

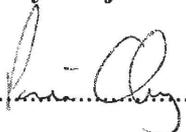
**An Archaeological Watching Brief at Land  
Between Nos. 1. and 5. High Street,  
Quorndon, Leicestershire  
(SK 561 165)**

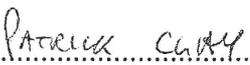
**James Harvey**

**For: LMP Consultants**

P.A 05/2903/2

**Checked by Project Manager**

**Signed:**  **Date:** 2. 2. 2007

**Name:** 

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**An Archaeological Watching Brief at Land between Nos. 1. and 5. High Street,  
Quorndon, Leicestershire (SK 561 165)**

**James Harvey**

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**James Harvey**

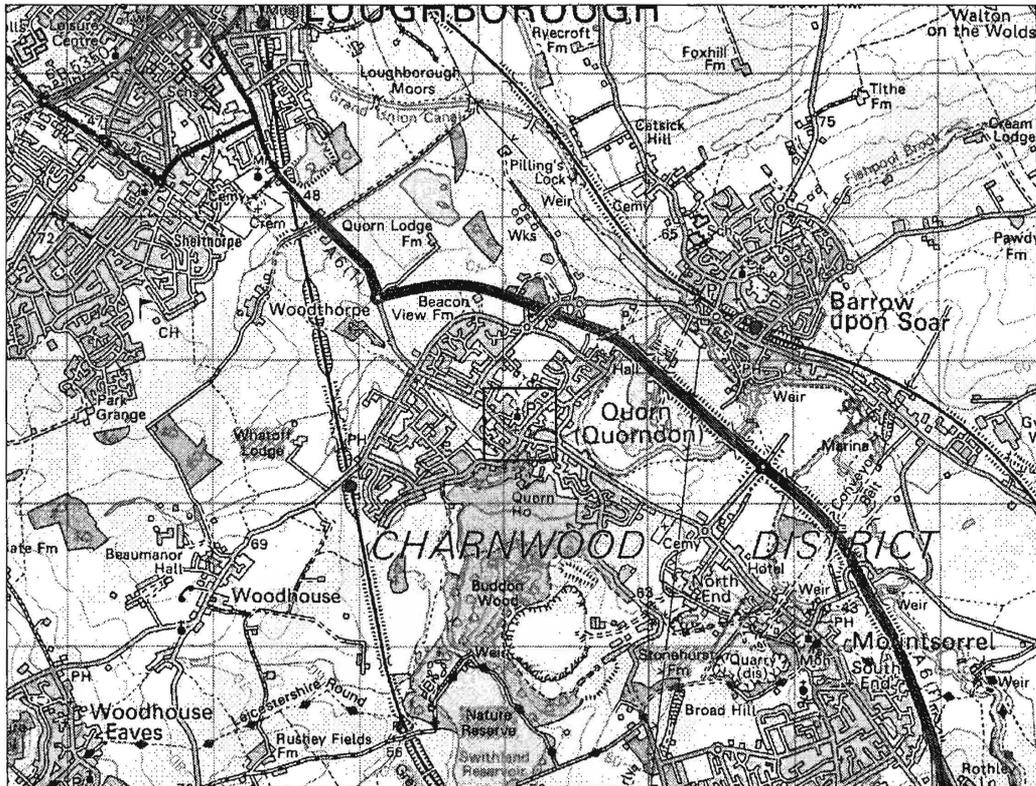
**Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the 29th September and 6<sup>th</sup> December 2006 during initial groundwork's for development at land between, and to the rear of Nos. 1. and 5. High Street, Quorndon, Leicestershire (SK 561 165) by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of LMP Consultants.*

*No significant archaeological finds or deposits were observed during this work. The archive will be deposited with the County Archaeological Heritage Services, Leicestershire County Council Community Services Department, Accession No. X.A21.2007.*

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 In accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and planning), para.30, this document reports on archaeological attendance, for inspection and recording of ground works, as required by the Planning Authority during property conversions and the construction of new residential units to the rear and between Nos. 1 and 5 High Street, Quorndon, Leicestershire (SK 561 165; figs.1 and 2). It consists of an area of c.0.2 ha. The work follows the *Design Specification for Archaeological Work* (ULAS 07/536 25.9.2006 Appendix 1).



