An Archaeological Investigation by
Trial Trenching, Watching Brief and Building Survey
At 16, Station Road, Littlethorpe,
Leicestershire (SP 541 970)

Greg Farnworth-Jones

Client: J&N Builders Ltd
Planning Authority: Blaby District Council
Planning Application Reference: 06/1161/1/PX

Checked by Project Manager

Signed:  **Date: 5/10/07**

Name: Richard Buckley

University of Leicester
Archaeological Services

University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614
Website: http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas/

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An Archaeological Strip, Map and Record Investigation at 16, Station Road, Littlethorpe, Leicestershire (SP 541 970)

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An Archaeological Strip, Map and Record Investigation at 16, Station Road, Littlethorpe, Leicestershire (SP 541 970)

Greg Farnworth-Jones

Summary

An archaeological investigation by trial trenching, strip, map and record, watching brief and standing building survey was carried out on land to the rear of 16, Station Road, Littlethorpe, Leicestershire (SP 541 970), on the 14th March, 26th April and the 17th September 2007, by University of Leicester Archaeological Services. This work was undertaken as part of the planning process associated with the construction of five residential units and the conversion of historic buildings. This work was carried out on behalf of Darren Insley, (Architect). The results of the investigation were negative. However, the historic buildings that were converted were recorded to the Level 1 standard of Historic Building Photographic Survey. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services Section accession number: X.A205.2007.

1. Introduction

1.1 This document provides details of the results of a post-determination intrusive archaeological investigation undertaken on land to the rear of 16, Station Road, Littlethorpe, Leicestershire (SP 541 970). The work was carried out on behalf of Darren Insley, (Architect), by University of Leicester Archaeological Services.

1.2 The planning application was for the erection of five residential units and to convert some historic outbuildings. 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, initially requested an archaeological desk-based assessment of the site to clarify its archaeological potential. This confirmed that the site lies within the historic medieval core of Littlethorpe and therefore has some potential for the presence of buried archaeological remains, in particular for the medieval and post-medieval periods (George 2004).

1.3 Following the results of the desk-based assessment the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council requested post-determination archaeological trial trenching of 5% of the site to confirm the nature, extent, date and significance of any archaeological deposits that may be present.

1.4 The Senior Planning Archaeologist also requested that a Level 1 photographic survey be undertaken to record the historic buildings that the development proposed to convert.

2. Geology and Topography

2.1 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 156 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of river terrace sand and gravels above Mercia Mudstone. The proposed development area is fairly flat at a height of *c*.66m OD.

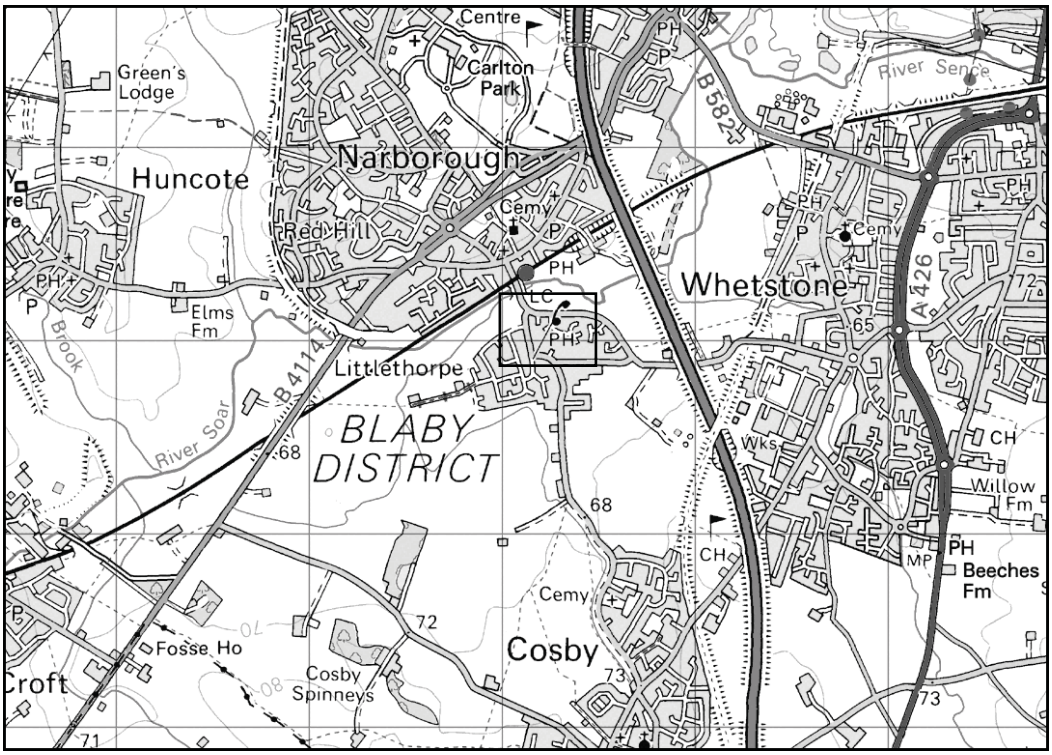

Fig. 1 Site location

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 A desk-based assessment has been conducted for the site (ULAS report 2004/151) and concluded that the site lies within the historic core of Littlethorpe and therefore has potential for archaeological remains of the late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods.

3.2 On the Station Road Frontage is The Old House, a timber framed building (listed II*) of the 16th century.

3.3 There is some evidence within the surrounding landscape of prehistoric and Roman settlement, and the site has low to moderate potential for activity of these periods.

3.4 Summary of the Archaeological Results (Taken from the desk study)

3.4.1 Archaeological Background (see Appendix 2)

No archaeological sites have been previously located within the proposed development area; however, this may simply reflect the fact that the site has not previously been subject to systematic archaeological investigation.

3.4.2 The proposed development site is located within the area of the medieval core of Littlethorpe village (**LE9565**). The extent of the medieval core has been deduced from landscape maps and conjectural evidence. The village of Littlethorpe originally dates from the late Anglo-Saxon period. In addition, the historic medieval core of Narborough also dates from the late Anglo-Saxon period, which has been deduced from documentary evidence (**LE8924**). The medieval core of Narborough is located 293m to the north of the development. A watermill is mentioned in the mid 13th century, 295m to the northwest of the proposed development (**LE244**). The All Saints Church in Narborough is a late medieval church, heavily rebuilt in 1883 (**LE250**), and is located 505m to the north. There is documentary evidence for a medieval bridge at Langham Bridge, Narborough, 960m to the west (**LE252**). There is also documentary evidence for a medieval dwelling at Bell View Cottages, 464m to the north (**LE254**). A complete saddle cruck truss with a short king post was revealed during demolition of three cottages in *c*. 1972. Parish Council Minutes make reference to a medieval stone-walled pound on Bell Street in the 1930s, 414m to the north (**LE255**). There is documentary evidence for an official market held at Narborough in the medieval period, 70m to the south (**LE260**). A medieval bronze key of 15th-century date was found in the cemetery at Narborough, 606m to the northwest (**LE6647**).

3.4.3 Various prehistoric sites are located in the vicinity of the proposed development. Cropmarks of a prehistoric enclosure are located south of Narborough Bogs, 727m to the northeast (**LE367**). The ditches form a river loop and enclosure. Within the enclosed area (**LE367**) there are four rectangular enclosures and a possible ring ditch dating to the Iron Age (**LE368**). These sites are related to the undated cropmark site comprised of a double ditched boundary, which cuts off the angle between the River Soar and Whetstone Brook (**LE366**). North of the Caravan park in Narborough, a watching brief revealed worked flint dating from the late Neolithic to late Bronze Age in the topsoil, 272m to the west (**LE9562**). West of Chestnut Close, Narborough, a piercer with possible scraper on the back, was found in topsoil during a watching brief, 343m to the southwest (**LE9563**). The piercer dates from the late Neolithic to late Bronze Age. West of Beechwood Road a late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age scraper was found during a watching brief, 444m to the southwest (**LE9564**).

3.4.4 Two Roman sites are recorded in the vicinity. A small bronze coin, probably of Maximianus (E. 4th Century AD), may have come from the garden at Narborough House, 454m to the north (**LE7719**). The route of the Fosse Way Roman road passes within 899m of the development (**LE1380**).

3.4.5 The village cores of Narborough (**LE8924**) and Littlethorpe (**LE9565**) date from the late Anglo-Saxon period. A hog back tombstone of Anglo-Scandinavian

character and 10th-century date, comes from the garden of Narborough House, 465m to the north (**LE6090**).

3.4.6 Three sites dating to the post-medieval period are located in the vicinity. There is documentary evidence from Greenwood's Map of 1826 for a post-medieval windmill southeast of Red Hill Farm, 919m to the west (**LE242**). A post-medieval watermill is marked on an early railway map, showing a pond and leat leading from the river, 283m to the northwest (**LE245**). There is an extant post-medieval house at 40 Coventry Road, also called Baile's House, 465m to the northwest (**LE259**). The two storey house was built *c.*1600, and has been raised and altered in the 20th century and is now three storeys.

3.5 Historical Background

3.5.1 It appears that Narborough was inhabited by the 8th century AD, and that there was a defended dwelling there which played an important part in the running of an estate which comprised Narborough, Huncote, Croft, Sutton, Cosby and Littlethorpe (Jarrett 1987, 12). The estate was probably dispersed by the 10th century, with separate villages forming and Littlethorpe becoming a minor township (*ibid*). The Domesday Book states that Ralph held (Little) Thorpe from Earl Aubrey and it consisted of 2 carucates of land, 'land for 2 ploughs, 2 villagers with 1 smallholder have them. A mill at 2s' (Morris 1979). Prior to 1800 the area surrounding Littlethorpe was agricultural, however, with the development of small cottage industries, such as framework knitting and boot making, Littlethorpe became more dependent on industry than farming (Crofts and Moreton 1998). Quarrying took over as the major industry in the area in the mid 19th century, which has since died out (*ibid*).

