



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

An archaeological watching
brief on land at
the Cherry Tree Public House,
Little Bowden Manor,
Little Bowden,
Market Harborough,
Leicestershire
(SP 7398 8701)

Leon Hunt



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**An archaeological watching brief on land at
the Cherry Tree Public House,
Little Bowden Manor, Little Bowden,
Market Harborough.
Leicestershire
(SP 7398 8701)**

Leon Hunt

For

Everards Brewery

Planning Application Number 09/01316/FUL

Checked by Project Manager

Signed: 

Date: 26/11/2012

Name: Vicki Score

University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH

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

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An archaeological watching brief on land at the Cherry Tree Public House, Little Bowden Manor, Little Bowden, Market Harborough, Leicestershire (SP 7398 8701)

Leon Hunt

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during ground-works on a site adjacent to the Cherry Tree Public House, Little Bowden, Market Harborough, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 7398 8701).

The watching brief was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services for Everards Brewery during the excavation of a single foundation trench on the site associated with a new dwelling.

The land lies within the historic core of Little Bowden and close to the church and the 17th Century Manor House. There was therefore potential for buried archaeological features.

A 15m long north-south oriented trench was excavated by JCB fitted with a toothed bucket to a depth of 2m.

A layer containing cobbles was observed around 0.11m below the surface, running for around 5m along the trench. The cobbles petered out at around 2m and brick and other building material could be seen following the same line as the cobbles. The layer could not be dated. Further work on the site may reveal the extent of the layer to the east and west.

The archive for this report will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Services with accession number X.A116.2012.

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Everards Brewery to carry out an archaeological watching brief during ground-works on land at the Cherry Tree Public House, Little Bowden, Market Harborough, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 7398 8701).

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 a new development at the site (Planning Application No. 09/01316/FUL) issued by Harborough District Council. The planning consent is for a new detached dwelling, garage, landscaping and new access.

The site lies within the medieval and post-medieval core of the village of Little Bowden and close to the 17th century Manor House and medieval church.

Location, Geology and Topography

The site lies on the southern side of Kettering Road, Little Bowden to the direct west of the gardens of the Cherry Tree Public House (Figs 1-2). The land is accessed via Little Bowden Manor, to the west of the pub and lies at around 76.5m aOD. The land itself is around 0.3m above the road line in an enclosed garden area.

The land is enclosed by fences, trees or by the walls of neighbouring buildings on four sides. Part of the fence at the northern end of the land had been removed to allow ingress into the site.

The land was recently covered in trees and foliage and is broadly rectangular.

The British Geological Survey indicates that the underlying geology of the site is likely to be Mudstone, overlain by alluvial Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel.



Figure 1: Site Location
Contains Ordnance Survey Data

Historical and Archaeological Background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. The site lies next to the listed 17th century Manor House (**HER Ref. No. MLE14884**) and close to the

medieval church (**MLE14893**). It also lies within the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of the village. Consequently, there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains could be affected by the development.

