

**Archaeological Watching Brief on Land
At 7-9, Church Lane, Thurmaston, Leicestershire
(SK 6104 0932)**

Greg Farnworth-Jones

Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council

Planning Application: 07/2270/2

For: Mr T Greatorex

Approved by

Signed:

Date:

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1 Summary

1.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out on land at 7-9, Church Lane, Leicestershire, (SK 6104 0932), on the 23rd January 2008. This work was carried out on behalf of Mr T. Greatorex by University of Leicester Archaeological Services and involved the controlled supervision of the excavation of foundation trenches associated with the construction of a new dwelling. No archaeological remains were identified during the course of the investigation, the results were therefore negative. The archive will be held with Leicestershire County Council Museums Section under accession number: [X.A30.2008].

2. Introduction

2.1 This document provides details of the results of archaeological investigations at 7-9, Church Lane, Leicestershire, (SK 6104 0932), by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Mr T. Greatorex.

*2.2 As archaeological adviser to the planning authority, the Senior Planning Archaeologist of the Historic and Natural Environment Team of Leicestershire County Council requested an archaeological a strip, plan and sample exercise as detailed in the *Brief for archaeological investigation (strip plan and sample excavation) at 7 & 9 Church Lane, Thurmaston, Leicestershire* (LCC HNET 1.11.2007). This requirement was secured by a planning condition and was intended to ensure that any significant archaeological remains affected by the proposals would be adequately recorded.*

2.3 University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) was subsequently commissioned by Mr. Greatorex to undertake the work on his behalf and the writer attended the site on 23rd January 2008. As no ground reduction was intended the work initially involved the archaeological observation during excavation of foundation trenches for the construction of a new house. Depending on the results from these further recording would be implemented if archaeological deposits were revealed.

3. Geology and Topography

3.1 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 155, indicates that in most of the area the underlying geology is likely to consist of glacial drift (boulder clay) with under and overlying sand and gravel. Some Mercia Mudstone

with beds of sandstone may be present within parts of the application area. The site lies at a height of *c.*99m OD.

