

# **Archaeological Services**

## An Archaeological Watching Brief at Tower House, 4 School Street, Rothley, Leicester [NGR SK 586 127]

Roger Kipling



ULAS Report No 2012-114 ©2012

## An Archaeological Watching Brief at Tower House, 4 School Street, Rothley, Leicester NGR SK 586 127]

**Roger Kipling** 

For: Mr. & Mrs. Byass

Approved by	
Signed: Auchley Name: R.J. Buckley	·

### **University of Leicester**

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## An Archaeological Watching Brief at Tower House, 4 School Street, Rothley, Leicester [NGR SK 586 127]

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### Summary

A programme of archaeological watching brief was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Mr. & Mrs. Byass at Tower House, 4 School Street, Rothley, Leicester, on 25th July 2012.

The archaeological programme of monitoring of building development groundworks did not reveal any evidence of archaeological finds, features or deposits, with the exception of a small quantity of disarticulated human skeletal material recovered from the garden soil. This echoes recent results from excavations on the adjacent property, where numerous burials were revealed, and reflects the property's close proximity to the church.

The site archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service under the accession number X.A71.2012.

### Introduction

A programme of archaeological attendance and monitoring (watching brief) was undertaken by staff of University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of on behalf of Mr. & Mrs. Byass at Tower House, 4 School Street, Rothley, Leicester, on 25th July 2012.

This work was in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012) Section 12 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment, and was intended to provide a record of any buried archaeological remains which may be impacted on by the development. In view of the archaeological potential of the site, the planning authority, Charnwood Borough Council, had added a condition for the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation to ensure that any archaeological remains disturbed by the proposals be adequately recorded.

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 157 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of River Terrace Deposits Undifferentiated (RTDU).

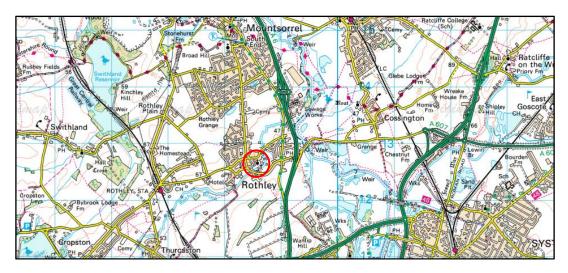


Figure 1: Site Location. Scale 1: 50 000 Reproduced from Landranger 1:50 000 by permission of Ordnance Survey<sup>®</sup> on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495.

### Aims and Methods

The archaeological work followed a written scheme of investigation, and was intended to provide a record of any buried archaeological remains which would be impacted on by the development. All work was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) Code of Conduct and adhered to their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

The aims of project were to:

- 1. Identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or archaeological deposits.
- 2. Establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by proposed ground-works.
- 3. Record any archaeological deposits to affected by the ground-works.
- 4. Produce an archive and report of any results.

The programme of archaeological monitoring of development groundworks consisted of a watching brief during the machine excavation of footings trenches for an orangery building to the rear of 4, School Street, Rothley, as agreed with the Planning Authority. Excavation was undertaken using a HI-Gear tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.40m wide toothed ditching bucket.

### Archaeological and Historical Background

The site is known to lie within an area of archaeological importance, falling within the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of the village and also being situated adjacent to the church. It was therefore viewed as a possibility that that buried archaeological remains may have been affected by the development.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies within an area of significant archaeological interest. Recent excavation in the adjacent plot (Rothley Grange) revealed numerous burials (HER Ref. No. MLE16054), possibly related to the church (MLE13258). If the churchyard originally extended further than it does now, it was thought possible that burials may also be present on the site of the proposed development. In addition, Roman finds were recovered during the excavations (MLE16109), lending support to the theory of the presence of a Roman villa – a mosaic is marked on the late C19th map in the area of the Old Vicarage (MLE16767). Consequently, there was the likelihood that buried archaeological remains would be affected by the development.

An archaeological Strip, Map and Sample excavation at the same property in connection with the construction of a double garage revealed no archaeological finds, features or deposits (Farnworth Jones 2009).

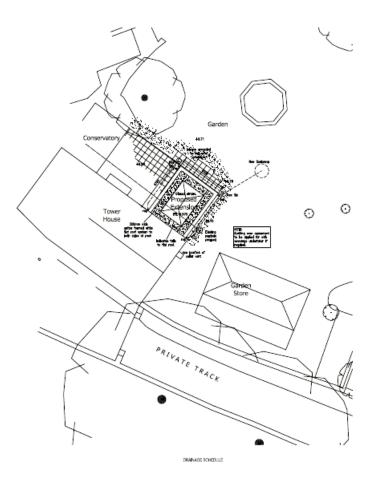


Figure 2: Site plan of proposed development (supplied by client); scale 1:100

#### Results

Following initial hand-removal of part of a slabbed York stone patio area, a c.0.20m depth of mill waste foundations were removed by machine using a HI-Gear tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.40m wide toothed ditching bucket (Figure 4), revealing an underlying dark grey clay loam topsoil. Subsequently a D-shaped foundation trench measuring  $c.8m \times 10m \times 1m$  deep was excavated flush with the rear wall of the property (Figure 5).



