

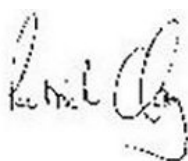
**An Archaeological Watching Brief
on land at Quarry Road,
Somercotes, Derbyshire
(SK 442 353)**

Leon Hunt

for

George Wimpey East Midlands Ltd

Checked by Project Manager



Signed:

.Date: 03.04.2008

Name: Patrick Clay

University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH

Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

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An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Quarry Road, Somercotes, Derbyshire (SK 442 353)

Leon Hunt

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS during groundworks at Quarry Road, Somercotes, Derbyshire (SK442 353). The site previously contained a large factory and had been developed throughout the 20th century, but is situated in an area, which may have been attractive to prehistoric settlers and is also near known post-medieval remains.

The watching brief revealed that the site had been heavily disturbed by previous development and no archaeological remains or finds were revealed during the watching brief.

The archive for this work will be deposited with Derby Museums and Art Gallery with accession number DBYMU2007-326.

Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) for George Wimpey East Midlands Ltd at Quarry Road, Somercotes, Derbyshire (NGR SK 442 353). The work took place during groundworks for several new dwellings on the site, which until recently contained a large factory building.

The site lies close to the centre of Somercotes, Derbyshire on the south-eastern side of Quarry Road, close to the junction with Charles Street and Brendan Avenue. The site measures 2.72ha, is mostly flat with a fall to the north-west. The land lies at an average height of 140m OD.

Although there are no archaeological sites recorded within the development area itself, the site is identified as an area which may have been attractive to settlers during the prehistoric period. There are also post-medieval sites close to the development area, such as a tramway embankment, mines and a kiln.

The site has been built on throughout the 20th Century and recently contained a large factory building; the archaeological potential was therefore relatively low. However, the Planning Authority considered it appropriate for a watching brief to be carried out during any groundworks.

Aims and Methods

The purpose of the watching brief was to ascertain whether archaeological deposits were present. If so, the character, extent and date range of any deposits identified would be established, in order to assess their significance. Recording of these deposits would be carried out as appropriate, and an archive and this report produced. The work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, and adhered to the University's Health and Safety policy.

The watching brief covered the examination of soil stripping and foundation trenches associated with the construction of several new dwellings.

The site was visited by an archaeologist on 15th August and the 17th September 2007.

