



**University of  
Leicester**

**Archaeological Services**

**An Archaeological watching brief at  
Humberstone Infants/Junior School,  
Keyham Close, Humberstone,  
Leicester NGR: SK 6278 0602**

**Tim Higgins**



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**An Archaeological watching brief**  
**Humberstone Infants/Junior School, Keyham Close**  
**Humberstone, Leicester**

**NGR: SK 6278 0602**

**Tim Higgins**


**For: Leicester City Council**

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## **An Archaeological Watching Brief at Humberstone Infants/Junior School, Keyham Close, Humberstone, Leicester**

**(NGR: SK 6278 0602)**

**Tim Higgins**

### **1. Summary**

*An Archaeological Watching brief of groundworks at Humberstone Infants/Junior School, Keyham Close, Humberstone, Leicester was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Leicester City Council. The initial groundwork involved the demolition of old school buildings and reoval school yard tarmac surfaces. This was followed by the removal of overburden and ground reduction and the excavation of new foundations for new school building. Attendance at the site occurred from the 20<sup>th</sup> of April to the 12th June 2009.*

*The watching brief revealed a possible pre-medieval ditch that contained a single sherd of Roman pottery. The watching brief also confirmed that a deep silt feature found during an earlier evaluation was probably a medieval to early post-medieval pond or animal trough, which could be associated with a manor house located to the west of the site. The ground-works also exposed more of the potential medieval earthworks and scatter of features. The finds located within the earthworks and features included small quantities of pottery, roof slate, building material and animal bone. These features and finds are thought to be associated with either a medieval religious house or possible properties dating from the 12th to 17th centuries. The archive will be deposited with Leicester City Council, Museums Service, subject to their confirmation. Accession No. A2 2009*

### **2. Introduction**

This report presents the results of an extended archaeological watching brief of groundwork at Humberstone Infants/Junior School, Keyham Close, Humberstone, Leicester (NGR SK 6278 0602), following archaeological deposits being located during the trial trench evaluation. In view of the potential impact of the development this was undertaken as a mitigation strategy following recommendations by the Leicester City Archaeologist.

Two phases of attendance took place during the watching brief at the site. The first phase was undertaken from the 20<sup>th</sup> to 28th April 2009 to observe ground-works involving ground clearance of the areas which followed the demolition of the old school classroom building, removal of overburden and ground reduction. The second phase was undertaken from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2009 and consisted of observations during the excavation of foundations located on the eastern side of the development.

The ground-works involved ground clearance and reduction of the areas and excavation of foundations. This followed the demolition of the old school classroom building, removal of overburden and ground reduction

The archaeological watching brief was carried out in accordance with Planning Policy Guideline 16 (PPG16, Archaeology & Planning), paragraph 30. All archaeological work adhered to the Institute for Archaeologist's (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

### 3. Site description, topography and geology

The site is located Humberstone Infants/Junior School, Keyham Close, Humberstone, Leicester (SK 6278 0602). It covers an area of c. 1600m sq. and currently comprises a school classroom building, school playground surface and level ground that once supported a mobile classroom (Fig 2 and 3).

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 156 indicates that the underlying geology of Humberstone is composed of glacial drift (boulder clay). The school and its grounds are located on ground gently rising up from street level (86.3mAOD) north towards Lower Keyham Lane (89.2mAOD). The school is located on a roughly flat area, much of which may have been terraced.

