

**Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at  
The Limes ('Ifafa'), Main Street, Ashby Parva,  
Leicestershire, (SP 527 883)**

**Greg Farnworth-Jones**

**Planning Application No. 05/00524/FUL**

**Planning Authority: Harborough District Council**

**Checked by Project Manager**

**Signed:** ..... **Date:** .....

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## **An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at The Limes ('Ifafa'), Ashby Parva, Leicestershire, (SP 527 883)**

**Greg Farnworth-Jones**

### **1 Summary**

*1.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out on land at The Limes ('Ifafa'), Main Street, Ashby Parva, Leicestershire (SP 527 883) on the 2nd February 2006. This work was carried out on behalf of Mrs M. Matthews in advance of residential development. The work involved observing foundation trenches for any signs of archaeological activity. The results of this investigation were negative. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services Section, accession number X.A47.2006.*

### **2. Introduction**

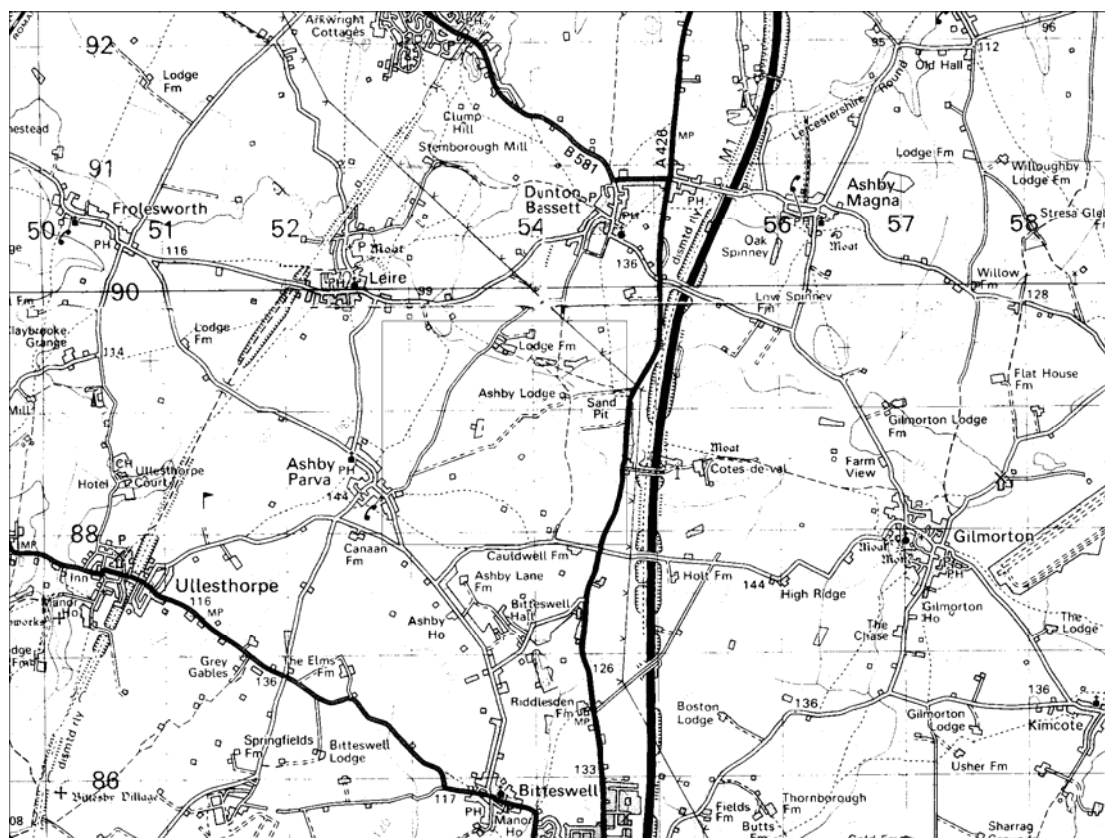
**2.1** This document covers an archaeological watching brief carried out on land at The Limes Main Street, Ashby Parva, Leicestershire (SP 527 883). It was formerly land associated with 'Ifafa' to the northwest. The archaeological watching brief was being undertaken on behalf of Mrs M. Matthews by University of Leicester Archaeological Services.