Illus 1: Site location.

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- 1.2 The site had been identified as an area of archaeological potential from information held in the Leicestershire & Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) and the conclusions of a desk-based assessment (DBA) prepared for the development area (George *et. al.* 2005). In view of this an archaeological watching brief during the groundwork's was recommended as part of the planning conditions set out by Leicester County Council (planning application no. 05/2903/2). A buildings assessment has also been prepared (Hurford 2006)

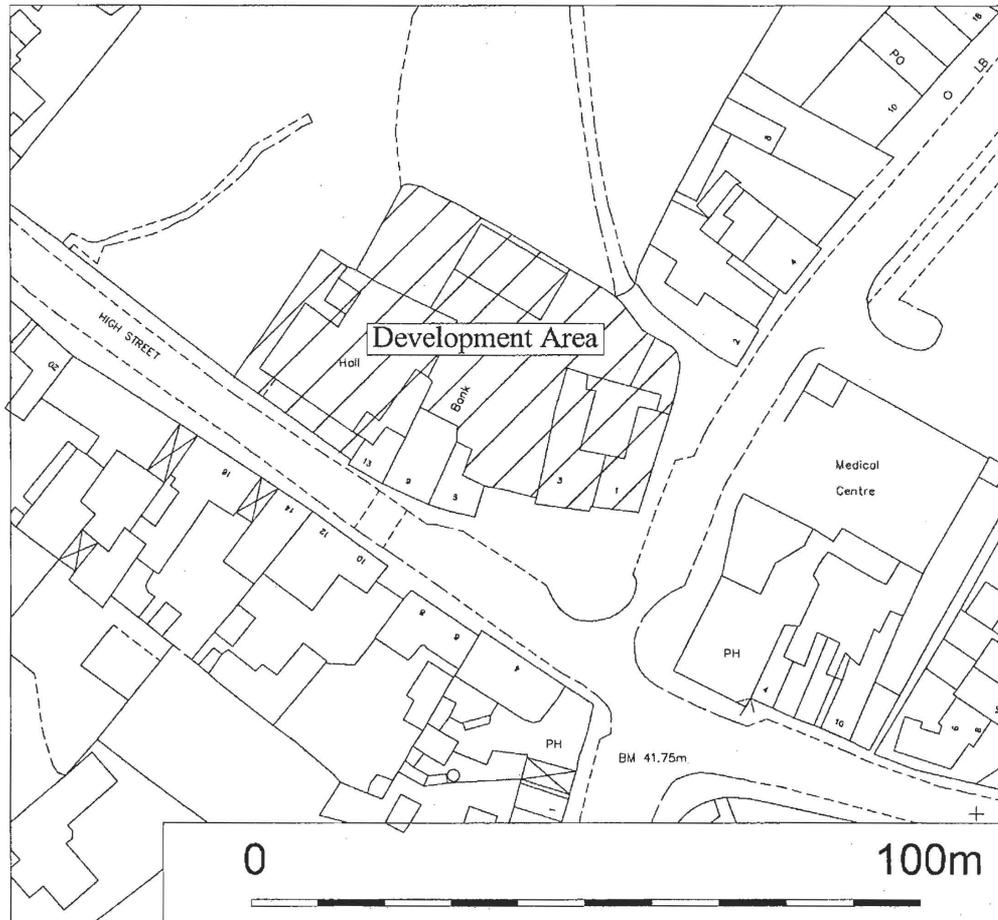


Figure 2: Location plan showing area of the development.

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- 1.3 University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) was commissioned to carry out the watching brief on behalf of LMP Consultants. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on the 29th September and 06th December 2006. The work involved archaeological inspection of foundation trenches and other initial groundwork's associated with the new dwellings to the rear of the properties.

## 2. Geology

- 2.1 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 142 indicates that the underlying geology was likely to consist of river gravels. The development area consisted of a fairly flat parcel of land, located at a height of c. 42m OD.

