

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
78 South Street, Oakham,
Rutland.
(SK 8588 0860).**

James Harvey

For: William Davis Design and Build

Planning Application Reference: FUL/2002/0903/MS

Checked by Project Manager

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Illustrations

- Figure 1: Site location. Reproduced from Landranger® 1:50 000 scale by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100021187.
- Figure 2: Development Area. Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100021187.
- Figure 3: Development Plan. Supplied by William Davis Design and Build.

An Archaeological Watching Brief at 78 South Street, Oakham, Rutland. (SK 8588 0860).

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the removal of oil tanks and the excavation of foundation trenches at 78 South Street, Oakham, Rutland (SK 8588 0860) on the 25th/26th September 2003 and also on the 28th/30th June 2004. This was carried out by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of William Davis Design and Build.

No significant archaeological finds or deposits were observed during this work. The site archive will be deposited with Leicester County Council, Heritage Services, Accession No. RT05.2004.

Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) during groundworks at 78 South Street, Oakham, (fig. 1).



Figure 1: Site location. Reproduced from Landranger®, original scale 1:50 000 by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100021187.

The site had been identified as an area of archaeological potential from information held in the Leicestershire and Rutland Sites and Monuments Record. In view of this an archaeological watching brief during the ground works was recommended as part of the planning conditions set out by Leicester County Council (planning application no. FUL/2002/0903/MS).



Figure 2: Location plan showing area of the development. Scale 1:1800 by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100021187.

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) was commissioned to carry out the watching brief on behalf of the client William Davis Design and Build. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on the 25th/26th September 2003 and also on the 28th/30th June 2004. The work involved archaeological observation during the removal of three oil tanks from the site and also during the initial groundworks for the new residential complex (fig. 3).

