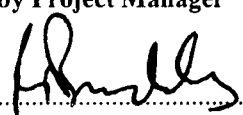
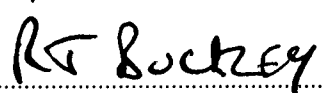


**An Archaeological Watching Brief
At Post Office Lane, Redmile,
Leicestershire,
SK 798 354**

James Meek

For: Carlton Building and Construction Limited

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|---|----------------|
| Checked by Project Manager | |
| Signed:  | Date: 13.10.05 |
| Name:  | |

University of Leicester
Archaeological Services
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Post Office Lane, Redmile, Leicestershire (SK798 354)

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services at Post Office Lane, Redmile, Leicestershire (SK798 354) during groundworks associated with a residential development on behalf of Carlton Building and Construction Limited. No archaeological features were exposed and no significant archaeological finds were recovered during the watching brief. The lack of evidence for structures on the site from cartographic sources and the archaeological watching brief would imply that the site has not been previously developed, being used for rear yard activities and gardens at least since the medieval period. The archive will be deposited with the Historic and Natural Environment Team of Leicestershire County Council under the accession number X.A189.2005.

1 Introduction

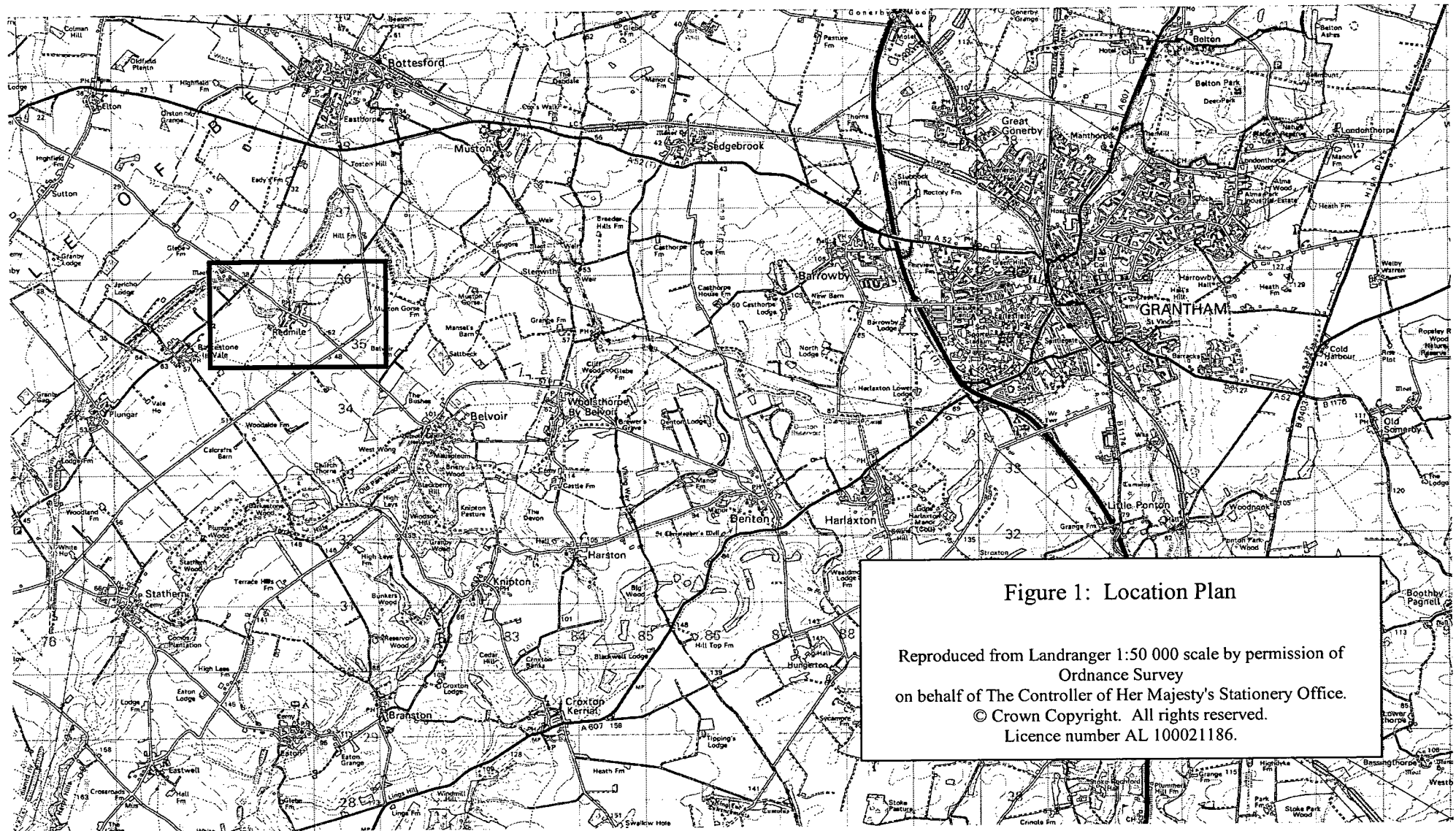
1.1 This document presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during groundworks for a residential development on an area of land of c. 270 sq m. to the west of Post Office Lane, Redmile, Leicestershire (SK 798 354; Figures 1 and 2). The watching brief was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Carlton Building and Construction Limited.

