



# University of Leicester

## Archaeological Services

An Archaeological  
Watching Brief at 29 -  
30, Derby Square,  
Loughborough,  
Leicestershire  
NGR: SK 5352 1972  
Tim Higgins



ULAS Report No. 2012-070

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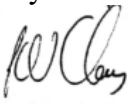
**An Archaeological Watching Brief at  
29-30, Derby Square, Loughborough,  
Leicestershire**

**NGR: SK 5352 1972**

**Tim Higgins**

**For: Mr S Choudhry and Master Plan Design Solutions**

Approved by:

Signed: 

Date: 24.11.2011.

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**ULAS Report Number 2012-070**

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## **An Archaeological Watching Brief at 29- 30, Derby Square, Loughborough, Leicestershire NGR SK 5352 1972**

**Tim Higgins**

### ***Summary***

*An Archaeological Watching brief of ground-works at land adjacent to 29 Derby Square, Loughborough, Leicestershire was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Masterplan Design Solutions. The initial groundwork consisted of the removal of overburden and ground for new extension. Attendance at the site occurred from the 24th November 2011.*

*The watching brief revealed potential archaeological deposits during the inspection of the site. The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council, subject to their confirmation with accession No. X.A173.2011*

### **1. Introduction**

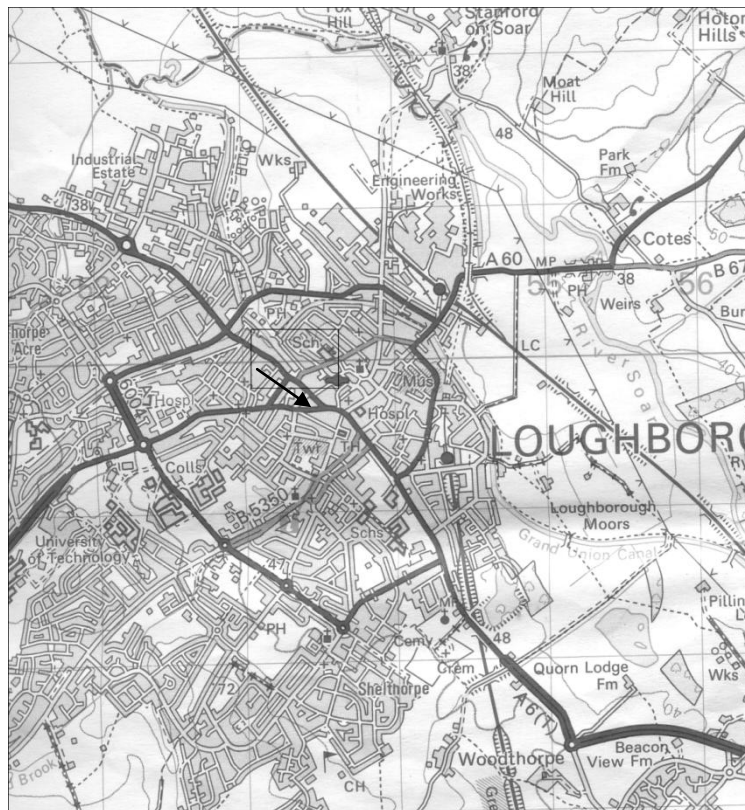
This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief of groundworks on land to the rear 29-30 Derby Square, Loughborough, Leicestershire (NGR SK 5455 1317). In view of the potential impact of the development this was undertaken as a mitigation strategy following recommendations by the Charnwood Borough Council. The work was commissioned by Master Plan Solutions on behalf of Mr S. Choudhry.

The ground-works involved ground clearance, removal of overburden and excavation of foundation trenches.

The archaeological watching brief was carried out in accordance with PPS 5 (Planning for Historic Environment). All archaeological work adhered to the Institute for Archaeologist's (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

### **2. Archaeological and Historical background**

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest, within the medieval and post-medieval historic core of the Loughborough.



