

**An Historic Building Photographic Survey and
Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at
Elliot and Brixton, Main Street/Dunton Lane,
Ashby Parva, Leicestershire (SP 528 882)**

Greg Farnworth-Jones

For: Mr. and Mrs. R. Johnson

Planning Application No.07/00996/3

Checked by Project Manager



Signed:

Date: 19. 11 .2008

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An Historic Building Photographic Survey and Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Elliot and Brixton, Main Street, Ashby Parva, Leicestershire (SP 528 882)

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An Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Elliot and Brixton, Main Street, Ashby Parva, Leicestershire (SP 528 882)

Greg Farnworth-Jones

1. Summary

1.1 *An archaeological watching brief was carried out on land at Elliot and Brixton, Main Street, Ashby Parva, Leicestershire (SP 528 882) on the 10th of March 2008. This work was carried out on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. R. Johnson in advance of the construction of residential extensions and involved the photographic recording of the effected buildings and observing the excavation of foundation trenches for the new buildings for any signs of archaeological activity. The results of the historic building photographic survey are presented in Report No 2009-042. The results of the archaeological watching brief were negative. The site archive will be held by County Archaeological Heritage Services, Leicestershire County Council Community Services Department under the accession code [X.A162.2008].*

2. Introduction

2.1 This document presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken on land at Elliot and Brixton, Main Street, Leicester (SK 581 036) on the 10th March 2008. The work was undertaken on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. R. Johnson by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS).

2.2 Mr. and Mrs. R. Johnson propose to erect two semi-detached residential dwellings, both of two storeys with double garages on land at the corner of Main Street, Dunton Lane, Ashby Parva (SP 528 882). The Leicestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist, as archaeological adviser to the planning authority, requested that an archaeological investigation of the site be carried out to ensure that any archaeological remains which might be affected could be adequately recorded. The investigation was to be undertaken in two phases. Firstly an archaeological desk-based assessment which was undertaken by ULAS (Parker 2007) and then following the results of this investigation, the County Archaeologist requested that a standing building recording survey (see report 2009-042) and an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during the groundworks of the new development.

3. Site Location and Geology

3.1 The site is located on the corner of Main Street/Dunton Lane, within the historic medieval core of the village of Ashby Parva, situated in the district of Harborough, c. 12 miles south of Leicester. The buildings on the land are grade II listed. The earlier timber-framed building was constructed in the 17th century, and the later building bears a date plaque of 1892.

3.2 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 169 Coventry indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Oadby Till, with underlying Pleistocene to Recent sands and gravels (Wolston) and Wolston Clay. The site lies at 139.8m O.D.