3.5.2 The SMR Landscape Maps do not show any areas of crop marks or ridge and furrow within the proposed development area and it appears to be well within the boundary of the medieval village of Littlethorpe. The online catalogue of the Cambridge University Collection of Air Photos was searched, and found to contain no oblique photographs of the proposed development area. However this does not preclude the fact that crop marks or topographical features may exist in the development area.

3.5.3 An Enclosure Award and map for Littlethorpe was not held at the Leicestershire Records Office and no tithe map covered the relevant area. The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map 1888 (fig. 3) shows various structures located in the western half of the area, including The Old House. The eastern half of the proposed development area is shown as part of a large enclosed field. The 1917 OS map shows no change from the 1888 map (fig. 4). The 1938 OS map shows little change from the 1917 map, there have been minor alterations to the size of the eastern most outbuilding (fig. 5). The 1990 and 1992 OS maps show further changes to the outbuildings, with the removal of some buildings and the construction of various new structures (fig. 6). In addition, parts of the field in the eastern half have been fenced off and the area to the north and east of the proposed development shows residential development. The current location map, supplied by the developer (fig. 2), shows the removal of all of the outbuildings in the eastern half of the area.

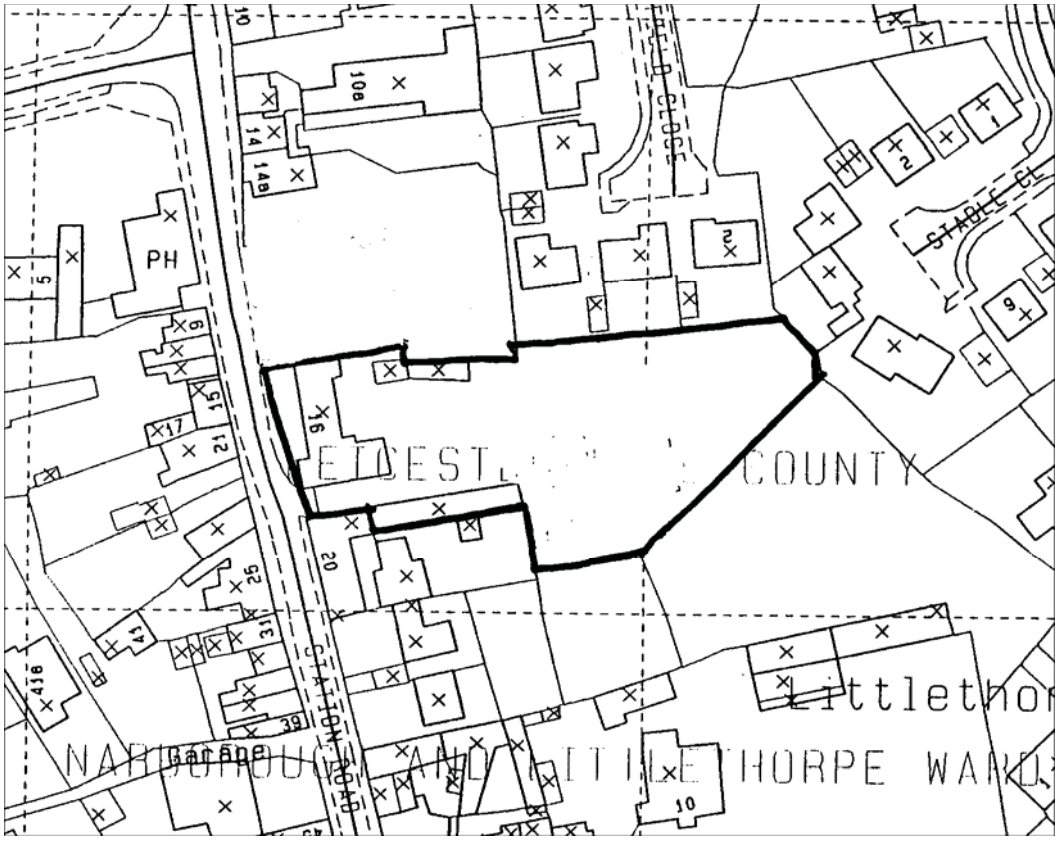

Fig. 2 Location of proposed development area, supplied by developer, scale 1:1250.

4. Methodology

4.1 All work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhered to their relevant *Standard and Guidance.*

4.2 The main objectives of the evaluation were:

1. To identify the presence/absence of any 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 produce an archive and report of any results.

4.3 The Senior Planning Archaeologist had requested that four trenches be excavated: three measuring 10m by 3m and one, 20m by 1.5m (total of 120 sq. m) representing a 5% sample of the area. The proposed trench location plan is included below (Fig.3). The trenches targeted the house footprints.

4.4 The project involved the supervision of overburden removal and other ground works by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above.

4.5 Topsoil and disturbed subsoil was removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision, down to the uppermost archaeological deposits by JCB using a toothless ditching bucket.

4.6 Trenches were examined by appropriated hand cleaning. Any archaeological deposits or significant natural deposits were planned at an appropriate scale and sample excavated by hand as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence. All plans have been tied into the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM). Spot heights were taken as appropriate.

4.7 Sections were drawn as appropriate, including records of at least one longitudinal face of each trench.

4.8 The Historic Buildings Survey work adhered to the guidelines set out in: English Heritage, 2006. *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice*. HMSO.

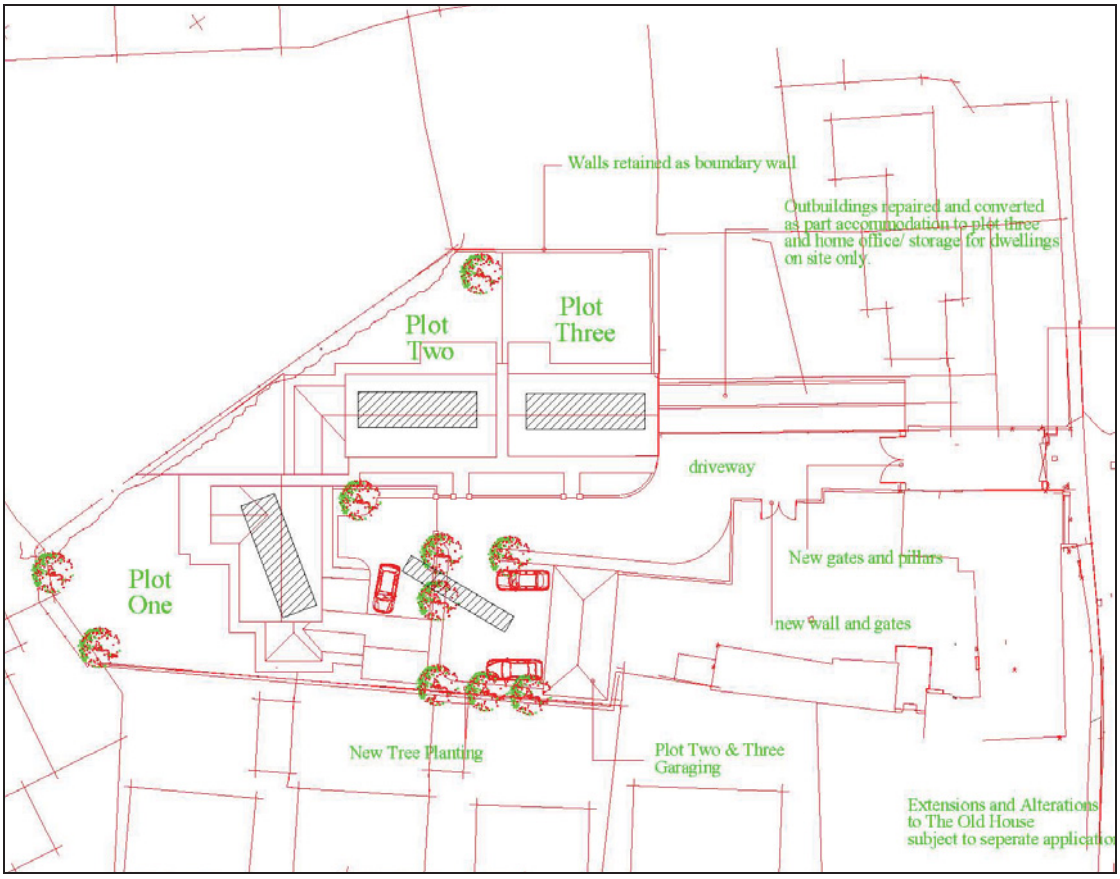

Fig.3 Plan of the site, showing proposed location of trenches.
(Plans supplied by the developer).

