

## Archaeology at KP380

### Background

This site was identified during pipe-trenching on **DATE**. Two large pots were exposed in the section of the pipe-trench at a depth of approximately 1.5m. In order to safely excavate these jars the pipe was lowered into the trench and the initial backfill put over the pipe. The area was then benched back to enable safe entry into the trench.

Work initially commenced at this site on **DATE**, but was then stopped as the archaeologists were changing. A spell of bad weather and politics regarding the payment of an invoice for a report submitted by the Institute meant that no further work was carried out here for over a week.

Dave, Claire, Najaf and Fikret visited the site on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. The initial phase of excavation here had revealed an additional 3 jars, bringing the total to five in an area measuring **XbyXm**. Dave instructed Najaf that only the two pots that had been disturbed by during the digging of the pipe trench should be excavated, the others should be backfilled and left in situ. Najaf was not happy about this and insisted that he was going to dig all five.

Work recommenced at the site with a team of 6 labourers (redeployed from KP379) on 11<sup>th</sup> September. Discussions over the phone ensued about how many pots were to be excavated, and despite being told again (this time by Claire) that only the two adjacent to the pipe trench should be dug, Najaf was adamant that he would remove all 5 exposed jars.

A visit to the site on 12<sup>th</sup> September revealed that not only had excavation of all 5 pots been started (and a sixth exposed) but also that a safety problem had emerged. The following problems were identified at the site:

- the north facing section measured at least 1.7m in depth;
- although the east and west sections had been stepped spoil was being placed close to the edge;
- the labourers were digging around one of the pots in the section therefore there was a threat of undermining this section
- there was no supervision on site – labourers only and no archaeologist;
- no method of communication in case of emergency; and
- no Emergency Response Plan in place.

I spoke with John Blower about my concerns. He visited the site and immediately stopped work there. All of the labourers therefore returned to KP378.