

**An Archaeological Watching Brief  
at Mill Lane, Newbold Verdon,  
Leicestershire  
(SP 553 967)**

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For: Jelson Limited

**Checked by Project Manager**

**Signed:**

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## **An Archaeological Watching Brief at Mill Lane, Newbold Verdon, Leicestershire (SP 553 967)**

### **Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during ground works for a residential development at Mill Lane, Newbold Verdon, Leicestershire (SP 553 967); P.A 00/0148/4 by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of Jelson Limited.*

*The only significant feature that was observed was a possible undated pit or ditch located directly adjacent to Mill Lane.*

### **1. Introduction**

Newton Verdon lies to the south east of Leicester, Leicestershire (Figure 1). Planning permission was granted to Jelson Limited for the new residential dwellings and garages at Mill Lane, Newbold Verdon. 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 initial ground works was required as part of the planning conditions by Hinckley and Bosworth County Council (planning application 00/0148/4). This requirement was detailed in the *Brief for archaeological watching brief at CD Contracts, Mill Lane, Newbold Verdon* produced by Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services as archaeological advisor to the planning authority (15.5.2002).

The University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) was then commissioned to carry out the watching brief on behalf of the client, Jelson Limited. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on the 18th December 2002, 16th January, 20th February and 6th March 2003.

### **2. Location and Geology**

The development is located on the corner of Mill Lane and Enston Street, in Newbold Verdon, Leicestershire (SP 553 967), at a height of approximately 130m OD. The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 155 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist sand and gravels.

### **3. Archaeological Objectives**

The aims of the watching brief were:

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

- To produce an archive and report of any results.

#### **4. Archaeological and Historical Background**

The development area is located close to the historic core of the village of Newbold Verdon and a possible Medieval occupation site has been located in the vicinity through fieldwalking (SMR 40SW).

#### **5. Methodology**

The watching brief consisted of three separate phases of observation of foundation trenches for five residential plots (Phases A and B) and subsequent drainage trenching in the area fronting onto Mill Lane (Phase C, figure 3). This was carried out using a JCB 3CX toothless bucket.

The work followed the *Archaeological design specification for archaeological work* (appendix 1), and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Code of Conduct and the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological watching briefs*.

#### **6. Results**

The trenches were 1m wide and varied in depth from 0.90-3m. The topsoil overburden consisted of a grey loamy clayey sand mixed with frequent pebbles; this depth ranged from 0-0.2m. The subsoil consisted of greyish brown silty sand with frequent pebbles and was generally 0.2m in thickness. The natural substratum consisted of a yellowish brown sandy-gravel within the foundation trenches and orangey brown silty sand within the area of the drainage trenches.

The overburden contained occasional finds of modern pottery. Phases A and B failed to locate and notable finds or archaeological deposits. One feature was observed during Phase C positioned adjacent to Mill Lane, 6.5m southwest from the boundary with 57 Mill Lane and was located beneath the subsoil (Plate 1 and Figure 4). Its shape in plan was unclear because the trench was not wide enough to establish the edge of it. The width of the feature in section was 1.1m and measured to a depth of 0.6m below the subsoil layer. The cut of the feature had concave sides and base. It contained a soft greyish brown sandy silt deposit with frequent round pebbles. No finds were recovered. It is likely this undated feature is part of a pit or ditch.

#### **7. Conclusion**

The watching brief revealed only one possible archaeological feature that has been interpreted as either a pit or ditch, located adjacent to Mill Lane. The feature was only partially exposed and its date and function are unknown. It may relate to the Medieval occupation evidence found nearby during fieldwalking (SMR 40SW).

#### **8. Site Archive**

The archive will be deposited with Leicester Museums, Arts and Records Service with the Accession No. X.A 14.2003. It consists of two watching brief sheets, one annotated site plan, colour transparency slides and monochrome negatives.

#### **9. Publication**

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

## **10. Acknowledgements**

ULAS would like to thank Jelson Limited for their help and cooperation during the watching brief. This archaeological watching brief was carried out by Tim Higgins, Sally Warren and Steve Jones; the project manager was Patrick Clay.

