

**Land at the Paddock, Burton  
Hall, Hall Drive,  
Burton on the Wolds:  
An Archaeological Watching  
Brief. 2003**

**Project No. 1125**  
December 2003

**Land at the Paddock, Burton Hall,  
Hall Drive, Burton on the Wolds:**  
**An Archaeological Watching Brief. 2003**

By  
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with a contribution by  
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Museum Accession number:  
X.A203.2003

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Burton Hall, Hall Drive, Burton on the Wolds*

*Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at the  
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# **Land at the Paddock, Burton Hall, Hall Drive, Burton on the Wolds: An Archaeological Watching Brief. 2003**

## ***SUMMARY***

*A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of foundation trenches for four housing plots at the Paddock site to the west of Burton Hall, Hall Drive, Burton on the Wolds, Leicestershire (NGR SK 5908 2097). This work was commissioned by Simon Woodward on behalf of Steeple Grange Investments Ltd, supervised by Leicester County Council Heritage Services and undertaken by Birmingham Archaeology between October and December 2003. Prior to this a desk-based assessment had identified a potential for medieval and post medieval remains within the site boundaries. This was due mainly to the proximity of Burton Manor (dated 1790), to the west of the site and the location of the site in the centre of medieval Burton on the Wolds.*

*Although small amounts of animal bone and medieval pottery sherds were found within the topsoil, the machine excavation of the trenches revealed no archaeological deposits. The absence of archaeological remains may be explained by the depth of topsoil, which measures up to 0.85m deep and hence is indicative of the site having had an agricultural use that may extend back as far as the medieval period.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Background**

This report describes the results of a watching brief carried out during housing developments at Burton on the Wolds, Leicestershire (NGR SK 5908 2097, Fig. 1). The work was undertaken by Birmingham Archaeology and commissioned by Simon Woodward for Living by d'zign Limited. All work was supervised by Leicester County Council Heritage Services.

The archaeological watching brief was conducted in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999), and complied with a Specification for Archaeological Evaluation prepared by the Leicester County Council Heritage Services. The watching brief was also conducted within parameters defined by PPG16 'Archaeology and Planning'.

## **2 SITE LOCATION (Fig. 1)**

The site (centred on NGR SK 5908 2097, Fig. 1) is situated within a paddock to the west of Burton Hall, Hall Drive, Burton on the Wolds in the District of Charnwood, Leicestershire (Fig. 2). It lies approximately at a height of between 69-82m above ordnance datum.

### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The Leicestershire and Rutland Sites and Monuments Record shows that the site lies within the medieval historic core of Burton on the Wolds on paddock land adjacent to Burton Hall. The Hall is shown to date to 1790. Therefore, there is potential that medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains may be located within the site. No previous archaeological work has been undertaken on the site.

### 4 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the archaeological watching brief were as follows:

- to monitor all below-ground works, including the removal of overburden and downcutting of existing levels.
- to record the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains affected by the development works.
- to identify all previously unrecorded sites in order to update the SMR.
- to preserve all archaeological deposits ‘by record’, and conserve for long term conservation and future analysis all artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid for Finds* 1998 (new edition) and the recipient museum’s guidelines.

The foundation trenches for four housing plots were excavated by machine with a 0.50m toothed bucket. In accordance with the design of the housing the foundation trenches were irregular in length measuring between 5.5m and 12.4m. The foundation trenches were excavated to depths of between 1.4 and 1.9m.

In the absence of any archaeological features a number of profiles from trenches which were deemed representative of the site’s geology were recorded (Fig. 3 & 4) using sketches at a scale of 1:20 and 1:50, supplemented by brief soil descriptions. These now form part of the paper archive.



## 5 RESULTS

### 5.1 Plot 4 – Section 1

Context	Depth below surface	Depth of context	Identification	Comment
1000	-	0.80m	Grey Brown slightly sandy silt	Topsoil
1001	0.80m	0.4m - 0.6m	Light Yellow Brown compacted sand	Subsoil
1002	0.50m at west end of section	0.75m	Grey Brown silt with gravel and stones	Subsoil

### 5.2 Plot 4 - Section 2

Context	Depth below surface	Depth of Context	Identification	Comment
1000	-	0.7 - 0.9m	Grey Brown slightly sandy silt	Topsoil
1004	0.7m - 0.9m	1m	Light – mid Yellow Brown sand	Subsoil
1005	1.6m	0.2m	Light Orange sand	Subsoil
1003	1.8m	0.12m	Compact orange/brown clay	Natural

### 5.3 Plot 4 – Section 3

Context	Depth below surface	Depth of Context	Identification	Comment
1000	-	0.4m	Grey Brown slightly sandy silt	Topsoil
1013	0.4m	0.9 -1.0m	Mid – dark Orange Brown silty sand with gravel	Subsoil
1014	1.1m-1.4m	0.56m	Orange Brown sand	Subsoil

### 5.4 Plot 4 – Section 4

Context	Depth below surface	Depth of Context	Identification	Comment
1000	-	0.65m	Grey Brown slightly sandy silt	Topsoil
1006	0.65m	0.67m	Light Yellow Sand	Subsoil
1008	0.7m-1.1m	0.2m-0.4m	Mid – Dark Orange Brown sandy clay lens in 1006	Subsoil
1007	0.7m-1.4m	0.1m - 0.75m	Light – mid Yellow brown sand and gravel to east of 1006	Subsoil

