An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Pebble Hall, Theddingworth Road, Marston Trussell, Northamptonshire
NGR: SP 66089 84434

James Harvey

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An Archaeological Evaluation on
Land at Pebble Hall,
Theddington Road,
Marston Trussell,
Northamptonshire
NGR: SP 66089 84434

J R Harvey

For: CgMs Consulting Ltd

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NGR: SP 66089 84434

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land at Pebble Hall, Theddingworth Road, Marston Trussell, Northamptonshire between the 5th and 6th of October 2016. Eight trenches were excavated within an agricultural yard and a further trench excavated within an adjacent field. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed during the evaluation although a middle to late Neolithic oblique arrowhead was recovered from a residual context.

Traces of medieval ridge and furrow were recorded on the site that forming the continuation of an open field system recorded previously through aerial photography and Lidar survey.

The report will be archived under accession number ENN108462

1. Introduction

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment, this document forms the report for an archaeological evaluation on land at Pebble Hall, Theddingworth Road, Marston Trussell, Northamptonshire. The work was undertaken in advance of the proposed Construction of temporary wood storage yard including re-contouring of land, concrete base, 2 storage lagoons, concrete storage bays, weighbridge, 2 water storage tanks and landscape planting (P/A No. 16/00022/WASFUL).

2. Site Location, Geology and Topography

The proposed development area is located within the parish of Marston Trussell, Northamptonshire. It is located to the south of Theddingworth Road and consists of an area of c.6ha. The village itself is located c.2 miles east of the site. The site is situated close to the county border with Leicestershire, with the village of Theddingworth located c. 1 mile north of the site. Market Harborough is located c.5 miles north-east and Northampton is c.17 miles south (Figure 1). The majority of land is currently a pasture field used for agricultural storage. The eastern edge of the adjacent arable field to the west is also included within the proposed development area.

The area is bounded to the south by further arable land and to the north by the River Welland. On the eastern boundary is the recycling plant of Welland Waste
Management. The development area is located on land which forms the shoulder of a small hill which rises to some 138m aOD, east of the recycling plant.

The British Geological Survey indicates that the solid geology of the site comprises Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation. The soil types are generally clayey loams. The present day topography is generally a rolling landscape of low ridges and shallow valleys.

Figure 1: Location Plans with project area highlighted (provided by client)

© Ordnance Survey maps reproduced with the sanction of the controller of HM Stationery Office. Licence No: AL 100014723
3. Archaeological and Historical Background

The archaeological potential of the site has previously been considered in an Archaeological Desk-based Assessment compiled by CgMs Ltd. (Dawson 2016). The following is a summary of the report findings reproduced from the Written Scheme of Investigation for this evaluation (ULAS 2016, Appendix 1):

“Two possible Roman period sites were identified south of the proposed site (NHER 688 & 695) which suggests there is Roman settlement nearby. The Royal Commission survey of 1981 notes that “there is considerable evidence for prehistoric and Roman occupation in the area [parish of Marston Trussell]; with Roman sites both close to the River Welland and on the higher ground to the South”. However, the absence of finds and the topography of the proposed development area suggests the potential for archaeology of Roman date, is probably low. This suggests any Roman (or earlier) archaeology at the site is likely to be local rather than regional in significance.”

“In the post-Roman and Anglo-Saxon period the proposed development area lay south west of the historic core of Theddingworth (LHER9153) and west of the now deserted hamlet of Hothorpe (NHER482). The land lay in the ancient parish of Marston Trussell in the Gartree hundred and the majority of the evidence recorded on the HER comes from the medieval period. The principal remains are those of village earthworks at Hothorpe (NHER 482), a possible medieval watermill east of the proposed development site (LHER2524) on the River Welland and ridge and furrow in the fields to the west (NHER 9487).”

Subsequently a geophysical survey was undertaken across part of the site (Stratascan 2016). However, the results suggested that the field was covered in magnetic debris, caused by the spread of green waste across the field that was likely to mask any underlying features that could be present on the site.

![Figure 2: Plan of geophysical survey plot (supplied by client)](image-url)
4. **Archaeological Objectives**

The objectives are as set out in the ULAS Written Scheme of Investigation for Evaluation on Land at Pebble Hall, Theddingworth Road, Marston Trussell, Northamptonshire (ULAS 2016, Appendix 1), hereafter known as the (WSI) approved by the County Archaeological Advisor on behalf of Northamptonshire County Council as the minerals and waste Planning Authority. Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation was to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development. This includes the characterisation of the site within the broader landscape, any activities identified on the site and changes in land-use over time.

