



University of  
**Leicester**

---

**Archaeological Services**

*An Archaeological strip, plan and record exercise*

*on land at Station Rd, Theddingworth,*

*Leicestershire. SP 665 857*

*Jon Coward*



ULAS Report No 2009-116  
©2009

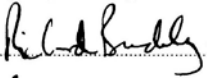

**An Archaeological strip, plan and record exercise  
on land at Station Rd, Theddingworth, Leicestershire**

**NGR:SP665 857**

**Jon Coward**

**Planning App: 05/01785/3**

**For: Mssrs. I. Lee and A. Jackson**

Checked by	
<b>Signed:</b> 	<b>...Date:</b> 01.09.2009
<b>Name:</b> Richard Buckley	
Approved by	
<b>Signed:</b> 	<b>....Date:</b> 01.09.2009
<b>Name:</b> Patrick Clay	

**University of Leicester**

Archaeological Services

University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH

Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

**ULAS Report Number 2009/116**

---

## CONTENTS

1. Summary .....	1
2. Background .....	1
3. Historical Background .....	2
4. Aims .....	3
5. Methods .....	4
6. Results .....	5
7. Archive .....	5
8. Acknowledgements .....	6
9. Bibliography .....	6
10 Appendix: Design Specification .....	7

## FIGURES

Figure 1 Location of Theddingworth, Leicestershire. ....	1
Figure 2 Location of development .....	3
Figure 3 Plan of development (provided by the developer, NTS) .....	4
Figure 4 Topsoil stripping, looking north. Note earthworks in pasture to the rear .....	5

## An Archaeological Strip, plan and record exercise on land at Station Rd, Theddingworth, Leicestershire. SP665 857

Jon Coward

### 1. Summary

*An archaeological Strip, plan and record exercise was carried out by ULAS in May 2008 on land at Station Rd, Theddingworth, Leicestershire SP 665 857, for Mssrs. I. Lee and A. Jackson. Topsoil stripping and ground reduction were carried out in advance of construction of a new dwelling. No archaeological finds or features of any significance were revealed by the groundworks. The archive will be deposited with LMARS under X.A73.2008.*

### 2. Background

Harborough District Council, as Planning Authority, required a scheme of archaeological investigation to be undertaken in advance of topsoil stripping and level reduction on a plot of land on Station Road, Theddingworth, in advance of the construction of a dwelling. The site was located in the medieval and post-medieval core of the village, within an area of a scheduled ancient monument (SM30252) comprising well preserved earthworks of presumed medieval date.