1.2 Due to the site's location within the historic core of the village of Redmile, the Senior Planning Archaeologist at the Historic and Natural Environment Team of Leicestershire County Council, in his capacity as advisor to the local planning authority, requested that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during groundworks for the development in order that an adequate record of any exposed archaeological remains could be made.

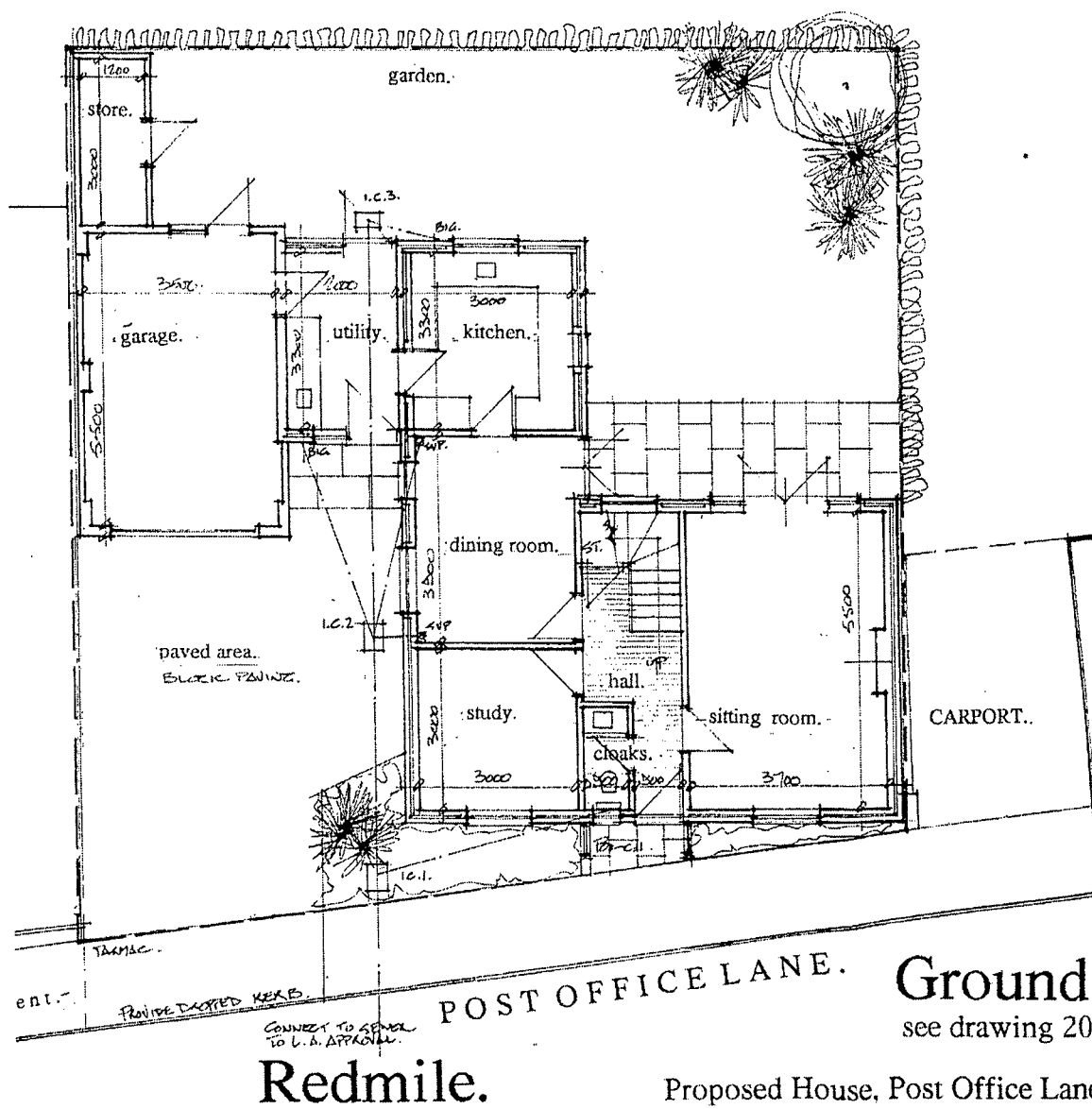
1.3 Planning permission has been granted, following appeal (APP/Y2430/A/04/1148229) by Melton Borough Council for the erection of the single dwelling on the site area, which lies to the rear of the Windmill Public House, Main Street, Redmile. A condition for an archaeological watching brief was placed on the planning decision.