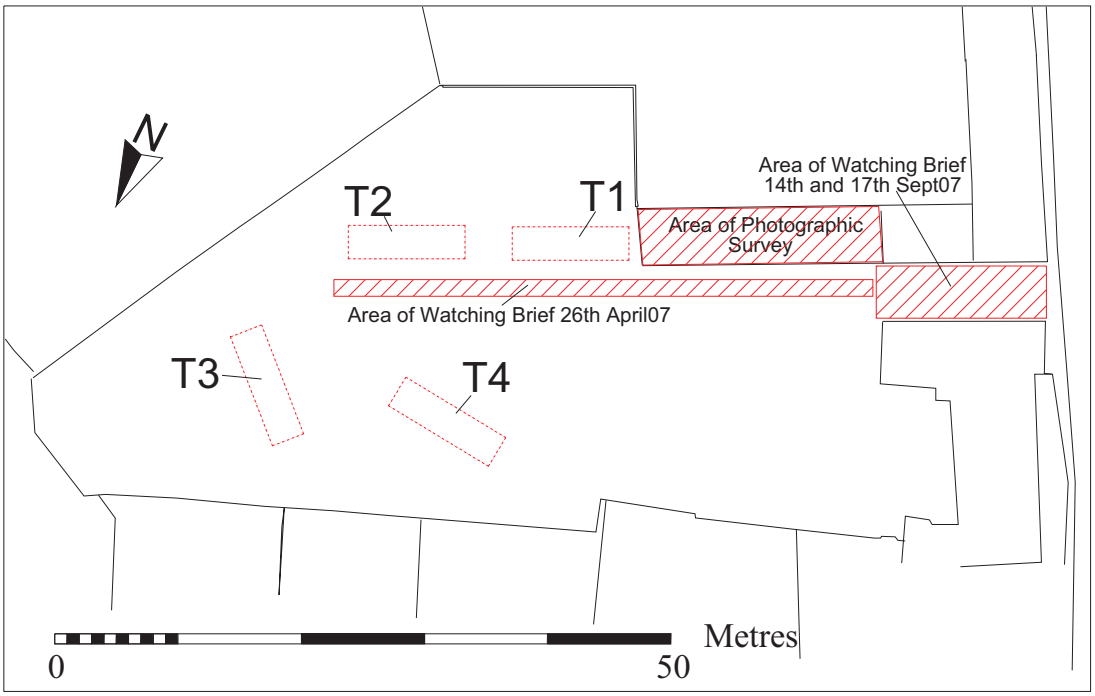

Fig.4 Trench Location Plan Showing Area of Watching Brief and Photographic Survey

5. Results

5.1 Results of the Strip, Map and Record Evaluation

5.1.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 Details

Length of Trench	10m
Area of Trench	30sq.m
Surface Level (m OD)	*c.66.0 m OD*
Base of Trench (m OD)	*c.65.4m OD*

Trench 1 was located on the south-western corner of the site, orientated east-west (Fig.4). It was observed that the topsoil/overburden had already been stripped across the entire site before the controlled machining began. Once the strip, plan and sample excavation was underway initial machining revealed, to a depth of *c.*0.4m, a subsoil layer consisting of mid-grey-brown clay silt, with <5% occasional rounded stones. At the same depth of *c.*0.4m, the natural substratum in trench 1 was reached which consisted of brown orange clay sand (20/80). Modern disturbance was observed in trench one running along the southern edge of the trench, containing brick fragments, rubble and burnt material. However, no archaeological finds or features were present within trench 1.

Figure 5 Trench 2 Looking East

5.1.2 ***Trench 2***

Trench 2 Details

Length of Trench	10m
Area of Trench	30sq.m
Surface Level (m OD)	*c.66.0 m OD*
Base of Trench (m OD)	*c.65.6 m OD*

Trench 2 was located to the east of trench one, on the southern edge of the site and was also orientated east-west (Fig.4). Initial machining revealed to depth of *c.*0.4m, the subsoil layer which was very similar to that seen in trench one, consisting of mid-grey-brown clay silt, with <5% occasional rounded stones. Continued machining revealed at a depth of *c.*0.4m, the natural substratum which consisted of brown orange clay sand (20/80). No archaeology was present in trench two. Therefore the result of trench 2 was negative.

5.1.3 ***Trench 3***

Trench 3 Details

Length of Trench	10m
Area of Trench	30sq.m
Surface Level (m OD)	*c.66.0 m OD*
Base of Trench (m OD)	*c.65.4 m OD*

Trench 3 was located to the northwest of trench two in the north-western corner of the site, orientated northwest-southeast (Fig.4). Initial machining in trench 3 revealed to a depth of *c.*0.4m the subsoil layer which consisted of the same mid-grey-brown clay silt, with <5% occasional rounded stones, that had been observed in the two previous trenches. Further machining peeled the subsoil layer back to reveal at a depth of *c.*0.4m the natural substratum, which consisted of the same brown-orange clay sand (20/80) that had been observed in the first two trenches. No archaeological finds or features were observed within trench three.

5.1.4 ***Trench 4***

Trench 4 Details

Length of Trench	10m
Area of Trench	30sq.m
Surface Level (m OD)	*c.66.0 m OD*
Base of Trench (m OD)	*c. 65.35m OD*

Trench 4 was located to the west of trench three in the central area of the site, orientated northwest-southeast (Fig.4). Trench 3 was originally supposed to be 20m by 1.5m in size. However, due to on site restrictions only half of the trench would fit length ways, so it was decided to increase the width to three metres in order to retain the target surface area of 30sq.m.

Initial machining in trench four revealed the subsoil layer to be the same as that observed in the other three trenches consisting of the same mid-grey-brown clay silt, with <5% occasional rounded stones. This layer peeled back to reveal at a depth of *c.*0.6m the natural substratum, which possessed the same red-brown clay sand consistence as the natural seen in first three trenches.
Modern disturbance was observed in trench 4 comprising brick and rubble fragments. However, no archaeological finds or features were present within trench 4. The results of this trench were therefore negative.

5.2 Results of the Watching Brief

5.2.1 Following the archaeological trial trenching evaluation, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services to observe the excavation of a service trench and to observe the breaking up of the concrete surface near to the entrance of the site

5.2.2 This work took place on the 26th April and on the 14th and 17th September 2007.

5.2.3 The service trenches were open for inspection upon arrival at 16, Station Road on the 26th April 2007 and it was soon apparent that there were no archaeological finds or features present in any of the excavated service trenches.

5.2.4 The second part of the watching brief which was undertaken on the 14th and 17th September 2007 involved the watching of concrete breaking and concrete removal along the driveway. After the concrete was removed a ditching bucket was used by the machine to strip down to natural. Below the level of the concrete only *c.*0.2m of soil overburden was removed before reaching the natural substratum, which consisted of orange sandy gravel with patches of dark red sand. No archaeological finds or features were present.

Figure 6 Removal of Driveway Looking East

6. Conclusion

6.1 The results of the archaeological evaluation and watching brief on land to the rear of 16, Station Road, Littlethorpe (SP 541 970), failed to uncover evidence of any archaeological finds or features, and therefore the results of the investigation were negative.

6.2 The only conclusions that can be drawn from the absence of archaeology on land at the rear of 16, Station Road, are that either no archaeological activity took place here, or that if it had, it may have involved medieval buildings, since demolished, that did not have any footings. It is interesting to note that during the watching brief carried out to view the concrete removal of the driveway, adjacent to the historic property of 16, Station Road and the road itself, the natural substratum depth was only 0.2m deep below the concrete. If a building ever had stood on this spot, it could not have had any footings. However, due to the absence of any surviving archaeology, this can only be speculation.

6.3 The historic outhouse buildings at 16, Station Road, Littlethorpe (SP 541 970) were successfully recorded to the Level 1 Historic Building Photographic Survey. The results of which can be found below (Appendix 1).

7. Archive

7.1 The site archive consists of a copy of this report, black and white slides, colour digital photographs, four trench recording sheets and three watching brief recording sheets. The site archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services Section, under accession number: X.A205.2007.

8. Acknowledgements

8.1 I would like to thank the clients Darren Insley, (Architect) for their help and co-operation on site. The field work was carried out by the author with the assistance of Jon Coward and Dan Prior. The standing building photographic survey was written up by Susan Ripper and the project was managed by Richard Buckley, all of ULAS.

9. Bibliography

Buckley, R., 2007. *Design Specification for Archaeological Investigation: Trial Trenching and Strip, Map and Record – 16 Station Road, Littlethorpe, Leicestershire (SP 541 970).* ULAS Ref.07/116

George, S., 2004. *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment for a residential Development at land at the rear of The Old House, 16 Station Road, Littlethorpe, Narborough, Leicestershire (SP 541 970)* ULAS Report 2004/151

Leicestershire County Council, 2007. *Brief for Archaeological Investigation (Strip, Plan and Sample Excavation) and a Historic Building Photographic Survey at 16 Station Road, Littlethorpe. Planning Reference 06/1161/1/PX*

Greg Farnworth-Jones
Archaeological Supervisor
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614
Email:gj28@le.ac.uk

10. Appendices

10.1 Appendix 1

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Historic Building Photographic Survey
Site: 16 Station Road, Littlethorpe, Leicestershire.
Planning Application Reference: 06/1161/1/PX
Client: Darren Insley (Architect)

Planning Authority: Blaby District Council

ULAS Report No. 2007-098

Contents

Historic Building Photographic Survey for 16 Station Road, Littlethorpe, Leicestershire (SP 541-970).