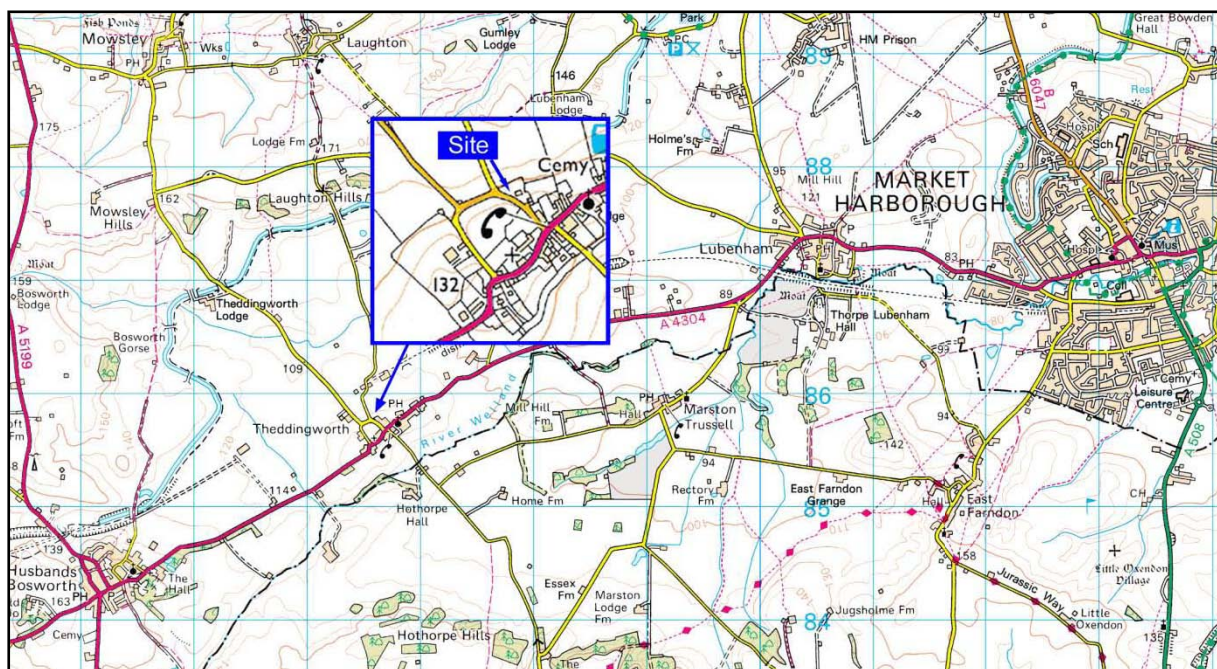


Figure 1 Theddingworth, Leicestershire. Reproduced from Explorer™ 1:50,000 scale maps (insert 1:25,000) by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495.

The site (Figure 1, Figure 2) occupied a small area covering *c.* 0.5 ha of steeply sloping land on the edge of the village, the lowest part of the site being at *c.* 125m O.D. It overlooked undulating pasture to the north, in which low earthworks (Figure

4) were clearly visible. The British Geology Survey indicated the natural substrata to be mudstones of the Dyrham foundation.

### **3. Historical Background (taken from (VCH, vol. 5)**

In 1086 there were three separate fees in Theddingworth, as well as part of the sokeland which belonged to the king's manor of Great Bowden. On the last, where in King Edward's time there had been 2 ploughs, William Loveth was the tenant in chief, (fn. 32) but it is not clear what happened to this holding. The descent of one of the three fees is almost equally obscure. In 1086 Gunduin was holding 2 carucates of the Countess Judith, (fn. 33) and in 1279 2 carucates in Theddingworth were still recognized as part of the honor of Huntingdon held by Dervorguilla de Balliol who had succeeded to the inheritance of the countess. (fn. 34) Alan St. Clare, who in 1346 was assessed for 1/16 knight's fee which he held of the Countess of Pembroke in the honor of Huntingdon, (fn. 35) clearly had some connexion with the descent of this fee, but he was also heir, through his wife, of another fee in Theddingworth, and there may have been some confusion between the two.

The descents of the other two fees are easier to follow. Roger was holding of Earl Hugh of Chester 5 carucates which in King Edward's time had belonged to Earl Harold and which in 1086 were claimed by the king. (fn. 36) Norman was holding 3 carucates which had formerly been held of Earl Aubrey. (fn. 37) There is no evidence to suggest that Roger's fee remained in the honor of Chester for long after 1086. In fact, it appears to have passed into the lordship of the honor of Skipton-in-Craven (Yorks.) by the middle of the 12th century. (fn. 38) Norman's fee seems to have been absorbed into the honor of Leicester. In medieval Theddingworth the most important demesne holdings were those of the Trussell family in the honor of Skipton and those of the Abbot of Leicester and various lay tenants in the honor of Leicester.

