

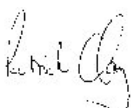
**An Archaeological Watching Brief
on land at Derby Road,
Ashby de la Zouch,
Leicestershire
(SK 356 168)**

Leon Hunt

for

T. Denman & Sons Ltd
Planning Application No. 07/00792/7

Checked by Project Manager



Signed:

Date: 08.05.2008

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Accession Number: X.A60.2008

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An Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Derby Road, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire (SK 356 168)

Leon Hunt

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by ULAS during ground-works at Derby Road, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire, (SK 356 168). The work was commissioned from ULAS by T. Denman & Sons in advance of the construction of new shops and flats at the site.

The site was seen to have some potential for medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains due to its location close to the centre of Ashby.

By the time of the watching brief the building that had occupied the site had been demolished. The reduction of soils down to the appropriate levels was observed. Only the southern part of the site was stripped as the northern part lay on a slightly lower level.

No archaeological features or finds associated with archaeological features were discovered during the ground-works.

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council with accession number X.A60.2008.

Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) during ground-works at Derby Road, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire, (NGR SK 356 168). The work was commissioned from ULAS by T. Denman & Sons in advance of the construction of new shops and flats at the site (Planning Application No. 7/00792/7).

The watching brief was carried out in accordance with Planning Policy Guideline 16 (PPG16, Archaeology & Planning), paragraph 30 and involved archaeological attendance for inspection and recording within the development area to identify any deposits of archaeological importance as detailed in the advice letter from Leicestershire County Council to North West Leicestershire District Council dated 30.05.2007.

A Desk-based Assessment has been carried out for this site. The report concluded that the site has some potential for medieval/post-medieval remains to be present on site, particularly related to back of plot activity since it lies between 'The Green' and 'Market Street'.

Location and Geology

The site lies on the eastern side of Derby Road, close to the town centre of Ashby de la Zouch, which lies in the district of North West Leicestershire, approximately 16 miles north-west of Leicester (Figure 1).

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 141 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Carboniferous shale. The site lies at a height of 123.5m.

