

**Land Off Yoxall Road,  
Newborough, Staffordshire:  
An Archaeological Watching  
Brief. 2004**

**Project No. 1208**  
July 2004

**Land Off Yoxall Road, Newborough, Staffordshire:  
An Archaeological Watching Brief. 2004**

by

Kate Bain

*For further information please contact:*

Birmingham Archaeology  
The University of Birmingham  
Edgbaston

Birmingham B15 2TT

Tel: 0121 414 5513

Fax: 0121 414 5516

E-Mail: [bham-arch@bham.ac.uk](mailto:bham-arch@bham.ac.uk)

Web Address: <http://www.barch.bham.ac.uk/bufau>

## Contents

<i>Summary</i>	1
1.0 Introduction	1
2.0 Site Location	1
3.0 Aims and Methodology	1
4.0 Historical and Archaeological Background	2
5.0 Results	2
6.0 Acknowledgements	2
7.0 References	3

## Figures

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Development area

## Plates

Plate 1. Photograph of site under excavation

Plate 2. Photograph of trench section

## Appendix

*Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief  
Land off Yoxall Road, Newborough, Staffordshire*

## **Land off Yoxall Road, Newborough, Staffordshire: An Archaeological Watching Brief. 2004**

### **Summary**

*In June 2004 an archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks on land adjacent to Yoxall Road, Newborough, Staffordshire (NGR SK 1365 2540). The work was commissioned by A&S Enterprises and undertaken by Birmingham Archaeology. It was required as a result of recommendations made by Chris Wardle, Heritage Data Manager for Staffordshire County Council as a condition of the planning application. The watching brief produced no features or deposits of archaeological significance.*

### **1.0 Introduction**

This report outlines the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Birmingham Archaeology in June 2004 on land adjacent to Yoxall Road, Newborough, Staffordshire. The work was commissioned by A&S Enterprises in advance of a small residential development. The watching brief was undertaken according to guidelines laid down in the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2001) and observed a methodology described in a Written Scheme of Investigation, prepared by Birmingham Archaeology (2004). It was also conducted within parameters defined by PPG16 'Archaeology and Planning'.

### **2.0 Site Location**

The site is centred on NGR SK 1365 2540, on a triangle of land between Green Farm and Flax Cottage (Fig 2.) adjacent to Yoxall Road, Newborough, Staffordshire. Newborough is situated on the northwest side of Needwood Forest, three miles southwest of Hanbury, and eight miles west of Burton-upon-Trent.

### **3.0 Aims and Methodology**

The aims of the watching brief were to provide a record of any archaeological deposits or features present below the modern surface, which may have been affected by the new development and to provide an understanding of the history and the significance of the archaeology of the site as a whole. Specifically these aims are 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 surface vegetation and some of the topsoil overlying the site was removed by machine prior the commencement of the watching brief. The site was then excavated to the required level by mechanical excavator. The watching brief was carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist with exposed features excavated by hand and recorded using pro-forma feature and context record sheets, supplemented by colour print photographs and scale drawings as appropriate. All records and finds recovered were to form the site archive, currently stored at Birmingham Archaeology. This archive will be deposited with the appropriate institution at the earliest opportunity and with the consent of the landowner.

#### **4.0 Historical and Archaeological Background**

Documentary evidence indicates that the borough was situated within the manor of Agardsley. This was a “new” borough in comparison with the borough of Tutbury, both of which were founded and held by the de Ferrers family.

It was suspected that there might have been evidence of archaeological activity along the riverbank, potentially relating to medieval industry or farming practices. Little else is currently known about the site and the watching brief was primarily commissioned for the purposes of providing information to contribute to a broader understanding of the area.

#### **5.0 Results**

The excavated foundation trenches measured between 1.2m and 0.60m deep and were cut through layers of clay and gravel which most likely had been deposited during flooding episodes of the River Swarbourne which provided the eastern boundary of the site. Some areas of modern disturbance were observed but no features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded.

#### **6.0 Acknowledgements**

The watching brief was commissioned by A&S Enterprises, following recommendations made by Chris Wardle, Heritage Data Manager for Staffordshire County Council. Kate Bain undertook all site work and wrote this report. The illustrations were prepared by Nigel Dodds. Mark Hewson managed the project for Birmingham Archaeology and edited this report.