Results from the investigation are considered in light of research agendas The Archaeology of the East Midlands (Cooper 2006) and East Midlands Heritage (Knight et al. 2012), especially research objectives concerning the Iron Age – Roman transitions in rural settlement, landscape and society and the development of medieval villages, the agrarian landscape and food-producing economy, industrial activity, craft activity and standards of living.

5. **Methodology**

The WSI stated that nine 50m x 1.8m trial trenches (c.810 sq. m) should be excavated in order to provide a representative sample of the site, in the absence of any targeted information from the previous geophysical survey. This equated to a c.0.15% sample of the proposed development area (see Appendix 1, Figure 2).

The topsoil and overlying layers were removed under full archaeological supervision until either the top of archaeology or natural undisturbed ground was reached, or to a maximum safe depth given the specific site conditions.

The bases of the trenches were cleaned in areas where potential archaeological deposits was observed. Archaeological remains were recorded and sample excavation was undertaken in order to determine the character and date of any remains.

The trenches were located using a Topcon Hiper V GPS+ RTK System attached to a Topcon FC-236 controller. The data was processed using Magnet Software and the final plans completed with the aid of TurboCad 2016 pro design software.

The work followed the approved WSI (ULAS, 2016) and adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct and adhered to their Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (2014).
6. Results

Figure 3: Trench locations (200m Grid)

In accordance with the WSI, nine evaluation trenches were excavated within the proposed development area. Site constraints, such as the presence of farm machinery, spoil heaps and active badger setts meant that some positions of the proposed trenches had to be adjusted. The length of Trench 8 was also slightly reduced (Figure 3).

The composition of the overlying deposits varied only slightly across the site. The topsoil generally consisted of a dark grey brown clayey loam, containing occasional small-medium sub-angular stones. This overlaid a reddish brown/greyish brown silty clay subsoil deposit within Trenches 1, 3, 5, 8, and 9, with notably deep subsoil within Trench 1. The variation in subsoil reflected the variation in the natural substratum that consisted of brownish grey clay at the southern end of the site within Trenches 2-5, changing to reddish brown gravelly clay and sand and gravel within Trenches 2-9.

Trench 1 contained mixed deposits of reddish brown sandy clay and compacted yellowish brown sandy silt (Table 1).
Table 1: Trench Summaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trench</th>
<th>Length (m)</th>
<th>Height at top of Trench (m aOD)</th>
<th>Natural Substratum</th>
<th>Min. depth (m)</th>
<th>Max. depth (m)</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>120.10-122.01</td>
<td>Reddish brown sandy clay/yellowish brown sandy silt</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Deep &quot;Colluvial deposit in central area</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>122.88-123.14</td>
<td>Brownish grey clay</td>
<td>0.29</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>Drains</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>122.84-125.23</td>
<td>Brownish grey clay</td>
<td>0.44</td>
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<td>North-northeast to south-southwest furrow and drains</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>124.02-124.47</td>
<td>Brownish grey clay</td>
<td>0.33</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>123.88-124.41</td>
<td>Reddish brown gravelly clay/Brownish grey clay</td>
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<td>Reddish brown gravelly clay/sand and gravel</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>121.75-124.04</td>
<td>Reddish brown sand and gravel</td>
<td>0.29</td>
<td>0.43</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>121.16-122.37</td>
<td>Reddish brown sandy clay/sand and gravel</td>
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<td>0.71</td>
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<td>50</td>
<td>118.20-121.12</td>
<td>Reddish brown gravelly clay</td>
<td>0.41</td>
<td>0.79</td>
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**Trench 1**

Trench 1 was located against the western boundary of the pasture field, parallel to a small tributary that flows into the River Welland. The topsoil varied in depth between 0.21-0.25m, overlying subsoil that varied in depth between 0.16-0.26m. Beneath the subsoil an extensive area of light yellowish brown sandy silt was recorded towards the centre of the trench. It measures c.30m wide and up to 1m deep below the top of the trench. The soil was leached and homogenous and directly overlaid the natural substratum. No archaeological features or finds were recorded within this trench.
Trench 2
Trench 2 was located c.160m south-east of Trench 1, close to the southern boundary of the site. The topsoil varied in depth between 0.21-0.28m and directly overlaid the natural substratum. The trench was crossed by four modern drains. No archaeological features or finds were recorded within this trench.