Planning Application Reference: 06/1161/1/PX

Summary

*A historic building photographic survey of a group of late 19th century outbuildings within the curtilage of the Listed Building at 16 Station Road, Littlethorpe (*SP 541 970*) was carried out by ULAS, on behalf of Darren Insley (Architects), on 14-3-2007. The outbuildings lie along the southern boundary of the development area (*
Figure 1*,) with their principal elevation facing northwards. The outbuildings consist of a linear arrangement of four single storey buildings, one room deep (Buildings A – D ,*Figure 2*). The two more central of the buildings (B & C) retain stall dividers for cattle/horses and the remaining two were store rooms. The roofs of A and D have been replaced with corrugated iron, but B and C retain their original king post roof truss and slate roofs (*Figure 3*).*

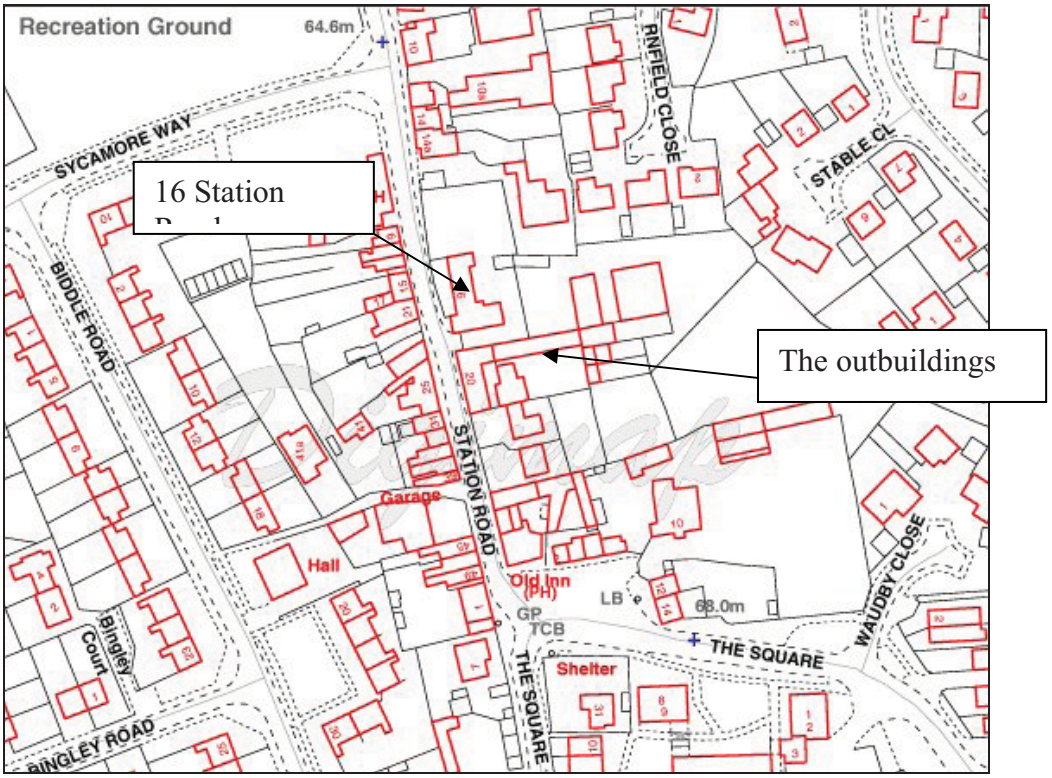

Figure 1: No.16 Station Road, Littlethorpe. The building fronting on to Station Road is a Grade II Listed Building, while the outbuildings that are the subject of the photographic survey lie along the southern boundary of the development area.

Introduction

A planning application has been submitted to Blaby District Council for the erection of three detached dwellings together with associated parking and conversion to form stores/home offices. The stores/home offices will be converted from the outbuildings which are the subject of this photographic survey.

The Area Planning Officer at Leicester City Council made a request for photographic recording of the four outbuildings, prior to alteration. Details of the level of recording required were fully outlined in the 'Brief' (Leicestershire County Council, February 2007) and follow guidelines produced by English Heritage *(English Heritage, 2006).* University of Leicester Archaeological Services was commissioned by Darren Insley (Architects) to undertake the survey. All work has followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Code of Conduct* and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Standing Building surveys.*
For the purposes of this report the four out-building are referred to as Buildings A, B, C & D (from east to west).

Figure 2: General view of the outbuildings (looking south west). Outbuilding A (easternmost building) and part of B are in the left-hand picture, B, C and D (westernmost building) are in the right.

Figure 3: A roof truss in Building B. Note how the king post extends above the apex of the principal rafters allowing the purlins to rest on top of the rafters without the need for jointing. The purlins are prevented from slipping down with a wedge of wood nailed to the rafter.

Photographic Survey

Greg Farnworth-Jones undertook a photographic survey on the 14th March, 2007. Photographs in 35mm monochrome negative and colour digital format are catalogued in the site archive. Digital photographs are used to illustrate this report.

The digital photographs:-

Photo No.	Building	Direction	Comment
1	A	West	Eastern gable elevation of Building A
2	A	South	Front elevation
3	A/B	South	Front elevation
4	B/C/D	South	Front elevation
5	A	South	Front elevation
6	A	South	Front elevation
7	B	South	Front elevation
8	B	South	Front elevation
9	C	South	Front elevation
10	C	South	Front elevation
11	D/C/B/A	East	Front elevation
12	B	West	Roof truss
13	B	West	Roof truss and cattle separators
14	B	North	Purlins and common rafters
15	B	East	King post roof truss with detail of how the purlins were not jointed to the principal rafters, but rather held in place with a wedge.
16	C	West	Roof truss
17	C	West	Roof truss
18	C	East	Roof truss

Black & White photographs:-

Photo No.	Building	Direction	Comment
37	A	West	Front elevation (general)
38	A	South	Front elevation (general)
39	B/C/D	South	Front elevation (general)
40	B/C/D	South	Front elevation (general)
41	D	South	Front elevation (general)
42	D	South	Front elevation (general)
43	A	South	Front elevation
44	A	South	Front elevation
45	A	South	Front elevation
46	A	South	Front elevation
47	B/C	South	Front elevation
48	B/C	South	Front elevation
49	B/C	South	Front elevation
50	D	South	Front elevation
51	D	South	Front elevation
52	D	South	Front elevation
53	D	South	Front elevation

54	D	South	Front elevation
55	A/B/C/D	South	Front elevation (general)
56	B	S-W	Internal roof trusses
57	B	South	Internal roof trusses
58	B	West	Internal roof trusses
59	C	S-W	Internal roof trusses
60	C	West	Internal roof trusses
61	C	S-E	Internal roof trusses

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Susan Ripper
Project Officer
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614
Email:sar6@le.ac.uk

10.2 Appendix 2: Sites and Monuments Record

The following sites located in the vicinity of the proposed development area are listed in the Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services Sites and Monuments Record:

1. Prehistoric

LE367 (SP 550 973) Cropmarks of a prehistoric enclosure are located south of Narborough Bogs. The ditches form a river loop and enclosure (see **LE366** and **LE368**).

LE368 (SP 550 973) South of Narborough Bogs there are cropmarks of a rectilinear enclosure. Within the enclosed area (**LE367**) there are four rectangular enclosures and a possible ring ditch dating to the Iron Age.

LE9562 (SP 538 970) North of the Caravan park in Narborough, a watching brief revealed worked flint dating from the late Neolithic to late Bronze Age in the topsoil.

LE9563 (SP 538 968) West of Chestnut Close, Narborough, a piercer with possible scraper on back, was found in topsoil during a watching brief. The piercer dates from the late Neolithic to late Bronze Age.

LE9564 (SP 538 966) West of Beechwood Road a late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age scraper was found during a watching brief.

2. Roman

LE7719 (SP 540 974) A small bronze coin, probably of Maximinius (4th Century), may have come from the garden at Narborough House.

LE1380 (various) Fosse Way Roman road, originally forming the military frontier of Roman Britain.

3. Anglo-Saxon

LE6090 (SP 5409 9750) A hog back tomb stone of Anglo-Scandinavian character and 10th century date, comes from the garden of Narborough House which is adjacent to the churchyard.

LE8924 (SP 542 976) The historic medieval core of Narborough has been deduced from documentary evidence. The village of Narborough dates from the late Anglo-Saxon to late medieval periods.

LE9565 (SP 542 969) The historic medieval core of Littlethorpe has been deduced from documentary evidence. The village of Littlethorpe dates from the late Anglo-Saxon to late medieval periods.

4. Medieval

LE244 (SP 540 973) A watermill is mentioned in the mid 13th century which may have stood to the west of the Railway Station.

LE250 (SP 540 975) The All Saints Church in Narborough is a late medieval church, heavily rebuilt in 1883. Listed.

LE252 (SP 5317 9698) There is documentary evidence for a medieval bridge at Langham Bridge, Narborough. Formerly a series of arches without parapet, now replaced with a modern structure of reinforced concrete.

LE254 (SP 541 975) There is also documentary evidence for a medieval dwelling at Bell View Cottages. A complete saddle cruck truss with a short king post was revealed during demolition of three cottages in c. 1972.

LE255 (SP 5418 9745) Parish Council Minutes make reference to a medieval stone walled pound on Bell Street in the 1930s. In the mid 1980s resident could remember it standing.

LE260 (SP 54 96) There is documentary evidence for an official market held at Narborough in the medieval period. The Square is possibly the location of the market.

LE6647 (SP 540 976) A medieval bronze key of 15th century date was found in the cemetery at Narborough.

5. Post-medieval

LE242 (SP 532 972) There is documentary evidence from Greenwood's Map of 1826 for a post-medieval windmill southeast of Red Hill Farm.

LE245 (SP 540 973) A post-medieval watermill is marked on an early railway map, west of the Railway Station, and shows a pond and leat leading from the river.

LE259 (SP 5382 9738) There is an extant post-medieval house at 40 Coventry Road, also called Baile's House. The two storey house was built c.1600, and has been raised and altered in the 20th century and is now three stories.

6. Undated

LE366 (SP 550 973) Undated cropmarks of a multiple ditch system are located to the south of Narborough Bogs. A double ditched boundary cuts off the angle between the River Soar and Whetstone Brook (see **LE367** and **LE368**).

10.3 Appendix 3

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for Archaeological investigation:
Trial Trenching and Strip, Map and Record
Proposed Residential development at 16 Station Road, Littlethorpe, Leics,
NGR: SP 541 970
Client: Darren Insley, Archietect
Planning Authority: Blaby District Council

1 Introduction

1.1 ***Definition and scope of the specification***

This document is a design specification for a phase of post-determination intrusive archaeological investigation at the above site, in accordance with DOE Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning, para.30). The fieldwork specified below is intended to provide indications of character and extent of any buried archaeological remains in order that the potential impact of the development on such remains may be assessed by the Planning Authority. In areas inaccessible to trenching, principally the driveway access from Station Road, it is proposed to proceed directly to a mitigation strategy comprising archaeological supervision of groundworks ('strip, plan and sample excavation') in order to ensure that any archaeological remains identified are recorded adequately. Depending on the results of the trial trenching, this mitigation strategy may, with the agreement of the Senior Planning Archaeologist, be extended to the house footprints.