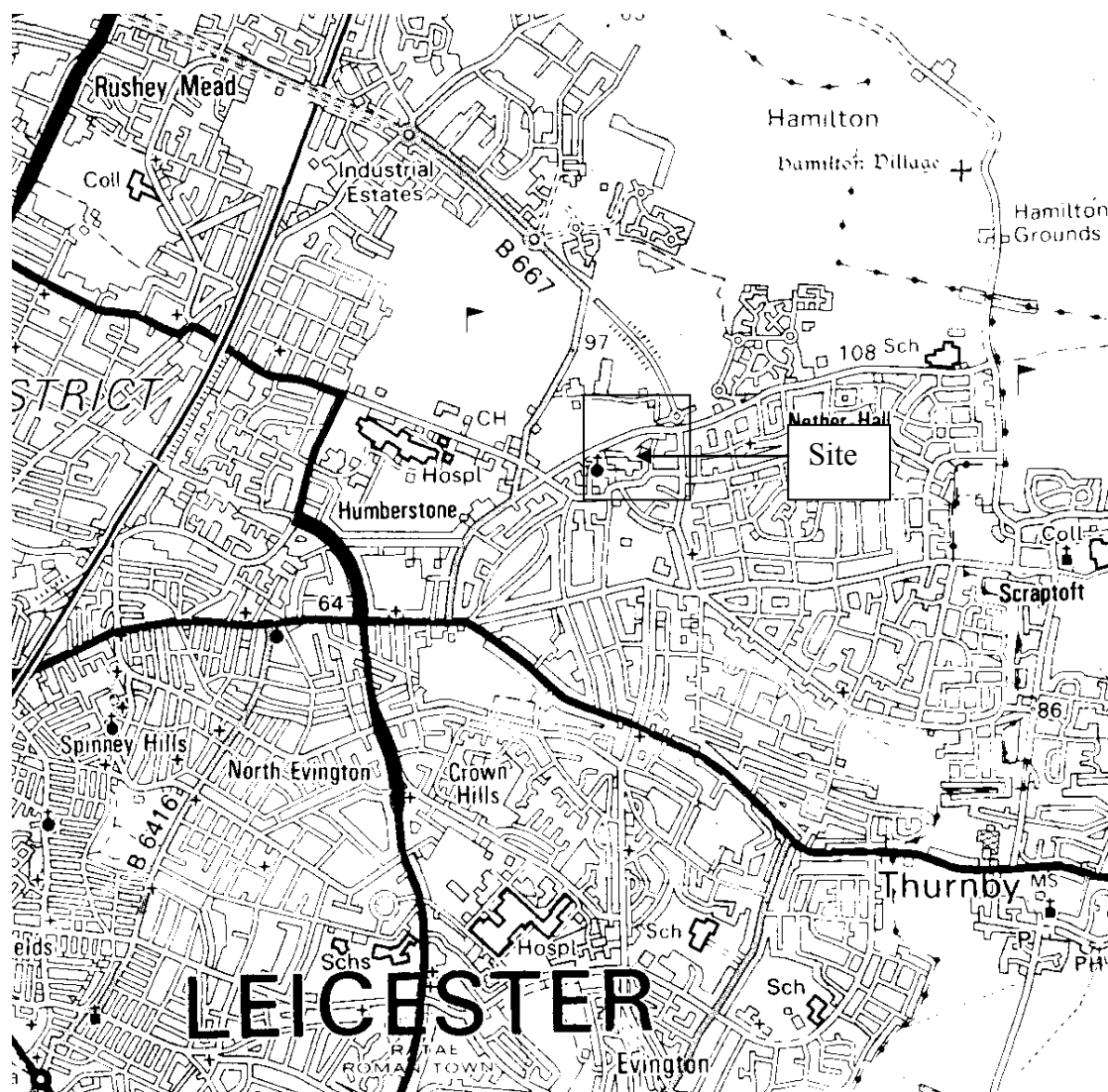


Figure 1: Site location of Humberstone Infants/Junior School.

### 4. Archaeological and Historical background

The development site and areas to the north-west have been subject to a desk-based assessment (Gnanaratnam 2008), which identified that the site lies in the historic core of the medieval village Humberstone. Previous archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the site had uncovered extensive prehistoric remains. To the south-west of the site, the remains of a medieval religious house were revealed in the 1970s

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken Leicester by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (Higgins 2009) in advance of proposed new school buildings. Three trenches were excavated in an area defined as having archaeological potential as it was close to a known medieval moated site. The trial trenching revealed potential archaeological features in the northern and eastern areas within the development site. The southern area appeared to have been truncated by modern features. The archaeological features comprised a possible moat or pond and possible medieval earthworks. A possible pre-medieval ditch was also found within one of the trenches.

Because of the archaeological potential on this site a watching brief with control of machine stripping was required to confirm the extent of the archaeological remains impacted on by the development and record as appropriate.

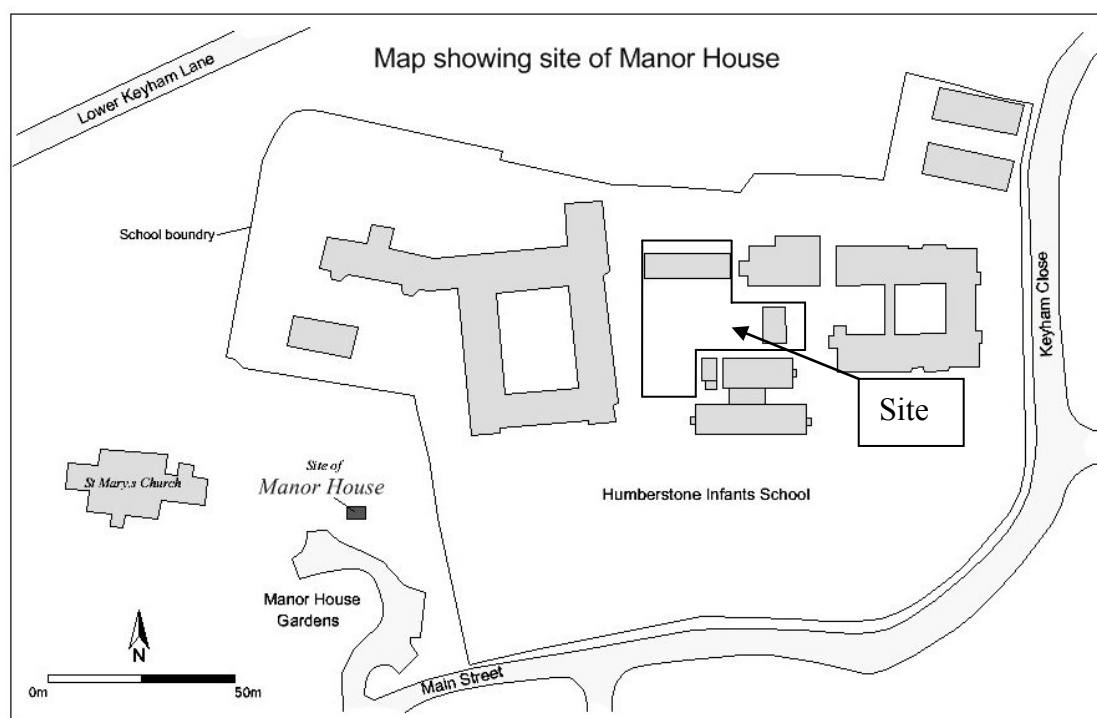


Figure 2: Location of the development site within Humberstone Infants/Junior School.

## 5. Aims and method.

Through archaeological attendance and, as appropriate, controlled stripping and investigation the aim of the watching brief was:

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 proposed ground-works.
3. To record any archaeological deposits to affected by the ground-works.
4. To produce an archive and report of any results.

All work and archaeological deposits encountered were recorded in accordance and follow the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, the standard policy and practice of ULAS as set out in the design specification (appendix 1) and adherence to the University's Health and Safety policy.

## **6. Results**

### **Pre-Medieval to Medieval**

Initial groundwork involved the clearance of vegetation and removal of the school playground surfaces within the development area. The machine used for the ground works was a Volvo 360 degree excavator fitted with a ditching bucket. A brief visual inspection was conducted across the site and the garden soil appeared to have contained modern artefacts consisting of occasional modern brick and building debris.

During the ground reduction excavations it was observed that the modern overburden had varying depths throughout the site ranging from 1.00m deep on the western side to only 0.20m on the eastern side.

The school and its grounds are located on ground that is gently sloping downwards from north-west to south-east. This gentle slope was reflected in the level at which the natural substratum was found, with a level of 89.91m O.D recorded in the north-west corner and 89.44m O.D. in the south-east corner. The natural substratum comprised yellowish brown clay mixed with the occasional pebble.

A large ditch was found cutting the natural substratum within the stripped area and was running in a slight arc from north-west to south east. The segment of ditch (cut 102, 121) exposed within the stripped area measured 40m long, 2.60m wide and 0.70m deep (Figures 3 and 4). This ditch had steep sloping sides and rounded base and contained mid-greyish brown silt clay mixed with occasional small pebbles (contexts 100, 101, 113). Excavations across the northern end of the ditch found refuse consisting of animal bone and iron objects had been deposited with the ditch (context 100). Most of the identified bones belonged to cattle but sheep/goat bones were also present and some had butchery marks (see Browning Appendix 3 below). A single sherd of 3rd century or later Roman pottery was also found within the fill of the ditch (context 113) which may suggest a possible date for the ditch (although it be could residual).