### 3. Archaeological Objectives

The aims of the watching brief were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range of any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To assess the local, regional and national importance of any deposits.
- To define an appropriate mitigation strategy if necessary.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

### 4. Archaeological Background

4.1 The Leicestershire & Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) reveals a number of known archaeological and historical sites within, or in the immediate vicinity of the development area. The development area is located within the historic medieval core of Quorndon (**LE839**) and a Listed 19th century building is located within the development area itself (**LE813**). A 15th – 16th century listed building adjoins the development area to the north.

4.2 Various Roman find spots are known of in the vicinity of the development area which have collectively been interpreted as evidence of a small town (**LE8775**). These include Roman building stone, cobbled surfaces and foundations was found at Millwood Estate, *c.* 650m to the southeast (**LE832**). Also a scatter of nine Roman coins spanning a wide date range was found *c.* 700m to the southeast of the development site (**LE823**). A bronze coin, probably of mid fourth century date, of the house of Constantine was found *c.* 600m to the southeast (**LE7763**). A coin of Constantine or his son Constantine II, was found *c.* 700m to the southeast (**LE7767**). A coin of Antoninus was found *c.* 500m to the south (**LE7768**). Several coins were recovered from an area stripped of topsoil to the east of School Lane, *c.* 450m to the northeast (**LE7769**). The route the Salt Way, a known Roman Road, passes within 800m to the southeast (**LE8764**). Roman pottery sherds were found *c.* 900m to the

southeast (**LE8767**). A Roman lead die was found in a field at Woodside Farm, *c.* 1 km to the southeast (**LE8768**) and two sherds from the same early Roman storage jar were found *c.* 800m to the southeast (**LE9370**).

4.3 The development area is located within the historic medieval core of Quorndon (**LE839**), and various medieval archaeological sites have been recorded in the vicinity. St Bartholomew's Church was founded before 1153, and is located *c.* 100m to the northwest (**LE826**). The Dower House (The Elms) is a late 15th to early 16th century extant building, 120m to the northeast (**LE827**). Documentary evidence indicates that Chavneys Mill is probably the site of one of the medieval three mills in the area, located *c.* 600m to the southwest (**LE803**). A watermill to the southwest of Nether Hall is mentioned in Charyte's Rentals, and is located *c.* 600m to the northeast (**LE806**). Over Hall (Quorndon House) is mentioned on a 1752 map of Quorndon, 250m to the southwest (**LE815**). A possible medieval ford is located at the Quorndon Gas Works, *c.* 500m to the east (**LE828**). Medieval village earthworks, including evidence of former houses are located at the War Memorial playing field, *c.* 250m to the northeast (**LE831**). Twelve sherds of medieval pottery were found to the rear of 17 Nursery Lane, *c.* 200m to the north (**LE6670**). Chavney Manor is a late medieval to late post-medieval structure, *c.* 550m to the southwest (**LE8772**).

4.4 Various post-medieval sites are also recorded within, or in the vicinity of the development area. A post-medieval house named 'Hall on the Green' is shown on the 1752 map of Quorndon and is located within the development area (**LE813**). An extant building is present at the site of Chavneys Mill, *c.* 700m to the southwest (**LE804**). Quorndon House is a post-medieval extant building that replaced Over Hall in 1820, *c.* 400m to the south (**LE817**). Chavney's House is marked on the estate map of 1752, *c.* 600m to the south (**LE8771**).

## 5. Methodology

5.1 Levelling ground for piling and the excavation of foundation trenches was undertaken using a JCB 3CX excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket attached to the back actor. The exposed bases of trench and natural substratum were inspected for any archaeological features or deposits.

5.2 All deposits were recorded by notes and sketches using the standard ULAS pro-forma watching brief recording forms. Digital colour photographs were taken during the work.