**Figure 1: Site location plan**

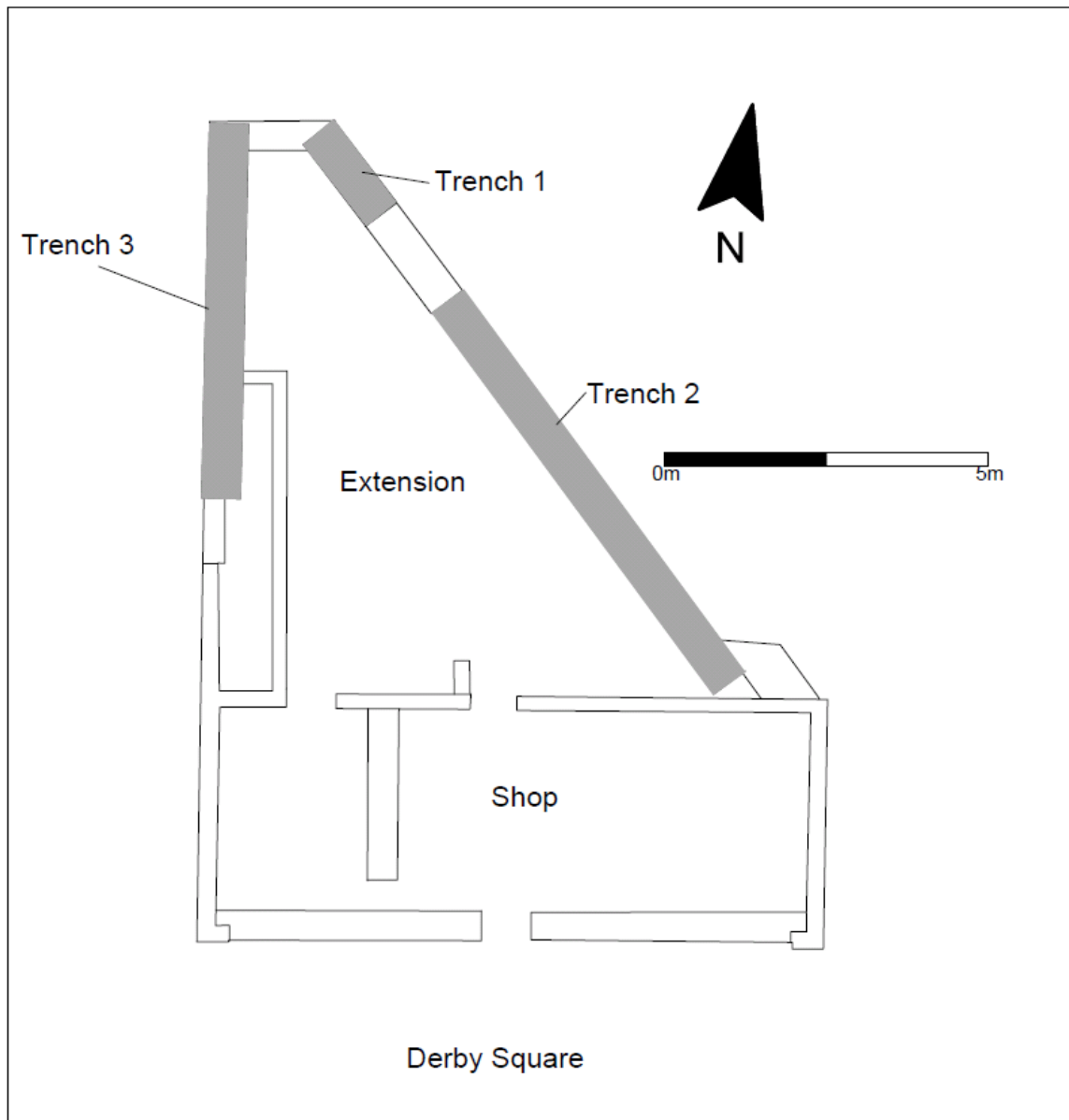
Reproduced from the Landranger 129 Nottingham and Loughborough area 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. ©Crown Copyright 1996. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495

### 3. Aims and Methods

Through archaeological attendance and, as appropriate, controlled stripping and investigation the aim of the watching brief was:

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 proposed ground-works.
3. To record any archaeological deposits to affected by the ground-works.
4. To produce an archive and report of any results.

All work and archaeological deposits encountered were recorded in accordance and follow the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, the standard policy and practice of ULAS as set out in the Design Specification (Appendix 3) and adherence to the University's Health and Safety policy.



**Figure 2: Trench location plan**

#### **4. Results**

Initial groundwork involved the clearance and stripping of overburden from rear of the development which had already taken place prior (Figure 2 and Plate 1) to a site visit was undertaken on the 24th November 2011. The site visit coincided with the excavation of foundation trenches which were all undertaken by hand. A visual inspection was conducted across the stripped area and the excavated trenches.