Trench 3
Trench 3 was located c.90m north-east of Trench 2. The topsoil varied in depth between 0.24-0.28m. It overlaid subsoil that varied in depth between 0.11-0.26m that directly overlaid the natural substratum. Two parallel north-west to south-east aligned agricultural furrows were recorded at the northern end of the trench. The southernmost furrow contained a flint oblique arrowhead on its surface. A later drain was also recorded towards the northern end of the trench. No other archaeological features or finds were recorded within this trench.

Trench 4
Trench 4 was located c.25m west of Trench 3. The topsoil varied in depth between 0.23-0.30m and directly overlaid the natural substratum. A series of four parallel north-west to south-east aligned agricultural furrows were recorded within the trench. A later drain was also recorded towards the eastern end of the trench. No other archaeological features or finds were recorded within this trench.

Trench 5
Trench 5 was located c.45m west of Trench 4. The topsoil varied in depth between 0.24-0.27m. It overlaid subsoil that varied in depth between 0.11-0.19m that directly overlaid the natural substratum. Three parallel north-west to south-east aligned agricultural furrows were recorded within the trench. A later drain was also recorded towards the southern end of the trench. No other archaeological features or finds were recorded within this trench.

Trench 6
Trench 6 was located c.10m north of Trench 5. The topsoil varied in depth between 0.23-0.30m and directly overlaid the natural substratum. Three parallel north-west to south-east aligned agricultural furrows were recorded within the trench. No other archaeological features or finds were recorded within this trench.

Trench 7
Trench 7 was located c.45m north of Trench 6. The topsoil varied in depth between 0.21-0.29m. At the base of the topsoil a thin layer of degraded wood was recorded that overlaid the substrata, perhaps suggesting that the area had been previously exposed to this level. No archaeological features or finds were recorded within this trench.

Trench 8
Trench 8 was located c.10m south-west of Trench 6. The topsoil varied in depth between 0.25-0.28m. It overlaid subsoil that varied in depth between 0.16-0.26m that directly overlaid the natural substratum. A small area of modern disturbance was observed towards the centre of the trench. No archaeological features or finds were recorded within this trench.
Archaeological Evaluation at Pebble Hall, Theddingworth Road, Marston Trussell, Northamptonshire

Figure 4: Trenches 1-4
Archaeological Evaluation at Pebble Hall, Theddington Road, Marston Trussell, Northamptonshire

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Figure 5: Trenches 5-8

a. Trench 5, looking north.
b. Trench 6, looking east.
c. Trench 7, looking west.
d. Trench 8, looking west.
Trench 9

Trench 9 was located in the arable field, c.50m west of the small tributary that flows into the River Welland, located 100m to the north. The topsoil varied in depth between 0.24-0.28m. It overlaid subsoil that varied in depth between 0.09-0.21m that directly overlaid the natural substratum, deepening towards the northern end of the trench. No archaeological features or finds were recorded within this trench.

Figure 6: Trench 9, looking south

7. Discussion

The previous desk-based assessment concluded that there was low potential for significant evidence of previous activity being present on the site for all periods. This was based on the nature of the topography and the absence of find spots within the vicinity of the site. The results of the evaluation have further supported this interpretation. Only a single flint oblique arrowhead was recovered during the evaluation, located residually within Trench 3. This style of arrowhead is typologically date between the middle to late Neolithic (L. Cooper pers. comm.). The presence of the arrowhead is likely to reflect the utilization of the local landscape during this period, rather than suggesting actual occupation on the site. A Neolithic causewayed enclosure has previously been recorded c.2.5km south-west at Husbands Bosworth Quarry. This was a clear focus of activity during the period, with evidence of seasonal occupation.