5.3 All work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Code of Conduct and adhered to their Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

## 6. Results

6.1 *Ground Levelling and piling at the frontage between Nos. 3. and 5. High Street (29th September)*

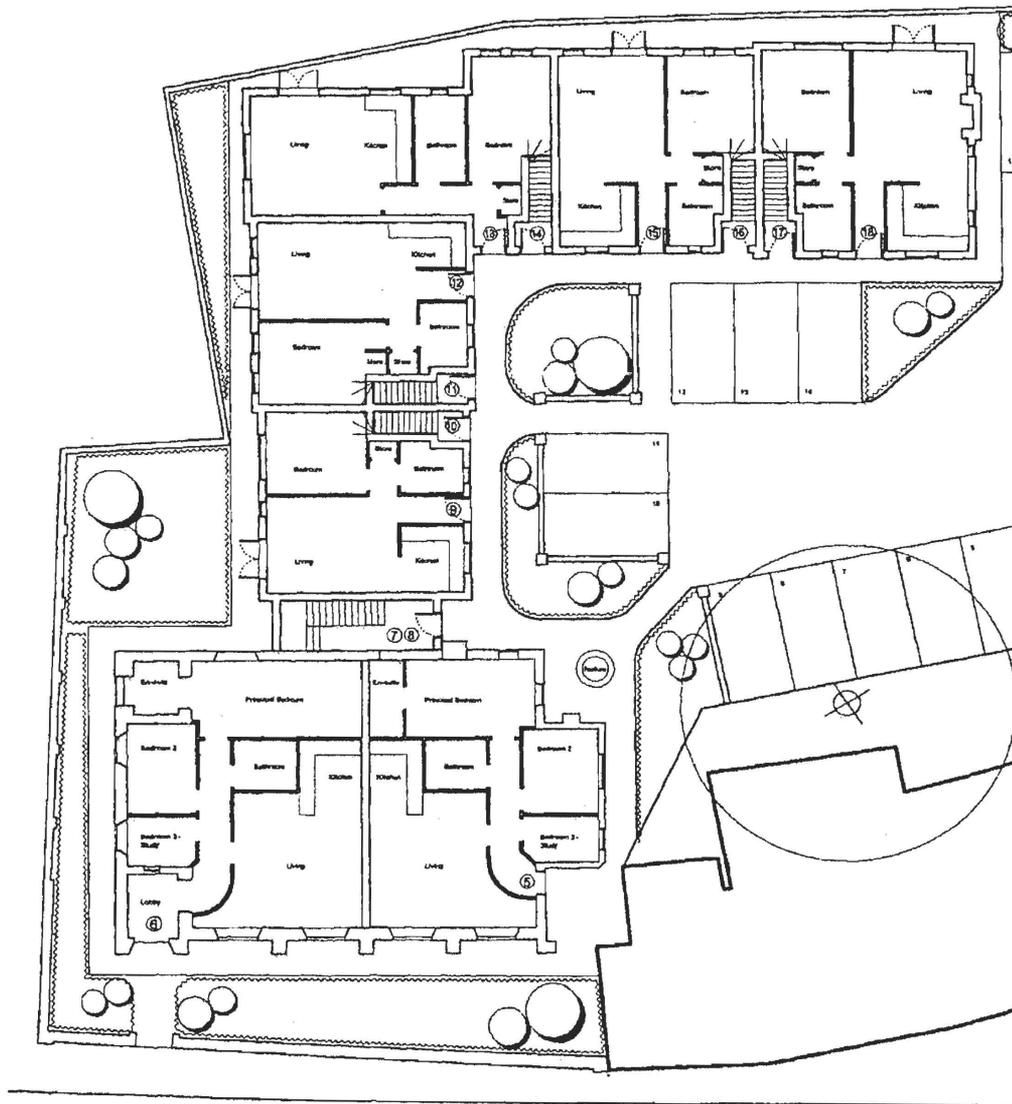
6.1.1 Prior to the start of the watching brief, an area of ground had been reduced at the side of No. 3 High street and this was then subsequently been stoned over in preparation for piling. A section of this ground reduction was observed which showed a dark brown loamy topsoil deposit had been removed between depths of c.200-700mm. The spoil heap was examined showing only topsoil had been excavated that contained fairly modern demolition material.

6.2 *The excavation of foundation trenches to the rear of 3 High Street (06 December 2006)*

6.2.1 The excavation of the foundation trenches was observed and spoil examined for finds. The overburden in most of the trenches comprised mixed disturbed material including bricks, charcoal and building rubble down to the Mercia Mudstone Group substratum. To the north east less disturbed dark brown fine loam topsoil with several roots overlay a disturbed sandy subsoil. No archaeological deposits or finds were present within the areas examined.

