University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

An archaeological watching brief at Chantry Cottage, Church Lane, Whitwell, Rutland (SK 9243 0880)

Leon Hunt

ULAS Report No 2012-043

An archaeological watching brief at Chantry Cottage, Church Lane, Whitwell, Rutland (SK 9243 0880)

Leon Hunt

for

Mr & Mrs K. Mullins

Planning Application Number APP/2011/0353

Checked by Project Manager:

Signed: 

Date: 6 March 2012

Name: Patrick Clay

University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

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ULAS Report No.2012-043

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An archaeological watching brief at Chantry Cottage, Church Lane, Whitwell, Rutland (SK 9243 0880)

Leon Hunt

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at Chantry Cottage, 4, Church Lane, Whitwell, Rutland (SK 9243 0880).

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Mrs Sally Mullins to carry out the watching brief during ground-works associated with the excavation of a wall and stripping associated with an erection of a new timber garage.

The site lies within the historic core of Whitwell and close to a medieval church. The early Ordnance Survey maps of the area show a group of houses where the development area now lies.

No archaeological features or finds were located during the watching brief. The archive for the site will be deposited with Rutland County Museum with accession number OAKRM.2012.4.

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Sally Mullins to carry out an archaeological watching brief during ground-works at Chantry Cottage, 4, Church Lane, Whitwell, Rutland (SK 9243 0880)

This archaeological work is in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment, Policy HE12.3 (DCLG 2010).

The watching brief is required as a condition of the planning consent for a new development at the site (Planning Application No. APP/2011/0353) issued by Rutland County Council.

The site lies within the historic core of Whitwell and close to a medieval church. The 19th and early 20th century Ordnance Survey maps of the area show a group of houses where the development area now lies.

Location and Geology

The site lies along the street frontage of Whitwell Road at the eastern end of the village of Whitwell (Figures 1 & 2). It lies on a raised garden around 1.5m off the road. A narrow access drive leads off the road around to Chantry Cottage and onto Church Lane. The site itself is flat on top and falls away towards the retaining wall to the north.

The site covers around 220 square metres and lies at a height of around 100m aOD.

The British Geological Survey website shows the underlying geology as being Oodial Limestone.

The site was covered in wild plants and a few cultivated plants before being cleared prior to stripping. Small trees on the site had been removed.

Figure 1: Site Location

Historical and Archaeological Background

The application area is in the historic core of Whitwell, on street frontage and close to the medieval church. On the 1st edition OS map, a building is shown occupying much of the development site, as well as the area to the west. The Ordnance Survey drawings (1814) also appear to depict the area as occupied. Whitwell is also in an area where several prehistoric Roman and Saxon sites have been located.

Archaeological Objectives

The main objective of the archaeological excavation is to determine and understand the nature, function and character of any significant archaeology on the site in its cultural and environmental setting.

The aims of the watching brief were:

- 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 produce an archive and report of any results.