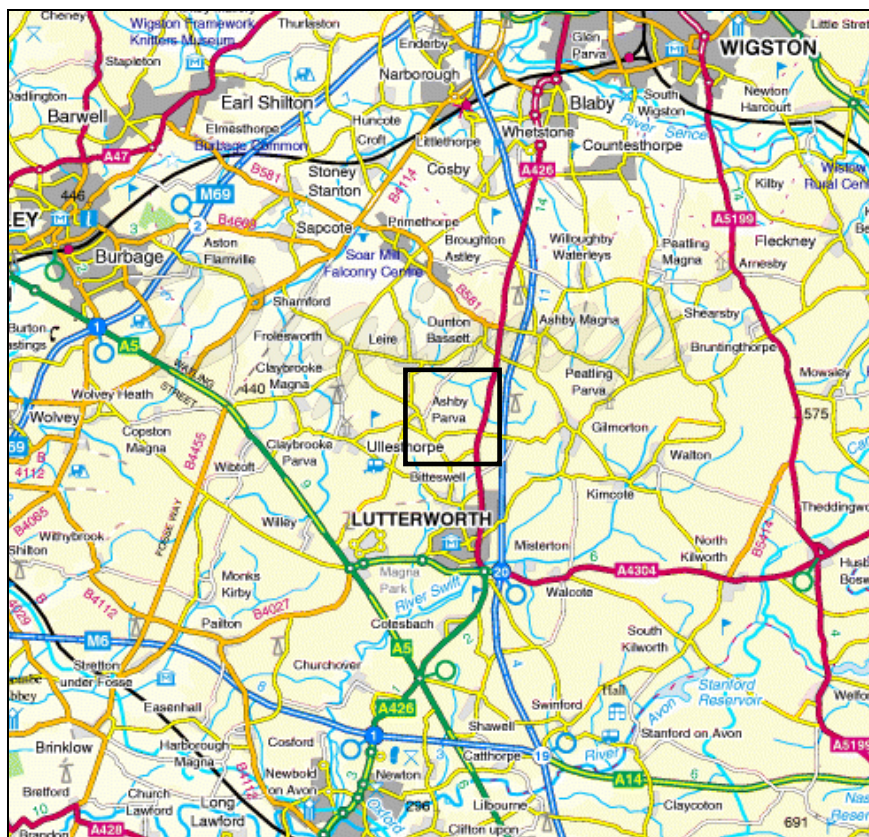


Figure 1 Location of Ashby Parva, Leicestershire. Scale 1:50000

Reproduced from the Landranger OS map 140 Leicester, Coventry and Rugby area 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 1996 all rights reserved. Licence number AL 10002186

4. Historical Background

4.1 The development area is located on the corner of Main Street and Dunton Lane, Ashby Parva, Leicestershire, at NGR SP 528 882, and within the Ashby Parva Conservation Area.

4.2 A desk-based assessment has been prepared for this application (Parker 2007). The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of significant archaeological interest, within the designated Conservation Area (CA) and the projected historic settlement core of Ashby Parva (HER ref. **(MLE9119)**). Post-medieval entries make up the majority of the HER sites within the vicinity of the proposed development site. The proposed development site itself is listed within the HER entries **(MLE11789)**. The buildings, with the older being constructed in the 17th century and extended to the south-east in the late 19th century are timber-framed with red brick infilling, with square-panelled framing with some curved braces. The later red brick cottage to the right has a low-pitched slate roof with end stacks and one axial stack. Both are two storied with irregular fenestration of three windows on the first floor and four on the ground floor,

the second from left on the ground floor replacing the door. The entrance in Elliot is to the north-east, linking the main building to a further northern block (dated 1892). Brixton Cottage is included in the listed building for group value. There are a series of other post-medieval houses and farmhouses within Ashby Parva (HER entries **MLE11759**, **MLE11760**, **MLE11767**, **MLE11768**, **MLE11769**, **MLE11770**, **MLE11780**, **MLE11787**, **MLE11790**, **MLE11793** and **MLE11791**).

The Grade II listed building description of the cottages is as follows:

ASHBY PARVA MAIN STREET SP58NW 1323-0 3/5 (North side) Elliot and Brixton II Cottage pair, now house. C17, extended to south-east in C19. Timber-framed to left with red brick infilling; square panelled framing with some curved braces. To the right is red brick. Low pitched slate roof with end stacks and one axial stack. Two storeys- irregular fenestration of three windows on first floor and four on ground floor, the second from left on the ground floor replacing the door. Entrance in block to north-east linking the main building to a further northern block (dated 1892). Brixton is included for group value.

