



**University of  
Leicester**

**Archaeological Services**

**An Archaeological  
Watching Brief at 9,  
Main Street, Saltby,  
(Sproxtton)  
Leicestershire  
NGR: SK 8500 2650  
Tim Higgins**



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**An Archaeological Watching Brief at  
9 Main Street, Saltby (Sproxton)  
Leicestershire**

**NGR: SK 8500 2650**

**Tim Higgins**

**For: HSSP Architects**

Approved by

Signed:



Date: 25.02.2011.

Name: Patrick Clay

**University of Leicester**  
Archaeological Services  
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH  
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

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# **An Archaeological Watching Brief at 9, Main Street, Saltby, (Sproxton), Leicestershire NGR SK 8500 2650**

**Tim Higgins**

## ***Summary***

*An Archaeological Watching brief of ground-works at land adjacent to 9 Main Street, Saltby, (Sproxton), Leicestershire was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of HSSP Architects. The initial groundwork consisted of the removal of overburden and ground reduction and the excavation of new foundations for new residential buildings. Attendance at the site occurred from the 3rd to 4th September 2009.*

*The watching brief revealed no archaeological deposits or pre-modern artefacts during the inspection of the site. The archive will be deposited with Archaeology, Environment and Heritage Services (Leicestershire County Council Museum), subject to their confirmation with accession No. X.A171.2009*

## **1. Introduction**

This report presents the results of an extended archaeological watching brief of groundworks on land adjacent to 9, Main Street Saltby, (Sproxton), Leicestershire (NGR SK 850 265). In view of the potential impact of the development this was undertaken as a mitigation strategy following recommendations by the Leicestershire County Council Senior Planning Archaeologist.

The ground-works involved ground clearance and reduction of the areas and excavation of foundations. This followed the demolition of the old bus depot, and comprised 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*.

## **2. Archaeological and Historical background**

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest, within the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of the village. Modern aerial photographs appear to show earthworks in the field to the west of the application site.