1.4 The development proposals are for the erection of a single dwelling, to be of timber frame construction with brick facing. The construction design required the laying of a floor slab of concrete across the entire footprint of the building with deeper foundation trenches only around the exterior walls (Figure 3 and 8).

1.5 The proposed development area was seen as having the potential to contain archaeological deposits of medieval and later periods.



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2 Geology and Topography

2.1 The site is located on boulder clays.

2.2 The proposed development area lies on a flat area of undeveloped land formerly part of the beer garden for the Windmill Public House.

3 Objectives and Methodology

3.1 The main objectives of the watching brief were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

3.2 The watching brief was carried out on 23.09.05 during the initial groundworks at the site, which involved the excavation of a soakaway in the north-west corner of the area, and the stripping of topsoil and modern overburden by JCB with toothless bucket across the entire footprint of the proposed dwelling.

3.3 The first foundation trench excavated on the northern side of the building was also observed. The archaeological watching brief was ended when it was clear that all groundworks that had the potential to expose damage or destroy archaeological remains had been completed.

4 Cartographic Background

4.1 An initial study of earlier Ordnance Survey (OS) maps of the site area was undertaken to ascertain the presence or absence of known structures recorded on the site since the later 19th century and information regarding previous landuse of the site area.

4.2 It can be seen on all four of the OS maps that the site area has remained little changed. On the earliest OS maps of 1884 (Figure 4) and 1904 (Figure 5) it would appear to be a separate parcel of land, perhaps a garden or small allotment, separated from the surrounding properties. On the 1920 OS map a small structure is indicated in the south-western corner of the site (Figure 6). The structure is very small and could be no more than a shed or animal shelter. No evidence for this structure was noted during the watching brief. By the 1974 map the structure is no longer present (Figure 7). The edges of the site area have also changed by 1974, with the removal of the northern and western boundaries, opening the area up to the Windmill Public House to the west, presumably when it was being used as part of the beer garden.

