



An Archaeological Evaluation
Humberstone Infants/Junior School, Keyham Close
Humberstone, Leicester
NGR: SK 6278 0602

Tim Higgins

For: Leicester City Council

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An Archaeological Evaluation at Humberstone Infants/Junior School, Keyham Close, Humberstone, Leicester (SK 6278 0602)

Tim Higgins

Summary

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken at Humberstone Infants/Junior School, Keyham Close, Humberstone, Leicester by University of Leicester Archaeological Services 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 a potential medieval moat or fish pond and possible medieval earthworks. A possible pre-medieval ditch was also located. The site archive will be held with Leicester Museum Service, under the accession code: [A2.2009].

1. Introduction

Planning permission has been granted by the Leicester City Council for a new school building at Humberstone Infant/Junior School, Keyham Close, Humberstone, Leicester (P.A. 20081241).

An archaeological field evaluation (AFE) was undertaken as part of the requirements identified by the City Archaeologist Leicester City Council as archaeological advisor to planning authority following Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning para.30). The AFE was undertaken to assess whether any archaeological remains of significance were present within the development site and propose suitable treatment to avoid or minimise damage by the development.

The development site has been subject to a desk-based assessment (Gnanaratnam 2008), which identified that previous archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the site had uncovered extensive prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval remains. This report presents the results of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching carried out in January 2009 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS).

2. 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.

