

**An Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample on  
Land at 4, School Street,  
Rothley, Leicestershire  
(NGR: SK 586 126)**

**Greg Jones**



**An Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample  
On Land at 4 School Street,  
Rothley, Leicestershire  
(NGR: SK 586 126)**

**Greg Jones**

**For: Mr and Mrs K. Byass**

Checked by

**Signed:**  **Date:** ...07.09.2009.

**Name:** .Vicki Score.....

Approved by

**Signed:**  **Date:** ...07.09.2009.

**Name:** Patrick Clay.....

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**[X.A171.2009]**

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## **An Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample on land at 4 School Street, Rothley, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 586 126)**

***Greg Farnworth-Jones***

### ***Summary***

*University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological Strip, Map and Sample on land at 4, School Street, Rothley, Leicestershire, (SK 586 126) on the 1st of September 2009. This work was undertaken on behalf of Mr and Mrs K. Byass during the ground works for the construction of a new double garage. No archaeological finds, features 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.A172.2009].*

## **1. Introduction**

**1.1** University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by R and Mrs K. Byass to undertake an archaeological strip, map and sample exercise prior to ground works for the construction of a double garage on land at 4, School Street, Rothley, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 586 126); Planning application no. P/07/3459/2). The archaeological exercise was undertaken on the 1st September 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 excavate exercise 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 3, School Sreet, Rothley, Leicestershire* of 19.12.2007 from LCC HNET (hereinafter the *Brief*).

## **2. Site Location Geology and Topography**

**2.1** The site lies within the village of Rothley (SK 586 126; Fig. 1). The underlying geology of the site is likely to comprise Mudstone (Barnby Member to the west and Scunthorpe Mudstone Formation to the east) overlain with Glaciofluvial and Head Deposits (British Geological Survey of Great Britain).





Figure 1: Site location 1:50000

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### 3 Archaeological Background

3.1 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of significant archaeological interest. Recent excavation in the adjacent plot (Rothley Grange) has uncovered numerous burials (HER Ref. No. MLE16054), which may be related to the church (MLE13258). If the churchyard originally extended further than it does now, it is possible that burials may also be present on the site of the proposed development. In addition, Roman finds were recovered during the excavations (MLE16109), which go some way to confirming the presence of a Roman villa – a mosaic is marked on the late C19th map in the area of the Old Vicarage (MLE16767). Consequently, there is likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the development.