1.2 The proposed investigation will be similar in nature to pre-determination archaeological field evaluation, as defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists in their Standards and Guidance: for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IFA S&G: AFE). Here it is defined as a limited programme of non-intrusive and/ or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

1.3 The document provides details of the work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client, and should be submitted to the Archaeological Advisor to the Planning Authority for approval before archaeological investigation by ULAS is implemented. The document provides details of the work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client for:

- Archaeological evaluation by intrusive trial trenching.
- Archaeological Strip, map and Record of Areas inaccessible for trial trenching

2. Background

2.1 ***Context of the Project***

2.1.1 The proposed development site is located on land to the rear of 16 Station Road, Littlethorpe, Leicestershire where it is proposed to erect five residential units, and convert some historic outbuildings. A desk-based assessment has confirmed that the site has some potential for buried archaeological remains, in particular for the medieval and post-medieval periods.

2.1.2 The Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council has requested (Brief 2006, see appendix) post-determination archaeological trial trenching of 5% of the site to confirm the nature, extent, date and significance of any archaeological deposits that may be present. University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS), have been commissioned to undertake the work.

2.2 ***Geological and Topographical Background***

2.2.1 The site lies at approximately 66 m OD. The Ordnance Survey Geological survey of Great Britain, Sheet 156 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to comprise river terrace sand and gravels above Mercia Mudstone.

2.3 ***Archaeological and Historical Background***

2.3.1 A desk-based assessment has been conducted for the site (ULAS report 2004/151) and concluded that the site lies within the historic core of Littlethorpe and therefore has potential for archaeological remains of the late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods.

2.3.2 On the Station Road frontage is The Old House, a timber framed building (listed II*) of the 16th century.

2.3.3 There is some evidence within the surrounding landscape of prehistoric and Roman settlement, and the site has low to moderate potential for activity of these periods.

3. Archaeological Objectives

3.1 The main objectives of the investigation will be:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposals.
- To sample excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works within the driveway.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

3.2 Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the trial trenching is to establish the nature, extent and significance of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from proposed development. Once the above information has been gathered, it should be possible to devise an appropriate mitigation strategy to ensure that any archaeological deposits which may be affected are recorded adequately.

4. Methodology

4.1 ***General Methodology and Standards***

4.1.1 All work will follow the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (1999) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

4.1.2 Staffing, recording systems, health and safety provisions and insurance details are included below.

4.1.3 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site by the project manager. These will ensure that project targets are met and professional standards are maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with the Planning authority and the Client, if required.

4.2 ***Trial Trenching Methodology***

4.2.1 Four trenches will be excavated: three measuring 10m by 3m and one, 20m by 1.5m each 30m by 1.5m (total of 120 sq. m), will be excavated, representing a 5% sample of the area. The proposed trench location plan is included below (Fig. 1). The trenches will target the house footprints.

4.2.2 The present ground surfaces and underlying modern overburden (approximately 0.2m) over the area of the trenches, will be removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision. The work will use a mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket and will continue down to the uppermost archaeological deposits or undisturbed natural (whichever is encountered first), to a maximum depth of 1m (See Section 11). The trenches will be backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation, but surfaces will not be reinstated.

4.2.3 Trenches will be examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located will be planned at an appropriate scale. Archaeological deposits will be sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence. All plans will be tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Relative spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

4.2.4 Sections of any excavated archaeological features will be drawn at an appropriate scale. At least one longitudinal face of each trench will be recorded. All sections will be levelled and tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum, or a permanent fixed benchmark.

4.2.5 Trench locations will be recorded and tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

4.2.6 Any human remains will initially be left *in situ* and will only be removed if necessary for their protection, under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations.

4.3 Archaeological Supervision of Groundworks Methodology

4.3.1 The work will involve the supervision of overburden removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during works associated with the creation of a new driveway.

4.3.2 Should significant archaeological remains be identified in an initial trial trench, and found to be 0.15m or less below proposed formation, the site is to be stripped down to the top of the archaeology, followed by a programme of excavation and recording, using additional personnel as necessary.

4.3.3 In the event that archaeological remains of uncertain significance are located in the initial trench/test pit (e.g. undated post-hole/pit), further trenching may be necessary, at the discretion of the site supervisor, to clarify their nature and significance and determine the need for a full topsoil strip.

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4.3.4 If no archaeological deposits are identified within the trench, or the depth of overburden is greater than 0.15m, there will be no requirement for the site to be stripped to a level below proposed formation and subsequent groundworks will be subject o an intermittent watching brief.

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

4.3.6 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.

4.3.7 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.

4.3.8 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.

4.3.9 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 and Leicestershire County Council will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.3.10 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 and Leicestershire County Council.

4.3.11 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.

4.3 Recording Systems

4.3.1 The ULAS recording manual will be used as a guide for all recording.

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

4.3.3 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 trench plan at appropriate scale, which will show the location of the areas investigated in relationship to the investigation area and OS grid.

4.3.4 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made. Sections including the half-sections of individual layers of features will be drawn as necessary. The relative height of all principal strata and features will be recorded. The stratigraphy of all trenches shall be recorded even where no archaeological features are identified.

4.3.5 A photographic record of the investigations will be prepared 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.

4.3.6 This record will be compiled and checked during the course of the excavations.

5. *Finds*

5.1 The IFA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to.

5.2 All antiquities, valuables, objects or remains of archaeological interest, other than articles declared by Coroner's Inquest to be subject to the Treasure Act, discovered in or under the Site during the carrying out of the project by ULAS or during works carried out on the Site by the Client shall be deemed to be the property of ULAS provided that ULAS after due examination of the said Archaeological Discoveries shall transfer ownership of all Archaeological Discoveries unconditionally to LCC for storage in perpetuity.

5.3 An Accession number will be obtained from the Assistant Keeper of Archaeological Archives at Leicestershire County Council that will be used to identify all records and finds from the site, prior to the commencement of any on-site works.

5.4 During the fieldwork, different sampling strategies may be employed according to the perceived importance of the strata under investigation. Close attention will always be given to sampling for date, structure and environment.

5.5 All identified finds and artefacts are to be retained, although certain classes of building material will, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording with the approval of the City Archaeologist. The IFA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to.

5.6 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner. Where appropriate they will be cleaned, marked and receive remedial conservation in accordance with recognised best practice. This will include the site code number, finds number and context number. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self sealing plastic bags, again marked with site code, finds and context

6. Report and Archive

6.1 The full report in A4 format will usually follow within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and copies will be dispatched to the Senior Planning Archaeologist/SMR to be distributed amongst relevant sections of Leicestershire County Council as necessary.

6.2 The report will include consideration of:

- *The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.*
- *The nature, location and extent of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.*
- *The anticipated degree of survival of archaeological deposits.*
- *The anticipated archaeological impact of the current proposals.*
- *Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.*
- *Summary.*
- *The location and size of the archive.*
- *A quantitative and qualitative assessment of the potential of the archive for further analysis leading to full publication, following guidelines laid down in* Management of Archaeological Projects *(English Heritage).*

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 usually be presented to within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.*

7 Publication and Dissemination of Results

7.1 A summary of the work will be submitted to the local archaeological journal, the Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society. A larger report will be submitted for inclusion if the results of the evaluation warrant it.

7.2 University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS form at http://ads.ac.uk/project/oasis will be completed detailing the results of the project. ULAS will contact Leicestershire County Council's SMR prior to completion of the form. Once a report has become a public document following its incorporation into Leicestershire SMR it may be placed on the web-site. The Developer should agree to this procedure in writing as part of the process of submitting the report to Leicestershire SMR.

8. Acknowledgement and Publicity

8.1 ULAS shall acknowledge the contribution of the Client in any displays, broadcasts or publications relating to the site or in which the report may be included.

8.2 ULAS and the Client shall each ensure that a senior employee shall be responsible for dealing with any enquiries received from press, television and any other broadcasting media and members of the public. All enquiries made to ULAS shall be directed to the Client for comment.

9. Copyright

9.1 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.

10. Timetable

10.1 The archaeological evaluation is scheduled to start in January 2007 and will last approximately 1 week.

10.2 The on-site director/supervisor will carry out the post-excavation work, with time allocated within the costing of the project for analysis of any artefacts found on the site by the relevant in-house specialists at ULAS.

10.3 An interim report on the results of the evaluation can be prepared, if required, after the completion of the fieldwork.

11. Health and Safety

11.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Archaeological Services Health and Safety Policy and Health and Safety manual with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is attached as Appendix 1. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate. The HSE has determined that archaeological investigations are exempt from CDM regulations.

11.2 An intrusive environmental site assessment was undertaken by RSK ENST (2006), to assess possible contamination of the site. This identified a number of potential hazards requiring remedial action including:

- *The suspected presence of asbestos cement roofing sheets and downpipes.*
- *Possible small amounts of hazardous ground gases including methane, carbon dioxide and oxygen.*
- *Soft and possibly unstable ground with groundwater being encountered at around 1.5m.*

The report recommended that no excavations exceed 1m without support or gas monitoring. For further health and safety issues see Appendix 1.

11.3 All of these hazards will be identified on the risk assessment form, which will be updated as necessary during the site works.

11.4 Information on the known location of any other services or other constraints will need to be supplied by the Client, prior to the commencement of works on the site.