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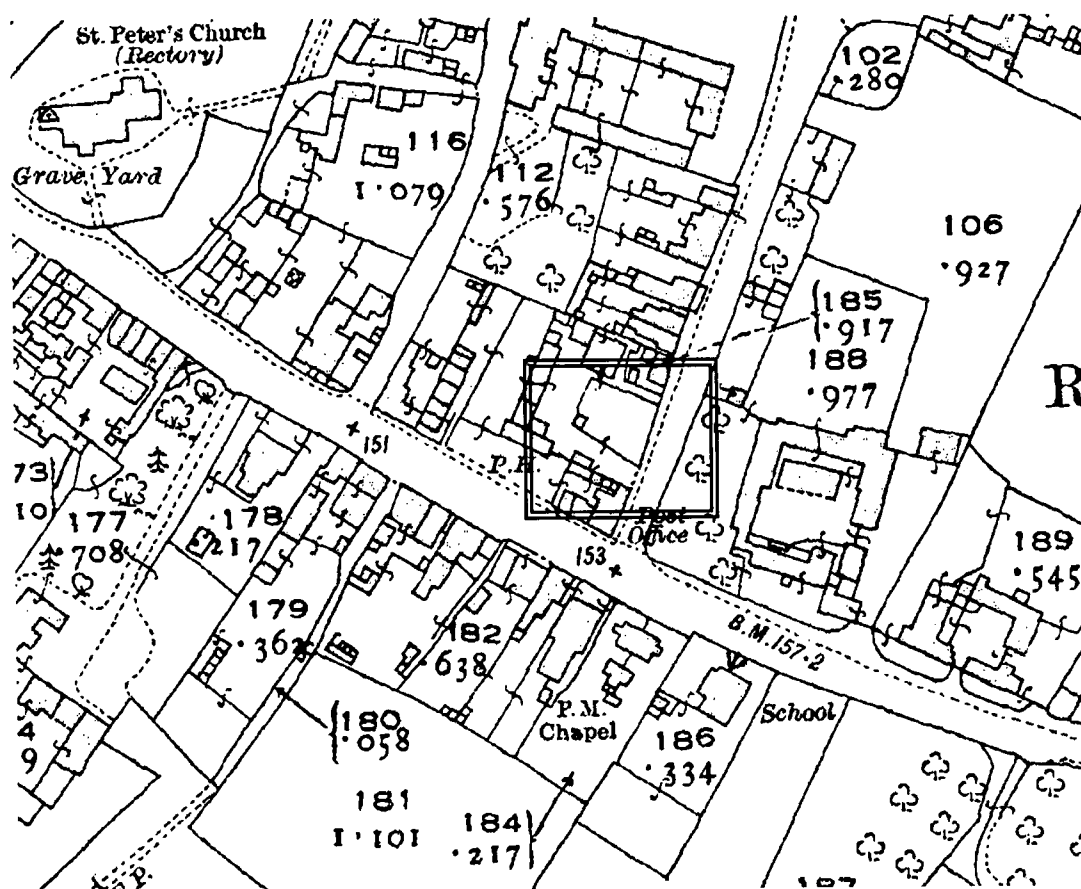