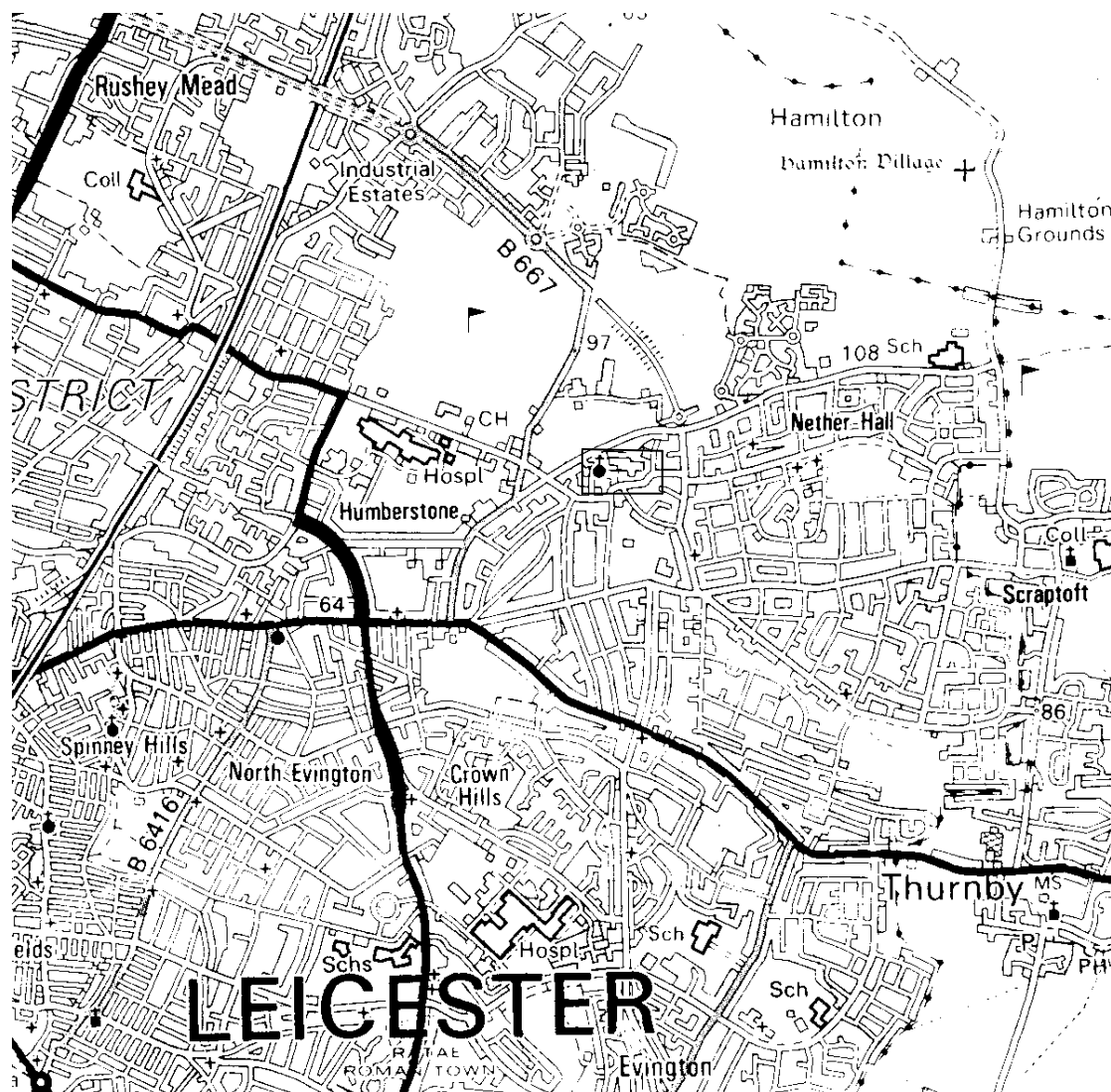


Figure 1 Location of the proposed development

Reproduced from the Landranger OS map 140 Leicester, Coventry and Rugby area 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 1996. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 10002187.

3. Historical and Archaeological 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 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 medieval religious house were revealed in the 1970s (Fig 2).

4. Aims and Objectives

The main aims of the evaluation were:

- 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 proposed new school buildings.
- To produce an archive and report of any results

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation is to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

5. Methodology

The *Design Specification* (Appendix 2) agreed with the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicester City Council proposed a 5% excavation sample of the development area and comprised trial trenching totalling c. 60 sq metres, the equivalent of two 20m x 1.5m trenches to maximum depth of 1.2m (Fig 3). The position of the trenches to be excavated within the development was restricted to existing open ground, as the current school structures due to be replaced had not been demolished.

Prior to any machining a CAT scan survey was undertaken and results of that survey altered the proposed location and number of trenches. The trial trenching would now comprise one trench 24m x 1.6m wide and two trenches 8m x 1.6m wide.

The tarmac surfaces and underlying layers were removed under full archaeological supervision until either the top of archaeology or natural substratum/undisturbed ground was reached, or to a depth of 1.2m.

The bases of the trenches were cleaned in areas where potential archaeological deposits were observed. If archaeological remains were identified, they were to be planned to scale and recorded. Limited excavation would also be undertaken in order to determine the character and date of any remains.

The trenches were located using a Leica EDM and the final plans completed with the aid of TurboCad v.11 design software. Particular attention was paid to potential buried palaeosols in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer. Deposits which may provide possible pollen or insect evidence were sampled.

All the work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*, and the *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service).

6. Results

Trench 1

Length 24.00m

Width 1.60m

Depth 1.65m

Ground level 90.59m O.D.

Top of natural substratum 89.59m O.D.