The remains of in-filled furrows relating to medieval ridge-and-furrow were recorded within three trenches (Trenches 3-5). The north-east to south-west orientation of the furrows correlates with ridge and furrows recorded in the adjacent fields to the south and west recorded in the HER (NHER 9487) and within the Lidar survey (Dawson 2016, App. 1). It is suggested that the site formed part of one of the open fields of Hothorpe during this period (Dawson 2016, 13).
8. Archive

The archive consists of:

- This report
- 9 pro-forma trench recording sheets
- 1 CD containing 20 digital photographs
- 1 contact sheets of digital photographs
- 1 photographic record sheets
- 1 Neolithic oblique arrowhead

9. Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work to the *Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations (OASIS)* database held by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) at the University of York (see Table 2).

A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in a suitable regional archaeological journal in due course.

Table 2: Summary of OASIS information

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10. **Acknowledgements**

ULAS would like to extend its thanks to Mike Dawson of CgMs Consulting Ltd for his assistance and co-operation throughout the project. Lesley-Ann Mather, the County Archaeological Advisor monitored the work on behalf of Northamptonshire County Council, as the minerals and waste Planning Authority. Thanks also to Micky of Planters for operating the mechanical excavator.

The fieldwork was carried out by the author assisted by James Earley. Lynden Cooper identified the flint. The project was managed by Dr Patrick Clay, all of ULAS.

11. **Bibliography**


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Stratascan, 2016. Geophysical Survey. *Pebble Hall, Theddingworth Road, Marston Trussell, Northamptonshire.*

ULAS, 2016. *Written Scheme of Investigation for Evaluation: Land at Pebble Hall, Theddingworth Road, Marston Trussell, Northamptonshire.*

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Appendix 1 Design Specification

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Written scheme of investigation for archaeological work

Job title: Land at Pebble Hall, Theddingworth Road, Marston Trussell, Northamptonshire

National Grid Reference: SP 66089 84434.

Client: CgMs Consulting Ltd

Planning Authority: Daventry District Council

Planning Ref: 16/00022/WASFUL

1 Introduction

Definition and scope of the specification

1.1 This document is a design specification for an initial phase of archaeological field evaluation (AFE) at the above site, in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF): Section 12 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment. The fieldwork specified below is intended to provide preliminary indications of character and extent of any heritage assets in order that the potential impact of the development on such remains may be assessed by the Planning Authority.

1.2 The definition of archaeological excavation, taken from the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance: for Archaeological evaluations (CIfA S&G) is a controlled programme of intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features, structures, and as appropriate, retrieves artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design.

1.3 The document addresses the requirements of the County Archaeological Advisor on behalf of Northamptonshire County Council as the minerals and waste Planning Authority

2. Background

Context of the Project

2.1 This document sets out the specification for an evaluation in advance of a proposed development of the site. The development comprises of the construction of a wood storage yard with concrete hard-standing, surface water lagoons, landscaping and tree planting.

2.2 Condition 12 states: No development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work to be implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The works shall not be carried out other than in accordance with the approved details.

REASON: Archaeological works are required prior to the commencement of development in the interest of the historic environment in accordance with Policy 12 of the NPPF and Policy 13 of the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy

Location, Topography and Geology

2.3 The proposed development area is within the parish of Marston Trussell, Northamptonshire. It is located to the south of Theddingworth road and consists of an area of c.6ha. The village itself
Archaeological Evaluation at Pebble Hall, Theddingworth Road, Marston Trussell, Northamptonshire

is located c.2 miles east of the site. The site is situated close to the county border with Leicestershire with the village of Theddingworth located c. 1 mile north of the site. Market Harborough is located c.5 miles north-east and Northampton is c.17 miles south. The land is currently a pasture field.

2.4 The area is bounded to the south by further arable land and to the north by the River Welland. On the eastern boundary is the recycling plant of Welland Waste Management and to the west is further arable land. The development area is located on land which forms the shoulder of a small hill which rises to some 138m AOD east of the recycling plant.

2.5 The British Geological Survey indicates that the solid geology of the site comprises Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation. The soil types are generally clayey loams. The present day topography is generally a rolling landscape of low ridges and shallow valleys.

3. **Archaeological Background**

3.1 The site lies to the south and west of the historic settlement cores of Theddingworth and Marston Trussell respectively.