## 7. Conclusion

7.1 No significant archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered during the watching brief. Although within an area of archaeological potential the area had been disturbed during the construction of the high Street buildings and subsequent re-surfacing work to the rear.



### High Street

Illus 03 Plan of the new build areas observed during the watching brief.

## 8. Archive

- 8.1 The archive will be will be deposited with the County Archaeological Heritage Services, Leicestershire County Council Community Services Department, Accession No. X.A21.2007. It consists of watching brief sheets, a digital contact print and a CD containing the digital images.

**9. Publication**

- 9.1 A summary of the work will be submitted for inclusion in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course.

**10. Acknowledgements**

- 10.1 ULAS would like to thank LMP Consultants and Mirage for their help and cooperation during the watching brief. This archaeological watching brief was carried out James Harvey and Dr. Patrick Clay; the project was managed by Dr. Patrick Clay.

**11. Bibliography**

George, S., Hurford, M., and Clay, P. 2005. *An archaeological Desk-based Assessment for the proposed Development at High Street/Station Road, Quorndon, Leicestershire (SK 561 165)* ULAS Report No. 2005-083

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## Appendix I: Design Specification for Archaeological Work

### UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

#### Design Specification for archaeological work

*Job title: High Street/Station Street, Quorn, Leicestershire*

*NGR: SK 561 165*

*Client: LMP Architects*

*Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council*

*Planning application Nos. 05/2903/2*

#### 1 Definition and scope of the specification

1.1 In accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and planning), para.30, this specification provides a written scheme for archaeological attendance, including control and supervision of ground works, as required by the Planning Authority, of any ground works on the site which may disturb areas of archaeological potential in connection with the construction of student accommodation. The development site is located on land at 1-3 High Street/Station Street, Quorn (SK 561 165; figs.1 and 2). It consists of an area of c.0.2 ha within which building conversion and new extensions for apartments and shops will be constructed.

1.2 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's (IFA) *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LMARS).

#### 2 Background

##### 2.1 Requirement for archaeological work

2.1.1 The archaeological watching brief involves observation of site strip and foundation and service trench excavations to identify any deposits of archaeological importance.

##### 2.2 Archaeological potential

2.2.1 A desk-based assessment has been prepared for the application area (ULAS Report 2005-083). This showed that the site lies within the medieval core of Quorn close to known Roman and medieval remains. A subsequent buildings assessment of the Wesleyan chapel was also undertaken (ULAS Report 2005-174) located medieval and post-medieval features including two wells. The construction is to be by piling and the ground beams will be located above most of the archaeological deposits. The planning authority has asked for a watching brief during development to monitor this.

#### 3 Aims

3.1 Through archaeological observation of existing overburden stripping and groundworks by the client's contractors:

1. To identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or archaeological deposits.

2. To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
3. To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
4. To produce an archive and report of any results.

#### **4 Methods**

4.1 The project will involve the observation of overburden and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. During these ground works, if any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest.

4.2 The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with the contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work.

4.3 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 using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) where appropriate.

4.4 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

4.5 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.

4.5 Any human remains encountered will be initially left *in situ* and only be removed under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The developer, Leicestershire County Council, and the coroner will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.6 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site from the project manager. These will ensure that professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for monitoring visits with representatives of the owners, Leicestershire County Council, and Charnwood Borough Council.

4.7 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located during the watching brief there may be the need for contingency time and finance to be provided to ensure adequate recording is undertaken. On the discovery of potentially significant remains the archaeologist will inform the developer, the Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services and the planning authority. If the archaeological remains are identified to be of significance additional contingent archaeological works will be required.

#### **5 Recording Systems**

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

5.2 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 plan at 1:200 (or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated.

5.3 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made on drawing film, related to the OS grid and at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Elevations and sections of individual layers of features should be drawn where possible. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans.

5.4 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared. This will include black and white prints and colour transparencies 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.

5.5 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the watching brief.

5.6 All site records and finds will be kept securely.

## ***6 Report and Archive***

6.1 A report on the watching brief will be provided following the groundworks.

6.2 Copies will be provided for the client, Sites and Monuments Record and planning Authority. 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.