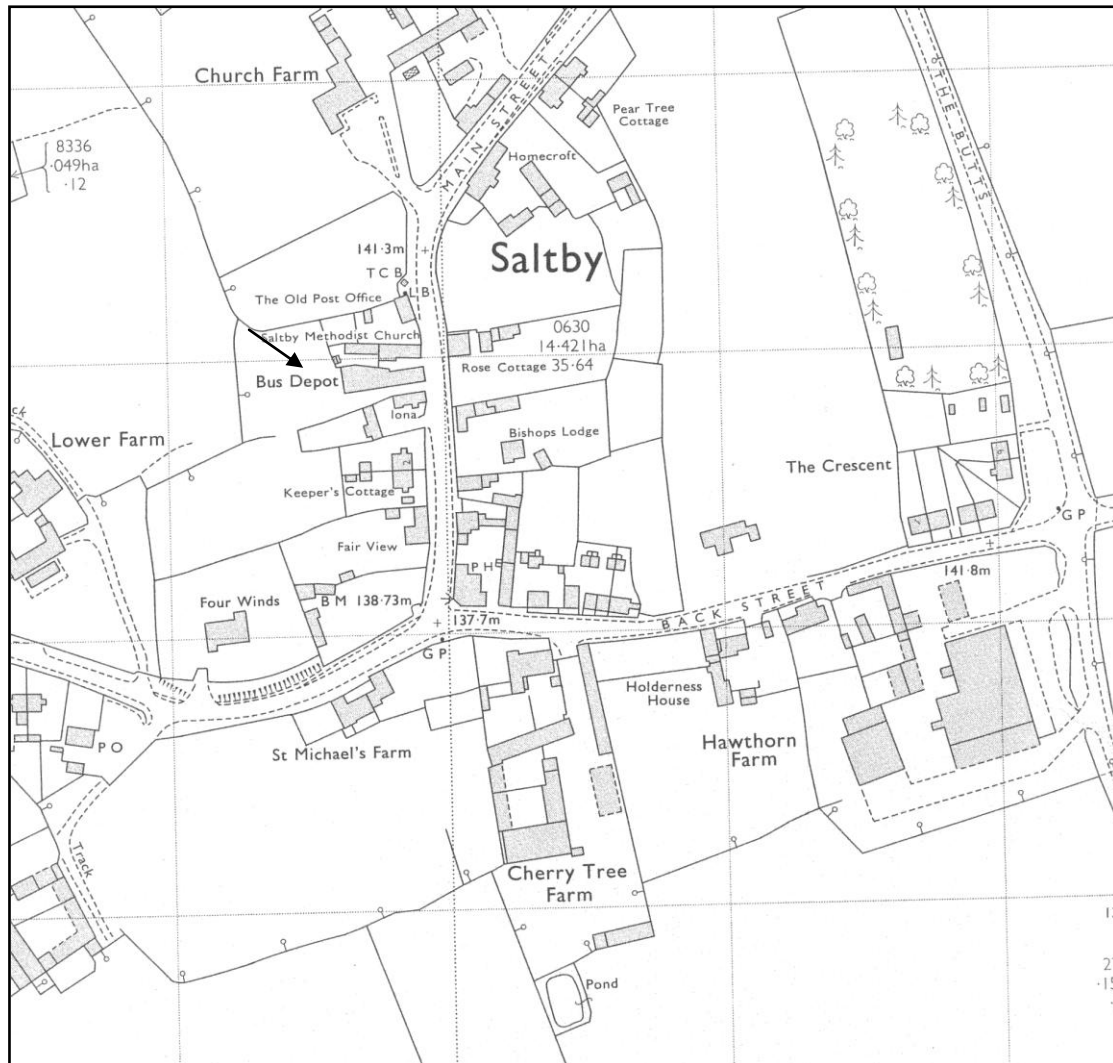


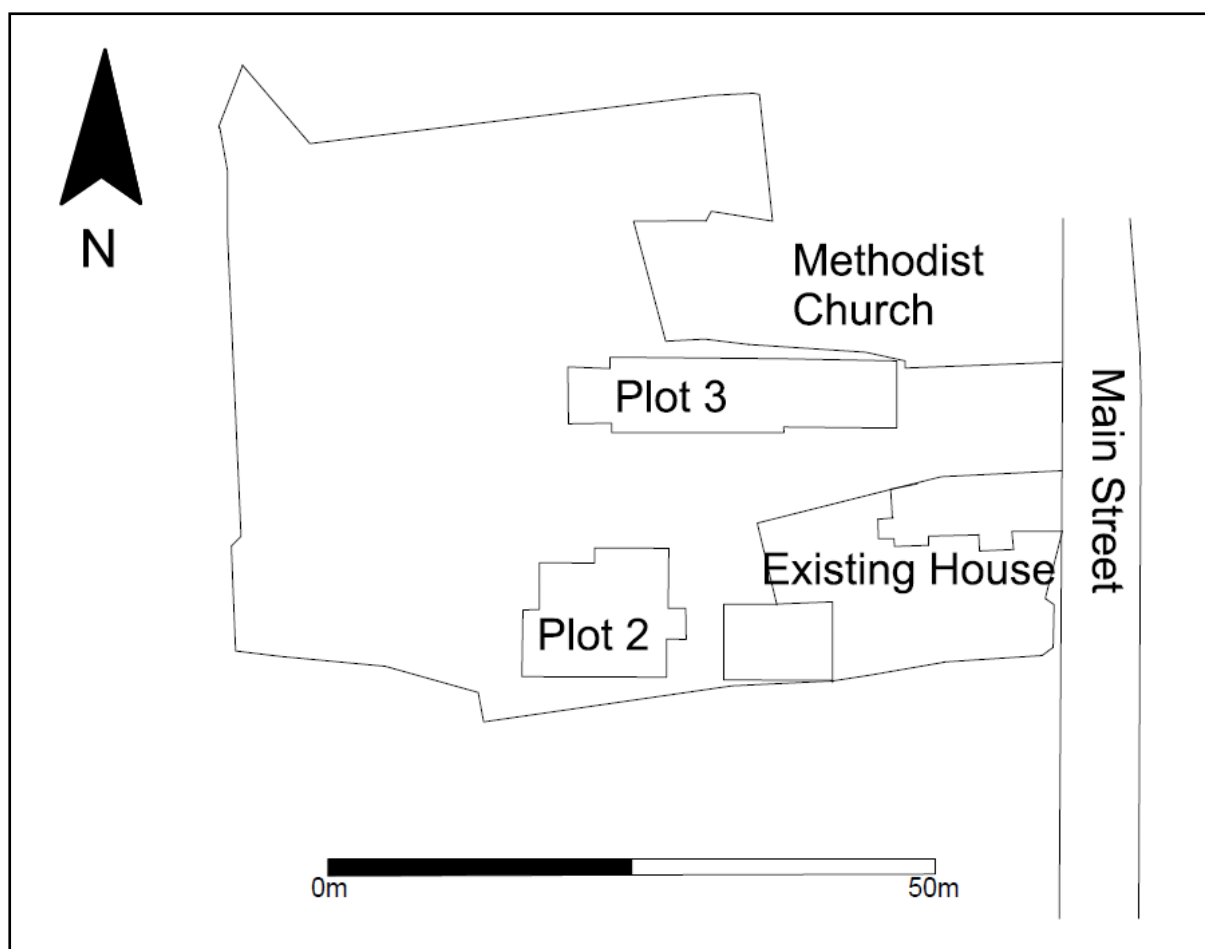
Figure 1: Site location plan

### 3. Aims and Methods

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.



**Figure 2: Plot location plan**

#### **4. Results**

Initial groundwork involved the clearance of concrete surfaces and excavation of foundation trenches in the former bus depot (Figure 2 and Plate 1) and a site visit was undertaken on the 3rd September 2009. The machine used for the ground works was a JCB 360 degree excavator fitted with a 0.60m wide tooth bucket. A visual inspection was conducted across the new foundation trenches.

The excavations were located in the south-east corner of the development area and comprised foundations for the new dwelling plot 2 (12m x 10m) and garage (6.5m x 6.5m). The foundation trenches measured 0.70m and 1.00m wide and depth had between 0.80m and 1.90 deep. The natural substratum consisted of pale yellowish brown clay mixed with crushed angular pebbles of limestone found at depth of 0.30m below the present ground surface. This area appeared to have been previously levelled, and sealed with a layer 0.30m deep comprising yellowish brown clay and sand mixed with modern building materials apparently deposited to raise the ground levels (see Plate 1). No archaeological deposits, features or pre-modern artefacts were encountered during this inspection of the site.

A second visit were undertaken on 4th September 2009 during the excavation of the foundation footprint for housing plot 3 located on the north side of the development area (Figure 2 and Plate 2). Plot 3 measured 14.50m long x 6.50m wide and trenches were 0.60m wide and 0.80m deep. Natural substratum comprised again of pale yellow brown clay mixed with crushed angular pebbles of limestone found at a depth of 0.30m below the present ground surface. This area appeared to have been also previously levelled, with a layer 0.30m deep comprising yellowish brown clay and sand mixed with modern building materials, which were probably deposited to raise the ground levels. The

re-deposited layer and levelling may have occurred during the construction of the concrete surfaces for the bus depot and would have perhaps removed evidence of any potential archaeological deposits.

All of the stripped areas, excavated trenches and spoil heaps were walked over and visually inspected. No archaeological deposits or pre-modern artefacts were encountered during this second inspection of the site.