### 5.5 Plot 4 – Section 5

Context	Depth below surface	Depth of Context	Identification	Comment
1000	-	0.15m-0.50m	Grey Brown slightly sandy silt	Topsoil
1009	0.15m-0.50m	0.95m-1.3m	Grey Brown silt with gravel and stones	Subsoil
1010	1.35-1.45m	0.05m-0.1m	Thin lens of charcoal with small stones	Lens in 1009

### 5.6 Plot 4 – Section 6

Context	Depth below Surface	Depth of Context	Identification	Comment
1000	-	0.25m-0.5m	Grey Brown slightly sandy silt	Topsoil
1011	0.25m-0.5m	0.4m-1.2m	Yellow sand and gravel	Subsoil
1012	0.8m-1.2m	0.45m-0.55m	Light Yellow Brown sand	Subsoil
1010	1.4m	0.07m	Thin lens of charcoal with small stones	Lens in 1012

### 5.7 Plot 3 - Section 7

Context	Depth Below Surface	Depth of Context	Identification	Comment
1000	-	0.2m-0.3m	Grey Brown slightly sandy silt	Topsoil
1015	0.2m-0.3m	0.12m-0.18m	Orange Reddish Brown clay with gravel	Subsoil
1016	0.2m-0.3m	0.02m-0.4m	Light Yellow Brown sand to north of 1015	Subsoil

### 5.8 Plot 3 – Section 8

Context	Depth Below Surface	Depth of Context	Identification	Comment
1000	-	0.56m-0.62m	Grey Brown slightly sandy silt	Topsoil
1017	0.56m-0.62m	0.32m-0.38m	Light Yellow Grey sand	Subsoil

**5.9 Plot 2 – Section 9**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Depth Below Surface</b>	<b>Depth of Context</b>	<b>Identification</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1000	-	0.32m-0.5m	Grey Brown slightly sandy silt	Topsoil
1018	0.32m-0.5m	0.24m-0.74m	Yellow Grey sand	Subsoil
1019	0.62m-1.04m	0.01m-0.4m	Orange Brown sandy clay	Subsoil
1010	0.82m	0.04	Thin lens of charcoal with small stones	Lenses in 1018 and 1019

**5.10 Plot 2 – Section 10**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Depth Below Surface</b>	<b>Depth of Context</b>	<b>Identification</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1000	-	0.6m-0.62m	Grey Brown slightly sandy silt	Topsoil
1020	0.6m-0.62m	0.4m-0.6m	Yellow Grey sand	Subsoil
1021	1.0m-1.16m	0.18m	Orange Brown sandy clay	Subsoil

**5.11 Plot 2 - Section 11**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Depth Below Surface</b>	<b>Depth of Context</b>	<b>Identification</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1000	-	0.66m-0.75m	Grey Brown slightly sandy silt	Topsoil
1022	0.66m-0.75m	0.3m-0.44m	Yellow Grey sand	Subsoil
1023	0.98m-1.12m	0.2m-0.3m	Orange Brown sandy clay	Subsoil

**5.12 Plot 1 - Section 12**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Depth Below Surface</b>	<b>Depth of Context</b>	<b>Identification</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1024	-	0.2m - 0.4m	Mixed pink and brown hardcore	Modern hardcore
1025	0.2m - 0.4m	0.1m (0.8m at south end of section)	Pink hardcore	Modern hardcore
1026	0.3m-0.5m	0.3m	Dark brown clayey silt	Old topsoil, buried under hardcore
1027	0.6m-0.8m	0.15m	Orange/brown clay	Natural subsoil

**5.13 Plot 1 - Section 13**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Depth Below Surface</b>	<b>Depth of Context</b>	<b>Identification</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1028	-	0.55m - 0.8m	Dark brown sandy silt	Topsoil
1029	0.55m - 0.8m	0.1m - 0.45m	Orange/brown clay	Natural subsoil

**6 THE FINDS**

The finds assemblage from the site consisted of two small fragments of medieval pottery, a piece of flint and 336g of animal bone. These items were quantified by count and weight, and examined macroscopically for the purposes of this report. The finds were all recovered from the topsoil (1000). The assemblage presents no long-term storage problems, and will be deposited with the paper archive at the earliest opportunity.

The two sherds of pottery were both of medieval appearance. One fragment had bright orange surfaces, with traces of green glaze on the outer surface, and a dark grey core. The other fragment had a buff-coloured surface and core, with a dark brown glaze on the outer surface. The fabric of this fragment was much harder and denser than that of the other fragment, and would appear to be of a later date, possibly late medieval or early post-medieval. The two sherds are too small, however, to give any further diagnostic information.

The flint fragment, which may be of Neolithic date (Alex Lang, pers. comm), had been humanly struck along one edge, although the other surfaces were unfinished, and the function of the item is unclear. It is possible that the item was discarded part-way through the working process as it was found to be unsuitable for its intended purpose.

The animal bone assemblage consisted of cattle and sheep bones (Emma Hancox, pers. comm.). No butchery marks or pathologies were visible on any of the bones, which were in a fragmentary condition.