Figure 6: Detail of 1920 OS map of Redmile

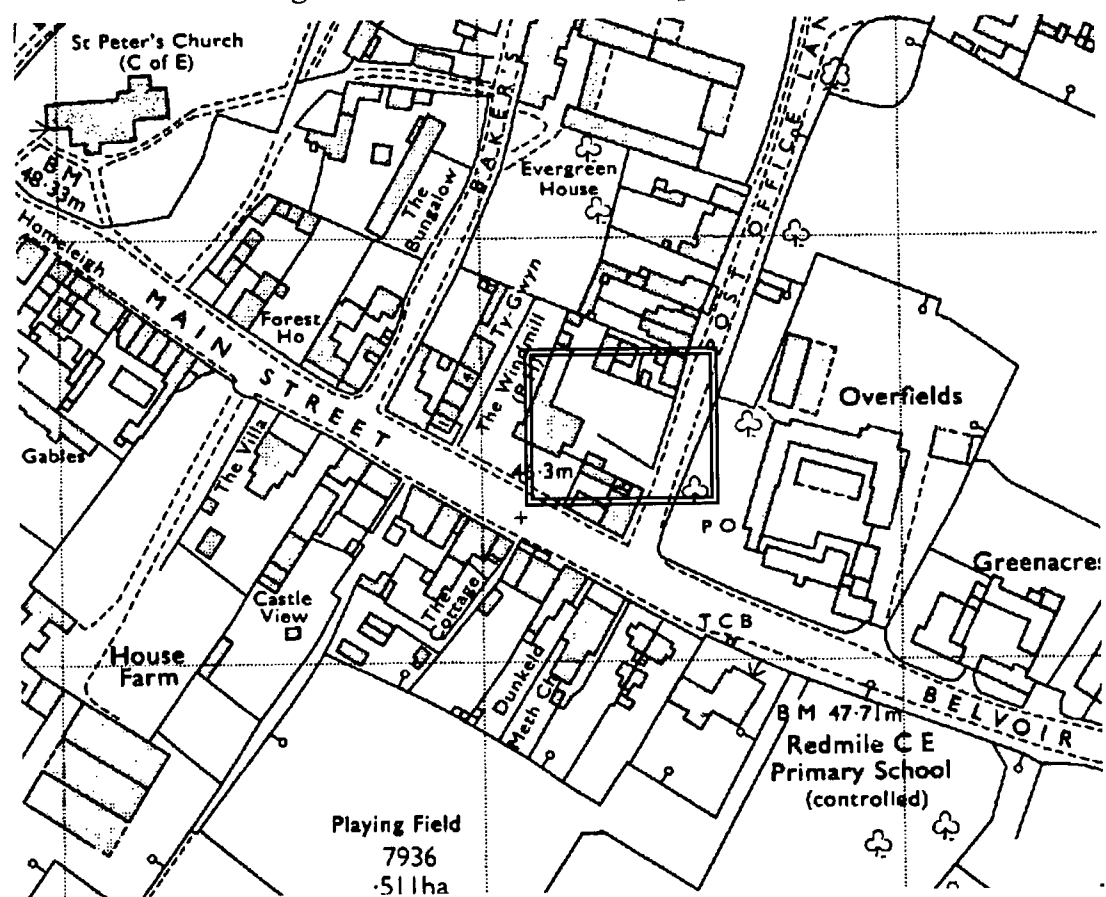


Figure 7: Detail of 1974 OS map of Redmile

5 Archaeological Watching Brief Results

5.1 Archaeological attendance to the site was undertaken on 23-09-05 during initial groundworks for the proposed residential development.

5.2 A soakaway was excavated in the north-western corner of the site area, measuring 2m x 1.5m x 1.2m in depth. The area contained large quantities of 19th and 20th century ceramic building material and pottery in the modern overburden. The soakaway gave the opportunity to ascertain the make-up of the ground within the site area. An initial modern overburden and topsoil of a depth of around 0.25 – 0.30m (containing modern artefacts) overlay a very dark greyish brown silty sandy lay subsoil that contained occasional small fragments of mortar, charcoal and building material of 0.10 – 0.12m depth. Below this layer was undisturbed natural ground comprising grey / brown clay with common fragments of sandstone that became rare below a depth of approximately 0.4m. The stone fragments were of natural origin securely sealed within the natural clays.

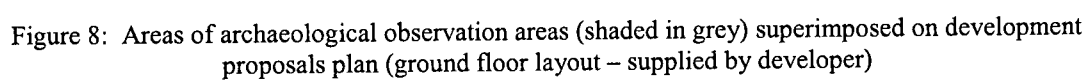
5.3 The footprint of the proposed building was excavated using a JCB with toothless bucket to a depth of between 0.25 – 0.30m depth. The modern overburden / topsoil layer was shallower in this area (maximum c.0.20m depth). This layer also contained far less 19th and 20th century ceramic building material and pottery.

5.4 The layer beneath modern overburden / topsoil, containing the fragments of clay, mortar and building material exposed and mostly removed across the entire footprint of the building. Areas were trowelled to expose the underlying clays which would again suggest this layer was between 0.10 – 0.12m in depth.

5.5 A service trench was exposed on the eastern edge of the site projecting from the road, although it was not investigated further. No archaeological features were revealed and no significant finds were recovered from the site area.

5.6 The area of the proposed garage was not stripped of soil, the area already being fairly level, and the construction methodology of a raft foundation not requiring any further soil removal.

5.7 The excavation of foundation trenches around the building was not observed, excepting that along the northern edge of the site. The trench confirmed the depth of the layer beneath modern overburden / topsoil, but due to the nature of the excavation of the trench (using 0.6m wide toothed bucket) and the fact the remainder of the footprint of the building had already been stripped, it was not considered worthwhile to observe the remaining trenches.



6. Conclusion

6.1 The archaeological watching brief during the initial groundworks associated with the construction of the proposed single dwelling on land to the west of Post Office Lane, Redmile, Leicestershire (SK 798 354) revealed no archaeological features and no significant finds were recovered.

6.2 The methodology of the groundworks, with the initial topsoil / overburden strip of the footprint of the building gave a good opportunity to assess the presence or absence of archaeological remains at the site.

6.3 The site area was previously used as a beer garden for the adjacent Windmill Public House. Prior to this the land is shown as having been undeveloped land, possibly a garden, allotment or small animal paddock on all previous OS maps to 1884.