Located seven metres directly to the west of ditch was a small shallow linear gully running north to south. The gully (cut 104 Figure 3) measured 8.00m long, 0.80m wide and 0.08m deep and had curving sides and flat base. The gully contained pale orange brown silty clay mixed with occasional pebbles but no finds (context 103). The gully was found below the subsoil or earthwork layer and could be contemporary with the ditch.

### **Medieval to Post-medieval**

Both the gully and ditch were sealed by a 0.40m thick layer of either subsoil or earthwork that spread west to east over the natural substratum (contexts 4, 16, 24 111 and 112) The layer comprised mid-brown or yellowish brown silt clay mixed with occasional small rounded pebbles. Two small fragments of Roman tile and several fragments medieval roof slate were found within the layer. The layer was very compacted and dry and possibly represented earthworks associated potential medieval or post-medieval properties.

The subsoil or earthwork layer was cut by a pond feature (cut 10, figure 4) located on the west side of the stripped area which had originally been found within Trench 1 during the evaluation. The full extent of the feature was exposed during the site strip and was found to be an irregular linear feature in plan running west to east. The profile and shape of the feature suggested that it had been deliberately cut through the earthwork or layer and natural substratum below. The pond feature had steep vertical sides that broke gradually into a very wide and flat base that gradually sloped towards the centre. The feature measured 20.50m long 7.90m wide and 1.15m deep at a point towards the centre. The evaluation established that feature had a primary silt fill, context [9], on the west side consisted of compacted light green-brown silty clay, 0.20m deep, mixed with occasional rounded pebbles. Overlying this was a secondary fill, (context 8) comprising compacted grey-brown silt clay mixed with occasional rounded or angular pebble and charcoal flecks. A single Late Saxon pottery sherd and the butchered rib of a large mammal were found within this fill. This deposit sealed context 9 on the western side of the feature and filled the central and eastern half to a depth 0.49m. All these fills were thought to be sedimentary in nature and were consistent with a water feature such as pond or potential animal trough that has been allowed to slowly fill with silt and organic debris.

On the eastern side of the stripped area further make-up spreads were observed which may have formed parts of earthworks. A linear track or surface was found running west to east measuring 7.00m long, 2.00m wide and 0.05m deep. The surface consisted of compacted yellowish grey clay mixed with frequent small pebbles (context 120 Figure 5 Sec 14.06). The pebble surface ran between the possible pond feature located in the north-east corner of the stripped area and the gully or ditch located towards the south and running west to east. The full extent of the possible pond feature located in the north-east corner (cut 122) was not determined, but a segment was recorded during the excavation of foundation trenches and measured 8.50m long, 3.00m wide and 0.90m deep. The recorded profile of the feature suggested that top of the cut had a shallow gradually sloping lip, which measured 1.00m long and 0.40m deep (figure 5 Sec 14.06) which then broke sharply into a steep slope measuring 0.50m deep. It was assumed that the feature continued north-eastwards under the baulk. The primary fill comprised a 0.50m deep compacted grey-



brown silt clay (context 108) mixed with occasional rounded pebbles with animal bone and wood debris. The animal bone comprised cattle with butchery marks and horse. Some of the wood debris appeared to be sticks that were either cut or sawn and may have been remnants of either wicker or wattle. The fill was thought to be sedimentary in nature and associated with a possible water feature such as a pond or potential animal trough. The lower fill was sealed by a yellowish grey clay fill 0.40m deep (context 117 Figure 5 Sec 14.06)

The possible gully or ditch feature (cut 123 Sec 14.06) located in the south-east corner measured 6.00m long, 1.00m wide and 0.70m deep. The feature had been back-filled and sealed with a make-up layer (measuring 10m long 5m wide and 0.40m deep) of dark greyish clay silt (context 116), which contained one sherd of Anglo Saxon pottery. This layer was sealed by a spread (context 119) measuring 6m long, 1.50m wide and 0.20m deep, and consisted of a greyish clay mixed with crushed limestone and ironstone (inferior oolite). The ironstone fragments were roughly hewn blocks measuring 0.18m long, 0.15m wide 0.10 thick; some were mortared and these may have been a demolition spread.

An oval shallow pit (cut 115) was found cutting the demolition spread context 119 and measured 2.90m long, 1.55m wide and 0.43m deep. The pit had steep sloping sides breaking into a broad rounded base (Figure 5 Sec 14.02). The fill comprised greyish brown clay silt mixed with occasional pebbles and contained a pottery sherd, tile and animal bone. The pottery suggested a possible 13th century date for the pit although it could be residual. Attempts had been made to backfill or cap the possible pond or trough feature (cut 122) located in the north-east corner of the site. The backfill (context 106) comprised dirty greyish brown clay mixed with abundant flecks of charcoal and crushed limestone. A single sherd pottery dated to 13th century was found within the fill but this could also be residual.

### **Post-medieval to Modern**

The pond or trough feature (cut 10) located on the west side was sealed with a mid-green-brown silty clay with occasional small rounded pebbles (context 7). The fill was 0.25m deep and may represent the final silting up of this feature and contained pottery dated to the 17th or 18th century and a number of animal bones identified as horse.

A scatter of modern features consisted of modern services which had truncated the various earlier features and layers across the development area. The southern half of the development site had been completely truncated by modern services which had probably removed any potential early deposits. All modern features were sealed by a layer of modern overburden capped by garden soil and tarmac surfaces.