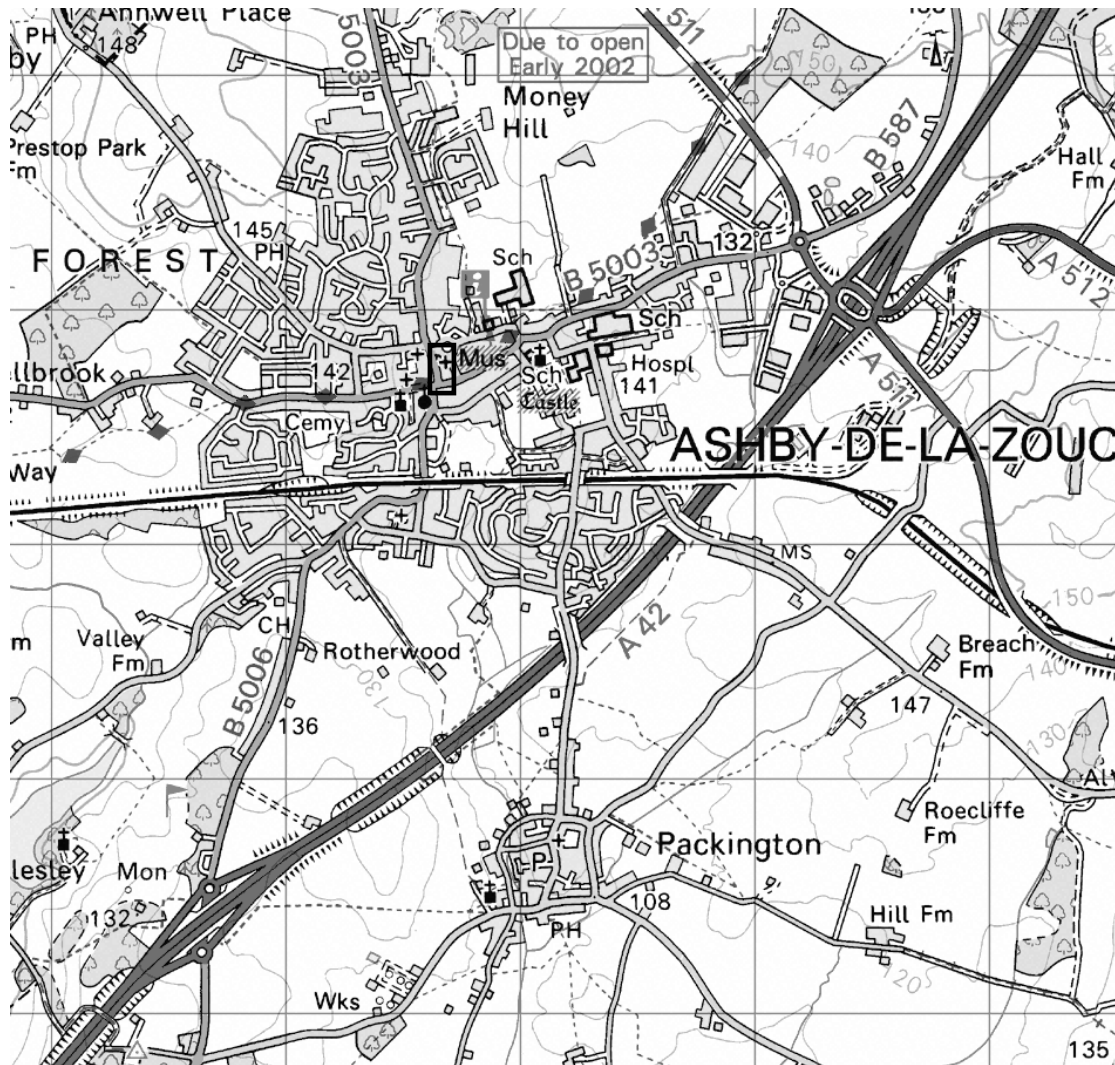


Figure 1: Site Location 1: 25 000

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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 archaeological work followed the Design Specification for Archaeological Work prepared by ULAS (Appendix).

The site was visited on 2nd April 2008 ground works associated with the reduction of the land down to the appropriate level was observed. The spoil heaps were also investigated in order to locate any archaeological finds.

The ground was reduced using a large tracked excavator.

