



**An Archaeological Evaluation
of 16-18 Lutterworth Road,
Walcote, Leicestershire.**

(NGR SP 567 836)

Gerwyn Richards

Planning Application: 08/00846/REM

For: Holmfields

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Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by Holmfield to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at 16-18 Lutterworth Road, Walcote, Leicestershire, where outline planning permission has been granted for the development of the area for residential use. The proposed development area had been identified as being of possible archaeological significance.

Three evaluation trenches were excavated towards the rear of the proposed development area. None of the trenches showed evidence of archaeologically significant remains. Trench 3 contained evidence of a well which was recorded on early maps. The well was well below the intended formation level and would not be affected by the proposed development and was therefore, left in-situ.

The archive for the trial trenching will be held by Leicestershire County Council, under the accession number X.A25.2009.

1. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by Holmfield to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed redevelopment of 16-18 Lutterworth Road, Walcote, Leicestershire (SP 567 836). Outline planning permission has been granted for the demolition of the building fronting Lutterworth Road and erection of four new houses (Planning Application Number 08/00846/REM). No previous non-intrusive or intrusive archaeological work has been carried out within the proposed development area.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the proposed development area is on the southern edge of the historic settlement core of Walcote village (MLE10493) and is located close to known sites of archaeological significance. The fields to the south and east of Walcote contain evidence of probable prehistoric activity in the area. A series of enclosures to the east of the village are of a form typical of Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement and earlier prehistoric tools have been recovered to the south of the development site. The late 1880s OS map indicates structures fronting on to Lutterworth Road, with the remainder of the area undeveloped and therefore of some potential for buried archaeological remains. A programme of archaeological work comprising trial trenching was required to confirm whether

archaeological remains were present within the application area and, if necessary, formulate a mitigation strategy.