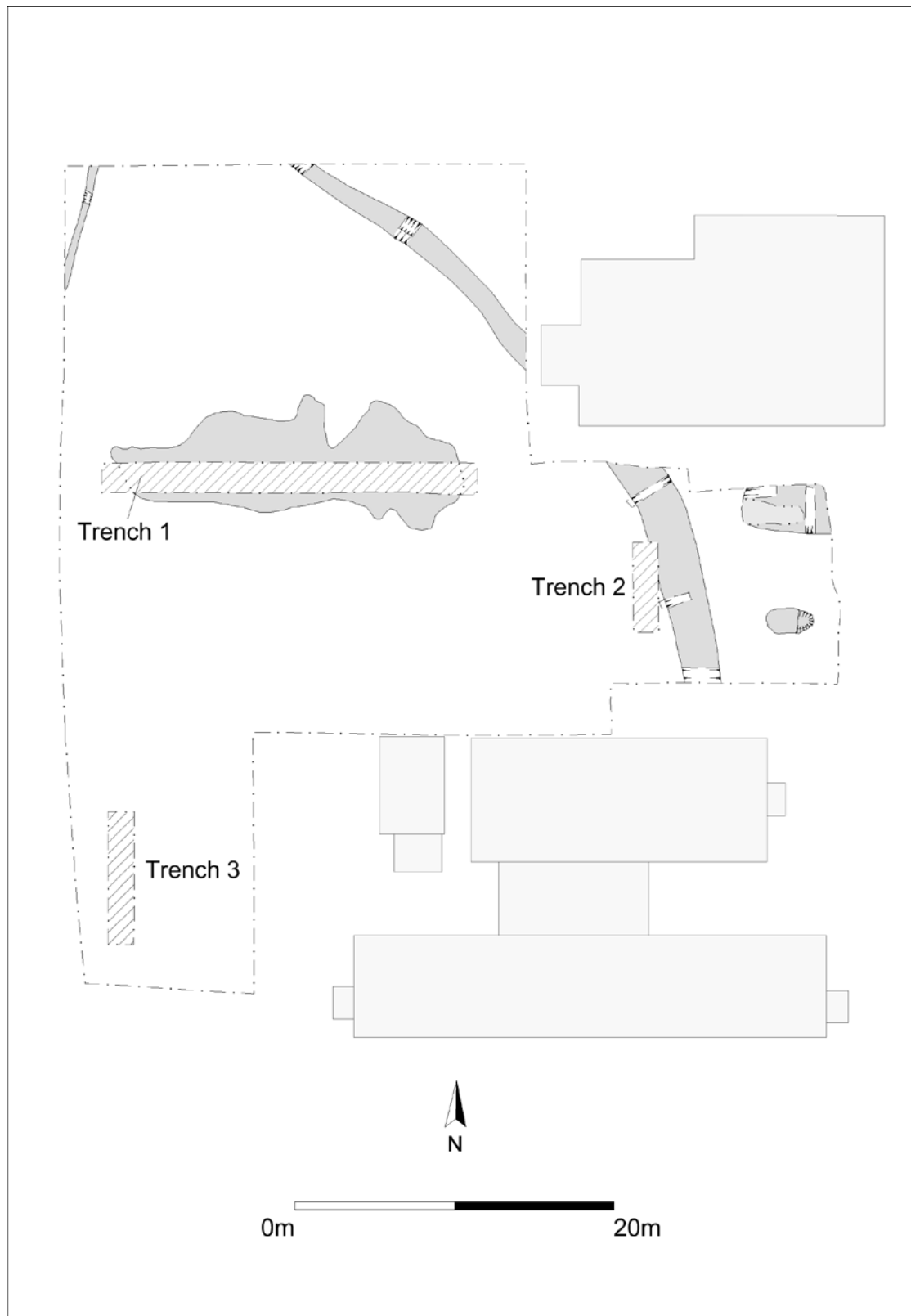


Figure 3: Location of the evaluation trenches and major features within the development site.



Figure 4: Pre-medieval and medieval features found within the northern half of the development area.



Plate 1 Machine stripping over the pond feature located on the west side of the development area (cut 10).



Plate 2 Excavation of trenches on the east side of the development area.



Plate 3 Trench cutting possible pond feature located in the north-east corner of the development site (cut 122).

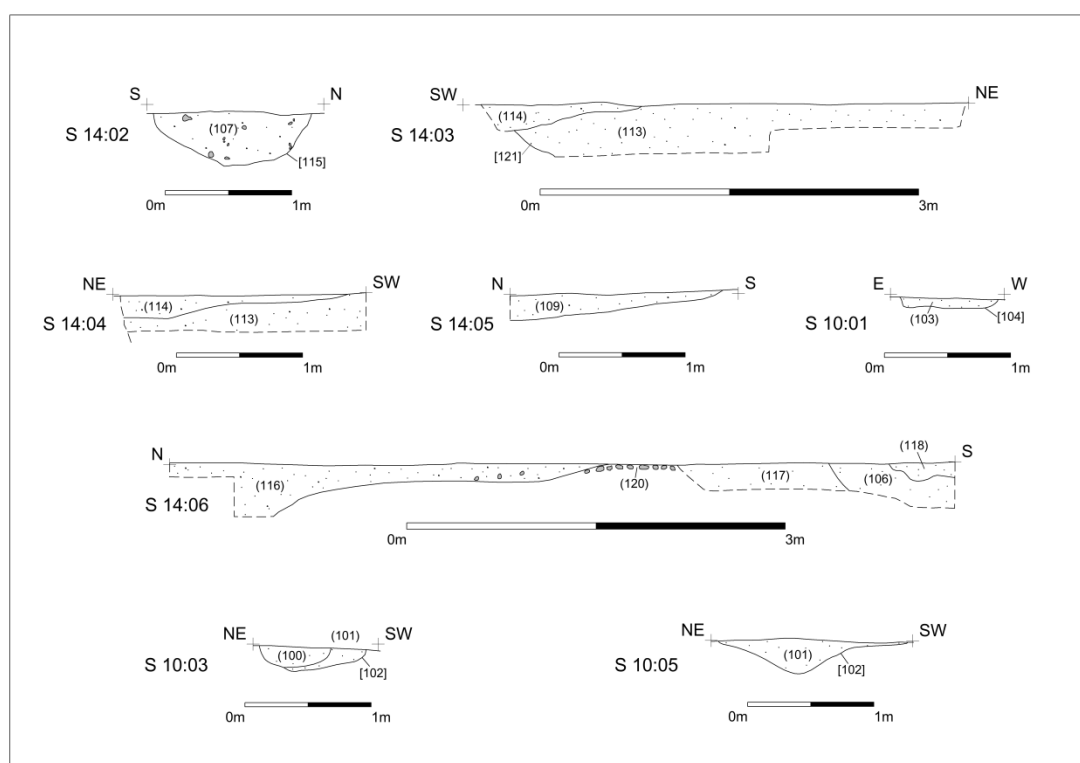


Figure 5: Sections across excavated features.

