

**An Archaeological
Strip, Plan and Record at Knaptoft
Hall Farm, Knaptoft**

NGR: SP 625 895

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For: Mr John Bowie

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An Archaeological Strip, Plan and Record during groundworks at Knaptoft Hall Farm, Welford Road, Knaptoft, Leicestershire,

NGR SP 625 895

1. Summary

An Archaeological strip, plan and record was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Mr John Bowie during groundworks for the erection of an agricultural building at Knaptoft Hall Farm, Knaptoft, Leicestershire, (NGR SP 625 895). The groundwork involved the reduction and levelling of the site area with construction of new foundations. The work took place on November 7th 2008. No significant archaeological finds or deposits were observed during the work. The archive is to be deposited with Leicestershire County Council under accession number X.A152.2008.

2. Introduction

This report presents the results of an archaeological strip, plan and record during groundworks for the erection of an agricultural building on land along the west edge of Knaptoft Hall Farm, Knaptoft, Leicestershire, NGR SP 625 895. The work was carried out on behalf of Mr John Bowie following advice from the Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, as archaeological advisors to the planning authority. This advice was provided in connection with an application for planning permission for the new buildings on the land. The new design is for a 12m x 30m modern steel agricultural barn. The design has a maximum proposed formation level of approximately 1050mm measured from current ground surfaces along the current western perimeter road. The interior of the building required truncation to a depth of 300mm for the laying of new internal hardcore and floor make up levels. At set positions a further 750mm was reduced for the positioning of 15 concrete foundation pads measuring 900mm square x 750 mm depth. The work took place on the 7th of November 2008.

The archaeological strip, plan and record exercise was carried out in accordance with Planning Policy Guideline 16 (PPG16, Archaeology & Planning), paragraph 30. It involved archaeological attendance for inspection and recording during groundwork within the development area to identify any deposits of archaeological importance.

3. Site description, topography and geology

The new structure is located on the western edge of the current agricultural barns and buildings on virgin pasture land, directly adjacent to a concrete western access path forming the west perimeter of Knaptoft Hall Farm. The Ordnance Survey Drift Geology map sheet 169 indicates the underlying geology consists of sand and gravel underlying boulder clay, confirmed during groundwork. The site lies at an approximate height of 150 m O.D.

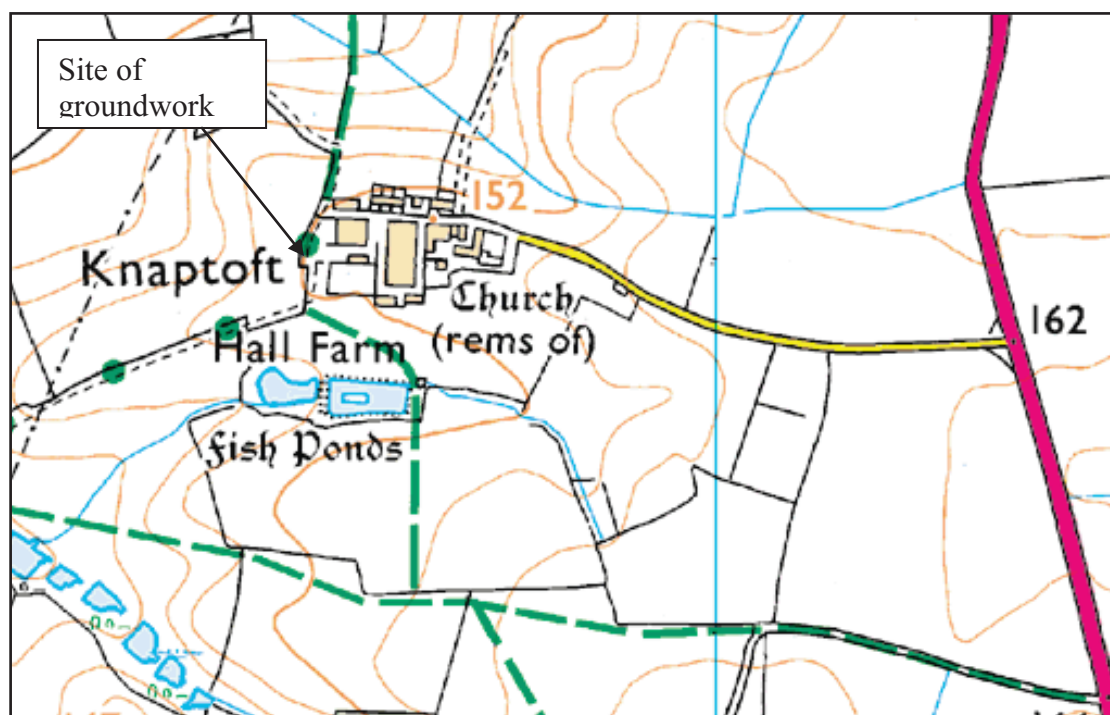


Figure 1: Location plan of Knaptoft 1: 25, 000

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4. Archaeological and Historical background

4.1 The site is located close to the Scheduled remains of the Deserted Medieval Village of Knaptoft (HER ref: MLE 1816), lying west of the Scheduled remains of the Parish Church of St Nicholas and north of former fish ponds associated with the village. Consequently there was a likelihood that buried archaeological remains would be affected by the proposed development.