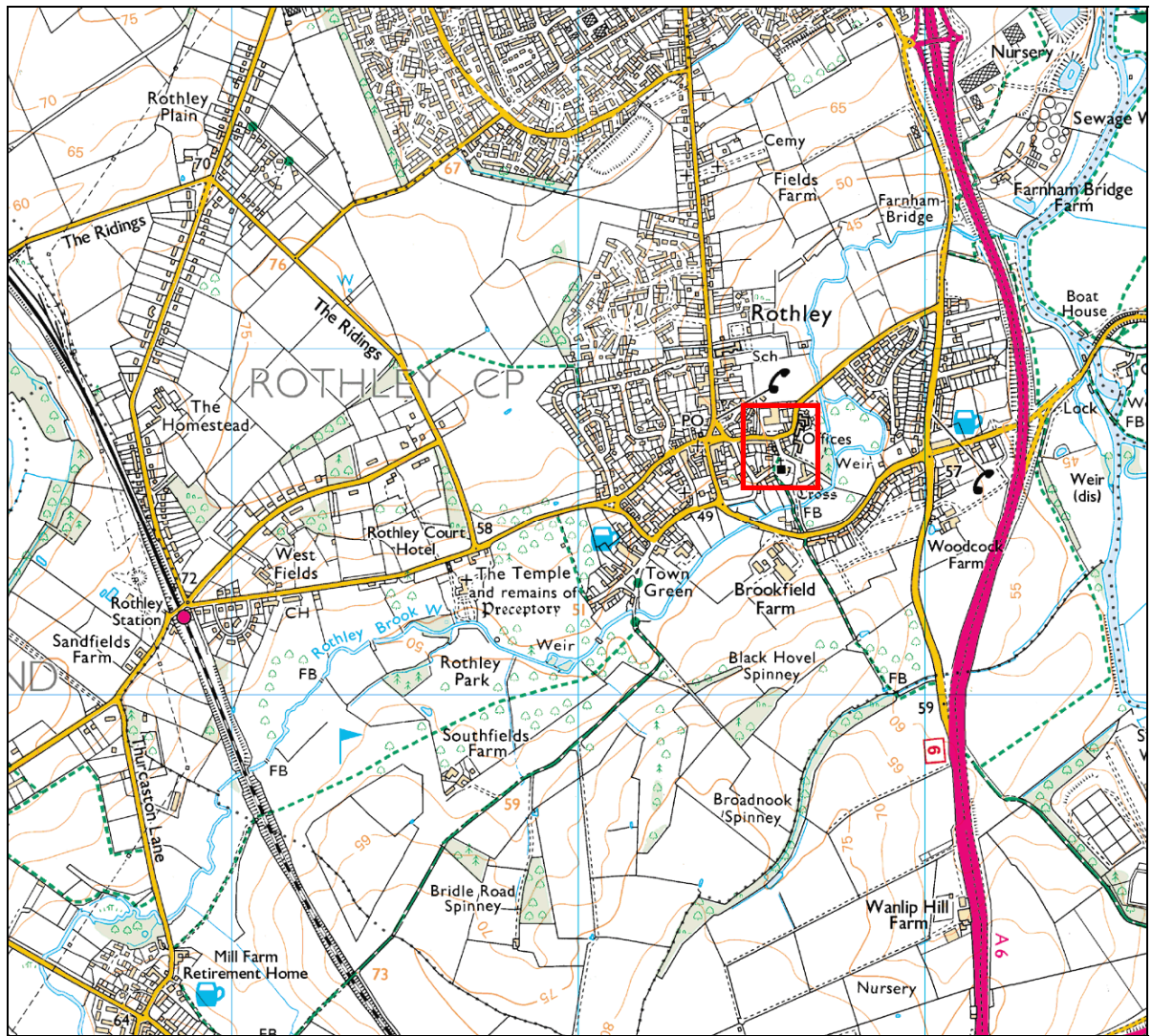
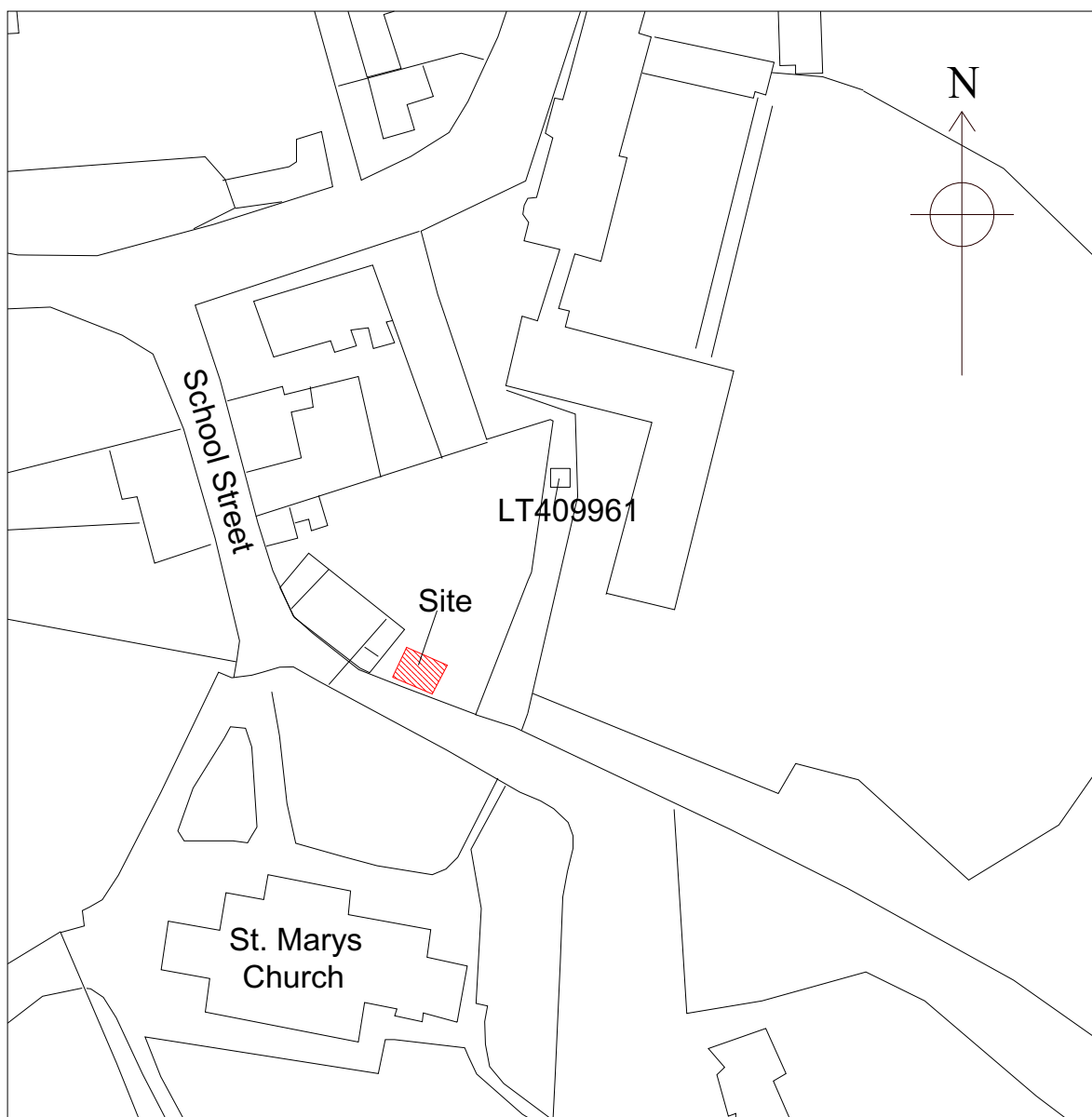


