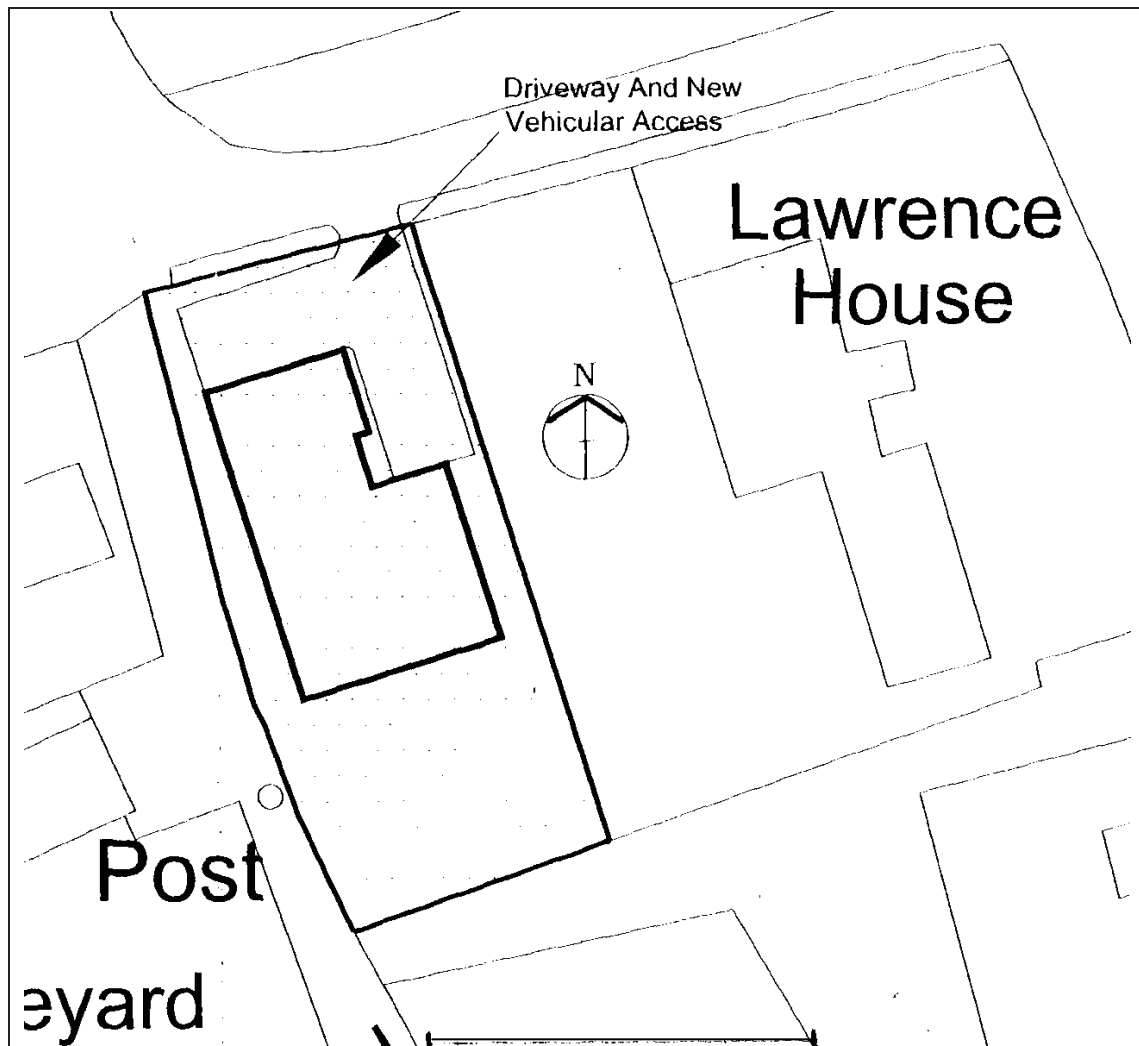


Figure 5. Development area in relation to Lawrence House. Scale bar denotes 10m.

4. Archaeological objectives.

The main objectives, through the monitoring of groundworks, were:

- 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 groundworks.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

5. Methodology

The monitoring of groundworks included supervision of the stripping of existing overburden and the excavation of foundation trenches, anticipated to be 0.5 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 13 ton 360C

excavator with a 1.0 metre toothless ditching bucket and trenching with a JCB and back actor using a 0.5 metre toothless 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* (LCC HNET).