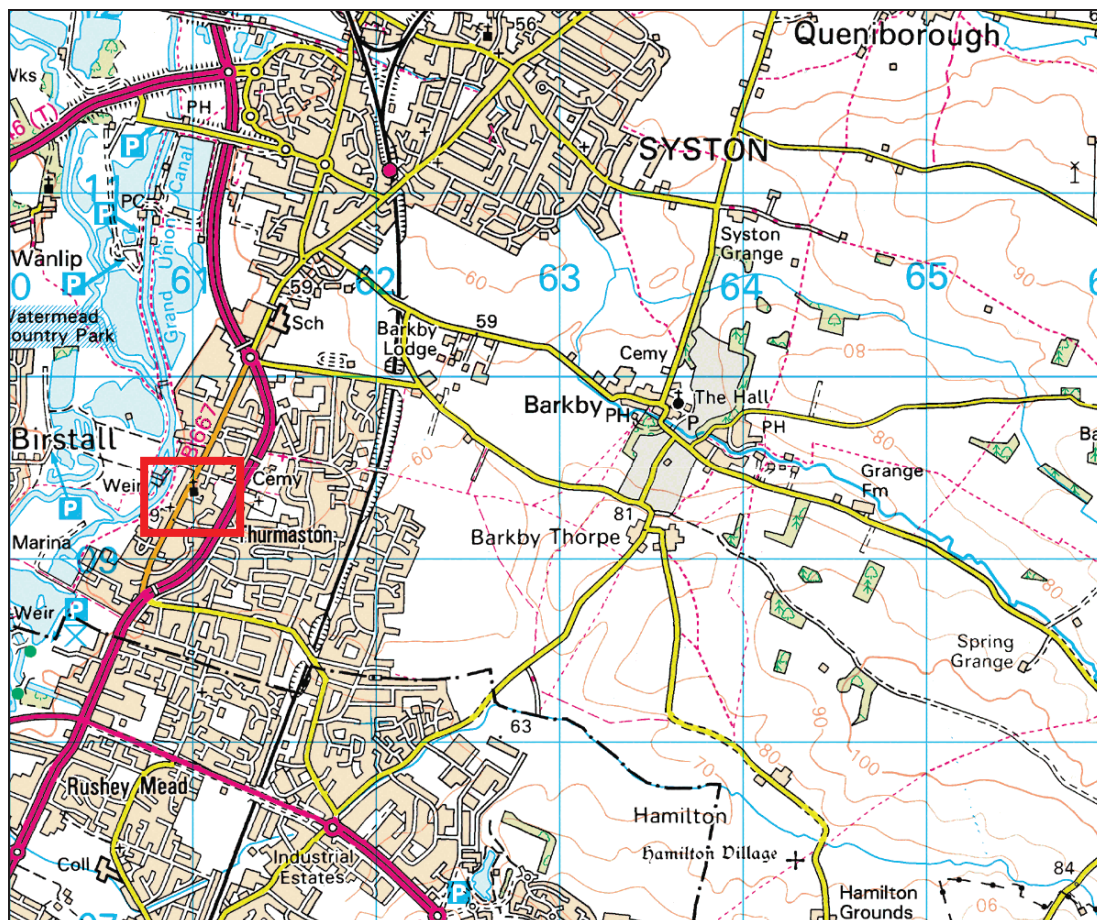


Fig.1 Site Location plan with the application area outlined.

Reproduced from the Landranger OS map 140 Leicester and Hinckley area 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 2000. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100002186.

4. Archaeological Background

4.1 The site is located in the medieval and post-medieval core of the village of Thurmaston (MLE 1061), close to St Michael's Church, a grade II* Listed building (MLE1052). It is also close to village earthworks (MLE1047) and the route of the Fosse Way Roman road (MLE1380).

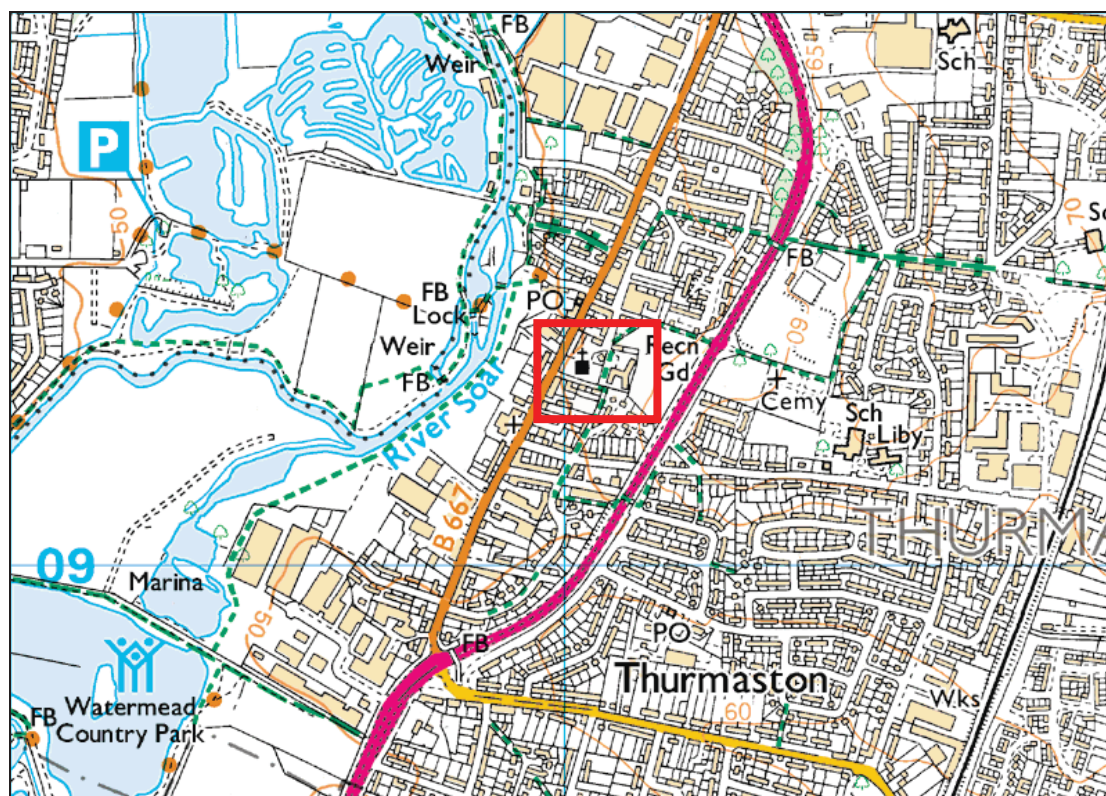


Fig.2 Site Location plan 1:25000 with the application area outlined.