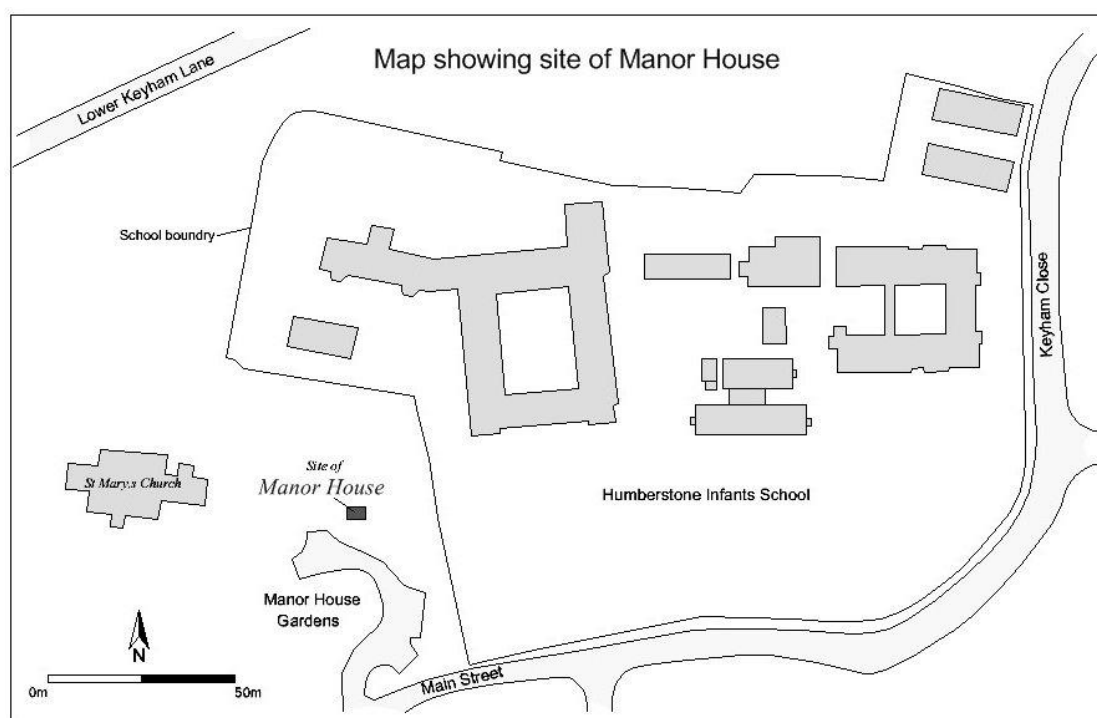


Fig 2: Site of School and Manor House

Trench 1 was located in the northern half of the development area within a school playground and was orientated west to east (Fig: 3). The natural substratum was reached at a depth of 1.00m below the current ground surface and consisted of yellowish brown silt clay mixed with occasional pebble context [20]. The natural substratum was sealed by a layer of possible subsoil 0.40m deep, contexts [4] and [16], found at the west and east end of the trench (Fig: 4 section 3.01). The layer comprised mid-brown silt clay mixed with occasional small round pebbles. Two small Roman tile fragments were found within the subsoil context [4]. The subsoil layer was very compacted and dry and possibly represented the remnant of earthworks associated with possible medieval or post-medieval activity.

At the centre of trench 1 the subsoil was cut by very large feature, which was thought to be a possible moat or pond. The feature had steep vertical west and east sides, which broke gradually into a very wide and flat base that gradually sloped towards the centre (Fig: 4, section 3.01). The feature measured 20.50m wide and 1.15m deep at a point towards the centre (Plate 3). The 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 occasional animal bone was 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. A third fill context [7] had sealed the secondary deposit [8] and comprised mid-green-brown silty clay with occasional small rounded pebbles, 0.25m deep, which extended across the whole width of feature. This upper fill contained pottery dated to the 17th or 18th century and the occasional animal bone. The feature appeared to have been capped by a light grey-brown silty clay deposit context [6] which was 0.07m deep.

The feature was cut by modern services and was sealed by overburden and a tarmac surface with a combined depth of 0.20m.

Trench 2

Length: 8.82m

Width: 1.60m

Depth: 1.45m

Ground level: 90.02 O.D.

Top of natural substratum: 89.07m O.D.

A second trench was excavated on the east side of the site, orientated north to south, on an area of land that was formerly the location of a mobile classroom (Fig: 3). The natural substratum that was present in trench 1 was also reached in this trench at a depth 0.90m below modern ground level. The natural substratum was cut by a possible ditch feature, cut [19], and was found at the north end of the trench running in a north-west to south-east direction. The ditch had a minimum length of 3.50m, a width of 0.70m and a depth of 0.40m (Fig: 4, Trench 2 plan). A small slot excavated across the width of the feature exposed a steep 45 degree sloping sides and rounded base (Plate 2). The fill of the ditch, context [18], consisted of mid-grey-brown silty clay mixed with occasional small pebbles.

Overlying the ditch was a subsoil layer, context [24], consisting of a light orange brown silty clay mixed with occasional small rounded pebbles, animal bone and roof slate. The subsoil layer was very compacted and dry, with a depth of 0.58m, and was similar to the layer observed in trench 1, contexts [4] and [16], and could also be remnants of earthworks associated with possible medieval or post-medieval activity. This layer was sealed by a possible buried soil or turf layer, context [23], and comprised brown silty clay, 0.07m thick. Overlying the buried turf layer was a spread of re-deposited natural substratum, context [22], which consisted of orange brown silty clay. The re-deposited substratum was sealed by a 0.35m deep topsoil, which comprised brown silty clay.