**2.2** Mrs M. Matthews proposes to build a residential development on c.0.1 ha of land at The Limes, Main Street, Ashby Parva, Leicestershire (SP 527 883). The Senior Planning Archaeologist of the Historic and Natural Environment Team of Leicestershire County Council, in his capacity as archaeological adviser to the planning authority, requested that an archaeological watching brief assessment of the site area be carried out during the groundworks (Appendix 2).

### **3 Site Background**

**3.1** The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 169 Coventry indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Oadby Till, with underlying Pleistocene to Recent sands and gravels (Wolston) and Wolston Clay. Borehole data from RMC Aggregates (UK) Limited (Brown 2001) indicates that topsoil thickness varies between 0.05 and 0.20m. The data confirm that the underlying upper substrata is clay varying in thickness between four and 15 metres.

**3.2** Previous work near to the application area has been carried out by ULAS, in the form of a desk-based assessment (Marsden 2002). This assessment indicated that although there are no known archaeological remains listed in the County Sites and Monuments Record the area has never been systematically surveyed and it is situated in the vicinity of flint scatters of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age date. Roman occupation is also known from the vicinity. The area, therefore, has some archaeological potential although its scope is uncertain at present.



1. Site location Scale 1:50000

*Reproduced from the Landranger OS map 140 Leicester, Coventry and Rugby area 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 1996. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 10002186.*

## 4 Methodology

**4.1** All archaeological 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). The work also followed the design specification (Appendix 1) approved by the Leicestershire County Council, Senior Planning archaeologist on behalf of the planning authority.