Figure 2: Site location 1:25000

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**Figure 3**

Site Location plan

#### **4. Methodology**

**4.1** All archaeological work adhered to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's (IFA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs and archaeological excavations the Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland (LMARS)*. The work followed the approved design specification (Appendix).

**4.2** The archaeological Strip, Map and Sample exercise involved the inspection and recording of groundworks to identify any deposits of archaeological importance.

**4.3** The main objectives of the archaeological Strip, Map and Sample exercise 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.

**4.4** 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.

**4.5** 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.

**4.6** All excavated sections were recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights were taken as appropriate.

## **5. Results**

### **5.1 Results of the Strip, Map and Sample Exercise**

**5.1.1** The archaeological strip, map and sample exercise was undertaken on land at 4, School Street, Rothley Leicestershire (SK 586 126) on Tuesday 1st September 2009 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS).

**5.1.2** Upon arrival at the above address it was apparent that the area had already been stripped before an archaeologist had been present. However the material removed was identified as topsoil/overburden down to a depth of c.0.2m maximum depth. No archaeological features had been exposed at this level as would be expected. Further machining took place around the edges and inside of the slab as foundation trenches. These groundworks descended to a depth of no more than c.0.45m and went through further topsoil and subsoil layers. Only the horizon between the subsoil and the natural was reached. No archaeological finds, features or artefacts were observed or recovered during the strip, map and sample exercise.

## **6. Conclusion**

**6.1** The archaeological strip, map and sample exercise failed to locate any archaeological finds, features or deposits of any archaeological significance. It is possible that



archaeological deposits may have been present at a lower level beneath the stratigraphy that was excavated. However no evidence was recovered for this.

## 7. Archive

7.1 The site archive consists of 13 colour digital photographs and 1 watching brief recording forms and will be held by County Archaeological Heritage Services, Leicestershire County Council, Community Services Department, under the accession code: [X.A171.2009].

### *Archive accession code [X.A171.2008] contents:*

Copy of Report:	Recording Sheets:	Digital Colour Photographs:
1	1	13



Figure 4 General shot looking west



Figure 5 General shot looking west

## 8. Oasis Record

Project Name	3 School Street, Rothley, Leicestershire
Project Type	Watching Brief
Project Manager	Richard Buckley
Project Supervisor	Greg Jones
Previous/Future work	No previous work
Current Land Use	Garden
Development Type	Garage and patio
Reason for Investigation	PPG16
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	NGR: SK 584 125
Start/end dates of field work	01.09.09

Archive Recipient	Leicestershire
Study Area	c. 50m <sup>2</sup>

## 9. Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the clients, Mr and Mrs K Byass for their assistance and co-operation on site. Richard Buckley managed the project and the fieldwork was carried out by the author, both of ULAS.