3.2 A desk-based assessment has been prepared for the application. Two possible Roman period sites were identified south of the proposed site (NHER 688 & 695) which suggests there is Roman settlement nearby. The Royal Commission survey of 1981 notes that “there is considerable evidence for prehistoric and Roman occupation in the area [parish of Marston Trussell]; with Roman sites both close to the River Welland and on the higher ground to the South”. However, the absence of finds and the topography of the proposed development area suggests the potential for archaeology of Roman date, is probably low. This suggests any Roman (or earlier) archaeology at the site is likely to be local rather than regional in significance.

3.3 In the post-Roman and Anglo-Saxon period the proposed development area lay south west of the historic core of Theddingworth (LHER9153) and west of the now deserted hamlet of Hothorpe (NHER482). The land lay in the ancient parish of Marston Trussell in the Gartree hundred and the majority of the evidence recorded on the HER comes from the medieval period. The principal remains are those of village earthworks at Hothorpe (NHER 482), a possible medieval watermill east of the proposed development site (LHER2524) on the River Welland and furrow in the fields to the west (NHER 9487).

3. **Archaeological Objectives**

3.1 The trial trench evaluation will be considered in light of the East Midlands Research Framework (Cooper ed. 2006) and strategy (Knight et al 2012), along with targeting national research aims. Potential research objectives that this scheme might contribute towards include the following:

*The Roman Period (Taylor 2006; Knight et al 2012; English Heritage 2012)*

3.1.3 A Roman settlements are recorded on the Northamptonshire HER close to the development area. The evaluation may contribute to knowledge on Iron Age – Roman transitions in rural settlement, landscape and society. Artefacts may identify trade links, industry and economy.

*The Medieval period (Lewis 2006, Knight et al 2012; English Heritage 2012)*

3.1.4 The evaluation may contribute towards research into the origins and development of medieval settlement, landscape and society. Environmental evidence could provide information on local environmental conditions as well as settlement activity, craft, industry and land use. Artefacts can assist in the development of a type series within the region and provide evidence for evidence for craft, industry and exchange across broad landscape areas. The evaluation has the potential to contribute to Research Agenda topics 7.1.2, 7.1.4, 7.2.1-7.2.4, 7.3.1-7.3.5, 7.5.4, 7.6.1-2, 7.7.1-7.7.5 and Research Objective 7E - *Investigate the morphology of rural settlements.*
3.1.4 These research aims have been identified based on the current state of knowledge within the area of the scheme. The research aims will be re-assessed and updated during the course of the fieldwork.

3.2 The main objectives of the evaluation will be:
- 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 ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

3.3 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.

3.4 Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

4. Methodology

General Methodology and Standards

4.1 All work will follow the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct (2014) and adhere to their Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2014).

4.2 Staffing, recording systems, health and safety provisions and insurance details are included below.

4.3 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site by the project manager. These will ensure that project targets are met and professional standards are maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with the Planning Authority and the Client, if required.

4.4 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to the Client and his representatives, and the planning authority, subject to the health and safety requirements of the site. At least one week’s notice will be given prior to commencement of the recording work in order that monitoring arrangements can be made. All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the CIfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2008).

Trial Trenching Methodology

4.5 Prior to any machining of trial trenches general photographs of the site areas will be taken.

4.6 It is proposed to excavate nine 50m by 1.8m trenches (c. 810 sq. m.) targeting the areas of impact form the proposed development. The provisional trench plans show the proposed location of the trenches, although the size and position indicated on the provisional trench plans may vary due to unforeseen site constraints or the presence of archaeological deposits (see Fig 2).

4.7 Topsoil and overburden will be removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket. Trenches will be excavated down to the top of archaeological deposits or natural undisturbed ground, whichever is reached first. All excavation by machine and hand will be undertaken with a view to avoid damage to archaeological deposits or features which appear worthy of preservation in situ or more detailed investigation than for the purposes of evaluation. Where structures, features or finds appear to merit preservation in situ, they will be adequately protected from deterioration.

4.8 Trenches will be examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located will be planned at an appropriate scale. Archaeological deposits will be sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence, 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.
4.9 Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan. All plans will be tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Relative spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

4.10 Sections of any excavated archaeological features will be drawn at an appropriate scale. At least one longitudinal face of each trench will be recorded. All sections will be levelled and tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum, or a permanent fixed benchmark.

4.11 Trench locations will be recorded by an appropriate method. These will then be tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

4.12 Any human remains encountered will initially be left in situ and will only be removed if necessary for their protection, under Ministry of Justice guidelines and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations.