## 7 DISCUSSION

No evidence of any archaeological remains were recovered from the trenches excavated during the watching brief at the Paddock site. The different contexts found within the trenches recorded during the excavation of Plots 1, 2, 3 and 4 represent the varying geology of the site. The depth of the topsoil indicates that the site has had an agricultural use, which may extend as far back as the medieval period.

## 8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project was commissioned by Seeples Grange Investments Ltd and thanks are due to Simon Woodward for his help and co-operation on site. Thanks are also due to Diane Walls, Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, who monitored the site on behalf of Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services. Paul Harris and Erica Macey carried out the watching brief and wrote this report. The project was managed for Birmingham Archaeology by Richard Cuttler, who also edited this report. Illustrations were prepared by John Halsted.

## 9 REFERENCES

Birmingham Archaeology 2003 *Land at the Paddock, Burton Hall, Hall Drive, Burton on the Wolds - Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001 *Standard and guidance for Field Evaluation*

Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services 2003 *Brief for Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at the Paddock, Burton Hall, Hall Drive, Burton on the Wolds*

Watkinson, D. and Neal, V. 1998 *First Aid for Finds* (New Edition) RESCUE-The British Archaeological Trust/UKIC – The United Kingdom Institute for Conservation/The Museum of London, London

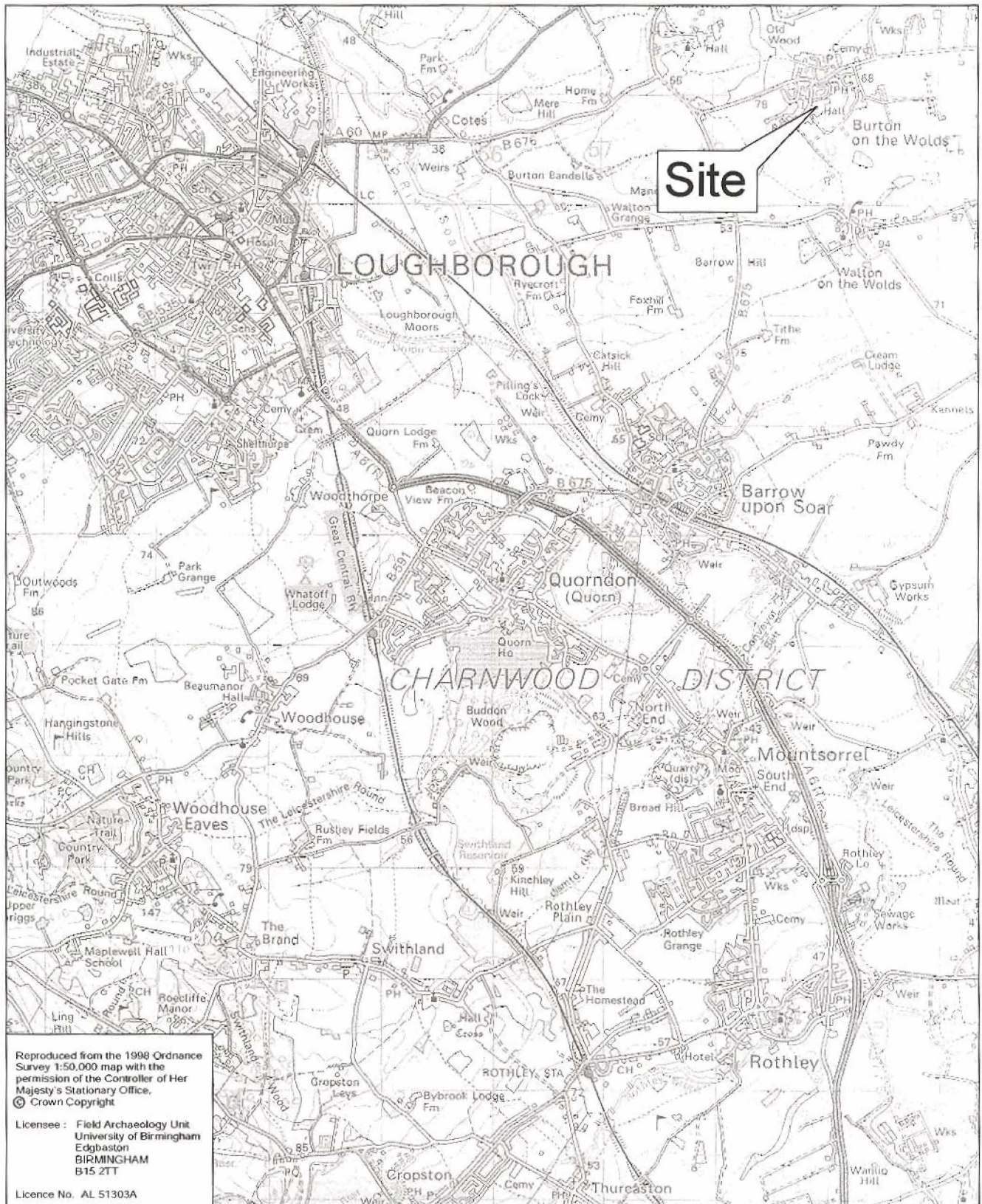


Fig.1

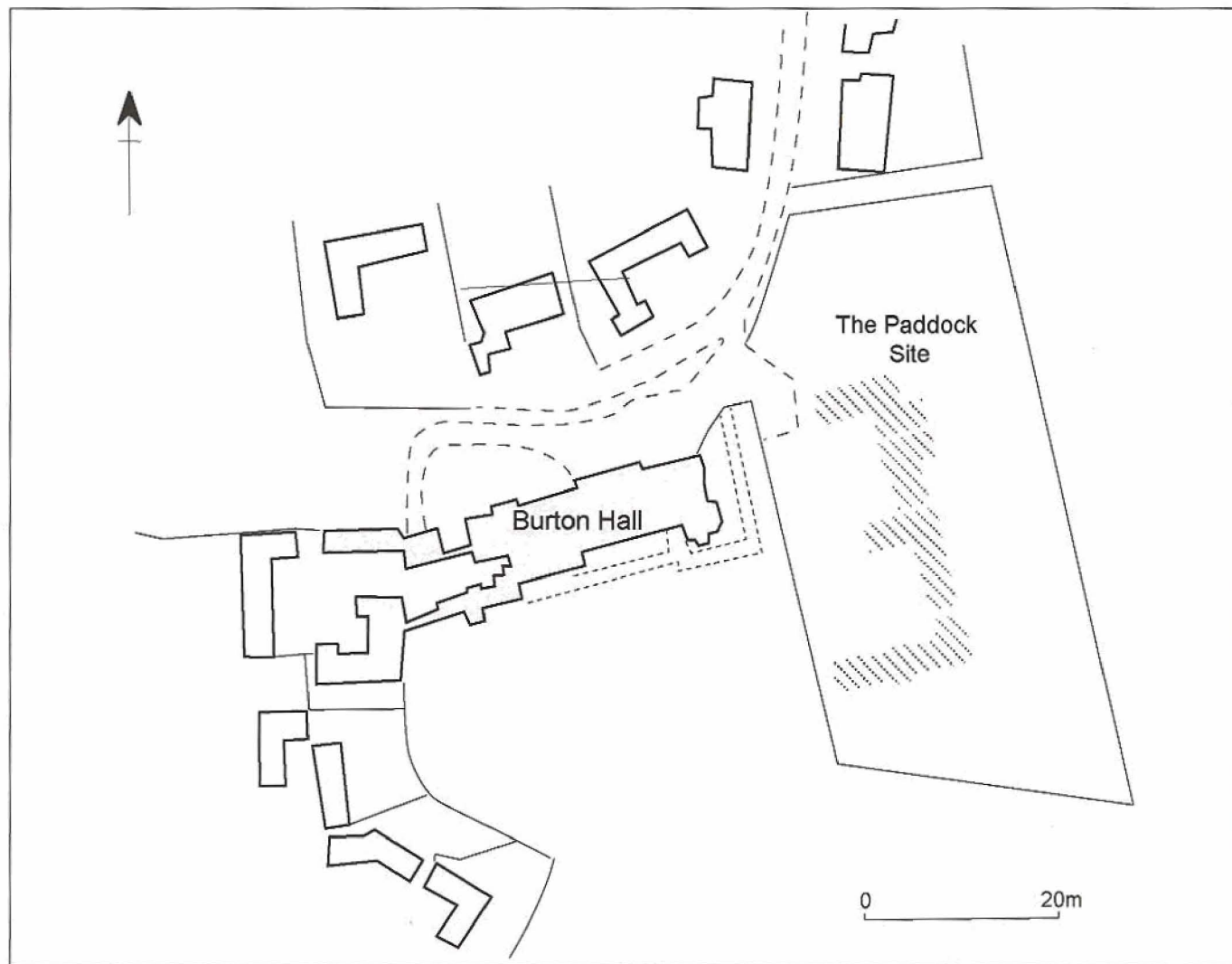


Fig.2





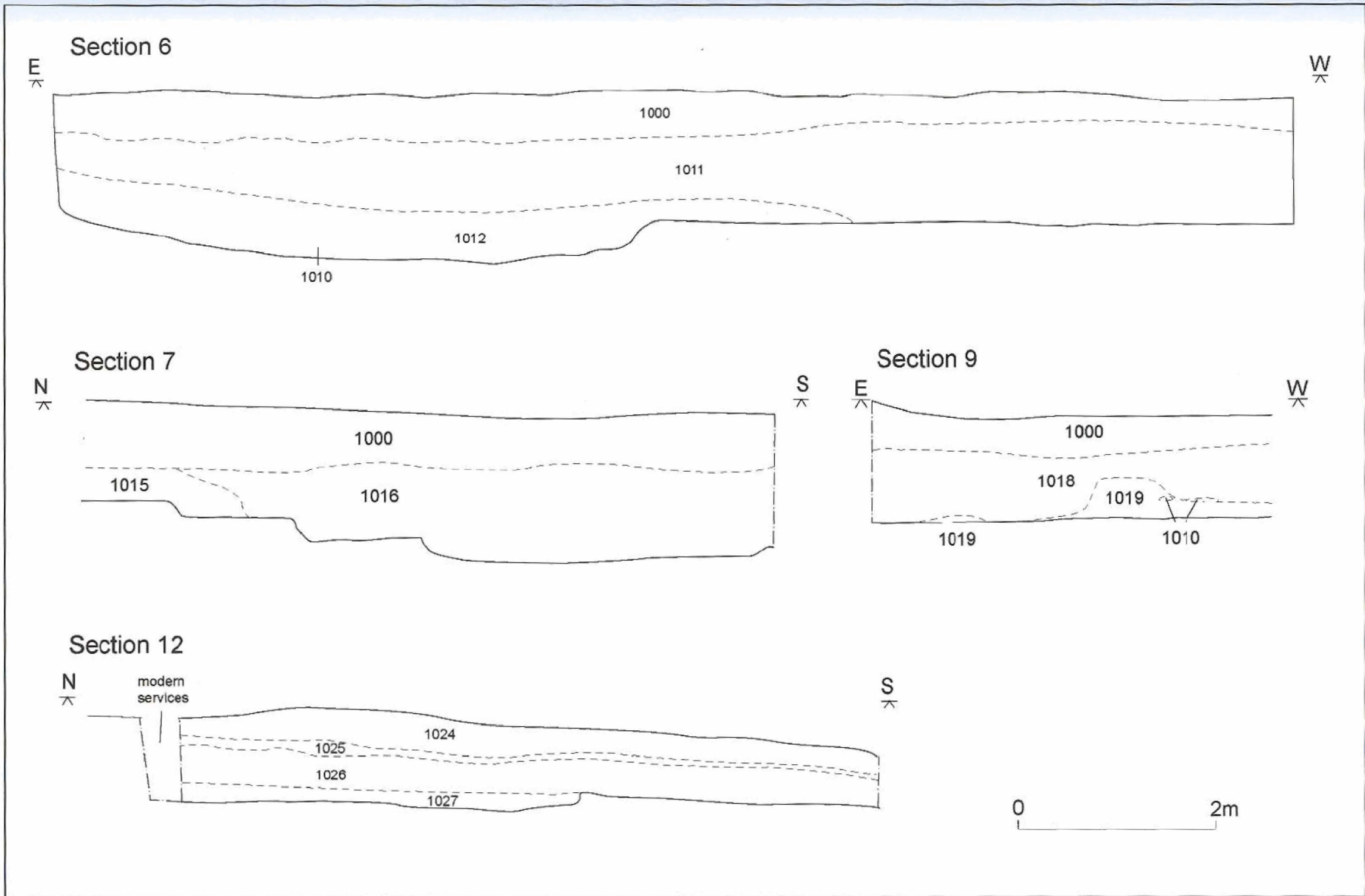


Fig.4