## 10. Bibliography

Buckley, R., 2009. *Design Specification for an Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample on Land at 4, School Street, Rothley Leicestershire (SK 584 125)*. ULAS Ref: 10/105

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07.09.2009

## **Appendix:**

### **UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES**

#### **Design Specification for archaeological work**

*4, School Street, Rothley, Leicestershire*

**Planning Application: P/07/3459/2**

*Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council*

*For: Mr and Mrs K Byass*

#### **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, plan and record, as required by the Planning Authority, of any groundworks on the site which may disturb areas of archaeological potential in connection with a planning application for the erection of a double garage at 4 School street, Rothley, Leicestershire.

1.2 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's (IFA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LMARS).

#### **2 Background**

##### *2.1 Requirement for archaeological work*

2.1.1 Although the archaeological advice from the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council recommended the investigation of a trial trench before determination of the planning application (appendix 1), it has now been agreed to change the requirement to archaeological control and supervision of groundworks (appendix 2).

##### *2.2 Archaeological potential (from advice letter)*

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of significant archaeological interest. Recent excavation in the adjacent plot (Rothley Grange) has uncovered numerous burials (HER Ref. No. MLE16054), which may be related to the church (MLE13258). If the churchyard originally extended further than it does now, it is possible that burials may also be present on the site of the proposed development. In addition, Roman finds were recovered during the excavations (MLE16109), which go some way to confirming the presence of a Roman villa – a mosaic is marked on the late C19th map in the area of the Old Vicarage (MLE16767). Consequently, there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the development.

#### **3 Aims**

3.1 Through archaeological controlled stripping and investigation:

1. To identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or archaeological deposits.
2. To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
3. To excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
4. To produce an archive and report of any results.



#### **4 Methods**

4.1 The project will involve the supervision of overburden removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. Any machinery used by the client's contractor must be equipped with a flat-bladed ditching bucket and the archaeologist will have the power to halt works to define areas of archaeological interest.

4.2 Should significant archaeological remains be identified which lie above the proposed formation level, a programme of excavation and recording, using additional personnel as necessary will need to be implemented.

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.

4.8 Any human remains encountered will be initially left in situ and only be removed under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The developer and Leicestershire County Council will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.9 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site from the project manager. These will ensure that professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for monitoring visits with representatives of the owners and Leicestershire County Council.

4.10 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located during the watching brief there may be the need for contingency time and finance to be provided to ensure adequate recording is undertaken. On the discovery of potentially significant remains the archaeologist will inform the developer, the Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services and the planning authority. If the archaeological remains are identified to be of significance additional contingent archaeological works may be required.

#### **5 Recording Systems**

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

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

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

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

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

5.6 All site records and finds will be kept securely.

## **6 Report and Archive**

6.1 An accession number will be drawn prior to the commencement of the project (Brief 8.1). Following the fieldwork the on-line OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis> will be completed. A report on the investigation will be provided following the groundworks.

6.2 Copies will be provided for the client, Sites and Monuments Record and planning Authority. The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

6.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in the 'Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage' (UKIC 1990), and Standards in the Museum care of archaeological collections (MGC 1992) and 'Guidelines for the preparation of site archives and assessments for all finds (other than fired clay objects) (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993) will be presented to Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services normally within six months of the completion of analysis. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

## **7 Publication**

7.1 A summary report will be submitted to a suitable regional or national archaeological journal within one year of completion of fieldwork. A full report will be submitted if the results are of significance.