The excavations were located in the northern half of the development area and comprised an area measuring approximately 30.04m sq (Figure 2). The foundation trenches measured between 7.00m and 11.00m long and a width of 0.60m and a maximum depth of 0.90m. The natural substratum consisted of orange or reddish brown sand mixed pebbles found at depth of 0.90m below the present ground surface within foundation Trench 1. A substantial gravel and stone layer of made ground was

exposed at the base of foundation Trench 1 and 2 context (1) and Trench 3 contexts (5), (6) and (9). The layer comprised olive brown sand mixed with frequent small sub angular stones and large rounded pebbles. The layer was hard and compacted and measured up to 0.35m deep. Layer (9) contained two late medieval sherds of pottery, dated generally from *c.*1200/1250 to *c.*1450 (see Appendix 2 below). The low sherd weight from (9) means that this context cannot be dated with confidence, and may suggest that this pottery is residual.

The compacted stone and pebble layer was sealed by a layer greyish brown clay silt measuring 0.20m deep (contexts (2) Trenches 1 and 2, context (7) Trench 2). This layer was dirty and mixed with frequent charcoal flecks, mortar flecks, and fragments of brick. The finds found within this layer comprised of pottery sherds and bottle glass. Although the average sherd weight of the later pottery in context (2), was also relatively low, the Stoneware and the fragment of bottle glass, and the absence of 19th or 20th century fine wares, suggest a terminal date in the later 17th or 18th centuries for context (2).

Overlying was a layer of garden soil that comprised dark greyish brown clay silt mixed with occasional brick, and measured up to 0.40m deep context (8) Trench 3. Foundation trench was observed within Trench 1 and 2 cut [10], which cut the garden soil and measured 0.66m deep. The foundations contained yellowish brown sandy silt fill context (3) at the base, which supported five courses of modern brick foundation.



Plate 1: Development area at the rear of 29 Derby Square, Loughborough looking south-east





Plate 2: Extension foundation Trench 1 looking south-east



Plate 3: Extension foundation Trench 3 looking south-east

## 5. Conclusion

The watching brief undertaken at 29-30 Derby Square, revealed two possible archaeological levels.

A compacted layer of stone and pebbles was observed overlying natural substratum in trenches 1, 2 and 3. Due to the limitations of watching brief the full extent of this layer could not be determined. The layers contained two late medieval pottery sherds, which suggests that the layer could possibly be of this date. However the low sherd weight, would perhaps suggest that they are residual.

Overlying the compacted stone layer, was what appeared to be dirty mixed layer, which contained a scatter of pottery and glass suggesting perhaps some domestic occupation. The pottery sherds found within this layer suggest that it could date from the 17th to 18th centuries. A substantial modern brick wall foundation was observed within the trenches 1 and 2 and appeared to be cutting a garden soil layer that may date from the 19th to 20th centuries.

## 6. Archive and Publication

The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under accession number X.A173.2011.

The content of the paper archive consists of:

- 1 Unbound A4 copy of this report
- 1 A4 watching brief sheets
- 1 Context Record Sheet
- 10 Context Sheets
- 1 A4 Photo record sheet
- 1 Drawing Record sheet
- 1 Drawing Sheet
- A4 Colour digital contact print 1 CD of 12 digital photos

A record of the project will be submitted to the Oasis project under the code universi1-124122. Oasis is an online index to grey literature reports.

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society Transactions in due course.

## 7. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by the author while Patrick Clay managed the project, and the finds analysis was undertaken by Deborah Sawday all of ULAS.

## 8. Bibliography

Clay, P., 2011, *Written scheme of investigation for archaeological attendance: Derby Square, Loughborough, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 5352 1972)* ULAS Specification 12/551 (Appendix 3 of this report).

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), 2008, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*.

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23.04.2012

**Appendix 1: OASIS Database entry**

Project Name	Derby Square, Loughborough, Leicestershire
Project Type	Watching Brief
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Tim Higgins
Previous/Future work	None
Current Land Use	Retail
Development Type	Extension
Reason for Investigation	PPS5
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co-ordinates	SK 5352 1972
Start/end dates of field work	24/11/2011 – 24/11/2011
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services
Study Area	30.04 sq meters

**Appendix 2 The Finds      *Deborah Sawday******The Pottery***

The pottery, 37 sherds, weighing 698 grams, was catalogued with reference to the guidelines set out by the Medieval Pottery Research group, (MPRG 1998), (MPRG, 2001) and the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 1989), (Davies and Sawday 1999). The results are shown below (Tables 1 and 2).