Reproduced from the Landranger OS map 140 Leicester and Hinckley area 1:25000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 2000. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100002186.

5. Methodology

5.1 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). It followed the approved *Design specification for archaeological work* (Appendix).

5.2 The archaeological investigation carried out on land at 7-9, Church Lane, Thurmaston, Leicestershire, (SK 6104 0932), was to involve a strip, map and sample exercise and initially involved the excavation of trenches to assess the presence of archaeological deposits. As the proposals did not involve ground reduction the trenches were located in the same position as the house foundation trenches.

5.3 The main objectives of the investigation 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.

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

5.5 Archaeological deposits were to 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 was paid to the potential for buried palaeosoils and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

5.6 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 would be taken as appropriate.

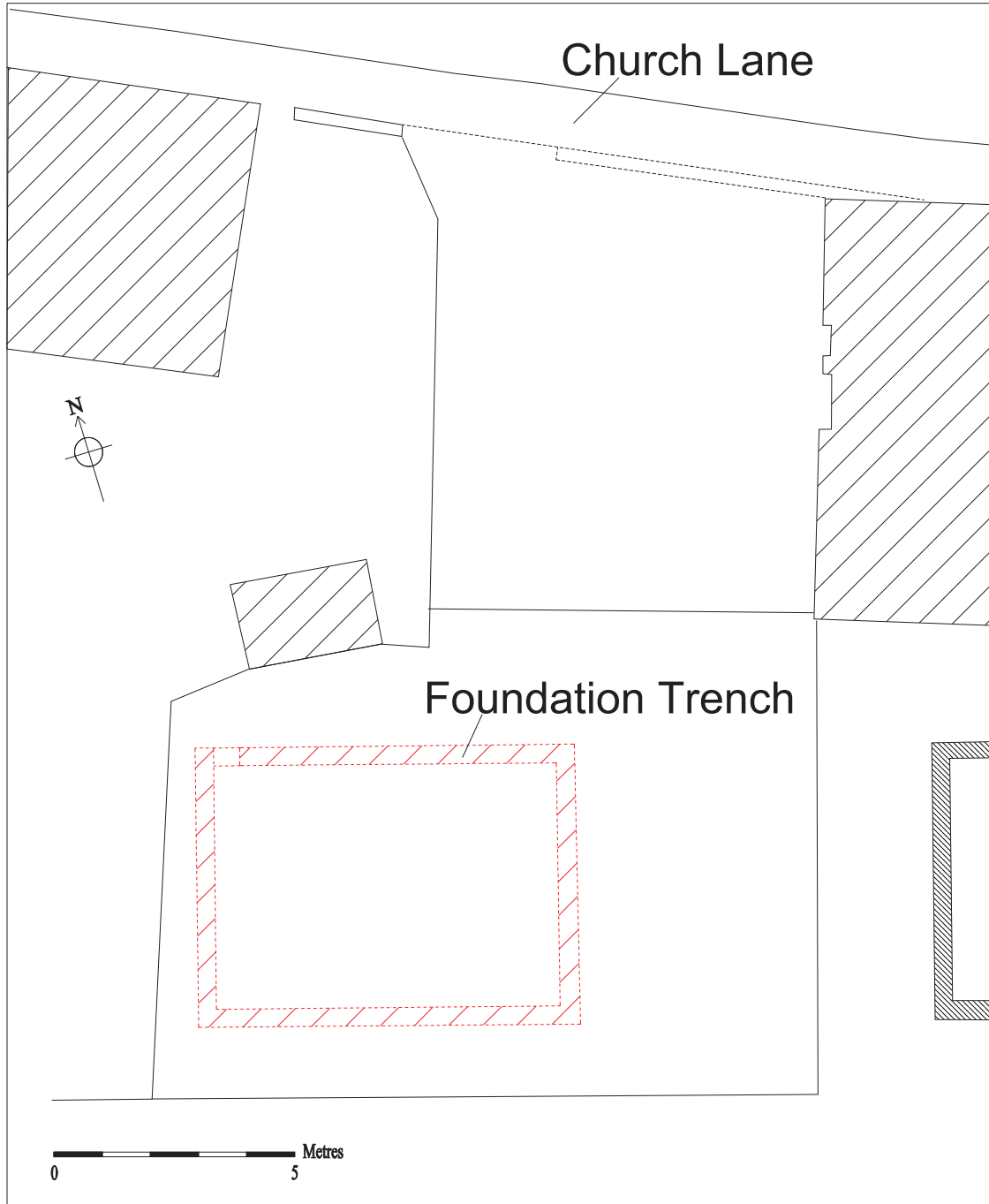
6. Results

6.1 Due to on site restrictions and the size limitation of the development, the decision was taken to excavate under controlled supervision the foundation trenches for the development to observe for any archaeological features (fig.3). The machine excavated foundation trenches were machined under archaeological control and supervision in spits down to a depth of *c.* 1m.

6.2 Initial machining revealed rich topsoil consisting of dark greyish-brown sandy silt (10:90) loam, with occasional moderately sorted, rounded stones to a depth of *c.* 0.6m. Further machining revealed to a depth of 0.4m the subsoil, which consisted of mid brown sandy silt clay (10:30:60), with occasional, rounded stones. Further machining revealed at a depth of *c.* 1m the natural substratum which consisted of slightly sandy orange clay, with patches of sand.

6.3 The same sequence of soil horizons was observed in all areas of the machined foundation trench. However the depth of the topsoil in the north-western and north-eastern corners of the trench was *c.* 0.8m, with the subsoil depth being *c.* 0.2. This was due to what appeared to be modern levelling in these areas where the topsoil contained modern garden paving slabs.

6.4 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were located within the machine-excavated foundations.



**Fig. 3 Site Location Showing Foundation Trench in Red
(Based on plans supplied by developer)**



Fig.4 Foundation Trench Looking South



Fig.5 Trenches Looking West



Fig.6 Section of Southern Trench Looking North

7. Conclusion

7.1 No archaeological deposits, finds or features were encountered during the investigation on land to the rear 7-9, Church Lane, Thurmaston, Leicestershire, (SK 6104 0932), on the 23rd January 2008, by University of Leicester Archaeological Services.