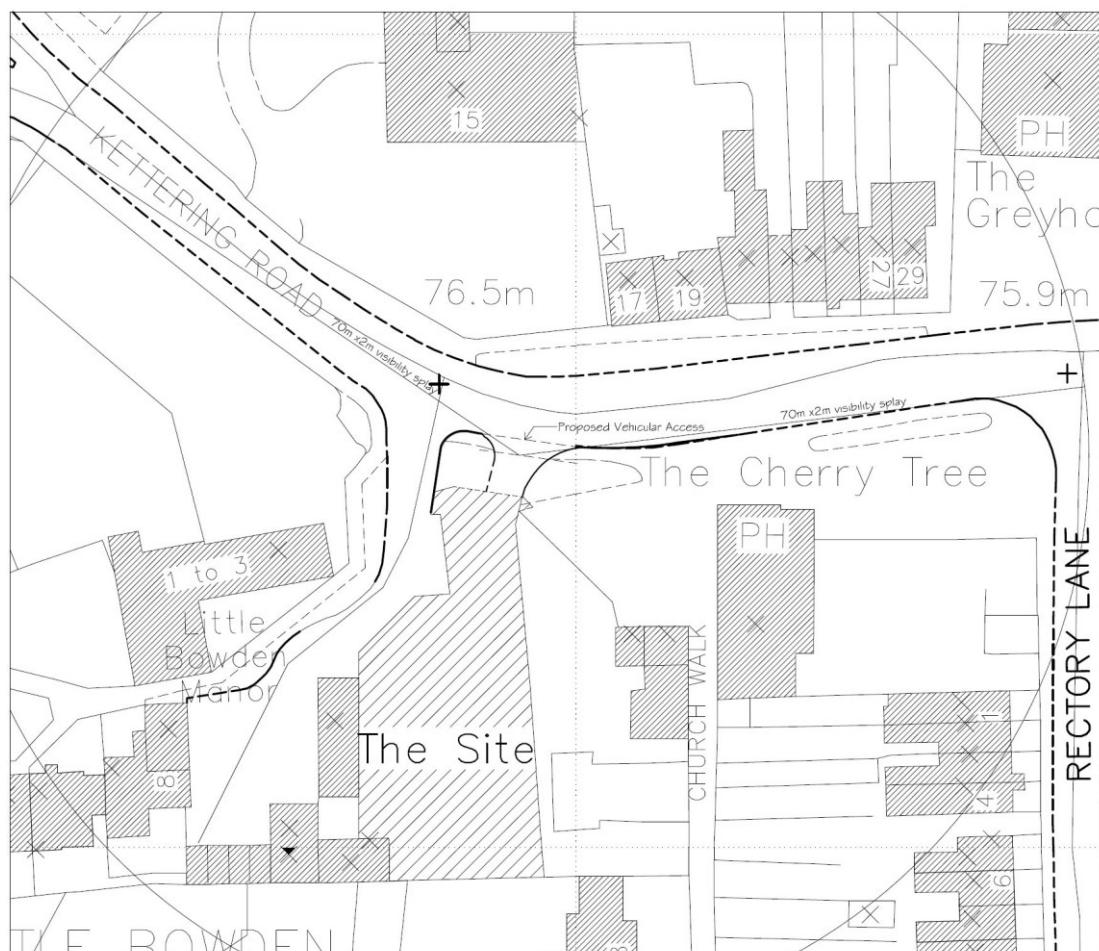


Figure 2: Location of development area. Scale 1: 1250

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 advance understanding of the Heritage Assets
- 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 the new dwelling.

The trenches were excavated by a JCB 3CX back acter fitted with a 0.5m wide toothless ditching bucket.