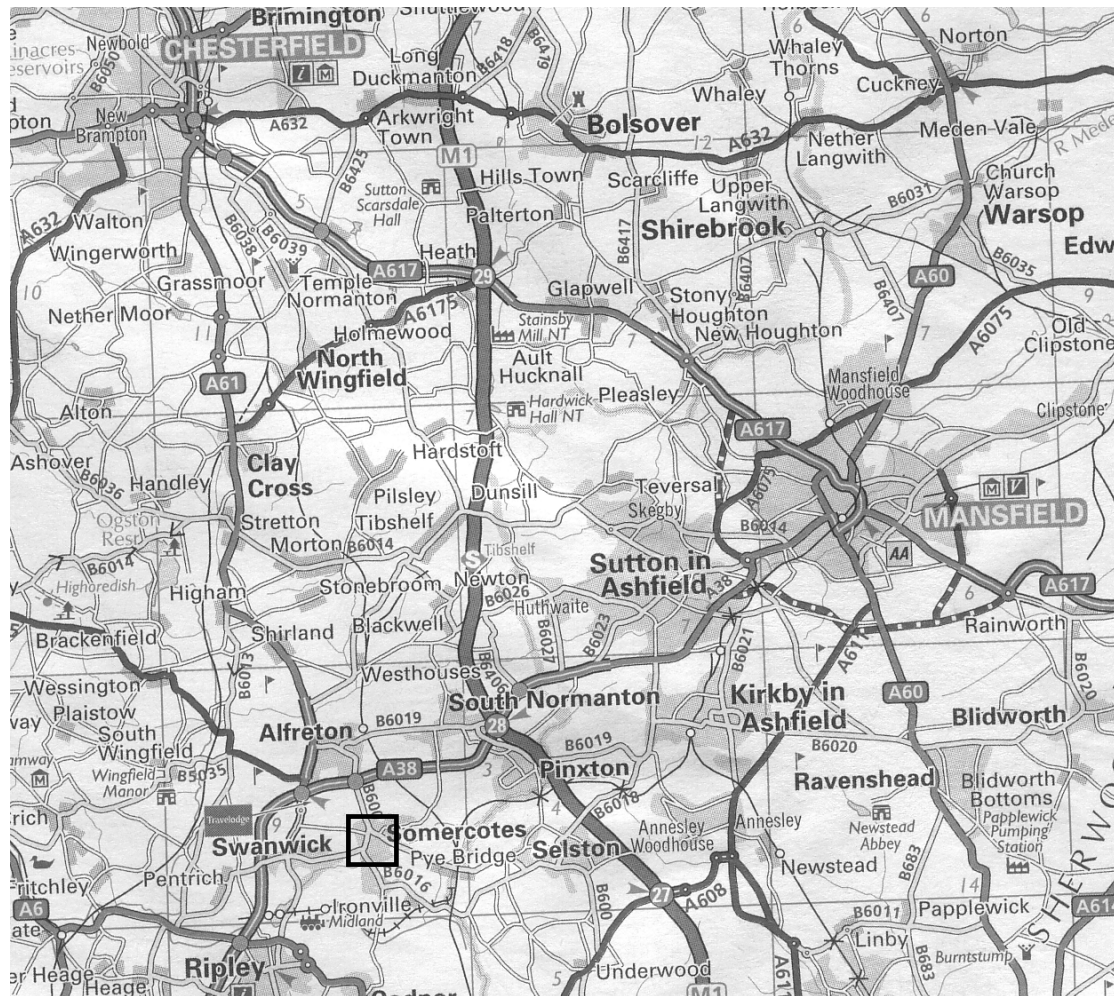


Figure 1: Site Location. Scale 1: 250, 000

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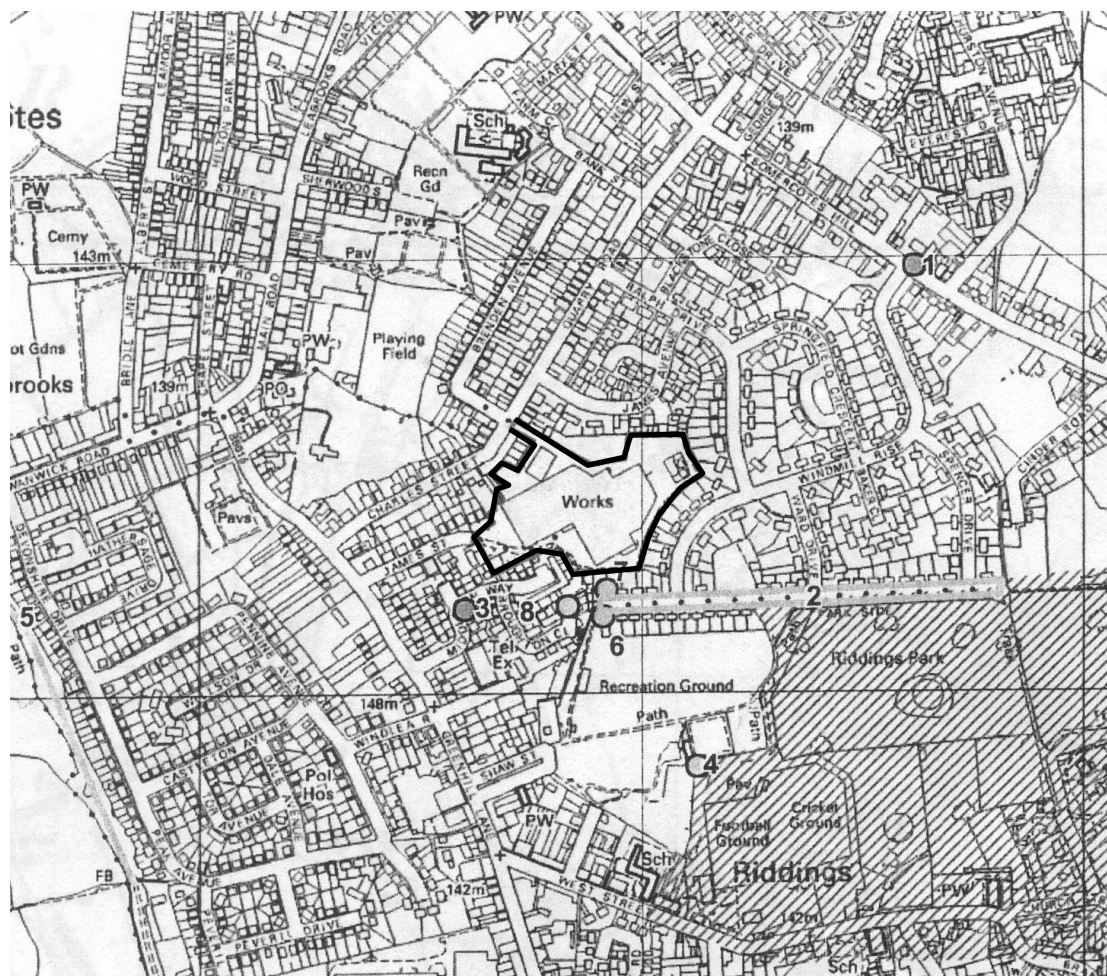


