

**An Archaeological Watching Brief Carried Out at the Former Clearways Site,
Radmarsh Road, Nottingham (NGR SK 5518 3845).**

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Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works in advance of the re-development of the former Clearways Depot, Radmarsh Road, Nottingham. An archaeological desk-based assessment had identified the site as having moderate archaeological potential; an addendum indicated that the Wollaton Sough crossed the proposed development area.

Only a small percentage of the ground works were monitored and nothing of archaeological significance was observed.

1. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by UNITE Integrated Solutions plc to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works at the former Clearways Depot at Radmarsh Road, Lenton, Nottingham, (NGR SK 5518 3845). Outline planning permission had been granted for the demolition of the existing buildings and the construction of a 405-bed student accommodation (Planning Application No 04/02429/PFUL3). The City Archaeologist, in his capacity as the archaeological advisor to the planning authority recommended the implication of an archaeological watching brief as a condition of the granting of planning permission.

A previously commissioned archaeological desk-based assessment (Gnanaratnam, A. ULAS Report Number 2004-018) had identified the site as having moderate archaeological potential. The proposed development area lies just beyond the historic core of the village of Lenton; examination of the cartographic evidence relating to the site indicated the potential presence of a number of potentially significant archaeological features. These included the likely remains of a number of early post medieval buildings towards the northern edge of the proposed development area. The buildings were recorded on the 1609 Sherwood Forest, the first accurate map of this area and it is likely that these buildings pre-date the map and may be medieval in origin.

Another significant archaeological feature was identified as an addendum to the original desk-based assessment; it is assumed that the Wollaton Sough crosses the site. The sough is a substantial man-made drain and is likely therefore to have survived all but the deepest modern disturbance.

The site lies at approximately 28m OD and the underlying geology consists of Nottingham Castle Sandstone formation (British Geological Survey 1:50,000, sheet 126).

All work follows the Institute of Field Archaeologist's Code of Conduct and adheres to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

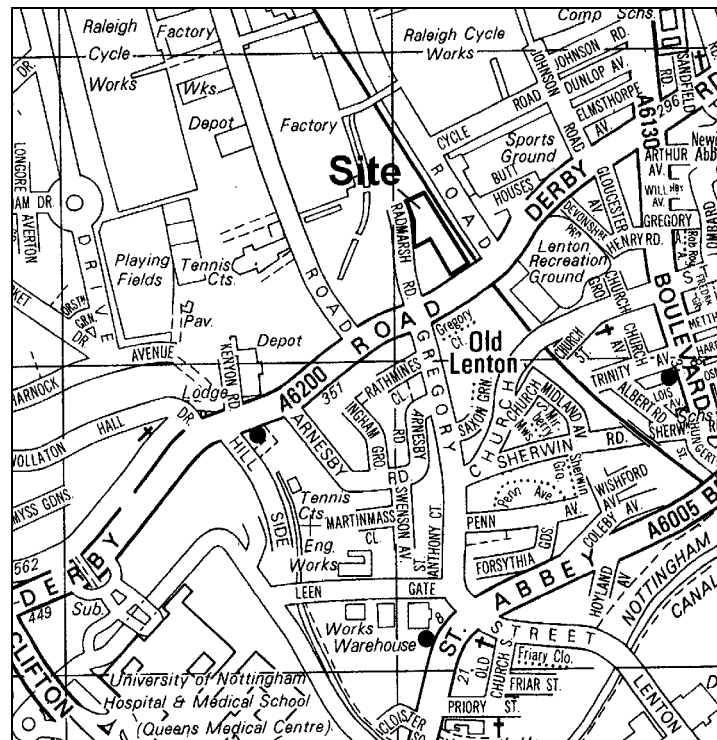


Figure 1 Location Map Reproduced from the OS map by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. ©Crown copyright All rights reserved. Licence number AL 10002186

2. Methodology

There were several areas of major ground disturbance to be monitored during the course of the watching brief; the initial levelling of the southernmost part of the site, concentrating on the footprint of the proposed development reduced the current ground level by approximately 200mm. This was carried out by back actor, using a ditching bucket. The northernmost part of the site, also centered on the footprint of the proposed development was also reduced by approximately 200mm. After this initial work there was a further reduction of 600mm in the southeast corner feathering out to zero towards the centre of the proposed development. This was done without archaeological supervision.

There were a number of deeper excavations for footings drainage and two crane bases; these were also carried out without archaeological supervision and only the two crane bases were examined prior to being backfilled.

A total of 4 watching brief visits were carried out the 16th, 17th, 22nd, and 30th of August and on the 1st September and the final visit was carried out on the 3rd October 2005.

