

Greyhound Inn

Main Street, Botcheston, Leicester, Leicestershire, LE9 9FF.

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological
Evaluation.

NGR: *SK 4827 05070*

Site code: *bot22*

Museum Accession Number: *X.A35.2023*

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5th April 2023

1 Introduction

1.1 This document sets out details of Archaeological evaluation at the Greyhound Inn, Main Street, Botcheston, Leicestershire, LE9 9FF. A planning application (*Planning ref. No 21/01377/FUL*) has been approved by Hinkley and Bosworth Borough Council for alterations to the Greyhound Inn public house which include, the demolition of an outbuilding, external staircase, and a single storey rear extension. The public house is proposed to be reconfigured with guest accommodation on the first floor and conversion of part of the public house to form two dwellings with access to the west of the public house. It is also proposed to erect two new dwellings with access situated to the west of the public house and which is subject to trial trenching. The Leicestershire Historic Environment Record identifies that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential, Roman pottery and seven coins were found at Snowdene Fish Farm ([mle7928](#)) to the east of the site in association with a stone well, in addition archaeological deposits, including structural remains, boundary features and rubbish pits, associated with the historic settlement core of Botcheston ([mle2750](#)) can also be expected to survive within the site. An evaluation should provide sufficient archaeological information in which to assess the impact of the proposed development and if necessary to inform an appropriate mitigation strategy.

1.2 The proposed development area (PDA) lies within and on the western edge of the historic core of Botcheston. It comprises a roughly rectangular area amounting to approximately 690m² and is situated at approximately 103m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD). The Geological Survey of Great Britain indicates that the underlying geology is likely to be Alluvium clay, colluvium, silt, sand, gravel (BGS, 2010).

2 Archaeological background

2.1 The Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) has been consulted with a search carried out over a 500m radius centred on the site in order to understand the archaeology. Botcheston is a hamlet in the Hinkley and Bosworth district of Leicestershire about 6.5 miles (10.5km) west of

Leicester. It is in the civil parish of Desford and about a mile north of the village. The population is included in the civil parish of Desford.

- 2.2 The historic settlement core of Botcheston ([mle2750](#)) is the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of Botcheston, as defined using historic maps. In 1286 the village it was known as Borchardeston, Bochard OFr, meaning male personal name and OE-tun which translates as farmstead, village, small estate. The settlement associated with Bochard. French names are rarely found in combination with the OE tun.
- 2.3 The Greyhound Inn ([mle26584](#)) dates back to 1863. It became a public house in 1856 with subsequent alterations made circa C19. It is illustrative of the social, economic and cultural development of Botcheston, providing a typical function of a small village. Architectural interest includes, a decorative door surround, terracotta ridge tiles, gable and ridge chimney stacks, chimney pots and finials and slate tiles. Artistic interest includes pub lettering and hanging sign to communicate the use of the building. It provides a critical communal function for the village and is a source of identity and social interaction.

In 1958 Roman pottery and seven coins were found at Snowdene Fish Farm ([mle7928](#)) in association with a stone well. The coins dated from the C1 to the C4. several sherds of red pottery of 'terra cotta' style a stone well and Swithland slates. 7 Roman coins all copper alloy (Bronze). Coins 1-4 are C1/C2 sestertii, coins 5-7 are smaller coins, C3/C4.

On the north-eastern side of the village is Desford Brick Works ([mle21525](#)) which is adjacent to the Greyhound Inn public house shown on the late C19 OS map. The brickworks are thought to be Late Post-medieval.

3 *Aims of the investigation.*

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation are to determine the date, character, quality, survival, and extent of the archaeological deposits within the application area likely to be threatened by the proposed development in order that an informed decision on their importance in a local, regional and national context can be made. This information will clarify whether any remains should be considered for preservation in situ or form the basis of a mitigation strategy.

In general, the aims of the investigation will include:

- i) establishing the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation on the development site.
- ii) recovering artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region.
- iii) recovering palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

More specifically, the evaluation will investigate the potential for:

- iv) finds and/or deposits of Roman date related to (*HER ref.: [mle7928](#)*).
- v) significant medieval or post-medieval buried remains related to the early settlement of Botcheston.

4 *Field methodology*

- 4.1 The archaeological field work and post-excavation assessment will be carried out in accordance with the code of conduct (CIfA, 2019) and the standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluations produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA, 2020).
- 4.2 It is anticipated that the evaluation will comprise of two trenches totalling approx. 25-30 linear metres at a minimum width of 1.80m amounting to an approx. 5% sample of the proposed development site comprising the two new dwellings.
- 4.3 Machine excavation will only be used for the removal of non-archaeologically significant material (modern deposits) and will be used to excavate these layers stratigraphically. All machining will be conducted under archaeological supervision using a toothless bucket and will cease when the first archaeological horizon or natural substrate is revealed (whichever is encountered first). Excavation will continue by hand thereafter.

5 *Excavation Guidelines*

- 5.1 A representative sample of any archaeological features or deposits that are identified will be excavated by hand. For the purposes of the report, the site stratigraphy will be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.