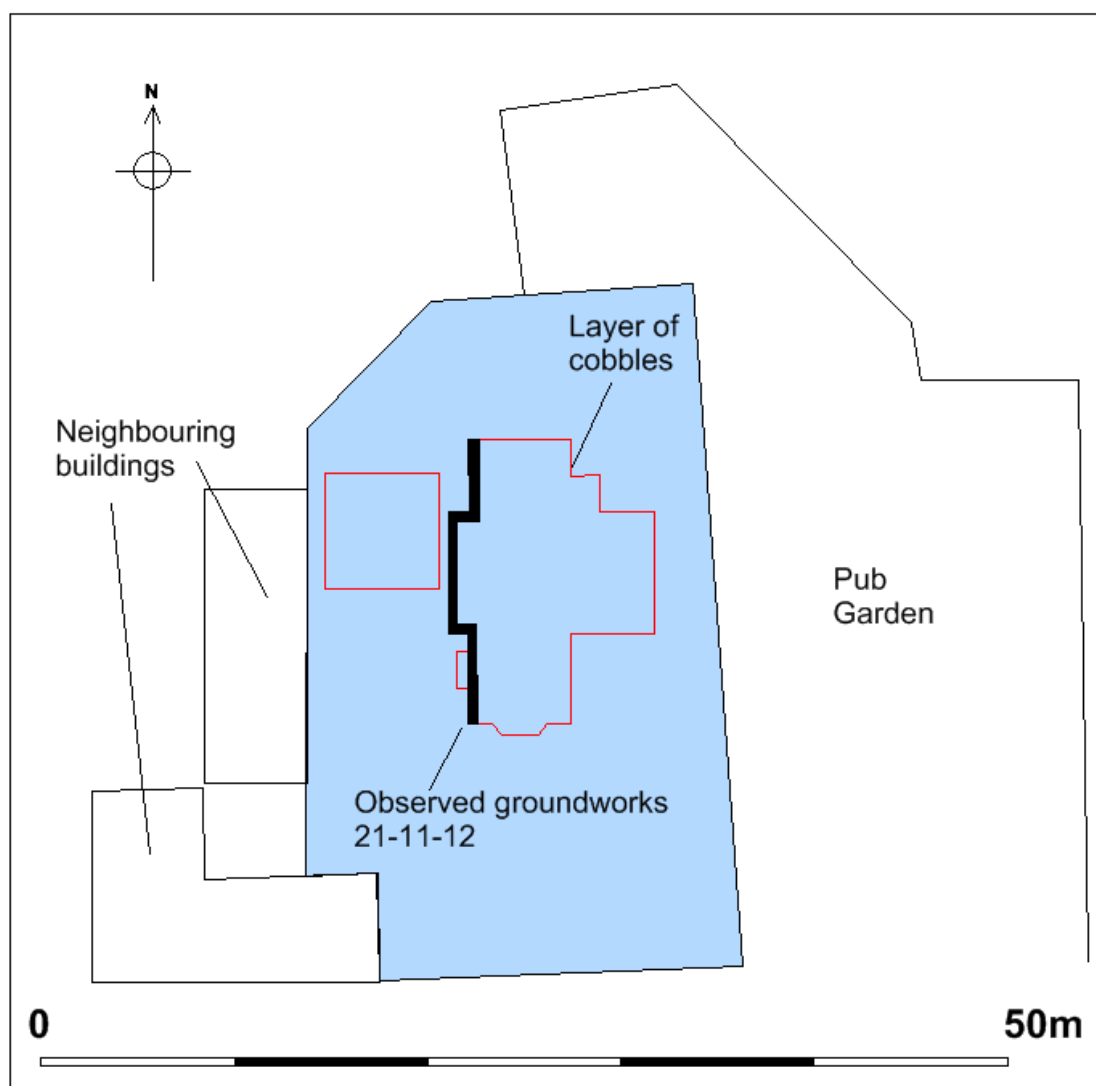


Figure 3: Plan of observations undertaken during watching brief

Results

An initial visit was undertaken on 21st November 2012, after the land had been stripped of vegetation.

An initial visit was undertaken on 21st November 2012, after the land had been stripped of vegetation.

A single trench was excavated representing the western external wall of the new dwelling.

The trench was 0.8m wide and 2m deep and around 15m long. The soil sequence consisted of 0.3m of very dark brown topsoil, overlying 0.3m of mid yellowish brown silty subsoil. Underneath this was a layer, between 0.15m and 0.2m thick of dark soil with occasional cobbles and ceramic building material. Beneath this lay a yellowish brown silt and sand and gravel to the base of the trench (Plates 1-4).

A layer of cobbles, which on average were 140mm by 110mm, could be seen in the west and east facing sections for around 5m into the trench from the northern end (Plate 4). The cobbles became scarce around 2m into the trench and then the coarse components became largely pieces of brick and other debris.

There was also a small patch of tarmac, around 0.4m wide close to the southern end of the trench in the west facing section.

Conclusion

The only possible archaeological feature was a section of cobbling towards the northern end of the trench.

The cobbling could not be dated, although it is possibly quite modern as the layer contained pieces of brick and other building material and lay beneath 0.3m of garden soil and subsoil.

Further work, as more foundations are excavated, may reveal the extent of the layer to the east and west of the site.

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank David Bird of Corporate Architecture and Pat Hutchinson, the contractor on site for their help and co-operation with this project.

The archaeological attendance was carried out by Leon Hunt and the project was managed by Vicki Score.

Archive

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Services with accession number X.A116.2012.