7.2 The site is situated within the medieval village core and therefore had potential for containing medieval and post-medieval archaeology. However, the absence of archaeological remains or finds seems to suggest that the site was probably cultivated and used as garden land during the medieval period. This conclusion is supported by the slightly unusual depth (c.0.6-0.8m) and richness of the topsoil layer.

7.3 The results of the archaeological investigation were therefore negative.

8. Acknowledgements

8.1 I would like to thank the client, Mr T. Greatorex, for his assistance and co-operation on site. Patrick Clay managed the project and the fieldwork was carried out by the author, both of ULAS.

9. Archive

9.1 The site archive consists of 15 digital photographs and a watching brief recording form. The archive will be held with Leicestershire County Council Museums Section under accession number: X.A30.2008.

10. Bibliography

Clay, P., 2007. *Design Specification for archaeological work at 7-9, Church Lane, Leicestershire*, (SK 6104 0932) (ULAS Ref. 07/436)

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24/01/08

11. *Appendix:*

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

7-9, Church Lane, Thurmaston, Leicestershire (SK 6104 0932)

Planning Application: 07/2270/2

Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council

For: Mr T Greatorex

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 strip plan and record, as required by the Planning Authority, of any groundworks on the site which may disturb areas of archaeological potential in connection with a planning application for the erection of a single dwelling at 7-9, Church Lane, Thurmaston, Leicestershire (SK 6104 0932) Planning Application: 07/2270/2 for Mr T Greatorex.

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 work involves a strip plan and record exercise within the development area to identify any deposits of archaeological importance as detailed in the *Brief for archaeological investigation (strip plan and sample excavation) at 7 & 9 Church Lane, Thurmaston, Leicestershire* (LCC HNET 1.11.2007).

2.2 Archaeological potential

2.1 The site is located in the medieval and post-medieval core of the village of Thurmaston (MLE 1061), close to St Michael's Church, a grade II* Listed building (MLE1052). It is also close to village earthworks (MLE1047) and the route of the Fosse Way Roman road (MLE1380).

3 Aims

3.1 Through archaeological controlled stripping and investigation:

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 removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. Initially it is proposed to open some initial trial trenches to assess the depth of topsoil/overburden and determine the presence/absence of any archaeological remains.

4.2 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 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.