Robert de Meulan, Earl of Leicester, granted his land in Theddingworth to Ralph pincerna who before 1150 gave the church there to Alcester Abbey (Warws.). (fn. 39) Probably this was a gift for Ralph's life only, for his son Robert soon afterwards gave it to Leicester Abbey; Leicester appropriated the rectory and retained the advowson until the Dissolution. (fn. 40) In the late 12th century Roger de Camville, in accordance with the wishes of his father Walter, confirmed the gift of 1 carucate and 2 tofts in Theddingworth to Leicester Abbey by William of Kirby Muxloe, which had probably been made before 1156. (fn. 41) The Abbot of Leicester was holding 2 virgates in demesne and 2 virgates in villeinage in 1279, (fn. 42) and he was assessed for 1/8 knight's fee, belonging to the honor of Leicester in Theddingworth, in 1296 on the death of Edmund, Earl of Lancaster. (fn. 43) By the middle of the 15th century the abbey had 4 tenants holding 3½ virgates in villeinage, but the remainder of its property, its grange, and the rectorial tithes were leased to free tenants for money rents. (fn. 44) The rectory was still being leased immediately before the Dissolution. (fn. 45) The principal manor in Theddingworth after the Dissolution was based upon the alienation of the rectory and other former monastic property into lay hands.

There are a few buildings at the upper end of Station Road, which forms part of a loop lane rejoining the main road near the west end of the village. Most of the houses are of red brick with slate roofs and many date from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. There are two timber-framed cottages in Station Road, both probably of





1. To identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or archaeological deposits.
2. To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
3. To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
4. To produce an archive and report of any results.

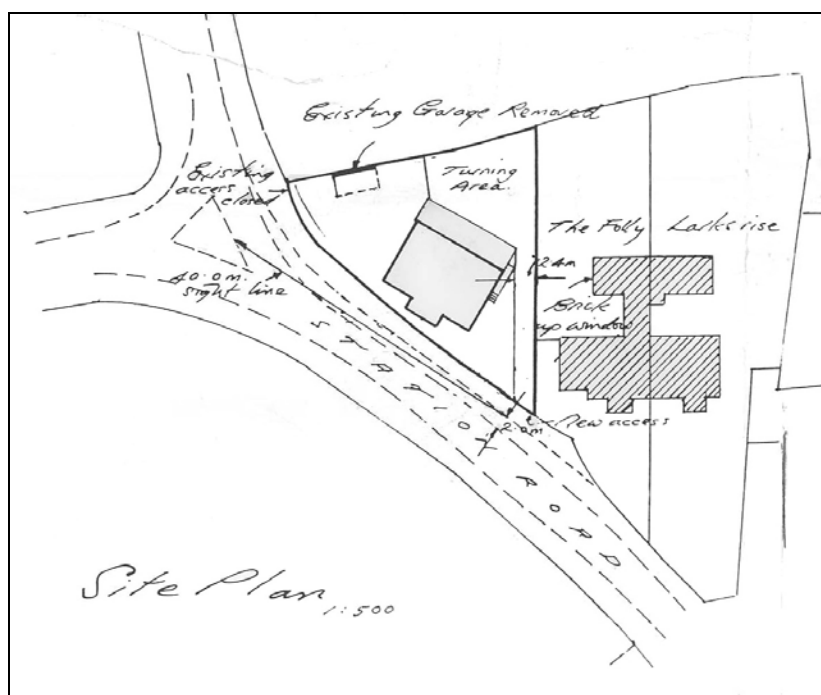


Figure 3 Plan of proposed development. Plan provided by the developer, NTS.

## 5. Methods

The design specification envisaged the opening of initial trial trenches in order to assess the depth of topsoil/overburden and determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains; in the event, as overburden was to be removed from most of the area and ground level reduced across part of it, it was decided to incorporate an archaeologically controlled strip across the area into the scheme of development work. This had the advantage of simplifying the process, and simultaneously exposing a large contiguous area for archaeological inspection.

The controlled strip was carried out with a 360<sup>0</sup> excavator using a ditching bucket. Topsoil was removed first (Figure 4), and then the interface between topsoil and the natural stratum was removed across the house footprint, the turning area, and the higher frontage along Station Road (Figure 3).



Figure 4 Topsoil stripping, looking north. Note earthworks in pasture to the rear.

