



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

An Archaeological Strip, Map and
Sample Excavation at
'The Old Forge Nurseries', The Green,
Lubenham, Leicestershire
(NGR: SP 705 874)

Greg Jones



ULAS Report No 2009-071.

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**An Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample
Excavation at 'The Old Forge Nurseries',
The Green, Lubenham, Leicestershire
(NGR: SP 705 874)**

Greg Jones

For: V and A Barnett

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ULAS Report Number 2009-103 ©2009

[X.A149.2009]

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An Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation on land at 'The Old Forge Nurseries', The Green, Lubenham, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 705 874)

Greg Farnworth-Jones

Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation on land at 'The Old Nurseries', The Green, Lubenham, Leicestershire, (SP705 874) between the 20th and the 23rd of July 2009. This work was undertaken on behalf of Mr and Mrs V Barnett during the ground works for the construction of three new dwellings and garage on land at 'The Old Forge Nurseries', The Green, Lubenham, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 705 874). No archaeological finds or deposits were observed during this work.

The site archive will be held with the County Archaeological Heritage Services, Leicestershire County Council, Community Services Department, under the accession code: [X.A149.2009].

1. Introduction

1.1 University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Mr and Mrs V. Barnett to undertake an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation during groundworks for the construction of three new residential dwellings, garage and soak away on land at 'The Old Forge Nurseries', 'The Green', Lubenham, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 705 874); Planning application Nos. 06/01441/3. The strip, map and sample excavation was undertaken between the 20th and the 23rd July 2009.

1.2 To fulfil the terms of an archaeological planning condition in accordance with DOE Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (PPG 16, Archaeology and Planning, para.30) the Senior Planning Archaeologist of the Historic and Natural Environment Team of Leicestershire County Council (LCC HNET), in his capacity as archaeological adviser to the planning authority Harborough District Council, requested that an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation be undertaken to confirm the presence or absence of archaeological remains at the site. This is detailed in their *Brief for archaeological investigation (strip plan and sample excavation) at 'The Old Forge Nurseries' House, The Green, Lubenham, Leicestershire* (Appendix).

2. Geology and Topography

2.1 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 170 indicates that the underlying geology of the application area is likely to consist of alluvium. The site lies on flat land at a height of c.86m aOD.

3. Archaeological Background

3.1 A desk-based assessment has been prepared for this application (ULAS Report 2006-011). The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest, within the medieval core of Lubenham.



Figure 1: Location of Lubenham village (OS Map SP 68) 1:50 000

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5. Methodology

5.1 All archaeological work adhered to the Institute for Archaeologist's (IfA) *Code of Conduct, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological watching briefs and archaeological excavations* and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LMARS). The work followed the approved design specification (Appendix).

5.2 The archaeological strip, map and sample excavation involved the inspection and recording of groundworks to identify any deposits of archaeological importance.

5.3 The main objectives of the archaeological strip, map and sample excavation were:

- 1. To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- 2. To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- 3. To 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 hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located were hand excavated and measured drawings of all archaeological features prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100.