6.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in the 'Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage' (UKIC 1990), and Standards in the Museum care of archaeological collections (MGC 1992) and 'Guidelines for the preparation of site archives and assessments for all finds (other than fired clay objects) (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993) will be presented to Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services normally within six months of the completion of analysis. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

## ***7 Publication***

7.1 A summary report will be submitted to a suitable regional or national archaeological journal within one year of completion of fieldwork. A full report will be submitted if the results are of significance.

## ***8 Timetable and Staffing***

8.1 The watching brief is scheduled to start on 8.8.2006. An experienced archaeologist will be present during this work. It is proposed to observe the works, as specified above, with appropriately timed visits during the work in consultation with the contractors.

## ***9 Health and Safety***

9.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (revised 2005) with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is in the Appendix. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate.

## ***10 Insurance***

10.1 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.

### ***11. Bibliography***

MAP 2, *The management of archaeological projects* 2nd edition English Heritage 1991

MGC 1992, *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission)

RFG/FRG 1993, *Guidelines for the preparation of site archives* (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700)

SMA 1993, *Selection, retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* (Society of Museum Archaeologists)

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24.9.2006

## Appendix

### Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

*Job title: Woodgate/Mill Lane, Loughborough, Leicestershire*

*NGR: SK 537 194*

*Client: North Midlands Building Ltd*

*Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council*

*Planning application Nos. 04/01871/FUL*

#### *1 Nature of the work*

1.1 This statement is for an archaeological watching brief.

1.2 The work will involve observation of groundworks during daylight hours and recording of any underlying archaeological deposits revealed. Overall depth is likely to be c. 0.2-0.5m. This will involve the examination of the exposed surface with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and excavation of archaeological features. 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) together with the following relevant Health and Safety guidelines.

1.3 HSE Construction Information Sheet CS8 Safety in excavations.  
HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)143 (L): Getting to grips with manual handling.  
HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)145 (L): Watch Your back.  
CIRIA R97 Trenching practice.  
CIRIA TN95 Proprietary Trench Support Systems.  
HSE Guidance Note HS(G) 47 Avoiding danger to underground services. HSE Guidance Note GS7 Accidents to children on construction sites

1.4 The Health and Safety policy on site will be reassessed during the evaluation .

1.5 All work will adhere to the contractors' health and safety policy.

#### *2 Risks Assessment*

##### *2.1 Working within a building site*

Precautions. No work will be undertaken beneath section faces. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. Hard hats will be worn at all times. A member of staff qualified in First Aid will be present at all times. First aid kit, vehicle and mobile phone to be kept on site in case of emergency.

##### *2.2 Working with plant.*

Precautions. Hard hats, protective footwear and hazard jackets will be worn at all times. No examination of the area of stripping will take place until machines have vacated area. Observation of machines will be maintained during hand excavation. Liaison will be maintained with the contractors to ensure programme of machine movement is understood.

##### *2.3 Working within areas prone to waterlogging.*

Protective clothing will be worn at all times and precautions taken to prevent contact with stagnant water which may carry Wiegand disease or similar.

*2.4 Working with chemicals.*

If chemicals are used to conserve or help lift archaeological material these will only be used by qualified personnel with protective clothing (i.e a trained conservator) and will be removed from site immediately after use.

*2.5 Other risks*

Precautions. If there is any suspicion of unforeseen hazards being encountered e.g chemical contaminants, unexploded bombs, hazardous gases work will cease immediately. The client and relevant public authorities will be informed immediately.

2.9 No other constraints are recognised over the nature of the soil, water, type of excavation, proximity of structures, sources of vibration and contamination.

Patrick Clay  
24.9.2006

## Appendix II: Site Visits

29th September 2006 am (JH)

6<sup>th</sup> December 2006 am (PC)

### Illustrations



Illus 04 General view of foundation trenches to rear of High Street



Illus 05 Detail of foundation trench to rear of High Street showing disturbed overburden overlying Mercia Mudstone substratum



Illus 06 Detail of foundation trench to rear of High Street showing less disturbed topsoil overlying Mercia Mudstone substratum