## 7. Discussion.

The earliest feature found during the watching brief was the large slightly arcing ditch which was potentially part of an extensive boundary. The date of the ditch is uncertain but it was sealed by possible medieval deposits and a single sherd 3rd century or later Roman pottery sherd was found in the fill. Although the Roman pottery may have been residual other Roman finds including tile and roof slate were found residually within other deposits indicating Roman activity in the vicinity. Roman artefacts and possible features have also been found at the Moated Swans Orchard site, located on Steins Lane and Roman burials have been recorded at the Towers Hospital (Gnanaratnam 2008). Three residual Anglo Saxon sherds were also found suggesting potential for activity from this period within vicinity of the development area (see Sawday Appendix 2 below). The ditch contained animal bone some with butchery marks and iron objects suggesting some domestic refuse was used to backfill it. The gully found to the west of the ditch could perhaps be from the same period as it was sealed beneath a potential medieval layer.

A deep compacted deposit of subsoil was found at the western and eastern ends and is thought to be the possible remnants of buried earthworks. These layers and the underlying natural substratum were cut by a very large irregular feature on the western side, which could be either a pond or large animal trough and another possible pond feature was found in north-east corner of the development area.

The presence of late 12th to 17th century pottery on the site from within the various pond, earthwork features and layers suggest that they probably date from the medieval to early post-medieval periods. Other notable finds from the site such as roughly hewn ironstone blocks, medieval roof tile, floor tile and roof slate, provide some evidence medieval settlement. The type of building material may hint at the presence of a medieval building of some status in the vicinity (see Sawday Appendix 2 below).

The site lies within the historic core of the medieval village and is located directly to the north-east of a 'manor house' built in the 18th century (Figure 2). Archaeological excavations undertaken on the site of the manor house in the 1970's found the remains of a medieval religious house or monastic property (Smith 1976). Although the development site may be located some distance from the site of excavations the potential pond or animal trough features and earthwork layers could be associated. Equally these features maybe associated with a separate potential medieval or early post-medieval properties fronting on to Main Street to the south or Keyham Close to the east. These are thought to be possible historic routes within the village (Gnanaratnam 2008).

## **8. Conclusion.**

The archaeological controlled watching brief undertaken during the stripping and excavation of ground-works for new school buildings revealed a possible pre-medieval ditch that contained single sherd of Roman pottery perhaps suggesting it could date from this period. The watching brief also confirmed that a deep silt feature found during an earlier evaluation was probably a pond or animal trough, which may have been associated with a manor house located to the west of the site. The groundworks also exposed more of the potential medieval earthworks and a scatter of features. The finds from within the earthworks and features included small quantities, pottery, roof slate, building material and animal bone. These features and finds are thought to be associated with either medieval religious house or other possible properties dating from the 12th to 17th centuries.

## **9. Acknowledgements and publication**

I would like to thank the clients for their help and co-operation on site. The project was managed by Patrick Clay and the fieldwork was carried out by the author, Tim Higgins and Andy Hyam, Gregory Jones and Dan Stone and post-excavation analysis was undertaken by Jennifer Browning (animal bone) and Debbie Sawday (ceramics) all of ULAS.

I would also like to thank Mr A Mistry of Leicester City Council for arranging access to the school for evaluation. I would also like to thank Mr Neil Marson of Mansell (construction contractors) for their help and assistance during the watching brief.

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in a suitable regional or national archaeological journal within one year of completion of fieldwork. The report has been added to the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) Online Access to the index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the University of York.

## **10. Archive**

A full copy of the archive as defined in *The Guidelines For the Preparation Of Excavation Archives For Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990), and the *Standards In The Museum: Care Of Archaeological Collections* (MGC 1992) and *Guidelines for the Preparation of Site Archives and Assessments for all finds* (RFG/FRG) will usually be presented to within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all records directly relating to the investigation undertaken.

The archive consists of 1 copy of this report, indices, 4 watching brief recording forms, 44 context sheets, 10 primary drawing sheets, copies of site location plans and synthesised plans, 2 specialist reports, 1 copy brief for archaeological work 1 photo index form, B+W and colour digital photo contact sheet, and 1 CD containing digital photos.

Subject to confirmation it will be deposited with Leicester City Council under accession number.



## 11. Bibliography

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

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## Appendix 1 Oasis Summary

<b>INFORMATION REQUIRED</b>	<b>EXAMPLE</b>
Project Name	An archaeological watching brief of groundwork at Humberstone Infants/junior School, Keyham Close, Humberstone, Leicester (SK 6278 0602).
Project Type	Archaeological watching brief
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Tim Higgins
Previous/Future work	Unknown
Current Land Use	School Playground
Development Type	New School Building
Reason for Investigation	PPG16
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	NGR : SK 6278 0602
Start/end dates of field work	
Archive Recipient	Leicester city Council
<b>Study Area *</b>	Approx 1600 square meters

## **Appendix 2: The Post-Roman Pottery and other finds**

*Deborah Sawday*

### ***The Pottery***

The pottery, fifteen sherds, weighing 335 grams, was catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabrics Series (Sawday 1989; Davies and Sawday 1999). All the material was post-Roman in date, save for a fragment of Nene Valley Colour Coat, probably dating from the early 3rd century or later in the backfill (113) of the ditch [121]. Two sherds of Anglo-Saxon wheel thrown Lincoln Kiln Type Shelly ware, fabric LI1, included a body sherd, weighing four grams from the makeup layer (116), and an abraded bowl rim, weighing 27 grams, possibly with rouletted decoration of the rim flange, in context (8), the lower fill of a pond [10]. This pottery is dated from the 9th or 10th centuries at York (Young et al 2005, 47, fig.50.187).

A single sherd, part of the neck and shoulder of a green-glazed jug in the medieval Chilvers Coton fabric CC1 from the backfill (107) of the pit [115], dated from c.1250. Another abraded yellow glazed fragment in the same fabric occurred in the make-up layer (106). Medieval Potters Marston ware dating from the later 12th or 13th centuries was found in the make-up layer (105) together with two sherds of possibly intrusive post-medieval and modern pottery in the Earthenware fabrics EA1 and EA2. Three sherds of post-medieval or modern Earthenware were also recovered from the upper fill, context (7), of the pond [10], and in the backfill (11) of a modern trench.

