



**Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample
Written Scheme of Investigation
Land at Mulberry Farm
High Street
Stoke Golding
Leicestershire**

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Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Proposed Strip Area

S. Non-technical summary

- S1 A planning application (22/00661/FUL) has been approved by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council for the “demolition of the existing Mulberry Farm buildings, retention of Mulberry Farmhouse and proposed erection of 25no. residential units with associated parking facilities, amenity space, landscaping, village green, pond and paddock” at Mulberry Farm, High Street, Stoke Golding.*
- S2 Groundworks Archaeology have produced an overarching archaeological management plan (AMP) which covers all aspects of the project. This written scheme of investigation presents the methodology for phase 3 of the project, an archaeological strip, map and sample focussed on the south-eastern corner of the site.*
- S3 On the completion of the investigation, a report will be produced.*

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A planning application (22/00661/FUL) has been approved by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council for the “demolition of the existing Mulberry Farm buildings, retention of Mulberry Farmhouse and proposed erection of 25no. residential units with associated parking facilities, amenity space, landscaping, village green, pond and paddock” at Mulberry Farm, High Street, Stoke Golding.
- 1.2 Consultee advice provided by Mr William Kelly (dated 17th July 2024) recommended a staged programme of archaeological mitigation under the overarching principle of an archaeological mitigation plan (AMP).
- 1.3 An AMP was subsequently produced by Groundworks Archaeology (Roberts 2025) which includes a fully detailed planning background, historical and archaeological background and details regarding resourcing, data management and archive protocol etc. An evaluation undertaken between 26th November 2025 and the 6th January 2026 identified archaeological features in the south-eastern corner of the site. Subsequent advice from Mr William Kelly confirmed that a further stage of targeted excavation would be required. This WSI is intended to provide the detailed methodology for the phase 3 strip, map and sample and should be read in conjunction with the AMP.

2. Site location and description

- 2.1 The proposed development site is located in Stoke Golding, in the administrative district of Hinckley and Bosworth. It is situated approximately 4km north-north-west of Hinckley and c.7km north-north-east of Nuneaton. The site is approximately 1.1 hectare and comprises largely open ground following demolition of the former farm buildings. The farmhouse situated in the south-east corner of the site (fronting onto High Street) has been retained. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 3972 9743 at an approximate height of 106m AOD (figure 1).

Geology

- 2.2 The British Geological Survey records the bedrock geology as the Gunthorpe Member, a mudstone sedimentary bedrock formed between 247.1 and 237 million years ago during the Triassic period.
- 2.3 Superficial deposits are recorded as the Wigston Member, a sand and gravel sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present during the Quaternary period. The northern corner of the site is recorded as the Bosworth Clay Member. A sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 480 and 423 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period.

3. Aims and objectives of the project

- 3.1 The primary aim of the project is to mitigate the impact of the development on any archaeological features present within the investigation area via excavation and preservation by record. A programme of archaeological excavation will be undertaken using appropriate methods and practices which satisfy the stated aims of the project, and which comply with the Code of Conduct, Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology, and other relevant by-laws of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). The programme will result in the production of an ordered, accessible archive and a report.
- 3.2 The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) defines excavation as “a programme of intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, in an inter-tidal zone or under water.” (CIfA 2023).
- 3.3 Specific objectives of the project are:
- To establish the extent of the deposits identified in the phase 2 evaluation;
 - To mitigate the impact of the development on the identified archaeological remains via excavation;
 - To record stratigraphic information (as detailed in the methodology);
 - To retrieve finds including artefacts and ecofacts from stratigraphic contexts (as detailed in the methodology);
 - To produce a photographic archive detailing archaeological features encountered;
 - To produce a fully illustrated report drawing together the results and conclusions of the programme; and
 - To consider the evidence within local and regional contexts, where appropriate.
- 3.4 For the purposes of this project, archaeologically significant remains and contexts are defined as relating to pre 19th century human use of the area.