4.13 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the project a contingency may be required to clarify the character or extent of additional features. The contingency will only be initiated after consultation with the Client and the Planning Authority. Following assessment of the archaeological remains ULAS shall, if required, implement an amended scheme of investigation on behalf of the client as appropriate.

4.14 The trenches will be backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.

Recording Systems

4.15 Any archaeological deposits encountered will be recorded and excavated using standard procedures as outlined in the ULAS recording manual. Sufficient of any archaeological features or deposits will be hand excavated in order to provide the information required.

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

4.17 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 1:100 or 1:200. 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.

4.18 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared 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. A photographic record of the investigations will be prepared. This will include photos 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. All digital photography will comply with the following standards:

- Photographs will be taken with a high-resolution digital SLR camera with sensors exceeding 12 Mega pixels;
- Photographs will only be taken by staff who have been trained properly to use the camera;
- All photographs will be taken using the highest quality setting. RAW or TIFF format will produce large, high quality images, but in most cases JPEG images should be of a sufficient quality as long as they are taken on a suitable camera (see above), set up to take the highest quality images (largest file size and least compression (finest)). Where detailed images are required (for publication for example), it may be appropriate to use RAW or TIFF settings. It is important that suitable procedures are put in place to ensure that JPEG images are not constantly re-opened and re-saved and that filing naming processes do not lead to additional image compression.
- All photographs will be taken in colour;
- Photographs will be taken either on a manual, aperture or shutter priority setting;
- A low ISO setting will be used. Higher ISO settings generate additional noise (equivalent to the graininess on ‘wet processed’ film).
- The aperture setting will be appropriate to the required depth of field of the image;
- Where light levels are low, a tripod will be used so that a long exposure shot (slower shutter speed) can be taken;
- Low light levels will not be compensated for by using a higher ISO and/or larger aperture;
Archaeological Evaluation at Pebble Hall, Theddingworth Road, Marston Trussell, Northamptonshire

- All photographs (except large general or publicity shots) will include a suitable scale bar or rod.
- All photographs of features will include a north arrow;
- All photographs (except general shots) will include a legible information board displaying the Site Code or Accession Number and the principal context number;
- Photographs will be taken in appropriate light conditions (i.e. not strong sun). When this is not feasible, measures will be taken to ensure the features that the photograph is aiming to capture are clear;
- A photographic register will be kept of each shot;
- Where ‘bracketed views’ are taken (where it may not be possible to check an image for quality immediately or where lighting levels may affect contrast), only one image from the bracketed views will be archived and the rest will be deleted.

4.19 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the project.

5. Finds

5.1 The CIfA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to. In addition the MPRG’s Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics will be adhered to (Slowikowski et al 2001).

5.2 Before commencing work on the site, a Site code/Accession number will be agreed with the Planning Archaeologist that will be used to identify all records and finds from the site.

5.3 All antiquities, valuables, objects or remains of archaeological interest, other than articles declared by Coroner’s Inquest to be subject to the Treasure Act, discovered in or under the Site during the carrying out of the project by ULAS or during works carried out on the Site by the Client shall be deemed to be the property of ULAS provided that ULAS after due examination of the said Archaeological Discoveries shall transfer ownership of all Archaeological Discoveries unconditionally to the appropriate authority for storage in perpetuity.

5.4 All identified finds and artefacts are to be retained, although certain classes of building material will, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording with the approval of the Planning Archaeologist.

5.5 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner. Where appropriate they will be cleaned, marked and receive remedial conservation in accordance with recognised best practice. This will include the site code number, finds number and context number. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self-sealing plastic bags, again marked with site code, finds and context.

5.6 Finds which may constitute ‘treasure’ under the Treasure Act, 1996 must be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner. Where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

6. Environmental Sampling

6.1 If features are appropriate for environmental sampling a strategy and methodology will be developed on site following advice from ULAS’s Environmental Specialist. Preparation, taking, processing and assessment of environmental samples will be in accordance with current best practice. The sampling strategy is likely to include the following:

- A range of features to represent all feature types, areas and phases will be selected on a judgemental basis. The criteria for selection will be that deposits are datable, well-sealed and with little intrusive or residual material.
- Any buried soils or well-sealed deposits with concentrations of carbonised material present will be intensively sampled taking a known proportion of the deposit.
- Spot samples will be taken where concentrations of environmental remains are located.
- Waterlogged remains, if present, will be sampled for pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and radiocarbon dating provided that they are uncontaminated.