Trench 3

Length: 8.30m

Width: 1.60m

Depth: 0.82m

Ground level: 90.31m O.D.

Top of natural substratum: not reached

Trench 3 was located in the south-western corner of the site in playground area and was orientated north to south (Fig: 3). This trench had been heavily disturbed by modern service trenches and the natural substratum was not reached (Plate 4). It was thought that the modern service trenches had truncated any potential archaeological deposits within this trench. The subsoil layer comprised yellow-brown sandy clay mixed with modern brick and concrete rubble and was up to 0.70m deep. Sealing the subsoil was a brick rubble make-up and a tarmac surface 0.12m deep.



Fig 3: Trench Locations

7. Discussion

The trial trenching undertaken in the school grounds Humberstone Infants/Junior School, Keyham Close, (NGR: SK 6278 0602), revealed three potential archaeological features.

In trench 1 a deep compacted deposit of subsoil was found at the western and eastern ends and is thought to be possible remnants of buried earthworks. These layers and the underlying natural substratum were cut by a very large cut feature, which could be either a possible fishpond or broad trench for a moat. Due to limitations of trial trenching the orientation or extent of the fish pond or moat could not be determined.

The presence of Late Saxon pottery in a lower fill and 17th or 18th century pottery sherds in the upper fills suggests a possible medieval to early post medieval date. The potential earthwork deposits cut by the trench feature could also date to these periods.

The site lies in the historic core of medieval village and is located directly to the north-east of a 'manor house' built in the 18th century building (Fig: 2). Archaeological excavations undertaken on 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 fish pond or moat trench and earthwork layers could be associated. Equally these features maybe associated with a separate potential medieval or early post-medieval property 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).

A possible ditch found at the northern end of trench 2, was sealed by another compacted layer of subsoil, which was thought to be a medieval or post-medieval earthwork deposit. The ditch feature was partially excavated and no finds were found, but it was sealed below the subsoil or earthwork layer, which suggests it could be either pre-medieval or medieval in date. Some residual Roman tile fragments and a single Late Saxon pottery sherd were found in trench 1 suggesting some potential for activity from these periods within the vicinity of the development area.

The archaeological features and deposits found in trenches 1 and 2 suggest there is likely to be an area of significant archaeological potential in the northern and eastern sections of the development area. However the third evaluation trench contained several modern services and this suggests that it is likely that all potential archaeological deposits may have been truncated within the south-western corner of the development area.

8. Archive

A full copy of the archive as defined in the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990), 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 objects) (Roman finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700, 1993) will usually be presented within six months of the completion of the fieldwork. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating to the investigations undertaken.

The archive consists of:

A copy of the report,

Indices

Three trench recording sheets

24 context sheets,

6 plan and section drawing sheets

Digital photos with contact prints, photographic index

Finds comprising sherds of pottery, tile or brick and animal bone (Appendix 1),

The site archive will be held by Leicester Museum Services under the accession number A2.2009

A summary of the work will be published in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course.