## 7.0 References

Hewson, M. *Land off Yoxall Road, Newborough, Staffordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, Birmingham Archaeology 2004

IFA 2001 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Greenslade, M.W. & Jenkins, J.G 1967 *A History of the County of Staffordshire: Volume II*, Oxford University Press

United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) 1998 *First Aid for Finds*, (new edition)

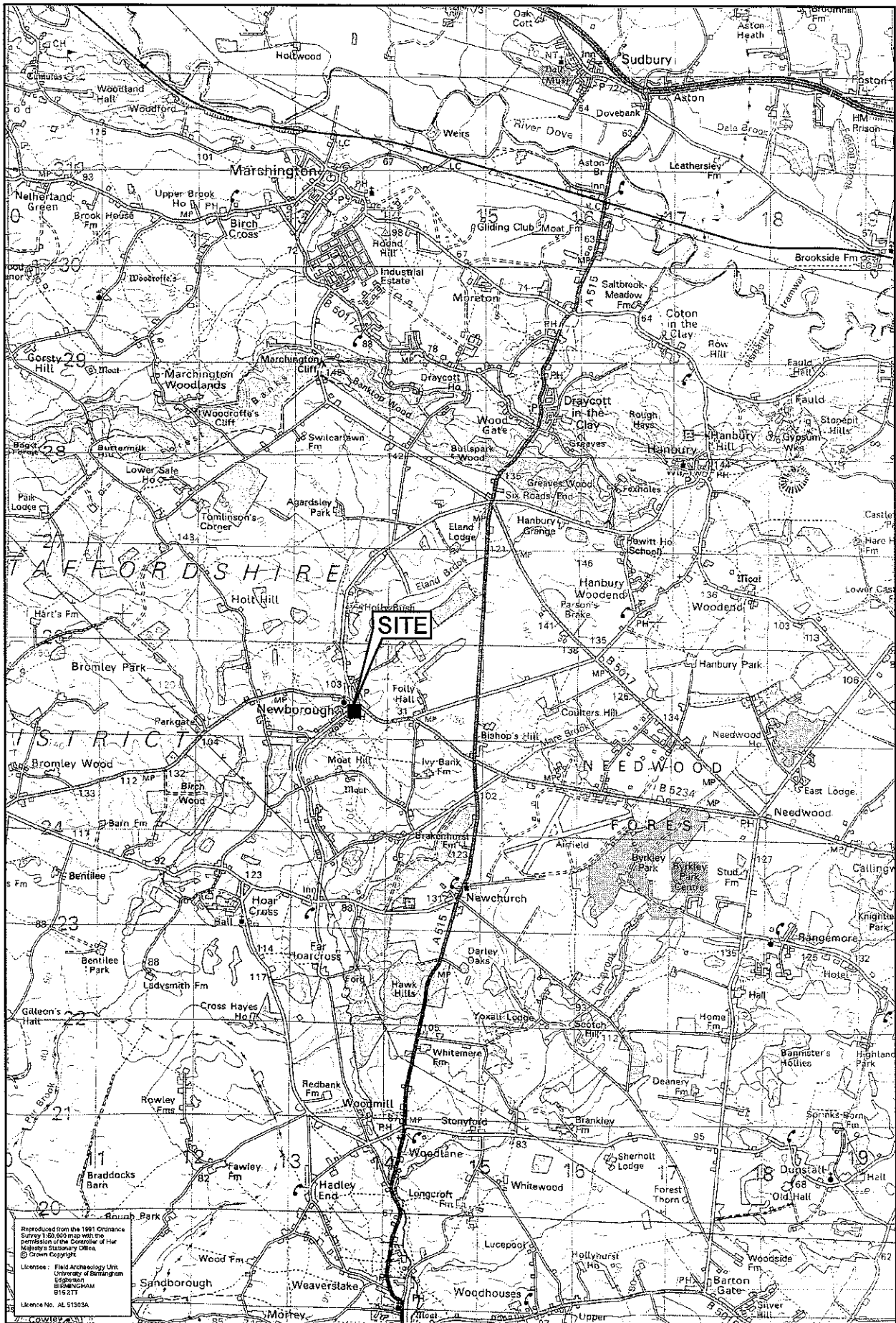


Fig.1

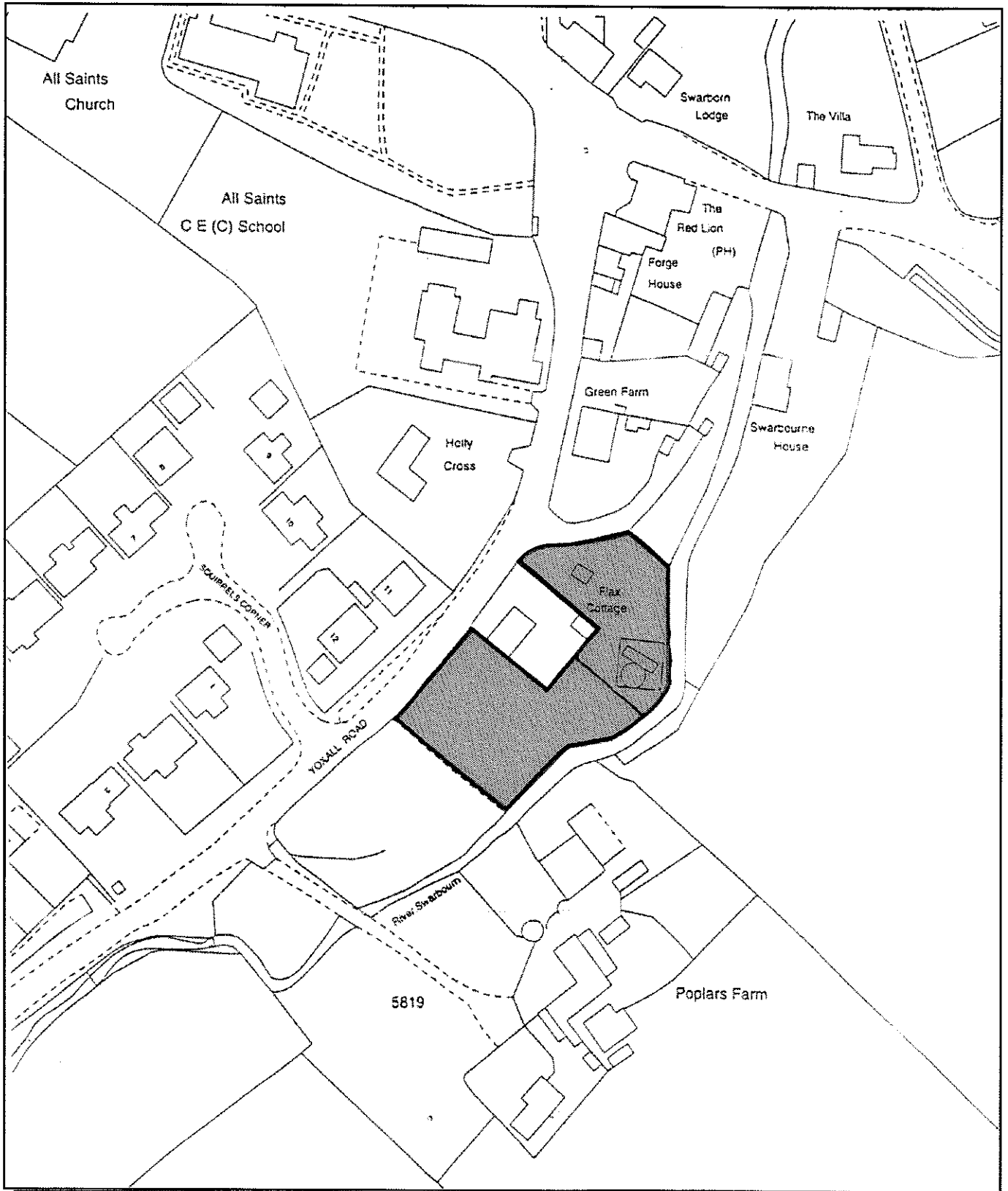


Fig.2



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF BIRMINGHAM

**Proposed Development**  
**Written Scheme of Investigation for**  
**Archaeological Watching Brief**  
**Land off Yoxall Road, Newborough,**  
**Staffordshire**  
**Developer: A & S Enterprises Limited**  
**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 as requested by the Development Services Department, Staffordshire County Council. The investigation is required to satisfy a condition of planning consent. Any variation in the scope of work would be agreed with Chris Wardle, Historic Environment Officer (Archaeology) for Staffordshire County Council, on behalf of East Staffordshire Borough Council before implementation.