Figure 3: General view of development area; view southwest



Figure 4: Machine removal of patio area in progress; view southeast

Hand-cleaning of a representative section of a face of the resultant foundation trench revealed a sequence comprising 0.20m of mill waste, 0.60m of dark grey clay loam

garden soil overlying 0.50m of a mixed pale grey/pale brown silty clay loam subsoil and a dull orange-brown natural clay with pale greenish patching (Figure 6).

No archaeological deposits or features were observed. Several disarticulated fragments of human leg bone were, however, recovered from the garden soil during the course of excavation of the footings trench.



Figure 5: Machining of groundworks in progress; view southeast



Figure 6: Sample section of machine footings trench; 1m scale

### **Concluding Remarks**

The archaeological watching brief at Tower House, Rothley, revealed no evidence of archaeological features or deposits. However, the recovery of a small quantity of human skeletal material from the garden soil echoes previous recent results from excavations on the adjacent property, where numerous burials were revealed, and reflects the property's close proximity to the church.

The site archive (X.A71.2012), consisting of human skeletal material, and paper and photographic records, will be housed with Leicestershire Museums Service.

The archive consists of:

- Human skeletal material (4 fragments)
- 1 record sheet
- Digital photographs
- A risk assessment form

### Publication

A version of the excavation summary (see above) will appear in due course in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*.

### Acknowledgements

Roger Kipling of ULAS undertook the archaeological watching brief on behalf of Mr. & Mrs. Byass. The project was managed by Richard Buckley.

### **Oasis Information**

Project Name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Tower House, 4 School Street, Rothley, Leicester (SK 586 127		
Project Type	Watching brief		
Project Manager	Richard Buckley		
Project Supervisor	Roger Kipling		
Previous/Future work	Residential development		
Current Land Use	Garden		
Development Type	Residential housing		
Reason for Investigation	NPPF (Section 12)		
Position in the	Post-determination condition		
Planning Process			
Site Co ordinates	Sk 586 127		
Start/end dates of field work	25th July 2012		
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service		
Study Area	100m <sup>2</sup>		

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### **Appendix 1: Written Scheme of Investigation**

### 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 NPPF (Section 12 Enhancing and Conserving 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 erection of an extension at School Street, Rothley.
- 1.2 The document provides details of the following work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client as recommended by Charnwood Borough Council.
  - Archaeological monitoring of development groundworks

### 2. Background

### Context of the Project

2.1. The planning consent is for the construction of an orangery to the rear of Tower House, 4 School Street, Rothley (Figs 1-3). In view of the archaeological potential of the site, the planning authority has added a condition for the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation to ensure that any archaeological remains distubed by the proposals are adequately recorded.

### Archaeological and historical background (taken from the advice letter)

- 2.4 The site lies within an area of archaeological importance. It falls within the medieval and postmedieval historic settlement core of the village and also lies next to the church. There is therefore the possibility that buried archaeological remains may be affected by the development.
- 2.5 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of significant archaeological interest. Recent excavation in the adjacent plot (Rothley Grange) has uncovered numerous burials (HER Ref. No. MLE16054), which may be related to the church (MLE13258). If the churchyard originally extended further than it does now, it is possible that burials may also be present on the site of the proposed development. In addition, Roman finds were recovered during the excavations (MLE16109), which go some way to confirming the presence of a Roman villa a mosaic is marked on the late C19th map in the area of the Old Vicarage (MLE16767). Consequently, there is likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the development.
- 2.6 An archaeological Strip, Map and Sample excavation on this site in connection with the construction of a double garage revealed no archaeological finds, features or deposits (Farnworth Jones 2009).

### 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 microslags (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 <u>http://ads.ac.uk/project/oasis</u> 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 12th September 2011.

