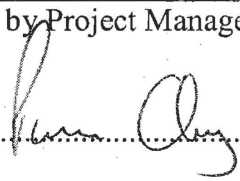


**An Archaeological Watching Brief at  
Hinckley Road, Burbage,  
Leicestershire (SP 442 928)**

John Coward and Patrick Clay

*Planning Application: 02/1344/4*

Client: Allenbuild Ltd. and A D Masic

Checked by Project Manager
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## **An Archaeological Watching Brief at Hinckley Road, Burbage, Leicestershire (SP 442 928)**

Jon Coward and Patrick Clay

### **Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during June 2003 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) as required by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council as part of the planning conditions (ref 02/1344/4). The site lies close to the medieval core of Burbage and a number of entries from the Leicestershire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) are recorded in the vicinity. No archaeological features were uncovered during the watching brief of the development. The site archive will be deposited with the Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services under the Accession Number X.A.113 2003.*

### **1. Introduction**

1.1. In accordance with Planning and Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and planning) a watching brief was undertaken during the construction of two residential dwellings at the former property of John Paul and Sons Ltd (Pauls Yard), Hinckley Road, Burbage, Hinckley, Leicestershire (SP 442 928; Planning Application: 02/1344/4) by Allenbuild Ltd. The work follows the *Design Specification for Archaeological Work* (ULAS 03/644; Appendix).

1.2: This work was carried out as part of a mitigation strategy for potential archaeological remains as required by the Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services, as archaeological advisor to the planning authority.

### **2. Geology and Topography**

2.1. The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 169 indicates that the underlying geology is Dunsmore Gravel - a combination of sands, gravel and clay. The land lies at a height of c. 130m OD.

### **3. Archaeological Background**

3.1. The proposed development area falls within the medieval village core of Burbage. Furthermore, medieval and early post-medieval remains have been found within the vicinity of the development area. Thus it was deemed necessary to have adequate archaeological supervision whilst the foundation works were being undertaken.

3.2. Place name evidence would suggest an Anglo-Saxon origin for Burbage or 'Burbach': 'Burr-' referring to a variety of thistle, common to the location even today and '-bach' coming from a Germanic term for a rivulet or ford.

3.3. The 1043 Foundation Charter of the Monastery of the Blessed Mary of Coventry records that 'Burbagh' was amongst townships given by Leofric, Earl of Mercia, to Coventry Abbey. Leofric, Abbot of Coventry Abbey, is reported to have been mortally wounded in the battle against the Norman invasion at Hastings.

3.4 'Burbece' is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, as part of the Sparkenhoe Hundred of Leicestershire, in Guthlaxton Wapentake. At this time the land was still held by Coventry Abbey and was valued at four pounds, housing 20 villagers, with two smallholders and two slaves.

3.5 In 1100, King William took lands away from Coventry Abbey (perhaps as a punishment for the opposition of Leofric). The manor of Burbach was given to Robert de Flamville and upon his death passed to John de Hastings. The manor remained with the de Hastings family until 1401. From 1401-1797 the manor was held by the Greys of Ruthin.

#### **4. Archaeological Objectives**

4.1. The aim of the archaeological watching brief as detailed in the *Design Specification for Archaeological Work* (ULAS 03/644) was to:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the nature, extent, date, and significance of any archaeological deposits affected by the proposed ground works.
- To excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the groundwork's.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

4.2. All work was undertaken in accord with the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhering to their *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. The work also was in accordance with the Leicestershire County Council *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland*.

4.3. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken between the 9th and 25th of June by Jon Coward and Sally Anne Smith. A total of ten site visits were completed during this period.

#### **5. Methods**

5.1. The site had already been stripped and levelled before the commencement of the watching brief. This had meant that land to the rear of the site had been reduced and some material removed. Excavation of the trenches for the foundations for the residential complexes was undertaken by a JCB using a 0.30m toothed bucket. All machining was conducted with full archaeological supervision in order to monitor for evidence of archaeological deposits or remains.