5. Aims and methods.

5.1 The aims through archaeological monitoring and observation were

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.

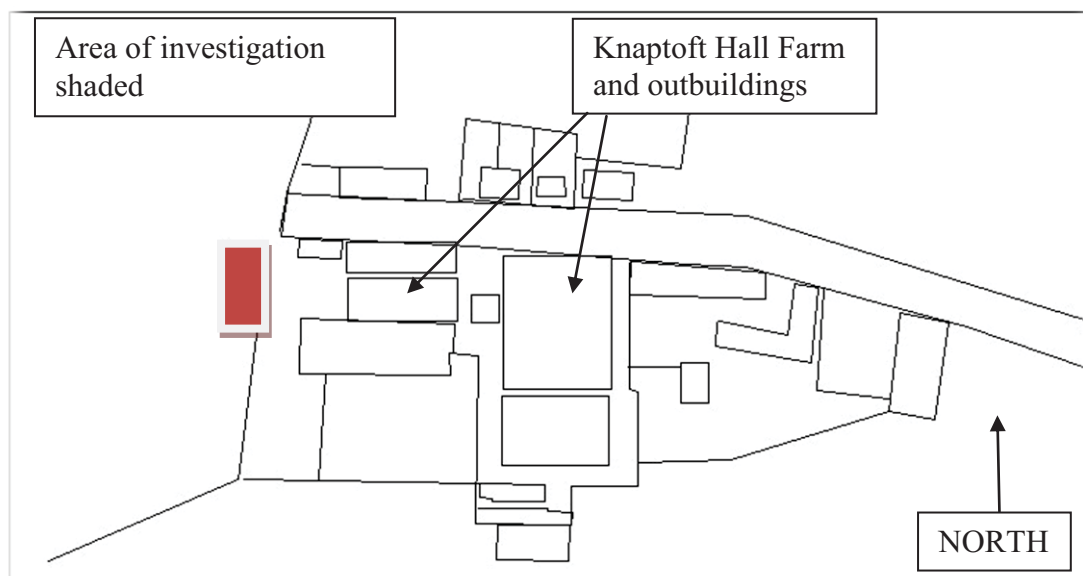


Figure 2: Location Plan of Knaptoft Hall Farm, scale 1:10,000

Methodology

Trial trenching

Following discussion with the clients building contractor, and observing the excavation of the concrete foundation pits, it was agreed to excavate two 12m trenches across the interior of the building footprint east to west. Machining was carried out using a wheeled backhoe loader with a 1.6 m toothless ditching bucket and a toothed 0.6m bucket under archaeological control

Potential archaeology was identified through the archaeological supervision and observation of removal of existing topsoil, the reduction of underlying subsoil and the performance of other groundwork by the client's contractors, following the methodology set out in the design specification listed in appendix 1. Where appropriate, spoil was examined for finds retrieval.

All work and archaeological deposits encountered was recorded in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, the standard policy and practice of ULAS and adherence to the University's Health and Safety policy.

6. Results

Trial trenches 1 and 2 (Figure 4 and Figure 5)

Both trenches measured 12m x 1.6m wide and were excavated across the width of the proposed footprint running east to west.

The immediate layers revealed were a consistent homogenous topsoil of dark brown black silt of approximately 0.2m depth. Beneath this lay a subsoil of light brown clayey silt of approximately 0.2m depth. Natural substratum was observed at 0.4m depth in both trenches. This consisted of red boulder clay with occasional medium angular stones. Approximately 9m from the east end of trench 1, a modern plastic service cable was observed, approximately 30mm diameter traversing the trench.

No archaeological deposits, features or pre-modern artefacts were encountered in either trench.

Concrete foundation pits (Figure 6)

15 foundation pits were excavated at set positions around the perimeter of the building. Each measured 900mm square x 750 mm depth. The excavation of these foundations was observed and the same stratigraphy noted in their sections as in both trial trenches.

7. Conclusion.

Following trial trenching and observation of the 15 foundation pits, it was evident that no archaeological evidence was present within the area of groundworks. The site covered primarily pasture land and virgin ground with minimal modern disturbance in the form of service cables. It is possible the area of groundwork constituted arable land at some earlier date, extending into the outlying field beyond the current site.

8. Acknowledgements and publication

I would like to thank the representatives of the client Mr John Bowie, and Mr Brian Flavell for their help and co-operation on site. The project was managed by Richard Buckley and the fieldwork was carried out by the author. A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. The report has been added to the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) Online Access to the index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the University of York.

9. Archive

A full copy of the archive as defined in *The Guidelines For the Preparation Of Excavation Archives For Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990), and the *Standards In The Museum: Care Of Archaeological Collections* (MGC 1992) and *Guidelines for the Preparation of Site Archives and Assessments for all finds* (RFG/FRG) will usually be presented within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all records directly relating to the investigation undertaken.