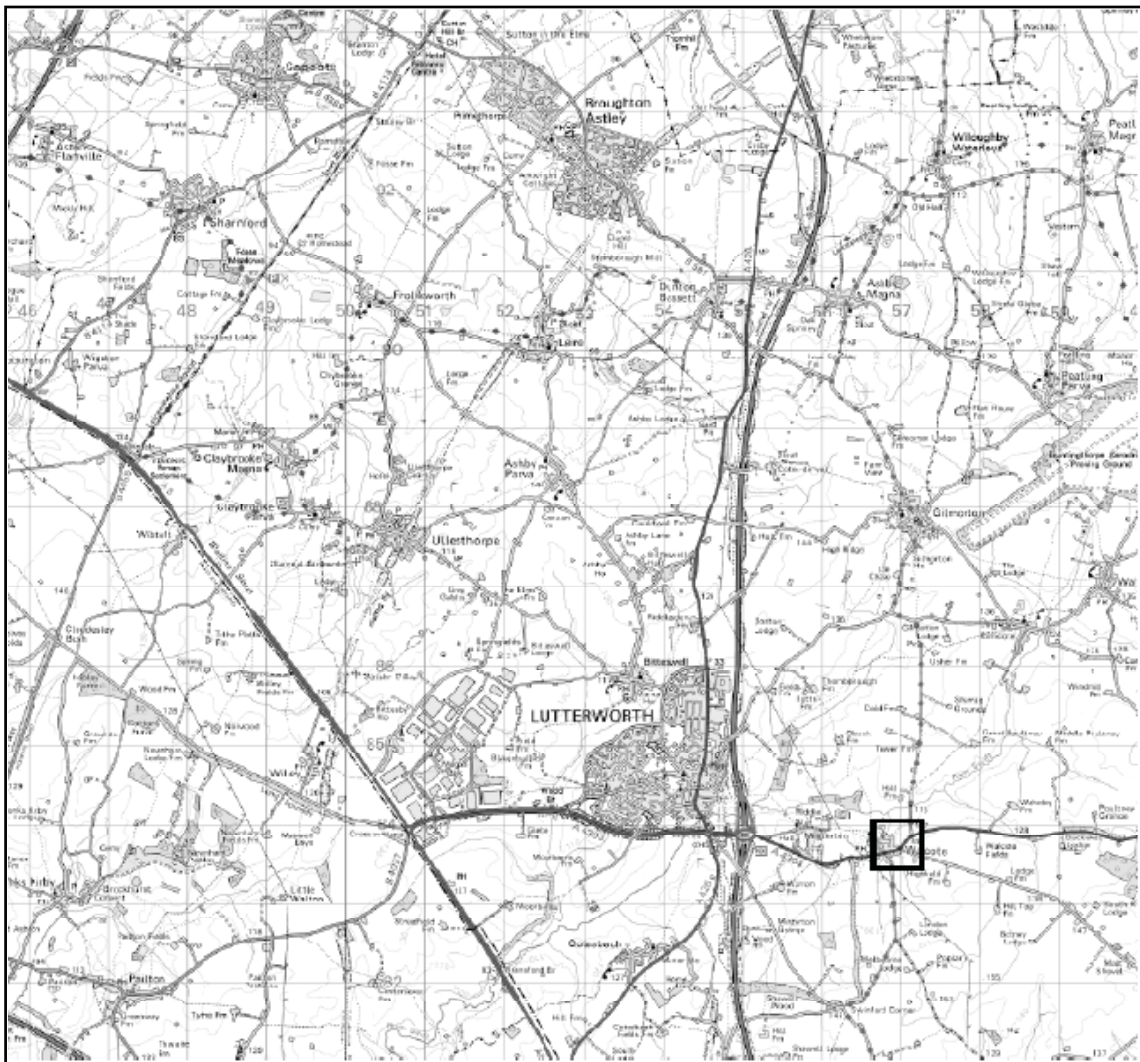


Figure 1. Site location Scale 1:50000

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2. Aims and Methodology

The aim of the archaeological work was to ascertain whether any significant archaeological remains were present within the area to be developed. If identified a sufficient sample was to be excavated and recorded to establish their extent, date, quality, character, form and potential including environmental data. Further archaeological recording would be undertaken, if required, in the light of the results of this programme.

The area affected by the new buildings measures approximately 1950 sq. m. The Planning Archaeologist of Historic and Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire

County Council as advisor to Harborough District Council following Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG 16, Archaeology and Planning para. 30) requested a c. 5% sample of c. 96 sq. m, the equivalent of three 20m by 1.6m trenches with a maximum depth of 1.2m. Due to site constraints and the use of a larger excavator two of the evaluation trenches were excavated to a length of 21 metres by 2 metre wide while the third was excavated to a length of 10metre by 2metres wide. A total area of approximately 104 sq. m was sampled. The evaluation took place on January 27th 2009. The evaluation followed the *Design Specification for archaeological evaluation* (09-115) which addressed the requirements of the *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation of land at 16-18 Lutterworth Road, Walcote, Leicestershire*.

3. Results of Trial Trench Evaluation

3.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was excavated adjacent to the southernmost boundary of the proposed development area (Fig. 3), approximately 7m from the southern-most corner on an area of grassed ground. The trench was aligned south west to north east and 21m long and 2m wide.

Approximately 200mm to 250mm of topsoil was removed revealing a substratum of mottled orange, grey brown silty clay. This varied in depth between 250mm and 500mm, below which was a horizon of weathered clay substratum.

There were no remains of archaeological significance within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

3.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was excavated towards the centre of the proposed development area (Fig 3), approximately 7m north of trench 1 on an area showing extensive root damage from a recently removed tree at the north western end and recent ground disturbance associated with previous land use to the south east. The trench was aligned north-west to south-east and 21 m long and 2 m wide.

Approximately 150mm to 200mm of topsoil was removed revealing a horizon of weathered clay substratum with extensive pockets of gravel and pea grit. There was extensive root disturbance within the north western end of the trench. Away from this the top of bedrock was observed immediately below the topsoil, at approximately 300mm below the current ground level. This indicates that considerable alteration in ground level has occurred towards the northern edge of the proposed development area, fronting Lutterworth Road.