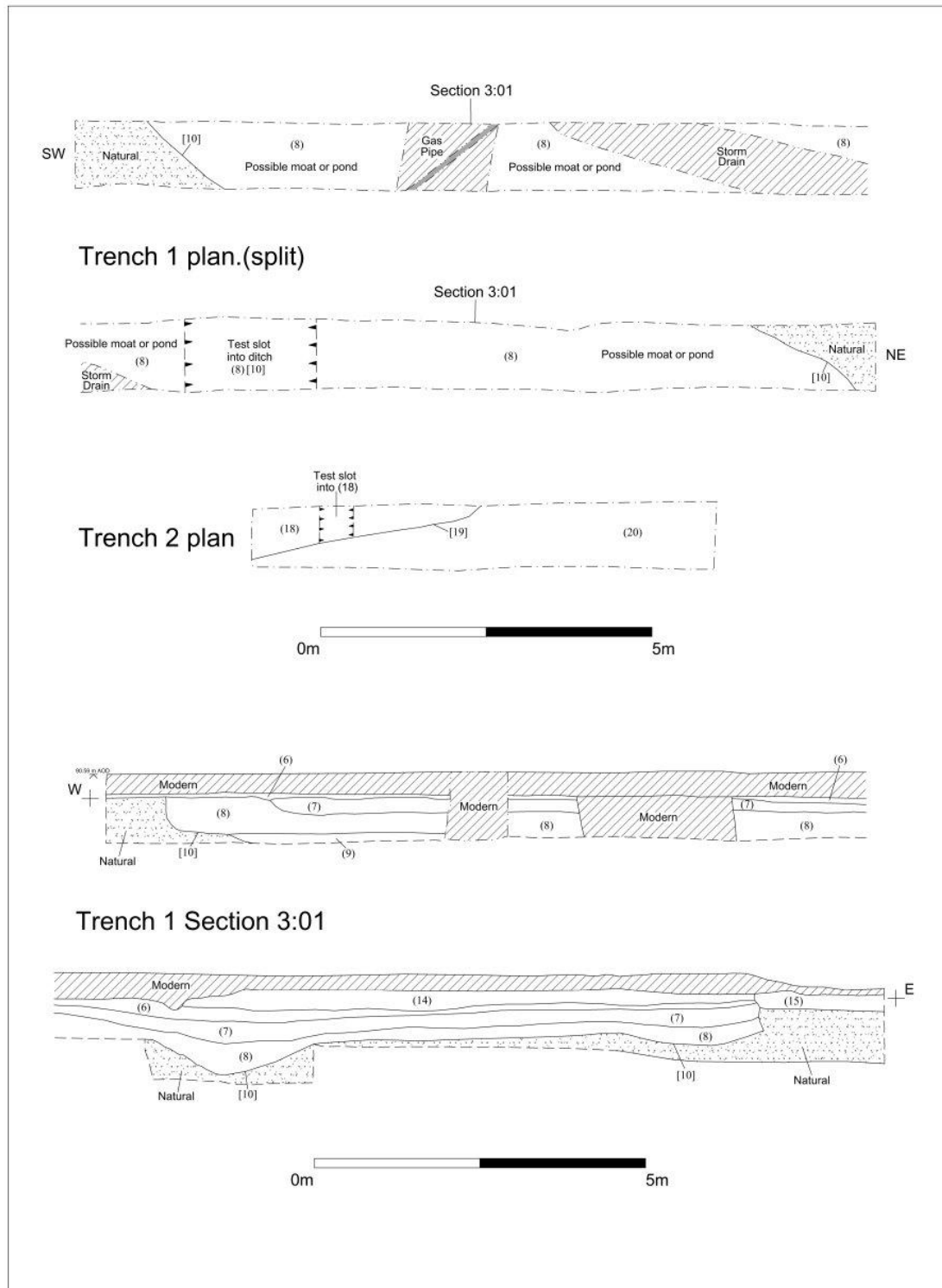


Figure 4 Trench plans and section



Plate 1 Evaluation Trench 1 looking east



Plate 2 Evaluation Trench 2 looking north with a test slot excavated into possible ditch

9. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by the author, assisted by Dan Stone. Dr. Patrick Clay managed the project. I would 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 and Mr Stuart Partlow of Mansell (construction contractors) for their help and assistance during the evaluation

10. Bibliography

Gnanaratnam, A., 2008 *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment for Humberstone Infants/Junior School, Keyham Close, Humberstone, Leicester (SK 6278 0602)* ULAS Ref: 2008/187.

Smith, S., 1976 'Humberstone Manor Excavations' in A D McWhirr (ed) 'Archaeology in Leicestershire and Rutland 1976', *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* **51** (1975-76), 60 (56-65).

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Plate 3 Excavated test slot at centre of Trench 1 into a potential pond or moat.