## **11. Bibliography**

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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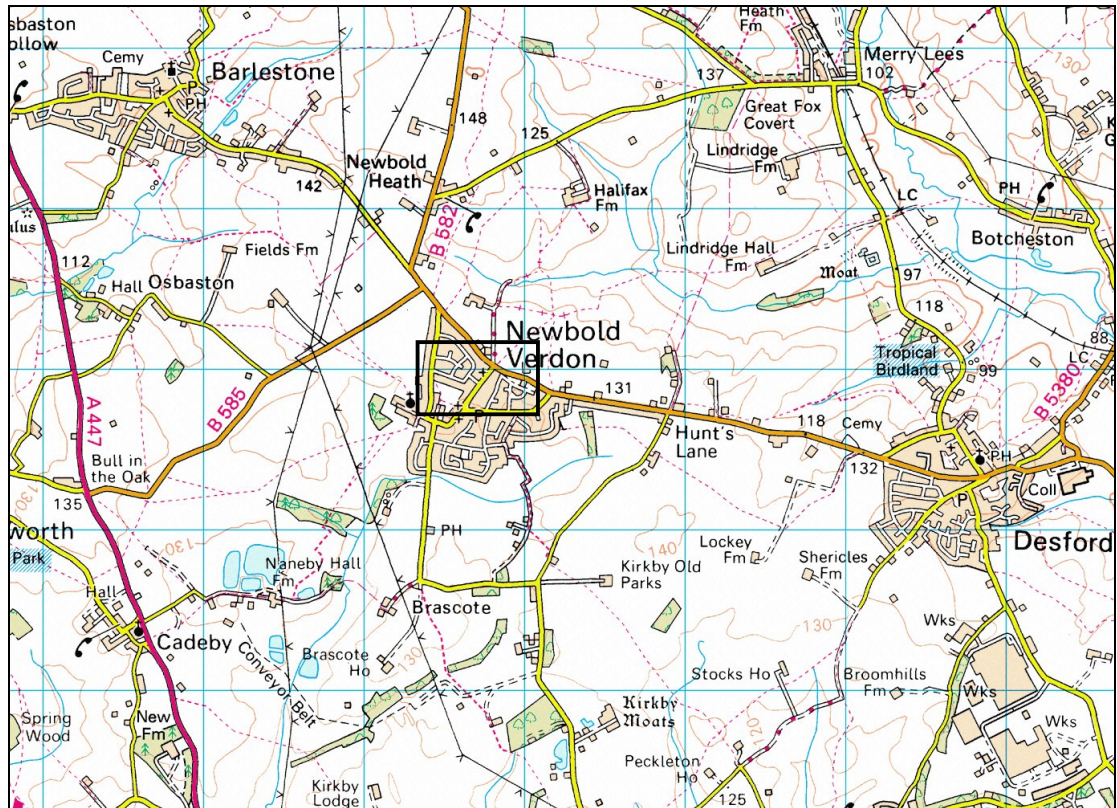


Figure 1: Site location. Reproduced from Landranger<sup>®</sup>, original scale 1:50 000 by permission of Ordnance Survey<sup>®</sup> on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100021187.