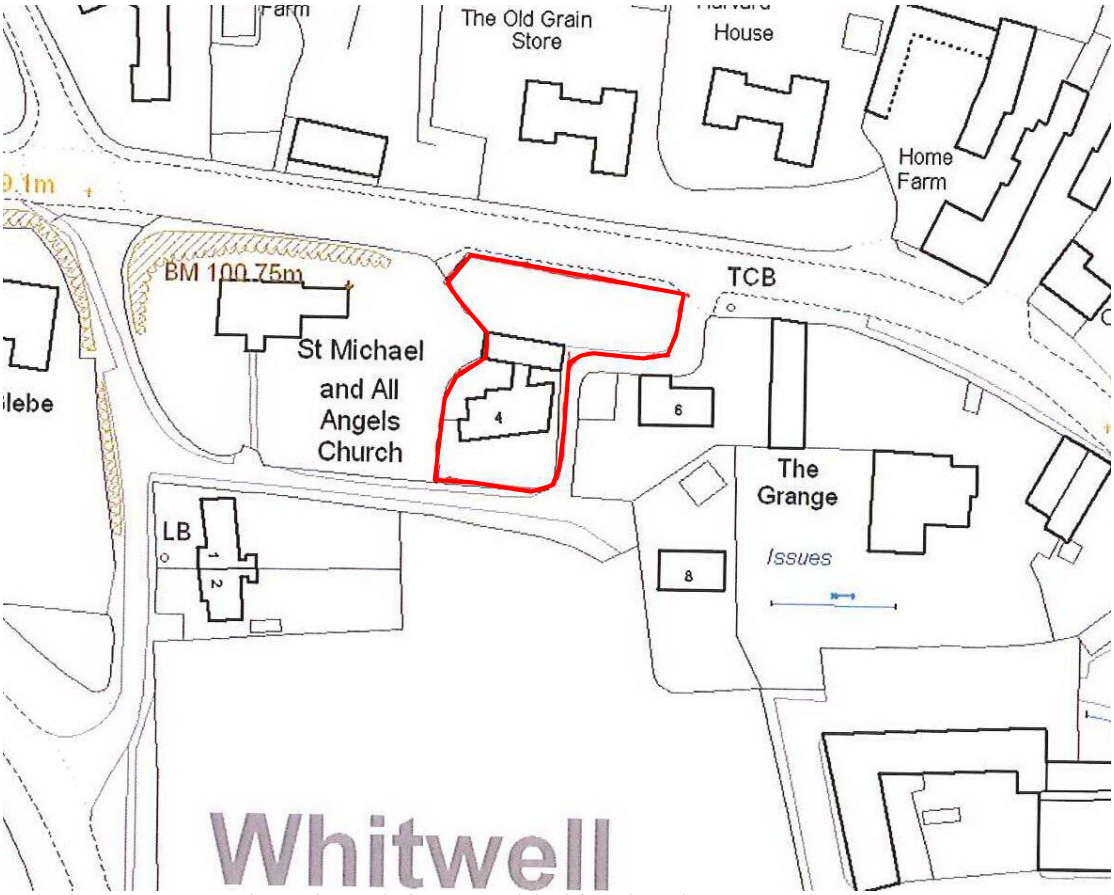

Figure 2: Location plan of site. Provided by developer. Scale approx. 1: 1250

Methodology

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2010) and adhered to their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008).

A Design Specification for Archaeological Work (see Appendix) was produced by ULAS prior to the archaeological work being undertaken.

The project involved the supervision of overburden removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works.

The work consisted of the excavation of a foundation trench for a wall and a soil strip and excavation associated with the erection of a wooden garage (Figure 3).

The soils were removed by a small tracked excavator fitted with a 0.6m toothless ditching bucket.

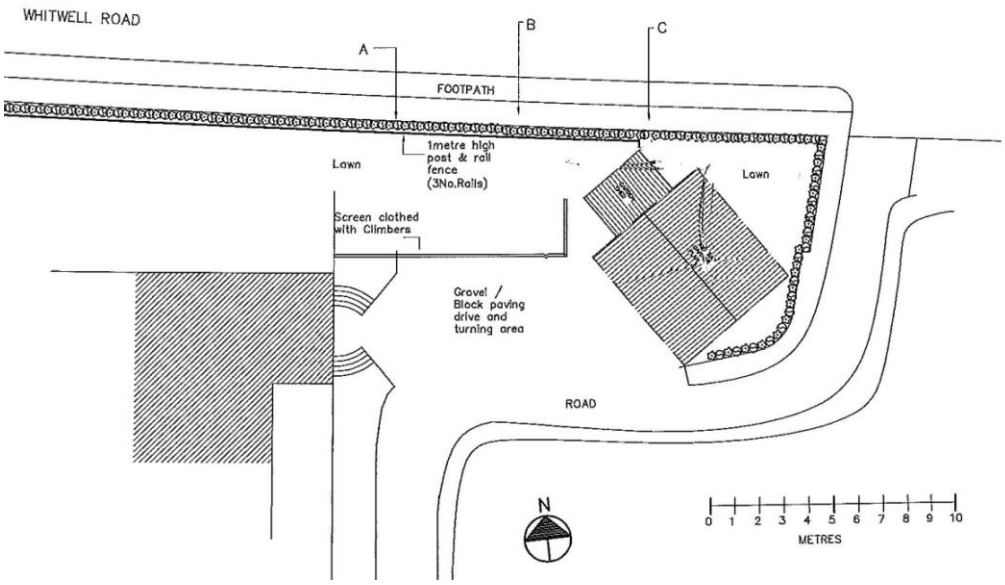

Figure 3: Plan of proposed development. Provided by developer

Results

The site was visited on 29th February 2012 and ground-works associated with the new development were observed.

The foundation trench for the wall was excavated from west to east across the front of the site. The trench was 0.7m wide, 7.3m long and 0.6m deep. The western end of the trench was quite mixed; thin tip lines of soils and hardcore overlay dark brown topsoil. At the eastern end the dark brown topsoil overlay limestone and clay.

The garage area was then stripped. This area covered around 6 square metres and was stripped to around 0.3m at the south-west end and 0.2m at the north-eastern end, as the land sloped away to the north-east. The natural sub-stratum was not revealed. No archaeological features were revealed. A concrete stanchion was dug out close to the centre of the garage footprint.

Seven square post-holes were then excavated around the edges of the stripped area for timber posts. These were around 0.7m square and varied in depth from 0.5m at the south-western end to around 0.3m at the north-eastern end.

At the south-western end natural limestone was revealed under the dark brown topsoil and mid yellowish brown subsoil. Within the other holes only yellowish brown subsoil was revealed under around 0.3m of topsoil. No archaeological features were observed.