The earliest pottery, two semi vitrified sherds, 9 grams of Medieval Sandy ware, MS3, occurred in context (9) Trench 3. These were the only finds in this context, and made up the earliest material recovered during the watching brief. The fabric is dated generally from *c.*1200/1250 to *c.*1450, with hard fired examples such as these thought to date towards the end of the period of production during the later 14th or early to mid 15th centuries.

Three sherds, 16 grams, of late medieval Cistercian ware, dating from *c.*1450/75 and two sherds, 9 grams of Cistercian/Midland Black ware, the latter dating from *c.*1550, into the 17th century were the earliest finds in (2) Trench 1. Other finds in this context included four sherds of Mottled ware, EA3, dating from *c.*1650 to 1750/80, and press moulded and wheel thrown Slipware, EA7, probably dating from the later 17th or 18th centuries. Of the remaining pottery in this context, the seventeen sherds of coarse earthenware or ‘pancheon ware’ in EA2 are not closely dated but are ubiquitous throughout the county in both post medieval and modern contexts, whilst the two sherds of Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware, appear to be early 18th century in date.

Most of this material is thought to originate from major pottery production centres to the west of the town, namely Ticknall in Derbyshire, Chilvers Coton in Warwickshire and Staffordshire

***The Miscellaneous Finds***

A single fragment of later 17th or 18th century bottle glass was found in context T1 (2).

### **Conclusions**

Most of the identifiable vessel forms are typical – Cistercian ware was generally used as a late medieval table ware including, as here, drinking vessels or cups. In the post-medieval period, the coarse earthenware, EA2, generally occurs as jars, and more commonly, wide mouthed bowls or pancheons, and is often associated with dairy processing, the making of cheese or butter, whilst the Slipware press moulded dishes, in EA7, are also typical of this ware. Stoneware mugs or jugs are another common find.

The paucity of finds from (9) means that this context cannot be dated with confidence, indeed the low average sherd weight of only 4.8 grams (table 1) may suggest that this pottery is residual. The average sherd weight of the later pottery in (2), save for EA2, was also relatively low. However, whilst EA2 is not closely dated, the Stoneware and the fragment of bottle glass, and the absence of 19th or 20th century fine wares, point to a terminal date in the later 17th or 18th centuries for the latter context.

The range of finds here accords well with the ceramic material previously recorded by the author following earlier archaeological work in or close to the centre of Loughborough, which in spite of having acquired its market status in 1221, has tended to produce predominantly late medieval and post medieval wares. It seems that the archaeological levels relating to origins of the town in the early medieval or late Saxon periods may still remain to be discovered.

Table 1: The medieval and later pottery by fabric, sherd numbers and weight (grams).

<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Sherds</b>	<b>Weight (grams)</b>	<b>Average Sherd Weight (grams)</b>
Later Med /Early Post Med				
MS3	Medieval Sandy ware	2	9	
CW2/MB	Cistercian /Midland Blackware	5	25	
Sub- Total		7	34	4.8
Post Medieval/Modern				
EA2	Earthenware 2	17	547	32.1
EA3	Mottled ware	4	38	9.5
EA7	Slipware	6	41	6.8
SW5	Brown Salt Glazed stoneware	2	16	8.0
Sub-Total		29	642	22.1
Period Unknown				
EA	Unclassified Earthenware	1	22	
Sub-Total		1	22	
Totals		37	688	

### **Bibliography**

Connor, A., and Buckley, R., 1999 *Roman and Medieval Occupation in Causeway Lane, Leicester*, Leicester Archaeology Mon. **5**.

Davies, S., and Sawday, D., 1999 'The Post Roman Pottery and Tile' in A. Connor and R. Buckley, 1999, 165-213.

MPRG, 1998 *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms*. Medieval Pottery Research Group, London.

MPRG, 2001. *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Saxon and Medieval Ceramics*

Mayes, P., and Scott, K., 1984 *Pottery kilns at Chilvers Coton, Nuneaton*. Soc. Medieval Archaeol. Mon. Ser. **10**.

Mellor, J.E., and Pearce, T., 1981 *The Austin Friars, Leicester*. London: Counc. Brit. Archaeol. Res. Rep. **35**.