## **8 Timetable and Staffing**

8.1 The investigation is scheduled to commence at the start of the contractors groundworks on 1st September 2009. 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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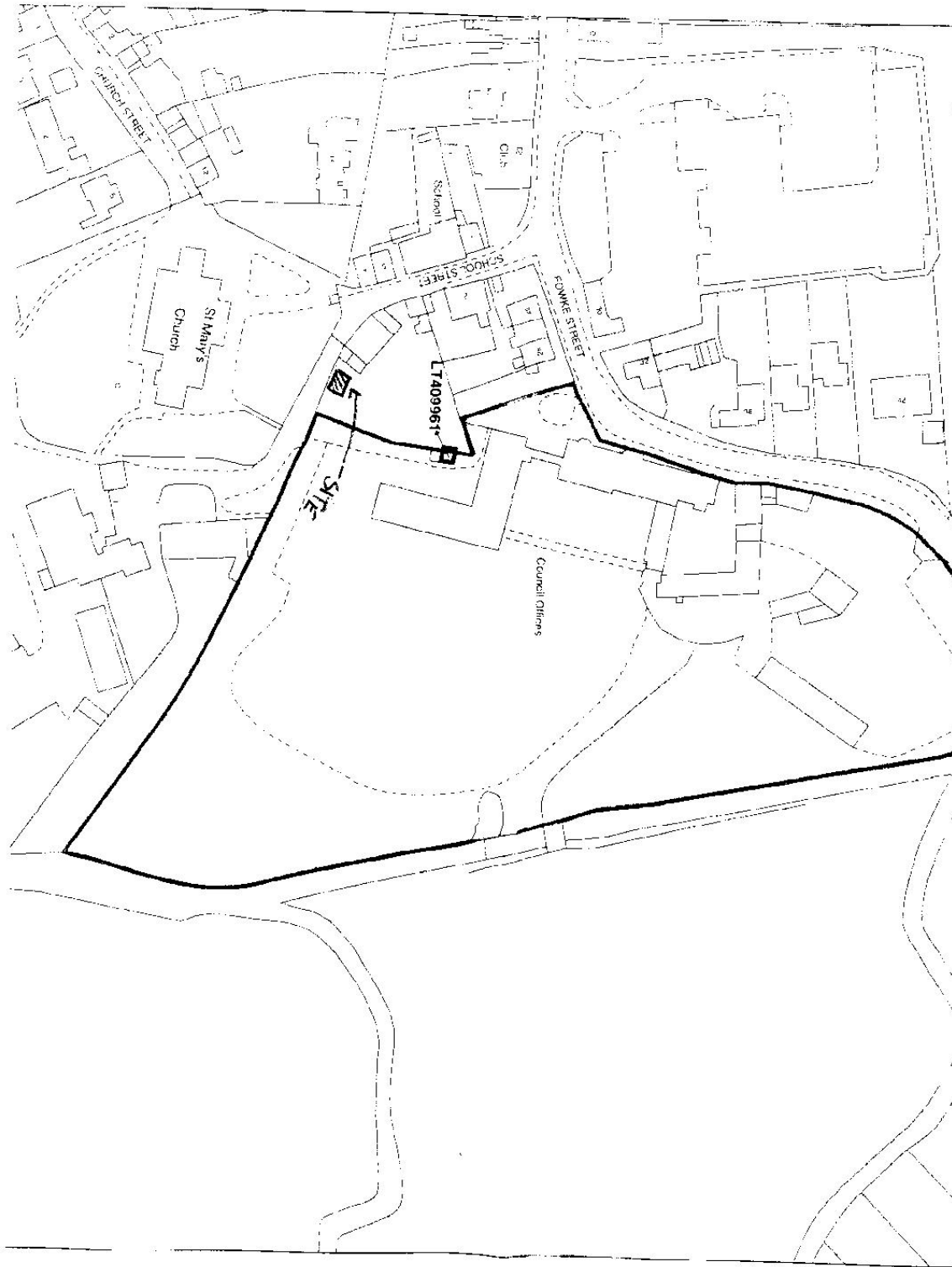


Fig 1 Location of Development (not to scale, plan provided by client)



## Appendix 1

### Advice letter from Leicestershire County Council

Mr J Hicks (Planning Officer)	Date:	19 <sup>th</sup> December 2007
Planning Services	My ref:	CLE3896/HW
Charnwood Borough Council	Your ref:	P/07/3459/2
Southfields	Contact:	Richard Clark
Loughborough	Phone:	(0116) 305 8322
Leicestershire	Fax:	(0116) 305 7965
LE11 2TN	Email:	riclark@leics.gov.uk

Dear Mr Hicks,

**Planning Application No: P/07/3459/2: Erection of double garage, store and link to side of dwelling; 4, School Street, Rothley.**

### Archaeological considerations

Thank you for your consultation on this application. We recommend that you advise the applicant of the following archaeological requirements.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of significant archaeological interest. Recent excavation in the adjacent plot (Rothley Grange) has uncovered numerous burials (HER Ref. No. MLE16054), which may be related to the church (MLE13258). If the churchyard originally extended further than it does now, it is possible that burials may also be present on the site of the proposed development. In addition, Roman finds were recovered during the excavations (MLE16109), which go some way to confirming the presence of a Roman villa – a mosaic is marked on the late C19th map in the area of the Old Vicarage (MLE16767). Consequently, there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the development.