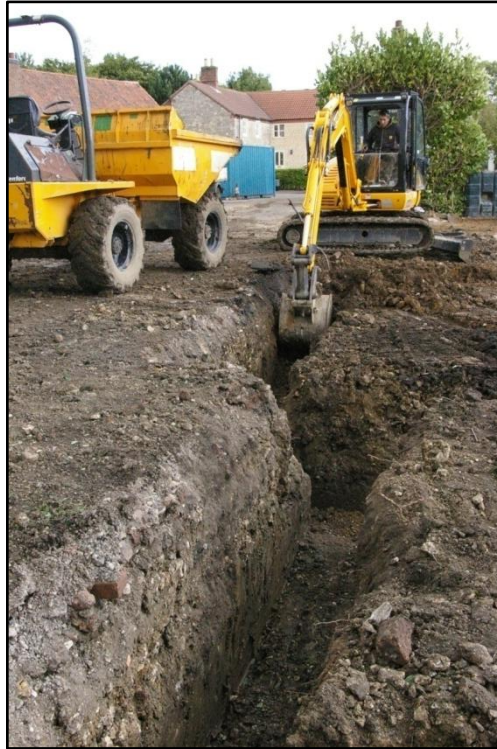


Plate 1: Machine excavating foundation trenches for plot 2



Plate 2: Machine excavating foundation trenches for plot 3



## **5. Conclusion**

Despite its location within the historic village core, nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered during the course of the archaeological work. The inspection of the ground works at the development site on Main Street revealed that the natural horizons appeared to have been levelled at some point in the past. The topsoil and subsoil had been removed and replaced with mixed layers of re-deposited natural soil used to raise the ground levels, which were then sealed under concrete surfaces. Any potential archaeological deposits that may have been associated with an early property that once fronted on to Main Street are likely to have been disturbed or truncated by this work.

## **6. Archive and Publication**

The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under accession number X.A171.2009.

The content of the paper archive consists of:

- 1 Unbound A4 copy of this report
- 2 A4 Trench watching brief sheets
- 1 A4 Photo record sheet
- 1 A4 Drawing Record
- 1 A2 Plan and section drawing sheets
- A4 Colour digital contact print 1 CD of 29 digital photos

A record of the project will be submitted to the Oasis project under the code universi1-9685. Oasis is an online index to grey literature reports.

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society Transactions in due course.

## **7. Acknowledgements**

The fieldwork was carried out by the author while Patrick Clay managed the project, both of ULAS.

## **8. Bibliography**

Clay, P., 2010, *Written scheme of investigation for archaeological work: 9, Main Street, Saltby (Sproxton), Leicestershire (NGR: SK 85002650)* ULAS Specification 09/685 (Appendix 1 of this report).

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), 2008, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*.

Tim Higgins  
ULAS  
University of Leicester  
University Road  
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 2848

Fax: 0116 252 2614

Email: [th31@le.ac.uk](mailto:th31@le.ac.uk)

25.07.2010

## Appendix 1 Specification

### UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

#### Design Specification for Archaeological Work

**Site: Land Adjacent to 9, Main Street, Saltby, (Sproxton), Leicestershire**

**NGR SK 850 265**

**Client: HSSP Architects**

**Planning Authority: Melton Borough Council**

**Planning Permission: 09/00204/6**

#### Non-Technical Summary

This document represents a design specification for an archaeological watching brief for the former bus depot site, adjacent to 9, Main Street, Saltby, (Sproxton), Leicestershire. The design specification addresses the requirements of Leicestershire County Council as advisors to the planning authority as detailed in their advice letter of 08.4.2009 (Appendix 2) and follows the guidelines as laid out in the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Standards and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (2001).

#### 1. Site Location

- 1.1 The site is located in the village of Saltby, in Sproxton parish, Leicestershire. The site lies at NGR SK 850 265 on the west side of the Main Street at height of c. 140m AOD.

#### 2. Planning Background

- 2.1 Planning permission has been granted for the construction of three residential dwellings (P.A 09/00204/6). The site has been identified as an area of archaeological potential from information held in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER). Consequently, there is likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the development.
- 2.2 The requirement for archaeological work is in accordance with local plan policy and national planning guidance (PPG 16 "Archaeology and Planning"). The purpose of the work is to identify and record archaeological deposits during development.