4. Methodology

- 4.1 It is proposed to excavate an area of approximately 2400m² focussed on the south-eastern corner of the site where the evaluation identified archaeological features.
- 4.2 All work will be carried out according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) standards and will comply with CIfA (2023) *Standards and Guidance for Excavation*. The investigation will be undertaken by James Roberts and Michael Blake; other staff may be appointed as necessary. It is anticipated that the investigation will take approximately 7 working days.
- 4.3 A risk assessment will be prepared for the site and all work will be undertaken following statutory health and safety requirements and legislation in operation at the time of the fieldwork.
- 4.4 At the start of work, immediately before fieldwork commences an OASIS online record will be initiated and key fields completed on details, location and creators forms (<https://oasis.ac.uk/>).
- 4.5 All excavation will be undertaken with a 360 excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket in 10cm level spits under continuous archaeological supervision. Excavation will continue through modern and homogenous deposits until either the archaeological horizon or natural geology is reached. All archaeological deposits will be hand cleaned for assessment and recording. All spoil heaps will be scanned by metal detector to aid recovery of finds.
- 4.6 Archaeological excavation may sometimes require the use of manual work by mattock and shovel. The use of a mechanical excavator for further excavation will be discussed with the LCCSPA prior to use and will only be employed to remove homogeneous and/or non-archaeological layers.
- 4.7 All structural features or those relating to a specialised activity will be subject to a 100% sample. All post and stake holes that relate to specialised activities will be subject to a 100% sample. Others will be subject to a 50% sample. A 50% sample of all pits will be undertaken. A minimum 10% of all linear features will be sampled. Any kilns and hearths etc. will be fully sampled.
- 4.8 All archaeological features and/or deposits will be recorded on pro-forma context recording sheets using a single context recording system.
- 4.9 Site survey will be undertaken via real time kinematic DGPS supplemented by detail feature plans. All archaeological features and/or

deposits will be drawn at an appropriate scale, generally 1:20, and sections at a scale of 1:10.

- 4.10 A high quality un-interpolated digital photographic record will be maintained throughout the project. This will include all features along with working shots to represent more generally the nature of the fieldwork. Scale bars and a north arrow will be used in all photographs as appropriate (with vertical scales against deep sections in combination with horizontal scales). A high resolution digital SLR of not less than 12 megapixels with an APS-C or larger sensor will be utilised set to the highest quality setting. The images will be saved as Tiffs for archive purposes. Site photography will follow the Historic England guidance document 'Digital Image Capture and File Storage' (2015). All digital data will be downloaded to secure servers on a daily basis with appropriate backups.
- 4.11 Any and all artefacts found during the monitoring and thought to come under the provisions of the *Treasure Act* (1996), will be removed from the site to a secure location, and will be promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.
- 4.12 Should human remains be discovered the coroner will be informed and a licence from the Ministry of Justice sought immediately; both the client and the monitoring officer will also be informed prior to excavation.
- 4.13 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled according to the individual context from which they were recovered for later washing and further analysis. All relevant finds will be ordered into an archive with appropriate conservation and analysis e.g. X radiography for appropriate items. Most modern material will not be retained, although notes will be made of the appropriate context. An appropriate sample of materials such as ceramic building materials will be made. Appropriate provision will be made for the application of scientific dating techniques such as radiocarbon dating, dendrochronology, OSL and thermoluminescence. The advice of the English Heritage Regional Scientific Advisor will be sought in advance of the application of these techniques.
- 4.14 Environmental sampling will be undertaken (where appropriate) of the fills of relevant archaeological features and/or significant archaeological deposits as well as to allow the characterisation of soil profiles, plant remains, molluscs, faunal remains and pollen sequences. Where deposits are dry, bulk samples for the recovery of charred plant remains, small bones and finds, will be taken from sealed and datable features such as pits, ditches, hearths and floors. Each context will normally be sampled. The size of the sample is expected to be in the range of 40 litres per context or 100% of smaller contexts. Samples will not be taken from the

intersection of features. Where deposits are wet, waterlogged or peaty, monoliths will be taken along cleaned vertical surfaces for the retrieval of pollen, diatoms, ostracods and foraminifera. For wet, waterlogged or peaty deposits, bulk samples of 20 litres will be taken from visible layers or spits for the retrieval of plant macro-remains and insects. Environmental samples from dry deposits will normally be processed by flotation following the excavation fieldwork and the residues will be sorted to retrieve small bones, small finds and charcoal that have not floated. The samples will be extracted and recorded in accordance with Environmental Archaeology (Historic England) and in consultation with the appointed specialist and Historic England.