3. Results

As expected there was extensive modern disturbance associated with the most recent occupation of the site and the initial site levelling did not uncover anything of archaeological significance. A well was uncovered adjacent to the southwestern boundary; the upper courses were of dry brick construction, the bricks themselves were 3inch by 9inch machine made, suggesting a late Victorian or early twentieth century construction date. However, these upper courses appeared to be slightly off centre and

may represent a later repair, suggesting that the well itself may, be earlier in date. There were a number of cast iron pipes still in position, suggesting that the original pumping gear may still be *in-situ* within the well. Given that the well appeared to have been used as a septic tank in recent times it was decided not to investigate further.

Evidence of the original route of Derby Road was also uncovered along the southeastern edge of the proposed development. Derby Road was shifted to the south during the last decade of the nineteenth century by the construction of a bridge to carry the road over the Midland Line, which forms the northeastern most boundary of the proposed development. Evidence of the road mainly consisted of granite cobble stones, approximately 150mm by 150mm in size and an examination of the service drawings supplied by the client indicate a deep culvert within in this area, which apparently post dates the road and would therefore have caused considerable damage to any earth fast archaeological remains within this area.

It was not possible to monitor any further ground works until the excavation of the two crane bases and these were only examined after they had been excavated and the concrete bases poured (*Colour Plate 1*). The exposed sections consisted of undisturbed weathered bedrock and the same brick-built well observed during the initial ground works was observed within one of the sections of the southern most crane base. There was nothing else of archaeological significance observed within the proposed development area.



Colour Plate 1 South Facing Section of Northernmost Crane Base.

4. Conclusion

Despite its promising location nothing of archaeological significance was observed during the course of this watching brief. On the whole the areas of highest archaeological potential were largely unaffected and the other areas were excavated

without any archaeological supervision. Only the crane bases were examined and these did not contain any archaeologically significant deposits.

References

Gnanaratnam, A. *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for land at the Clearways Site, Derby Road, Nottingham*. ULAS Report 2004-018.