## **6. Results**

The dark clay-loam topsoil was roughly the same depth across the stripped area at *c.* 0.20m, with a slight increase in depth nearer the base of the slope. No subsoil as such was noted, just a 0.05m interface between topsoil and natural substratum beneath. It was clear that the area had been intensively gardened: several tree and shrub root bowls were in evidence, and modern post-holes indicating fencing. Although there was some 19th and 20th century pottery, and other miscellaneous modern rubbish in the topsoil, no artefacts of any antiquity were noted. The frontage of the site, on the higher level facing onto Station Road, would be the area one might expect medieval occupation, but no features of any antiquity were noted here, nor anywhere else across the stripped area. Notwithstanding the name, Station Road itself must be an early road, as there are early buildings on it (see Historical background above).

## **7. Archive**

No finds were retained. The archive consists of two *pro-forma* strip, plan and record exercise record sheets, a plan of the site and area provided by the developer, and a digital photograph (Figure 4) showing the strip being carried out. The archive will be deposited with LMARS under accession code X.A73.2008 in due course.



## 8. Acknowledgements

The project was carried out by the author, with project management by Patrick Clay. ULAS would like to thank Mr I Lee for assistance.

## 9. Bibliography

VCH 5 'Theddingworth', *A History of the County of Leicestershire: Volume 5: Gartree Hundred* (1964), pp. 312-321. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=22074> Date accessed: 28 August 2009.

## 10. Oasis Information

Project Name	An Archaeological Strip, plan and record exercise on land at Station Rd, Theddingworth, Leicestershire. SP 665 857
Project Type	Strip, plan and record exercise
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Jon Coward
Previous/Future work	Construction
Current Land Use	garden
Development Type	Single dwelling
Reason for Investigation	PPG16
Position in the Planning Process	Planning consent granted, construction in progress.
Site Co ordinates	NGR SP 444 692
Start/end dates of field work	2nd-3rd May 2008
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council
Study Area	0.5ha.

Jon Coward  
ULAS  
University of Leicester  
University Road  
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel:0116 252 2848  
Fax: 0116 252 2614  
Email: [jsc15@le.ac.uk](mailto:jsc15@le.ac.uk)

28.08.2009

## ***11. Appendix: Design Specification***

### **UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES**

#### **Design Specification for archaeological work**

**Station Road, Theddingworth, Leicestershire (SP 666 858)**

**Planning Application: 05/01785/3**

**Planning Authority: Harborough District Council**

**For: Mssrs I Lee and A Jackson**

#### **1 Definition and scope of the specification**

1.1 In accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and planning), para.30, this specification provides a written scheme for archaeological strip plan and record, as required by the Planning Authority, of any groundworks on the site which may disturb areas of archaeological potential in connection with a planning application for the erection of a dwelling and associated works at Station Road, Theddingworth, Leicestershire (SP 666 858) Planning Application: 05/01785/3 for Mr I. Lee.

1.2 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's (IFA) Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Strip, plan and record exercises and the Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland (LMARS).

#### **2 Background**

2.1 Requirement for archaeological work

2.1.1 The archaeological work involves archaeological control and supervision following agreed modification to the contents of the advice letter of 16.01.2006 from LCC HNET.

#### ***2.2 Archaeological potential***

2.1 The site is located in the medieval and post-medieval core of the village of Theddingworth within an area of a scheduled monument (SM30252) comprising well preserved earthworks of medieval date.

#### **3 Aims**

3.1 Through archaeological controlled stripping and investigation:

1. To identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or archaeological deposits.
2. To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
3. To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
4. To produce an archive and report of any results.

#### **4 Methods**

4.1 The project will involve the supervision of overburden removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. Initially it is proposed to open some initial trial trenches to assess the depth of topsoil/overburden and determine the presence/absence of any archaeological remains.

4.2 Should significant archaeological remains be identified in an initial trial trench, and found to be 0.15m or less below proposed formation, the site is to be stripped down to the top of the archaeology, followed by a programme of excavation and recording, using additional personnel as necessary.

4.3 In the event that archaeological remains of uncertain significance are located in the initial trench/test pit (e.g. undated post-hole/pit), further trenching may be necessary, at the discretion of the site supervisor, to clarify their nature and significance and determine the need for a full topsoil strip.