The work will be carried out during the excavation of groundworks associated with the development.

## **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 all below-ground works.

## **3.0 The Site**

The site is centred on NGR SK 1365 2540, on a triangle of land between Green Farm and Flax Cottage, off Yoxall Road, Newborough, Staffordshire. Newborough is situated on the northwest side of Needwood Forest, three miles southwest of Hanbury, and eight miles west of Burton-upon-Trent. Documentary evidence indicates that the borough was situated within the manor of Agardsley. This borough was 'new' in comparison to the older borough at Tutbury, which, like Tutbury was founded and held by the Ferrers family.

## **4.0 Archaeological Watching Brief**

### **4.1: Aims**

The aims of the archaeological watching brief will be

- to monitor all below-ground works
- 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.

### **4.2: Method**

All ground works will be monitored and supervised by a suitably qualified archaeologist. Following the stripping of topsoil and modern overburden the sub-soil will be inspected for archaeological features and deposits. Spoil heaps will be examined and datable material recovered. Any archaeological deposits and features revealed during ground works will be excavated and recorded. All artefacts will be recovered and a programme of post-excavation analysis will be undertaken following the fieldwork.

## **5.0 Staffing**

The project will be managed and directed for Birmingham Archaeology by Mark Hewson BA, Ph.D., AIFA, and undertaken by an experienced archaeologist.

Specialist staff will be, where appropriate:

Dr Lawrence Barfield - Flint artefacts, freelance consultant lithics specialist.

Dr Ann Woodward- Prehistoric pottery, Research Fellow, Birmingham Archaeology, University of Birmingham

Dr Jeremy Evans- Roman pottery, Honorary Research Fellow, Birmingham Archaeology, University of Birmingham

C. Jane Evans- Roman pottery, freelance consultant pottery specialist

Stephanie Ratkai - Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery, Honorary Research Associate, Birmingham Archaeology, University of Birmingham

Dr James Greig - English Heritage Archaeological Scientist - pollen and plant macro-fossils.

Dr Wendy Smith – Charred plant remains, Research Fellow, University of Birmingham

Matilda Holmes- Animal bone, freelance consultant archaeozoologist.

Dr David Smith - Micro-fauna, Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham.

Trena Huggins – Molluscs, Dept. of Geography and Environmental Science, University of Birmingham

Dr Megan Brickley - Human Bone, Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham.

## **6.0 Report**

The results of the archaeological fieldwork will be described in an illustrated report, which 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 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.

Two copies of the report will be submitted to the Staffordshire Sites and Monuments Record, and two to the Local Planning Authority accompanied by a completed *Activity and Source Submission Form*. The client will also receive two copies and the NMR will receive one copy. A summary of the work will be offered to West Midlands Archaeology and any other appropriate journal.

## **7.0: Archive**

The site archive will be prepared according to guidelines set down in Appendix 3 of the Management of Archaeology Projects (English Heritage, 1991), the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage (UKIC, 1990) and Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological collections (Museum and Art Galleries Commission, 1992). It is intended that the archive will be deposited with an appropriate museum, such as the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent, with the prior notification and agreement of the museum. The *Conditions for the Acceptance of Archaeological Material from Excavations and Fieldwork*, as stated by the museum, will be adhered to.

## **8.0: Health and Safety**

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

## **9.0: Timetable**

An archaeological watching brief will be maintained throughout below-ground works. Work is due to begin as soon as possible after 14<sup>th</sup> June 2004.

## **10.0: General**

Birmingham Archaeology is a Registered Archaeological Organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists. All staff will adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Institute.

The project will follow the requirements set down in the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001).

Any items suspected to be 'Treasure' will be reported in accordance with *The Treasure Act 1996*.

A Home Office licence will be requested in the unlikely event that human remains are encountered and no excavation of human remains will begin until a licence is granted.

***Birmingham Archaeology***  
***June 2004***