Conclusion

The excavation of the wall trench did not penetrate beyond upper soils and tip lines throughout most of its length. The natural substratum was only encountered at the very eastern end.

The stripping of the area for the garage also did not penetrate very deeply into the ground. Only in the post-holes at the south-western end was the natural limestone revealed.

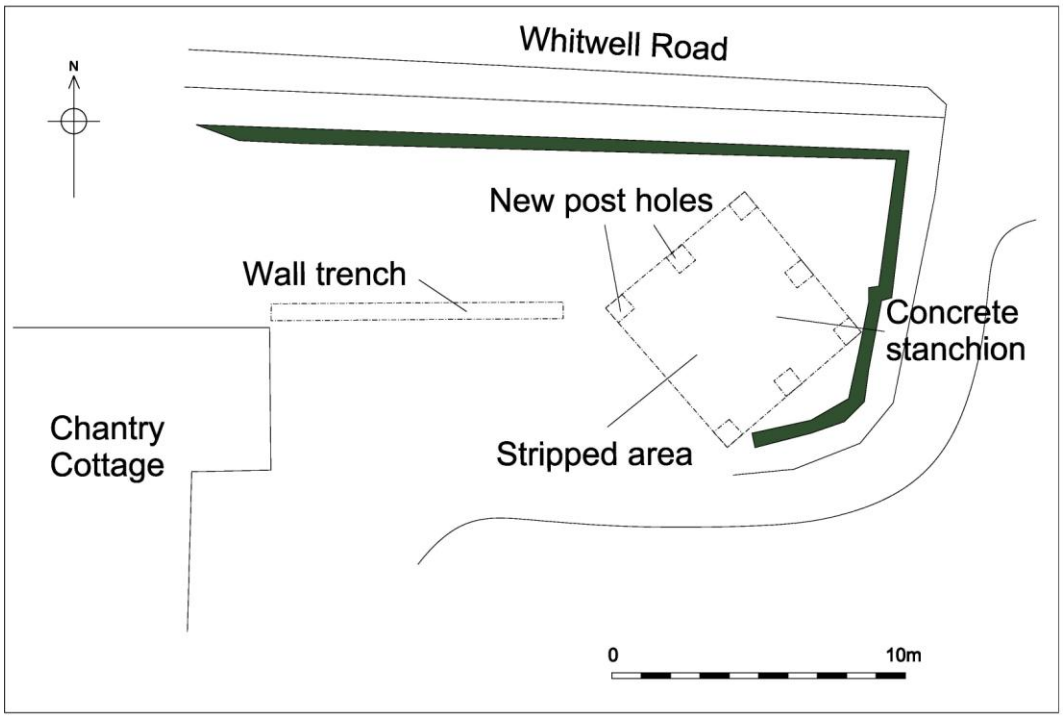

Figure 4: Plan of ground-works observed during watching brief

No archaeological features were revealed and no finds were recovered. If any remnants of the houses that once were situated along the street frontage at the site have survived the excavations did not appear to have penetrated deep enough to reveal them. The ground may have been built up here to provide a flat garden at the front of the house and also the presence of the concrete stanchion may indicate some previous disturbance at the site.

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Kevin and Sally Mullins, and contractor Gary Cooper and team for their help and co-operation during this work.

The watching brief was carried out by the author and Patrick Clay was the project manager.

Archive

The archive for this project will be deposited with Rutland County Museum with accession number OAKRM.2012.4 and consists of the following:

1 Unbound copy of this report

1 Watching brief recording sheet

1 Photo record sheet

1 CD digital photographs

1 Contact sheet photographs

1 Set B & W contact sheets

1 Set B & W negatives

The report will be listed on the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York. Available at: http://oasis.ac.uk/

Project Name	Chantry Cottage, Whitwell
Project Type	Watching brief
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Leon Hunt
Previous/Future work	No/No
Current Land Use	Garden
Development Type	New garage
Reason for Investigation	PPS 5
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	SK 9243 0880
Start/end dates of field work	29-02-2012
Archive Recipient	Rutland County Museum
Height min/max	100m aOD
Study Area	220 sq. m
Finds	None

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02-03-2012

Plate 1: The site from Whitwell Road, looking south-west

Plate 2: The wall trench, post excavation looking north-east

Plate 3: Work in progress, looking east

Plate 4: Garage area stripped, looking west

Plate 5: New post-hole, at western edge, looking north-east

APPENDIX: Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological attendance

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological attendance,

inspection and recording (watching brief)

Chantry Cottage, Church Lane, Whitwell, Oakham, Rutland SK 9243 0880

For: ***Rutland County Council***

Planning application: ***APP/2011/0353***

Planning Authority: ***Rutland County Council***

Scheduled Start date: TBC

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, during the excavation of a wall trench and stripping for the erection of a new garage

1.2 The document provides details of the following work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client as recommended by the Principal Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council..