#### 3. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest, within the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of the village. Modern aerial photographs appear to show earthworks in the field to the west of the application site.

#### 4. Aims and objectives

- 4.1 The aims of the watching brief are:

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. Methodology**

##### ***General Methodology and Standards***

- 5.1 All work will follow the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2006) and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008).
- 5.2 Staffing, recording systems, health and safety provisions and insurance details are included below.
- 5.3 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.

##### ***Archaeological watching brief***

- 5.4 The project will involve the supervision of overburden removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above.
- 5.5 The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with the contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work.
- 5.6 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) where appropriate.
- 5.7 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.
- 5.8 All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.
- 5.9 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 Leicestershire County Council will be informed immediately on their discovery.
- 5.10 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 Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, and the planning authority. If the archaeological remains are identified to be of significance additional contingent archaeological works will be required.

#### **6 Recording Systems**

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

- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared. This will include black and white prints and colour digital images 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.
- 6.5 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the watching brief.
- 6.6 All site records and finds will be kept securely.

## **7. *Report and Archive***

- 7.1 An accession number will be drawn prior to the commencement of the project. A report on the investigation will be provided following the groundworks.
- 7.2 The full report in A4 format will usually follow within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and copies will be dispatched to the Senior Planning Archaeologist/HER to be distributed amongst relevant sections of Leicestershire County Council as necessary.
- 7.3 The report will include consideration of:
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
  - The nature, location and extent of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
  - The anticipated degree of survival of archaeological deposits.
  - The anticipated archaeological impact of the current proposals.
  - Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
  - Summary.
  - The location and size of the archive.
  - A quantitative and qualitative assessment of the potential of the archive for further analysis leading to full publication, following guidelines laid down in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage).
- 7.4 A full copy of the archive, including all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken during the project, will be presented to Leicestershire County Council's Museum Service within six months of the completion of analysis, unless arrangements to the contrary have been agreed with the Senior Planning Archaeologist. The archive will be prepared in accordance with Brown (2008).

## **8. *Publication and Dissemination of Results***

- 8.1 A summary of the work will be submitted to the local archaeological journal, the Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society. A larger report will be submitted for inclusion if the results of the evaluation warrant it.

8.2 University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS form at <http://ads.ac.uk/project/oasis> will be completed detailing the results of the project. ULAS will contact Leicestershire County Council's SMR prior to completion of the form. Once a report has become a public document following its incorporation into Leicestershire SMR it may be placed on the web-site. The Developer should agree to this procedure in writing as part of the process of submitting the report to Leicestershire SMR.

## **9. Copyright**

9.1 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.

## **10. Health and Safety**

10.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Archaeological Services Health and Safety Policy (2007) and FAME (SCAUM) Health and Safety manual with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate. The HSE has determined that archaeological investigations are exempt from CDM regulations.

10.2 A Risks assessment form will be completed prior to work commencing on-site, and updated as necessary during the site works.

## **11. Insurance**

11.1 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.

## **12. Monitoring arrangements**

12.1 The production of the assessments will be monitored by the ULAS project manager.

12.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the *IfA S&G* (section 3.5).

## **13. Bibliography**

Institute for Archaeologists, 2008 *Standards and Guidance for Watching Briefs*

Institute for Archaeologists, 2006. *Code of Conduct*

Patrick Clay  
Director  
ULAS  
University of Leicester  
University Road  
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 2848  
Fax: 0116 252 2614  
Email: [pnc3@le.ac.uk](mailto:pnc3@le.ac.uk)

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## Contact Details

Richard Buckley or Patrick Clay  
University of Leicester Archaeological  
Services (ULAS)  
University of Leicester,  
University Road,  
Leicester LE1 7RH

**T:** +44 (0)116 252 2848

**F:** +44 (0)116 252 2614

**E:** [ulas@le.ac.uk](mailto:ulas@le.ac.uk)

**w:** [www.le.ac.uk/ulas](http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas)



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