4.4 If no archaeological deposits are identified within the trench, or the depth of overburden is greater than 0.15m, there will be no requirement for the site to be stripped to a level below proposed formation and subsequent groundworks will be subject to an intermittent strip, plan and record exercise.

4.5 The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with the contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work.

4.6 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) where appropriate.

4.7 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

4.8 All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

4.9 Any human remains encountered will be initially left in situ and only be removed under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The developer and Leicestershire County Council will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.10 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site from the project manager. These will ensure that professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for monitoring visits with representatives of the owners and Leicestershire County Council.

4.11 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located during the strip, plan and record exercise there may be the need for contingency time and finance to be provided to ensure adequate recording is undertaken. On the discovery of potentially significant remains the archaeologist will inform the developer, the Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services and the planning authority. If the archaeological remains are identified to be of significance additional contingent archaeological works will be required.

## **5 Recording Systems**

5.1 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets.

5.2 A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map, (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a plan at 1:200 (or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated.

5.3 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made on drawing film, related to the OS grid and at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Elevations and sections of individual layers of features should be drawn where possible. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans.

5.4 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared. This will include black and white prints and colour transparencies illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

5.5 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the strip, plan and record exercise.

5.6 All site records and finds will be kept securely.

## **6 Report and Archive**

6.1 An accession number will be drawn prior to the commencement of the project (Brief 8.1). Following the fieldwork the on-line OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis> will be completed. A report on the investigation will be provided following the groundworks.

6.2 Copies will be provided for the client, Sites and Monuments Record and planning Authority. The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

6.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in the 'Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage' (UKIC 1990), and Standards in the Museum care of archaeological collections (MGC 1992) and 'Guidelines for the preparation of site archives and assessments for all finds (other than fired clay objects) (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993) will be presented to Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services normally within six months of the completion of analysis. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

## **7 Publication**

7.1 A summary report will be submitted to a suitable regional or national archaeological journal within one year of completion of fieldwork. A full report will be submitted if the results are of significance.

## **8 Timetable and Staffing**

8.1 The investigation is scheduled to commence at the start of the contractors groundworks on 28.04.2008. An experienced archaeologist will be present during this work.

## **9 Health and Safety**

9.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (revised 2007) with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is in the Appendix. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate.

## **10 Insurance**

10.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with St Pauls Travellers Policy No. UCPOP3651237 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters (50%) and Brit Insurances (50%) Policy No. FUNK3605.

## **11. Bibliography**

MAP 2, The management of archaeological projects 2nd edition English Heritage 1991

MGC 1992, Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (Museums and Galleries Commission)

RFG/FRG 1993, Guidelines for the preparation of site archives (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700)

SMA 1993, Selection, retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (Society of Museum Archaeologists)

Patrick Clay  
Director  
ULAS  
University of Leicester  
University Road  
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 2848  
Fax: 0116 252 2614  
Email: pnc3@le.ac.uk