12 Insurance

12.1 All employees, consultants and volunteers are covered by the University of Leicester public liability insurance, £20m cover with St. Paul Travellers (policy no. UCPOP3651237). Professional indemnity insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters 50% and Brit Insurance 50%, £10m cover (policy no. PUNIO3605). Employer's Liability Insurance is with St. Paul Travellers, cover £10m (policy no. UCPOP3651237).

13. Monitoring arrangements

13.1 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and Senior Planning Archaeologist subject to the health and safety requirements of the site. Notice will be given to the Leicestershire Senior Planning Archaeologist before the commencement of the archaeological evaluation in order that monitoring arrangements can be made.

13.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the IFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations.

13.3 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

14. Contingencies and unforeseen circumstances

14.1 In the unlikely event, that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the project, ULAS shall inform the site agent/project manager, Client and the Senior Planning Archaeologist and Planning Authority and prepare a short written statement with plans detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Senior Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement an amended scheme of investigation on behalf of the client as appropriate.

15. Bibliography

George, S., , 2004 — An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for a Residential Development at land to the rear of The Old House, 16 Station Road, Littlethorpe, Narborough, Leicestershire (SP 541 970) ULAS Report 2004/151

MAP 2 — *The Management of Archaeological Projects* 2nd edition English Heritage 1991

MGC 1992 — Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections 1992 (Museums and Galleries Commission)

RFG/FRG 1993 — Guidelines for the preparation of site archives (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993)

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

Richard Buckley

ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH
Tel:0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614
Email: rjb16@le.ac.uk

1. Plan of the site, showing proposed location of trial trenches.

APPENDIX 1: Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement:

Proposed Residential development at 16 Station Road, Littlethorpe, Leicestershire, Leicestershire

Client: Darren Insley

Planning Authority: Blaby District Council

A risks assessment will be completed by site personnel and will be updated and amended by on-site staff during the course of the evaluation.

1. Nature of the work

1.1 The work will involve trial trenching during daylight hours to reveal underlying archaeological deposits. The work will involve excavation using machine (JCB or equivalent with toothless ditching bucket), of trial trenches under the control and supervision of archaeologists.

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 ***Trial Trenching***

The work will involve machine excavation by mechanical excavator during daylight hours to reveal underlying archaeological deposits. Due to the possible presence of hazardous ground gases and soft unstable ground, no trench will exceed 1m in depth as recommended by the site contamination investigation (RSK ENSR 2006). An assessment of the stability of the sides will be carried out by a competent person prior to staff access. All open trenches will be checked for stability every day and staff will remain alert to any indications of gases (e.g. smell).

A 'No Smoking' rule will be applied to the excavation areas.

Spoil will be stockpiled no less than 1.5 m from the edge of the excavation with the edges kept clean.

One end of each trench will be modified to provide access. Entry into the base of the trench is to be by this access only.

Remaining works will involve the examination of the exposed surface with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and excavation of archaeological features. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on.

Protective footwear will be worn at all times. Hard hats will be worn when working in deeper sections or with plant. A first aid kit and mobile phone is to be kept on site at all times in case of an emergency.

2.2 ***Working with plant***.

Each trench will be excavated by machine under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist. A responsible person will be nominated as banksman. They will direct the machine using a series of pre-arranged hand signals. No one else is to approach the machine working area until the banksman has been made aware of their presence.

During bucket changes site staff will stand well clear of the machine until the bucket/breaker has been correctly fitted and crowned.

During machining all personnel are to wear a safety helmet, steel toe-capped boots and a high visibility jacket / vest. Ear defenders / plugs and safety glasses will also be made available to all staff on site. Ear protection will be worn whilst the breaker/excavator is in use.

2.3 ***Working in vicinity of services***

There is a known electricity sub-station adjacent to the site. No work will be carried out until a services plan has been seen and the location of known services are clearly identified and marked. Trenches may be moved to avoid services.

If services or wells are encountered, machining will be halted until their extent has been established by hand excavation, or areas where it is safe to machine have been established.

2.4 ***Working within areas prone to waterlogging***.

In the event of waterlogging preventing work continuing, an assessment will be made by the site supervisor to determine if it is possible to excavate a sump, suitably fenced and clearly marked to enable the water to drain away from the trenches. Protective clothing will be worn at all times and precautions taken to prevent contact with stagnant water which may carry Vialls disease or similar.

2.5 ***Asbestos***

The possible presence of asbestos has been identified on site. All site staff will be made aware of this and will avoid any contact during work on site.

2.6 ***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.

2.7 ***Other risks***

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.

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION (EXPLORATORY TRIAL TRENCHING) AND A HISTORIC BUILDING PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY AT 16 STATION ROAD, LITTLETHOPRE, NARBOROUGH, BLABY, LEICESTERSHIRE.

Planning Reference: 06/1161/1/PX
Erection of 3 detached dwellings together with associated parking and conversion of outbuildings to form stores/home offices (revised scheme)
Historic & Natural Environment Team, Community Services Department, Leicestershire County Council
Prepared on: 08 February 2007

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION (STRIP, PLAN & SAMPLE EXCAVATION) AND A HISTORIC BUILDING PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY AT 16 STATION ROAD, LITTLETHORPE, NARBOROUGH.

Summary of Brief

1.1 The development site to the rear of 16 Station Road, Littlethorpe, Narborough, has been identified as an area of significant archaeological potential based upon an assessment of information held in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER). Additionally, number 16 Station Road itself, also known as The Old House, is a Grade II listed building (HER Ref No.MLE 11115) and the outbuildings proposed for conversion are within its curtilage and present on historic mapping of Littlethorpe.

1.2 The Senior Planning Archaeologist, Historic & Natural Environment Team (HNET), Leicestershire County Council, has recommended the need for a programme of building recording and exploratory trial trenching to be conducted prior to the start of development. This work will be followed, if shown necessary, by an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation and recording to be completed either prior to or during the groundworks phase. The targeted historic building investigation will comprise a photographic survey undertaken upon the outbuildings associated with 16 Station Road. All archaeological work shall be undertaken in accordance with this brief and an approved Specification/Written Scheme of Investigation, as secured by condition on the current planning permission 06/1161/1/PX.

Appendices for reference as part of this Brief (to be supplied by the developer to the archaeological contractor)

- General location plan;
- Site layout plan(s);
- Architect's plans to show areas of ground impact;
- Elevations and plans of the warehouse building.

Site location and description

3.1 The development area is located on the eastern side of Station Road, Littlethorpe, to the rear of number 16, at NGR SP 541 970. The site is irregularly shaped and totals some 0.25ha in area. It is bounded by property boundaries to the north, and east, Station Road to the west and hedgerow and the outbuildings proposed for conversion to the south.

3.2 The site is to the rear of 16 Station Road. It comprises a range of historic outbuildings associated with the Grade II listed building fronting on to Station Street, brick stables, a modern brick garage, cow shed and cow pens (ULAS 2004/151). With the exception of the historic outbuildings along the southern boundary of the site and the stables immediately to the rear of number 16, the structures on site are proposed for demolition. The remainder of the site is laid with concrete slabs (ULAS 2004/151).

3.3 The proposed development seeks to convert the historic outbuildings and erect 3 detached dwellings in the eastern part of the development site. This will create a courtyard layout, within which parking will be possible.

4. **Geology & Topography**
4.1 The development site lies upon drift comprising alluvium, overlying Mercia Mudstone, on the edge of river terrace deposits of sand and gravel (Geological Survey of Great Britain (Leicester), Sheet 156). The land slopes gently towards the north and lies at c. 66m aOD (ULAS 2004/151).

5. **Site Constraints**
5.1 The Senior Planning Archaeologist (HNET) has not determined the location of any on site underground services. No site geotechnical information was available to inform the writing of this brief.

6. **Historical and Archaeological Background**
6.1 The archaeological appraisal undertaken by HNET, and a desk-based assessment prepared by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS 2004/151) for the applicants, indicates the development area is of archaeological potential. The site lies within the historic settlement core of Littlethorpe (MLE 9565), referred to in documentary records by the time of Domesday Survey and thought to have been part of an 8th Century estate (ULAS 2004/151). As Littlethorpe is mentioned as a single entity in Domesday, referred to as Thorpe, it is thought that the estate had dispersed and separate villages formed by the 10th Century (ULAS 2004/151). A 'hogback' tombstone dating to the 10th Century and of Anglo-Scandinavian character has been recovered from the grounds of Narborough House (MLE 6090) which is adjacent to All Saints Churchyard in Narborough. In the cemetery to the north of All Saints a medieval bronze key of 15th Century date has also been recorded (MLE 6647).
6.2 There is also evidence in the surrounding landscape of prehistoric and Roman settlement. Cropmarks of a prehistoric enclosure containing further enclosures have been mapped to the northeast of Littlethorpe (MLE 367) and worked flint has been found north of the Caravan Park in Narborough (MLE 9562) and west of Chestnut Close (MLE 9564). Although no remains of Roman date have been recorded in Littlethorpe, the Fosse Way, a major Roman Road runs to the north of the village (MLE 1380).
6.3 In addition to the potential for remains relating to Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement to be encountered during the development of 16 Station Road, there is also a likleihood that post-medieval remains may be disturbed. The Old House, fronting on to Station Street dates to the 16th Century and the listing description issued by the Department of Culture Media and Sport is as follows:
House. Of 2 C16 builds with c.1930s fenestration. Timber-frame with close studding to front and right side of upper storey. Main left wing has curved braces, right wing has curved tension braces. Whitewashed brick and plaster infill, thatched roof, whitewashed brick chimneys to centre and to front right corner of cross wing. L-plan, with projecting gabled cross wing to right. 2 storeys. Left wing is of 3 bays with C20 barred wooden casements, mostly of 3 lights but with 2-light to first floor centre and single metal casement to ground floor left. C20 door to right with flat wooden hood on shaped brackets. 2-bay cross wing has 3-light casements to front, the lower wooden, the upper leaded. Upper storey is jettied to front on beam ends, with moulded brackets to either side and renewed corner posts carried down to ground. C19 whitewashed brick extensions to rear of cross wing. Interior: cross wing has queen strut trusses whereas left wing has raking queen post trusses with principal rafters set in from ends of tie-beams; heavy floor joists, those in left wing re-used and part smoke-blackened; left bay part rebuilt with C20 floor. House said to have been built 1560s for John Bent (Roy Millward, A History of Leicestershire and Rutland, 1985, p.72), but left wing may incorporate timbers of an older hall.
6.4 The outbuildings along the southern boundary of the application site are shown on the 1st Edition Ordnance Surveyors map and are to be the subject of a Historic Building Photographic Survey prior to any alterations.
7. **Previous work and archaeological survey**
7.1 The site has been the subject of an Archaeological Desk-based Assessment prepared for the applicants by ULAS (Rep.: 2004/151). No known previous intrusive archaeological work has been carried out within the application area.