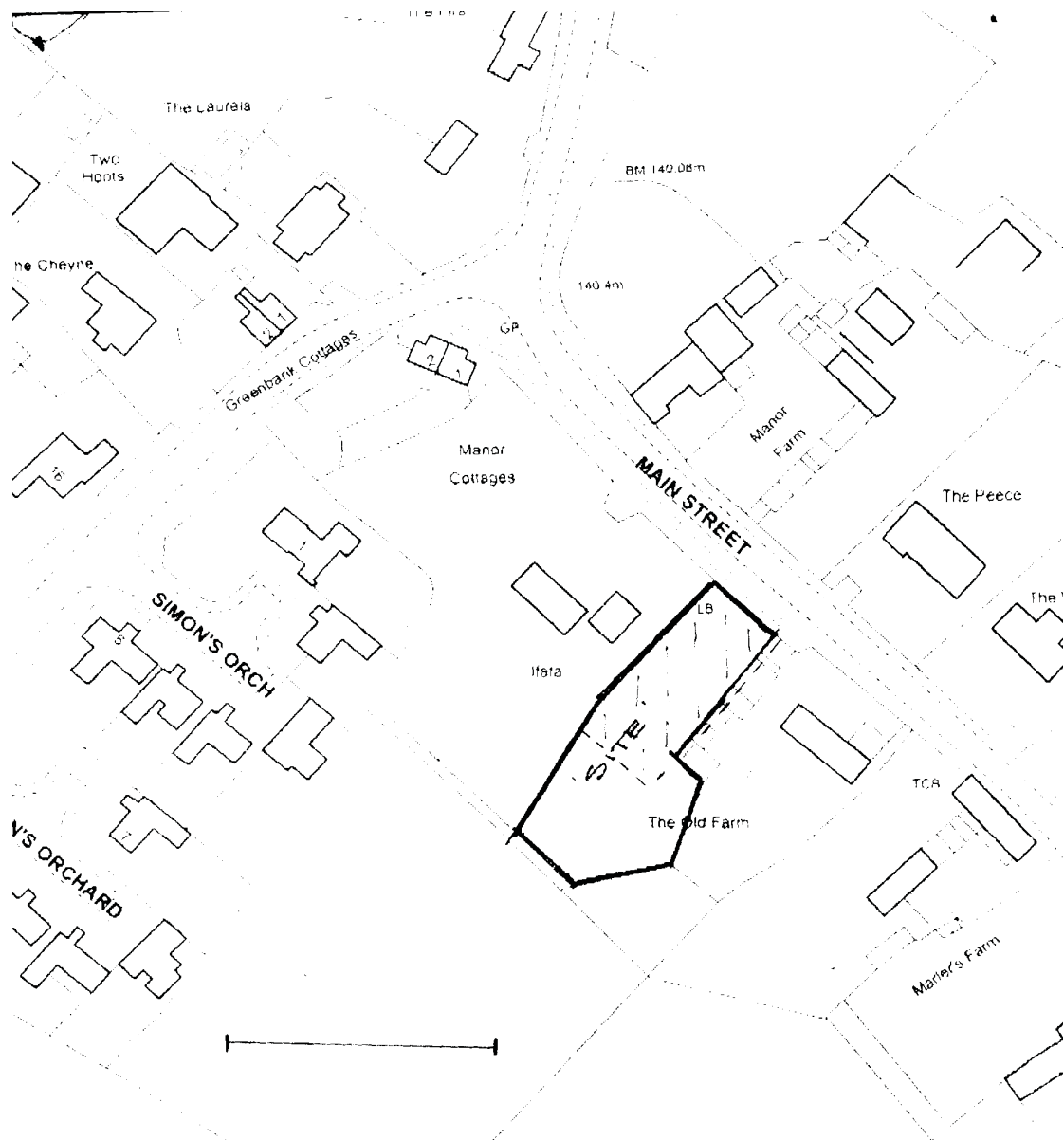
**4.2** The archaeological watching brief carried out on land at The Limes ('Ifafa'), Main Street, Ashby Parva, Leicestershire (SP 527 883), involved control and supervision of ground disturbance to identify any deposits of archaeological importance.

**4.3** The main objectives of the watching brief, through archaeological supervision of existing overburden stripping and groundworks by the client's contractors were:

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.

**4.4** Any archaeological deposits located were to 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.



**Figure 2** Location plan with application area outlined. Hatched area shown on Figure 3. Scale bar is 50m.

**4.5** All excavated sections would 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.

**Figure 3 Plan of the new property showing foundation trenches examined. See also Figure 2.**





**Figure 4 Wall Footing Foundation Trench Facing South West**

## **5 Results**

**5.1** The topsoil consisted of a very dark grey loam, with minor root disturbance. The subsoil consisted of mid brown sandy clay with occasional pebbles, and the natural substratum consisted of orange clay gravels.

**5.2** The same sequence of soil horizons was observed in all of the foundation trenches.

**5.3** No significant archaeological finds or deposits were located within the machine-excavated foundations.



**Figure 5 Wall Footing Foundation Looking West**

## **6 Conclusion**

**6.1** No archaeological deposits, features or pre-modern artefacts were encountered during the watching brief.

**6.2** The application area appears to have only seen use as agricultural and garden land, indicating that the site lay outside the medieval core of the village.

**6.3** During archaeological supervision of the groundworks involving existing overburden stripping and foundation trench excavation, revealed no archaeological deposits.

## **7 Archive**

**7.1** The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services Section, accession number X.A47.2006. It consists of a watching brief recording form and digital photographs.

## **8 Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank the clients, Mr and Mrs Matthews, for their assistance and co-operation. Patrick Clay managed the project, and the fieldwork was carried out by the author, both of ULAS.