There were no remains of archaeological significance within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

3.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was located parallel to the western boundary of the proposed development area (*Fig. 3*), approximately 2m north of trench 1 on a raised grassy area, along the line of the proposed access road. Contractors indicated this raise in ground level was caused by the dumping of excavated material from the swimming pool at the rear of 16 Lutterworth Road. The trench was aligned north to south and measured 10m long by 2m wide.

As a result of the recent dumping the stratigraphy within the trench was more complicated. There was approximately 250mm of re-deposited clay bedrock overlaying a buried topsoil and then the same silty clay subsoil seen previously within trench 1. In some areas there were traces of another layer of buried topsoil. Towards the northern end of the trench at a depth of approximately 650mm to 700mm below the current ground level a circular structure of cobbles was uncovered, probably a well (*Fig. 2*).

On site consultation indicated that the level reached was in excess of the intended formation level. Current ground level is 117.71m OD; it is intended to reduce this to 117.55m OD. Further consultation may actually see this level raised as a result of the observation of ground conditions within trench 1. The well structure is almost 500mm below this level and, therefore, not likely to be affected. It was therefore rapidly hand cleaned and photographed and not excavated further.

The trench was recorded and the well structure covered in geotextile and the trench was released for backfilling.



Figure 2 Trench 3 Showing Well Structure & Stratigraphy.

5. Conclusion

Despite its promising location on the fringe of the historic village core, little of archaeological significance was uncovered during the archaeological evaluation. With the exception of the remains of the well recorded within trench 3 the trenches were empty of archaeological remains and showed evidence of extensive recent disturbance including imported material being used to raise the level of the site and extensive root damage. There is a pump clearly identifiable on the early Ordnance Survey maps which more than likely was associated with the well uncovered within trench 3.

6. References

Hunt, L. 2008 *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for the Tavern Inn, 21 Lutterworth Road, Walcote, Leicestershire* (ULAS Report 2008-033).

LCC, 2008, *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation of land at 16-18 Lutterworth Road, Walcote, Leicestershire*.

7. Archive & Publication

The site archive consists of

11 Black & White Negatives and Contact Prints

CD containing 11 digital images

1 A4 contact sheet

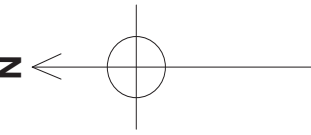
A4 Photo Index Sheet

3 A4 Trench recording sheets

Unbound Copy of This Report (ULAS Report Number 2009-013)

The archive will be held at Leicestershire County Council under the Accession Number X.A25.2009

A version of the summary (above) will be published in *Transactions of Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course.



