

**Duxbury Park Golf Course, Duxbury Hall Road,
Duxbury Park, Chorley, Lancashire:**

Watching Brief Report

Prepared for: Parkwood Project Management
Atherstone Barns
Alscot Estate
Atherstone-on-Stour
Stratford-upon-Avon
CV37 8NE

AOC Archaeology Project No: 20783

National grid reference: SD 693 088

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1 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology during groundbreaking works associated with the demolition and rebuilding of a clubhouse at Duxbury Park Golf Course, Duxbury Hall Road, Duxbury Park, Chorley, Lancashire.
- 1.2 Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were recorded during the course of the works.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project and archaeological background

- 2.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Parkwood Project Management to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundbreaking works associated with the demolition and rebuilding of a clubhouse at Duxbury Park Golf Course, Duxbury Hall Road, Duxbury Park, Chorley, Lancashire (NGR: SD 693 088; Figure 1) These works were in compliance with the requirements of a planning condition (Reference 9/07/0747/FUL) imposed on the proposed development by Chorley Borough Council, who are advised on such matters by Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS).
- 2.1.2 Prior to the watching brief there were no known archaeological features within the limits of the watching brief area. The site of a Hall (Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record PRN 11188) recorded on the 1st Edition OS Map (Lancashire Sheet 77; surveyed 1844-7) which was destroyed by fire in 1859 and subsequently rebuilt and demolished in 1956 is known to have been located to the east of the development area. Documentary sources also record an earlier Hall at Duxbury in 1508, although the exact location of this building is not known. The development area lies within a courtyard area that contains buildings that date back to the 14th Century.

2.2 Location & geology

- 2.2.1 The development area is located towards the southern end of Chorley. It is set within the courtyard area of Duxbury Park Business Centre, which bounds it the north, west and south. Duxbury Park Golf Course lies to the east (Figure 1)
- 2.2.2 The underlying geology consisted of glacial till.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE WATCHING BRIEF

3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were:

- i) to monitor ground breaking works associated with the development and prevent the destruction of significant archaeological features prior to their recording;
- ii) to undertake the immediate recording of isolated finds of moderately significant archaeological material that will be disturbed by construction activities;
- iii) given the discovery of highly significant archaeological material in quantity that will suffer an adverse impact from construction works (ie preservation *in situ* is impractical), the recording of all archaeological features by means of a mitigation strategy to be formulated and agreed by LCAS on behalf of the planning authority.

4 METHOD

4.1 The details of the archaeological works were designed to fully meet the specification as laid out by LCAS (Appendix 1).

4.2 All groundbreaking works were carried out using a 360° tracked excavator using a toothed bucket approximately 1.10 m wide.

4.3 All groundbreaking works below a depth of 0.15 m were constantly monitored by an archaeologist. These included the lifting of the concrete slab across the development area, and also the external and internal concretes founds. These works were carried out after the demolition of the former club house, and prior to the construction of a new one.

4.4 Black and white print and colour slide photographs were taken during the course of the works. (Appendix 2).

5 RESULTS

5.1 During the course of the works no significant archaeological features, deposits or artifacts were recorded.

5.2 Approximately 0.1 m to 0.2 m below the current ground level, a cobbled surface was noted. This consisted of a regular pattern of small and medium sized water worn pebbles, which overlay a layer of larger cobbles. This surface lay over the

western half of the watching brief area. A 1.0 m² sample of the upper surface was planned (Appendix 3). Excavation below the level of this cobbled surface revealed it to have been laid over made ground, containing material such as fragments of metal pipes and bricks, and is clearly relatively modern in date.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The archaeological evaluation recorded neither significant archaeological features nor artefactual material. No further archaeological works are considered necessary.

**Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief
at Duxbury Park Golf Course, Duxbury Hall Road, Duxbury Park, Chorley**

Planning Permission ref, no. 9/07/0747/FUL

Prepared on behalf of Chorley Borough Council for Mr David Lancaster

1. Introduction

1.1 Planning permission has been granted for the demolition of the existing golf clubhouse at Duxbury Park Golf Course and construction of a single storey clubhouse for essential facilities for outdoor sport and outdoor recreation incorporating a bar/dining area, shop, function room and offices at Duxbury Park Golf Course, Duxbury Hal Road, Duxbury Park (9/07/0747/FUL) It is a condition of the planning approval that the applicants undertake a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation.

1.2 This specification has been prepared by Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS).

2. Archaeological Interest

2.1 The 1st Edition OS (Lancashire Sheet 77) surveyed in 1844-7 shows the Hall (Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record PRN 11188), destroyed by fire in 1859 but completely rebuilt, and then demolished in 1956, to have been located to the east of the current Club House. Documentary sources (*Victoria County History for Lancashire*) also record an earlier Hall at Duxbury in 1508, although the exact location of this building is not known. There is however still a potential for buried archaeological deposits associated with both medieval and later post-medieval occupation of the site.