The preservation of archaeological remains is, of course, a “material consideration” in the determination of planning applications. The proposals include operations that may destroy any buried archaeological remains that are present, but the archaeological implications cannot be adequately assessed on the basis of the currently available information. Since it is possible that archaeological remains may be adversely affected by this proposal, we recommend that the planning authority defer determination of the application and request that the applicant complete an Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposals.

This will require provision by the applicant for:

A field evaluation (trial trenching) to identify and locate any archaeological remains of significance, and propose suitable treatment to avoid or minimise damage by the development. Further design, civil engineering or archaeological work may then be necessary to achieve this.

This information should be submitted to the planning authority before any decision on the planning application is taken, so that an informed decision can be made, and the application refused or modified in the light of the results as appropriate. Without the information that such an Assessment would provide, it would be difficult in our view for the planning authority to assess the archaeological impact of the proposals.

Should the applicant be unwilling to supply this information as part of the application, it may be appropriate to consider directing the applicant to supply the information under Regulation 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Applications) Regulations 1988, or to refuse the application. These recommendations conform with the advice provided in DoE PPG16 "Archaeology and Planning".

Should you be minded to refuse this application on other grounds, the lack of archaeological information should be an additional reason for refusal, to ensure the archaeological potential is given future consideration.

The Archaeology Section, as advisors to the planning authority, will provide a formal Brief for the work and approve a Specification for the Assessment at the request of the applicant. This will ensure that the necessary programme of archaeological work is undertaken to the satisfaction of the planning authority, in a cost-effective manner and with minimum disturbance to the archaeological resource. The Specification should comply with this Department's "Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland" and relevant Institute of Field Archaeologists "Standards" and "Code of Practice", and should include a suitable indication of arrangements for the implementation of the archaeological work, and the proposed timetable.

Information on suitable archaeological organisations to carry out this work can be obtained from the Historic and Natural Environment Team. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Clark

Senior Planning Archaeologist

c.c. Mr M Davies (Agent)

## Appendix 2

### Revised requirements from Leicestershire County Council

**From:** Lucy Griffin

**Sent:** 24 August 2009 12:58

**To:** 'Buckley, R.J.'

**Cc:** Richard Clark

**Subject:** RE: 4 School Street, Rothley- Planning Permission Archaeological Condition

Hi Richard,

Thank you for your enquiry about the type of archaeological work required for planning application P/07/3460/2. The application site at 4 School Street, Rothley is in an area that has a high likelihood of containing archaeological remains. Excavations at the adjacent site of Rothley Grange have revealed evidence of a probable medieval cemetery. Inhumations were discovered in a trench excavated close to and parallel to the lane that runs off School Street. Roman archaeology was also present and may relate to the find of a mosaic pavement shown on the late 19th century Ordnance Survey map. In light of this potential for remains of such significance to be disturbed by the development, we had advised that pre-determination evaluation should be undertaken to inform the planning decision. I have attached a copy of our advice letter.

The Planning Authority have chosen to attach a condition for archaeological work to the permission and have not felt that evaluation is appropriate. The most obvious programme of archaeological work would be exploratory trial trenching- a two phase programme, where the results of initial trenching are then analysed and written up, to be followed by a scheme for further work. However, as you have outlined, it is understood that the ground disturbance is to be minimal and in recognition of this, the most suitable programme of archaeological work that will be necessary to fulfill the planning condition would appear to be archaeological control and supervision of the soil stripping required to expose an area on which to found the building and of course of any associated service runs, access routes etc. I do not think that the initial trench will be necessary and want to see an archaeologist present to control and supervise the strip, which will need to be carried out by a flat bladed ditching bucket, as per the usual methodology. The applicants need to be aware that the archaeologist may need to stop work whilst they investigate any remains present. One scenario is, of course, the presence of human remains. This will require further discussion as to the appropriate course of action.

It should be noted that the Planning Authority will need to be in receipt of an approved specification for the work before development commences on site, as stated on the decision notice.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, should you wish to discuss the above further.

Kind regards

Lucy Griffin (Assistant Planning Archaeologist)

Leicestershire County Council

Historic And Natural Environment Team

Tel: 0116 3056217

Fax:0116 3057965

[http://www.leics.gov.uk/historic\\_natural\\_environment\\_archaeology](http://www.leics.gov.uk/historic_natural_environment_archaeology)

