

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
on land between 264 and 266 Braddon Road,
Loughborough, Leicestershire.
(SK 5165 2090).**

Gavin Speed

For: J N E and M E Walsh Properties Ltd

Checked by Project Manager

Signed:Date:.....

Name:

**University of Leicester
Archaeological Services**

University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614
Website: <http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas/>

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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. 4

Figure 2: Location plan showing area of the development 5

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Appendix 1: Design Specification for Archaeological work. ULAS (12/01/04).

Appendix 2: Brief for archaeological work. LCCHS (27/08/03).

An Archaeological Watching Brief on land between 264 and 266 Braddon Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire. (SK 5165 2090).

Gavin Speed

University of Leicester Archaeological Services
Report No. 2004/028

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during ground works for a residential development on land between 264 and 266 Braddon Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire (SK 5165 2090); P.A 02/0177/2) by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of J N E and M E Walsh Properties Ltd.

No significant archaeological finds or deposits were observed during this work. The site archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service Accession No. X.A 14 2004.

1. Introduction

The development site lies to the northwest of Loughborough, in the area of Thorpe Acre (fig. 1). The site is for a residential development comprising of three bungalows. 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 required as part of the planning conditions by Charnwood Borough Council (planning application no. 02/0177/2). This requirement was detailed in the *Brief for archaeological watching brief on land adjacent to 266 Braddon Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire (Appendix 2)* produced by Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services (27/08/03).

The University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) was then commissioned to carry out the watching brief on behalf of the client, J N E and M E Walsh Properties Ltd. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on the 2nd and 5th of February 2004.

2. Location and Geology

The development area is located between 264 and 266 Braddon Road in Loughborough, Leicestershire (SK 5165 2090), at a height of *c.* 38m above OD. The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 141 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of river terrace 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 site lies close to Dishley Mill (fig. 2) where two burials were located in 1815 during excavation of a gravel pit. A medieval bridge and watermill are known to the northeast, and the former medieval settlement of Dishley lies to the northwest of the site. No known archaeological work has been previously undertaken within the application area.

5. Methodology

The watching brief involved supervision of topsoil stripping and foundation trench excavation. This was carried out using a JCB 3CX with a toothless bucket. Following the machine excavation, the entire stripped area, and trenches were examined and recorded by written record and photographs.

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 topsoil overburden consisted of dark brown loam-clay, with root disturbance throughout and some modern brick; this generally went to a depth of c. 0.3m. The subsoil consisted of a light greyish-brown silty-sand. The natural substratum consisted of sandy-gravel; this was reached at c. 0.5m.

No archaeological finds or deposits were located during the groundworks.

7. Conclusion

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

8. Site Archive

The archive will be deposited with Leicester Museums, Arts and Records Service with the Accession No. X.A 14.2004. It consists of watching brief sheets, 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 A.B.Design for their help and cooperation during the watching brief. This archaeological watching brief was carried out by Gavin Speed; 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).*

Gavin Speed
University of Leicester Archaeological Services
University Road,
Leicester, LE1 7RH

gs50@leicester.ac.uk
Tel:0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614

06.02.2004

12. Illustrations

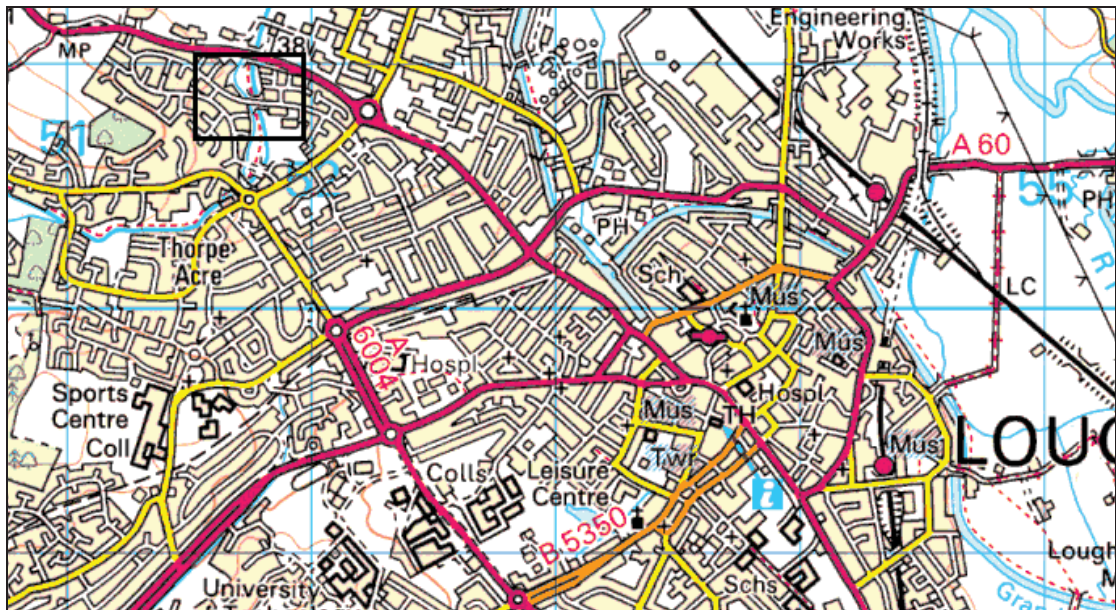


Figure 1: Site location. Reproduced from Landranger® 1:50 000 scale by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100021187.