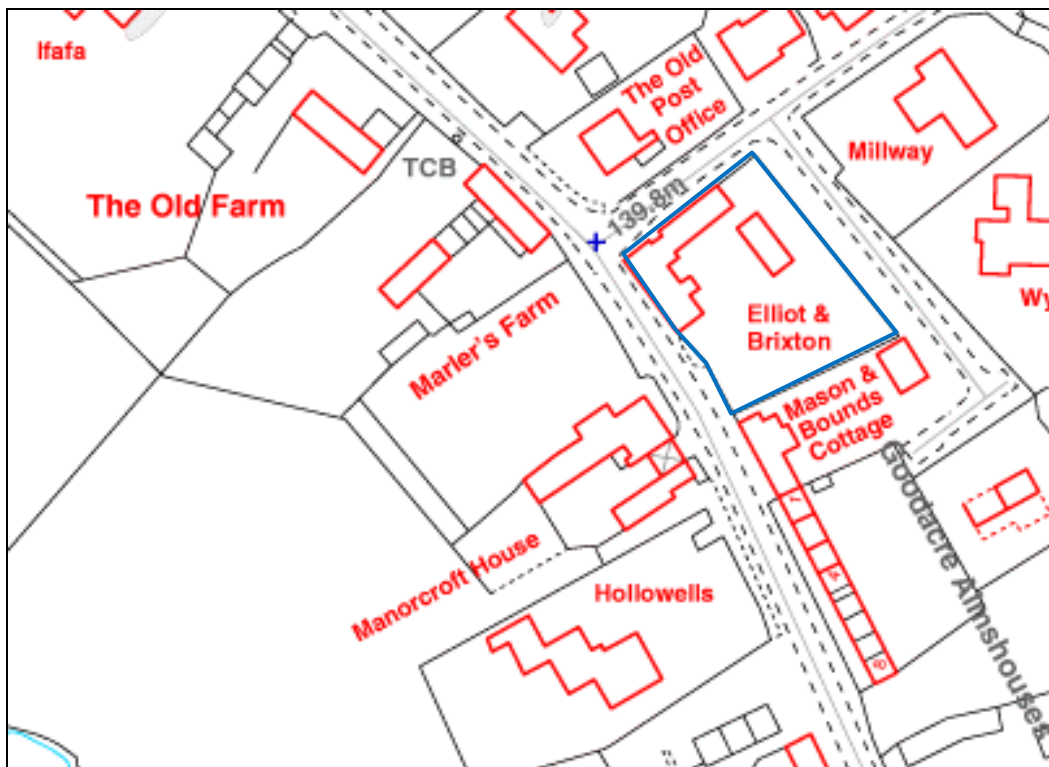


Figure 2 Development area, location outlined in blue



Figure 3 Proposed groundwork's plan as provided by the developers, scale unknown. Existing buildings outlined in black.

5. Aims and Objectives

5.1 The main objectives of the watching brief, through archaeological supervision of existing overburden stripping and ground works by the client's contractors 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.

6. Methodology

6.1 All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct and adhered to their relevant *Standard and Guidance* and the *LCC Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland*. The Historic Buildings Survey work adhered to the guidelines set out in English Heritage (2006) *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice*.

6.3 Any archaeological deposits located were hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located were hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features were 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.

6.4 Archaeological deposits were 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.

6.5 All excavated sections were 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.

7. The Results of the Watching Brief

7.1 Initial machining revealed the topsoil which consisted of soft dark grey silt loam, with occasional sub-rounded stones to a depth of *c.* 0.4m. Minor root disturbance was also observed. Further machining revealed to a depth of *c.* 0.4m the subsoil, which consisted of mid brown silt clay with occasional, sub-rounded stones. The natural substratum consisted of orange gravelly clay. The depth of the foundation trench was approximately one metre.

7.2 The same sequence of soil horizons was observed in all of the foundation trenches.

7.3 No significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were located within the machine-excavated foundations.

8. Conclusion

8.1 No archaeological deposits, features or pre-modern artefacts were encountered during the watching brief.

8.2 The absence of archaeological features during the archaeological watching brief carried out on land at Elliot and Brixton, on the corner of Main Street, Dunton Lane, Ashby Parva (SP 528 882) suggests that the site saw little activity in Prehistoric and Roman periods and saw only use as agricultural or horticultural land during the medieval and post-medieval periods.

8.3 During archaeological supervision of the ground works involving existing overburden stripping and foundation trench excavation, no archaeological deposits, finds or features were encountered. The results of the archaeological watching brief were therefore negative.

9. Archive

9.1 The site archive including the historic building survey (Report 2009-042) consists of 26 colour digital photographs and one watching brief recording form and will be held by County Archaeological Heritage Services, Leicestershire County Council, Community Services Department, under the accession code: [X.A162.2008].

Archive accession code [X.A162.2008] contents:

Copy of Report:	Recording Sheets:	Digital Colour Photographs:
1	1	26

10. Oasis Record

Project Name	Elliot and Brixton, Main Street, Ashby Parva, Leicestershire
Project Type	Historic Building Photographic Survey and Watching Brief
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Greg Farnworth-Jones
Previous/Future work	Desk Based Assessment
Current Land Use	Residential
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	PPG16
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	NGR: SP 528 882
Start/end dates of field work	10.03.08
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire
Study Area	<i>c.1.2m hectares</i>

11. Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the clients, Mr and Mrs R Johnson. Patrick Clay managed the project and the fieldwork was carried out by the author, both of ULAS.

