

Archaeological Services

An archaeological watching brief during groundworks at 8, Main Road, Twycross, Leicestershire (SK 337 050)

Leon Hunt



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An archaeological watching brief during groundworks at 8, Main Road, Twycross, Leicestershire (SK 337 050)

Leon Hunt

for

Planning Application Number 11/00832/FUL

Checked by Project Manager

Signed:

Date: 28.04.2013

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CONTENTS

Summary	Ĺ
Introduction	
Location and Geology2	2
Historical and Archaeological Background	
Archaeological Objectives	
Methodology	
Results	
Conclusion	
Acknowledgements	
Publication	
Archive	
APPENDIX: Written Scheme of Investigation	
FIGURES	
Figure 1: Site Location	
PLATES	
Plate 1: The foundation trenches completed, looking south-west	
Plate 2: North-east facing section, looking south-west	
Plate 3: North-west facing section, looking south-east	3
Plate 4: Excavation to front of dwelling, showing services, looking north-east	

An archaeological watching brief during groundworks at 8, Main Road, Twycross, Leicestershire (SK 337 050)

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) during ground-works at 8, Main Road, Twycross, Leicestershire (SK 337 050).

The watching brief is required as a condition of the planning consent for the erection of a new extension and alterations to the existing building at the above address (Planning App. No. 11/00832/FUL).

The site lies within the medieval historic core of the village and in close proximity to a moated manorial site). Previous archaeological fieldwork undertaken by ULAS on land to the rear of 17-19 Church Street, revealed medieval deposits thought to be associated with the manorial site. The site also lies close to an area of high Roman activity and therefore there may also be potential for archaeological remains from the Roman period.

The site was visited by an archaeologist on 3rd April 2013 and foundation trenches associated with the construction of the new extension were observed. The soil sequence was very uniform across the site and undisturbed. No archaeological features were observed during the watching brief and no archaeological artefacts were retrieved during the work.

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A39.2013.

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Nigel Morris to carry out an archaeological watching brief during ground-works at 8, Main Road, Twycross, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 337 050).

This archaeological work is in accordance with NPPF Section 12: Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment.

The watching brief is required as a condition of the planning consent for the erection of a new extension and alterations to the existing building at the above address (Planning App. No. 11/00832/FUL).

The site lies within the historic core of the village and in close proximity to the earthwork remains of a moated manorial site, a scheduled monument (SM 17064). Previous archaeological fieldwork undertaken by ULAS on land to the rear of 17-19 Church Street, revealed medieval deposits thought to be associated with the manorial site.

Twycross also lies within an area of high Roman activity and therefore there may also be potential for archaeological remains from the Roman period.

Location and Geology

Twycross lies in the Hinckley and Bosworth District of Leicestershire, around 7miles west of Market Bosworth (Figure 1).

The site lies to the rear of No. 10, Main Road, Twycross at the end of a gravelled drive. The main focus of the watching brief was on the land to the rear (north-east) of the bungalow at 8, Main Street (Figure 2).

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 155 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of sands and gravels. The site lies at a height of c.126m above Ordnance Datum and the site covers c.0.1ha.

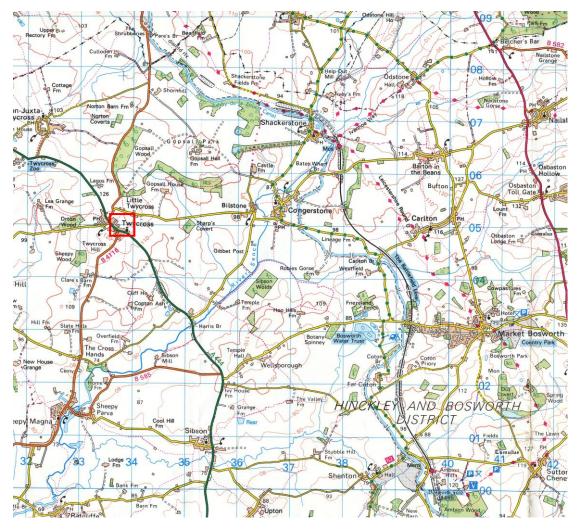


Figure 1: Site Location

Reproduced from *Landranger*® 1:50 000 scale, Sheet 140 (Leicester, Coventry and Rugby) by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright 2009 All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495.