# **BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND AT THE Paddock, BURTON HALL, HALL DRIVE, BURTON ON THE WOLDS**

## **1. Summary of Brief**

Land at the Paddock, Burton Hall, Hall Drive, Burton on the Wolds has been identified as an area of archaeological potential from information held in the Leicestershire and Rutland Sites and Monuments Record.

In consequence the Planning Archaeologist has recommended the need for an archaeological watching brief during the stripping of topsoil and additional groundworks at the site in line with the archaeological condition on planning permission 03/0965/2.

## **2. Appendices for reference as part of this Brief (to be supplied by the developer to the archaeological contractor)**

I. General location plan.

II. The Site location.

III. Architect's plans to show areas of ground impact.

## **3. Site location and description**

The Site is located on the paddock site to the west of Burton Hall, Hall Drive, Burton on the Wolds in the District of Charnwood, Leicestershire. The site is located at SK 5908/2097 and lies at an approximate height of between 69-82m O.D.

## **4. Geology**

The underlying geology is likely to consist of Boulder Clay (Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 142).

## **5. Site Constraints**

The Planning Archaeologist has not determined the location of any on site underground services.

## **6. Historical and Archaeological Background**

The Leicestershire and Rutland Sites and Monuments Record shows that the site lies within the medieval historic core of Burton on the Wolds on paddock land adjacent to Burton Hall. Burton Hall is shown to date to 1790. There is potential therefore for medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains on the site.

## **7. Previous work and archaeological survey**

No known previous archaeological work has been undertaken on the site proposed for development.

#### 8. Planning Background and Requirement for Work

In response to a planning application for the erection of four detached houses and garages, the Planning Archaeologist advised that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken (19/05/03).

The Watching Brief forms the "programme of archaeological work" specified in that condition. The requirement for archaeological work is in accordance with PPG 16 "Archaeology and Planning". The purpose of the work is to identify and record archaeological deposits during development.

#### 9. Methodology

The developer **must** employ a professional archaeologist/s to control and supervise the topsoil stripping of the site and supervise during any ground-works including trial pits. Provision **must** be made for the archaeologist/s to record and excavate, where necessary, any archaeological features that are revealed.

#### Contingency Procedure

A Contingency provision for emergency recording and detailed excavation should be made in case of unforeseen archaeological discoveries. If this is the case, the contractor should inform the Site Agent/ Project Manager and the Planning Archaeologist, who will inform the Planning Authority. A short written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence should be prepared. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Planning Archaeologist, the contractor shall, if required, implement an amended scheme of investigation on behalf of the applicant as appropriate. The Planning Archaeologist should be kept informed of progress on site and a final monitoring visit should be arranged prior to re-commencement of the development.