5.5 Archaeological deposits were 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.

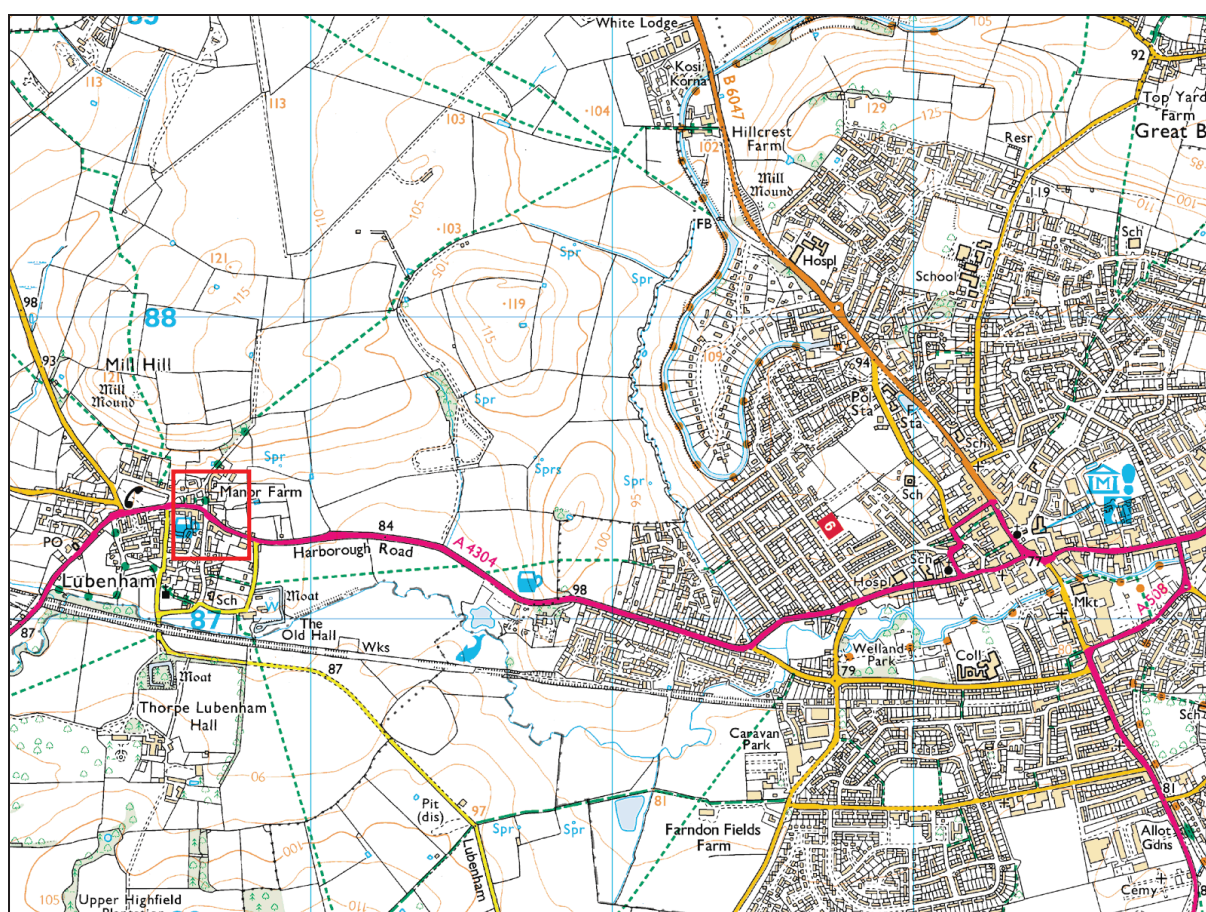


Figure 2 Site Location (1:25000)

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Fig. 3 Site location plan showing excavated areas in colour (North to top)

6. Results

6.1 Results of the strip, map and sample excavation

6.1.1 The initial groundworks comprising an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services. This work took place between the 20th and the 23rd July 2009.

6.1.2 Initial ground clearing and reduction by *c.* 0.15m revealed a dark clay silt topsoil. No archaeological deposits were visible and as the only proposed ground reduction was then to be for the foundation trenches these were observed with control and supervision (Figures 5-6).

6.1.3 Subsequent machining of the foundation trenches revealed a light brown silty clay subsoil at a depth of *c.* 0.3m. Below this was revealed the natural substratum at a depth of

0.5m below the ground surface which consisted of yellowish brown clay with sandy pockets (Figure 6).

6.1.3 No archaeological finds features or deposits were located during the archaeological strip, map and sample excavation.



Figure 4 General view looking north-east

7. Conclusion

7.1 The archaeological strip, map and sample excavation did not locate any archaeological finds, features or deposits during the groundworks for the construction of the new dwellings at 'The Old Forge Nurseries', The Green, Lubenham, Leicestershire, (SP 705 874).