The archive consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report
- 1 Photographic Record
- 1 CD of Colour Photographs
- 1 Set B & W contact prints
- 1 Set B & W Negatives

Leon Hunt
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 2848

Fax: 0116 252 2614

Email:

lh90@le.ac.uk

26-11-12



Plate 1: Work in progress, looking south



Plate 2: West facing section, northern end, looking east



Plate 3: The trench, post- excavation, looking south



Plate 4: East facing section, showing cobble layer, looking west

APPENDIX: Design Specification for archaeological work
UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES
Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological attendance,
Inspection and Recording (watching brief)
Land adjacent to the Cherry Tree Public House, Church Walk,
Little Bowden, Market Harborough
SP7398 8701
For: Everards Brewery
Planning application: 09/01316/FUL
Planning Authority: Harborough District 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 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 groundworks in connection with work at land adjacent to the Cherry Tree Public House.

1.2 The document provides details of the following work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client.

- Archaeological attendance or inspection and recording during groundworks

2. Background

Context of the Project

2.1. The planning consent is for the erection of a detached dwelling and garage, plus associated landscaping and construction of new access at The Cherry Tree, Church Walk, Market Harborough (Figs 1 and 2).

- ***Archaeological and historical background (taken from the advice letter)***

2.2 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. The site lies next to the listed 17th century Manor House (HER Ref. No. MLE14884), close to the medieval church (MLE14893), within the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of the village. Consequently, there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the development.

Geological background

2.3 The British Geological Survey shows the underlying Bedrock to be Mudstone (Blue Lias Formation And Charmouth Mudstone Formation) overlain with alluvial Clay, Silt, Sand And Gravel.

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 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.

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.

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-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. Digital photos will be submitted in tiff format.

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:

- Summary
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
- The nature, location and extent of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
- The local, regional and national context as appropriate highlighting any research priorities where applicable.
- Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
- a summary of artefacts, specialist reports and a consideration of the evidence within its local, regional, national context.
- The location and size 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 No start date has yet been determined for the work although it is expected to take place towards the end of August 2012.

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, transfer and curation*
2007

LCC 2007 *Advice Letter*

English Heritage *Centre for Archaeology Guidelines on Archaeometallurgy*
2001

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

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

Vicki Score
Project Officer
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614
Email: vp23@le.ac.uk

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Fig. 1 Location plan

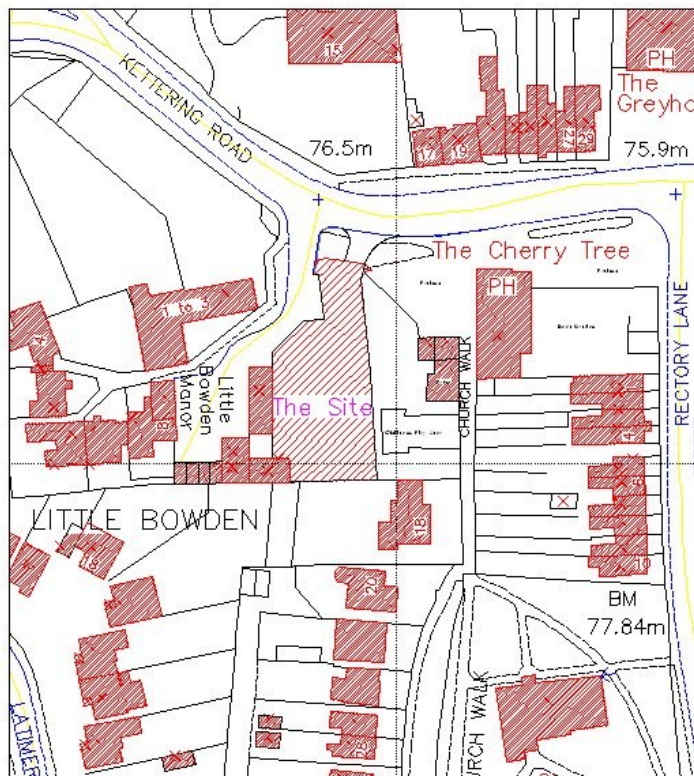


Fig. 2 Detail of site location (provided by client).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF METHOD STATEMENT & RISK ASSESSMENT

Site Name	Job No	Start Date	PM	Contact
The Cherry Tree, Church Walk, Market Harborough	12-369	TBC	Vicki Score	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

T: +44 (0)116 252 2848

F: +44 (0)116 252 2614

E: ulas@le.ac.uk

w: www.le.ac.uk/ulas



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