Lutterworth Road

18

16

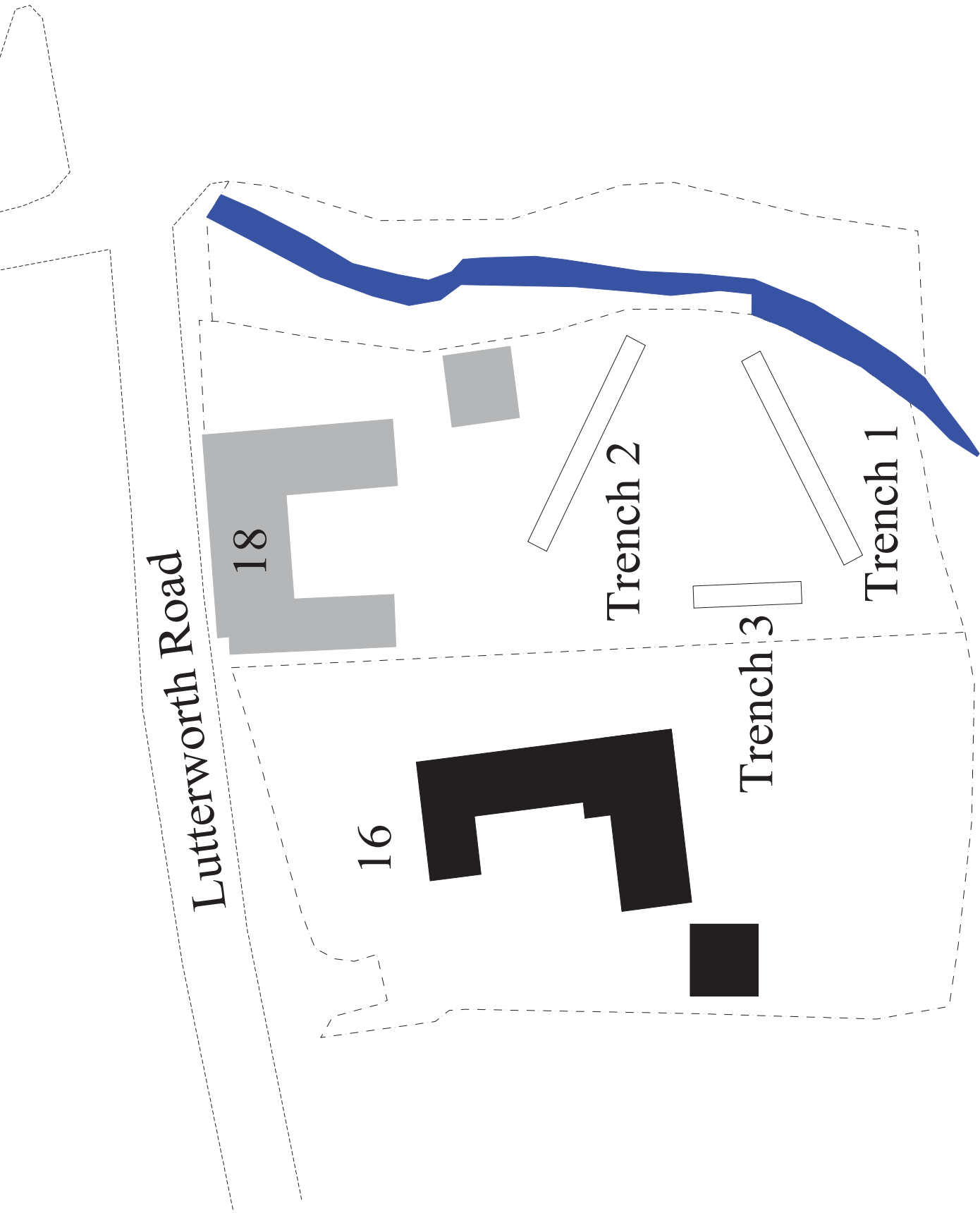
Trench 2

Trench 3

Trench 1

0m

50m



Appendix 1: UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological evaluation

16 and 18 Lutterworth Road, Walcote

(NGR SP567836)

Planning Application 08/00846/REM

Planning Authority: Harborough District Council

Tolmfields

Definition and scope of the specification

This specification is for archaeological evaluation by trial trenching in advance of the proposed construction of four dwellings at 16 and 18 Lutterworth Road, Walcote, Leicestershire.

This specification addresses the requirements for archaeological evaluation from the Senior Planning Officer, Leicestershire County Council as archaeological advisor to the planning application following Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning) and detailed in his advice letter to Harborough District Council.

The archaeological work will adhere to the Institute for Archaeologist's (IfA) *Code of Practice* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* and the *Guidelines and Procedures for archaeological work in Leicestershire* (Leicestershire County Council).

Background (taken from advice letter)

The proposed development is for four new dwellings (plots 1-4) with associated shared driveway. The works will entail the demolition of one existing property on the Lutterworth Road frontage to afford access. The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies on the southern part of the settlement core of Walcote. The fields to the south and east of Walcote contain evidence of probable prehistoric activity in the area. A series of enclosures to the east of the site are of a form typical of Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement and earlier prehistoric remains have been recovered to the south of the development site. The late 1880s OS map shows structures fronting on to Lutterworth Road, but the remainder of the area as developed and therefore of some potential for buried archaeological remains. A programme of archaeological work comprising trial trenching is now required to confirm whether archaeological remains are present within the application area and, if necessary, to develop a mitigation strategy.