7.2 The archaeological observation of ground reduction, foundation trench excavation and other ground works has confirmed the absence of significant surviving archaeological deposits within the area observed. It is likely that this area was used for agricultural or horticultural practices.



Figure 5 General view looking north-west



Figure 6 Section of soak-away looking north

8. Archive

8.1 The site archive consists of 38 colour digital photographs and 4 strip, map and sample excavation recording forms and will be held by County Archaeological Heritage Services, Leicestershire County Council, Community Services Department, under the accession code: [X.A149.2009].

Archive accession code [X.A149.2009] contents:

Copy of Report:	Recording Sheets:	Digital Colour Photographs:
1	4	38

9. Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the clients, V and A Barnett, for their assistance and co-operation on site. Patrick Clay managed the project and the fieldwork was carried out by the author, both of ULAS.

10. Bibliography

Clay, P., 2008. *Design Specification for an Archaeological Strip, map and sample excavation on Land at 'The Old Forge Nurseries, The Green, Lubenham, Leicestershire (SP 705 874)*. ULAS Ref: 08/673

Hunt, L., 2006 *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for land at The Old Forge Nurseries, Lubenham, Leicestershire. (SP 705 874)* ULAS Ref: 2006/027

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Oasis Record

Project Name	'The Old Forge Nurseries', The Green, Lubenham, Leicestershire (SP 705 874)
Project Type	Strip, map and sample excavation
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Greg Jones
Previous/Future work	No previous work
Current Land Use	Garden
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	PPG16
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	NGR: SP 705 874
Start/end dates of field work	20.07.09/23.07.09
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire
Study Area	c.1800 square metres

Appendix:

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Job title: The Old Forge Nurseries, The Green, Lubenham, Leicestershire

NGR: SP 705 874

Client: V and A Barnett

Planning Authority: Harborough District Council

Planning application Nos. 06/01441/3

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 an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation, during ground works for the erection of three dwellings plus associated garages at The Old Forge Nurseries, The Green, Lubenham, Leicestershire (SP 705 874); Planning application No. 06/01441/3).

1.2 It addresses the requirements detailed in the advice provided by Leicestershire County Council as advisors to the planning authority (LCCHNET 03.11.2006).

1.3 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* (LCC).

2.1 Context of the Project

2.1.1 The site is located at *The Old Forge Nurseries, The Green, Lubenham, Leicestershire* and a planning application has been submitted for the construction of a new hall and adjoining link.

2.1.2 Leicestershire County Council, as archaeological advisors to the planning authority have detailed the level of archaeological work required (their advice of 03.11.2008).

2.2 Archaeological Background

2.2.1 A desk-based assessment has been prepared for this application (ULAS Report 2006-011). The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest, within the medieval core of Lubenham.

3 Aims

3.1 *Archaeological strip, map and sample excavation.* Through archaeological control of machine stripping and recording of groundworks by the client's contractors:

1. To identify the presence/absence of 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 control of groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist. If any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest.

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, Leicestershire County Council, and the coroner 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, Leicestershire County Council and Harborough District Council.

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 strip, map and sample excavation.

5.6 All site records and finds will be kept securely.

6 Report and Archive

6.1 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 strip, map and sample excavation is scheduled to commence at the inception of the contractors groundworks. 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

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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11.05.2009



Appendix

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

Job title: The Old Forge Nurseries, The Green, Lubenham, Leicestershire

NGR: SP 705 874

Client: V and A Barnett

Planning Authority: Harborough District Council

Planning application Nos. 06/01441/3

1 Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation.

1.2 The work will involve inspection of buildings and observation of groundworks 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 ULAS Health and Safety Manual (2001) together with the following relevant Health and Safety guidelines.

1.3 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

1.4 The Health and Safety policy on site will be reassessed during the evaluation .

1.5 All work will adhere to the contractors' health and safety policy.

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 Working within a building site

Precautions. No work will be undertaken beneath section faces. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. Hard hats 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. Liaison will be maintained with the contractors to ensure programme of machine movement is understood.

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.

2.9 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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11.05.2009

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