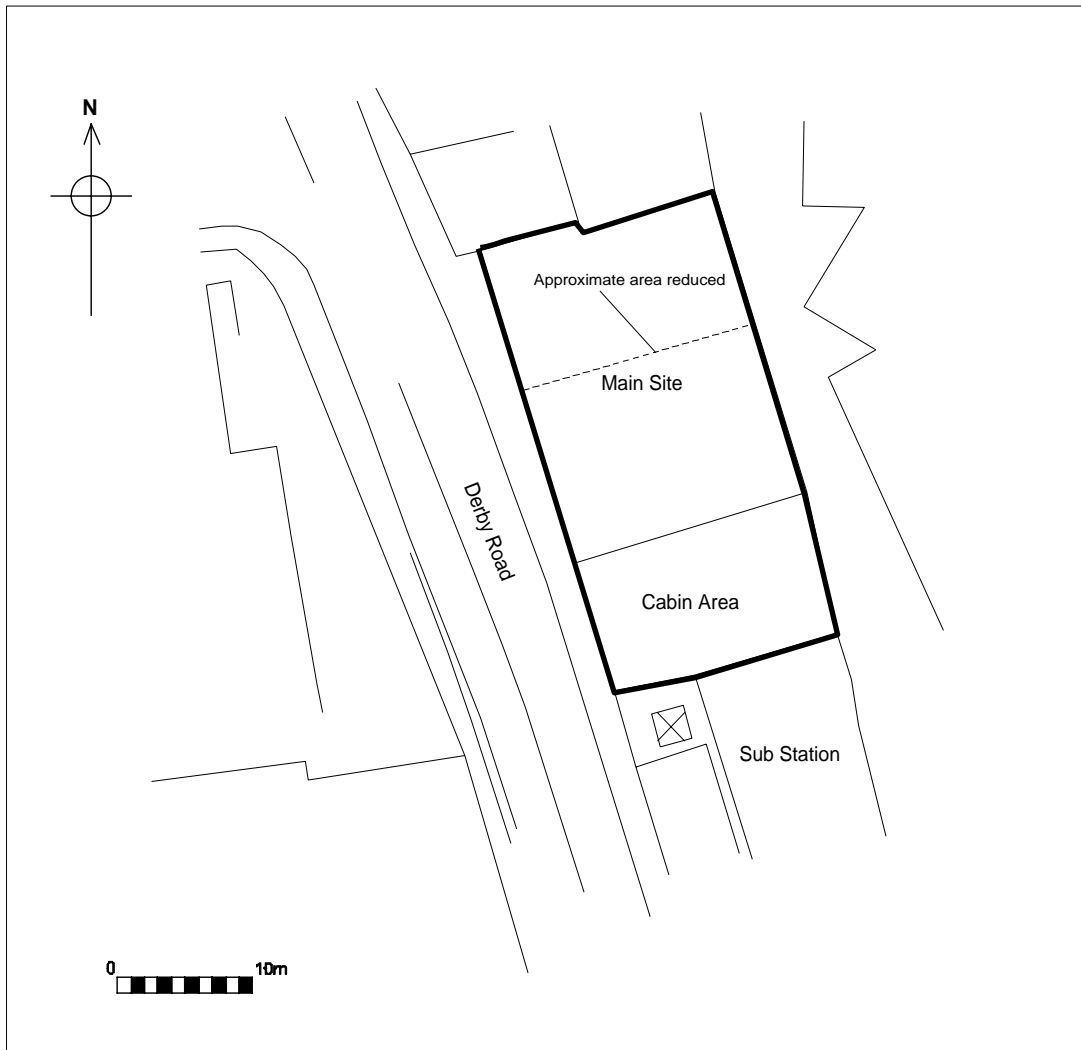


Figure 2: Plan of site and area excavated

Results

By the time of the visit of 2nd April the buildings that previously occupied the site had been demolished. The site was basically flat in the southern part of the site but the northern part fell to the north and east slightly. This difference in ground level meant that only the southern end of the site required any stripping to bring it to the required level. The northern end of the site was not machined and would require building up to bring it to the appropriate level.

Around 0.3-0.4m of soil and debris was removed at the southern end of the site. This depth decreased as the machine worked northwards. The section was visible in the south west corner and a sequence of 0.15m of tarmac overlying 0.25m of hardcore was visible overlying yellowish brown and grey clay.

Conclusion

No archaeological features or finds associated with archaeological features were discovered during the watching brief.

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Barry Jackson of Denman & Sons Ltd, and Truman Contractors Ltd for their help and co-operation during this watching brief. The watching brief was carried out by the author, the project manager was Patrick Clay.

Archive

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Historic and Natural Environment Team with accession number X.A60.2008 and consists of the following:

- 1 copy of this report
- 1 watching brief recording sheets
- 1 photographic record sheet
- 1 CD of digital photographs
- 1 contact sheet of digital photographs
- 1 contact sheet of B & W photographs
- 1 set of B & W negatives
- 2 Architect's Plans

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Plate 1: Work in progress, looking south-west



Plate 2: Stripping on south west corner, looking north-west



Plate 3: South-west corner after stripping, looking south



Plate 4: Southern end of site completely stripped, looking south

Appendix: Design Specification for Archaeological Work

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Derby Road, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire (SK 356 168)

Planning Application: 07/00792/7

Planning Authority: North West Leicestershire District Council

For: T Denman and Sons Ltd

1 Definition and scope of the specification

1.1 In accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and planning), para.30, this specification provides a written scheme for archaeological attendance for inspection and recording (a watching brief), as required by the Planning Authority, of any groundworks on the site which may disturb areas of archaeological potential in connection with a planning application for the erection of two dwellings at Sleepers Bedcentre and Bargain Outpost, Derby Road, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire (SK 356 168) Planning Application: 07/00792/7 for T Denman and Sons Ltd.