#### 10. Site Access: Health and Safety

The archaeological Contractor will be responsible for ensuring that all works are conducted in accordance with a defined Health and Safety Policy. Contractors must observe all current safe working practices, whether required by their own policy or those of the principal development contractor (see SCAUM *Manual, Health & Safety in Field Archaeology, 1997*).

Before commencing work the Contractor **must** carry out a Risk Assessment and liaise with the site owner, archaeological Consultants and the Planning Archaeologist in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised. A copy of this must be given to the Planning Archaeologist **before** commencement of Site works.

The developer must provide all information reasonably obtainable on contamination and the location of live services before commencement of Site works.

### **11. Preservation in Situ**

The discovery of significant archaeological deposits or substantial structural remains requiring preservation in situ will entail detailed discussion between all relevant parties. Where structures, features or finds appear to merit preservation in situ, they must be adequately protected from deterioration.

Where design modification is not practically possible the developer **must** allow sufficient time and financial resources for the full excavation, conservation, and curation of the archaeological resource before development continues.

### **12. Environmental Sampling**

Contractors are to adhere to the recommendations in the '*Working Papers of the Association for Environmental Archaeology, Number 2. Environmental archaeology evaluations, September 1995*'.

If appropriate, environmental samples will be taken from features to enable their date, nature, extent and condition to be described and analysed. Samples should be taken from the fills of features where organic materials may be preserved, such as pits, ditches and other deposits, especially if waterlogged.

### **13. Treatment of finds**

All finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid For Finds*, 1998 (new edition) and the recipient museum's guidelines.

Any finds of human remains will be left in situ, covered and protected and the appropriate authorities informed. If removal is essential it can only take place under appropriate Home Office and environmental health regulations, and if appropriate, in compliance with the 'Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981.

All finds which may constitute 'treasure' under the Treasure Act, 1997 must be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner. Where removal can not take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

All identified finds and artefacts will be retained, although certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is recommended by the recipient museum's archive curator.

### **14. Post-excavation work**

According to standard procedure, the archaeological Watching Brief will be followed by a period of post-excavation processing. This should involve the cataloguing and analysis of any finds, samples and the preparation of the archive for the site report and deposition.

## 15. Reports

A full written report combining all stages of the Watching Brief should be prepared, at least two copies of which should be sent to the Archaeology Section, Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services. If this report is to form part of the planning process, it is in the developer's interest to ensure this report is prepared to an adequate standard (see 'Guidelines and Procedures For Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland') in order that a judgement of the archaeological value of the site can be made as quickly as possible and the Planning Archaeologist can recommend the archaeological condition is discharged. The Leicestershire and Rutland SMR and other appropriate sources should be used to place the results in context.

The report/s ought to include:

- a) All location plans tied into the Ordnance Survey data
- b) Drawing and plans
- c) A summary of artefacts together with their interpretation
- d) Any specialist reports
- e) A concise non-technical summary of the project results

The report/s ought to assess:

- a) The archaeological significance of the development site and any archaeological deposits encountered during the Watching Brief
- b) The evidence in its setting, regional context and also aim to highlight any research priorities where applicable.

The final report/s will be deposited with the Leicestershire and Rutland SMR no later than six months after completion of the project. This will be a paper copy of the report including its relevant accompanying plans.

Results of the project, even if negative, will be submitted for publication in the appropriate academic journals. Contractors are to provide a summary of findings to the 'Transactions of the Leicestershire Historical and Archaeological Society' (c/o Richard Buckley, School of Archaeological Studies, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester LE1 7RH)

If significant results are obtained a copy of the final report/s will be deposited in the National Monuments Record, English Heritage, Swindon. This may need to be a digital copy due to space constraints.

## 16. Archive

The archive consists of all written records and materials recovered, drawn and photographic records. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. It should also contain Site matrix, site summary and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental data. **An Accession number must be drawn prior to the commencement of the archaeological work from Dr Richard Pollard, Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services Archive Curator on 0116 264 5803.**

Archive will be prepared in line with UKIC Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (1990) and "The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service" (LMARS 2001).

### Deposition

The integrity of the site archive should be maintained. All find and records should be properly curated by a single organisation, and be available for public consultation.

Arrangements for deposition of the full site archive ought to be made with Dr Richard Pollard, Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services, Suite 4, Bridge Park Plaza, Bridge Park Road, Thurmaston, LE4 8BL. He can be contacted on 0116 264 5803.

The archive will be presented to the Archive Curator within 9 months of completion of the fieldwork, unless alternative arrangements have been agreed in writing with the Planning Archaeologist and Archive Curator.

It should be noted that the Planning Archaeologist will not recommend the discharge of any planning conditions until he/she has approved the report, has received confirmation that the archive meets current standards by the Archive Curator and has received written confirmation that a summary of the archaeological work has been forwarded to the above mentioned journals.

## **17. Requirements (including responsibilities of prospective developer and Archaeological Contractor)**

### Appointment of Archaeological Contractors

The professional archaeological Contractors invited to tender for the work must be able to demonstrate within their Project Design that they can provide staffing and expertise with the appropriate experience in dealing with technology of the type and nature required in this Brief.