Figure 2: Plan of Somercotes with development site highlighted. Scale 1: 5000

Results

The site was visited by an archaeologist on 15th August and 17th September 2007. By the time of the first visit the building had been demolished and large parts of the site were covered in rubble and hardcore. The north-eastern part of the site had been stripped to a lower level than the rest of the site and two large heaps of hardcore were situated there. The western part of the site was set aside as a compound for the site offices and house platforms had already been completed in the areas to the north and the south. A road had also been completed running from the eastern part of the site to the south-west. Visibility on the site was very poor due to the rubble and it would appear that little remained of upper soils and few areas were conducive to archaeological investigation.

By the time of the second visit a large attenuation pond had been excavated in the northern part of the site. Although the area was fenced off and could not be closely approached it was possible to see that no trace remained of any upper soils in the sections of the pond and in some areas patches of asphalt were visible suggesting that the previous development on the site would have destroyed any archaeological remains that might have been present.

In some of the areas where the foundations had been completed it was possible to see the natural yellowish grey clay, but there were no archaeological features visible and

no archaeological finds were discovered during the watching brief.

Conclusion

The site at Quarry Road had been developed throughout the 20th century and had previously contained a large factory covering much of the land on the site. The potential for the site to contain archaeological remains was therefore low and this was bourn out this watching brief. The site was covered in rubble and hardcore and visibility on the site was very poor and in most places where the strata could be observed little trace remained of subsoils that may have preserved or contained archaeological features.

It was not considered appropriate to conduct any more visits to the site.

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank George Wimpey Ltd and Kane Construction for their help and co- operation. Leon Hunt carried out the watching brief. Patrick Clay was the project manager.