## Appendix 3 Written Scheme of Investigation

### UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological attendance,  
inspection and recording (watching brief)

26, Derby Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire  
SK 5352 1972

For: Masterplan Design Solutions

Planning application: P.A P/11/0952/2

Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council

#### 1 Introduction

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

- 1.1 This document is a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological attendance and monitoring at the above site, in accordance with PPS 5 (Planning for the Historic Environment). This specification provides a written scheme for an archaeological watching brief, as required by the Planning Authority, of any groundworks in connection with the construction of a ground floor extension.
- 1.2 The document provides details of the following work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client as required by Charnwood Borough Council (Condition 2).
  - Archaeological monitoring of development groundworks

#### 2. Background

##### *Context of the Project*

- 2.1. Erection of a ground floor extension at 26, Derby Square, Loughborough, Leicestershire

##### *Archaeological and historical background*

- 2.4 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest, within the historic core of Loughborough. Consequently, there is a possibility that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the development.

#### 3. Archaeological Aims and Objectives

- 3.1 The purpose of the archaeological work may be summarised as follows:
  - To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
  - To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
  - To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
  - To advance understanding of the heritage assets
  - To produce an archive and report of any results.

#### 4. Methodology

##### *General methods*

- 4.1 All work will follow the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2010) and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008).
- 4.2 Staffing, recording systems, health and safety provisions and insurance details are included below.

- 4.3 An accession number will be obtained prior to commencement of the project and used to identify all records and artefacts.

#### ***Archaeological attendance for inspection and recording***

- 4.4 The project will involve a watching brief during groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist. During these ground works, if any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest.
- 4.5 Excavation should be undertaken by a mechanical excavator using a narrow toothed bucket .
- 4.6 If significant archaeological deposits are discovered work may need to be halted in order for contingency excavation and recording to be carried out. The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with the contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work.
- 4.7 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.
- 4.8 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded using standard ULAS procedures. Sufficient of any archaeological features or deposits will be hand excavated in order to provide the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Standard sampling amounts are:
- 50% of the exposed area of each pit and other discrete archaeological features.
  - 10% (minimum 1m section) of the exposed lengths of linear features (including slotted and interrupted ditches and pit alignments). Excavation sections will be placed to provide adequate coverage of the features and will include excavation of terminals and intersections. A flexible approach will be adopted to the location of excavation samples such that areas of exposed ditch fill with higher artefact or ecofact content may be targeted.
  - 25% of ring gullies will normally be excavated to include excavation of the terminals. Special regard will be given to significant stratigraphic relationships and concentrations of artefactual material.
  - Structural and foundation deposits will be exposed and cleaned with a view to defining their nature and any relationships.
- 4.9 All below ground stratigraphy will be recorded. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.
- 4.10 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.
- 4.11 Spoil will be monitored for artefacts. A representative sample of unstratified finds may be retained.
- 4.12 Any human remains encountered will be initially left in situ, covered and protected, and only be removed in accordance with a Ministry of Justice licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The landowner and/or developer, the Planning Authority and the coroner will be informed immediately of their discovery.

#### ***Preservation in situ and Contingency Provisions***

- 4.13 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located during the archaeological investigation there may be the need for contingency time and finance to be provided to ensure adequate recording is undertaken.
- 4.14 On the discovery of potentially significant remains the archaeologist will inform the developer and the planning authority in order for detailed discussion between all relevant parties to take place.

#### ***Recording Systems***

- 4.15 The ULAS recording manual will be used as a guide for all recording.
- 4.16 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto pro-forma recording sheets.



- 4.17 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 trench plan at appropriate scale, which will show the location of the areas investigated in relationship to the investigation area and OS grid.
- 4.18 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made. Sections including the half-sections of individual layers of features will be drawn as necessary. The relative height of all principal strata and features will be recorded. The stratigraphy of all trenches shall be recorded even where no archaeological features are identified.
- 4.19 A photographic record of the investigations will be prepared as per the brief, 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.
- 4.20 This record will be compiled and checked during the course of the excavations.