5.2. The foundation trenches for the walls were 0.3m in width. The depth of these foundations varied according to the overall depth of the subsoil and the depth of the natural undisturbed ground beneath. Some of the foundation trenches, therefore, were



cut into the natural substratum below the subsoil whilst in other places, only the upper layer of natural undisturbed deposits were revealed.

## **6. Results**

6.1. The watching brief took place following topsoil removal and levelling and observed the excavation of the foundation trenches. No evidence of archaeological features or pre-modern material was located during these observations.

## **7. Conclusions**

7.1. No archaeological deposits were located during the archaeological watching brief at Hinckley Road, Burbage. This suggests that the site was not previously occupied or that the occupation was not intensive enough to leave archaeological traces.

## **8. Archive**

8.1. The site archive (XA 113. 2003), consisting of paper records, black and white slides and colour photographs will be housed with the County Archaeological Heritage Services, Leicestershire County Council Community Services Department.

## **9. Publication**

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

## **10. Acknowledgements**

10.1. The work was undertaken by Sally Anne Smith and Jon Coward on behalf of Allenbuild Ltd. The project was managed by Dr. Patrick Clay.

## **11. Bibliography**

ULAS 2003. *Design Specification for Archaeological work. John Paul and Sons Ltd (Pauls Yard), 19, Hinckley Road, Burbage, Hinckley, Leicestershire (SP 442 928) ULAS 03/644*

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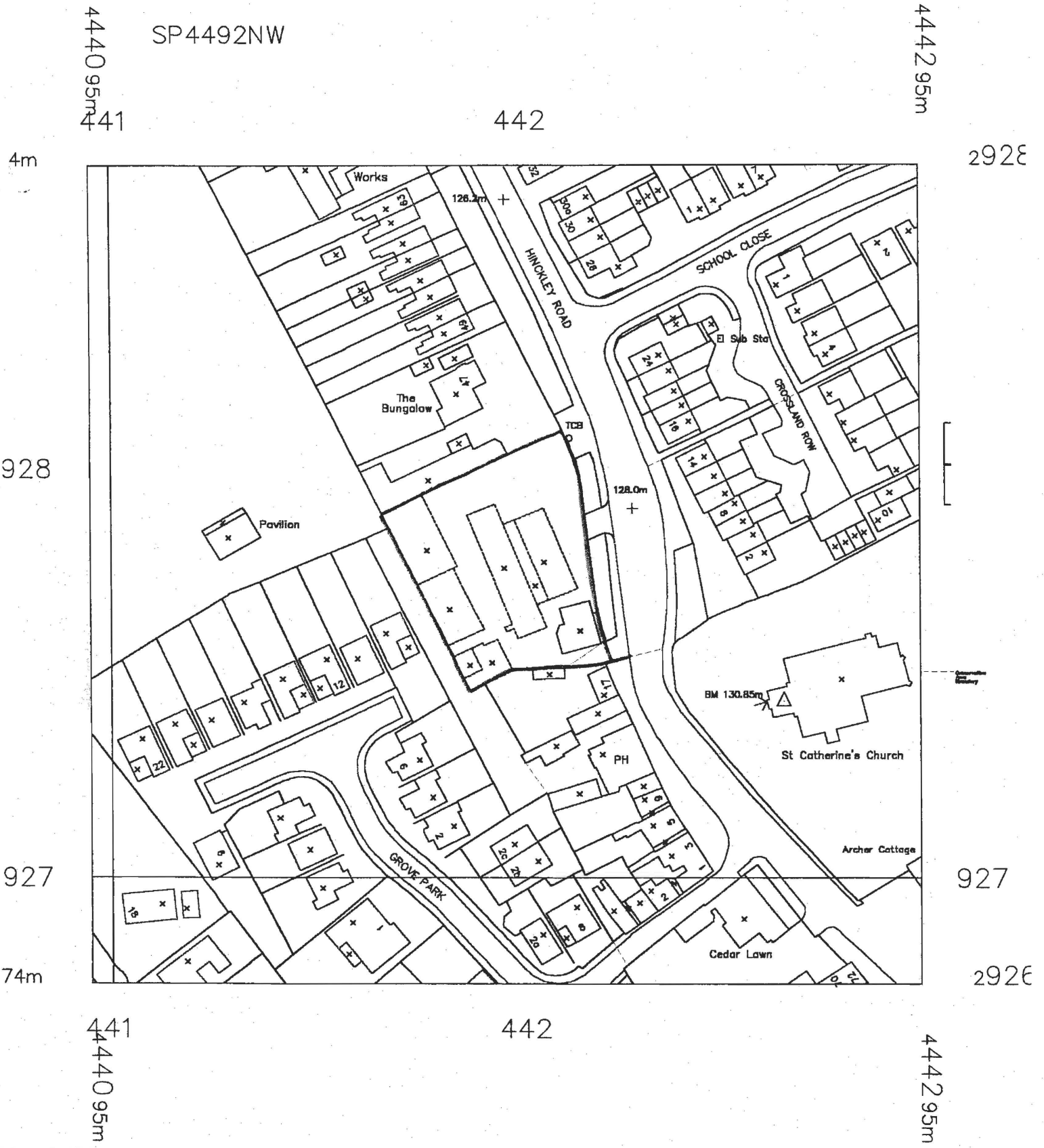