Figures

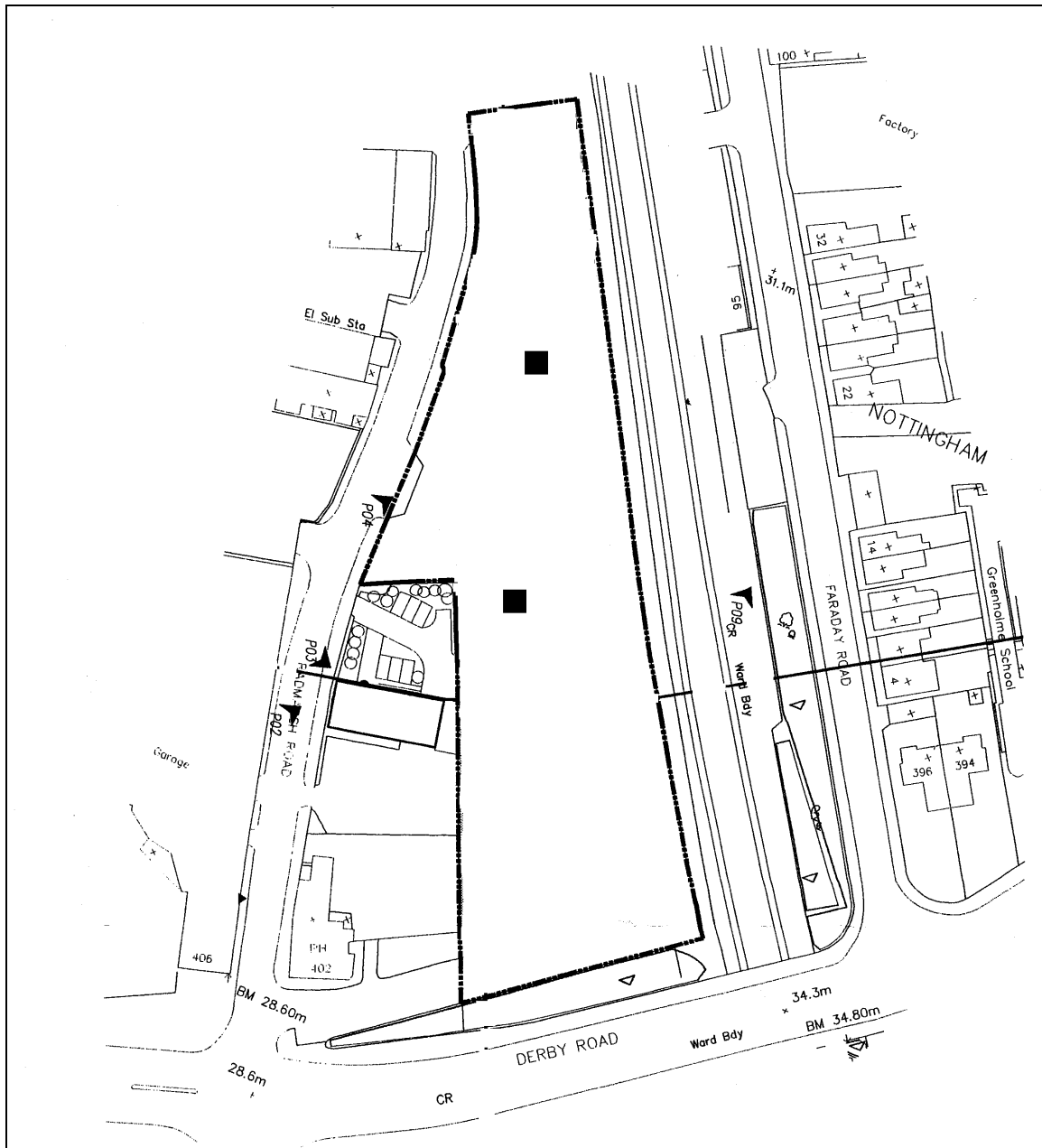


Fig 2 Area of Watching Brief with Crane Bases High Lighted.
(Drawing Supplied by Client)

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief Clearways Site, Derby Road, Nottingham

NGR: SK 5518 3845

Client: UNITE Intergrated Solutions plc

Planning Authority: Nottingham City Council

Planning Application Number: 04/02429/PFUL3

1 Introduction

1.1 *Definition and scope of the specification*

This document is a design specification for an archaeological watching brief at the above site, in accordance with DOE Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning, para.30). It covers ground investigative works and the construction of student accommodation.

1.2 The document provides details of the work proposed by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of the client. Condition 05 of the planning permission requires an archaeological watching brief during development including (a) Recording of finds made during the investigation and the preparation of a final report (b) deposition of finds and records in a registered museum and (c) publication of a summary of the results in an appropriate journal.

1.3 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.

1.4 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. In this case, a programme of archaeological excavation will be implemented in accordance with a supplementary specification agreed by the City Planning Archaeologist.

2. Background

2.1 *Context of the Project*

The proposed development is located on the east side of Radmarsh Road, off Derby Road, Nottingham (NGR: SK 5518 3845). The planning permission relates to the demolition of existing buildings and erection of student accommodation.

2.2 *Archaeological and Historical background*

A desk-based assessment has been prepared by ULAS (Report 2004-018). This concluded that the site lies close to the historic core of Lenton. Map evidence suggests the presence of an early post medieval building towards the northern edge of the proposed development. An Addendum to the desk-based assessment also indicated that the Wollaton Sough crosses the site; a sough is a substantial man-made drain. In all likelihood the sough is a deep cut feature and has survived all but the deepest modern truncation and maybe exposed during ground works.

A number of early industrial buildings and railway buildings were also observed during the desk-based assessment; evidence of these may also be encountered during the ground works.

According to the British Geological Survey Register of Caves, the nearest caves are below Wollaton Hall. None are recorded near to the site; nevertheless, there is the possibility that caves may be encountered during ground works.

3. Archaeological Objectives

3.1 The main objectives of the watching brief will be:

- 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 Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the watching brief is to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

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* (1999).

4.1.2 Staffing, 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 City Planning Archaeologist and the Client, if required.

4.2 *Watching Brief Methodology*

4.2.1 An experienced archaeologist will attend the site to observe the ground works undertaken by the contractor which have the potential to destroy or damage buried archaeological deposits. Initial contact from the Client's contractors will be essential to ensure that at least one week's notice can be given to ULAS prior

to the work commencing, in order that archaeological attendance can be arranged so that the relevant planning conditions can be discharged.

- 4.2.2 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.
- 4.2.3 In the event of cave sites being revealed during the development, ULAS shall inform the site agent/project manager and the City Planning Archaeologist. Following assessment of the cave site including safety considerations by the Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement on behalf of the Client a contingency scheme for emergency recording.
- 4.2.4. In the event that unforeseen/significant archaeological discoveries are made during the development, ULAS shall inform the site agent/project manager and the City Planning Archaeologist. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement on behalf of the Client a contingency scheme for emergency excavation of affected archaeological features.
- 4.2.5. Any archaeological deposits encountered will be recorded and excavated using standard ULAS procedures (see section 4.3 below).