28.04.2008

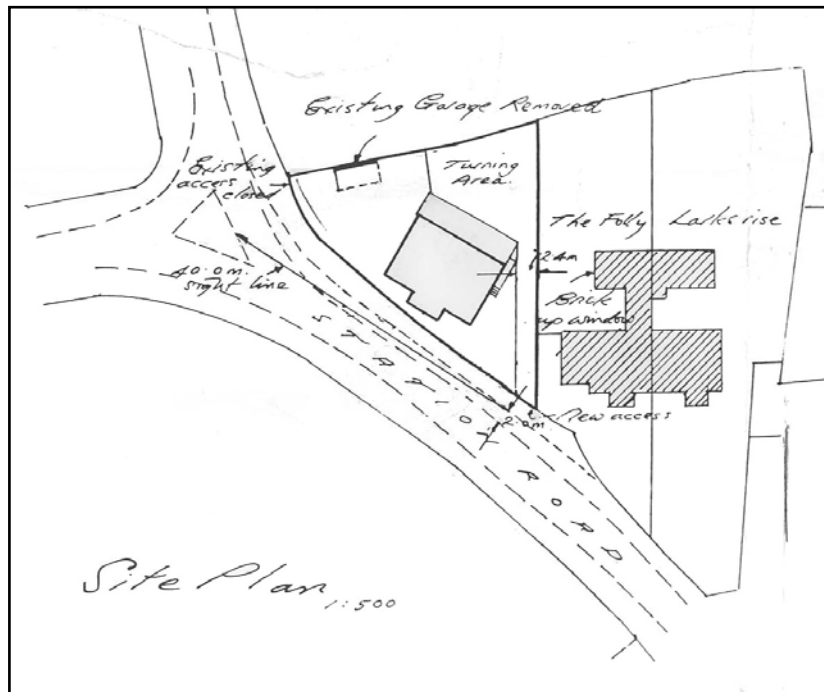


Fig 1 Location of Development





## **Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement**

**Station Road, Theddingworth, Leicestershire (SP 666 858)**

**Planning Application: 05/01785/3**

**Planning Authority: Harborough District Council**

**For: Mssrs I Lee and A Jackson**

### ***1. Nature of the work***

1.1 This statement is for archaeological strip, plan and record exercise (strip plan and sample). It will be revised following the commencement of operations when the extent of risks can be assessed in full.

1.2 The work will involve overburden stripping by JCB 3C or similar during daylight hours and recording of any underlying archaeological deposits revealed. Overall depth is likely to be c. 1.0 – 1.2m. Following stripping the exposed deposits will be examined with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and archaeological features will be excavated. All work will adhere to the University of Leicester Health and Safety Policy and follow the guidance in the ULAS Health and safety and the Standing Committee of Archaeological Unit Managers manuals, together with the following relevant Health and Safety guidelines, including the following.

HSE Construction Information Sheet CS8 Safety in excavations.

HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)143 (L): Getting to grips with manual handling.

HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)145 (L): Watch Your back.

CIRIA R97 Trenching practice.

CIRIA TN95 Proprietary Trench Support Systems.

HSE Guidance Note HS(G) 47 Avoiding danger to underground services. HSE Guidance Note GS7 Accidents to children on construction sites

1.3 The Health and Safety policy on site will be reassessed during the evaluation. All work will adhere to the company's health and safety policy.

### ***2 Risks Assessment***

2.1 Working within an excavation.

Precautions. No work will be undertaken beneath section faces deeper than 1.2m. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. A member of staff qualified in First Aid will be present at all times. First aid kit, vehicle and mobile phone to be kept on site in case of emergency.

2.2 Working with plant.

Precautions. Hard hats, protective footwear and hazard jackets will be worn at all times. No examination of the area of stripping will take place until machines have vacated area. Observation of machines will be maintained during hand excavation.

2.3 Working within areas prone to waterlogging.

Protective clothing will be worn at all times and precautions taken to prevent contact with stagnant water which may carry Weils disease or similar.

2.4 Working with chemicals.

If chemicals are used to conserve or help lift archaeological material these will only be used by qualified personnel with protective clothing (i.e a trained conservator) and will be removed from site immediately after use.

## 2.5 Other risks

Precautions. If there is any suspicion of unforeseen hazards being encountered e.g chemical contaminants, unexploded bombs, hazardous gases work will cease immediately. The client and relevant public authorities will be informed immediately.

2.6 No other constraints are recognised over the nature of the soil, water, type of excavation, proximity of structures, sources of vibration and contamination.

28.04.2008

## Contact Details

Richard Buckley or Patrick Clay  
University of Leicester Archaeological  
Services (ULAS)  
University of Leicester,  
University Road,  
Leicester LE1 7RH

**T:** +44 (0)116 252 2848

**F:** +44 (0)116 252 2614

**E:** [ulas@le.ac.uk](mailto:ulas@le.ac.uk)

**w:** [www.le.ac.uk/ulas](http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas)



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