Figure 1 Site location Scale 1:1250

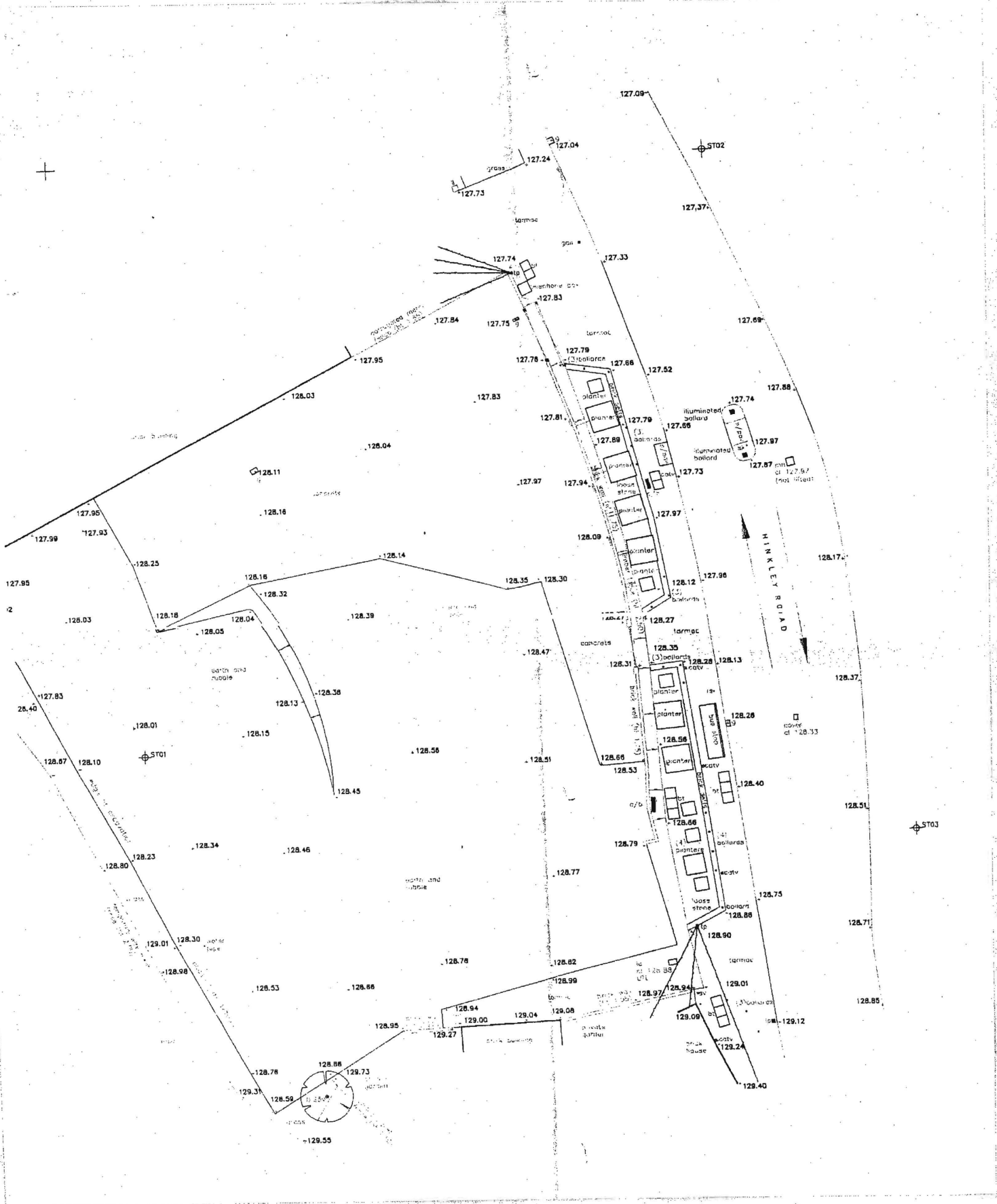


Figure 2 Topographic survey of the development area. Scale 1:400.



**UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES**

**Design Specification for archaeological work**

**John Paul and Sons Ltd (Pauls Yard), 19, Hinckley Road, Burbage,  
Hinckley, Leicestershire (SP 442 928)**

*Planning Application: 02/1344/4*

**For: Evans Heritage Developments**

**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 (watching brief), as required by the Planning Authority, of any ground works on the site which may disturb areas of archaeological potential in connection with a planning application for the construction of two residential dwellings John Paul and Sons Ltd (Pauls Yard) 19 Hinckley Road, Burbage, Hinckley, Leicestershire (SP 442 928; Planning Application: 02/1344/4 for Evans Heritage Developments). It addresses requirements detailed in the letter from Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council as archaeological adviser to the planning authority (13.1.2003).

1.2 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's (IFA) *Code of Conduct, 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 is required to cover any ground disturbance to identify any deposits of archaeological importance. This forms part of a scheme of work to fulfil the planning conditions required by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council following recommendations from Leicestershire Museums (now Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services) as advisors to the planning authority.

*2.2 Archaeological potential*

2.2.1 The site lies within an area of archaeological importance near the historical core of Burbage.

**3 Aims**

*3.1 Watching brief*

3.1.2. Through archaeological attendance during overburden removal and excavation of foundation and service trenches by the client's contractors:

1. To identify the presence/absence of any 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 Watching brief**

4.1.1 The project will involve the presence on site of an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. The archaeologist will monitor the topsoil removal and if necessary observe the foundation excavations. During these groundworks, if any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest.

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

4.1.3 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.

4.1.4 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.

4.1.5 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.

4.1.6 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 contractor, Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services and the coroner will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.1.7 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 Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.

4.1.8 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 Senior 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 Some 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 desk-based assessment will be submitted on completion while the 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 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 commence at the inception of the remainder of the contractors groundworks. An experienced archaeologist will be present during this work. It is proposed to watch all 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 Safety Manual (2001) as its Health and Safety Manual with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. It also follows the guidance in the Standing Committee of Archaeological Unit Managers manual, as revised in 1997. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate. An initial risks assessment is included in the appendix. This will be revised as appropriate following the commencement of fieldwork.

## **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 Gerling Insurance Services Policy No. 62/99094/D, Risk Reference LT 35101 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Sun Alliance Insurance Policy No. 03A/5A 001 05978, Risk Reference LT 27229.

## **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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9.6.2003

## Appendix

### Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

**John Paul and Sons Ltd (Pauls Yard), 19, Hinckley Road, Burbage,  
Hinckley, Leicestershire (SP 442 928)**

**Planning Application: 02/1344/4**

**For: Evans Heritage Developments**

#### *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 Standing Committee of Archaeological Unit Managers manual, as revised in 1997, 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 Vialls 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 9.6.2003