4.4 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 to an intermittent watching brief.

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

4.6 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.

4.7 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.

4.8 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.

4.9 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.

4.10 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.

4.11 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.

5 Recording Systems

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

5.2 A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map, (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a plan at 1:200 (or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated.

5.3 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made on drawing film, related to the OS grid and at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Elevations and sections of individual layers of features should be drawn where possible. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans.

5.4 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared. This will include black and white prints and colour transparencies illustrating in both detail and general context the principal

features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

5.5 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the watching brief.

5.6 All site records and finds will be kept securely.

6 Report and Archive

6.1 An accession number will be drawn prior to the commencement of the project (Brief 8.1). Following the fieldwork the on-line OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis> will be completed. A report on the investigation 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 investigation is scheduled to commence at the start of the contractors groundworks on 23.01.2008. An experienced archaeologist will be present during this work.

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 (revised 2005) with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is in the Appendix. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate.

10 Insurance

10.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with St Pauls Travellers Policy No. UCPOP3651237 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters (50%) and Brit Insurances (50%) Policy No. FUNK3605.

11. Bibliography

MAP 2, *The management of archaeological projects* 2nd edition English Heritage 1991

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

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

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

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18.01.2008

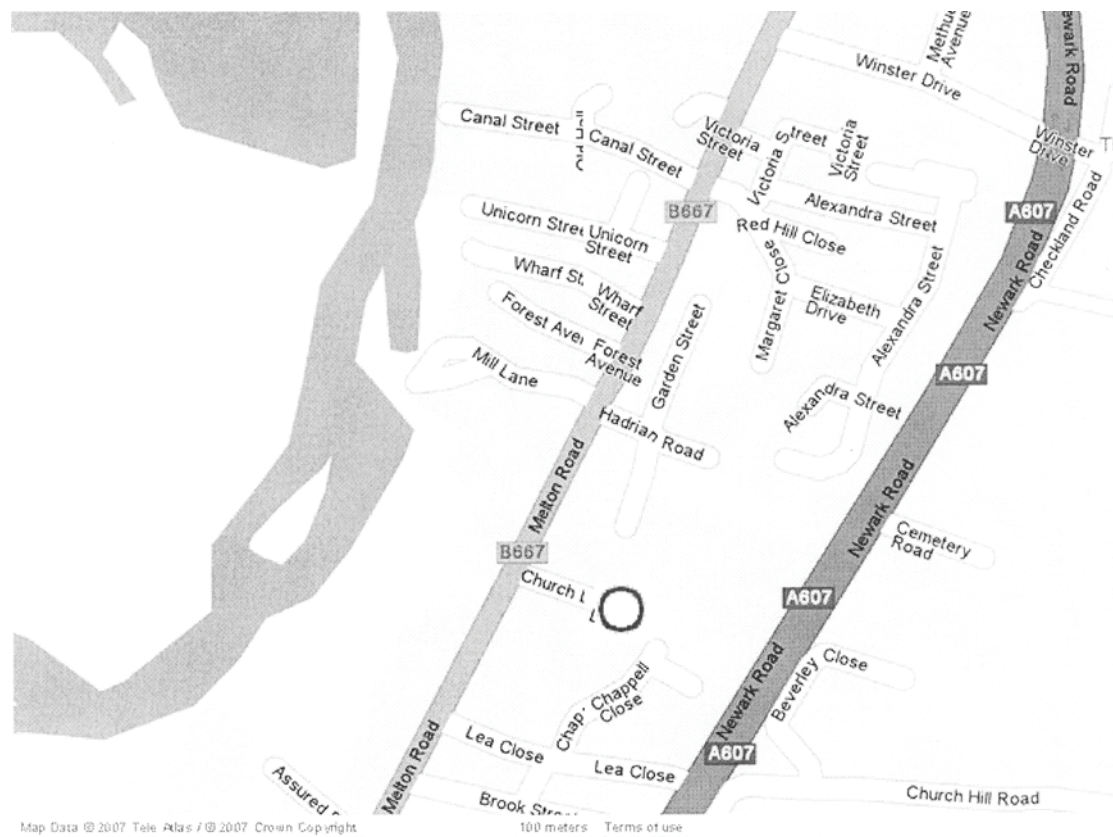


Fig 1 Location of Development

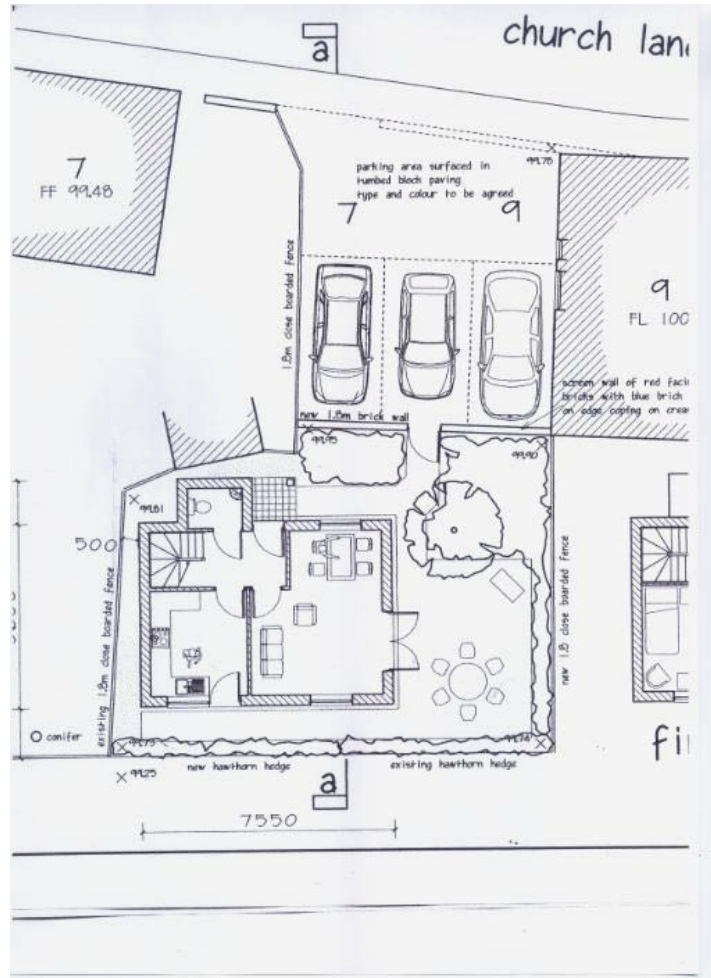


Fig. 2 Plan of proposed development