4.3 *Recording Systems*

- 4.3.1 The ULAS recording manual, will be used as a guide for all recording.
- 4.3.2 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto pro-forma recording sheets.
- 4.3.3 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 trench plan at appropriate scale, which will show the location of the areas investigated in relationship to the investigation area and OS grid.
- 4.3.4 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. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be recorded.
- 4.3.5 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.
- 4.3.6 This record will be compiled and checked during the course of the excavations.

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 the Nottingham City Museum for storage in perpetuity.

- 5.3 Before commencing work on the site, a Site code/Accession number will be agreed with the Planning Archaeologist that will be used to identify all records and finds from the site.
- 5.4 During the fieldwork, different sampling strategies may be employed according to the perceived importance of the strata under investigation. Close attention will always be given to sampling for date, structure and environment. If significant archaeological features are sample excavated, the environmental sampling strategy is likely to include the following:
- 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.
- 5.5 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 Planning Archaeologist. The IFA *Guidelines for Finds Work* will be adhered to.
- 5.6 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 eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and copies will be dispatched to the Client (2 copies), Nottingham City Planning Archaeologist/SMR (2 copies) and Local Planning Authority (1 copy).
- 6.2 The report will include consideration of:-
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation and watching brief
 - The nature, location, extent, date, significance and quality of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
 - The anticipated degree of survival of archaeological deposits.
 - The anticipated archaeological impact of the current proposals.
 - Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
 - Summary.
 - The location and size of the archive.

- A quantitative and qualitative assessment of the potential of the archive for further analysis leading to full publication, following guidelines laid down in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage).
- 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 relevant local archaeological journal. A larger report will be submitted for inclusion if the results of the evaluation 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.
- 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. Health and Safety
 - 10.1 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.
- 11. Insurance
 - 11.1 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. Copies of the certificates of insurance are provided.
- 12. Monitoring arrangements
 - 12.1 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and Planning Archaeologist subject to the health and safety requirements of the site. At least one weeks notice will be given to the Planning Archaeologist before the commencement of the archaeological evaluation in order that monitoring arrangements can be made.
 - 12.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the IFA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*.

12.3 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

13. Bibliography

Gnanaratnam, *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for land at the Clearways A., 2002* *Site, Derby Road, Nottingham (NGR SK 5518 3845)*

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 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)

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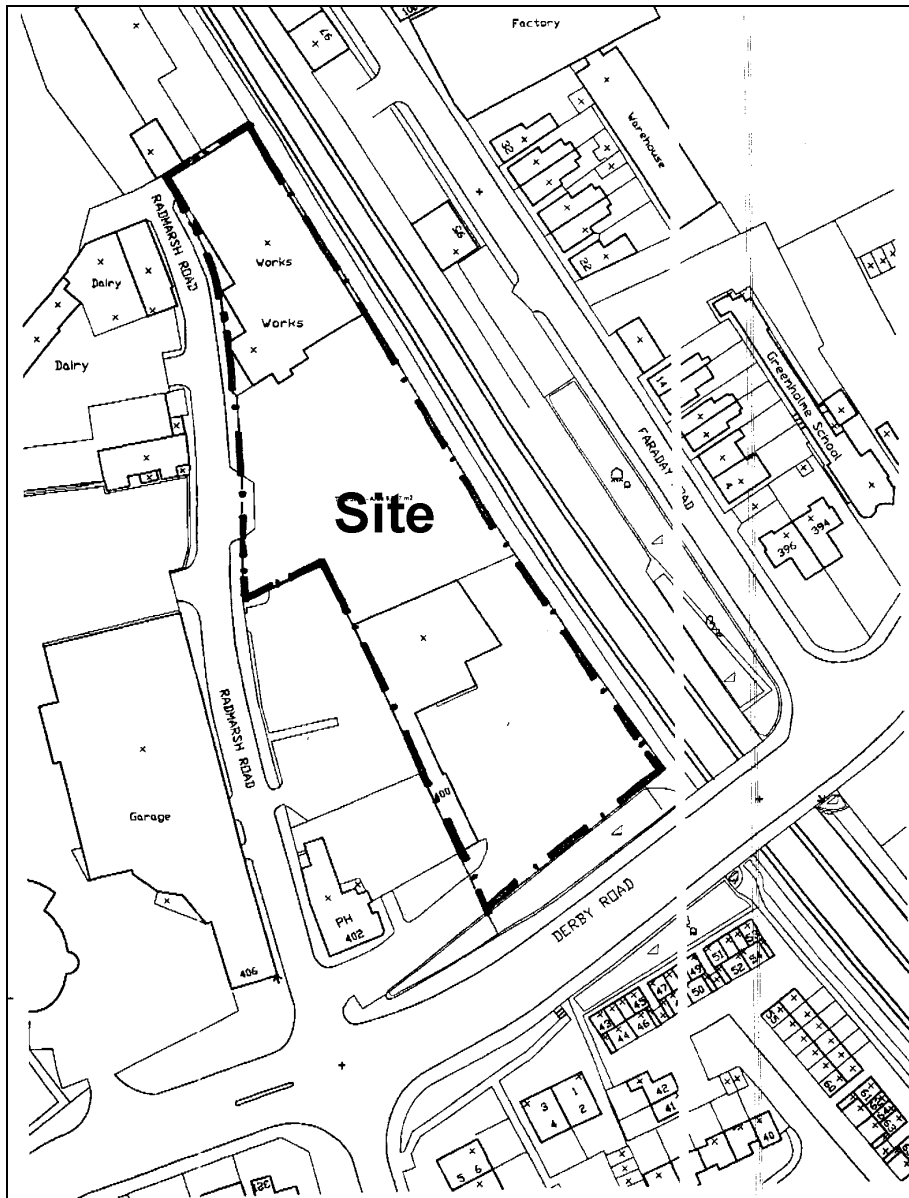