## **5 Finds & samples**

- 5.1 The IfA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to.
- 5.2 An Accession number will be obtained prior to the commencement of any on-site works, that will be used to identify all records and finds from the site.
- 5.3 Any finds that may constitute 'treasure' under the Treasure Act, 1996 will be reported to the local Coroner and removed to a safe place.
- 5.4 All antiquities, valuables, objects or remains of archaeological interest, other than articles declared by Coroner's Inquest to be subject to the Treasure Act, discovered in or under the Site during the carrying out of the project by ULAS or during works carried out on the Site by the Client shall be deemed to be the property of ULAS provided that ULAS after due examination of the said Archaeological Discoveries shall transfer ownership of all Archaeological Discoveries unconditionally to LCC for storage in perpetuity.
- 5.4 All identified finds and artefacts are to be retained, although certain classes of building material will, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording.
- 5.5 Although the environmental potential of the site is uncertain, if significant archaeological features are sample excavated, the following environmental sampling strategy will be adopted, following consultation with the ULAS Environmental Officer.
- i. A range of features to represent all feature types, areas and phases will be selected on a judgmental basis. The criteria for selection will be that deposits are datable, well sealed and with little intrusive or residual material.
  - ii. Any buried soils or well-sealed deposits with concentrations of carbonised material present will be intensively sampled taking a known proportion of the deposit.
  - iii. Spot samples will be taken where concentrations of environmental remains are located.
  - iv. Waterlogged remains, if present, will be sampled for pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and radiocarbon dating provided that they are uncontaminated and datable. Consultation with the specialist will be undertaken.
- 5.6 Wet sieving with flotation will be carried out using a York Archaeological Trust sieving tank with a 0.5mm mesh and a 0.3mm flotation sieve. The small size mesh will be used initially as flotation of plant remains may be incomplete and some may remain in the residue. The residue > 0.5mm from the tank will be separated into coarse fractions of over 4mm and fine fractions of > 0.5-4mm. The coarse fractions will be sorted for finds. The fine fractions and flots will be evaluated and prioritised; only those with remains apparent will be sorted. The prioritised flots will not be sorted until the analysis stage when phasing information is available. Flots will be scanned and plant remains from selected contexts will be identified and further sampling, sieving and sorting targeted towards higher potential deposits.
- 5.7 Where there is evidence for industrial activity, macroscopic technological residues (or a sample of them) may be collected. Separate samples (c. 10ml) may be collected for micro-slugs (hammer-scale and spherical droplets). All industrial samples will be undertaken with reference to the Centre for Archaeology Guideline on Archaeometallurgy (English Heritage 2001).

5.8 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner. Where appropriate they will be cleaned, marked and receive remedial conservation in accordance with recognised best practice. This will include the site code number, finds number and context number. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self sealing plastic bags, again marked with site code, finds and context

## **6. Report and Archive**

6.1 Arrangements will be made for the archive, consisting of record sheets, original drawings, drawn plans, photographs, notes, copies of all reports along with an index to the archive to be deposited at Leicestershire Museums in accordance with the relevant procedures.

6.3 The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent and marked with the site accession number.

6.4 The archive will be prepared in line with appropriate professional guidelines (e.g. UKIC and ADS guidelines for the preparation of archaeological archives for long term storage and *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2007).

6.7 The full report in A4 format will usually follow within six weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and copies will be directed to the client, the Planning Authority and to the Historic Environment Record.

6.8 The report will include consideration of:

- A non-technical summary.
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the work.
- The location, date, significance and quality of the building.
- The nature, location and extent of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
- The anticipated degree of survival of archaeological deposits.
- The local, regional and national context as appropriate highlighting any research priorities where applicable.
- Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
- The location and size of the archive.
- Contents of the archive

## **7 Publication and Dissemination of Results**

7.1 A summary of the work will be submitted to the local archaeological journal. A larger report will be submitted for inclusion if the results of the evaluation warrant it.

7.2 University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS form at <http://ads.ac.uk/project/oasis> will be completed detailing the results of the project. Once the report has become a public document following its incorporation into the HER it may be placed on the web-site.

## **8. Copyright**

8.1 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.

## **9. Timetable**

9.1 The watching brief is due to commence on 14 November 2011.

## **10. Health and Safety**

10.1 A Risks Assessment form will be completed prior to work commencing on-site, and updated as necessary during the site works (see end of this document).

## **11 Insurance**

11.1 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.

## 12. Monitoring arrangements

- 12.1 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and to the Planning Authority subject to the health and safety requirements of the site. Notice will be given to the Development Control Archaeologist before the commencement of the archaeological survey in order that monitoring arrangements can be made.
- 12.2 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

## 13. Bibliography

AAF  
2007                    *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*

LCC 2007            *Advice Letter*

English  
Heritage 2001        *Centre for Archaeology Guidelines on Archaeometallurgy*

Institute for  
Archaeologists  
(IfA) 2008            *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Institute for  
Archaeologists  
(IfA) 2010            *Code of Conduct*

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