Archive

The archive for this watching brief will be deposited with Derby Museum and Art Gallery with accession number DBYMU2007-326 and consists of:

- 1 Copy of this report
- 2 Watching brief recording sheets
- 1 CD of Digital Photographs
- 1 Contact Sheet of Digital Photographs
- 1 A3 OS Plan

Leon Hunt

ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH
Tel: 0116 252 2848

Fax: 0116 252 2614

lh90@le.ac.uk

20/03/08



Plate 1: General shot of site from northern edge, looking south



Plate 2: General shot from compound, looking north-east



Plate 3: South-western side of site, looking south-west



Plate 4: Northern side of site, looking north-west



Plate 5: Work in progress on road, looking south-east



Plate 6: General shot of pond, looking north



Plate 7: Section at northern edge, looking north

APPENDIX 1:

DESIGN SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AND WATCHING BRIEF

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for an Archaeological work

*Quarry Road, Somercotes, Derbyshire
NGR SK 442 353*

Planning Application Number: RTH-AVA/2006/0686

Client: Amber Valley Borough Council

1. Introduction

1.1 *Definition and scope of the specification*

In accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning), para.30, and the conditions placed on the outline planning permission (condition no. 3), 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 archaeological remains from the development. The specification addresses the requirement for an archaeological work requested for the site by the Development Control Archaeologist, Derbyshire County Council, in his capacity as the archaeological advisor to the planning authority.

1.2 This document provides a scheme of works for:

Archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Quarry Road, Somercotes, Derbyshire, (SK 442 353).

2. Archaeological Objectives

- 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 *Archaeological Background*

3.1.1 A desk-based assessment has been prepared by RSK ENSR (June 2006). The area comprises industrial, warehouse and office buildings formerly used by Welbeck Fabrics covering an area of c. 2.7 ha. Two listed buildings (one no longer extant) and six post medieval industrial archaeological sites are recorded within the application area (RSK ENSR 2006 3.4.5).

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 Field Evaluations and Watching Briefs*.

- 4.1.2 Staffing, Recording systems, Health and Safety provisions and Insurance details are provided.
- 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 being met and professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with the Planning authority and the client, if required.

4.2 ***Watching Brief***

- 4.2.1 The archaeological watching brief will involve the presence on site of an experienced professional archaeologist. During this excavation, if any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest. A second archaeologist may also be required in areas of greater archaeological potential, or if surveying is required.
- 4.2.5 The archaeologist/s 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.
- 4.2.6 Any archaeological deposits encountered will be recorded and excavated using standard ULAS procedures (see section 5 below).

4.3 ***Contingencies and unforeseen circumstances***

- 4.3.1 In the event that significant 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 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 emergency excavation of affected archaeological features.

5 ***Recording Systems***

- 5.1. The ULAS recording manual will be used as a guide for all recording.
- 5.2. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets. If the complexity of the archaeology warrants it, records will be computerised onto a database.
- 5.3. 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 plans at 1:200 (or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated in relationship to the investigation area and OS grid.
- 5.4. 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 be at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Sections including the half-sections of individual layers of features will be drawn as appropriate. The relative height of principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans.
- 5.5. 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.
- 5.6. This record will be compiled and checked during the course of the excavations.

6. ***Environmental Sampling***

- 6.1 If significant archaeological features are subject to excavation, the sampling strategy will include the following if appropriate:
 - 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.
- 6.2 Wet sieving with flotation will be carried out using a York Archaeological Trust sieving tank with a 0.5mm mesh and a 0.3mm flotation sieve. The small size mesh will be used initially as flotation of plant remains may be incomplete and some may remain in the residue.
- 6.2.1 The residue > 0.5mm from the tank will be separated into coarse fractions of over 4mm and fine fractions of > 0.5-4mm. The coarse fractions will be sorted for finds. The fine fractions and flots will be evaluated and prioritised; only those with remains apparent will be sorted. The prioritised flots will not be sorted until the analysis stage when phasing information is available.
- 6.2.2 Flots will be scanned and plant remains from selected contexts will be identified and further sampling, sieving and sorting targeted towards higher potential deposits.