Figure 1- The site at scale 1:1000 from plan kindly supplied by Stephen George and Partners.

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

A risks assessment will be produced by on-site staff, which will be updated and amended during the course of the evaluation.

1. Nature of the work

1.1 Brief description of the work involved

The work will involve machine stripping and excavation by during daylight hours. Overall depth is likely to be *c.* 0.5 m with possible features excavated to a depth of another 1m. Remaining works will involve the examination of the exposed surface with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and excavation of archaeological features. Deeper features will be fenced with lamp irons and hazard tape.

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 Working on an excavation site.

Precautions. Spoil will be kept 1.5m away from the edge of the excavated area to prevent falls of loose debris. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. Hard hats will be worn when working in deeper sections or with plant. First aid kit to be kept in site accommodation/vehicle. Vehicle and mobile phone to be kept on site in case of emergency.

2.2 Working with plant.

Precautions. Archaeologists experienced in working with machines will observe topsoil stripping at all times. Hard hats, protective footwear and hazard jackets will be worn at all times. If services or wells are encountered machining will be halted until extent has been established by hand excavation or areas where it is safe to machine have been established.

2.3 Working within areas prone to waterlogging.

If waterlogging occurs on site preventing work continuing it is proposed to excavate a sump, suitably fenced and clearly marked to enable the water to drain away. If this is insufficient a pump will be used. The sump will be covered when not in use and backfilled if no longer required. 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.

Appendix 2 Insurance details**Corporate Division****TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

P.O. Box 35
9 South Parade
Leeds LS1 1JW
Tel: (0113) 2915010
Fax: (0113) 2830251
E-Mail: sam.naphey@ars.aon.co.uk

7 August 2004

Our Ref: EU/SN/Ext 5010

Dear Sirs

University of Leicester – Liability Insurances

We act as Insurance Brokers for the above and can confirm that we have arranged on their behalf the following liability insurances:-

Employers Liability

Insurer : Zurich Insurance
Policy Number : J0198732
Expiry Date : 31 July 2005
Indemnity Limit: : £10,000,000 any one occurrence
Extension : Indemnity to Principal

Public Liability

Insurer : Gerling Insurance Service Company Ltd
Policy Number : 62/99094H/D
Expiry Date : 31 July 2005
Indemnity Limit: : £10,000,000 any one occurrence
£10,000,000 any one period for Products Liability
Extension : Indemnity to Principal
Liability assumed under Contract or Agreement

We trust that the above information is sufficient for your needs if not, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Miss
Account
Education Unit

Sam

Naphey
Handler



Corporate Division

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

P.O. Box 35
9 South Parade
Leeds LS1 1JW
Tel: (0113) 2915010
Fax: (0113) 2830251
E-Mail: sam.naphey@ars.aon.co.uk

7 August 2004

Our Ref: EU/SN/Ext 5010

Dear Sirs

University of Leicester – Professional Indemnity Insurance

We act as Insurance Brokers for the above and can confirm that we have arranged on their behalf the following insurance:-

Insurer : Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance London
Policy Number : PI45000A
Expiry Date : 31 July 2005
Indemnity Limit: : £10,000,000 any one claim and in all

We trust that the above information is sufficient for your needs if not, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Naphey'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Miss
Account
Education Unit

Sam

Naphey
Handler