Approximate trench plan

- 5.2 All excavation, both by machine and by hand, will be undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features or deposits which appear to be worthy of preservation in situ. Should the need arise the relevant curatorial authority will be informed so that appropriate strategies can be applied to the treatment of the remains.
- 5.3 Where human remains are encountered, these will be planned and recorded in detail and will initially be left in situ. Where excavation of remains is required, this will be conducted following the regulations of the requisite Home Office license.
- 5.4 Finds that constitute 'treasure' under the Treasure Act 1996 will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner, in the event that they cannot be removed during the same day then suitable security will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

- 5.5 Due care will be taken to identify deposits that may have environmental potential, and where appropriate, a programme of environmental sampling will be initiated. This will be undertaken in accordance with Historic England guidelines (Historic England, 2011). Samples will be taken, processed and assessed for potential.

6 *Excavation of archaeological deposits.*

- 6.1 The various types of features and deposits revealed following the removal of non-significant overburden will be subject to the following sampling levels which will be undertaken by hand.

a) any deposits relating to funerary/ritual activity (eg, burials, cremations) and domestic/industrial activity (post-holes, hearths, floor surfaces/floor make-up deposits) will if required, be investigated by removing a 100% sample of the deposit from each feature.

b) Pits will require a minimum of a 50% sample of the deposits from each feature, but a 100% sample may be necessary should significant assemblages of finds be present; linear features (eg, ditches/gullies, paths/tracks) will require a minimum of a 20% sample of the deposits from each feature.

7 *Recording of archaeological deposits*

- 7.1 During excavation all archaeological features revealed will be planned and recorded in accordance with the Museum of London Field Archaeology Manual a recognised standard for site recording during archaeological excavation. In the event, that no archaeological deposits are encountered, as an absolute minimum a written, drawn and photographic record will be compiled.

- 7.2 Each context will be recorded on a pro-forma context sheet by written and measured description; principal deposits will be recorded by drawn plans and sections at appropriate scales and related to the Ordnance datum. All finds and samples will be bagged separately and related to the context record.

- 7.3 A photographic record of all stratigraphic units will be compiled in accordance with Historic England guidelines (EH, 2015) using a digital SLR camera with a minimum of 20 mega pixles formatted for archival purposes as TIFF images.

8 *Staff and timetable*

- 8.1 The project will be managed by Sean Cook BA MCIfA, One Ten Archaeology who will also be responsible for on-site work. The team will consist of 1 site director and 1-2 assistants.
- 8.2 It is envisaged that the project will require approximately 2-3 days to complete. Analysis of the results and completion of the final report will, dependant on the results, take a minimum of 2-3 weeks.
- 8.3 Specialists who will be invited to advise and report on specific aspects of the project during the post-excavation stage as necessary are:

Animal bone	Matilda Holmes
Coins	Richard Reece
Conservation	Esther Cameron
Human skeletal remains	Gaynor Western
Pottery (post Roman)	Paul Blinkhorn/Philip Mills
Pottery (Roman)	Philip Mills
Pottery (prehistoric)	Elaine Morris
Small find ID	Nina Crummy
Palaeo-environmental	Val Fryer

- 8.4 Pottery reports will be expected to refer to the appropriate type series, including the Leicestershire type series for Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery.

9 *Report and Archive preparation*

- 9.1 The archaeological archive and artefact collection arising from the work will be appropriately conserved and held with One Ten Archaeology until deposition can be arranged with the Leicestershire County Museum

Services. Artefacts will be deposited subject to agreement with the legal landowner.

- 9.2 In preparation for museum deposition, all finds and samples will be cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed separately and related to the context record. Documentary records will be catalogued and appropriately conserved.
- 9.3 An illustrated report will be compiled detailing the results of the fieldwork and assessment of the artefacts, palaeo-environmental deposits etc. The report will include an assessment of the impact of the development on archaeological remains. The structure of the report will include the following;
- A non-technical summary
 - Introduction
 - Methodology
 - Description of deposits
 - Finds
 - Discussion
 - Impact of development
 - Archive
- 9.4 A digital pdf/a copy of the report detailing the results of the archaeological recording will be sent to Archaeological Advisor at Leicestershire County Council for approval. An approved copy of the evaluation report will be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record, on the understanding that it will be made available as a public document after an appropriate period (not exceeding 6 months from the completion of fieldwork).
- 9.5 An on-line form will be submitted to OASIS and it is anticipated that the digital archive resulting from the work will be deposited with the ADS within 6 months of completion of the project. Deposition of the archive to the County Museum will be made within 12 months of completion of the final report.
- 9.6 It is anticipated that on completion of the project as a minimum a short summary of the results will be provided for publication in the Transactions

of the Leicestershire Archaeological & Historical Society. Should the results warrant wider dissemination, a full copy of the report, in an appropriate format shall be submitted for publication in the relevant academic journal.

10 *Health and Safety*

- 10.1 One Ten Archaeology will conduct all excavation work in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.
- 10.2 Notices and fencing will be installed as appropriate. Safety helmets and high visibility jackets will be used by all personnel as necessary.
- 10.3 One Ten Archaeology holds Public and Employers Liability Insurance and Professional Indemnity Insurance.

11 *Bibliography*

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