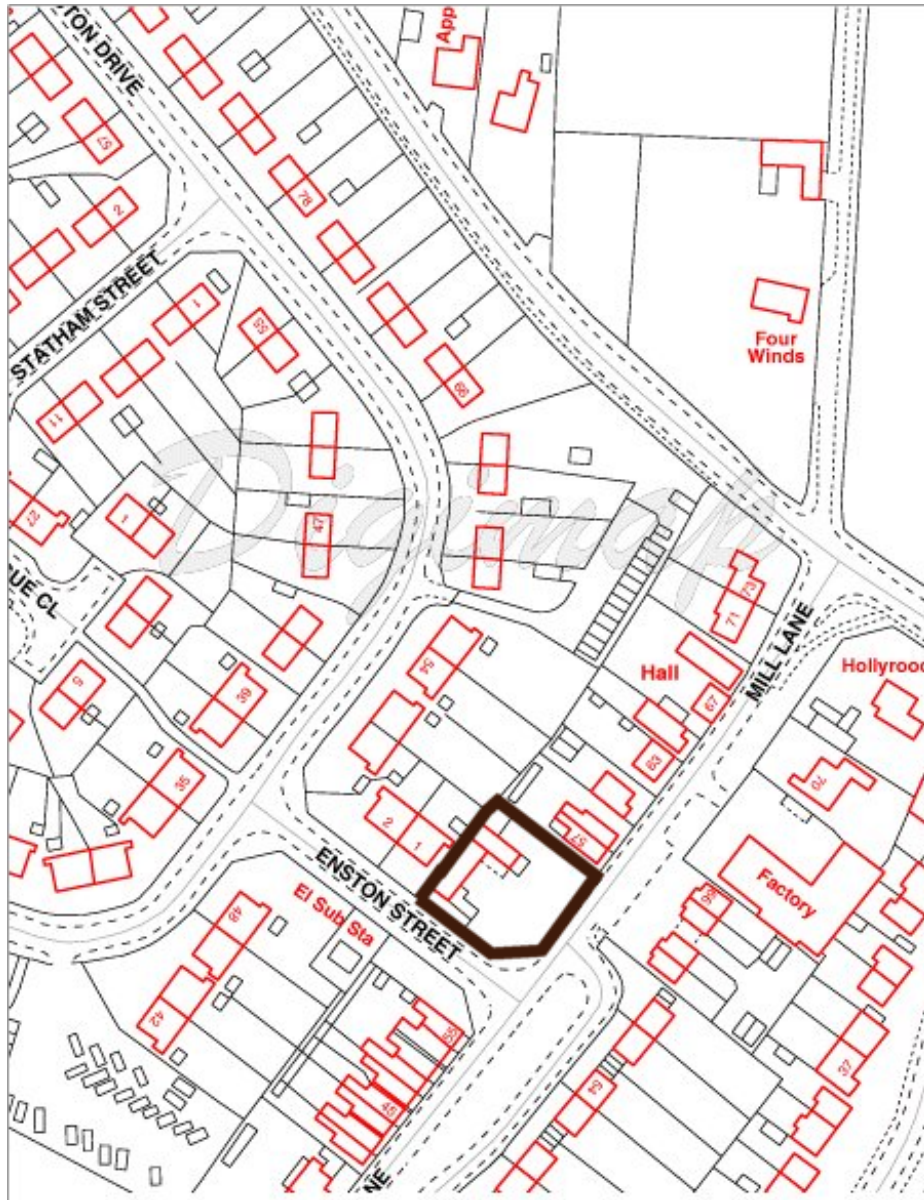


Figure 2: Location plan showing area of the development. Scale 1:1800 by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100021187.

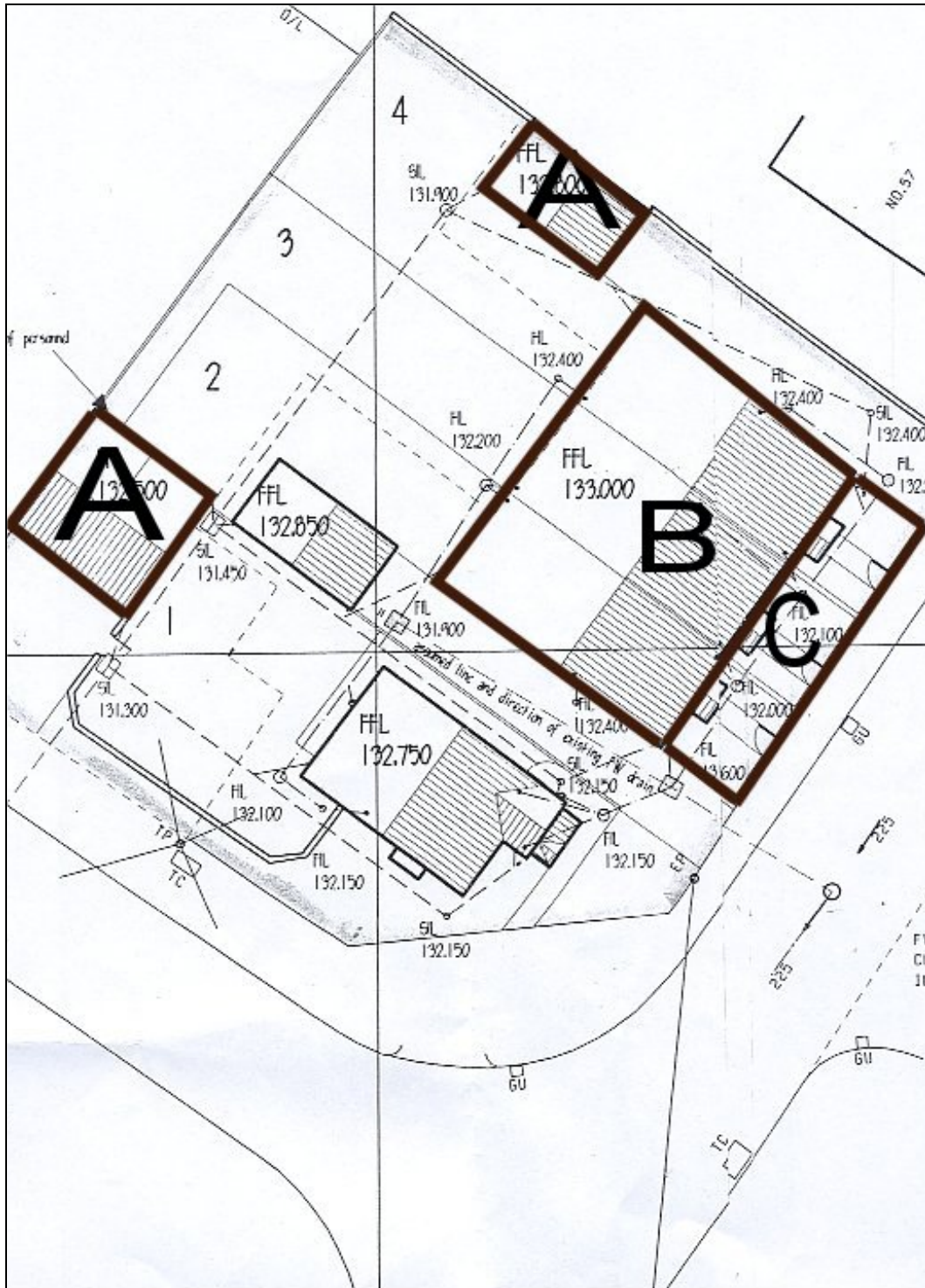
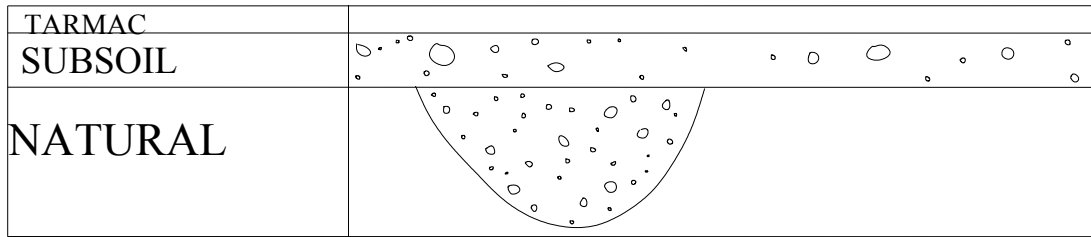