3. General Considerations

3.1 Prior to the commencement of *any work*, the archaeological contractor should confirm in writing adherence to this specification, or state (with reasons) any proposals to vary the specification. Should the contractor wish to vary the specification, then written confirmation of the agreement of LCAS to any variations is required prior to work commencing. The archaeologist carrying out the watching brief should be appropriately qualified and experienced. Any technical queries arising from the specification detailed below should be addressed to LCAS *without delay*.

4. Fieldwork Methodology

4.1 An archaeologist should be present on site during the excavation of any area below a depth of 0.15m. (approximately six inches) in the area of development, whether this be for foundation trenches, service trenches or landscaping. The archaeologist should view the area as it is being dug and any trench sections after excavation has been completed. Where archaeology is judged to be present, the excavated area should be rapidly cleaned and the need for further work assessed. Where appropriate, any features and finds should then be quickly hand excavated, sampled and recorded, within the confines of the excavated trench.

4.2 Excavated soil should be searched as practicable for finds. The presence and nature of 19th and 20th century material should be noted (quantified and summarily described) but finds of this date need not be retained for processing. Finds judged to be 18th-century in date or earlier should be retained.

4.3 The actual areas of ground disturbance, and any features of possible archaeological concern noted within these areas, should be accurately located on a site plan and recorded by photographs (35mm

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black and white print and colour slide), scale drawings (i.e. plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, both including height above O.D.) and a written description sufficient to permit the preparation of a report on the site.

- 4.4 The intention of the archaeological watching brief is not to unduly delay the work of other contractors on site. This work should not, therefore prejudice the progress of the main or subsidiary contractor's work, except by prior agreement and on-site co-operation.
- 4.5 The archaeologist on site will naturally operate with due regard for Health and Safety regulations. In this case, where archaeological work is carried out at the same time as the work of other contractors, regard should also be taken of any reasonable additional constraints that these contractors may impose. This work may require the preparation of a Risk Assessment of the site, in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Regulations. **LCAS and its officers cannot be held responsible for any accidents that may occur to outside contractors engaged to undertake this survey while attempting to conform to this specification.**

5. Unexpectedly Significant or Complex Discoveries

- 5.1 Should there be, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries made that warrant more detailed recording than possible within the terms of this specification, then the archaeological contractor is to urgently contact LCAS with the relevant information to enable the matter to be resolved with the developer.
- 5.2 Any human remains that are discovered must initially be left in-situ, covered and protected. If removal is necessary, this must comply with the relevant Department for Constitutional Affairs requirements, English Heritage's and The Church of England's *Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England* (2005) any local environmental health regulations where relevant.
- 5.3 The terms of the Treasure Act, 1996 must be followed with regard to any finds, which might fall within its purview. Any such finds must be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner as required by the procedures laid down in the "Code of Practice". Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures must be taken to protect the finds from theft.

6. Monitoring

- 6.1 The recording exercise will be monitored as necessary and practicable by LCAS in its role as 'curator' of the county's archaeology. LCAS should receive **as much notice as possible in writing** (and certainly not less than one week) of the intention to start the watching brief.

7. Post-Excavation/Post-Recording Work and Report Preparation

- 7.1 On completion of the fieldwork, any samples shall be processed and all finds shall be cleaned, identified, assessed, dated (if possible), marked (if appropriate) and properly packed and stored in accordance with the requirements of national guidelines. A fully indexed field archive shall be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, and fully labelled photographs. Labelling should be in indelible ink on the *back* of the print and should include film and frame number; date recorded and photographer's name; name and address of site; national grid reference. Photographic prints should be mounted in appropriate archivally-stable sleeves. **A quantified index to the field archive should form an appendix to the report.** The original archive is to accompany the deposition of any finds, providing the landowner agrees to the deposition of finds in a publicly accessible archive (see Section 8.1 below).
- 7.2 A report should be produced to provide background information, a summary of the works carried out, a description and separate interpretation of any features and finds identified. Details of the

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report's style and format are to be determined by the archaeological contractor, but it should include a full bibliography, a quantified index to the site archive and as an appendix, a copy of this specification. The report illustrations should include, as a minimum, a location map at a reasonable scale plus any drawings and photographs.