Historical and Archaeological Background

A desk-based archaeological assessment was undertaken for 8 Main Road, Twycross, Leicestershire (Clarke 2007). This shows that the proposed development area is located within the medieval core of Twycross village, in close proximity to the earthwork remains of a moated manorial site (SM 17064).

Previous archaeological fieldwork undertaken by ULAS at land to the rear of 17-19 Church Street, revealed further medieval deposits thought to be associated with the manorial site. The potential for the presence of medieval archaeological remains within the development area is therefore considered to be high; there is also some lesser potential for the presence of Roman archaeological remains within the development area, given the level of Roman activity noted within the general vicinity of Twycross.

Map evidence has revealed the former presence of an earlier building in the south-western part of the site, within an area presently occupied by the modern bungalow. Any archaeological remains present within the south-western part of the site therefore, may already have been subject to some disturbance; the north-eastern part of the site does not appear to have undergone any previous development and any archaeological remains present here are likely to be relatively well preserved and close to the ground surface.

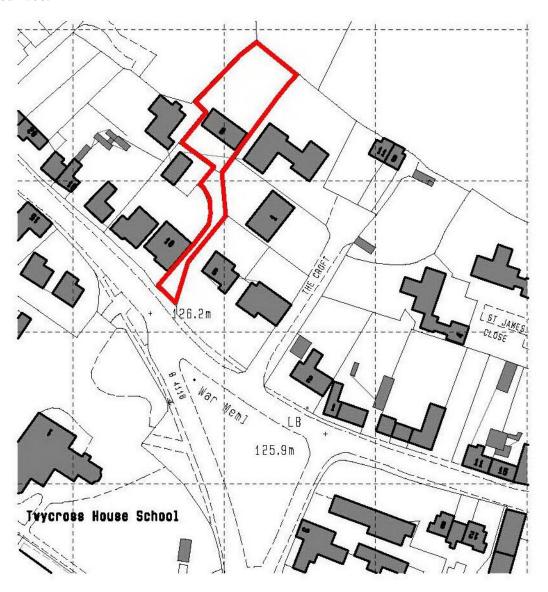


Figure 2: Plan of development area. Provided by developer. Scale 1: 1250

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 are:

- 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.

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 foundation trenches associated with the construction of a new extension and alterations to the existing dwelling.

The soils were removed by a JCB backacter fitted with a 0.6m toothless ditching bucket.

Results

The site was visited by an archaeologist on 3rd April 2013 and foundation trenches associated with the construction of the new extension were observed (Plate 1).

The trenches were all 0.8m-1m deep and were 0.6m wide.

The soil sequence was uniform across the entire site and consisted of 0.3m of dark brown silty topsoil over 0.3m of mid brownish grey sandy silt subsoil. This lay over the natural sub-stratum of sand and gravel, which was very sandy in patches (Plates 2 & 3).

No archaeological features were observed and no archaeological artefacts were recovered from the trenches or spoil during the watching brief.

A further trench associated with the inspection of services was excavated at the front of the existing house to the south-west (Plate 4). This was around 0.5m deep and was completely disturbed by the existing drains. No archaeological remains were observed.

Conclusion

The watching brief at 8, Main Road, Twycross was negative for archaeological remains. The soil sequence was uniform across the site with little variation to depths

of soils, suggesting that the land in this part of the site has never been developed and contains no remains associated with the nearby moated site.

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Nigel Morris for the work. Leon Hunt, who carried out the watching brief on behalf of ULAS would like to thank Nigel Morris and family and also Rob, the builder for their help and co-operation during this project.

The project was managed by Patrick Clay of ULAS.

Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work through the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York.

A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in a suitable regional archaeological journal in due course.