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 work involves archaeological attendance for inspection and recording within the development area to identify any deposits of archaeological importance as detailed in the advice letter from Leicestershire County Council to North West Leicestershire District Council (Appendix 2; LCC HNET 30.05.2007).

2.2 Archaeological potential

2.1 A Desk-based Assessment has now been carried out for this site. The report concluded that the site has some potential for medieval/post-medieval remains to be present on site, particularly related to back of plot activity since it lies between 'The Green' and 'Market Street'.

3 Aims

3.1 Through archaeological controlled stripping and investigation:

1. To identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or 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 supervision of overburden removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above.

4.2 Should significant archaeological remains be identified a programme of excavation and recording may be necessary, using additional personnel as necessary.

4.3 In the event that archaeological remains of uncertain significance are located in the initial trench/test pit (e.g. undated post-hole/pit), further trenching may be necessary, at the discretion of the site supervisor, to clarify their nature and significance and determine the need for a full topsoil strip.

4.4 If no archaeological deposits are identified within the trench, or the depth of overburden is greater than 0.15m, there will be no requirement for the site to be stripped to a level below proposed formation and subsequent groundworks will be subject to an intermittent watching brief.

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

4.6 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.

4.7 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.

4.8 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.

4.9 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 developer and Leicestershire County Council will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.10 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 the owners and Leicestershire County Council.

4.11 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located during the watching brief there may be the need for contingency time and finance to be provided to ensure adequate recording is undertaken. On the discovery of potentially significant remains the archaeologist will inform the developer, the Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, and the planning authority. If the archaeological remains are identified to be of significance additional contingent archaeological works will be required.

5 Recording Systems

5.1 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets.

5.2 A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map, (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a plan at 1:200 (or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated.

5.3 A 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 An accession number will be drawn prior to the commencement of the project (Brief 8.1). Following the fieldwork the on-line OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis> will be completed. A report on the investigation will be provided following the groundworks.

6.2 Copies will be provided for the client, Historic Environment Record and planning Authority. The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

6.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in the 'Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage' (UKIC 1990), and Standards in the Museum care of archaeological collections (MGC 1992) and 'Guidelines for the preparation of site archives and assessments for all finds (other than fired clay objects) (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993) will be presented to Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services normally within six months of the completion of analysis. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

7 Publication

7.1 A summary report will be submitted to a suitable regional or national archaeological journal within one year of completion of fieldwork. A full report will be submitted if the results are of significance.

8 Timetable and Staffing

8.1 The investigation is scheduled to commence at the start of the contractors groundworks. An experienced archaeologist will be present during this work.

9 Health and Safety

9.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (revised 2007) 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 St Pauls Travellers Policy No. UCPOP3651237 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters (50%) and Brit Insurances (50%) Policy No. FUNK3605.

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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18.01.2008