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

7-9, Church Lane, Thurmaston, Leicestershire (SK 6104 0932)

Planning Application: 07/2270/2

Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council

For: Mr T Greatorex

1. Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for archaeological watching brief (strip plan and sample). It will be revised following the commencement of operations when the extent of risks can be assessed in full.

1.2 The work will involve overburden stripping by JCB 3C or similar during daylight hours and recording of any underlying archaeological deposits revealed. Overall depth is likely to be c. 1.0 – 1.2m. Following stripping the exposed deposits will be examined with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and archaeological features will be excavated. All work will adhere to the University of Leicester Health and Safety Policy and follow the guidance in the ULAS Health and safety and the Standing Committee of Archaeological Unit Managers manuals, together with the following relevant Health and Safety guidelines, including the following.

HSE Construction Information Sheet CS8 Safety in excavations.

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

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

CIRIA R97 Trenching practice.

CIRIA TN95 Proprietary Trench Support Systems.

HSE Guidance Note HS(G) 47 Avoiding danger to underground services. HSE Guidance Note GS7 Accidents to children on construction sites

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

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 Working within an excavation.

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

2.2 Working with plant.

Precautions. Hard hats, protective footwear and hazard jackets will be worn at all times. No examination of the area of stripping will take place until machines have vacated area. Observation of machines will be maintained during hand excavation.

2.3 Working within areas prone to waterlogging.

Protective clothing will be worn at all times and precautions taken to prevent contact with stagnant water which may carry Weils disease or similar.

2.4 Working with chemicals.

If chemicals are used to conserve or help lift archaeological material these will only be used by qualified personnel with protective clothing (i.e a trained conservator) and will be removed from site immediately after use.

2.5 Other risks

Precautions. If there is any suspicion of unforeseen hazards being encountered e.g chemical contaminants, unexploded bombs, hazardous gases work will cease immediately. The client and relevant public authorities will be informed immediately.

2.6 No other constraints are recognised over the nature of the soil, water, type of excavation, proximity of structures, sources of vibration and contamination.

18.01.2008