6.2 All collected samples will be labelled with context and sequential sample numbers.

6.3 Appropriate contexts (i.e. datable) will be bulk sampled (50 litres or the whole context depending on size) for the recovery of carbonised plant remains and insects.
6.4 Recovery of small animal bones, bird bone and large molluscs will normally be achieved through processing other bulk samples or 50 litre samples may be taken specifically to sample particularly rich deposits.

6.5 Wet sieving with flotation will be carried out using a York Archaeological Trust sieving tank with a 0.5mm mesh and a 0.3mm flotation sieve. The small size mesh will be used initially as flotation of plant remains may be incomplete and some may remain in the residue. The residue > 0.5mm from the tank will be separated into coarse fractions of over 4mm and fine fractions of > 0.5-4mm. The coarse fractions will be sorted for finds. The fine fractions and flots will be evaluated and prioritised; only those with remains apparent will be sorted. The prioritised flots will not be sorted until the analysis stage when phasing information is available. Flots will be scanned and plant remains from selected contexts will be identified and further sampling, sieving and sorting targeted towards higher potential deposits.

6.6 Where evidence of industrial processes are present (e.g. indicated by the presence of slag or hearth bases), samples will be taken for the analysis of industrial residues (e.g. hammer scale).

7 Report and Archive

7.1 A draft version of the report will normally be presented within four weeks of completion of site works. The full report in A4 format will usually follow within eight weeks. Copies will be provided for the client and the Local Planning Authority and deposited with the Historic Environment Record. The archive will follow the Northamptonshire Archaeological Archives Standard (NARC 2104).

7.2 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.
- A summary of artefacts, specialist reports and a consideration of the evidence within its local, regional, national context.
- 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).

7.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in the IfA Standard and Guidance for archaeological archives (Brown 2008) will be retained pending the provision of an appropriate recipient body.

7.4 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.

8 Publication and Dissemination of Results

8.1 A summary report will be submitted to a suitable regional archaeological journal following completion of the fieldwork. A full report will be submitted to a national or period journal if the results are of significance.

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://www.oasis.ac.uk will be completed detailing the results of the project. ULAS will contact the HER prior to completion of the form. Once a report has become a public document following its incorporation into the HER it may be placed on the web-site.

8.3 Where possible the archaeological work will include community involvement in the form of displays, open days and talks subject to the results of the archaeological work...

9 Acknowledgement and Publicity
9.1 ULAS shall acknowledge the contribution of the Client in any displays, broadcasts or publications relating to the site or in which the report may be included.

9.2 ULAS and the Client shall each ensure that a senior employee shall be responsible for dealing with any enquiries received from press, television and any other broadcasting media and members of the public. All enquiries made to ULAS shall be directed to the Client for comment.

10 Copyright

10.1 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.

11 Monitoring arrangements

11.1 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and Planning Archaeologist subject to the health and safety requirements of the site.

11.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the IFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations and Watching briefs (2008)

11.3 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

12 Timetable and Staffing

12.1 A start date is for the groundworks is to be arranged.

12.2 The on-site director/supervisor will carry out the post-excavation work, with time allocated within the costing of the project for analysis of any artefacts found on the site by the relevant in-house specialists at ULAS.

13 Health and Safety

13.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester’s Statement of Safety Policy and uses the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (revised 2010) 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.

14. Insurance

14.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. Employers Liability Insurance and Public/Products Liability Insurance Allianz Insurance plc Policy No. SZ/21696148 Professional Indemnity Insurance – Newline Underwriting Management Ltd Policy No. WD1100541.

15. Contingencies and unforeseen circumstances

15.1 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the project, ULAS shall inform the site agent/project manager, Client and the Planning Archaeologist and Planning Authority and prepare a short written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement an amended scheme of investigation.

14. Bibliography

Brown, D., 2008 Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives (Institute for Archaeologists).


CIfA, 2014 Codes of Conduct and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA)
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Figure 1 Location of proposed development (from Dawson 2016 Fig 1)
Figure 2. Proposed development showing location of proposed trenches
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