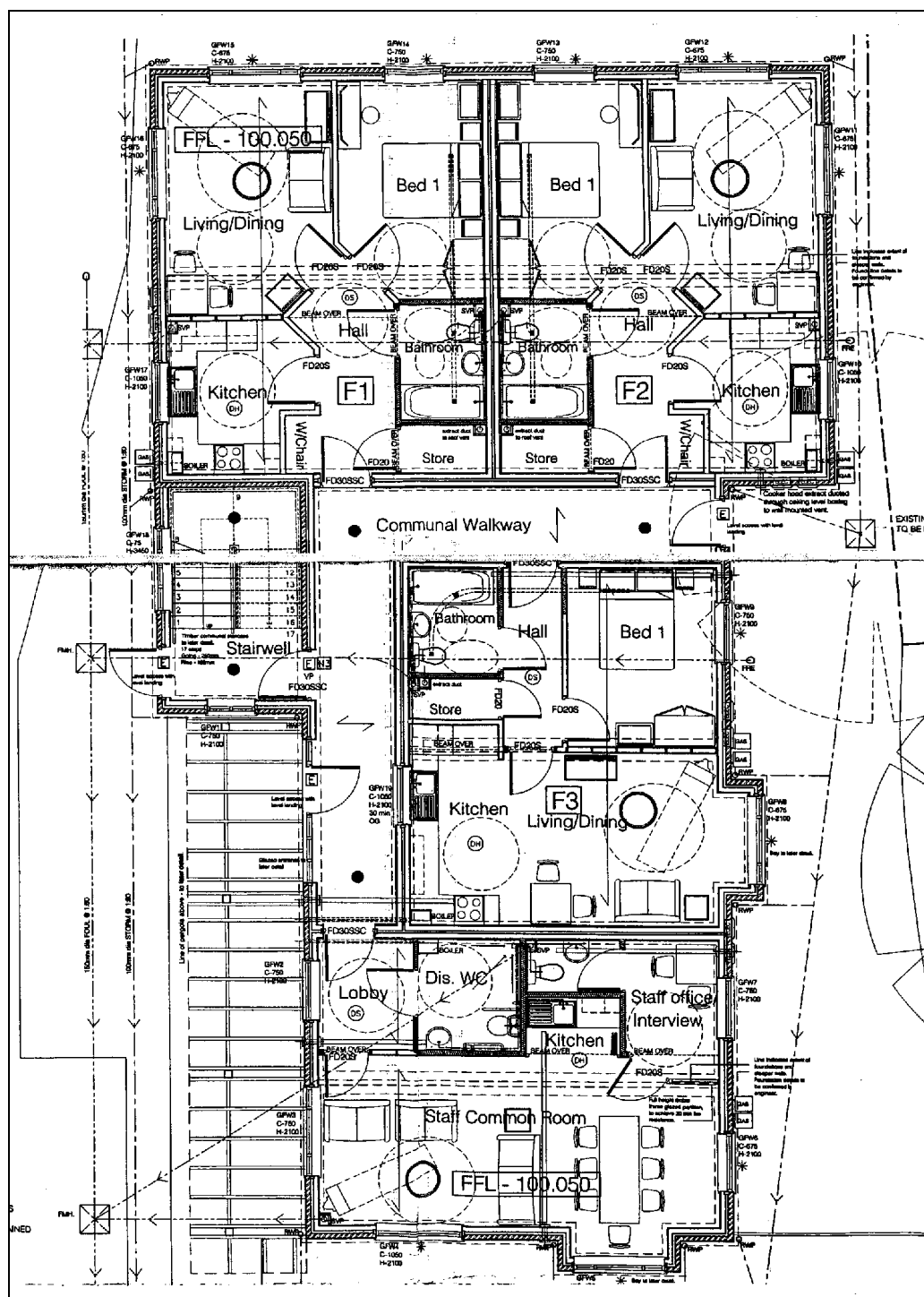


Figure 3 Development Plan for the new residential complex

Location and Geology

The site is located in the town of Oakham, within the county of Rutland (SK 8588 0860, fig 1) and is situated in the south of the historic core of the town (fig. 2). The development covers an area of approximately 1150² m and at a height of approximately 108m OD.

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 157 indicates that the underlying geology consists of Marlstone and Liassic clay in the north of the development area, and silt and silty Liassic clay in the south.

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.

Historical and Archaeological Background (adapted from Clarke 2003)

The manor and castle of Oakham, part of the dowry of the Anglo-Saxon queens of England, came to Edith, wife of Edward the Confessor in the mid 11th century. The manor was held by William the Conqueror in 1075. Domesday also shows that the settlement was served by a priest and church, perhaps a predecessor to the largely Decorated and Perpendicular All Saints. Albert the Clerk held, under the King, the churches of Oakham, Hambleton and Stamford with associated lands. Although the church and some land were granted to Westminster Abbey by William II (1087-1100), the manor, including the castle, remained in royal hands. It was held by Henry Beaumont, first Earl of Warwick, in the early 12th century, probably passing to the Ferrers family about 1119.

The town grew under the patronage of the castle and had a market by 1249. Its 14th and 15th century prosperity was due to the wool trade. Its late 17th and early 18th century buildings may be connected with the wealth of the then lord of the manor, Daniel Finch, Earl of Nottingham.

No previous archaeological work has been undertaken within the development area. However, several projects undertaken during the 1990's have located a number of archaeological deposits elsewhere on South Street. These include the remains of a Saxon sunken-featured building or *grubenhaus* and pottery dating to the 5th-6th centuries. Other deposits include a pit complex and a trench containing Saxo-Norman Stamford ware. A cess pit containing 11th century pottery was found beneath an old stable block. Part of a very large ditch, possibly an early town ditch was found running parallel to South Street. It was suggested that similar deposits may be present within the development area.

Methodology

The watching brief involved archaeological supervision during the removal of three oil tanks and also during the excavation of foundations trenches for the new residential complex (fig.3).

The work followed the *Archaeological design specification for archaeological work*, and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Code of Conduct and the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological watching briefs*.

Results

The oil tanks were located at the front of the site, directly adjacent to South Street. The sections that were exposed as a result of their removal revealed a grey/green clay natural that has turned black in places due to contamination. This is overlain by a brown clay subsoil, 65cm-1m thick. This is sealed by 25cm of concrete that is overlain by a tarmac layer of 10cm.

The foundation trenches varied in depth from 1-2m. Modern overburden was observed between depths of 30cm-1.2m below which, greyish brown clay and silty clay was located. There was evidence of modern disturbances within the trenches.

An area towards the rear of the site had been levelled to depths between 0.5-0.7m that was not supervised. Inspection of this area revealed no obvious features.

Conclusion

No significant archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered during the watching brief.

Archive

The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services with the temporary Accession No. RT05.2004. It consists of watching brief sheets, colour transparency slides and digital contact print.

Publication

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

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank William Davis Design and Build for their help and cooperation during the watching brief. This archaeological watching brief was carried out by Sally Warren and James Harvey; the project manager is Dr. Patrick Clay.