5. Monitoring arrangements

- 5.1 The planning archaeologist will be kept regularly informed of the project progress and provision will be made for monitoring of the works during the fieldwork stage and any other aspect of the archaeological project as required including the post fieldwork analysis and report preparation stages of the project.
- 5.2 The contractor will give the planning archaeologist a minimum of one week's notice prior to the commencement of fieldwork and notification when it has been completed.

6. Post-fieldwork methodology

- 6.1 On the completion of the fieldwork, all of the written, drawn and photographic records produced by the archaeological investigation will be checked, ordered, labelled (where appropriate) and catalogued to compile a distinctive site archive. A stratagraphical matrix of the archaeological features and/or deposits present on the site will be compiled.
- 6.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed and packaged according to the individual context from which they were recovered. They will also be ordered into (and form part of) the final site archive.
- 6.3 It is intended that all material will be collected, and a discard policy agreed with the specialists and other stakeholders in line with the ClfA toolkit for Recording Archaeological Materials. The ClfA toolkit for selecting archaeological archives will be applied to the physical and digital records generated by the project and agreement sought for discard at the final archive stage following phase 2 and phase 3.
- 6.4 The documentation and records generated by the archaeological investigation will be sorted and ordered in line with *The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire County Council Museum*

Collections (LCC, 2024). The process will also conform to MoRPHE (HE 2015) and the ClfA document “Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives” (2020b). The physical archive will be deposited with the Leicestershire County Council Museums Service under accession number X.A136.2025. The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service.

- 6.5 An electronic copy of the report will be deposited with the OASIS project (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/index.cfm>.

7. Reporting procedures

- 7.1 A report detailing the findings of the archaeological investigation will be completed immediately following the on-site work. This will include a detailed description of the stratigraphy and any archaeological features identified.
- 7.2 The report will consist of:
- A title page, with project name and location, National Grid reference, planning reference, site code, accession number, client name, author and date;
 - A contents page listing report sections, illustrations and appendices;
 - A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation;
 - An introduction, site description and location;
 - Planning background to the project;
 - A section on the archaeological and historical background to the project;
 - A description of the methodology used in the project;
 - A section describing the results of the investigation;
 - A consideration of the effectiveness of the project methodology and a confidence rating of the results;
 - A consideration of how the project results contribute to the regional research agenda *East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework* (EMHERF).

- Location plan of excavated areas and/or other fieldwork in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the site shall be given 10 figure grid references;
- Illustrations including plans and sections of all archaeological features;
- Appendices comprising appropriate photographs of the site and of specific and significant archaeological features and representative sections, a list of contexts, any specialist reports on finds from the site and a photographic register.

8. Resources

- 8.1 Post-excavation analysis will be undertaken by James Roberts and where necessary specialist analysis from MOLA (Northampton) and the named individuals below.

Paul Blinkhorn	Medieval and Post-medieval Ceramics
Dr Adam Sutton	Roman ceramics and CBM
Alex Beaby	Prehistoric ceramics
Dr Lynne Bevan	Flint and small finds
Wendy Rogers	Environmental
Malin Holst	Osteoarchaeology
Dr Tom Hoyle	Geoarchaeology
Dr Sheila Hamilton-Dyer	Zooarchaeology
James Wright	Stone
Leigh Allen	Metalwork

- 8.2 Small finds requiring conservation will be conserved by Bianca Madden (ACR).
- 8.3 Recognised specialists will be sought in the event that other data are retrieved in the course of the monitoring.

9. Copyright

- 9.1 Copyright will remain that of the author. Licence will be given to the client to present any reports, copyright of the author, to the planning authority in good faith of satisfactory settlement of account.