8. Planning Background and Requirement for Work

8.1 In response to a planning application submitted to Blaby District Council (Plan App No.: 06/1161/1/PX), for erection of 3 detached dwellings together with associated parking and conversion of outbuildings to form stores/home offices (revised scheme), etc., the Senior Planning Archaeologist advised that planning permission should be granted subject to an archaeological.

8.2 The archaeological investigation, exploratory trial trenching and subsequent appropriate mitigation forms the "programme of archaeological work" specified in that condition. The requirement for archaeological work is in accordance with PPG 16 "Archaeology and Planning". The purpose of the work is to identify and record archaeological deposits during development.

9. Methodology

9.1 An accession number must be drawn prior to the commencement of the project. The accession number covers all components of the project, as defined by this brief.

9.2 Archaeological Exploratory Trial Trenching

9.2.1 The trial trenching will target the footprints of the proposed 3 detached dwellings, and an area of the courtyard that map evidence indicates has not been subject to previous building. The trial trenching will provide an appropriate sample of the site (min c. 5% by area). The work shall be undertaken in accordance with advice given for 'urban' excavation in "Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological work Leicestershire and Rutland" (Leicestershire County Council, 1997).

9.2.2 Some flexibility in the actual size, number, orientation and location of some evaluation trenches may be required if made necessary by the location of service pipes, cables and earlier foundations.

9.2.3 Following the removal of any hard standing, etc., the trenches should be excavated by a machine using a toothless grading bucket and under the constant supervision of a professional archaeologist. Machine access to the site may be restricted and access should be discussed with the prospective developer.

9.2.4 The trenches should be excavated to the top of the natural or to the top of archaeological deposits, whichever is encountered first. Wherever archaeological deposits are encountered the trenches should be cleared by hand and the deposits planned and recorded to an acceptable standard (see 'Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland', copies available on request). Excavation of archaeological deposits should be limited to resolving questions relating to their date, nature, extent and condition. If burials are encountered during the fieldwork these should not be excavated and recording should be limited to obvious detail such as position of the grave cut, alignment, burial position and stratigraphic relationships.

9.3 Historic Building Recording: Photographic Survey

9.3.1 The developer must employ a suitable organisation to carry out a photographic survey of the warehouses, former stables and canal wharf prior to their demolition/alteration. Work should follow guidelines prepared by the former RCHME for the recording of historic buildings, as detailed below.

9.3.2 The written account should include:

- The precise location of the building, by name or street number, civil parish, town, etc, and National Grid reference and details of listing or scheduling;
- The date when the record was made, and the name(s) of the recorder(s).

This photographic survey should include:

- General view or views of the exterior of the buildings;
- The overall appearance of principal rooms and circulation areas;
- Detailed coverage of the buildings' exterior appearance;
- Any external detail, structural or decorative, which is relevant to the buildings' design, development and use and which does not show adequately on general photographs;
- The buildings' relationship to their setting, to other buildings, or to a significant viewpoint;
- Internal detail, structural and decorative, which is relevant to the buildings' design, development and use, and which does not show adequately on general photographs.

10.0 **Preservation in Situ**
10.1 All excavation by machine and hand must be undertaken with a view to avoid damaging archaeological deposits or features which appear worthy of preservation in situ or more detailed investigation than for the purposes of evaluation.
10.2 The discovery of substantial structural remains requiring preservation in situ will entail detailed discussion between all relevant parties. The costs associated with excavating, conserving, and curation of other unforeseen objects or structures of national importance lie outside the scope of this evaluation.
10.3 Where structures, features or finds appear to merit preservation in situ, they must be adequately protected from deterioration.

11. Archaeological Sciences and Environmental Sampling
11.1 The minimum requirement for Archaeological Science and Environmental sampling during evaluation is that the archaeological contractor should commission programmes of investigation which are adequate to provide a sound basis for developing the Specification/Project Design for any subsequent excavation, or for other forms of mitigation strategy, in particular *in situ* preservation. The results of these investigations will be presented in the Evaluation Report.
11.2 All such investigations during evaluation should be undertaken in a manner broadly consistent with the English Heritage document **The Management of Archaeological Projects** (English Heritage 1991).
11.3 All specialists (both those employed in-house by the contracting field unit or those subcontracted)
should be named in project documents. Agreement of specialists must always be obtained before their names are listed. Their competence to undertake proposed investigations, and the availability of adequate laboratory facilities and reference collections should be demonstrated. There should be agreement in writing on time-tables and deadlines for all stages of work.

12. Treatment of Finds
12.1 All finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid For Finds*, 1998 (or subsequent editions) and the recipient museum's guidelines.
12.2 Lifting of human skeletal remains should be kept to the minimum which is compatible with an adequate evaluation. At sites known in advance to be cemeteries, provision should be made for site inspection by a recognised specialist. Excavators must be aware of, and comply with, the relevant legislation and any Home Office and local environmental health concerns. Further guidance is provided in *Church Archaeology: its care and management* (Council for the Care of Churches 1999) and in English Heritage (2002 and 2002a), *Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England* (The Church of England & English Heritage, 2005).
12.3 Where there is evidence for industrial activity, macroscopic technological residues (or a sample of them) should be collected by hand. Separate samples (*c.* 10ml) should be collected for micro-slags (hammer-scale and spherical droplets). Reference should be made the Centre for Archaeology Guideline on *Archaeometallurgy* (English Heritage 2001).
12.4 Subject to time constraints, samples should be taken for scientific dating (principally radiocarbon dating at the evaluation stage) in specific circumstances. This could apply where dating by artefacts is insecure or absent, ***and*** where dating is necessary for development of the Project Design/Specification for subsequent mitigation strategies.
12.5 Consideration should be given to the appropriateness of geoarchaeological assessment of buried soils and sediment sequences exposed during the evaluation. They should be inspected and recorded on site by a recognised geoarchaeologist, since field inspection may provide sufficient data for understanding site formation processes. Procedures and techniques presented in the English Heritage document Geoarchaeology should be applied (English Heritage 2004, *Geoarchaeology. Using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record*). Samples for laboratory assessment should be collected where appropriate, following discussion with the Local Authority.

12.6 Deposits should be sampled for retrieval and assessment of the preservation conditions and potential for analysis of biological remains (English Heritage 2002, *Environmental Archaeology. A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*). The sampling strategy should include a reasoned justification for selection of deposits for sampling, and should be developed in collaboration with a recognised bioarchaeologist. Flotation samples and samples taken for coarse-mesh sieving from dry deposits should be processed at the time of the fieldwork wherever possible, partly to permit variation of sampling strategies if necessary, but also because processing a backlog of samples at a later stage causes delays. Sampling strategies for wooden structures should follow the methodologies presented in English Heritage's Waterlogged Wood (Brunning 1996, *Waterlogged wood. Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of waterlogged wood*).
12.7 *All* finds which may constitute 'treasure' under the Treasure Act, 1997 must be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner. Where removal can not take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be taken to protect the finds from theft.
12.8 Unless otherwise agreed with the local authorities archaeological advisor, all identified finds and artefacts will be retained, although certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is recommended by the recipient museum's archive curator.

13. Post-excavation Work
13.1 According to standard procedure, excavation will be followed by a period of postexcavation
processing. This should involve the cataloguing and analysis of any finds, samples and the preparation of the archive for the site report and deposition.
13.2 Artefacts, biological samples and soils should be assessed for evidence of site and deposit formation processes and taphonomy, and especially for evidence of recent changes that may have been caused by alterations in the site environment. Assessment should include x-radiography of all iron objects, (after initial screening to exclude obviously recent debris), and a selection of non-ferrous artefacts (including all coins). Where necessary, active stabilisation or consolidation will be carried out, to ensure long-term survival of the material, but with due consideration to possible future investigations. Once assessed, all material should be packed and stored in optimum conditions, as described in **First Aid for Finds**. Waterlogged organic materials should be dealt with following the guidelines.
13.3 Assessment of any technological residues should be undertaken.
13.4 Samples for dating should be submitted to promptly, and prior agreement should be made with the laboratory on turn-around time and report production, so as to ensure that results are available to aid development of specifications for subsequent mitigation strategies.
13.5 Processing of all soil samples collected for biological assessment, or sub-samples of them, should be completed. The preservation state, density and significance of material retrieved should be assessed by recognised specialists. Special consideration should be given to any evidence for recent changes in preservation conditions that may have been caused by alterations in the site environment. Unprocessed sub-samples should be stored in conditions specified by the appropriate specialists.
13.6 Samples collected for geoarchaeological assessment should be processed as deemed necessary by a recognised specialist, particularly where storage of unprocessed samples is thought likely to result in deterioration. Appropriate assessment is to be undertaken. Where preservation *in situ* is a viable option, consideration should be given to the possible effects of compression on the physical integrity of the site and to any hydrological impacts of development.
13.7 Animal bone assemblages, or sub-samples of them, should be assessed by a recognised specialist.
13.8 Assessment of human remains will have been based partly on *in situ* observation, but where skeletal remains have been lifted assessment should be undertaken by a recognised specialist.