General Methodology

Work will follow the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* and adhere to *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*.

Staffing, recording systems, Health and Safety provisions and insurance details are detailed.

External monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the sites from the project manager. These will ensure that project targets are being met and professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with representatives of the clients and Leicestershire County Council. The strategy will be developed in the light of the quality of the archaeological resource as revealed at different stages of the fieldwork.

General trenching

The area affected by the new buildings measures approximately 1950 sq. m and a 5% area is proposed comprising trial trenching totalling c. 96 sq metres, the equivalent of three 1.6m wide trenches to a maximum depth of 1.2 m. Provisional locations are indicated on the plan, but the precise location of the trenches may be affected by local ground conditions.

The topsoil and disturbed subsoil will be removed in spits by machine using a toothless digging bucket (or similar) under full supervision, until archaeological deposits or undisturbed substrata are encountered.

The location of the trenches will be surveyed using a Total Station Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) linked to a Psion hand held computer.

Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate to achieve the aims and objectives of the evaluation. Samples of any archaeological deposits will be hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be made at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied to the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM).

Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols in consultation with the client's environmental officer. Deposits which may provide radiocarbon dating evidence will be sampled.

All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and related to the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

Any human remains encountered will only be removed under a Home Office Licence in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The client, Leicestershire County Council and the coroner will be informed immediately on their discovery.

Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be recorded onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets.

A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map, enlarged to 1:500 (reduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be accompanied by a plan at 1:200 (or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas excavated.

A complete 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 thicknesses of individual layers of features should be drawn where possible. The OD height of all archaeological strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans.

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 'overview shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation undertaken.

All records will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the excavation.

All site records and finds will be kept securely.

Report and Archive

Before commencement of work an accession number will be obtained from Leicestershire Museums Service. A report on the fieldwork will be provided following analysis of the finds and materials.

The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS is entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

A full copy of the archive as defined in the 'Guidelines for the preparation of excavation records 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' (assessments for all finds (other than fired clay objects) (RFG/FRG 1993) will be deposited to Leicester Museums. This archive will include all written, disk-based, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

At the completion of fieldwork The originating organisation should complete the on-line form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project> /oasis on completion of the fieldwork.

timetable and staffing

The trial trenching will be undertaken week commencing 26 January 2009.

ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with Gerling Insurance Policy No. 62/99094/D, Risk Reference LT 35101 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Sun Alliance Insurance Policy No. 03A/5A 001 05978, Risk Reference LT

liography

The management of archaeological projects 2nd edition English Heritage 1991

1992, *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission)

1993, *Guidelines for the preparation of site archives* (Roman Finds Group and Archaeological Research Group AD 700-1700)

1993, *Selection, retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for England, Wales and Northern Ireland* (Society of Museum Archaeologists)