- 7.3 If nothing of archaeological interest is identified during the course of the watching brief, then a summary report will be adequate, as long as sufficient details are supplied for SMR purposes. Illustrations would not be required, although it would be anticipated that black and white prints would form part of the archival record. A summary record should include: (1) details of the commissioning body; (2) the nature of the development and resultant ground disturbance; (3) the approximate position of any ground disturbance viewed with relation to adjacent existing fixed points; (4) the date(s) of fieldwork; (5) name(s) of fieldworker(s); (6) written observations on the nature and depth of deposits observed (this may include annotated sketch sections); (7) the conditions under which they were observed (for example, details of weather conditions, ease of access and views, attitude of other organisations *etc.*); (8) a quantified index to the field archive; (9) details of the archives present location and intended deposition and (10) a copy of this specification.
- 7.4 The report should be produced within twelve weeks of completion of the fieldwork, unless otherwise agreed with LCAS. Copies of the report should be supplied to the client, and to the Lancashire SMR as an Adobe Acrobat 'pdf' on CD-ROM. The report will become publicly accessible once deposited with the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record.

8. Deposition of Archive

- 8.1 Before commencing any fieldwork, the archaeological contractor must contact the relevant District museum archaeological curator in writing (copied to LCAS) to determine the museum's requirements for the deposition of an excavation archive.
- 8.2 It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to endeavour to obtain consent of the landowner, in writing, to the deposition of finds with the relevant Museum.
- 8.3 It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to meet the relevant Museum's requirements with regard to the preparation of fieldwork archives for deposition.
- 8.4 The relevant District museum's archaeological curator should be notified in writing of the commencement of fieldwork at the same time as LCAS.

9. Further Details

- 9.1 Any queries about the contents of the specification should be addressed to Lancashire County Archaeology Service, Lancashire County Council Environment Directorate, Guild House, Cross Street, Preston PPR1 8RD Tel 01772 531734, fax 01772 533423

10. Valid period of specification

- 10.1 This specification will remain valid for up to one year from the date of issue. After that time it may need to be revised to take into account new discoveries, changes in policy or the introduction of new working practices or techniques.

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APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Frame no.	Detail
1 & 2	Registration shot
3 & 4	Concrete slab being lifted in western half of development
5 & 6	Cobbled surface in SW corner of site from south
7 & 8	Cobbled surface in SW corner of site from east
9 & 10	General shot – watching brief area after removal of slab
11 & 12	Excavated founds removal
13 & 14	Section through and below cobbled surface.

APPENDIX 3: DRAWING REGISTER

Drg no.	Detail	Scale
1	1.0 m ² sample of cobbled surface	1:20

APPENDIX 4: ARCHIVE

Contents:

- 1) Copy of Data Structure Report
- 2) Field drawing x 1
- 3) Set of Black & White Prints
- 4) Set of Colour Slides