6.4 The layer beneath modern overburden / topsoil contained many small fragments of charcoal, mortar and building rubble. The inclusions were not in sufficient quantities or sizes to suggest that it originated from the remains of a former structure on the site. The compactness of the layer may suggest that the soil was a former topsoil, that had been moved about through cultivation layer with the inclusions derived from manure scatter, which was subsequently levelled when converted to the beer garden area.

6.5 The archive will be deposited with the Historic and Natural Environment Team of Leicestershire County Council under the accession number X.A189. 2005.

James Meek
University Of Leicester Archaeological Services
October 2005



Plate 1: Development Area, prior to groundworks commencing



Plate 2: South facing section of soakaway showing general ground make-up



Plate 3: Total stripped area of footprint of building
(photo taken after site area had been tracked over)

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for Archaeological Works

Site: *Post Office Lane, Leicestershire*

NGR: *SK 798 354*

Client: *Carlton Building and Construction Limited*

Planning Authority: *Melton Borough Council*

Summary

In view of the potential of the site for containing buried archaeological remains relating to the medieval village of Redmile, the site lying within the historic core of the village, the archaeological adviser to the planning authority has recommended archaeological attendance and recording during topsoil stripping and groundworks for the proposed development, to ensure that affected deposits are adequately recorded. This specification provides details of the methodologies and standards to be adopted by ULAS on behalf of the client during the course of the work.

1. Introduction

1.1 Definition and scope of the specification

In accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning), para.30, and the condition placed on planning permission, this specification constitutes a 'written scheme of archaeological investigation' which ULAS intends to implement on behalf of the Client in mitigation of any damage which may be caused to buried or standing archaeological remains from the development.

- 1.2 The definition of archaeological watching brief, taken from the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standards and Guidance: for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IFA S&G: AWB) is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.

- 1.3 The purpose of a watching brief, as laid down in the IFA S&G AWB is:

to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.

to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment.

- 1.4 This document provides a scheme of works for:

Archaeological attendance and recording during topsoil stripping and groundworks likely to disturb archaeological remains, if present.

2. Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives, within the resources available, 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 excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

3. Background

- 3.1 The site is located within the medieval historic core of Redmile.
- 3.2 Due to the site's location it is seen as having the potential to contain associated archaeological deposits of medieval and later periods. There is still a potential for archaeological deposits predating the early medieval period to survive, although this level of potential has not been assessed.
- 3.3 Planning permission has been granted, following appeal (APP/Y2430/A/04/1148229) by Melton Borough Council for the erection of a single dwelling on land to the rear of the Windmill Public House, Redmile, Leicestershire (SK 798 354). A condition for an archaeological watching brief has been placed on the planning decision.
- 3.4 The groundworks to be undertaken during the development will comprise the removal of topsoil, excavation of footings, associated services and access routes, which would severely damage or destroy any archaeological remains that may be present on the site. The entire development will cover an area of c. 270 sq m.

4. Methodology

4.1 General Methodology and Standards

- 4.1.1 All work will follow the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.
- 4.1.2 Staffing (as far as is possible), Recording systems, Health and Safety provisions and Insurance details are included below.
- 4.1.3 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site by the project manager. These will ensure that project targets are met and professional standards are maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with the Senior Planning Archaeologist of the Historic and Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council, Melton Borough Council planning authority and the Client, if required.

4.2 Watching brief methodology

- 4.2.1 The archaeologist will be present during all groundworks that have the potential to affect any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area. The commencement of groundworks and subsequent timetable of works has been agreed between the Client, the Client's contractor and ULAS.
- 4.2.2 The archaeologist will observe any topsoil stripping and the excavation of foundation trenches and drains, by the Client's contractors, in order to obtain an adequate record of any archaeological deposits or finds disturbed or exposed by groundworks associated with the development.
- 4.2.3 The archaeologist will cooperate at all times with the contractors to ensure that there are no unnecessary delays to the work. However, if any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will have the power to temporarily halt the works in order to define and record areas of archaeological interest.
- 4.2.4 Any archaeological deposits encountered will be recorded and excavated using standard ULAS procedures (see section 5 below).
- 4.2.5 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the development,

ULAS shall have the power to halt any ground works and shall inform the site agent/project manager and the Senior Planning Archaeologist, and prepare a written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Senior Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement on behalf of the Client a contingency scheme for salvage excavation of affected archaeological features.