### ***The Ceramic Building Material***

An abraded fragment of glazed medieval ridge tile dating from c.1250 in the Chilvers Coton fabric CC1 was found in an unstratified context. A tiny piece of medieval floor tile, with a dark glaze, in the later Chilvers Coton fabric, CC2, dating from the 14th or 15th centuries, occurred in the backfill (113) of the ditch [121].

Two abraded pieces of possibly Roman brick or tile were found in context (4) and two more fragments of uncertain date in context (105) and the backfill (107) of the pit [115]. Both the former contexts are sub-soils possibly relating to medieval house platforms. A modern brick, a drain pipe fragment and a piece of land drain were found in the upper fill (7) of the pond [10].

### ***The Roofing Slate***

The slate is probably from Swithland or another local source (Ramsey D, 2007), and most if not all of the slates are perforated with suspension holes. The nineteen fragments included part of a Roman diamond shaped slate (Gnanaratnam 1999, 304), in context (24). The remaining slate is all thought to be medieval in date, one fragment being the only find from context (108), whilst the bulk of the material came from the spread or layer (114). Eight of the 14 complete or near complete slates from this context were roughly rectangular in shape as at Leicester Abbey (Ramsey 2007, 30), four more were asymmetrical and one had been roughly squared. Overall even in this small group, the range of tile shapes and sizes was, typically, very variable as noted both at Leicester Abbey (*ibid* 2007, 31, 32) and at the Austin Friars, Leicester, (Allin 1981, fig.19.27 and fig.19.30, Table 7, 67 and 70). Interestingly however, there was little evidence here of the mortar which had been used in great quantity on some

of the Leicester Abbey slate especially the small examples, perhaps suggesting numerous phases or re-use and repair during the life time of the buildings there (*ibid* 2007, 30).

### ***The Miscellaneous Finds***

Two iron objects, industrial residue and fragments of fired clay – possibly daub - were recovered from the backfill of the ditch [102] and context (116).

### ***Conclusions***

Whilst the quantity of archaeological material is limited, the finds are evidence of activity in the area over a long period of time. The late Anglo-Saxon Lincoln ware is of particular interest as it is the earliest post Roman pottery known to the author from Humberstone, save for a sherd of early or middle Saxon pottery which was recorded on the site of the former Windmill Public House, which also lay within the core of the medieval village (Thomas 1998). This late Anglo-Saxon pottery may be an indication of the early origins of the medieval village. Similarly, the medieval pottery, the medieval roof and floor tile and the roofing slate provide some evidence of the medieval settlement, the building material in particular hinting at the presence of a medieval building of some status in the vicinity.

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Site/ Parish: Humberstone Infant/Junior School, Keyham Lane, Humberstone Accession No.: A2 2009 Document Ref: humberstone6.docx Material: pot/bone etc Site Type: village core	Submitter: T. Higgins Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Identification: 5.2.09/19.6.09 Method of recovery: evaluation/watching brief Job Number: 09/546 – 09/594
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Context	Fabric/Ware	Nos	Grams	Comments
<b>POTTERY</b>				
7 [10] upper fill pond	EA1/2 – Earthenware 1/2	1	182	Flat jar base, knife trimmed underneath, thick blackish glaze internally, 17-18th C.
7 [10]	EA2 – Earthenware 2	1	10	Red bodied, brown glaze internally, ?17th C+
8 [10] lower fill pond	LI1 – Lincoln Kiln Type Shelly ware	1	27	Bowl rim diameter c. 270, abraded, but some evidence of rouletting on upper rim flange (Young et al 2005, fig.50.187), late 9th/10th C.
11 modern trench	EA	3	14	Cream ware and fine white Earthenwares, modern
105 make up	PM - Potters Marston	1	19	?jar rim. Upright externally thickened, late 12th - 13th C+.
105	EA1	1	24	Body sherd, purplish black glaze internally, 16th C+
105	EA2	1	3	Abraded fragment, 17th C+
106 make up	CC1 – Chilvers Coton ware 1	1	2	Body sherd, abraded, traces of yellow glaze externally, c.1250+
107 [115] pit fill	CC1	1	14	Part of neck and shoulder from a jug, green glazed externally, c.1250+
113 [121] ditch fill	C2NV – Nene Valley Colour Coat	1	2	Beaker –probably early 3rd C AD +
116 make up	LI1	1	4	Abraded body sherd, late 9th/10th C.
U/S	MY – Midland Yellow	1	27	Simple everted bowl rim, form Ndv (Woodfield1984) yellow glazed internally and externally
U/S	SW5 – Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware	1	7	Modern, rouletted decoration and brown glaze externally.
<b>MEDIEVAL RIDGE TILE</b>				
U/S	CC1	1	13	Abraded, pale yellowish green glaze, c.1250+

MEDIEVAL FLOOR TILE				
113 [121]	CC2– Chilvers Coton ware 2	1	2	Tiny fragment, reduced black glaze on two surfaces, 14th-15th C.
MISC. CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL				
4	EA - Earthenware	2	83	Abraded, dense fine fabric - Roman
7 pond	EA	1	49	?Drain pipe – modern
7	EA	1	667	Brick - modern
7	EA	1	53	Moulded ?land drain– post med/modern
11	EA	2	403	Brick - modern
105 make up	EA	1	1	Period unknown.
107 [115] pit	EA	1	5	Period unknown.
U/S	EA	1	10	Flat roofing tile, post med/modern
CLAY TOBACCO PIPE				
U/S	China Clay	3		Three stems, post med/modern
ROOFING STONE				
24 subsoil ? house platform	Slate	1		Max surviving dimensions c.210 x 170mm, evidence of a peg hole. Roman diamond shaped tile (Gnanaratnam 1999, 304), local slate, possibly re-used in the med/ post med period as a field drain cover.
108 layer	Slate	1		Max surviving dimensions c.150 (broken) x 90mm, evidence of a peg hole. medieval.
114 layer	Slate	13		Complete or near complete with peg holes. Eight 'long' in shape (Ramsey 2007, 30), four more asymmetrical as at Groby (ibid 2007, 31), one roughly square. Medieval.
114	Slate	3		Fragments only - medieval
114	Slate	1		Large fragment but no evidence for a peg hole – medieval.
MISC				
100 [102] ditch	Iron Object	1		Corroded.