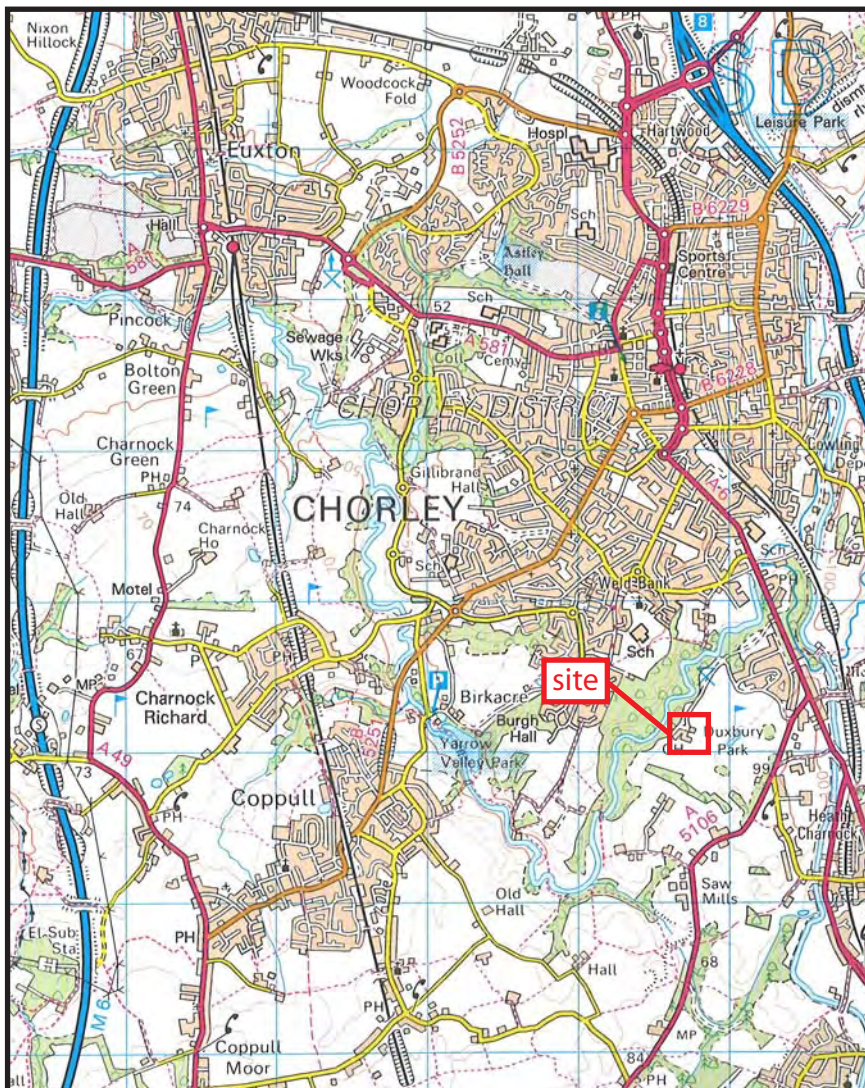


Figure 1: Site location

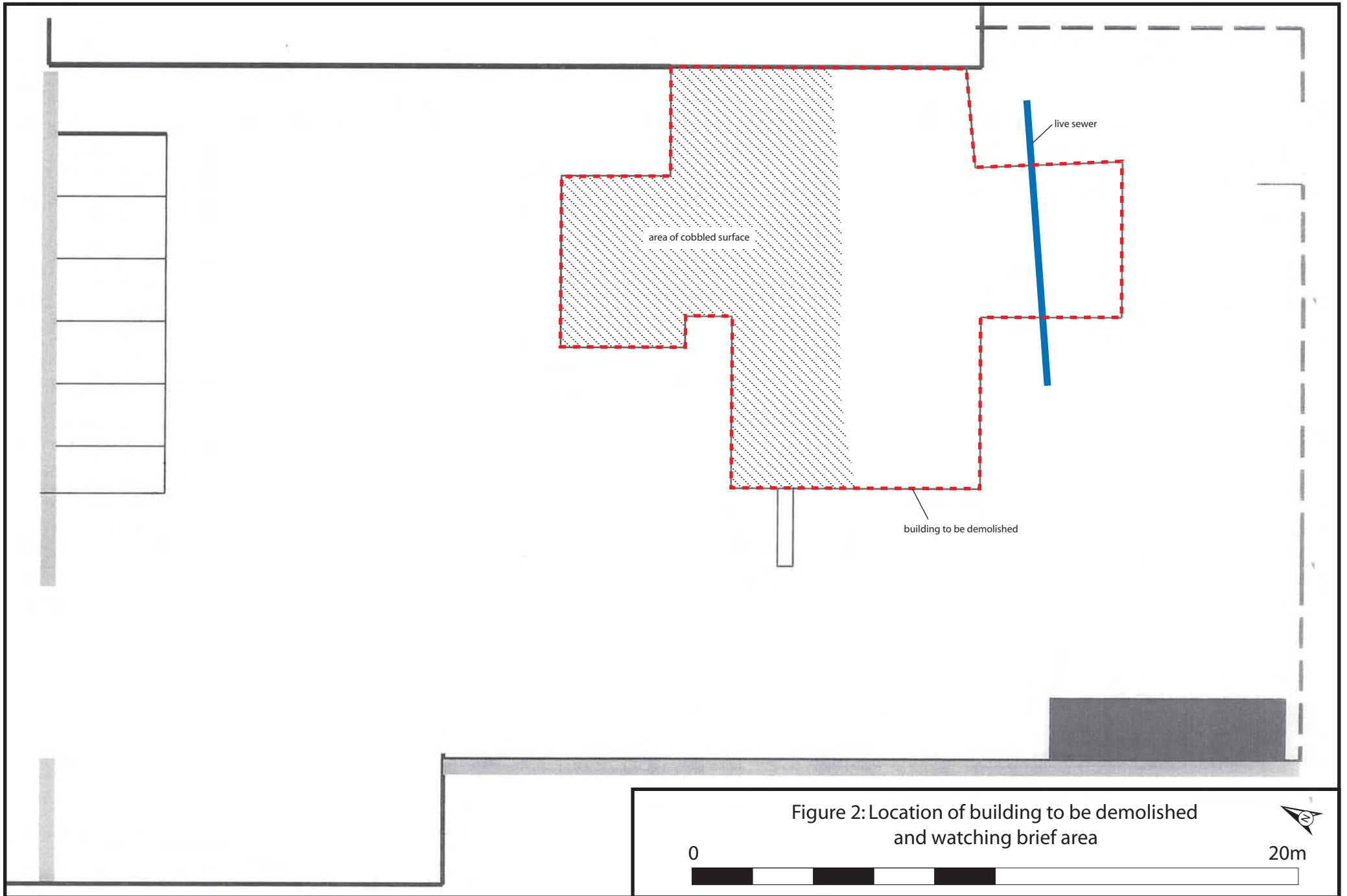


Figure 2: Location of building to be demolished and watching brief area