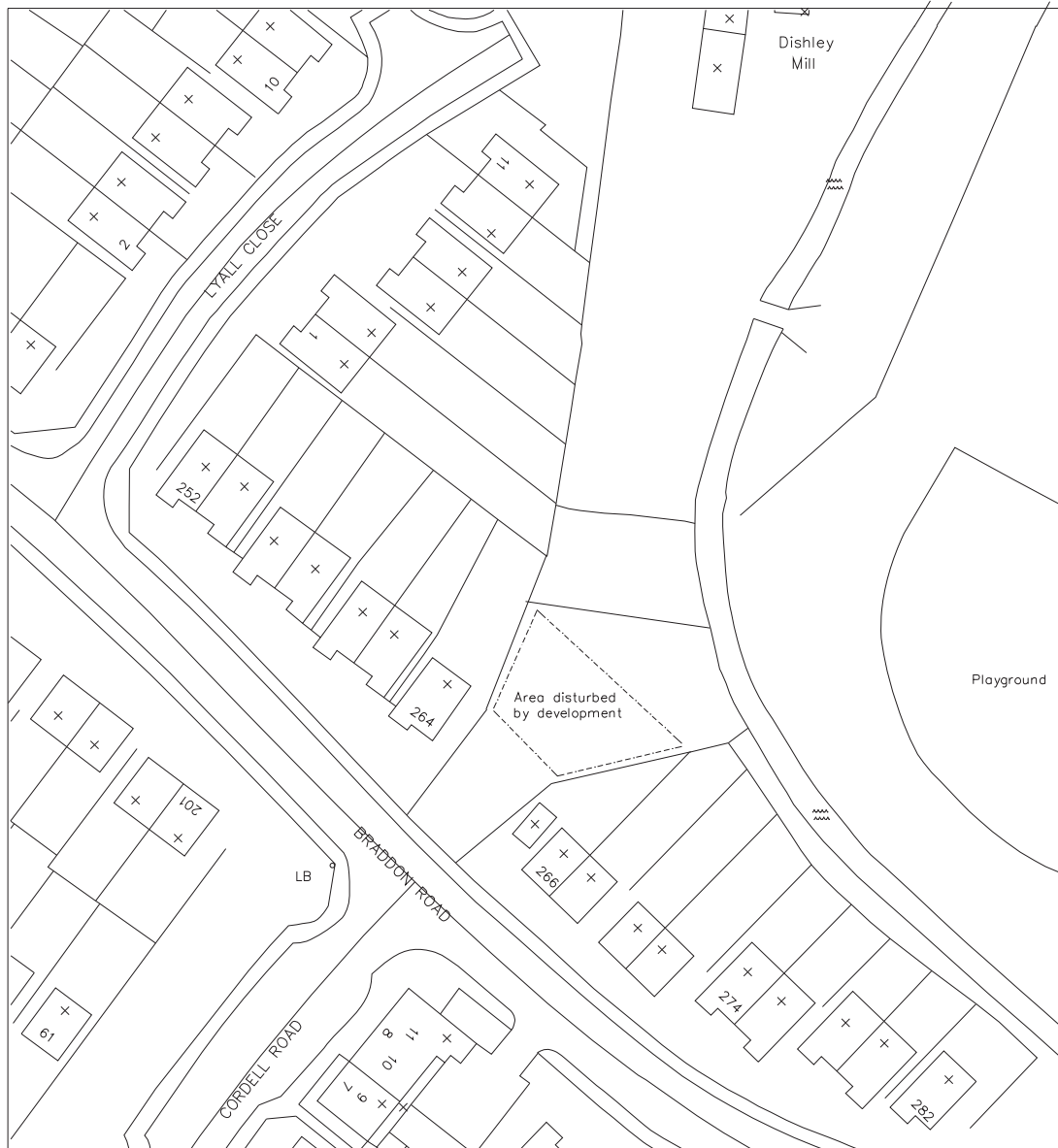


Figure 2: Location plan showing area of the development. Scale 1: 1000.