Contractors will operate in line with professional guidelines and standards as stated in the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA):

- Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (1994, revised 1999),
- IFA Code of Conduct (1985, as revised 1997) and,
- IFA By-Law Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology (IFA, 1990 as revised, 1998).

### Pre-tender site visit

The Contractor must visit the site before completing any Project Design, as there may be implications for accurately costing the project. This visit must be noted, along with any other relevant site details, within the Project Design.

### Project Design

The Project Design will cater for full post-excavation analysis, reporting and deposition of the Site findings.

The Project Design must:

- a) be supported by a research design, which sets out the site-specific objectives of the archaeological works,

- b) detail the proposed works as precisely as is reasonably possible, and where appropriate, indicate clearly on plan their location and extent,
- c) include details, including name, qualifications and experience of the Site director and all other key project personnel, including any specialist staff and sub-contractors, will be included in the Project Design. The ratio of on-site voluntary assistance must not exceed a ratio of more than 1:2 employed experienced staff,
- d) detail archive deposition, publication and presentation,
- e) provide a timetable for proposed works.

#### Checking of Project Designs

It is particularly important that all Project Designs, or those, which the prospective developer wishes to consider, are forwarded to the Planning Archaeologist for approval prior to the appointment of a Contractor.

Any changes the Planning Archaeologist recommends to a preferred Project Design/s might have financial implications for the costing of the archaeological Contractor, changes to the Project Design will be discussed and agreed in writing by the Planning Archaeologist and the archaeological Contractor.

#### Agreement

There must be a written archaeological agreement that satisfactorily implements the approved format and provides sufficient financial support for all aspects of the work including fieldwork, finds processing, conservation, specialist analysis, archiving, cataloguing, report work and long-term storage curation. The archaeological Consultant/Contractor must confirm in writing to the Planning Archaeologist that the prospective developer has signed such an agreement before the commencement of Site works.

### 18. Monitoring

The work undertaken by the archaeological Contractor, will be monitored under the auspices of the Leicestershire Planning Archaeologists, who is responsible for monitoring all archaeological work in Leicestershire and Rutland on behalf of the Local Planning Authority. Monitoring includes reviewing site work, the progress of excavation reports, archive preparation and final deposition.

Before the commencement of the project the Contractor must inform the Planning Archaeologist, in writing, of the timetable of proposed works and ensure that the Planning Archaeologist must be kept regularly informed about developments during Site and subsequent post-excavation work.

The Planning Archaeologist will be given at least one weeks written notice of commencement of archaeological work.

### **19. Alterations to this Brief**

This Brief is valid for three months (from the date below). If not tendered within this period the prospective developer will seek confirmation from the Planning Archaeologist of its continued validity to the existing Site conditions. In addition the following apply:

Prior to the formal appointment of an archaeological Contractor, the Planning Archaeologist reserves the right to alter this Brief if additional information comes to light that may have a bearing on the scope and methods of work currently required. (e.g. Site construction constraints, foundation details etc).

After formal appointment, any alterations recommended by the Planning Archaeologist, which may affect the archaeological Contractor's agreed Project Design (whether this be before commencement, or during the project), will be made in consultation with the archaeological Contractor and submitted to the Local Planning Authority.

### **20. Key Definitions**

***Senior Planning Archaeologist/ Planning Archaeologist***

Responsible for providing an archaeological curatorial planning service to Leicestershire districts. Advises on the nature of the work required and monitors projects from implementation to completion.

***Archive Curator:***

Responsible for the long-term curation of the archive in the recipient Museum.

***Prospective Developer:***

Person/group/developer commissioning the archaeological work.

***Contractor:***

Archaeological Contractor tendering to carry out the archaeological work and as appointed by the prospective developer.

***Project Design:***

Written document detailing the proposed work and as provided by a Contractor in line with the Written Brief provided by the Senior Planning Archaeologist.

***The Senior Planning Archaeologist/ Planning Archaeologist can be contacted at:***

County Archaeology  
Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services  
Suite 4, Bridge Park Plaza  
Bridge Park Road  
Thurmaston  
Leicestershire  
LE4 8BL

(0116 264 5813)

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> September 2003  
Diane Walls MA, AIFA  
Planning Archaeologist



**Proposed Development**  
**Written Scheme of Investigation for**  
**Archaeological Watching Brief**  
**Land at the Paddock, Burton Hall,**  
**Hall Drive, Burton on the Wolds**  
**Developer: Steeple Grange Investments Ltd**  
**Archaeological Contractor: Birmingham Archaeology**



Birmingham Archaeology

## **1.0 Introduction**

This document outlines the programme of work required to undertake a watching brief at the above site. It forms a written scheme of investigation requested by Leicestershire County Council. Any variation in the scope of work would be agreed with Diane Walls, Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, before implementation.

The work will be carried out during the stripping of topsoil and additional groundworks at the site in line with the archaeological conditions of planning permission 03/0965/2.

## **2.0 Aims**

The archaeological watching brief is intended to provide a record of any archaeological deposits or features which might be present below the modern ground surface, and to provide an understanding of the history and the significance of the archaeology of the site as a whole.