#### 10. Health and Safety

10.1 A Risks Assessment form will be completed prior to work commencing onsite, 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	Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in creation, compilation,
2007	transfer and curation

LCC 2007 Advice Letter

Centre for Archaeology Guidelines on Archaeometallurgy Heritage 2001

Farnworth An Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample on land at 4 School Street, Jones, G., 2009 Rothley, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 586 126) ULAS Report 2009-118

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) 2008

English

Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) 2010

Code of Conduct

**Richard Buckley** Director ULAS University of Leicester University Road Leicester LE1 7RH

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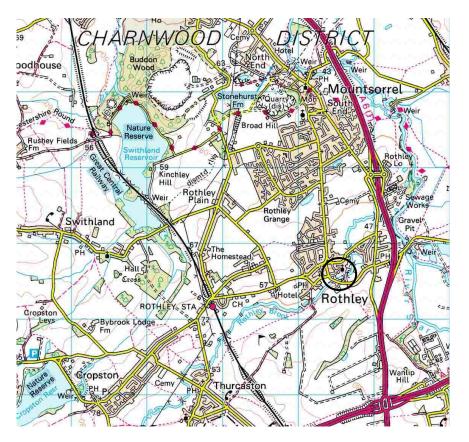


Fig. 1 Location plan

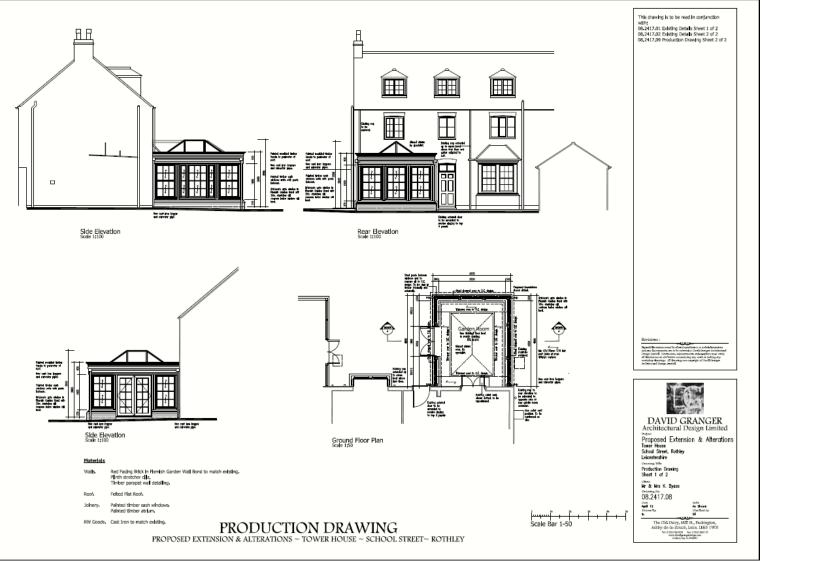
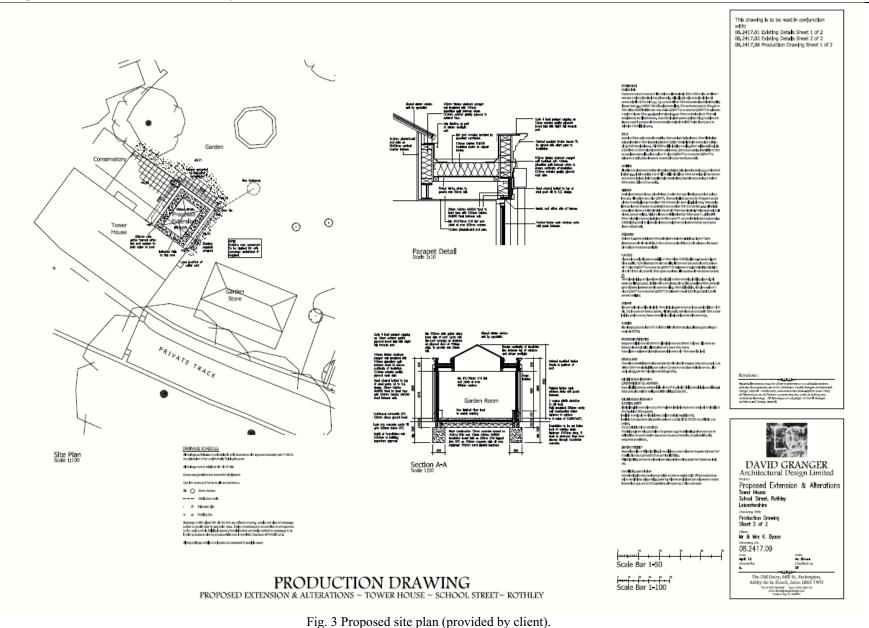


Fig. 2 Proposed site plan (provided by client).



#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF METHOD STATEMENT & RISK ASSESSMENT

Site Name	Job No	Start Date	PM	Contact	
4 School Street, Rothley, Leicester	12-192	TBC	Richard Buckley	0116 252 2848	
Site Director	Site Contacts		Team (Nos)	Team (Nos)	
TBC			1	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**

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

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