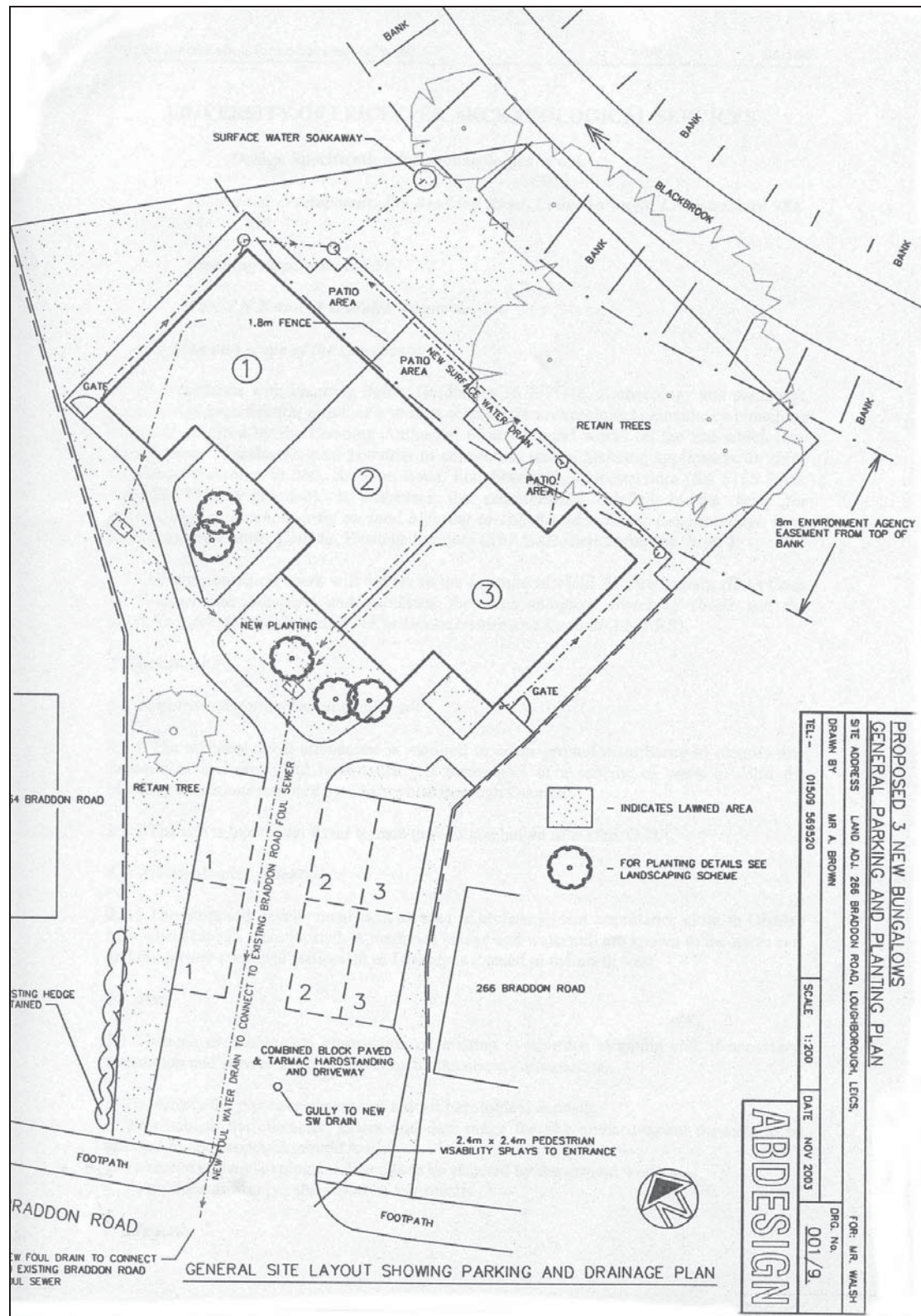


Figure 3: Development plan.

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Residential development, 266 Braddon Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire (SK 5165 2090)

Planning Application: 02/0177/2

For: J N E and M E Walsh Properties 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 (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 three residential dwellings at 266, Braddon Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire (SK 5165 2090; P.A.02/0177/2; Figs. 1-2). It addresses the requirements detailed in the *Brief for archaeological watching brief on land adjacent to 266 Braddon Road, Loughborough* from Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services (27.8.2003, hereinafter the 'brief').

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 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 Charnwood Borough Council.

2.1.2 The site is located on River terrace gravels at a height of *c.*38m. O.D.

2.2 Archaeological potential

2.2.1 The proposed development is in an area of archaeological importance close to Dishley Mill where burials were located. A medieval bridge and watermill are known to the north east and the former medieval settlement of Dishley is located to the north west.

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 developer, Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services 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 the developers, Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services and Charnwood Borough Council.

4.7 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, Heritage Services 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 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 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.

6.4. Any disk-based data will be provided for Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services.

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 will observe groundworks as appropriate to the level of disturbance which has already taken place on the site. An experienced archaeologist will be present during this work. It is proposed to watch all works in undisturbed areas 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 ULAS Health and Safety Manual (2001) 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)

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

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

Residential development, 266 Braddon Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire (SK 5165 2090)

Planning Application: 02/0177/2

For: J N E and M E Walsh Properties Ltd

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
12.1.2004