Figure 3: Site plan showing different phases of the watching brief. Scale 1: 320





0  1m

Figure 4: Sketch Section of the feature located during Phase C Scale 1:28



Plate 1 showing feature located during Phase C next to Mill Lane

## **Appendix I**

### **UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES**

#### **Design Specification for archaeological work**

**Mill Lane, Newbold Verdon, Leicestershire**

**Planning Ref No: 02/00148/4**

For Jelson Limited

#### ***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 a 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 four dwellings and garages at Mill Lane, Newbold Verdon, Leicestershire (SP 553 967; P.A 02/00148/4). It addresses the *Brief for archaeological work watching brief at CD contracts, Mill Lane, Newbold Verdon* from Leicestershire Museums as archaeological adviser to the planning authority (15.5.2002).

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

#### **2 Background**

##### ***2.1 Requirement for archaeological work***

2.1.1 The archaeological attendance brief is required to cover ground disturbance to identify any deposits of archaeological importance. It forms part of a scheme of work to fulfil the planning conditions required by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council following recommendations from Leicestershire Museum as advisors to the planning authority.

##### ***2.2 Archaeological potential***

2.2.1 The site lies within an area of archaeological importance close to the historic core of the village and a possible occupation site found by fieldwalking (SMR 40SW AQ 'Brief' 6).

#### **3 Aims**

3.1 Through archaeological observation of existing overburden stripping and, if necessary, foundation and service trench excavation 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 The project will involve the presence on site of an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. During these groundworks, if any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest.

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

4.3 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) where appropriate.

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

4.5 All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

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

4.6 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site from the project manager. These will ensure that professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for monitoring visits with representatives of Jelson Ltd, Leicestershire Museums and the planning authority

#### **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 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 Museum within six months of the completion of analysis. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

6.4. Any disk-based data will be provided for Leicestershire Museums.

## ***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 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 Standing Committee of Archaeological Unit Managers (SCAUM) manual, as revised in 1997, as its Health and Safety Manual with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is in the Appendix. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate.

## ***10 Insurance***

10.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with 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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7.8.2002

## **Appendix II**

### ***Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement***

**Mill Lane, Newbold Verdon, Leicestershire**

**Planning Ref No: 02/00148/4**

For Jelson Limited

#### *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

**Appendix III: Site Visits**

<b>Visit to site</b>	<b>Half Day</b>	<b>Full Day</b>	<b>Init</b>
<b>19.12.02</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>TH</b>
<b>17.01.03</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>TH</b>
<b>21.02.03</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>SJ</b>
<b>06.03.03</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>SW</b>