These aims will be achieved through a programme of archaeological monitoring visits to the site during contractors soil and overburden stripping and all below-ground works.

## **3.0 The Site**

The site is located on the paddock site to the west of Burton Hall, Hall Drive, Burton on the Wolds in the District of Charnwood, Leicestershire (SK 5908 2097) at an approximate height of 69-82m O.D. The Leicestershire and Rutland Sites and Monuments record shows that the site lies within the medieval historic core of Burton on the Wolds on paddock land adjacent to Burton Hall. The Hall is shown to date to 1790. Therefore, potential for medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains may be located within the site. No previous archaeological work has been undertaken on the site.

## **4.0 Archaeological Watching Brief**

### 4.1 Aims

The aims of the archaeological watching brief will be

- to monitor all below-ground works, including the removal of overburden and downcutting of existing levels.
- to record the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains affected by the development works.
- to identify all previously unrecorded sites in order to update the SMR.
- to preserve all archaeological deposits ‘by record’, and conserve for long term conservation and future analysis all artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid for Finds* 1998 (new edition) and the recipient museum’s guidelines.

Where appropriate environmental samples will be taken in order to determine date, nature, extent and condition. Samples will be taken from features where organic preservation is likely specifically pits, ditches and waterlogged deposits.

The preservation of human remains *in situ*. If removal is essential it will be undertaken under Home Office and environmental guidelines, and if appropriate in accordance with the ‘Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981.

The removal of all artefacts that constitute ‘treasure’ according to the Treasure Act, 1997 and their reporting to the local coroner. If they are not removed suitable security will be taken to protect the artefacts from theft.

The retention of all identified artefacts, with the exception of certain building materials that will be sampled according to the recommendation of the recipient museum archive curator.

Post-excavation cataloguing and analysis of finds and samples and the preparation of the archive for site report and deposition.

### 4.2 Method

All ground works will be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. This will be complemented by salvage recording of any archaeological deposits and features revealed by contractors groundworks. All artefacts will be recovered and a programme of post-excavation analysis will be undertaken following the fieldwork.

A contingency provision will allow for emergency recording and detailed excavation in the event of unforeseen archaeological discoveries. In this event the monitoring archaeologist will inform the Site Agent/Project Manager and the Planning Archaeologist. A short statement with plan detailing the archaeological discoveries will be submitted to the Planning Archaeologist for further mitigation. The Planning Archaeologist will be kept informed of progress on site and a final monitoring visit will be arranged prior to re-commencement of the development.

## **5.0: Staffing**

The fieldwork will be monitored for Birmingham Archaeology by Richard Cuttler (MIFA) and the fieldwork undertaken by Paul Harris. CVs of all staff can be provided on request.

Specialist staff will be, where appropriate:

Erica Macey – small finds

Dr. Lawrence Barfield – flint artefacts

Wendy Smith - charred plant remains.

Emma Hancox - animal bone.

Dr James Greig - pollen and plant macro-fossils.

Dr David Smith - micro-fauna.

Dr Susan Limbrey - soils.

Dr Ann Woodward - Prehistoric ceramics.

Derek Hurst - Romano-British ceramics.

Stephanie Rátkai - Medieval and Post-Medieval ceramics.

## **6.0: Report**

The results of the archaeological fieldwork will be described in an illustrated report, two copies of which will be sent to the Archaeology Section, Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services. The report will be prepared to the standards set out in ‘Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland’ and will contain the following:

- (a) Description of the archaeological background.
- (b) Method.
- (c) A narrative description of the results and discussion of the evidence, set in their local and regional context, supported by appropriate plans and sections. This will include a site location plan tied into the Ordnance Survey data and any other maps relevant to the fieldwork.
- (d) Summary of the finds and environmental evidence.
- (e) Specialist assessments of the finds and environmental evidence.

The written report will be made publicly accessible, as part of the Leicestershire and Rutland Sites and Monuments Record within six months of completion. A summary report will be submitted for inclusion in *Transactions of the Leicestershire Historical and Archaeological Society*.

## **7.0: Archive**

The site archive will be prepared according to the guidelines set down in Appendix 3 of the Management of Archaeology Projects and catalogued with an accession number provided by Dr. Richard Pollard, Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services Archive Curator. The archive will consist of all written records, drawn and photographic records and also include site matrix, site summary and written observations on the artefactual and environmental data. It is intended that the archive will be deposited at the Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service with prior notification and agreement.

The archive will be prepared in line with UKIC Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage (1990) and “the Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service (LMARS 2001).

The archive will be presented to the Archive Curator within 9 months of completion of the fieldwork except due to prior agreement with the Planning Archaeologist and Archive Curator.

### **8.0: Timetable**

An archaeological watching brief will be maintained throughout below-ground works. Work is due to begin in the week commencing 27<sup>th</sup> October 2003.

### **9.0: General**

All project staff will adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

The project will follow the requirements set down in the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994).

All work will be carried out in observance of Health and Safety Policy as outlined in SCAUM Manual, Health & Safety in Field Archaeology, 1997.

### **10: References**

Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services 2003 *Brief for Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at the Paddock, Burton Hall, Hall Drive, Burton on the Wolds*

*Birmingham Archaeology  
October 2003*