6. Results.

Some stripping of overburden at the eastern end had already occurred prior to the commencement of the watching brief. The topsoil was dark rich clayey silt with abundant charcoal reaching an average depth of 0.4 metres. Early indications were of a widely distributed, disturbed layer beneath the topsoil. This layer of mid to light yellowish brown sandy silt with patches of red clay, was of a loose fill-like consistency with brick fragments and modern (20th century) ceramic pottery. When stripping was complete the layer covered most of the site, but was interspersed with patches of yellow sand. Hand cleaning of selected areas, revealed boundaries between these possible contexts, but no obvious cuts.



Figure 6. Layer revealed by topsoil stripping viewed from the east

The first trench excavated to the south, orientated south south-west to east north-east, was intended to be excavated to a depth of one metre, but had to be continued to two metres before the natural substratum was reached. It was possible to see, in section, the profile of a large pit with a visible width of approximately six metres. This pit was cut by a smaller pit to the east. Further trenching revealed a similar series of pits of varying sizes, some inter-cutting, decreasing in depth towards the west. The fills of each pit were similar although some contained more clay than others. Tip lines were evident, although finds throughout remained modern and included brick, tile and pottery and some 19th-20th century pottery (not retained following identification by D. Sawday). Trenching did not allow a complete picture of the number and arrangement of the pits, but it is estimated that there were more than ten within the development plot. The largest of these was approximately six metres in diameter and two metres deep. The smallest was approximately 1.5 metres in diameter and one metre deep.