The archive consists of 1 copy of this report, 1 watching brief recording form, 1 copy of site location plans, 2 trench recording forms, 1 photo index form, 1 colour digital photo contact sheet, and 1 CD containing 10 digital photos.

It will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council, under accession number X.A152.2008

10. 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)

Oasis

INFORMATION REQUIRED	EXAMPLE
Project Name	An Archaeological strip plan and record at Knaptoft Hall Farm, Welford road, Knaptoft, Leicestershire.
Project Type	Archaeological strip plan and record
Project Manager	Richard Buckley
Project Supervisor	Dan Stone
Previous/Future work	Unknown
Current Land Use	Pasture land/ off road vehicle storage
Development Type	Erection of agricultural building
Reason for Investigation	PPG16
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	(NGR : SP 625 895)
Start/end dates of field work	7 th November 2008
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council
Study Area *	Approx 0.25 ha



Figure 3: Pre-excavation of site view looking east.



Figure 4: Trench 1 during excavation facing west.



Figure 5: Trench 2 facing east.



Figure 6: Section of foundation pit facing east.

11. Appendix 1. Design Specification.

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Knaptoft Hall Farm, Welford Road, Knaptoft, Leicestershire

Planning Application: 08/00578/FUL

Planning Authority: Harborough District Council

For: John Bowie

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 an archaeological strip, plan and record, as required by the Planning Authority, of any groundwork on the site which may disturb areas of archaeological potential in connection with a planning application for the erection of an agricultural, building at Knaptoft Hall Farm, Knaptoft, Leics.

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 a strip plan and sample excavation within the development area to identify any deposits of archaeological importance as recommended in the letter from Leicestershire County Council to Harborough District Council advising them of the archaeological implications of the proposals (CLE 4488).

2.2 Archaeological potential

2.1 The site is located close to the Scheduled remains of the Deserted Medieval Village of Knaptoft (HER ref: MLE 1816). Consequently there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the proposed development.

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. Initially it is proposed to open a trial trench to assess the depth of topsoil/overburden and determine the presence/absence of any archaeological remains.

4.2 Should significant archaeological remains be identified in an initial trial trench, and found to be 0.15m or less below proposed formation, the site is to be stripped down to the top of the archaeology, followed by a programme of excavation and recording, 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 groundwork 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, 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 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, 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.

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 on Friday 7th November. 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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05/11/2008

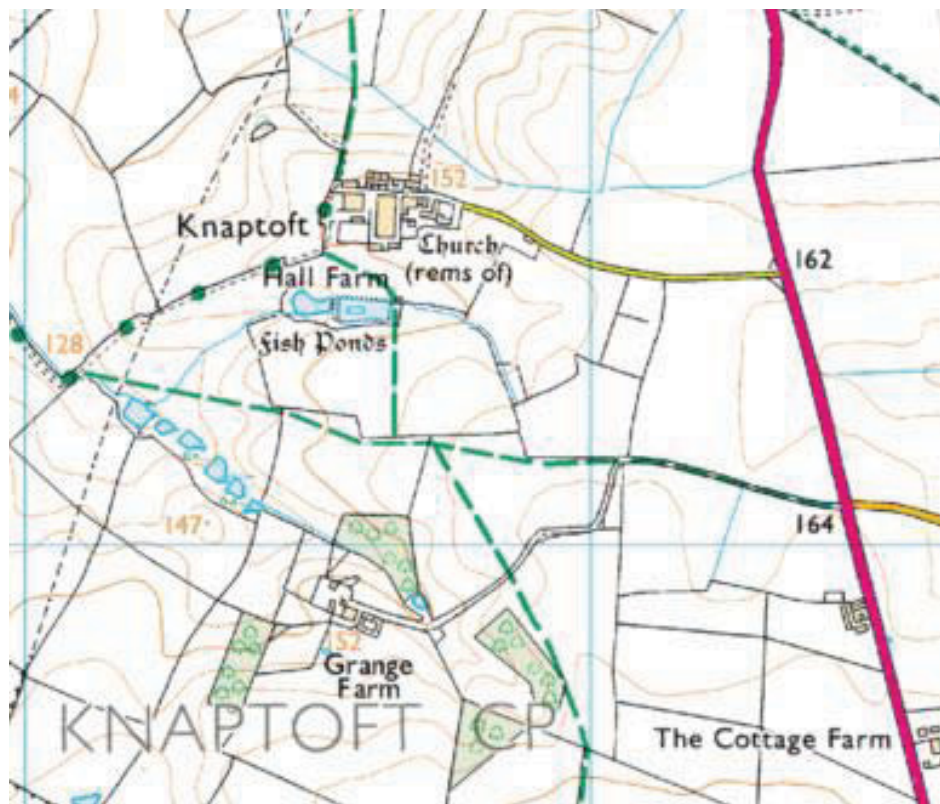


Fig 1 Location of Development

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

Knaptoft Hall Farm, Welford Road, Knaptoft, Leicestershire

Planning Application: 08/00578/FUL

Planning Authority: Harborough District Council

For: John Bowie

1. Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for archaeological watching brief (strip plan and sample excavate). 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.

05/11/2008