10. Insurance

- 10.1 Public indemnity of £2,000,000 with Towergate Insurance.

11. Bibliography

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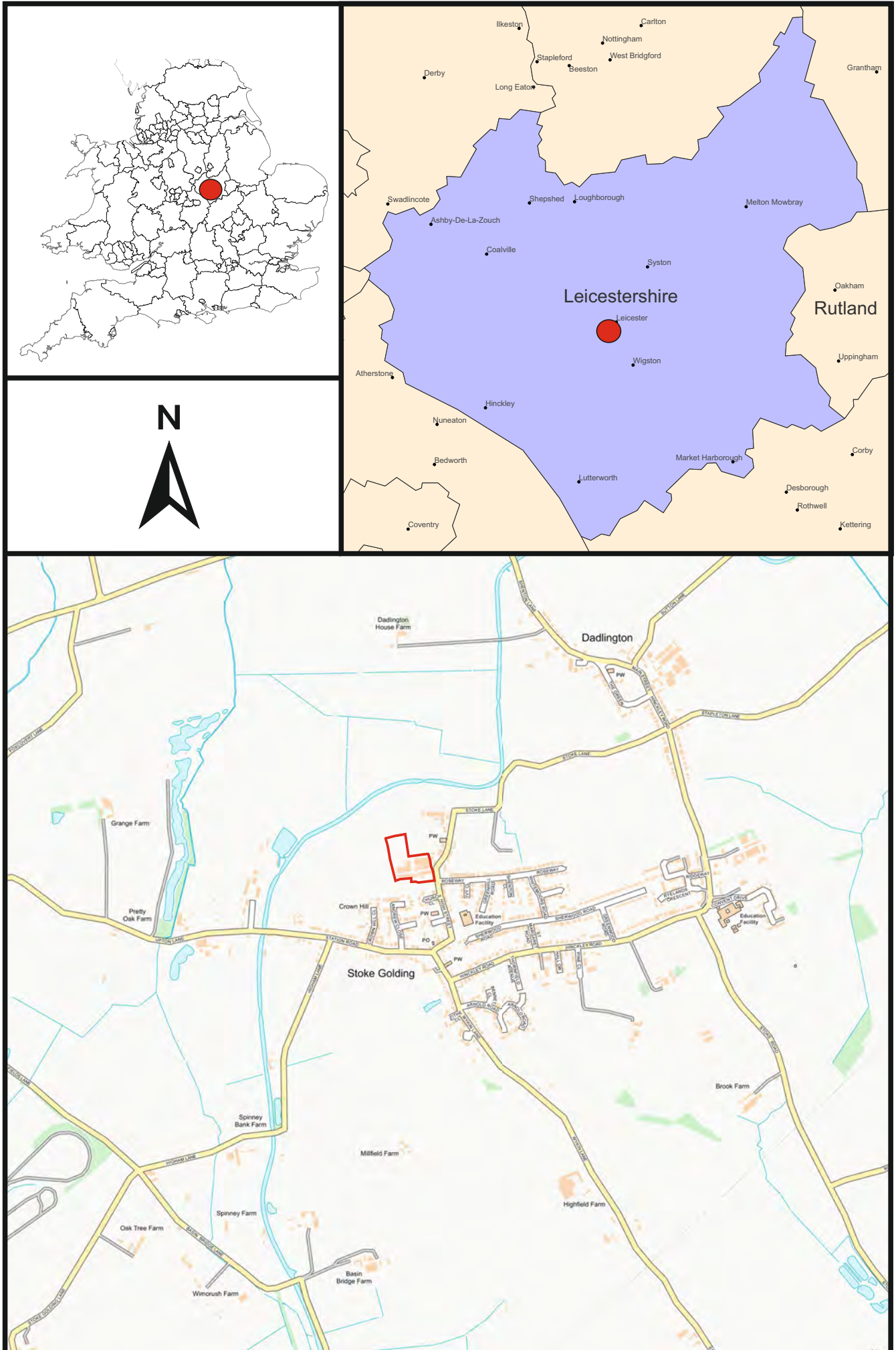




Figure 2: Proposed Strip Area