4.3. ***Environmental Sampling***

- 4.3.1 If significant archaeological features are subject to excavation, the sampling strategy will include the following if practicable, within the scope of the project and with the allocated resources:

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.

Any buried soils or well-sealed deposits with concentrations of carbonised material present will be intensively sampled taking a known proportion of the deposit.

Spot samples will be taken where concentrations of environmental remains are located.

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.

4.4 ***Recording Systems***

- 4.4.1 The ULAS recording manual will be used as a guide for all recording.
- 4.4.2 Individual descriptions of any observed archaeological strata and features exposed by the works will be entered onto pro-forma recording sheets.
- 4.4.3 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 appropriate scale, which will show the location of the investigation area in relation to the OS or site grid, as appropriate.
- 4.4.4 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, typically at a scale of 1:10. Relative levels of archaeological deposits will be taken across the site area.
- 4.4.5 A photographic record of the investigations will be prepared 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.
- 4.4.6 As a minimum, the watching archaeologist will record the location and depths of any areas of groundworks, including descriptions and depths of all principal strata disturbed, even if no archaeological features are present.

5. ***Finds and Samples***

- 5.1 The IFA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to.
- 5.2 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 Leicestershire Museums for storage in perpetuity.
- 5.3 An accession number will be obtained for the watching brief which will be used to identify all records and finds from the site.
- 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 with the approval of the

Senior Planning Archaeologist. The IFA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to.

- 5.5 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 numbers and boxed by material in standard storage boxes (340mm x 270mm x 195mm). All materials will be fully labelled, catalogued and stored in appropriate containers.

6. Report and Archive

- 6.1 The full report in A4 format will usually follow within four weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and copies will be dispatched to the Client (2 copies), Senior Planning Archaeologist/Leicestershire SMR (2 copies) and Melton Borough Council Planning Officer (1 copy).
- 6.2 The report will include:-
- Summary
 - The aims and methods adopted in the course of the watching brief.
 - The nature, location, extent, date, significance and quality of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
 - Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
 - The location and size of the archive.
- 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 usually be presented to within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

7 Publication and Dissemination of Results

- 7.1 A summary of the work will be submitted to the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* for publication. A larger report will be submitted for inclusion if the results of the archaeological works warrant it.

8. Acknowledgement and Publicity

- 8.1 ULAS shall acknowledge the contribution of the Client in any displays, broadcasts or publications relating to the site or in which the report may be included.
- 8.2 ULAS and the Client shall each ensure that a senior employee shall be responsible for dealing with any enquiries received from press, television and any other broadcasting media and members of the public. All enquiries made to ULAS shall be directed to the Client for comment. The Senior Planning Archaeologist will also be consulted when dealing with such enquiries.

9. Copyright

- 9.1 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.

10. Timetable/Staffing

- 10.1 One member of ULAS staff will be present on the site during groundworks. An initial start date for the works has been suggested for 23rd September 2005.
- 10.2 The report will normally be completed within eight weeks of the completion of fieldwork.

11. Health and Safety

- 11.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Archaeological Services Health and Safety Policy and Health and Safety manual with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is attached as Appendix 1. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate. The HSE has determined that archaeological investigations are exempt from CDM regulations.

A Risks assessment form will be completed prior to work commencing on-site, and updated as necessary during the site works.

It is assumed that the locations of all services on the site are already known to the Client, and that this information will be made known to the attending archaeologist.

12. Insurance

- 12.1 All employees, consultants and volunteers are covered by the University of Leicester public liability insurance with Gerling Insurance Service Co. Ltd. and others (leading policy no. 62/99094/D). Professional indemnity insurance is with Sun Alliance, £10m cover, policy no. 03A/SA 001 05978. Employer's Liability Insurance is with Eagle Star, cover £10m.

13. Monitoring arrangements

- 13.1 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and Senior Planning Archaeologist subject to the health and safety requirements of the site.
- 13.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the IFA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.
- 13.3 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

JEM

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Bibliography

- MAP 2, The management of archaeological projects 2nd edition English Heritage 1991
- MGC 1992, Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections 1992 (Museums and Galleries Commission)
- RFG/FRG 1993, Guidelines for the preparation of site archives (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993)
- SMA 1993, Selection, retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland 1993 (Society of Museum Archaeologists)