OASIS data entry

Project Name	8 Main Road, Twycross
Project Type	Watching Brief
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Leon Hunt
Previous/Future work	None
Current Land Use	Garden
Development Type	New extension/ alterations
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition
Site Co ordinates	SK 337 050
Start/end dates of field work	03-04-2013
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museums
Study Area	0.1 ha

Archive

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A39.2013 and will contain the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report No. 2013-067)
- 1 Unbound copy of DBA report (ULAS Report No. 2007-073)
- 1 Watching brief recording sheet
- 1 CD of digital photographs
- 1 Contact sheet of digital photographs
- 1 Set B&W Contact sheets
- 1 Set B&W negatives

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23-04-2013



Plate 1: The foundation trenches completed, looking south-west



Plate 2: North-east facing section, looking south-west



Plate 3: North-west facing section, looking south-east



Plate 4: Excavation to front of dwelling, showing services, looking north-east

APPENDIX: Written Scheme of Investigation

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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

8, Main Road, Twycross, Leicestershire

SK 337 050

For: Mr Nigel Morris

Planning application: 11/00832/FUL

Planning Authority: Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

1 Introduction

Definition and scope of the specification

- 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 groundworks at 8, Main Road, Twycross, Leicestershire.
- 1.2 The document provides details of the following work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client as recommended by Leicestershire County Council, as advisors to the planning authority and detailed in *A Brief For Archaeological Attendance For Inspection & Recording (A Watching Brief) At 8 Main Road, Twycross, Leicestershire NGR SK 337 050* (LCCHNET 29.05.2007)

2. Background

Context of the Project

2.1. The proposed development site is located on land at 8 Main Road, Twycross, Leicestershire (SK 377 050; figs.1 and 2). It consists of an area of *c*.0.1ha, within which it is proposed to demolish a bungalow and garage and to construct a new dwelling and associated garage.

Archaeological and historical background (taken from the advice letter)

2.4 A desk-based archaeological assessment has been undertaken for 8 Main Road, Twycross, Leicestershire (Clarke 2007) which has shown that the proposed development area is located within the medieval core of Twycross village, in close proximity to the earthwork remains of a moated manorial site (SAM 17064). Previous archaeological fieldwork undertaken by ULAS at land to the rear of 17-19 Church Street, revealed further medieval deposits thought to be associated with the manorial site. The potential for the presence of medieval archaeological remains within the development area is therefore considered to be high; there is also some lesser potential for the presence of Roman archaeological remains within the development area, given the level of Roman activity noted within the general vicinity of Twycross. Map evidence has revealed the former presence of an earlier building in the south-western part of the site, within an area presently occupied by a modern bungalow. Any archaeological remains present within the south-western part of the site therefore, may already have been subject to some disturbance; the north-eastern part of the site does not appear to have undergone any previous development and any archaeological remains present here are likely to be relatively well preserved and close to the ground surface..

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.

Geology and topography

3.2 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 155 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of sands and gravels. The site lies at a height of c.126m above Ordnance Datum.

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 groundworks, 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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

- 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.
- 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://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 start date is to be arranged.

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 Employers Liability Insurance and Public/Products Insurance is with Allianz Insurance plc Policy No. SZ/21696148 and Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Newline Underwriting Management Limited, Policy No. WD1100541. Details are provided in the Health & Safety Method Statement.

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

Clarke, S., 2007 An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for a Proposed Development at 8 Main

Road, Twycross, Leicestershire (SK 337 050). ULAS Report 2007-073

English Centre for Archaeology Guidelines on Archaeometallurgy

Heritage 2001

Institute for

Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

(IfA) 2008

Institute for

Archaeologists Code of Conduct

(IfA) 2010

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Fig. 1 Location plan

scale 1:1250

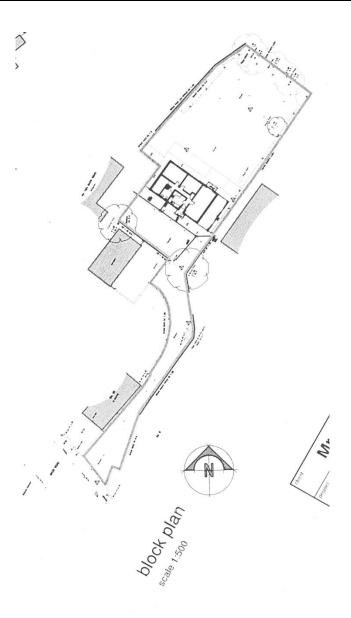


Fig. 2 Proposed site plan.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF METHOD STATEMENT & RISK ASSESSMENT

Site Name		Job No	Start Date	PM	Contact
8, Main Road, Twycross Leicestershire,		12-575	TBC	Patrick Clay	0116 252 2848
Site Director	Site Contacts		Team (Nos)		
TBC				1 TBC	

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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