Plate 4 Evaluation Trench 3 looking north

Oasis Record

INFORMATION REQUIRED	
Project Name	An Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching Humberstone Infants/Junior School, Keyham Close, Humberstone, Leicester
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Tim Higgins
Previous/Future work	Previous work: Desk base assessment
Current Land Use	School playgrounds
Development Type	New school buildings
Reason for Investigation	PPG16
Position in the Planning Process	Requirements planning permission
Site Co ordinates	NGR: SK 6278 0602
Start/end dates of field work	21 st to 27 th January 2009
Archive Recipient	Leicester Museum Service
Study Area	c. 1600 sq metres

APPENDIX: 1

The Post Roman Pottery and Miscellaneous Finds

Deborah Sawday

The Pottery

The pottery, six sherds, weighing 233 grams, was catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabrics Series (Sawday 1989; Davies and Sawday 1999). All the material was post-medieval or modern in date, with the exception of an abraded bowl rim, weighing 27 grams, possibly with rouletted decoration of the rim flange, in context (8), the lower fill of a pond or moat. This wheel thrown late Saxon pottery, Lincoln Kiln Type Shelly ware, fabric LI1, is dated dating from the late 9th or 10th centuries at York (Young et al 2005, 47, fig.50.187). This is the earliest post-Roman pottery known to the author from Humberstone, other than a fragment of early or middle Saxon pottery found on the site of the former Windmill Public House, Main Street, which also lay within the core of the medieval village.

The Building Material

Two abraded fragments of Roman brick or tile were found in context (4) and part of a Roman diamond shape roofing slate (Gnanaratnam 1999, 304), in context (24). Both contexts are subsoils possible relating to medieval earthworks. The slate is probably from another local source, if not from Swithland, (Ramsey, 2007) and may have been re-used in the medieval or post-medieval period as a field drain cover (N. Finn, pers. comm.).

Bibliography

Connor, A., and Buckley, R., 1999. *Roman and Medieval Occupation in Causeway Lane, Leicester*, Leicester Archaeology Mon. **5**.

Davies, S., and Sawday, D., 1999. 'The Post Roman Pottery and Tile' in A. Connor and R. Buckley, 1999, 165-213.

Gnanaratnam, A.G., 1999. 'Non Ceramic Building Materials' in A. Connor and R. Buckley, 1999, 304-307.

Ramsey, D., 2007 'New Light on early slate and granite Extraction in North West Leicestershire' in *Leicestershire Industrial History Society*. **18**, 3-79.

Young, J., Vince, A., and Nailor, V., 2005. *A Corpus of Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln*. Lincoln Archaeological Studies **7**.

Site/ Parish: Humberstone Infant/Junior School, Keyham Lane, Humberstone Accession No.: A2 2009 Document Ref: Humberstone5.docx Material: pot/bone etc Site Type: village core/ medieval moat	Submitter: T. Higgins Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Identification: 5.2.09 Method of recovery: evaluation Job Number: 09/546
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Context	Fabric/Ware	Nos.	Weight	Comments
POTTERY				
7 ?upper fill pond/ moat	EA1/2 – Earthenware 1/2	1	182	Flat jar base, knife trimmed underneath, thick blackish glaze internally, 17-18 th C.
7	EA2 – Earthenware 2	1	10	Red bodied, brown glaze internally, ?17 th C+
8 ?lower fill pond/ moat	LI – 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), L9/10C
11 modern trench	EA	3	14	Cream ware and fine white Earthenwares, modern
CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL				
4	EA - Earthenware	2	83	Abraded, dense fine fabric - Roman
7	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
ANIMAL BONE				
7		19		
8		1		
24		6		
ROOFING STONE				
24 subsoil ? house platform	Slate	1	1173	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.

Appendix 2

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological evaluation

*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 evaluation by trial trenching in advance of a proposed 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 the *Brief for an archaeological evaluation at Humberstone Junior School, Leicester* – hereinafter the ‘brief’.

1.3 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute for Archaeologist's (IfA) *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* 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 is now required to confirm whether archaeological remains are present within the application area and, if necessary, formulate a mitigation strategy.

3. Objectives

3.1 The objective of the archaeological work is to ascertain whether any significant archaeological remains are present within the area to be developed. If identified a sufficient sample to establish their extent, date, quality, character, form and potential including environmental data will be recorded. Further archaeological recording may be required in the light of the results of this programme.