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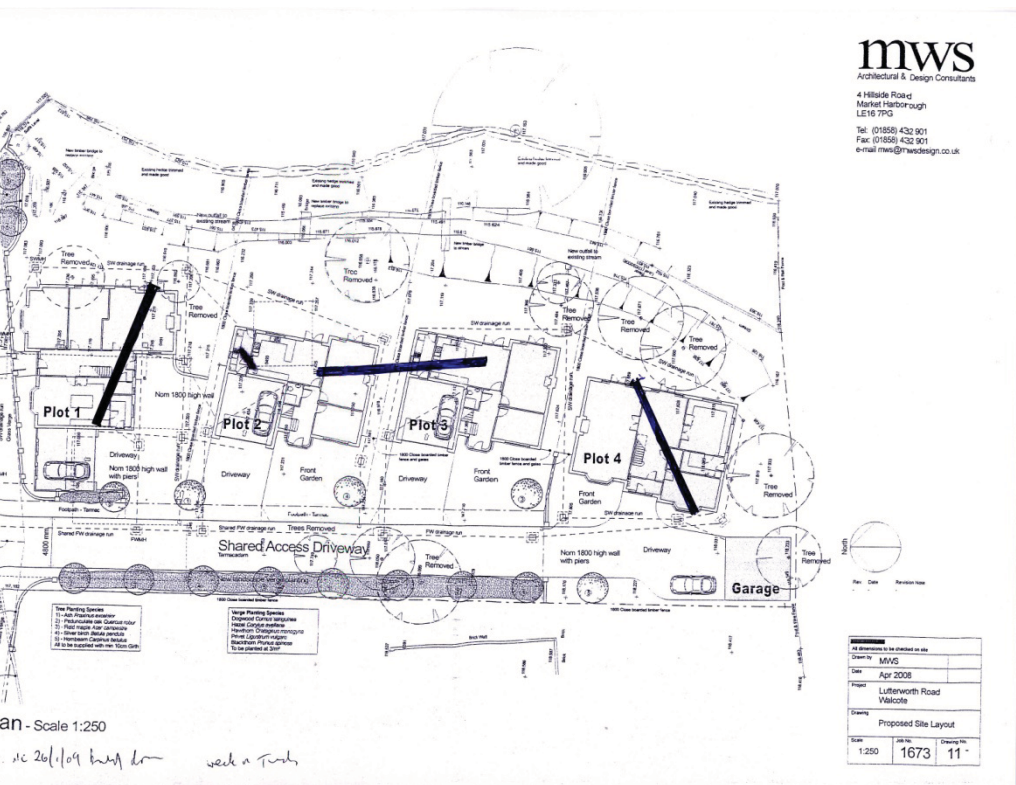
016 252 2848

016 252 2614

tjb16@le.ac.uk

09

1 Proposed trench locations (indicative only, not to scale).



mws
Architectural & Design Consultants

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Tel: (01858) 432 901
Fax: (01858) 432 901
e-mail: mws@mwsdesign.co.uk

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week n Trees

Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

16 and 18 Lutterworth Road, Walcote

(NGR SP567840)

Planning Application 08/00846/REM

Planning Authority: Harborough District Council

Tolmfields

Scope of the work

This statement is for trial trenching. It will be revised following the commencement of work when the extent of risks can be assessed in full.

The work will involve machine dug trial trenching during daylight hours and recording of underlying archaeological deposits revealed. Overall depth is likely to be c. 0.2-0.5m. All work will involve the examination of the exposed surface with hand tools (shovels, trowels) and excavation of archaeological features. All work will adhere to the University of Harborough Health and Safety Policy and follow the guidance in the Standing Committee of Archaeological Unit Managers manual, as revised in 1997, together with the following Health and Safety guidelines, including the following.

Construction Information Sheet CS8 Safety in excavations.

Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)143 (L): Getting to grips with manual handling.

Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)145 (L): Watch Your back.

BS5975 Trenching practice.

BS5975 Proprietary Trench Support Systems.

Guidance Note HS(G) 47 Avoiding danger to underground services. HSE Guidance

HS(G) 57 Accidents to children on construction sites

The Health and Safety policy on site will be reassessed during the evaluation. All work will adhere to the company's health and safety policy.

Risk Assessment

Working within an excavation.

Excavations. No work will be undertaken beneath section faces deeper than 1.2m. Loose spoil will not be walked on. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. A member of staff trained in First Aid will be present at all times. First aid kit, vehicle and mobile phone to be available on site in case of emergency.

Protective clothing will be worn at all times and precautions taken to prevent contact with contaminated water which may carry Weil's disease or similar.

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 immediately after use.

Other risks

Excavations. 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.

Other constraints are recognised over the nature of the soil, water, type of excavation, proximity of structures, sources of vibration and contamination.