- Archaeological monitoring of groundworks

2. Background

Context of the Project

2.1. Planning permission has been granted for the construction of a garage at Chantry Cottage, Church Lane, Whitwell (APP/2011/0353)

Archaeological and historical background

2.4 The application area is in the historic core of Whitwell, on street frontage and close to the medieval church. On the 1st edition OS map, a building is shown occupying much of the development site, as well as the area to the west. The Ordnance Survey drawings (1814) also appear to depict the area as occupied. Whitwell is also in an area where several prehistoric Roman and Saxon sites have been located.

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 toothless bucket for stripping in level spits. A toothed bucket may be used for removing modern overburden or rubble deposits.

4.6 If the initial monitoring identifies areas of no archaeological interest (e.g. modern made ground or disturbed areas), then the archaeologist may stand down monitoring of that area.

4.7 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.

4.8 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.

4.9 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.

4.10 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.

4.11 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.

4.12 Spoil will be monitored for artefacts. A representative sample of unstratified finds may be retained.

4.13 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

4.14 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.

4.15 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

4.16 The ULAS recording manual will be used as a guide for all recording.

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

4.18 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.

4.19 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.

4.20 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.

4.21 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-slags (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://www.oasis.ac.uk 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 at a date to be confirmed.

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. Employers Liability Insurance and Public/Products Liability Insurance Allianz Insurance plc Policy No. SZ/21696148 Professional Indemnity Insurance – Newline Underwriting Management Ltd Policy No. WD1100541

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*
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*

Patrick Clay

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Figure 1 Plan of the Application area (not to scale)

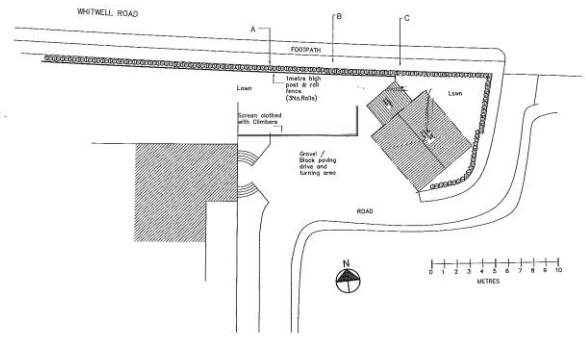

Figure 2 Plan of proposed new garage

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF METHOD STATEMENT & RISK ASSESSMENT

Site Name	Job No	Start Date	PM	Contact
Chantry Cottage, Church Lane, Whitwell, Rutland **SK 90121 04777**	12-576	TBC	Patrick Clay	0116 252 2848

Site Director	Site Contacts	Team (Nos)
TBC		1

SITE WORKS & METHOD STATEMENT

The work will involve the monitoring of groundworks across the area as detailed in the specification followed by excavation of archaeological deposits.

All work will adhere to the University of Leicester Health and Safety Policy and follow the guidance in the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (2001)

Watching Brief Method Statement

Any known services will be marked on the ground and avoided. All machine excavation will be carefully monitored.

Excavation: Work will be conducted as per the *Methodology* detailed in the specification. Machining will be conducted using ULAS SSOW1. Any lone working on site will be undertaken according to ULAS SSOW2 (Appendix 1).

A first aid kit and a site phone will be available on site at all times. At least one member of staff will have first aid training.

Equipment

All plant will be the responsibility of the client.

ULAS vehicles or personal cars will be used (all appropriately insured and maintained).

Besides the plant, equipment will include a variety of hand tools (e.g. shovels, mattocks, trowels), recording materials (e.g. photographic equipment, computers, levels etc.), survey equipment (e.g. EDM, DGPS) CAT scanners and metal detectors may be used.

Personnel

The site director (as above) will be responsible for the day to day running of the site. Specialists and visitors may be invited to visit the site during fieldwork. It is expected to hire plant and operators from a reputable local company.

All personnel are experienced in working with plant and in the excavation of trenches. All site staff hold CSCS cards and many also hold a SPA quarry passport. All site staff have some first aid training.

Normal working hours are 7 hours a day between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday.

Monitoring and communications

ULAS management and site staff details are as above.

Work will be monitored internally by the ULAS Project Manager and/or Health & Safety Co-ordinators.

ULAS method statements are prepared following standard guidelines and after consultation with the University Safety Services Department. Communication of the contents of the method statement to site staff is the responsibility of the Site Director. The risk assessment will be updated weekly or when conditions change.

Accident Reporting

All accidents will be logged using ULAS accident forms and report to the ULAS Main Office (0116 2522848) and if necessary to the University of Leicester Safety Services Dept (Appendix 2).

Contact Details

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Archaeological Services

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