12. Bibliography

Clay, P., 2008. *Design Specification for archaeological work Elliot and Brixton, Main Street, Ashby Parva, Leicestershire (SP 528 882)* ULAS Ref: 08/584

Department of the Environment/Department of National Heritage, 1994. *Planning policy guidance 15: planning and the historic environment*

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Parker, M , 2007 *A desk based assessment for Elliot and Brixton, Main Street/Dunton Lane , Ashby Parva, Leicestershire SP 528 882* ULAS Report 2007-056

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25.11.2008

Appendices

Appendix 1:

Ashby Parva, archaeology and historic buildings Leicestershire CC HNET

Export generated by HBSMR from exeGesIS SDM

Record Index:

Click on the MonUID to view full details for each record

MonUID	Preferred Ref.	Name
<u>MLE1205</u>	MLE1205	North of Mere Barn
<u>MLE1206</u>	MLE1206	Lammas Close
<u>MLE1207</u>	MLE1207	West of St. Peter's Church
<u>MLE1210</u>	MLE1210	North of Manor Farm
<u>MLE7170</u>	MLE7170	East of Dunton Lane
<u>MLE7814</u>	MLE7814	Rectory Garden
<u>MLE9117</u>	MLE9117	West of Boggy Brays Farm
<u>MLE9118</u>	MLE9118	West of Boggy Brays Farm
<u>MLE9119</u>	MLE9119	Ashby Parva
<u>MLE10555</u>	MLE10555	Slip Inn Quarry
<u>MLE10557</u>	MLE10557	Slip Inn Quarry
<u>MLE10561</u>	MLE10561	Slip Inn Quarry
<u>MLE11759</u>	MLE11759	HOME FARMHOUSE, LEIRE LANE (WEST SIDE), ASHBY PARVA
<u>MLE11760</u>	MLE11760	MASON'S COTTAGE (NOW FORMING , MAIN STREET (NORTH SIDE), ASHBY PARVA
<u>MLE11767</u>	MLE11767	ALMSHOUSES, NOS 1-8 GOODACRE COTTAGES, 1 - 8, MAIN STREET (NORTH SIDE), ASHBY PARVA
<u>MLE11768</u>	MLE11768	ORPUDD'S FARMHOUSE, MAIN STREET (SOUTH

		SIDE), ASHBY PARVA
<u>MLE11769</u>	MLE11769	THE OLD SCHOOL, MAIN STREET (SOUTH SIDE), ASHBY PARVA
<u>MLE11770</u>	MLE11770	THE WHITE HOUSE, MAIN STREET (North Side), ASHBY PARVA
<u>MLE11780</u>	MLE11780	BEALE'S FARMHOUSE, MAIN STREET (SOUTH SIDE), ASHBY PARVA
<u>MLE11787</u>	MLE11787	BOWN'S COTTAGE (NOW FORMING ON, MAIN STREET (NORTH SIDE), ASHBY PARVA
<u>MLE11788</u>	MLE11788	CHURCH OF ST. PETER, MAIN STREET (SOUTH SIDE), ASHBY PARVA
<u>MLE11789</u>	MLE11789	ELLIOT AND BRIXTON, MAIN STREET (NORTH SIDE), ASHBY PARVA
<u>MLE11790</u>	MLE11790	GARRETT'S FARMHOUSE, MAIN STREET (South Side), ASHBY PARVA
<u>MLE11791</u>	MLE11791	LONGACRES FARMHOUSE, MAIN STREET (NORTH SIDE), ASHBY PARVA
<u>MLE11792</u>	MLE11792	MANOR CROFT, MAIN STREET (SOUTH SIDE), ASHBY PARVA
<u>MLE11793</u>	MLE11793	MANOR FARMHOUSE, MAIN STREET (NORTH SIDE), ASHBY PARVA
<u>MLE16493</u>	MLE16493	Boggy Braes

Appendix 2:

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Elliot and Brixton, Main Street, Ashby Parva, Leicestershire (SP 528 882)

Planning Application: 07/00996/3

For: Mr and Mrs R. Johnson

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 Historic Buildings Recording and an archaeological watching brief, during alterations to the Listed buildings and ground works for proposed extension, as required by the Planning Authority, in connection with a planning application for the addition of an extension to Elliot and Brixton, Main Street, Ashby Parva, Leicestershire (SP 528 882) for Mr and Mrs R. Johnson.