7. Finds and Samples

- 7.1 The IFA *Guidelines for Finds Work* will be adhered to.
- 7.2 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 Derby Museum and Art Gallery for storage in perpetuity.
- 7.3 Before commencing work on the site, a site code will be issued to all records and finds from the site, to be agreed with the Derby Museum and Art Gallery.
- 7.4 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.
- 7.5 All identified finds and artefacts, including faunal remains, are to be retained, although certain classes of building material will, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording with the approval of the Planning Archaeologists. The IFA *Guidelines for Finds Work* will be adhered to.
- 7.6 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 metal objects will be x-rayed and then selected for conservation. All materials will be fully labelled, catalogued and stored in appropriate containers.

8. Health and Safety

- 8.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (2001) 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.
- 8.2 Health and Safety procedures will be agreed between ULAS and the site tenants prior to the commencement of work, and will be subject to review by both parties for the duration of the works.
- 8.3 The University of Leicester Archaeological Services Health and Safety Policy and manual have also recently been issued and will be adhered to during the course of the archaeological works.

9. Insurance

- 9.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with St Pauls Travellers Policy No. UCPOP3651237 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters (50%) and Brit Insurances (50%) Policy No. FUNK3605.

10. Monitoring arrangements

- 10.1 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. It will be the responsibility of ULAS to keep the curatorial staff at Derbyshire County Council informed about the progress of the works and proposed schedules, so that monitoring arrangements can be made.
- 10.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the IFA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations/Watching Briefs*
- 10.3 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

11 Timescale and Staffing

- 11.1 The groundworks are scheduled to start in August 2007. It is envisaged that a single professional archaeologist will be required on-site for the majority of the works.

12 Report and Archive

- 12.1 A brief report in letter form, summarising the main results of the work will be released, if required, after the completion of interim phases of fieldwork.
- 12.3 The full, bound report in A4 format will usually follow within eight weeks of the completion of all fieldwork, and copies will be dispatched to: Derbyshire County Council Planning Archaeologist/Sites and Monuments Record (2), Derby City Council (1), Derby Museum and Art Gallery (1), the Client (2). The report will include consideration of:-
- i) Non-technical Summary
 - ii) Introductory Statement
 - iii) The aims and purpose of the watching brief
 - iv) The methodology adopted in the course of the archaeological work
 - v) The nature, location, extent, date, significance and quality of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered
 - vi) Conclusion, including a confidence statement
 - vii) Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
 - viii) Supporting data – including as a minimum basic quantification of all artefacts, ecofacts and structural data
 - ix) The location and size of the archive
 - x) References
- 12.4 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 the Derby Museum and Art Gallery normally within six months of the completion of fieldwork (arrangements for this are in progress). This archive will include all original written, drawn, photographic records, notes relating directly to the investigations undertaken, as well as final copies of the desk-based assessment, watching brief report and buildings appraisal, along with any finds and an index to the archive.

13 Publication

- 13.1 A summary of the evaluation will be submitted for inclusion in the Derbyshire Archaeological Journal. If warranted, a more detailed report will be submitted. Details of any publication will be sent to the Derbyshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

14. Copyright

- 14.1 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.

15. Acknowledgement and publicity

- 15.1 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.
- 15.2 The Client has made it known that no contact with the media regarding the site shall be undertaken by any member of ULAS on site. All enquiries from the media or members of the public made to ULAS shall be directed to the Client for comment.

16. Bibliography

MAP 2, The management of archaeological projects 2nd edition English Heritage 1991

MGC 1992, Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections 1992 (Museums and Galleries Commission)

RFG/FRG 1993, Guidelines for the preparation of site archives (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993)

SMA 1993, Selection, retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland 1993 (Society of Museum Archaeologists)

Patrick Clay
Director
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614
Email: pnc3@le.ac.uk

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APPENDIX 1

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 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 ULAS Health and Safety Policy and manual (2001) and 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 Weils 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
01.08.2006

**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.napney@ars.aon.co.uk

14 April 2008

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 2006
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 2006
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 Sam Napney
Account Handler
Education Unit



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

14 April 2008

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 2006

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".

Miss Sam Naphey
Account Handler
Education Unit