100 [102]	Industrial Residue	4	158	
100 [102]	Fired Clay	19	171	Possibly pieces of daub
116 layer	Iron	1		Nail - corroded
U/S	Glass	1		Bottle base – with pronounced ‘kick up’ ?18th C.

### Appendix 3: The Animal Bone

*Jennifer Browning*

#### *Introduction and Methods*

A small faunal assemblage was recovered from features excavated during archaeological investigation and monitoring at Humberstone Infant School, Leicester (A2 2009). The features were not necessarily contemporary and dated from the Roman to the post-medieval periods. Bone was recovered from a ditch of possible Roman date as well as from earthworks associated with the medieval manor house and fishpond. The bone was generally in a good condition, although some fragmentation had occurred.

Bones were identified with reference to the skeletal collection housed at the School of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Leicester. Information on element, completeness, species, state of fusion and condition was recorded for each specimen, while butchery, burning, pathologies and tooth eruption and wear were noted where present. A zoning method (Serjeantson 1996) was employed to assess the parts of bones present: as a general principle, each element is divided into eight diagnostic zones, the presence or absence of which can quickly be determined. Measurements were taken when bone completeness permitted, following von den Driesch (1976).

#### *Results*

	Pond		East/west earthwork		Ditch		Pit	Total	
<b>Cut</b>					<b>102</b>		<b>115</b>		
<b>Context</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>107</b>	
cattle	1				1	17		1	20
sheep/goat				1		2	1		4
sheep						1			1
horse	1	10							11
dog?								1	1
large mammal		7	1			24		1	33
medium mammal							1	1	2
indeterminate				3					3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>75</b>

Table 1: Species composition of each feature

#### *Ditch [102]*

The greatest quantity of animal bone was recovered from a large ditch cutting the natural substratum [102] within the stripped area. The ditch was dated only by a sherd of Roman pottery, although it is possible that this was residual (T. Higgins pers. comm.). Most of the identified bones belonged to cattle but sheep/goat bones were also recovered. The cattle bones were from the skull and limbs, including humerus, radius, ulna and metapodials, while the sheep bones included horncore fragments scapula and radius. All cattle bones were fused with the exception of vertebral bodies, which fuse last. The distal epiphysis of a sheep/goat radius was unfused. Eight bones showed signs of butchery, including a sheep horncore, which had been chopped at the



base, cattle long-bones and a large mammal rib fragment. All of the butchery appeared to have been carried out with a heavy blade or cleaver.

#### *East-west earthwork*

Only three fragments of bone were retrieved during excavation of the east-west earthwork. These included a cattle scapula and a sheep/goat molar.

#### *Pit 115*

A pit with a possible 13th century date [115] contained only four fragments of bone including a butchered cattle femur and a vertebra possibly belonging to a dog. The other fragments were unidentified.

#### *Pond*

A waterlogged feature, possibly representing a pond associated with the nearby medieval manor house, contained 20 fragments of animal bone. These appear to be associated with deposits dating from the Saxon to post-medieval periods. The earliest context (8) contained the butchered rib of a large mammal. A 17th century deposit (7) contained a number of bones identified as horse. A measurement obtained from a right radius suggested an estimated withers height of 1.56m, equivalent to 15 hands. An undated deposit (108) contained a left horse radius of very similar dimensions, from which an identical withers height was calculated. It is therefore conceivable that this bone, although recovered from a different context, belongs to the same animal. A butchered cattle ulna was recovered from the same deposit.

#### *Comments*

The wide date range of the deposits and the small assemblage size makes interpretation difficult on this occasion. No evidence for wild animals, birds or fish was recovered and the dominance of larger animals may be partly attributed to factors such as preservation and visibility, even though bone surfaces are relatively well-preserved. The Roman ditch and medieval pit contain butchered waste from the processing of carcasses, suggesting nearby domestic activity in these periods. Bones from at least one horse were recovered from the pond and were probably deposited in the post-medieval period. The good condition of the bone, particularly in the pond, bodes well for the future, should more extensive excavations be carried out in the vicinity.

Table 2: Bone representation

	7	8	24	100	101	105	107	108	Total
<b>Cattle</b>									
femur				1			1		2
humerus				1					1
mandible				3					3
metacarpal				3					3
metapodial				1					1
phalanx 1				1					1
radius				1					1
scapula			1						1
shaft fragment				1					1
skull				1					1
skull fragment				1					1
upper molar				1					1
upper premolar				1					1
ulna				1				1	2
<b>dog?</b>									
thoracic vertebra							1		1
<b>Horse</b>									
astragalus	1								1
incisors	5								5
mandible	1								1
phalanx 1	1								1
radius	2							1	3
<b>Indeterminate</b>									
fragments						3			3
<b>Large mammal</b>									
carpal/tarsal				1					1
lumbar vertebra				2					2
mandible							1		1
proximal rib				2					2
rib fragment	2	1		4					7
shaft fragment	5			10					15
skull fragment				2					2
thoracic vertebra				3					3
<b>Medium mammal</b>									
rib fragment					1				1
shaft fragment							1		1
<b>Sheep</b>									
horncore				1					1
<b>Sheep/goat</b>									
horncore					1				1
radius				1					1
scapula				1					1
upper molar						1			1
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>75</b>

Table 3: Butchery marks

	7	8	24	100	101	105	107	108	Total
<b>cattle</b>			1	3			1	1	6
femur							1		1
humerus				1					1
metacarpal				1					1
radius				1					1
scapula			1						1
ulna								1	1
<b>large mammal</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>3</b>					<b>4</b>
lumbar vertebra				1					1
rib fragment		1		1					2
shaft fragment				1					1
<b>sheep/goat</b>						<b>1</b>			<b>1</b>
horncore						1			1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>

Table 4: Measurements

Context	Bone	Species	Side	Prox	Dist	Measurements
108	radius	horse	L	F	F	gl=360, bd=78.3, bp=82.1, sd=39.3
100	scapula	sheep/goat	R		F	slc=17.1, asg=20.9
7	radius	horse	R	F	F	gl=360; bd=79.2; sd=39.0 bp=84.3

## References

Serjeantson, D. 1996 'The animal bones' in S. Needham and T. Spence *Refuse and disposal at Area 16 East Runnymede* Vol. II Runnymede Bridge Research Excavations. British Museum Press.

von den Driesch, A 1976 *A guide to the measurement of animal bones from archaeological sites*. Cambridge, Mass., Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Bulletin no. 1.

## UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

### Design Specification for archaeological watching brief

*Humberstone Infants/Junior School, Keyham Close, Humberstone, Leicester  
(SK 6278 0602)*

*P.A. 20081241*

*Planning Authority: Leicester City Council*

**For: Leicester City Council**

#### ***1. Definition and scope of the specification***

1.1 This specification is for archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the construction of new school buildings at Humberstone Infants/Junior School, Keyham Close, Humberstone, Leicester (SK 6278 0602) for Leicester City Council.

1.2 It addresses the requirements for archaeological evaluation from the City Archaeologist, Leicester City Council as archaeological advisor to the planning authority following Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning para.30) and detailed in his email of 18.02.2008 to A. Mistry, Leicester City Council.

1.3 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute for Archaeologist's (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological watching briefs* and the *Guidelines and procedures for archaeological work in Leicester* (Leicester Museum Service).

#### ***2. Background***

2.1. The proposed development is for new school buildings. A desk-based assessment has been prepared (Gnanaratnam 2008) which confirmed that the site lies in an area of considerable archaeological significance close to a medieval religious house and a late prehistoric settlement site. A programme of archaeological work comprising trial trenching has been undertaken (Higgins 2009) which located medieval features including a possible silted moat. A watching brief with control of machining is now required to confirm the extent of archaeological remains impacted on by the development and record them as appropriate.

#### ***3 Aims***

3.1 Through archaeological attendance and, as appropriate, 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 groundworks.
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 ground-works by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. The removal overburden will be by machine with a flat bladed bucket.

4.2 Should significant archaeological remains be identified a programme of excavation and recording may be necessary, using additional personnel as necessary.

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

4.4 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.

4.5 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.

4.6 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.

4.7 Any human remains encountered will be initially left in situ and only be removed under a Ministry of Justice Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The developer and Leicester City Council will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.8 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 Leicester City Council.

4.9 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located during the watching brief there may be the need for additional 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 City Archaeologist at Leicester City Council, and the planning authority. If the archaeological remains are identified to be of significance additional contingent archaeological works will be required.

## **5 Recording Systems**

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

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

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

5.4 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared. This will include black and white prints and colour transparencies illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

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

5.6 All site records and finds will be kept securely.

## ***6 Report and Archive***

6.1 An accession number will be drawn 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 ground-works.

6.2 Copies will be provided for the client, Historic Environment 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 Leicester City Council, 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 ground-works. 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 2007) 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

Gnanaratnam, A., 2008 *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for Humberstone Infants/Junior School, Keyham Close, Humberstone, Leicester. NGR SK 6278 0602.* ULAS Report 2008-187.

Higgins T., 2009 *An Archaeological Evaluation at Humberstone Infants/Junior School, Keyham Close, Humberstone, Leicester (SK 6278 0602).* ULAS Report 2009-015.

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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11.03.2009

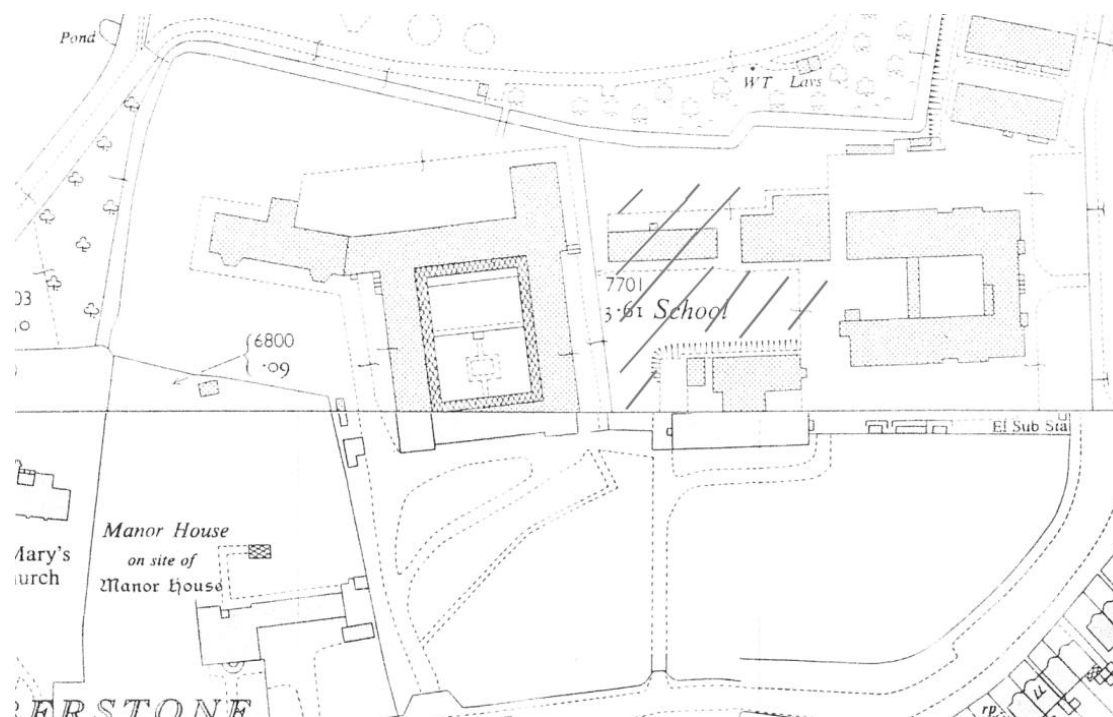


Fig 1 Site location



Fig 2 Location of trenches (after Higgins 2009). Archaeological deposits were present in trenches 1 and 2.



## **Project Health and Safety Policy Statement**

***Humberstone Infants/Junior School, Keyham Close, Humberstone, Leicester  
(SK 6278 0602)***

***P.A. 20081241***

***Planning Authority: Leicester City Council***

### **For: Leicester City Council**

#### ***1. Nature of the work***

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

11.03.2009



**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR 2008/9**

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