## 9 Bibliography

Clay, P., 2006 *Design Specification for archaeological work The Limes, Main Street, Ashby Parva, Leicestershire (SP 527 883)* ULAS Ref. 06/574

Marsden, P., 2002 *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment for land west of Slip Inn Quarry, Ashby Parva, Leicestershire (SP 535 887)* ULAS Ref. 2002-039

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11.09.2006

## **10 Appendix Design Specification**

### **UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES**

#### **Design Specification for archaeological work**

*The Limes ('Ifafa'), Main Street, Ashby Parva,  
Leicestershire (SP 527 883)*

*Planning Application: 05/00824/3).*

**For: Mrs M Matthews**

#### **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 The Limes ('Ifafa'), Main Street, Ashby Parva, Leicestershire (SP 527 883; Planning Application: 05/00524/FUL) for Mrs M Matthews. It addresses the requirements detailed in the letter of 9<sup>th</sup> May 2005 from Leicestershire County Council, to Harborough District Council. It forms part of a scheme of work to fulfil the planning conditions 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 control and supervision of ground disturbance to identify any deposits of archaeological importance.

#### **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, 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 A report on the watching brief 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 watching brief is scheduled to commence at the inception of the contractors groundworks, currently scheduled for 12.02.2006. 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 Gerling Insurance Services 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 27229.

## **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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7.1.2006

## Appendix 2

Mr R Boyt (Planning Officer)  
Harborough District Council  
Council Offices  
Adam & Eve Street  
Market Harborough  
Leics LE16 7AG

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> May 2005  
My ref: CLE286  
Your ref: 05/00524/FUL  
Contact: Richard Clark  
Phone: (0116) 265 8322  
Fax: (0116) 265 7965  
Email: riclark@leics.gov.uk

Dear Mr Boyt,

**Planning Application No: 05/00524/FUL: Erection of a detached dwelling house and creation of new access; Land adjacent to Ifafa, Main Street, Ashby Parva, Leicestershire.**

## Archaeological considerations

Thank you for your consultation on this application. We recommend that you advise the applicant of the following archaeological requirements.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. It is inside the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of the village, with medieval village earthworks recorded 150m to the north-west (SMR Ref. No. MLE1206 & MLE1210). Consequently, there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the development.

To ensure that any archaeological remains present are dealt with appropriately, the applicant should provide professional archaeological Attendance for inspection and recording during the groundworks for the proposed development. A contingency provision for emergency recording and detailed excavation should be made, to the satisfaction of your authority in conjunction with your archaeological advisors in this Department's Archaeology Section. The Archaeology Section will provide a formal Brief for the work at the applicant's request.

The applicant should, if planning permission is granted, also obtain a suitable written Specification and costings for the archaeological recording from an archaeological organisation acceptable to the planning authority. This should be submitted to this Archaeology Section, as archaeological advisors to your authority, for approval before the start of development.

The Specification should comply with the above mentioned Brief, with this Department's "Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland" and with relevant Institute of Field Archaeologists "Standards" and "Code of Practice". It should include a suitable indication of arrangements for the implementation of the archaeological work, and the proposed timetable for the development.



We therefore recommend that any planning permission be granted subject to the following planning condition, to safeguard any important archaeological remains potentially present:

1. No development shall take place within the application area until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted and approved in writing by the planning authority.

Reason: To ensure satisfactory archaeological investigation and recording.

This condition is as advised in paragraph 55 of DoE Circular 11/95. The "Programme of Work" referred to in the recommended condition will in this case be the archaeological recording during development, in accordance with the Specification to be agreed.

The Historic and Natural Environment Team, as advisors to the planning authority, will monitor the archaeological work, to ensure that the necessary programme of archaeological work is undertaken to the satisfaction of the planning authority.

Please will you ensure a copy of the Decision Notice is sent to us in due course, to enable us to continue to monitor and safeguard the archaeology of this site. Should you or the applicant have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Clark  
Senior Planning Archaeologist

c.c. KAF Building Designs (Agent)