1.2 It addresses the requirements detailed in the Brief For Historic Building Inspection & Recording at Elliot and Brixton, Main Street, Ashby Parva, Leicestershire (LCCHNET 18.12.2007) and Generic brief for archaeological attendance for inspection and recording (a watching brief) (LCCHNET 18.12.2007).

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

2 Background

2.1 The development area is located on the corner of Main Street and Dunton Lane, Ashby Parva, Leicestershire, at NGR SP 528 882, and within the Ashby Parva Conservation Area.

2.2 A desk-based assessment has been prepared for this application (Parker 2007). The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of significant archaeological interest, within the designated Conservation Area (CA) and the projected historic settlement core of Ashby Parva (HER ref. (MLE9119). Post-medieval entries make up the majority of the HER sites within the vicinity of the proposed development site. The proposed development site itself is listed within the HER entries (MLE11789). The buildings, with the older being constructed in the seventeenth century and extended to the south-east in the late nineteenth century are timber-framed with red brick infilling, with square-panelled framing with some curved braces. The later red brick cottage to the right has a low-pitched slate roof with end stacks and one axial stack. Both are two storied; irregular fenestration of three windows on first floor and four on ground floor, the second from left on the ground floor replacing the door. The entrance in Elliot is to the north-east, linking the main building to a further northern block (dated 1892). Brixton Cottage is included in the listed building for group value. There are a series of other post-medieval houses and farmhouses within Ashby Parva. These are entries MLE11759, MLE11760, MLE11767, MLE11768, MLE11769, MLE11770, MLE11780, MLE11787, MLE11790, MLE11793 and MLE11791.

The Grade II listed building description of the cottages is as follows:

ASHBY PARVA MAIN STREET SP58NW 1323-0 3/5 (North side) Elliot and Brixton II II Cottage pair, now house. C17, extended to south-east in C19. Timber-framed to left with red brick infilling; square panelled framing with some curved braces. Red brick to right. Low pitched slate roof with end stacks and one axial stack. Two storeys-, irregular fenestration of three windows on first floor and four on ground floor the second from left on the ground floor replacing the door. Entrance in block to north-east linking the main building to a further northern block (dated 1892). Brixton is included for group value.

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 169 Coventry indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Oadby Till, with underlying Pleistocene to Recent sands and gravels (Wolston) and Wolston Clay. The site lies at 139.8m O.D.

3 Aims

3.1 *Historic building recording.* The building recording will aim to record to an appropriate level areas of the historic fabric exposed and impacted on by the construction of the extension.

3.2 *Archaeological watching brief.* Through archaeological control of overburden stripping by the client's contractors:

1. To identify the presence/absence of 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 historic building recording requires investigation and recording of the affected fabric during of the proposed alterations. An initial record will be made of the fabric to be affected before works start and recording will also take place during development.

4.2 The project will involve the control of overburden removal prior to other groundworks. If any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest.

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

4.4 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.

4.5 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 palaeosoils and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

4.6 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.

4.7 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.

4.8 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, Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services and Harborough District Council.

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 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 watching brief is scheduled to commence at the inception of the contractors groundworks, currently scheduled for 24.8.2006. An experienced archaeologist will be present during this work. It is proposed to watch all works, as specified above, with appropriately timed visits during the work in consultation with the contractors.

9 Health and Safety

9.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University Of Leicester Statement Of Safety Policy and uses the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (revised 2005) 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

Clark, K., 2001 *Informed conservation* London: English Heritage

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)

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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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27.02.2007

Appendix

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

Elliot and Brixton, Main Street, Ashby Parva,

Leicestershire (SP 528 882)

Planning Application: 07/00996/3

For: Mr and Mrs R. Johnson

1 Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for an historic buildings appraisal and archaeological watching brief.

1.2 The work will involve inspection of buildings and 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 ULAS Health and Safety Manual (2001) 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 Vials 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

27.02.2008