4 General Methodology

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

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

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

4.5 Trial trenching

4.5.1 The area comprises a tarmac play ground. A 5% sample is proposed comprising trial trenching totalling *c.* 60 sq metres the equivalent of two 20m x 1.5m wide trenches to a maximum depth of 1.2 m (Fig 1). The location of the trenches will depend on the results of a CAT scan for underground services.

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

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

4.5.4 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate to addressing the aims and objectives of the evaluation. 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).

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

4.5.6 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.

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

4.6 Mitigation Strategy

4.6.1 Depending on the results of the trial trenching and following consultation with the City Archaeologist and the client a mitigation strategy may need to be formulated.

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, enlarged to 1:500 (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 Some 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 undertaken.

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

5.6 All site records and finds will be kept securely.

6 Report and Archive

6.1 Before commencement of work an accession number will be obtained from Leicester City Museums. A report on the fieldwork will be provided following analysis of the records and materials.

6.2. 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) (RFG/FRG 1993) will be presented to Leicester Museums. This archive will include all written, disk-based, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

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

7 Timetable and staffing

7.1. The trial trenching will be undertaken within a one week period and can commence during January 2009.

8. Health and Safety

8.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (2007) with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate.

9. Insurance

9.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with Gerling Insurance Services Policy No. 62/99094/D, Risk Reference LT 35101 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Sun Alliance Insurance Policy No. 03A/5A 001 05978, Risk Reference LT 27229.

10. 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.

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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07.01.2009

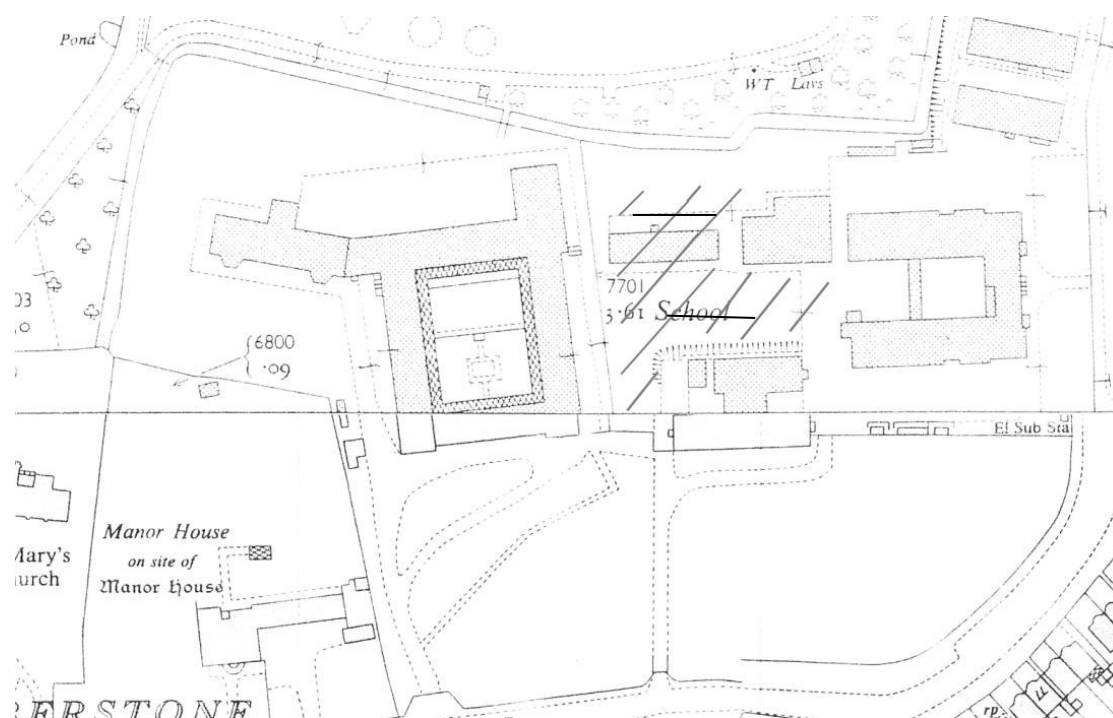


Figure 1 Proposed trench locations.

Draft 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.

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