Figure 7. Plan of the new dwelling

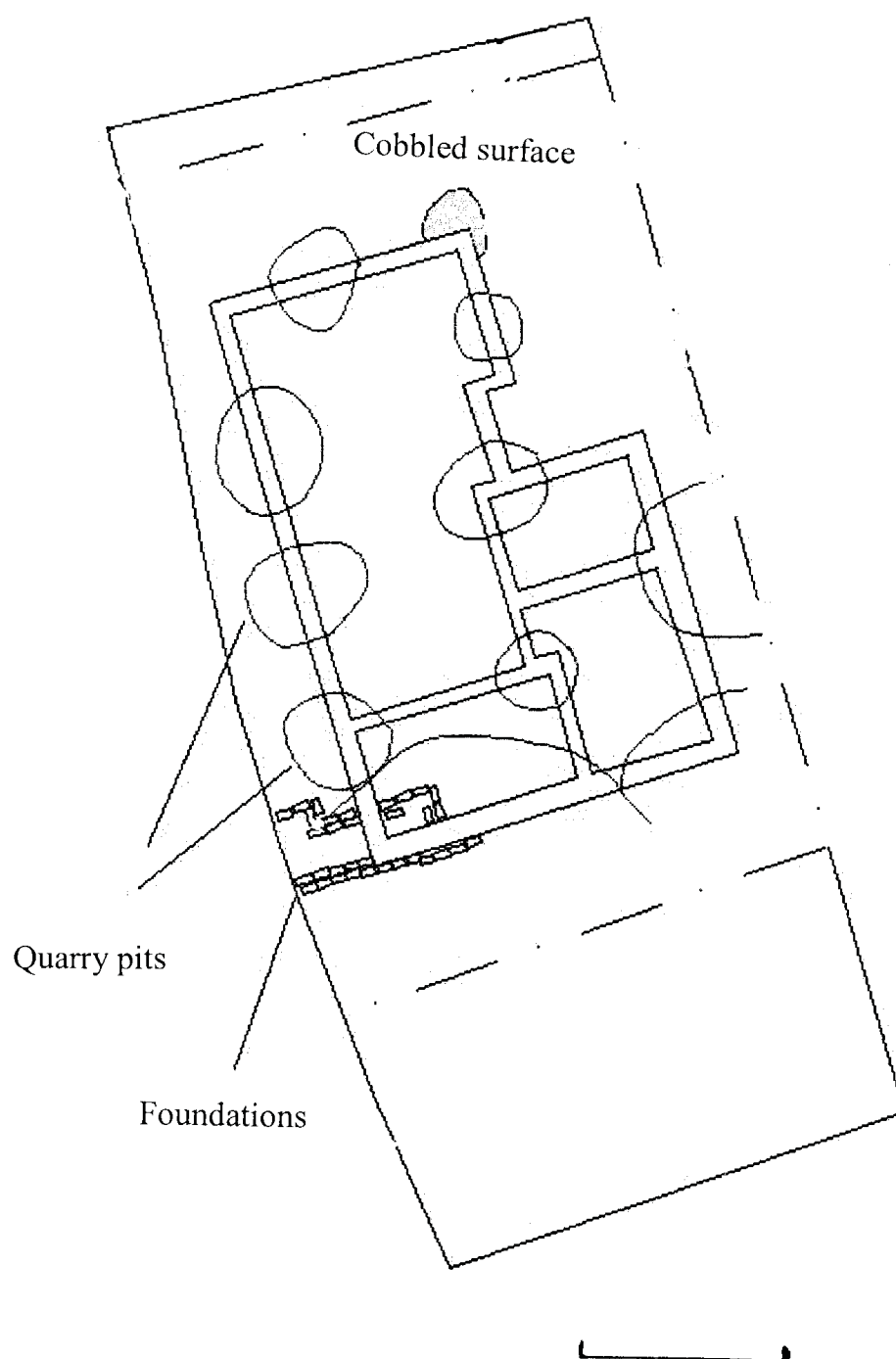


Figure 8. Site plan showing location of quarry pits in relation to the foundation trenches. North is to the top (see also Fig 7). The scale bar denotes 5m



Figure 9. Working shot showing a quarry pit section in the eastern corner of the site.

The footings of the outbuilding to the south-west, recorded on the 1888 and 1903 OS maps, were evident and quite substantial, having rough hewn sandstone blocks at the base (Figs 3 and 10). The trench was deep and hazardous at this point and whilst it appeared that the brick and stone foundations occupied the same cut, it was impossible to examine these more closely.



Figure 10. Foundations of outbuilding revealed in the foundation trench viewed from the east.

It is clear, however, that the sandstone footings did not extend into the area of excavation and there was no relationship to other features. These deep foundations may have been necessary because of the loose fill into which they had been built.

A narrow cobbled surface was found to the north-west, but this lay on top of pit fill and must relate to a later path, perhaps to the demolished outbuildings on the western wall.

7. Conclusion.

The site had apparently been the location of a series of sand quarries and whilst nothing has been documented, similar activity had been noted during the construction of a housing development further west. There are many sand and gravel quarries, both past and present, in the wider area, the extraction of sand and gravel remaining an extensive industry in Leicestershire (Campion 2006: 249). Claybrooke Magna has quarries marked on the 1888 Ordnance Survey map, but these are to the south of this site and may have been clay pits rather than sand quarries. The quarries to the rear of Lawrence House were probably dug and backfilled in the middle of the 19th century, as suggested by the finds identified. The quarries also appeared to pre-date the out building and boundary wall which were evident on the 1888 map.

Beyond providing evidence of quarrying in this part of Claybrooke Magna, nothing of archaeological significance was identified in the plot adjacent to Lawrence House.

8. Archive.

The archive consists of:

- 1 copy of the report (2007-090)
- 1 sheet of primary drawings, 2 sheets of field notes
- 1 photograph catalogue
- 18 digital photographs on disc and as prints.
- 1 copy of architects plan

These will be held by Leicestershire County Council under the accession number X.A58.2007.

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. References.

Bourne J. 2003. *Understanding Leicestershire and Rutland place names*. Loughborough: Heart of Albion Press.

Campion G. 2006. *The modern period (1750-2000)*. In N.J.Cooper (ed). *The Archaeology of the East Midlands. An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*. Leicester: Leicester Monograph 13.

11. Acknowledgements.

ULAS would like to thank Mr and Mrs S. Burgess (developer) and Mr R. Summers (contractor) for their assistance and co-operation in the completion of this project. The project was managed by Dr Patrick Clay and fieldwork completed by the author.

Sue Henderson
University of Leicester Archaeological Services
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614
Email: skh11@le.ac.uk

17.4.2007.

Appendix

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Lawrence House, Back Lane, Claybrooke Parva, Leicestershire SP 493 886

Planning Application: 05/01481/3

For: Mr and Mrs S. Burgess

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 Back Lane, Claybrooke Magna, Leicestershire (SP 492 886; Planning Application: 05/01481/3) for: Mr and Mrs S. Burgess

It addresses the requirements detailed in 'A Brief for archaeological attendance for inspection and recording (an intermittent watching brief) at Lawrence House, Back Lane, Claybrooke Magna, Leicestershire' (14.02.2006) from Leicestershire County Council as advisors to Harborough District Council. It forms part of a scheme of work to fulfil planning condition 15 required by Harborough District 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 Claybrooke magna (HER MLE10411).

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)

Patrick Clay
Director
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel:0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614
Email: pnc3@le.ac.uk

11.01.2007

Appendix

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

Lawrence House, Back Lane, Claybrooke Parva, Leicestershire SP 493 886

Planning Application: 05/01481/3

For: Mr and Mrs S. Burgess

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 Weils 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
11.01.2007