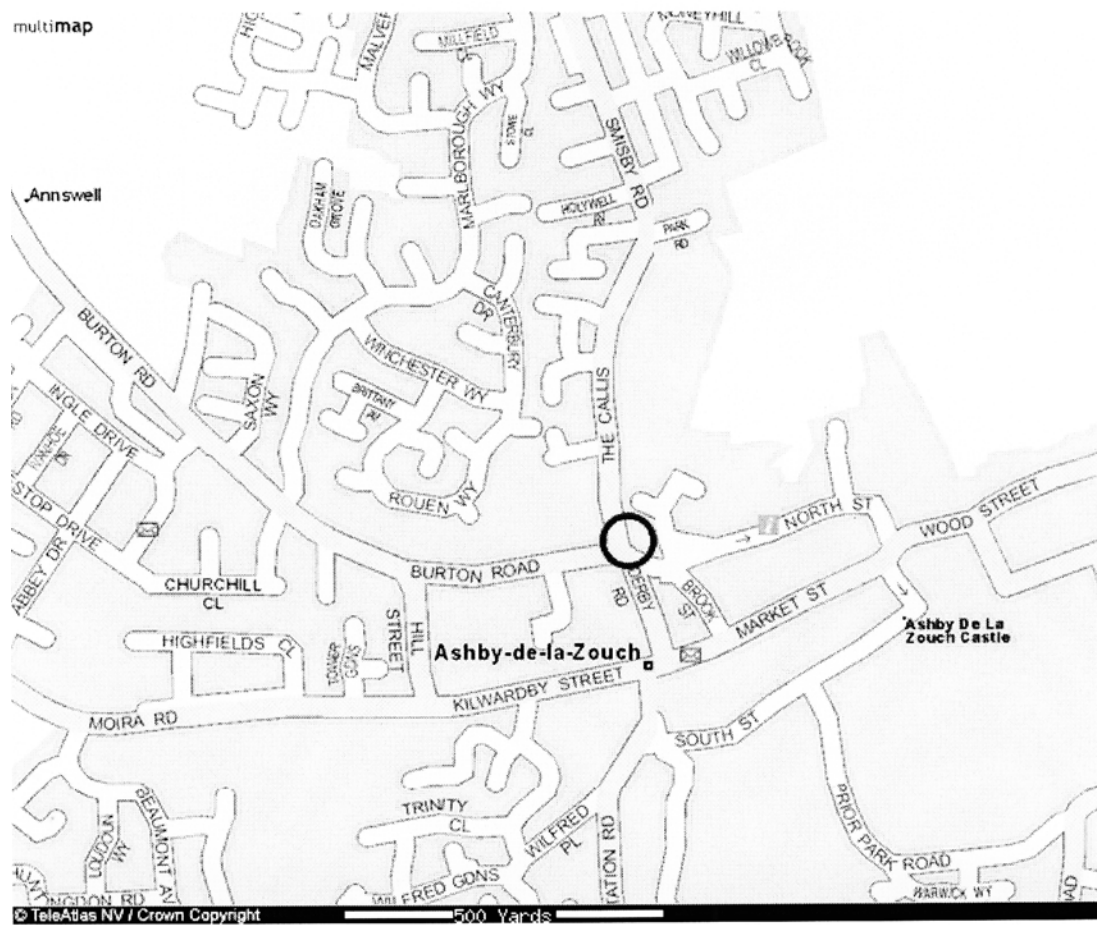


Fig 1 Location of Development

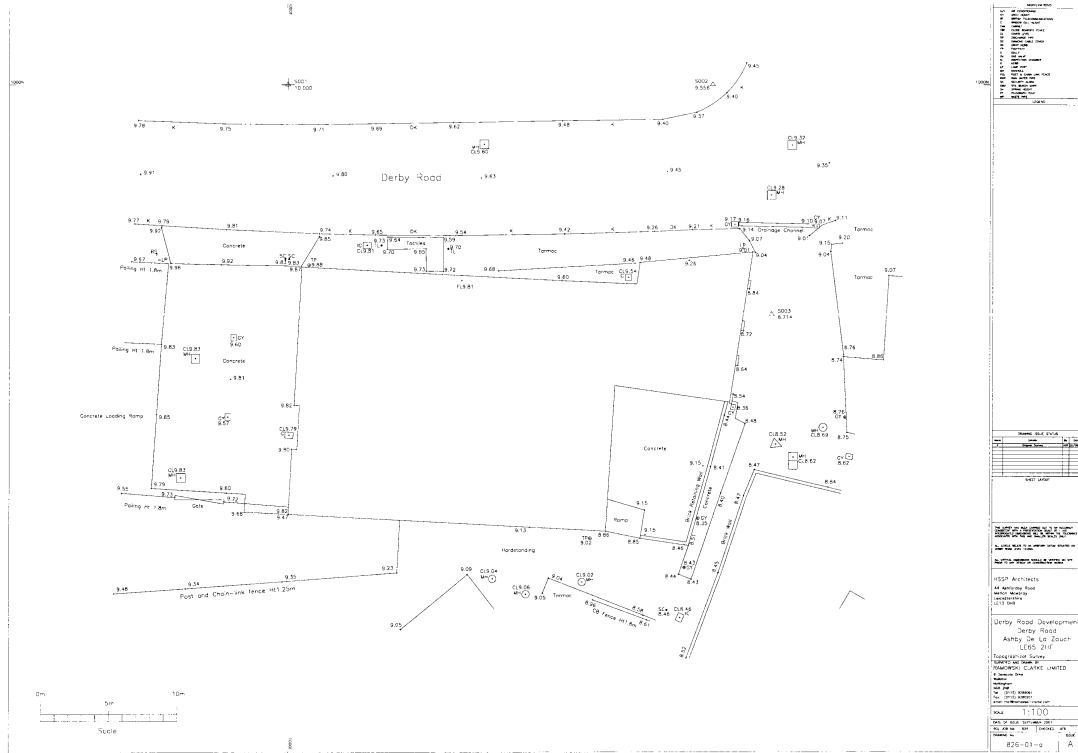


Fig. 2 Plan of proposed development area

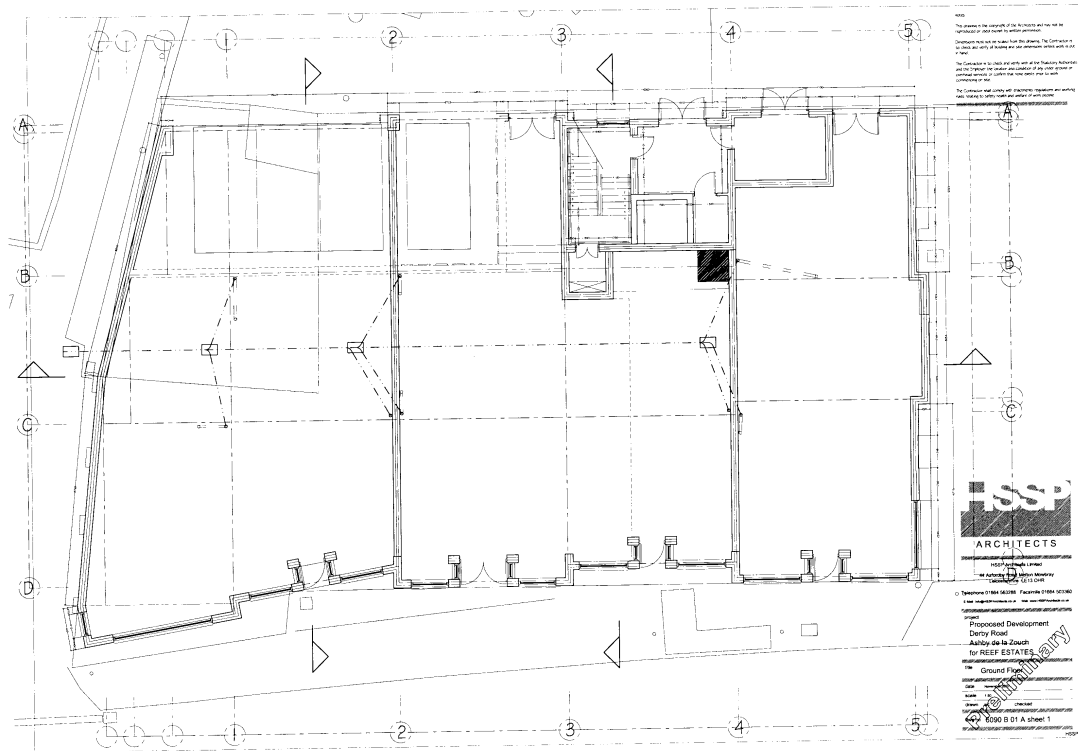


Fig. 3 Plan of proposed development (ground floor)

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

Derby Road, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire (SK 356 168)

Planning Application: 07/00792/7

Planning Authority: North West Leicestershire District Council

For: T Denman and Sons Ltd

1. Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for archaeological watching brief. It will be revised following the commencement of operations when the extent of risks can be assessed in full.