References

- Clarke, S. 2003 *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for land at Barleythorpe Road, Oakham, Rutland (SK 855 092)*. ULAS Report No. 2003-120
- MAP 2 *The management of archaeological projects 2nd edition English Heritage 1991.*
- RFG/FRG 1993. *Guidelines for the preparation of site archives (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993).*

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Appendix I: Design Specification

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for Archaeological Work

78 South Street, Oakham, Rutland

Planning Application: FUL/2002/0903/MS

For: William Davis Design and Build

Summary

In view of the potential of the site for containing buried archaeological remains of the Anglo-Saxon, medieval and/or post-medieval periods, the archaeological adviser to the planning authority has recommended archaeological attendance and recording during groundworks 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 groundworks for the above developments, which will include topsoil stripping, grading and the creation of a formation level.

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 lies in Oakham parish in the County of Rutland (SK 8588 0860, Fig 1). Situated in the south of the historic core of Oakham, close to the church of St John and St Anne (80NE AK) and south of All Saint's Church (80NE AL) and Oakham Castle (80NE D) it is an area recognised as having archaeological potential.
- 3.2 Nearby, excavations and a watching brief were carried out in 1994 which revealed a Saxon sunken featured building (grübenhaus). These structures are extremely rare and this represents the first evidence of early Saxon settlement in Oakham. Other archaeological deposits of a Saxo-Norman and early medieval date were also revealed. Given the proximity of the development area and its location on the edge of the historic settlement core similar archaeological deposits could be present.
- 3.3 In 1999 an archaeological evaluation of the former cattle market site undertaken which revealed features and finds of medieval and post-medieval date including sherds from the mid eleventh-century.
- 3.4 The medieval site of the church of St John and St Anne (80NEAK) is near the proposed development area and many other medieval sites are also present in Oakham.
- 3.5 A number of prehistoric sites are located in the vicinity of Oakham. Some of these have been identified through aerial photography. These include Bronze Age ring ditches and triple ditches (80NES, 80NEAC and 80NEU), pit alignments (80NEAA and 80NEAD) and an Iron Age enclosure (80NEBG). Fieldwalking and other finds have identified further prehistoric sites in Oakham and its vicinity.
- 3.6 Roman activity in the area is represented by sites discovered by fieldwalking to the west of Oakham (80NEAX and 80NEBL) and other finds in the town itself.
- 3.7 If any archaeological remains are present in the area they are likely to be at a shallow depth considering the nature of previous development at the site and the shallow depth of the adjacent Saxon deposits (80NEBR).
- 3.8 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 157 indicates that the underlying geology consists of Marlstone and Liassic clay in the north of the development area, and silt and silty Liassic clay in the south.

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 Planning Archaeologists at the Heritage Services Section, Community Services Department, Leicestershire County Council; Rutland County Council and the Client, if required.

4.2 Watching brief methodology

- 4.2.1 The archaeologist will be present during all remaining groundworks that have the potential to affect any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area. The commencement of groundworks and subsequent timetable of works must be agreed between the Client, the Client's contractor and ULAS.
- 4.2.2 The archaeologist will the excavation of service trenches and any other remaining groundworks, 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, the English Heritage Inspector, Planning Archaeologist and Planning Authority and prepare a short written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the 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 Heritage Services Section, Community Services Department, Leicestershire County Council 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 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), Charnwood Borough Council Planning Officer (1 copy). An Oasis record will be completed on the Archaeology Data Service website.
- 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 *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.

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 The watching brief is scheduled to commence at the inception 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.
- 10.2 The report will normally be completed within 3 months of the 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.
- 11.2 A Risks assessment form will be completed prior to work commencing on-site, and updated as necessary during the site works.

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. Copies of the certificates of insurance are provided.

13. Monitoring arrangements

- 13.1 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. Usually at least one weeks notice will be given to the Planning Archaeologist before the commencement of the archaeological works in order that monitoring arrangements can be made.
- 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.

14. Bibliography

- Browning, J., 1999 *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for residential development at Church Lane, Pickwell, Leicestershire (SK 787 114)*
- 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)

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Appendix II: Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

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.

Appendix III: Site Visits

Visit to site	Half Day	Full Day	Initials
25.09.03	1		SW
26.09.03	1		SW
28.06.04	1		JH
30.06.04		1	JH