14. Reports

14.1 A full written report combining all stages of the evaluation and historic building recording should be prepared. At least two copies shall be sent to the Historic & Natural Environment Team, Community Services, Leicestershire County Council, and one or more copies to the relevant local authority Planning Officer and/or Conservation Officer. If this report is to form part of a planning application, it is in the developer's interest to ensure this report is prepared to an adequate standard (see 'Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland') in order that a judgement of the archaeological value of the site can be made as quickly as possible.

14.2 The report/s ought to:

i) Include

a) All trench location plans tied into the Ordnance Survey data

b) Drawing and plans

c) A summary of artefacts by trench together with their interpretation

d) Any specialist reports

e) A concise non-technical summary of the project results

ii) Assess

a) The archaeological significance of the development site and any archaeological deposits encountered during evaluation

b) The evidence in its setting, regional context and also aim to highlight any research priorities where applicable

c) The results from an Environmental and/or Archaeological Scientific investigation

14.3 Wherever appropriate, outline the options for achieving the preferred option of preservation in situ of significant archaeological deposits.

14.4 Reports should include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis. They should include tabulations of data in relation to site phasing and contexts, and include non-technical summaries. The objective presentation of data should be clearly separated from interpretation. Recommendations for further investigations, (both on samples already collected, and at future excavations) should be identified and separated from the results and interpretation.

14.5 Understanding the current state of preservation of an archaeological site is necessary in any attempt to ensure its future preservation *in situ* or adequate recording during excavation. It is advised that those involved in evaluations and excavations should take all necessary steps to ensure that sufficient information is collected to provide a firm basis for informed decisions. Techniques for assessing the state of preservation will vary, depending on the type of site and its perceived importance. A cost-effective method of assessing the preservation of buried archaeological remains is to make use of information that should be included within specialist assessment reports. For example:

- are pollen grains well preserved, or is there a high proportion of indeterminate grains and those of durable taxa?;
- are plant macrofossils preserved by waterlogging, mineral-replacement or only in a charred form? If present, do waterlogged macrofossils shows signs of degradation?

The artefact conservation assessment should identify the degree of preservation of each material class recovered, and identify whether there is evidence contained in, for example, the nature of corrosion products on metalwork to suggest that the burial environment is changing, or has changed recently. A clear and concise synthesis of such data in the Evaluation Report, combined with assessment of site hydrology, will help to inform future site-specific management, particularly with respect to vulnerable materials that might be at risk from proposed re-development schemes.

14.6 The final report/s will be deposited with the Leicestershire and Rutland HER no later than six months after completion of the project. This will be a paper copy of the report including its relevant accompanying plans.

14.7 Results of the project, even if negative, will be submitted for publication in the appropriate academic journals. Contractors are to provide a summary of findings to the 'Transactions of the Leicestershire Historical and Archaeological Society' (c/o Richard Buckley, School of Archaeological Studies, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester, LE1 7RH).

14.8 A copy of the final report/s will be deposited in the National Monuments Record, English Heritage, Swindon. Where archaeological scientific investigation has formed

an element of the project a copy of the report should be sent to: Dr J Williams, East Midlands English Heritage Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science.

15. Archive

15.1 The archive consists of all written records and materials recovered, drawn and photographic records. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. It should also contain Site matrix, site summary and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental data.

15.2 An accession number must be drawn prior to the commencement of archaeological works.

15.3 Archive will be prepared in line with UKIC Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (1990) and "The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service" (LMARS 2001).

15.4 Archive Deposition

15.4.1The integrity of the site archive should be maintained. All find and records should be properly curated by a single organisation, and be available for public consultation.

15.4.2 Arrangements for deposition of the full site archive will be made with Leicestershire County Council Museums Service. The archive will be presented to the Assistant Keeper (Archives) within 6 months of completion of the fieldwork, unless alternative arrangements have been agreed in writing with the Senior Planning Archaeologist and archive curator.

15.5 Copyright

15.5.1 It is required that the Leicestershire & Rutland HER and Leicestershire Museums Service be granted full rights to utilise the Documentary Archive under copyright. The first owner of copyright is the project archaeologist who created the archive, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (SMA 1995, Appendix 2; IFA 1994a, c, Appendix 6; 1994b, 1996, Appendix 5; 1999). LCCEHS prefers to obtain an assignment of copyright in the archive from the copyright owner, but is prepared to acquire a licence allowing it to use the archive (MGC 1992, 2.11; SMA 1995). The project archaeologist should decide whether assignment or licence is to be granted, and in the latter case agree the details of such a licence with LCCEHS at the time of notification of intention to deposit the archive, if not earlier, so that the correct forms are available at the time of deposition.

16. Requirements (including responsibilities of prospective developer and Archaeological Contractor)

16.1 Appointment of Archaeological Contractors

16.1.1The professional archaeological Contractors invited to tender for the work must be able to demonstrate within their Project Design that they can provide staffing and expertise with the appropriate experience in dealing with technology of the type and nature required in this Brief.

16.1.2Contractors will operate in line with professional guidelines and standards as stated in the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA):

- Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (1994, revised 1999),
- IFA Code of Conduct (1985, as revised 1997) and,
- IFA By-Law Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology (IFA, 1990 as revised, 1998).

16.2 Pre-tender site visit

16.2.1 The Contractor must visit the site before completing any Project Design, as there may be implications for accurately costing the project. This visit must be noted, along with any other relevant site details, within the Project Design.

16.3 Project Design

16.3.1 The Project Design will cater for full post-excavation analysis, reporting and deposition of the Site findings.

16.3.2 The Project Design must:

a) be supported by a research design, which sets out the site-specific objectives of the archaeological works,

b) detail the proposed works as precisely as is reasonably possible, and where appropriate, indicate clearly on plan their location and extent,

c) include details, including name, qualifications and experience of the Site director and all

other key project personnel, including any specialist staff and sub-contractors, will be included in the Project Design. The ratio of on-site voluntary assistance must not exceed a ratio of more than 1:2 employed experienced staff,
d) detail archive deposition, publication and presentation,
e) provide a timetable for proposed works,

16.4 Checking of Project Designs

16.4.1It is particularly important that all Project Designs, or those which the prospective developer wishes to consider, are forwarded to the Senior Planning Archaeologist for approval prior to the appointment of a Contractor.

16.4.2Any changes the Senior Planning Archaeologist recommends to a preferred Project Design/s might have financial implications for the costing of the archaeological Contractor, changes to the Project Design will be discussed and agreed in writing by the Senior Planning Archaeologist and the archaeological Contractor.

16.5 Agreement

16.5.1 There must be a written archaeological agreement that satisfactorily implements the approved format and provides sufficient financial support for all aspects of the work including fieldwork, finds processing, conservation, specialist analysis, archiving, cataloguing, report work and long-term storage curation. The archaeological Consultant/Contractor must confirm in writing the Senior Planning Archaeologist that the prospective developer has signed such an agreement before the commencement of Site works.

17. Monitoring

17.1 The work undertaken by the archaeological Contractor, will be monitored under the auspices of the Leicestershire Senior Planning Archaeologist, or his representative, who is responsible for monitoring all archaeological work in Leicestershire and Rutland on behalf of the Local Planning Authority. Monitoring includes reviewing site work, the progress of excavation reports, archive preparation and final deposition.

17.2 Before the commencement of the project the Contractor must inform the Senior Planning Archaeologist, in writing, of the timetable of proposed works and ensure that the Senior Planning Archaeologist must be kept regularly informed about developments during Site and subsequent post-excavation work.

17.3 The Senior Planning Archaeologist will be given at least one week's written notice of commencement of archaeological work.

18. Alterations to this Brief

18.1 This Brief is valid for three months (from the date below). If not tendered within this period the prospective developer will seek confirmation from the Senior Planning Archaeologist of its continued validity to the existing Site conditions. In addition the following apply:

18.2 Prior to the formal appointment of an archaeological Contractor, the Senior Planning Archaeologist reserves the right to alter this Brief if additonal information comes to light that may have a bearing on the scope and methods of work currently required. (e.g. Site construction constraints, foundation details etc).

18.3 After formal appointment, any alterations recommended by the Senior Planning Archaeologist which may affect the archaeological Contractor's agreed Project Design (whether this be before commencement, or during the project), will be made in consultation with the archaeological Contractor and submitted to the Local Planning Authority. (This does not relate to the formal recommendations for further investigation (e.g. open area excavation) as a result of the findings of the project, for which the Senior Planning Archaeologist is responsible for advising staff on behalf of the Local Planning Authority).

19. Key Definitions

Senior Planning Archaeolgoist

Responsible for providing an archaeological curatorial planning service to Leicestershire districts. Advises on the nature of the work required and monitors projects from implementation to completion.

Archive Curator:

Responsible for the long-term curation of the archive in the recipient Museum.

Prospective Developer:
Person/group/developer commissioning the archaeological work.
Contractor:
Archaeological Contractor tendering to carry out the archaeological work and as appointed by the prospective developer.
Project Design:
Written document detailing the proposed work and as provided by a Contractor in line with the Written Brief provided by the Senior Planning Archaeologist.
The Senior Planning Archaeologist can be contacted at:
Historic & Natural Environment Team
Leicestershire County Council
Room 500, County Hall,
Leicester Road, Glenfield
Leicestershire
LE3 8TE
Telephone Number: 0116 2658322. Fax: 0116 2657965
Email: riclark@leics.gov.uk