1.2 The work will involve overburden stripping by JCB 3C or similar during daylight hours and recording of any underlying archaeological deposits revealed. Overall depth is likely to be c. 1.0 – 1.2m. Following stripping the exposed deposits will be examined with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and archaeological features will be excavated. All work will adhere to the University of Leicester Health and Safety Policy and follow the guidance in the ULAS Health and safety and the Standing Committee of Archaeological Unit Managers manuals, together with the following relevant Health and Safety guidelines, including the following.

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

1.3 The Health and Safety policy on site will be reassessed during the evaluation .All work will adhere to the company's health and safety policy.

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 Working within an excavation.

Precautions. No work will be undertaken beneath section faces deeper than 1.2m. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear 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.

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.

2.6 No other constraints are recognised over the nature of the soil, water, type of excavation, proximity of structures, sources of vibration and contamination.

18.01.2008

Appendix 2 Advice letter from LCC to NWLDC

Mr A Harvey (Planning Officer)
NW Leics District Council
Council Offices
Coalville
Leics LE67 3FJ

Date: 30th May 2007
My ref: CLE3087/HW
Your ref: 07/00792/FUL
Contact: Richard Clark
Phone: (0116) 265 8322
Fax: (0116) 265 7965
Email: riclark@leics.gov.uk

Dear Mr Harvey,

Planning Application No: 07/00792/FUL: Demolition of existing building and erection of part three storey building with three units for A1 A2 A3 A4 use at ground floor and 13 flats at first and second floor; Sleepers Bedcentre and Bargain Outpost, Derby Road, Ashby de la Zouch.

Archaeological considerations

Thank you for your consultation on this application. We recommend that you advise the applicant of the following archaeological requirements.

A Desk-based Assessment has now been carried out for this site. The report concluded that the site has some potential for medieval/post-medieval remains to be present on site, particularly related to back of plot activity since it lies between 'The Green' and 'Market Street'. We would like to request that two bound, colour copies of the report are supplied to us for inclusion in our planning files and the Historic Environment Record.

To ensure that any archaeological remains present are dealt with appropriately, the applicant should provide professional archaeological Attendance for inspection and recording during the groundworks for the proposed development. A contingency provision for emergency recording and detailed excavation should be made, to the satisfaction of your authority in conjunction with your archaeological advisors in this Department's Archaeology Section. The Archaeology Section will provide a formal Brief for the work at the applicant's request.

The applicant should, if planning permission is granted, also obtain a suitable written Specification and costings for the archaeological recording from an archaeological organisation acceptable to the planning authority. This should be submitted to this Archaeology Section, as archaeological advisors to your authority, for approval before the start of development.

The Specification should comply with the above mentioned Brief, with this Department's "Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland" and with relevant Institute of Field Archaeologists "Standards" and "Code of Practice". It should include a suitable indication of arrangements for the implementation of the archaeological work, and the proposed timetable for the development.

We therefore recommend that any planning permission be granted subject to the following planning condition, to safeguard any important archaeological remains potentially present:

1. No development shall take place within the application area until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted and approved in writing by the planning authority.

Reason: To ensure satisfactory archaeological investigation and recording.

This condition is as advised in paragraph 55 of DoE Circular 11/95. The "Programme of Work" referred to in the recommended condition will in this case be the archaeological recording during development, in accordance with the Specification to be agreed.

The Historic and Natural Environment Team, as advisors to the planning authority, will monitor the archaeological work, to ensure that the necessary programme of archaeological work is undertaken to the satisfaction of the planning authority.

Please will you ensure a copy of the Decision Notice is sent to us in due course, to enable us to continue to monitor and safeguard the archaeology of this site. Should you or the applicant have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Clark
Senior Planning Archaeologist

c.c. Reef Estates (Agent)